

Vulnerability Analysis of Container Security

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Abstract— Container technology has transformed software distribution and management by providing a lightweight, portable, and scalable solution for modern computing settings. However, the growing use of containers has created new security concerns, needing rigorous risk-identification, assessment, and mitigation procedures. This research paper delves deeply into container security challenges, using a variety of approaches and real-world examples to emphasize the significance of proactive security measures in containerized systems. The article begins by exploring the history of containerization, from Unix chroot to current container technologies such as Docker and Kubernetes. It then goes into the specific security risks raised by container environments, including as vulnerabilities in container images, runtime environments, and orchestration platforms. Real-world attacks and case studies demonstrate the critical necessity for strong security procedures in containerized systems. The study conducts a comprehensive literature review to investigate existing frameworks and approaches for threat modeling, vulnerability analysis, and risk assessment in container security. It emphasizes the importance of continual monitoring and adaptation in efficiently responding to emerging security threats. Furthermore, the study investigates the integration of security principles into DevOps processes, underlining the significance of taking a comprehensive approach to security across the software development lifecycle.

Keywords— *Container Security, Threat Modeling, Vulnerability Analysis, Risk Assessment, DevOps, Regulatory Compliance, Industry Standards, Continuous Monitoring, Proactive Security Measures, Integration*

I. INTRODUCTION

Container technology has transformed how programs are created, deployed, and maintained in modern computer systems. Containers provide software components with a lightweight and portable encapsulation, facilitating scalability across various infrastructure platforms and effective resource use. But as containers become more widely used, there are also new security problems since they offer a dynamic and sophisticated attack surface that is different from traditional monolithic designs.[1]

In today's digital world, when data breaches and cyber dangers abound, container security is critical. Containers contain applications and their dependencies, making them the foundation of contemporary software deployment. As a result, any breach in container security poses a direct danger to the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of sensitive data and essential infrastructure components. Ensuring strong container security measures is thus critical for protecting business assets and reducing the risk of data breaches, service outages, and reputational harm.[8]

The history of containerization begins in the 1970s with the introduction of the Unix command chroot, which introduced the basic idea of process separation. Later, a major turning point was the introduction of Linux Containers (LXC) in the early 2000s, which improved containerization by providing a more advanced framework for separating processes and filesystems. But it was Docker's 2013 release that brought container technology to a wider audience by democratizing access with its user-friendly platform and toolkit. Containers include many unique characteristics that set them apart from traditional virtualization techniques. Applications and dependencies are housed within self-contained units by containers, which provide lightweight isolation without the overhead of conventional virtual machines. Mobility: Because of its renowned mobility, containers may be used on a variety of systems and settings, guaranteeing smooth deployment and operation.[7]

Containers enhance resource consumption by using the host system's kernel and resources, assuring maximum efficiency when compared to virtual machines. Real-World Examples of Container Use Containers have spread across a wide range of sectors and use cases, acting as a linchpin for several applications: Enterprise IT: Enterprises use containers to upgrade old applications, accelerate software delivery, and improve agility and scalability in their IT environment. Cloud Computing: Cloud providers offer container services, such as Amazon Elastic Container Service (ECS) and Google Kubernetes Engine (GKE), which enable large-scale container orchestration on the cloud. Containers serve as the foundation for microservices architectures, allowing monolithic programs to be broken down into separate, independently deployable services. Containers enable DevOps methods by promoting continuous integration, continuous delivery, and automated deployment pipelines, therefore speeding the software development lifecycle.[8]

A monolithic application is software whose components are tightly connected and cannot be performed individually. Although monolithic programs can operate within a container, it is strongly advised to adopt microservice architecture when utilizing containers. Prior to the introduction of Service Oriented Architectures (SOAs), particularly microservices, many systems were monolithic. Microservices, on the other hand, aid in the development of applications made up of loosely linked components that may function independently.

Microservice architectures have completely changed the way that applications are developed nowadays. They provide developers the freedom to be more creative and receptive to novel technology. A corporation can experiment with a new programming language, for instance, by utilizing it to create a single microservice; this will not have a significant impact on the entire application, unlike a monolithic design, which necessitates rewriting every component. Containers are thought of as the usual deployment option for microservices, and microservices and containers are closely connected topics [10]. Because virtual machines (VMs) are heavier than containers, running each microservice in a distinct VM is inefficient. Especially in terms of size and speed, containers are a great substitute for virtual machines (VMs).

The security of containerized environments is crucial, given the possible consequences of breaches on sensitive data, key services, and infrastructure integrity. As more businesses use containerization for their applications, there is a greater need to understand, analyze, and mitigate the specific security risks associated with this technology.[2]

Secure software development, which comprises using best practices and processes that prioritize security at every level of the development process, is essential to the construction and upkeep of safe online apps [9]. Due to the fact that online applications are now essential to the internet and, as such, encourage improper use, organizations are placing a higher priority on security. This results in a number of common patterns in vulnerabilities including SQL Injections and Cross-site Scripting (XSS) [10]. This goal is further supported by ENISA's Threat Landscape Study for 2022, which names web apps as one of the three primary data breach vectors.

Prior research has already been done on the AppSec tool analysis. Curphey and Araujo [8] introduced threat modeling principles and mapped out several sorts of vulnerabilities for web application security, resulting in one of the first assessments of this kind. By taking into account the primary characteristics of each tool under consideration, as well as when it is employed throughout the SDLC and the amount of skill required to operate them and comprehend their outcomes, a straightforward comparison is formed. Reviews like the one put out by Alzahrani et al. focus on particular issues, such as inadequate transport layer protection, information leakage, cross-site scripting, and SQL Injection, as vulnerabilities get more complex and specialized.

Amankwah et al. describe a comparison that sheds light on analytic methodologies in addition to the tools chosen. Small contributions are made to benchmarks in this work so that different tools may be compared. In addition to these comparisons, many benchmarks for comparing solutions have been developed and tested. The absence of comparison measures, which are mostly dependent on the functions of the application, is one of the problems we found in the reviews. In addition to expanding the range of tools for comparison, the work presented in this article draws on earlier research to produce a purposeful evaluation of automated tools for web application analysis.

The three primary methods for application security that served as the foundation for the study were Software Composition study (SCA), Dynamic Application Security Testing (DAST), and Static Application Security Testing (SAST). In order to better showcase the range of possibilities and demonstrate the differences in the methodologies employed, this study focuses on open-source solutions while also taking commercial solutions into consideration. With the help of this study, software developers should be able to better uncover known vulnerabilities early in the development process by knowing which tools to include in their CI/CD pipelines.

For monitoring, the Web Application Firewall (WAF) acts as a defensive mechanism by analyzing HTTP traffic that enters and exits the application, thereby safeguarding the server from exposure. Runtime Application Self-Protection (RASP) like WAF, is a mechanism for tracking and analyzing user activity during runtime and reporting on the possible exploitation of known vulnerabilities. Unlike perimeter-based safeguards such as WAF, RASP may detect possible threats based on the application's present context. It also offers a broader set of actions because it may change the application in real time.

Some analyses may not involve running software and instead analyze problems statically. Software Composition Analysis (SCA) generates a list of third-party components of the system being analyzed. With this list, SCA may then report on published

vulnerabilities in third-party software for certain versions; this also takes into consideration dependency graphs, which can occasionally create false positives in real-world projects when assessed statically. Dynamic calls can assist solve this problem. Static Application Security Testing (SAST) is utilized for direct examination of application source code. This inspects static source code and reports on vulnerabilities discovered, which might range from syntax issues to improper unsafe references. The most popular way is to generate symbol tables, Abstract Syntax Trees (AST), and control-flow graphs, and the main program control graph.

