STIX™ Version 2.0. Part 3: Cyber Observable Core Concepts

Committee Specification Draft 0402 / Public Review Draft 0402

24 February 03 May 2017

Specification URIs
This version:
http://docs.oasis-open.org/cti/stix/v2.0/csprd02/part3-cyber-observable-core/stix-v2.0-csprd02-part3-cyber-observable-core.docx (Authoritative)
http://docs.oasis-open.org/cti/stix/v2.0/csprd02/part3-cyber-observable-core/stix-v2.0-csprd02-part3-cyber-observable-core.html
http://docs.oasis-open.org/cti/stix/v2.0/csprd02/part3-cyber-observable-core/stix-v2.0-csprd02-part3-cyber-observable-core.pdf

Previous version:
http://docs.oasis-open.org/cti/stix/v2.0/csprd01/part3-cyber-observable-core/stix-v2.0-csprd01-part3-cyber-observable-core.docx (Authoritative)
http://docs.oasis-open.org/cti/stix/v2.0/csprd01/part3-cyber-observable-core/stix-v2.0-csprd01-part3-cyber-observable-core.html
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Previous version:
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http://docs.oasis-open.org/cti/stix/v2.0/stix-v2.0-part3-cyber-observable-core.docx (Authoritative)
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Additional artifacts:
This prose specification is one component of a Work Product that also includes:
Related work:
This specification replaces or supersedes:

This specification is related to:
- **TAXII™ Version 2.0.** Edited by Bret Jordan and John Wunder, Mark Davidson, and Bret Jordan. Latest version: http://docs.oasis-open.org/cti/taxii/v2.0/taxii-v2.0.html. Work in progress.

Abstract:
Structured Threat Information Expression (STIX™) is a language for expressing cyber threat and observable information. STIX Cyber Observables are defined in two documents. This document defines concepts that apply across all of STIX Cyber Observables.

Status:
This document was last revised or approved by the OASIS Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) TC on the above date. The level of approval is also listed above. Check the “Latest version” location noted above for possible later revisions of this document. Any other numbered Versions and other technical work produced by the Technical Committee (TC) are listed at https://www.oasis-open.org/committees/cti_home.php?wg_abbrev=ct#technical.

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Citation format:
When referencing this specification the following citation format should be used:

**[STIX-v2.0-Pt3-Cyb-Core]**

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1 Introduction

The STIX 2.0 specification defines structured representations for observable objects and their properties in the cyber domain. These can be used to describe data in many different functional domains, including but not limited to:

- Malware characterization
- Intrusion detection
- Incident response & management
- Digital forensics

STIX Cyber Observables document the facts concerning what happened on a network or host, but not necessarily the who or when, and never the why. For example, information about a file that existed, a process that was observed running, or that network traffic occurred between two IPs can all be captured as Cyber Observable data.

STIX Cyber Observables are used by various STIX Domain Objects (SDOs) to provide additional context to the data that they characterize. The Observed Data SDO, for example, indicates that the raw data was observed at a particular time and by a particular party.

The Cyber Observable Objects chosen for inclusion in STIX 2.0 represent a minimally viable product (MVP) that fulfills basic consumer and producer requirements. Objects and properties not included in STIX 2.0, but deemed necessary by the community, will be included in future releases.


1.0.1 IPR Policy

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1.1 Terminology

The key words “MUST”, “MUST NOT”, “REQUIRED”, “SHALL”, “SHALL NOT”, “SHOULD”, “SHOULD NOT”, “RECOMMENDED”, “MAY”, and “OPTIONAL” in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC2119].

All text is normative except for examples, the overview (section 1.4), and any text marked non-normative.

