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Goodbye Credential Leaks: Securing Code Together

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TRANSFORM



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Agenda

background

detection

remediation

prevention

take aways



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Credential leaks are a human error

Background: How & why secrets leak



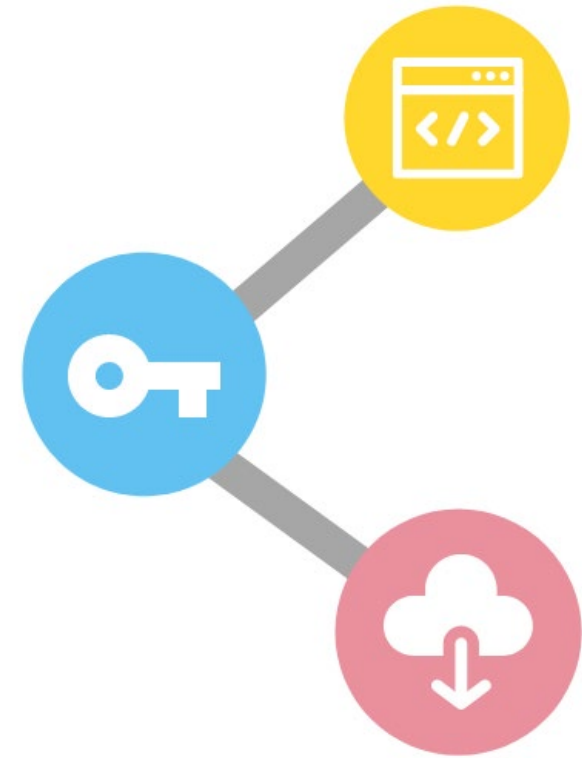
How do secrets get leaked?

Leaked secrets allow malicious actors to impersonate others & fraudulently use services

