

VerDiff : Vulnerability Presence Verification for Comprehensive Reporting Using Constraint Programming

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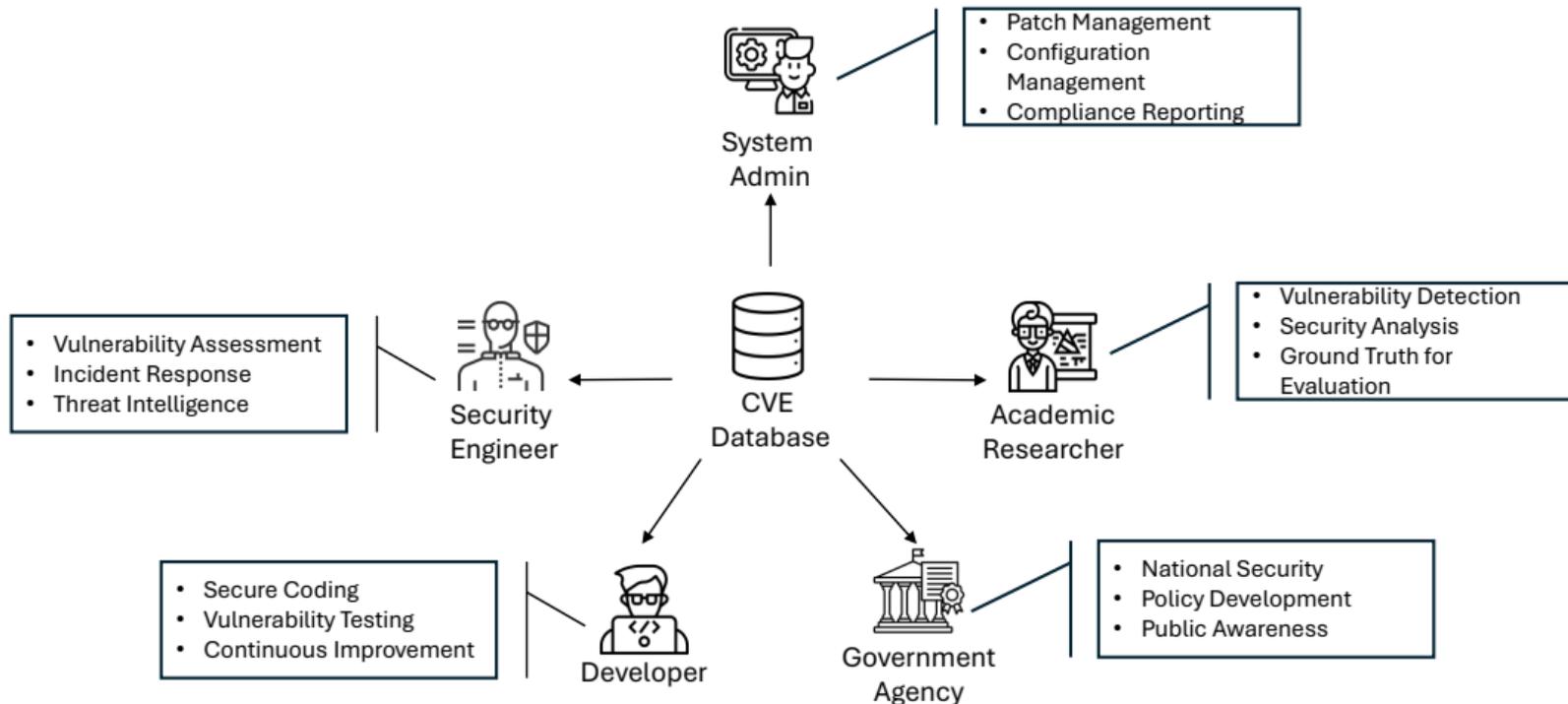
December 10, ACSAC 2025



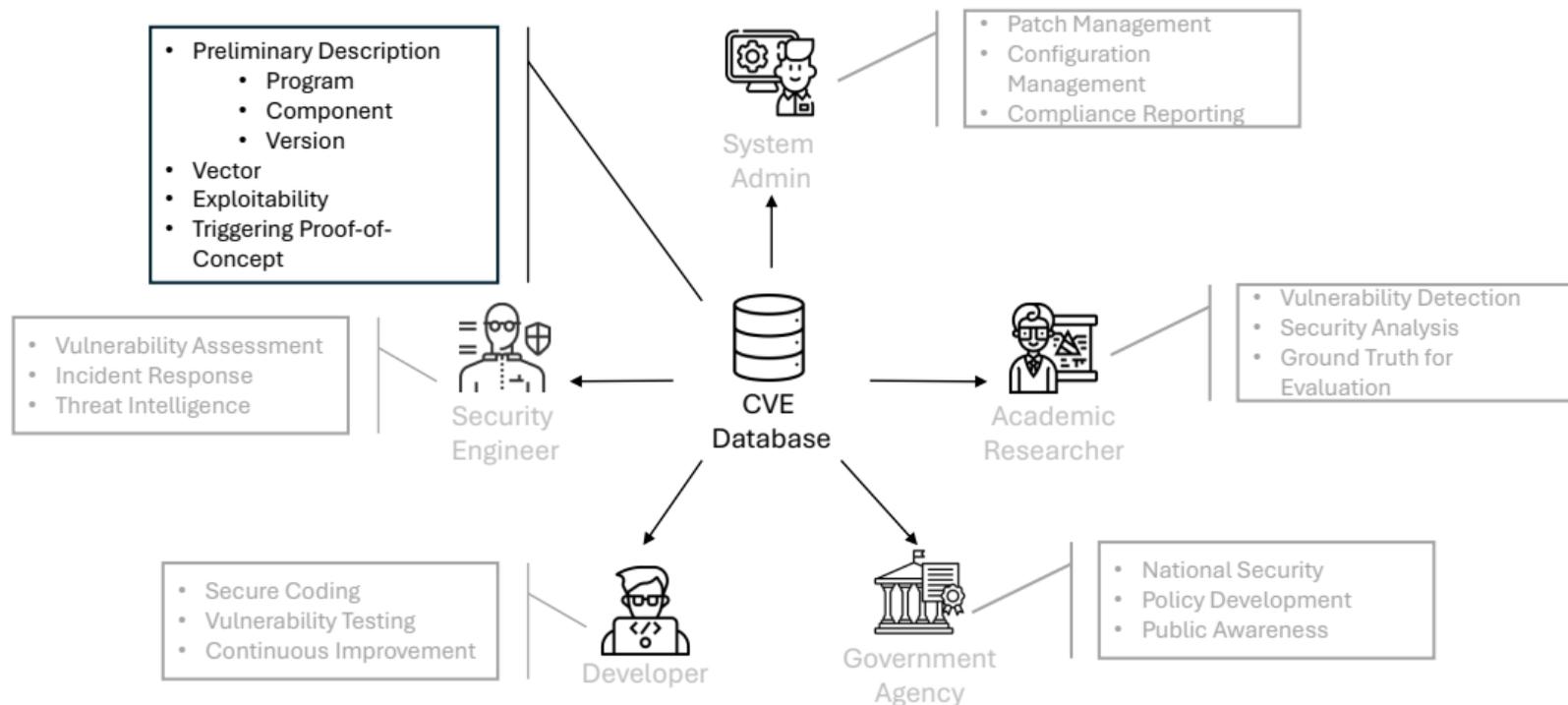
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UNIVERSITY

Introduction

CVEs as Central Source of Information



CVEs as Central Source of Information

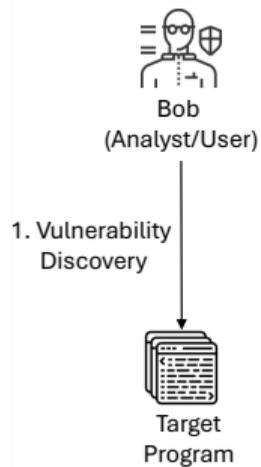


Vulnerability Discovery & Reporting

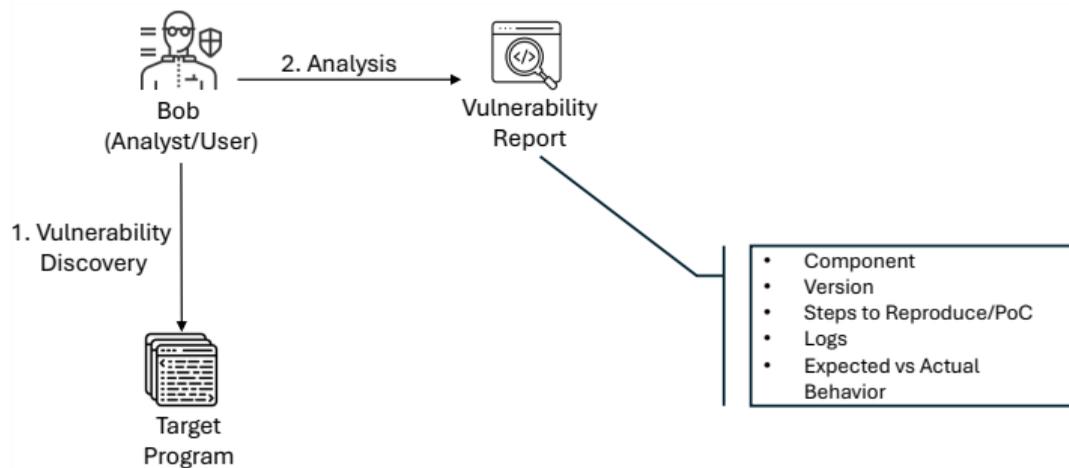


Bob
(Analyst/User)

