

The background features a vibrant, abstract design with a color gradient from dark blue on the left to bright yellow and white on the right. The design consists of overlapping, wavy horizontal bands and a radial pattern of lines emanating from a bright white point on the right side, creating a sense of motion and energy.

CISCO *Live!*

Let's go



The bridge to possible

The Power of Predictive Attack Analysis in an Offensive-Defensive nexus

Rami Haddad, Product Engineer

Rami Haddad



- ~4 years with Cisco
- OutShift
- SRE background
- Amsterdam

Agenda

- Evolving Security Landscape
- Threat Hunting
- Towards Attack Prediction
- Cisco's activity

Evolving Security Landscape

Evolving Security Landscape (SoC view)

Availability
Monitoring

Network
Alerts

NOC



Evolving Security Landscape (SoC view)

Availability Monitoring	Reactive Monitoring		Proactive Monitoring	Automation
Network Alerts NOC	IDS Firewall Antivirus	IPS DPI AntiSpam SIEM	DLP PII detection APT OSINT/TIP	SOAR XDR



Mid
90s



Early
2000s



2000-
2007



2013-
2015



2015-

Evolving Security Landscape (SoC view)



The state of SOAR and XDR systems

- Unified Security Operations
- MTTD MTTR as primary KPIs
- Addressing Alert Fatigue ‘Information Overload’
- Automation of repetitive tasks
- Visibility/Intelligence

A gap for innovation

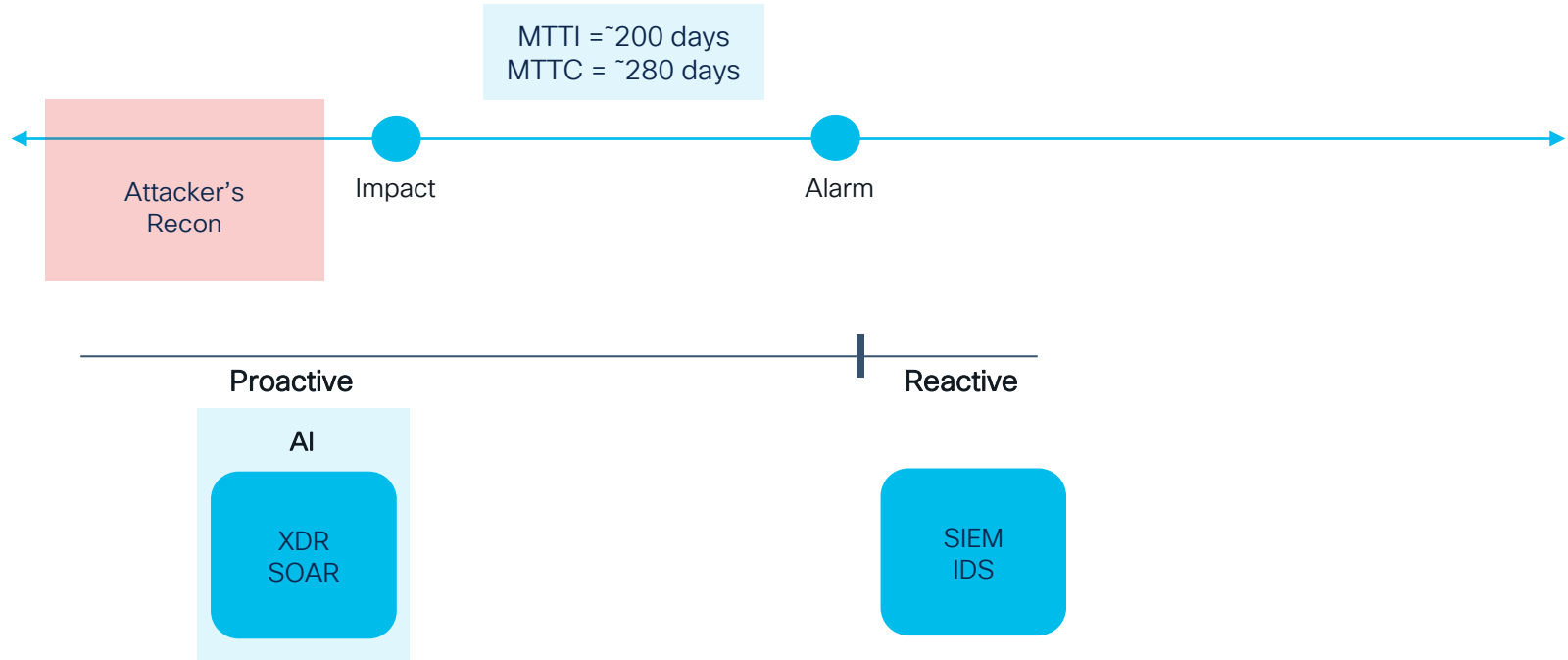
- Contextual enhanced CTI
- Correlation analysis

