Trusted Network Communications Architecture 2.0 Overview

20 July 2017

Why are we talking about this?

- The TCG's Trusted Network Communications Workgroup is finalizing publication of the "Trusted Network Communications Architecture for Interoperability 2.0"
  - Should be published in a few weeks
- IETF's Network Endpoint Assessment (NEA) is based on and compatible with Trusted Network Communications (TNC)
- NEA has been suggested as a core communications protocol for SACM, and SWIMA is an extension of NEA
- ∴ Good to know how this related specification is evolving

Why was it revised?

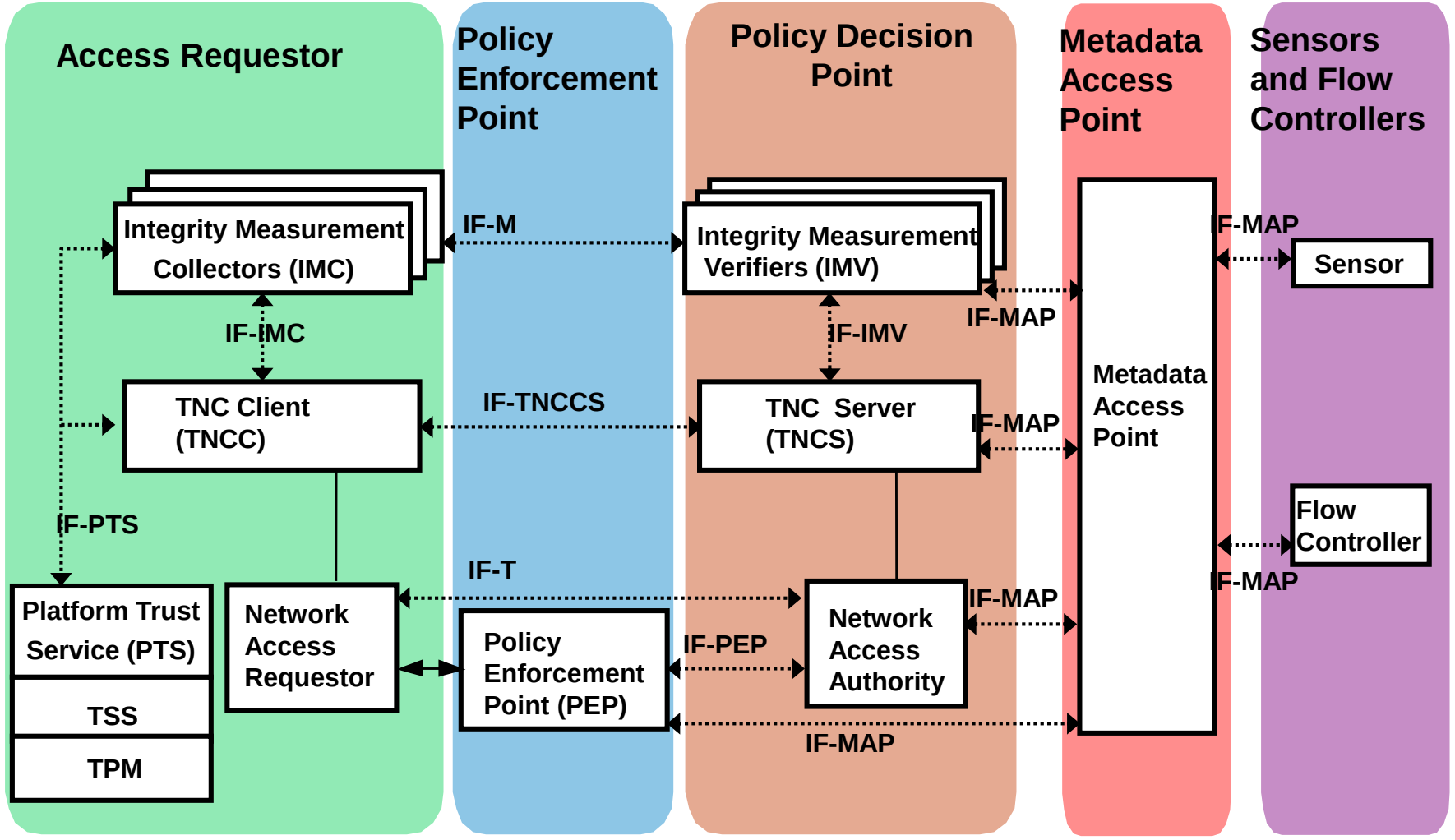
- Goal of the revision is:
  - Bring TNC Architecture (first published in 2005; revised 2012) up to speed with current use
  - Clarify the role and utility of TNC for readers; make benefits clearer

