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T. Takahashi
NICT
K. Landfield
McAfee
T. Millar
USCERT
Y. Kadobayashi
NAIST
Jan 14, 2014

**IODEF-extension for structured cybersecurity information
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Abstract

This document extends the Incident Object Description Exchange Format (IODEF) defined in [RFC 5070](#) [[RFC5070](#)] to exchange enriched cybersecurity information among security experts at organizations and facilitates their operations. It provides a well-defined pattern to consistently embed structured information, such as identifier- and XML-based information.

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1. Introduction

The number of incidents in cyber society is growing day by day. Incident information needs to be reported, exchanged, and shared among organizations in order to cope with the situation. IODEF is one of the tools already in use that enables such an exchange.

To more efficiently run security operations, information exchanged between organizations needs to be machine readable. IODEF provides a means to describe the incident information, but it often needs to include various non-structured types of incident-related data in order to convey more specific details about what is occurring. Further structure within IODEF increases the machine-readability of the document thus providing a means for better automating certain security operations.

Within the security community there exist various means for specifying structured descriptions of cybersecurity information such as [[CAPEC](#)][[CCE](#)][[CCSS](#)][[CEE](#)][[CPE](#)][[CVE](#)][[CVRF](#)][[CVSS](#)][[CWE](#)][[CWSS](#)][[MAEC](#)][[OCIL](#)][[OVAL](#)][[SCAP](#)][[XCCDF](#)]. In this context, cybersecurity information encompasses a broad range of structured data representation types that may be used to assess or report on the security posture of an asset or set of assets. Such structured descriptions facilitates a better understanding of an incident while enabling more streamlined automated security operations. Because of this, it would be beneficial to embed and convey these types of information inside IODEF documents.

This document extends IODEF to embed and convey various types of structured information. 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 awareness of the continually changing security threat landscape, organization needs to exchange cybersecurity information, which includes the following information: attack pattern, platform information, vulnerability and weakness, countermeasure instruction, computer event logs, and severity assessments. IODEF provides a scheme to describe and exchange such information among interested parties. However, it does not define the detailed formats to specify such information.

There already exists structured and detailed formats for describing these types of information that can be used in facilitating such an exchange. They include [[CAPEC](#)][[CCE](#)][[CCSS](#)][[CEE](#)][[CPE](#)][[CVE](#)][[CVRP](#)][[CVSS](#)][[CWE](#)][[CWSS](#)][[MAEC](#)][[OCIL](#)][[OVAL](#)][[SCAP](#)][[XCCDF](#)]. By embedding them into the IODEF document, the document can convey more detailed context information to the receivers, and the document can be easily reused.

The use of structured information formats facilitates more advanced security operations on the receiver side. Since the information is machine readable, the data can be processed by computers thus allowing better automation of security operations.

For instance, an organization wishing to report a security incident wants to describe what vulnerability was exploited. In this case the sender can simply use IODEF, where an XML-based [[XML1.0](#)] attack pattern record that follows the syntax and vocabulary defined by an industry specification is embedded, instead of describing everything in free form text. The receiver can identify the needed details of the attack pattern by looking up some of the XML tags defined by the specification. The receiver can accumulate the attack pattern record in its database and could distribute it to the interested parties as needed, all without requiring human interventions.

In another example, an administrator is investigating an incident and detected a configuration problem that he wishes to share with a partner organization to prevent the same event from occurring. He accesses configuration information in an internal repository that was gathered prior to the initial attack specific to a new vulnerability alert to confirm the configuration was in fact vulnerable. He uses this information to automatically generate an XML-based software configuration description, embed it in an IODEF document, and send the resulting IODEF document to the partner organization.

4. Extension Definition

This document extends IODEF to embed structured information by introducing new classes that can be embedded consistently inside an IODEF document as element contents of the `AdditionalData` and `RecordItem` classes.

4.1. IANA Table for Structured Cybersecurity Information

This extension embeds structured cybersecurity information defined by other specifications. The list of supported specifications is managed by IANA, and this document defines the needed fields for the list's entry.

