

Discovering the Indicators of Behavior:

Collaborative Integration with CACAO Roaster, STIX
Shifter, TAXII, and Kestrel

Charlie Frick, IOB Sub-Project Chair
The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory

Talk for April 2024 CASP Cybersecurity Automation Village

Agenda

- Short IOB background/overview
- Creating an Olympic Destroyer IOB
- Sharing STIX IOBs via TAXII
- Neo4J analysis of IOB contents
 - Kestrel and Stix-Shifter hunt elements
 - Playbooks shared in CACAO format
- Editing IOB with STIX-Modeler and CACAO-ROASTER
- Conclusion

Indicator of Behavior Concept

- Indicator of Behavior (IOB) STIX bundles provide repeatable sets of observed adversary behaviors to help defender tools & capabilities
 - Intelligence context provided in machine-readable graph representation
 - Relationships to relevant ATT&CK attack pattern objects
 - Relationships to detection analytics
 - Includes correlation workflows to address false-positives
 - Includes response COAs and cybersecurity operations playbooks in standardized formats

Each procedure can be easily detected but has high potential for false positives

Machine
Opens
Suspicious
Email

PowerShell
Run for
First Time

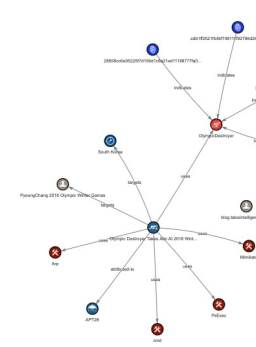
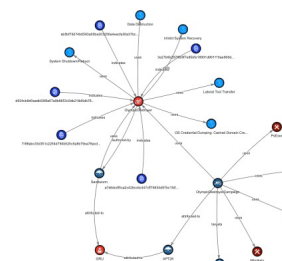
Machine
Registry
Modified

Machine
Accesses
Network
Share


The sequence of procedures is most likely malicious

Creating an IOB Bundle for Olympic Destroyer

- Review existing CTI
 - STIX Bundles
 - Threat Reports



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OCA CASP Plugfest 2024

Practitioner Use Case: OlympicDestroyer
Contributor: Jane Ginn, MSIA, MRP – CTIN
Date: Thursday, January 24, 2024 – Rev. 1


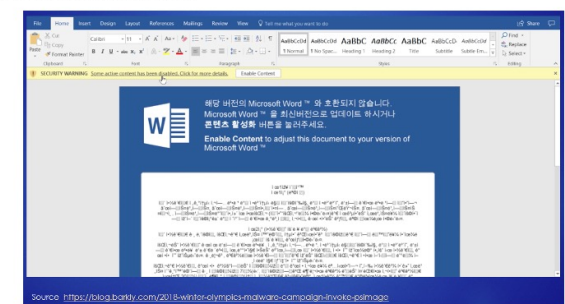
OlympicDestroyer Background

The OlympicDestroyer malware was a sophisticated cyber threat that targeted the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics. The malware's primary function was to disrupt the computer systems related to the event, causing significant operational issues. It was a network worm that propagated through Windows network shares, stole passwords, and aimed to purge files and shut down infected systems.

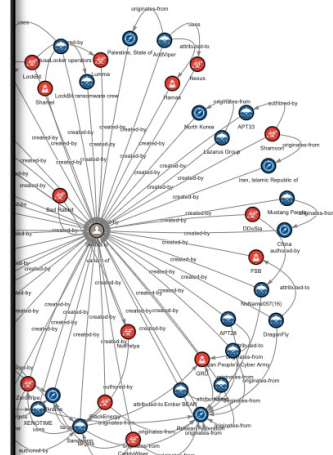
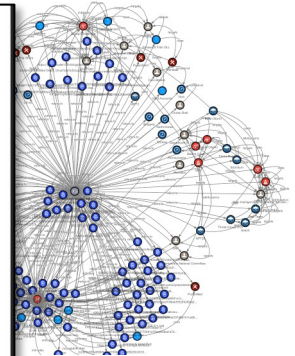
The malware was initially spread through at least three launch pads, including the official Olympics website, network servers of ski resorts, and servers of ATOS, the IT service provider for the Olympics.

