ACS Marking Definition Version 3.0 - STIX™ Version 2.1. Part 1: STIX Core Concepts

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Additional artifacts:

This prose specification is one component of a Work Product that also includes:

* Information Sharing Architecture (ISA) Access Control Specification (ACS) Version 3.0
* Intelligence Community Authorized Classification and Control Markings, Register and Manual (Version 5.1)

Related work:

This specification replaces or supersedes:

* *N/A*

Abstract:

Initially developed to support information sharing by the Enhance Shared Situational Awareness (ESSA) initiative across the Federal Cyber Centers, the Information Sharing Architecture (ISA) Access Control Specification (ACS) document specifies a common set of elements for tagging information and related common attributes that indicate characteristics of a person or system that allow automated decisions to be made regarding information sharing. This document defines an approach to express ACS using Structured Threat Information Expression (STIXTM) language via the use of a marking definition.

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# ​5​ Data Markings

Data markings represent restrictions, permissions, and other guidance for how 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. These definitions are applied to complete STIX Objects using object markings and to individual properties of STIX Objects via granular markings.

Multiple markings can be added to the same object, including both object and granular markings. 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 object or property should be interpreted.

Granular data markings are also used to mark individual fields on an object with which language their text content is in. For example, granular markings can be used to indicate that while the rest of the object is in English, the **description** field is in Japanese. This mechanism does not use the marking-definition object to represent language, rather a separate **lang** field that can also be applied via granular markings.

## ​5.1​ 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\_marking\_refs** and **granular\_markings** properties on STIX Objects, which reference a list of IDs for marking-definition objects.

Two marking definition types are defined in this specification: TLP, to capture TLP markings, and Statement, to capture text marking statements. In addition, it is expected that the FIRST Information Exchange Policy (IEP) will be included in a future version once a machine-usable specification for it has been defined.

Unlike STIX Objects, Marking Definition objects cannot be versioned because it would allow for indirect changes to the markings on a STIX Object. For example, if a Statement marking is changed from "Reuse Allowed" to "Reuse Prohibited", all STIX Objects marked with that Statement marking would effectively have an updated marking without being updated themselves. Instead, a new Statement marking with the new text should be created and the marked objects updated to point to the new marking.

The JSON MTI serialization uses the JSON object type [[RFC8259](#pleh5znnqume)] when representing marking-definition.

### ​5.1.1​ Properties

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **type** (required) | string | The **type** property identifies the type of object. The value of this property **MUST** be marking-definition. |
| **spec\_version** (required) | string | The version of the STIX specification used to represent this object.  The value of this property **MUST** be 2.1 for STIX Objects defined according to this specification.  Per [*STIX™ Version 2.1. Part 1: STIX Core Concepts*](#f8b4ia7wsgac), if objects are found where this property is not present, the implicit value is 2.0. |
| **id** (required) | identifier | The **id** property universally and uniquely identifies this Marking Definition.  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 identity object that describes the entity that created this Marking Definition.  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 Marking Definition 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 property 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 identifiers corresponding to objects of type marking-definition 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).  Though uncommon, in some cases marking definitions themselves may be marked with sharing or handling guidance. |
| **granular\_markings** (optional) | list of type granular-marking | The **granular\_markings** property specifies a list of type granular-marking 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).  Though uncommon, in some cases Marking Definitions themselves may be marked with sharing or handling guidance. |
| **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: statement, tlp and x-isa-acs-3-0 (see sections [5.1.3](#_3ru8r05saera) [5.1.4](#_5.1.4_TLP_Marking) and [5.1.5](#_5.1.5_Access_Control)) |
| **definition** (required) | <marking object> | The **definition** property contains the marking object itself (e.g., the TLP marking as defined in section [5.1.4](#_5.1.4_TLP_Marking), the Statement marking as defined in section [5.1.3](#_3ru8r05saera), the ACS marking as defined in [5.1.5](#_5.1.5_Access_Control) or some other marking definition defined elsewhere). |

### ​5.1.2​ Relationships

Data Marking is not a STIX Object and **MUST NOT** have any SRO relationships to it or from it. This table lists the embedded relationships by property name along with their corresponding target.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Embedded Relationships** | |
| **created\_by\_ref** | identity |
| **object\_marking\_refs** | marking-definition |

