

# Cyber Threat Hunting Workshop

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# T1033 : System Owner/User Discovery

- InfoSec Consulting Manager at Metrodata, Indonesia
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Certification Holder

# Workshop Agenda

1. Threat Hunting
2. Threat Intelligence
3. Honeypot

# Threat Hunting

# Threat Hunting

- Introduction to Threat, Dwell Time, Cyber Security Problems
- Introduction to Threat Hunting
- Threat Hunting People, Process, Tools & Technology
- Threat Hunting Framework
  - Pyramid of Pain
  - Cyber Kill Chain
  - MITRE ATT&CK
- Detection Engineering
  - Data Source Visibility (Endpoint & Network)
  - MITRE SHIELD
- Types of Threat Hunting
- Threat Hunting Use Case
- Threat Hunting Case Study

# New Threat Paradigm

- Traditional Threat Definition:

- Threat = Capability + Intent

New Threat Definition:

- Threat = Capability + Intent + Knowledge
  - **Capability** includes tools and ability to access
  - **Intent** is the motivation
  - **Knowledge** is specific, sophisticated ability to operate within a system/network after gaining access

New Threat Paradigm most applicable to high level threats

# The Attacker's Advantage

- They only need to be successful once
- Determined, skilled and often funded adversaries
- Custom malware, 0days, multiple attack vectors, social engineering
- Can be Persistent

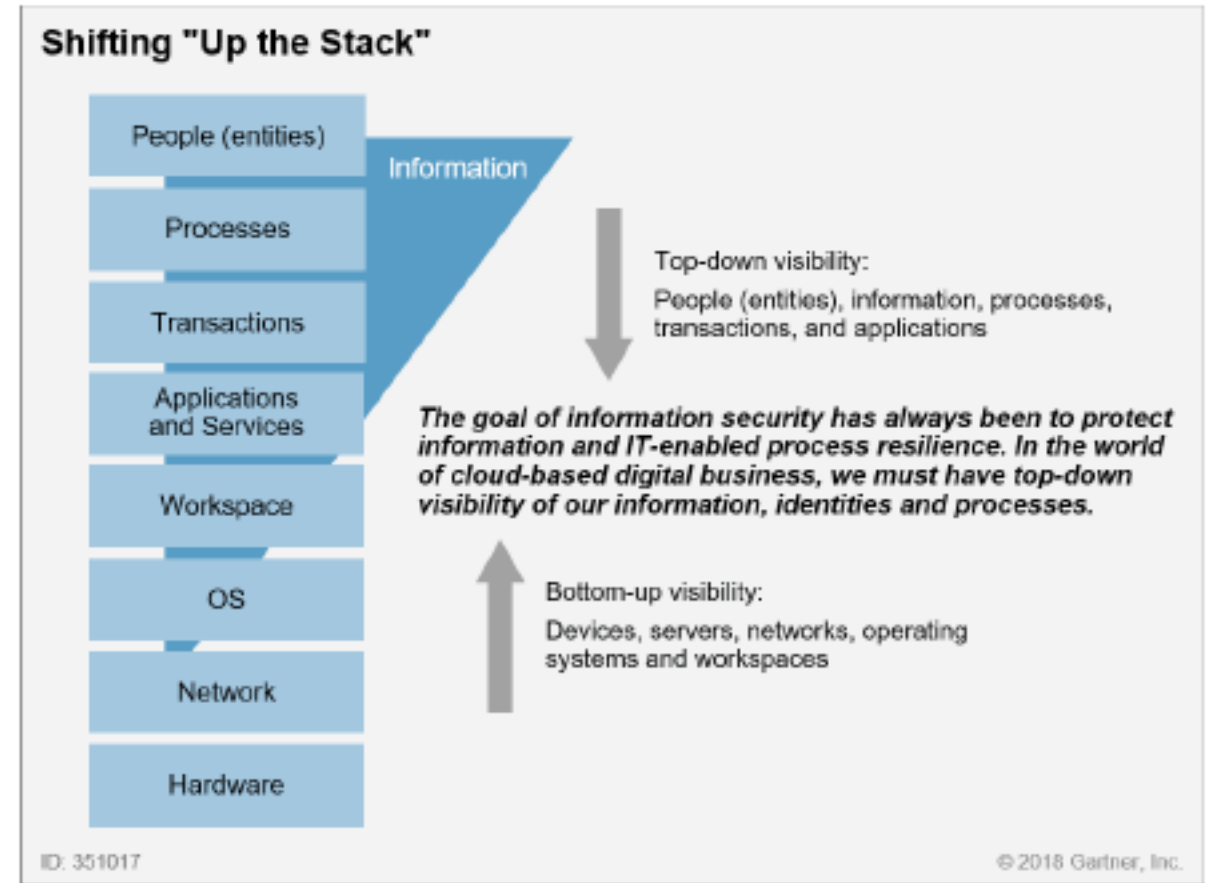
# The Defender Disadvantage

- Unsung Hero.
- Understaffed, jack of all trades, underfunded
- Increasing complex IT infrastructure:
  - Moving to the cloud
  - Virtualization
  - Bring your own device
- Prevention controls fail to block everything
- Hundreds of systems and vulnerabilities to patch

# Business Drivers

1. **Predict & Prevent** costly data breaches, security incidents, and disruptions to IT Services.
2. **Reduce costs and increase efficiency** in your cyber security operation
3. Extend **detection and response** capabilities with context correlated from across your endpoint, network, and cloud assets.
4. **Maximize** your existing investment

## Shifting "Up the Stack" to Identities, Data and Transactions



Source: Gartner (April 2018)

# Dwell Time



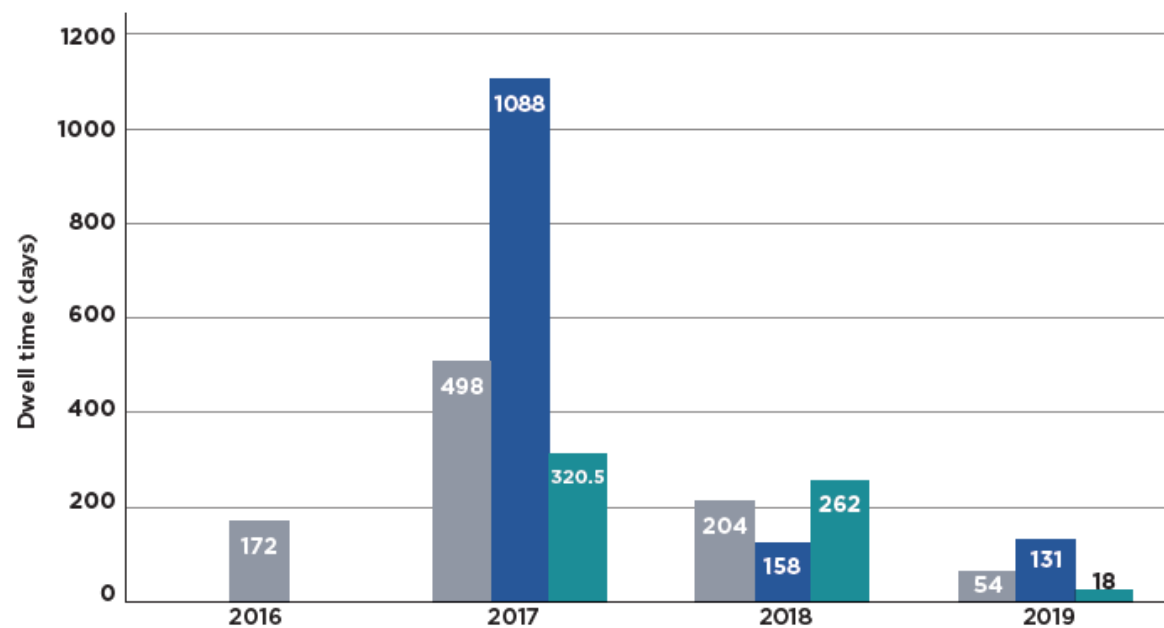
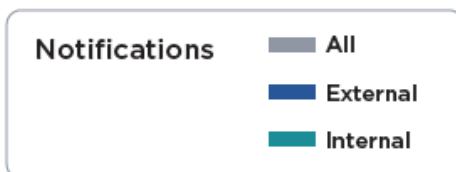
**Dwell time** is calculated as the number of days an attacker is present in a victim network before they are detected. The median represents a value at the midpoint of a data set sorted by magnitude.



Median Dwell Time

**204** > **54**  
DAYS IN 2018      DAYS IN 2019

## APAC MEDIAN DWELL TIME



Mandiant M-Trend Report 2020

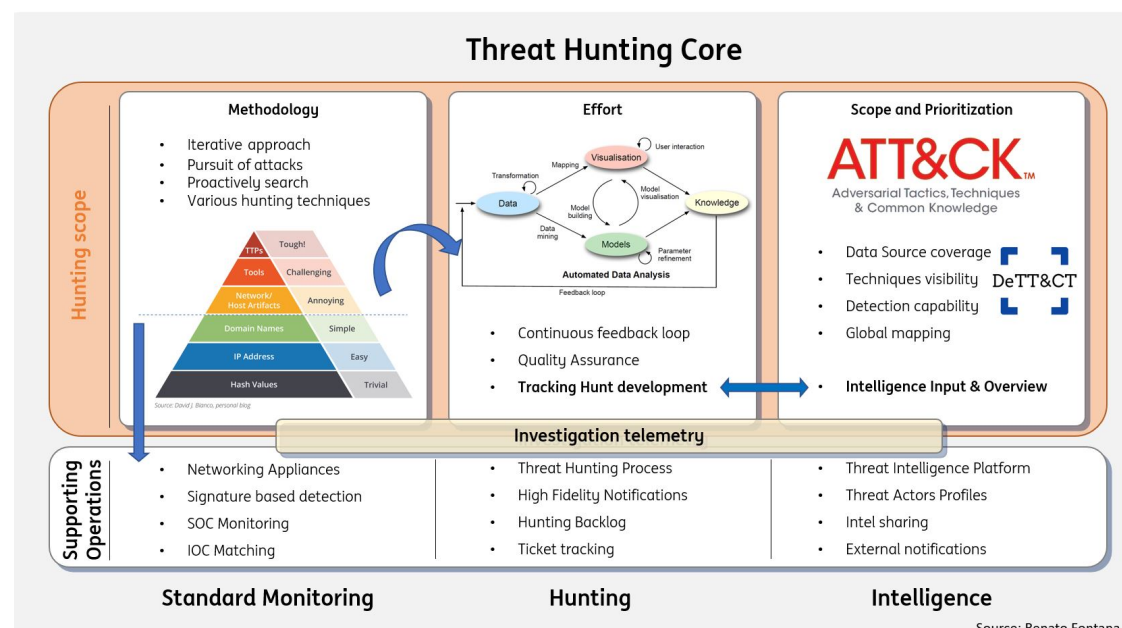
# Problems

- Both Endpoint and Networks always have a certain level of vulnerability
- Organizations are struggling to prevent adversaries from getting into their networks.
- Advanced adversaries can remain hidden for months, sometimes years, before detection.

**Without knowing the current state of compromise, we have an incomplete picture of Our Cyber Security Posture.**

# Introduction to Threat Hunting

- Threat hunting is a Proactive cyber defense approach. Threat hunting processes perform proactive and iterative discovery through networks, endpoints, and other infrastructure to detect and respond to cybersecurity threats that sometimes evade existing security solutions.



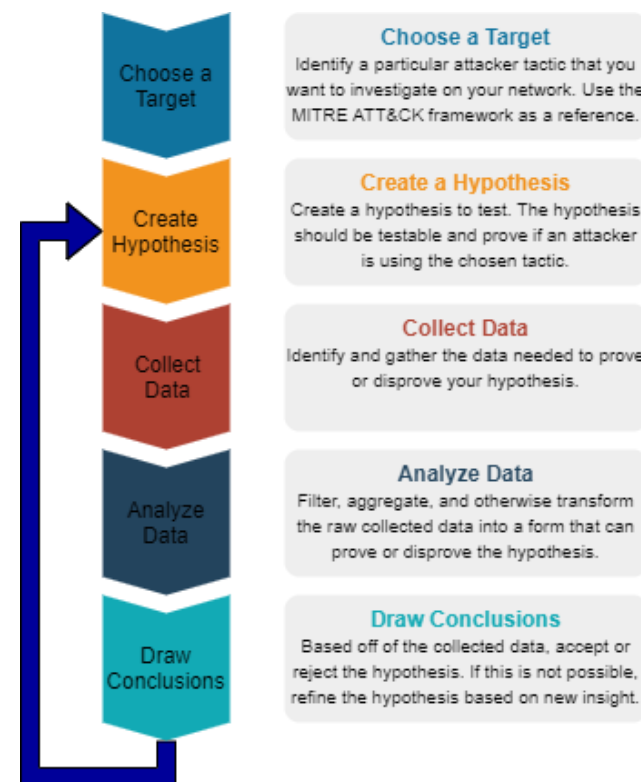
<https://twitter.com/Rcfontana/status/1262407505776381952>

# Introduction to Threat Hunting

- Threat hunting is an proactive cyber defense activity. It is "the process of proactively and iteratively searching through networks to detect and isolate advanced threats that evade existing security solutions."
- This is in different to traditional threat management measures, such as firewalls, intrusion detection systems (IDS), malware sandbox (computer security) and SIEM systems, which typically involve an investigation of evidence-based data after there has been a warning of a potential threat.

