

DevSecCon 2020

# Hardening your soft software supply chain

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Security  
**GitHub**

# Agenda

## What's a software supply chain

## Supply chain compromises

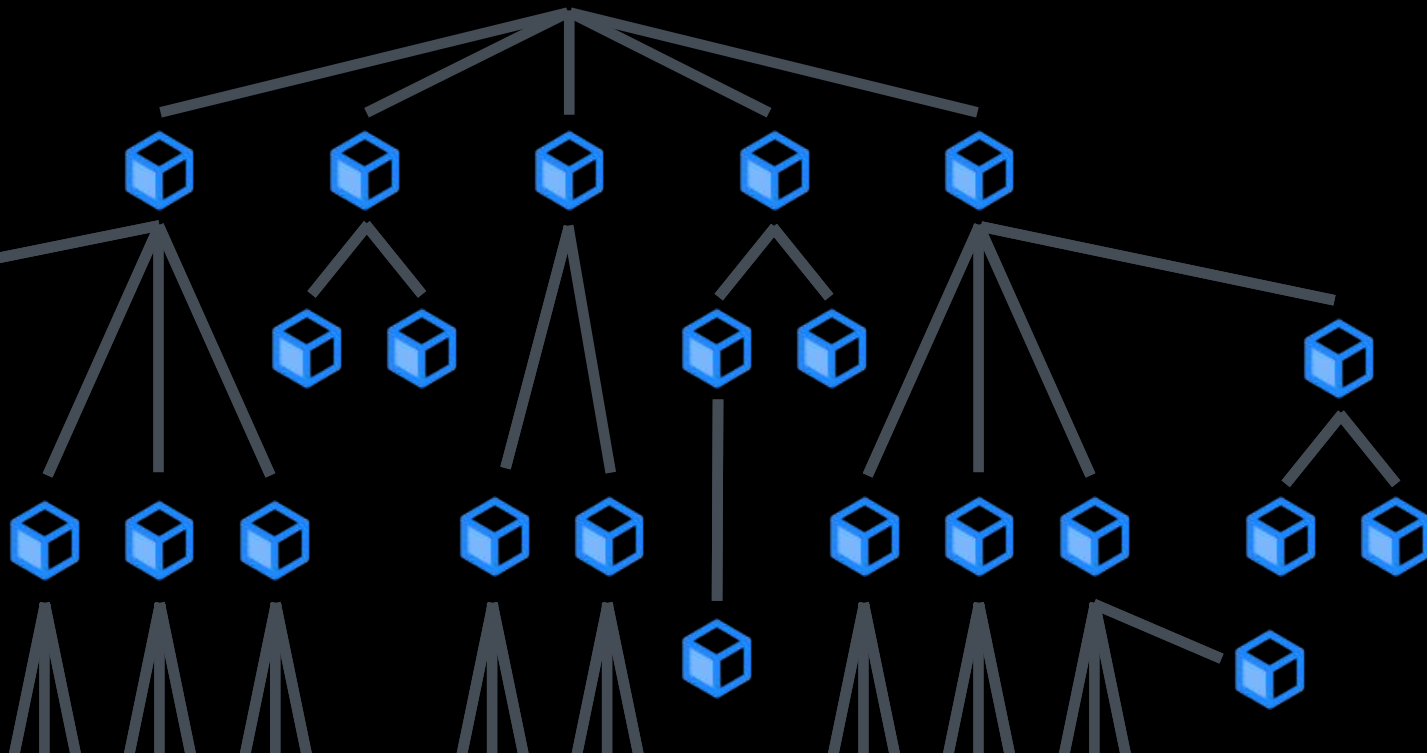
- Kinds of attacks
- Real world examples 🤖

