

Security Automation Program Update

Cybersecurity Innovation Forum
September 10, 2015

NIST
**National Institute of
Standards and Technology**
U.S. Department of Commerce

Agenda

- What is security automation?
- What is the NIST Security Automation Program?
- Review NIST Security Automation Activities
- Conclusions
- How you can help?

What is security automation?

What is Security Automation?

“We need a much greater focus on standardization and automation to allow humans to get out of the loop of manual defense and focus instead on human-worthy activities” – Tony Sager

What is Security Automation?

*“We need a much greater focus on **standardization** and **automation** to allow **humans** to get out of the loop of manual defense and **focus** instead **on human-worthy activities**” – Tony Sager*

Security automation is the **use** of data-driven **tools** to **manage** security controls and to **perform** well-understood **security tasks**.

Security automation includes:

- **Representing** human security **knowledge** as machine-readable data
- **Exchanging** machine-readable **data** to drive **automated action**
- Timely, scalable, and accurate **situational awareness** supporting **risk decision making**
 - Knowing what assets you have
 - Continuously knowing the operational state of these assets
 - Measuring the deployment and effectiveness of security controls

What is the NIST Security Automation Program?

The NIST Security Automation Program

Program Description

Supporting the creation and testing of standardized data sets and commercially available products that enable interoperable security automation solutions.

Goals

Enabling organizations to:

- Gain accurate and timely situational awareness over the state of their computing assets
- Measure security control effectiveness on an ongoing basis
- Measure compliance of endpoints to their risk-based policies
- Prevent and detect cyber-attacks

Activities

- Development of standards and guidelines
 - Data Models
 - Network Protocols
 - Implementation Guidance
- Hosting data repositories and data sets
 - Software Identification and Metadata
 - Vulnerability Information
 - Configuration Checklists
- Product Validation Program and Testing Tools
- Research
 - Measurement models
 - New methods and techniques

What is SCAP?

The **S**ecurity **C**ontent **A**utomation **P**rotocol

Brings existing specifications together to provide a **standardized approach for measuring** the security of enterprise systems

Provides a means to **identify, express, report, and measure** security data in standardized ways

Currently in 3rd revision – SCAP 1.2

- Defined by Special Publication (SP) 800-126 revision 2
- Project website: <http://scap.nist.gov>

What is SCAP?

Community developed specifications for:

Languages

Means of providing instructions

- Machine-readable XML
- Representing security checklists
- Detecting and reporting machine state

