



# FedRAMP OSCAL Early Adopters

**May 22nd, 2024**



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[fedramp.gov](https://fedramp.gov)

**Purpose:** To engage Cloud Service Providers, 3PAOs, tool vendors and other participants in FedRAMP's OSCAL Early Adopters Workgroup (OEAW) activities.

**Outcomes:**

- Shared understanding of current OSCAL issues.
- Shared understanding of FedRAMP guidance for generated SSPs
- Shared understanding of FedRAMP proposal for Separation of Duties information in OSCAL
- Alignment around any community issues and an understanding of next steps.



**Agenda:**

- Welcome
- OEAW General Updates
- Guidance on Rendering SSP Printables based on OSCAL
- Proposal for representing Separation of Duties in OSCAL
- Open Forum
- Next Steps & Closing



**Keep the discussion respectful**



**Be curious, seek understanding**



**Speak from your own experience**



**Challenge through questions**



**Focus on ideas**



**Keep it technical**

# General Updates

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May 22, 2024

## Revising OSCAL Guides

FedRAMP automation team is continuing to work towards publishing HTML versions of the OSCAL guides to replace the current PDF versions.

- Guides and related documentation were moved to new repository:  
<https://github.com/GSA/automate.fedramp.gov>
- Targeting website launch at the end of June 2024

## Local Validation Tooling

FedRAMP automation team is working on adding metaschema validation mechanisms in the OSCAL-CLI tool.

## GitHub Issues

Prioritizing issues related to FedRAMP Guides and SP 800-53 Rev 5

- Issue #558 - Mismatch of params (ODPs) / printables guidance
- Issue #534 - Separation of Duties
- Issue #555 - Update FedRAMP-SSP-OSCAL-Template.xml based on NIST SP 800-53 rev5.1.1 release
- Issue #563 - Resolved profile catalog missing props
- Issue #564 - Update FedRAMP Extensions and Values
- Various documentation / guide related issues

View the [project workboard](#) for more details on ongoing work and upcoming priorities

## Review needed

<https://github.com/orgs/GSA/projects/25/views/7>

# Parameter Mismatch in SSP Template

*Guidance on Rendering Printables based on OSCAL*

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## Github Issue #558

### Background

- Moved constraints to ODPs (see Draft PR <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation/pull/574>)
- SSP printable feedback from authorization review team:
  - Reviewers need to see the control description
  - Reviewers need to see parameter description so they have context for provided parameter values
  - Reviewers need to see SSP author's parameter value
  - Reviewers need a way to correlate the parameter value with the control part (e.g., "Parameter AC-1(a)")

### Current Document Template

#### AC-1 Policy and Procedures (L)(M)(H)

- a. Develop, document, and disseminate to [Assignment: organization-defined personnel or roles]:
  1. [Selection (one-or-more): organization-level; mission/business process-level; system-level] access control policy that:
    - (a) Addresses purpose, scope, roles, responsibilities, management commitment, coordination among organizational entities, and compliance; and
    - (b) Is consistent with applicable laws, executive orders, directives, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines; and
  2. Procedures to facilitate the implementation of the access control policy and the associated access controls;
- b. Designate an [Assignment: organization-defined official] to manage the development, documentation, and dissemination of the access control policy and procedures; and
- c. Review and update the current access control:
  1. Policy [FedRAMP Assignment: at least annually] and following [Assignment: organization-defined events]; and
  2. Procedures [FedRAMP Assignment: at least annually] and following [FedRAMP Assignment: significant changes].

AC-1 Control Summary Information
Responsible Role: ISSO
Parameter AC-1(a): Security personnel, system administrators, technical staff, designated management staff, and system owner
Parameter AC-1(a)(1): organization-level, mission/business process-level, system-level
Parameter AC-1(b): ISSO
Parameter AC-1(c)(1)-1: Annual
Parameter AC-1(c)(1)-2: Significant Changes and Business Structure Change
Parameter AC-1(c)(2)-1: Annual

## Github Issue #558

### Control Information

- Control information must be pulled from catalog or resolve profile catalog imported in the OSCAL SSP.
  - If the OSCAL SSP imports a profile, the profile resolution will be required.
- Control information must include
  - Control Title
  - Control Description
  - Parameter Assignment
    - “Assignment” vs “FedRAMP Assignment”
  - Parameter Description
    - Get value from parameter <label> field
    - Use OSCAL in-line param insertions (e.g., <insert type="param" id-ref="ac-1\_prm\_1"/>)

### Current Document Template

AC-1 Policy and Procedures (L)(M)(H)

a. Develop, document, and disseminate to [Assignment] organization-defined personnel or roles):

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## Github Issue #558

### Control Information (cont'd)

- Issues
  - Parameters with option selection in catalog do not have “label” or “guideline” fields to use for “parameter description” (e.g., Parameter AC-1(a)(1) -> ac-01\_odp.03)
  - OSCAL catalog “label” field data differs slightly from the template (e.g., OSCAL ODP has “official” whereas template states “organization-defined official”)
  - “FedRAMP Assignment” is implicit based on constraint specified in FedRAMP profile; all other parameters should be preceded with “Assignment: organization-defined ”

