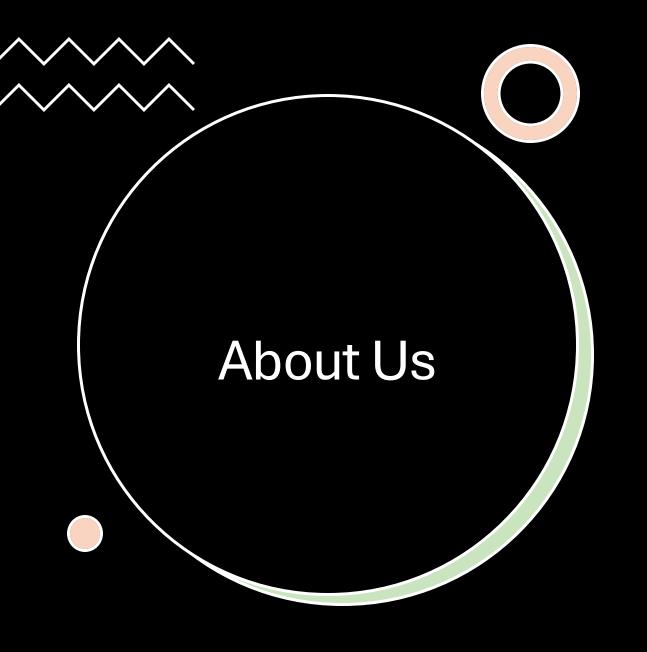




- SAST and AppSec
- Getting started with Semgrep
- Writing custom rules
- Advanced Semgrep features
- Practical exercises
- Wrap-up
- Q&A





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SAST and Application Security



Understanding SAST: Concepts and significance in securing software.



The role of SAST in the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC).





What is SAST?

Static Application Security Testing (SAST) is a testing methodology that analyzes source code to find security vulnerabilities in applications

• Depends on patterns to define a vulnerability, also known as **signatures**

SAST can be used in real-time, as the developers code, it can be integrated into the DevOps cycle, or it can be executed offline.

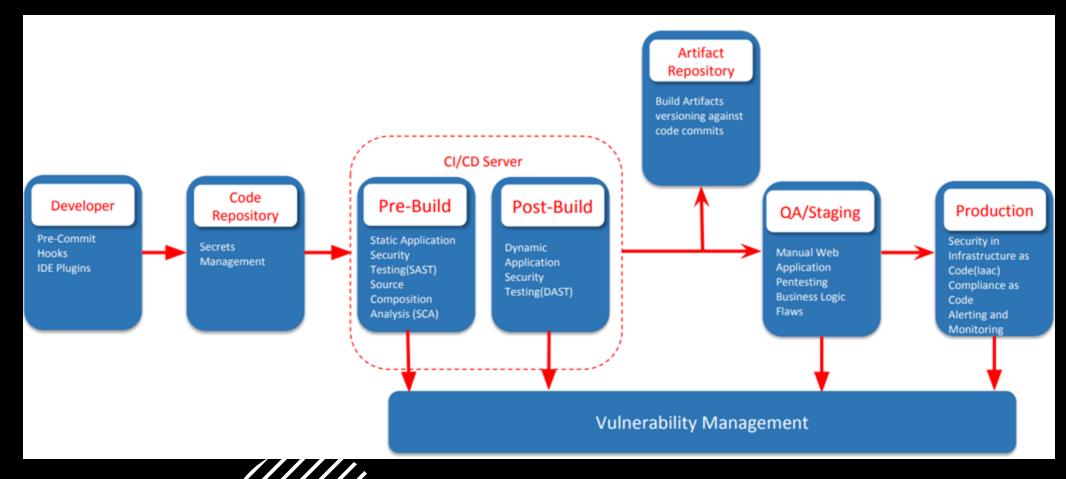
As it is heavily dependent on signatures, it could lead to false positives if the signature base are not verified and tested to reduce de false alerts rate.

• LLMs can also be leveraged to reduce the false positive/negative rates





Typical SDLC



Getting Started with Semgrep



Getting Started with Semgrep



Installing and configuring Semgrep.



Navigating the Semgrep ecosystem: CLI and Playground.





