

The seL4 Foundation Technical Charter

The Linux Foundation

Adopted [_____, 20__]

1. Mission and scope of the seL4 Technical Project

- (a) This Charter sets out:
 - (i) the responsibilities of all contributors (including committers, maintainers, and other technical positions), and other participants, (collectively, **Collaborators**) in the seL4 technical project (**Technical Project**); and
 - (ii) the procedures for making technical contribution to, and oversight of, the Technical Project.

The Technical Project has been established as a “seL4 Project a Series of LF Projects, LLC” (**seL4 Series**). This Charter is subject to the Series Agreement that established the seL4 Series and the Operating Agreement of LF Projects.

- (b) The mission of the Technical Project is to enable the collaborative community-based development, availability and adoption of the seL4 kernel and its ecosystem of frameworks, tools, infrastructure and libraries of components. It is in charge of making official versions of the seL4 kernel and ecosystem components available for open adoption, while providing clarity and certainty as to their level of formal verification. The seL4 kernel is a high-assurance, high-performance microkernel that has been comprehensively formally verified to mathematically prove that its executable code correctly implements only the behaviour allowed by its specification.
- (c) The scope of the Technical Project includes collaborative development under the Project License (as defined in section 6) supporting the mission, including documentation, testing, formal verification, integration and the creation of other artifacts that aid the development, deployment, operation and/or adoption of the seL4 kernel.
- (d) The Technical Steering Committee (the **TSC**) will be responsible for the technical oversight of the Technical Project.
- (e) Anyone may participate in the Technical Project by becoming a Contributor or a Committer, and abiding by this Charter. Contributors include anyone in the technical community that contributes code, documentation, or other technical artifacts to the Technical Project. Committers are Contributors who have earned the ability to modify or commit source code, documentation or other technical artifacts in the Technical Project’s repository, or who provide technical leadership to the Technical Project. A Contributor may become a Committer by a decision of the TSC. A Committer may be removed by a decision of the TSC. The TSC may modify these roles, provided the roles are documented in the contributing file within the Technical Project’s code repository (**Contributing File**).
- (f) The Technical Project will operate in a transparent, open, collaborative, and ethical manner at all times. The output of all Technical Project discussions, proposals, timelines, decisions, and status is intended to be made open and easily visible to all.

2. Technical Steering Committee

- (a) **Composition:**

The TSC will consist of the following voting members (**TSC Members**):

- (i) At the inception of the Technical Project – the Technical Project’s committers plus three technical leaders (**Technical Leaders**) identified by the Technical Project’s committers and named in the Contributing File.
 - (ii) Subsequently – the TSC may decide an alternative approach for determining the TSC Members, and document that alternative approach in the Contributing File.
- (b) **Conduct of meetings:**
- (i) Unless all TSC Members agree otherwise, they must receive at least 5 business days’ written notice of a meeting.
 - (ii) TSC meetings are intended to be open to the public, and may be conducted electronically, via teleconference, or in person at the discretion of the TSC.
- (c) **Quorum and voting:**
- (i) Quorum for TSC meetings requires the presence of at least 50% of the TSC Members. If notice of the meeting has been given in accordance with section 2(b)(i), the TSC may continue to meet even if quorum is not met, but may not make any decisions at the meeting.
 - (ii) Each TSC Member has 1 vote.
 - (iii) While the TSC will strive to make decisions based on consensus, except where otherwise required in this Charter, decisions of the TSC will be passed by a simple majority vote at a meeting provided quorum is met. The TSC may pass decisions without a meeting if the majority of the TSC Members sign a document stating that they are in favour of the decision set out in the document.
 - (i) In the event of a tied vote with respect to an action that cannot be resolved by the TSC, any TSC Member may refer the matter to the Series Manager for assistance in reaching a decision.
- (d) **Officers:**
- (i) The TSC will appoint by majority decision a Chairperson of the TSC (**TSC Chair**).
 - (ii) The Chair will preside over meetings of the TSC, and will serve as the primary communication contact between the Technical Project and the seL4 Foundation Fund of The Linux Foundation (**Directed Fund**), and will represent the views of the TSC and Technical Project on the Governing Board of the Directed Fund.
- (e) **Responsibilities:**
- The TSC is responsible for overseeing all aspects within the scope of the Technical Project, including:
- (i) coordinating the technical direction of the Technical Project;
 - (ii) establishing a code of conduct for the Technical Project, subject to approval by the Series Manager. Until a code of conduct for the Technical Project is established and approved, the LF Projects Code of Conduct available at <https://lfprojects.org/policies> will apply for all Collaborators in the Technical Project;
 - (iii) approving project or system proposals (including, but not limited to, incubation, deprecation, and changes to a sub-project’s scope);