If a running instance of the product is available in a controlled environment, Dynamic Application Security Testing (DAST) can be utilized to do large-scale scans from the attacker's perspective. This mimics harmful inputs and collects information on how the program handles this data. This is completed without access to the source code. DAST differs from SAST in that it uses a black-box technique to execute attacks. SAST does white-box testing, identifying susceptible patterns that may not be vulnerable in production. Interactive Application Security Testing (IAST) takes a hybrid approach, using concepts from SAST and DAST. It interacts with the application in a dynamic way, whether manually or automatically, and then compares the results with a static analysis performed to give the root cause of the vulnerabilities discovered.

Application security (AppSec) refers to the approaches used to detect, mitigate, and protect software against known vulnerabilities inside applications. AppSec began as a manual procedure but has since developed to incorporate automated activities that are replicable and faster to conduct. It is used throughout the Software Development Life Cycle (SDLC) and may need a multidisciplinary approach. The main goal is to identify and resolve software security vulnerabilities before they are exploited. During the testing process, vulnerabilities are uncovered and information about them is gathered through analysis and reporting. Such testing has benefits beyond just a well-written project; it assists in the discovery and avoidance of potential problems, which is critical for most produced solutions.

We will provide a rigorous technique that identifies hazards related to container application workflows and recommends first measures toward mitigation. The study ranks hazards across container infrastructure using DREAD, a well-known threat modeling tool. The study also examines real-world exploits and techniques for assessing container vulnerabilities, comparing security analysis methodologies in container technology to earlier studies. The introduction emphasizes how organizations are increasingly embracing cloud computing for DevOps operations and the need for dependable code execution in a range of contexts. The transition from monolithic to microservices is also discussed, as is the importance of continuous integration and deployment in modern software development. The study's urgency is underscored by the growing container market and real hacks.[2]

Security is a top priority in containerized settings, where the dynamic and intelligent nature of containers presents new problems. In this part, we go deeper into the various security concerns given by containerization, supplementing the topic with more examples, case studies, and an examination of the unique attack surface presented by containers. Evolving Security Challenges: Container environments have several security concerns, ranging from vulnerabilities in container images and runtime environments to orchestration and administration of containerized applications. One significant concern is the spread of insecure container images obtained from public repositories, which may contain out-of-date software components or unpatched vulnerabilities. Furthermore, misconfigurations in container runtime environments, poor access restrictions, and inadequate network segmentation enhance the risk picture.[7]

Numerous real-world instances demonstrate the need to tackle security concerns in container settings. The 2019 breach of the Docker Hub repository demonstrates the vulnerabilities associated with compromised container images. Malicious actors implanted bitcoin mining malware into official Docker images, infecting thousands of installations globally. Similarly, the use of misconfigured Kubernetes clusters in the high-profile Tesla and Capital One hacks emphasizes the significance of strong security setups and access restrictions in container orchestration systems.[9]

Containers have a different attack surface as compared to typical monolithic systems, as they are ephemeral and granular. Unlike monolithic apps, which define security boundaries at the application level, containers enclose distinct services or microservices, each with its own attack surface. This granularization increases the complexity of security management, demanding extensive solutions for vulnerability monitoring, access control, and runtime security.[8]

Security vulnerabilities in containerized systems can have far-reaching effects, including data breaches, service outages, regulatory noncompliance, and reputational harm. Data breaches caused by exploited container images or runtime environments can result in the exfiltration of sensitive information, endangering consumer confidence and exposing enterprises to legal ramifications. Service outages caused by container hacks can jeopardize business continuity and result in considerable financial losses, particularly in mission-critical applications.[7]

Furthermore, regulatory non-compliance in containerized settings can result in significant fines and penalties, increasing the financial and reputational consequences of security breaches.

Security concerns in container settings are varied and dynamic, needing proactive actions to reduce risks and protect corporate assets. Organizations can fortify their containerized environments against emerging threats while ensuring the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of their applications and data by understanding the unique attack surface presented by containers, augmenting security measures, and implementing robust security practices.[7]

Container security is critical for protecting sensitive data, preserving the integrity of vital services, and bolstering the infrastructure of enterprises that use containerization. This section emphasizes the importance of container security, explains the consequences of security vulnerabilities for enterprises that use containerization, and advocates for rigorous approaches and proactive actions to reduce security risks in container systems.

Security flaws in container settings can have far-reaching consequences for enterprises that adopt containerization. Container technology is used by enterprises in a variety of industries, including financial institutions and healthcare providers, to promote innovation, streamline operations, and give value to consumers. However, discovering vulnerabilities in container images, runtime environments, or orchestration platforms may erode trust, impair confidence, and result in significant financial and reputational losses. Furthermore, regulatory noncompliance caused by security failings can subject firms to legal liability and regulatory punishments, magnifying the consequences of security breaches. As a result, addressing security vulnerabilities in container systems is more than just good practice; it is a strategic requirement for enterprises looking to prosper in an increasingly competitive and risky world.[8]

Virtual machines offer exceptional security. However, their security isolation limits the number of VMs that may operate on a server since each VM requires its own operating system (OS), libraries, dedicated resources, and applications. This has a negative impact on performance (e.g., slow startup time) and storage capacity. The introduction of DevOps software development practices and microservices highlighted the need for a quicker solution than VMs, as running each microservice on a separate VM is inefficient owing to slow startup times and higher resource use. Container-based virtualization arose as a lightweight alternative to virtual machines (VMs).

Although there are various polls of virtual machines, they do not address container security vulnerabilities. Container security differs from that of VMs since containers share the OS kernel whereas VMs have their own kernel. Understanding container security issues and solutions is critical owing to a lack of thorough studies in the literature. This is troublesome since each of the options offered is applicable to a very specific use scenario. For example, trustworthy platform support (e.g., Intel Software Guard Extensions (SGX)) is largely utilized to allow containers to run on an untrusted host, making it difficult for the reader to follow the various use cases.

Containers address two major drawbacks of VMs. First, they share the same OS kernel and may share resources, whereas each VM requires its own copy. Second, containers can be started and stopped very instantaneously, but virtual machines take much longer to start [3]. Containers have also shown to be more efficient than VMs for specific applications, such as microservices, due to their lightweight design and lack of the need for a full OS copy every image. However, containers still require a fully working kernel that is shared by several containers. Furthermore, microservice architecture emphasizes the significance of ephemeral state containers, in which any data persistence is routed to another data store or service. Containers are widely regarded as the industry standard for deploying microservices to the cloud [10].

Container as a Service introduces a new delivery model to cloud computing [3]. Many firms provide container services, which enable a wide range of containerized applications across many markets. Although OS level virtualization is a promising technology with many advantages, it faces several hurdles. For example, host OS kernel sharing presents various security vulnerabilities, making them less secure than virtual machines (VMs).

Vulnerability assessment, in a larger sense, is the process of detecting, documenting, and classifying system vulnerabilities. In the context of information technology systems, this concept is limited to identifying, recording, categorizing, and perhaps mitigating security flaws inside an information system, as illustrated in Figure 1. In this sense, a vulnerability is a weakness that may be used to disturb a program's usual operation. AppSec mainly relies on vulnerability assessment to generate information on possible hazards, which allows for problem prioritization and resolution. To remain effective, a continuous AppSec process must be subjected to continual vulnerability assessments. To foster consensus and improve communication among the community, various standards were established.

The CWE Top 25 is a community-compiled list of the 25 most significant defects in software security. These defects are not vulnerabilities, but rather conditions that, in some circumstances, might result in a vulnerability. The OWASP Top 10 is a standardized awareness resource for developers and online application security. It represents a broad consensus on the most critical security issues connected with online applications. Both the OWASP Top 10 and CWE Top 25 have been around for a while, but

they are maintained up to date. As a result, while previous versions may be relevant for historical purposes, the most recent versions reflect the reality of the most significant concerns.

