

Certifying Trustworthy Systems with International Standards and Certifications



In today's environment of frequent cyber-attacks across every market segment, IT infrastructure products require constant focus to maintain product security and assurance. Layers of processes, policies, and technologies are needed to protect the revenue, intellectual property, and reputation of our customers and product vendors. Understanding the level of product security available in each IT offering is often confusing. Having a global, independent, well-documented, and certifiable security baseline across products eases the product comparison and procurement decision process.

Common Criteria (CC) is one standard to which security features in products are evaluated. CC product certifications are mutually recognized by 26 nations. A CC evaluation conducted in one country is recognized by all the other countries. To learn more see https://www.niap-ccevs.org/CCEVS_Products/pcl.cfm.

During the International Common Criteria Conference (ICCC) in Paris on September 2012, the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) Management Committee agreed on a vision statement regarding the future direction for the application of CC and the CCRA. One of the key goals was to facilitate development of Protection Profiles through collaboration between government agencies, product vendors and labs. The vision statement can be found at <http://www.commoncriteriaportal.org/vision.cfm>.

This vision statement is a shift in Common Criteria evaluations away from specified Evaluation Assurance Levels (EAL) to Protection Profiles. A Protection Profile (PP) defines the product type and the security functions the product must meet. The PP does not identify a prescribed assurance level. Instead, the PP includes the prescribed assurance measures, and tests requirements to support repeatable results. Under this new paradigm, all products of a particular type are evaluated against the same claim, and so removes the notion that one product was evaluated against a more stringent set of requirements.

The development of the PPs is paramount to having achievable, repeatable, and testable evaluation results in which consumers can have confidence in the product and the evaluation results. These Protection Profiles then are used to make product evaluation, comparison and procurement easier. Currently several PPs are available to which compliance can be claimed. The members of the CCRA are facilitating the continued development of PPs through collaboration between the government agencies of the CCRA participants.

Q&A

Q. How important is certification to Cisco?

A. Cisco relies on the external, well-known, and transparent nature of global certifications as a foundational baseline for its *Trustworthy Systems Initiative*. This Cisco initiative is an on-going product security architecture built on processes including Cisco Secure Development Lifecycle, technologies to accelerate product security such as Trust Anchor and Common Encryption modules, and policies from industry standards to globally recognized certification organizations.

http://www.cisco.com/web/solutions/trends/trustworthy_systems/index.html

Q. How many products does Cisco certify?

A. Cisco is continually certifying new products to provide security assurance to our global customers. Cisco has several hundred products and configurations holding Common Criteria certification.

Q. Where does Cisco run its CC certifications?

A. Cisco runs its CC certifications in government-approved third party laboratories in the United States, Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, Germany, and the Netherlands.

Q. What are the current Protection Profiles?

A. To see the list of current PPs on the Common Criteria Portal refer to <http://www.commoncriteriaportal.org/pps/>. For a list of PPs ready for use by NIAP/CCEVS refer to <http://www.niap-ccevs.org/pp/> and for the list of PPs under development refer to http://www.niap-ccevs.org/pp/draft_pps/.

Q. What is Cisco's timeline for moving to Protection Profiles for its products?

A. Cisco has already embraced security assurance Protection Profiles thus ensuring our products are meeting the latest security standards.

https://www.niap-ccevs.org/CCEVS_Products/pcl.cfm

Q. How do you compare a product certified under the EAL system to one certified under the Protection Profile system?

A. Under this new paradigm, all products of a particular type are evaluated against the same claims, which removes the notion that one product was evaluated against a more stringent set of requirements. This makes product comparison and procurement much easier.

For More Information

Read more about the Cisco's Global Certifications at http://www.cisco.com/web/strategy/government/sec_cert.html or contact your local account representative.



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