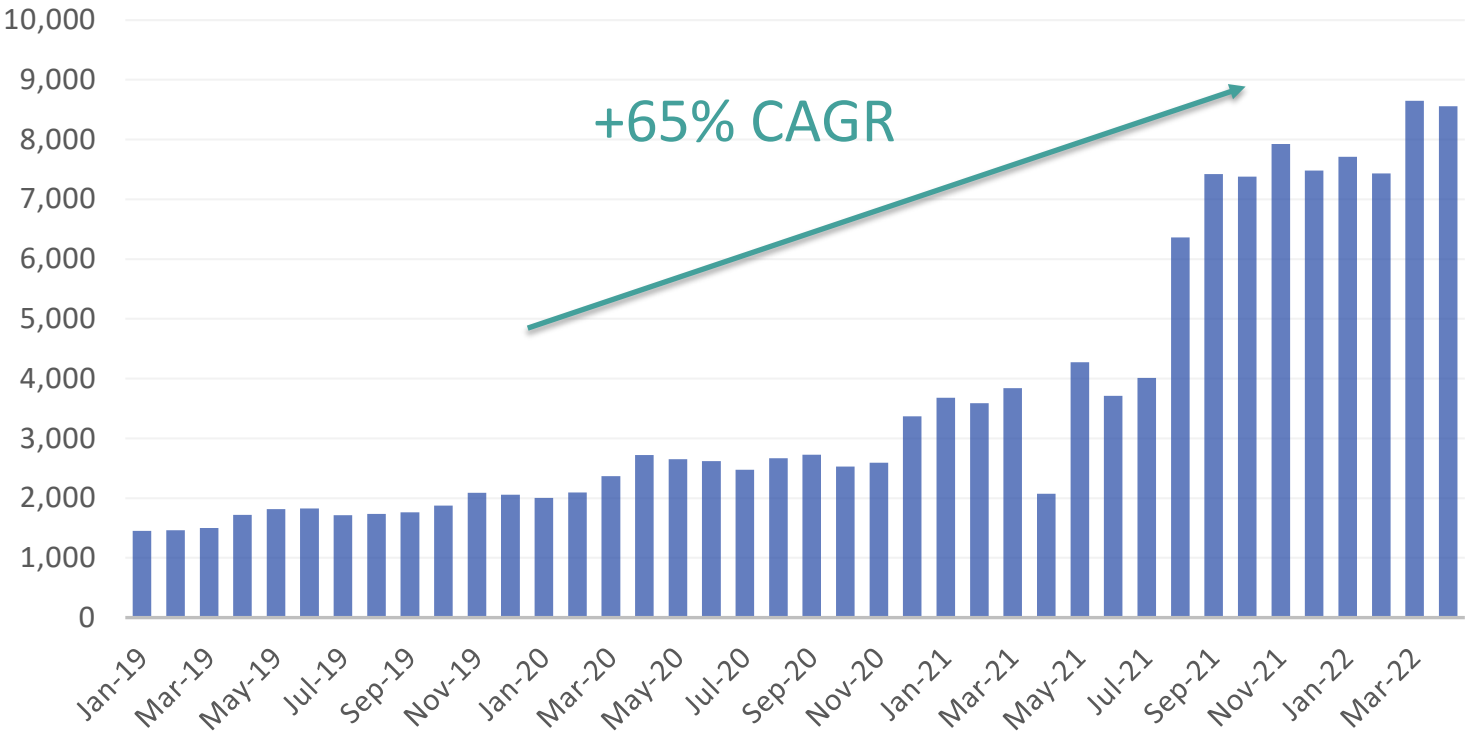
On accident

Left in git commit history

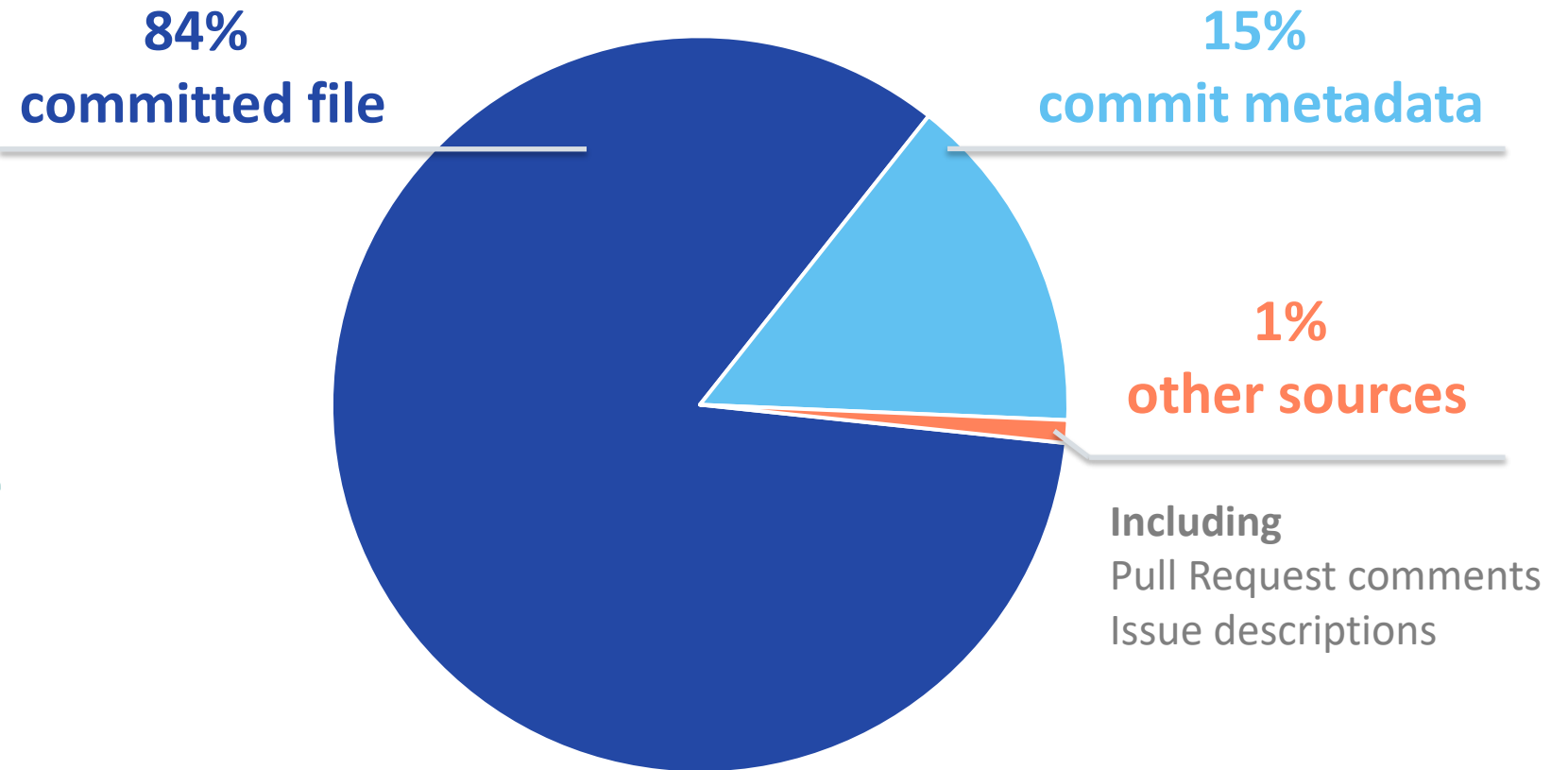
Intentionally



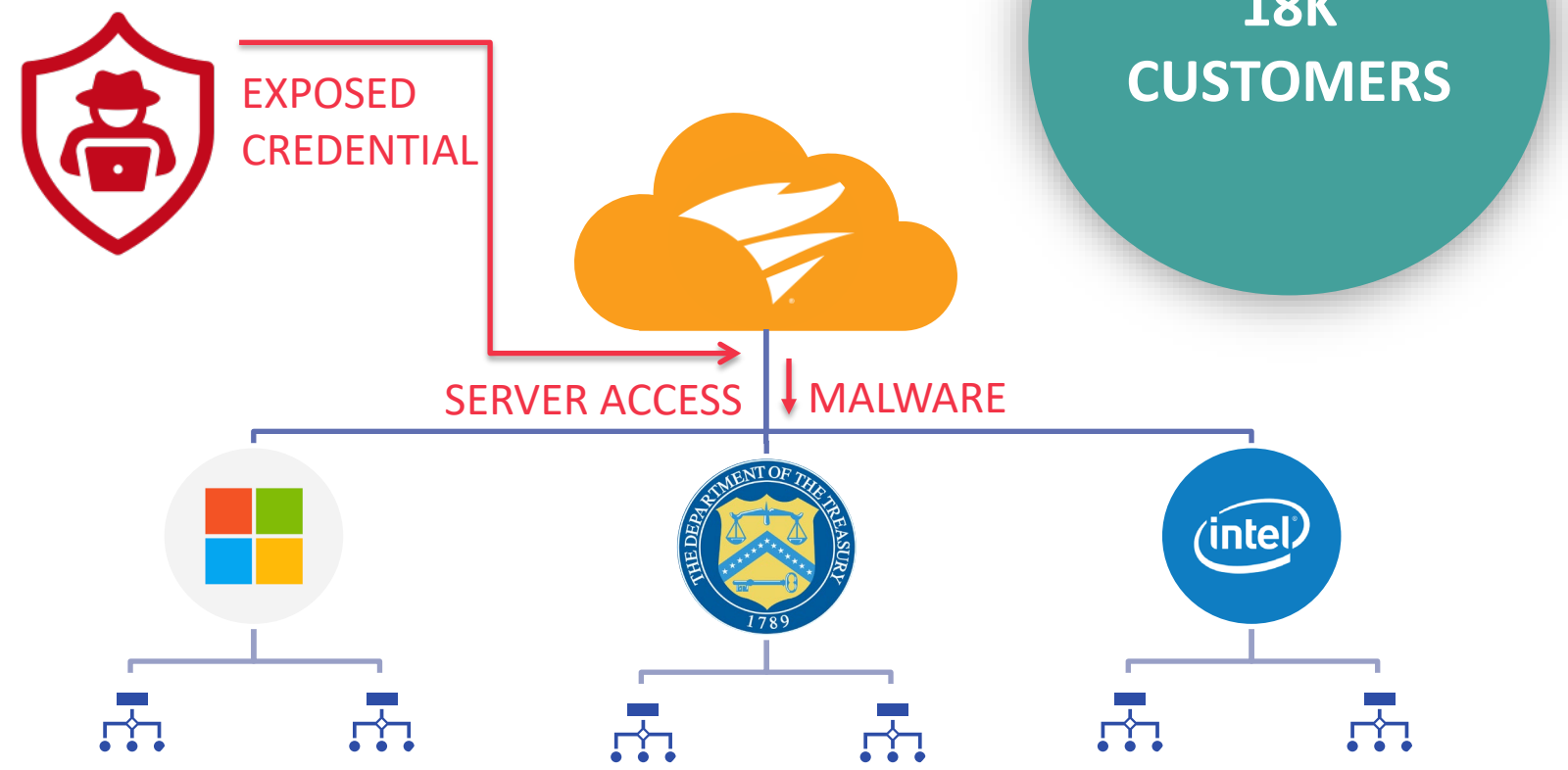
Contributors leak over 100 GitHub tokens a DAY!