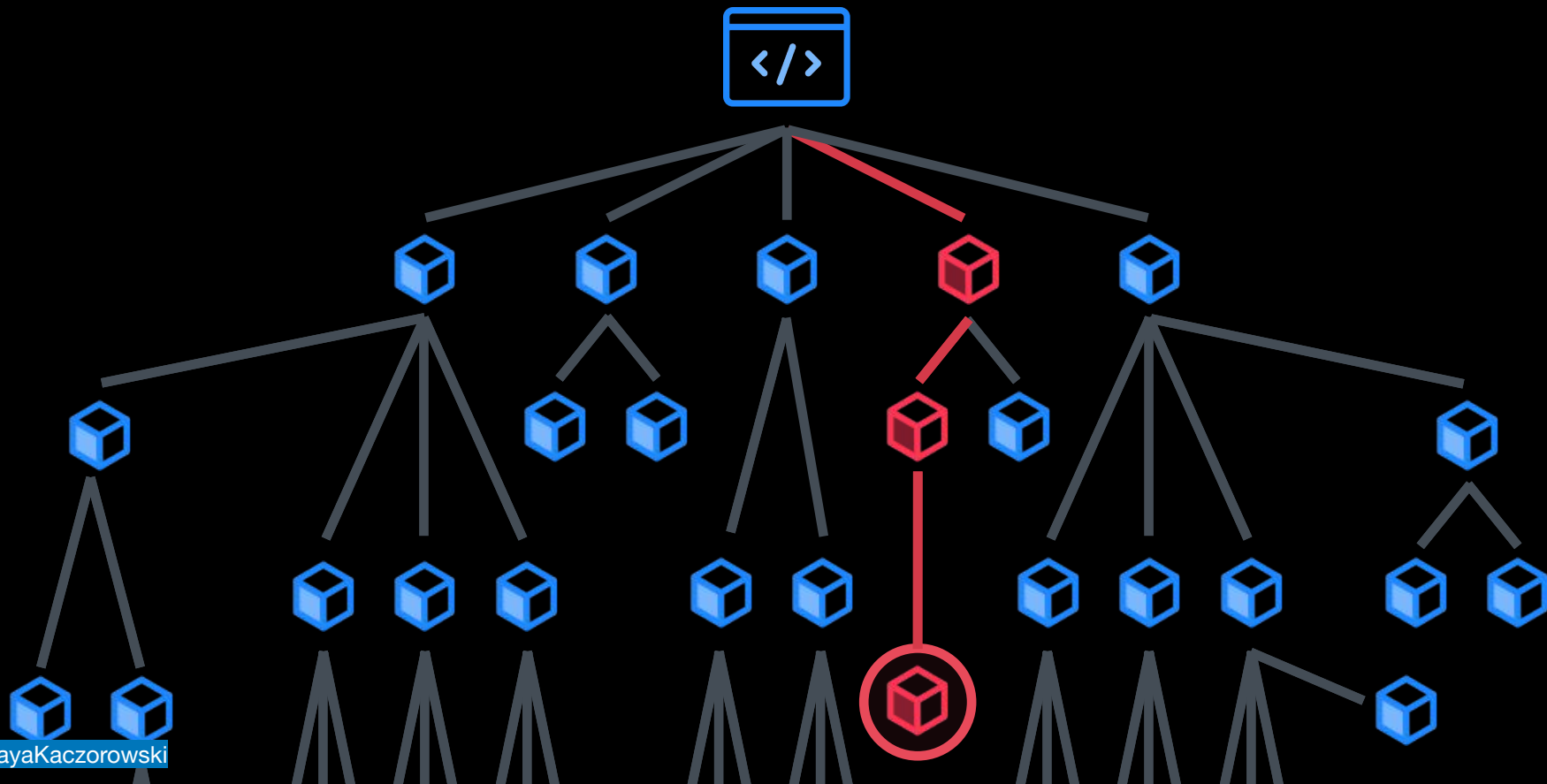
## What can you do?

- Developers
- Maintainers
- Security researchers

# 1 What's a software supply chain?

**A software supply chain is  
anything that touches your code  
- from development, through your  
CI/CD pipeline, until it gets deployed  
into production.**





**Every time you `pip install`, go  
`get`, or `mvn fetch` something, you're  
doing the equivalent of plugging a  
thumb drive you found on the  
sidewalk into your production server.**

*- Dan Lorenc*





**The issue is  
unpatched software**

# To better patch software...

Know what dependencies you use

Know about vulnerabilities in those dependencies

Patch them

... Get back to work!

**52%** of developers find it  
**“painful”** to update  
**vulnerable component  
releases**

# 2 Supply chain compromises

# Supply chain attacks

## Method

- Malicious code, e.g., backdoor, malware, known vulnerability
- Compromised build tool
- Compromised signing keys
- Compromised package manager
- Compromised vulnerability reporting
- Account takeover
- Project takeover
- Accidental, e.g., typosquatting
- Deletion

## Goal

- Backdoor, e.g., targeted, watering hole
- Malware, e.g., cryptocurrency mining
- Service disruption, e.g., deletion

# event-stream

Widely used npm library  
CVE-2018-1000851

## Method: Project takeover

“he emailed me and said he wanted to maintain the module, so I gave it to him. I don't get any thing from maintaining this module, and I don't even use it anymore, and haven't for years.”

## Goal: Backdoor

Highly targeted to Copay developers, to distribute malware to capture credentials for Dash Copay bitcoin wallets

- `right9ctrl` volunteered to take over the package on GitHub, then added `flatmap-stream` as a dependency
- Another user `hugeglass` added malware to steal credentials to bitcoin wallets to `flatmap-stream`
- Profit

<https://blog.npmjs.org/post/180565383195/details-about-the-event-stream-incident>

# eslint

## npm package for Javascript static code analyzer

**Method:** Account takeover

Credential stuffing

**Goal:** Backdoor

To get `.npmrc` npm publishing creds!

