

[Michael Coates](#)

1. If elected, what would be your top three priorities for your first year on the board?

1) OWASP Community Platform: I believe the OWASP community is the true power of OWASP. I'm committed to continuing to build a structure at OWASP that empowers individuals to take risks, experiment and learn. OWASP is a platform for security research and an independent voice of reason in the glowingly complex field of security. I will continue to work within the board to establish frameworks and policies that encourage community growth and further OWASP as a platform for security research.

2) Expansion of OWASP to Technology Startups - Numerous technology startups are looking for guidance on how to build the framework and foundation of their security programs. I believe OWASP has a great opportunity to share our resources with companies building the next technologies that will shape our digital lives. On the board I'll focus on additional programs and outreach for startups in the Silicon Valley and other technology centers around the world.

3) Growth of OWASP within Government - Now more than ever the issue of security is in the spotlight of legislation. OWASP can provide independent guidance and resources to help educate key policy makers and tools and projects that can be used by implementers.

2. What is your style for dealing with complex situations that may impact many people or where other decision makers hold differing viewpoints?

My style is calm and reasoned with logical positions that can be debated or enhanced. I believe that collaboration is the key to an effective organization. I also strongly feel that OWASP should be a positive organization where we find commonality in our shared mission. In situations that are unclear we should seek to first understand the other person before rushing to judgment against their position. I also strongly believe that in the end, decisions must be made. It is important to consider and weigh the available information, make an informed decision and be transparent about that decision and process. Lastly, an organization such as OWASP will not function if we seek consensus from all parties on all issues. Instead we must have thoughtful conversations and make decisions with the right considerations and direction for OWASP.

3. Describe your experience leading organizations. Were they non-profits or community based? Please explain both your role and the nature of your involvement.

Over the past 2 years I've served as the chairperson of the OWASP board. In this role I've worked to formalize board activities and guide the board into healthy discussions of important issues. I've also identified areas that need additional focus such as budgeting and finances for the non-profit and infrastructure for the community platform. Prior to the OWASP board I was a member of the global membership committee and also the project lead of the AppSensor project. Outside of OWASP I serve as the Director of Security Assurance for Mozilla. In this role I manage a team with 4 managers and 20 talented security engineers. Although I work in San

Francisco I coordinate with my team that is distributed across 6 different countries and 3 continents. In this role we secure Mozilla products (such as Firefox and Firefox OS), services (such as sync and persona), and all of Mozilla's infrastructure and data.

4. Describe your most successful contribution to the OWASP community (Project, Chapter, Conference, or other).

My most successful contribution has been my contributions to the entirety of OWASP through efforts on the board. I've spoken about OWASP at major security conferences, government security events, universities and private corporations. In addition I've worked to strengthen the OWASP foundation through financial maturity, process, and organizational structure.

In addition to serving on the board I also created the OWASP AppSensor project. Over the past year I've transitioned to the role of project founder and continued to remain involved. We now have three awesome OWASP'ers leading the project and they are taking it on to the next level. AppSensor is referenced by governments and is in use by multiple large organizations around the world for advanced application protection.