



cloud-native software  
supply chain security:  
the hard truth

Daniel Drack





## 👉 Disclaimer

- I'm no (hardcore) security guy
- Observations from a cloud native consultant POV





## **My Goal**

- Provide ideas about cloud native software supply chain bp
  - cheap + expensive examples
- Share my concerns 😅





# Software Supply Chain

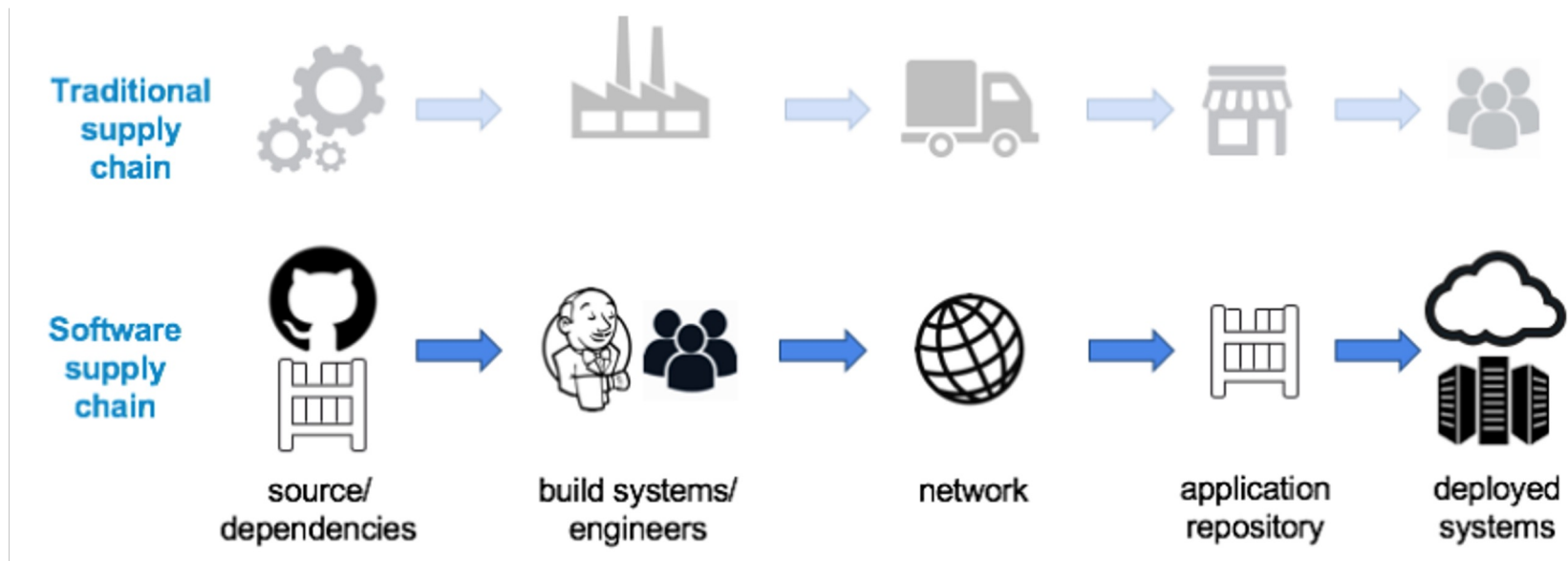


The software supply chain involves a multitude of tools and processes that enable software developers to write, build, and ship applications.

Melara & Bowman, 2022, Intel Labs

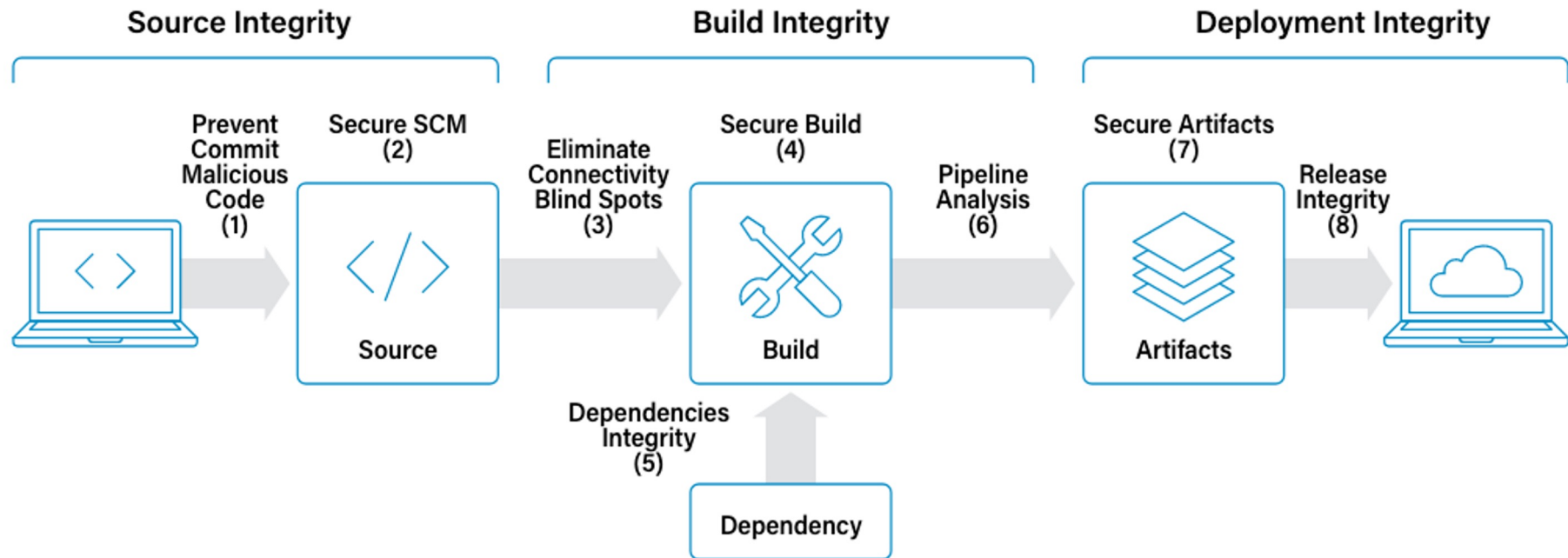


# CNCF - SSC in a 🥥



[https://github.com/cncf/tag-security/blob/main/supply-chain-security/supply-chain-security-paper/CNCF\\_SSCP\\_v1.pdf](https://github.com/cncf/tag-security/blob/main/supply-chain-security/supply-chain-security-paper/CNCF_SSCP_v1.pdf)

