

# ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 Systems and Software Assurance



Paul R. Croll  
CSC  
pcroll@csc.com

*Co-Chair, DHS Software Assurance Forum Working Group on Processes and Practices*

*Chair, IEEE Software and Systems Engineering Standards Committee*

*Chair, U.S. Technical Advisory Group for ISO/IEC JTC1/SC7*



# Topics

---

- Assurance Defined
- The Assurance Problem Space
- DoD-Related Guidance For Systems Assurance
- ISO/IEC/IEEE15026 in the System and Software Life Cycles
- ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026, System and Software Assurance
- The ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 Assurance Case
- Current Status



# Assurance Defined

---

*From ISO/IEC DTR 15026-1, Systems and software engineering  
— Systems and software assurance — Part 1: Concepts and  
vocabulary, January 2009*

- Assurance

Grounds for justified confidence that a claim has been or will be achieved

Assurance case

Representation of a claim or claims, and the support for these claim

# The Assurance Problem Space

---

- Large-scale systems and systems of systems represent a complex supply chain integrating
  - Proprietary and open-source software
  - Legacy systems
  - Hardware
  - Firmware
- These systems are sourced from multiple suppliers who employ people from around the world
- Most systems depend upon software for a good portion of their functionality
- Technologies to build reliable and secure software are inadequate
  - Our ability to develop software has not kept pace with hardware advances
  - Can't construct complex software-intensive systems for which we can anticipate performance
- **Assurance is a full life cycle problem**



# DoD-Related Guidance For Systems Assurance

---

## ■ ***National Defense Industrial Association Guidebook on Engineering for System Assurance***

- Intended to supplement the knowledge of systems (and software) engineers who have responsibility for systems for which there are assurance concerns
  - General Guidance mapped to ISO/IEC 15288, System Life Cycle Processes
  - DoD Specific Guidance
    - Anti-Tamper
    - DAG Lifecycle Framework
    - Technology Development Phase
    - System Development & Demonstration Phase
    - Production, Deployment, Operations, & Support Phases
    - Supporting Processes
    - Periodic Reports
    - Supplier Assurance
    - Mappings
  - Correspondence with Existing Documentation, Policies, and Standards
    - Executive Policy, Services Standards, NIST/NSA (NIAP) Standards, GEIA, AIA, IEEE, ISO Standards, Best Practice (e.g., DHS/DOD SwABOK)



# NDIA/DoD System Assurance Guidebook – Mapped To ISO/IEC/IEEE 15288

---

## ■ Agreement Processes

- Acquisition
- Supply

## ■ Project Processes

- Project Planning
- Project Assessment
- Project Control
- Decision-making
- Risk Management
- Configuration Management
- Information Management

## ■ Assurance Case Process

## ■ Technical Processes

- Stakeholder Requirements Definition
- Requirements Analysis
- Architectural Design
- Implementation
- Integration
- Verification
- Transition
- Validation
- Operation
- Maintenance
- Disposal

