



# Security Content Automation Protocol

*presented by:*

Matt Barrett

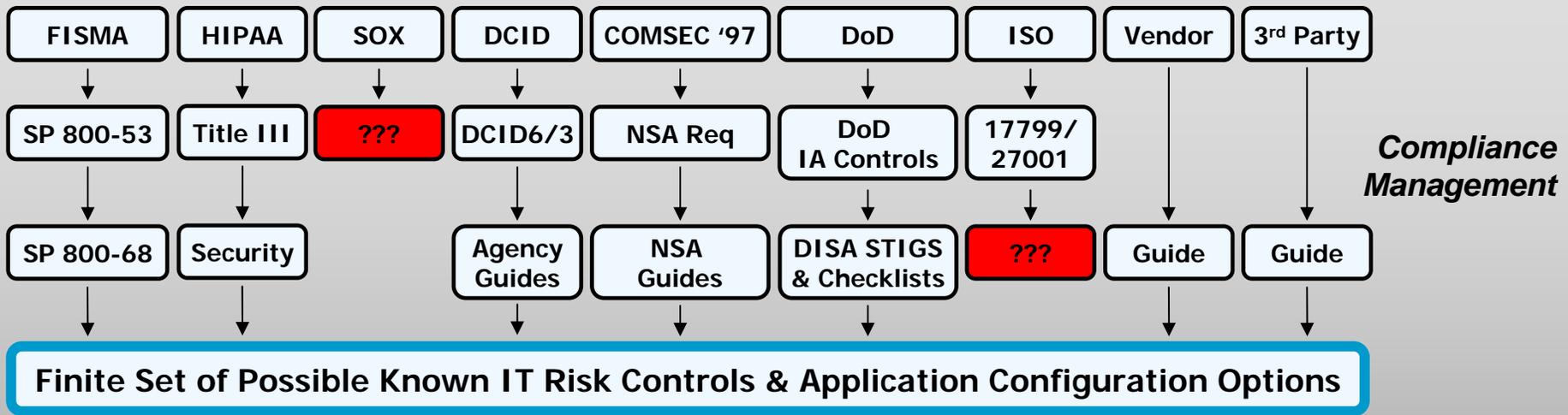
National Institute of Standards and Technology

# Agenda

- Challenges with Current Security Approaches
- Introduction to Security Content Automation Protocol
- How Does SCAP Work
- Linking Configuration to Compliance with SCAP
- SCAP Stakeholders, Contributors, and Early Adopters
- SCAP Validation Program

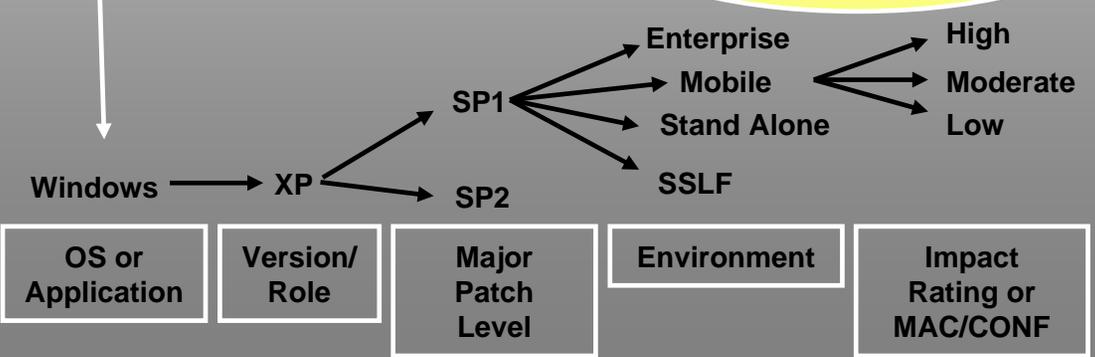


# Current State: Compliance and Configuration Management



*Compliance Management*

**Agency Tailoring**  
Mgmt, Operational, Technical Risk Controls



Millions of settings to manage

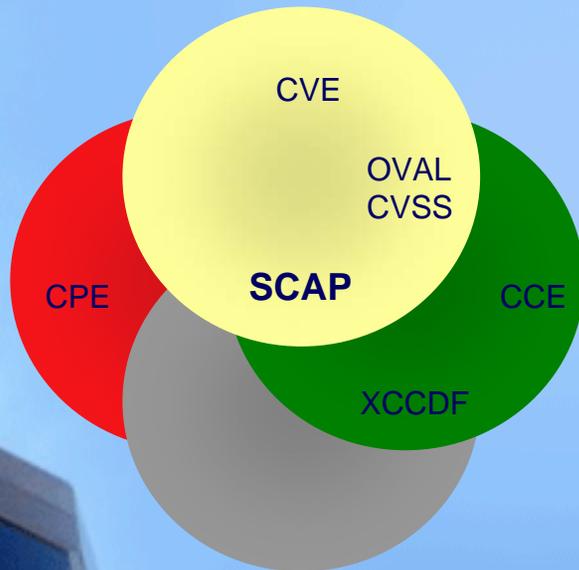
*Configuration Management*

# What is SCAP?

## How

Standardizing the format by which we communicate

### Protocol



## What

Standardizing the information we communicate

### Content



<http://nvd.nist.gov>

- 70 million hits per year
- 20 new vulnerabilities per day
- Mis-configuration cross references
- Reconciles software flaws from US CERT and MITRE repositories
- Produces XML feed for NVD content



# Security Content Automation Protocol (SCAP)

*Standardizing How We Communicate*

MITRE



CVE

Common Vulnerability Enumeration

Standard nomenclature and dictionary of security related software flaws

MITRE



CCE

Common Configuration Enumeration

Standard nomenclature and dictionary of software misconfigurations

MITRE



CPE

Common Platform Enumeration

Standard nomenclature and dictionary for product naming



XCCDF

eXtensible Checklist Configuration Description Format

Standard XML for specifying checklists and for reporting results of checklist evaluation

