

SEC1128: Automate Phishing Response with ES, Phantom, and ML



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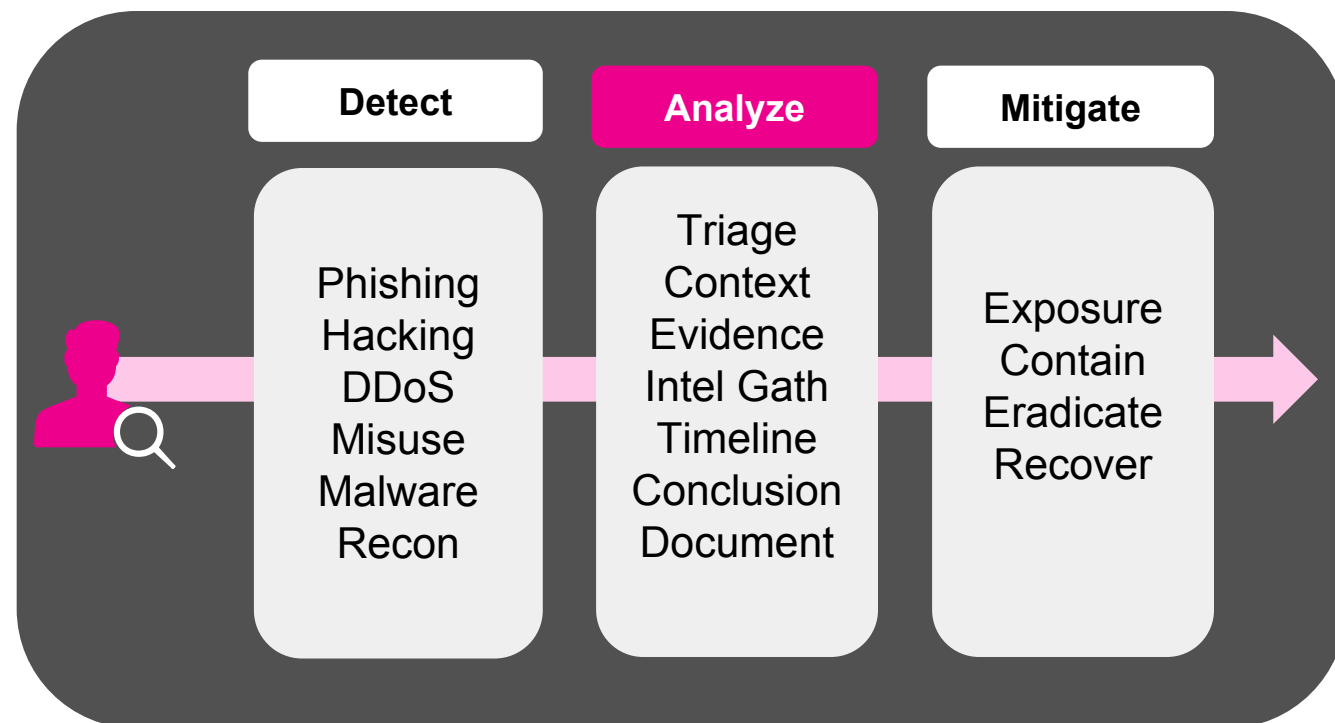
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SOC Automation – Acceptable Use Cases