CAPEC - Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification
Consumer - Any entity that receives STIX content
CTI - Cyber Threat Intelligence
Entity - Anything that has a separately identifiable existence (e.g. organization, person, group, etc.)
IEP - FIRST (Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams) Information Exchange Policy
Instance - A single occurrence of a STIX object version
MTI—Mandatory To Implement
MVP—Minimally Viable Product

Object Creator—The entity that created or updated a STIX object (see section 3.3 of).
Object Representation—An instance of an object version that is serialized as STIX.
Producer—Any entity that distributes STIX content, including object creators as well as those passing along existing content.
SDO—STIX Domain Object
SRO—STIX Relationship Object
STIX—Structured Threat Information Expression
STIX Content—STIX documents, including STIX Objects, STIX Objects grouped as bundles, etc.
STIX Object—A STIX Domain Object (SDO) or STIX Relationship Object (SRO)
TAXII—An application layer protocol for the communication of cyber-threat information.
TLP—Traffic Light Protocol
TTP—Tactic, technique, or procedure; behaviors and resources that attackers use to carry out their attacks

1.2 Normative References


1.3 Non-Normative References


1.4 Overview

1.4.1 Cyber Observable Objects

STIX 2.0 defines a set of Cyber Observable Objects for characterizing host-based, network, and related entities. Each of these objects correspond to a data point commonly represented in CTI and digital forensics. Using the building blocks of Cyber Observable Objects, in conjunction with relationships between these objects, individuals can create, document, and share comprehensive information about computer systems and their state.

Throughout this document, Cyber Observable Objects are referred to simply as "Observable Objects". These should not be confused with STIX Domain Objects (SDOs), as defined in STIX™ Version 2.0. Part 1: STIX Core Concepts and STIX™ Version 2.0. Part 2: STIX Objects.

1.4.2 Cyber Observable Relationships

A Cyber Observable Relationship is a reference linking two (or more) related Cyber Observable Objects. Cyber Observable Relationships are only resolvable within the same observable-objects container. References are a property on Cyber Observable Objects that contain the ID of a different Cyber Observable Object.

Throughout this document, Cyber Observable Relationships are referred to simply as "Relationships". These should not be confused with STIX Relationship Objects (SROs), as defined in STIX™ Version 2.0. Part 1: STIX Core Concepts and STIX™ Version 2.0. Part 2: STIX Objects.
1.4.3 Cyber Observable Extensions

Each Observable Object defines a set of base properties that are generally applicable across any instance of the Object. However, there is also a need to encode additional data beyond the base definition of the Object data models. To enable this, STIX permits the specification of such additional properties through the set of Predefined Cyber Observable Object Extensions. Where applicable, Predefined Object Extensions are included in the definitions of Objects. For example, the File Object includes Predefined Object Extensions for characterizing PDF files, raster image files, archive files, NTFS files, and Windows PE binary files.

Producers may also define and include their own Custom Object Extensions. For further information, refer to section 5 (Customizing Cyber Observable Objects.)

1.4.4 Vocabularies & Enumerations

Many Cyber Observable Objects contain properties whose values are constrained by a predefined enumeration or open vocabulary. In the case of enumerations, this is a requirement that producers must use the values in the enumeration and cannot use any outside values. In the case of open vocabularies, this is a suggestion for producers that permits the use of values outside of the suggested vocabulary. If used consistently, vocabularies make it less likely that, for example, one entity refers to the md5 hashing algorithm as “MD5” and another as “md-5-hash”, thereby making comparison and correlation easier.
a dash (-). All type names, property names, object names, and vocabulary terms are between three and 250 characters long.

1.5.31.6.2 Font Colors and Style

The following color, font and font style conventions are used in this document:

- The Consolas font is used for all type names, property names and literals.
  - type names are in red with a light red background - hashes - type
  - property names are in bold style - protocols
  - literals (values) are in green - blue with a green - blue background - SHA-256

- In an object’s property table, if a common property is being redefine in some way, then the background is dark gray.

- All examples in this document are expressed in JSON. They are in Consolas 9-point font, with straight quotes, black text and a light blue - grey background, and 2-space indentation.

