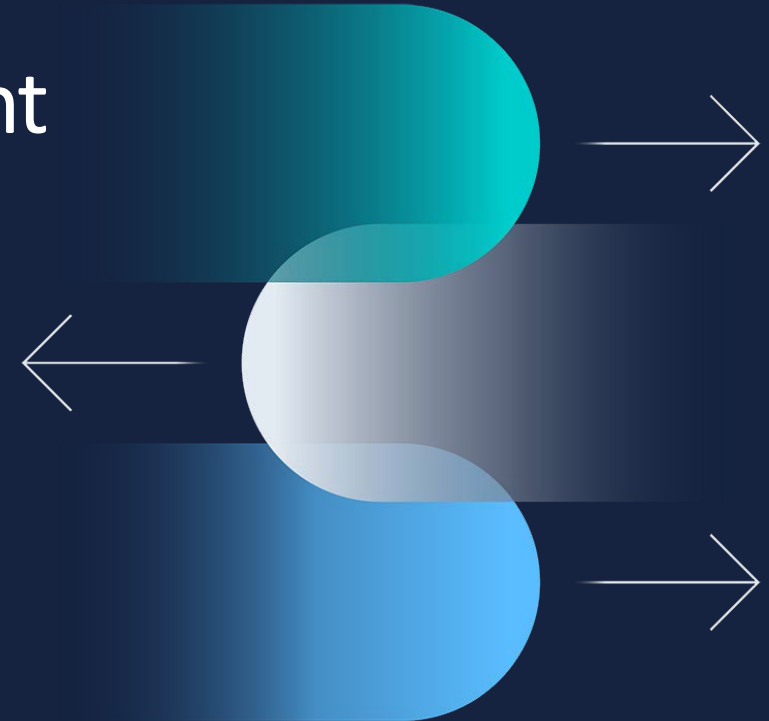


# Building our own custom Code Insight tool at Form3

**Adelina Simion & Ross McFarlane**

Conf42 DevSecOps



# Introductions

## Our Customers and Partners



## Our People

260 employees  
 51 nationalities  
 22 countries  
 100% remote

## Our Investors

\$220m in investment so far



**01** Engineering at Form3

---

**02** Code Insight requirements

---

**03** Code Insight architecture

---

**04** Driving Adoption

---

**05** Insights from Code Insight

---



# Engineering at Form3

# Delivering code at scale 🚀

## Large number of repos

We have over 500 repositories in different languages. Some are not actively maintained, while some are under development



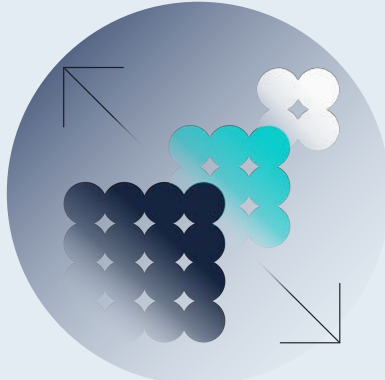
## Growing engineering teams

Our teams are in hypergrowth. We have new teams and new engineers contributing to the codebase at rapid pace