Threat Hunting

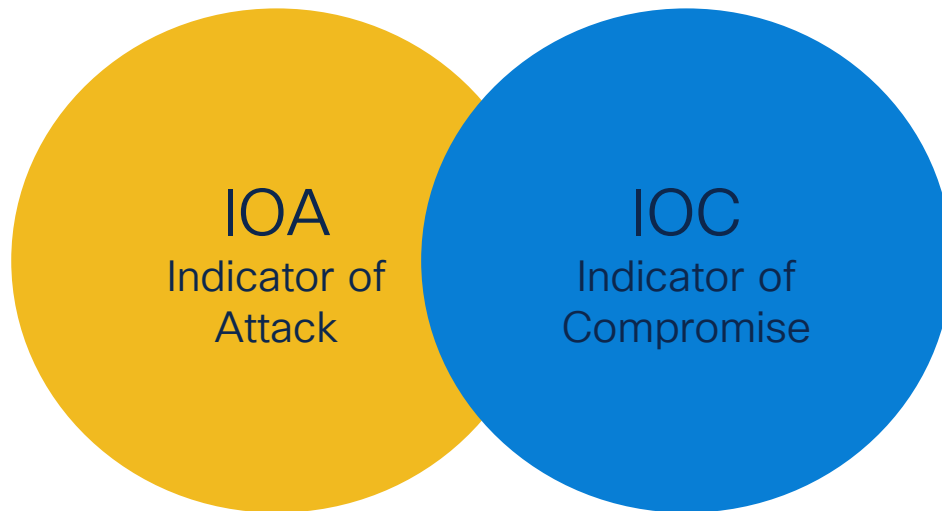


“Every contact leaves a trace” - Edmond Locard’s

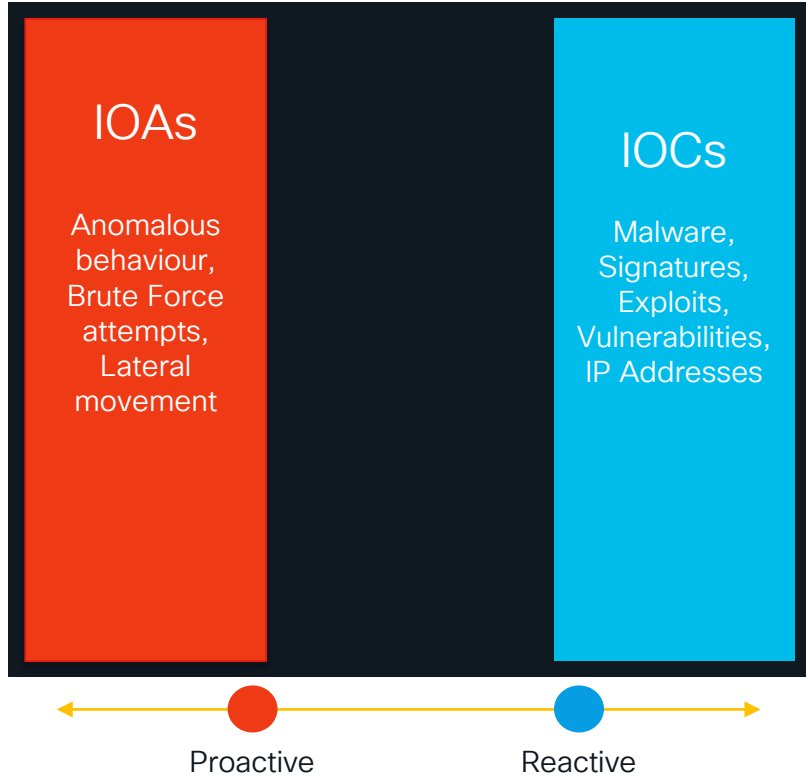
Threat Hunting



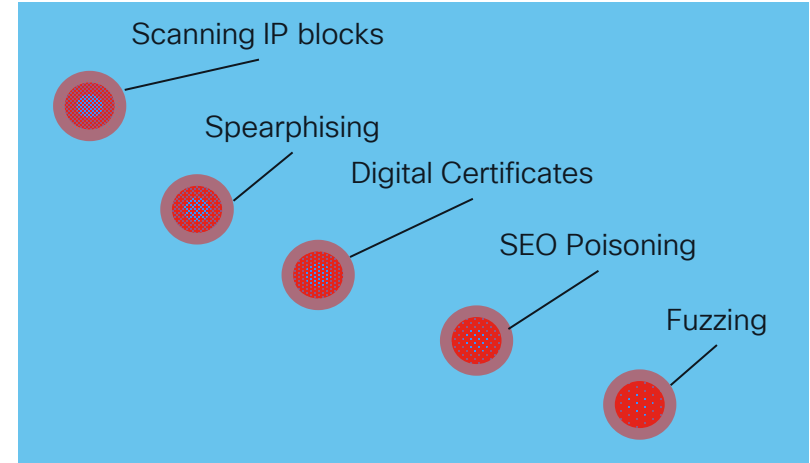
Indicators of Compromise | Indicators of Attack (IOCs | IoAs)



Indicators of Attack



Random indicators



Threat Hunting – Hunting Models

Structured hunting

Unstructured hunting

Situational hunting

Hypothesis hunting

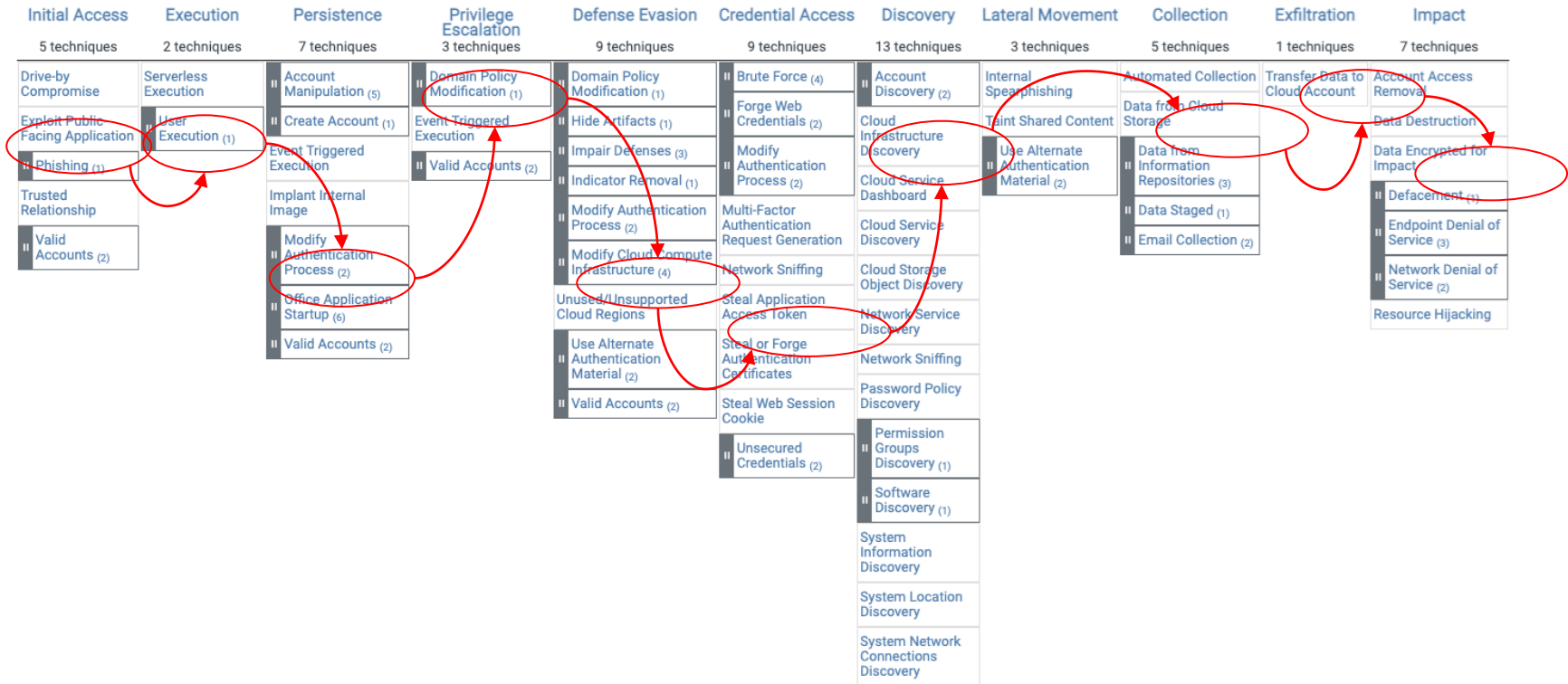
1. Indications of data exfiltrating through a specific port
2. Indications of privilege escalation
3. Lateral movement

