The Script
Bulletin

DECEMBER 2022

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President's Update

2022 has been a pivotal year for CREST and we have been building on our past achievements to deliver a new and clearer value proposition for our members.

This has culminated in a new three-year strategy and goals about which Nick says more below.

Reform of our governance processes in late 2021 and early 2022 paved the way for more robust, better-informed and more transparent decision-making processes within CREST.

One of the first decisions of the new International Council, informed by our five Regional Councils, was a revised Vision and Mission. This commits CREST to raising standards through building capability, capacity, consistency and collaboration in the global cyber security industry.

We achieve this by delivering services that nurture, measure and enhance the performance of individuals and organisations.

A number of new services have been introduced in 2022 that support our Vision and Mission. These include the **CREST OVS Program**, the **Skilled Persons Register** and the **CREST Defensible Penetration Test**.

The new OVS accreditation offers higher levels of assurance to organisations who build and use mobile and web-based applications. This gives OVS-accredited members better traction in the vast and growing app development industry.

We have already accredited the first seven member companies to the program – Across Verticals, Nettitude, Pen Test Partners, Pentest People, Trustwave SpiderLabs, URM Consulting and VerSprite – with more in the pipeline.

The Skilled Persons Register gives member companies the opportunity to register all the people responsible for the delivery of a CREST-accredited service, such as an OVS.

Registration provides your analysts with a personalised CREST ID which you can use to give your clients added assurance around the quality of the CREST-accredited services you provide.

It also gives you the opportunity to provide enhanced information about individuals' skills, training, examinations and experience. We are working to process and anonymise this data before aggregating in a Competency Measurement consultation document to be shared with members.

The CREST Defensible Penetration Test (CDPT) addresses the inconsistencies that exist in the definitions, practices and expectations associated with

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penetration tests. By communicating a minimum set of expectations for how a CREST pentest should be scoped, delivered and signed off, the CDPT supports members and their clients to work more effectively together.

Our evolving identity was reflected in the brand refresh and new website in April. The CREST site is now better at connecting members with buyers of cyber security services, allowing members to search, shortlist and contact members directly thereby creating measurable sales leads for members.

As Covid restrictions began to lift this year, I travelled with Nick and Andy to the Americas, Asia, Australasia, the Middle East and also within the UK, where we met with regional council members, member companies, regulators, buyers and other stakeholders.

Thanks to the hard work of the Regional Councils our engagement work has been significant and has positively contributed to growing our profile and membership.

I am delighted to welcome Vertical Structure as the 300th member of CREST, marking a milestone in the growth of our organisation, which started life in 2006 with little more than a handful of members.

None of this would be possible without the amazing support we receive from the CREST community in the shape of the member representatives on our Regional and International Councils, our assessors, the individuals who participate in our discipline aligned Focus Groups, the thousands who attend our events such as CRESTCon and who support our webinars, videos and podcasts.

I am proud and privileged to work with this CREST community. And I wish you all a wonderful festive break and very much look forward to working with you in 2023.

Rowland Johnson
President of CREST

Nick Benson, CREST Chief Executive Officer

One of my priorities since joining CREST in April this year has been supporting the work of our Councils to develop and agree a new three-year strategy and goals which will lend real clarity and purpose to our development.

Key to this has been setting stretching yet realistic goals. Member representatives on our Regional and International Councils have been invaluable in ensuring that these goals remain absolutely focused on broadening and strengthening the member value proposition.

I am delighted that the International Council agreed CREST's three-year strategy at its meeting in November. We also agreed a 2023 plan and budget to ensure we take a big first step forward in achieving the three-year goals. Each Regional Council will now cascade this into a tailored local version.

We will shared the strategy and goals with you shortly.

Essential to achieving our goals is aligning the internal CREST team to our strategic priorities. This year we have recruited additional staff to help us including Andy Woolhead, who joined in March as Head of Global Product, Mark Grigg, who joined us in October as the Head of IT & Change, and Sarah Kirkpatrick who joined in November as Head of Member Engagement.

As Rowland has outlined, CREST has achieved a lot in 2022. And we now have clear strategic direction, the necessary governance and decision-making structures and the staff base to deliver even more for members over the next three years.

There is a lot of work to do but I am continually impressed by the enthusiasm and openness of the many members who engage with and support CREST.

In 2023 and beyond we will be driving our levels of member engagement further to provide more channels for communication, information sharing and feedback. With members even more engaged I am confident that together we can achieve our goals.

I hope you manage to take a well-earned break over the coming weeks, and I wish everyone a happy and productive 2023.

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Andy Woolhead
Head of Global Product

As the year comes to a close, we reflect on the progress of exams and what's to come and it's hugely exciting. We have engaged widely across the community to understand what our candidates would like to see from the exams and while there is a broad range of responses and some personal vantage points, time constraints and preparation are common themes.

We have adjusted the approach to CCT INF, enhancing the guidance and content without compromising the high standards still required to pass the exam, leading to much improved results. We are also looking to extend the time allowance for CRT, CCT INF and CCT APP while again maintaining high standards.

