

Detect complex code patterns using semantic grep

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tl;dw - This Talk

- Secure code is hard
- Static analysis tools are too noisy / too slow
- grep isn't expressive enough
- Need something, fast, code-aware, flexible, powerful... open source!



<u>Semgrep</u>: Fast and syntax-aware semantic code pattern search for many languages: like grep but for code



Use Semgrep to:

- Search: Find security bugs
- Guard: Enforce best practices
- Monitor: Get notifications about new matches
- Migrate: Refactor code easily



\$ whois

@underyx (Bence Nagy) engineer @ r2c

previously at:
Astroscreen (information warfare)
Kiwi.com (travel)



We're an SF based code analysis startup.

Mission: profoundly improve code security & reliability

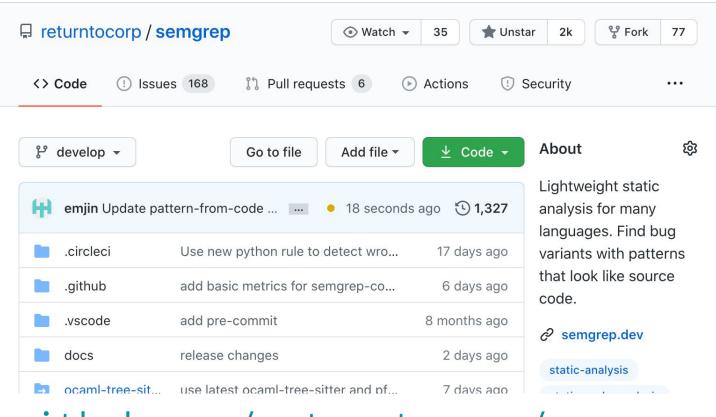




Outline

- 1. A 60 second history
- 2. Trees. (well... syntax trees)
- 3. Learning Semgrep!
- 4. Integration into CI/CD
- 5. Semgrep Rules Registry 📖





github.com/returntocorp/semgrep



Semgrep, Est. 2009



First version of Semgrep (sgrep/pfff) was written at Facebook circa 2009 and was used to enforce nearly 1000 rules!

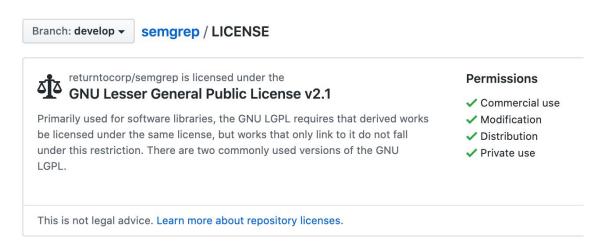
The original author, Yoann Padioleau (<u>@aryx</u>), joined r2c last year. Yoann was the first static analysis hire at Facebook and previously PhD @ Inria, contributor to <u>coccinelle.lip6.fr</u>



Language Support

License

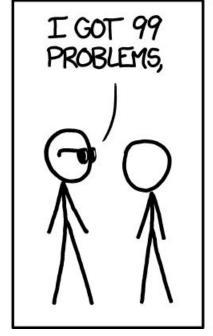


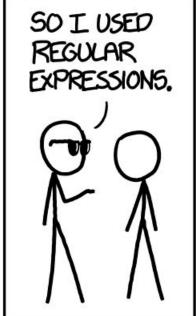


grep and Abstract Syntax Trees (ASTs)



xkcd 1171









Code is not a string, it's a tree



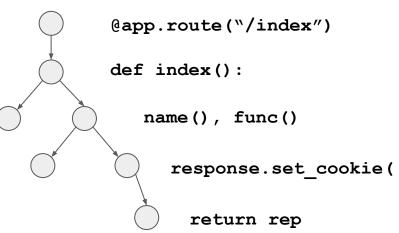
string



```
@app.route("/index")
def index():
    rep = response.set_cookie(name(),
secure=False, s=func())
    return rep
```



tree





Tree Matching 🜲

- Many tree matching tools: Gosec, Golint, Bandit, Dlint, ESLint, Flake8, Pylint, RuboCop, TSLint, and more!
- Have to become an expert in every AST syntax for every language your team uses
- Need programming language expertise to cover all idioms: languages have "more than one way to do it"
- Commercial SAST tools?
 - Complicated
 - Slow (not Cl friendly)
 - Expensive