Metrics

Risk scoring framework

- Transparent
- Metrics
 - Base
 - Temporal
 - Environmental

Enumerations






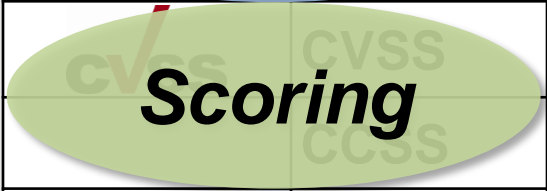


Identification and naming

- Product names
- Vulnerability identifiers
- Configuration settings

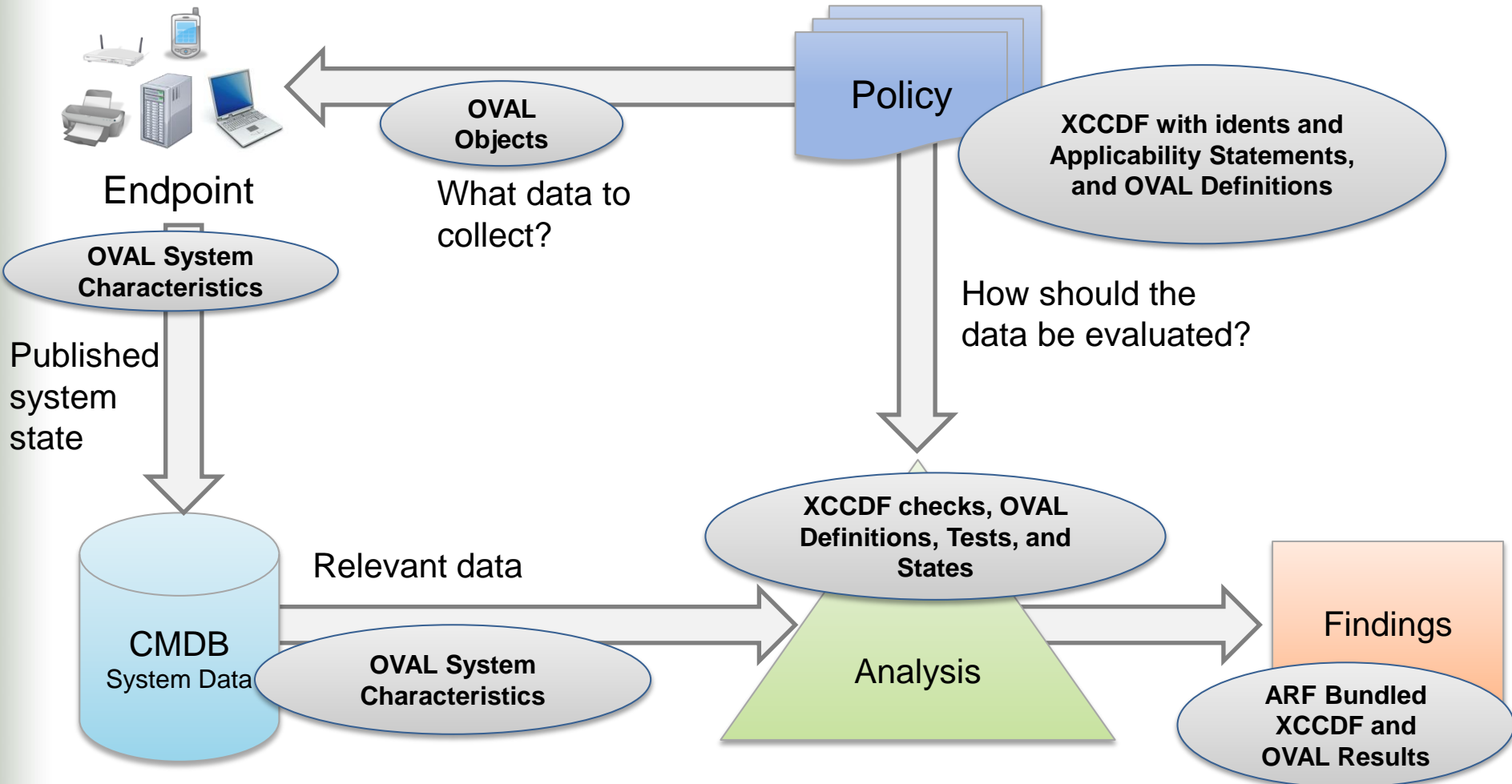
Integrity

Conventions for applying existing and emerging XML signature standards and best practices to sign and verify content

What is SCAP?

 <p>CVE</p>	Common Vulnerability Enumeration	Standard nomenclature and dictionary of security related software flaws
 <p>Naming</p>	Common Configuration Enumeration	Standard nomenclature and dictionary of software misconfigurations
 <p>CPE</p>	Common Platform Enumeration	Standard nomenclature and dictionary for product naming
 <p>Expressing</p>	eXtensible Checklist Configuration Description Format	Standard XML for specifying checklists and for reporting results of checklist evaluation
 <p>Assessing</p>	Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language	Standard XML for test procedures
	Open Checklist Interactive Language	Standard XML for human interaction
 <p>Scoring</p>	Common Vulnerability Scoring System	Standard for measuring the characteristics and impacts of vulnerabilities
	Common Configuration Scoring System	Metrics for software security configuration vulnerabilities
 <p>Reporting</p>	Asset Identification	Method to identify assets based on known identifiers and/or other information
	Asset Reporting Format	Data format to relate assets to reports containing asset details
 <p>Signing</p>	Trust Model for Security Automation Data	Guidance for using XML signatures with security automation data

The SCAP Assessment Model



NIST Security Automation Activities

NIST Security Automation Program

Activities by Area

Standards, Specifications, and Guidelines

- Security Content Automation Protocol Version 1.3
- Software Identification (SWID) Tagging Guidance
- Security Automation and Continuous Monitoring Standards

Data Repositories and Reference Data Sets

- National Vulnerability Database (NVD)
- NVD and National Software Reference Library Integration
- National Checklist Program
- United States Government Configuration Baselines

Product Conformance Testing and Testing Tools

- SCAP 1.2 Product Test Suite Content
- SCAP Content Validation Tool (SCAPVal)
- SCAP 1.2 Validation Program

Research

- Multidimensional Cybersecurity Analytics
- Automated Generation of Indicators Using OVAL



