



Security Content Automation

Tim Grance, Program Manager, Cyber and Network Security Program
The National Institute of Standards and Technology
October 27, 2009

Agenda

- Current State
- What is SCAP, how is it used?
- What's next?
- How can you help?

Thoughts on Current State of Vulnerability and Configuration Management



- *Automation and communication is normally limited to a single discipline* - vulnerability, compliance, configuration, and asset management remain compartmentalized
- *Automation and communication usually occurs through proprietary methods* - therefore data sharing, analysis, aggregation, etc. is typically only possible within a product line
- *Increasing number of mandates* - means increasing number of frameworks, standards, regulations, guidelines, sometimes these documents conflict
- *Relatively static number of security configurations*
- *Increasing number and complexity of vulnerabilities and threats*

Security Content Automation Protocol

     	     	Naming	CVE	Common Vulnerability Enumeration	Standard nomenclature and dictionary of security related software flaws
		CCE	Common Configuration Enumeration	Standard nomenclature and dictionary of software misconfigurations	
		CPE	Common Platform Enumeration	Standard nomenclature and dictionary for product naming	
		Expressing	XCCDF	eXtensible Checklist Configuration Description Format	Standard XML for specifying checklists and for reporting results of checklist evaluation
		Assessing	OVAL	Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language	Standard XML for test procedures
		Scoring	CVSS	Common Vulnerability Scoring System	Standard for measuring the impact of vulnerabilities

Cisco, 
 Symantec, Carnegie
 Mellon University



Languages

Means of providing instructions

- Community developed
- Machine readable XML
- Reporting
- Representing security checklists
- Detecting machine state



Metrics

Risk scoring framework

- Community developed
- Transparent
- Metrics
 - Base
 - Temporal
 - Environmental



