

CVE and CVSS

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The MITRE Corporation
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Who Am I?

- Editor of the CVE List
- Contributor to CVSS SIG
- Popularized “responsible disclosure”
- 16 years’ Experience
- MITRE: not-for-profit organization, operating four FFRDC’s (DHS, FAA, IRS/VA, DoD)

As a public interest company, MITRE works in partnership with the government applying systems engineering and advanced technology to address issues of critical national importance.



The Problem Area

- What vulnerabilities might exist in software that has been deployed on my networks?**
- How do I find the necessary details?**
- How do I prioritize what to fix?**
- How do I do this in a vendor-independent way?**

Part of the Solution: Standardized Identifiers and Severity Ratings

- **CVE – Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures**
 - A standard way to identify a vulnerability with standard naming convention
 - <http://cve.mitre.org>
- **CVSS – Common Vulnerability Scoring System**
 - A standard way to measure vulnerability severity rating
 - <http://www.first.org/cvss/>

***More standards and related information can be found at:
<http://makingsecuritymeasurable.mitre.org/>***



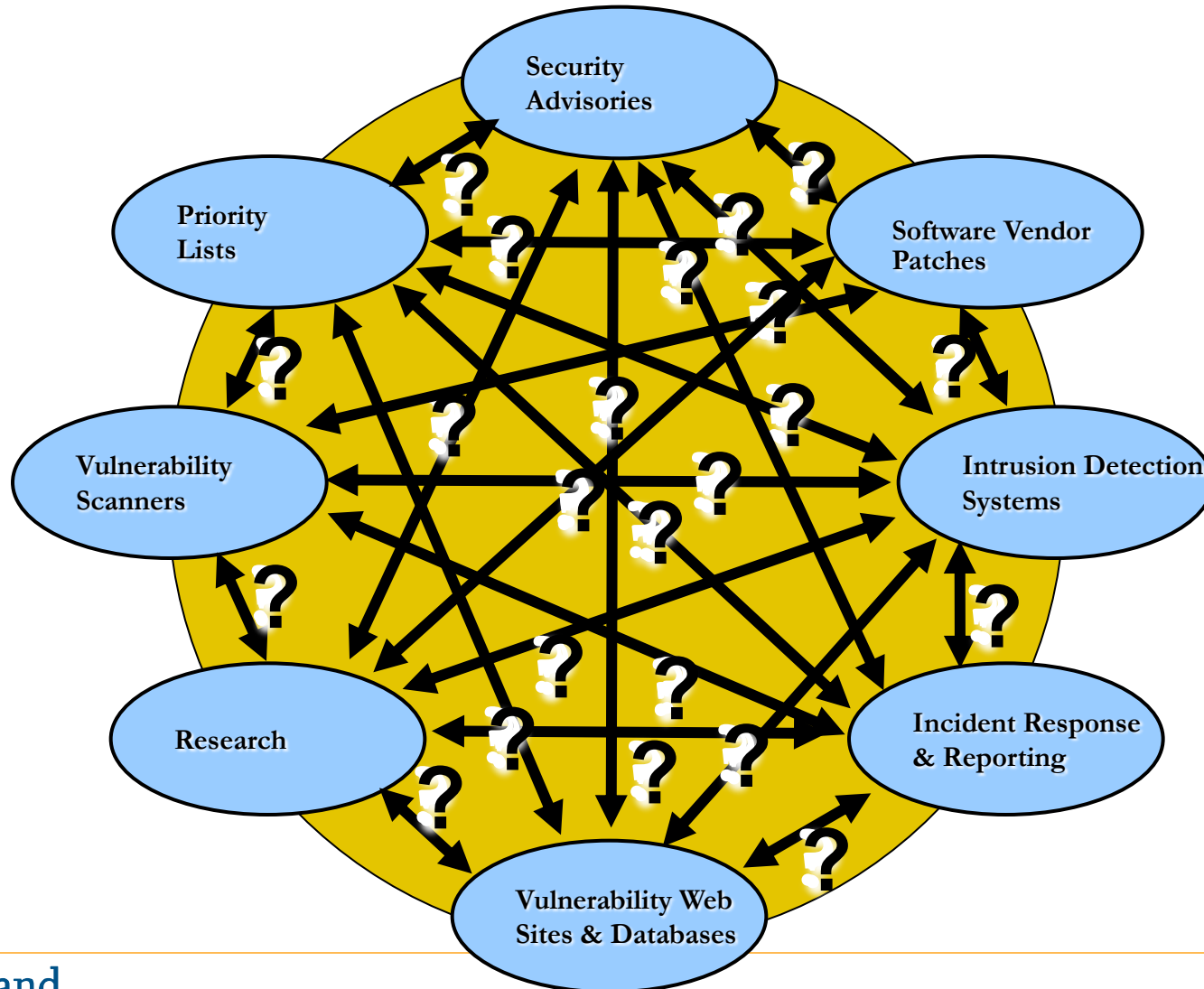


International in scope and free for public use, CVE is a dictionary of publicly known information security vulnerabilities and exposures.

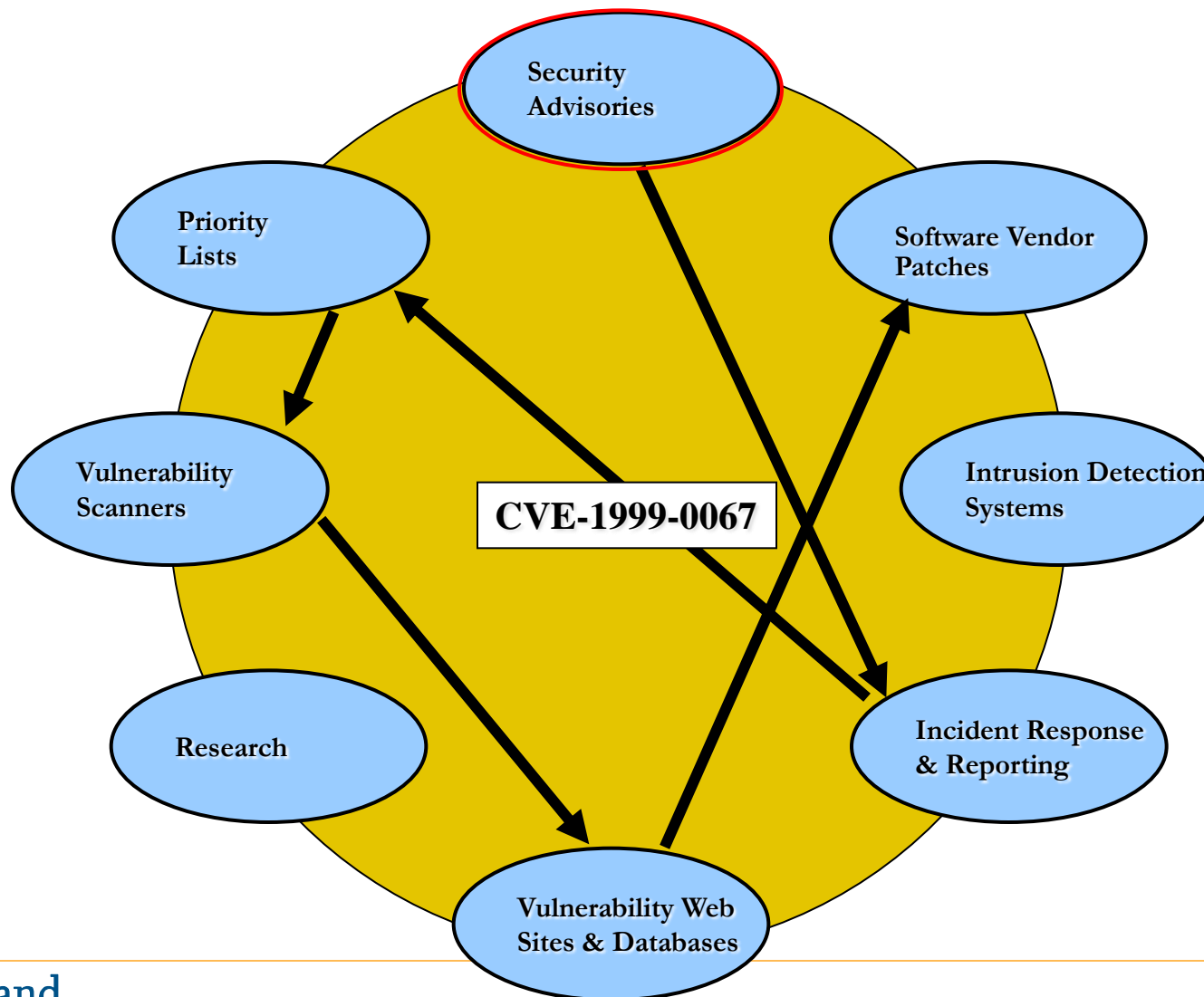
Why CVE?

- **Integrating CVE into your vulnerability management process allows for:**
 - Speaking the same language. A single name for a single vulnerability located in your environment.
 - Information sharing between multiple systems / platforms.
 - The same vulnerability, identified by different vendors, will always have the same CVE.
 - Consolidation of different sources of vulnerability data that use CVE

Difficult to Integrate Information on Vulnerabilities and Exposures



The CVE List provides a path for integrating information on Vulnerabilities and Exposures



CVE Entries: Dictionary, not a Database

The screenshot shows the CVE website interface in a Mozilla Firefox browser window. The address bar displays the URL: `http://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2008-2027`. The page title is "CVE - CVE-2008-2027 [under review] - Mozilla Firefox".

The main content area features a navigation bar with "CVE LIST", "COMPATIBLE PRODUCTS", "NEWS — MAY 1, 2008", and "SEARCH". Below this is the CVE logo and the text "Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures" with the tagline "The Standard for Information Security Vulnerability Names". A counter indicates "TOTAL CVEs: 30519".

The breadcrumb trail is "HOME > CVE > CVE-2008-2027 (UNDER REVIEW)". The left sidebar contains a "About CVE" section with links for Terminology, Documents, FAQs, and CVE List. The main content area displays the following information:

- CVE-ID:** CVE-2008-2027 (under review)
- Description:** Open redirect vulnerability in WebID/IISWebAgentIF.dll in RSA Authentication Agent 5.3.0.258 for Web for IIS, when accessed via certain browsers such as Mozilla Firefox, allows remote attackers to redirect users to arbitrary web sites and conduct phishing attacks via an ftp URL in the url parameter to a Redirect action.
- References:** A note states: "Note: References are provided for the convenience of the reader to help distinguish between vulnerabilities. The list is not intended to be complete." The list includes:
 - BUGTRAQ:20080423 PR07-43: Cross-domain redirect on RSA Authentication Agent
 - URL:<http://www.securityfocus.com/archive/1/archive/1/491237/100/0/threaded>
 - MISC:http://www.procheckup.com/vulnerability_PR07-43.php
- Status:** Candidate. This CVE Identifier has "Candidate" status and must be reviewed and accepted.

Three callout boxes highlight specific features:

- 1) Flat Identifier:** Points to the CVE-ID field.
- 2) Short Description:** Points to the description text.
- 3) External References:** Points to the references list.

The right sidebar contains a "CVE List" section with links for Data Updates & RSS Feeds, Reference Key/Maps, Data Sources, Versions, Search Tips, Editor's Commentary, Obtain a CVE Identifier, Editorial Policies, About CVE Identifiers, and ITEMS OF INTEREST (Terminology, NVD).

Anatomy of a CVE Description: CVE-2009-4623

Multiple PHP remote file inclusion vulnerabilities in Advanced Comment System 1.0 allow remote attackers to execute arbitrary PHP code via a URL in the ACS_path parameter to (1) index.php and (2) admin.php in advanced_comment_system/. **NOTE:** this might only be a vulnerability when the administrator has not followed installation instructions in install.php.

Flaw type, vendor name, product name, affected versions, remote/local, impact, attack vectors, clarifiers.

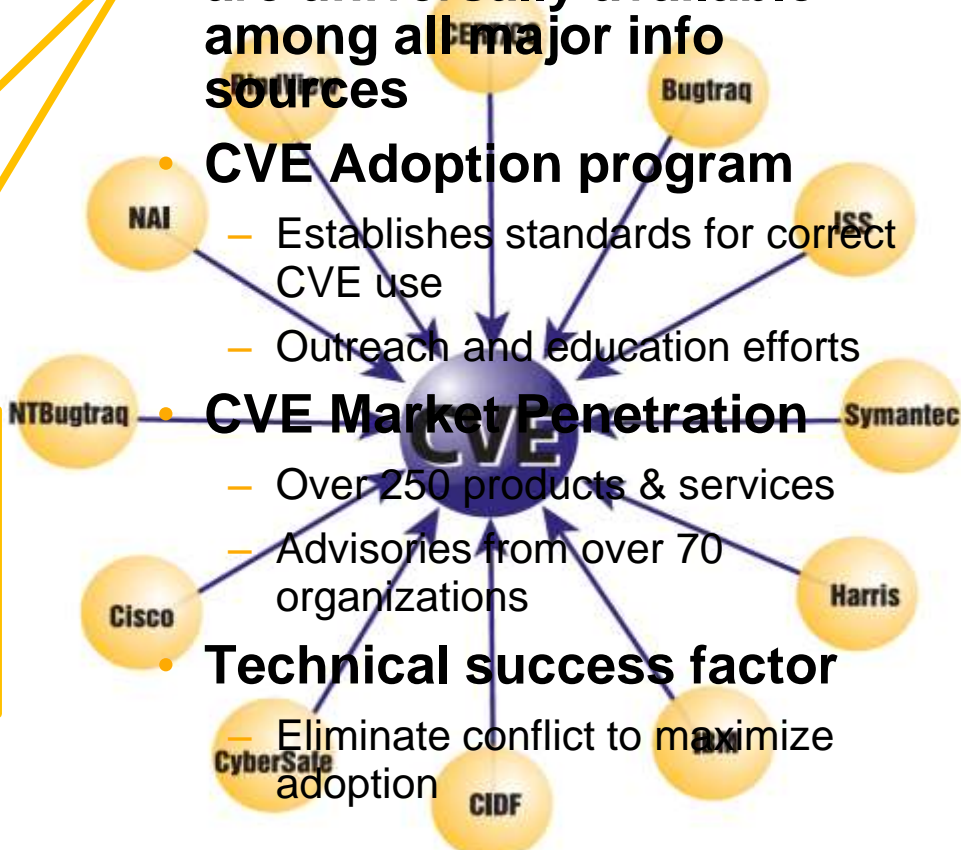


Value: Primary User – Vulnerability Triage

With CVE

- **Goal: Respond to new vulnerabilities**
 - Patch, reconfigure, block, stop service
- **Collaboration**
 - Security ops, system designers, network architects, financial risk mgmt
- **Considers multiple sources**
 - Vulnerability alert services, vulnerability scanners, IDS alerts, security advisories, patch information
- **MAJOR ROADBLOCK**
 - Which sources are talking about the same vulnerability?

