

ZERO TRUST WORKING GROUP CHARTER

Mission Statement

The mission of ATARC's Zero Trust Working Group is to unite stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and emerging technology sectors to explore, demonstrate, and share principles, best practices, and actionable insights, supporting organizations on their journey toward implementing effective Zero Trust strategies.

Context

Zero trust is a datacentric approach to cybersecurity, prioritizing protecting the most important data and recognizing limited resources. Zero Trust is an evolving cybersecurity framework that shifts traditional security paradigms by eliminating transitive and implicit trust within systems, users, and identities. Recognizing that all entities can be potential threat actors, the Zero Trust model emphasizes continuous verification, dynamic risk assessment, and the principle of "never trust, always verify."

In this rapidly changing threat landscape, organizations must adapt their policies, architectures, and technologies to embrace a Zero Trust approach. Automation, advanced analytics, and risk-based decision-making are integral to achieving this transformation.

Scope

Achieving Zero Trust requires a continuous effort that shifts how we think about implementing security. The Zero Trust working group has been successful in the information sharing of Zero Trust ideas and solutions.

The Zero Trust working group will be continuing education by the following:

- Government only discussions, identifying and clarifying requirements regarding:
 - Executive Order 14028
 - OMB Memo 22-09
 - OMB Memo 24-04
 - NIST 800-207
 - NIST SP 1800-35
 - Subsequent guidance

(Output from these discussions will then be packaged to share with industry and academia to get feedback and possible solutioning options/approaches)

- Share best practices and challenges
- Revisit previous work
- Layout of future events for the working group:
 - Integrated lab demos (vice individual vendor demos)
- Information sharing specific to recent publications both in private and government sectors



Objective

The objective of the Zero Trust Working Group is to advance the understanding, implementation, and continuous evolution of Zero Trust principles across government, industry, and academia. Zero Trust is a resilient and adaptive approach that enhances the security posture of organizations by leveraging automation for risk-based decision-making with a focus on data.

This framework evolves existing architectures and policies by eliminating transitive and implicit trust, treating all systems, users, and identities as potential threat actors. As a result, continuous verification of all entities and dynamic measurement against risk tolerance thresholds are required to ensure security and resilience.

The Working Group aims to foster thought leadership and innovation while addressing challenges in Zero Trust adoption. By bringing together diverse expertise, the group seeks to demonstrate practical solutions, share best practices, and drive the adoption of Zero Trust strategies that promote secure, adaptive, and scalable architectures.

Deliverables

The Zero Trust Working Group deliverables will include:

- Review of previous definitions, concepts previously completed and determine if still viable, useful or needs adjustment
- Live demonstrations of integrated labs for government audience from private sector solution providers and integrators
- Reference matrix of provider demos aligned with functional areas that they self-assessed they address
- Subject Matter Expert guest speakers for discussions and presentations to the working group as appropriate
- Various presentations on best practices and recommendations of others working various ZT efforts

Deliverable formats include but are not limited to labs, white papers, webinars, discussion panels, guest speakers and reference documents.

Working Group Membership

Working Group Chairs

Dr. Amy Hamilton, Department of Energy, Government Chair
Don Yeske, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Government Vice Chair
Gerald Caron, RIVA Solutions, Industry Co-Chair
Anupam Shah, Resiliant, Industry Co-Chair
Matt Henson, TC Engine, Industry Co-Vice Chair
Hunter Wright, Lumen, Industry Co-Chair
Brian Daly, AT&T, Industry Co-Vice Chair
Joe Cosmano, iBoss, Industry Co-Vice Chair
Joe Brown, Zimperium, Industry Co-Vice Chair

Working Group Chairs will:

- Attend and contribute to each Working Group meeting
- Prepare the meeting agenda, solicit topics for discussion, assign members to address discussion topics, and distribute meeting materials
- Share information of relevance; provide an update/introduction at the beginning of each meeting to encourage member engagement
- Define and oversee Working Group initiatives and activities
- Assist in all stages of the deliverable production process
- Advocate for government, academic, and industry involvement in the working group
- Referee requests and suggestions for working group membership regarding agenda, deliverables, and representation

Working Group Members

Group members are strictly voluntary, and we strive for a broad representation across government, private sector, and academia.

Working Group Members will:

- Participate in meetings, including exchanging technical information, experiences, and best practices to develop a shared understanding of the topic(s) discussed
- Gather information and work on group deliverables outside of meetings as needed
- Provide feedback on draft deliverables as requested
- Co-lead or participate in Sub-Working Groups (breakout teams/project teams) as needed
- Provide input on meeting agendas as requested

ATARC Support

Elizabeth Wyckoff, Associate Director, Working Groups

Amy Karpowicz, Working Groups Associate

Tim Harvey, Director of Government Engagement

ATARC support will:

- Serve as program management for the Working Group
- Coordinate and drive group projects and deliverables forward
- Schedule Working Group meetings
- Develop Working Group meeting agendas along with the chairs
- Facilitate Working Group meetings along with the chairs
- Assist in distributing relevant documents and materials to Working Group members
- Record meeting minutes, post-meeting decisions, and action items, and distribute them to Working Group members after each meeting
- Assist in preparing final proposals/recommendations
- Provide marketing services for the Working Group (promoting completed deliverables, etc.)
- Develop strategies to improve Working Group engagement, including applicable cross-overs with other Working Groups and relevant events
- Coordinate Working Group Labs as applicable

Rules of Engagement

The Working Group rules of engagement are described as below:

- Meet monthly until amended by ATARC Support
- Join Working Group meetings prepared and with requested action items completed
- Provide respectful and constructive feedback to yield the best decisions for the Working Group's objectives
- Endeavour to balance time among members so that all may contribute. All members of the Working Group have a voice and will be listened to.
- Final decisions are made by the Working Group Co-Chairs and ATARC Support
- If a Working Group member misses a meeting, decisions will be made in their absence. The Working Group will consider on a case-by-case basis at the request of the absentee if a decision made in the absence of a member shall be revisited.

The Working Group will:

- Form Sub-Working Groups (breakout teams/project teams) as needed
- Follow the group's ground rules ad developed in the charter
- Meet critical deadlines in the creation of deliverables by mutual and balanced effort
- Keep in confidence draft versions of deliverable, off-the-record conversations, and non-public Working Group or ATARC plans to the extent disclosure is not required by law, regulation, or valid court order

File Sharing and Collaboration Tools

Access to the ATARC Box Account is managed by ATARC Support.

Disclaimer: Products and communications by ATARC's Zero Trust Working Group do not necessarily represent the plans or preferences of any company or government agency.