



Runtime Software Composition Analysis (SwCA)

User Guide

February 15, 2024

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Introduction

While evaluating the security posture of an asset, it is important to identify all software packages present on the asset.

Qualys supports Software Composition Analysis (SwCA) scanning of assets. An SwCA scan discovers installed open-source software, libraries, and associated vulnerabilities on your asset. The SwCA scan identifies programming language-based software packages on the asset. For supported list of supported languages, see [Supported Languages](#) section.

With SwCA feature, you can detect, manage, and proactively address the potential risk of software supply chain vulnerabilities in the production environment.

You can schedule a SwCA scan or launch the scan on demand. With the SwCA scan profile, you can define the scan scope, scan interval, and scan timeout.

The SwCA scan results are displayed in CyberSecurity Asset Management (CSAM). For details, see [SwCA Scan Data in CyberSecurity Asset Management](#).

SwCA is supported only for Windows and Linux Platforms and can be activated only when VM is activated for the agent.

Note: This feature will be available only when the Windows and Linux agent binaries with SwCA scan support are available. For supported agent versions, refer to the *Features by Agent Version* section in the [Cloud Agent Platform Availability Matrix](#).

Prerequisites

For downloading the SwCA data collector binary, the Cloud Agent must connect to the corresponding Qualys Content Delivery Network (CDN) URLs directly or using the proxy to download the SwCA data collector binary.

Qualys Cloud Agent continues to connect to the Cloud Agent server URLs for activities, such as configuration download, manifest download and delta uploads.

For the list of Cloud Agent Server and CDN URLs, refer to <https://www.qualys.com/platform-identification/>.

Supported Languages

The following tables present the languages and files SwCA supports on Linux and Windows assets.

Supported Languages - Linux

Language	File	Package managers/Ecosystem
Ruby	Gemfile.lock	bundler
Rust	Cargo.lock	cargo
PHP	composer.lock	composer
Python	Pipfile.lock	Pipenv
	poetry.lock	poetry
	requirements.txt	Pip
Go	go.mod	Go
Java	pom.xml	Apache Maven

Language	File	Package managers/Ecosystem
	gradle.lockfile	gradle
	jar/war/ear	jar
DotNet	packages.lock.json	Nuget
	packages.config	Nuget
	.deps.json	dotnet-core
NodeJs	package-lock.json	npm
	yarn.lock	yarn