​

### ​5.1.3​ 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. |

**Examples**

{

"type": "marking-definition",

"spec\_version": "2.1",

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

"created": "2016-08-01T00:00:00.000Z",

"definition\_type": "statement",

"definition": {

"statement": "Copyright 2016, Example Corp"

}

}

### 5.1.4 TLP Marking Object Type

The TLP marking type defines how you would represent a Traffic Light Protocol (TLP) marking in a definition property. 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 [[TLP](#2rvyub9rtmpf)] of the content marked by this marking definition, as defined in this section. |

The following standard marking definitions **MUST** be used to reference or represent TLP markings. Other instances of tlp-marking **MUST NOT** be used (the only instances of TLP marking definitions permitted are those defined here).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| white | {  "type": "marking-definition",  "spec\_version": "2.1",  "id": "marking-definition--613f2e26-407d-48c7-9eca-b8e91df99dc9",  "created": "2017-01-20T00:00:00.000Z",  "definition\_type": "tlp",  "definition": {  "tlp": "white"  }  } |
| green | {  "type": "marking-definition",  "spec\_version": "2.1",  "id": "marking-definition--34098fce-860f-48ae-8e50-ebd3cc5e41da",  "created": "2017-01-20T00:00:00.000Z",  "definition\_type": "tlp",  "definition": {  "tlp": "green"  }  } |
| amber | {  "type": "marking-definition",  "spec\_version": "2.1",  "id": "marking-definition--f88d31f6-486f-44da-b317-01333bde0b82",  "created": "2017-01-20T00:00:00.000Z",  "definition\_type": "tlp",  "definition": {  "tlp": "amber"  }  } |
| red | {  "type": "marking-definition",  "spec\_version": "2.1",  "id": "marking-definition--5e57c739-391a-4eb3-b6be-7d15ca92d5ed",  "created": "2017-01-20T00:00:00.000Z",  "definition\_type": "tlp",  "definition": {  "tlp": "red"  }  } |

### 5.1.5 Access Control Specification (ACS) Marking Object Type

The Access Control Specification (ACS) marking type defines the object types required to implement automated access control systems based on the relevant policies governing sharing between participants. The value of the **definition\_type** property **MUST** be **x-isa-acs-3-0**

when using this marking type.

Information sharing across a Federal Cybersecurity Information Sharing Community requires a capability to protect and allow access to information in accordance with applicable information sharing agreements, policies, and laws. This marking definition is the result of collaboration among this community.