OlympicDestroyer's ultimate goal was to delete boot records and other forensic artifacts while also harvesting sensitive user credentials.

The Olympic Destroyer malware spread and infected systems primarily through spear-phishing emails containing malicious Microsoft Word documents. These documents contained macros that, when enabled, would execute the malware. The malware was also embedded in an image file, which was encrypted and attached to the spear-phishing email.

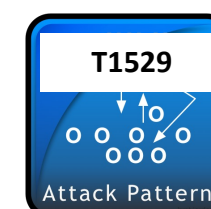
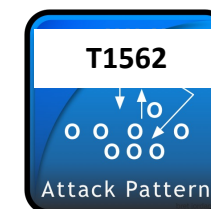
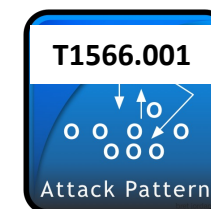
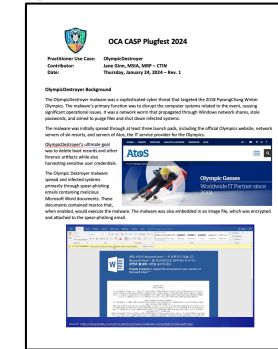
Source: <https://blog.barkly.com/2018/winter-olympics-malware-campaign/invoke-pamage>



Creating an IOB Bundle for Olympic Destroyer

- Review existing CTI
 - STIX Bundles
 - Threat Reports
- Extract TTPs from Report

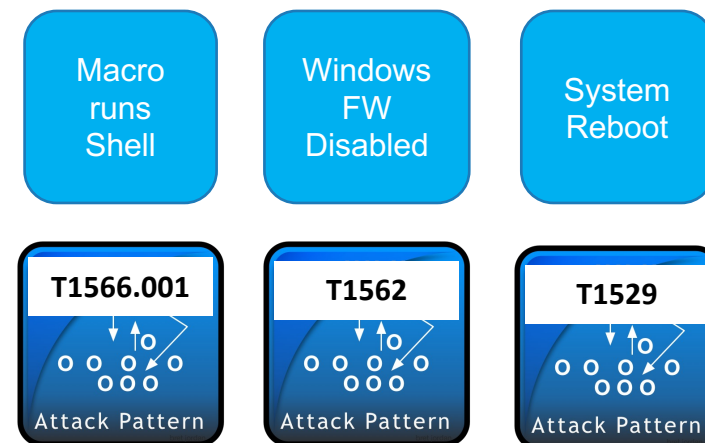
Note: IOB bundles utilize MITRE ATT&CK Attack Patterns



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Creating an IOB Bundle for Olympic Destroyer

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- Identify and Create Behaviors

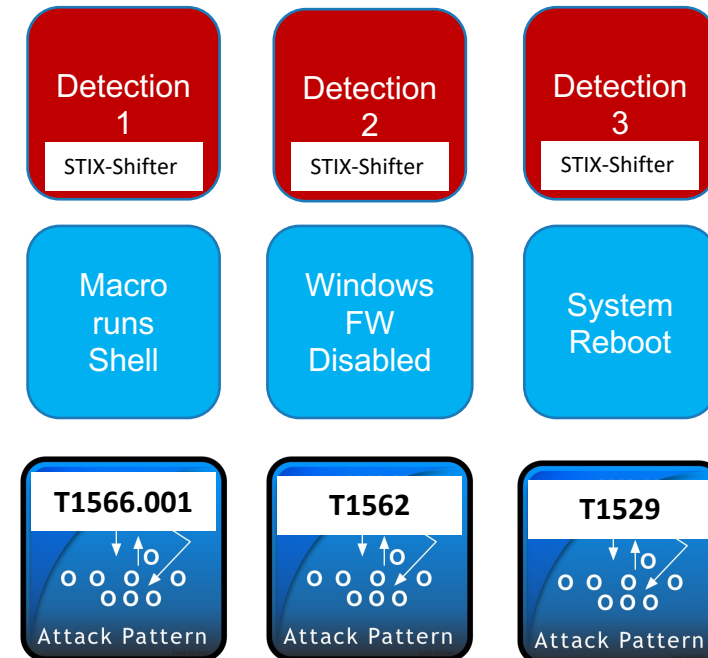


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Creating an IOB Bundle for Olympic Destroyer

