GitGuardian

5th Edition

THE STATE OF

Secrets Sprawl 2026

The Year Software Changed Forever

In 2025, mainstream AI adoption forever changed software engineering. We've entered an era where coding is no longer the domain of engineers alone.

28,649,024 ↑ 34%

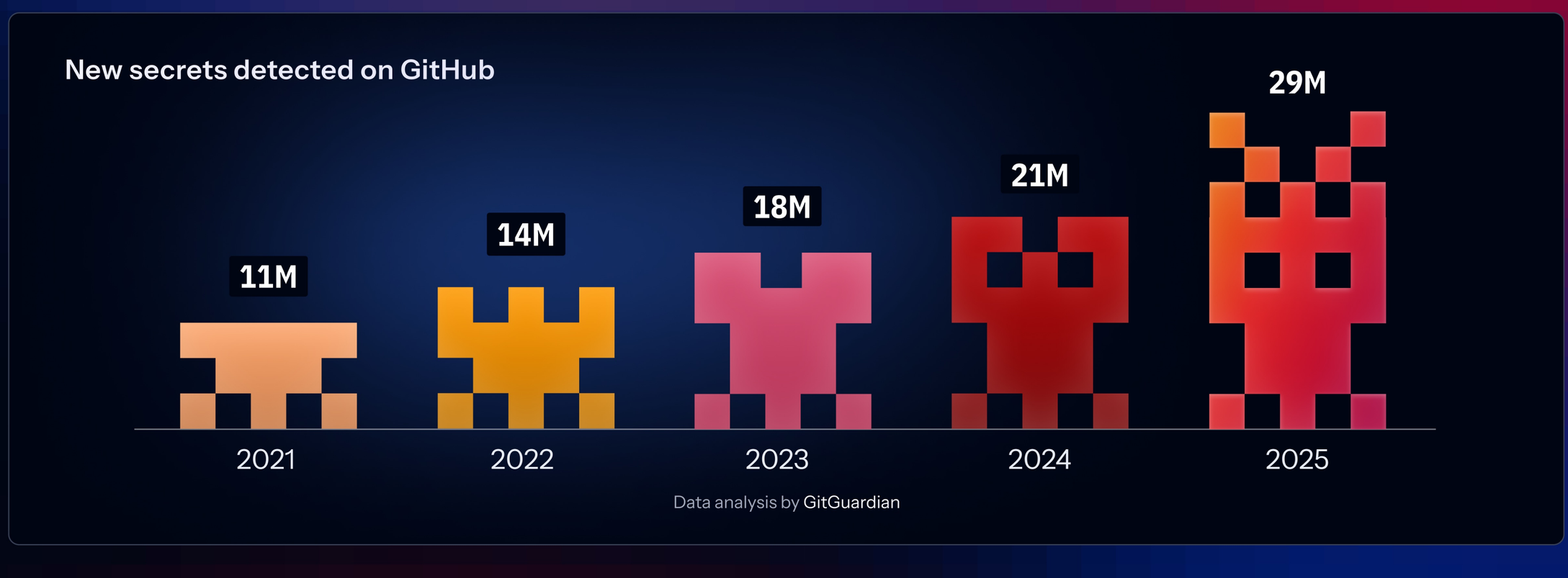
New secrets detected in public GitHub commits in 2025.

43%

Scanned public GitHub commits

2021-2025

Every year, GitGuardian monitors billions of public commits across GitHub, the world's largest code hosting platform, for hardcoded secrets. The 34% increase from 2024 marks the largest single-year jump we have ever recorded.



152%

leaked secrets growth since 2021

98%

public active developers

While the software ecosystem is growing quickly, leaked secrets are growing faster, and remediation is not keeping up.

