STIX 2.0 Specification

Version 2.0-draft-3

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# ​5.​ Abstract

TODO: We will add this once the rest of the document is completed.

# ​6.​ Introduction

Structured Threat Information Expression (STIX™) is an information exchange language and serialization used to exchange cyber threat intelligence (CTI). STIX enables organizations to share CTI with one another in a consistent manner, allowing security communities to better understand what computer-based attacks they are most likely to see and to anticipate and/or respond to those attacks faster and more effectively. STIX is designed to improve many different capabilities, such as collaborative threat analysis, automated threat exchange at scale, automated detection and response, and many more.

In response to lessons learned in implementing previous versions, STIX has been significantly redesigned (TODO: add reference to STIX 1.2.1) and, as a result, omits some of the objects and fields defined in STIX 1.2.1. The objects chosen for inclusion in STIX 2.0 represent a minimally viable product (MVP) that fulfills basic consumer and producer requirements for CTI sharing. Objects and fields not included in STIX 2.0, but deemed necessary by the community, will be included in future releases.

## ​6.1.​ Overview

### ​6.1.1.​ Graph-Based Model

STIX 2.0 is graph-based, in the sense of a connected graph of nodes and edges. STIX Domain Objects define the graph nodes and STIX relationships (including STIX Relationship Objects and embedded references) define the edges. The full set of STIX Domain Objects and STIX Relationship Objects are known as STIX Objects. This graph-based language conforms to common analysis approaches and allows for flexible, modular, structured, and consistent representations of cyber threat intelligence.

### ​6.1.2.​ STIX Domain Objects

STIX 2.0 defines a set of STIX Domain Objects (SDOs): Attack Pattern, Campaign, Course of Action, Incident, Indicator, Infrastructure, Intrusion Set, Malware, Observed Data, Report, Source, Threat Actor, Tool, Victim Target, and Vulnerability. These objects each correspond to a concept commonly represented in cyber threat intelligence. Using the building blocks of SDOs alongside STIX relationships, individuals can create and share broad and comprehensive cyber threat intelligence.

SDOs are STIX Objects and all share a common set of properties. These common properties provide standard capabilities such as versioning, data marking (representing how data can be shared and used), and extensibility.

### ​6.1.3.​ STIX Relationships

A relationship is a connection between two STIX Objects. There are several different types of relationships in STIX:

* *Direct relationships* are relationships that can only be asserted by the object creator, such as the **created\_by\_ref** property. Direct relationships are embedded references represented as a property of a STIX Object.
* *External relationships* are intelligence relationships that can be asserted both by the object creator or by third parties. For example, the assertion that an Incident is attributed to a Campaign could be made both by the creator of that Incident as well as by a third party. External relationships are represented as a STIX Relationship Object (SRO) relating other objects together. There are currently two SROs: the generic Relationship SRO and the Sighting SRO.

External relationships are "named", meaning that they have a verb to describe the nature of relationship. Some of these are defined by the STIX 2.0 specification and are represented using the generic Relationship SRO. The generic Relationship SRO can also be used to represent relationships that are not defined in the specification.

Some external relationships require additional data to fully describe the relationship. These relationships are represented as specific types of SROs. The Sighting SRO, for example, is used to relate SDOs with Observed Data to indicate that those SDOs were sighted. It defines a **count**, **first\_seen**, and **last\_seen** properties to capture extra data about the relationship that are not present on the generic Relationship SRO.

SROs are STIX Objects and use the same common properties as SDOs. This provides standard capabilities such as versioning, data marking (representing how data can be shared and used), and extensibility.

### ​6.1.4.​ Vocabularies

Many STIX objects contain properties whose values are strings drawn from generally-agreed upon sets of values such as industry sector names and attack motivations. These sets of values are called vocabularies and are defined in STIX in order to enhance interoperability by increasing the likelihood that different entities use the same exact string to represent the same concept. If used consistently, vocabularies make it less likely that one entity refers to the Energy Sector as “Energy” and another as “Energy Sector”, thereby making comparison and correlation easier.

While using predefined values from STIX vocabularies is encouraged, in some cases this is not possible or desirable. STIX supports this by defining vocabularies as “open”: producers are always permitted to use values outside of the suggested vocabulary.

### ​6.1.5.​ Serialization

STIX is defined independent of any specific storage or exchange format (serialization). However, the mandatory-to-implement (MTI) serialization in STIX 2.0 is JSON (TODO REF IETF). Therefore, all STIX-compatible tools **MUST** support JSON as a serialization. STIX-compatible tools **MAY** support serializations other than JSON.

As JSON is the mandatory-to-implement serialization, all examples in this document are expressed in JSON.

### ​6.1.6.​ Transporting STIX

STIX 2.0 is designed to be transport-agnostic, i.e. the structures and serializations do not rely on any specific transport mechanism. A companion CTI specification, TAXII (TODO REF), is designed specifically to transport STIX Objects and is the recommended mechanism for doing so. If TAXII connectivity is not available or desired, STIX provides the Bundle object (see Section TODO) to allow for transportation of STIX data over non-TAXII communication mechanisms.

### ​6.1.7.​ Common Terms

**Object Creator** - The entity that created a STIX object (See Section TODO).

**Producer** - Any entity that generates STIX content, including Object Creators as well as those passing along existing content.

**Consumer** - Any entity that receives STIX content.

**STIX Content** - STIX documents, including STIX Objects, STIX Objects grouped as bundles, etc.

## ​6.2.​ Requirements

The keywords “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “NOT RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [TODO add reference].  
  
An implementation is not compliant if it fails to satisfy one or more of the **MUST** or **REQUIRED** level requirements. An implementation that satisfies all the **MUST** or **REQUIRED** level and all the **SHOULD** level requirements is said to be “unconditionally compliant”; one that satisfies all the **MUST** level requirements but not all the **SHOULD** level requirements is said to be “conditionally compliant”.

## ​6.3.​ Document Structure

This specification document is structured as follows.

<TODO - CHECK THE ORDER OF THE SECTIONS AND ORGANISE THIS PARA AS APPROPRIATE>

Section <TODO> defines the common types used throughout STIX, and is referenced in other sections of this specification. Information on customizing STIX can be found in Section 4<TODO>, with guidance, requirements and examples of Custom Properties. Section 5<TODO> outlines how STIX Objects are transported or transmitted. Section 6<TODO> defines the properties and behaviors common to all STIX Domain Objects (SDOs).

<to do> FINISH EXPANDING THIS SECTION - Suggest we do this when we have combined all the STIX docs into one. Easier then to get order of sections correct.

## ​6.4.​ Conventions

### ​6.4.1.​ Naming Conventions

All type names, property names and literals are in lowercase. Words in property names are separated with an underscore (\_), while words in type names and string enumerations are separated with a dash (-). All type names, property names, object names, and vocabulary terms are between three and 250 characters long.

### ​6.4.2.​ Reserved Property Names

Reserved property names are marked with a type called RESERVED and a description text of “RESERVED FOR FUTURE USE”. Any property name that is marked as RESERVED **MUST NOT** be present in STIX content conforming to this version of the specification.

### ​6.4.3.​ Font Colors and Style

The following color, font and font style conventions are used in this document:

* The Consolas font is used for all type names, property names and literals.
  + type names are in red with a light red background – package
  + property names are in bold style – **created\_at**
  + literals (values) are in green with a green background – IP Watchlist
  + as “named relationship” are string literals, they will also appear in green with a green background – related-to
* In property tables, if the property is being redefined from an inherited value in some way, then the background is dark grey.
* All examples in this document are expressed in JSON. They are in Consolas 9 pt font, with straight quotes, black text and a light blue background. All examples have a 2 space indentation.

​

# ​7.​ Common Data Types

**TODO Open questions:**

1. Make sure each of the sections are consistent with each other once we're done
2. Need to figure out how to do statements about JSON MTI serialization

This section defines the common types used throughout STIX. These types will be referenced by the “Type” column in other sections. This section defines the names and permitted values of common types that are used in the STIX information model; it does not, however, define the meaning of any fields using these types. These types may be further restricted elsewhere in the document.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Type** | **Description** |
| boolean | A value of true or false. |
| cybox-container | A container for CybOX content. This type is defined by the [TODO CybOX Reference]. |
| external-reference | A non-STIX identifier or reference to other related external content. |
| identifier | An identifier (ID) for a STIX Object. |
| kill-chain-phase | A reference to a kill chain phase by name. |
| list | An ordered sequence of values. The phrasing “list of type <type>” is used to indicate that all values within the list must conform to a specific type. |
| number | A number. |
| open-vocab | A value from a STIX open (open-vocab) or suggested vocabulary. |
| string | A series of Unicode characters. |
| timestamp | A time value (date and time). |
| timestamp-precision | The level of precision for timestamps. |

​

## ​7.1.​ Boolean

**Type Name:** boolean

A boolean contains a value of either true or false. Properties with this type **MUST** have a value of true or false.

The JSON MTI serialization uses the JSON boolean type <TODO: add reference>, which is a literal (unquoted) true or false.

### ​7.1.1.​ Examples

{

...

"summary": true,

...

}

## ​7.2.​ CybOX Container

**Type Name:** cybox-container

A container for CybOX content, as defined by [TODO Ref CybOX]. The structure is duplicated here simply as a reference; normative usage is defined by the CybOX language.

<todo: When CybOX is finished, copy in>

## ​7.3.​ External Reference

**Type Name:** external-reference

External references are used to describe pointers to information represented outside of STIX. For example, an Incident could use an external reference to indicate an ID for that incident in an external database or a report could use references to represent source material.

