

# VA Software Assurance Secure Coding Tips

## Security Features Coding Errors Can Lead To Vulnerabilities

This week's Secure Coding Tip is about how making security features types of coding errors[1] can introduce vulnerabilities into VA applications. Scanning source code to perform code review is an authorization requirement included in the Technical / Testing Requirements of the OCS Accreditation Requirements Guide / SOP [2] , and enforced as part of the ATO issuance process.[3]

This type of vulnerability has to do with coding errors related to calling security controls (features) such as those that perform authentication, access control, confidentiality, cryptography, and privilege management. An example is the use of a broken or risky cryptographic algorithm.[4] Security feature coding errors such as these are errors that the HP Fortify Static Code Analyzer (SCA) can detect.

[Read more...](#)

[1] MITRE Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) [CWE-254: Security Features](#)

[2] "Accreditation Requirements Guide / Standard Operating Procedures", Office of Cyber Security (OCS) Assessment and Authorization intranet site.

[3] "Accreditation Requirements Expectation Memorandum" (Section 2.a.ii "Code Review"), VA Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) Stanley F. Lowe, March 19, 2014.

[4] MITRE Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE) [CWE-327: Use of a Broken or Risky Cryptographic Algorithm](#)

### Resources

- [VA Software Assurance Support Site](#)
- [Request VA-licensed code review tools, validations, and support](#)
- [Latest VA Software Assurance Program Office announcements](#)
- [Learn more about VA code review processes](#)
- [VA Working Group Registration Instructions](#)
- [VA Application Registration Instructions](#)

### Reminders

- [The next instructor-led class is on 8/2](#)
- [The next working group meeting is 7/11](#)

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