

# Cybersecurity Topics: Adversary Emulation, Purple Teaming, and ICS

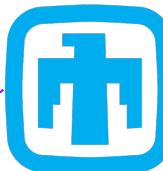
Tim Schulz, SCYTHE



# Tim Schulz – Adversary Emulation Lead



SCYTHE



Sandia  
National  
Laboratories



IDART



Information Design Assurance Red Team



MITRE | ATT&CK®



ATT&CK®  
Evaluations



MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY™



THE UNIVERSITY of  
TULSA



# Training Recommendations

- Pentesting
  - <https://academy.tcm-sec.com> (The Cyber Mentor on YouTube)
  - John Hammond YouTube channel:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCVeW9qkBjO3zosnqUbG7CFw>
  - <https://www.hackthebox.com> (free with paid versions)
  - <https://tryhackme.com> (free with paid versions)
- Red Teaming
  - <https://training.zeropointsecurity.co.uk/courses/red-team-ops>
  - <https://www.pentesteracademy.com/redlabs>
  - <https://institute.sektor7.net>
- Embedded Security:
  - ARM Reverse Engineering (free): <https://azeria-labs.com/writing-arm-assembly-part-1/>
  - CTF (free): <https://microcorruption.com>
- SpecterOps PowerShell class (free): <https://github.com/specterops/at-ps>
- AntiSyphon Online Training Courses: <https://www.antisyphontraining.com>



# Adversary Emulation

“Security tests using adversary emulation identify gaps, verify defensive assumptions, and prioritize resources.”

“Data Driven Red Teaming”

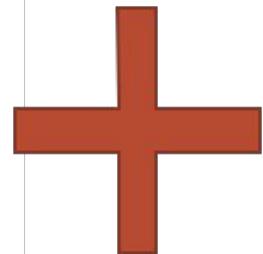
<https://www.scythe.io/library/introduction-to-adversary-emulation>



# Adversary Emulation



Red Team



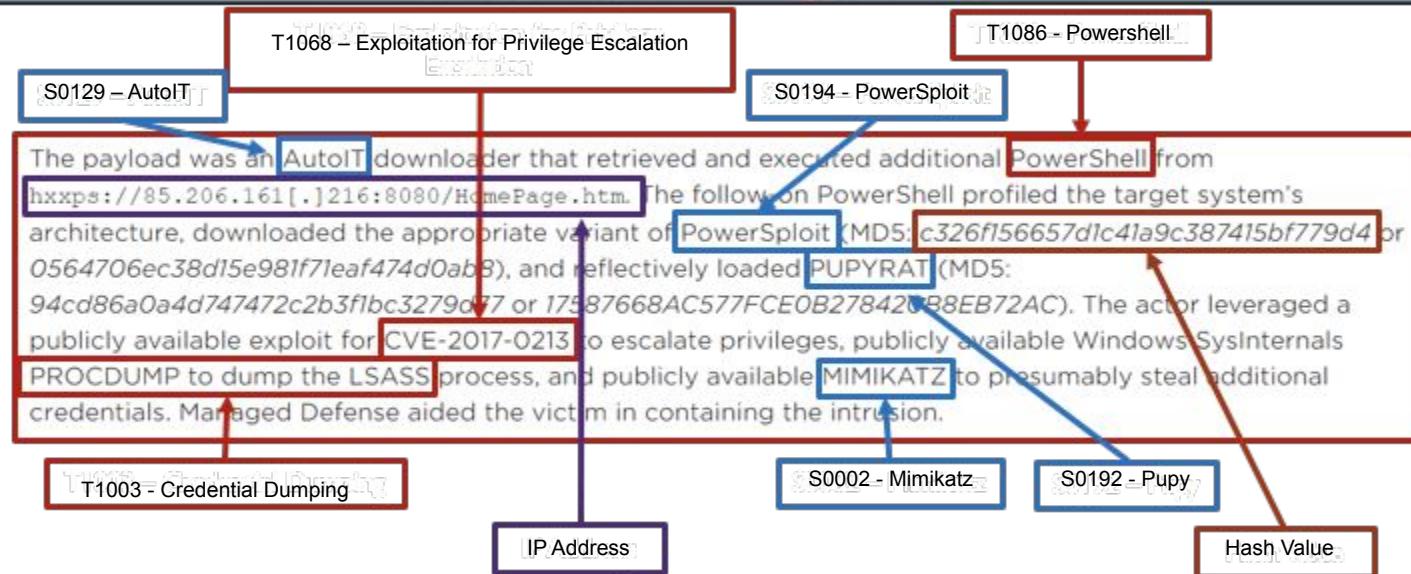
ATT&CK

Cyber Threat Intelligence



# ATT&CK Walkthrough

# The work behind ATT&CK



[ATT&CKing the Status Quo: Threat-Based Adversary Emulation with MITRE ATT&CK](#) - Katie Nickels and Cody Thomas



# Good Threat Reports to Get Started

- Red Canary Threat Detection Report (yearly version)
  - <https://redcanary.com/threat-detection-report/>
- Verizon DBIR Report (yearly)
  - <https://www.verizon.com/business/resources/reports/dbir/>
- Dragos Year in Review (yearly) (ICS specific)
  - <https://www.dragos.com/year-in-review/>
- Mandiant M-Trends (yearly)
  - <https://www.mandiant.com/m-trends>
- CrowdStrike, SentinelOne, Cybereason, etc.. (EDR/CTI vendors) all have publicly released reports



# Extra MITRE/ATT&CK Resources

- MITRE ATT&CK Training by Katie Nickels and Adam Pennington
  - <https://attack.mitre.org/resources/training/cti/>
- MITRE ATT&CK Defender Series by MITRE hosted on Cybrary
  - <https://www.cybrary.it/course/mitre-attack-defender-mad-attack-fundamentals/>
- Blog on Simplifying ATT&CK by Nathali Cano
  - <https://www.scythe.io/library/simplifying-the-mitre-att-ck-framework>
- Blog on ATT&CK Navigator by Elaine Harrison-Neukirch
  - <https://www.scythe.io/library/scythe-att-ck-navigator>
- Threat Report ATT&CK Mapping (TRAM):  
<https://github.com/center-for-threat-informed-defense/tram>



# ICS/OT Adversary Emulation Resources & Companies

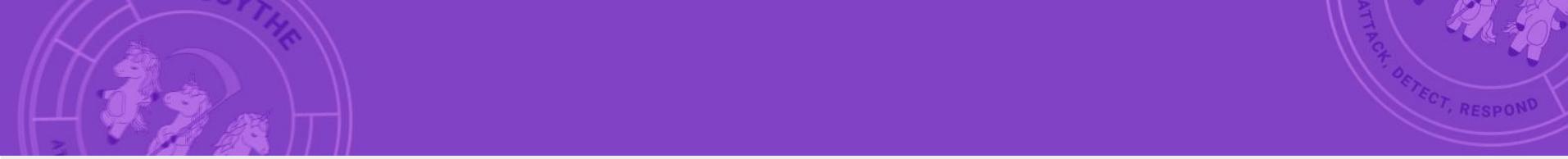
- Some Companies/Organizations that perform cybersecurity work in the ICS/OT Space:
  - Anyone that does manufacturing
  - Anyone that owns or operates critical infrastructure
  - ICS/OT Vendors - SEL, etc..
  - DHS - CISA
  - FFRDCs/National Labs - SNL, PNNL, ORNL, INL, MITRE
  - Dragos (<https://www.dragos.com>)
  - GRIMM (<https://www.grimm-co.com>)
  - SCYTHE (<https://www.scythe.io>)
  - Also look for VCs and their portfolios in this space (Energy Impact Partners, etc..)