Secrets can leak
anywhere you're
building software



One secret
is all it takes



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Detecting your leaks

Reactively finding & remediating exposed secrets




Secret detected in 1 file

▼ sample.txt 

...

42 ghp_yM7lEE390osKdrBhchkQZkkoy16m6c0dE0KY

43 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

 Create sample.txt [eaae424](#)

19 days ago

You leaked a secret...now what?



Detecting tokens with GitHub secret scanning

Service enabled by default on GitHub.com

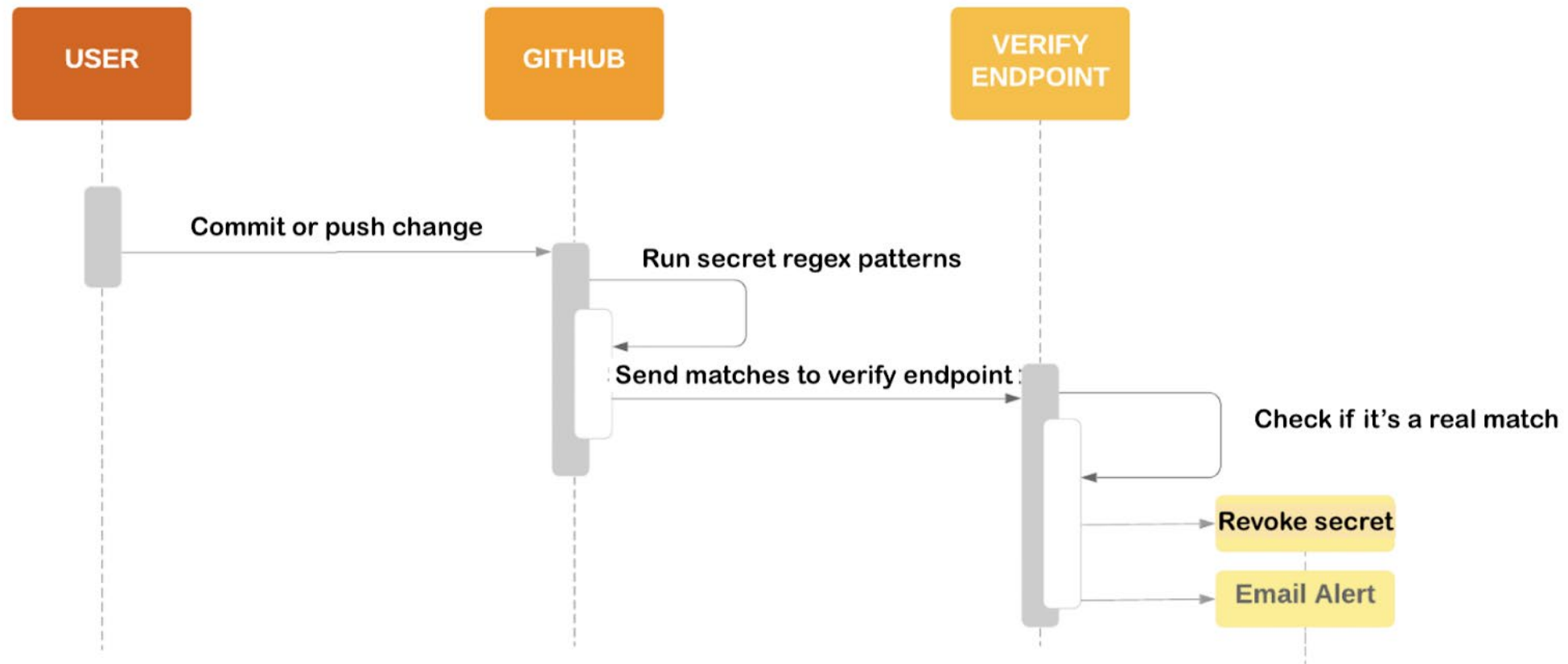
Scans [public contributions](#) for secrets

Notifies provider for leaked secrets

Available through GitHub Advanced Security for private repositories



Secret scanning



A case study: leaking AWS credentials

```
7
8 pscale_pauth_qkWffC9H6cLzGpwG69CL5QhFAE15a6ybYPWEsTULwha
9
10 same token -- CLOJARS_770584d592da432850a9f48df2afba5dde4410ac13624acef38e9ba00b02
11
12 118_x
13
14 CLOJARS_070584d592da432850a9f48df2afba5dde4410ac13624acef38e9ba00b00
15
16 slack_token = xz5ECUFCcSQjqXZw02XPkQo
17 slack = xapp-1-A02PJN8SXH9-2813357557457-267e9e7bb4fb60ca5306bb88d5573bc15720c034eb8ded0230f0d4ce625fd17e
18
19 github = 3281f75d1c035854a160d9fc4d15e73866f1809b
20
21
22 AWS_SECRET_ACCESS_KEY=5pQ/erppusgmwz3zo0ycDbCT22JfhvV+P+nyM9+c
23 AWS_ACCESS_KEY_ID=AKIAQC5D2BP0G57XFPXX
24
25 this_is_my_pattern_14h
26
27 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
```



A case study: leaking AWS credentials

Dear AWS customer,

We have become aware that the AWS Access Key AKIAUE7E75ZNF4ZRR5F6, belonging to User "root", along with the corresponding Secret Key is publicly available online at <https://github.com/API-days-Demo/SS-demo/blob/0cd72cdd4f954abbbbf3fbdbfd9acbf6a0d378ca/ss-demo-public>.

This poses a security risk to your account (including other account users), could lead to excessive charges from unauthorized activity, and violates the AWS Customer Agreement or other agreement with us governing your use of our service. To protect your account from excessive charges, we have temporarily limited your ability to use some AWS services. To remove the limits, please follow the instructions below.

To protect your account from excessive charges, we may terminate any suspected unauthorized resources on your account.

If you believe you've received this note in error, please contact us immediately via the support case.

Let us know after you complete the steps below, and please make sure to leave the support case open.

PLEASE FOLLOW THE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW TO SECURE YOUR ACCOUNT:



A case study: leaking AWS credentials

Secret scanning alerts

is:open secret-type:aws_access_key_id,aws_secret_access_key

✕ Clear current search query, filters, and sorts

☐  **2 Open** ✓ 0 Closed

Secret type ▾ Provider ▾ Sort ▾

☐  **Amazon AWS Secret Access Key** 5pQ/erppusgmwz3zo0ycDbCT22...
#258 opened 2 months ago • Detected secret in aws_test:22

☐  **Amazon AWS Access Key ID** AKIAQC5D2BP0G57XFPXX
#257 opened 2 months ago • Detected secret in aws_test:23



A case study: leaking AWS credentials

mail.google.com

Your Request For Accessing AWS Resources Has Been Validated

Inbox x

Amazon Web Services

Dear AWS Customer, Thank you for using Amazon Web Services! You recently requested an

Amazon Web Services

You recently requested an AWS Service that required additional validation. Your request has no

Amazon Web Services

You recently requested an AWS Service that required additional validation. Your request has now been validated for AWS Asia P...