- Hopefully this will help increase adoption of TNC (and, by extension, NEA)

What changed?

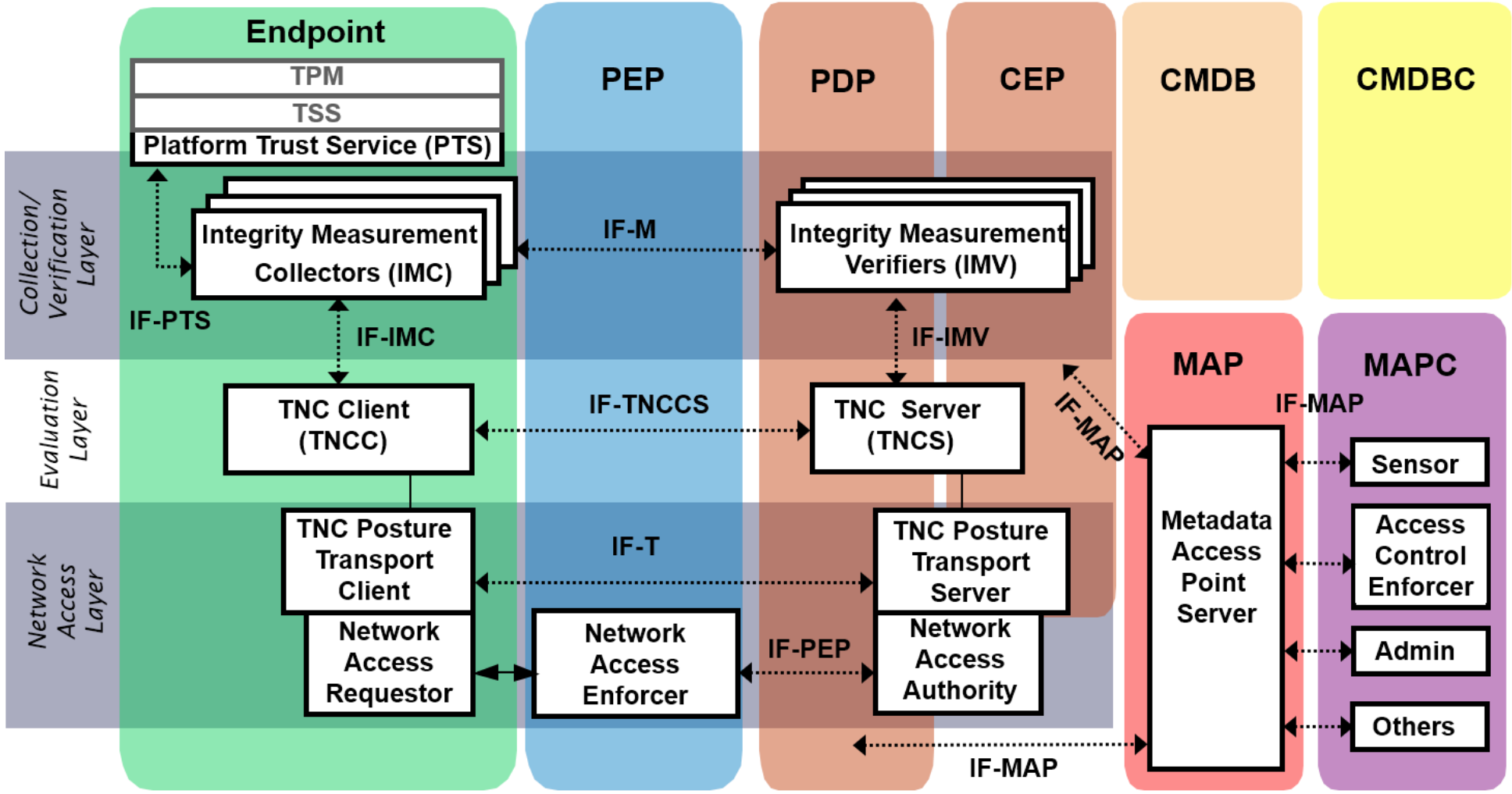
- Nothing normative!
  - The architecture is an informational document describing composition of the TNC technical specifications
  - All technical specifications continue to perform their current role and are unchanged
- Revised architecture changes how TNC is characterized
  - Reduce emphasis on “comply-to-connect” and emphasize ongoing measurement
  - Separate validation and enforcement roles
  - Add CMDB-related roles
  - Include more capability-based descriptions (rather than specification-based)

