Gitleaks Secret scanner

START HERE

`gitleaks git -v`
Scan the repo history

`gitleaks dir -v <path>`
Scan files, no git needed

`cat <file> | gitleaks stdin -v`
Scan piped data

`-r report.json`
Write a report file

`-f sarif`
Pick the report format

`--redact`
Hide secrets in output

`-b report.json`
Ignore known findings

`gitleaks:allow`
Comment to skip a line

Source git history, directory, stdin → `match` → **Rules** default or .gitleaks.toml → `filter` → **Allowlists** paths, regexes, baseline, allow comments → `report` → **Findings** log, json, sarif, csv, junit

CONCEPTS

Exit code 1 means leaks were found, 0 means clean. That is what makes it usable as a CI or hook gate.

detect and protect are deprecated since v8.19.0 and hidden from --help. Use git, dir and stdin instead.

Without a target, git and dir scan the current directory. A finding in old history stays a finding after you delete the file: rotate the secret.

SCAN MODES

`gitleaks git`
Scan commit history of the current repo

`gitleaks git <repo-path>`
Scan another repository

`gitleaks dir <path>`
Scan a folder or single file

`cat <file> | gitleaks stdin`
Scan piped data

`gitleaks git --log-opts="<opts>"`
Pass git log options to limit commits
Anything git log accepts works, for example --all or a range such as commitA..commitB.

SCAN MODES (cont.)

`gitleaks git --log-opts="--all"`
Include all branches and tags

`-v / --verbose`
Print each finding in detail

`gitleaks version`
Show the installed version

REPORTS

`-r <file>`
Write findings to a report file

`-f json / csv / junit / sarif`
Choose the report format

`-f template --report-template <file>`
Render with a Go template

`--redact`
Mask secrets in logs and stdout

`--redact=<percent>`
Mask only part of each secret

`--exit-code <n>`
Exit code to use when leaks are found

`--no-banner`
Hide the ASCII banner

`--no-color`
Plain output for logs

BASELINE AND IGNORES

`gitleaks git -r baseline.json`
Create a baseline from today's findings

`-b <baseline.json>`
Report only findings not in the baseline

`// gitleaks:allow`
Comment on a line to skip its findings
Add it as a comment in whatever the file's syntax is, on the same line as the secret.

`--ignore-gitleaks-allow`
Ignore gitleaks:allow comments

`.gitleaksignore`
Repo file listing finding fingerprints to skip
Experimental. Put one fingerprint per line, copied from a finding's Fingerprint field.

`-i <path>`
Path to .gitleaksignore or its folder

CONFIGURATION

`-c <file>`
Use this config file

`.gitleaks.toml`
Config picked up from the scan target

CONFIGURATION (cont.)

`GITLEAKS_CONFIG=<file>`
Config path via environment

`GITLEAKS_CONFIG_TOML=<toml>`
Config content via environment

`--enable-rule <id>`
Run only the given rule IDs

`[extend] useDefault = true`
Keep default rules and add your own

`[extend] disabledRules = ["<id>"]`
Turn off inherited rules

`[extend] path = "<file>"`
Extend a custom config file
Cannot be combined with useDefault. Chaining works to a depth of 2.

`[[rules]] id, regex, keywords`
Define a custom detection rule

`secretGroup / entropy`
Pick the capture group; require randomness

`path = '''<regex>'''`
Restrict a rule to matching file paths

ALLOWLISTS

`[[allowlists]]`
Global allowlist block
Replaced the single [allowlist] table in v8.25.0.

ALLOWLISTS (cont.)

`paths = ['''<regex>''']`
Skip files by path regex

`regexes = ['''<regex>''']`
Skip findings matching a regex

`commits = ["<sha>"]`
Skip findings in given commits

`stopwords = ["<word>"]`
Skip findings containing a word

`[[rules.allowlists]]`
Allowlist for a single rule

SCANNING OPTIONS

`-l <level>`
Log level: trace to fatal

`--max-target-megabytes <n>`
Skip files bigger than this

`--max-decode-depth <n>`
Also scan decoded base64, hex, percent text

HOOKS AND CI

`repo: https://github.com/gitleaks/gitleaks`
pre-commit repo entry; pin rev, id: gitleaks

`pre-commit install`
Activate the hook in this clone

`pre-commit autoupdate`
Bump the pinned gitleaks rev

`SKIP=gitleaks git commit`
Skip the hook once

HOOKS AND CI (cont.)

`gitleaks/gitleaks-action`
GitHub Action that runs the scan

`docker run -v <dir>:/path ghcr.io/gitleaks/gitleaks:latest git /path`
Run in Docker

`brew install gitleaks`
Install on macOS or Linuxbrew

RECIPES

Scan history and keep a redacted report

```
gitleaks git --redact -v \
  -f json -r gitleaks-report.json
```

Adopt on an old repo: baseline first, gate new leaks

```
gitleaks git -r baseline.json || true
gitleaks git -b baseline.json -r new.json
```

Custom rule on top of the defaults (.gitleaks.toml)

```
[extend]
useDefault = true

[[rules]]
id = "acme-token"
regex = '''acme_[a-z0-9]{32}'''
keywords = ["acme_"]
```

Allowlist test fixtures and docs (.gitleaks.toml)

```
[[allowlists]]
description = "fixtures"
paths = ['''testdata/.*''',
'''docs/.*\.md''']
```