



National Information Assurance Partnership

Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme

CCEVS Policy Letter #1

10 January 2002

SUBJECT: Appropriateness of Language in Security Targets, Evaluation Technical Reports, Validation Product List Entries, and Validation Reports

PURPOSE: Provide clarification on the appropriateness of language included within Security Targets (ST), Evaluation Technical Reports (ETR), Validation Product List Entries (VPL Entries), and Validation Reports (VR).

BACKGROUND: Recently, a validation team questioned the appropriateness of some language in the ST of the product it was responsible for overseeing. The language, which appeared in the TOE Description portion of the ST, seemed to make an exaggerated claim of effectiveness of the product under evaluation. The Common Criteria Testing Laboratory (CCTL), when apprised of the validation team's concern, claimed that because the ST belongs to the sponsor, it is the sponsor's prerogative to include such claims. Additionally, sponsors have asked that additional information not related to the evaluation and more of a marketing nature also be included in Validation Reports.

POLICY: The Common Criteria Evaluation and Validation Scheme (CCEVS) views it the responsibility of all participants, be they developers, sponsors, evaluators, or validators, to ensure that the Common Criteria requirements on the content of STs, Common Evaluation Methodology requirements on ETRs, and Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement requirements on VRs are complied with. Taken as a whole, the ST is considered a specification, all of whose claims must be supported. In fact, it is the determination of whether a product meets these claims that is the principal aim of an evaluation.

Sponsors are encouraged to present their claims, particularly in the TOE Description section; CCEVS has no objection to the use of language that some might consider marketing material, because it is this section of the ST that informs a potential user of the product's security features. However, any claims or included information must be supported by the rest of the ST (and the product) and validated by the evaluation team in order for an evaluation to be successful and a certificate for the product to be issued. Any information included in a ST, ETR, VPL Entry, or VR must be a statement of fact that is verifiable and cannot express opinions or subjective claims.

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