### ​7.3.1.​ Properties

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Property Name | Type | Description |
| **source\_name** (required) | string | The source within which the external-reference is defined (system, registry, organization, etc.). |
| **description** (optional) | string | A human readable description. |
| **url** (optional) | string | A URL reference to an external resource. [TODO: Reference to URL syntax] |
| **external\_id** (optional) | string | An identifier for the external reference content. |

### ​7.3.2.​ Requirements

* At least one of the **external\_id**, **url**, or **description** properties **MUST** be present.

### ​7.3.3.​ Examples

An external-reference to a VERIS [Community Database (VCDB)](http://www.vcdb.org) [TODO:Add ref?] entry

{

...

"external\_references": [

{

"source\_name": "veris",

"external\_id": "0001AA7F-C601-424A-B2B8-BE6C9F5164E7",

"url": "https://github.com/vz-risk/VCDB/blob/master/data/json/0001AA7F-C601-424A-B2B8-BE6C9F5164E7.json"

}

],

...

}

An external-reference from the CAPEC™ (TODO add ref) repository

{

...

"external\_references": [

{

"source\_name": "capec",

"external\_id": "CAPEC-550"

}

],

...

}

An external-reference from the CAPEC repository with URL

{

...

"external\_references": [

{

"source\_name": "capec",

"external\_id": "CAPEC-550",

"url": "<http://capec.mitre.org/data/definitions/550.html>"

}

],

...

}

An external-reference to ACME Threat Intel's report document

{

...

"external\_references": [

{

"source\_name": "ACME Threat Intel",

"description": "Threat report",

"url": "[http://](http://intelreport.mandiant.com/Mandiant_APT1_Report.pdf)www.example.com/threat-report.pdf"

}

],

...

}

An external-reference to a Bugzilla item

{

...

"external\_references": [

{

"source\_name": "ACME Bugzilla",

"external\_id": "1370",

"url": "[https://](https://issues.oasis-open.org/browse/TAB-1370)www.example.com/bugs/1370"

}

],

...

}

## ​7.4.​ Identifier

**Type Name:** identifier

An identifier universally and uniquely identifies a STIX Object. Identifiers **MUST** follow the form [object-type]--[UUIDv4], where **[object-type]** is the exact value from the type field of the object being identified or referenced and where the **[UUIDv4]** is an RFC 4122-compliant Version 4 UUID. The UUID **MUST** be generated according to the algorithm(s) defined in RFC 4122, Section 4.4 (Version 4 UUID) [add reference].

### ​7.4.1.​ Examples

{

...

"type": "indicator",

"id": "indicator--e2e1a340-4415-4ba8-9671-f7343fbf0836",

...

}

## ​7.5.​ Kill Chain Phase

**Type Name:** kill-chain-phase

The kill-chain-phase represents a phase in a kill chain. The concept of a kill chain, as applied to information security by Lockheed Martin in its Cyber Kill Chain™ [TODO add reference], is to elaborate the various phases an attacker may undertake in order to achieve their objectives.

When referencing the Lockheed Martin Cyber Kill Chain, the **kill\_chain\_name** **MUST** be lockheed-martin-cyber-kill-chain**.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Property Name | Type | Description |
| **kill\_chain\_name** (required) | string | The name of the kill chain. The value of this field **SHOULD** be all lowercase (where lowercase is defined by the locality conventions) and **SHOULD** use dashes instead of spaces or underscores. |
| **phase\_name** (required) | string | The name of the phase in the kill chain. The value of this field **SHOULD** be all lowercase (where lowercase is defined by the locality conventions) and **SHOULD** use dashes instead of spaces or underscores. |

### ​7.5.1.​ Examples

Example specifying the “reconnaissance” phase from the Lockheed Martin kill-chain

{

...

"kill\_chain\_phases": [

{

"kill\_chain\_name": "lockheed-martin-cyber-kill-chain",

"phase\_name": "reconnaissance"

}

],

...

}

Example specifying the “pre-attack” phase from the “foo” kill-chain

{

...

"kill\_chain\_phases": [

{

"kill\_chain\_name": "foo",

"phase\_name": "pre-attack"

}

],

...

}

## ​7.6.​ List

**Type Name:** list

The list type defines an ordered sequence of one or more values. The phrasing “list of type <type>” is used to indicate that all values within the list must conform to a specific type. For instance, list of type number means that all values of the list must be of the number type. This specification does not specify the maximum number of allowed values in a list, however every instance of a list **MUST** have at least one value. Specific STIX object properties may define more restrictive upper and/or lower bounds for the length of the list.

Empty lists are prohibited in STIX and **MUST NOT** be used as a substitute for omitting the property if the list is optional.

The JSON MTI serialization uses the JSON array type [TODO: Add ref?], which is an ordered list of zero or more values.

​7.6.1. Examples

{

...

"observed\_data\_refs": [

"observed-data--b67d30ff-02ac-498a-92f9-32f845f448cf",

"observed-data--c96f4120-2b4b-47c3-b61f-eceaa54bd9c6",

"observed-data--787710c9-1988-4a1b-9761-a2de5e19c62f"

],

...

}

## ​7.7.​ Number

**Type Name:** number

The number type represents any number that can be expressed as a real number (e.g., -10, 0, 10, 10.1, 10.123213). Each use of the number type may specify the following:

* The valid range of values;
* Whether it is limited to integers or not; and
* The maximum number of decimal places.

In the JSON MTI serialization, numbers are represented by the JSON number type [TODO: Add reference]. The maximum size that can be captured in a JSON number object is 2^23 (IEEE 754 64-bit double) (TODO add ref).

### ​7.7.1.​ Examples

{

...

"count": 8,

...

}

## ​7.8.​ String

**Type Name:** string

The string data type represents a finite-length string of valid characters from the Unicode coded character set [ISO.10646]. Unicode incorporates ASCII [RFC20] and the characters of many other international character sets.

The JSON MTI serialization uses the JSON string type [TODO: Add reference], which mandates the UTF-8 encoding for supporting Unicode.

### ​7.8.1.​ Examples

{

...

"title": "The Black Vine Cyberespionage Group",

...

}

​

## ​7.9.​ Timestamp

**Type Name:** timestamp

The timestamp type defines how timestamps are represented in STIX. Most discrete timestamps (i.e., not time ranges or relative times) have a corresponding optional field that indicates the precision of the timestamp, of type timestamp-precision.

In cases where the timestamp is metadata about the STIX construct, such as creation and modification times for STIX Objects, the timestamp field will not have the corresponding precision field. In these cases, the timestamp **MUST** be treated as if the precision field is full.

### ​7.9.1.​ Requirements

* The timestamp field **MUST** be a valid RFC 3339-formatted timestamp [TODO add reference] using the format YYYY-MM-DDTHH:mm:ss[.s+]Z where the “s+” represents 1 or more sub-second values.
* The timestamp **MUST** be represented in the UTC timezone and **MUST** use the “Z” designation to indicate this.

### ​7.9.2.​ Examples

A timestamp that does not have a corresponding precision field

{

...

"created": "2016-01-20T12:31:12.12345Z",

...

}

Examples of timestamps with a corresponding precision field are located in the following section.

## ​7.10.​ Timestamp Precision

**Type Name:** timestamp-precision

A timestamp-precision represents the precision options for a given timestamp.

### ​7.10.1.​ Requirements

* If present, the timestamp-precision field **MUST** have a value of year, month, day, hour, minute, or full.
  + The default value for the precision field is full, so omitting the field is equivalent to explicitly specifying full.
  + A value of full indicates that the value in the timestamp field is precise to the full number of digits in the timestamp value (including any fractional seconds, such as milliseconds or microseconds).
  + A value of year, month, day, hour, or minute indicates that the timestamp value is precise to that as a lower bound (the precision window is the timestamp value plus one unit of the precision value).
    - *For example, if the timestamp value is 2016-04-25T13:00:00Z and the precision value is hour, the time is greater than or equal to 2016-04-25T13:00:00Z and less than 2016-04-25T14:00:00Z.*
  + When specifying a precision other than full, the time portion of the timestamp field **MUST** contain 00 for all fields beyond the specified precision while the date portion **MUST** contain 01 for all fields beyond the specified precision.
    - *For example, if the precision field is* month*, the* timestamp *field must contain 01 for the day field and 00 for the hour, minute, and second fields such as 2016-12-01T00:00:00Z.*
* The timestamp-precision field **MUST** always be nested at the same level as the timestamp field.
* The property name for the precision field **MUST** have the following suffix **[timestamp\_field\_name]\_precision**.
  + *For example, if the key of the* timestamp *field is* ***valid\_from****, the key of the precision field is* ***valid\_from\_precision****.*

### ​7.10.2.​ Examples

**The following examples have explicitly defined the precision**

A timestamp known only to a year would look like:

{

...

"start": "2016-01-01T00:00:00Z",

"start\_precision": "year",

...

}

A timestamp known only to an hour would look like:

{

...

"end": "2016-01-20T12:00:00Z",

"end\_precision": "hour",

...

}

**The following examples have implicitly defined the precision**

A timestamp known to a second would look like:

{

...

"start": "2016-01-20T12:31:12Z",

...

}

A timestamp known to 5-digit sub-second precision would look like:

{

...

"end": "2016-01-20T12:31:12.12345Z",

...

}

## ​7.11.​ Open Vocabulary

**Type Name:** open-vocab

The open-vocab type is a string that provides a list of suggested values, known as the suggested vocabulary. The value of an open-vocab field **SHOULD** be a value from the suggested vocabulary but **MAY** be any other string value. Values that are not from the value list **SHOULD** be all lowercase (where lowercase is defined by the locality conventions) and **SHOULD** use dashes instead of spaces or underscores.