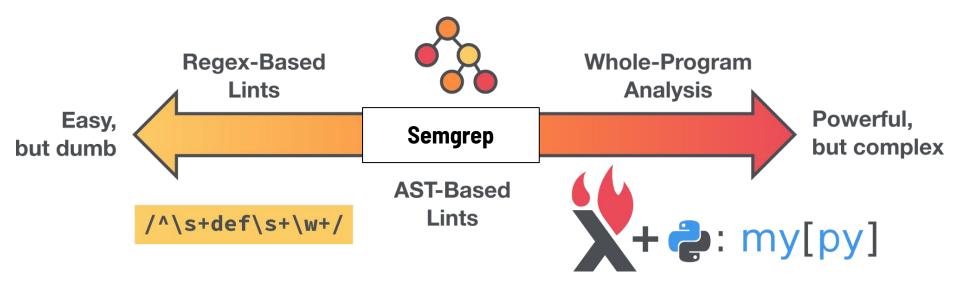


https://github.com/securego/gosec/blob/master/rules/blocklist.go#L39-L46

37 // NewMicalitedImportDeal fails if Deal is imported for the NewMicalitedImportDeal fails if Deal is imported for the NewMicalitedImportDeal (not required plating)itting/ compressions/first indextisted import crypto/deal; weak cryptographic printive*, 31)

Static Analysis at Scale: An Instagram Story





https://instagram-engineering.com/static-analysis-at-scale-an-instagram-story-8f498ab71a0c



Semgrep: reason about **analysis** like you reason about **code**

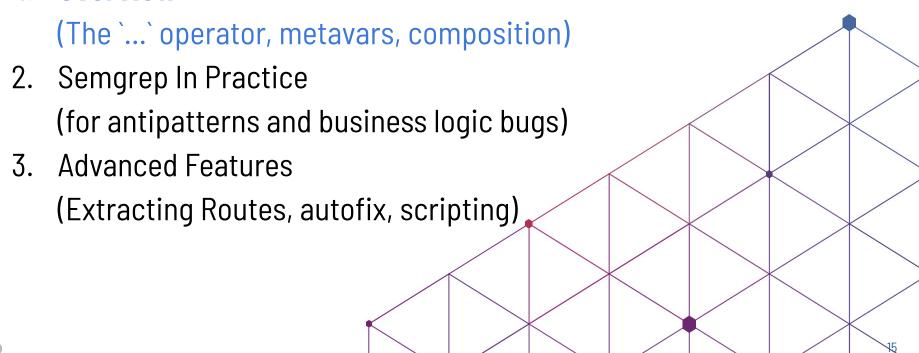
write eval(...) to match eval(request)

https://r2c.dev/blog/2020/why-i-moved-to-semgrep-for-all-my-code-analysis/



Demos

1. Overview



Finding Banned or Deprecated Functions: <u>RC4</u> (... operator)

```
c, err := rc4.NewCipher(key)
d, err := rc4.NewCipher(otherKey)
e, err := rc4.NewCipher ( key )

// rc4.NewCipher(key)
fmt.Println("rc4.NewCipher(key)")
```

⇒ https://semgrep.dev/s/10Bx

Full Solution: https://semgrep.live/X5q4 | docs



Finding Uses of unsafe

(Metavariables)

```
unsafe.Pointer(intPtr)
unsafe.Sizeof(intArray[0])
```

⇒ https://semgrep.dev/s/7gZe/

Full Solution: https://semgrep.dev/s/ErxL/



Finding Insecure SSL Configurations (Field/Param matching)

```
&tls.Config{
    KeyLogWriter: w,
    MinVersion: tls.VersionSSL30,
    Rand: randSource{}
}
```