Threat Hunting – Tactics, Techniques, Procedures (TTP)

Reconnaissance 10 techniques	Resource Development 8 techniques	Initial Access 10 techniques	Execution 14 techniques	Persistence 20 techniques	Privilege Escalation 14 techniques	Defense Evasion 43 techniques	Credential Access 17 techniques	Discovery 32 techniques	Lateral Movement 9 techniques	Collection 17 techniques	Command and Control 17 techniques	Exfiltration 9 techniques	Impact 14 techniques
Active Scanning (3)	Acquire Access	Content Injection	Cloud Administration Command	Account Manipulation (6)	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (5)	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (3)	Adversary-in-the-Middle (3)	Account Discovery (4)	Exploitation of Remote Services	Adversary-in-the-Middle (3)	Application Layer Protocol (4)	Automated Exfiltration (1)	Account Access Removal
Gather Victim Host Information (4)	Acquire Infrastructure (8)	Drive-by Compromise	Command and Scripting Interpreter (9)	BITS Jobs	Access Token Manipulation (3)	Access Token Manipulation (5)	Brute Force (4)	Application Window Discovery	Internal Spearphishing	Archive Collected Data (3)	Communication Through Removable Media	Data Transfer Size Limits	Data Destruction
Gather Victim Identity Information (3)	Compromise Accounts (3)	Exploit Public-Facing Application	Container Administration Command	Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (14)	Account Manipulation (6)	Build Image on Host	Credentials from Password Stores (6)	Browser Information Discovery	Lateral Tool Transfer	Audio Capture	Content Injection	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol (3)	Data Encrypted for Impact
Gather Victim Network Information (6)	Compromise Infrastructure (7)	External Remote Services	Deploy Container	Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts (5)	Browser Extensions	Debugger Evasion	Exploitation for Credential Access	Cloud Infrastructure Discovery	Remote Service Session Hijacking (2)	Automated Collection	Browser Session Hijacking	Defacement (2)	Data Manipulation (3)
Gather Victim Org Information (4)	Develop Capabilities (4)	Hardware Additions	Exploitation for Client Execution	Browser Extensions	Compromise Client Software Binary	Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information	Forced Authentication	Cloud Service Dashboard	Remote Services (8)	Clipboard Data	Data Encoding (2)	Exfiltration Over C2 Channel	Disk Wipe (2)
Phishing for Information (4)	Establish Accounts (3)	Phishing (4)	Inter-Process Communication (3)	Create or Modify System Process (4)	Domain Policy Modification (2)	Deploy Container	Forge Web Credentials (2)	Cloud Storage Object Discovery	Replication Through Removable Media	Data from Cloud Storage	Data Obfuscation (3)	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium (1)	Endpoint Denial of Service (4)
Search Closed Sources (2)	Obtain Capabilities (6)	Replication Through Removable Media	Native API	Create Account (3)	Execution Guardrails (1)	Direct Volume Access	Input Capture (4)	Container and Resource Discovery	Software Deployment Tools	Encrypted Channel (2)	Dynamic Resolution (3)	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium (1)	Financial Theft
Search Open Technical Databases (5)	Stage Capabilities (6)	Supply Chain Compromise (3)	Scheduled Task/Job (5)	Create or Modify System Process (4)	Escape to Host	Domain Policy Modification (2)	Modify Authentication Process (8)	Debugger Evasion	Taint Shared Content	Failback Channels	Encrypted Channel (2)	Exfiltration Over Web Service (4)	Firmware Corruption
Search Open Websites/Domains (3)		Trusted Relationship	Serverless Execution	Event Triggered Execution (16)	Event Triggered Execution (16)	File and Directory Permissions Modification (2)	Multi-Factor Authentication Interception	Device Driver Discovery	Use Alternate Authentication Material (4)	Data from Information Repositories (3)	Ingress Tool Transfer	Network Denial of Service (2)	Inhibit System Recovery
Search Victim-Owned Websites		Valid Accounts (4)	Shared Modules	External Remote Services	Exploitation for Privilege Escalation	Hide Artifacts (11)	Multi-Factor Authentication Request Generation	Domain Trust Discovery		Data from Local System	Multi-Stage Channels	Scheduled Transfer	Resource Hijacking
			Software Deployment Tools	System Services (2)	Hijack Execution Flow (12)	Hijack Execution Flow (12)	Network Sniffing	File and Directory Discovery		Data from Network Shared Drive	Non-Application Layer Protocol	Transfer Data to Cloud Account	Service Stop
			User Execution (3)	Windows Management Instrumentation	Implant Internal Image	Impair Defenses (11)	OS Credential Dumping (8)	Group Policy Discovery		Data from Removable Media	Non-Standard Port		System Shutdown/Reboot
					Modify Authentication Process (8)	Indicator Removal (9)	Steal Application Access Token	Log Enumeration		Data Staged (2)	Protocol Tunneling		
					Office Application Startup (6)	Indirect Command Execution	Steal or Forge Authentication Certificates	Network Service Discovery		Email Collection (3)	Proxy (4)		
						Masquerading (9)		Network Share Discovery		Input Capture (4)	Remote Access Software		
						Modify Authentication		Password Policy Discovery		Screen Capture	Traffic Signaling (2)		