Standards, Specifications, and Guidelines

NIST Security Automation Activities

Security Content Automation Protocol (SCAP) Version 1.3

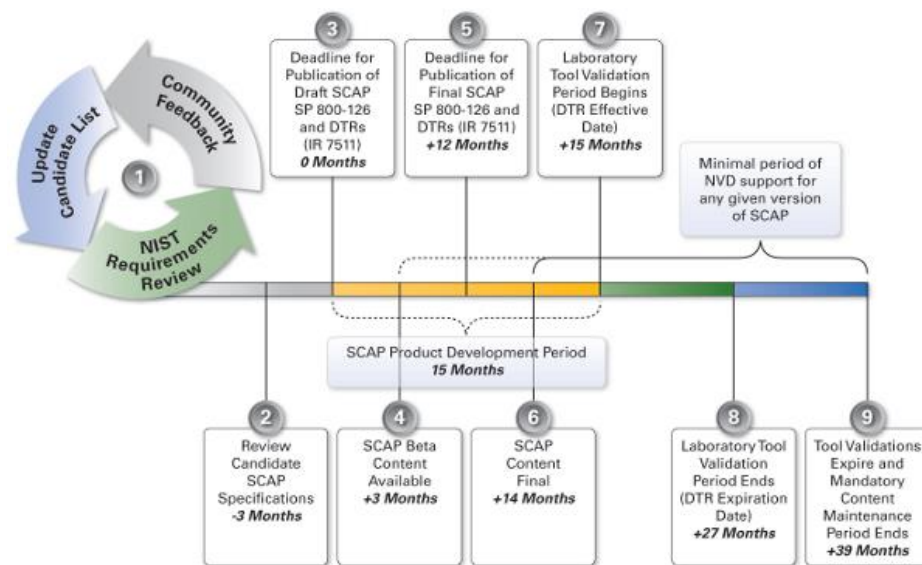
Project Description

Updating the SCAP specification, guidance, and validation program to address public feedback and changes to the underlying component specifications.

Goals

- Address updates to the underlying SCAP component specifications.
- Provide agility to address future changes to OVAL platform schema.
- Modify requirements for backwards compatibility to reduce product development effort.

Specifications, Standards, and Guidelines



Requesting public comments as we move towards step 3.

Security Content Automation Protocol (SCAP) Version 1.3

Accomplishments

- Participated in the FIRST CVSS-SIG to produce CVSSv3
- Contributed to the OVAL 5.11 revisions
- Posted announcement requesting comments on the SCAP 1.3 revision (8/21/2015)

Current Work

- Waiting for public comments based on the announcement

Next Steps

- Produce drafts of NIST SP 800-126 revision 3 and NISTIR 7511
- Update SCAP content validation tool (SCAPVal) and product test suite

Project Contact

Harold Booth

harold.booth@nist.gov

Learn More

Call for comments on SCAP 1.3:

http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/drafts/800-126/sp800-126r3_call-for-comments.html

Send comments to:

800-126comments@nist.gov

Questions?

Email scap@nist.gov

Software Identification (SWID) Tagging Guidance

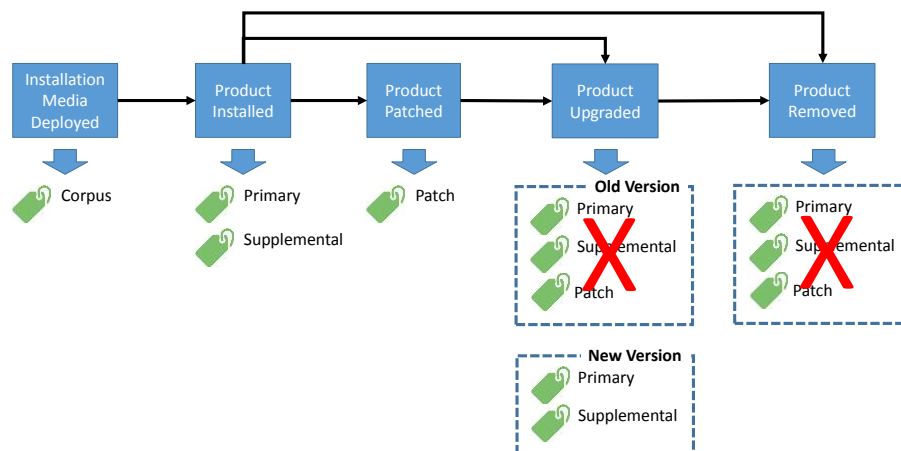
Specifications, Standards, and Guidelines

Project Description

Developing standards and guidelines for software metadata to support cybersecurity, license management, and other operational use cases across the software deployment lifecycle.

