

Workshop Guide: Automating Threat Hunting with Detection As Code

References used within this guide:

[Getting Started with Detection-as-Code and Chronicle Security Operations \(Part 1 of 2\)](#)

[AI Runbooks for Google SecOps: Security Operations with Model Context Protocol](#)

[Building an open ecosystem for AI-driven security with MCP](#)

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Prerequisites

- A GitHub account

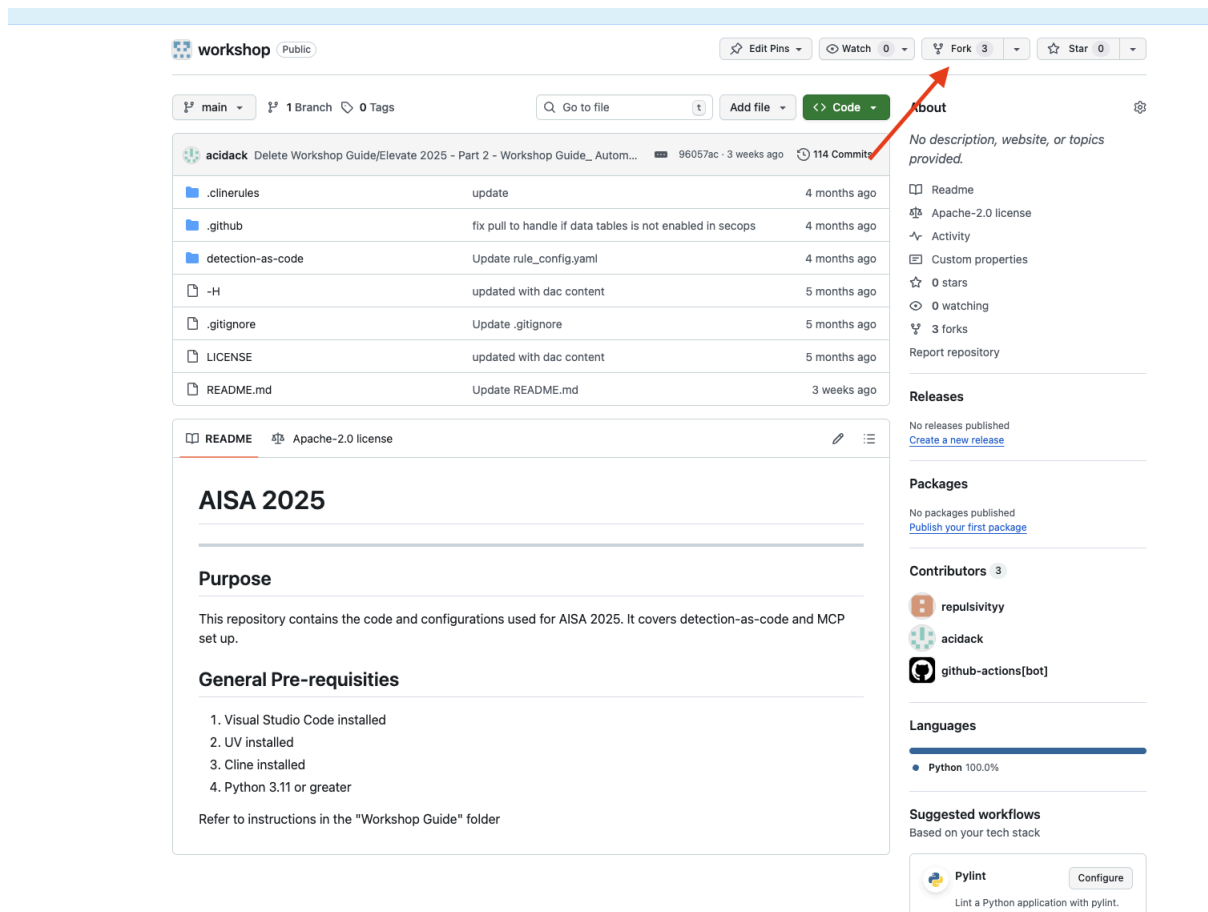
(if you're using your local VS Code IDE)

- [Visual Studio Code](#)
- If using local VS Code:
 - a. Installed in your local terminal:
 - i. [Python](#)
 - ii. [uv](#)
 - iii. [gcloud CLI](#)
 - iv. [jq](#)
 - v. [Github cli](#)

Setting up Detection-As-Code on GitHub

Setting up Github


1. Set up (if you don't have one) and log into a Github account
2. Next, back in github start by creating a fork of this repo
<https://github.com/SumitsWorkshopOrg/workshop> into your own repo e.g.
[https://github.com/\[YOUR_REPO\]/workshop](https://github.com/[YOUR_REPO]/workshop)



Create a new fork

A *fork* is a copy of a repository. Forking a repository allows you to freely experiment with changes without affecting the original project.

Required fields are marked with an asterisk (*).


Owner *	Repository name *
 labuser1-beep ▾	/ workshop
	✔ workshop is available.

By default, forks are named the same as their upstream repository. You can customize the name to distinguish it further.

Description

0 / 350 characters

- ☒ Copy the `main` branch only
Contribute back to SumitsWorkshopOrg/workshop by adding your own branch. [Learn more.](#)

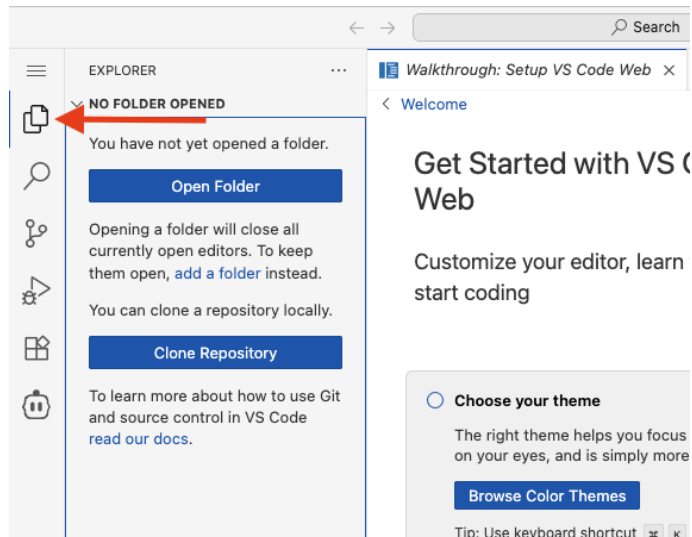
 You are creating a fork in your personal account.

Create fork

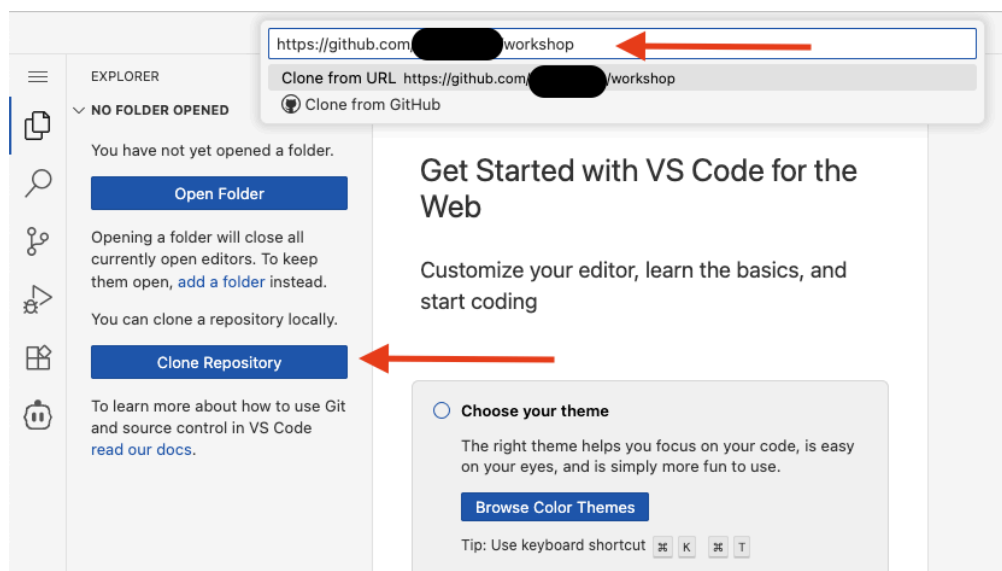
- At this point, organizers will permit access based on Github user accounts that have forked the repo above (please be patient till this step is completed)

