

# Secure software development

An overview of building security into  
application software systems

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# About Chris Horn



Principal consultant,  
Product strategy & development

## Experience

- 18 years in research, software systems, and new product development
- Principal Investigator at Secure Decisions, an R&D division of Applied Visions
- Focused on developing technologies to improve application security

# We provide software development, security research, and application security management

## Applied Visions, Inc.

- Software development since 1987
- Primarily develops business applications

## dba, Secure Decisions

- Cyber R&D
- Primarily serving DHS and DoD, including DARPA, ONR, AFRL; some intel and commercial projects

## Code Dx, Inc.

- Application security spin-out based on SBIR funded by DHS S&T in 2011



# Outline of today's talk

## Baseline

- Systems engineering
- Security

## DevSecOps

- Overview

## for each stage of DevSecOps

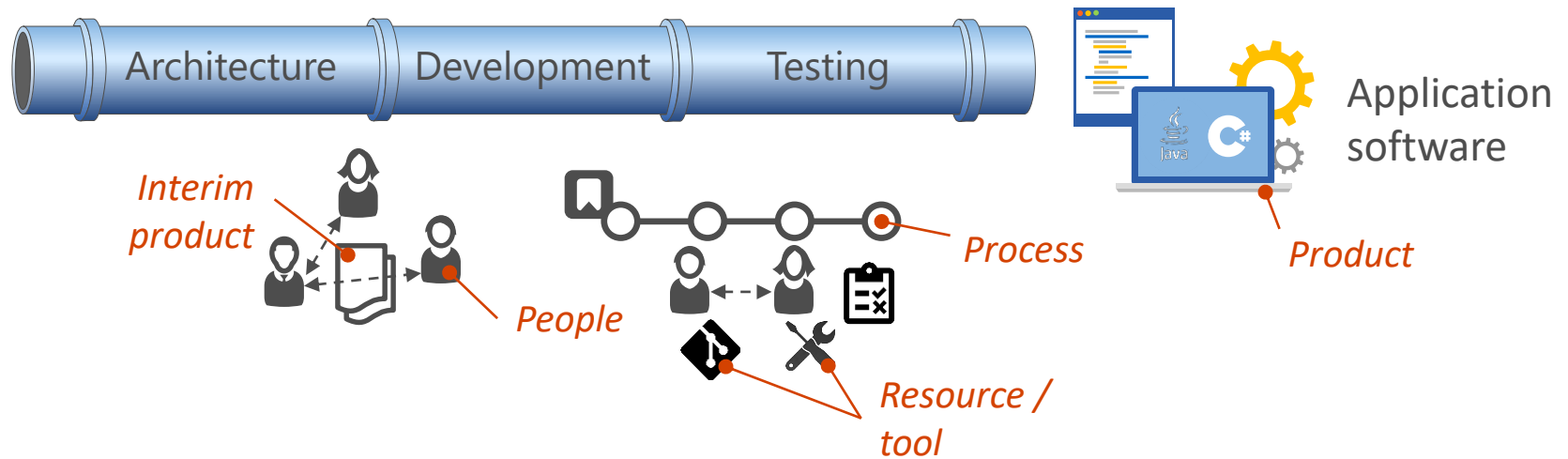
- Security practices

# Three key takeaways from today's talk

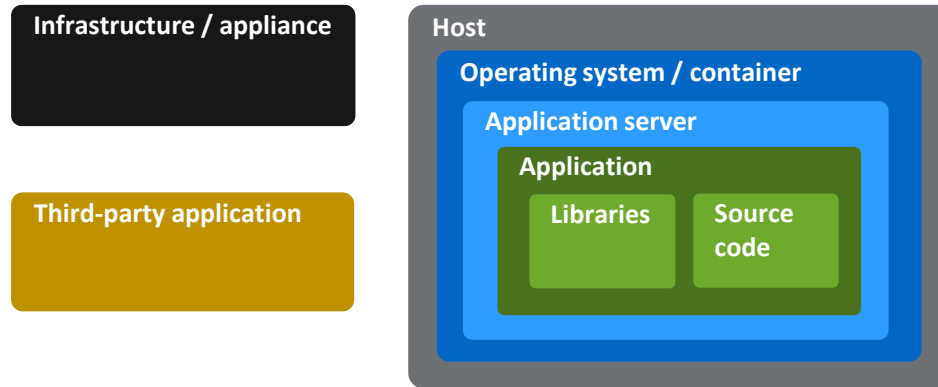
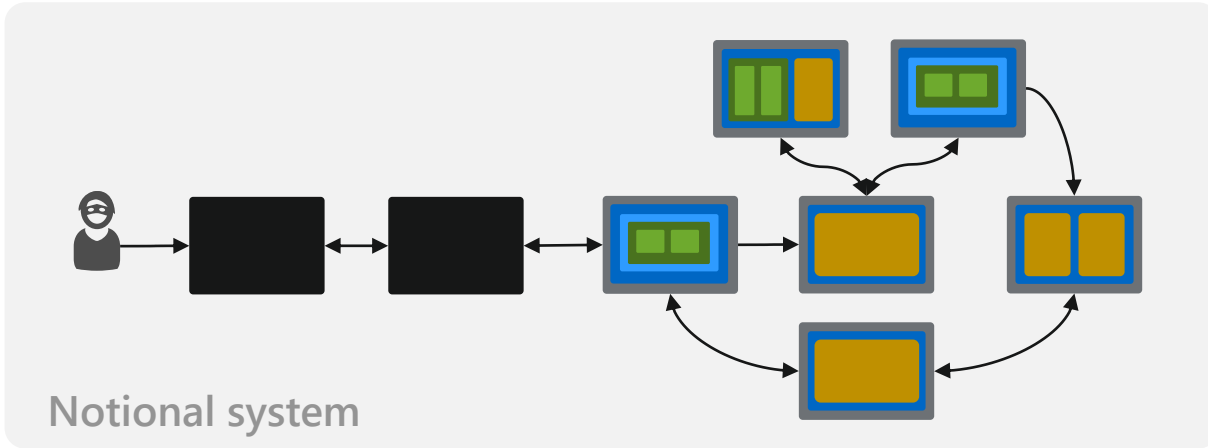
1. Security is perfectly compatible with DevOps
2. There is no silver bullet to achieve security
  - Results from hundreds of smaller decisions and actions
  - Coordinated application of people, process, and technology
3. There are many great public resources to support learning
  - Citations & links included

# Baseline

# People apply thought, process, and technology to create application software



Application systems are composed of components that each have their own security needs





# Systems engineering integrates multiple skillsets

The art and science of guiding the end-to-end creation of systems

- Art because it involves extensive people skills and leadership
- Science because it requires rigorous applications of tools & methodologies

Interdisciplinary approach governing the total technical and managerial effort required to transform a set of stakeholder needs, expectations, and constraints into a solution and to support that solution throughout its life.

