

OVAL Board Meeting (3/9/2015)

Attendees

Blake Frantz – Center for Internet Security
Adam Montville – SACM
David Solin – jOVAL.org
Tigran Gevorgyan, Qualys, Inc.
Scott Armstrong, INADEV Corporation
Randy Taylor – ThreatGuard, Inc.
Kent Landfield – McAfee, Inc.
William Munyan – Center for Internet Security
Steven Piliero – Unified Compliance

Matt Hansbury – MITRE
Danny Haynes – MITRE

Meeting Summary

Welcome

The Board members were welcomed to this fifth follow up conversation on the topic of an OVAL transition. The purpose of this call is to follow up with the members of the Board regarding CIS's need for external funding to take on the OVAL moderator role.

Discussion

Dan began by recapping the previous week's meeting, noting that the CIS team had told the group that they may be willing to take on the OVAL moderator role, but that it would require some outside funding. The group's homework from that meeting was to discuss within one's organization whether they would be willing or not to potentially support CIS financially.

Several Board members offered that their organizations may be willing to provide some financial support, though all agreed that more details would need to be made available before any final decisions could be made. All of the tool vendors on the call showed a potential willingness to provide some amount of financial support. Blake from CIS stated that they (CIS) would begin to compose one or more proposed models for this financial support so that organizations can begin to understand the details of how this will work. Another Board member also offered to put in effort to help reduce the cost to moderate OVAL. It was also noted that it may be beneficial to reach out to OVAL Adopters and the broader OVAL Community.

One Board member suggested that NIST should be approached to determine if it would be feasible to charge a fee for the SCAP validation program in order to at least partially fund this work. The group acknowledged that this might be difficult to achieve, but would still be worth asking about.

Another point of general consensus was that the Board needs to concurrently work towards figuring out what the most minimum requirements for OVAL would be for the effort to survive. The group generally felt that the amount of funding that CIS would require is beyond that which is likely to occur. As such, the MITRE team is going to create a task list of what is understood to be the minimum amount of effort that will keep OVAL alive. CIS will then work towards estimating that cost, which can be used as the minimum amount of funding that could be applied to OVAL and allow it to continue. Blake from CIS also mentioned that CIS saw the following parts of OVAL to be lower priority than the others: tools and utilities, the OVAL Interpreter, the adoption efforts, and hosting events like Developer Days. He noted that in the case of the OVAL Interpreter, CIS has already decided against supporting it.

Finally, the group discussed the fact that a more cost effective solution might be required here. One idea suggested was “crowdsourcing” the ongoing OVAL Language moderation, allowing each member to take on a bit of effort to push things forward. The group generally agreed that this should be discussed as well, in the case that the CIS-funded effort is not achieved.

Actions

1. MITRE to document and send to the Board a task breakdown of the minimum tasks that must be completed in order for OVAL to continue successfully. (CIS will then work towards coming up with a minimum funding figure to understand the bare minimum cost.). Additionally, the tasks should be categorized into what tasks could effectively run by the community versus what tasks would require a dedicated moderator.
2. CIS will propose one or more potential models for executing their vision of an externally funded OVAL moderator effort.
3. MITRE to schedule follow up meeting for 3 weeks from the call. (March 30) (Note: The original target date was 2 weeks from the call, but that is the week of the IETF meeting)