

Mr. Tobias Gondrom: I have worked in information security for 15 years, from department head at an independent software vendor to running a small advisory boutique out of Hong Kong and the United Kingdom. I started with OWASP Germany, then worked on the Global Industry Committee, as well as several other OWASP projects.

Summary of Community-Submitted Questions and Answers

Question: What is the biggest challenge you see for OWASP?

Answer: Growing up as an organization. OWASP should maintain its spirit and culture as an open community; invite everyone to contribute; and attempt to resurrect activities that may have declined in the broader community. Second, we should make more effort to include and grow membership; and reach out to the developer community and across all regions. Third, we need to recognize that the growth of the organization requires putting the right governance framework in place to manage and avoid conflicts of interest and to empower community members.

Question: The mission of OWASP is to make software security visible so that individuals and organizations worldwide can make informed decisions about true software security risks. How do you see OWASP furthering its mission in the next year, and what about in the next five years?

Answer: By growing its influence beyond its current status; reaching out to the developer community; helping developers write secure software applications; and extending into other regions. Within the next two years, after internal dialogue, OWASP hopefully will have embraced the developer community and industry; be speaking at developer conferences; have developers at OWASP in the U.S., Europe and Asia; have cleaned up its projects pages to make it easy to find the good stuff; have projects for developers; and be speaking to them in their language.

Question: If elected, how will you prevent conflicts of interest between OWASP responsibilities and the duties of the organization where you are employed?

Answer: Conflicts can lead to mismanagement, wrong decisions and loss of trust. OWASP must be 100% transparent and disciplined to avoid conflicts. Members should disclose even potential conflicts; and abstain from voting. I have always walked away from situations if there was concern my personal integrity could be compromised, and will continue to do so. The board should also be more open about its decision-making process and empower the community to make decisions when possible. The board

is a steward serving the community, not its master.

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On The Ball Transcripts

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