

The **Highway Model** of **DevSecOps**

# **CI/CD security** – New **cornerstone** of the **Information System**?



**Arnaud PETITCOL**  
Manager



**Jeanne GRENIER**  
Senior Consultant

**WAVESTONE**  
Wavestone Insight Day 2024

# CI/CD security: Spotlight on difficulties encountered by our clients

## Clients' challenges



### Overloaded security teams

Security teams face high workloads and often need to deprioritize security concerns.



### Increasing pipeline complexity

Lack of standardization and scalability in pipelines make risk management and incident response more complex.



### Insufficient trainings

Squads lack security expertise and a rigorous training on CI/CD security best practices.

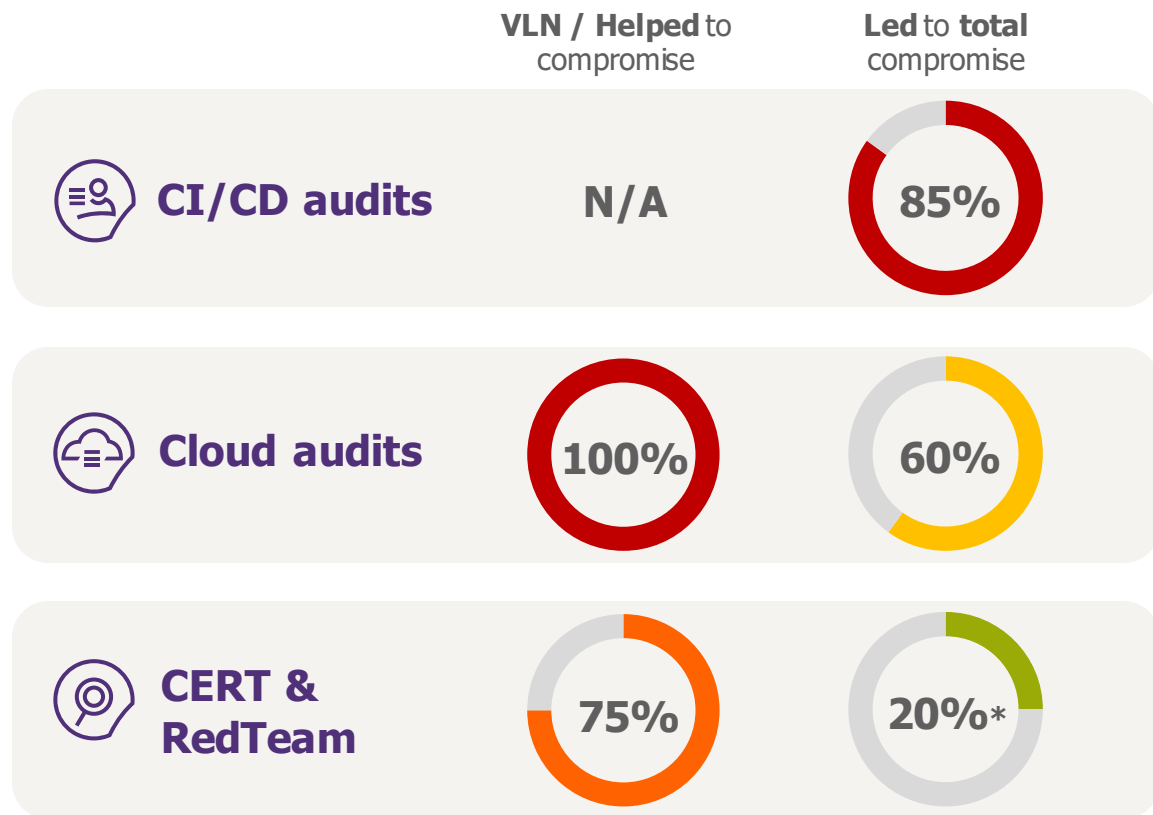


### Low traceability

Lack of monitoring and logging causes issues with visibility, accountability and slows incident response.

## Insights from Wavestone's audit & incident response teams

### CI/CD pipelines



\*An easier path was used

# Introduction to the Highway model of DevSecOps

## Let's prepare our DevSecOps Journey

### The **Product Team** (squad)

- / Used to Agile methodology
- / Business oriented: « security must not impact planning »
- / Little or no security awareness & training



### Software Development LifeCycle (SDLC)

- / Control before deployment in production or during RUN phase
- / Security blocking position increasing time to deliver
- / Manual controls increasing time to deliver and overloading security teams

### The **CI/CD pipeline** (Continuous Integration & Continuous Delivery / Deployment)

- / A heterogenous toolchain
- / An existing CI/CD pipeline built without security

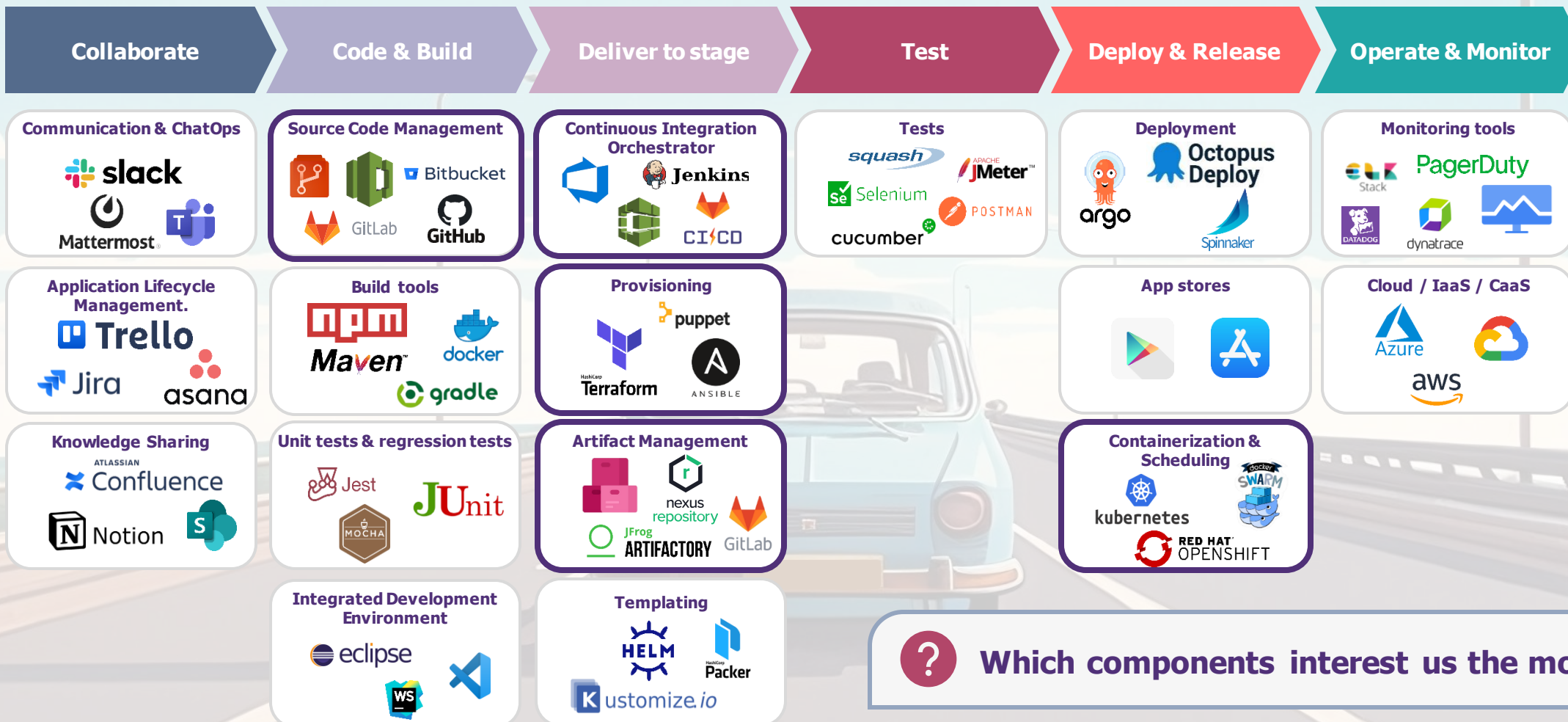


# What are we talking about?

## Let's have a look at the CI/CD Tooling Landscape



- / **CI/CD:** stands for "continuous integration" and "continuous delivery" – the development and delivery/deployment process.
- / **DevSecOps:** extension of the DevOps paradigm, adding security tools, governance & practices to the development lifecycle with a *shift-left approach* and aiming at promoting collaboration between developers, operationals and security teams.