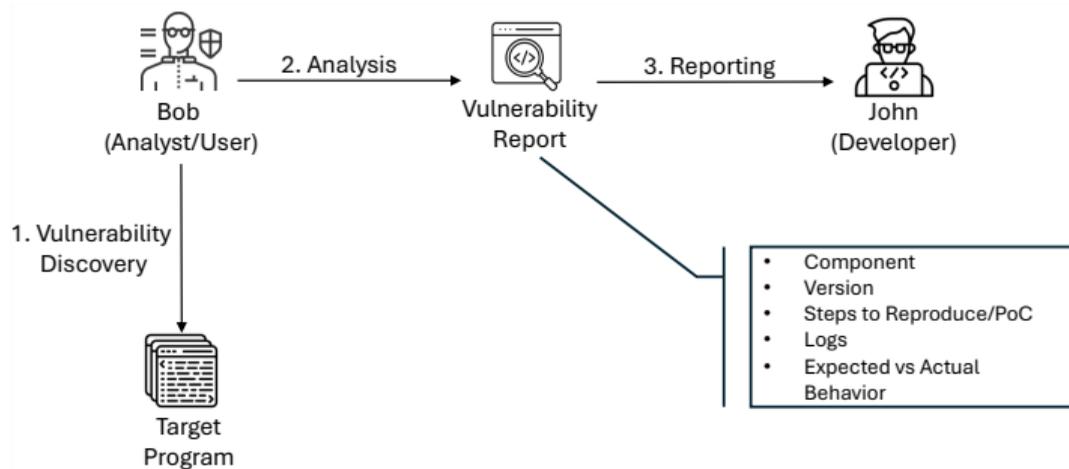
Vulnerability Discovery & Reporting



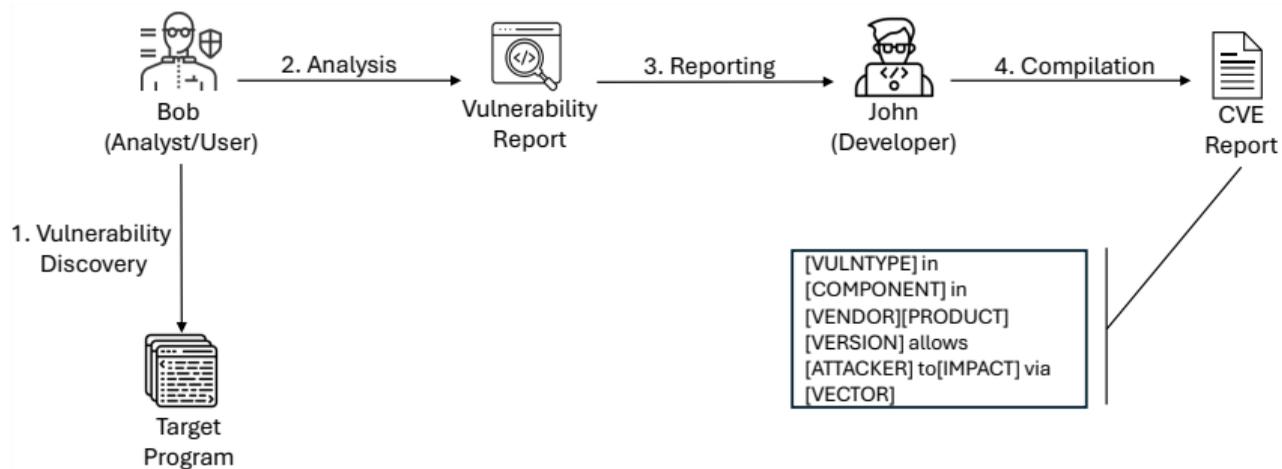
Vulnerability Discovery & Reporting



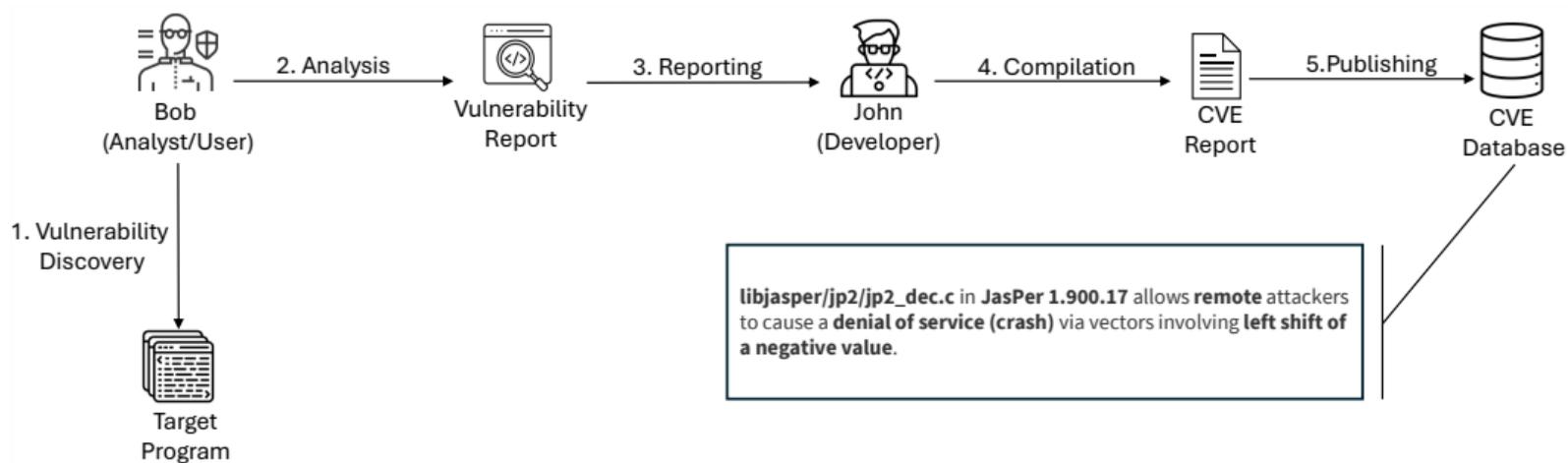
Vulnerability Discovery & Reporting



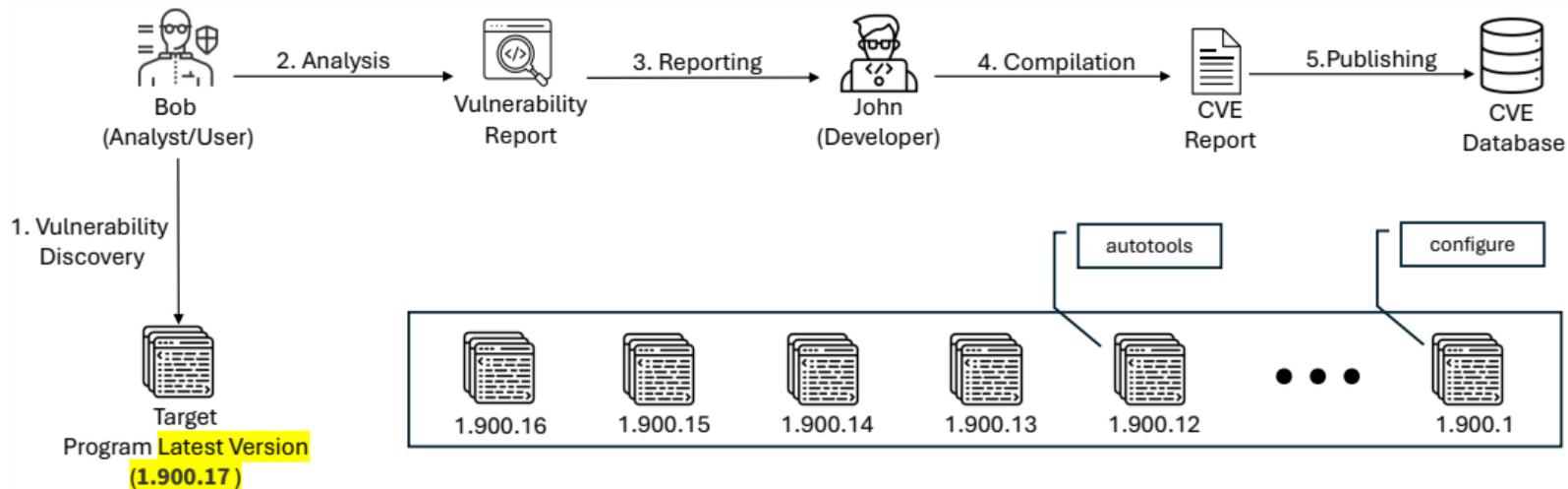
Vulnerability Discovery & Reporting



Vulnerability Discovery & Reporting



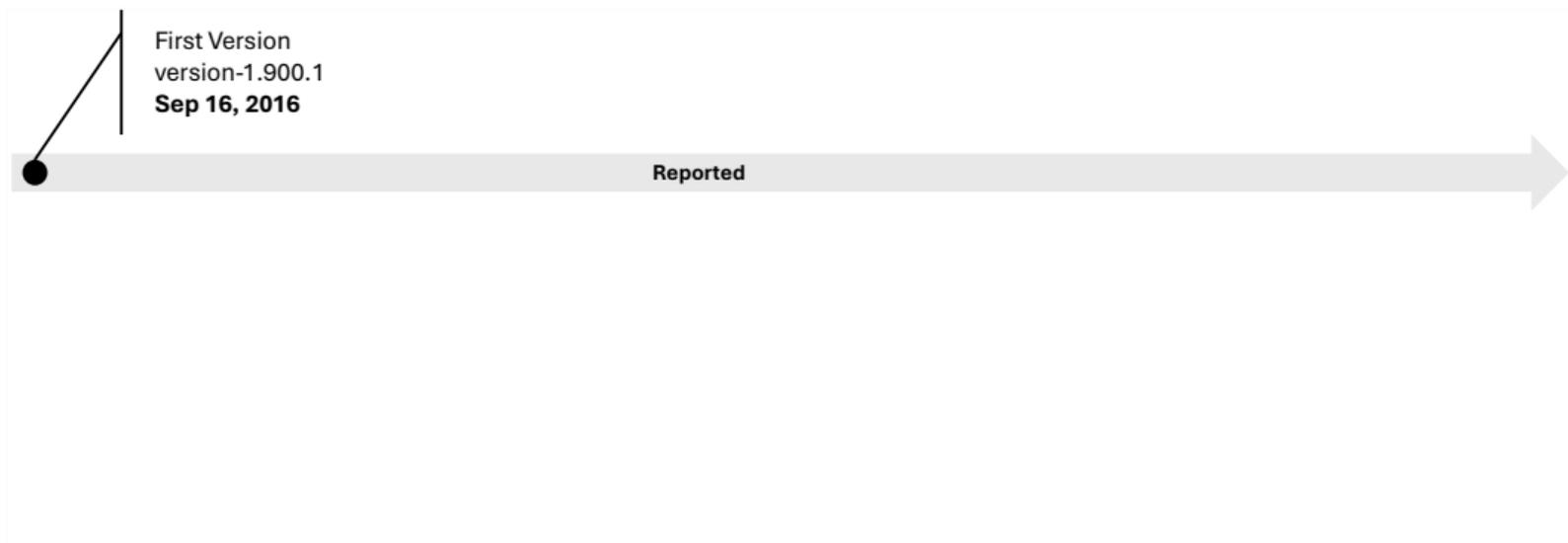
Problems in Current Reporting System



- ▶ **81.5%** systems contains outdated dependencies