# Threat Hunting Principle

- Presumptions of Compromise : Your prevention technology will eventually fall or have already failed without your knowledge. With Adoption Assume breach mentality will increase your awareness of compromised assets



<https://www.cleartnetwork.com/cyber-threat-hunting-what-why-and-how/>

# Threat Hunting Benefit

- Finding adversaries who have gotten past your current security protection
- Continuous improvement of your detection capabilities
- With your existing technology, you can not have oversight of everything that's happening, at this point threat hunting help your organization
- Supports faster and early detection of potential compromise
- Increasing awareness of your environment and attack surface
- One of method to improve your data collection

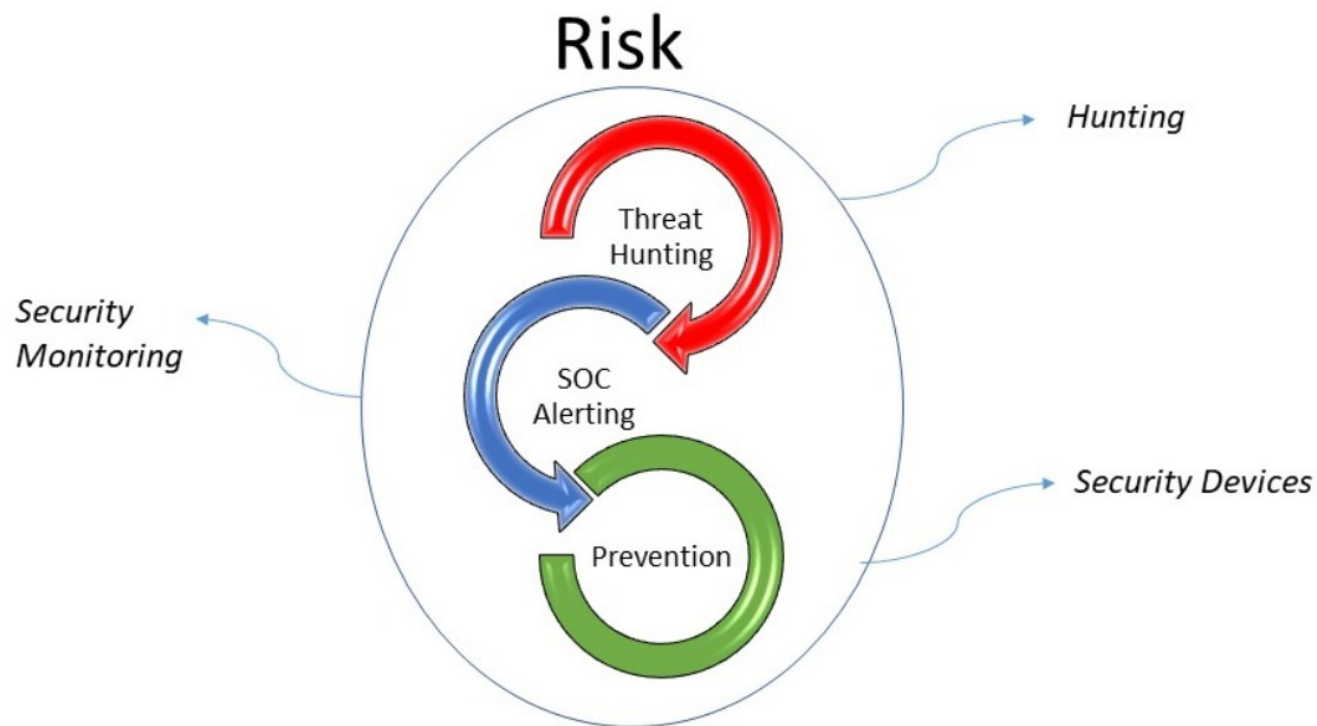
# What is it for?

## BUSINESS :

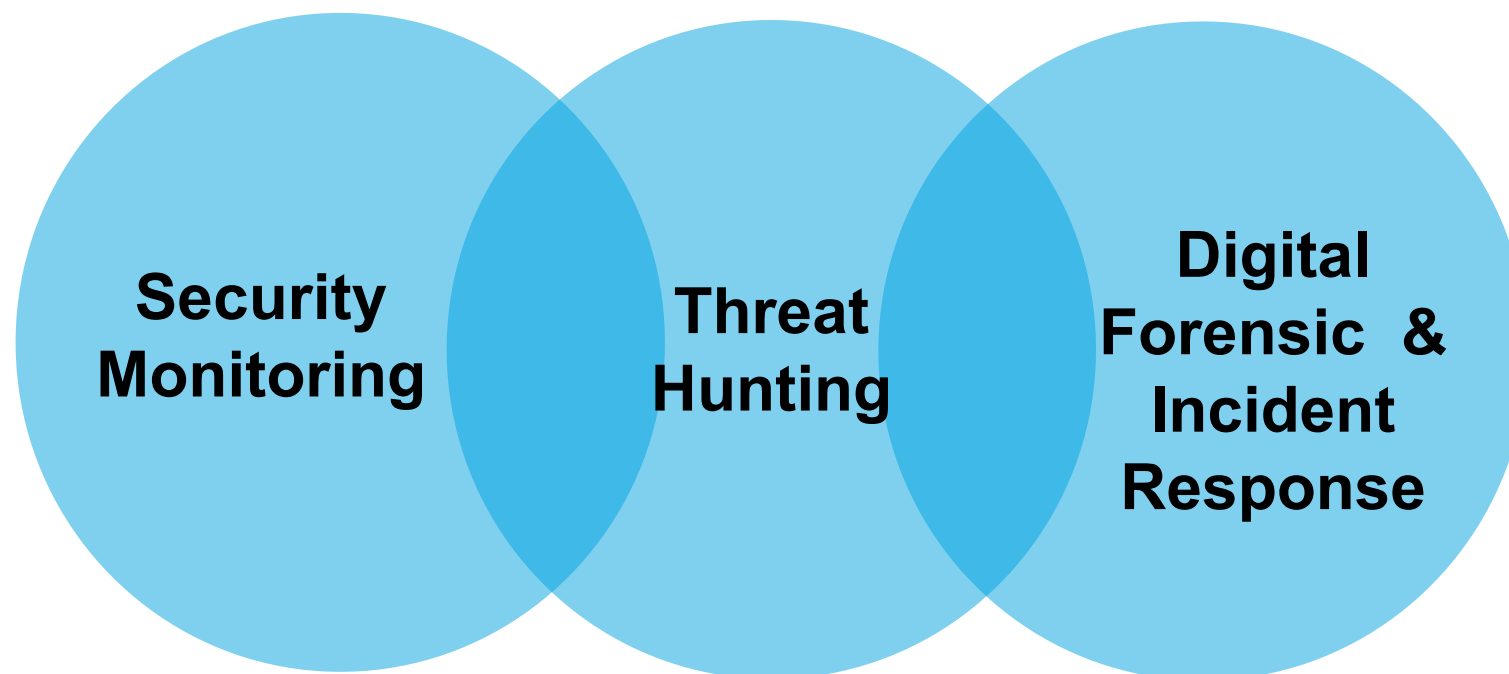
- Minimize residual risks
- Minimize the dwell time (time between attack and detection)

## TECHNICAL :

- Advanced [targeted] attacks detection
- Non-malware attacks detection
- TTPs based detection



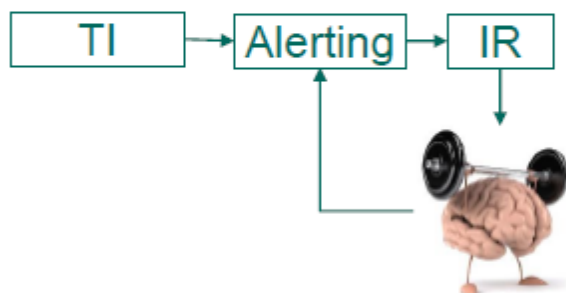
# Sec Mon vs Threat Hunting vs DFIR



# Threat Hunting Vs Alert Based Investigation

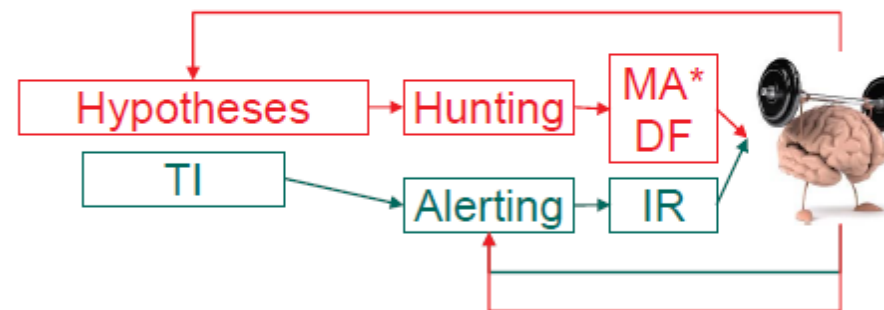
## SOC/Alerting

- Reactive
- Detect/forget



## Hunting/Mining

- Proactive
- Repeated searches



\* MA – malware analysis, DF – digital forensics, IR – incident response

Source : [https://2016.zeronights.ru/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/ZN16-KHS-Th\\_Soldatov.pdf](https://2016.zeronights.ru/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/ZN16-KHS-Th_Soldatov.pdf)

# Threat Hunting vs Compromise Assessment

- What is the Main Differences Between Threat Hunting and Compromise Assessment?
- Basically Threat Hunting and Compromise Assessment is a same activity, but the main difference are :
  - ✓ Situation & Condition : TH -> Assuming Compromise will happen ; and CA -> Compromise is Already happened
  - ✓ Location & Object : TH -> All Object Within Organization ; CA -> Selected Network Segment / Zone Suspected for Compromised Area
  - ✓ Actor (Who performed the activities?) : TH -> Empowered SOC Team (part of SOC Team) ; CA -> Mostly from DFIR Team

# Hunting VS Reactive Response

## Hunting Organization

- Actively looking for Incidents
  - ✓ Known malware and variant
  - ✓ Patterns of activity : evil vs normal
  - ✓ Threat Intelligence

## Reactive Organization

- Incident Starts when notification comes in
  - ✓ Call from government agency
  - ✓ Vendor / threat information
  - ✓ (NIDS, SIEM, Firewall, etc) Alert

# Threat Hunting Activity



# People - Threat Hunter Skillset (1)

- **Analytical Mindset** : Having a mindset of curiosity, Ability to generate and investigate hypotheses. As an analyst, it's increasingly important to be specific in what questions you're looking to answer during threat hunting.
- **Operating System** : Knowledge of Operating System internals, OS security mechanisms, knowledge of typical security issues of different operating systems,
- **Network Architecture**: understanding how computer networks work, OSI Layer, knowledge of TCP/IP, knowledge of basic protocols (DNS, DHCP, HTTP, SMTP, FTP, SMB);
- **Attack Methods/TTPs / Attack Life Cycle** : Knowledge of specific attack vectors, understanding how an attacker attempts to penetrate your network, which attack vectors and tools he/she can use on different attack stages;

## People - Threat Hunter Skillset (2)

- **Log Analysis** : knowledge of different log sources and event types generated by different sources, the ability to analyze logs for anomalies and pivot between data sources to see the big picture;
- **Network Analysis** : the ability to read and understand packet capture data and determine the malicious nature of network traffic;
- **Cyber Threat Intelligence** : Having a skill and knowledge to leverage threat intelligence for threat hunting purposes, always seek for new information from threat intelligence report,
- **Malware Analysis** : Malware analysis a highly specialized skill that aims to determine the origin and purpose of an identified instance of malware.
- **Tools for Threat Hunting** : Understand how to use security analytics platform (e.g. ELK) and SIEM, how to use packet sniffer, how open PCAP, how to see and export logs in OS, how to collect logs from different source, etc

# Process – Threat Hunting

While skilled threat hunters are one of the key for successful Threat Hunting capability, threat hunting process is also very important. Having a formal hunting process is ensured the consistency and efficiency across all hunts process.

# Threat Hunting Life Cycle



SQRRL Threat Hunting Loop

<https://medium.com/@sqrldata/the-hunting-loop-10c7d451dec8>

# Process – Threat Hunting (1)

## 1. Creating a Hypotheses

Threat Hunting begins with questions, such as “How would a threat actor infiltrate our infrastructure?”

These questions then need to be broken down into specific and measurable hypotheses that state :

- **What is my crown jewel asset?**
- **What threats might be present in the network?**
- **How can we identified the threat actors?**

Hypotheses cannot be generated by tools. It is defined by threat hunter mindset and knowledge based on the condition in each of their environment.

# Process – Threat Hunting (2)

## Example Hypotheses

### Threat Actor:

An organisational threat assessment identified Lazarus Group as a high priority threat. Techniques attributed to this threat actor are detailed within MITRE's ATT&CK Navigator.

We therefore hypothesis that if this threat actor is present in our network, we would be able to detect evidence of multiple techniques being deployed, in a manner consistent with their known attack paths.

### Tool:

CTI and our situational awareness suggests that our organisation is currently vulnerable to a variant of the WannaCry ransomware, as SMBv1 is still used.

We therefore hypothesis that if our network is infected with WannaCry, we will see an increase in the rate of file renaming.

### Technique:

*Lateral Movement*, via *Exploitation of Remote Services*, can be performed by exploiting vulnerability MS17-10. Specifically, this can be done via the Metasploit framework with a module that uses a Server Message Block (SMB) request of a specific size to attempt compromise.

We therefore hypothesise that we can see evidence of this technique being used by isolating this SMB request in our network logs.

<https://hodigital.blog.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/161/2020/03/Detecting-the-Unknown-A-Guide-to-Threat-Hunting-v2.0.pdf>

# Process – Threat Hunting (3)

## 2. Investigate via Tools and Technique

Once observations have led to hypotheses being generated, these then need to be tested using all the relevant tools and techniques. The importance of Data sources and detection engineering capability from the organization, determine the result of this process.

Existing tools owned by organization, such as a **SIEM or security analytic platform, EDR, TIP** can be used to query the data, from basic searching to more advanced data science techniques, and also visualization can help threat hunters in identifying anomalies and anomalous patterns

# Process – Threat Hunting (4)

## 3. Uncover New Pattern and TTPs

The objective of testing a hypothesis created by the threat hunters in the first process in threat hunting, is to prove whether the hypotheses is prove or not proven. Even if the hypotheses result is not proven, It does not necessarily mean that no malicious activity is present or the hunters create a wrong hypotheses. It can be the current visibility in the organization is not enough or the tools that used by threat hunters is not good enough to help them to investigate the case. In the future maybe this hypotheses can reveal a new TTPs that might be unknown before. The valid hypotheses then become the iterative process as a baseline.

# Process – Threat Hunting (5)

## 4. Inform and Enrich Analytics

Successful hunting process and then should be automated to make the efficient process for the threat hunters to reduce Threat Hunting team's time and to limit them from continuously repeating the same process. This can be done in many ways, such scheduling a saved search, developing a new analytic within existing tools, or providing feedback to a supervised machine learning algorithm.

Let the security analytic platform repeat the successful hunting process from the previous activity of threat hunting, and the threat hunter then finding a new hypotheses to uncover the malicious process which unidentified before.

# Tools and Technology – Threat Hunting

We already discuss about people and process in thereat hunting. Tools and Technology is also in need for threat hunting activities. While skilled people and effective processes are the critical factors for a successful Threat Hunting capability, tooling is of course still required to collect and interrogate data, automate analytics, and work collaboratively.