Accessing Web based VS Code

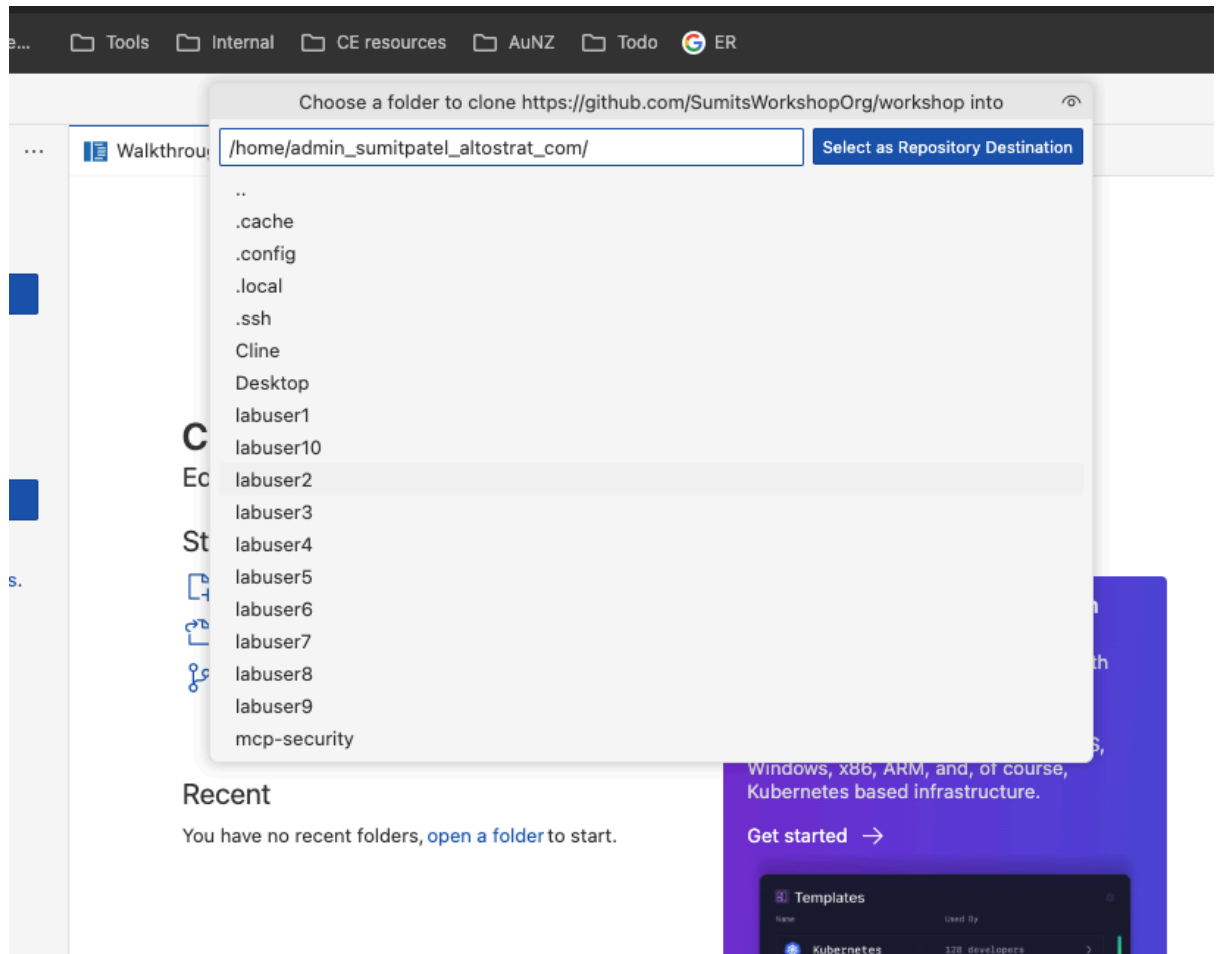
1. Open VS Code via <https://code.patesumi.dev/?ew=true>
2. (Organizer to allocate) username / password
3. Select the **Explorer** icon in the menu



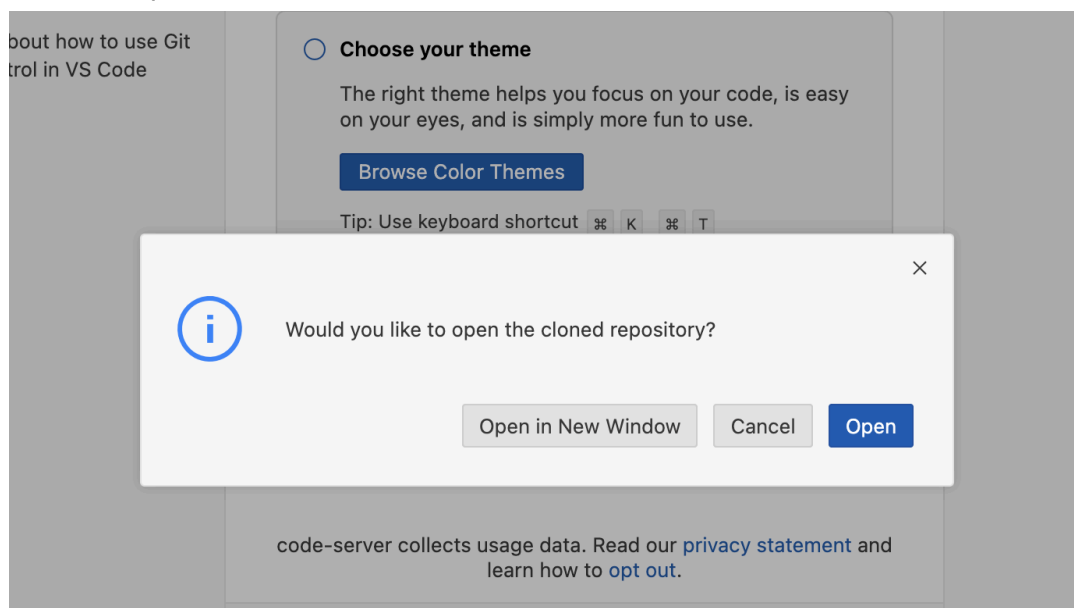
4. In VS Code, select “**Clone Repository**” of YOUR repo you just forked



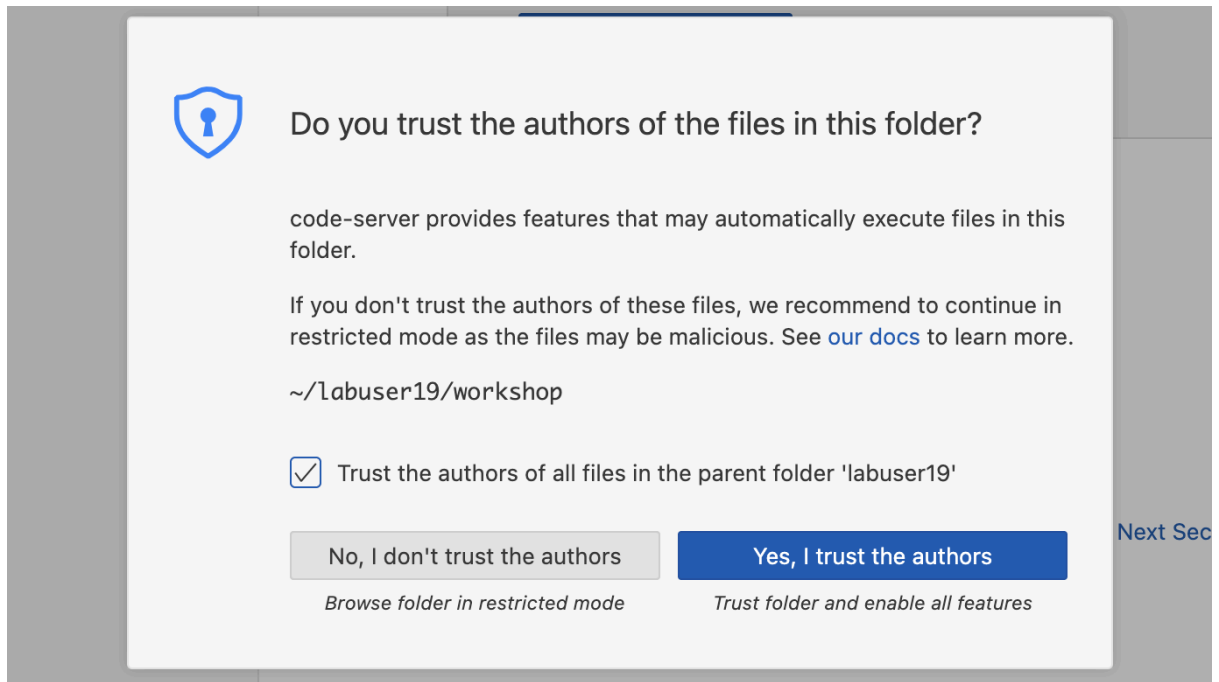
5. Choose a folder to clone to (use your allocated username folder name)



