



Protecting pipelines

Secure software delivery using
the OWASP CI/CD Top 10



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Without them, this Conference couldn't happen.



Who were you again?

- Reformed Sysadmin
- Who fell into dev projects
- Was accidentally at birthplace of CI/CD
- Did startups for a while (OK, 10 years)
- Now a security consultant at ...



hello@safeadvisory.co.nz



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www.safeadvisory.co.nz

What's this talk about?

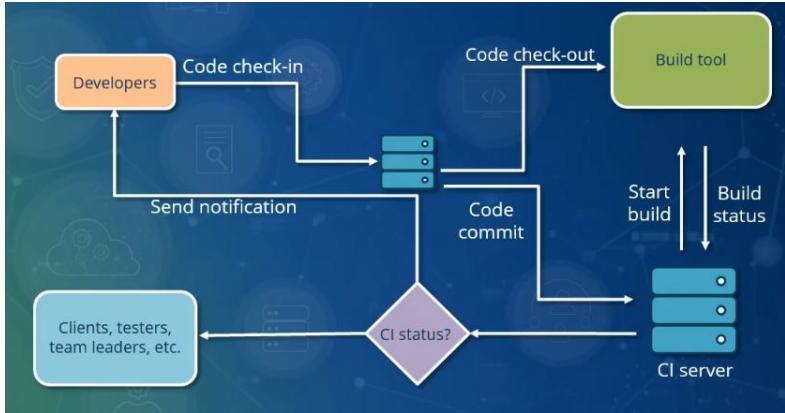
- A guided tour through the OWASP CI/CD Top 10
- Your tour guide's thoughts on CI/CD more broadly
- Oh, and roundabouts



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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Magic_Roundabout_in_Hemel_Hempstead.JPG



Let's travel back in time...



Continuous integration

1990s

Branching is an antipattern

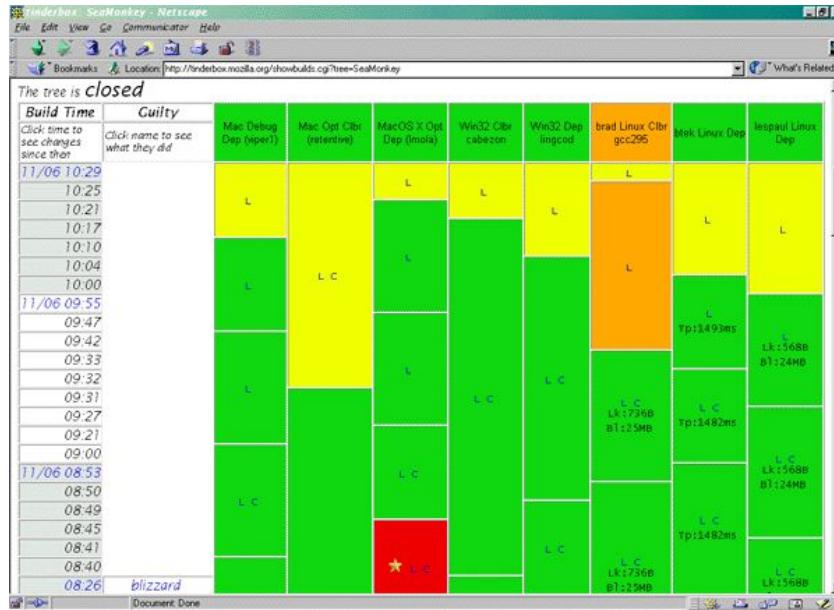
- No tools needed, just an extra workstation
- Of course we wrote tools ...



Mozilla Tinderbox

1998

The first CI tool that wasn't cron jobs and spit





cruisecontrol
continuous integration toolkit

Address: http://localhost:8080/cruisecontrol/buildresults?log=log20020507042535

BUILD FAILED

Ant Error Message: E:\Projects\cvs\cruisecontrol\main\sample_project\build.xml:75: Compile failed, messages should have been provided.

Date of build: 20020507023938

Time to build: 6 seconds

Last changed: 05/07/2002 04:25:33

Last log entry:

Errors/Warnings: (7)

```
E:\Projects\cvs\cruisecontrol\main\sample_project\src\java\Hello\HelloWorld.java:7: illegal start of expression
^
E:\Projects\cvs\cruisecontrol\main\sample_project\src\java\Hello\HelloWorld.java:7: ';' expected
?
^
2 errors
```

Unit Tests: (1)

All Tests Passed

Modifications since last build: (1)

change User E:\Projects\cvs\cruisecontrol\main\sample_project\src\java\Hello\HelloWorld.java>HelloWorld.java

Local machine zone

CruiseControl 2002

Who remembers CVS?



TeamCity

2006

Projects My Changes Agents (1) Build Queue (0) Administration My Settings Logout

Build #1 Quick Links ▾

◀ Home ▶ NoUnit :: Tests Results Build Log Changes (0)

Results of build #1 (11 Jan 17:17) hide details

Result: ● Tests failed: 3 (3 new), passed: 74, ignored: 1 Run

Responsible: [Take responsibility](#)

Time: 11 Jan 17:17 - 17:17 (12s)

Agent: unit-059

● 3 tests failed (★ 3 new)

★ ProjectSnippetFactoryTests.GetSnippetsSimple (jherog.NoUnit.Net.Tests)
System.ArgumentException : URI formats are not supported.
at System.IO.Path.NormalizePathFast(String path, Boolean fullCheck)
at System.IO.Path.GetFullPathInternal(String path)

