IODEF-extension to support structured cybersecurity information
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Abstract

This document extends the Incident Object Description Exchange Format (IODEF) defined in RFC 5070 [RFC5070] to facilitate enriched
cybersecurity information exchange among cybersecurity entities by
embedding structured information formatted by specifications,
including CAPEC[TM] [CAPEC], CEE[TM] [CEE], CPE[TM] [CPE], CVE(R)
[CVE], CVRF [CVRF], CVSS [CVSS], CWE[TM] [CWE], CWSS[TM] [CWSS], OCIL
[OCIL], OVAL(R) [OVAL], and XCCDF [XCCDF].

Status of this Memo

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1. Introduction

Cyber attacks are getting more sophisticated, and their numbers are increasing day by day. To cope with such situation, incident information needs to be reported, exchanged, and shared among organizations. IODEF is one of the tools enabling such exchange, and is already in use.

To efficiently run cybersecurity operations, these exchanged information needs to be machine-readable. IODEF provides a structured means to describe the information, but it needs to embed various non-structured such information in order to convey detailed information. Further structure within IODEF increases IODEF documents’ machine-readability and thus facilitates streamlining cybersecurity operations.

On the other hand, there exist various other activities facilitating detailed and structured description of cybersecurity information, major of which includes CAPEC [CAPEC], CEE [CEE], CPE [CPE], CVE [CVE], CVRF [CVRF], CVSS [CVSS], CWE [CWE], CWSS [CWSS], OCIL [OCIL], OVAL [OVAL], and XCCDF [XCCDF]. Since such structured description facilitates cybersecurity operations, it would be beneficial to embed and convey these information inside IODEF document.

To enable that, this document extends the IODEF to embed and convey various structured cybersecurity information, with which cybersecurity operations can be facilitated. Since IODEF defines a flexible and extensible format and supports a granular level of specificity, this document defines an extension to IODEF instead of defining a new report format. For clarity, and to eliminate duplication, only the additional structures necessary for describing the exchange of such structured information are provided.

2. Terminology

The terminology used in this document follows the one defined in RFC 5070 [RFC5070].

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

3. Applicability

To maintain cybersecurity, organization needs to exchange cybersecurity information, which includes the following information:
attack pattern, platform information, vulnerability and weakness, countermeasure instruction, computer event log, and the severity.

IODEF provides a scheme to exchange such information among interested parties. However, the detailed common format to describe such information is not defined in the IODEF base document.

On the other hand, to describe those information and to facilitate exchange, a structured format for that is already available. Major of them are CAPEC, CEE, CPE, CVE, CVRF, CVSS, CWE, CWSS, OCIL, OVAL, and XCCDF. By embedding them into the IODEF document, the document can convey more detailed contents to the receivers, and the document can be easily reused. Note that interactive communication is needed in some cases, and some of these structured information such as OCIL solicits reply from recipients. These reply could be also embedded inside the IODEF document.

These structured cybersecurity information facilitates cybersecurity operation at the receiver side. Since the information is machine-readable, the data can be processed by computers. That expedites the automation of cybersecurity operations.

For instance, an organization wishing to report a security incident wants to describe what vulnerability was exploited. Then the sender can simply use IODEF, where an CAPEC record is embedded instead of describing everything in free format text. Receiver can also identify the needed details of the attack pattern by looking up some of the xml [XML1.0] tags defined by CAPEC. Receiver can accumulate the attack pattern information (CAPEC record) in its database and could distribute it to the interested parties if needed, without needing human interventions.

4. Extension Definition

This draft extends IODEF to embed structured cybersecurity information by introducing new classes, with which these information can be embedded inside IODEF document as element contents of AdditionalData and RecordItem classes.

4.1. IDs for Structured Cybersecurity Information Specifications

This extension embeds structured cybersecurity information from external specifications. The initial list of supported specifications is in Figure 1 below, followed by a subsection for each specification that lists the ID, specification name, version, namespace [XMLNames], specification URI and applicable classes for each specification. Future assignments are to be managed by IANA.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID</th>
<th>Specification Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAPEC_1.6</td>
<td>Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCE_5.0</td>
<td>Common Configuration Enumeration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSSS_1.0</td>
<td>Common Configuration Scoring System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEE_0.6</td>
<td>Common Event Expression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPE_Ref_2.3</td>
<td>Common Platform Enumeration Reference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CPE_Dic_2.3</td>
<td>Common Platform Enumeration Dictionary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVE_1.0</td>
<td>Common Vulnerability and Exposures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVRF_1.0</td>
<td>Common Vulnerability Reporting Format</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CVSS_2.0</td>
<td>Common Vulnerability Scoring System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWE_5.0</td>
<td>Common Weakness Enumeration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CWSS_0.8</td>
<td>Common Weakness Scoring System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCIL_2.0</td>
<td>Open Checklist Interactive Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVAL_Def_5.10.1</td>
<td>Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language Definitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVAL_Res_5.10.1</td>
<td>Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language Results</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVAL_Com_5.10.1</td>
<td>Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language Common</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XCCDF_1.2</td>
<td>Extensible Configuration Checklist Description Format</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 1: List of specification IDs

