

Transfer Boundary

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Discussion

A Transfer Boundary separates transfer domains between which the movement of information or [Artifacts](#) is subject to defined controls.

The separated domains may differ by:

- Security classification
- Security policy
- Administrative authority
- Ownership
- Trust level
- Network connectivity
- Physical location
- Operational purpose
- Legal jurisdiction
- Regulatory obligations

A Transfer Boundary may exist between:

- A Connected Environment and a Disconnected Environment
- A Disconnected Environment and an Air-Gapped Environment
- Classified and unclassified environments
- Development and production environments
- Provider environments
- Organizational domains
- Security zones
- Geographic or jurisdictional domains

Controls applied at a Transfer Boundary may include:

- Transfer Authorization
- Identity verification
- Content inspection
- Classification checking
- Policy evaluation
- Encryption
- Digital signature verification
- Transfer Bundle Integrity verification
- Malware scanning
- Import and export logging
- Human approval
- Chain-of-custody recording

A Transfer Boundary is a logical or physical separation. The boundary does not require a single gateway, device, interface, or implementation mechanism.

Definition

boundary separating transfer domains across which movement of information or artifacts is subject to defined controls

Source

Dido Solutions, Inc. and Jackrabbit Consulting, Inc.

Note

A single transfer may cross multiple Transfer Boundaries.

Each boundary may impose different:

- Authorizing authorities
- Permitted transfer subjects
- Inspection requirements
- Handling procedures
- Evidence requirements
- Import and export controls

A network boundary may also serve as a Transfer Boundary, but the concepts are not identical. A Transfer Boundary concerns controlled movement between domains regardless of whether the movement occurs through a network, removable media, or another mechanism.

Example

The separation between an unclassified Connected Environment and a classified Air-Gapped Environment is a Transfer Boundary. Artifacts crossing that boundary require authorization, content inspection, integrity verification, and recorded import and export results.

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