

OWASP Top 10 Risks for Low-Code/No- Code

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Zenity

github.com/mbrg/talks

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About me

- CTO and co-founder @ Zenity
- Ex MSFT cloud security
- OWASP '*Top 10 LCNC Security Risks*' project lead
- Dark Reading columnist



@mbrg0



bit.ly/lcsec

Outline

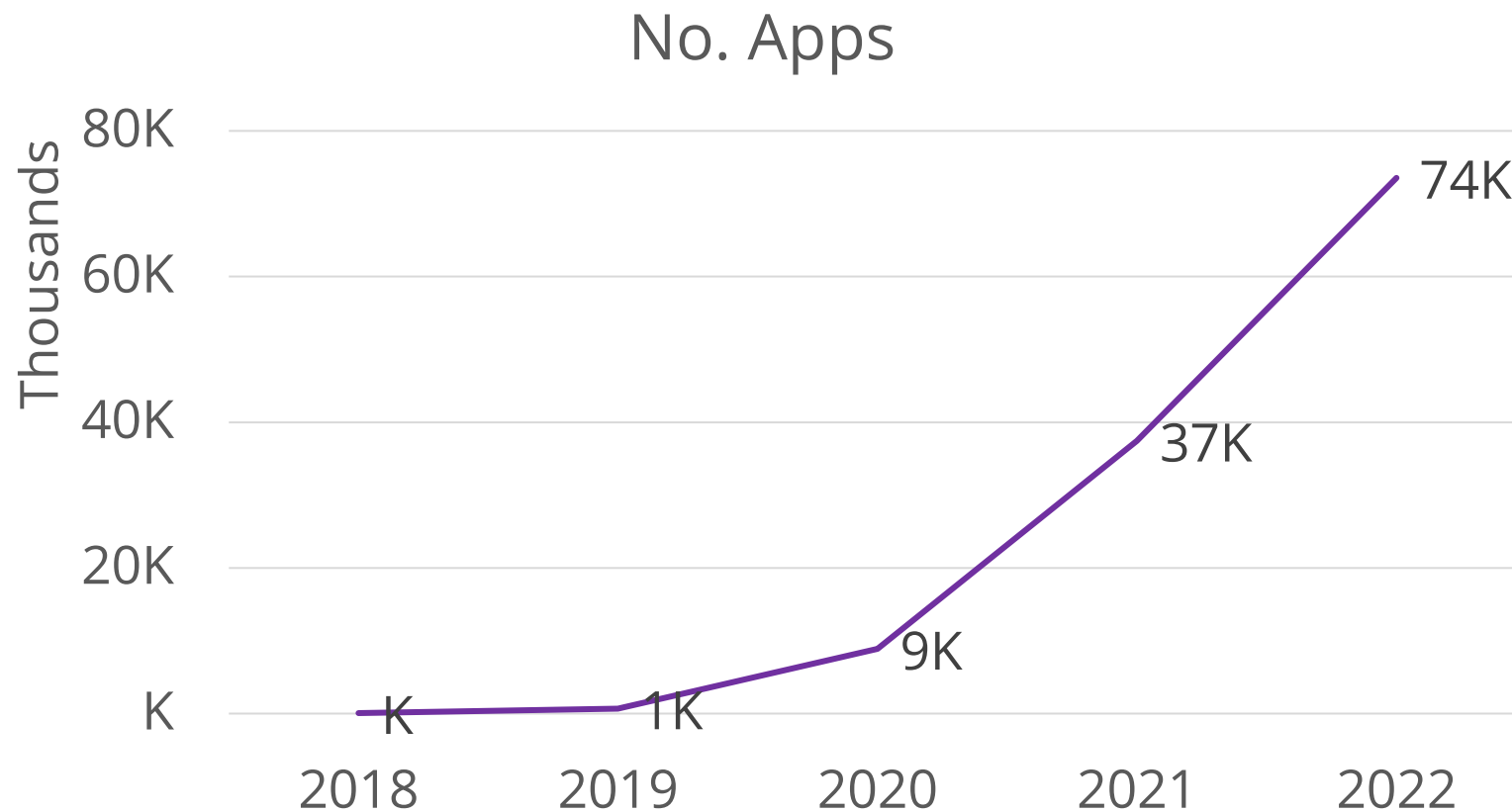
- How pervasive is it?
- Low Code / No Code growth and evolution
- The “hit-save” SDLC
- OWASP Top 10 LCNC Security Risks
- Learn more



**Business-Led Development
is Here**

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Exponential Growth in Business Development



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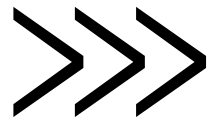


The Low-Code/No-Code Evolution

How did we get here?

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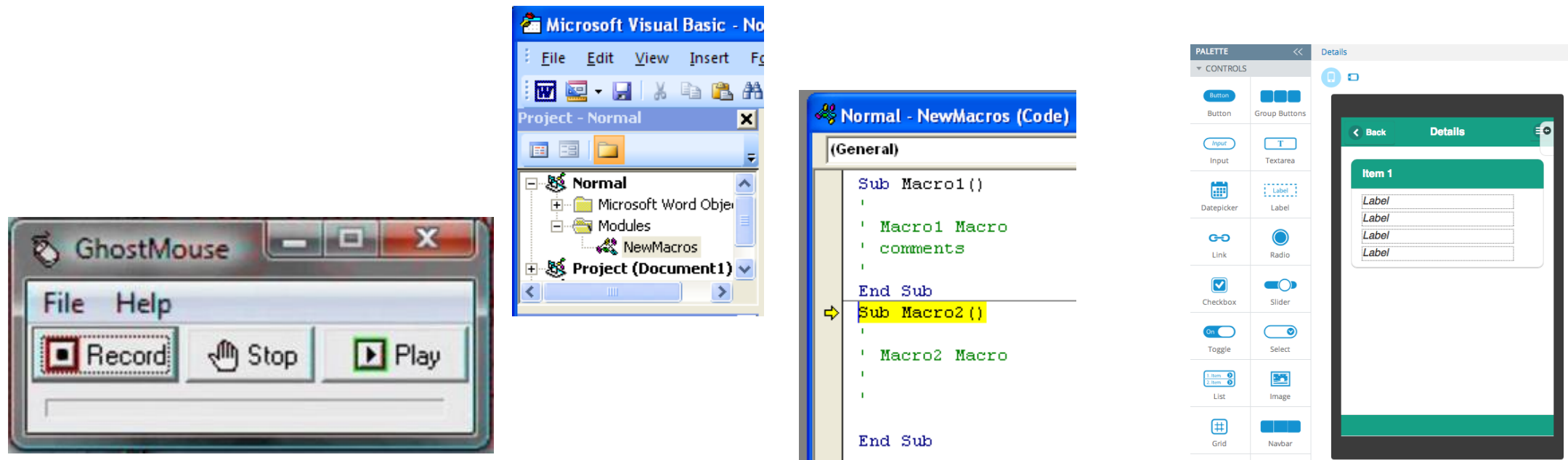
Business Needs



IT Capacity



If it sounds familiar, its because it is



Tech evolution

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Build everything

- If this than that automation
- Integrations
- Business apps
- Whole products
- Mobile apps

The screenshot displays the Zapier workflow editor. On the left is an 'Insert' menu with categories like Popular, Input, Display, Layout, Media, Icons, Shapes, Charts, AI Builder, and Mixed Reality. The main workspace shows a trigger step: '1. New Mention in Slack'. Below it, the 'Choose account' section lists two Slack accounts: 'Slack @michaelbargury (pwntoso)' and 'Slack @michaelbargury (CTOs)'. A '+ Connect a new account' button is visible at the bottom of the account selection area.

