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# Authenticating supply-chain metadata

## *Building remote code attestations on GitHub*

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#ossummit

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# Agenda

- Motivating exploits
- Remote Code Attestations
- GitHub Reusable Workflows
  - Applications
  - Demo!
- GitHub Actions
  - Applications
- Concluding Thoughts

Aug 20, 2019

## BACKDOOR FOUND IN WEBMIN UTILITY

By Dennis Fisher

See more [here](#)

# Supply Chain Compromises: Malicious Dependency



Alex Birsan

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Feb 9, 2021 · 11 min read ★ · [Listen](#)

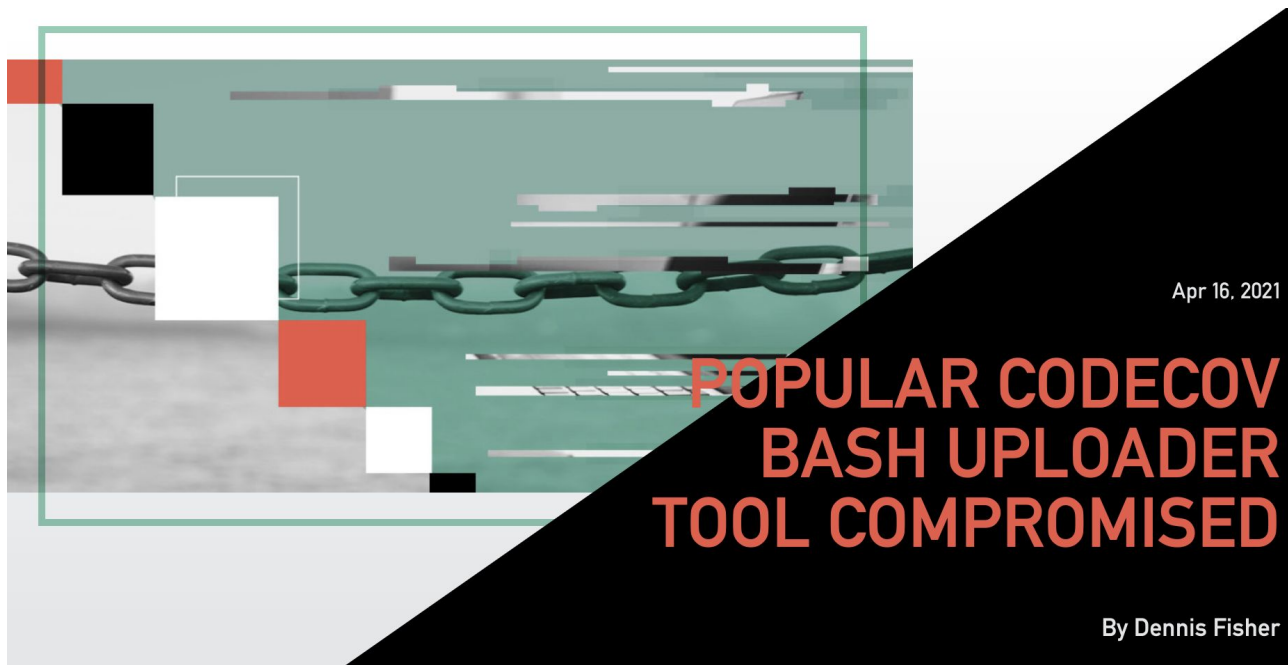


## Dependency Confusion: How I Hacked Into Apple, Microsoft and Dozens of Other Companies

The Story of a Novel Supply Chain Attack

See more [here](#)

# Supply Chain Compromises: Malicious Artifact Upload



See more [here](#)

## PyPI package 'keep' uses malicious 'request'

Some versions of PyPI packages, 'keep,' 'pyanxdns,' and 'api-res-py' were caught using a malicious dependency, 'request,'

### Large-scale npm attack targets Azure developers with malicious packages

The JFrog Security Research team identified hundreds of malicious packages designed to steal PII in a large scale typosquatting attack

By Andrey Polkovnychenko and Shachar Menashe [SH](#) [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)

| March 23, 2022

⌚ 8 min read

AR

E:

*We need **trustworthy**  
**information** on our  
software artifacts to secure  
our pipeline!*

# Remote Code Attestation



**Attestation** is the “*issue of a statement, based on a decision, that fulfillment of specified requirements has been demonstrated.*” [[ISO/IEC 17000](#)]

An **attestation** is the a piece of data representing a **proof** of an event.

