OWASP Codes of Conduct Project

Supporting OWASP's Mission

- Colin Watson
  colin.watson(at)owasp.org

- Whose Conduct?
- Why?
- What Conduct?
- Comparisons
- Statements of Compliance

Not any of these

- OWASP code values, core purpose, code of ethics and principles
  - Brand usage
  - By-laws
  - General disclaimer
- Projects
  - Projects handbook
- Local chapters
  - Chapters handbook
  - Speaker agreement
  - Finance
- Conferences
  - Speaker agreement
  - Training instructor agreement
  - Global Conferences Committee policies

Influence targets

- Not these
  - Contributors including chapter leaders and project leaders
  - Individual members
  - Employees
  - Committee members
  - Board members
  - Supporters
- But yes, these
  - Government bodies
  - Standards groups
  - Education institutions
  - Trade organizations
  - Certifying bodies
  - ...

With what purpose?

- To define a set of minimal requirements specifying what OWASP believes are the most effective ways theses types of organization can support OWASP's mission
- OWASP's mission
    - “To make application security visible, so that people and organizations can make informed decisions about application security risks”

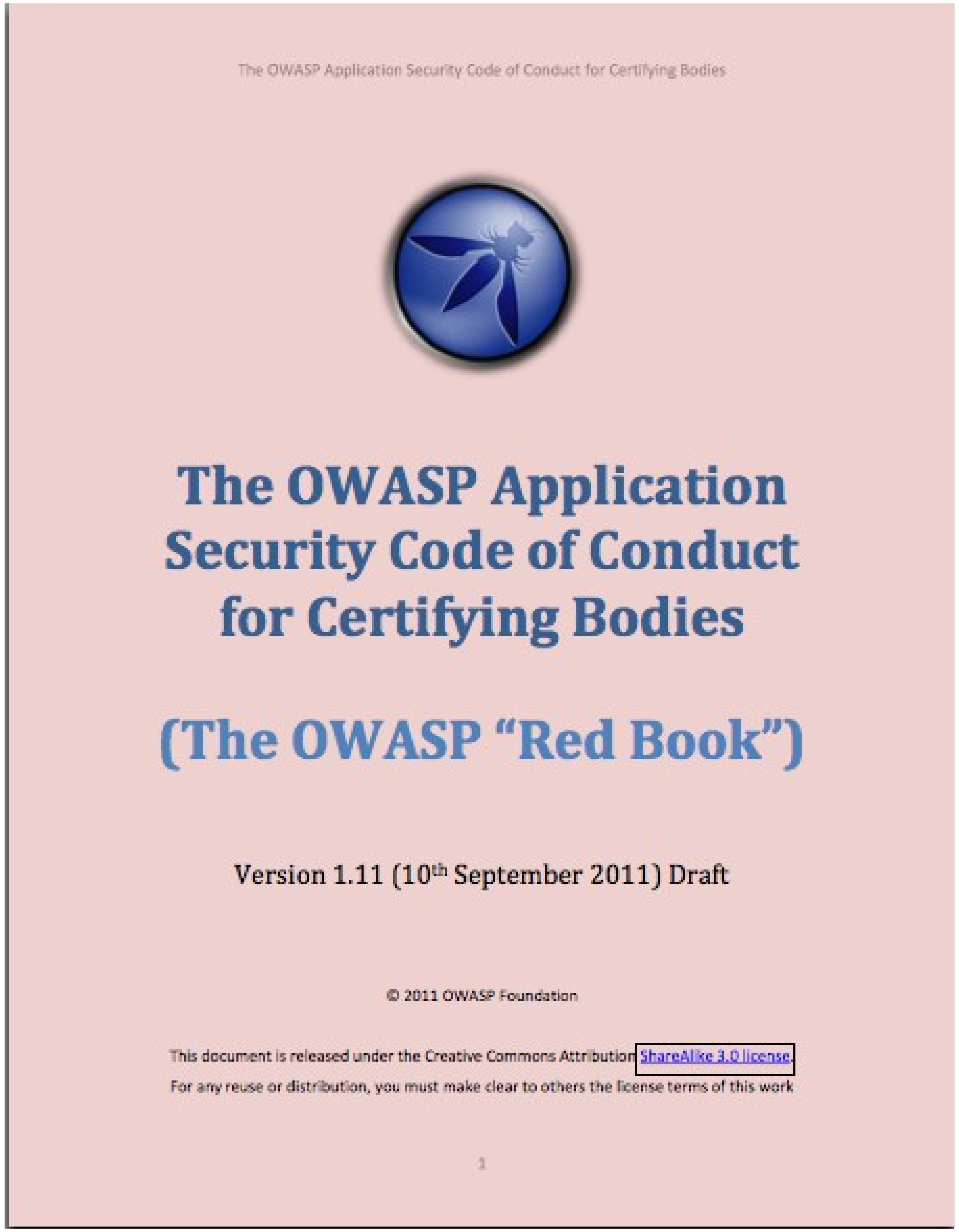
Codes of conduct

- Set of minimal standards
- Normative standards
- Not difficult to achieve

History

- Summit 2011 working sessions
  - For Government Bodies, Standards Groups & Education Institutions
    - Outreach to Educational Institutions
    - Minimal AppSec Program for Universities, Governments & Standards Bodies
      - All participants but especially Jeff Williams, Dave Wichers and Dinis Cruz
  - For Certification Bodies
    - Certification
      - All participants but especially Jason Taylor and Jason Li
- Subsequently
  - For Trade Groups
    - Colin Watson
  - For Commercial Organizations
    - Jeff Williams and Colin Watson

Format



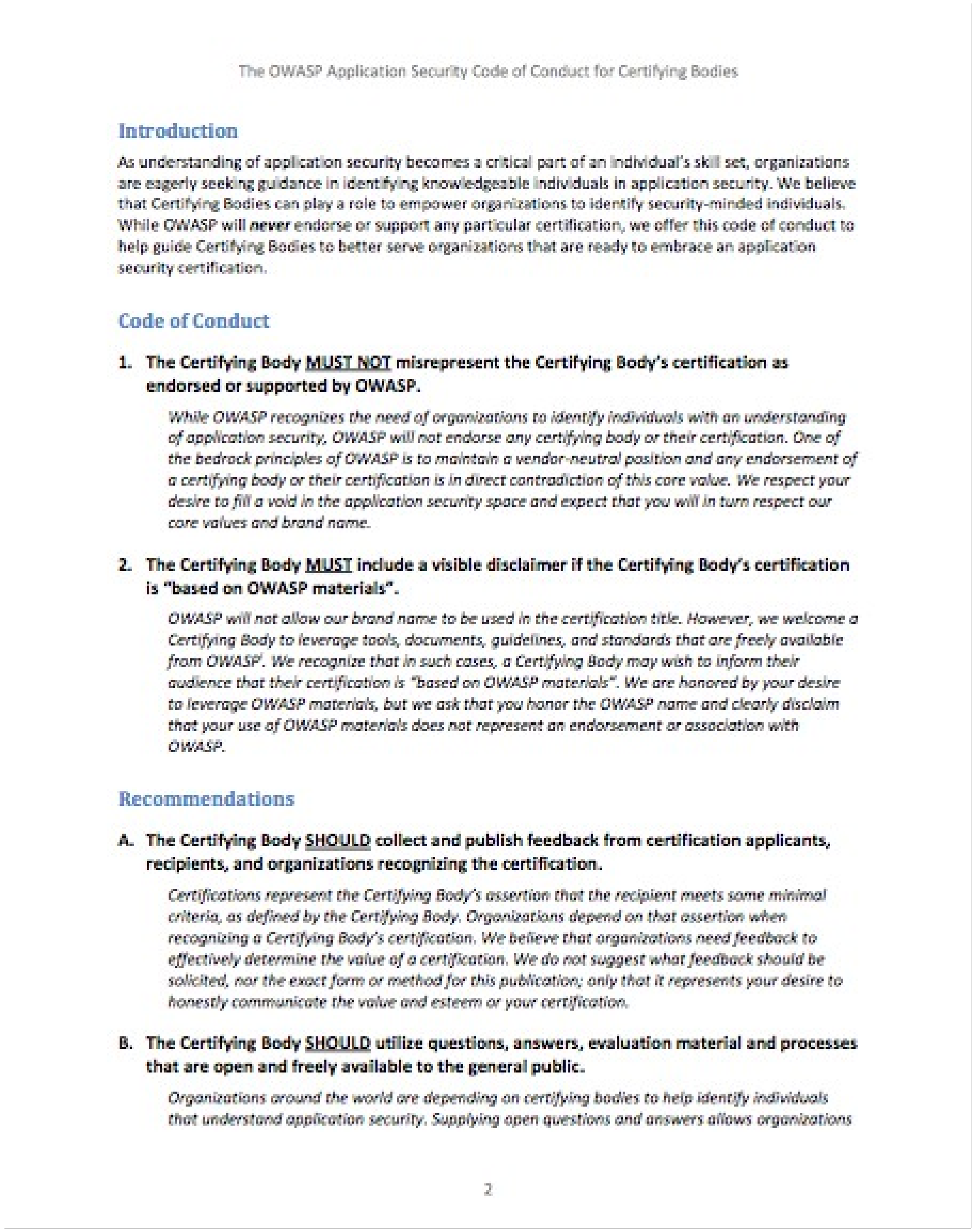
The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Certifying Bodies