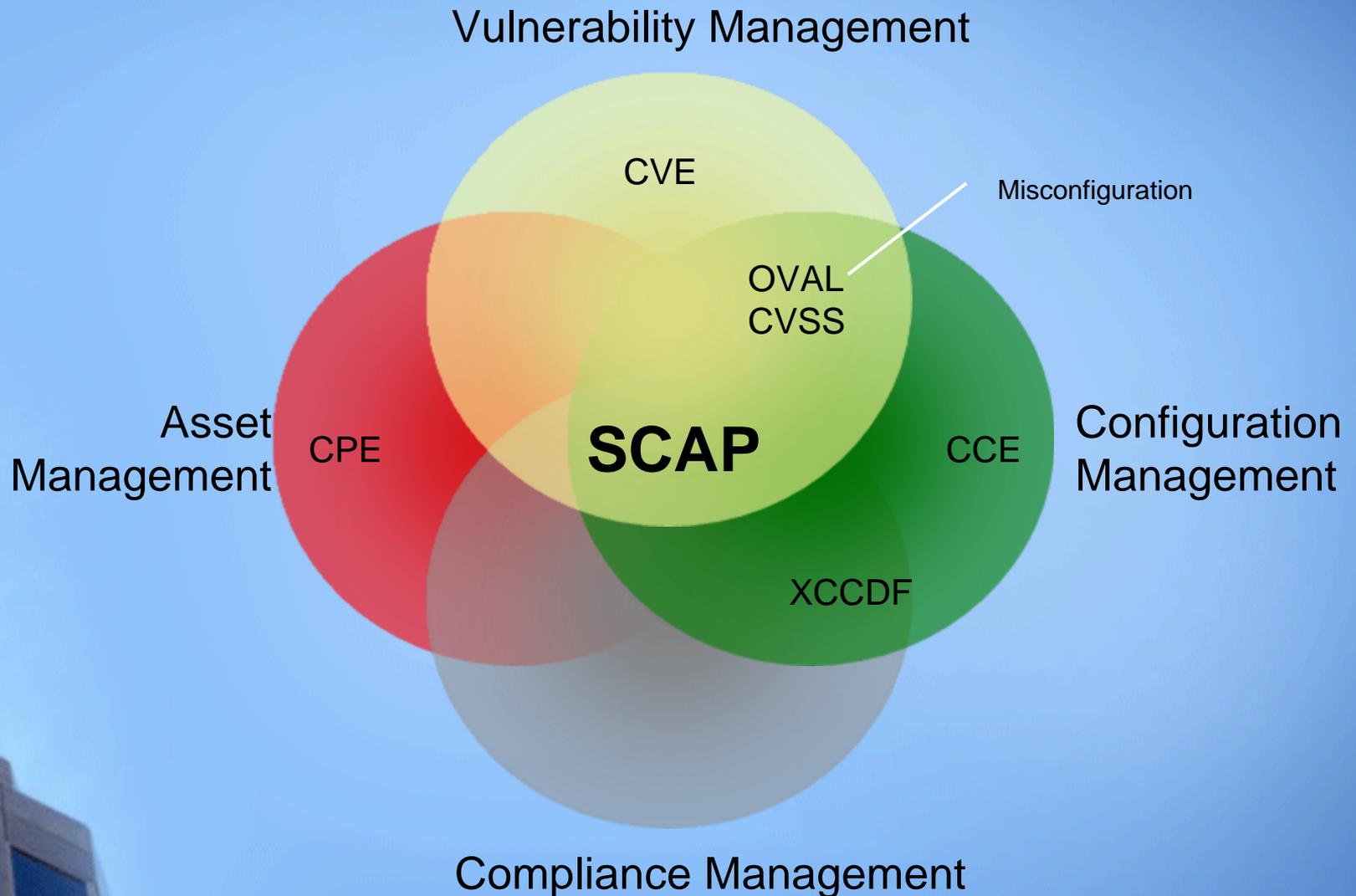
Enumerations

Convention for identifying and naming

- Community developed
- Product names
- Vulnerabilities
- Configuration settings



Integrating IT and IT Security Through SCAP





What are we trying to achieve with SCAP?

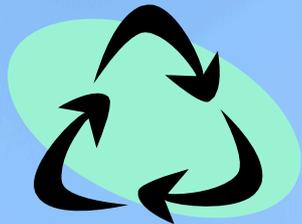
Minimize Effort

- 
- Reduce the time and effort of manual assessment and remediation
 - Provide a more comprehensive assessment of system state

Increase Interoperability

- 
- Enable fast and accurate correlation within the enterprise and across organizations/agencies
 - Shorten decision cycles by rapidly communicating:
 - Requirements (What/How to check)
 - Results (What was found)
 - Allow diverse tool suites and repositories to share data
 - Foster shared situational awareness by enabling and facilitating data sharing, analysis, and aggregation

What are we trying to achieve with SCAP?



Economy of scale and reuse

SCAP security content can be developed once and used by many

- National Checklist Program: publishing standardized content



Speed

Rapidly identify vulnerabilities and improperly configured systems, communicate the degree of associated risk, and take appropriate corrective action

- Zero day malware detection



Current SCAP Use Cases

- Vulnerability Management – detect, prioritize, and remediate vulnerabilities (software flaws) on a system
- Configuration Verification – determine whether system configuration settings comply with organizational policies
- Patch Compliance – determine whether appropriate patches have been applied on a system
- System Inventory – identify products installed on the system (e.g., hardware, operating system, and applications)
- Malware Detection – detect presence of malware on a system
 - Zero day signature building for consumption by SCAP validated products



Using SCAP

- Define the computing environment, architecture, components, related threats, vulnerabilities, and metrics, and appropriate security baselines consistent with industry recommended practices (NIST impact levels, vendors, providers, and VoIP/IT Healthcare/cloud/validation standard bodies)
- Collaborate with vendors and providers to produce configuration guides that meet the general security requirements and industry recommended practices
- Work with configuration tool vendors to support the configuration guide in SCAP
- Leverage validated tools as part of the SCAP program

Challenges in Cloud Computing Environment

- Complex hosted infrastructure
 - Composition of diverse technologies, e.g., compute, storage, network, virtualization, OS, services, applications, and data
 - Dynamic hosted environment and dynamic workloads
 - Security transparency in multi-tenancy and internationally hosted environment
 - Express security service level requirements
 - Compliance and governance

SCAP Cloud Use Case

- SCAP in the IaaS, PaaS, and SaaS environment
 - Manage the asset inventory, e.g., compute, storage, services, etc.
 - Identify and manage the vulnerabilities and configurations
 - Express security policy and higher level framework compliance
 - Assess the components in the stack
- SCAP across diverse clouds
 - Express security level agreements for dynamic hosted environments
 - Encapsulate dynamic workloads
 - Assess and measure the hosted platforms according to the security requirements

What has SCAP accomplished?