A consumer that receives STIX content with one or more open-vocab terms not defined in the suggested vocabulary **MAY** silently ignore those values.

### ​7.11.1.​ Examples

**Example using value from the suggested vocabulary**

In this example the Indicator **labels** property is an open vocabulary and we are using one of the suggested vocabulary values.

{

...,

"labels": ["malicious-activity"],

...

}

**Example using a custom value**

In this example, for the same Indicator **labels** property, we are not using a value in the suggested vocabulary.

{

...,

"labels": ["pbx-fraud-activity"],

...

}

# ​8.​ STIX Objects

This section outlines the common properties and behavior across all STIX Objects, including STIX Domain Objects, STIX Relationship Objects, and the Marking Definition Object (see Section TODO).

## ​8.1.​ Common Properties

This section defines properties and behaviors common to all STIX Domain Objects, Relationship Objects, and the Marking Definition Object.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **type** (required) | string | The **type** property identifies the type of STIX Object (SDO, SRO, etc). The value of the **type** field **MUST** be one of the types defined by a STIX Object (e.g., indicator, see Section TODO). |
| **id** (required) | identifier | The **id** property universally and uniquely identifies this object. All objects with the same **id** are considered different versions of the same object.  Because the object type is part of the identifier, it is not possible for objects of different types to share the same **id**. |
| **created\_by\_ref** (optional) | identifier | The **created\_by\_ref** property specifies the ID of the source object that describes the entity that created this object.  If this attribute is omitted, the source of this information is undefined. This may be used by object creators who wish to remain anonymous. |
| **created** (required) | timestamp | The **created** property represents the time at which the first version of this object was created. The object creator can use the time it deems most appropriate as the time the object was created.  The **created** property **SHOULD** be the same across all versions of the object unless the **created** property itself was corrected in a newer version.  See section TODO for further definition of versioning. |
| **modified** (required) | timestamp | The **modified** property represents the time that this particular version of the object was created. The object creator can use the time it deems most appropriate as the time this version of the object was created. The value of the **modified** property for a given object version **MUST** be later than or equal to the value of the **created** property.  Object creators **MUST** update the **modified** property when creating a new version of an object.  See section TODO for further definition of versioning. |
| **version** (required) | number | The **version** property indicates the version of this object. The value of this property **MUST** be an integer (whole number) greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to 999,999,999. Higher numbers indicate later versions of the object. Object creators **MUST** increase the version number (**SHOULD** increment it by exactly 1) when creating a new version of an object. See section TODO for more information about versioning STIX objects.  See section TODO for further definition of versioning. |
| **revoked** (optional) | boolean | The **revoked** property indicates whether the object has been revoked. Revoked objects are no longer considered valid by the object creator. Revoking an object is permanent; future versions of the object with this **id** **MUST NOT** be created. See section TODO for more information about versioning STIX objects.  The default value of this property is false.  See section TODO for further definition of versioning. |
| **labels** (optional) | list of type string | The **labels** property specifies a set of classifications.  This property usually includes a suggested vocabulary and items in this list **SHOULD** come from that vocabulary. Additional labels **MAY** be added beyond what is in the open / suggested vocabulary based on needs and requirements of implementations and trust groups. |
| **external\_references**  (optional) | list of type external-reference | The **external\_references** property specifies a list of external references which refers to non-STIX information. This field is used to provide one or more URLs, descriptions, or IDs to records in other systems. |
| **object\_marking\_refs** (optional) | list of type identifier | The **object\_marking\_refs** property specifies a list of IDs of marking-definition objects that apply to this object. See the Data Markings in section TODO for further information. |
| **granular\_markings** (optional) | list of type granular-marking | The **granular\_markings** property specifies a list of granular markings applied to this object. See the Data Markings in section [TODO Ref] for further information. |

## ​8.2.​ IDs and References

The **id** property universally and uniquely identifies an object. It **MUST** conform to the identifier type.

All STIX Objects use identifiers as defined by the identifier type. The identifier type is also used to define fields that are *ID references* to other constructs (such as the **created\_by\_ref** property in all STIX Objects). *Resolving*an ID reference is the process of identifying and obtaining the actual object referred to by the ID reference field. ID references resolve to an object when the value of the ID reference property (e.g., **created\_by\_ref**) is an exact match with the **id** property of another object. If an ID reference resolves to an object for which multiple versions exist, the reference **MUST** be resolved to the latest available version of the object. ID references **MAY** refer to objects to which the consumer/producer may not currently have. This specification does not address the implementation of ID reference resolution.

## ​8.3.​ Object Creator

The object creator is the entity (e.g., system, organization, instance of a tool) that generates the **id** property for a given object. Object creators are represented as Source objects. A reference to the Source object representing the object creator is captured in the **created\_by\_ref** property.

Entities that re-publish an object from another entity without making any changes to the object, and thus maintaining the original **id**,are not considered the object creator and **MUST NOT** change the **created\_by\_ref** property. An entity that accepts objects and republishes them with modifications or omissions **MUST** create a new **id** for the object as they will be considered the object creator of the new object for purposes of versioning.

## ​8.4.​ Versioning

This section describes the versioning process and normative rules for performing versioning and revocation of STIX Objects. STIX Objects are versioned using the **version**, **revoked**, **created**, and **modified** properties. See the properties table in Section TODO [add reference] for full definitions and normative usage of the individual properties.

STIX Objects can be versioned in order to update, add, or remove information. A version of a STIX Object is identified uniquely by a combination of its **id** and **version** properties. Higher values of the **version** property indicate later versions of the object. Implementations **MUST** consider the version of the STIX object with the highest version value to be the current state of the object. This specification does not address how implementations should handle versions of the object that are not current.

STIX Objects have a single *object creator*: the entity that generates the **id** for the object and creates the first version. Only the object creator is permitted to create new versions of a STIX Object. Producers other than the object creator **MUST NOT** create new versions of that object. If a producer other than the object creator wishes to create a new version, they instead **MUST** create a new object with a new **id**. They **SHOULD** additionally create a derived-from Relationship object to relate their new object to the original object that it was derived from.

Each version of an object (identified by the object's **id** and its **version**) **MUST**, in all representations, always have the same set of properties and the same values for each property. In order to change the value of any property, or to add or remove properties, the **version** number **MUST** be increased to indicate a new version and the modified property **MUST** be updated to reflect the time of the change.

Objects can also be revoked, which is an indication that they are no longer considered valid by the object creator. As with issuing a new version, only the object creator is permitted to revoke a STIX Object. A value of true in the **revoked** property indicates that an object (including the current version and all past versions) has been revoked. Revocation is permanent: once an object is marked as revoked, later versions of that object **MUST NOT** be created. The change to the **revoked** property to indicate that an object is revoked is an update to the object, and therefore its **version** and **modified** properties **MUST** be updated. This specification does not address how implementations should handle revoked data.

### ​8.4.1.​ Versioning Timestamps

There are two timestamp properties used to indicate when STIX Objects were created and modified: **created** and **modified**. The **created** property indicates the time the first version of the object was created. The **modified** property indicates the time the specific version of the object was created. The **modified** time **MUST NOT** be earlier than the **created** time. This specification does not address the specifics of how implementations should determine the value of the **created** and **modified** properties.

### ​8.4.2.​ New Version or New Object?

Eventually an implementation will encounter a case where a decision must be made regarding whether a change is a new version of an existing object or is different enough that it is a new object. This is generally considered a data quality problem and therefore this specification does not provide any normative text.

However, to assist implementers and promote consistency across implementations, some rules of thumb are provided. Any time a change indicates a *material change* to the meaning of the object, a new object with a different **id** should be used. A material change is any change that the object creator believes substantively changes the meaning of the object. As an example, an object creator might consider changing a Threat Actor from one country to another is a material change. These decisions are always made by the object creator. The object creator should also think about references to the object when deciding if a change is material. If the change would invalidate the usefulness of references to the object, then the change is considered material and a new object **id** should be used.

### ​8.4.3.​ Examples

**Example of a new version**

One object creator has decided that the previous title they used for a SDO is incorrect. They consider that change as an update to the object.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Step #** | **STIX Object** | **Object Creator Action** |
| 1 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--1",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "version": 1,  "title": "attention",  "description": "this is the description"  } | Original version of an object is created. |
| 2 | N/A, STIX is not involved in this step | Object creator changes the title in their internal database. |
| 3 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--1",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-08T03:43:44.000000Z",  "version": 2,  "title": "Attention!",  "description": "this is the description"  } | Object creator increases the **version** property by 1 and updates the **modified** property. |

**Example of Derived Object**

One object creator has decided that the previous title they used for a SDO is incorrect. They consider that change fundamental to the meaning of the object and therefore revoke the object and issue a new one.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Step #** | **STIX Object** | **Object Creator Action** |
| 1 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--1",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "version": 1,  "title": "attention",  "description": "this is the description"  } | Original object created (via new id and set **version** to *1*). |
| 2 | N/A, STIX is not involved in this step | Object creator changes the title in their internal database. |
| 3 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--1",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-08T03:43:44.000000Z",  "version": 2,  "title": "attention",  "description": "this is the description",  "revoked": true  } | Object creator revokes the existing object by setting **revoked** to true. |
| 4 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--2",  "created": "2016-05-08T03:43:44.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-08T03:43:44.000000Z",  "version": 1,  "title": "Something completely different",  "description": "this is the description"  } | Object creator creates a new object (with a new **id** and **version** set to *1*). |
| 5 | {  "type": "relationship",  "id": "relationship--3",  "created": "2016-05-08T03:43:44.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-08T03:43:44.000000Z",  "version": 1,  "source\_ref": "example--1",  "target\_ref": "example--2",  "name": "derived-from"  } | (Optional) Object creator creates a new Relationship indicating that the new object is derived from the old object. |