Each entry has namespace [[XMLNames](#)], specification name, version, reference URI, and applicable classes for each specification. Arbitrary URIs that may help readers to understand the specification could be embedded inside the Reference URI field, but it is recommended that standard/informational URI describing the specification is prepared and is embedded here.

The initial IANA table has only one entry, as below.

Namespace:	urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:mile:mmdef:1.2
Specification Name:	Malware Metadata Exchange Format
Version:	1.2
Reference URI:	http://standards.ieee.org/develop/indconn/icsg/mmdef.html , http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/malware/malwg/Schema1.2/
Applicable Classes:	AttackPattern

Note that the specification was developed by The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Incorporated (IEEE), through the Industry Connections Security Group (ICSG) of its Standards Association.

The table is to be managed by IANA following the allocation policy specified in [Section 7](#).

The SpecID attributes of extension classes ([Section 4.5](#)) must allow the values of the specifications' namespace fields, but otherwise, implementations are not required to support all specifications of the IANA table and may choose which specifications to support, though the specification listed in the initial table needs to be minimally supported, as described in [Section 5](#). In case an implementation

received a data it does not support, it may expand its functionality by looking up the IANA table or notify the sender of its inability to parse the data. Note that the look-up could be done manually or automatically, but automatic download of data from IANA's website is not recommended since it is not designed for mass retrieval of data by multiple devices.

[4.2.](#) Extended Data Type: XMLDATA

This extension inherits all of the data types defined in the IODEF data model. One data type is added: XMLDATA. An embedded XML data is represented by the XMLDATA data type. This type is defined as the extension to the iodef:ExtensionType [[RFC5070](#)], whose dtype attribute is set to "xml".

[4.3.](#) Extending IODEF

This document defines eight extension classes, namely AttackPattern, Platform, Vulnerability, Scoring, Weakness, EventReport, Verification and Remediation. Figure 1 describes the relationships between the IODEF Incident class [[RFC5070](#)] and the newly defined classes. It is expressed in Unified Modeling Language (UML) syntax as with the [RFC 5070](#) [[RFC5070](#)]. The UML representation is for illustrative purposes only; elements are specified in XML as defined in [Section 5.2](#).


```

+-----+
| Incident |
+-----+
| ENUM purpose |<-----[IncidentID]
| STRING       |<--{0..1}-[AlternativeID]
|   ext-purpose|<--{0..1}-[RelatedActivity]
| ENUM lang    |<--{0..1}-[DetectTime]
| ENUM        |<--{0..1}-[StartTime]
|   restriction|<--{0..1}-[EndTime]
|              |<-----[ReportTime]
|              |<--{0..*}-[Description]
|              |<--{1..*}-[Assessment]
|              |<--{0..*}-[Method]
|              |   |<--{0..*}-[AdditionalData]
|              |   |   |<--{0..*}-[AttackPattern]
|              |   |   |<--{0..*}-[Vulnerability]
|              |   |   |<--{0..*}-[Weakness]
|              |<--{1..*}-[Contact]
|              |<--{0..*}-[EventData]
|              |   |<--{0..*}-[Flow]
|              |   |   |<--{1..*}-[System]
|              |   |   |   |<--{0..*}-[AdditionalData]
|              |   |   |   |<--{0..*}-[Platform]
|              |   |   |<--{0..*}-[Expectation]
|              |   |<--{0..1}-[Record]
|              |   |   |<--{1..*}-[RecordData]
|              |   |   |   |<--{1..*}-[RecordItem]
|              |   |   |   |<--{0..*}-[EventReport]
|              |<--{0..1}-[History]
|              |<--{0..*}-[AdditionalData]
|              |   |<--{0..*}-[Verification]
|              |   |<--{0..*}-[Remediation]
+-----+

```

Figure 1: Incident class

4.4. Basic Structure of the Extension Classes

Figure 2 shows the basic structure of the extension classes. Some of the extension classes have extra elements as defined in [Section 4.5](#), but the basic structure is the same.


```

+-----+
| New Class Name      |
+-----+
| ENUM SpecID         |<--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| STRING ext-SpecID   |<--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
| STRING ContentID    |
+-----+

```

Figure 2: Basic Structure

Three attributes are defined as below.

