21st July 2023

OWASP Bangkok Chapter 2600 Thailand Monthly Meeting

Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks

Natworpong Loyswai Chief Technology Officer





21st July 2023

Natworpong Loyswai

Chief Technology Officer @Shippusu Co., Ltd. SHIPS

- Former Microsoft Learn Student Ambassador
- B.Sc. IT @KMUTT





21st July 2023

.







Worawit Makkasan

Senior Developer



Boonnithi Jiaramaneepinit Chief Executive Officer



Sakulthip Rassameecharoentham

Chief Sales Officer

 $\langle \rangle$

TODAY I'M HERE TO...

- Push myself to learn new things
- Sharing about security risks in your CI/CD pipeline
 - What are CI/CD major security risks?
 - How are they being used for exploitation?
 - What are impacts?
 - Recommendation about how to protect yourself and prevent them?

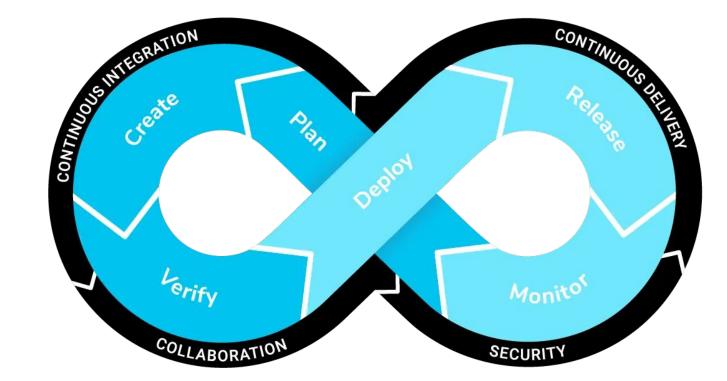


Continuous / Continuous Integration / Delivery

(CI/CD)









HOWEVER, CI/CD IS NOT A PIPELINE



HOWEVER, CI/CD IS NOT A PIPELINE

A set of best practices and techniques to automate and streamline the process of building, testing, and deploying application.



