

Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) **DRAFT v1**

Response to Consultation on a New .UK Domain Name Service

F. About you

Name: Submitted by Colin Watson on behalf of OWASP
Position: Member, OWASP Global Industry Committee
Organisation: The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP)
Email: NA
Telephone: NA
Postal Address: OWASP Europe VZW, Leinstraat 104A, B-9660 Oubraker, Belgium
Sector: ICT

G. Security

1. As outlined above, we are proposing that the direct .uk service offers routine monitoring and notification to registrants of viruses and malware on sites associated with the domain. Do you have any comments on this proposal?

Monitoring, and subsequent action to resolve the effects, of viruses and malware are not sufficient measures to protect business systems, business data and users.

Threats target a wide range of vulnerabilities in websites and their supporting systems; the vast majority of which would not be detected by the suggested monitoring. Some successful attacks could lead to malware and viruses being hosted on the site, but the purpose of an attack is more likely to be to steal data, to misuse business processes for benefit, to commit fraud, to cause damage to the site, or to link to more malicious material.

OWASP recommends that security is considered throughout the lifecycle of the site – from initial concept, right through to deployment, operation and disposal. OWASP's Software Assurance Maturity Model¹ (SAMM) provides a simple method to assess an organisation's overall maturity to generate a scorecard for 12 practices. This could be self-assessed, or supported by an independent review, or validated by a formal audit. Organisations could select their own level of verification and publish this with their scorecard.

An individual website could also be assessed using the OWASP Application Security Verification Standard² (ASVS) which defines a range of security controls for different assurance levels.

¹ https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:Software_Assurance_Maturity_Model

² https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP_Application_Security_Verification_Standard_Project

1b. How long should registrants have to resolve any notified infection before their domain is suspended? ... Further comments.

No comment.

2. As outlined above, we are proposing that the direct .uk service offers a trust mark to registrants. Do you have any comments on this proposal?

OWASP is concerned that the proposed trust mark would provide very little actual protection to users of such websites. And, one or a small number of such public failures would undermine the trust mark and all other websites using the proposed new .uk domain service.

3. As outlined above, we are proposing that the direct .uk service requires a digital signature known as DNSSEC as mandatory. Do you have any comments on this proposal?

Agree. OWASP suggests that Nominet utilises its position to make this a strong recommendation for all third-level sub-domains, and actively encourages it, perhaps by offering beneficial renewal rates to registrants who adopt this measure.

N. General Views on the Proposed Service

11b. Are there any other points you would like to raise in relation to this consultation or about the proposed new service?

This official response has been submitted on behalf of the Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) by the OWASP Global Industry Committee, following our own consultation process with the local OWASP chapters in the UK. The response is a subset of Nominet's consultation questions which relate to OWASP's remit.

OWASP would be pleased to work with Nominet to progress any security-related aspects.

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- About The Open Web Application Security Project
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