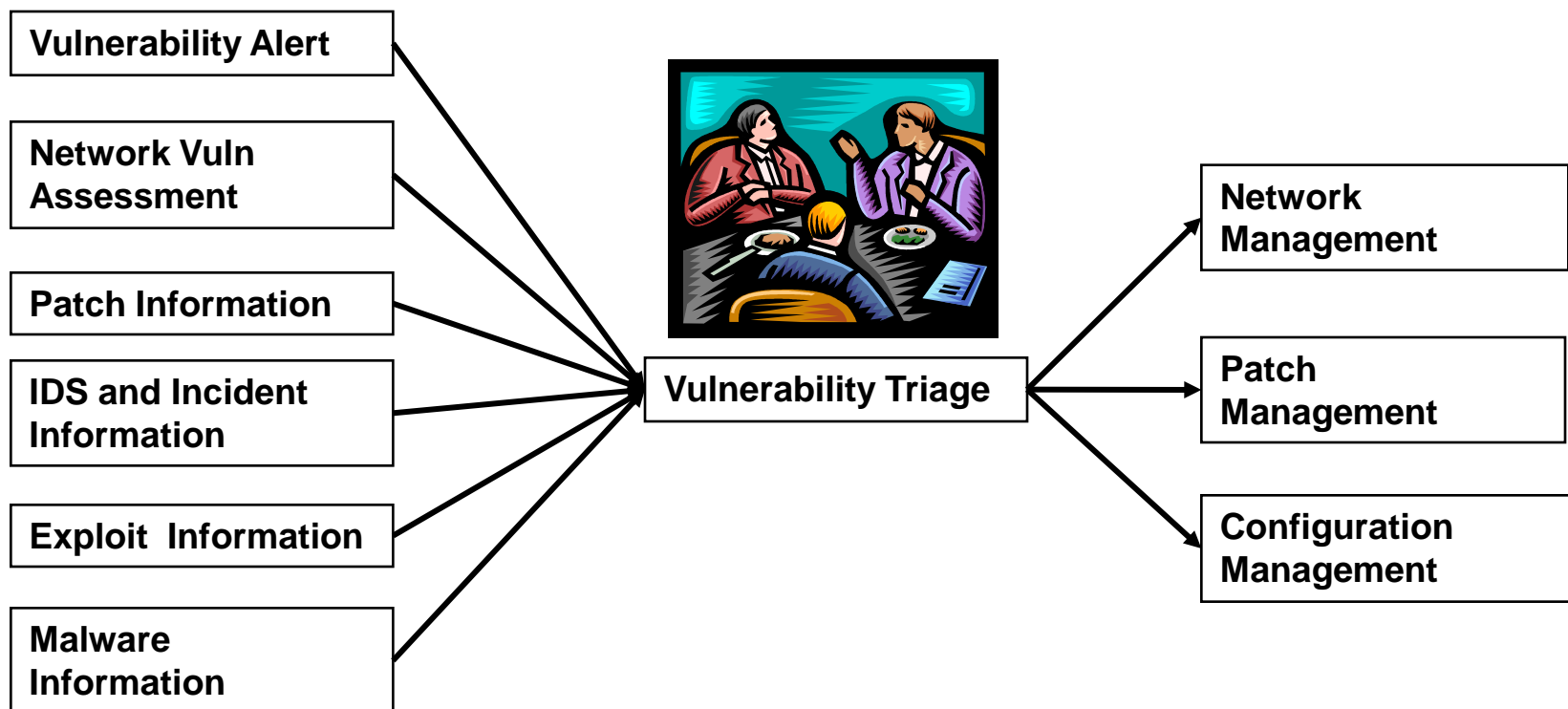
- **Only works when CVE ids are universally available among all major info sources**
- **CVE Adoption program**
 - Establishes standards for correct CVE use
 - Outreach and education efforts
- **CVE Market Penetration**
 - Over 250 products & services
 - Advisories from over 70 organizations
- **Technical success factor**
 - Eliminate conflict to maximize adoption



CVE-1999-0016

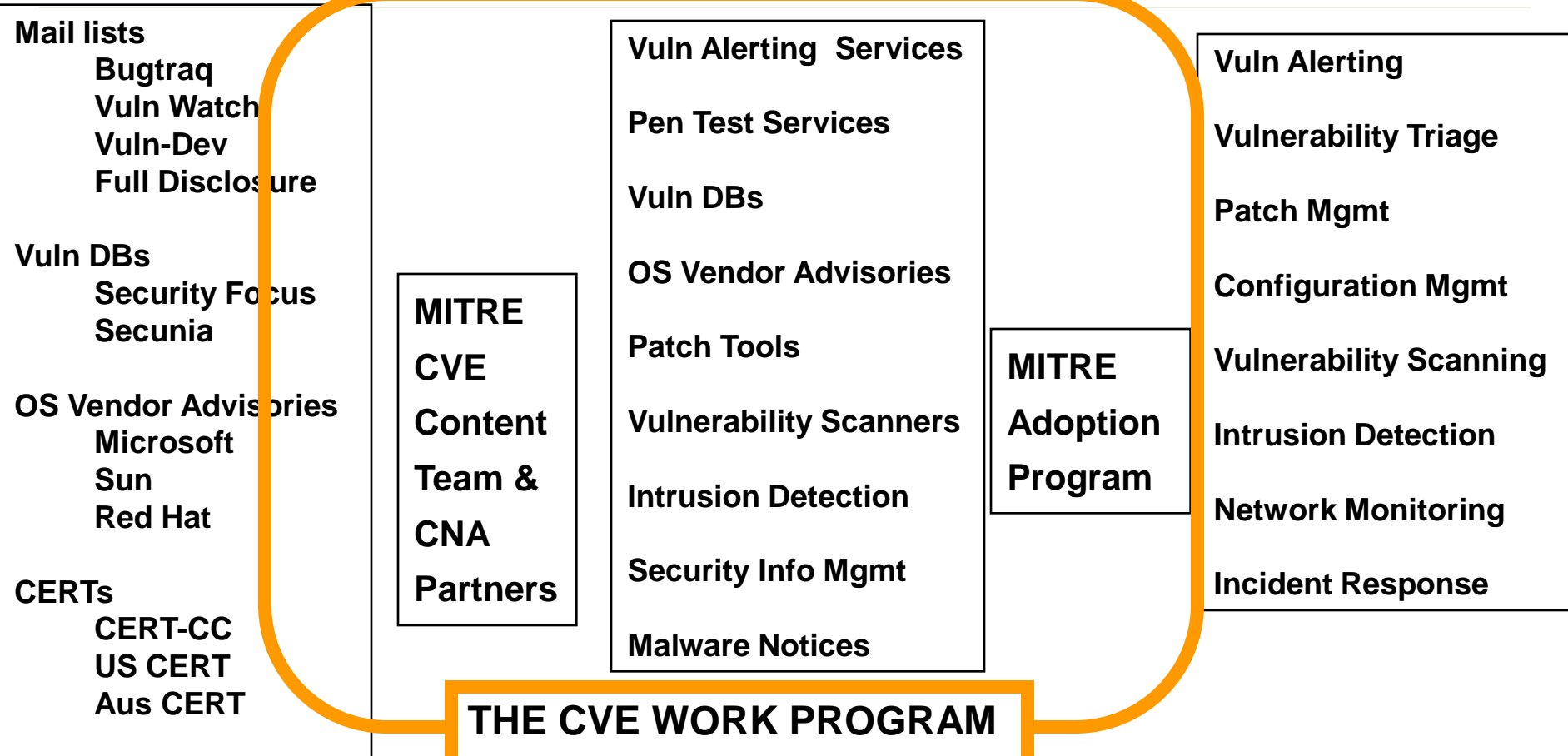
Land IP denial of service.

How CVEs Are Used



- **Used to correlate vulnerability information**
 - Like VINs at the Registry of Motor Vehicles
- **Slashes analysis time**
 - Users estimate by a factor of 10, at least

How CVE's Are Produced



THE CVE WORK PROGRAM

New Disclosures

Consolidated into CVEs & Published

CVE IDs Put Into Products by Vendors

Product Self-Cert

Enterprise Vulnerability Management

Where the CVE Items Come From

AXENT, BindView, Harris,
 Cisco, CERIAS



**Legacy
 Submissions**



Hiverworld, SecurityFocus, ISS,
 NAI, Symantec, Nessus



Alerts &
 Advisories
 w/candidates
 40-150
 per/month

New References
 650-900 per/month



**CVE Content
 Team**



ISS, SecurityFocus, Neohapsis,
 NIPC CyberNotes



Items with
 Unique
 CVE Names

~40,976

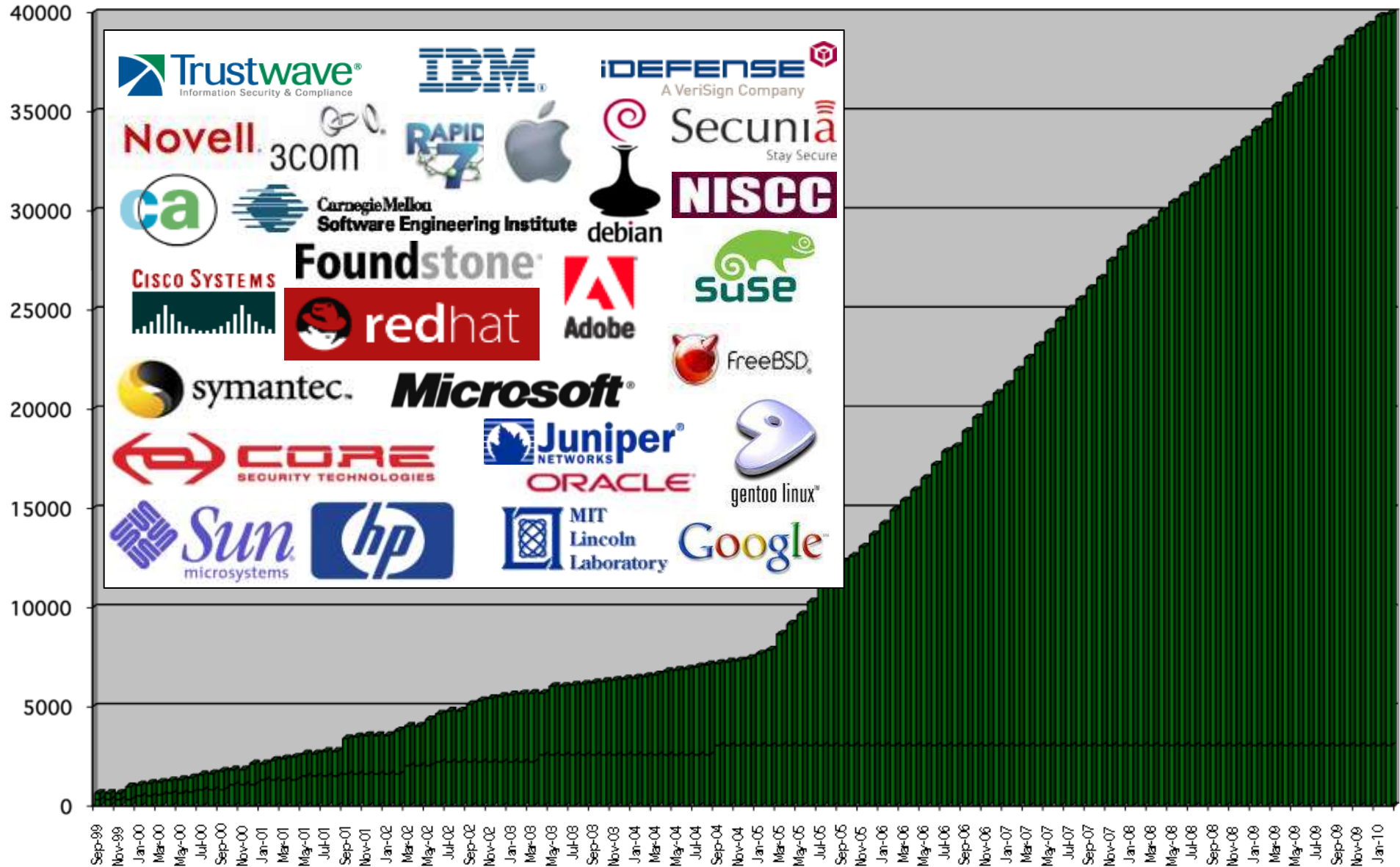
CVE Editorial Board



- Includes mostly technical representatives from 35 different organizations including researchers, tool vendors, response teams, and end users
- Reviews and approves CVE entries
- Discusses issues related to CVE maintenance
- Holds monthly meetings (face-to-face or phone)
- Maintains publicly viewable mailing list archives [cve.mitre.org/board/archives]

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the 'CVE Editorial Board Members' page. The page features a navigation menu on the left with links for 'GET CVE', 'EDITORIAL BOARD', 'MEMBERS', 'MEETINGS', 'MAIL ARCHIVE', 'ROLES, TASKS, & QUALIFICATIONS', 'ADDING NEW MEMBERS', 'CVE HOME', 'ABOUT', 'NEWS AND EVENTS', 'COMPATIBLE PRODUCTS', 'EDITORIAL BOARD', 'ADVISORY COUNCIL', 'PRESS VIEW', 'FREE NEWSLETTERS', and 'CONTACT US'. The main content area is titled 'Editorial Board Members' and lists members in several categories: 'Intrusion Detection Experts' (Scott Lawler, Steve Northcutt, Stuart Staniford), 'Network Security Analysts' (Eric Cole, Kelly Cooper), 'Security Services Vendors' (Ranson Nguyen, Larry Oliver, Franck Veysset), 'Academic / Educational' (Matt Bishop, Pascal Meunier, Alan Paller, Gene Spafford), 'Incident Response Teams' (Ken Armstrong, Bill Flithen, Shawn Herman, Jim Jones, John Rhodes), 'Information Providers' (Russ Cooper, Al Huger, Elias Levy, Peter Mell, Ken Williams), 'Tool Vendors' (Jimmy Alderson, Andy Balinsky, Scott Blake, Tim Collins, Renaud Daraison, John Flowers, Andre Frech, Kent Landfield, Jim Magdych, David Mann, Craig Ozancin, Paul Proctor, Mike Prosser, Marcus Ranum, Tom Stracener, Bill Wall, Kevin Ziese), 'Software Vendors' (Troy Bollinger, Mark Cox, Casper Dijk, David LeBlanc), and 'Other Security Experts' (Dana Foat, Stu Green, Adam Shostack). The MITRE logo and name are at the bottom right.