- ▶ Syzbot identifies compiling **outdated versions** as one of the key reasons of inability to analyze a program

Background

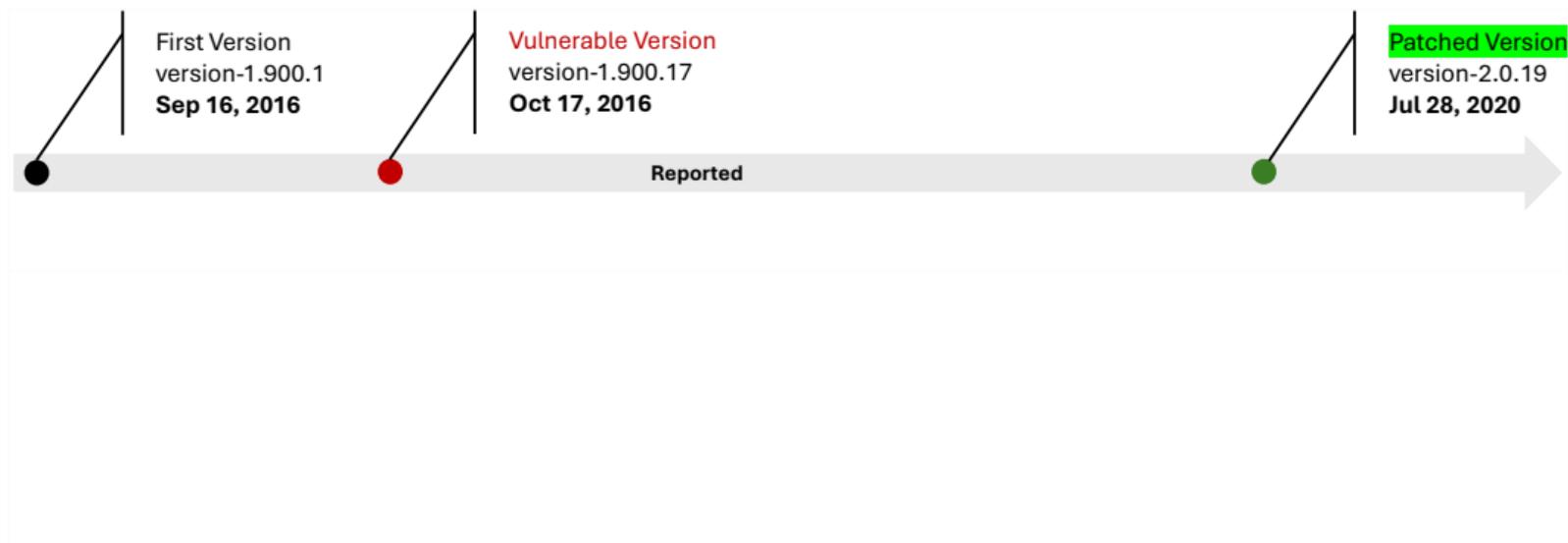
Motivating Example: CVE-2017-5502 of Jasper



Motivating Example: CVE-2017-5502 of Jasper



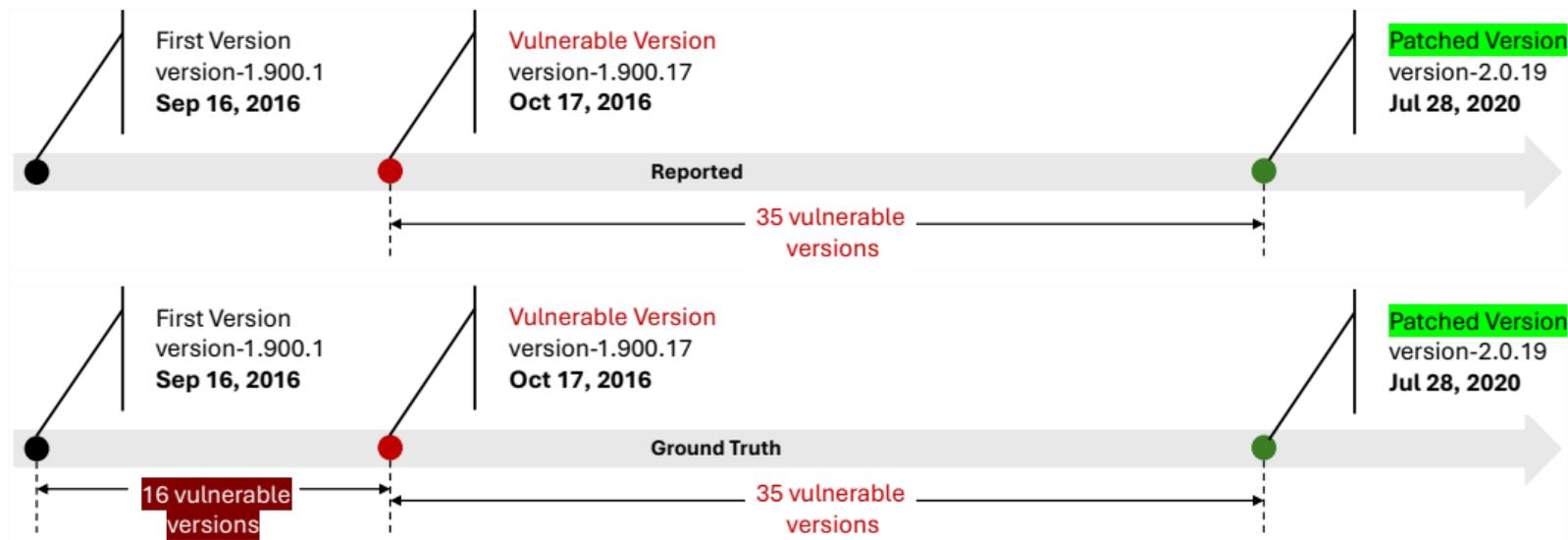
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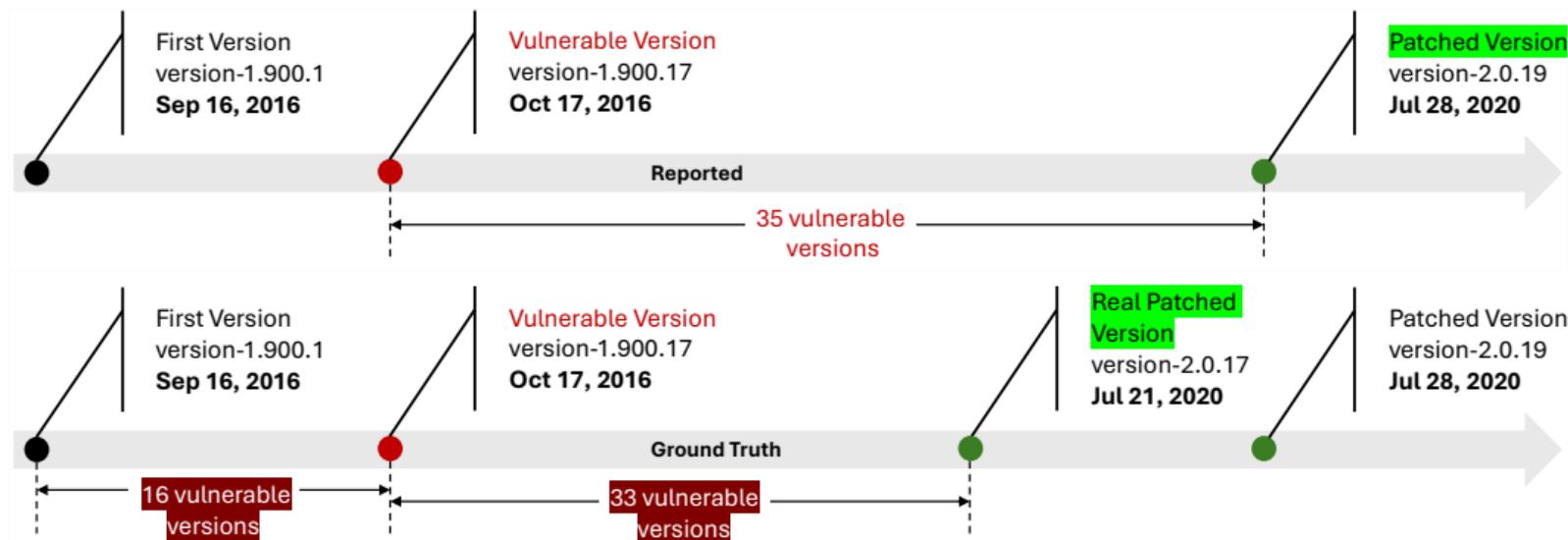
Motivating Example: CVE-2017-5502 of Jasper



