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Leveraging OWASP Projects and Tools in Your AppSec Program

John DiLeo



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About Me

- Past lives
 - Simulation developer and system analyst
 - University lecturer - Math, Comp Sci, IT, *et al.*
 - J2EE developer and architect
- Full-time in AppSec since 2014
- Moved from US to New Zealand late 2017



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About My Day Job

Gallagher Security – Application Security Lead

- Oversee Cybersecurity Services Team
- Manage Threat Modelling Program
- AppSec Maturity Uplift
- Feature Security Reviews
- In-House AppSec Training





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About My *Other* 'Job'

Chapter Leader, OWASP New Zealand

- Hamilton Meetup
- Regional Training Days

Chair, OWASP New Zealand Day Conferences, 2019-2024

Chair, OWASP Global AppSec-Auckland, 1-5 Sept 2025

OWASP SAMM Project – Core Team

Launched SAMMwise and State of AppSec Survey Projects



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What You Can Expect to Hear

- My thoughts about Software Assurance
- Some information about the OWASP Software Assurance Maturity Model (SAMM)
- The names of *dozens* of OWASP Projects
- A few thoughts on leveraging OWASP Projects



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What You Shouldn't Expect to Hear

- An in-depth treatment of SAMM
- Information about *every* OWASP project
 - There are 225 “active” OWASP projects*
 - I’ll mention only 30 or so by name
 - I’ll provide *brief overviews* of fewer than 20

* 15 Flagship, 8 Production, 34 Lab, 126 Incubator, and 42 “need website update” (new or dormant)
[As listed on owasp.org, 5 September 2024]



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Reasons to Love OWASP Projects

- Developed and maintained by passionate volunteers...who happen to be experts
- Supportive community of users and contributors
 - OWASP Slack (<https://owasp.org/slack/invite>)
 - Project channels (e.g., #project-samm)
 - Topical channels (e.g., #threat-modeling)
- Open-source – Public repos on GitHub
- Project deliverables are FREE
(as in ‘freedom’ *and* as in ‘free beer’)



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Software Assurance

“Level of confidence that software is free from vulnerabilities, either intentionally designed into the software or accidentally inserted at anytime during its lifecycle and that the software functions in the intended manner.”

- [US] National Information Assurance (IA) Glossary, April 2010



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And, by that you mean...?

- Attain and maintain high **stakeholder confidence** in successful delivery of the features you **intended** to deliver
- Prevent, detect, and remove **vulnerabilities**
- Improve **reliability** and **resilience** of the production system