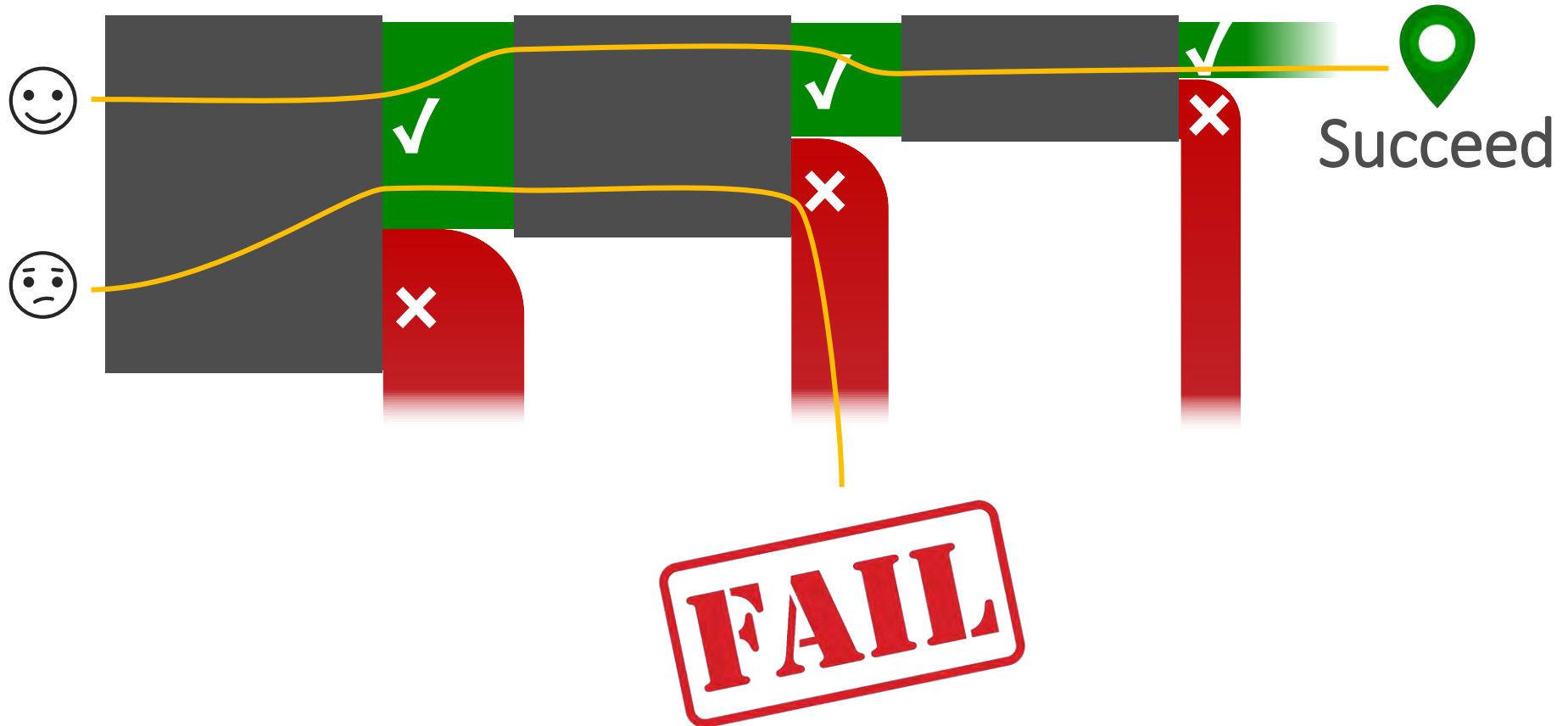
Jolly, Steve. "Systems Engineering: Roles and Responsibilities." presented at the NASA Principal Investigator Forum, Annapolis, MD, July 27, 2011.

[https://www.nasa.gov/pdf/580677main\\_02\\_Steve\\_Jolly\\_Systems\\_Engineering.pdf](https://www.nasa.gov/pdf/580677main_02_Steve_Jolly_Systems_Engineering.pdf).

"Glossary: Systems Engineering." Computer Security Resource Center. Accessed April 2, 2019.

<https://csrc.nist.gov/glossary/term/systems-engineering>.

# There are many ways a system can fail



# Security feels good

The state of being free from danger or threat

Freedom from those conditions that can cause loss of assets with unacceptable consequences

An *asset* is an item of value to stakeholders that may be:

- Tangible (e.g., a physical item such as hardware, firmware, computing platform, network device, or other technology component)
- Intangible (e.g., data, information, software, trademark, copyright, patent, intellectual property, image, or reputation)

Ross, Ron, Michael McEvilley, and Janet Carrier Oren. "Systems Security Engineering: Considerations for a Multidisciplinary Approach in the Engineering of Trustworthy Secure Systems." National Institute of Standards and Technology, November 2016. <https://doi.org/10.6028/NIST.SP.800-160>.

# Security is an emergent system property

Emergent properties are the opposite of one-and-done feature development

- Result from tens and hundreds of smaller decisions

Other emergent system properties include:

- Availability
- Usability
- Safety
- Security
- Maintainability
- Resilience
- Reliability
- Agility
- Survivability
- Recoverability
- Supportability
- Durability

# DevSecOps

# DevSecOps is a framework

DevSecOps is a collection of ideas and approaches that represent an evolution in how we develop systems

