

OpenBao* sub-project inaugural TSC meeting

January 17, 2024
* provisional name





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Agenda

- 5 min – Welcome and situation overview
 - Project is incubating under Open Horizon, and under their Technical Charter *for now*
 - Joe did a 1-minute pitch to RCOS last Friday for student volunteers this semester
- 15 min – Process and initial votes
 - Project name: Do we vote on making OpenBao name permanent or are there other ideas?
 - Mission Statement: Do we accept as-is and amend later as needed, or form a team to work on it more?
 - TSC makeup: Do we add a voting seat on the TSC to represent non-affiliated contributors?
- Remainder – Discuss and weigh options for a new project home

Project Name Proposal: OpenBao

- Initial fork of Hashicorp products was Terraform, which was named OpenTofu
- Idea was to keep the theme of Asian street food for forked Hashicorp projects
- BaoZi is a steamed bun with an opaque exterior, so the contents are not visible to the casual observer, similar to storage for Secrets Management
- The contents could be meat, vegetables, bean paste but are unknown until you open it
- The name is not claimed by any other products or projects
- The diminutive “bao” is also not used by any product binaries or CLIs
- Any reason not to use it?
- Any better naming ideas?

Proposed Mission Statement

OpenBao exists to maintain and improve a software solution to manage, store, and distribute sensitive data including secrets, certificates, and keys. The OpenBao community will provide this software under an OSI-approved open-source license, led by a community run under open governance principles.

Should we vote to accept it as-is, knowing that it can be amended anytime by the TSC?
Or should we form a group and work on it a bit?

Proposal for TSC voting membership

- One voting seat for each founding company to begin with.
- Do we want to add a voting seat for those project volunteers who are not with a company? Alternatively, open it up to any Contributor and call it an “at-large” seat.
- We’ll need to think about how the TSC should be composed in a year or so when we begin holding annual elections, unless we decide on a different approach and place that in our project’s Technical Charter.
- Once we’re settled on the initial TSC members, we should consider elections for TSC Chair. The Chair’s role will be codified in the Technical Charter. But initially, the Chair should be responsible for running the TSC meetings and setting the agenda. The Chair should be one of the TSC voting members.

Proposal for the project's home foundation

Options to consider:

- LF Edge -- Three companies are already members, but all of the companies don't have to be members of LF Edge, only the sponsor company. There are only 12 projects, so we'll have a greater voice than in larger groups. Helps alignment with the dependent projects in LF Edge. Allows Governing Board to support and provide guidance.
- CNCF – One company is a member. CNCF may be better aligned to the project mission.
- Bare foundation – LF does not recommend this path since it has increased costs, lack of process, increased paperwork. It can work if there is sufficient motivation and budget.

Do we have enough information to reach a decision today? Is there a consensus?