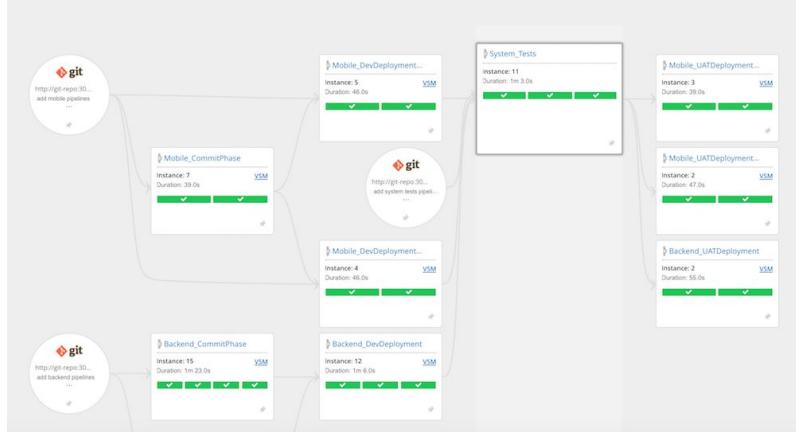
Open in IDE
First failed in this build
Click to open in active IDE.



**That's CI, but what is
CI/CD?**



GoCD/Cruise 2007



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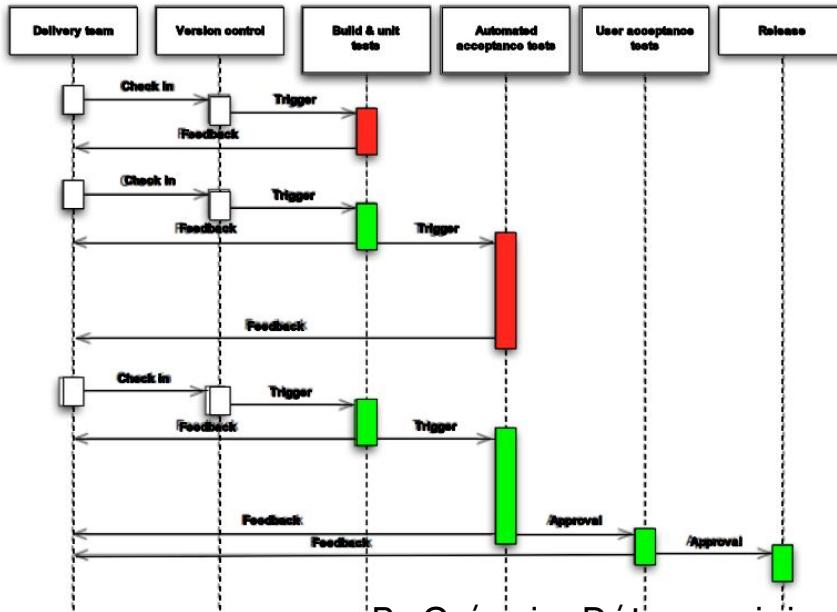
One of the first products to attempt building from source to production.



“At an abstract level, a deployment pipeline is an automated manifestation of your process for getting software from version control into the hands of your users. Every change to your software goes through a complex process on its way to being released. That process involves building the software, followed by the progress of these builds through multiple stages of testing and deployment.”

Jez Humble and David Farley

Continuous Delivery: Reliable Software Releases through Build, Test, and Deployment Automation



Continuous delivery

2010s

Let's take builds all the way to production

Continuous Delivery book described a lot of techniques in use on projects around the world

By Grégoire Détrez, original by Jez Humble - This file was derived from: Continuous Delivery process diagram.png, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=43977816>



CI/CD

(really just Continuous Delivery)



Buildkite

2013-

The screenshot shows the Buildkite web interface with the following details:

- Docs (Main)**: Status is green (checkmark). Description: "Testing & deploying the doc...". Pipelines: main. Speed: 15.3m. Reliability: 83%. Builds: 15/week.
- Docs**: Status is red (circle with an X). Description: "The source files for the Buildkite d...". Pipelines: All Builds. Speed: 5.3m. Reliability: 70%. Builds: 61/week.
- Plugins / Docker**: Status is green. Description: "Public". Pipelines: All Builds. Speed: (not shown). Reliability: (not shown). Builds: (not shown).

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Triggered by  simpsonjulian[View 4 changes](#)