Please refer to "Information Sharing Architecture (ISA) Access Control Specification (ACS) Version 3.0" [ref] for more information on creating ACS data marking definitions.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **sep\_version** (required) | integer | This required property indicated the specification version of the serialization being used.  The value of this property **MUST** be 1 for ACS data marking objects defined according to this specification. |
| **identifier** (required) | string | This required property holds a single unique identifier associated with the resource. This value can be used for tracking data provenance, executing data retraction, and enforcing auditing requirements. The Resource Identifier will use a format that includes a prefix and an RFC4122 suffix. The prefix used will include the ISA common prefix (GUIDE prefix). The ISA has been assigned a GUIDE7 (Globally Unique Identifier for Everything) prefix of 19001 for production and 999191 for test use. It is recommended that RFC 4122 Version 4 UUIDs be used for the suffix; however, other versions are permitted. |
| **name (optional)** | string | This property provides a "handle" to identify and describe this marking definition.  Note that the **name** property in no way defines the data marking. It is simply provided as a convenience for users. |
| **create\_date\_time** (required) | timestamp | This required property provides the creation date and time of the associated resource as identified by the Identifier. This value supports a number of functions including enforcing data retention policies and auditing requirements. |
| **responsible\_entity\_custodian** (required) | string | This required property represents the data producer that is responsible for providing the associated resource to be shared. It is represented as an organization token. This value is necessary for auditing and enforcing data retention and provenance policies.  Allowable values listed in Appendix A: List of Organizations of **[ref] MUST** be used. |
| **responsible\_entity\_originator**  (optional) | string | This optional property represents the originating organization for the associated resource. If not present then the origin of the information is unspecified. It is represented as an organization token. The organizations in Appendix A **SHOULD** be used. However, additional tokens may be created to specify the originator.  Certain Originators may require anonymity to protect their identity. This is common when dealing with a cybersecurity threat or incident where the originator is an entity in the Private Sector. Cover terms (e.g., USENERGY01) assigned to an entity should be carried through anytime the resource is shared. |
| **authority\_reference**  (optional) | string | This property captures the legal authority under which the content was created, not the limitation on sharing the content. This property is used for auditing and records management, not for access control decisions. In some cases, the Authority Reference is needed by ESSA Participants to be included in the Control Policy Group as well as the Resource Accounting Group. It **MUST** be of the of the format *urn(:\w+)+.* |
| **original\_classification**  (optional) | x-isa-acs-original-classification-type | This property provides details for generating a classification authority block for presentation of a classified resource to an operator.  Either the Original Classification or the Derivative Classification **MUST** be provided for classified resources, as appropriate.  Details regarding the basic encoding specification detail for Original Classification are included in the Smart Data – Enterprise Data Header (EDH) Implementation Profile for the Cyber Community **[ref]**. |
| **derivative\_classification**  (optional) | x-isa-acs-derivative-classification-type | This property provides details for generating a classification authority block for presentation of a classified resource to an operator.  Either the Original Classification or the Derivative Classification **MUST** be provided for classified resources, as appropriate.  Details regarding the basic encoding specification detail for Original Classification are included in the Smart Data – Enterprise Data Header (EDH) Implementation Profile for the Cyber Community **[ref]**. |
| **declassification**  (optional) | x-isa-acs-declassification-type | This property provides the declassification instructions associated with an original or derived classification for generating a classification authority block for presentation of a classified resource to an operator.  Details regarding the basic encoding specification detail for Declassification are included in the Smart Data – Enterprise Data Header (EDH) Implementation Profile for the Cyber Community **[ref]**. |
| **public\_release**  (required) | x-isa-acs-public-release-type | This property will be used to provide the release authority and date for resources that have been through a formal public release determination process, or note that the resource has not been publicly released..  Details regarding the basic encoding specification detail for Public Release are included in the Smart Data – Enterprise Data Header (EDH) Implementation Profile for the Cyber Community **[ref]**. |
| **control\_set**  (required) | x-isa-acs-control-set-type | The **control\_set** property is the group of data tags that are used to inform automated access control decisions. |
| **other\_determination**  (optional) | list of type x-isa-acs-other-determination-enum | The property holds additional information about the access control. |
| **terms\_of\_use**  (optional) | list of type string | This property holds caveats and/or other textual statements of usage limits. |

#### 5.1.5.1 ACS Original Classification Object Type

**Type Name:** x-isa-acs-original-classification-type

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **classified\_by** (required) | string | This property contains the name of person with the original classification authority who made a classification determination. |
| **classified\_on** (optional) | timestamp | This property contains the date an original classification determination was made. |
| **classification\_reason** (optional) | string | This property contains the rationale for an original classification determination. |
| **compilation\_reason**  (optional) | string | This property contains the rationale for assigning a higher classification level than a simple roll-up of its portions would indicate. |

#### 5.1.5.2 ACS Derivative Classification Object Type

**Type Name:** x-isa-acs-derivative-classification-type

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **classified\_by** (required) | string | This property contains the name of person with the original[[1]](#footnote-1) classification authority who made a classification determination. |
| **classified\_on** (optional) | timestamp | This property contains the date an original classification determination was made. |
| **derived\_from** (required) | string | This property contains the citation of the original classification guidance used for a derivative classification. |

#### 5.1.5.3 ACS Declassification Object Type

**Type Name:** x-isa-acs-declassification-type

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **declass\_exemption** (optional) | string | This property contains the basis for a resource not being subject to standard automatic declassification processes. |
| **declass\_period** (optional) | integer | This property contains the duration of time in years for calculating from a create date or classification date when a resource will be automatically declassified if not exempt. |
| **declass\_date** (optional) | timestamp | This property contains the date upon which a resource will be automatically declassified if not exempt. |
| **declass\_event** (optional) | string | This property contains the future occurrence upon which a resource will be automatically declassified if not exempt. |