- Parts of the example may be omitted for conciseness and clarity. These omitted parts are denoted with the ellipses (...).
## 2 Cyber Observable Specific Data Types

The Cyber Observable specification within STIX makes use of many common types that are defined in section 2 of *STIX™ Version 2.0: Part 2: STIX Objects*. In addition, data types specific to the representation of Cyber Observables are defined in this section. The table below lists common data types from STIX Core with a gray background and the Cyber Observable specific types with a white background.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>boolean</td>
<td>A value of true or false.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hashes</td>
<td>One or more cryptographic hashes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>integer</td>
<td>A whole number.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>list</td>
<td>An ordered sequence of values. The phrasing &quot;list of type &lt;type&gt;&quot; is used to indicate that all values within the list MUST conform to the specified type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>open-vocab</td>
<td>A value from a STIX open (open-vocab) or suggested vocabulary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>string</td>
<td>A series of Unicode characters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>timestamp</td>
<td>A time value (date and time).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>binary</td>
<td>A sequence of bytes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hex</td>
<td>An array of octets as hexadecimal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dictionary</td>
<td>A set of key/value pairs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>object-ref</td>
<td>A local reference to a Cyber Observable Object.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hashes-type</td>
<td>One or more cryptographic hashes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>observable-objects</td>
<td>One or more Cyber Observable Objects.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2.1 Binary

Type Name: binary

The binary data type represents a sequence of bytes. In order to allow pattern matching on custom objects, for all properties that use the binary type, the property name MUST end with '_bin'.

The JSON MTI serialization represents this as a base64-encoded string as specified in [RFC4648]. Other serializations SHOULD use a native binary type, if available.

2.2 Hexadecimal

Type Name: hex

The hex data type encodes an array of octets (8-bit bytes) as hexadecimal. The string MUST consist of an even number of hexadecimal characters, which are the digits '0' through '9' and the letters 'a' through 'f'. In order to allow pattern matching on custom objects, for all properties that use the hex type, the property name MUST end with '_hex'.

Examples

```
    "src_flags_hex": "00000002"
```

2.3 Dictionary

Type Name: dictionary

A dictionary captures an arbitrary set of key/value pairs. dictionary keys MUST be unique in each dictionary, MUST be in ASCII, and are limited to the characters a-z (lowercase ASCII), A-Z (uppercase ASCII), numerals 0-9, hyphen (-), and underscore (_). dictionary keys SHOULD be no longer than 30 ASCII characters in length, MUST have a minimum length of 3 ASCII characters, MUST be no longer than 256 ASCII characters in length, and SHOULD be lowercase.

dictionary values MUST be valid property base types.

2.4 Object Reference

Type Name: object-ref

The Object Reference data type specifies a local reference to an Observable Object, that is, one which MUST be valid within the local scope of the Observable Objects (observable-objects) container that holds both the source Observable Object and the Observable Object that it references.

Examples

The following example demonstrates how a Network Traffic Object specifies its destination via a reference to an IPv4 Address Object.
2.5 Hashes Type

**Type Name:** hashes-type

The Hashes type represents 1 or more cryptographic hashes, as a special set of key/value pairs. Accordingly, the name of each hashing algorithm **MUST** be specified as a key in the dictionary and **MUST** identify the name of the hashing algorithm used to generate the corresponding value. This name **SHOULD** either be one of the values defined in the hash-algo-ov OR a custom value prepended with “x_” (e.g., “x_custom_hash”).

**Examples**

**MD5 and Custom Hash**

```json
{
    "MD5": "3773a88f65a5e780c8df9cde3a056f3",
    "x_foo_hash": "aaaabbbccccddddddeeeeffff0123457890"
}
```

2.6.2.5 Observable Objects

**Type Name:** observable-objects

The Observable Objects type represents 1 or more Observable Objects as a special set of key/value pairs. The keys in the dictionary are references used to refer to the values, which are objects. Each key in the dictionary **SHOULD** be a non-negative monotonically increasing integer, incrementing by 1 from a starting value of 0, and represented as a string within the JSON MTI serialization. However, implementers **MAY** elect to use an alternate key format if necessary.

