Trusted Computing Group Storage Work Group
Opal SSC Test Cases Specification FAQ
February 2011

Q. What is the Storage Work Group?
A. The Storage Work Group is an organization within the Trusted Computing Group. It consists of TCG member companies with interests in the implementation of the Trusted Computing Group's methodologies for storage. For more information on the Storage Work Group, please see the documents at
http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/developers/storage.

Q. What is the purpose of the Storage Work Group?
A. The purpose of the Storage Work Group is to provide a set of specifications that enable the implementation of Trusted Storage. Using standards-based encryption techniques and methodologies, the specifications allow users to store data with protection against theft or loss.

Q. Who is participating in the Storage Work Group?
A. Participation in the Storage Work Group includes storage device manufacturers, storage subsystem manufacturers, software vendors, and designers of custom, highly integrated components. Storage and security management and storage integration vendors also participate. A complete list of TCG members is online at
http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/about_tcg/tcg_members.

Q. What is the output of this Work Group?
A. The Storage Work Group develops standards and practices for defining the same security services across dedicated storage controller interfaces, including but not limited to ATA, Serial ATA, SAS, Fibre Channel, USB and PCIe. Storage systems addressed by TCG include disk drives, removable media drives, flash storage, and multiple storage device systems.

Q. What is a Security Subsystem Class (SSC)?
A. The Trusted Storage Architecture Core Specification developed in the Storage Work Group provides a comprehensive definition of TCG-related functions for a TCG trusted storage device. However, trusted storage devices use cases may not require all Core Specification functionality. There are multiple "classes" of Core Specification compliance called Security Subsystem Classes (SSCs). SSCs explicitly define the minimum acceptable Core Specification capabilities of a storage device in a specific "class".

Q. What is the Opal SSC?
A. The Opal SSC specification is predicated on ease of implementation and integration. This SSC defines the specifications and methodologies for implementing the Core Specification for fixed media storage devices in the consumer and enterprise storage systems, such as notebooks and desktops. The Opal SSC specification is based on the Trusted Storage

Architecture Core Specification Version 1.0 Revision 1.0

Q. Why is this SSC named 'Opal'?
A. When the SWG started working on the different SSCs, the work group decided to use as a convention the name of semi precious stones to name the SSCs. The work group worked on different SSCs: Jade and Opal. Jade later was renamed to "Enterprise SSC" but Opal kept its original name.

Q. What is the Opal Test Cases Specification?
The Opal Test Cases Specification contains a set of tests that are intended to verify the correct behavior of a storage device implementing the Opal SSC Specification.   These test cases are intended to be used as a basis for the compliance component of the projected Storage certification program, which would seek to ensure a high level of interoperability of storage devices from multiple vendors.

Q. What is the audience for the Opal Test Cases Specification?
The target audience for the Opal Test Cases Specification includes system integrators for trusted storage solutions including security software vendors, manufacturers of Opal SSC storage devices, and compliance test suite vendors.

Q. When will the Storage certification program be available?
A. We are actively evaluating the many aspects of establishing such a certification program, and publishing the test cases is one of the first steps. At this time, we do not have a concrete timeline for a potential launch of the program.

More information on self-encrypting drives based on TCG specifications can be found at
http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/solutions/data_protection.

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