SOFTWARE IDENTIFICATION
ECOSYSTEM OPTION ANALYSIS AND NEXT STEPS

Addressing the Identification Problem

- What is the problem

- What have we done so far

- What are we doing next

A Rose by Any Other Name....

red_rose

red-rose

redrose

"Software Identification Ecosystem Option Analysis"

CISA outlined potential paths forward on the software identification problem in a white paper published for public comment on October 26, 2023.

15 comments received and reviewed.

https://www.cisa.gov/resources-tools/resources/software-identification-ecosystem-option-analysis

Potential Paths Forward

- Path 1: Inherent Identifiers

- Path 2: Unmanaged, Distributed Model

- Path 3: Managed Distributed Model

- Path 4: Intermediate Models for Defined Identifiers

- Path 5: Unidentified Software Descriptor to Augment Paths 2, 3, 4

- Path 6: More Than One Software Identifier Format

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Response Themes

1. This is an important problem, but a hard problem

2. None of the software identifiers discussed in the paper (OmniBOR, purl, CPE) will 100% solve the problem

3. A solution will likely involve more than one type of software identifier
   - It would be helpful to have more than one identifier for CVEs

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Next Steps: CISA

- Release a summary of the public comments to the white paper

- Continue to support research and tooling development to resolve pain points

- Remain engaged in software identification discussions to support the software community in coming to a sustainable solution

Questions?

For more information:
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