CenturyLink®
Managed Trusted Internet Protocol Service (MTIPS)

CenturyLink was the first MTIPS provider to complete the TIC capability validation (TCV) and received an ATO from GSA in 2009 for our two geographically diverse TIC Portals. CenturyLink has provisioned MTIPS to more than forty agencies, ranging in access speeds from 1.544 Mbps (T1) to 10Gbps (10GigE). CenturyLink's MTIPS infrastructure that has been engineered to be scalable as the government's bandwidth needs increase to accommodate system and user demand.

Product Description

CenturyLink's MTIPS enables agencies to physically and logically connect to the public Internet or other external connections, as required by the agency, in full compliance with OMB's TIC initiative (M-08-05), CenturyLink's MTIPS and web interfaces are engineered to provide high availability through the use of redundant network connections, assets, and operation centers. Subscribing agencies will be afforded the protection of the core security services of MTIPS to include managed firewall service (MFS), intrusion detection and prevention service (IDPS), antivirus management service (AVMS), email scanning and archiving, DNS logging, and FPC functions. CenturyLink participates in, and our MTIPS complies with, all current connectivity and operations requirements of the NCPS, operationally known as EINSTEIN. Log data associated with EINSTEIN will be delivered through an IPSec tunnel to ensure compliance with remote access to MTIPS and EINSTEIN. CenturyLink will provide a managed external DNS infrastructure service. The IDPS element of CenturyLink's MTIPS solution consists of hardware and software components that monitor and identify potential security threats on all inbound and outbound network traffic, including Internet and extranet traffic, and all internal and external DNS queries. CenturyLink will inspect all outbound Internet traffic to include web and email for data leakage based on factors such as pre-set size limits in accordance with agency TO requirements, and sensitive PII. CenturyLink will provide protection against DDoS attacks through the use of MTIPS DDoS, as well as work with external ISPs to minimize the risk of DDoS attacks against an agency.

CenturyLink will support network connections for the Federal Video Relay Service (FedVRS) for the deaf, including devices implementing stateful packet filters. CenturyLink's secure messaging platform is a modular hardware and software solution that seamlessly integrates into the MTIPS security platform. CenturyLink will provide a powerful and comprehensive inline malware detection capability for inbound and outbound network, email, and web traffic.

Key Features

CenturyLink's MTIPS solution includes the following firewall and proxy service features:

- Full content inspection and application proxies

- Implicit deny, making an additional deny policy unnecessary. Traffic is denied unless a policy on the firewall device specifically allows for it

- Destination port(s) and ephemeral ports—only explicitly approved ports will be allowed while all other ports will be blocked by default

  Ability to filter on TCP, UDP, IP addresses, domain names, incoming interfaces, port numbers, and other IP header information

- HTTPS traffic proxies are filtered by the firewall, based on URL and/or direction from US-CERT (global response loop), regardless of the direction of traffic (inbound/outbound) unless an exception is granted

- All security devices use multiple security scanning and detection techniques. This solution goes far beyond stateful and deep packet inspection. It supports full content inspection, which allows security scanning and control to reach Layer 7 of the OSI stack. The firewall confirms requests that are made and will match open connections to valid packets prior to admittance through the network.

- The firewall capabilities provide both stateless and stateful packet filtering.

How MTIPS is Provided

CenturyLink has engineered and installed two geographically diverse domestic MTIPS/TIC Portals in Chicago, Illinois, and Sterling, Virginia, that serve as secure Internet exchange points to subscribing departments/agencies. CenturyLink provides staff at each MTIPS/TIC Portal location with local access to each MTIPS cage space. CenturyLink uses staff with remote access capability to remotely manage each MTIPS portal on a 24x7x365 basis. CenturyLink will work with an agency to develop virtual TIC capabilities (as defined in agency TO), to agencies with resources hosted outside their physical boundaries. The SOC systems providing management and monitoring of the MTIPS/TIC Portal will be dedicated for the use of government entities and will be isolated from non-government/commercial systems.

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