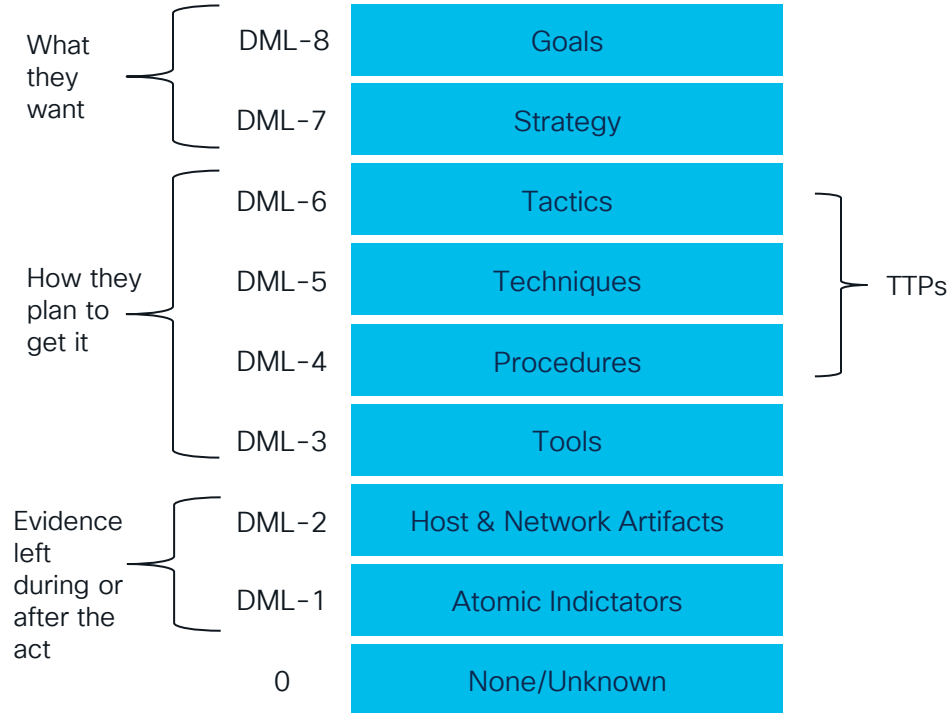
MITRE ATT&CK TTP

Threats are becoming more complex



MITRE ATT&CK TTP

Threat Hunting – Detection Maturity Level



© 2024 DML – Ryan Stillions

And?

Problem

Traces (atomic indicators) ignored

Lack of Context & Correlation

Large volume of Cyber Threat Intel(CTI)