This screenshot shows a completed Zapier workflow. The first step is a trigger: 'When a new email arrives' with a 'Show raw outputs' link. The output fields show 'From: michaelbargury@zenity.io' and 'Subject: Fwd: Remote desktop links'. The second step is an action: 'Apply to each attachment' with a 'Show raw inputs' link. Below it is the 'Upload to Google Drive' action, with input fields for 'Folder path: /Attachments' and 'File name: hi.rdp'. The workflow is titled 'Save Gmail attachments to your Google Drive' and shows it ran at 6/25/2022 2:11:21 PM.

Available in every major enterprise



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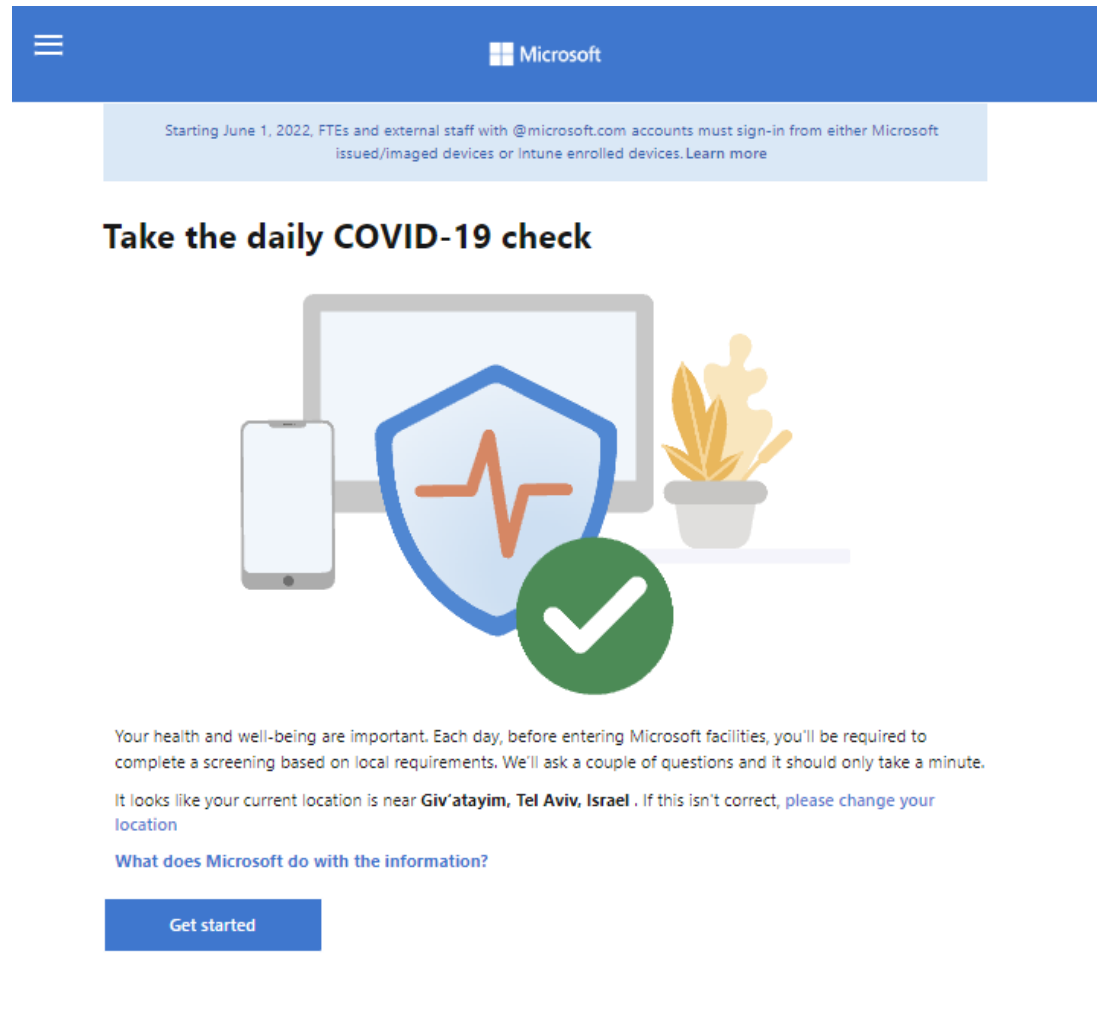
Build Business Apps Faster

How low code / no code accelerates development:

- Ease of use lowers barrier to entry
- Off-the-shelf integrated components
- Key app features are baked-in (AuthN, AuthZ, ..)
- Connectors to on-prem, cloud and SaaS
- “Save” to deploy
- No infra to maintain

COVID health check app by Microsoft

<https://aka.ms/healthcheck>



The screenshot shows the Microsoft COVID-19 health check app interface. At the top is a blue header with a hamburger menu icon on the left and the Microsoft logo on the right. Below the header is a light blue banner with the text: "Starting June 1, 2022, FTEs and external staff with @microsoft.com accounts must sign-in from either Microsoft issued/imaged devices or Intune enrolled devices. Learn more". The main heading is "Take the daily COVID-19 check". Below this is an illustration featuring a laptop, a smartphone, a shield with a red heartbeat line, and a green checkmark in a circle. To the right of the shield is a potted plant. Below the illustration, the text reads: "Your health and well-being are important. Each day, before entering Microsoft facilities, you'll be required to complete a screening based on local requirements. We'll ask a couple of questions and it should only take a minute. It looks like your current location is near **Giv'atayim, Tel Aviv, Israel**. If this isn't correct, [please change your location](#)". Below this is the question "What does Microsoft do with the information?" and a blue "Get started" button.