MITRE



OVAL

Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language

Standard XML for test procedures



CVSS

Common Vulnerability Scoring System

Standard for measuring the impact of vulnerabilities

Cisco, Qualys,  
Symantec, Carnegie  
Mellon University



# Existing Federal Content

## *Standardizing What We Communicate*



- In response to NIST being named in the Cyber Security R&D Act of 2002
- Encourages vendor development and maintenance of security guidance
- Currently hosts 114 separate guidance documents for over 141 IT products
- Translating this backlog of checklists into the Security Content Automating Protocol (SCAP)
- Participating organizations: DISA, NSA, NIST, Hewlett-Packard, CIS, ITAA, Oracle, Sun, Apple, Microsoft, Citadel, LJK, Secure Elements, ThreatGuard, MITRE Corporation, G2, Verisign, Verizon Federal, Kyocera, Hewlett-Packard, ConfigureSoft, McAfee, etc.



- Over 70 million hits per year
- 29,000 vulnerabilities
- About 20 new vulnerabilities per day
- Mis-configuration cross references to:
  - NIST SP 800-53 Security Controls (All 17 Families and 163 controls)
  - DoD IA Controls
  - DISA VMS Vulnerability IDs
  - Gold Disk VIDs
  - DISA VMS PDI IDs
  - NSA References
  - DCID
  - ISO 17799
- Reconciles software flaws from:
  - US CERT Technical Alerts
  - US CERT Vulnerability Alerts (CERTCC)
  - MITRE OVAL Software Flaw Checks
  - MITRE CVE Dictionary
- Produces XML feed for NVD content



# National Checklist Program Hosted at National Vulnerability Database Website

Sponsored by DHS National Cyber Security Division/US-CERT

**NIST**  
National Institute of Standards and Technology

## National Vulnerability Database

automating vulnerability management, security measurement, and compliance checking

Vulnerabilities | Checklists | Product Dictionary | Impact Metrics | Data Feeds | Statistics

Home | ISAP/SCAP | SCAP Validated Tools | SCAP Events | About | Contact | Vendor Comments

### Mission and Overview

NVD is the U.S. government repository of standards based vulnerability management data. This data enables automation of vulnerability management, security measurement, and compliance (e.g. FISMA).

### Resource Status

**NVD contains:**  
 28360 CVE Vulnerabilities  
 118 Checklists  
 91 US-CERT Alerts  
 2016 US-CERT Vuln Notes  
 2966 OVAL Queries  
 12969 Vulnerable Products

**Last updated:** 12/07/07  
**CVE Publication rate:** 12 vulnerabilities / day

**Email List**

### National Checklist Program Repository

Details on the National Checklist Program (NCP) are available [here](#).

NCP contains 118 checklists covering 150 products

**Keyword Search:**    
 (try a checklist or product name)

**View all by category:**

<b>Product Category</b>	The checklists are listed by the main product category of the IT product, e.g. firewall, IDS, operating system, web server, etc.
<b>Vendor</b>	The checklists are listed by the manufacturer of the IT product.
<b>Submitting Organization</b>	The name of the organization and authors that produce the checklist.

### Recent Updates (includes updates from the last 6 months)

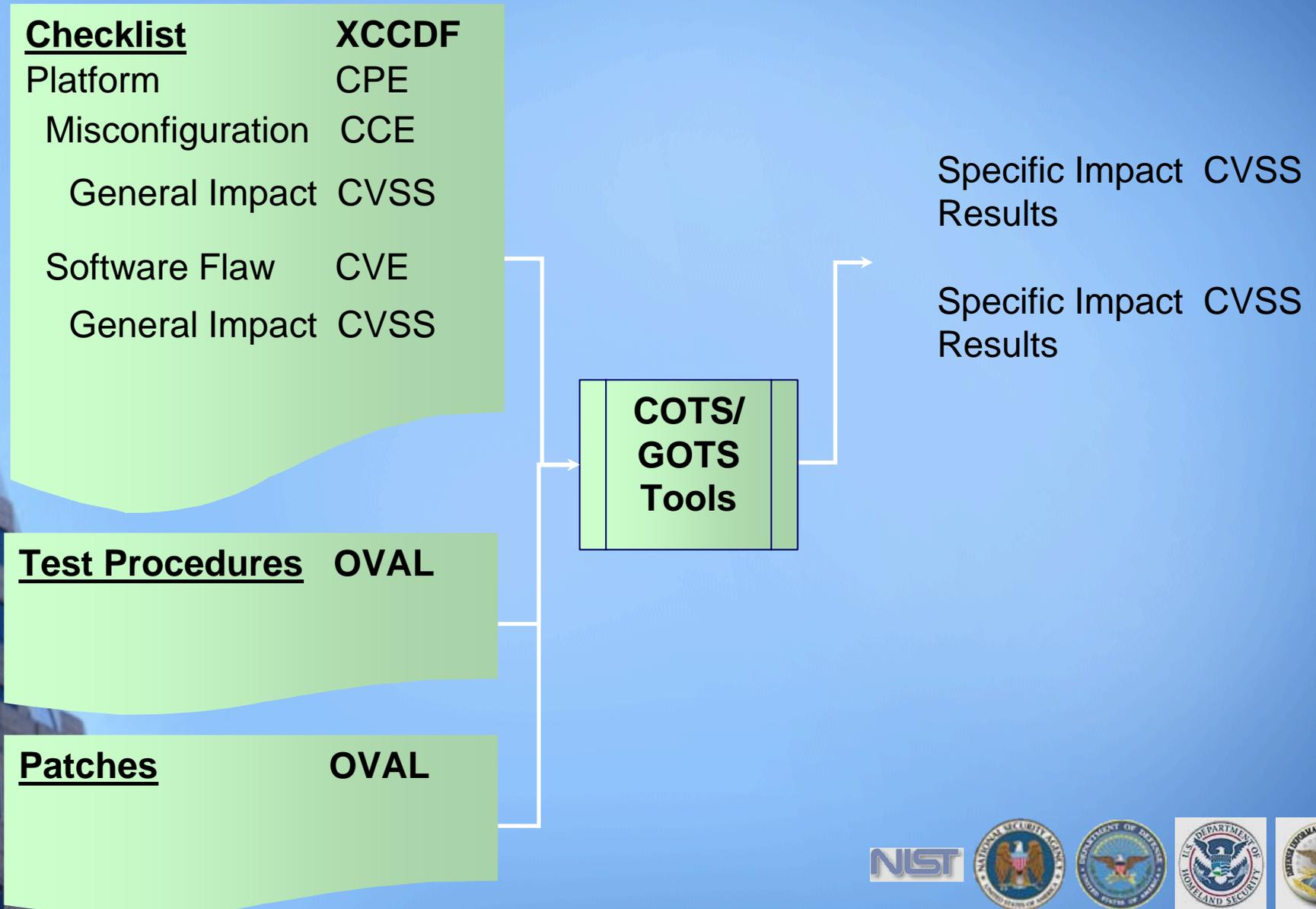
The symbol  denotes newly added checklists  
 The symbol  denotes updated checklists.