CI/CD Pipeline



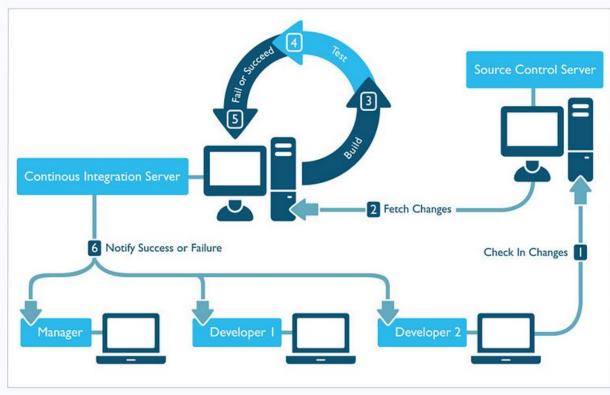


BEFORE CI/CD



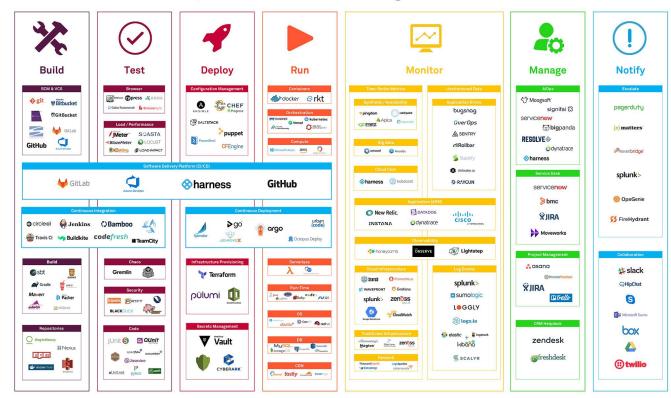


Continuous Integration



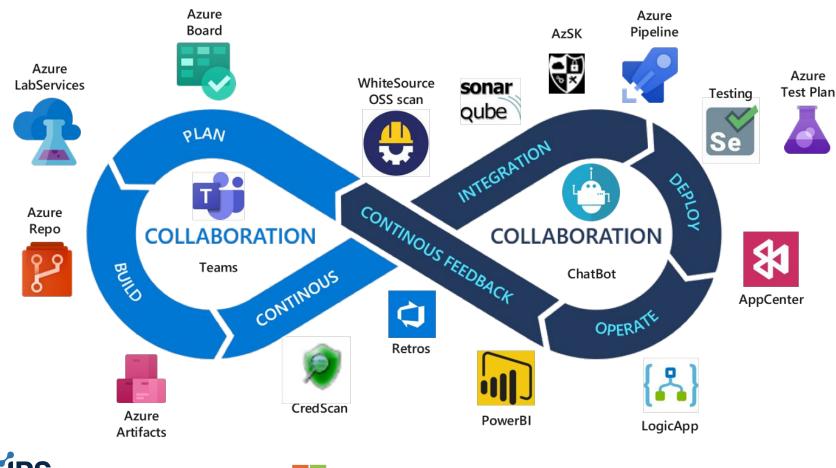


DevOps Tools Ecosystem 2021











シ



There's more but one example is...



There's more but one example is...

Limited environment challenges



There's more but one example is...

Limited environment challenges

• Limited resources offered to testers.



There's more but one example is...

Limited environment challenges

- Limited resources offered to testers.
- Shared testing environment.



There's more but one example is...

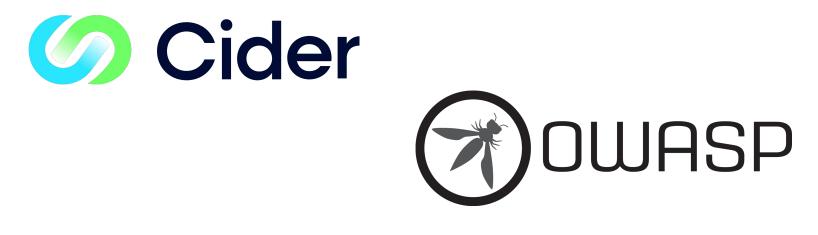
Limited environment challenges

- Limited resources offered to testers.
- Shared testing environment.
- Try Isolation/Containerization.



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



Case Study

Mercedes-Benz onboard logic unit (OLU) source code leaks online



OLU is a component that sits between the car's hardware and software, and "connects vehicles to the cloud." which "simplifies technical access and the management of live vehicle data" and allows third-party developers to create apps that retrieve data from Mercedes vans.



Unsecured GitLab installation leaks OLU code

- Using something as simple as Google dorks.
- Kottmann says Daimler failed to implement an account confirmation process, which allowed to register an account on the company's official GitLab server using a non-existent Daimler corporate email.
- Threat intelligence firm Under the Breach which also reviewed the data, told ZDNet they discovered passwords and API tokens for Daimler's internal systems.







6itLab Projects Groups	Snippets Help Search or jump to	Q 🕜 × Sign in / Register
(1) Daimler	🕫 > 🛞 Daimler > Details	
✿ Subgroup overview Details	Group ID: 169	
Activity	Subgroups and projects Shared projects Archived projects Search by name	Last created \lor
D Issues	> С к — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — — —	D 0 🛛 22 84 1
በት Merge Requests ወ ይዲ Members		D 0 🖓 22 🍇 1
		🗅 0 🔲 27 🏙 1
	> D V vehicle-communication-schema Group contains schema repository for OLU <-> adVANce protobuf communication.	DO Q 4 861
	> 🗅 V van-future-transportation-EPAM-onboard 🌐	🗅 0 🗍 17 🏙 1
	> D V van-future-transportation-x This is the internal group of van future transportation	🗅 0 📮 160 🏝 1
	> D V van-future-transportation-testing This is an internal group for OLU testing	D 0 🗍 26 🏙 1
≪ Collapse sidebar	> D V van-future-transportation-offboard @	DO Q 8 861



