NLUUG 2024

Software Bill of Materials

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Alexios Zavras – about me

- Greek, living in Munich
- Intel's Chief Open Source Compliance Officer, working at Open Source Program Office
- "Open Source" since 1983

- First NLUUG event in 1988
- Involved in SBOM/SPDX since 2011

Software is complex

- Nowadays almost always a combination of components
- 80 20 rule

Software Bill of Materials (SBOM)

An SBOM is a formal record containing details and supply chain relationships of components used in building software.

- Components include libraries and modules
- Components can be open source or proprietary
- Components can be freely available or paid
- Data can be widely available or access-restricted

Who should use an SBOM?

- Any organization concerned about better supporting their software products internally and better supporting their customers
- Different views
 - Produce / Consume (Use / Integrate)
- Commonly required as part of any product's BOM, so necessary information is available:
 - Contractual negotiated terms, implementation strategies
 - Legal compliance with licensing and regulatory obligations
 - Technical identification of software or component dependencies and supply chain risk, vulnerability and asset management

Why have an SBOM?

- Legal compliance
 - License obligations, Open Source or not
 - Comply with all obligations of all licenses of all components
 - Straightforward
 - But not trivial or easy

Export

Security

Why have an SBOM?

Legal compliance

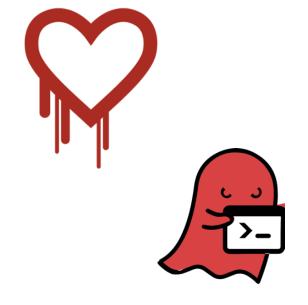
Export

Security

NTIA, FDA, NERC, ENISA

Do YOU know...

... whether you are affected by \$VULNERABILITY?

















Do YOU know...

... how to detect and remediate complex attacks?

SUPPLY CHAIN ATTACK

Attackers insert malicious code into a DLL component of legitimate software. The compromised DLL is distributed to organizations that use the related software.

EXECUTION, PERSISTENCE

When the software starts, the compromised DLL loads, and the inserted malicious code calls the function that contains the backdoor capabilities.

DEFENSE EVASION

The backdoor has a lengthy list of checks to make sure it's running in an actual compromised network.

RECON

The backdoor gathers system info

INITIAL C2

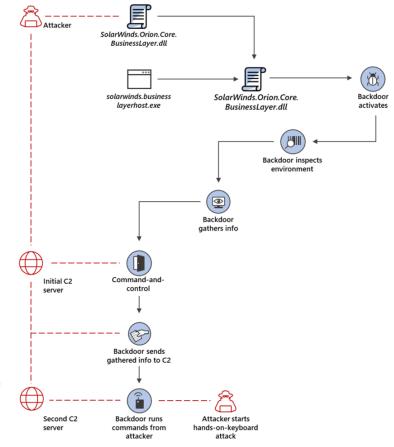
The backdoor connects to a command-and-control server. The domain it connects to is partly based on info gathered from system, making each subdomain unique. The backdoor may receive an additional C2 address to connect to.

EXFILTRATION

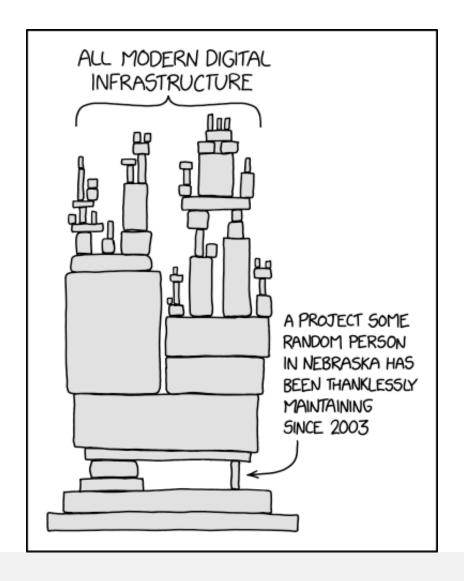
The backdoor sends gathered information to the attacker.

