

# Building Incident Response Communities



**The Forum of Incident Response and Security Teams  
(FIRST)**

**Cybersecurity: Cooperation and Information Exchange  
Skopje, 09.10.2018**

# About me

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- Member of SWITCH-CERT (Switzerland)
- Volunteer for FIRST.org
- Board Member of ISOC Switzerland Chapter
- Student of Internet Governance (Diplo Foundation)



# Agenda

- What we want
- Introduction to FIRST
- Overview of projects and initiatives
- FIRST in 2020
- Questions and Answers



**Incident Response in a nutshell**

**CSIRTs collaborate informally**

**They need a high level of trust**



# Who are we?

- Association of Incident Response and Security Teams
- Founded in 1989
- We enable incident responders
  - To **engage with their peers**
  - To have a **shared understanding** of security problems
  - By developing **technologies and standards**
  - By foster an **environment conducive to their work**

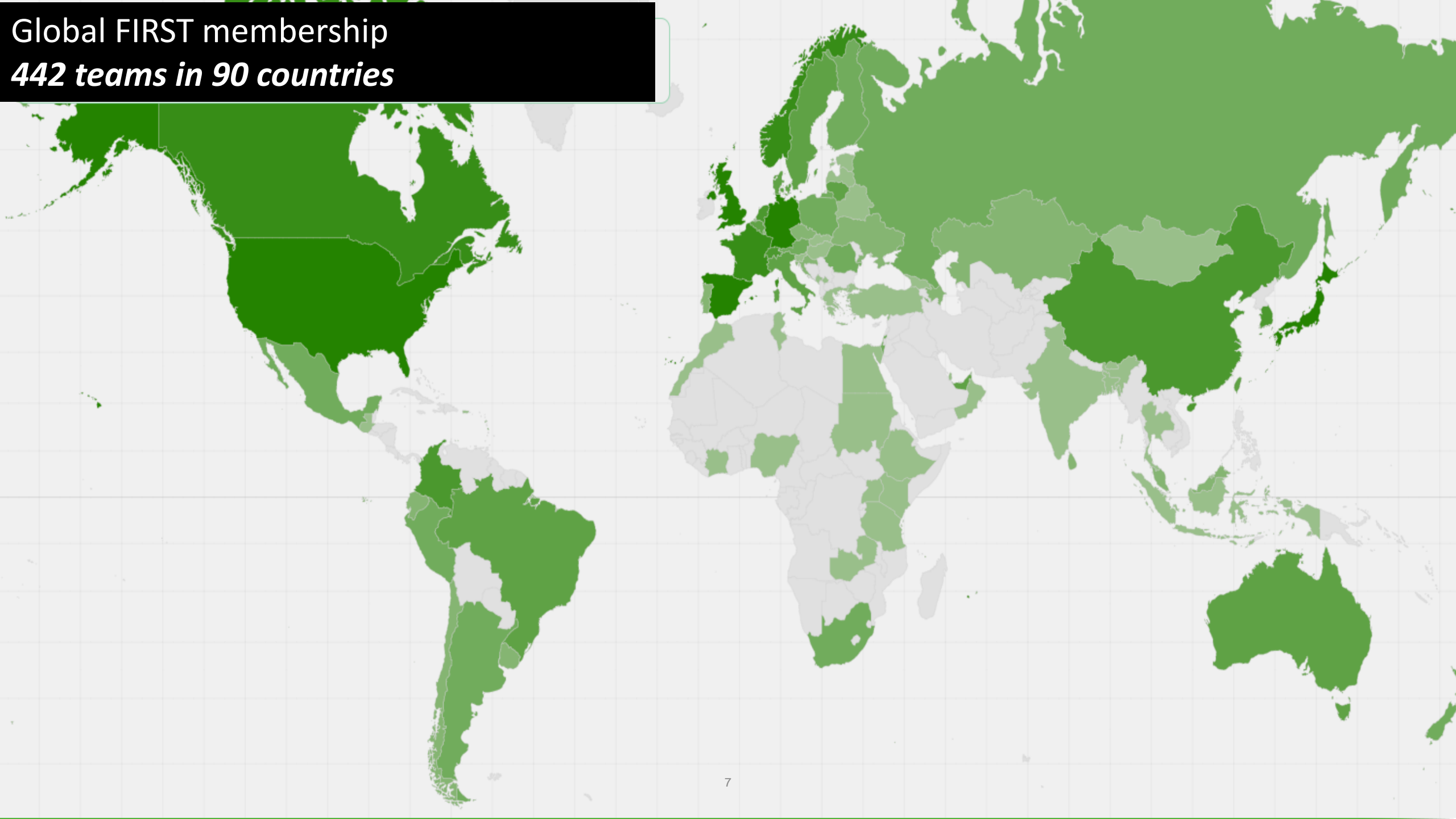


# Mission

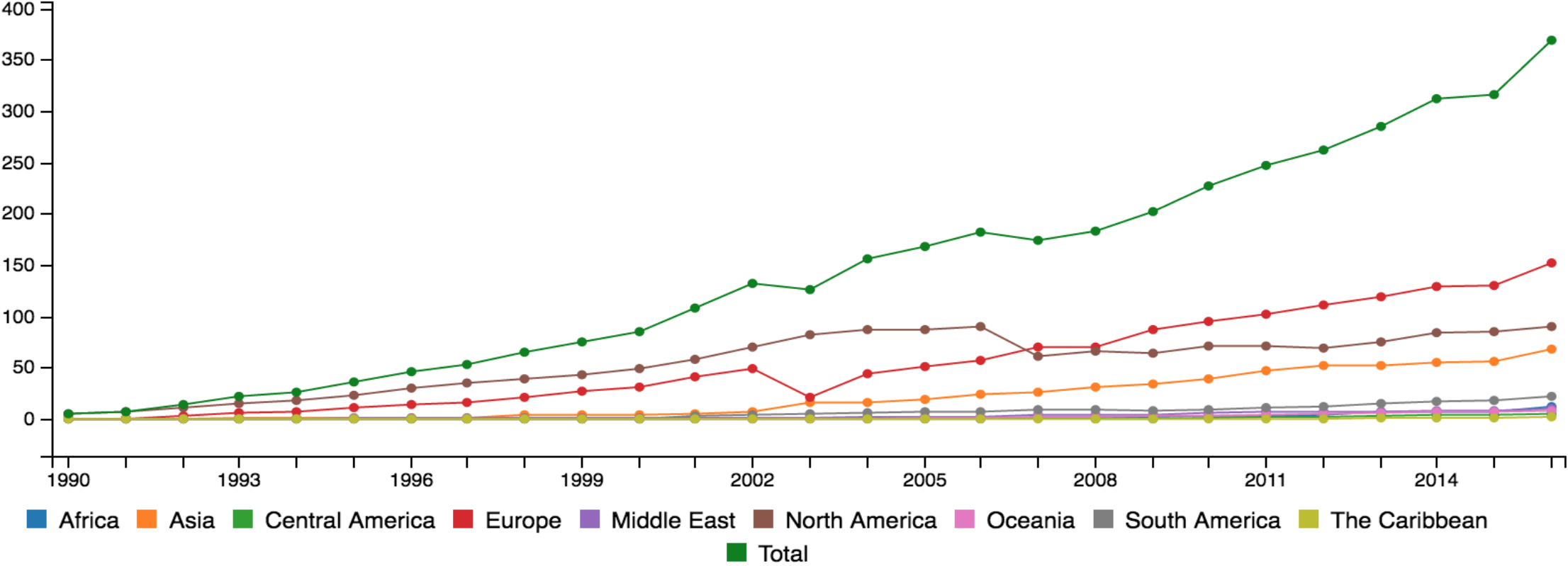
- Every **FIRST member can successfully find a FIRST member** to work with during any incident, whether in another country or industry.
- **FIRST teams know they can rely on FIRST teams**, and know they are capable partners to work with.
- When FIRST members trust each other, they have a **toolset** they can use to share.
- FIRST teams can work in an **environment conducive to their goals**.