The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Certifying Bodies

(The OWASP "Red Book")

Version 1.11 (10th September 2011) Draft

1



The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Certifying Bodies

Introduction

As understanding of application security becomes a critical part of an individual's skill set, organizations are eagerly seeking guidance in identifying knowledgeable individuals in application security. We believe that Certifying Bodies can play a role to empower organizations to identify security-minded individuals. While OWASP will ***never*** endorse or support any particular certification, we offer this code of conduct to help guide Certifying Bodies to better serve organizations that are ready to embrace an application security certification.

Code of Conduct

1. **The Certifying Body MUST NOT misrepresent the Certifying Body's certification as endorsed or supported by OWASP.**

   While OWASP recognizes the need of organizations to identify individuals with an understanding of application security, OWASP will not endorse any certifying body or their certification. One of the bedrock principles of OWASP is to maintain a vendor-neutral position and any endorsement of a certifying body or their certification is in direct contradiction of this core value. We respect your desire to fill a void in the application security space and expect that you will in turn respect our core values and brand name.

2. **The Certifying Body MUST include a visible disclaimer if the Certifying Body's certification is "based on OWASP materials".**

   OWASP will not allow our brand name to be used in the certification title. However, we welcome a Certifying Body to leverage tools, documents, guidelines, and standards that are freely available from OWASP[i]. We recognize that in such cases, a Certifying Body may wish to inform their audience that their certification is "based on OWASP materials". We are honored by your desire to leverage OWASP materials, but we ask that you honor the OWASP name and clearly disclaim that your use of OWASP materials does not represent an endorsement or association with OWASP.

Recommendations

A. **The Certifying Body SHOULD collect and publish feedback from certification applicants, recipients, and organizations recognizing the certification.**

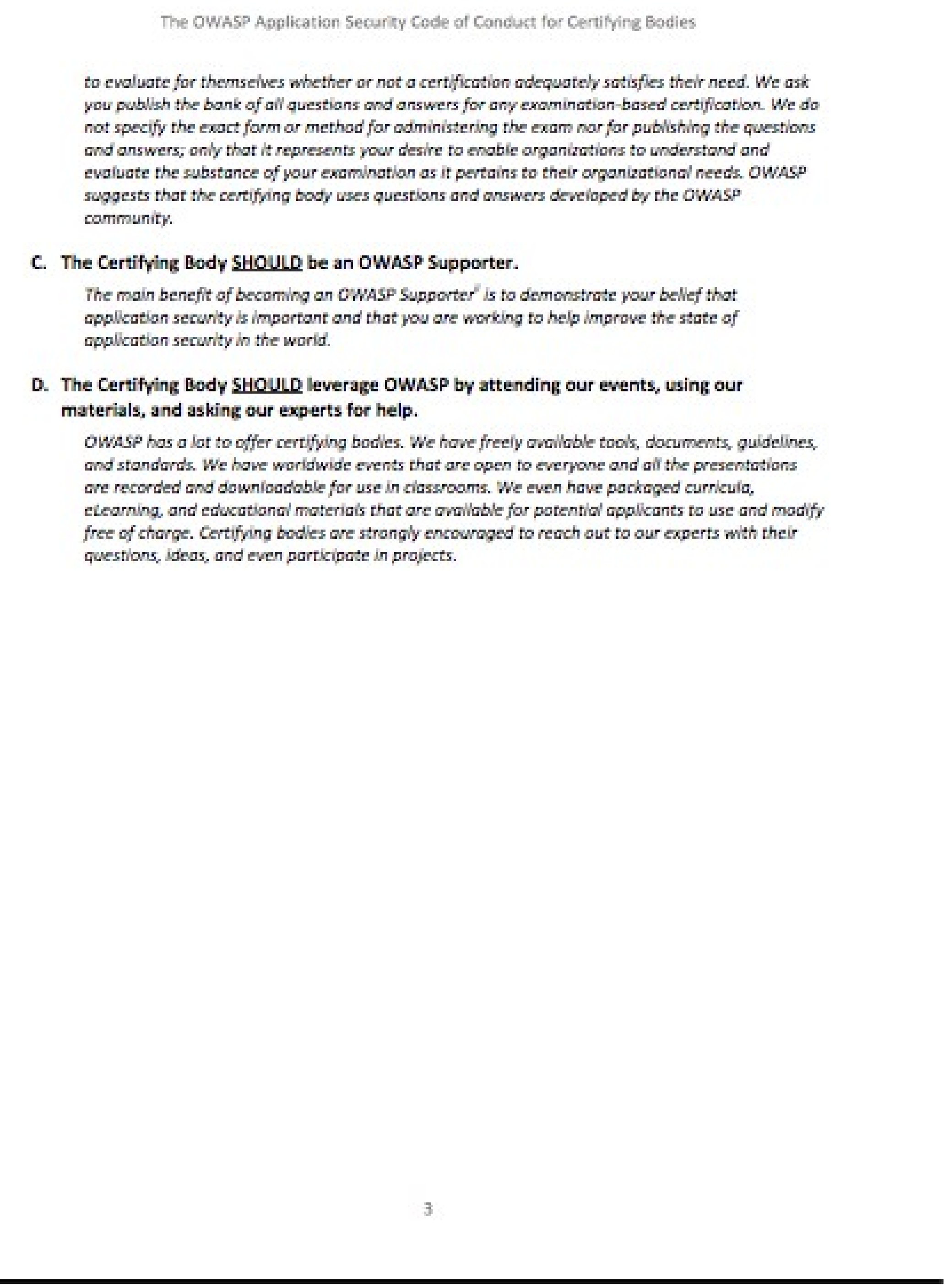
   Certifications represent the Certifying Body's assertion that the recipient meets some minimal criteria, as defined by the Certifying Body. Organizations depend on that assertion when recognizing a Certifying Body's certification. We believe that organizations need feedback to effectively determine the value of a certification. We do not suggest what feedback should be solicited, nor the exact form or method for this publication; only that it represents your desire to honestly communicate the value and esteem or your certification.