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- *Recipe*: What steps? What configuration?

An **attestation** is a piece of data representing a **proof** of an event.

- *Environment*: Where? When?
- *Materials*: What is being used?
- *Recipe*: What steps? What configuration?
- ***Subject*: What is the output? Can it be traceable to the materials with the process in the environment?**

In **software**, we can attest to events like:

- Builds
- Code Scanning
- Code Commits
- Releases
- Vulnerability disclosure

# Code Attestations: How would they have helped?

- ✓ **Trace** artifact/binary to its **source code**
- ✓ Assurance no **backdoors** inserted
- ✓ Identify if the artifact uses any malicious **dependencies**



# Trust

How can one **trust** an attestation?

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- Do I trust the **producer**?
- Do I trust the attestation was not **interfered** with when it was produced?
- Do I trust the attestation was not **altered**?

# GitHub Reusable Workflows

# GitHub Workflows

- The standard way to run CI on GitHub, including releases
- Defined in your repository under `.github/workflows`
- You can run arbitrary commands
- You can define "trigger events": push, pull\_request, etc

[docs.github.com/en/actions/using-workflows](https://docs.github.com/en/actions/using-workflows)

# GitHub Workflow Example

```
name: hello-world
on: push
jobs:
  my-event:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - name: my-step
        run: |
          echo "Hello World!"
```



# GitHub Workflow Trust

```
name: hello-world
on: push
jobs:
  my-event:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - name: my-step
        run: |
          echo "Hello World!"
```



[docs.github.com/en/actions/using-workflows](https://docs.github.com/en/actions/using-workflows)

# A Naive Attempt

```
name: hello-world
```

```
on: push
```

```
jobs:
```

```
  my-event:
```

```
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
```

```
    steps:
```

```
      - name: my-step
```

```
        run: |
```

```
          echo "Hello World!"
```

```
  record-my-event:
```

```
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
```

```
    steps:
```

```
      - name: generate attestation
```

```
        run: |
```

```
        ...
```



[docs.github.com/en/actions/using-workflows](https://docs.github.com/en/actions/using-workflows)

# Problems

## **Interference:**

Can my-job, other workflow steps, or maintainers interact with record-my-job to produce false info?

## **Integrity:**

Can we tamper-proof the attestation?

## **Authenticity:**

Can we prove that the attestation was produced in this workflow?

# Isolation/Interference

[github.com/user/repo](https://github.com/user/repo)

```
name: release CI
```

```
on: push
```

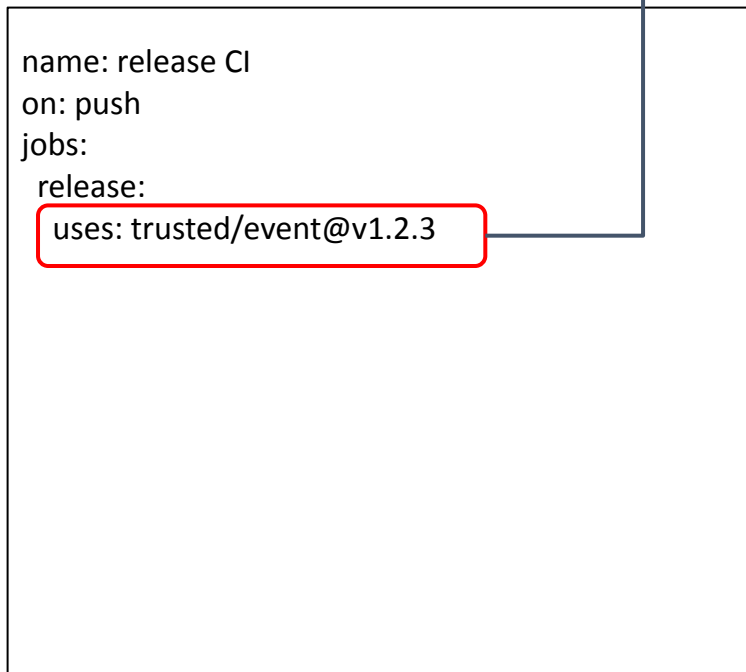
```
jobs:
```

```
  release:
```

```
    uses: trusted/builder@v1.2.3
```