6. Choose "Open"

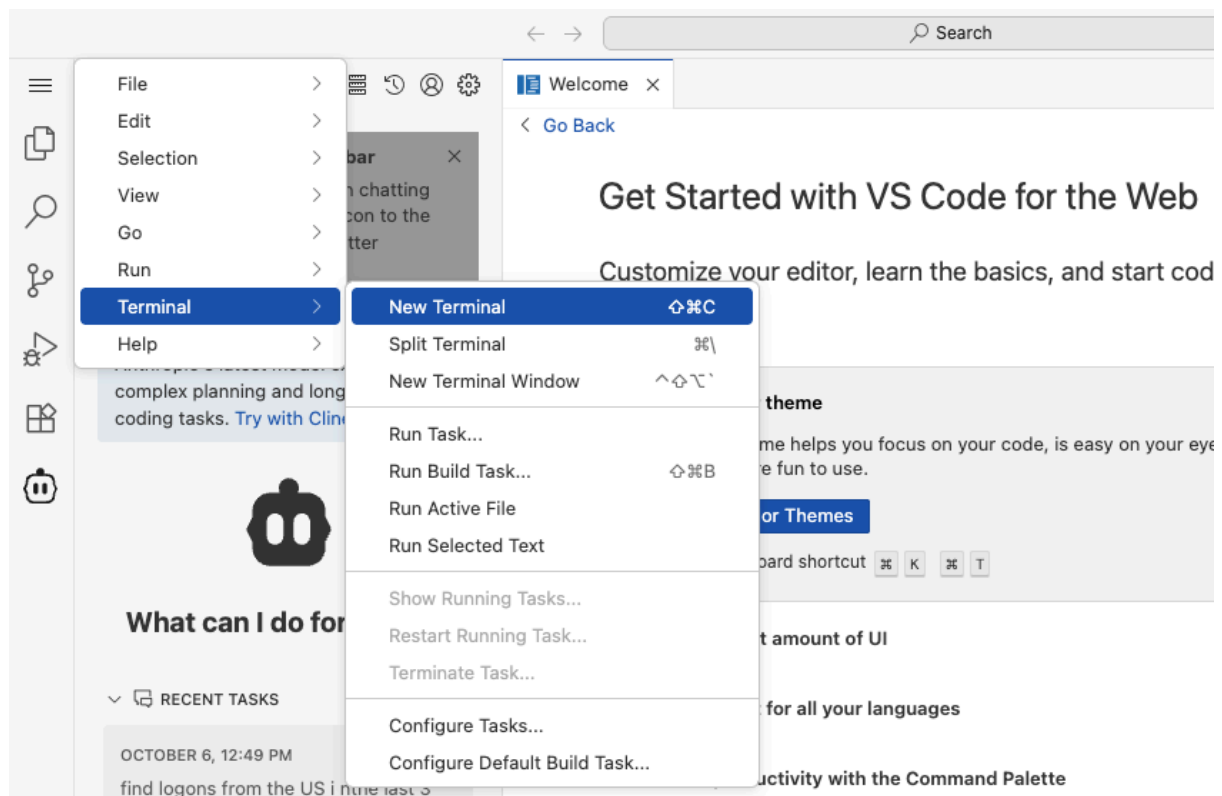


7. Choose **Yes, I trust the authors**



8. Enter your GitHub details so you can commit and push changes

a) Open New terminal - menu, **Terminal - New Terminal**

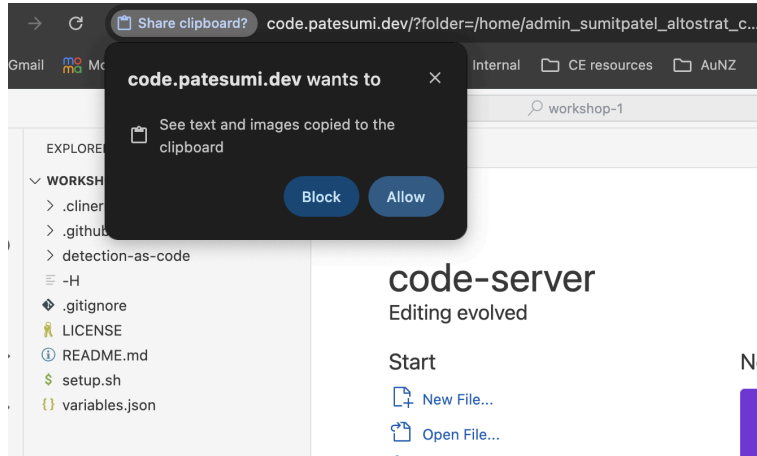


b) Use your name & email you used for GitHub.

Enter the following:

```
git config --global user.name "Your Name"
git config --global user.email "youremail@example.com"
```

Note: you may be asked to allow clipboard - choose Allow.



8. Run the Setup Script: This script will check for required tools and automatically set up all the necessary GitHub Actions variables in your forked repository.

a) In terminal enter:

```
chmod +x setup.sh
./setup.sh
```

b) Authenticate when asked ([Github.com](https://github.com), HTTPS, Yes, Login with a browser) :

```

PROBLEMS  OUTPUT  DEBUG CONSOLE  TERMINAL  PORTS
bash + - [ ] [X] ... | [ ]

● admin_sumitpatel_altostrat_com@code-server-vm:~/labuser1/workshop-1$ git config --global user
e "Sumit Patel"
git config --global user.email "acidack@gmail.com"
○ admin_sumitpatel_altostrat_com@code-server-vm:~/labuser1/workshop-1$ chmod +x setup.sh
./setup.sh
🚀 Starting workshop repository setup...

🔍 Checking for required tools (gh and jq)...
✅ All tools are present.

📦 Checking GitHub authentication...
You are not logged into any GitHub hosts. To log in, run: gh auth login
- You are not logged into GitHub. Running 'gh auth login'...
? Where do you use GitHub? GitHub.com
? What is your preferred protocol for Git operations on this host? HTTPS
? Authenticate Git with your GitHub credentials? Yes
? How would you like to authenticate GitHub CLI? Login with a web browser

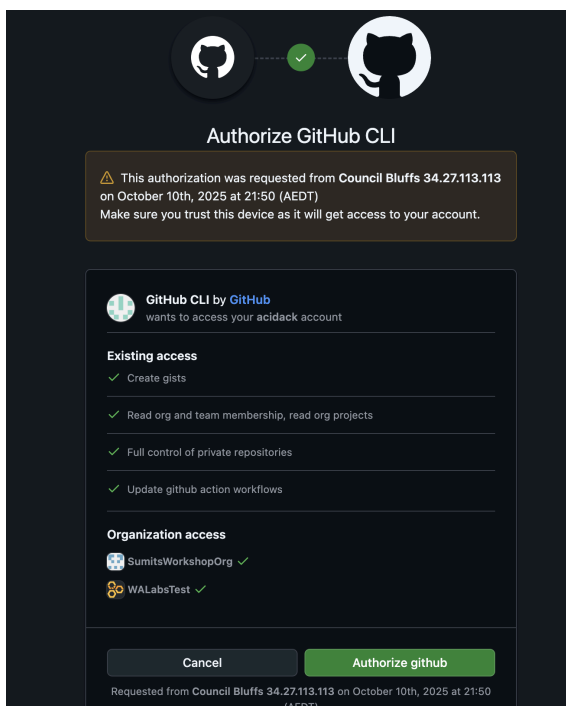
! First copy your one-time code: D5D6-84F2
Press Enter to open https://github.com/login/device in your browser... █

