DevOps

Security Controls in Shared Source Code Repositories by James Brown

Topics

- What is a security incident?
- Common Security threats in version control software:
- Common Security threats in version control software:
- Why do we need security in repos?
- Github Security Controls
- Pros
- Best Practices

What is a security incident?

Security incidents relate to when an "event leads to a violation of an organization's security policies" (CyberShark). This can include:

- -passwords stored in an unsecured manner
- -data breach
- -Unauthorized access to internal systems
- -Unauthorized changes are made to a repo

Common Security threats in version control software

- Unauthorized access to restricted source code
- Source code may provide clues to how an attacker can attack software running in an application
- Login credentials getting stored
- Insider threats

Why do we need security in repos?

- If we do not maintain security controls in repositories, it can lead to:
- Repos getting deleted with authorization
- Malicious cyber attacks on a repo
- Sensitive data getting accessed
- Unauthorized code changes

Github Security Controls

Github offers a wide variety of security controls to ensure your repositories are safe. Some features include:

- Two factor authentication
- Security audit logs
- Git over SSH and HTTPS
- Read only deploy keys
- Required reviews
- And much more

Pros

Security controls in GitHub prevent the following:

- Loss of customer trust
- Imposed fines by the government if a breach were to occur
- Brand reputation being damaged
- Customer abandonment

Best Practices



There's no one best practice solve that makes repository security management full proof. It takes a collective of things.



Don't store login credentials in Github.



Triple check repository security settings



Collect GitHub logs



Perform routine scans of developer accounts



Automate monitoring

Sources:

- Murphy, R. (2019, September 05). What Is the Difference Between a Security Incident and a Security Breach? Retrieved August 26, 2020, from https://www.blackstratus.com/what-is-the-difference-between-a-security-incident-and-a-security-breach/
- Saurabh, K. (2018, April 18). It's Time to Take GitHub Threats Seriously. Retrieved August 26, 2020,

from https://www.darkreading.com/application-security/its-time-to-take-github-threats-seriously/a/d-id/1331577