

Open Security Controls Assessment Language

OSCAL

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February 17, 2022

Why are we all here today?



Because we are faced with the same challenges:

Information
technology is complex
& calls for automation

Security vulnerabilities
are everywhere
& require constant
monitoring

Regulatory frameworks
are burdensome
& need automated
GRC tools

Documentation
becomes outdated
fast
& needs constant updates

Risk management
is hard
& experts need
help

What is needed? OSCAL!

OSCAL is like a Rosetta Stone that enables tools and organizations to exchange information via automation

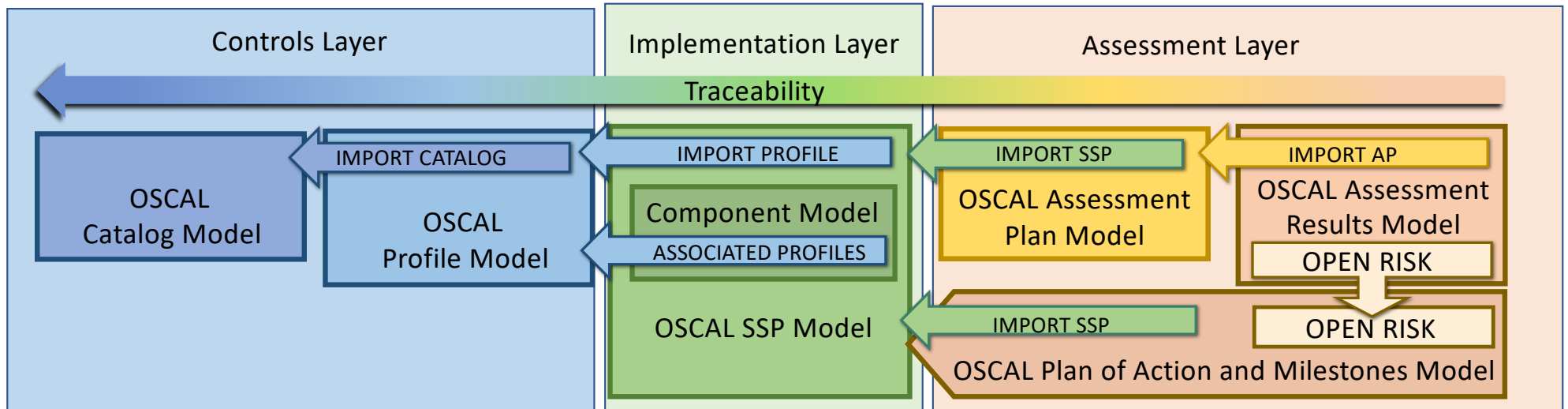


OSCAL sets the foundation for automation and interoperability

What is OSCAL?

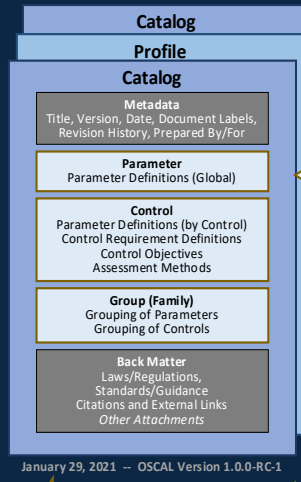
OSCAL is the result of NIST and FedRAMP collaboration

- **OSCAL provides** a **common/single machine-readable language**, expressed in XML, JSON and YAML for:
 - ❑ multiple compliance and risk management frameworks (e.g. SP 800-53, ISO/IEC 27001&2, COBIT 5)
 - ❑ software and service providers to express implementation guidance against security controls (Component definition)
 - ❑ sharing how security controls are implemented (System Security Plans [SSPs])
 - ❑ sharing security assessment plans (System Assessment Plans [SAPs])
 - ❑ sharing security assessment results/reports (System Assessment Results [SARs])
- **OSCAL enables automated traceability** from selection of security controls through implementation and assessment



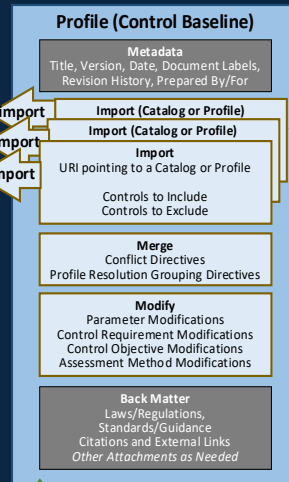
A Closer Look at OSCAL Models

CATALOG MODEL



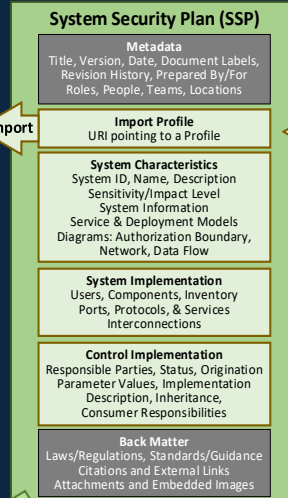
The import arrow identifies what OSCAL content is linked as a result of the import statement. Imported content is referenced, not copied.

PROFILE MODEL



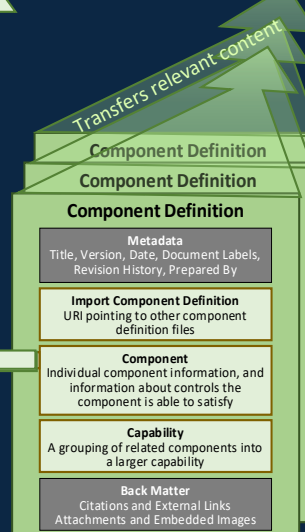
Associates configuration settings with baselines

