



Getting Adoption for a Secure SDLC

or

“What Am I Supposed to Do with This?”

Curtis Bragdon

curtis.bragdon@codedx.com

617-312-1466

Agenda

- About Me and Code Dx
- Basics of Application Security
- When to Fix Issues
- Specific Advice for AppSec in DevOps
- Q&A

Point of this Talk

Share ideas on building Application Security into DevOps

You may disagree with parts of this. Maybe strongly.

This is meant to start a conversation

now, when you return to work, and later on

Key Premises:

- Central security teams own security for applications
- DevOps teams own the applications
- Developers can actually do something about security
 - ➔ Adoption at the engineering level is critical

My Background

10+ Years in AppSec: Consultant, Trainer, SE, Sales Rep

10+ Years in App Dev: Engineer, Consultant, Trainer, SE

Got into AppSec almost by accident

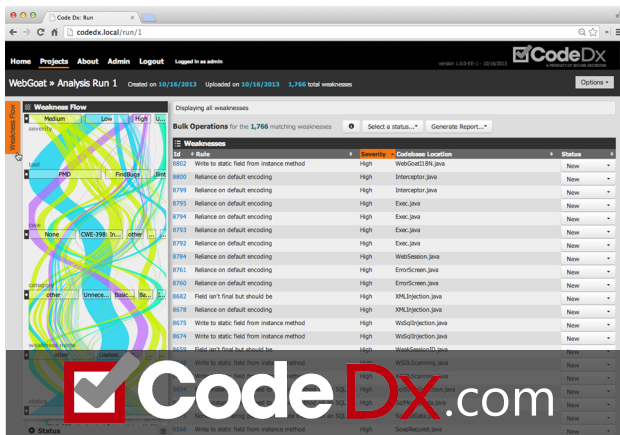
Interested in Process: What simple things can companies do to make it easier to write secure code?

Currently the Director of Sales for ...



Code Dx, Inc.

Innovative commercial and open source Application Security Testing solutions



Vulnerability Correlation
and Management



Open source tool for
tuning DAST tools



Free website for
education about CWE



Public resources

CWEvis - Interactive visualization to explore and learn the CWE

cwevis.org

Build Security In - DHS-sponsored education resource for software assurance

buildsecurityin.us-cert.gov

Software Assurance Marketplace (SWAMP) - DHS-sponsored software analysis and testing platform

continuousassurance.org

Code Dx Knowledge Center

<https://codedx.com/resources/>



Application Security (AppSec) protects software

AppSec: Measures taken to protect software applications from external threats

Security measures to prevent an attacker from

- Changing an application's intended performance, by making it function in a different way or perform poorly
- Using the application as a vector for penetration into the enterprise on which it resides

Testing for vulnerabilities during and after development

Countermeasures to protect apps during an attack

AppSec applies to any software. Major focus is on...

- Public-facing web applications
 - Third leading method of perpetrating cyber crime
 - 75% of web apps contain vulnerabilities
 - 64% of companies experienced web-based attacks
 - 31% of Financial Services breaches are through web apps
- Mobile apps
 - 90% of most popular mobile health and finance apps have at least two critical vulnerabilities
 - Number of organizations testing their mobile apps for vulnerabilities nearly doubled from 2014 to 2015
- Cloud software
- Internally managed commercial software

Software weaknesses are at root of many cyber incidents

“ 90% of security incidents result from exploits against **defects** in software

Build Security In website, DHS
<https://buildsecurityin.us-cert.gov/bsi/mission.html>



Finding and fixing these weaknesses *during development* reduces risk of attack and cost of fixing code



Bug Bounties are paid after code release

Google pays bounties up to \$20k to find vulnerabilities in its Web browser

Microsoft offers as much as \$150k

United Airlines pays bounties in *air miles*

Many factors make AppSec testing very resource-intensive

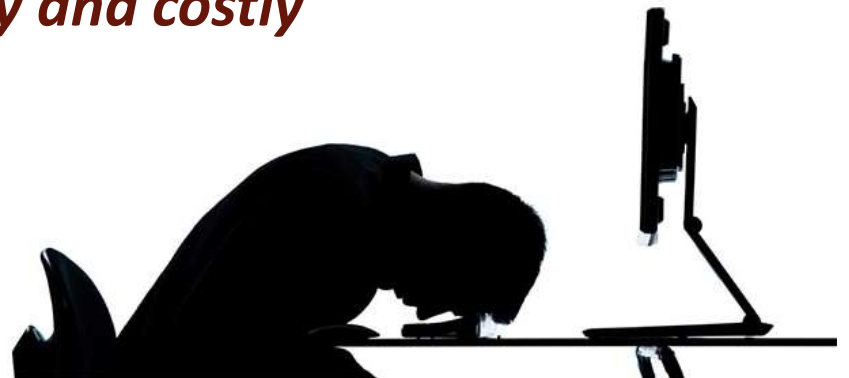
Existing commercial tools are **very expensive**.

Open-source tools are free, but are **hard to select and use**. And each tool works and reports differently.

