# Automated Malware Detection in Python Package Index

Cristina Muñoz

### About Me

- DevOps jack-of-all-trades
- "doing security" < 3 years
- Disillusioned with Big Tech™



The New Hork Com

# Google's 'Project Nightingale' Gath **Data on Millions of Americans**

Search giant is amassing health records from Ascension facilitie informed

# Google Fires 4 Workers

Active in Labor Organiza

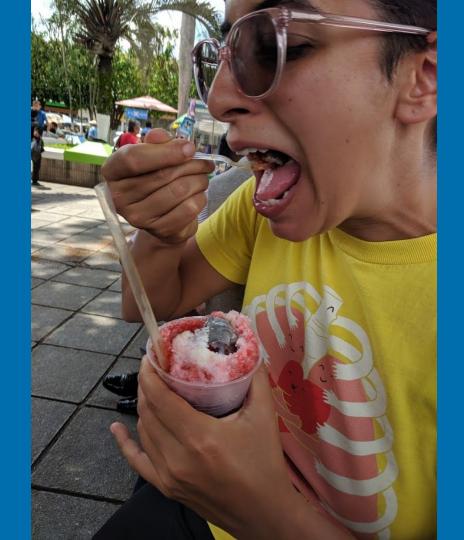
GOOGLE HIRED GIG ECONOMY WORKERS IMPROVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN CONTROVERSIAL DRONE-TARGETING

GOOGLE EMPLOYEES UNCOVER ONGOIN WORK ON CENSORED CHINA SEARCH How Google Protected Andy Rubin, the 'Father of Android'

t giant paid Mr. Rubin \$90 million and praised him,







#### (9) seeking advice: implementing cryptographic signing and malware detection on PyPI



#### Hi! I'm a Recurser and I think you and I have talked on Zulip?

Would you take a look at this and potentially comment? And forward it to experts you know who might be interested? If you could, I would be grateful.

Please check out this Request for Information for a Python Software

Foundation contract? PSF is seeking developers to implement cryptographic signing and malware detection on PvPI: https://github.com/python/request-for/blob/master/2019-Q4-PyPI/RFI.md

This RFI period will close on September 18th. During the RFI period, the PSF is hoping to get participation from potential participants and other experts in the discussion forum at https://discuss.python.org/c/python-software-foundation/pypi-q4-rfi

especially about implementation questions (such as: use The Update

Then, the Request for Proposals period will be September 23-October 16. Please feel free to forward and spread the word publicly, if you'd like!

https://pyfound.blogspot.com/2019/08/pypi-security-q4-2019-request-for.html is the PSF blog post about it.

Sumana Harihareswara project manager for PyPI, Recurser

Framework or not?).

Thank you.

# PyPI

The canonical source of Python packages



# pip install requests

## Request For Proposal

- 1 Verifiable cryptographic signing of artifacts
- 2 Systems for Automated Detection of Malicious Uploads

### System Requirements

- A pluggable system for development, deployment and execution of checks
- Storage for check results
- Administrator views for reviewing results
- Document the process for development and submission of new checks

# **Another Perspective**

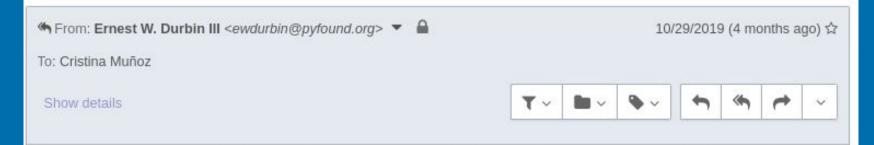
This is a SIEM.





#### (26) proposal for milestone 2





#### Hello Cristina!

Thank you for a thoroughly specified proposal! We are excited to let you know that your proposal was selected for Milestone 2!

However, there's a bit of further discussion that needs to happen as we will be engaging another proposer for Milestone 1 that also proposed for Milestone 2.