Motivating Example: CVE-2017-5502 of Jasper



Motivating Example: CVE-2017-5502 of Jasper



Design

Steps for Known Vulnerability Detection



- 1 Vulnerable Code Identification
- 2 Signature Creation
- 3 Signature Matching

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454 {
455     char buf[JP2_VALIDATELEN];
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Vulnerable Code in Jasper 1.900.17:jp2_dec.c

Step 1: Vulnerable Code Identification



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Vulnerable Code in Jasper 1.900.17:jp2_dec.c

Step 1: Vulnerable Code Identification



Existing Approach

- 1 Preexisting signature can detect vulnerability with high confidence

Cons of Approach

- 1 Requires manual update for novel vulnerability

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Vulnerable Code in Jasper 1.900.17:jp2_dec.c

Step 1: Vulnerable Code Identification



Existing Approach

- 1 Preexisting signature can detect vulnerability with high confidence
- 2 Patch can locate the vulnerability

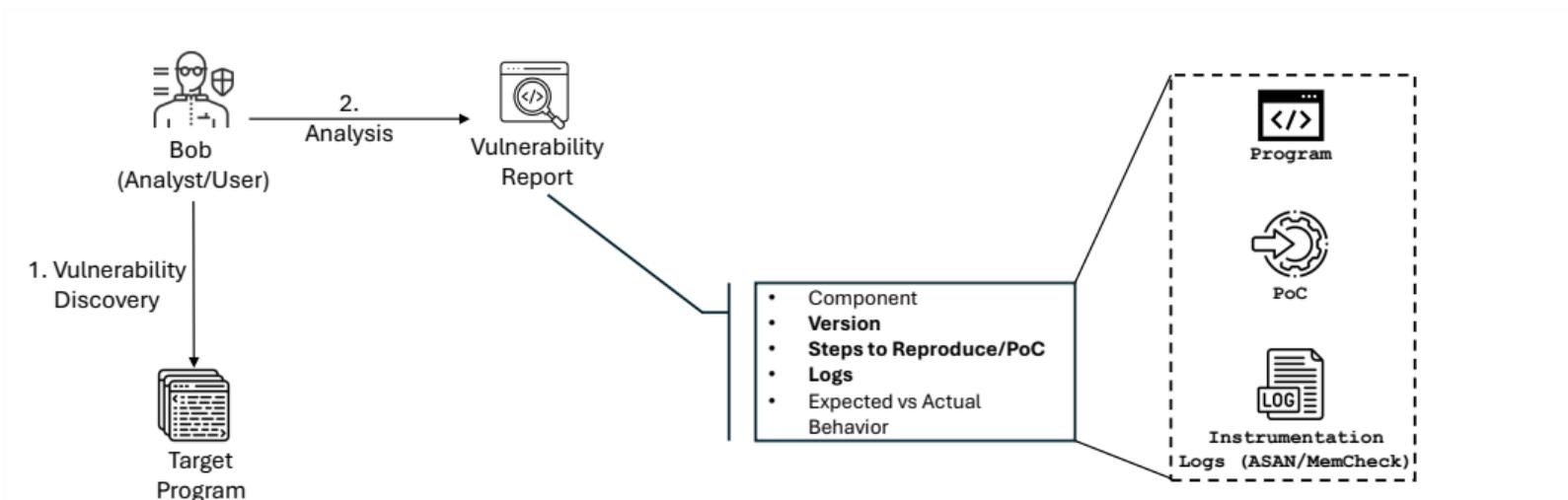
Cons of Approach

- 1 Requires manual update for novel vulnerability
- 2 Patch release can take on average **256 days**

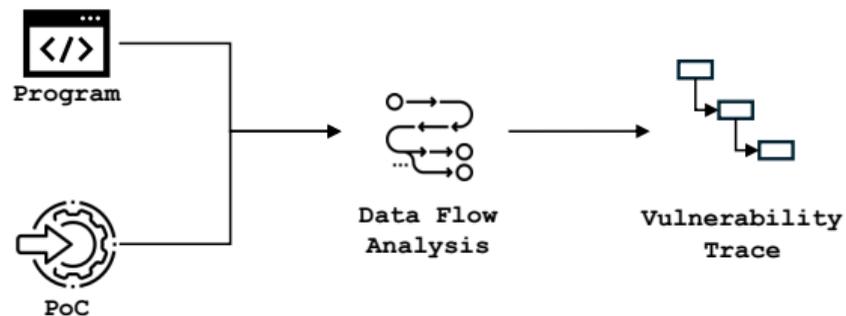
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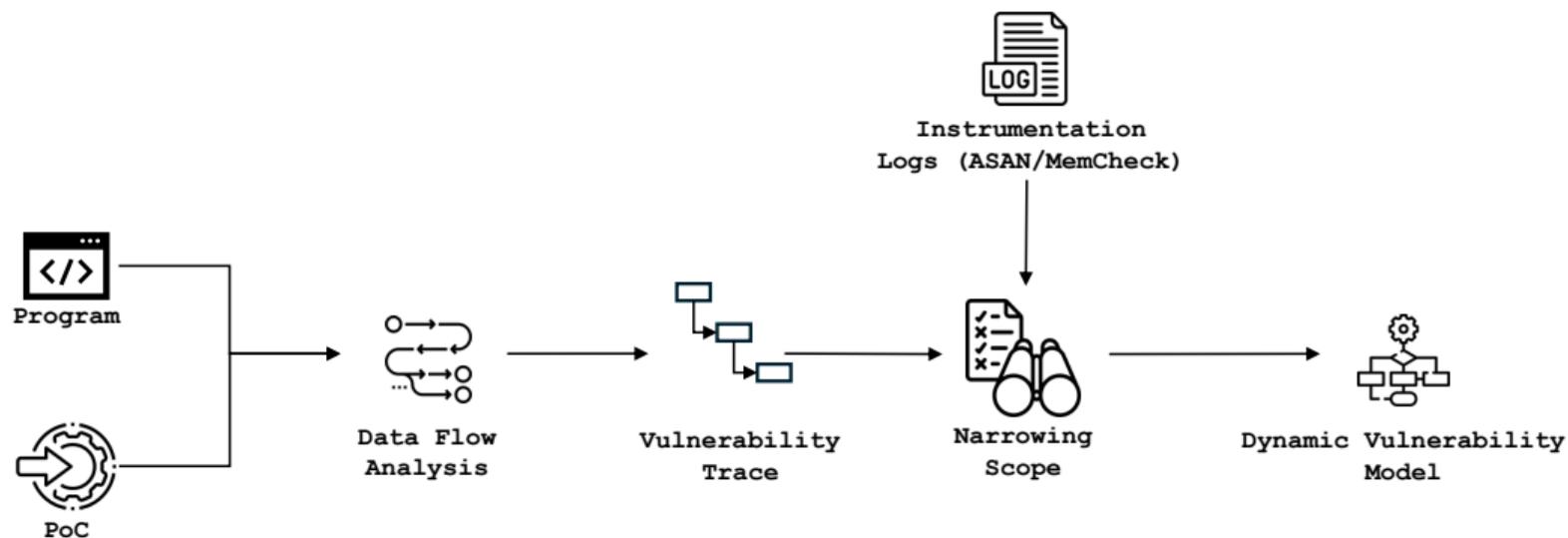
Step 1: Vulnerable Code Identification



Step 1: Vulnerable Code Identification



Step 1: Vulnerable Code Identification



Step 2: Signature Creation



► Is source code matching enough?

