

Real World Information Exchange Challenges and Insights

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About us



- EU Institutions' own CERT
- Operational support for the internal IT teams
- Supports 60+ entities
- Defense against targeted cyber threats





- Around 60 organisations
- From 40 40.000 users
- Seperate, heterogenous networks
- Cross-sectoral
 - Government, foreign policy, embassies
 - Banking, energy, pharmaceutical, chemical, food, telecom
 - Maritime, rail and aviation safety
 - Law enforcement (EUROPOL, FRONTEX, EUPOL) and justice
 - Research, hi-tech, satellite navigation (GALILEO), defence (EUMS, EDA)
- High-value targets





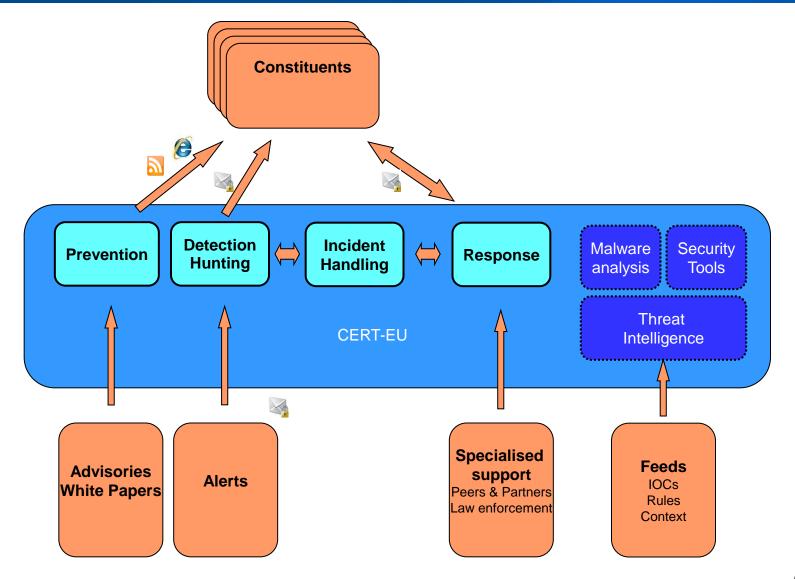


Peers - Partners











Threat Intelligence

Key questions

• What?



ThreatActor



Indicator

• Who?



• How?



- When?
- Where?



Victims

Risk management

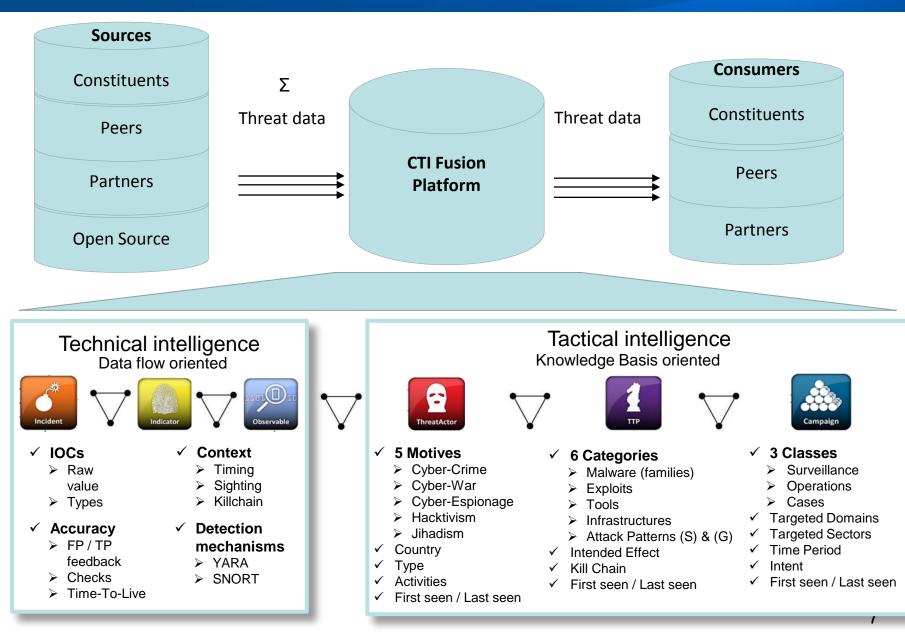
Intelligence needs to serve a purpose

xploitTarge

- Not all risks are equal
- Situation is not static



Let's Gather All Badness







STIX – TTP Data Model

STIX – TTP Data Model		CERT-EU – TTP Implementation	
ID		YES	
TIMING		YES (First Seen / Last Seen)	
TITLE / DESCRIPTION		YES	
INTENDED EFFECT		YES	
BEHAVIOR	ATTACK PATTERNS	(Generic) – KB1	
		(Specific) – KB2	
	MALWARE	KB3	
	EXPLOITS	KB4	
RESOURCES	TOOLS	KB5	
	INFRASTRUCTURES	KB6	
	PERSONAS	Not used	
VICTIM TARGETING	IDENTITY	YES (Org / Country / Sector level not structured yet)	
	TARGETED SYSTEM	Not used	
	TARGETED INFO	Not used	
	TARGETED TECH DETAILS	Not used	
EXPLOIT TARGETS		Not used	
RELATED TTPs		YES	
KILL CHAIN		YES	
INFORMATION SOURCE		YES	



TTP Knowledge Bases

KB1 - Attack Patterns (G)

Web Appl. Scanning, Social Media Intell Collection, Malicious Office docs, Phishing, SWC, Spoofed Websites, DoS, Defacement, Doxing, etc

- Common techniques used by attackers
- Only for trends / basic profiling
- Useless for attribution

Started: November 2015 Entries: 10+

KB2 - Attack Patterns (S)

Malicious Tor exit nodes, DGA, Single hit, trojanised software (TrueCrypt), stalling code, COM object hijacking, desktop shortcuts redirection, satellite links hikjacking, etc

- Special techniques not accessible to any attacker
- May be used for attribution and characterisation of malware.

