Python Security

Best Practices



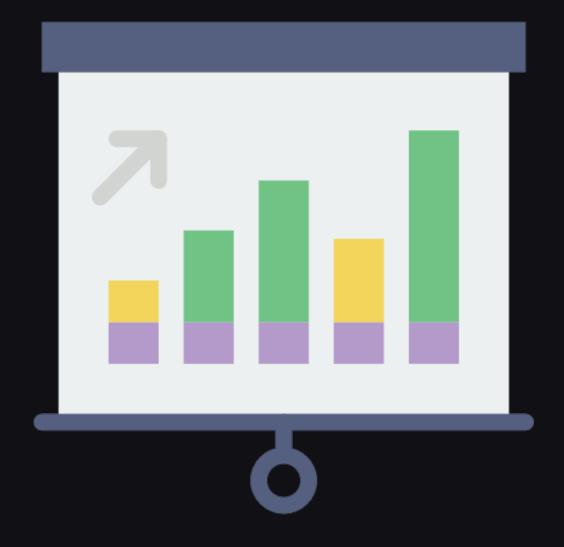


US Data Breaches Statistics

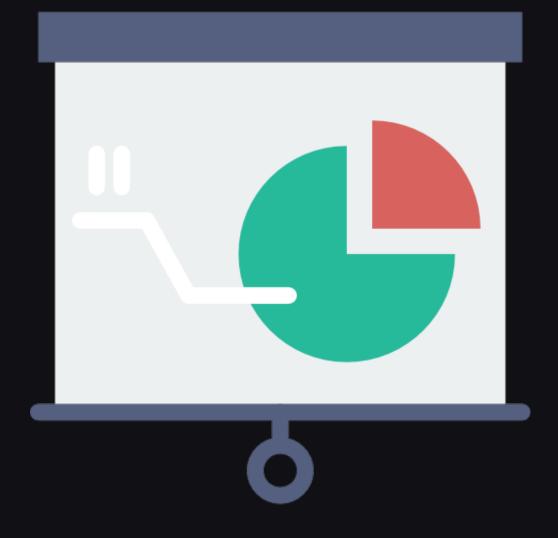
First half of 2019



54% Increase



3,800+ were reported



3.2 billion
Just 8 of those





Had Been Uploaded



38,000 Driver's Licenses



3,200
Passport Details



Had Stolen







145.5 million
Social Security
Numbers



99 million Address



209,000

Payment Card Numbers and Expiration Dates









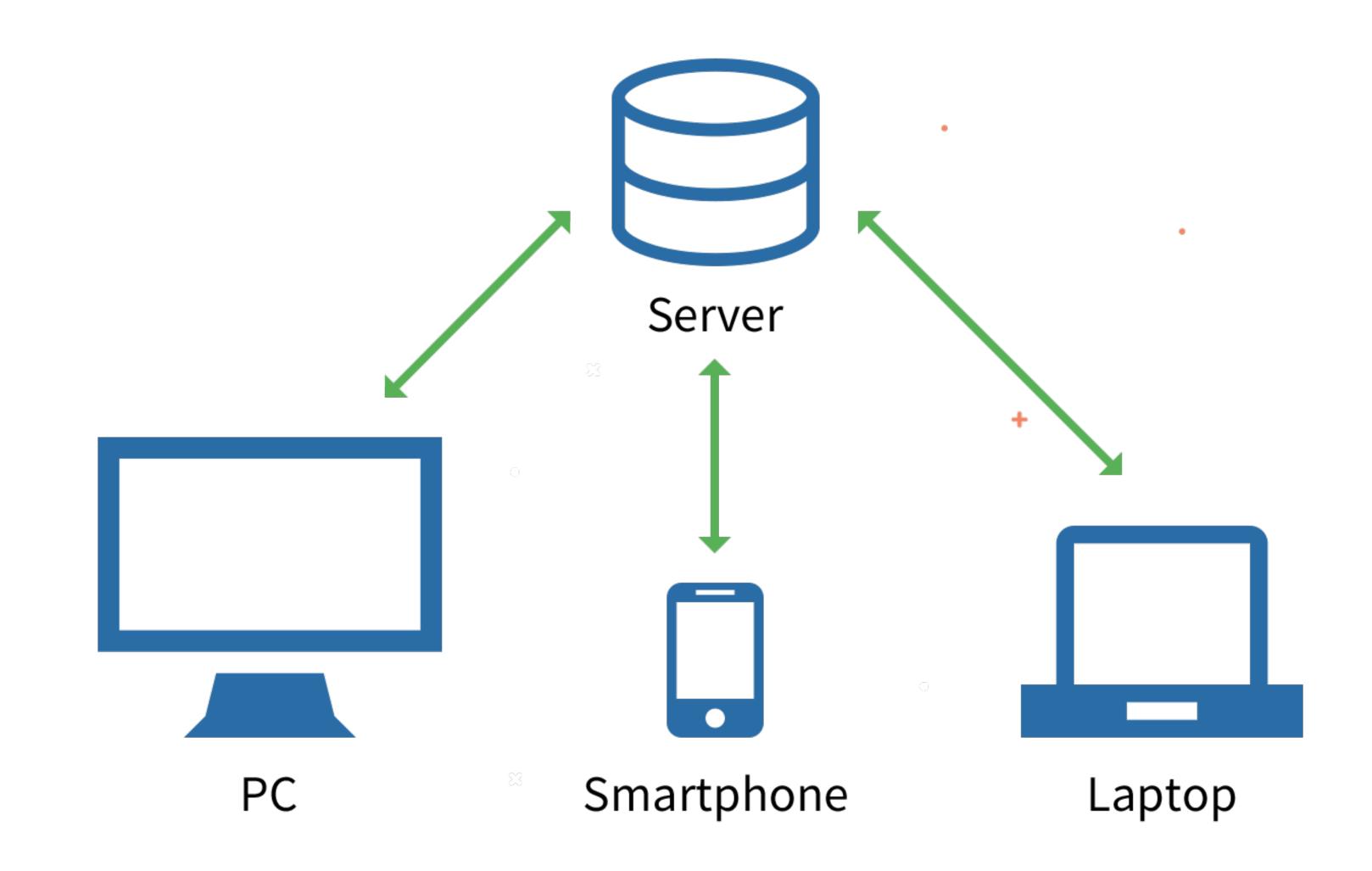
The EU - U.S. Privacy Shield







Security is a Team Effort

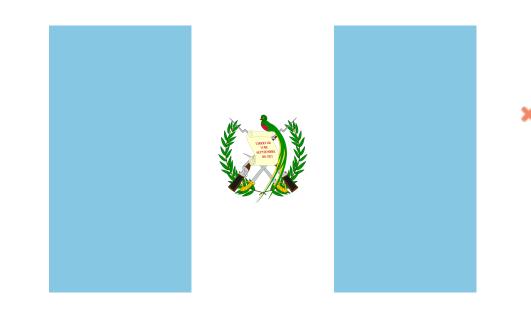


messe from the second

Python Security



Mercedes Wyss @itrjwyss



Community Leader

JDuchess Guatemala & Devs+502

Co-Lead

PyLadies and Women in Data Guatemala City

Mozilla Hispano & Guatemala

Chief Technology Officer (CTO) at Produactivity
Full Stack Developer

(Backend, Android, Frontend)

Auth0 Ambassador & Oracle Groundbreaker Ambassador











Code Best Practices



Use the latest version

• If we don't upgrade, we leave us open to security vulnerabilities.

- Python (for Python 2 support ends on Jan 1, 2020)
- Framework (Django 1.11 supports ends on Apr, 2020).
- Libraries (The last update of pycrypto was on Jan 20, 2014)

Use Python 3

Also the latest version

- Python 2 support ended on January 1, 2020.
- Python 3 was released in 2008.
- Migrate from Python 2 to Python 3 is challenge. Do it as soon as posible.
- Check <u>python.org</u> for most recent release.