CVE 1999 to 2010



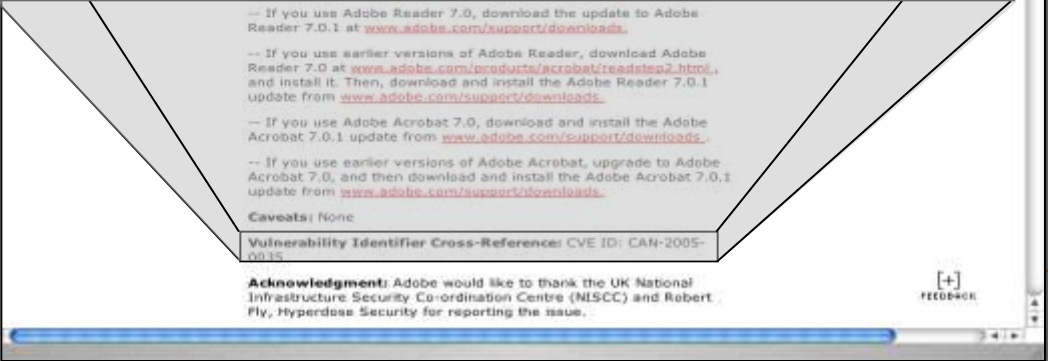
Many organizations are reserving CVE names and using them in their alerts and advisories

To-date, CVE names have been included in thousands of advisories from:

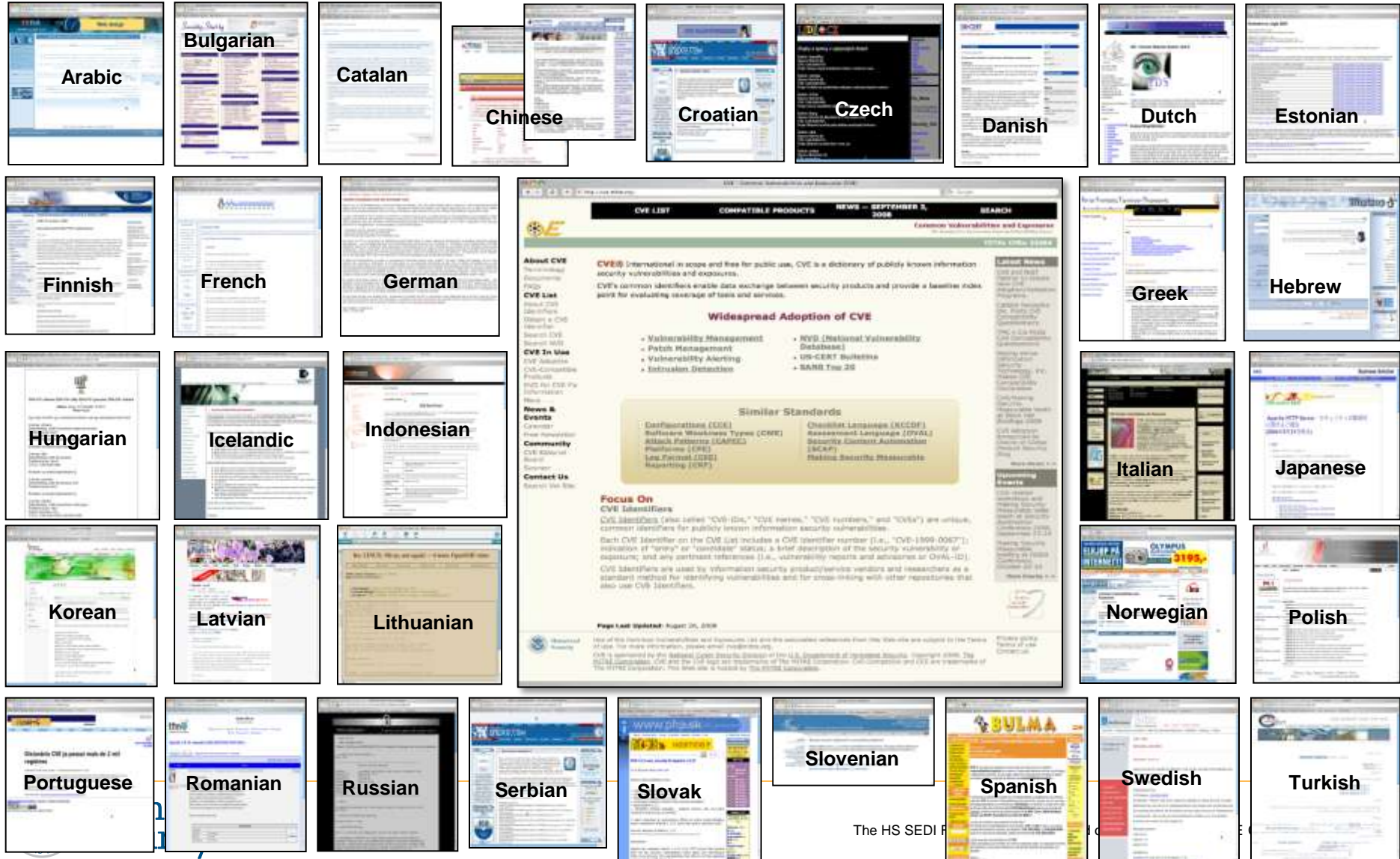
- ISS X-Force
- Rain Forest Puppy
- BindView
- CERT/CC
- COMPAQ
- Ernst & Young
- NSFOCUS
- VIGILANTE.com
- SecurityFocus
- Caldera
- EnGrade Secure Linux
- Mandrake Linux
- Foundstone
- iDEFENSE
- Symantec
- Beyond Security Ltd
- Digital Defense Inc.
- The OpenPKG Project
- The FreeBSD Project
- The NetBSD Project
- Slackware Linux
- Conectiva Linux
- AusCERT
- ThaiCERT
- HKCERT
- SURFnet-CERT
- Pine Digital Security
- Slovenian CERT
- FedoraNEWS.ORG
- CASESContact.org
- C.Enter Information-Technology
- Critical Watch
- CASESContact.org
- Ubuntu Linux
- AVET Info & Network Security
- Oracle
- IBM
- @stake
- NAI
- SGI
- Microsoft
- eEye
- CISCO
- Rapid 7
- Sanctum
- Corsaire
- Red Hat
- CERT-IAT
- Alcatel
- Debian
- Apple
- HP
- DHS/NIPC
- KDE e. V.
- Core-ST
- Gentoo Linux
- Immunix
- e-Matters
- Sun
- French CERT
- CERTin
- OpenSSL
- CERT Polska
- NoMachine
- K-OTik Security
- TurboLinux
- Zone-H.org
- K-OTik Security
- NISSC
- ACROS Security
- Adobe



**Vulnerability Identifier Cross-Reference:
CVE ID: CAN-2005-0035**



CVE is Widely Used & Available 43,335 and climbing...



Conference Outreach Efforts

GOVSEC JULY 23-25, 2003, WASHINGTON CONVENTION CENTER, WASHINGTON, DC
 Authentication Code Required
 all security • all government

Federal Information Assurance Conference 2003 FIAC
 October 21-23, 2003 • The Inn and Conference Center • University of Maryland

LISA '03 OCTOBER 26-31, SAN DIEGO, CA BY & FOR SYSADMINIS!
 THE 17TH LARGE INSTALLATION SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE

IA Workshop
 Feb 2-5, 2004 -- Hyatt Regency Hotel, Atlanta GA
 Fighting the Net - Securing Today's Battlefield

THIRTEENTH ANNUAL RSA Conference 2004
 February 23-27 • Moscone Center • San Francisco

MIS TRAINING INSTITUTE InfoSec World Conference and Expo/2004
 March 22 - 24, 2004 Orlando
 March 20, 21, 25, 26, 2004 Optional Workshops

MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA - JUNE 6-9

THE 2004 TECHNO SECURITY CONFERENCE


14TH ANNUAL **NetSec 2004** BUILDING THE SECURE ENTERPRISE
 ATTEND THE PREMIER CONFERENCE DEVOTED TO NETWORK SECURITY TECHNOLOGY
 JUNE 14-16, 2004 SAN FRANCISCO HYATT REGENCY EMBARCADERO


ISSA Information Systems Security Association
 May Chapter Meeting @ Hewlett-Packard


Information Assurance 2003 Building a Cohesive Enterprise Approach
 eogov Conference: September 15 - 17, 2003
 Exhibition: September 17, 2003
 Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, DC

2003 IEEE International Conference on Systems, Man & Cybernetics
 October 5-8, 2003 - Hyatt Regency, Washington, D.C., USA.

[STOS] Consortium Secure Trusted Operating System Consortium Announces Fifth Annual Symposium
 "Security: From Theory to Practice" Focus of Event
 Washington, DC, September 15, 2003 - The Secure Trusted Operating System Consortium (STOS) announced today it will hold its fifth annual symposium December 1-5, 2003 at George Washington University in Washington, DC.

Critical Issues Series: "Security Vulnerability Management"
 Friday, December 12, 2003
 7:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP, 125 High Street, Boston


3rd International Conference on COTS-Based Software Systems
 1-4 February 2004 • Redondo Beach, CA USA
 Matching Solutions to Problems


The British Computer Society Quality Special Interest Group's Annual International SQM and INSPIRE Conferences will be held from Monday 5th to Wednesday 7th of April 2004 at Canterbury Christ Church University College, Kent, UK.


STC 19 - 22 April 2004
 Salt Palace Convention Center
 Salt Lake City, UT
 The Sixteenth Annual Software Technology Conference



Secure Elements



We speak CVE®!

The INFOSEC Evaluation Methodology (IEM) is NSA's hands-on process for conducting evaluations of customer networks utilizing common technical evaluation tools. Students can expect to learn an easily repeatable methodology that provides each customer a roadmap for addressing their security concerns and increasing their security posture.

7/28 - 7/31, 2007	Las Vegas, NV
8/17 - 8/18, 2007	Omaha, NE
8/23 - 8/24, 2007	Sierra Vista, AZ
8/30 - 8/31, 2007	Miami, FL
8/30 - 8/31, 2007	Dayton, OH
9/13 - 9/14, 2007	Knoxville, TN

To register for one of these courses or to get further information, please contact us at:

(719) 488-4500
 info@securityhorizons.com
 http://www.securityhorizon.com



eEye

Symantec

NCircle

IBM/ISS

SAINT

NetClarity

McAfee



CA



PatchLink

Qualys

Qualys

SAINT

Sintelli



Making Security Measurable with Data Security Standards



Booths



Booths



Live Demo



NetIQ



Developer Days 05



Developer Days 06



BigFix



ArcSight

ThreatGuard

McAfee



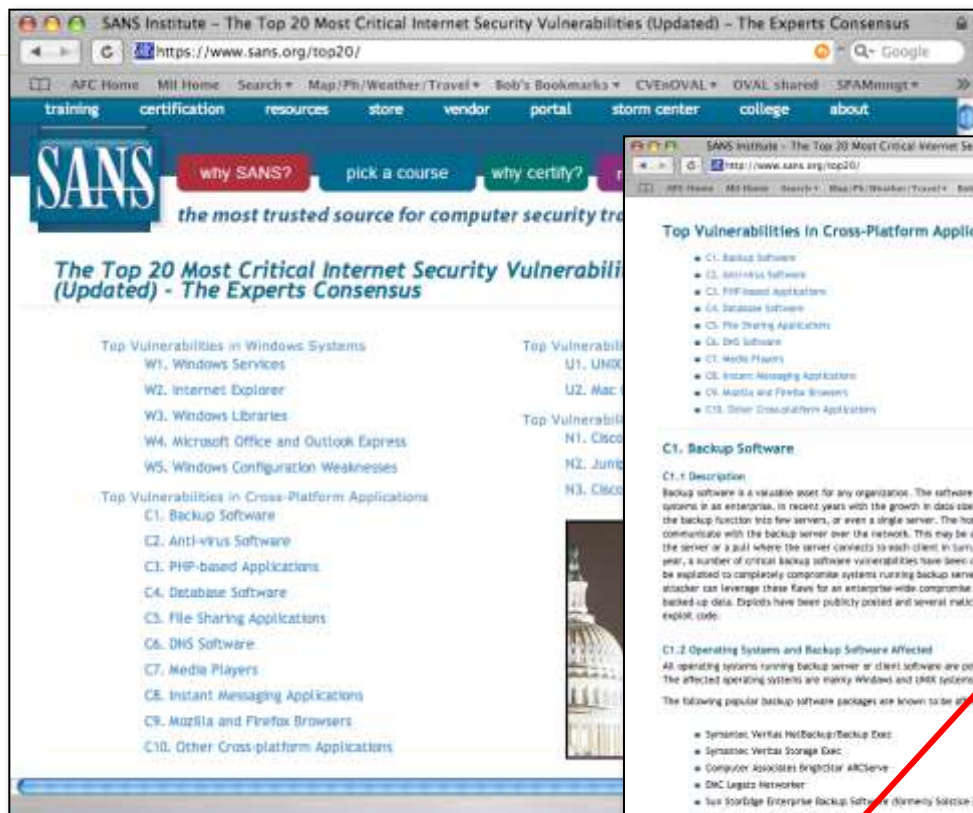
ConfigureSoft

CVE Vendor/Industry Penetration



259 PRODUCTS AND
SERVICES FROM 144
ORGANIZATIONS IN 25
COUNTRIES

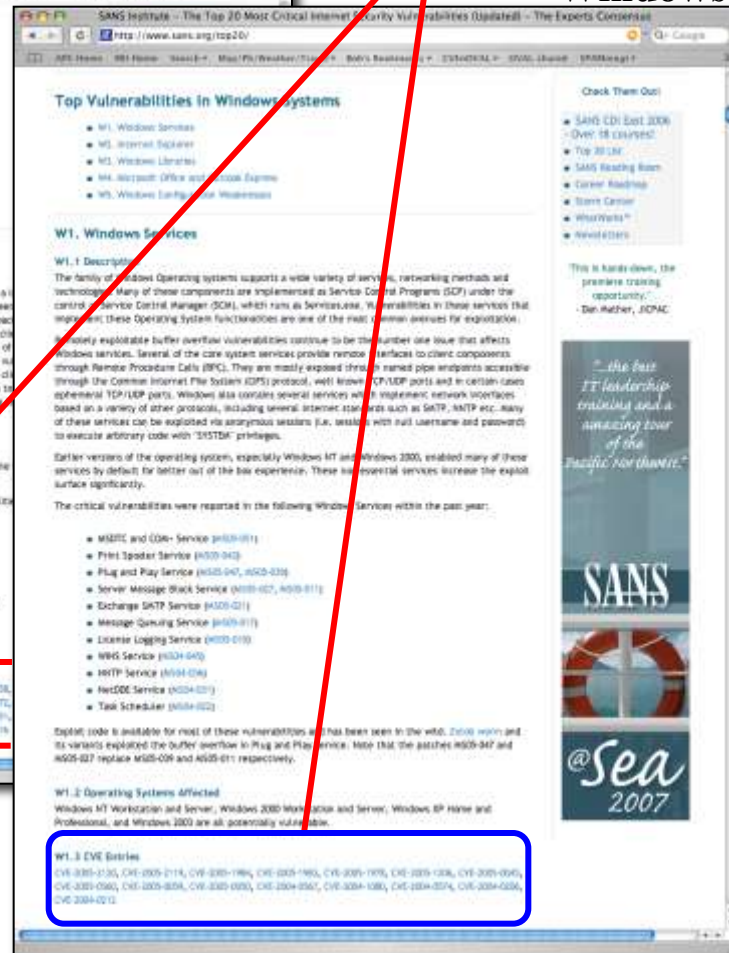
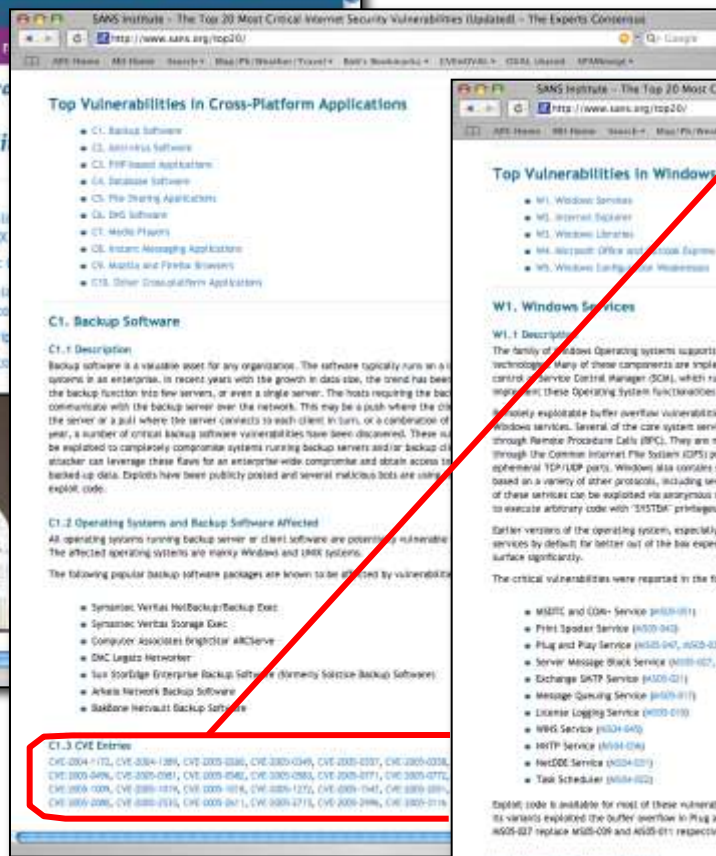
The SANS Institute Top 20 List has always used CVE names