SpecID: REQUIRED. ENUM. A specification's identifier that specifies the format of a structured information. The value should be chosen from the namespaces [[XMLNames](#)] listed in the IANA table ([Section 4.1](#)) or "private". The value "private" is prepared for conveying structured information based on a format that is not listed in the table. This is usually used for conveying data formatted according to an organization's private schema. When the value "private" is used, ext-SpecID element MUST be used.

ext-SpecID: OPTIONAL. STRING. A specification's identifier that specifies the format of a structured information. This is usually used to support private schema that is not listed in the IANA table ([Section 4.1](#)). This attribute MUST be used only when the value of SpecID element is "private."

ContentID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An identifier of a structured information. Depending on the extension classes, the content of the structured information differs. This attribute enables IODEF documents to convey the identifier of a structured information instead of conveying the information itself.

Likewise, three elements are defined as below.

RawData: Zero or more. XMLDATA. An XML of a structured information. This is a complete document that is formatted according to the specification and its version identified by the SpecID/ext-SpecID. When this element is used, writers/senders MUST ensure that the namespace specified by SpecID/ext-SpecID and the schema of the XML are consistent; if not, the namespace identified by SpecID SHOULD be preferred, and the inconsistency SHOULD be logged so a human can correct the problem.

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

Though ContentID, RawData, and Reference are optional attribute and elements, one of them MUST be used to convey structured information. Note that only one of them SHOULD be used to avoid confusing the receiver.

4.5. Defining Extension Classes

This document defines the following seven extension classes.

4.5.1. AttackPattern

An AttackPattern is an extension class to the Incident.Method.AdditionalData element with a dtype of "xml". It describes attack patterns of incidents or events. It is RECOMMENDED that Method class contain the extension elements whenever available. An AttackPattern class is structured as follows.

```
+-----+
| AttackPattern |
+-----+
| ENUM SpecID   |<--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| STRING ext-SpecID |<--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
| STRING ContentID |<--(0..*)-[ Platform ]
+-----+
```

Figure 3: AttackPattern class

This class has the following attributes.

SpecID: REQUIRED. ENUM. See [Section 4.4](#).

ext-SpecID: OPTIONAL. STRING. See [Section 4.4](#).

ContentID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An identifier of an attack pattern information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Likewise, this class has the following elements.

RawData: Zero or more. XMLDATA. An XML of an attack pattern information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Reference: Zero or more. A reference to an attack pattern information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Platform: Zero or more. An identifier of software platform involved in the specific attack pattern. See [Section 4.5.2](#).

4.5.2. Platform

A Platform is an extension class that identifies a software platform. It is RECOMMENDED that AttackPattern, Vulnerability, Weakness, and System classes contain the extension elements whenever available. A Platform element is structured as follows.

```
+-----+
| Platform          |
+-----+
| ENUM SpecID       |<--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| STRING ext-SpecID |<--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
| STRING ContentID  |
+-----+
```

Figure 4: Platform class

This class has the following attributes.

SpecID: REQUIRED. ENUM. See [Section 4.4](#).

ext-SpecID: OPTIONAL. STRING. See [Section 4.4](#).

ContentID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An identifier of a platform information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Likewise, this class has the following elements.

RawData: Zero or more. XMLDATA. An XML of a platform information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Reference: Zero or more. A reference to a platform information. See [Section 4.4](#).