# Good Purple Team Talks and Resources

- Casey Smith and Ross Wolf - Fantastic Red-Team Attacks and How to Find Them
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9bUrVqP8Duk&feature=youtu.be>
- Ian Anderson from OG&E: “A Path Towards Adversary Emulation in OT Environments”
  - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8v6shditZE&list=PLscfLWU3es1XmQRTcobQ-E\\_rEEn6DTt-w&index=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l8v6shditZE&list=PLscfLWU3es1XmQRTcobQ-E_rEEn6DTt-w&index=10)
- Jorge Orchilles - Operationalized Purple Teaming
  - <https://www.sans.org/webcasts/operationalized-purple-teaming/>
- SANS Purple Team Poster:  
<https://www.sans.org/posters/purple-concepts-bridging-the-gap/?msc=purple-team-lp>

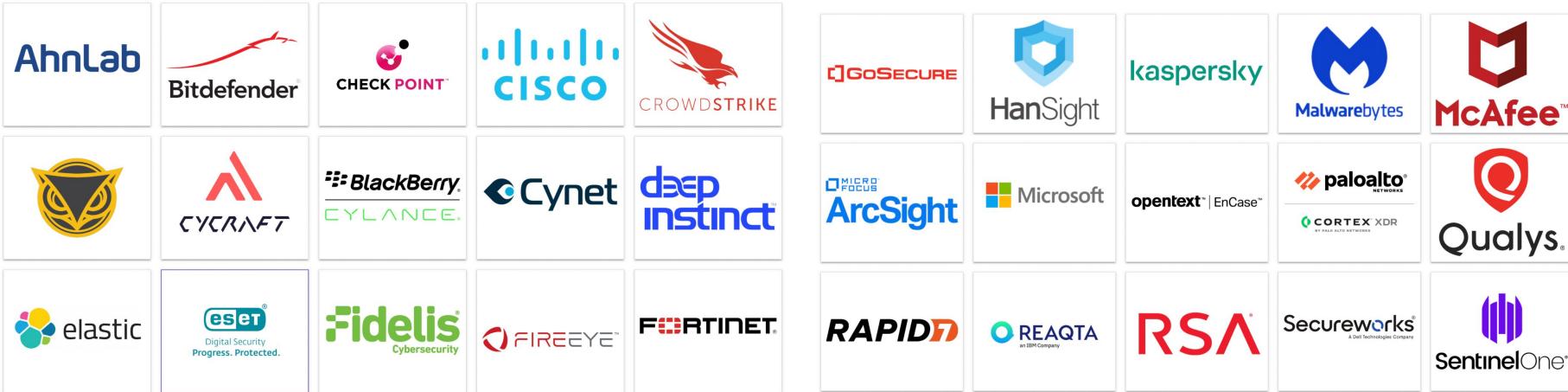




# MITRE ENGENUITY™ | ATT&CK® Evaluations



# Endpoint Detection & Response (EDR) Test

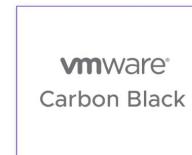


**SOPHOS**  
Cybersecurity evolved.

**Symantec**  
A Division of Broadcom

**TREND MICRO**

**Uptycs**



# EDR for OT/ICS



# The Good

- Vendor configurations!
- Transparency
  - Real data to browse through!
- Comparisons between vendors on techniques
- Ongoing testing
- New areas:
  - ICS Vendors
  - MSSP Testing
  - And more...

Participant Configuration: [APT3](#), [APT29](#), [Carbanak+FIN7](#), [Wizard Spider + Sandworm](#)

# The Bad

- No noise in the environment
- Requires doing a lot of manual analysis and work
- A long time between results (but the quality is very high!)
  - Adversaries move faster than a year at a time



# The Ugly



SentinelOne @SentinelOne · 2h  
#1 Again. The XDR Leader! SentinelOne leads in the latest **MITRE Engenuity ATT&CK Evaluation** with 100% prevention. Leading analytic coverage. Leading visibility. Zero detection delays. See our results.

Learn more: [sentinelone.com/lp/mitre/](https://sentinelone.com/lp/mitre/)

#mitreattack #mitre #xdr #leader



## Palo Alto Networks Achieves 100% Prevention and 100% Detection in the MITRE Engenuity ATT&CK Enterprise Evaluations (Round 4)

5 hours ago, 4:45 PM EDT

Via PR Newswire

Share

Save



VMware NSX @vmwarsnx · 3h  
According to the recent **@MITREcorp Engenuity's ATT&CK Evaluation**, **@VMware** prevented **100%** of critical attacks with **ZERO** configuration changes!

Learn more about the joint power of endpoint and network security and see full evaluation results:

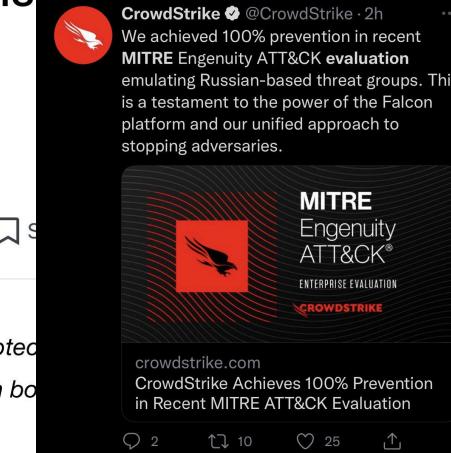


Cybereason @cybereason · 2h  
The **@MITREengenuity ATT&CK Evaluations** for Enterprise has quickly become the authority for measuring the effectiveness of **#security** solutions - and we're proud to share our near perfect results [cybr.ly/36Du2WR](https://cybr.ly/36Du2WR) **#cybersecurity #security**



Fortinet @Fortinet · 2h  
Real-time, automated endpoint protection

For the 2nd year in a row, **#FortiEDR** blocks 100% of attacks in **MITRE Engenuity® ATT&CK® Evaluation**. Learn more: [@MITREAttack](https://ftnt.net/6011KvKcN)



Credit to @hackinglz for aggregating

# Live Walkthrough: ATT&CK Evaluations & ICS ATT&CK Evaluations



# Use these free resources to get started!

- <https://attackevals.mitre-engenuity.org>
- [https://github.com/center-for-threat-informed-defense/adversary\\_emulation\\_library](https://github.com/center-for-threat-informed-defense/adversary_emulation_library)
- <https://github.com/scythe-io/community-threats>
- <https://www.scythe.io/threatursday>