HANDS-ON-KEYBOARD ATTACK

The backdoor runs commands it receives from attackers. The wide range of backdoor capabilities allow attackers to perform additional activities, such as credential theft, progressive privilege escalation, and lateral movement.



Most do not know what software is running



Dependency, by xkcd, CC-BY-NC-2.5

Regulation

Regulation is coming here!

- US
 - EO 14028 on Improving the Nation's Cybersecurity; May 2021
 - National Cybersecurity Strategy Implementation Plan; July 2023
- EU
 - Cyber Resilience Act (CRA); December 2023
- Germany
- Japan

...

Need for a Bill of Materials

A comprehensive list of software components, with information on:

Name zlib gcc

License Zlib license GPLv3

• Version 1.3 13.2

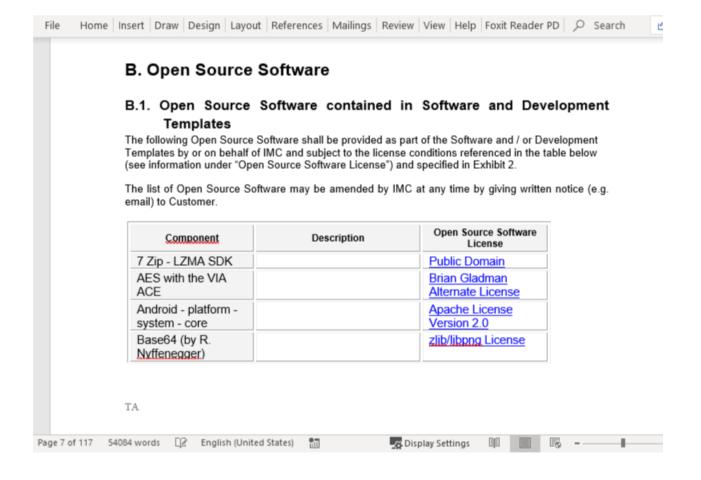
Origin https://zlib.net https://gcc.gnu.org

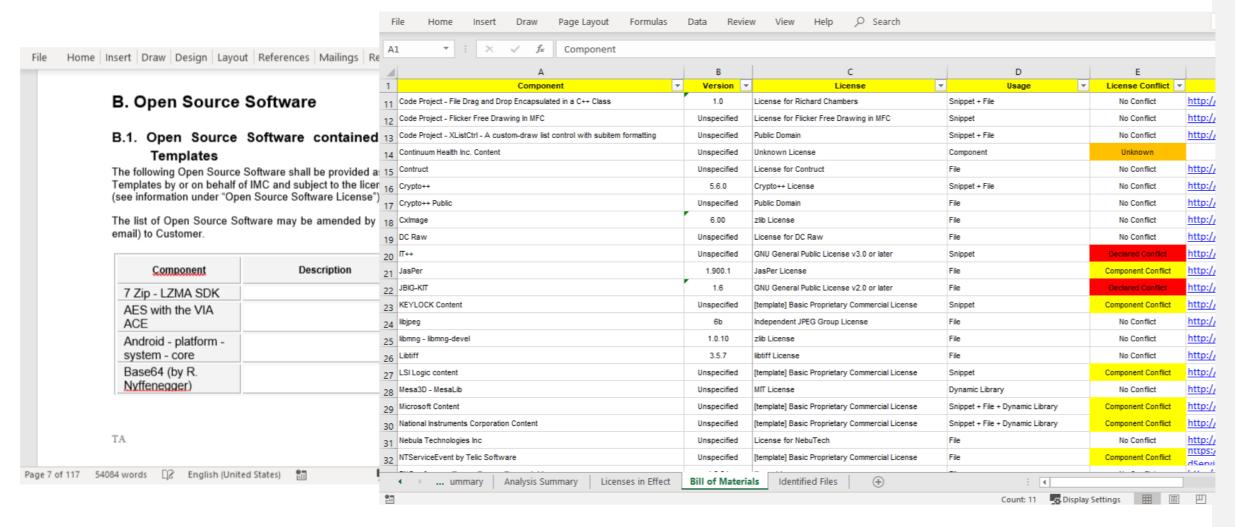
• ... "not modified"