**Example Consumer Workflow**

This section describes an example workflow where a consumer receives multiple updates to a particular object. (In this example, the STIX Objects have been truncated for brevity.)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Step #** | **STIX Object** | **Recipient Action** |
| 1 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--1",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "version": 1  } | Consumer stores example object because this is the first time they have seen the object. |
| 2 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--1",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-08T03:43:44.000000Z",  "version": 4  } | Consumer updates example object because the received version number is higher than the object that is currently stored. |
| 3 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--1",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-06T06:23:45.000000Z",  "version": 3  } | Consumer ignores this object because they already have a newer version of the object.  Note: consumer might choose to store meta-information about received objects, including versions that were received out-of-order. |
| 4 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--1",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-11T06:41:21.000000Z",  "version": 12,  "revoked": true  } | Consumer deletes example object, but keeps some metadata regarding the object. |
| 5 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--1",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-10T17:28:54.000000Z",  "version": 11  } | Consumer ignores this object because they already have a newer version of the object (the revoked version). |

​

**Example Object Creator Workflow**

This section describes an example workflow where a object creator publishes multiple updates to a particular object. This scenario assumes a human using a STIX implementation. (In this example, the STIX Objects have been truncated for brevity.)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Step #** | **STIX Object** | **User Action** |
| 1 | N/A – STIX is not involved in this scenario.  (Tools *could* choose to create and track STIX versions for internal changes, but it is not required by the specification.) | User clicks a create button in the user interface, creates a SDO, then clicks save. This action causes information to be stored in the product’s database. |
| 2 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--2",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "version": 1  } | The user clicks the “share” button, delivering the intelligence to sharing partners. |
| 3 | N/A – STIX is not involved in this scenario.  (Tools *could* choose to create and track STIX versions for internal changes, but it is not required by the specification.) | The user performs additional analysis within the STIX implementation, performing multiple modifications and saving their work multiple times. |
| 4 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--2",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-03T16:33:51.000000Z",  "version": 2  } | The user, happy with the status of their work, decides to provide an update to some properties of the previously published object (not shown). |
| 5 | {  "type": "example",  "id": "example--2",  "created": "2016-05-01T06:13:14.000000Z",  "modified": "2016-05-08T13:35:12.000000Z"  "version": 3,  "revoked": true,  } | The user receives lots of negative feedback regarding the quality of their work and decides to retract the object by pressing the “revoke” button. |

## ​8.5.​ Common Named Relationships

Each SDO has its own set of named relationships that are specified in the definition of that SDO. The following named relationships are defined for all STIX Objects. See Section <to do>[add reference] for more information about relationships.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Source** | **Target** | **Description** |
| derived-from | *<STIX Object>* | *<STIX Object of same type>* | The information in the target object is based on information from the source object.  derived-from is an explicit relationship between two separate objects and **MUST NOT** be used as a substitute for the normal object versioning process. |
| duplicate-of | *<STIX Object>* | *<STIX Object of same type>* | The referenced source and target objects are semantically duplicates of each other.  This specification does not address whether the source or the target object is the duplicate object or what action, if any, a consumer should take when receiving an instance of this relationship.  As an example, a Campaign object from one organization could be marked as a duplicate-of a Campaign object from another organization if they both described the same campaign. |
| related-to | *<STIX Object>* | *<STIX Object of any type>* | Asserts a generic relationships between two SDOs. This relationship can be used when none of the predefined relationships are appropriate.  As an example, a Malware object describing a piece of malware could be marked as a related-to a Tool if they are commonly used together. That relationship is not common enough to standardize on, but may be useful to some analysts. |

## ​8.6.​ Reserved Properties

This section defines property names that are reserved for future use in revisions of this document. The property names defined in this section **MUST NOT** be used for the name of any Custom Property.

Properties that are currently reserved across all STIX Objects are:

* confidence
* severity
* action
* usernames
* phone\_numbers
* addresses

# ​9.​ 9.Data Markings

Data markings represent restrictions and permissions or other guidance for how that data can be used and shared. For example, data may be shared with the restriction that it must not be re-shared, or that it must be encrypted at rest. In STIX, data markings are specified using the marking-definition object. Object markings and granular markings apply marking-definition objects to other STIX Objects and properties, respectively.

Some types of marking definitions or trust groups have rules about which markings override other markings or which markings can be additive to other markings. This specification does not define rules for how multiple markings applied to the same properties are interpreted.

## ​9.1.​ Marking Definition

**Type Name:** marking-definition

The marking-definition object represents a specific marking. Data markings typically represent handling or sharing requirements for data, and are applied in the **object\_markings\_refs** and **granular\_markings** properties on STIX Objects, which reference a list of IDs for marking-definition objects.

### ​9.1.1.​ Properties

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **type** (required) | string | The **type** property identifies the type object. The value of this property **MUST** be marking-definition. |
| **id** (required) | identifier | The **id** property universally and uniquely identifies this Marking Definition object. All objects with the same **id** are considered different versions of the same object.  Because the object type is part of the identifier, it is not possible for objects of different types to share the same **id**. |
| **definition\_type** (required) | open-vocab | The **definition\_type** property identifies the type of Marking Definition. The value of the **definition\_type** property **SHOULD** be one of the types defined in the subsections below: iep, statement, or tlp (see Sections TODO). |
| **definition** (required) | <marking object> | The **definition** property contains the marking object itself. |
| **created\_by\_ref** (optional) | identifier | The **created\_by\_ref** property specifies the ID of the source object that describes the entity that created this Marking Definition object.  If this attribute is omitted, the source of this information is undefined. This may be used by object creators who wish to remain anonymous. |
| **created** (required) | timestamp | The **created** property represents the time at which the first version of this Marking Definition object was created. The object creator can use the time it deems most appropriate as the time the object was created. |
| **external\_references**  (optional) | list of type external-reference | The **external\_references** property specifies a list of external references which refers to non-STIX information. This field is used to provide one or more URLs, descriptions, or IDs to records in other systems. |
| **object\_marking\_refs** (optional) | list of type identifier | The **object\_marking\_refs** property specifies a list of IDs of marking-definition objects that apply to this Marking Definition. This property **MUST NOT** contain any references to this Marking Definition object (i.e., it cannot contain any circular references). |
| **granular\_markings** (optional) | list of type granular-marking | The **granular\_markings** property specifies a list of granular markings applied to this object. This property **MUST NOT** contain any references to this Marking Definition object (i.e., it cannot contain any circular references). |

### ​9.1.2.​ Relationships

These are no relationships explicitly defined between the Marking Definition object and other objects, other than those defined as common relationships. The first section lists the embedded relationships by property name along with their corresponding target.

Relationships are not restricted to those listed below. Relationships can be created between any objects using the related-to relationship name or, as with open vocabularies, user-defined names.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Embedded Relationships** | |
| **created\_by\_ref** | source |
| **object\_markings\_refs** | marking-definition |
| **Common Relationships** | |
| duplicate-of, derived-from, related-to | |

​

### ​9.1.3.​ FIRST Information Exchange Policy Object Type

The FIRST Information Exchange Policy (IEP) marking type represents markings that conform to the FIRST IEP specification (TODO add ref). The value of the **definition\_type** property **MUST** be iep when using this marking type. IEP markings incorporate TLP: in these cases, it is not necessary to duplicate the TLP marking both as a separate marking definition and in IEP.