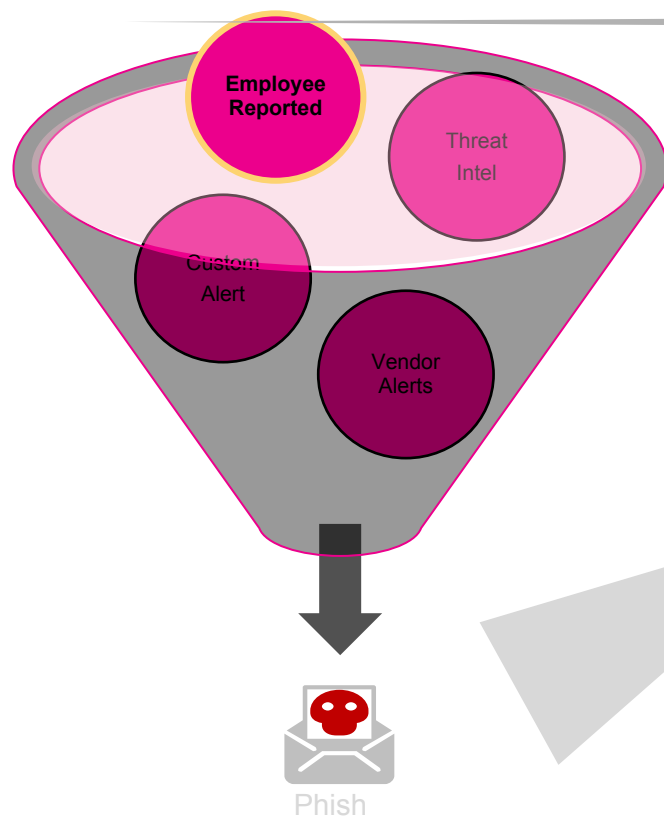
Overview

- Understand the **alerts** your SOC receives
- Prioritize by **dwell time** and **mitigation** importance
- Do analysts follow a standard **analytical** process?
- Do alerts have high **true positive** rate?
- Prioritize **most repetitive** and least amount of **logical reasoning**
- What are the common type(s) of **threats** are your analysts investigating?
- Can you easily **remove noise**/volume with correct tagging/classifications?



Automate Phishing Response

Our Use Case



Email is a **top attack** vector

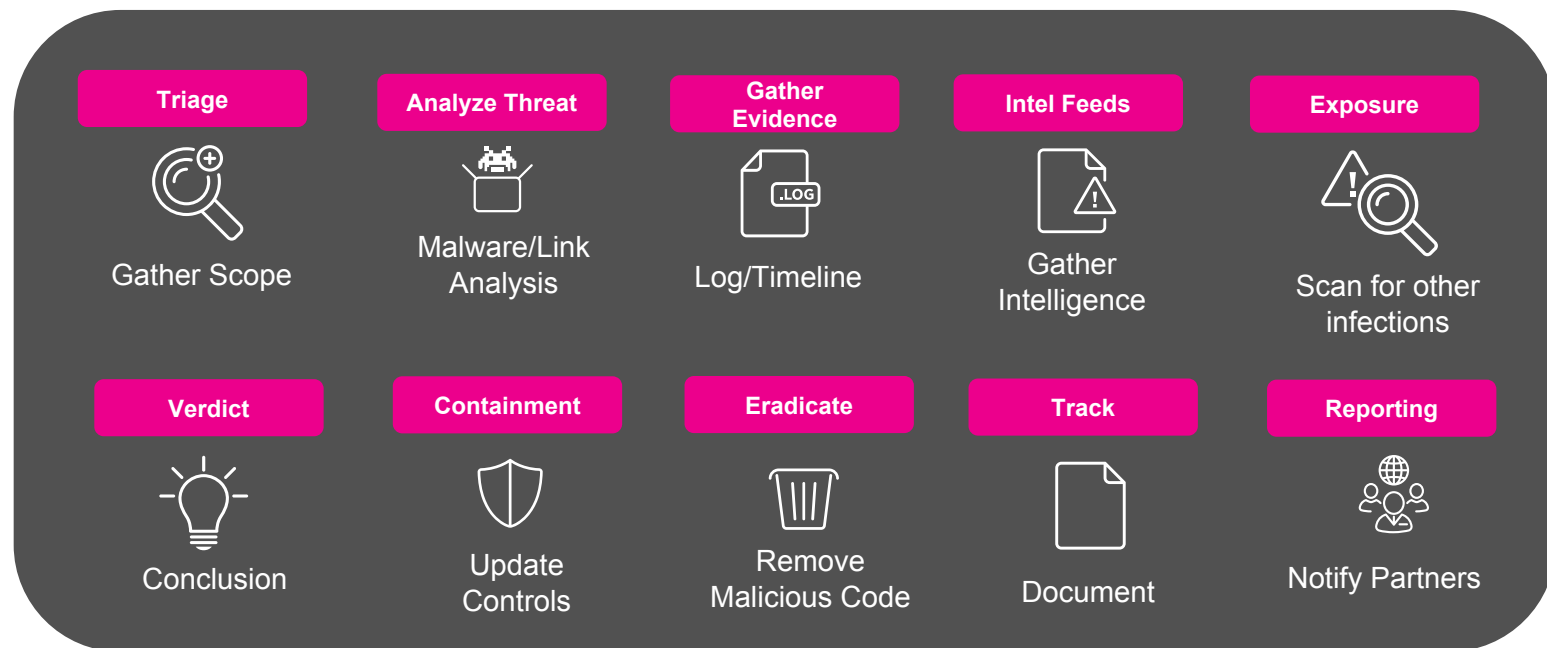
Dwell time risk from detection to mitigation