Installing and getting ready

Install Semgrep on Linux, Windows and macOS

Pre-Requisite: Having Python 3.8 pre-installed

With all those OS, we can install Semgrep with PIP (make sure you have PIP installed)

python3 -m pip install semgrep

Installing Semgrep using other methods (Homebrew on macOS) or use the Semgrep Docker container to run it are options, but those methods won't be covered on this workshop.





Semgrep... Installing and getting ready

- Two use modes:
 - Online rules with Semgrep web interface (semgrep.dev)
 - The GUI helps with analysis over the findings
 - It has a free tier, but not for the PRO ruleset
 - Local rules
 - You can use the default ruleset, and add local rules set you built or downloaded
 - It generates text-formatted outputs with the findings
 - It does not provide a GUI to help with analysis... (but you can always feed the results into an ELK/Spluk for analysis...)
- We will focus on features available on the Open Source ONLY!

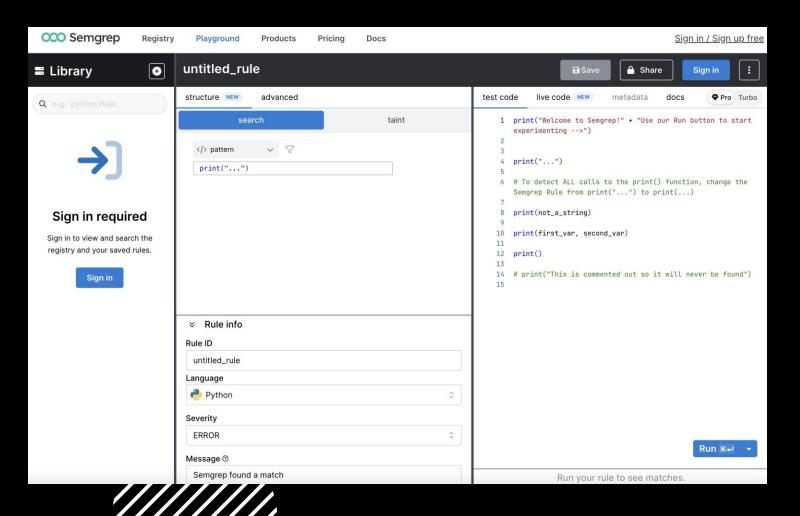


Navigating the Semgrep ecosystem: CLI and Playground

- Basic CLI Command:
 - semgrep scan [options] [targets]
- Some interesting Semgrep CLI options:
 - --config auto Downloads the relevant rules for the current project from Semgrep opensource rules repository
 - --config <path_to_rules> Points to local custom rulesets
 - Output formats
 - --json Output to JSON formatted file
 - --text Output to a text formatted file
 - --vim Output to a vim-friendly formatted file
 - --sarif Output to a sarif formatted file



Semgrep Playground (https://semgrep.dev/playground/new)



Writing Custom Semgrep Rules

MODULE 3



Writing Custom Semgrep Rules



Deep dive into Semgrep's rule syntax and pattern matching.





Semgrep Rules

- A <u>rule is a specification of the patterns</u> that Semgrep must match to the code to generate a finding.
- Semgrep Rules are written in YAML
- Semgrep supports multiple languages
 - e.g.: Python, Java, C#, JavaScript, Go, etc...
- Multiple modes
 - Search (default)
 - Taint
 - Join
 - Extract