12/03/2007	Desktop Application Security Checklist  
	Gold Standard Benchmark for Cisco IOS, Level 1 and 2 Benchmarks  

National Checklist Program	
<b>Checklist Summary #10: Desktop Application Security Checklist</b>	
Checklist Item Name	Desktop Application Security Checklist
Checklist Item Version Number	Version 2, Release 1.8
Status	Final
Creation Date	10/25/2007
Original Publication Date	2003-02-28
Revision Date	12/03/2007
Product Category	Web Browser
Vendor (s)	Microsoft Netscape
Product (s)	Microsoft ie Microsoft ie Netscape Communicator Netscape Communicator Netscape Communicator Netscape Netscape Netscape Communicator Netscape Communicator
Product Version (s)	Microsoft ie 5.5 Microsoft ie 6.0 Netscape Communicator 4.76 Netscape Communicator 4.77 Netscape Communicator 4.78 Netscape Netscape 6.2.3 Netscape Communicator 4.79 Netscape Communicator 4.8
CPE Name (s)	cpe:/a:Microsoft:ie:5.5 cpe:/a:Microsoft:ie:6.0



# How SCAP Works



# Linking Configuration to Compliance

Keyed on SP800-53  
Security Controls

```
<Group id="IA-5" hidden="true">  
  <title>Authenticator Management</title>  
  <reference>ISO/IEC 17799: 11.5.2, 11.5.3</reference>  
  <reference>NIST 800-26: 15.1.6, 15.1.7, 15.1.9, 15.1.10,  
    15.1.11, 15.1.12, 15.1.13, 16.1.3, 16.2.3</reference>  
  <reference>GAO FISCAM: AC-3.2</reference>  
  <reference>DOD 8500.2: IAKM-1, IATS-1</reference>  
  <reference>DCID 6/3: 4.B.2.a(7), 4.B.3.a(11)</reference>  
  <reference>HIPAA SR 164.308(a)(5)(ii)(D)  
</reference>  
</Group>
```

Traceability to Mandates

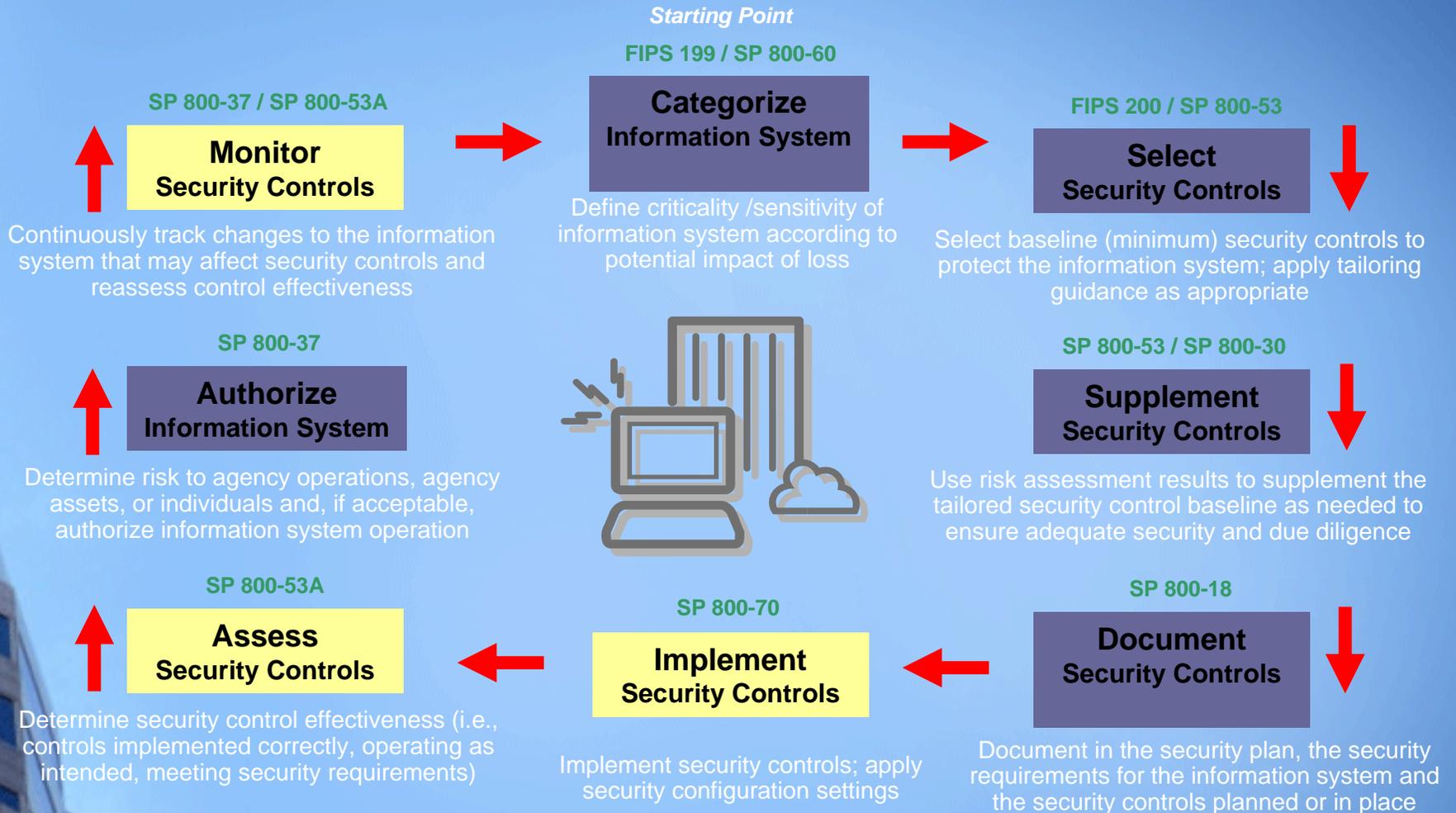
```
<Rule id="minimum-password-length" selected="false"  
  weight="10.0">  
  <reference>CCE-100</reference>  
  <reference>DISA STIG Section 5.4.1.3</reference>  
  <reference>DISA Gold Disk ID 7082</reference>  
  <reference>PDI IAIA-12B</reference>  
  <reference>800-68 Section 6.1 - Table A-1.4</reference>  
  <reference>NSA Chapter 4 - Table 1 Row 4</reference>  
  <requires idref="IA-5"/>  
  [pointer to OVAL test procedure]  
</Rule>
```

