

Airflow Beach Cleaning

**Collaborative effort on securing
Airflow ecosystem with
Alpha-Omega, PSF & ASF**



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Member of Apache
Software Foundation
Security Committee



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Alpha-Omega Mission



Catalyze sustainable security improvements within the most critical open source projects and ecosystems.

Alpha-Omega Grants



\$23M Raised

AI Libraries Airflow Apache (ASF) Clang Eclipse FreeBSD
Homebrew Jenkins JQuery Linux Kernel LLVM NodeJS
Omega OpenJS OpenSSL PHP Python Rubygems Rust

Alpha-Omega Explained



$\alpha \rightarrow \text{Leverage}$

$\Omega \rightarrow \text{Scale}$

A Wake Up Call



Open Source Supply Chain Risk



Size \neq Risk Free Puppies Not Free Beer Most of your code is OSS

Scaled Open Source Security Is Very Hard

Automation is noisy
Maintainers are wary
Impact is diffuse



From Pacific Garbage Patch to Beach Cleaning

Narrow Focus

Actionable Impact

Community Momentum



Selecting The Right Beach

Well Resourced Project **Community**

Security **Culture**

Supply Chain **Inventory**

**So let's talk about
Airflow Security**

DAG: demo

Schedule: 0 0 ***

Next Run: 2022-05-29, 00:00:00

Grid

Graph

Calendar

Task Duration

Task Tries

Landing Times

Gantt

Details

<> Code

Audit Log

10/06/2022, 10:12:28 AM

