

Future of OVAL Compatibility



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Background

- Established to develop consistency in the usage of the OVAL Language.
- Create a set of guidelines that will help enforce a standard implementation.
- Users are able to distinguish between, and have confidence in, compatible products knowing that the implementation coincides with the standard.



Current Process

1. Request a declaration form
2. Submit a completed declaration form
3. Submit a completed compatibility questionnaire
4. Correctness testing
5. OVAL Compatibility is granted



Compatibility Plans

- NIST developed the SCAP Validation program and has asked run OVAL validation as well.
- NIST OVAL validation based off a draft of revised OVAL Compatibility Requirements
- MITRE will defer testing to NIST when their validation program is ready.
 - OVAL Board will determine when the NIST OVAL Validation program is ready.



Draft Compatibility Overview

- System Characteristics Producer
 - a *product* that generates a valid OVAL System Characteristics file based on the details of a system
- Definition Repository
 - a *repository* of OVAL Definitions made available to the community (free or pay)
- Authoring Tool
 - a *product* that aids in the process of creating new OVAL files (including *products* that consolidate existing definitions into a single file)



Draft Compatibility Overview

- Definition Contributor

- a *contributor* that submits new or modified content to an OVAL-Compatible definition *repository* based upon a defined service agreement (for example, an agreement to provide definitions for all vulnerabilities of a particular OS)

- Definition Evaluator

- a *product* that uses an OVAL Definition to guide evaluation and produces an OVAL Results (full results) as output

- Results Consumer

- a *product* that accepts OVAL Results as input and either displays those results to the *user*, or uses the results to perform some action. (remediation, sim etc.)



Proposed Process

1. Request a declaration form
2. Submit a completed declaration form
3. Submit a completed compatibility questionnaire
4. Validation testing
 1. Select from the list of NIST accredited labs and arrange a contract with the lab for testing
 2. Completed test results are sent to NIST for review
 1. Have all appropriate tests been conducted
 2. Were all test procedures followed for appropriate tests and all results collected
 3. Were results submitted in the correct format
 4. Did the product meet all test requirements
 3. Product validation granted by NIST if all requirements have been met.
5. Registered OVAL Compatible