Trust Technology Assessment Program (TTAP) Evaluations

A Worked Example.

Panel Chair: Douglas J. Landoll   Arca Systems, Inc.
Panelists: Tom Anderson,   National Security Agency
                         Dinesh Vakharia   IBM Corporation
                         Paul Bicknell   The Mitre Corporation

Session Abstract:

While it pioneered security criteria and set the standard for trusted product evaluations the Trusted Product Evaluations Program (TPEP) was often criticized by the trusted product consumers for not producing evaluation results that were practical and by trusted product vendor for not making the program accessible to all who wanted a product evaluated. Above all the TPEP program has been criticized for the timeliness of these evaluations.

The Trust Technology Assessment Program (TTAP) began in January of 1997 to address these concerns. The first TTAP evaluation facilities were provisionally licensed in the summer of 1997. Arca Systems began the first evaluation under TTAP, on IBM's RS/6000 Distributed System running the AIX 4.3 C2 operating system, in February 1998. This evaluation ran under the auspices of the TTAP Oversight Board, which appointed a certifier and a technical review board to review the analysis. During the summer of 1998 Arca performed the first successful C2 evaluation by a commercial lab and in the process performed the fastest C2 evaluation ever.

The evaluation is now complete and it is time to review the results. This panel will discuss the application of TTAP from the position of the Oversight Board, the TTAP representative, the Evaluation Facility, and the Vendor. The goal of the panel is to examine, critique and advise on revisions to the TTAP and provide insights to the emerging CCTP.

Panelists Topics:

Each panelist will be asked to comment on the successes or failures of the TTAP program and make suggestions for improvements to be applied to the emerging CCTP. The following questions may serve as guidance for the panelists discussions.

- What were the benefits/penalties of TTAP to the IBM evaluation?
- Do you see future applications of this or other commercial evaluation programs?
- What would you change in TTAP and why?
- Compare your experience with TTAP to your experience with other evaluation programs, criteria or methodologies.
- What is the future of the TTAP program?
- What is the future of commercial evaluations in the US?
- How has the Common Criteria and the Mutual Recognition Agreement affected the value of a US evaluation?

Panelists

Tom Anderson: Mr. Anderson has overseen the development and implementation of the TTAP. The program has a long history of development and has seen many procedural, licensing, and business method changes. Mr. Anderson will discuss how the goals of the TTAP program and how the program has had to adapt to ensure its commercial viability.

Douglas J. Landoll: Mr. Landoll is the Evaluation Facility Manager for Arca Systems and served as the team lead for the IBM evaluation. He will discuss the business goals of Arca for the TTAP program and examine, critique and advise on revisions to the TTAP program to continue it's commercial success. Comments will be focused both on the general business model of TTAP evaluations and on the specific experiences with a C2 TCSEC evaluation under TTAP.

Dinesh Vakharia: Mr. Vakharia is the AIX Security Services Manager responsible for the decision to engage in the TTAP process and has overseen several other evaluation efforts on the AIX operating system. He will discuss the reasons for the decision to go with TTAP and examine, critique and advise on revisions to the TTAP program to improve the accessibility to trusted product vendors. Comments will be focused on the general business model of TTAP evaluations and the specifics of this C2 TCSEC evaluation under TTAP and how it compares to his experiences with the other evaluations.

Paul Bicknell: Mr. Bicknell was assigned a 'certifier' for this TTAP evaluation. In that role he was responsible for ensuring the commercial facility is performing the evaluation according to the standards set by the TTAP Oversight Board and to facilitate the interactions between the commercial lab and the TTAP Oversight Board. Mr. Bicknell will comment on the task of certifier and the certification activities. He examine, critique and advise on revisions to the TTAP program to improve the effectiveness of the certifier role.