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The Top 5 Best Practices for Developer Training

By embedding security earlier in the software development lifecycle, you reduce both risk and cost. But moving security into the development phase means that developers have to take a more hands-on approach to security.

Given that over ***76 percent of developers*** did not receive security training in their college IT programs, it's up to your organization to train developers on security best practices.

Use this checklist to ensure that your developers are receiving comprehensive, up-to-date security training and successfully implementing the learnings.

Make security training a real requirement.

Security training should be offered multiple times a year, and it should be part of developers' goals to participate in the trainings. To ensure that developers pay attention to the trainings and absorb the correct information, consider adding knowledge checks throughout the training or a skill assessment at the end.

Make sure the training is relevant and engaging.

Developers have an easier time understanding the importance of security when they're given examples that are relevant to their day-to-day work. For example, use real-world vulnerabilities in their languages and tech stacks.

Measure the effectiveness of the training.

To ensure that your developers are implementing the learnings from their security training, you should track both issue introduction and continuous improvement metrics for scrum teams and individual developers. By keeping track of these metrics, you can tailor future security trainings toward areas of weakness.

Offer a mix of training types.

Offer developers a wide array of training types like instructor-led courses, on-demand courses, and hands-on tools in varying levels of technicality. By offering a variety of tools and trainings, developers can choose the method(s) that fit their schedule and learning styles.

Implement a security champions program.

Select interested volunteers from each development team to become security champions and give them extra tools and training needed to be security experts on their scrum teams. They'll be able to pass along their additional security skills to peers on their team.

According to a study by Enterprise Strategy Group, only 40 percent of organizations report tracking both issue introduction and continuous improvement metrics. Measuring training efficacy is necessary for upskilling developers.

Ready to level-up your developer training? Sign up for a demo of Veracode Security Labs to learn more about our hands-on, secure coding tool.

Get a Demo

Veracode is the leading AppSec partner for creating secure software, reducing the risk of security breach and increasing security and development teams' productivity. As a result, companies using Veracode can move their business, and the world, forward. With its combination of automation, integrations, process, and speed, Veracode helps companies get accurate and reliable results to focus their efforts on fixing, not just finding, potential vulnerabilities.

Learn more at www.veracode.com, on the Veracode blog and on Twitter.

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