



20.11.2006

New Common Criteria version 3.1 accepted

In September 2006 was accepted new Common Criteria version 3.1. It is based on version CC 2.3. In it is based also ISO 15408:2005.

Consultation process on foundation of CC 3.0 is expired and the changes based on it did not realize. Development is however going on and version 3.0 can be used as unofficial.

Common Criteria can be loaded from address

<http://www.commoncriteriaportal.org>. Unofficial version 3.0 is found on <http://www.commoncriteriaportal.org/public/expert/index.php?menu=3>

1.11.2005

Information security standard of information system development is renewed. ISO/IEC 15408 and CommonCriteria Version 3.0

The international information security evaluation standard of information systems development ISO/IEC 15408 is going to renew. Standard presents criteria which should be used when evaluated security of information systems development (Security Assurance Requirements) and information system's functional security requirements (Security Functional Requirements).

The current version of standard is from 1999. Its foundation is international CommonCriteria Version 2.1. Former information systems evaluation standards are for example USA government's TCSEC and EU's ITSEC. Common Criteria Version 3.0 has been at public discussion 1.7.2005 - 31.10.2005. After this began work for acceptance of standard's official version.

ISO/IEC 15408 has been very large and complex body of information. This has effectively hindered the generalization of its utilization. Common Criteria Version 3.0 is furthermore extensive but it is eventually simplified and clarified. This applies the standard as a whole.

The most important changes have been taken place in functional security requirements. Such are:

- Cryptography has been excluded from security functional requirements. It is presented as a means by which real requirements can be realized but it does not describe information system's security.
- As a functional security requirement is no more handled either 'Trusted Path' object. CC V3.0 presupposes its realization by other security properties. This indicates that isolation of information or communications from their environment is not as such considered as a security functionality. Functionality corresponding to trusted path must usually be constructed in systems, but it should be achieved with functions by which access to knowledge pool and their transaction is generally controlled.
- Introduction of concept 'Binding'. The foundation to target's communication with external world is binding between target and external users. Formation of binding is principal concept and also aim of identification, authentication and non-repudiation.



Development in standard emphasizes that information security should be concerned in a same way regardless of in what kind of environment information processing takes place. Network's extent or it's isolation from public network does not matter. Instead important is that a binding is formed between peer entities in network in which they are identified.

Additional information:

ISO/IEC, International Standardisation organisation, Standard 15408: Evaluation Criteria of Information Security, (www.commoncriteriaportal.org)

Common Criteria for Information Security Evaluation, Version 3.0, Revision 2, (June 2005) (www.commoncriteriaportal.org)

Common Criteria for Information Security Evaluation, Version 3.1, Revision 1, (September 2006)

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