- Review existing CTI
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- Extract TTPs from Report
- Identify and Create Behaviors
- Develop Detections

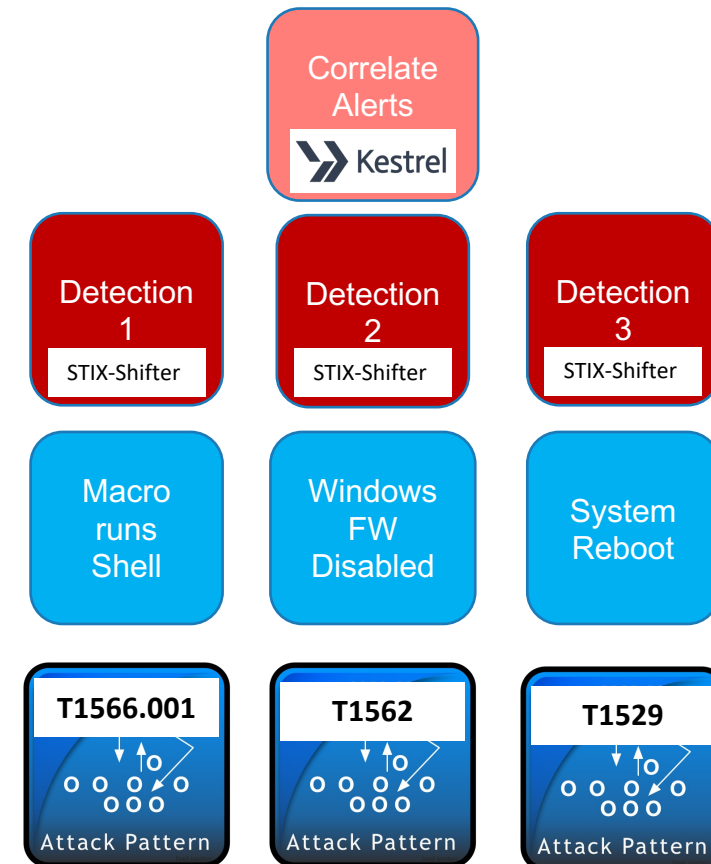
Note: CASP 2024 example uses STIX-Shifter but other analytics can also be used as well



Creating an IOB Bundle for Olympic Destroyer

- Review existing CTI
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- Develop Detections
- Develop Correlations

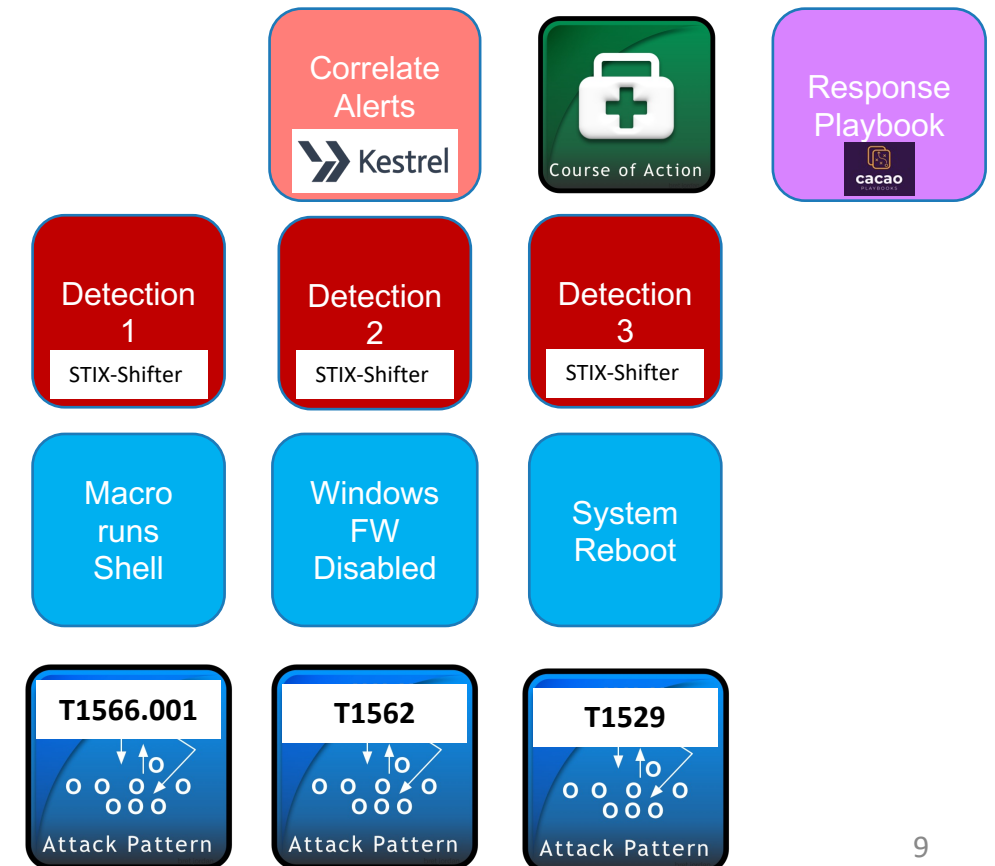
Note: CASP 2024 example uses Kestrel but other correlation engines can be used as well



