

# Frequently Asked Questions

## NIST Special Publication 800-53 Reference Database Application

### **What is the NIST Special Publication 800-53 Reference Database Application?**

It is a rapid prototype database application containing the catalog of security controls, control enhancements, and supplemental guidance from NIST Special Publication 800-53 Revision 3, *Recommended Security Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations*.

### **Why did NIST produce the Special Publication 800-53 Reference Database Application?**

The database application was developed primarily to help our customers quickly and efficiently navigate the security control catalog contained in NIST Special Publication 800-53 and to provide an effective data transfer mechanism for exporting security control-related information into enterprise tools supporting the development and update of information system security plans and the certification and accreditation of information systems.

### **What can users do with the Special Publication 800-53 Reference Database Application?**

The database application allows users to: (i) browse the security controls, control enhancements, and supplemental guidance contained in NIST Special Publication 800-53; (ii) search the security control catalog using user-specified keywords; and (iii) export security control-related information in the database application to other popular data formats that can be used in various tools and applications employed by agencies. Users can employ the browse capability in the database application to obtain different views of the security controls in NIST Special Publication 800-53 (e.g., security controls by class, security controls by family, security controls by impact level). Users can conduct single or multiple keyword searches using any of the pre-defined sections of the security control (e.g., control statement section, control enhancement section, supplemental guidance section). Users can export data from the security control catalog into their agency-specific applications, databases, or support tools.

### **Will NIST update, maintain, and support the Special Publication 800-53 Reference Database Application?**

The database application has been developed as a rapid prototype and distributed as a Beta release to provide immediate support to our customers. The database application has limited functionality and is in a “read only” format. There are no plans to enhance, update, maintain or support the current Beta release version of the database application.

### **Will the database application run under Windows 95, 98, ME or Mac OS X?**

No. The database application runs on Windows 7, Vista, XP, Server 2003, and Server 2008 operating systems.

### **Is there a notification mailing list for the SP 800-53 Database Application?**

If you would like to be notified of updates to the SP 800-53 Database Application, send an e-mail message to [sec-cert@nist.gov](mailto:sec-cert@nist.gov) requesting to be on the notification list.