4.1.1. CAPEC_1.6

ID: CAPEC_1.6

Specification Name: Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification

Version: 1.6

Namespace: http://capec.mitre.org/observables

Specification URI: http://capec.mitre.org/

Applicable Classes: AttackPattern

4.1.2. CCE_5.0

ID: CCE_5.0

Specification Name: Common Configuration Enumeration
Version: 5.0

Namespace: http://cce.mitre.org

Specification URI: TBD

Applicable Classes: Remediation

4.1.3. CCSS_1.0

ID: CCSS_1.0

Specification Name: Common Configuration Scoring System

Version: 1.0

Namespace: N/A

Specification URI: TBD

Applicable Classes: Scoring

4.1.4. CEE_0.6

ID: CEE_0.6

Specification Name: Common Event Expression

Version: 0.6

Namespace: http://cee.mitre.org

Specification URI: http://cee.mitre.org/

Applicable Classes: EventReport

4.1.5. CPE_Ref_2.3

ID: CPE_Ref_2.3

Specification Name: Common Platform Enumeration Reference

Version: 2.3

Namespace: http://cpe.mitre.org/language/2.0
4.1.6. CPE_Dic_2.3

ID: CPE_Dic_2.3

Specification Name: Common Platform Enumeration Dictionary

Version: 2.3

Namespace: http://cpe.mitre.org/language/2.0

Specification URI: TBD

Applicable Classes: PlatformID

4.1.7. CVE_1.0

ID: CVE_1.0

Specification Name: Common Vulnerability and Exposures

Version: 1.0

Namespace: http://cve.mitre.org/cve/downloads/1.0

Specification URI: http://cve.mitre.org/

Applicable Classes: Vulnerability

4.1.8. CVRF_1.0

ID: CVRF_1.0

Specification Name: Common Vulnerability Reporting Format

Version: 1.0

Namespace: http://www.icasi.org/CVRF/schema/cvrf/1.0

Specification URI: http://www.icasi.org/cvrf

Applicable Classes: Vulnerability
4.1.9. CVSS_2.0

ID: CVSS_2.0

Specification Name: Common Vulnerability Scoring System
Version: 2
Namespace: http://scap.nist.gov/schema/cvss-v2/1.0
Specification URI: http://www.first.org/cvss
Applicable Classes: Scoring

4.1.10. CWE_5.0

ID: CWE_5.0

Specification Name: Common Weakness Enumeration
Version: 5.1
Namespace: N/A
Specification URI: http://cwe.mitre.org/
Applicable Classes: Weakness

4.1.11. CWSS_0.8

ID: CWSS_0.8

Specification Name: Common Weakness Scoring System
Version: 0.8
Namespace: N/A
Specification URI: http://cwe.mitre.org/cwss/
Applicable Classes: Scoring

4.1.12. OCIL_2.0
ID: OCIL_2.0

Specification Name: Open Checklist Interactive Language
Version: 2.0
Namespace: http://scap.nist.gov/schema/ocil/2.0
Applicable Classes: Verification

4.1.13. OVAL_Def_5.10.1

ID: OVAL_Def_5.10.1

Specification Name: Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language
Version: 5.10.1
Specification URI: http://oval.mitre.org/
Applicable Classes: Verification

4.1.14. OVAL_Res_5.10.1

ID: OVAL_Res_5.10.1

Specification Name: Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language
Version: 5.10.1
Specification URI: TBD
Applicable Classes: Verification

4.1.15. OVAL_Com_5.10.1

ID: OVAL_Com_5.10.1

Specification Name: Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language
Version: 5.10.1


Specification URI: TBD

Applicable Classes: Verification

4.1.16. XCCDF_1.2

ID: XCCDF_1.2

Specification Name: Extensible Configuration Checklist Description Format

Version: 1.2

Namespace: http://checklists.nist.gov/xccdf/1.2


Applicable Classes: Verification

4.2. Extended Classes

The IODEF Incident element [RFC5070] is summarized below. It is expressed in Unified Modeling Language (UML) syntax as used in the IODEF specification. The UML representation is for illustrative purposes only; elements are specified in XML as defined in Appendix A.
This extension defines the following seven elements.

