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Splunk Cloud as a SIEM for Cybersecurity Collaboration

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City of Los Angeles



- 4 million people, 465 sq mi, 15-Council District
- 2nd largest city in the US
- 1.8 million employed
- 42.2 million annual visitors
- 42 departments with 35,000 FTE
- Port of LA, Airport, Water and Power – 3 proprietary departments all managing their own networks
- Information Technology Agency (ITA) manages the rest



Our Challenge

- IT Security Team is understaffed
- Dispersed log capturing capabilities
- Minimal use of collaboration tools
- Lack of Incident Management platform
- No integrated threat intelligence program
- Limited situational awareness and operational metrics for City as a whole
- Imbalance in response capability
- Growing cyber threats including DDoS & Malware



Mayor's Executive Directive on Cybersecurity



- Facilitate the identification and investigation of cyber threats and intrusions against City assets
- Ensure incidents are quickly, properly, and thoroughly investigated by the appropriate law enforcement agency
- Facilitate dissemination of cybersecurity alerts and information
- Provide uniform governance structure accountable to City leadership
- Coordinate incident response and remediation across the City
- Serve as an advisory body to City departments
- Sponsor independent security assessments to reduce security risks
- Ensure awareness of best practices

Our Solution

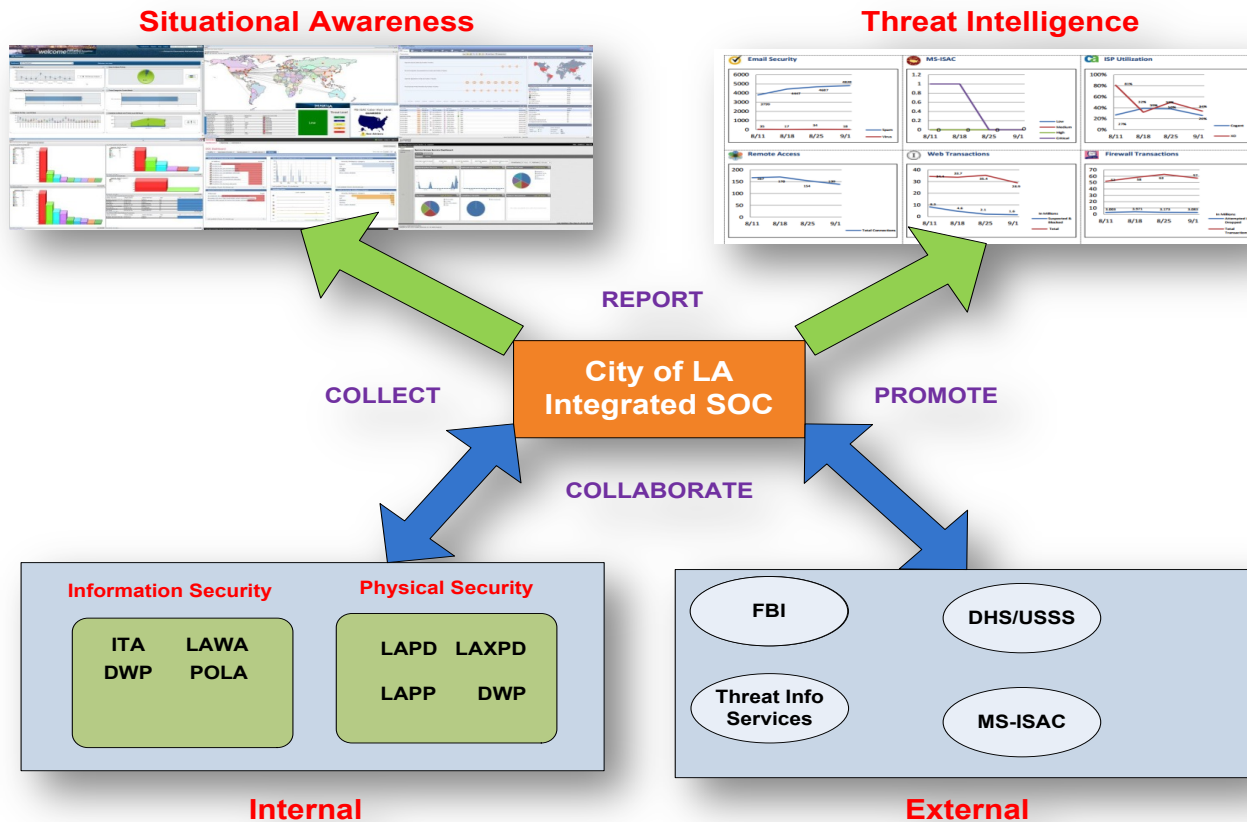


Integrated Security Operations Center

Leveraging Splunk Cloud and Splunk Enterprise Security



Integrated Security Operations Center



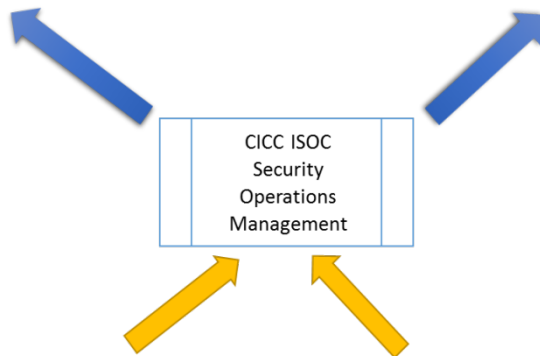
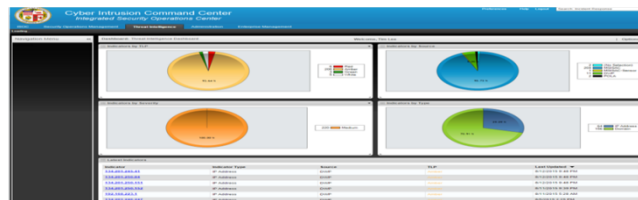
Integrated Security Operations Center



Situational Awareness



Threat Intelligence Portal



Threat Intel Feeds

- MS-ISAC
- Vendor Feeds
- FBI Cyberhood Watch

Forwarder

Log Sources

- Firewall
- IDS/IPS
- Proxy
- Endpoint Protection
- Active Directory