**Examples**

```json
{
    "0": {
        "type": "ipv4-addr",
        "value": "198.51.100.2"
    },
    "1": {
        "type": "network-traffic",
        "dst_ref": "0"
    }
}
```


```json
{
  "display_name": "John Doe",

  "1": {
    "type": "email-addr",
    "value": "mary@example.com",
    "display_name": "Mary Smith"
  },

  "2": {
    "type": "email-message",
    "from_ref": "0",
    "to_refs": ["1"],
    "date": "1997-11-21T15:55:06Z",
    "subject": "Saying Hello"
  }
}
```
3 Cyber Observable Objects

This section outlines the common properties and behavior across all Cyber Observable Objects.

The JSON MTI serialization uses the JSON object type [RFC7159] when representing Objects.

3.1 Common Properties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Property Name</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>type (required)</td>
<td>string</td>
<td>Indicates that this object is an Observable Object. The value of this property MUST be a valid Observable Object type name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>description</td>
<td>string</td>
<td>Specifies a textual description of the Object.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extensions</td>
<td>dictionary</td>
<td>Specifies any extensions of the object, as a dictionary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dictionary keys MUST identify the extension type by name.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>The corresponding dictionary values MUST contain the contents of the extension instance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Object References

Identifiers on Observable Objects are specified as keys in the observable-objects type. For more information on how such keys may be defined, see section 2.6.

The object-ref type is used to define Observable Object properties that are references to other Observable Objects (such as the src_ref property on the Network Traffic Object). Resolving a reference is the process of identifying and obtaining the actual Observable Object referred to by the reference property. References resolve to an object when the value of the property (e.g., src_ref) is an exact match with the key of another Observable Object that resides in the same parent container as the Observable Object that specifies the reference. This specification does not address the implementation of reference resolution.

3.3 Object Property Metadata

3.3.1 String Encoding

Capturing the observed encoding of a particular Observable Object string is useful for attribution, the creation of indicators, and related use cases.

Certain string properties in Observable Objects may contain an additional sibling property with the same base name and a suffix of _enc that captures the name of the original observed encoding of the property.
value. All _enc properties MUST specify their encoding using the corresponding name from the the IANA character set registry [Character Sets]. If the preferred MIME name for a character set is defined, this value MUST be used; if it is not defined, then the Name value from the registry MUST be used instead.

As an example of how this capability may be used in an Object, the name property in the File Object has the sibling property name_enc, for capturing the observed encoding of the file name string.

Examples

File with Unicode representation of the filename and a corresponding encoding specification

```
{
    "0": {
        "type": "file",
        "hashes": {
            "MD5": "66e2ea40dc71d5ba701574ea215a91f1",
            "SHA-256": "effb46bba03f6c8aea5c653f9cf984f170dcdd3bbbe2ff6843c3e5da0e698766"
        },
        "name": "quêry.dll",
        "name_enc": "windows-1252"
    }
}
```

3.4 Object Relationships

A Cyber Observable Relationship is a connection between two or more Cyber Observable Objects within the scope of a given Observable Objects dictionary. Cyber Observable relationships are references that are represented as properties of a Cyber Observable Object, containing the keys of the target Cyber Observable Object(s).

Cyber Observable Object relationships are implemented in Object properties as either singletons or lists. In the case of singleton relationships, the name of their Object property MUST end in _ref, whereas for lists of relationships the name of their Object property MUST end in _refs.

The target(s) of Cyber Observable relationships may be restricted to a subset of Cyber Observable Object types, as specified in the description of the Observable Object property that defines the relationship. For example, the belongs_to_refs property on the IPv4 Address Object specifies that the only valid target of the relationship is one or more AS Objects.