```

Downloads

Layout: LLS

c) **Authorize github** with the one-time code



d) If successful it should have created the variables in your github repo

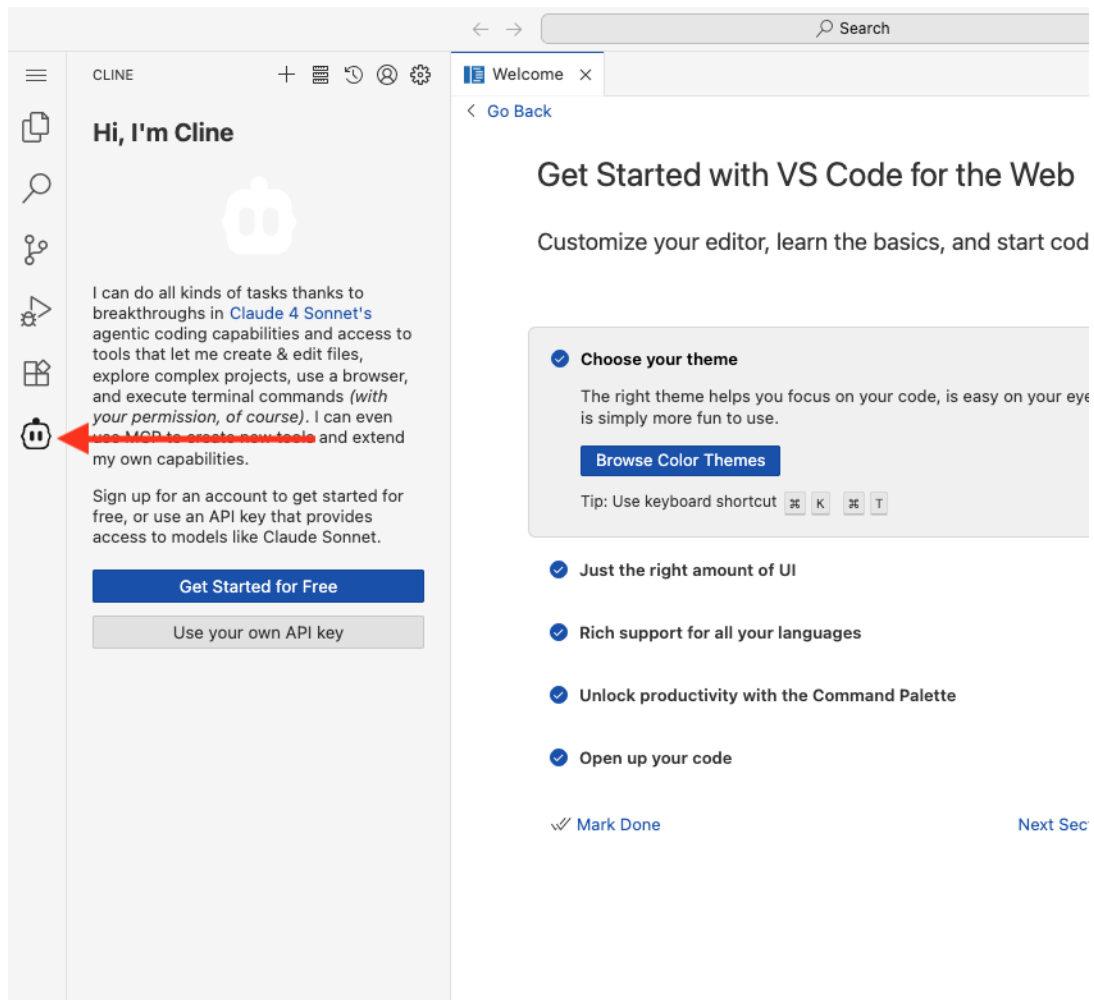
```
❗ Configuring repository: acidack/workshop

⚙ Setting up repository variables...
  - Setting variable: GOOGLE_CLOUD_PROJECT_ID
✓ Created variable GOOGLE_CLOUD_PROJECT_ID for acidack/workshop
  - Setting variable: GOOGLE_SECOPS_INSTANCE
✓ Created variable GOOGLE_SECOPS_INSTANCE for acidack/workshop
  - Setting variable: LOGGING_LEVEL
✓ Created variable LOGGING_LEVEL for acidack/workshop
  - Setting variable: AUTHORIZATION_SCOPES
✓ Created variable AUTHORIZATION_SCOPES for acidack/workshop
  - Setting variable: GOOGLE_SECOPS_API_BASE_URL
✓ Created variable GOOGLE_SECOPS_API_BASE_URL for acidack/workshop
  - Setting variable: GOOGLE_SECOPS_API_UPLOAD_BASE_URL
✓ Created variable GOOGLE_SECOPS_API_UPLOAD_BASE_URL for acidack/workshop
  - Setting variable: GOOGLE_CLOUD_WORKLOAD_IDENTITY_PROVIDER
✓ Created variable GOOGLE_CLOUD_WORKLOAD_IDENTITY_PROVIDER for acidack/workshop
✓ Repository variables are set.

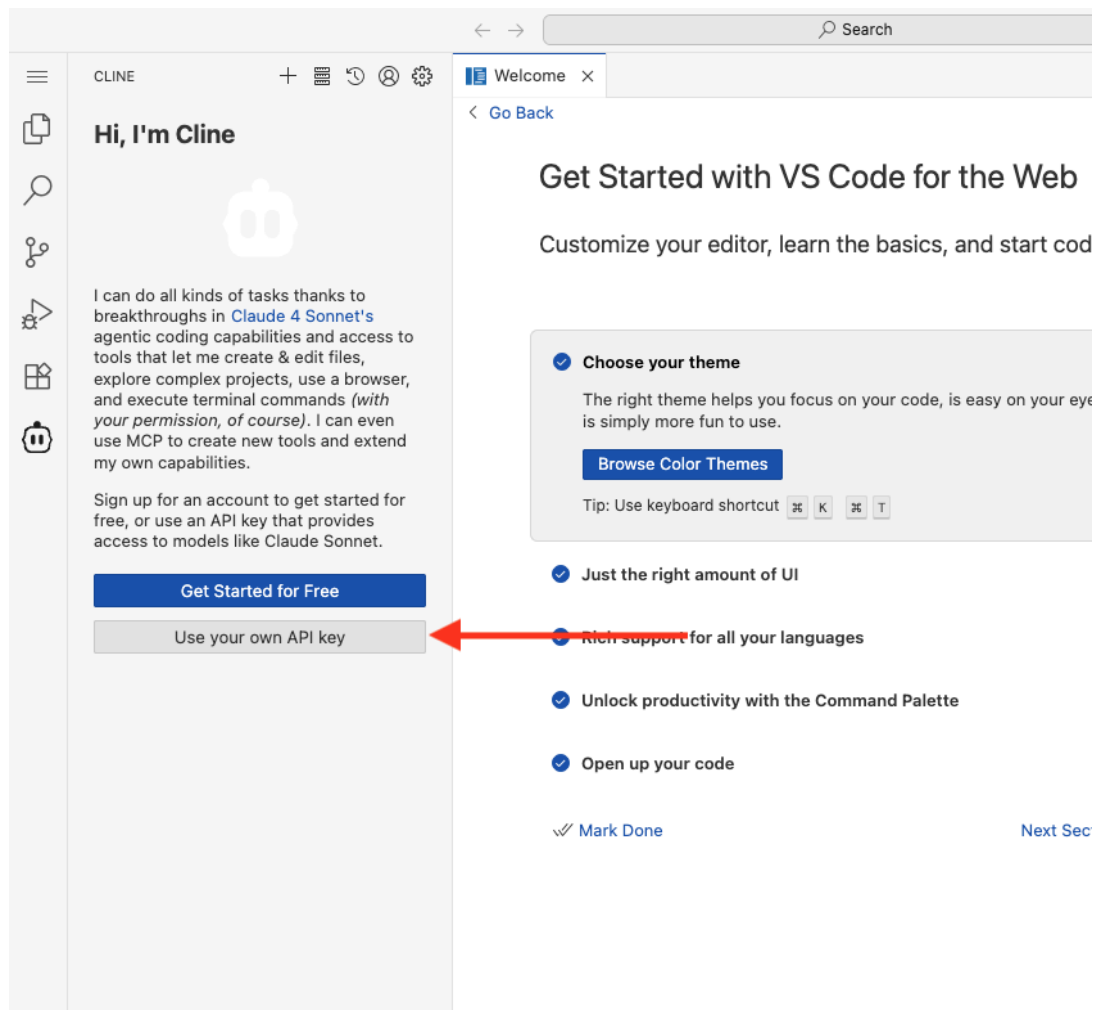
🎉 Workshop setup is complete!
admin_sumitpatel_altostrat_com@code-server-vm:~/labuser1/workshop-1$
```

