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Information Technology — Security Techniques — Physical Security Attacks, Mitigation Techniques and Security Requirements

Technologies de l'information — Techniques de sécurité — Attaques de sécurité physique, techniques d'atténuation et exigences de sécurité

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Foreword

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The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of document should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see the following URL: Foreword — Supplementary information.

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*, SC 27, *Security techniques*.

Introduction

The protection of sensitive information does not rely solely on the implementation of software mechanisms employing cryptographic techniques, but also relies significantly on appropriate hardware implemented security devices that employ tamper detection and protection of critical security parameters (e.g. cryptographic keys, authentication data, etc.).

This is especially relevant for devices that may be installed, deployed or operated in hostile, untrusted, or non-secure environments, or for devices that contain high-value data assets.

An attacker may not be motivated by the economic value or the successful access to sensitive information, but simply the challenge of compromising a design or system that has been advertised as “secure”. The challenge to break the design gives such an attacker instant fame and recognition amongst peer groups.

Currently, much of the information in this area originates from disparate sources, may not be presented consistently, and may not address appropriate evaluation and testing techniques.

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1 Scope

Physical security mechanisms are employed by cryptographic modules where the protection of the modules sensitive security parameters is desired. This Technical Specification addresses how security assurance can be stated for products where the risk of the security environment requires the support of such mechanisms. This Technical Specification addresses the following topics:

— a survey of physical security attacks directed against different types of hardware embodiments including a description of known physical attacks, ranging from simple attacks that require minimal skill or resources, to complex attacks that require trained, technical people and considerable resources;

— guidance on the principles, best practices and techniques for the design of tamper protection mechanisms and methods for the mitigation of those attacks; and

— guidance on the evaluation or testing of hardware tamper protection mechanisms and references to current standards and test programs that address hardware tamper evaluation and testing.

The information in this Technical Specification is useful for product developers designing hardware security implementations, and testing or evaluation of the final product. The intent is to identify protection methods and attack methods in terms of complexity, cost and risk to the assets being protected. In this way cost effective protection can be produced across a wide range of systems and needs.

2 Normative references

The following documents, in whole or in part, are normatively referenced in this document and are indispensable for its application. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO/IEC 15408 (all parts), *Information technology — Security techniques — Evaluation criteria for IT security*

ISO/IEC 19790, *Information technology — Security techniques — Security requirements for cryptographic modules*

ISO/IEC 24759, *Information technology — Security techniques — Test requirements for cryptographic modules*