

Proposed Changes to the Server Cert WG Charter

Ben Wilson, Mozilla

Background

The SCWG Charter has minimal membership requirements for Browsers:

Certificate Consumers (Browsers) must produce software used by the public for browsing the Web securely.

Anyone can be a Certificate Consumer by creating a Chromium-based or Firefox-based browser.

Only CAs are currently allowed to be “Associate Members”
(Bylaw proposal to change this to “Probationary”).

Better, objective, and measurable criteria are needed for determining who should be voting members of the SCWG, especially for Cert Consumers.

All Members of the SCWG should:

- Constructively contribute technical expertise and helpful knowledge related to the work of the SCWG
- Have a desire/commitment to improve security and privacy on the Internet
- Regularly attend and participate in discussions, demonstrating intent to improve the security of the ecosystem

Participation Criteria in Ballot SC-0XX

All prospective voting members must attend at least 30% of SCWG teleconferences and at least one SCWG face-to-face meeting (either physically or virtually) over a 6-month period.

January 1, 2024 - to vote, a Member must attend at least 30% of SCWG teleconferences in any 6-month period and at least one SCWG face-to-face meeting (either physically or virtually) in any twelve-month period.

Certificate Issuer Criteria

Existing

- Current qualifying audit report
- It actively issues certificates to Web servers that are openly accessible from the Internet, such certificates being treated as valid when using a browser created by a Certificate Consumer Member

New

- Meets the relevant participation threshold
- Three web pages that comply with section 2.2 of the TLS Baseline Requirements, respectively secured with a valid, a revoked, and an expired certificate

Certificate Consumer Criteria

Existing

- Produces software used by the public to browse the Web securely

New

- Meets the relevant participation threshold
- Updates its software at least every 6 months to ensure regular security patches
- Requires CAs to comply with TLS Baseline Requirements
- Uses a list of CA certificates to validate the chain of trust
- Publishes how it decides to add or remove a CA certificate from its root store

Probationary Member

- Six-month probationary period for new Membership Applicants, to demonstrate commitment to participate.
- Suspension Procedure for a Voting Member who no longer meets the Voting Member Criteria to become a Probationary Member.
- Process to move from a Probationary Member to a Voting Member.