

NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-53 Release 5.1.1 FAQ

What is a patch release?

In the NIST [Cybersecurity and Privacy Reference Tool](#), patch releases include minor changes that do not impact the technical content of the standard, guideline, or framework. Usually, patch releases do not include a public comment period.

Why is NIST issuing a patch release for SP 800-53?

NIST recognizes the importance of stability and agility in our guidance, including SP 800-53. Using the [Public Comments on SP 800-53 Controls](#) website and [Cybersecurity and Privacy Reference Tool](#), we can provide the user community with up-to-date cybersecurity guidance and frameworks in user-friendly and machine-readable formats.

NIST is proposing one new control and three supporting control enhancements related to identity providers, authorization servers, the protection of cryptographic keys, the verification of identity assertions and access tokens, and token management. This includes the introduction of “leading zeros” to the control identifiers (e.g., instead of AC-1, the control identifier will be updated to AC-01). Corresponding assessment procedures to address recent vulnerabilities related to identity and access management systems are included in CPRT.

NIST is also making minor grammatical edits and clarifications to SP 800-53 Release 5.1.1 based on internal review and feedback from users in order to improve the usability of the controls.

Where can I find a list of all of the changes in the SP 800-53 Release 5.1.1?

Between the completion of NIST comment adjudication and the “patch” release on November 7, 2023, a detailed list of changes can be previewed on the Public Comments on SP 800-53 Controls website, under [Proposals Awaiting Release](#). The detailed list of changes can be viewed at any time under “Supplemental Material” on the [SP 800-53 Revision 5 Publication Details](#) and the [SP 800-53A Revision 5 Publication Details](#) page.

My organization is already using SP 800-53r5. Do I need to update my security and privacy plans and current control implementation?

NIST does not mandate implementation. The proposed new control and control enhancements are not selected in any SP 800-53B control baseline, and the other changes do not impact the technical content or implementation. Organizations have the option to defer implementing the changes included in Patch Release 5.1.1 until SP 800-53 Release 6.0.0 is issued.

What data formats is SP 800-53 Release 5.1.1 available in?

In addition to the web-based format, the [Cybersecurity and Privacy Reference Tool](#) (CPRT) allows users to download the controls in JSON and spreadsheet format and access the OSCAL version of the controls, assessment procedures, and control baselines.

What is the timeline for NIST SP 800-53r6?

A timeline for NIST SP 800-53r6 (or Release 6.0.0) has not yet been determined.

How will NIST develop new controls, engage the community, and issue SP 800-53r6 or Release 6.0.0?

Moving forward, NIST will leverage the SP 800-53 public comment site to receive ongoing feedback from users on the published controls, propose new controls, and issue draft controls for comment. When finalized, updates to SP 800-53 will be issued in CPRT and other formats, including JSON, spreadsheet, and OSCAL.

Users can learn more about the [Public Comments on SP 800-53 Controls website](#), and the [Cybersecurity and Privacy Reference Tool](#).

Additional questions and comments can be directed to 800-53comments@list.nist.gov.