⇒ https://semgrep.live/Pewp

Full Solution: https://semgrep.live/4b9x



Finding Insecure SSL Configurations

(Composing patterns)

```
&tls.Config{
    KeyLogWriter: w,
    MinVersion: tls.VersionSSL30,
    Rand: randSource{},
    InsecureSkipVerify: true,
}
```

⇒ https://semgrep.live/s/DbYd



Configuration Files

This document describes semgrep configuration files and provides rule examples. Configuration files are specified with the --config (or -f) flag. A single YAML file or a directory of files ending in .yml or .yaml may be specified. Each configuration file must match the schema.

For more information on the --config flag see other configuration options.

Contents:

- Simple Example
- Other Configuration Options
- Schema
- Operators
 - o pattern
 - patterns
 - pattern-either
 - pattern-regex
 - o pattern-not
 - pattern-inside
 - o pattern-not-inside
 - pattern-where-python
- Metavariable Matching
 - Metavariables in Logical ANDs
 - Metavariables in Logical ORs
 - Metavariables in Complex Logic



Using Hardcoded Secret for JWT

```
var jwtKey = []byte("my_secret_key")
token := jwt.NewWithClaims(jwt.SigningMethodHS256, claims)
tokenString, err := token.SignedString(jwtKey)
```

⇒ https://semgrep.live/0oZB

Full Solution: https://semarep.live/WAbL



Demos

Overview (The `...` operator, metavars, composition) 2. **Semgrep In Practice** (for antipatterns and business logic bugs) 3. Advanced Features (Extracting Routes, autofix, scripting)

Hidden Goroutines (blog post)

(Antipatterns)

```
func Cleanup() {
    go func() {
    }()
Cleanup()
```

```
Better
func Cleanup() {
go Cleanup()
```

⇒ https://semgrep.live/9A4z



Order of API Calls Must be Enforced (Business Logic)

```
/*
 * In this financial trading application, every transaction
 * MUST be verified before it is made
 *
 * Specifically:verify_transaction() must be called on a transaction
 * object before that object is passed to make_transaction()
 */
```

⇒ https://semgrep.live/6JqL

Full Solution: https://semgrep.live/ogZ6



Demos

Overview (The `...` operator, metavars, composition) 2. Semgrep In Practice (for antipatterns and business logic bugs) 3. Advanced Features (Extracting Routes, autofix, scripting)

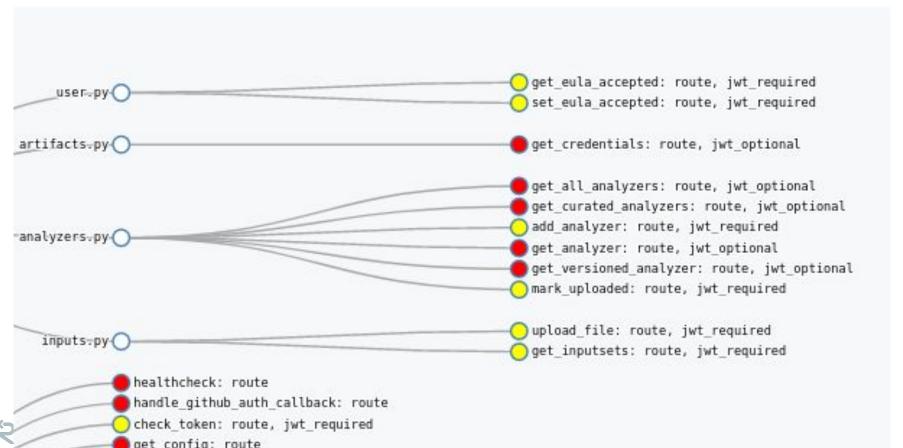
Know When New Routes Are Added

(Gorilla Toolkit)

https://semgrep.dev/s/r6o1



Semgrep application: code inventory



Autofix - Insecure SSL Configuration

```
&tls.Config{
   KeyLogWriter: w,
   MinVersion: tls.VersionSSL30,
   Rand: randSource{}
}
```

https://semgrep.dev/s/xxyA/



Scripting

your code here

```
- pattern: $F = django.db.models.FloatField(.
- pattern-where-python: 'price' in vars['$F']
- message: "Found a FloatField used for variable $F. Use
```