Repository and version

builddoctor/pipeline-playpen
main ↗ 3e5c33d8

Time started and elapsed

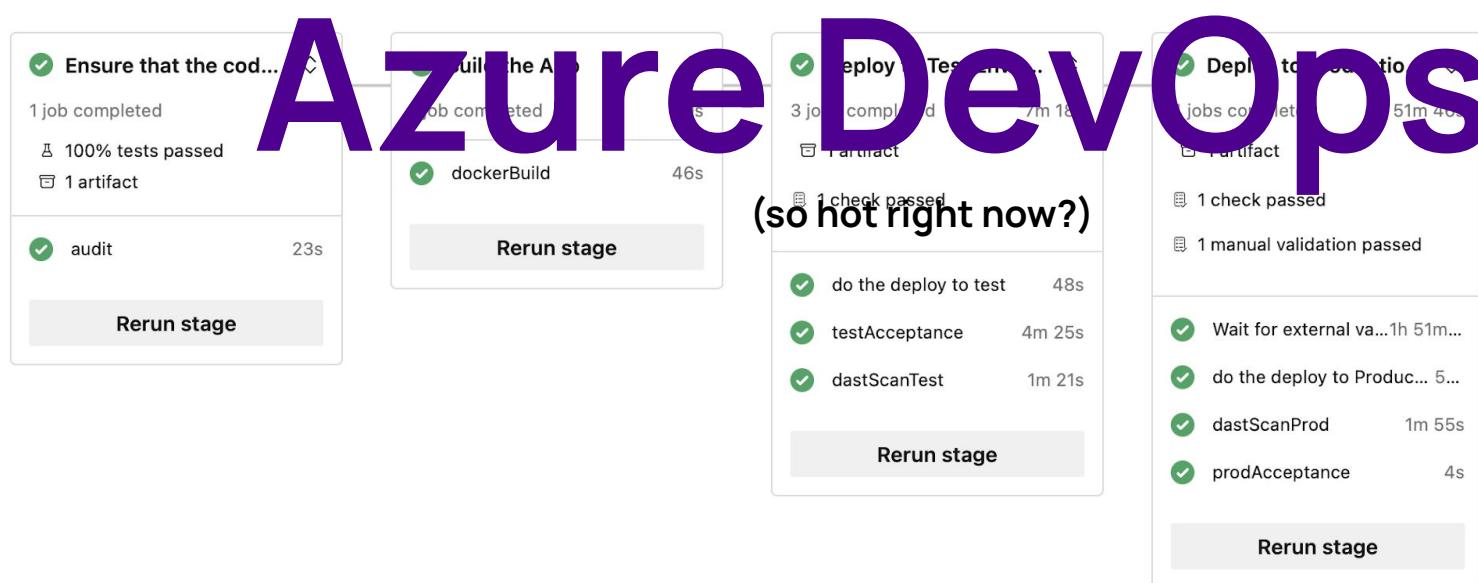
22 May at 7:49 AM
2 h 0 m 57 s

Related

0 work items
3 published

Tests and coverage

100% passed
100.00% covered

[Stages](#) [Jobs](#)

Triggered by  simpsonjulian[View 4 changes](#)