Examples

Network Traffic with Source/Destination IPv4 Addresses and AS

```
{
    "0": {
        "type": "ipv4-addr",
        "value": "1.2.3.4",
        "belongs_to_refs": ["3"]
    }
}
```
3.5 Predefined Object Extensions

Predefined Object Extensions have a specific purpose in Cyber Observable Objects: defining coherent sets of properties beyond the base, e.g., HTTP request information for a Network Traffic object. Accordingly, each Cyber Observable Object may include one or more Predefined Object Extensions.

Each Predefined Object Extension can be defined at most once on a given Observable Object. In an Observable Object instance, each extension is specified under the `extensions` property, which is of type `dictionary`. Note that this means that each extension is specified through a corresponding key in the `extensions` property. For example, when specified in a File Object instance, the NTFS extension would be specified using the key value of `ntfs-ext`.

Examples

Basic File with NTFS Extension

```json
{
  "0": {
    "type": "file",
    "hashes": {
      "MD5": "3773a88f65a5e780c8dff9c6c3a056f3"
    },
    "size": 25537,
    "extensions": {
      "ntfs-ext": {
        "sid": "1234567"
      }
    }
  }
}
```
4 Common Vocabularies

4.1 Hashing Algorithm Vocabulary

Type Name: hash-algo-ov

An open vocabulary of hashing algorithms.
When specifying a hashing algorithm not already defined within the hash-algo-ov, wherever an authoritative name for a hashing algorithm name is defined, it should be used as the value. In cases where no authoritative name exists and/or where there is variance in the naming of a particular hashing algorithm, producers should exercise their best judgement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MD5</td>
<td>Specifies the MD5 message-digest algorithm. The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid MD5 message digest as defined in [RFC1321].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MD6</td>
<td>Specifies the MD6 message-digest algorithm. The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid MD6 message digest as defined in the [MD6] proposal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIPEMD-160</td>
<td>Specifies the RIPEMD-160 (RACE Integrity Primitives Evaluation Message Digest) cryptographic hash function. The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid RIPEMD-160 message digest as defined in the [RIPEMD-160] specification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHA-1</td>
<td>Specifies the SHA-1 (secure-hash algorithm 1) cryptographic hash function. The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid SHA-1 message digest as defined in [RFC3174].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHA-224</td>
<td>Specifies the SHA-224 cryptographic hash function (part of the SHA2 family). The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid SHA-224 message digest as defined in [RFC6234].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHA-256</td>
<td>Specifies the SHA-256 cryptographic hash function (part of the SHA2 family). The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid SHA-256 message digest as defined in [RFC6234].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHA-384</td>
<td>Specifies the SHA-384 cryptographic hash function (part of the SHA2 family). The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid SHA-384 message digest as defined in [RFC6234].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHA-512</td>
<td>Specifies the SHA-512 cryptographic hash function (part of the SHA2 family). The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid SHA-512 message digest as defined in [RFC3174].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHA3-224</td>
<td>Specifies the SHA3-224 cryptographic hash function. The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid SHA3-224 message digest as defined in [FIPS202].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHA3-256</td>
<td>Specifies the SHA3-256 cryptographic hash function. The corresponding hash string for this value MUST be a valid SHA3-256 message digest as defined in [FIPS202].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 4.24.1 Encryption Algorithm Vocabulary

**Type Name:** encryption-algo-ov

An open vocabulary of encryption algorithms.

