

Beyond CVEs: Mastering the Landscape with Vulnerability-Lookup

VSS 2025

https://www.vulnerability-lookup.org

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Origin of the project

Who is behind Vulnerability-Lookup?



Vulnerability-Lookup¹ is an Open Source project led by CIRCL.
 It is co-funded by CIRCL and the European Union².
 Used by many organisations including CSIRTs and ENISA (EUVD).
 A reference implementation to GCVE standards.



¹https://www.vulnerability-lookup.org ²https://github.com/ngsoti



- cve-search³ is an open-source tool initially developed in late 2012, focusing on maintaining a **local** CVE database.
- cve-search is widely used as an internal tool.
- The design and scalability of cve-search are limited. Our operational public instance at https://cve.circl.lu has reached a hard limit of 20,000 queries per second.
- Vulnerability sources have **diversified**, and the **NVD CVE** is no longer the sole source of vulnerability information.

³https://github.com/cve-search/cve-search



- Volume of data: Handling a substantial dataset and heavy network traffic, currently over 1,360,500 security advisories and more than 90,000 sightings⁴.
- **Flexibility:** Balancing ongoing development with legacy issues while designing a future-proof architecture. It's complex and yes, sometimes chaotic⁵.
- **Robustness:** Validating data even when external entities don't comply with their own JSON schemas. It's not always pretty.
- Fast lookup: Rapidly correlating identifiers across diverse sources, including unpublished advisories.

⁴The first sighting on Exploit-DB dates back 26 years.
 ⁵We enjoy challenges, especially when they lead to practical solutions.



Ongoing Challenges and Development

- **CPE fragmentation:**⁶ Tackling the fragmentation of CPEs (e.g., cpe:/a:oracle:java vs. cpe:/a:sun:java) by introducing *Organizations* as unified containers.
- **CVD process:** Building an open-source tool that fully supports the Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure (CVD) process.⁷
- Vulnerability numbering: Enabling a new distributed approach through the Global CVE Allocation System.⁸
- **Scoring vulnerabilities:** Aggregating a large volume of observations from diverse advisory types to improve vulnerability scoring.

⁶Well, another mess to clean up! ⁷Aligned with NIS 2 and the Cyber Resilience Act. ⁸https://gcve.eu

Current Sources in Vulnerability-Lookup

- CISA Known Exploited Vulnerability (HTTP)
- NIST NVD CVE (API 2.0)
- CVEProject cvelist (Git submodule)
- Fraunhofer FKIE (Git submodule)
- Cloud Security Alliance GSD (Git submodule)
- GitHub Advisory DB (Git submodule)
- PySec Advisory DB (Git submodule)

• CSAF 2.0 (HTTP CSAF)

CERT-Bund, Cisco, Siemens, Red Hat, Microsoft, NCSC-NL, CISA, etc.

- VARIoT (API)
- Japan JVN DB (HTTP)
- Tailscale (RSS)
- GCVE.eu all GNA sources
- CWE, CAPEC, MITRE EMB3D or KEV
- CNVD and growing...

Open Data Initiative: Regular JSON dumps published⁹. ⁹https://vulnerability.circl.lu/dumps/



Design and Implementation

Vulnerability-Lookup High-Level Architecture



Overview of the Vulnerability-Lookup architecture - https://www.vulnerability-lookup.org



\$ curl -s https://vulnerability.circl.lu/api/vulnerability/last/csaf_redhat/10 | jq .[2].document.title "Red Hat Security Advisory: Red Hat Ceph Storage 6.1 security and bug fix update"

\$ curl -s https://vulnerability.circl.lu/api/vulnerability/last/csaf_redhat/10 | jq .[2].vulnerabilities[0].cve
"CVE-2021-4231"

- Documented API (OpenAPI): https://vulnerability.circl.lu/api
- Pagination and filtering by source
- CPE search by vendor and product name
- Many endpoints available via RSS and Atom¹⁰

¹⁰https://www.vulnerability-lookup.org/documentation/feeds.html



Empowering the Community

Crowd-Sourced Threat Intelligence

- Bundles: Group similar vulnerabilities and aggregate sightings for easier tracking.
- Comments: Additional context such as PoCs, remediations, related insights.
- Tags: Use the MISP Vulnerability Taxonomy to annotate comments¹¹. Example:

vulnerability:information=remediation

• **Sightings:** Report real-world observations of vulnerabilities, including metadata like timestamps and sources.

