Panel Discussion: Making SWID Tags Successful in the Marketplace

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Today's Panel Topic

- Will SWID tags succeed in the marketplace? Why or why not?
- What does "success" look like?
- What, if anything, can SWID tag advocates do to increase the likelihood that tags will become widely available and used?



Panelists

Eric Eskam

Program Manager, GSA Integrated Technology Services

Steve Klos

Executive Director, TagVault.org

Brian Turner

Program Manager, IBM BigFix Development

Joe Wolfkiel

Secure Configuration Management Branch Engineering Lead
 Defense Information Systems Agency



Setting the Stage: What's a SWID Tag?

An XML Document – Conforms to ISO/IEC 19770-2:2015

```
<SoftwareIdentity</pre>
  name="ACME Roadrunner Detector 2013 Coyote Edition"
  tagId="com.acme.rrd2013-ce-sp1-v4-1-5-0" version="4.1.5">
  <Entity name="The ACME Corporation"</pre>
          regid="acme.com" role="tagCreator softwareCreator"/>
  <Entity name="Coyote Services, Inc."</pre>
          regid="mycoyote.com" role="distributor"/>
  <Link rel="license" href="www.gnu.org/licenses/gpl.txt/">
  <Meta activationStatus="trial" product="Roadrunner Detector"</pre>
        colloquialVersion="2013" edition="coyote"/>
  <Payload>
    <Directory root="%programdata%" location="rrdetector">
      <File name="rrdetector.exe" size="532712"</pre>
       SHA256: hash="a314fc2dc663ae7a6b6bc6787594057396e6b3f569cd50fd5ddb4d1bbafd2b6a"/>
      <File name="sensors.dll" size="13295"</pre>
       SHA256: hash="54e6c3f569cd50fd5ddb4d1bbafd2b6ac4128c2dc663ae7a6b6bc67875940573"/>
    </Directory>
  </Payload>
</SoftwareIdentity>
```



Setting the Stage: Current Situation

- First SWID tag specification published in 2009
- Handful of early adopters
- Public commitments by some high-profile software publishers
- Major revision to SWID tag specification to be published soon

SWID Tags Remain Off (Almost) Everyone's Radar



Setting the Stage: Reasons to be Optimistic

- The standard addresses an array of real operational problems, including but not limited to cybersecurity
- There is a strong business case for producers as well as consumers of commercial software
- The standard is international



Setting the Stage: Reasons to be Pessimistic

- Lack of awareness
- The specification is behind an ISO/IEC paywall
- Broad scope—impacts all software producers and consumers
- Sense that the problem is already solved "well enough"



Questions to Panelists

- What is your "stake" in SWID tag success?
- From your perspective, what is necessary for SWID tags to be successful?
- How would SWID success help your organization?
- Are you optimistic or pessimistic regarding the prospects of SWID success over the next 3-5 years? Why?