? Which components interest us the most?

# What are we talking about?

## Let's have a look at the **CI/CD Tooling Landscape**



- / **CI/CD**: stands for "continuous integration" and "continuous delivery" – the development and delivery/deployment process.
- / **DevSecOps**: extension of the DevOps paradigm, adding security tools, governance & practices to the development lifecycle with a *shift-left approach* and aiming at promoting collaboration between developers, operationals and security teams.

### Source Code Management



Platforms for **source code** hosting, **version control** and **collaborative development**.

### Continuous Integration Orchestrator



**Orchestrates** reliable and fast code **integration**, triggers **automated builds** and **tests**.

### Provisioning



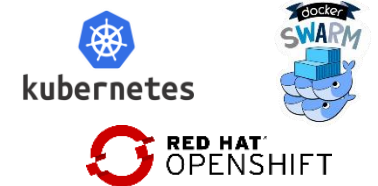
**Automates** the creation and configuration of infrastructure in **repeatable deployment processes**.

### Artifact Management



Centralizes the storage and management of **artifacts**, and ensures **versioning** across the pipeline.

### Containerization & Scheduling



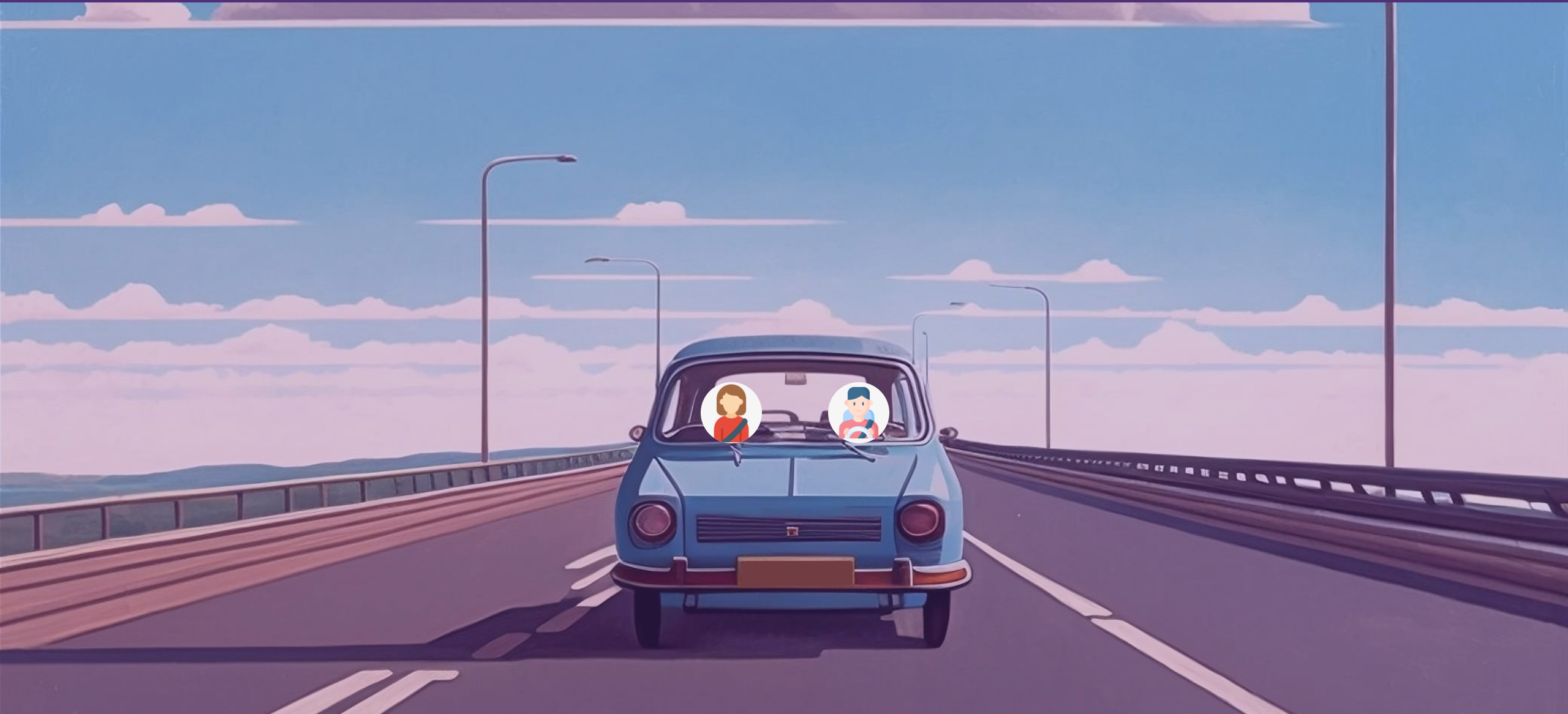
Manages containerized **workloads** and **services**, optimizing deployment and **runtime** operations.



**Which components interest us the most?**

# Introduction to the **Highway model of DevSecOps**

Life in the Fast Lane: Building a **Secure SDLC** with DevSecOps



# Introduction to the Highway model of DevSecOps

## The new product squad ready for the DevSecOps Journey

1

### A Product Owner

- Setting the route, taking into account security objectives

2

### Some Developers & Ops

- Building a secure and reliable engine with robust coding practices
- Deploying & maintaining it thanks to automation and monitoring

3

### and a Security Champion

Leading the team through security best practices and teamwork

#### Role

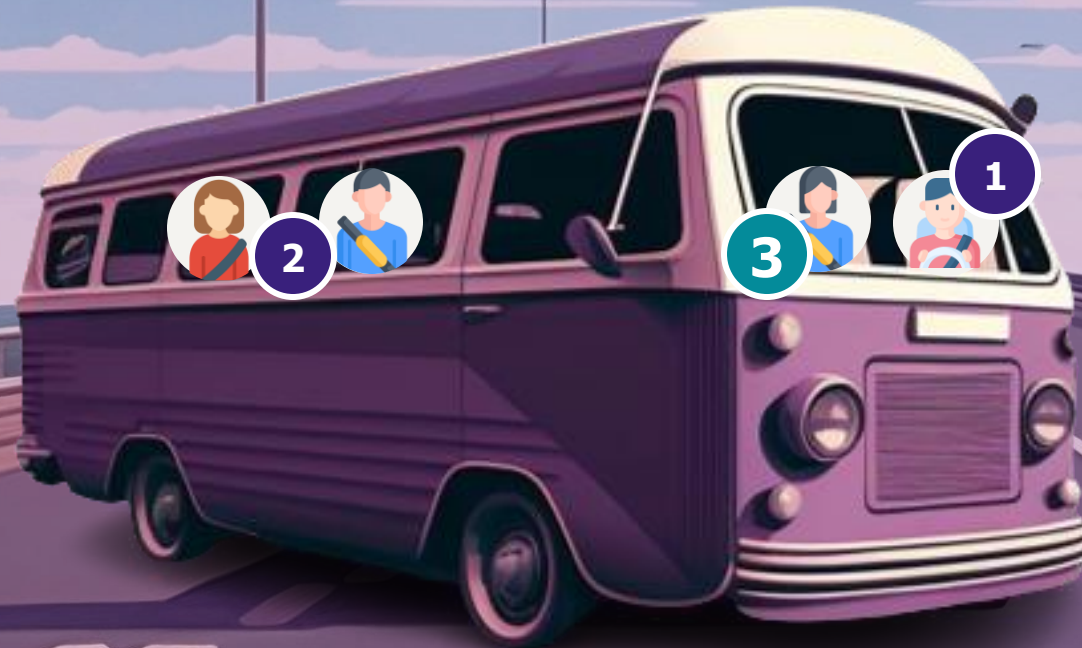
Acts as a local security relay, ensuring the liaison between his squad and security teams, fostering a security culture

#### Missions

- / Promote security best practices
- / Address threats
- / Help the team mitigate threats & remediate vulnerabilities
- / Validate security of deployed code
- / Collaborate with other Security Champions and security teams

#### Who?

- / An existing Dev with this additional role
- / A person with technical background dedicated to this role



# Introduction to the Highway model of DevSecOps

## A Central AppSec Team to support securing the SDLC

1

### AppSec Officer / Manager

- / Drives the Central AppSec Team
- / Defines AppSec/DevSecOps strategy, roadmap & governance
- / Defines AppSec & DevSecOps policies
- / Manages IT risks linked to application security