This definition is not equivalent to IEP's native JSON representation. Key names, field values, and data types have been converted to follow STIX naming and design rules.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **id** (required) | string | The **id** property provides a unique ID to identify a specific IEP implementation.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "POLICY ID" specified in section 11.1.1 of the IEP specification. |
| **version** (optional) | number | The **version** property states the version of the IEP framework that has been used, e.g. 1.0.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "POLICY VERSION" specified in section 11.1.2 of the IEP specification. |
| **name** (optional) | string | The **name** property provides a name for an IEP implementation.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "POLICY NAME" specified in section 11.1.3 of the IEP specification. |
| **start\_date** (optional) | timestamp | The **start\_date** property states the UTC date that the IEP is effective from.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "POLICY START DATE" specified in section 11.1.4 of the IEP specification. |
| **end\_date** (optional) | timestamp | The **end\_date** property states the UTC date that the IEP is effective until.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "POLICY START DATE" specified in section 11.1.5 of the IEP specification. |
| **reference** (optional) | string | The **reference** property can be used to provide a URL reference to the specific IEP implementation.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "POLICY REFERENCE" specified in section 11.1.6 of the IEP specification. |
| **encrypt\_in\_transit** (optional) | string | The **encrypt\_in\_transit** property states whether the received information has to be encrypted when it is retransmitted by the recipient (per IEP specification). The value **MUST** be must or may.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "ENCRYPT IN TRANSIT" policy specified in section 7.1.1 of the IEP specification. |
| **encrypt\_at\_rest** (optional) | string | The **encrypt\_at\_rest** property states whether the received information has to be encrypted when it is retransmitted by the recipient. The value **MUST** be must or may.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "ENCRYPT AT REST" policy specified in section 7.1.2 of the IEP specification. |
| **permitted\_actions** (optional) | string | The **permitted\_actions** property states the permitted actions that recipients can take upon information received. The value **MUST** be none, contact-for-instruction, internally-visible-actions, externally-visible-indirect-actions, or externally-visible-direct-actions.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "PERMITTED ACTIONS" policy specified in section 8.1.1 of the IEP specification. |
| **affected\_party\_notifications** (optional) | string | The **affected\_party\_notifications** property states whether recipients are permitted to notify affected third parties of a potential compromise or threat. The value **MUST** be may or must-not.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "AFFECTED PARTY NOTIFICATIONS" policy specified in section 8.1.2 of the IEP specification. |
| **tlp** (optional) | string | The **tlp** property states how recipients are permitted to redistribute the information received within the redistribution scope as defined by the enumerations. The value **MUST** be red, amber, green, or white.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "TRAFFIC LIGHT PROTOCOL" policy specified in section 9.1.1 of the IEP specification. |
| **attribution** (optional) | string | The **attribution** property states whether recipients are required to attribute the provider. The value **MUST** be may, must, or must-not.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "PROVIDER ATTRIBUTION" policy specified in section 9.1.2 of the IEP specification. |
| **obfuscate\_affected\_parties** (optional) | string | The **obfuscate\_affected\_parties** property states whether recipients are required to obfuscate or anonymize information that could identify affected parties. The value **MUST** be may, must, or must-not.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "OBFUSCATE AFFECTED PARTIES" policy specified in section 9.1.3 of the IEP specification. |
| **external\_reference** (optional) | string | The **external\_reference** property is used to convey a description or reference to any applicable licenses, agreements, or conditions between the producer and receiver.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "EXTERNAL REFERENCE" policy specified in section 10.1.1 of the IEP specification. |
| **unmodified\_resale** (optional) | string | The **unmodified\_resale** property states whether the recipient may or must not resell the information received unmodified or in a semantically equivalent format. The value **MUST** be may or must-not.  This is an IEP property and **MUST** conform to the requirement for "UNMODIFIED RESALE" policy specified in section 10.1.2 of the IEP specification. |

### ​9.1.4.​ Statement Marking Object Type

The statement marking type defines the representation of a textual marking statement (e.g. copyright, terms of use, etc.) in a definition. The value of the **definition\_type** property **MUST** be statement when using this marking type. Statement markings are generally not machine-readable and this specification does not define any behavior or actions based on their values.

Content may be marked with multiple statement marking types that do not override each other. In other words, the same content can be marked both with a statement saying "Copyright 2016" and a statement saying "Terms of use are ..." and both statements apply.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **statement** (required) | string | A statement (e.g., copyright, terms of use) applied to the content marked by this marking definition. |

### ​9.1.5.​ TLP Marking Object Type

The TLP marking type sub-object defines how you would represent a Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) marking in a definition field. The value of the **definition\_type** property **MUST** be tlp when using this marking type.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **tlp** (required) | string | The TLP level (defined by FIRST, ask Tom Millar for stable ref) of the content marked by this marking definition, as defined in this section. |

The following standard definitions **MUST** be used to reference or represent TLP markings. Other instances of tlp-marking **MUST NOT** be used.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| white | {  "type": "marking-definition",  "id": "marking-definition--613f2e26-407d-48c7-9eca-b8e91df99dc9",  "created": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",  "modified": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",  "version": 1,  "definition\_type": "tlp",  "definition": {  "tlp": "white"  }  } |
| green | {  "type": "marking-definition",  "id": "marking-definition--34098fce-860f-48ae-8e50-ebd3cc5e41da",  "created": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",  "modified": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",  "version": 1,  "definition\_type": "tlp",  "definition": {  "tlp": "green"  }  } |
| amber | {  "type": "marking-definition",  "id": "marking-definition--f88d31f6-486f-44da-b317-01333bde0b82",  "created": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",  "modified": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",  "version": 1,  "definition\_type": "tlp",  "definition": {  "tlp": "amber"  }  } |
| red | {  "type": "marking-definition",  "id": "marking-definition--5e57c739-391a-4eb3-b6be-7d15ca92d5ed",  "created": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",  "modified": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",  "version": 1,  "definition\_type": "tlp",  "definition": {  "tlp": "red"  }  } |

### ​9.1.6.​ Examples

{

"type": "marking-definition",

"id": "marking-definition--34098fce-860f-48ae-8e50-ebd3cc5e41da",

"created": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",

"modified": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",

"version": 1,

"definition\_type": "statement",

"definition": {

"statement": "Copyright 2016, Example Corp"

}

}

## ​9.2.​ Object Markings

Object Markings apply data markings to an entire STIX Object and all of its contents. Object Markings are specified in the **object\_marking\_refs** property, which is an optional list of IDs of marking-definition objects. The markings referenced in the **object\_marking\_refs** property and defined in the marking-definition object apply to that STIX Object and all of its contents. Changes to the **object\_marking\_refs** property (and therefore the markings applied to the object) are treated the same as changes to any other properties on the object and follow the same rules for versioning.

### ​9.2.1.​ Examples

This example marks the indicator and all its properties with the marking definition referenced by the ID.

{

"type": "indicator",

"id": "indicator--089a6ecb-cc15-43cc-9494-767639779235",

...

"object\_marking\_refs": ["marking-definition--089a6ecb-cc15-43cc-9494-767639779123"],

...

}

## ​9.3.​ Granular Markings

Whereas object markings apply to an entire STIX Object and all its properties, granular markings allow data markings to be applied to individual portions of STIX Objects. Granular markings are specified in the **granular\_markings** property, which is a list of granular-marking instances. Each of those instances contains a list of selectors to indicate what is marked and a reference to the marking-definition object to be applied. Granular markings can be used, for example, to indicate that the **name** property of an indicator should be handled as TLP:GREEN, the **description** property as TLP:AMBER, and the **pattern** property as TLP:RED.

### ​9.3.1.​ Granular Marking Type

The granular-marking type defines how the marking-definition object referenced by the **marking\_ref** property applies to a set of content identified by the list of selectors in the **selectors** property.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **marking\_ref** (required) | identifier | The **marking\_ref** property specifies the ID of the marking-definition object that describes the marking. |
| **selectors**  (required) | list of type string | The **selectors** property specifies a list of selectors for content contained within the STIX Object in which this property appears. Selectors **MUST** conform to the syntax defined in [Section TODO].  The marking-definition referenced in the **marking\_ref** field is applied to the content selected by the selectors in this list. |

#### ​9.3.1.1.​ Selector Syntax

Selectors contained in the **selectors** list are strings that consist of multiple components that **MUST** be separated by the . character. Each component **MUST** be one of:

* A property name, e.g. description, or;
* A zero-based list index, specified as a non-negative integer in square brackets, e.g. [4]

Selectors denote path traversals: the root of each selector is the STIX Object that the **granular\_markings** field appears in. Starting from that root, for each component in the selector, properties and list items are traversed. When the complete list has been traversed, the value of the content is considered selected.

Selectors **MUST** refer to properties or list items that are actually present on the marked object.

As an example, consider the following STIX Object:

{

"id": "vulnerability--ee916c28-c7a4-4d0d-ad56-a8d357f89fef",

"created": "2016-02-14T00:00:00Z",

"modified": "2016-02-14T00:00:00Z",

"version": 1,

"type": "vulnerability",

"name": "CVE-2014-0160",

"description": "The (1) TLS...",

"external\_references": [{

"source\_name": "cve",

"external\_id": "CVE-2014-0160"

}],

"labels": ["heartbleed", "has-logo"]

}

Valid selectors:

* description selects the **description** property ("The (1) TLS...")
* external\_references.[0].source\_name selects the **source\_name** property of the first value of the **external\_references** list (“cve”).
* labels.[0] selects the first item contained within the **labels** list ("heartbleed")
* labels selects the list contained in the **labels** property. Due to the recursive nature of the selector, that includes all items in the list (["heartbleed", "has-logo"]).
* external\_references selects the list contained in the **external\_references** property. Due to the recursive nature of the selector, that includes all list items and all properties of those list items.

Invalid selectors:

* pattern and external\_references.[3] are invalid selectors because they refer to content not present in that object.
* description.[0] is an invalid selector because the description property is a string and not a list.
* labels.name is an invalid selector because labels property is a list and not an object.

This syntax is inspired by JSONPath (TODO: reference) and is in fact a strict subset of allowable JSONPath expressions (with the exception that the '$' to indicate the root is implicit). Care should be taken when passing selectors to JSONPath evaluators to ensure that the root is correct. It is expected, however, that selectors can be easily evaluated in programming languages that implement list and key/value mapping types (dictionaries, hashmaps, etc.) without resorting to an external library.

### ​9.3.2.​ Example

This example marks the **description** and **labels** properties with the single marking definition referenced in the list.

{

...

"granular\_markings": [

{

"marking\_ref": "marking-definition--089a6ecb-cc15-43cc-9494-767639779123",

"selectors": ["description", "labels"]

}

],

"description": "Some description"

"title": "Some title",

"labels": ["first", "second"]

}

# ​10.​ STIX Domain Objects

The STIX Domain Objects will go here when we merge the documents.

# ​11.​ Relationship Objects

The Relationship Objects will go here when we merge the documents.

# ​12.​ Bundle

The Bundle Objects will go here when we merge the documents.

# ​13.​ Vocabularies

The following sections provide object-specific listings for each of the vocabularies referenced in the object description sections. STIX vocabularies, which all have type names ending in '-ov', are "open": they provide a listing of common and industry accepted terms as a guide to the user but do not limit the user to that defined list.

