

Common Criteria Factsheet

Understanding the importance of certification

Common Criteria certification provides a globally trusted and unbiased evaluation of IT products

Common Criteria Certification

The Common Criteria certification program provides rigorous and unbiased product evaluations that help purchasers save time and money in making their IT decisions.

Viewed as the “gold standard” for quality and security, Common Criteria certified products have become a requirement of many public and private organizations around the world.

In the US, product evaluation is performed by the National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP), a program established by the National Security Agency (NSA) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The certification program is officially known as the NIAP Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme for IT Security (CCEVS).

Certification process

Companies wishing to certify a product must first create a Security Target –a document that outlines the product’s security capabilities. Next, the product and Security Target are submitted to an accredited, independent laboratory for evaluation, testing, and review, including:

Common Criteria “hands-on testing”

- Installing, configuring, and operating the product using the Guidance documents to ensure documentation is accurate, complete and result in the system being installed in a known secure state
- Executing randomly selected test procedures to ensure repeatability and completeness
- Penetration testing to ensure common access security flaws are not present

Documentation review

- Design and architecture documents to identify potential security vulnerabilities
- Configuration management environment and procedures to ensure they are properly designed, documented, and followed
- Lifecycle support to ensure that procedures for handling bug fixes, upgrades, secure delivery, and product end-of-life are properly documented and followed
- Guidance documents for the administrator and users of the product to ensure they are accurate, understandable, and complete
- Test documentation that includes both a plan and procedures to ensure that the test coverage is complete and that all testing is properly recorded and repeatable

The evaluation process also includes a vulnerability analysis which consists of a systematic search for the existence and exploitability of flaws or weaknesses in the security functions of the product. The results of this analysis are documented in the Vulnerability Assessment document.

Certified CoreStreet Product



CoreStreet Validation Authority

CoreStreet’s Validation Authority became Common Criteria Certification on September 1, 2004. The Evaluation Assurance Level was EAL-3 augmented for Flaw Remediation.

As of May 15, 2006, the CoreStreet Validation Authority remains the only product in its category to have successfully achieved certification.