Employees **not satisfied** with responses

Employees report **30K** emails per month on average

Mailbox triage was **subjective & manual**

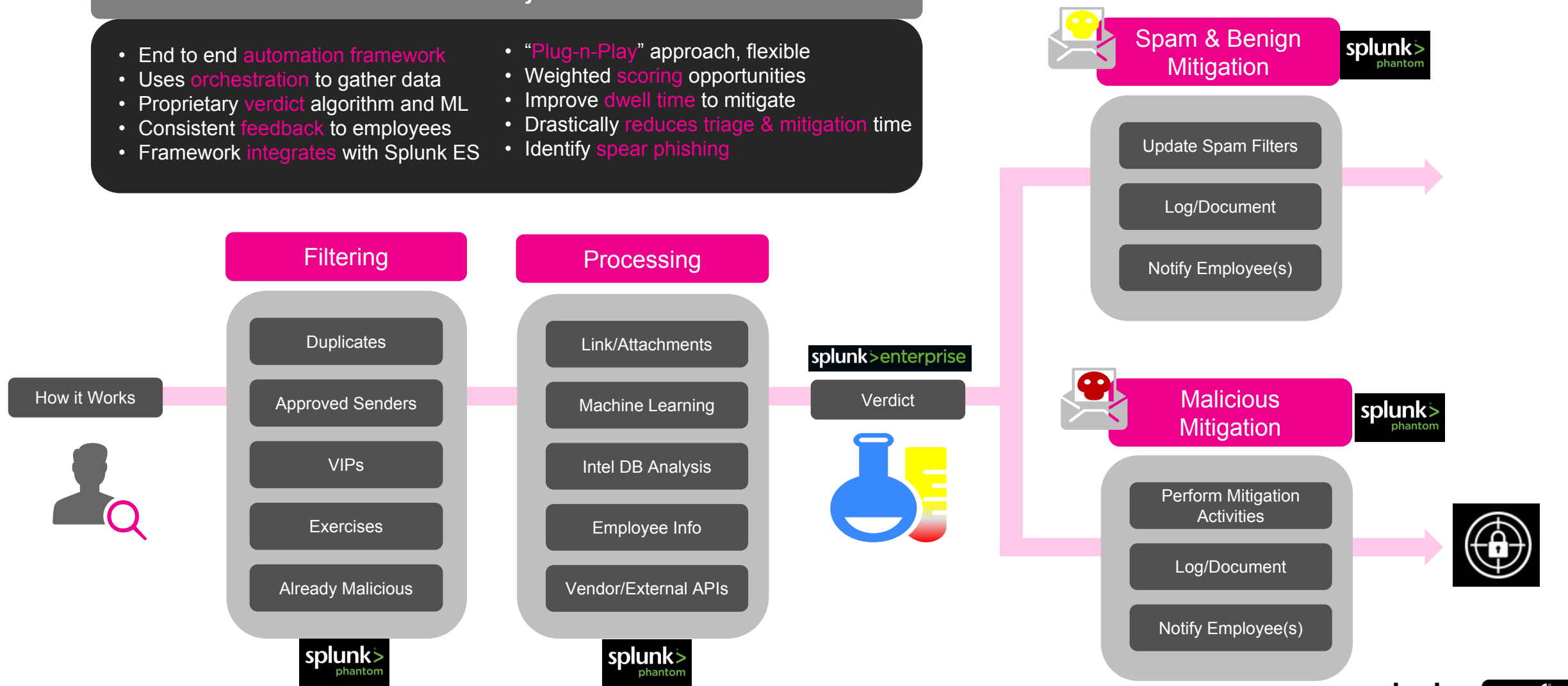
Cyber Ops
Analysis Steps



Analysis Framework

Solution & Key Benefits

- End to end **automation framework**
- Uses **orchestration** to gather data
- Proprietary **verdict** algorithm and ML
- Consistent **feedback** to employees
- Framework **integrates** with Splunk ES
- “**Plug-n-Play**” approach, flexible
- Weighted **scoring** opportunities
- Improve **dwell time** to mitigate
- Drastically **reduces triage & mitigation** time
- Identify **spear phishing**