### Current Document Template

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- Develop, document, and disseminate to [Assignment: organization-defined personnel or roles]:
  - [Selection (one-or-more): organization-level; mission/business process-level; system-level] access control policy that:
    - Addresses purpose, scope, roles, responsibilities, management commitment, coordination among organizational entities, and compliance; and
    - Is consistent with applicable laws, executive orders, directives, regulations, policies, standards, and guidelines; and
  - Procedures to facilitate the implementation of the access control policy and the associated access controls;
- Designate an [Assignment: organization-defined official] to manage the development, documentation, and dissemination of the access control policy and procedures; and
- Review and update the current access control:
  - Policy [FedRAMP Assignment: at least annually] and following [Assignment: organization-defined events]; and
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## Github Issue #558

### Control Response

- Must provide the granular “ODP” level parameters.
- Must provide the SSP author’s specified parameter value(s).
- Must provide correlation between the ODP and the control part (e.g., “Parameter AC-1(a)”).
- Optional - should provide parameter “label” or “guideline” from source catalog

### Sample Generated SSP Control Implementation

AC-1 Control Summary Information	
Responsible Role: ISSO	
Parameter	Value
Parameter AC-1(a) [ ac-01_odp.01] personnel or roles to whom the access control <b>policy</b> is to be disseminated is/are defined	Security personnel, system administrators, technical staff, designated management staff, and system owner
Parameter AC-1(a) [ ac-01_odp.02] personnel or roles to whom the access control <b>procedures</b> are to be disseminated is/are defined	Security personnel, system administrators, technical staff, designated management staff, and system owner

## Github Issue #558

### Next Steps

- FedRAMP to create new FedRAMP extension to support mapping between the ODP and the control part
  - e.g., `<prop name="label" ns="https://fedramp.gov/ns/oscal" value="AC-1(a)" />`
  - e.g., `<prop name="param-label" ns="https://fedramp.gov/ns/oscal" value="AC-1(a)" />`
- FedRAMP to provide an open-source reference implementation

### Sample Generated SSP Control Implementation

AC-1 Control Summary Information	
Responsible Role: ISSO	
Parameter	Value
Parameter AC-1(a) [ ac-01_odp.01] personnel or roles to whom the access control <b>policy</b> is to be disseminated is/are defined	Security personnel, system administrators, technical staff, designated management staff, and system owner
Parameter AC-1(a) [ ac-01_odp.02] personnel or roles to whom the access control <b>procedures</b> are to be disseminated is/are defined	Security personnel, system administrators, technical staff, designated management staff, and system owner

# Separation of Duties

*Proposed OSCAL Changes*

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## GitHub Issue #534

### Issue:

Need an approach for how to represent FedRAMP required separation of duties information in OSCAL

### Background:

New table (11.1) in the [FedRAMP SSP template](#) “captures the roles and access privileges for all individuals or roles that access the cloud service offering (CSO)”

The screenshot shows a FedRAMP template page with the FR logo and header information. The main content is a table titled "Table 11.1 <Insert CSO Name> Separation of Duties". The table has 10 columns: Duty Description, Information Owner, Security officer, Privacy officer, Linux Admin, Windows Admin, Agency Admin, Agency Customer, and two empty columns. The rows list various duties such as "Adds/Removes Privileged Admins", "Adds/Removes Non-privileged Admins", "Adds/Removes Customer Privileged Admins", "Adds/Removes Customer Non-privileged Admins", "Enforces Physical Access Authorizations", "Defines Least Privilege Needed to Perform Tasks", "Reviews/Approves Policy", and "Enforces Policy".

Duty Description	Information Owner	Security officer	Privacy officer	Linux Admin	Windows Admin	Agency Admin	Agency Customer		
Adds/Removes Privileged Admins	X	X							
Adds/Removes Non-privileged Admins		X	X						
Adds/Removes Customer Privileged Admins									
Adds/Removes Customer Non-privileged Admins									
Enforces Physical Access Authorizations									
Defines Least Privilege Needed to Perform Tasks									
Reviews/Approves Policy									
Enforces Policy									

**Template Instruction** - “If the CSO has many more duties and roles than what can fit within a table of this size, you may use an Excel spreadsheet and reference it as an appendix within the SSP and this section.”



## GitHub Issue #534

### Example

- Roles across the top
- Privileges down the left column
- Many-to-Many association between “roles” and “duties” (privileges)

Duty Description	HR	Accounting	Director	Manager	Employee
Request New Training - for Self					x
Request New Training - for Employee	x		x	x	
Approve Employee Training Requests			x	x	
Approve Manager Training Requests			x		
Procure Training		x			
Configure New Training Courses / Events	x				
Register for Approved Training				x	x
View Employee Training Records	x		x	x	