Started: mid 2015 Entries: 30+

KB4 - Exploits

Exploit Kits, CVE (?)

Symmetrical to CVE / Exploit Target ?

Started: Jan 2016 Entries: 30+

KB5 - Tools

Legitimate tools re-purposed or customised for malicious use: Shell, port scanners, web vulnerability scanners, sql injection tools, key loggers, password cracking etc,.

• Understanding TTP supply chain

Started: Nov 2015 Entries: 60+

KB3 - Malware

RAT / backdoor (BlackEnergy, PlugX, njRAT, Snake, Sofacy, xxxDuke, ...), ransomware/ banking trojan (TeslaCrypt, CryptoWall, GPCode, Dridex, Shifu, Dyre, ...), etc

- Malware family level
- Focus on malware used in targeted attacks
- Importance of Detection Mechanisms

Started: mid 2013 Entries: 600+

KB6 - Infrastructures

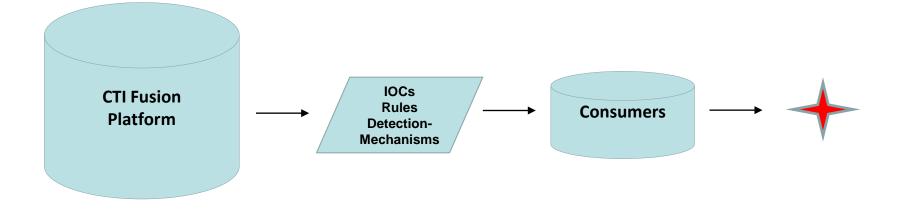
Delivery infra (phishing, watering hole, etc), C2 infra, bots, forums, malware sites, darknets, etc

• Pivoting for attribution

Started: Nov 2015 Entries: 30+



Let's Use it to Detect Stuff





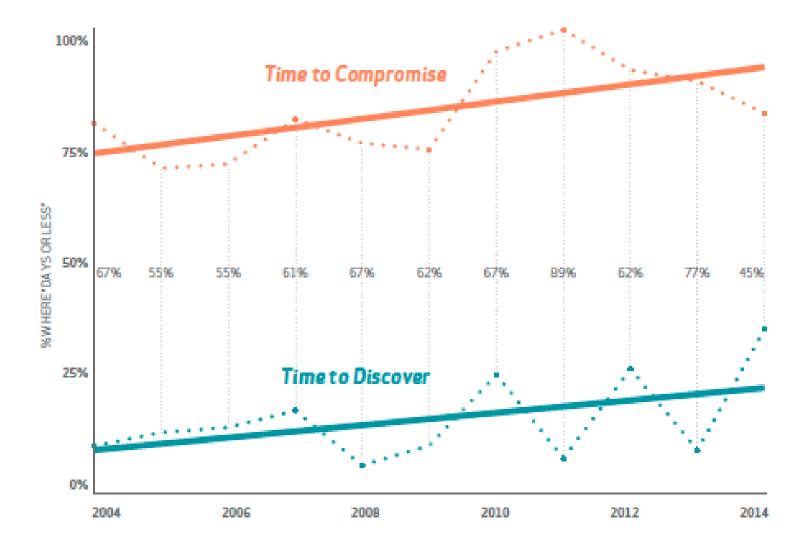


- 60% of attacks don't use malware
- 3% overlap of indicators
- Most indicators have a lifetime of only 1 day
- 60% of organisations compromised within minutes
- Very few breaches are detected using IOCs











Typical Challenges

- Technical indicators of compromise very short-lived
 - Domains: Very high number of domains, freshly registered
 - IPs: Changing: active, parking, legit
 - MD5: Victim-specific signatures
 - Email metadata: changing on a daily basis
- Blending in with the user
 - User agent
 - Proxy credentials
 - Legitimate accounts (also admins)
 - Timing / batch processing
 - Legitimate domains as C&C