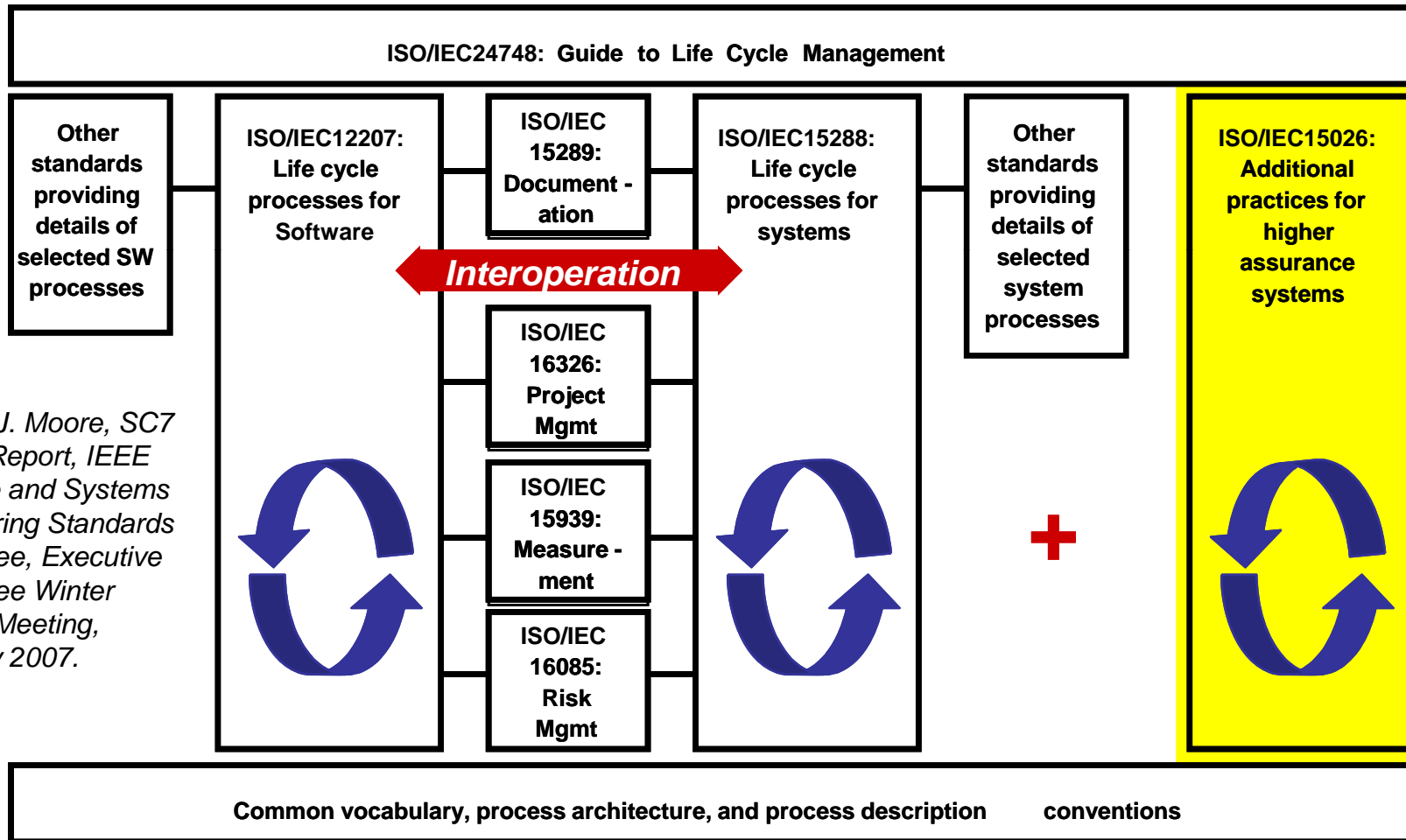
---

## ■ Enterprise Processes

- Enterprise Environment Management
- Investment Management
- System Life Cycle Process Management
- Resource Management [including human resource training]
- Quality Management



# ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 in the System and Software Life Cycles



Source: J. Moore, SC7 Liaison Report, IEEE Software and Systems Engineering Standards Committee, Executive Committee Winter Plenary Meeting, February 2007.



# ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026, System and Software Assurance

---

- A four-part standard
  - 15026-1: Concepts and vocabulary
    - Initially a Technical Report
  - 15026-2: Assurance case
    - Includes requirements on the assurance case content and the life cycle of the assurance case itself as well as an informative clause on planning for the assurance case itself
  - 15026-3: System integrity levels (a revision of the 1998 standard)
    - Relates integrity levels to the assurance case and includes related requirements for their use with and without an assurance case
  - 15026-4: Assurance in the life cycle
    - Addresses concurrent development and maintenance of the product and the assurance case including project planning for assurance considerations



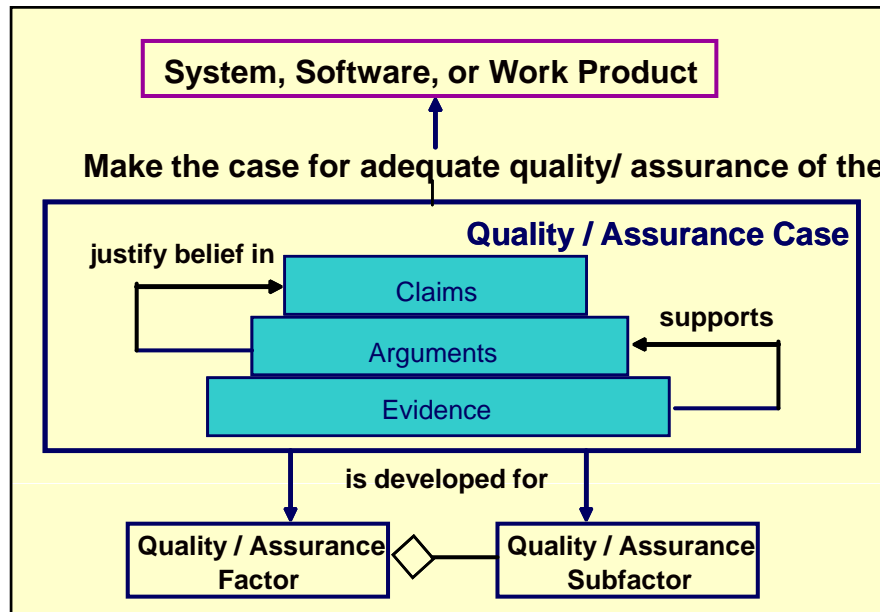
# The ISO/IEC/IEEE 15026 Assurance Case

## ■ Set of structured assurance claims, supported by evidence and reasoning, that demonstrates how assurance needs have been satisfied.

- Shows compliance with assurance objectives
- Provides an argument for the safety and security of the product or service.
- Built, collected, and maintained throughout the life cycle
- Derived from multiple sources

## ■ Sub-parts

- A high level summary
- Justification that product or service is acceptably safe, secure, or dependable
- Rationale for claiming a specified level of safety and security
- Conformance with relevant standards and regulatory requirements
- The configuration baseline
- Identified hazards and threats and residual risk of each hazard and threat
- Operational and support assumptions



## Attributes

- Clear
- Consistent
- Complete
- Comprehensible
- Defensible
- Bounded
- Addresses all life cycle stages



# Current Status

---

- 15026-1: Concepts and vocabulary
  - In DTR (Draft Technical Report) ballot
- 15026-2: Assurance case
  - CD 2 (Committee Draft) approved, but is being re-balloted
- 15026-3: System integrity levels (a revision of the 1998 standard)
  - Working Draft in progress
- 15026-4: Assurance in the life cycle
  - Working Draft in progress

# For More Information . . .

---

Paul R. Croll  
CSC  
17021 Combs Drive  
King George, VA 22485

Phone: +1 540.644.6224  
Fax: +1 540.663.0276  
e-mail: [pcroll@csc.com](mailto:pcroll@csc.com)