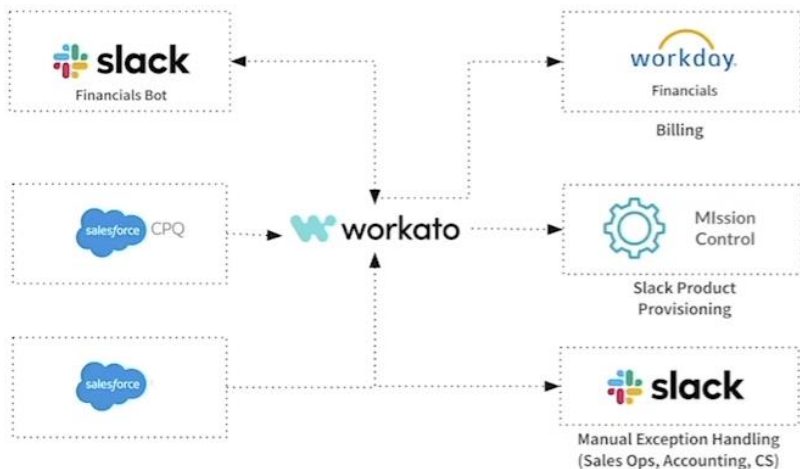
For issues or concerns contact IT Global Helpdesk globalhd@microsoft.com

[Microsoft Data Privacy Notice](#) [Identity Terms of Use](#) [Feedback](#)

© 2021 Microsoft



Automating order to cash fulfillment



💰 90% no touch orders

💰 95% orders processed in less than 5 minutes

❤️ Delightful experience from Sales Opportunity to Product Fulfillment

“Choose tools that make developing and managing Integrations a joy.”

Monica Wilkinson
Lead Architect

Order-to-cash automation by Slack

Business users become business developers



"... A Business Operations program manager, and her team, were searching for a way to optimize the launch process for the 150 employees who ran product launches across the company.

... Within months, the app would become a widely used internal tool"

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A Humble Beginning - Low Code as Extensibility

“With Dynamics, ..., we also launched this very powerful platform, the Power Platform -- ... which acts as the extensibility framework for Microsoft Graph, extensibility framework for Dynamics, as well as Microsoft 365, and embeddable by every SaaS ISV.”

Satya Nadella, Microsoft Build 2018

Shift to Empowerment of Business Users

“Anyone can be a developer, completely transforming how your business operates”

“... we need to empower citizen developers with tools that are low-code/no-code tools so that they can build out these applications In fact, there are already 2.5 million citizen developers using Power Platform ...”

“Once Excel was introduced, a lot of people were able to build spreadsheets and become numerical and analytical ... think about all the white-collar-ish jobs that were created ... we want the same thing to happen with low-code/no-code.”

Satya Nadella, Microsoft Ignite 2019

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Business Users are Leading The Way

“By 2025, 70% of new applications deployed for the enterprise will use low-code or no-code tools, up from less than 25% in 2020.”

“With Power Platform, we have the leading business process automation and productivity suite for domain experts in every industry, with 20 million monthly active users.”

Satya Nadella, Microsoft Inspire 2022

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youtu.be/5naPxs0fEjc

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The Race for a New Excel

Big vendors have a strong incentive to empower business users



Companies are lacking IT resources and need a solution for accelerated development



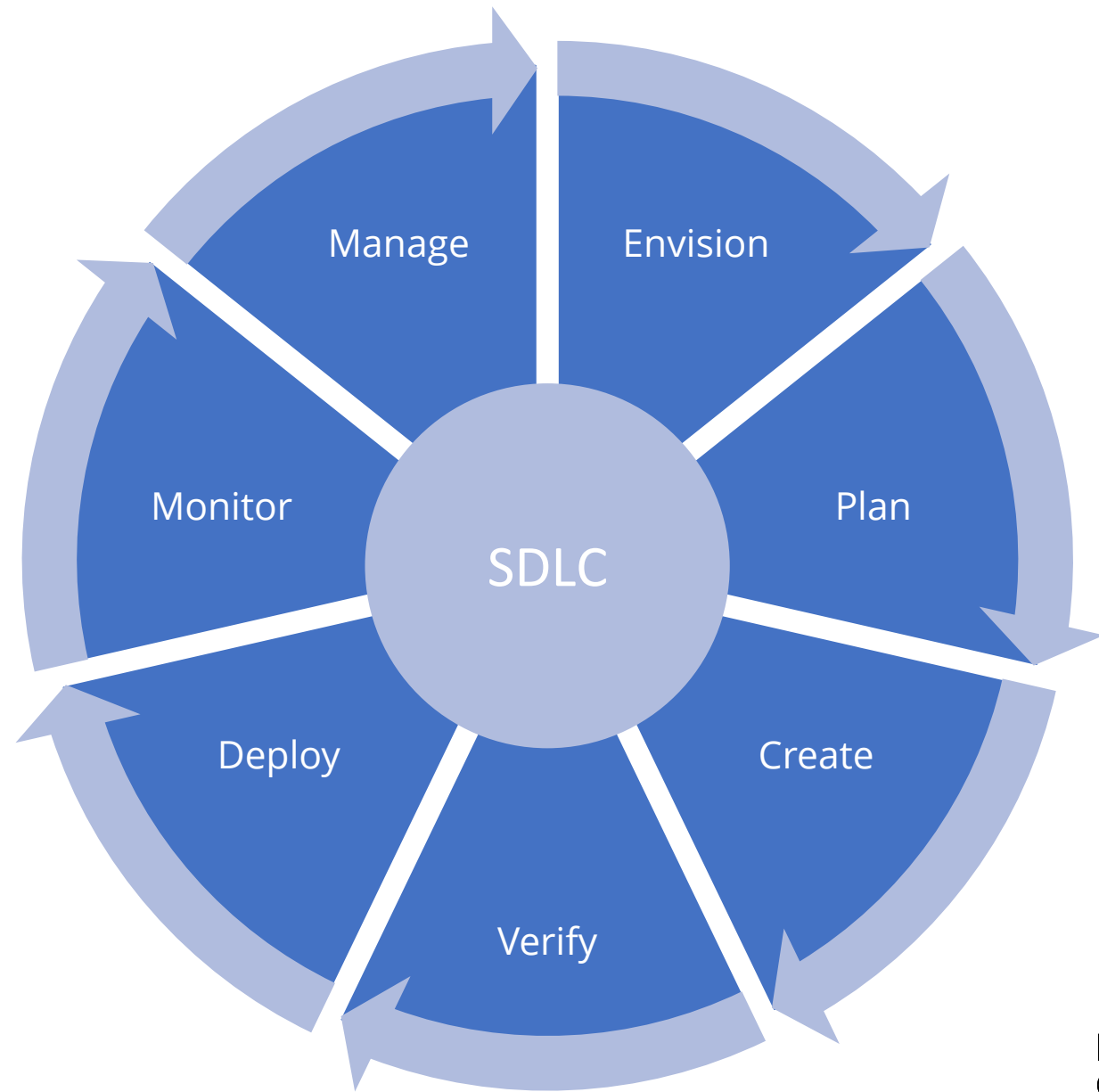
The tech is already there – business users are actually using it



No Code No SDLC?