F-FU

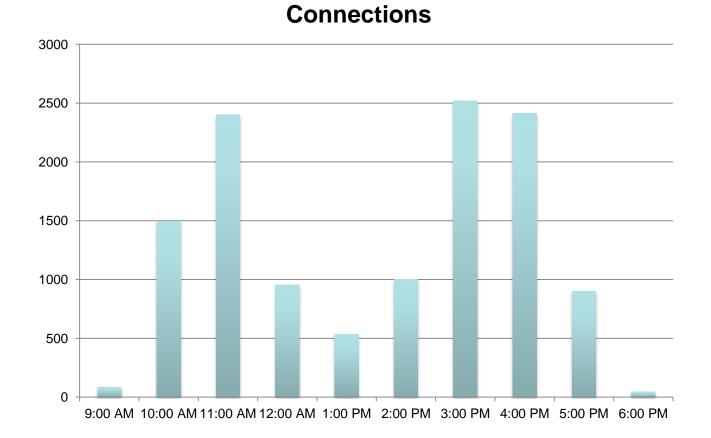


Teleramafr.com	Lemondebe.org	istafrica2013	belgiquede.com	belgabe.com
26-Apr-13198.100.113.60				
26-Apr-13None				
8-May-13198.100.113.60				
14-May-13		193.43.125.242		
20-May-1365.55.57.21		65.55.57.29		
21-May-13			192.69.237.25	
30-May-13192.69.237.25	216.158.76.216	216.158.76.216	93.46.8.89	142.4.40.230
12-Jun-13193.191.245.4	68.232.45.233	193.43.125.242		93.94.105.162
6-Jul-13108.62.206.68		108.62.206.68		
19-Jul-13193.43.125.242		193.43.125.242		
31-Jul-13			122.10.83.51	
25-Aug-13	198.100.114.14			
6-Sep-13	122.10.83.51			
30-Sep-13	103.246.244.196		103.246.244.196	103.246.244.196
24-Oct-13				93.94.105.162
14-Dec-13	203.84.187.111		62.116.182.44	
30-Dec-13None		None		
18-Mar-14			192.69.236.176	
31-Mar-14137.175.36.18	137.175.36.18	137.175.36.18	137.175.36.18	137.175.36.18
28-Apr-14	50.118.255.47		50.118.255.47	
14-May-14 <mark>65.19.157.196</mark>		65.19.157.196		
19-May-14	69.46.84.51			
22-May-14	None			
3-Jun-13	50.117.115.84			
15-Jun-14	None			None
27-Jun-14None		None	59.24.3.173	
21-Jul-14			50.118.255.47	
2-Aug-14			173.193.106.11	
1-Feb-15For sale	Sinkholed	For sale	192.199.250.138	For sale

14



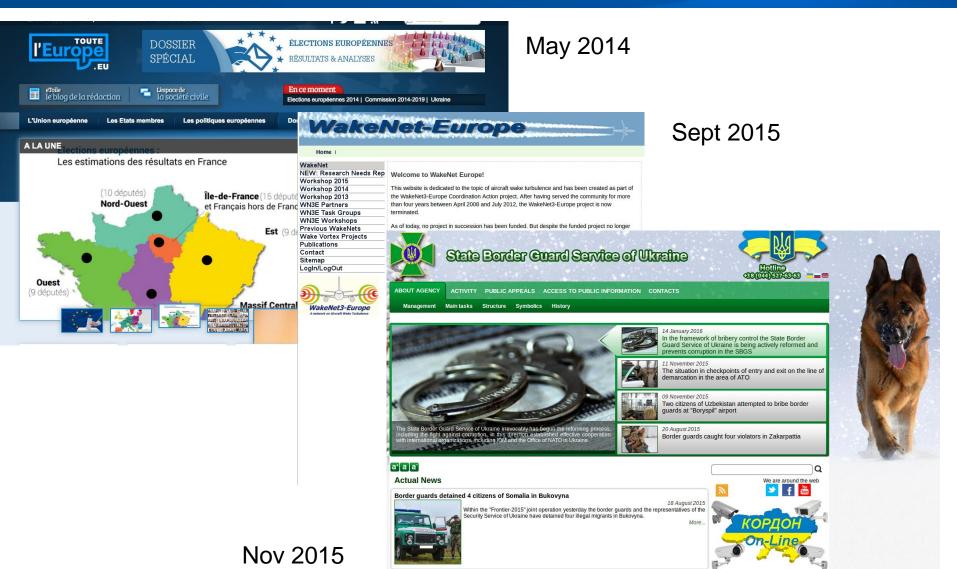
C&C Communications













Collection Challenge

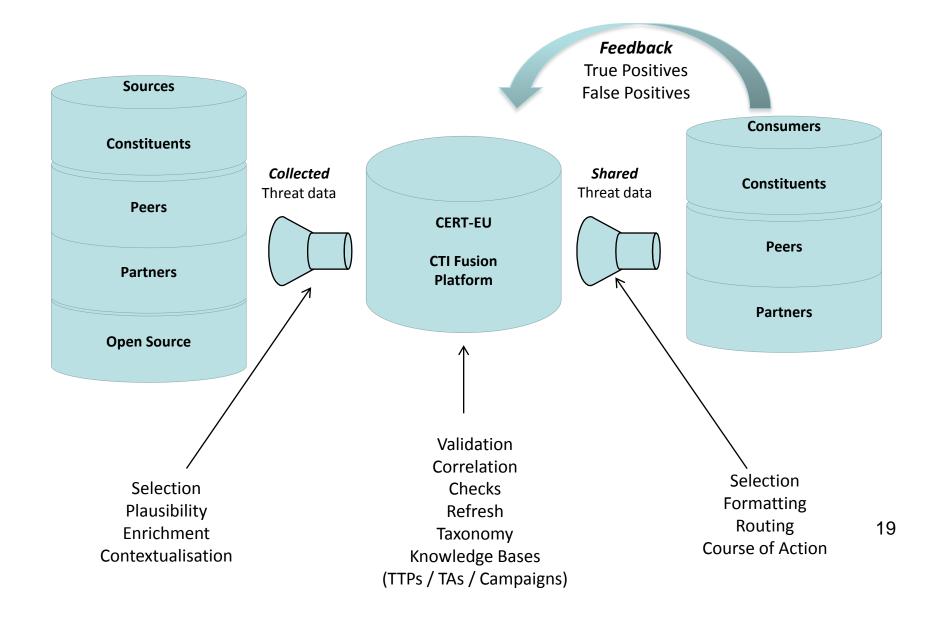
- Large diversity of information sources
- Formatted, unformatted, PDF
- Massive overload of information
- Overwelming amount of irrelevant information
- Accuracy not guaranteed
- Unclear timing
- Unclear sighting or targeting
- Large number of false positives
- Difficult prioritisation
- Drowning the real positives