At Present

- Fully functional, broadly tested security protocol with applicability in vulnerability and technical compliance management
- High level benefits of interoperability, repeatability, uniform decision material, uniform reporting format
- Self-documenting compliance
- Currently delivers:
 - Repeatable assessments and uniform reporting - OMB's FDCC
 - Standardized software flaw and impact measurement - PCI DSS v1.2

...significantly and positively affecting both public and private sectors

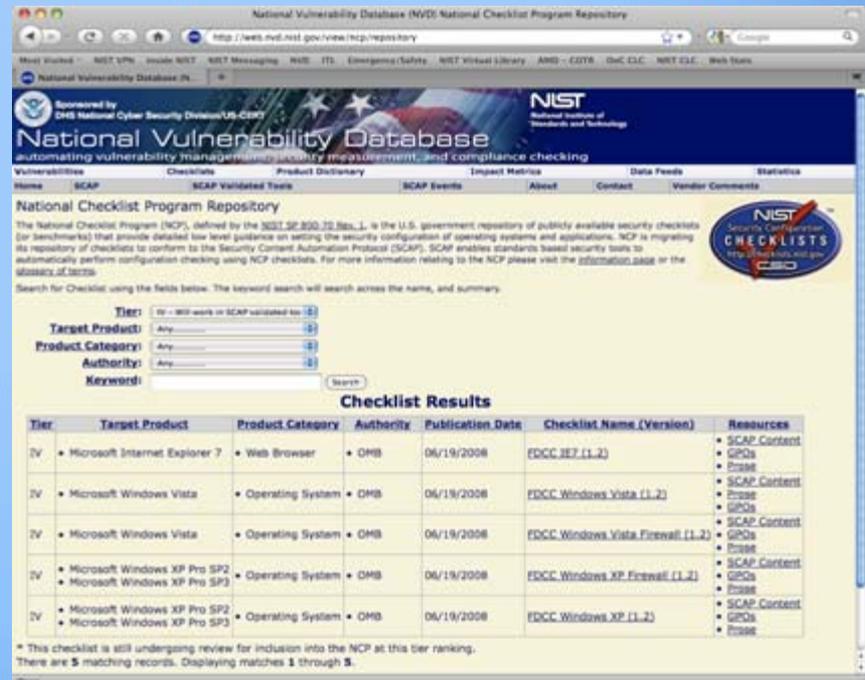
At Our Current Trajectory

- All of these things set the stage for significant security automation
- Build actuarial data for information security
- Net effect of which will be enhanced security posture, delivered in less time and with less expense

National Checklist Program Website

U.S. Government repository of publicly available security checklists

- 129 checklists currently published on the website
- 17 SCAP-expressed checklists
- Additional SCAP-expressed checklists planned for FY2010
- Checklists cover 178 products
- Checklist contributors include
 - Government organizations
 - Vendors
 - Non-profit organizations



The screenshot displays the National Vulnerability Database (NVD) National Checklist Program Repository website. The page features a search interface with the following filters:

- Tier: IV - 80 items in SCAP catalog to 0
- Target Product: Any
- Product Category: Any
- Authority: Any
- Keyword: (empty)

The search results are displayed in a table with the following columns: Tier, Target Product, Product Category, Authority, Publication Date, Checklist Name (Version), and Resources.

Tier	Target Product	Product Category	Authority	Publication Date	Checklist Name (Version)	Resources
IV	Microsoft Internet Explorer 7	Web Browser	OMB	06/19/2008	FDCC IE7 (1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCAP Content• GPOs• P388
IV	Microsoft Windows Vista	Operating System	OMB	06/19/2008	FDCC Windows Vista (1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCAP Content• P388• GPOs
IV	Microsoft Windows Vista	Operating System	OMB	06/19/2008	FDCC Windows Vista Firewall (1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCAP Content• GPOs• P388
IV	Microsoft Windows XP Pro SP2 Microsoft Windows XP Pro SP3	Operating System	OMB	06/19/2008	FDCC Windows XP Firewall (1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCAP Content• GPOs• P388
IV	Microsoft Windows XP Pro SP2 Microsoft Windows XP Pro SP3	Operating System	OMB	06/19/2008	FDCC Windows XP (1.2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SCAP Content• GPOs• P388

* This checklist is still undergoing review for inclusion into the NCP at this tier ranking. There are 5 matching records. Displaying matches 1 through 5.



National Vulnerability Database

automating vulnerability management, security measurement, and compliance checking

National Vulnerability Database

- NVD is the U.S. government repository of public vulnerability management information.
- XML data feeds for SCAP reference data
- Used by government, industry and academia
- 39,000 CVE entries with the NVD Analysis Team evaluating over 6,000 vulnerabilities a year
- Product dictionary containing 18,000 unique product names
- CCE to 800-53 control mapping data feed
- Spanish and Japanese language translations

SCAP Validation Program Status

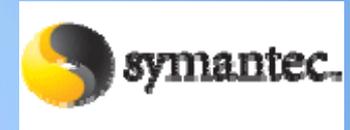


As of 21 October 2009,

- 10 Accredited labs

Validated Products

- 21 vendors
- 28 products
- 89 capabilities-based validations
- 17 standards-based validations