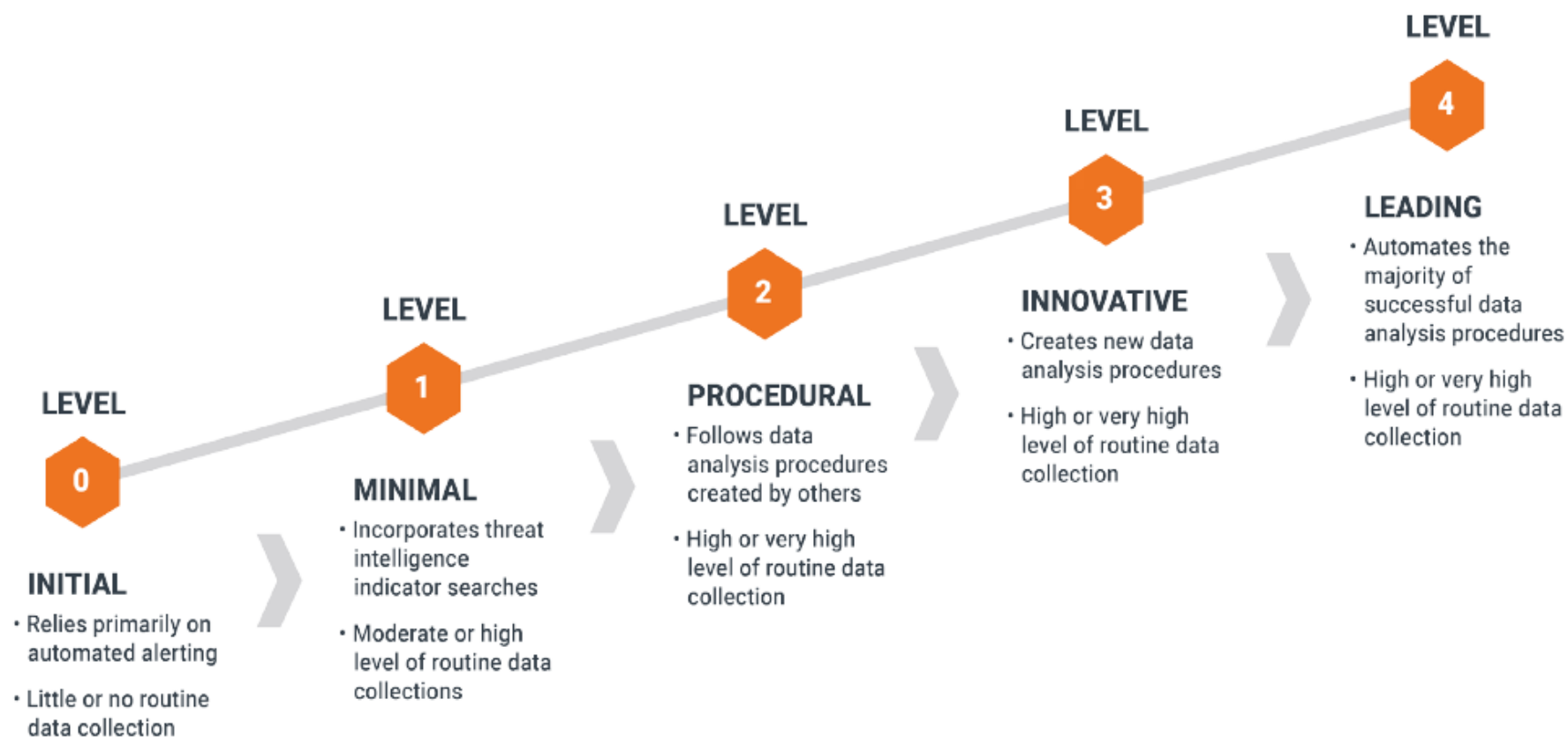
Existing security tools employed by SOC in your organization such as **SIEM, Security Analytic, EDR, Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform, DFIR tools**, can be used and utilized for threat hunting activities. Additional tools such as open source tools might be combined with existing tools to help threat hunters speed up the hunting process and analysis.

# Tools and Technology – Threat Hunting

One of the part that also can help for efficiency in threat hunting process is Threat Hunting Playbook. The playbook consist of all hypotheses and step process for hunting created by threat hunters and prevent the threat hunters doing the same hunting process repetitively. The playbook can be also included the sample of dataset from previous hunt activity to help new threat hunters understand what this playbook talking about.

Example of Open Source Threat Hunting Playbook : **Jupyter Notebook and Mordor Datasets** (By Roberto Rodriguez). (<https://medium.com/threat-hunters-forge/threat-hunter-playbook-mordor-datasets-binderhub-open-infrastructure-for-open-8c8aee3d8b4>)




# Threat Hunting Maturity Model



SQRRL Hunting Maturity Model

<https://medium.com/@sqrrldata/the-cyber-hunting-maturity-model-6d506faa8ad5>

# Threat Hunting Capability Maturity Model

Threat Hunting Capability Maturity Model	Level 1 INITIAL	Level 2 MANAGED	Level 3 DEFINED	Level 4 QUANTITATIVELY MANAGED	Level 5 OPTIMISING
<b>People</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing SOC analysts</li> <li>Resourcing needs not known</li> <li>Training needs not known</li> <li>Performance not managed</li> <li>Lack of career development plan</li> <li>Normal systems behaviour not sufficiently understood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Threat Hunting lead</li> <li>Informal view of resourcing</li> <li>Informal view of training</li> <li>Performance is qualitatively managed</li> <li>Career development informally managed</li> <li>Normal systems behaviour is moderately understood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated threat hunters</li> <li>Formal recruitment plan</li> <li>Formal training plan</li> <li>Performance expectations defined with role profiles</li> <li>Formalised career development plan</li> <li>Normal systems behaviour is fully understood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SOC analysts rotated for L&amp;D</li> <li>Succession plans in place</li> <li>Training completion tracked</li> <li>Metrics utilised for team performance</li> <li>Mission critical systems identified</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teams integrated across SOC</li> <li>Resourcing needs integrated</li> <li>Training needs integrated</li> <li>Improvement plans to address underperformance</li> <li>Situational awareness</li> </ul>
<b>Process</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypothesis generation is unstructured</li> <li><i>Hunts occur ad-hoc, if at all</i></li> <li><i>Little or no data collected</i></li> <li>Little understanding of anomalies indicative of malicious activity</li> <li>Abnormalities not routinely searched for</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CTI and Domain Expertise used to generate hypotheses and prioritisation by lead</li> <li>Hunts occur occasionally</li> <li><i>Moderate data collection from key areas</i></li> <li><i>Basic threat feeds with IOCs utilised</i></li> <li>Targeting of IOCs at bottom of POP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Formal hunting process</li> <li>Hunts occur regularly</li> <li><i>High data collection from key areas</i></li> <li><i>CTI and previous experience used to detect malicious activity</i></li> <li>Targeting of IOCs in middle of POP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manual risk scoring e.g. Crown Jewels</li> <li>Hunts occur frequently</li> <li><i>Moderate data collection from most of estate</i></li> <li><i>CTI tailored to organisation</i></li> <li>Targeting of IOCs at top of POP</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automated risk scoring e.g. machine learning</li> <li>Hunts occur continuously</li> <li><i>High data collection from full estate</i></li> <li>Hunt analytics and IOCs shared across community</li> <li>Automated TTP and campaign tracking</li> </ul>
<b>Tools</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Reactive SOC tools</i></li> <li>Little or no automation</li> <li>Little or no documentation produced</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic searching via text or SQL-like queries</li> <li><i>Automatic matching of IOCs</i></li> <li>Documentation using basic office suites</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Statistical analysis techniques</li> <li>Library of hunt procedures automated on regular schedule</li> <li>Central workflow and knowledge repository tools</li> <li>Lab environments used to aid hypothesis generation and testing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Visualisation tools utilised, and analytics tested for effectiveness</li> <li>Library of hunt procedures automated on frequent schedule</li> <li>Dashboards utilised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Machine learning is leveraged, with horizon scanning maintained</li> <li>Library of hunt procedures automated continuously</li> <li>Central workflow and knowledge repository are integrated and shared</li> </ul>

Note: Items in *italics* are not strictly part of a Threat Hunting capability, but are essential prerequisites and enablers.

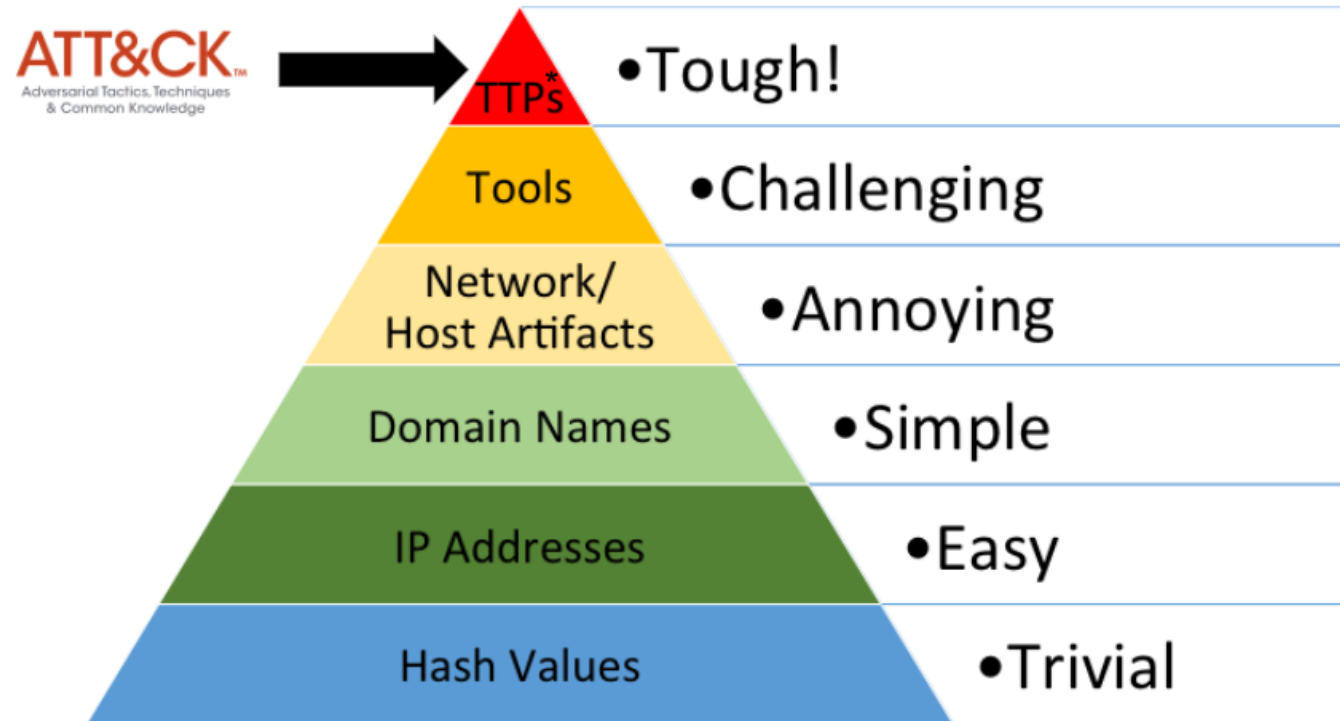
<https://hodigital.blog.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/161/2020/03/Detecting-the-Unknown-A-Guide-to-Threat-Hunting-v2.0.pdf>

# Threat Hunting Framework

Threat Hunting needs a framework that can be a baseline or foundation for the threat hunters when starting they hunting process. The common framework in cyber security used by threat hunting are :

- a. Pyramid of Pain
- b. Cyber Kill Chain
- c. MITRE ATT&CK

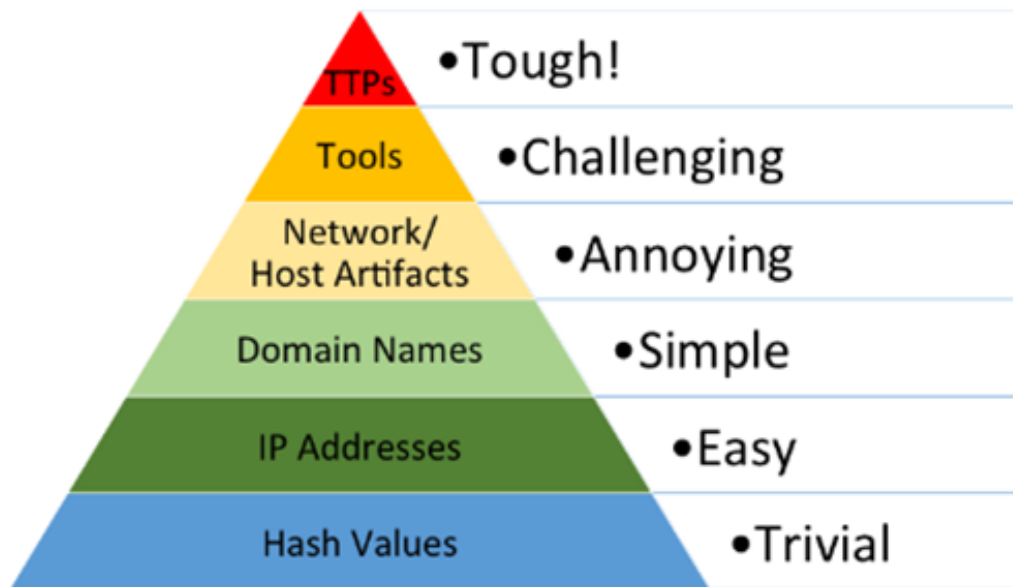
# Pyramid of Pain



David Bianco Pyramid of Pain

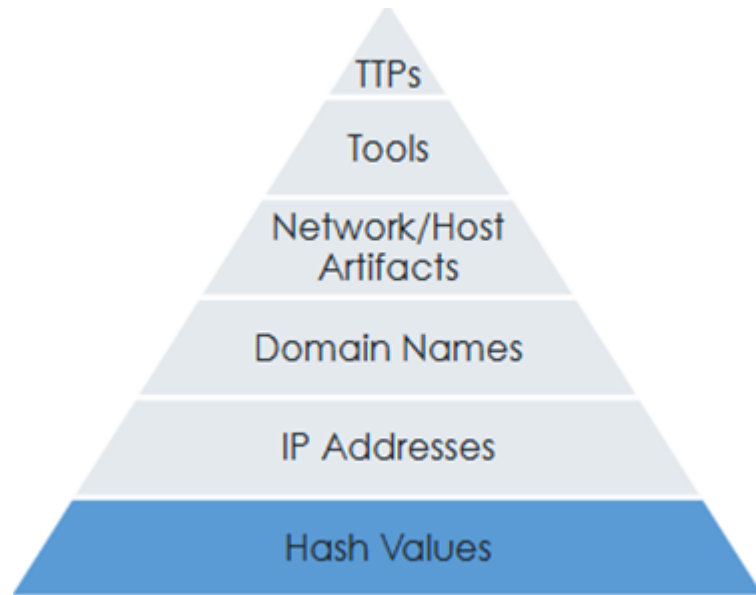
Source : <https://www.slideshare.net/KatieNickels/putting-mitre-attck-into-action-with-what-you-have-where-you-are>

