

VERACODE

Reviewing NuGet Packages security easily using OpenSSF Scorecard

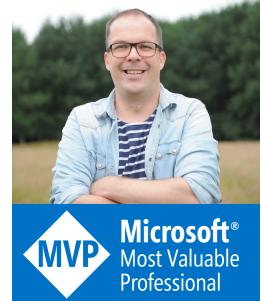
Niels Tanis
Sr. Principal Security Researcher

 **Update Conference
Prague 2024**

Who am I?

- Niels Tanis
- Sr. Principal Security Researcher
 - Background .NET Development, Pentesting/ethical hacking, and software security consultancy
 - Research on static analysis for .NET apps
 - Enjoying Rust!
- Microsoft MVP – Developer Technologies

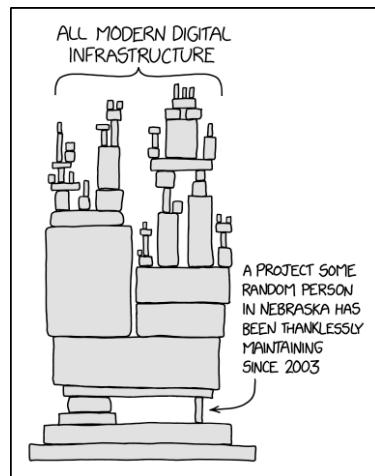
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Modern Application Architecture XKCD 2347

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<https://xkcd.com/2347/>

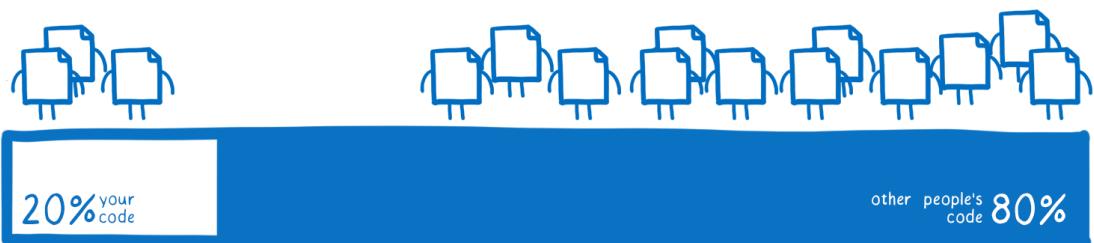
Agenda

- Risks in 3rd party NuGet Packages
- OpenSFF Scorecard
- Measure, New & Improved
- Conclusion - Q&A



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Average codebase composition

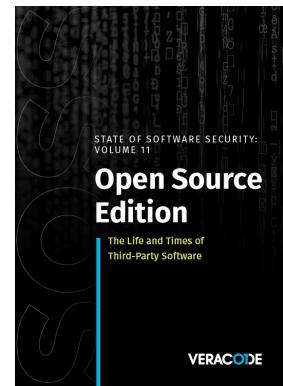


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<https://hacks.mozilla.org/2019/11/announcing-the-bytecode-alliance/>

State of Software Security v11

"Despite this dynamic landscape, 79 percent of the time, developers never update third-party libraries after including them in a codebase."



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State of Log4j - 2 years later

- Analysed our data August-November 2023
 - Total set of almost 39K unique applications scanned
- 2.8% run version vulnerable to Log4Shell
- 3.8% run version patched but vulnerable to other CVE
- 32% rely on a version that's end-of-life and have no support for any patches.



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<https://www.veracode.com/blog/research/state-log4j-vulnerabilities-how-much-did-log4shell-change>

Average codebase composition

 update

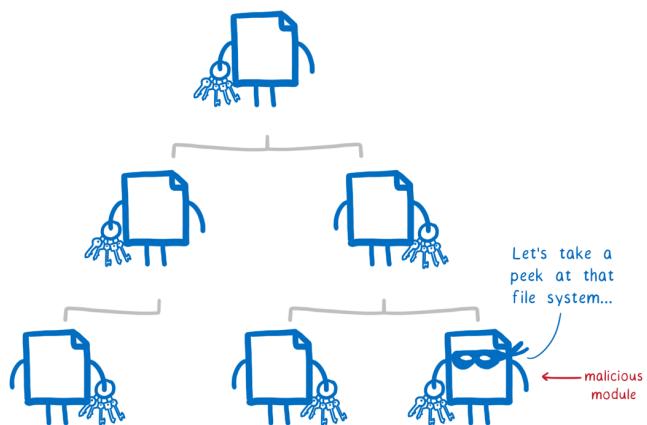
Here are the keys
to the castle.
Make copies and
pass them down to
your dependencies.
← your code

dependencies
(maybe your code,
maybe someone else's)

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<https://hacks.mozilla.org/2019/11/announcing-the-bytecode-alliance/>

Malicious Assembly



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<https://hacks.mozilla.org/2019/11/announcing-the-bytecode-alliance/>

Malicious Package

The screenshot shows a news article titled "Hackers target .NET developers with malicious NuGet packages" by Sergiu Gatlan. The article discusses threat actors targeting .NET developers with cryptocurrency stealers delivered through the NuGet repository and impersonating multiple legitimate packages via typosquatting. It mentions that over 150,000 packages have been downloaded within a month. Researchers Natan Nehorai and Brian Moussalli spotted the ongoing campaign. The article notes that while the massive number of downloads could point to a large number of .NET developers, it could also be explained by attackers' efforts to legitimize their malicious NuGet packages. Quoted researchers say the attack was highly successful. The threat actors used typosquatting when creating their NuGet repository profiles to impersonate legitimate ones.

