

OVAL Board Meeting (6/1/2015)

Attendees

Blake Frantz – Center for Internet Security
Adam Montville – SACM
Kent Landfield – Intel Corporation
Steven Piliero – Unified Compliance
Tigran Gevorgyan, Qualys, Inc.
David Solin – Joval Continuous Monitoring
Chris Wood – Assuria Limited

Matt Hansbury – MITRE
Danny Haynes – MITRE

Guest Attendee

David Ries – Joval Continuous Monitoring

Meeting Summary

Welcome

The Board members were welcomed to this follow up conversation on the topic of an OVAL transition. The purpose of this call was to discuss the status of a community-oriented model for moderation of the OVAL Language.

Discussion

Dan Haynes gave a quick recap to the audience, mentioning that David Ries has continued to socialize and modify a community-driven model for moderating the OVAL Language. This plan would result in CIS taking over as the primary moderator for the Language, but with a large community participation component.

Adam Montville noted that a small group of interested parties had a brief, informal conference call on Friday of last week to further discuss David Ries' proposal and how best to move forward. The attendees for this call were Dan Haynes and Matt Hansbury from MITRE, Adam Montville and Blake Frantz from CIS, David Ries and David Solin from Joval Continuous Monitoring, and Kent Landfield of Intel. The group acknowledged that despite the ongoing IPR question, many activities could be taken on now. Specifically, new mail lists can be created, the Language itself can continue to be modified and revised as needed, and even the Repository can be migrated to a new host (by standing up a new, simpler infrastructure that does not require any MITRE-copyrighted code).

Adam continued by noting that David Ries has been socializing some additional process changes that will more easily allow this type of model to work. He also mentioned that work on setting up a version of the OVAL Repository using GitHub was underway, including scripts that would replicate the type of functionality in place on the current MITRE-hosted OVAL Repository site. Finally, mailing lists should be set up soon, either migrating the existing users over to the new lists or simply starting from scratch and asking users to register with the new lists.

It was asked of CIS if the funding requirement was no longer valid, given the current approach being discussed. Adam mentioned that while funding would allow CIS to move actively moderate OVAL, the approach being discussed now would allow CIS to take on a smaller role, with more emphasis put on the community as a whole to participate. It was further highlighted that while the current model should allow OVAL to continue on, it has more risk than a funded approach.

Several members emphasized that we need to begin preparing messaging to the wider community about this transition. Some Board members believed that it was also quite important to reach out to the top contributors to the OVAL Repository to inform them of the impending transition. MITRE agreed to confirm with their DHS sponsor that this was acceptable and begin reaching out to those organizations.

Finally, the group agreed that a small group of volunteers would be able to better work towards a finalized model for community-driven moderation of OVAL. A number of folks volunteered on the call to be part of this group. Any others that would like to join are also welcome and should let Adam know. Adam agreed to setup the meeting, likely to be held on late mornings on Wednesdays.

Actions

1. MITRE to schedule a follow up Board call for the week of 6/15.
2. MITRE to discuss reaching out to OVAL Repository contributors to inform them about the impending transition to CIS with their sponsor.
3. MITRE to prepare a list of possible candidates to lead the different schemas.
4. Adam Montville to create a new weekly meeting for a small group of OVAL Board members to facilitate finalizing a transition plan.