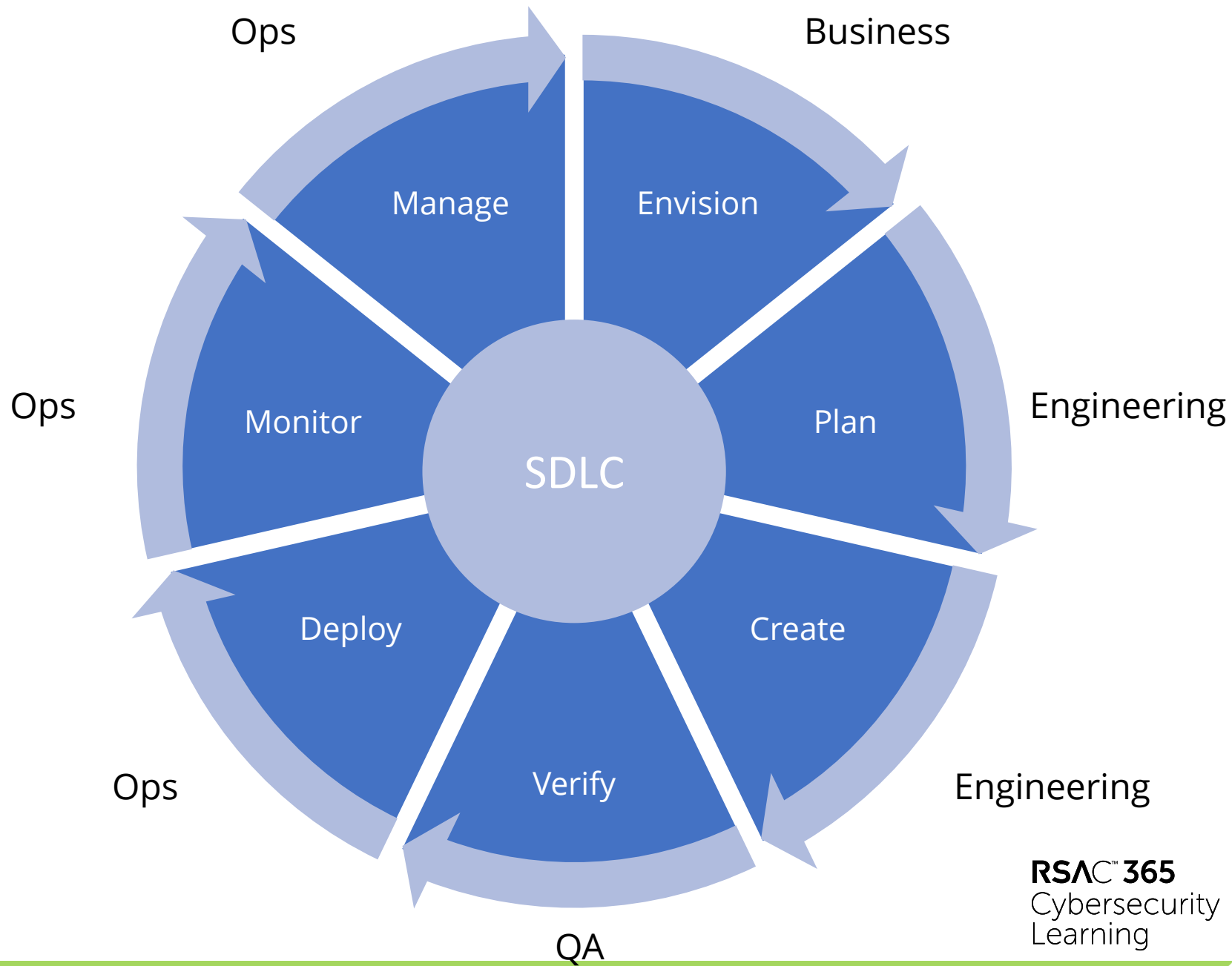
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Software Development Lifecycle



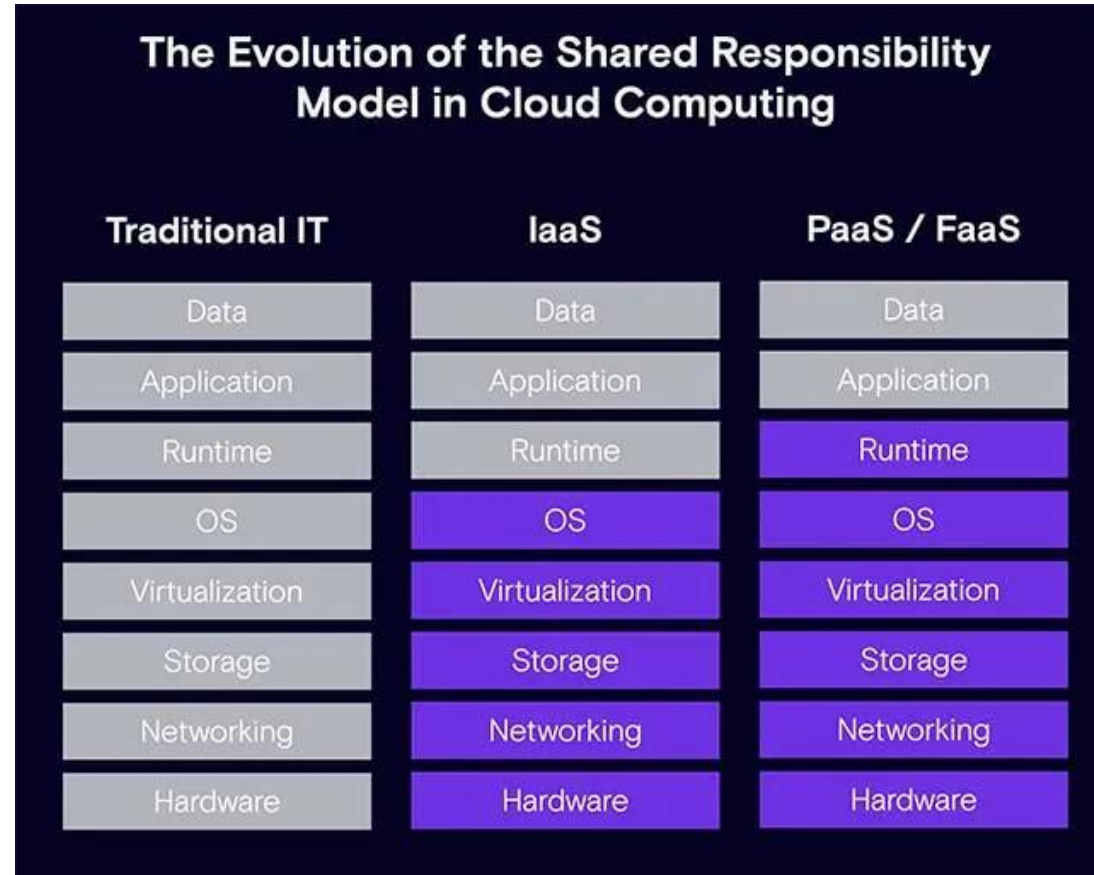
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Software Development Lifecycle



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The Shared Responsibility Model





The OWASP Top 10 Risks for Low-Code/No-Code

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OWASP
low-code/no-code

Top 10 Security Risks

<https://owasp.org/www-project-top-10-low-code-no-code-security-risks>

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OWASP Top 10 Security Risks for LCNC

1. [LCNC-SEC-01: Account Impersonation](#)
2. [LCNC-SEC-02: Authorization Misuse](#)
3. [LCNC-SEC-03: Data Leakage and Unexpected Consequences](#)
4. [LCNC-SEC-04: Authentication and Secure Communication Failures](#)
5. [LCNC-SEC-05: Security Misconfiguration](#)
6. [LCNC-SEC-06: Injection Handling Failures](#)
7. [LCNC-SEC-07: Vulnerable, Unmanaged and Untrusted Components](#)
8. [LCNC-SEC-08: Data and Secret Handling Failures](#)
9. [LCNC-SEC-09: Asset Management Failures](#)
10. [LCNC-SEC-10: Security Logging and Monitoring Failures](#)



<https://owasp.org/www-project-top-10-low-code-no-code-security-risks>

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LCNC-SEC-01: Account Impersonation

Low-code/no-code applications can be embedded with user identities which are used implicitly by any application user. This creates a direct path towards Privilege Escalation, allows an attacker to hide behind another user's identity, and circumvents traditional security controls.