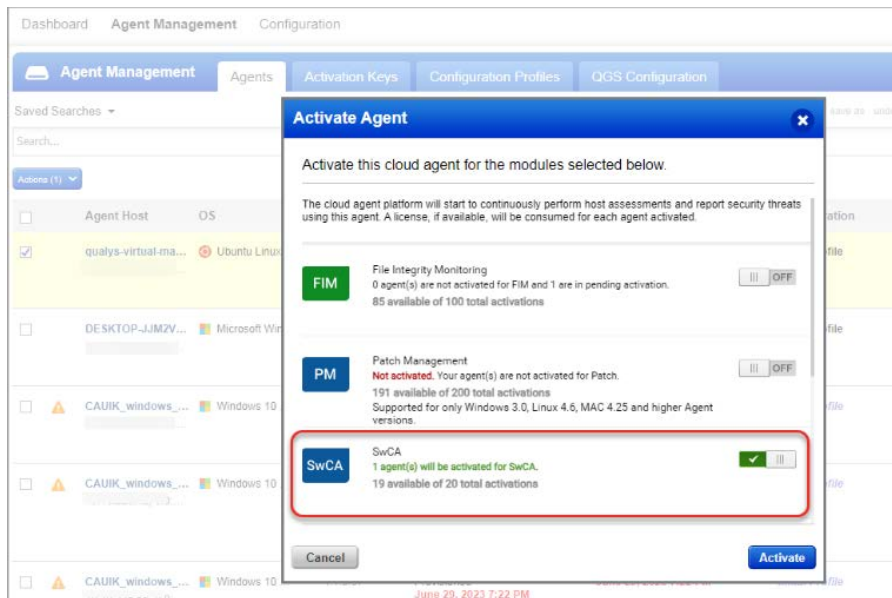
Supported Languages - Windows

Language	File
DotNet	.deps.json
	.packages.config
	nuspec
	nupkg
Go	go.sum
	go.mod
Java	jar
	war
	ear
	pom.properties
	META-INF/MANIFEST.MF
	pom.xml
	gradle.lockfile
Node.js	package.json
	.package-lock.json
	npm-shrinkwrap.json
PHP	composer.json
	composer.lock
Python	egg
	egg-info/METADATA
	egg-info\\METADATA
	egg-info/PKG-INFO
	dist-info/METADATA
	dist-info\\METADATA
	poetry.lock

Language	File
	requirements.txt
Rust	Cargo.lock
Ruby	Gemfile.lock (bundler)
	gemspec

Activate SwCA Feature

To enable this functionality, you must activate the SwCA module on a single or multiple agent hosts. To activate the module, go to **Agent Management > Agents** tab, and click Activate for <modules> from the **Quick Actions** menu.



You can also activate the SwCA module while creating or editing the activation key.

New Activation Key

Turn help tips: On | Off

Create a new activation key

An activation key is used to install agents. This provides a way to group agents and better manage your account. By default this key is unlimited - it allows you to add any number of agents at any time.

Title

Demo Key

Select | Create

(no tags selected)

Provision Key for these applications

☒ CSAM CyberSecurity Asset Management
Activations managed by CSAM
 ☐ PM Patch Management
License limit not enforced.

☐ VM Vulnerability Management
License limit not enforced.
 ☐ PC Policy Compliance
License limit not enforced.

☐ EDR Endpoint Detection and Response
License limit not enforced.

☐ SwCA Software Composition Analysis
License limit not enforced.

☐ SCA Secure Config Assessment
License limit not enforced.

☐ CAPS Cloud Agent Passive Sensor
License limit not enforced.

☐ Set limits

Close

Unlimited Key Generate

Installation and Uninstallation

When the SwCA application is activated for a Cloud Agent, the following files are downloaded from the Qualys CDN server and installed on the asset:

- For Linux assets—`qualys-swca-datacollector` package. You can view the SwCA application installed as the `qualys-swca-datacollector` package in the software package manager of the operating system.
- For Windows assets— `SwCASScanner.exe` file. During the SwCA scanning process, the `SwCASScanner.exe` appears among the running processes of the operating system.

For list of Qualys CDN URLs, see the [Prerequisites](#) section.

When the SwCA application is deactivated for the Cloud Agent, the `qualys-swca-datacollector` package is uninstalled from the Linux asset, and the `SwCASScanner.exe` file is removed from the Windows assets.