"uuid": "f9ec8b2c-2ceb-4c05-b052-264b51c6a3ee", "vulnerability_lookup_origin": "1a89b78e-f703-45f3-bb86-59eb712668bd",
"author": "9f56dd64-161d-43a6-b9c3-555944290a09", "creation_timestamp": "2025-04-17T19:14:32.000000Z",
"vulnerability": "CVE-2025-32433",
"type": "exploited",
"source": "https://gist.github.com/numanturle/b7333fb02a4ee3618995babc9b62c507"
}

¹¹https://www.misp-project.org/taxonomies.html#_vulnerability_3



Туре	Description	Negative/Opposite
seen	The vulnerability was mentioned, discussed, or ob-	-
	served by the user.	
confirmed	The vulnerability has been verified by an analyst.	Х
exploited	The vulnerability was actively exploited and ob-	Х
	served by the user reporting the sighting.	
patched	The vulnerability was successfully mitigated or	Х
	patched by the user reporting the sighting.	

Table 1: Types of vulnerability sightings



Automatically gathering crowd-sourced intelligence without requiring direct user contributions to our platform.

- Social Platforms: Fediverse, Bluesky
- Threat Intelligence Tools: MISP, Nuclei
- Content Feeds: RSS/Atom, curated web pages, GitHub Gist
- Specialized Projects: ShadowSight, ExploitDBSighting
- Community Contributions: Passive signals and indirect data enrichment



Scoring Vulnerabilities

Sightings Detection Rate and Types of Sightings

- A high rate of sightings (type *seen*) often correlates with high or critical severity vulnerabilities¹².
- Early sightings of type *exploited* (e.g., proof-of-concept code) or *confirmed* (e.g., detection templates for tools like Nuclei) can signal emerging threats.
- Sightings can sometimes be detected before any official advisory is published.

🔆 volner	ability p			😢 Search * Recent * Log	n About
Sighti	ngs			Search term	Submit
Author	Source	Vulnerability	Type	Date	Other
automation	https://bskv.app/profile/pm/oik.bskv.social/post/3/nc3wwzzst2z	CVE-2025-9501	seen	2025-04-21 02:17:56 +0000	77 JL
automation	https://bsky.app/profile/pmloik.bsky.social/post/3lnc3wwzzst2z	CVE-2025-32433	seen	2025-04-21 02:17:55 +0000	い 中
automation	https://bsky.app/profile/pmloik.bsky.social/post/3inc3wwzzst2z	CVE-2025-24054	seen	2025-04-21 02:17:55 +0000	m de

• Continuous exploitation patterns are frequently observed through sources like The Shadowserver Foundation or MISP.

¹²Don't underestimate the hype surrounding some vulnerabilities.



Early PoC (erlang / otp)



https://vulnerability.circl.lu/vuln/CVE-2025-32433#sightings

TLP:CLEAR

Continuous Exploitations (Palo Alto Networks / Cloud NGFW)

Evolution of sightings over time



Sightings

Author	Source	Туре	Date
automation	The Shadowserver (honeypot/exploited-vulnerabilities) - (2025-04-16) (correlations)	exploited	1 day ago
automation	https://bsky.app/profile/christopherkunz.bsky.social/post/3lmu2zatyx22z (correlations)	seen	2 days ago
automation	https://chaos.social/users/christopherkunz/statuses/114340622271163262 (correlations)	seen	2 days ago
automation	The Shadowserver (honeypot/exploited-vulnerabilities) - (2025-04-15) (correlations)	exploited	2 days ago

https://vulnerability.circl.lu/vuln/CVE-2025-0108#sightings



Continuous Exploitations (D-Link / DNS-320)

Evolution of sightings over time



automation	The Shadowserver (honeypot/common-vulnerabilities) - (2025-04-15) (correlations)	seen	2 days ago
automation	The Shadowserver (honeypot/exploited-vulnerabilities) - (2025-04-15) (<u>correlations</u>)	exploited	2 days ago

https://vulnerability.circl.lu/vuln/CVE-2024-10914#sightings



Last Month's Most Sighted Vulnerabilities

	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CVE-2025-29927					3	11	54	42	20	15		10																				
CVE-2025-22457																		39	38			16				13						14
CVE-2025-24813	13	15	12	13				11																								
CVE-2025-1974									24		25																					
CVE-2025-2825																																
CVE-2025-29824																							12	29								14
CVE-2025-2783										27	15	12																				
CVE-2025-30066	12	15	14	3																												
CVE-2025-24200																									12	30						
CVE-2017-18368	2																									2						
CVE-2015-2051	2																															
CVE-2025-30406																														14		14
CVE-2025-0108	1	5	5	1																												