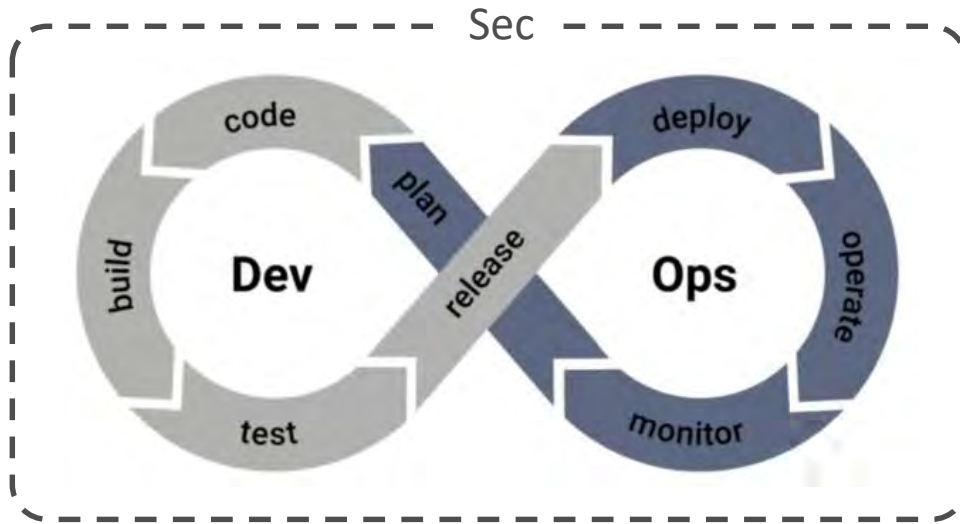
# DevSecOps is about culture

DevSecOps values, beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors include:

- Iterative value delivery
- Shared responsibility
- Autonomous teams
- Automation
- Measurement
- Learning & experimentation

Wilsenach, Rouan. "DevOpsCulture." martinfowler.com. Accessed April 2, 2019. <https://martinfowler.com/bliki/DevOpsCulture.html>.

# DevSecOps is about process

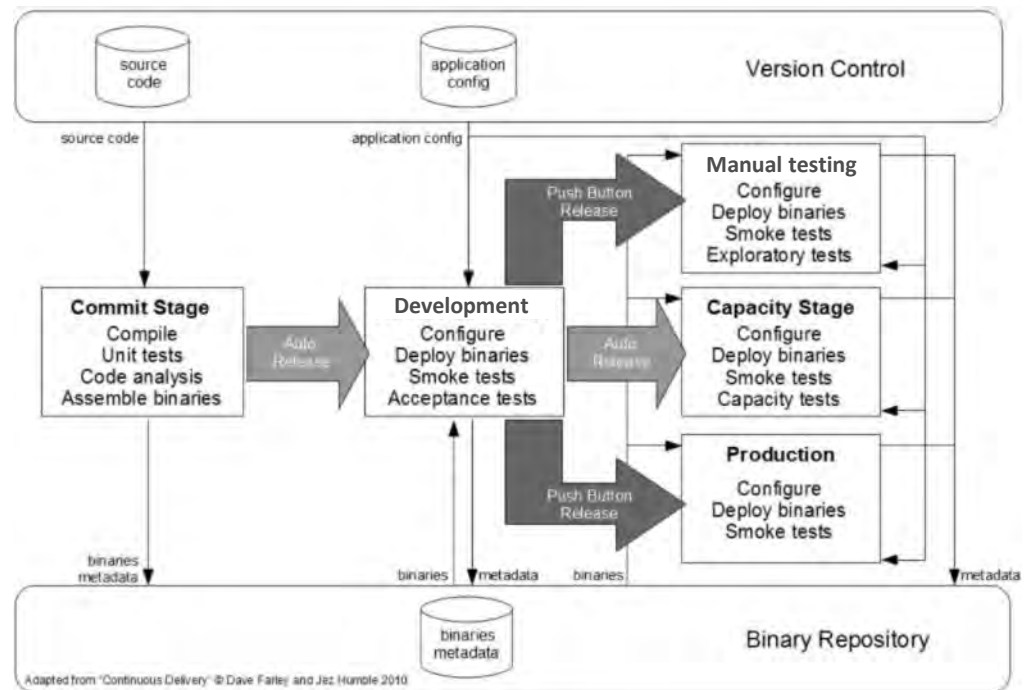




# DevSecOps is about technical approaches

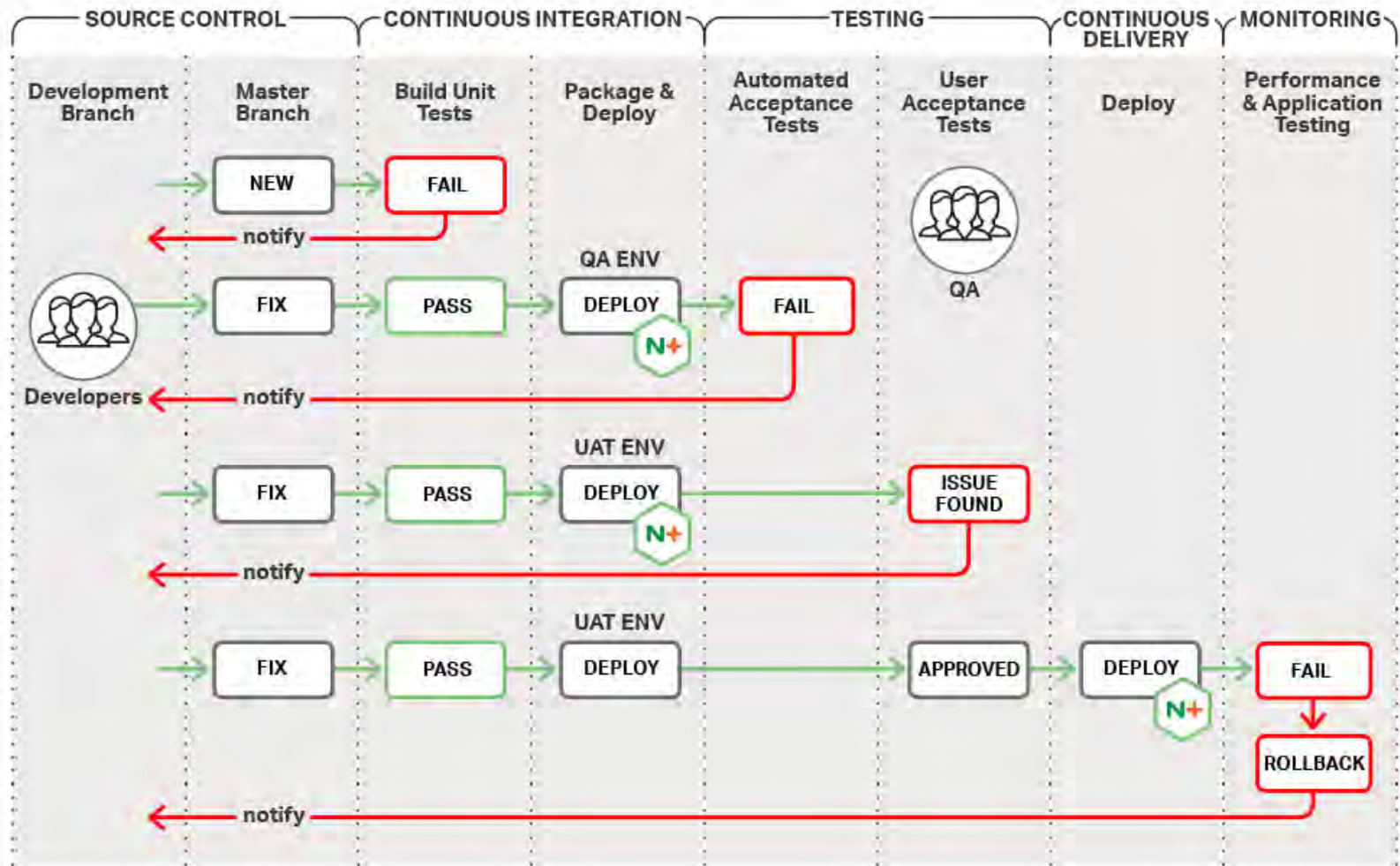
## Continuous integration (CI) & continuous deployment (CD)

