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Best Practice Challenge 2008 entry form

Title **Mr** Forename **Ivan** Surname **Ristic**

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Closing date for entries: 25 April 2008

Categories
I wish to enter the following category:

☐ Best development project award **award**   ☐ **Best security initiative**

☐ Best Industry standards award   ☐ Personal safety online award

☐ Internet for all award   ☐ Open Internet award

Declaration

I confirm that I am the person submitting this entry on behalf of

OWASP (name of organisation/person)

To the best of my knowledge all of the information supplied is correct. I understand that no material will be returned to me. I accept that the judges' decision is final and binding. Information from my entry form may be used for press and publicity purposes unless clearly marked otherwise by myself. I have read and I agree to the Terms and Conditions.

Signature **Ivan Ristic**
(if sending electronically typing your name is sufficient)

Print name **Ivan Ristic**

Date **25 April 2008**

Please send your entry to: bestpractice@nominet.org.uk

Or post to:
Nominet Best Practice Challenge
Nominet
Minerva House

Edmund Halley Road
Oxford Science Park
Oxford OX4 4DQ

Please do not send original documents. ☐ **I have read the terms and conditions**

The submission text is on the next page.

Best Practice Challenge 2008 Submission

Executive Summary

The Internet is fast becoming the one thing we cannot live without. People are relying on Internet access for fun and education; organisations are relying on Internet access to do business. But it's not a secret that the Internet suffers from one terrible flaw: it's insecure. It's insecure because we've rushed into creating a global network of computers without making sure we knew what we were doing.

The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) is a global open community dedicated to enabling organizations to develop, purchase, and maintain applications that can be trusted. All of the OWASP tools, documents, forums, and chapters are free and open to anyone interested in improving application security. We advocate approaching application security as a people, process, and technology problem, because the most effective approaches to application security include improvements in all of these areas. We can be found at http://www.owasp.org.

Operating since 2001, OWASP is a network of more than 100 local chapters worldwide. More than 4000 people participate in the many projects active at any given time.

Description

OWASP was formed back in 2001, in an entirely organic fashion, when a group of security professionals came to realise how terribly insecure the way we develop our web applications was. The initial goal was deemed to be modest: write a guide for developers, which would document secure software development practices. While the initial effort was meant to last a few weeks, it came out to several hundred pages. When released, the OWASP Guide to Building Secure Web Applications was an instant success, instantly saturating the download servers. It has been downloaded in excess of 100,000 times since the first release (we've lost count).

OWASP is a place where good people gather to help increase the awareness of the web application security problems in applications. It's a grass-roots effort, with the driving force being the people who are dealing with these problems every day, and wanting to lend a hand to change the situation for the better.

OWASP has the following main areas of activity:

- *OWASP Wiki* - this is where all OWASP members collaborate.
- *Projects*, some of which are:
    - Guide
    - Top 10
    - WebScarab
    - WebGoat
    - Testing
    - Code Review Guide
- *Summer of Code activities* - each year OWASP sponsors groups and individuals to work on projects that are related to security of web applications. The budget for the 2008 Summer of Code is US$ 100,000, and so far 31 projects have been accepted to the programme.
- *Books* - project that produce documentation now make it possible to purchase paper versions of the books at cost.

- *Local chapters* - there are more than 100 chapters worldwide. Local chapters will organise a meeting every few months, where around 20 people will attend (for smaller chapters) and over 100 people.
- *Conferences* - OWASP organises at least two conferences every year, one in the US and the other in Europe, although most years see conferences in other parts of the World, such as Asia and Australia.

The importance of OWASP is being recognised by its growing corporate membership base. OWASP has nearly 50 corporate members who are helping finance its activities.

The activities of OWASP are of special importance to the development countries, who don't necessarily have the resources to finance own security research.

Conclusion

OWASP is a new kind of organization. Our freedom from commercial pressures allows us to provide unbiased, practical, cost-effective information about application security. OWASP is not affiliated with any technology company, although we support the informed use of commercial security technology. Similar to many open-source software projects, OWASP produces many types of materials in a collaborative, open way. The OWASP Foundation is a not-for-profit entity that ensures the project's long-term success.