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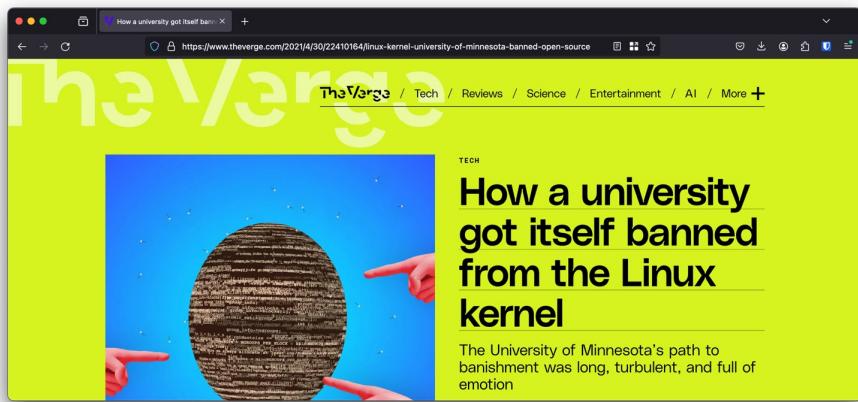
[https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/hackers-target-net-developers-with-malicious-nuget-packages//](https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/hackers-target-net-developers-with-malicious-nuget-packages/)

Malicious Package

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying a blog post from ReversingLabs. The title of the post is "Malicious NuGet campaign uses homoglyphs and IL weaving to fool devs". The post discusses how malware authors used homoglyphs and IL weaving to inject malicious code. The sidebar on the right lists various topics such as Threat Research, All Blog Posts, AppSec & Supply Chain Security, Dev & DevSecOps, Threat Research, Security Operations, Products & Technology, and Company & Events. The URL of the post is <https://www.reversinglabs.com/blog/malicious-nuget-campaign-uses-homoglyphs-and-il-weaving-to-fool-devs>.

<https://www.reversinglabs.com/blog/malicious-nuget-campaign-uses-homoglyphs-and-il-weaving-to-fool-devs>

Hypocrite Commits



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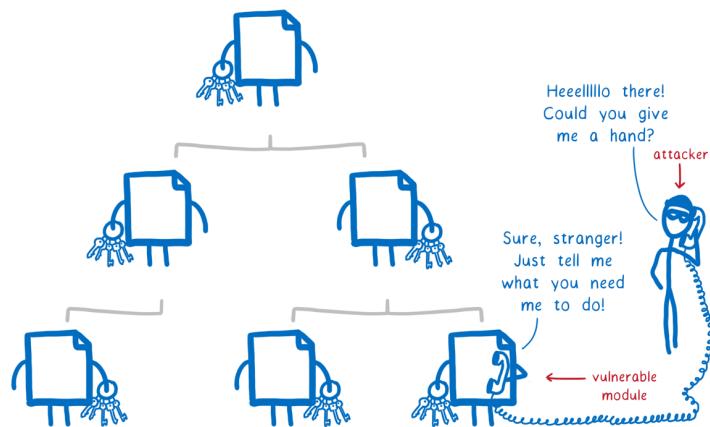
<https://www.theverge.com/2021/4/30/22410164/linux-kernel-university-of-minnesota-banned-open-source>

XZ Backdoor

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying an Ars Technica article. The title of the article is "Backdoor found in widely used Linux utility targets encrypted SSH connections". The article is categorized under "SUPPLY CHAIN ATTACK". A sub-headline states: "Malicious code planted in xz Utils has been circulating for more than a month." The author is listed as "DAN GOODIN - 3/29/2024, 7:50 PM". The Ars Technica logo is visible at the top left, and there are "SUBSCRIBE", "SIGN IN", and search icons at the top right. The background of the page features a dark blue gradient with abstract blue wave patterns.

<https://arstechnica.com/security/2024/03/backdoor-found-in-widely-used-linux-utility-breaks-encrypted-ssh-connections/>

Vulnerable Assembly

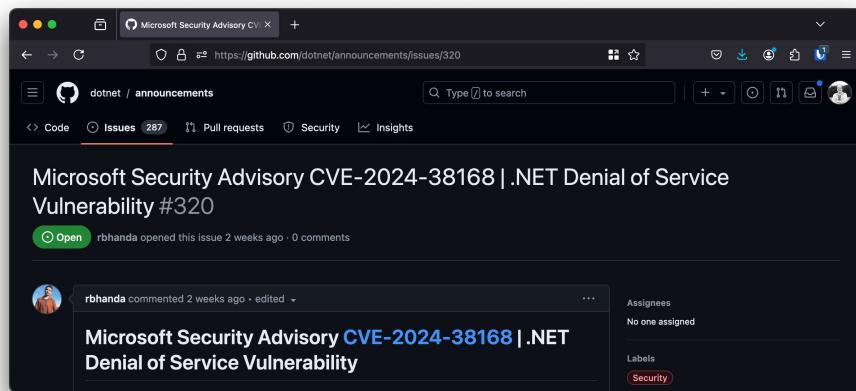


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<https://hacks.mozilla.org/2019/11/announcing-the-bytecode-alliance/>

