TURNING DATA INTO ACTIONABLE IN-TELLIGENCE

ADVANCED FEATURES IN MISP SUPPORTING YOUR ANA-

CIRCL / TEAM MISP PROJECT



MISP PROJECT



Turning data into actionable intelligence

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ABOUT CIRCL



■ The Computer Incident Response Center Luxembourg (CIRCL) is a government-driven initiative designed to provide a systematic response facility to computer security threats and incidents. CIRCL is the CERT for the private sector, communes and non-governmental entities in Luxembourg and is operated by securitymadein.lu g.i.e.

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└─about CIRCL

circl.lu

The Computer incident Response Center Luxembourg
is a government-driven initiative designed to provide a
systematic response facility to computer security three
and incidents. CREL is the EERF for the private sector,

MISP AND CIRCL

- CIRCL is mandated by the Ministry of Economy and acting as the Luxembourg National CERT for private sector.
- CIRCL leads the development of the Open Source MISP threat intelligence platform which is used by many military or intelligence communities, private companies, financial sector, National CERTs and LEAs globally.
- CIRCL runs multiple large MISP communities performing active daily threat-intelligence sharing.

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└─MISP and CIRCL

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- CIRCL leads the development of the Open Source MISP threat intelligence platform which is used by many military intelligence communities, private community figures.
- B CIRCL runs multiple large MISP communities po active daily threat-intelligence sharing.

THE AIM OF THIS PRESENTATION

- To give some insight into what sort of an evolution of our various communities' have gone through as observed over the past 8 years
- Show the importance of **strong contextualisation**...
- ...and how that can be leveraged when trying to make our data actionable

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2022-09-13

└─The aim of this presentation

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Show the importance of strong contextualisation...
 ...and how that can be leveraged when trying to make

DEVELOPMENT BASED ON PRACTICAL USER FEEDBACK

- There are many different types of users of an information sharing platform like MISP:
 - ► **Malware reversers** willing to share indicators of analysis with respective colleagues.
 - Security analysts searching, validating and using indicators in operational security.
 - ► Intelligence analysts gathering information about specific adversary groups.
 - ► Law-enforcement relying on indicators to support or bootstrap their DFIR cases.
 - ► **Risk analysis teams** willing to know about the new threats, likelyhood and occurences.
 - ► Fraud analysts willing to share financial indicators to detect financial frauds.

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-Development based on practical user feedback

PMENT BASED ON PRACTICAL USER FEEDBACK

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THE INITIAL SCOPE OF MISP

- **Extract information** during the analysis process
- Store and **correlate** these datapoints
- **Share** the data with partners
- Focus on technical indicators: IP, domain, hostname, hashes, filename, pattern in file/memory/traffic
- Generate protective signatures out of the data: snort, suricata, OpenIOC

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└─The initial scope of MISP

VITIAL SCOPE OF MISP

Extract information during the analysistore and correlate these datapoints

Share the data with partners

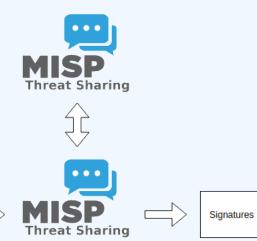
flename, pattern in file/memory/traffic

Generate protective signatures out of the data: snort.

suricata, OpenIOC

INITIAL WORKFLOW

Raw data



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└─Initial workflow

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WHY WAS IT SO SIMPLISTIC?

- This was both a reflection of our maturity as a community
 - ► Capabilities for **extracting** information
 - ► Capabilities for **utilising** the information
 - ► Lack of willingness to share context
 - ► Lack of **co-operation** between teams doing technical analysis/monitoring and threat-intel
- The more growth we saw in maturity, the more we tried to match it with our data-model, often against pushback

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-Why was it so simplistic?

Capabilities for extracting information
 Capabilities for utilising the information

Lack of willingness to share context

The more growth we saw in maturity, the more we tries

THE GROWING NEED TO CONTEXTUALISE DATA

- There were separate factors that made our data-sets less and less useful for detection/defense in general
 - ► Growth of our communities
 - ► Distinguish between information of interest and raw data
 - ► False-positive management
 - ► TTPs and aggregate information may be prevalent compared to raw data (risk assessment)
 - ► Increased data volumes leads to be able to prioritise

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he growing need

The growing need to contextualise data

The prowing need to contextualise data

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GROWING NEED TO CONTEXTUALISE DATA

m There were separate factors that made our data-sets less

8

OUR INITIAL SOLUTION

- Allow users to **tag any information** created in MISP
- We wanted to be lax with what we accept in terms of data, but be strict on what we fed to our tools, with strong filter options
- We had some ideas on how to potentially move forward...