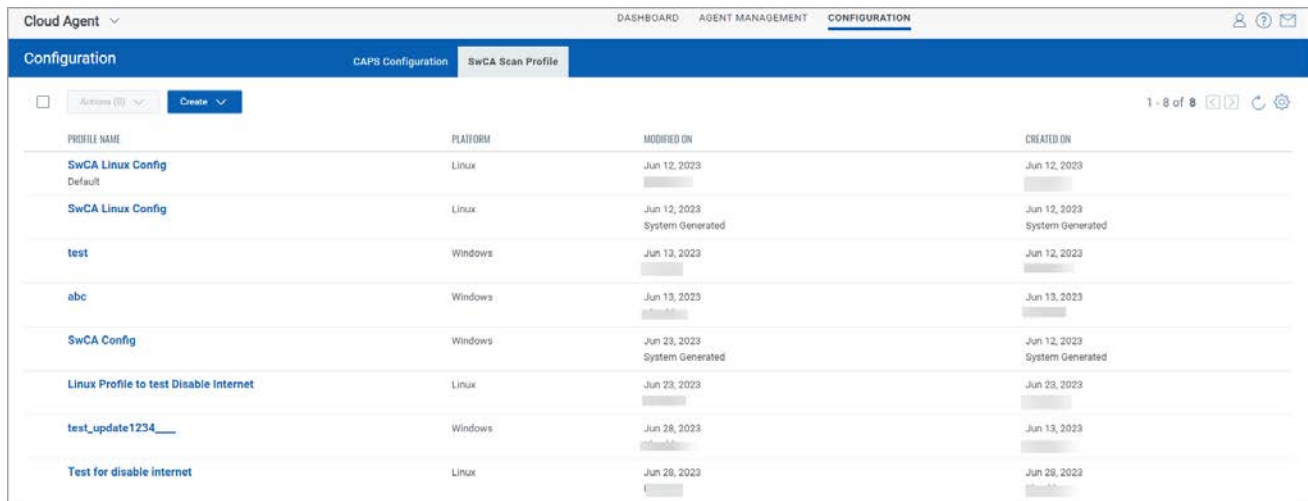
Configure SwCA Scan Settings

You can configure the software composition analysis scan settings for Windows and Linux assets. The **SwCA Scan Profile** tab under **Configuration** contains the default profiles for Windows and Linux agents.

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By default, one SwCA scan profile is available for Windows and Linux each.



The screenshot shows the 'Cloud Agent' configuration interface. The 'CONFIGURATION' tab is active, and the 'SwCA Scan Profile' sub-tab is selected. A table lists existing scan profiles with columns for Profile Name, Platform, Modified On, and Created On. The table contains 8 entries, including default profiles for Linux and Windows, and several custom profiles like 'test', 'abc', and 'Linux Profile to test Disable Internet'.

PROFILE NAME	PLATFORM	MODIFIED ON	CREATED ON
SwCA Linux Config Default	Linux	Jun 12, 2023	Jun 12, 2023
SwCA Linux Config	Linux	Jun 12, 2023 System Generated	Jun 12, 2023 System Generated
test	Windows	Jun 13, 2023	Jun 12, 2023
abc	Windows	Jun 13, 2023	Jun 13, 2023
SwCA Config	Windows	Jun 23, 2023 System Generated	Jun 12, 2023 System Generated
Linux Profile to test Disable Internet	Linux	Jun 23, 2023	Jun 23, 2023
test_update1234_____	Windows	Jun 28, 2023	Jun 13, 2023
Test for disable internet	Linux	Jun 28, 2023	Jun 28, 2023

You can also create customized SwCA scan profiles for Windows and Linux assets. To create a customized profile for the SwCA scan:

1. Go to the **Configuration** tab and click **SwCA Scan Profile**.
2. Click **Create > Linux Scan Profile** or **Windows Scan Profile**.
3. Enter the required values and click **Save**.

SwCA Scan Profile - Windows

To create a new profile for SwCA scan on Windows assets, click **Create > Windows Scan Profile**.

←
Create New: SwCA Scan Profile

Software Composition Analysis Scan Settings for Windows

Configure Software Composition Analysis Scan Settings

Basic Information

Provide basic information for the SwCA scan profile

Name *

112 characters remaining

Description *

234 characters remaining

Scan Interval (1440-43200 Min) * ⓘ

☐ Set this as a default profile for the subscription

Profile Settings

Provide scan settings for the SwCA scan profile

Directories to be included ⓘ

Directories/Files to be excluded ⓘ

Default Excluded Directories/Files: C:\Windows, C:\System Volume Information, C:\\$RECYCLE.BIN, C:\hiberfil.sys, C:\pagefile.sys, C:\swapfile.sys

Scan Time Out (120-43200 Min) * ⓘ

Maximum CPU Usage (0-100%) * ⓘ

☐ Run Quick Scan

SwCA scan runs only for the processes that are in running state. The scan prioritizes identifying vulnerabilities and relevant language-based packages within running processes and their dependencies for software composition analysis.