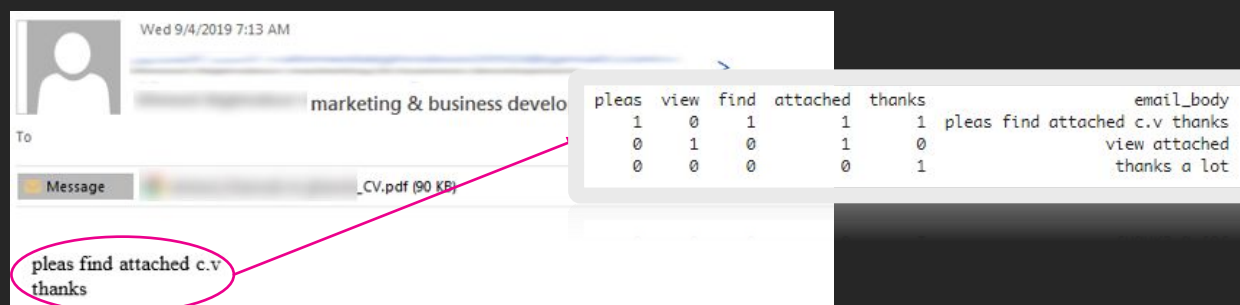


Machine Learning

Overview & Objectives

- **Objective:** Build a model that is capable of **recognizing** whether a reported email is benign, phishing or spam.
- Email **body** is extracted from each data example and text is preprocessed and tokenized to be used as the main contributing features to build the model.
- Dataset is randomly split into **80/20 proportion** with 80% (~5600) used as training and 20% (~1400) used as test/evaluation set.
- Model is trained using **Naïve Bayes** algorithm, with an training **accuracy score of 81%**.
- ML is just **one action** out of many others that are used in making the final verdict. Final verdicts are always calculated based on the responses from **every action**.

How it Works



By the Numbers...

