TruffleHog

Secret scanner

CONCEPTS

Every finding is verified by calling the provider's API. A verified hit is a live credential: rotate it first, clean history second.

Source git, files, S3...
↓ chunks
Detectors regex + keywords
↓ candidates
Verify call provider API
↓ status
Result verified / unknown / unverified

Unknown means verification failed (network or API error), not that the secret is safe. Unverified means detected but not confirmed live.

Exit code is 0 even with findings unless you pass --fail (then 183). Exit 1 means the scan itself had errors.

SCAN SOURCES

trufflehog git *<uri>*
Scan a git repo by URL or file:// path

trufflehog git file://.
Scan the local repo's history

trufflehog filesystem *<path>*...
Scan files and directories

trufflehog github --org=*<org>*
Scan every repo of an org

trufflehog github --repo=*<url>*
Scan one GitHub repo

trufflehog docker --image *<image>*
Scan a container image

trufflehog s3 --bucket=*<name>*
Scan an S3 bucket

GIT AND GITHUB OPTIONS

--since-commit *<ref>*
Scan only commits after this ref

--branch *<name>*
Scan one branch

--token *<token>*
GitHub token to avoid rate limits

RESULTS AND OUTPUT

--results=verified
Show only confirmed live secrets

--results=verified,unknown
Also keep unknown (verification failed)

--json / -j
Output one JSON object per finding

--sarif
Output SARIF for code scanning

--no-verification
Skip API checks; report all matches

--fail
Exit 183 when results are found

DETECTORS AND FILTERS

--include-detectors *<names>*
Run only these detectors (names or IDs)

--exclude-detectors *<names>*
Skip these detectors; wins over include

--config *<file>*
Load custom detectors from a YAML file

trufflehog:ignore
Comment on a line to skip its finding

ANALYZE AND INSTALL

trufflehog analyze
Show permissions of a found credential

trufflehog help *<command>*
Flags for one subcommand

trufflehog --version
Print the installed version

brew install trufflehog
Install on macOS or Linuxbrew

CI

uses: trufflesecurity/trufflehog@main
GitHub Action step; checkout with fetch-depth: 0

extra_args: --results=verified,unknown
Pass flags to the Action

trufflehog git file://. --since-commit main --branch *<b>* **--fail**
PR-style scan of new commits