Containerization provides several advantages for enterprises looking to update their IT infrastructure and expedite application deployment. Containers enable enterprises to flexibly scale applications, resulting in optimal performance and resource utilization in response to shifting demand. Containers enhance resource usage and reduce overhead, resulting in cost-effective infrastructure management. Containers provide a uniform runtime environment across several platforms, allowing for smooth deployment and execution across the program lifecycle. Containers provide strong segregation of programs and dependencies, increasing security and ensuring dependability and stability across deployments. In conclusion, container technology emerges as a disruptive force, heralding unprecedented agility, scalability, and efficiency for enterprises across several industries. Its lightweight encapsulation, mobility, and other advantages establish it as the key paradigm for modern application deployment.

The value of container security cannot be emphasized in today's digital world. As enterprises adopt containerization to foster innovation and agility, strong security measures become critical for protecting sensitive data, maintaining vital services, and assuring infrastructure integrity. Organizations may confidently and resiliently manage the intricacies of container security by realizing the ramifications of security vulnerabilities, using rigorous methodologies, and embracing proactive measures.

Container security is inextricably linked to the larger landscape of modern computing, which is defined by the convergence of containerization, cloud computing, DevOps approaches, and microservices architecture. This part contextualizes container security within this dynamic ecosystem, investigates the symbiotic link between containerization and important computing paradigms, and sheds light on the trends driving container technology adoption across a wide range of sectors.

Containerization has developed as an essential component of modern computing, providing a lightweight, portable, and scalable solution to program deployment and administration. Containers encapsulate programs and their dependencies, allowing for consistent operation across diverse environments ranging from on-premises data centers to cloud architecture. Containers' adaptability and agility make them ideal for the dynamic nature of modern computing, which prioritizes quick innovation, scalability, and resource efficiency.

This assessment will draw on a wide range of research articles, industry reports, and university studies to highlight major container security trends, issues, and possibilities. We investigate the usage of frameworks such as STRIDE (Spoofing, Tampering, Repudiation, Information Disclosure, Denial of Service, and Elevation of Privilege) to identify and assess possible threats across several levels of containerized systems.

Furthermore, we analyze known countermeasures for these threats, considering their efficacy, limits, and practical consequences in real-world deployments. By collecting literature ideas, we want to enlighten and guide future research efforts in vulnerability analysis, threat detection, and mitigation measures that are suited to the specific characteristics of containerized settings.[1]

The study culminates by providing an overview of the present status of research on container security and recommending future directions for investigation into server-based and serverless container technologies.[2]

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Overview of Container Security

Container technology has gained popularity in recent years due to its potential to streamline application development, deployment, and administration. However, the use of containers raises additional security concerns, demanding extensive study to identify and manage such threats.[2]

B. Threat Modeling for Container Security

Threat modeling is acknowledged as an important component of container security, with the goal of identifying possible vulnerabilities and suggesting mitigation measures throughout the container's lifespan. Studies by Tenev and Tsvetanov (2020) and Wong et al. (2023) use frameworks like STRIDE and OCTAVE to completely examine container hazards. By analyzing possible vulnerabilities at each stage of the container lifecycle, these models help to implement proactive security measures in containerized settings.[2]

C. Vulnerability Analysis

Smith et al. investigated vulnerability analysis in container security. They investigated typical vulnerabilities in containerized settings, such as misconfigurations, unsafe application dependencies, and insufficient access control. By

identifying these weaknesses, the study emphasizes the significance of installing strong security measures to reduce possible dangers.[1]

Vulnerability analysis in containerized systems is crucial for guaranteeing the security and integrity of programs and data. This section investigates the various types of vulnerabilities commonly found in containerized environments, discusses the consequences of misconfigurations, insecure dependencies, and insufficient access controls, and provides real-world examples and case studies of vulnerability exploitation in container deployments. Container images obtained from public sources may contain out-of-date or insecure software components, exposing programs to known exploits and vulnerabilities. Weaknesses in container runtime environments, such as incorrect setups or inadequate isolation, can allow malicious actors to gain unauthorized access and exploit containers.

D. *Real World Exploits and vulnerabilities.*

The expanding use of containers has attracted hackers, resulting in real-world exploits and vulnerabilities. Examples are the Ngrok bitcoin mining campaign, the Kinsing malware campaign, and the Siloscape virus. Lin et al. (2018) and Sultan et al. (2019) performed vulnerability evaluations, underlining the importance of updating security measures to combat emerging attack vectors in container settings.[2]

Vulnerabilities in container orchestration technologies, such as Kubernetes or Docker Swarm, can be used to compromise the whole containerized environment, resulting in service outages and data breaches. Dependencies within containerized programs, such as libraries or frameworks, may have flaws that may be exploited to obtain unauthorized access or execute malicious code. Access Control Issues: Inadequate access controls and permissions in containerized systems might allow unauthorized users to access sensitive data or take illegal activities, resulting in data breaches and compliance violations. Exploiting vulnerabilities in containerized settings can result in data breaches, which include unauthorized access, theft, or disclosure of sensitive information housed within containers.

Docker Hub Breach: In 2019, the Docker Hub repository was compromised, resulting in the loss of thousands of container images. Attackers implanted cryptocurrency mining malware into official Docker images, underscoring the hazards of using vulnerable container images from public repositories. Misconfigured Kubernetes Clusters: Several high-profile breaches, like those at Tesla and Capital One, have been linked to misconfigured Kubernetes clusters. Attackers used weaknesses in Kubernetes setups to obtain unauthorized access and steal sensitive data, emphasizing the significance of strong security configurations and access restrictions in container orchestration systems.

E. *Difficulties and prospects*

While container technology has several advantages, providing complete security remains difficult. Chung et al. (2016) and Mendki (2018) emphasize challenges with isolation, availability, and network security in a variety of application settings. To successfully address these difficulties, the literature highlights the necessity for continued study and improvement in areas such as rootless containers, as well as constant improvements in container technology.[2]

F. *Countermeasures & Solutions*

Several research have examined countermeasures and strategies for improving container security. Jones et al. presented a unique technique to runtime security monitoring in containerized settings. Their approach uses dynamic analytic techniques to identify and reduce harmful activity within containers in real time. Similarly, Zhang et al. developed a secure image registry to prevent manipulation and unauthorized access to container images. These studies emphasize the significance of taking proactive security steps to protect containerized applications from potential risks.[1]

G. *Overview of Security Tools and Methodologies*

A detailed review of security tools and practices used at various phases of software development, including source code security, container security, dependency management, and dynamic scanning. It provides valuable insights into addressing a wide range of security concerns throughout the software development lifecycle by examining a diverse array of open-source and commercial tools such as Git-Secrets, Secretlint, Git-Hound, Hadolint, Dockle, Falco, Radon, ESLint, Flake8, Safety, OWASP Dependency Check, Yarn Audit, Nikto, OWASP Zap, and Vega.

H. *Flexibility and Customization Options*

Certain solutions, such as Secretlint, are emphasized for their flexibility and customization capabilities, which allow users to define and adjust criteria for recognizing secrets using JSON syntax. This flexibility allows firms to adjust security solutions to their individual needs, increasing the efficacy of security testing and mitigation tactics.[3]

I. Contributions

Nonetheless, we discovered major contributions in receiving a comprehensive review of open-source solutions for vulnerability assessment, which included many elements of security testing and evaluation. By assessing a wide selection of tools within each category and taking into account variables such as language support, simplicity of use, integration capabilities, and specialized functionality, the study offers significant insights into improving security procedures across the software development lifecycle. Furthermore, the consideration of tool integration into CI/CD pipelines follows the current trend of smoothly integrating security testing into the development workflow, emphasizing the research's practical significance.[4]

J. Limitations and Challenges

Despite the research's extensive review, a number of limits and concerns emerge. These include possible tool selection bias, a lack of explicit discussion of tool versions and upgrades, integration hurdles into current development workflows[4], and accessibility concerns caused by reliance on commercial tools. Concerns concerning tool obsolescence, as well as a lack of debate about dealing with false positives, call into doubt the tools' real-world usefulness.[3]

Container security is critical for maintaining the integrity, confidentiality, and availability of applications and data in containerized systems. This section provides a thorough review of the security issues surrounding container technology, digs into important concepts and best practices for protecting containerized environments, and investigates the role of regulatory compliance and industry standards in container security. Security Issues with Container Technology Container technology raises a slew of security challenges, owing to the containers' distinct properties and dynamic nature. Key areas of concern are: Vulnerabilities in Container Images: Container images obtained from public repositories may contain obsolete or vulnerable software components, endangering the integrity of containerized applications.