4.2.1. AttackPattern

An AttackPattern consists of an extension to the Incident.Method.AdditionalData element with a dtype of "xml". The extension describes attack patterns of incidents or events.

It is recommended that Method class SHOULD contain one or more of the extension elements whenever available.

An AttackPattern class is structured as follows.
Figure 3: AttackPattern class

This class has the following attributes.

**Version**: OPTIONAL. STRING. The version number of the extension specification to which this class conforms. This value should be 1.00, to be compliant with this document. Its default value is 1.00.

**SpecificationID**: REQUIRED. ENUM. The ID of the specification and its version specifying the format of the RawData element. The value should be chosen from the IDs listed in Figure 1, such as CAPEC_1.6. Note that the lists in Figure 1 will be developed further by IANA.

**AttackPatternID**: OPTIONAL. STRING. An ID of an attack pattern to be reported. This attribute SHOULD be used whenever such ID is available. In case a RawData or Reference element is provided along with this attribute, writers/senders MUST ensure that this ID is consistent with the one provided by the element; if a reader/receiver detects an inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the value of this attribute, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem. Note that this attribute could be omitted if no such ID is available. In this case, either RawData or Reference elements, or both of them, MUST be provided.

The AttackPattern class is composed of the following aggregate classes.

**RawData**: Zero or more. xml. A complete document that is formatted according to the specification and its version identified by the value of the SpecificationID with the Figure 1.

**Reference**: Zero or more of iodef:Reference [RFC5070]. This element allows an IODEF document to include a link to a structured information instead of directly embedding it into a RawData element.
PlatformID: Zero or more. An identifier of software platform involved in the specific attack pattern, which is elaborated in Section 4.2.2. Some of the structured information embedded in the RawData element may include the identifier within it. In this case, this PlatformID element SHOULD NOT be used. If a reader/receiver detects the identifiers in both RawData and PlatformID elements and their inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the identifiers derived from the PlatformID element, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

Writers/senders MUST ensure the specification name and version identified by the SpecificationID are consistent with the contents of the RawData; if a reader/receiver detects an inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the specification name and version derived from the content, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

4.2.2. PlatformID

A PlatformID identifies a software platform. It is recommended that AttackPattern, Vulnerability, Weakness, and System classes contain this elements whenever available.

A PlatformID element is structured as follows.

```
+---------------------+
| PlatformID          |
+---------------------+
     | STRING Version    |
     <-------(1..*)-[ ID ]
     ENUM SpecificationID
+---------------------+
```

Figure 4: PlatformID class

This class has the following attributes.

Version: OPTIONAL. STRING. The version number of the extension specification to which this class conforms. This value should be 1.00, to be compliant with this document. Its default value is 1.00.

SpecificationID: REQUIRED. ENUM. The ID of the specification and its version specifying the format of the ID element. The value should be chosen from the IDs listed in Figure 1, such as CPE_2.3 and ISO/IEC 19770-2. Note that the lists in Figure 1 will be developed further by IANA.

This class is composed of the following aggregate classes.
ID: One or more. ML_STRING. An ID that is formatted according to the rule defined by the specification and its version identified by the value of the SpecificationID with the Figure 1.

Writers/senders MUST ensure the specification name and version identified by the SpecificationID are consistent with the contents of the ID; if a reader/receiver detects an inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the specification name and version derived from the content, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

4.2.3. Vulnerability

A Vulnerability consists of an extension to the Incident.Method.AdditionalData element with a dtype of "xml". The extension describes the (candidate) vulnerabilities of incidents or events.

It is recommended that Method class SHOULD contain one or more of the extension elements whenever available.

A Vulnerability element is structured as follows.

```
+------------------------+
| Vulnerability          |
+------------------------+
  | STRING Version        |<>--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
  | ENUM SpecificationID  |<>--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
  | STRING VulnerabilityID|<>--(0..*)-[ PlatformID ]
  |                       |<>--(0..*)-[ Scoring ]
+------------------------+
```

Figure 5: Vulnerability class

This class has the following attributes.

Version: OPTIONAL. STRING. The version number of the extension specification to which this class conforms. This value should be 1.00, to be compliant with this document. Its default value is 1.00.

