

Open-Source Security: Challenges, Solutions and Opportunities

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Open-Source Usage

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT TODAY USES A LOT OF OPEN-SOURCE

60 – 90%

APPLICATION CODE
IS OPEN SOURCE

100K+

OPEN-SOURCE
RELEASES PER DAY

300M

OPEN-SOURCE
LIBRARIES BY 2026

1:8

ONE OPEN-SOURCE
COMPONENT CALLS 8
OTHERS ON AVERAGE



Open-Source Security Risks

OPEN-SOURCE RISKS NEED TO BE MANAGED



200+

Daily published vulnerabilities in OSS



1:4

Data Breaches caused by OSS Vulnerabilities



76%

Portion of Asia Pacific organizations that have no process of managing OSS



Publicity Accessible

Easier to be utilized by malicious agencies

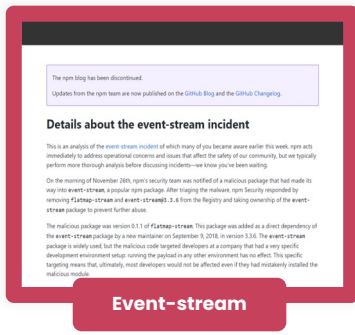


500+

Licenses of OSS



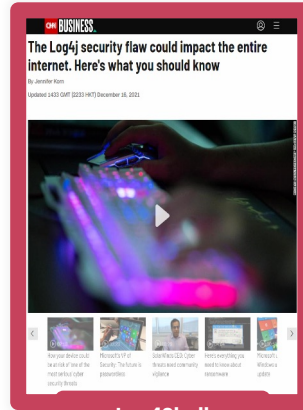
THE CONSEQUENCES



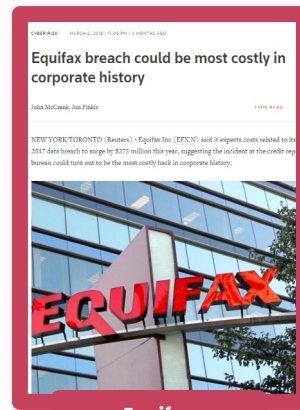
Event-stream



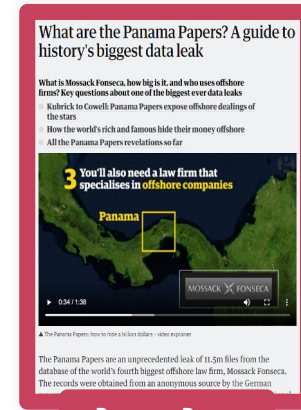
OpenSSL



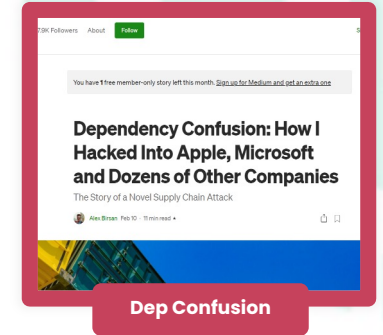
Log4Shell



Equifax



Panama Paper

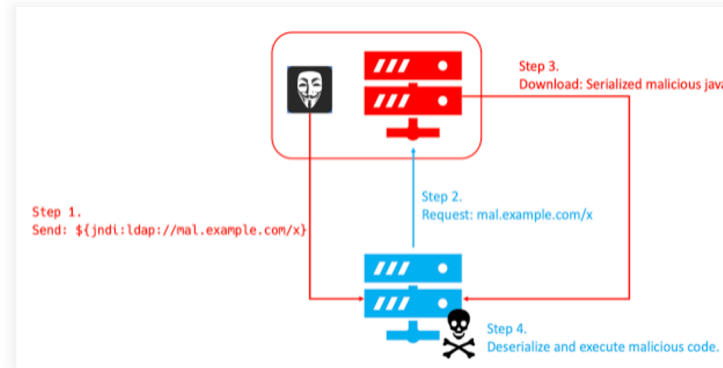


Dep Confusion

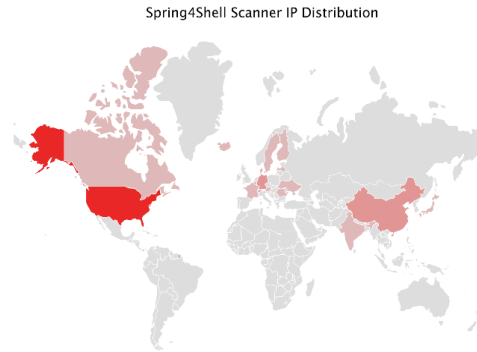
40,000+ KNOWN OPEN-SOURCE VULNERABILITIES TO DATE



OSS vulnerabilities emerge in big waves



Example of attack based on log4shell vulnerability (CVE-2021-44228)

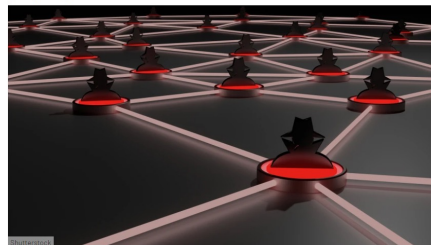


Part of IP location distribution of scanning and utilizing Spring4Shell vulnerability

Linux botnet spreads using Log4Shell flaw

The malware uses DNS tunnelling to communicate with its C2 control server

by Danny Bradbury 17 Mar 2022



The Bitxor botnet, which is spreading via the Log4Shell flaw, enables attackers to get shell access to Linux systems and install a rootkit.

