

- Edit article
View stats
View post



CISA's Quantum Leap: The First Glimpse at PQC-Enabled Product Categories



John Binks, PMP®, AWS-CCP, AMA-CPM
Business Development | Program Director | Artificial intelligence (AI) | IT Systems Planning & Implementation |...



August 30, 2025

"Our primary task on this is basically to establish criteria to identify these PQC-enabled products. We're going to establish an initial ...", a candid declaration from a CISA official last week, spotlighting the agency's critical mission to define what makes a product truly PQC-ready.

Why CISA's Preview Matters, Right Now

This preview isn't just setting expectations, it's paving the road to December 1, 2025, when agencies will mandate procurement of PQC-enabled technologies in defined categories. It's a signal to vendors and agencies alike: quantum resilience is becoming a procurement necessity.

At this week's Quantum Summit, Dr. Garfield Jones from CISA confirmed the timeline: "by December 2025, CISA will publish a new Product Categories List of PQC-enabled technologies, mandated by Executive Orders 14044 and 14306."

What's Likely to Be on the List

While the official list isn't public yet, Dr. Jones previewed several key categories that will shape the PQC procurement landscape:

- Networking hardware and software

- **Telecommunications equipment**
- **Computers**, spanning operating systems, hypervisors, and containers
- **Storage area networks (SANs)**
- **Cloud services**
- **Identity, Credential, and Access Management (ICAM) tools**
- **Collaboration software**
- **Database and data-management systems** (think SQL engines)
- **Web software**, including browsers and servers
- **Endpoint and enterprise security tools** (encryption, antivirus, EDR/EUM, CDM platforms)

These categories reflect an aggressive drive to embed PQC deeply across critical technology domains.

Beyond the List: CISA's Strategic Playbook

In addition to defining product categories, CISA is raising the organizational IQ on PQC by:

- **Deploying automated cryptographic discovery tools** across agencies to pinpoint where legacy, or vulnerable, crypto still resides.
- **Engaging with state and local governments**, ensuring preparedness extends beyond federal agencies.
- Addressing vulnerable **operational technology (OT)**, such as electric grid controls, which often utilize legacy systems with little to no encryption.

What This Means for Stakeholders

Federal Agencies

- Accelerate cryptographic inventories and embrace automated discovery to gain visibility into at-risk systems.
- Begin drafting procurement strategies aligned with the forthcoming PQC product list.
- Engage with state/local counterparts to coordinate a unified migration effort across all jurisdictions.

Vendors & Contractors

- Review product portfolios, ensure hybrid or PQC-ready versions are in development now.
- Demonstrate **crypto-agility**, so systems can evolve with changing standards.
- Position yourself for inclusion in the December list by engaging early with CISA and key agencies.

Cybersecurity Leaders

- Elevate CTI (Chief Technology Officers), CISOs, and procurement leads on the quantum migration timeline.

- Advocate for pilot programs and early adoption, especially in high-risk or long-lifecycle systems.
- Use this preview, and direct lines from CISA, as a lever to secure budget and leadership buy-in.

What's Next: A Proactive Agenda

- **Finalize standards and validate proofs-of-concept** in controlled environments.
- **Refine hybrid deployment strategies**, enabling current systems to support both classical and PQC algorithms.
- **Educate cross-functional teams** (IT, procurement, risk, operations) on quantum risk scenarios and PQC transitions.


Final Thought

CISA's initial grocery list of PQC-enabled product categories isn't just technical, it's tactical. It signals that **federal cybersecurity is shifting from a defense posture to a forward-looking fortress**, anticipating quantum threats before they emerge.

If your organization is navigating this transition, now is the moment to lead, not lag. Ready to align your strategies, build crypto-agile systems, and influence your procurement roadmap? Let's start that conversation.

#QuantumSecurity #PostQuantumCryptography #PQC #CISA
#Cybersecurity #CryptoAgility #FederalProcurement #QuantumReadiness
#CyberPolicy #EmergingTech #JohnBinks #BotsAndBosses

Comments

Like Comment Share

Add a comment...

No comments, yet.
Be the first to comment.

[Start the conversation](#)



John Binks, PMP®, AWS-CCP, AMA-CPM