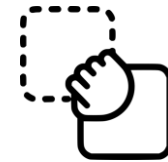
Better Customer Care - The Problem

The Customer Care team at a large eCommerce company wanted to improve customer service.

Goal: improve customer service

Method: build an app that lets relevant company employees view customer support history and latest purchases

Challenge: employees don't have permissions to the customer database

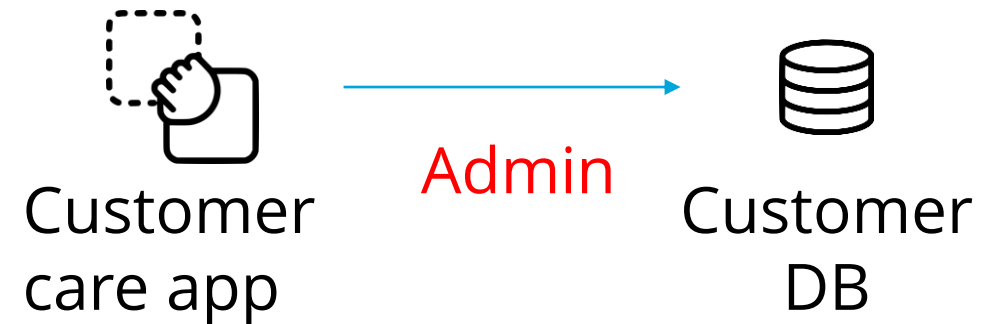


Customer
care app

Better Customer Care - The Solution

Impact:

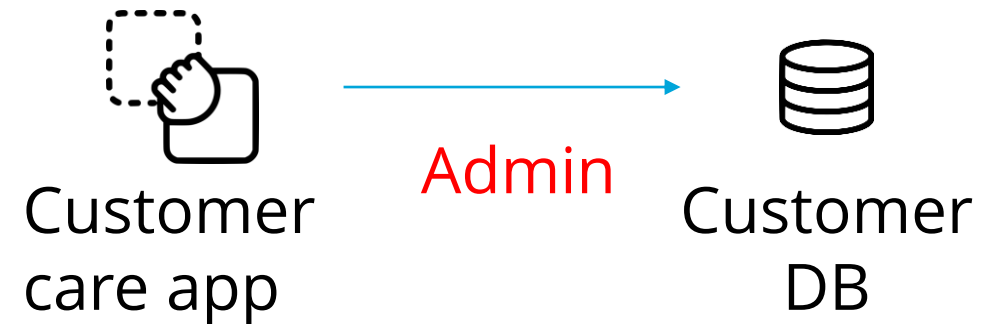
- ✓ Employees are happy
- ✓ Customers are happy
- ✓ Customer Care team is happy



Better Customer Care - The Solution

Impact:

- ✓ Employees are happy
- ✓ Customers are happy
- ✓ Customer Care team is happy



- ✓ SOC team panics

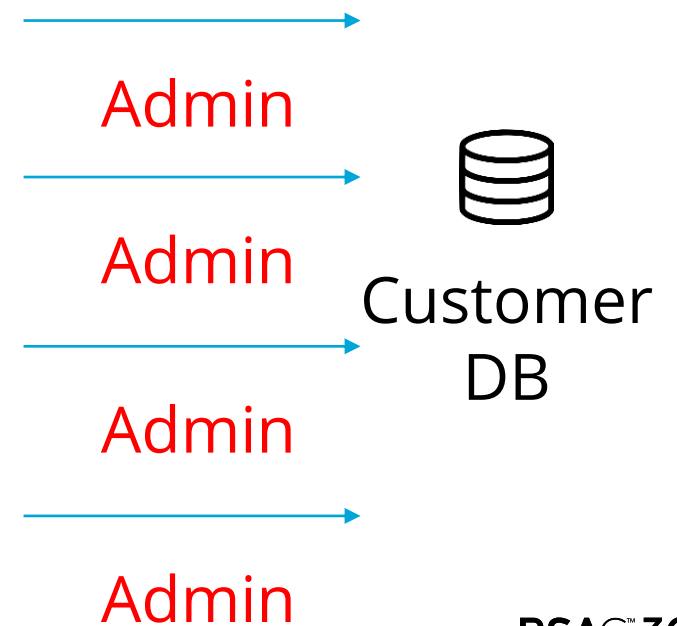
Meanwhile, At the SOC

Abnormal activity detected:

Customer DB is being scraped?

- Lots of queries
- Multiple IPs and hosts
- Spread across time

An investigation shows that all connections use single account. Was it compromised?



Better Customer Care - Summary



LCNC-SEC-02: Authorization Misuse

Service connections are first class objects in most low-code/no-code platforms. This means they can be shared between applications, with other users or with entire organizations.

Credential Sharing as a Service

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Power Automate interface. On the left is a navigation pane with options like Home, Action items, My flows, Create, Templates, Connectors, Data, Monitor, AI Builder, Process advisor, Solutions, and Learn. The main area is titled 'Connections in Zenity Stage (default)' and contains a table of connections:

Name	Modified
ConnectionToFadIStorageAccount Azure Blob Storage	10 mo ago
SQL Server	8 mo ago
stage.com Azure Blob Storage	11 mo ago
stage.com Microsoft Dataverse	
Connective eSignatures Connective eSignatures (preview)	
Connective eSignatures Connective eSignatures (preview)	
23 DB2	
File System File System	
Notifications Notifications	
Vendor Server FTP	
FTP FTP	
ba2g@gmail.com Gmail	1 wk ago

Below the table is a 'zapier' logo and an 'Apps' section with 'My apps' and 'Shared with me' filters. A 'Gmail' app card shows 2 connections and 5 zaps, and a 'Google Sheets' card shows 1 connection and 2 zaps.