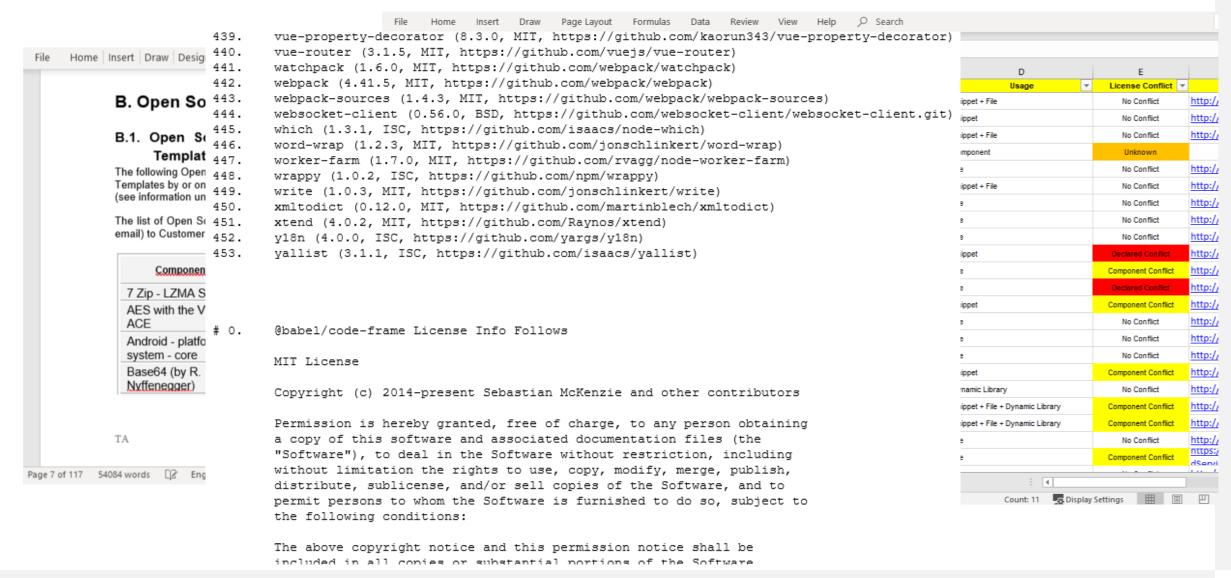
Contents of a minimum viable SBOM

Data Field	Description
Supplier Name	The name of an entity that creates, defines, and identifies components.
Component Name	Designation assigned to a unit of software defined by the original supplier.
Version of the Component	Identifier used by the supplier to specify a change in software from a previously identified version.
Other Unique Identifiers	Other identifiers that are used to identify a component, or serve as a look-up key for relevant databases.
Dependency Relationship	Characterizing the relationship that an upstream component X is included in software Y.
Author of SBOM Data	The name of the entity that creates the SBOM data for this component.
Timestamp	Record of the date and time of the SBOM data assembly.

The Minimum Elements for an SBOM, by US Department of Commerce







SPDX

Software System Package Data Exchange

System Package Data Exchange – ISO/IEC 5962:2021

Standards for communicating the component and metadata information associated with software

- Specification
- License List
- Tools



Working groups:

- Technical
- Legal
- Outreach

SPDX License List

List of (common) Open Source licenses

- Currently more than 650 licenses and 65 exceptions
- For each one, several data:
 - name, short identifier, canonical license text, reference URL, is OSI approved, is FSF libre, standard header text

Matching guidelines to determine if text matches license text

Canonical license text is templatized

SPDX License List short identifiers

Authoritative list of names and short identifiers

MIT, BSD-3-Clause, GPL-2.0-or-later, ...