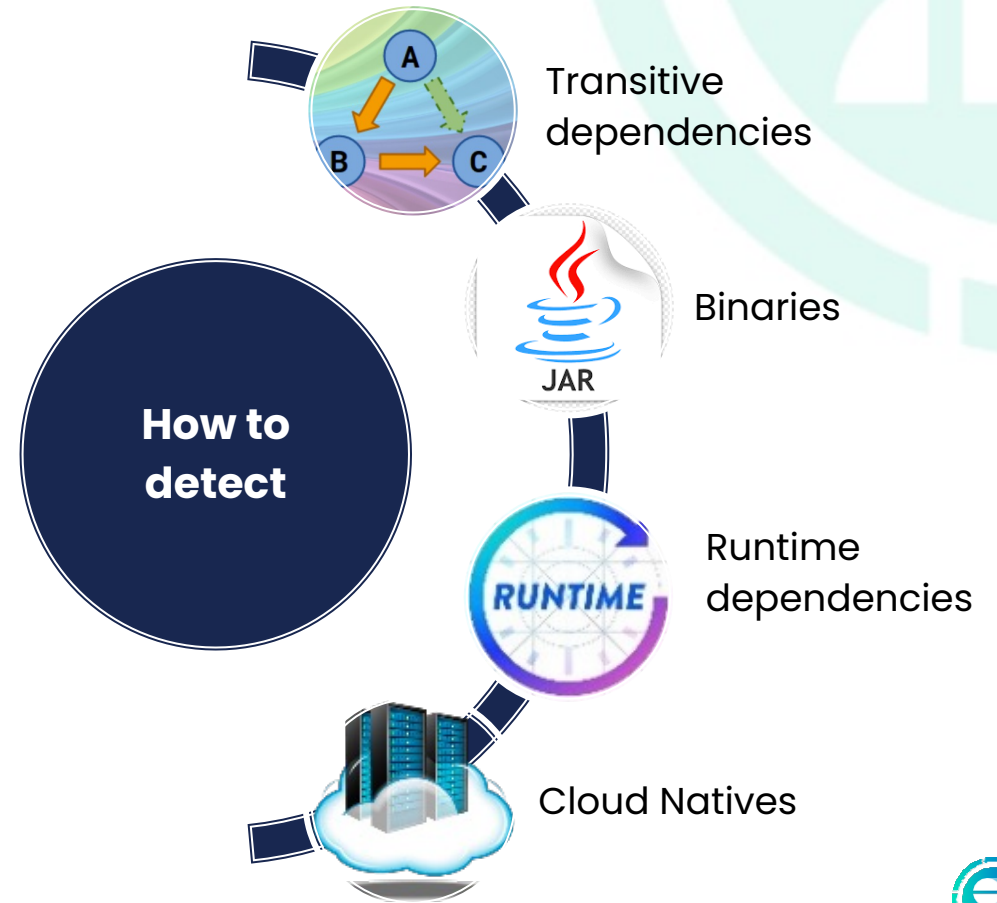
Chinese security company 360Netlab discovered and named the bot in February and publicly disclosed it this week. It takes the form of a backdoor for Linux that uses DNS tunnelling for its command and control (C2) communications.

Hackers utilize vulnerabilities, e.g., Log4Shell, Spring4Shell to deploy malicious software

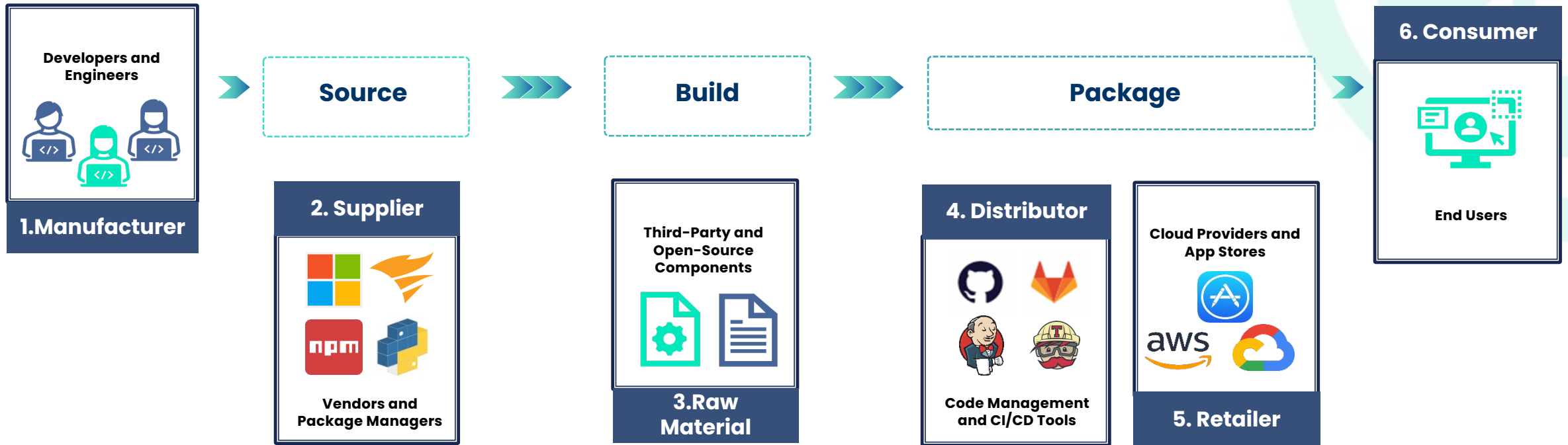


The recently discovered Spring4Shell vulnerability, which impacts an estimated 16% of organizations worldwide, has been leveraged to spread Mirai botnet malware in recent attacks.

