# CWE Detail – CWE-1059

## Description

The product does not contain sufficient
 technical or engineering documentation (whether on paper or
 in electronic form) that contains descriptions of all the
 relevant software/hardware elements of the product, such as
 its usage, structure, architectural components, interfaces, design, implementation,
 configuration, operation, etc.

## Extended Description

When technical documentation is limited or lacking, products are more difficult to maintain. This indirectly affects security by making it more difficult or time-consuming to find and/or fix vulnerabilities. When using time-limited or labor-limited third-party/in-house security consulting services (such as threat modeling, vulnerability discovery, or pentesting), insufficient documentation can force those consultants to invest unnecessary time in learning how the product is organized, instead of focusing their expertise on finding the flaws or suggesting effective mitigations. With respect to hardware design, the lack of a formal, final manufacturer reference can make it difficult or impossible to evaluate the final product, including post-manufacture verification. One cannot ensure that design functionality or operation is within acceptable tolerances, conforms to specifications, and is free from unexpected behavior. Hardware-related documentation may include engineering artifacts such as hardware description language (HDLs), netlists, Gerber files, Bills of Materials, EDA (Electronic Design Automation) tool files, etc.

## Threat-Mapped Scoring

Score: 1.8

Priority: P4 - Informational (Low)

## Observed Examples (CVEs)

**•** CVE-2022-3203: A wireless access point manual specifies that the only method of configuration is via web interface (CWE-1059), but there is an undisclosed telnet server that was activated by default (CWE-912).

## Modes of Introduction

**•** Architecture and Design: N/A

**•** Documentation: N/A

## Common Consequences

**•** Impact: Varies by Context, Hide Activities, Reduce Reliability, Quality Degradation, Reduce Maintainability — Notes: Without a method of verification, one cannot be sure that everything only functions as expected.

## Potential Mitigations

**•** Documentation: Ensure that design documentation is detailed enough to allow for post-manufacturing verification. (Effectiveness: N/A)

## Applicable Platforms

**•** None (Class: Not Language-Specific, Prevalence: Undetermined)