B. **The Certifying Body SHOULD utilize questions, answers, evaluation material and processes that are open and freely available to the general public.**

   Organizations around the world are depending on certifying bodies to help identify individuals that understand application security. Supplying open questions and answers allows organizations

2

Format (continued)



The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Certifying Bodies

to evaluate for themselves whether or not a certification adequately satisfies their need. We ask you publish the bank of all questions and answers for any examination-based certification. We do not specify the exact form or method for administering the exam nor for publishing the questions and answers; only that it represents your desire to enable organizations to understand and evaluate the substance of your examination as it pertains to their organizational needs. OWASP suggests that the certifying body uses questions and answers developed by the OWASP community.

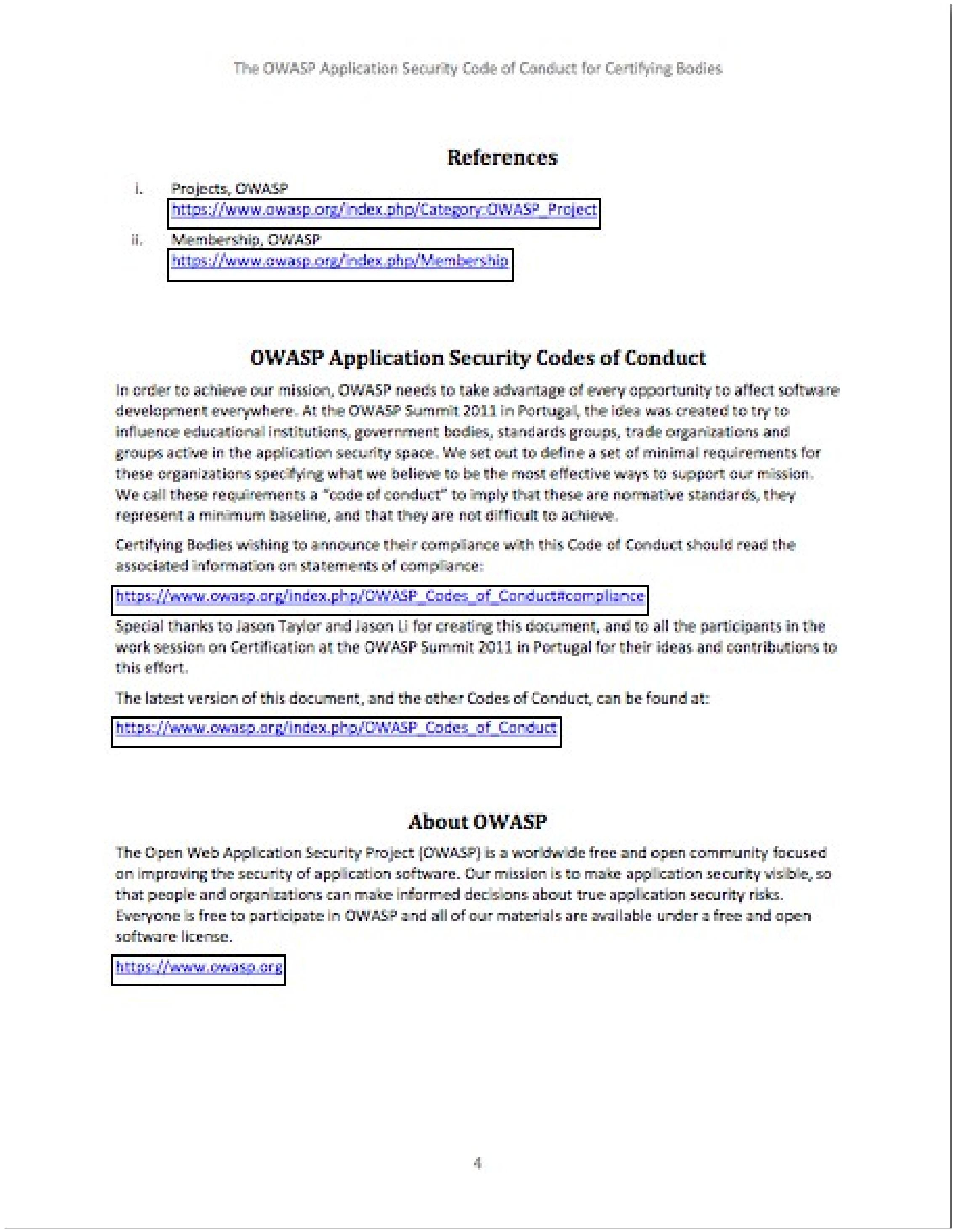
C. The Certifying Body SHOULD be an OWASP Supporter.

The main benefit of becoming an OWASP Supporter[ii] *is to demonstrate your belief that application security is important and that you are working to help improve the state of application security in the world.*

D. The Certifying Body SHOULD leverage OWASP by attending our events, using our materials, and asking our experts for help.

OWASP has a lot to offer certifying bodies. We have freely available tools, documents, guidelines, and standards. We have worldwide events that are open to everyone and all the presentations are recorded and downloadable for use in classrooms. We even have packaged curricula, eLearning, and educational materials that are available for potential applicants to use and modify free of charge. Certifying bodies are strongly encouraged to reach out to our experts with their questions, ideas, and even participate in projects.

3



The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Certifying Bodies

References

i. Projects, OWASP
https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP_Project

ii. Membership, OWASP
https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Membership

OWASP Application Security Codes of Conduct

