

# **Certifying the Computer Security Professional Using the Project Management Institute's PMP Model**

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**Abstract.** While many organizations offer certifications associated with information technology (IT) security, there is no single overarching accrediting organization that has identified the body of knowledge and experience necessary for success in the IT security field. In order for an IT security workforce to be acknowledged and recognized throughout the world as possessing a proven level of education, knowledge, and experience in IT security, a formal process for certifying IT security professionals must be developed. This research effort suggests that the IT security community use the Project Management Institute's process for certifying Project Management Professionals (PMPs) as a model for developing an open and easily accessible IT Security Body Of Knowledge (ITSBOK) and an associated international certification process for IT security professionals.

## **1 Introduction**

Information security has become an increasingly important issue, and the repercussions of a failure in information security have become much more serious as the level of public, corporate, and governmental awareness of such issues has been raised. Twenty years ago the loss of bank backup tapes or university student records may not even have been reported to law enforcement agencies, whereas today such losses not only have legal implications, but are likely to be publicized by national news organizations. As such, the need for excellence in IT security is apparent not only within the IT community, but at all levels of the corporate and governmental hierarchies. The problem, however, is there currently is no suitable, vendor-neutral, standard by which to judge the competence of a potential IT security employee. While there are many certifications related to the information security field, many

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