Cross-Platform

CVE-names

Windows



<http://www.sans.org/top20/>



Homeland Security

DoD's Information Assurance Vulnerability Alerts (IAVAs) use CVE names

DOIM -- IAVA Information and Patches

http://pao.hood.army.mil/DOIM/iaiva.html

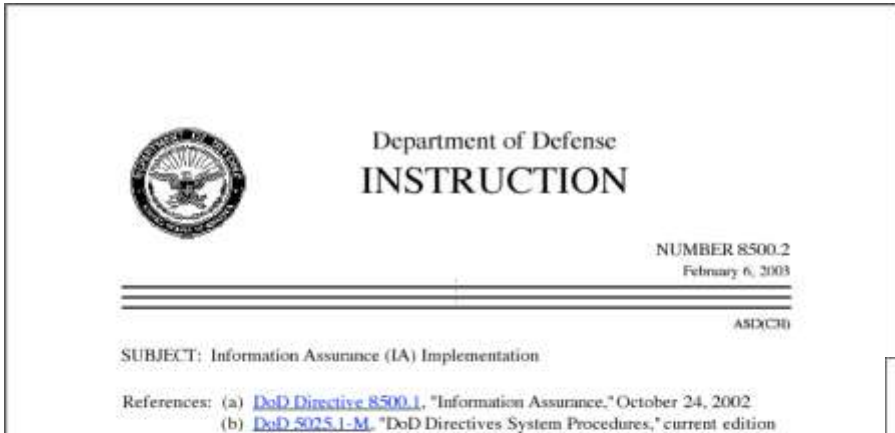
Information Assurance Vulnerability Alerts

FY 2002

IAVA NUMBER	CVE NUMBER	IAVA MESSAGE SUBJECT / DATE OF ISSUE	Acknowledge Receipt NLT	Date For Completion	OS / APPLICATION
A2002-0009	CAN-2002-0655, CAN-2002-0656, CAN-2002-0657, CAN-2002-0659	Multiple Vulnerabilities in OpenSSL	242100Z SEP 2002	182100Z OCT 2002	Multiple, see IAVA
A2002-0008	CAN-2002-0392	APACHE Web Server Chunk Handling Vulnerability	012100Z JUL 2002	262100Z JUL 2002	Apache Code Versions 1.2.2 and higher Apache Code Versions 1.3 through 1.3.24 Apache Code Versions 2.0 through 2.0.36
A2002-0007	CAN-2002-0071, 2002-0072, 2002-0073, 2002-0074, 2002-0075, 2002-0079, 2002-0147, 2002-0148, 2002-0149, 2002-0150	Multiple Vulnerabilities in Internet Information Server (IIS)	262100Z APR 2002	172100Z MAY 2002	Microsoft: Microsoft Internet Information Server 4.0; Microsoft Internet Information Server 5.0; Microsoft Internet Information Server 5.1 Cisco: Cisco CallManager 3.0, 3.1, 3.2; Cisco ICS 7750 1.0, 2.0; Cisco Unity; Cisco Building Broadband Service Manager 4.x, 5.x; Cisco uOne Enterprise Edition; Cisco E-mail Manager (CEM); Cisco Network Registrar (CNR); Cisco Intelligent Contact Manager (ICM)
A2002-0006	CVE CAN-2001-0803	Buffer Overflow in Common Desktop Environment(CDE) Subprocess Control (SPC) Server	282100Z JAN 2002	282100Z FEB 2002	All Unix systems to include; Sun Solaris 1.1-1.2, 2.0-2.6, 7, 8; Hewlett-Packard HP-UX 10.10, 10.20, 10.24, 11.00, 11.04, 11.11; IBM AIX 4.3, 5.1; SGI IRIX 5.2-6.4; Compaq Tru64 Digital UNIX 4.0f, 4.0g, 5.0a, 5.1, 5.1a; Caldera Open UNIX; UnixWare

CVE-names

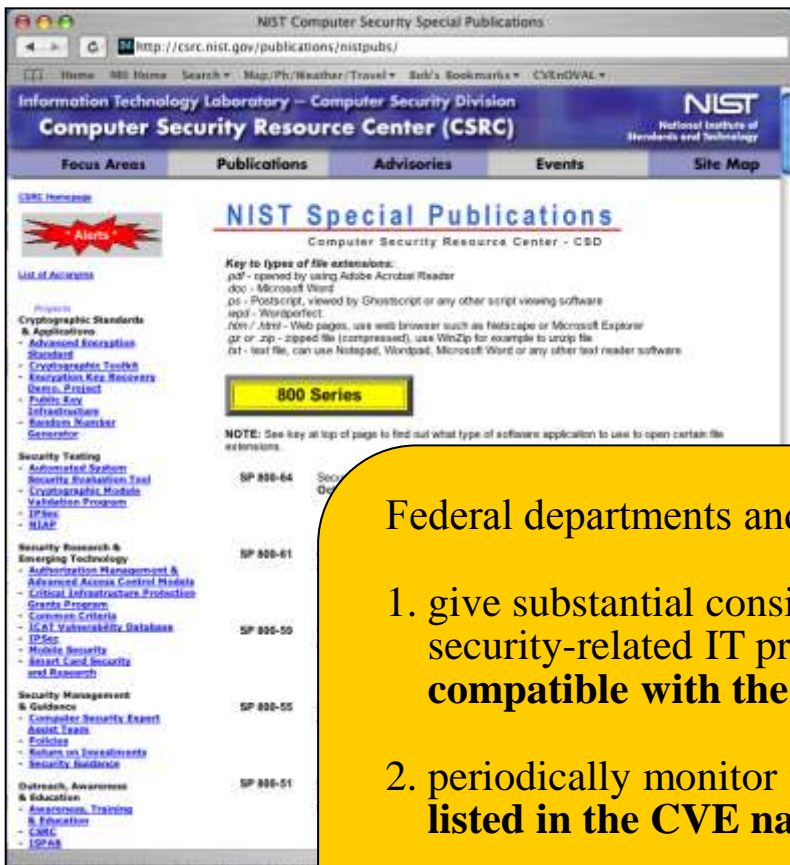
DoD 8500.2 IA Implementation Instruction gives preference to products supporting CVE & OVAL



The following appears for all three Mission Assurance Categories of DOD systems:

VIVM-1 Vulnerability Management:
 A comprehensive vulnerability management process ...
 automated vulnerability assessment or state management tools ...
 regular internal and external assessments are conducted ... For improved interoperability, preference is given to tools that express vulnerabilities in the **Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) naming convention** and use the **Open Vulnerability Assessment Language (OVAL)** to test for the presence of vulnerabilities.

National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST): Policy on the Use of CVE and CVE-Compatible products



NIST
 National Institute of
 Standards and Technology
 Technology Administration
 U.S. Department of Commerce

NIST Special Publication 800-51

Use of the Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) Vulnerability Naming Scheme

Federal departments and agencies should...

1. give substantial consideration to the acquisition and use of security-related IT products and services that are **compatible with the CVE naming scheme.**
2. periodically monitor their systems for applicable vulnerabilities **listed in the CVE naming scheme.**
3. **use the CVE vulnerability naming scheme** in their descriptions and communications of vulnerabilities