Goals

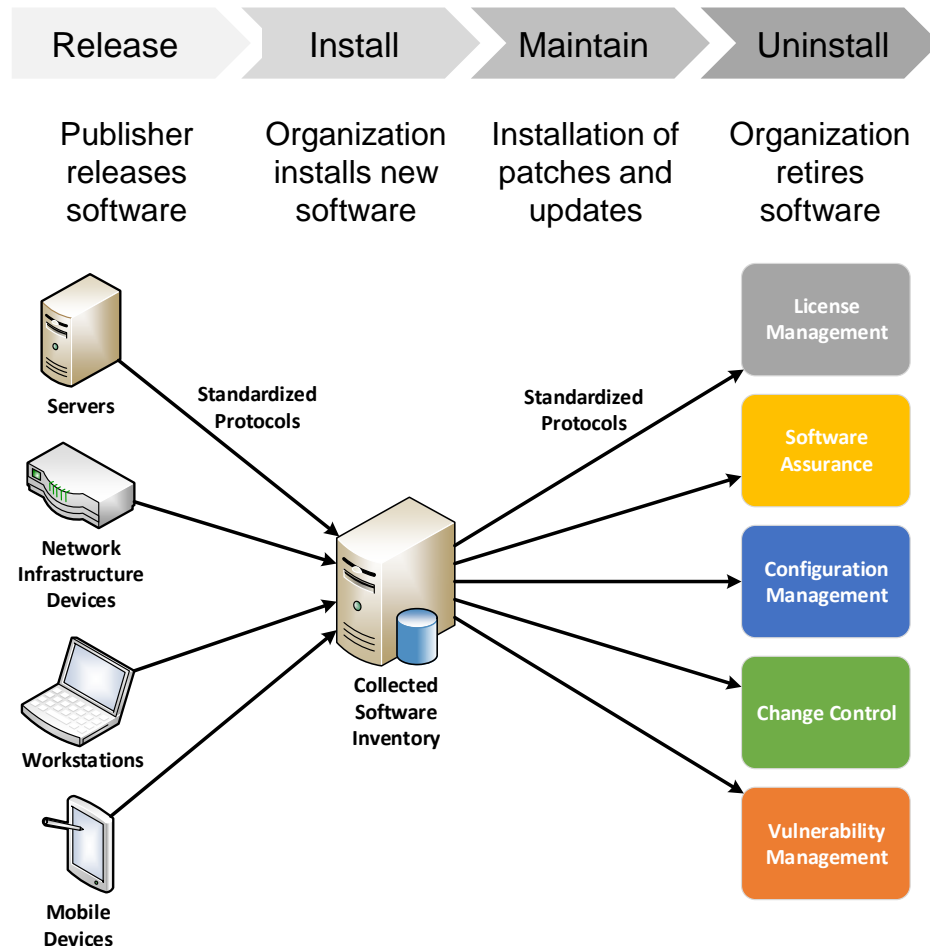
- Platform-neutral continuous monitoring of installed software and patch inventory
- Ensure software is updated to minimize vulnerability exposure
- Enforcing software policies based on software identity and other characteristics



The Concept of SWID Tags

SWID tags enable:

- High-fidelity software metadata provided by vendors
- Platform-neutral, standardized software inventory
- Integration of data and process verticals
- Automation and innovation supporting risk-based management of software



SWID Tagging Guidance

Accomplishments

- Active participation in ISO/IEC JTC1 SC7 WG21
- Collaborated in the development of a 2015 revision of ISO/IEC 19770-2: *Information technology — Software asset management — Part 2: Software identification tag*

Current Work

- Developing NISTIR 8060: *Guidelines for the Creation of Interoperable Software Identification Tags*
 - Contains guidelines for creating SWID tags that support cybersecurity use cases
 - Includes rules for generating Common Platform Enumeration (CPE) version 2.3 names from SWID tags
 - Released 3 public drafts
 - Draft #3 currently open for public comment

SWID Tagging Guidance

Next Steps

- Complete final draft of NISTIR 8060
- Development of a SWID tag validation tool based on:
 - ISO/IEC 19770-2
 - NISTIR 8060 guidelines
- Development of reference implementations for:
 - CPE generation from SWID tags
 - Applying XML Digital Signatures to SWID tags

Project Contact

David Waltermire
david.Waltermire@nist.gov

Learn More

- NISTIR [8060](#)
- The [ISO/IEC 19770](#) Family of Standards

Questions or Comments?

Email nistir8060-comments@nist.gov

Security Automation and Continuous Monitoring Standards

Project Description

Participating in a number of standards organizations to develop requirements, architectures, network protocols, and data formats to support continuous monitoring of endpoints and security automation.

Goals

- Management of security controls through automated data collection and analysis
- Timely measurement of the effectiveness of technical security controls
- Broad commercial adoption of international consensus standards for continuous monitoring

Specifications, Standards, and Guidelines

Accomplishments

- Editor for RFC7632: *Endpoint Security Posture Assessment: Enterprise Use Cases*

Current Work

- Participating in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) Security Automation and Continuous Monitoring (SACM) working group

Project Contact

David Waltermire
david.waltermire@nist.gov

Learn More and Participate

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/wg/sacm/>

Data Repositories and Reference Data Sets

NIST Security Automation Activities

National Vulnerability Database (NVD)

Data Repositories and Reference Data Sets

Project Description

The NVD provides standards-based vulnerability management data represented using SCAP. It includes security checklists, security-related software flaws, misconfigurations, impact metrics, and software product names.