Emails Processed

270,000+

Emails Classified

90,000+

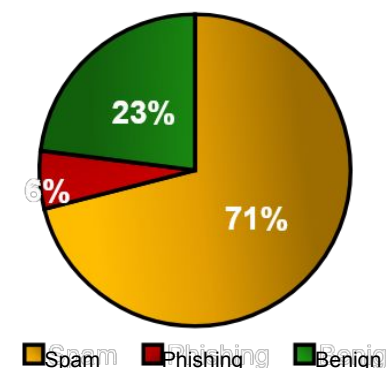
Overall Accuracy

91%

False Negatives

7%

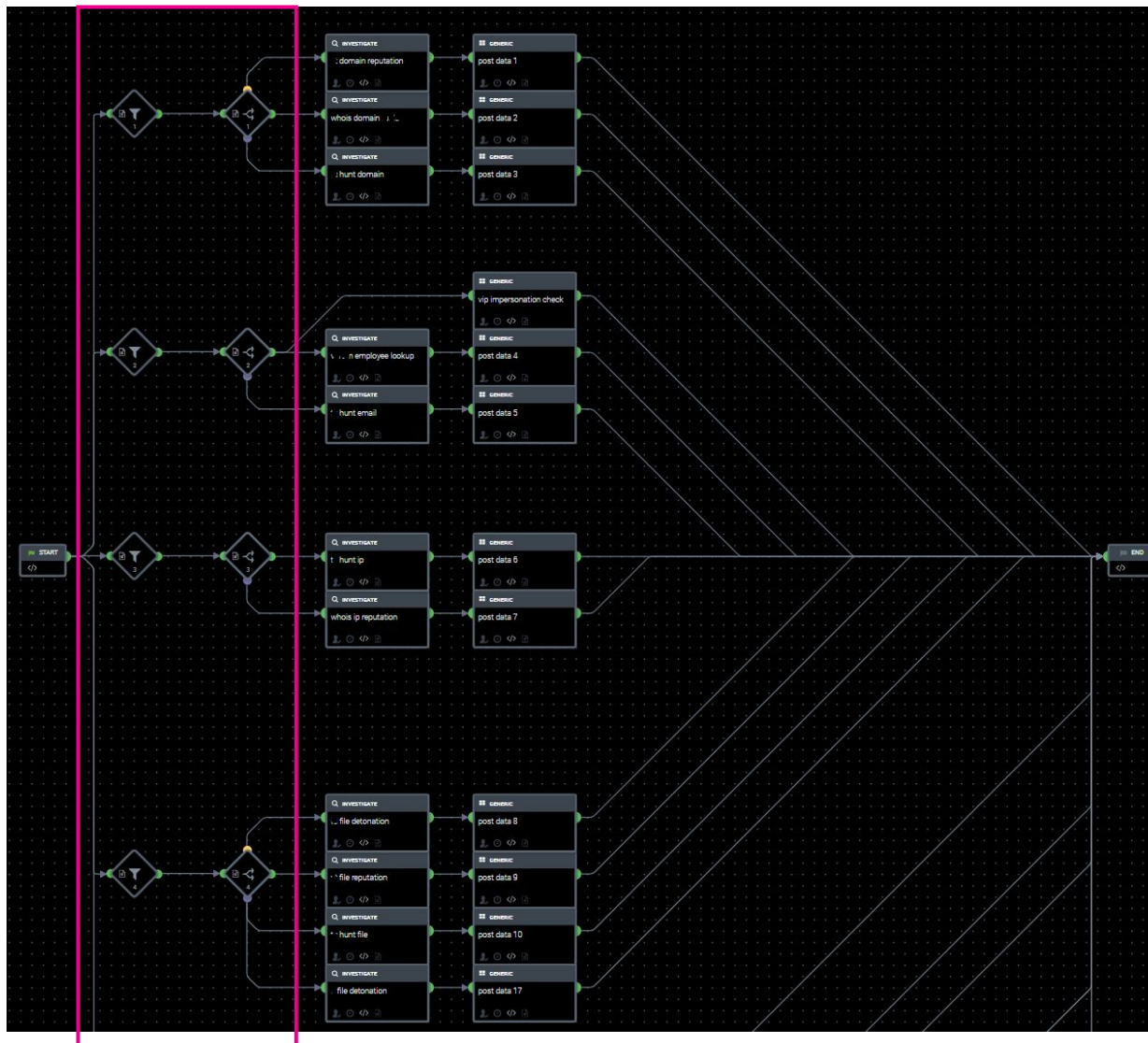
Classification Percentages



Spam Accuracy