Attackers use misconfigurations in containerized settings, such as unprotected API endpoints or weak authentication procedures, to obtain unauthorized access and deploy malicious containers. Attackers use vulnerabilities in third-party dependencies, such as container images downloaded from public repositories, to inject malware or run arbitrary code within containerized apps. Attackers target container orchestration technologies, such as Kubernetes or Docker Swarm, in order to infiltrate entire containerized setups and gain permanent access for future exploitation. Lessons Learned and Implications Importance of Secure settings: Properly configuring containerized environments, including Docker settings and Kubernetes clusters, is critical for reducing the risk of exploitation and unauthorized access by attackers.

Regular patching and updating of container images and dependencies is critical for addressing known vulnerabilities and lowering the attack surface in containerized settings. Continuous Monitoring and Detection: By implementing strong monitoring and detection techniques like as intrusion detection systems and security analytics, companies can notice and respond to security issues in real time, reducing the effect of exploitation and data breaches. Education and awareness: Educating developers, administrators, and users on security best practices as well as the dangers associated with container systems is critical for establishing a secure and accountable culture. Recent exploits and vulnerabilities in container settings highlight the critical need of protecting configurations, mitigating vulnerabilities, and establishing strong monitoring and detection mechanisms.

Container runtime security flaws, such as insufficient access restrictions or misconfigurations, can expose containers to unwanted access and exploitation. Orchestration Vulnerabilities: Container orchestration technologies, such as Kubernetes or Docker Swarm, may include flaws that may be used to compromise the whole containerized environment. Networking and isolation: Inadequate network segmentation and isolation between containers might allow for lateral movement and illegal access in containerized settings.

Principles and Best Practices of Container Security To address these security problems, businesses should follow important concepts and best practices for protecting containerized environments: Image Security: Implement a thorough image scanning and validation procedure to guarantee that container images are free of vulnerabilities and meet security criteria before deployment.

Container security confronts continual problems and limits in the rapidly changing ecosystem of contemporary computing. This section digs into the ongoing difficulties, investigates emerging trends and technologies influencing the future of container security, and identifies topics for future research and development in container security solutions. Ongoing Challenges and Limitations Isolation and Multi-tenancy: Maintaining proper isolation between containers and multi-tenancy without jeopardizing security remains a problem, especially in shared or multi-cloud deployments. Vulnerability Management: Managing vulnerabilities in container images, dependencies, and runtime environments is difficult owing to the dynamic nature of containers and the proliferation of third-party components.

Container orchestration solutions add complexity to security management, forcing enterprises to negotiate complicated setups, access restrictions, and networking policies. Meeting regulatory compliance standards such as GDPR or HIPAA in containerized settings is difficult owing to a lack of standardized security measures and audit procedures. Zero Trust security designs, which presume that all network traffic is untrusted and validate each access request, are gaining popularity in container security to reduce the dangers of lateral movement and unwanted access within containerized systems. The immutable infrastructure principles, which advocate for considering infrastructure components as disposable and immutable, provide potential to improve security by decreasing the attack surface and the risk of configuration drift and unauthorized modifications.

To exchange knowledge and protect cyberspace, information sharing is required inside this ecosystem. The major requirements are a structured format (ideally machine readable) and the ability to convey as much context and information as possible. While vulnerability assessment involves criteria for reaching an agreement on what is most important, it also requires standards for how information about a specific issue is conveyed. Standards such as the Structured Threat Information eXpression (STIX) format allow for the representation of cybersecurity threats. This is made possible by the format's wide range of data objects, which include information about a threat actor, malware, tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTP), and incident information .

Regulatory compliance and industry standards are critical factors in determining container security measures. HIPAA, GDPR, and PCI-DSS compliance standards impose strict requirements for sensitive data protection and containerized environment security. Furthermore, industry standards like the CIS Benchmarks for Docker and Kubernetes give rules and best practices for securing container systems, assisting enterprises in complying with industry-recognized security standards and frameworks. Container security is a complicated discipline requiring a comprehensive strategy that includes image security, runtime protection, orchestration security, and continuous monitoring. Organizations may fortify their containerized environments against changing threats by following core concepts and best practices, as well as harmonizing with regulatory compliance and industry standards.

Threat modeling and risk assessment are critical components of container security, allowing enterprises to detect, prioritize, and mitigate security risks in containerized systems. This part builds on the previous discussion of threat modeling frameworks such as STRIDE and OCTAVE, providing concrete examples of their use in container security and emphasizing the significance of continual risk assessment and adaptation. STRIDE is a popular threat modeling paradigm that divides security risks into six major categories: spoofing, tampering, repudiation, information disclosure, denial of service, and elevation of privilege. By methodically examining these attack vectors at each stage of the container lifecycle, enterprises may detect possible security flaws and take proactive steps to prevent risks.

OCTAVE (Operationally Critical Threat, Asset, and Vulnerability Evaluation) is a risk assessment approach for identifying, prioritizing, and managing information security threats in a company. Unlike previous threat modeling methodologies, OCTAVE takes a holistic approach, concentrating on assets, vulnerabilities, and operational implications to analyze security threats thoroughly. Structured seminars and risk assessments may help firms understand their specific risk environment and implement personalized risk mitigation measures. Threat modeling frameworks, such as STRIDE and OCTAVE, may be efficiently used to detect and mitigate security issues in container settings.

Organizations can utilize STRIDE to assess the risk of unwanted access to containerized services via spoofing attacks such identity impersonation or IP address spoofing. By adopting robust authentication systems and access restrictions, enterprises may reduce the risk of spoofing attacks and improve the security of their containerized environments. STRIDE can assist enterprises in determining the risk of data tampering or manipulation within containerized applications. Organizations can identify and prevent unwanted manipulation of container images and runtime environments by utilizing cryptographic techniques like digital signatures and integrity checks, assuring the application's integrity and trustworthiness. OCTAVE can help enterprises analyze the risk of sensitive information leakage in containerized settings. Organizations may safeguard sensitive data from unauthorized access by conducting extensive risk assessments and vulnerability scans, identifying potential sources of information leakage such as misconfigured security settings or unsecured APIs, and implementing remedial steps.

Container security relies heavily on continuous risk assessment and adaptation due to the dynamic and developing nature of security threats. Organizations must take a proactive approach to security by constantly monitoring their containerized environments for emerging threats and vulnerabilities. Using threat intelligence feeds, security analytics, and automated detection methods, companies may identify and respond to security issues in real time, reducing the impact of security breaches and maintaining the durability of their containerized infrastructure. Threat modeling and risk assessment are essential components of container security, allowing enterprises to detect, prioritize, and mitigate security issues in containerized systems. Using frameworks like STRIDE and OCTAVE, enterprises may systematically examine security threats, establish proactive mitigation measures, and assure the integrity and security of their containerized apps and data.