Solution

Enhance and contextualize the CTI

Threat Prediction

MITRE TTP mapping

Impact

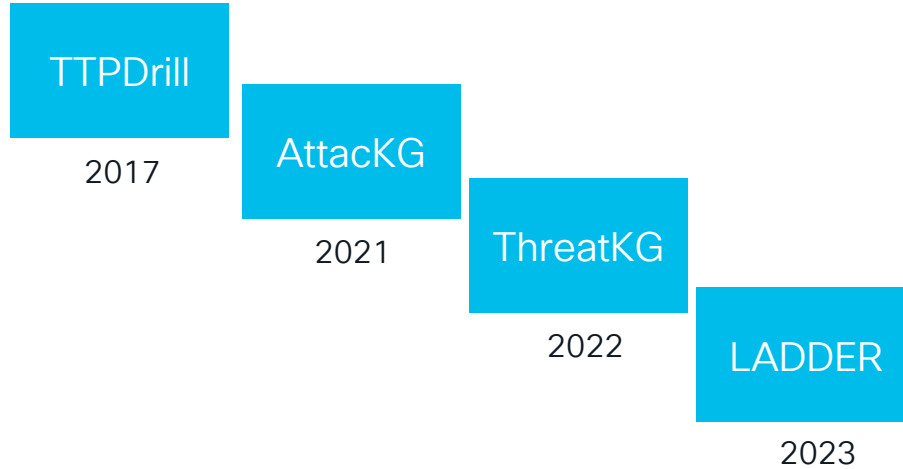
Preemptive Security Strategy

Identify Tactics, Techniques & Procedures

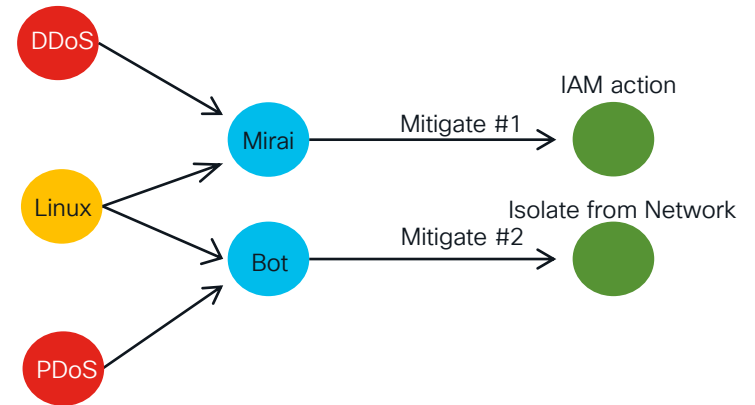
Visualize Threat Knowledge Graphs

Towards Attack Prediction

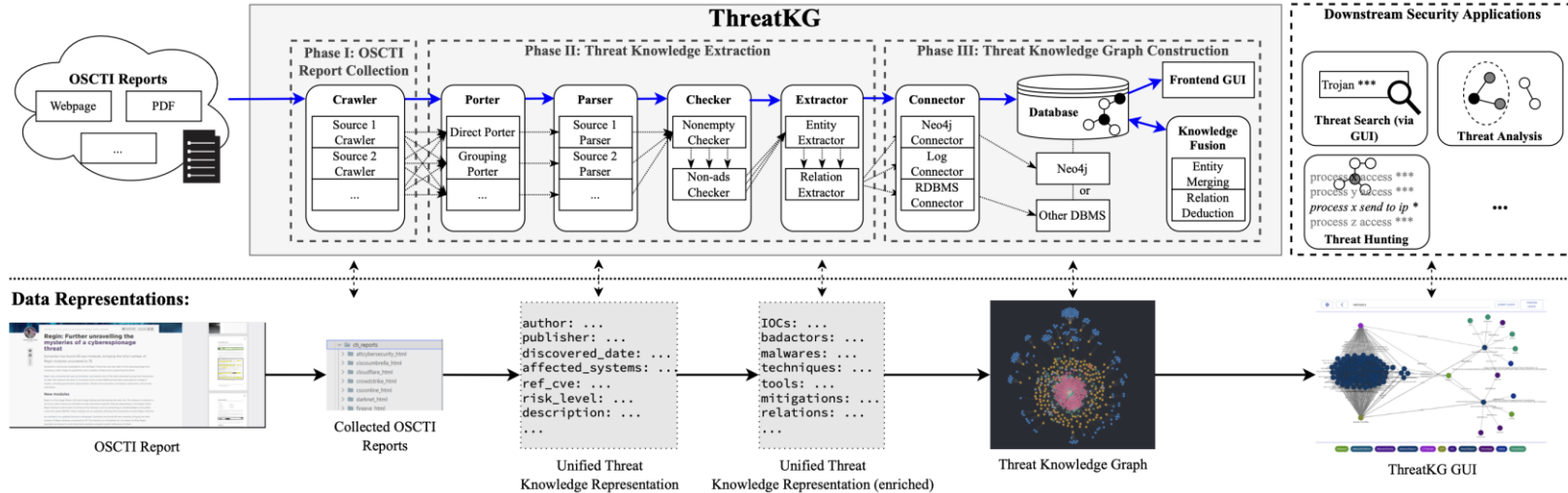
Attack Prediction Models



Knowledge Graph



Constructing Knowledge Graphs



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2211.01753.pdf>

Towards Attack Prediction – TTPDrill

- Threat-action ontology
- Text-mining approach (Natural Language Processing & Information Retrieval)
- Construction of complete attack patterns
 - Mapping threat actions to TTP ontology
- Tested with Symantec Threat Reports
 - 82% precision and recall

Towards Attack Prediction – TTPDrill



Trojan.Dimnie

Discovered: March 28, 2017

SUMMARY

Trojan.Dimnie is a Trojan horse that steals information from the compromised computer

TECHNICAL DETAILS

When the Trojan is executed, it creates the following file:
%System%\RANDOM CHARACTERS.dll

The Trojan creates the following registry entries:

HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\SYSTEM\CurrentControlSet\Services\laoptdl\Parameters\ServiceDll = "%System%\RANDOM CHARACTERS.dll"

The Trojan may query the following DNS servers:

grandvita.pw
nvpn.pw
babcrnbbab.ru
shortselling.club
babfebbab.xyz

The Trojan may then perform the following actions:
Obtain system information

Take screenshots

Log keystrokes

The Trojan may send the stolen information to the following locations:

gmail.com/upload.php

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321503662_TTPDrill_Automatic_and_Accurate_Extraction_of_Threat_Actions_from_Unstructured_Text_of_CTI_Sources

"Trojan Dimnie is discovered March 28, 2017"

"creates file"

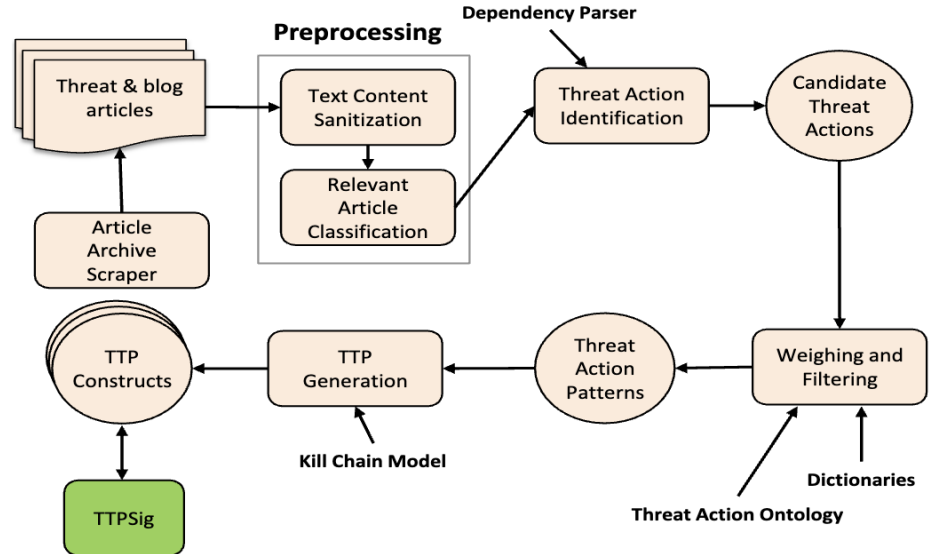
"creates registry entry"

"query DNS server"

"takes screenshots"

"log keystrokes"

"send stolen information to location"



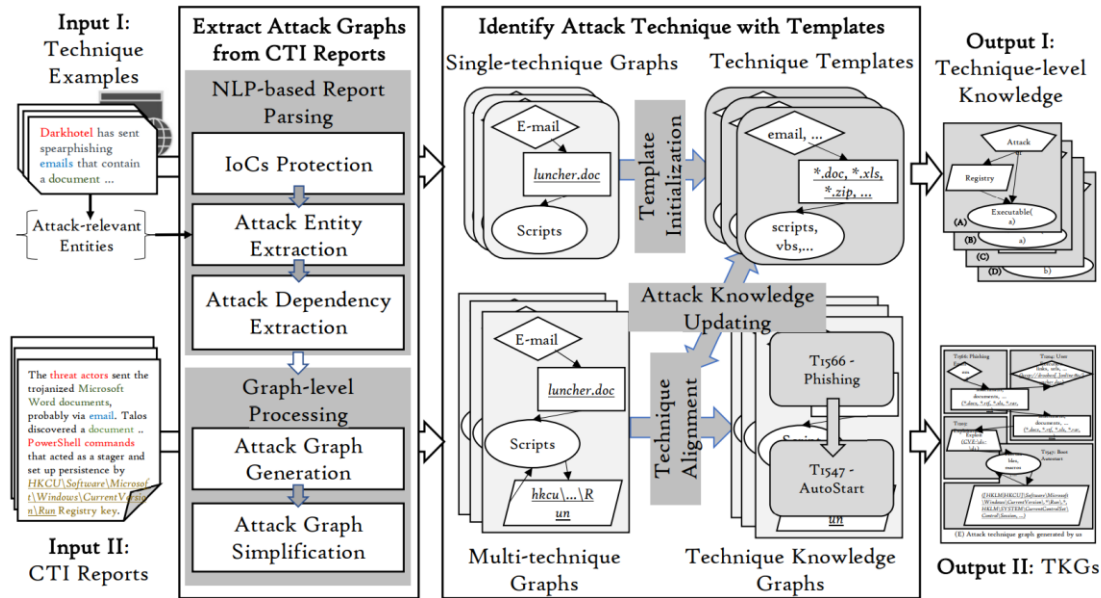
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/321503662_TTPDrill_Automatic_and_Accurate_Extraction_of_Threat_Actions_from_Unstructured_Text_of_CTI_Sources