- CVE-2025-22457: Ivanti / Connect Secure Severity: 10.0 (Critical)
- CVE-2025-29927: Vercel / Next.js Severity: 9.1 (Critical)



Vulnerability	Product	Sighting count	EPSS	Severity
CVE-2025-29927	next.js	167	89.24% (0.99521)	9.1
CVE-2025-24813	Apache Tomcat	128	93.55% (0.99827)	9.2
CVE-2024-4577	PHP	190	94.38% (0.99961)	9.8
CVE-2025-0282	Connect Secure	243	90.87% (0.99618)	9.0
CVE-2024-55591	FortiOS	126	92.79% (0.99756)	9.8
CVE-2024-10914	D-Link DNS-320	81	93.73% (0.9985)	9.2
CVE-2020-21650	Myucms	57	2.48% (0.83998)	9.1

 Table 2: Top vulnerabilities from our April 2025 report, based on sightings and scoring data.





- Low-sighting outliers offer valuable intel, even if absent from EPSS or predictive models.
- Particularly relevant in low-noise sources (e.g., MISP, private Telegram channels).
- Often rated low/medium by CVSS and have low EPSS scores.
- Trend highlights EPSS's dependence on public threat intel feeds.



Tracking the Exploitability of Vulnerabilities Prior to Public Disclosure

- Google / Android: https://vulnerability.circl.lu/vuln/CVE-2024-43093#sightings
- Speedify VPN (macOS): https://vulnerability.circl.lu/vuln/CVE-2025-25364#sightings
- SourceCodester: https://vulnerability.circl.lu/vuln/CVE-2025-3821#sightings
 - Low visibility, no EPSS score, few sightings





Toward Practical AI Applications

Completing Missing Data with AI



- Some vulnerabilities are published without an assigned CVSS score.
- To address this, we developed VLAI Severity^a, a model trained on the Vulnerability-Lookup dataset.
- Predicts severity from the vulnerability description before an official score is available.
- Available as a standalone model or via the CIRCL public instance.

^ahttps:

//www.vulnerability-lookup.org/user-manual/ai/ https://www.arxiv.org/abs/2507.03607



ML-Gateway, clean RESTful API for fast inference



The role of AL-thateway is to route each request to the appropriate AI would in order to deliver the expected result

CVE-2025 449074	GCVE-0-2025-44897)
Vulnerability from con	
Published	2025-05-20-00:00
Modified	2025-05-20 20:27
Severity ?	
VLAI Severity ?	Critical (confidence: 0.8793)
Summary	FW-WGS-804HPT v1.305b241111 was discovered to contain a stack overflow via the bytftp_srvip parameter in the
	web_tool_upgradeManager_post function.

- FastAPI micro-service that loads pre-trained NLP models at start-up
- Provides per-model HTTP endpoints (POST /classify/severity) with OpenAPI docs
- Less than 100 ms mean latency on commodity CPU; no GPU or database required, ideal for container deployment
- Consumed asynchronously by Vulnerability-Lookup (VLAI) through the internal route
- Source code & docs^a

^ahttps:

//github.com/vulnerability-lookup/ML-Gateway





Lookup is Cool, but Publishing is Even Cooler

- The primary role of GCVE¹³ is to provide **globally unique identifiers** to GCVE Numbering Authorities (GNAs).
- **GNAs operate autonomously**, with full control over how they assign and manage identifiers.
- GCVE publishes Best Current Practices (BCPs) on directory management, Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure (CVD), and publication protocols.
- GCVE maintains and publishes the **official directory of all GNAs**, including their publication endpoints.



¹³https://gcve.eu/

Decentralized Publication Standard





Core API

API Usage

- Backward compatible with cve-search¹⁴
- Fully documented via OpenAPI¹⁵ paginated, with JSON-Schema-based data validation
- The UI and core features of Vulnerability-Lookup are built entirely on top of the API
- Sighting tools¹⁶ and other satellite projects leverage the API
- Integrated into Vulnogram (bundled with Vulnerability-Lookup) a user-friendly interface for managing security advisories
- Supports inter-instance synchronisation (work in progress)
- Implements the MISP taxonomy¹⁷ for objects such as comments

¹⁴Originally developed in late 2012 ¹⁵https://vulnerability.circl.lu/api/ ¹⁶https://www.vulnerability-lookup.org/user-manual/sightings/ ¹⁷https://www.misp-project.org/taxonomies.html#_vulnerability_3