In terms of preparation, we have partnered with Hack the Box and Immersive Labs to develop training pathways to exams across the Pen Testing and Incident Response syllabuses. We plan to launch these in January 2023.

We have requested a Point of Contact across each member organisation to allocate the free licences. We are also looking forward to your feedback after launch to build out the practice labs and fill in any gaps. As always, we'd encourage candidates to prepare by undertaking the broadest possible research and revision, but we hope that this offering provides a solid starting place.

We are also progressing our engagement with existing and new training providers to improve classroom/online training to our certifications and to offer more choice globally. While we are focused on avoiding a 'bootcamp' style approach to training, feedback suggests that candidates would like to focus on particular areas of the syllabus to improve their knowledge and understanding. The new approach will help to achieve this.

We are of course continuing to work on new exam content and a refresh of the syllabus areas. We have some exciting plans for 2023 that focus on further developing exams from the candidate's perspective. Thank you for your continued support and feedback. Please keep it coming.

Enjoy the festive break and we look forward to working with you in the new year.

Ps – If you or any of your colleagues are interested in joining the Exam Development Group or becoming an Assessor please do drop a note to **marketing@crest-approved.org** and we'll be in touch the next time we open up the call.

Alan Thomson
Communications Manager

The CREST website has gone from strength to strength since its relaunch in April.

In late November, we reached a milestone of 500 Supplier Enquiry forms submitted by potential clients to members via the website. More than 100 Request Callback forms have been submitted to member companies by buyers.

These provide concrete sales leads for CREST member companies and don't forget you can login to the site and customise your profile pages!

Further improvements to our **Find a Supplier** search process went live in October. We introduced additional questions to help organisations who are not sure what cyber security services they need, while also making it simpler for the organisations that do know what they need to select the appropriate service.

These and other improvements, as well as the launch of new programs such as CREST OVS, contributed to a record 23,000 website users in August. The number of users between April and December 2022 was up 10% on the same period in 2021.

Improvements made in the layout of the website **examinations pages** make it easier to access information about CREST certifications and book examinations. Work is ongoing to make the website navigation even clearer for members, buyers and those seeking CREST examinations.

CREST events were back with a bang too in 2022. CRESTCon Australia was held in Canberra in April and CRESTCon UK returned as a physical event in London in July. Look out for our **CRESTCon events** in 2023.

We were also at a number of third-party events around the world this year. They included: the RSA Conference in San Francisco in June; the Cybersecurity & Threat Intelligence Summit (CSTI) in Kuala Lumpur in June; the International Cyber Expo in London in September; the Australian Information Security Association's CyberCon in Melbourne in October; GovWare in Singapore in October; the Cyber Security & Data Protection Summit in London in November.

CREST also passed a few social media milestones this year too with 12,000 followers on **LinkedIn**, 6,000 followers on **Twitter** and 2,000 subscribers to the **CREST YouTube channel**.

2023 will see an increase in the flow of communications to members and from members as we step up our member engagement.

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Benefits update

We have updated our list of **CREST benefits** on the website. We hope this more clearly articulates the range and variety of benefits gained through CREST.

In addition to our service accreditation and quality assurance that allow members to market themselves in a crowded marketplace, there are a number of financial savings linked to membership, not least the ability to buy discounted vouchers for CREST examinations and free tickets to CRESTCon events.

The three-year strategy agreed by the International Council will ensure further development of the benefits of CREST membership and the overall value proposition for existing and new members.

International Roundup

Tom Brennan, Chair CREST Americas Council

There is no doubt that the market continues to develop for accredited service providers and certified individuals in the United States.

I am laser focused on driving CREST's accreditation of businesses and certification of individuals into the National Critical Infrastructure of the United States as defined by Presidential Directive **www.whitehouse. gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/05/12/ executive-order-on-improving-the-nations- cybersecurity/** and CISA **www.cisa.gov/about-cisa**.

South America and Canada expansion is also important to CREST in 2023 and member companies operating in those regions should volunteer to participate with the Americas council that has oversight for North and South America.

Core areas of focus are:

- OVS, which is an important program for global roll out. We should expect to see a rise in Penetration Testing organizations with OVS endorsement.

- Security Operations Centers this is an important area of focus for CREST as buyers are requesting it for their MSP's, MSSP providers.

- Threat Intelligence organizations that operate in this niche service area are greatly helped by CREST in recognizing their unique qualifications and vetting them for the buyer.

- Incident Response where CREST-accreditation is very valuable to the buyer who may be the effected organization, insurance company or government.

In 2023 I see additional regulatory scrutiny on commercially reasonable security controls to be demonstrated in policy, procedure, and attestations. Providers that are not vetted by a third party and accredited will not be offered the opportunity to deliver services.

On behalf of the Americas CREST Americas team, I wish all members and their families, a happy holiday season and good fortune in the new year.

