Introduction to the "Registered Information Security Specialist" (RISS) System

IPA
Digital Human Resources Center (DHRC)
April 2025

IPA Better Life with IT

1. **Background and Framework of the System**

2. **Features of the System**

3. **Benefits of the System**

4. **Registration and Training**

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> ## The RISS system is the national qualification system for cyber security professionals.

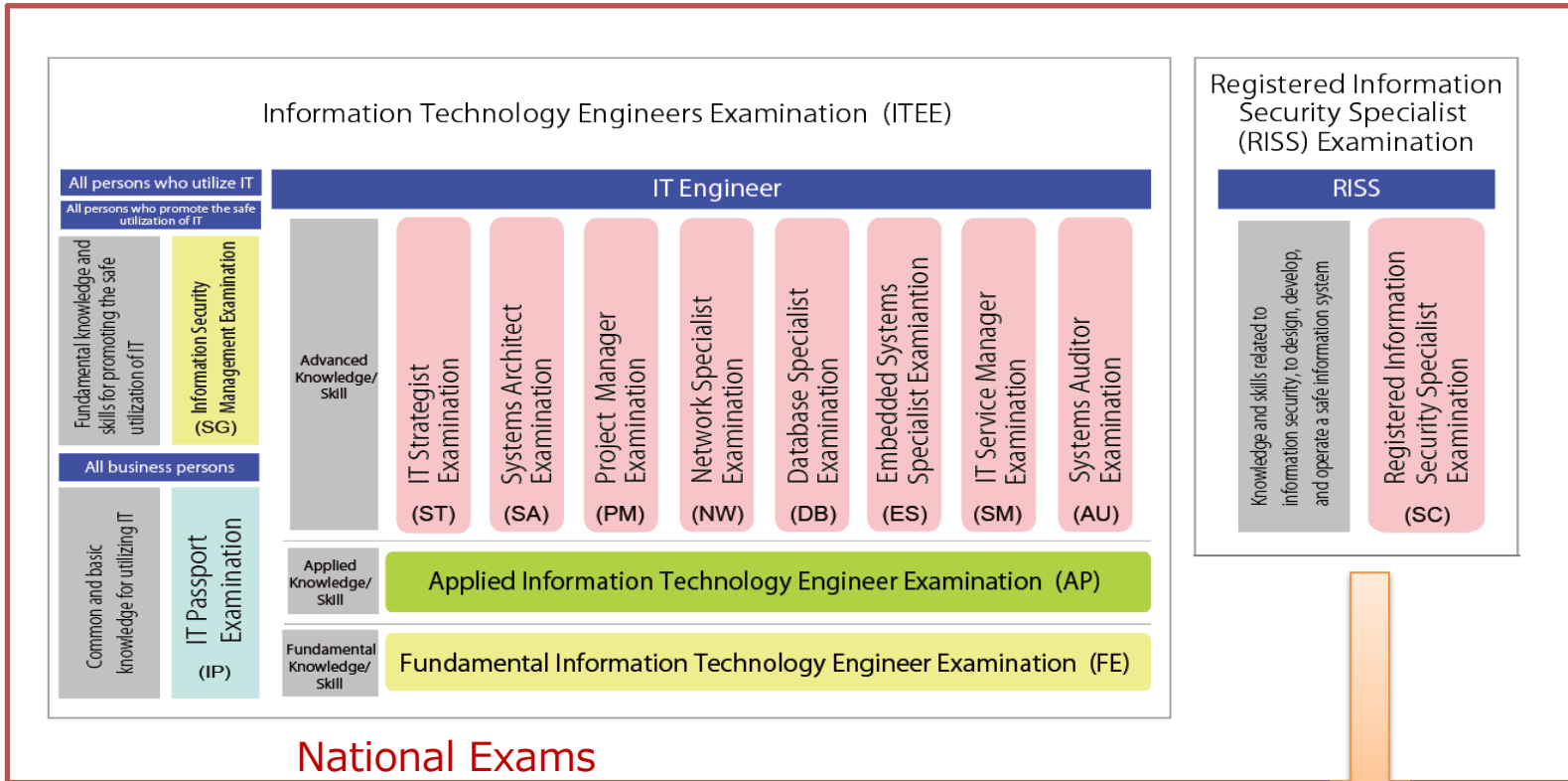| Legal name	情報処理安全確保支援士
English name	Registered Information Security Specialist (RISS)
Legal basis	Act on Facilitation of Information Processing