Amazon Web Services

You recently requested an AWS Service that required additional validation. Your request has now been validated for AWS Europ...

Amazon Web Services

You recently requested an AWS Service that required additional validation. Your request has now been validated for AWS Europ...

Amazon Web Services

3:35 PM (15 minutes ago)

3:35 PM (15 minutes ago)

3:36 PM (14 minutes ago)

3:36 PM (14 minutes ago)

☆

☆

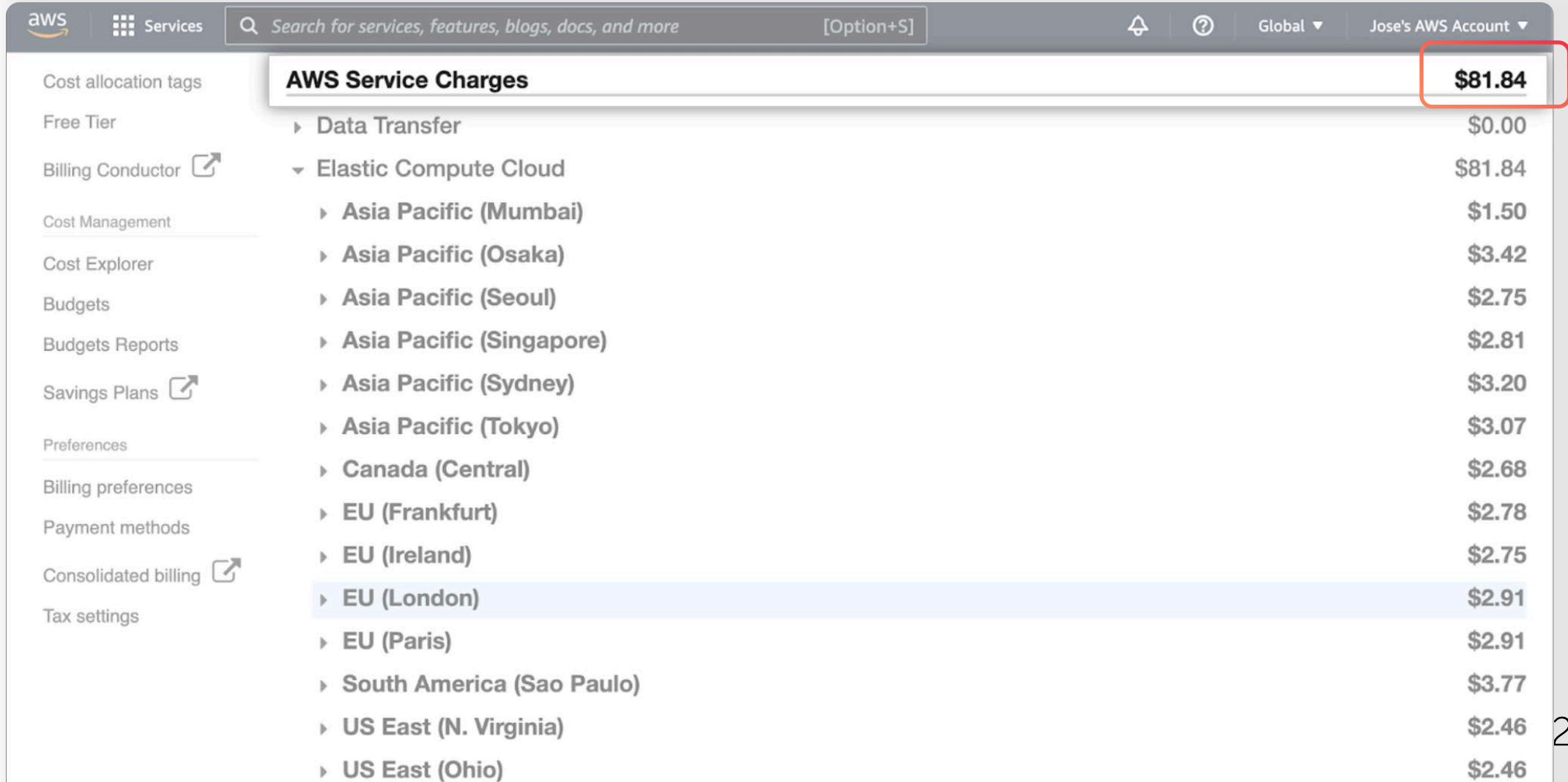
☆

☆

17 attempts to use the credential in under an hour



A case study: leaking AWS credentials










aws	Services	Search for services, features, blogs, docs, and more [Option+S]	Global	Jose's AWS Account
Cost allocation tags	AWS Service Charges			\$81.84
Free Tier	▶ Data Transfer			\$0.00
Billing Conductor	▼ Elastic Compute Cloud			\$81.84
Cost Management	▶ Asia Pacific (Mumbai)			\$1.50
Cost Explorer	▶ Asia Pacific (Osaka)			\$3.42
Budgets	▶ Asia Pacific (Seoul)			\$2.75
Budgets Reports	▶ Asia Pacific (Singapore)			\$2.81
Savings Plans	▶ Asia Pacific (Sydney)			\$3.20
Preferences	▶ Asia Pacific (Tokyo)			\$3.07
Billing preferences	▶ Canada (Central)			\$2.68
Payment methods	▶ EU (Frankfurt)			\$2.78
Consolidated billing	▶ EU (Ireland)			\$2.75
Tax settings	▶ EU (London)			\$2.91
	▶ EU (Paris)			\$2.91
	▶ South America (Sao Paulo)			\$3.77
	▶ US East (N. Virginia)			\$2.46
	▶ US East (Ohio)			\$2.46



Increasing signal, reducing noise



Keeping false positives low

<input type="checkbox"/>  0 Open <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 6 Closed		Closed as ▾	Secret type ▾	Provider ▾	Sort ▾
<input type="checkbox"/>	 GitHub SSH Private Key -----BEGIN RSA PRIVATE KEY...	#1659 closed as revoked now • Detected secret in fff:112			
<input type="checkbox"/>	 GitHub Personal Access Token github_pat_11ATP6KXY0bWfMq...	#1316 closed as revoked now • Detected secret in test_tokens:18			
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Amazon AWS Secret Access Key YkL8AXTbPHFXCoxwQntFTuryvP...	#1312 closed as revoked now • Detected secret in AWS_PUSH_PROTECTION_TEST:2			
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Azure Cache for Redis Access Key cThIYLCD6H7LrWrNHQjxhaSBu4...	#1309 closed as revoked now • Detected secret in drytest:3			
<input type="checkbox"/>	 PlanetScale OAuth Token pscale_oauth_qkWfFc9H6cLzG...	#242 closed as revoked now • Detected secret in aws_test:8			
<input type="checkbox"/>	 Google API Key AIzaSvAX9VY1Gqb0xqhci3IJ64...				