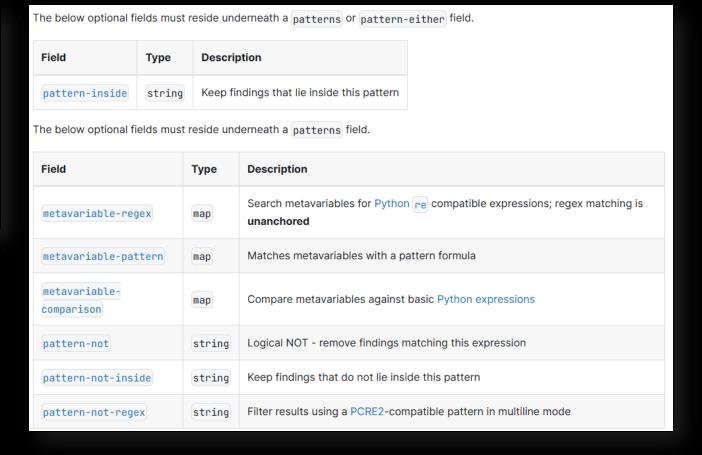
Schema – Required Fields

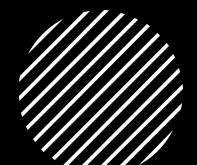
| Field | Туре | Description |
|---------------------|--------|--|
| id | string | Unique, descriptive identifier, for example: no-unused-variable |
| message | string | Message that includes why Semgrep matched this pattern and how to remediate it. See also Rule messages. |
| severity | string | One of the following values: INFO (Low severity), WARNING (Medium severity), or ERROR (High severity). The severity key specifies how critical are the issues that a rule potentially detects. Note: Semgrep Supply Chain differs, as its rules use CVE assignments for severity. For more information, see Filters section in Semgrep Supply Chain documentation. |
| languages | array | See language extensions and tags |
| pattern* | string | Find code matching this expression |
| patterns * | array | Logical AND of multiple patterns |
| pattern- either* | array | Logical OR of multiple patterns |
| pattern- regex * | string | Find code matching this PCRE2-compatible pattern in multiline mode |



Schema – Optional Fields

| Field | Туре | Description |
|-------------|--------|---|
| options | object | Options object to enable/disable certain matching features |
| fix | object | Simple search-and-replace autofix functionality |
| metadata | object | Arbitrary user-provided data; attach data to rules without affecting Semgrep behavior |
| min-version | string | Minimum Semgrep version compatible with this rule |
| max-version | string | Maximum Semgrep version compatible with this rule |
| paths | object | Paths to include or exclude when running this rule |







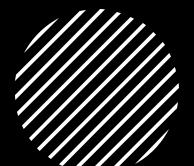
Semgrep Rule Syntax





• Ellipsis Operator (...)

Metavariables (\$VARNAME)





Ellipsis Operator ...

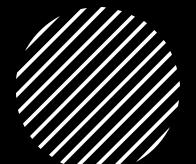
• <u>Abstracts away</u> a sequence of zero or more items such as arguments, statements, parameters, fields, characters.

```
1  def foo(*args):
2     print(f"Arguments received: {args}")
3
4  # Call foo with different number of arguments, including strings and other objects
5  foo(1)
6  foo(1, 2)
7  foo(1, "two", 3.0)
8  foo(1, "two", 3.0, [4, 5])
9  foo(1, "two", 3.0, [4, 5], {"six": 6})
```





- Exercise
 (aka.ms/semgrep-exercises)
 - https://github.com/django/django/blob/main/django/http/request.py
 - Flag and return the entire function body for
 - def get_host(self):
 - def_get_full_path(): not knowing the function's arguments





Ellipsis Operator ...

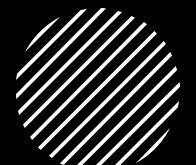
- Answers
 - Flag and return the entire function body for
 - def get_host(self):

• def_get_full_path – not knowing the function's arguments



Metavariables - \$VARIABLE_NAME

 Metavariables are an abstraction to match code when you don't know the value or contents ahead of time

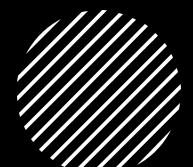


```
# Define a function to add two numbers
2 \vee def add(a, b):
        return a + b
   # Define a function to subtract two numbers
6 √def subtract(a, b):
       return a - b
   # Define a function to multiply two numbers
10 \sim \text{def multiply}(a, b):
        return a * b
12
   # Define a function to divide two numbers
14 \sim \text{def divide(a, b)}:
       if b != 0:
            return a / b
17 V
       else:
18
            return "Division by zero is not allowed"
19
  # Invoke the functions and print the results
  print("Addition of 5 and 3:", add(5, 3))
  print("Subtraction of 5 and 3:", subtract(5, 3))
   print("Multiplication of 5 and 3:", multiply(5, 3))
24 print("Division of 5 by 3:", divide(5, 3))
                                  Rule syntax I Semgrep
```



Metavariables - \$VARIABLE_NAME

- Exercise (aka.ms/semgrep-exercises)
 - https://github.com/django/django/blob/main/django/http/request.py
 - Flag and return the entire function bodies that contain the line
 - return self.scheme == "https"
 - parser = MultiPartParser(...)





