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**Module 10.2 – Software Development Standards**

In today’s tech-driven world, secure software development is a must-have, not just a “nice-to-have.” Companies face constant pressure to deliver quality applications while keeping them safe from cyber threats. Luckily, there are organizations like **BSA | The Software Alliance**, **OWASP**, and **SAFEcode** that provide guidelines, tools, and resources to help developers build software that’s reliable and secure. This paper gives a quick overview of each organization, the industries they focus on, and the resources they offer.

**BSA | The Software Alliance (BSA.org)**

BSA | The Software Alliance is a global advocate for software companies. It works on protecting intellectual property, creating fair digital policies, and promoting cybersecurity standards. BSA also tackles issues like software piracy and helps set the tone for responsible software use worldwide.

BSA mainly targets the **tech industry and large software companies**, but its work also affects businesses that rely on software licenses and compliance rules. They engage with both private companies and government policymakers.

Their resources include:

* Policy papers on cybersecurity and digital trade.
* Research reports on topics like AI and cloud computing.
* Licensing guidelines and compliance resources.
* Cybersecurity policy advocacy and recommendations.

**OWASP (OWASP.org)**

The Open Worldwide Application Security Project (OWASP) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving software security through open-source projects. OWASP is famous for the **OWASP Top Ten**, which lists the most critical web application security risks, along with best practices for fixing them.

OWASP is built for **software developers, testers, and security professionals** across all industries. It’s especially useful for teams creating web apps or running DevSecOps pipelines.

Their resources include:

* The **OWASP Top Ten** list with detailed explanations.
* Developer cheat sheets and secure coding tips.
* Tools like OWASP ZAP for penetration testing.
* Community events, webinars, and free online resources.

**SAFEcode (safecode.org)**

SAFEcode is a nonprofit group focused on advancing secure coding practices. Their main goal is to help development teams build software that’s safe from attacks by sharing real-world secure coding methods and standards.

SAFEcode works with **software vendors, IT teams, and product security engineers** who want to build security into every stage of the software lifecycle.

Their resources include:

* Whitepapers and guides like **Fundamental Practices for Secure Software Development**.
* Free training programs and coding workshops.
* Security checklists and research reports.
* Collaboration with companies to raise the bar on software security.

BSA, OWASP, and SAFEcode each bring something unique to the table when it comes to secure software development. BSA focuses on compliance and policy, OWASP provides hands-on tools and resources for developers, and SAFEcode delivers deep insights on secure coding best practices. Together, they give developers and companies a strong foundation for creating safe, high-quality software.

**References**

BSA | The Software Alliance. <https://www.bsa.org/>  
OWASP Foundation. <https://owasp.org/>  
SAFEcode. <https://safecode.org/>