Identifiable tokens = better tokens

Defined prefixes with “_” for highlighting

32 bit checksum:
validate token without hitting a database

ghp_iJxyu4JkSaVUS1EVBmaok0YA156uLr**3ipY7B**

High entropy random strings



Identifiable tokens: the false positive remedy

Before



je5WGi23lgk84GEPQglwafj3slgk2lgiwhio8rgk



842b9e8fb032869e88b653fc4df0786240ae6174209b8505c2f9e228a2144e8c

After



prefix

ghp_

Jxyu4JkSaVUS1EVBmaok0YAl56uLr3ipY7B

32-bit checksum



dop_v1_

prefix

ae5067bb5c1d3bcb1f9e580f7a8dd56186f27791101ccc32bd942c8eb9247901

High entropy (randomness)



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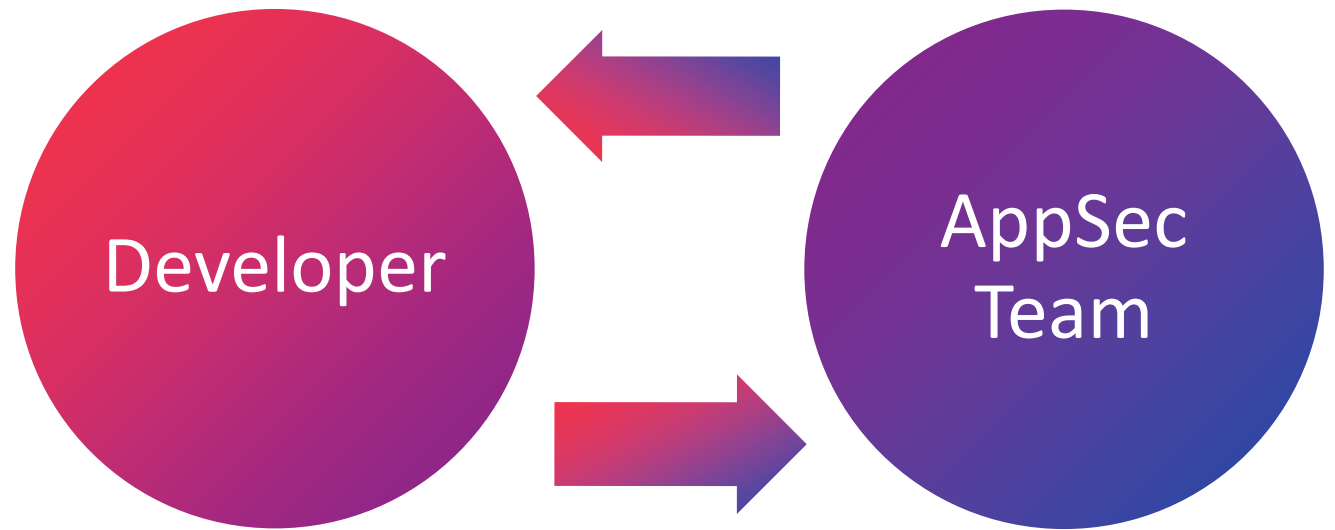
Remediating leaks

When a secret does leak...



How do I remediate a leaked secret?

Assess impact to revoke



How do I remediate a leaked secret?

Assess impact to revoke

Rotate the secret

Rotate AWS Access token stored in Github Repository secrets

Performs the following actions:

1. Checks for existing IAM access and secret key pairs of the provided IAM user (`IAM_USERNAME`)
2. If 2 sets of keys exists, the action will fail
3. If 0 or 1 set of keys exists, the action will:
 - i. Create a new key pair for the IAM user
 - ii. Update the Github secrets (`GITHUB_ACCESS_KEY_NAME` and `GITHUB_SECRET_KEY_NAME`) for all provided repositories (`OWBER_REPOSITORY`)
 - iii. Delete the original key pair from the IAM user (if 1 already exists)



How do I remediate a leaked secret?

Assess impact to revoke

Rotate the secret

Revoke the secret

GitHub Personal Access Token #6



GitHub Advanced Security detected a secret 10 minutes ago · 3 locations



Revoke secret through Github

This action will automatically revoke secret and close the alert. If this secret is valid, consider rotating the secret before revoking it to prevent any irreversible damage.

Revoke secret

src/config/credentials.js

```
12 POSTMARK_API="39ebed31-0077-40da-b008-fd536b366161"  
13 PERSONAL_TK="ghp_U1oe6pCT818IiwgZ6gZzLb1fPE0o5k2qug0w"  
14 MAILGUN="3760e77de3f7965df7f2584db97fb609-1f1bd6a9-80f2b888"
```



Add new internal mail service integration 9e036e0

10 minutes ago



How do I remediate a leaked secret?

Assess impact to revoke

Rotate the secret

Revoke the secret

Rewrite your git history

BFG Repo-Cleaner

Removes large or troublesome blobs like git-filter-branch does, but faster. And written in Scala



Even if your leak
was in a private
repository...

