



# Laravel APP\_KEY

From Public Leak to RCE



Guillaume VALADON - @guedou

# Laravel

a PHP-based **web framework**

use APP\_KEY for encryption/decryption

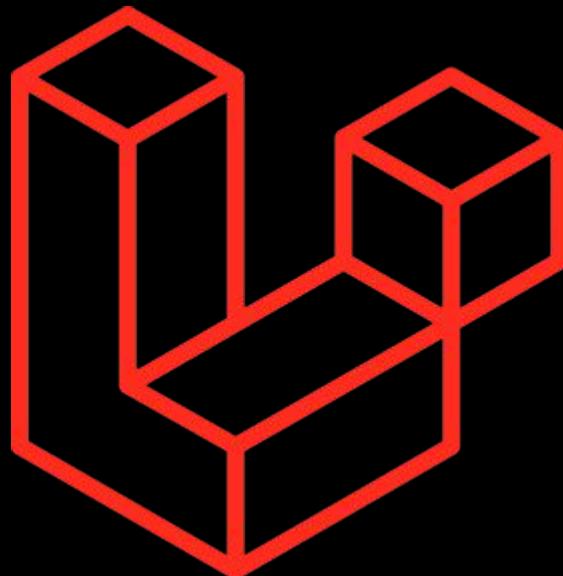
decryption transparently **deserialize objects**

many gadget chains exist 

leak of APP\_KEY **may lead to RCE**

Laravel: CVE-2018-15133

Applications: CVE-2024-5555, CVE-2024-55556...



# Synacktiv Research

**650,000** Laravel public instances  
from Shodan, in summer 2024

**dorks** to retrieve leaked APP\_KEY  
Google, GitHub...

**~400 instances with an immediate RCE** 💥  
~6000 valid APP\_KEY





Hold my beer

# GitGuardian Public Monitoring

GitGuardian monitors GitHub live  
**every public commits** are scanned

**260,000 APP\_KEY leaked on GitHub**  
since 2018

**~600 instances** with an immediate RCE 💥  
interesting improvement!



# APP\_KEY + APP\_URL = <3

APP\_URL defines the **application host**

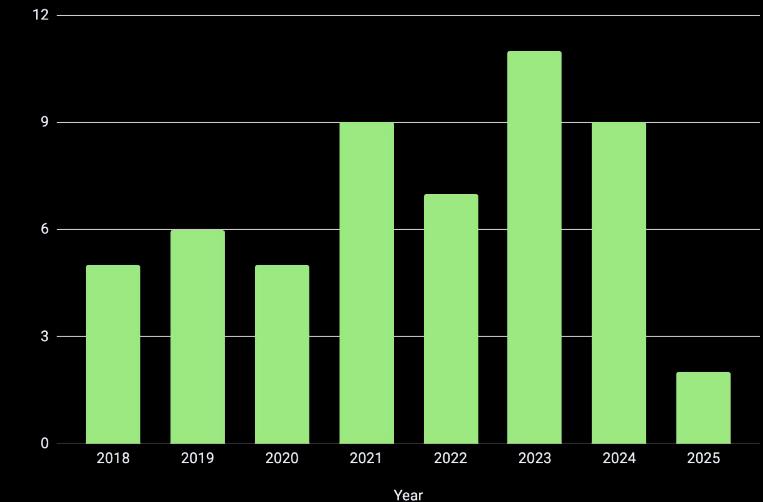
i.e. <https://www.sstic.org>

~28,000 unique APP\_URL / APP\_KEY found on GitHub

10% are valid

~120 instances with an immediate RCE 💥

50 deleted from GitHub



# **Further Information**



<https://github.com/synacktiv/laravel-crypto-killer/>

# Thank you

Question Time 🔥



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GitGuardian