Towards Attack Prediction – AttackKG

- Identifying attack techniques in Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) reports
- Constructing Attack/Knowledge graphs
- Correlation | relationships & dependencies
- Attack reconstruction
- Enriched Threat Intelligence

AttackKG Architecture

AttackKG: Constructing Technique Knowledge Graph from CTI Reports

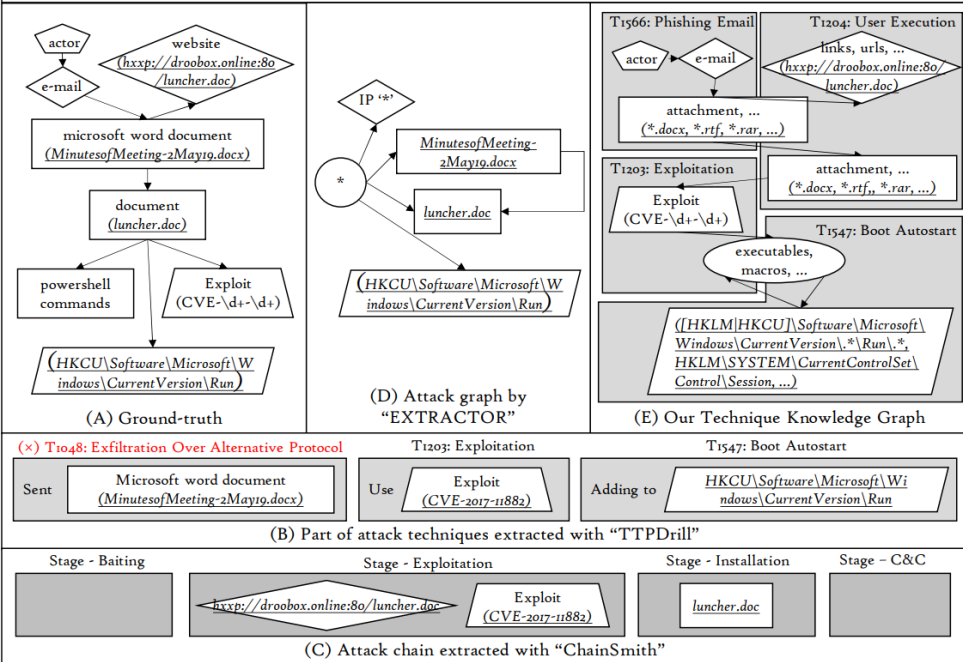


AttackKG: Constructing Technique Knowledge Graph from Cyber Threat Intelligence Reports https://users.cs.northwestern.edu/~ychen/Papers/ESORICS_AttackKG.pdf

APT campaign 2019 - Frankenstein

<https://blog.talosintelligence.com/2019/06/frankenstein-campaign.html>

The **threat actors** sent the trojanized Microsoft Word documents, probably via **email**. Talos discovered a document named **MinutesofMeeting-2May19.docx**. Once the victim opens the document, it fetches a remote template from the actor-controlled website, **hxxp://droobox[.]online:80/luncher.doc**. Once the **luncher.doc** was downloaded, it used **CVE-2017-11882**, to execute **code** on the victim's machine. After the exploit, the file would write a series of base64-encoded **PowerShell commands** that acted as a **stager** and set up persistence by adding it to the **HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run** Registry key.



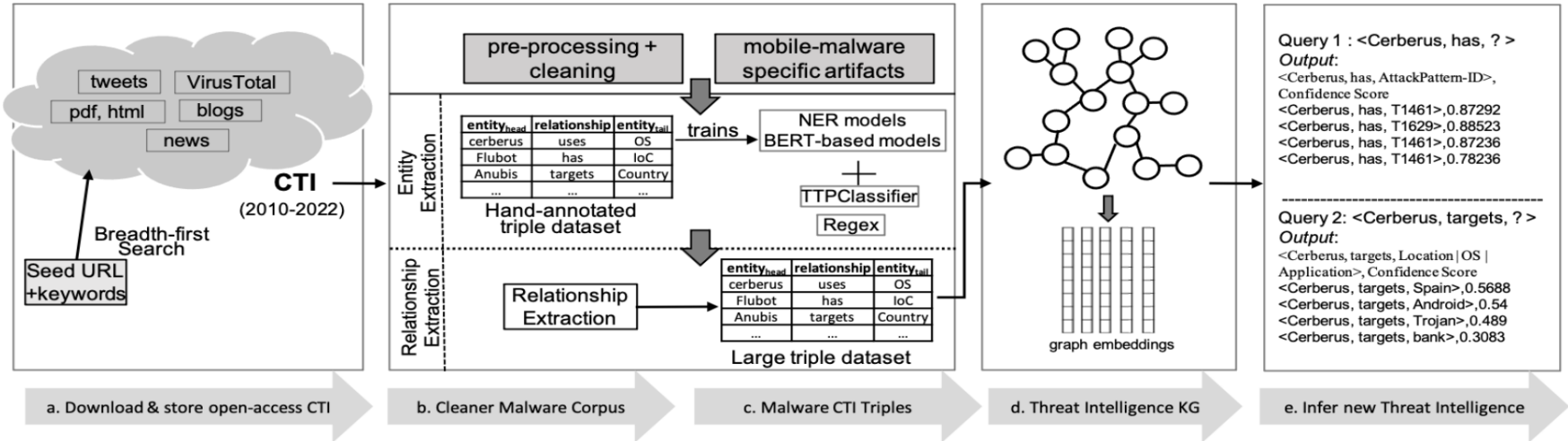
Towards Attack Prediction – LADDER

- **LADDER** (Learning-Based Attack pattern Detection and Defense)
 - Knowledge extraction framework (attack patterns)
 - Systematic mapping to MITRE ATT&CK framework
 - Utilized an Ontology and TTPClassifier creating a Knowledge Graph
 - Train future cyberthreat intelligence model
- **TTPClassifier**
 - Novel ML algorithm for TTP extraction from CTI reports
 - TTPs → MITRE ATT&CK pattern IDs

