ISTLP - Information Sharing Traffic Light Protocol

v1.1 – adapted for the community of TI Accredited Teams
Don Stikvoort, Trusted Introducer, 11 November 2009
By courtesy of NISCC (UK)

All accredited teams can have their own system of information classification with associated rules, but they will at least recognise and support the following ISTLP (Information Sharing Traffic Light Protocol), following best practice in NISCC (UK) with widening acceptance in the CERT community.

NOTE that an "Information Exchange" can be either in person, like a TI accredited teams meeting, or a meeting of a few teams together, but also an exchange in e-mail or over the phone or fax. The rules below apply to all of those. It is not an absolute recipe, but needs to be applied thoughtfully - the ISTLP serves the purpose of bring more clarity in regards the rules of information sharing - it is not a purpose in itself.

RED  Non-disclosable Information and restricted to representatives participating in the Information Exchange themselves only. Representatives must not disseminate the information outside of the Exchange. RED information may be discussed during an Exchange, where all representatives participating have signed up to these rules. Guests & others such as visiting speakers who are not full members of the Exchange will be required to leave before such information is discussed.

AMBER Limited Disclosure and restricted to members of the Information Exchange; those within their organisations and/or constituencies (whether direct employees, consultants, contractors or outsource-staff working in the organisation) who have a NEED TO KNOW in order to take action.

GREEN Information can be shared with other organisations, Information Exchanges or individuals in the network security, information assurance or CNI community at large, but not published or posted on the web.

WHITE Information that is for public, unrestricted dissemination, publication, web-posting or broadcast. Any member of the Information Exchange may publish the information, subject to copyright.