



The First Internationally-Recognized Standard for Performing Application Security Assessments

Can your Web applications be trusted? If your answer is “yes”, to what degree can each be trusted? Can your applications protect themselves against attackers with professional or open source attack tools, or only against viruses, worms, and unsophisticated opportunists? These are the types of questions that the OWASP “Application Security Verification Standard” (also known as “ASVS”) can help answer. It is the very first standard that OWASP has published! There are currently versions in English.

What can OWASP ASVS be used for?

What becomes quickly apparent during procurement when attempting to capture contractual terms and conditions related to the security of web applications and web services is that specifying security analysis and testing requirements is very hard. It also becomes quickly apparent when reviewing web application and web service security verification reports that there is no way to tell the difference between someone running a grep tool, and someone doing painstaking code review and manual testing.

Both of these problems have a single root cause: the lack of a standard for performing application-level security verification that is web application and web service independent, Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) independent, and that can be used for any application without special interpretation. The OWASP Application Security Verification Standard (ASVS) was designed to normalize the range in coverage and level of rigor available in the market when it comes to performing application security verification.

How does OWASP ASVS work?

There are three main parts to OWASP ASVS. The requirements in ASVS define:

- Levels of application-level security verification that increase in breadth and depth as one moves up the levels,
- Verification requirements that prescribe a unique white-list approach for security controls,
- Reporting requirements that ensure reports are sufficiently detailed to make verification repeatable, and to determine if the verification was accurate and complete.

Project Sponsors

The OWASP ASVS project is co-sponsored by:



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ASVS is *the* standard to use if you're doing:

- Vulnerability scanning
- Source code scanning
- Security testing
- Manual code review
- Security architecture review
- Searching for malicious code