# Pyramid of Pain



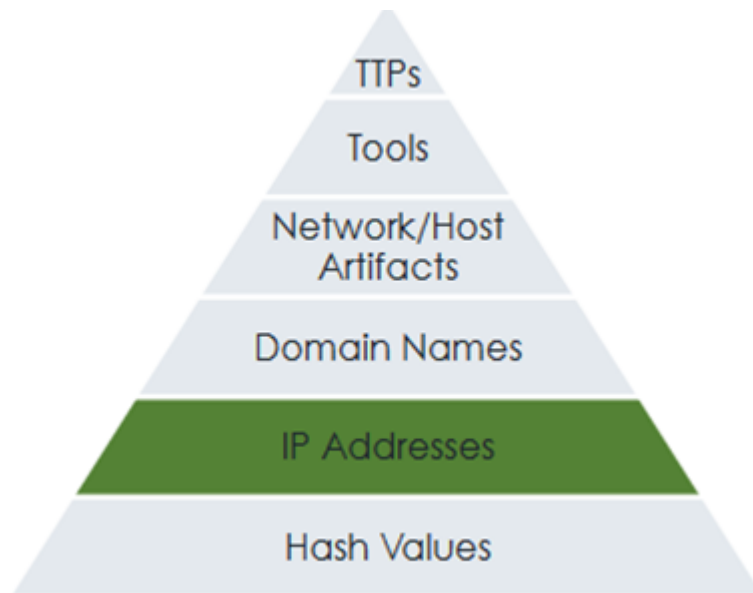
- Pyramid of pain represents the usefulness of your intelligence
- The higher of the stacks, the more adversaries have to expend for the resources.
- It also indicates to gather the artifacts or threat intelligence from adversaries

# Pyramid of Pain : Hashes



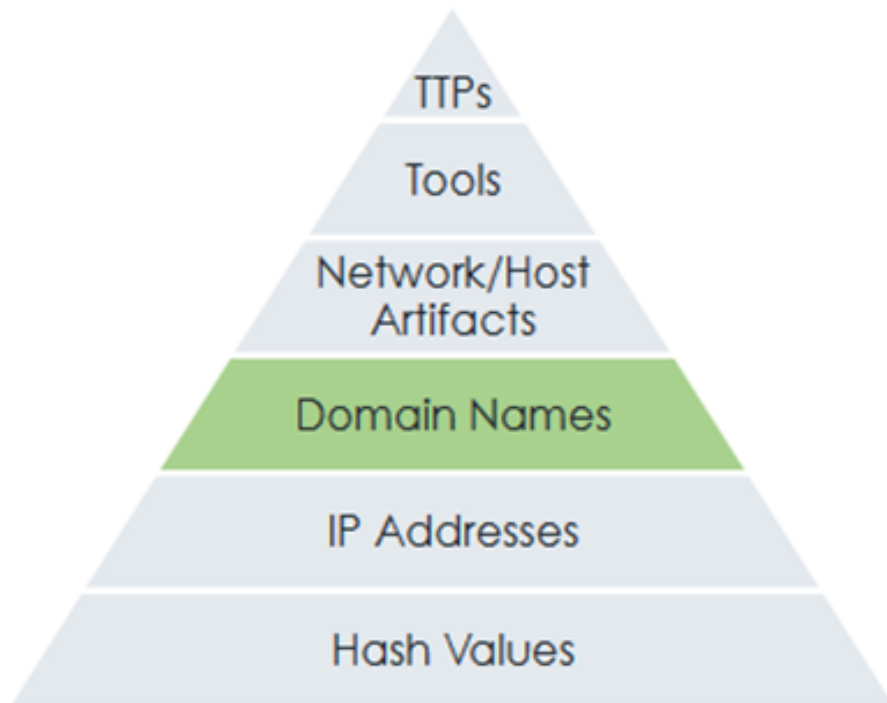
- Hash is so far the **highest confidence level** from artifacts collected or gathered from intel resources
- But, hash is **very easy to change**. Adversaries only need a lil bit effort to modify and create a new hash for their tradecraft
- It is maybe the reason why hash positioned **in the bottom of the pyramid stack**

# Pyramid of Pain : IP Address



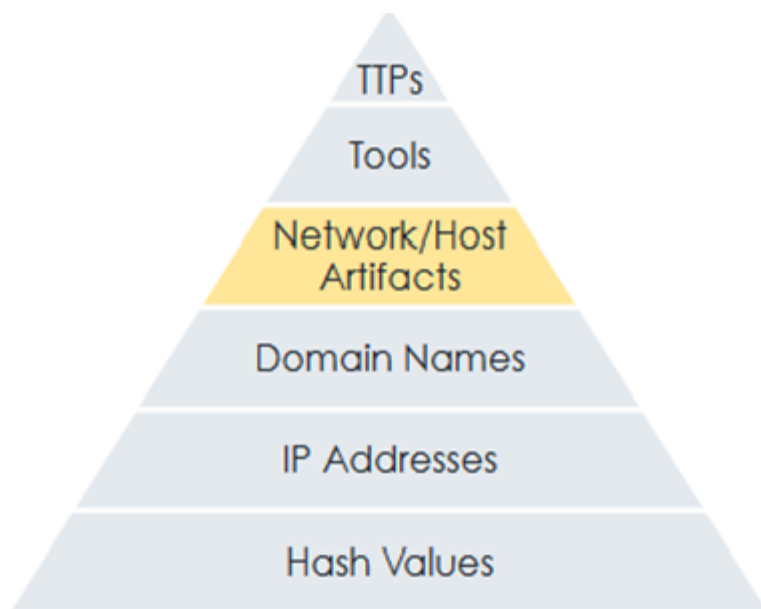
- Attacker mostly not using their real IP Address. Adversary used VPN, Proxy, ToR, Compromised Server to hide from their real IP Address.
- They can changed the IP address for their infra once it is blocked / blacklisted. Only need some money and effort to move to the new IP for their infrastructure. More effort and money than hash, therefore IP Address positioned 1 level up from hash in the Pyramid of Pain

# Pyramid of Pain : Domain



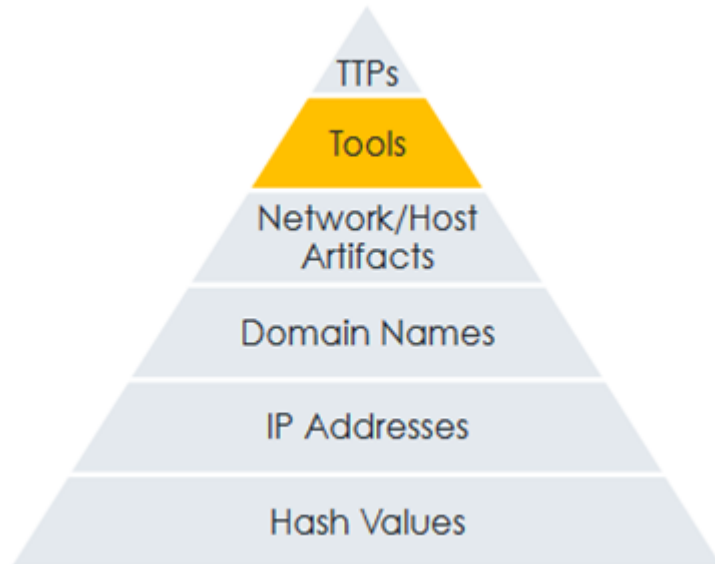
- Almost easy as IP Address to change the domain name. But need more time (Domain propagation in DNS)
- Need some registration, and for some reason they mostly hide the whois for domain privacy offered by domain registrars. Need more money for this services.
- Need to define the domain name. And it is not easy. Sometimes adversaries made bot to automatically create a new domain using certain algorithm (DGA)

# Pyramid of Pain : Network / Host Artifact



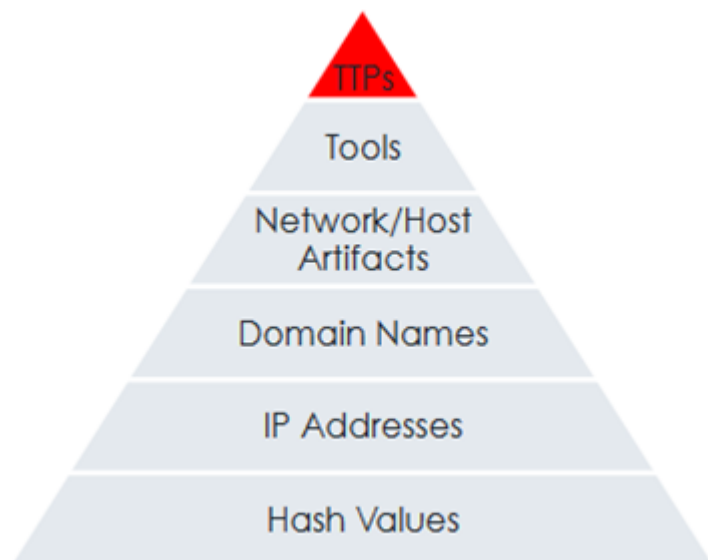
- Network Artifacts : indicators of activities performed by the adversaries on the network. Anything communicated over the network by the adversary can be referred to as network artifact, which includes URI patterns, SMTP mailer values, HTTP user agent, and the like.
- Host Artifact : Indicators of activities performed by the adversaries on the hosts. Artifacts like registry keys or values created by malware. Files or directories injected in specific locations, and the like are considered as host artifacts.

# Pyramid of Pain : Tools



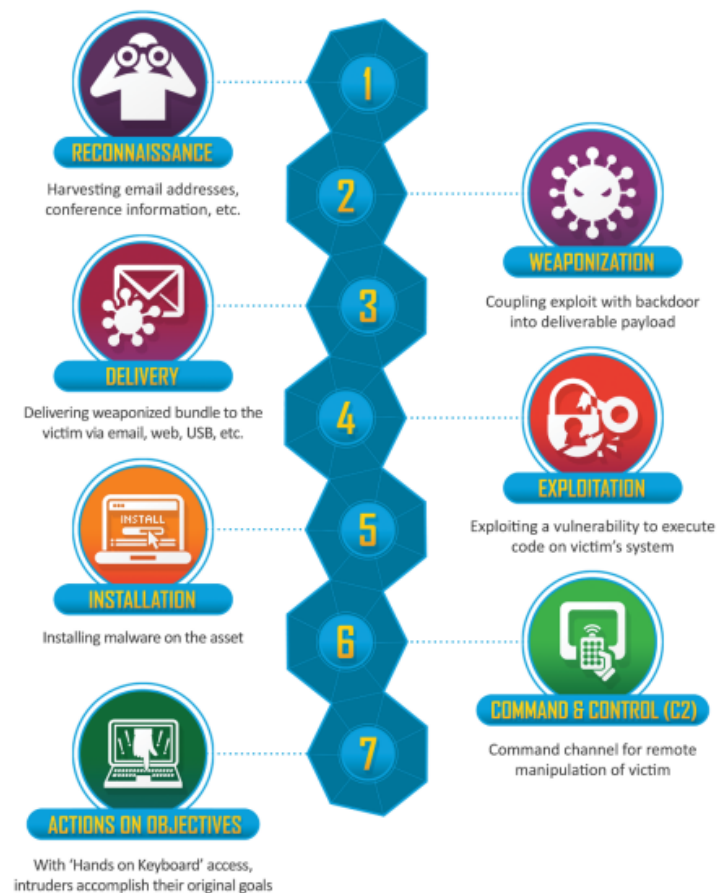
- Software used by the adversary to accomplish their mission
- This can include software designed to create malicious documents for spearphishing, backdoors used to establish CNC, or password cracking tools or other software that adversaries may want to use for post-exploitation activities.
- Considered to be more difficult than all previous stack in pyramid of pain, because sometimes adversaries **need to create their custom tools and obfuscate it to evade the detection and prevention technology.**

# Pyramid of Pain : TTPs



- The very Top Level in Pyramid of Pain, indicate the most painful (especially for blue teamers and defenders)
- Need to combine all the stack below to define the attacker Tactic, Technique and Procedures + Combining with Threat Intelligence to define attacker motivation and attribution
- If Blue Teamers, Defenders, and Threat Hunters can reach at this point for detection and response of the adversaries activities, the adversaries only have 2 options : **Give Up on their mission or creating their TTPs from the scratch.** (<http://detect-respond.blogspot.com/2013/03/the-pyramid-of-pain.html>)

# Cyber Kill Chain



<https://www.lockheedmartin.com/en-us/capabilities/cyber/cyber-kill-chain.html>

# Threat Hunting Framework

## Threat Hunting Framework Based on MITRE ATT&CK Framework

- <https://attack.mitre.org/>

Tactic {

Initial Access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege Escalation	Defense Evasion	Credential Access	Discovery	Lateral Movement	Collection	Exfiltration	Command and Control
Drive-by Compromise	AppleScript	.bash_profile and .bashrc	Access Token Manipulation	Access Token Manipulation	Account Manipulation	Account Discovery	AppleScript	Audio Capture	Automated Exfiltration	Commonly Used Port
Exploit Public-Facing Application	CMSTP	Accessibility Features	Accessibility Features	BITS Jobs	Bash History	Application Window Discovery	Application Deployment Software	Automated Collection	Data Compressed	Communication Through Removable Media
Hardware Additions	Command-Line Interface	AppCert DLLs	AppCert DLLs	Binary Padding	Brute Force	Browser Bookmark	Distributed Component	Clipboard Data	Data Encrypted	Connection Proxy
Replication Through Removable Media	Control Panel Items	AppInIt DLLs	AppInIt DLLs	Bye Acc					Data Transfer Size Limits	Custom Command and Control

**Drive-by Compromise**

A drive-by compromise is when an adversary gains access to a system through a user visiting a website over the normal course of browsing. With this technique, the user's web browser is targeted for exploitation. This can happen in several ways, but there are a few main components:

Multiple ways of delivering exploit code to a browser exist, including:

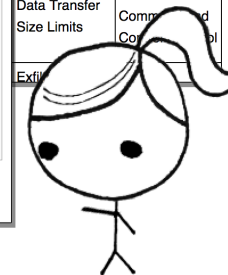
- A legitimate website is compromised where adversaries have injected some form of malicious code such as JavaScript, iFrames, cross-site scripting.
- Malicious ads are paid for and served through legitimate ad providers.
- Built-in web application interfaces are leveraged for the insertion of any other kind of object that can be used to display web content or contain a script that executes on the visiting client (e.g. forum posts, comments, and other user controllable web content).

