

Vulnerabilities come with mobile 'smart' devices

Signaleers,

Mobile computing is everywhere. Both on and off duty, tablets, Smartphones, laptops and other portable devices have been injected into the very fabric of our lives. Rarely do you see someone walking around without a Smartphone or tablet in hand - especially if that person is under 20 years old. Our culture has changed and continues changing in order to accommodate the mobile computing paradigm.

The Army culture is moving in that direction as well. While many leaders are justifiably worried about the inherent vulnerabilities within wireless communication, the benefits of using tablets and other like devices push us to find better ways of allowing these devices on our networks.

Right now, in order to connect Smartphones and tablets to military networks, an approved solution will have to meet four criteria: FIPS 140-2 validated crypto; approved data-at-rest; Common Access Card enablement; and, enterprise management. Currently, only tablets running the Windows 7 Army Gold Master software package and the BlackBerry Playbook meet those standards. While this is a step in the right direction, we need to do better.

The Signal Regiment is at the forefront of this movement to allow more smart devices on our networks. The Regiment's leaders realize that enabling the Army to achieve its mobile computing requirements is an important step forward. Signal NCOs and Soldiers will continue to be at the center of this transformation.

We are working with the Army's CIO/G6 to enable the stand up of their prototype Army MarketPlace, located at <https://marketplace.army.mil/>. Using your non-email digital certificate, you can access this site and find the administrative, enterprise, training, productivity, and other types of tools for your use.

The Regiment's NCOs and other leaders are also actively engaged in the twice-yearly Network Integration Evaluation events at Fort Bliss, Texas where an active-duty brigade combat team conducts exercises considering all aspects of network capabilities in an austere environment. The evaluations occur from platoon levels all the way up to brigade level itself. NIE also serves as a test bed of sorts to look at systems under test (e.g., WIN-T) and systems under evaluation. NIE

is a comprehensive exercise that serves as the centerpiece of network integration in the Army today.

Leaders at the U.S. Army Signal Center of Excellence are also working to expand the use of mobile devices for our Soldiers' and NCOs' training and education. Currently, we use quick response codes on assemblages to allow students to download mobile training content and the associated equipment. We hope to expand this capability across the board soon.

The Regiment's continued success in mobile computing and advanced networking is directly a result of the great efforts by our leaders and Soldiers on the ground. Keep up the great work!

**Army Strong!
Signal Proud!**