# Isolation/Interference

github.com/user/repo

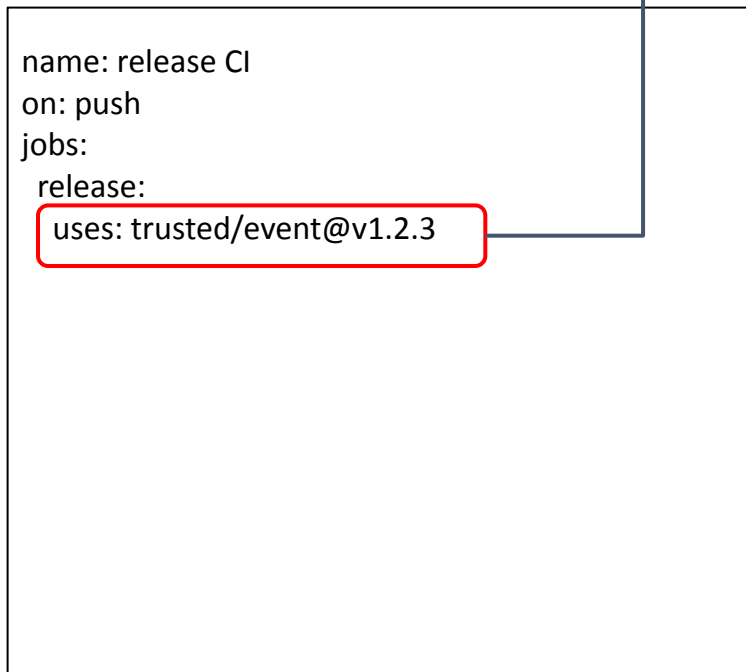


github.com/trusted/event



# Isolation/Interference

github.com/user/repo



github.com/trusted/event



# Problems

## Interference:

Can my-job, other workflow steps, or maintainers interact with record-my-job to produce false info?



[docs.github.com/en/actions/using-workflows](https://docs.github.com/en/actions/using-workflows)

# Key Management: Authenticity & Build Identity

## **Interference:**

Can my-job, other workflow steps, or maintainers interact with record-my-job to produce false info?

## **Integrity:**

Can we tamper-proof the attestation?

## **Authenticity:**

Can we prove that the attestation was produced in this workflow?



# Signatures with Authenticity

- Uses "workload identity" (similar to SPIFFE)
- Using OpenID Connect (OIDC), trusted builder is provisioned with a signing certificate
- Certificate that signs the provenance:
  - X509v3 SubjectAlt:  
**github.com/trusted/builder@v1.2.3**

## Sigstore Keyless on GitHub

```
X509v3 Subject Alternative Name: critical
  URI:https://github.com/slsa-framework/slsa-github-generator/.github/workfl
ows/builder_go_slsa3.yml@refs/tags/v1.1.1
1.3.6.1.4.1.57264.1.1:
  https://token.actions.githubusercontent.com
1.3.6.1.4.1.57264.1.6:
  refs/tags/v1.0.0
1.3.6.1.4.1.57264.1.3:
  ce8ec300588fac82a8dadb90958afa0aaff7a5a1
1.3.6.1.4.1.57264.1.2:
  push
1.3.6.1.4.1.57264.1.5:
  asraa/slsa-example
1.3.6.1.4.1.57264.1.4:
  SLSA go releaser
```

# Putting it together: Attestations on GitHub

github.com/user/repo

```
name: release CI
on: push
jobs:
  release:
```

```
    uses: trusted/event@v1.2.3
```

github.com/trusted/event

```
name: trusted event
jobs:
```

```
  event:
    steps:
      run: |
        # run event
```

```
  attestation:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - name: generate attestation
        run: |
          # Sign with OIDC
```

# A setup for verifiable attestations on GitHub

## **Interference:**

Can my-job, other workflow steps, or maintainers interact with record-my-job to produce false info?