#### 5.1.5.4 ACS Public Release Object Type

**Type Name:** x-isa-acs-public-release-type

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **releasable\_to\_public**  (required) | boolean | This property indicates if this resource can be publicly released.  Note, for certain values of the **capco\_classification** property in x-isa-acs-control-set-type the value of this property **MUST** be false. |
| **released\_by** (optional) | string | This property contains the authority that authorized the public release. |
| **released\_on** (optional) | timestamp | This property contains the date of public release. |

#### 5.1.5.5 ACS Control Set Object Type

**Type Name:** x-isa-acs-control-set-type

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **classification**  (required) | string | This property contains information specifying the classification level.  The Classification token contains the classification of the data based on the Executive Order 13526, Classified National Security Information (Reference 23) and the Information Security Manual (ISM) (Reference 17) marking system. Unclassified information will include a classification marking.  The value of this property **MUST** be one of the following: U, C, S, TS. |
| **entitlements** (optional) | list of type string | This property contains of list of entitlements. An entitlement can be one of the following: SCI (sensitive compartmented information), LAC (logical authority category), COI (community of interest), CUI (controlled unclassified information), FD (formal determination) or CVT (caveat).  Each value consists of one of the above entitlements’ acronym, followed by a colon (:), and then by an appropriate value for that entitlement.  The appropriate values for LAC represent classes of authority upon which data can be generated or acquired and that can be used to apply mandatory special access control and handling policies.  The appropriate values for COI identifies the limitation on the distribution of the resource based on membership in a closed, secure community of interest (COI). COI membership is managed by the owners of the COI, possibly as a list of authorized users and/or servers.  The appropriate values for CUI can be found in the Controlled Unclassified Information List[[2]](#footnote-2)  The appropriate values for FD are PUBREL, NF, AIS, PII-NECESSARY-TO-UNDERSTAND-THREAT, PII-NOT-PRESENT, FOUO  The appropriate values for CVT are FISA and POSSIBLEPII  Examples:  "SCI:SI",  "LAC:LAC12345", "COI:NTOC\_DHS\_ECYBER\_SVC\_SHARE.NSA.NSA" |
| **permitted\_nationalities**  **(optional)** | list of type string | This property identifies the limition on the distribution of the resource based on nationality.  Allowable values are listed in Geopolitical Entities, Names, and Codes (GENC) Standard Edition 1[[3]](#footnote-3) |
|  |  |  |
| **permitted\_organizations** (optional) | list of type string | This property identifies the limitation on the distribution of the resource based on organization.  Allowable values listed in Appendix A: List of Organizations of **[ref] MUST** be used. |

#### 5.1.5.6 ACS Other Determination Enumeration

**Type Name**: x-isa-acs-other-determination-enum

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vocabulary Value** | **Description** |
| AIS | The resource is appropriate for AIS. |
| INFORMATION-DIRECTLY-RELATED-TO-CYBERSECURITY-THREAT |  |
| PII-NECESSARY-TO-UNDERSTAND-THREAT | Personally identifiable information (PII) necessary to understand the context of the resource is present. |
| PII-NOT-PRESENT | Personally identifiable (PII) is *not* present. |
| PII | Personally identifiable (PII) is present. |
| PCII | Protected Critical Infrastructure Information (PCII) is present. |

Notice these examples of the ACS marking definitions appear as part of a marking-definition STIX object type.

**Examples**

{ "type": "marking-definition",  
 "id": "marking-definition--f4d1771b-d6a6-4eb1-9768-9686efeeb89a",  
 "created": "2018-10-01T00:00:00Z",  
 "definition\_type": "x-isa-acs-3-0",   
 "definition": {  
 "sep\_version": "1",