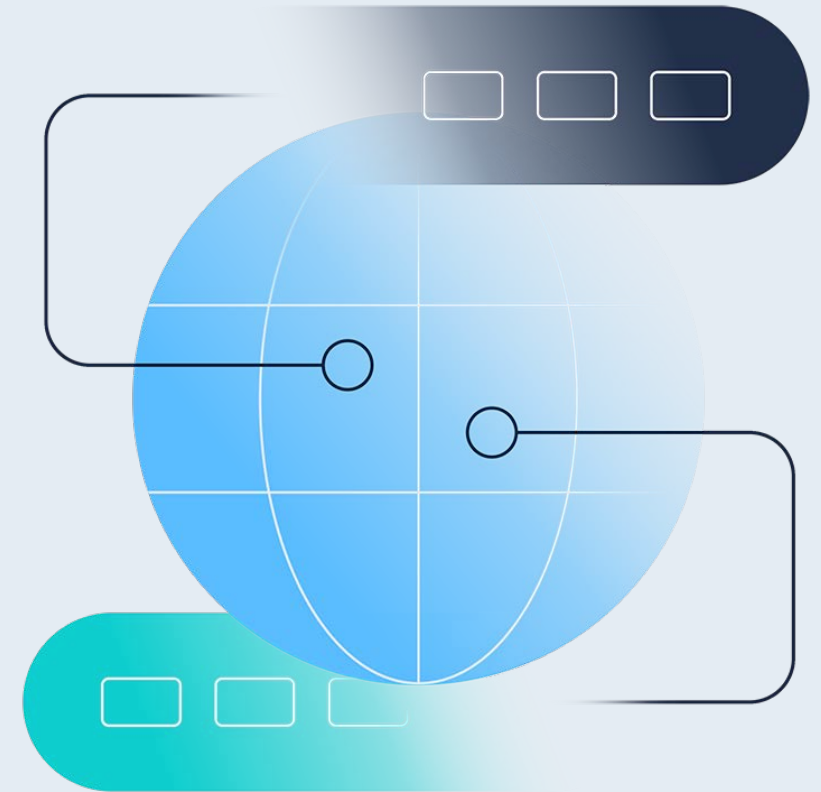


## Highest security standards

Our platform is compliant with the highest standards of security. All our repositories should remain free of vulnerabilities



The DevSecOps mindset is crucial at Form3. Our teams own every part of the delivery flow, including the security of their repositories and services



# Code analysis at Form3

- Used <https://github.com/coinbase/salus> for static analysis of our GitHub repos
- Scans ran in one Docker container
- Relatively heavyweight containers of 1GB+



## First solution - SecScan

- Our first custom solution to provide standardised scanning across our GitHub repos
- Scans ran in a SecScan docker container
- Tokens for service scanning for each repo
- Teams configured their scans in a Makefile or Travis YAML file on each repository





# Problems with SecScan

## No enforcement

Difficult to enforce rules and code standards across our repositories as setup on new repositories is not mandatory



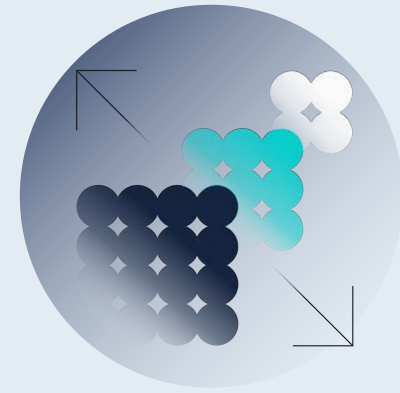
## No visibility

Repositories marking their own homework means attackers could bypass the scan. Scans run on code commits means possible undetected issues



## Lots of maintenance

Initial configuration and maintenance required on each repository when rolling out updates





# Code Insight requirements

Code Insight requirements

# A better solution was needed! 🚀

The InfoSec team identified some key requirements for a new solution

Automatic enforcement

Automatically chosen scans

Centralised config

Report on vulnerabilities

Scan repositories regularly

Easily build into development pipeline

The Code Insight project was kicked off to implement these requirements and address some of the issues with SecScan 🎉