- (iv) organising and removing sub-projects;
- (v) creating sub-committees or working groups to focus on cross-project technical issues and requirements;
- (vi) appointing representatives to work with other open source or open standards communities;
- (vii) establishing community norms, workflows, issuing releases, and security issue reporting policies;
- (viii) making recommendations to the seL4 Board for policies and processes for contributions to the seL4 kernel and codebase, including in relation to in-bound and out-bound intellectual property licensing;
- (ix) coordinating with the Series Manager to resolve matters or concerns that may arise in relation to this Charter;
- (x) discussing, seeking consensus, and where necessary, voting on technical matters relating to the code base that affect multiple projects;
- (xi) coordinating any marketing, events, or communications regarding the Technical Project; and
- (xii) setting requirements for the promotion of Contributors to Committer status, and amending, adjusting, refining and/or eliminating the roles of Contributors, and Committers, and/or creating new roles in relation to the Technical Project, and publicly documenting those roles.

3. General Rules and Operations.

- (a) The TSC must:
 - (i) ensure that the activities of the Technical Project are carried out in a professional manner consistent with maintaining a cohesive community, while also maintaining the goodwill and esteem of the LF Projects and its affiliates and other partner organisations in the open source community;
 - (ii) respect the rights of all trademark owners, including any branding and trademark usage guidelines; and
 - (iii) immediately report any potential violations of the requirements in section 1(f) to the Series Manager.
- (b) **Under no circumstances will LF Projects be expected or required to undertake any action on behalf of the** Technical Project that is inconsistent with the tax-exempt status or purpose, as applicable, of LF Projects or its affiliates.

4. Collaborator compliance with policies

- (a) **All Collaborators must comply with the policies of LF Projects as may be adopted and amended by LF Projects, including the policies listed at <https://lfprojects.org/policies/>.** When amending or adopting any policy applicable to the Technical Project, LF Projects will publish the policy to be amended or adopted, on its web site at least 30 days prior to such policy taking effect; provided, however, that in the case of any amendment of the Trademark Policy or Terms of Use of LF Projects, any such amendment is effective upon publication on LF Project's web site.

- (b) All Collaborators must allow open participation from any individual or organisation meeting which is entitled to participate in the Technical Project under this Charter and any policies adopted for all Collaborators by the TSC, regardless of competitive interests. The Technical Project community must not seek to exclude any participant based on any criteria, requirement, or reason other than those that are reasonable and applied on a non-discriminatory basis to all Collaborators in the Project community.

5. Community Assets

- (a) LF Projects will hold the title to all trade or service marks used by the Technical Project (**Project Trademarks**), whether registered rights or based on common law. Project Trademarks will be transferred and assigned to LF Projects to hold on behalf of the Technical Project. Any use of any Project Trademarks by Collaborators in the Technical Project must be in accordance with the license from LF Projects, and must inure to the benefit of LF Projects.
- (b) seL4 Series will, as permitted and in accordance with such license from LF Projects, develop and own all Technical Project GitHub and social media accounts, and domain name registrations created by the Technical Project community.

6. Intellectual Property Policy

- (a) All **Collaborators acknowledge that the copyright in all new contributions** to the Technical Project **will be retained by the copyright holder as independent works of authorship, and that no contributor or copyright holder will be required to assign** that copyright to seL4 Series.
- (b) All Collaborators agree that:
 - (i) All new inbound code contributions to the Technical Project must be made using the project licenses (the **Project Licenses**). The Project License for the seL4 kernel and seL4 kernel proofs is the GPLv2 license, the Project License for all other code and libraries is the 2-clause BSD license.
 - (ii) All new inbound code contributions must be accompanied by a Developer Certificate of Origin (<http://developercertificate.org>) sign-off in the source code system that is submitted through a TSC-approved contribution process which will bind the authorised contributor and, if not self-employed, their employer to the applicable license.
 - (iii) All outbound code will be made available under the applicable Project License.
 - (iv) Documentation will be received and made available by the Technical Project under the [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>)].
 - (v) All contributed files must contain license information, **such** as SPDX short form identifiers, indicating the open source license or licenses pertaining to the file.
 - (vi) The Project may seek to integrate and contribute back to other open source projects ("Upstream Projects"). In such cases, the Project will conform to all license requirements of the Upstream Projects, including dependencies, leveraged by the Project. Upstream Project code contributions not stored within the Project's main code repository will comply with the contribution process and license terms for the applicable Upstream Project.

- (c) The TSC may approve the use of an alternative license or licenses for inbound or outbound contributions on a case by case basis. To request an alternative license or licenses, please describe the contribution, the alternative open source license(s), and the justification for using an alternative open source license for the Project to the TSC. Any use of alternative license or licenses must be approved by a two-thirds majority of the TSC.

7. Amendments

- (a) **This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the TSC, subject to approval by LF Projects.**