Goals

- Automation of vulnerability management using standardized vulnerability information
- Provide reference data to enable security and compliance measurement
- Participate in activities to improve the automation of vulnerability standards



Vulnerabilities

Over 72,000 CVE entries



Product Names

Product dictionary with over 105,000 CPE product names



Checklists

Over 290 Checklists posted



Vulnerability Analysis

The NVD team evaluates over 6,000 vulnerabilities a year



SCAP Checklists

80+ checklists in SCAP Format (Tier III or Tier IV)

National Vulnerability Database (NVD)

Accomplishments

- Participated in the development of CVSS v3 in the FIRST CVSS-SIG
- Completed major architectural changes to the NVD, supporting future enhancements
- Providing vulnerability entry change histories
- Published NISTIR 7946 documenting the NVD analysis process
- Implemented process to assign CCE identifiers – Ongoing work on CCE data feed

Current Work

- Developing a vulnerability taxonomy to produce CVSS v2 and v3 base scores
- Removing uncompressed vulnerability feeds
- Improving documentation for expected use of data feeds

Next Steps

- Publish vulnerability taxonomy documentation
- Integrate taxonomy information into data feeds
- Website redesign
- Provide REST-based services

Project Contacts

Harold Booth

harold.booth@nist.gov

Robert Byers

robert.byers@nist.gov

Learn More

<https://nvd.nist.gov>

Questions?

Email nvd@nist.gov

National Software Reference Library (NSRL) and NVD Integration

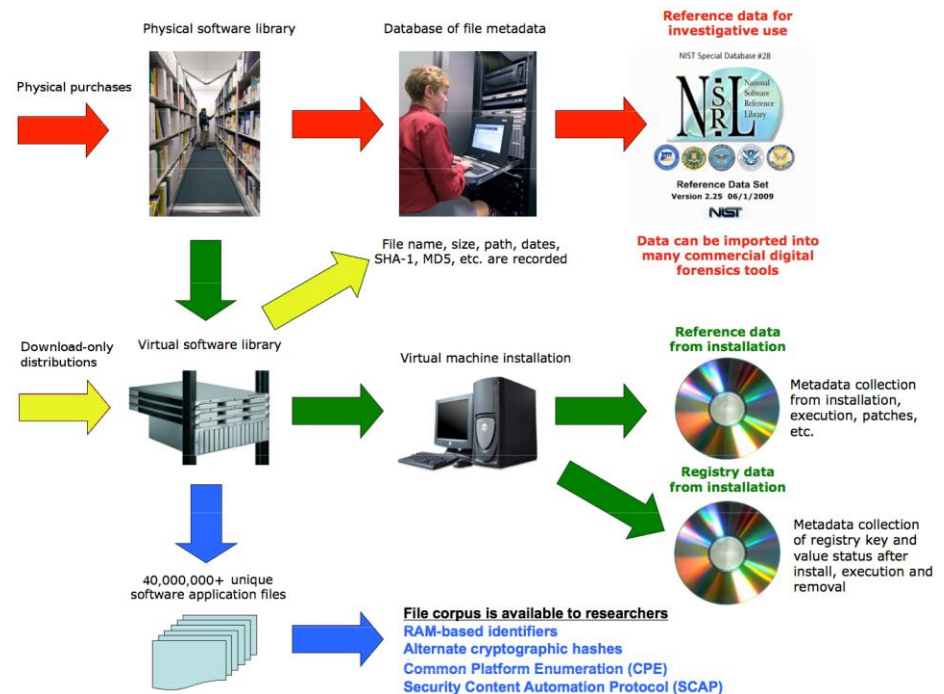
Data Repositories and Reference Data Sets

Project Description

Employing NSRL data to improve software identification and metadata within the National Vulnerability Database (NVD).

Goals

- Improving signatures of software deployment
- Cataloging and recognizing vulnerable software versions
- Researching and evaluating software signature generation mechanisms



NSRL and NVD Integration

Accomplishments

- Use of a document search based technique to identify forensic artifacts relevant to software.

Current Work

- Enhancement of product version information based on executable and shared library metadata
- Working on replication of NSRL data to the NVD
- SWID generation based on replicated NSRL data

Next Steps

- Establish a testing framework to compare NSRL-derived data and publisher-provided SWID tags
- Publish analysis of information retrieval forensic technique
- Publish SWID tags based on the NSRL reference data

Project Contacts

Harold Booth

harold.booth@nist.gov

Alex Nelson

alexander.nelson@nist.gov

Learn More

- <http://www.nsrl.nist.gov>
- <http://nvd.nist.gov>

National Checklist Program (NCP)

Data Repositories and Reference Data Sets

Project Description

The NCP hosts a searchable database of configuration checklists provided by government agencies, IT product vendors, and 3rd-party organizations. The NCP provides guidance on the creation, selection, and use of configuration baselines for federal agencies.

Goals

- Guide agencies on what should be done to improve and maintain effective IT product configuration settings
- Provide practical, security configuration and patch content to the Federal Government
- Enable users to quickly search for, identify, and retrieve appropriate checklists for their IT products

The screenshot shows the NVD National Checklist Program Repository search results page. The page includes a search bar with filters for Tier, Target Product, Category, Authority, and Keyword. Below the search bar, it displays a table of 305 matching records, showing columns for Tier, Target Product, Product Category, Authority, Last Modified Date, Checklist Name (Version), and Resources. The table lists various operating systems and web browsers with their corresponding checklists and resources.