AI adoption creates new credential security risks

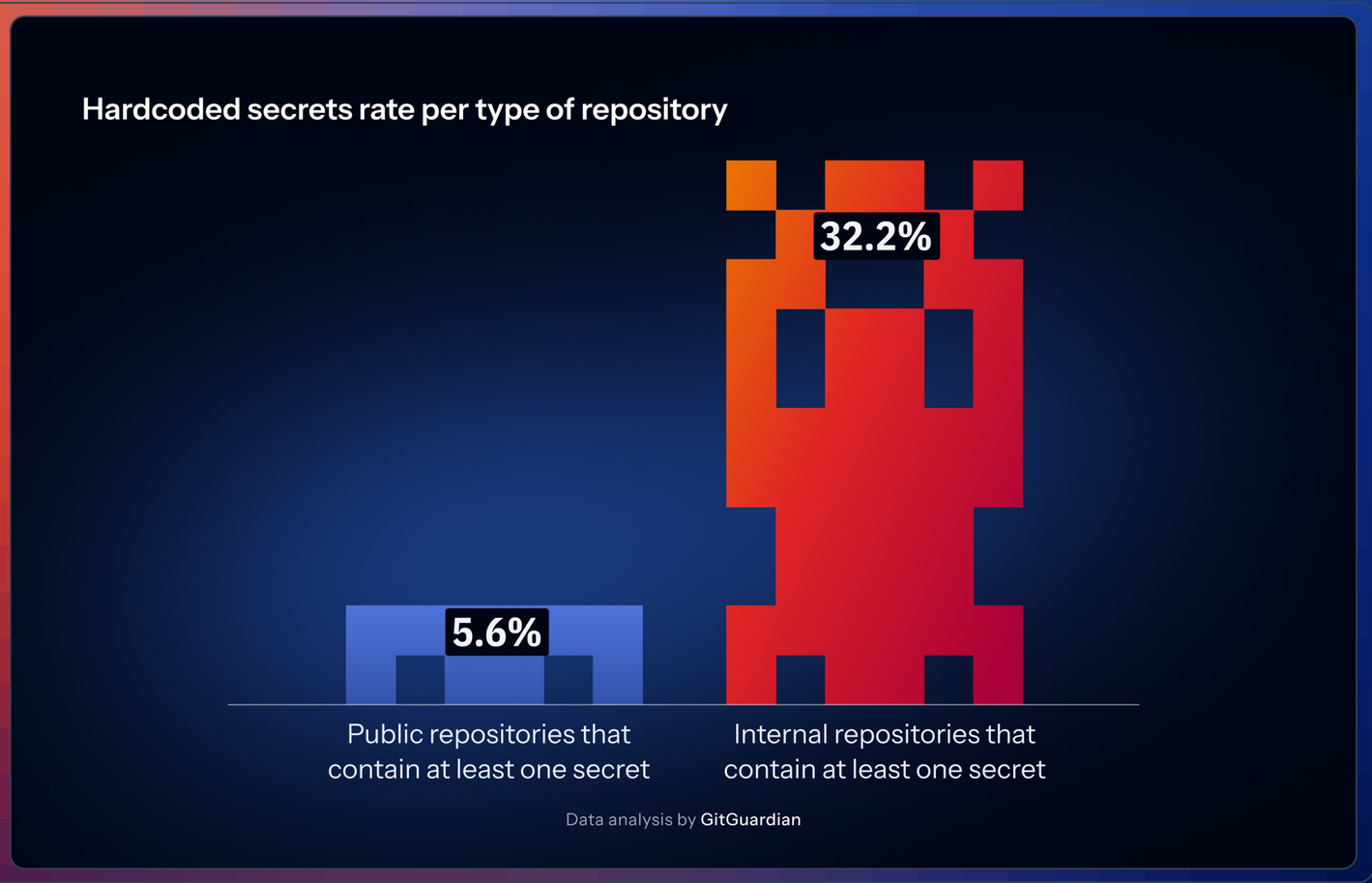
1,275,105
AI-service secrets exposed

81%
YoY growth of secrets of AI-related services

2x Developers who rely on Claude Code to produce code and co-author commits leak secrets at 2x the baseline rate.

6x
more secrets in internal repositories vs public ones

These internally exposed secrets are also now at risk of accidental public exposure by AI coding assistants.



46%
of critical secrets leaked lack validation checkers

Nearly half of critical secrets exist in categories validation can't cover.

64%
of secrets leaked in 2022 remain exploitable today

This means those secrets have been exploitable by anyone who finds them for 4 years.

Download the full Report!

Download the State of Secrets Sprawl 2025 report to establish a new standard for secrets security.

Download the report

www.gitguardian.com/state-of-secrets-sprawl-report-2026



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