- Limited human resources
- Specific IT security tools
- Limited capacity for the implementation of detection rules
- Specific security policies
- Automation / Routing
- Minimise false-positives (in fact they prefer no positives...)
- Prioritisation on alerts
- Actionable context when needed



Workflow





Input Handling

Technical checks (automated)

- Constituent & Partners ranges
- TLD/SLD check
- Alexa ranking
- YARA validator

Source

- Reliability
- Redundancy

Risk

- Targeting / promixity
- Threat level

Contextualisation

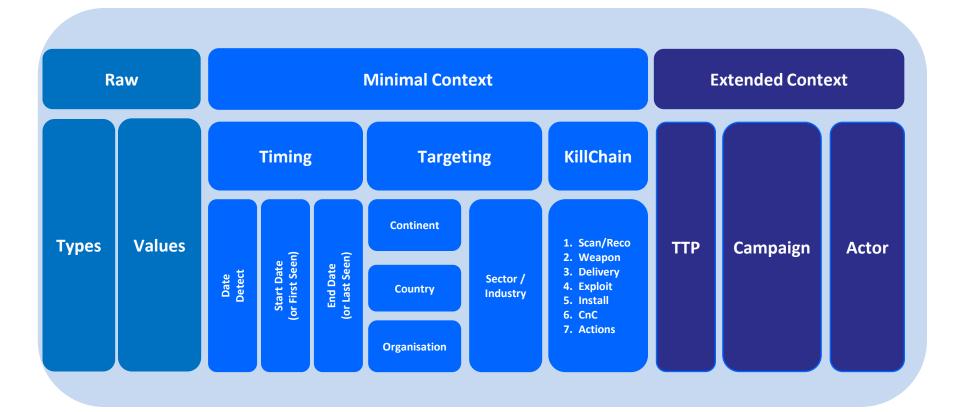
- Timing
- Targeting
- Kill chain

Correlations

- Provided
- Detected
- Researched







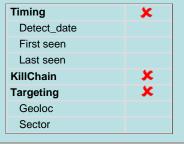




Minimal Context : Poor

csdns.com Domain CS.COM Domain -analytics.dynaliacs.com Domain lash.js URL .48.222 IP Address .51.43 IP Address 41.175 IP Address 8.196 IP Address ng.ca Domain g.ca Domain mg.ca Domain Domain yimg.ca Domain mg.ca rg.tw Domain vimg.ca Domain exru.com Domain yandexru.com Domain 124.56 IP Address 55.122 **IP Address** IP Address 120.16 rivacy_security.htm URL n/news/dochunter.asp?hostid=URL stid= URL line.asp?hostname= URL 48.125 **IP** Address IP Address 216.124

Contextualisation



Block traffic to the following domains:

- arabooks.ch
- artas.org
- tsoftonline.com
- o <u>www.eamtm.com</u>
- news.grouptumbler.com
- Block traffic to the following IPs:
 - 0 200.63.46.23
 - 0 194.38.160.153
 - 95.128.72.24
 - 0 72.34.47.186
 - 0 188.40.99.143
 - 0 85.95.236.114

Contextualisation

Timing	×
Detect_date	
First seen	
Last seen	
KillChain	×
Targeting	×
Geoloc	
Sector	





Minimal Context : Better

	Exploit files			
C	First seen	Filename	SHA1	Size
	2013-11-04	-	353540c6619f2bba2351babad736599811d3392e	946124
	2014-03-20	nota.pdf	5295b09592d5a651ca3f748f0e6401bd48fe7bda	917093
	2014-03-14	dip.mail march.pdf	c671786abd87d214a28d136b6bafd4e33ee66951	919914
	2014-03-11	Bulletin-PISM-No-31-(625)-March-10-2014.pdf	65681390d203871e9c21c68075dbf38944e782e8	917093
	2014-03-05	March.pdf	8949c1d82dda5c2ead0a73b532c4b2e1fbb58a0e	908285
	2013-07-01	paper_format.pdf	74bc93107b1bbae2d98fca6d819c2f0bbe8c9f8a	917093

