



## The Diligent Developer Security Awareness & Education Program

Thank you for downloading our **Diligent Developer Security Awareness & Education Program**. We believe your developers need to be more than just aware of vulnerabilities, they need to have hands-on training breaking and fixing code to build the skills they need to build secure software efficiently.

According to [Stack Overflow](#), only 55% of survey respondents between 25-34 have learned how to code at traditional schools. Others learn from a combination of certifications, online resources and boot camps. For those that did attend traditional schools, [Forrester reports](#) that 0 of the 50 top computer science programs require a course in code or application security. That leaves us with a dilemma – how do you build skills to help your developers build secure software?

The following guide contains a suggested schedule and communication ideas for a month-long program focused on a fun way to not only enhance security awareness, but to build skills across your development team to empower them to think securely. This could be added to National Cybersecurity Awareness month initiatives for the entire development team or be used to engage/grow a security champions program -- whatever works best for your organization.



**Read More About  
the AppSec  
Dilemma [Here](#)**

### Program Content:

- The Diligent Developer Chronicles: OWASP Top 10 - A resource to get conversations going and raise awareness of the OWASP Top 10 across your organization and for teams to keep as a reference.
- Access to (3) OWASP Top 10 Video Lessons - podcast-style video lessons to engage both developers and non-developers to build a foundational understanding of the top application vulnerabilities today. Each lesson is less than 15 minutes long.
  - OWASP Top 10: Part 1
  - OWASP Top 10: Part 2
  - OWASP Top 10: Part 3
- Access to (3) Break/Fix Lessons - hands-on training on OWASP Top 10 vulnerabilities to build secure coding skills in your development team. Each lesson should take less than 15 minutes to complete.
  - Server-Side Request Forgery
  - Security Logging and Monitoring
  - SQL Injection
- Diligent Developer Assets - If you'd like to theme your program around the Diligent Developer, we have provided Zoom Backgrounds, Sticker Designs, Digital Badges, Emojis and artwork to support your efforts.

Links are in the suggested comms below, but you can access anytime [here](#).

**Reminder: This program is built around the OWASP Top 10 2021, so the lessons and assets will only be available until December 31, 2023.**



## Are You Ready to Build a Team of Diligent Developers?

### Who Should You Deliver the Program to?

We suggest rolling out this program to everyone involved in the software development lifecycle. While developers are your first area of focus, there are others in your organization who can affect the security of your applications. Everyone involved in creating software from product management to QA should understand application security, so developers are better supported to write secure code and become Diligent Developers.

### Discuss and Plan Program with Stakeholders

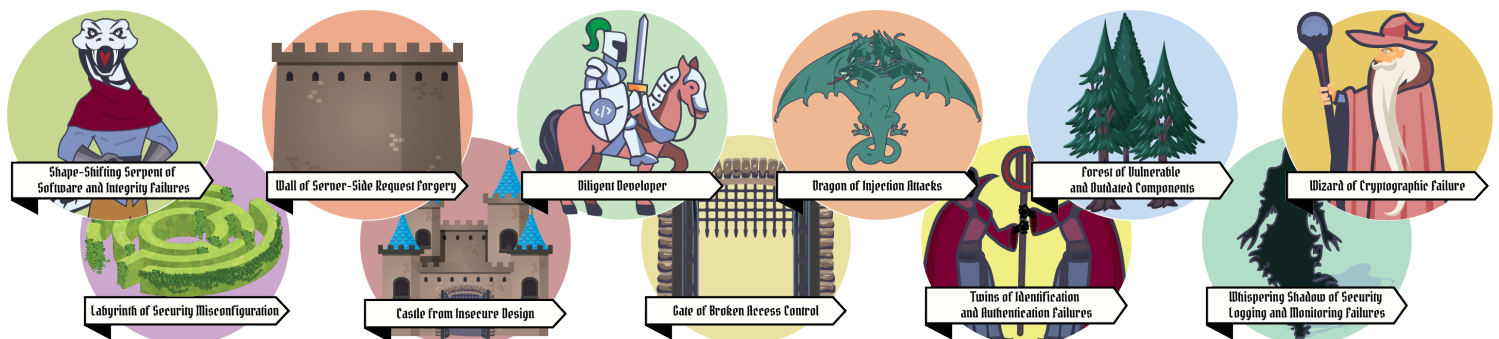
Communication is key to success. We suggest gathering your leaders across security and development to discuss the program schedule and communications and make a plan that everyone feels will work best for your organization's time and culture.

### Set-up Internal Communications Channels

- Start an internal comms channel (Slack, Teams, etc.) #DiligentDeveloper to share updates and foster communication around application security in your organization. We suggest delivering your program through these channels to encourage engagement.
- Add Diligent Developer emojis so your team members can celebrate each other's accomplishments

### Gamify to Drive Engagement to your Channels

Encourage sharing on your channel as your team moves along their journey. You could enter everyone who engages to a drawing for gift cards, PTO, or create give-aways with the images provided with this program.



Don't forget to follow our blog for content on the OWASP Top 10 to support your program.



## Week 1: Get the Conversation Started

- Announce the program:

*Application security is facing a dilemma, we are all under more pressure than ever to deliver and keep our software safe. It is important as an organization that we empower our development team with the skills needed to build secure software. To do this, we all need to have the same foundational knowledge to have productive discussions. Join us (insert meeting/lunch and learn) to learn more about a month-long security awareness and education program we are kicking off this week... The Diligent Developer.*

- Hold a lunch and learn hosted by security and development leaders announcing the program and schedule.
  - Talk about where you are in your security journey and how you will use this program to help support your organization in building safer software. Don't forget to use Diligent Developer Zoom Backgrounds if your meeting is virtual!
  - This program is built around the most recent OWASP Top 10, be sure to cover what the OWASP Top 10 is, and why it is an important place to start to build common ground.
- Share the Diligent Developer Chronicles PDF via internal communications channels after the meeting.

