Erin L. Havens

San Francisco Bay Area
California
94063
h@vens.io

erinhavens.com
github.blog/author/erinhav/
linkedin.com/in/havenserin/

Product lead for GitHub's secret scanning product line — processing 275M pushes per month, blocking 300k distinct secrets at 99.9% uptime, and surfacing 40M+ secret exposures per year. GitHub Secret Protection, the $MM standalone SKU, has grown 2.3x over the past six months. Originated GitHub's product-led growth motion for security — since copied by competitors and adjacent products. Full-stack: legal, design, revenue, sales, engineering, R&D, marketing, customer research, GTM.

Brings me joy

- Love of the product craft
- Proving something can be done, and that it can be done successfully
- Being surrounded by smarter people I can learn from.

Job Titles

2022–present	Senior Product Manager, *Product Lead - Secret Scanning*, GitHub
2021–2022	Product Manager, *Dependabot Alerts*, GitHub
2020–2021	Product Manager, *Risk & Security Products*, Visa
2018–2020	Rotation Program, *Corporate Strategy, Product, Engineering*, Visa
2017	Fellow, True Ventures
2016, 2015	Software Engineering Intern, SAS

Selected Releases

2026 *Purpose-built model for leaked secret detection*. Led an AI model from research to launch at GitHub with Microsoft Applied Sciences. Turned sub-2 ms detection into a new way to stop secret leaks, across GitHub push protection, Copilot, and air-gapped enterprise environments.

2026 *Secret scanning public monitoring for enterprises*. Originated and launched public monitoring, attributing publicly leaked secrets from arbitrary public repositories back to the enterprises that own them, in real time.

2025 *Introducing GitHub Secret Protection and GitHub Code Security*. Released several cross-platform $MM SKUs — a massive undertaking involving changes from Brand, billing and licensing systems, website, sales motions, and product surfaces.

2025 *Find secrets exposed in your organization with the secret risk assessment*. Originated product-led growth motion for security products. Drives ~1k orgs/week through the SRA (50k+ runs to date) at 9.1% conversion. Since copied by competitors and other products at GitHub.

2023 *Custom auto-triage rules for Dependabot alerts*. Originated policy engine, adopted by 100k+ users in less than 30 days, amounting to 50M+ reduction in false positives across the developer community.

2022 *Improving the developer experience for Dependabot alerts*. From minimum viable product to minimum lovable. When I fell in love with the craft.

Education

2018 B.A. Computer Science and Art History Minor, McGill University

Founding President, McGill Women in Computer Science
Founded and led one of Montréal's largest organizations dedicated to "cultivating a community for collaboration, exploration, and expanding opportunities" for women in Computer Science.

Project Manager, McGill Robotics
Led organizational student efforts for a 250-member research organization developing a Drone, Rover, and Autonomous Underwater Vehicle, as well as a 200+ student robotics hackathon and 50+ community outreach initiatives.

Publications

2026 "Secret protection must scale with software," GitHub

2025 "GitHub found 39M secret leaks in 2024. Here's what we're doing to help," GitHub

2023 "Introducing auto-triage rules for Dependabot," GitHub

2023 "A smarter, quieter Dependabot," GitHub

2023 "Dependabot alerts are now visible to more developers," GitHub

2022 "5 tips for prioritizing Dependabot alerts," GitHub

2022 "Improving the developer experience for Dependabot alerts," GitHub

2018 "Minimalism and Meaning-Making: The Self-Referentialism of Frank Stella's Black Paintings," ed. Gabby Marcuzzie Herie. McGill University's Journal of Art History and Communications Studies, McGill University

Talks

2026 "Bringing AI-detected secret scanning to push time and on-prem environments," GitHub Universe 2026, San Francisco

2025 "New security tools explained: Secret Protection and Code Security," GitHub Checkout, hosted by Andrea Griffiths

2023 "GitHub Advanced Security: Supply Chain Security," GitHub Universe 2023, San Francisco, co-presented with Charlie Rice and Zain Malik

2023 "Dependabot gets a bunch of updates including auto-dismissal rules," GitHub Checkout, hosted by Michelle Mannering