Vulnerabilities in Libraries



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<https://github.com/dotnet/announcements/issues/320>

DotNet CLI

```
nelson@ghost-m2 ~/research/consoleapp $ dotnet list package
Project 'consoleapp' has the following package references
[net8.0]:
Top-level Package      Requested    Resolved
> docgenerator          1.0.0        1.0.0

nelson@ghost-m2 ~/research/consoleapp $ dotnet list package --vulnerable

The following sources were used:
https://f.feedz.io/fennec/docgenerator/nuget/index.json
https://api.nuget.org/v3/index.json

The given project `consoleapp` has no vulnerable packages given the current sources.
nelson@ghost-m2 ~/research/consoleapp $
```



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DotNet CLI

```
nelson@ghost-m2:~/research/consoleapp $ dotnet list package --include-transitive
Project 'consoleapp' has the following package references
[net8.0]:
Top-level Package      Requested   Resolved
> docgenerator        1.0.0       1.0.0

Transitive Package                               Resolved
> itext7                                         7.2.2
> itext7.common                                     7.2.2
> Microsoft.CSharp                                4.0.1
> Microsoft.DotNet.PlatformAbstractions           1.1.0
> Microsoft.Extensions.DependencyInjection             5.0.0
> Microsoft.Extensions.DependencyInjection.Abstractions 5.0.0
> Microsoft.Extensions.DependencyModel            1.1.0
> Microsoft.Extensions.Logging                     5.0.0
> Microsoft.Extensions.Logging.Abstractions        5.0.0
> Microsoft.Extensions.Options                   5.0.0
> Microsoft.Extensions.Primitives                5.0.0
```



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DotNet CLI

```
nelson@ghost-m2 ~/research/consoleapp $ dotnet list package --vulnerable --include-transitive
The following sources were used:
https://f.feedz.io/fennec/docgenerator/nuget/index.json
https://api.nuget.org/v3/index.json

Project `consoleapp` has the following vulnerable packages
[net8.0]:
Transitive Package      Resolved    Severity    Advisory URL
> Newtonsoft.Json        9.0.1       High       https://github.com/advisories/GHSA-5crp-9r3c-p9vr

nelson@ghost-m2 ~/research/consoleapp $
```



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Do you know what's inside?

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the following details:

- Title Bar:** Third-party code comes with some baggage
- Address Bar:** https://www.reversinglabs.com/blog/third-party-code-comes-with-some-baggage
- Header:** REVERSINGLABS (with a red RL logo)
- Section:** Threat Research | July 7, 2021
- Title:** Third-party code comes with some baggage
- Subtext:** Recognizing risks introduced by statically linked third-party libraries
- Author:** Karlo Zanki, Reverse Engineer at ReversingLabs. [READ MORE...](#)
- Footer:** U update icon, Twitter handle @nielstanis@infosec.exchange

<https://www.reversinglabs.com/blog/third-party-code-comes-with-some-baggage>

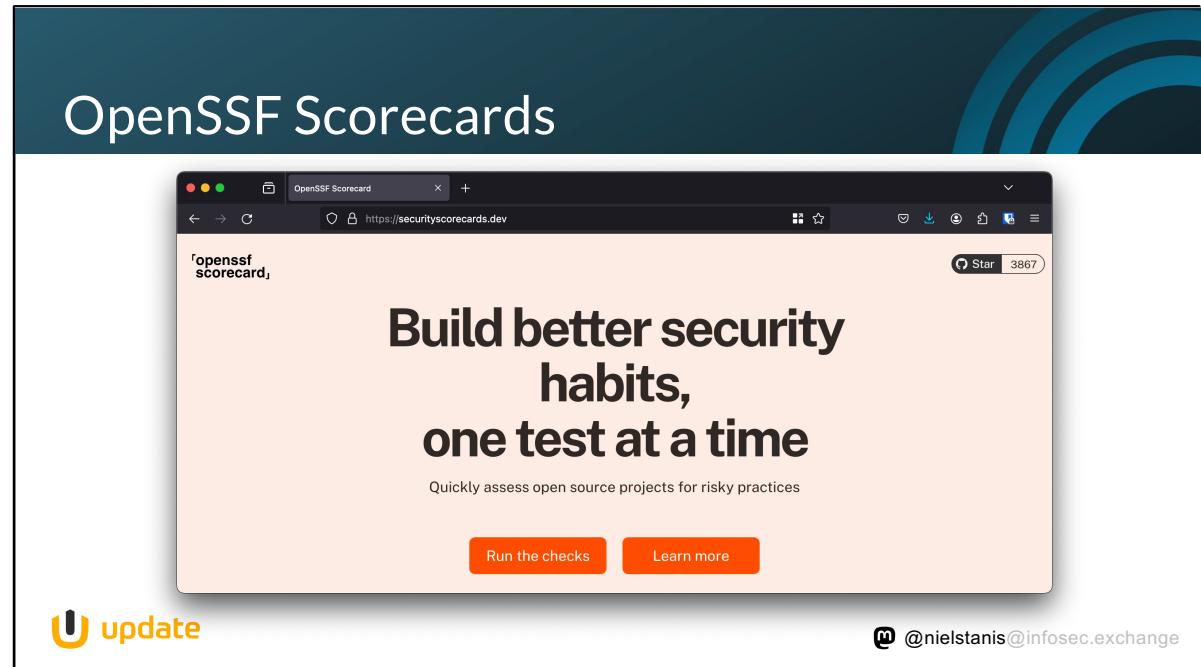
Nutrition Label for Software?