"identifier": "isa:guide.19001.ACS3-bc9034f8-c732-5328-b9df-d9d72aae480b",

"name": "banner\_marking",  
 "create\_date\_time": "2016-06-27T14:10:26.723Z",  
 "responsible\_entity\_custodian": "USA.NSA",  
 "responsible\_entity\_originator": "USA.NSA",  
 "authority\_reference": "urn:isa:authority:CFR2013\_32\_2\_236",   
 "original\_classification": {  
 "classified\_by": "Available-On-Request",  
 "classified\_on": "2017-01-10T00:00:00Z",  
 "classification\_reason ": "Example",  
 "compilation\_reason": "Orig-Doc"  
 },  
 "derivative\_classification": {  
 "classified\_by": "Available-On-Request",  
 "classified\_on": "2018-02-20T00:00:00Z",  
 "derived\_from": "Orig-Doc"  
 },  
 "declassification": {  
 "declass\_period": "32",  
 "declass\_date": "2020-02-20T00:00:00Z",  
 "declass\_event": "Per Exec Order blah-blah-blah"  
 },  
 "public\_release": {  
 "releasable\_to\_public ": "false"  
 },  
 "control\_set": {  
 "classification": "TS",

"entitlements": [

"SCI:SI",

"LAC:LAC12345",

"COI:NTOC\_DHS\_ECYBER\_SVC\_SHARE.NSA.NSA"

],

"permitted\_nationalities" : ["USA", "AUS", "CAN", "GBR", "NZL"],  
 "permitted\_organizations": ["USA.NSA", "USA.DHS"],  
 },  
 "other\_determination": ["AIS"],   
 "terms\_of\_use": ["May be used for network defense for CISA uses. Anonymous access is not allowed. May be further shared with…."]  
 }  
}

{  
 **"type"**: "marking-definition",  
 **"id"**: "marking-definition--11b6042f-7b98-4b97-a168-bec4c025dda9",  
 **"created"**: "2018-10-01T00:00:00Z",  
 **"definition\_type"**: "x-isa-acs-3-0”,   
 **"definition"**: {  
 "sep\_version": "1",

**"identifier"**: "isa:guide.19001.ACS3-bc9034f8-c732-5328-b9df-d9d72aae4ccc",

"name": "some\_unclassified\_marking",   
 **"create\_date\_time"**: "2016-06-27T14:10:26.723Z",  
 **"responsible\_entity\_custodian"**: "USA.NSA",  
 **"responsible\_entity\_originator"**: "USA.NSA",  
 **"**authority\_reference**"**: "urn:isa:authority:CFR2013\_32\_2\_236",   
 **"control\_set"**: {  
 **"classification"**: "U",

"entitlements": [

CUI:FOUO"

],  
 **"permitted\_organizations"**: ["USA.NSA, “USA.DHS"],  
 },  
 **"other\_determination"**: ["AIS", "INFORMATION-DIRECTLY-RELATED-TO-CYBERSECURITY-THREAT"],  
 **"terms\_of\_use"**: ["May be used for network defense for CISA uses. Anonymous access is not allowed. May be further shared with…."]  
 }  
}​

## ​5.2​ Object Markings

Object Markings apply data markings to an entire STIX Object or Marking Definition and all of its contents. Object Markings are specified as embedded relationships in the **object\_marking\_refs** property, which is an optional list of IDs for marking-definition objects. The referenced markings apply to that STIX Object or Marking Definition 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.

​

**Examples**

This example marks the Indicator and all its properties with the Marking Definition referenced by the ID.

{

"type": "indicator",

"spec\_version": "2.1",

"id": "indicator--b346b4b3-f4b7-4235-b659-f985f65f0009",

...

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

...

}

## ​5.3​ Granular Markings

Whereas object markings apply to an entire STIX Object or Marking Definition and all its properties, granular markings allow both data markings and language markings to be applied to individual portions of STIX Objects and Marking Definitions. 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 either a reference to the marking-definition object to be applied or a language code 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.

To support applying both data markings and language markings to an object, the granular-marking type has a choice of two properties in addition to the selector: the **lang** property is used to apply language markings, and the **marking\_ref** property is used to apply data markings. Because each granular marking instance applies to either a language or a marking, one and only one of these properties **MUST** be present on each instance of a granular marking.