Expressions

GPL-2.0-only OR BSD-3-Clause

EPL-2.0 OR MPL-2.0

Use of SPDX identifiers in source files

SPDX-License-Identifier: Apache-2.0

- Easy to use, machine-readable
 - Just adds one comment line
 - Makes it easy to know the license for a file
 - Satisfies the DCO requirement for a license reference per file

Concise standard format

SPDX Documents

Collecting all information about a software delivery

- Descriptive
 - Detailed Bill of Materials (aka manifest) of the software contents
- Flexible
 - Formats for automatic processing (XML, JSON, YAML),
 for manual editing (tag:value), and for non-technical (spreadsheet)
- Accurate
 - Focus on capturing facts; allow interpretations

Example SPDXv2 Document

SPDXID: SPDXRef-DOCUMENT
DocumentComment: <text>This document was created using SPDX 2.0</text>

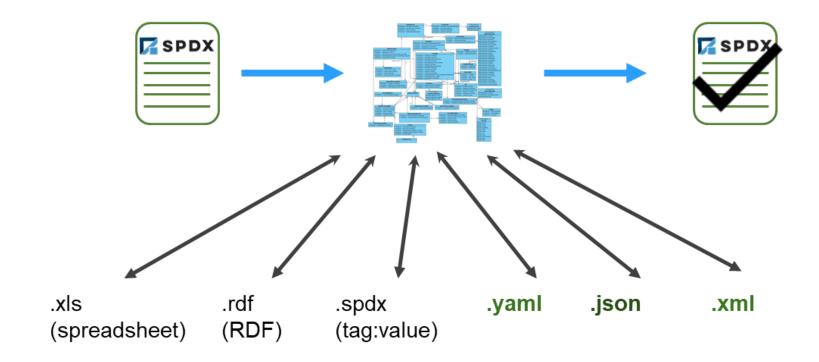
Creation Information
Creator: Person: Jane Doe
(jane.doe@corp.com)
Creator: Organization: Big Company
Creator: Tool: LicenseFind-1.0
Created: 2022-11-01T18:30:22Z
LicenseListVersion: 3.18

DocumentName: SPDX-DemoSoftware-v2.0

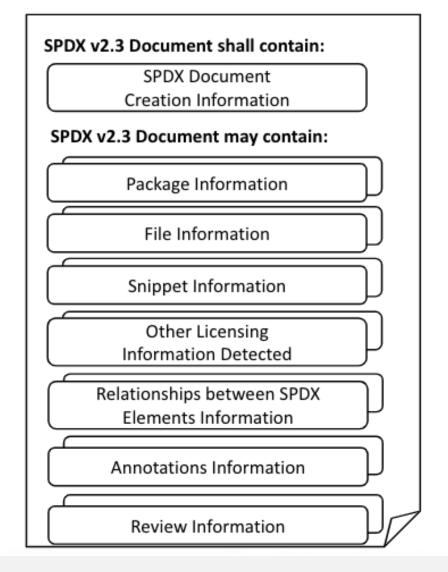
FileName: ./package/foo.c
FileType: TEXT
FileChecksum: SHA1:
d6a770ba38583ed4bb4525bd96e50461655d2758
LicenseInfoInFile: Apache-2.0
LicenseInfoInFile: LicenseRef-1
LicenseConcluded: Apache-2.0
FileCopyrightText: <text>Copyright 2008-2015 John Smith</text>
FileComment: <text>The concluded license was taken from the package; the info was found in the COPYING.txt file in the top-level directory.</text>

LicenseID: LicenseRef-1
ExtractedText: <text>This software...