Case Study

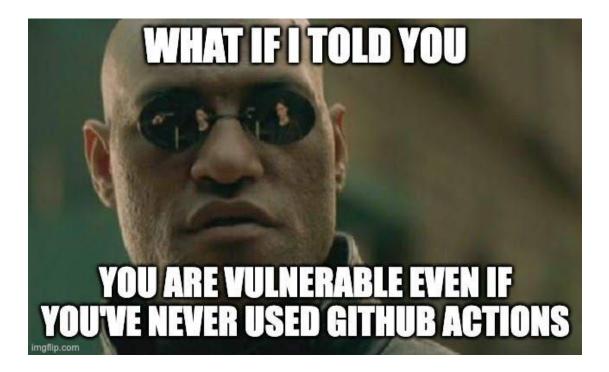




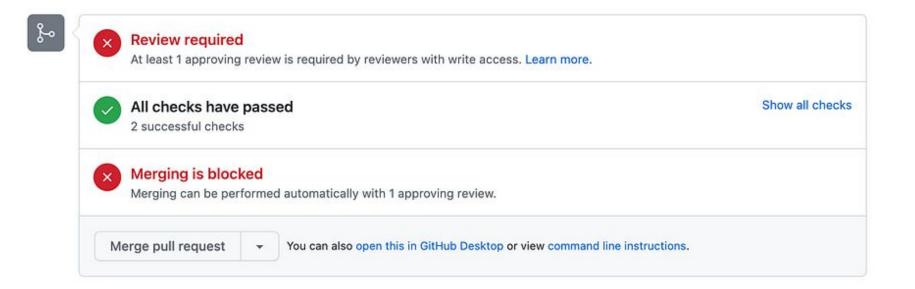


GitHub Actions









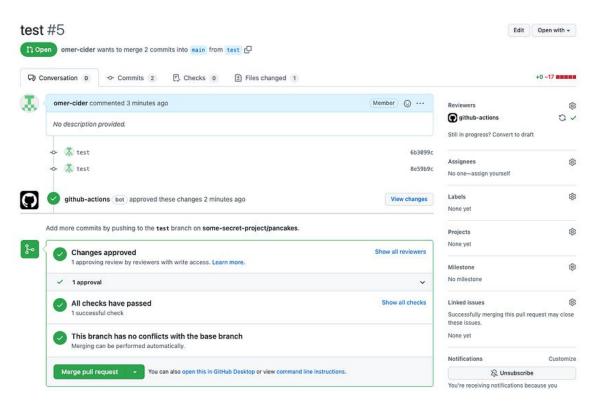


- GitHub Actions is installed by default on any GitHub organization, and on all of its repositories.
- Any user that can push code to the repo (Write permissions or higher), can create a workflow that runs when code is pushed.
- With each workflow run, GitHub creates a unique GitHub token (GITHUB_TOKEN) to use in the workflow to authenticate against the repo.
- Anyone with write access to a repository can modify the permissions granted to the GITHUB_TOKEN, adding or removing access as required, by editing the permissions key in the workflow file.



name: APPROVE on: pull request # run on pull request events permissions: pull-requests: write # grant write permission on the pull-requests endpoint jobs: approve: runs-on: ubuntu-latest steps: - run: | # approve the pull request curl --request POST \ --ur1 https://api.github.com/repos/\${{github.repository}}/pulls/\${{github.even t.number}}/reviews \ --header 'authorization: Bearer \${{ secrets.GITHUB TOKEN }}' \ --header 'content-type: application/json' \ -d '{"event":"APPROVE"}'







- Mitigation
 - Update: January 2022
 - Organization admins can now disallow GitHub Actions from approving pull requests.
 - Organization-wide setting default to allows Actions to approve pull requests in existing organizations, and disallows it in newly created orgs.
 - Disable under Organization Settings.
 - Allow GitHub Actions reviews to count towards required approval

This controls whether an approval of a pull request by GitHub Actions can count towards the required approval requirement.



CICD-SEC-1

Insufficient Flow Control Mechanisms



CICD-SEC-1: Insufficient Flow Control Mechanisms

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.