Nigel Phair, Chair CREST Australasia Council

In November the CREST Australasia Chapter held industry events in Wellington and Auckland, New Zealand. These events consisted of CREST member companies in panel sessions providing an update to the local industry on the current cyber security threat environment.

It also allowed an update on CREST's international activities including discussion of the **CREST OVS accreditation** for providers of app security testing providers, **Skilled Persons Registration** and the **CREST Defensible Penetration Test**. We had a good discussion and this was followed with post event networking.

The CREST Australasia Chapter was also pleased to be part of the recent Australian Information Security Association national conference attracting more than 4,000 delegates.

We led two sessions, one a CISO Forum where industry experts discussed key issues facing CISO's, and a Critical Infrastructure Risk Workshop which was held in conjunction with the Commonwealth Governments Cyber and Infrastructure Security Centre. Workshop panellists discussed an all-hazards approach to critical infrastructure protection enabled by a stronger focus on cyber security.

Rob Dartnall, Chair CREST UK Council

I was recently in Singapore for GovWare, where I got to spend the day with the other regional CREST Council Chairs. The intent was to create the first CREST International Strategy, aligning all of the regions to an international mission yet allowing for each region to create and maintain its own individual identity and strategy.

With the UK CREST Council already far down this road we are now able to set our objectives for the next 12 months. It also allowed all regions to understand in more depth the activities of other regions, allowing us to identify opportunities for international collaboration and opportunity creation. We have certainly already seen this with the great work by the Americas Council's work in the creation of the **CREST OVS accreditation** in consultation with OWASP.

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CREST also continues to work on building closer relationships with UK regulators looking to support them with the rolling out of new frameworks and standards whilst also working with the European equivalents to get these same frameworks recognised internationally.

Finally, the UK Council decided to offer more support to the **CyberUp campaign**. Through utilising its network and adding its voice to this important initiative we hope we can support the campaign in achieving its goal of updating the UK's Computer Misuse Act. More details of our support will be announced shortly.

Emil Tan, Chair CREST Asia Council

2022 has been a year of aligning our regional focus with national cybersecurity strategies within our core member markets in Asia. We also began a member outreach programme, which will continue and grow in 2023.

I am proud of what we have achieved in 2022; as we move into 2023, we look to do more for our members and further strengthen our position in the Asia cybersecurity ecosystem.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our members in Asia, the CREST Asia Council, regional staff, our partners and the CREST International Team for their continued support and collaboration.

Here are some of the key activities that our members have highlighted as the most helpful to them this quarter.

CSA Licensing Framework Webinar
In September, we hosted a webinar with the Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) for our members and professional partner associations to discuss the licensing framework and address members' questions.

SICW
Singapore International Cyber Week (SICW) in October was an opportunity to bring together the cybersecurity ecosystem in Singapore. We welcomed the presence of our CREST International Executive Team, who met with members, government, regulators, and industry partners.

During SICW, we invited our members and key industry partners to witness the signing of two Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with the Association of Information Security Professionals (AiSP) and Cyber Youth Singapore (CYS). Both partnerships signify opportunities for our members. Our long-standing partnership with the AiSP allows members to access greater professional learning and development alongside their CREST membership. Through the CYS and CREST partnership, members can help nurture and work with the future of our industry.

Asia Member Survey

If you haven't already provided feedback to the CREST Asia member survey, we urge you to spend 15 minutes completing the short form. Your opinions and feedback are essential to helping to shape our community and programme of activity in the region. You can complete the survey **here**.

2023 and Beyond
As we move into 2023, I wish you all a happy end to 2022 and a prosperous new year. I look forward to meeting more of you in 2023 and welcoming you to more member events and initiatives, including the SINCON conference in January and CYSummit in March – please see our events page for further information.

Events Diary

EVENTS Diary:

Month	Event & Location	Type	Date	Year
Jan	SINCON, Singapore	Conference & Exhibition	5-6	2023
April	UK Cyber Week, UK	Conference & Exhibition	4-5	2023
Mar	Cloud & Cyber Security Expo, UK	Conference & Exhibition	8-9	2023
May	CRESTCon Europe, UK	Conference	18	2023
Sept	CRESTCon Australia, Australia	Conference	27	2023

Partner exhibition and event information

SINCON 2023
5-6 January – Voco Orchard, Singapore
CREST has a stream at the event.
www.infosec-city.com

CLOUD & CYBER SECURITY EXPO 2023
8-9 March – ExCeL, London, UK
CREST will be speaking and exhibiting at the event. CREST will also be hosting a session in the Community Hub
www.cloudsecurityexpo.com

CREST will be at Cloud & Cyber Security Expo on 8-9 March at ExCeL, London, UK. CREST will be speaking and exhibiting at the event and also hosting a session in the Community Hub so keep looking for communication on this.

This is the perfect place to create partnerships, discover cybercrime-fighting solutions, and collaborate with top industry names. 79% of attendees contribute to final purchasing decisions.

There are over 10,000+ attendees and 200 exhibitors.

Get your free ticket today **CREST_CCSEL23_registration**