CAcert, Inc.

President's Report for the Fiscal Year 2023-2024

As I said last year, CAcert has always been, and continues to be, a completely distributed, and completely volunteer-staffed organisation. While there is a dedicated core team attempting to keep CAcert running properly and serve our Community, it is difficult and tiring to the few involved. That is why we keep asking for more assistance, preferably, at the moment, self-starters who will cause less added work for the existing team. Yes, that is a lot to ask.

Our Treasurer continues to have challenges with PayPal, who are very difficult to work with. However, our Treasurer is slowly making progress in getting and maintaining proper access to our various accounts and records.

The Critical Team continued their essential contribution to the workings of CAcert. Following the significant hardware changes last year, further improvements have been accomplished this year. This has resulted In an impressive reduction in the electrical bill at our data centre.

The Infrastructure and Development teams have continued to contribute to efforts to improve the user experience and modernise the creation of certificates. However, as described in last year's report, that work revealed that CAcert has fallen behind in certain policies and procedures, and that has caused some issues which are a continuing issue. Our chief support analyst, Ales, has spent many hours analysing and documenting necessary changes in preparation for bringing those documents to the CAcert Policy Group for their discussion and the process of modifying CAcert's Policies and Regulations.

The issues regarding CAcert's certificates, both the root certificates and the derived ones, are being addressed to attempt to normalise our practices with industry standards. This is an on-going process. Modernisation of hardware and software involved in the creation of CAcert Certificates is also on-going.

The creation of the CAcert Community Centre, containing easy access to our Blog, our Wiki, and especially the Client Certificate Generator, is a great improvement for our members. That last tool has finally allowed our members to create their own CAcert Client Certificates without needing to know deep dark incantations at the Linux command line!

An exciting development towards the end of this fiscal year and proceeding into the beginning of 2024-2025 was the completion of a first version of the CAcert OpenID Connect tool, allowing our members to use their Client Certificates to log in to various other services without using passwords. Services such as Nextcloud, Mantis, and possibly Drupal and Wordpress can provide our members easy access. Work will continue on this project into the next year. I must offer sincere thanks to Jan and Dirk for their tireless work in helping this project along.

Once again, CAcert was represented at Froscon. Dirk and other volunteers provided a booth and discussed CAcert with the attendees.

Remote Assurance, as mentioned last year, continues to be an issue under discussion and will be brought to the CAcert Policy Group as soon as practical.

The Board met each month and worked to improve their work flow and shorten their meetings. That aim has, in general, resulted in meetings that last no longer than one hour, once per month.

However, we also encourage more members to join the CAcert Board, which has been under-staffed recently.

As I have said before, the Board and I look forward to another interesting year in the life of CAcert, Inc., building on the experiences and accomplishments of the past year, and looking forward into the future. Already, several projects have been identified, some to modernise systems and procedures, and some to modernise CAcert itself.

We continue to have an interesting time.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian McCullough
President, CAcert, Inc. 2023-2024

Replacing of old hardware in 2022/2023 reduced the electricity consumption significantly

blue: kWh
yellow: Euro
red: Euro/kWh