

Access Control

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Discussion

Access Control regulates interactions between a subject and a protected resource according to an applicable [Policy](#).

A subject includes a person, organisation, process, service, system, device, or [Node](#). A resource includes information, an artifact, a service, an interface, a function, a system, a physical location, or another controlled object.

An access-control decision evaluates the subject, requested action, protected resource, applicable policy, environmental conditions, and other relevant attributes. The decision grants, denies, limits, or terminates the requested access.

[Authentication](#) commonly supplies verified identity or attribute information used in an access-control decision. Authentication remains distinct from Access Control. Authentication evaluates a claim. Access Control determines whether the applicable policy permits the requested interaction.

Definition

process that grants, denies, restricts, or terminates access to a resource according to an applicable policy

Source

Adapted from ISO/IEC 27000, Information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection — Vocabulary.

Note

Access Control includes administrative, physical, and technical controls.

An access-control policy identifies the subjects, resources, permitted actions, prohibited actions, conditions, exceptions, decision authorities, and enforcement points within its scope.

Access-control records support [Auditability](#), [Evidence](#), and [Traceability](#) by recording access requests, decisions, enforcement actions, and relevant context.

Example

An access-control policy permits a Test Execution process to read an identified Credential from a secret store while denying direct access to the Credential value by test operators.

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