Cancel
Save

In the **Create New: SwCA Scan Profile** page, enter the following information:

Basic Information

- Enter **Name** and **Description** for the new scan profile.
- **Scan Interval** - Define the interval, in minutes, at which the agent scans the assets associated with this profile. The default value is 10080 minutes.
- If you want to set this scan profile as a default software composition analysis scan profile for your subscription, select the Set this as a default profile for the subscription check box. This will be a user-defined default profile.

Profile Settings

You can define the scope for the SwCA scan by adding directories to be included in the scan. You can also specify the files or directories that you want to exclude from the scan.

- **Directories Included** - You can define the directories to be included in the scan. By default, the */ directory is included for scan. You can enter multiple directories separated by comma. SwCA scans only the local drives of Windows assets.

Ensure that only the absolute path is supported. The field does not support wildcard characters and regular expressions.

Note: Include only specific directories in the scan scope to reduce CPU and memory consumption.

- **Directories/Files to be excluded** - You can exclude specific files or directories from the SwCA scan. To define the files/directories to be excluded, you can enter multiple directories separated by a comma.

Ensure that only the absolute path is supported. The field does not support wildcard characters and regular expressions.

Note: Exclude the directories that do contain relevant data for SwCA scan to reduce CPU memory consumption.

- **Scan Time Out**- Define the maximum time after which the scan is terminated. The default value is 120 minutes.
- **CPU Usage**- Enter the maximum CPU consumption allowed for the SCA scan process. However, a momentary spike can occur in CPU usage.
- **Run Quick Scan**- Select the check box to run a scan on the running processes.

Click **Save** to save the scan settings configured.

SwCA Profile - Linux

To create a new profile for SwCA scan on Linux assets, click **Create > Linux Scan Profile**.

← Create New: SwCA Scan Profile

Software Composition Analysis Scan Settings for Linux
Configure Software Composition Analysis Scan settings.

Basic Information
Provide basic information for the SwCA scan profile.

Name *
Linux Profile for Disable Internet 94 characters remaining

Description *
test 246 characters remaining

Scan Interval (1440-43200 Min) * ⓘ
10080

☐ Set this as a default profile for the subscription.

Profile Settings
Provide scan settings for the SwCA scan profile.

Directories to be included ⓘ
/

Directories/Files to be excluded ⓘ
/proc*, /var/log*, /var/spool*, /etc*, /usr/bin*, /usr/sbin*, /usr/lib*, /usr/lib64*, /boot*, /sys*, /srv*, /media*, /mnt

Default Excluded Directories/Files: /proc*, /var/log*, /var/spool*, /etc*, /usr/bin*, /usr/sbin*, /usr/lib*, /usr/lib64*, /boot*, /sys*, /srv*, /media*, /mnt

Scan Time Out (120-43200 Min) * ⓘ
120

Maximum CPU Usage (0-100%) * ⓘ
30

Disable Internet Access ⓘ ☒
When enabled, SCA process can connect to the Maven repository to gather additional information for analysis of Java artifacts.

Cancel Save

In the **Create New - SwCA Scan Profile** page, enter the following information:

Basic Information

- **Enter Name** and **Description** for the new scan profile.
- **Scan Interval**- Define the interval, in minutes, at which the agent scans the assets associated with this profile. The default value is 10080 minutes.

- If you want to set this scan profile as a default software composition analysis scan profile for your subscription, select the **Set this as a default profile for the subscription** check box. This will be a user-defined default profile.

Profile Settings

You can define the scope for the SwCA scan by adding directories to be included in the scan. You can also specify the files or directories that you want to exclude from the scan.

- **Directories Included** - You can define the directories to be included in the scan. By default, the */ directory is included for scan. You can enter multiple directories separated by comma.

By default, root is included in the Linux Scan profile. However, the following common network filesystems are excluded from SwCA scan:

- afs
- cifs
- fuse.sshfs
- gfs
- gfs2
- nfs
- nfs4
- nfsd
- safenetfs
- secfs
- smb2
- smbfs
- vxfs
- vxodmfs

Ensure that only absolute path is supported. The field does not support wildcard characters and regular expressions.