25

All Run Types

All Run States

Clear Filters

deferred

failed

queued

running

scheduled

skipped

success

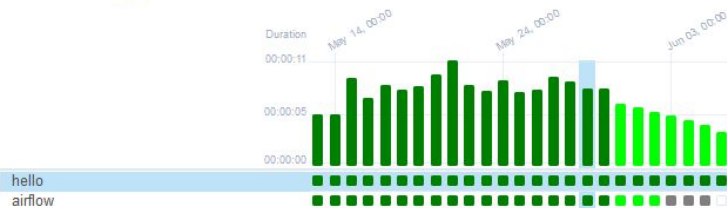
up_for_reschedule

up_for_retry

upstream_failed

no_status

Auto-refresh



DAG demo / Run 2022-05-30, 00:00:00 UTC / Task hello

Task Instance Details

Rendered Template

Log

XCom

List Instances, all runs

Filter Upstream

Details

Logs

Task Actions

Ignore All Deps

Ignore Task State

Ignore Task Deps

Run

Past

Future

Upstream

Downstream

Recursive

Failed

Clear

Past

Future

Upstream

Downstream

Mark Failed

Past

Future

Upstream

Downstream

Mark Success

Status success

Task ID hello

Run ID scheduled__2022-05-29T00:00:00+00:00

Operator BashOperator

Duration 00:00:01

Started 2022-10-06, 10:12:26 UTC

Ended 2022-10-06, 10:12:27 UTC

Airflow by numbers

April 2, 2025 – April 9, 2025

Period: 1 week ▾

Overview

256 Active pull requests

129 Active issues

202

Merged pull requests

54

Open pull requests

79

Closed issues

50

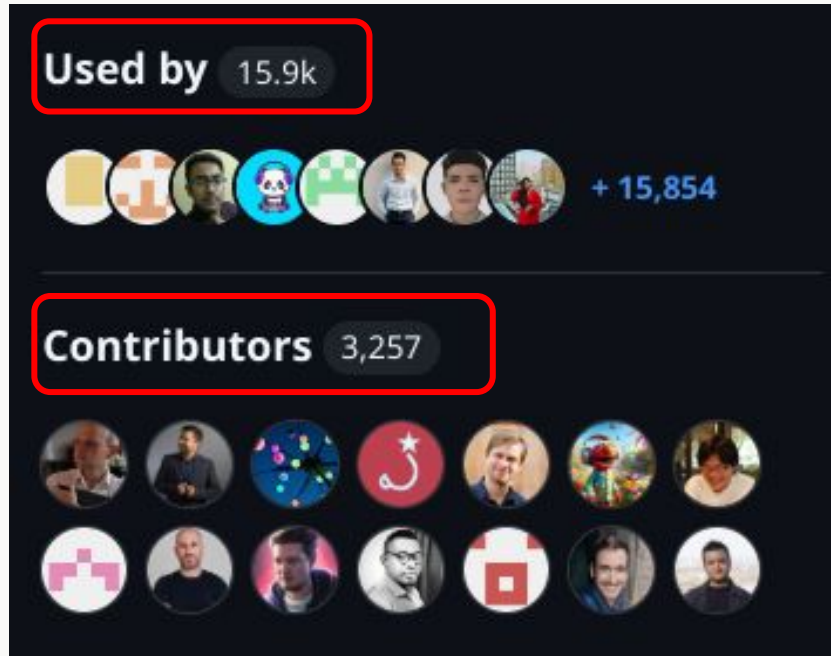
New issues

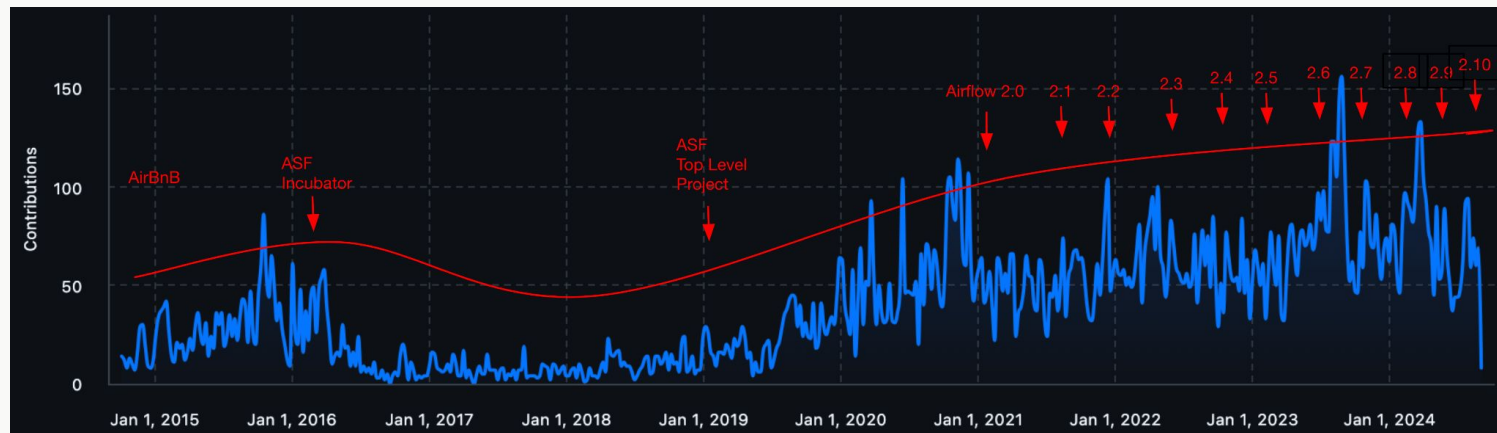
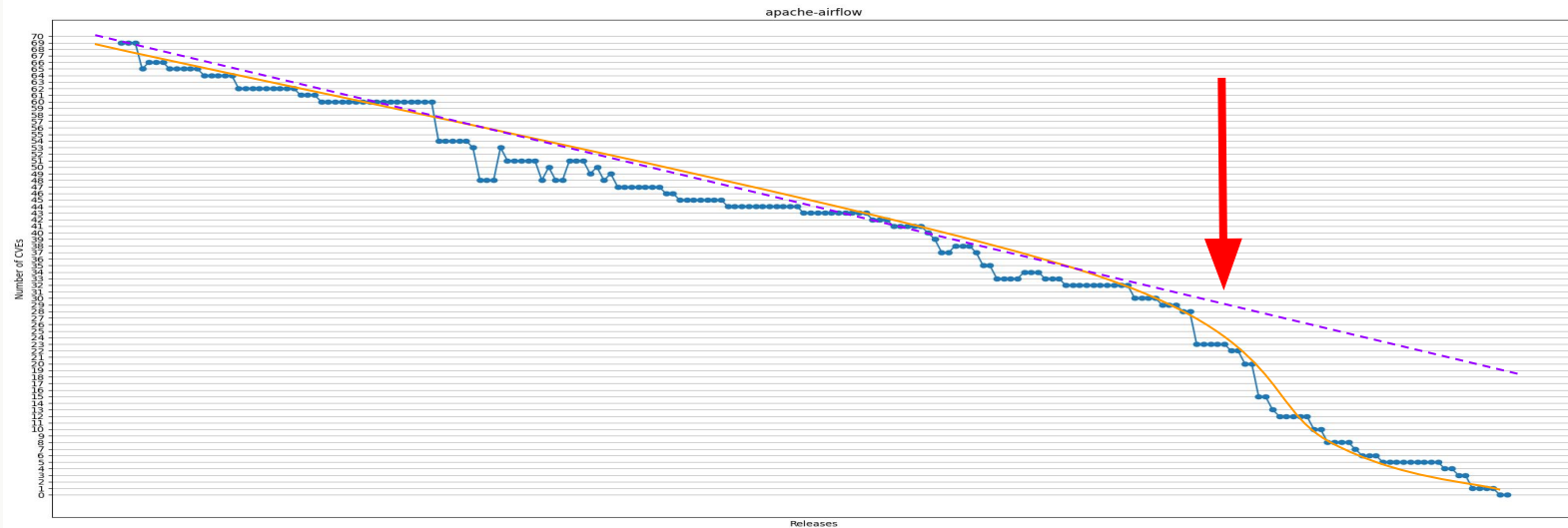
Excluding merges, **62 authors** have pushed **202 commits** to main and **237 commits** to all branches. On main, **1,105 files** have changed and there have been **40,615 additions** and **28,252 deletions**.