*SO MUCH MORE than code reviews
or 11th-hour penetration tests*

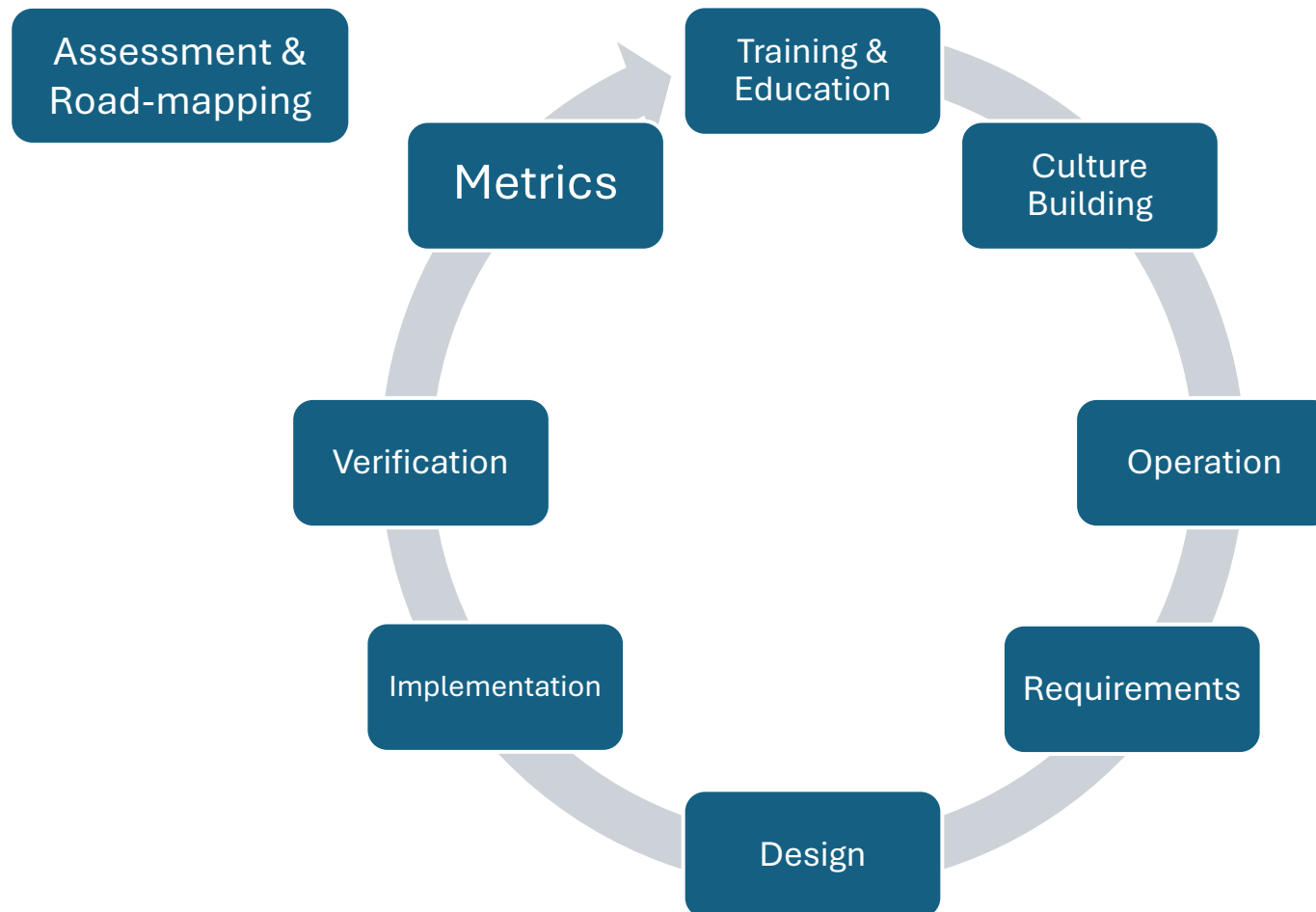


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AppSec Program Elements

Ref: OWASP Integration Standards Project





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Assessment and Road-Mapping

- **Software Assurance Maturity Model (SAMM)**



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Software Assurance Maturity Model (SAMM)

Flagship Project

What is SAMM?

An open framework that provides an **effective** and **measurable** way for all types of organizations to **analyze** and **improve** their software security posture.

<https://owaspsamm.org>



Measurable

Defined maturity levels across business practices



Actionable

Clear pathways for improving maturity levels



Versatile

Technology, process, and organization agnostic



SAMM Model Structure

- Five Business Functions
- 15 Practice Areas
- 2 Activity Streams per Practice Area
- 3 Activities in each Stream – 90 Activities total

Governance	Design	Implementation	Verification	Operations
Strategy & Metrics	Threat Assessment	Secure Build	Architecture Assessment	Incident Management
Policy & Compliance	Security Requirements	Secure Deployment	Requirements-driven Testing	Environment Management
Education & Guidance	Secure Architecture	Defect Management	Security Testing	Operational Management



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Training and Education

Awareness:

- AppSec Awareness Campaigns
- **OWASP Top 10**

Board Game:

- Snakes & Ladders

Broadcasts:

- DevSlop Show
- Podcast Series

Training Platforms/Applications:

- Cyber Scavenger Hunt
- TimeGap Theory

Intentionally Vulnerable WebApps:

- **Juice Shop**
- Security Shepherd
- WebGoat / PyGoat
- WrongSecrets



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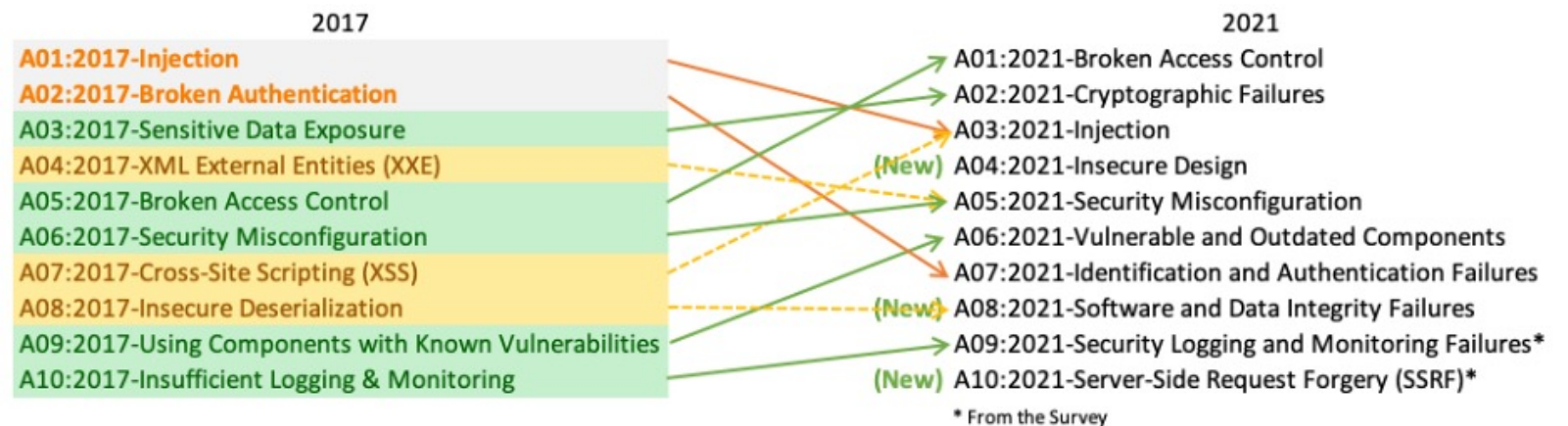
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OWASP Top 10

Flagship Project



- Standard awareness document for developers and web application security
- Represents broad consensus about the most critical security risks to web apps
 - Current version: 2021
 - Next version: 2025





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OWASP Top 10

Flagship Project

OWASP Projects in the Top Ten “family” include:

- **Lab:** Machine Learning, Mobile, CI/CD, LLM, Low-Code/No-Code, Privacy
- **Incubator:** AI, Cloud-Native AppSec, Data Security, Desktop App Security, DevSecOps, Docker, Kubernetes, Operational Technology (OT), Serverless, Thick Client, Client-Side Security, Drone Security, Maritime, Insider Threats