Model supports diverse file formats



Structure of an SPDXv2 Document

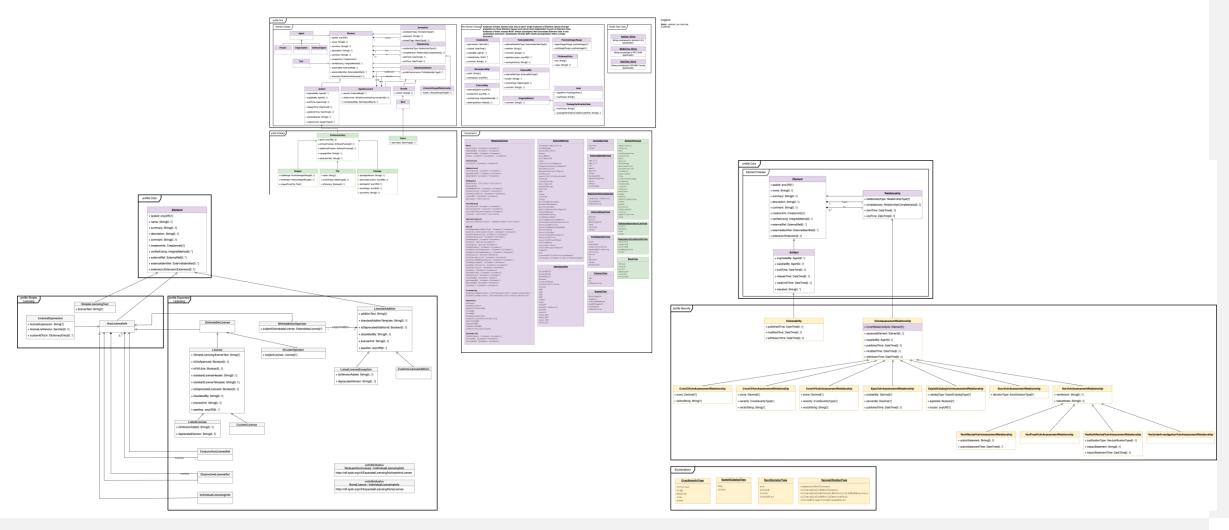


Released: SPDX 3.0

- Major undertaking
- Abstracted information to be more widely useful
- Refactored to CORE and PROFILEs
 - CORE is minimum needed to describe artifacts and relationships
 - PROFILEs for each Area of Interest:
 Licensing, Vulnerabilities, Provenance, ...

• (Finally) Released in April!