Outcomes

- Predictive Analysis, pre-empt potential attacks
- Learn and analyse attack campaigns
- Automated extraction and analysis of Cyberthreat Intelligence(CTI)
- ML-based Categorization of Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs)
- Open benchmark malware dataset to train future cyberthreat intelligence models

Towards Attack Prediction – LADDER



<https://arxiv.org/pdf/2211.01753.pdf>

Attack prediction models – Scoring

Method	TP	FN	FP	Precision	Recall	F1-score
MITRE	38	27	0	1.00	0.58	0.74
TTPDrill[19]	22	43	231	0.09	0.34	0.14
AttackKG[29]	12	53	85	0.12	0.18	0.15
TTPClassifier	41	24	22	0.65	0.63	0.64

AttackKG: Constructing Technique Knowledge Graph from Cyber Threat Intelligence Reports
https://users.cs.northwestern.edu/~ychen/Papers/ESORICS_AttackKG.pdf

1/3

Nearly a third of the top 20 most common MITRE ATT&CK techniques fall under defense evasion tactics

Cisco Talos

Cisco's Activity



Cisco Cloud Application Security



Attack Path Analysis

Query graph for security scenarios

Validate and score severity of resources impacted, data at risk, and lateral movement options.

Prioritize the findings and present with relevant context for security investigation

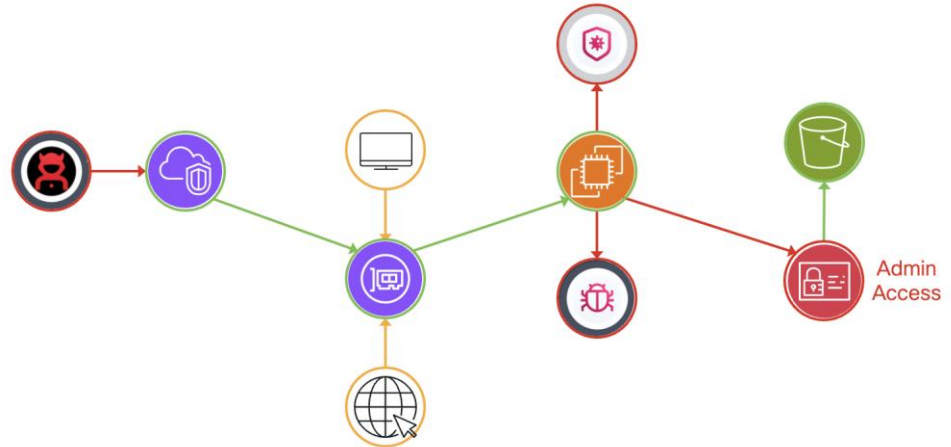


Root Cause Analysis

Identify commonalities across the common attack paths

Comparative health score analysis to identify and prioritize potential root causes

Graph-based Analysis

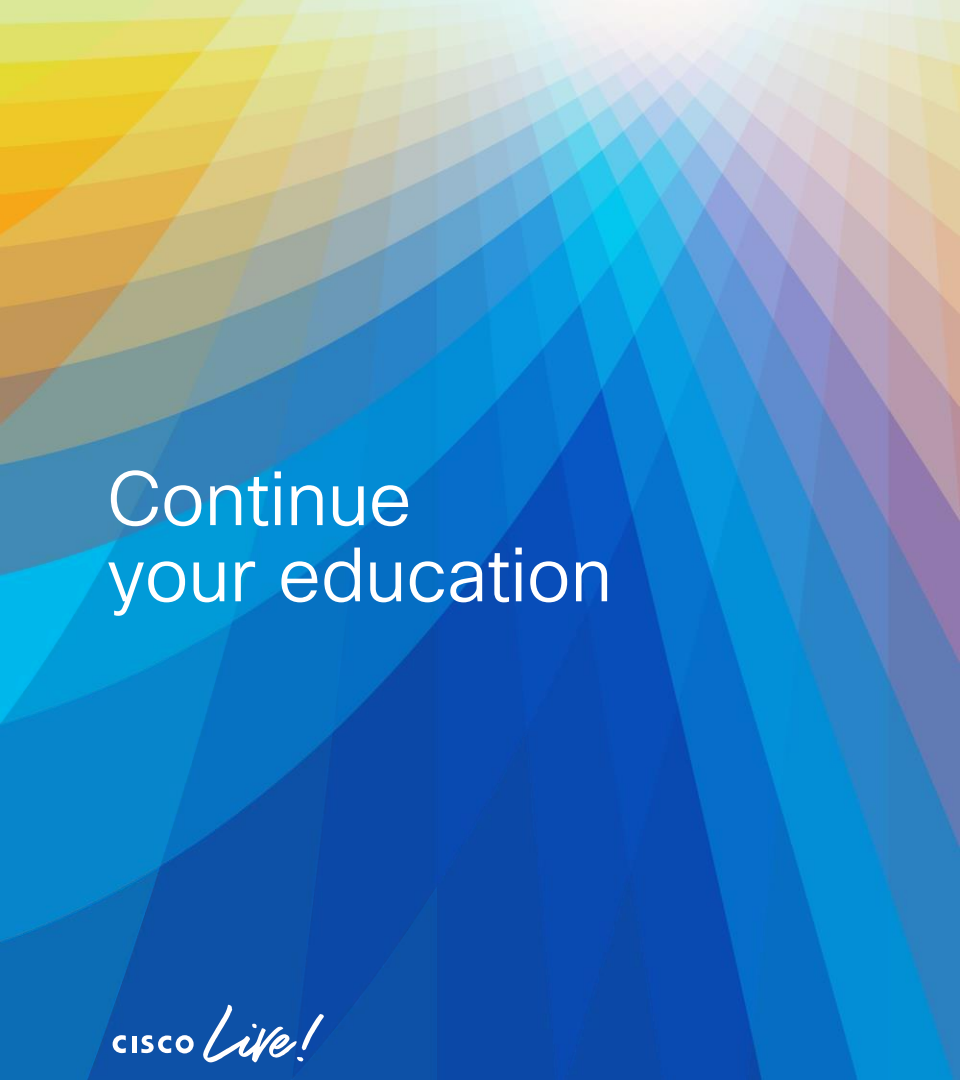


Cisco Cloud Application Security (Panoptica)

