



INFORMATION REGARDING COMMERCIAL OFFERING OF JAVA CARD BASED TOOLS AND SERVICES

This document serves as an official statement of Adam Gowdiak Security Research (AGSECRES) regarding limitations or inability to assist business customers in the area of Java Card security.

AGSECRES doesn't possess a license to use Oracle Java Card SDK, Oracle Java Card VM specification and associated APIs for commercial purposes. In that context:

- AGSECRES is unable to serve customers interested in custom security evaluation tools (Java / SIM card introspector) or services targeting Java Card based devices. Only Oracle Java Card licensees can be taken into account and under very specific conditions.
- AGSECRES can (and will continue to) use Oracle Java Card VM specification and APIs for non-commercial purposes only such as demoing real-life Java / SIM card security vulnerabilities, evaluation and testing.

AGSECRES has reached out to Oracle with in inquiry aimed to arrange proper licensing. Below, is a summary of the communication between the two companies:

22 Mar 2021

AGSECRES sends an inquiry [1] to VP of Oracle JavaCard organization regarding commercial Java Card license.

12 Apr 2021

Oracle proposes a dedicated call to make sure the company correctly understands the inquiry and agree on next steps.

Apr-19-2021

A con call takes place between Oracle Germany and AGSECRES. During a call, Oracle indicates that a strong and secure Java Card ecosystem is one of Oracle goals. Company representatives inform that NDA is required to proceed (to provide licensing related information).

AGSECRES signs NDA document and sends it back for counter-signature to Oracle Germany.



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Oracle Germany informs that "Effective Date" of the agreement (the date NDA starts) should be left empty. The company asks for signing and sending another NDA without this date filled in.

AGSECRES informs Oracle that it can't sign NDA without providing a date. The company informs Oracle that this shouldn't matter taking into account the NDA period (3 years from the effective date).

20 Apr 2021

Oracle informs that it has clear instructions regarding NDA. The company states that if AGSECRES cannot sign NDA without filling the effective date, Oracle cannot enter into NDA.

AGSECRES informs Oracle that the talks are over and that the company started to implement changes to its operations and future directions (security evaluation services for Java Card based products or tools are not advertised at company web pages any more).

21 Apr 2021

AGSECRES asks Oracle Germany how an obstacle like the one with the NDA (legally questionable empty effective date) is helping to reach the goal of a strong and secure Java Card ecosystem. The company also asks Oracle how it perceives a party with a proven security record to actually contribute to the Java Card ecosystem. AGSECRES informs Oracle Germany that without permission of a commercial use of Java Card spec, any assistance to many members of the ecosystem is practically not possible. What's left is the public contribution only (publication of security findings, tools, etc.) - for non-commercial, R&D and testing purposes. AGSECRES indicates that it hasn't been aware that this is also the preferred way for Oracle (public disclosure of any research vs. private work with ecosystem members under strict NDA).

28 Apr 2021

AGSECRES informs Oracle Poland spokesperson (side of the NDA document provided by Oracle Germany) about the situation. The company asks Oracle Poland spokesperson for the official explanation of the processes used at Oracle regarding NDA such as the requirement for the in-blanco "effective date". AGSECRES also asks for the reasons why the NDA with the effective date filled in correspondence with a signing date is of no value to Oracle Poland.

06 May 2021

AGSECRES contacts Oracle Poland and asks to pass a message to Oracle Poland managing director, where it describes the NDA situation and asks for an official statement of Oracle Poland (side of the NDA not accepted by Oracle Germany) with respect to the presented case.



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07 May 2021

AGSECRES asks Oracle Poland for a confirmation the message has been passed to country's managing director. In the message, AGSECRES expresses its belief that contrary to Oracle claims that security of JavaCard ecosystem is within company's interest, Oracle seems to create obstacles to companies such as AGSECRES when it comes to commercial use of Java Card. AGSECRES expresses the belief that its past activity (reporting 120+ to Oracle and exposing Oracle negligence in the area of security) could lie at the origin of the situation. Additionally, it could be that AGSECRES tools might turn out to be more practical and functional than Oracle own Java Card tools.

Oracle Poland provides confirmation and asks for a contact phone number.

13 May 2021

Personal assistant to the managing director of Oracle Poland contacts AGSECRES. It seeks for basic information / background to the received inquiry.

REFERENCES

[1] An official inquiry to Oracle Corporation regarding commercial Java Card license
http://www.agsecurityresearch.com/jc/oracle_jc_inquiry.pdf