Mitigating security vulnerabilities in container settings requires a holistic strategy that includes rigorous approaches, proactive measures, and constant awareness. Threat modeling, vulnerability assessments, and security audits are all critical techniques for detecting and prioritizing security concerns throughout the container lifetime. Organizations can gain insights into potential threats and vulnerabilities by utilizing well-established methodologies such as DREAD (Damage, Reproducibility, Exploitability, Affected Users, Discoverability) and STRIDE (Spoofing, Tampering, Repudiation, Information Disclosure, Denial of Service, Elevation of Privilege), allowing for informed decision-making and targeted risk mitigation efforts. Furthermore, implementing proactive security measures like access restrictions, network segmentation, and runtime protection methods is critical for protecting containerized environments from emerging risks and developing attack vectors.

Container technology is being widely used throughout sectors, driven by a number of major themes. For starters, the need for agility and scalability is driving enterprises to adopt containerization as a method of accelerating innovation and streamlining processes. Second, the shift to cloud-native architectures is driving container adoption, as enterprises want to use cloud platforms for delivering and scaling containerized applications. Third, the rise of hybrid and multi-cloud solutions is accelerating container adoption, allowing enterprises to reap the advantages of containerization across several cloud environments while preserving flexibility and control over their infrastructure.

Improving the security capabilities of container orchestration platforms, such as Kubernetes or Docker Swarm, by including built-in security controls, encryption methods, and audit trails for containerized workloads. While container security confronts ongoing problems and constraints, emerging trends and technologies present opportunity to improve security posture and counter growing threats. Organizations may improve the security of their containerized systems and adapt to the changing landscape of contemporary computing by tackling continuing difficulties, embracing emerging trends, and investing in future research and development.

DevOps is like a game-changer in software development, promising better teamwork, flexibility, and productivity among development and operations teams. But making this switch isn't easy. There are lots of hurdles to overcome, from communication problems to technical challenges. A mix of theories and real-life experiences helps us understand these challenges better. We've found that DevOps faces issues on many fronts—organizationally, technically, and culturally. These range from people not talking to each other to bosses not wanting to change things. By grasping these challenges, organizations can plan better and make DevOps work for them.[5]

The convergence of container security, DevOps, and DevSecOps methods is critical to ensure security is seamlessly integrated across the software development lifecycle. This section investigates the relationship between container security and DevOps/DevSecOps, solutions for smoothly integrating security, and the significance of cooperation and automation in attaining DevSecOps goals. DevOps stresses collaboration, automation, and continuous integration/continuous deployment (CI/CD), allowing enterprises to speed up software delivery while improving operational efficiency.

Containerization is well aligned with DevOps ideals, since it provides lightweight and portable application encapsulation while also allowing for quick deployment and scaling. DevSecOps expands the DevOps idea by integrating security into the development lifecycle from the start. By incorporating security into every level of the CI/CD pipeline, DevSecOps develops a culture of security awareness and accountability among developers and operations teams, ensuring that security is not an afterthought but a fundamental aspect of software development.

Automation streamlines security processes, eliminates manual work, and speeds up the supply of safe software. Organizations may improve the efficiency, consistency, and scalability of their security procedures by automating repetitive operations such as vulnerability scanning, code analysis, and compliance checks, freeing developers to focus on building code and providing value to

customers. The integration of container security with DevOps and DevSecOps processes is critical for assuring the timely delivery of safe and resilient applications. Organizations may meet their DevSecOps goals and handle security problems in containerized systems by implementing seamless integration techniques, encouraging collaboration and communication, and using automation for speed and efficiency.

Shift-left security entails including security testing and vulnerability scanning early in the development lifecycle, allowing firms to discover and address security concerns from the outset. By incorporating security into the development process from the start, businesses may reduce the likelihood of security vulnerabilities and guarantee that security is incorporated in every code modification. DevSecOps relies heavily on automation, which allows enterprises to automate security testing, vulnerability scanning, and compliance checks as part of the CI/CD pipeline. Automated security testing tools, such as static application security testing (SAST) and dynamic application security testing (DAST), can scan container images and code repositories for security flaws and provide immediate feedback to developers, allowing for faster remediation and shorter time-to-market.

The rise of containerization is inextricably tied to the spread of cloud computing, DevOps methods, and microservice design. Cloud computing platforms provide the infrastructure and services required for delivering and scaling containerized applications, with flexibility, dependability, and cost-effectiveness. DevOps approaches prioritize collaboration, automation, and continuous integration/continuous deployment (CI/CD), which integrate perfectly with containerized processes to expedite software delivery and enhance operational efficiency. Meanwhile, microservices design argues for breaking down monolithic apps into smaller, independently deployable services, a model that is ideally matched by containerization's lightweight encapsulation and portability.

Runtime protection technologies, such as container behavioral analysis and anomaly detection, are emerging to give real-time visibility into container operations and detect abnormal behavior that might indicate security concerns. DevSecOps, or the integration of security into DevOps processes, is becoming more popular to move security farther down the software development lifecycle and build a culture of security and responsibility among developers and operations teams. Creating automated tools and procedures for security testing, vulnerability scanning, and compliance auditing in containerized environments to improve security operations and assure continuous security posture assessment. Establishing container-specific security standards and best practices to handle the difficulties and requirements of containerized environments while also facilitating regulatory compliance.

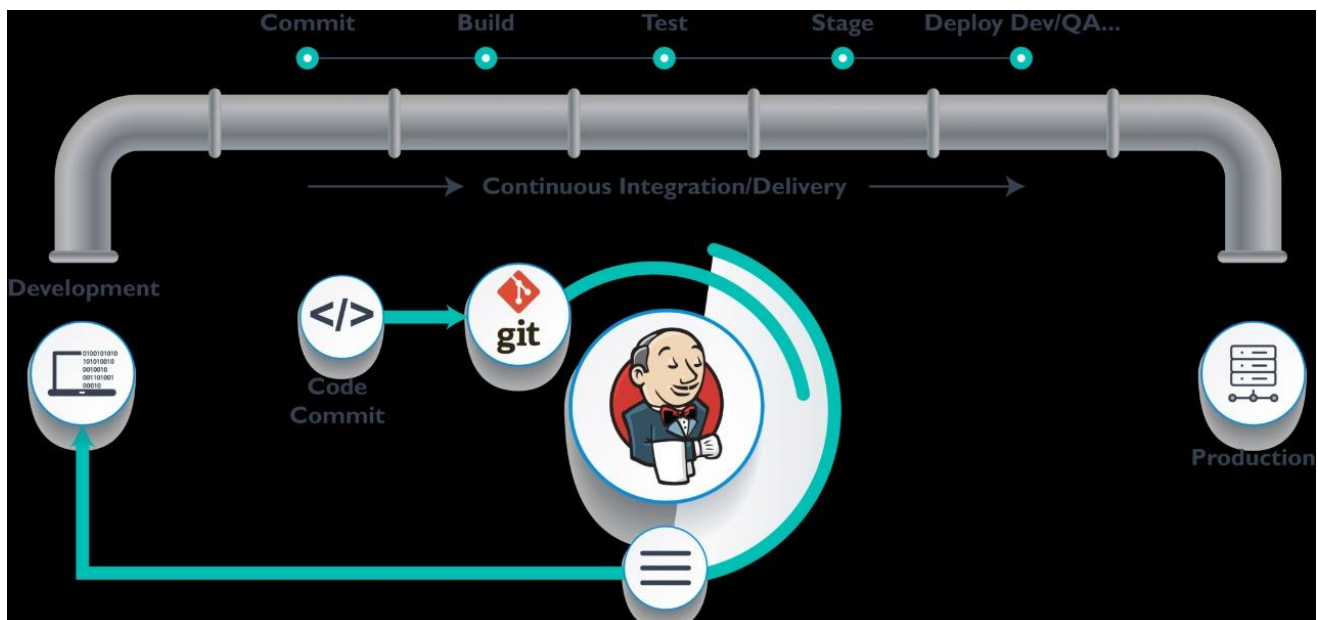
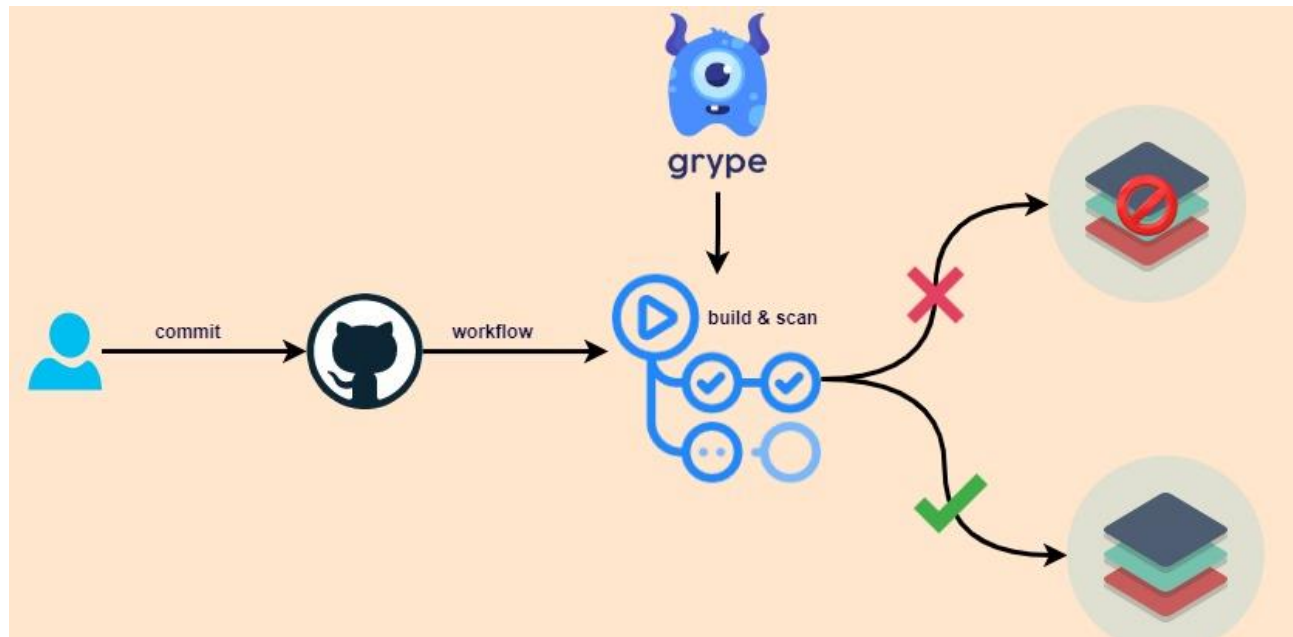
We've also looked at surveys and studies that back up these challenges. People in the industry agree that communication problems, skills shortages, and security worries are real barriers. Facing up to these issues helps smooth the transition to DevOps, creating a culture where innovation and teamwork thrive. Looking forward, we need more practical advice to help companies tackle these hurdles.[6]