4.5.3. Vulnerability

A Vulnerability is an extension class to the Incident.Method.AdditionalData element with a dtype of "xml". The extension describes the vulnerabilities that are exposed or were exploited in incidents. It is RECOMMENDED that Method class contain the extension elements whenever available. A Vulnerability element is structured as follows.


```

+-----+
| Vulnerability |
+-----+
| ENUM SpecID   |<--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| STRING ext-SpecID |<--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
| STRING ContentID |<--(0..*)-[ Platform ]
|               |<--(0..*)-[ Scoring ]
+-----+

```

Figure 5: Vulnerability class

This class has the following attributes.

SpecID: REQUIRED. ENUM. See [Section 4.4](#).

ext-SpecID: OPTIONAL. STRING. See [Section 4.4](#).

ContentID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An identifier of a vulnerability information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Likewise, this class has the following elements.

RawData: Zero or more. XMLDATA. An XML of a vulnerability information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Reference: Zero or more. A reference to a vulnerability information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Platform: Zero or more. An identifier of software platform affected by the vulnerability. See [Section 4.5.2](#).

Scoring: Zero or more. An indicator of the severity of the vulnerability. See [Section 4.5.4](#).

[4.5.4](#). Scoring

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


```

+-----+
| Scoring          |
+-----+
| ENUM SpecID      |<--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| STRING ext-SpecID |<--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
| STRING ContentID  |
+-----+

```

Figure 6: Scoring class

This class has two attributes.

SpecID: REQUIRED. ENUM. See [Section 4.4](#).

ext-SpecID: OPTIONAL. STRING. See [Section 4.4](#).

ContentID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An identifier of a score set. See [Section 4.4](#).

Likewise, this class has the following elements.

RawData: Zero or more. XMLDATA. An XML of a score set. See [Section 4.4](#).

Reference: Zero or more. A reference to a score set. See [Section 4.4](#).

4.5.5. Weakness

A Weakness is an extension class to the Incident.Method.AdditionalData element with a dtype of "xml". The extension describes the weakness types that are exposed or were exploited in incidents. It is RECOMMENDED that Method class contain the extension elements whenever available. A Weakness element is structured as follows.

```

+-----+
| Weakness         |
+-----+
| ENUM SpecID      |<--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| STRING ext-SpecID |<--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
| STRING ContentID  |<--(0..*)-[ Platform ]
|                  |<--(0..*)-[ Scoring ]
+-----+

```

Figure 7: Weakness class

This class has the following attributes.

SpecID: REQUIRED. ENUM. See [Section 4.4](#).

ext-SpecID: OPTIONAL. STRING. See [Section 4.4](#).

ContentID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An identifier of a weakness information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Likewise, this class has the following elements.

RawData: Zero or more. XMLDATA. An XML of a weakness information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Reference: Zero or more. A reference to a weakness information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Platform: Zero or more. An identifier of software platform affected by the weakness. See [Section 4.5.2](#).

Scoring: Zero or more. An indicator of the severity of the weakness. See [Section 4.5.4](#).

[4.5.6](#). EventReport

An EventReport is an extension class 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 contain the extension elements whenever available. An EventReport element is structured as follows.

```
+-----+
| EventReport      |
+-----+
| ENUM SpecID      |<--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| STRING ext-SpecID |<--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
| STRING ContentID  |
+-----+
```

Figure 8: EventReport class

This class has the following attributes.

SpecID: REQUIRED. ENUM. See [Section 4.4](#).

ext-SpecID: OPTIONAL. STRING. See [Section 4.4](#).

ContentID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An identifier of an event report.
See [Section 4.4](#).

Likewise, this class has the following elements.

RawData: Zero or more. XMLDATA. An XML of an event report. See [Section 4.4](#).

Reference: Zero or more. A reference to an event report. See [Section 4.4](#).

[4.5.7](#). Verification

A Verification is an extension class to the Incident.AdditionalData element with a dtype of "xml". The extension elements describes information on verifying security, e.g., checklist, to cope with incidents. It is RECOMMENDED that Incident class contain the extension elements whenever available. A Verification class is structured as follows.

```
+-----+
| Verification      |
+-----+
| ENUM SpecID       |<--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| STRING ext-SpecID |<--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
| STRING ContentID  |
+-----+
```

Figure 9: Verification class

This class has the following attributes.

