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Folder Title:

NIISS [National Information Infrastructure Security Group]-Standards

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National Institute of Information Systems Standards: Role of Standards

- Why standards?
 - Basis for interchangeability
 - Metrics for security/protection for products/systems
 - Certification of minimum capability (e.g. cyber-security services)
 - Framework for technological development and best practices sharing
- Definitions
 - Standards - approved documented and available set of criteria used to establish adequacy of an action or object
 - Certification - comprehensive assessment of security features/safeguards to establish whether a system meets specified requirements
 - Best practices - like a “snapshot” of practices that can be relied on until standards are available



National Institute of Information Systems Standards: Role of Standards (cont'd)

- Developing standards and certification involves
 - Government (commerce-NIST, NSA)
 - Industry - suppliers, users
 - Standards organizations (ANSI, IEEE, ICOSA)
 - International players
- Eclectic process in US
- Many standards - but not widely used
 - ISC2 certifies professional qualifications of information systems security personnel



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National Institute of Information Systems Standards: On-Going Efforts

Past/current efforts

- Orange book criteria
- Common criteria
 - International agreement
 - Certified private laboratories for evaluation

Lessons learned

- Systems, not standalone products
- Rated products are behind the technology
 - Users prefer technology over security
- Lacked community and government buy-in
- Developers lacked “best practices” to facilitate the process
- Lack of understanding of what it really meant



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National Institute of Information Systems Standards: **Influence of Standards**

- **Avoidance of legal liability**
 - Compliance with standards would reflect due diligence
- **Insurance coverage**
 - Standards would establish insurable criteria
- **Vulnerability assessments**
 - Facilitate assessments
 - Assist in determining whether reasonable precautions have been taken
- **Universality**
 - Basis for widespread use

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National Institute of Information Systems Standards: Creating the National Center

- Create/elevate one or more laboratories to:
 - Accredite cyber-security service providers
 - Develop/promulgate standards for evaluating security
 - Accredite other laboratories to do software/hardware/systems evaluations against standards
 - Focus research agenda
- Initial government support - subsequent spin-off to industry
 - Underwriters laboratory model



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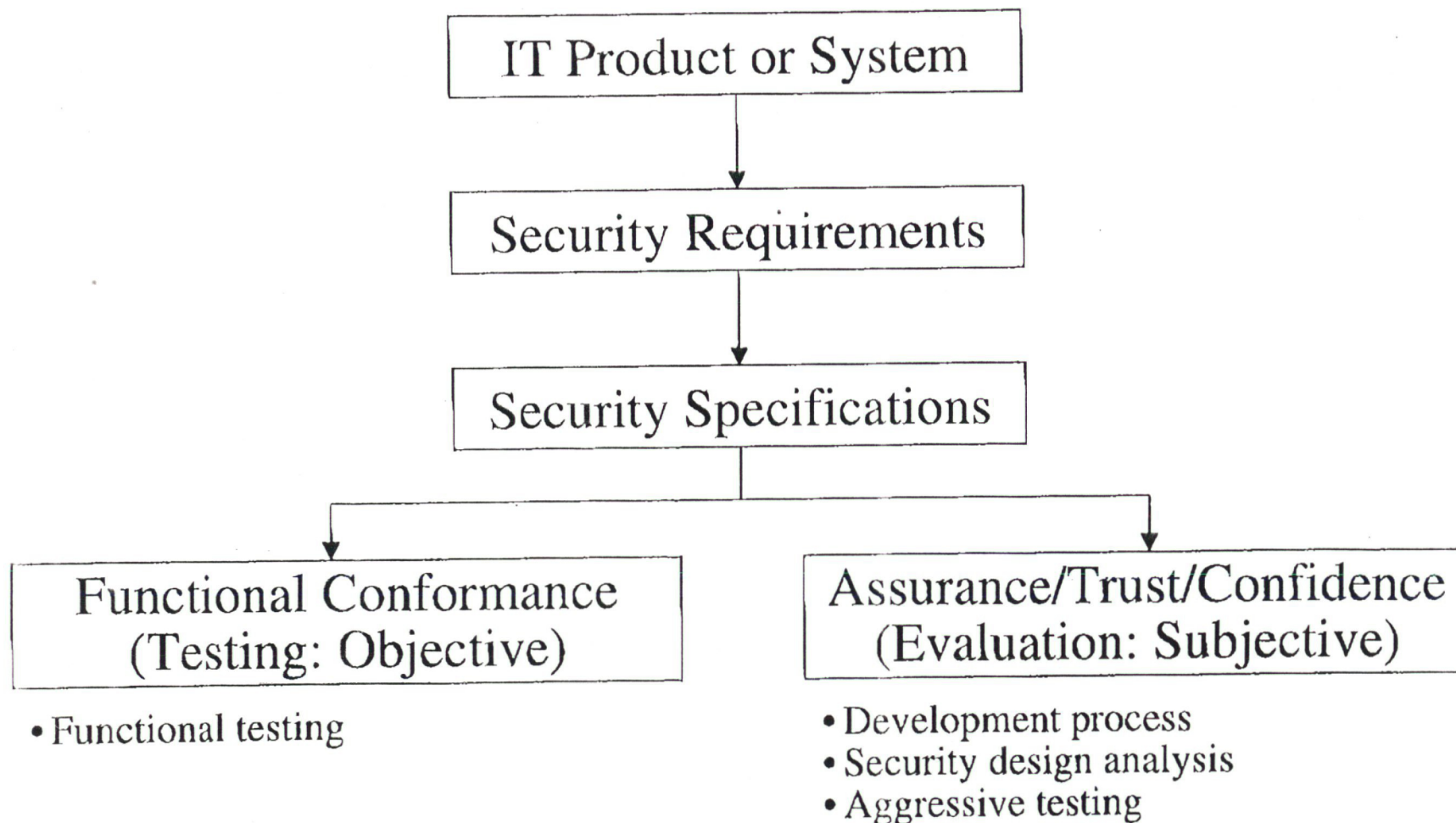