Another area we explored is DevSecOps, where security joins the DevOps mix. It's becoming increasingly important in modern software development. While it's tough to integrate security into DevOps smoothly, it's crucial for keeping software safe. Studies show that automation, integrating security tools, and getting teams to work together are key. By focusing on high-risk areas and making security testing part of the development process, organizations can catch and fix problems early. Plus, fostering a culture where security matters to everyone helps keep the balance between innovation and safety. Another approach is self-service cybersecurity monitoring, which lets teams set up and manage their own security systems. This way, organizations can react quickly to new threats and make sure everyone takes responsibility for security. It's all about building safer software in today's fast-moving digital world.[7]

III. METHODOLOGY

Tasks No	Description	Completion Date	Team Member	Software/Hardware	Outcomes
1	Detailed contextual information and an extensive review of research findings pertaining to the selected topic.	02/03/2024	ALL	n/a	Analyzing container security vulnerabilities involves scrutinizing potential weaknesses in the security of containerized systems to enhance overall protection and reduce risks.
2	Concluding the topic necessitates offering a summary and detailing the specific steps		all	n/a	Determine which tasks must be distributed.
3	Progress Report 1	02/22/2024	Avishek Saha	n/a	Submitted Report to the professor for review
4	Perform research to identify the available container security platforms.	02/26/2024	Kaustubh Kadam	n/a	
5	Developing a CI/CD Pipeline and setting up cloud environment		Vaibhav A Mayekar	Jenkins, Tomcat, AWS for deploying	
6	Research a tool for vulnerability scanning and working on challenges creating a CI/CD Pipeline	03/02/2024	Kaustubh Kadam	Grype, Jenkins, Tomcat, AWS for deploying	
7	Research on various existing methods to protect container environment	03/04/2024	Avishek Saha	n/a	
8	Further research on more contextual evidence	03/04/2024	Sanketh Subhas	n/a	
9	Progress Report 2		Avishek Saha & Sanketh Subhas	n/a	Submitted Report to the professor for further review
10	Jenkins & Tomcat setup with initial script		Vaibhav A Mayekar		
11	AWS setup & Blueocean tool		Kaustubh Kadam		
12	Extensive research on DevOps	03/28/2024	Sanketh Subhas		
13	Research on Implementation of DevOps in Container Environment	03/30/2024	Avishek Saha		
14	Progress Report 3	04/04/2024	Avishek Saha & Sanketh Subhas		Submitted Report to the professor for further review
15	Progress Report 4	04/18/2024	All		Submitted Report to the professor for further review

To better understand security vulnerabilities in the Dev operations pipeline, we will set up a lab setting in which we will establish DevOps pipeline and do a vulnerability assessment on it. This will identify all the indicators of compromise (IOCs) in the pipeline, as well as the changes that need to be patched. We have constructed two servers: one for Jenkins, which will build our pipeline in real time, and one for Tomcat, which will host our web page. We are halfway through our experiment; thus far, we have set up Jenkins and Tomcat, and to see whether Jenkins works, we have written a test script. Along with Jenkins, we have included a tool called Blue Ocean, which is a representation tool to verify.



```

ubuntu@ip-172-31-15-242:~$ sy
sync                                systemd-ask-password               systemd-delta                      systemd-inhibit                    systemd-run                        systemd-tmpfiles
systemctl                           systemd-cat                        systemd-detect-virt                systemd-machine-id-setup           systemd-socket-activate            systemd-tty-ask-password-agent
systemctl                            systemd-cgls                       systemd-escape                      systemd-mount                       systemd-stdio-bridge                systemd-umount
systemd                              systemd-cgtop                      systemd-hwdb                       systemd-notify                      systemd-sysext                      systemd-sysusers
systemd-analyze                      systemd-cryptenroll                systemd-id128

ubuntu@ip-172-31-15-242:~$ systemctl sta
start status
ubuntu@ip-172-31-15-242:~$ systemctl sta
start status
ubuntu@ip-172-31-15-242:~$ systemctl sta
start status
ubuntu@ip-172-31-15-242:~$ systemctl status jenkins.service
jenkins.service - Jenkins Continuous Integration Server
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/jenkins.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2024-03-11 00:00:50 UTC; 9min ago
     Main PID: 9875 (java)
        Tasks: 37 (limit: 1121)
      Memory: 305.5M
         CPU: 49.963s
    CGroup: /system.slice/jenkins.service
            └─9875 /usr/bin/java -Djava.awt.headless=true -jar /usr/share/java/jenkins.war --webroot=/var/cache/jenkins/war --httpPort=8080

Mar 11 00:00:10 ip-172-31-15-242 jenkins[9875]: 56ac7f66995142dc9cfbe2f12575e839
Mar 11 00:00:10 ip-172-31-15-242 jenkins[9875]: This may also be found at: /var/lib/jenkins/secrets/initialAdminPassword
Mar 11 00:00:10 ip-172-31-15-242 jenkins[9875]: *****
Mar 11 00:00:10 ip-172-31-15-242 jenkins[9875]: *****
Mar 11 00:00:10 ip-172-31-15-242 jenkins[9875]: *****
Mar 11 00:00:50 ip-172-31-15-242 jenkins[9875]: 2024-03-11 00:00:50.229+0000 [id=30] INFO jenkins.InitReactorRunner$1onAttained: Completed initialization
Mar 11 00:00:50 ip-172-31-15-242 jenkins[9875]: 2024-03-11 00:00:50.257+0000 [id=22] INFO hudson.lifecycle.Lifecycle$onReady: Jenkins is fully up and running
Mar 11 00:00:50 ip-172-31-15-242 systemd[1]: Started Jenkins Continuous Integration Server.
Mar 11 00:00:50 ip-172-31-15-242 jenkins[9875]: 2024-03-11 00:00:50.654+0000 [id=45] INFO h.m.DownloadService$Downloadable$load: Obtained the updated data file for hudson.tasks.Maven.MavenIn
Mar 11 00:00:50 ip-172-31-15-242 jenkins[9875]: 2024-03-11 00:00:50.655+0000 [id=45] INFO hudson.util.Retrier$start: Performed the action check updates server successfully at the attempt #1
lines 1-20/20 (END)
[1]+  Stopped                  systemctl status jenkins.service
^C^C