Creating an IOB Bundle for Olympic Destroyer

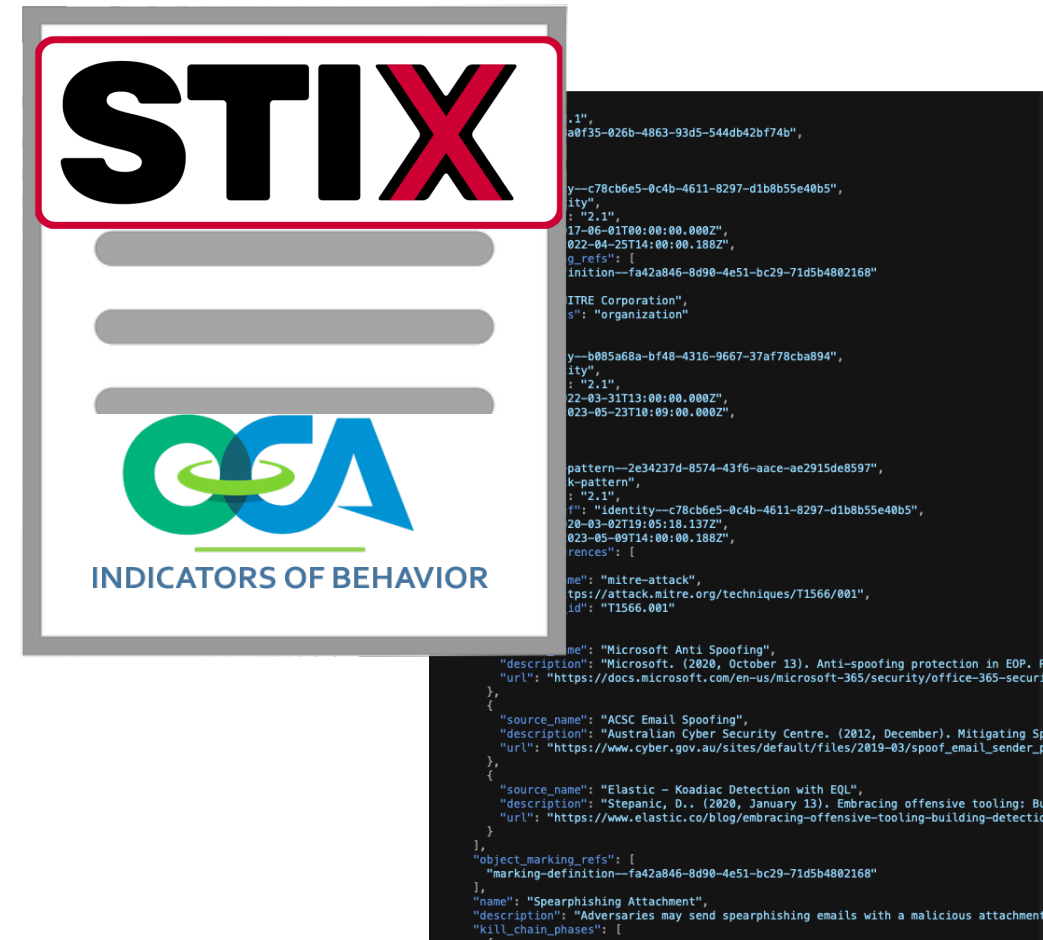
- Review existing CTI
 - STIX Bundles
 - Threat Reports
- Extract TTPs from Report
- Identify and Create Behaviors
- Develop Detections
- Develop Correlations
- Develop Response