SSP MODEL

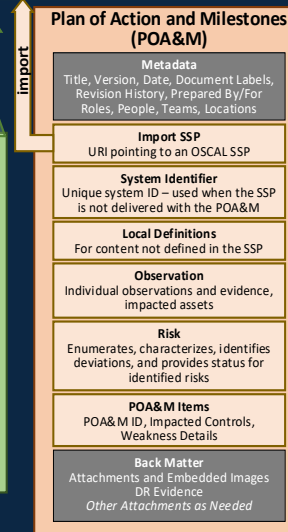


Transfers relevant content

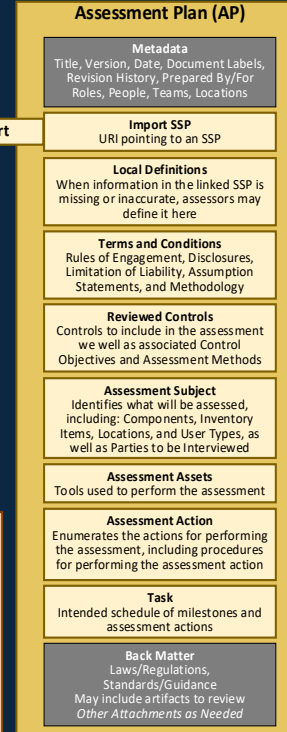
COMPONENT MODEL



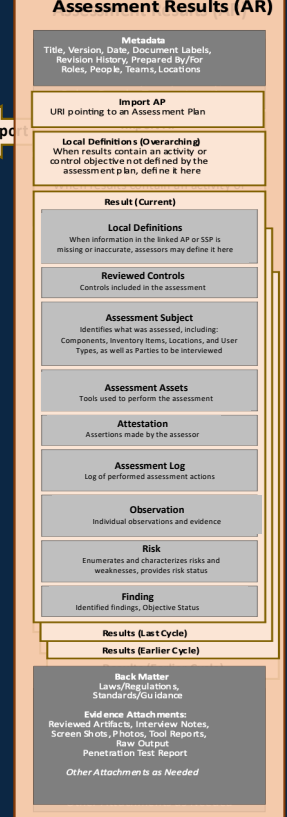
POA&M MODEL



ASSESSMENT PLAN MODEL



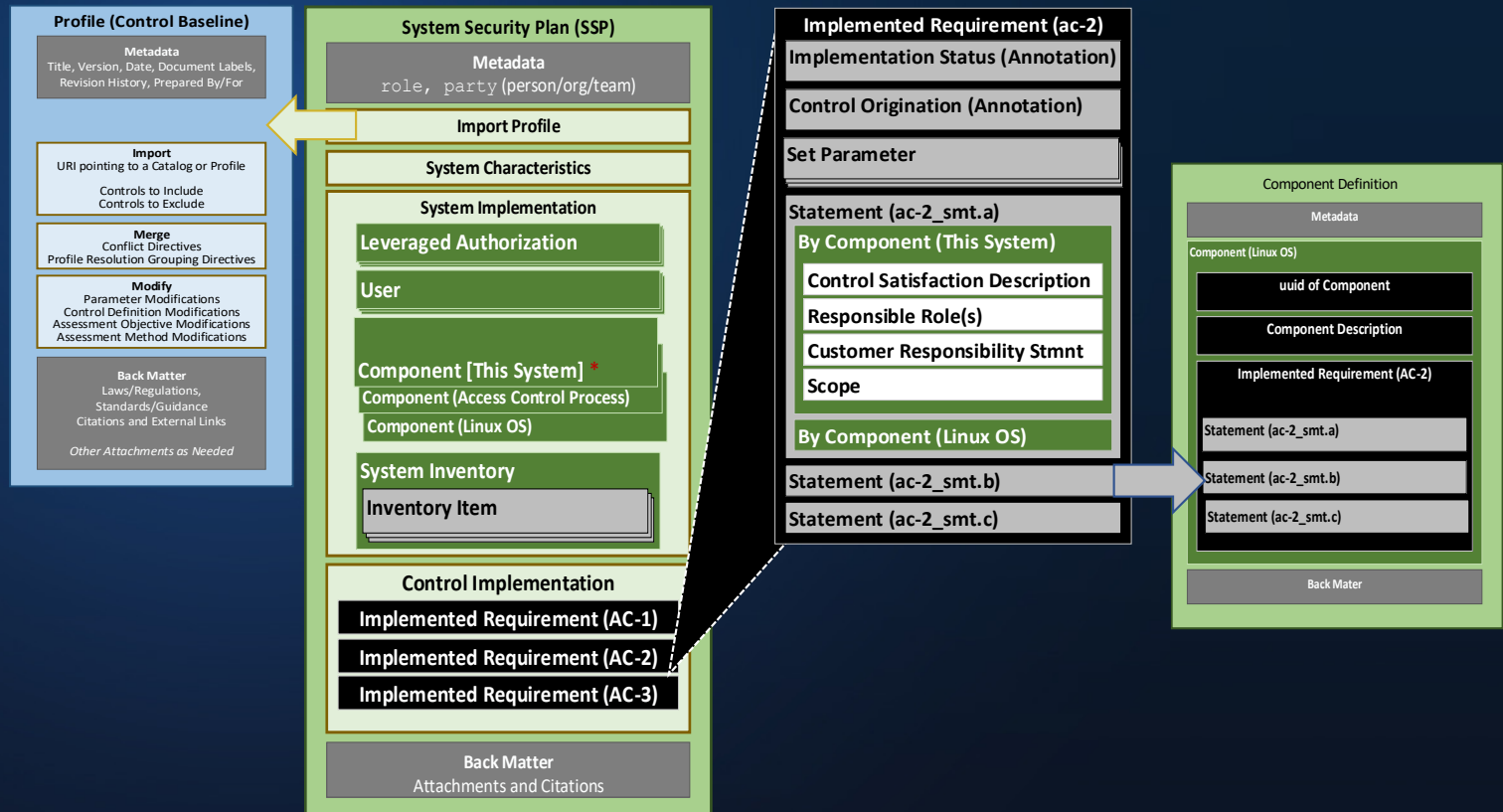
ASSESSMENT RESULTS MODEL



Where the Innovation Truly Starts: The OSCAL Implementation Layer

OSCAL SSP:

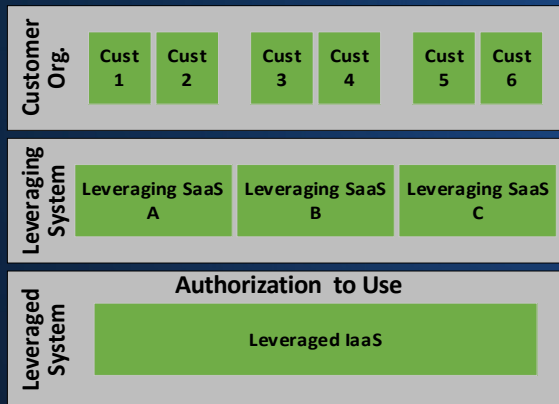
- Imports a Profile identifying the controls
- Each control response is broken down to the individual components involved.
- Enables a more robust response to controls
- Example: The access control implementation that satisfies AC-2, part a is described separately for:
 - This System
 - The Access Control Procedure
 - A shared Application



* Every SSP, must have a component representing the whole system.

Common Control Authorization & Authorization to Use

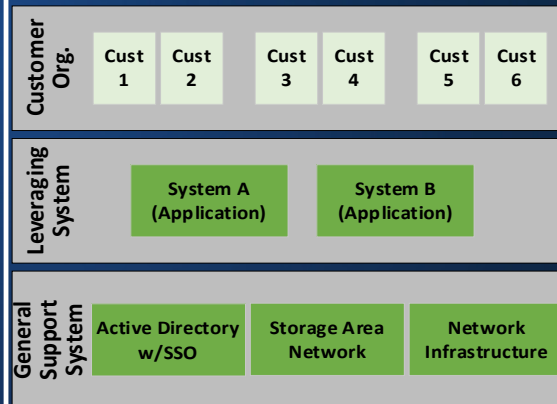
Yes



Cloud (SaaS on IaaS)

Cloud: Several SaaS systems running on a separately authorized IaaS.

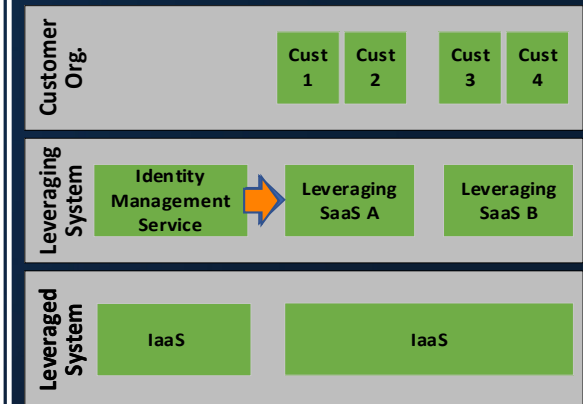
Yes



Data Center (System on GSS)

Data Center: Several systems relying on a separately authorized storage array or other general support system (GSS)

No



External Service or Interconnection

Interconnections or External Services are not leveraged authorizations

- Even if they have an authorization
- SaaS A handles the Identity Management Service as a system component

OSCAL supports this, just not as a L.A.

Assessment Plan (SAP) & Assessment Results (AR)

- OVERLAPPING SYNTAX
- SIMILAR BUT DISTINCT PURPOSE
- UNIQUE to AR: **Results** and **Evidence**