Tier	Target Product	Product Category	Authority	Last Modified Date	Checklist Name (Version)	Resources
IV	Microsoft Internet Explorer 7	Web Browser	USGCB/TIS	04/28/2015	USGCB Internet Explorer 7 (2.1.x.1)	• SCAP 1.2 Content - USGCB Internet Explorer 7 SCAP Content using OVAL version 5.10 • GPOs - USGCB IE7 GPOs • Prose - This is the human readable version of the USGCB settings.
IV	Microsoft Internet Explorer 8	Web Browser	USGCB/TIS	04/28/2015	USGCB Internet Explorer 8 (1.3.x.1)	• SCAP 1.2 Content - USGCB Internet Explorer 8 SCAP Content using OVAL version 5.10 • GPOs - USGCB IE8 GPOs • Prose - This is the human readable version of the USGCB settings.
IV	Microsoft Windows 7	Operating System	USGCB/TIS	04/28/2015	USGCB Windows 7 (2.0.x.1)	• SCAP 1.2 Content - Windows 7 OVAL 5.10 • GPOs - USGCB Windows 7 GPOs • Prose - This is the human readable version of the USGCB settings.
IV	Microsoft Windows 7 32-bit (x86)	Operating System	USGCB/TIS	04/28/2015	USGCB Windows 7 Firewall (1.3.x.1)	• SCAP 1.2 Content - Windows 7 Firewall OVAL 5.10 • GPOs - USGCB Windows 7 Firewall GPOs • Prose - This is the human readable version of the USGCB settings.
IV	Microsoft Windows Vista	Operating System	USGCB/TIS	04/28/2015	USGCB Windows Vista (1.9.x.1)	• SCAP 1.2 Content - USGCB Windows Vista using OVAL version 5.10 • GPOs - USGCB Windows Vista GPOs • Prose - This is the human readable version of the USGCB settings.
IV	Microsoft Windows Vista	Operating System	USGCB/TIS	04/28/2015	USGCB Windows Vista Firewall (2.1.x.1)	• SCAP 1.2 Content - USGCB Windows Vista Firewall using OVAL version 5.10 • GPOs - USGCB Windows Vista Firewall GPOs • Prose - This is the human readable version of the USGCB settings.
IV	Microsoft Windows XP Pro Service Pack 3	Operating System	USGCB/TIS	04/28/2015	USGCB Windows XP Firewall (2.1.x.1)	• SCAP 1.2 Content - USGCB Windows XP Firewall SCAP content using OVAL version 5.10 • GPOs - USGCB Windows XP Firewall GPOs • Prose - This is the human readable version of the USGCB settings.
IV	Microsoft Windows XP Pro Service Pack 2	Operating System	USGCB/TIS	04/28/2015	USGCB Windows XP (3.0.x.1)	• SCAP 1.2 Content - USGCB Windows XP using OVAL version 5.10 • GPOs - USGCB Windows Vista Firewall GPOs • Prose - This is the human readable version of the USGCB settings.
IV	Microsoft Windows XP Service Pack 3	Operating System	USGCB/TIS	04/28/2015	USGCB Windows XP (3.0.x.1)	• SCAP 1.2 Content - USGCB Windows XP using OVAL version 5.10 • GPOs - USGCB Windows Vista Firewall GPOs • Prose - This is the human readable version of the USGCB settings.

National Checklist Program (NCP) and Next Steps

Overview

- Participating organizations from government and industry.
- Currently hosts 305 separate guidance documents for over 400 IT products and product versions
- Updated Draft NIST SP 800-70 Rev 3 continues to encourage vendor development and maintenance of security guidance
- Organizations are translating this backlog of checklists into the Security Content Automation Protocol (SCAP)

Accomplishments

SP 800-70 Revision 3 was posted April 2015 as public draft.

Next Steps

- Release of final NIST SP 800-70 revision 3
- Updates to the NCP website and database based on the SP 800-70 revision

Project Contact

Stephen Quinn

stephen.quinn@nist.gov

Learn More

<http://checklists.nist.gov>

Questions?

