OVAL Board Meeting (2/16/2015)

Attendees

Blake Frantz – Center for Internet Security
Adam Montville – SACM
David Solin – jOVAL.org
Rosario Gangemi, IBM Corporation
Tigran Gevorgyan, Qualys, Inc.
Scott Armstrong, INADEV Corporation

Matt Hansbury – MITRE
Danny Haynes – MITRE

Meeting Summary

Welcome

The Board members were welcomed to this third follow up conversation on the topic of an OVAL transition. The purpose of this call is to discuss the status of the newly created working group, to talk about the moderator task list and level of effort estimates document composed by MITRE, and to discuss a small update to the separate version policy.

Discussion

Transition

Dan Haynes started the conversation by noting that MITRE sent out the document that provided a list of moderator tasks along with some rough level of effort estimates on the previous Friday. Blake Frantz of CIS confirmed that he had seen the document and that he would review it internally within CIS to discuss the feasibility of taking on the moderator role in place of MITRE.

Next, the status of the newly formed working group was discussed. As a reminder, this working group is charged with discussing the best way forward with respect to transitioning the OVAL Language to a new organization. As of this meeting, the working group had not met. It was noted that the working group will stand by for the moment, pending the outcome of CIS's review of the required task list, as further progress will be unlikely until such a decision is reached. It was generally agreed that this is a reasonable approach. During this conversation, MITRE reminded the participants that it was important for the Board to take increase ownership of OVAL-related activities as MITRE prepares to cease operating as moderator at the end of July 2015.

Blake talked a bit about the activities he believes that CIS would be willing to take on. While he believes that CIS could effectively operate OVAL as moderator, he felt that maintaining the OVAL Interpreter was likely out of scope. The other activities that MITRE currently executes, however, seem reasonable to him.

There was additional conversation about the level of effort estimates document. It was generally agreed that as OVAL transitions to a more volunteer-based effort, the amount of time expended for moderation would necessarily decrease. It was also generally agreed that some things, the OVAL Interpreter in particular, are no longer as highly valued as when the effort first began.

Finally, it was agreed that another follow up meeting was appropriate the week of 3/2. MITRE will schedule this meeting.

Separate Versioning Policy

MITRE then followed up on some email traffic on the Board list about the way the versioning of Platform Extensions is to be executed in the new separate versioning policy[1]. The current scheme includes versioning Platform Extensions like:

> 5.11.0:**5.11.1**

where the number to the left of the colon are the version of the Core that is used as the foundation for the Extension and the number to the right of the colon is the version of the individual Platform Extension. The Platform Extension part of the version number would start with the version number of the Core on which it is based and then from there would version according to the major.minor.update policy.

Some folks felt like this approach was confusing and that simply staring with '1.0' for the Platform Extension part would be simpler and easier to work with (Note that this would still use the major.minor.update notation, but simply start at '1.0').   This change would be a policy only change (no schema change required), and the versions for the Platform Extensions would then look like:

> 5.11.0:**1.0**

Upon each Core revision, the Platform Extension part would restart at '1.0'. It was generally agreed that this would be a better approach. MITRE is going to follow up with an email to the Board list to get wider acceptance of this small change.

Actions

1. The Transition Working Group will meet after CIS decides whether they can take on the moderator role or not.
2. MITRE to compose an email for the Board to propose a small separate version policy change.
3. MITRE to hold another follow on Board call on 3/2/2015.

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[1] http://ovalproject.github.io/documentation/policy/versioning/