# OVAL Board Meeting (1/26/2015)

## Attendees

Morey Haber – BeyondTrust Inc.
Jamie Cromer – Symantec Corporation
Blake Frantz – Center for Internet Security
Kent Landfield – McAfee, Inc.
Adam Montville – IETF SACM Working Group Liaison
William Munyan – Center for Internet Security
David Solin – jOVAL.org
Jack Vander Pol – SPAWAR, U.S. Navy
Melanie Cook – NIST
Kim Watson – DHS

Matt Hansbury – MITRE
Danny Haynes – MITRE
David Rothenberg – MITRE

## Meeting Summary

### Welcome

The Board members were welcomed to the follow up Board call to discuss in more detail the transition task list and governance issues surrounding the upcoming transition of OVAL.

### Discussion

Dan Haynes began by stating the rough agenda for the call as discussing both the list of tasks that need to be completed for a successful transition as well as the document comparing different governance models used by comparable efforts.  MITRE had sent out these documents to the Board mailing list prior to the call, giving some members of the group an opportunity to review them ahead of time.

### Transition Tasks Discussion

The list of transition tasks is a set of tasks that MITRE has identified as the critical steps that must be undertaken in order to effectively transition the overall OVAL Project away from a MITRE moderated effort.  Dan started by giving a quick introduction to the tasks document and asking the group if there were any initial questions or concerns about document.

A couple questions were asked by the Board.  On the topic of the OVAL web site, it was asked if the web site would be totally removed, or if some material would remain.  Matt Hansbury stated that it is expected that the site would remain in place, but that it would only be static in nature.  Kim Watson of DHS echoed this statement, noting that the US Government is not supportive of further funding MITRE

in an operational task like updating a web site, and therefore while the web site will not disappear entirely, it must be made to consist of simple static pages that have no operational component to them.

Another question from the Board was if the transition task list was meant to be a set of point in time tasks, or ongoing maintenance tasks.   Kim stated that the tasks were point in time tasks to enable transition, and not ongoing maintenance tasks, directly aligning with her previous statement about the type of work for which MITRE will be funded.

## Governance Comparison Discussion

With no other conversation about the transition tasks, Dan moved on to discuss the document comparing the different governance models used by other similar efforts.  The document compared IETF, IEEE, and TCG with respect to how they operated.  Instead of discussing the specifics of the document, the floor was opened up to the group for any questions or comments about governance in general.

A Board member opened the discussion by suggesting a review of the XMPP governance model (http://xmpp.org/about-xmpp/xsf/) could provide additional benefits and should be added to the comparison of different groups.  MITRE agreed to provide this additional research.

Another Board member continued the discussion by stating that the governance specifics could be worked out later, but that the first step must be to stand up a non-profit or similar organization to encompass OVAL and other security automation efforts.  Matt asked the group if they agreed that a formal organization was required to move forward with transition.  The clear response was that such an organization is likely required.  MITRE will research what it will take to accomplish this and deliver their findings to the Board.

During this conversation, the question of the longevity of such an organization was brought up.  In general, the group felt that while it could be temporary, there was also a distinct possibility that such an organization could operate indefinitely as a security automation working group, focused on operational needs of vendors and other stakeholders.   Some believed that while SACM may be able to create some specifications and related documentation to begin to solve some of the security automation problems, a more operational group will be required to help guide vendors and supporting tools from the current OVAL/SCAP based model into a SACM based model of operation.  Further, it was pointed out that IETF working groups like SACM are not permanent and typically close down at some point (although they can be re-chartered in the future), making an organization to continue to drive security automation more relevant.   Lastly, the group generally acknowledged that even if an organization is formally stood up to take this on, a temporary governance model might still be necessary, since by the end of July, MITRE will no longer be able to perform this moderation.

Finally, it was agreed that standing up such an organization should not be undertaken by MITRE, but rather a group of interested individuals within the OVAL community.  Several of the members on the call volunteered to help with this effort (as individuals).  MITRE will send out an email to both confirm that interest from those volunteers and also make a general call for participation across the Board.   One

member emphasized that this type of organization would require a serious commitment to include things like creating a website, filing official documents, and filing taxes.

It was further agreed that another follow up call was needed in short order and that MITRE would hold this call next Monday (2/2/2015).

## Actions

1. MITRE to research the XMPP governance model.
2. MITRE to research what effort is required to stand up a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for the purposes of taking on the OVAL Language and potentially other project components.
3. MITRE to email the Board list to call for participation in working group for further transition efforts.
4. MITRE to hold another follow up Board call on 2/2/2015.