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2026-05****Information security, cybersecurity
and privacy protection —
Evaluation criteria for IT security —****Part 4:
Framework for the specification of
evaluation methods and activities**

*Sécurité de l'information, cybersécurité et protection de la vie
privée — Critères d'évaluation pour la sécurité des technologies
de l'information —*

*Partie 4: Cadre de spécification de méthodes et activités
d'évaluation*



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This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO/IEC 15408-4:2022), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

— minor typographical and editorial errors corrected.

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The model of security evaluation in ISO/IEC 15408-1 identifies that high-level generic evaluation activities are defined in ISO/IEC 18045, but that more specific evaluation activities (EAs) can be defined as technology-specific adaptations of these generic activities for particular evaluation contexts, e.g. for security functional requirements (SFRs) or security assurance requirements (SARs) applied to specific technologies or target of evaluation (TOE) types. Specification of such evaluation activities is already occurring amongst practitioners, and this creates a need for a specification for defining such evaluation activities.

This document describes a framework that can be used for deriving evaluation activities from work units of ISO/IEC 18045 and grouping them into evaluation methods (EMs). Evaluation activities or evaluation methods can be included in protection profiles (PPs) and any documents supporting them. Where a PP, PP-Configuration, PP-Module, package, or Security Target (ST) identifies that specific evaluation methods/evaluation activities must be used, the evaluators are required by ISO/IEC 18045 to follow and report the relevant evaluation methods/evaluation activities when assigning evaluator verdicts. As noted in ISO/IEC 15408-1, in some cases an evaluation authority can decide not to approve the use of particular evaluation methods/evaluation activities. In such a case, the evaluation authority can decide not to carry out evaluations following an ST that requires those evaluation methods/evaluation activities.

This document also allows for evaluation activities to be defined for extended SARs, in which case derivation of the evaluation activities relates to equivalent evaluator action elements and work units defined for that extended SAR. Where reference is made in this document to the use of ISO/IEC 18045 or ISO/IEC 15408-3 for SARs (such as when defining rationales for evaluation activities), then, in the case of an extended SAR, the reference applies instead to the equivalent evaluator action elements and work units defined for that extended SAR.

For clarity, this document specifies how to define evaluation methods and evaluation activities but does not itself specify instances of evaluation methods or evaluation activities.

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