# Purple Teaming



# Success Story (Why purple matters)



# Purple Case Study – Scenario

- 6 week Purple Team Exercise - Assumed Breach scenario
- SCYTHE was hired to perform all major roles (red, blue, CTI)
- **Challenge:** \$0 spend on new technology
  - Only tuning current security controls



# Purple Case Study – Threats

Week 1 - Baseline testing: access, C2, understand controls

Week 2 - APT19: low sophistication Chinese threat actor

Week 3 - Buhtrap: medium sophistication Russian threat actor

Week 4 - APT33: medium sophistication Iranian threat actor

Week 5 - APT3: high sophistication Chinese threat actor

Week 6 - Free Play: red team plan based on previous weeks



# Purple Case Study – Baseline

- 94% of Adversary Behavior was undetected
- 3 test cases detected by current controls
- 1 test case blocked

**Baseline Result**  
Known threats have  
the ability to achieve  
their objective without  
being detected

Overall Score

Lower

Campaigns Aggregated	5
Test Cases Completed:	65
Test Cases Passed:	4
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Detected:	3
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Blocked:	1
Test Cases Failed:	61
<span style="color: red;">■</span> Not Detected:	61
Test Cases Not Completed:	0
<span style="color: grey;">■</span> To Be Determined:	0



# Purple Case Study – Results

- \$0 technology spend to achieve 64% detection rate
- Enabled telemetry (Sysmon)
- Created logic for alerts on

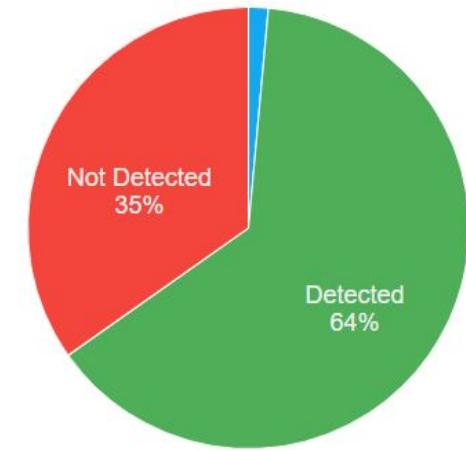


**End State Result**  
Known threats will be detected and responded to before achieving objective

Overall Score

Above Average

Campaigns Aggregated	5
Test Cases Completed:	69
Test Cases Passed:	45
■ Detected:	44
■ Blocked:	1
Test Cases Failed:	24
■ Not Detected:	24
Test Cases Not Completed:	0
■ To Be Determined:	0



# Purple Case Study – YouTube

“The Full Purple Juice, Not the Watered-Down Stuff”

Jorge Orchilles & Bryson Bort  
CactusCon 9 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tV8TaWMmq2A>

SIEM Blog: <https://www.eventsentry.com/kb/447>

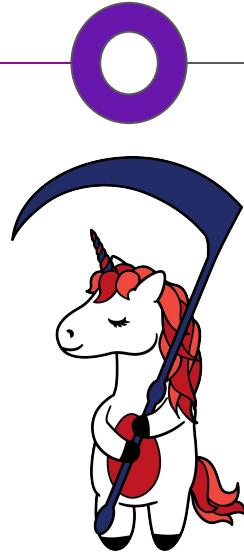


# What is a Purple Team?



Blue  
Team

Red Team

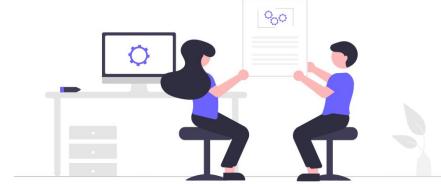


CTI  
Team

# Why Purple Team?



- Train defenders



- Test process between teams



- Test TTPs



- Replay Red Team Engagement

Foster a collaborative culture and mentality!

# Efficiency in Testing

## Assuming Breach with Purple Teaming

- Initial access testing takes a lot of time, energy, effort
- Insider Threat
- Zero Day
- Phishing emails land
- Already breached

## Additional Resources

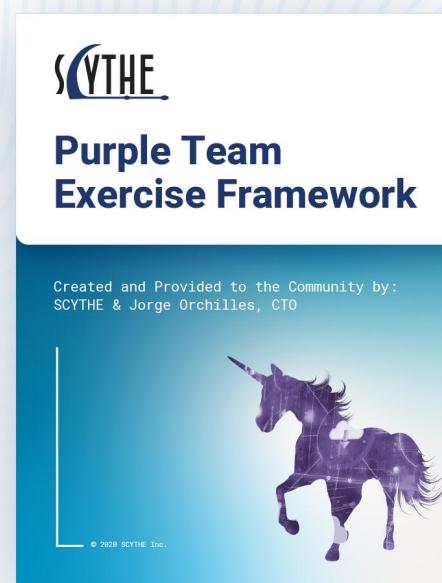
- <https://www.scythe.io/library/why-assume-breach>



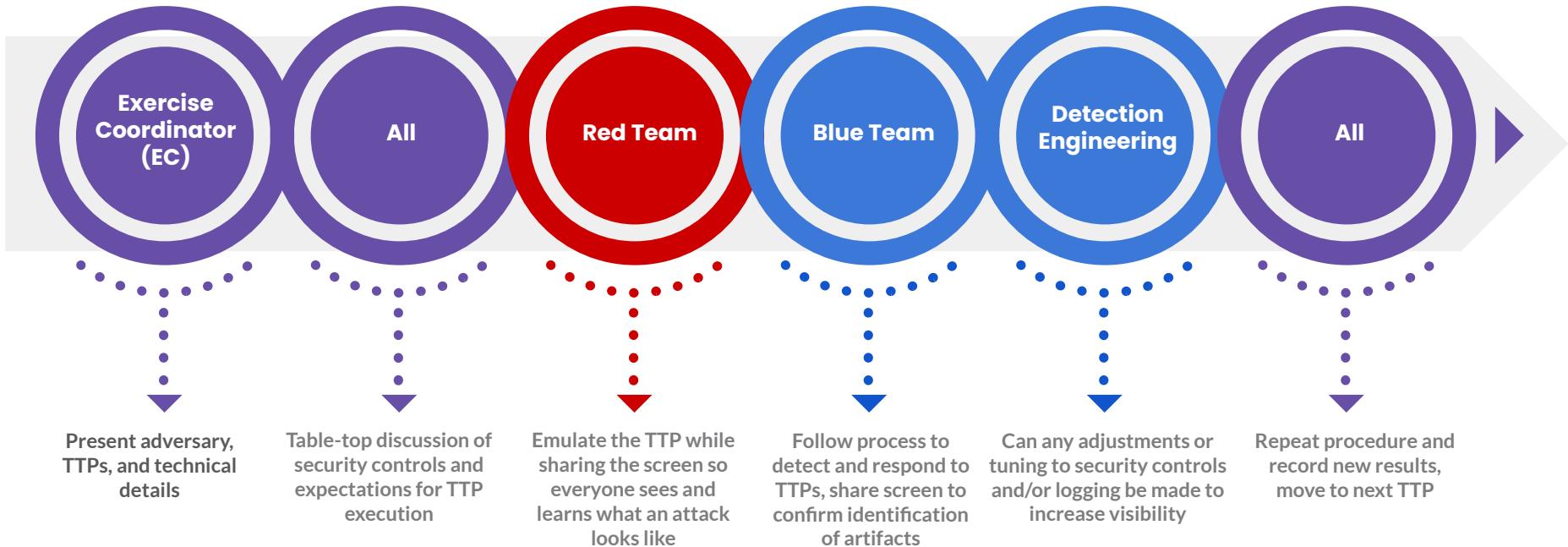
# Purple Team Exercise Framework (v2)

