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# I-0464: Conditional Requirements

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STATUS: Ready for External Review

TITLE: Conditional Requirements  
COMMENTS DUE BY: Tuesday, July 1, 2003 to [cc-cmt@nist.gov](mailto:cc-cmt@nist.gov)

RELATED TO: <None>

## ISSUE:

Currently, the CC does not provide the ability to specify conditional requirements, i.e., requirements that only need to be met under a particular condition. This would be useful flexibility for protection profiles, which might be used in differing but similar environments.

## STATEMENT

A future version of the Common Criteria should support the notion of conditional requirements as a form of operation.

## RECOMMENDED CRITERIA CHANGES

To address this interpretation, it is suggested that a new operation be added to the Common Criteria: The Conditional Statement. This would take the form:

[if conditional: condition then] requirement [else requirement]

For any SFRs that are expressed using the conditional operator, the evaluator would need to verify the following:

- That the objective mapped to the SFR is subject to equal conditions, or is sufficiently general for the SFR to apply.
- That the threat mapped to the SFR through the objective is subject to equal conditions, or there are sufficient alternative SFRs (i.e., multiple conditional SFRs) so as to cover the stated threat.

The option of an "if...then...else" structure is provided to allow selection of exclusive alternatives, such as pre or post selection. Selection of inclusive alternatives could be provided as well using existing structures, but the presentation would be more complex (i.e., [selection: choose one or more of: [if preselection is implemented, ...]; [if postselection is implemented, then...]])

## SUPPORT:

When writing a general specification, for example, a Protection Profile, it is often unknown the specific protocols or approaches that will be taken in the eventual implementation. For example:

- Any of a variety of cryptographic protocols might be acceptable, but depending on the protocol chosen, there might be specific standards or behavior characteristics that must be met.
- Either pre- or post- selection of audit events may be acceptable.
- There might be different requirements to address different authentication mechanisms, but the overall threat and objective is the same.

However, CC v2.1 does not support the notion of condition requirements. The closest it comes to having them is the AUDIT sections, which suggest audit requirements to be included.

This proposal suggests that conditional requirements be treated as yet another form of operation. Hence, conditional requirements would only be valid in a protection profile. All conditional statements must be resolved by the time they are expressed in a security target.