TNC Architecture 1.0 Diagram



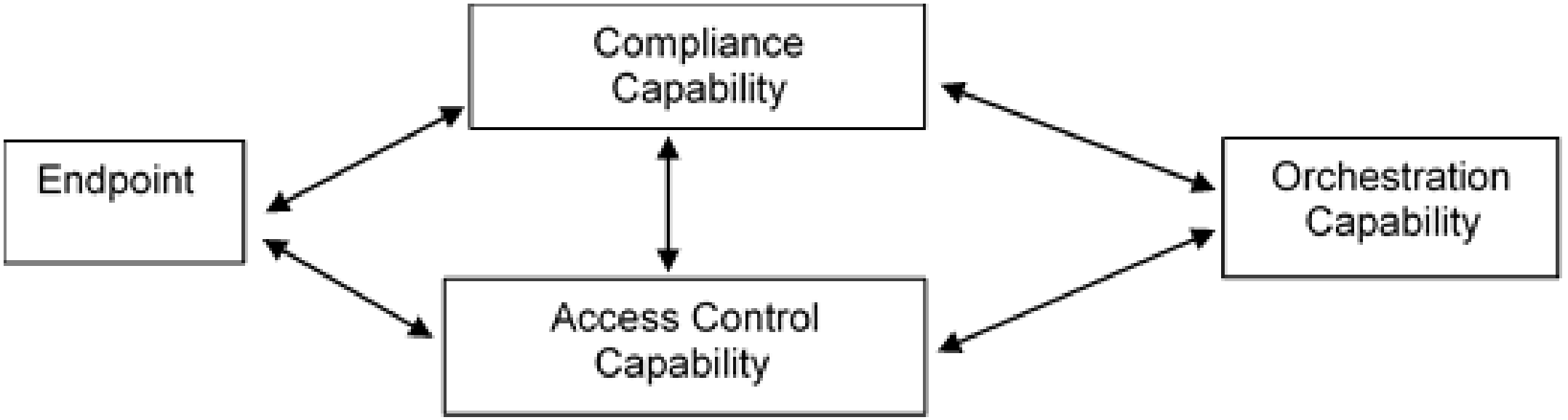
http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/developers/trusted_network_connect/specifications

TNC Architecture 2.0 Diagram



http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/????????

TNC Architecture 2.0 Capability Diagram



Conclusion

- TNC Architecture 2.0 emphasizes the modular, composable nature of TNC
  - This aligns with the SACM requirements of Versatility (G-004), Architectural Flexibility (ARCH-002), and Topology Flexibility (ARCH-004)
  - These are qualities TNC has always had (in addition to fulfillment of other requirements), but now these qualities are explicitly identified

- In summary, there are no normative changes to TNC (and no interoperability impact to NEA), but hopefully the broad utility of TNC (and NEA) is better characterized in the new architecture specification