XCCDF security benchmark automation
OCIL

CPE

CRF ARF
OVAL

MAEC

CCE CCI

CVE

CWE

CAPEC

CIEL CEE

CVSS

NVD
nvd.nist.gov

SCAP™
FDCC

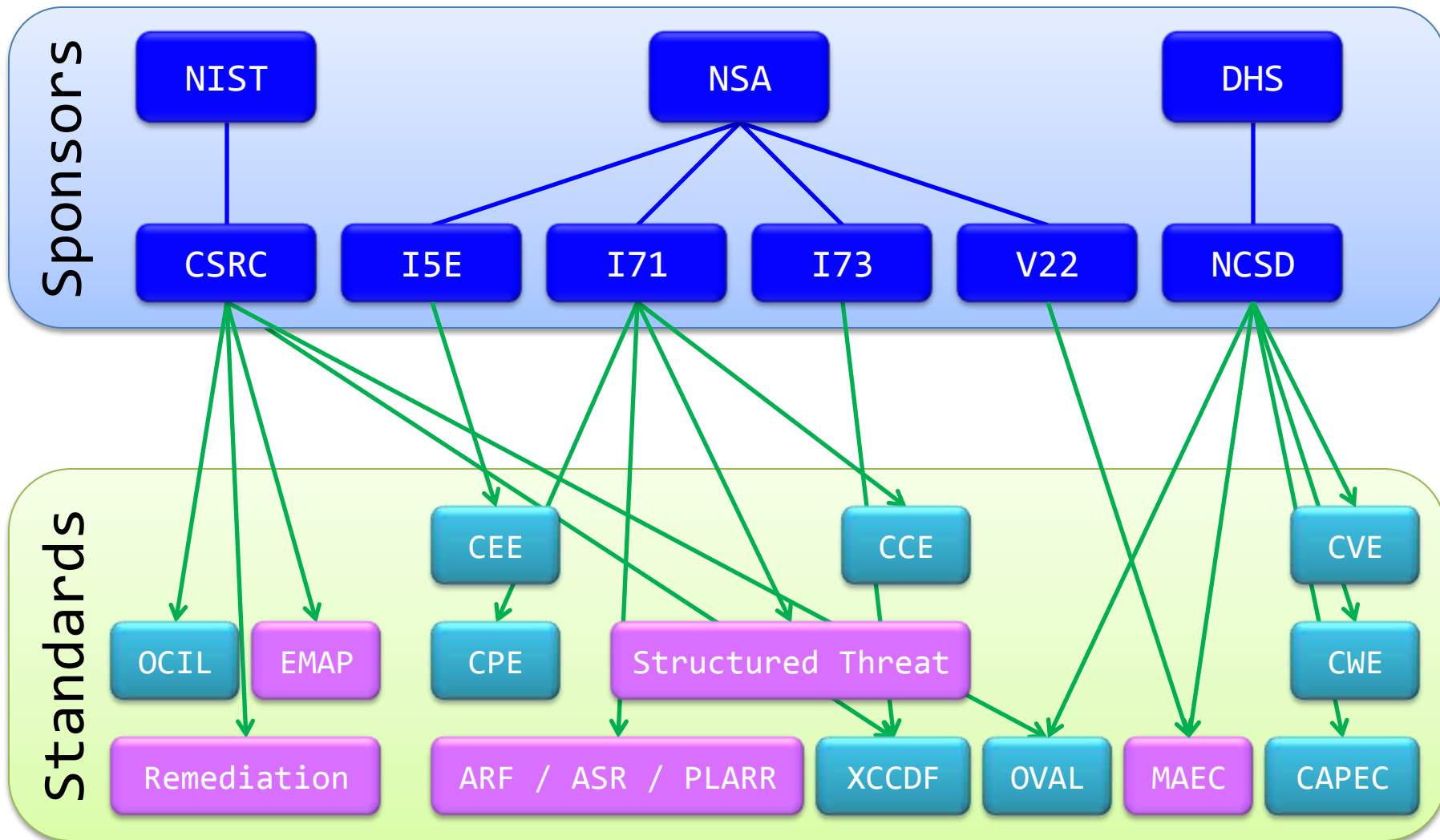
CAG

ITU-T

CCv4

The "Making Security Measurable" IA Standards Evolution

Funders of MITRE's work on the "Making Security Measurable" IA Standards Efforts



<http://www.first.org/cvss/>

HS SEDI



**The Common Vulnerability Scoring
System (CVSS) v2**

Original Author: Gavin Reid, Cisco

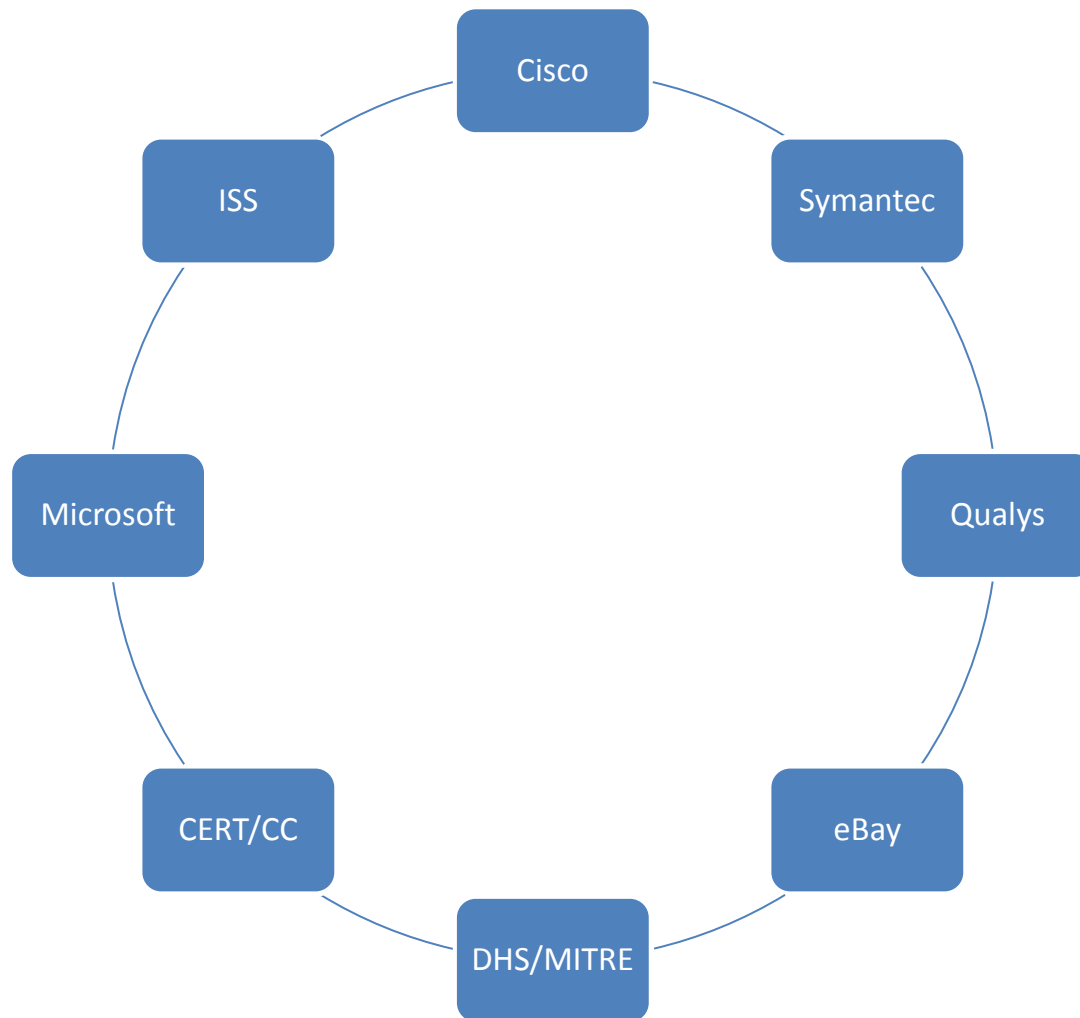
Agenda

- **Introduction and overview of CVSS**
- **Why CVSS?**
- **Internals**
- **Scoring**
- **Roadmap**
- **Closing comments and questions**

Overview

- **Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS)**
- A universal **language** to convey vulnerability **severity** and help determine **urgency** and **priority of response**
- **Solves problem of multiple, incompatible scoring systems in use today**
- **Initially a NIAC project**
 - Subgroup of the global Vulnerability Disclosure Framework WG
 - Now under the custodial care of FIRST-SIG
- **Usable, understandable, and dissectible by anyone**
- **Open**
- **v2 released (June 20th 2007)**

A joint NIAC effort



Early Adopters



Why CVSS?

■ Different Organizations

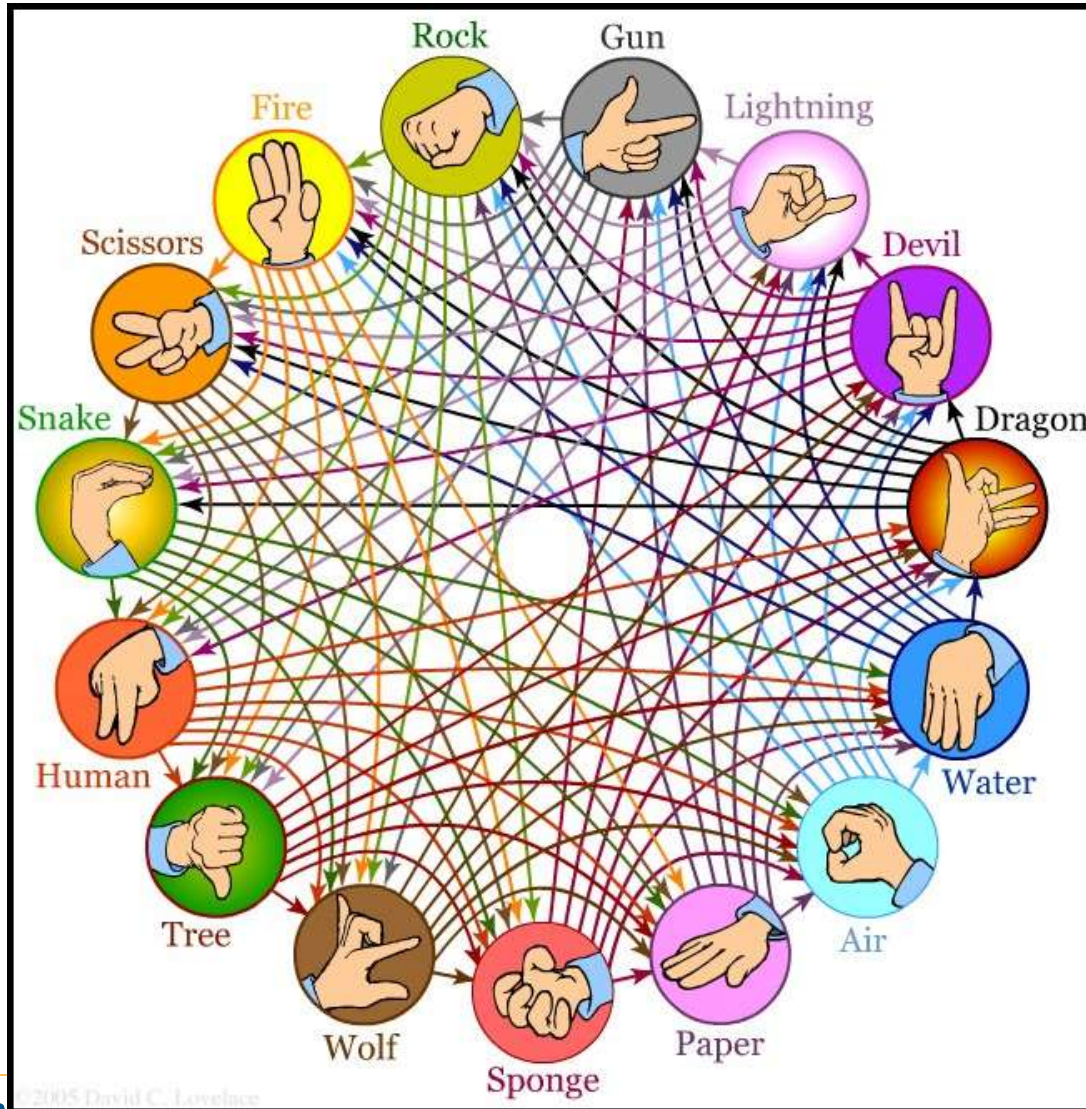
- Vendors (response)
- Coordinators (notification, coordination)
- Reporters (research, discovery)
- Users (mitigation)

■ Different roles, motivations, priorities, resources, etc

■ We need a common way to communicate!

■ Set an industry example on alert disclosure

Pre-CVSS



Vendor Scoring: Microsoft

Rating	Definition
Critical	A vulnerability whose exploitation could allow the propagation of an Internet worm without user action.
Important	A vulnerability whose exploitation could result in compromise of the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of users data, or of the integrity or availability of processing resources.
Moderate	Exploitability is mitigated to a significant degree by factors such as default configuration, auditing, or difficulty of exploitation.
Low	A vulnerability whose exploitation is extremely difficult, or whose impact is minimal.

Coordinator Scoring: CERT/CC

The metric value is a number between **0 and 180** that assigns an approximate severity to the vulnerability. This number considers several factors, including:

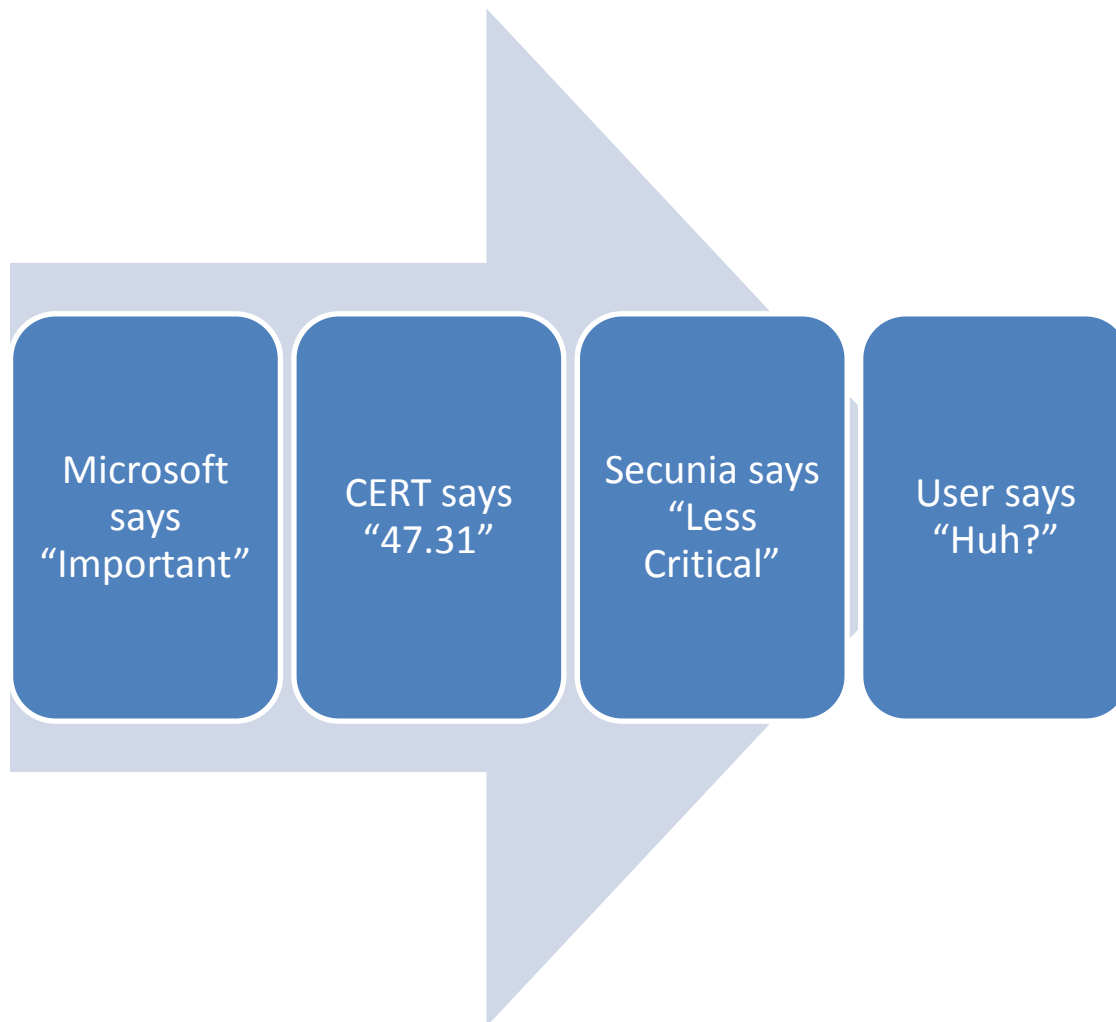
- Q1 Is information about the vulnerability widely available or known?
- Q2 Is the vulnerability being exploited in the incidents reported?
- Q3 Is the Internet Infrastructure at risk because of this vulnerability?
- Q4 How many systems on the Internet are at risk from this vulnerability?
- Q5 What is the impact of exploiting the vulnerability?
- Q6 How easy is it to exploit the vulnerability?
- Q7 What are the preconditions required to exploit the vulnerability?

$$3 * (Q1 + Q2 + Q3) * (Q4 * Q5 * Q6 * Q7) / (20^4)$$

Researcher Scoring: Secunia

Rating	Definition
Extremely Critical	Typically used for remotely exploitable vulnerabilities, which can lead to system compromise. Successful exploitation does not normally require any interaction and exploits are in the wild.
Highly Critical	As Above, no known exploits
Moderately Critical	As Above, but DoS only or requiring user interaction
Less Critical	XSS, privilege escalation, sensitive data exposure
Not Critical	Very limited privilege escalation, locally exploitable DoS, non-sensitive data exposure

And the User...?



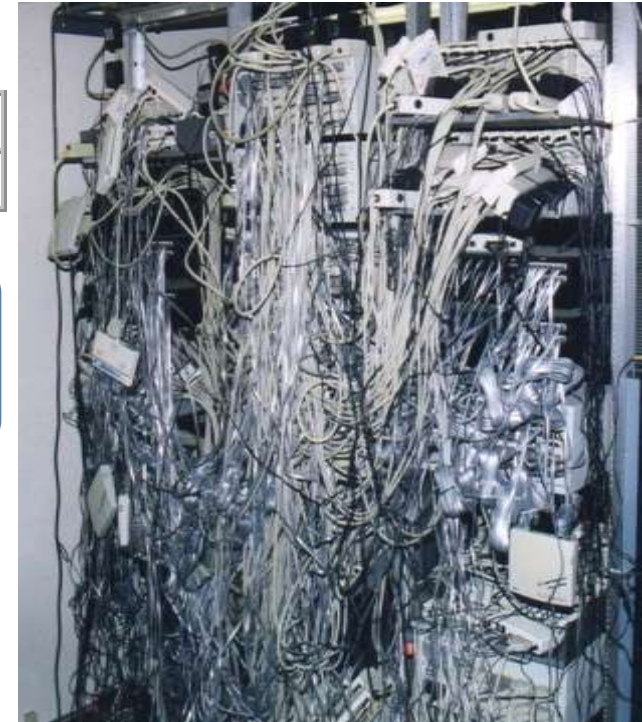
The Busy Security Operations Guy

2000-2005

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	1Q,2005
Vulnerabilities	1,090	2,437	4,129	3,784	3,780	1,220

What does it mean to have 4,129 vulnerabilities reported in 2002?

- Read the descriptions
 - 4,129 vulnerabilities * 15 minutes = 129 days
- Affected by 10% of the vulnerabilities?
- Install patches on one system
 - 413 vulnerabilities * 1 hour = 52 days
- Reading reports and patching a single system costs 129 + 52 = 181 days
- Which vulnerability should I patch first? Remote root in DNS? Web server? Desktop systems? DoS affecting routing infrastructure?



Scoring Discrepancy Chart

TOP STORY CHART

A LOOK AT RECENT VULNERABILITY RATINGS



Each organization that rates security flaws in vendors' products uses its own rating scale (depicted numerically in the chart below) and often differs from other groups on the severity of these vulnerabilities. For companies that use these ratings to develop a proactive security posture, it can be difficult to sift through the conflicting threat information to determine how—or if—a particular vulnerability will affect their network. Following are ratings of recent high-profile security vulnerabilities from several organizations that regularly publish threat analysis information.