SpecificationID: REQUIRED. ENUM. The ID of the specification and its version specifying the format of the RawData element. The value should be chosen from the IDs listed in Figure 1, such as CVE_1.0 and CVRF_1.0. Note that the lists in Figure 1 will be developed further by IANA.
VulnerabilityID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An ID of a vulnerability to be reported. This attribute SHOULD be used whenever such ID is available. In case a RawData or Reference element is provided along with this attribute, writers/senders MUST ensure that this ID is consistent with the one provided by the element; if a reader/receiver detects an inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the value of this attribute, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem. Note that this attribute could be omitted if no such ID is available. In this case, either RawData or Reference elements, or both of them, MUST be provided.

This class is composed of the following aggregate classes.

RawData: Zero or one. xml. A complete document that is formatted according to the specification and its version identified by the value of the SpecificationID with the Figure 1.

Reference: Zero or one of iodef:Reference [RFC5070]. This element allows an IODEF document to include a link to a structured information instead of directly embedding it into a RawData element.

PlatformID: Zero or more. An identifier of software platform affected by the vulnerability, which is elaborated in Section 4.2.2. Some of the structured information embedded in the RawData element may include the identifier within it. In this case, this PlatformID element SHOULD NOT be used. If a reader/receiver detects the identifiers in both RawData and PlatformID elements and their inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the identifiers derived from the PlatformID element, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

Scoring: Zero or more. An indicator of the severity of the vulnerability, such as CVSS and CCSS scores, which is elaborated in Section 4.2.4. Some of the structured information may include scores within it. In this case, the Scoring element SHOULD NOT be used since the RawData element contains the scores. If a reader/receiver detects scores in both RawData and Scoring elements and their inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the scores derived from the RawData element, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

4.2.4. Scoring

A Scoring class describes the scores of the severity in terms of security. It is recommended that Vulnerability and Weakness classes contain the elements whenever available.
A Scoring class is structured as follows.

```
+----------------------+
| Scoring              |
+----------------------+

  | STRING Version       |<>---------[ Score  ]
  | ENUM SpecificationID |
+----------------------+
```

Figure 6: Scoring class

This class has two attributes.

**Version**: OPTIONAL. STRING. The version number of the extension specification to which this class conforms. This value should be 1.00, to be compliant with this document. Its default value is 1.00.

**SpecificationID**: REQUIRED. STRING. The ID of the specification and its version specifying the format of the Score element. The value should be chosen from the IDs listed in Figure 1, such as CCSS, CVSS_2.0 and CWSS_0.8. Note that the lists in Figure 1 will be developed further by IANA.

This class is composed of an aggregate class.

**Score**: One. xml. Arbitrary information structured by the specification identified by the specification and its version identified by the value of the SpecificationID with the Figure 1.

Writers/senders MUST ensure the specification name and version identified by the SpecificationID are consistent with the contents of the Score; if a reader/receiver detects an inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the specification name and version derived from the content, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

4.2.5. Weakness

A Weakness consists of an extension to the Incident.Method.AdditionalData element with a dtype of "xml". The extension describes the weakness types of incidents or events.

It is recommended that Method class SHOULD contain one or more of the extension elements whenever available.

A Weakness element is structured as follows.
This class has the following attributes.

Version: OPTIONAL. STRING. The version number of the extension specification to which this class conforms. This value should be 1.00, to be compliant with this document. Its default value is 1.00.

SpecificationID: REQUIRED. ENUM. The ID of the specification and its version specifying the format of the RawData element. The value should be chosen from the IDs listed in Figure 1, such as CWE_5.0. Note that the lists in Figure 1 will be developed further by IANA.

WeaknessID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An ID of a weakness to be reported. This attribute SHOULD be used whenever such ID is available. In case a RawData or Reference elements is provided along with this attribute, writers/senders MUST ensure that this ID is consistent with the one provided by the element; if a reader/receiver detects an inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the value of this attribute, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem. Note that this attribute could be omitted if no such ID is available. In this case, either RawData or Reference elements, or both of them, MUST be provided.

This class is composed of the following aggregate classes.

RawData: Zero or more. xml. A complete document that is formatted according to the specification and its version identified by the value of the SpecificationID with the Figure 1.

Reference: Zero or one of iodef:Reference [RFC5070]. This element allows an IODEF document to include a link to a structured information instead of directly embedding it into a RawData element.