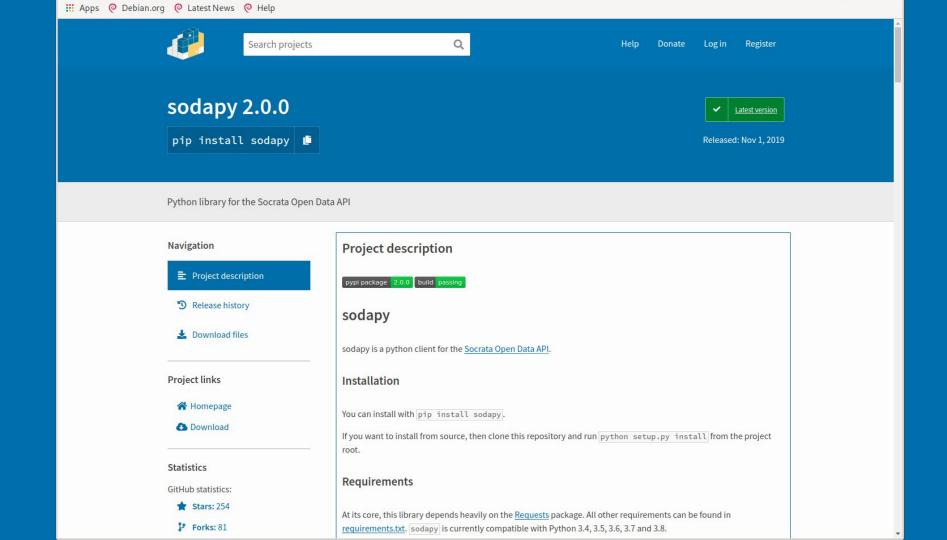
At this point in time, we need two responses from you:

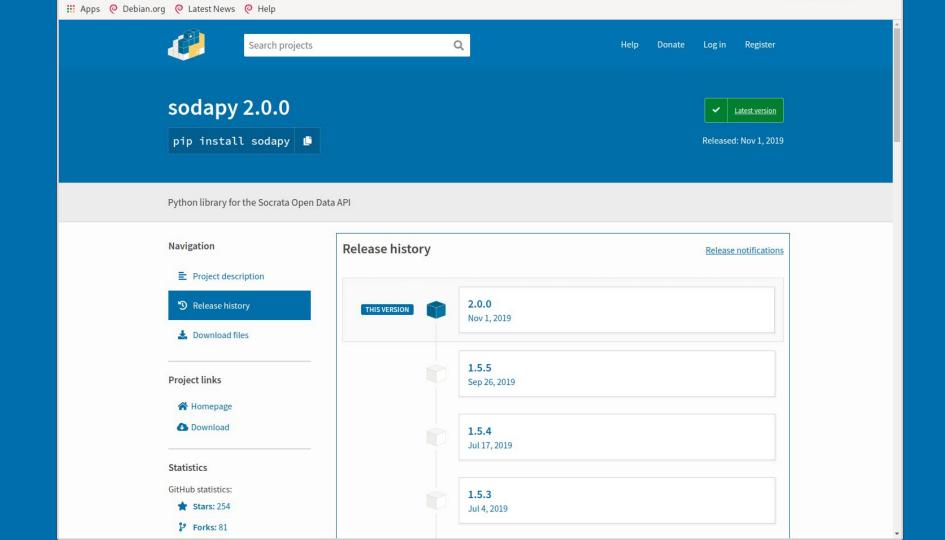
- Are you still available and interested in performing the work specified in Milestone 2 of the Request for Proposals as described in your Proposal?
- Would collaborating with another contractor in the implementation of Milestone 2 be a concern?