### ​5.3.1​ Granular Marking Type

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **lang** (optional) | string | The **lang** property identifies the language of the text identified by this marking. The value of the **lang** property, if present, **MUST** be an [[RFC5646](#kix.5jvc7h6u3pms)] language code.  If the **marking\_ref** property is not present, this property **MUST** be present. If the **marking\_ref** property is present, this property **MUST NOT** be present. |
| **marking\_ref** (optional) | identifier | The **marking\_ref** property specifies the ID of the marking-definition object that describes the marking.  If the **lang** property is not present, this property **MUST** be present. If the **lang** property is present, this property **MUST NOT** be present. |
| **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 [5.3.1.1](#_5jigd52xda5r).  The marking-definition referenced in the **marking\_ref** property is applied to the content selected by the selectors in this list.  The [[RFC5646](#kix.5jvc7h6u3pms)] language code specified by the **lang** property is applied to the content selected by the selectors in this list. |

#### ​5.3.1.1​ 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** property 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",

"spec\_version": "2.1",

"created": "2016-02-14T00:00:00.000Z",

"modified": "2016-02-14T00:00:00.000Z",

"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 [[Goessner 2007](#qvelyeswt61d)] 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 of the query is the individual STIX Object. 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.

**Examples**

This example marks the **description** and **labels** properties with the marking-definition referenced in the **granular\_markings** property however the **name** property uses the object marking.

{

...

"granular\_markings": [

{

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

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

}

],

"object\_marking\_ref": "marking-definition--79e2fa14-02c6-40d7-aa4b-ebf281dd78ef"

"description": "Some description",

"name": "Some name",

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

}

​​This example marks the default language for this object as English (in this case, the **name** property) and the **description** as German.

{  
 "type": "campaign",

"spec\_version": "2.1",  
 "id": "campaign--12a111f0-b824-4baf-a224-83b80237a094",

"lang": "en",  
 "created": "2017-02-08T21:31:22.007Z",  
 "modified": "2017-02-08T21:31:22.007Z",  
 "name": "Bank Attack",  
 "description": "Weitere Informationen über Banküberfall",

"granular\_markings": [

{

"selectors": ["description"],

"lang": "de"

}

]  
}

# ​6​ Bundle

**Type Name:** bundle

A Bundle is a collection of arbitrary STIX Objects, Marking Definitions, and Language Content grouped together in a single container. A Bundle does not have any semantic meaning and Objects are not considered related by virtue of being in the same Bundle.

A Bundle is not STIX Domain Object, so it does not have any of the Common Properties other than the **type** and **id** properties. A Bundle is transient and implementations **SHOULD NOT** assume that other implementations will treat it as a persistent object or keep any custom properties found on the bundle itself.

The JSON MTI serialization uses the JSON object type [[RFC8259](#mmt4e4p953r5)] when representing bundle.

## ​6.1​ Properties

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Property Name** | **Type** | **Description** |
| **type** (required) | string | The **type** property identifies the type of object. The value of this property **MUST** be bundle. |
| **id** (required) | identifier | An identifier for this Bundle. The **id** property for the Bundle is designed to help tools that may need it for processing, but tools are not required to store or track it. Consuming tools should not rely on the ability to refer to bundles by ID. |
| **x\_usa\_gov\_banner\_marking\_ref (optional)** | identifier | When used in conjunction with ACS data markings, this contains the id of the most restrictive data marking definition of the bundle.  This is a customized property on bundle (see section [8.1​](#_​8.1​_Custom_Properties)) to support handling restrictions in multi-security fabric sharing. |
| **objects** (optional) | list of type *<STIX Object>*, language-content, or marking-definition | Specifies a set of one or more STIX Objects. Objects in this list **MUST** be a STIX Object (SDO, SRO or Custom Object), a Language Content object, or a Marking Definition object. |

## ​6.2​ Relationships

Bundle is not a STIX Object and **MUST NOT** have any relationships to it or from it.

​

**Examples**

{

"type": "bundle",

"id": "bundle--5d0092c5-5f74-4287-9642-33f4c354e56d",

"objects": [

{

"type": "indicator",

"spec\_version": "2.1",

"id": "indicator--8e2e2d2b-17d4-4cbf-938f-98ee46b3cd3f",

"created\_by\_ref": "identity--f431f809-377b-45e0-aa1c-6a4751cae5ff",

"created": "2016-04-29T14:09:00.000Z",

"modified": "2016-04-29T14:09:00.000Z",

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

"name": "Poison Ivy Malware",

"description": "This file is part of Poison Ivy",

"pattern": "[file:hashes.'SHA-256' = 'aec070645fe53ee3b3763059376134f058cc337247c978add178b6ccdfb0019f']"

},

{

"type": "marking-definition",

"spec\_version": "2.1",

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

"created": "2017-01-20T00:00:00.000Z",

"definition\_type": "tlp",

"definition": {

"tlp": "green"

}

}

]

}

# ​8​ Customizing STIX™

There are two primary means to customize STIX: Custom Properties, and Custom Objects. Custom Properties provides a mechanism and requirements for adding properties 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).

