

WARP guest accounts - policy guidelines

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Version control

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1 Scope

This document describes policy guidelines for allowing guest accounts (temporary members of a WARP) that should be followed by WARP providers. Following this policy will help to encourage further WARPs whilst protecting the interests of the host WARP and its existing members.

2 Definitions and abbreviations

2.1 Definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply:

WARP: A unit or team providing the three basic services (Filtered Warnings, Advice Brokering, and Trusted Sharing) to a defined community, in accordance with the NISCC WARP model and approved variants.

2.2 Abbreviations

For the purposes of this document, the following abbreviations apply:

NISCC: National Infrastructure Security Co-ordination Centre

WARP: Warning, Advice and Reporting Point

3 Background

WARPs provide a range of services for a defined community, normally with restrictions on size to establish trust and facilitate information sharing. The WARP registration process requires providers to agree to the NISCC WARP code of practice, which states that they should encourage the creation of further WARPs.

One way of assisting this process is for an established WARP to create guest accounts for people who are not part of that WARPs community. This will allow the guest to sample the benefits of a WARP and thereby encourage them to create a WARP of their own. The introduction of a guest to a WARP community must be handled very carefully so the trust within that community is not compromised.

Strictly speaking, the introduction of guests is likely to breach the terms of WARP registration as they are likely to be from outside the WARPs agreed community. In order to maintain effective governance and trust between WARPs each WARP should develop an agreed policy on guest accounts, which are consistent with these guidelines.

The policy will address issues such as acceptance criteria, charging, duration of account and what services will be available.

4 Policy objectives

4.1 Membership

A WARP guest may be from a neighbouring community where the WARP would benefit directly from the creation of another WARP. For example, a WARP provider may plan to create multiple WARPs to reduce the running costs of the original WARP or WARP members may see benefits in sharing with a WARP in this neighbouring community. However, to ensure that the trust within the WARP is not compromised, the guest should only have access to a restricted set of services and/or information.

The extent of this access should be agreed with the WARP membership and stated in their policy. Guest membership must be time limited and it is recommended be no longer than 3 months. With restricted and time limited services it would not be appropriate to make any charge for guest membership.

The WARP guest account policy should be agreed with its membership, reviewed periodically and readily available for its members to examine. Members should also be able to view a current list of guest accounts.

4.2 WARP programme

To facilitate further follow-up, at the end of the WARP guest account period, feedback on the guest experience should be solicited by the WARP provider and shared with NISCC.

To help manage the trust relationships between WARPs, guests should not normally have access to information received from other WARPs. However, if the other WARP agrees then their information can be shared with guests. Sensitive information should never be shared with guests.

4.3 Policy elements

The WARP guest account policy should address the following areas:

- The procedure for requesting, recording and approving a guest account should be documented;
- An individual (usually the WARP operator) will be responsible for approving and monitoring guest accounts;
- The procedure should address the benefits and risks of approving guest accounts;
- The policy should set a limit on the number of guest accounts active at any one time (normally not more than 10% of membership);
- The WARP operator should reserve the right to cease the guest account at any time and for any reason.

History

Version	Date	Description
V1.0	June.2005	First issue, for review by WARP operators (agreed for issue)