Note: CASP 2024 example uses CACAO but other playbooks could be used as well



Creating an IOB Bundle for Olympic Destroyer

- Review existing CTI
 - STIX Bundles
 - Threat Reports
- Extract TTPs from Report
- Identify and Create Behaviors
- Develop Detections
- Develop Correlations
- Develop Response
- Combine into STIX IOB Bundle



TAXII Compliance

- By adhering to the open STIX standard, IOB bundles can be sent/received at machine speed via the open TAXII standard

```
CASP> curl -i http://127.0.0.1:5000/trustgroup1/collections/91a7b528-80eb-42ed-a74d-c6f|
bd5a26116/objects/ -u credentials -H "Accept: application/taxii+json;version=2.1" |
sed '10p;d' | python3 -m json.tool
% Total    % Received % Xferd  Average Speed   Time    Time     Time  Current
           Dload  Upload   Total   Spent    Left   Speed
100 1849 100 1849    0     0 112k      0 --:--:-- --:--:-- --:--:-- 120k
{
  "more": false,
  "objects": [
    {
      "created": "2014-05-08T09:00:00.000Z",
      "id": "relationship--2f9a9aa9-108a-4333-83e2-4fb25add0463",
      "modified": "2014-05-08T09:00:00.000Z",
      "relationship_type": "indicates",
      "source_ref": "indicator--cd981c25-8042-4166-8945-51178443bdac",
      "spec_version": "2.1",
      "target_ref": "malware--c0931cc6-c75e-47e5-9036-78fab9c95d4ec",
      "type": "relationship"
    },
    {
      "created": "2014-05-08T09:00:00.000Z",
      "id": "indicator--cd981c25-8042-4166-8945-51178443bdac",
      "indicator_types": [
        "file-hash-watchlist"
      ],
      "modified": "2014-05-08T09:00:00.000Z",
      "name": "File hash for Poison Ivy variant",
      "pattern": "[file:hashes.'SHA-256' = 'ef537f25c895bfa782526529a9b63d97aa631564d5d789c2b765448c8635fb6c']",
      "pattern_type": "stix",
      "spec_version": "2.1",
      "type": "indicator",
      "valid_from": "2014-05-08T09:00:00.000000Z"
    }
  ],
}
```