- Network Access Control
- Routers/Switches



How Did We Sell It Internally?



- **Prepare to answer** why you need SIEM and why cloud-based
 - Security Audit Report (Recommendation and Action Plan)
 - Compliance Gap Assessment Report
 - Security metrics (numbers of intrusion attempts, incidents, outages caused by incidents, top attackers, threat activity and trends etc.)
 - Present it from the business risk perspective
- **Engage others** outside of IT to also help sell it
- **Provide** potential risks of not implementing SIEM
- **Share** real-world examples of cyber incidents and costs that your audience can relate to
- **Provide** source of funding for implementation and operations
- **Align** results to organizational goals

Example: Executive Dashboards



Weekly Executive Stats

Weekly Executive Summary

Edit ▾

More Info ▾

Attacker Map

<1m ago

Source: Intrusion Prevention System



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Top 10 Attacking Countries

<1m ago

Source: Intrusion Prevention System

Country	count
Switzerland	9535
United States	1619
Thailand	449
Norway	199
Finland	109
Germany	88
Luxembourg	58
Netherlands	45
France	25
Indonesia	15

Total Events

All Data Sources

4523040

TOTAL EVENT COUNT

Loading - 2%

IPS High Priority Event

<1m ago

Source: Intrusion Prevention System

11331

AMOUNT OF CISCO IPS HIGH EVENTS

Intrusion Attempt Blocked

Source: Firewall

849995

TOTAL FIREWALL BLOCKED

Loading - 28%

Use Case Example: Top Attackers



Executive Stats [🔗](#) [⚙️](#)

Just the numbers.

[Explore Splunk Enterprise](#)

IPS Attacker Country (1w)

1m ago

Data source Cisco IPS



List of Top Attacking Countries (1w)

1m ago

Data source Cisco IPS

Country	count
Thailand	449
Norway	199
Finland	109
Germany	88
Luxembourg	58
Netherlands	45
France	25
Indonesia	18
Ukraine	15
China	12

Use Case Example: Top Destination By Specific Attacker



Firewall Events

Top Destinations from [redacted] (1h)

Data source - Checkpoint



Top Destinations from [redacted] (1h)