## ​13.1.​ Attack Motivation

**Type Name:** attack-motivation-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDOs:

* Intrusion Set
* Threat Actor

Knowing a Threat Actor or Intrusion Set's motivation may allow an analyst or defender to better understand likely targets and behaviors.

Motivation shapes the intensity and the persistence of an attack. Threat Actors and Intrusion Sets usually act in a manner that reflects their underlying emotion or situation, and this informs defenders of the manner of attack. For example, a spy motivated by nationalism (ideology) likely has the patience to achieve long-term goals and work quietly for years, whereas a cyber-vandal out for notoriety can create an intense and attention-grabbing attack but may quickly lose interest and move on. Understanding these differences allows defenders to implement controls tailored to each type of attack for greatest efficiency.

This section including vocabulary items and their descriptions is based on the Threat Agent Motivations publication from Intel Corp in Feb 2015[[1]](#footnote-1)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| accidental, coercion, dominance, ideology, notoriety, organizational-gain, personal-gain, personal-satisfaction, revenge, unpredictable | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| accidental | A non-hostile actor whose benevolent or harmless intent inadvertently causes harm.  For example, a well-meaning and dedicated employee who through distraction or poor training unintentionally causes harm to his or her organization. |
| coercion | Being forced to act on someone else's behalf.  Adversaries who are motivated by coercion are often forced through intimidation or blackmail to act illegally for someone else’s benefit. Unlike the other motivations, a coerced person does not act for personal gain, but out of fear of incurring a loss. |
| dominance | A desire to assert superiority over someone or something else.  Adversaries who are seeking dominance over a target are focused on using their power to force their target into submission or irrelevance. Dominance may be found with ideology in some state-sponsored attacks and with notoriety in some cyber vandalism based attacks. |
| ideology | A passion to express a set of ideas, beliefs, and values that may shape and drive harmful and illegal acts.  Adversaries who act for ideological reasons (e.g. political, religious, human rights, environmental, etc.) are not usually motivated primarily by the desire for profit; they are acting on their own sense of morality, justice, or political loyalty.  For example, an activist group may sabotage a company’s equipment because they believe the company is harming the environment even though the activists may have never actually used any of the company’s products. |
| notoriety | Seeking prestige or to become well known through some activity.  Adversaries motivated by Notoriety are often seeking either personal validation or respect within a community and staying covert is not a priority. In fact one of the main goals is to garner the respect of their target audience. |
| organizational-gain | Seeking advantage over a competing organization, including a military organization.  Adversaries motivated by increased profit or other gains through an unfairly obtained competitive advantage are often seeking theft of intellectual property, business processes, or supply chain agreements and thus accelerating their position in a market or capability. |
| personal-gain | The desire to improve one’s own financial status.  Adversaries motivated by a selfish desire for personal gain are often out for quick gains that come from financial fraud, hacking for hire, or intellectual property theft.  While a Threat Actor may be seeking personal gain this does not mean they are acting alone. Individuals can band together solely to maximize their own personal profits. |
| personal-satisfaction | A desire to satisfy a strictly personal goal, including curiosity, thrill-seeking, etc.  Threat Actors driven by Personal Satisfaction may incidentally receive some other gain from their actions, such as a profit, but their primary motivation is to gratify a personal, emotional need. Individuals can band together with others toward a mutual, but not necessarily organizational, objective. |
| revenge | A desire to avenge perceived wrongs through harmful actions such as sabotage, violence, theft, fraud, or embarrassing certain individuals or the organization.  A disgruntled Threat Actor seeking revenge can include current or former employees, who may have extensive knowledge to leverage when conducting attacks. Individuals can band together with others if the individual believes that doing so will enable them to cause more harm. |
| unpredictable | Acting without identifiable reason or purpose and creating unpredictable events.  Unpredictable is not a miscellaneous or default category. Unpredictable means a truly random and likely bizarre event, which seems to have no logical purpose to the victims. |

## ​13.2.​ Attack Resource Level

**Type Name:** attack-resource-level-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Intrusion Set
* Threat Actor

Attack Resource Level is an open vocabulary that captures the general level of resources that a threat actor, intrusion set, or campaign might have access to. It ranges from individual, a person acting alone, to government, the resources of a national government.

This section including vocabulary items and their descriptions is based on and contains copied text from the Threat Agent Library publication from Intel Corp in Sept 2007[[2]](#footnote-2)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| individual, club, contest, team, organization, government | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| individual | Resources limited to the average individual; Threat Actor acts independently. Minimum Sophistication level: None. |
| club | Members interact on a social and volunteer basis, often with little personal interest in the specific target. An example might be a core group of unrelated activists who regularly exchange tips on a particular blog. Group persists long term. Minimum Sophistication level: Novice. |
| contest | A short-lived and perhaps anonymous interaction that concludes when the participants have achieved a single goal. For example, people who break into systems just for thrills or prestige may hold a contest to see who can break into a specific target first. It also includes announced "operations" to achieve a specific goal, such as the original "OpIsrael" call for volunteers to disrupt all Israel internet functions for a day. Minimum Sophistication level: Practitioner. |
| team | A formally organized group with a leader, typically motivated by a specific goal and organized around that goal. Group persists long term and typically operates within a single geography. Minimum Sophistication level: Practitioner. |
| organization | Larger and better resourced than a Team; typically a company or crime syndicate. Usually operates in multiple geographies and persists long term. Minimum Sophistication level: Expert. |
| government | Controls public assets and functions within a jurisdiction; very well resourced and persists long term. Minimum Sophistication level: Expert. |

## ​13.3.​ Attack Sophistication Level

**Type Name:** attack-sophistication-level-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Threat Actor

The attack sophistication vocabulary captures the skill level of a threat actor. It ranges from "none", which describes a complete novice, to "innovator", which describes an actor who is able to create their own types of attacks and discover 0-days. This vocabulary is separate from resource level: an innovative, highly-skilled threat actor may have access to very few resources while a practitioner-level actor might have the resources of an organized crime ring.

This section including vocabulary items and their descriptions is based on and contains copied text from the Threat Agent Library publication from Intel Corp in Sept 2007[[3]](#footnote-3)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| none, novice, practitioner, expert, innovator | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| none | Has average intelligence and ability and can easily carry out random acts of disruption or destruction, but has no expertise or training in the specific methods necessary for a targeted attack. |
| novice | Can copy and use existing techniques. Example: Untrained Employee.  Demonstrates a nascent capability. A novice has basic computer skills and likely requires the assistance of a Practitioner or higher to engage in hacking activity. They use existing and frequently well known and easy-to-find techniques and programs or scripts to search for and exploit weaknesses in other computers on the Internet and lack the ability to conduct their own reconnaissance and targeting research. |
| practitioner | Has a demonstrated, albeit low or moderate, capability. A practitioner possesses low sophistication capability. They do not have the ability to identify or exploit known vulnerabilities without the use of automated tools. They are proficient in the basic uses of publicly available hacking tools, but are unable to write or alter such programs on their own. |
| expert | Expert in technology and attack methods, and can both apply existing attacks and create new ones to greatest advantage. Example: Legal Adversary.  Demonstrates advanced capability. An actor possessing expert capability has the ability to modify existing programs or codes but does not have the capability to script sophisticated programs from scratch. The expert has a working knowledge of networks, operating systems, and possibly even defensive techniques and will typically exhibit some operational security. |
| innovator | Demonstrates sophisticated capability. An innovator has the ability to create and script unique programs and codes targeting virtually any form of technology. At this level, this actor has a deep knowledge of networks, operating systems, programming languages, firmware, and infrastructure topologies and will demonstrate operational security when conducting his activities. Innovators are largely responsible for the discovery of 0-day vulnerabilities and the development of new attack techniques. |

## ​13.4.​ Course of Action Label

**Type Name:** course-of-action-label-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Course of Action

Course of Action Label is an open vocabulary used to label Courses of Action. The labels describe the general type of action that is being represented, such as redirection (for example to a honeynet), internal blocking (for example at the host level), and external blocking (for example at an external firewall). It also includes higher-level courses of action such as policy changes, diplomatic actions, and user training.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| perimeter-blocking, internal-blocking, redirection, hardening, patching, eradication, rebuilding, training, monitoring, physical-access-restrictions, logical-access-restrictions, public-disclosure, diplomatic-actions, policy-actions | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| perimeter-blocking | Perimeter-based blocking of traffic from a compromised source. |
| internal-blocking | Host-based blocking of traffic from an internal compromised source. |
| redirection | Re-routing of suspicious or known malicious traffic away from the intended target to an area where the threat can be more safely observed and analyzed. |
| hardening | Securing a system by reducing its surface of unnecessary software, usernames or logins, and running services. |
| patching | A specific form of hardening, patching involves applying a code fix directly to the software with the vulnerability. |
| eradication | Identifying, locating, and eliminating malware from the network. |
| rebuilding | Re-installing a computing resource from a known safe source in order to ensure that the malware is no longer present on the previously compromised resource. |
| training | Training users and administrators on how to identify and mitigate this type of threat. |
| monitoring | Setting up network or host-based sensors to detect the presence of this threat. |
| physical-access-restrictions | Activities associated with restricting physical access to computing resources. |
| logical-access-restrictions | Activities associated with restricting logical access to computing resources. |
| public-disclosure | Informing the public of the existence and characteristics of the threat or threat actor to influence positive change in adversary behavior. |
| diplomatic-actions | Engaging in communications and relationship building with threat actors to influence positive changes in behavior. |
| policy-actions | Modifications to policy that reduce the attack surface or infection vectors of malware. |

​

## ​13.5.​ Entity Class

**Type Name:** entity-class-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Source
* Threat Actor
* Victim Target

This vocabulary describes the type of entity that the STIX Object represents: whether it describes an organization, group, individual, or class.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| individual, group, organization, class, unknown | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| individual | A single person. |
| group | An informal collection of people, without formal governance, such as a distributed hacker group. |
| organization | A formal organization of people, with governance, such as a company or country. |
| class | A class of entities, such as all hospitals or all Europeans. |
| unknown | It is unknown whether the classification is individual, group, organization, or class. |

## ​13.6.​ Incident Label

**Type Name:** incident-label-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Incident

Incident labels is a controlled vocabulary to categorize incidents. Items are not mutually exclusive: an incident can be both a compromise of an asset and a compromise of information.

