

MDTP

HOW HMRC DIGITAL SECURES SERVICES AT SCALE



Ben Conrad, HMRC
Gerald Benischke, Equal Experts



HM Revenue
& Customs



MULTI-CHANNEL DIGITAL
TAX PLATFORM:
SIMPLE, SECURE SERVICES
FOR ALL



HM Revenue
& Customs

	Simple	Secure Services	for All
Users	Consistent and Intuitive	Safe	Accessible and Guided
Service Teams	Paved Road	AppSec supported	People Centred
Platform Teams	Opinionated Tech Stack	No Humans Allowed	Mixed Suppliers

A photograph of a long, straight paved road stretching into the distance. The road has a yellow double line in the center and white lines on the sides. The landscape is green with trees and fields under a clear sky.

The Paved Road is ...

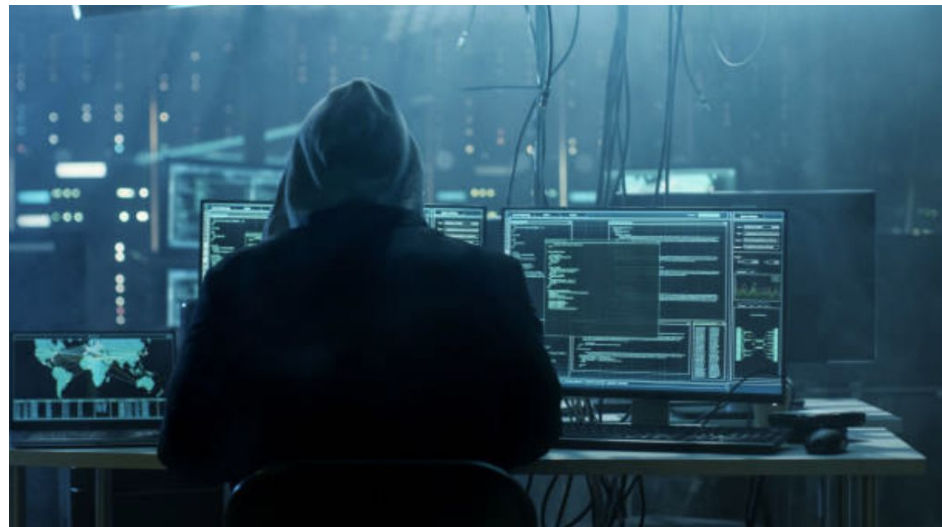
A concept, formalizing a set of expectations and commitments between the centralized teams and our engineering customers