Droppers

First seen (YYYY-MM-DD)	Filename	SHA1	Compiled (All times in UTC)	Size
2014-04-27	rcs.DSC_1365527283.jpg	f621ec1b363e13dd60474fcfab374b8570ede4de	Fri Aug 210:50:122013	430080
2014-03-18	rcs.18.jpg	7631f1db92e61504596790057ce674ee90570755	Fri Aug 210:50:122013	811008
2014-03-13	rcs.Ukraine-Gas-Pipelines- Security-Report- March-2014.pdf	5a199a75411047903b7ba7851bf705ec545f6da9	Fri Aug 2 10:50:12 2013	942080
2013-11-11	rcs.Заказ.doc	0e5f55676e01d8e41d77cdc43489da8381b68086	Fri Aug 210:50:122013	405504

Contextualisation

Timing	\checkmark
Detect_date	
First seen	\checkmark
Last seen	
KillChain	\checkmark
Targeting	×
Geoloc	
Sector	



Minimal Context : Better

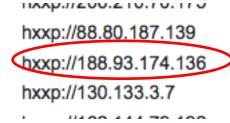
SECURELIST

Threats 🔻

CATEGORIES • TAGS •

The Banking Trojan Emotet: Detailed Analysis

By Alexey Shulmin on April 9, 2015. 2:00 pm



Со	ntextu	alisa	tion
		anoa	



Resolve	First	Last	Source
crl.microsoft.com	2014-10-21 12:11:00	2015-07-21 10:54:00	kaspersky
ardownload.adobe.com	2014-10-19 23:10:00	2015-07-21 10:46:00	kaspersky
fbexternal-a.akamaihd.net	2014-10-21 15:16:00	2015-07-21 10:22:00	kaspersky



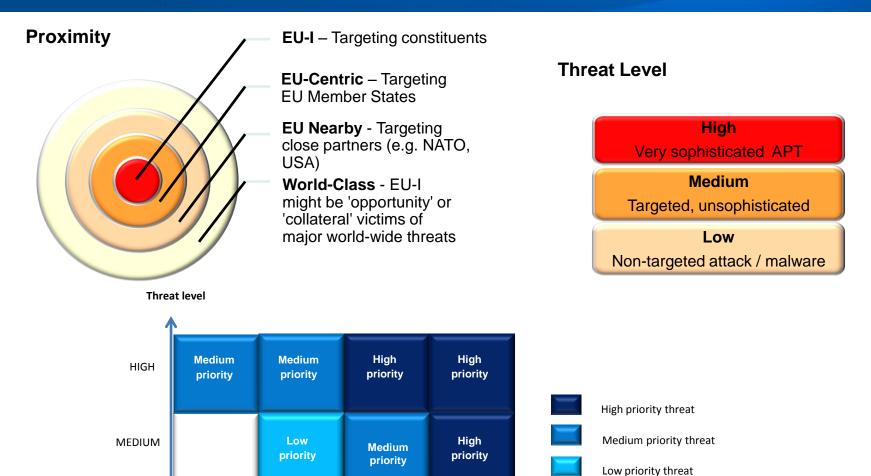
LOW

World-Wide

EU-nearby

Proximity / Threat Level

Out of scope = 'noise'



Low

priority

EU-centric

Low

priority

EU-I

Threat Scope



Tweet



Extended Context – Example 1

ThreatActo

Campaign



TS ▼ CATEGORIES ▼ TAGS ▼ ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Naikon APT

Tracking Down Geo-Political Intelligence Across APAC, One Nation at a Time

Our recent report, "The Chronicles of the Hellsing APT: the Empire Strikes Back" began with an introduction to the Naikon APT, describing it as "One of the most active APTs in Asia, especially around the South China Sea". Naikon was mentioned because of its role in what turned out to be a unique and surprising story about payback. It was a Naikon attack on a Hellsing-related organization that first introduced us to the Hellsing APT. Considering the volume of Naikon activity observed and its relentless, repeated attack attempts, such a confrontation was worth looking into, so we did.

> The #NaikonAPT group was spear-phished by an actor we now call "Hellsing"

Tracking Down Geo-Political Intelligence Across APAC

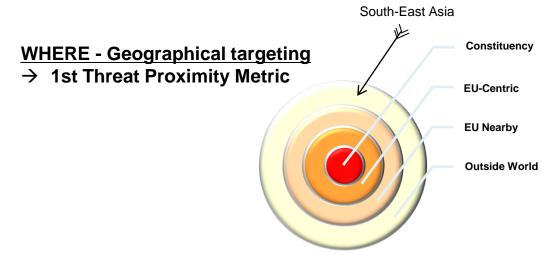
Victims of the Naikon cyberespionage group



Below is a partial list of organizations affected by Naikon's "operator X's" espionage campaign in country X.