^{*}requires a flag: --dangerously-allow-arbitrary-code-execution-from-rules

Use of Weak RSA Key

```
// Insufficient bit size
pvk, err := rsa.GenerateKey(rand.Reader, 1024)

// Sufficiently large bit size
pvk, err := rsa.GenerateKey(rand.Reader, 2048)
```

⇒ https://semgrep.dev/s/zdRl

Full Solution: https://semgrep.dev/s/zdRl | docs





#1 Code equivalence (semantic grep)

```
$X == $X
                                     (a+b != a+b) # <=> ! (a+b==a+b)
                           Will match
foo(kwd1=1,kwd2=2,...)
                                     foo(kwd2=2, kwd1=1, kwd3=3)
                           Will match
                                     from subprocess import open as
                                        sub open
                           Will match
                                     result = sub open("ls")
                                     from foo import bar
import foo.bar
                            Will match
```

• **semgrep** knows about the semantics of the language, so one pattern can match variations of equivalent code (constant propagation! https://semgrep.live/4K5)



#2: '...' ellipsis operator

```
foo(...,5) Will match

foo("...") Will match

$V = get()
...
eval($V)
Will match
```

... can match sequences of:

- Arguments, parameters
- Characters
- Statements

```
foo(1,2,3,4,5)
foo(5)

foo("whatever sequence of chars")

user_data = get()
print("do stuff")
foobar()
eval(user_data)
```

#3 Metavariables (part 1)

• **Metavariables** start with a \$ (\$X, \$Y, \$WHATEVER), contain uppercase ASCII characters

Matches:

- Expressions (including arguments)
- Statements
- Names (functions, fields, etc.)



#3 Metavariables (part 2)

```
$X == $X
                   Will match
                                    if (a+b == a+b):
if $E:
                                    if x > 2:
  $S
                                      foo()
                   Will match
else:
                                      bar()
                                    else:
                                      foo()
                                      bar()
                                    myfile = open()
                                    close(myfile)
                   Will match
```

You can reuse the same metavariable: semgrep enforces equality constraint



Awesome Use Cases

Search your code

- Vulnerabilities
- Audit security hotspots
- Extract routes
- Codify domain knowledge

Guard your code

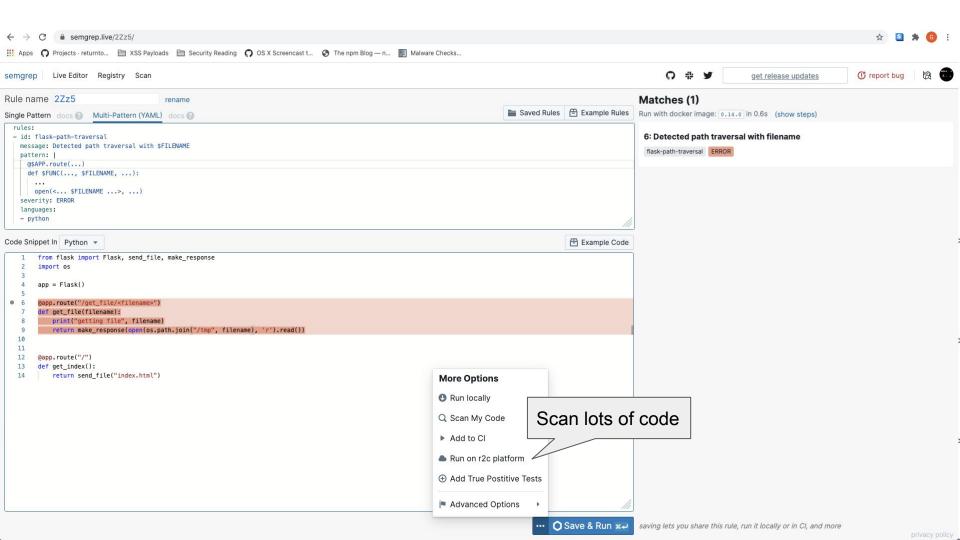
- Secure defaults
- Banned APIs
- Best- and requiredpractices
- Configuration file auditing

