



NATO Communications and Information Agency

Using NATO Labelling to support controlled information sharing between partners



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Motivation: Facilitate information sharing for protection of critical infrastructure

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Motivation: Facilitate information sharing for protection of critical infrastructure

- Critical infrastructure is a federated environment
 - Many sectors
 - Resources, healthcare, transport, finances, communications
 - Industry, government, NGO, international organizations
 - Legal requirements and limited trust

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 - Resources, healthcare, transport, finances, communications
 - Industry, government, NGO, international organizations
 - Legal requirements and limited trust
- Protection of critical infrastructure requires information sharing between partners
 - Security incidents, risk signatures for the systems
 - Data has to be labelled with its confidentiality (sensitivity) and handling requirements
 - Partners have to be able to read and validate labels
 - Bind protection policies to information objects

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Example: Cyber Defence information eXchange Infrastructure (CDXI)

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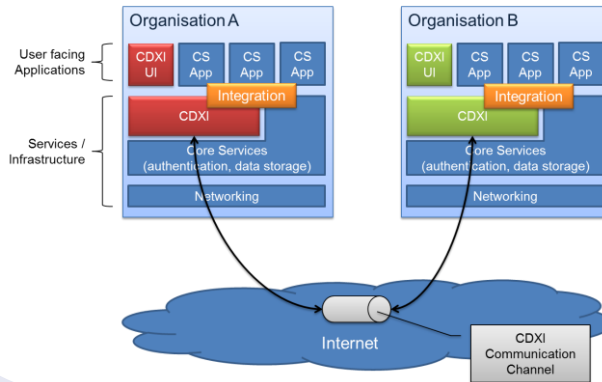
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Example: Cyber Defence information eXchange Infrastructure (CDXI)

- Future capability to manage, exchange and exploit cyber security information for NATO, NATO Nations, partners, and industry



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Labelling requirements within CDXI

- Provide the ability to define custom labels
- Labels used to make access control decisions
- Apply labels to many different types of data
 - vulnerabilities, incidents, threats, attack patterns
- Standardized syntax and binding mechanism
 - Need to be able to read and validate label
 - Need to be able to determine association between label and information object
 - One solution enables communication with all partners

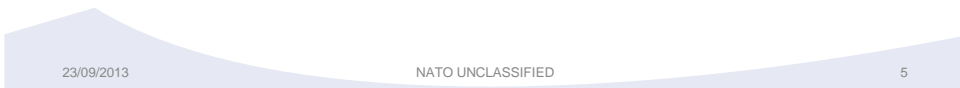
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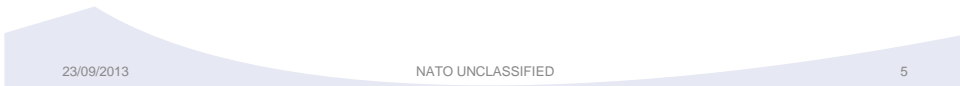


Current approach



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- Every organization/COI uses its own label format and binding mechanism





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- Every organization/COI uses its own label format and binding mechanism
 - We either need a separate policy enforcement point (PEP) for each exchange link, or must implement support for all COIs in one PEP

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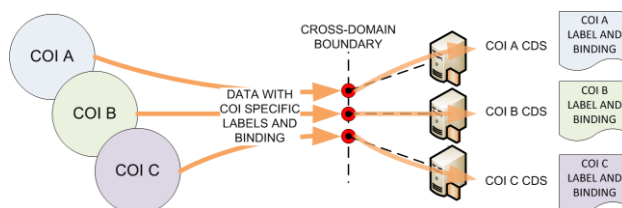
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Current approach

- Every organization/COI uses its own label format and binding mechanism
 - We either need a separate policy enforcement point (PEP) for each exchange link, or must implement support for all COIs in one PEP
 - This leads to challenges in the area of management and implementation assurance



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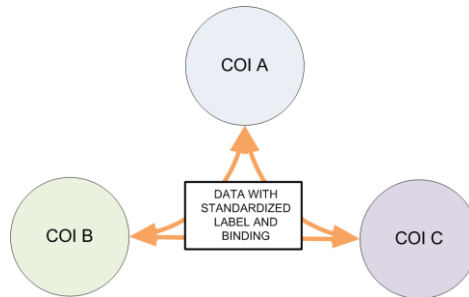
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Standardized NATO Labelling

- Standardized label format and binding mechanism
- Liberty in selection and extending of label values
 - Not limited to confidentiality, can include any metadata