- Office of the President
- Military Forces
- Office of the Cabinet Secretary
- National Security Council
- Office of the Solicitor General
- Intelligence Services
- Civil Aviation Authority
 Department of Justice
- Federal Police
- Executive/Presidential Administration and Management Staff

- WHO Threat name → Threat Actor
- <u>WHAT Campaign</u>
- \rightarrow Cyber Espionage



$\frac{\text{WHERE - Sectoral targeting}}{\Rightarrow 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ Threat Proximity Metric}}$



Extended Context – Example 1

Payload

The main module is a remote administration utility. Using SSL, the module establishes a reverse connection to the C&C server as follows: it sets up an outgoing connection to the C&C server and checks if there is a command that it should execute. If there is, it executes the command and returns the result to the C&C. There are 48 commands in the module's repertoire, which a remote operator can use to effectively control the victim computer. This includes taking a complete inventory, downloading and uploading data, installing add-on modules, or working with the command line.

d085ba82824c1e61e93e113a705b8e9a	118272	Aug 23 18:46:57 2012	
b4a8dc9eb26e727eafb6c8477963829c	140800	May 20 11:56:38 2013	
172fd9cce78de38d8cbcad605e3d6675	118784	Jun 13 12:14:40 2013	
d74a7e7a4de0da503472f1f051b68745	190464	Aug 19 05:30:12 2013	
93e84075bef7a11832d9c5aa70135dc6	154624	Jan 07 04:39:43 2014	

Command & Control

Here is a partial list of C&C servers and victim locations, demonstrating the geo-specific correlation:

ID	Jakarta	linda.googlenow.in
ID	Jakarta	admin0805.gnway.net
ID	Jakarta	free.googlenow.in
ID		frankhere.oicp.net
ID	Bandung	frankhere.oicp.net
ID	Bandung	telcom.dhtu.info
ID	Jakarta	laotel08.vicp.net
JP	Tokyo	greensky27.vicp.net
кн		googlemm.vicp.net
кн	Phnom Penh	googlemm.vicp.net
мм		peacesyou.imwork.net
ММ		sayakyaw.xicp.net
MM		ubaoyouxiang.gicp.net
мм	Yangon	htkg009.gicp.net

HOW – TTP & Kill Chain

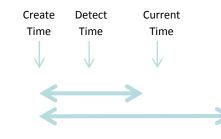




WHEN – Timing

Domains MD5

Time To Live



CYBER KILL CHAIN°



Contextualisation

Timing	\checkmark
Detect_date	\checkmark
Start_date	\checkmark
End_date	N/A
KillChain	\checkmark
Targeting	\checkmark
Geoloc	\checkmark
Sector	\checkmark





Extended Context — Example 2

FireEye

FireEye Intelligence Exchange Alert

The Teenage Mutant Malvertiser Network

By J.Gomez | FireEye Labs

Since early 2015 FireEye Labs has observed a highly active malvertising operation involving Bedep ad fraud activity and malicious redirection to Exploit Kits via a multitude of advertising and search affiliated domains. Among the exploit kits being redirected to are well known names like Angler, Magnitude, Nuclear and Rig, each redirection to an EK sharing a common link. We believe this particular operation has been active since at least mid 2014, if not prior, and is still very active at time of this writing.

. . .

by the "click2." prefixed sub domains alone.

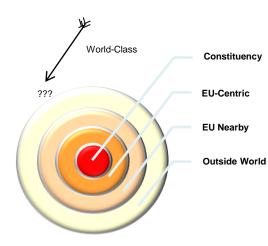
Some of the most active destination (or cushion servers as they are commonly referred to) domains leading to EK's include but are not limited to the following, as you will notice some domains redirect to more than one EK.

Angler	Magnitude	Nuclear	Rig / Other
ads.fsrinc.biz	click2.systemaffiliate.com	click2.systemaffiliate.com	click2.systemaffiliate.com
hit.buy-targeted-	click2.danarimedia.com	news4news015.com	buyadvertsort.com
traffic.com	ado-global.com	news4news14.com	buyadvertview.com
bbwlesbians.xblog.in	ads.fsrinc.biz	news4news15.com	buyadvlist.com
find-everything.info	click.upperseeker.com	news4news2014.com	dealsadvdeals.com
litle-finder.me	death-tostock.com	news4news2015.com	dealsadvdeals.com
megafinder24.info	find-all.biz		dealsadvdeals.com
searchl.org	find-everything.info		buyadvertview.com
searchwebfind.org	global-search24.biz		
truesearchresults.com	integrosearch.com		
webwebfind.com	litle-finder.me		
news4news015.com	megafinder24.info		
news4news14.com	millsearch.net		
news4news15.com	searchl.org		
news4news2014.com	searchwebfind.org		
news4news2015.com	superior-movies.com		
	truesearchresults.com		
	webwebfind.com		

WHERE ?

WHEN

TTP



HOW – TTP & Kill Chain

Observable

Indicator

CYBER KILL CHAIN°



Contextualisation

Timing	×	
Detect_date		
Start_date		
End_date	N/A	
KillChain	\checkmark	
Targeting	×	
Geoloc		
Sector		