SpecID: REQUIRED. ENUM. See [Section 4.4](#).

ext-SpecID: OPTIONAL. STRING. See [Section 4.4](#).

ContentID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An identifier of a verification information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Likewise, this class has the following elements.

RawData: Zero or more. XMLDATA. An XML of a verification information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Reference: Zero or more. A reference to a verification information.
See [Section 4.4](#).

4.5.8. Remediation

A Remediation is an extension class 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 contain the extension elements whenever available. A Remediation class is structured as follows.

```
+-----+
| Remediation      |
+-----+
| ENUM SpecID      |<--(0..*)-[ RawData ]
| STRING ext-SpecID |<--(0..*)-[ Reference ]
| String ContentID  |
+-----+
```

Figure 10: Remediation class

This class has the following attributes.

SpecID: REQUIRED. ENUM. See [Section 4.4](#).

ext-SpecID: OPTIONAL. STRING. See [Section 4.4](#).

ContentID: OPTIONAL. STRING. An identifier of a remediation information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Likewise, this class has the following elements.

RawData: Zero or more. XMLDATA. An XML of a remediation information. See [Section 4.4](#).

Reference: Zero or more. A reference to a remediation information.
See [Section 4.4](#).

5. Mandatory to Implement features

The implementation of this document MUST be capable of sending and receiving the XML conforming to the specification listed in the initial IANA table described in [Section 4.1](#) without error. An SCI document is an XML document that MUST be well-formed and MUST be valid according to schemata, including extension schemata, available to the validator and applicable to the XML document. Note that the receiver can look up the namespace in the IANA table to understand

what specifications the embedded XML documents follows.

For the purpose of facilitating the understanding of mandatory to implement features, the following subsections provide an XML conformant to this document, and a schema for that.

5.1. An Example XML

An example IODEF document for checking implementation's MTI conformity is provided here. The document carries MMDEF metadata. Note that the metadata is generated by genMMDEF [[MMDEF](#)] with EICAR [[EICAR](#)] files.

```
<?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"
  xmlns:iodef-sci="urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:iodef-sci-1.0"
  xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance">
  <Incident purpose="reporting">
    <IncidentID name="iodef-sci.example.com">189493</IncidentID>
    <ReportTime>2013-06-18T23:19:24+00:00</ReportTime>
    <Description>a candidate security incident</Description>
    <Assessment>
      <Impact completion="failed" type="admin" />
    </Assessment>
    <Method>
      <Description>A candidate attack event</Description>
      <AdditionalData dtype="xml">
        <iodef-sci:AttackPattern
          SpecID="http://xml/metadataSharing.xsd">
          <iodef-sci:RawData dtype="xml">
            <malwareMetaData xmlns="http://xml/metadataSharing.xsd"
              xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
              xsi:schemaLocation="http://xml/metadataSharing.xsd
                file:metadataSharing.xsd" version="1.200000" id="10000">
              <company>N/A</company>
              <author>MMDEF Generation Script</author>
              <comment>Test MMDEF v1.2 file generated using genMMDEF
                </comment>
              <timestamp>2013-03-23T15:12:50.726000</timestamp>
              <objects>
                <file id="6ce6f415d8475545be5ba114f208b0ff">
                  <md5>6ce6f415d8475545be5ba114f208b0ff</md5>
                  <sha1>da39a3ee5e6b4b0d3255bfef95601890afd80709</sha1>
                  <sha256>e3b0c44298fc1c149afbf4c8996fb92427ae41e4649b934ca4
                    95991b7852b855</sha256>
                  <sha512>cf83e1357eefb8bdf1542850d66d8007d620e4050b5715dc83
```



```
f4a921d36ce9ce47d0d13c5d85f2b0ff8318d2877eec2f63b9
31bd47417a81a538327af927da3e</sha512>
<size>184</size>
<filename>eicar_com.zip</filename>
<MIMEType>application/zip</MIMEType>
</file>
<file id="44d88612fea8a8f36de82e1278abb02f">
  <md5>44d88612fea8a8f36de82e1278abb02f</md5>
  <sha1>3395856ce81f2b7382dee72602f798b642f14140</sha1>
  <sha256>275a021bbfb6489e54d471899f7db9d1663fc695ec2fe2a2c4
    538aabf651fd0f</sha256>
  <sha512>cc805d5fab1fd71a4ab352a9c533e65fb2d5b885518f4e565e
    68847223b8e6b85cb48f3afad842726d99239c9e36505c64b0
    dc9a061d9e507d833277ada336ab</sha512>
  <size>68</size>
  <crc32>1750191932</crc32>
  <filename>eicar.com</filename>
  <filenameWithinInstaller>eicar.com
  </filenameWithinInstaller>
</file>
</objects>
<relationships>
  <relationship type="createdBy" id="1">
    <source>
      <ref>file[@id="6ce6f415d8475545be5ba114f208b0ff"]</ref>
    </source>
    <target>
      <ref>file[@id="44d88612fea8a8f36de82e1278abb02f"]</ref>
    </target>
    <timestamp>2013-03-23T15:12:50.744000</timestamp>
  </relationship>
</relationships>
</malwareMetaData>
</iodef-sci:RawData>
</iodef-sci:AttackPattern>
</AdditionalData>
</Method>
<Contact role="creator" type="organization">
  <ContactName>iodef-sci.example.com</ContactName>
  <RegistryHandle registry="arin">iodef-sci.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="4">
        <Port>80</Port>
      </Service>
    </System>
  </Flow>
  <Expectation action="block-host" />
  <Expectation action="other" />
</EventData>
</Incident>
</IODEF-Document>