Metavariables - \$VARIABLE_NAME

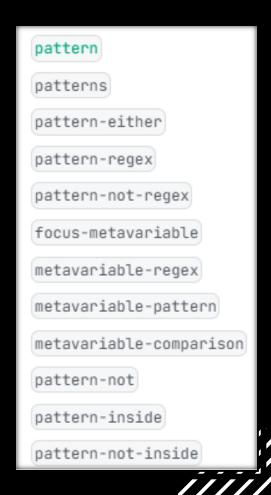
- Answers
 - Flag and return the entire function bodies that contain the line
 - return self.scheme == "https"

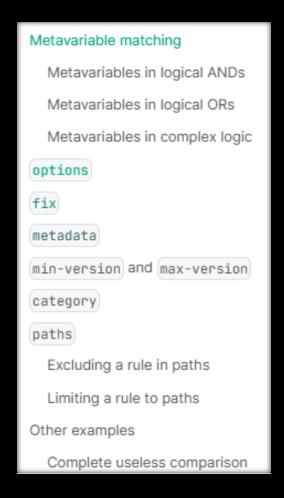
• parser = MultiPartParser(META, post_data, self.upload_handlers, self.encoding)

```
pattern: |-
   def $FUNC(...):
        ...
        parser = MultiPartParser(META, post_data, self.upload_handlers, self.encoding)
        ...
```



Pattern Matching Operators

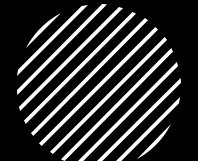




>>>> Pattern

• The pattern operator looks for code matching its expression.

```
import logging
    # Create a logger
    logger = logging.getLogger(__name__)
    def example_function():
        logger.log(logging.INFO, "This is a log message") # Matches the pattern
        logger.info("This is an info message") # Does not match the pattern
    def another_function():
11
        logger.log(logging.ERROR, "This is an error message") # Matches the pattern
12
        print("This is a print statement") # Does not match the pattern
13
14
    if __name__ == "__main__":
15
        example_function()
16
        another_function()
```





<u>Patterns</u>

- Performs a logical AND operation on one or more child patterns.
- Chaining multiple patterns together

```
1∨rules:
      - id: avoid-logging-sensitive-info
 3 \vee
        patterns:
          - pattern-either:
 4 V
 5 🗸
               - pattern: |
                  $LOGGING_FUNCTION($PASSWORD_VAR)
               - pattern:
                  $LOGGING_FUNCTION($ANY_VAR, $PASSWORD_VAR)
 9 ~

    pattern-inside: |

10 ~
              def $FUNC(...):
11
12
                   $LOGGING_FUNCTION(...)
13
14
        message: "Avoid logging sensitive data such as usernames and passwords."
15
        severity: ERROR
16 ~
        languages:
17

    python

18 🗸
        metadata:
19
          category: security
          technology: logging
```

```
import logging

def process_user_data(username, password):
    logging.info(f"Processing data for user: {username}")
    logging.info(f"User password: {password}")

**Vector of the control of the
```



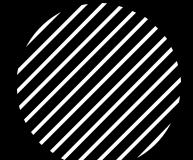
- <u>Exercise</u> (aka.ms/semgrep-exercises)
 - https://github.com/django/django/blob/main/django/http/request.py
 - Using 1 rule, flag and return the line of code
 - That is inside a function named read
 - And sets the <u>read_started</u> attribute to <u>True</u>





Answer

- Using 1 rule, flag and return the line of code
 - That is inside a function named read
 - And sets the <u>read_started</u> attribute to <u>True</u>

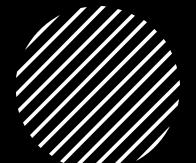




Pattern-Either

- Performs a logical OR operation on one or more child patterns.
- Chaining multiple patterns together

```
1∨rules:
       id: insecure-code-detection
       patterns:
           pattern-either:
             - pattern:
                 def $FUNC(...):
6 V
8 ~
             - pattern:
9 V
                 class $CLASS(...):
10 \sim
                      def $METHOD(...):
12
       message: "Potential insecure function or method definition"
       languages: [python]
       severity: ERROR
```





