

Security Accreditation Committee (SAC) and the National IT Evaluation Scheme (NITES)

Contact information

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What is SAC?

The Security Accreditation Committee (SAC) is a collective unit comprising of key Government Agencies. With its formation in November 2009, the SAC is entrusted with the imperative mission of addressing the shortages of evaluated IT products which Government Agencies require for safeguarding the sensitive information assets.

With this mission in mind, the SAC established the National IT Evaluation Scheme (NITES).

Overview of National IT Evaluation Scheme (NITES)

NITES is the essential platform for Government Agencies to source for and procure evaluated IT products. By policy, Government Agencies shall use IT products certified by SAC. With NITES, Agencies can look forward to the arsenal of high assurance products that can be utilised to secure the information assets. Developers, on the other hand, can leverage on NITES to deliver innovative security products to address the Agencies' security concerns.

NITES delivers high security assurance by referencing international standards such as the Common Criteria (CC). NITES ensures that IT products are subjected to stringent criteria to withstand sophisticated attacks. By referencing the Common Criteria, stakeholders can also be assured that evaluations are conducted in a methodical and consistent manner.

Products which are already Common Criteria certified will be able to reuse previous evaluation results¹, a means to accelerate the evaluation process without compromising security.

¹ Subjected to conditions stated in the Scheme publications.

Product Categories

While IT products are generally required to be evaluated, the following categories are of prime priorities²:

- Secure Portable Storage
- Network Communications Device or Solution
- File/Folder Encryption Solution
- Key Management Solution

Nevertheless products not in any of the above categories may be accepted into the scheme on a case by case basis.

Evaluation Process

Evaluations are conducted by National Laboratories such as the Singapore Infocomm Technology Security Authority (SITSA) or by SAC Accredited Test Laboratories.

In general, the Evaluation Phases consist of the following:

- Pre-Evaluation Phase (approx. 2 weeks³)
- Documentation Evaluation Phase (approx. 12 weeks³)
- Functional Testing and Vulnerability Assessment Phase (approx. 12 weeks³)
- Conclusion Phase

² The product categories vary according to the requirements of the Singapore Government.

³ The durations stated are based on estimation. The actual duration will depend on the scope of evaluation and the complexity of the product.