Vulnerability (CVE Number)	Symantec*	National Vulnerability Database CVSS	eEye	Secunia	Internet Security Systems	FrSIRT	McAfee
Symantec Client Security and Symantec AntiVirus Elevation of Privilege (CVE-2006-2630)	9.4/10 (aggregate)	7/10	High (3/3)	Moderately critical (3/5)	High (3/3)	Critical (4/4)	Did not rate
Cisco Wireless Access Point Web Interface Authorization Bypass (CVE-2006-3291)	9.8/10 (aggregate)	7/10	Did not rate	Less critical (2/5)	Medium (2/3)	Moderate (2/4)	Did not rate
Cisco Internet Key Exchange Denial Of Service Vulnerability (CVE-2006-3906)	6/10 (aggregate)	2.3/10	Did not rate	Did not rate	Low (1/3)	Did not rate	Did not rate
Cisco Secure ACS Session Management Security Issue (CVE-2006-3226)	9.4/10 (aggregate)	7/10	Did not rate	Less critical (2/5)	Medium (2/3)	Low (1/4)	Did not rate
Symantec Backup Exec Multiple Heap Overflow Vulnerabilities (CVE-2006-4128)	8.8/10 (aggregate)	4.2/10	Did not rate	Moderately critical (3/5)	High (3/3)	Critical (4/4)	Did not rate
IBM Informix Dynamic Server Multiple Vulnerabilities (multiple CVE entries)	9.8/10 (aggregate)	4.5/10 (aggregate)	Did not rate	Moderately critical (3/5)	High (3/3)	High (3/4)	Did not rate
Apple Xsan Path Name Buffer Overflow Vulnerability (CVE-2006-3506)	9.4/10 (aggregate)	4.9/10	Did not rate	Less critical (2/5)	Did not rate	Moderate (2/4)	Did not rate
McAfee SecurityCenter Vulnerability (CVE-2006-3961)	7.8/10 (aggregate)	7/10	High (3/3)	Highly critical (4/5)	High (3/3)	Critical (4/4)	Medium (2/3)

Note: CVE = Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (A list of standardized names for vulnerabilities and other information security exposures funded by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security);

FrSIRT = French Security Incident Response Team

*Symantec scores are presented in aggregate of three separate DeepSight Threat Management System ratings: Urgency, Impact and Severity



How does CVSS work?

Metrics and formulas
yield a score

That's all!



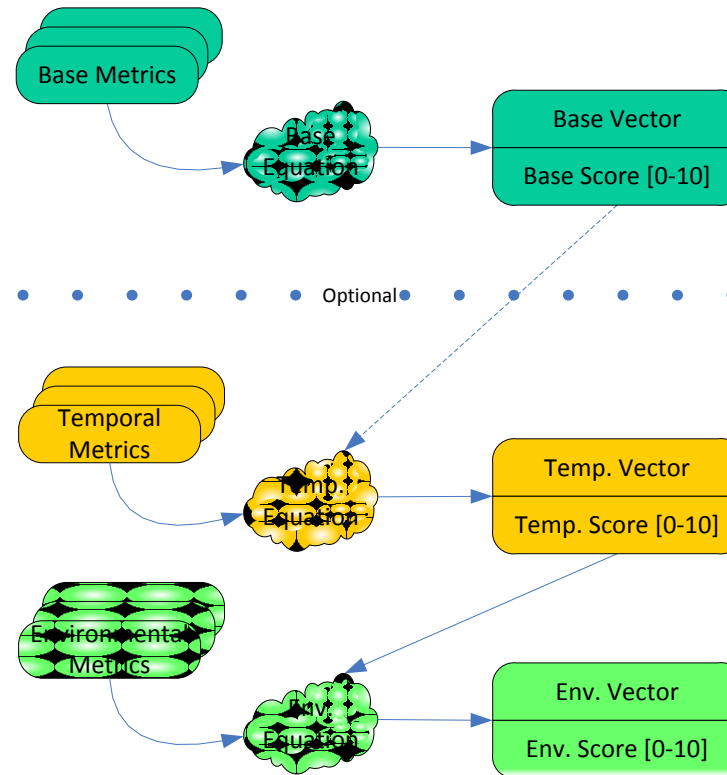
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CVSS (Metrics View)



Base Metric Group

- Most fundamental qualities of a vulnerability
- Do not change; “Immutable”
- Intrinsic attributes of a vulnerability
- 6 Base metrics

Access Complexity

Authentication

Impacts (CIA)



Access Vector (AV)

Measures whether a vulnerability is exploitable locally or remotely

Local (L): The vulnerability is only exploitable locally

Adjacent Network (A): The vulnerability must be staged from either the broadcast or collision domain of the vulnerable software

Network (N): The vulnerability is exploitable remotely (and possibly locally as well) An example of a network attack is an RPC buffer overflow.



Access Complexity (AC)

Measures the complexity of attack required to exploit the vulnerability once an attacker has access to the target system

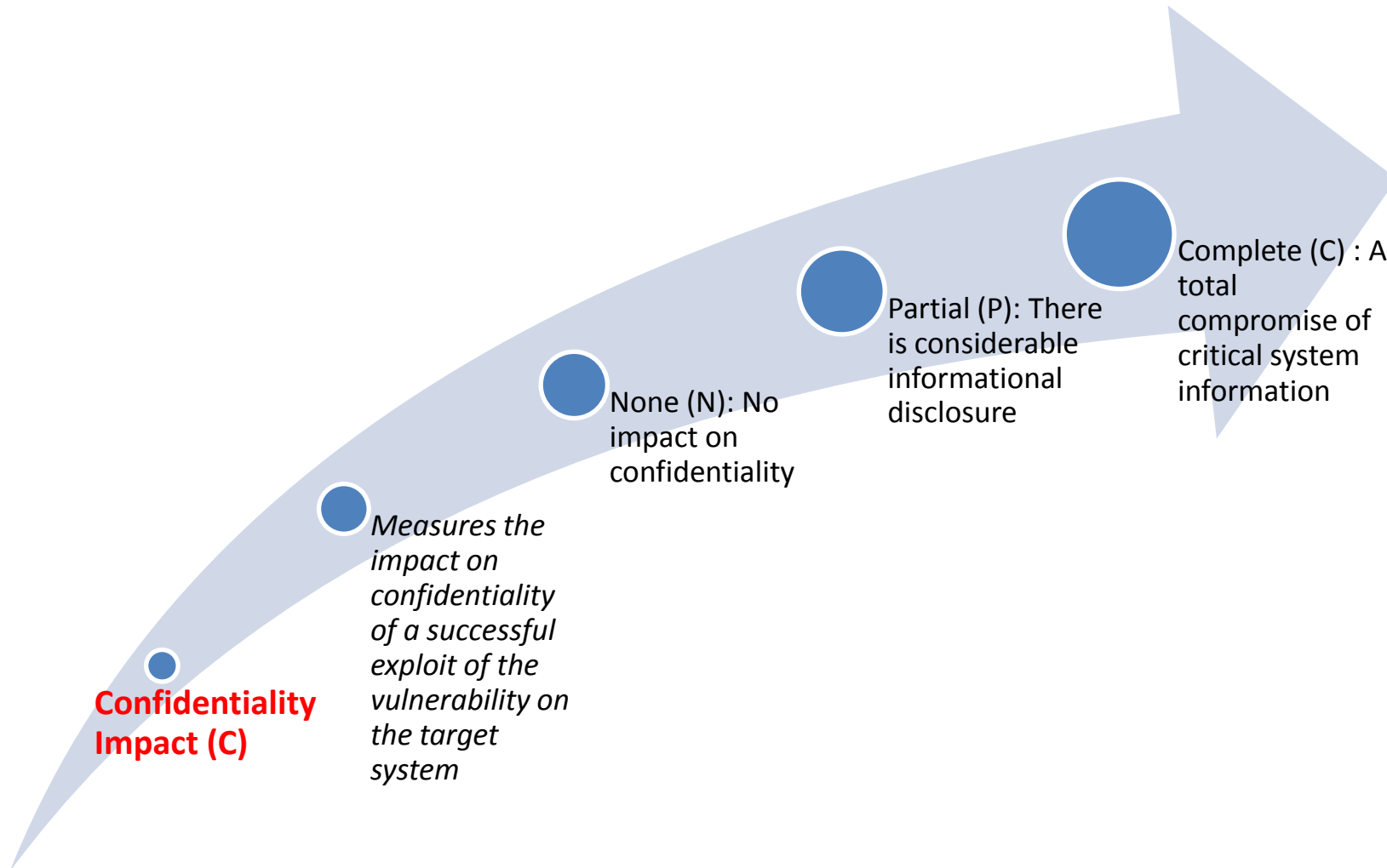
High (H) : Specialized access conditions exist. For example: In most configurations, the attacking party must already have elevated privileges or spoof additional systems in addition to the attacking system (e.g., DNS). The attack depends on social engineering methods that would be easily detected by knowledgeable people. For example, the victim must perform several suspicious or atypical actions. The vulnerable configuration is seen very rarely in practice. - If a race condition exists, the window is very narrow.

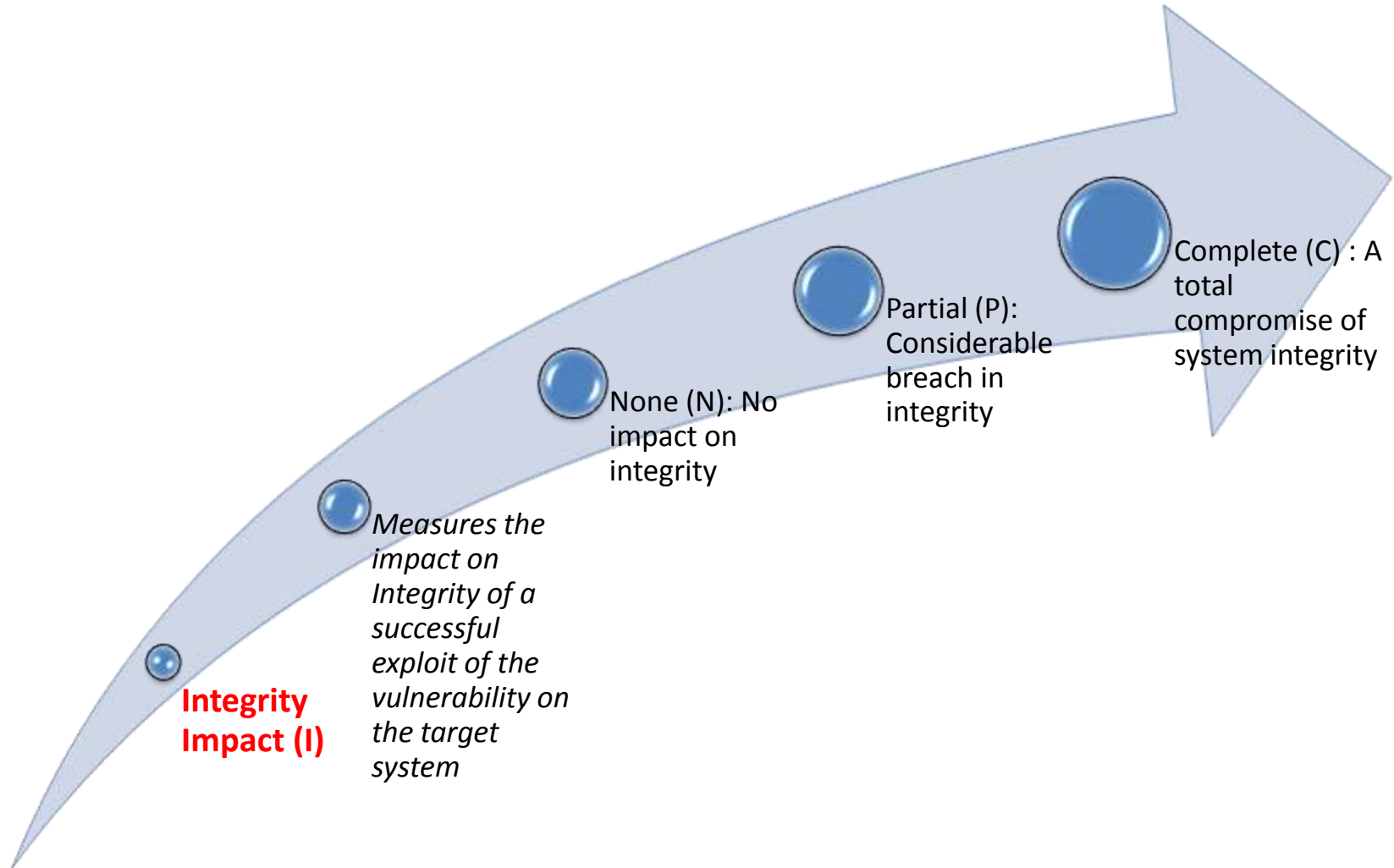
Medium (M) : The access conditions are somewhat specialized; the following are examples: The attacking party is limited to a group of systems or users at some level of authorization. The affected configuration is non-default, and is not commonly configured. The attack requires a small amount of social engineering that might occasionally fool cautious