- Cloud technologies
- Everything as code
- APIs
- Automated testing
- Rollback / recovery



Azeri, Izzy. "What Is CI/CD?" DZone. Accessed April 2, 2019.  
<https://dzone.com/articles/what-is-cicd>.

# DevSecOps is about review processes



“Continuous Integration/Continuous Delivery with NGINX and NGINX Plus.” NGINX, May 31, 2017.  
<https://www.nginx.com/blog/introducing-cicd-with-nginx-and-nginx-plus/>.

# DevSecOps is a framework

DevSecOps is an evolution to how we develop systems

Most practices from other frameworks carry through

- Systems engineering
- SDLC
- Risk management
- Cybersecurity

DevSecOps is how we apply those practices

# Resources for learning about DevSecOps

“Devops Security Checklist.” Sqreen. Accessed April 1, 2019.

<https://www.sqreen.com/checklists/devops-security-checklist.html>.

Synopsys. *Build a DevSecOps Culture with Automated and Integrated Security Tools*, 2018. <https://vimeo.com/285843713>.

“Common Security Challenges in CI/CD Workflows.” DZone. Accessed April 1, 2019.

<https://dzone.com/articles/common-security-challenges-in-cicd-workflows>.

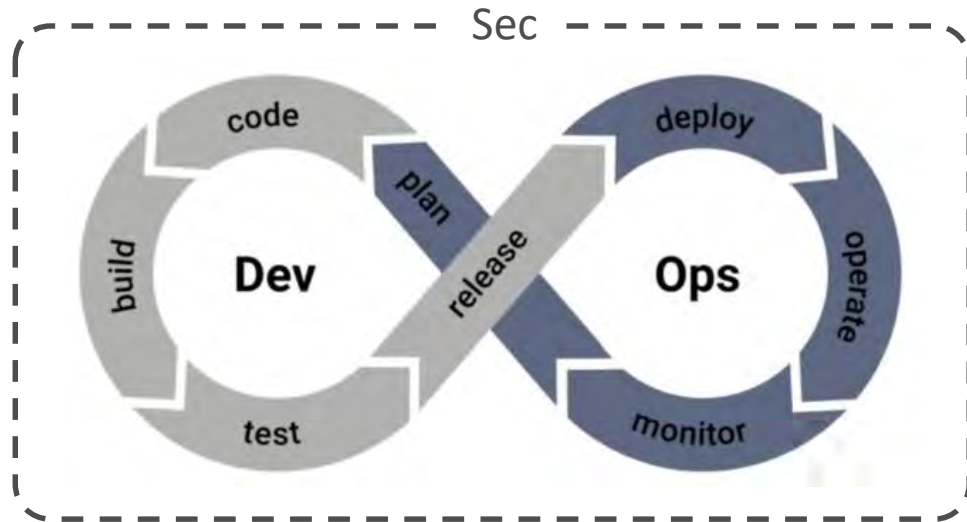
“Introduction to DevSecOps, Refcard #267.” DZone. Accessed April 1, 2019.

<https://dzone.com/refcardz/introduction-to-devsecops>.

