SmartSuite

Framework / Cybersecurity / Other

MPA Content Security Best Practices v5.1

MPA Content Security Best Practices v5.1 (February 1, 2023) is a superseded edition of the film and TV content security benchmark; the current edition is v5.3.2.



What it is

MPA Content Security Best Practices v5.1, released on February 1, 2023, is a superseded edition of the Motion Picture Association's minimum security benchmark for the film and television content supply chain; the current edition is v5.3.2, published on September 23, 2026. The Best Practices are free, are maintained by the Trusted Partner Network (TPN), which the MPA wholly owns, and are used by studios, streamers and the vendors that handle their pre-release content.

At a glance

PUBLISHER
Motion Picture Association (MPA); maintained by the Trusted Partner Network (TPN)

TYPE
Guidance

VERSION
v5.1 (superseded; current edition v5.3.2, September 23, 2026)

EFFECTIVE
February 1, 2023 (release of v5.1; voluntary)

DOMAIN
Cybersecurity

FAMILY
Other

REGION
Global (film, television and streaming content supply chain)

INDUSTRY
Media & Entertainment

ADOPTION MODEL
Industry Requirement

IMPLEMENTATION COMPLEXITY
High

Source: trustedpartnernetwork.org/links-resources/

Why it matters

- **One benchmark across studios** The Overview sheet describes a single benchmark of minimum security preparedness for all service providers, so vendors work to one set of controls.
- **Fewer redundant assessments** TPN's FAQ lists reduced duplicate assessments and greater visibility through the TPN+ registry as the benefits to service providers.
- **Requirements and recommendations kept apart** Each control states the Best Practice, where every component must be met, separately from Implementation Guidance, which the document says is not a requirement.
- **Concrete thresholds** Examples include monthly external and quarterly internal vulnerability scans, annual penetration testing and one-year log retention.

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How SmartSuite supports MPA CSP v5.1

Control Library by Domain

Load the OR, OP, PS and TS controls as requirements with owners, a Site or Cloud flag, status and linked evidence in Compliance Management.

Physical and Logistics Evidence

Record visitor log retention, camera footage retention, key custody and shipping and receiving logs against PS and OP controls, with the date each was last checked.

Vendor Assessment Tracker

Track each vendor's TPN profile, Shield tier, assessment expiration and open remediation items in Third Party Risk Management.

Technical Control Testing

Schedule the monthly external and quarterly internal vulnerability scans and annual penetration tests that TS-4.0 and TS-4.1 call for, and attach the reports.

Content Incident Management

Log content and IT incidents with detection, escalation, response, forensics, remediation and metrics, the steps OR-4.0 lists.

Edition Gap Reporting

Compare controls assessed against v5.1 with the current edition's added requirements and report open gaps by domain.

Common framework mappings

CIS Controls v8.1 | ISO 27001:2022 | ISO 27002:2022 | ISO 27017 | ISO 27018 | ISO 27701 | MITRE ATT&CK | NIST CSF 2.0

Official resources

MPA Content Security Best Practices (Trusted Partner Network)

The current Content Security Best Practices, maintained by the TPN on behalf of the MPA.

trustedpartnernetwork.org

TPN updates the MPA Content Security Best Practices (Version 5.0)

The MPA's October 25, 2022 announcement of Version 5.0, the start of the current version 5 series.

motionpictures.org/press/trusted-partner-network-updates-motion-picture-association-content-security-best-practices

Frequently asked questions

Is MPA Content Security Best Practices v5.1 still the current edition?

No. The Version History sheet lists v5.1 as released on February 1, 2023, followed by v5.2 (August 30, 2023), v5.3 (December 12, 2024), v5.3.1 (August 7, 2025) and v5.3.2 (September 23, 2026), which added an AI Supplemental. Version 5.1 itself only changed control numbers to reflect the TPN+ platform. The TPN Resources page offers v5.3.2 as the current download and keeps v5.1 under previous versions.

Is the MPA Content Security Best Practices a mandatory standard or a certification?

Neither. The MPA states that compliance is strictly voluntary and that this is not an accreditation program, and TPN's FAQ says TPN does not issue certifications. In practice, content owners use a vendor's TPN assessment and registry profile to make their own risk-based sourcing decisions, so a studio may require it in a contract.

How are the 64 Best Practices in v5.1 organized?

Into four domains with control-number prefixes: Organizational Security (OR, 10 controls), Operational Security (OP, 9), Physical Security (PS, 9) and Technical Security (TS, 36). Each control gives minimum requirements, all of which must be met, plus Implementation Guidance that is not a requirement, and shows whether it applies to a site, the cloud or both.

What specific thresholds does v5.1 set?

TS-4.0 requires vulnerability scans of external hosts at least monthly and internal hosts at least quarterly, and TS-4.1 requires penetration testing at least annually. PS-1.1 and TS-1.5 set one-year minimums for visitor logs and system logs where local law allows, PS-3.0 sets at least 90 days of camera footage, and TS-3.0 requires AES-256 encryption for content at rest and in motion. TS-1.15 also requires content on transfer systems to be deleted after 24 hours.

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How does a vendor get assessed against the Best Practices?

The service provider joins TPN, completes the questionnaire on the TPN+ platform and engages a TPN Accredited Assessor of its choosing; assessment costs are contracted separately from membership. From the v5.3.1 assessment, TPN reports a four-tier Shield (Blue, Silver, Gold, Gold Star), and an earlier Classic Gold Shield stays valid until its assessment expires.

License included / downloadable: Yes The MPA Content Security Best Practices are free to download from the Trusted Partner Network's Resources page as a spreadsheet, including v5.1, in several languages for later editions; this platform links to the official files and does not reproduce them.

Full framework page and mappings: smartsuite.com/frameworks/mpa-content-security-program-v5-1