In order to achieve our mission, OWASP needs to take advantage of every opportunity to affect software development everywhere. At the OWASP Summit 2011 in Portugal, the idea was created to try to influence educational institutions, government bodies, standards groups, trade organizations and groups active in the application security space. We set out to define a set of minimal requirements for these organizations specifying what we believe to be the most effective ways to support our mission. We call these requirements a "code of conduct" to imply that these are normative standards, they represent a minimum baseline, and that they are not difficult to achieve.

Certifying Bodies wishing to announce their compliance with this Code of Conduct should read the associated information on statements of compliance:

https://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Codes_of_Conduct#compliance

Special thanks to Jason Taylor and Jason Li for creating this document, and to all the participants in the work session on Certification at the OWASP Summit 2011 in Portugal for their ideas and contributions to this effort.

The latest version of this document, and the other Codes of Conduct, can be found at:

https://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Codes_of_Conduct

About OWASP

The Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP) is a worldwide free and open community focused on improving the security of application software. Our mission is to make application security visible, so that people and organizations can make informed decisions about true application security risks. Everyone is free to participate in OWASP and all of our materials are available under a free and open software license.

https://www.owasp.org

4

The OWASP “Green Book”

- The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Government Bodies

Code of Conduct

1.The Government Body MUST establish and enforce a standard that requires application security for organizations and applications under their jurisdiction.

2.The Government Body MUST build application security into software acquisition guidelines.

3.The Government Body MUST provide OWASP a “notice and comment” period when releasing laws and regulations that are relevant to application security.

4.The Government Body MUST define or adopt a definition of application security.

5.The Government Body MUST create and promote public service messages focused on application security.