2

### AppSec Front-End

- / Coordinates, collects feedback, and leads the Security Champions Community (security guild)
- / Orchestrates global AppSec & DevSecOps awareness and trainings for squads

Security  
Champion

3

### AppSec Back-End

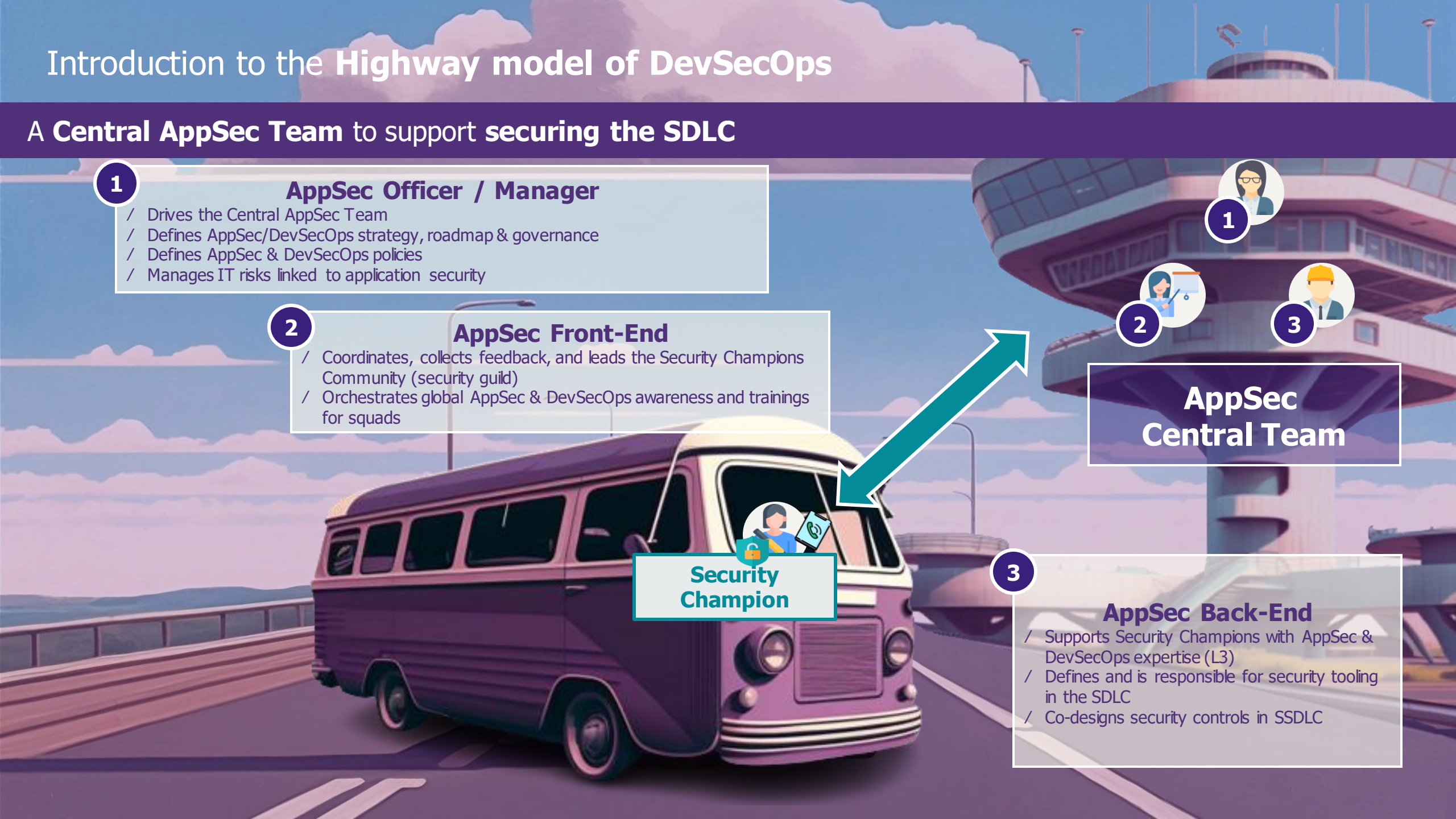
- / Supports Security Champions with AppSec & DevSecOps expertise (L3)
- / Defines and is responsible for security tooling in the SDLC
- / Co-designs security controls in SSDLC

AppSec  
Central Team

1

2

3





# Co-building A TRANSVERSAL FRAMEWORK

to be used by any squad

A **DevSecOps Framework**  
as **security policies, rules** and **standards...**

...with different **tools and services**  
to **enforce** it.



## GOVERNANCE

- / Security Target Operating Model
- / Security Champion Role playbook
- / AppSec & DevSecOps Community



## PROCESSES

- / Global Security Engineering process
- / Security code reviews framework
- / Threat modeling framework
- / Security controls & guardrails



## KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

- / Ad-hoc AppSec training
- / AppSec Knowledge Base



## ON-DEMAND SERVICES

- / AppSec expertise
- / Security audits & pentests
- / Bug Bounty

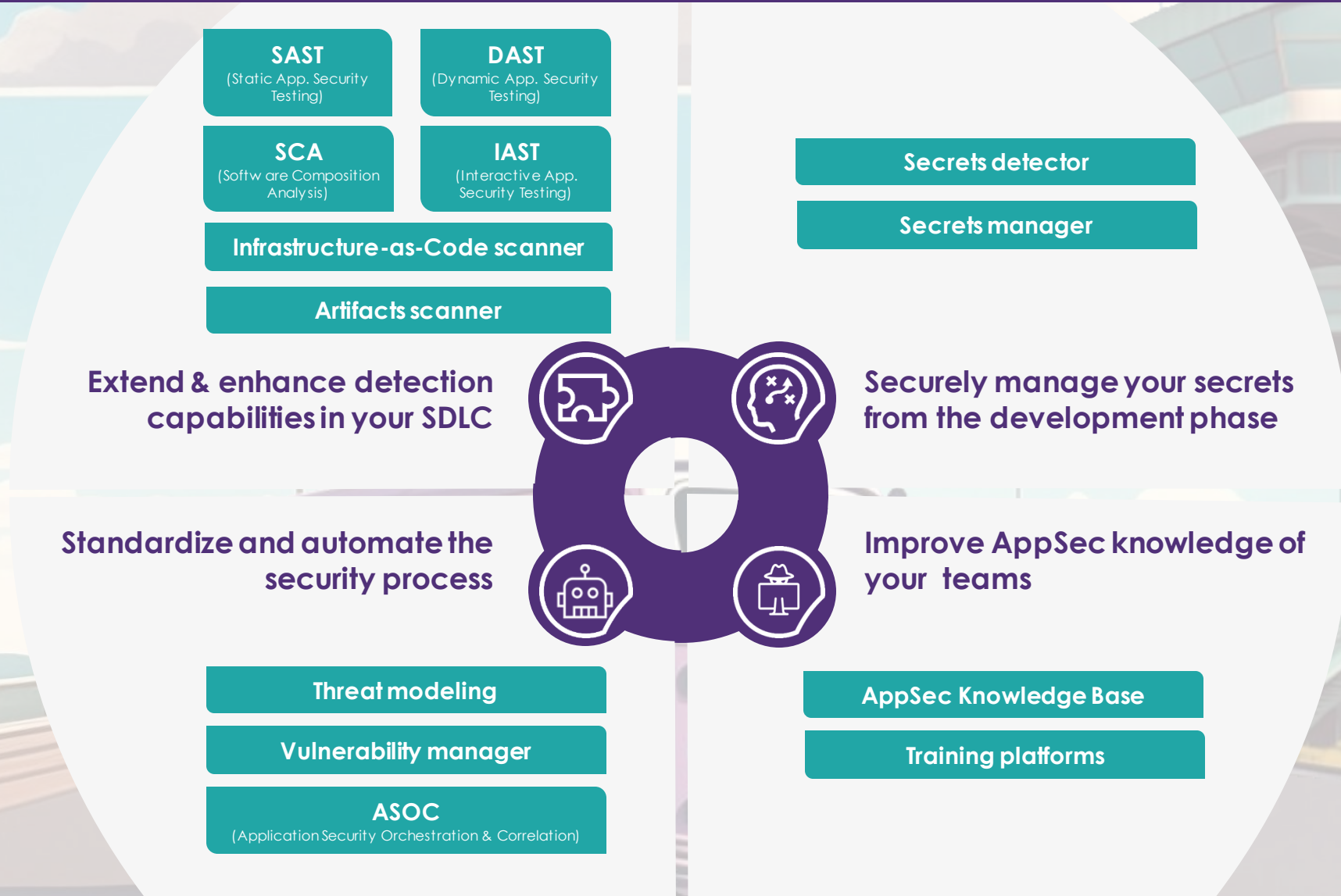


## TOOLING

- / DevSecOps security tools
- / Security workflow templates

...and **IMPROVING** the framework **CONTINUOUSLY**

# 4 strategic areas *and associated* DevSecOps security tools



*And don't forget **RUN tools** (WAF, RASP, APIM, CWPP, SIEM...)*

# Introduction to the Highway model of DevSecOps

The **upgraded Product Team** has all it needs to succeed!