Example

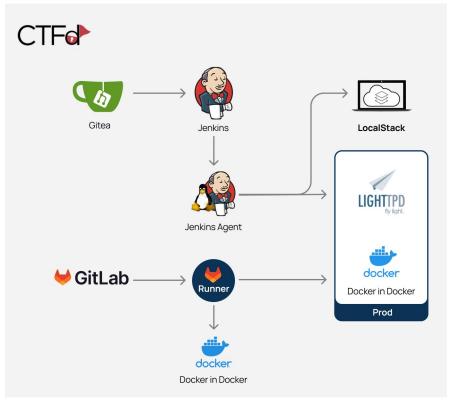








CI/CD Goat architecture





Example

Dodo



- Impact
 - The attacker can ship malicious artifact through the pipeline potentially all the way to production without any approval or review.
 - Push code which get automatically deployed through the pipeline.
 - Push code and then manually trigger a pipeline.
 - Directly push code to a library, which is used by a production system.
 - Abuse an auto-merge rule in the CI.
 - Abuse insufficient branch protection rules.



- Recommendation
 - Establish pipeline flow control mechanisms to ensure that no single entity is able to ship sensitive code and artifacts through the pipeline without external verification or validation.
 - Configure branch protection rules and avoid exclusion of entities.
 - Limit the usage of auto-merge rules and ensure that they are applicable to the minimal amount of contexts.
 - Where applicable, prevent triggering production build and deployment pipelines without additional approval or review.
 - Prevent artifacts that have been uploaded by other accounts from flowing through the pipeline without secondary review and approval.



CICD-SEC-2

Inadequate Identity and Access Management



Stem from the difficulties in managing the vast amount of identities spread across the different systems in the engineering ecosystem and the existence of poorly managed identities – increases the potential and the extent of damage of accounts compromise.



Overly permissive identities: Ensuring each identity has been granted only the permissions required and only against the actual repositories it needs to access.

Stale identities: Identities that are not active or no longer require access but have not had account against all CI/CD systems deprovisioned.

Local identities: Local accounts create challenges in enforcing consistent security policies (e.g. password policy, lockout policy, MFA) as well as properly deprovisioning access across all systems.



External identities: Account with address from a domain not owned or managed by organization.

Self-registered identities: In systems where self-registration is allowed, it is often the case that a valid domain address is the only prerequisite for self-registration and access to CI/CD.

Shared identities: Identities shared between human users / applications / both humans and applications increase the footprint of their credentials as well as create challenges having to do with accountability in case of a potential investigation.



Example

Hearts



- Impact
 - Lack of strong identity and access management practice, leads to a state where compromising nearly any user account on any system.
 - Overly permissive accounts.
 - Could grant powerful capabilities to the environment.
 - Create investigation challenges.



- Recommendation
 - Conduct a continuous analysis and mapping of all identities across all systems within the engineering ecosystem.
 - Map the identity provider, level of permissions granted and level of permissions actually used.
 - Refrain from allowing users to self-register to systems, and grant permission on an as-needed basis.
 - Avoid creating local user accounts. Instead, create and manage identities using a centralized organization component (IdP).



- Recommendation
 - Avoid creating local user accounts. Instead, create and manage identities using a centralized organization component (IdP).
 - Prevent employees from using any address which belongs to a domain not owned and managed by the organization.
 - Avoid using shared accounts. Create dedicated accounts for each specific context, and grant the exact set of permissions required for the context in question.



CICD-SEC-3

Dependency Chain Abuse



The ability of an attacker to abuse flaws relating to how engineering workstations and build environments fetch code dependencies, results in a malicious package inadvertently being fetched and executed locally when pulled.



Dependency confusion: Publication of malicious packages in public repositories with the same name as internal package names.

Dependency hijacking: Obtaining control of the account of a package maintainer on the public repository, in order to upload a new, malicious version of a widely used package.

Typosquatting: Publication of malicious packages with similar names to those of popular packages in the hope that a developer will misspell a package name and unintentionally fetch the typosquatted package.

Brandjacking: Publication of malicious packages in a manner that is consistent with the naming convention or other characteristics of a specific brand's package.



Example

Twiddledum



- Impact
 - Executing malicious code (RCE) on a host pulling the package, can be leveraged many ways such as credentials theft and lateral movement within the environment.



- Recommendation
 - Any client pulling code packages should not be allowed to fetch packages directly from the internet or untrusted sources.
 - Ensure all packages are pulled through an internal proxy rather than directly from the internet.
 - Enable checksum verification and signature verification for pulled packages.
 - Avoid configuring clients to pull the latest version of a package.



