

# My Cyber Sense Is Tingling!

## Detection Engineering With Free Tools



Matthew Gracie  
BlueTeamCon  
2025

Who Am I And What Am I Talking About?

# What Is Cyber Threat Intelligence?

"Threat intelligence refers to the collection, processing, and analysis of data to understand a threat actor's motives, targets, and attack methods. It transforms raw data into actionable insights, enabling security teams to make informed, data-driven decisions. This shifts organizations from a reactive to a proactive stance in defending against cyber threats."

Crowdstrike\*

source: <https://www.crowdstrike.com/en-us/cybersecurity-101/threat-intelligence/>

# What Is Cyber Threat Intelligence?

"Threat intelligence is evidence-based knowledge, including context, mechanisms, indicators, implications and actionable advice, about an existing or emerging menace or hazard to assets that can be used to inform decisions regarding the subject's response to that menace or hazard."

Gartner\*

source: <https://www.gartner.com/en/documents/2487216>

Where Do We Get Threat Intelligence?

# Vendor Threat Intelligence



**Microsoft Threat Intelligence** @threatintel.microsoft.com · 13d

Microsoft has discovered a cluster of worldwide cloud abuse activity by new Russia-affiliated threat actor Void Blizzard (LAUNDRY BEAR), whose cyberespionage activity targets gov't, defense, transportation, media, NGO, and healthcare in Europe and North America. [msft.it/63324S9Jkp](https://msft.it/63324S9Jkp)



Void  
Blizzard

**New Russia-affiliated actor Void Blizzard targets critical sectors for espionage | Microsoft Security Blog**

Microsoft Threat Intelligence has discovered a cluster of worldwide cloud abuse activity conducted by a threat actor we track as Void Blizzard, who we...

© msft.it

# MITRE ATT&CK

Home > Groups > Scattered Spider

## Scattered Spider

**Scattered Spider** is a native English-speaking cybercriminal group that has been active since at least 2022.<sup>[1][2]</sup> The group initially targeted customer relationship management and business-process outsourcing (BPO) firms as well as telecommunications and technology companies. Beginning in 2023, **Scattered Spider** expanded its operations to compromise victims in the gaming, hospitality, retail, MSP, manufacturing, and financial sectors.<sup>[2]</sup> During campaigns, **Scattered Spider** has leveraged targeted social-engineering techniques, attempted to bypass popular endpoint security tools, and more recently, deployed ransomware for financial gain.<sup>[3][4][1][2][5]</sup>

ID: G1015

① **Associated Groups:** Roasted 0ktapus, Octo Tempest, Storm-0875

**Version:** 2.0

**Created:** 05 July 2023

**Last Modified:** 04 April 2024

[Version](#) [Permalink](#)

## Associated Group Descriptions

Name	Description
Roasted 0ktapus	[4]
Octo Tempest	[6]
Storm-0875	[6]

## Campaigns

ID	Name	First Seen	Last Seen	References	Techniques
C0027	C0027	June 2022 [5]	December 2022 [5]	[5]	Account Discovery: Cloud Account, Account Discovery: Email Account, Account Manipulation: Additional Cloud Roles, Account Manipulation: Device Registration, Account Manipulation: Additional Cloud Credentials, Data from Cloud Storage, Data from Information Repositories: Sharepoint, Exploit Public-Facing Application, External Remote Services, Gather Victim Identity Information: Credentials, Impersonation, Ingress Tool Transfer, Modify Cloud Compute Infrastructure: Create Cloud Instance, Multi-Factor Authentication Request Generation, Network Service Discovery, Obtain Capabilities: Tool, OS Credential Dumping: DCSync, Permission Groups Discovery: Cloud Groups, Phishing: Spearphishing Voice, Phishing for Information: Spearphishing Voice, Phishing for Information: Spearphishing Service, Protocol Tunneling, Proxy, Remote Access Tools, Remote Services: Cloud Services, Valid Accounts: Cloud Accounts, Web Service, Windows Management Instrumentation

## Techniques Used

ATT&CK® Navigator Layers ▾

Domain	ID	Name	Use
Enterprise	T1087	.002 Account Discovery: Domain Account	Scattered Spider leverages legitimate domain accounts to gain access to the target environment. <sup>[3][2]</sup>
		.003 Account Discovery: Email Account	During C0027, Scattered Spider accessed Azure AD to identify email addresses. <sup>[5]</sup>
		.004 Account Discovery: Cloud Account	During C0027, Scattered Spider accessed Azure AD to download bulk lists of group members and to identify privileged users, along with the email addresses and AD

# ISACs

[HOME](#)[ABOUT NCI](#)[ABOUT ISACS](#)[MEMBER ISACS](#)[REPORTS](#)[NEWS](#)[CONTACT](#)

ISACs are member-driven organizations, delivering all-hazards threat and mitigation information to asset owners and operators.

Sector-based Information Sharing and Analysis Centers collaborate with each other via the National Council of ISACs. Formed in 2003, the NCI today comprises 28 organizations. It is a coordinating body designed to maximize information flow across the private sector critical infrastructures and with government. Critical infrastructure sectors and subsectors that do not have ISACs are invited to contact the NCI to learn how they can participate in NCI activities.