Keep up-to-date on vulnerabilities

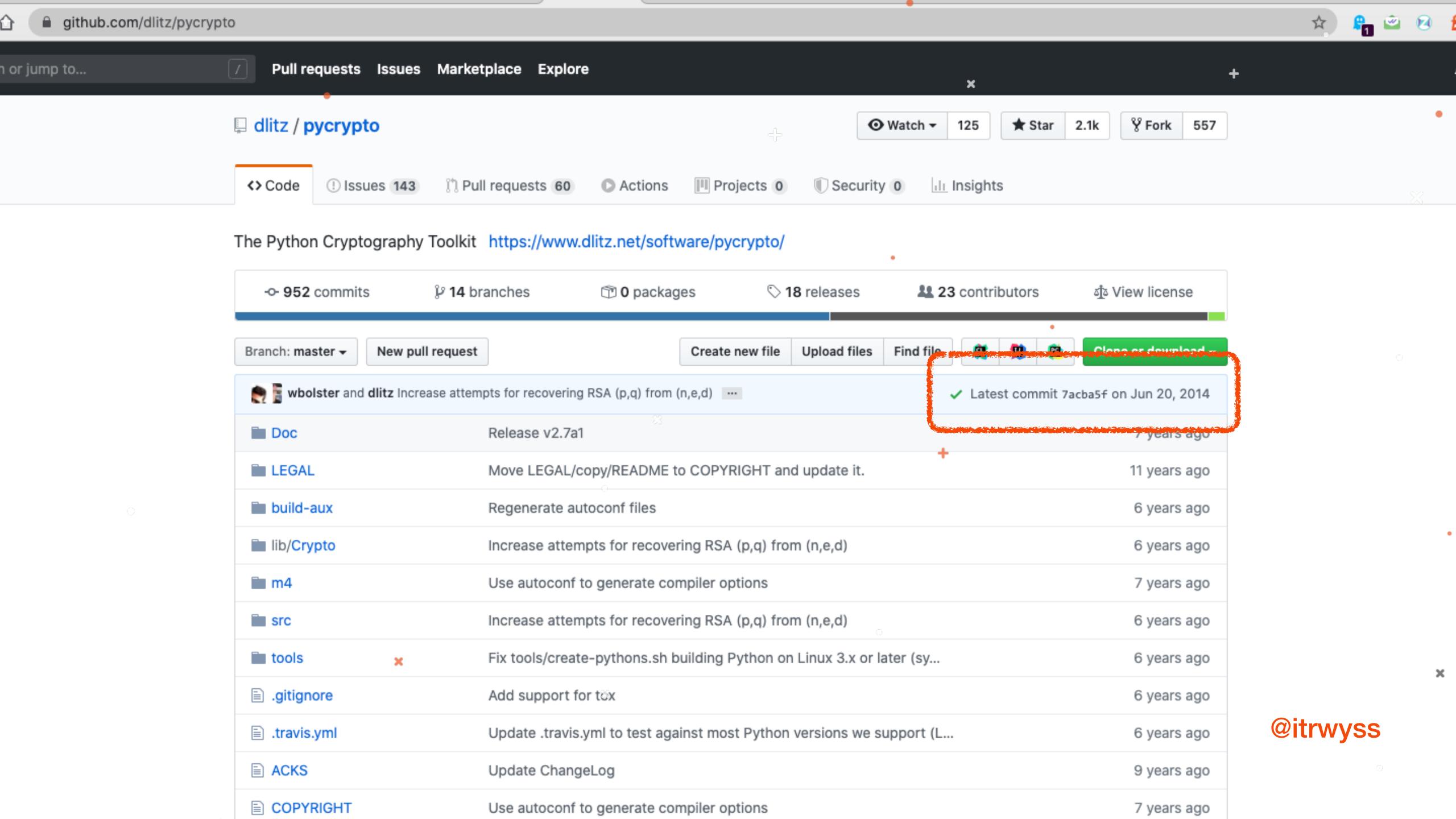
- The soon as we know about a vulnerability, we need to act fast to solve them.
 - Upgrade to a new version.
 - Patching.
 - Change our code.
- https://vuln.whitesourcesoftware.com/, Github Bot, Snyk, Pipenv vulnerability checker.