Setting up AI on VS Code

1. Select Cline extension from menu on left

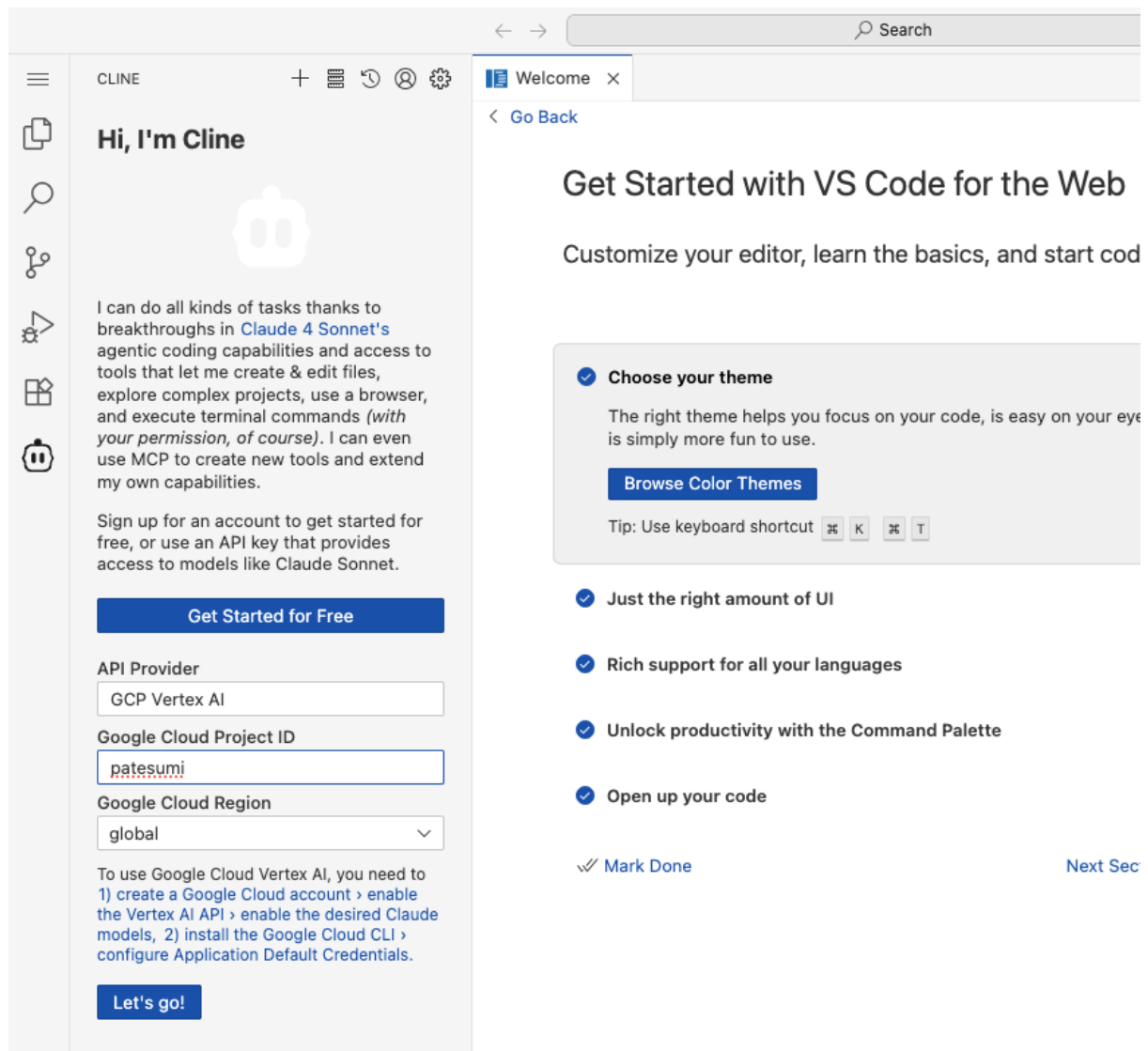


2. Select “Use your own API key”

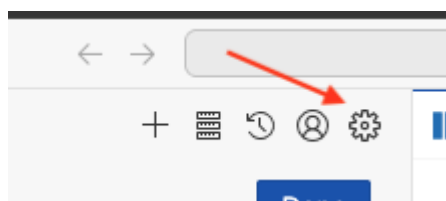


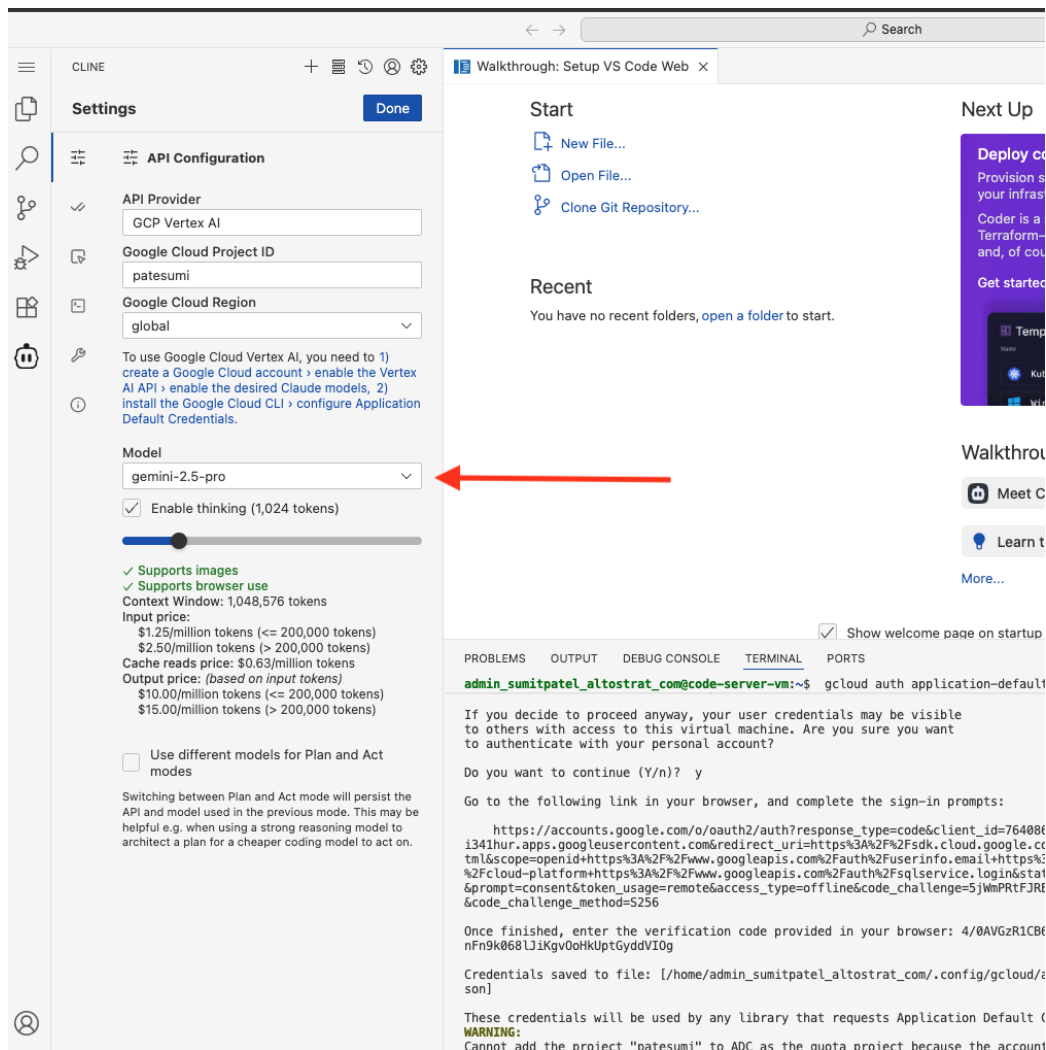
a) Select “GCP Vertex AI”, project ID: **patesumi**, region: **global**

b) Choose “Lets go!”



- Next, select the Settings icon and select **gemini-2.5-pro** as the Model





4. Go back to your Terminal. Type `gcloud auth login`

Hit enter, then type Y

an I do for you? ⓘ

TASKS

12:49 PM

from the US i nthe last 3

1.9k ↓2.5k • API Cost: \$0.6535

12:43 PM

application-default login 0

12:16 PM

oon events from the last 3

1.4k ↓1.1k • API Cost: \$2.1798

View all history

☒ Enabled
☒ Re ^

here...

Just the right amount of UI

Rich support for all your languages

Unlock productivity with the Command Palette

Open up your code

✓ Mark Done

Next Section →

code-server collects usage data. Read our [privacy statement](#) and learn how to [opt out](#).

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

admin_sunitpatel_altostrat_com@code-server-vm:~\$ gcloud auth appli

cation-default login

You are running on a Google Compute Engine virtual machine. The service credentials associated with this virtual machine will automatically be used by Application Default Credentials, so it is not necessary to use this command.

If you decide to proceed anyway, your user credentials may be visible to others with access to this virtual machine. Are you sure you want to authenticate with your personal account?

Do you want to continue (Y/n)? Y

bash

bash

python3

5. Open the web link

an I do for you? ⓘ

TASKS

12:49 PM

from the US i nthe last 3

1.9k ↓2.5k • API Cost: \$0.6535

12:43 PM

application-default login 0

12:16 PM

oon events from the last 3

1.4k ↓1.1k • API Cost: \$2.1798

View all history

☒ Enabled
☒ Re ^

here...

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✓ Mark Done

Next Section →

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PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL PORTS

admin_sunitpatel_altostrat_com@code-server-vm:~\$ gcloud auth appli

cation-default login

Credentials, so it is not necessary to use this command.

If you decide to proceed anyway, your user credentials may be visible to others with access to this virtual machine. Are you sure you want to authenticate with your personal account?

Do you want to continue (Y/n)? Y

Go to the following link in your browser, and complete the sign-in

Pro Follow link (cmd + click)

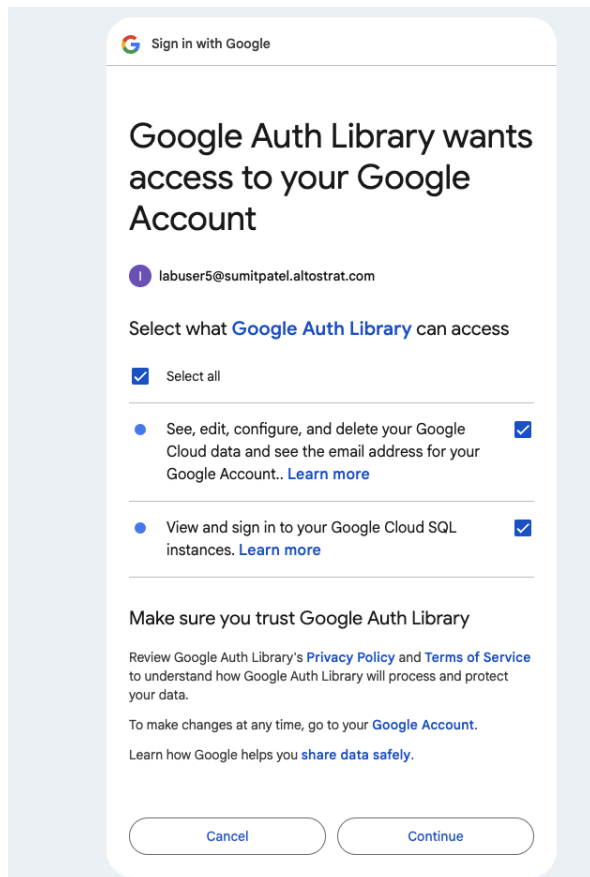
https://accounts.google.com/o/oauth2/auth?response_type=code&client_id=764086051850-6qr4p6gp16hn506pt8ejuq83di341hur.apps.googleusercontent.com&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fsdk.cloud.google.com%2Fapplicationdefaultauthcode.html&scope=openid+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fuserinfo.email+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fcloud-platform+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fsqlservice.login&state=FQoDMnhUvtcV301xWRkZ35370eIU&prompt=consent&token_usage=remote&access_type=offline&code_challenge=wd0FbP

bash

bash

python3

6. Sign in with your credentials from step 1, tick **Select all** and continue



7. Copy the unique code

You are seeing this page because you ran the following command in the gcloud CLI from this or another machine. If this is not the case, close this tab.

```
gcloud auth application-default login
--no-launch-browser
```

Enter the following authorization code in gcloud CLI on the machine you want to log into. This is a credential similar to your password and should not be shared with others.

```
4/0AVGzR1D7hJg2Xu7V2kDu9n0MEt19xviEKQ
1Hctt7PtawxS_0b-cIK0c1Es0ffnWsNe0ZPA
```

Copy

You can close this tab when you're done.

8. Copy & paste it back in terminal

Si nthe last 3

API Cost: \$0.6535

n-default login

s from the last 3

API Cost: \$2.1798

story

Rich support for all your languages

Unlock productivity with the Command Palette

Open up your code

Mark Done

Next Section →

code-server collects usage data. Read our [privacy statement](#) and learn how to [opt out](#).

PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE **TERMINAL** PORTS

admin_sumitpatel_altostrat_com@code-server-vm:~\$ gcloud auth appli
cation-default login

lient_id=764086051850-6qr4p6gpi6hn506pt8ejuq83di341hur.apps.google
usercontent.com&redirect_uri=https%3A%2F%2Fsdk.cloud.google.com%2F
applicationdefaultauthcode.html&scope=openid+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.goo
gleapis.com%2Fauth%2Fuserinfo.email+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.c
om%2Fauth%2Fcloud-platform+https%3A%2F%2Fwww.googleapis.com%2Fauth
%2Fsqlservice.login&state=FQoDMnhUVtcYv301xWRKZ3S370eIU&prompt=co
nsent&token_usage=remote&access_type=offline&code_challenge=WdDFbP
BWQ7LAATttXZ3iMWivcTEchX0XC7lWGHVofUs&code_challenge_method=S256

Once finished, enter the verification code provided in your browse
r: 4/0AVGzR1D7hjg2Xu7V2kDu9nOMet19xv1EKQ1Hctt7PtawxS_0b-cIK0c1Es0f
fnWsNe0ZPA

Credentials saved to file: [/home/admin_sumitpatel_altostrat_com/.
config/gcloud/application_default_credentials.json]

These credentials will be used by any library that requests Applic
ation Default Credentials (ADC).

WARNING:
Cannot add the project "patesumi" to ADC as the quota project beca
use the account in ADC does not have the "serviceusage.services.us
e" permission on this project. You might receive a "quota_exceeded
" or "API not enabled" error. Run \$ gcloud auth application-default
t set-quota-project to add a quota project.

bash

bash

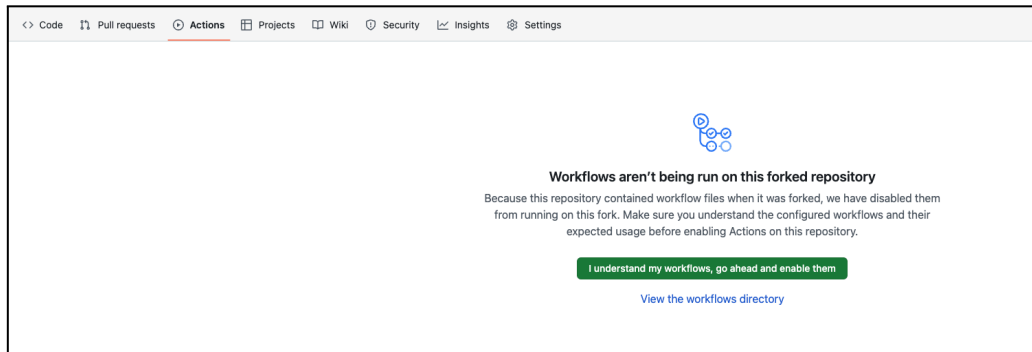
bash

TLP:GREEN

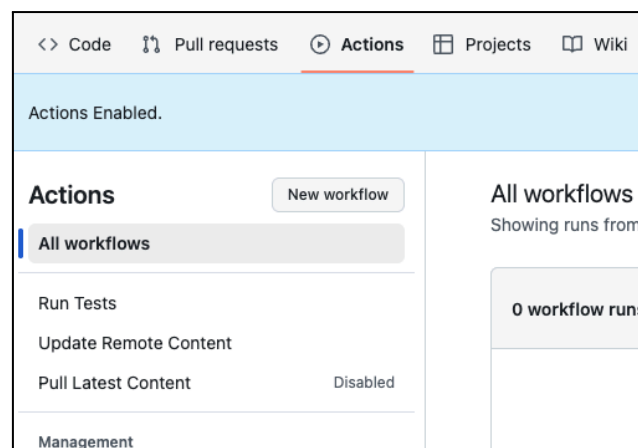
18

Configure GitHub Actions & Variables/Secrets

1. Go back into Github and choose **Actions**, and choose “**I understand my workflows, go ahead and enable them**”



2. Confirm that the 3 Github actions are listed already as below



- Pull Latest Content
- Run Tests
- Update Remote Content

3. Click on **Pull Latest Content** action. Now select “Enable workflow”

Pull Latest Content

[Pull Latest Content.yml](#)

Q

Filter workflow runs

...

⚠ This workflow was disabled manually.

Enable workflow

0 workflow runs

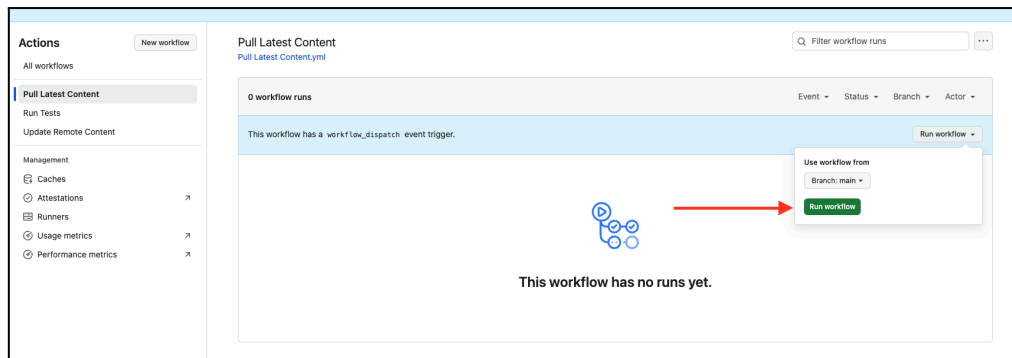
Event ▾Status ▾Branch ▾Actor ▾

TLP:GREEN

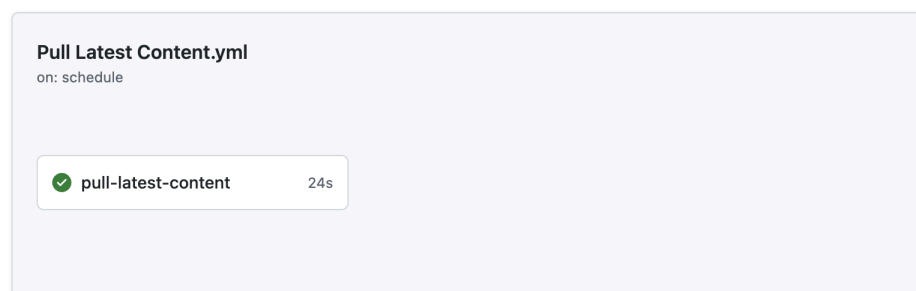
20

Testing the Github Actions - 1. Pull Latest Content

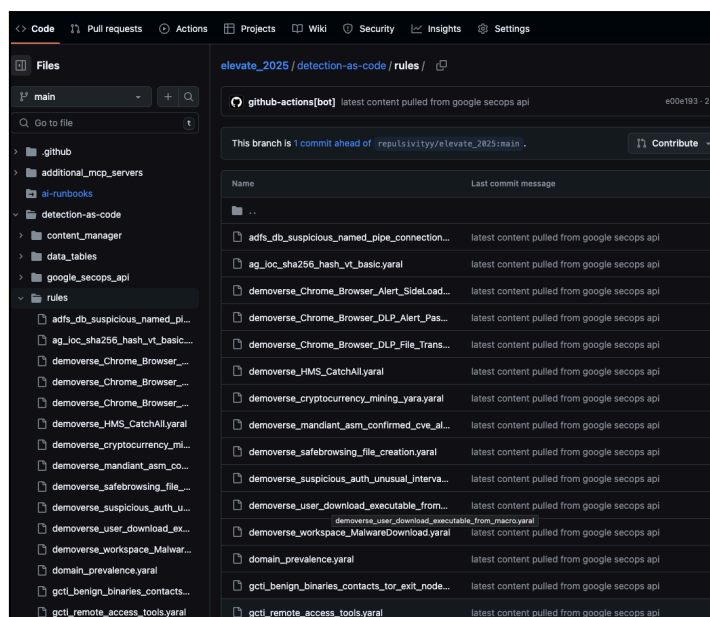
1. Select **Pull Latest Content** (if not already selected)
2. Lets now kick off the “**Pull Latest Content**” action to pull down rules / data tables / reference lists. Go into Actions, Choose “**Run workflow**”.



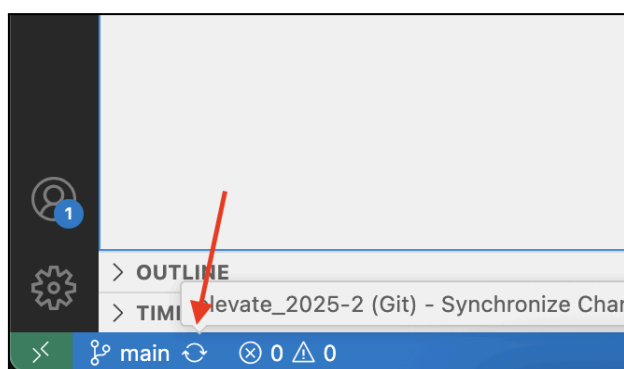
3. If you refresh the screen, it should show the “Pull Latest Content” action run. If successful it will turn green.



