

seL4 Foundation 2021 GM, pre-reading and pre-work

The first seL4 Foundation General Meeting (GM) will be held on 26/27th of March 2021.

Below is the **proposed agenda** as well as some **small pre-work** that we kindly ask you to do to allow for an efficient and productive meeting.

The pre-work simply consists of:

- reading the present short document with info about each agenda item
- watching the 12min video about the vision
- do the 5 quick **action items** in this document; you can either send your thoughts prior to the GM via email to foundation@seL4.systems, or come prepared to share your thoughts live at the GM.

Proposed agenda

1. Vote result: announce the elected board representative for the General members
2. Vision for the next few years: material sent beforehand; discuss feedback/questions
3. Outreach (getting new members): update, plan and discussion
4. **Wish list for investment**: update on financials, proposed list and discussion
5. **Endorsement/certification**: update and discussion
6. Summit: update and discussion

1. Vote result

This will be announced by email before the GM, and simply repeated here to be recorded in the minutes.

2. Vision

I have prepared some slides to present a vision for the seL4 Foundation in the next 1-5years. Not make the GM more efficient, I share the slides here for you to look at them beforehand; I have also recorded as a 12-minute presentation to go with it.

Please look at the slides/video prior to the GM and come to the GM with any comments/questions.

Pdf: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JGEXkW5wjXtfwYXCsAqMLIGEyOvZL2Lx/view?usp=sharing>

Video: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bkHBwuvK57dECjpaLqPdUPx9hvsMSRg/view?usp=sharing>

3. Outreach

A high-level update of where we are up to will be presented by the outreach committee at the GM.

4. Wish list for investment

Current financial situation

An update on our current financial situation and budget will be presented by the Treasurer at the GM.

To give an indication of our situation, for context for the next question about where to invest:

- our revenue for the past year sits around USD 48K
- our expenses for the past year sits around USD 10K (4.3K for the 9% fees from the Linux Foundation, 5K for trademark) with provision for another ~USD 10K (5K for trademark, 2K for contingency and 2K for web server).
- this leaves around USD 28K (48-10-10) to invest.
- if we achieve the goals in our vision, next year would have a revenue of around USD 326K, so much more potential to invest.

Proposed list for investment

From what we hear from the members, the TSC, the board and the larger community, here is a list of things that would benefit the seL4 community a lot if it could be funded e.g. by the seL4 Foundation (from its membership-generated funds):

- **infrastructure:** a technical hardware infrastructure for testing, owned by the Foundation and accessible by multiple people in the TSC and/or beyond (rough estimated cost: 15-30)
- **sysadmin support:** potential need for some support time from someone to install/configure/maintain the infrastructure.
- **seL4 expert:** a (full-time or part-time) dedicated seL4 expert / gate-keeper, with a systems profile, dedicated to look after the code base, integrate Pull Requests, deal with JIRA issues, etc. ***Needs discussion on how much this is better done with a dedicated person vs the TSC members combining their expertise but on limited in-kind time***
- **community support person:** a (full-time or part-time) person to focus on attending the community's questions, requests, etc (this could be the same as or different from the seL4 expert).
- **dedicated executive:** a (part-time) CEO-type of person, pushing for things to happen on the governance side of things, strategy, coordinating and chasing-up committees, bringing values to members etc.
- **improvements projects:** dedicated budget for technical strategic projects to improve: usability, the verification platform, documentation/tutorials... ***For some of these, needs a discussion on how much this is the Foundation's role vs community; eventually it should be the community, but now, it needs some ground work first to make it easier for the community to take over.***
- **misc marketing:** eg TShirts for starting individual memberships? or buffer to help with summit?
- **education?:** some budget to host internships??...

Action items:

1. **What else would like to see in this list?**
2. **Please rank/order this list in what *you* think should be the priority for the next year for investing Foundations funds.**

Rough estimates cost:

- **infrastructure:** USD 12-24K
- **sysadmin support:** USD 10-40K
- **seL4 expert:** USD 40-200K (depending if part-time or full-time)
- **community support person:** USD 40-150K (depending if part-time or full-time)
- **dedicated executive:** USD 40K-90K (part-time 20%-50%)
- **improvements projects:** USD 20-400K
- **misc marketing:** USD 3-15K
- **education:** ?

5. Endorsement and certification

Context: the seL4 Foundation would like to provide a scheme to endorse/certify service providers, training and products related to seL4. The value should be both ways: it should recognise and provide an opportunity to highlight good seL4 work and support, and it should also be for the community to have some kind of quality measure they can trust when having to choosing a service, training or product.

Status: so far we implemented light weight "interim endorsements", awarded by decision of the seL4 Foundation's compliance committee, and awarded interim endorsement to 4 services providers and 1 training. We have also started discussion on what an actual certification scheme could look like.

Outcome of discussions so far: there seems to be 2 views of what such "quality tag" could convey. One view (more related to the idea of "endorsement") is to convey that the service/training/product can be trusted to be aligned with seL4's design principles, is generally useful to the community and of respectable quality. Another view (more related to the idea of "certification") is to convey that a person or artefact has passed some established standardised test with externally known set of criteria. Feedback so far indicate that, at this stage, the "certification" view is probably pre-mature and people put more value into an endorsement from a trusted party like the TSC, which would be more descriptive, e.g. describing what is unique about a particular service.

Next steps: refine the definition of endorsement and continue the discussion (on discourse), through a sub-group from the TSC.

Action items:

3. **Share any further thoughts on this topic** (either prior to the GM via email to foundation@seL4.systems, or live at the GM)

6. Summit

- **Context:** There has been 3 instances of the "seL4 summit" to date. These have, so far, been organised by the "seL4 Center of Excellence (CoE)", as part of their funding from DARPA to lower barrier of adoption to seL4 in the US and in particular within the US DoD. Now that the seL4 Foundation exists, the event "seL4 summit" will be hosted/organised by the seL4 Foundation, through an open Expression of Interest (EoI) to find a volunteer to organise and host on behalf of the seL4 Foundation.
- **Aim:** we would really love to hear what the committee would like to see in these future summits; the aim would be for the future summits to be:
 - internationally focused; in particular if a physical event is possible, then a non-US-based summit for the next instance would be a message in that direction.
 - community focused, with room for technical brainstorming, sharing of ideas etc.
 - highlighting all areas of applications of seL4, in particular experiences of deployment
 - providing a diverse, high quality, high take away value set of talks, discussions/workshops, networking, training
 - potentially providing room for members to get exposure
- Action items:
 4. content: **what are the top 3 things you want out of the next seL4 summit?**
 5. time of year: **opinions on whether to try to wait for ~Apr'22 in-person? or go for ~Oct'21 likely virtual?** (note that the CoE didn't give a clear indication on whether they would organise an additional CoE event; they did say that they need a Washington DC-based event and that Oct would be best for this, but on the question on avoiding overlap with the Foundation one, they said it would be up to the next board, to be elected soon).