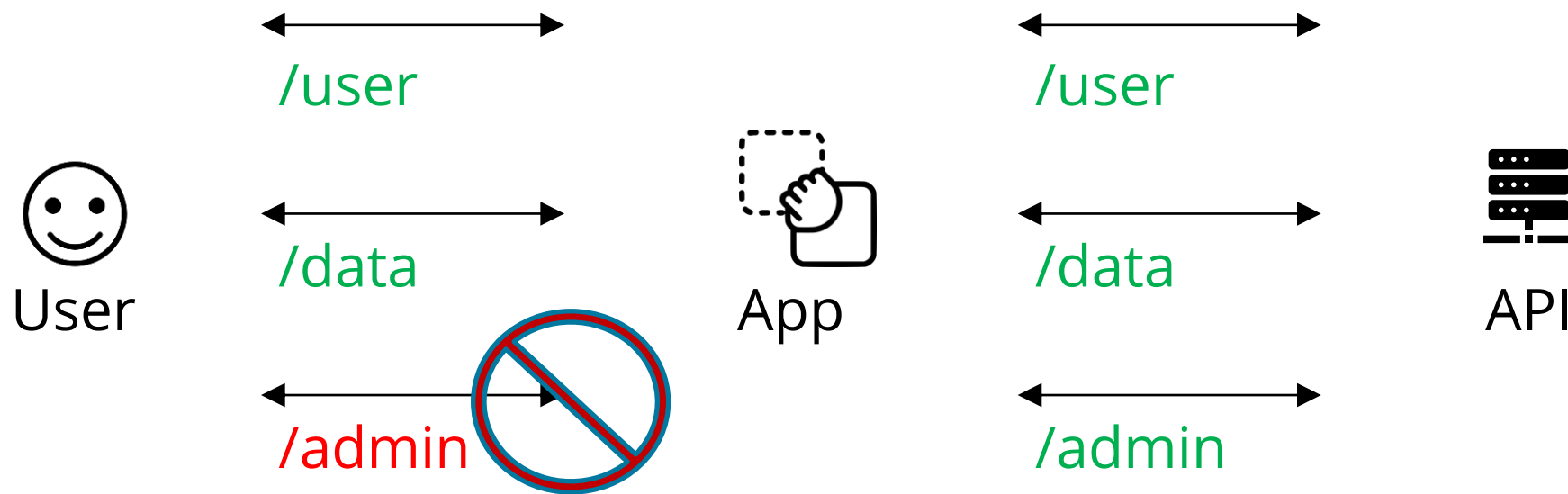
On the right, the 'Assets' section shows a list of connected assets:

Asset Name	Status	Last Modified	Recipes
Management	Connected	May 22 at 1:47 am	4
dev_HTTP account	Connected	Feb 6 at 1:21 am	0
dev_HTTP account	Connected	Feb 6 at 1:21 am	0
dev_twitter	Connected	Feb 10 at 1:40 am	1
FTP at test.rebex.net	Connected	Apr 9, 2021, at 7:05 am	932
@gmail.com gmail	Connected	Apr 9, 2021, at 5:05 am	1

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App Reader <> API Admin

Authorization as front-end logic



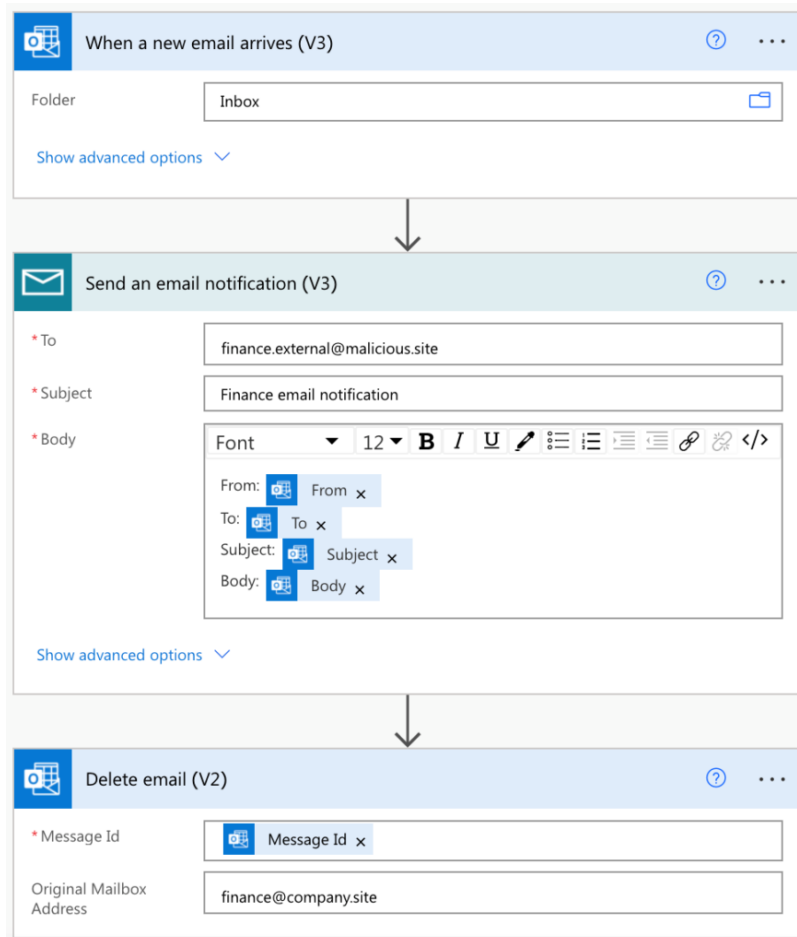
Unauthorized

200

LCNC-SEC-03: Data Leakage and Unexpected Consequences

Low-code/no-code applications often sync data or trigger operations across multiple systems, which creates a path for data to find its way outside the organizational boundary. This means that operations in one system can have unexpected consequences in another.

