ClearlyDefined

Community Meeting - November 3, 2025

ClearlyDefined: accomplishments

Version 2.0 released

We launched ClearlyDefined v2.0, a major milestone in improving license data quality

New documentation website

We unveiled a new website featuring comprehensive documentation and resources.

Open Governance

We elected leaders to the Steering and Outreach Committees.

Support for LicenseRef

By integrating support for LicenseRefs, we expanded beyond the SPDX License list.

Harvester for Conda

We introduced a new harvester for Conda with a focus on ML and data science packages.

Integration with GUAC

GUAC users now have access to enriched data for compliance and security.

ClearlyDefined: accomplishments

Conferences

We presented ClearlyDefined at conferences around the world (US, EU, APAC).

Ecosystem collaboration

We collaborated with adjacent communities: ScanCode, GUAC, and OpenChain.

SPDX and OWASP

We collaborated with SPDX and OWASP on licensing data specification.

New tools (cdsbom)

We developed new tools to enhance SBOMs with ClearlyDefined data.

New users

Orgs with high reach like GitHub and Linux Foundation have adopted ClearlyDefined

Secure Open Source

Scancode first selected to GitHub's Secure Open Source Program

ClearlyDefined: challenges

Infrastructure costs

Cost to run infrastructure
upwards of $1 million per year

Technical debt

Implementation needs
refactoring and is tightly
integrated with Azure

Big investment

Investments to modernize the
codebase (caching strategy)
would cost $250K initially.

Resources

OSI lacks technical and
financial resources to advance
project on its own.

Governance

Microsoft controls the data
and infrastructure and is still
the final decision maker.

Sustainability

Users don't feel the urgency
to contribute, as service is
provide for free by Microsoft.

ClearlyDefined: proposal

AboutCode

AboutCode (a public-benefit, non-profit organization) interested in helping.

Leadership

Co-founders of ClearlyDefined, PURL and OSS Review Toolkit (ORT).

Expertise

Creators of ScanCode, with recognized license compliance expertise

Cost effective

They are in touch with Microsoft demonstrating how to substantially save money.

Sustainability

Orgs have expressed interest in providing financial support for AboutCode's efforts.

Open governance

They support an open governance model and sharing the funds.

ClearlyDefined: proposal

OSI = Stewardship
AboutCode = Operations
Community = Governance

Link to proposal

Thank you