

The Technical Specification for the Security Content Automation Protocol (SCAP)

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Introduction

Purpose and Scope

This document, NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-126 Revision 3, along with its annex (NIST SP 800-126A [SP800-126A]) and a set of schemas, collectively provide the definitive technical specification for version 1.3 of the Security Content Automation Protocol (SCAP). SCAP (pronounced ess-cap) consists of a suite of specifications for standardizing the format and nomenclature by which software flaw and security configuration information is communicated, both to machines and humans. This document defines requirements for creating and processing SCAP source content. These requirements build on the requirements defined within the individual SCAP component specifications. Each new requirement pertains either to using multiple component specifications together or to further constraining one of the individual component specifications. The requirements within the individual component specifications are not repeated in this document; see those specifications to view their requirements.

To extend the contents of this document, an annex has been created. The annex document specifies additional entities that may be used in SCAP 1.3 conformant content creation and processing:

- *Particular minor version updates to SCAP 1.3 component specifications*
- *Particular Open Vulnerability and Assessment Language (OVAL) platform schema versions*

The scope of this document and its annex is limited to SCAP version 1.3. Other versions of SCAP and its component specifications are not addressed in these documents. Future versions of SCAP will be defined in distinct revisions of this document and its annex, each clearly labeled with a document revision number and the appropriate SCAP version number.

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