- Currently this solution is undergoing a rebranding from “Panoptica” to “Cisco Cloud Application Security”
- As such, if you see or hear these names throughout the presentation, throughout Cisco Live, or in the near-term after Cisco Live, please note, they are the same solution
- Cisco Cloud Application Security = Panoptica



*“In the face of obscured insights,
maximize the utility of existing
resources and data to compensate
for the voids as effectively as
possible”*

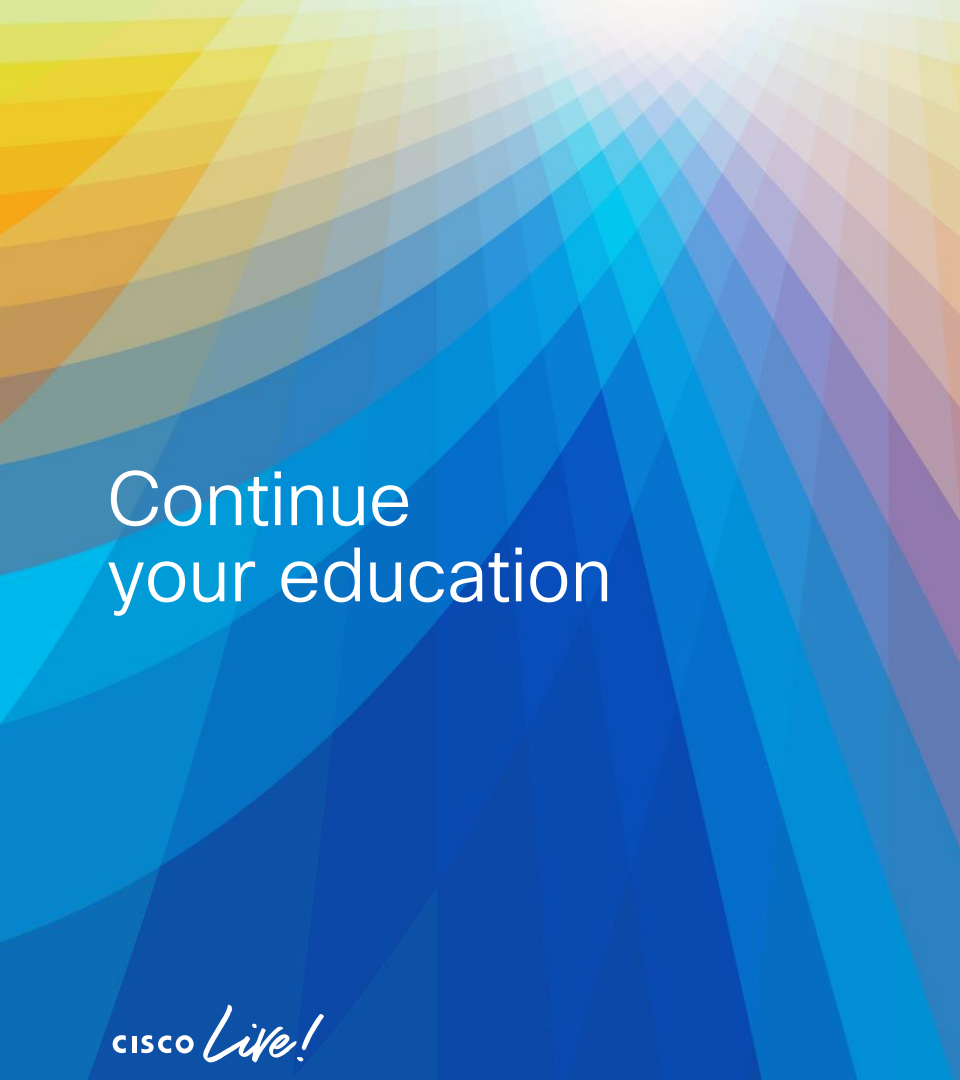


Continue
your education

CISCO *Live!*

Panoptica Technical Breakouts

- **BRKSEC-1585** Application Security in the Cloud Native World
- **BRKETI-2161** The Power of Predictive Attack Analysis in an Offensive-Defensive Nexus
- **BRKETI-2511** Securing Cloud Native Applications with Cisco Cloud Application Security (Panoptica)
- **BRKETI-2512** How to Leverage Generative AI to Protect Your Cloud Applications
- **BRKETI-2903** The Five Biggest Security Nightmares Waiting to Happen to Your Cloud Applications and How to Protect Your Business from Them



Continue
your education

CISCO *Live!*

Panoptica DevNet Workshops

- **DEWKS-2255** Security at the speed of cloud - Security as code
- **DEWKS-2771** Secure Your Kubernetes Runtime and Cloud Posture with Cisco Cloud Application Security (Panoptica)
- **DEWKS-2774** Securing the Future: Enhancing Application Security with AI and for AI
- **DEWKS-2780** Prioritise Your Risks with Cisco Cloud Application Security (Panoptica) Attack Path Analysis
- **DEWKS-3002** Embed Security Practices into DevOps with Cisco Cloud Application Security (Panoptica)
- **DEWKS-3003** 5G Cloud Native Core Network Security with Cisco Cloud Application Security (Panoptica)

Continue the Discussion

CISCO *Live!*

- Come visit us in the Outshift booth in the Cisco World of Solutions (Booth D10) to see live demos on Panoptica
- Book your one-on-one Meet the Engineer meeting
- See what's coming in the next releases of Panoptica by meeting with us in the Innovation Forum
- Book a meeting with us for an extended discussion on Panoptica



Visit Outshift in the World of Solutions!



Learn more about Panoptica,
Cisco's Cloud Application
Security Solution!

CISCO *Live!*



- Snap a picture of this slide and visit the Outshift Booth, D10.
- Get your badge scanned to be entered into our daily drawing* for €250 Cisco Store Gift Certificate.

**Winners will be notified via email*



The bridge to possible

Thank you

CISCO *Live!*

The background features a vibrant, multi-colored abstract design. On the left, there are horizontal, wavy bands of color in shades of red, orange, yellow, and green. On the right, a bright white light source emits a series of sharp, radiating lines in various colors, including blue, green, and yellow, creating a sunburst effect.

cisco *Live!*

Let's go