

Professor Ezendu Ariwa: My primary background is in engineering and technology, and I am currently a professor at the University of Bedfordshire in the United Kingdom. I have worked with the British Computer Society, and have held positions, including Chair, for two distinguished chapters of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). My work has taken me throughout Europe, as well as the United States, Russia, Afghanistan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Nigeria. I have worked with grassroots organizations as well as with government policy, and have tried to drive technology using ICT as a platform to launch benefits for business, industry, government and community-development projects. My curriculum vitae can provide further information.

Summary of Community-Submitted Questions and Answers

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

Answer: Driving the organization down to various community partnerships and grassroots development. The grassroots-level community should be educated as to changes in technology development going forward. There should be collaboration with higher education, especially secondary and primary, which can be a key factor in terms of how to change behavior and have the greatest impact with the use of technology.

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: Security questions and security policy should be considered. It is important to drive technology all on levels. The concept of security compromise needs to be addressed. Different organizations have different ideas about necessary levels of security, and we have to address adequate security development utilizing various training methods. Doing that in the short term will create a platform and visibility so people understand. We could work to design a platform to illustrate to people how porous their systems are, and the implications of that porosity.

Long-term considerations include looking at new developments to resolve the issue of “big data.” When the data explosion comes, we need to have ideas on how to deal with it and to what extent we can drive those ideas forward.

There needs to be focus on green technology and sustainability, which in the long run can create a competitive advantage, and create value and return for individuals in industry and business, as well as governments.

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

Answer: Interests in any aspect, whether within the BOD or our employment, should be declared to avoid embarrassment to all parties. The principles of due diligence and transparency should be followed to assure no conflict of interest and maintain harmony with business contacts and within the world of the Board of Directors.

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On The Ball Transcripts

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