# CIS - SSC ⚡ in a 🥥



<https://www.cisecurity.org/insights/white-papers/cis-software-supply-chain-security-guide>



Confidentiality



**affect..**

Integrity

Availability







# Stages of the SSC



# Stages/Elements of the SSC

- Self Written Code
- Dependencies
- Build
- Artifacts & Distribution/Deployment
- (Runtime)



# Stage: Our Code



**code content**

**code  
management**



# Stage: Our Code - code content



⚡ threats



- bugs



- malicious code



- secrets



# Our Code - [cheap] scanners

SAST code scanners  
Secret detection scanners  
IaC code scanners

WHO	WHERE	FILENAME	TAGS	GIT...
Eric Lacaille name.surname@...	prm-dev-team/check-team... SHA #547588	digital_leak2.txt	Company domain in co... Sensitive filename	
Eric Lacaille name.surname@...	prm-dev-team/check-team... SHA #547588	digital_leak2.txt	Company domain in co... Sensitive filename	
Eric Lacaille name.surname@...	prm-dev-team/check-team... SHA #547588	digital_leak2.txt	Company domain in co... Sensitive filename	
Eric Lacaille name.surname@...	prm-dev-team/check-team... SHA #547588	digital_leak2.txt	Company domain in co... Sensitive filename	
Eric Lacaille name.surname@...	prm-dev-team/check-team... SHA #547588	digital_leak2.txt	Company domain in co... Sensitive filename	

1 - 5 of 11

API Key Password Other Show expanded diff

```
× [High] NoSQL Injection
Path: routes/index.js, line 219
Info: Unsanitized input from an HTTP parameter flows into findById, wh

× [High] Hardcoded Secret
Path: app.js, line 42
Info: Avoid hardcoding values that are meant to be secret. Found a har

× [High] Hardcoded Secret
Path: app.js, line 83
Info: Avoid hardcoding values that are meant to be secret. Found a har

✓ Test completed

Organization: a6f833c7-db5e-4d98-ba3f-f56b54f933a7
Test type: Static code analysis
Project path: /Users/drackthor/code/drackthor/snyk-demo/nodejs-goof

Summary:

24 Code issues found
5 [High] 13 [Medium] 6 [Low]
```



# Our Code - [expensive] tests

Unit Tests

System Tests

E2E Tests

Trace-Tests

Code Coverage

coverage 24%

Pipeline Needs Jobs 2 Tests 406

< reconcile\_anything\_2\_future

406 tests 0 failures 0 errors

Tests

Suite	Name
Tests.Unit.TableRepositoryTest	it can show all entites
Tests.Unit.Casts.CommaSeparatedTest	it can manage keywords
Modules.modapi.tests.Feature.ProjectEmployeesApiTest	it can read project employees

# Stage: Code - code management



⚡ threats



- manipulation



- theft



- deletion





# Our Code – [cheap]

Mandatory  
Signed Commits

--

Mandatory MFA

- Reject unverified users**  
Users can only push commits to this repository if the committer email is
- Reject inconsistent user name**  
Users can only push commits to this repository if the commit author name
- Reject unsigned commits**  
Only signed commits can be pushed to this repository.

## Two-factor authentication

[What is two-factor authentication?](#)

- All users in this group must set up two-factor authentication

## Delay 2FA enforcement (hours)

720

The maximum amount of time users have to set up two-factor authentication

- Subgroups can set up their own two-factor authentication rules





# Our Code – [expensive]

CODEOWNERS

--

Pre-Commit

```
# docs:
# https://docs.gitlab.com/ee/user/project/codeowners

# Required for all files
* @fullstacks-gmbh

[Protect Owners]
modules/ROOT/pages/protect @drackthor @konrad.renner

- repo: https://github.com/jorisroovers/gitlint
  rev: v0.19.1
  hooks:
    - id: gitlint
      require_serial: false
      args:
        - -cgeneral.verbosity=2
        - -cgeneral.ignore=B6
```

**Stage: Our Code - show of 🖐️**



mandatory MFA for source code access

—

Pre-Commit or Push-Policy in place





# Stage: Dependencies

packages, libraries, base-images, ..

**Please use a  
Package Manager**



# Stage: Dependencies

⚡ threats



- bugs



- malicious code



- license



- integrity



# Dependencies – [cheap]



Inventory

--

License Checks

DEPENDENCY	VERSION	LATEST VERSION	LAST PUBLISH	VULNERABILITIES	LICENSE	PR
vm2	3.9.11	3.9.19	a year ago	6 C 0 H 1 M 0 L	MIT	4 p
npmconf	0.0.24	2.1.3	6 years ago	0 C 1 H 0 M 0 L		1 p
inflight	1.0.6	1.0.6	8 years	0 C 0 H 28 M 0 L	TSC	8 p

