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Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Guidance on using information security control attributes

Sécurité de l'information, cybersécurité et protection de la vie privée — Recommandations sur l'utilisation des attributs de contrôle de la sécurité de l'information

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives or www.iec.ch/members_experts/refdocs).

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This document was prepared by the Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, Subcommittee SC 27, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection*.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Introduction

ISO/IEC 27002:2022, 4.2 and Annex A, define the concept of attributes. ISO/IEC 27002 also explains that an organization can develop its own attributes (with the corresponding attribute values) to describe how controls are used or how to determine where they are applicable.

In addition to the attributes and themes presented in ISO/IEC 27002, information security controls can also be characterized in other ways which can be relevant and helpful in particular situations when determining or designing controls.

This document provides guidance on the use of information security control attributes. It introduces a method to help organizations develop their own custom attributes based on event-consequence scenarios and describes how attributes can be used to discover gaps within the organization's risk treatment plan(s) and to check if such plans are tolerant of control failures.

It also describes how attributes can be used as criteria to set controls to mitigate the risk within an organization's information security management system (ISMS).

ISO/IEC 27002 provides a set of information security controls that:

— mitigate risk associated with the preservation of confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information within the scope of the ISMS, that is the stated purpose of ISO/IEC 27001;

— prevent, or detect the occurrence of information security events, or mitigate the effects of such events;

— mitigate risk associated with a variety of risk contexts.

This document is specifically concerned with the attributes of information security controls, but the concept and approach can be applied to attributes of other types of controls, e.g. privacy controls, health and safety controls, environmental protection controls and financial controls.

In principle, such an application of attributes can be applied to other information security issues. If the attributes given in ISO/IEC 27002 are undesirable for the organization's purpose, the organization can create its own, as exemplified by the guidance provided in this document.

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Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Guidance on using information security control attributes

1 Scope

This document provides guidance on the use of information security control attributes specified in ISO/IEC 27002. The guidance given in this document is generic and is intended to be applicable to all organizations, regardless of type, size, or nature.

2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 27002:2022, *Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Information security controls*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO/IEC 27002 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

— ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp

— IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1
attribute
quality or feature of something or somebody

Note 1 to entry: An attribute is a quality or feature regarded as a characteristic or inherent part of something.

Note 2 to entry: An attribute can include information about the intended use.

3.2
attribute value
particular form or quantity, or a category or range of quantities, for a given *attribute* (3.1)

3.3
custom attribute
attribute (3.1) developed or adopted by the organization or the users which differs from those given in ISO/IEC 27002

4 Abbreviated terms

RTP risk treatment plan

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