

User Experience Working Group

July 30, 2025

Participants

- Steve Christey
- Chris Coffin
- John Keane
- Kathryn Stout

Agenda

- CWE Survey Ideas
- Open Discussion

Meeting Summary

- **CWE Survey Discussion**
The working group discussed approaches to developing and gathering feedback from the draft CWE survey. The survey aims to collect feedback from across the broader CWE community. The survey requests feedback on the CWE website, documentation, data accessibility and quality, and engagement with the CWE program. Members discussed the

Action Items

1. **Consider How Survey Language Can Be Accessible to Broad Range of Stakeholders:**
Consult with stakeholders to determine the usefulness of terms such as SQL injection, which will help the group gauge how simplified terminology in the survey should be so non-technical users can participate, making the information more accessible. (John)
2. **Contact West Point for Potential Collaboration:** Share the contact information for the West Point Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, which conducts programs that teach non-technical students about AI and secure coding. (John)

Meeting Notes

CWE Survey (Chris Coffin)

- **Background:** Chris Coffin led a discussion on ideas to form the CWE survey, which aims to get feedback from the broader community on the website, documentation, terminology issues, tools and automation, and involving new members in the CWE User Experience Working Group.
- **Process:** Steve emphasized the need to use correct terminology in the survey, such as referring to CWE entries instead of weaknesses, to avoid confusion and ensure clarity.
- **Process:** Chris and Steve discussed the importance of including various roles in the survey, such as developers and researchers, to ensure that the survey addresses the needs and perspectives of all relevant users.

- **Process:** The group also considered how to design the survey to capture accurate and useful feedback, including the need to align the survey questions with the defined use cases and roles within the CWE User Experience Working Group. Steve recommended refining the survey questions to home in on details such as the various roles respondents may fulfill and need to reflect in their responses. Steve also suggested connecting with the hardware team to identify use cases for the most important hardware weaknesses.
- **Challenge:** John raised the point that certain terminology may be alienating for some respondents who would be unfamiliar with the terms. As a counterpoint, Steve advised against oversimplifying the language to the point that terms become unrecognizable.
- **Challenge:** Steve acknowledged the challenge of communicating CWE concepts to non-technical users and emphasized the importance of including various user roles in the survey to address their pain points.
- **Recommendation:** John also recommended that the group connect with the West Point Cybersecurity Center of Excellence, which conducts programs that teach non-technical students about AI and secure coding. He suggested contacting them for potential collaboration and feedback on the survey.
- **Recommendation:** John also suggested that the group connect with Alexander Houle, who is also on the CWE Board, about Fortify Aviator.
- **Benefits:** The group also discussed the importance of asking survey respondents about how they use and obtain CWE data, including the website, API, and preferred formats, to understand their needs better.
- **Recommendation:** John also raised the point that the survey may need to specify how frequently users interact with copies of the CWE List, citing an example of a user who trains LLMs on a closed network but relies on CWE data.
- **Recommendation:** Chris proposed including questions in the survey about the importance of various CWE data types and documentation. Steve suggested adding questions about the diagrams and views used by respondents.
- **Process:** Chris and Steve discussed the structure of the survey, including using yes/no questions followed by freeform text for additional feedback. They also considered asking about missing documentation, tooling, and automation.
- **Recommendation:** John also offered to provide links to additional resources that support the discussion.
- **Follow-up:** Chris mentioned that the chairs would discuss the survey with Alec Summers and determine the next steps, including potential trial runs and refining the survey questions. John suggested testing the survey with selected individuals before a wider release.

NEXT MEETING August 27, 2025