- Exercise (aka.ms/semgrep-exercises)
 - https://github.com/django/django/blob/main/django/http/request.py
 - Using 1 rule, flag and return both functions
 - A function named read
 - A function named readline





- Answer
 - Using 1 rule, flag and return both functions
 - A function named read
 - A function named readline



Pattern-Not

- The pattern-not operator is the opposite of the pattern operator.
- Finds code that does NOT match its expression

```
1∨rules:
       id: ssrf-detection-python
        patterns:
          - pattern: |
              requests.get($URL)
6 V
          - pattern-not:
              requests.get('http://trusted-domain.com'
       message: "Potential SSRF vulnerability detected"
        severity: ERROR
10
       languages: [python]
11 ~
        metadata:
          cwe: "CWE-918"
          owasp: "A10:2017"
```

```
import requests

# Example of potential SSRF vulnerability

url = "http://example.com"

response = requests.get(url)

# This line would be excluded by the pattern-not rule

trusted_response = requests.get('http://trusted-domain.com')
```





- <u>Exercise</u> (aka.ms/semgrep-exercises)
 - https://github.com/django/django/blob/main/django/http/request.py
 - Using 1 rule, flag and return both functions
 - All functions named encoding
 - But not those that are one-liners
 - return self._encoding
 - self._encoding = value





- Answer
 - Using 1 rule, flag and return both functions
 - All functions named encoding
 - But not those that are one-liners
 - return self._encoding
 - self._encoding = value



Pattern-Inside

Matches findings that reside within its expression

```
1 ∨rules:
        id: avoid-logging-sensitive-info
 3 \vee
        patterns:
 4 \sim
          - pattern-either:
              - pattern: |
                   $LOGGING_FUNCTION($PASSWORD_VAR)
               - pattern:
 8
                   $LOGGING_FUNCTION($ANY_VAR, $PASSWORD_VAR)
 9 ~
          - pattern-inside: |
10 ~
              def $FUNC(...):
11
                   $LOGGING_FUNCTION(...)
13
        message: "Avoid logging sensitive data such as usernames and passwords."
14
15
        severity: ERROR
16 ~
        languages:
17
          - python
18 🗸
        metadata:
19
          category: security
          technology: logging
```

```
import logging

import logging

vdef process_user_data(username, password):

logging.info(f"Processing data for user: {username}")

logging.info(f"User password: {password}")

vdef another_function():

password = "super_secret_password"

logging.debug("Debugging password issue: %s", password)

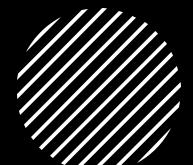
logging.debug("Debugging password issue: %s", password)

process_user_data("user123", "my_password")

another_function()
```



- Exercise (aka.ms/semgrep-exercises)
 - https://github.com/django/django/blob/main/django/http/request.py
 - Using 1 rule, flag and return
 - All instances of *if hasattr(...):*
 - That are inside a function named encoding





Pattern-Inside

- Answer
 - Using 1 rule, flag and return
 - All instances of *if hasattr(...):* ...
 - That are inside a function named encoding





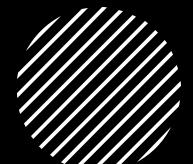
Metavariable regex

- Searches metavariables for a PCRE2 regular expression
- Useful in filtering results based on a metavariable's value



Metavariable-regex

- Exercise (aka.ms/semgrep-exercises)
 - https://github.com/django/django/blob/main/django/http/request.py
 - Using 1 rule, flag and return
 - All function names that begin with get_full_path





Metavariable-regex

- Answer
 - Using 1 rule, flag and return all function names that begin with get_full_path







Advanced Semgrep Features



Overview of advanced Semgrep features: Taint mode, and editor integration.



Leveraging Semgrep findings for LLM-based code analysis.





