IBM MQ APPLIANCE v9.0
SECURITY TECHNICAL IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE
(STIG) OVERVIEW

24 July 2024

Developed by IBM and DISA for the DOD

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

IBM MQ Appliance v9.0 STIG Overview
24 July 2024

DISA
Developed by IBM and DISA for the DOD

iii

UNCLASSIFIED

LIST OF TABLES

Page

LIST OF FIGURES

Page

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Executive Summary

The IBM MQ Appliance Application Server (AS) and IBM MQ Appliance Network Device Management (NDM) Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIGs) provide the technical security policies, requirements, and implementation details for configuring the IBM MQ Messaging Hub Appliance running MQ version 9.0 via the management Web Graphical User Interface (GUI) as well as via the SSH-oriented command line or CLI. The IBM MQ Appliance NDM STIG addresses the secure configuration of the administration management aspect of the MQ product, while the IBM MQ Appliance AS STIG addresses the secure configuration of the actual message queues that are configured to send and receive messages.

IBM MQ is messaging middleware that uses message queues to facilitate exchanges of information between applications. MQ messaging is offered in two forms: as software that can be installed on an existing or new OS installation and as a physical appliance that has the MQ product pre-installed and ready to deploy into the network infrastructure.

1.2 Authority

DOD Instruction (DODI) 8500.01 requires that "all IT that receives, processes, stores, displays, or transmits DOD information will be […] configured […] consistent with applicable DOD cybersecurity policies, standards, and architectures" and tasks that Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) "develops and maintains control correlation identifiers (CCIs), security requirements guides (SRGs), security technical implementation guides (STIGs), and mobile code risk categories and usage guides that implement and are consistent with DOD cybersecurity policies, standards, architectures, security controls, and validation procedures, with the support of the NSA/CSS, using input from stakeholders, and using automation whenever possible." This document is provided under the authority of DODI 8500.01.

Although the use of the principles and guidelines in these SRGs/STIGs provides an environment that contributes to the security requirements of DOD systems, applicable NIST SP 800-53 cybersecurity controls need to be applied to all systems and architectures based on the Committee on National Security Systems (CNSS) Instruction (CNSSI) 1253.

1.3 Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions

Severity Category Codes (referred to as CAT) are a measure of vulnerabilities used to assess a facility or system security posture. Each security policy specified in this document is assigned a Severity Category Code of CAT I, II, or III.

Table 1-1: Vulnerability Severity Category Code Definitions

Category	DISA Category Code Guidelines
CAT I	Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which will **directly and immediately** result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.
CAT II	Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which **has a potential** to result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.
CAT III	Any vulnerability, the existence of which **degrades measures** to protect against loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity.

1.4   STIG Distribution

Parties within the DOD and federal government's computing environments can obtain the applicable STIG from the DOD Cyber Exchange website at https://cyber.mil/. This site contains the latest copies of STIGs, SRGs, and other related security information. Those without a Common Access Card (CAC) that has DOD Certificates can obtain the STIG from https://public.cyber.mil/.

1.5   SRG Compliance Reporting

All technical NIST SP 800-53 requirements were considered while developing this STIG. Requirements that are applicable and configurable will be included in the final STIG. A report marked Controlled Unclassified Information (CUI) will be available for those items that did not meet requirements. This report will be available to component authorizing official (AO) personnel for risk assessment purposes by request via email to: disa.stig_spt@mail.mil.

1.6   Document Revisions

Comments or proposed revisions to this document should be sent via email to the following address: disa.stig_spt@mail.mil. DISA will coordinate all change requests with the relevant DOD organizations before inclusion in this document. Approved changes will be made in accordance with the DISA maintenance release schedule.

1.7   Other Considerations

DISA accepts no liability for the consequences of applying specific configuration settings made on the basis of the SRGs/STIGs. It must be noted that the configuration settings specified should be evaluated in a local, representative test environment before implementation in a production environment, especially within large user populations. The extensive variety of environments makes it impossible to test these configuration settings for all potential software configurations.

For some production environments, failure to test before implementation may lead to a loss of required functionality. Evaluating the risks and benefits to a system's particular circumstances and requirements is the system owner's responsibility. The evaluated risks resulting from not applying specified configuration settings must be approved by the responsible Authorizing Official. Furthermore, DISA implies no warranty that the application of all specified configurations will make a system 100 percent secure.

Security guidance is provided for the Department of Defense. While other agencies and organizations are free to use it, care must be given to ensure that all applicable security guidance is applied both at the device hardening level as well as the architectural level due to the fact that some of the settings may not be able to be configured in environments outside the DOD architecture.

1.8 Product Approval Disclaimer

The existence of a STIG does not equate to DOD approval for the procurement or use of a product.

STIGs provide configurable operational security guidance for products being used by the DOD. STIGs, along with vendor confidential documentation, also provide a basis for assessing compliance with Cybersecurity controls/control enhancements, which supports system Assessment and Authorization (A&A) under the DOD Risk Management Framework (RMF). DOD Authorizing Officials (AOs) may request available vendor confidential documentation for a product that has a STIG for product evaluation and RMF purposes from disa.stig_spt@mail.mil. This documentation is not published for general access to protect the vendor's proprietary information.

AOs have the purview to determine product use/approval IAW DOD policy and through RMF risk acceptance. Inputs into acquisition or pre-acquisition product selection include such processes as:

- National Information Assurance Partnership (NIAP) evaluation for National Security Systems (NSS) (http://www.niap-ccevs.org/) IAW CNSSP #11.
- National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) Cryptographic Module Validation Program (CMVP) (http://csrc.nist.gov/groups/STM/cmvp/) IAW Federal/DOD mandated standards.
- DOD Unified Capabilities (UC) Approved Products List (APL) (http://www.disa.mil/network-services/ucco) IAW DODI 8100.04.

2. SECURITY ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

The IBM MQ Appliance V9.0 STIGs make use of the IBM web management interface, also referred to as the WebGUI, as well as the command line interface or CLI. The individual requirements will specify which interface is to be used in order to execute the check and the fix by referencing either the CLI or the WebGUI. Administrator permissions are required in order to execute the checks and fixes.

3. CONCEPTS AND TERMINOLOGY CONVENTIONS

3.1 Centralized Authentication

The IBM MQ Appliance provides a Role Based Access Control security model that is designed to operate in concert with AD/LDAP. While it is possible to create local user accounts on the IBM MQ Appliance, the STIG requires the use of a centralized authentication and authorization solution. The sole exception for an approved local account is the emergency account that is referred to as the "fallback user". The STIG only references LDAP because that is the terminology specified in the product. The STIG does not prohibit solutions such as Active Directory even though they are not specifically called out in the document.

Figure 3-1: LDAP Authentication