202 Pull requests merged by 53 people

Users and Contributors





Security improvements in 2023-2024

- Dedicated security team
- Created and documented detailed process
- Introduced security model
- Canned responses to issues
- Disabled inherently insecure features
- Hardened CI workflows
- Introduced reproducible builds (provenance)

Airflow

- Active security team (15 people, ~ 5 more active)
- Airflow: 66 committers, 33 PMC members
- 3200+ (!!!) contributors
- Airflow is big “enough” to attract funding
 - Stakeholders
 - Sovereign Tech Fund : 2023
 - Alpha-Omega Fund: 2024

Dependency tree

```
1  apache-airflow v3.0.0.dev0
2    ├── aiohttp v3.10.5
3      ├── aiohappyeyeballs v2.4.0
4      ├── aiosignal v1.3.1
5        │   └── frozenlist v1.4.1
6      ├── async-timeout v4.0.3
7      ├── attrs v24.2.0
8      ├── frozenlist v1.4.1
9      ├── multidict v6.0.5
10     ├── yarl v1.9.6
11       │   ├── idna v3.8
12       │   └── multidict v6.0.5
13     └── alembic v1.13.2
14       ├── importlib-metadata v8.4.0
15         │   └── zipp v3.20.1
16       ├── importlib-resources v6.4.4
17         │   └── zipp v3.20.1
18       ├── mako v1.3.5
19         │   └── markupsafe v2.1.5
20       ├── sqlalchemy v1.4.53
21         │   └── greenlet v3.0.3
22       └── typing-extensions v4.12.2
23   ├── argcomplete v3.5.0
24   ├── asgiref v3.8.1
25     │   └── typing-extensions v4.12.2
26   └── attrs v24.2.0
```

579

```
551     └── urllib3 v2.2.2
552   ├── rfc3339-validator v0.1.4
553     └── six v1.16.0
554   ├── rich v13.8.0
555     ├── markdown-it-py v3.0.0
556       │   └── mdurl v0.1.2
557     ├── pygments v2.18.0
558     └── typing-extensions v4.12.2
559   ├── rich-argparse v1.5.2
560     └── rich v13.8.0
561       ├── markdown-it-py v3.0.0
562         │   └── mdurl v0.1.2
563       ├── pygments v2.18.0
564       └── typing-extensions v4.12.2
565   ├── setproctitle v1.3.3
566   ├── sqlalchemy v1.4.53
567     └── greenlet v3.0.3
568   ├── sqlalchemy-jsonfield v1.0.2
569     └── sqlalchemy v1.4.53
570       └── greenlet v3.0.3
571   ├── sqlparse v0.5.1
572   ├── tabulate v0.9.0
573   ├── tenacity v9.0.0
574   ├── termcolor v2.4.0
575   ├── unicodedcsv v0.14.1
576   ├── universal-pathlib v0.2.2
577     └── fsspec v2024.6.1
578   ├── werkzeug v2.2.3
579     └── markupsafe v2.1.5
```

Supply chain in OSS

United effort

- Apache Software Foundation
- Airflow PMC
- Python Software Foundation
- Alpha-Omega Fund

Goals and Principles

- We want to review ALL our dependencies (700+ !)
- We are leading and learning and adapting
- Automation to scale
- Your project's "perspective" is important
- Always remember the people

Assessment

Relevant OPSF Scores and details							Actions									
Score	Code	Maint	Dangr	Secur	Pack	Value	Governance	Lifecycle sta	Unpatched \	Industry imp	Add Secur	Follow up w	Propose Tru	Follow up w	Propose ma	Num Action
3.7	1	0	10	0		packaging workflow not detectedWarn: no GitHub/GitLab publishing workflow detected.		ev	Yes	Medium	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	4
3	0	0	-1	0				ev		Medium	Yes			Yes	Yes	4
4.7	3	10	10	0				maintained		Medium	Yes			Yes		3
5.1	1	10	10	0				maintained		Medium	Yes			Yes		3
4.4	1	0	10	0						Medium	Yes			Yes		3
5.5	1	10	-1	10		10	Loose communit	Stable			Yes		Yes		Yes	3
4.7	5	0	10	0		-1	10	Reputable Found	Actively maintained	High			Yes	Yes	Yes	3
3.6	0	0	10	10		-1	10	Loose communit	Stable	High	Yes		Yes		Yes	3
3.4	0	0	10	0		-1	10	Loose communit	Stable	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	3
5.4	3	10	10	10		-1	10	Loose communit	Actively maintained	High			Yes		Yes	2
4.6	8	4	10	0		-1	10	Reputable Found	Somewhat maintained	High	Yes		Yes			2
4.3	1	0	10	0		10	10	Loose communit	Stable		Yes				Yes	2
4.4	5	0	10	9		-1	10	Strong Commun	Abandoned	Medium			Yes		Yes	2
5.8	2	10	10	10		-1	10	Loose communit	Actively maintained	High			Yes		Yes	2
5.8	9	10	10	0		-1	10	Loose communit	Actively maintained	High	Yes		Yes			2
4.9	2	10	10	0		10	10	Strong Commun	Actively maintained	Medium	Yes				Yes	2