Traceability to Guidelines

Rationale for security  
configuration



# Federal Risk Management Framework

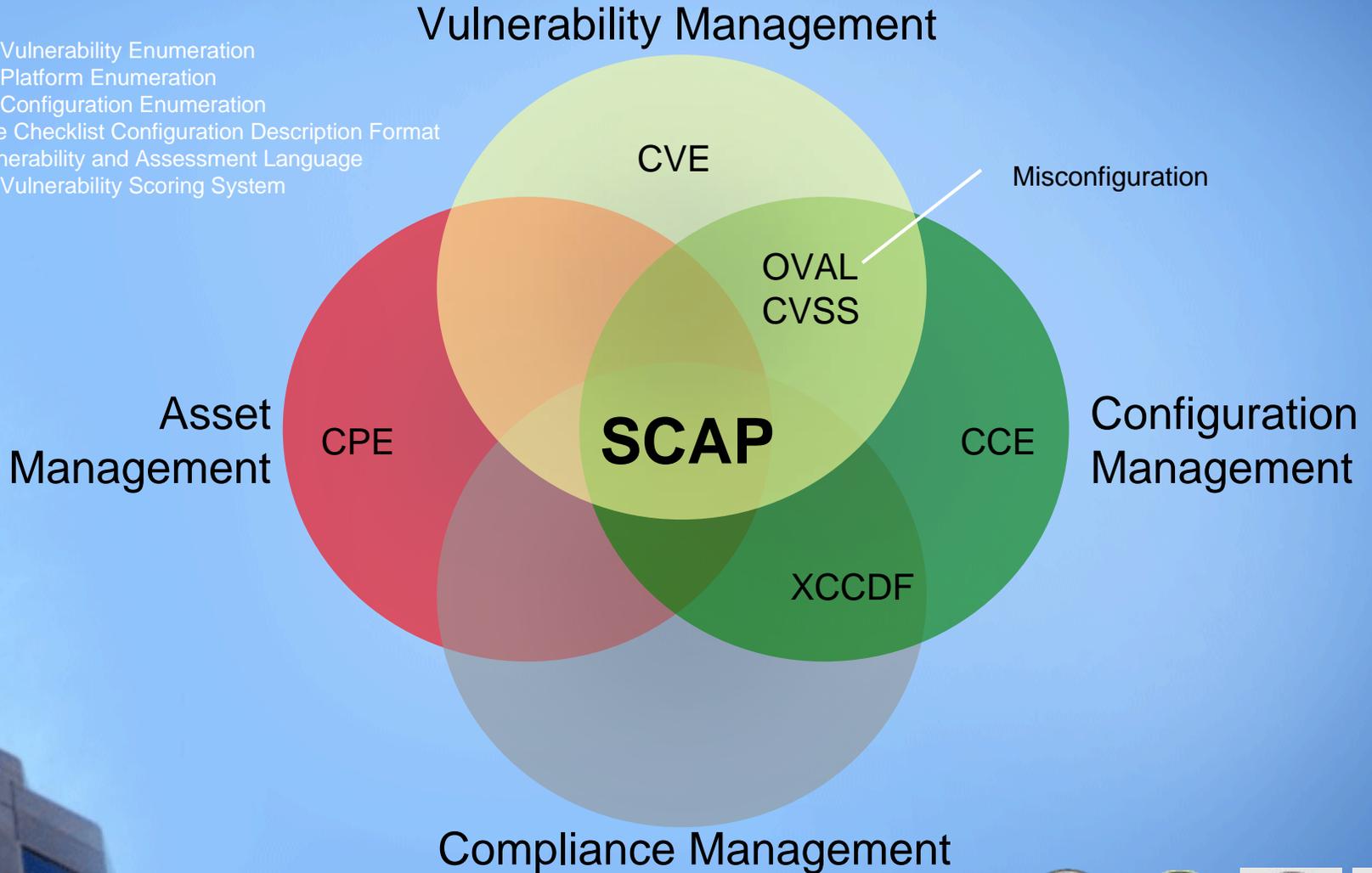


- ~ 19% of FISMA Security Controls are fully automated through SCAP
- ~ 24% of FISMA Security Controls are partially automated through SCAP