## GitHub Issue #534

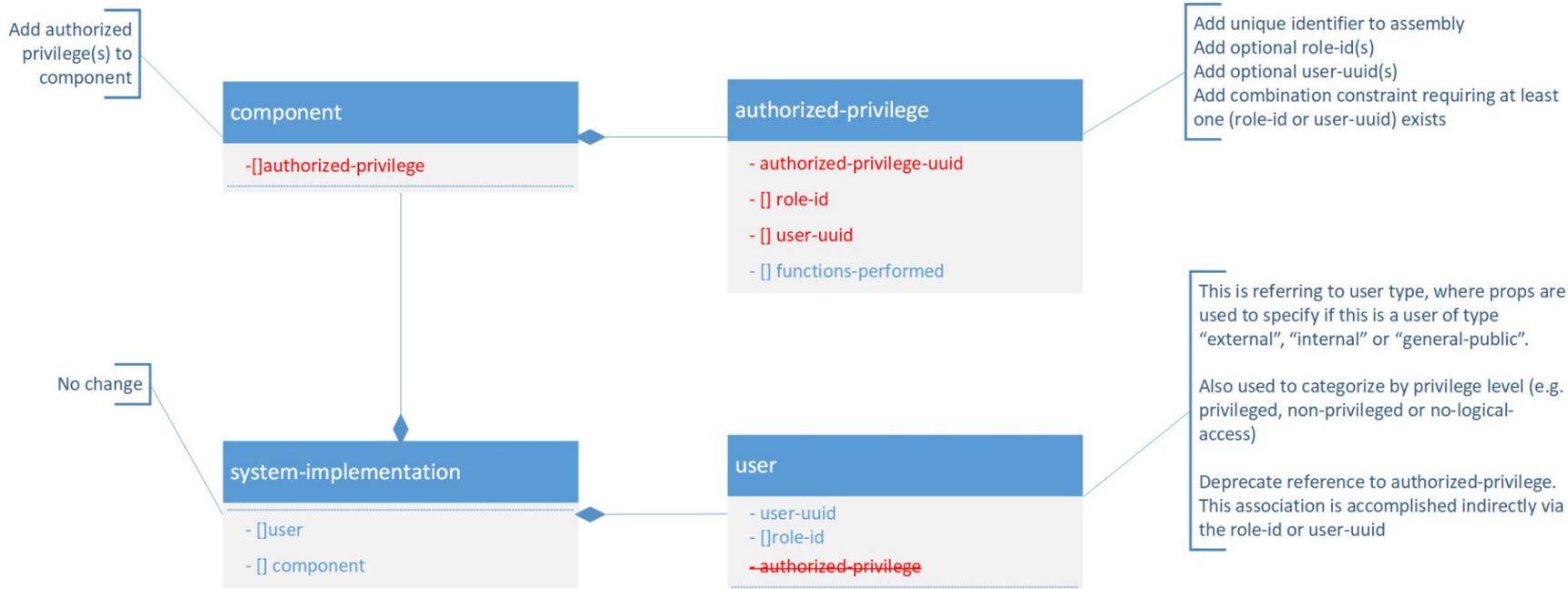
### Prior Proposals

- Option #1 - See <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation/pull/548>
- Option #2 - See <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation/pull/549>
- Option #3 - See <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation/issues/534#issuecomment-1919916609>

However, we realized that support for contextualizing separation of duties around components would be very useful.

## GitHub Issue #534

### New Proposal



See sample OSCAL in draft PRs at <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation/pull/594> and <https://github.com/GSA/OSCAL/pull/3>



## GitHub Issue #534

### Next Steps

- Community Review and Comment on DRAFT PRs ahead of next EAWG Meeting (June 5th, 2024)
  - See proposed Metaschema Changes - <https://github.com/GSA/OSCAL/pull/3>
  - See example implementation - <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation/pull/594>
- FedRAMP automation team updates / finalizes proposal
- FedRAMP automation team to submit PR for consideration by NIST OSCAL team

# Open Forum

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# Thank you

Our next OEAW virtual meeting will be on

**Wednesday, June 5th, 2024 at 12p ET.**

**Submit questions and future discussion topics to [OSCAL@fedramp.gov](mailto:OSCAL@fedramp.gov)**

**Learn more at [fedramp.gov](https://fedramp.gov)**



**@FEDRAMP**

Ensuring your outstanding issues or questions are received:

Issues can be submitted in several ways:



## Preferred

Open an issue on fedramp-automation github so that it will benefit the NIST/FedRAMP community.

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

## Alternate

Email us at [oscal@fedramp.gov](mailto:oscal@fedramp.gov)

## FedRAMP Automation GitHub: <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation>

- Open Issues: <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation/issues>
- Open Pull Requests: <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-automation/pulls>
- Active Work: <https://github.com/orgs/GSA/projects/25/views/3>
- Community Review Needed: <https://github.com/orgs/GSA/projects/25/views/7>

## GitHub Resources:

- Issues: <https://docs.github.com/en/issues>
- Pull Requests: <https://docs.github.com/en/pull-requests>

## **NIST:**

**OSCAL repo:** <https://pages.nist.gov/OSCAL/>

**Learning Resources:** <https://pages.nist.gov/OSCAL/learn/>

**Current release:** <https://github.com/usnistgov/OSCAL/releases>

**Development version:** <https://github.com/usnistgov/OSCAL/tree/develop>

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

## **FedRAMP:**

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

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

**Early Adopter repo:** <https://github.com/GSA/fedramp-oscal-earlyadopters>