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OVAL Proposal Form

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The OVAL Proposal Form is used by members of the community to prepare proposals for migration into an official release of OVAL. The form will be critical in helping the members of the community understand, review, and vet proposals.

Once an OVAL Proposal Form is submitted to the oval-developer-list, the OVAL Moderator will review and verify the proposal for completeness at which point it will be ready for community review and discussion.

When a new proposal is introduced to the community, the OVAL Moderator will work with the OVAL Board to determine the impact of the proposal. If the proposal is deemed a high impact change, it must be developed in the OVAL Sandbox which will require the completion of this form as well as an OVAL Board vote before it is migrated into an official release. More information about the OVAL Board Voting Process can be found at [1]. If the proposal is deemed a low impact change, the proposed change can be made directly to an official OVAL release.

Please direct any questions or concerns to MITRE at [oval@mitre.org](mailto:oval@mitre.org).

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Steps to Take

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1) Review the OVAL Language Sandbox page [2] and the Requesting Changes to the OVAL Language page [3].

2) Complete the form provided below.

3) Email the completed form to the oval-developer-list at [oval-developer-list@lists.mitre.org](mailto:oval-developer-list@lists.mitre.org) with a subject of "FOR REVIEW: <Proposal Name> Proposal Form".

4) Revise the proposal, as needed, based on community discussion and feedback.

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Contact Information

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1) Name: **Jack Vander Pol**

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3) Phone Number (optional):

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Introduction to Proposal

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1) What is the new capability?

***Add the ability to review configuration settings located in user’s NTUser.dat files. This corresponds to the HKCU registry hive, and User Configuration based Group Policy Objects (GPO).***

2) Why is the new capability needed?

***Many security settings can only be defined by User Configuration based GPO’s, and the current OVAL registry test only provides the capability to check the currently logged in user (via the HKCU hive) which does not adequately provide the ability to verify the security setting has been fully implemented for all users.***

3) What is the version of the targeted official OVAL release?

***5.11***

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Benefits of Proposal

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1) How does the proposal relate to existing OVAL use cases [4]?

***This addition expands the Configuration Management use case to allow for more complete compliance reporting of Windows user based configuration settings.***

2) What does this proposal enable that cannot currently be accomplished in the OVAL Language?

***This proposal allows for automated compliance reporting of Windows User Configuration settings.***

3) What alternative approaches for supporting these use cases were considered and why is this one the best?

***Expanding the Windows registry test was presented as an option at the 2012 SCAP developer days, and the consensus was that a new test should be created*.**

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Impacts of Proposal

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1. Which existing OVAL schemas are affected by this proposal?

***windows-definitions-schema***

***windows-system-characteristics-schema***

1. Does the proposal break backward compatibility with previous versions? Please see OVAL Versioning Policy [5] for more information.

***No***

2) How will the proposed changes impact OVAL content authors?

***Any new content targeting Windows User Configuration should be written to use this new test.***

3) How will the proposed changes impact OVAL content consumers?

***If the OVAL content consumer supports Windows, support for the new ntuser test should be added when they decide to support OVAL 5.11 or later.***

4) How will the proposed changes impact existing OVAL content?

***Existing content will still function as originally designed. However, due to the limitations of the Windows registry HKCU functionality, content authors may choose to update any Windows registry HKCU hive test to use the new ntuser functionality.***

5) How will the proposed changes impact existing OVAL implementations?

***As with any new OVAL test, the OVAL interpreter will need to be updated to support the new OVAL test, and then content will need to be written.***

6) Are there any concerns regarding this proposal (e.g., undocumented APIs, etc.)? If so, are there any mitigating factors?

***This update requires being able to read the binary registry files on Windows.***

[***http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ms724873%28v=vs.85%29.aspx***](http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/windows/desktop/ms724873%28v=vs.85%29.aspx)

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Technical Review

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1) Do the schema changes follow the accepted naming and design conventions?

***Yes***

2) Do the schema changes satisfy the requirements specified in the Requesting Changes to the OVAL Language page [3]?

***Yes***

3) Do the schema changes align with the targeted official release (e.g., changes that break backward compatibility should not target a minor release)? Please see the OVAL Versioning Policy [5] for more information.

***Yes***

4) Have the new capabilities been successfully implemented and tested with sample content?

***Yes***

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Resource Information

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1. Provide URLs for relevant OVAL Sandbox Issues

***https://github.com/OVALProject/Sandbox/tree/master/resources/x-win-ntuser***

2) Provide URLs for OVAL Sandbox schemas that exemplify the proposed changes:

***https://github.com/OVALProject/Sandbox/blob/master/resources/x-win-ntuser/win-def\_ntuser\_test.xml***

3) Provide URLs for the location of sample OVAL Definitions, OVAL System Characteristics, and OVAL Results that exemplify the proposed changes:

[***https://github.com/OVALProject/Sandbox/blob/master/resources/x-win-ntuser/x-win-ntuser-content.xml***](https://github.com/OVALProject/Sandbox/blob/master/resources/x-win-ntuser/x-win-ntuser-content.xml)

[***https://github.com/OVALProject/Sandbox/blob/master/resources/x-win-ntuser/results.xml***](https://github.com/OVALProject/Sandbox/blob/master/resources/x-win-ntuser/results.xml)

4) Provide URLs for products or tools that implement the proposed changes:

***Implemented in a pre-release prototype of the SCAP Compliance Checker (SCC)***

[***http://www.public.navy.mil/spawar/Atlantic/ProductsServices/Pages/SCAP.aspx***](http://www.public.navy.mil/spawar/Atlantic/ProductsServices/Pages/SCAP.aspx)

5) Provide URLs to any other resources that may be relevant to reviewing and verifying the proposal:

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References

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[1] <http://oval.mitre.org/community/board/voting.html>

[2] <http://oval.mitre.org/language/sandbox.html>

[3] <http://oval.mitre.org/language/about/change_requests.html>

[4] <http://oval.mitre.org/adoption/usecasesguide.html>

[5] <http://oval.mitre.org/language/about/versioning.html>