



# CxQL Query Customization

Happy.Yang@checkmarx.com

# Agenda

---

- CxSAST Data Flow Analysis Process
  - Source Code Analysis Process By Engine
  - CxQL Query Analysis
- False Positive and False Negative
  - How False Positive Happens and How to Fix **False Positive**
  - How False Negative Happens and How to Fix **False Negative**
- A Case with Query Customization to Fix False Positive
  - **False Positives** Case Study – Reduce Reflected\_XSS\_All\_Clients False Positives
  - **False Positive** Analysis and Fix False Positive by Customizing Query Find\_XSS\_Sanitize
- A Case with Query Customization to Fix False Negative
  - **False Negative** Case Study – Finding Missing SQL Injection Data Flows
  - **False Negative** Analysis and Fix False Negative by Customizing Query Find\_Interactive\_Inputs

# CxSAST Data Flow Analysis Process

# Source Code Analysis Process By Engine



**DOM**

Document Object Model



**DFG**

Data Flow Graph



**CxQL**

Queries are created using CxAudit

- All source code elements (class, method, variable, expression) will be represented by Nodes of **DOM tree**
- DFG is build by (InfluencingOn and InfluecingBy) relation between Nodes
- DOM and DFG stays in **Memory**
- CxQL Query is used in final stage to find all **vulnerable data flows**

# CxQL Query Analysis



**Exploitable**: Found Input, Found Output, No Sanitizers

**Not Exploitable**: Found Input, Found Output, Found Sanitizers

**No Data Flows**: No Input, or No Output, Or Neither

```
SQL_Injection
```

```
CxList db = general.Find_SQL_DB_In();
```

```
CxList inputs = general.Find_Interactive_Inputs();
```

```
CxList sanitized = general.Find_SQL_Sanitize();
```

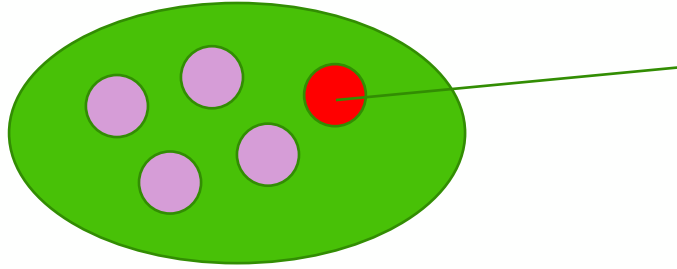
```
result = inputs.InfluencingOnAndNotSanitized(db, sanitized);
```

The background of the slide is a dark, long-exposure photograph of a road at night. The road curves from the bottom left towards the center. Bright green and yellow light trails from vehicles are visible, creating a sense of motion. The overall atmosphere is mysterious and technological.

# False Positive and False Negative

# How False Positive Happens and How to Fix **False Positive**

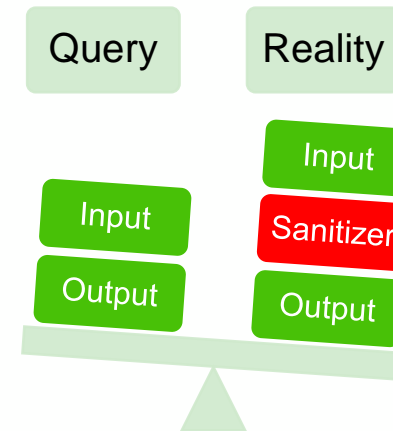
- False Positive



A Scan result(mostly data flow) is confirmed as not exploitable, so it is called False Positive

- Why False Positives Happen?

- ❑ Unsupported(Customized) sanitizer
- ❑ Source Code Missing, sanitizer not found

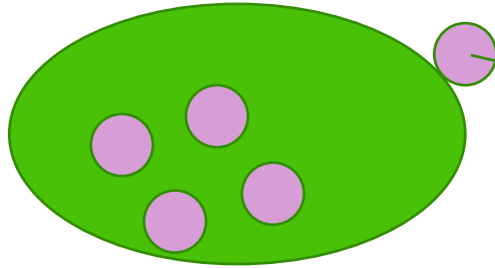


- How to Fix False Positive

- ❑ Only a few happens, in a few projects, change the result state into **Not Exploitable** from Web Portal
- ❑ Happens a lot, do query customization using CxAudit, add customized sanitizer into related Query

# How False Negative Happens and How to Fix **False Negative**

- False Negative



A vulnerable data flow (confirmed exploitable) can be found by code review. But it's missing in scan results. So it is called False Negative.