Check **API activity logs** to ensure
you've remediated *in time*

Monitor repository **access permissions**

Ensure proper **secrets management**

Connect with Ops and AppSec teams



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Preventing leaks

Working proactively



Proactive prevention



prefix
ghp_Jxyu4JkSaVUS1EVBmaok0YAl56uLn3ipY7B

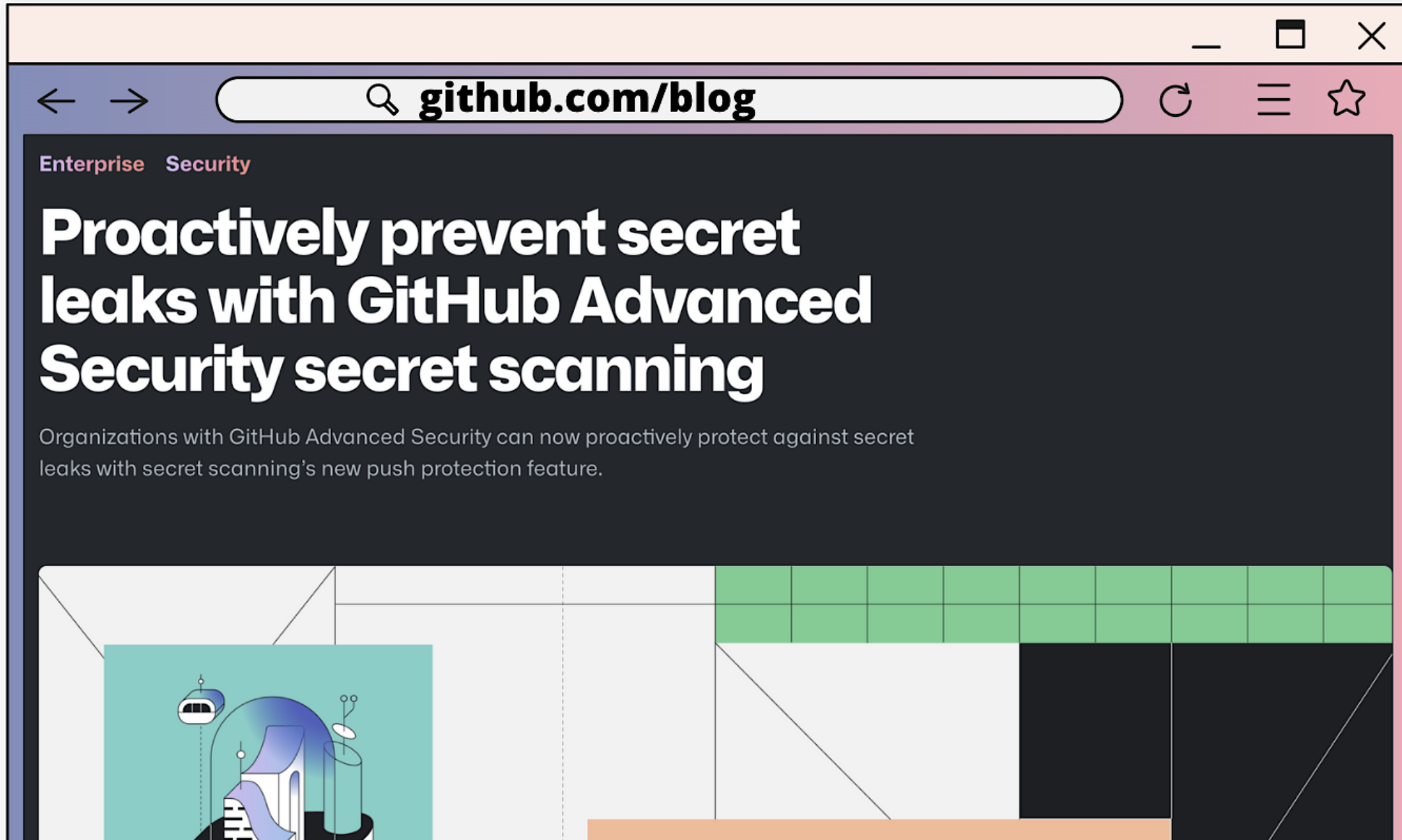
32-bit checksum

High entropy

The diagram illustrates the structure of a GitHub Personal Access Token (PAT). It starts with the GitHub logo, followed by the prefix 'ghp_'. The main body of the token is 'Jxyu4JkSaVUS1EVBmaok0YAl56uLn3ipY7B', which is highlighted with a blue box and labeled 'High entropy'. The final part of the token is '32-bit checksum', which is highlighted with a red box and labeled '32-bit checksum'.

IDENTIFY token → protect on **PUSH**





Demo:

Secret scanning as a push protection



```
name: Publish

on:
  push:
    branches: [ main ]
  workflow_dispatch:

env:
  PRIVATE_REPOSITORY: dsp-testing/15MariamS_Test

jobs:
  build:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest

    steps:
      - uses: actions/checkout@v2
        with:
          token:
            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

      - name: Publish Public to Private
        if: ${ env.GITHUB_REPOSITORY == env.PUBLIC_REPOSITORY  }}
        run: |
          git config --global user.name "repository-sync"
          git push "https://repository-sync:${ secrets.MY_REPOS_SECRET }}@github.com/${ env.PRIVATE_REPOSITORY }.git"
```

```
test_tokens

name: Publish

on:
  push:
    branches: [ main ]
  workflow_dispatch:

env:
  PRIVATE_REPOSITORY: dsp-testing/15MariamS_Test

jobs:
  build:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest

    steps:
      - uses: actions/checkout@v2
        with:
          token:

      - name: Publish Public to Private
        if: ${ env.GITHUB_REPOSITORY == env.PUBLIC_REPOSITORY }}
        run: |
          git config --global user.name "repository-sync"
          git push "https://repository-sync:${ secrets.MY_REPOS_SECRET }}@github.com/${ env.PRIVATE_REPOSITORY }.git"
```



Error

```
remote: error GH009: Secrets detected! This push failed.
remote:
remote:          GITHUB PUSH PROTECTION (beta)
remote: _____
remote: Resolve the following secrets before pushing again.
remote:
remote: (?) Learn how to rewrite your local commit history
remote: https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Git-Tools-Rewriting-History
remote:
remote: — Amazon AWS Access Key ID —
remote: locations:
remote:   - commit: 34d2270dff2261f6a1b693263f19132d3a8bc1a3
remote:     path: push_test:30
remote:
remote: (?) To push, remove secret from commit(s) or follow this URL to allow the
secret.
remote: http://github.com/dsp-testing/mare_secrets/security/secret-
scanning/unblock-
secret/eyJ0b2t1bl90eXB1Ijo1QVdTX0tFWU1EiwiZG9rZW5fc2lnbmF0dXJlIjo1ZDZjMDFmZTUxODAyM
WJiYzcxOWI3ODFjZDFjNGMyM2UxYTFhNzU5NmE5ZGM5MzBkNGE0ZWJjNTFiNzBkOTBjYyIsInRva2VuX3R5c
GVfbGFiZWwiOiJBbWF6b24gQVdTIEFjY2VzcyBLZXkgSUQifQ==
```

[Close](#)

Protect developers from accidentally exposing credentials





Allow me to push this instance of
GitHub Personal Access Token to
dsp-testing/15MariamS_Test

☒ **It's used in tests**

The secret poses no risk, and if anyone finds it, they cannot do any damage or gain access to sensitive information.