Open tools to support IOB analysis and creation

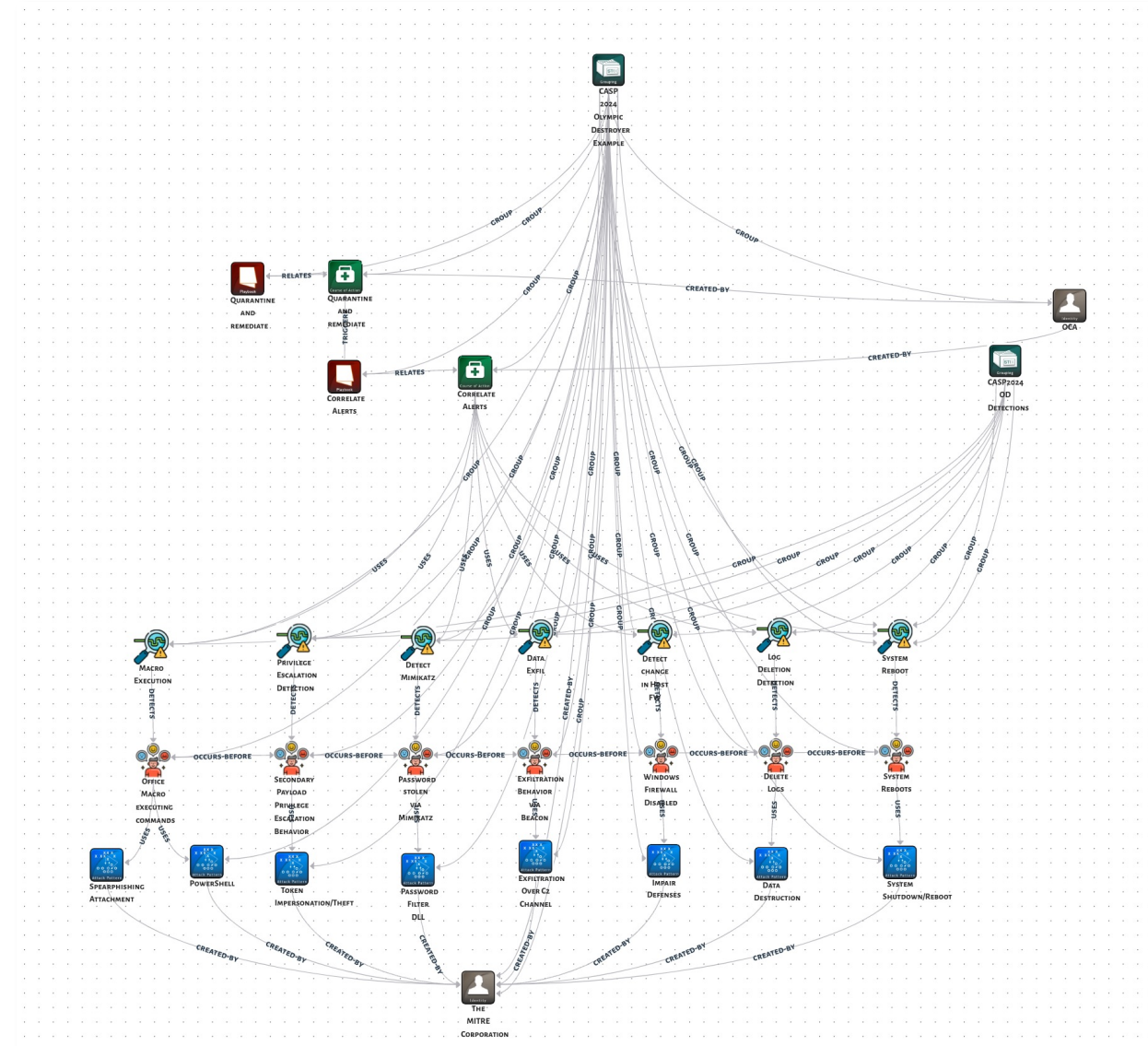
STIX2NEO4J Script

- Python script for analyzing STIX 2.x bundles in a neo4j graph database
- Provides additional analytical capabilities for investigating raw STIX messages without major modification of the data
- Threat Intel Platforms often make significant changes to data model upon import
- Released on an Apache2 license through the Open Cybersecurity Alliance Indicator of Behavior Sub-Project
- Script repository link on GitHub:
 - <https://github.com/opencybersecurityalliance/oc-a-iob/tree/main/STIX2NEO4J%20Converter>



STIX Modeler

- IOB work on edits to Open Source STIX-Modeler Project on GitHub
 - <https://github.com/STIX-Modeler/UI>
 - IOB edits currently in release review with planned submission to GitHub later in 2024
- GUI-based editor for creating STIX without coding
- Modernized code dependencies and visualization framework
- Created support for STIX extensions and custom STIX objects and relationships



Demonstration

Receiving an IOB Bundle
Extracting data via Neo4J
Integration into Kestrel, CACAO-Roaster
Editing of Data via STIX Modeler

For More Information

- IOB Project page: <https://opencybersecurityalliance.org/iob/>
- IOB GitHub for documentation, use cases, reference implementation
<https://github.com/opencybersecurityalliance/oca-iob>