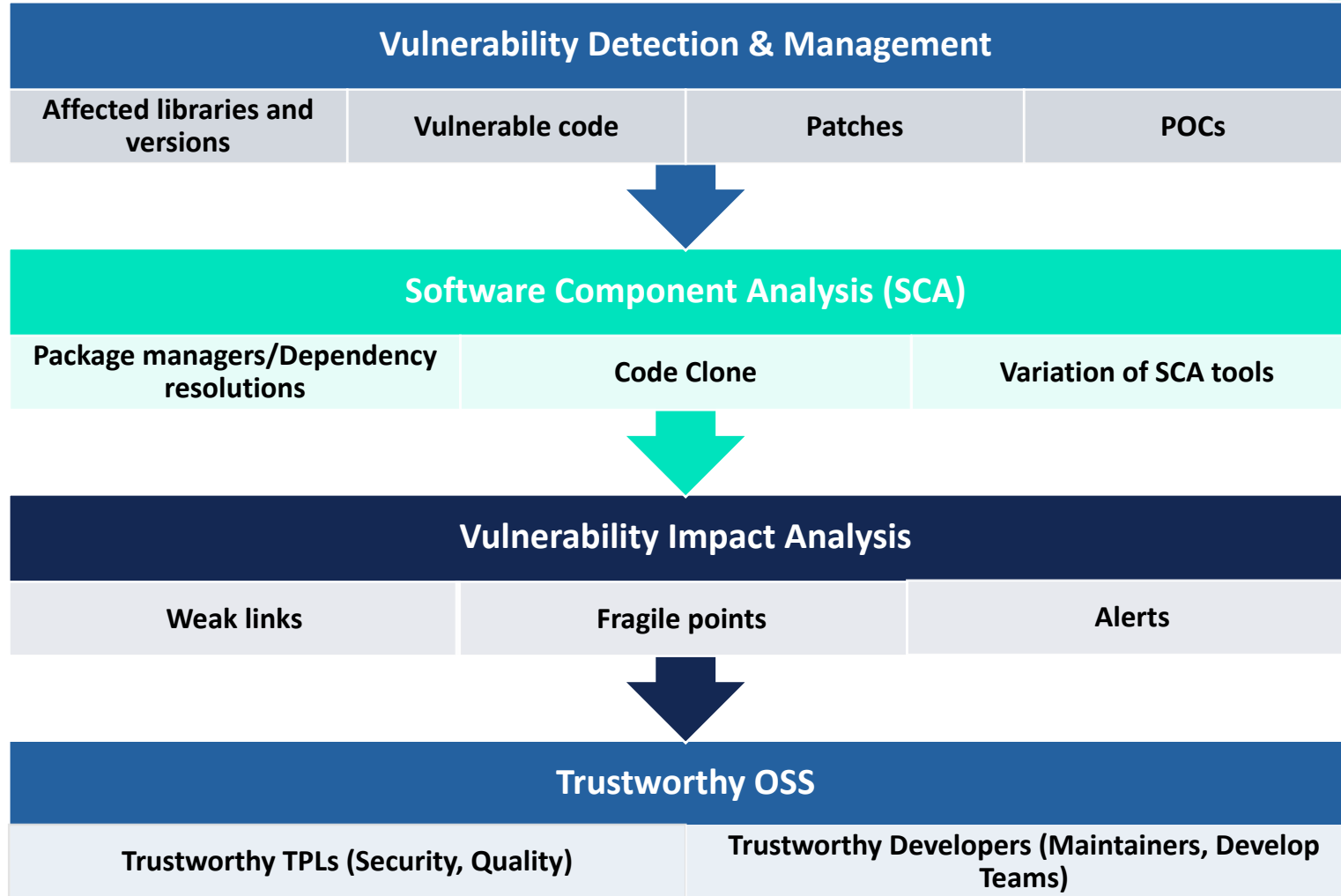
Security researchers with Trend Micro report that a recent attack campaign focusing on organizations in Singapore is using Spring4Shell in this way, racing to hit as many vulnerable devices as possible before patches are applied to them.



The Modern-day Software Supply Chain



Challenges in OSS Security



OSS Related Research (Outline)

Vulnerability Detection & Management

- Vulnerable Signature Matching for Partial Code
 - **MVP for Source (Usenix 20)**
- Vulnerability Patch Finder
 - **Tracer (TSE21)**

Software Component Analysis (SCA)

- **ATVHunter for Java Binary and APK (ICSE 21, TSE 21, TSE 22)**
 - **An Empirical Assessment of Security Risks of Global Android Banking Apps (ICSE 20)**
- **Modx for C/C++ Binary (ICSE 22)**
- **SCA Comparison (ICSE23 under review)**
- **LiDetector: License Incompatibility Detection for Open Source Software (TOSEM 22)**



Trustworthy OSS

- **Maven Critical Libraries (ICSE23 under review)**
- **Semantic Version Checker (ASE 22)**