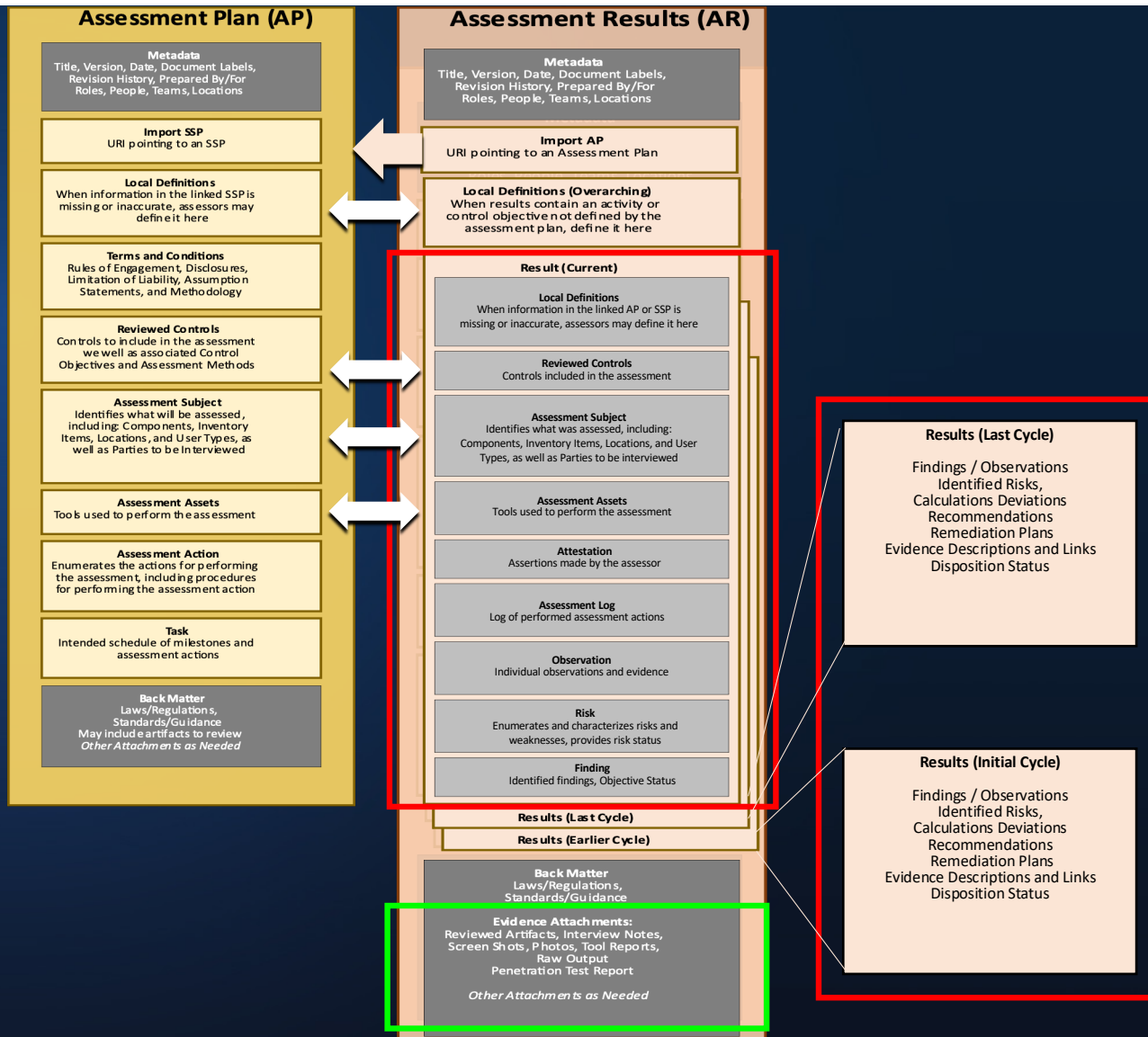
Continuous Assessment Approach

- **Assessment Plan:** What should be tested/inspected, how, and with which frequency
- **Assessment Results:** Time-slice of results

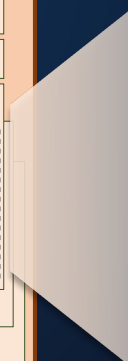
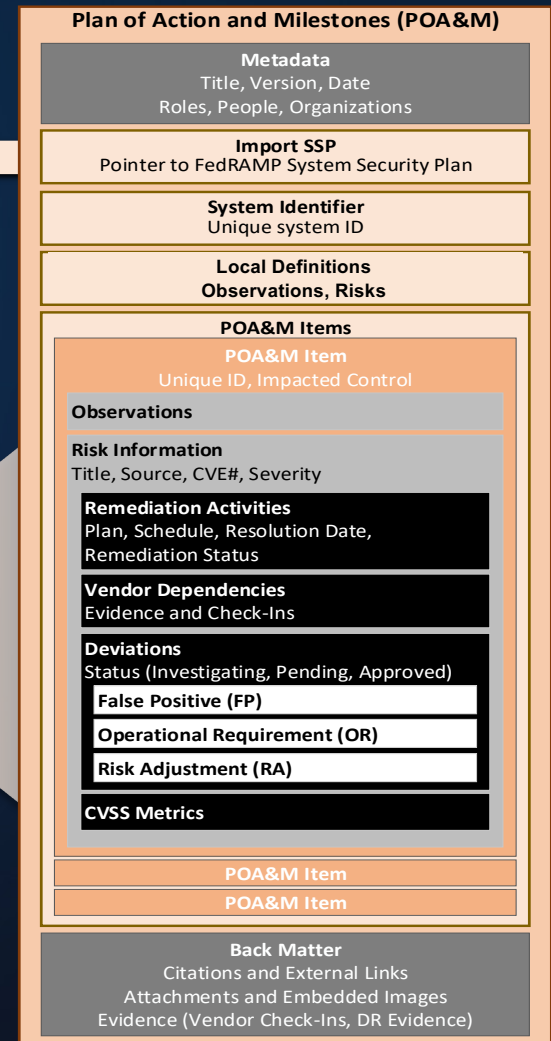
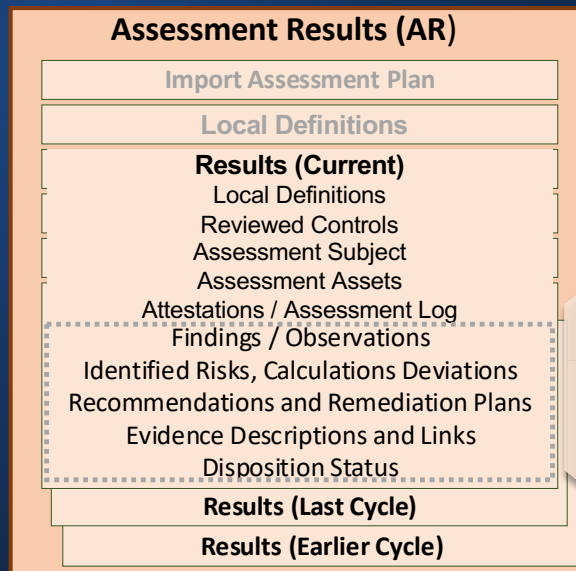
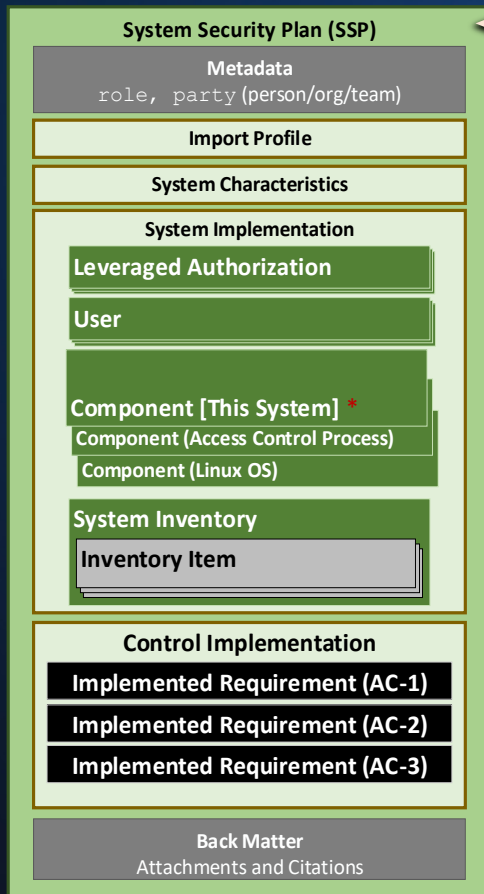
Planned activities