Email checklists@nist.gov

The United States Government Configuration Baseline (USGCB)

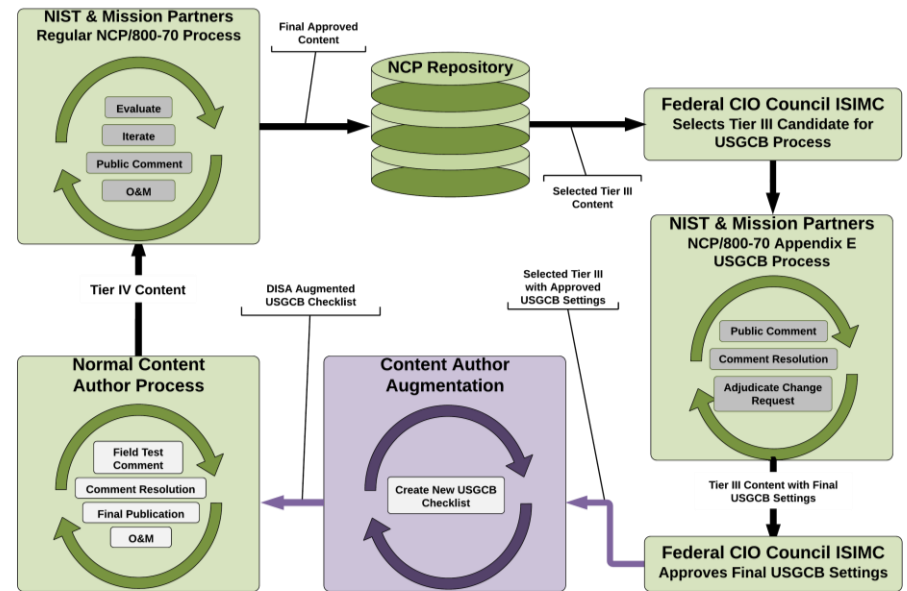
Data Repositories and Reference Data Sets

Project Description

A Federal government-wide initiative to define automatable security configuration baselines for IT products, with a focus on configuration settings, to enhance product security. The USGCB baseline initiative evolved from the Federal Desktop Core Configuration mandate.

Goals

- Provide a formal process for adoption of new and revised configuration baselines by the US Government
- Promote wide adoption of secure configuration baselines within Federal agencies
- Express baselines in SCAP to maximize automation



NIST SP800-70 Appendix E describes the USGCB process. Agencies should concentrate reviews within the two formal review cycles.

United States Government Configuration Baseline (USGCB)

Accomplishments

- Released updated baselines for Windows 7 and IE 8 based on agency feedback

Next Steps

- Working on updated baselines for Windows 8/8.1, IE 10, Windows 2012 Server, and RedHat 6
- Additional baselines will be considered based on the evolving technology window

Project Contact

Adam Hughes

adam.hughes@cio.gov

Stephen Quinn

stephen.quinn@nist.gov

Learn More

- <http://usgcb.nist.gov/>
- <https://cio.gov/cio-council-streamlines-configuration-baseline-process/>

Questions or Feedback?

Email usgcb@nist.gov

Product Conformance Testing and Testing Tools

NIST Security Automation Activities

SCAP 1.2 Product Validation

Project Description

Testing products' ability to use the features and functionality of SCAP and its component specifications. Providing SCAP reference materials for use during product development and testing.

Goals

- Interoperability of SCAP products and content
- Predictable product performance
- Publicly available validation resources for use during product development and vendor quality assurance testing

Product Conformance Testing and Testing Tools

The SCAP Validation process

Product Vendor contracts with NVLAP accredited laboratory



NVLAP Accredited laboratory tests the SCAP enabled product



NVLAP Accredited laboratory submits test report and supporting artifacts to NIST



NIST ensures the product meets all requirements defined in NIST IR 7511, the test requirements document.



SCAP Validation is awarded to products that meet the requirements defined in NIST IR 7511.

SCAP 1.2 Product Validation



Vendors of validated products as of 9/8/2015 from:
<https://nvd.nist.gov/SCAP-Validated-Tools/>

SCAP 1.2 Product Validation

Next Steps

- Continue the shift from checklist test content toward comprehensive unit testing
- Add platforms
 - Windows 8.1
 - Microsoft Server 2012
 - Red Hat Linux 6
- Support SCAP module testing
- Establish *SCAP Inside* labeling program

Project Contact

Melanie Cook

melanie.cook@nist.gov

Learn More

<http://scap.nist.gov/validation/>

SCAP Test Content (and more):

<http://scap.nist.gov/validation/resources.html>

SCAP Validated Products List:

<https://nvd.nist.gov/scaproducts.cfm>

Questions?