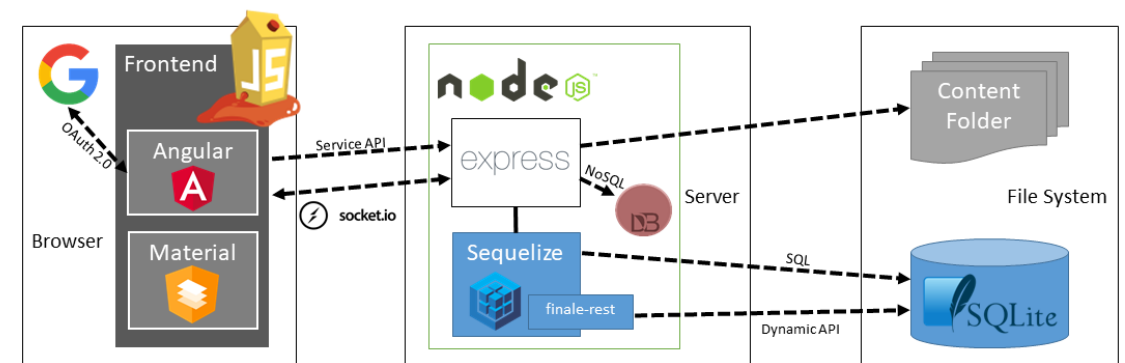
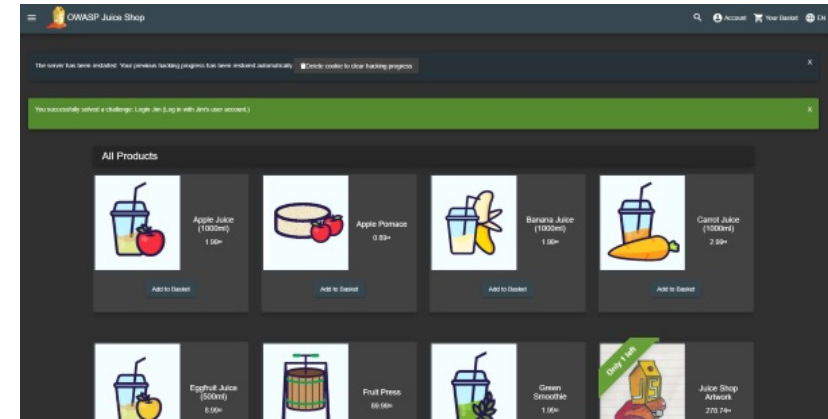
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Juice Shop

Flagship Project

- World's most modern and sophisticated insecure web application!
- Exhibits vulnerabilities from the entire [OWASP Top Ten](#), and lots more
- Useful for:
 - Security training
 - Awareness demos
 - Capture the Flag events (CTFs)
 - Target app for security tools





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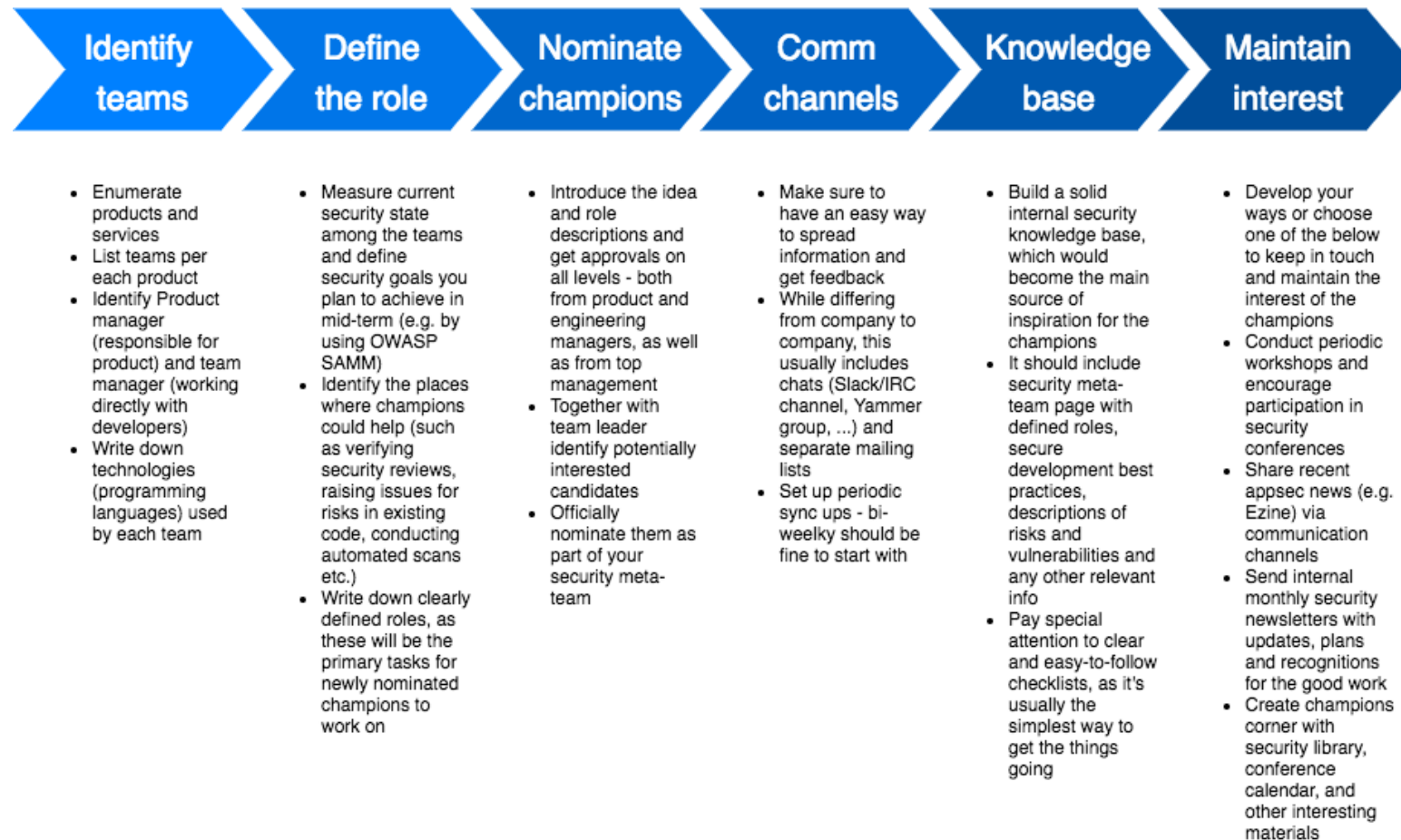
Culture Building