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Our initial solution

2022-09

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OUR INITIAL FAILURES

- Try to capture different aspects of contextualisation into **normalised values** (threat level, source reliability, etc)
 - ► Didn't scale with needs other than our own
 - Incorporating new types of contextualisation would mean **the** modification of the software
 - ► Getting communities with **established naming conventions** to use anything but their go-to vocabularies was a pipe-dream
 - ► Heated arguments over numeric conversions

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-Our initial failures

- Try to capture different aspects of contextualisation into normalised values (threat level, source reliability, etc)

HUMAN CREATIVITY

- We tried an alternate approach instead: Free tagging
 - Result was spectacularly painful, at least 7 different ways to spell tlp:amber
 - No canonisation for common terms lead to tagging ultimately becoming a highly flawed tool for filtering within a sharing community

TLP AMBER

TLP:AMBER

Threat tlp:Amber

tlp-amber

tlp::amber

tlp:amber

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-Human creativity

UMAN CREATURY

By told on Alternative approach include. The brigging

Brook was superconducting painful, at least of there may not be upday

Brook was spectrosized painful, at least of the owner, and it is part of the owner of the owner of the owner of the owner owner bear to be tigging of unbroadly becoming a highly flamed tool for filtering within a sharing community.

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HOW WE ENDED UP TACKLING THE ISSUE MORE SUCCESSFULY

- We ended up with a mixed approach, currently implemented by the MISP-taxonomy system
 - ► Taxonomies are **vocabularies** of known tags
 - ► Tags would be in a **triple tag format** namespace:predicate="value"
 - Create your own taxonomies, recipients should be able to use data you tag with them without knowing it at the first place
 - ► Avoid any coding, stick to **ISON**
- Massive success, approaching 100 taxonomies
- Organisations can solve their own issues without having to rely on us

Tag	Events	Attributes	Tags
workflow:state="complete"	11	0	workflow:state="complete"
workflow:state="draft"	0	0	workflow:state="draft"
workflow:state="incomplete"	55	10	workflow:state="incomplete" <
workflow:state="ongoing"	0	0	workflow:state="ongoing" <

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-How we ended up tackling the issue more successfuly



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WE WERE STILL MISSING SOMETHING...

- Taxonomy tags often **non self-explanatory**
- Example: universal understanding of tlp:green vs APT 28
- For the latter, a single string was ill-suited
- So we needed something new in addition to taxonomies -Galaxies
 - ► Community driven **knowledge-base libraries used as tags**
 - ► Including descriptions, links, synonyms, meta information, etc.
 - ► Goal was to keep it **simple and make it reusable**
 - ► Internally it works the exact same way as taxonomies (stick to **JSON**)

Ransom	vare galaxy		
alaxy ID	373		
ame	Ransomware		
amespace	misp		
uid	3f44af2e-1480-4b6b-9aa8-f9bb21341078		
escription	Ransomware galaxy based on		
ersion	4		
′alue ↓		Synonyms	
CryptoHasYou.			
77		Sevleg	
ov3n		7av3n-HONEST	

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-We were still missing something...



Broadening the scope of what sort of context WE ARE INTERESTED IN

- Who can receive our data? What can they do with it?
- Data accuracy, source reliability
- Why is this data relevant to us?
- Who do we think is behind it, what tools were used?
- What sort of **motivations** are we dealing with? Who are the targets?
- How can we **block/detect/remediate** the attack?
- What sort of **impact** are we dealing with?

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-Broadening the scope of what sort of context we are interested in

PARALLEL TO THE CONTEXTUALISATION EFFORTS: FALSE POSITIVE HANDLING

- Low quality / false positive prone information being shared
- Lead to alert-fatigue
- Exclude organisation xy out of the community?
- False positives are often obvious can be encoded
- Warninglist system¹ aims to do that
- Lists of well-known indicators which are often false-positives like RFC1918 networks, ...

LIST OF KNOWN IPV4 PUBLIC DNS RESOLVERS Event contains one or more public IPv4 DNS resolvers as attribute with an Warning: Potential false positives 20181114 List of known IPv4 public DNS resolvers

Top 1000 website from Alexa List of known google domains Turning data into actionable intelligence

-Parallel to the contextualisation efforts: False positive handling

Warning: Potential false positive

https://github.com/MISP/misp-warninglists

More complex data-structures for a modern age

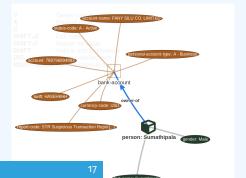
- Atomic attributes were a great starting point, but lacking in many aspects
- MISP objects² system
 - ► Simple **templating** approach
 - Use templating to build more complex structures
 - ▶ Decouple it from the core, allow users to **define their own** structures
 - ► MISP should understand the data without knowing the templates
 - ► Massive caveat: **Building blocks have to be MISP attribute** types
 - ► Allow **relationships** to be built between objects

