Configuring secret scanning for your repositories

You can configure how GitHub scans your repositories for leaked secrets and generates alerts.

> **Who can use this feature**
> People with admin permissions to a repository can enable secret scanning for the repository.

Secret scanning is available for organization-owned repositories in GitHub Enterprise Server if your enterprise has a license for GitHub Advanced Security. For more information, see "About secret scanning" and "About GitHub Advanced Security."

Note: Your site administrator must enable secret scanning for your GitHub Enterprise Server instance before you can use this feature. For more information, see "Configuring secret scanning for your appliance."

You may not be able to enable or disable secret scanning, if an enterprise owner has set a policy at the enterprise level. For more information, see "Enforcing policies for code security and analysis for your enterprise."

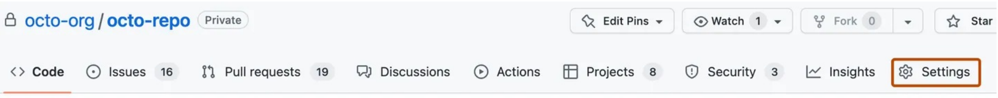
Enabling secret scanning

You can enable secret scanning for any repository that is owned by an organization. Once enabled, secret scanning scans for any secrets in your entire Git history on all branches present in your GitHub repository.

You can also enable secret scanning for multiple repositories in an organization at the same time. For more information, see "Securing your organization."

Note: If your organization is owned by an enterprise account, an enterprise owner can also enable secret scanning at the enterprise level. For more information, see "Managing GitHub Advanced Security features for your enterprise."

1. On your GitHub Enterprise Server instance, navigate to the main page of the repository.
2. Under your repository name, click ⚙ **Settings**. If you cannot see the "Settings" tab, select the ··· dropdown menu, then click **Settings**.

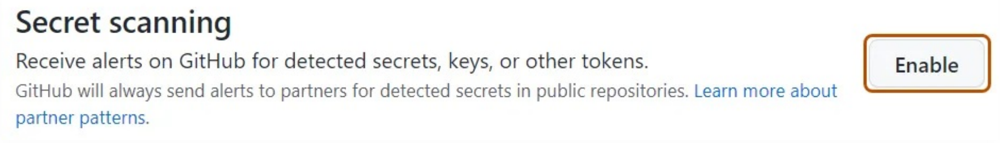


3. In the "Security" section of the sidebar, click **Code security and analysis**.

4. If Advanced Security is not already enabled for the repository, to the right of "GitHub Advanced Security", click **Enable**.

5. Review the impact of enabling Advanced Security, then click **Enable GitHub Advanced Security for this repository**.

6. When you enable Advanced Security, secret scanning may automatically be enabled for the repository due to the organization's settings. If "Secret scanning" is shown with an **Enable** button, you still need to enable secret scanning by clicking **Enable**. If you see a **Disable** button, secret scanning is already enabled.

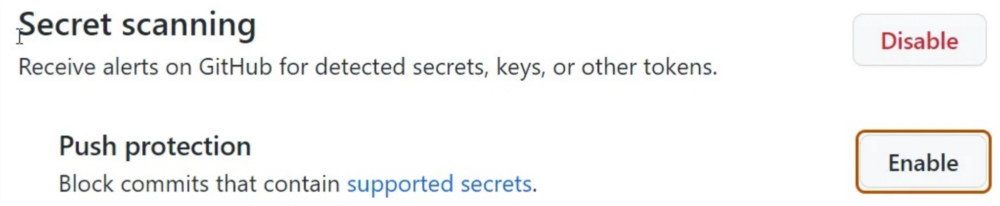


Secret scanning

Receive alerts on GitHub for detected secrets, keys, or other tokens.

GitHub will always send alerts to partners for detected secrets in public repositories. Learn more about partner patterns.

7. Optionally, if you want to enable push protection, click **Enable** to the right of "Push protection." When you enable push protection for your organization or repository, secret scanning also checks pushes for high-confidence secrets (those identified with a low false positive rate). Secret scanning lists any secrets it detects so the author can review the secrets and remove them or, if needed, allow those secrets to be pushed. For more information, see "Push protection for repositories and organizations."



Secret scanning

Receive alerts on GitHub for detected secrets, keys, or other tokens.

Push protection

Block commits that contain supported secrets.

Excluding directories from secret scanning

You can configure a *secret_scanning.yml* file to exclude directories from secret scanning, including when you use push protection. For example, you can exclude directories that contain tests or randomly generated content.

1. On your GitHub Enterprise Server instance, navigate to the main page of the repository.

2. Above the list of files, using the **Add file** drop-down, click **Create new file**.

3. In the file name field, type *.github/secret_scanning.yml*.

4. Under **Edit new file**, type `paths-ignore:` followed by the paths you want to exclude from secret scanning.

```
paths-ignore:
  - "foo/bar/*.js"
```

You can use special characters, such as `*` to filter paths. For more information about filter patterns, see "Workflow syntax for GitHub Actions."

Notes:

- If there are more than 1,000 entries in `paths-ignore`, secret scanning will only exclude the first 1,000 directories from scans.
- If `secret_scanning.yml` is larger than 1 MB, secret scanning will ignore the entire file.

You can also ignore individual alerts from secret scanning. For more information, see "Managing alerts from secret scanning."

Further reading

- "Managing security and analysis settings for your organization"
- "Defining custom patterns for secret scanning"