FAQ

Clean Code Frequently Asked Questions

What is Sonar's product suite?
From your IDE, with Sonarlint, to your CI/CD with SonarQube (self-managed) and SonarCloud (SaaS), Sonar's products support 'shift left' efforts in your development cycle to get the most value out of your software.

How many programming languages and rules do you cover?
Sonar supports 30+ languages, frameworks, and infrastructure technologies including IaC, and offers 5,000+ coding rules for all aspects of Clean Code.

What types of issues do you cover?
Sonar detects issues in your code that can reduce developer productivity, increase security risk, or provoke undesired behavior and unexpected downtime. Here are some examples of specific issues: SQL injection, cross-site scripting, secret detection, regex patterns, IaC misconfigurations, and cloud secrets. See our 5000+ rules catalog here.

Can I customize my rule set based on my programming language?
Yes, Sonar recommends you use the set of rules (the built-in Sonar Way Quality Profile) that have been carefully selected but you have the option to customize your rule set if needed.

Can I add custom rules?
Yes, the functionality to add custom rules is available. We suggest that you first explore our rule templates as well as rules that may not be activated by default. The feasibility and method of custom rules differs depending on the language.

Can I control what code Sonar scans?
Yes, exclusion and inclusion settings can be fine-tuned to make sure only the code under developers' control will be analyzed and reported on.

What are Quality Gates? Can they be customized?
Quality Gates enforce a code quality policy in your organization by ensuring that your code is ready to release. We recommend you start with the Sonar way Clean as You Code-compliant Quality Gates to reinforce high-quality code standards. Keep your Quality Gate green to make sure each release is better than the last. If needed, the Quality Gates can be customized.

How long does it take to implement Clean Code?
You can start today with Clean as You Code - all of Sonar's product's default settings support this approach. Clean as You Code encourages developers to own the quality of their new code while simultaneously improving the existing code they touch in the process. As time passes, old issues (technical debt) get corrected without adding any new ones, all while work on new projects continues with forward momentum.

What DevOps platforms do you integrate with?
Sonar has out-of-the-box integrations with the preferred DevOps platforms – GitHub, GitLab, Bitbucket, or Azure DevOps - and can work with the other platforms that you prefer. Sonar also integrated with Jenkins to suspend pipeline execution until the analysis' quality gate status is known.

What IDEs do you integrate with?
Sonar integrates with the most popular IDEs - VSCode, Visual Studio, Eclipse, and JetBrains IntelliJ-based family of IDEs.

What standards do you address?
Sonar addresses PCI DSS, OWASP Top 10, CWE Top 25, OWASP ASVS, MISRA, C++ Core Guidelines, and WCAG.

What reporting does Sonar offer?
Exportable project and application reports provide current Quality Gate status and any failing conditions, plus metric values on New Code (code that's new or changed). Sonar also provides security reports for PCI DSS, OWASP Top 10, CWE Top 25, OWASP ASVS, MISRA, C++ Core Guidelines, and WCAG. In addition, SonarQube Enterprise and Data Center Editions include configurable Portfolio reports that will summarize the status of your Clean Code efforts as well as trending across multiple projects. Regulatory reports are also available.

What type of guidance can you offer my developers?
Sonar helps developers gain access to immediate and contextualized feedback, highlighting issues where they are in the codebase, within the development workflow based on years of language analyzer experience. Developers gain access to clear explanations for why an issue occurs and how to quickly remediate it, as well as additional resources for more in-depth learning. From SonarLint, Sonar's free IDE extension that automatically boosts coding efficiency with its quick fixes feature, to SonarQube and SonarCloud in your CI/CD, education is built into the entire workflow.

What support do you provide?
Sonar Commercial Support is a private communication channel between you and our team of highly skilled Sonar product experts. This dedicated service helps solve advanced issues and provides the guidance you need to implement our products in complex corporate environments. The privacy of this channel also eases the resolution of problems that require sharing sensitive information.

Additionally, the Sonar Community is a collaborative forum where SonarSourcers and users of Sonar products post every day. You'll find detailed articles and technical discussions that cover the most common use-cases, and some tricky ones. It's a great resource for your team to gain knowledge about our products and more generally about code quality and security.

Can I see the progress of my code getting cleaner with time?
SonarQube and SonarCloud include an activity visualization that can be used to track metrics regarding issues over time. The activity visualization is available in the project dashboard in SonarQube and available as a dedicated tab in both SonarQube and SonarCloud.

learn more at sonarsource.com