Vulnogram



- Unauthenticated, read-only access for core look-ups (vulnerabilities, comments, bundles, sightings, ...)
- Registered users can add or edit bundles, comments, and sightings
- Users with the *Commenter (Moderated)* role may edit their own bundles, comments, and sightings
- **Reporters** may edit vulnerabilities they have contributed (local sources)
- Administrators have full write access to all objects



- Query vulnerabilities from all available sources and filter by date, vendor, product, source, or CPE; results are paginated.
- Extend the response with **optional flags**:
 - with_meta include extended metadata such as local updates and supplementary details
 - with_linked include correlated records from other related sources
 - with_comments embed user comments linked to the vulnerability
 - with_bundles embed bundles referencing the vulnerability
 - with_sightings embed sightings associated with the vulnerability



\$ curl --silent 'https://vulnerability.circl.lu/api/vulnerability/CVE-2015-2051?with_linked=true' | jq 'keys'

"containers",
"cveMetadata",
"dataType",
"dataVersion",
"vulnerability-lookup:linked"




You can easily get related vulnerabilities from a specific source

```
$ curl --silent 'https://vulnerability.circl.lu/api/vulnerability/CVE-2015-2051?with_linked=true' \
   jq '.["vulnerability-lookup:linked"]["github"]'
    "ghsa-x629-5xff-w7gg".
      "schema_version": "1.4.0",
      "id": "GHSA-x629-5xff-w7qg",
      "modified": "2025-01-06T15:30:58Z".
      "published": "2022-05-17T03:11:58Z",
      "aliases": ["CVE-2015-2051"],
      "details": "The D-Link DIR-645 Wired/Wireless Router Rev. Ax with firmware 1.04b12 and...",
      "severity": [
          "score": "CVSS:3.1/AV:A/AC:L/PR:N/UT:N/S:U/C:H/T:H/A:H"
      <....>
```



\$ curl --silent 'https://vulnerability.circl.lu/api/sighting/?source=https://daniel.haxx.se/blog/2025/02/11/disabling-cert-checks-we-have-not-learned-much/' \

| jq '.data[.vulnerability' "GHSA-fq29-72jg-5hrj" "CVE-2024-32928" "GHSA-9mgx-552f-59p6" "CVE-2024-56521" "GHSA-crg3-fjm2-xvpq" "CVE-2024-5621"



- The service provides a rich collection of endpoint families beyond /vulnerability/:¹⁸
 - Reference data: /browse/, /capec/, /cwe/, /cisa_kev/, /emb3d/, /epss/
 - Collaboration: /bundle/, /comment/, /sighting/
 - Statistics: /stats/vulnerability/{most_commented, most_sighted}
 - GCVE registry: /gcve/registry, integrity verification and pulls
 - Administration & health: /system/, /user/, /organization/, /product/
- All endpoints share consistent design principles: pagination, JSON-Schema validation, optional field masking, and comprehensive OpenAPI documentation¹⁹

¹⁸See the full specification at https://vulnerability.circl.lu/api/ ¹⁹https://www.vulnerability-lookup.org/documentation/api-v1.html



Endpoints for Statistics

- Dashboard at https://vulnerability.circl.lu
- https://vulnerability.circl.lu/stats/vulnerability/most_sighted
- https://vulnerability.circl.lu/stats/vulnerability/most_commented

Generating a PDF report of the most sighted vulnerabilities:

- \$ xdg-open semestrial-report.pdf



CVD - Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure

- CIRCL has operated a Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure (CVD) policy for over 10 years.
- A revised CVD policy²⁰ was introduced to align with Article 12 of the NIS 2 Directive (transposed Article 9).
- The policy governs the handling of vulnerability reports affecting ICT products (software or hardware), services, or procedural implementation.

²⁰https://www.circl.lu/pub/coordinated-vulnerability-disclosure/



- Acts as a trusted intermediary between the reporter and affected vendor.
- Helps to coordinate responsible disclosure while protecting security interests.



- Identify and contact the concerned vendor.
- Assist the vulnerability reporter.
- Negotiate a disclosure timeline.
- Ensure diligent follow-up measures are taken by the vendor concerned.
- Notify potentially affected users (national, EU and International).
- Contribute to ENISA's vulnerability database.

CVD Process Overview





- Submit reports via the CIRCL vulnerability reporting platform: vulnerability.circl.lu
- Anonymity is supported and optional.
- Include sufficient technical details to enable verification and triage.
- Additional contextual information is welcome to help create effective vulnerability notifications.