Global FIRST membership  
*442 teams in 90 countries*

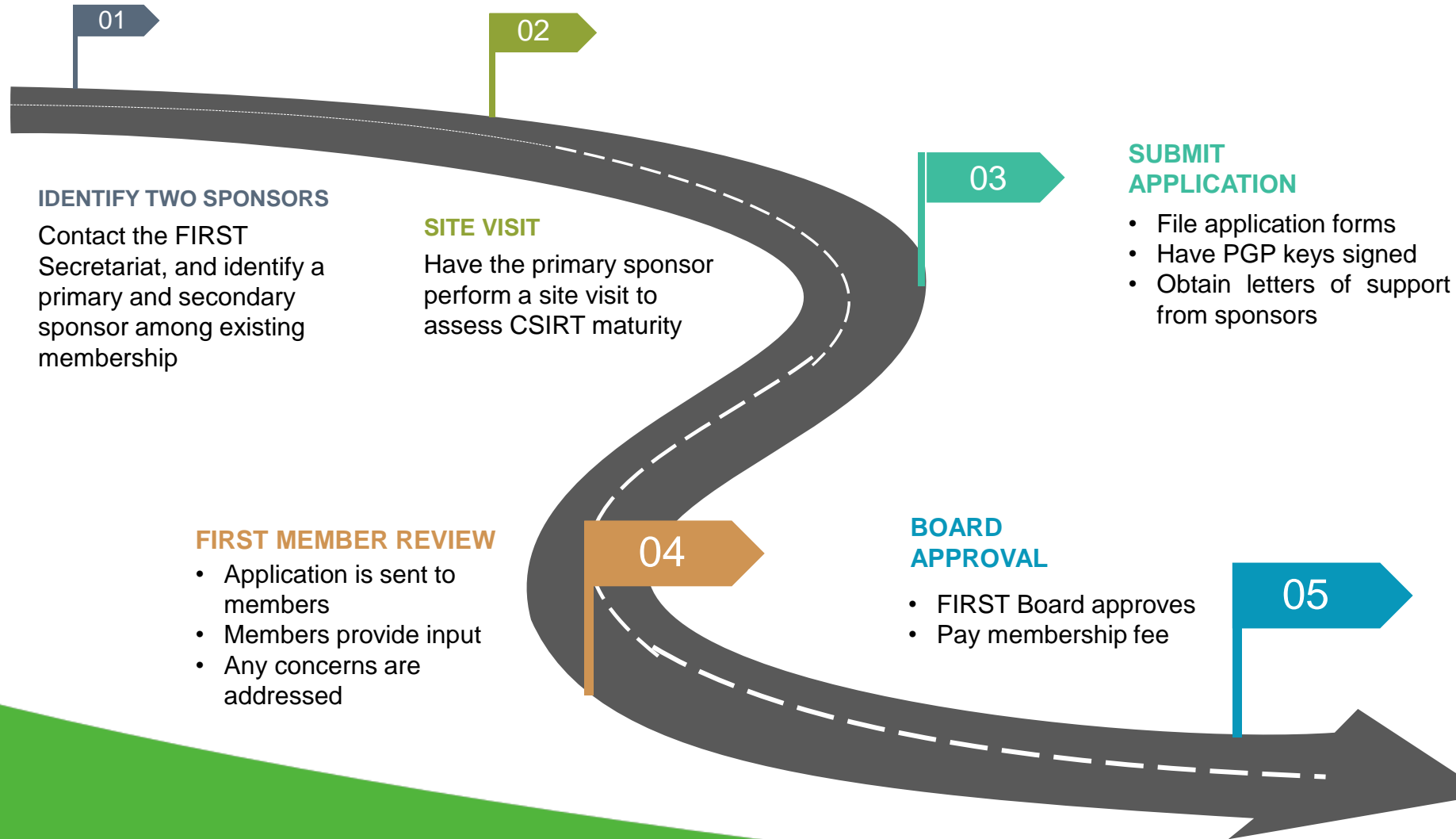


# Membership





# Membership application process



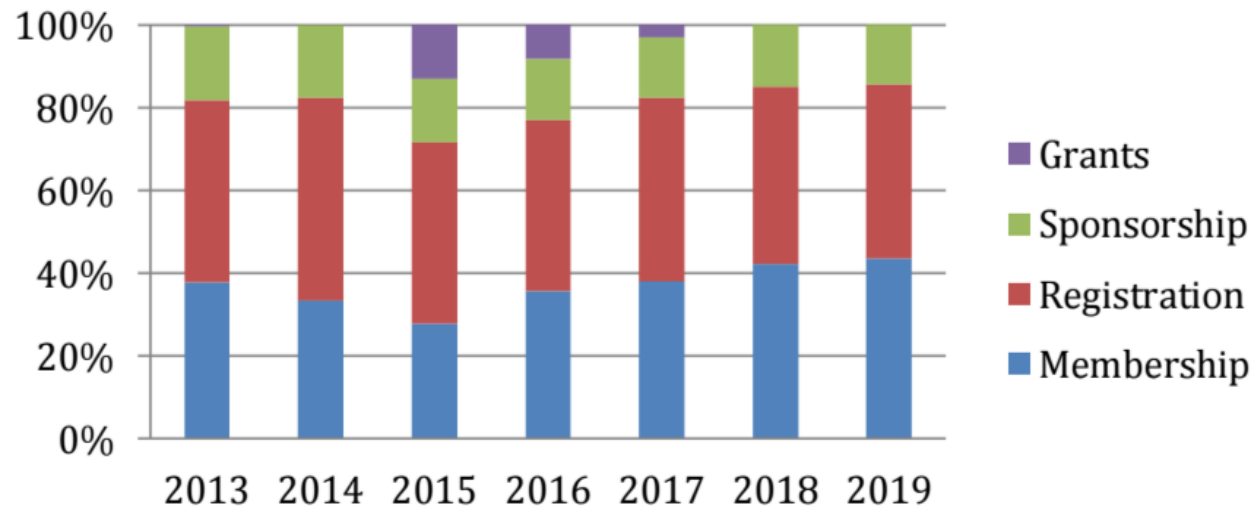
# Fellowship Program

- FIRST funds **participation** for up to four new teams each year
- Open to CSIRTs with some **level of national responsibility**



# FIRST as an organization

- Lead by a 10-person **Board of Directors**, elected by Members
- No headquarters, but **secretariat** in Chicago
- **501c3 non-profit** incorporated in the United States
- Funded primarily through membership and conference fees



# Events



## Symposia

- Four per year
- In each major region (Africa, Europe, Latin America, Asia)
- Hosted by FIRST and often a partner



## Conference

- Flagship event
- Once per year, travels between regions
- ~500-800 attendees



## Technical Colloquium

- Organized by individual members
- National or regional event
- Typically 10-15 events per year





# Global events June 2017-2018



Legend:  2017     2018

# Training and Education

- FIRST maintains a **CSIRT and PSIRT Services Framework**
  - Details all services typically offered by CSIRT
  - Offers a roadmap and guide for CSIRT as they expand capability
- FIRST **develops training materials** for individual services
  - CSIRT Fundamentals, Incident Coordination, Information Sources
  - All materials are Creative Commons licensed and available for free
- FIRST **delivers training** with partners and at events
  - Roster of trainer-practitioners



# Special Interest Groups

- Convene members around topics of common interest
- Often have a formal charter, timeline and deliverables
- Types of SIGs:
  - **Working groups:** Big Data, Ethics, Red Team
  - **Standards groups:** CVSS, IEP, TLP, Passive DNS exchange
