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Evaluating the VO Information Security Management System

Executive Summary

Virtual Organisations (VOs) offer to the different partners a way to access resources available on different sites separated geographically. A distributed access control architecture should be deployed to let each organisation manage its own resources and put them securely at the disposal of its partners. Because the VO type of network introduces complexities in the administrators' management tasks, security practices must be deployed according to the directives of security standards to avoid security breaches. The "maturity level" concept is adopted to help the organisations to build the "chain of trust" between them. A tool based on the ISO/IEC 17799 security standard is defined to evaluate the maturity level of the security practices deployed within each organisation which has an influence on the strategy and the choice of the solution that must be adopted to interconnect the organisations information systems. The tool is also used to evaluate the proposed VO security solutions.