The source for many of these vocabulary items is [TODO US-CERT REF].

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| benign, denial-of-service, improper-usage, compromise-asset, compromise-information, insider-breach, malicious-code, probing-scanning, unauthorized-access, investigating | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| benign | An incident that is that is the result of an exercise, testing or a false alarm |
| denial-of-service | An attack that successfully prevents or impairs the normal authorized functionality of networks, systems or applications by exhausting resources. This activity includes being the victim or participating in the DoS |
| improper-usage | A person violates acceptable computing use policies. |
| compromise-asset | An incident that results in the compromise of an asset, such as a host, network device, application or account. |
| compromise-information | An incident that results in the disclosure, corruption or destruction of sensitive information or intellectual property. |
| insider-breach | An incident caused by a threat actor associated with the organization which was the target of the incident. |
| malicious-code | Installation of malicious software (e.g., virus, worm, Trojan horse, or other code-based malicious entity) that infects an operating system or application. |
| probing-scanning | An incident that includes any activity that seeks to access or identify a computer, open ports, protocols, service, or any combination for later exploit. This activity does not directly result in a compromise or denial of service |
| unauthorized-access | An incident in which a Threat Actor gains logical or physical access without permission to a network, system, application, data, or other resource. |
| investigating | Unconfirmed incidents that are potentially malicious or anomalous activity deemed by the reporting entity to warrant further review. |

## ​13.7.​ Indicator Label

**Type Name:** indicator-label-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Indicator

Indicator labels is an open vocabulary used to categorize Indicators. It is intended to be high-level to promote consistent practices. Indicator labels should not be used to capture information that can be better captured via related Malware or Attack Pattern objects. It is better to link an Indicator to a Malware object describing Poison Ivy rather than simply labeling it with "poison-ivy".

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| anomalous-activity, anonymization, benign, compromised, malicious-activity, attribution | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| anomalous-activity | An Indicator with this label describes unexpected, or unusual activity that may not necessarily be malicious or indicate compromise. This type of activity may include reconnaissance-like behavior such as port scans or version identification, network behavior anomalies, and asset and/or user behavioral anomalies. |
| anonymization | An Indicator with this label describes suspected anonymization tools or infrastructure (proxy, TOR, VPN, etc.). |
| benign | An Indicator with this label describes activity that is not suspicious or malicious in and of itself, but when combined with other activity may indicate suspicious or malicious behavior. |
| compromised | An Indicator with this label describes assets that are suspected to be compromised. |
| malicious-activity | An Indicator with this label describes patterns of suspected malicious objects and/or activity. |
| attribution | An Indicator with this label describes patterns of behavior that indicate attribution to a particular threat actor or campaign. |

## ​13.8.​ Industry Sector

**Type Name:** industry-sector-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Source
* Threat Actor
* Victim Target

Industry sector is an open vocabulary that describes industrial and commercial sectors. It is intended to be holistic: it has been derived from several other lists and is not limited to "critical infrastructure" sectors.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| agriculture, aerospace, automotive, communications, construction, defence, education, energy, engineering, entertainment, financial-services, government-national, government-regional, government-local, government-public-services, healthcare, hospitality-leisure, infrastructure, insurance, manufacturing, mining, non-profit, pharmaceuticals, retail, technology, telecommunications, transportation, utilities | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| agriculture |  |
| aerospace |  |
| automotive |  |
| communications |  |
| construction |  |
| defense |  |
| education |  |
| energy |  |
| engineering |  |
| entertainment |  |
| financial-services |  |
| government-national |  |
| government-regional |  |
| government-local |  |
| government-public-services |  |
| healthcare |  |
| hospitality-leisure |  |
| infrastructure |  |
| insurance |  |
| manufacturing |  |
| mining |  |
| non-profit |  |
| pharmaceuticals |  |
| retail |  |
| technology |  |
| telecommunications |  |
| transportation |  |
| utilities |  |

## ​13.9.​ Malware Label

**Type Name:** malware-label-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Malware

Malware label is an open vocabulary that represents different types and functions of malware. Malware labels are not mutually exclusive: a malware instance can be both spyware and a screen capture tool.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| adware, backdoor, bot, ddos, dropper, exploit-kit, keylogger, ransomware, remote-access-trojan, resource-exploitation, rogue-antivirus, rootkit, screen-capture, spyware, worm | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| adware | Any software that is funded by advertising. Adware may also gather sensitive user information from a system. |
| backdoor | A malicious program that allows an attacker to perform actions on a remote system, such as transferring files, acquiring passwords, or executing arbitrary commands [TODO: Ref NIST). |
| bot | A program that resides on an infected system, communicating with and forming part of a botnet. The bot may be implanted by a worm or Trojan, which opens a backdoor. The bot then monitors the backdoor for further instructions. |
| ddos | A tool used to perform a distributed denial of service attack. |
| dropper | A type of trojan that deposits an enclosed payload (generally, other malware) onto the target computer. |
| exploit-kit | A software toolkit to target common vulnerabilities. |
| keylogger | A type of malware that surreptitiously monitors keystrokes and either records them for later retrieval or sends them back to a central collection point. |
| ransomware | A type of malware that encrypts files on a victim's system, demanding payment of ransom in return for the access codes required to unlock files. |
| remote-access-trojan | A remote access Trojan program or RAT, is a Trojan horse capable of controlling a machine through commands issued by a remote attacker. |
| resource-exploitation | A type of malware that steals a system's resources (e.g., CPU cycles), such as a bitcoin miner. |
| rogue-antivirus | A fake security product that demands money to clean phony infections. |
| rootkit | A type of malware that hides its files or processes from normal methods of monitoring in order to conceal its presence and activities. Rootkits can operate at a number of levels, from the application level - simply replacing or adjusting the settings of system software to prevent the display of certain information - through hooking certain functions or inserting modules or drivers into the operating system kernel, to the deeper level of firmware or virtualization rook kits, which are activated before the operating system and thus even harder to detect while the system is running. |
| screen-capture | A type of malware used to capture images from the target systems screen, used for exfiltration and command and control. |
| spyware | Software that gathers information on a user's system without their knowledge and sends it to another party. Spyware is generally used to track activities for the purpose of delivering advertising. |
| trojan | TODO |
| virus | TODO |
| worm | A self-replicating, self-contained program that usually executes itself without user intervention. |

​

## ​13.10.​ Pattern Language

**Type Name:** pattern-lang-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Indicator

Pattern Language is an open vocabulary that describes the different types of pattern languages that can be used in a STIX Indicator.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| cybox, snort, yara | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| cybox | CybOX Patterning v1.0 [TODO Ref]. cybox is the default value. |
| snort | Snort pattern (any version) |
| yara | Yara pattern (any version) |

## ​13.11.​ Report Label

**Type Name:** report-label-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Report

Report Label is an open vocabulary to describe the primary purpose or subject of a report. For example, a report that contains malware and indicators for that malware should have a report label of malware-report to capture that the malware is the primary purpose. Report labels are not mutually exclusive: a Report can be both a malware report and a tool report.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| threat-report, attack-pattern-report, campaign-report, indicator-report, malware-report, observed-data-report, threat-actor-report, tool-report, victim-target-report, vulnerability-report | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| threat-report | Report subject is a broad characterization of a threat across multiple facets. |
| attack-pattern-report | Report subject is a characterization of one or more attack patterns and related information. |
| campaign-report | Report subject is a characterization of one or more campaigns and related information. |
| incident-report | Report subject is a characterization of one or more incidents and related information. |
| indicator-report | Report subject is a characterization of one or more indicators and related information. |
| malware-report | Report subject is a characterization of one or more malware instances and related information. |
| observed-data-report | Report subject is a characterization of observed data and related information. |
| threat-actor-report | Report subject is a characterization of one or more threat actors and related information. |
| tool-report | Report subject is a characterization of one or more tools and related information. |
| victim-target-report | Report subject is a characterization of one or more victim targets and related information. |
| vulnerability-report | Report subject is a characterization of one or more vulnerabilities and related information. |

## ​13.12.​ Threat Actor Label

**Type Name:** threat-actor-label-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Threat Actor

Threat actor label is an open vocabulary used to describe what type of threat actor the individual or group is. For example, some threat actors are competitors who try to steal information, while others are activists who act in support of a social or political cause. Actor labels are not mutually exclusive: a threat actor can be both a disgruntled insider and a spy.