SEVERITY	LICENSE	DEPENDENCIES	PROJECTS
N/A	Apache-2.0	2010 dependencies	569 projects
N/A	MIT	1979 dependencies	363 projects
N/A	ISC	244 dependencies	23 projects
N/A	BSD-3-Clause	113 dependencies	339 projects
N/A	Dual license:  N/A Apache-2.0,  M EPL-1.0	79 dependencies	161 projects
N/A	BSD-2-Clause	68 dependencies	341 projects
N/A	Unknown	20 dependencies	29 projects
N/A	Dual license:  N/A EPL-2.0,  N/A GPL-2.0-with-classpath-exception	19 dependencies	245 projects



# Dependencies – [expensive]

airgapping

--

require signed dependencies

The screenshot shows the Docker Hub interface for the 'docker-proxy' repository. The repository is public and has 566.39MiB of unlimited storage. The 'Repositories' tab is active, showing a table of repositories. The table has columns for Name, Artifacts, Pulls, and Last Modified Time. Two repositories are listed: 'docker-proxy/library/python' and 'docker-proxy/goharbor/redis-photon'.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name	Artifacts	Pulls	Last Modified Time
<input type="checkbox"/>	docker-proxy/library/python	0	3	6/3/24, 3:45 PM
<input type="checkbox"/>	docker-proxy/goharbor/redis-photon	4	1149	6/4/24, 2:26 AM

```
<component group="com.github.javaparser" name="javaparser-core"
version="3.6.11">
  <artifact name="javaparser-core-3.6.11.jar">
    <pgp value="8756c4f765c9ac3cb6b85d62379ce192d401ab61"/>
  </artifact>
</component>
```

**Stage: Dependencies - show of 🖐️**



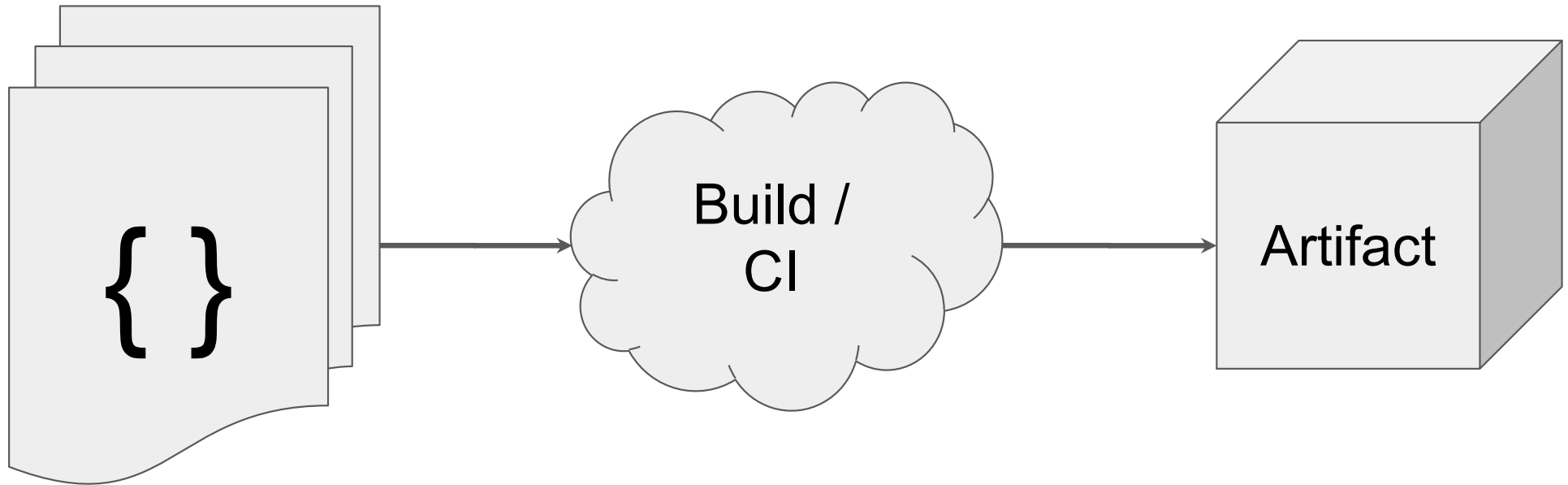
using a package manager

—

package usage policy in place



# Stage: Build







# Stage: Build

⚡ threats



- build bugs



- malicious env



# Build – [cheap]

## Pipelines as Code

--

## Dedicated Env

```
include:
  - project: fullstacks-gmbh/generic/pipeline-framework
    file: jobs/terraform-gitlab/semver.yaml
  - project: fullstacks-gmbh/generic/pipeline-framework
    file: jobs/build/container/kaniko.yaml

container-build-tag:
  extends: .container
  variables:
    IMAGE: ${CONTAINER_REGISTRY}/rancher-care-checker/rancher-ca
    TAGS: ${CI_COMMIT_TAG}, latest
    CACHE_REPO: ${CONTAINER_REGISTRY}/rancher-care-checker/cache
    REPO_USERNAME: ${CONTAINER_REGISTRY_USERNAME}
```

- Just don't build on your 
- ... and on the  under your colleagues des.



# Build – [expensive]

“[..] but, how do I troubleshoot my build now?”

“[..] but, I’ve always had access to the build machine”

Zero Trust

“[..] wait what, no root access anymore 🤯”

--

Reproducible Builds

```
"RootFS": {
  "Type": "layers",
  "Layers": [
    "sha256:2bd1a2222589b50b52ff960c3d004829633df61532e7a",
    "sha256:3a0cf035bbfcc7852c38d4d236673b6a0d9454e5f262",
    "sha256:e11cb8f1c05b62c4769e30c458d469032666789a6b00",
    "sha256:942acfdc05024606e5949c744c4902d877fe540adcef",
    "sha256:3a288894825dbd2e6eb656ecb0b28db13e64882e9e24",
    "sha256:814355163bb960f2e67c0758b5639a728d7b56efb558",
    "sha256:04feab1fb112509f9d7c80a7cd9dea2396a30404b0f9"
```