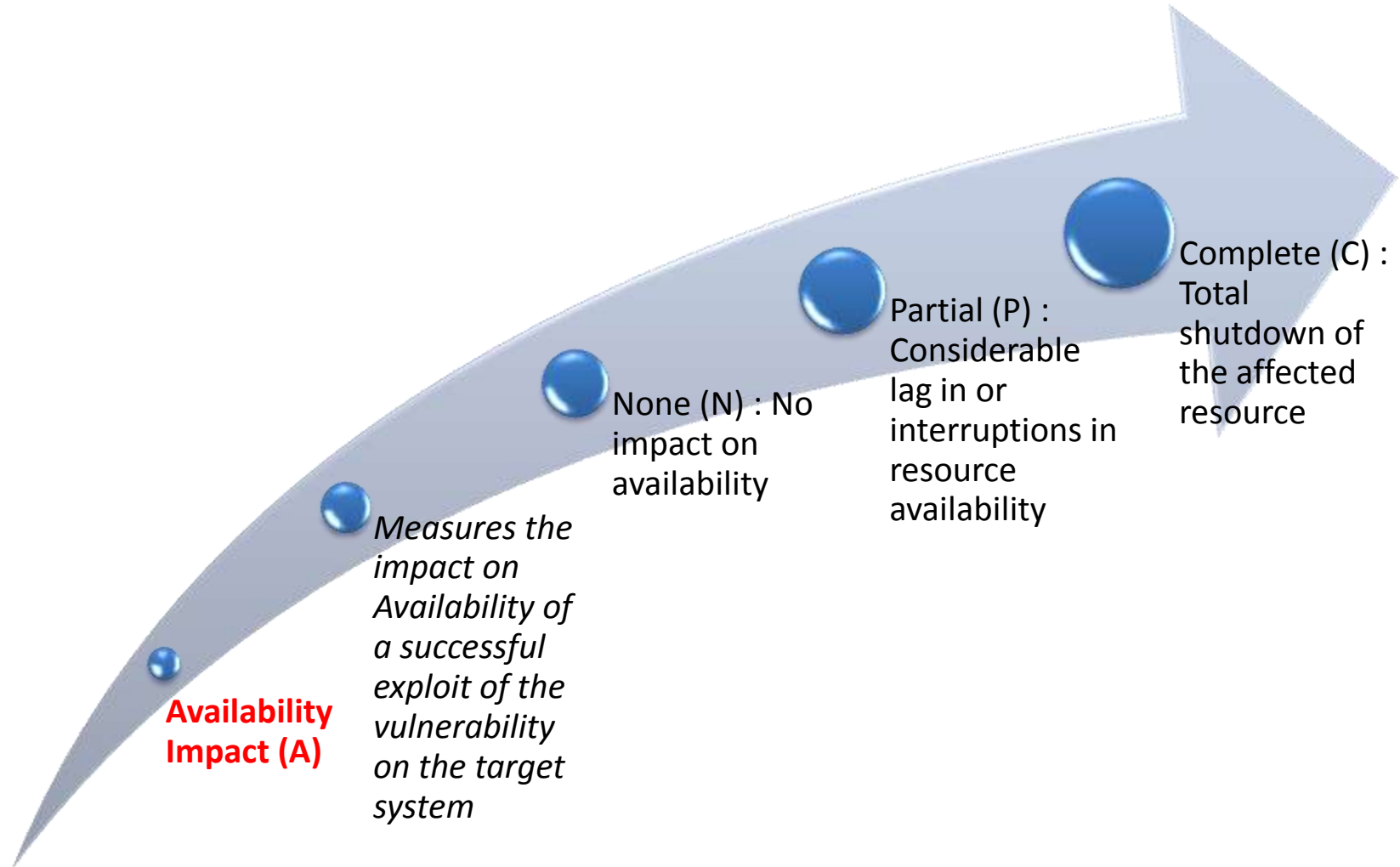
Low (L) : Specialized access conditions or extenuating circumstances do not exist. The following are examples: The affected product typically requires access to a wide range of systems and users, possibly anonymous and untrusted (e.g., Internet-facing web or mail server). The attack can be performed manually and requires little skill or additional information gathering. Used default configuration

Authentication (Au)

- Measures whether or not an attacker needs to be authenticated to the target system in order to exploit the vulnerability
- **Multiple (M)** Exploiting the vulnerability requires that the attacker authenticate two or more times, even if the same credentials are used each time. An example is an attacker authenticating to an operating system in addition to providing credentials to access an application hosted on that system.
- **Single (S)** The vulnerability requires an attacker to be logged into the system (such as at a command line or via a desktop session or web interface).
- **None (N)** Authentication is not required to exploit the vulnerability.



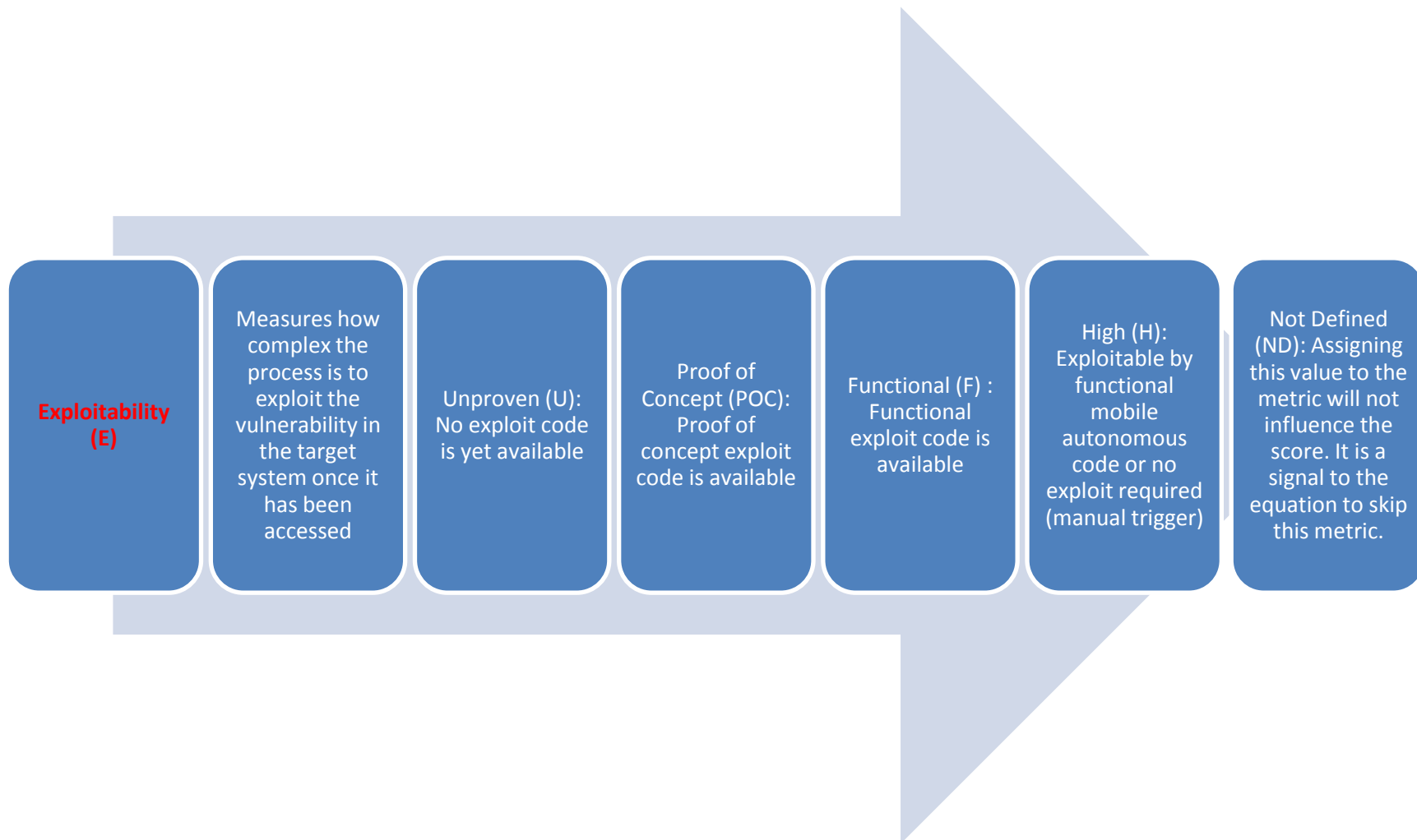




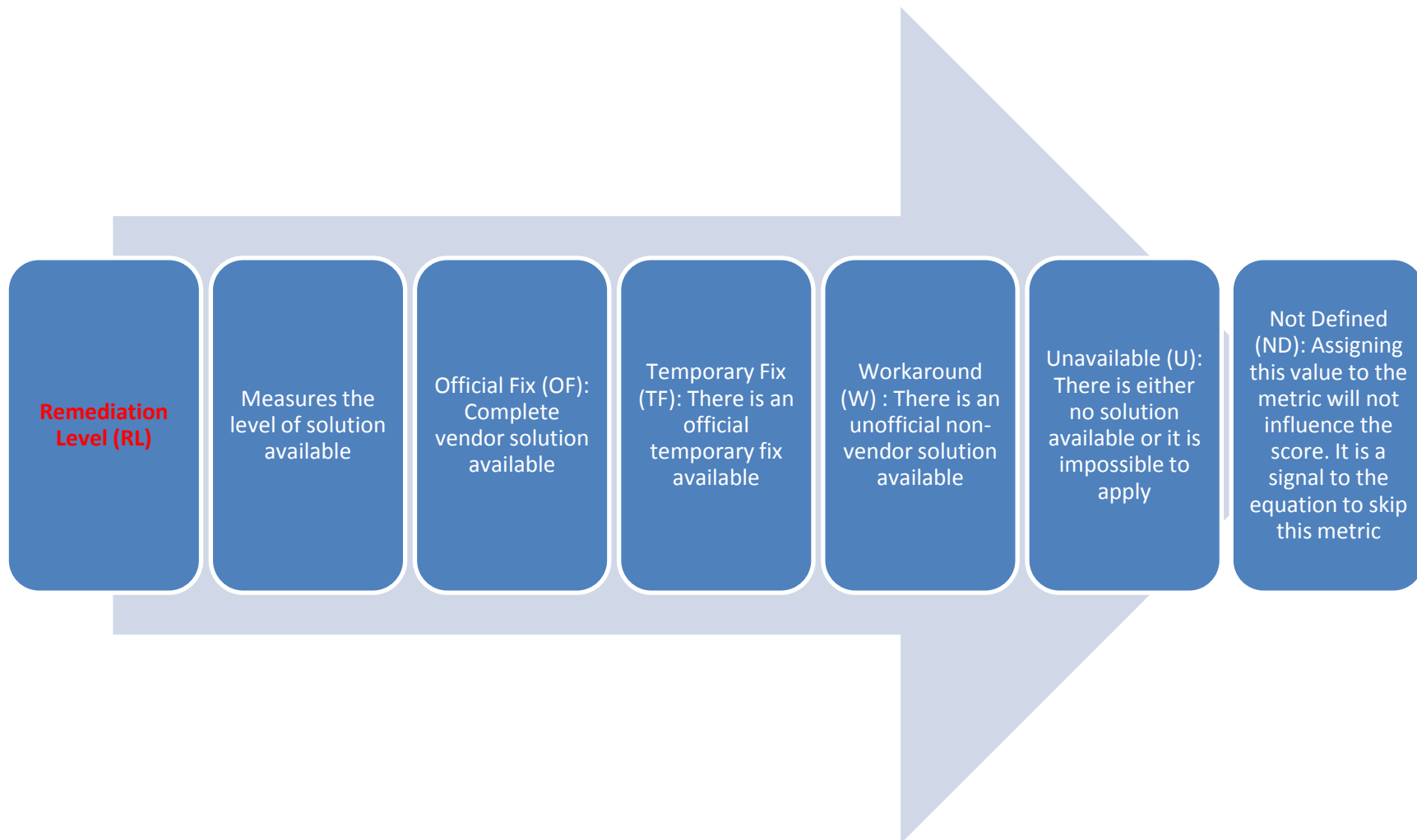
- Time dependent qualities of a vulnerability
- 3 Temporal metrics



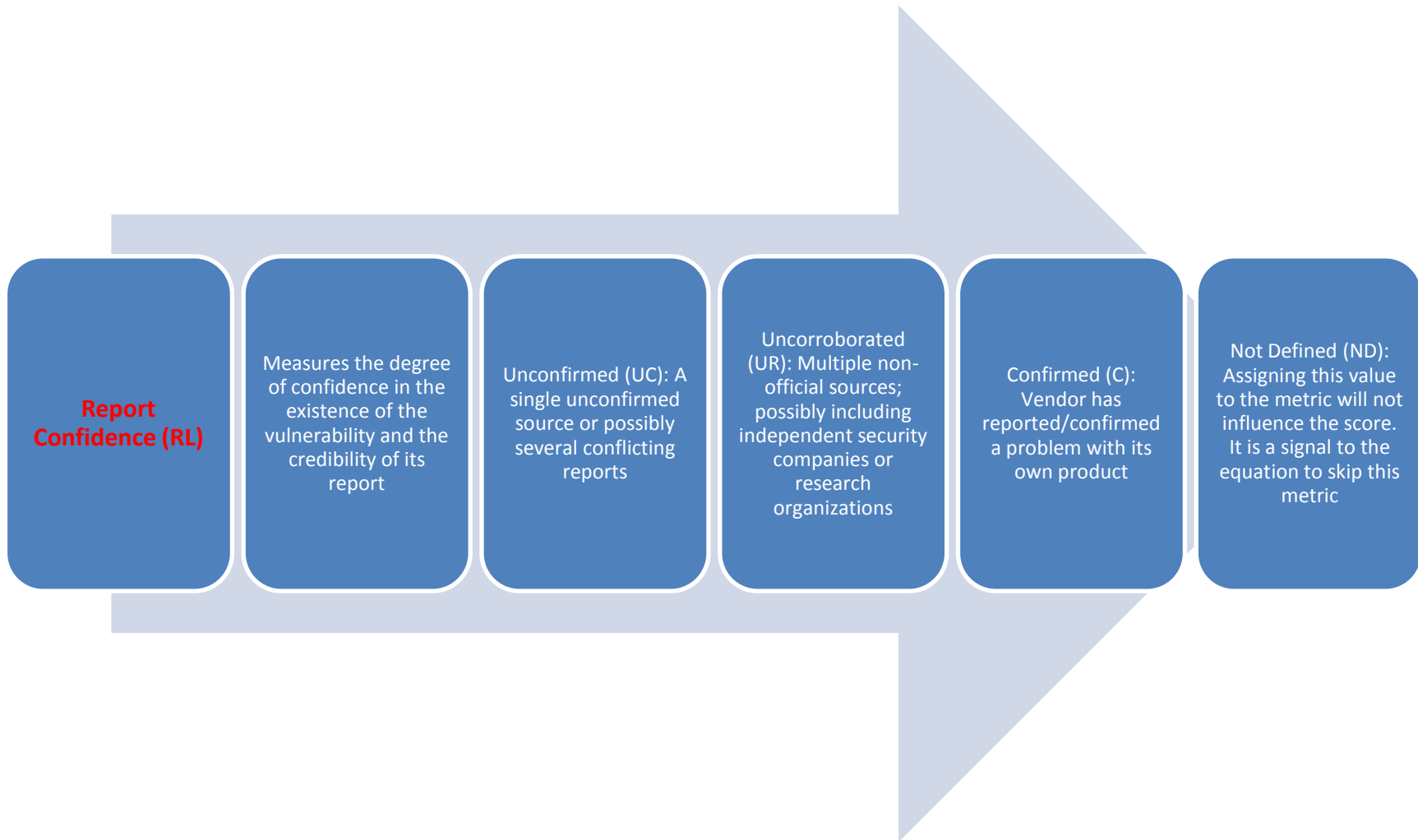
Temporal Metrics



Temporal Metrics



Temporal Metrics



- Implementation and environment specific qualities of a vulnerability
- 3 Environmental metrics



Collateral Damage Potential (CDP)

- This metric measures the potential for loss of life or physical assets through damage or theft of property or equipment.
- **None (N)**: There is no potential for physical assets, productivity or revenue damage
- **Low (L)**: A successful exploit of this vulnerability may result in slight loss of revenue or productivity to the organization
- **Low-Medium (LM)**: A successful exploit of this vulnerability may result in moderate loss of revenue or productivity to the organization.
- **Medium-High (MH)**: A successful exploit of this vulnerability may result in significant loss of revenue or productivity
- **High (H)**: A successful exploit of this vulnerability may result in catastrophic loss of revenue or productivity.
- **Not Defined (ND)**: Assigning this value to the metric will not influence the score. It is a signal to the equation to skip this metric

Environmental Metrics

Target Distribution (TD)

