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Deference Between EAL 1-7 in Common Criteria Standard?

I have a question about ISO/IEC 15408 standard: I want know if the level of evaluation is higher we can conclude that a product is safer? i.e, if we have two products, is the one which has a higher EAL by definition safer?

common-criteria

edited May 3 '15 at 14:18



WhiteWinterWolf

9,365 2 28 48

asked Dec 31 '14 at 7:20



bahar

21 2

Way to go with the anonymous down-vote on a first time poster. Not helpful. – [mr.spuratic](#) Dec 31 '14 at 13:50

2 Answers

The EAL levels are:

- EAL1 - functionally tested
- EAL2 - structurally tested
- EAL3 - methodically tested and checked
- EAL4 - methodically designed, tested, and reviewed
- EAL5 - semiformally designed and tested
- EAL6 - semiformally verified design and tested
- EAL7 - formally verified design and tested

You can see these are increasingly rigorous, from functionally tested to [formal verification](#). The security or safety of something isn't an absolute value, it is subjective and contextual, i.e. it depends to a great degree on what you are testing, and what you are using it for.

A key part of an EAL is the [Security Target](#) document, put simply this comprises a rigorous definition of functions, features and intended use, tailored for the specific hardware or software component under test (the TOE, *Target of Evaluation*). The EAL rating determines the extent of the testing, and the confidence that security is as claimed. You cannot simply compare EALs numerically, the number can only be properly understood in the context of the Security Target; and most importantly, that can only be understood in the context of *your* security requirements.

Colloquially, EAL indicates the degree to which something does what it says on the tin, you have to make sure you have the right tin ;-)

answered Dec 31 '14 at 13:48



mr.spuratic

5,025 14 23

To obtain more usefulness and value, Common Criteria is in the process of moving entirely away from the EAL numbering structure to protection profiles that are developed by international technical communities.

See White Paper on this topic here:

http://www.ccusersforum.org/library/wp/cPP_White_Paper.pdf

answered Jan 21 '15 at 1:14



IndianHead

1