- **Security Champions Guide (formerly Playbook)**
- **Security Culture**



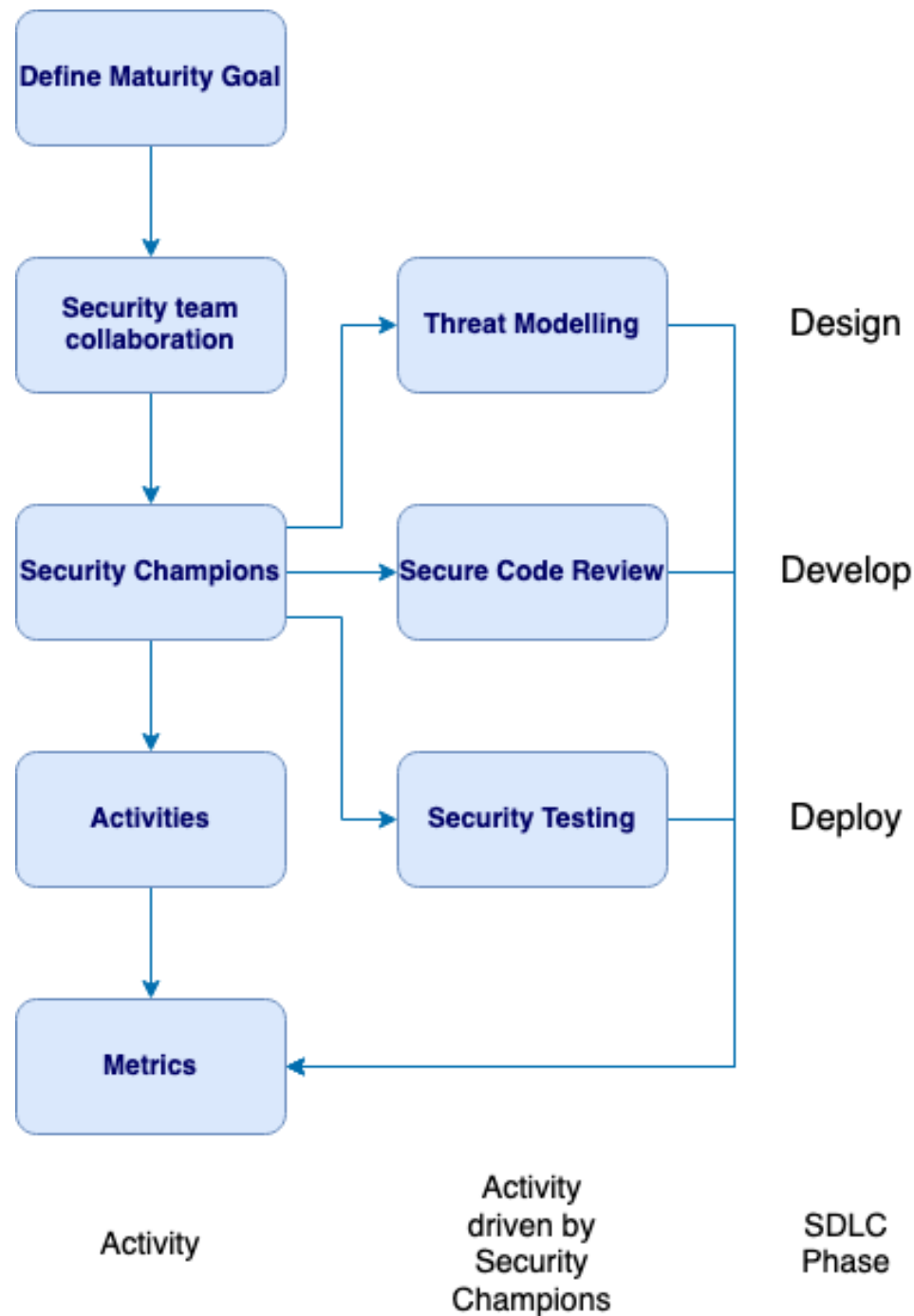
Security Champions Guide

Incubator Project



(Legacy Artifact)

Security Culture Incubator Project





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Operation

- **Core Rule Set (CRS)**
- **Coraza Web Application Firewall (WAF)**



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Core Rule Set (CRS)

Production Project

- Set of generic attack detection rules for use with [ModSecurity](#) or compatible web application firewalls
- Sims to protect web applications from a wide range of attacks, including the [OWASP Top Ten](#), with a minimum of false alerts.
- Provides protection against many common attack categories



OWASP
CRS
THE 1ST LINE OF DEFENSE



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Coraza Web Application Firewall (WAF)

Flagship Project

- golang enterprise-grade Web Application Firewall framework
 - Supports Modsecurity's seclang language
 - 100% compatible with OWASP CRS
- Enrich your web application's security with powerful rules that comprehensively enforce good cybersecurity behavior.



coraza
WEB APPLICATION FIREWALL





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Requirements

- Application Security Verification Standard (ASVS)
- **Threat and Safeguard Matrix (TaSM)**
- Mobile Application Security – Verification Standard (MASVS)
- **SecurityRAT**



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Threat and Safeguard Matrix (TaSM)

Incubator Project

Threat and Safeguard Matrix (TaSM)

An action-oriented view to safeguard and enable the business



		Functions & Safeguards				
		Identify	Protect	Detect	Respond	Recover
Threats	Server Attack Web App					
	Client Attack Phishing					
	3rd Party Data Loss					
	Supply Chain Attack					
	Denial of Service Attack					
	...					
		Proactive Safeguards		Attack	Reactive Safeguards	



SecurityRAT

Incubator Project

Security Requirement Automation Tool (SecurityRAT) focuses on automating the generation and management of security requirements

1. You specify the type of software artifact.
2. SecurityRAT tells you which requirements you should fulfill.
3. You decide how to handle those desired requirements.
4. You persist the artifact state in an issue tracker and create tickets for the requirements where an explicit action is necessary.
5. You document relevant changes in requirement compliance whenever appropriate.