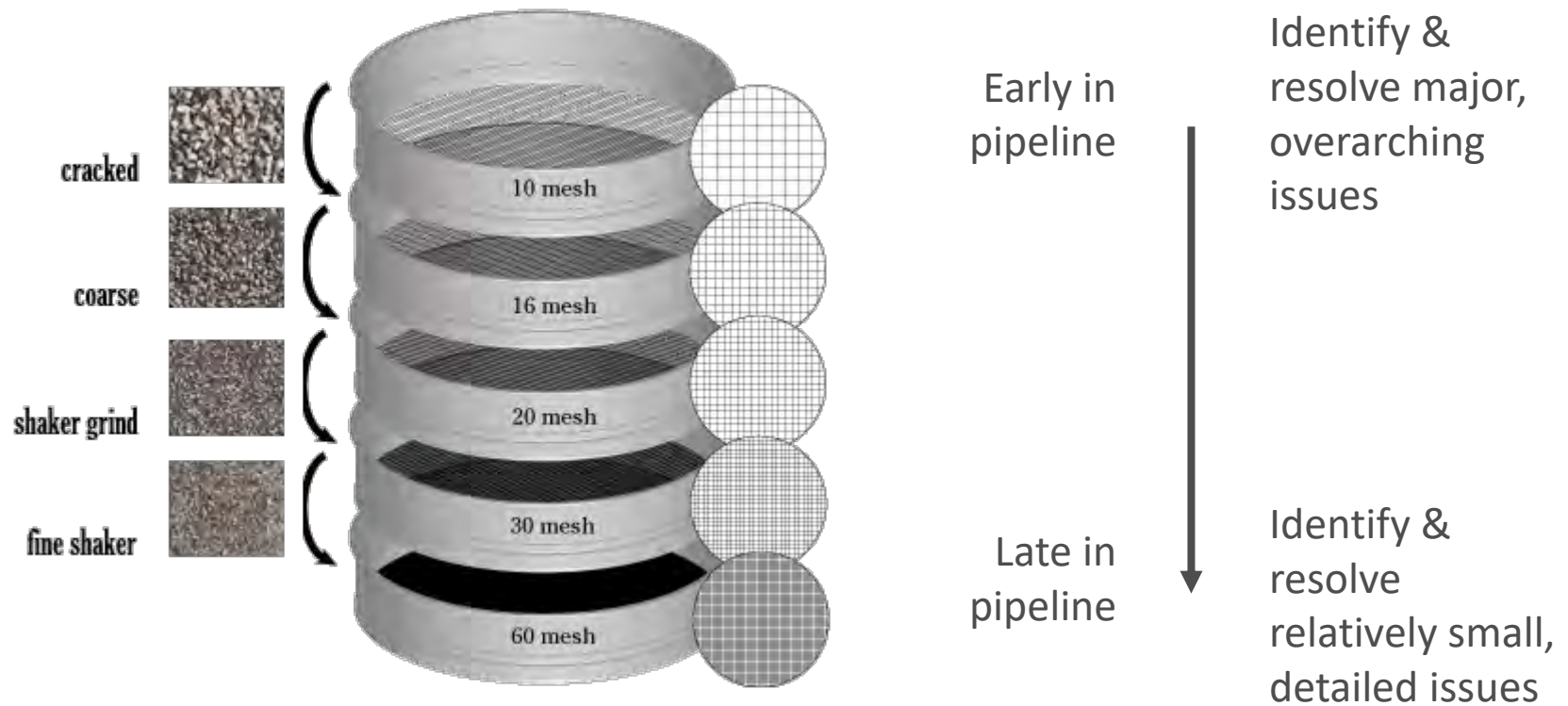
# Security practices in DevSecOps

# DevSecOps

1. Plan & design
2. Code
3. Build
4. Test
5. Release
6. Deploy
7. Operate
8. Monitor



# The development pipeline is like a series of screens



Aim to detect issues as early as possible







# Important design principles, patterns, & methods

## Principles of secure design

- Compartmentalization
- Minimize attack surface
- Defense in depth
- Economy of mechanism (KISS)
- Authenticate, then authorize
- Least privilege
- Separation of privilege
- Graceful degradation
- Safe defaults
- Audit trails & logging
- Open design
- ...more

## Design patterns

### Threat modeling

- Abuse cases
- Attack graph/map
- Fault trees

### Attacker mindset

“Design Principles.” US-CERT. Accessed April 1, 2019.

<https://www.us-cert.gov/bsi/articles/knowledge/principles/design-principles>.

“Security by Design Principles.” OWASP. Accessed April 1, 2019.

[https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Security\\_by\\_Design\\_Principles](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Security_by_Design_Principles).

Arce, Iván, Neil Daswani, Jim DelGrosso, Danny Dhillon, Christoph Kern, Tadayoshi Kohno, Carl Landwehr, et al. “Avoiding the Top 10 Software Security Design Flaws.” *IEE Center for Secure Design*, 2014, 32. <https://ieeecs-media.computer.org/media/technical-activities/CYBSI/docs/Top-10-Flaws.pdf>.

Microsoft. “Cloud Design Patterns.” Microsoft Azure Architecture Center. Accessed April 2, 2019. <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/architecture/patterns/>.

Gerber, Joe, Jay Reynolds, Chris Wells, and Christian Price. “Building Patterns for Secure Micro Services, an Approach and Pattern Zero Candidate.” presented at the Rocky Mountain Information Security Community 2018, Denver, CO, May 9, 2018. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qF70eYdWhueNmmdmy2fuYXDOr1fkXZZd/view>.

# Healthy paranoia requires knowing the threats

## Types of problems

- Physical damage
- Loss of essential services
- Technical failure
- Function compromise
- Information compromise

## Degrees of intent

- Deliberate
- Negligence
- Accidental
- Environmental

## Human adversaries

- National governments
- Terrorists
- Industrial spies
- Organized crime groups
- Hacktivists
- Hackers
- Insiders
  - Disgruntled
  - Financially-motivated

"Threat (Computer)." *Wikipedia*, March 27, 2019.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Threat\\_\(computer\)&oldid=889722177](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Threat_(computer)&oldid=889722177).

"Cyber Threat Source Descriptions." U.S. Federal Government. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA). Accessed April 1, 2019. <https://ics-cert.us-cert.gov/content/cyber-threat-source-descriptions>.

# Threat catalogs are useful input to threat modeling



ATT&CK Matrix for Enterprise

Tactic	Technique	Subtechnique	Tool	Software	Resource	Blog	Contact
Initial Access	Phishing	Phishing (social)					
	Phishing	Phishing (social)					
	Phishing	Phishing (social)					
	Phishing	Phishing (social)					
Execution	Command and Control	Command and Control (network)					
	Command and Control	Command and Control (network)					
	Command and Control	Command and Control (network)					
	Command and Control	Command and Control (network)					
Persistence	Backdoor	Backdoor (malware)					
	Backdoor	Backdoor (malware)					
	Backdoor	Backdoor (malware)					
	Backdoor	Backdoor (malware)					
Privilege Escalation	Privilege Escalation	Privilege Escalation (local)					
	Privilege Escalation	Privilege Escalation (local)					
	Privilege Escalation	Privilege Escalation (local)					
	Privilege Escalation	Privilege Escalation (local)					
Defense Evasion	Defense Evasion	Defense Evasion (local)					
	Defense Evasion	Defense Evasion (local)					
	Defense Evasion	Defense Evasion (local)					
	Defense Evasion	Defense Evasion (local)					
Discovery	Discovery	Discovery (local)					
	Discovery	Discovery (local)					
	Discovery	Discovery (local)					
	Discovery	Discovery (local)					
Collection	Collection	Collection (local)					
	Collection	Collection (local)					
	Collection	Collection (local)					
	Collection	Collection (local)					
Exfiltration	Exfiltration	Exfiltration (local)					
	Exfiltration	Exfiltration (local)					
	Exfiltration	Exfiltration (local)					
	Exfiltration	Exfiltration (local)					



## Overall findings

The industry sections will feature specific actions, actors, asset and attribute data. Below are the overall "greatest hits" for this year's dataset. Longtime readers can think of this as a quick study guide based on the 4As (Actor, Action, Asset, Attribute).

### Top 20 action varieties in incidents



### Top 20 action varieties in breaches



### Top external actor varieties in breaches

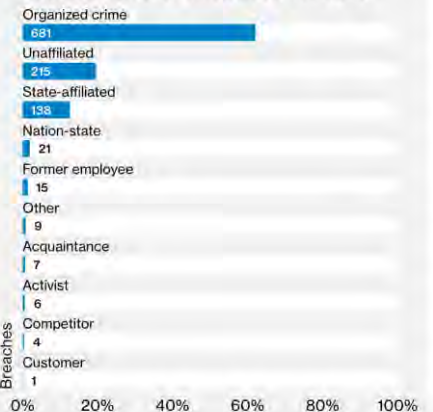


Figure 6. Top external actor varieties within confirmed data breaches (n=1,097)



"2018 Data Breach Investigations Report, 11th Edition."