4. On completion of the above action, in your Github repo and in your local repo in VS Code (once it syncs), you should see all your rules



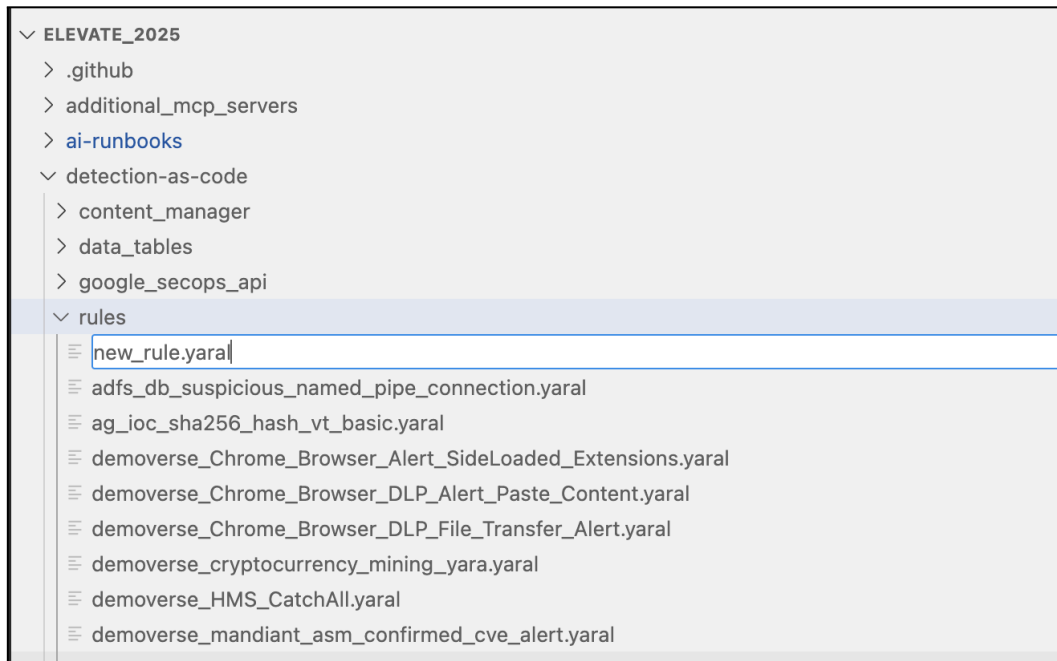
5. You can now try testing Detection as Code! Lets sync the content in VS Code with our repo as shown below:



6. If successful, you should see the rules within the detection-as-code -> rules folder.

Testing the Github Actions - 2. Creating a new rule

1. Now let's create a new yara-l rule. Go into VS Code, look under `detection-as-code - > rules` folder. Create your new rule in this folder.



2. Use a file name of “**labuser[#]newrule.yaral**” (replace [#] with your allocated user number). This way we have a unique file name amongst all Workshop attendees.
3. In the content of the file, use the following (replace “[#]” with your allocated user number):

```
rule labuser[#]newrule.yaral {  
  // This rule matches single events. Rules can also match multiple events  
  within  
  // some time window. For details about how to write a multi-event rule, see  
  //  
  https://cloud.google.com/chronicle/docs/detection/yara-l-2-0-overview#single-  
  event-versus-multi-event  
  
  meta:  
    // Allows for storage of arbitrary key-value pairs of rule details - who  
    // wrote it, what it detects on, version control, etc.  
    // The "author" and "severity" fields are special, as they are used as
```

```

// columns on the rules dashboard. If you'd like to be able to sort based
on
// these fields on the dashboard, make sure to add them here.
// Severity value, by convention, should be "Low", "Medium" or "High"
author = "analyst123"
description = "8:00 AM local time"
severity = "Medium"

events:
  $e.metadata.event_type = "USER_CREATION"

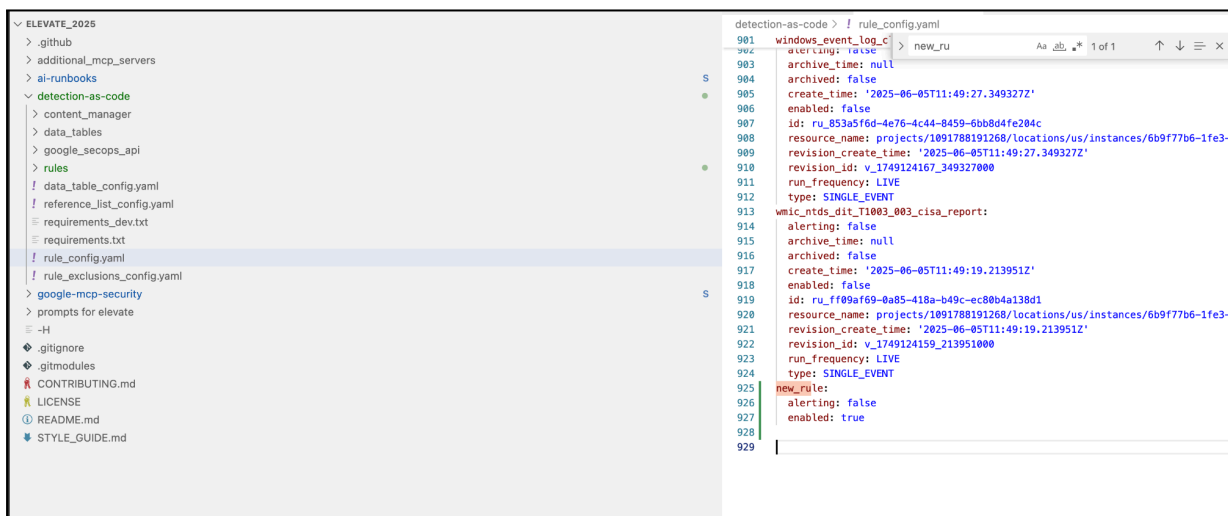
outcome:
  // For a multi-event rule an aggregation function is required
  // e.g., risk_score = max(0)
  // See
https://cloud.google.com/chronicle/docs/detection/yara-l-2-0-overview#outcome
  _conditionals_example_rule
  $risk_score = 0

condition:
  $e
}

```

Hit save on the file, after adding your new rule.

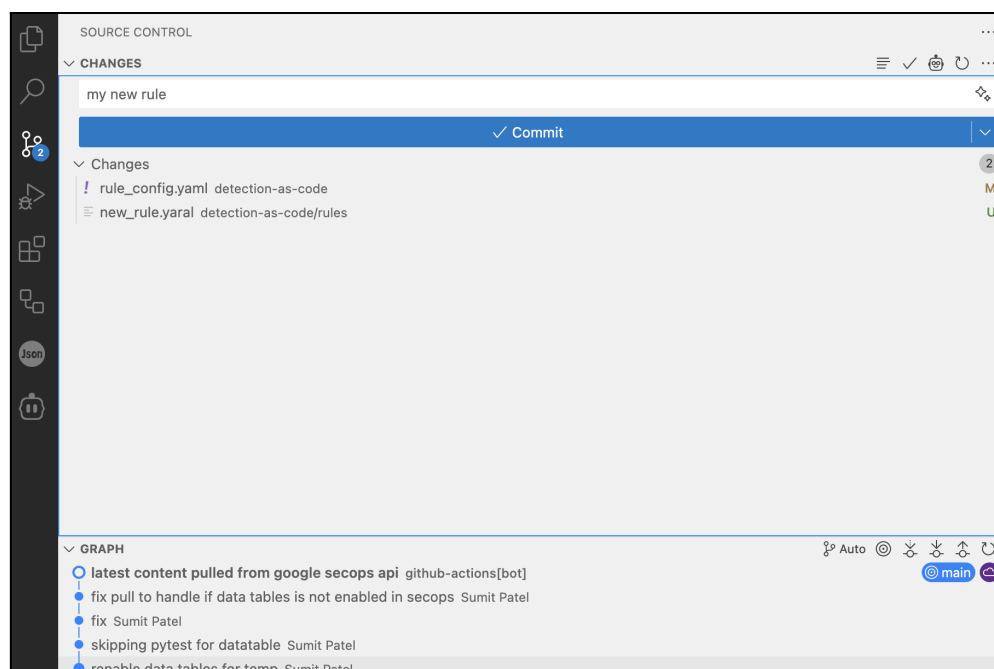
- Now add an entry to `detection-as-code -> rule_config.yaml` file and save.



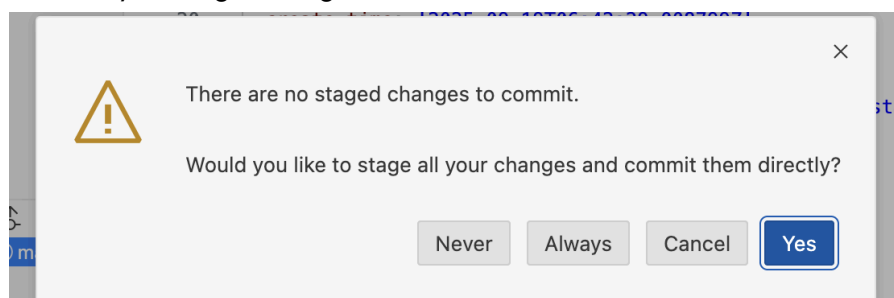
Example (replace “[#]” with your allocated user number):

```
labuser[#]newrule:  
alerting: false  
enabled: true
```

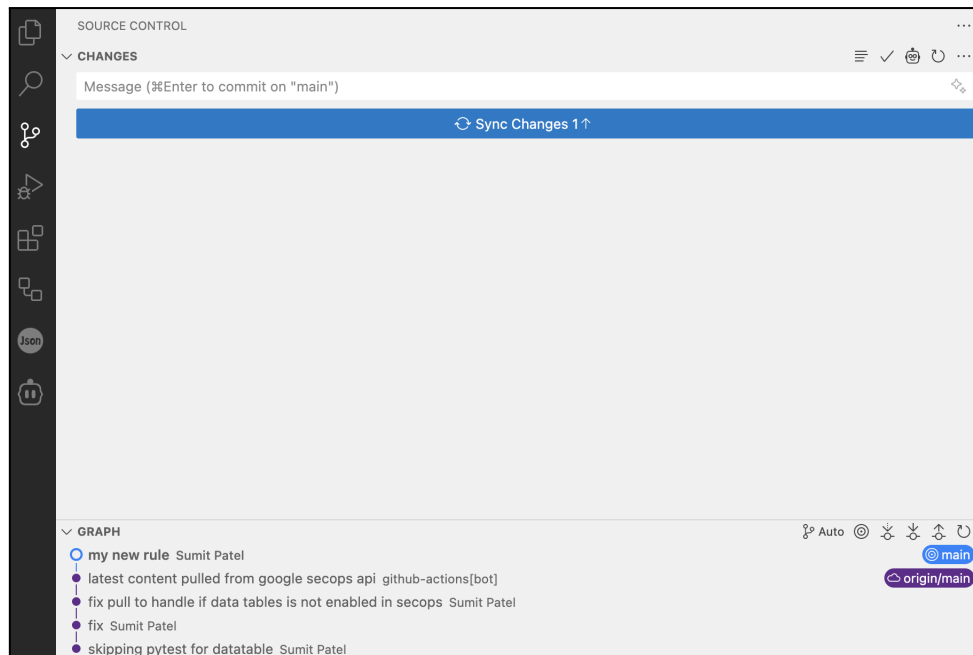
5. Hit the “Source Control” menu item on the left, and add a comment e.g. “my new rule” and hit “Commit”.