**Stage: Build - show of 🖐️**



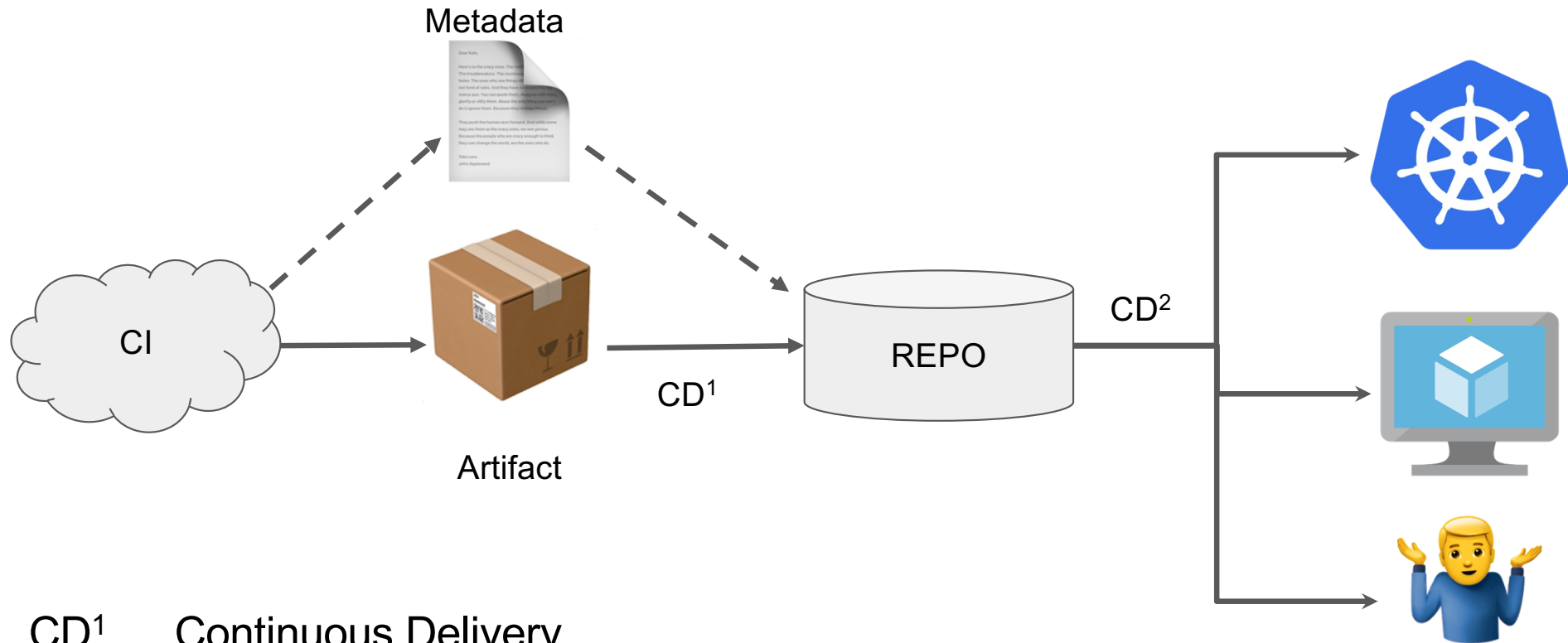
fully automated build

—

truly bitwise reproducible builds



# Stage: Artifacts & Distribution/Deployment



CD<sup>1</sup> ... Continuous Delivery  
CD<sup>2</sup> ... Continuous Deployment

# Stage: Artifacts & Distribution/Deployment



## ⚡ threats



- theft /

deletion



- replacement



- no transparency







- updates



# Artifact – [cheap]

## Repo Security

-  – RBAC
-  – Service Accounts
-  – cycle tokens/credentials
-  – MFA

## [cheap] SBOM

```
nodejs-goof on main is v1.0.1 via v20.13.1 on main  
> snyc sbom --format=cyclonedx1.4+json > sbom.json  
  
"dependencies": [  
  {  
    "ref": "1-goof@1.0.1",  
    "dependsOn": [  
      "2-adm-zip@0.4.7",  
      "3-body-parser@1.9.0",  
      "15-cfenv@1.2.2",  
      "22-consolidate@0.14.5",  
      "24-dustjs-helpers@1.5.0",  
      "25-dustjs-linkedln@2.5.0",
```

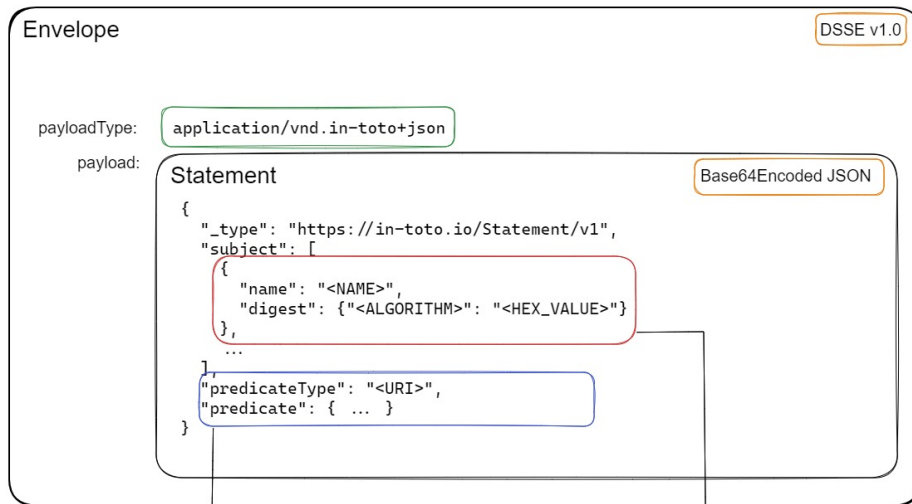


# Artifact – [expensive]

## Attestation

## [real] SBOM

in-toto specification 1.0  
<https://github.com/in-toto/attestation/releases/tag/v1.0>