Research Report. Verizon Enterprise, 2018.

[https://enterprise.verizon.com/resources/reports/DBIR\\_2018\\_Report.pdf](https://enterprise.verizon.com/resources/reports/DBIR_2018_Report.pdf).

"MITRE ATT&CK™." Accessed April 1, 2019. <https://attack.mitre.org/>.

"HITRUST Threat Catalogue." HITRUST, January 31, 2017.

<https://hitrustalliance.net/threat-catalogue/>.

# Control catalogs can save on design time

CIS Controls

OWASP ASVS

NIST 800-53 Rev. 4

DoD Instruction 8500.2

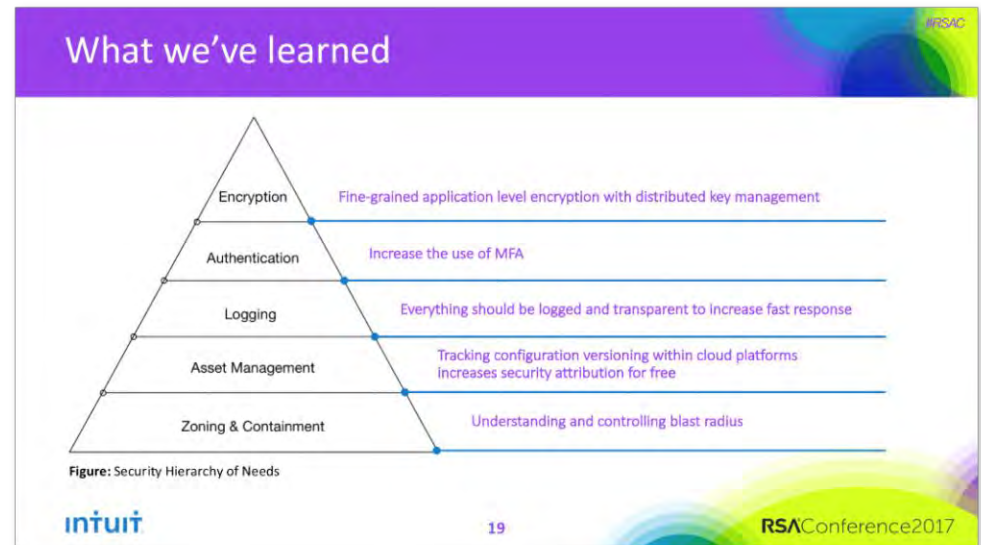
“CIS Controls.” Center for Internet Security (CIS). Accessed April 2, 2019. <https://learn.cisecurity.org/20-controls-download>.

“OWASP Application Security Verification Standard Project.” Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP). Accessed April 2, 2019. [https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP\\_Application\\_Security\\_Verification\\_Standard\\_Project](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP_Application_Security_Verification_Standard_Project).

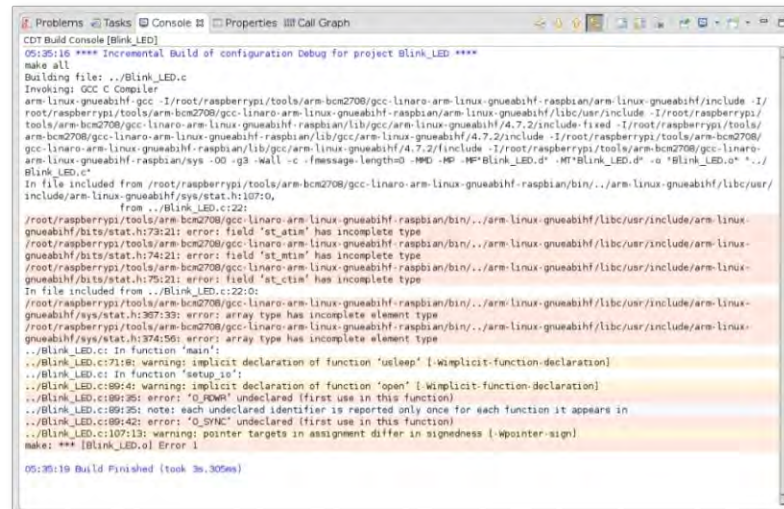
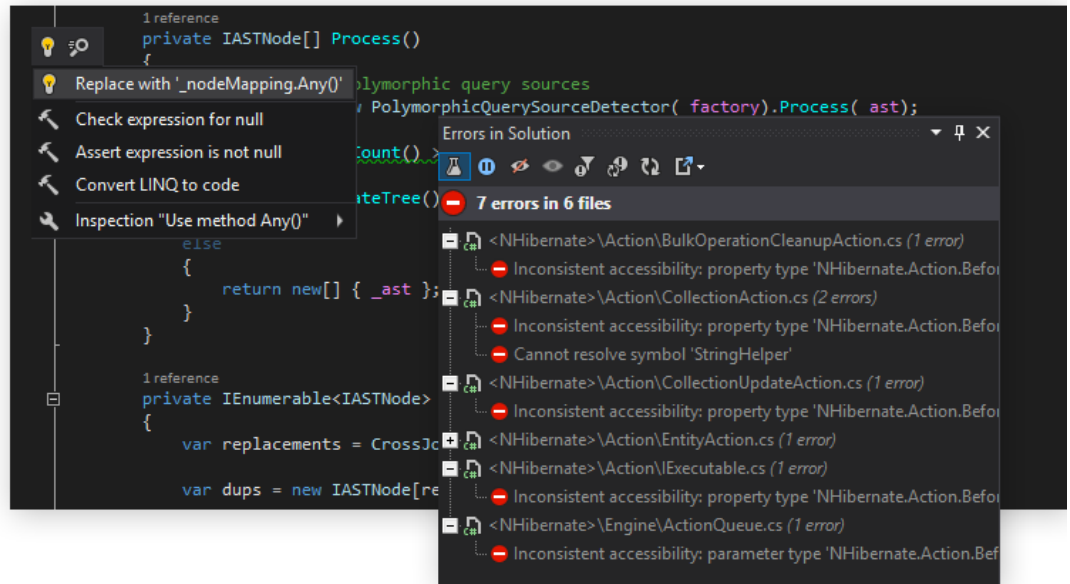
Joint Task Force Transformation Initiative. “Security and Privacy Controls for Federal Information Systems and Organizations.” NIST Special Publication. Gaithersburg, MD: National Institute of Standards and Technology, April 2013. <http://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-53r4.pdf>.