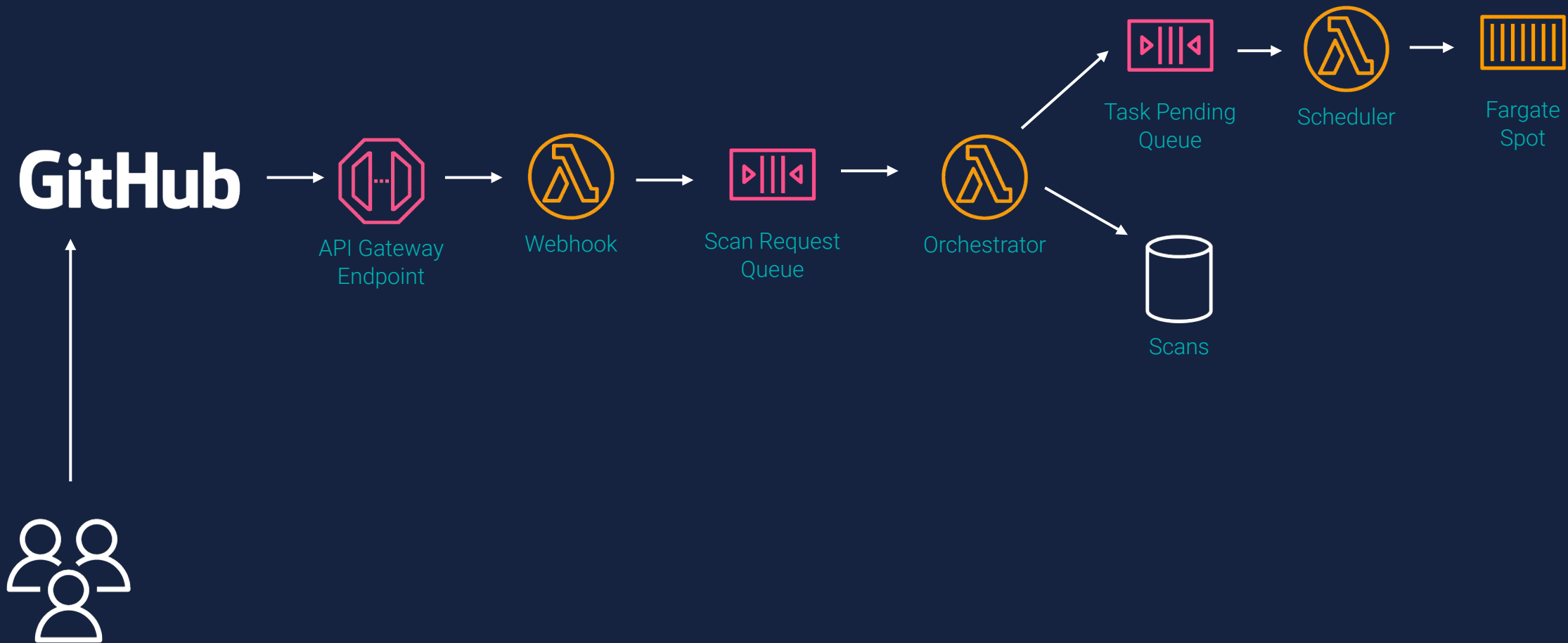
# Teamwork makes the dream work!