96%

Phantom Playbooks

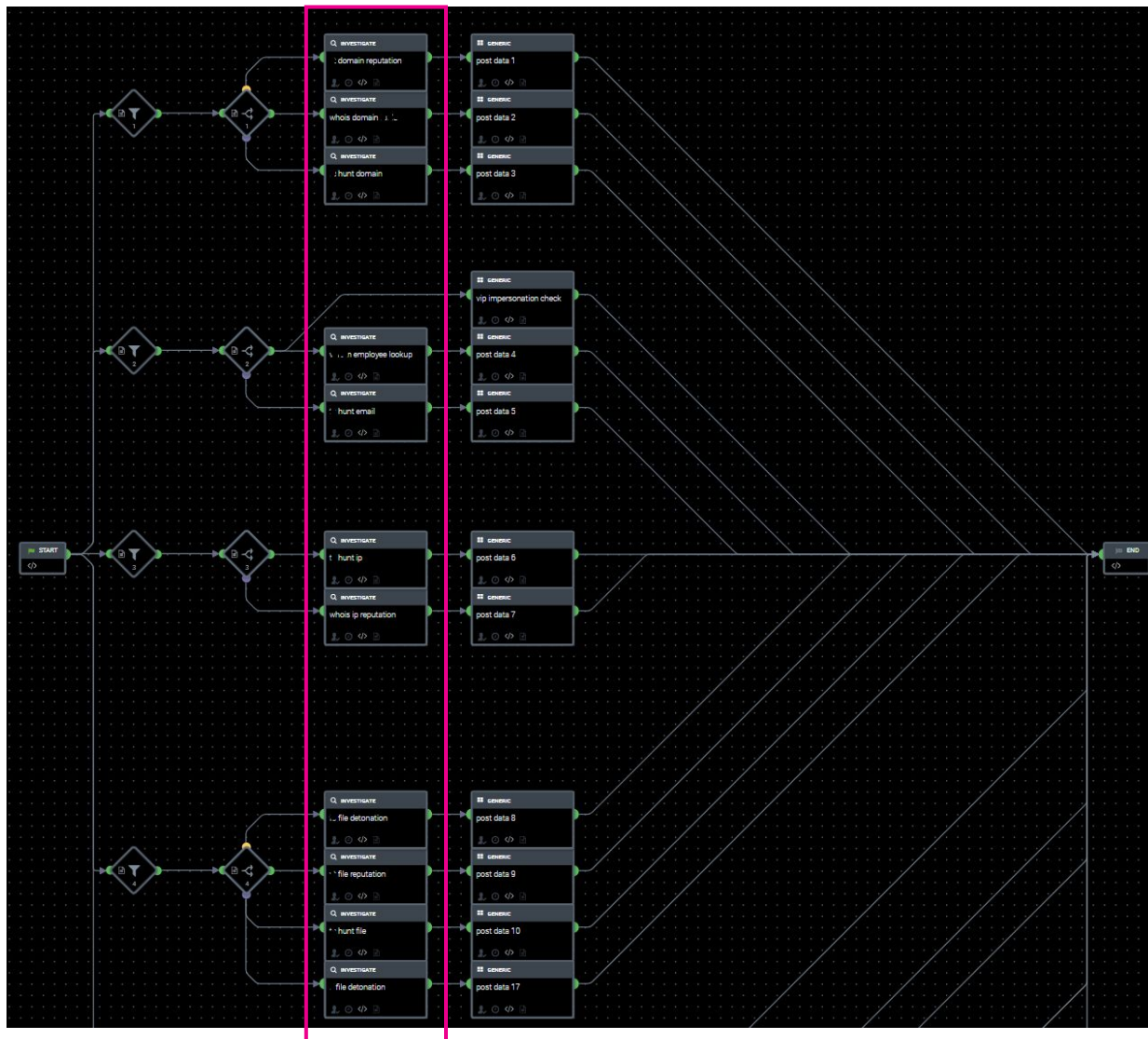


- Data is parsed and validated
- Data is sent to processing actions per IOC type
- Kill switches allow for certain actions to be enabled/disabled

