

A1.

A2. Thank you for your interest!

This online survey is part of an empirical study conducted by the [REDACTED]. The goal of this study is to gain insights into the security practices of software developers in Open-Source Software (OSS) projects. Particularly, regarding the incorporation of security pointers inside software artifacts such as commit messages, pull requests, issue reports, and code comments. The study is divided in two parts (rewarded separately) and should take around 10 min. altogether.

PART 1: Technical Assessment (0.2 GBP reward)

It consists of 3 generic questions about programming. It takes around 2 min. Your answers will determine if you meet our criteria to undergo the 2nd part of the study. If you meet our participation criteria, you will be invited to take the second part of the survey.

PART 2: Main Survey (1.05 GBP reward)

A set of questions and scenarios that you must assess and should take around 8 min.

IMPORTANT:

To participate in this study you must be at least 18 years old Please read the Participant Information Sheet before starting with the survey. The sheet can be accessed via this link: [Study-PIS](#)

If you would like to proceed with the Main Survey (PART 2), please answer the following questions by placing a check mark accordingly.

I am age 18 or older ☐

I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet ☐

I agree to participate in this research and I want to continue with the survey ☐

B1. Please indicate your age:





B2. Please indicate your gender:

Male ☐

Female ☐

Non-binary ☐

Other ☐

Other



B3. Please select your country of residence:

- Afghanistan ☐
- Aland Islands ☐
- Albania ☐
- Algeria ☐
- American Samoa ☐
- Andorra ☐
- Angola ☐
- Anguilla ☐
- Antarctica ☐
- Antigua and Barbuda ☐
- Argentina ☐
- Armenia ☐
- Aruba ☐
- Australia ☐
- Austria ☐
- Azerbaijan ☐
- Bahamas ☐
- Bahrain ☐
- Bangladesh ☐
- Barbados ☐
- Belarus ☐



B4. Please select your highest educational level:

Primary school or less ☐

High school or less ☐

Some college ☐

Undergraduate degree (BSc., BA.) ☐

Graduate degree (MSc., Ph.D.) ☐

B5. How many years of experience do you have working in Open Source Software?

< 1 year ☐

1 to 2 years ☐

2 to 3 years ☐

3 to 4 years ☐

4 to 5 years ☐

> 5 years ☐

B6. How many years of experience do you have working in Commercial (closed) Source Software?

< 1 year ☐

1 to 2 years ☐

2 to 3 years ☐

3 to 4 years ☐

4 to 5 years ☐

> 5 years ☐



Bellow you will find examples of software artefacts containing security pointers:

A commit message describing “Memory leak from the main thread on shutdown” An issue report mentioning “Cache producer is not thread safe” A code comment saying “TODO: Validate port as numeric” A pull request containing “...This data structure isn't thread safe. It's possible that you'll get bizarre values from time to time...”

► PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS BASED ON YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE AS A SOFTWARE PRACTITIONER WORKING IN OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE (OSS) PROJECTS.

C1. How often have you (yourself) produced an artefact similar to any of the ones above (commits, issues, comments, or pull requests) containing security pointers?

NEVER ☐

RARELY ☐

SOMETIMES ☐

OFTEN ☐

ALWAYS ☐

C2. How often have you seen others producing an artefact similar to any of the ones above (commits, issues, comments, or pull requests) containing security pointers?

NEVER ☐

RARELY ☐

SOMETIMES ☐

OFTEN ☐

ALWAYS ☐



► PLEASE INDICATE, BASED ON YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE WORKING IN OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE (OSS) PROJECTS, HOW MUCH YOU AGREE (OR DISAGREE) WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

D1. While working in OSS projects, I introduce security pointers inside commits, issues, comments, or pull requests because this is a standard practice at work.

COMPLETELY DISAGREE ☐

DISAGREE ☐

SOMEHOW DISAGREE ☐

SOMEHOW AGREE ☐

AGREE ☐

COMPLETELY AGREE ☐

D2. While working in OSS projects, I introduce security pointers inside commits, issues, comments, or pull requests because I consider security an important aspect.

COMPLETELY DISAGREE ☐

DISAGREE ☐

SOMEHOW DISAGREE ☐

SOMEHOW AGREE ☐

AGREE ☐

COMPLETELY AGREE ☐



D3. While working in OSS projects, I introduce security pointers inside commits, issues, comments, or pull requests because such efforts are recognized at work.

COMPLETELY DISAGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
DISAGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOMEHOW DISAGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOMEHOW AGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
AGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMPLETELY AGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>

D4. Please select the option AGREE

COMPLETELY DISAGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
DISAGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOMEHOW DISAGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
SOMEHOW AGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
AGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMPLETELY AGREE	<input type="checkbox"/>



D5. While working in OSS projects, I introduce security pointers inside commits, issues, comments, or pull requests because they help prevent security risks.

COMPLETELY DISAGREE ☐

DISAGREE ☐

SOMEHOW DISAGREE ☐

SOMEHOW AGREE ☐

AGREE ☐

COMPLETELY AGREE ☐

D6. What other motives may drive you to introduce security pointers inside commits, issues, comments, or pull requests?



► PLEASE INDICATE, BASED ON YOUR OWN EXPERIENCE WORKING IN OPEN-SOURCE SOFTWARE (OSS) PROJECTS, HOW MUCH YOU AGREE (OR DISAGREE) WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS:

E1. I think security pointers inside commits, issues, comments, or pull requests may introduce risks in the OSS being deployed.

COMPLETELY DISAGREE ☐

DISAGREE ☐

SOMEHOW DISAGREE ☐

SOMEHOW AGREE ☐

AGREE ☐


COMPLETELY AGREE ☐

E2. What kind of risks do you think security pointers inside commits, issues, comments, or pull requests may introduce in the OSS being deployed?



Thank you for your interest in our survey. Unfortunately, you do not meet some of the requirements to participate in this study:

Be at least 18 years old. Read the consent form or had it read to you. Be comfortable using the English language. Agree to participate in this research.

If you have any questions or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact us at 

Thank you for your response!

IMPORTANT

(i) Please open this link in a new tab to return to Prolific.

(ii) Then click "SUBMIT" in this window to record your answer.