Often the website used by an adversary is one visited by a specific community, such as government, a particular industry, or region, where the goal is to compromise a specific user or set of users based on a shared interest. This kind of targeted attack is referred to a strategic web compromise or watering hole attack. There are several known examples of this occurring.[1]

Drive-by Compromise Technique	
ID	T1189
Tactic	Initial Access
Platform	Linux, Windows, macOS
Permissions Required	User
Data Sources	Packet capture, Network device logs, Process use of network, Web proxy, Network intrusion detection system, SSL/TLS inspection

Technique

Procedure



Sources : [https://threatexpress.com/redteaming/mitre\\_attack/](https://threatexpress.com/redteaming/mitre_attack/)

# MITRE ATT&CK Framework

- MITRE ATT&CK™ is a globally-accessible knowledge base of **adversary tactics and techniques based on real-world observations. The ATT&CK knowledge base is used as a foundation for the development of specific threat models and methodologies** in the private sector, in government, and in the cybersecurity product and service community.

With the creation of ATT&CK, MITRE is fulfilling its mission to solve problems for a safer world — by bringing communities together to develop more effective cybersecurity. ATT&CK is open and available to any person or organization for use at no charge

# MITRE ATT&CK Matrix

Reconnaissance 10 techniques	Resource Development 6 techniques	Initial Access 9 techniques	Execution 10 techniques	Persistence 18 techniques	Privilege Escalation 12 techniques	Defense Evasion 37 techniques	Credential Access 14 techniques	Discovery 25 techniques	Lateral Movement 9 techniques	Collection 17 techniques	Command and Control 16 techniques	Exfiltration 9 techniques	Impact 13 techniques
Active Scanning (2)	Acquire Infrastructure (6)	Drive-by Compromise	Command and Scripting Interpreter (6)	Account Manipulation (4)	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (4)	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (4)	Brute Force (4)	Account Discovery (4)	Exploitation of Remote Services	Archive Collected Data (3)	Application Layer Protocol (4)	Automated Exfiltration (1)	Account Access Removal
Gather Victim Host Information (4)	Compromise Accounts (2)	Exploit Public-Facing Application	Exploitation for Client Execution	BITS Jobs	Access Token Manipulation (3)	Access Token Manipulation (3)	Credentials from Password Stores (3)	Application Window Discovery	Internal Spearfishing	Audio Capture	Communication Through Removable Media	Data Transfer Size Limits	Data Destruction
Gather Victim Identity Information (3)	Compromise Infrastructure (3)	External Remote Services	Inter-Process Communication (2)	Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (12)	Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (12)	Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (12)	Exploitation for Forced Authentication	Browser Bookmark Discovery	Remote Service Session Hijacking (2)	Automated Collection	Data Encoding (2)	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol (3)	Data Encrypted for Impact
Gather Victim Network Information (6)	Develop Capabilities (4)	Hardware Additions	Native API	Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts (6)	Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts (6)	Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts (6)	Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information	Cloud Infrastructure Discovery	Remote Services (6)	Clipboard Data	Data Obfuscation (3)	Exfiltration Over C2 Channel	Data Manipulation (2)
Gather Victim Org Information (4)	Establish Accounts (2)	Phishing (3)	Scheduled Task/Job (6)	Browser Extensions	Create or Modify System Scripts (6)	Create or Modify System Scripts (6)	Direct Volume Access	Cloud Service Dashboard	Replication Through Removable Media	Data from Cloud Storage Object	Dynamic Resolution (3)	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium (1)	Defacement (2)
Phishing for Information (3)	Obtain Capabilities (4)	Replication Through Removable Media	Shared Modules	Compromise Client Software Binary	Event Triggered Execution (15)	Event Triggered Execution (15)	Execution Guardrails (1)	Cloud Service Discovery	Software Deployment Tools	Data from Configuration Repository (2)	Encrypted Channel (2)	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium (1)	Disk Wipe (2)
Search Closed Sources (2)		Supply Chain Compromise (3)	Software Deployment Tools	Create Account (3)	Exploitation for Privilege Escalation	File and Directory Permissions Modification (2)	Exploitation for Defense Evasion	Domain Trust Discovery	Trusted Relationship	Data from Information Repositories (2)	Fallback Channels	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium (1)	Endpoint Denial of Service (4)
Search Open Technical Databases (5)		Valid Accounts (4)	System Services (2)	Create or Modify System Process (4)	Group Policy Modification	Group Policy Modification	Man-in-the-Middle (2)	File and Directory Discovery	Valid Accounts (4)	Taint Shared Content	Ingress Tool Transfer	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium (1)	Firmware Corruption
Search Open Websites/Domains (2)			User Execution (2)	Event Triggered Execution (15)	Hide Artifacts (7)	Hide Artifacts (7)	Modify Authentication Process (4)	Network Sniffing		Use Alternate Authentication Material (4)	Multi-Stage Channels	Exfiltration Over Web Service (2)	Inhibit System Recovery
Search Victim-Owned Websites			Windows Management Instrumentation	External Remote Services	Hijack Execution Flow (11)	Hijack Execution Flow (11)	OS Credential Dumping (3)	Network Share Discovery			Non-Application Layer Protocol	Scheduled Transfer	Network Denial of Service (2)
				Hijack Execution Flow (11)	Impair Defenses (7)	Impair Defenses (7)	Steal Application Access Token	Network Service Scanning			Non-Standard Port	Transfer Data to Cloud Account	Resource Hijacking
				Hijack Execution Flow (11)	Indicator Removal on Host (6)	Indicator Removal on Host (6)	Steal or Forge Kerberos Tickets (4)	Peripheral Device Discovery			Protocol Tunneling		Service Stop
				Implant Container Image	Indirect Command Execution	Indirect Command Execution	Steal Web Session Cookie	Process Discovery			Proxy (4)		System Shutdown/Reboot
				Office Application Startup (6)	Masquerading (3)	Masquerading (3)	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	Query Registry			Remote Access Software		
				Pre-OS Boot (3)	Modify Authentication Process (4)	Modify Authentication Process (4)	Unsecured Credentials (6)	Remote System Discovery			Traffic Signaling (1)		
				Scheduled Task/Job (6)	Modify Cloud Compute Infrastructure (4)	Modify Cloud Compute Infrastructure (4)		System Information Discovery			Web Service (3)		
				Server Software Component (3)	Modify Registry	Modify Registry		System Network Configuration Discovery					
				Traffic Signaling (1)	Modify System Image (2)	Modify System Image (2)		System Network Connections Discovery					
				Valid Accounts (4)	Network Boundary Bridging (1)	Network Boundary Bridging (1)		System Owner/User Discovery					
					Obfuscated Files or Information (3)	Obfuscated Files or Information (3)		System Service Discovery					
					Pre-OS Boot (3)	Pre-OS Boot (3)		System Time Discovery					
					Process Injection (11)	Process Injection (11)		Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion (3)					
					Rogue Domain Controller	Rogue Domain Controller							
					Rootkit	Rootkit							
					Signed Binary Proxy Execution (11)	Signed Binary Proxy Execution (11)							
					Signed Script Proxy Execution (1)	Signed Script Proxy Execution (1)							
					Subvert Trust Controls (4)	Subvert Trust Controls (4)							
					Template Injection	Template Injection							
					Traffic Signaling (1)	Traffic Signaling (1)							
					Trusted Developer Utilities Proxy Execution (1)	Trusted Developer Utilities Proxy Execution (1)							
					Unused/Unsupported Cloud Regions	Unused/Unsupported Cloud Regions							
					Use Alternate Authentication Material (4)	Use Alternate Authentication Material (4)							
					Valid Accounts (4)	Valid Accounts (4)							
					Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion (3)	Virtualization/Sandbox Evasion (3)							
					Weaken Encryption (2)	Weaken Encryption (2)							
					XSL Script Processing	XSL Script Processing							

Sources : <https://attack.mitre.org/matrices/enterprise/>



# MITRE ATT&CK Matrix

## How to Read It?

- ❖ **Tactics** across the top
- ✓ What technique accomplish

Reconnaissance 10 techniques	Resource Development 6 techniques	Initial Access 9 techniques	Execution 10 techniques
Active Scanning (2)	Acquire Infrastructure (6)	Drive-by Compromise	Command and Scripting Interpreter (8)
Gather Victim Host Information (4)	Compromise Accounts (2)	Exploit Public-Facing Application	Exploitation for Client Execution
Gather Victim Identity Information (3)	Compromise Infrastructure (6)	External Remote Services	Inter-Process Communication (2)
Gather Victim Network Information (6)	Develop Capabilities (4)	Hardware Additions	Native API
Gather Victim Org Information (4)	Establish Accounts (2)	Phishing (3)	Scheduled Task/Job (6)
Phishing for Information (3)	Obtain Capabilities (6)	Replication Through Removable Media	Shared Modules
Search Closed Sources (2)		Supply Chain Compromise (3)	Software Deployment Tools
Search Open Technical Databases (5)		Trusted Relationship	System Services (2)
Search Open Websites/Domains (2)		Valid Accounts (4)	User Execution (2)
Search Victim-Owned Websites			Windows Management Instrumentation

# MITRE ATT&CK Matrix

## How to Read It?

- ❖ **Technique** for each column
  - ✓ The way adversaries accomplishing the tactics
  - ✓ Same Technique can be in different Tactics

Persistence 18 techniques	Privilege Escalation 12 techniques	Defense Evasion 37 techniques
Account Manipulation (4)	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (4)	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (4)
BITS Jobs	Access Token Manipulation (5)	Access Token Manipulation (5)
Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (12)	Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (12)	BITS Jobs
Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts (5)	Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts (5)	Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information
Browser Extensions	Create or Modify System Process (4)	Direct Volume Access
Compromise Client Software Binary	Event Triggered Execution (15)	Execution Guardrails (1)
Create Account (3)		Exploitation for Defense Evasion
		File and Directory Permissions Modification (2)

# Tactic Vs Technique

<b>Tactic : The What”</b>	<b>Technique : The How”</b>
Reconnaissance	Active Scanning
Resource Development	Compromise Account
Initial Access	Drive by Compromise
Execution	Command and Scripting Interpreter

# MITRE ATT&CK Use Case

- **ATT&CK can help you create a threat-informed defense**
- **Do what you can, with what you have, where you are:**
  - Detection
  - Assessment and Engineering
  - Threat Intelligence
  - Adversary Emulation
  - Threat Hunting
- **Choose a starting point that works for your team**

# Detection Engineering

Detection engineering is a set of practices and systems to deliver modern and effective threat detection.

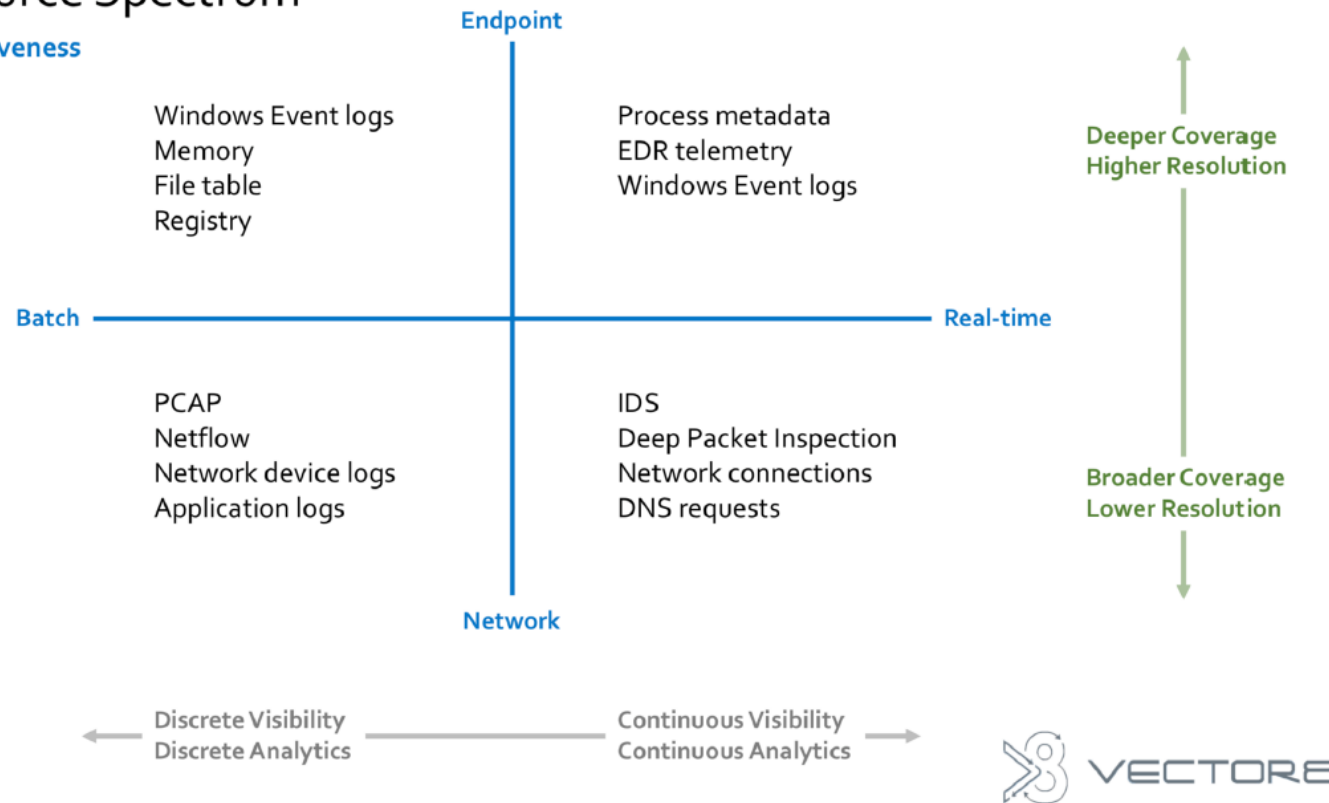
When building a solid detection engineering, the main goal is to catch malicious things and to not catch too many not malicious things. If the detection system interrupt an analyst's activities because calling attention to things that are not malicious, then you're creating more work for the analysts.