- Recommendation
 - Ensure that a separate nonsensitive context exists for scripts executing as part of a package installation.
 - Ensure that internal projects always contain configuration files of package managers (for example .npmrc in NPM) to override any insecure configuration.
 - Ensure that an appropriate level of focus is placed around detection, monitoring and mitigation.



CICD-SEC-4

Poisoned Pipeline Execution (PPE)



CICD-SEC-4: Poisoned Pipeline Execution (PPE)

The ability of an attacker with access to source control systems and manipulate the build process by injecting malicious code/commands into the build pipeline configuration, then run malicious code as part of the build process.



CICD-SEC-4: Poisoned Pipeline Execution (PPE)

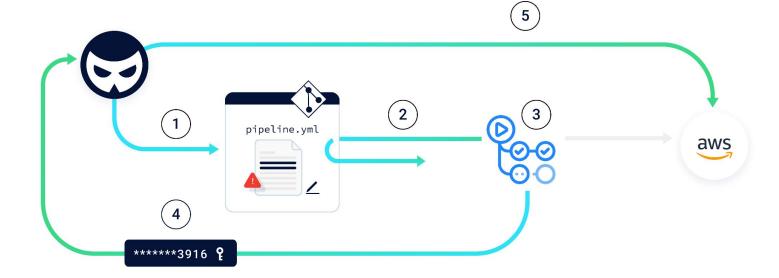
Direct PPE (D-PPE): Attacker modifies the CI config file in a repository they have access to, either by pushing the change directly to an unprotected remote branch on the repo, or by submitting a PR with the change from a branch or a fork.

Indirect PPE (I-PPE): Attacker poison the pipeline by injecting malicious code into files referenced by the pipeline configuration file.

Public-PPE (3PE): Attacker has public access and can contribute to repository while CI pipeline runs unreviewed code suggested by anonymous users.



CICD-SEC-4: Direct Poisoned Pipeline Execution (D-PPE)





CICD-SEC-4: Indirect Poisoned Pipeline Execution (I-PPE)





CICD-SEC-4: Public Poisoned Pipeline Execution (3PE)

Example

Caterpillar



CICD-SEC-4: Poisoned Pipeline Execution (PPE)

- Impact
 - Provides the attacker with the same abilities and level of access as the build job.
 - Access to any secret available to the CI job
 - Access to external assets the job node has permissions to
 - Ability to ship code and artifacts further down the pipeline
 - Ability to access additional hosts and assets in the environment of the job node



CICD-SEC-4: Poisoned Pipeline Execution (PPE)

- Recommendation
 - Preventing and mitigating the PPE attack vector involves multiple measures spanning across both SCM and CI systems
 - Unreviewed code are executed on isolated nodes, not exposed to sensitive environments
 - Refrain from running pipelines originating from forks
 - Has a correlating branch protection rule
 - CI configuration file must be reviewed before the pipeline runs
 - Each pipeline should only have access to the credentials it needs to fulfill its purpose



CICD-SEC-5

Insufficient PBAC (Pipeline-Based Access Controls)



The attacker's ability to abuse the overly permission granted to the pipeline for moving laterally within or outside the CI/CD system.



Example

Cheshire Cat



- Impact
 - Provides the attacker with the access to secrets, underlying host and connect to any of the systems the pipeline in question has access to
 - Leads to exposure of confidential data
 - Lateral movement within the CI environment
 - Potentially accessing servers and systems outside the CI environment
 - Deployment of malicious artifacts down the pipeline



• Recommendation

- Do not use a shared node for pipelines with different levels of sensitivity / that require access to different resources.
- Shared nodes should be used only for pipelines with identical levels of confidentiality.
- Ensure that pipeline to have access to only the secrets it requires.
- Revert the execution node to its pristine state after each pipeline execution.
- Granted OS permissions on the execution node according to the principle of least privilege



- Recommendation
 - Ensure the execution node is appropriately patched.
 - Ensure network segmentation in the environment which allow the execution node to access only the resources it requires within the network.
 - CI/CD pipeline jobs should have limited permissions on the controller node.
 - Where applicable, run pipeline jobs on a separate, dedicated node.