“Complete 8500 Control List.” STIG Viewer | Unified Compliance Framework®. Accessed April 2, 2019. <https://www.stigviewer.com/controls/8500>.

Iacovone, Michele. “Securely Moving Data to the Cloud with Confidence and Customer Focus.” presented at the RSA Conference 2017, San Francisco, February 13, 2017. <https://published-prd.lanyonevents.com/published/rsaus17/sessionsFiles/4864/CSV-R10F-Securely-Moving-Data-to-the-Cloud-with-Confidence-and-Customer-Focus.pdf>.



# Code & build



# Checklists and analyzers improve code quality

## Apply commonly needed practices

- Sanitize/validate all inputs
- Parametrize queries
- Prevent XML external entities
- Prevent cross-site scripting (XSS)

## Use static analyzers

- Enable compiler warnings
- Adhere to a style guide
- Find analyzers that fit your needs with Kompar (<https://kompar.tools>)

Belk, Mark, Matt Coles, Cassio Goldschmidt, Michael Howard, Kyle Randolph, Mikko Saario, Reeny Sondhi, Izar Tarandach, Antti Vähä-Sipilä, and Yonko Yonchev. "Fundamental Practices for Secure Software Development." Edited by Stacy Simpson. Software Assurance Forum for Excellence in Code (SAFECode), February 8, 2011.

[https://safecode.org/publication/SAFECode\\_Dev\\_Practices0211.pdf](https://safecode.org/publication/SAFECode_Dev_Practices0211.pdf).

OWASP Cheat Sheet Series. 2018. Reprint, OWASP, 2019.

<https://github.com/OWASP/CheatSheetSeries>.

"OWASP Top Ten Project." Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP), November 2017.

[https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP\\_Top\\_Ten\\_Project](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/Category:OWASP_Top_Ten_Project).

"CWE/SANS Top 25 Most Dangerous Software Errors." SANS Institute, June 27, 2011. <https://www.sans.org/top25-software-errors>.

# Code reviews are an effective way to catch bugs

Code reviews answer two questions:

- Is it the correct code?
- Is the code correct?

## Typical workflow

1. Developer edits code
  - Usually in a feature branch
  - Not for longer than a couple of weeks
2. Initiates a pull request
3. Someone else reviews code
4. Request changes, or approves merge

“What Are the Best Code Review Tools?” Quora. Accessed April 2, 2019. <https://www.quora.com/What-are-the-best-code-review-tools>.

“Best Practices for Code Review.” SmartBear Software, 2019. <https://smartbear.com/learn/code-review/best-practices-for-peer-code-review/>.

“Trunk-Based Development or Pull Requests - Why Not Both?” Jimmy Bogard, December 6, 2017. <https://jimmybogard.com/>.



# Secure configuration

## Third-party component configuration guidance

- CIS Benchmarks
- DISA Security Technical Implementation Guides (STIGs)

## Manage components with known vulnerabilities

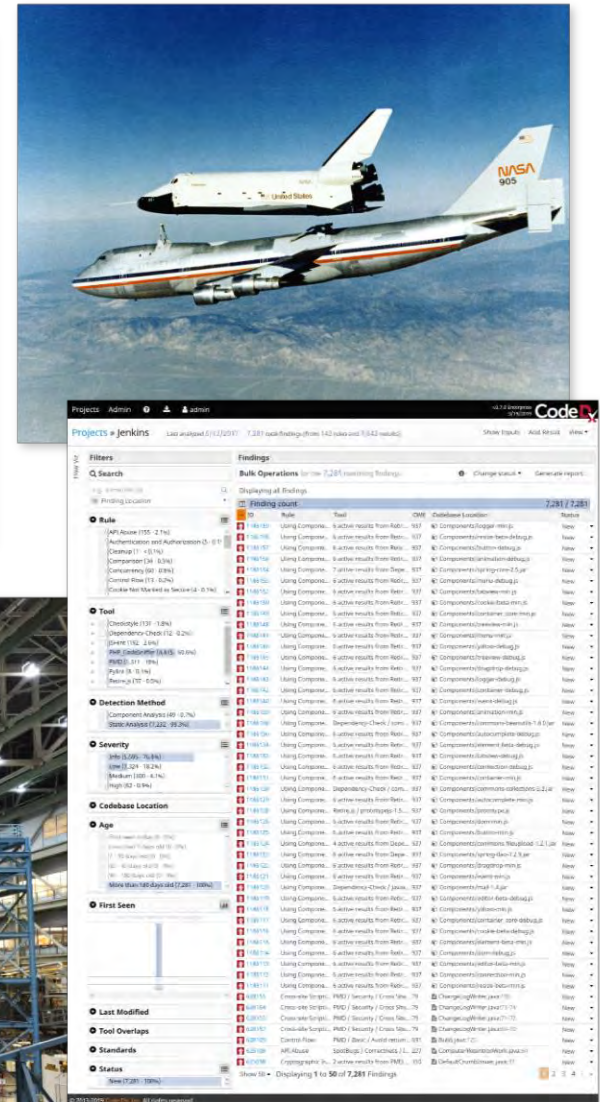
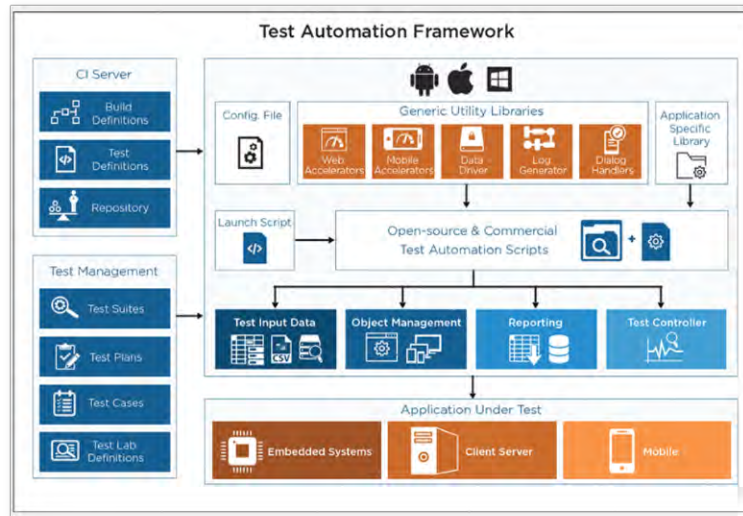
- Software composition analysis
  - Dependency-Track, Black Duck, WhiteHat, CA Veracode, etc.
- Apply vendor security updates

“CIS Benchmarks™.” Center for Internet Security (CIS). Accessed April 2, 2019. <https://www.cisecurity.org/cis-benchmarks/>.