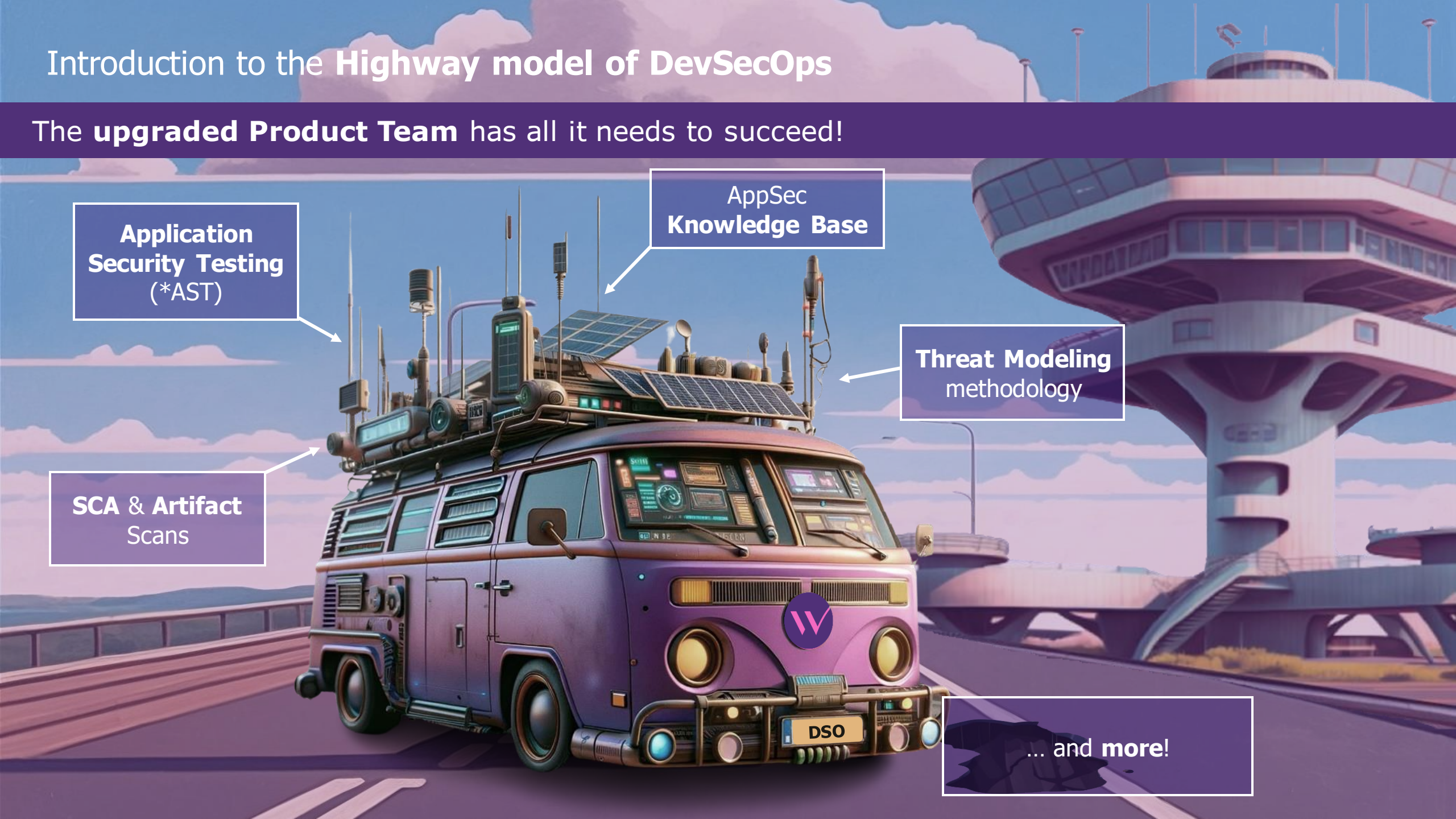
Application  
Security Testing  
(\*AST)

AppSec  
Knowledge Base

Threat Modeling  
methodology

SCA & Artifact  
Scans

... and more!



# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

But what about the **security** of the CI/CD **pipeline** itself?



Watch out for **potholes** on the road...



HIGHWAY TO HELL?  
Is the **CI/CD pipeline**  
a **new "Active Directory"?**

CI/CD is the new systemic component of the IT system,  
that can lead to a complete compromise.

# Landscape of vulnerabilities in CI/CD pipelines

Inadequate identity and access management



Unsecured system configurations



Inadequate management of secrets



Insufficient access controls in the CI/CD pipeline



Pollution of the execution pipeline



Insufficient flow control mechanisms



Abuse of the dependency chain



No governance of third-party service usage



Inadequate verification of artifact integrity



Inadequate logging and visibility



# Back to the CI/CD tooling landscape...



What can happen in case of an attack?

## Source Code Management



Platforms for source code hosting, **version control** and **collaborative development**.

## Artifact Management



Centralizes the storage and management of **artifacts**, and ensures **versioning** across the pipeline.

## Continuous Integration Orchestrator



**Orchestrates** reliable and fast code integration, triggers **automated builds** and **tests**.

## Provisioning



**Automates** the creation and configuration of infrastructure in repeatable **deployment processes**.

## Containerization & Scheduling



Manages containerized **workloads** and **services**, optimizing deployment and **runtime** operations.



**Intellectual property** loss or theft



**Service operation** disruption or **IS compromise**



**Supply-chain** poisoning



**Infrastructure** drift



Intellectual property theft



Supply-chain poisoning



**SolarWinds**

**C2 Beacon** (backdoor) hidden in software update

FTP **credentials on GitHub** into **CI poisoning**

**14 months** before the attack was discovered post-deployment

**100 organizations** and more than **18 000 customers** affected

**\$26 millions** paid in a resulting lawsuit



Intellectual property theft



Supply-chain poisoning



**Codecov**

Exfiltration of customer **CI env variables** (and secrets)