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-More complex data-structures for a modern age

SUPPORTING SPECIFIC DATAMODEL





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Supporting specific datamodel



CONTINUOUS FEEDBACK LOOP

- Data ingested by MISP was in a sense frozen in time
- We had a creation data, but lacked a way to use the output of our detection
- Lead to the introduction of the **Sighting system**
- The community could sight indicators and convey the time of sighting
- Potentially powerful tool for IoC lifecycle management, clumsy query implementation default

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—Continuous feedback loop

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SUPPORTING SPECIFIC DATAMODEL



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-Supporting specific datamodel



MAKING USE OF ALL THIS CONTEXT

- Most obvious goal: Improve the way we query data
 - ► Unified all export APIs
 - ► Incorporate all contextualisation options into API filters
 - ► Allow for an **on-demand** way of **excluding potential false positives**
 - ► Allow users to easily **build their own** export modules feed their various tools

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-Making use of all this context

MAKING USE OF ALL THIS CONTEXT

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- Allow for an on-demand way of excluding potenti positives
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EXAMPLE QUERY

```
/attributes/restSearch
    "returnFormat": "netfilter",
    "enforceWarninglist": 1,
    "tags": {
      "NOT":
        "tlp:white",
        "type:OSINT"
      "OR":
        "misp-galaxy:threat-actor=\"Sofacy\"",
        "misp-galaxy:sector=\"Chemical\""
```

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∟Example query

DAMMER QUERY

/attributes/restSearch

/ "steinGramma", "meeffiler",
"menforceWarminglist"; 1,
"stags"; [
"stags"; [
"stags ", [
"stags ", [
"stags ", [
"misp_galaxy:threat_actor=\\Sofacy\"",
"misp_galaxy:sector=\\Sofacy\"",
"misp_g

SYNCHRONISATION FILTERS

- Make decisions on whom to share data with based on context
 - ► MISP by default decides based on the information creator's decision who data gets shared with
 - Community hosts should be able to act as a safety net for sharing
 - Push filters what can I push?
 - Pull filters what am I interested in?
 - Local tags allow for information flow control

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-Synchronisation filters

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Make decisions on whom to share data with based on context
 Misp by default decides based on the information creato decision who data gots shared with
 Community hosts should be able to act as a safety net for

sharing

Push filters - what can I push?

Pull filters - what am I interested in?

THE EMERGENCE OF ATT&CK AND SIMILAR GALAXIES

- Standardising on high-level **TTPs** was a solution to a long list of issues
- Adoption was rapid, tools producing ATT&CK data, familiar interface for users
- A much better take on kill-chain phases in general
- Feeds into our **filtering** and **situational awareness** needs extremely well
- Gave rise to other, ATT&CK-like systems tackling other concerns
 - ► attck4fraud ³ by Francesco Bigarella from ING
 - ► **Election guidelines** ⁴ by NIS Cooperation Group

//www.misp-project.org/galaxy.html#_election_guidelines

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-The emergence of ATT&CK and similar galaxies

A much better take on kill-chain phases in general

■ Gave rise to other ATT&CK-like systems tackling or

³https://www.misp-project.org/galaxy.html#_attck4fraud 4https:

EXAMPLE QUERY TO GENERATE ATT&CK HEATMAPS

```
/events/restSearch
{
    "returnFormat": "attack",
    "tags": [
        "misp-galaxy:sector=\"Chemical\""
    ],
    "timestamp": "365d"
}
```

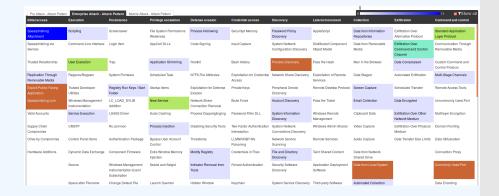
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/**

/**

| Laboration | La

A SAMPLE RESULT FOR THE ABOVE QUERY

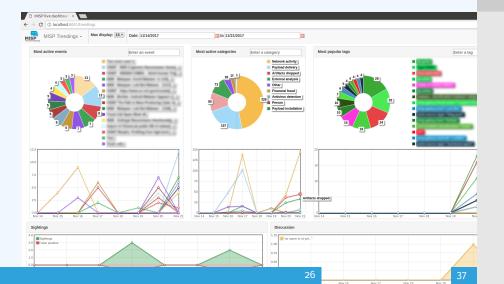


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☐A sample result for the above query



MONITOR TRENDS OUTSIDE OF MISP (EXAMPLE: DASHBOARD)



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-Monitor trends outside of MISP (example: dashboard)



DECAYING OF INDICATORS

- We were still missing a way to use all of these systems in combination to decay indicators
- Move the decision making from complex filter options to complex decay models
- Decay models would take into account various **taxonomies**, **sightings**, the **type** of each indicator **Sightings** and **Creation date**
- The first iteration of what we have in MISP now took:
 - ► 2 years of research
 - ► 3 published research papers
 - ► A lot of prototyping

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-Decaying of indicators

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Scoring Indicators: Our solution

score(Attribute) = base score(Attribute, Model) • decay(Model, time)

Where.