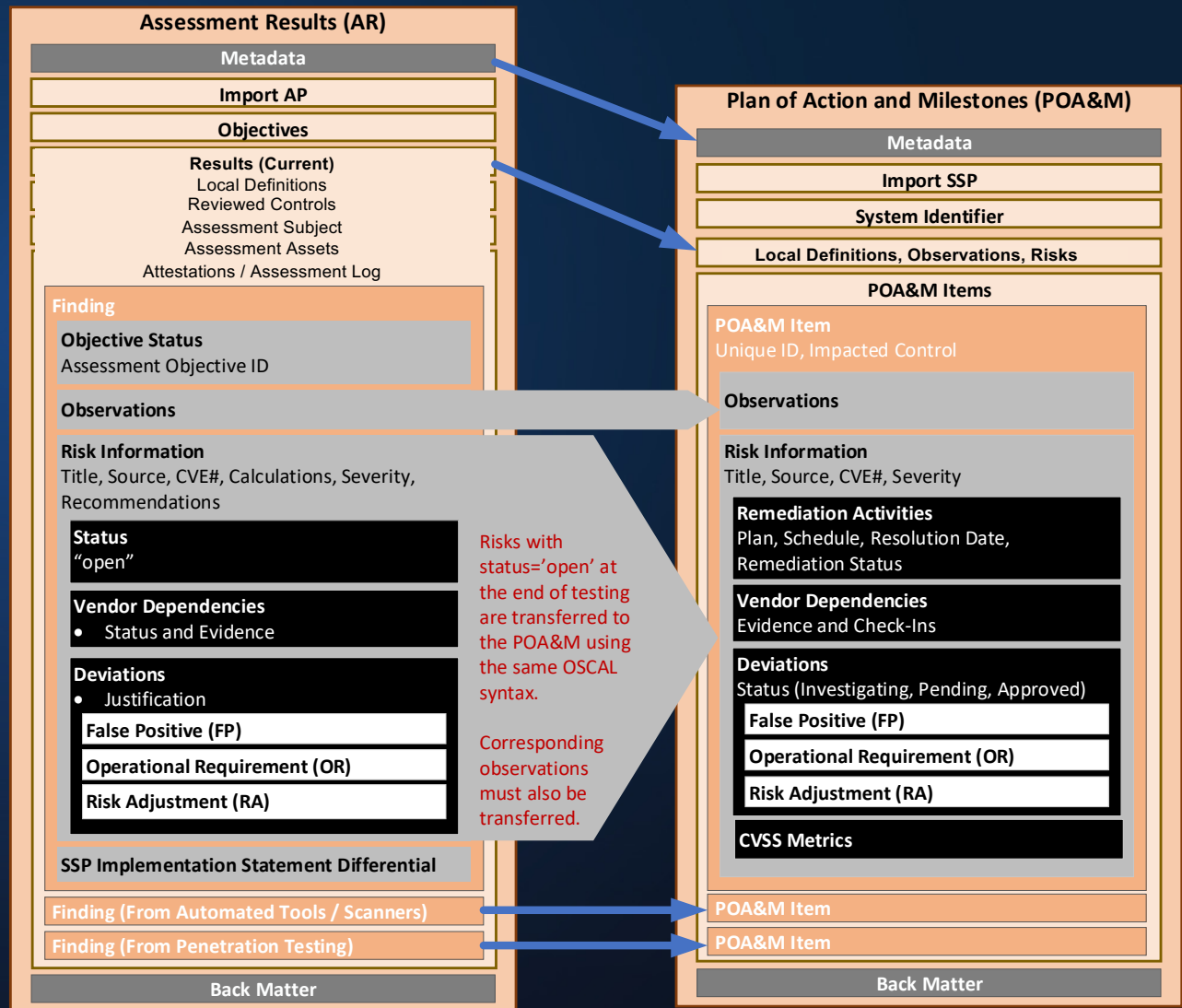
Actual activities



OSCAL POA&M Model



Assessment Results & POA&Ms Overlapping Syntax





Who Can Benefit and How?



OSCAL Models >>> OSCAL Content >>> OSCAL Tools

```

catalog [1]: {
  uuid [1]: uuid,
  metadata [1]: { - },
  params [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  controls [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  groups [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  back-matter [0 or 1]: { - },
}
profile [1]: {
  uuid [1]: uuid,
  metadata [1]: { - },
  imports [1]: [ - ],
  merge [0 or 1]: { - },
  modify [0 or 1]: { - },
  back-matter [0 or 1]: { - },
}
component-definition [1]: {
  uuid [1]: uuid,
  metadata [1]: { - },
  imports-component-definitions [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  components [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  capabilities [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  back-matter [0 or 1]: { - },
}
system-security-plan [1]: {
  uuid [1]: uuid,
  metadata [1]: { - },
  profile [1]: { - },
  oscal-changes [0 or 1]: { - },
  control-implementation [1]: { - },
  back-matter [0 or 1]: { - },
}
assessment-plan [1]: {
  uuid [1]: uuid,
  metadata [1]: { - },
  import-ssp [1]: { - },
  local-definitions [0 or 1]: { - },
  terms-and-conditions [0 or 1]: { - },
  reviewed-controls [1]: { - },
  assessment-subjects [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  assessment-assets [0 or 1]: { - },
  tasks [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  back-matter [0 or 1]: { - },
}
assessment-results [1]: {
  uuid [1]: uuid,
  metadata [1]: { - },
  import-ap [1]: { - },
  local-definitions [0 or 1]: { - },
  results [1]: [ - ],
  back-matter [0 or 1]: { - },
}
plan-of-action-and-milestones [1]: {
  uuid [1]: uuid,
  metadata [1]: { - },
  import-ssp [0 or 1]: { - },
  system-id [0 or 1]: { - },
  local-definitions [0 or 1]: { - },
  observations [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  risks [0 or 1]: [ - ],
  poam-items [1]: [ - ],
  back-matter [0 or 1]: { - },
}
  
```

OSCAL Models

<https://github.com/usnistgov/OSCAL>

OSCAL Content Generation OSCAL Content in Action

<https://github.com/usnistgov/oscal-content>

Name	Provider/Developer	Description	Type
Compliance trestle	IBM	A python SDK and command line tool which manipulates OSCAL structures and supports transformation of data into OSCAL.	open source
OSCAL Java Library	NIST OSCAL Project	A Java-based programming API for reading and writing content conformant to the OSCAL XML, JSON, and YAML based models.	open source
OSCAL React Component Library	Easy Dynamics	A library of reusable React components and an example user interface application that provides a direct UI into OSCAL.	open source
XSLT Tooling	NIST OSCAL Project	A variety of Extensible Stylesheet Transformations (XSLT) Sheets (CSS), and related utilities for authoring, converting, and publishing OSCAL content in various forms.	open source
XML Jelly Sandwich	Wendell Piez (NIST)	Interactive XSLT in the browser includes OSCAL demonstrations .	open source
Xacta 360		Xacta 360 is a cyber risk management and compliance analytics platform that provides analysis and support for system security plans (SSPs) in OSCAL format. Future OSCAL capabilities are forthcoming as the platform evolves.	license
Atlassian: Continuous Compliance Automation	C2 Labs	Atlassian: Continuous Compliance Automation runs in any environment and supports the development of OSCAL v1.0 content for Catalogs, Profiles, System Security Plans and Components. Additional detail can be found in this blog post: Atlassian Delivers Free Tools to Create OSCAL Content .	community edition

<https://github.com/usnistgov/oscal-tools>

Show and Tell

Upload an OSCAL File

Future Use

Future Use

The screenshot displays a Mac desktop environment. On the left, a file browser window shows a list of files in the directory 'OSCAL Demo OMB-FedRAMP' > '_SAMPLE_DATA_FILES'. The files listed are:

Name	Date Modified	Size	Kind
Sample (Good).xml	Feb 26, 2019 at 3:47 PM	1.5 MB	XML Document
Sample (Missing Data).xml	Feb 26, 2019 at 4:59 PM	1.5 MB	XML Document
FedRAMP-compliance-worksheet-old.xml	Feb 15, 2019 at 11:28 AM	58 KB	XSL St...cument
FedRAMP-compliance-worksheet.xml	Feb 15, 2019 at 1:26 PM	86 KB	XSL St...cument
FedRAMP-HIGH-compliance-worksheet.xml	Feb 14, 2019 at 3:08 PM	54 KB	XSL St...cument
SSP-schema.xsd	Feb 15, 2019 at 9:26 AM	96 KB	XML S...cument

The main window is an XML editor displaying the content of '_Sample (Good).xml'. The XML structure includes control elements with various properties and response text. The visible XML code is as follows:

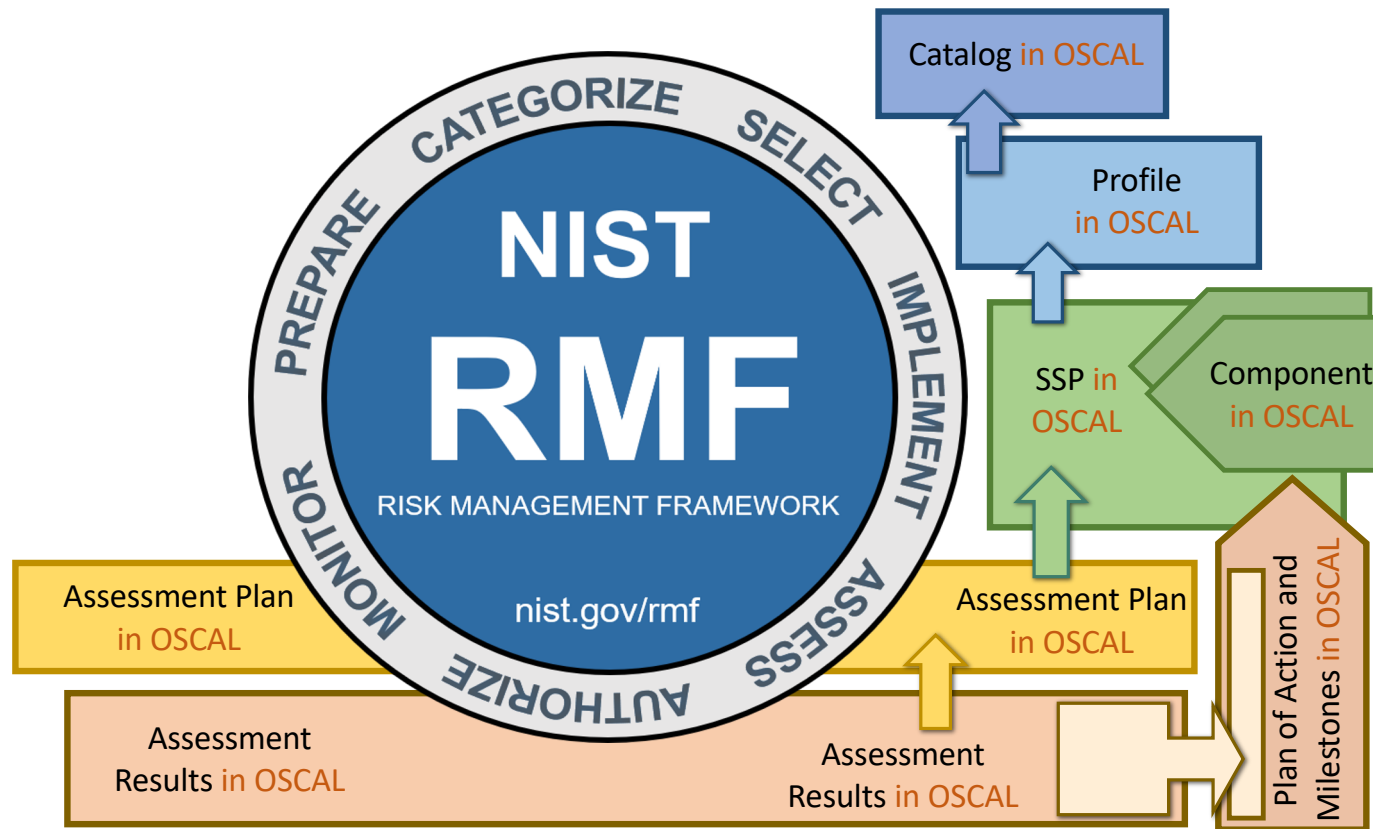
```
2212 <control class="SP800-53" control-id="au-3">
2213   <responsible-role role-id="not-found">System Administrators</responsible-role>
2214   <responsible-role role-id="not-found">Network Engineers</responsible-role>
2215   <prop class="implementation-status">implemented</prop>
2216   <prop class="control-origination">service-provider-system-specific</prop>
2217   <control-response stmt-id="au-3_stmt.a">
2218     <h1>Quoniam, si dis placet, ab Epicuro loqui discimus.</h1>
2219     <p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Cum id quoque, ut cupie
2220     <p>
2221       <i>Quo modo autem philosophus loquitur?</i> Beatus sibi videtur esse moriens. Il
2222     </p>
2223     <h2>Hoc etsi multimodis reprehendi potest, tamen accipio, quod dant.</h2>
2224     <p>Non quam nostram quidem, inquit Pomponius iocans; Scientiam pollicentur, quam n
2225     <ul>
2226       <li>Virtutibus igitur rectissime mihi videris et ad consuetudinem nostrae oratic
2227       <li>Est igitur officium eius generis, quod nec in bonis ponatur nec in contrari
2228     </ul>
2229   </control-response>
2230 </control>
2231 <control class="SP800-53" control-id="au-3.1">
2232   <responsible-role role-id="not-found">System Administrators</responsible-role>
2233   <responsible-role role-id="not-found">Network Engineers</responsible-role>
2234   <set-param param-id="au-3_prm_1">
2235     <value>session, connection, transaction, or activity duration.</value>
2236   </set-param>
2237   <prop class="implementation-status">implemented</prop>
2238   <prop class="control-origination">service-provider-system-specific</prop>
2239   <control-response stmt-id="au-3.1_stmt.a">
2240     <h1>Quoniam, si dis placet, ab Epicuro loqui discimus.</h1>
2241     <p>Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Cum id quoque, ut cupie
2242     <p>
2243       <i>Quo modo autem philosophus loquitur?</i> Beatus sibi videtur esse moriens. Il
2244     </p>
2245     <h2>Hoc etsi multimodis reprehendi potest, tamen accipio, quod dant.</h2>
2246     <p>Non quam nostram quidem, inquit Pomponius iocans; Scientiam pollicentur, quam n
2247     <ul>
2248       <li>Virtutibus igitur rectissime mihi videris et ad consuetudinem nostrae oratic
2249       <li>Est igitur officium eius generis, quod nec in bonis ponatur nec in contrari
```

The background features a light blue grid with various colored nodes (blue, green, orange, brown) and connecting lines, suggesting a network or data flow. The text is centered in a dark blue font.

OSCAL Support for Continuously Authorizing Systems to Operate

Authorization to Use
Common Control Authorization

OSCAL Content & Risk Management Framework



Security Assessment Automation ... with OSCAL

BASED ON NIST 800-37 rev2

1 System Categorization (OSCAL SSP)

- System Description
- Security Categorization
- Control Selection & Tailoring & Allocation
- Document Control Implementations
- ConMon Planning

3 System Assessment (OSCAL AP/AR/POA&M)

- Assessor Selection
- Assessment Plan
- Control Assessment
- Assessment Reports (findings & remediations)
- POA&M

2 System & Components Implementation (OSCAL Cdef & SSP)

- Implement Controls and update them
- Document system hardening rules

4 System Authorization

- ATO packaging
- Analyze and determine the risk.
- Risk response
- ATO decision
- Ongoing Assessment
- Ongoing risk response

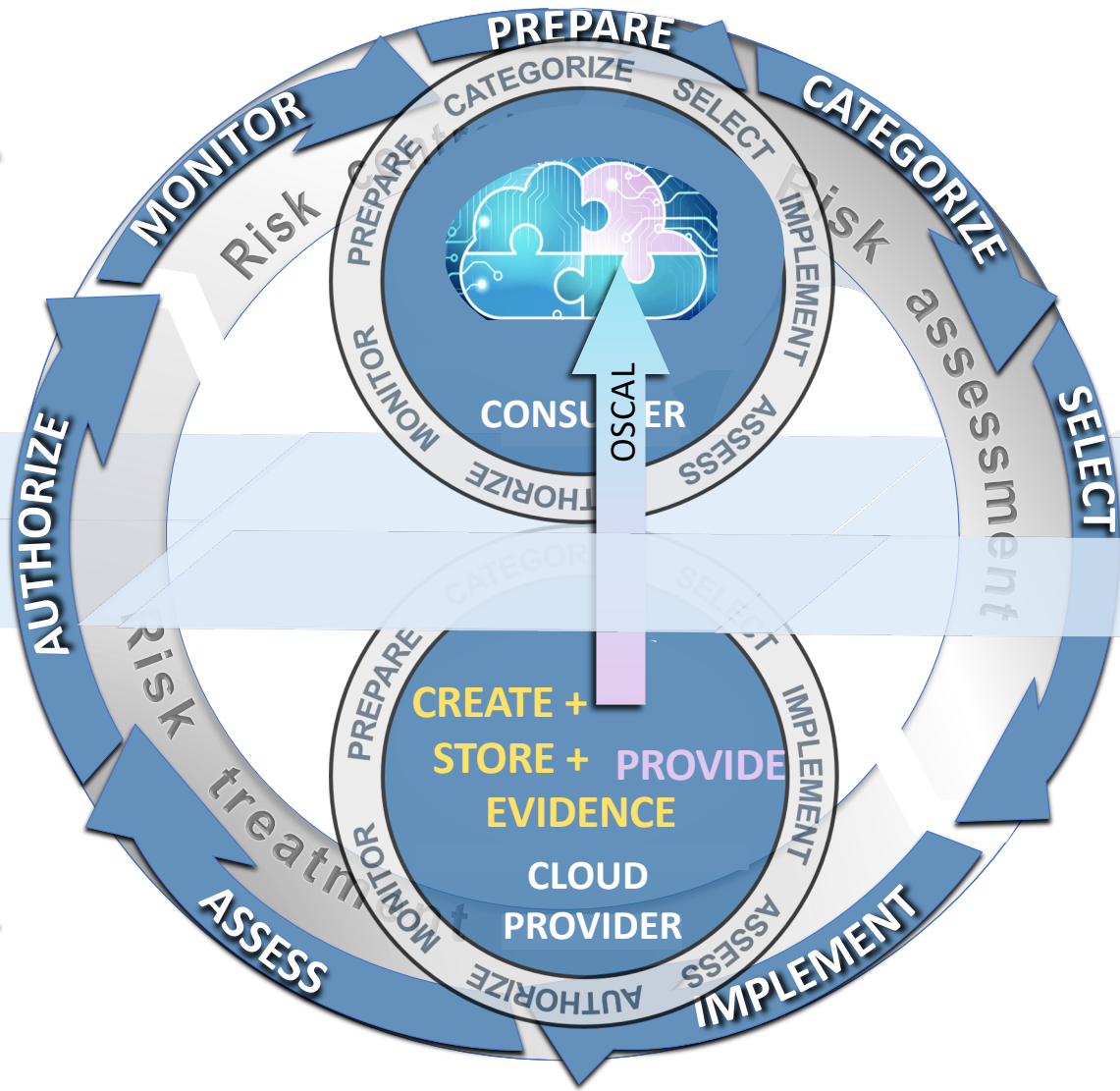
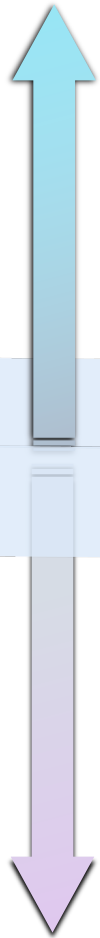