SLIDE BORROWED FROM NETFLIX

FIND, FIX AND
PREFERABLY PREVENT
SECURITY ISSUES IN
APPLICATIONS

RISKS TO SERVICES

- Rogue engineers
- Script kiddies
- Fraudsters
- Hackers
- Nation States



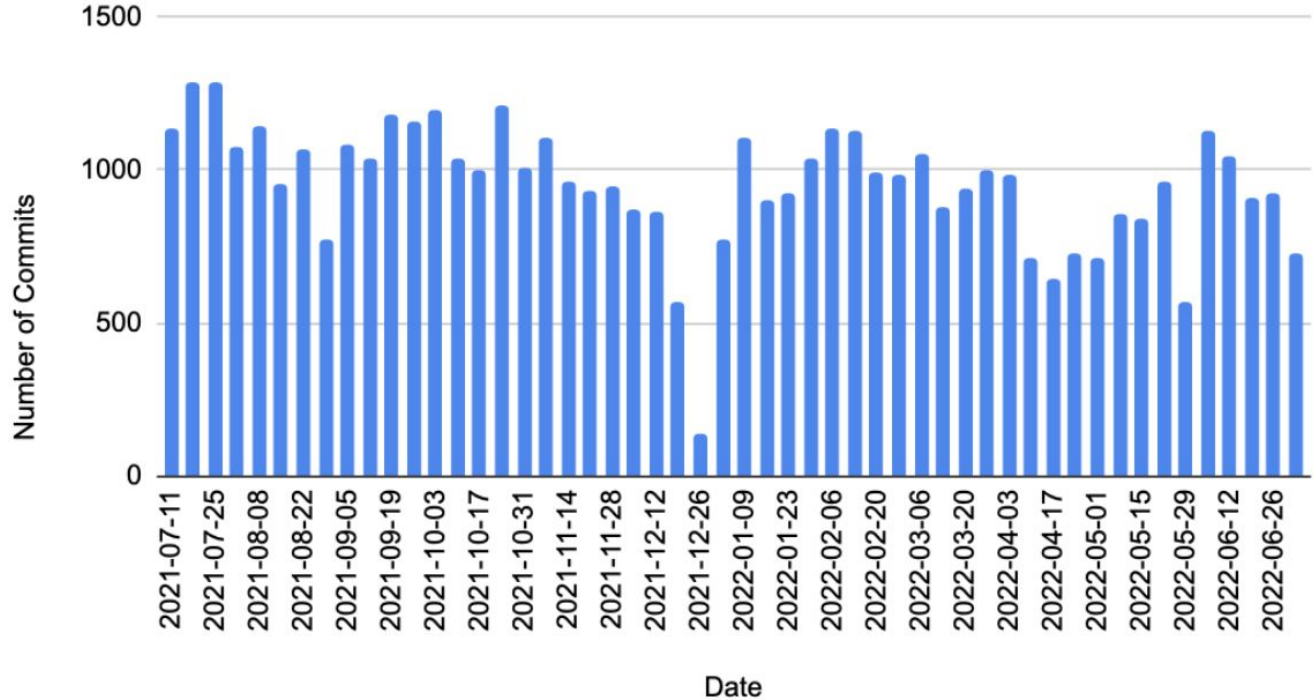
Last 12 months:

Number of lines changed:
36,000,000

Authors:
640

Repositories:
1187

Number of Weekly Commits



GIT COMMITS - SERVICES

HOW DO WE DO APPSEC?

Latest

Development

Integration

QA

Staging

External Test

Production

1.3.0



1.3.0



Compile Dependencies

Libraries	Current Version	Latest Version	Violation
✘ uk.gov.hmrc: auth-client	3.0.0-play-27	➔ 5.12.0-play-28	See rule
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: bootstrap-backend-play-27	3.2.0	➔ 5.18.0	
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: bootstrap-common-play-27	3.2.0	➔ 5.18.0	
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: bootstrap-health-play-27	3.2.0	➔ 5.18.0	
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: crypto	5.6.0	➔ 6.1.0	
uk.gov.hmrc: file-transfer-stub	1.3.0-assets		
uk.gov.hmrc: file-transfer-stub	1.3.0-sans-externalized		
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: http-core	2.4.0	➔ 2.5.0	
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: http-verbs	12.1.0	➔ 13.12.0	
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: http-verbs-play-27	12.1.0	➔ 13.11.0	
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: logback-json-logger	4.8.0	➔ 5.2.0	
✘ com.typesafe.play:play	2.7.7	➔ 2.8.13	See rule
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: play-auditing-play-27	6.0.0	➔ 7.10.0	
↑ org.scala-lang:scala-library	2.12.12	➔ 2.12.15	
↑ uk.gov.hmrc: secure	7.11.0	➔ 8.1.0	

Legend:

- ↑ New version available
- ⚠ Bobby rule pending
- ✘ Bobby rule violation

[View Dependency Graph](#)
[View Dependency List](#)

BOBBY RULES
 STOP
 DEPENDENCIES
 FROM BEING
 USED IN BUILDS

Leak Detection Report

Repository: leak-detection

Branch: APPSEC-TestingBranch

Scanned at: 30 Mar 2022 15:40

Commit id: n/a

Author: n/a

Exemptions

Rule	Exemptions
aws_secret_access_key	6
filename_private_key_5	1
Unused exemptions	3

The repository.yaml file contains file level exemptions

The repository.yaml file contains unused exemptions

Unresolved leaks

Please click [here](#) to find out how to resolve the leaks

Rule ▲▼	Scope ▲▼	Priority ▲▼	Violations ▲▼	expand all
➤ AWS secret key (ruleId: aws_secret_access_key)	fileContent	High	2	
➤ File often containing private keys (ruleId: filename_private_key_5)	fileName	High	1	
➤ Unencrypted play.http.secret.key (ruleId: play_http_secret_key)	fileContent	Medium	1	
➤ Unencrypted play.crypto.secret (ruleId: play_crypto_secret)	fileContent	Medium	1	

LEAK DETECTION

Dependency Explorer

org.apache.logging.log4j

log4j-core

0.0.0

<=

version

<=

All teams

Latest

Compile

Search

Export as CSV








This search did not return any results.

