The ISO PPST Guide – Tool or Irrelevance?

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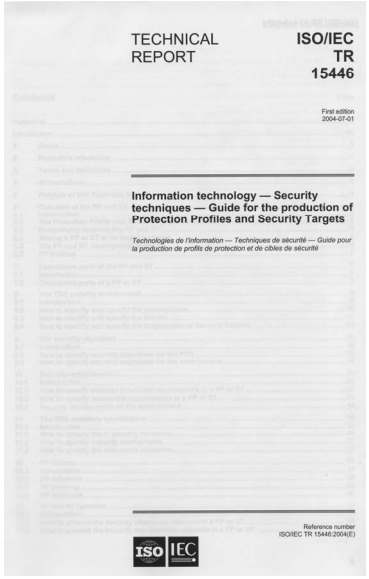
What is ISO/IEC TR 15446?

- Guide for the production of Protection Profiles and Security Targets
- A Technical Report
  - *Not Quite A Standard*
  - *In this case, an advisory guide.*
- ISO Document, not endorsed by CCDB
  - *Refers exclusively to ISO/IEC 15408*
  - *But actually equally applicable to CC V2.1*


TECHNICAL REPORT

ISO/IEC TR 15446

First edition 2004-07-01

Information technology — Security techniques — Guide for the production of Protection Profiles and Security Targets

Technologies de l'information — Techniques de sécurité — Guide pour la production de profils de protection et de cibles de sécurité

Reference number ISO/IEC TR 15446:2004(E)

ISO IEC

History

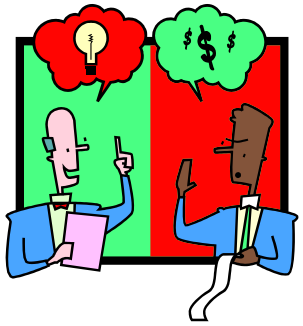
- Need for supporting document to CC/15408 identified:
  - *First Draft 1996*
  - *Approved for Publication 2000*
  - *Published 2004*
  - *Available for Free Download 2005*
- Not an example of prompt and efficient standardisation!
- Why?

Personnel

- Large document, therefore key role for editor
- Editor assigned other work responsibilities by employer
- Eventually resigned editorship and left WG3
- Hiatus before this speaker took over

Consensus

- Standards Working Groups work by consensus
- Guidance is subjective and best practice continually develops
- Difficult to avoid revisiting past decisions



Availability

- Standards Bodies make lots of money from selling standards
  - *BSI: TR 15446 GBP 160*
  - *ANSI: TR 15446 USD 165*
  - *JSA: TR 15446 JPY 20,034*
- Reluctant to permit free downloading
- And to advertise it when it exists!

A Reminder:
ISO/IEC TR 15446:2004 is available for free download from:

http://isotc.iso.org/livelink/livelink/fetch/2000/2489/Ittf_Home/ITTF.htm

(select “freely available standards” and page through list)

What Does It Contain?

- Section by Section guidance for PP and ST Contents
- Appendices:
  - *Guidance Checklist*
  - *Generic examples of threats, policies etc.*
  - *Section on cryptographic functionality*
  - *Three worked examples:*
    - Firewall PP, Database PP, Trusted Third Party PP

Common Criteria

Origin

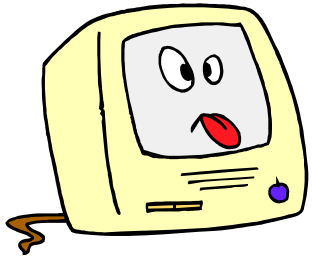
- Produced by people trying to understand new criteria, not people passing on real-world experience
- Mainly produced by evaluators, not product and system developers
  - *Very little on identifying threats, policies, assumptions*
  - *Nothing on composition, evaluation reuse etc.*

Consequences

- Mainly about “What”, not “How” or “Why”
- Applicable to and influenced CC V2, much less relevant to CC V3

How Useful Is It?