Artefact storage token exfiltration into **artefact poisoning**

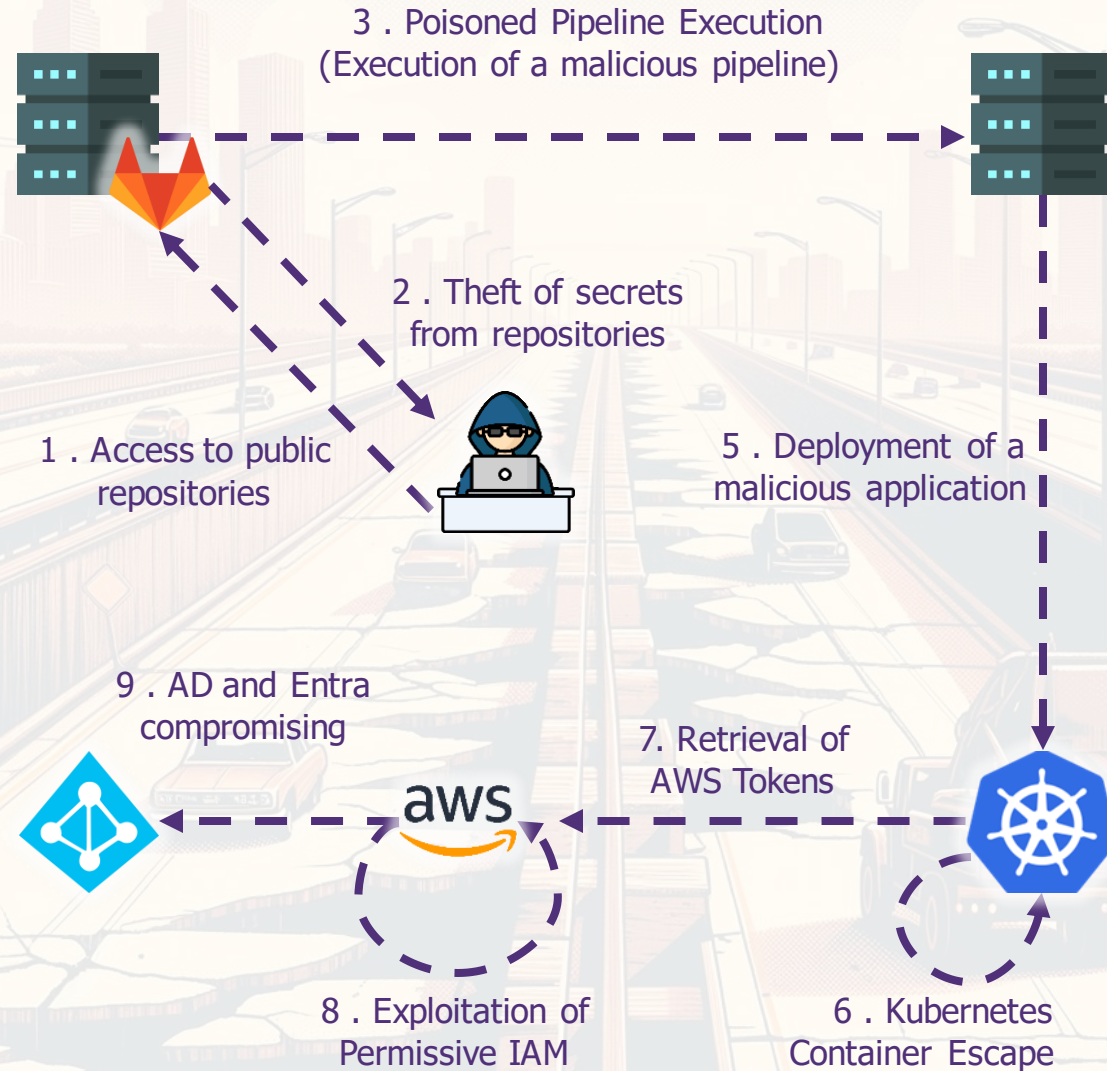
**2 months** before the attack was discovered by a customer

**29 000 customers** possibly affected

**One single injected line of code** was enough to exfiltrate secrets

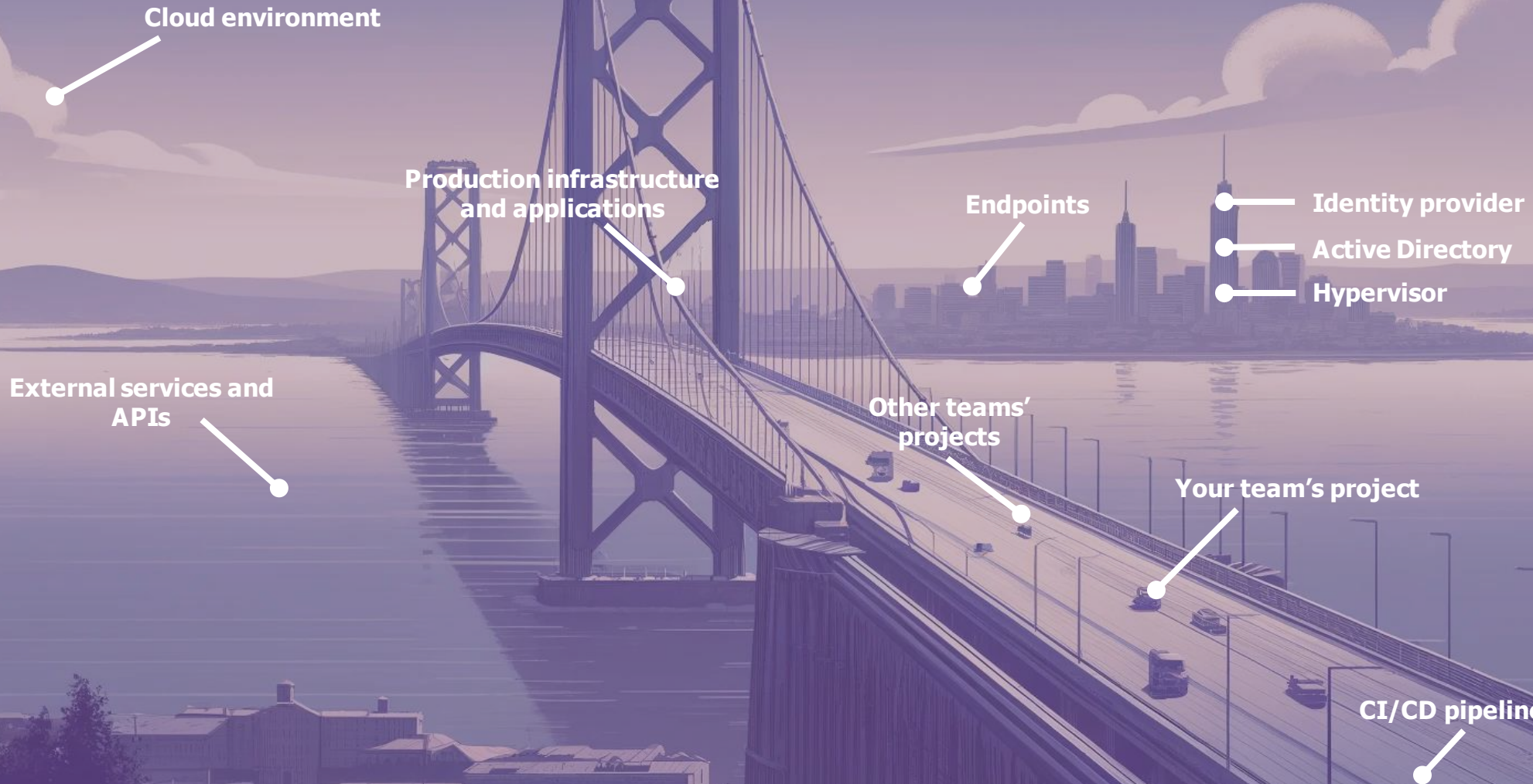


# Concrete scenario of compromise of a CI/CD pipeline, based on real audit cases



\* Presented in 2022 on the International scene

# To what extent can a compromise in your CI/CD breach your organization?



# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

Let's work on making the road **secure**.

## Identity & Access Management

Set up **traffic rules** and access controls to reduce the risk of **unauthorized entry** on the highway.

## Monitoring

**Monitor** the road to have a secure and **reliable** path for traffic.

## Architecture and 3<sup>rd</sup> party management

Ensure that roads are well **organized** and that only **validated companies** can work on it.



ROAD  
WORK  
AHEAD



# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

Let's consider a pipeline with weak **Identity & Access Management**.