- CIRCL validates the vulnerability report and attempts to identify the appropriate point of contact within the affected organization.
- The validated report is then forwarded to the concerned vendor.
- CIRCL facilitates communication to ensure all parties understand the vulnerability and its potential impact.
- All interactions with the reporter are managed through the vulnerability-lookup platform.



- After remediation, the affected vendor is encouraged to:
 - Publish the vulnerability.
 - Provide mitigation or patch information.
- CIRCL can assist in writing or publishing the disclosure or complementary information.



- If the vendor:
 - Fails to respond, or
 - Does not act within the agreed timeline,
- CIRCL or the original reporter may:
 - Disclose the vulnerability publicly.
 - Inform affected users and stakeholders.



- Default period: 60 days after initial notification.
- Possible extensions based on:
 - Complexity of remediation.
 - Breadth of deployment.
 - Risk to users.



Vulnerability Disclosure Platform - User Registration



Vulnerability Disclosure Platform - Reporting Vulnerability 1/2



Vulnerability Disclosure Platform - Reporting Vulnerability 2/2

<u>.</u>			Edit the vulnerability disclosure — Mozilla Firefox								× /	~ ×.
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		Chief Execu	tive Officer									
		Zigrin Secu	in/									
		2igiin accu	ny .									
							ines: 2	8 1000	05: 9Z	25:1		
		Vulnerability	D If available, provide the associated vulnerability ID (e.g., CVE identifier).									
		Online Ser	vice Indicates whether the vulnerability affects an online service.									
		Affected Proc										
		circl:vulnera	bility-lookup									
		Provide known	nformation about the affected product(s), including vendor, product name, and version.									
		Related CWEs										
		Optionally selec	t any relevant Common Weakness Enumerations (CWEs) related to this vulnerability.									
		Related CAPE	3									
		Cross-Site Scri	eling (XSS) ×									
		Outload to out	t any relevant Common Attack Pattern Enumeration and Classification (CAPECs) related to this vulnerabi	1114 -								
				anty.								
		Remain Ar Credits	onymous Check this box if the reporter does not wish to be publicly credited.									
		Dawid Czan	seeki									
			redited (if not anonymous).									
		Submit									_	
		Computer Inc	ident Response Center Luxembourg (CIRCL) Dumps	Contributo	ors (Doru	menta	ition i	API Abo			
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Vulnerability Disclosure Platform - Reporting Interaction



Vulnerability Disclosure Platform - Report Management



Vulnerability Disclosure Platform - Disclosure Information



Vulnerability Disclosure Platform - CVE Creation

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	• CVE-2025-32413 × +											
				🔳 🥔 🙋 🛦 បំ 🕡 =								
Known Watershillsy page Detete You are editing one-2025-32413 from the "cwisted" source. Changes made to this valuenability will be committed in the local source Mp prefile Mp prefile												
NEW 🎦 Open 😨 Download 🕀 Post to CVE.org				CVE-yyyy-nnnn 🕒 Load								
Editor 💽 Source Preview CVE Paral												
Ø Vuln ID CIRCL-SA-2025-32413		CVE ID CVE-2025-32413		(2 cve.org								
TT Title Vulnerability-Lookup before 2.7.1 allows stored XSS	Title Vulnerability-Lookup before 2.7.1 allows stored XSS 🔯 Public at 🛛 mm / dd / yyyy ,											
🕷 Problem types 🔹 🕸												
CWE-79 Improper Neutralization of Input During Web Page Generation (XSS or 'Cross-site Scriptize) + Impact												
+ Problem type % Mitested products *												
CIRCL	Vulnerability-Lookup		eg., x86, Android, Windows, MacOS,									
Package collection URL 0	💮 Package name 🗉		[2] Source repository (OSS)									
I Modules, components, or features	E Source-code file (OSS) 0		Program routines (OSS)	0								
eg., filesystem	eg., hello.c		+ Program routine									
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+ Product		_										
TLP:CLEAR												

Closing

- Deeper analysis of the content and context of sightings, including **source reliability assessment**.
- Full-text search capabilities across all integrated sources.
- Integration of scoring models such as Vuln4Cast²¹, with testing planned on our dataset to enhance reproducibility.
- Improved notification capabilities for newly observed vulnerabilities via webhooks.

The project is evolving rapidly — feedback and feature suggestions are always welcome!

²¹https://github.com/FIRSTdotorg/Vuln4Cast





https://www.vulnerability-lookup.org

CIRCL public instance https://vulnerability.circl.lu

Source code https://github.com/vulnerability-lookup/vulnerability-lookup

Dataset, AI Model Training, Models https://github.com/vulnerability-lookup/VulnTrain