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<https://securityscorecards.dev/>



<https://securityscorecards.dev/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "OpenSSF Security Scorecards". The main content area displays the "What is OpenSSF Scorecard?" page. On the left, there is a sidebar with sections for "Run the checks" (Using the GitHub Action, Using the CLI) and "Learn more" (The problem, What is OpenSSF Scorecard?, How it works, The checks, Use cases, About the project name, Part of the OSS community, Get involved). The main content area has a heading "What is OpenSSF Scorecard?" followed by text explaining its purpose: "Scorecard assesses open source projects for security risks through a series of automated checks. It was created by OSS developers to help improve the health of critical projects that the community depends on. You can use it to proactively assess and make informed decisions about accepting security risks within your codebase. You can also use the tool to evaluate other projects and dependencies, and work with maintainers to improve codebases you might want to integrate. Scorecard helps you enforce best practices that can guard against:" Below this text are two small icons: a red circle with a white dot and a grid of squares.

What is OpenSSF Scorecard?

Run the checks

Using the GitHub Action

Using the CLI

Learn more

The problem

What is OpenSSF Scorecard?

How it works

The checks

Use cases

About the project name

Part of the OSS community

Get involved

What is OpenSSF Scorecard?

Scorecard assesses open source projects for security risks through a series of automated checks

It was created by OSS developers to help improve the health of critical projects that the community depends on.

You can use it to proactively assess and make informed decisions about accepting security risks within your codebase. You can also use the tool to evaluate other projects and dependencies, and work with maintainers to improve codebases you might want to integrate.

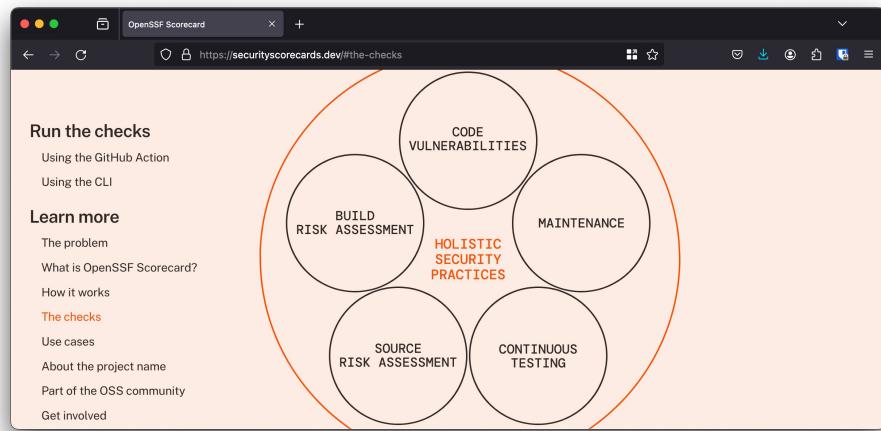
Scorecard helps you enforce best practices that can guard against:

<https://securityscorecards.dev/>

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the title "OpenSSF Security Scorecards" at the top. The main content area is titled "How it works". On the left, there's a sidebar with sections like "Run the checks" (Using the GitHub Action, Using the CLI), "Learn more" (The problem, What is OpenSSF Scorecard?, How it works, The checks, Use cases, About the project name, Part of the OSS community, Get involved), and a "U update" logo. The main content area describes the scorecard's function, mentioning automated checks for vulnerabilities across the software supply chain, including source code, build, dependencies, testing, and project maintenance. It explains that each check returns a score out of 10 and a risk level, which are weighted to produce an aggregate score. Alongside the scores, remediation prompts are provided to fix problems and strengthen development practices. At the bottom, three horizontal bars represent risk levels: CRITICAL RISK (10), HIGH RISK (7.5), and MEDIUM RISK (5). The URL in the address bar is https://securityscorecards.dev/#how-it-works.

<https://securityscorecards.dev/>

OpenSSF Security Scorecards



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<https://securityscorecards.dev/>

Code Vulnerabilities (High)

- Does the project have unfixed vulnerabilities?
Uses the OSV service.

