

3. Roles in CVD

What people say, what people do, and what they say they do are entirely different things.
– Margaret Mead

Certain roles are critical to the Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure process, as described below:

- **Finder (Discoverer)** – the individual or organization that identifies the vulnerability
- **Reporter** – the individual or organization that notifies the vendor of the vulnerability
- **Vendor** – the individual or organization that created or maintains the product that is vulnerable
- **Deployer** – the individual or organization that must deploy a patch or take other remediation action
- **Coordinator** – an individual or organization that facilitates the coordinated response process

Although a more detailed description of the CVD process is provided in Section 4, a simple sketch of the relationships between these roles is shown in Figure 1.

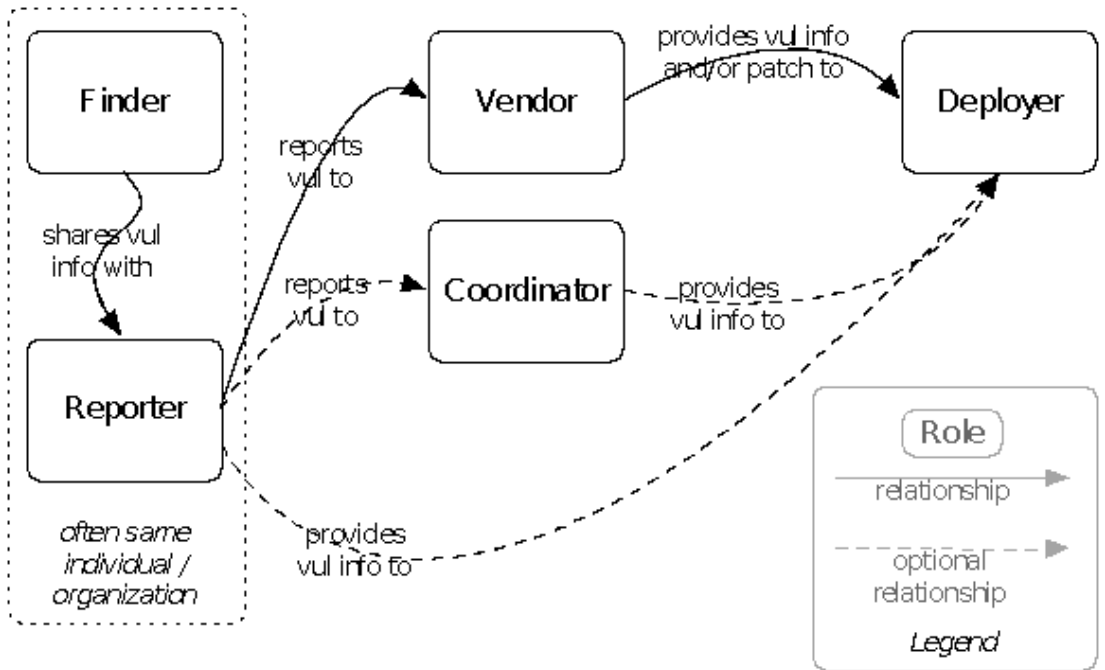


Figure 1: CVD Role Relationships

It is possible and often the case that individuals and organizations play multiple roles. For example, a cloud service provider might act as both vendor and deployer, while a researcher might act as both finder and reporter. A vendor may also be both a deployer and a coordinator. In fact, the CERT/CC has played all five roles over time, although not usually simultaneously.

- 3.1. Finder
- 3.2 Reporter
- 3.3. Vendor
- 3.4. Deployer
- 3.5. Coordinator
- 3.6. Other Roles and Variations