- Varies from section to section
- Often helpful, but not in depth
- Worked Examples now obsolete
  - *Produced originally against CC V1*
  - *Better models (real PPs) exist*
  - *No proper examples of STs*

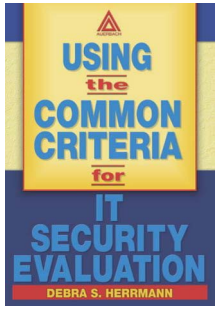


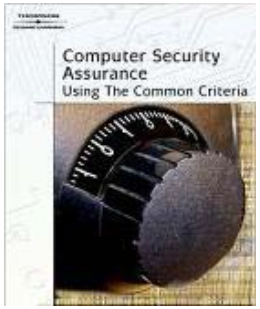
The Future

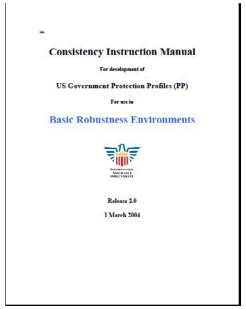
- Is it worth updating?
- Does it need to be no-cost downloadable?
- Is its scope right?

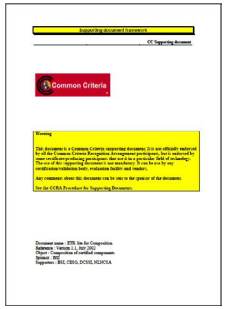
Is It Worth Updating?

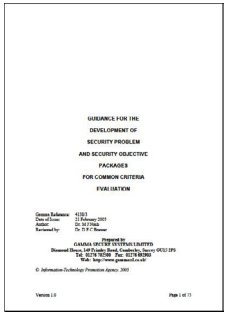
- Other sources of information now exist
  - *Books explaining CC*
  - *Consistency Instruction Manuals*
  - *"Supporting Documents"*











- Are best methods proprietary?

"No Cost" Availability

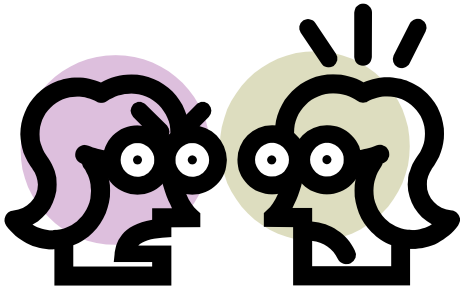
- Very hard to get no-cost availability for current document
- The rules have been changed to stop it happening again!
- Really needs CCDB endorsement and joint publication to remain Free of Charge

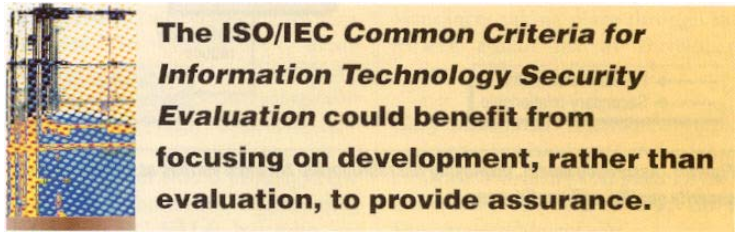
Best Practice

- Proprietary Knowledge and Techniques
- Will experts in writing PPs and STs be allowed to contribute?
- Can published PPs/STs be recommended as examples?
- Can experts be bothered to contribute?

What Should the Scope be?

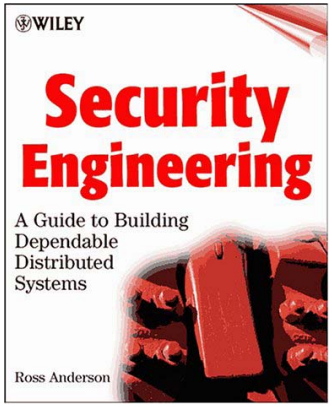
- Should it include examples?
- How should it deal with contentious areas?
- Should it cover threat and policy identification?





What About "Why" and "How"

- More subjective, often contentious
- Are reasons and techniques important or not?



What Does the Audience Think?

Over to you

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