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Standardized NATO Labelling

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Standardized NATO Labelling

- Defines XML containers to encode sensitivity marking values into an XML formatted label (which is called a Confidentiality Label)

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Standardized NATO Labelling

- Defines XML containers to encode sensitivity marking values into an XML formatted label (which is called a Confidentiality Label)
- Defines a binding mechanism providing fine-grained labelling

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Standardized NATO Labelling

- Defines XML containers to encode sensitivity marking values into an XML formatted label (which is called a Confidentiality Label)
- Defines a binding mechanism providing fine-grained labelling
- Designed to be application/data format agnostic

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Standardized NATO Labelling

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- Designed to be application/data format agnostic
- Especially suitable for release control

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Standardized NATO Labelling

- Defines XML containers to encode sensitivity marking values into an XML formatted label (which is called a Confidentiality Label)
- Defines a binding mechanism providing fine-grained labelling
- Designed to be application/data format agnostic
- Especially suitable for release control
- Enables interoperability between organizations and COIs

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Example of an NL Confidentiality Label

```

<slab:ConfidentialityLabel
  xmlns:slab=http://www.nato.int/2012/12/nxl/xcl#human >
  <slab:ConfidentialityInformation>
    <slab:PolicyIdentifier>NATO/EAPC</slab:PolicyIdentifier>
    <slab:Classification>CONFIDENTIAL</slab:Classification>
    <slab:Category Type="RESTRICTIVE"
      TagName="Special Category Designators">
      <slab:GenericValue>ATOMAL</slab:GenericValue>
      <slab:GenericValue>CRYPTO</slab:GenericValue>
    </slab:Category>
    <slab:Category Type="INFORMATIVE"
      TagName="Administrative Markings">
      <slab:GenericValue>MEDICAL</slab:GenericValue>
    </slab:Category>
  </slab:ConfidentialityInformation>
  <slab:CreationDateTime>
    2013-08-29T16:15:00
  </slab:CreationDateTime>
</slab:ConfidentialityLabel>

```

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Binding of Metadata to Data Objects

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Binding of Metadata to Data Objects

- Metadata is encoded in a label which is then bound to a data object

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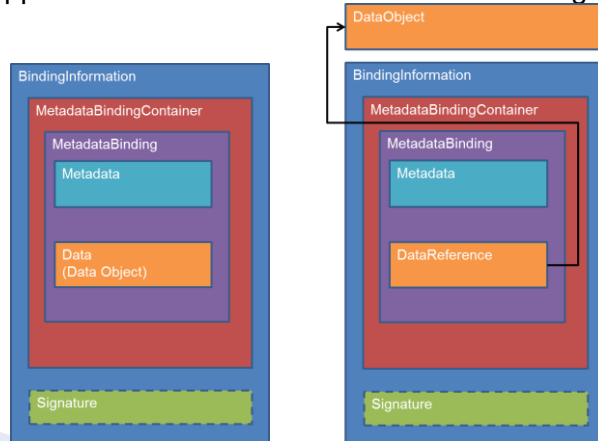
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Binding of Metadata to Data Objects

- Metadata is encoded in a label which is then bound to a data object
 - Supports both embedded and detached binding



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Binding of Metadata to Data Objects

- Metadata is encoded in a label which is then bound to a data object
 - Supports both embedded and detached binding
- Loose vs. strong binding

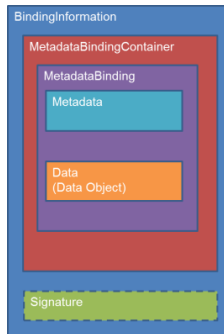
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Binding of Metadata to Data Objects

- Metadata is encoded in a label which is then bound to a data object
 - Supports both embedded and detached binding
- Loose vs. strong binding
 - Loose binding by default



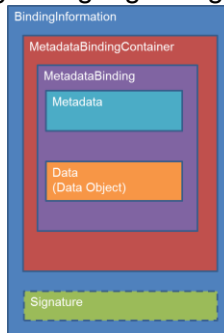
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- Granularity of access control
 - Binding of labels to portions/subset of a data object
 - Assignment of labels to the portions/subset follows specific rules that make flexible access control possible and maximizes information sharing

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 - Assignment of labels to the portions/subset follows specific rules that make flexible access control possible and maximizes information sharing
- Originator and Alternative Confidentiality Label
 - Used when “Originator label” is not recognised locally
 - Value in “Alternative label” typically agreed bilaterally