Download the Framework now so you can follow along: <https://scythe.io/ptef>

**Download  
it now!**



# Purple Team Exercise



# Walking through an exercise



# Cyber Threat Intelligence

## Components of a Threat

### Intent

Who or What they are targeting.

### Capability

The tools, exploits, training, and tradecraft the actor has access to.

### Opportunity

This is the one area the organization has influence over. You can limit opportunity through controls, like patching.

### Why does the threat matrix matter?

Knowing Intent allows us to focus on what adversaries to study. Understanding Capability allows us to focus our detections on the TTPs of those targeting us.



# Threat Modeling

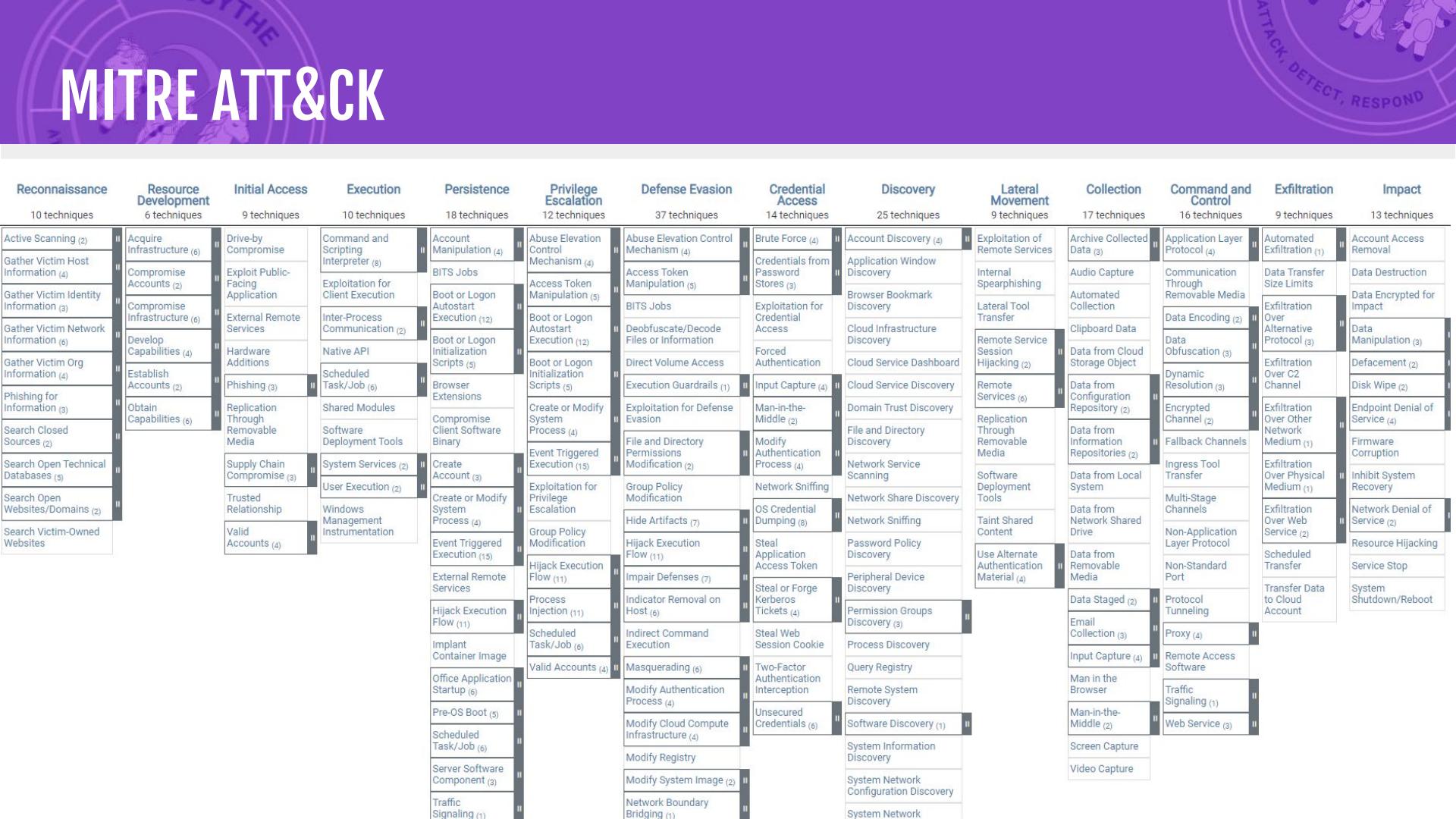
- What is your nightmare scenario?
- Who are you worried about?
- What do you want to protect?

# Threat Modeling – Defense Science Board

**Table 2.1 Description of Threat Tiers**

Tier	Description
I	Practitioners who rely on others to develop the malicious code, delivery mechanisms, and execution strategy (use known exploits).
II	Practitioners with a greater depth of experience, with the ability to develop their own tools (from publically known vulnerabilities).
III	Practitioners who focus on the discovery and use of unknown malicious code, are adept at installing user and kernel mode root kits <sup>10</sup> , frequently use data mining tools, target corporate executives and key users (government and industry) for the purpose of stealing personal and corporate data with the expressed purpose of selling the information to other criminal elements.
IV	Criminal or state actors who are organized, highly technical, proficient, well funded professionals working in teams to discover new vulnerabilities and develop exploits.
V	State actors who create vulnerabilities through an active program to “influence” commercial products and services during design, development or manufacturing, or with the ability to impact products while in the supply chain to enable exploitation of networks and systems of interest.

# MITRE ATT&CK



# ATT&CK Threat Modeling

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the MITRE ATT&CK website at [attack.mitre.org](https://attack.mitre.org). The search bar contains the query "defense industry". A modal window is open, providing detailed information about the threat group:

**Groups**  
... campaigns targeting Japanese and Taiwanese organizations. G0025 APT17 Deputy Dog APT17 is a China-based threat group that has conducted network intrusions against U.S. government entities, the **defense industry**, law firms, information technology companies, mining companies, and non-government organizations. G0026 APT18 TG-0416, Dynamite Panda, Threat Group-0416 APT18 is a threat group that has operated sinc...