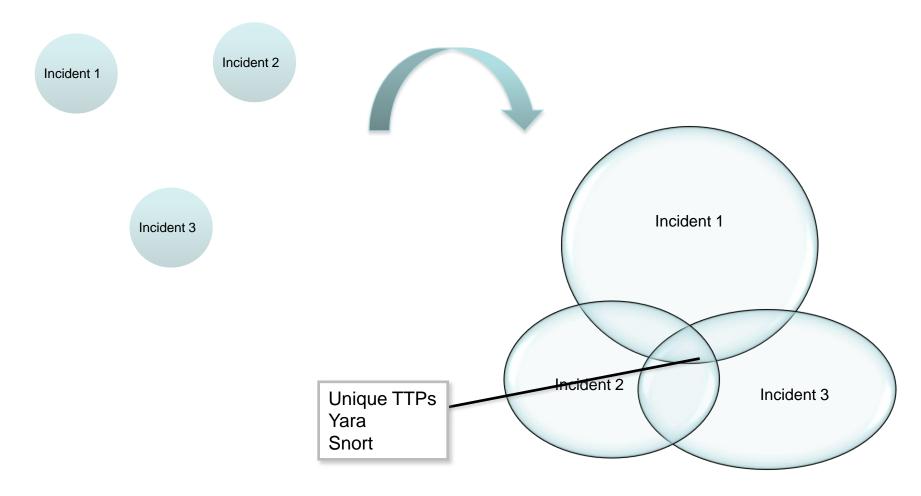


Success Factors for Enrichment

- Taxonomy
- Correlation
 - Previous incidents in the constituency
 - Previous reports
 - Intensity
 - TTPs / Actors / Campaigns
- Unique TTPs
 - Behaviour
 - Unique patterns
 - Effective detection rules

Pivoting via TTP







- Adapting the product to the audience
 - Drawing from the intell and context
 - Adapting content and format
 - Timing
- Routing / Course of Action
 - What to do (prevent, detect, block, hunt)
 - How
- Respect the sharing limitations (TLP)
- Anonymisation (sources / victims)
- Automation when possible
- Escalation when needed

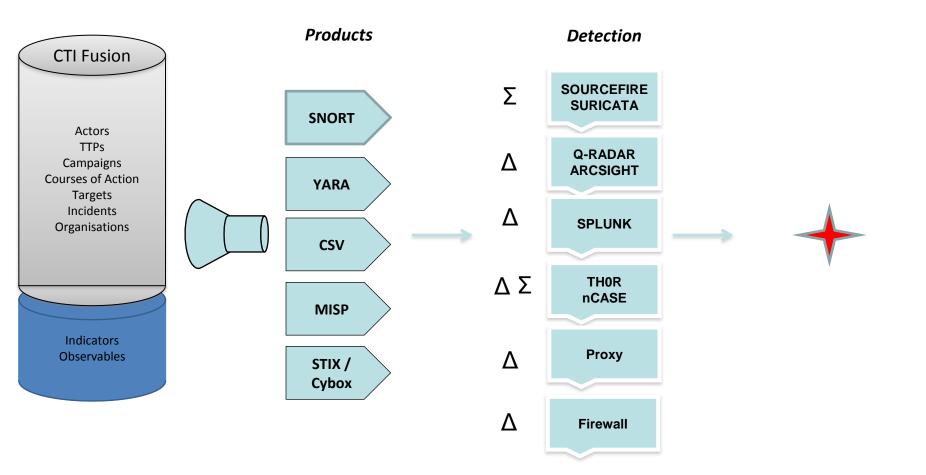


Adapting the Product to the Audience

Strategic	 Understanding the broader context. Strategic context: profile, motives, new techniques/tactics, sector and location of victims, business risk. Planning high level actions for non-technical treatment of the threat. 	• CEO • Business VP • CIO	Periodic Bulletin	Threat Landscape Security Brief
Tactical	 Understanding cyber-attacks tactical context: threat type and level, timing of events, techniques/malware. Planning structured course of actions for permanent protection 	CIO Cyber-defense teams	For every significant campaign	Threat Alert Report (CITAR)
Technical	 Immediate reaction to threats: Detection, Prevention, Reaction (eradication, recovery), Report Dynamic feeding cyber-defense tools: IDS, IPS, SIEM, Security Scanners, Mailguard, Firewalls, etc 	 Cyber-defense teams IT administrators (or direct tool feeding) 	(Near real-time -> Towards full automation)	Indicators Signatures Rules Detection Mechanisms (CIMBL)