ID	Packages	Summary	Published	Attributes
GHSA-hrwv-x3fq-vcv7	NuGet/Umbraco.Cms	Umbraco CMS Improper Access Control vulnerability	20 Aug	Fix available Severity - 6.3 (Medium)
GHSA-77gj-chp-39yx	NuGet/Umbraco.Cms.Api.Management	Umbraco CMS vulnerable to Generation of Error Message Containing Sensitive Information	20 Aug	Fix available Severity - 5.3 (Medium)
GHSA-7qrv-8f9x-3h32	NuGet/Microsoft.AspNetCore.App.Runtime.win-arm NuGet/Microsoft.AspNetCore.App.Runtime.win-arm64 NuGet/Microsoft.AspNetCore.App.Runtime.win-x64 NuGet/Microsoft.AspNetCore.App.Runtime.win-x86	Microsoft Security Advisory CVE-2024-38168 .NET Denial of Service Vulnerability	13 Aug	Fix available Severity - 8.7 (High)



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<https://osv.dev/list?ecosystem=NuGet>

Maintenance Dependency-Update-Tool (**High**)

- Does the project use a dependency update tool?
For example Dependabot or Renovate bot?
- Out-of-date dependencies make a project vulnerable to known flaws and prone to attacks.



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Maintenance Security Policy (Medium)

- Does project have published security policy?
- E.g. a file named **SECURITY.md** (case-insensitive) in a few well-known directories.
- A security policy can give users information about what constitutes a vulnerability and how to report one securely so that information about a bug is not publicly visible.



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Maintenance License (Low)

- Does project have license published?
- A license can give users information about how the source code may or may not be used.
- The lack of a license will impede any kind of security review or audit and creates a legal risk for potential users.



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Maintenance CII Best Practices (**Low**)

- OpenSSF Best Practices Badge Program
- Way for Open Source Software projects to show that they follow best practices.
- Projects can voluntarily self-certify, at no cost, by using this web application to explain how they follow each best practice.



openssf best practices passing



[@nielstanis@infosec.exchange](https://www.bestpractices.dev/en/criteria/0)

<https://www.bestpractices.dev/en/criteria/0>

Continuous testing CI Tests (**Low**)

- Does the project run tests before pull requests are merged?
- The check works by looking for a set of CI-system names in GitHub CheckRuns and Statuses among the recent commits (~30).



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Continuous testing Fuzzing (Medium)

- This check tries to determine if the project uses fuzzing by checking:
 - Added to [OSS-Fuzz](#) project.
 - If [ClusterFuzzLite](#) is deployed in the repository;
- Does it make sense to do fuzzing on .NET projects?



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Continuous testing Static Code Analysis (Medium)

- This check tries to determine if the project uses Static Application Security Testing (SAST), also known as static code analysis. It is currently limited to repositories hosted on GitHub.
 - CodeQL
 - SonarCloud
- Definitely room for improvement!



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Source Risk Assessment Binary Artifacts (**High**)

- This check determines whether the project has generated executable (binary) artifacts in the source repository.
- Binary artifacts cannot be reviewed, allowing possible obsolete or maliciously subverted executables.
- There is need for **reproducible builds!**



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Source Risk Assesement Branch Protection (**High**)

- This check determines whether a project's default and release branches are protected with GitHub's branch protection or repository rules settings.
 - Requiring code review
 - Prevent force push, in case of public branch all is lost!



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Source Risk Assesement Dangerous Workflow (**Critical**)

- This check determines whether the project's GitHub Action workflows has dangerous code patterns.
 - Untrusted Code Checkout with certain triggers
 - Script Injection with Untrusted Context Variables
- <https://securitylab.github.com/research/github-actions-preventing-pwn-requests/>



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Source Risk Assessment Code Review (**Low**)

- This check determines whether the project requires human code review before pull requests are merged.
- The check determines whether the most recent changes (over the last ~30 commits) have an approval on GitHub and merger!=committer (implicit review)



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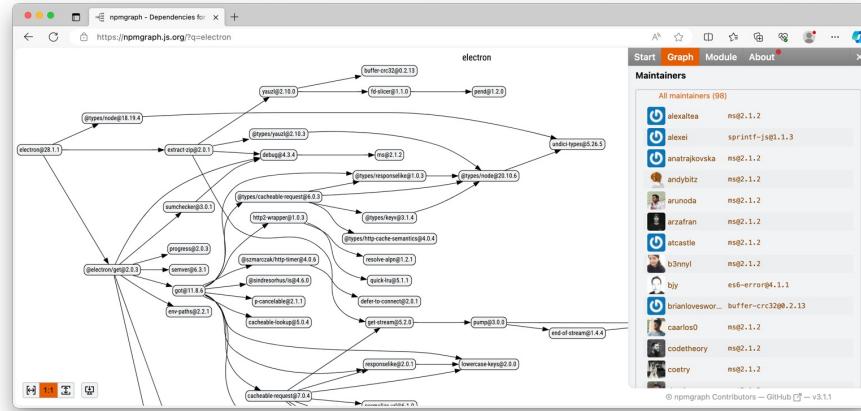
Source Risk Assessment Contributors (Low)

- This check tries to determine if the project has recent contributors from multiple organizations (e.g., companies).
- Relying on single contributor is a risk for sure!
- But is a large list of contributors good?



