



## Trusted Network Connect Certification FAQ

### **Q. What is the TNC certification program?**

A. Over the last few years, Trusted Computing Group (TCG) has developed and released the widely accepted TNC (Trusted Network Connect) architecture and standards for network security. The TCG now offers the TNC certification program, a rigorous testing program to assure customers that certified products properly implement the TNC specifications and interoperate with one another.

### **Q. What are the benefits of TNC certification for customers?**

A. Certification helps customers be sure that products implement TNC specifications correctly. Perhaps more importantly, certification ensures that products based on these specifications are interoperable. Interoperability provides several critical benefits to enterprises. By avoiding vendor lock-in, they can choose best of breed solutions and reduce acquisition costs. Interoperability with already purchased equipment results in lower capital costs and faster ROI. Pre-certified and tested compatibility ensures easy deployment with low risk. Certification also increases security, because the specifications tested have been created and vetted by a group of the world's most knowledgeable security experts.

### **Q. What are the benefits of TNC certification for product vendors?**

A. Vendors with certified products benefit because their products will be preferred by customers. When they pass the certification testing, vendors are assured their products will work with other products and that they implement specifications correctly. Costs for testing, integration, and support are reduced.

### **Q. What are the requirements for certification?**

A. Certified products must pass an automated compliance test suite to verify that they properly implement the TNC specifications. They must also complete an interoperability testing matrix to verify that they interoperate with other TNC certified products.

### **Q. Which products have been TNC certified?**

A. The latest list of TNC certified products is available on the TCG web site at <http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/certification>. The first products certified are Juniper Networks' EX3200 and EX4200 Series Ethernet Switches and the TNC@FHH open source implementation of TNC.

### **Q: How can an enterprise indicate a requirement for TNC certification in products that they are buying?**

A: We suggest that enterprises include language like this in RFPs and RFIs: "In order to ensure interoperability and provide the flexibility to choose best of breed security products from multiple vendors, any solution must support the Trusted Computing Group's Trusted Network Connect (TNC) standards."

**Q. How can vendors get their products certified?**

A. Certification is open to all member companies of Trusted Computing Group. For more information, see the TNC certification website, <http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/certification> or email [certification@trustedcomputinggroup.org](mailto:certification@trustedcomputinggroup.org).

**Q. Will TCG offer additional certification testing in the future?**

A. Yes, we expect to add more vendors and more specifications over time. Note that TCG already offers certification testing for the Trusted Platform Module.

**Q. Is certification open to product vendors that are not members of TCG?**

A. Not at this time. TCG certification is an intensive process with many aspects. Therefore, we require product vendors to join TCG in order to participate. More information on membership is online at [http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/join\\_now/membership\\_benefits](http://www.trustedcomputinggroup.org/join_now/membership_benefits).

**Q. Which specifications have TNC certification available?**

A. At this point, TNC certification is available for IF-IMC (InterFace for Integrity Measurement Collectors), IF-IMV (InterFace for Integrity Measurement Verifiers) and IF-PEP (InterFace for Policy Enforcement Points). Testing for other specifications in the TNC architecture will be added in the future.

**Q. What are the features of the specifications tested?**

A. IF-IMC and IF-IMV provide standard interfaces for adding new endpoint health checks to a NAC (Network Access Control) system. IF-PEP provides a standard way to perform enforcement in a network security system.

**Q. What is tested during TNC certification?**

A. Two sets of tests are run. The first tests (compliance) verify that certified products have properly implemented the specifications as written, especially the “musts” and “must nots” of each specification. The second tests (interoperability) verify that certified products properly interoperate with other products supporting the specifications. TCG does not test products for performance, reliability, or other aspects not listed above.

**Q. How does TCG test compliance?**

A. TCG has built a set of automated test suites that verify that the product under test has properly implemented all of the “musts” and “must nots” in a given specification. These tests include both normal conditions and error conditions to ensure that errors are properly handled.

**Q. How does TCG test interoperability?**

A. TCG has for several years hosted interoperability testing events (called “TNC PlugFests”). Vendors with products that support the various TNC specifications can connect with other products in a simulated enterprise environment on a production network. To complete the interoperability testing aspect of TNC certification, products must successfully interoperate with all other relevant products while completing a rigorous series of enterprise test cases.

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