Example SPDX SBOM Predicate

Example Subject

```
{
  "predicateType": "https://spdx.dev/Document",
  "predicate": {
    "SPDXID": "SPDXRef-DOCUMENT",
    "spdxVersion": "SPDX-2.2",
    ...
  }
}
```

```
{
  "name": "us.gcr.io/dasith-wijes/demo123",
  "digest": {
    "sha256": "124e1fdee94fe5c5f902bc9 ..."
  }
}
```

Metadata	Supplier	Authors	Component		
	Manufacturer	Tools	Lifecycles		
Components	Supplier	Identity	Pedigree	Provenance	Evidence
	Component Type	Licenses	Hashes	Release Notes	Relationships
Services	Provider	Data Classification	Trust Zone		
	Endpoints	Data Flow	Relationships		
Dependencies	Components	Services			
Compositions	Completeness of:				
	Components	Services	Dependencies		
Vulnerabilities	Details	Source	Exploitability	Targets Affected	
	Advisories	Risk Ratings	Evidence	Version Ranges	
Formulation	Declared	Formulas	Tasks	Components	
	Observed	Workflows	Steps	Services	
Annotations	Per Person	Per Organization	Per Tool		
	Details	Timestamp	Signature		
Extensions	Properties	Per Organization	Per Team		
	Formal Taxonomy	Per Industry			



# Stage: Artifacts - show of 🖐️



artifact repo basic security bp

—

create [real] SBOM





# Bottom Line Message

Software Supply Chain has multiple levels → very different threats ⚡

Solutions / Mitigations on different levels of effort and complexity 🙌





**in the real world**



# Context

consulting experience + master thesis research,  
looking for a “somewhat complete” set of SSCS  
controls

literature input from..

- CIS Software Supply Chain Security Guide
- CNCF Software Supply Chain Best Practices
- OWASP SCVS Software Component Verification Standard
- SLSA Supply-chain Levels for Software Artifacts
- Microsoft Secure Supply Chain Consumption Framework
- DoD Enterprise DevSecOps Reference Design

# Context



3 Implementation  
Groups

167 controls  
6 categories

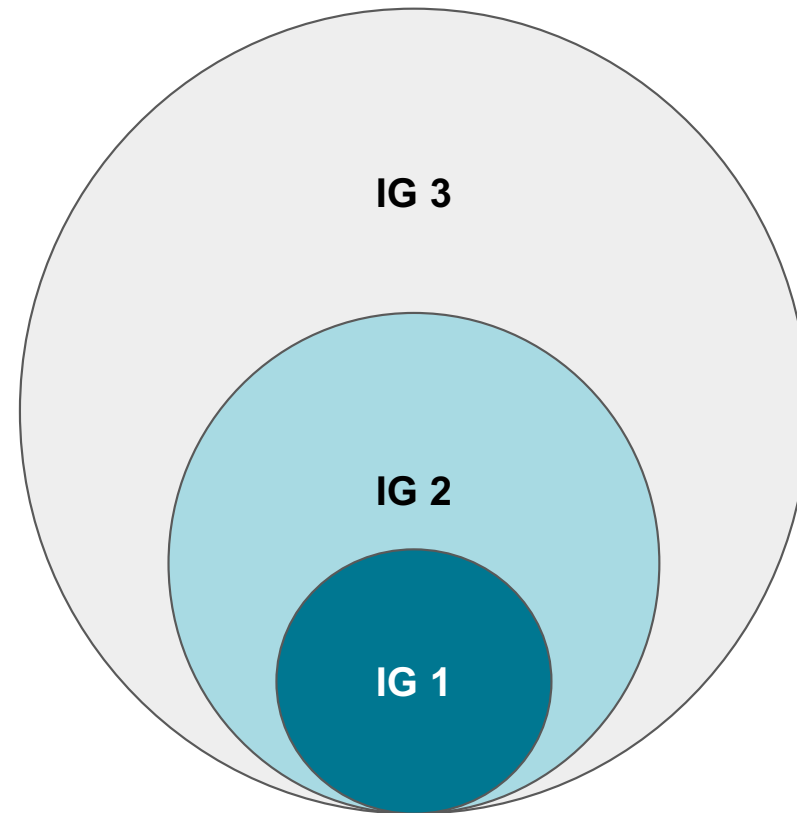
83 questions  
4 possible answers

30 companies  
(DACH)