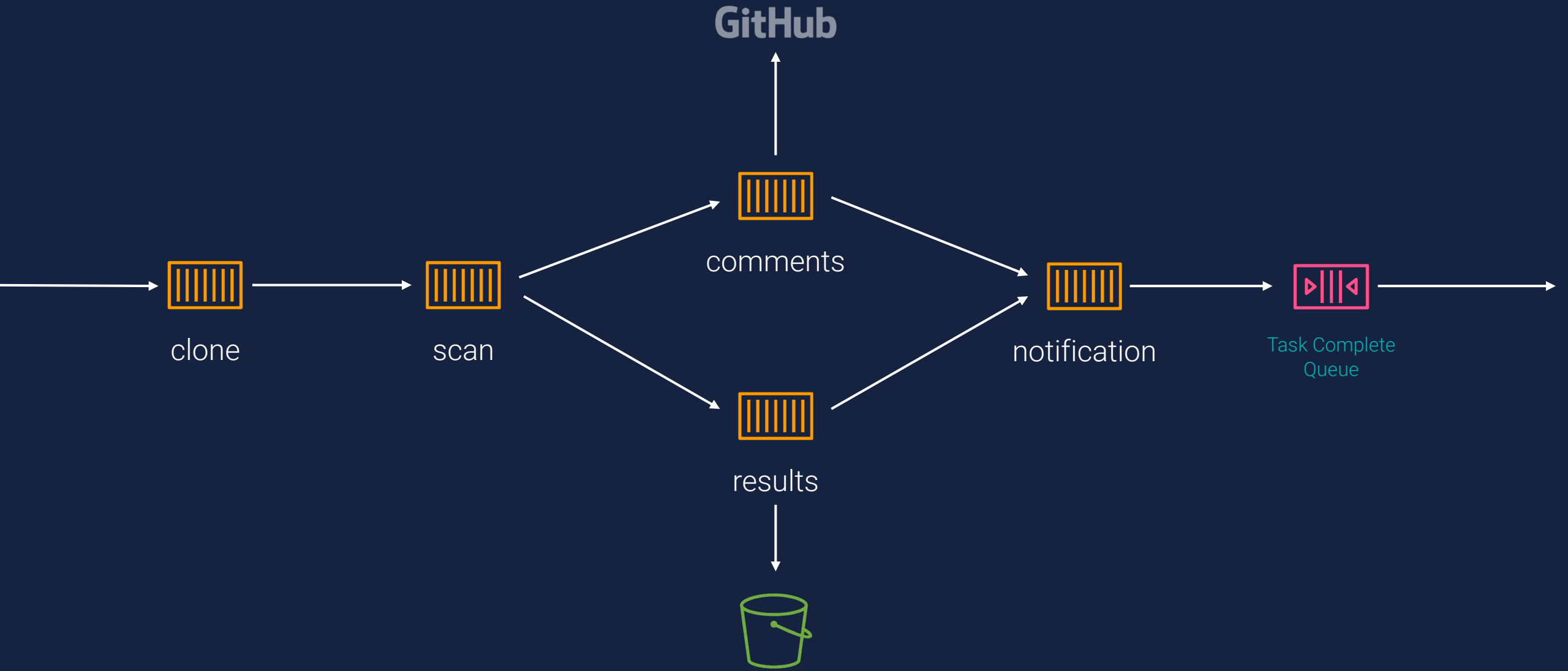


# Code Insight architecture

# Architecture

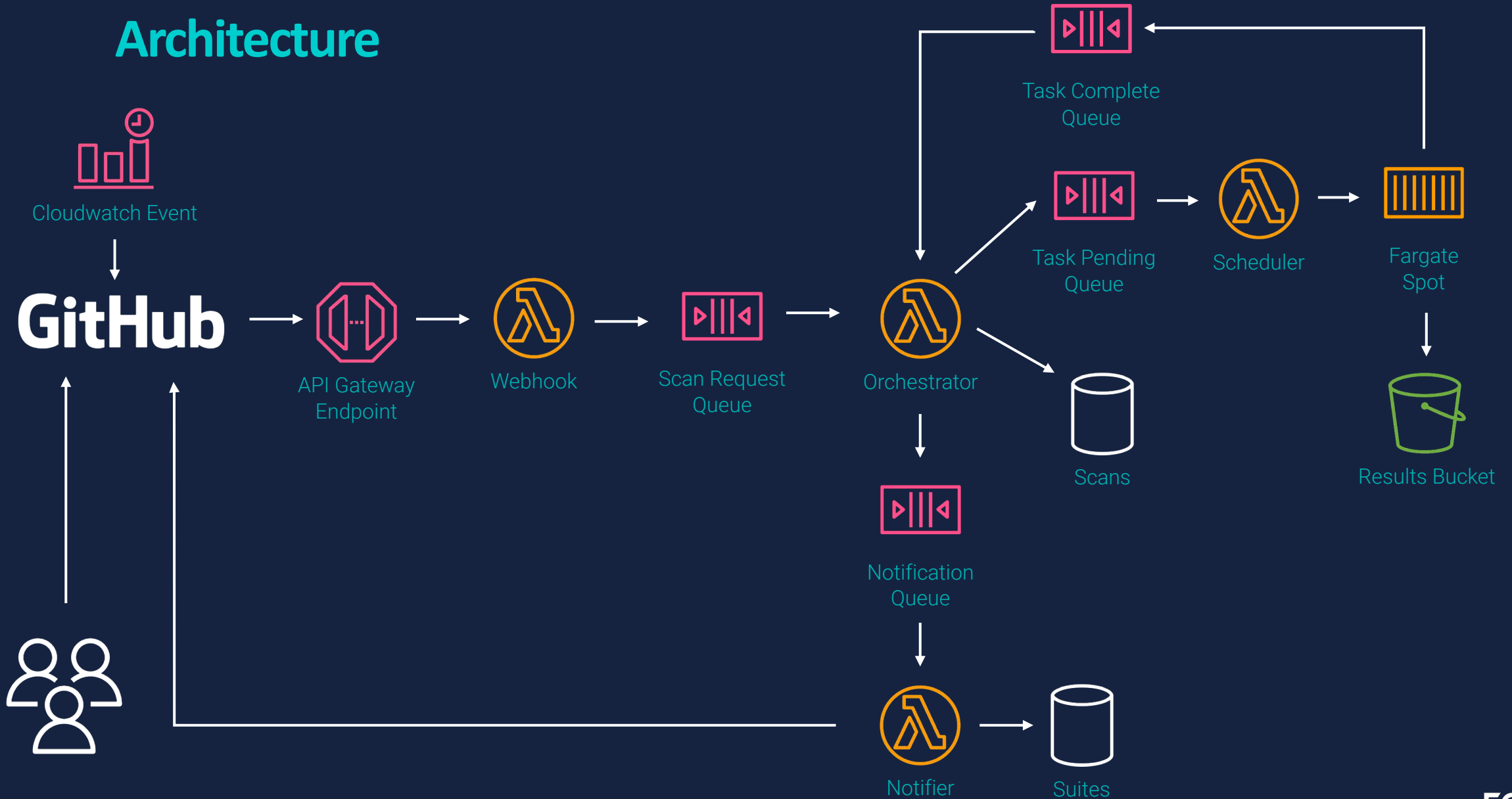


# Architecture





# Architecture




# Inspecting your checks

> WIP

Form3 Code Insight / Code Insight  
completed on 18 Aug in 2m 10s

Passed (failures allowed)

 Scanning has detected problems, but these were ignored and will not block the PR from being merged.





Code-Insight is the Form3 centralised source code scanning solution.

Your code is inspected to determine the languages used and run the relevant checks.

If you encounter problems with this check, please contact #infosec-engineering-team on Slack, including the link to this page in your message.


DETAILS

### Tasks

	SCAN	NAME	STATE
✓	<a href="#">6e261dc8-c24b-4546-bfaf-e0ec593c4c00</a>	Squealer (All)	complete
	<a href="#">7796e1b1-41ad-48d4-90e8-cf03c971738e</a>	Hadolint (Dockerfile)	soft-failure
	<a href="#">efbdbdc7-6320-4501-bb50-14b2a1f525d2</a>	Snyk (Dockerfile)	soft-failure
	<a href="#">592d8ecd-8417-4c43-ad8b-98050dbbce19</a>	Lint (Golang)	soft-failure
	<a href="#">918f676f-0abc-44b4-8bb9-b8a93356e441</a>	Snyk (Golang)	soft-failure


# Inspecting your checks


## Code Insight

 **form3tech/k8s-tenant-s3sync**

Global > [Suite c248d992-9f8c-4614-a931-50a13f355e13](#) [Leaderboard](#)

✔ **Scanning has completed with no issues.** [Retry](#)

 Branch: [master](#)

 Commit: [dbbbf87f1addc2c58a4e8113243a3281380421a8](#)

# Suite ID: [c248d992-9f8c-4614-a931-50a13f355e13](#)

🕒 Duration: 16 hour(s)

✔ Passed	# 729a373c	>_ golang-snyk	<a href="#">View Logs</a>
✔ Passed	# 27e4ddd3	>_ shell-supplychain	<a href="#">View Logs</a>