CICD-SEC-6

Insufficient Credential Hygiene



The attacker's ability to obtain and use various secrets and tokens spread throughout the pipeline due to flaws having to do with access controls around the credentials, insecure secret management and overly permissive credentials.



Code containing credentials being pushed to one of the branches of an SCM repository:

Credentials are exposed to anyone with read access to the repository, and even if deleted from the branch it was pushed into

Credentials used insecurely inside the build and deployment processes: Insecure used to access code repositories, read from and write to artifact repositories, and deploy resources and artifacts to production environments.

Credentials in container image layers: Credentials that were only required for building the image, still exist in one of the image layers.



Credentials printed to console output: Credentials exposed in clear-text in logs, available to anyone with access to the build results to view. These logs can potentially flow to log management systems, expanding their exposure surface.

Unrotated credentials: Failing to rotate credentials results in a constantly growing amount of people and artifacts that are in possession of valid credentials. ("If it isn't broken, don't fix it")



Example

Duchess



- Impact
 - Credentials are the most sought-after object by adversaries, putting high-value resources of many organizations at the risk of compromise due the exposure of their credentials.
 - Deploying malicious code and artifacts through the pipeline.
 - Lateral movement through environment or out of CI/CD context.



• Recommendation

- Establish procedures to continuously map credentials found across the different systems in the engineering ecosystem - from code to deployment.
- Ensure each set of credentials follows the principle of least privilege.
- Avoid sharing the same set of credentials across multiple contexts.
- Prefer using temporary credentials over static credentials.
- Periodically rotate all static credentials and detect stale credentials.
- Configure usage of credentials to be limited to predetermined conditions (like scoping to a specific source IP or identity
- Detect secrets pushed to and stored on code repositories.
- revent secrets from being printed to console outputs of future builds.
- Verify that secrets are removed from any type of artifact.



CICD-SEC-7

Insecure System Configuration



Stem from flaws in the security settings, configuration and hardening of the different systems across the pipeline (e.g. SCM, CI, Artifact repository)



- Potential hardening flaws:
 - Using an outdated version or lacking important security patches.
 - Overly permissive network access controls.
 - Using default set of configurations which is not secure and requires optimization.



Example

Mercedes-Benz onboard logic unit (OLU) source code leaks online



- Impact
 - A security flaw in one of the CI/CD systems may be leveraged by an adversary to obtain unauthorized access to the system or worse.
 - Compromise the system and access the underlying OS.
 - Abused by an attacker to manipulate legitimate CI/CD flows.
 - Obtain sensitive tokens and potentially access production environments.
 - Move laterally within the environment and outside the context of CI/CD systems.



• Recommendation

- Maintain an inventory of systems and versions in use, including mapping of a designated owner for each system.
- Continuously check for known vulnerabilities in these components. If a security patch is available, update the vulnerable component.
- Consider removing/disabling the vulnerable component/system when security patch is unavailable.
- Ensure network access to the systems is aligned with the principle of least access.
- Establish a process to periodically review all system configurations.
- Ensure permissions to the pipeline execution nodes are granted according to the principle of least privilege.



CICD-SEC-8

Ungoverned Usage of 3rd Party Services



The extreme ease with which a 3rd party service can be granted access to resources in CI/CD systems, effectively expanding the attack surface of the organization.



- SCM GitHub SAAS 3rd party applications can be connected through one or more of these 5 methods
 - GitHub Application
 - OAuth application
 - Provisioning of an access token provided to the 3rd party application
 - Provisioning of an SSH key provided to the 3rd party application.
 - Configuring webhook events to be sent to the 3rd party.



Example

Dormouse



- Impact
 - Compromise of a single 3rd party can be leveraged to cause damage far outside the scope of the system the 3rd party is connected to.
 - 3rd party with write permissions on a repository, can be leveraged by an adversary to push and run malicious code on the build system.
 - Organizations are only as secure as the 3rd parties they implement.
 - Lack of governance, visibility, RBAC, least privilege around 3rd party implementations.