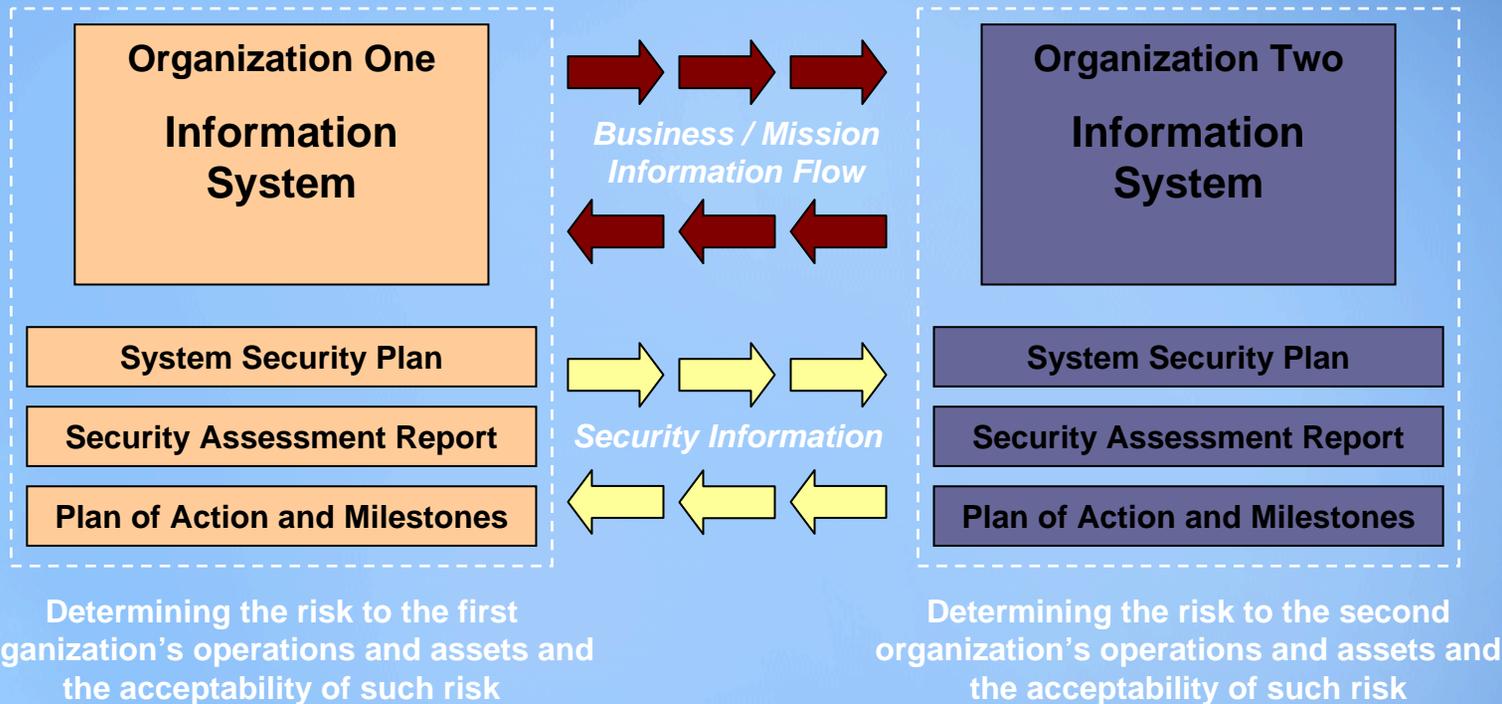


# Integrating IT and IT Security Through SCAP

Common Vulnerability Enumeration  
Common Platform Enumeration  
Common Configuration Enumeration  
eXtensible Checklist Configuration Description Format  
Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language  
Common Vulnerability Scoring System



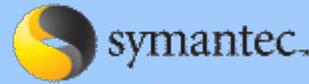
# Agility in a Digital World



The objective is to achieve *visibility* into prospective business/mission partners information security programs **BEFORE** critical/sensitive communications begin...establishing levels of security due diligence and trust.

# Stakeholder and Contributor Landscape: Industry

*Product Teams and Content Contributors*



Ai Metrix



Premier Data Services



# Stakeholder and Contributor Landscape: Federal Agencies

*SCAP Infrastructure, Beta Tests, Use Cases, and Early Adopters*

DHS		OMB	
NSA		IC	
OSD		DISA	
DOJ		EPA	
Army		NIST	
DOS			



# OMB 31 July 2007 Memo to CIOs

## *Establishment of Windows XP and VISTA Virtual Machine and Procedures for Adopting the Federal Desktop Core Configurations*

July 31, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS

FROM: Karen Evans  
Administrator, Office of E-Government and Information Technology

SUBJECT: Establishment of Windows XP and VISTA Virtual Machine and Procedures for Adopting the Federal Desktop Core Configurations

The Office of Management and Budget recently issued policy memorandum M-07-11, "Implementation of Commonly Accepted Security Configurations for Windows Operating Systems," which stated: "agencies with these operating systems [Windows XP and VISTA] and/or plans to upgrade to these operating systems must adopt these standard security configurations by February 1, 2008."

As we noted in the June 1, 2007 follow-up policy memorandum M-07-18, "Ensuring New Acquisitions Include Common Security Configurations," a virtual machine would be established "to provide agencies and information technology providers' access to Windows XP and VISTA images." The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Microsoft, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security have now established a website hosting the virtual machine images, which can be found at: <http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc>. The website also includes frequently asked questions and other technical information for adopting the Federal Desktop Core Configurations (FDCC).

Your agency can now acquire information technology products that are self-asserted by information technology providers as compliant with the Windows XP & VISTA FDCC, and use NIST's Security Content Automation Protocol (S-CAP) to help evaluate providers' self-assertions. Information technology providers must use S-CAP validated tools, as they become available, to certify their products do not alter these configurations, and agencies must use these tools when monitoring use of these configurations. Related resources (e.g., group policy objects) are also provided to help facilitate agency adoption of the FDCC.