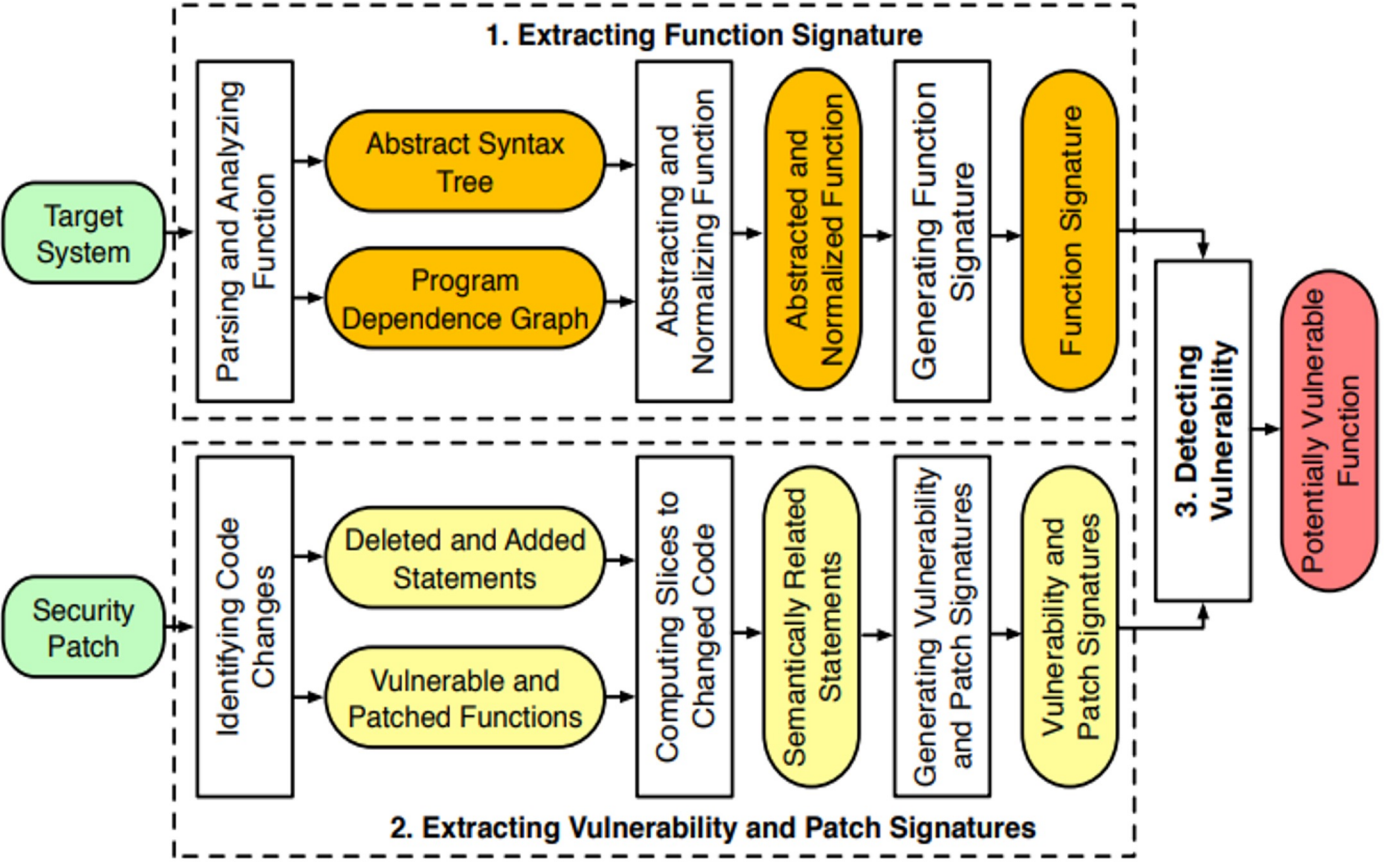
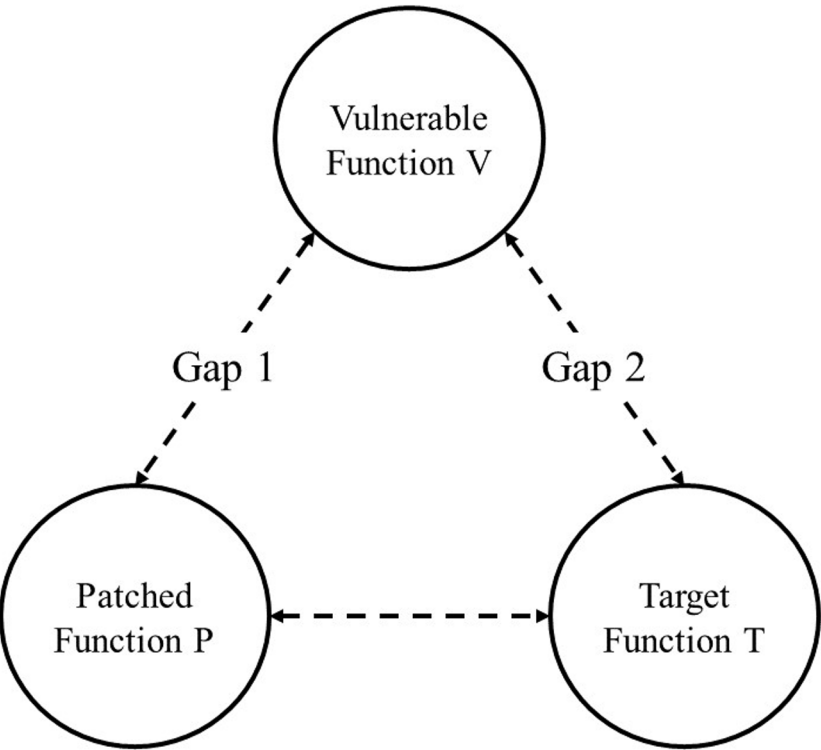