- Attacker generated new auth tokens and published two malicious packages
- Second package discovered within an hour; altogether published for <4 hrs
- npm revoked ALL access tokens before the incident
- “A very small number” of packages and users affected

<https://eslint.org/blog/2018/07/postmortem-for-malicious-package-publishes>  
<https://gist.github.com/hzoo/51cb84afdc50b14bffa6c6dc49826b3e>  
<https://status.npmjs.org/incidents/dn7c1fgrr7ng>

# Webmin

Web app with 1M+ installs  
CVE-2019-15107

**Method:** Compromised build tool

“malicious code inserted into Webmin and Usermin at some point on our build infrastructure”

**Goal:** Backdoor

Unauthenticated RCE

- Backdoor for unauthenticated RCE disclosed as a 0day at Defcon 27
- Unauthenticated requests, or where password expiry policy allowed users with expired passwords to reset them
- Backdoored packages on SourceForge only
- Distributed for more than a year

<https://www.virtualmin.com/node/66890>

<https://www.pentest.com.tr/exploits/DEFCON-Webmin-1920-Unauthenticated-Remote-Command-Execution.html>

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/backdoor-found-in-webmin-a-popular-web-based-utility-for-managing-unix-servers/>



# docker123321

## 17 Docker Hub images

### Method: Accidental

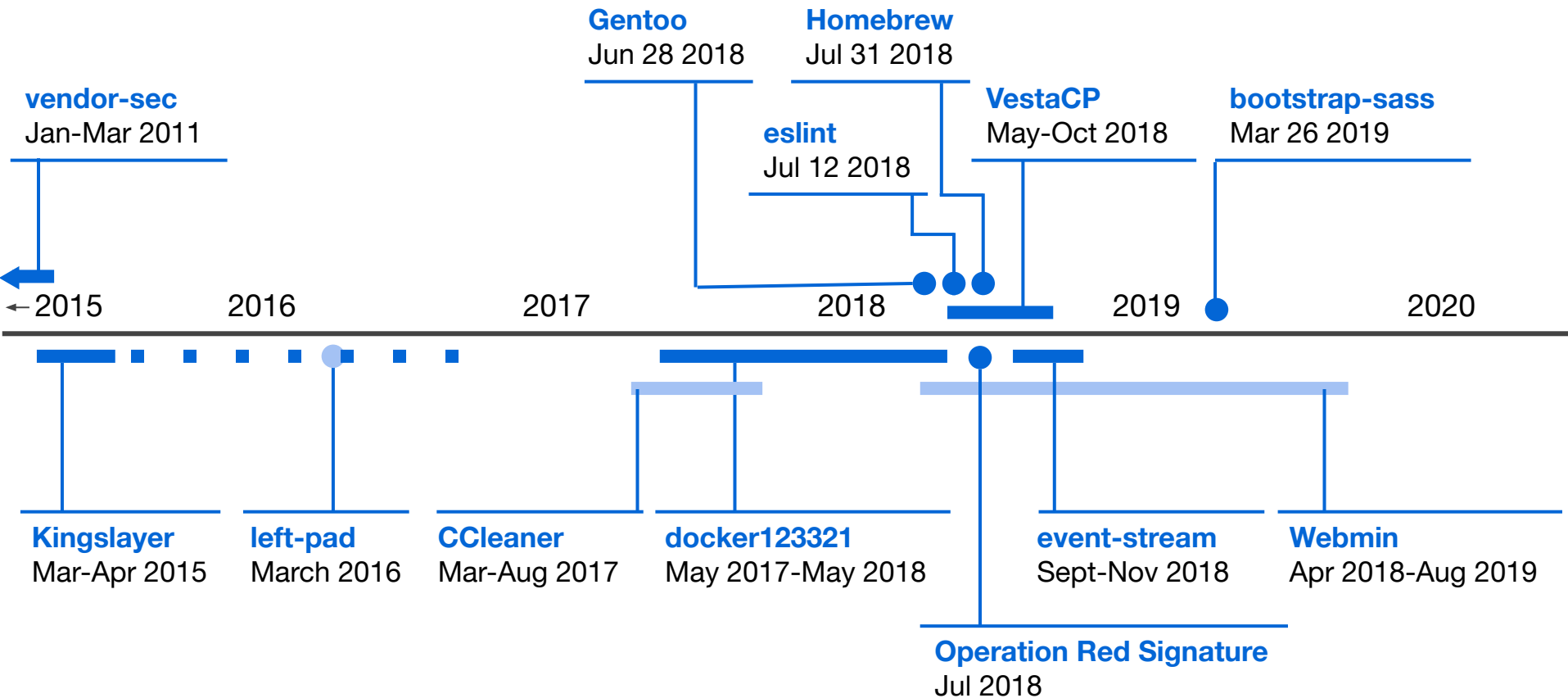
Easy to type registry name

### Goal: Malware

Mining ~\$90k of Monero

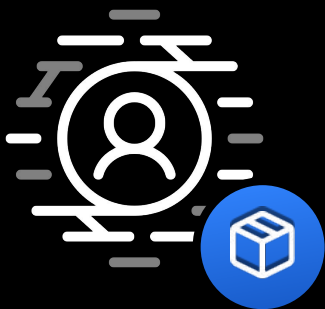
- 17 images in `docker123321` registry
- Contained malware since at least July 2017
- Suspected malware, positively identified as part of a cryptomining botnet
- Removed by Docker Hub in May 2018

<https://kromtech.com/blog/security-center/cryptojacking-in-vades-cloud-how-modern-containerization-trend-is-exploited-by-attackers>

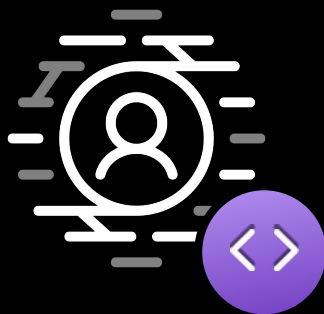


# Timeline of select (known) Software Supply Chain attacks

# 3 What can you do?



**Developers**



**Maintainers**



**Security  
Researchers**

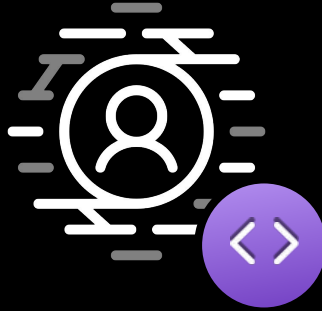


## Developers

Know what's in your  
environment

Manage your  
dependencies

Monitor your supply chain



## Maintainers

Fix and publish  
vulnerability information



## Security Researchers

Discover and report  
vulnerabilities

# How to patch vulnerable dependencies

## Know

what's in your environment

- **Discover your dependencies**, including transitive and checked in dependencies
- **Understand your risks**, such as vulnerabilities and licensing restrictions

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## Manage

your dependencies

- **Determine if you are impacted** by a new security issue
- **Update** for the latest functionality and security patches
- **Review changes** to understand and approve new dependencies you're introducing
- **Remove unnecessary dependencies**, to reduce surface of attack