Figure 7: Weakness class
PlatformID: Zero or more. An identifier of software platform affected by the weakness, which is elaborated in Section 4.2.2. Some of the structured information embedded in the RawData element may include the identifier within it. In this case, this PlatformID element SHOULD NOT be used. If a reader/receiver detects the identifiers in both RawData and PlatformID elements and their inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the identifiers derived from the PlatformID element, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

Scoring: Zero or more. An indicator of the severity of the weakness, such as CWSS score, which is elaborated in Section 4.2.4. Some of the structured information may include scores within it. In this case, the Scoring element SHOULD NOT be used since the RawData element contains the scores. If a reader/receiver detects scores in both RawData and Scoring elements and their inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the scores derived from the RawData element, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

4.2.6. EventReport

An EventReport consists of an extension to the Incident.EventData.Record.RecordData.RecordItem element with a dtype of "xml". The extension embeds structured event reports.

It is recommended that RecordItem class SHOULD contain one or more of the extension elements whenever available.

An EventReport element is structured as follows.

+----------------------+
| EventReport          |
+----------------------+
| STRING Version       |<>--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| ENUM SpecificationID |<>--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
+----------------------+

Figure 8: EventReport class

This class has the following attributes.

Version: OPTIONAL. STRING. The version number of the extension specification to which this class conforms. This value should be 1.00, to be compliant with this document. Its default value is 1.00.
SpecificationID: REQUIRED. ENUM. The ID of the specification and its version specifying the format of the RawData element. The value should be chosen from the IDs listed in Figure 1, such as CEE_0.6. Note that the lists in Figure 1 will be developed further by IANA.

This class is composed of three aggregate classes.

RawData: Zero or one. xml. A complete document that is formatted according to the specification and its version identified by the value of the SpecificationID with the Figure 1.

Reference: Zero or one of iodef:Reference [RFC5070]. This element allows an IODEF document to include a link to a structured information instead of directly embedding it into a RawData element.

This class MUST contain at least one of RawData or Reference elements. Writers/senders MUST ensure the specification name and version identified by the SpecificationID are consistent with the contents of the RawData; if a reader/receiver detects an inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the specification name and version derived from the content, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

4.2.7. Verification

A Verification consists of an extension to the Incident.AdditionalData element with a dtype of "xml". The extension elements describes incident on verifying incidents.

A Verification class is structured as follows.

```plaintext
+----------------------+
| Verification         |
+----------------------+
| STRING Version       | <|--(0..*)- [ RawData ] |
| ENUM SpecificationID | <|--(0..*)- [ Reference ] |
+----------------------+
```

Figure 9: Verification class

This class has the following attributes.
Version: OPTIONAL. STRING. The version number of the extension specification to which this class conforms. This value should be 1.00, to be compliant with this document. Its default value is 1.00.

SpecificationID: REQUIRED. ENUM. The ID of the specification and its version specifying the format of the RawData element. The value should be chosen from the IDs listed in Figure 1, such as OVAL_5.10, OCIL_2.0, and XCCDF_1.2. Note that the lists in Figure 1 will be developed further by IANA.

This class is composed of two aggregate classes.

RawData: Zero or one. xml. A complete document that is formatted according to the specification and its version identified by the value of the SpecificationID with the Figure 1.

Reference: Zero or one of iodef:Reference [RFC5070]. This element allows an IODEF document to include a link to a structured information instead of directly embedding it into a RawData element.

This class MUST contain at least either of RawData and Reference elements. Writers/senders MUST ensure the specification name and version identified by the SpecificationID are consistent with the contents of the RawData; if a reader/receiver detects an inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the specification name and version derived from the content, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

4.2.8. Remediation

A Remediation consists of an extension to the Incident.AdditionalData element with a dtype of "xml". The extension elements describes incident remediation information including instructions.

It is recommended that Incident class SHOULD contain one or more of this extension elements whenever available.

A Remediation class is structured as follows.

```
+----------------------+
| Remediation          |
| +----------------------+
| STRING Version       |<>--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| ENUM SpecificationID |<>--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
+----------------------+
```
Figure 10: Remediation class

This class has the following attributes.

Version: OPTIONAL. STRING. The version number of the extension specification to which this class conforms. This value should be 1.00, to be compliant with this document. Its default value is 1.00.

SpecificationID: REQUIRED. ENUM. The ID of the specification and its version specifying the format of the RawData element. The value should be chosen from the IDs listed in Figure 1. Note that the lists in Figure 1 will be developed further by IANA.

This class is composed of two aggregate classes.

RawData: Zero or one. xml. A complete document that is formatted according to the specification and its version identified by the value of the SpecificationID with the Figure 1.

