Minutes of the 7ᵗʰ Meeting of the seL4 Board

2022-02-24 to 2022-03-04 UTC

By Email

Members present

- Gernot Heiser (GH) – Chair
- David Hardin (DH)
- Feng Zhou (FZ)
- Gerwin Klein (GK)
- Ian Xu (IX)
- June Andronick (JA)
- Olivier Engelkes (OE)
- Qiyan Wang (QW)

Observers present

- Birgit Brecknell
- Sascha Kegreiß

Members absent

- Matthew Grosvenor (MC)

The meeting commenced at 23:40 on 2022-02-24 UTC.

1. **Confirmation of minutes of previous meeting**

   RESOLVED: Draft minutes of 6ᵗʰ meeting, of 2021-10-06 UTC, are confirmed

2. **Matters arising from minutes of previous meetings**

   - 210413: **see item 5:** Develop endorsement scheme for services and products

3. **Update from the Chair**

   GH updated the Board on:

   - Handover of HENSOLDT Cyber's Board seat from Sascha Kegreiß to OE
   - Appointment of Birgit Brecknell as Project Coordinator
   - Status of trademark applications

- Membership development
- Community engagement
- TC-CoE Summit (with additional information from JA)
- Plans for next seL4 Summit
- Other ecosystem news

4. **Update from the TSC Chair and matters arising**

   GK updated the Board on:

   - Progress on large verification projects:
     - RISC-V confidentiality proofs completed
     - First of two refinement steps ("Refine") for MCS completed
     - Delivery of projects contracted to Proofcraft
     - Commencement of verification work for AArch64
   - Community-accessible test infrastructure
   - community contributions
   - RFCs
   - new TSC member Yanyan Shen (NIO)

5. **Endorsement scheme for services and products**

   JA, on behalf of the CC, updated the Board on the recent deliberations regarding the Endorsement scheme. Following a cost-benefit assessment, the CC decided that:

   - For the foreseeable future there will only be an endorsement for services (not training or products)
   - Services endorsement will be limited to members and provided for free
   - Endorsement will be restricted to services from a standard list
   - Members may still list training and products, but they will not be endorsed.

6. **Election process**

   Under the Charter, the Board needs to approve the process for the upcoming Annual General Meeting and election of a general member representative for the Board.

   RESOLVED: The process for the election of the General Member representative will be the same as last year, ie a 2-week nomination process, conducted by email, with nominations to be sent to the seL4 Foundation, followed by a 1-week voting process, conducted by email, with votes to be sent to a returning officer to be designated.

   RESOLVED: The Annual General Meeting will be held via Zoom in two sessions to accommodate various time zones, namely:

   - 2022-04-06 07:00–08:30 UTC
   - 2022-04-06 23:00 – 2022-04-07 00:30 UTC

7. **Adjustment of membership tiers**

   RESOLVED by 2/3 majority (8 members in favour, 0 against, 1 absent): Effective 2022-04-02, the membership fee structure, as a function of company size (given by the number of employees) will change as follows (the fee amounts will not change):

Size old	Size new	Fee
1-499	1-99	$3k
500-1999	100-499	$10k
2000-4999	500-4999	$20k
5000+	5000+	$30k

8. **Directing approved verification budget**

   In the budget approved in the 6th Meeting, the Board set aside an amount of $100,000 for a "Next roadmap item" for the seL4 verification, with the intent to allocate it later, depending on where other sources of funding became available.

   RESOLVED: The $100k "next roadmap item" to is to be used to start the "CRefine" step for the MCS kernel.

9. **Formalising the process for board meetings conducted electronically**

   The Charter says that "unless all Board Members agree otherwise, they must receive at least 5 business days' written notice of a meeting" and that "meetings may be conducted electronically, via teleconference, or in person at the discretion of the seL4 Board".

   RESOLVED: When meetings of the Board are conducted by email, the following process will be used:

   - The Chairperson will email the Notice of the Meeting, including the Agenda, to Board members at least 48h before the start of the electronic meeting, allowing members time to consider the agenda and ask questions of a general nature;
   - at the beginning of the electronic Meeting, the Chairperson will start a separate email thread for each agenda item, with discussion and voting taking place in that email thread;
   - the electronic meeting will conclude 168h after it commenced, or earlier if all agenda items have been resolved;
   - the Chairperson may, at their discretion, extend the meeting if one or more agenda items remain unresolved 168h after the meeting commenced.

10. **Future meetings**

    The next Board Meeting will likely be within 1–2 months after the election of the General Members representative (and the AGM), to elect office bearers, and approve a new budget. It will likely be held by email.

    We plan to hold an in-person/hybrid meeting co-located with the upcoming seL4 Summit (planned for October).

11. **AOB**

    DH raised the issue of having more verified targets, especially popular platforms, such as the Raspberry Pi, and this should be funded by the Foundation.

    GK responded that multiple platforms for the same architecture are presently not supported by the seL4 verification framework and will require some fundamental changes. Proofcraft will take a proposal to the next Board Meeting.

All business having been dealt with, the meeting closed on 2022-03-04 at 0:02 UTC.

ACTION SUMMARY

From	Item	Owner	Status	Action
22-02-25	11	GK	**TBD**	Proposal for supporting more verified platforms

Meeting Attendance

Current financial year, starting 2022-01-01:

Name	Eligible	Attended
Gernot Heiser	1	1
June Andronick	1	1
Matthew Grosvenor	1	0
David Hardin	1	1
Olivier Engelkes	1	1
Gerwin Klein	1	1
Qiyan Wang	1	1
Ian Xu	1	1
Feng Zhou	1	1

Acronyms

TS	The Trustworthy Systems research group at UNSW Sydney
LF	The Linux® Foundation
TSC	The Technical Steering Committee of the seL4 Foundation
CC	The Compliance Committee of the seL4 Foundation
OC	The Outreach Committee of the seL4 Foundation
MC	The Marketing Committee of the seL4 Foundation

Signed as a true record
2022-04-12