Demo instance (usually) at <https://securityrat.org>



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Design

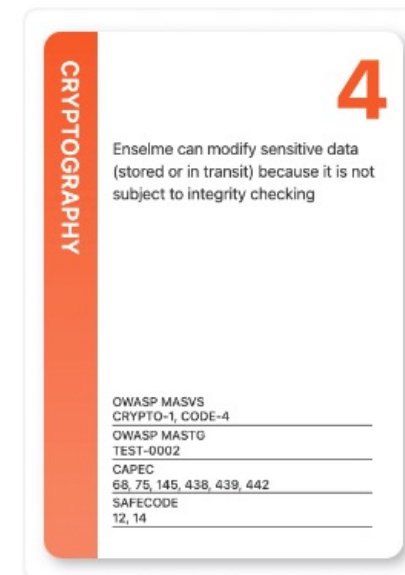
- Cheat Sheet Series
- **Cornucopia**
- Ontology Driven Threat Modeling Framework (OdTM)
- **PyTM**
- **Threat Dragon**
- Threat Modeling Playbook (OTMP)



Cornucopia – Website App Edition

Lab Project

- Card game to support secure coding design, similar to *Elevation of Privilege (EoP)*
- Based on Secure Code Practices (SCP) – Quick Reference Guide
- Six suits:
 - Data validation and encoding
 - Authentication
 - Session management
 - Authorization
 - Cryptography
 - Cornucopia
- Download card images and print locally
- Play online at: <https://copi.securedelivery.io/>





PyTM

Lab Project

- A 'Pythonic' framework for threat modeling
- Define your system *in Python*, using the elements and properties described in the pytm framework
- Can generate Data Flow Diagram (DFD) or Sequence Diagram views of system and threats





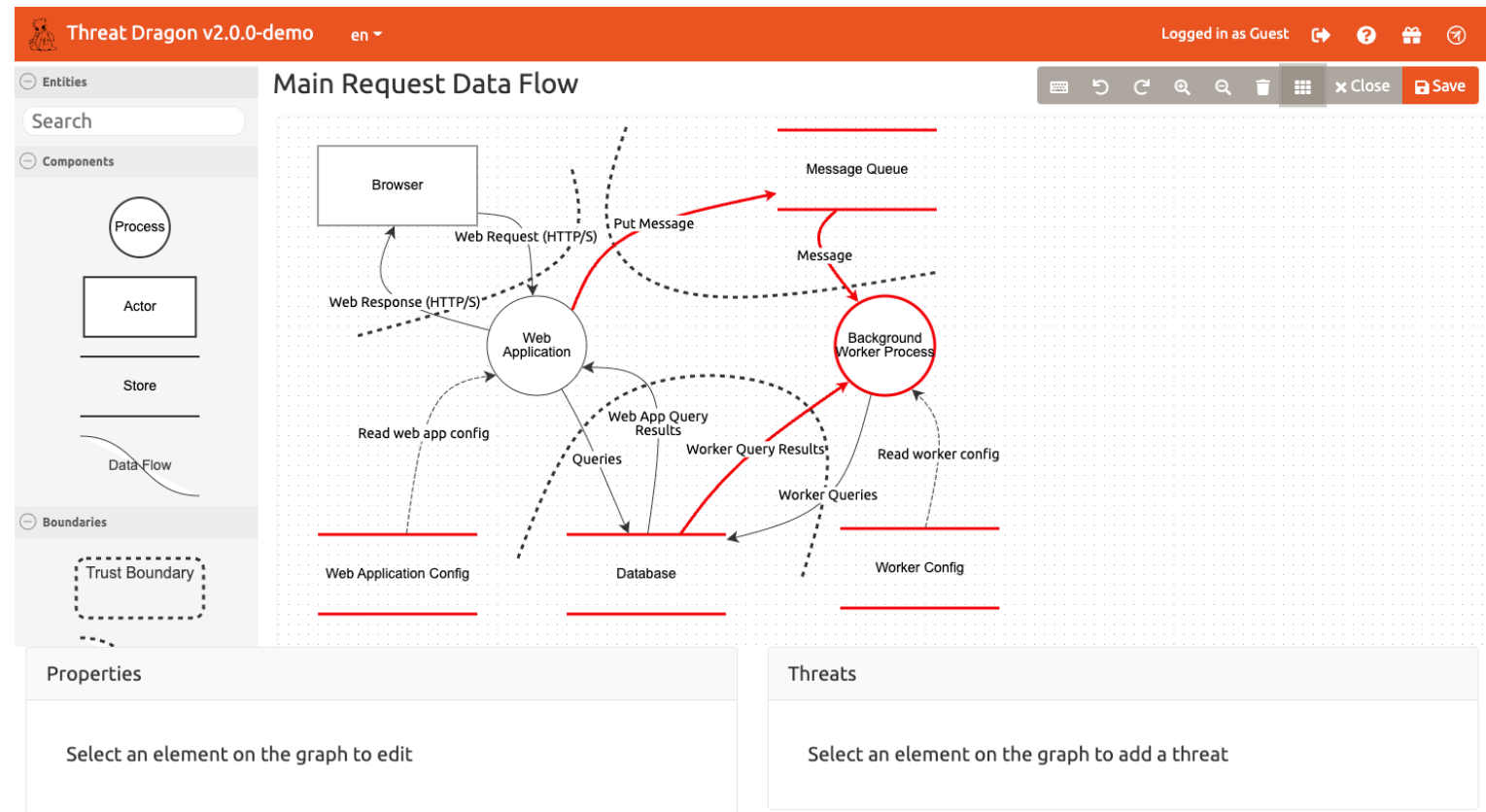
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Threat Dragon