Upgrade your code

- Migrate from deprecated APIs
- Apply automatic fixes



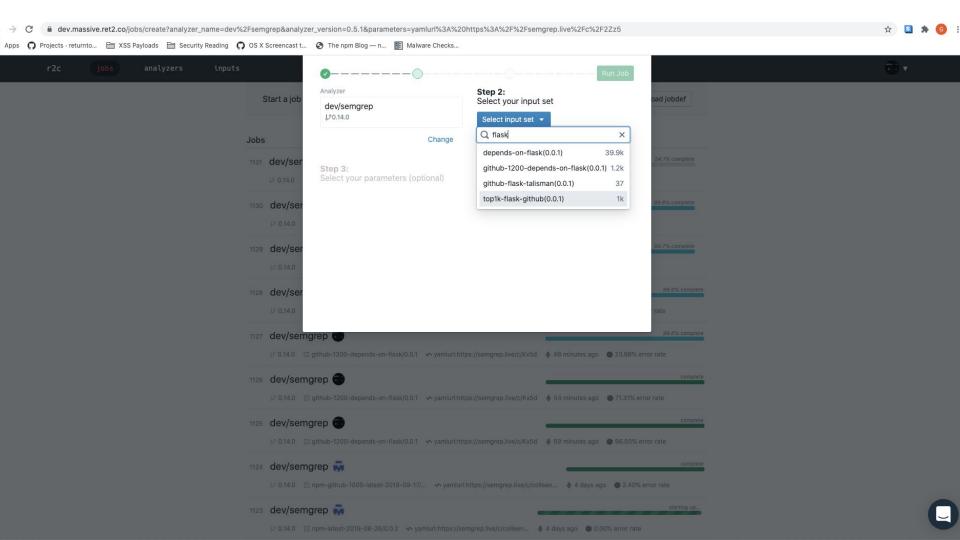
Search: Vulnerabilities

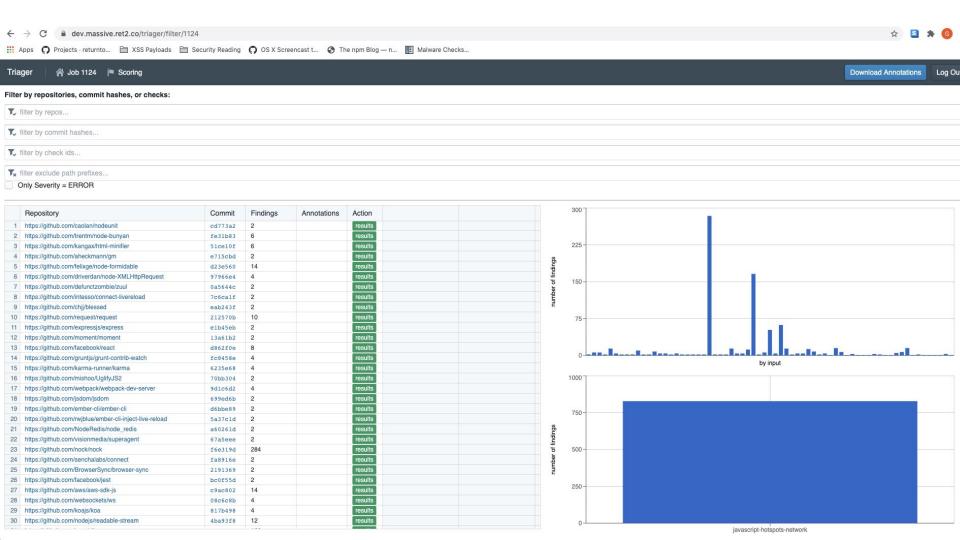


```
@$APP.route(...)
def $FUNC(..., $FILENAME, ...):
    ...
    open(<... $FILENAME ...>, ...)
```

