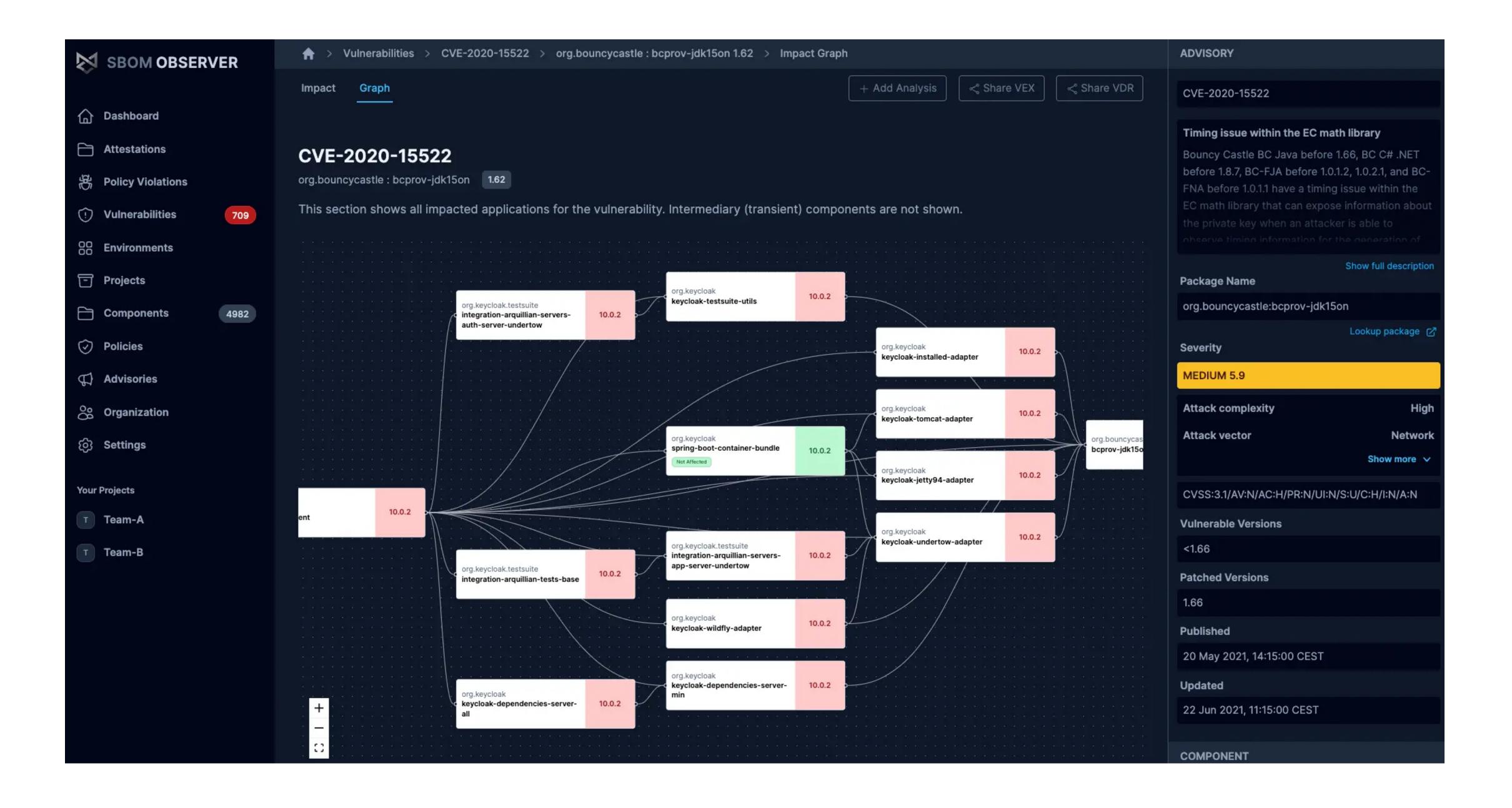
High quality SBOMs for C/C++ and native code