## **Integrity:**

Can we tamper-proof the attestation?



## **Authenticity:**

Can we prove that the attestation was produced in this workflow?



Given an attestation:

1. Verify the signature on the attestation: **integrity**
2. Verify the prover identity: **authenticity & isolation**
3. *Now you have trust; so verify the statement content!*

# Applications

## Artifact/Release Attestation

<https://github.com/slsa-framework/slsa-github-generator>

***Establish a source-to-artifact provenance that allows verifying claims about a binary.***

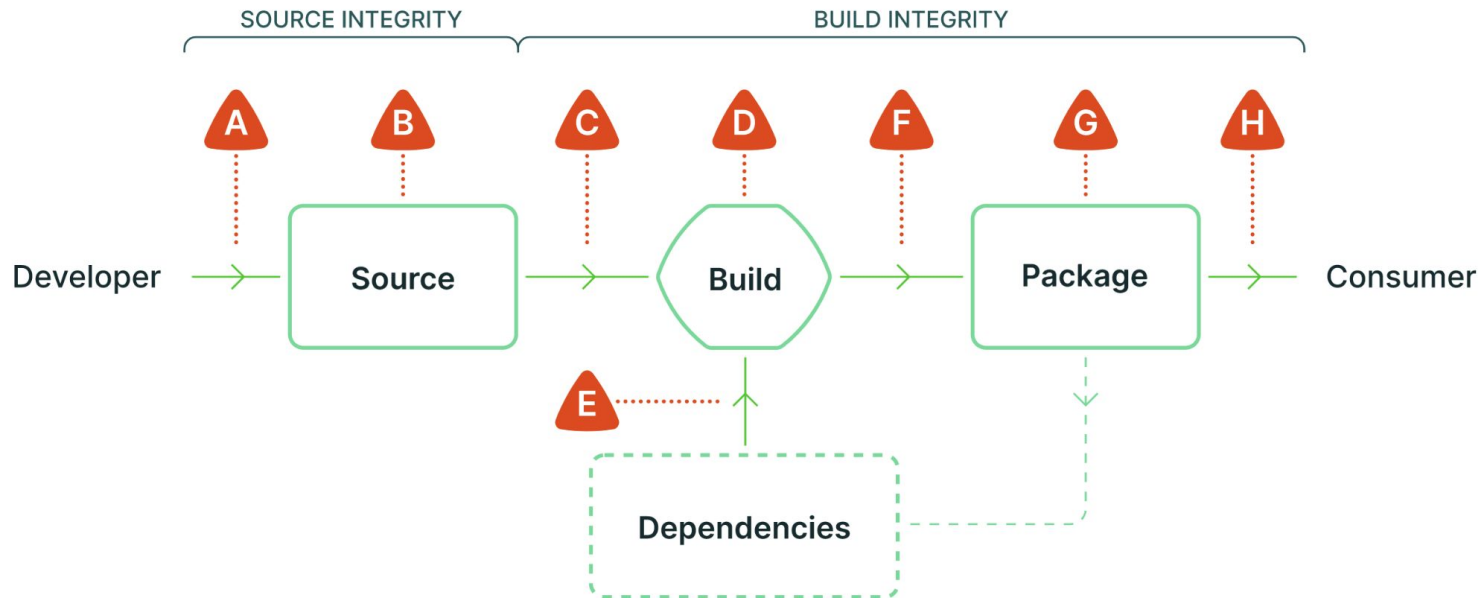
*What were the sources?*

*Where was it built?*

*How was it built?*



# Threats in the software pipeline



**A** Submit unauthorized change

**B** Compromise source repo

**C** Build from modified source

**D** Compromise build process

**E** Use compromised dependency

**F** Upload modified package

**G** Compromise package repo

**H** Use compromised package

## Use case: GitHub Dependency API (GET)

```
{  
  "change_type": "added",  
  "manifest": "package.json",  
  "ecosystem": "npm",  
  "name": "helmet",  
  "version": "4.6.0",  
  "package_url": "pkg:npm/helmet@4.6.0",  
  "source_repository_url": "https://github.com/helmetjs/helmet",  
},
```