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Step 2: Signature Creation



- ▶ Is source code matching enough?
 - ▶ Data type
 - ▶ Global constants

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Step 2: Signature Creation



- ▶ Is source code matching enough?
 - ▶ Data type
 - ▶ Global constants
 - ▶ Function side effects

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Step 2: Signature Creation



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BinaryOperator <col:7, col:62> 'int' '|'
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- BinaryOperator <col:42, col:52> 'int' '<<'
| - ImplicitCastExpr <col:42, col:47>
| | 'int' <IntegralCast>
| | - ImplicitCastExpr <col:42, col:47>
| | | 'char' <LValueToRValue>
| | | - ArraySubscriptExpr <col:42, col:47>
| | | | 'char' lvalue
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| | | | | - DeclRefExpr <col:42> 'char[16]'
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| | | | | - IntegerLiteral <col:46> 'int' 6
| | | | - IntegerLiteral <col:52> 'int' 8
| | - ImplicitCastExpr <col:57, col:62>
| | | 'int' <IntegralCast>
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Step 2: Signature Creation



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Step 2: Signature Creation



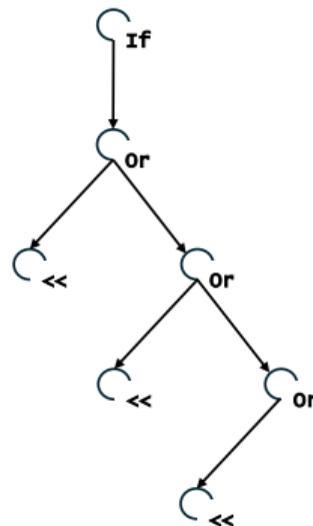
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Step 2: Signature Creation



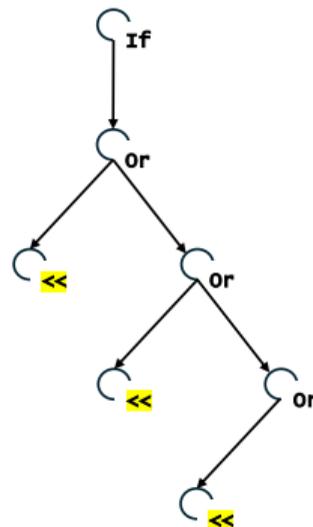
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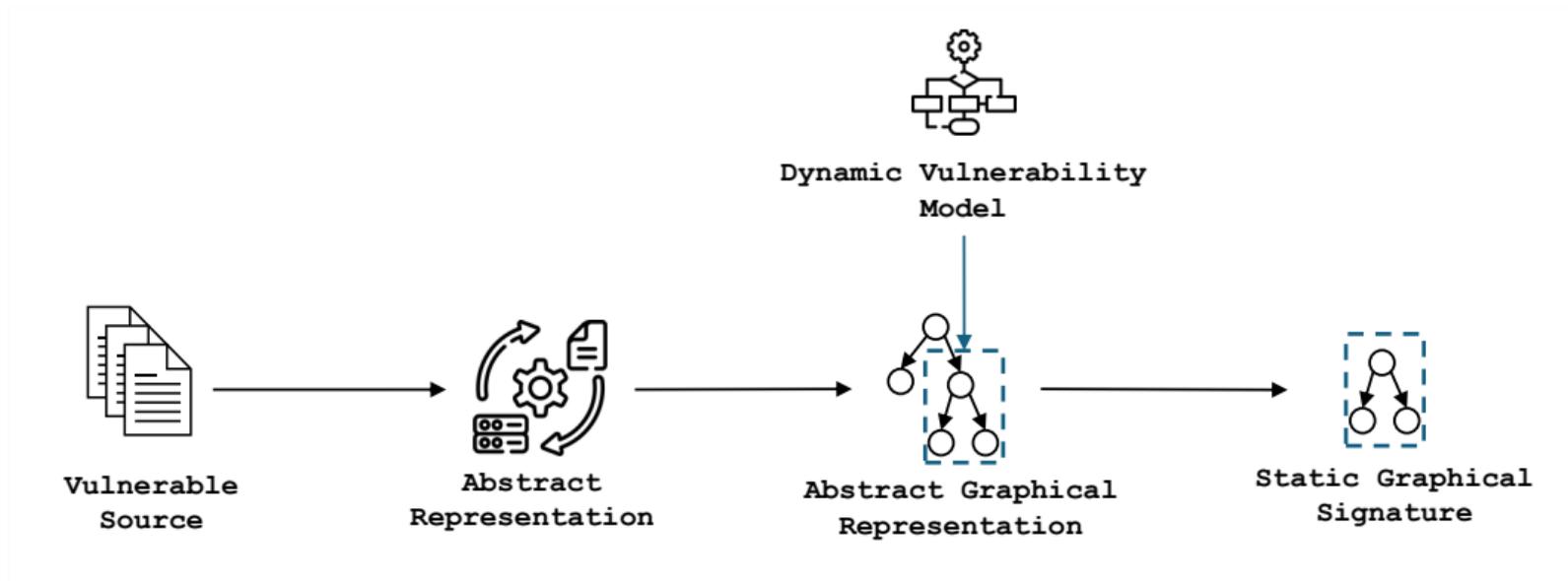
Step 2: Signature Creation



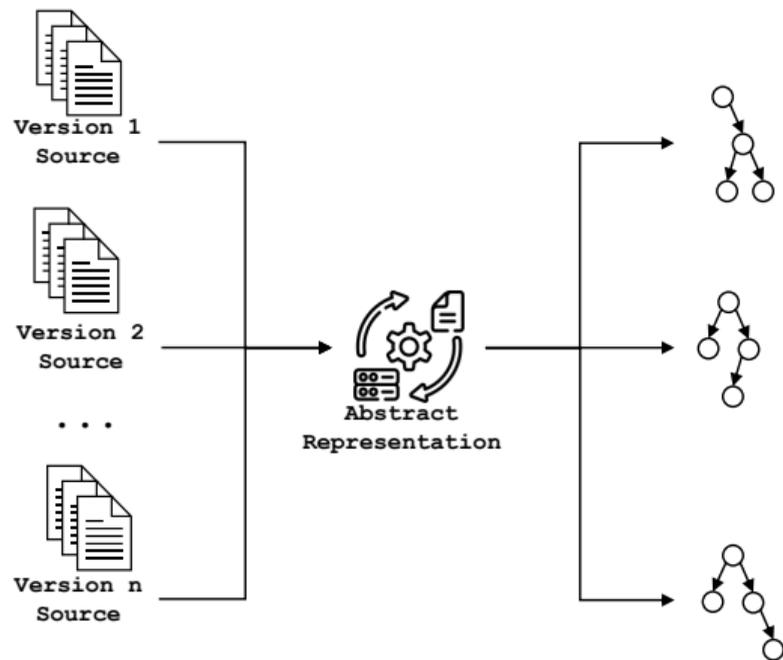
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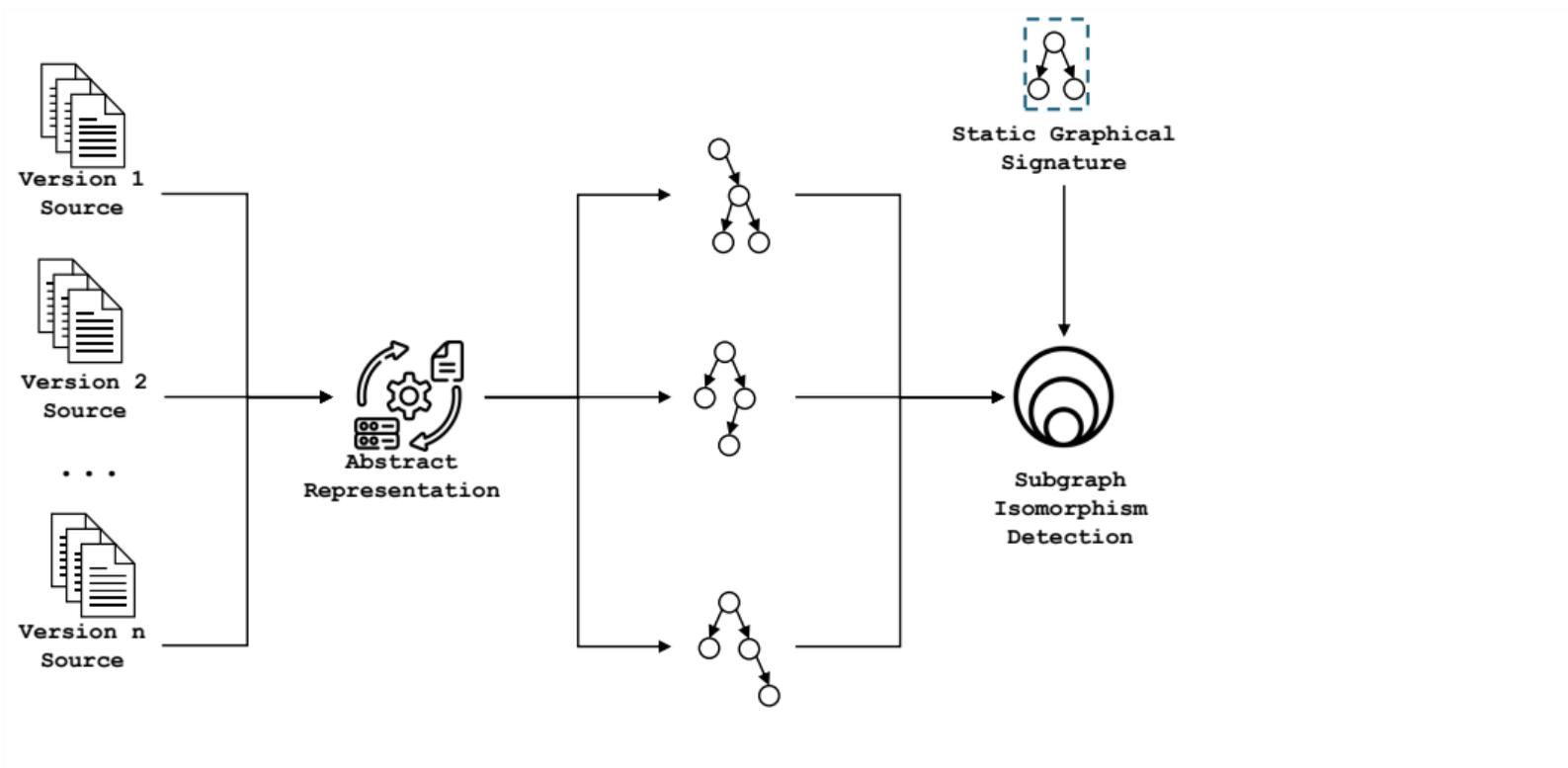
Step 2: Signature Creation



