



OWASP Plan to Replace Mailman Mailing lists 2017

As part of the OWASP Organizational Goal to improve the communication strategies of the Foundation, improve the environment for the Community and improve the sustainability of OWASP processes and infrastructure, OWASP is moving the Mailing list structure from Mailman to Discourse.

The move from Mailman to Discourse fits into the these goals

Goal

- Operational Goal - OWASP will have an internationally friendly communication infrastructure with consistent messages across all channels.

Create a location to foment community creativity and collaboration

- Replace aging and EOL/EOS Mailman system
 - This is separate from Slack
- New system requirements
 - Accessible for casual usage
 - Supports email, browser, mobile access
 - Modern look and feel
 - Become a place for peer to peer communications
- Utilize Discourse as a SaaS
 - Collect metrics on current Mailman usage and activity
 - Setup a sandbox instance of Discourse to validate its utility
 - Create a migration plan
 - Start the SaaS service
 - Migrate data from Mailman to Discourse per migration plan
- Retire Mailman system and move archives to a static web server

Resources on why current v. of Mailman inadequate:

Resources on why we chose Discourse Specifically:

Resources on when announced:

Resources on when announced to community:

Plan to move forward:

The Sandbox was completely set up as of the week of July 4. The structure and starting options are complete. The plan to move forward will happen in 2 Alpha Phases, and a slowly rolled out Beta With full adoption after X months.

Alpha Phase One

GOALS

The goal of Alpha phase 1 is to test the way discourse for intrachapter/project/committee communication.

Features tested:

- Trust system,
- basic communications,
- ability to add media,
- ease of adding new people,
- flagging system,
- email functions.
- Group email account for moderation with only Tiffany subscribed.

PARTICIPANTS:

Projects: One Moderate use and 2 heavy use. Ideal projects for Alpha phase 1 would be:

- self selected,
- have fewer than 30 active on their mailing list,
- expect to onboard no more than 5 new people per month,
- Be comfortable using Discourse for their project list and mailman for other lists,
- At least occasionally use media in posts
- Be willing to test specific functions/features

Chapters: 2 medium sized moderate-to heavy users, one large moderate- heavy user. Ideal Chapters for Alpha phase 1 would be:

- Invited to Self select,
- Have fewer than 50 / 100 users,
- Expect to onboard no more than 5 new people per month,
- Be comfortable using Discourse for their chapter and Mailman for other lists,
- Have at least one event or meeting to plan during this time,
- Use social media; meetup and eventbrite count (at least two chapters),
- At least occasionally use media in posts
- Be willing to test specific functions/features

Committees: One active committee Ideal Committee would be:

- Self selected
- Active
- At least occasionally use media in posts
- Host multiple topic threads
- Be willing to test specific functions/features
- Not expect more than 5 new members per month

Staff:

Tiffany:

- Handle questions about platform
- Basic tweaks for Discourse
- Enrolling people
- Community, chapter and committee support
- Moderator

Claudia:

- Projects support
- Moderator

Matt:

- As needed Back up for Tiffany
- Moderator (?)

TIMELINE:

Invitation period: Week of July 16

Transition day: July 21st

Run for: July 21st to Oct 21st. This three month runtime allows plenty of time for the participants to use Discourse in a naturalistic way. It allows for tweaks and support systems to be developed slowly, and it allows for a wide number of use cases to be demonstrated. It also is timely in straddling the prep period for USA and allowing an announcement for Alpha phase 2 to happen at AppSec USA.

Alpha Phase Two

GOALS: To test the interchapter/project/committee/community functionality of Discourse and put appreciably more stress on the processes and platform

FEATURES:

- All of the above tested plus:
 - Community features
 - Watch vs. interaction permissions
 - Group features
 - Badges
- Begin priming Alpha phase one participants for the retirement of their mailman accounts.
- Claudia subscribe to group email for moderation.

PARTICIPANTS:

All above.

Projects: 10 additional projects and all new projects. Ideal projects for Alpha phase 1 would be:

- self selected,
- have fewer than 30 active on their mailing list,
- Be comfortable using Discourse for their project list and mailman for other lists,
- At least occasionally use media in posts
- Be willing to test specific functions/features

Chapters: 10 additional chapters and all new chapters. Ideal participants would be:

- Self selected,
- Have fewer than 50 / 100 users, (plus one mega chapter)
- Be extremely or very active

- Be comfortable using Discourse for their chapter and community lists,
- Have at least one event or meeting to plan during the next 2 months,
- At least occasionally use media in posts
- Be willing to test specific functions/features

Committees: All committees at this time

TIMELINE:

Invitation period: Week of Oct 23rd

Transition day: Oct. 28th

Run for: Oct 28th to Nov. 29th. This one month runtime allows time for the participants to use Discourse in a naturalistic way. It allows for tweaks and support systems to be developed slowly, and it allows for a wide number of use cases to be demonstrated. It also is timely avoiding confusion of change around Thanksgiving--a time of vacations for staff and activity for community members.

Beta Phase 1

GOALS: Bring in high visibility members and build the community activities, increased load testing, begin phase out for Mailman.

FEATURES:

- Continued testing of above features--esp. Community features, trust, flagging, and the member badge
- API for SF and badges
- Prime community for adoption
- Begin retiring of mailman accounts for Alpha Phase 1 participants. Begin reeducation for how the board list will work
- Release mass sign up for adoption (Chapter/project lists).

PARTICIPANTS:

- Leader's List
- Board List
- All new Projects and Chapters
- All of staff (if not previously joined)

TIMELINE:

Nov. 29, 2017 to Jan 7, 2018

Beta Phase 2

GOALS: Beta Phase two is the time in which we will slowly roll out full production. I am keeping it in beta for three reasons--(1)there is a psychological benefit to being in beta as we hit bumps, it is already tacitly acknowledged that these are expected and will be worked out. (2)During this phase not only will we be slowly enrolling people from the community, but we will also be adjusting and testing

new features as we remove the last ties to the Mailman system. (3) Mailman is not open to the public without reference or approval, for this phase of the Beta, Discourse will remain so. It is currently planned to open the community and selected other categories for un(human)moderated registration.

FEATURES:

- Continued testing of above features-esp. Community features, trust, flagging, and the member and leader badges.
- API for SF and badges
- Prime lagging community members for adoption
- Continue retiring mailman accounts: all of Alpha b, Board, Community, Leaders, all unused for 3+ months

PARTICIPANTS:

All Chapters and Projects will be added 10 per week in first come first served order as per the released sign up sheet.

TIMELINE:

Jan 14 to Aug 31 This timeline is longer than necessary to accommodate testing and events.

Full Adoption:

By Aug 31st all chapters should be on Discourse and Mailman should be moved to a static site.

GOALS:

- Stronger, interconnected community through transparency and community building activities
- Better, multi-directional communication between members, Chapters/projects/committees, and foundation
- Drive investment through volunteership and membership

FEATURES:

All of above plus testing:

- Member only q&a section
- Community category growth
- Api for social media and salesforce
- Open access

PARTICIPANTS:

Our formal and informal communities and self selected newcomers

TIMELINE:

Aug. 31st to ongoing