Vulnerability Impact Analysis

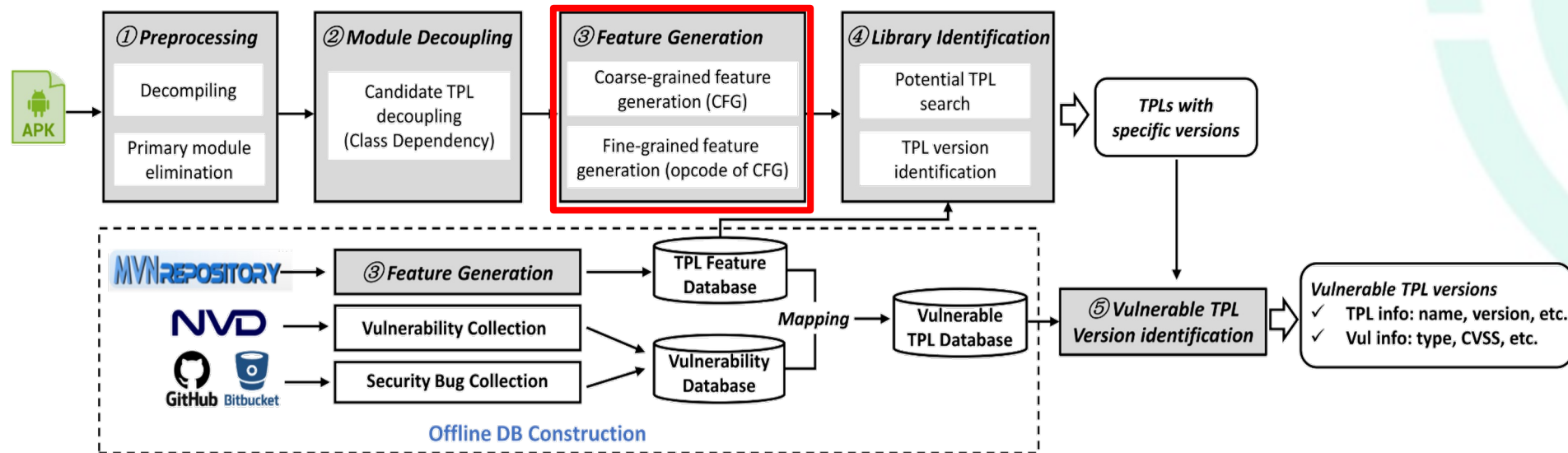
- **Demystifying the Vulnerability Propagation and Its Evolution via Dependency Trees in the NPM Ecosystem (ICSE 22)**
- **Reachability analysis of JavaScript and its impact in the NPM Ecosystem (TOSEM 22)**
- **C/C++ Dependency Analysis (ASE 22)**



MVP: Semantics Based Vulnerability Detection



ATVHunter: Reliable Version Detection of Third-Party Libraries for Vulnerability Identification

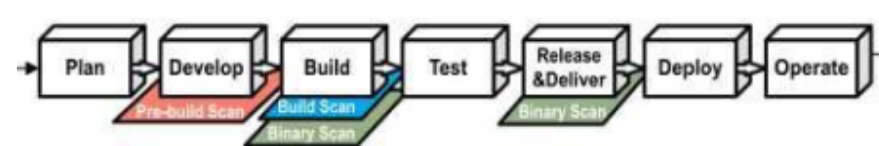


- Various import mode
- Different version similarity
- Code obfuscation

- Two-phase detection
 - Coarse-grained feature (CFG) stores semantic information
 - Fine-grained feature which can effectively distinguish tiny differences among different versions
- Fuzzy Hashing



Maven SCA and Scan Accuracy



DevSecOps with Scan Mode

elements	Build Scan				Pre-build based Scan	
	OWASP	Steady	Scantist	OSSIndex	Scantist	Dependabot
dependency-Management	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
exclusion	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
parent	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
aggregation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
profiles	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
optional	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
version-range	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
variable as version	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X

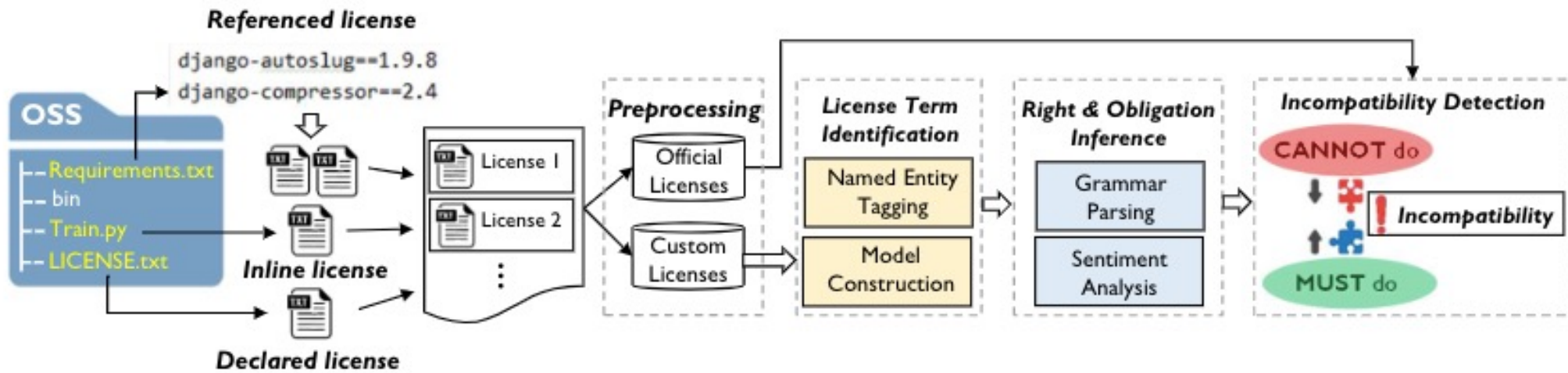
Maven Dependency Managing Features

- SCA tools should consider three aspects, namely the scan algorithms, modes, and scopes.
- The experimental results show that there are large gaps between the detection results of existing tools and the ground truth provided according to SCA Scope Guidelines.

Lida, esecfse2022scastudy, Software Composition Analysis for Vulnerability Detection: An Empirical Study on Java Projects



LiDetector: License Incompatibility Detection



- Dataset: 1,846 projects
- Lidetector identified 1,346 projects with license incompatibility issues, most of which are caused by Project licenses vs. component license.