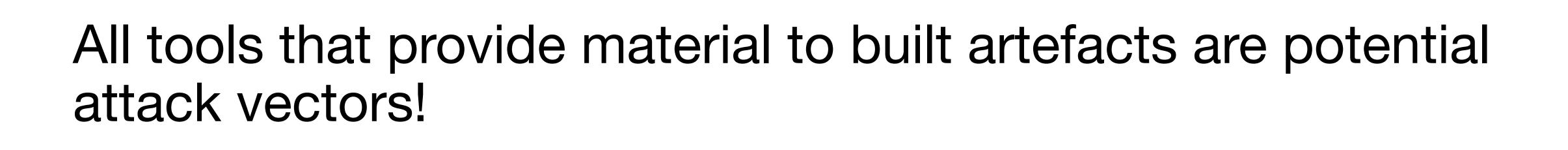


By now, we all know what an SBOM is right?



The Problem

Compiled languages like C/C++ without a standard package manager means that the tactics used to build SBOMs in other ecosystems doesn't really work



The Challenge

- Minimal changes to the existing build system
- Reasonably exact i.e. we include all dependencies*
- Support custom build configurations (i.e. optional modules)
- Document build tools used

Possible solutions

- Manual BOM, maybe with the help of some internal tooling
- Retrofit a dependency manager into the project (vcpkg, conan)
- Instrument the test-suite
- Instrument the compiler and linker

The Plan

- Watch all files the build process opens and executes to complete the build
- Map observed files to dependencies
- Create an SBOM
- Profit(!?)



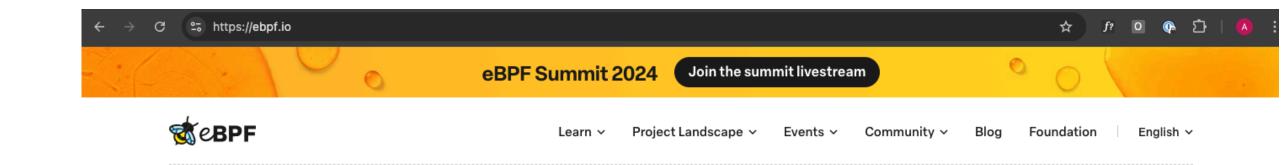
strace is slow

- Instrument process to observe all opened files (syscalls)
- Works, but very slow
- Asterisk build went from 5 min to 40 min

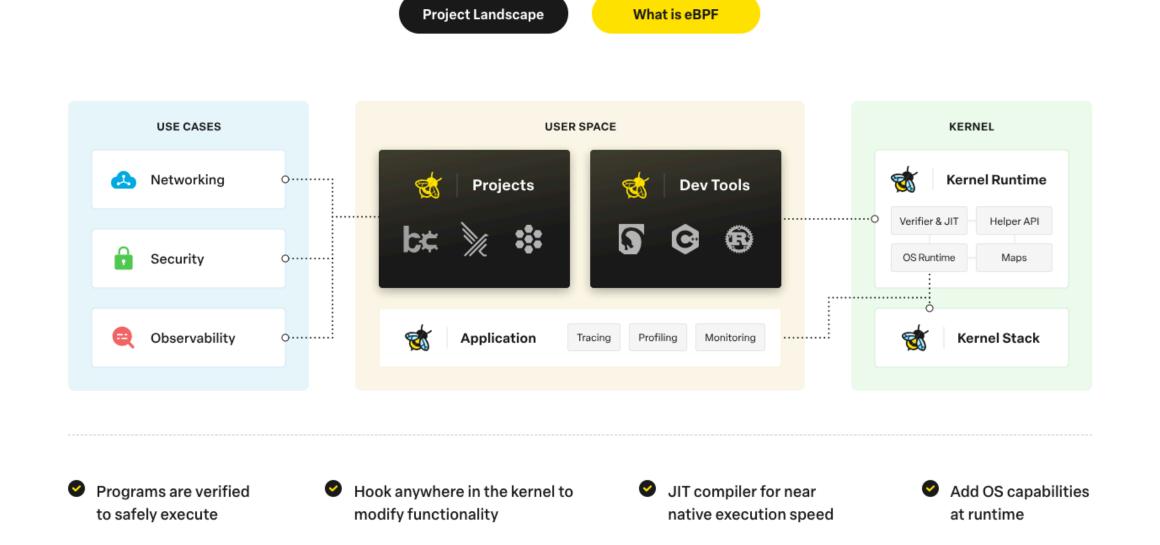
eBPF

"eBPF is a revolutionary technology with origins in the Linux kernel that can run sandboxed programs in a privileged context such as the operating system **kernel**.