• Recommendation

- Governance controls around 3rd party services should be implemented within every stage of the 3rd party usage lifecycle.
- Approval: Establish vetting procedures to ensure granted access to resources are approved and the level of permission is aligned with least privilege.
- Integration Introduce controls and procedures to maintain continuous visibility over all 3rd parties integrated to CI/CD systems.
- Visibility over ongoing usage Ensure each 3rd party is limited and scoped to the specific resources it requires access to.
- Deprovisioning Periodically review all 3rd parties integrated and remove those no longer in use.



CICD-SEC-9

Improper Artifact Integrity Validation



Due to insufficient mechanisms for ensuring the validation of code and artifacts, allows an attacker with access to one of the systems in the CI/CD process to push malicious code or artifacts down the pipeline.



Example

Dormouse



- Impact
 - Adversary with a foothold within the software delivery process to ship a malicious artifact through the pipeline.
 - Execute malicious code on systems within the CI/CD process or worse in production.



- Recommendation
 - Code signing SCM solutions provide the ability to sign commits using a unique key for each contributor.
 - Artifact verification software Prevent unverified software from being delivered down the pipeline.
 - Configuration drift detection Measures aimed at detecting configuration drifts (e.g. resources in cloud environments which aren't managed using a signed IAC template), potentially indicative of resources that were deployed by an untrusted source or process.



CICD-SEC-10

Insufficient Logging and Visibility



CICD-SEC-10: Insufficient Logging and Visibility

Allow an adversary to carry out malicious activities within the CI/CD environment without being detected during any phase of the attack kill chain, including identifying the attacker's TTPs (Techniques, Tactics and Procedures) as part of any post-incident investigation.



Phases of the Intrusion Kill Chain



Research, identification, and selection of targets

Pairing remote access malware with exploit into a deliverable payload (e.g. Adobe PDF and Microsoft Office files)

Transmission of weapon to target (e.g. via email attachments, websites, or USB drives)

Once delivered, the weapon's code is triggered, exploiting vulnerable applications or systems

The weapon installs a backdoor on a target's system allowing persistent access

Outside server communicates with the weapons providing "hands on keyboard access" inside the target's network.

The attacker works to achieve the objective of the intrusion, which can include exfiltration or destruction of data, or intrusion of another target



CICD-SEC-10: Insufficient Logging and Visibility

- Impact
 - The existence of all relevant data sources in a centralized location may be the difference between a successful and devastating outcome in an incident response scenario.
 - Minimal investigative capabilities.
 - Failing to detect a breach.
 - Facing great difficulties in mitigation/remediation.



CICD-SEC-10: Insufficient Logging and Visibility

- Recommendation
 - Mapping the environment Strong visibility capabilities cannot be achieved without an intimate level of familiarity with all the different systems involved in potential threats.
 - Identifying and enabling the appropriate log sources Ensuring that all relevant logs are enabled
 - Shipping logs to a centralized location Support aggregation and correlation of logs between different systems for detection and investigation.
 - Creating alerts to detect anomalies and potential malicious activity both in each system on its own and anomalies in the code shipping process



THAT'S IT



The CI/CD Goat just got wilder!





Gryphon

"That's the reason they're called lessons," the Gryphon remarked: "because they lessen from day to day." How long will it take you to crack the Gryphon challenge?

This time, you've compromised GitLab! Use your user account to capture flag11. Do you have what it takes?

💡 Good to know: you can click the "Explore projects" button to view public projects as well.



Reference

- What is CI/CD? (redhat.com)
- OWASP Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks | OWASP Foundation
- CI/CD Goat A deliberately vulnerable CI/CD environment Cider Security Site
- Malicious code analysis: Abusing SAST | Cider Security
- Shared/Defenders think in lists. Attackers think in graphs. As long as this is true, attackers win
- Bypassing required reviews using GitHub | Cider Security
- Bash Uploader Security Update Codecov







"Seems SAVING the game really is impossible.

But...

...

Maybe, with what little power you have...

You can SAVE something else."



- Undertale -

21st July 2023

FOR ALL YOUR ATTENTION

THANK YOU

Top 10 CI/CD Security Risks Natworpong Loyswai



< >