Summary

Both HCL AppScan and GitLab Ultimate offer open source component scanning along with Static and Dynamic Application Security Testing. AppScan is a mature product, formerly owned by IBM. Unlike GitLab Ultimate, it does not offer container scanning.

GitLab Ultimate automatically includes broad security scanning with every code commit including Static and Dynamic Application Security Testing, along with dependency scanning, container scanning, fuzz testing and license management.

Feature Comparison

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GitLab allows easily running Static Application Security Testing (SAST) in CI/CD pipelines, checking for vulnerable source code or well known security bugs in the libraries that are included by the application. Results are then shown in the Merge Request and in the Pipeline view. This feature is available as part of Auto DevOps to provide security-by-default.
Learn more about Static Application Security Testing

Secret Detection

GitLab allows you to perform Secret Detection in CI/CD pipelines; checking for unintentionally committed secrets and credentials. Results are then shown in the Merge Request and in the Pipeline view. This feature is available as part of Auto DevOps to provide security-by-default.

Learn more about Secret Detection

Dependency Scanning

GitLab automatically detects well-known security bugs in the libraries that are included by the application, protecting your application from vulnerabilities that affect dependencies that are used dynamically. Results are then shown in the Merge Request and in the Pipeline view. This feature is available as part of Auto DevOps to provide security-by-default.

Learn more about Dependency Scanning

Container Scanning

When building a Docker image for your application, GitLab can run a security scan to ensure it does not have any known vulnerability in the environment where your code is shipped. Results are then shown in the Merge Request and in the Pipeline view. This feature is available as part of Auto DevOps to provide security-by-default.

Learn more about container scanning

Dynamic Application Security Testing

Once your application is online, GitLab allows running Dynamic Application Security Testing (DAST) in CI/CD pipelines; your application will be scanned to ensure threats like XSS or broken authentication flaws are not affecting it. Results are then shown in the Merge Request and in the Pipeline view. This feature is available as part of Auto DevOps to provide security-by-default.

Learn more about application security for containers

Interactive Application Security Testing

IAST combines elements of static and dynamic application security testing methods to improve the overall quality of the results. IAST typically uses an agent to instrument the application to monitor library calls and more. GitLab does not yet offer this feature.

Cloud Native Network Firewall

Cloud native network firewall provides container-level network micro segmentation which isolates container network communications to limit the “blast radius” of compromise to a specific container or microservice. A container-aware virtual firewall identifies valid traffic flows between app components in your cluster and limits damage by preventing attackers from moving through your environment when they have already compromised one part of it.

Learn more about Container Network Security

License Compliance

Check that licenses of your dependencies are compatible with your application, and approve or deny them. Results are then shown in the Merge Request and in the Pipeline view.

Learn more about License Compliance

On-demand Dynamic Application Security Testing

“There’s no reason to wait for the next CI pipeline run to find out if your site is vulnerable or to reproduce a previously found vulnerability. GitLab offers scanning your running application with On-demand Dynamic Application Security Testing (DAST), independent of code changes or merge requests.”

Learn more about On-demand DAST