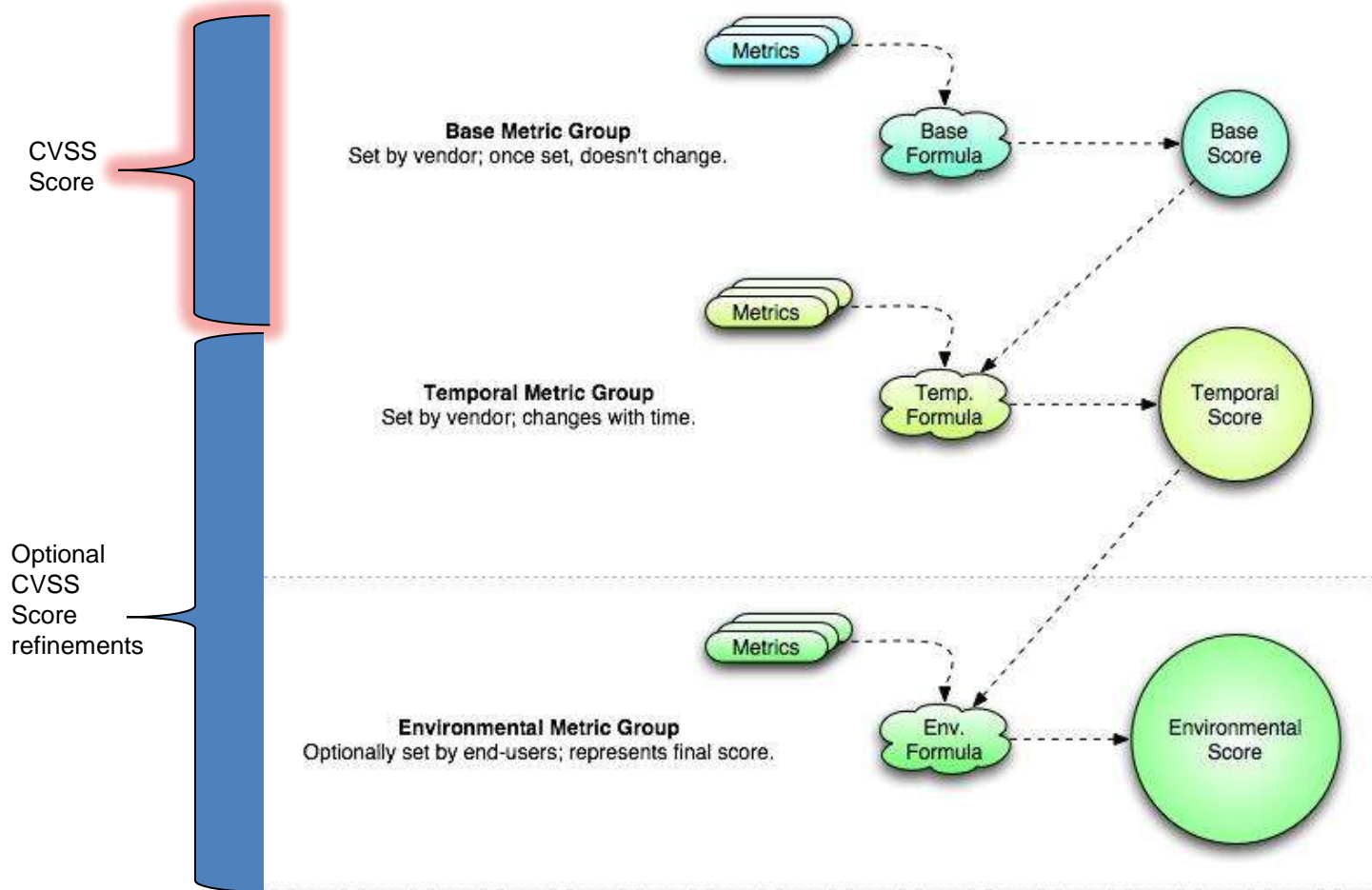
- Measures the relative size of the field of target systems susceptible to the vulnerability
- **None (N)** : No target systems exist, or targets are so highly specialized that they only exist in a laboratory setting (0%)
- **Low (L)**: Targets exist inside the environment, but on a small scale (1% - 15%)
- **Medium (M)**: Targets exist inside the environment, but on a medium scale (16% - 49%)
- **High (H)** : Targets exist inside the environment on a considerable scale (50% - 100%)
- **Not Defined (ND)**: Assigning this value to the metric will not influence the score. It is a signal to the equation to skip this metric

Impact Requirement (IR) based of FIPS 199

- This metric enables the analyst to customize the CVSS score depending on the criticality of the affected IT asset.
- **Low (L):** Loss of [confidentiality | integrity | availability] is likely to have only a limited adverse effect on the organization or individuals associated with the organization
- **Medium (M):** Loss of [confidentiality | integrity | availability] is likely to have a serious adverse effect on the organization or individuals associated with the organization
- **High (H):** Loss of [confidentiality | integrity | availability] is likely to have a catastrophic adverse effect on the organization or individuals associated with the organization
- **Not Defined (ND):** Assigning this value to the metric will not influence the score. It is a signal to the equation to skip this metric

- **The process of combining metric values**
- **Base score is the “foundation” and stands alone as the CVSS representation of a vulnerability attributes**
 - Modified by Temporal and Environmental metrics
- **Base and Temporal scores computed by vendors and coordinators with the intent of being published**
- **Environmental score optionally computed by end-user / organization**

CVSS (Scoring View)



- **Computed by vendors and coordinators**
- **Combines innate characteristics of the vulnerability**
- **The base score has the largest bearing on the final score**
 - Computed primarily from the Impact Metrics
- **Represents vulnerability **severity****

Temporal Scoring

- Computed by vendors and coordinators
- Modifies the Base Score
- Allows for the introduction of mitigating factors to reduce the score of a vulnerability
- Designed to be re-evaluated at specific intervals as a vulnerability ages
- Represents **urgency** at specific points in time

- Computed by end users
- Adjusts combined Base-Temporal score
- Should be considered the FINAL score
- Represents a snapshot in time, tailored an environment
- User organizations will use this to **prioritize responses** within their own environments

Format for publishing Vectors

- Every application or service that uses the Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) should provide not only the CVSS score - but also a vector describing the components from which the score was calculated.
- This allows end-users to validate score while providing a common set of vulnerability attributes to be disclosed

CVSS Base Vectors

CVSS vectors containing only base metrics take the following form:

(AV:[L,A,N]/AC:[H,M,L]/Au:[M,S,N]/C:[N,P,C]/I:[N,P,C]/A:[N,P,C])

<http://nvd.nist.gov/cvss.cfm?vectorinfov2>

Vector definitions Base

Example 1: (AV:L/AC:H/Au:N/C:N/I:P/A:C)

Example 2: (AV:A/AC:L/Au:M/C:C/I:N/A:P)

Metric: AV = AccessVector (Related exploit range)

Possible Values: L = Local access, A = Adjacent network, N = Network

Metric: AC = AccessComplexity (Required attack complexity)

Possible Values: H = High, M = Medium, L = Low

Metric: Au = Authentication (Level of authentication needed to exploit)

Possible Values: M= Requires multiple instances, S= Requires single instance, N= None required

Metric: C = ConflImpact (Confidentiality impact)

Possible Values: N = None, P = Partial, C = Complete

Metric: I = IntegImpact (Integrity impact)

Possible Values: N = None, P = Partial, C = Complete

Metric: A = AvailImpact (Availability impact)

Possible Values: N = None, P = Partial, C = Complete



Vector definitions Base

Example 1: (AV:L/AC:H/Au:N/C:N/I:P/A:C/E:P/RL:O/RC:C/CDP:L/TD:M/CR:L/IR:L/AR:H)

Example 2: (AV:LN/AC:L/Au:M/C:C/I:N/A:P/E:F/RL:T/RC:UR/CDP:MH/TD:H/CR:M/IR:L/AR:M)

Metric: E = Exploitability (Availability of exploit)

Possible Values: U = Unproven, P = Proof-of-concept, F = Functional, W = Widespread, ND = Not Defined

Metric: RL = RemediationLevel (Type of fix available)

Possible Values: O = Official-fix, T = Temporary-fix, W = Workaround, U = Unavailable, ND = Not Defined

Metric: RC = ReportConfidence (Level of verification that the vulnerability exists)

Possible Values: UC = Unconfirmed, UR = Uncorroborated, C = Confirmed, ND = Not Defined

CVSS Scoring Example (CVE-2002-0392): Apache Chunked-Encoding Memory Corruption

BASE METRIC	EVALUATION	SCORE
Access Vector	[Network]	(1.00)
Access Complexity	[Low]	(0.71)
Authentication	[None]	(0.704)
Confidentiality Impact	[None]	(0.00)
Integrity Impact	[None]	(0.00)
Availability Impact	[Complete]	(0.66)

BASE FORMULA BASE SCORE

Impact = $10.41 * (1 - (1) * (1) * (0.34)) == 6.9$
 Exploitability = $20 * 0.71 * 0.704 * 1 == 10.0$
 $f(\text{Impact}) = 1.176$
 BaseScore = $(0.6 * 6.9 + 0.4 * 10.0 - 1.5) * 1.176 == (7.8)$

TEMPORAL METRIC EVALUATION SCORE

Exploitability	[Functional]	(0.95)
Remediation Level	[Official-Fix]	(0.87)
Report Confidence	[Confirmed]	(1.00)

TEMPORAL FORMULA TEMPORAL SCORE

$\text{round}(7.8 * 0.95 * 0.87 * 1.00) == (6.4)$

ENVIRONMENTAL METRIC EVALUATION SCORE

Collateral Damage Potential	[None - High]	{0 - 0.5}
Target Distribution	[None - High]	{0 - 1.0}
Confidentiality Req.	[Medium]	(1.0)
Integrity Req.	[Medium]	(1.0)
Availability Req.	[High]	(1.51)

ENVIRONMENTAL FORMULA ENVIRONMENTAL SCORE

AdjustedTemporal == $(10 * 0.95 * 0.87 * 1.0) == (8.3)$
 EnvScore = $\text{round}((8.3 + (10 - 8.3) * \{0 - 0.5\}) * \{0 - 1\}) == (0.00 - 9.2)$



CVSS Scoring Example 2 (CVE-2003-0062): NOD32 Antivirus Buffer Overflow

BASE METRIC	EVALUATION	SCORE
Access Vector (1.0)	[Network]	
Access Complexity	[Medium]	(0.61)
Authentication (0.704)	[None]	
Confidentiality Impact (0.66)	[Complete]	
Integrity Impact (0.66)	[Complete]	
Availability Impact (0.66)	[Complete]	
FORMULA	BASE SCORE	
Impact = $10.41 * (1 - (0.34 * 0.34 * 0.34))$	== 10.0	
Exploitability = $20 * 0.35 * 0.704 * 0.395$	== 1.9	
f(Impact) = 1.176		
BaseScore = $((0.6 * 10) + (0.4 * 1.9) - 1.5) * 1.176$	== (6.2)	

FORMULA	TEMPORAL SCORE
round($6.2 * 0.90 * 0.87 * 1.00$)	== (4.9)

ENVIRONMENTAL METRIC	EVALUATION	SCORE
Collateral Damage Potential	[None - High]	{0 - 0.5}
Target Distribution	[None - High]	{0 - 1.0}
Confidentiality Req.	[Medium]	(1.0)
Integrity Req.	[Medium]	(1.0)
Availability Req.	[Medium]	(1.0)

FORMULA	ENVIRONMENTAL SCORE
AdjustedTemporal	== 4.9
EnvScore = round($((4.9 + (10 - 4.9) * \{0 - 0.5\}) * \{0 - 1\})$)	== (0.00 - 7.5)

TEMPORAL METRIC	EVALUATION	SCORE
Exploitability	[Proof-Of-Concept]	(0.90)
Remediation Level	[Official-Fix]	(0.87)
Report Confidence	[Confirmed]	(1.00)

- **So what does a CVSS Environmental Score of 7.5 for CVE-2003-0062 mean to me?**

- Your response to 7.5 may be different than mine based on constituency
- Consistent universal scoring of Base and Temporal categories provides relative severity
- So far...

0-3	No impact – wait for SP
4-5	Next Patch Cycle
6-7	Within 7 days
7-10	Firedrill

- **Any scoring / normalization of this many variables is going to be a gross generalization**

- Some subjectivity in evaluating metrics
- Formulas encode pre-defined values
- Some things are missed

The Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) and Its Applicability to US Federal Agency Systems

- **NIST IR 7435 is published as final. CVSS provides an open framework for communicating the characteristics and impacts of IT vulnerabilities. This publication defines and describes the CVSS standard, provides advice on performing scoring, and discusses how Federal agencies can incorporate Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) 199 impact ratings into their CVSS scores to generate scores that are specifically tailored to particular Federal agency environments.**
- **For complete article see:**
- **<http://csrc.nist.gov/publications/nistir/ir7435/NISTIR-7435.pdf>**

CVSS and the Payment Card Industry (PCI)

- In order for private-sector firms to process credit cards, they need to comply with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standards (PCI DSS). Effective June 2007, the PCI governing body is requiring firms use CVSS in order to determine how vulnerable are their IT systems. The PCI DSS is available:
- https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/pdfs/pci_dss_technical_and_operational_requirements_for_approved_scanning_vendors_ASVs_v1-1.pdf

- **Generally, to be considered compliant, a component must not contain any vulnerability that has been assigned a CVSS base score equal to or higher than 4.0**

The following exceptions or clarifications apply:

- **A component must be considered non-compliant if the installed SSL version is limited to Version 2.0, or older. SSL must be a more recent version than 2.0.**
- **Vulnerabilities or mis-configurations that may lead to DoS should not be taken into consideration**



- **The authors recognize that many other metrics could have been included in CVSS. We also realize that no one scoring system will fit everyone's needs perfectly.**
- **The particular metrics used in CVSS were identified as the best compromise between completeness, ease-of-use and accuracy. They represent the cumulative experience of the CVSS Special Interest Group members as well as extensive testing of real-world vulnerabilities in end-user environments.**
- **As CVSS matures, these metrics may expand or adjust, making the scoring even more accurate, flexible and representative of modern vulnerabilities and their risks.**

CVSS Usage in NVD

- **NVD receives feeds from CVE**
- **NVD analysts assign CVSS scores (Base only)**
- **Simplified ratings:**
 - High: 7.0 through 10.0
 - Medium: 4.0 through 6.9
 - Low: < 4.0
- **Incomplete information → assume worst case**
 - No details at all = 10.0
- **Early CVE entries use estimated CVSSv2 scores**
- **CVSS calculator available**

Important Considerations for CVSS

- **Focuses on impact to the system/box/device**
 - Environmental factors allow some adjustment
 - Full database compromise typically scores at most a 7.0 out of 10.0
- **One CVE can cover multiple issues**
 - Highest score wins
- **Scoring is not 100% repeatable**
 - Dependency on available details
 - Common/default configurations
- **Environmental and temporal scores are under-utilized**

Contact

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Tell us how you use CVE!

Questions?