  - **Discussion groups:** Vendors, Metrics, Industrial Control Systems
  - **Bird of a Feather session:** legal issues, specific temporary topics



# Standards



## Common Vulnerability Scoring System

- Scoring system for software vulnerabilities
- Allows integration of environmental factors
- Interactive training

## Traffic Light Protocol

- Allows data senders to encode how information may be distributed
- Focused on human sharing, simple to use

## TLP

## IEP

## Information Exchange Protocol

- More fine grained specification of **Handling, Action, Sharing** and **Licensing** policies
- Focused on machine sharing (JSON)

## Passive DNS

- Enable easier sharing of passive DNS information
- Standard contributed to the IETF

## Passive DNS





# Technical resources

Membership  
database

A FIRST member database with contact information for incident responders at other members. **Including PGP keys.**

FIRST Incident  
Response Team  
API

Poll information on other members using a **public API.**

Malware  
Information Sharing  
Platform

Share machine-parseable incident descriptions with members using the **MISP platform.**

Mailing lists  
and IRC

**Immediate communications channels** with other FIRST members.



# Internet Governance and Policy

- Be a **trusted security expert** to the policy community
- FIRST regularly participates in policy forums, such as the Internet Governance Forum, Global Conference on Cyberspace to educate policy makers on incident response
- Lead experts to the **IGF Best Practices Forum on Cybersecurity**
- Help **develop technology expertise** and capability



# Partners

- Partners share our vision of a strong incident response community







**FIRST Annual Meeting 2019**

# Questions?

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<https://www.first.org>

