From:	Brent Turner
To:	Bernholz, Lucy (REG); Chris Jerdonek; Delgadillo, Martha (REG); FLORES, ANA (CAT)
Subject:	Please disregard previous / Revised Info re Bernholz statement-US Dept of Defense - FAQ on open source software
Date:	Sunday, May 29, 2022 6:05:41 AM

Dear Martha. Please include THIS revised info send for next Election Commission meeting

At the last SFEC meeting, Commissioner Bernholz made a statement regarding open source software. The following addresses that comment

https://dodcio.defense.gov/open-source-software-faq/#q-doesnt-hiding-source-code-automatically-make-software-more-secure

Here's an excerpt from the answer:

> Even when the original source is necessary for in-depth analysis, **making source code available to the public significantly aids defenders and not just attackers**. Continuous and broad peer-review, enabled by publicly available source code, improves software reliability and security through the identification and elimination of defects that might otherwise go unrecognized by the core development team. **Conversely, where source code is hidden from the public, attackers can attack the software anyway as described above. In addition, an attacker can often acquire the original source code from suppliers anyway (either because the supplier voluntarily provides it, or via attacks against the supplier); in such cases, if only the attacker has the source code, the attacker ends up with another advantage.**

Basically, the point is that with secret source code, the attackers get all the benefits and the defenders none, because the attackers will find a way to get the source code anyways.

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