[TODO Ref Threat Agent Library, Intel Corporation, September 2007]

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| activist, competitor, crime-syndicate, hacker, insider-accidental, insider-disgruntled, nation-state, sensationalist, spy, terrorist, thief | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| activist | Highly motivated, potentially destructive supporter of a social or political cause (e.g., trade, labor, environment, etc) that attempt to disrupt an organization's business model or damage their image.  This category includes actors sometimes referred to as anarchists, cyber vandals, extremists, and hacktivists. |
| competitor | An organization that competes in the same economic marketplace.    The goal of a competitor is to gain an advantage in business with respect to the rival organization it targets. It usually does this by copying intellectual property, trade secrets, acquisition strategies, or other technical or business data from a rival organization with the intention of using the data to bolster its own assets and market position. |
| crime-syndicate | An enterprise organized to conduct significant, large-scale criminal activity for profit.    Crime syndicates, also known as organized crime, are generally large, well-resourced groups that operate to create profit from all types of crime. |
| hacker | An individual that tends to break into networks for the thrill or the challenge of doing so.  Hackers may use advanced skills or simple attack scripts they have downloaded. |
| insider-accidental | A non-hostile insider who unintentionally exposes the organization to harm.    “Insider” in this context includes any person extended internal trust, such as regular employees, contractors, consultants, and temporary workers. |
| insider-disgruntled | Current or former insiders who seek revengeful and harmful retaliation for perceived wrongs.    “Insider” in this context includes any person extended internal trust, such as regular employees, contractors, consultants, and temporary workers.    Disgruntled threat actors may have extensive knowledge that can be leveraged when conducting attacks and can take any number of actions including sabotage, violence, theft, fraud, espionage, or embarrassing individuals or the organization. |
| nation-state | Threat Actors who usually work for organizations affiliated with the military forces of a nation state and work at the direction of that state’s government and military leadership, but may work for a private organization..  These actors typically have access to significant support, resources, training, and tools and are capable of designing and executing very sophisticated and effective Intrusion Sets and Campaigns. |
| sensationalist | Seeks to cause embarrassment and brand damage by exposing sensitive information in a manner designed to cause a public relations crisis.    A Sensationalist may be an individual or small group of people motivated primarily by a need for notoriety. Unlike the Activist, the Sensationalist generally has no political goal, and is not using bad PR to influence the target to change its behavior or business practices. |
| spy | Secretly collects sensitive information for use, dissemination, or sale.    Traditional spies (governmental and industrial) are part of a well-resourced intelligence organization and are capable of very sophisticated clandestine operations. However, insiders such as employees or consultants acting as spies can be just as effective and damaging, even when their activities are largely opportunistic and not part of an overall campaign. |
| terrorist | Uses extreme violence to advance a social or political agenda as well as monetary crimes to support its activities.    In this context a terrorist refers to individuals who target noncombatants with extreme violence to send a message of fear far beyond the actual events. They may act independently or as part of a terrorist organization.  Terrorist organizations must typically raise much of their operating budget through criminal activity, which often occurs online. Terrorists are also often adept at using and covertly manipulating social media for both recruitment and impact. |
| thief | Individual who steals items of value or otherwise extorts money for personal financial gain.    A thief opportunistically attacks wherever it looks like there is easy profit to be made. Intellectual property, user accounts, credit card information, extortion in the form of ransomware are common avenues. A thief as defined here refers to those acting individually or in very small or informal groups. For sophisticated, organized criminal activity, see the crime syndicate descriptor. |

## ​13.13.​ Threat Actor Role

**Type Name:** threat-actor-role-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Threat Actor

Threat actor roles is an open vocabulary that is used to describe the different roles that a threat actor can play. For example, some threat actors author malware or operate botnets while other actors actually carry out attacks directly.

Threat actor roles are not mutually exclusive. For example, an actor can be both a financial backer for attacks and also direct attacks.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| agent, director, sponsor, infrastructure-operator, malware-author, perpetrator | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| agent | A threat actor acting as an independent agent. |
| director | The threat actor who directs the activities, goals, and objectives of the malicious activities. |
| sponsor | The threat actor who funds the malicious activities. |
| infrastructure-operator | The threat actor who provides and supports the attack infrastructure that is used to deliver the attack (botnet providers, cloud services, etc.). |
| malware-author | The threat actor who authors malware or other malicious tools. |
| perpetrator | Threat actor executes attacks. |

## ​13.14.​ Tool Label

**Type Name:** tool-label-ov

This vocabulary is currently used in the following SDO(s):

* Tool

Tool labels describe the categories of tools that can be used to perform attacks.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Summary** |  |
| denial-of-service, exploitation, network-capture, password-cracking, remote-access, vulnerability-scanning | |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| denial-of-service | A tool used to perform denial of service attacks or distributed denial of service attacks, such as Low Orbit Ion Cannon (LOIC) and DHCPig. |
| exploitation | A tool used to exploit software and systems, such as sqlmap and Metasploit. |
| network-capture | Tools used to capture network traffic, such as Wireshark and Kismet. |
| password-cracking | Tools used to crack password databases, either locally or remotely, such as John the Ripper and NCrack. |
| remote-access | Tools used to access machines remotely, such as VNC and Remote Desktop. |
| vulnerability-scanning | Tools used to scan systems and networks for vulnerabilities, such as NMAP. |

# ​14.​ Customizing STIX

There are two primary means to customize STIX: custom properties, and custom objects. Custom properties provides a mechanism and requirements for adding custom fields (fields not defined by this specification) to existing STIX Objects. Custom objects, on the other hand, provides a mechanism and requirements to create custom STIX Objects (objects not defined by this specification).

## ​14.1.​ Custom Properties

There will be cases where certain information exchanges can be improved by adding properties that are not specified nor reserved in this document; these properties are called **Custom Properties**. This section provides guidance and requirements for how producers can use Custom Properties and how consumers should interpret them in order to extend STIX in an interoperable manner.

### ​14.1.1.​ Requirements

* A STIX Object **MAY** have any number of Custom Properties.
* Custom Property names **MUST** be in ASCII and are limited to characters a-z (lowercase ASCII), 0-9, and underscore (\_).
* Custom Property names **SHOULD** start with “x\_” followed by a source unique identifier (like a domain name), an underscore and then the name. For example: **x\_examplecom\_customfield**.
* Custom Property names **MUST** have a minimum length of 3 ASCII characters.
* Custom Property names **MUST** be no longer than 250 ASCII characters in length.
* Custom Property names that are not prefixed with “x\_” may be used in a future version of the specification for a different meaning. If compatibility with future versions of this specification is required, the “x\_” prefix **MUST** be used.
* Custom Properties **SHOULD** only be used when there is no existing properties defined by the STIX specification that fulfills that need.

A consumer that receives a STIX document with one or more Custom Properties it does not understand **MAY** refuse to process the document further, or silently ignore non-understood properties and continue processing the document.

Producers of STIX documents that contain Custom Properties should be aware of the variability of consumer behavior depending on whether or not the consumer understands the Custom Properties present in a STIX Object. Rules for processing Custom Properties should be well defined and accessible to any consumer that would be reasonably expected to parse them.

### ​14.1.2.​ Examples

{

...,

"x\_acmeinc\_scoring": {

"impact": "high",

"probability": "low"

},

...

}

## ​14.2.​ Custom Objects

There will be cases where certain information exchanges can be improved by adding objects that are not specified nor reserved in this document; these objects are called **Custom Objects**. This section provides guidance and requirements for how producers can use Custom Objects and how consumers should interpret them in order to extend STIX in an interoperable manner.

### ​14.2.1.​ Requirements

* Producers **MAY** include any number of Custom Objects in STIX documents.
* Custom Objects **MUST** contain the required Common Properties (**id, type, version, modified, created, created\_by\_ref**) and **MAY** contain any optional Common Property (defined in Section TODO).
  + The definitions of these properties are the same as those defined in Common Properties and therefore those fields **MUST NOT** be used to represent the custom properties in the object.
* The **type** field in a Custom Object **MUST** be in ASCII and are limited to the characters a-z (lowercase ASCII), 0-9, and hyphen (-).
* Custom Object names **MUST** have a minimum length of 3 ASCII characters.
* Custom Object names **MUST** be no longer than 250 ASCII characters in length.
* The value of the **type** field in a Custom Object **SHOULD** start with “x-” followed by a source unique identifier (like a domain name), a dash and then the name. For example: x-examplecom-customobject.
* A Custom Object whose name is not prefixed with “x-” may be used in a future version of the specification with a different meaning. Therefore, if compatibility with future versions of this specification is required, the “x-” prefix **MUST** be used.
* The value of the **id** property in a Custom Object **MUST** use the same format as the identifier type, namely, name--uuid
* Custom Objects **SHOULD** only be used when there is no existing STIX Object defined by the STIX specification that fulfills that need.

A consumer that receives a STIX document with one or more Custom Objects that it does not understand **MAY** refuse to process the document further, or silently ignore non-understood objects and continue processing the document.

Producers of STIX documents that contain Custom Objects should be aware of the variability of consumer behavior depending on whether or not the consumer understands the Custom Objects. Rules for processing Custom Objects should be well defined and available to any consumer that would be reasonably expected to parse them.

### ​14.2.2.​ Examples

{

"type": "bundle",

"id": "bundle--f37aa79d-f5f5-4af7-874b-734d32c08c10",

"custom\_objects": [

{

"type": "x-examplecom-customobject",

"id": "x-examplecom-customobject--4527e5de-8572-446a-a57a-706f15467461",

"created": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",

"modified": "2016-08-01T00:00:00Z",

"version": 1,

"some\_custom\_stuff": 14,

"other\_custom\_stuff": "hello"

}

]

}​

# ​15.​ Glossary

CTI Cyber Threat Intelligence

SDO STIX Domain Object

SRO STIX Relationship Object

MVP

MTI

STIX

TAXII

CybOX

MAEC

STIX Object

1. Intel Corp Threat Agent Motivations Feb 2015 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Intel Corp Threat Agent Library Sept 2007 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Intel Corp Threat Agent Library Sept 2007 [↑](#footnote-ref-3)