For additional information about this initiative, please call 1-800-FED-INFO. Additional information about the S-CAP can be found at: <http://nvd.nist.gov/scap.cfm>.

**"As we noted in the June 1, 2007 follow-up policy memorandum M-07-18, "Ensuring New Acquisitions Include Common Security Configurations," a virtual machine would be established "to provide agencies and information technology providers' access to Windows XP and VISTA images." The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Microsoft, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Homeland Security have now established a website hosting the virtual machine images, which can be found at: <http://csrc.nist.gov/fdcc>."**

**"Your agency can now acquire information technology products that are self-asserted by information technology providers as compliant with the Windows XP & VISTA FDCC, and use NIST's Security Content Automation Protocol (S-CAP) to help evaluate providers' self-assertions. Information technology providers must use S-CAP validated tools, as they become available, to certify their products do not alter these configurations, and agencies must use these tools when monitoring use of these configurations."**



# NVLAQ<sup>®</sup>

**National Voluntary  
Laboratory  
Accreditation  
Program**



# More Information

NIST FDCC Questions

[fdcc@nist.gov](mailto:fdcc@nist.gov)

NIST FDCC Web Site

<http://fdcc.nist.gov>

- ⑩ FDCC SCAP Checklists
- ⑩ FDCC Settings
- ⑩ Virtual Machine Images
- ⑩ Group Policy Objects

National Checklist Program

<http://checklists.nist.gov>

National Vulnerability Database

<http://nvd.nist.gov> or <http://scap.nist.gov>

- ⑩ SCAP Checklists
- ⑩ SCAP Capable Products
- ⑩ SCAP Events

NIST SCAP Mailing Lists

[Scap-update@nist.gov](mailto:Scap-update@nist.gov)

[Scap-dev@nist.gov](mailto:Scap-dev@nist.gov)

[Scap-content@nist.gov](mailto:Scap-content@nist.gov)



# Contact Information

## *ISAP NIST Project Lead*

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Information and Feedback  
Web: <http://fdcc.nist.gov>  
Comments: [fdcc@nist.gov](mailto:fdcc@nist.gov)

NIST FDCC Team Members



# Questions



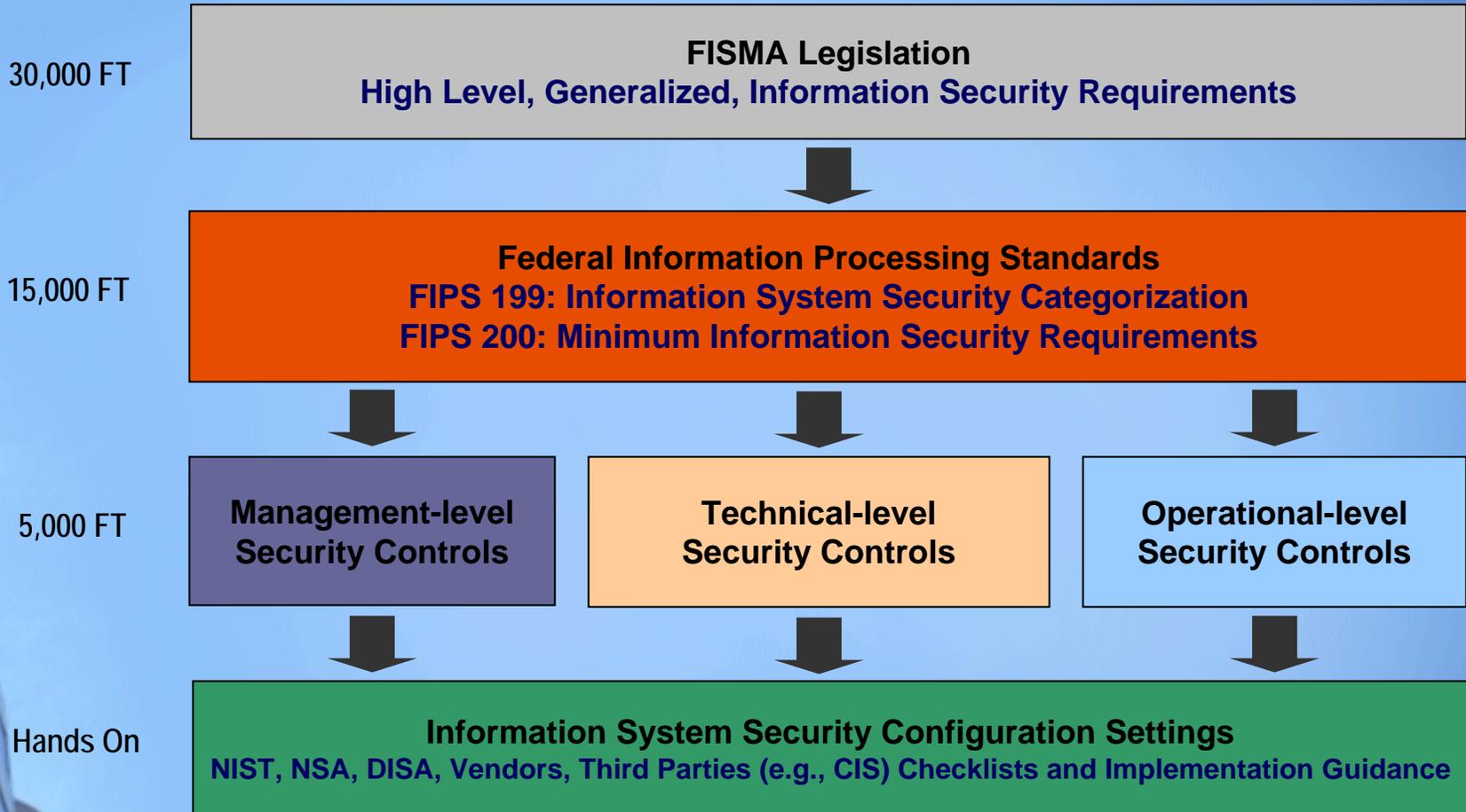
National Institute of Standards & Technology  
Information Technology Laboratory  
Computer Security Division