DRAFT SCAP/Validation Roadmap

2010 – SCAP 1.0

- SP 800-126 and IR 7511 rev 2
- Content Validation

2011 – SCAP 1.1

- SP 800-126 rev 1 and IR 7511 rev 3
 - OCIL 2.0
 - OVAL 5.6

2012 – SCAP 1.2

- SP 800-126 rev 2 and IR 7511 rev 4
- OVAL 5.X OS and application support
- Digitally trusted content
- Remediation Validation Program

2013 – SCAP 1.3

- SP 800-126 rev 3 and IR 7511 rev 5
- Digitally trusted reporting
- SCAP Remediation

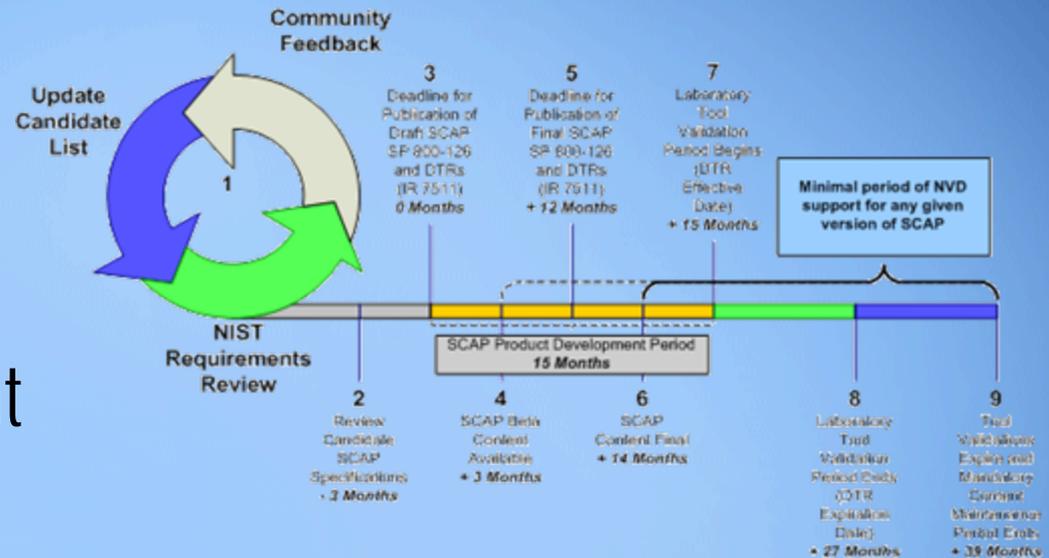
2014 – SCAP 2.0

- SP 800-126 rev 4 and IR 7511 rev 6
- First major revision of SCAP
- XCCDF 2.0
- OVAL 6.X
- Expanded remediation capabilities
- Expanded product naming capabilities

2015 – SCAP 2.1

Process Formalization

- Roadmap
- Vendor and GOTS Software Development Planning
- Predictable Validation Cycle





Where are we going, what are we going to do?

- Formalize SCAP development lifecycle
- Address additional security domains and functions
 - Remediation
 - Auditing and events
 - SCAP within cloud computing/virtualization
 - Software assurance
- **Metrics**
 - Evidence-based approach to security decision making
 - Automated methods of collecting security measurements
- Establish an SCAP Content Validation Program
- Enterprise SCAP
 - Trusted content
 - Compliance Reporting
- Emerging specifications (e.g., OCIL, OCRL, CCSS, CMSS)
- Security ontologies



What do we want folks to do?

- IT Vendors
 - Produce checklists in SCAP and submit to National Checklist Program
 - Produce CPE, CCE, and CVE's for your products
 - Produce vulnerability alerts using SCAP
- Buy and use SCAP Validated products
- Engagement and feedback, e.g., healthcare, smart grid, VoIP, cloud computing, etc.
- Innovate, e.g., energy saving, performance, etc.



Conference Acknowledgements

- Government Sponsors
 - NSA, DHS, DISA, NIST
- Corporate Sponsors
 - Platinum: Symantec, Intel
 - Gold: Red Seal, Qualys
 - Silver: Trend Micro
- Conference Special Recognitions
 - Track Leads
 - Mitre

Resources

SCAP Homepage: <http://scap.nist.gov>

SCAP Validation Tools: <http://nvd.nist.gov/scaproducts.cfm>

SCAP Validation Homepage: <http://nvd.nist.gov/validation.cfm>

National Checklist Program: <http://checklists.nist.gov>

National Vulnerability Database: <http://nvd.nist.gov>