When specifying an encryption algorithm not already defined within the `encryption-algo-ov`, wherever an authoritative name for an encryption algorithm name is defined, it should be used as the value. In cases where no authoritative name exists and/or where there is variance in the naming of a particular encryption algorithm, producers should exercise their best judgement.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary Value</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AES128-ECB</td>
<td>Specifies the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) with Electronic Codebook (ECB) mode, as defined in [NIST 800-38A].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AES128-CBC</td>
<td>Specifies the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) with Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode, as defined in [NIST 800-38A].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AES128-CFB</td>
<td>Specifies the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) with Cipher Feedback (CFB) mode, as defined in [NIST 800-38A].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AES128-OFB</td>
<td>Specifies the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) with Output Feedback (OFB) mode, as defined in [NIST 800-38A].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AES128-CTR</td>
<td>Specifies the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) with counter (CTR) mode, as defined in [NIST 800-38A].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AES128-XTS</td>
<td>Specifies the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) with XEX Tweakable Block Cipher with Ciphertext Stealing (XTS) mode, as defined in [NIST 800-38E].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cipher</td>
<td>Description</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AES128-GCM</td>
<td>Specifies the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) with Galois/Counter (GCM) mode, as defined in NIST SP 800-38D.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salsa20</td>
<td>Specifies the Salsa20 stream cipher, as defined in the [Salsa20] specification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salsa12</td>
<td>Specifies the Salsa20/12 stream cipher as defined in the [Salsa20/8 20/12] specification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salsa8</td>
<td>Specifies the Salsa20/8 stream cipher as defined in the [Salsa20/8 20/12] specification.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ChaCha20-Poly1305</td>
<td>Specifies the ChaCha20-Poly1305 stream cipher, as defined in [RFC 7539].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ChaCha20</td>
<td>Specifies the ChaCha20 stream cipher (without poly1305 authentication), as defined in [RFC 7539].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES-CBC</td>
<td>Specifies the Data Encryption Standard algorithm with Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode, as defined in [FIPS81].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3DES-CBC</td>
<td>Specifies the Triple Data Encryption Standard algorithm with Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode, as defined in [NIST 800-67] and [NIST 800-38A].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DES-ECB</td>
<td>Specifies the Data Encryption Standard algorithm with Electronic Codebook (ECB) mode, as defined in [FIPS81].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3DES-ECB</td>
<td>Specifies the Triple Data Encryption Standard algorithm with Electronic Codebook (ECB) mode, as defined in [NIST 800-67].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAST128-CBC</td>
<td>Specifies the CAST-128 algorithm with Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode, as defined in [RFC 2144].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAST256-CBC</td>
<td>Specifies the CAST-256 algorithm with Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode, as defined in [RFC 2612].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSA</td>
<td>Specifies the RSA symmetric encryption algorithm, as defined by [RFC 8017].</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DSA</td>
<td>Specifies the Digital Signature Algorithm, as defined by [FIPS186-4].</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5 Customizing Cyber Observables

There are three means to customize Cyber Observable Objects: custom object extensions, custom observable objects, and custom properties. Custom object extensions provide a mechanism and requirements for the specification of extensions not defined by this specification (including relationships) on Observable Objects. Custom Observable Objects provide a mechanism and requirements to create Observable Objects not defined by this specification. Custom properties, as in the rest of STIX, provide a mechanism to add individual properties anywhere in the data model.

Custom Observable Object properties SHOULD be used for cases where it is necessary to add one or more simple additional properties (i.e. key/value pairs) on an Observable Object. On the other hand, Custom Observable Object extensions SHOULD be used for cases where it is necessary to describe more complex additional properties (i.e., those with potentially multiple levels of hierarchy). As an example, a vendor-specific property that expresses some custom threat score for a File Object should be added directly to the Observable Object as a custom property, whereas a set of properties that represent metadata around a new file system to the File Object should be done as a custom extension.

A consumer that receives a STIX document containing Custom Cyber Observable Properties, Extensions, or Objects it does not understand MAY refuse to process the document or MAY ignore those properties or objects and continue processing the document.

5.1 Custom Observable Objects

There will be cases where certain information exchanges can be improved by adding objects that are not specified nor reserved in this document; these objects are called Custom Observable Objects. This section provides guidance and requirements for how producers can use Custom Observable Objects and how consumers should interpret them in order to extend STIX in an interoperable manner.