✔ Passed	# 0505581a	>_ all-squealer	<a href="#">View Logs</a>
✔ Passed	# 19f512b2	>_ all-trivy	<a href="#">View Logs</a>
✔ Passed	# 444321e5	>_ dockerfile-hadolint	<a href="#">View Logs</a>
✔ Passed	# 49b9b30f	>_ golang-lint	<a href="#">View Logs</a>

Problems? [Report a bug.](#)

# Comments on PR

PR comments help our engineers easily identify and fix issues! 🚀

67 postgres/repository.go
Viewed ...

```

31 + func (r *BookingRepo) List(ctx context.Context, hotelID int) ([]innsecure.Booking, error) {
32 +     stmt := fmt.Sprintf(`select "id", "hotelid", "arrive", "leave", "name" from "Bookings" WHERE hotelid='%d`, hotelID)
33 +     rows, err := r.db.Query(stmt)
34 +     if err != nil {
35 +         return nil, fmt.Errorf("failed to list bookings: %w", err)
36 +     }
37 +     result := []innsecure.Booking{}
38 +     for rows.Next() {
39 +         var b innsecure.Booking
40 +         err = rows.Scan(&b.ID, &b.HotelID, &b.Arrive, &b.Leave, &b.Name)
41 +         if err != nil {
42 +             fmt.Println(err)
43 +             continue
44 +         }
45 +         result = append(result, b)
46 +     }
47 +     return result, nil
48 + }
49 +
50 + // ByID returns a single booking by ID.
51 + // If no booking is found with the given ID, no error is returned.
52 + func (r *BookingRepo) ByID(ctx context.Context, hotelID int, ID string) (*innsecure.Booking, error) {
53 +     q := fmt.Sprintf(`select "id", "hotelid", "arrive", "leave", "name" from "Bookings" where "hotelid"='%d' AND "id"='%s'`, hotelID, ID)

```

form3-codeinsight on 18 Aug
😊 ...

issue	gosec
code	G201
comment	SQL string formatting

Reply...