OSCAL Support for Leveraging Authorizations

Authorization to Use Common Control Authorization

Layers Managed
by Consumer

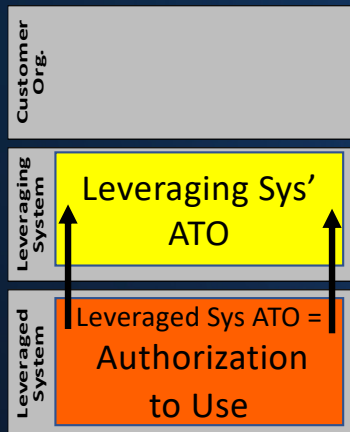
Layers Managed
by Provider



Authorization to Use for a Leveraging System

An **Authorization to Use** is issued when:

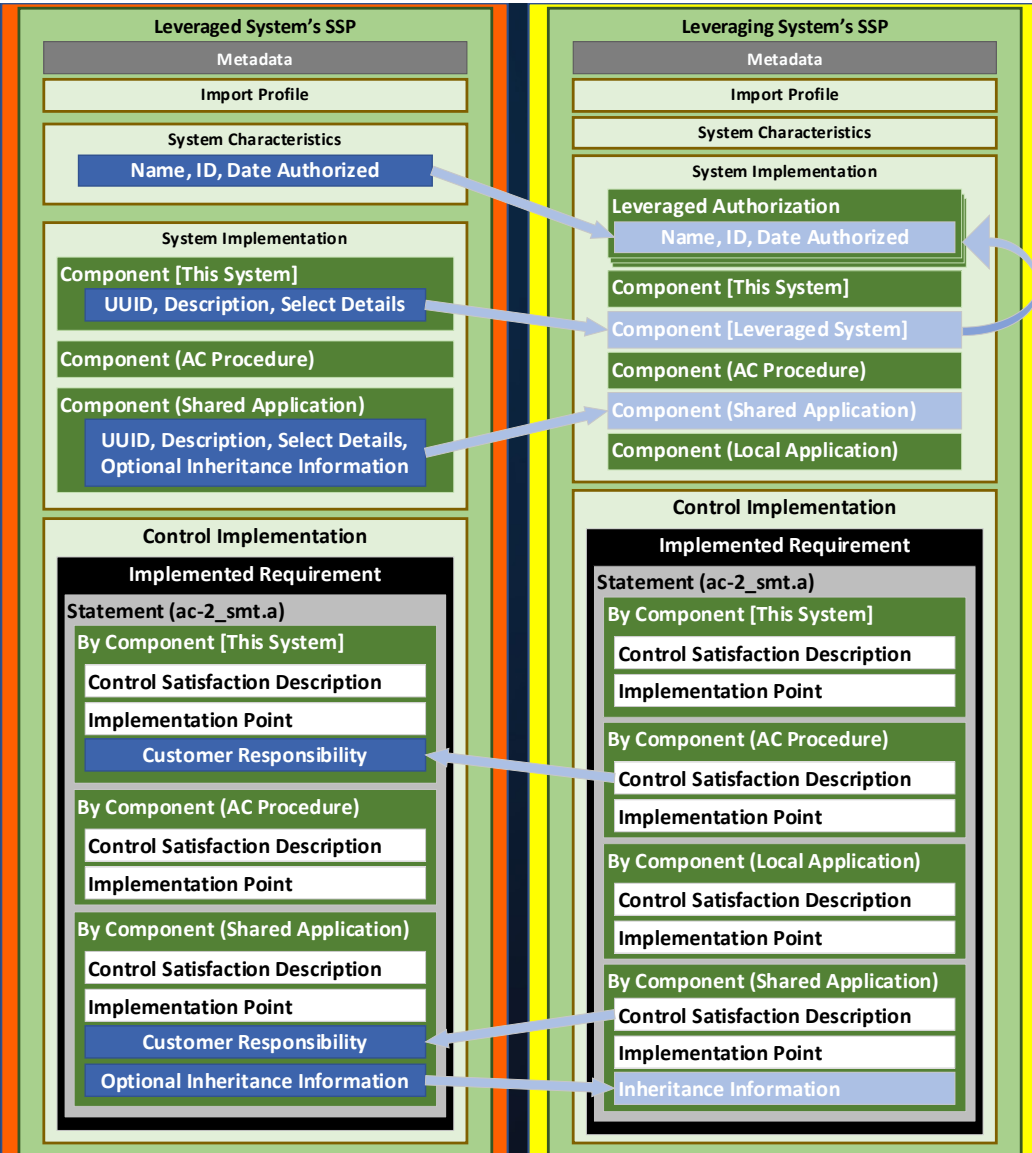
- one or more **leveraging** systems rely on a system for operation in a stacked hierarchy; and
- an **Authorization to Operate** was issued to the leveraged system
- any **leveraging** system is authorized separately from the **leveraged** system.



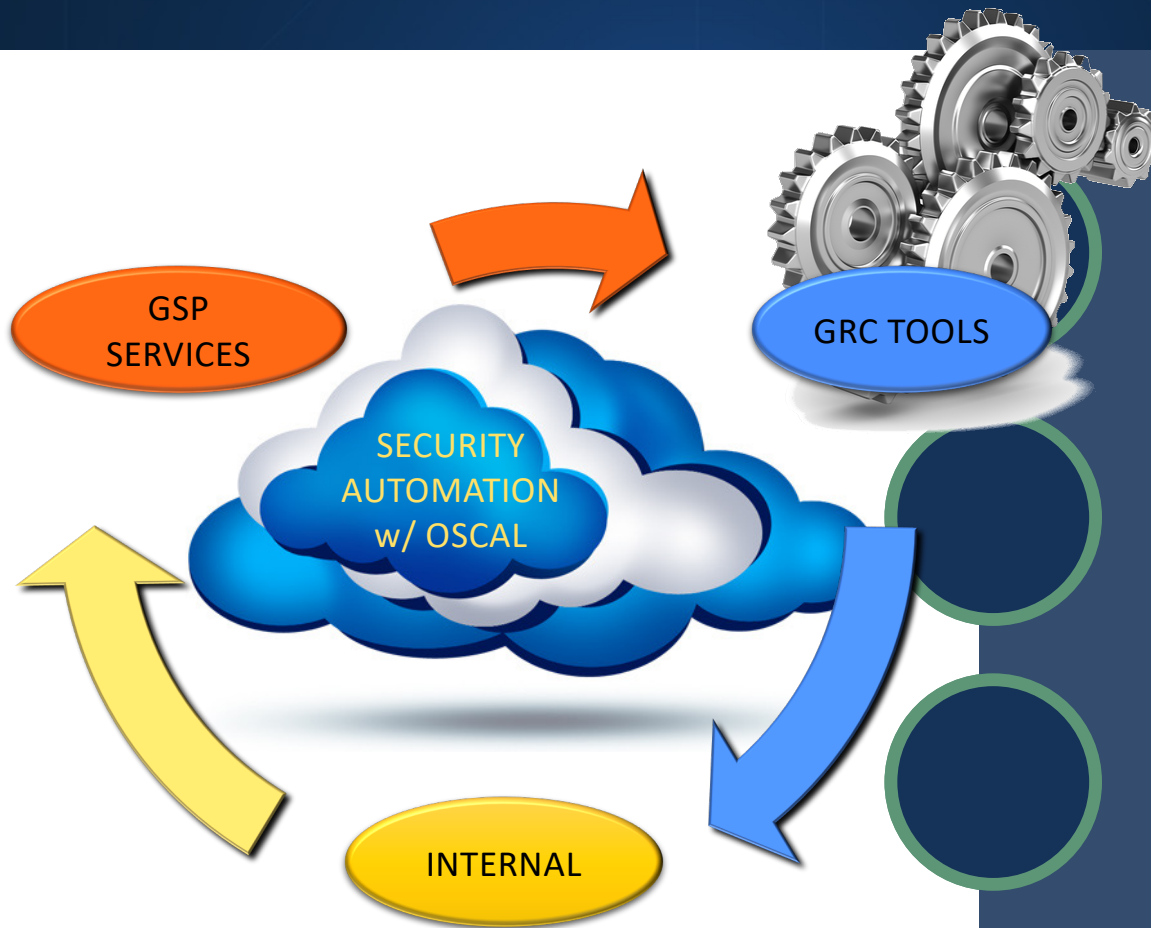
Systems Operating in a Stacked Hierarchy

NOTE:

External services and interconnections are not regarded as leveraged authorizations.