The Human Component In Security Bug Reporting

Replace mktemp method with NamedTemporaryFile #117

Closed



ZuhairORZaki opened on Aug 21, 2024

Overview

In file: `setup.py`, there is a method that creates a temporary file using a discouraged in the Python documentation. ICR suggested that a temp or `mktemp` which is a safe API. ICR replaced the usage of `mktemp` with deprecated functions [here](#).

```
--- /workspace/source/setup.py
+++ /workspace/source/setup.py
@@ -7,7 +7,6 @@

import glob
import os
- import platform
import shutil
import tempfile

@@ -58,7 +57,7 @@
    compiler = ccompiler.new_compiler(verbose=1)
    sysconfig.customize_compiler(compiler) # CC, CFLAGS, LDFLAGS, etc

- fname = tempfile.mktemp(".c", "yajl_version")
+ fname = tempfile.NamedTemporaryFile(".c", "yajl_version").name
    try:
        with open(fname, "w") as f:
            f.write('')
```

Sponsorship and Support:

This work is done by the security researchers from OpenRefractory and is supported by the [Open Source Security \(OpenSSF\): Project Alpha-Omega](#). Alpha-Omega is a project partnering with open source software project maint: systematically find new, as-yet-undiscovered vulnerabilities in open source code - and get them fixed - to improve software supply chain security.



potiuk on Sep 1, 2024

Hello here. I am an Apache Airflow maintainer - and we are looking - together with Open Refractory and Alpha-Omega at improving Apache Airflow's Supply Chain security. This one is one of the bugs we found during the checks. We are going to talk about the whole project we are running soon at Airflow Summit <https://airflowsummit.org/> and it would be great to have more success stories

Would it be possible



rtobar on Sep 1, 2024

Hi @potiuk, thanks for getting in touch. While I'm not 100% sure, the first message felt more automatically generated and hence I didn't feel urgency in replying, while yours feels more individually targeted.

I will look into this. I agree with the diagnosis, although I feel the proposed solution might not be optimal, so I won't apply it as-is. I also personally feel no urgency about this particular incident -- in the worst case some malicious actor can either force the installation of the package to *not* include the C extension, affecting runtime performance, or make the installation of the build fail, all with very slim chances and non-obvious gains. But like I said, I'll check it out when I can spare some time, I'll post an update here.

Thanks again for t



rtobar on Sep 4, 2024

Fixed on `master`, thanks again for the report!



rtobar closed this as completed on Sep 4, 2024

**Experiment in
progress ...**

Actions

- 16 projects to start with
- Add security policies
- Follow up on unsecure workflows
- Propose Trusted Publishing
- Follow up on unpatched vulnerabilities
- Propose mandatory code reviews

Responses from maintainers

- No response
- Happy to get help
- Great to get help
- I am also a security freak
- Croniter

The 3 Fs of your supply chain

Fix

Fork

Forgo

Example cases

Croniter (Fork)

- Maintainer threatening to remove the project
- Discussion started (public issue)
- People volunteered to fork
- Eventually - moved to Pallets-eco and we became maintainers

Werkzeug (Fix)

- Transitive dependency
- Held by few other dependencies
- Google security team works on patching

Connexion (Forego)

- Difficult to upgrade
- Google security team works on patching it
- We switched to Fast API

Long term targets

- Full automation (AI?) and coverage
- Target ALL projects
- Regular, incremental process
- Spread the methodology / findings
- Contribute to other efforts (PSF)

Learnings?

One Thing

OS project's security depends on **Their**
engagement with **their** supply chain

Takeaways

Supply chain relationships are a **human problem**

The transitive problem: every (new) dependency creates **exponential risk over time**

Current vulnerabilities are less important than **sustained security** handling and project health

Make **security a first-class priority** in every project plan

Q&A

[SLSA](#)

[SSDF](#)

[Alpha-Omega Project](#)

[Case Study Eclipse Temurin: Pioneering
Software Supply Chain Security](#)

[Open Source Software Foundation](#)

[Airflow Security](#)

[Python Security](#)