Vulnerability Propagation and Its Evolution via Dependency Trees in the NPM Ecosystem

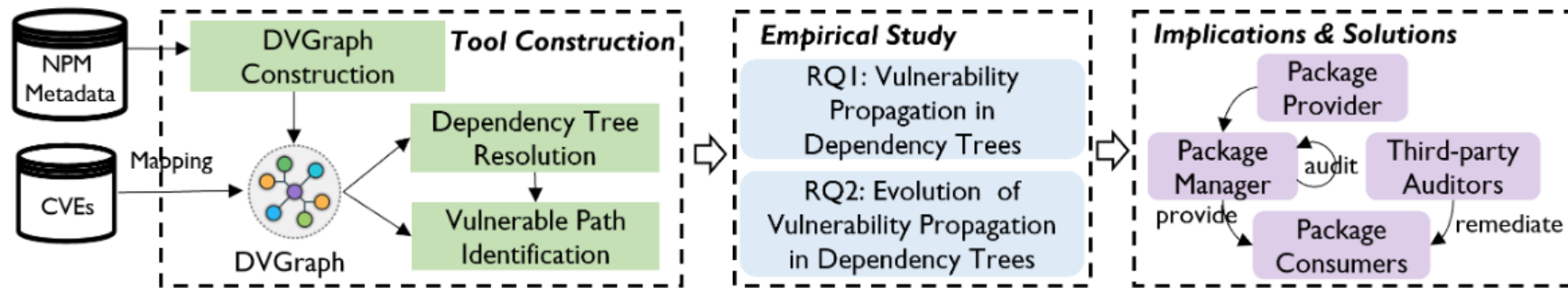
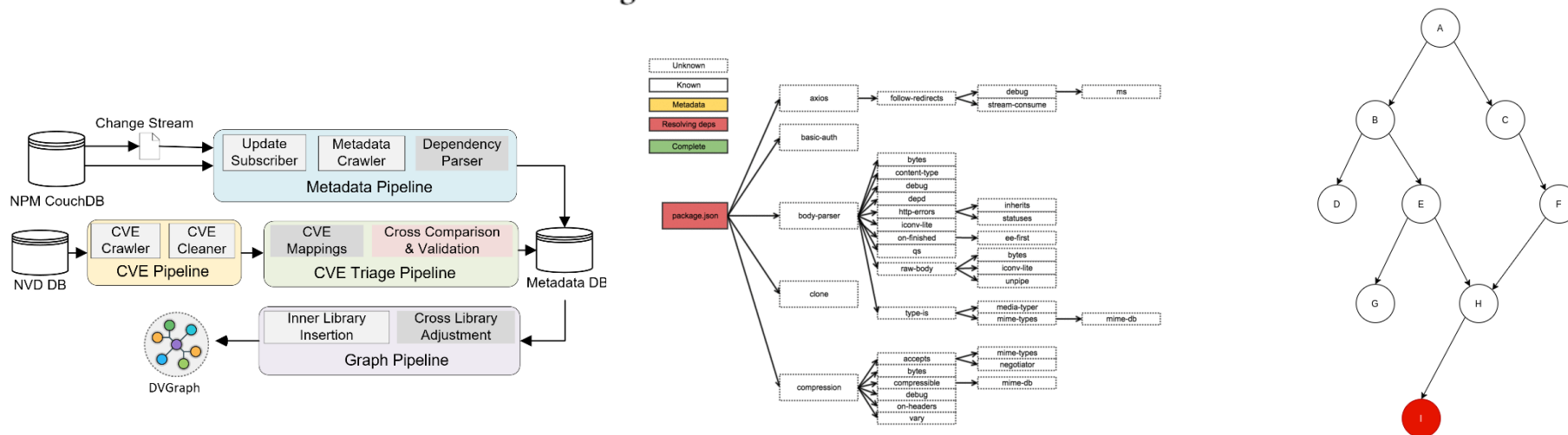
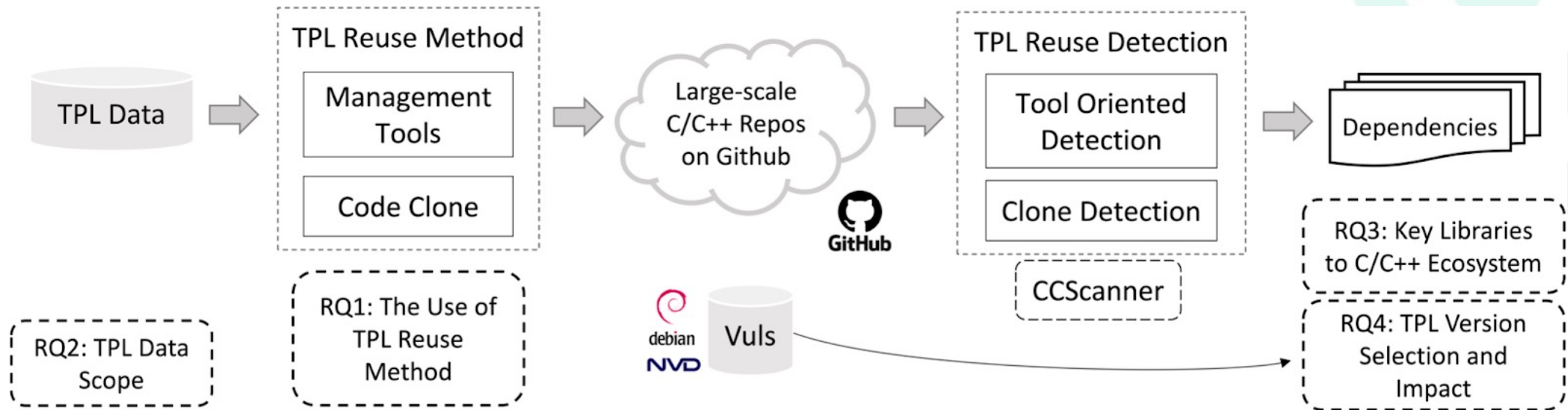