National Institute of Information Systems Standards: Creating the National Center (cont'd)

- Issues
 - Industry support - from providers?
from customers?
from third parties (e.g. insurance)?
 - R&D challenges
 - Keeping standards current
- Next steps: consultation with private sector



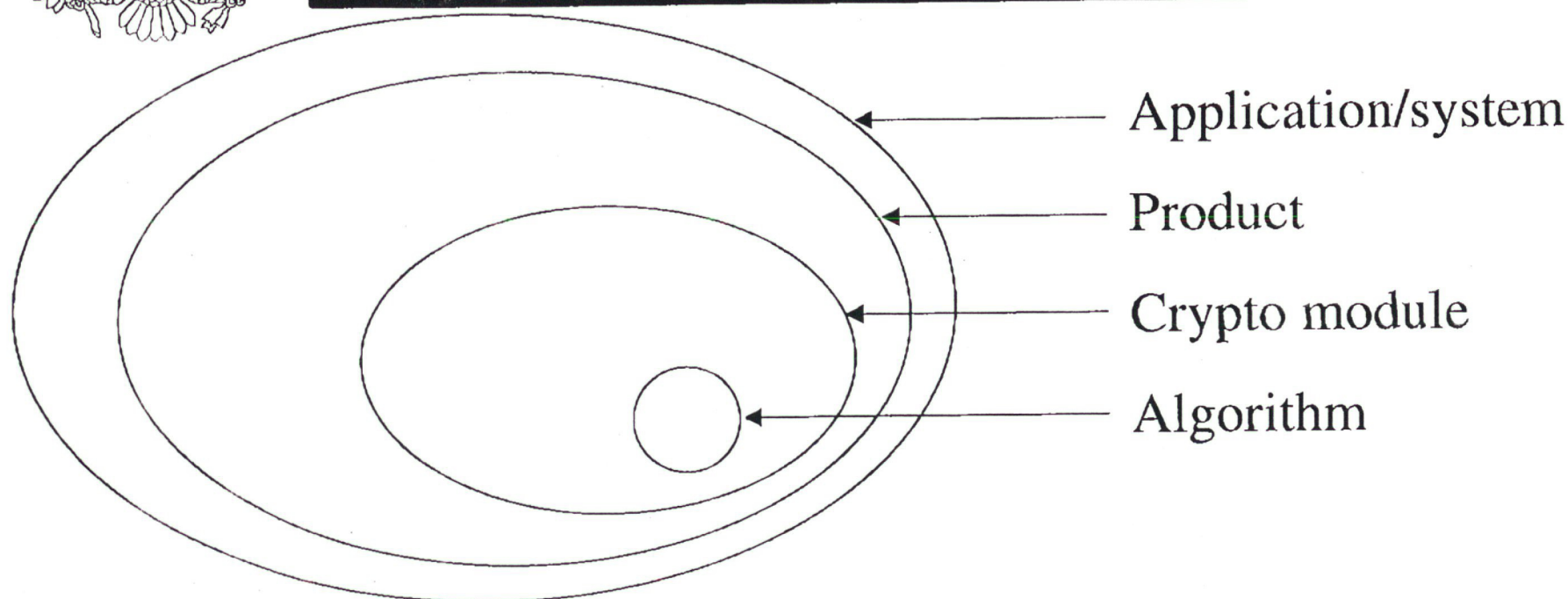
National Institute of Information Systems Standards: Need for New Security Specifications Testing/Evaluation



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National Institute of Information Systems Standards: Need for System Standards



Level	Examples	Specification
Application/system	Air traffic control	CC, GSSP, ...
Product	Firewall, OS	Common criteria (CC)
Security module	Crypto module	FIPS 140-1
Algorithm	DES	FIPS 46-2