Resolve conversation

form3-codeinsight on 18 Aug
😊 ...

## Code Insight architecture

# Benefits

Centralised config makes maintenance a lot easier

New scans are easy to write

☀️ On-demand infrastructure, responds to diurnal pattern of use 🌙

## Driving adoption

# Introducing Code Insight at Form3

### Existing repositories

Soft Failures at first, with 'ratcheting' approach, and support to raise coverage



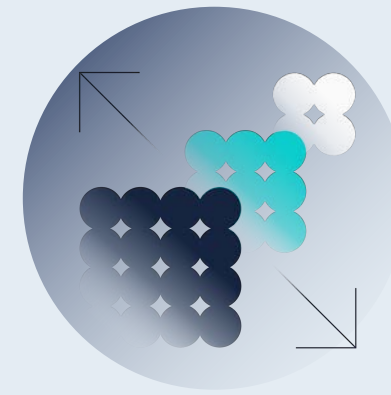
### New Repositories

Automatically enforced for all new repositories



### Metrics

We gather metrics from scan results to help us assess vulnerabilities and Code Insight's performance



## Driving Adoption


# Driving Adoption


Batch PRs

Mob sessions  
to improve coverage




Some gamification with  
Team Leaderboard

# Gamification

**Code Insight** 

 **Leaderboard**

Global > [Leaderboard](#)

	Ranking	Team	% Pass	# Pass	# Fail
	1	<b>product</b>			
	2	international			
	3	infosec			
	4	fps-gateway			
	5	core-ui			
	6	platform			
	7	europe			
	8	tooling			
	9	core-payments			
	10	systems			





# Insights from Code Insight

# Stuff that didn't go so well

A flaky scan can put the brakes on the engineering team


Large repositories are tricky to reform

New vulnerabilities can break a build when you least expect it

# Upcoming features/improvements


**Work in progress**

We want to improve our detection to distinguish between old and newly introduced errors



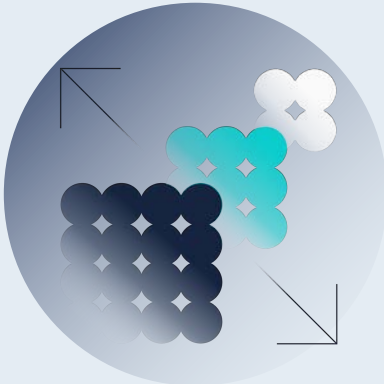
**Insight metrics monitoring**

We have more work to do on the monitoring of Code Insight metrics



**Policy adjustments**

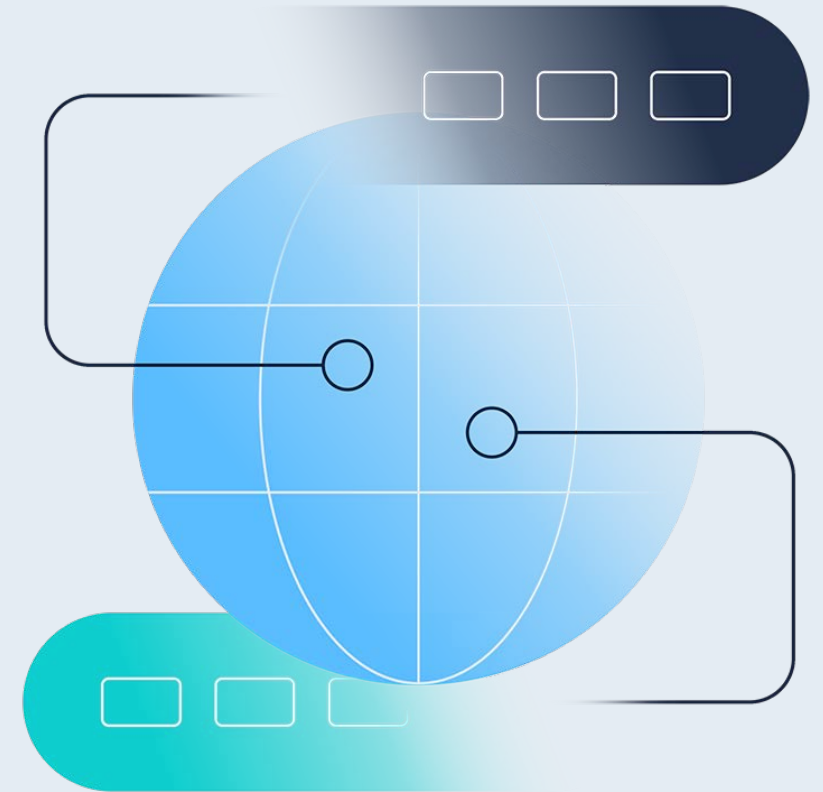
We have found Code Insight to be too sensitive to failures at times. We should incorporate our policies of age & severity in the failures.