```

5.2. An XML Schema for the Extension

An XML schema describing the elements defined in this document is given here.

```

<?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="urn:ietf:params:xml:schema:iodef-1.0"/>

  <xsd:complexType name="XMLDATA">
    <xsd:complexContent>
      <xsd:restriction base="iodef:ExtensionType">
        <xsd:sequence>
          <xsd:any namespace="##any" processContents="lax" minOccurs="0"
            maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        </xsd:sequence>
        <xsd:attribute name="dtype" type="iodef:dtype-type"
          use="required" fixed="xml"/>
        <xsd:attribute name="ext-dtype" type="xsd:string" use="optional"/>
        <xsd:attribute name="meaning" type="xsd:string"/>
        <xsd:attribute name="formatid" type="xsd:string"/>
        <xsd:attribute name="restriction" type="iodef:restriction-type"/>
      </xsd:restriction>
    </complexContent>
  </xsd:complexType>

```



```
</xsd:complexContent>
</xsd:complexType>

<xsd:element name="Scoring">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:choice>
        <xsd:element name="ScoreSet" type="iodef-sci:XMLDATA"
          minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        <xsd:element ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0"
          maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      </xsd:choice>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ext-SpecID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ContentID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<xsd:element name="AttackPattern">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:choice>
        <xsd:element name="RawData" type="iodef-sci:XMLDATA"
          minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        <xsd:element ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0"
          maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      </xsd:choice>
      <xsd:element ref="iodef-sci:Platform" minOccurs="0"
        maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ext-SpecID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ContentID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<xsd:element name="Vulnerability">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:choice>
        <xsd:element name="RawData" type="iodef-sci:XMLDATA"
          minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        <xsd:element ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0">
```



```
        maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </xsd:choice>
    <xsd:element ref="iodef-sci:Platform" minOccurs="0"
        maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    <xsd:element ref="iodef-sci:Scoring" minOccurs="0"
        maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
</xsd:sequence>
<xsd:attribute name="SpecID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
<xsd:attribute name="ext-SpecID" type="xsd:string"
    use="optional"/>
<xsd:attribute name="ContentID" type="xsd:string"
    use="optional"/>
</xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<xsd:element name="Weakness">
    <xsd:complexType>
        <xsd:sequence>
            <xsd:choice>
                <xsd:element name="RawData" type="iodef-sci:XMLDATA"
                    minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
                <xsd:element ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0"
                    maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            </xsd:choice>
            <xsd:element ref="iodef-sci:Platform" minOccurs="0"
                maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            <xsd:element ref="iodef-sci:Scoring" minOccurs="0"
                maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        </xsd:sequence>
        <xsd:attribute name="SpecID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
        <xsd:attribute name="ext-SpecID" type="xsd:string"
            use="optional"/>
        <xsd:attribute name="ContentID" type="xsd:string"
            use="optional"/>
    </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<xsd:element name="Platform">
    <xsd:complexType>
        <xsd:sequence>
            <xsd:choice>
                <xsd:element name="RawData" type="iodef-sci:XMLDATA"
                    minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
                <xsd:element ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0"
                    maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
            </xsd:choice>