**APT17, Deputy Dog, Group G0025**  
APT17 APT17 is a China-based threat group that has conducted network intrusions against U.S. government entities, the **defense industry**, law firms, information technology companies, mining companies, and non-government organizations. [1] ID: G0025 ⓘ Associated Groups: Deputy Dog Version: 1.1 Created: 31 May 2017 Last Modifie...

The main page features the ATT&CK logo and navigation links: Getting Started, Take a Tour, Contribute, Blog, FAQ, and Random Page. A message in the footer states: "bringing our TAXII server back from a nap, and it will likely be down until our tomorrow morning (3/4). Our STIX content is still available at [github.com/mitre/cti](https://github.com/mitre/cti) in the meantime."

ATT&CK Matrix for Enterprise



# Presenting the Adversary

“China-based threat group that researchers have attributed to China's Ministry of State Security.”

## Campaigns:

- Operation Clandestine Fox
- Operation Clandestine Wolf
- Operation Double Tap



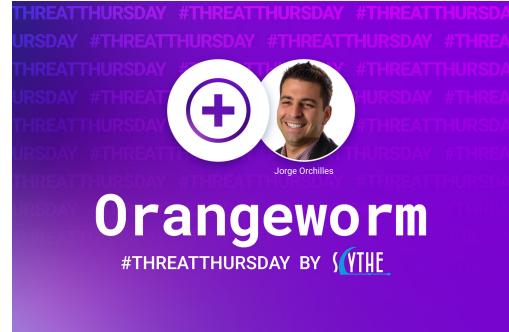
## AKA:

- Gothic Panda
- Pirpi
- UPS Team
- Buckeye
- TG-0110

<https://attack.mitre.org/groups/G0022/>  
<https://www.crowdstrike.com/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Gothic-panda.jpg>

# #ThreatThursday

- Introduce Adversary
- Consume CTI and map to MITRE ATT&CK
- Present Adversary Emulation Plan
- Share the plan on SCYTHE Community Threat Github
  - <https://github.com/scythe-io/community-threats/>
- Emulate Adversary
- How to defend against adversary
- All available to the community for free: <https://www.scythe.io/threatthursday>



# Orangeworm

Tactic	Description
Description	Orangeworm is a group that has targeted organizations in the healthcare sector in the United States, Europe, and Asia since at least 2015 for corporate espionage.
C2	T1071 - Application Layer Protocol; T1071.001 - Web Protocols; T1008 - Fallback Channel
Execution	T1218 - Signed Binary Proxy Execution; T1218.011 - Rundll32; T1059 - Command and Scripting Interpreter; T1059.003 - Windows Command Shell; T1569 - System Services; T1569.002 - Service Execution
Defense Evasion	T1036 - Masquerading; T1036.004 - Masquerade Task or Service; T1027 - Obfuscated Files or Information; T1027.001 - Binary Padding; T1070 - Indicator Removal on Host; T1070.004 - File Deletion; T1070.005 - Network Share Connection Removal; T1140 - Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information
Discovery	T1087 - Account Discovery; T1087.001 - Local Account; T1087.002 - Domain Account; T1201 - Password Policy Discovery; T1069 - Permission Groups Discovery; T1069.002 - Domain Groups; T1069.001 - Local Groups; T1057 - Process Discovery; T1018 - Remote System Discovery; T1082 - System Information Discovery; T1016 - System Network Configuration Discovery; T1049 - System Network Connections Discovery; T1033 - System Owner/User Discovery; T1007 - System Service Discovery; T1083 - File and Directory Discovery; T1124 - System Time Discovery; T1135 - Network Share Discovery
Persistence	T1136.001 - Local Account; T1136.002 - Domain Account; T1543.003 - Windows Service
Lateral Movement	T1021 - Remote Services; T1021.002 - SMB/Windows Admin Shares; T1105 - Ingress Tool Transfer; T1570 - Lateral Tool Transfer



# Table Top



# Table Top

Are there any preventative measures to stop this plan?

What Defenses are in place?

- Out of the box EDR with no tuning
- Minimal detections are expected, especially for system administration tools

What responses are anticipated from the SOC?

Purple Team Exercise is meant to provide baseline and help future detections through Detection Engineering process.

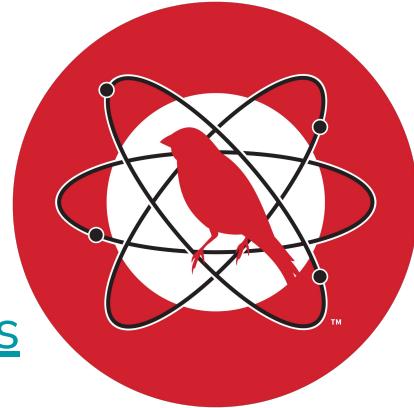
# Red Team: Emulation



# Atomic Red Team

Bringing atomic testing to the security space!

- <https://atomicredteam.io/atomicredteam>
- <https://github.com/redcanaryco/atomic-red-team>
- <https://github.com/redcanaryco/AtomicTestHarnesses>



Inspired Additional tooling and tests!

- <https://github.com/swimlane/atomic-operator>
- <https://github.com/DataDog/stratus-red-team>