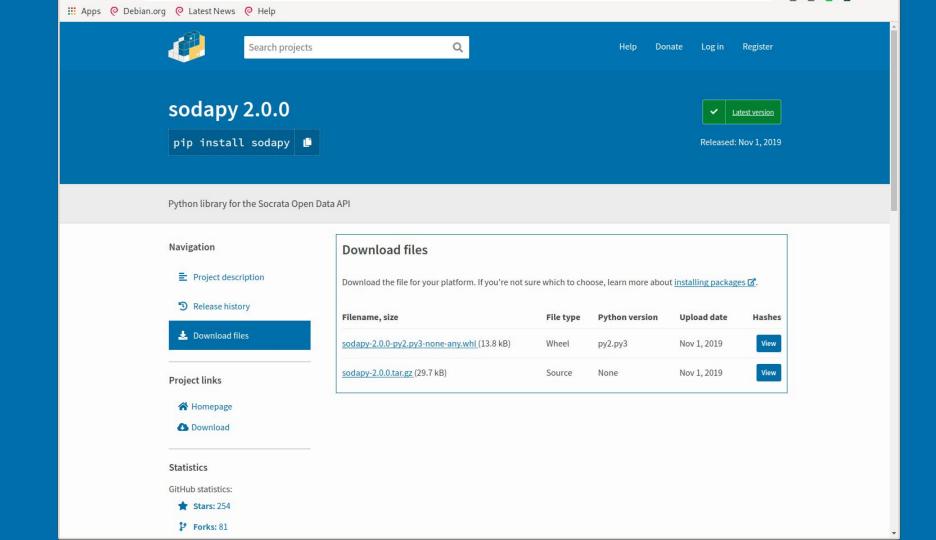
-Ernest W. Durbin III Director of Infrastructure Python Software Foundation

# Project, Releases, and Files, oh my!

Project > Release > Files







# Typosquatting and Namesquatting

pip install python3-dateutil

pip install jellyfish

About Debian

Getting Debian Support Developers' Corner

bian / packages / stretch (oldstable) / python / python3-dateutil

[Source: python-dateutil ]

#### Package: python3-dateutil (2.5.3-2)

powerful extensions to the standard datetime module

It features:

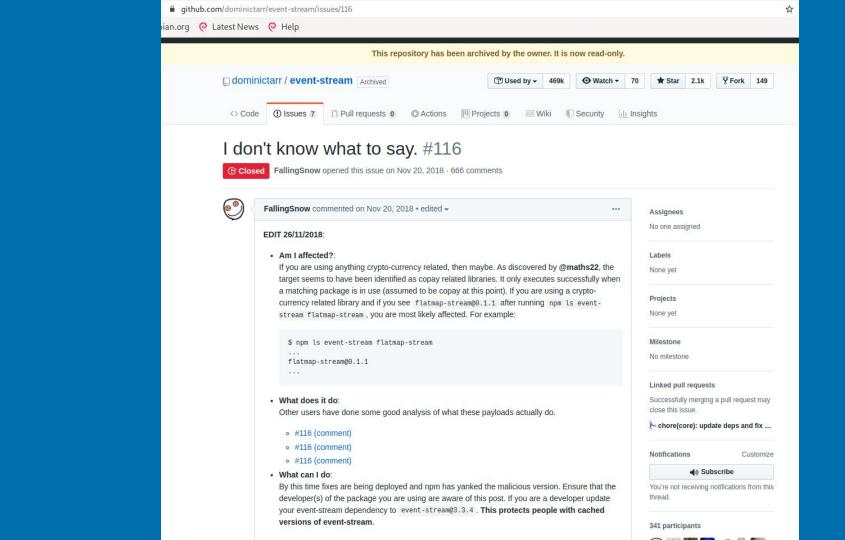
- \* computing of relative deltas (next month, next year, next monday, last week of month, etc);
- \* computing of relative deltas between two given date and/or datetime objects \* computing of dates based on very flexible recurrence rules, using a superset
- of the iCalendar specification. Parsing of RFC strings is supported as well.
- \* generic parsing of dates in almost any string format \* timezone (tzinfo) implementations for tzfile(5) format files
- (/etc/localtime, /usr/share/zoneinfo, etc), TZ environment string (in all known formats), iCalendar format files, given ranges (with help from relative deltas), local machine timezone, fixed offset timezone, UTC timezone
- \* computing of Easter Sunday dates for any given year, using Western, Orthodox or Julian algorithms