Changelogs

2026

October *Push protection beyond predefined secret patterns*, GitHub

October *Public monitoring for enterprises generally available*, GitHub

October *Updates to GitHub secret scanning*, GitHub

October *Purpose-built model for leaked secret detection*, GitHub

October *Secret scanning adds detectors for Lovable, Supabase, and more*, GitHub

September *Block pull requests with exposed secrets from merging*, GitHub

August *Secret scanning coverage updates*, GitHub

July *Improvements to secret scanning and public monitoring*, GitHub

July *Manage secret scanning custom patterns via REST API*, GitHub

July *Clearer names for secret scanning detector types*, GitHub

July *Secret scanning extended metadata and multipart validation*, GitHub

July *Secret scanning public monitoring for enterprises*, GitHub
July *Secret scanning adds validators for Asana, IBM, and MessageBird*, GitHub
June *Secret scanning adds extended metadata for Replicate secrets*, GitHub
June *Secret scanning updates — June 2026*, GitHub
May *Filter secret scanning approval requests by sort order and bypass status*, GitHub
April *Secret scanning pattern updates and product improvements*, GitHub
April *Secret scanning improvements to alert APIs, webhooks, and delegated workflows*, GitHub
March *GitHub secret scanning — coverage update*, GitHub
March *Push protection exemptions from repository settings*, GitHub
March *Secret scanning pattern updates — March 2026*, GitHub
February *Secret scanning improvements to extended metadata checks*, GitHub
January *Secret scanning extended metadata to be automatically enabled for certain repositories*, GitHub

2025

December *Enterprise governance and policy improvements for secret scanning are now generally available*, GitHub
December *Secret scanning updates — November 2025*, GitHub
November *Secret scanning alert assignees, security campaigns are generally available*, GitHub
November *Secrets in unlisted GitHub gists are now reported to secret scanning partners*, GitHub
November *Secret scanning improves private key detection, updates Sentry pattern names*, GitHub
October *Managing roles and governance via enterprise teams is in public preview*, GitHub
October *Secret Protection expands default pattern support — September 2025*, GitHub
September *Accelerate remediation with security campaigns and assignable alerts for code scanning and secret scanning*, GitHub
September *Delegated bypass controls for push protection now available at the enterprise level*, GitHub
August *The secret risk assessment is generally available*, GitHub
August *Secret scanning: Configuring patterns in push protection is now generally available*, GitHub
August *Secret scanning adds 12 validators including Cockroach Labs, Polar, and Yandex*, GitHub
August *Secret Protection expands default pattern support and adds additional validators — August 2025*, GitHub
August *New API endpoints for listing and updating push protection configurations*, GitHub
July *GitHub Apps can now review secret scanning push protection bypass and alert dismissal requests*, GitHub
July *Secret scanning adds validity checks for Doppler and Defined Networking*, GitHub
June *Secret scanning REST API responses include first_location_detected and has_more_locations now generally available*, GitHub
June *Delegated alert dismissal for Secret Protection is generally available*, GitHub
June *Custom roles can now review secret scanning alert dismissal requests*, GitHub
May *Secret scanning alerts API now supports hiding secret literals*, GitHub
May *Enterprise-level management for secret scanning alert dismissal requests is now available*, GitHub
April *Updates to security configuration settings for customers in existing grace periods*, GitHub
April *Manage secret scanning alert dismissal requests with the REST API*, GitHub
April *Removing hardcoded secrets detection from CodeQL*, GitHub
April *Find secrets in your organization with the secret risk assessment*, GitHub
April *GitHub Secret Protection and GitHub Code Security for GitHub Enterprise*, GitHub
April *GitHub Advanced Security is here for GitHub Team organizations*, GitHub
March *Renaming secret scanning experimental alerts to generic alerts*, GitHub
March *Delegated alert dismissal for code scanning and secret scanning now available*, GitHub
March *Find secrets in your organization with the secret risk assessment*, GitHub
March *Introducing GitHub Secret Protection and GitHub Code Security*, GitHub
February *Copilot secret scanning can be enabled through code security configurations*, GitHub
February *Secret scanning detects Base64-encoded GitHub tokens*, GitHub
January *Secret scanning expands default pattern support*, GitHub

2024

December *Improved filtering for secret scanning alerts*, GitHub

November *Secret scanning: ability to add an optional comment when reopening alerts*, GitHub

November *Access a repository's secret scanning scan history with the REST API*, GitHub

October *Secret scanning support for public leak and multi-repository indicators in webhook and audit log events*, GitHub

October *Secret scanning: improvements for alerts with known public leaks and enterprise duplicates*, GitHub

October *Secret scanning non-provider patterns are generally available*, GitHub

October *Secret scanning alert lists renamed to Default and Experimental*, GitHub

October *Secret scanning on-demand revocation for GitHub PATs*, GitHub

September *Enable secret scanning for non-provider patterns for enterprises with the REST API*, GitHub

September *Secret scanning indicates known public leaks and duplicate alerts for private exposures*, GitHub

August *Secret scanning for non-code GitHub surfaces is now generally available*, GitHub

August *Secret scanning backfilling existing secrets in GitHub wikis*, GitHub

August *Secret scanning alerts for non-provider patterns and passwords are retrievable with the REST API*, GitHub