# Example: Process Discovery (T1057)

tasklist

Process  
Discovery  
T1057



# Example: Process Discovery (T1057)

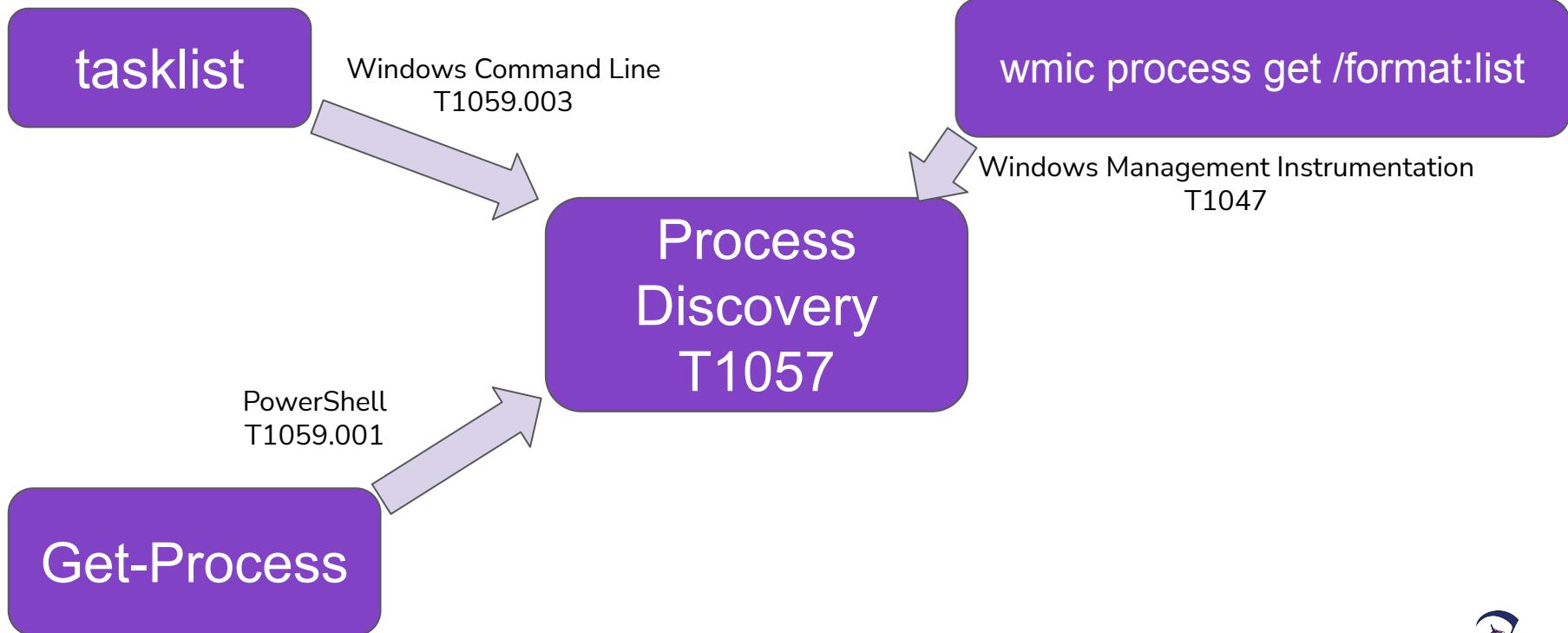
tasklist

Windows Command Line  
T1059.003

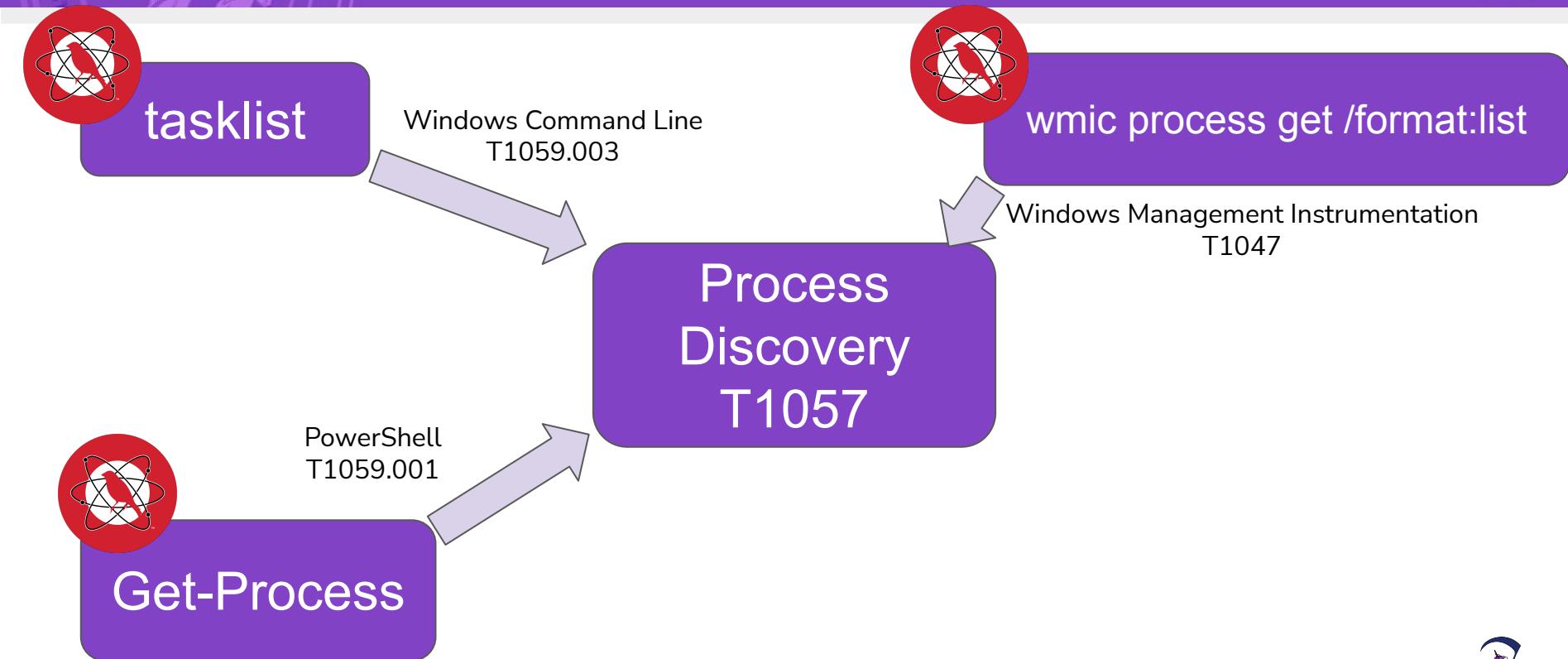
Process  
Discovery  
T1057



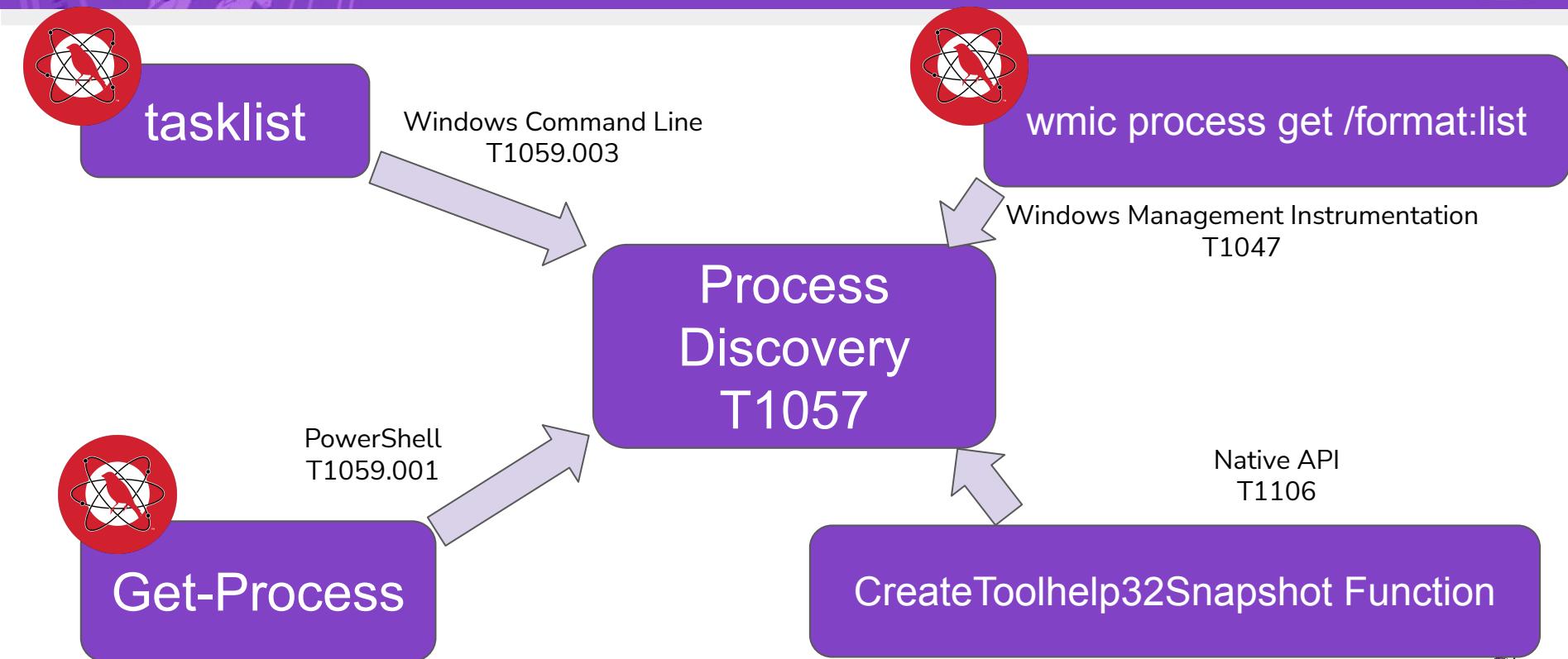
# Example: Process Discovery (T1057)