LCNC-SEC-03: Data Leakage and Unexpected Consequences

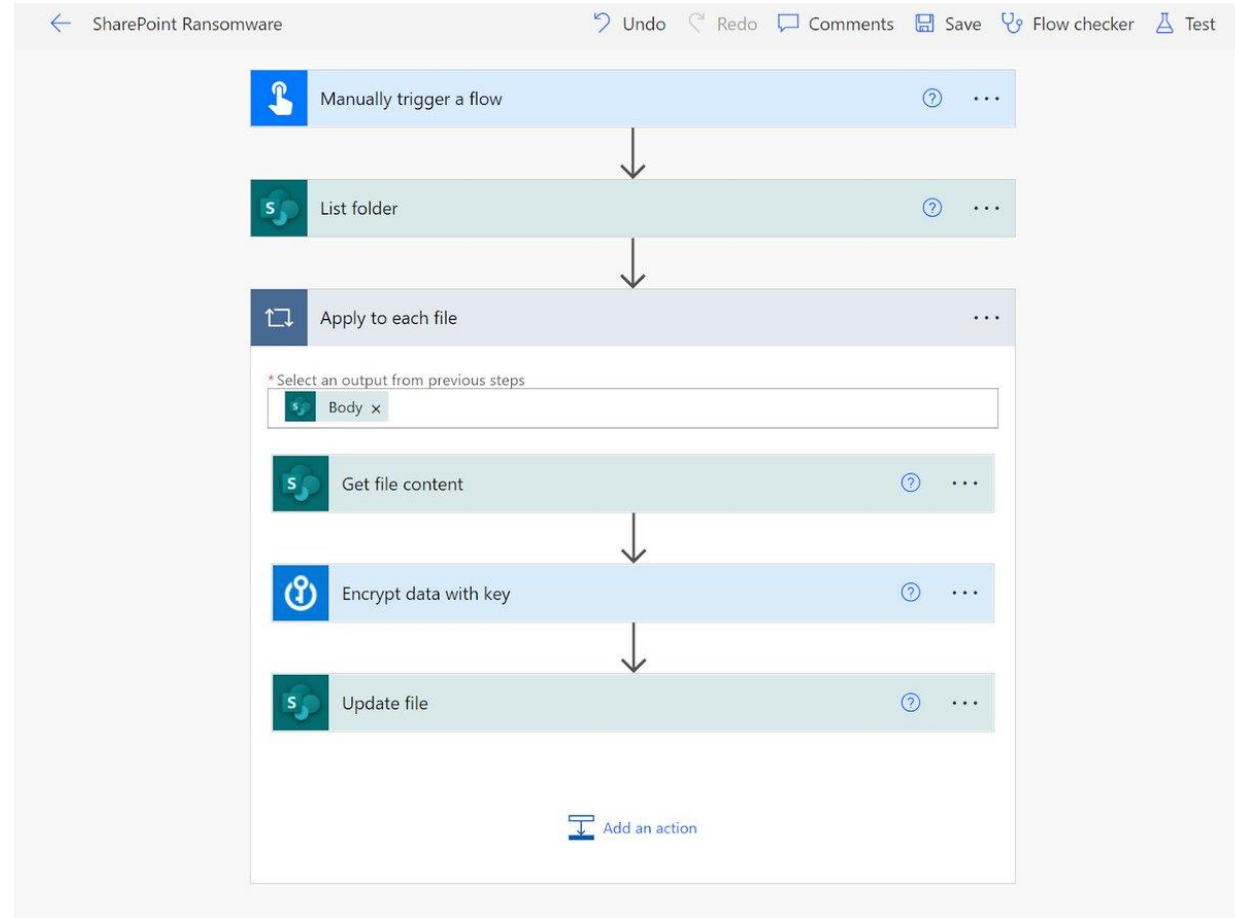


Data is being copied between two separate services using two separate identities – existing defense mechanisms fail

LCNC-SEC-03: Data Leakage and Unexpected Consequences

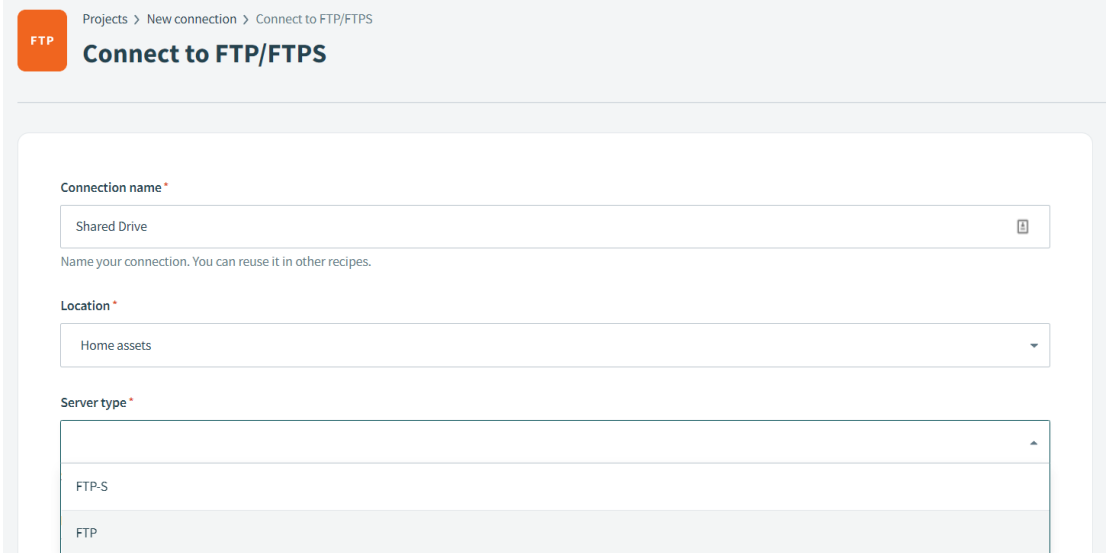
If <file found>

Then <encrypt file>



LCNC-SEC-04: Authentication and Secure Communication Failures

Low-code/no-code applications typically connect to business-critical data via connections set up by business users, which can often result in insecure communication.



The screenshot shows a web interface for configuring an FTP connection. The breadcrumb trail is 'Projects > New connection > Connect to FTP/FTPS'. The main heading is 'Connect to FTP/FTPS'. The form contains three fields: 'Connection name' with the value 'Shared Drive', 'Location' with the value 'Home assets', and 'Server type' with a dropdown menu showing 'FTP-S' and 'FTP'.

Projects > New connection > Connect to FTP/FTPS

FTP Connect to FTP/FTPS

Connection name *

Shared Drive

Name your connection. You can reuse it in other recipes.

Location *

Home assets

Server type *

FTP-S

FTP

LCNC-SEC-05: Security Misconfiguration

Misconfigurations can often result in anonymous user access to sensitive data or operations, unprotected public endpoints, unprotected secrets and oversharing.

LCNC-SEC-05: Security Misconfiguration



By Design: How Default Permissions on Microsoft Power Apps Exposed Millions



UpGuard Team

Published Aug 23, 2021

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Anonymous API Access

“An open protocol to allow the creation and consumption of queryable and interoperable RESTful APIs in a simple and standard way.”

Power portals can be configured to provide access to SQL tables through ODATA using a specific URL:

portal.powerappsportals.com/_odata

Anonymous API Access

Power portals can be configured to provide access to SQL tables through ODATA using a specific URL:

portal.powerappsportals.com/_odata

```
▼<service xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2007/app" xmlns:atom="http://www.w3.org/2005/Atom" xml:base=  
  ▼<workspace>  
    <atom:title type="text">Default</atom:title>  
    ▼<collection href="EntityFormSet">  
      <atom:title type="text">EntityFormSet</atom:title>  
    </collection>  
    ▼<collection href="globalvariables">  
      <atom:title type="text">globalvariables</atom:title>  
    </collection>  
  </workspace>  
</service>
```

zenity.io/blog/the-microsoft-power-apps-portal-data-leak-revisited-are-you-safe-now/

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Nothing to see here

/_odata/globalvariables:

```
"scs_globalvariablesid":"24[REDACTED]","scs_name":"Documents  
API Auth Token","scs_values":"Bearer  
eyJ0eXAi[REDACTED]
```

```
[REDACTED]
```

```
[REDACTED]","scs_purpose":"This variable stores OAuth Token to access Azure  
API.,"createdon":"20[REDACTED]T18:03:39Z","list-id":"68[REDACTED]ba",  
"view-id":"bc9c3[REDACTED]b9c","entity-permissions-enabled":"true"
```