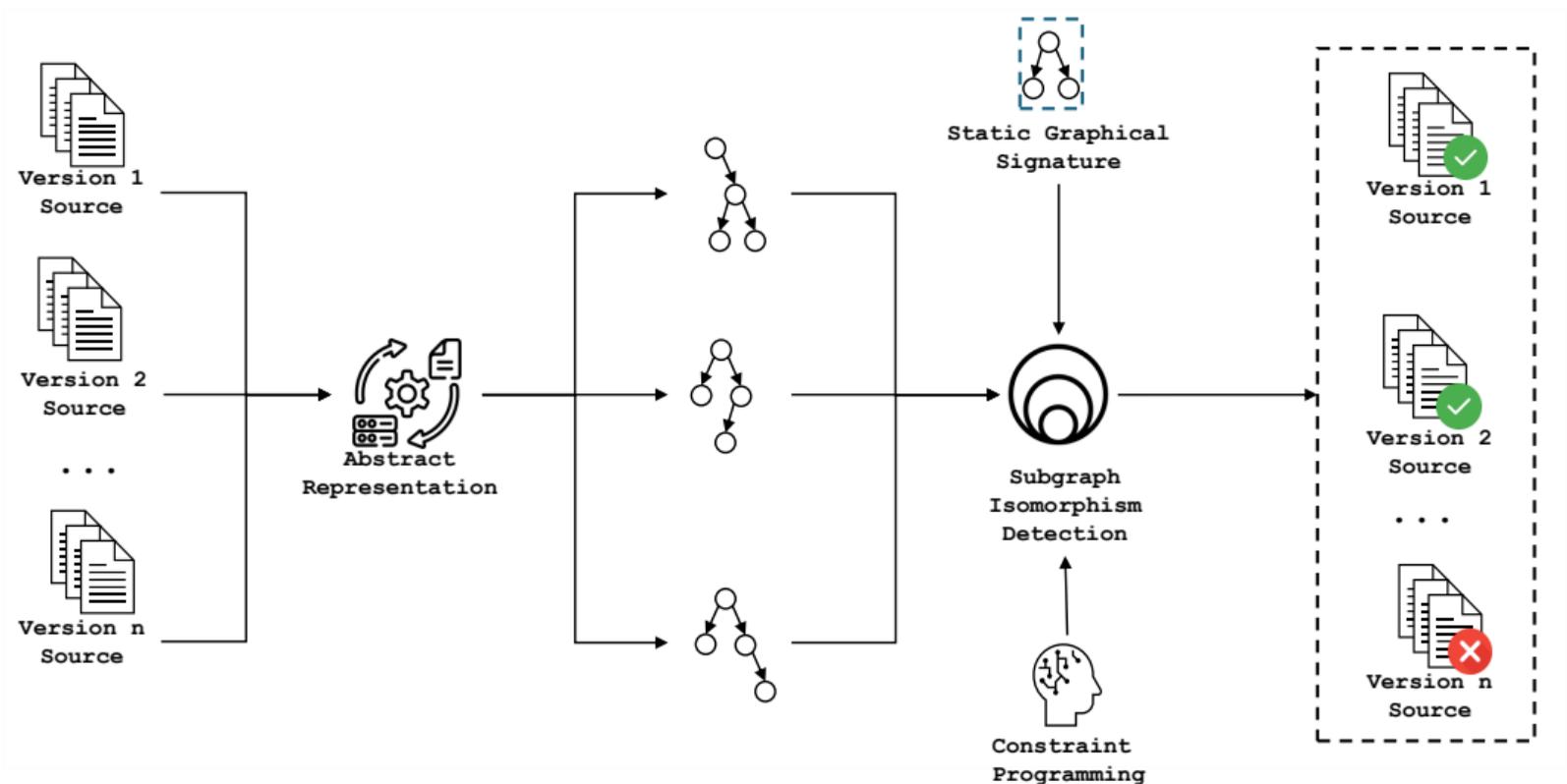
Step 3: Signature Matching



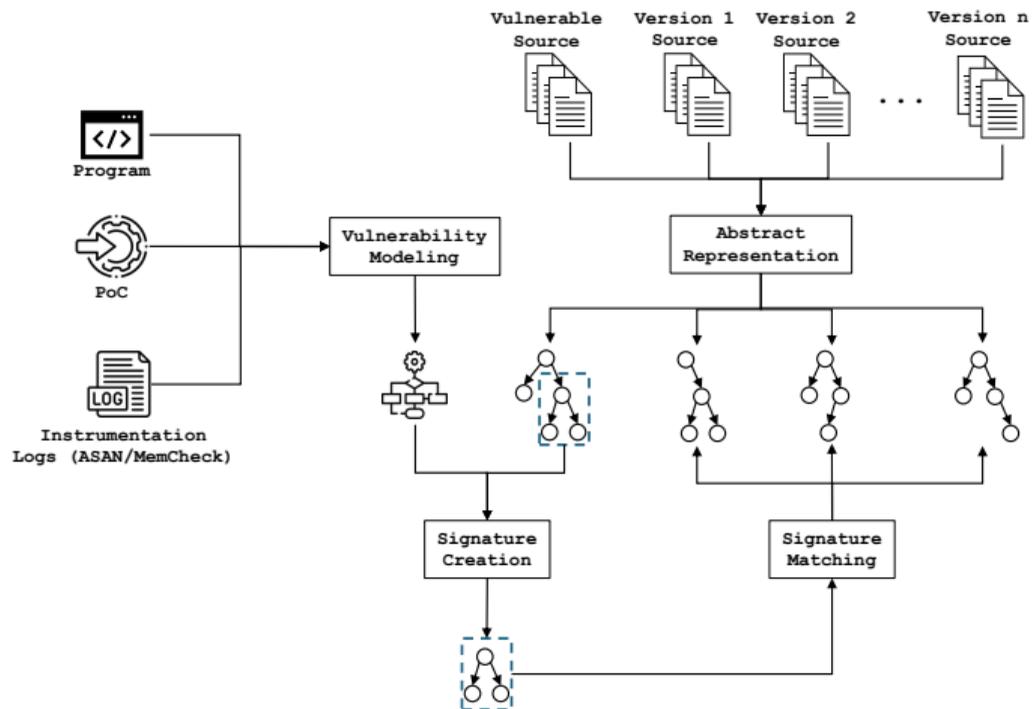
Step 3: Signature Matching



Step 3: Signature Matching



Overall Design



Evaluation

CWE	Description	#CVEs	Additional
CWE-20	Improper Input Validation	9	Top 25 2023
CWE-119	Memory Buffer Misuse	80	Top 25 2023
CWE-125	Out-of-bounds Read	32	Top 25 2023
CWE-189	Numeric Errors	27	-
CWE-190	Integer Overflow	14	Top 25 2023
CWE-416	Use After Free	5	Top 25 2023
CWE-476	NULL Pointer Dereference	22	Top 25 2023
CWE-787	Out-of-bounds Write	14	Top 25 2023
CWE-noinfo	-	80	-