Lab Project

- Open-source threat model diagram creation tool
- Runs as desktop app or web app





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Implementation

Documentation:

- **Proactive Controls**
- Go Secure Code Practices (SCP) Guide
- Cheat Sheet Series

Software Composition Analysis (SCA):

- Dependency-Check
- **Dependency-Track**

Libraries:

- Enhanced Security API (ESAPI)
- CSRFGuard



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Proactive Controls for Developers

Lab Project

Describes the most important control and control categories that **every architect and developer** should absolutely, 100% include in every project

C1: Define Security Requirements

C2: Leverage Security Frameworks and Libraries

C3: Secure Database Access

C4: Encode and Escape Data

C5: Validate All Inputs

C6: Implement Digital Identity

C7: Enforce Access Controls

C8: Protect Data Everywhere

C9: Implement Security Logging and Monitoring

C10: Handle All Errors and Exceptions



OWASP
PRO Active
CONTROLS
FOR DEVELOPERS
2018 v 3.0

10 Critical Security Areas That Software Developers Must Be Aware Of

PROJECT LEADERS

KUTY ANTON
JIM MARIKO
JIM BIRD



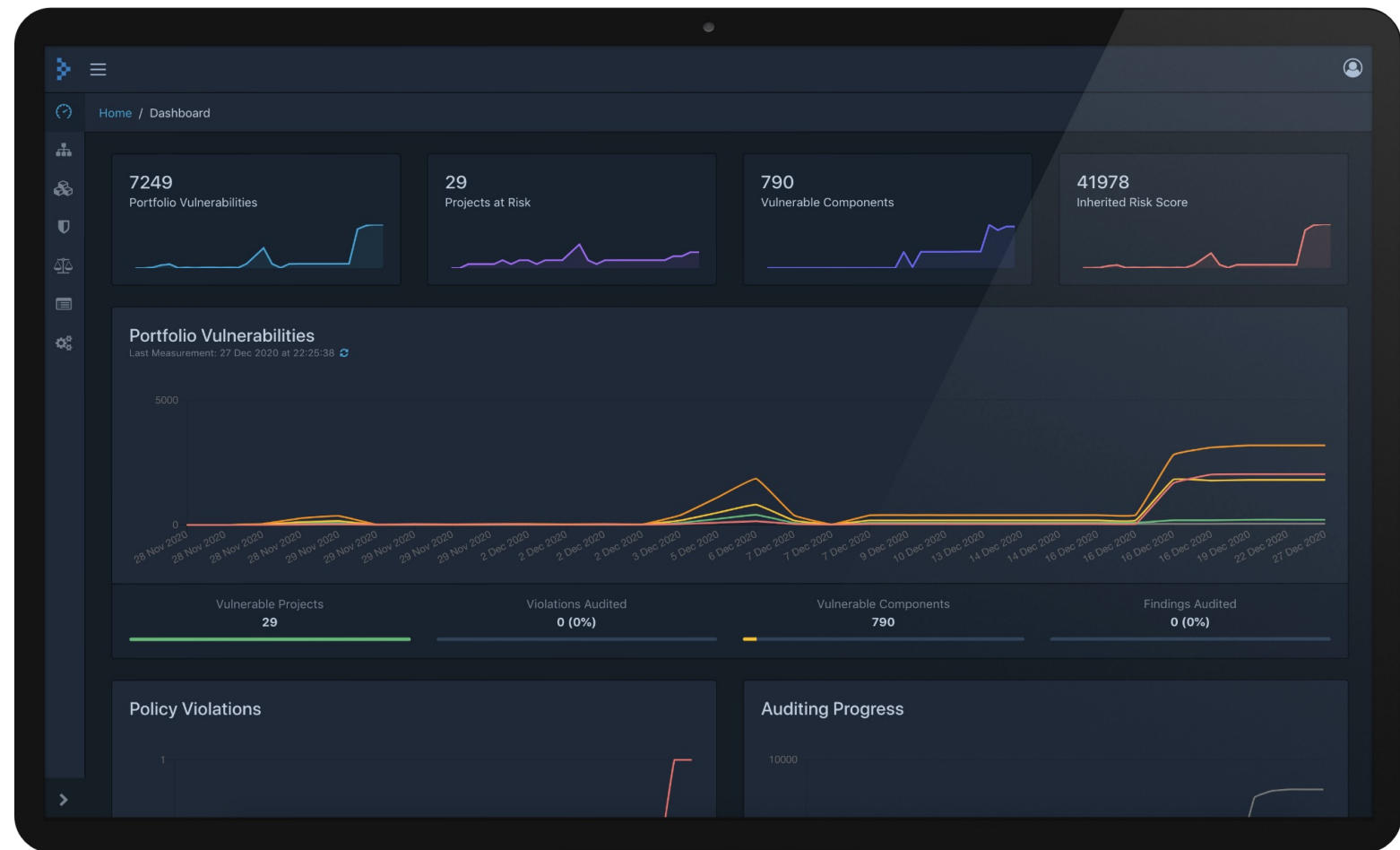


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Dependency-Track Flagship Project

- Intelligent Supply Chain Component Analysis platform
- Leverages capabilities of Software Bill of Materials (SBOM)





Verification

Documentation:

- **Application Security Verification Standard (ASVS)**
- Mobile Application Security Verification Standard (MASVS)
- Web Security Testing Guide
- Mobile Security Testing Guide

Tools:

- Attack Surface Detector
- **Amass**
- **Code Pulse**
- Offensive Web Testing Framework (OWTF)
- Nettacker
- **DefectDojo**

Frameworks:

- Glue
- Dracon



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Application Security Verification Standard (ASVS)

Flagship Project

The OWASP **Application Security Verification Standard (ASVS)** Project provides a basis for testing web application technical security controls and provides developers with a list of requirements for secure development.