Repository and version

builddoctor/pipeline-playpen
main ↗ 3e5c33d8

Time started and elapsed

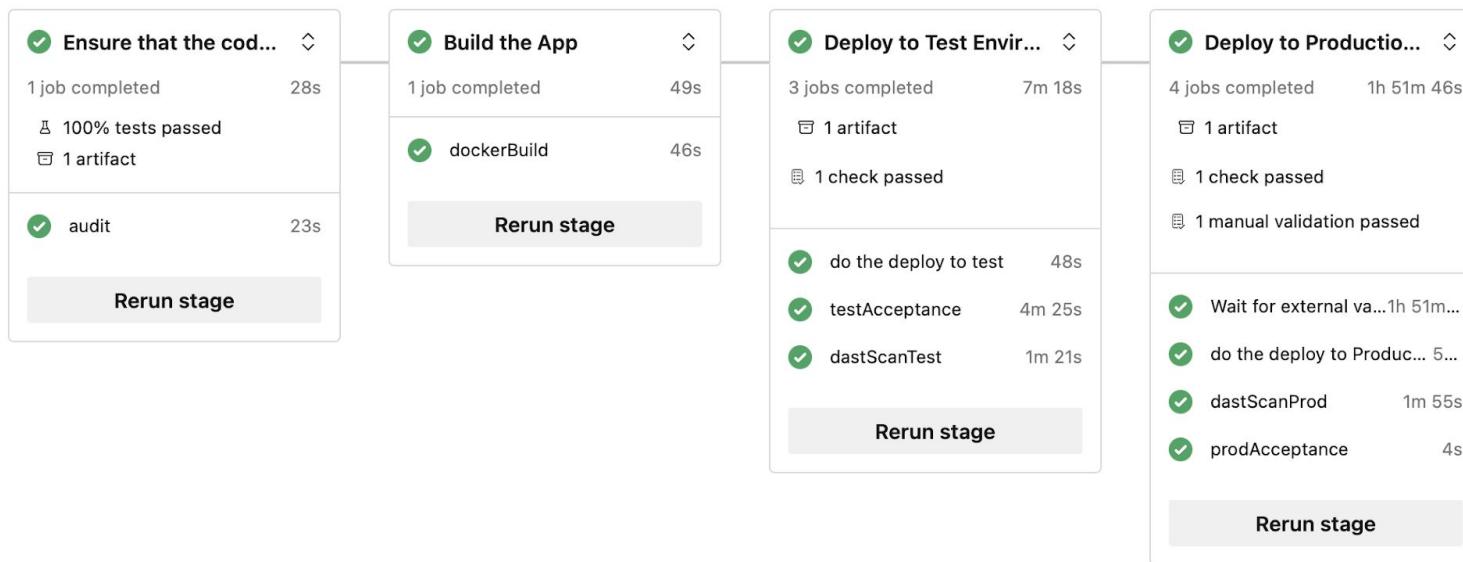
22 May at 7:49 AM
2 h 0 m 57 s

Related

0 work items
3 published

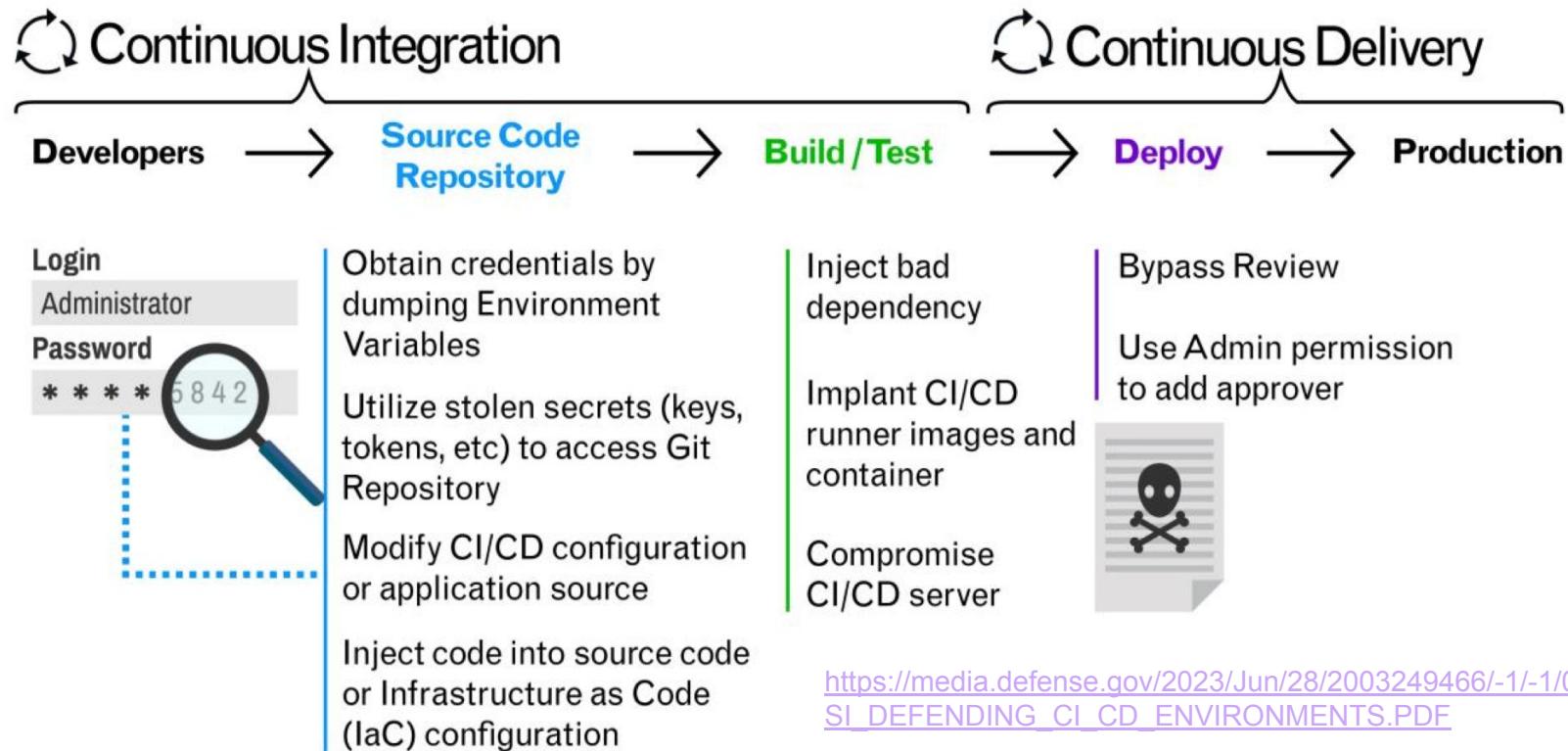
Tests and coverage

100% passed
100.00% covered

[Stages](#) [Jobs](#)

```
4   autocancel: true
5
6   trigger:
7     - main
8
9   pool:
10    vmImage: ubuntu-latest
11
12
13 stages:
14   - stage: validate
15     displayName: "Ensure that the code works"
16     jobs:
17       - job: audit
18         steps:
19           - bash: make audit lint
20           - bash: make test
21         failOnStderr: false
22
23           Settings
24             - task: PublishTestResults@2
25               inputs:
26                 testResultsFormat: JUnit
27                 testResultsFiles: 'build/reports/report.xml'
```

How Malicious Cyber Actors Threaten the CI/CD Pipeline



https://media.defense.gov/2023/Jun/28/2003249466/-1/-1/0/C_SI_DEFENDING_CI_CD_ENVIRONMENTS.PDF

Figure 1. Threats to the CI/CD pipeline



CI/CD Top 10



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CI/CD Top 10

- CI/CD has come of age
- Attackers have also matured with the industry
- CI/CD servers are a tempting target for threat actors
- We've already seen some serious breaches via CI/CD: Travis, CodeCov, SolarWinds, etc
- Thanks to Daniel Krivelevich and Omer Gil at Cider Security

CICD-SEC-1: Insufficient flow control mechanisms

CICD-SEC-2: Inadequate identity and access management

CICD-SEC-3: Dependency chain abuse

CICD-SEC-4: Poisoned pipeline execution (PPE)

CICD-SEC-5: Insufficient PBAC (pipeline-based access controls)

CICD-SEC-6: Insufficient credential hygiene

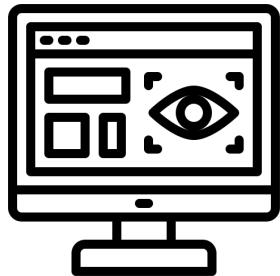
CICD-SEC-7: Insecure system configuration

CICD-SEC-8: Ungoverned use of third party services

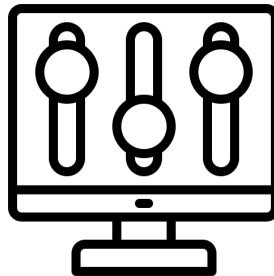
CICD-SEC-9: Improper artifact integrity validation

CICD-SEC-10: Insufficient logging and visibility

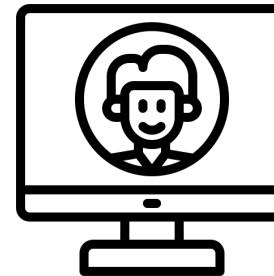
How's it going to work from here?



risk



control



example



RISK

Insufficient flow control mechanisms

CICD-SEC-1

- Attackers with access to SCM, CI or other systems can deploy malicious artefacts to production without approval or review.
- Code pushes to production, auto-merges of code, malicious artefacts, changes to infrastructure are all possible
- Applicable to Git repos, CI/CD systems, utilities

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CONTROLS

Insufficient flow control mechanisms

CICD-SEC-1

- Add Branch Protection rules for branches that go to production
- Limit auto-merge rules
- Bake reviews into the pipeline to limit the impact when one gets through
- Use Drift Detection to sniff out config change

EXAMPLE

Insufficient flow control mechanisms

CICD-SEC-1

A screenshot of a GitHub pull request comment. The comment is from a user named **simpsonjulian**, who commented yesterday. The user is identified as a **Member**. The comment text is:

Hello Internet Friend!