# Current State of Information Security



# FISMA Compliance Model



# Current State Summary - Compliance

*A Study in Cause and Effect*

## *Governing Bodies*

Recognize the need to improve security and mandate it in an increasing number of laws, directives, and policies

## *Standards Bodies*

Try to keep pace with an increasing number of mandates by generating more frameworks and guidelines

## *Product Teams*

Based on the increasing number of mandates, see the need for automation, many seek to enable it through proprietary methods

## *Service Providers*

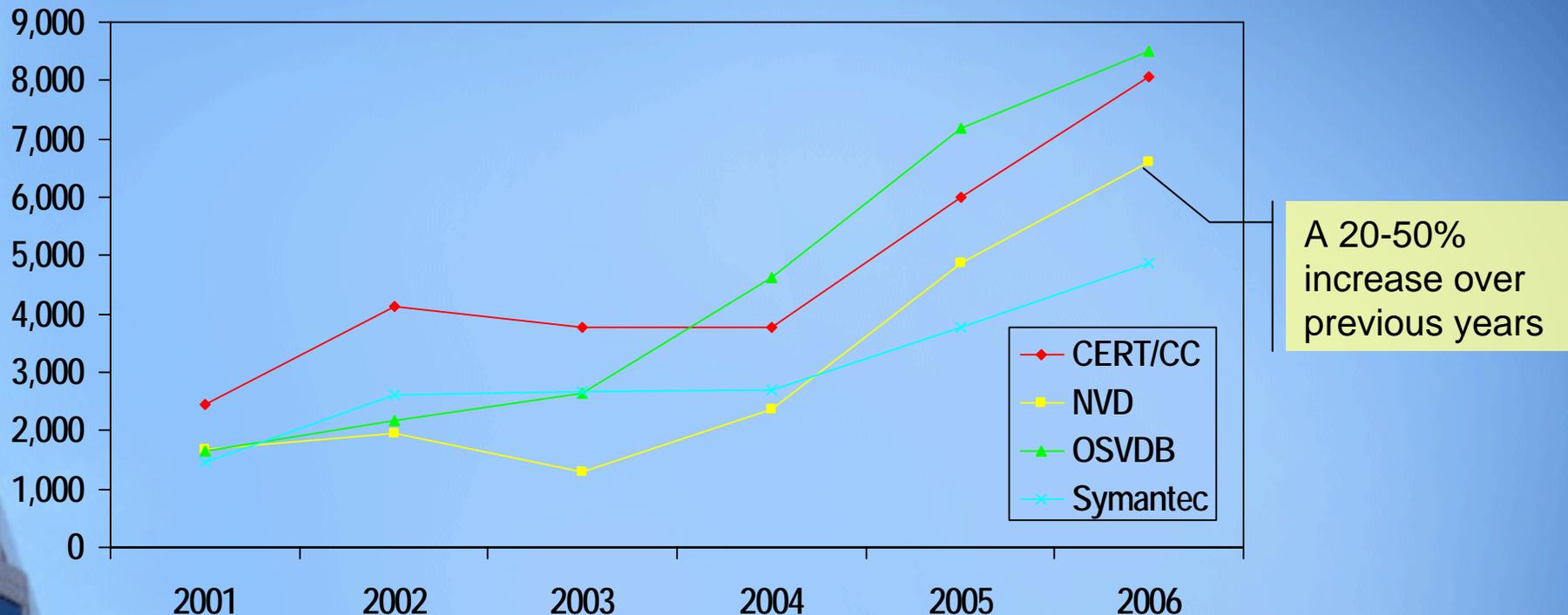
Based on the increasing number of mandates, see the need for automation and have responded by 1) learning a wide variety of both open and proprietary technologies and 2) implementing point solutions

## *Operations Teams*

Lacking true automation, 1) have become overwhelmed by an increasing number of mandates, frameworks, and guidelines and 2) are spending a considerable amount of resources trying to keep pace



# Current State: Vulnerability Trends



- Decreased timeline in exploit development coupled with a decreased patch development timeline (highly variable across vendors)
- Increased prevalence of zero day exploits
- Three of the SANS Top 20 Internet Security Attack Targets 2006 were categorized as “configuration weaknesses.” Many of the remaining 17 can be partially mitigated via proper configuration.

# Current State: Vulnerability Management Industry

- Product functionality is becoming more hearty as vendors acknowledge connections between security operations and a wide variety of IT systems (e.g., asset management, change/configuration management)
- Some vendors understand the value of bringing together vulnerability management data across multiple vendors
- Vendors driving differentiation through:
  - enumeration, **Hinders information sharing and automation**
  - evaluation, **Reduces reproducibility across vendors**
  - content, **Drives broad differences in prioritization and remediation**
  - measurement, and
  - reporting



# Supplemental – SCAP Platform Evaluation Tutorial



# Current and Near-Term Use Cases

## Configuration

Organization Guidelines (e.g., STIG)

National Checklist Program

## Misconfiguration Software Flaws

XCCDF, CPE, CVE, CCE, OVAL, CVSS

National Vulnerability Database

Information Feeds

Vulnerability Alerts (e.g., IAVA)