# Example: Process Discovery (T1057)



# Example: Process Discovery (T1057)



# Adding Command and Control

- Testing on endpoints works well, but a major component of adversaries is missing: Network traffic, or Command and Control (C2)!



# Determine Tools to Use - C2 Matrix



- Google Sheet of C2s
- <https://www.thec2matrix.com/>
- Find ideal C2 for your needs
- <https://howto.thec2matrix.com>
- SANS Slingshot C2 Matrix VM
- [@C2\\_Matrix](#)

Name	UI					Channel										Agents		
	Multi-User	UI	API	TCP	HTTP	HTTP2	HTTP3	DNS	DoH	ICMP	FTP	IMAP	MAPI	SMB	Windows	Linux	macOS	
Apfell	Yes	Web	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	
C3	Yes	Web	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	
CALDERA	Yes	GUI	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	
Cobalt Strike	Yes	Web	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	
Covenant	Yes	Web	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	
Dali	No	CLI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	BYOI	BYOI	BYOI	
Empire	No	GUI	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
EvilOSX	No	GUI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Faction C2	Yes	Web	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
FlyingAFalseFlag	No	CLI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
FudgeC2	Yes	Web	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	
godoh	No	CLI	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
ibombshell	No	GUI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
INNUENDO	Yes	Web	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Koadic C3	No	GUI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
MacShellSwift	No	CLI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	
Merlin	No	GUI	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Metasploit	Yes	CLI	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Nuages	Yes	GUI	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
Octopus	No	GUI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
PoshC2	Yes	CLI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
PowerHub	Yes	Web	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
Prismatic	Yes	GUI	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Pupy	No	CLI	No												Yes	Yes	No	
QuasarRAT																		
Red Team Toolkit	No	CLI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	
redViper																		
ReverseTCPShell	No	CLI	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
SCYTHE	Yes	Web	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
SilentTrinity	Yes	CLI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
Silver	Yes	CLI	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Throwback	Yes	Web	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	
Trevor C2	No	CLI	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Voodoo	Yes	Web	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	
WEASEL	No	CLI	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	

# Blue Team



# Basic Blue Team

- Were there alerts?
- What were the responses?
- Was the response appropriate?
- Are there logs for the TPPs conducted?

# Alert Response Process



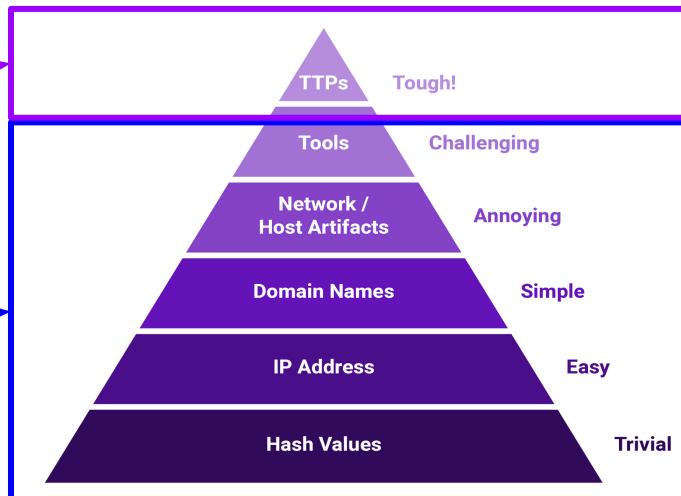
How are we evaluating people and process?

# Detection Engineering



# Detection Engineering

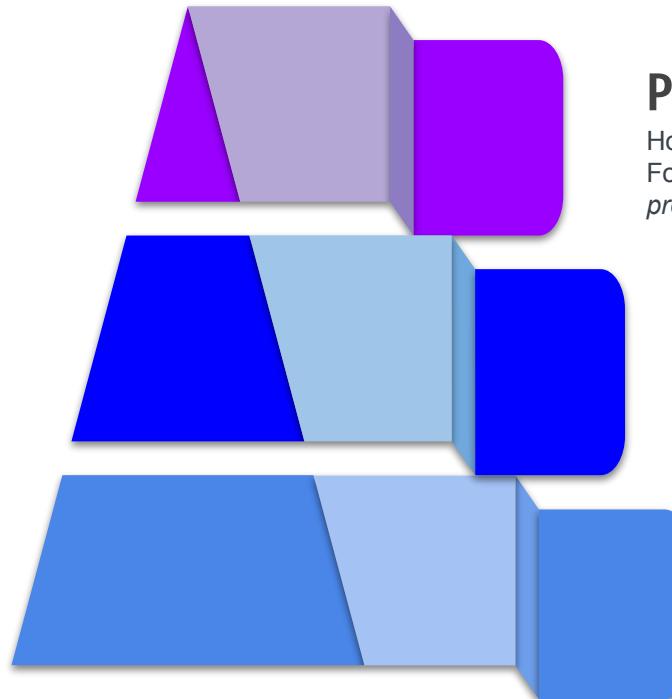
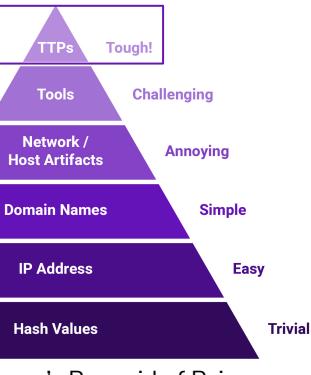
- Purpose is to detect suspicious events that may be indicative of malicious actors.
  - Areas may include:
    - SIEM
    - EDR
    - YARA
    - SNORT
- Our Focus →
- Vendor Focus →



