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**MICROSOFT WINDOWS SERVER 2012/2012 R2
DOMAIN CONTROLLER (DC)
SECURITY TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE
(STIG) OVERVIEW**

Version 3, Release 6

11 May 2023

Developed by DISA for the DOD

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Executive Summary

The Microsoft Windows Server 2012/2012 R2 Domain Controller Security Technical Implementation Guide (STIG) is published as a tool to improve the security of Department of Defense (DOD) information systems. The requirements were developed from DOD consensus as well as Windows security guidance by Microsoft Corporation. This document is meant for use in conjunction with other applicable STIGs including such topics as Active Directory Domain, Active Directory Forest, and Domain Name Service (DNS).

Microsoft released Windows Server 2012 R2 as an update to Windows Server 2012 instead of a Service Pack as with previous Windows versions. Windows Server 2012 R2 changed some functionality as well as adding new functionality. Unless otherwise noted, the requirements in this STIG apply to both Windows Server 2012 and 2012 R2. Requirements that are applicable to a specific version are noted as such.

1.2 Authority

Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 8500.01 requires that “all IT [information technology] that receives, processes, stores, displays, or transmits DoD information will be [...] configured [...] consistent with applicable DoD cybersecurity policies, standards, and architectures.” The instruction tasks that DISA “develops and maintains control correlation identifiers (CCIs), security requirements guides (SRGs), security technical implementation guides (STIGs), and mobile code risk categories and usage guides that implement and are consistent with DoD cybersecurity policies, standards, architectures, security controls, and validation procedures, with the support of the NSA/CSS [National Security Agency/Central Security Service], using input from stakeholders, and using automation whenever possible.” This document is provided under the authority of DoDI 8500.01.

Although the use of the principles and guidelines in these SRGs/STIGs provides an environment that contributes to the security requirements of DOD systems, applicable NIST SP 800-53 cybersecurity controls must be applied to all systems and architectures based on the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Instruction (CNSSI) 1253.

1.3 Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions

Severity Category Codes (referred to as CAT) are a measure of vulnerabilities used to assess a facility or system security posture. Each security policy specified in this document is assigned a Severity Category Code of CAT I, II, or III.

Table 1-1: Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions

	DISA Category Code Guidelines
CAT I	Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which will directly and immediately result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.
CAT II	Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which has a potential to result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.
CAT III	Any vulnerability, the existence of which degrades measures to protect against loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.

1.4 STIG Distribution

Parties within the DOD and federal government's computing environments can obtain the applicable STIG from the DOD Cyber Exchange website at <https://cyber.mil/>. This site contains the latest copies of STIGs, SRGs, and other related security information. Those without a Common Access Card (CAC) that has DOD Certificates can obtain the STIG from <https://public.cyber.mil/>.

1.5 Document Revisions

Comments or proposed revisions to this document should be sent via email to the following address: disa.stig_spt@mail.mil. DISA will coordinate all change requests with the relevant DOD organizations before inclusion in this document. Approved changes will be made in accordance with the DISA maintenance release schedule.

1.6 Other Considerations

DISA accepts no liability for the consequences of applying specific configuration settings made on the basis of the SRGs/STIGs. It must be noted that the configuration settings specified should be evaluated in a local, representative test environment before implementation in a production environment, especially within large user populations. The extensive variety of environments makes it impossible to test these configuration settings for all potential software configurations.

For some production environments, failure to test before implementation may lead to a loss of required functionality. Evaluating the risks and benefits to a system's particular circumstances and requirements is the system owner's responsibility. The evaluated risks resulting from not applying specified configuration settings must be approved by the responsible AO. Furthermore, DISA implies no warranty that the application of all specified configurations will make a system 100 percent secure.

Security guidance is provided for the DOD. While other agencies and organizations are free to use it, care must be given to ensure that all applicable security guidance is applied at both the device hardening level and the architectural level due to the fact that some settings may not be configurable in environments outside the DOD architecture.

1.7 Product Approval Disclaimer

The existence of a STIG does not equate to DOD approval for the procurement or use of a product.

STIGs provide configurable operational security guidance for products being used by the DOD. STIGs, along with vendor confidential documentation, also provide a basis for assessing compliance with cybersecurity controls/control enhancements, which supports system assessment and authorization (A&A) under the DOD Risk Management Framework (RMF). Department of Defense AOs may request available vendor confidential documentation for a product that has a STIG for product evaluation and RMF purposes from disa.stig_spt@mail.mil. This documentation is not published for general access to protect the vendor's proprietary information.

AOs have the purview to determine product use/approval in accordance with (IAW) DOD policy and through RMF risk acceptance. Inputs into acquisition or preacquisition product selection include such processes as:

- National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) evaluation for National Security Systems (NSS) (<https://www.niap-ccevs.org/>) IAW CNSSP #11.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cryptographic Module Validation Program (CMVP) (<https://csrc.nist.gov/groups/STM/cmvp/>) IAW Federal/DOD mandated standards.
- DOD Unified Capabilities (UC) Approved Products List (APL) (<https://www.disa.mil/network-services/ucco>) IAW DoDI 810.

2. ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The Windows Operating Systems Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIGs) Overview, also available on Cyber Exchange, is a summary-level document for the various Windows operating system STIGs. Additional information can be found there.

2.1 Updating the Windows Security Options File

Some of the requirements in this STIG depend on the use of a Microsoft security options file (sceregl.inf) that has been updated to include additional security checks (“MSS” settings) that are not visible in policies by default. An updated copy of the security options file is included with the Windows STIGs.

To load the updated Security Options file, complete the following (due to changes in Windows security, the administrator must first take ownership of the file before changes are made):

- Open a command prompt with elevated privileges.
- Take ownership of the file with the command “takeown /f c:\windows\inf\sceregl.inf”.
- Add Full permissions with the command “icacls c:\windows\inf\sceregl.inf /grant username:f” where “username” is the administrator account.
- Rename the sceregl.inf file in the %WinDir%\inf directory.
- Copy the updated sceregl.inf file to the %WinDir%\inf directory.
 - The file can be found in the Templates directory included in the STIG zip file.
- Reregister scecli.dll by executing “regsvr32 scecli.dll” in the command prompt with elevated privileges.

The additional options will now appear in Windows policy tools, such as the Group Policy Editor (a restart of the tool may be required).