A consumer that receives a STIX document containing Custom Properties or Objects it does not understand **MAY** refuse to process the document or **MAY** ignore those properties or objects and continue processing the document.

Producers of STIX documents that contain Custom Properties or Objects should recognize that consumers may not understand them and may ignore them. Producers should define any Custom Properties and Objects they use, along with any rules for processing them, and make these definitions and rules accessible to any potential consumers. This specification does not specify a process for doing this.

## ​8.1​ Custom Properties

There will be cases where certain information exchanges can be improved by adding properties that are neither 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.

### ​8.1.1​ Requirements

* A STIX Object **MAY** have any number of Custom Properties.
* Custom Property names **MUST** be in ASCII and **MUST** only contain the characters a–z (lowercase ASCII), 0–9, and underscore (\_).
* Custom Property names **SHOULD** start with “x\_” followed by a source unique identifier (such as a domain name with dots replaced by underscores), an underscore and then the name. For example, **x\_example\_com\_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 do not start 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 fulfils that need.

**Examples**

{

...,

"x\_acme\_org\_confidence": 10,

"x\_acme\_org\_scoring": {

"impact": "high",

"probability": "low"

},

...

}

## ​8.2​ 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.

### ​8.2.1​ Requirements

* Producers **MAY** include any number of Custom Objects in STIX documents.
* Custom Objects **MUST** support the Common Properties as defined in section [3.1](#_xzbicbtscatx).
  + The definitions of these properties are the same as those defined in Common Properties and therefore those properties **MUST NOT** be used to represent the custom properties in the object.
* The **type** property in a Custom Object **MUST** be in ASCII and **MUST** only contain the characters a–z (lowercase ASCII), 0–9, and hyphen (-).
* The **type** property **MUST NOT** contain a hyphen (-) character immediately following another hyphen (-) character.
* 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** property in a Custom Object **SHOULD** start with “x-” followed by a source unique identifier (like a domain name with dots replaced by hyphens), a hyphen and then the name. For example, x-example-com-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, [object-type]--[UUIDv4].
* Custom Objects **SHOULD** only be used when there is no existing STIX Object defined by the STIX specification that fulfils that need.

**Examples**

{

"type": "bundle",

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

"objects": [

{

"type": "x-example-com-customobject",

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

"created": "2016-08-01T00:00:00.000Z",

"modified": "2016-08-01T00:00:00.000Z",

"some\_custom\_stuff": 14,

"other\_custom\_stuff": "hello"

}

]

}​

# ​Appendix E. Revision History

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Revision** | **Date** | **Editor** | **Changes Made** |
| 01 | 2018-10-23 | Gregory Cheatham  Terri Hayes  Toni Haynes  Ivan Kirillov  Timothy Lachapelle  Mark Munoz  Rich Piazza  Scott Pinkerton  David Schuler  Craig Schweinhart  Kathy Simunich  Marlon Taylor  David Thomas | Initial Version |
| 02 | 2019-9-30 | Gregory Cheatham  Terri Hayes  Toni Haynes  Ivan Kirillov  Timothy Lachapelle  Mark Munoz  Rich Piazza  Scott Pinkerton  David Schuler  Craig Schweinhart  Kathy Simunich  Marlon Taylor  David Thomas | Redesign x-isa-acs-control-set-type. |

1. "original" in this definition is taken directly from [ref]. This is assumed to be a typo in that document, and the classified\_by property should contain the name of the person who created the derivative classification. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. (*http://www.archives.gov/cui/registry/category-list.html*) [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. <https://api.nsgreg.nga.mil/geo-political/ISO3166-1/3/VI-12> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)