The OWASP “Blue Book”

- The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Educational Institutions

Code of Conduct

1.The Educational Institution MUST include application security content somewhere in the standard computer science curriculum.

2.The Educational Institution MUST offer at least one course dedicated to application security annually.

3.The Educational Institution MUST ensure that an OWASP Chapter is available to their students and support it.

The OWASP “Yellow Book”

- The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Standards Groups

Code of Conduct

1. The Standards Group MUST include an “Application Security” section in each software related technical standard.
2. The Standards Group MUST provide OWASP a “notice and comment” period when releasing standards that include an application security aspect.
3. The Standards Group MUST define or adopt a definition of Application Security.

The OWASP “Purple Book”

- The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Trade Organizations

Code of Conduct

1. The Trade Organization MUST include an “Application Security” section in their own membership requirements.
2. The Trade Organization MUST provide OWASP a “notice and comment” period when releasing requirements that include an application security aspect.

The OWASP “Red Book”

- The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Certifying Bodies

Code of Conduct

1. The Certifying Body MUST NOT misrepresent the Certifying Body’s certification as endorsed or supported by OWASP.

2. The Certifying Body MUST include a visible disclaimer if the Certifying Body’s certification is “based on OWASP materials”.

Similar requirements

Government Bodies	Educational Institutions	Standards Groups	Trade Organizations	Certifying Bodies
1. The Government Body MUST establish and enforce a standard that requires application security for organizations and applications under their jurisdiction.	1. The Educational Institution MUST include application security content somewhere in the standard computer science curriculum.	1. The Standards Group MUST include an "Application Security" section in each software related technical standard.	1. The Trade Organization MUST include an "Application Security" section in their own membership requirements.	-
3. The Government Body MUST provide OWASP a "notice and comment" period when releasing laws and regulations that are relevant to application security.	-	2. The Standards Group MUST provide OWASP a "notice and comment" period when releasing standards that include an application security aspect.	2. The Trade Organization MUST provide OWASP a "notice and comment" period when releasing requirements that include an application security aspect.	-
4. The Government Body MUST define or adopt a definition of application security.	-	3. The Standards Group MUST define or adopt a definition of Application Security.	-	-
(2 more unrelated)	(2 more unrelated)	-	-	(2 more unrelated)