Category	Program	Used By
Graphics	autotrace	Inkscape, GIMP
	bento4	mprUI, Shaka Packager, ExoPlayer
	GraphicsMagick	Node.js, G'MIC, ImageOptim
	jasper	OpenCV, K Desktop, Copy.ai
	libpng	GIMP, Firefox, ClanLib, Chromium
	libtiff	GIMP, OpenCV, ImageMagick
Compression	openjpeg	PHP, MySQL, KDE Ark
	libzip	PHP, MySQL, KDE Ark
	zziplib	PHP, MySQL, SDL
Programming	PHP	Facebook, Wikipedia, MailChimp
	Python	Netflix, Spotify, YouTube, Instagram

VERDIFF evaluates top CWEs under Linux Flaw dataset with 3+ CVEs for programs under **3 most popular** categories

CWE	Prog.	CVE	CVSS	#Ver.	#Vuln	Time (s)				Initial Reported		Tracer		Vuddy		VerDiff w/o local.		VerDiff	
						Gen.	Match	Total	/Ver.	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN
CWE-20	libtiff	2017-7599	7.8	13	13	665.34	64.04	731.07	56.24	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7600	7.8	13	13	732.59	65.81	803.22	61.79	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7601	7.8	13	13	745.07	69.22	820.88	63.14	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
CWE-119	bento4	2017-14261	7.8	27	27	0.51	2.45	2.96	0.11	0	26	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2016-10092	7.8	19	19	0.63	0.07	1.07	0.06	0	0	-	-	*	*	0	0	0	0
	autotrace	2017-9151	9.8	14	10	7.93	0.69	8.97	0.64	0	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noinfo/ other	jasper	2017-5502	5.5	17	17	0.26	5.35	5.61	0.33	0	16	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
	libpng	2004-0597	N/A	91	55	11.3	1,122.57	1,133.88	12.46	36	0	0	55	-	-	36	0	0	0
	PHP	2020-7066	4.3	29	29	24.86	0.27	28.85	0.99	0	0	0	29	-	-	0	0	0	0
Total				699	474	4,014.62	2,502.08	6,552.77	284.16	50	215	0	312	0	76	191	1	0	2
Average				25.89	17.56	148.69	92.67	242.7	10.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

The CVEs were reported from **2004 – 2020**

CWE	Prog.	CVE	CVSS	#Ver.	#Vuln	Time (s)				Initial Reported		Tracer		Vuddy		VerDiff w/o local.		VerDiff	
						Gen.	Match	Total	/Ver.	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN
CWE-20	libtiff	2017-7599	7.8	13	13	665.34	64.04	731.07	56.24	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7600	7.8	13	13	732.59	65.81	803.22	61.79	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7601	7.8	13	13	745.07	69.22	820.88	63.14	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
CWE-119	bento4	2017-14261	7.8	27	27	0.51	2.45	2.96	0.11	0	26	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2016-10092	7.8	19	19	0.63	0.07	1.07	0.06	0	0	-	-	*	*	0	0	0	0
	autotrace	2017-9151	9.8	14	10	7.93	0.69	8.97	0.64	0	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
	jasper	2017-5502	5.5	17	17	0.26	5.35	5.61	0.33	0	16	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noinfo/ other	libpng	2004-0597	N/A	91	55	11.3	1,122.57	1,133.88	12.46	36	0	0	55	-	-	36	0	0	0
	PHP	2020-7066	4.3	29	29	24.86	0.27	28.85	0.99	0	0	0	29	-	-	0	0	0	0
Total				699	474	4,014.62	2,502.08	6,552.77	284.16	50	215	0	312	0	76	191	1	0	2
Average				25.89	17.56	148.69	92.67	242.7	10.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Assuming *all previous version* as vulnerable fails

						Time (s)				Initial Reported		Tracer		Vuddy		VerDiff w/o local.		VerDiff	
CWE	Prog.	CVE	CVSS	#Ver.	#Vuln	Gen.	Match	Total	/Ver.	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN
CWE-20	libtiff	2017-7599	7.8	13	13	665.34	64.04	731.07	56.24	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7600	7.8	13	13	732.59	65.81	803.22	61.79	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7601	7.8	13	13	745.07	69.22	820.88	63.14	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
CWE-119	bento4	2017-14261	7.8	27	27	0.51	2.45	2.96	0.11	0	26	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2016-10092	7.8	19	19	0.63	0.07	1.07	0.06	0	0	-	-	*	*	0	0	0	0
	autotrace	2017-9151	9.8	14	10	7.93	0.69	8.97	0.64	0	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noinfo/ other	jasper	2017-5502	5.5	17	17	0.26	5.35	5.61	0.33	0	16	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
	libpng	2004-0597	N/A	91	55	11.3	1,122.57	1,133.88	12.46	36	0	0	55	-	-	36	0	0	0
	PHP	2020-7066	4.3	29	29	24.86	0.27	28.85	0.99	0	0	0	29	-	-	0	0	0	0
Total				699	474	4,014.62	2,502.08	6,552.77	284.16	50	215	0	312	0	76	191	1	0	2
Average				25.89	17.56	148.69	92.67	242.7	10.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

VERDIFF takes <2hr to analyze all 699 versions



						Time (s)				Initial Reported		Tracer		Vuddy		VerDiff w/o local.		VerDiff	
CWE	Prog.	CVE	CVSS	#Ver.	#Vuln	Gen.	Match	Total	/Ver.	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN
CWE-20	libtiff	2017-7599	7.8	13	13	665.34	64.04	731.07	56.24	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7600	7.8	13	13	732.59	65.81	803.22	61.79	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7601	7.8	13	13	745.07	69.22	820.88	63.14	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
CWE-119	bento4	2017-14261	7.8	27	27	0.51	2.45	2.96	0.11	0	26	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2016-10092	7.8	19	19	0.63	0.07	1.07	0.06	0	0	-	-	*	*	0	0	0	0
	autotrace	2017-9151	9.8	14	10	7.93	0.69	8.97	0.64	0	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noinfo/ other	jasper	2017-5502	5.5	17	17	0.26	5.35	5.61	0.33	0	16	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
	libpng	2004-0597	N/A	91	55	11.3	1,122.57	1,133.88	12.46	36	0	0	55	-	-	36	0	0	0
	PHP	2020-7066	4.3	29	29	24.86	0.27	28.85	0.99	0	0	0	29	-	-	0	0	0	0
Total				699	474	4,014.62	2,502.08	6,552.77	284.16	50	215	0	312	0	76	191	1	0	2
Average				25.89	17.56	148.69	92.67	242.7	10.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Tracer uses **pre-existing signature** and Vuddy uses **patch based signature**

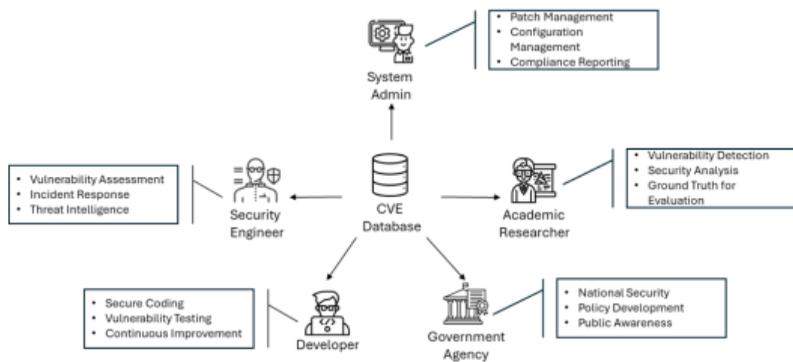


						Time (s)				Initial Reported		Tracer		Vuddy		VerDiff w/o local.		VerDiff	
CWE	Prog.	CVE	CVSS	#Ver.	#Vuln	Gen.	Match	Total	/Ver.	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN
CWE-20	libtiff	2017-7599	7.8	13	13	665.34	64.04	731.07	56.24	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7600	7.8	13	13	732.59	65.81	803.22	61.79	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7601	7.8	13	13	745.07	69.22	820.88	63.14	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
CWE-119	bento4	2017-14261	7.8	27	27	0.51	2.45	2.96	0.11	0	26	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2016-10092	7.8	19	19	0.63	0.07	1.07	0.06	0	0	-	-	*	*	0	0	0	0
	autotrace	2017-9151	9.8	14	10	7.93	0.69	8.97	0.64	0	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noinfo/ other	jasper	2017-5502	5.5	17	17	0.26	5.35	5.61	0.33	0	16	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
	libpng	2004-0597	N/A	91	55	11.3	1,122.57	1,133.88	12.46	36	0	0	55	-	-	36	0	0	0
	PHP	2020-7066	4.3	29	29	24.86	0.27	28.85	0.99	0	0	0	29	-	-	0	0	0	0
Total				699	474	4,014.62	2,502.08	6,552.77	284.16	50	215	0	312	0	76	191	1	0	2
Average				25.89	17.56	148.69	92.67	242.7	10.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Localization narrows scope reducing FPs