Detection products only create value by detecting things that are truly bad, and most detection products lean towards detecting more activity so as to not miss anything.

# Detection Engineering

## Data Source Spectrum

Visibility vs Liveness



Source : Fidelis Cyber Security and Vector8 About Data Source Spectrum

# Example of Data Sources from Endpoint

Type of Data	Description	Tools
Operating System logs	Useful Data sources. By Default capabilities for each OS.	Built in Function from OS
Process Activity	Process start, DLL libraries loading, Process install driver, Process perform code injection, Process open port for incoming network connections, connections, Process initiate network connection, Process create/change file, Process create/change registry key/value	Sysmon (Windows) Auditd (Linux) Osquery Endpoint Detection Response Operating System Logs
Volatile Artifacts	Temporary artifact collected from endpoint data sources for the purposes of hunting that might not touch the disk on the host Data Collection : Memory, Network Conn, Process Conn,	Winpmem, Comae, (for Collecton) EDR Volatility Google Rapid Response (GRR) Velociraptor
Non-Volatile Artifacts	Artifacts that resides on the endpoint / host disk. Data Collection : Prefetch, Amcache, Shimcache, MFT, Registry, bash_history, Task Scheduler	Brimorlabs KAPE Kansa FastIR Collector

# Example of Data Sources from Network

Type of Event	Description	Tools
Netflow	Network traffic flow metadata. NetFlow data is analyzed to create a picture of network traffic flow and volume. used as a network traffic analyzer to determine its point of origin, destination, volume and paths on the network	Silk Nfsen & Nfdump
Packet Capture	Packet Capture is a networking term for intercepting a data packet that is crossing a specific point in a data network. Once a packet is captured in real-time, it is stored for a period of time so that it can be analyzed, and then either be downloaded, archived or discarded.	Moloch, Tcpdump, Wireshark, tshark
Network IDS	A network-based intrusion detection system (NIDS) detects malicious traffic on a network. NIDS usually require promiscuous network access in order to analyze all traffic	Snort, Suricata Bro Commercial NIDS Product
Proxy Log	Proxy server logs contain the requests made by users and applications on your network. This does not only include the most obvious part : web site request by users but also application or service requests made to the internet (for example application updates).	Squid Commercial Proxy Product
DNS Log	One of the constantly re-occurring techniques is DNS-based activities like exfiltration via DNS ( <i>Domain Name System</i> ) or C2 ( <i>Command and Control</i> ) communication via DNS. Still, a lot of companies are lacking in DNS logging, missing DNS-based detection rules, or not aware of their own blindspots. Data collected : DNS Server, DNS Collected from Network, Host Based (Sysmon 10),	Passive DNS Log DNS Server

# MITRE SHIELD

- Shield is an active defense knowledge base MITRE is developing to capture and organize what we are learning about active defense and adversary engagement.
- Derived from over 10 years of adversary engagement experience, it spans the range from high level, CISO ready considerations of opportunities and objectives, to practitioner friendly discussions of the TTPs available to defenders.

# MITRE SHIELD MATRIX

Channel	Collect	Contain	Detect	Disrupt	Facilitate	Legitimize	Test
Admin Access	API Monitoring	Admin Access	API Monitoring	Admin Access	Admin Access	Application Diversity	Admin Access
API Monitoring	Application Diversity	Baseline	Application Diversity	Application Diversity	Application Diversity	Burn-In	API Monitoring
Application Diversity	Backup and Recovery	Decoy Account	Behavioral Analytics	Backup and Recovery	Behavioral Analytics	Decoy Account	Application Diversity
Decoy Account	Decoy Account	Decoy Network	Decoy Account	Baseline	Burn-In	Decoy Content	Backup and Recovery
Decoy Content	Decoy Content	Detonate Malware	Decoy Content	Behavioral Analytics	Decoy Account	Decoy Credentials	Decoy Account
Decoy Credentials	Decoy Credentials	Hardware Manipulation	Decoy Credentials	Decoy Content	Decoy Content	Decoy Diversity	Decoy Content
Decoy Network	Decoy Network	Isolation	Decoy Network	Decoy Credentials	Decoy Credentials	Decoy Network	Decoy Credentials
Decoy Persona	Decoy System	Migrate Attack Vector	Decoy System	Decoy Network	Decoy Diversity	Decoy Persona	Decoy Diversity
Decoy Process	Detonate Malware	Network Manipulation	Email Manipulation	Email Manipulation	Decoy Persona	Decoy Process	Decoy Network
Decoy System	Email Manipulation	Security Controls	Hunting	Hardware Manipulation	Decoy System	Decoy System	Decoy Persona
Detonate Malware	Network Diversity	Software Manipulation	Isolation	Isolation	Network Diversity	Network Diversity	Decoy System
Migrate Attack Vector	Network Monitoring		Network Manipulation	Network Manipulation	Network Manipulation	Pocket Litter	Detonate Malware
Network Diversity	PCAP Collection		Network Monitoring	Security Controls	Peripheral Management		Migrate Attack Vector
Network Manipulation	Peripheral Management		PCAP Collection	Standard Operating Procedure	Pocket Litter		Network Diversity
Peripheral Management	Protocol Decoder		Pocket Litter	User Training	Security Controls		Network Manipulation
Pocket Litter	Security Controls		Protocol Decoder	Software Manipulation	Software Manipulation		Peripheral Management
Security Controls	System Activity Monitoring		Standard Operating Procedure				Pocket Litter
Software Manipulation	Software Manipulation		System Activity Monitoring				Security Controls
			User Training				Software Manipulation
			Software Manipulation				

Source : <https://shield.mitre.org/matrix/>

# MITRE SHIELD

In the cybersecurity arena, active defense means defenses that increase costs to cyber-attackers by reducing costs to cyber-defenders. An active defense is the use of offensive actions to outmaneuver an attacker and make an attack more difficult to carry out. Slowing down or derailing the attacker so they cannot advance or complete their attack increases the probability that they will make a mistake and expose their presence or reveal their attack vector.

The Shield matrix consists of the following core components :

- **Tactics**, denoting what the defender is trying to accomplish.
- **Techniques**, describing how the defense achieves the tactic.

# Types of Threat Hunting

1. IOC Based Threat Hunting
2. Hypotheses Based Threat Hunting
3. Baseline Based Threat Hunting
4. Anomaly Based Threat Hunting

# IOC Based Threat Hunting

- Hunting based on IOC collected from Threat Intelligence
- More like into Compromise Assessment
- Checking whether the IOC is present in the environment
- Checking on Specific Threat Actor or Specific Threat Intel Report

# Hypotheses Based Threat Hunting

- Creating a hypotheses for certain TTPs
  - e.g : Hypotheses for hunting on endpoint, hypotheses for hunting on network,
- Leverage Framework such as MITRE ATT&CK Framework for creating hypotheses on TTPs of Threat Actor
- Defining specific asset for hunting (such as Crown Jewel Asset)

# Baseline Based Threat Hunting

- Detect something haven't seen before based on baseline data in the environment
- Needs larger set of data available about your infra for creating the baseline
- Sometimes triggers lot of False Positives
- Quite effective to spot changes in your infra

# Anomaly Based Threat Hunting

- Sifting through the log data available for the threat hunters to spot irregularities that might be malicious
- Additionally applying patterns on your infra
- Quite useful in Fraud detection

# Threat Hunting Use Case

# Use Case 1 : Process Spawn cmd.exe

**MITRE Reference : CAR-2013-02-003** <https://car.mitre.org/analytics/CAR-2013-02-003/> : Processes Spawning cmd.exe

- **Hypothesis** : The Windows Command Prompt (cmd.exe) is a utility that provides command line interface to Windows operating systems. It provides the ability to run additional programs and also has several built-in commands such as dir, copy, mkdir, and type, as well as batch scripts (.bat).
- Typically, when a user runs a command prompt, the parent process is explorer.exe or another instance of the prompt. There may be automated programs, logon scripts, or administrative tools that launch instances of the command prompt in order to run scripts or other built-in commands. Spawning the process cmd.exe from certain parents may be more indicative of malice.
- **Example Use Case Hunting** : if **Adobe Reader or Outlook launches a command shell**, this may suggest that a malicious document has been loaded and should be investigated. Thus, by looking for abnormal parent processes of cmd.exe, it may be possible to detect adversaries.

## Use Case 2 : RDP Activities

**MITRE Reference: CAR-2016-04-005:** <https://car.mitre.org/wiki/CAR-2016-04-005>

- **Hypothesis:** A remote desktop logon, through RDP, may be typical of a system administrator or IT support, but only from select workstations.
- Monitoring remote desktop logons and comparing to known/approved originating systems can detect lateral movement of an adversary.
- **Example Use Case Hunting :**

Looking for Successful RDP Login not from your Country GeoIP login and after office hour

# Use Case 3 : Stopping Windows Defensive Services

**MITRE Reference: CAR-2016-04-003:** <https://car.mitre.org/wiki/CAR-2016-04-003>

- **Hypothesis:** Spyware and malware remain a serious problem and Microsoft developed security services, Windows Defender and Windows Firewall, to combat this threat. In the event Windows Defender or Windows Firewall is turned off, administrators should correct the issue immediately to prevent the possibility of infection or further infection and investigate to determine if caused by crash or user manipulation.

- **Example Use Case Hunting :**

Antivirus services stopped not long after there is a successful logon from internal network via network services

# Use Case 4 : Task Scheduler

## MITRE Reference:

**CAR-2020-09-001** : Scheduled Task – FileAccess: <https://car.mitre.org/analytics/CAR-2020-09-001/>

- **Hypothesis:** In order to gain persistence, privilege escalation, or remote execution, an adversary may use the Windows Task Scheduler to schedule a command to be run at a specified time, date, and even host. Task Scheduler stores tasks as files in two locations - C:\Windows\Tasks (legacy) or C:\Windows\System32\Tasks. Accordingly, this analytic looks for the creation of task files in these two locations.
- **Example Use Case Hunting :**
  - a. Task Scheduler running from a suspicious folder location (e.g : C:\Users\.. ; C:\Windows\temp\)
  - b. Task Scheduler running using suspicious Scripting Utilities (LOLBAS) : cscript.exe, rundll32.exe, mshta.exe, powershell.exe, regsvr32.exe

# Use Case 5 : Credential Dumping via Windows Task Manager

## MITRE Reference:

**CAR-2020-09-001** : Credential Dumping via Windows Task Manager :  
<https://car.mitre.org/analytics/CAR-2019-08-001/>

- **Hypothesis** : The Windows Task Manager may be used to dump the memory space of lsass.exe to disk for processing with a credential access tool such as Mimikatz. This is performed by launching Task Manager as a privileged user, selecting lsass.exe, and clicking “Create dump file”. This saves a dump file to disk with a deterministic name that includes the name of the process being dumped.
- **Example Use Case Hunting** :  
Hunting for File Creation (thinking about Sysmon Event ID 11 for example), with the process image is taskmgr.exe

# Case Study End to End Threat Hunting Process

## Threat Hunters defined the Hypotheses and Start Hunting

1. Hypotheses 1 : User visiting malicious website from Phishing Email
2. Hypotheses 2 : User downloading malicious file after visiting the Malicious Website (Drive by Download maybe?)
3. Hypotheses 3 : Malware Run on the User System after being downloaded
4. Hypotheses 4 : Malware doing persistence mechanism on Infected / Exploited Machine
5. Hypotheses 5 : Malware contacting Command and Control Server
6. Hypotheses 6 : Threat Actor exfiltrate Sensitive document to Command and Control Server
7. Hypotheses 7 : Sensitive Data Leaked on the Internet

# Hypotheses 1 : User visiting malicious website from Phishing Email

- Data Source for Hunting
  - Passive DNS Log, DNS Server Log, Proxy Log, NGFW Log, Sysmon Log, Email Log, Mail Security Gateway Log
- Platform for Hunting
  - SIEM, Security Analytics Platform
- Analysis and Enrichment Data
  - DNSTwist, Phishing Domain List, Threat Intelligence Feeds, VirusTotal, HybridAnalysis, URL / Domain Sandbox Analysis

## Hypotheses 2 : User downloading malicious file after visiting the Malicious Website (Drive by Download maybe?)

- Data Source for Hunting
  - Passive DNS Log, DNS Server Log, Proxy Log, NGFW Log, Sysmon Log,
- Platform for Hunting
  - SIEM, Security Analytics Platform,
- Analysis and Enrichment Data
  - Threat Intelligence Feeds, Alexa top 1M Domain, VirusTotal, HybridAnalysis, URL / Domain Sandbox Analysis, Blacklisted Domain Checker

# Hypotheses 3 : Malware Run on the User System after being downloaded

- Data Source for Hunting
  - Prefetch, Shimcache, Amcache, Process Running, Volatile Data (Memory), Sysmon, Auditd,
- Platform for Hunting
  - SIEM, Security Analytics Platform, EDR
- Analysis and Enrichment Data
  - File Hash of Process Executed, Parent-Child Process Analysis(SANS Find Evil Poster as Reference), Folder Location of Executables, Signed of Binary Files, VirusTotal, HybridAnalysis,

# Hypotheses 4 : Malware doing persistence mechanism on Infected / Exploited Machine

- Data Source for Hunting
  - ASEP (Auto Start Extensibility Points), Registry, Startup Services and Folder, Task Scheduler, Cron Job,
- Platform for Hunting
  - SIEM, Security Analytics Platform, EDR
- Analysis and Enrichment Data
  - Signature Check, Autoruns Sysinternals, File Hash Check, Date of Creation,

# Hypotheses 5 : Malware contacting Command and Control Server

- Data Source for Hunting
  - Netflow, Firewall Log, NGFW Log, IDS, Proxy Logs, Full Packet Capture, DNS Log
- Platform for Hunting
  - SIEM, Security Analytics Platform, NDR, XDR,
- Analysis and Enrichment Data
  - Date of Creation Domain, SSL Cert Attribute Checks, JA3 SSL Fingerprint, GeoIP Location Data, Threat Intelligence Feeds

# Hypotheses 6 : Threat Actor exfiltrate Sensitive document to Command and Control Server

- Data Source for Hunting
  - Netflow, Firewall Log, NGFW Log, IDS, Proxy Logs, Full Packet Capture, DNS Log
- Platform for Hunting
  - SIEM, Security Analytics Platform, NDR, XDR,
- Analysis and Enrichment Data
  - Date of Creation Domain, SSL Cert Attribute Checks, JA3 SSL Fingerprint, GeoIP Location Data, Threat Intelligence Feeds

# Hypotheses 7 : Sensitive Data Leaked on the Internet

- Data Source for Hunting
  - OSINT, Dark Web Search, Underground Forum, Threat Intelligence Feeds
- Platform for Hunting
  - Threat Intelligence Platform
- Analysis and Enrichment Data
  - Pastebin, Github, HoneyPot

# Threat Intelligence

# Threat Intelligence

Threat intelligence, or cyber threat intelligence, is information an organization uses to understand the threats that have, will, or are currently targeting the organization.