- How False Negative Happens

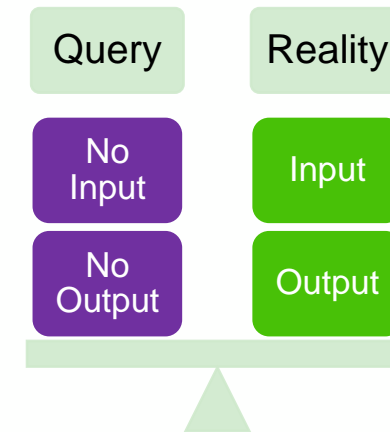
- Source code missing, can not find some element and data flow
- Unsupported frameworks, programming languages
- Input or output, or both can not be found by related Queries.

- How to Fix False Negative

Is the input and output can be found by queries?

No → Do query customization, add input and output into related queries

Yes → check whether input is influencing on output, whether there is some data flow broken



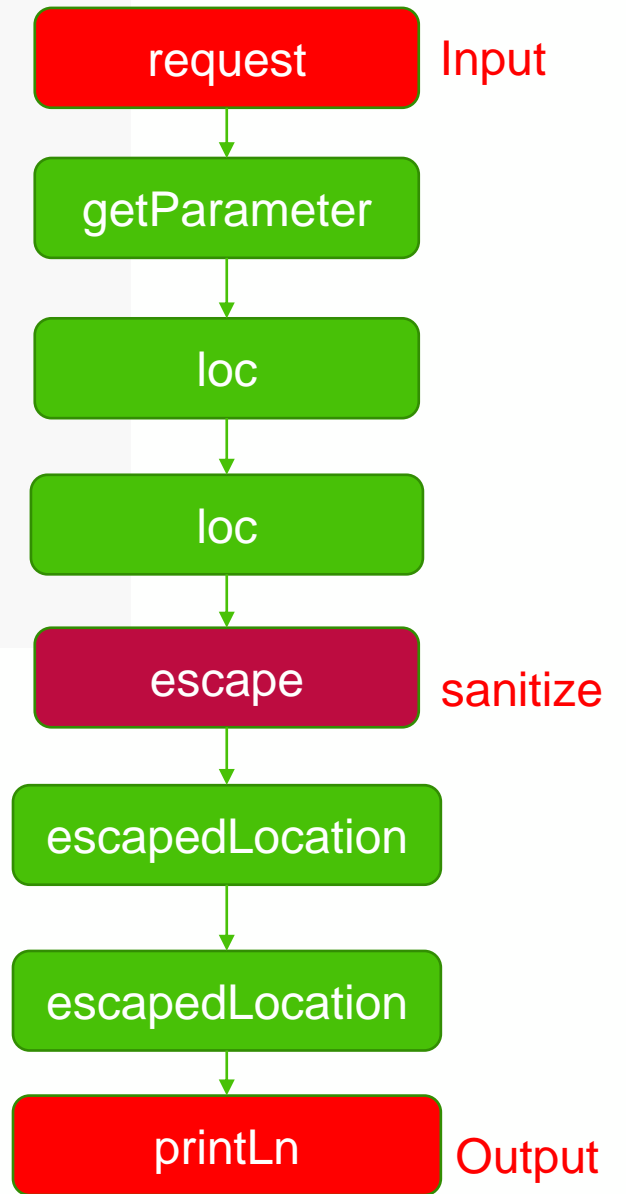




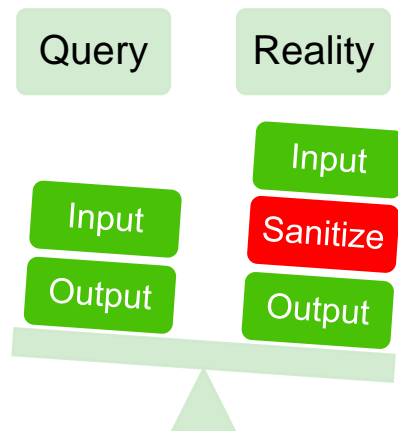
# A Case with Query Customization to Fix False Positive

# False Positives Case Study – Reduce Reflected\_XSS\_All\_Clients False Positives

```
protected void doGet(HttpServletRequest request,
    HttpServletResponse response) throws ServletException,
    IOException {
    response.setContentType("text/html;charset=UTF-8");
    PrintWriter out = response.getWriter();
    String loc = request.getParameter("location");
    String escapedLocation =
    HtmlEscapers.htmlEscaper().escape(loc);
    out.println("<h1> Location: " + escapedLocation +
    "<h1>");
}
```