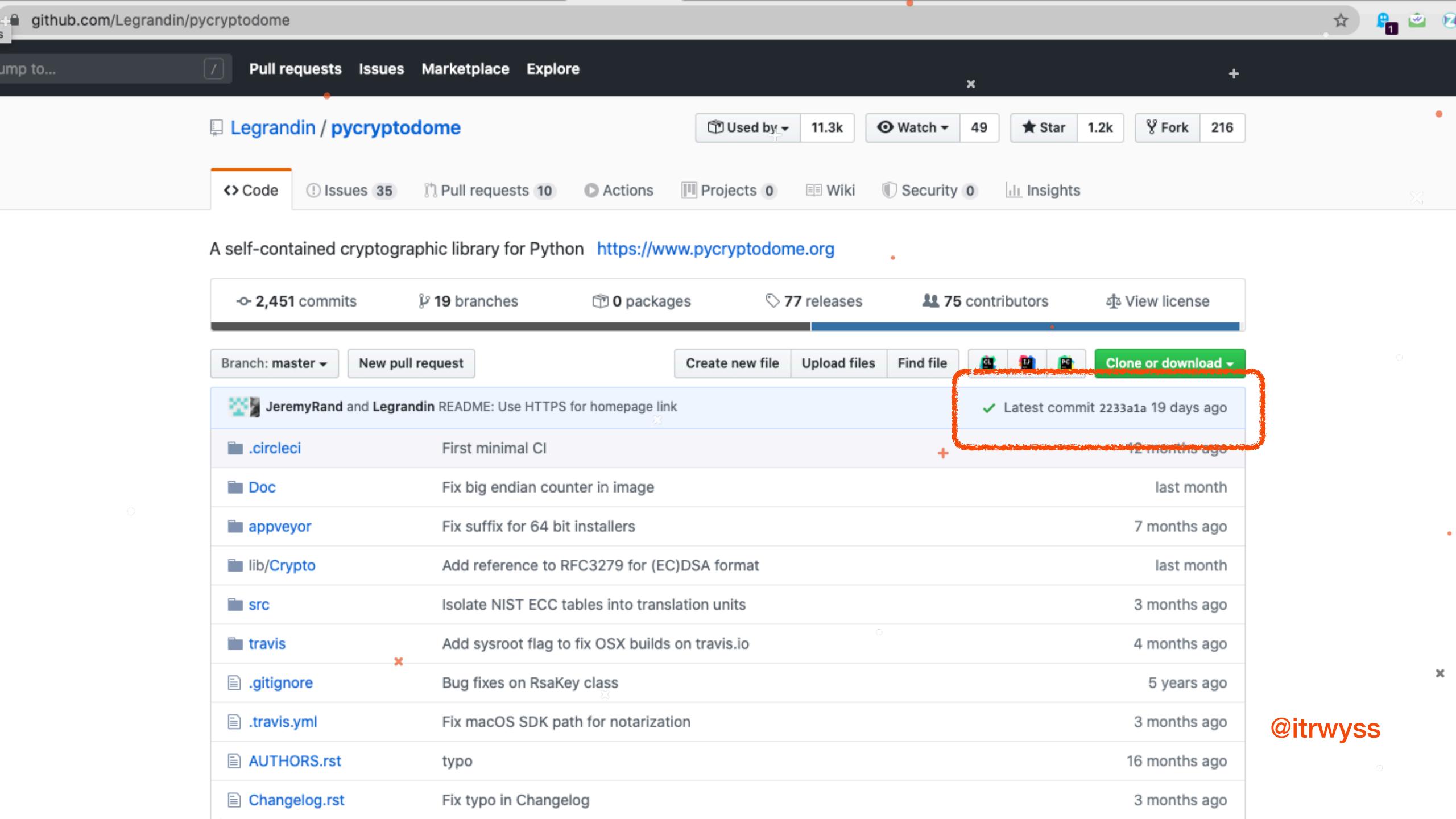


Use up-to-date libraries

- The fact that a library is so popular doesn't mean it is the best option.
- Check the last update.







Be careful when downloading packages

- Instead when PyPI has a procedure for reporting security concerns, not always is up-to-date.
- Double-check that we are using legitimate and updated packages.
- Regardless of whether we use (pip or Pipenv).



Watch your import statements

Python imports are very flexible, but that flexibility may has a security cost.