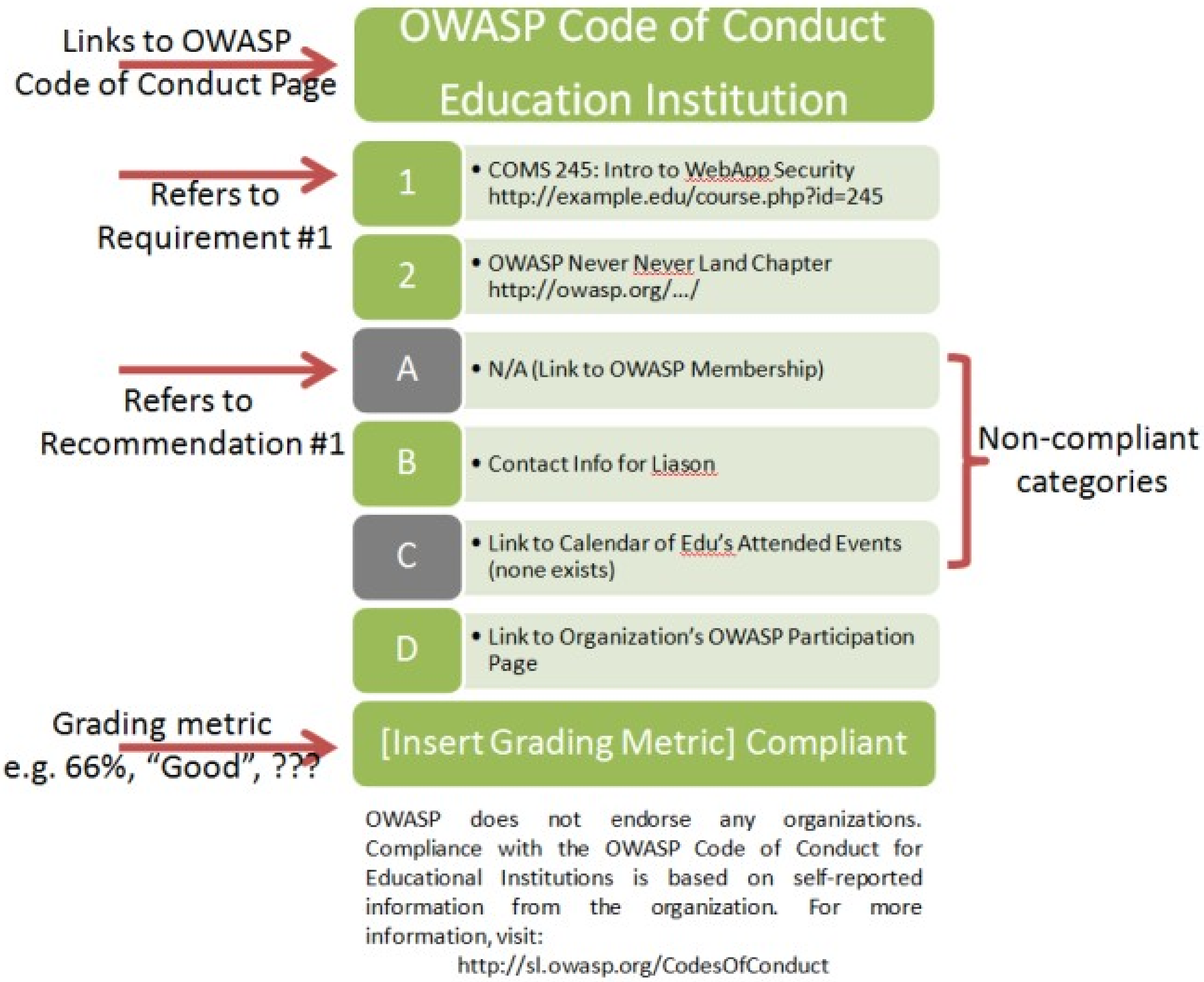
Additional recommendations

Government Bodies	Educational Institutions	Standards Groups	Trade Organizations	Certifying Bodies
-	-	-	-	Collect and publish feedback from certification applicants, recipients, and organizations recognizing the certification
-	-	-	-	Utilize questions, answers, evaluation material and processes that are open and freely available to the general public
Be an OWASP Supporter	Be an OWASP Supporter	Be an OWASP Supporter	Be an OWASP Supporter	Be an OWASP Supporter
Assign a liaison to OWASP	Assign a liaison to OWASP	Assign a liaison to OWASP	Assign a liaison to OWASP	-
Encourage educational institutions to focus on application security	-	-	-	-
Leverage OWASP by attending our events, using our materials, and asking our experts for help	Leverage OWASP by attending our events, using our materials, and asking our experts for help	Leverage OWASP by attending our events, using our materials, and asking our experts for help	Leverage OWASP by attending our events, using our materials, and asking our experts for help	Leverage OWASP by attending our events, using our materials, and asking our experts for help
-	Encourage interested students to participate in OWASP	-	Encourage interested members to participate in OWASP	-
-	-	Involve a security expert early in their standard definition process	-	-

Statements of compliance?

- “Organizations SHOULD clearly communicate that they are in full or partial compliance with this Code of Conduct”
- Dangers
  - "XXX complies with OWASP's codes 100%"
  - "XXX is OWASP code compliant"
  - "All XXX's training is undertaken under the terms of the OWASP Code of Conduct on YYYY"

A proposal from Jason Li



OWASP Code of Conduct

Education Institution

1 • COMS 245: Intro to WebApp Security
http://example.edu/course.php?id=245

2 • OWASP Never Never Land Chapter
http://owasp.org/.../

A • N/A (Link to OWASP Membership)

B • Contact Info for Liason

C • Link to Calendar of Edu's Attended Events (none exists)