Query:  
Input,  
Output,  
No Sanitizer,  
Exploitable



Reality:  
Input,  
Output,  
Sanitizer,  
Not  
Exploitable

## False Positive Analysis and Fix False Positive by Customizing Query Find\_XSS\_Sanitize

- This data flow is confirmed **Not Exploitable**, this is **False Positive**
  - Why not exploitable: the data flow is **sanitized** by escape method.
  - It happens a lot.
  - **Why False Positive happened**: customized sanitizer(escape method) can not be recognized by query.
  - How to fix: customize query, put escape method into the query Find\_XSS\_Sanitize, the following query is auto-generated
- 
- `result = base.Find_XSS_Sanitize();`
  - `result.Add(All.FindByName("TestClass.doGet.HtmlEscapers.escape") +`
  - `All.FindAllReferences(All.FindDefinition(All.FindByName("TestClass.doGet.HtmlEscapers.escape "))) +`
  - `All.FindAllReferences(All.FindByName("TestClass.doGet.HtmlEscapers.escape "))+`
  - `All.FindByMemberAccess("HtmlEscapers.escape "));`



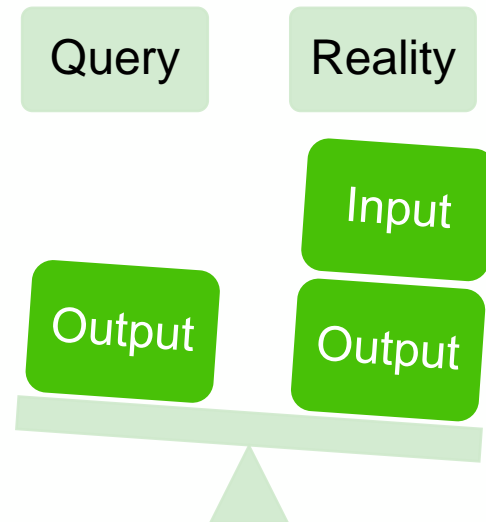
# **A Case with Query Customization to Fix False Negative**

# False Negative Case Study – Finding Missing SQL Injection Data Flows

// Example 4: interactive input not detected

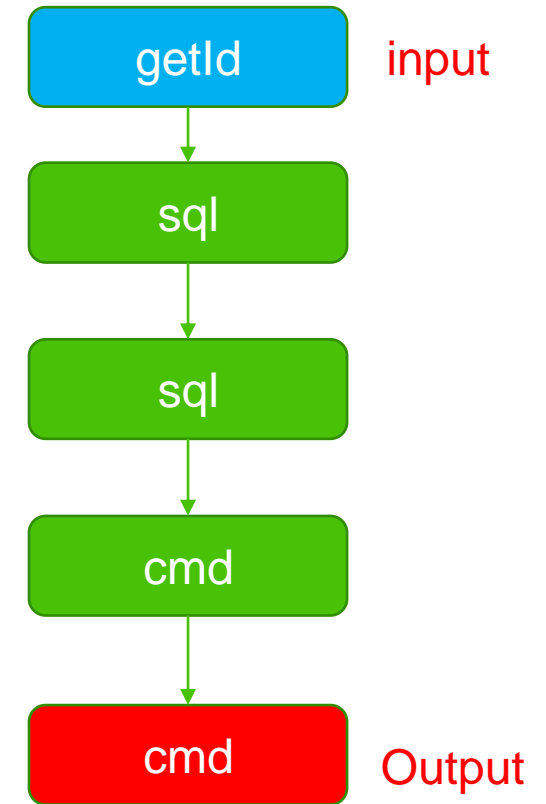
```
public void getUser(){  
    string sql = "SELECT FROM users WHERE id=" + CurrentUser.getId() + "";  
    MySqlCommand cmd = new MySqlCommand(sql, conn);  
    conn.Open();  
    SqlDataReader reader = cmd.ExecuteReader();  
}
```

Query:  
No Input,  
Output,  
No Sanitizer,  
No data flow



Reality:  
Input,  
Output,  
No Sanitizer,  
Exploitable

A vulnerable data flow is found by code review



## False Negative Analysis and Fix False Negative by Customizing Query Find\_Interactive\_Inputs

- A SQL Injection is found by code review
  - The data flow is exploitable.
  - Exploitable Reason: SQL query is built by string concatenation, the data is not sanitized
  - Is able to find Output, Not Input
  - Why False Negative Happened: `getId` which is an input can not be found by query
  - How to Fix: add function `getId` into the query `Find_Interactive_Inputs`
- 
- `result = base.Find_Interactive_Inputs();`
  - `result.Add(All.FindByName("CurrentUser.getId") +`
  - `All.FindAllReferences(All.FindDefinition(All.FindByName("CurrentUser.getId")))) +`
  - `All.FindAllReferences(All.FindByName("CurrentUser.getId"))+`
  - `All.FindByMemberAccess("CurrentUser.getId"));`



**Thank you**

happy.yang@checkmarx.com