【RISS logo】

Information Technology Engineers Examination (ITEE)

Registered Information Security Specialist (RISS) Examination

	IT Engineer							

All persons who utilize IT

All persons who promote the safe utilization of IT

Fundamental knowledge and skills for promoting the safe utilization of IT

Information Security Management Examination (SG)

Advanced Knowledge/Skill

IT Strategist Examination (ST)

Systems Architect Examination (SA)

Project Manager Examination (PM)

Network Specialist Examination (NW)

Database Specialist Examination (DB)

Embedded Systems Specialist Examiantion (ES)

IT Service Manager Examination (SM)

Systems Auditor Examination (AU)

RISS

Knowledge and skills related to information security, to design, develop, and operate a safe information system

Registered Information Security Specialist Examination (SC)

All business persons

Common and basic knowledge for utilizing IT

IT Passport Examination (IP)

Applied Knowledge/Skill

Applied Information Technology Engineer Examination (AP)

Fundamental Knowledge/Skill

Fundamental Information Technology Engineer Examination (FE)

National Exams

The passers of the SC exam must go through the registration process to be qualified as RISS.

Increase and evolution of cyber-attacks

Society's strong dependence on IT

Defense against cyber attacks is now essential

Highly-skilled cyber security professionals with practical expertise and ethical mindset are in need.

Shortage of IT security professionals in quality and in quantity

Human resource development scheme is required:
- Assessing knowledge and skills of IT professionals
- Maintaining and updating knowledge and skills of IT professionals
- Increase the public visibility of the IT professionals
- Helping IT professionals to acquiring ethical sense   etc.

The establishment of a national qualification system was proposed. The RISS system was started in October 2016 after revising the "Act on Facilitation of Information Processing."

Acquisition of qualification → Registration → Role and maintenance

Acquisition of qualification

- Pass the exam (SC)

  OR

- Certified as eligible by the ministry

Registration

- Prepare and submit registration documents

- Submitted documents are reviewed

Background check
Disqualified if:
· A person was sentenced to imprisonment or a severer punishment, or punishment related to cybercrimes and 2 years have not yet elapsed from the date of the completion of execution of the sentence or the date when sentence becomes no more executable.

Role and maintenance

- Registrant's record added to a publicly searchable online database

- Exclusive use of the "RISS" title and logo is permitted

- 4 obligations as RISS

  - Completion of required training
  - Prohibition of discrediting acts
  - Maintenance of confidentiality
  - Renewal of registration