# 40 days

Mean time to remediate (MTTR)  
for repos with Dependabot security updates

# 180+ days

Mean time to remediate (MTTR)  
Industry norm



# How to patch vulnerable dependencies

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## Monitor

your supply chain

- **Audit** your current environment for potential risks
- **Enforce policies** to prevent new issues from being introduced



## **Know** your environment

### Dependency Graph

Understand your project's dependencies

## **Manage** your dependencies

### Dependabot alerts

Be notified of a vulnerability in a dependency

### Dependabot security updates

Review a PR to update to the minimum fixed version

### Dependabot version updates

Review a PR to update to the latest stable dependency version

# How to address a vulnerability

## Fix and publish vulnerability information

- **Respond** to a report of a security issue in your project
- **Develop the fix**, addressing the vulnerability, ideally before it's public
- **Release the fix** and backport to any supported versions
- **Notify your users** that a patch addresses a security vulnerability





## **Fix and publish** vulnerability information

### **Security Advisories**

Fix and publish a notice about a vulnerability

### **GitHub Advisory Database**

Refer to a curated, open-source database of vulnerabilities

### **SECURITY.md**

Share your reporting and disclosure policy

# How to report a vulnerability

## Discover and report vulnerabilities

- **Report it** to the maintainer 😊





## Discover and report vulnerabilities

### CodeQL

Query code as data to find multiple instance of a vulnerability

### SECURITY.md

Share your reporting and disclosure policy

# Hardening your software supply chain



## Developers

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### **Know** what's in your environment

- Discover your dependencies
- Understand your risks

### **Manage** your dependencies

- Determine if you are impacted
- Update
- Review changes
- Remove unnecessary dependencies

### **Monitor** your supply chain

- Audit
- Enforce policies



## Maintainers

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### **Fix and publish** vulnerability information

- Respond
- Develop the fix
- Release the fix
- Notify your users



## Security Researchers

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### **Discover and report** vulnerabilities

- Please report 😊



# Learn more

**Supply chain compromises:**

<https://github.com/cncf/sig-security/tree/master/supply-chain-security/compromises>

**Getting serious about open source security:**

<https://medium.com/better-programming/getting-serious-about-open-source-security-1d15609478fa>

**Enable GitHub security features:**

<https://github.co/dependency-graph>

<https://github.co/security-alerts>

<https://github.co/security-updates>