Taint Mode

 Tracks the flow of untrusted, or tainted data throughout the body of a function or method

```
1 rules:
2 ∨- id: tainted-code-exec
     mode: taint
     pattern-sources:
      patterns:
6
       - pattern: event
       - pattern-inside:
           def $HANDLER(event, context):
     pattern-sinks:
      patterns:
       - pattern-either:
         - pattern: eval($CODE, ...)
         - pattern: exec($CODE, ...)
     message: >-
       Detected the use of `exec/eval`. This can be dangerous if used to evaluate
       dynamic content. If this content can be input from outside the program,
       this may be a code injection vulnerability. Ensure evaluated content is
       not definable by external sources.
     languages:

    python

     severity: WARNING
```

```
def handler(event, context):
       # ok:tainted-code-exec
       exec("x = 1; x = x + 2")
       blah1 = "import requests; r = requests.get('https://example.com')"
       # ok:tainted-code-exec
       exec(blah1)
       dynamic1 = "import requests; r = requests.get('{}')"
10
        # ruleid:tainted-code-exec
11
        exec(dynamic1.format(event['url']))
12
13
       # ok:tainted-code-exec
14
       eval("x = 1; x = x + 2")
15
16
       blah2 = "import requests; r = requests.get('https://example.com')"
17
       # ok:tainted-code-exec
18
       eval(blah2)
19
20
       dynamic2 = "import requests; r = requests.get('{}')"
21
        # ruleid:tainted-code-exec
        eval(dynamic2.format(event['url']))
```

>

LLM-based Code Analysis

- SAST triage can be painful
 - Scale
 - Context
 - Confidence
- Leverage LLM capabilities
 - At scale
 - With context
 - Increased confidence



LLM-based Code Analysis

- SAST results can be exported via SARIF
- LLMs excel at (code) summarization
- Some LLMs have a "JSON constrained" output guarantee
- LLMs exhibit understanding the JSON spec



Suilding it up

• SARIF offers interoperability between SAST tools

• SARIF is JSON

Lots of language support to parse JSON

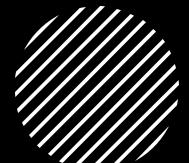


Suilding it up

• LLMs excel at summarization

• LLMs are also good at code generation

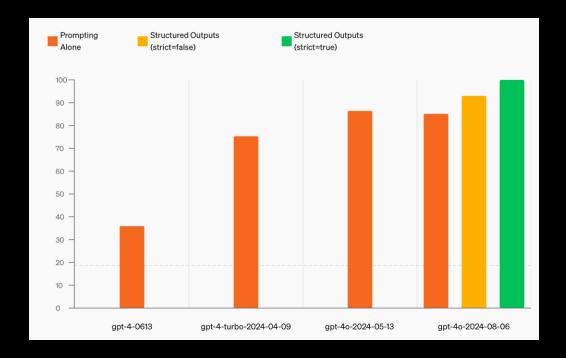
• LLMs need grounding and good prompts





LLMs love to talk

- LLMs can also be constrained to respond in certain manner, but with minimal guarantee of compliance
- Some LLMs have a "JSON constrained" output guarantee
 - Structured Output Mode



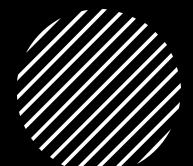


Suilding it up

LLMs exhibit understanding the JSON spec

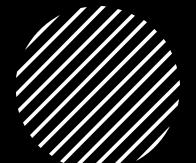
Redux: JSON is great for parsing

Constraining output to JSON allows for structured summarization



Suilding it up

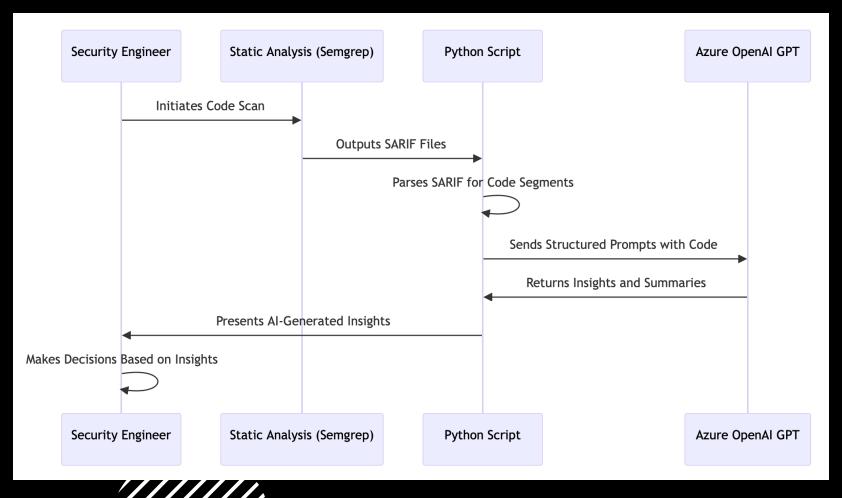
- Prompting is part art/science
- Persona + Scenario + Output constraint + Input to analyze
- More "context" increases accuracy of LLM output
 - Custom rules to output full class body
 - Fetch file content from URL



