Government of India
National Informatics Centre
Cyber Security Division

Dated : 5th April, 2006

Sub: Charging Criteria for Application Audits undertaken

NIC has been securing web sites hosted on its servers by performing security audits on them and closing highlighted vulnerabilities. For this purpose NIC has been employing the services of auditors empanelled by CERT-In and accounting the costs incurred to the NIC budget.

Some of this cost may be recovered from the user departments for whom the site is being hosted/developed. The audit tasks based on development activity and operational costs for the sites, can be categorized as follows:

1. NIC is developing the site for NIC's requirements.
   Audit: The concerned HOD shall get the site audited by an auditor and the charges shall be paid from the NIC budget.
2. NIC is not charging the user for any of the activities concerned with the website i.e. development (either developing the site itself or getting it developed through a third party developer), hosting or operating the site.
   Audit: The concerned HOD from NIC shall get the site audited by an auditor and the charges shall be paid from the NIC budget.
3. NIC is charging the user for anyone or more of the activities concerned with the website i.e.
   a. For development of the website (whether developing the site itself or through a third party developer)
   b. For operating of the website
   c. For hosting of the website

   Audit: the concerned HOD from NIC shall get all site audited by an auditor and charge the user for the audit.
4. User department is itself developing the site or getting it developed by third party.
   Audit: User shall get the site audited and provide the audit-cleared certificate from an auditor, to NIC.

For all cases of 'static sites' in categories 1,2 and 3; NIC may either undertake the security audit of the site themselves on hire the services of auditors empanelled by the CERT –In (list available at http://www.cert-in.org.in/security-auditors.htm) and take care of the costs incurred as above.
For all cases of 'dynamic sites' in categories 1,2 and 3; NIC shall hire the services of auditors empanelled by the CERT –In (list available at http://www.cert-in.org.in/security-auditors.htm) and take care of the costs incurred as above.