Love your project but noticed your Dockerfile needed a tweak for maintainability and performance.

Keep up the good work!

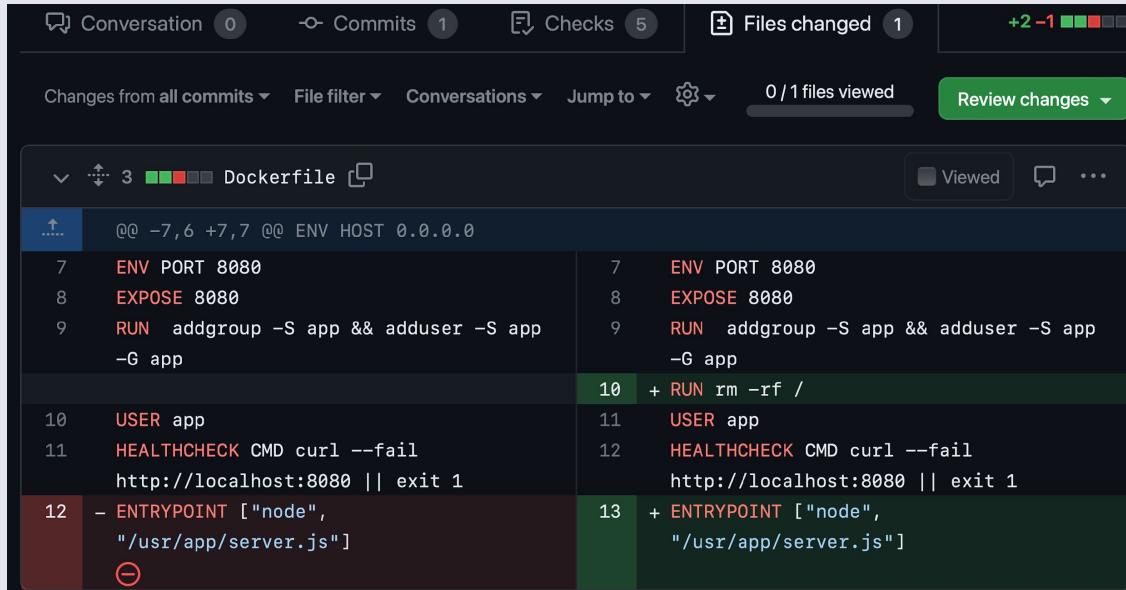
Below the comment, there is a small smiley face emoji icon. At the bottom of the comment card, there is a link labeled "Best practice for Dockerfile".

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EXAMPLE

Insufficient flow control mechanisms

CICD-SEC-1



The screenshot shows a code review interface with the following details:

- Header: Conversation (0), Commits (1), Checks (5), Files changed (1), +2 -1.
- Toolbar: Changes from all commits ▾, File filter ▾, Conversations ▾, Jump to ▾, Review changes ▾.
- File: Dockerfile
- Changes:

Line	Change Type	Content
7	+	ENV PORT 8080
8	+	EXPOSE 8080
9	+	RUN addgroup -S app && adduser -S app -G app
10	+	RUN rm -rf /
11	+	USER app
12	-	HEALTHCHECK CMD curl --fail http://localhost:8080 exit 1
12	-	ENTRYPOINT ["node", "/usr/app/server.js"]
13	+	ENTRYPOINT ["node", "/usr/app/server.js"]

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EXAMPLE

Insufficient flow control mechanisms

CICD-SEC-1

```
21552 rm: can't remove '/dev/shm': Resource busy
21553 rm: can't remove '/dev/mqueue': Resource busy
21554 rm: can't remove '/dev/pts/ptmx': Operation not
      permitted
21555 rm: can't remove '/etc/hosts': Resource busy
21556 rm: can't remove '/etc/hostname': Resource busy
21557 rm: can't remove '/etc/resolv.conf': Resource busy
21558 The command '/bin/sh -c rm -rf /' returned a non-
      zero code: 1
21559
21560 Error: Process completed with exit code 1.
```

⌚ Run Trivy vulnerability scanner

0s



EXAMPLE

Insufficient flow control mechanisms

CICD-SEC-1

#20230613.2 • Best practice for Dockerfile
builddoctor.pipeline-playpen

This run is being retained as one of 3 recent runs by pipeline.

Summary Tests Code Coverage

Pull request by simpsonjulian

Repository and version
builddoctor/pipeline-playpen
9 ↴ 2ff67428

Time started and elapsed
Yesterday at 6:52 PM
31s

Related
0 work items
1 published

Stages Jobs

```
graph LR; A[Ensure that the cod... 1 job completed 28s 100% tests passed 1 artifact] --> B[Build the App Skipped]; B --> C[Deploy to Test Envir... Skipped]; C --> D[Deploy to Productio... Skipped]
```

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EXAMPLE

Insufficient flow control mechanisms

CICD-SEC-1

```
36      - stage: releaseCandidate
37          displayName: "Build the App"
38          dependsOn: validate
39          condition: and(eq(variables['Build.SourceBranch'], 'refs/heads/main'),
40                            eq(dependencies.validate.result, 'Succeeded'))
41          jobs:
42              - job: "dockerBuild"
43                  steps:
```

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EXAMPLE

Insufficient flow control mechanisms

CICD-SEC-1

```
displayName: "Deploy to Production Environment"
dependsOn: testEnv
jobs:
  - job: waitForValidation
    displayName: Wait for external validation
    pool: server
    timeoutInMinutes: 4320
    steps:
      - task: ManualValidation@0
        timeoutInMinutes: 1440
        inputs:
          notifyUsers: simpsonjulian@gmail.com
          instructions: 'Please validate the build configuration and resume'
          onTimeout: 'reject'
```