- Each action has “Plug-n-Play” approach, flexible
- Actions are for gathering data from internal/external tools, not decision making

- Responses from actions are all logged into Splunk following a specific logging pattern
- Logs error handling
- Maps to custom Splunk data model

Phantom Playbooks

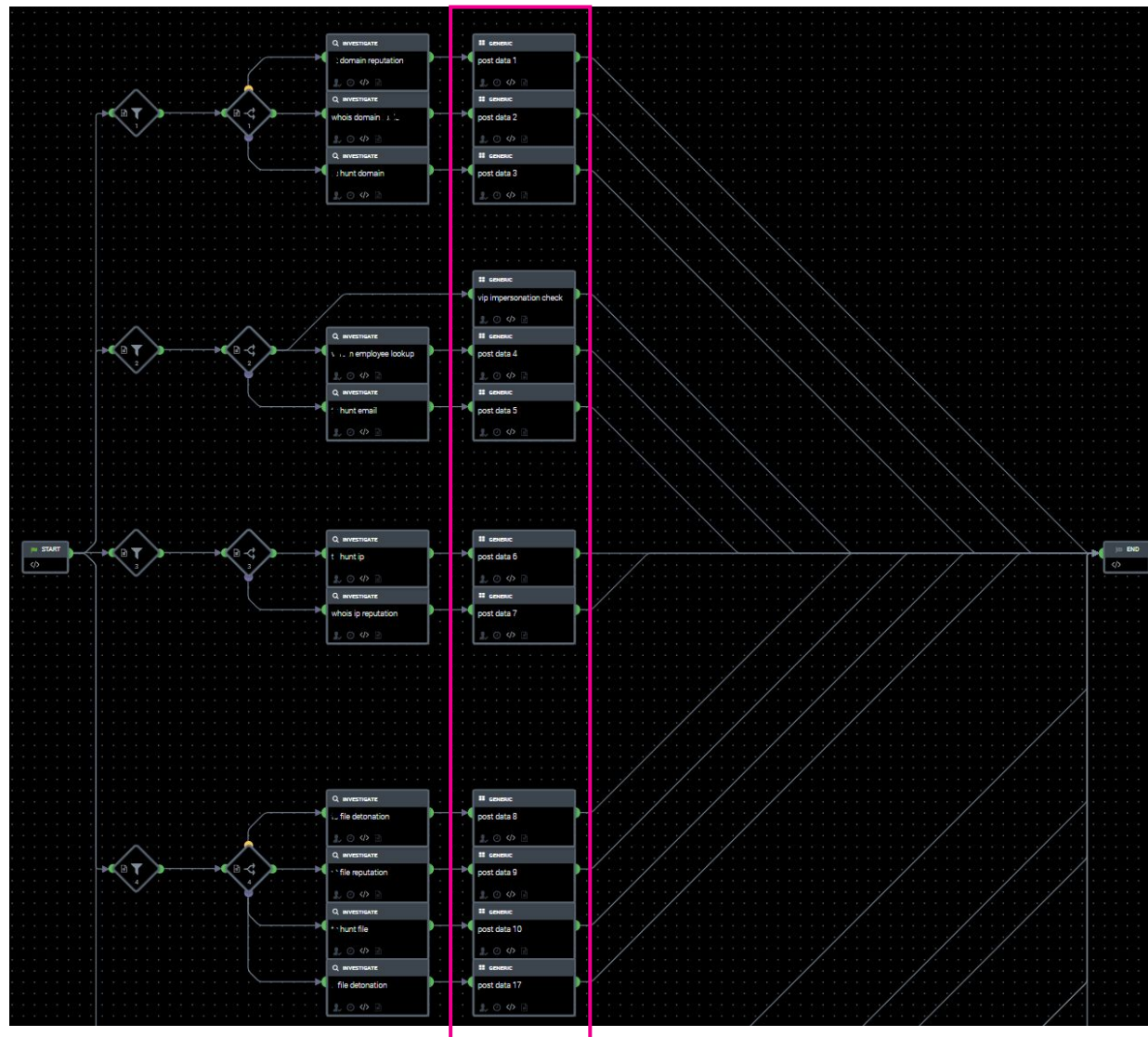


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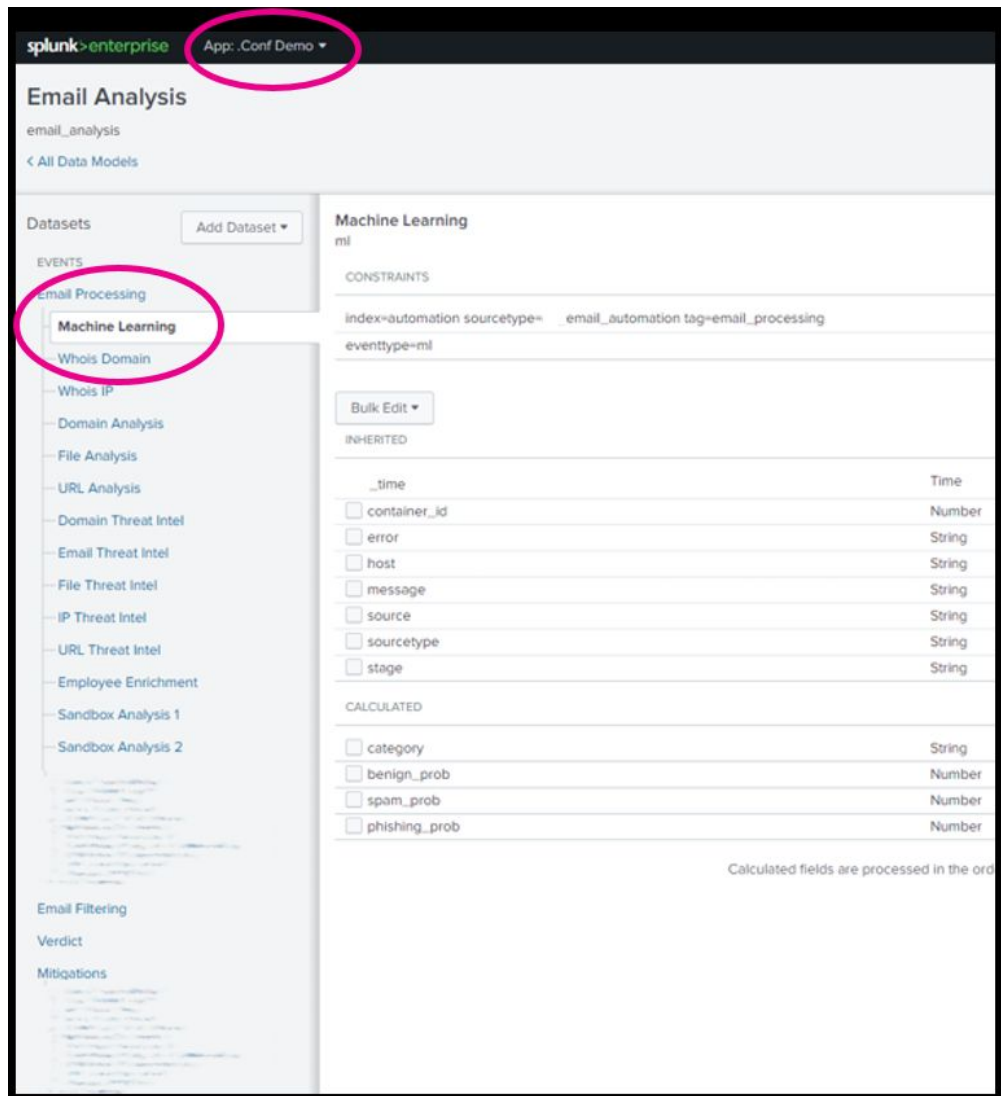


