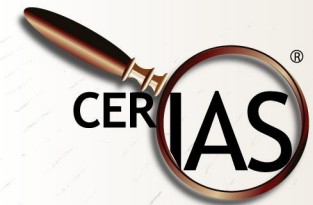


Why Do We Trust Standards?

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How do we reason about standards?

- Why do we trust one?
 - How much?
- How do we create one?
- How do we choose one?
 - Is a single flawed standard better than none?
 - Avoid standards paralysis at what cost?
 - e.g., NAC (no clear "winner")

Problems with standards

- Many to choose from
 - Many standards bodies
 - Each with many (ISO: over 17500)
- Controversial standards
- Flawed processes and standards
- Complex standards
- Dictated standards
- Failed standards



Trust Types

- Direct
 - You did the evaluation yourself with the appropriate criteria
- Transitive
 - Someone else evaluated with criteria appropriate for you
- Assumptive
 - Someone did an evaluation...
- Not having a choice isn't trust

Position Statement

- We should adopt standards based on transitive trust
 - Have sound justification why we trust them to be appropriate
 - But creation and adoption processes use mostly assumptive trust
 - e.g., countries with different criteria, needs, and political weaknesses vote...
- Retrofitting trust can be as problematic as retrofitting security

Possible Solutions

- Support transitive trust as part of standards themselves by carrying criteria and self-analysis
- Third parties hired to publish flexible evaluation using comprehensive list of criteria
- At adoption, combine appropriate criteria with weights to support decision