        </xsd:sequence>
        <xsd:attribute name="SpecID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
    </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>
```



```
<xsd:attribute name="ext-SpecID" type="xsd:string"
  use="optional"/>
<xsd:attribute name="ContentID" type="xsd:string"
  use="optional"/>
</xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<xsd:element name="EventReport">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:choice>
        <xsd:element name="RawData" type="iodef-sci:XMLDATA"
          minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        <xsd:element ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0"
          maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      </xsd:choice>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ext-SpecID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ContentID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<xsd:element name="Verification">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:choice>
        <xsd:element name="RawData" type="iodef-sci:XMLDATA"
          minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        <xsd:element ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0"
          maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      </xsd:choice>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ext-SpecID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ContentID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

<xsd:element name="Remediation">
  <xsd:complexType>
    <xsd:sequence>
      <xsd:choice>
        <xsd:element name="RawData" type="iodef-sci:XMLDATA"
```



```
        minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
        <xsd:element ref="iodef:Reference" minOccurs="0"
          maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      </xsd:choice>
    </xsd:sequence>
    <xsd:attribute name="SpecID" type="xsd:string" use="required"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ext-SpecID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
    <xsd:attribute name="ContentID" type="xsd:string"
      use="optional"/>
  </xsd:complexType>
</xsd:element>

</xsd:schema>
```

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. Specific security considerations are detailed in the messaging and transport documents, where the exchange of formatted information is automated. See Real-time Inter-network Defense (RID) [\[RFC6545\] Section 9](#) for a detailed overview of security requirements and considerations.

It is RECOMMENDED that organizations who exchange data using this document develop operating procedures that minimally consider the following areas of concern.

6.1. Transport-Specific Concerns

The underlying messaging format, IODEF, provides data markers to indicate the sensitivity level of specific classes within the structure as well as for the entire XML document. The "restriction" attribute accomplishes this with four attribute values in IODEF. These values are RECOMMENDED for use at the application level, prior to transport, to protect data as appropriate. A standard mechanism to apply XML encryption using these attribute values as triggers is defined in RID [\[RFC6545\] Section 9.1](#). This mechanism may be used whether or not the RID and RID Transport binding [\[RFC6546\]](#) are used in the exchange to provide object level security on the data to prevent possible intermediary systems or middle-boxes from having

access to the data being exchanged. In areas where transmission security or secrecy is questionable, the application of a XML digital signature [[xmldsig](#)] and/or encryption on each report will counteract both of these concerns. The data markers are RECOMMENDED for use by applications for managing access controls, however access controls and management of those controls are out-of-scope for this document. Options such as the usage of a standard language (e.g. XACML [[XACML](#)]) for the expression of authorization policies can be used to enable source and destination systems to better coordinate and align their respective policy expressions.

Any transport protocol used to exchange instances of IODEF documents MUST provide appropriate guarantees of confidentiality, integrity, and authenticity. The use of a standardized security protocol is encouraged. The RID protocol [[RFC6545](#)] and its associated transport binding [[RFC6546](#)] provide such security with options for mutual authentication session encryption and include application levels concerns such as policy and work flow.