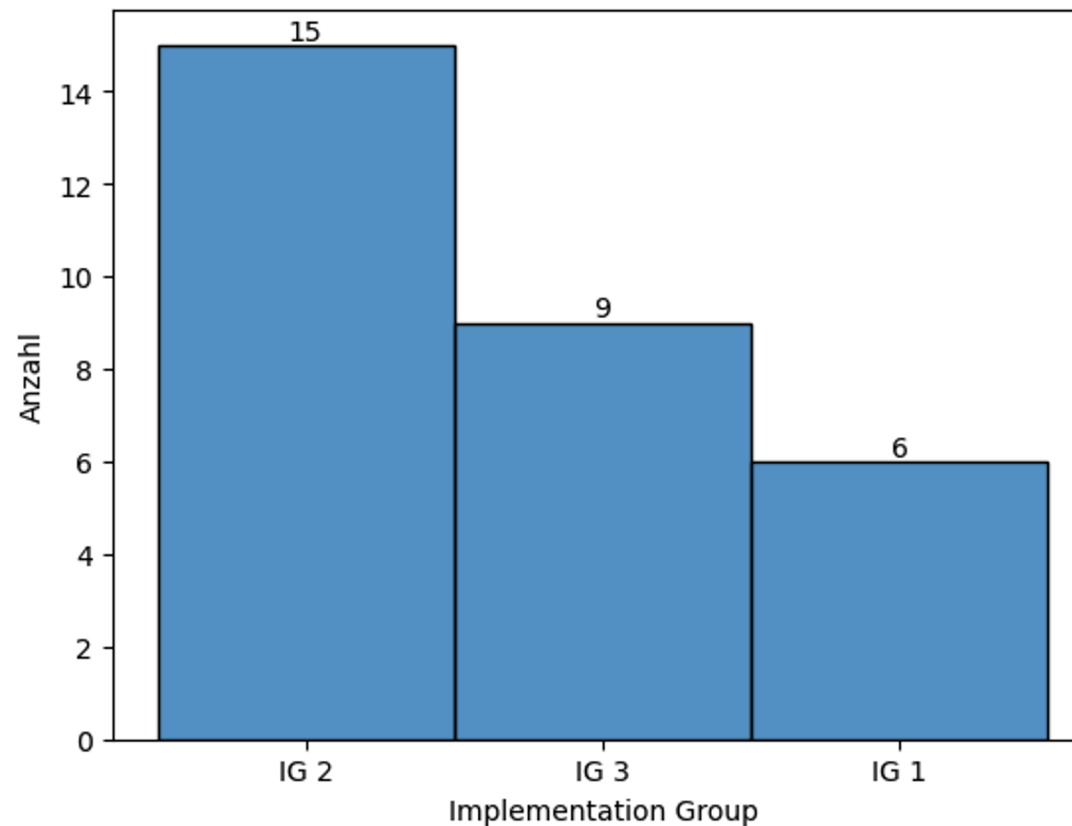


# Context

- **IG 1**
  - small company
  - no sensitive data
- **IG 2**
  - middle size company
  - some sensitive data
- **IG 3**
  - enterprise
  - highly sensitive data