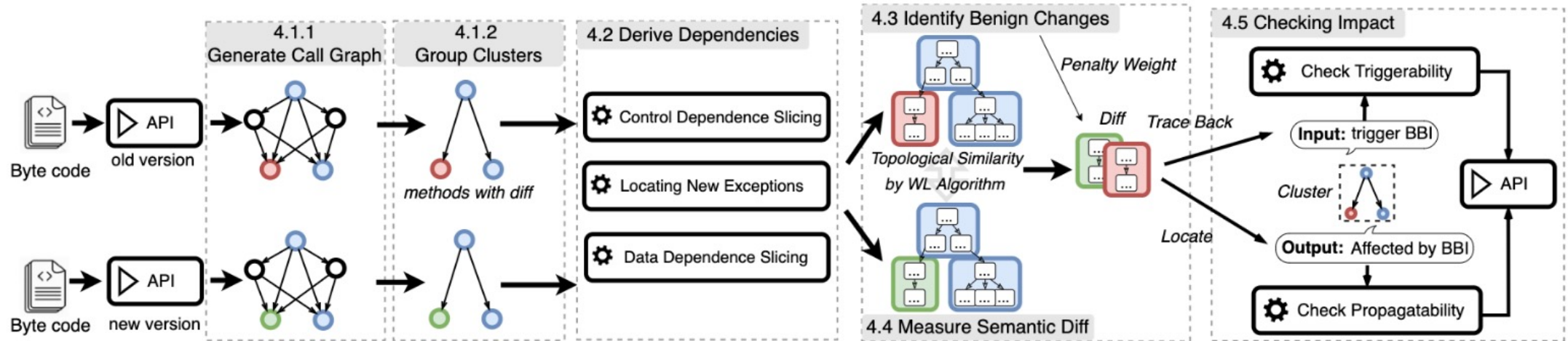
Figure 1: Overview of our work



Towards Understanding Third-party Library Dependency in C/C++ Ecosystem



Has My Release Disobeyed Semantic Versioning? Static Detection Based on Semantic Differencing



Opportunity and Challenge co-exist

- Vulnerability Detection & Management
 - **Affected libraries and versions**
 - **Vulnerable code**
 - **Patches**
 - **POCs**
- Software Component Analysis (SCA)
 - **Package managers/Dependency resolutions**
 - **Code Clone**
 - **Variation of SCA tools**
- Vulnerability Impact Analysis
 - **Weak links**
 - **Fragile points**
 - **Alerts**
- Trustworthy OSS
 - **Trustworthy TPLs (Security, Quality)**
 - **Trustworthy Developers (Maintainers, Develop Teams)**



Vulnerability
Analysis

- AI-Based Vulnerability Data Collection
- Vulnerability Detection

SCA
2.0

- Software Compositional Analysis for Full SDLC
- SAST Integration

Ecosystem
Analysis

- Supply Chain Security
- Vulnerability Impact Analysis
- Ecosystem-wide Pre-warning

OSS Risk
Analysis

- License Compliance / Conflict Detection
- Development Risk Analysis
- Malicious Maintainer Identification

OSS
Governance

- Software Digitization Platform
- OSS Health Profile- Osspert
- OSS-Ops

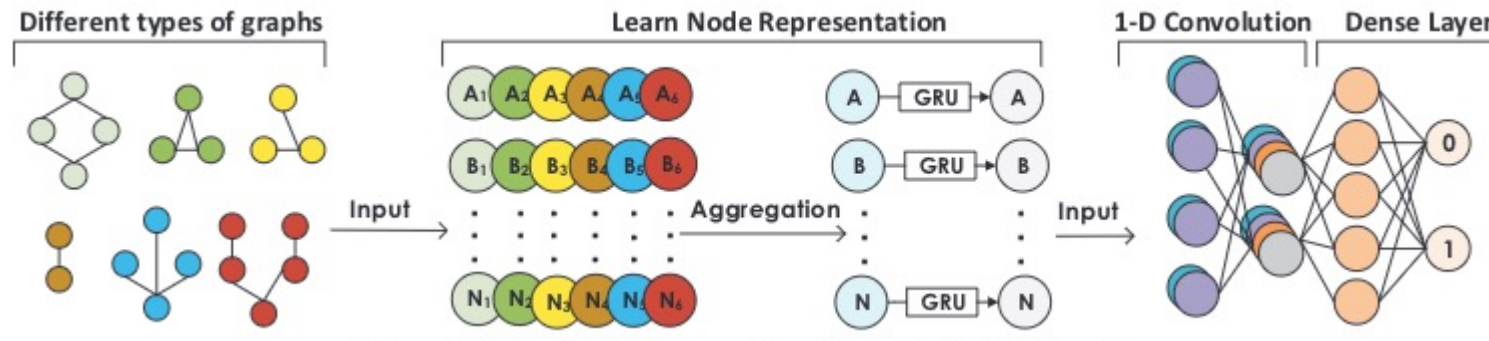


Automated Vulnerabilities Identification via Deep Learning

1. Code Representation of func in joint graph structure

2. Learning Representation through graph neural networks

3. Graph-level classification to detect vulnerable functions



THE CHALLENGES OF OSS MANAGEMENT



What are you using?

97 % of all applications use open source, with 267 open-source components on average



Is it vulnerable?

261 CVEs were disclosed in the last 7 days. These affect open source components that have been downloaded 63 million times.



Are there other risks?

