Alpha-Omega

Lessons From Funding Open Source Security Over the Past 3 Years, What's Ahead

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Alpha-Omega Mission

Catalyze sustainable security improvements within the most critical open source projects and ecosystems.

Alpha-Omega Explained

α → Leverage

Ω → Scale

Alpha-Omega Grants

$23M Raised

AWS, Google, Microsoft

Citi

AI Libraries Airflow Apache (ASF) Clang Eclipse FreeBSD Homebrew Jenkins JQuery Linux Kernel LLVM NodeJS OpenJS OpenSSL PHP Python Rubygems Rust

Scaled OSS Security

Cleaning the Pacific Garbage Patch

You’re gonna need a bigger boat

Cleaning one Beach at a time

Security Transformation

All Good Things Start With An Audit

When Security Is Everyone's Job, Security Is Nobody's Job

Security Roles Are About Leadership

People > Culture > Processes > Vulns

Security = f($)

Shovel Ready Projects

Quick Action and Impact

Always create a public good

Look for

Leverage

Holding hands

Not

Hands on

Connecting Communities Across Ecosystems

Resources + Culture > Money

Economics

Open Source funding is not wired for ~~security~~ software engineering

You can’t fund more nights and weekends

Growth beats security, even in Open Source

The bad economics of Open Source infrastructure are partially hidden by cloud credits

The business model => funding model

It's All *Your* Code

SOFTWARE
SUPPLY CHAIN

Free Puppies

vs

Free Beer

Most of your spend is internal Most of your risk is external

The Evolution of Criticality

ALL MODERN DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE
A PROJECT SOME RANDOM PERSON IN NEBRASKA HAS BEEN THANKLESSLY MAINTAINING SINCE 2003

Size != Risk

Fixing

Forking

3Fs

Forgoing

It's All *Your* Problem

The Most Important Thing

Looking Ahead

Keep Going

A

SECURITY STAFFING

60% in 2024
$2.8M

B

PACKAGE REPOS

15% in 2024
$0.6M

C

AUDITS & REMEDIATION

15% in 2024
$0.6M

D

EXPERIMENTS & INNOVATION

10% in 2024
$0.4M

Taking On Big Problems

Normalizing

Co-funding initiatives

Audits and Rapid Security Reviews (w/ EF and OSTIF)

SLSA, Sigstore, & Security Baseline

Transparent and Reproducible Builds

New Ideas

Safer AI Libraries

AI-powered remediation

Common OSS metadata

Volunteer Fire Dept.

Business models for sustained OSS security

AI-powered audits

Resources

www.alpha-omega.dev

go.xwind.io/3fs

go.xwind.io/eclipsecasestudy

go.xwind.io/ao-lessons-2025