Note: Include only specific directories in the scan scope to reduce CPU and memory consumption.

- **Directories/Files to be excluded** - You can exclude specific files or directories from the SwCA scan. To define the files/directories to be excluded, you can enter multiple directories separated by comma.

Ensure that only the absolute path is supported. The field does not support wildcard characters and regular expressions.

Note: Exclude the directories that do not contain relevant data for SwCA scan to reduce CPU memory consumption.

- **Scan Time Out** - Define the maximum time after which the scan is terminated. The default value is 120 minutes.
- **CPU Usage** - Enter the maximum CPU consumption allowed for the SCA scan process. However, a momentary spike can occur in CPU usage.
- **Disable Internet Access** - Turn the **Disable Internet Access** on or off to disconnect or connect to the Internet. When internet connectivity is enabled, the SCA process can connect to the Maven repository to gather additional information to analyze Java artifacts.

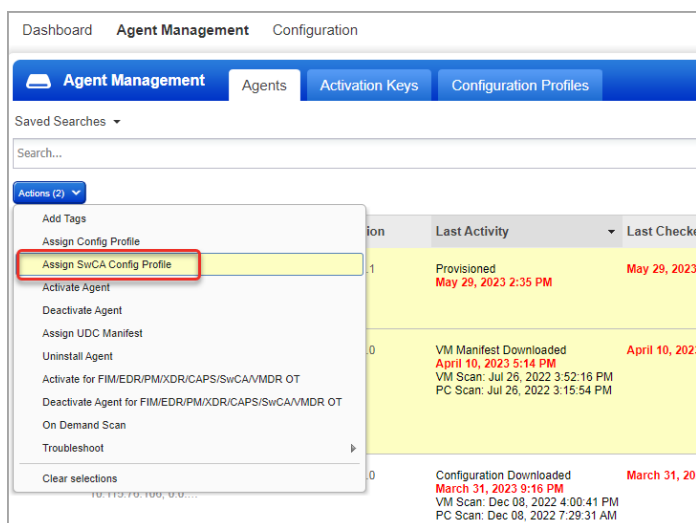
Click **Save** to save the SwCA scan settings that you have configured.

Assign Customized SwCA Configuration Profile

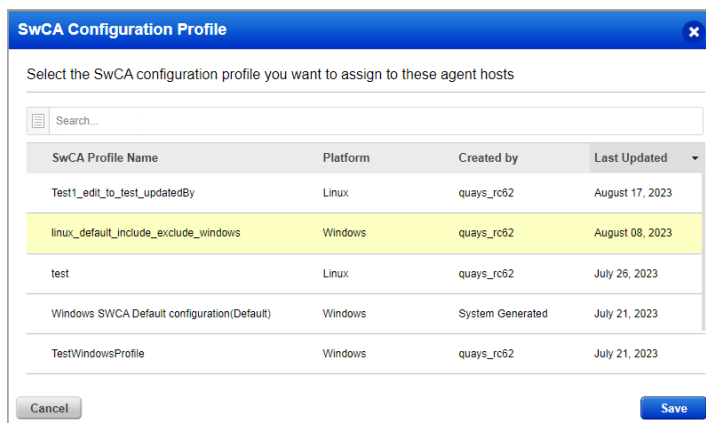
If you want to use a customized SwCA configuration profile, you must assign the SwCA configuration profile to the host asset.

