Introductions

• Who Am I?
  • Mike Hryekewicz, Software Engineer, QA Department
• Standard Insurance Company
  • Headquartered in Portland, Oregon
• Primary products:
  • Group disability insurance
  • Individual disability insurance
  • Group life insurance
  • Group dental insurance
  • Group accidental death and dismemberment insurance
  • Retirement plans
  • Annuities
Bridging the Culture Gap

How most security initiatives are implemented:

InfoSec: “You don’t understand security!”

Developer: “And you don’t understand development!”

Enlist QA as the intermediary:

QA: “I understand requirements and testing to those requirements!”

To keep your game running smoothly!
Establish Your Security Requirements

• What are the developers expected to defend against?
• What is QA assessing and testing against?
• OWASP Application Security Verification Standard (ASVS)
Properly Document Security Findings

• They’re not vulnerabilities…  
  …they’re defects!

• Program X failed to meet documented security requirement A.
• Log it in your defect management system and track it!
Engage the Developers in Threat Modeling

• They’re less defensive about handling identified security issues when the code hasn’t been written yet.

• Encourage group participation in the threat identification process.

• Developers are often more enthusiastic about remediating issues when they’re identifying them.

• You’re training the trainers.
Continuous Software Security Education

• A one-time security training course is soon outdated and soon forgotten.

• Developers incorporate new frameworks, architectures, and libraries into their solutions each year, which each bring along their associated vulnerabilities.

• Keep your defensive best practices current and train on them accordingly.

• New security training often reinforces their prior training (e.g. validate, validate, validate!).
Tools are Cool!

- Good developers will readily adopt security tools into their daily routines that increase the quality of their code and don’t waste their time.

- Even more so if these tools identify performance or stability concerns within their applications.

- It strengthens the link between their security training and their development activities.
Don’t Force Standards on Developers

• Information Security often sets the software security requirements…
  …but developers need to be engaged in specifying the associated development standards for meeting those requirements in their specific environment.

• OWASP ESAPI (Enterprise Security API) is a great start, but requires thoughtful integration into your frameworks.

• Developers are more likely to comply with standards that they own and contribute to.
Questions?

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