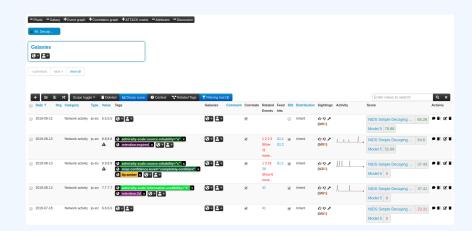
- score ∈ [0, 100]
- \blacksquare base score \in [0, 100]
- decay is a function defined by model's parameters controlling decay speed
- Attribute Contains Attribute's values and metadata (Taxonomies, Galaxies, ...)
- Model Contains the *Model*'s configuration

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-Scoring Indicators: Our solution

- m Model Contains the Model's configuration

IMPLEMENTATION IN MISP: Event/view



- Decay score toggle button
 - ► Shows Score for each *Models* associated to the *Attribute* type

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-Implementation in MISP: Event/view



```
/attributes/restSearch
"Attribute": [
    "category": "Network activity",
    "type": "ip-src",
    "to ids": true.
    "timestamp": "1565703507",
    "value": "8.8.8.8",
    "decay score": [
        "score": 54.475223849544456,
        "decayed": false,
        "DecayingModel": {
          "id": "85",
          "name": "NIDS Simple Decaying Model"
```

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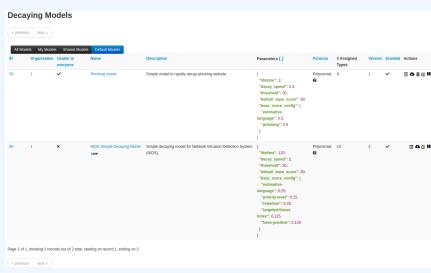
Implementation in MISP: API result

ttributes/restSearch

ttribute": [

"category": "Network activity",
"type": "ip-src",
"to.ids": "tros,ro3507",
[...]
[...]

IMPLEMENTATION IN MISP: INDEX



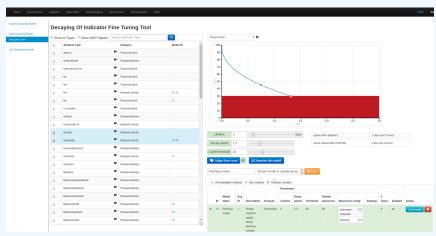
View, update, add, create, delete, enable, export, import

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-Implementation in MISP: Index



IMPLEMENTATION IN MISP: FINE TUNING TOOL



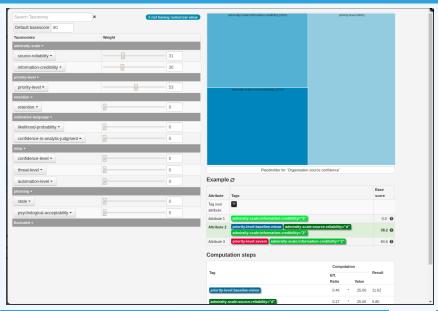
Create, modify, visualise, perform mapping

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-Implementation in MISP: Fine tuning tool



IMPLEMENTATION IN MISP: base_score TOOL



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Implementation in MISP: base_score tool



IMPLEMENTATION IN MISP: SIMULATION TOOL



Simulate Attributes with different Models

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-Implementation in MISP: simulation tool



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IMPLEMENTATION IN MISP: API QUERY BODY

```
/attributes/restSearch
   "includeDecayScore": 1,
    "includeFullModel": o,
    "excludeDecayed": o,
    "decayingModel": [85],
    "modelOverrides": {
        "threshold": 30
    "score": 30,
```

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Implementation in MISP: API query body

TO SUM IT ALL UP...

- Massive rise in user capabilities
- Growing need for truly actionable threat intel
- Lessons learned:
 - ► Context is king Enables better decision making
 - ► Intelligence and situational awareness are natural by-products of context
 - Don't lock users into your workflows, build tools that enable theirs

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└─To sum it all up...

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SUM IT ALL UP...

- Massive rise in user capabilities
 Growing need for truly actionable threat into
- Context is king Enables better decision making
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- Intelligence and situational awareness are natural by-products of context
 Don't lock users into your workflows, build tools that enable
 - Don't lock users into your theirs

GET IN TOUCH IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

- Contact us
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-Get in touch if you have any questions

■ Contact us

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