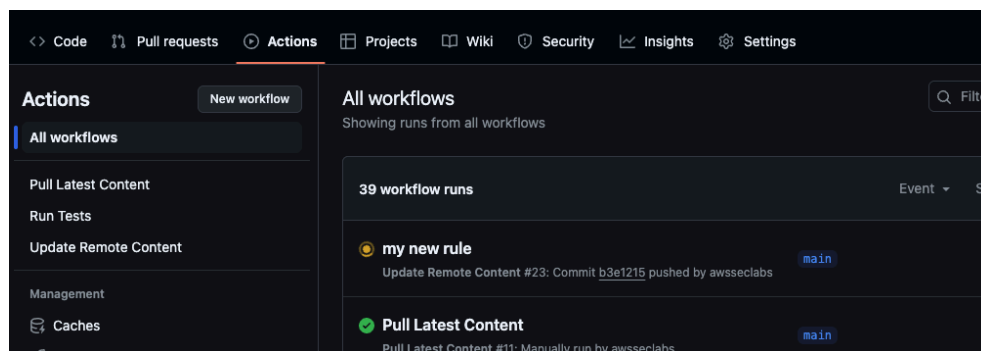
6. If it asks you stage changes, select Yes.



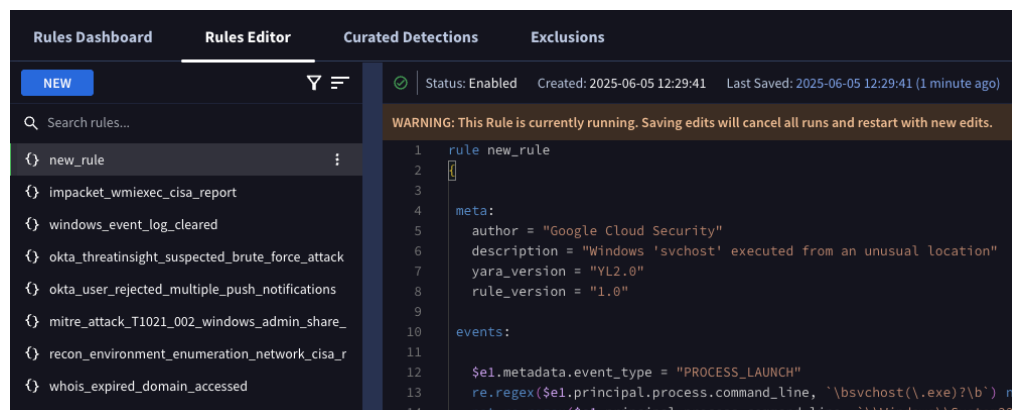
7. Let's now “Sync changes”.



8. Back in Github, it now should kick off a bunch of tests via GitHub Actions,



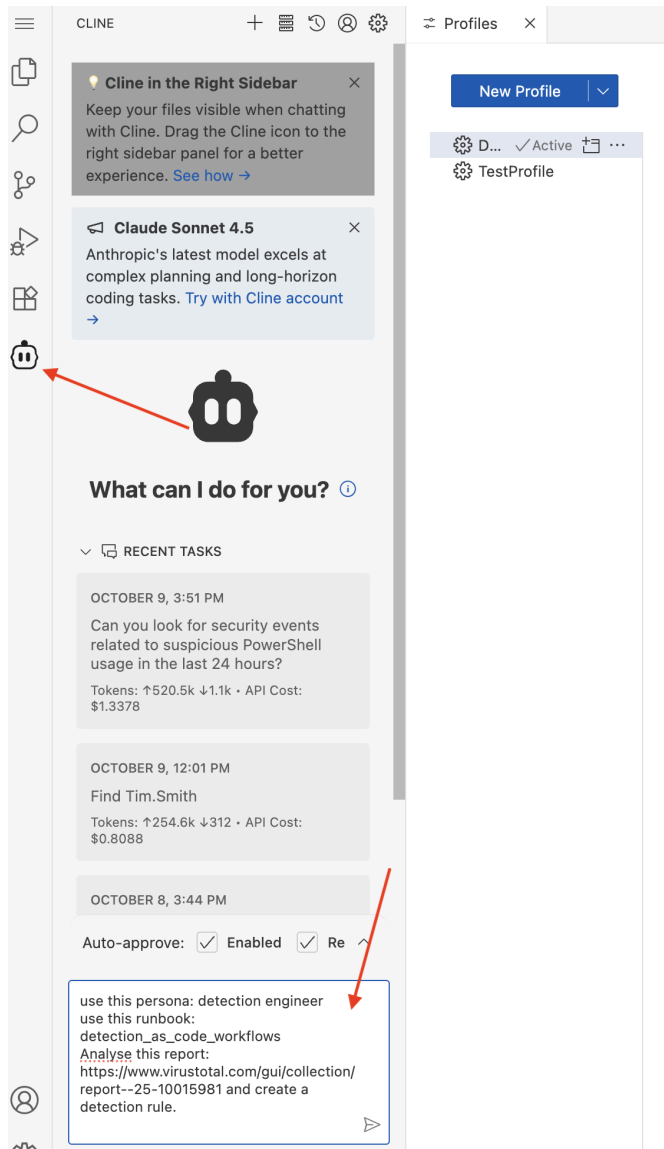
9. On successful completion, you should see your new rule in the SIEM - you can log in via <https://gqlshy.backstory.chronicle.security/rulesEditor> & use the same credentials you used for vs code..



Note: the rules_config.yaml file should also now be updated with additional fields about our new yara-l rule e.g. its ID, creation time etc.

Using Model Context Protocol (MCP) servers in your IDE to Automate Threat Hunting

- 1) Select the cline extension on the menu on the left
- 2) Enter your prompt and hit enter



Example Prompts:

- Can you search for information about the Emotet malware family?
The LLM will use the GTI server to search for and retrieve information about the Emotet malware family, including related IoCs, campaigns, and threat actor information.

- Can you look for security events related to suspicious PowerShell usage in the last 24 hours?
The LLM will use the Chronicle SecOps server to search for security events matching this description and present the findings.
- Can you list open security cases and show me details about the highest priority one?
The LLM will use the SecOps SOAR server to list open cases and provide details about the highest priority case.

Prompt to automate threat hunting with a detection rule based on a report

```
use this persona: detection engineer  
use this runbook: detection_as_code_workflows  
Analyse this report:  
https://www.virustotal.com/gui/collection/report--25-10015981 and create  
a detection rule.
```

Appendix: Best Practices working with Git

Commit early and often (and Small!)

- **Atomic Commits:** Each commit should represent a single, logical change. If you're fixing two different bugs, make two separate commits. If you refactor code and add a new feature, do them in separate commits. This makes it much easier to understand, review, and revert changes if needed.
- **Frequent Commits:** Don't wait until you've completed a huge chunk of work. Commit small, testable increments. This reduces the risk of large, messy merge conflicts and allows you to easily track your progress.

Write Good Commit Messages

- **Clear and Concise Subject Line:** The first line of your commit message should be a brief, imperative summary (around 50 characters). It should answer "What did this commit do?" (e.g., "Fix: Login button not responding").

Stay Up-to-Date and Manage Conflicts

- **Pull Before You Push:** Always pull the latest changes from the remote repository (`git pull` or `git fetch` and then `git rebase/git merge`) before pushing your own changes. This helps you integrate upstream changes early and resolve conflicts locally.
- **Understand `git merge` vs. `git rebase`:**
 - **`git merge`:** Combines histories, creating a merge commit. This preserves the exact history of branches.
 - **`git rebase`:** Rewrites history by moving your commits "on top" of the target branch. This creates a clean, linear history, but **never rebase a public branch** that others are already working on, as it can cause significant issues for collaborators. Use it for your local feature branches before merging into `main`.
- **Resolve Conflicts Promptly:** When merge conflicts occur, don't panic. Git highlights the conflicting sections. Understand the changes from both sides and resolve them carefully.

Keep Your Repository Clean

- **`.gitignore` File:** Use a `.gitignore` file to prevent untracked files (like compiled code, temporary files, IDE configurations, `node_modules`, sensitive API keys, etc.) from being accidentally committed.
- **Clean Up Old Branches:** Once a feature branch is merged and no longer needed, delete it from both your local and remote repositories to keep the branch list clean.

- **Regular Maintenance:** Periodically review and clean up your commit history if necessary (e.g., using `git rebase -i` to squash small, related commits *on your local, unpushed branches*).