Pushing Left, Like a Boss: Part 1
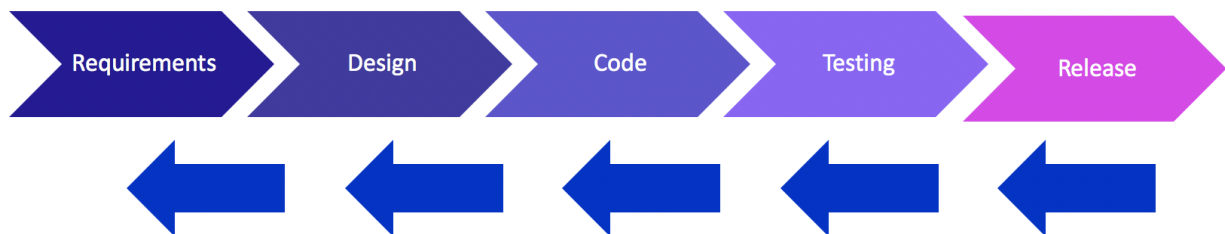
SheHacksPurple [Follow]
Jul 8, 2018 · 5 min read

In all of the talks and articles I have ever written and all the advice I have ever given, I am always telling people they should "push left". When security people say they want to "shift left", they are referring to the left side of the System Development Life Cycle (SDLC), which is the way software engineers describe the methodology or process for making software.

If you look at the image below, the further "left" you look, the earlier you are in the process. When we say we want to "push left", we mean we want to start security at the very beginning and perform security in every step of the SDLC.

You might be reading this and thinking "Of course! Doesn't everyone do that? It's so obvious." But from I've seen in industry, I have to tell you, it's not obvious. And it's definitely not what software developers