>>>> Putting it together

- Semgrep scan
 - Outputs SARIF
- SARIF (JSON) Parse
 - Extract code snippet
- Prompt GPT
 - System Prompt + JSON constraint on output + Code to analyze
- GPT Response
 - JSON output





>

Putting it together

- Prompt
 - Basic

```
{
    "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-07/schema#",
    "title": "RegEx-Usage Information",
    "description": "Schema-for-information about RegEx-usage in a C#-class, including security risk and details of each RegEx-object",
    "type": "object",
    "properties": {
        ""regexRisk": -{
        ""type": "string",
        ""each in the overall security risk of RegEx-usage in this class",
        ""enum": ["Low", "Medium", "High"]
        "";
        ""regexObjects": -{
        ""type": "array",
        ""description": "Represents all objects in the class of C#-type 'Regex'",
        ""ttems": -{
        ""ttems": -{
        ""sref": "#/definitions/regexObject"
        "";
    }
        "";
}
```



\checkmark

Putting it together

- Prompt
 - Better

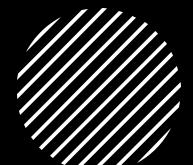
```
"definitions": {
 "regexObject": {
  "type": "object",
   "properties": {
    "regexVariable": {
      "type": "string",
       "description": "The name of a C# variable of type `Regex`"
     "regexIntendedUsage": {
      "type": "string",
       "description": "Summarize the usage of each variableNames entry, focusing on what the pattern is meant to represent based on variable name and usage scenario"
     "regexActualUsage": {
      "type": "string",
       "description": "Summarize the usage of each variableNames entry, focusing on what the pattern actually represents as defined in the object constructor"
     "regexTags": {
       "type": "string",
       "description": "The tags representing what the regexVariable is being used for. Can be multiple tags, comma-separated,
       "enum": [
        "input_validation",
         "parsing",
         "string_search",
         "string_split",
         "string_replace",
         "pattern_match",
         "url_parsing"
     "isComplete": {
       ·"description": "Represents whether the regex pattern is a complete representation of the usage scenario, or can be security hardened or made more complete against attacker
       bypasses"
   ."required":-["regexVariable",-"regexIntendedUsage",-"regexActualUsage",-"regexTags",-"isComplete"],
   "description": "Represents an instance of the an `Regex` object.",
```

>

Putting it together

- Prompt
 - Even better (conditional sub-schemas)

```
"properties": { "isComplete": { "const": false } }
"then": {
 "properties": {
   "completenessRecommendation": {
     "type": "object",
     "properties": {
       "completenessExplanation": {
         "type": "string",
         ·"description": "A-human-readable explanation of why the regex needs to be modified for completeness. If there is a security issue from its incomplete implementation, call
         out-what-security-risks-the-current-implementation-poses-(list-out-bug-classes-and-attack-types)"
        "completeRegex": {
         "type": "string",
         "description": "The code for the modified regex constructor argument"
     "required": ["completenessExplanation", "completeRegex"],
      "description": "Recommendations for making the regex pattern complete"
  "required": ["completenessRecommendation"]
```