Registered information of RISS can be searched online. It can be searched by categories, such as place of employment and field of expertise.
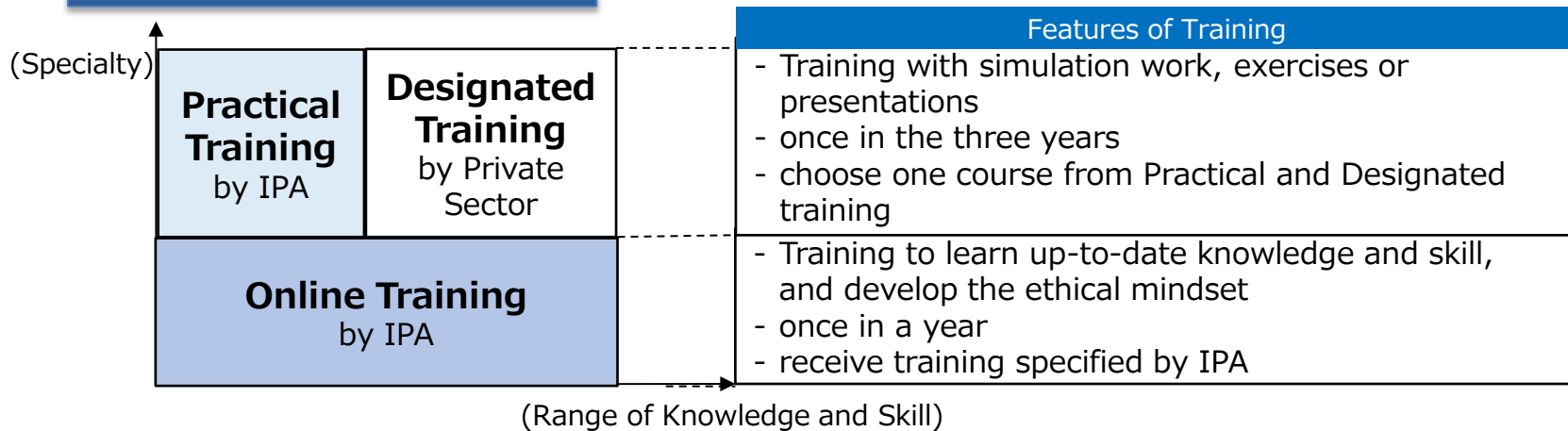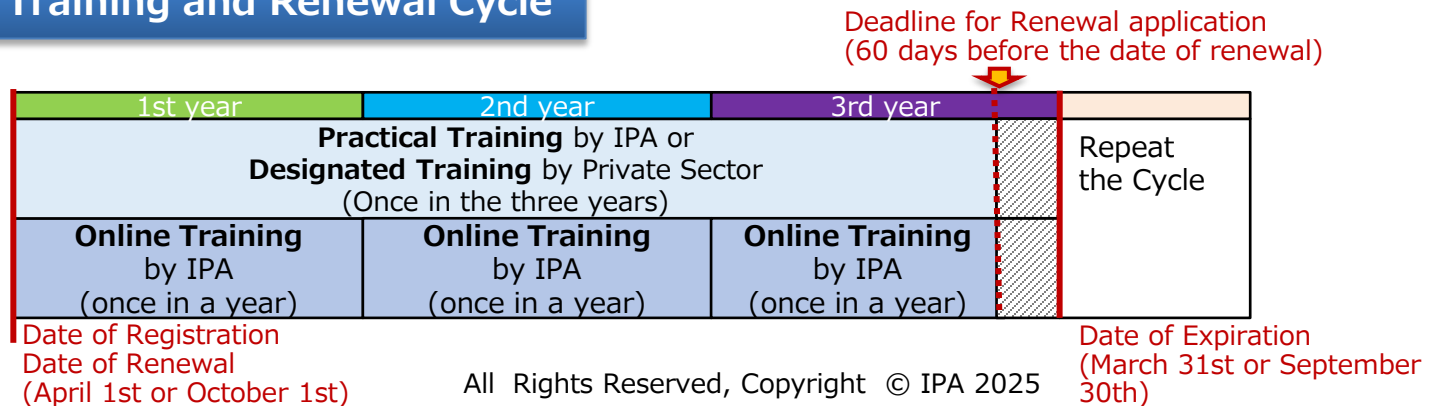https://riss.ipa.go.jp (Japanese)

RISS must complete required training to:
- **Update and Improve Knowledge and Skills**
- **Develop an Ethical Mindset**

Outline of RISS Training

(Specialty)

			Features of Training
Practical Training by IPA	**Designated Training** by Private Sector		- Training with simulation work, exercises or presentations - once in the three years - choose one course from Practical and Designated training
Online Training by IPA			- Training to learn up-to-date knowledge and skill, and develop the ethical mindset - once in a year - receive training specified by IPA

(Range of Knowledge and Skill)

RISS Training and Renewal Cycle

Deadline for Renewal application
(60 days before the date of renewal)

1st year	2nd year	3rd year	
Practical Training by IPA or **Designated Training** by Private Sector (Once in the three years)			Repeat the Cycle
Online Training by IPA (once in a year)	**Online Training** by IPA (once in a year)	**Online Training** by IPA (once in a year)	

Date of Registration
Date of Renewal
(April 1st or October 1st)

Date of Expiration
(March 31st or September 30th)

RISS Online Education (about 6 hours)
- Receive training specified by IPA

Self-Study in e-Learning Style

Assessment of Understanding

Example: Online Education for FY2022 (Education materials are updated every year)

Knowledge	1h	• Expected Role and Knowledge as a RISS
Skills	4h	• System Life Cycle and Security Measures • System Life Cycle and Secure Operations • Incident Handling <form Organizational Point of View> • Incident Handling <form Technical Point of View>
Ethics	1h	• Ethics and Compliance
Assessment of Understanding (multiple choice question)		

RISS Practical Training and Designated Training
- RISS chooses and receives one course depending on his/her interest and work content.

Practical Training by IPA

(1) Practical Training <Course A> Recommended for the 1st through 3rd year

Through group exercises for incident responses and others, participants acquire the specific techniques and methods for practicing cyber security that are required for RISS.