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Source Risk Assessment Contributors (Low)



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Build Risk Assessment Pinned Dependencies (**High**)

- Does the project pin dependencies used during its build and release process.
- **RestorePackagesWithLockFile** in MSBuild results in **packages.lock.json** file containing versioned dependency tree with hashes
- If Workflow is present what about the Actions used?



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Build Risk Assessment Token Permission (**High**)

- This check determines whether the project's automated workflows tokens follow the principle of least privilege.
- This is important because attackers may use a compromised token with write access to, for example, push malicious code into the project.



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<https://securitylab.github.com/research/github-actions-preventing-pwn-requests/>

Build Risk Assessment Packaging (Medium)

- This check tries to determine if the project is published as a package.
- Packages give users of a project an easy way to download, install, update, and uninstall the software by a package manager.



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Build Risk Assessment Signed Releases (**High**)

- This check tries to determine if the project cryptographically signs release artifacts.
 - Signed release packages
 - Signed build provenance



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Demo OpenSSF Scorecard Fennec CLI

Running checks



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Measure?



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<https://www.bestpractices.dev/en/criteria/0>

OpenSSF Annual Report 2023

OpenSSF Scorecard project
has **3,776 stars** on GitHub,
and runs a **weekly automated**
assessment scan against
software security criteria
of over **1M OSS projects**



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<https://openssf.org/download-the-2023-openssf-annual-report/>

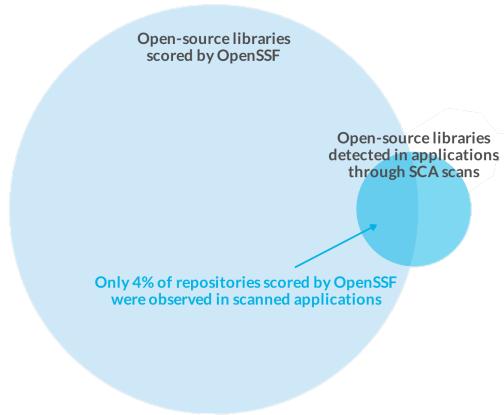
SOSS & OpenSSF Scorecard



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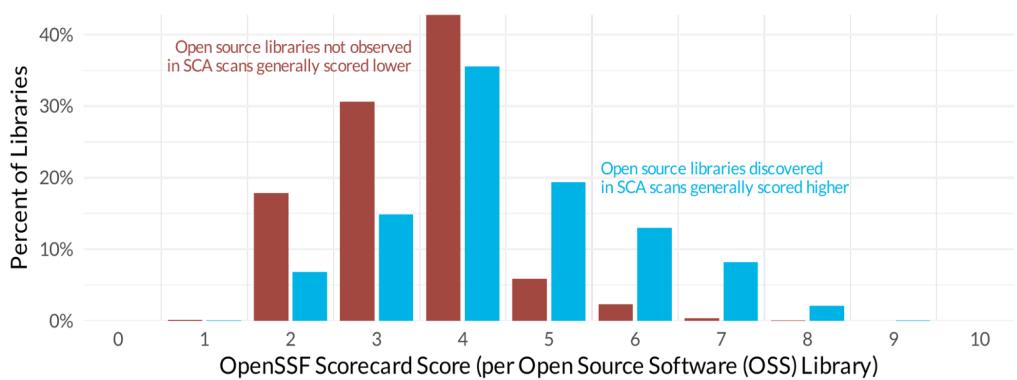
SOSS & OpenSSF Scorecard



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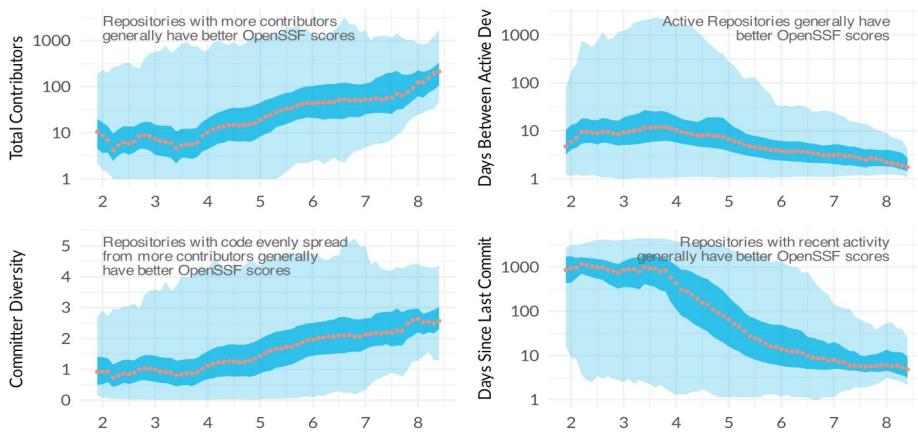
<https://www.rsaconference.com/Library/presentation/usa/2024/quantifying%20the%20probability%20of%20flaws%20in%20open%20source>