scap@nist.gov

SCAP 1.2 Test Suite and SCAP Content Validation Tool

Product Conformance Testing and Testing Tools

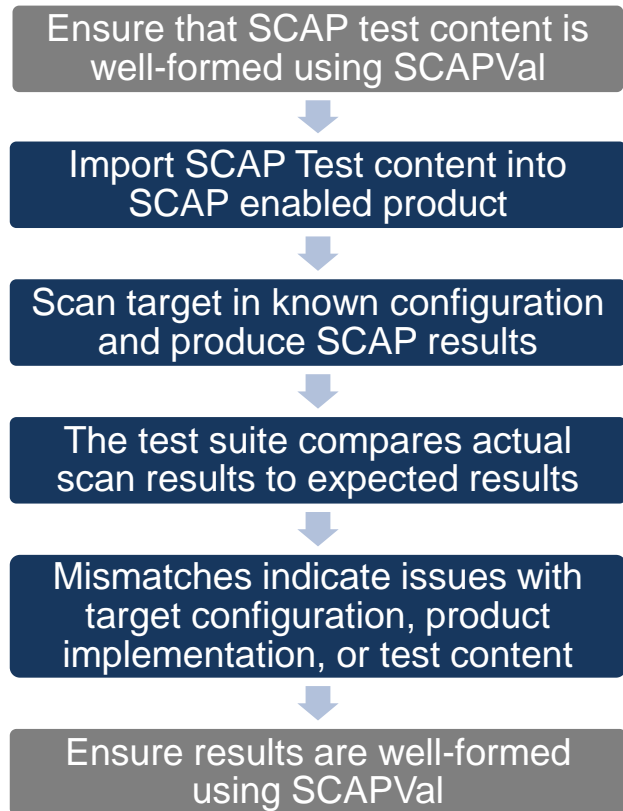
Project Description

Developing and maintaining publicly available SCAP test content and content testing tools for use during product development and testing

Goals

- Publicly available resources that can assist vendors to prepare SCAP enabled products for formal validation testing
- Utilities for ensuring SCAP content is well-formed and adheres to the specifications

Use of the SCAP Test Suite and the SCAP Content Validation Tool (SCAPVal)



SCAP 1.2 Test Suite and SCAP Content Validation Tool

Next Steps

- Expand the SCAP test suite adding support for new platforms in the validation program
- Continue the expand testing for SCAP component specifications
- Update the SCAP test suite and content validation tool for SCAP 1.3

Project Contacts

Melanie Cook

melanie.cook@nist.gov

Harold Booth

harold.booth@nist.gov

Learn More

<http://scap.nist.gov/revision/1.2/#tools>

<http://scap.nist.gov/validation/resources.html>

Research

NIST Security Automation Activities

Multidimensional Cybersecurity Analytics

Project Description

Researching statistical models and the application of big data techniques to analyze software runtime behavior to detect attacks.

Goals

- Support the timely detection of zero-day attacks using anomaly detection techniques
- Develop an enterprise, scale event-based monitoring and detection system
- Generalize the approach to different event abstractions

Research

Recent Accomplishments

- Built a Big Data storage system based on Hadoop and HBase
- Implemented a system call event collection system

Next Steps

- Publish a paper analyzing a number of statistical models for bit stream-based anomaly detection
- Development of a Big Data analytical engine based on new models

Project Contacts

Byunggu Yu

Learn More

<http://csrc.nist.gov/projects/cybersec-analytics/>

Applied SCAP Research

Automated Indicator Sharing

Research

Project Description

Research the use of SCAP to express, identify, and detect system artifacts of interest. Identify and translate existing data repositories and maintained data streams into SCAP for immediate use by already-deployed products.

Goals

- Automate and streamline system-level Information Sharing
- Leverage existing investments in SCAP-validated products that are already deployed
- Enable rapid creation and distribution of SCAP-based content to detect system artifacts of interest

Learn More

- Come to panel session ***Sharing Actionable Windows Artifacts Using SCAP*** on **Fri. 9/11**
- **Panel Participants:** Ronald Nielson (NSA), Tom Millar (DHS), Jim Hanson (CyberESI), Paul Green (G2, Inc.)
Time: 9:30am – 10:20am, Room 201
- **Demo session :** To follow the panel discussion in Room 203 from 10:35 – 11:25am

Summary and Conclusions

Conclusions

The NIST Security Automation Team is working to:

- Improve enterprise **situational awareness**
- Make security processes more **data driven**
- Provide **data sets** that support operational security processes
 - Software Metadata supporting software inventory
 - Checklists and baselines supporting configuration management
 - Vulnerability data supporting vulnerability management
- Improve the **assurance of security automation content and products**

Security automation supports a “virtuous cycle”:

- Through automation computers can **collect and analyze data to inform** timely, risk-based **human decision making**.
- Humans can **define policies** that instruct computers **to collect data and take automated action**.

How you can help?

Provide comments on NISTIR 8060 and create SWID tags for your software:

nistir8060-comments@nist.gov

Provide comments on SCAP 1.3:

800-126comments@nist.gov

Use the NVD website and data feeds:

<https://nvd.nist.gov>

Provide and review NCP checklists:

<http://checklists.nist.gov>

Review and use USGCB baselines:

<http://usgcb.nist.gov/>

Use SCAP Validated Products and related test content and utilities:

<http://scap.nist.gov/validation/>

Questions?

Visit the NIST booth #219

David Waltermire

Security Automation Team

Computer Security Division

Information Technology Laboratory

National Institute of Standards and
Technology

david.waltermire@nist.gov