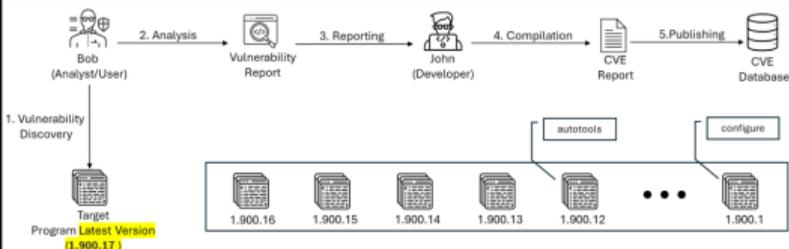
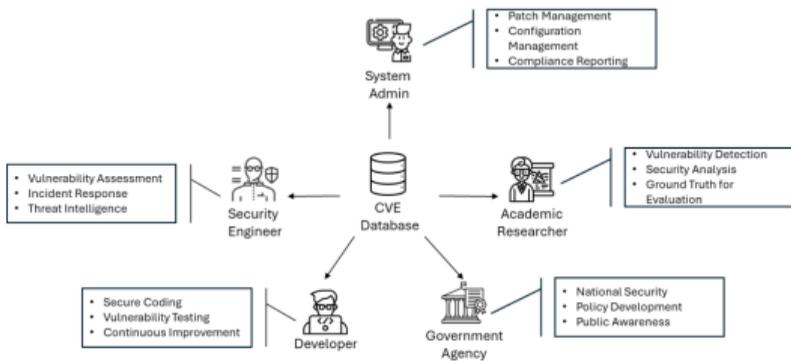
Conclusion

Takeaway



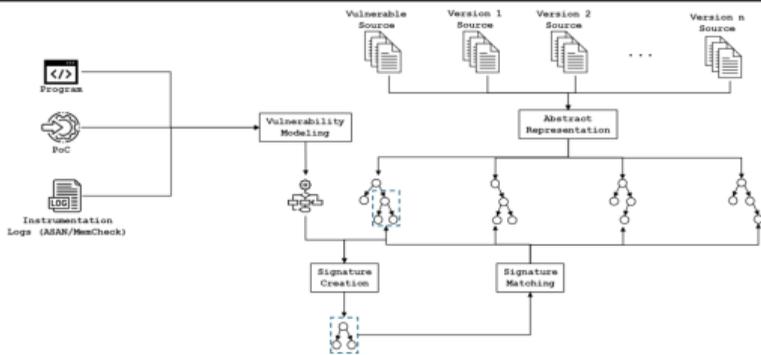
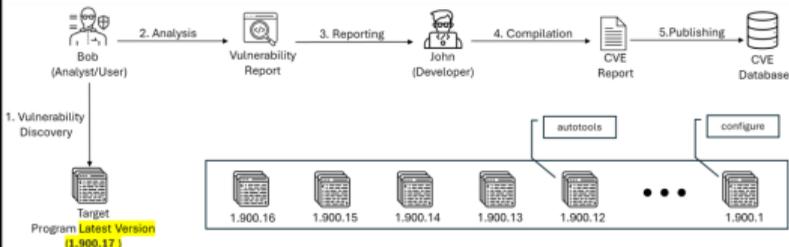
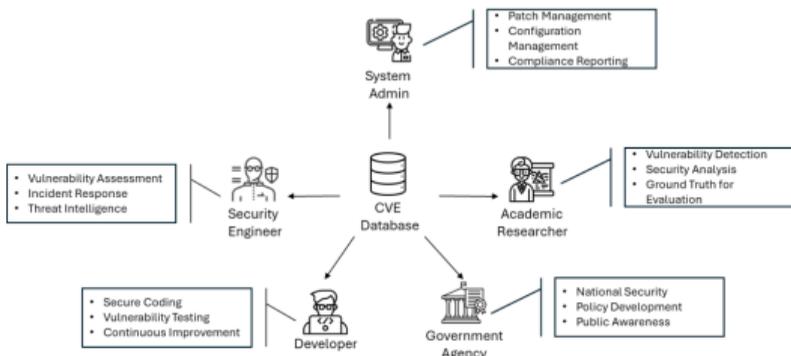
CVE database is a single point of ground truth

Takeaway



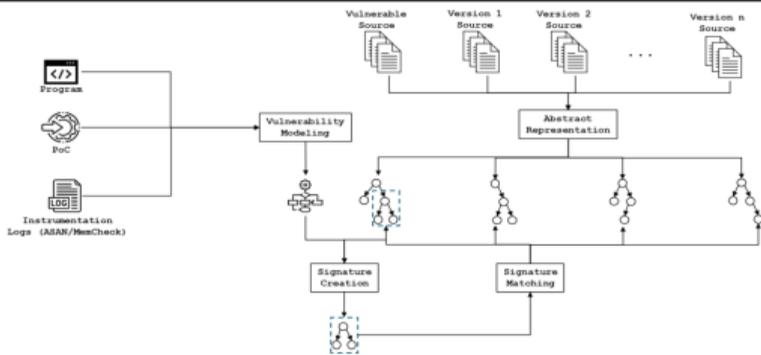
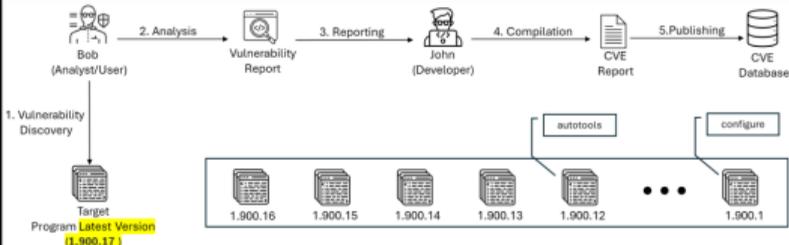
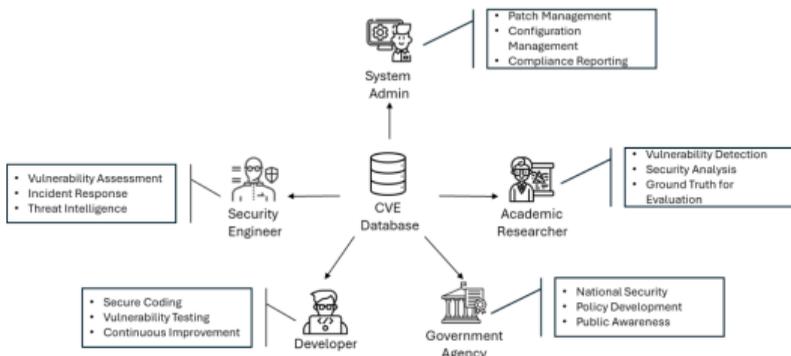
Current system prioritizes latest version creating a blind spot

Takeaway



VERDIFF utilizes the information available in report to build a comprehensive report

Takeaway



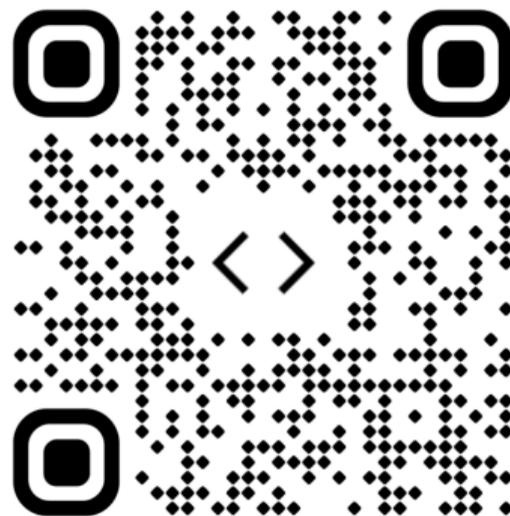
CWE	Prog.	CVE	CVSS	#Ver.	#Vuln	Time (s)		Total	/Ver.	Initial Reported		Tracer		Vuddy		VerDiff w/o local.		VerDiff	
						Gen.	Match			#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN	#FP	#FN
CWE-20	libtiff	2017-7599	7.8	13	13	665.34	64.04	731.07	56.24	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7600	7.8	13	13	732.56	65.81	803.22	61.79	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2017-7601	7.8	13	13	745.07	69.22	820.88	63.14	0	12	0	13	-	-	0	0	0	0
CWE-119	libtiff	2017-14261	7.8	27	27	0.51	2.45	2.96	0.11	0	26	-	-	*	*	0	0	0	0
	libtiff	2016-10092	7.8	19	19	0.63	0.07	1.07	0.06	0	0	-	-	*	*	0	0	0	0
	autotrace	2017-9151	9.8	14	10	7.93	0.69	8.97	0.64	0	9	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noinfo/other	jasper	2017-5502	5.5	17	17	0.26	5.39	5.61	0.33	0	16	0	17	0	0	0	0	0	0
	libpng	2004-0597	N/A	91	55	11.3	1,122.57	1,133.88	12.46	36	0	0	55	-	-	36	0	0	0
	PHP	2020-7096	4.3	29	29	24.96	0.27	26.85	0.95	0	0	0	29	-	-	0	0	0	0
Total			699	474	4,014.62	2,502.08	6,552.77	284.16	50	87	0	312	0	76	191	1	0	2	0
Average			25.89	17.56	148.69	92.67	242.7	10.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

VerDIFF is evaluated against STOA tools and shows the reality of these inaccuracies

Thank you – Try VerDiff



mdsakibanwar.github.io/



hub.docker.com/r/sakibanwar/verdiff