Authentication is weak and identity lifecycles are unmanaged

Personal Access Tokens are used and unmanaged

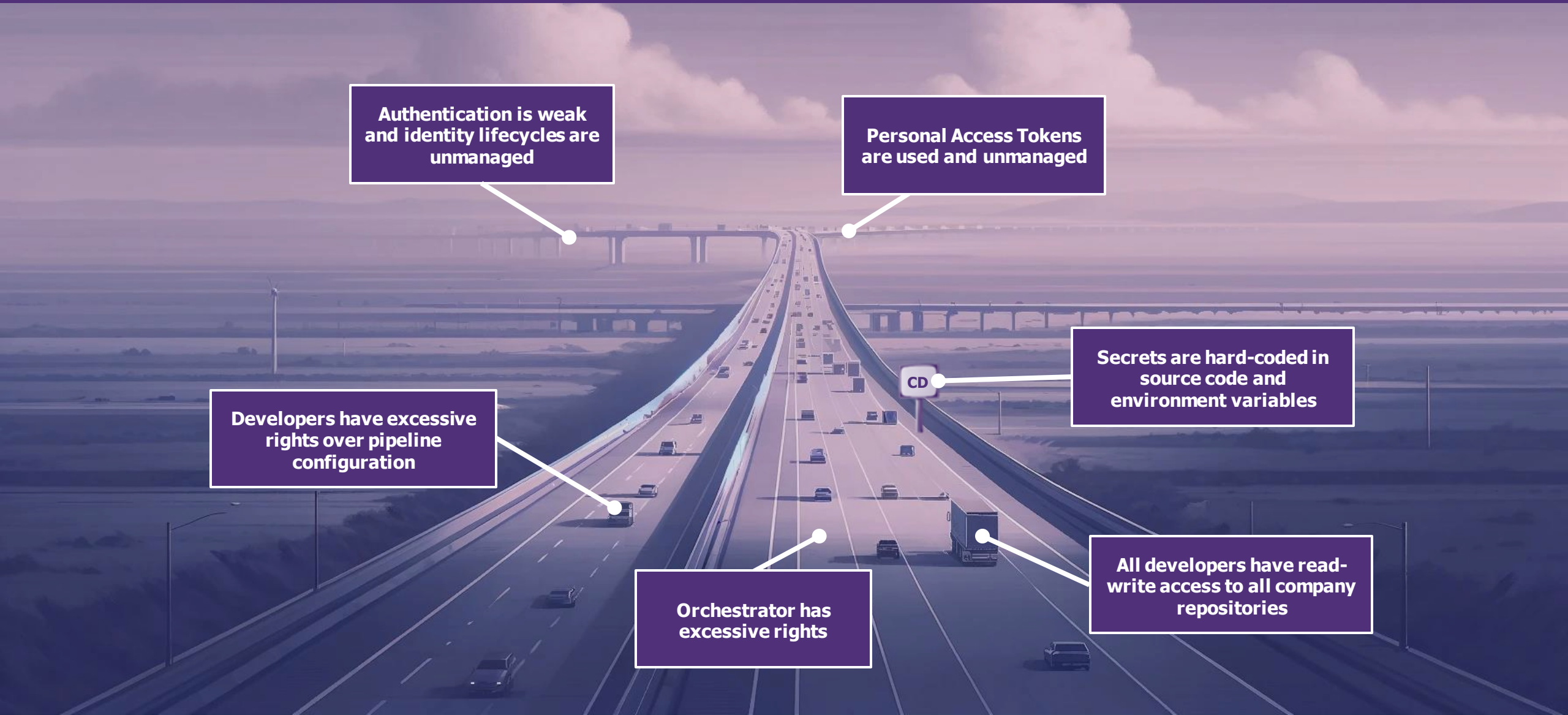
Secrets are hard-coded in source code and environment variables

Developers have excessive rights over pipeline configuration

CD

Orchestrator has excessive rights

All developers have read-write access to all company repositories



# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

How to enable a **secure access** to the highway?

Rely on company's **Central Identity Provider** and use **Single Sign-on (SSO)**

Define the right **governance** for your **tokens** in your pipelines

Secure your **secrets** in vaults, opt for the right **governance** and **secret detectors**

Use **RBAC** to limit access and modification to the pipeline configuration

**Limit** and divide orchestrator **rights** for **least-privilege access**

Use different **repositories** between different projects and apply **branch protection rules**

# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

## Implementing better access controls.



Use **RBAC** to limit access and modification to the pipeline configuration and apply **branch** protection rules.



GitHub



GitLab

### Use branch protection rules to manage access in Git repositories

Branch protection rules enforce constraints by limiting who can push changes on a critical branch.

**Require a pull request before merging**

When enabled, all commits must be made to a non-protected branch and submitted via a pull request before they can be merged into a branch that matches this rule.

**Require approvals**

When enabled, pull requests targeting a matching branch require a number of approvals and no changes requested before they can be merged.

Required number of approvals before merging: 1 ▼

**Dismiss stale pull request approvals when new commits are pushed**

New reviewable commits pushed to a matching branch will dismiss pull request review approvals.

**Require review from Code Owners**

Require an approved review in pull requests including files with a designated code owner.

### Secure your yaml files with CODEOWNERS

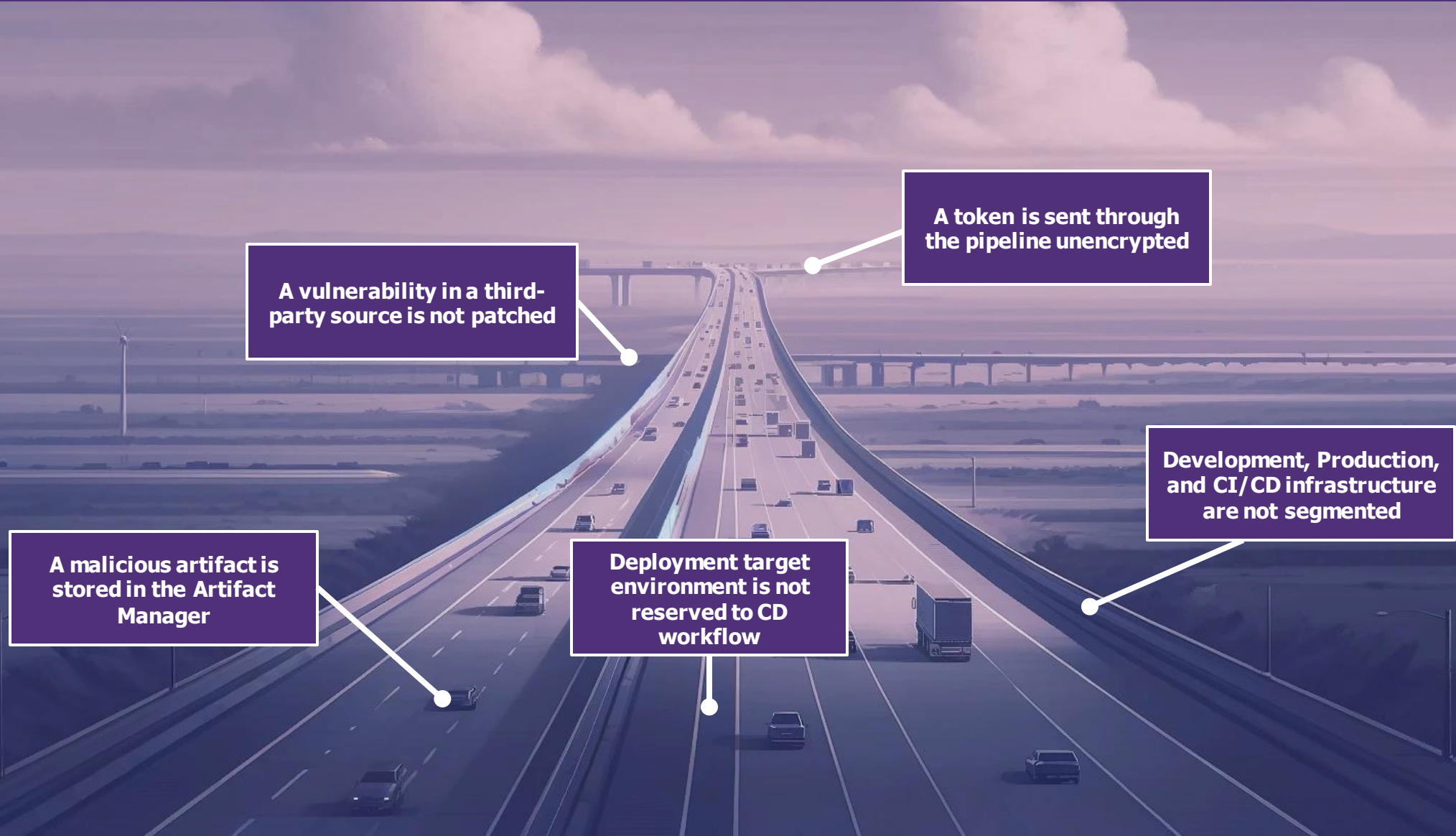
Specify individuals or teams responsible for reviewing and approving changes of high risk code.

```
1 # Default owners:
2 * @all-developers
3
4 # Require security review for high-risk code changes:
5 /Web/Controllers/AccountController.cs @security
6 /Shared/Services/Cryptography/ @security
7 /LICENSE @legal
8
9 # Workflow definitions for yaml files and GitHub Actions
10 /.github/workflows/ @sec-champion
11
12 CODEOWNERS @admin
```

*CODEOWNER file syntax*

# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

Let's consider a pipeline with a **poor architecture** and **insufficient 3<sup>rd</sup> party management**.



# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

How can we ensure that our **highway architecture** is secure?