Reference: Zero or one of iodef:Reference [RFC5070]. This element allows an IODEF document to include a link to a structured information instead of directly embedding it into a RawData element.

This class MUST contain at least either of RawData and Reference elements. Writers/senders MUST ensure the specification name and version identified by the SpecificationID are consistent with the contents of the RawData; if a reader/receiver detects an inconsistency, it SHOULD prefer the specification name and version derived from the content, and SHOULD log the inconsistency so a human can correct the problem.

5. Examples

This section provides examples of an incident encoded in the IODEF. These examples do not necessarily represent the only way to encode a particular incident.

5.1. Reporting an attack

An example of a CSIRT reporting an attack.

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<IODEF-Document version="1.00" lang="en" xmlns="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:iodef-1.0" xmlns:iodef="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:iodef-1.0"...>
<Incident purpose="reporting">
  <IncidentID name="csirt.example.com">189493</IncidentID>
  <ReportTime>2001-09-13T23:19:24+00:00</ReportTime>
  <Description>An administrative privilege was attempted, but failed --></Description>
  <Assessment>
    <Impact completion="failed" type="admin"/>
  </Assessment>
  <Method>
    <Description>Structured information on attack pattern, exploited vulnerability, and weakness</Description>
  </Method>
  <AdditionalData dtype="xml">
    <iodef-sci:AttackPattern SpecificationID="CAPEC_1.6"
        AttackPatternID="CAPEC-14">
      <iodef-sci:RawData>[CAPEC-formatted data]</iodef-sci:RawData>
      <Reference>
        <ReferenceName>Link to Capec-14</ReferenceName>
        <URL>http://capec.mitre.org/data/definitions/14.html</URL>
      </Reference>
    </iodef-sci:AttackPattern>

    <iodef-sci:Vulnerability SpecificationID="CVE_1.0"
        VulnerabilityID="CVE-2010-3654">
      <iodef-sci:RawData>[CVE-formatted data]</iodef-sci:RawData>
      <iodef-sci:PlatformID SpecificationID="CPE_2.3">
        <iodef-sci:ID>[CPE ID]</iodef-sci:ID>
      </iodef-sci:PlatformID>
      <iodef-sci:Scoring SpecificationID="CVSS_2.0">
        <iodef-sci:Score>[CVSS scores]</iodef-sci:Score>
      </iodef-sci:Scoring>
    </iodef-sci:Vulnerability>

    <iodef-sci:Weakness SpecificationID="CWE_5.0"
        WeaknessID="CWE-119">
      <iodef-sci:RawData>[CWE-formatted data]</iodef-sci:RawData>
      <iodef-sci:Scoring SpecificationID="CWSS_0.8">
        <iodef-sci:Score>[CWSS scores]</iodef-sci:Score>
      </iodef-sci:Scoring>
    </iodef-sci:Weakness>
  </AdditionalData>

  <Contact role="creator" type="organization">
    <ContactName>Example.com CSIRT</ContactName>
    <RegistryHandle registry="arin">example-com</RegistryHandle>
    <Email>contact@csirt.example.com</Email>
  </Contact>
</EventData>

<Flow>
<System category="source">
    <Node>
        <Address category="ipv4-addr">192.0.2.200</Address>
        <Counter type="event">57</Counter>
    </Node>
</System>

<System category="target">
    <Node>
        <Address category="ipv4-net">192.0.2.16/28</Address>
    </Node>
    <Service ip_protocol="6">
        <Port>80</Port>
    </Service>
    <AdditionalData dtype="xml">
        <iodef-sci:PlatformID SpecificationID="CPE_2.3">
            <iodef-sci:ID>[CPE ID]</iodef-sci:ID>
        </iodef-sci:PlatformID>
    </AdditionalData>
</System>

<Flow>
    <Expectation action="block-host" />
    <Expectation action="other"/>
</Flow>

<!-- <RecordItem> has an excerpt from a log -->
<Record>
    <RecordData>
        <DateTime>2001-09-13T18:11:21+02:00</DateTime>
        <Description>a Web-server event record</Description>
        <RecordItem dtype="xml">
            <iodef-sci:EventReport SpecificationID="CEE_0.6">
                <iodef-sci:RawData>[CEE-formatted data]</iodef-sci:RawData>
            </iodef-sci:EventReport>
        </RecordItem>
    </RecordData>
</Record>
</EventData>

