SECURE DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

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Secure development programs take many shapes and sizes today. As cyber security and software protection has grown and developed over the past 30 years, the need for in-depth secure structures has become more needed than it ever has. There are many ways to achieve this secure development, so it is critical you choose the practice that works best for your company and system. Today there are three organizations we will focus on. BSA, The Software Alliance, is an organization based in Washington DC and spans its operations across 30 countries. OWASP is one the larger organizations and has been around for a while opening its doors back in 2001. SAFEcode is an organization based around leaders from major companies gathering to discuss and share ideologies on how to best create and implement safe software development.

SAFEcode, formerly known as Software Assurance Forum for Excellence in Code was first founded in 2007. The idea behind the organization was to bring together industry leaders to discuss the current state of software and how to best implement practices that are safe and secure for other companies to implement into their own systems. This knowledge is shared through a handful of mediums including web-based training, publication releases accessible globally, and resource centers to help guide users to topics that best fit their needs. SAFEcode does have community resources that you can sign up for and convserse with other members and sit in on meetings. There is not a defined target audience that the organization aims to appeal to. Rather its goal is to take industry standards that major corporations have found success with and share that knowledge with others. This intent is to help anyone and everyone who wants to learn industry standards grasp the concept on how to safely approach software development.

OWASP is the second and oldest organization of the three we are discussed. The goal of OWASP is different from SAFEcode in that it aims to specifically teach communities in a more hands on fashion. Rather than being a meeting forum for organizations, it is more of an educational platform to provide education and training on safe and proper software development. Currently the foundation operates globally and has approximately 250 chapters worldwide to provide training and education. OWASP is a non-profit organization and boasts both online training and in-person training. They aim to be more engaged within their communities by providing project training on creatin software within classroom type settings. One benefit of the foundation that sticks out is the accessibility of tools and resources. All OWASP’s provided tools are free and accessible by anyone. Finally, the foundation holds monthly global events that anyone across the world can tune into.

The BSA is our final organization hosting a different viewpoint from both OWASP and SAFEcode. Whereas the two organizations aim to be a community-based foundation with tools and training provided for anyone looking to learn, BSA aims to assist on a large scale. Specifically, they create their standards to best assist governments and major companies with safe and secure software development. The resources accessible on BSA’s website are similar in format. They offer publications for review and public events and news for corporations to follow on latest trends. The training programs and solutions provided by the BSA are more geared towards company structures. They have solutions to assist end user support, compliance training, and education to better support employees within a company still learning standards. One of the big missions for the BSA is their primary focus on compliance. Being that they aim to assist government with support on software development they try to provide companies and government alike with the best compliance standards to ensure globally, everyone is maintaining the standards presented by any individual country.

The three foundations don’t necessarily have a hierarchy on which is best to refer to. They all serve the same mission in different ways, which helps to ensure all individuals have access to quality training for secure software development.