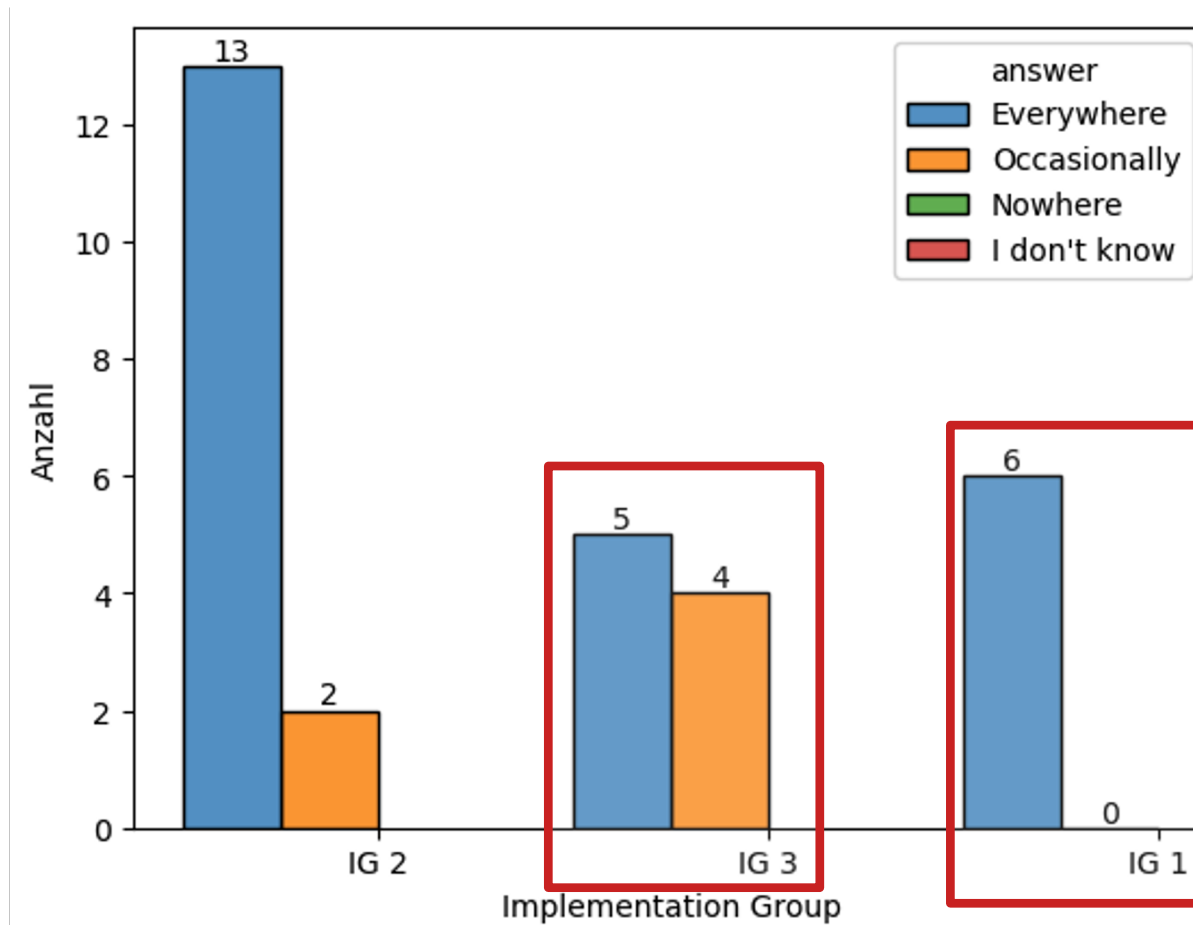


# Findings - Companies per IP



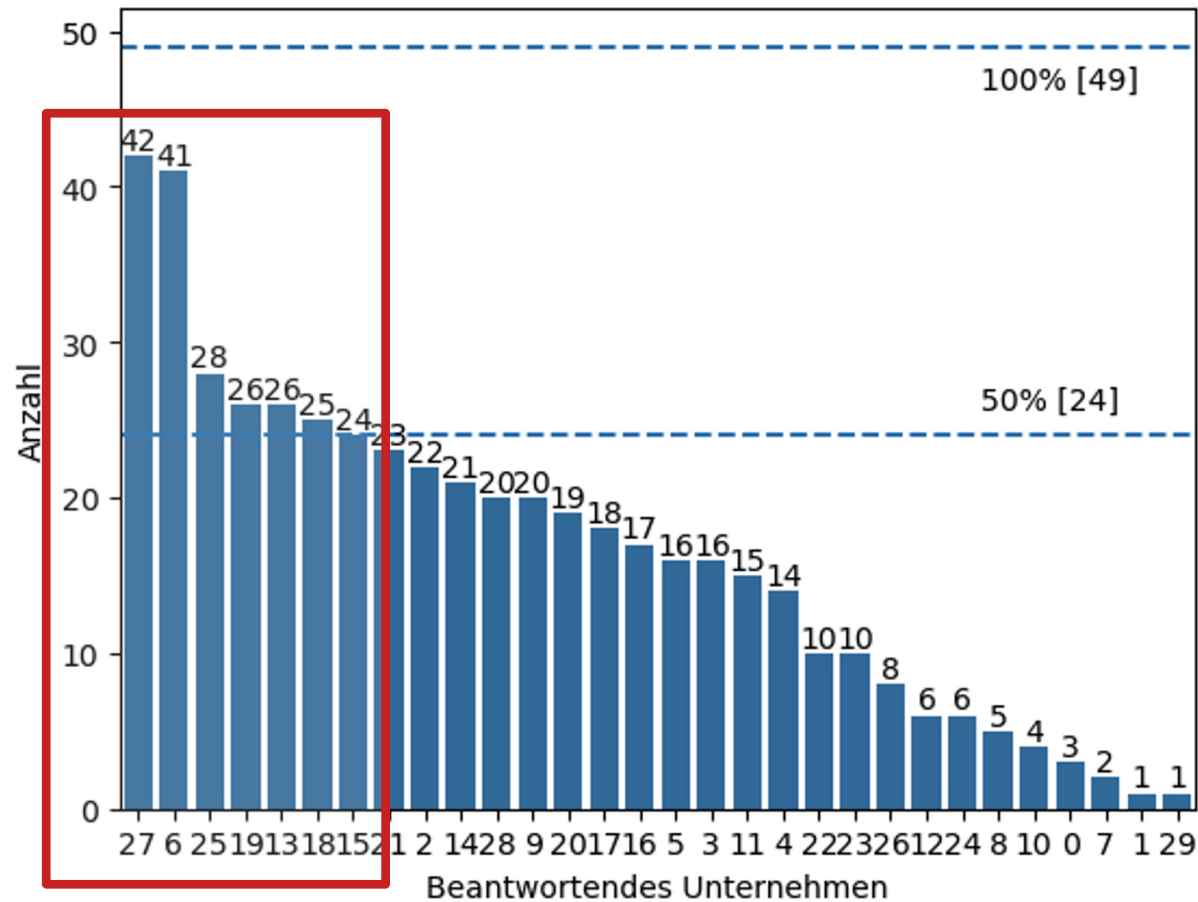


# Findings - Using VCS





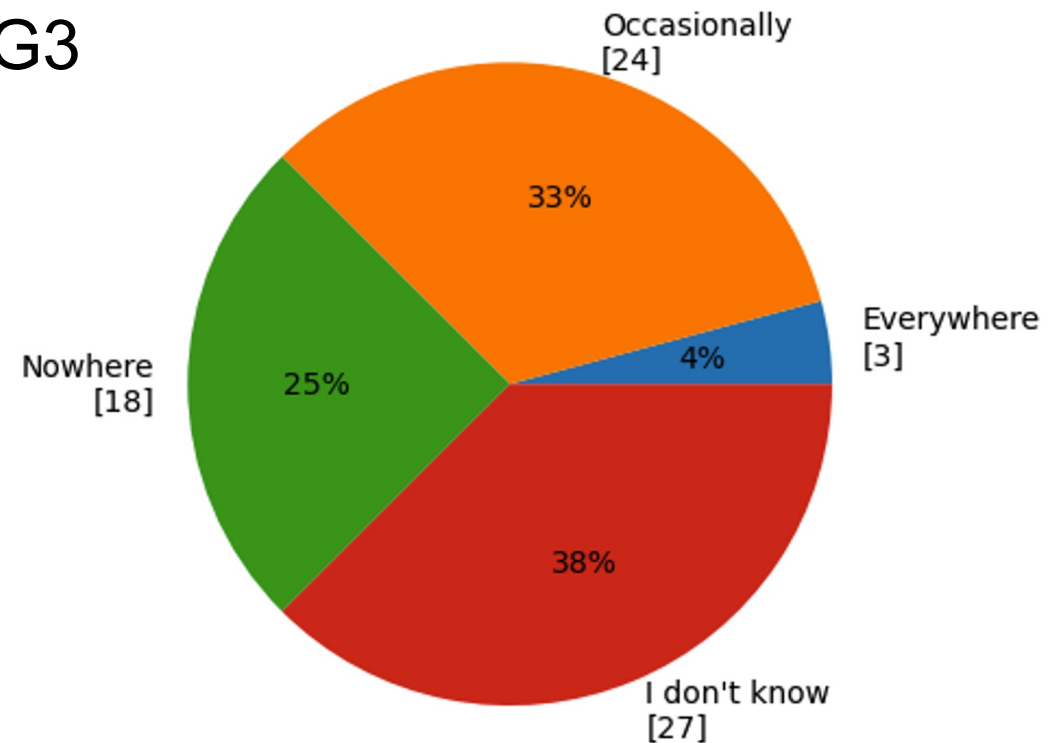
# Findings - Implementing all IG1 controls