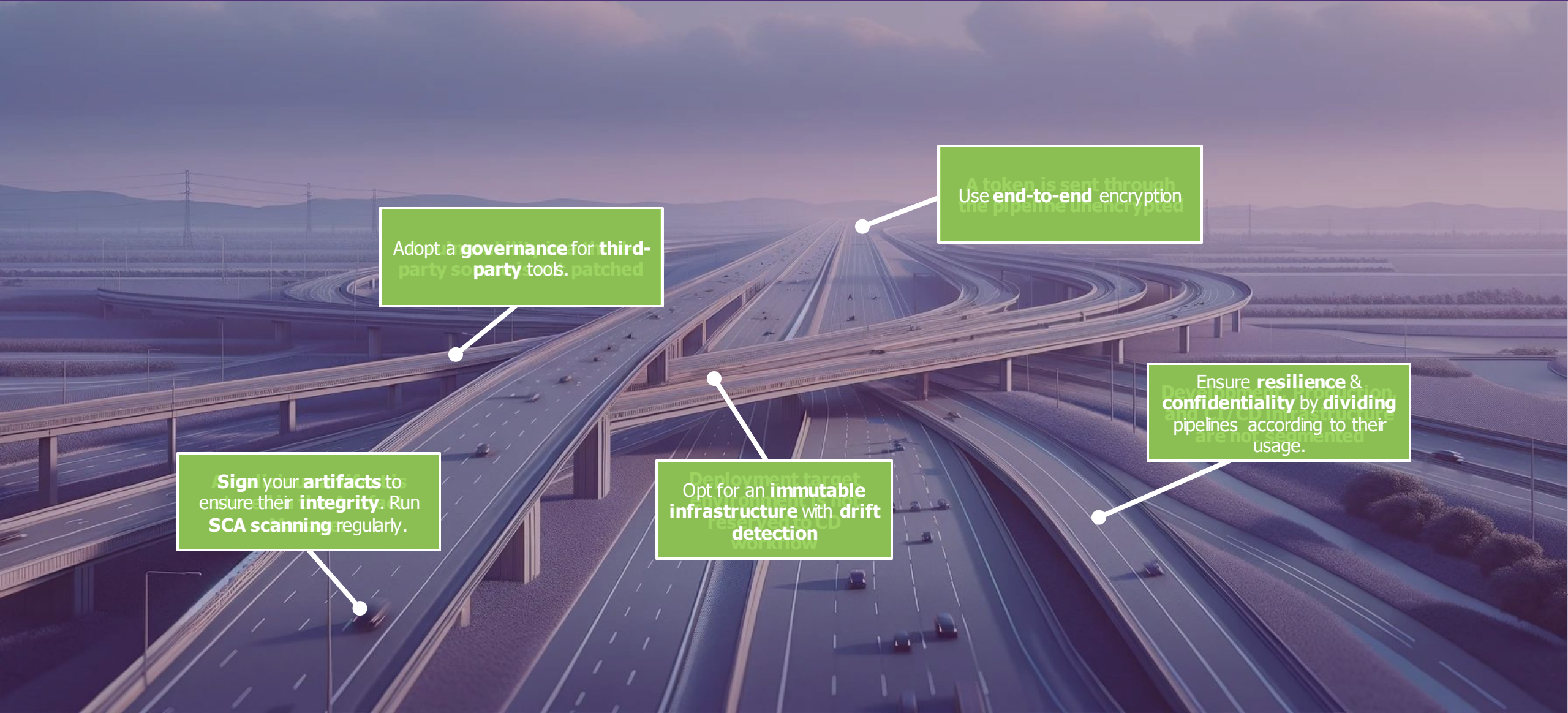
Adopt a **governance** for **third-party** tools.

Use **end-to-end** encryption

**Sign** your **artifacts** to ensure their **integrity**. Run **SCA scanning** regularly.

Opt for an **immutable infrastructure** with **drift detection**

Ensure **resilience** & **confidentiality** by **dividing** pipelines according to their usage.





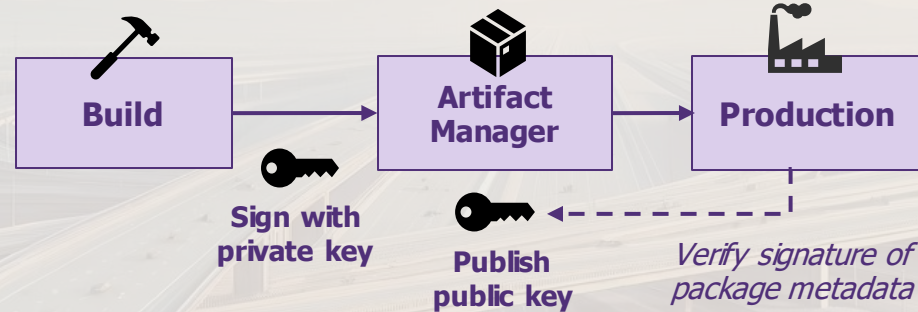
# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

Ensuring the **integrity** of artifacts.



Sign your artifacts to ensure their integrity. Run SCA scanning regularly.

Generate a **GPG** or **RSA** key with a **PKI** on a secure system to get a private and public key. **Safeguard** the private key in a vault.



### Keys Management

Create and control the keys used to encrypt or digitally sign your artifacts.

[Signing Keys](#)   [Java KeyStore](#)   [Public Keys](#)   [SSH Keys](#)

[+ Add Keys](#)

GPG Keys

RSA Keys

# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

Let's consider a pipeline with **inefficient monitoring**.

No history is kept of actions in the pipeline

Suspicious behavior is not detected

Pipeline is hit by ransomware

Visibility over the CI/CD pipeline's security posture is low



# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

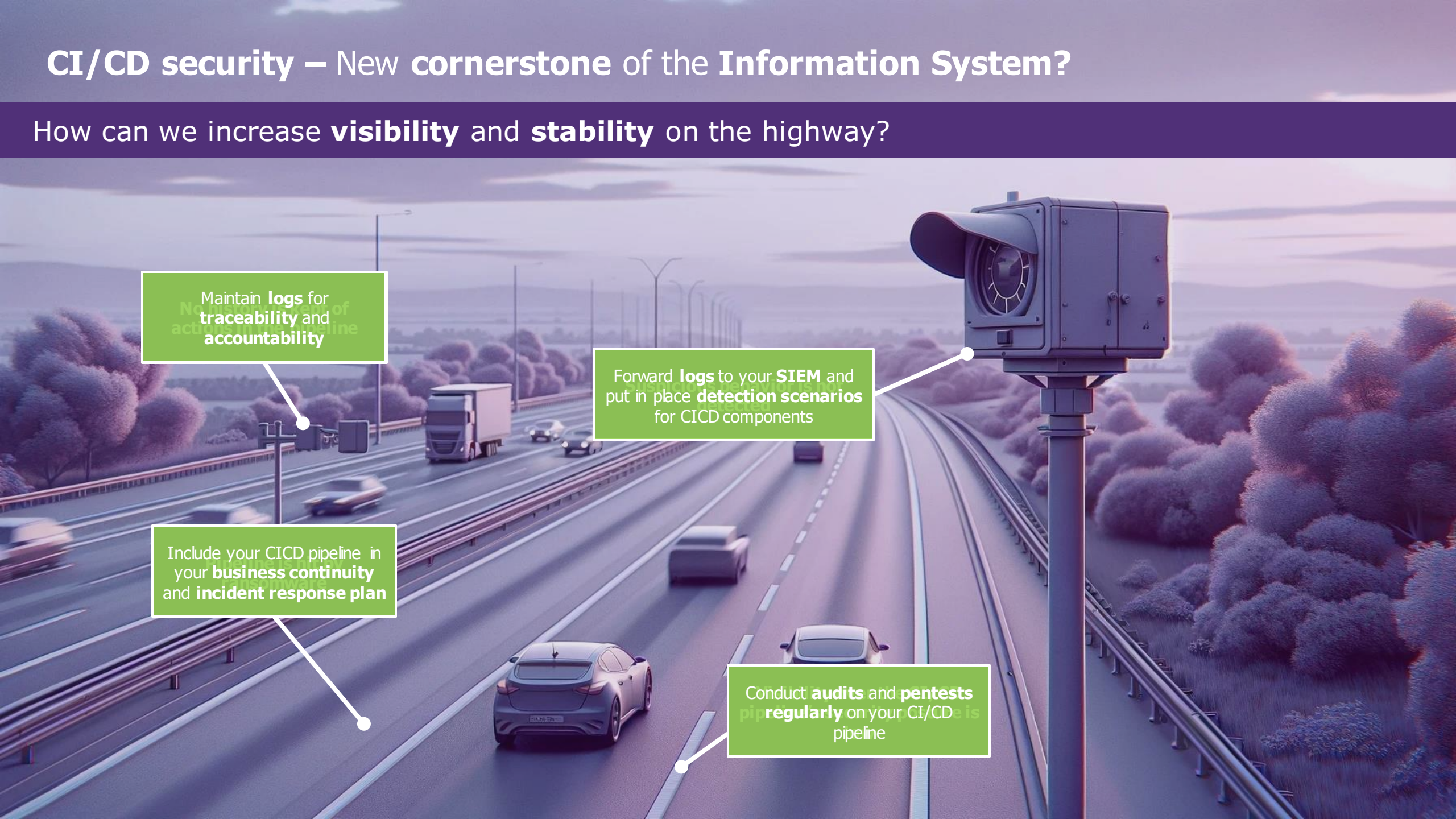
How can we increase **visibility** and **stability** on the highway?