August *Secret scanning now deduplicates non-provider patterns*, GitHub

July *Secret scanning validity checks are generally available*, GitHub

July *Security configurations support secret scanning validity checks*, GitHub

June *Secret scanning on demand validity checks for NuGet and Azure*, GitHub

May *Secret scanning validity checks now included in the alert timeline*, GitHub

May *Secret scanning now automatically performs validity checks for closed alerts*, GitHub

May *New and updated audit log events for secret scanning non-provider patterns*, GitHub

April *Secret scanning for historically existing secrets found in GitHub discussions and pull requests*, GitHub

April *Secret scanning changes to detection and validation for Google Cloud Platform, Slack*, GitHub

April *Secret scanning now detects secrets in GitHub wikis*, GitHub

March *Secret scanning AI-generated custom patterns (public beta)*, GitHub

February *Secret scanning adds validity checks for Mailgun and Mailchimp*, GitHub

February *Secret scanning adds webhook support for validity checks*, GitHub

February *Secret scanning adds validity checks for Stripe, Telegram, SendGrid, and more*, GitHub

2023

December *Secret scanning detects secrets in GitHub pull requests*, GitHub

December *Secret scanning now detects new secrets in GitHub Discussion content*, GitHub

November *Enable or disable secret scanning validity checks with the REST API*, GitHub

November *Dependabot auto-triage rules support CVE IDs and GHSA IDs*, GitHub

November *Filter secret scanning alerts by validity in the alert list view*, GitHub

October *Retrieve the validity status of secret scanning tokens with the REST API*, GitHub

October *Secret scanning supports validity checks for Discord tokens*, GitHub

October *Secret scanning supports validation checks for select AWS, Google, Microsoft, and Slack tokens*, GitHub

October *Dependabot user-defined rules for security updates and alerts; enforcement of auto-triage rules and presets for organizations (public beta)*, GitHub

September *Custom auto-triage rules for Dependabot alerts (public beta)*, GitHub

July *Dependabot alerts can be enabled at the repository, organization, and enterprise levels in GHES 3.9*, GitHub

June *Dependabot pull requests pause for inactivity in enterprises*, GitHub

June *Skip scheduled Dependabot runs after 30 failures*, GitHub

May *Dependabot alerts now automatically dismiss false positives for npm (public beta)*, GitHub

May *Dependabot relieves alert fatigue from npm devDependencies*, GitHub

April *Automatic rebases on Dependabot pull requests stop after 30 days of inactivity*, GitHub

February *Dependabot alerts default permissions change*, GitHub

January	*Dependabot alerts prettified link and hovercard*, GitHub
January	*A smarter, quieter Dependabot*, GitHub
January	*Dependabot alerts are now visible to more developers*, GitHub

2022

November	*@dependabot autocomplete for mention suggestions*, GitHub
November	*Dependabot alerts enterprise-level REST API*, GitHub
November	*Dependabot pull requests off by default for forks*, GitHub
November	*Audit log improvements for Dependabot alerts*, GitHub
October	*Dependabot alerts organizational-level REST API*, GitHub
October	*New Dependabot alerts webhook*, GitHub
September	*Dependabot alerts: page refresh after PR generation, suggest improvements to an advisory, and more!*, GitHub
September	*Dependabot alerts REST API is now available in public beta*, GitHub
August	*Dependabot alerts: optional dismissal comment*, GitHub
August	*Dependabot alerts are ranked by most important priority at the organization level*, GitHub
July	*Dependabot alerts: timeline of events on the alert details page*, GitHub
July	*Dependabot alerts are now ranked by most important priority*, GitHub
June	*Dependabot alerts: Dependency scope filter via GraphQL API*, GitHub
June	*Dependabot alerts: Filter alerts by the scope of the dependency (runtime and development)*, GitHub
June	*Dismiss or reopen a selection of Dependabot alerts*, GitHub
June	*Enable Dependabot version updates from the repository settings page*, GitHub
June	*Suppressed notifications for Dependabot alerts at enablement*, GitHub
May	*Dependabot alerts show all affected files for vulnerable function calls (Python Beta)*, GitHub
May	*View Dependabot alerts across the enterprise*, GitHub
April	*Dependabot Alert API adds relevant update info to the schema*, GitHub
April	*Dependabot alerts show vulnerable function calls (Python Beta)*, GitHub
March	*Reopen dismissed Dependabot alerts*, GitHub
February	*View Dependabot alerts across an organization*, GitHub
February	*Dependabot alerts: access state, fixed alerts, and numeric identifier via GraphQL API*, GitHub
February	*Dependabot alert permissions can now be configured as part of custom repository roles*, GitHub
February	*Dependabot alerts: persisted after fix, now one per advisory*, GitHub

2021

November	*Dismiss Dependabot alerts via API*, GitHub

Last updated: November 8, 2026 • Erin L. Havens