

CAcert, Inc.

President's Report for the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 including the months prior to the 2019 Annual General Meeting

This has been an interesting year in the history of CAcert, Inc.

We started out thinking that CAcert was on its last legs, with nowhere to go but down, and, at the end of the year, find that there is much more support, both financial and from volunteers, than we were told previously.

Yes, there are still serious questions about the viability of an independent Certificate Authority with the many differences in the world since CAcert was first formed, but the members of the Board of CAcert, Inc., are positive that there is still a need for CAcert in some manner.

I am including some items that have happened since the end of the Fiscal Year, because they are worth noting at this AGM and are a large part of our good news.

Before I continue with our other news, I want to point out two major achievements by the Development, Infrastructure and Critical Teams this year. Over the past two or three years, the world of secure web communications has come to decide two things. First, that all web sites that have anything to do with anything private or secure, must use SSL and HTTPS, rather than the insecure HTTP. Secondly, the older MD5 and SHA-1 certificate encryption and encoding technologies have been replaced with the much more secure SHA-256.

We are very pleased to report that the Root certificates published and distributed through our web site, <https://www.cacert.org>, have been upgraded to SHA-256, as of April 2019.

As well, the Infrastructure Team was also able to upgrade many of CAcert's servers from an almost pre-historic version of Debian to the most current.

Congratulations to those teams on both successful projects.

A few more items of note over the past year:

- CAcert's Assurer Challenge (CATS) has been translated to Czech and French and is now published in Czech and waiting for approval for the French version.
- We have installed a new software system to handle Board (and other) motions and votes.
- The Development Team have been working on several projects, including projects related to the certificate issuing and maintenance system. Some of these projects addressed upgrading the database engine and software base from very old to modern. These systems are different from the Blog and Wiki and other server projects mentioned above, and also require major upgrades. This project has moved from initial research and development through initial testing.

- Another important project undertaken by the Development Team involves discovering methods that allow users to continue to request new certificates through our web site. This was prompted by recent changes in web browser technologies, which have disabled the methods previously used in our web site.
- During the year, members of the Board also researched various opportunities in the form of grants from different sources. A few of those opportunities appeared suitable enough that we submitted applications.
- Our Secretary reports that CAcert, Inc. has had an increase of more than 10 % of its membership in new members since the last AGM.

Two other major events occurred since the last AGM.

The first was the retirement of our Critical Team, the three members of which have provided exemplary service to CAcert for many years. We have recruited new members for this team, and they, combined with some transitional help from some other senior members, have taken over the Critical Team.

CAcert is also in need of people to join the Arbitration Team, a long-standing issue.

Our second major event since the last AGM was the mailing of a letter to all of the members of the CAcert Community. This was delivered to over 300,000 e-mail addresses in early September, 2019. The response to this letter was very encouraging. We received many responses from volunteers offering assistance, as well as many donations of money. We even had some some new members join CAcert, Inc. The monetary donations have allowed us to pay all of our outstanding bills, even leaving money in the bank for future expenses. We had quite a few people volunteer to join the Development and Infrastructure Teams, and also offer help with Wiki editing, translation and other tasks.

All in all, this has been a very interesting year for CAcert, Inc. with many changes and improvements to carry us into the next year. However, it also brought some questions, primarily regarding the future viability of a free Certificate Authority, and how it should change to adapt to that future.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian McCullough
President, CAcert, Inc. 2018-2019