

NSWC Corona IUID Center Registry Gateway

Craig MacDougall

NSWC Corona IUID Center established the IUID Gateway to facilitate the registration of UIIs in the DoD IUID Registry.

When marking an item per Item Unique Identification (IUID) policy, registering the Unique Item Identifier (UII) is a necessary step in the marking process. Registering the UII ensures that it is unique across the Department of Defense (DoD) and that no other item can be registered with the same UII. Until its UII is registered in the DoD IUID Registry, the item is not IUID compliant.

When registering an item with the IUID Registry, the item's UII, a description, and serial number need to be provided, at a minimum. Other information, such as part number, contract number, and manufacture date, can also be sent to the IUID Registry. However, in order to maintain its unclassified status, the IUID Registry does not contain information that could be used to provide weapon system capabilities, such as condition codes or item location.

In an effort to assist with registering UIIs, the Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Corona IUID Center established the IUID Gateway. The IUID Gateway is an automated registration service by which users can easily submit UII information to the DoD IUID Registry without having to navigate numerous Information Technology (IT) requirements.

While there are different ways to load information into the DoD IUID Registry, the Gateway uploads the information via an eXtensible Mark-up Language (XML) file. XML files are simply text files with an ".xml" file suffix that follow a specific set of rules regarding how they are put together. A Microsoft Excel template for creating IUID-compliant XML files is available from the IUID Center if needed.

In brief, there are four steps to using the IUID Gateway:

1. Obtain the Microsoft Excel template from NSWC Corona
2. Enter your UII information into the template(s)
3. Create the IUID-compliant XML file (by clicking a button!)
4. Send the XML file via e-mail to CRNA-IUID_gateway@navy.mil

Once the Gateway receives the file, it submits the information in the file to the DoD IUID Registry.

Use of the IUID Gateway is voluntary and allows users to mix and match services to meet their needs. While some programs need neither the Excel templates nor the IUID Gateway to enter their IUID information into the DoD IUID Registry, other programs may need one and not the other.

Whether using the Excel

template provided by the IUID Gateway to create IUID-compliant XML files or using another process, there are a few file characteristics that help the registration process run smoothly:

- Have no more than 1,000 items in a single XML file
- Keep the file size to 5 megabytes (MB) or smaller
- Make sure the file name is less than 27 characters and does not contain any spaces

For more information about the IUID Gateway service and to get started, click http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/pdi/uid/attachments/IUID_registry_v_4schema_package.zip and download the zipped file. This file contains the XML schema and an Excel workbook that explains much of the required information for the XML file. When you are ready, send an e-mail to NSWC Corona's IUID Center (CRNA-IUID_gateway@navy.mil) requesting the Excel template so you can get started registering UIIs.

About the Author

Craig MacDougall is a representative of the IUID Center at the Naval Surface Warfare Center Corona Division. He provides IUID education and assistance across the DoD and will be part of the team from NSWC Corona speaking at the DIETS 4 in San Diego, January 11-13, 2011.