Licensing risks, business continuity, maintainability, code quality and more



THE GAP BETWEEN DEVELOPMENT AND SECURITY IS GROWING

APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

FAST PACED
& ITERATIVE



DAILY OR
WEEKLY



INTERNAL
& ABUNDANT



AGILITY

FREQUENCY

COMPETENCY

APPLICATION SECURITY

SLOW &
RECEPTIVE



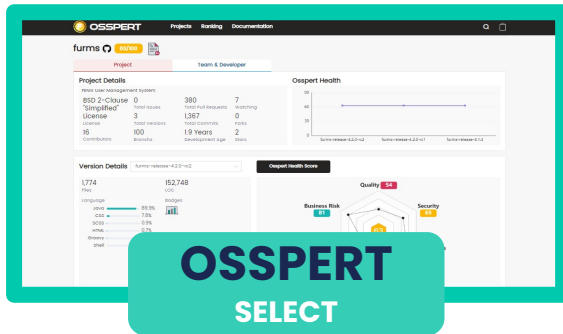
QUARTERLY
OR ANNUALLY



EXTERNAL
& SCARCE



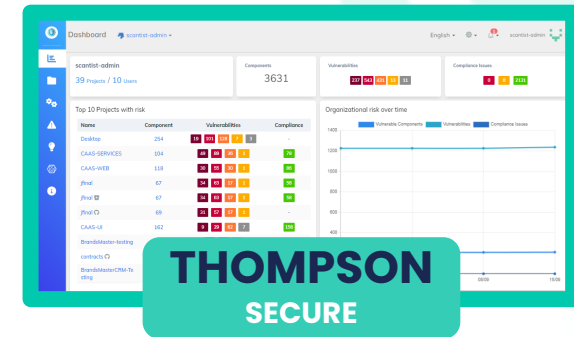
THE SOLUTION



Holistic health assessment of open-source



Managed services to secure and deliver open-source

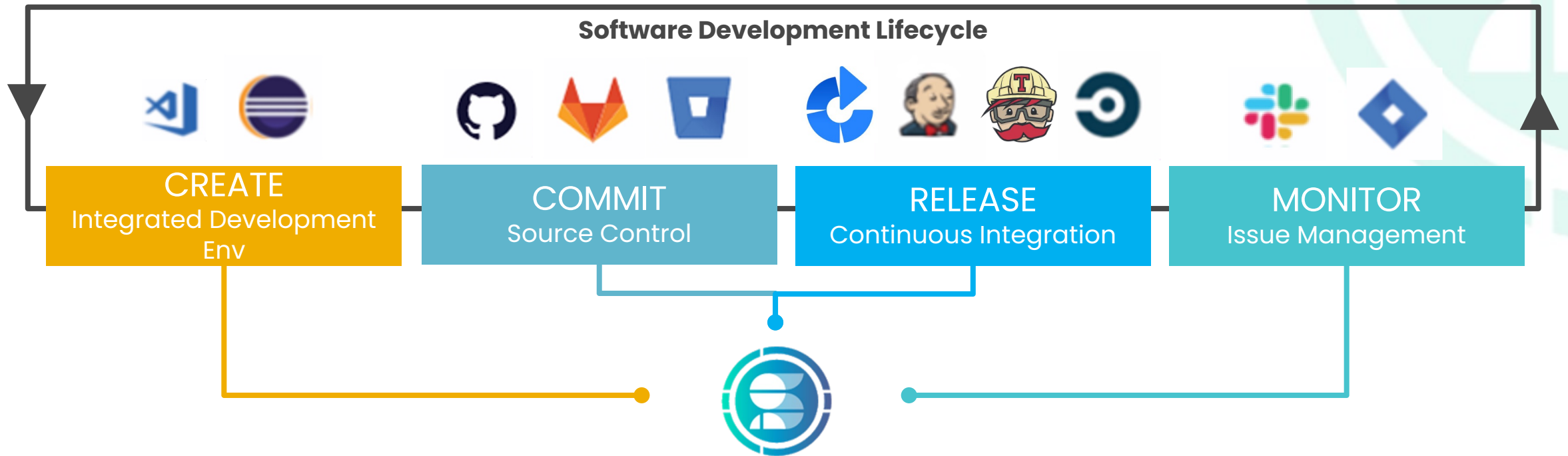


Detection and remediation of open-source vulnerabilities

END-TO-END OPEN-SOURCE RISK MANAGEMENT



SCA2.0: Software Compositional and Risk Analysis towards the full SDLC

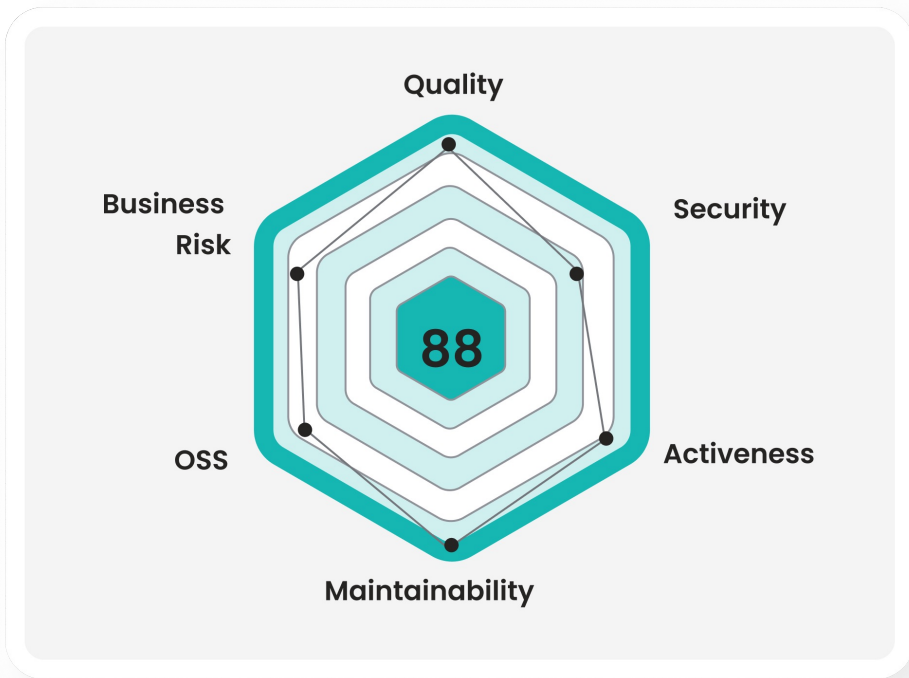


From **source-code to binaries**, from **development to production** – Scantist solutions are built to ensure continuous security



OSS Health Profile—OSSPERT

Maintaining Open Source Software Health—Osspert.com



Comprehensive & Dynamic Analysis for open source projects



THANK YOU

yangliu@ntu.edu.sg



Try out at
scantist.io

