

Security Forum

Zero Trust Architecture Working Group

Zero Trust Landscape Project Charter

Status: Final

Revision level: V1.0

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A. Project Description

In recent times, the security concept known as “zero trust architecture” (ZTA) has become a hot topic. Key drivers have been on both the end user side and the supply side. Zero Trust in the modern environment constitutes a holistic capability addressing components in the entire IT ecosystem. However, traditional, perimeter-based approaches are unable to support moderns rate of change and the transition to cloud environments. The vendor community has shown particular interest because (a) they see an opportunity to develop, market, and sell new products, and (b) some interpretations of the concept threaten to disrupt the network security industry, leaving some vendors without a meaningful offering in network security. The situation is a classic case of “digital disruption,” leading to opportunities for digital evolution to meet the perpetual state of business and technology disruption.

This project is intended to gather and report the current landscape of Zero Trust and Zero Trust Architectures from three (3) primary points of view: end users (CISOs, Chief Security Architects, etc.), product vendors/owners, and academia. The Zero Trust Landscape document will clearly present similarities and differences of understanding and expectations.

The intended audience for this document is executives, in risk, business, technology, as the document will describe the current problems that Zero Trust can address, namely the CIO, CISO, CSA. The document is not meant to go into technical detail but will be useful for practitioners.

B. Goals of this Project

The Zero Trust Landscape document will focus on reporting the results from industry surveys. The first survey is intended for CISOs and Chief Security Architects. Their responses will represent an “end user” view and will be augmented by research and first-hand experience of Zero Trust Architecture Working Group Members as well as potential workshops with willing respondents.

The second survey is intended for organizations selling/providing products for implementing or using Zero Trust and/or Zero Trust Architectures. Responses to this survey will be augmented by analysis of products/offerings from vendors’ websites as well as potential workshops with willing respondents.

The analysis of academia will be completed utilizing a literature review, focusing on compiling existing literature and presenting findings clearly and concisely.

Together, this information will provide a clear landscape for Zero Trust and Zero Trust Architectures. The resulting document will identify differences and similarities in understanding and attempt to infer where gaps occur. The document will be refreshed roughly once per year with follow-up surveys to document how perceptions and understanding have changed.

C. Project Deliverables

- A. Zero Trust Landscape White Paper
 - a. Survey for CISOs, CSAs
 - b. Survey for product vendors/owners
 - c. 'Survey' of ZTA Landscape
 - i. Literature review of academic publications
 - ii. Analyst perspectives
 - iii. Work from other organizations

D. Project Value Proposition

- A. This project will establish similarities and differences in understanding and perceptions of Zero Trust and Zero Trust Architectures.
- B. This project will provide a critical base of needs from users and offerings from vendors, identifying gaps and providing insight into where standardization will be of value.
- C. This project will create a document that can be updated annually to document how perceptions and understanding change over time.

E. Project Personnel

- A. Stakeholders
 - a. The governing stakeholders of the project are:
 - i. The Open Group
 - ii. The Open Group Security Forum Steering Committee
- B. Team
 - a. The project team will be drawn from members of The Open Group Security Forum and Architecture Forum. The project leadership will be selected through the normal procedures of The Open Group.
 - b. The Project Facilitators will be Altaz Valani and Malcolm Shore.

F. Project Methodology

This final section describes the project methodology, which includes:

- A. Approach
 - a. This project will be managed by the Co-Chairs of the Zero Trust Architecture Working Group, who will report regularly to the Security Forum Steering Committee.
 - b. After publishing the initial Zero Trust Landscape White Paper, the Zero Trust Architecture Working Group will make annual updates, utilizing responses to follow-up surveys.
- B. Roadmap
 - a. Develop surveys for CISOs and CSAs and for product vendors
 - b. While responses to surveys are being collected, complete literature review of academic publications
 - c. Compile and analyze survey results
 - d. Document survey responses and analyses within Zero Trust Landscape White Paper along with the literature review
 - i. Include surveys in appendices
- C. Governance
 - a. Governance of the initiative will be The Open Group standard policy and procedures.

D. Approval

- a. Project deliverables will be approved by The Open Group. The project charter will be approved through the normal mechanism of The Open Group.