RISK

Dependency chain abuse

CICD-SEC-3

- Dependency confusion (public packages that attempt to mimic your org's private packages)
- Dependency hijacking (taking control of a public package that your org uses)
- Typosquatting (seeding package repos with common misspellings of popular packages)
- Brandjacking (borrowing credibility from a brand so that developers trust your packages)
- **New!** NPM Manifest Confusion - *package.json* in GitHub is not the *package.json* in the distributed package



CONTROLS

Dependency chain abuse

CICD-SEC-3

- Proxy all packages from the internet, instead of having dev systems fetch direct
- Encourage the use of internal, pre-approved packages where possible
- Enable checksums and signatures
- Register and document package scopes for your org to reduce confusion



EXAMPLE

Dependency chain abuse

CICD-SEC-3

```
MacBook-Pro:pipeline-playpen jsimpson$ npm ci
added 443 packages, and audited 444 packages in 4s

59 packages are looking for funding
  run `npm fund` for details

26 moderate severity vulnerabilities

To address issues that do not require attention, run:
  npm audit fix

To address all issues (including breaking changes), run:
  npm audit fix --force

Run `npm audit` for details.
MacBook-Pro:pipeline-playpen jsimpson$ npm doctor
Check          Value  Recommendation/Notes
npm ping        ok
npm -v          not ok Use npm v9.7.2
node -v         not ok Use node v20.3.1 (current: v20.2.0)
npm config get registry      ok  using default registry (https://registry.npmjs.org/)
git executable in PATH        ok  /opt/homebrew/bin/git
global bin folder in PATH    ok  /opt/homebrew/bin
Perms check on cached files  ok
Perms check on local node_modules  ok
Perms check on global node_modules  ok
Perms check on local bin folder  ok
npm ERR! checkFilePermission Missing permissions on /opt/homebrew/bin/.keepme (expect: executable)
npm ERR! checkFilePermission Missing permissions on /opt/homebrew/bin/_pycache__/jp.cpython-39.pyc (expect: executable)
Perms check on global bin folder  not ok  Check the permissions of files in /opt/homebrew/bin
npm WARN verifyCachedFiles Content garbage-collected: 741 (135705161 bytes)
npm WARN verifyCachedFiles Cache issues have been fixed
Verify cache contents          ok  verified 4752 tarballs
npm ERR! Some problems found. See above for recommendations.

npm ERR! A complete log of this run can be found in: /Users/jsimpson/.npm/_logs/2023-06-29T08_39_54_337Z-debug-0.log
MacBook-Pro:pipeline-playpen jsimpson$ echo $?
```



EXAMPLE

Dependency chain abuse

CICD-SEC-3

Scopes

In npm, a “scope” is a `@`-prefixed name that goes at the start of a package name. For example, `@my-company/foo` is a “scoped” package. You use scoped packages just like any other module name in `package.json` and your JavaScript code.

```
{  
  "name": "@mycompany/foo",  
  "version": "1.2.3",  
  "description": "just a scoped package name example",  
  "dependencies": {  
    "@mycompany/bar": "2.x"  
  }  
}
```

```
// es modules style  
import foo from '@mycompany/foo'  
  
// commonjs style  
const foo = require('@mycompany/foo')
```

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RISK

Poisoned pipeline execution (PPE)

CICD-SEC-4

Attackers with access to code (and not CI/CD system) can still manipulate the build process:

- **Direct PPE:** attacker modifies config files in repository, via direct commit to unprotected branch, or via Pull Request
- **Indirect PPE:** attacker injects malicious code via build systems, build scripts, test frameworks or automatic tools like linters and scanners
- **Public PPE:** many projects build in public and see Pull Requests as a necessary part of Open Source development. Malicious OSS participation can expose secrets or other code.

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CONTROLS

Poisoned pipeline execution (PPE)

CICD-SEC-4

- Ensure that pipelines exposed to unreviewed code run on isolated nodes, not the ones that connect to everything else (e.g. some else's)
- If you must build from public repos: where possible, don't build from forks
- Ensure there are branch protection rules to limit triggers
- Try and keep pipeline configuration away from exposed repos
- Limit SCM access to those who really need it
- Limit credentials granted to pipelines



EXAMPLE

Poisoned pipeline execution (PPE)

CICD-SEC-4

Actions permissions

- Allow all actions and reusable workflows**
Any action or reusable workflow can be used, regardless of who authored it or where it is defined.
- Disable actions**
The Actions tab is hidden and no workflows can run.
- Allow builddoctor actions and reusable workflows**
Any action or reusable workflow defined in a repository within builddoctor can be used.
- Allow builddoctor, and select non-builddoctor, actions and reusable workflows**
Any action or reusable workflow that matches the specified criteria, plus those defined in a repository within builddoctor, can be used.
[Learn more about allowing specific actions and reusable workflows to run.](#)

Save



EXAMPLE

Poisoned pipeline execution (PPE)

CICD-SEC-4

Fork pull request workflows from outside collaborators

Choose which subset of outside collaborators will require approval to run workflows on their pull requests. [Learn more about approving workflow runs from public forks.](#)

- Require approval for first-time contributors who are new to GitHub**
Only first-time contributors who recently created a GitHub account will require approval to run workflows.
- Require approval for first-time contributors**
Only first-time contributors will require approval to run workflows.
- Require approval for all outside collaborators**

[Save](#)

Workflow permissions

Choose the default permissions granted to the GITHUB_TOKEN when running workflows in this repository. You can specify more granular permissions in the workflow using YAML. [Learn more.](#)

- Read and write permissions**
Workflows have read and write permissions in the repository for all scopes.
- Read repository contents and packages permissions**
Workflows have read permissions in the repository for the contents and packages scopes only.