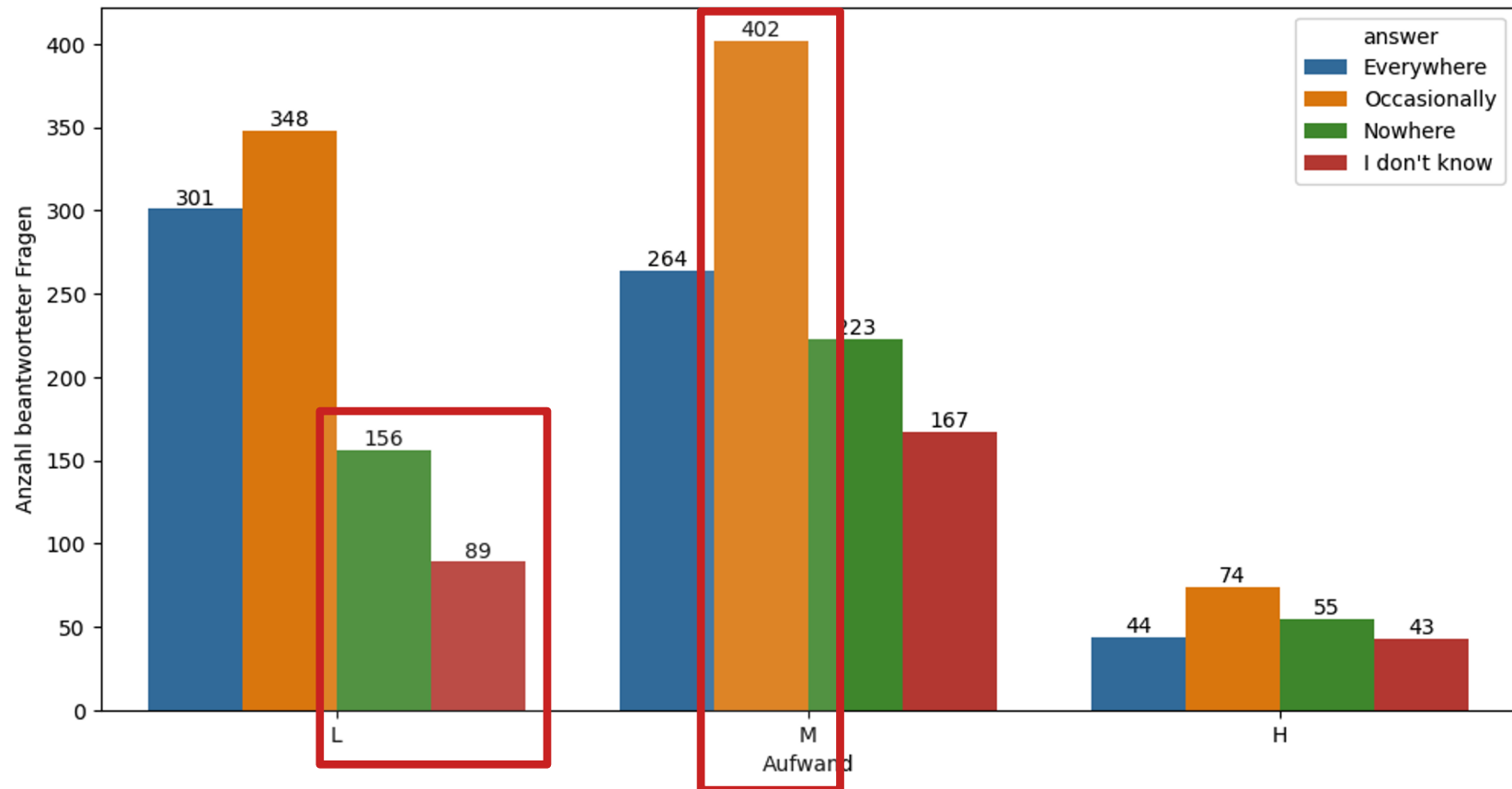
# Findings - Implementing IG3 controls

- 🙅 only necessary for IG3 companies
- 😞 25% definitely not implemented
- 👍 1/3 implemented somewhere
- 🙄 > 1/3 unknown
  - no policy?
  - know how?





# Findings - Controls vs Effort





# Lessons Learned – from data

👉 IG / company size  
👉 Transparency

~25-50% of controls per group not implemented

Low hanging 🍇 not reaped



build, SBOM, attestation

# Lessons Learned – from experience



scans, tests &  
checks 🤝 policies

automation is 🔑  
(IaC, pipelines, testing, PaC, ..)



# The Hard Truth

👍 lots of information available

👎 many simple controls not implemented

👎 most complex controls not implemented

bigger company = less transparency/adaptation



# Daniel Drack

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Organizer / Host  
CNCG Graz + KCD Austria

- BSc MA MBA
- CK{A/AD}, TFA, VA, GitLab, PSM I, Snyk

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[@DrackThor](#)



# Further Reading

## Code:

- [SAST](#)
- [\(GitLab\) Push Rules](#)
- [Codeowners](#)
- [IaC Scanning Tools](#)
- [The Test Pyramid](#)

## Dependencies:

- [SCA Tools](#)
- [SBOM Introduction](#)
- [Dependency Track](#)

## Build:

- [Reproducible Builds](#)
- [Zero Trust Paradigm](#)
- [container based build](#)

## Artifacts, Distribution & Deployment:

- [The Update Framework](#)
- [In-Toto Attestation](#)
- [Sigstore](#)

## used Literature (selection):

- [CNCF Supply Chain Best Practices](#)
- [CIS Supply Chain Security Guide](#)
- [NIST SSDF](#)
- [SLSA](#)
- [OSSF S2C2F](#)
- [OWASP ASVS](#)
- [SSA Secure Software Controls](#)