#### Other Packages Related to python3-dateutil

- depends recommends ◆ suggests ▲ enhances
- dep: python3 interactive high-level object-oriented language (default python3 version)

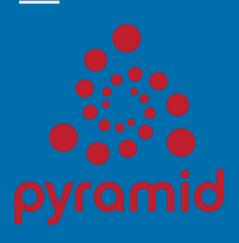
### setup.py

```
#!/usr/bin/env python
from setuptools import setup
from setuptools.command.install import install
from my evil module import root reverse shell
class PostInstallCommand(install):
   def run(self):
       root_reverse shell()
       install.run(self)
setup(
  name='0wned',
  version='0.6.0',
   description='Code execution via Python package installation.',
  cmdclass={
       'install': PostInstallCommand,
  },
```

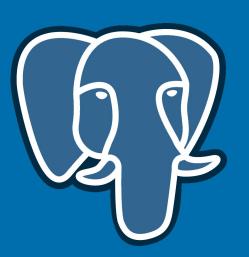




### Warehouse











## Types of Checks

- Project/Release/File creation time hooks for *events*
- Scheduled investigations to look for *behaviors*

#### **Event-based checks**

Upload release files to VirusTotal

Pattern match malicious code signatures using YaraRules

Run static or dynamic analyzers

## SetupPatternCheck

#### Yara rules looking for:

- Process spawn
- Network connections
- Deserialization
- Metaprogramming

```
def query(self, attr_name):
    """Spawn the pg_config executable, querying for the given config
    name, and return the printed value, sanitized. """
    try:
        pg_config_process = subprocess.Popen(
            [self.pg_config_exe, "--" + attr_name],
            stdin=subprocess.PIPE,
            stdout=subprocess.PIPE,
            stderr=subprocess.PIPE)
    except OSError:
        raise Warning("Unable to find 'pg_config' file in '%s'" %
                      self.pg_config_exe)
    pg_config_process.stdin.close()
    result = pg_config_process.stdout.readline().strip()
    if not result:
        raise Warning(pg_config_process.stderr.readline())
    if not isinstance(result, str):
        result = result.decode('ascii')
    return result
```

