

## **Root Cause Mapping Working Group (RCM WG)**

**Co-Chair: Alec Summers (MITRE)**

**Co-Chair: Erin Alexander (CISA)**

**Root cause mapping is the identification of the underlying cause of a vulnerability. This is best done by correlating CVE Records with CWE entries. This correlation is not done accurately at scale currently by the vulnerability management ecosystem.**

**Accurate root cause mapping is an essential part of vulnerability management because it:**

- **Enables trend analysis (e.g., how big of a problem is memory safety compared to other problems like injection)**
- **Illuminates where investments, policy, and practices can address the weaknesses responsible for product vulnerabilities so that they can be eliminated**
- **Provides a valuable feedback loop into SDLC or architecture design planning**

**Providing accurate root cause mapping(s) as part of the vendor vulnerability disclosure process is valuable because it demonstrates transparency and directly contributes to a better, safer industry.**

**The Root Cause Mapping Working Group (RCM WG) was established by CVE® and CWE™ community stakeholders with the purpose of determining the feasibility of effective, decentralized vulnerability root cause mapping (i.e., no central entity is responsible for accurately mapping CVEs to CWEs across the ecosystem). This includes identifying the capabilities, processes, and information needed to make root cause mapping easier.**

**CVE Numbering Authority (CNA) representatives are invited to join this effort and become a member of the Working Group performing a variety of activities including:**

- 1. Identifying and describing the current challenges in performing and reporting effective root cause mapping**
- 2. Defining how the CWE hierarchy and content must improve to facilitate better root cause mapping**
- 3. Develop new capabilities, processes, and information necessary to simplify root cause mapping process**

**The group meets on a bi-weekly basis on Wednesdays for one hour. Please contact [asummers@mitre.org](mailto:asummers@mitre.org) if you are interested in joining.**

**Cheers,**

**Alec Summers, RCM WG Chair**