“Complete STIG List.” STIG Viewer | Unified Compliance Framework®. Accessed April 2, 2019. <https://www.stigviewer.com/stigs>.



# Test



Paur, Jason. "Boeing 787 Passes Incredible Wing Flex Test." *Wired*, March 29, 2010.  
<https://www.wired.com/2010/03/boeing-787-passes-incredible-wing-flex-test/>.

# There are multiple types of testing to apply

Unit

Integration

Static analysis

Dynamic/interactive  
application security testing

Abuse cases

Fuzz/robustness

Infrastructure security

Penetration

Atlassian. "The Different Types of Testing in Software." Atlassian. Accessed April 1, 2019.  
<https://www.atlassian.com/continuous-delivery/software-testing/types-of-software-testing>.

Secure Decisions. "OWASP Attack Surface Detector Project." Open Web Application Security Project (OWASP), October 2018.  
[https://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP\\_Attack\\_Surface\\_Detector\\_Project](https://www.owasp.org/index.php/OWASP_Attack_Surface_Detector_Project).

# Selectively apply testing by pipeline stage



- Lightweight static analysis (linters, style checkers, etc.)
- Unit tests

## Automated

- Lightweight static analysis (linters, style checkers, etc.)

## Manual

- Code review

## Synchronous

- Unit tests
- Integration tests
- Midweight static analysis
- Software composition analysis (SCA)

## Synchronous

- Configuration compliance
- Abuse case

## Asynchronous

- Dynamic/interactive application security testing
- Heavyweight static analysis
- Fuzz/robustness
- Penetration testing

Synchronous tests should complete in a reasonable amount of time and the results used to decide whether to break the build. Do not go live with a build if it has serious quality errors based on synchronous tests, *but* many organizations will go live with known security vulnerabilities in their applications.

Cornell, Dan. "Effective Application Security Testing in DevOps Pipelines." Denim Group, December 14, 2016. <https://www.denimgroup.com/resources/blog/2016/12/effective-application-security-testing-in-devops-pipelines/>.

# Application security management systems consolidate testing findings

Application security testing will generate lots of data in different formats and nomenclatures

- Collect, normalize, and deduplicate with a management system
  - E.g., Code Dx, ThreadFix, Defect Dojo, Kenna Security, etc.

# Release & deploy

# Deployment is a high privilege

Limit who is authorized to deploy builds

Audit all deployment activity

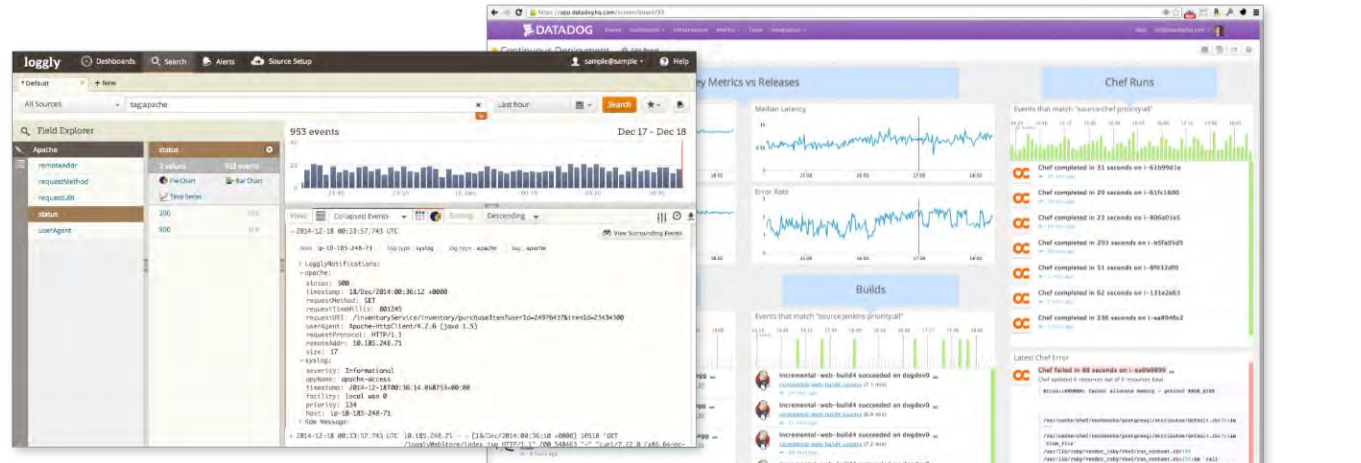
Consider additional technical controls

- Binary authorization

“Deploy Only What You Trust: Introducing Binary Authorization for Google Kubernetes Engine.”  
Google Cloud Blog. Accessed April 2, 2019. <https://cloud.google.com/blog/products/identity-security/deploy-only-what-you-trust-introducing-binary-authorization-for-google-kubernetes-engine/>.



# Operate & monitor



# NIST decomposes cybersecurity into five functions

Operations focuses on

- Detect
- Respond
- Recover

Function	Category	ID
Identify	Asset Management	ID.AM
	Business Environment	ID.BE
	Governance	ID.GV
	Risk Assessment	ID.RA
	Risk Management Strategy	ID.RM
	Supply Chain Risk Management	ID.SC
Protect	Identity Management and Access Control	PR.AC
	Awareness and Training	PR.AT
	Data Security	PR.DS
	Information Protection Processes & Procedures	PR.IP
	Maintenance	PR.MA
	Protective Technology	PR.PT
Detect	Anomalies and Events	DE.AE
	Security Continuous Monitoring	DE.CM
	Detection Processes	DE.DP
Respond	Response Planning	RS.RP
	Communications	RS.CO
	Analysis	RS.AN
	Mitigation	RS.MI
	Improvements	RS.IM
Recover	Recovery Planning	RC.RP
	Improvements	RC.IM
	Communications	RC.CO

Keller, Nicole. "An Introduction to the Components of the Framework."  
NIST Cybersecurity Framework, February 6, 2018.  
<https://www.nist.gov/cyberframework/online-learning/components-framework>.



# Three key takeaways from today's talk

1. Security is perfectly compatible with DevOps
2. There is no silver bullet to achieve security
  - Results from hundreds of smaller decisions and actions
  - Coordinated application of people, process, and technology
3. There are many great public resources to support learning
  - Citations & links included

# Contact information

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