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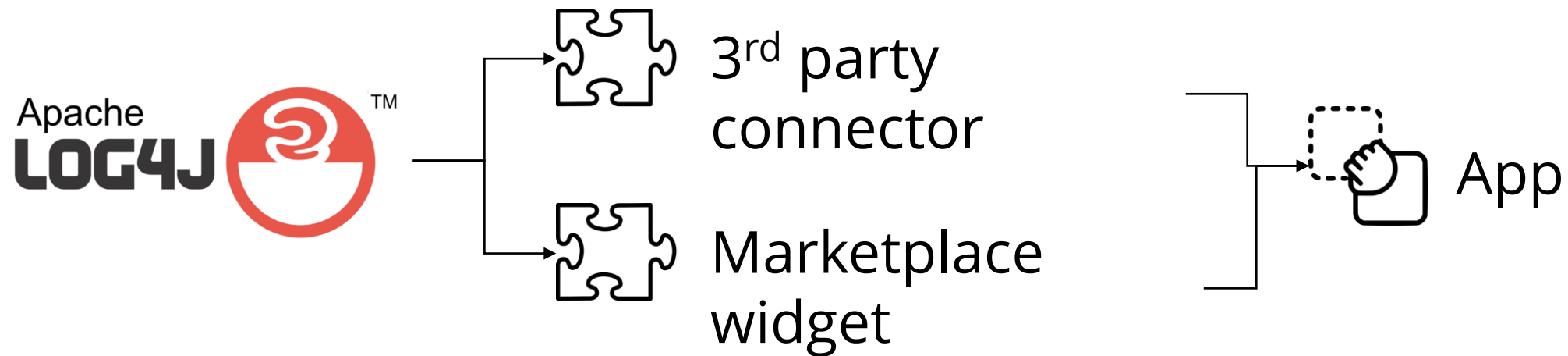
LCNC-SEC-06: Injection Handling Failures

Low-code/no-code applications ingest user provided data in multiple ways, including direct input or retrieving user provided content from various services. Such data can contain malicious payloads that may introduce risk to the application.



LCNC-SEC-07: Vulnerable, Unmanaged and Untrusted Components

Low-code/no-code applications rely heavily on ready-made components out of the marketplace, the web or custom connectors built by developers. These components are often unmanaged, lack visibility and expose applications to supply chain-based risks.



LCNC-SEC-08: Data and Secret Handling Failures

Low-code/no-code applications often store data or secrets as part of their "code" or on managed databases offered by the platform, which needs to be properly stored in compliance with regulation and security requirements.

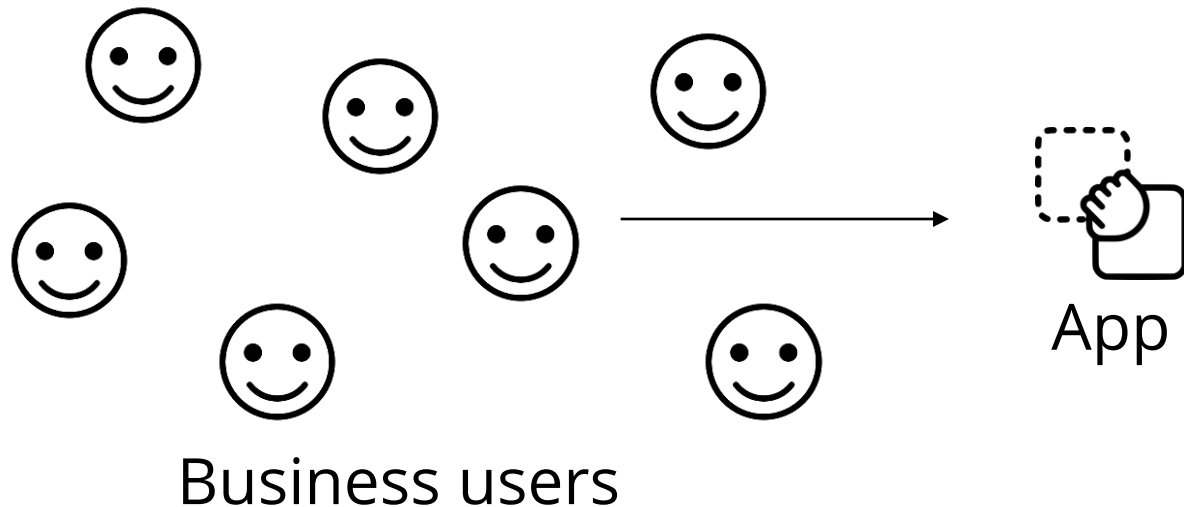


Give-Aware Campaign

- HR team at a large IT company kicked off a Giveaway campaign
- App let's you choose your donation, charity and plug in your credit card
- Cards are stored in plaintext on an environment available to everyone, including tenant guests
- Compliance audit

LCNC-SEC-09: Asset Management Failures

Low-code/no-code applications are easy to create and have relatively low maintenance costs, which makes them prone to abandonment, while still remaining active. Furthermore, internal applications can gain popularity rapidly, without addressing business continuity concerns.



IT is unaware

LCNC-SEC-10: Security Logging and Monitoring Failures

Low-code/no-code applications often lack a comprehensive audit trail, produce none or insufficient logs, and fail to scrub sensitive data from logs.

The screenshot displays a low-code application interface. On the left, a workflow is configured with a trigger 'When a new email arrives' (0s) and an action 'Send email'. The 'INPUTS' section shows 'Label' set to 'INBOX'. The 'OUTPUTS' section shows an email being sent from 'admin@zentoso.com' to 'kris@zenitystage.com' with the subject 'Password reset instructions'. The email body contains HTML code for a password reset instruction, including a title and a snippet: 'You recently requested to reset the password for your Zentoso account'. On the right, a '28-day run history' table shows the execution of this workflow over time, with all runs succeeding.

Start	Duration	Status
Jun 11, 12:26 PM (2 d ago)	28 ms	Succeeded
Jun 8, 05:13 PM (4 d ago)	31 ms	Succeeded
Jun 6, 10:31 AM (1 wk ago)	46 ms	Succeeded
Jun 2, 06:15 PM (1 wk ago)	45 ms	Succeeded
May 30, 10:58 AM (2 wk ago)	50 ms	Succeeded
May 28, 03:07 PM (2 wk ago)	59 ms	Succeeded
May 28, 03:06 PM (2 wk ago)	17 ms	Succeeded
May 27, 10:16 AM (2 wk ago)	41 ms	Succeeded
May 27, 01:01 AM (2 wk ago)	11 ms	Succeeded
May 26, 06:24 PM (2 wk ago)	35 ms	Succeeded

Learning 



Summary

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What have we seen

Low Code / No Code is growing rapidly

- **Probably already in your org**
- **Shift focus to business users**

Missing SDLC

- **OWASP Top 10 LCNC Security Risks**
 - **Get involved**
 - **Learn more**

Opportunities - Champion Low Code / No Code AppSec in your org

- Create a Low Code / No Code Security Framework
- No Code SDLC
- Approved user cases
- Guide business users
- Join OWASP Top 10 LCNC Security Risks
- Reach out to be @mbrg0

OWASP Top 10 Risks for Low-Code/No- Code

Michael Bargury (@mbrg0)
Zenity

github.com/mbrg/talks

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