https://semgrep.live/2Zz5/







```
@frontend.route('/api/update/get/<filename>', methods=['GET'])
50
     def getZip(filename):
51
52
         return make_response(open(os.path.join(
             TEMPLATE_DIR, filename)).read())
53
```

Guard with Continuous Integration

Integrations

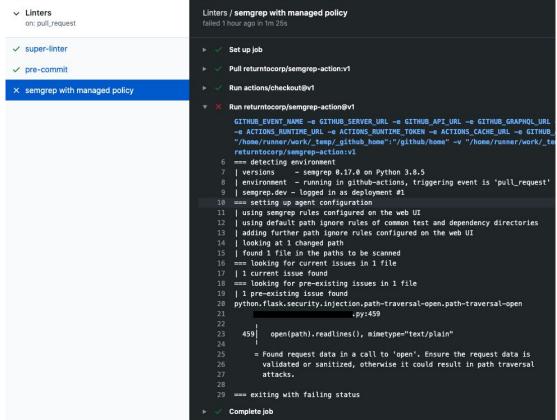
- Enforce secure defaults + secure frameworks at CI time
 - Easy to add to CI as either a Docker container or Linux binary
 - JSON output → easy to integrate with other systems

Integrations - GitLab Cl

```
semgrep:
image: returntocorp/semgrep-agent:v1
script:
    - python -m semgrep_agent --config https://semgrep.dev/p/flask
```

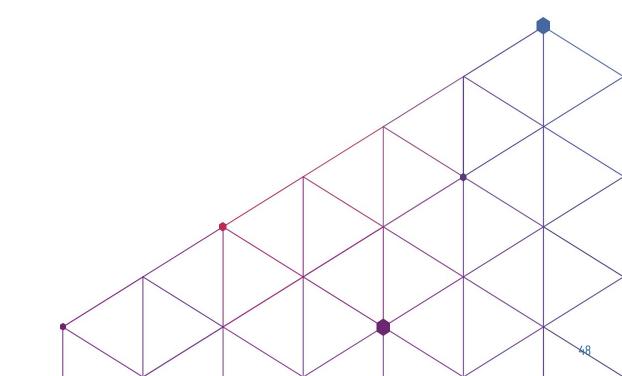


Integrations - GitLa<u>b</u> Cl



```
=== setting up agent configuration
     using semgrep rules configured on the web UI
11
      using default path ignore rules of common test and dependency directories
12
      adding further path ignore rules configured on the web UI
13
14
     looking at 1 changed path
15
     | found 1 file in the paths to be scanned
    === looking for current issues in 1 file
16
17
    | 1 current issue found
    === looking for pre-existing issues in 1 file
18
19
    | 1 pre-existing issue found
    python.flask.security.injection.path-traversal-open.path-traversal-open
20
21
                                  .py:459
22
23
      459
             open(path).readlines(), mimetype="text/plain"
24
25
         = Found request data in a call to 'open'. Ensure the request data is
26
           validated or sanitized, otherwise it could result in path traversal
27
           attacks.
28
    === exiting with failing status
```