CATALOGUE - DEPENDENCY EXPLORER

Vulnerabilities Report: AppSec-test-1

Created By: gerald.benischke | Produced At: 2022-04-25T15:51:15Z

1 out of 139415 < >

CVE	Summary	Severity 	CVSS:2	CVSS:3	Vulnerabl...	Impacted ...	Project Na...	Fixed Vers...	Published
CVE-201...	A Polymor...	 Critical	6.8	9.8	gav://com...	generic://s...	-	4 2.6.7....	15-10-19 1...
CVE-202...	FasterXML ...	 Critical	7.5	9.8	gav://com...	generic://s...	-	3 2.7.9....	11-02-20 1...
CVE-201...	FasterXML ...	 Critical	7.5	9.8	gav://com...	generic://s...	-	4 < 2.6....	29-01-19 1...
CVE-201...	FasterXML ...	 Critical	7.5	9.8	gav://com...	generic://s...	-	4 2.6.7....	29-01-19 1...
N/A	Eclipse Jett...	 Critical	10	9.8	gav://org.e...	generic://s...	-	1 9.4.3...	15-03-22 1...
CVE-202...	FasterXML ...	 Critical	6.8	9.8	gav://com...	generic://s...	-	3 2.7.9....	03-03-20 1...

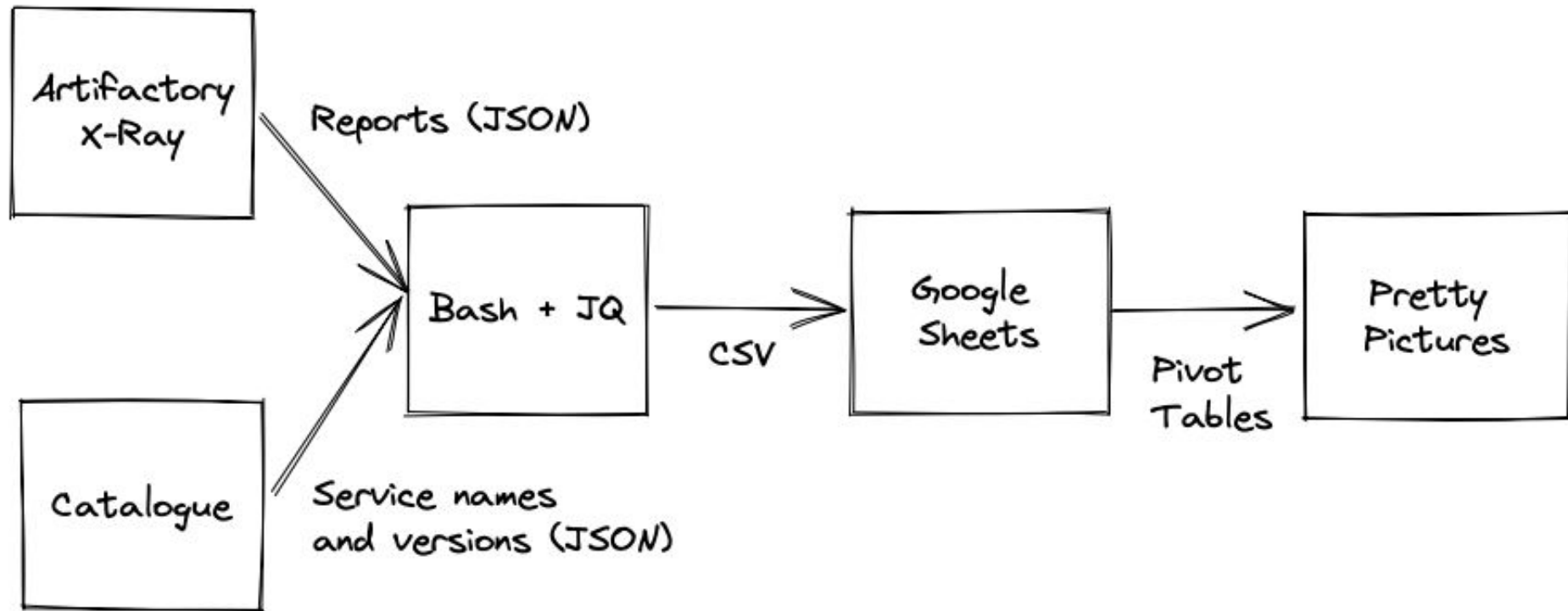
X-RAY REPORTS NOT VERY USER FRIENDLY

CVSS SCORES NOT THAT USEFUL

- Investigated each CVE
- CVSS Score is NOT a predictor of risk
- Most frequent root cause is not an issue on the platform
- It does not work this way:



EVALUATE DEPENDENCIES - SPREADSHEETS TO THE RESCUE



VULNERABILITIES TOOLING

	As a Service Engineer	As an AppSec Engineer	As a Risk Owner
MVP	<div data-bbox="776 190 917 339">See CVEs</div> <div data-bbox="942 190 1083 339">View Only Actions</div> <div data-bbox="751 350 911 481">Details</div> <div data-bbox="948 350 1108 489">Team Summary</div>	<div data-bbox="1143 190 1284 328">Metrics</div> <div data-bbox="1309 168 1450 306">Manual Upload</div> <div data-bbox="1284 339 1425 478">Spread sheets</div>	<div data-bbox="1593 200 1754 339">High Level Summary</div>
Iteration 1		<div data-bbox="1161 511 1344 649">Automatic Upload</div> <div data-bbox="1360 565 1532 704">Prioritise</div>	