To assign the custom SwCA configuration profile:

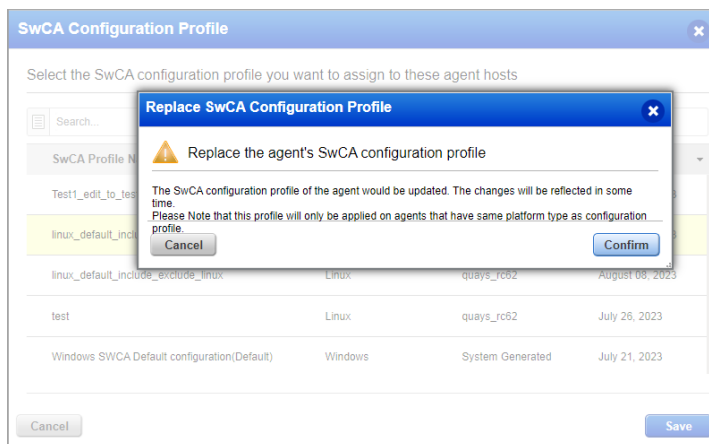
1. From the list of assets, select host asset, and from the **Actions** menu, click **Assign SwCA Config Profile**.



2. From the list of SwCA configuration profiles, select the configuration profile to be assigned to the selected host asset and click **Save**.



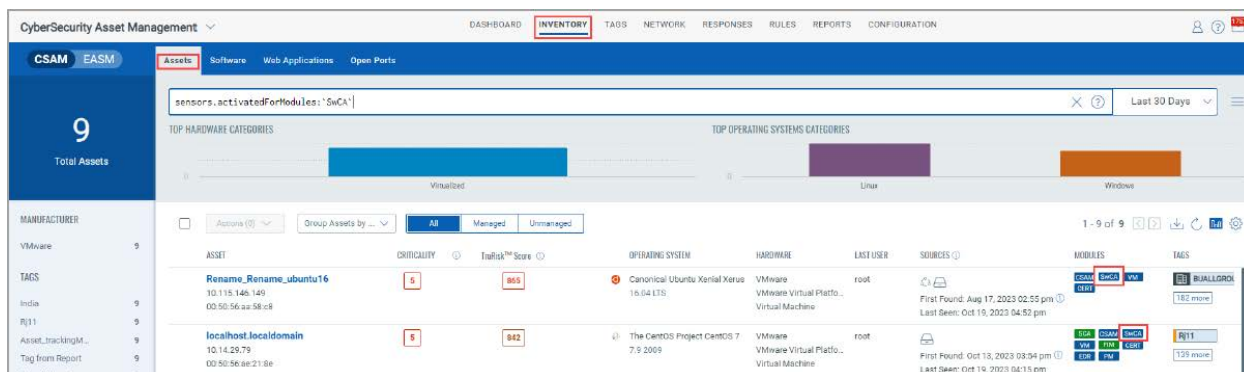
3. Click **Confirm** to replace the default SwCA configuration profile assigned to the host asset.



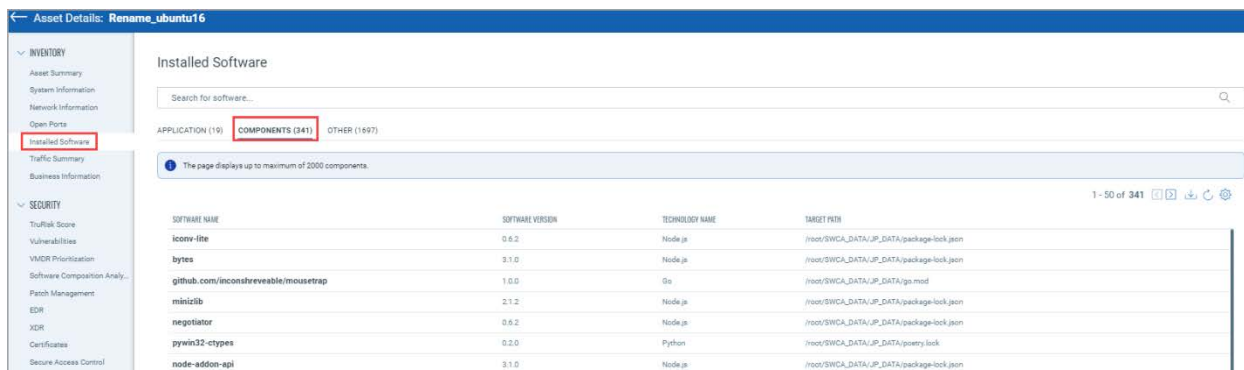
The selected SwCA configuration profile is assigned to the selected host asset.