Maintain **logs** for **traceability** and **accountability**

Forward **logs** to your **SIEM** and put in place **detection scenarios** for CI/CD components

Include your CI/CD pipeline in your **business continuity** and **incident response plan**

Conduct **audits** and **pentests** **regularly** on your CI/CD pipeline



# CI/CD security – New cornerstone of the Information System?

Enabling logs for **incident detection & response**.

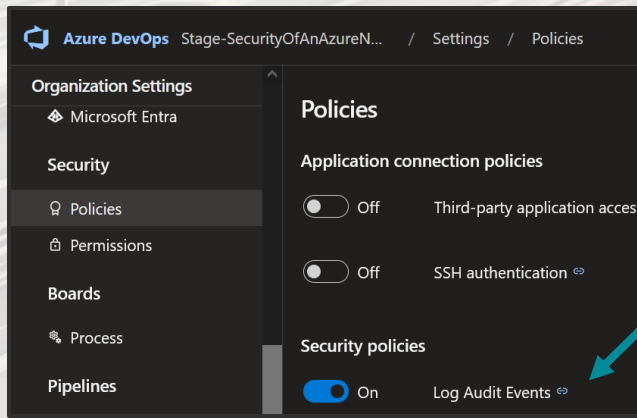


Maintain **logs** for **traceability** and **accountability**



Azure DevOps

Enable **“Log Audit Events”** and monitor regularly **permissions changes, deleted resources** and **branch policy changes**.



*Activating Log Audit Events*

Actor	Timestamp	Area	Cate...	Details
Jamal 24.16.2	11/4/2019, 1:38:14 PM	Per...	Mo...	3 permissions were modified for [FabrikamFiber]\Project Administrators and [FabrikamFiber]\Project Valid Users
Jamal 24.16.2	11/4/2019, 1:37:43 PM	Per...	Mo...	14 permissions were modified for Project Collection Build Service (fabrikamfiberorg), [FabrikamFiber]\Contributors, [FabrikamFiber]\Readers and 3 other identities

*Example of logs*

*Now that the highway has been secured, it's time to get  
in the van and hit the road!*



**WAVESTONE**

Wavestone Insight Day 2024

**Alexandre GUY**  
Manager

**M** +33 (0)6 20 02 63 50  
alexandre.guy@wavestone.com

**Arnaud PETITCOL**  
Manager

**M** +33 (0)7 61 78 24 79  
arnaud.petitcol@wavestone.com

**Jeanne GRENIER**  
Senior Consultant

**M** +33 (0)6 67 79 46 39  
jeanne.grenier@wavestone.com

**Thomas JOUBERT**  
Analyst

**M** +33 (0)6 51 17 92 14  
thomas.joubert@wavestone.com

# How does **Wavestone** guide its clients in this journey?



## Our Capabilities

- / Co-construction of the **DevSecOps Model / Transversal Framework** (governance, tooling, processes, services...)
- / **Embody or assist** AppSec Manager, AppSec Back-End, AppSec Front-End or Security Champion roles
- / **Framing & follow-up** of DevSecOps projects / programs (RFPs, DevSecOps strategy & roadmap, deployments)
- / **Maturity assessment** and DevSecOps **recommendations**
- / Technical **POCs & Benchmarks** of DevSecOps solutions
- / Definition of **DevSecOps policies**, rules & standards
- / Design of **Security Guardrails** (Security/Policy-as-Code)
- / **Threat Modeling and Rapid Risk Assessments**
- / AppSec & DevSecOps **Training & Awareness**

## Our Boosters

The collage includes several key diagrams:

- Process Flow:** A horizontal flowchart showing stages from 'Security risk analysis' to 'Security Champion'.
- RISKS:** A matrix with 'Security Champion' on the y-axis and 'Security Champion' on the x-axis.
- Tribe:** A diagram showing a central 'Tribe' with 'Product Owner' and 'Security' roles.
- Security Guild:** A diagram showing a 'Security Guild' with 'Security Champion' and 'Security Champion' roles.
- Security Enabler Squad:** A diagram showing a 'Security Enabler Squad' with 'Security Champion' and 'Security Champion' roles.

- / DevSecOps Maturity Assessment Framework
- / DevSecOps Tooling Benchmarks
- / Evil & Security User Stories for Agile Security
- / *And more!*

# MAJOR PROJECTS *to be carried out* as part of a **DevSecOps PROGRAM**

## Organization and Skills

- / Security Champions
- / Creation of the AppSec Central Team
- / Operating Model
- / AppSec Community

## Training & Culture

- / Training Security Champions
- / AppSec Knowledge Sharing
- / Creation of DevSecOps Knowledge Base
- / Animation of the Community

## Threat Modelling & Security Baseline

- / Threat Modelling Framework Definition with STRIDE Methodology
- / Threat Modelling Tools
- / Definition of Done

## Application Detection

- / SAST, DAST, \*AST
- / SCA
- / IaC Scanning

## Secret Management

- / Secret Manager
- / Secret Detector

## Vulnerability Management

- / Vulnerability Manager
- / Qualification Modalities
- / Patching Process

## Guardrails Automation

- / Automated guardrails design
- / Threshold Definition
- / CI/CD Configuration

## Metrics & dashboards

- / Correction Speed (MTTD/R)
- / Acceptable Limits per Squad/Entities
- / Maturity-Based Approach
- / Tolerance Rate



# Secure your Software Development Lifecycle with **DevSecOps**

Whether hosted in the Cloud or on-premises, get an end-to-end support for your development lifecycle



## 9 in 10 CISOs



are concerned about threat actors engaging in software supply chain attacks\*.

## 98%

of software developers are not satisfied with their security tools\*.

## 88%

of organizations experienced an AppSec breach in the past 12 months\*.

Fixing a vulnerability\*\* in production rather than in development phase costs

## 4 times more

\*according to Checkmarx (2023)  
\*\*according to NIST (2023)

# WAVESTONE

Your partner to secure your development lifecycle



## Our Capabilities

### ASSESS & REMEDIATE

- / **AppSec & DevSecOps Maturity assessment**
- / **Audits 360°** (white box): governance, architecture and implementation review
- / **Pentest** and **redteam**: black and grey box
- / Incident Response (CERT)

### TRANSFORM

- / Co-construction of the **DevSecOps Model** (governance, tooling, processes, services...)
- / **Framing & follow-up** of projects / programs (RFPs, strategy & roadmap, deployments)
- / **Training & Awareness** (Application Secure Development, DevSecOps, Get started with SAST/DAST/SCA...)
- / Setting up **AppSec & DevSecOps Communities**

### ENGINEER

- / **Embodiment or assist** DevSecOps, AppSec Manager, AppSec Engineers or Security Champion roles
- / Technical **POCs & Benchmarks** of DevSecOps solutions (SAST, DAST, SCA, IAST...)
- / Define **policies**, rules & standards
- / Design **Security Guardrails** (Security/Policy-as-Code)
- / **Threat Modeling** and **Rapid Risk Assessments**



## Our Boosters



**Maturity Assessment Framework**

CI/CD **Technical Audits** Methodology



Evil & security **user stories** for Agile Security

**Training** decks



Animation of **DevSecOps Communities**



The **Highway Model** of DevSecOps

**Benchmarks** of AppSec/DevSecOps solutions