(2) Practical Training <Course B> Recommended for the 4th year or later

Through exercises in which a group considers security advice when starting a new business, participants acquire practical skills for use in their work.

(3) Cyber Resilience Enhancement eXercise by industry（CyberREX）

This cybersecurity exercise targets managers and deals with different scenarios by industry to learn how to strengthen responsiveness and resilience against cyber attacks.

(4) Cyber SecuriTy practIcal eXercise for industrial control system (CyberSTIX)

This exercise targets practitioners engaged in OT(Operational Technology) to deepen their understanding of industrial control system security by experiencing cyber attacks against a simulated system and its defense mechanisms.
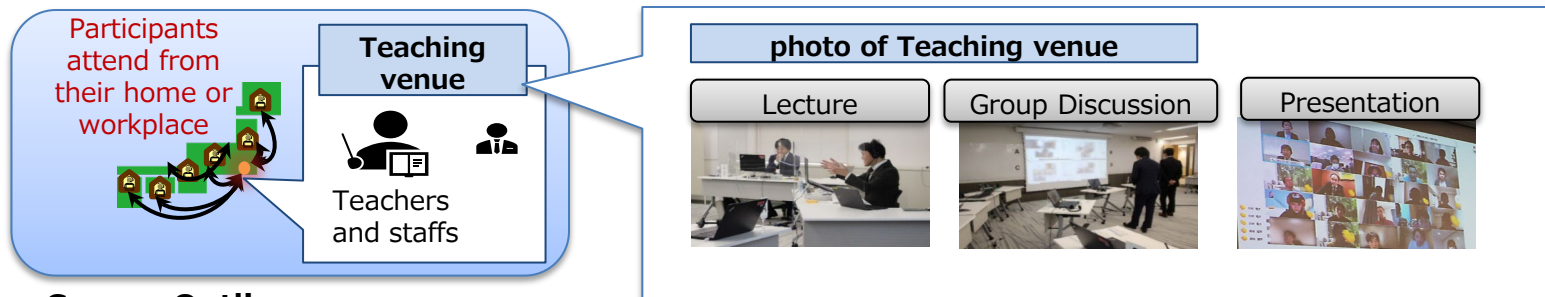
Designated Training by Private Sector

Courses offered by private sector, which have been approved by the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, having equal or greater effect than RISS Practical training conducted by IPA.

Format: Self-Study (e-Learning) + Group Discussion with Web Conference Tool

Participants attend from their home or workplace

Teaching venue

Teachers and staffs

photo of Teaching venue

Lecture	Group Discussion	Presentation

Course Outline:

Practical Training <Course A>	Practical Training <Course B>
1. Self-Study (e-Learning) (about 2 hours) 1. Incident Response Method 2. Ethics in Cyber Security **2. Group Discussion (10:00～17:00)** Case #1: Incident Response Case #2: Preventive Measures Case #3: Ethical Judgments and Actions	**1. Self-Study (e-Learning) (about 3 hours)** 1. Protection of personal information 2. DX with Cybersecurity 3. Preparation for Incident Response **2. Group Discussion (10:00～18:00)** 1.Case #1 Collaboration on Digital Transformation 2.Case #2 Preparation for Incident Response 3.Review of the Day

A summary of the most frequent comments for <Course A>

- I gained new perspectives.
- It was a good opportunity to practice incident handling.
- I got useful tips to improve my work performance.
- The group discussion was meaningful.

- I learned that a good understanding of business is a must when handling cyber security incidents.
- I realized the importance of perceiving a situation from alternative viewpoints.
- I became more aware of the importance of being ethical.

RISS system not only helps to demonstrate the commitment to superior professionalism of the registrants, but also helps the industries become more secure and reliable.

RISS

IT vendors

User companies

Improvement of Capability

RISS	IT vendors	User companies
Updating knowledge	Understanding the security requirements from the client's standpoint	Strengthening their cybersecurity measures with top management
Participating in the community of professionals	Planning, developing, and operating secure information systems	Defining and presenting security requirements for the information systems
Preferential treatments to obtain related qualifications*		

Business Benefit

RISS	IT vendors	User companies
Increased opportunities of employment	Meeting criteria for government procurement*	Improving reliability and reputation

Social Responsibility

Contribution to More Secure Society

1. Bid requirements

- In some bids, it is mandatorily required to have RISS in the project.

