



Trusted Computing Group Storage Work Group
Enterprise Security Subsystem Class (SSC) Specification FAQ
August 2015

Q. What is the Storage Work Group?

A. The Storage Work Group is an entity within the Trusted Computing Group. It consists of TCG member companies with interests in the implementation of the Trusted Computing Group's specifications for storage devices. For more information on the Storage Work Group, please refer to www.trustedcomputinggroup.org.

Q. What is the purpose of the Storage Work Group?

A. The Storage Work Group builds upon existing TCG philosophy in the development of specifications that provide a comprehensive architecture for storage devices. The Storage Work Group's objective is to define specifications and accompanying documents for building and managing storage devices that enforce policy controls as set by hosts across a wide range of storage transport command protocols.

Q. How is the Storage Work Group organized?

A. The Storage Work Group operates under the auspices of the TCG. Membership in the Storage Work Group is determined by TCG bylaws and is open to all TCG members.

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 current TCG members is available at www.trustedcomputinggroup.org.

Q. What is the output of this Work Group?

A. The Storage Work Group deliverables include specifications that define security functionality requirements for storage devices and managing hosts; test cases and certification process documents; and informative supporting documents.

Q. What is the Core Specification?

A. The Core Specification, officially known as TCG Storage Architecture Core Specification, developed by the Storage Work Group provides a comprehensive definition of TCG-related functions for a TCG storage device.

Q. What is a Security Subsystem Class (SSC)?

A. The Core Specification can be further broken down in multiple subsets of functionality called Security Subsystem Classes (SSCs). SSCs explicitly define the minimum acceptable Core Specification capabilities of a storage device in a specific “class” and potentially expand functionality beyond what is defined in the Core Specification.

Q. What is the Enterprise SSC?

A. The Enterprise SSC specification is predicated on ease of implementation and integration. This SSC defines the functionality for implementing the Core Specification on storage devices for high performance storage systems.

Q. What is the audience for this specification?

A. The target audience includes system integrators, test suites vendors, OEMs, and storage device manufacturers.

Q. What features are specified by the Enterprise SSC?

A. The Enterprise SSC provides data-at-rest protection via data encryption and access controls, and fast repurposing of the storage device.

Q. How is data protected?

A. The Enterprise SSC specifies multiple storage ranges with each having its own authentication and encryption key. The range start, range length, read/write locks as well as the user read/write access control for each range are configurable.

Q. Why do we need Enterprise SSC devices?

A. Enterprise SSC specifies a hardware based data encryption solution to the problem of data breach caused by lost or stolen storage devices.

Q. Do Enterprise SSC devices require a TPM?

A. No. Enterprise SSC storage devices do not require a TPM. For additional protection, integrating these storage devices in systems with activated TPM is recommended.

Q. What’s new in Enterprise SSC v1.01 Specification?

A. The Enterprise SSC v1.01 specification fixes an elevation of privileges issue by removing the section that defined behavior for authority authentication within transactions. Additionally, the specification now references the updated TCG Storage Interface Interactions Specification, Version 1.04, and fixes (minor) editorial issues.

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