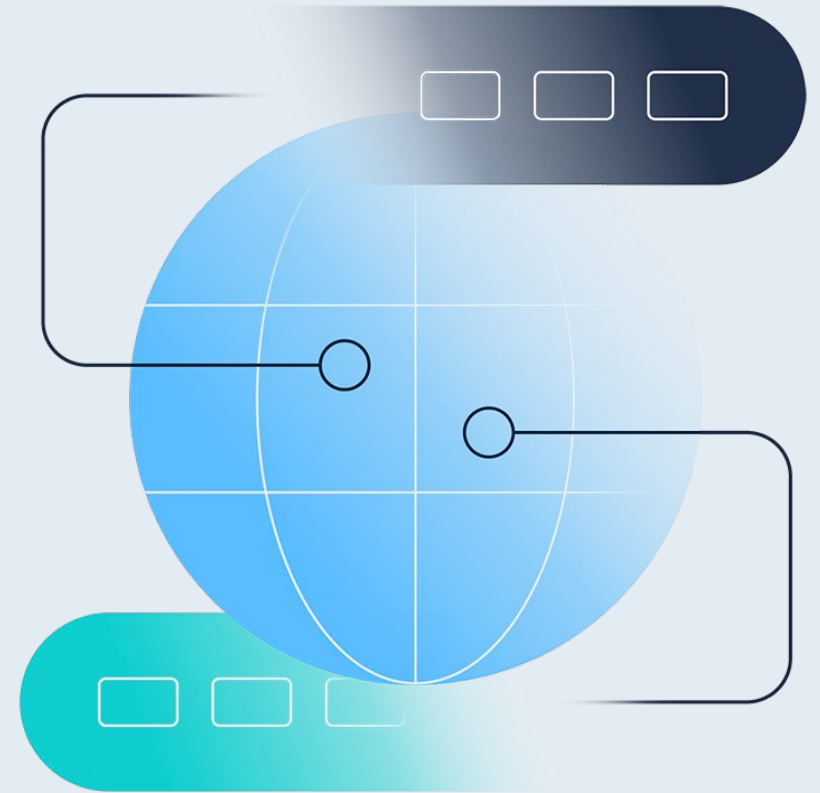
A stylized profile of a human head facing right, outlined in white. Inside the head, several overlapping gears of various shades of blue are visible, symbolizing thought and technology. The background is a dark blue gradient.

# Conclusions

Code Insight allowed Form3 to streamline development work.