By identifying the threat actors the organization may be targeted by, defenses and monitoring solutions can be created to better protect from attacks.

Threat Hunting is also closely associated with Threat Intelligence, as hunting is the process of using intelligence to search for evidence of sophisticated threat actors, who are already in the network

# Benefit of Threat Intelligence

- By identifying relevant threat actors, and consuming intelligence from a number of sources, a Threat Intelligence function can help the business better understand risks from cyber-attacks. In short, it helps security teams focus on attackers that are likely to target the organization, and work to develop defences and other measures to prevent or limit the impact of attacks.
- Threat Actors have the skills, knowledge, and resources to evade most of security perimeter and tools owned by the organizations. That is why it is quite important to keep up to date with their tactics, and develop unique solutions to detect, response and prevent them to get into our network.

# Indicator of Compromise

IOCs are artifacts that have been identified as acting maliciously or attributed to threat actors. Some of the most common ones include

- **IP Addresses** : An IP that has been observed doing a scanning or exploitation to our network
- **Domains** : A domain that hosts a credential harvesting site or hosting malicious payload
- **Email Addresses** : An email address that has been sending phishing emails with a malicious attachment
- **File Names** : Malicious file names dropped by the attacker during the compromised
- **File Hashes** : The unique hash of a piece of malware / malicious tools used by threat actors

# Threat Intelligence

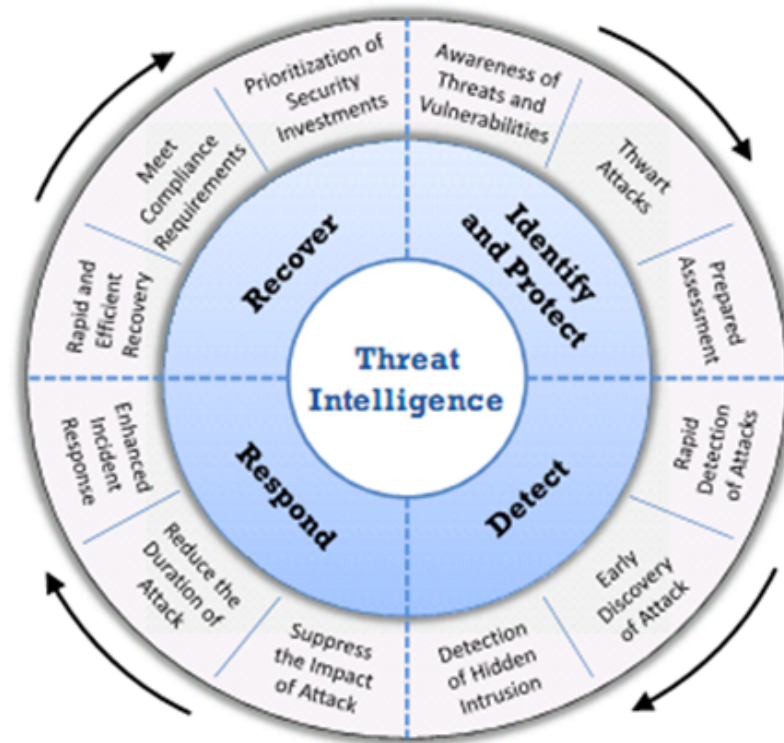
Remember IOC  $\neq$  Threat Intelligence



# Threat Intelligence and Threat Hunting

- Threat intelligence and threat hunting are two distinct security areas that can be complementary for each other. For example, threat intelligence can make up a small portion of the threat hunting process. However, subscribing to a threat intelligence feed does not automatically satisfy the need to threat hunt your network. A proper threat hunt can identify threats even when they have not yet been seen in the wild.

# Threat Intelligence and Threat Hunting



EC Council CTIA Threat Intelligence

“one organization’s detection to become another’s prevention”



# Honeypot

# Chapter 3 : Honey-pot

1. Honey-pot Concept
  - a. What is and Why Honey-pot?
  - b. Who made it?
  - c. How to make it work?
  - d. Types of honey-pot?
  - e. What is Honey-nets?
2. Examples of Honey-pot
  - a. Honey-pot Dionaea
  - b. Honey-pot Cowrie
  - c. What is and Why MHN?

# Honeypot Concept

# What is Honey pot?

- Its is a computer program that used **to lure** cyber adversaries to attack it.
- Its capable **to mimicking** a live system. To lure attackers, honeypot is made to be identical like a real system
- Its able **to retrieve information** from the intrusion attempt. From this attempt we can pick up a things or two about current attack

If we want to summarise what is a honeypot, we could say it is a “TRAP”



# What is Honeypot?

The principle behind this technology is really simple:

1. We don't look for hackers, We attract them to come to us, like preparing a cheese in mouse trap.
2. But you have to be smart! You need to make sure that the honeypot is believable enough



<https://us.norton.com/internetsecurity-iot-what-is-a-honeypot.html>

# Why honeypot?

You may be asking yourself what's big deal of honeypot, although we have already other alternatives, such as:

1. NIDS(Network Intrusion Detection System)
2. IPS(Intrusion Prevention System)
3. Firewall



# Why Honeypot

You should understand the nature of these tools to truly fully utilize it:

- NIDS, IPS and Firewall is meant for prevention to stop unauthorized access, misuse and abuse of computer resources. You can think like building shield around your network, however, you need to know that this device obey certain rules to detect the threats and if there is a new threat these tools is unable to stop it.
- Contrast with honeypot that is not meant for prevention but rather for studying or capturing a new threat. You should not think that honeypot or IDS as the key to all of the network security problem, but you need to collaborate this tools in order to extend your overall security system.

# Why Honeypot

In short this is advantages of collaborating honeypots into your network security monitoring system:

1. More information regarding vulnerabilities and intrusion pattern
2. More robust detection on all unwanted traffic including internal system and external system
3. Hiding sensitive system from attacker
4. Detecting zero days
5. Increasing overall quality of your security posture

# Who Made it?

1. We don't know actually, sike!
2. However, "Fred Cohen's Deception ToolKit" in 1998 is known as the first known honeypot in the world.
3. As malwares become more famous in the beginning 2000, honeypot also gain a lot of attention since its proves efficient to capture malware samples.



References: <https://www.cse.wustl.edu/~jain/cse571-09/ftp/honey.pdf>

# How to make it work?

It's pretty simple:

1. You can use **VM (Virtual Machine)** or an unused machine
2. Install the honeypot inside the VM
3. Configure them to make it as similar as your application
4. Make the security little bit weaker
  - a. Fake account
  - b. Guessable password
  - c. Unpatch version
  - d. Turn off firewall
  - e. Put some interesting files(Honeytoken), example:
    - i. Bank statement
    - ii. Appointment
    - iii. Bank account

# Types of Honeypot?

We can divide honeypots into two categories based on its aim:

- Research Honeypots: the purpose of these honeypots is to get the maximum data regarding the adversaries activities by allowing them to have a full access.
- Production Honeypots: the purpose of these honeypots is to shift the adversaries focus away from the production system, thus making system safer.



# Types of Honeypot?

We can divide honeypots into two categories based on its interaction:

- Low Interaction Honeypots:
  - The environment is limited only able to support several basic requirement of interaction in operating system
  - Less risk
  - Limited information
- High Interaction Honeypots:
  - More research oriented
  - Similar to live system
  - Riskier
  - Verbose information



# Types of honeypot?

Based on integration we can divide into three types:

1. LAN(Local Area Network) region, putting honeypots in the same regions as production server. Using this approach honeypot able to capture internal and external threats.
2. DMZ(demilitarized zone) region, putting only in DMZ network region. This approach is not giving full coverage of analysis since the LAN network area is not touched.
3. Internet region, putting honeypots directly on the internet, thus no firewall protecting them.

# What is Honeynets?

As the name suggest, honeynets is a collection of honeypots or a group of honeypots.

Collecting honeypots into one system can lead to numerous advantages rather than deploying a single node of honeypots. You should realize that examples of honeypot that we going to cover in the next few slides have some flaws too, thus, combining this into one synergise system can help to fill the gap.



# Example of Honeypots

# Honeytrap Dionaea?

1. Categorized as low interaction honeypot
2. Able to emulate the variety of network protocol(Ex: FTP, HTTP, MQTT, MSSQL, MYSQL and etc) to be attacked by adversaries.
3. Meant to capture malware and detect its payload using **LibEmu(mostly used for shellcode emulation and detection)**.
4. Dionaea collects all the intrusion in **log SQL database**.



# Honeypot Dionaea?

The following is the list of the services that run in dionaea honeypot(Live system).

```
tcp6 0 0 ::1:80 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3d::80 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:53 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:21 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3d::53 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3d::21 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 :::22 :::* LISTEN 1234/sshd
tcp6 0 0 ::1:23 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3d::23 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:1433 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3:1433 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:1723 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:443 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:1883 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3:1723 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3d:443 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3:1883 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:445 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3d:445 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:135 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3d:135 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:27017 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe:27017 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:3306 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:42 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3:3306 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe3d::42 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 ::1:11211 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
tcp6 0 0 fe80::a00:27ff:fe:11211 :::* LISTEN 11034/dionaea
mhn@mhn: ~$
```

# Honeypot Dionaea?

This what's look like in the eye of the attacker

```
[~/Downloads » nmap 172.20.10.3 -T5
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2020-11-08 23:05 WIB
Warning: 172.20.10.3 giving up on port because retransmission cap hit (2).
Nmap scan report for 172.20.10.3
Host is up (0.083s latency).
Not shown: 940 filtered ports, 47 closed ports
PORT      STATE SERVICE
21/tcp    open  ftp
22/tcp    open  ssh
23/tcp    open  telnet
42/tcp    open  nameserver
53/tcp    open  domain
80/tcp    open  http
135/tcp   open  msrpc
443/tcp   open  https
445/tcp   open  microsoft-ds
1433/tcp  open  ms-sql-s
1723/tcp  open  pptp
3306/tcp  open  mysql
5060/tcp  open  sip

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 32.06 seconds
-----
~/Downloads »
```

# Honeypot Dionaea?

As mentioned before, dionaea is categorized as low interaction honeypot although the service that cover by it is wide but the amount of the interaction that provide by the honeypot is limited. That's why when you try to to attacked the honeypot most of the time, it will failed. But not to worry, although is failed this doesn't mean that the honeypot is failed to capture the exploit

```
msf5 exploit(windows/smb/ms17_010_eternalblue) > run
[*] Started HTTP reverse handler on http://172.20.10.4:4444
[*] 172.20.10.3:445 - Using auxiliary/scanner/smb/smb_ms17_010 as check
[+] 172.20.10.3:445 - Host is likely VULNERABLE to MS17-010! - Windows 5.1
[!] 172.20.10.3:445 - Host is likely INFECTED with DoublePulsar! - Arch: x86 (32-bit), XOR Key: 0x5E367352
[*] 172.20.10.3:445 - Scanned 1 of 1 hosts (100% complete)
[*] 172.20.10.3:445 - Connecting to target for exploitation.
[+] 172.20.10.3:445 - Connection established for exploitation.
[+] 172.20.10.3:445 - Target OS selected valid for OS indicated by SMB reply
[*] 172.20.10.3:445 - CORE raw buffer dump (11 bytes)
[*] 172.20.10.3:445 - 0x00000000 57 69 6e 64 6f 77 73 20 35 2e 31 Windows 5.1
[+] 172.20.10.3:445 - Target arch selected valid for arch indicated by DCE/RPC reply
[*] 172.20.10.3:445 - Trying exploit with 12 Groom Allocations.
[*] 172.20.10.3:445 - Sending all but last fragment of exploit packet
```

# Honeypot Dionaea

Closer look in dionaea, inside the honeypot all of the intrusion attempt is stored inside the folder `/opt/dionaea/var/lib/dionaea`

```
mhn@mhn:/opt/dionaea/var/lib/dionaea$ ls -lah
total 552K
drwxr-xr-x 10 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:12 .
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 ..
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:13 binaries
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:05 bistreams
-rw-r--r--  1 root root 508K Nov  8 16:12 dionaea.sqlite
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 fail2ban
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 ftp
drwxr-xr-x  4 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 http
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 sip
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 tftp
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 upnp
mhn@mhn:/opt/dionaea/var/lib/dionaea$
```

# Honeypot Dionaea

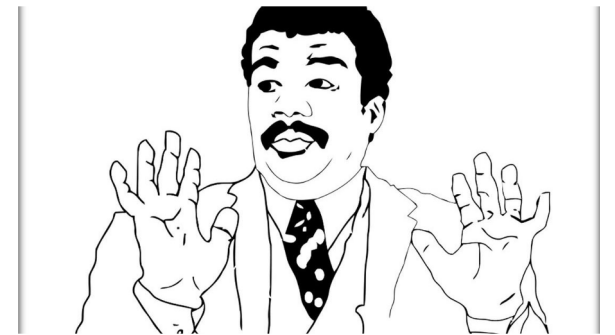
- Folder binaries will contain the payload and malware that is captured
- Bistreams will contain all of the network intrusion attempt this include port scanning
- Dionaea aggregate all of this information into sqlite3 database
- Whereas the remaining directory is stored the payload that is captured based on their respective services.

```
mhn@mhn:/opt/dionaea/var/lib/dionaea$ ls -lah
total 552K
drwxr-xr-x 10 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:12 .
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 ..
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:13 binaries
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:05 bistreams
-rw-r--r--  1 root root 508K Nov  8 16:12 dionaea.sqlite
drwxr-xr-x  2 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 fail2ban
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 ftp
drwxr-xr-x  4 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 http
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 sip
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 tftp
drwxr-xr-x  3 root root 4.0K Nov  8 16:03 upnp
mhn@mhn:/opt/dionaea/var/lib/dionaea$
```

# Honeypot Dionaea

One thing you need to watch out, when deploying dionaea

1. Dionaea will create a massive log system, thus it is wise to delete or disable the logging features to make sure you're running out of storage.
2. This also include files contain in bistreams because dionaea will separate each file of network intrusion based on the ip address and time. I suggest to create a crontab to do some cleaning inside this directory after couple of months