- Use as a metric
- Use as guidance
- Use during procurement

Current Version is 4.0.3; 5.0 underway



Application Security Verification Standard 4.0.3
Final
October 2021



Amass

Flagship Project

Our Goal - In-depth DNS Enumeration, Attack Surface Mapping and External Asset Discovery!

- Mapping of network attack surfaces
- External asset discovery
- Open-source information gathering and active reconnaissance techniques

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v3.5.3
OWASP Amass Project - @owaspamass
In-depth Attack Surface Mapping and Asset Discovery

Usage: amass intel|enum|viz|track|db|dns [options]

-h      Show the program usage message
-help   Show the program usage message
-version Print the version number of this Amass binary

Subcommands:

    amass intel - Discover targets for enumerations
    amass enum  - Perform enumerations and network mapping
    amass viz   - Visualize enumeration results
    amass track - Track differences between enumerations
    amass db    - Manipulate the Amass graph database
    amass dns   - Resolve DNS names at high performance

The user's guide can be found here:
https://github.com/OWASP/Amass/blob/master/doc/user_guide.md

An example configuration file can be found here:
https://github.com/OWASP/Amass/blob/master/examples/config.ini

The Amass tutorial can be found here:
https://github.com/OWASP/Amass/blob/master/doc/tutorial.md
```



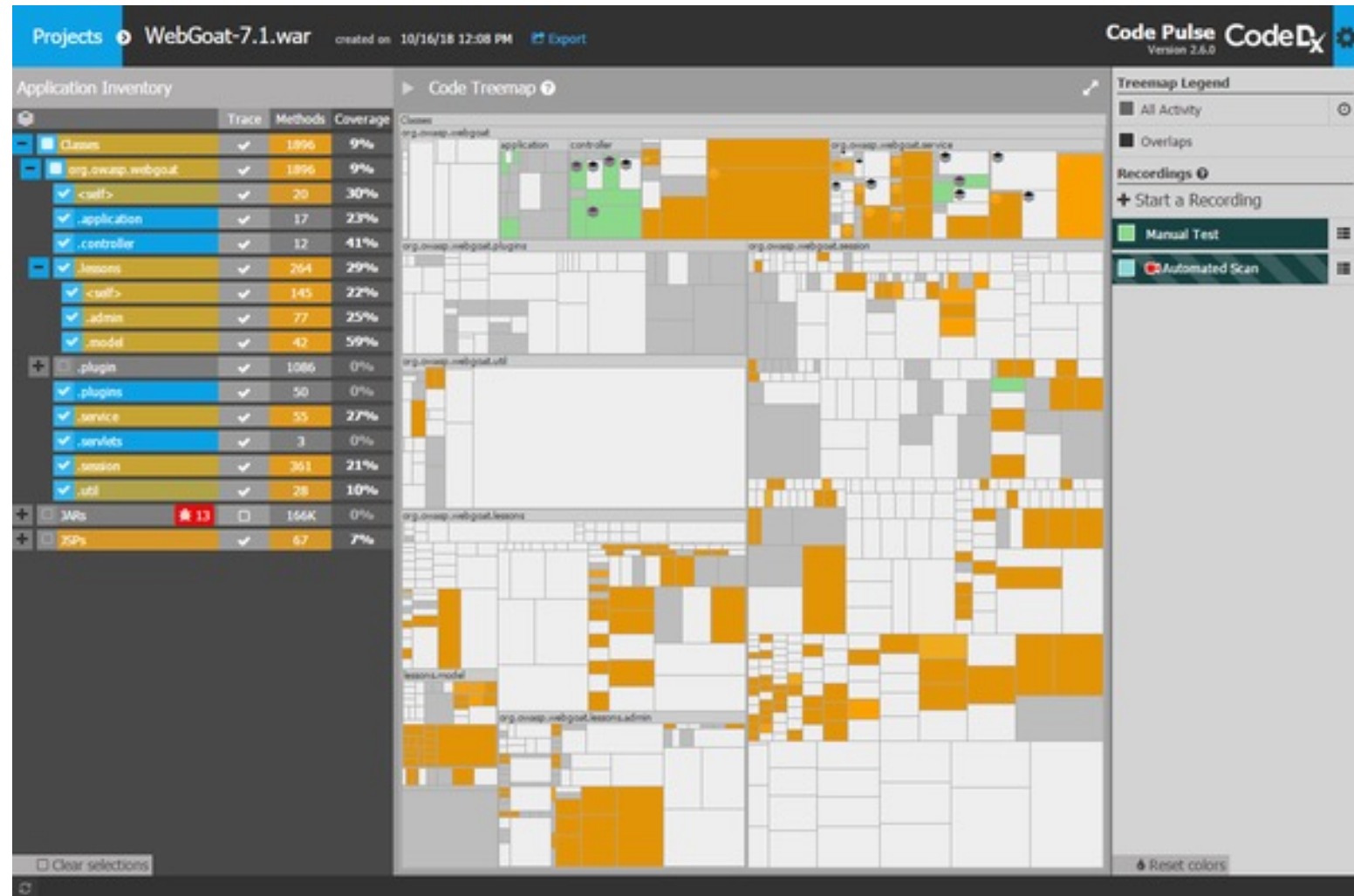
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Code Pulse

Lab Project

- Provides insight into the real-time code coverage of black box testing activities