5.1.1 Requirements

- Producers MAY include any number of Custom Observable Objects in an Observable Objects entity.
- The type property in a Custom Observable Object MUST be in ASCII and MUST only contain the characters a-z (lowercase ASCII), 0-9, and hyphen (-).
- The type property MUST NOT contain a hyphen (-) character immediately following another hyphen (-) character.
- Custom Observable Object names MUST have a minimum length of 3 ASCII characters.
- Custom Observable Object names MUST be no longer than 250 ASCII characters in length.
- The value of the type property in a Custom Observable Object SHOULD start with “x-” followed by a source unique identifier (like a domain name with dots replaced by dashes), a dash and then the name. For example: x-example-com-customobject.
- A Custom Observable Object whose name is not prefixed with “x-” MAY be used in a future version of the specification with a different meaning. Therefore, if compatibility with future versions of this specification is required, the “x-” prefix MUST be used.
- A Custom Observable Object MUST have one or more Custom Properties:
  - Custom Property names MUST be in ASCII and MUST only contain the characters a–z (lowercase ASCII), 0–9, and underscore (_).
  - Custom Property names MUST have a minimum length of 3 ASCII characters.
  - Custom Property names MUST be no longer than 250 ASCII characters in length.
- Custom Observable Objects SHOULD only be used when there is no existing Observable Object defined by the STIX specification that fulfills that need.
- Custom Observable Object property values MUST be a valid primitive, type, or a homogenous list of types.
Examples

Simple Custom Observable Object
{
  "0": {
    "type": "x-example",
    "foo": "bar",
    "vals": {
      "this",
      "is",
      "an",
      "example"
    }
  }
}

5.2 Custom Object Extensions

In addition to the Predefined Cyber Observable Object extensions specified in STIX™ Version 2.0, Part 4: Cyber Observable Objects, STIX supports user-defined custom extensions for Cyber Observable Objects. As with Predefined Object Extensions, custom extension data MUST be conveyed under the extensions property.

5.2.1 Requirements

- An Observable Object MAY have any number of Custom Extensions.
- Custom Extension names MUST be in ASCII and are limited to characters a-z (lowercase ASCII), 0-9, and dash (-).
- Custom Extension names SHOULD start with "x-", followed by a source unique identifier (like a domain name), a dash and then the name. For example: x-example-com-customextension.
- Custom Extension names MUST have a minimum length of 3 ASCII characters.
- Custom Extension names MUST be no longer than 250 ASCII characters in length.
- Custom Extension names that are not prefixed with "x-", may be used in a future version of the specification for a different meaning. If compatibility with future versions of this specification is required, the "x-" prefix MUST be used.
- Custom Extensions SHOULD only be used when there is no existing extension defined by the STIX 2.0 specification that fulfills that need.
- A Custom Extension MUST have one or more Custom Properties:
  - Custom Property names MUST be in ASCII and MUST only contain the characters a–z (lowercase ASCII), 0–9, and underscore (_).
  - Custom Property names MUST have a minimum length of 3 ASCII characters.
  - Custom Property names MUST be no longer than 250 ASCII characters in length.

Examples

Custom File Object Extension
{
  "0": {
    "type": "file",
    "hashes": {
      "MD5": "98996B8785BEC7C857FF346931FC4851"
    }
  }
}
5.3 Custom Object Properties

There will be cases where certain information exchanges can be improved by adding properties to Observable Objects that are neither specified nor reserved in this document; these properties are called Custom Object Properties. This section provides guidance and requirements for how producers can use Custom Object Properties and how consumers should interpret them in order to extend Cyber Observable Objects in an interoperable manner.