Iteration 2	<div data-bbox="761 776 921 915">Team Trends</div>	<div data-bbox="1199 765 1360 904">CVE Trends</div>	<div data-bbox="1624 754 1785 893">High Level Trends</div>
	<div data-bbox="915 929 1087 1089">Self Serve Curation</div>	<div data-bbox="1309 918 1481 1089">Monitor Actions</div>	<div data-bbox="1676 940 1837 1078">Overall Health</div>

Vulnerabilities

Vulnerability ID:

Service:

Team

Curation status:

Vulnerability id	Vulnerable Component	Assessment	Curation Status	Score	Services
▶ CVE-2018-14721	gav://com.fasterxml.jackson.core:jackson-databind	We don't use polymorphic deserialisation	No action required	10.0	21
▶ CVE-2016-1000027	gav://org.springframework:spring-web	org.springframework.remoting.httpinvoker deserialises data and is not used	No action required	9.8	13
▼ CVE-2016-1000031	gav://commons-fileupload:commons-fileupload	Would have to be able to upload a file that then gets deserialised by the cache	No action required	9.8	10

Vulnerable Component Version: 1.2.2

Date published: 05/07/2017

Description:

Apache Commons FileUpload before 1.3.3 DiskFileItem File Manipulation Remote Code Execution

References:

- <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/93604>
- <http://www.tenable.com/security/research/tra-2016-12>
- <http://www.zerodayinitiative.com/advisories/ZDI-16-570/>
- <https://www.tenable.com/security/research/tra-2016-30>

Teams:

Fixed Versions:

CATALOGUE VULNERABILITIES

RISK LEDGER

- Which services are frontend/backend/admin?
- What are all the endpoints from all services?
- Which services store data?
- Which services parse files?
- Which services generate files?
- Which services access third-party services?
- Which services process XML?