SPDXv3 is graph-based data

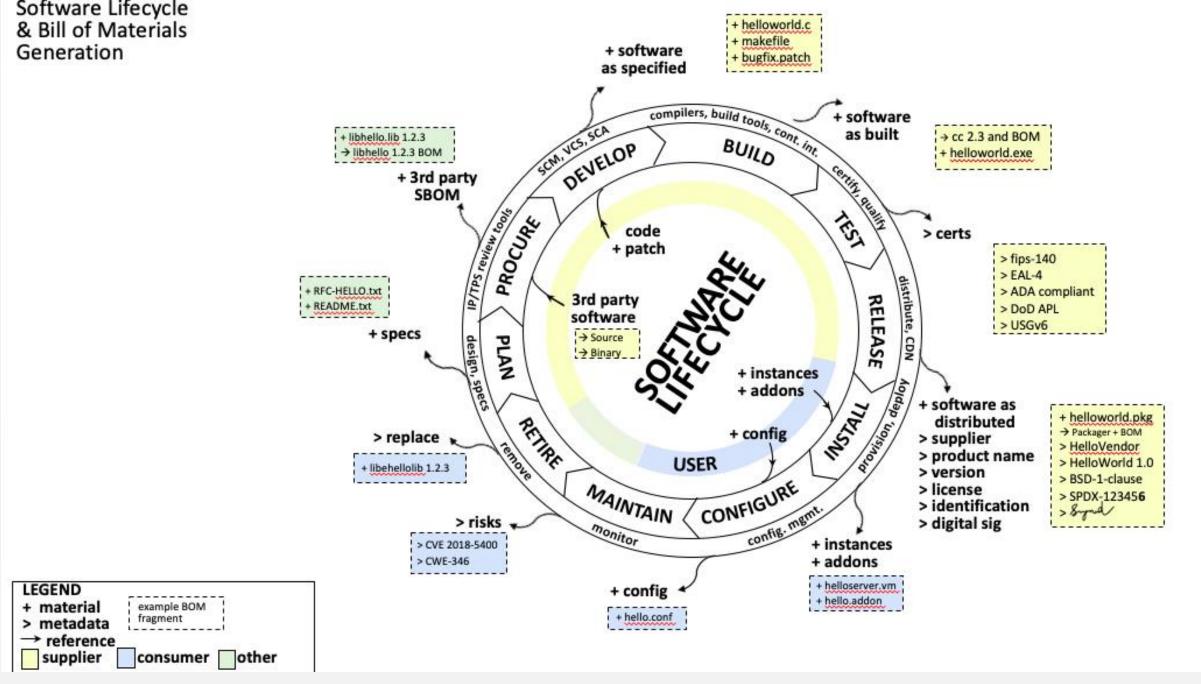


SPDXv3 Profiles

- Core, Software
- Licensing
- Security
- Build
- AI / Dataset

■ In progress: FuSa, Operations, SaaS, Hardware, ...

However... Real life is not that simple



Types of SBOMs

Design	SBOM of intended, planned software project or product with included components (some of which may not yet exist) for a new software artifact.	
Source	SBOM created directly from the development environment, source files, and included dependencies used to build a product artifact.	
Build	SBOM generated as part of the process of building the software to create a releasable artifact (e.g., executable or package) from data such as source files, dependencies, built components, build process ephemeral data, and other SBOMs.	
Analyzed	SBOM generated through analysis of artifacts (e.g., executables, packages, containers, and virtual machine images) after its build. Such analysis generally requires a variety of heuristics. In some contexts, this may also be referred to as a "third-party" SBOM.	
Deployed	SBOM provides an inventory of software that is present on a system. This may be an assembly of other SBOMs that combines analysis of configuration options, and examination of execution behavior in a (potentially simulated) deployment environment.	
Runtime	SBOM generated through instrumenting the system running the software, to capture only components present in the system, as well as external call-outs or dynamically loaded components In some contexts, this may also be referred to as an "Instrumented" or "Dynamic" SBOM.	

Tools

Tool functional classification taxonomy

Category	Туре	Description
Produce	Build	SBOM is automatically created as part of building a software artifact and contains information about the build
	Analyze	Analysis of source or binary files will generate the SBOM by inspection of the artifacts and any associated sources
	Edit	A tool to assist a person manually entering or editing SBOM data
Consume	View	Be able to understand the contents in human readable form (e.g., picture, figures, tables, text, etc.). Use to support decision making & business processes
	Diff	Be able to compare multiple SBOMs and clearly see the differences (e.g., comparing two versions of a piece of software)
	Import	Be able to discover, retrieve, and import an SBOM into your system for further processing and analysis
Transform	Translate	Change from one file type to another file type while preserving the same information
	Merge	Multiple sources of SBOM and other data can be combined together for analysis and audit purposes
	Tool support	Support use in other tools by APIs, object models, libraries, transport, or other reference sources

Tools classifications

- Licensed under:
 - Open Source
 - Proprietary
- SBOM Type

List keeps expanding...

- Level:
 - Libraries
 - Purpose-specific
 - Complete applications
 - Integrated environments

Ecosystem

SPDX: Open for participation!

To everyone

Participate!

Teams

- Technical
- Legal
- Outreach
- Mailing lists
- Meetings
- GitHub

Groups

- A
- Build
- Data
- Defects
- Functional Safety
- Hardware
- ...

All information on https://spdx.dev and https://github.com/spdx

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