CVE Blog

Read more posts on CVE Website or Medium.

All CVE Blog articles published in calendar year 2018 are included in this single PDF.

Table of Contents:

A Look at the CVE and CVSS Relationship

CVE Blog | September 11, 2018

We've received a few questions recently about CVSS and vulnerability severity scoring, so as a reminder, CVSS is a separate program from CVE.

CVE is a list of entries—each containing an identification number, a description, and at least one public reference—for publicly known cybersecurity vulnerabilities. CVE does not provide severity scoring or prioritization ratings for software vulnerabilities.

CVSS Defined

While separate from CVE, the Common Vulnerability Scoring System (CVSS) standard operated by the Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams (FIRST) can be used to score the severity of software vulnerabilities identified by CVE Entries.

CVSS Version 3.0 provides "a way to capture the principal characteristics of a vulnerability, and produce a numerical score reflecting its severity, as well as a textual representation of that score. The numerical score can then be translated into a qualitative representation (such as low, medium, high, and critical) to help organizations properly assess and prioritize their vulnerability management processes."

CVE Entries are cited in the CVSS specification and documentation to identify individual vulnerabilities used as examples, but they are not required for using CVSS.

NVD Hosts a CVSS Calculator for CVE Entries

Severity rating scoring and prioritization for CVE Entries is available through a CVSS calculator provided by the U.S. National Vulnerability Database (NVD).

According to the NVD website, which is operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), NVD's CVSS calculator for CVE Entries supports both the CVSS 2.0 and CVSS 3.0 standards, and provides qualitative severity rankings for CVE Entries using each version. In addition, NVD's CVSS calculator also allows users to add two additional types of score data into their severity scoring: (1) temporal, for "metrics that change over time due to events external to the vulnerability," and (2) environmental, for "scores customized to reflect the impact of the vulnerability on your organization."

For details and help, visit NVD's CVSS Calculator for CVE Entries on the NVD website.

CVE, CVSS, and NVD

To recap, CVE does not provide severity scoring or prioritization and does not have a direct relationship with CVSS. The sole purpose of the CVE List is to provide common identifiers—CVE Entries—for publicly known cybersecurity vulnerabilities.

CVE Entries can be scored for severity and prioritization using FIRST's CVSS standard.

NIST's NVD provides a free CVSS calculator for CVE Entries. NVD also provides a download on the NVD website of "CVSS scores for all published CVE vulnerabilities." Visit the NVD website to learn more.

Did We Point You in the Right Direction?

To discuss this post with us, please use our LinkedIn page or the CVE Request Web Form by selecting "Other" from the dropdown. We look forward to hearing from you!

Come Meet with CVE at Black Hat 2018/DEF CON 26 on August 9

CVE Blog | August 3, 2018

CVE Numbering Authority Program Lead Jonathan Evans will be at Black Hat USA 2018/DEF CON 26 in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.

CVE Meet-Up, August 9

Please join us for an informal get together to talk CVE at the Black Hat USA 2018 and DEF CON 26 conferences. If you're interested, please meet us at 12:00 p.m. PT outside the House of Blues in the Mandalay Bay Casino.

We will determine the final location once we have everyone together. Questions or concerns: CVE Request Web Form and select “Other” from the dropdown.

Please stop by and say hello. We look forward to seeing you!

CNA Processes Documentation Now on GitHub

CVE Blog | April 6, 2018

We have updated the collection of processes documentation for CVE Numbering Authorities (CNAs) on our CVEProject Documentation website on GitHub. Please note that while many of the documents are hosted on our GitHub website, some are hosted here on the main CVE website.

The purpose of the collection is to provide guidance and assistance to CNAs so that they can correctly fulfill their responsibilities for properly writing and completing the information required for each CVE Entry they submit to the Program Root CNA to be added to the CVE List, as defined by the CNA Rules, Version 2.0.

CNA Processes Documentation & Onboarding Slides

This collection of documents includes the following:

- **CNA Resources**
  - Contacting the Program Root CNA
  - Basic Information
  - Requesting Blocks of CVE IDs/Submitting CVE Entry Information
  - CNA Documentation and Onboarding
  - CNA Metrics Requirements

- **CNA Processes Documentation**
  - Current CNAs:
    - CNA Rules v2.0
    - CNA Onboarding Processes
    - CVE Content Decisions
    - Submitting CVE Entries to Root CNAs
  - Prospective CNAs:
    - CVE overview for prospective CNAs
    - Instructions for how to become a CNA

- **CNA Onboarding Slides**
  - Becoming a CNA
  - CNA Processes

- Counting Rules Guidance
- Creating a CVE Entry for Submission
- Submitting CVE Entries to Program Root CNA

If you have any questions or comments about the collection of CNA Processes Documentation & Onboarding Slides, please contact us via our CVE Request web form by selecting "Other" from the dropdown menu. We look forward to hearing from you!

CNA Rules, Version 2.0 Now in Effect

CVE Blog | January 1, 2018

Version 2.0 of the CVE Numbering Authorities (CNA) Rules took effect on January 1, 2018. The CNA Rules are the policies and processes for managing the CVE Numbering Authorities (CNAs) Program, and were revised with significant input from the CNA community.

CNA Rules, Version 2.0, which was updated from Version 1.1, includes detailed information on the following:

- **CNAs Overview** – Federated CNA Structure, and Purpose and Goal of the CNA Rules
- **Rules for All CNAs** – Assignment, Communication, and Administration
- **Responsibilities of Root and Primary CNAs** – Specific Assignment, Communications, and Administration Rules for Root CNAs and for the Primary CNA
- **CNA Candidate Process** – Qualifications, and On-Boarding Process
- **Appeals Process**
- **Definitions**
- **CVE Information Format**
- **Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVE) Counting Rules** – Purpose, Introduction, **Definitions, Vulnerability Report, Inclusion Decisions, and Counting Decisions**
- **Terms of Use**
- **Process to Correct Counting Issues**
- **Acronyms**
- **Quarterly Metrics**
- **Disclosure and Embargo Policies**

For details about the changes from v1.1 to v2.0, please see our "CNA Rules, Version 2.0 to Take Effect on January 1st" blog article, issue tracker, and change logs.

If you have any questions or comments about the new CNA Rules document, please contact us via our CVE Request web form by selecting "Other" from the dropdown menu. We look forward to hearing from you!