Organization Vulnerability Database

## Monitor/Assess/Evaluate

Standardized Checklist  
XCCDF

Standardized Test Procedures  
OVAL

Standardized Measurement and Reporting  
XCCDF  
CVSS

Decision and Change Control Process

Risk Decision Report  
XCCDF  
CVSS

Compliance Report  
XCCDF  
CVSS

Metrics Report  
XCCDF  
CVSS

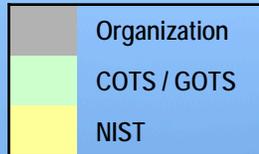
Risk Management and Compliance Process

## Implement/Remediate

Standardized Change List  
XCCDF

Standardized Change Procedures  
OVAL

Standardized Measurement and Reporting  
CVSS  
XCCDF



# Current Problems

*Conceptual Analogy (Continued)*



**Before**



**After**

**CHECK** ***Error Report***

**Problem**  
*Air Pressure Loss*

**Impact**  
*Car Will Not Start (9/10)*

**Diagnosis Accuracy:**  
*All Sensors Reporting*

**Diagnosis:**  
*Replace Gas Cap*

**Expected Cost:**  
*\$25.00*



# XML Made Simple

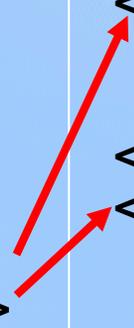


## XCCDF - eXtensible Car Care Description Format

```
<Car>
  <Description>
    <Year> 1997 </Year>
    <Make> Ford </Make>
    <Model> Contour </Model>
  <Maintenance>
    <Check1> Gas Cap = On <>
    <Check2> Oil Level = Full <>
  </Maintenance>
</Description>
</Car>
```

## OVAL – Open Vehicle Assessment Language

```
<Checks>
  <Check1>
    <Location> Side of Car <>
    <Procedure> Turn <>
  </Check1>
  <Check2>
    <Location> Hood <>
    </Procedure> ... <>
  </Check2>
</Checks>
```

A green box with a black border containing an error report. At the top left is a yellow check engine light icon with the word "CHECK" below it. To the right of the icon is the text "Error Report" in bold. Below this are four sections: "Problem:" with the text "Air Pressure Loss"; "Diagnosis Accuracy:" with the text "All Sensors Reporting"; "Diagnosis:" with the text "Replace Gas Cap"; and "Expected Cost:" with the text "\$25.00". At the bottom right of the box is a small image of a car's engine compartment.

**CHECK** **Error Report**

**Problem:**  
*Air Pressure Loss*

**Diagnosis Accuracy:**  
*All Sensors Reporting*

**Diagnosis:**  
*Replace Gas Cap*

**Expected Cost:**  
*\$25.00*



# SCAP Content Made Simple

Standardized  
Checklist

## XCCDF - eXtensible Checklist Configuration Description Format

```
<Document ID> NIST SP 800-68
<Date> 04/22/06 </Date>
<Version> 1 </Version>
<Revision> 2 </Revision>
<Platform> Windows XP <>
<Check1> Password >= 8 <>
<Check2> Win XP Vuln <>
</Maintenance>
</Description>
</Car>
```

	CPE
	CCE
	CVE

## OVAL – Open Vulnerability Assessment Language

Standardized  
Test  
Procedures

```
<Checks>
<Check1>
<Registry Check> ... <>
<Value> 8 </Value>
</Check1>
<Check2>
<File Version> ... <>
<Value> 1.0.12.4 </Value>
</Check2>
</Checks>
```

Standardized  
Measurement  
and Reporting



# Application to Automated Compliance

## *The Connected Path*

800-53 Security Control

Result

800-68 Security Guidance

API Call

ISAP Produced Security  
Guidance in XML Format

COTS Tool Ingest



# Application to Automated Compliance

## The Connected Path

800-53 Security Control  
DoD IA Control

AC-7 Unsuccessful Login Attempts

800-68 Security Guidance  
DISA STIG/Checklist  
NSA Guide

AC-7: Account Lockout Duration  
AC-7: Account Lockout Threshold

ISAP Produced Security  
Guidance in XML Format

```
= <registry_test id="wrt-9999"  
comment="Account Lockout Duration Set to  
5" check="at least 5">  
=  
=<object>  
  <hive>HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE</hive>  
  <key>Software\Microsoft\Windows</key>  
  <name>AccountLockoutDuration</name>  
</object>  
=  
=<data operation="AND">  
  <value operator="greater than">5* </value>
```

Result

```
RegQueryValue (IpHKey, path, value, sKey,  
Value, Op);  
If (Op == '>')  
if ((sKey < Value )  
return (1); else  
return (0);
```

API Call

```
IpHKey = "HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE"  
Path = "Software\Microsoft\Windows\  
Value = "5"  
sKey = "AccountLockoutDuration"  
Op = ">"
```

COTS Tool Ingest



# Supplemental – SCAP Value Reference



# SCAP Value

Feature	Benefit
Standardizes <i>how</i> computers communicate vulnerability information – the protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Enables interoperability for products and services of various manufacture</li></ul>
Standardizes <i>what</i> vulnerability information computers communicate – the content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Enables repeatability across products and services of various manufacture</li><li>■ Reduces content-based variance in operational decisions and actions</li></ul>
Based on open standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Harnesses the collective brain power of the masses for creation and evolution</li><li>■ Adapts to a wide array of use cases</li></ul>
Uses configuration and asset management standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Mobilizes asset inventory and configuration information for use in vulnerability and compliance management</li></ul>
Applicable to many different Risk Management Frameworks – Assess, Monitor, Implement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Reduces time, effort, and expense of risk management process</li></ul>
Detailed traceability to multiple security mandates and guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Automates portions of compliance demonstration and reporting</li><li>■ Reduces chance of misinterpretation between Inspector General/auditors and operations teams</li></ul>
Keyed on NIST SP 800-53 security controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Automates portions of FISMA compliance demonstration and reporting</li></ul>



# Supplemental – FAQ for NIST FISMA Documents



# Fundamental FISMA Questions

**What are the NIST Technical Security Controls?**

**What are the *Specific* NIST recommended settings for individual technical controls?**

**How do I implement the recommended setting for technical controls? Can I use my COTS Product?**

**Am I compliant to NIST Recs & Can I use my COTS Product?**

**Will I be audited against the same criteria I used to secure my systems?**



# Fundamental FISMA Documents