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Splunk App & Data Model

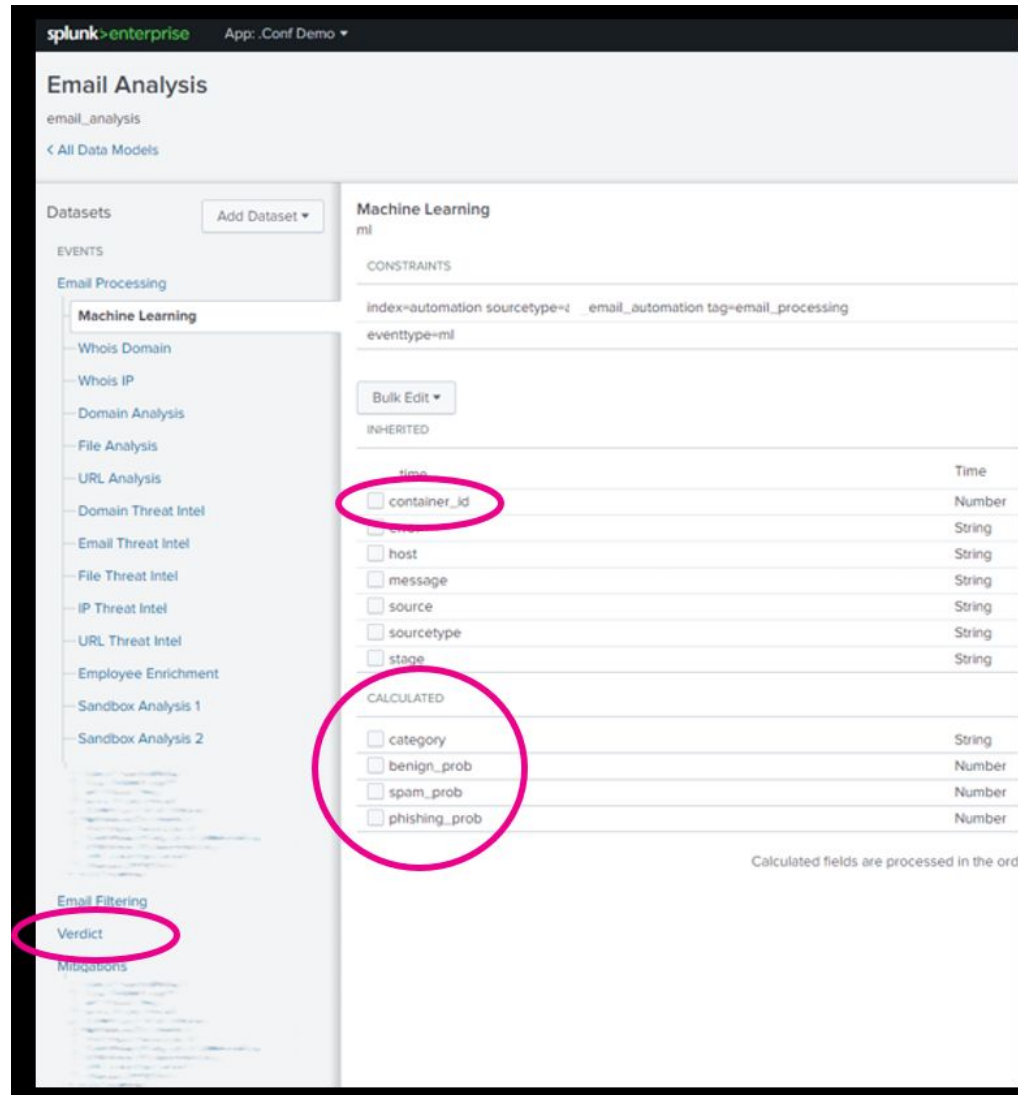


- Phantom is the orchestration portion and Splunk is the decision engine.
- All knowledge objects related to the framework are stored in its own app on Splunk Enterprise (ex. data models, alerts, dashboards, etc.).
- Each Phantom action is organized into a custom Splunk Data Model that is used to standardize logging patterns, probabilities, verdicts and mitigations.

- The container ID is the unique identifier for each email and tracks all processing, verdict, and mitigations activities.
- Each action has a calculated score that determines the probability of the results contributing to the email being spam, phishing, or benign.
- A custom verdict algorithm is used to make a final decision based on every action that returned results.

- Once the verdict is determined, alerts will trigger pre-determined mitigation playbooks and/or trigger a notable event to be triaged in Enterprise Security.
- All mitigation and processing activities for phishing events are logged and tracked in an internal case management system.

Splunk App & Data Model



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Splunk App & Data Model

The screenshot displays the Splunk Enterprise interface for the 'Email Analysis' app. The left sidebar shows a list of datasets under the 'Email Processing' category. The 'Machine Learning' dataset is selected, and its configuration is shown in the main panel. The configuration includes constraints (index=automation sourcetype=.email_automation tag=email_processing eventtype=ml) and a table of inherited and calculated fields. The 'Mitigations' section at the bottom is circled in red.

INHERITED	
_time	Time
container_id	Number
error	String
host	String
message	String
source	String
sourcetype	String
stage	String

CALCULATED	
category	String
benign_prob	Number
spam_prob	Number
phishing_prob	Number

Calculated fields are processed in the order listed above.

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DEMO



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You



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