<History>
<!-- Contact was previously made with the source network owner -->
<HistoryItem action="contact-source-site">
    <DateTime>2001-09-14T08:19:01+00:00</DateTime>
    <Description>Notification sent to constituency-contact@192.0.2.200</Description>
</HistoryItem>
</History>

<AdditionalData dtype="xml">
    <iodef-sci:Verification SpecificationID="OVAL_5.10">
        <iodef-sci:RawData>[OVAL-formatted data]</iodef-sci:RawData>
    </iodef-sci:Verification>
    <iodef-sci:Verification SpecificationID="XCCDF_1.2">
        <iodef-sci:RawData>[XCCDF-formatted data]</iodef-sci:RawData>
    </iodef-sci:Verification>
</AdditionalData>
6. Security Considerations

This document specifies a format for encoding a particular class of security incidents appropriate for exchange across organizations. As merely a data representation, it does not directly introduce security issues. However, it is guaranteed that parties exchanging instances of this specification will have certain concerns. For this reason, the underlying message format and transport protocol used MUST ensure the appropriate degree of confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity for the specific environment.

Organizations that exchange data using this document are URGED to develop operating procedures that document the following areas of concern.

6.1. Transport-Specific Concerns

The underlying messaging format and protocol used to exchange instances of the IODEF MUST provide appropriate guarantees of confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity. The use of a standardized security protocol is encouraged. The Real-time Inter-network Defense (RID) protocol [RFC6045] and its associated transport binding [RFC6046] provide such security.

The critical security concerns are that these structured information may be falsified or they may become corrupt during transit. In areas where transmission security or secrecy is questionable, the application of a digital signature and/or message encryption on each report will counteract both of these concerns. We expect that each exchanging organization will determine the need, and mechanism, for transport protection.

6.2. Using the iodef:restriction Attribute

In some instances, data values in particular elements may contain data deemed sensitive by the reporter. Although there are no general-purpose rules on when to mark certain values as "private" or "need-to-know" via the iodef:restriction attribute, the reporter is cautioned not to apply element-level sensitivity markings unless they
believe the receiving party (i.e., the party they are exchanging the event report data with) has a mechanism to adequately safeguard and process the data as marked.

7. IANA Considerations

This document uses URNs to describe XML namespaces and XML schemata[XMLschemaPart1][XMLschemaPart2] conforming to a registry mechanism described in [RFC3688].

Registration request for the IODEF structured cybersecurity information extension namespace:

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:iodef-sci-1.0

Registrant Contact: Refer here to the authors’ addresses section of the document.

XML: None

Registration request for the IODEF structured cybersecurity information extension XML schema:

URI: urn:ietf:params:xml:schema:iodef-sci-1.0

Registrant Contact: Refer here to the authors’ addresses section of the document.

XML: Refer here to the XML Schema in the appendix of the document.

This memo creates the following registry for IANA to manage:

Name of the registry: "IODEF Structured Cyber Security Information Specifications"

Namespace details: A registry entry for a Structured Cyber Security Information Specification (SCI specification) consists of:

ID: A short XSD string that is used in the SpecificationID attribute of an IODEF extended class defined in this memo. The ID is usually based on the acronym and version number of the SCI specification.

Specification Name: A string containing the spelled-out name of the SCI specification in human-readable form.
Version: The version of the registered SCI specification. This is a string that SHOULD consist of numbers separated by ‘.’ (period) characters, but additional characters and different formatting MAY be used when appropriate.

Namespace: A URI [RFC3986] that is the XML namespace name used by the registered SCI specification.

Specification URI: A URI [RFC3986] from which the registered specification can be obtained. The registered specification MUST be readily and publicly available from that URI.

Applicable Classes: A list of one or more of the Extended Classes specified in Section 4.2 of this document. The registered SCI specification MUST only be used with the Extended Classes in the registry entry.

Information that must be provided to assign a new value: The above list of information.

Assignment policy: If the requested value is not already assigned, it may be assigned to the requester.

Fields to record in the registry: ID/Specification Name/Version/ Namespace/Applicable Classes.

Initial registry contents: See sections from Section 4.1.1 through Section 4.1.16 above.


The Designated Expert is expected to consult with the mile (Managed Incident Lightweight Exchange) working group or its successor if any such WG exists (e.g., via email to the working group’s mailing list). The Designated Expert is expected to retrieve the SCI specification from the provided URI in order to check the public availability of the specification and verify the correctness of the URI. An important responsibility of the Designated Expert is to ensure that the registered Applicable Classes are appropriate for the registered SCI specification.

