

APCERT Engagement with Commercial Service Providers and Corporate Entities Policy

Introduction

1. The Asia Pacific Computer Emergency Response Team (**APCERT**) is a forum for national and non-national Computer Security Incident Response Teams (**CSIRTs**) and Computer Emergency Response Teams (**CERTs**) within the Asia Pacific region to foster information sharing and collaboration on cyber security. APCERT has established relationships with a wide range of organisations within the Asia-Pacific region and around the globe. In line with this, the APCERT welcomes engagements with commercial service providers and corporate entities as these entities are often experts in their field and can significantly contribute to the APCERT community and the Asia-Pacific region.

2. Apart from APCERT Operational Members, APCERT has three partnership categories, which are “Liaison Partner”, “Strategic Partner” and “Corporate Partner”, as stated in the Operational Framework. Commercial entities have the opportunity to join APCERT as Corporate Partners.

3. There are a range of commercial cyber security related entities that wish to formally support the operation and activities of APCERT. APCERT recognises the valuable contribution such entities can make to the APCERT mission and community. However, there is also the appropriate limitations on Corporate Partners¹ in order to maintain the integrity of APCERT as a non-commercial entity.

Purpose and scope

4. This document applies to APCERT Operational Members, Partners, commercial service providers and corporate entities. This document sets out the core principles for engagement to ensure the integrity of APCERT and its mission is maintained, reflecting APCERT’s not-for-profit status and the not-for-profit/government-funded status of its Operational Members. A breach of this policy may lead to the review of the APCERT Membership or Partnership status.

5. APCERT Corporate Partners, commercial service providers and other corporate entities engaging or seeking to engage with APCERT should review this policy to understand how the commercial nature of their operations may affect or limit their engagement with APCERT.

¹ Under the Operational Framework, Corporate Partners do not have voting rights within APCERT and are not eligible to hold office (e.g. become Chair, Deputy Chair or a member of the Steering Committee).

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Conducting activities on behalf of APCERT

6. APCERT Operational Members, Strategic Partners, Liaison Partners, and Corporate Partners, when conducting activities on behalf of APCERT, must ensure that:
- a. APCERT is not seen as nor used as a vehicle for the promotion of commercial interests; and
 - b. Information provided to or from APCERT Members/Partners is not used for direct commercial advantage.

APCERT Brand

7. Any use of the APCERT brand by Members/Partners must be approved by the APCERT Steering Committee (**SC**), including but not limited to:
- a. Conferences, meetings, presentations or other events, particularly if hosted by or substantially funded by commercial service providers or other corporate entities;
 - b. Promotional or marketing material that makes use of or reference to APCERT or its brand; and
 - c. Information published by commercial service providers and other corporate entities that contains or refers to APCERT or its brand, with the exception of forwarding or sharing information that APCERT has placed in the public domain, when done consistently with this policy.

APCERT Sponsorship

8. Any sponsorship by the commercial service providers or other corporate entities of the APCERT publications, services, events, or activities must be approved by the SC, including but not limited to, the APCERT Annual General Meeting and Conference; APCERT Drill and other collaborative exercise activities; APCERT Annual Report; APCERT website; APCERT presentations and training; and other official APCERT activities.

Prohibition on Commercial Gain

9. APCERT Members/Partners, commercial service providers and other corporate entities must not seek to leverage their relationship or association with APCERT for commercial gain, including through the:
- a. Promotion of their products and services using their relationship or association with APCERT;
 - b. Targeting APCERT Members/Partners or their constituents as potential markets for their products and services other than in the normal course of business, separate and apart from the work of APCERT; or
 - c. Pressuring or otherwise suggesting to APCERT Members/Partners that they should endorse commercial products or services to other APCERT Members/Partners or their constituencies.

Information Sharing and Handling

10. Any information shared by APCERT Members/Partners must be appropriately protected in line with APCERT's Information Sharing and Handling Policy. Where information is shared, it must not be used as part of an entity's commercial services or activities without explicit prior permission from the APCERT SC (except where information is designated as TLP:WHITE, which equates to publicly available information).