OSCAL-BASED AUTOMATION



INTERNAL SECURITY/COMPLIANCE TEAMS:

- create/store/provide evidence

GCP SERVICES :

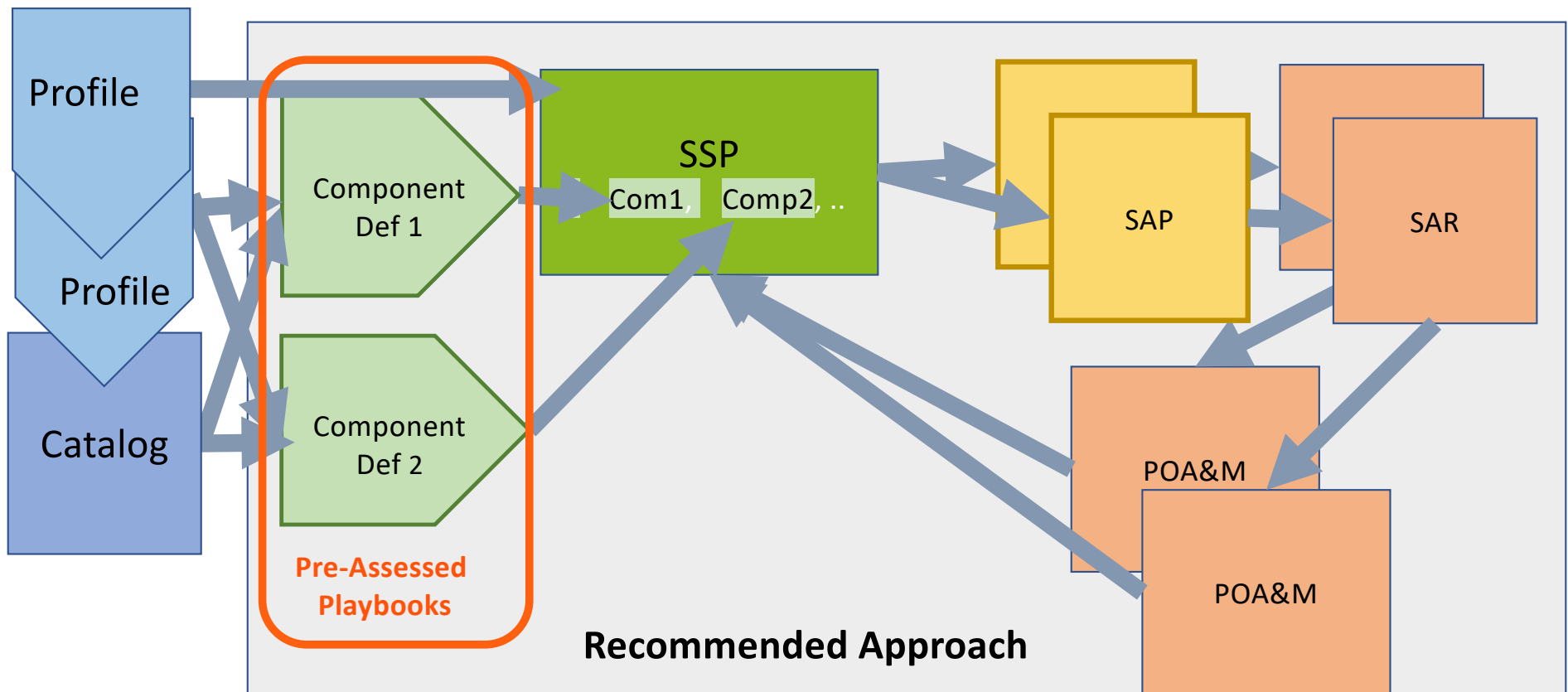
- continuous compliance attestation/evidence
- document shared security responsibilities