## Use case 1: GitHub Dependency API (GET)

```
{  
  "change_type": "added",  
  "manifest": "package.json",  
  "ecosystem": "npm",  
  "name": "helmet",  
  "version": "4.6.0",  
  "package_url": "pkg:npm/helmet@4.6.0",  
  "source_repository_url": "https://github.com/helmetjs/helmet",  
},
```

## Use case 2: Policies

Policy for control plane, e.g. k8's policy engine

- OPA gatekeeper  
<https://github.com/open-policy-agent/gatekeeper>
- Kyverno <https://kyverno.io/>

Build time

- Verification of a container's base image

Installation time

- Library, package (npm, pip, apt-get, etc.)

<https://github.com/slsa-framework/slsa>

## Use case 3: GitHub Dependency API (POST)

- Package managers, *like Gradle and sbt*, dependencies cannot reliably be parsed statically. Dependencies are determined at build time
- POST API - SBOM

<https://github.blog/2022-06-17-creating-comprehensive-dependency-graph-build-time-detection/>

## Use case 4: other metadata

- Coverage results for CodeCov
- Static analyzers

# Release of SLSA3 Go builders

Blog:

<https://slsa.dev/blog/2022/06/slsa-github-workflows>

Code:

<https://github.com/slsa-framework/slsa-github-generator>

(Generic SLSA generator coming in July!)

# Demo!



Try out the SLSA3 builders, let us know on  
Twitter [#ossf](#) [#ossummit](#) [@AsraEntr0py](#) [@lsim99](#)

OpenSSF's [sos.dev](#) rewards developers for  
improving their supply chain

<https://github.com/slsa-framework/slsa-github-generator>

# GitHub Actions Workflows

Can we achieve the same without reusable workflows?

<https://github.com/ossf/scorecard-action>

## Motivating example: crowdsource scorecard results

- GitHub Action
- Weekly scans for > 1M projects

<https://github.com/ossf/scorecard-action>

Overview

Security policy

Security advisories

Dependabot alerts

Code scanning alerts

11

## Code scanning

Latest scan

yesterday

Branch

main

Workflow

Scorecards supply-chain security

Duration

2s

🔍 is:open branch:main

📦 ⚠️ 11 Open ✓ 0 Closed

📦 ⚠️ **Dangerous-Workflow** **Critical**

#3 opened 5 days ago • Detected by Scorecard in .github/workflows/pre-submit.yml:24

📦 ⚠️ **Dangerous-Workflow** **Critical**

#2 opened 5 days ago • Detected by Scorecard in .github/workflows/pre-submit.yml:17

📦 ⚠️ **Branch-Protection** **High**

#1 opened 5 days ago • Detected by Scorecard in no file associated with ...:1

📦 ⚠️ **Code Review** **Critical**

## Attestation:

*How can a GitHub Action user **attest** that their result was produced by the scorecard-action?*