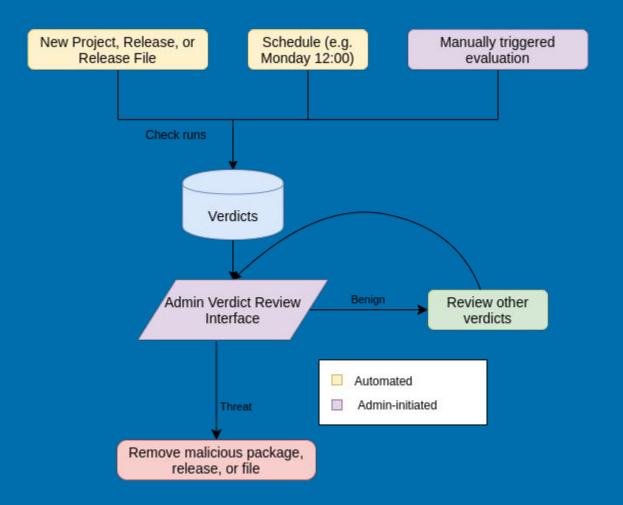
#### Scheduled Checks

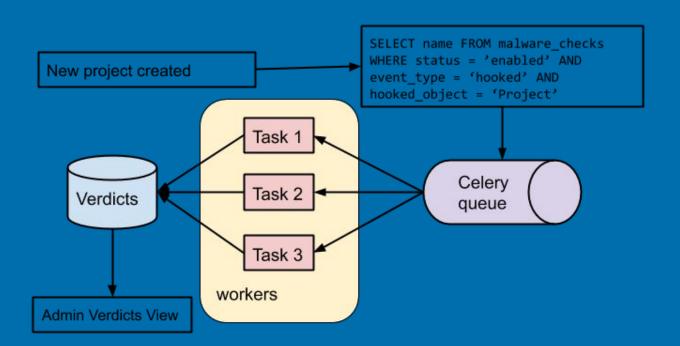
The maintainer of a popular package disabled 2-factor authentication and then transfers ownership of the popular package to another user

A low-reputation user registers a new package that has a similar name to a very well-established package

## PackageTurnoverCheck

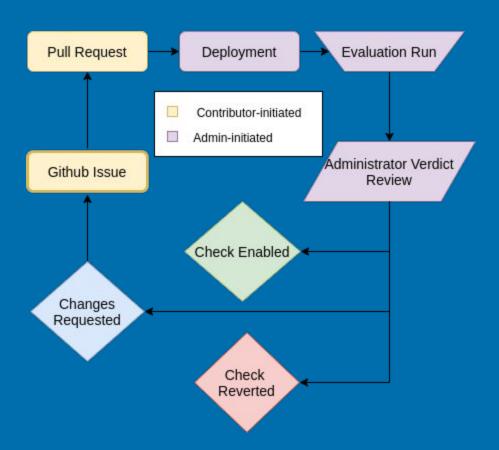
Threat vectors: A user changes or decreases the security of their account, transfers ownership to of their project to a newly created user.





## Developing New Checks

- Download Warehouse
- Inherit the MalwareCheckBase class and write your check
- Change an environment variable, and deploy your check
- Enable it in the admin
- Execute it!

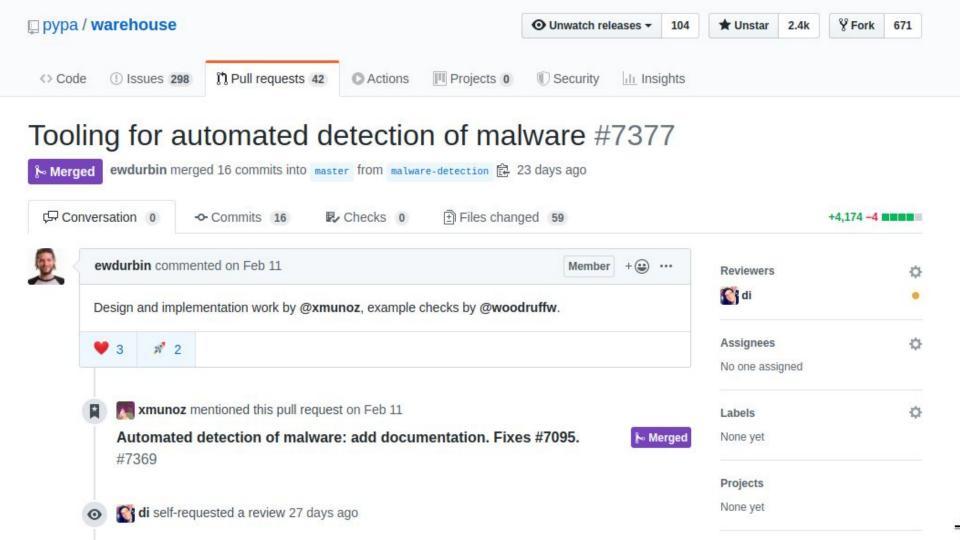


# Admin View

https://test.pypi.org/admin/

# Recap

https://warehouse.pypa.io/development/malware-checks/



# How to build a custom SIEM in 4,174 lines of code, or less!

Cristina Muñoz

# How to quit Big Tech and bootstrap your own startup

Cristina Muñoz

# Questions? Comments?

hmu hi@xmunoz.com