```

Jenkins Sever Active State

```

Last login: Mon Mar 18 00:55:28 2024 from 13.52.6.115
ubuntu@ip-172-31-1-145:~$ tomcatup
Using CATALINA_BASE:   /home/ubuntu/apache-tomcat-8.5.99
Using CATALINA_HOME:   /home/ubuntu/apache-tomcat-8.5.99
Using CATALINA_TMPDIR: /home/ubuntu/apache-tomcat-8.5.99/temp
Using JRE_HOME:        /usr
Using CLASSPATH:        /home/ubuntu/apache-tomcat-8.5.99/bin/bootstrap.jar:/home/ubuntu/apache-tomcat-8.5.99/bin/tomcat-juli.jar
Using CATALINA_OPTS:
Tomcat started.

```

```

1  pipeline {
2    agent any
3    tools {
4      maven 'Maven'
5    }
6    stages {
7      stage ('Initialize') {
8        steps {
9          sh '''
10             echo "PATH = ${PATH}"
11             echo "M2_HOME = ${M2_HOME}"
12             '''
13        }
14      }
15
16      stage ('Build') {
17        steps {
18          sh 'mvn clean package'
19        }
20      }
21    }
22  }
23
24
25
26

```

Test Code for Jenkins

The screenshot shows the Jenkins web interface for a pipeline named 'project7'. The pipeline is currently in the 'Build' stage, which is marked as successful with a green checkmark. The console output shows the following steps:

- Maven** — Use a tool from a predefined Tool Installation —> 11s
- Fetches the environment variables for a given tool in a list of 'FOO=bar' strings suitable for the withEnv step.** —> 11s
- mvn clean package** — Shell Script —> 11s

The pipeline is configured with the following parameters:

- Branch:** —
- Commit:** —
- 20s** (estimated duration)
- No changes**
- Started by user Vaibhav**

The pipeline is currently in the 'Build' stage, which is marked as successful with a green checkmark. The console output shows the following steps:

```

ubuntu@ip-172-31-12-223:~$ sudo systemctl status docker
● docker.service - Docker Application Container Engine
   Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/docker.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)
   Active: active (running) since Mon 2024-03-11 01:59:12 UTC; 17s ago
     TriggeredBy: ● docker.socket
   Docs: https://docs.docker.com
  Main PID: 8366 (dockerd)
    Tasks: 7
   Memory: 43.5M
      CPU: 372ms
   CGroup: /system.slice/docker.service
           └─8366 /usr/bin/dockerd -H fd:// --containerd=/run/containerd/containerd.sock

Mar 11 01:59:11 ip-172-31-12-223 systemd[1]: Starting Docker Application Container Engine...
Mar 11 01:59:11 ip-172-31-12-223 dockerd[8366]: time="2024-03-11T01:59:11.604607558Z" level=info msg="Starting up"
Mar 11 01:59:11 ip-172-31-12-223 dockerd[8366]: time="2024-03-11T01:59:11.609065892Z" level=info msg="detected 127.0.0.53 nameserver, assuming systemd-resolved, so using resolv.conf: /run/systemd/resolve/re
Mar 11 01:59:11 ip-172-31-12-223 dockerd[8366]: time="2024-03-11T01:59:11.747368000Z" level=info msg="Loading containers: start."
Mar 11 01:59:12 ip-172-31-12-223 dockerd[8366]: time="2024-03-11T01:59:12.230167489Z" level=info msg="Loading containers: done."
Mar 11 01:59:12 ip-172-31-12-223 dockerd[8366]: time="2024-03-11T01:59:12.446096120Z" level=info msg="Docker daemon" commit=659604f graphdriver=overlay2 version=24.0.2
Mar 11 01:59:12 ip-172-31-12-223 dockerd[8366]: time="2024-03-11T01:59:12.446577854Z" level=info msg="Daemon has completed initialization"
Mar 11 01:59:12 ip-172-31-12-223 dockerd[8366]: time="2024-03-11T01:59:12.496581213Z" level=info msg="API listen on /run/docker.sock"
Mar 11 01:59:12 ip-172-31-12-223 systemd[1]: Started Docker Application Container Engine.
lines 1-21/21 (END)
[2]+  Stopped                  sudo systemctl status docker
ubuntu@ip-172-31-12-223:~$ sudo apt install maven
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree... Done
Reading state information... Done

```

Blue Ocean

→ ↻ 🔒 Not secure 3.101.42.24:8080/job/project7/ ☆ 🌐

Gmail YouTube Maps Disney+ Hotstar Cybersecurity Career... Threads - Operating... Pace University (1) WhatsApp spys - Google Search Netflix Workday Red Mobile Tv Watch Live Cricket S... Amazon.com: Prime...

Dashboard > project7 >

Configure

Delete Pipeline

Full Stage View

GitHub

Favorite

Open Blue Ocean

Rename

Pipeline Syntax

GitHub Hook Log

Git Polling Log

Stage View

Average stage times:
(Average full run time: ~20s)

	Declarative: Checkout SCM	Declarative: Tool Install	Initialize	Build
#4 Mar 30 19:33 No Changes	1s	185ms	1s	11s
#3 Mar 30 19:27 No Changes				
#2 Mar 30 19:24 No Changes				

Permalinks

- Last build (#3), 5 min 37 sec ago
- Last failed build (#3), 5 min 37 sec ago
- Last unsuccessful build (#3), 5 min 37 sec ago
- Last completed build (#3), 5 min 37 sec ago

Build History

trend ▾

Filter... /

- #4
30-Mar-2024, 11:33 PM
- #3
30-Mar-2024, 11:27 PM
- #2
30-Mar-2024, 11:24 PM

Atom feed for all Atom feed for failures

Jenkins representation of a pipeline

IV. RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

```
pipeline {
  agent any
  tools {
    maven 'Maven'
  }
  stages {
    stage ('Initialize') {
      steps {
        sh '''
            echo "PATH = ${PATH}"
            echo "M2_HOME = ${M2_HOME}"
            ...
        '''
      }
    }

    stage ('Build') {
      steps {
        sh 'mvn clean package'
      }
    }

    stage ('Deploy-To-Tomcat') {
      steps {
        sshagent(['tomcat']) {
          sh 'scp -o StrictHostKeyChecking=no target/*.war ubuntu@3.101.54.26:/home/ubuntu/apache-tomcat-8.5.99/webapps/webapp.war'
        }
      }
    }

    stage ('Scan') {
      steps {
        sh 'grype dir:. --scope AllLayers'
      }
    }
  }
}
```

This Jenkins pipeline script is a systematic collection of instructions for automating the deployment process of a Java web application. It is intended to run in a Jenkins environment and is written in Groovy, a scripting language that Jenkins Pipeline supports. The pipeline is made up of numerous discrete phases, each representing an important element in the deployment operation.

