

Confidential Computing Consortium

Defining and Enabling Confidential Computing



 THE **LINUX** FOUNDATION

The Confidential Computing Consortium will define Confidential Computing and accelerate its acceptance and adoption in the market.



Mission and Goals of the Confidential Computing Consortium

Confidential computing enables new public cloud scenarios (e.g., migrating extremely sensitive data to the cloud, and enabling multi-party sharing scenarios that have been difficult to build due to privacy, security, and regulatory requirements).

The Confidential Computing Consortium is the platform that will enable investment across the value chain to allow customers to realize this vision. The Consortium will:

1. Define confidential computing and accelerate acceptance and adoption in the market.
2. Develop enterprise-grade building blocks (e.g., open specifications and open source licensed projects) with the latest technologies to enable easy development and management of enterprise-grade confidential compute applications
3. Define foundational services and frameworks that are confidential-aware and minimize the need for trust.

Project Scope

- › The Consortium will support an ecosystem of open technical projects (open source and open standards / specifications) focused on Confidential Computing.
- › The Consortium is concentrating on the area of “data in use,” with the confidentiality of “data in transit” and “data at rest” as outside the scope of the Consortium.

Ecosystem Participants

- › The Consortium intends to include participation from a diverse group of members including semiconductor manufacturers, cloud infrastructure organizations, hardware vendors and software developers.
- › The following organizations have announced their intent to participate in the Consortium: Alibaba, ARM, Baidu, IBM, Intel, Google, Microsoft, Red Hat, Swisscom and Tencent.
- › We will be announcing additional members following the operational launch of the Consortium, currently scheduled for September 19, 2019.

Community Outreach Plan

- › The Consortium is interested in including participation from a wide spectrum community of members developing, implementing or using technologies related to Confidential Computing.
- › In addition, the Consortium is actively looking for proposed contributions open technical projects to support.
- › The following projects have been proposed for contribution to the Consortium:
 - › Enarx (Red Hat)
 - › Open Enclave SDK (Microsoft)
 - › SGX SDK (Intel)

Benefits for Members

- › The primary benefits to Members from participating in the Consortium include:
 - › helping to craft the messaging of the Consortium (e.g., a first task is to come up with a definition for what "Confidential Computing" should mean to the industry);
 - › having a direct or indirect voice (depending on membership level) on how the budget is applied to support projects;
 - › being invited to attend Consortium meetings;
 - › identifying your organization as a member of the Consortium (e.g., display the Consortium logo on your web site);
 - › participating in summits and events of members of the community to advance technologies and collaboration in confidential computing; and
 - › participating (in the case of Premier members) on the Technical Advisory Council and having input on the onboarding of new technical projects.

How the Consortium Is Structured

- › The Confidential Computing Consortium is an **umbrella project** of the Linux Foundation. The Consortium will support development of numerous technical projects (open source and open specification).
- › High-level governance overview:
 - › **Governing Board** – responsible for funding decisions; and
 - › **Technical Advisory Council** – enables communication among the separate technical projects and between the technical projects and the Governing Board; and
 - › **Separate technical oversight for each technical project** – separate technical oversight for each independent technical project, customized to the needs of the project and its community.

How the Consortium is Structured



The Governing Board is responsible for allocating the Consortium's budget and is supported by Outreach, Legal and Budget committees.

The TAC will help the projects to communicate among themselves and with the Governing Board.

Each supported technical project will have its own project governance.

Membership Levels

- › The Consortium will be funded through membership dues. While a budget has not been approved, for planning purposes the formation group has assumed an annual budget of slightly more than \$650,000.
- › Membership levels include Premier and General.
 - › Premier Members are able to appoint a representative to the Governing Board and the Technical Advisory Council. The annual fee for a Premier membership is \$60,000.
 - › General Members elect one representative to the Governing Board for every 10 General Members, up to a maximum of three. The annual fee for a General membership is a sliding scale based on headcount ranging from \$5,000 to \$30,000.
- › Government entities, academic and nonprofit organizations can join for free as Associate Members

Membership and Participation Levels

Membership Level	Annual Fee	Plus Linux Foundation Membership: Silver (if not a member)	Board Seat	TAC Seat	Outreach Committee	Notes
Premier	Flat fee: \$60,000	Based on number of employees	Yes	Yes	Yes	Two-year minimum commitment
General	\$5,000 to \$30,000 based on org size ¹	\$30K (5000+) \$25K (2000-4999) \$20k (500-1999) \$10k (100-499) \$5k (0-99)	(Possible) 1 per every 10 General members	No but can attend	Yes (non-voting)	A seat on the TAC may be earned on behalf of supported technical projects that hit project development milestones.
Associate	No fee	No	No	No but can attend	Yes	Limited to academic, nonprofit and government entity organizations

General Annual Fee Scale

\$30K - > 5,000 employees
\$25K - 2,000 – 4,999 employees
\$20K - 500 – 1,999 employees
\$10K - 100 – 499 employees
\$5K - < 100 employees

Please note that membership in the Linux Foundation is required to join the Confidential Computing Consortium as a member. Technical participation in any of the projects supported by the Consortium does not require membership in either the Linux Foundation or the Consortium.

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