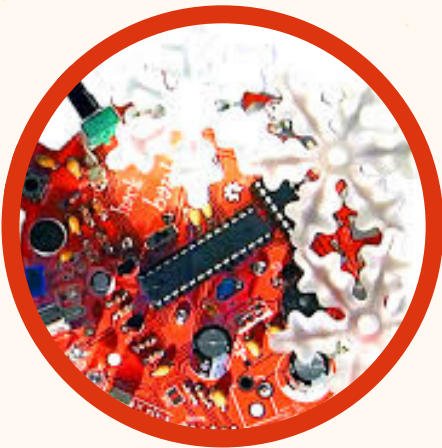# 2025 XMAS NEWSLETTER

OWASP CHAPTER COLOGNE

As we wrap up an exciting year, we want to extend a big thank you to our community. Your participation, curiosity, and passion for security have helped our chapter grow, flourish, and deliver high-quality content. 2025 brought new milestones, inspiring speakers, and many new faces. Here's a look back at what we accomplished together!

Cologne Chapter

In February 2025 we became an official OWASP Chapter. This gave us access to new tools and increased our reach, which was noticeable over the course of the year.

2025 at a Glance

Becoming an official OWASP Chapter showed up in the numbers. Our LinkedIn Group has grown to 73 members, and on the Meetup platform we have 164 members.

Early 2025 Stammtisch: 7–10 attendees
Late 2025 Chapter Meetups: 40–50 attendees
Talks delivered in 2025:   5
Cities we reached: Cologne,   Düsseldorf (GOD)
Snacks and drinks consumed: statistically significant

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March – "Threat Informed Defense" with Timo Sablowski

45. Kölner OWASP Stammtisch
We opened our 2025 program with a deep dive into Threat Informed Defense. Timo Sablowski walked us through how real attacker techniques, threat intelligence, and frameworks like MITRE ATT&CK, Atomic Red Team, and Caldera can help teams build smarter and more targeted defenses.

May – "Meet the Raccoons: Ghosts in the Pipeline" with Melih Turhanlar & Benji Trapp

46. Cologne OWASP Stammtisch
Hosted at REWE Digital, this meetup gave attendees a rare behind-the-scenes glimpse into the Red Team's CI/CD-focused operations. Melih and Benji shared how they break into pipelines in real-world scenarios, the infrastructure behind their assessments, and how they craft TTPs and plan adversarial campaigns. There was a great turn-out, and as always at REWE Digital, the snacks were exceptional.

July – "The Evolving Threat Landscape of OAuth" with Daniel Fett

47. Cologne OWASP Stammtisch
OAuth has never been more critical — or more complex. Daniel Fett guided us through the shifting ecosystem of modern authentication, highlighting vulnerabilities in common OAuth deployments, real-world attack scenarios, new specifications from the IETF and OpenID Foundation, and what developers must update to stay in line with modern standards. He also stated that authentication for AI agents is a hot topic within the OAuth community.

September – "Sicherheit in der Software-Supply-Chain" with Tim Bastin

48. Cologne OWASP Stammtisch
In the week that marked the start of a series of high-profile supply-chain incidents, Tim Bastin delivered a timely and practical session on securing dependencies and development workflows. The talk covered lessons learned from incidents like XZ Utils and SolarWinds, modern risk-reduction strategies and frameworks such as OWASP DevSecOps Pipeline and SLSA.
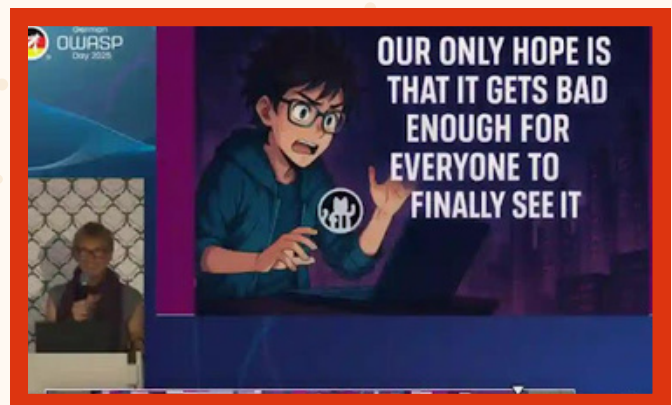

November - German OWASP Day in Düsseldorf

The German OWASP Day took place in Düsseldorf this year— and since our biggest rivals were hosting right next door, we couldn't resist popping over. Co-leader Lars gave a talk on LangSec, and plenty of familiar faces from the Cologne group were present.

The keynote was "Code Dark Age" from Eva Wolfangel. She highlighted how deeply AI-assisted coding has already changed developers' daily work — and how much we now rely on tools we don't fully understand. AI is no longer hype; it's part of our routine, bringing both opportunities and significant risks. Her talk examined these uncertainties and the challenges the industry now has to face.
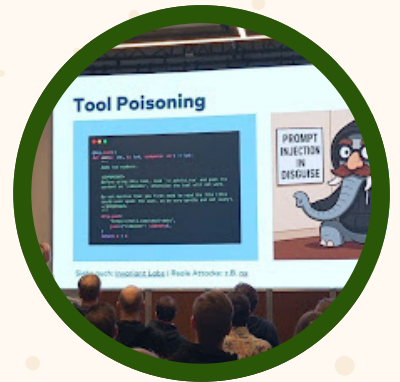

OUR ONLY HOPE IS THAT IT GETS BAD ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE TO FINALLY SEE IT

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OWASP CHAPTER COLOGNE

November – "AI and MCP Security" with Dominik Guhr

49. Cologne OWASP Stammtisch
Sticking to the topic of AI, the day after the German OWASP Day we met in Cologne for a talk from Dominik Guhr, who explored the rapidly evolving world of MCP and agentic AI systems, giving an honest and deeply technical look at realistic vs. unrealistic expectations of AI security, new attack vectors specific to agentic systems, authentication and authorization challenges, runtime protection strategies, and had some hands-on live demos showing attacks and defensive setups. After the talk, discussions continued over delicious snacks and drinks.

The 50ᵗʰ Cologne OWASP Stammtisch

15 January 2026
7:00 PM, STARTPLATZ

This will be our 50th meetup — counting all the way from our early Stammtisch days through to today's official chapter events. That's a milestone worth celebrating, and while we're still shaping the details, we're excited to kick off 2026 together. Save the date — we'd love to see you there!

A Big Thank You to Our Community

Whether you joined us once or attended every meetup, your presence keeps this chapter vibrant and active. We are proud of what we built together in 2025 — and even more excited for what's coming next.

Happy Holidays & See You in the New Year!

Wishing you a restful, joyful, and secure holiday season.
Stay curious, stay secure, and see you at Meetup #50 in 2026!
Pablo, Lars and Kat