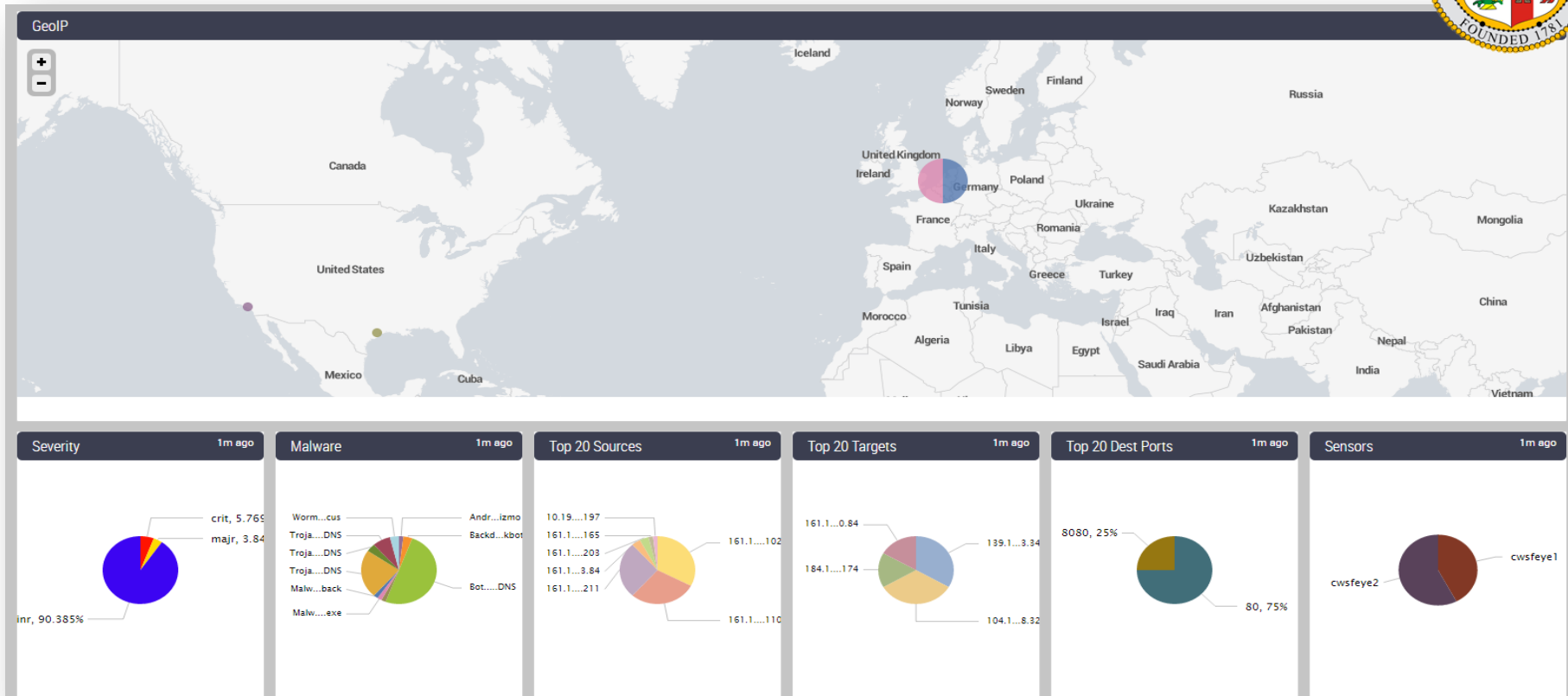
Data source - Checkpoint

dst	count	percent
[redacted]	223	23.523207
[redacted]	214	22.573840
[redacted]	73	7.790422
[redacted]	58	6.118143
[redacted]	54	5.696203
[redacted]	44	4.641350
[redacted]	23	2.426160
[redacted]	19	2.004219
[redacted]	19	2.004219
[redacted]	18	1.898734

Top FW Destinations (1h)

	count	percent
[redacted]	38417	8.083518
[redacted]	37381	7.865528
[redacted]	30722	6.464374
[redacted]	25539	5.373792
[redacted]	24102	5.071425
[redacted]	22960	4.831131
[redacted]	22559	4.746755
[redacted]	9927	2.088791
[redacted]	8638	1.817566
[redacted]	8607	1.811043

Use Case Example: Malware Monitoring



Lessons Learned



- Conduct SOC readiness assessment before anything else
- Prepare to answer why you need CSOC
- Look for grant opportunities
- Pick the right tools and technology
- Be mindful of operating costs
- Pick the right contractor
- Pick the right team. Invest in people.
- Cybersecurity collaboration and information sharing are essential

Resources



- Security Operation Center Concepts & Implementation
 - Renaud Bidou
- How to Deploy SIEM Technology
 - Gartner March 02, 2015
- Using SIEM for Targeted Attack Detection
 - Gartner March 12, 2014
- Top 6 SIEM Use Cases
 - Infosecinstitute.com May 15, 2014





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Q&A

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THANK YOU

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