Choose whether GitHub Actions can create pull requests or submit approving pull request reviews.

- Allow GitHub Actions to create and approve pull requests**

[Save](#)



EXAMPLE

Poisoned pipeline execution (PPE)

CICD-SEC-4

Protect matching branches

Require a pull request before merging
When enabled, all commits must be made to a non-protected branch and submitted via a pull request before they can be merged into a branch that matches this rule.

Require approvals
When enabled, pull requests targeting a matching branch require a number of approvals and no changes requested before they can be merged.
Required number of approvals before merging: 1 ▾

Dismiss stale pull request approvals when new commits are pushed
New reviewable commits pushed to a matching branch will dismiss pull request review approvals.

Require review from Code Owners
Require an approved review in pull requests including files with a designated code owner.

Restrict who can dismiss pull request reviews
Specify people, teams, or apps allowed to dismiss pull request reviews.

Allow specified actors to bypass required pull requests
Specify people, teams, or apps who are allowed to bypass required pull requests.

People, teams, or apps who can bypass required pull requests

 **Organization and repository administrators**
These members can always bypass required pull requests.

 **simpsonjulian**
Julian Simpson ×

Require approval of the most recent reviewable push
Whether the most recent reviewable push must be approved by someone other than the person who pushed it.

Require status checks to pass before merging
Choose which **status checks** must pass before branches can be merged into a branch that matches this rule. When enabled,



RISK

Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls)

CICD-SEC-5

- Pipelines need to run on someone's computer (even in the cloud)
- That node will access source code, cloud services, secrets, artifacts, filesystems, other pipelines, SSH keys, the public Internet, your network
- Someone needs to have a good think about what could go wrong



CONTROL

Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls)

CICD-SEC-5

- Each pipeline should have enough access to resources needed to do its job and no more
- That includes nodes, which should also have access controls to prevent lateral movement and data breaches (does your pipeline have full access to the production database?)
- ADO users, this is where you should put Checks on Service Connections, Pipelines, Environments



CONTROL

Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls)

CICD-SEC-5

Playpen / Pipelines / Environments / Production Environment

← Production Environment

Deployments Approvals and checks

Display name	Type
Managed by Terraform	Business Hours

Business Hours

Display name *

Managed by Terraform

Days * ⓘ

Monday (+4)

Time Zone * ⓘ

(UTC+12:00) Auckland, Wellington

Start Time * ⓘ

07:00

End Time * ⓘ

15:30

Control options



CONTROL

Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls)

```
resource "azureddevops_check_business_hours" "example" {
    project_id          = azureddevops_project.project.id
    display_name        = "Managed by Terraform"
    target_resource_id  = azureddevops_environment.Production.id
    target_resource_type = "environment"
    start_time           = "07:00"
    end_time             = "15:30"
    time_zone            = "New Zealand Standard Time"
    monday               = true
    tuesday              = true
    wednesday            = true
    thursday             = true
}
```



EXAMPLE

Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls)

CICD-SEC-5

AZURE DEVOPS CICD PIPELINES - COMMAND INJECTION WITH PARAMETERS, VARIABLES AND A DISCUSSION ON RUNNER HIJACKING

by Sana Oshika

May 1 2023

RECENT RELEASES

ADVISORIES

SEE ALL

- 1/5/23 [Azure DevOps CICD Pipelines - Command Injection with Parameters, Variables and a discussion on Runner hijacking](#)
- 26/8/22 [ASP.NET Boilerplate Multiple Vulnerabilities](#)

This article discusses a vulnerability with Azure DevOps that can be exploited by users able to run pipelines with user-controlled variables. The vulnerability allows malicious users with access to edit runtime parameter values to inject shell commands that execute on the pipeline runner. This can compromise the runner and allow access to sensitive information such as secrets used for deployments and Azure service principal credentials.



RISK

Improper artifact integrity validation

CICD-SEC-9

- Otherwise known by its celebrity alter-ego, the SolarWinds attack.
- An adversary can alter or inject artefacts with a malicious payload

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CONTROL

Improper artifact integrity validation

CICD-SEC-9

- Consider commit signing
- Verification tools for artefacts, e.g. signing
- Manage configuration drift
- Third party resources should always be validated - review the full dependency chain for your pipelines



EXAMPLE

Improper artifact integrity validation

CICD-SEC-9

Microsoft Azure Sea

Home > builddoctorplaypen

 **builddoctorplaypen** | Content trust ☆ ...

Container registry

Save Discard

Overview Activity log Access control (IAM) Tags Quick start Events

⚠ Upgrade registry to Premium SKU to enable Content trust policy. →

When turned on, content trust enables you to push trusted images to the registry. [Learn more](#)