- Cross-platform desktop application
- Agent-based runtime monitoring





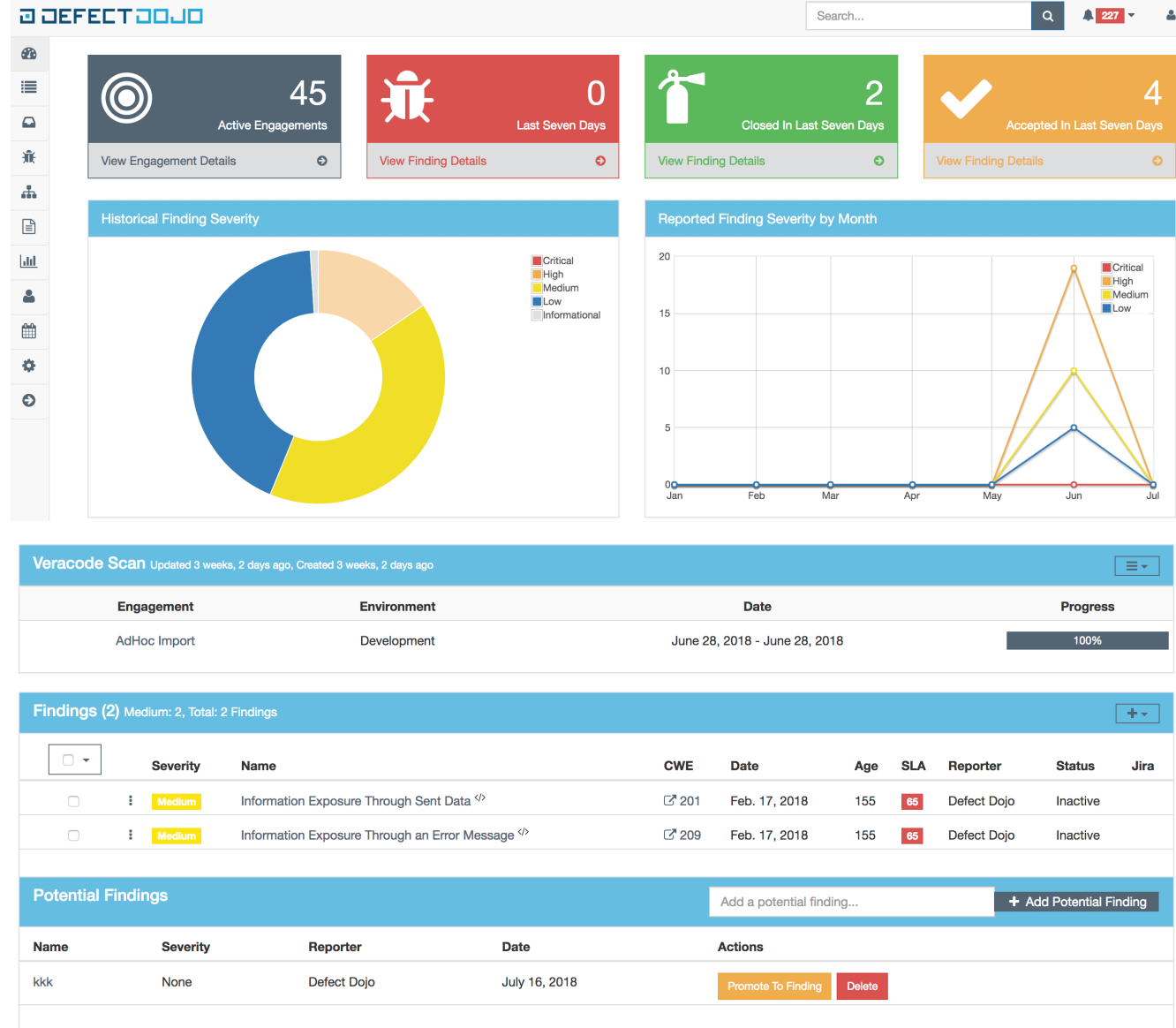
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DefectDojo

Flagship Project

- Open-source vulnerability management tool
- Streamlines the testing process
 - Templating
 - Report generation
 - Metrics





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Some Closing Thoughts

- Don't oversell – “free” tools aren't *really* free
 - Be honest and realistic about total cost of ownership: instance charges, admin hours, etc.
- Use the right tool for your use case
 - When the OWASP tool isn't the right one, it can still provide a cost-effective proof-of-concept
- Don't be too proud to ask for help
 - OWASP community
 - Local AppSec community
 - Internal Security Team (if you have one)
 - External consultants and trainers



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Resources

- OWASP Website: <https://owasp.org>
- OWASP Integration Standards Project:
<https://owasp.org/www-project-integration-standards/>
- OWASP SAMM: <https://owaspsamm.org/>
- Security Champions Playbook:
<https://github.com/c0rdis/security-champions-playbook>
- Join the OWASP Slack: <https://owasp.org/slack/invite>



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Questions?

Connect / Reach out

- Email:
 - Day job: john.dileo@gallagher.com
 - “Other job”: john.dileo@owasp.org
- Twitter (rarely): [@gr4ybeard](https://twitter.com/gr4ybeard)
- LinkedIn: [john-dileo](https://www.linkedin.com/in/john-dileo)
- OWASP Slack
<https://owasp.org/slack/invite>



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THANK
YOU!