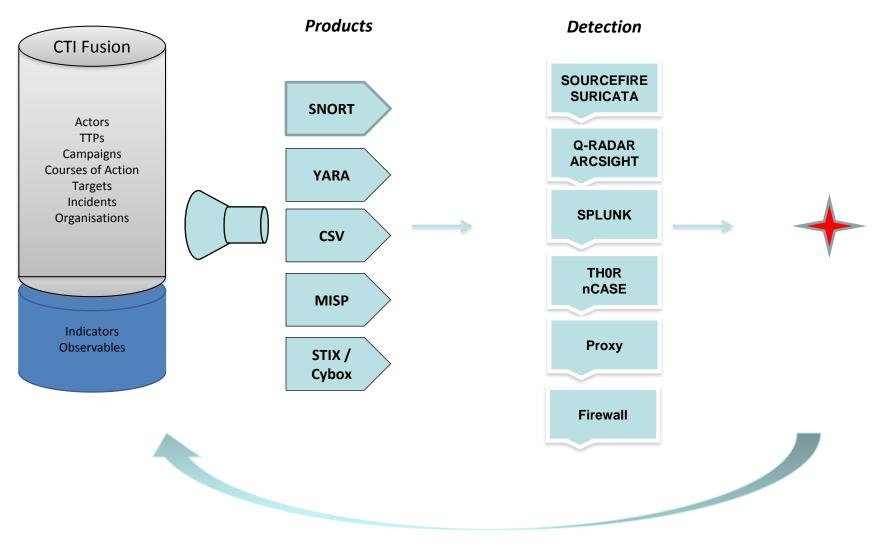


Routing / Course of Action



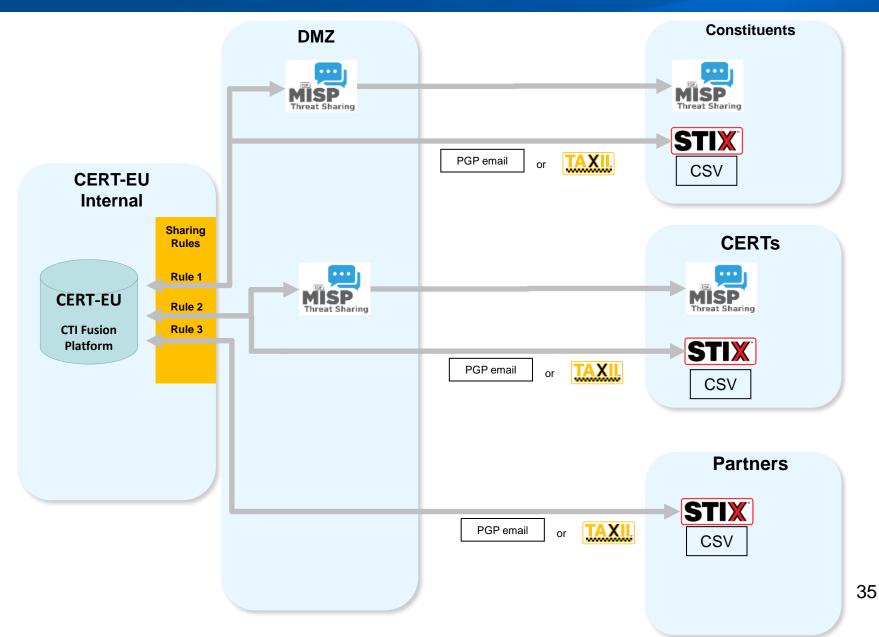


Feedback +/-



Sharing Groups







Sharing Rules

Sharing Groups

- 1. Constituents
- 2. CERTs
- 3. Partners (NDA)

Sharing Criteria

- TLP
- Proximity
- Producer

Sharing Security

- Sharing = workflow-based
- Export control to avoid errors
- TLP enforcement
- Encryption
- Anonymisation
- Source security
- Data Protection enforcement

Sharing Rules

Rule1 : (TLP <> RED) AND (TargetedDomain <> Outside World)

Rule 2 : (Producer = 'Constituent ' OR 'CERT-EU') AND (TLP <> 'RED')

Rule 3 : (Producer = 'Constituent ' OR 'CERT-EU') AND (TLP <> 'RED' OR 'AMBER")



- Change in proximity of a high threat actor
- Detection in the constituency of a high threat actor
- Alert + Context
- Active hunting
- « Don't wait until Monday »



Some Open Issues

- How to manage lifetime of the data
- How to remove data downstream
 - Ageing window Time-To-Live (TTL)
 - Feedback positives/false positives
 - Full set ('master_ioc')
- How to control sharing groups downstream
- Implement Routing / Course of Action
- How to maintain the treasure trove of TTPs
 - Dependent on human contacts

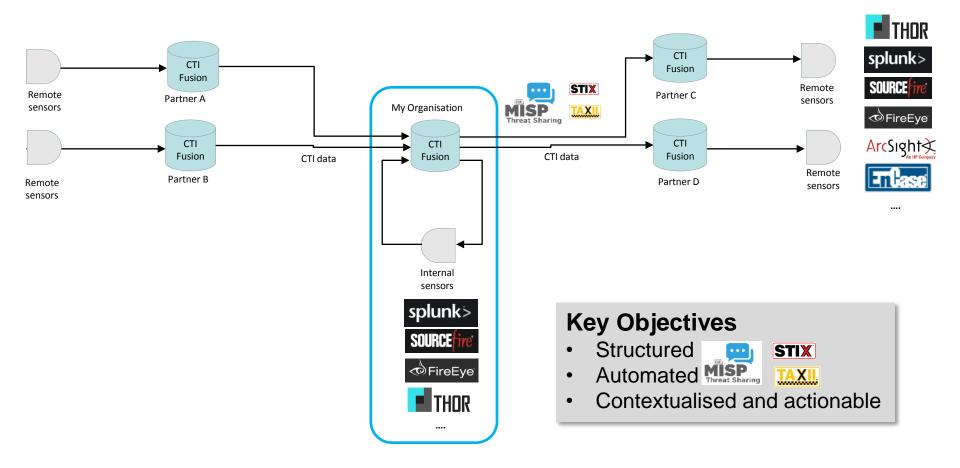




- Network of interacting CTI fusion centers
- World-wide sensor network
- Signature-less detection

Outlook - Automated End-to-end Workflow









Thank You

http://cert.europa.eu/



More On Cyber Threat Contextualisation

https://www.sstic.org/media/SSTIC2015/SSTICactes/contextualised_and_actionable_information_sharing_/SSTIC2015-Articlecontextualised_and_actionable_information_sharing_within_the_cyber-security_community-garnier.pdf