*Next week, we will share the first lessons around the OWASP Top 10, this week, we wanted to share a fun resource to raise awareness of the OWASP Top 10 that you can keep as a reference for your journey.*

*This light-hearted PDF tells the story of a team of Diligent Developers who are not only aware of vulnerabilities but know how to fix them. They journey across the realm helping security champions in other kingdoms battle the fearsome foes of the OWASP Top 10 and build a secure culture across the realm.*







## The Diligent Developer Security Awareness & Education Program

### Week 2: Build Understanding of OWASP Top 10

- Monday Suggested Message:

*On our journey to create a team of Diligent Developers, it's important that everyone involved in creating software in our organization has an understanding of the most common vulnerabilities that could be faced. OWASP, the Open Web Application Security Project, puts together a standard awareness document for developers and web application security on the OWASP Top 10, the latest was released in 2021. It represents a broad consensus about the most critical security risks to web applications. Over the next week, will be sharing (3) 15-minute, podcast-style video lessons to help gain a common understanding of the OWASP Top 10. Start your journey here: [OWASP Top 10: Part 1](#)*

- Tuesday Suggested Message:

*Our journey continues, watch the [OWASP Top 10: Part 2](#)  
Be sure to come back and discuss for a chance to win fun prizes.*

- Wednesday Suggested Message:

*If you haven't had time to join our journey to safer applications, please make time to review the OWASP Top 10: Part 1 and OWASP Top 10: Part 2, part 3 arrives tomorrow!*

- Thursday Suggested Message:

*Check out the [OWASP Top 10: Part 3](#) to complete our journey of building a foundational understanding of common application vulnerabilities.*

- Friday Suggested Message:

*Just a reminder, if you haven't had a chance to watch the three OWASP Top 10 lessons from last week, please find time to review ahead of our lunch and learn next week. We hope everyone comes ready to discuss things they have learned, and how they think we can use this knowledge to help build a stronger application security culture across our teams.*



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### Week 3: Internal Discussions

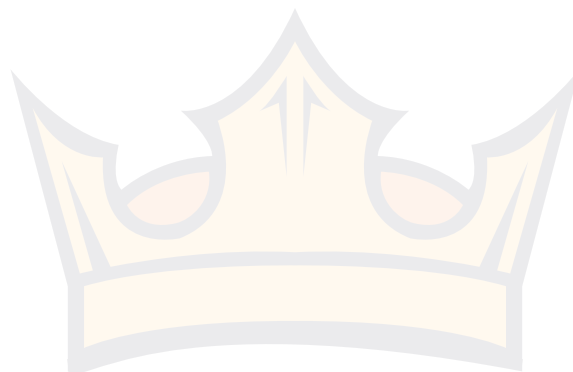
- Monday Suggested Message:

*We don't want to leave anyone behind on our security journey, make sure you review the lessons from last week to get ready for our lunch and learn this week!*

- Host a lunch and learn to discuss the OWASP Top 10 content
  - This is a great opportunity to have smaller teams that work on projects together to break out and have more collaborative discussions about obstacles and wins around application security and how they can help build a more secure culture going forward.
- Post-lunch and Learn Message:

*Thank you to everyone that participated in the great discussions across our teams. We hope this has helped show ways you can clear obstacles that limit security-first thinking when building software. Next week, our development team will continue on their journey to become Diligent Developers...*

**Need help bridging the divide between security and development teams? Check out these free resources.**





## The Diligent Developer Security Awareness & Education Program

### Week 4: Break/Fix Hands-on Training for Developers

- Monday Suggested Message:

*Awareness of vulnerabilities is one thing, but to become a Diligent Developer, developers need a chance to break, fix, and test code in an actual application security sandbox. This week, we will be sharing three lessons focused on OWASP Top 10 vulnerabilities for our developers to complete. (If you are not a developer, but would like to give them a try, feel free!)*

*Developers, now is your chance to slay the multi-headed dragon of injection attacks. Visit to start your journey [here](#). Come back and discuss how your journey went and what you learned.*

- Tuesday Suggested Message:

*Developers, today we move into the fog-shrouded Valley of Silence and are depending on you to tame the whispering shadow of security logging and monitoring failures. Continue your journey [here](#).*

*Come back and discuss how your journey went and what you learned.*

- Wednesday Suggested Message:

*Developers your biggest challenge awaits, securing the wall of server-side request forgery. Successfully secure the wall and bring order across the realm [here](#). Don't forget to come back and discuss how your journey went and what you learned.*

- Thursday Wrap-up Meeting:

- Hold one last team to congratulate your teams on their diligence, and award prizes and have an open discussion about how you will use the knowledge to move forward on your journey. (Reminder, we have provided you with artwork to create Diligent Developer swag at [www.securityjourney.com/DiligentDeveloper](http://www.securityjourney.com/DiligentDeveloper))

- Post-Thursday Meeting Suggested Message:

*Security is a journey, not a destination. While this focused program was just a month long, we plan to continue our journey to keep building Diligent Developers and security champions across our organization. Stay tuned...*



## The Diligent Developer Security Awareness & Education Program

Security Journey's multi-year, customizable training programs upskill developers and educate all roles in the development process to deliver measurable results with our AppSec Education Platform.

With a wide variety of content that covers everything from foundational concepts in video-based security conversations to engaging break-and-fix exercises for developers, give your developers the training, tools, and motivation they need to code more secure applications.

**Book Your Guided Tour of the AppSec Education Platform ›**