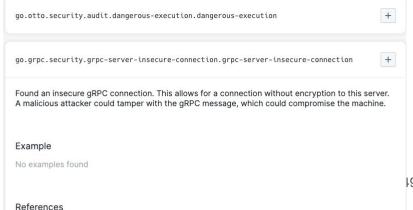
registry



Community rule registry

community participation

- 700+ rules under development by r2c + community
- NodeJsScan v4 is powered by semgrep!
- Gosec and find-sec-bugs checks have been ported no compilation required
- Rule ideas contributed by Django co-creator
- Suggestions by Flask team
- Independent security researchers via HackerOne & elsewhere



github.com/dgryski/semgrep-go

semgrep rules by Damian Gryski, (author of <u>Go-Perfbook</u>)

```
23 lines (23 sloc)
                                    980 Bytes
                     rules:
                       - id: use-math-bits
                         patterns:
                              - pattern-either:
                                    - pattern: $X >> $N | $X << (8 - $N)
                                    - pattern: $X << $N | $X >> (8 - $N)
                                    - pattern: $X >> (8 - $N) | $X << $N
                                    - pattern: $X << (8 - $N) | $X >> $N
                                    - pattern: $X >> $N | $X << (16 - $N)
                10
                                    - pattern: $X << $N | $X >> (16 - $N)
                                                             $N) | $X << $N
95 lines (95 sloc) 2.71 KB
                                                             $N) | $X >> $N
     rules:
                                                            $X << (32 - $N)
       - id: odd-sequence-ifs
         patterns:
            - pattern-either:
                                            11 lines (11 sloc) 323 Bytes
              - pattern:
                                               1 rules:
                     if $X { return ... }
                    if $X { ... }
                                                     - id: odd-compound-expression
              - pattern:
                                                       patterns:
                     if ! $X { return ... }
                                                           - pattern-either:
                    if $X { ... }
                                                                 - pattern: $X += $X + $Y
              - pattern:
                                                                 - pattern: $X += $X - $Y
                     if $X { return ... }
```

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Community rule registry

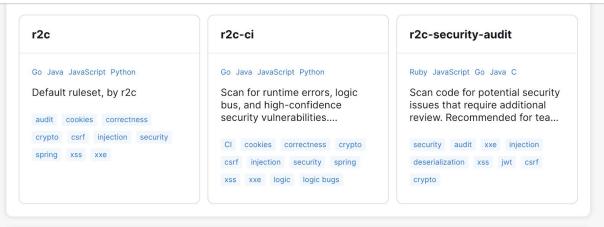
<u>semgrep.dev/registry</u> ⇒ <u>github.com/returntocorp/**semgrep-rules**</u>

```
$ brew install semgrep
$ semgrep --config=<url>
```









Languages and Frameworks

Get security coverage for the languages and frameworks you use.

minusworld.ruby-all	python	javascript
	Python	JavaScript
	Default ruleset for Python, by r2c	Default ruleset for JavaScript, by r2c

Coming Soon

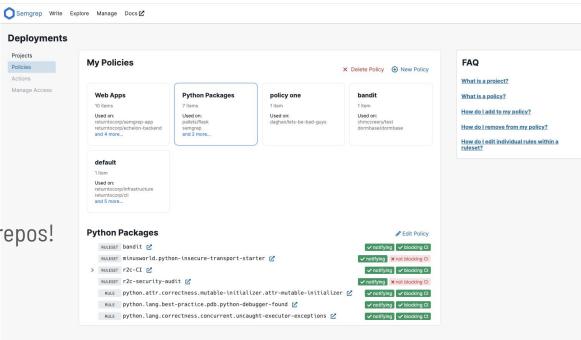
1000 rules!

Semgrep Community!

Centrally manage Semgrep on your repos!

Tainting (intrafile)

eval(\$X:<user_data>)







Semgrep

lightweight static analysis for many languages

Locally:

- (pip|brew) install semgrep
- semgrep --config=r2c

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r2c.dev



@r2cdev

https://r2c.dev/survey ← plz :)

Online editor:

<u>semgrep.live</u>