- Absolute import (entire path) *
- Relative import (explicit or implicit).

Review your dependency licenses

• To ensure that your project is sustainable and to protect yourself, know what licenses your dependencies use and comply with the terms.

Never include password in commit Any kind of credential

- For example, use Git-Secrets or something similar.
- Encrypt sensitive information.
- May 2019, for example, a hacker stole hundreds of passwords saved in plain text in GitHub repositories and demanded a ransom of 0.1 Bitcoin each.



Be careful with String formatting

When we have user input.

```
from string import Template
greeting_template = Template("Hello World, my name is $name.")
greeting = greeting_template.substitute(name="Hayley")
```

"Hello World, my name is Hayley."

@itrwyss

Protect against SQL injections

- SQL injection is one of the OWASP Top Ten reasons of hacks.
- SQL injections can also drop sensitive data from insecure tables.
- Tip, make queries with object-relational mapping (ORM).



Handle request safely

- HTTP request are typically handled in Python through the <u>request</u> library.
- We can bypass the SSL certificate verification (only do it on dev), when you trust in the source.

```
requests.get("https://python.org", verify=False)
```



Deserialize selectively

- Don't deserialize data from an untrusted source, can result in malicious code.
 Like using pickle module, part of the standard library.
- There is no way to know whether the object structure that you are "unpickling" is malicious until it is too late.
- This behavior was recently found in NumPy–a popular package for scientific computing.



Set debug = false

- Some Python frameworks (like Django), debug is set to tru by default in new projects.
- Debug can be helpful in development to show errors in our code, but isn't a good practice in production.



Security Tools

- Ideally the developer's local environment should be identical to the production environment.
- We can use pip freeze, use a requirements.txt to set up production. This is easy, but not a security conscious option.
- Pinning dependencies, freeze a project to a moment in time.
- Instead of installing packages globally, we use a virtual environment for each project.



Use Virtualenv

- Supports an isolated Python environment by creating a separate folder for packages used in the specific project.
- Each project's packages are isolated from each other.



Use Pipenv

- Tool that manages the competing interests o having a predictable environment and has an up-to-date environment.
- Use two-file system that separates abstract dependency declarations.
- Manages your installations on a virtual environment, displays a dependency tree, and check dependencies for known vulnerabilities.



Use Poetry

- It helps you declare, manage and install dependencies of Python projects, ensuring you have the right stack everywhere.
- It allows projects to have deterministic dependencies with specific package versions, so they build consistently in different places.



Scan Your Code with Bandit

- Bandit scans each .py file and builds a corresponding abstract syntax tree (AST).
- For example, can detect if we are using a framework with debug setting true.
- We can use it locally or as part of a CI/CD pipeline.
- Test plugins, Blacklist plugins, Report formatters.



```
patch() function to monkey-patch xmlrpclib and mitigate XML vulnerabilities.
  Severity: High Confidence: High
  Location: ./xml_xmlrpc.py:1
       import xmlrpclib
       from SimpleXMLRPCServer import SimpleXMLRPCServer
>> Issue: [B506:yaml_load] Use of unsafe yaml load. Allows instantiation of arbitrary objects. Consider yaml.safe_load().
  Severity: Medium Confidence: High
  Location: ./yaml_load.py:6
           ystr = yaml.dump({'a' : 1, 'b' : 2, 'c' : 3})
           y = yaml.load(ystr)
           yaml.dump(y)
Code scanned:
       Total lines of code: 811
       Total lines skipped (#nosec): 14
Run metrics:
       Total issues (by severity):
               Undefined: 0
                Low: 134
               Medium: 119
               High: 64
                                                                                                          @itrwyss
       Total issues (by confidence):
               Undefined: 0
                Low: 8
```

Use Pyntch

- Is a static code analysis, can identify potential runtime errors before actually running a code.
- Pyntch gathers the following information:
 - Possible types of objects
 - Functions or instances methods
 - Calling locations
 - Uncaught exceptions



Use Sqreen

- Checks our application for packages with malicious code.
- Checks for legitimate packages with known problems or outdated versions.

https://github.com/itrjwyss/PythonSecurity/

https://www.facebook.com/itrjwyss

@itrjwyss