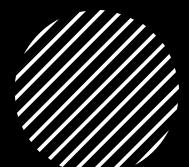




Putting it together

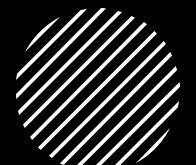
Response

```
"regexRisk": "Medium",
"regexObjects": [
   "regexVariable": "PathAndQueryRegex",
   · "regexIntendedUsage": · "To separate the path and query parts of a URL",
   "regexActualUsage": "Matches any characters that are not a question mark for the path, and optionally matches a query string starting with a question mark",
   "regexTags": "url parsing",
    "isComplete": false,
     "completenessExplanation": "The regex does not validate the URL structure rigorously. It assumes any string with or without a '?' character is a valid URL, which might not be the
     case. This could lead to security issues if used for security-sensitive operations without further validation, such as open redirects or SSRF vulnerabilities.",
     "completeRegex": @"^(?<path>[^\?]+)(?<query>\?.*)?$"
   "regexVariable": "invalidUrlPattern",
   "regexIntendedUsage": "To identify parts of a URL that are potentially harmful or invalid",
   "regexActualUsage": "Combines several patterns to match against URL parts that contain special characters, consecutive dots, ending with a dot, or leading/trailing spaces",
    "regexTags": "input validation, string search",
    "isComplete": false,
    "completenessRecommendation": {
     ·"completenessExplanation": "The dynamic construction of the regex based on the 'allowTokens' parameter could lead to regex injection if the parameter is controlled by user input.
     Additionally, the regex checks are somewhat superficial and do not fully ensure URL safety, potentially missing other forms of URL manipulation or encoding attacks.",
     "completeRegex": @"[#%&:<>\\/{}\?\*\.\.^-$]|^\.\.$|^\.$|^ | $"
```



___\ Initial Results

- Prioritized Triage
 - Riskiest <5%
- True Positives
 - >90%
- False Negatives
 - Harder to determine



Practical Exercises with Semgrep



Practical Exercises with Semgrep

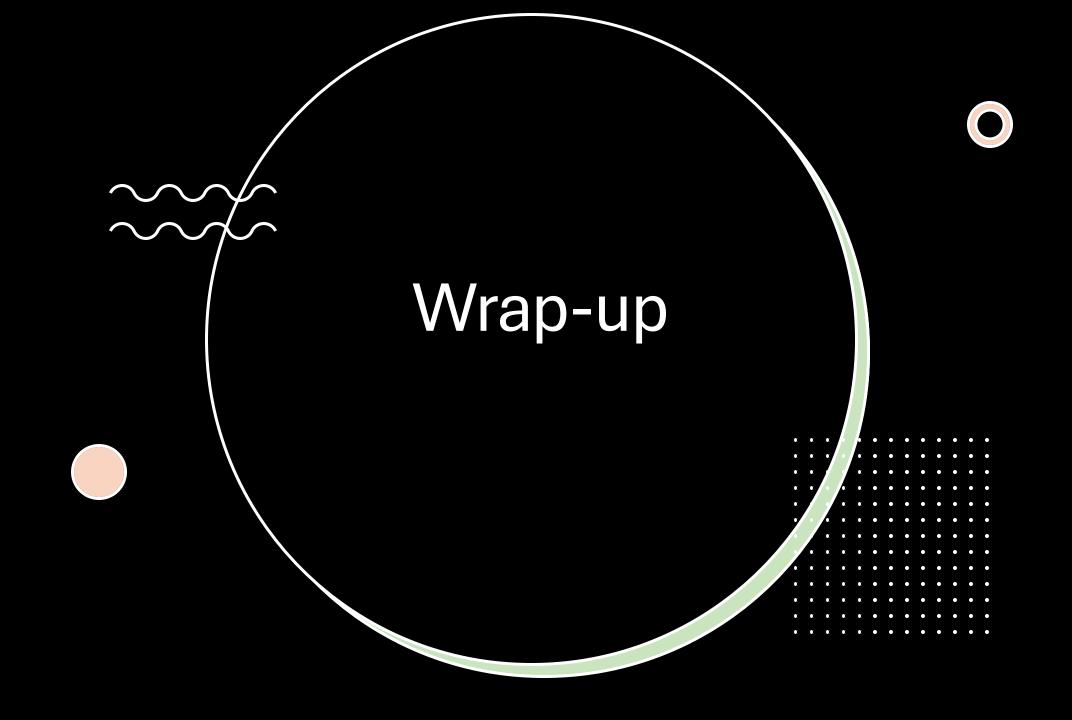


C#, TypeScript, Python



https://aka.ms/semgrepworkshop







Wrap-up



Recap of key takeaways from the workshop



Learning resources and contributing to community



References

- Academy Courses
 - Semgrep 101
 - Secure Coding
 - Semgrep Custom Rules Level 1
- Semgrep Documentation
 - Quickstart
 - Local scans with Semgrep
 - Writing rules
 - Custom rule examples



