Technical Oversight Committee Charter

Purpose

The Forward CloudSec Association, Inc. (FCA) is a 501c3 organization chartered to further cloud security education and research. It hosts an annual conference (the fwd:cloudsec conference) and maintains a licensed slack workspace (Cloud Security Forum).

As a function of their mission to further cloud security research and education, the FCA's Board of Directors (the Board) establishes this Technical Oversight Committee (the Committee) to oversee projects under the umbrella of the FCA and the fwd:cloudsec community. The Committee will manage the adoption, maintenance, and sunsetting of software, knowledge repository, and other technical projects (a Project).

Why is it needed?

There are four meaningful peer organizations to fwd:cloudsec. However, they do not fill the role of community stewards for cloud security projects.
1. OWASP: The Open Web Application Security Project is a historic home to open-source web application security projects, but OWASP currently only houses a few specific to cloud security. This shows it is not a strong center of the cloud security community. There is also currently substantial upheaval around OWASP Projects.
2. CNCF: The Cloud Native Computing Foundation is the most significant alternative to fwd:cloudsec as a home for cloud security projects. However, the bar for CNCF adoption favors software projects designed for large-scale production adoption.
3. SANS: While there is a lot of cloud security content from SANS, they are a private entity and do not do project stewardship.
4. CSA: While technically a not-for-profit, the Cloud Security Alliance does not do project stewardship of open-source work. They present a higher bar for contribution and engagement than an organization like fwd:cloudsec seeks to offer.

The Forward Cloudsec Association Board of Directors believes the association is well situated to provide agile stewardship and expert practitioner support for community projects.

Governance

The Committee will be composed of up to seven individuals acting in their personal capacity, serving alternating two-year terms. The Committee will nominate members to serve on itself,

with the Board approving all nominations. No more than two members of the Committee may be employed by the same company.

At its discretion, the Committee may create sub-committees of volunteers and maintainers to manage specific projects or initiatives.

All members of the Committee must adhere to the [FCA's Conflict of Interest policy](). In addition, all members of the Committee and any subcommittee established by the Committee must adhere to the [fwd:cloudsec Standards of Conduct]().

Project adoption guidelines

Projects for adoption by the Committee must meet the following guidelines:
- Open Source Licensing
- Non-commercial, not designed for large-scale production adoption
  - The FCA and the Committee are not in a position to responsibly sponsor projects fundamental to the daily operations of critical infrastructure or enterprises.
- Community Driven
  - No single point of failure or benevolent dictator for life (BDFL).
  - Projects should not be the sole effort of a single vendor.
  - There should be community support for the maintenance of the Project. The Committee cannot be personally or collectively responsible for fixing bugs or approving pull requests.
- The project must adopt the fwd:cloudsec [Standards of Conduct]().

Should the maintainer of a project critical to the community retire, pass away, or otherwise be unable to continue to maintain a project, the Committee will consult with the maintainer and the community about formally adopting an abandoned project.

Licensing requirements

All Projects will use an open source or creative commons license. The Apache v2 license should be the default for technical projects. Any other license will be voted on a case by case by the Committee.

Project support

As a fwd:cloudsec sponsored Project, the Committee and FCA will offer the following:
1. Access to a vendor-neutral advisory group (the Committee);
2. Sponsorship neutrality - No single vendor would have editorial control over a project.
3. Project Health measurement;

4. Access to a licensed Slack Workspace (Cloud Security Forum) as a vehicle for support and communications;
5. Bringing the independent cloud security practitioner community together around a single solution or knowledge hub;
6. Support in connection to and facilitation of minor funding (in the order of hundreds of dollars)
7. The credibility of the fwd:cloudsec community, the FCA Board, and the Technical Project Committee.

Project & Initiative Lifecycle

Projects adopted or created by the Committee may be archived or terminated at the discretion of the Committee. In addition, within six months of adoption, project maintainers may request their project be returned to them.

If a Project becomes production critical, gains large-scale commercial adoption, or otherwise larger than our community can responsibly support, the Committee is authorized to seek sponsorship or ownership from a larger organization like CNCF.

Funding

The Committee is authorized to solicit financial sponsorship to help support and promote Projects under the fwd:cloudsec community umbrella. Funding should offset direct costs (hosting, cloud charges related to build/test/release, or research expenses). Direct remuneration to an individual or company for the support and maintenance of a Project must be approved by the FCA Board.

Financial sponsorship arrangements for Projects may not include editorial control of fwd:cloudsec sponsored Projects.

As a 501c3 organization, the Internal Revenue Service limits how much money the FCA may roll over each year. Therefore, the Committee must work with the FCA Treasurer to ensure that any financial sponsorship money is allocated and spent.