8. Acknowledgment

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9. Appendix I: XML Schema Definition for Extension

The XML Schema describing the elements defined in the Extension Definition section is given here. Each of the examples in Section 5 should be verified to validate against this schema by automated tools.

<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<xsd:schema targetNamespace="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:iodef-sci-1.0"
   xmlns:xsd="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
   xmlns:iodef="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:iodef-1.0"
   xmlns:iodef-sci="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:iodef-sci-1.0"
   elementFormDefault="qualified"
   attributeFormDefault="unqualified">
  <xsd:import
      namespace="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:iodef-1.0"
      schemaLocation="iodef_schema.xsd"/>
  <!--================================================================
  == Scoring Class                                               ======
  =================================================================-->
  <xsd:element name="Scoring">
    <xsd:complexType>
      <xsd:sequence>
        <xsd:element name="Score" type="xsd:anyType"/>
      </xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:attribute name="Version" type="xsd:string" use="optional"
                      default="1.00"/>
      <xsd:attribute name="SpecificationID" type="xsd:string"
                      use="required"/>
    </xsd:complexType>
  </xsd:element>

  <!--================================================================
  == AttackPattern Class                                          ======
  =================================================================-->
</xsd:schema>
<xsd:element name="AttackPattern">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:element name="RawData" type="xsd:anyType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <xsd:element name="Reference" ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <xsd:element name="PlatformID" ref="iodef-sci:PlatformID" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="Version" type="xsd:string" use="optional" default="1.00"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecificationID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="AttackPatternID" type="xsd:string" use="optional"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

!--- Vulnerability Class ---

<xsd:element name="Vulnerability">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:element name="RawData" type="xsd:anyType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <xsd:element name="Reference" ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <xsd:element name="PlatformID" ref="iodef-sci:PlatformID" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <xsd:element name="Scoring" ref="iodef-sci:Scoring" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="Version" type="xsd:string" use="optional" default="1.00"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecificationID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="VulnerabilityID" type="xsd:string" use="optional"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

!--- Weakness Class ---

<xsd:element name="Weakness">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:element name="RawData" type="xsd:anyType" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <xsd:element name="Reference" ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <xsd:element name="PlatformID" ref="iodef-sci:PlatformID" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <xsd:element name="Scoring" ref="iodef-sci:Scoring" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="Version" type="xsd:string" use="optional" default="1.00"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecificationID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="WeaknessID" type="xsd:string" use="optional"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<!-- ===================================================================
== PlatformID Class                                                  ==
==================================================================-->

<xsd:element name="PlatformID">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:element name="ID" type="xsd:string" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="Version" type="xsd:string" use="optional" default="1.00"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecificationID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<!-- ===================================================================
== EventReport Class                                                ==
==================================================================-->

<xsd:element name="EventReport">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:choice>
        <xsd:element name="RawData" type="xsd:anyType"/>
        <xsd:element name="Reference" ref="iodef:Reference"/>
      </xsd:choice>
    </xsd:sequence>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>
<xsd:element name="Verification">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:choice>
        <xsd:element name="RawData" type="xsd:anyType"/>
        <xsd:element name="Reference" ref="iodef:Reference"/>
      </xsd:choice>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="Version" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional" default="1.00"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecificationID" type="xsd:string"
      use="required"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<!--================================================================
== Verification Class                                             ==
=================================================================-->

<!-------------------------
== Remediation Class                                               ==
-------------------------

<xsd:element name="Remediation">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:choice>
        <xsd:element name="RawData" type="xsd:anyType"/>
        <xsd:element name="Reference" ref="iodef:Reference"/>
      </xsd:choice>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="Version" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional" default="1.00"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecificationID" type="xsd:string"
      use="required"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

</xsd:schema>
10. References

10.1. Normative References


10.2. Informative References


[CVSS] Peter Mell, Karen Scarfone, and Sasha Romanosky, "The Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) and Its Applicability to Federal Agency Systems".

[CAPEC] The MITRE Corporation, "Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification (CAPEC)".

[CEE] The MITRE Corporation, "Common Event Expression (CEE)".


[CVE] The MITRE Corporation, "Common Vulnerability and Exposures (CVE)".

[CVRF] ICASI, "Common Vulnerability Reporting Framework (CVRF)".

[CWE] The MITRE Corporation, "Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE)".

[CWSS] The MITRE Corporation, "Common Weakness Scoring System (CWSS)".

[OVAL] The MITRE Corporation, "Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language (OVAL)".


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