It is used to **safely** and **efficiently** extend the capabilities of the kernel without requiring to change kernel source code or load kernel modules."



Dynamically program the kernel for efficient networking, observability, tracing, and security



eBPF is fast

- Instrument kernel to observe all opened and executed files (syscalls)
- 10% build time overhead (~30 sec added for 5 min Asterisk build)

build-observer output

```
start 2024-09-21T16:07:45
exec /usr/bin/sudo
exec /usr/bin/make
open make Makefile
exec /usr/bin/gcc
     /usr/lib/gcc/x86_64-linux-gnu/12/cc1
open cc1 menuselect.c
open cc1/usr/include/stdc-predef.h
open cc1/usr/include/stdlib.h
```

Creating an SBOM

- We now have a logfile of syscalls (opens, and executions)
- Use some heuristics to prune and deduplicate file dependencies
- Lookup which OS package each file belongs to
 - Optionally track transitive dependencies (depending on use case)
- Lookup any Git repo dependencies
- Create a dependency tree
- Output an SBOM

Library Dependency

```
"bom-ref": "pkg:deb/debian/libcodec2-dev@1.0.5-1?arch=amd64&distro=debian-12.5",
"type": "library",
"name": "libcodec2-dev",
"version": "1.0.5-1",
"licenses": [
   "license": {
     "id": "LGPL-2.1"
   "license": {
     "id": "LGPL-2.1-or-later"
   "license": {
     "id": "BSD-3-Clause"
"purl": "pkg:deb/debian/libcodec2-dev@1.0.5-1?arch=amd64&distro=debian-12.5"
```

Compiler Dependency

```
"bom-ref": "pkg:deb/debian/cpp-12@12.2.0-14?arch=amd64&distro=debian-12.5",
"type": "application",
"name": "cpp-12",
"version": "12.2.0-14",
"purl": "pkg:deb/debian/cpp-12@12.2.0-14?arch=amd64&distro=debian-12.5",
"components": [
    "type": "file",
    "name": "/usr/lib/gcc/x86_64-linux-gnu/12/cc1",
    "hashes": [
        "alg": "SHA-256",
        "content": "a9d27bdb13cfcae82035677c84a28ad3b35fd5e6b3f5e19060d3ba1a69f3c3fe"
```

Mixed language applications

- Applications built from a mix of languages, like Javascript, or Python mixed with C/C++
- Make sure to observe the complete build, including installing dependencies
- Force recompilation of dependencies (you should already be doing this)
- Merge SBOM with dependencies for the other ecosystems
- Works surprisingly well!

Current Status

- Proof-of-concept
 - Debian build machines only
 - <u>bpftrace</u> is great for prototyping eBPF
- "Production ready" version later this fall (Open Source)
 - RPM based build machines
 - Support for Git dependencies
 - Support for internal dependencies
 - Log files suitable for archiving together with artefacts

Future work

- Support vendored dependencies
- Support Windows environments
- Generating Runtime SBOMs using eBPF
 - Dynamic/late linking introduces another supply chain
 - Runtimes (nodejs, python, php etc)
- Runtime SBOM conformance/enforcement
- Capture other assertions about build environment
 - Compiler flags
 - Security related build steps (SAST tools etc)

Resources

- Find me
 - andreas@sbom.observer
 - https://www.linkedin.com/in/andreas-bielk/
- Day job
 - https://sbom.observer/
 - Consulting
- Source Code
 - https://github.com/sbom-observer/build-observer
 - https://github.com/sbom-observer/observer-cli