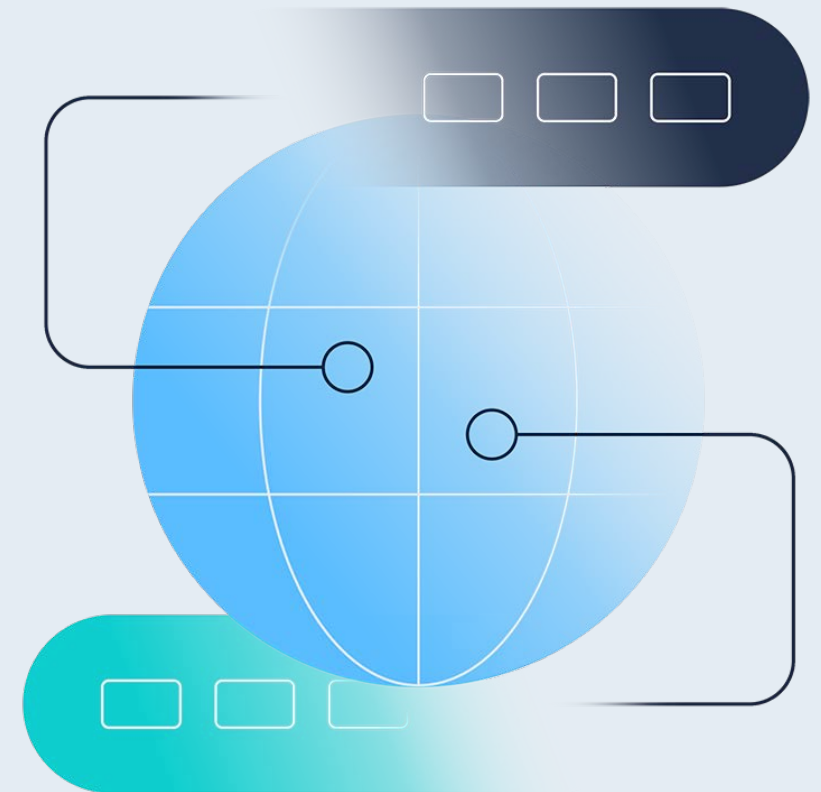


Nightly builds, alongside PR builds, ensure that we have an up-to-date view of our vulnerabilities.

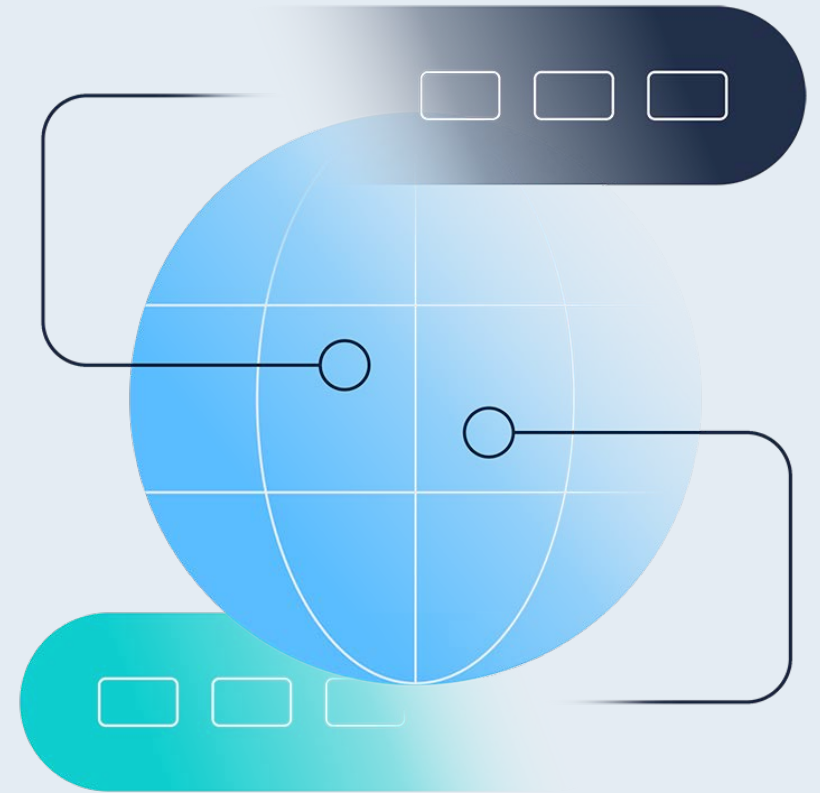


GitHub integration and PR comments were helpful for our engineers to fix issues.

Gamification was not meaningful to this project.



No extra config and easy maintenance were big improvements to our previous code scanning solution.

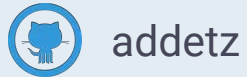




Thanks for listening! 🎙️👊📄



**Adelina Simion**



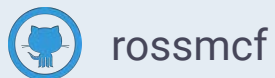
addetz



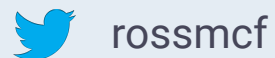
classic\_addetz



**Ross McFarlane**



rossmcf



rossmcf

**Check out our careers site,  
podcast and  
our engineering site!**

[form3.tech/careers](https://form3.tech/careers)

[techpodcast.form3.tech](https://techpodcast.form3.tech)

[engineering.form3.tech](https://engineering.form3.tech)