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Data format agnostic

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Data format agnostic

- SOAP
 - Header

```

<SOAP-ENV:Header>
  <Security mustUnderstand="1">
    <mbc:MetadataBindingContainer>
      <mbc:MetadataBinding>
        <mbc:Metadata metadataType="OriginatorConfidentialityLabel">
          <slab:ConfidentialityLabel>
            <slab:ConfidentialityInformation>
              <slab:PolicyIdentifier>NATO</slab:PolicyIdentifier>
              <slab:Classification>
                Unclassified
              </slab:Classification>
            </slab:ConfidentialityInformation>
          </slab:ConfidentialityLabel>
        </mbc:Metadata>
        <mbc:DataReference URI="#track-1"/>
      </mbc:MetadataBinding>
    </mbc:MetadataBindingContainer>
  </Security>
</SOAP-ENV:Header>

```

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Data format agnostic

- SOAP

- Header
- Body

```
<SOAP-ENV:Body>
  <pullNFFIResponse>
    <nffi:NFFIMessage>
      <nffi:track Id="track-1">
        <nffi:positionalData>
          <nffi:trackSource>
            <nffi:transponderId*></nffi:transponderId>
          </nffi:trackSource>
          <nffi:dateTime>00000000000000</nffi:dateTime>
          <nffi:coordinates>
            <nffi:latitude>-90</nffi:latitude>
            <nffi:longitude>180</nffi:longitude>
          </nffi:coordinates>
        </nffi:positionalData>
        <nffi:identificationData>
          <nffi:unitSymbol>-----</nffi:unitSymbol>
          <nffi:unitShortName*></nffi:unitShortName>
        </nffi:identificationData>
      </nffi:track>
    </nffi:NFFIMessage>
  </pullNFFIResponse>
</SOAP-ENV:Body>
```

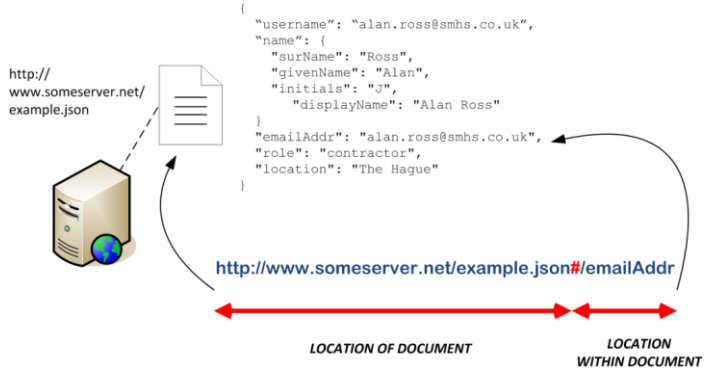


Data format agnostic

- SOAP

- Header
- Body

- JSON





Data format agnostic

- SOAP
 - Header
 - Body
- JSON
- Email



```

From: alan.ross@smhs.co.uk
To: alan.ross@reach.nato.int
SIO-Label: type="http://www.nato.int/2012/12/nxl/mbc"; label="base64 BIO"
Message-Id: <unique-msg-id@smhs.co.uk>
DKIM-Signature: h=Message-ID:SIO-Label ..etc..
Content-Type: multipart/mixed;
  boundary="boundary-001";

```

```

--boundary-001
Content-ID: <unique-content-id-001@smhs.co.uk>
Content-Type: application/pdf;
..etc..
--boundary-001-
--boundary-001
Content-ID: <unique-content-id-002@smhs.co.uk>
Content-Type: image/jpg;
..etc..
--boundary-001--

```

REFERENCE URI FOR MIME MESSAGE mid://unique-msg-id@smhs.co.uk

REFERENCE URI FOR MIME BODYPART cid://unique-content-id-001@smhs.co.uk

REFERENCE URI FOR MIME BODYPART cid://unique-content-id-002@smhs.co.uk



Data format agnostic

- SOAP
 - Header
 - Body
- JSON
- Email
- Sharepoint

The screenshot shows a web-based configuration interface for a "NATO Security Label". The interface includes a "Create label" section with the following fields and options:

- Policy:
- Classification:
- Category:
- Releasable To:
- Releasable For:
- Restrictive:
 - Special Category Designators:
 - Dissemination Limitation Markings:
- Informative:
 - Administrative Markings:

At the bottom, there is an "Upload label" section with a file input field and a "Browse" button, followed by an "OK" button.





Content-based Protection and Release: From connecting forces to civil-military interaction



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