☐ **It's a false positive**

The detected string is not a real secret.

☐ **I'll fix it later**

The secret is real, **I understand the risk**, and I will need to revoke it.
This will open a security alert and notify admins of this repository.

Allow me to push this secret

Allowing this secret means other developers can also push
this secret to the repository.

repo-name / src / config / credentials.js in main Cancel changes

⊖ [Push protection for secrets](#) found a GitHub Personal Access Token on [line 12](#). Resolve to commit these changes. Bypass protection ▾

<> Edit file 🔍 Preview changes Spaces ▾ 2 ▾ No wrap ▾

```
1 // config/credentials.js
2 import dotenv from 'dotenv';
3 dotenv.config();
4
5 export default {
6   redis: process.env.REDIS_URL,
7   redisTest: process.env.REDIS_TEST_URL,
8   sentry: process.env.SENTRY_URL,
9   sentryTest: process.env.SENTRY_TEST_URL,
10  planetScale: process.env.PLANETSCALE_PASS,
11  planetScaleTest: process.env.PLANETSCALE_TEST_PASS,
12  ghpToken: 'ghp_U1oe6pCT818IiwgZ6gZzLb1fPE0o5k2qug0w',
13  ghpTestToken: process.env.GITHUB_TEST_TOKEN,
14  graphqlEndpoint: `https://${process.env.SHOPIFY_KEY}:${process.env.SHOPIFY_PASS}@${process.env.SHOPIFY_NAME}.myshopify.com/admin/api/graphql.json`,
15 };
```

Attach files by dragging & dropping, selecting or pasting them. 🗑





“Just enable
this on everything”

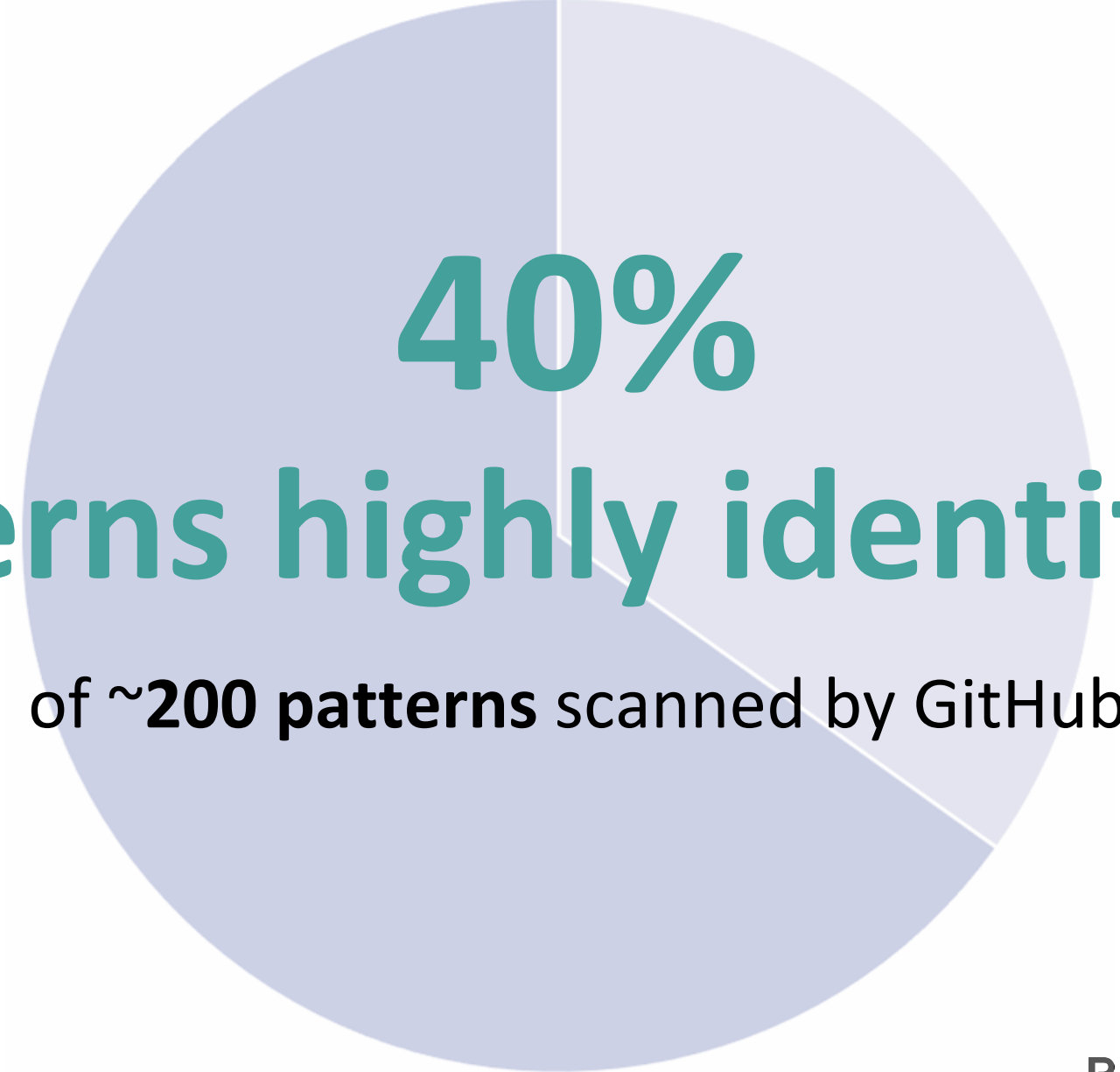
Imagine a token with a 20% false positive rate