D • Link to Organization's OWASP Participation Page

[Insert Grading Metric] Compliant

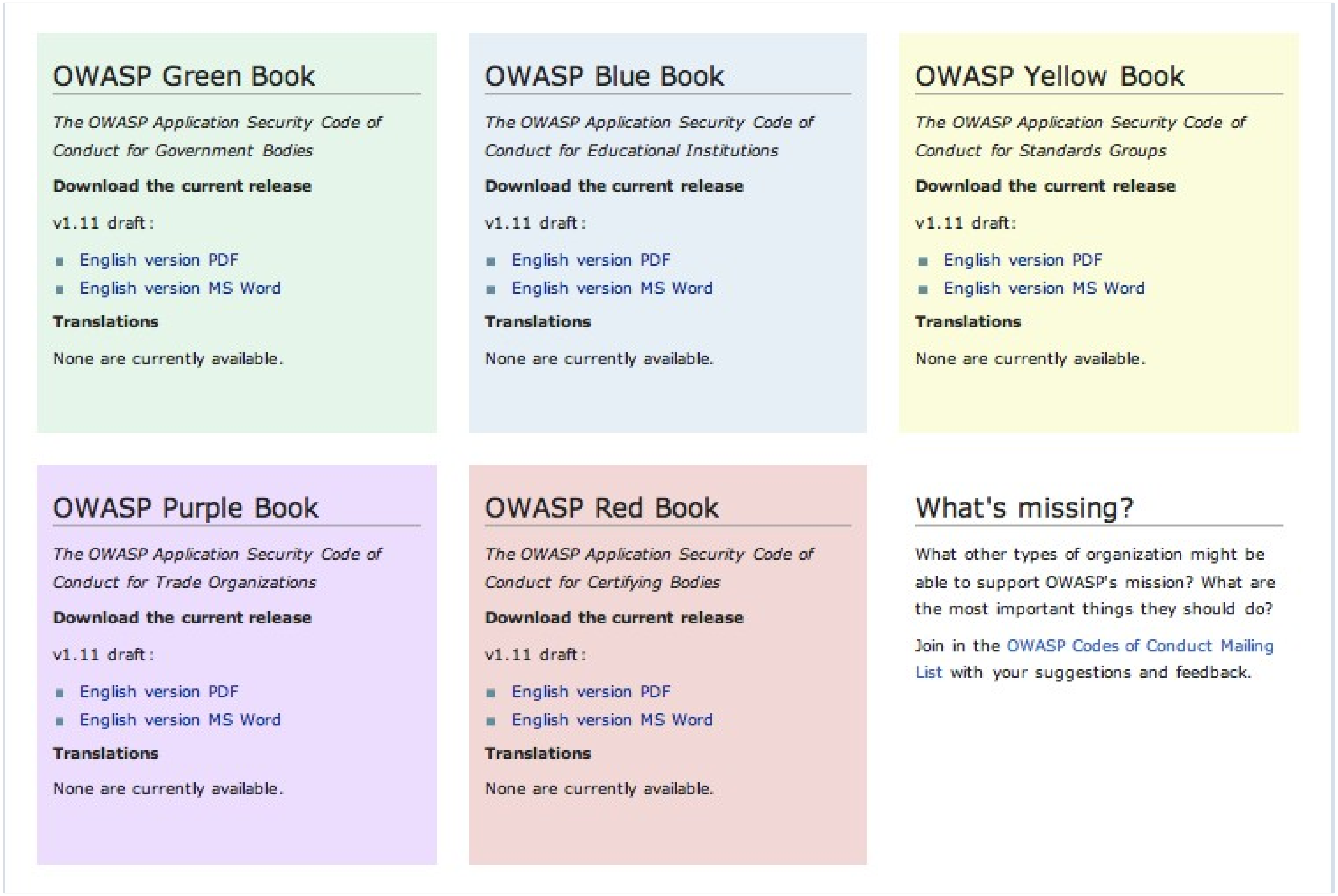
OWASP does not endorse any organizations. Compliance with the OWASP Code of Conduct for Educational Institutions is based on self-reported information from the organization. For more information, visit:
http://sl.owasp.org/CodesOfConduct

Links to OWASP Code of Conduct Page
Refers to Requirement #1
Refers to Recommendation #1
Grading metric e.g. 66%, "Good", ???
Non-compliant categories

Next steps

- First five
  - Finalize v1.1
  - Project assessment
  - Release
  - Promote
- Others

Project web pages



OWASP Green Book

The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Government Bodies

Download the current release

v1.11 draft:

- English version PDF
- English version MS Word

Translations

None are currently available.

OWASP Blue Book

The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Educational Institutions

Download the current release

v1.11 draft:

- English version PDF
- English version MS Word

Translations

None are currently available.

OWASP Yellow Book

The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Standards Groups

Download the current release

v1.11 draft:

- English version PDF
- English version MS Word

Translations

None are currently available.

OWASP Purple Book

The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Trade Organizations

Download the current release

v1.11 draft:

- English version PDF
- English version MS Word

Translations

None are currently available.

OWASP Red Book

The OWASP Application Security Code of Conduct for Certifying Bodies

Download the current release

v1.11 draft:

- English version PDF
- English version MS Word

Translations

None are currently available.

What's missing?

What other types of organization might be able to support OWASP's mission? What are the most important things they should do?

Join in the OWASP Codes of Conduct Mailing List with your suggestions and feedback.

Make contact

Colin Watson

- colin.watson(at)owasp.org

Codes of Conduct Project

- https://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Codes_of_Conduct

Mailing List

- https://lists.owasp.org/mailman/listinfo/owasp-codes-of-conduct