

OSCAR not at Risk of Heartbleed!

Given recent events, we thought it was appropriate to communicate with the OSCAR user community on the matter of security issues.

The “Heartbleed” security risk reported in the media in recent weeks does not affect OSCAR when installed following instructions published in OSCAR EMR’s ISO 13485:2003 certified Quality Management System. There are no critical or security issues in OSCAR 12.1.1 where the OSCAR software and supporting hardware and network have been appropriately set up for the intended use, and the OSCAR System Administrator has implemented the appropriate permission and access rules for all users of the system.

OSCAR’s strength lies in open, transparent collaboration and sharing among all OSCAR users, OSCAR Service Providers and open-source developers. OSCAR’s open-source license directly supports this ethos. This shared commitment to provider-driven continuously improvement of OSCAR translates into improved care and service and, ultimately, improved health from the level of the individual patient to the population served. This is what makes OSCAR ideal from a patient and physician standpoint in terms of quality, safety, security and responsiveness. Working together on a common, open-source OSCAR product also ensures OSCAR users experience the freedom to collaborate on common interests, to leverage rather than duplicate or compete with new feature development, and to choose or change how their OSCAR system is supported without having to change the software itself.

As with any software product, issues or bugs may be discovered after release of the software as it is further tested and implemented across many diverse settings. As a result of the transparent collaboration among OSCAR users, OSCAR Service Providers and OSCAR EMR, these issues are quickly identified, triaged and resolved in priority order, with all contributing as they best can to the issue resolution for the benefit of all. To that end, an updated version of OSCAR 12.1.1 containing all bug fixes to date will be released before the end of the month, and all fixes are readily available to those who have already installed or upgraded to OSCAR 12.1.1.

OSCAR-EMR is a not-for-profit organization governed by OSCAR users that stewards the collaboration and OSCAR code management on behalf of the open-source software community we serve. Together with the OSCAR Canada User Society and affiliated OSCAR Service Providers, OSCAR EMR is committed to providing an excellent software product and preserving the effectiveness and integrity of the collaborative open-source software model. This commitment is evident in OSCAR’s achievement of Canada Health Infoway Certification (J Class), its status as an Ontario EMR Specification 4.1a Funding Eligible Offering, and its recent verification as IHE compliant. OSCAR offers the perfect blend of user-driven features and functions while meeting established and progressive regulatory requirements for security, privacy and interoperability.

Should any OSCAR user have any questions at any time regarding the OSCAR software or issues identified, simply contact OSCAR EMR at (905) 385-3378 or by email at info@oscar-emr.org.

