

## Accelerating Achievable Assurance

We are at a crossroads as regards the assurance provided by the Common Criteria: there a broader transnational and trans-industry interest in assurance than ever before, yet a greater threat of assurance balkanization through "splinter" national schemes and vendor- or industry-specific "one off" product validations. None of these serve the interest of accelerating achievable assurance in a way that maximizes assurance for "cost investment" by vendors and acknowledges that an abstract assurance ideal is neither achievable nor cost effective. Accelerating achievable assurance acknowledges that security can be better; specifically, if nobody can do everything perfectly, everyone can do something better. Accelerating achievable assurance asks the questions:

What do real customers want?

How can we craft assurance measures that provide a way forward for vendors -- all vendors -- without demanding immediate (and illusory) perfection? How can we avoid "one size fits all assurance" while developing consensus around the most important assurance measures to do first? How can we craft unified positions that help deflate country or industry assurance balkanization?