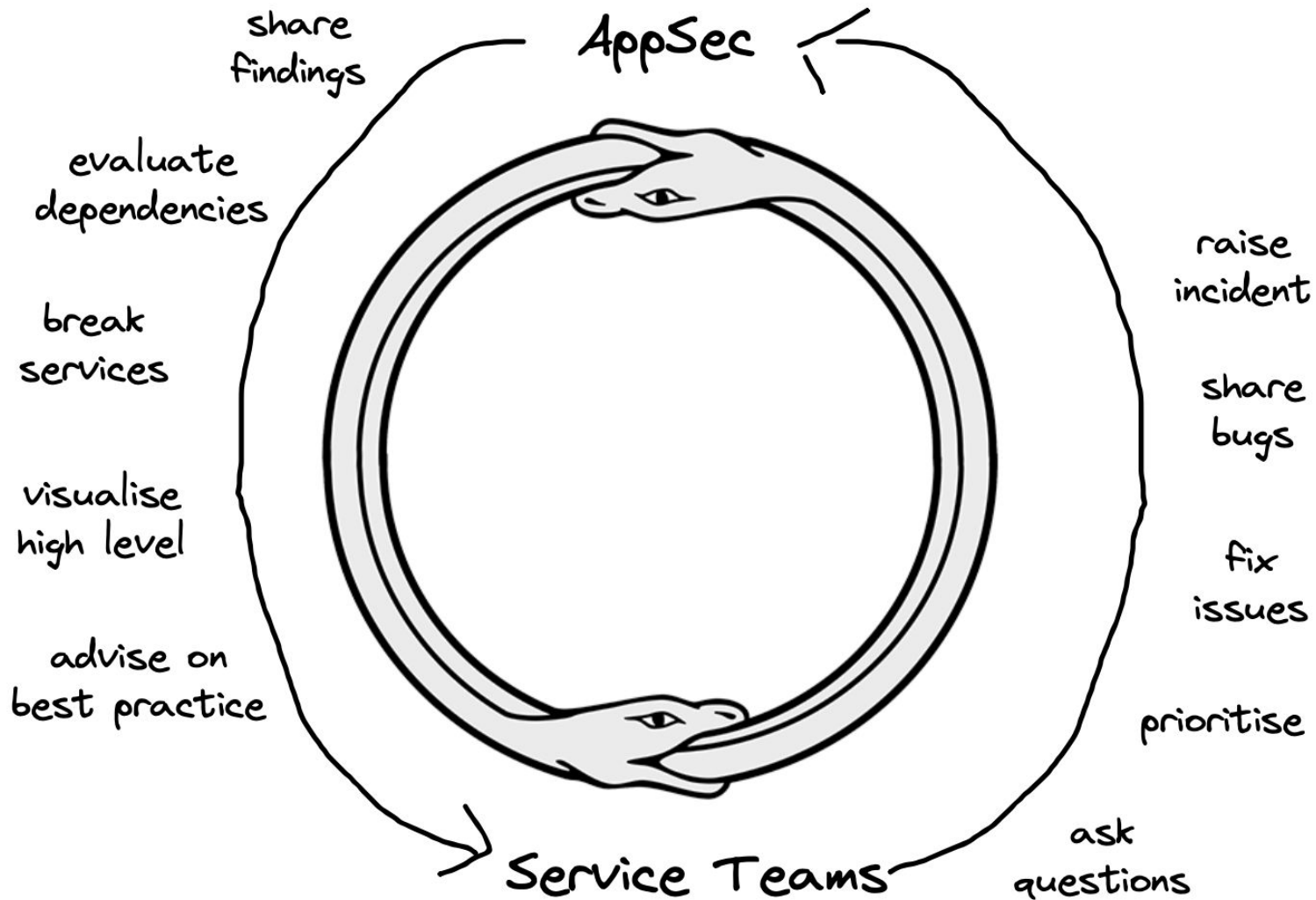
WHERE DO SECURITY SPECIALISTS SIT?

In the service team
(decentralised):

- Do we really have the £££ for 100 security experts?
- Won't they just spend most of their time analysing the same issues?
- Will deadlines and project work allow time to go back to fix issues?

In a Security team
(centralised):

- Won't they just be a bottleneck if 100 teams need help at the same time?
- Can't investigate everything
- Don't understand the context of service code



MDTP OPINIONS
ENABLE APPSEC

CONCLUSIONS

- Paved Road helps
- Tooling helps
- Experienced Engineers

THANK YOU!

Ben Conrad, Head of Product, HMRC

Gerald Benischke, AppSec Snooper, Equal Experts, @beny23@infosec.exchange



HM Revenue
& Customs



**EQUAL
EXPERTS**