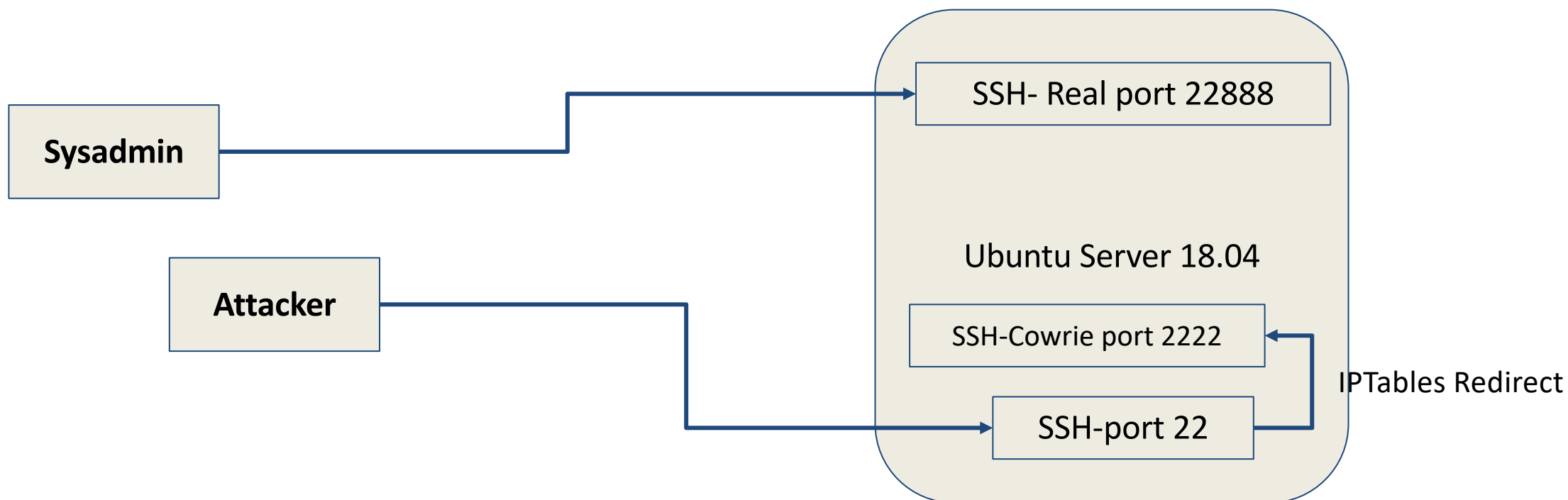
# Honeypot Cowrie?

1. It's categorized as medium-high ish honeypot
2. It's an SSH honeypot
3. Able to log all information of brute-force password and command that passed inside its emulated UNIX environment.



# Honeypot Cowrie

The following is the architecture design in cowrie

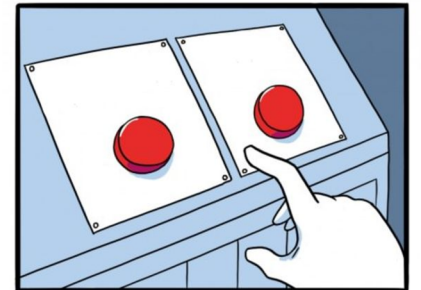


# HoneyPot Cowrie

As mentioned before, cowrie is a ssh honeypot this means that the real ssh service that used by the sysadmin need to relocate into another port number. In this case based on the figure in slide 23 it moved to port 22888

Thus, the honeypot cowrie can use the default port 22 SSH. Another alternative will be redirect all port 22 traffic to port 2222 where it lies the honeypot

The choice is yours :)



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# HoneyPot Cowrie

The following is the service that run when cowrie is installed in live system where the real ssh port is moved to 22888 and cowrie honeypot is put at port 22

```
mhn@mhn:~$ sudo netstat -aptn
Active Internet connections (servers and established)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address           Foreign Address         State                   PID/Program name
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.53:53           0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN                  852/systemd-resolve
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:22             0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN                  10699/python2
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:22888          0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN                  10568/sshd
tcp        0      36 172.20.10.3:22888       172.20.10.2:57954       ESTABLISHED            2545/sshd: mhn [pri
tcp        0      0 172.20.10.3:42132       172.20.10.14:10000      ESTABLISHED            10699/python2
tcp6       0      0 :::22888                :::*                    LISTEN                  10568/sshd
mhn@mhn:~$
```

# HoneyPot Cowrie

This what's look like in the eye of the attacker and as you can see it is pretty similar with ordinary linux server.

```
~/Documents/ios_pentest/ios_tweak/showbatteries > ssh root@172.20.10.3
The authenticity of host '172.20.10.3 (172.20.10.3)' can't be established.
RSA key fingerprint is SHA256:KrnX1EElsIP5jhPPR9P54vktkSvytPcXdNUPZo79Y8.
Are you sure you want to continue connecting (yes/no/[fingerprint])? yes
Warning: Permanently added '172.20.10.3' (RSA) to the list of known hosts.
root@172.20.10.3's password:

The programs included with the Debian GNU/Linux system are free software;
the exact distribution terms for each program are described in the
individual files in /usr/share/doc/*/copyright.

Debian GNU/Linux comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY, to the extent
permitted by applicable law.
root@server_production_web:~# cat /etc/passwd
root:x:0:0:root:/root:/bin/bash
daemon:x:1:1:daemon:/usr/sbin:/usr/sbin/nologin
bin:x:2:2:bin:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
sys:x:3:3:sys:/dev:/usr/sbin/nologin
sync:x:4:65534:sync:/bin:/bin/sync
games:x:5:60:games:/usr/games:/usr/sbin/nologin
man:x:6:12:man:/var/cache/man:/usr/sbin/nologin
lp:x:7:7:lp:/var/spool/lpd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mail:x:8:8:mail:/var/mail:/usr/sbin/nologin
news:x:9:9:news:/var/spool/news:/usr/sbin/nologin
uucp:x:10:10:uucp:/var/spool/uucp:/usr/sbin/nologin
proxy:x:13:13:proxy:/bin:/usr/sbin/nologin
www-data:x:33:33:www-data:/var/www:/usr/sbin/nologin
backup:x:34:34:backup:/var/backups:/usr/sbin/nologin
list:x:38:38:Mailing List Manager:/var/list:/usr/sbin/nologin
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin)/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-network:x:100:102:systemd Network Management,,,:/run/systemd/netif:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-resolve:x:101:103:systemd Resolver,,,:/run/systemd/resolve:/usr/sbin/nologin
syslog:x:102:106:,:/home/syslog:/usr/sbin/nologin
messagebus:x:103:107:,:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
_apt:x:104:65534:,:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
lxd:x:105:65534:,:/var/lib/lxd/:/bin/false
uuidd:x:106:110:,:/run/uuidd:/usr/sbin/nologin
dnsmasq:x:107:65534:dnsmasq,,,:/var/lib/misc:/usr/sbin/nologin
landscape:x:108:112:,:/var/lib/landscape:/usr/sbin/nologin
pollinate:x:109:1:,:/var/cache/pollinate:/bin/false
sshd:x:110:65534:,:/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin
mongodb:x:111:113:,:/var/lib/mongodb:/usr/sbin/nologin
redis:x:112:114:,:/var/lib/redis:/usr/sbin/nologin
jeremy:x:1001:1001:,:/home/jeremy:/bin/bash
joe:x:1002:1002:,:/home/joe:/bin/bash
christ:x:1003:1003:,:/home/christ:/bin/bash

root@server_production_web:~#
```



# HoneyPot Cowrie

Some features that you need to be aware in cowrie:

1. You can actually customized the list of username and password that allowed to be used in the cowrie.
2. You can modify the file system structure in the cowrie simulation, this include changing the `/etc/passwd` and `/etc/shadow` file without affecting your real system.
3. Cowrie offers “tty” log file that able to replay the interaction done by the attacker. This could give a valuable insight to study what is the current technique used by hacker

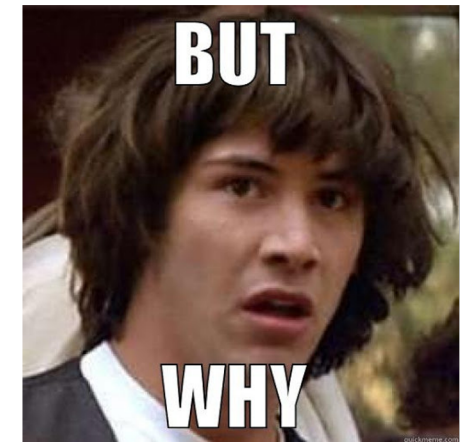
# What is MHN?

MHN(Modern Honey Network):

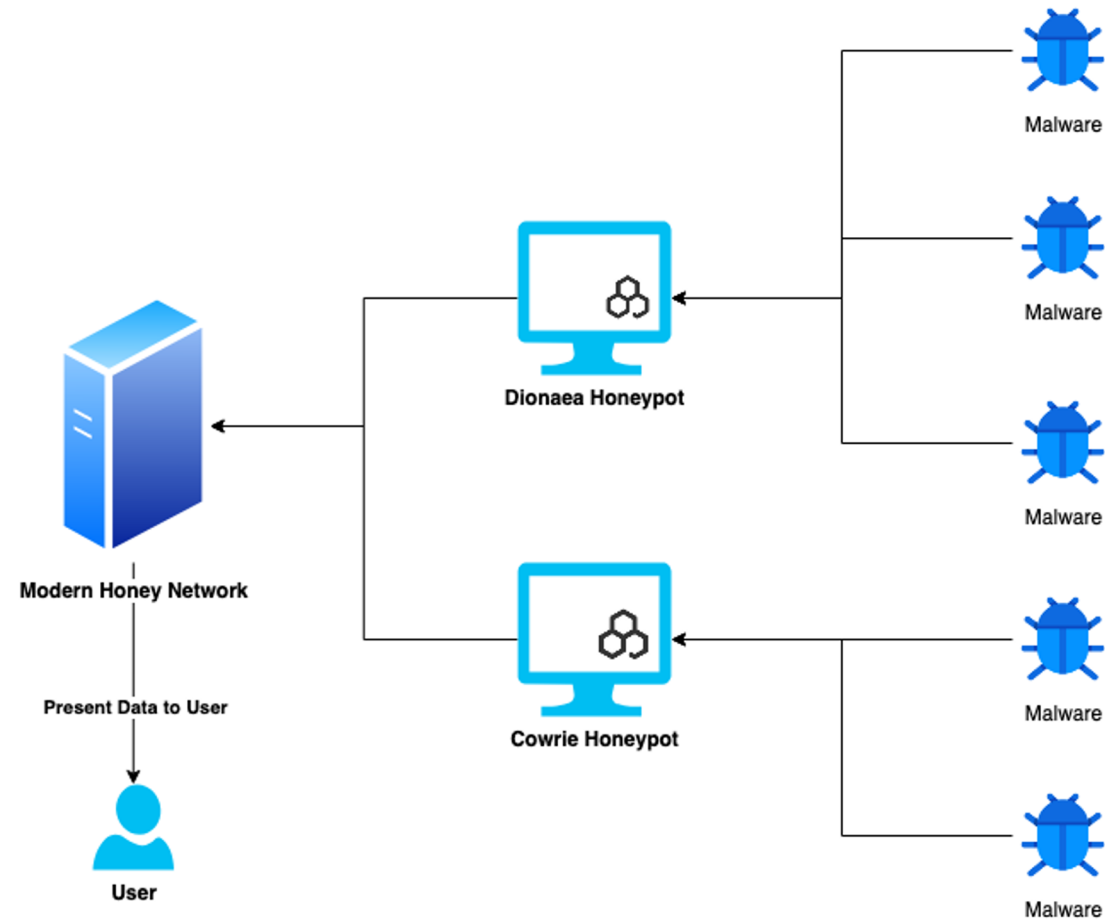
1. It is a centralized data management and collection for honeypot sensor
2. Display the data with a really cool dashboard
3. Include deployment script for various honeypot including Dionaea and Cowrie
4. Based on Flask-python

# Why MHN?

- Deploying honeypot for beginner can take a considerable amount of time
- In the process of installation sometimes it leads to dependency failure
- Using MHN, all of the data in honeypot could be put in one place(centralized) to be analyzed and aggregate into nice one dashboard. This will give valuable insight for SOC(Security Operation Center)
- MHN will do all the heavy lifting for you.



# The architecture design(Example)



# Sneak peek in MHN

The following is the sneak peek of MHN dashboard:

172.20.10.14/ui/login/?next=%2F

Welcome to the Modern  
HoneyPot Network Server

**Log In**

Email

Password

[Forgot password?](#)

# Sneak peek in MHN

MHN offers statistic of the current attack in all of the honeypots(real time)

## Attack Stats

Attacks in the last 24 hours: **682**

TOP 5 Attacker IPs:

1.  172.20.10.11 (682 attacks)

TOP 5 Attacked ports:

1. 32772 (3 times)
2. 21571 (3 times)
3. 9876 (3 times)
4. 5357 (3 times)
5. 8400 (3 times)

## TOP 5 Honey Pots:

1. **dionaea (682 attacks)**

## TOP 5 Sensors:

1. **mhn (682 attacks)**

# Sneak peek in MHN

## Attacks Report

### Search Filters

Sensor

All

Honeypot

dionaea

Date

MM-DD-YYYY

Port

445

IP Address

8.8.8.8

GO

	Date	Sensor	Country	Src IP	Dst port	Protocol	Honeypot
1	2020-11-08 16:05:46	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	1094	pcap	dionaea
2	2020-11-08 16:05:46	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	691	pcap	dionaea
3	2020-11-08 16:05:46	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	55600	pcap	dionaea
4	2020-11-08 16:05:45	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	7019	pcap	dionaea
5	2020-11-08 16:05:45	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	5987	pcap	dionaea
6	2020-11-08 16:05:45	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	9220	pcap	dionaea
7	2020-11-08 16:05:45	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	6001	pcap	dionaea
8	2020-11-08 16:05:45	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	3001	pcap	dionaea
9	2020-11-08 16:05:45	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	5718	pcap	dionaea
10	2020-11-08 16:05:45	mhn	?	172.20.10.11	5960	pcap	dionaea

# Summary and Takeaway

- Threat Hunting needs visibility from your Detection Engineering
- Threat Hunter mindset and knowledge is one of key component in hunting process
- Automation can help Threat Hunting but still need manual activities
- MITRE ATT&CK can be used as the main framework in threat hunting process
- Threat Intelligence != Threat Hunting
- Deception Technology is needed to study the attacker behavior and keep the bad guy busy

# Thank you