<https://github.com/ossf/scorecard-action>

## Problem: no isolation guarantees for an Action



<https://github.com/ossf/scorecard-action>

# Crowdsourcing Trusted Computations



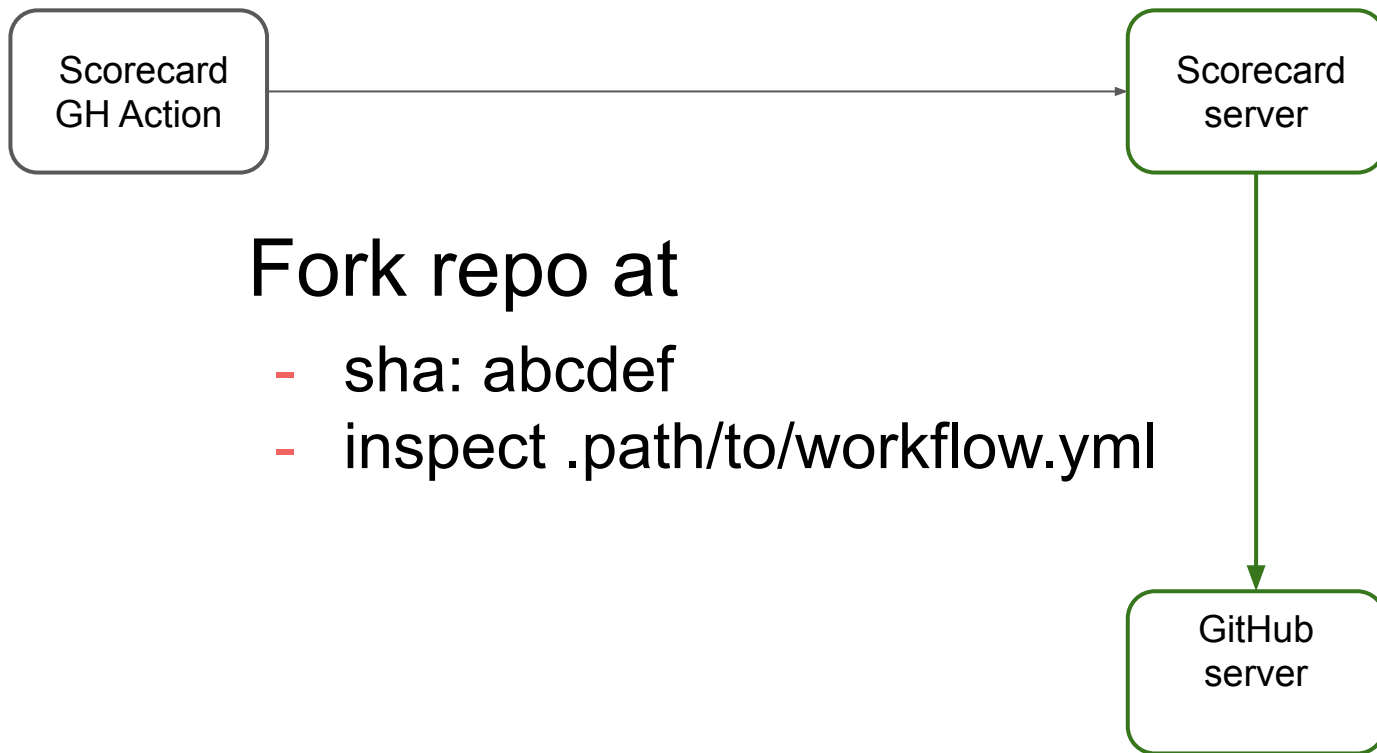
## Signing certificate with OIDC token

- sha: abcdef
- repository\_name
- workflow\_path: .path/to/workflow.yml

<https://github.com/ossf/scorecard-action>



# Crowdsourcing Trusted Computations



<https://github.com/ossf/scorecard-action>

## ***Validation of workflow***

- ✓ No GitHub-hosted runner
- ✓ Correct permissions
- ✓ No additional script, jobs, etc
- ✓ No user-provided containers or services
- ✓ ...

# Conclusion

# Conclusion

- Signing with OIDC gives integrity and authenticity
- Proving isolation with GitHub actions is tricky, but can still be achieved
- *Use GitHub Reusable workflows for isolation for free!*

# Conclusion

- Try out our SLSA building workflows today
- Easter egg: There are easter eggs in the [github.com/asraa/slsa-example](https://github.com/asraa/slsa-example). Try verifying the provenance :)
- Let us know on Twitter [#ossf](#) [#ossumit](#) [@AsraEntr0py](#) [@lsim99](#)

# Thank you!

<https://slsa.dev/>

<https://www.sigstore.dev/>

[Sigstore Slack](#)

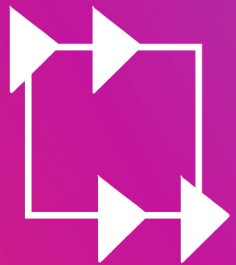
[SLSA Get Involved](#)

[SLSA vs. Software Supply Chain Attacks](#)

[Achieving SLSA 3 Compliance with GitHub Actions and](#)

[Sigstore for Go modules](#)

[Builder v1 release](#)



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## Transparent Release