> By searching the "Government　Procurement Portal" (https://information1.gov-procurement.go.jp/en/) managed by the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency, 416 tender notices require to assign technical staff with RISS or equivalent qualification（as of July 28, 2023）

2. Preferential Treatments to obtain related qualifications

- RISS enjoys the benefit when obtaining the qualification to assist information security audit.

  – While 5-day training is required for obtaining the assistant auditor's qualification, it is shortened to 1-day for RISS.

  – Exemption of written examination
    Please refer to the website below for more information :
    Japan Information Security Audit Association "Special Schemes on Advanced Information Security Qualification"
    https://www.jasa.jp/qualification/info_secure_supporter.html (Japanese)

- RISS enjoys the benefit when applying for the Qualified Security Assessor (QSA) employee qualification, a certified individual assessor of PCI DSS*.

  – RISS is accredited as one of the information security qualifications required to apply for the QSA employee.

    * The Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS) is a set of information security standards to handle credit card information.
    Please refer to the website below for more information :
    https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/minisite/ja-ja/ (Japanese)

IPA

As of April 1, 2025

The number of RISS is
23,751
(as of April 1, 2025)

Age	Registrants	%
10 - 19	17	0.1%
20 - 29	1,816	7.6%
30 - 39	5,687	23.9%
40 - 49	9,082	38.2%
50 - 59	5,882	24.8%
60 - 69	1,239	5.2%
70 - 79	27	0.1%
80 - 89	1	0.0%
Average	44.2 years old	

Occupation	Registrants	%
Information processing/information service	7,581	37.4%
Software industry	4,647	23.0%
Manufacturing industry	1,777	8.8%
Transport or telecommunication industry	1,416	7.0%
Service industry	925	4.6%
Government or public interest groups	907	4.5%
Finance, insurance business, or real estate industry	740	3.7%
Manufacturing or sales of computers and peripheral devices	630	3.1%
Construction industry	336	1.7%
Education (school/research institute)	278	1.4%
Wholesale, retail business, or restaurants	232	1.1%
Electricity, gas, heat supply, or waterway industry	186	0.9%
Medical, or welfare industry	102	0.5%
Research industry and advertising business	52	0.3%
Agriculture, forestry, fishery, or mining	9	0.0%
Other (students, not entered, etc.)	428	2.1%

＊from the current situation survey（N=20,246）

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4. Registration and Training
Number of Registrants based on Prefectures

As of April 1, 2025

Region	Prefecture	Registrants	%	Region	Prefecture	Registrants	%
Hokkaido (North)	Hokkaido	287	1.2%	Kinki (Mid-West)	Kyoto	292	1.2%
Tohoku (North-East)	Aomori	44	0.2%		Osaka	1,398	5.9%
	Iwate	95	0.4%		Shiga	109	0.5%
	Miyagi	270	1.1%		Hyogo	667	2.8%
	Akita	53	0.2%		Nara	152	0.6%
	Yamagata	44	0.2%		Wakayama	42	0.2%
	Fukushima	60	0.3%	Chugoku (West)	Tottori	37	0.2%
Kanto (Capital Area)	TOKYO	7,650	32.2%		Shimane	49	0.2%
	Ibaraki	361	1.5%		Okayama	122	0.5%
	Tochigi	84	0.4%		Hiroshima	229	1.0%
	Gunma	123	0.5%		Yamaguchi	54	0.2%
	Saitama	2,001	8.4%	Shikoku (South-West)	Tokushima	42	0.2%
	Chiba	1,980	8.3%		Kagawa	111	0.5%
	Kanagawa	4,259	17.9%		Ehime	67	0.3%
Chubu/Tokai (Mid-East)	Niigata	112	0.5%		Kochi	26	0.1%
	Toyama	129	0.5%	Kyushu/Okinawa (Far West/ South)	Fukuoka	524	2.2%
	Ishikawa	142	0.6%		Saga	42	0.2%
	Fukui	54	0.2%		Nagasaki	66	0.3%
	Yamanashi	47	0.2%		Oita	51	0.2%
	Nagano	161	0.7%		Kumamoto	77	0.3%
	Gifu	153	0.6%		Miyazaki	36	0.2%
	Shizuoka	259	1.1%		Kagoshima	37	0.2%
	Aichi	949	4.0%		Okinawa	102	0.4%
	Mie	94	0.4%	Overseas	Overseas	8	0.0%

Further Information

♦ For further information on the system and registration etc., please see IPA website below.

https://www.ipa.go.jp/jinzai/riss/index.html (Japanese)