Correlation between SOSS



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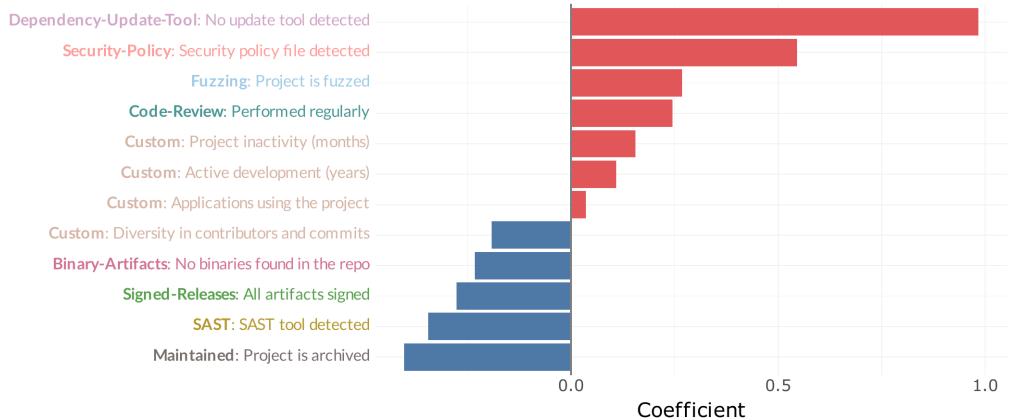
Github commits vs OpenSSF



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What really contributes to OSS Security?



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What can we improve?



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<https://www.bestpractices.dev/en/criteria/0>

Fuzzing .NET



- Fuzzing, or fuzz testing
 - Automated software testing method that uses a wide range of **invalid** and unexpected data as input to find flaws
 - Definitely good for finding C/C++ memory issues
 - Can it be of any value with managed languages like .NET?



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<https://www.bestpractices.dev/en/criteria/0>

Fuzzing .NET & SharpFuzz

New & Improved!

Nemanja Mijailovic's Blog

Five years of fuzzing .NET with SharpFuzz

Jul 23, 2023

It's been almost five years since I created [SharpFuzz](#), the only .NET coverage-guided fuzzer. I already have a blog post on how it works, what it can do for you, and what bugs it found, so check it out if this is the first time you hear about SharpFuzz:

[SharpFuzz: Bringing the power of afl-fuzz to .NET platform](#)

A lot of interesting things have happened since then. SharpFuzz now works with libFuzzer, Windows, and .NET Framework. And it can finally fuzz the .NET Core base-class library! The whole fuzzing process has been dramatically simplified, too.

Not many people are aware of all these developments, so I decided to write this anniversary blog post and showcase everything SharpFuzz is currently capable of.

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<https://mijailovic.net/2023/07/23/sharpfuzz-anniversary/>

The screenshot shows a blog post titled "Fuzzing .NET & SharpFuzz". A red starburst badge in the top right corner says "New & Improved!". The post content includes a section titled "Trophies" which lists several bugs found by SharpFuzz, including "BigInteger.TryParse out-of-bounds access", "Double.Parse throws AccessViolationException on .NET Core 3.0", and "G17 format specifier doesn't always round-trip double values". It also mentions two CVEs: "CVE-2019-0980: .NET Framework and .NET Core Denial of Service Vulnerability" and "CVE-2019-0981: .NET Framework and .NET Core Denial of Service Vulnerability". The URL of the post is <https://mijailovic.net/2023/07/23/sharpfuzz-anniversary/>.



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<https://mijailovic.net/2023/07/23/sharpfuzz-anniversary/>

Fuzzing .NET – Jil JSON Serializer



```
public static void Main(string[] args)
{
    SharpFuzz.Fuzzer.OutOfProcess.Run(stream => {
        try
        {
            using (var reader = new System.IO.StreamReader(stream))
                JSON.DeserializeDynamic(reader);
        }
        catch (DeserializationException) { }
    });
}
```



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<https://github.com/google/fuzzing/blob/master/docs/structure-aware-fuzzing.md>

Fuzzomatic: Using AI to Fuzz Rust

New & Improved!

How does it work?

Fuzzomatic relies on libFuzzer and cargo-fuzz as a backend. It also uses a variety of approaches that combine AI and deterministic techniques to achieve its goal.

We used the OpenAI API to generate and fix fuzz targets in our approaches. We mostly used the gpt-3.5-turbo and gpt-3.5-turbo-16k models. The latter is used as a fallback when our prompts are longer than what the former supports.

Fuzz targets and coverage-guided fuzzing

The output of the first step is a source code file: a fuzz target. A libFuzzer fuzz target in Rust looks like this:

```

1  #[no_main]
2  extern crate libfuzzer_sys;
3  use mylib_under_test::MyModule;
4  use libfuzzer_sys::fuzz_target;
5
6  fuzz_target!(data: [u8]) {
7      // Fuzzed code goes here
8      if libfuzzer_sys::is_black_box() = std::str::from_utf8(data) {
9          MyModule::target_function(input);
10     }
11 }
12
13 }
```

This fuzz target needs to be compiled into an executable. As you can see, this program depends on libFuzzer and also depends on the library under test, here "mylib_under_test". The "fuzz_target!" macro makes it easy for us to just write what needs to be called, provided that we receive a byte slice, the "data" variable in the above example. Here we convert these bytes to a UTF-8 string and call our target function and pass that string as an argument. LibFuzzer takes care of calling our fuzz target repeatedly with random bytes. It measures the code coverage to assess whether the random input helps cover more code. We say it's coverage-guided fuzzing.