SwCA Scan Data in CyberSecurity Asset Management

You can view the assets on which the SwCA feature is activated in the **Assets** tab with the SwCA tag added.



For the assets on which SwCA is activated, you can see the SwCA data from the Asset Details page. From the **Installed Software** tab, you can see the Components details.



From the **Software Component Analysis** tab, you can see the Software Components and Vulnerabilities identified.

Asset Details: Rename_ubuntu16

INVENTORY

Asset Summary

System Information

Network Information

Open Ports

Installed Software

Traffic Summary

Business Information

SECURITY

TruRisk Score

Vulnerabilities

VMDR Prioritization

Software Composition Analysis

Patch Management

EDR

XDR

Certificates

Secure Access Control

COMPLIANCE

File Integrity Monitoring

SOURCES

Summary

Software Composition Analysis (SCA)

VULNERABILITIES (84)

SOFTWARE COMPONENTS (341)

Search...

The page displays up to maximum of 2000 components.

1 - 50 of 341

SOFTWARE NAME	SOFTWARE VERSION	TECHNOLOGY NAME	TARGET PATH
iconv-lite	0.6.2	Node.js	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/package-lock.json
bytes	3.1.0	Node.js	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/package-lock.json
github.com/inconshreveable/mousetrap	1.0.0	Go	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/go.mod
minizlib	2.1.2	Node.js	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/package-lock.json
negotiator	0.6.2	Node.js	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/package-lock.json
pywin32-ctypes	0.2.0	Python	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/poetry.lock
node-addon-api	3.1.0	Node.js	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/package-lock.json
postgres-date	1.0.7	Node.js	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/package-lock.json
pycparser	2.20	Python	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/poetry.lock
six	1.16.0	Python	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/poetry.lock
osops.in/airbrake/gobrake.v2	2.0.9	Go	/root/.SWCA_DATA/JP_DATA/go.mod

Asset Details: Rename_ubuntu16

INVENTORY

Asset Summary

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EDR

XDR

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Secure Access Control

COMPLIANCE

File Integrity Monitoring

Software Composition Analysis (SCA)

VULNERABILITIES (84)

SOFTWARE COMPONENTS (341)

Search...

1 - 50 of 84

QID	TITLE	DETECTED DATE	QDS	SEVERITY
980324	Python (pip) Security Update for urllib3 (GHSA-wqq-5m8c-6g24) <i>Active</i>	Tuesday, 12 Sep 2023 11:58:21 AM	30	High
991047	NodeJs (Npm) Security Update for jsonwebtoken (GHSA-hjrf-2m68-5959) <i>Active</i>	Tuesday, 12 Sep 2023 11:58:21 AM	30	High
981109	DotNet (Nuget) Security Update for elFinder.NetCore (GHSA-wmpm-1q7r-jq56) <i>Active</i>	Tuesday, 12 Sep 2023 11:58:21 AM	71	High
981247	Python (pip) Security Update for simiki (GHSA-1qr5-qghf-vfr8) <i>Active</i>	Tuesday, 12 Sep 2023 11:58:21 AM	36	High
982959	Nodejs (npm) Security Update for total.js (GHSA-6cf8-qhqi-vjqm) <i>Active</i>	Tuesday, 12 Sep 2023 11:58:21 AM	42	High
990886	NodeJs (Npm) Security Update for moment (GHSA-wc69-rhjr-hc9g) <i>Active</i>	Tuesday, 12 Sep 2023 11:58:21 AM	42	High
982286	Node.js (Npm) Security Update for @casualjs/core (GHSA-f588-mfou-omfv) <i>Active</i>	Tuesday, 12 Sep 2023 11:58:21 AM	42	High