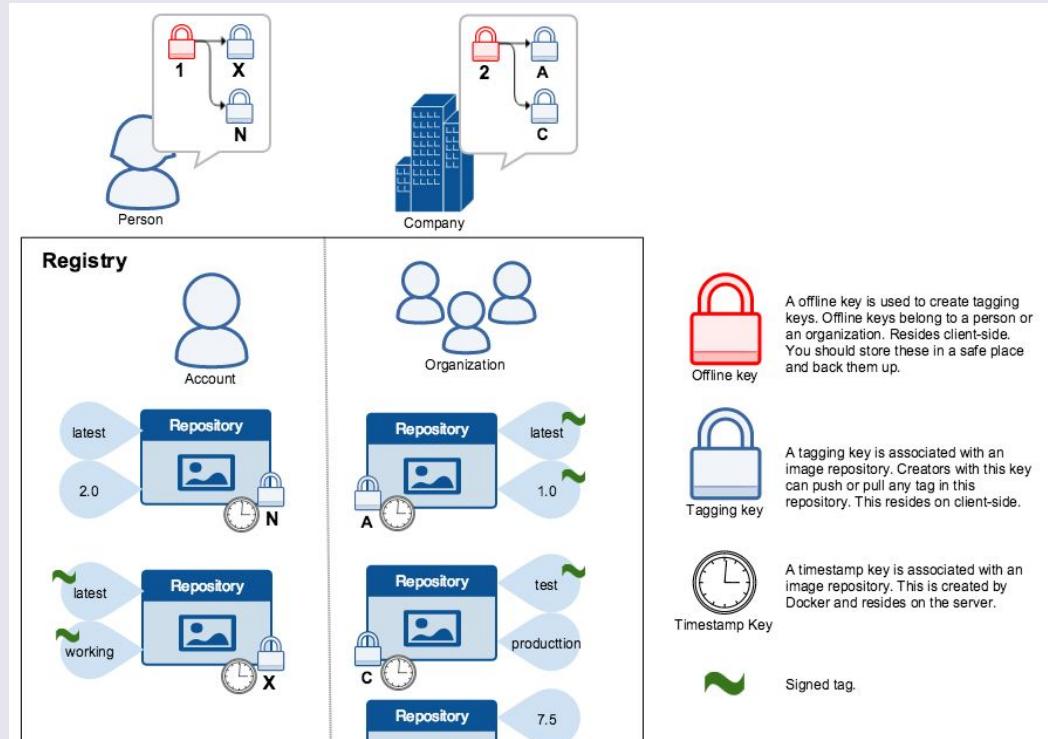
Status Disabled Enabled

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EXAMPLE

Improper artifact integrity validation

CICD-SEC-9





and all the rest...

(the quickfire round)



Inadequate IAM

CICD-SEC-2

- It's necessary to connect the CI/CD tooling to just about everything
- Identities are sprinkled throughout the CI/CD ecosystem: Git, CI/CD, container registries, app servers, APM tools, etc.
- Least privilege often goes out the window with delivery deadlines
- Stale, local, external, self-registered or shared identities make it worse



Insufficient credential hygiene

CICD-SEC-6

- Credentials are everywhere in a CI/CD system
- They should never be in source (but of course they are)
- They should also be granted for a particular context and not reused
- Nor should they exist in container image layers, or console output
- Credentials should be rotated or retired appropriately



Insecure system configuration

CICD-SEC-7

- CI/CD systems need hardening like (if not more than) production systems
- Patching
- Network access control (what databases can they see?)
- Granting least privilege on the host OS
- Configuration for authorisation, access control, logging etc.
- Credential hygiene



Ungoverned use of third party services

CICD-SEC-8

- Your colleagues can sign up and implement services in minutes
- For example: code analysis tools, testing tools, deployment tools etc
- Third party tools have been compromised and used for attacks on their users



Insufficient logging and visibility

CICD-SEC-10

These systems tend to start with “it’s just a dev tool bro - you’re probably missing the detective controls that you need

If your threat model doesn’t include ‘what if someone compromises our pipelines or CI/CD infrastructure’, you may not have sufficient:

- Audit logs
- Metrics
- Anomaly detection and SIEM



TL;DR

<https://owasp.org/www-project-top-10-ci-cd-security-risks/>



Roundabouts

⚠ 10:51AM—12:41PM 1 hr 50 min

🚂 Thameslink ➤ 🚂 Northern ➤ 🚶 ➤ 🚈

West Midlands Trains

10:51 AM from Wivelsfield · 7 min late

🚶 7 min every 30 min

Details

⚠ 10:51AM—12:58 PM 2 hr 7 min

🚂 Thameslink ➤ 🚃 302

⚠ 11:16 AM—1:11 PM 1 hr 55 min

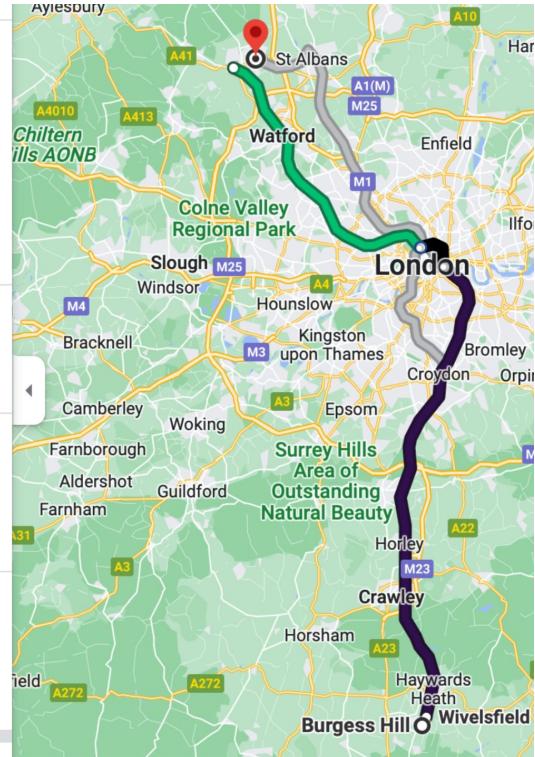
🚂 Southern ➤ 🚂 Victoria ➤ 🚶 ➤ 🚈

West Midlands Trains

⚠ 12:11PM—1:50 PM 1 hr 39 min

🚂 Southern ➤ 🚂 Victoria ➤ 🚶 ➤ 🚈

West Midlands Trains



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Roundabouts



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A final plea

- Keep all your pipelines as YAML versioned in project repos
- Keep your YAML valid with a formatter
- Don't split build and release concerns, unless you must
- Maintain a threat model for your pipelines, nodes and services
- Teach developers about the threats - they have different incentives, but they won't like a breach either



Thank you!