David Bianco: <http://detect-respond.blogspot.com/2013/03/the-pyramid-of-pain.html>



# TTP Pyramid



## Procedures

How the technique was carried out.  
For example, the attacker used  
*procdump -ma lsass.exe lsass\_dump*

## Techniques

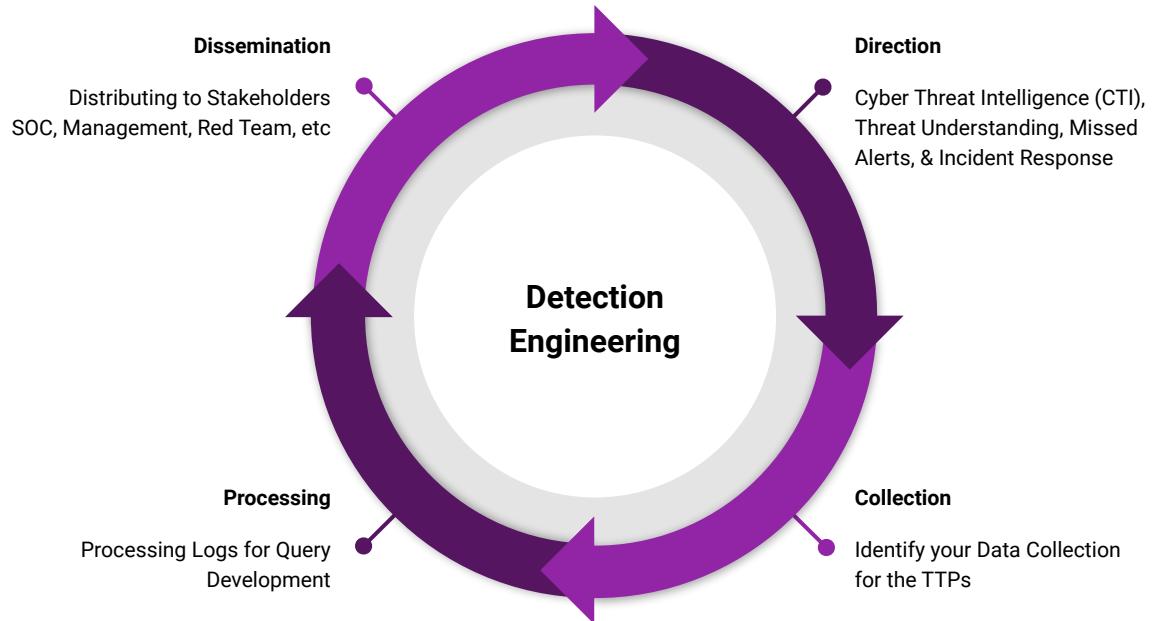
Techniques represent the tactical goal of the procedure. For example, T1003.001 - OS Credential Dumping: LSASS Memory.

## Tactics

Tactics represent the strategic goal of the adversary. For example, TA006 - Credential Access

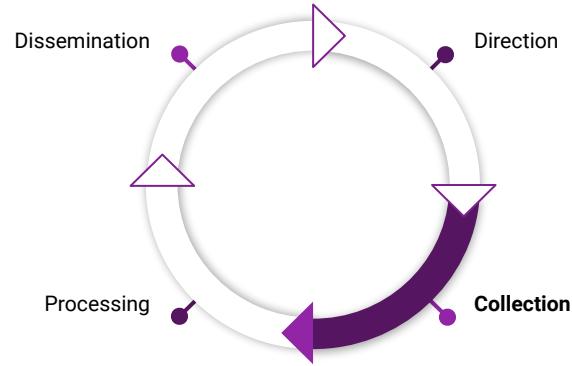
<https://www.scythe.io/library/summiting-the-pyramid-of-pain-the-ttp-pyramid>

# The Process



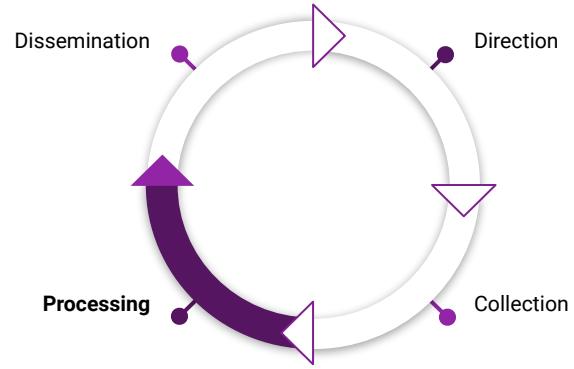
# Collection

- Verify data is collected around the event(s).
  - MITRE ATT&CK can assist in identifying data sources.
- Where are the logs found?
  - SIEM, EDR, Host, etc
- Are there visibility gaps in the logs?
  - If logging gaps are identified, they should be fixed or documented as gaps.
- Start hypothesising detection opportunities.



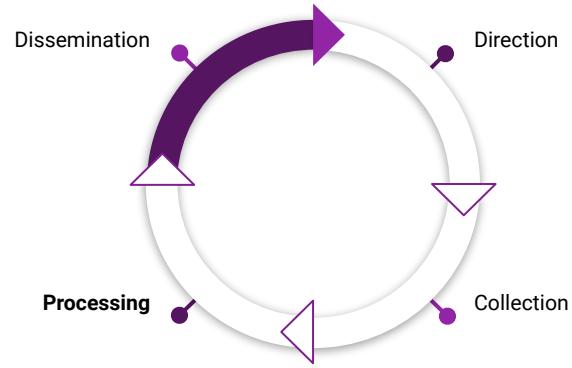
# Processing

- Now knowing what data to look into, hypothesize detection opportunities.
  - This may be from one source or correlations between sources and events.
- Test a hypothesis by casting a wide net.
- Narrowing the search until there are limited false positives.
  - Analytics can assist in narrowing down the search.



# Dissemination: Structure

- Leverage Palantir's Alerting and Detection Strategy (ADS) Framework.
- The Framework breaks down Tactical and Operational objectives into a concise structure:
  - Goal
  - Categorization
  - Strategy Abstract
  - Technical Context
  - Blind Spots and Assumptions
  - False Positives
  - Validation
  - Priority
  - Response



# Parting Thoughts: Learn Something about AI/ML!

## Resources:

- <https://www.deeplearning.ai>
  - I recommend “AI for Everyone” on Coursera to get started
- [https://twitter.com/0xdeaf/status/1531171538053091332?s=20&t=vLzl1fOw76\\_hB7r9GUi1eq](https://twitter.com/0xdeaf/status/1531171538053091332?s=20&t=vLzl1fOw76_hB7r9GUi1eq)
- <https://d2l.ai>
- <https://developers.google.com/machine-learning/crash-course>
- <https://github.com/dair-ai>



# Thank you!

@teschulz