5.3.1 Requirements

- A Cyber Observable Object MAY have any number of Custom Properties.
- Custom Property names MUST be in ASCII and MUST only contain the characters a–z (lowercase ASCII), 0–9, and underscore (_).
- Custom Property names SHOULD start with “x_” followed by a source unique identifier (such as a domain name with dots replaced by underscores), an underscore and then the name. For example, x_example_com_customfield.
- Custom Property names MUST have a minimum length of 3 ASCII characters.
- Custom Property names MUST be no longer than 250 ASCII characters in length.
- Custom Property names that do not start with “x_” may be used in a future version of the specification for a different meaning. If compatibility with future versions of this specification is required, the “x_” prefix MUST be used.
- Custom Properties SHOULD only be used when there are no existing properties defined by the STIX 2.0 specification that fulfills that need.
- Custom Properties SHOULD only be used to define simple properties (e.g., those of string or integer type).
- For Custom Properties that use the hex type, the property name MUST end with '_hex'.
- For Custom Properties that use the binary type, the property name MUST end with '_bin'.

Examples

File Object with Custom Properties

```json
{
    "0": {
        "type": "file",
        "hashes": {
            "MD5": "98996b8785bfc7c857fe346931fca251"
        }
    },
    "SHA-256": "effb46bba03f6c8aea5c653f9cf984f170dcdd3bbe2ff6843c3e5da0e698766"
}
```
"x_example_com_foo": "bar",
"x_example_com_bar": 27
}
}


6 Reserved Names

This section defines names that are reserved for future use in revisions of this document. The names defined in this section **MUST NOT** be used for the name of any Custom Cyber Observable Object or Property.

The following object names are reserved:

- action
7 Conformance

7.1 Producers and Consumers

A "Cyber Observable Producer" is any software that creates Cyber Observable content and conforms to the following normative requirements:

1. It **MUST** be able to create content encoded as JSON.
2. All required properties marked **required in the property table for the Cyber Observable Object or type** **MUST** be present in the created content.
3. All properties **MUST** conform to the specified data type and normative requirements.
4. It **MUST** support at least one defined Cyber Observable Object per the Conformance section in **STIX™ Version 2.0. Part 4: Cyber Observable Objects**.

7.2

A "Cyber Observable Consumer" is any software that consumes Cyber Observable content and conforms to the following normative requirements:

1. It **MUST** support parsing all required properties for the content that it consumes.
Appendix A. Glossary

CAPEC - Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification
Consumer - Any entity that receives STIX content
CTI - Cyber Threat Intelligence
Embedded Relationship - A link (an "edge" in a graph) between one STIX Object and another represented as a property on one object containing the ID of another object
Entity - Anything that has a separately identifiable existence (e.g., organization, person, group, etc.)
IEP - FIRST (Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams) Information Exchange Policy
Instance - A single occurrence of a STIX object version
MTI - Mandatory To Implement
MVP - Minimally Viable Product
Object Creator - The entity that created or updated a STIX object (see section 3.3 of STIX™ Version 2.0, Part 1: STIX Core Concepts).
Object Representation - An instance of an object version that is serialized as STIX
Producer - Any entity that distributes STIX content, including object creators as well as those passing along existing content
SDO - STIX Domain Object (a "node" in a graph)
SRO - STIX Relationship Object (one mechanism to represent an "edge" in a graph)
STIX - Structured Threat Information Expression
STIX Content - STIX documents, including STIX Objects, STIX Objects grouped as bundles, etc.
STIX Object - A STIX Domain Object (SDO) or STIX Relationship Object (SRO)
STIX Relationship - A link (an "edge" in a graph) between two STIX Objects represented by either an SRO or an embedded relationship
TAXII - An application layer protocol for the communication of cyber threat information
TLP - Traffic Light Protocol
TTP - Tactic, technique, or procedure; behaviors and resources that attackers use to carry out their attacks
Appendix A. Appendix B. Acknowledgments

Appendix B.
The contributions of the OASIS Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) Technical Committee members, enumerated in *STIX™ Version 2.0. Part 1: STIX Core Concepts*, are gratefully acknowledged.
## Appendix C. Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Editor</th>
<th>Changes Made</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>2017-04-24</td>
<td>Bret Jordan, John Wunder, Rich Piazza, Ivan Kirillov, Trey Darley</td>
<td>Changes made from first public review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>