

CAcert, Inc.

President's Report for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021

I started this report last year by stating that that had been an interesting year. By that measure, this has been a much more interesting year, since the whole world fought the COVID-19 Pandemic through the whole of our Fiscal 2020-2021.

Much of the world has also seen the benefits that can be found when technical workers do their jobs from home. CAcert has known of these benefits for most of the life of this organisation, since we are the classic widely distributed organisation, with only clusters of members in any one location, and many locations with only one or two members.

For CAcert, there are times, such as when we want to Assure other members, when our rules and practices have, in the past, forced us to come together in a common location.

Also, unfortunately, those of us who maintain CAcert's hardware are also forced, on occasion, to travel away from home to where the hardware, such as servers, are housed. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, this was severely restricted in most countries around the world.

As I said last year, the tools and technologies developed, used and promoted by CAcert for almost two decades have become standard in many companies around the world. Being able to conduct business with staff members being at home instead of clustered in a down town building, was a revelation for many companies. The amount of un-needed office space, the reduction in vehicles on the road, commuting, the many other benefits that accrue from employees working from home have been recognized by many companies, who will continue this behaviour after the immediate need. Unfortunately, there are other companies who are insisting that office worker return to central buildings full time as soon as they are allowed to resume.

I reported last year about a conflict that CAcert Inc. had with Paypal in Australia. That conflict was finally resolved through the efforts of our Secretary, Treasurer and Finance Team volunteers, in early September, allowing us access to our funds again.

There were some other notable events in CAcert last fiscal year, including: (in no particular order)

Change of CAcert Inc.'s official home to Switzerland. This was finalised in Switzerland at the beginning of January. However, at the end of the Fiscal Year in June, we were still waiting for the paperwork to be completed in our exit from Australia.

Creation of a new method for examining and approving new members of certain sensitive roles in CAcert. The old procedure, known as Arbitrated Background Check (ABC) has now, through the efforts of Bernhard, Dirk, Jan and others, been replaced with the Community Background Check (CBC).

Replacement of failed server hardware at the data centre. Unfortunately, due to the travel restrictions and other effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, this required maintenance and repair work was severely impacted and delayed, causing failure of the CAcert certificate generation systems on multiple occasions in the first quarter of 2021, extending into the second quarter.

The Board of CAcert Inc. was very pleased to locate a new Treasurer for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. He is Michael R. from the capital of Canada, Ottawa.

Creation of a Nextcloud server for use of the CAcert Board and Team Members. This effort was led by Sascha T. with assistance from Jan D. and others.

Another Grant Application was submitted to RIPE NCC for a special project investigating the use of OpenID with CAcert.

As part of the move to Switzerland, a bank account was opened for CAcert Inc. in that country.

The Board and I look forward to another interesting year in the life of CAcert, Inc., building on the experiences and accomplishments of the past year.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian McCullough
President, CAcert, Inc. 2020-2021