↳ Devs constantly blocked

↳ Frustration & **loss of trust**

↳ More bypasses on protection

↳ Protective step loses purpose

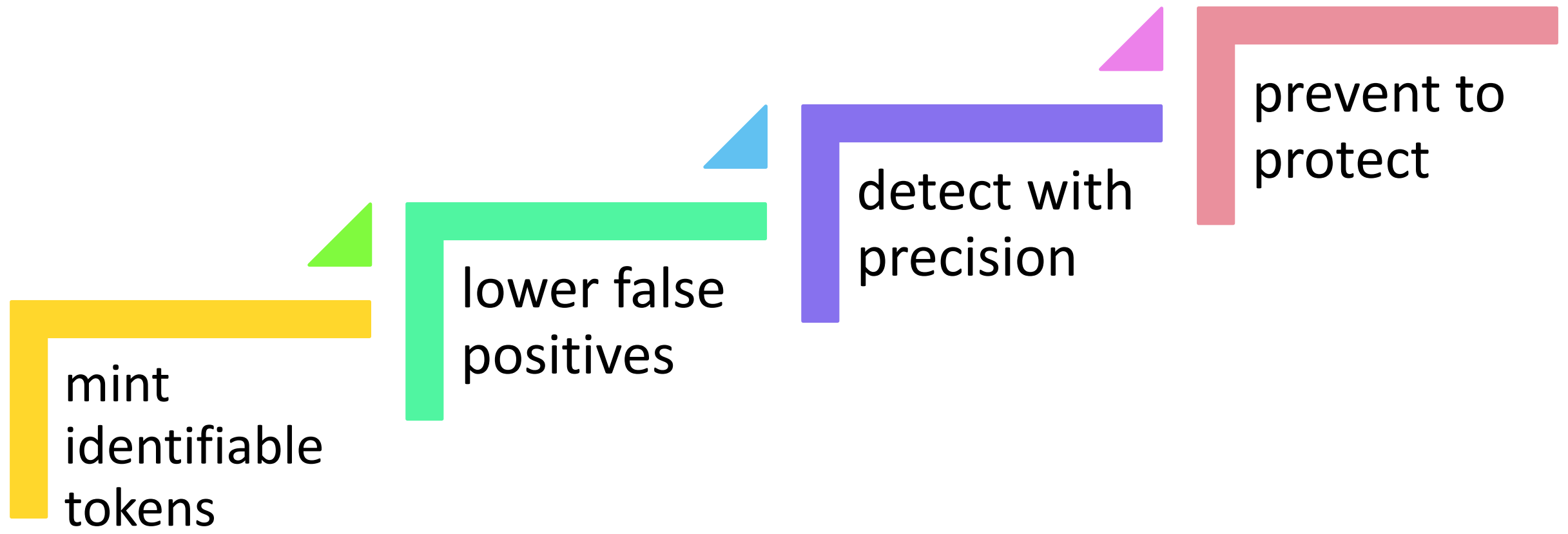


40%

patterns highly identifiable

of ~200 patterns scanned by GitHub

Recap: Path to prevention



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Takeaways

Apply your learnings and boost security



As a developer

Share the security responsibility

Act on alerts

Practice good hygiene

2 fac authentication

Use a vault for secrets

Scope minimal permissions for secrets



Your OAuth, GitHub App or personal access token has been revoked

A recent scan found a valid OAuth, GitHub App or personal access token linked to your GitHub account in [the content of this commit to 15MariamS/Test_Repo](#). We have revoked the key to protect your data from unauthorized access, and as a consequence, any app using this token won't be able to authenticate to GitHub.

Next steps

- 1 Ensure that your account security has not been compromised
 - [Review any unauthorized applications](#) and remove any you don't recognize.
 - [Review your security log](#) to ensure that no malicious activity has occurred.
- 2 Generate a new token to restore your app access to GitHub

Generate new token



As an organization administrator

Detect

Audit

Remediate

Protect on push

GitHub Personal Access Token #1667

[Open](#)

GitHub Advanced Security detected a secret 17 days ago · `github_pat_11ATP6KXY0P`



This secret is compromised

Anyone with read access can discover secrets committed to this repository, potentially resulting in u

Suggested action: If this secret is valid, rotate and then revoke it to avoid any irreversible damage.

Secret detected in 3 files

▼ drytest 

6

7

`github_pat_11ATP6KXY0P1UqEqCz2n00_SZJErr9oBjLQFIhLK6ZPZSI20LKGsJr6F9g8b5yqShF`



Create drytest [98625e8](#)



As a service provider

Your secrets are already (probably) leaked on GitHub



As a service provider

Make your secrets
identifiable



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



lin_api_FU7us8Zz81Xv5kfdkxp6Fkx0wAycTq1icRKHHHTK

Typeform

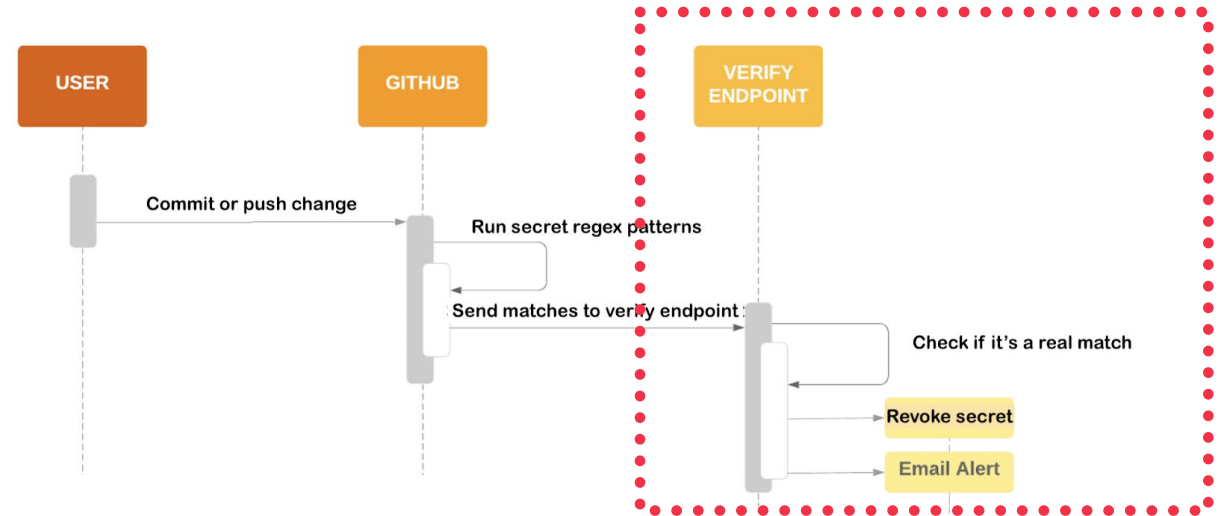
tfp_Fbzs4w9UnM1nmVGKoQaBpq8NHxEhGoYCY5WXhG5UZdck_eoMLSNTXzmFH



As a service provider

Make your secrets
identifiable

Become a secret scanning
partner



As a service provider

Make your secrets
identifiable

Become a secret scanning
partner

Prevent your tokens from
accidental leaks

GITHUB PUSH PROTECTION (beta)

Resolve the following secrets before pushing again.

(?) Learn how to rewrite your local commit history
<https://git-scm.com/book/en/v2/Git-Tools-Rewriting-History>

— Amazon AWS Access Key ID —
locations:
– commit: 34d2270dff2261f6a1b693263f19132d3a8bc1a3
path: push_test:30

(?) To push, remove secret from commit(s) or follow this URL



We can solve this problem, together



Questions?

secret-scanning@GitHub.com