The critical security concerns are that these structured information may be falsified, accessed by unintended entities, or they may become corrupt during transit. We expect that each exchanging organization will determine the need, and mechanism, for transport protection.

6.2. Protection of Sensitive and Private Information

For a complete review of privacy considerations when transporting incident related information, please see RID [[RFC6545](#)] [Section 9.5](#). Whether or not the RID protocol is used, the privacy considerations are important to consider as incident information is often sensitive and may contain privacy related information about individuals/organizations or endpoints involved. Often times, organizations will require legal review and formal policies to be established which outline specific details of what information can be exchanged with specific entities. Typically, identifying information is anonymized where possible and appropriate. In some cases, information brokers are used to further anonymize the source of exchanged information so that other entities are unaware of the origin of a detected threat, whether or not that threat was realized.

It is RECOMMENDED that policies and procedures for the exchange of cybersecurity information are established prior to participation in data exchanges. Policy and workflow procedures for the exchange of cybersecurity information often require executive level approvals and legal reviews to appropriately establish limits on what information can be exchanged with specific organizations. RID [[RFC6545](#)] [Section 9.6](#) outlines options and considerations for application developers to consider for the policy and workflow design.

6.3. Application and Server Security

The Cybersecurity Information extension is merely a data format. Applications and transport protocols that store or exchange IODEF documents using information that can be represented through this extension will be a target for attacks. It is RECOMMENDED that systems and applications storing or exchanging this information are properly secured, have minimal services enabled, maintain access controls and monitoring procedures.

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 [Section 5.2](#).

This memo creates the following registry for IANA to manage:

Name of the registry: "Structured Cybersecurity Information (SCI) specifications"

Name of its parent registry: "Incident Object Description Exchange Format (IODEF)"

URL address of the registry: <http://www.iana.org/assignments/iodef>

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

Namespace: A URI [[RFC3986](#)] that identifies the XML namespace used by the registered SCI specification. In the case where the registrant does not request a particular URI, the IANA will assign it a Uniform Resource Name (URN) that follows [RFC 3553](#) [[RFC3553](#)]

Specification Name: A string containing the spelled-out name of the SCI specification in human-readable form.

Reference URI: A list of one or more of the URIs [[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 extension classes specified in [Section 4.5](#) of this document. The registered SCI specification MUST only be used with the extension classes in the registry entry.

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

Fields to record in the registry: Namespace/Specification Name/Version/Reference URI/Applicable Classes. Note that it is not necessary to include defining reference for all assignments in this new registry.

Initial registry contents: only one entry with the following values.

Namespace: urn:ietf:params:xml:ns:mile:mmdef:1.0

Specification Name: Malware Metadata Exchange Format

Version: 1.2

Reference URI: <http://standards.ieee.org/develop/indconn/icsg/mmdef.html>, <http://grouper.ieee.org/groups/malware/malwg/Schema1.2/>

Applicable Classes: AttackPattern

Allocation Policy: Specification Required (which includes Expert Review) [[RFC5226](#)].

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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Authors' Addresses

Takeshi Takahashi
National Institute of Information and Communications Technology
4-2-1 Nukui-Kitamachi Koganei
184-8795 Tokyo
Japan

Phone: +80 423 27 5862
Email: takeshi_takahashi@nict.go.jp

Kent Landfield
McAfee, Inc
5000 Headquarters Drive
Plano, TX 75024
USA

Email: Kent_Landfield@McAfee.com

Thomas Millar
US Department of Homeland Security, NPPD/CS&C/NCSD/US-CERT
245 Murray Lane SW, Building 410, MS #732
Washington, DC 20598
USA

Phone: +1 888 282 0870
Email: thomas.millar@us-cert.gov

Youki Kadobayashi
Nara Institute of Science and Technology
8916-5 Takayama, Ikoma
630-0192 Nara
Japan

Email: youki-k@is.aist-nara.ac.jp