During the initial 'Initialize' stage, the script prints important environment variables like PATH and M2_HOME. This step is used as a diagnostic tool to ensure that the tools and configurations needed for the next steps are correctly set up and available. Moving on to the 'Build' stage, Maven is used to compile the Java source code, run any defined tests, and package the application as a deployable artifact. Maven is a popular build automation tool that is generally used for Java applications. It simplifies the build process by handling project dependencies and lifecycle phases.

After the application is successfully developed, the pipeline moves to the 'Deploy-To-Tomcat' stage. Here, the script uses SSH (Secure Shell) to safely send the packed artifact (often a.war file) to a remote Tomcat server. SSH agent authentication ensures secure communication with the server. The artifact is then copied to the correct directory within the Tomcat webapps folder, therefore deploying the application to the server.

In the final stage, 'Scan', the script uses the Grype tool to perform a security scan. Grype is a vulnerability scanner developed exclusively for Docker containers. The pipeline scans the deployed application to discover and mitigate any potential security vulnerabilities in the application's Docker image, hence improving the deployment's overall security posture.


```

[Pipeline] stage
[Pipeline] { (Scan)
[Pipeline] sh
+ gype dir:.. --scope AllLayers
NAME          INSTALLED  FIXED-IN  VULNERABILITY  SEVERITY
jquery        2.2.4          CVE-2007-2379  Medium
jquery        2.2.4          CVE-2015-9251  Medium
jquery        2.2.4          CVE-2019-11358  Medium
jquery        2.2.4          CVE-2020-11022  Medium
jquery        2.2.4          CVE-2020-11023  Medium
jquery-ui     1.11.4         CVE-2016-7103  Medium
[Pipeline] }
[Pipeline] // stage
[Pipeline] }
[Pipeline] // withEnv
[Pipeline] }
[Pipeline] // node
[Pipeline] End of Pipeline
Finished: SUCCESS

```

Gype is an open-source vulnerability scanner that is specifically built to scan container images used in Docker settings. Anchore, a container security company, designed it. Gype offers full vulnerability scanning capabilities, allowing customers to quickly and efficiently detect security flaws in container images. One of Gype's distinguishing advantages is its capacity to scan container photos offline, without the requirement for an internet connection. This is especially handy in circumstances where internet connection is limited or when scanning photographs stored locally. Gype accomplishes this by using vulnerability data that is pre-downloaded and cached locally, allowing scans to be run quickly and reliably. Gype uses a massive, regularly updated vulnerability database to find security flaws in container images. This database contains information about known vulnerabilities, such as Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures (CVEs), impacted software products, and the severity of each vulnerability. By comparing the software packages deployed in a container image to this database, Gype may identify potential security issues and give users with actionable information.

In this example, it discovered medium-risk vulnerabilities in the widely used JavaScript library jQuery. These vulnerabilities (CVE-2019-11358, CVE-2020-11022, and CVE-2020-11023) could allow attackers to gain control of your machine. Because the scan discovers outdated software, updating jQuery to version 2.2.4 is suggested to mitigate these security risks.

$$\text{DHR} = \frac{\text{Detection Hit}}{(\text{Detection Hit} + \text{Detection Miss})}$$

In our study, we use two measures to assess the effectiveness of container scanning methods. The first statistic is Detection Coverage, which was chosen due to the intrinsic constraint of certain container scanning methodologies that only evaluate operating system (OS) packages while ignoring non-OS packages in the container. Containers typically include three sorts of packages: applications, dependencies (or libraries), and OS packages. We assess a tool's broad coverage by determining whether it can find vulnerabilities across all three areas, like Anchore does. Essentially, Detection Coverage indicates a tool's reach in vulnerability detection. The second statistic, Detection Hit Ratio (DHR), evaluates a tool's ability to find vulnerabilities from a given set. This ratio depicts the proportion of vulnerabilities successfully identified by the tool among the overall number of vulnerabilities present. The higher the DHR, the more accurate the instrument is at detecting vulnerabilities. Notably, computing the DHR takes into account the amount of detection misses, highlighting the necessity of precisely identifying vulnerabilities. This study goes into detail about the methodology for calculating detection misses. DHR is determined using the following formula: $DHR = \text{Detection Hit} / (\text{Detection Hit} + \text{Detection Miss})$, where Detection Hit represents the number of vulnerabilities discovered and Detection Miss represents the number of vulnerabilities missed. These metrics provide information on the usefulness and accuracy of container scanning techniques in detecting vulnerabilities within containers. We intend to provide a thorough evaluation framework for these tools by analyzing both coverage breadth and detection precision. Our work aims to improve understanding and support informed decisions on the selection and implementation of container scanning technologies, ultimately helping to better container security practices in a variety of contexts.[11]

V. CONCLUSIONS

To summarize, this report not only adds to our understanding of container security, but it also provides a roadmap for future research. The recommendations for additional study into server-based and serverless container technologies, as well as the emphasis on tool integration into CI/CD pipelines, highlight the research's practical value in the ever-changing landscape of containerization. As enterprises depend more on containerization to stimulate innovation, streamline operations, and improve scalability, it is critical to address the specific security concerns offered by containerized systems.

This research study delves into the complexities of container security, emphasizing the progression of container technology from its creation to its broad acceptance in modern computing settings. Organizations may obtain significant insights into detecting and managing security threats across the container lifecycle by studying essential topics like as threat modeling, vulnerability analysis, and risk assessment. Furthermore, the report emphasizes the necessity of incorporating security principles into DevOps operations, which fosters a culture of cooperation, automation, and continuous development. By aligning security objectives with development and operational goals, businesses may successfully handle security problems while preserving agility and creativity.

Regulatory compliance and adherence to industry standards are critical in leading container security activities, providing firms with a framework for adopting effective security measures and assuring responsibility. Enterprises may solve security concerns and manage risks associated with containerization by using best practices and leveraging proven frameworks such as STRIDE and OCTAVE. Continuous monitoring and adaption are critical components of container security, helping firms stay ahead of emerging threats and vulnerabilities. Organizations may improve their security posture and protect containerized environments from changing cyber threats by employing proactive security measures and utilizing sophisticated threat detection technology.

Furthermore, as the usage of container technology spreads across several sectors and industries, enterprises must emphasize container security as a strategic objective. The rise of cloud-native designs and hybrid/multi-cloud solutions emphasizes the requirement of strong security measures for containerized applications and data in dispersed settings.

Organizations that embrace container security as an important component of their entire cybersecurity strategy may successfully manage the risks associated with containerization while also ensuring the resilience of their digital infrastructure. Furthermore, the importance of automation and orchestration in container security cannot be emphasized. Organizations may improve visibility, enforce compliance, and expedite security operations in containerized systems by using automation tools and strict orchestration procedures.

Automation not only accelerates security procedures, but it also eliminates human error and enhances overall security posture by allowing for quick reaction to security events and vulnerabilities. Furthermore, the container security landscape is always changing due to technological breakthroughs, an expanding threat landscape, and new regulatory requirements. Organizations must keep current on emerging trends and best practices in container security, while also cultivating a culture of constant learning and innovative thinking. Organizations may adapt to shifting security problems in containerized systems by investing in staff training, participating in industry forums, and partnering with cybersecurity specialists.

To summarize, container security is a diverse discipline requiring a comprehensive strategy that includes technical knowledge, organizational alignment, and regulatory compliance. Organizations may improve the security posture of their containerized

environments and minimize containerization risks by using important principles such as proactive risk management, continuous monitoring, and automation. As container technology continues to transform the face of contemporary computing, investing in strong container security measures is both a strategic requirement and a competitive advantage in today's digital world.

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