Comment Retag Subscribe ...

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<https://research.kudelskisecurity.com/2023/12/07/introducing-fuzzomatic-using-ai-to-automatically-fuzz-rust-projects-from-scratch/>

Static Code Analysis (SAST)



```
public byte[] CreateHash(string password)
{
    var b = Encoding.UTF8.GetBytes(password);
    return SHA1.HashData(b);
}
```



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<https://www.bestpractices.dev/en/criteria/0>

Static Code Analysis (SAST)

New &
Improved!

```
public class CustomerController : Controller
{
    public IActionResult GenerateCustomerReport(string customerID)
    {
        var data = Reporting.GenerateCustomerReportOverview(customerID)
        return View(data);
    }
    public static class Reporting
    {
        public static byte[] GenerateCustomerReportOverview(string ID)
        {
            return System.IO.File.ReadAllBytes("./data/{ID}.pdf");
        }
    }
}
```



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<https://www.bestpractices.dev/en/criteria/0>

.NET Reproducibility



- Reproducible builds → independently-verifiable path from source to binary code.
- .NET Roslyn Deterministic Inputs
- How reproducible is a simple console app?
- Fennec Diff (work-in-progress)



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The screenshot shows the Microsoft Application Inspector interface. At the top, there's a dark header with the title "Application Inspector" and a red "New & Improved!" badge. Below the header is a browser window displaying the "Application Features" page. The page has two main sections: "Feature Groups" on the left and "Associated Rules" on the right. The "Feature Groups" section lists various categories like General Features, Development, Active Content, etc., each with a set of icons. The "Associated Rules" section shows a table with columns for Name, Authentication, and Rule ID. A note at the bottom of the page says: "This section reports the major characteristics of the application or its primary features organized by customizable Feature Groups. Click any of the highlighted icons below (indicating at least one match) to view additional details or expand a feature group for more information. To view where in source code a specific feature was found, click the Rule name link shown on the right. A disabled icon indicates a not found status for that feature." At the bottom left is an orange "U update" logo, and at the bottom right is a Twitter handle "@nielstanis@infosec.exchange".

<https://github.com/microsoft/ApplicationInspector>

Application Inspector



Feature	Confidence	Details
Authentication		View
Authorization		View
Cryptography		View
Object Deserialization		N/A
AV Media Parsing		N/A
Dynamic Command Execution		N/A

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<https://github.com/microsoft/ApplicationInspector>

Community Review

New & Improved!

The cargo vet subcommand is a tool to help projects ensure that third-party Rust dependencies have been audited by a trusted entity. It strives to be lightweight and easy to integrate.

When run, cargo vet matches all of a project's third-party dependencies against a set of audits performed by the project authors or entities they trust. If there are any gaps, the tool provides mechanical assistance in performing and documenting the audit.

The primary reason that people do not ordinarily audit open-source dependencies is that it is too much work. There are a few key ways that cargo vet aims to reduce developer effort to a manageable level:

- **Sharing:** Public crates are often used by many projects. These projects can share their findings with each other to avoid duplicating work.
- **Relative Audits:** Different versions of the same crate are often quite similar to each other. Developers can inspect the difference between two versions, and record that if the first version was vetted, the second can be considered vetted as well.
- **Deferred Audits:** It is not always practical to achieve full coverage. Dependencies can be added to a list of exceptions which can be ratcheted down over time. This makes it trivial to introduce cargo vet to a new project and guard against future vulnerabilities while vetting the



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<https://mozilla.github.io/cargo-vet/>

The screenshot shows a blog post on the Microsoft Dev Blogs website. The title of the post is "OpenSSF Scorecard for .NET and the NuGet ecosystem". The post is dated November 4th, 2024. It features a summary of what the OpenSSF Scorecard is, mentioning it's a tool developed by the Open Source Security Foundation (OpenSSF) for automated security assessments of open-source projects. The post includes a sidebar with social sharing icons, a table of contents, and a feedback link. The footer of the page includes the "NuGet Blog" logo and a copyright notice for Microsoft.

<https://devblogs.microsoft.com/nuget/openssf-scorecard-for-net-nuget/>

Conclusion

- Scorecard helps security reviewing a NuGet Package
- Better understand what's inside, how it's build/maintained and what are the risks!
- Scorecard should not be a goal on its own!



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Conclusion

- NuGet Package Scoring (NET Score)
- Room for .NET specific improvements with Fennec CLI
 - Tools (diff, insights)
 - Trust Graph
 - Contribute back to OpenSSF Scorecard



`dotnet tool install -g fennec`

 **update**

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Questions?



U update

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Děkuji!

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- <https://www.fennec.dev>
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