*No single tool finds everything. You need to **run multiple tools** in order to find most vulnerabilities. Then **manually combine results**.*

Tools produce a **firehose of vulnerabilities**, that need to be prioritized so that the most important are fixed first.

***Securing applications is hard, timely and costly
-- yet necessary.***



DHS is investing heavily in AppSec testing

Goal: “Secure the software supply chain”

Prevent software-enabled attacks on infrastructure: stock exchange, power grid, water sources, transportation...

- Stock exchange software IS vulnerable.
 - Russians cracked the Nasdaq. Breached online portal that executives used to communicate
- Water supply software IS vulnerable
 - Iranians breached software controlling flood gates of NY dam

Make AppSec technologies better at finding “true positive” vulnerabilities, easier to use, and more accessible to everyone

Major types of AppSec testing

Manual

- Code review
- Manual pen-testing
- Low false positives
- Finds things that automated tools miss
- Hard to scale

SAST – Static Analysis

- Finds theoretical issues
- High false positives
- Results need to be triaged
- Automated, scalable

DAST – Dynamic Analysis

- Requires a running application
- Often used later in development cycle
- Automated, scalable

AppSec testing: Source code vs running app

Review the source code

- There are known coding patterns that present potential weaknesses
 - Common Weakness Enumeration (CWE)
[MITRE – www.cwevis.org]
- Manual code review reveals some
- **Static Application Security Testing (SAST)** tools find them automatically



Simulated attack

- Probe a running application looking for ways in – *black-box testing*
- Apply known attack patterns looking for response
Pen-Testing
- **Dynamic Application Security Testing (DAST)** tools act as “robot hackers”



When to Find Issues

The earlier in the Software Development Lifecycle that you find the vulnerabilities, the easier and cheaper they are to fix.

But you do have a choice. You can:

1. Find most vulnerabilities before the software is released, or
2. Find a whole lot of vulnerabilities after the software is released.

Choice 1: Find the bugs before the code is released

Developers and QA can find vulnerabilities during coding stage

- Source code analyzers (SAST) can be integrated into development environment, and with issue trackers.

Security analysts can find vulnerabilities at key points in the software development process.

- Use Manual code reviews, Static Application Security Testing (SAST) tools, and some dynamic testing
- Send results back to the developers for remediation

Choice 2: Find the bugs after the code is released

Application security analysts can conduct regular penetration testing

- Pay **white hat hackers** to test software from the outside
- Use automated pen testing -- Dynamic Application Security Testing (DAST) – tools on your web sites.

Rely on **strangers** to find the bugs. Offer bug bounties

- Google and Yahoo both pay up to \$20k
- Microsoft offers as much as \$150k for a really big bug
- United Airlines pays bounties in air miles
- WordPress pays up to \$1K per bug

How to Do This

So it's clear that we want AppSec built into the process and that we need agreement from the engineering teams to make this happen.

Here are the simple ways to make that happen.

Keys to Adoption of Secure DevOps

- Train Your Development Teams
- Run Tools Centrally - Tune Them for a Small Set of Highly Actionable Results
- Get Results to Development Teams - Available on the Desktop, Preferably the IDE
- Development Teams Should Look at Results About Twice per Week
- Above All: Eliminate the False Positives

Train Your Development Teams

Follow up regularly with short quizzes or other quick and simple tasks to make sure the knowledge is still there.

Code Reviews

Automatic scans

Other reinforcements

Run Tools Centrally

Tune Them for a Small Set of Highly Actionable Results

Central groups or specific people on a team should be in charge of running automated tools and reviewing the results initially

They should set policy for what absolutely needs to be fixed and make sure that development teams see results that most need to be fixed

Development Teams: Desktop, IDE

Get rid of the detailed reports that get mailed out
They are ignored

With documents / mail, or if responses are stored in multiple places (or not at all), there is a chance for information leak

Make results available directly from a central database
available on desktop
comments about them are reflected in one place

Get results to the IDE – that is where people work

Once again, small, actionable set of results

Look at Results About Twice per Week

Some people will take great exception to this
“people should scan their code often, even continually”

In practice, this varies widely
multiple times per day
every few months

Twice per week makes strikes a balance
Make sure that major issues don't fester
AppSec does not take over the schedule

Developers should be thinking about a problem to be solved,
designing, coding and writing their own little tests

Never slow down the process

Above All: Eliminate the False Positives

Nothing will kill an application security program faster than developers wasting their time chasing noise

everything should be clear, real and significant
otherwise: they will find an excuse

Small set of real issues = Any work in fixing them is worthwhile

Don't worry about fixing every issue

Another sprint or another release right behind this one
Deeper dive at the end

Never slow down the process

Another Way of Looking At This

If you are a security analyst: Provide excellent training and send a small number of issues to be fixed.

If you run a security team: Have your team set simple policies aligned with training. Put in place a central database of security issues from which everyone works.

If you are a development manager: Demand that the security team provides your team a small number of actionable results or specific guidance on what to fix.

If you are a staff engineer: Pay attention to the training. Focus on a small set of real issues and make sure they are fixed.

Never slow down the process



Curtis Bragdon

 Director of Sales

 curtis.bragdon@codedx.com

(617) 312-1466