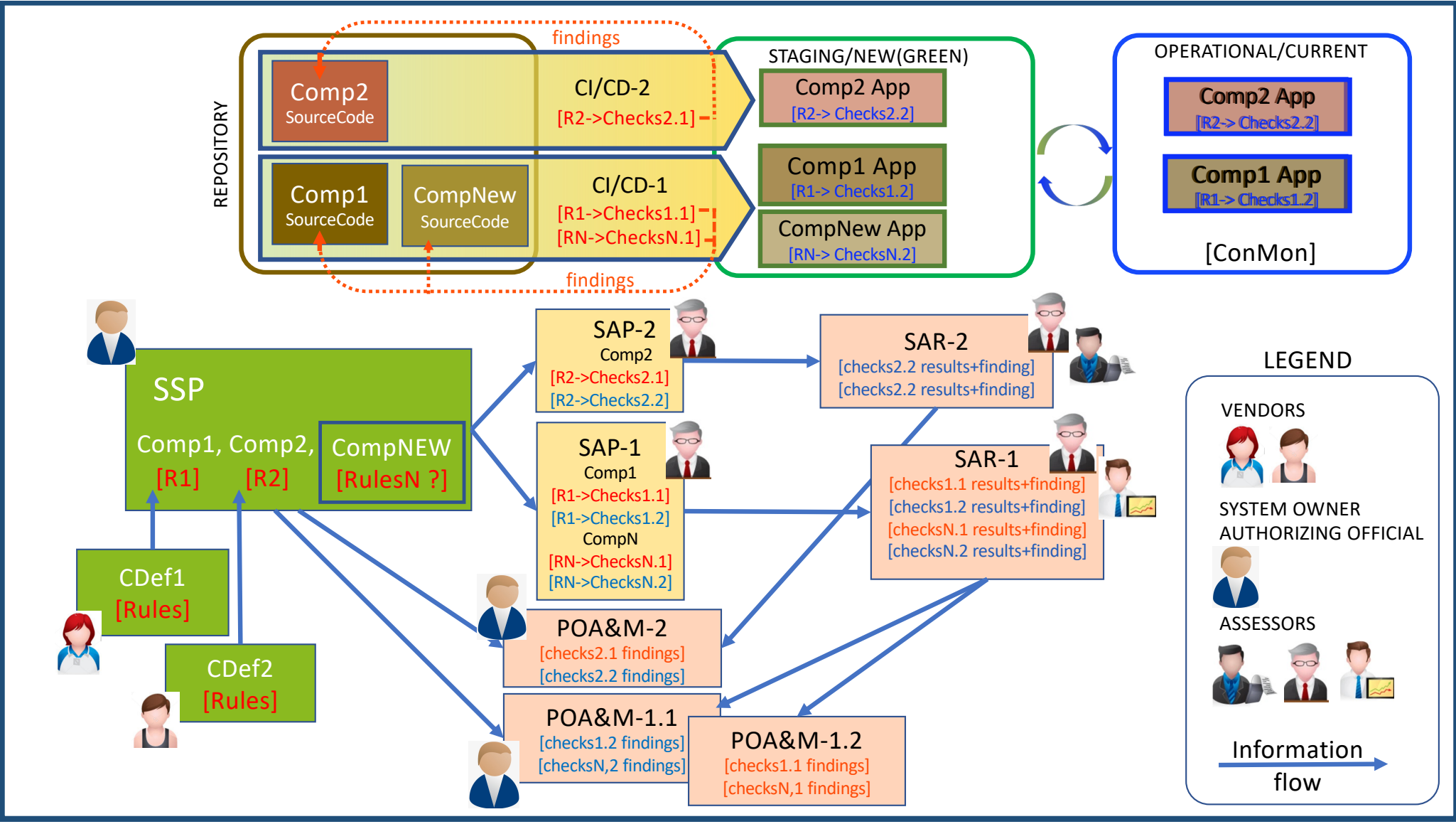
GRC TOOLS DEVELOPMENT OR INTEGRATION



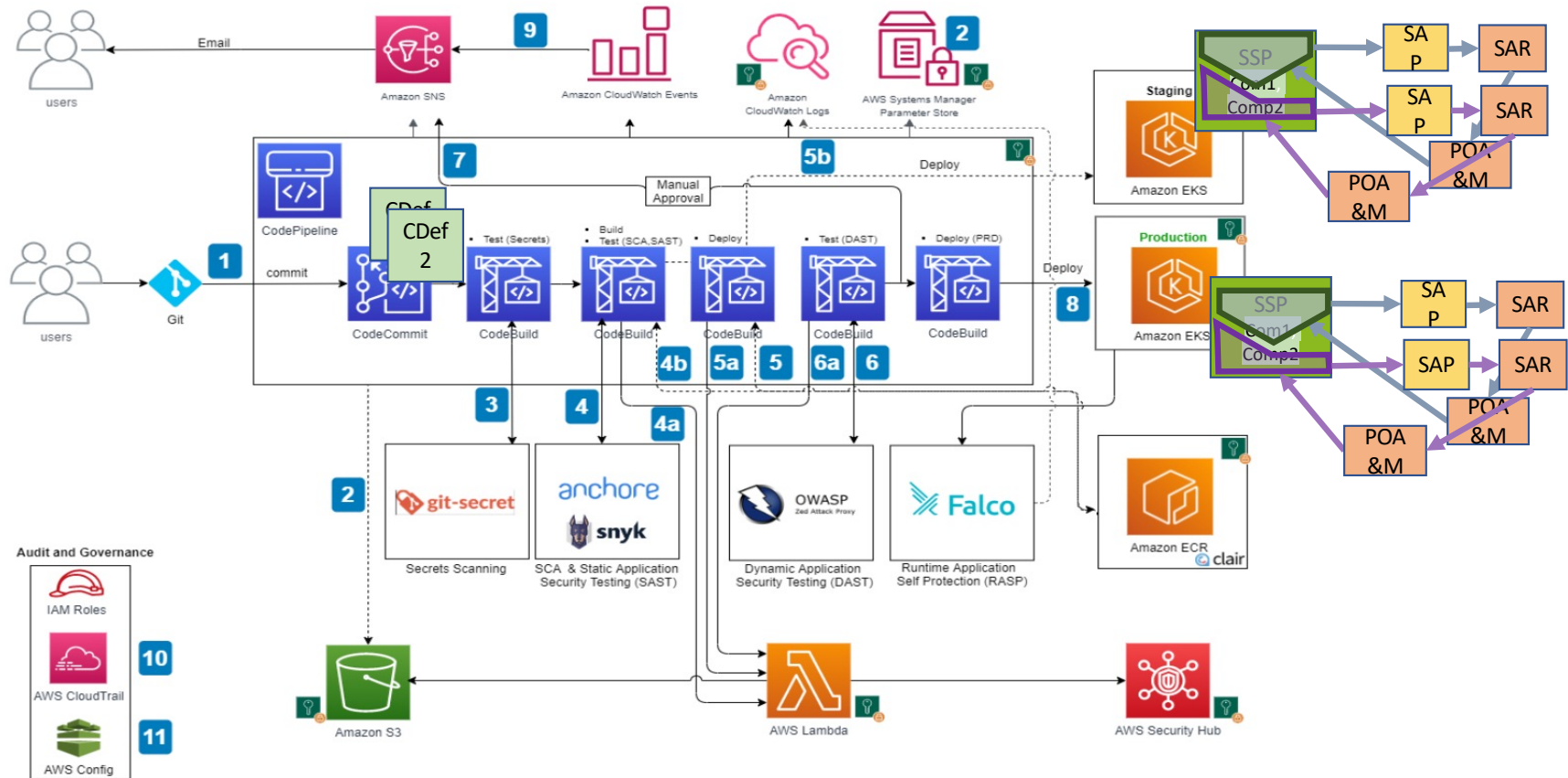
Shifting Left with OSCAL

Shifting Left & Continuous ATO



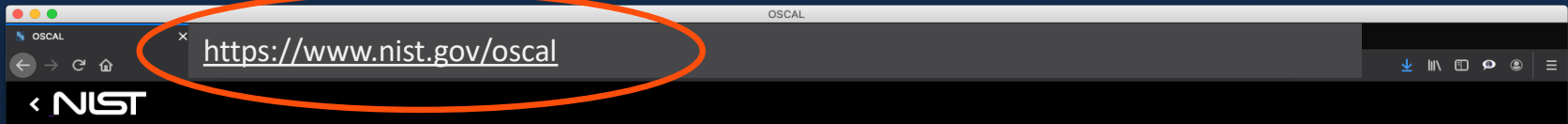


AWS' Kubernetes DevSecOps Pipeline Architecture



Kubernetes DevSecOps Pipeline Architecture

Courtesy of AWS: <https://aws.amazon.com/blogs/devops/building-an-end-to-end-kubernetes-based-devsecops-software-factory-on-aws/>



OSCAL: the Open Security Controls Assessment Language

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Automated Control-Based Assessment

Supporting Control-Based Risk Management with Standardized Formats

[Learn More](#)



AUTOMATION

Providing control-related information in machine-readable formats.

NIST, in collaboration with industry, is developing the Open Security Controls Assessment Language (OSCAL). OSCAL is a set of formats expressed in XML, JSON, and YAML. These formats provide machine-readable representations of control catalogs, control baselines, system security plans, and assessment plans and results.

Open-Source Tools and Libraries

<https://pages.nist.gov/OSCAL/tools/#open-source-tools-and-libraries>

Name	Provider/Developer	Description	Type
Compliance trestle ↗	IBM	A python SDK and command line tool which manipulates OSCAL structures and supports transformation of data into OSCAL.	open source
OSCAL Java Library ↗	NIST OSCAL Project	A Java-based programming API for reading and writing content conformant to the OSCAL XML, JSON, and YAML based models.	open source
OSCAL React Component Library ↗	Easy Dynamics	A library of reusable React components and an example user interface application ↗ that provides a direct UI into OSCAL.	open source
OSCAL REST API ↗	Easy Dynamics	An initial OpenAPI definition of an OSCAL REST API that describes how systems might manipulate catalogs, profiles, components, and SSPs.	open source
XSLT Tooling ↗	NIST OSCAL Project	A variety of Extensible Stylesheet Language (XSL) Transformations (XSLT), Cascading Style Sheets (CSS), and related utilities for authoring, converting, and publishing OSCAL content in various forms.	open source
XML Jelly Sandwich ↗	Wendell Piez (NIST)	Interactive XSLT in the browser includes OSCAL demonstrations ↗ .	open source
Xacta 360 ↗	Telos	Xacta 360 is a cyber risk management and compliance analytics platform that enables users to create and submit FedRAMP system security plans (SSPs) in OSCAL format. Future OSCAL capabilities are forthcoming as the standard evolves.	license ↗
Atlasity: Continuous Compliance Automation ↗	C2 Labs	Atlasity CE (release 2.0) runs in any environment and supports the development of OSCAL v1.0 content for Catalogs, Profiles, System Security Plans and Components. Additional detail can be found in this blog post: Atlasity Delivers Free Tools to Create OSCAL Content ↗ .	community edition
control_freak ↗	Risk Redux	This tool seeks to provide folks with a searchable and easy-to-navigate reference for NIST SP 800-53 Revision 5. It is an open-source application from the Risk Redux project ↗ , built using parsed content directly from the OSCAL repositories.	open-source

Few of the OSCAL Adopters



FedRAMP

noblis



MEDINA

Telos

IBM
Research

- FedRAMP
- Noblis
- HHS CMS
- National Renewable Energy Lab
- GovReady
- C2 Labs
- cFocus Software
- Shujinko
- Robers Bosch (EU|Germany)
- Telos
- KPMG
- IBM Research

- Booz Allen Hamilton
- AWS
- Microsoft
- Coalfire
- Kratos
- eMASS
- CSAM
- Platform One
- Easy Dynamics
- Volant Associates, LLC
- Salesforce
- Oracle

Booz | Allen | Hamilton



KRATOS
READY FOR WHAT'S NEXT



ORACLE

Publicly Available Resources



Documentation:

Catalog, Profile, Component, SSP, SAP, SAR, POA&M:

<https://pages.nist.gov/OSCAL/documentation/>



Example:

Generic examples:

<https://github.com/usnistgov/oscal-content/tree/master/examples>

NIST SP 800-53 R4 and Rev5 catalog and baselines (XML & JSON):

<https://github.com/usnistgov/oscal-content/tree/master/nist.gov/SP800-53>



FedRAMP

FedRAMP Automation:

Repository (FedRAMP catalog and baselines (XML & JSON) included) :

<https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation>

<https://www.fedramp.gov/using-the-fedramp-oscal-resources-and-templates/>



Tools

OSCAL Java Library: <https://github.com/usnistgov/liboscal-java>

XSLT Tooling: <https://github.com/usnistgov/oscal-tools/tree/master/xslt>

OSCAL Kit: <https://github.com/docker/oscalkit>

OSCAL GUI: <https://github.com/brianrufigsa/OSCAL-GUI>

OMB'S OPAL: OSCAL Policy Administration Library (OPAL): <https://github.com/EOP-OMB/opal>

Please visit Community's:
OSCAL Club/awesome-oscal:

<https://github.com/oscal-club/awesome-oscal>

Questions?



Contact us at: oscal@nist.gov

Chat with us on Gitter: <https://gitter.im/usnistgov-OSCAL/Lobby>

Collaborate with us on GitHub: <https://github.com/usnistgov/OSCAL>

Join our COI meetings: <https://pages.nist.gov/OSCAL/contribute/#community-meetings>

Thank you!