Information Sharing and Analysis Centers help critical infrastructure owners and operators protect their facilities, personnel and customers from cyber and physical security threats and other hazards. ISACs collect, analyze and disseminate actionable threat information to their members and provide members with tools to mitigate risks and enhance resiliency. ISACs reach deep into their sectors, communicating critical information far and wide and maintaining sector-wide situational awareness.

**JOIN YOUR SECTOR'S ISAC TODAY**



# Community Threat Exchanges

We've found 75M + results

Pulses ( 343K )

Users ( 333K )

Groups ( 11K )

Indicators ( 74M )

Malware Families ( 29K )

Industries ( 19 )

Adversaries ( 346 )

Show: All ▾ Sort: Recently Modified ▾



## TCP active portscan

CREATED 12 MONTHS AGO | MODIFIED 1 MINUTE AGO by skhron-soc | Public | TLP: White

IPv4: 19780

This pulse contains hourly updated list of detected scanning hosts performing active portscan, also known as service probing. Notably, this activity requires TCP 3WHS to be established, therefore data published can't be forged.

portscan,



## Georgs Honeypot

CREATED 4 YEARS AGO | MODIFIED 1 MINUTE AGO by georgengelmann | Public | TLP: White

IPv4: 12828

Honeypot

honeypot, kfsensor, rdp, ssh



## IP Addresses Logged by the Rosethorn PotNet

CREATED 2 YEARS AGO | MODIFIED 3 MINUTES AGO by WhiteFireOCN | Public | TLP: Green

IPv4: 35526

Malicious activity detections from a small network of honeypots that spans multiple ISPs and geographic locations. Behavior is logged on ports 21, 22, 23, 80, 161, 3306, and 5900.



## Sauron - Malware Domain Feed V2

CREATED 3 YEARS AGO | MODIFIED 12 MINUTES AGO by otvrobottwo | Public | TLP: White

Domain: 80306 | Hostname: 48185

Command and Control domains for Sauron. These domains are extracted from a number of sources, and are suspicious.

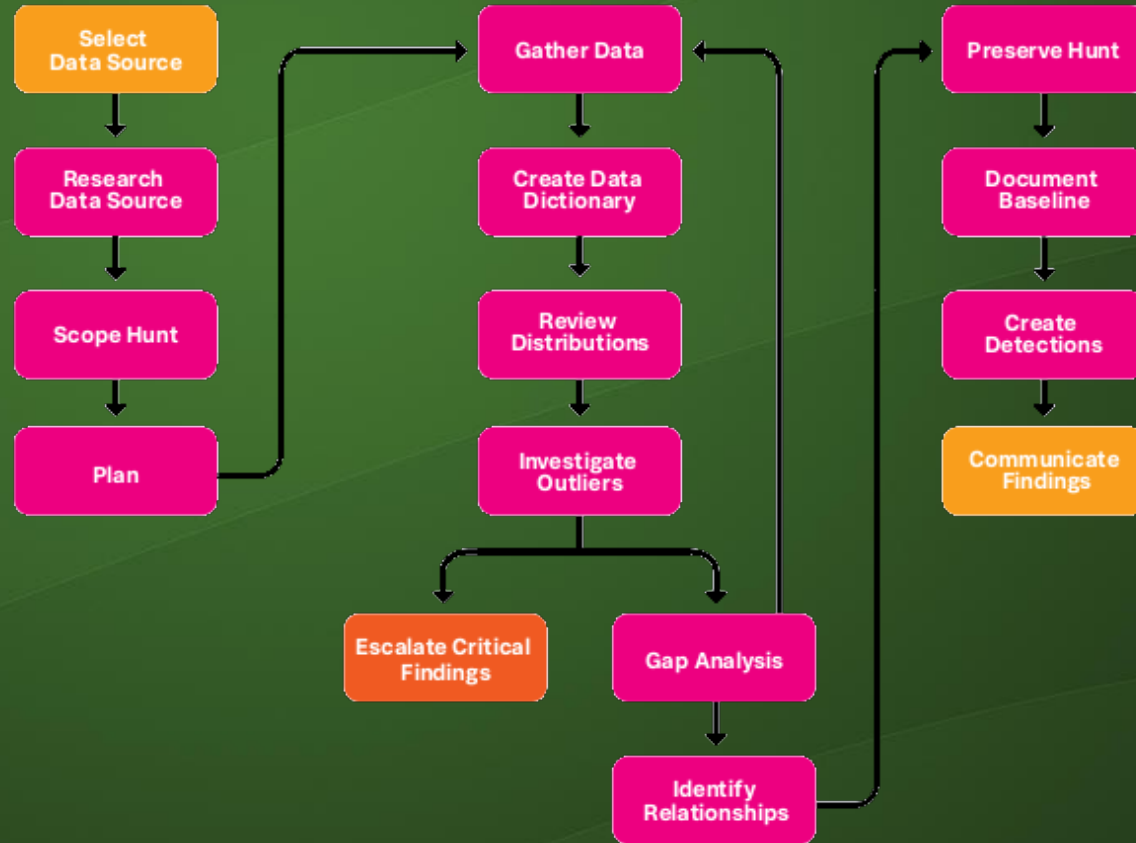


## LCIA HoneyNet Data - June 2025 - Mailoney

CREATED 7 DAYS AGO | MODIFIED 13 MINUTES AGO by dm\_lacia | Public | TLP: Green

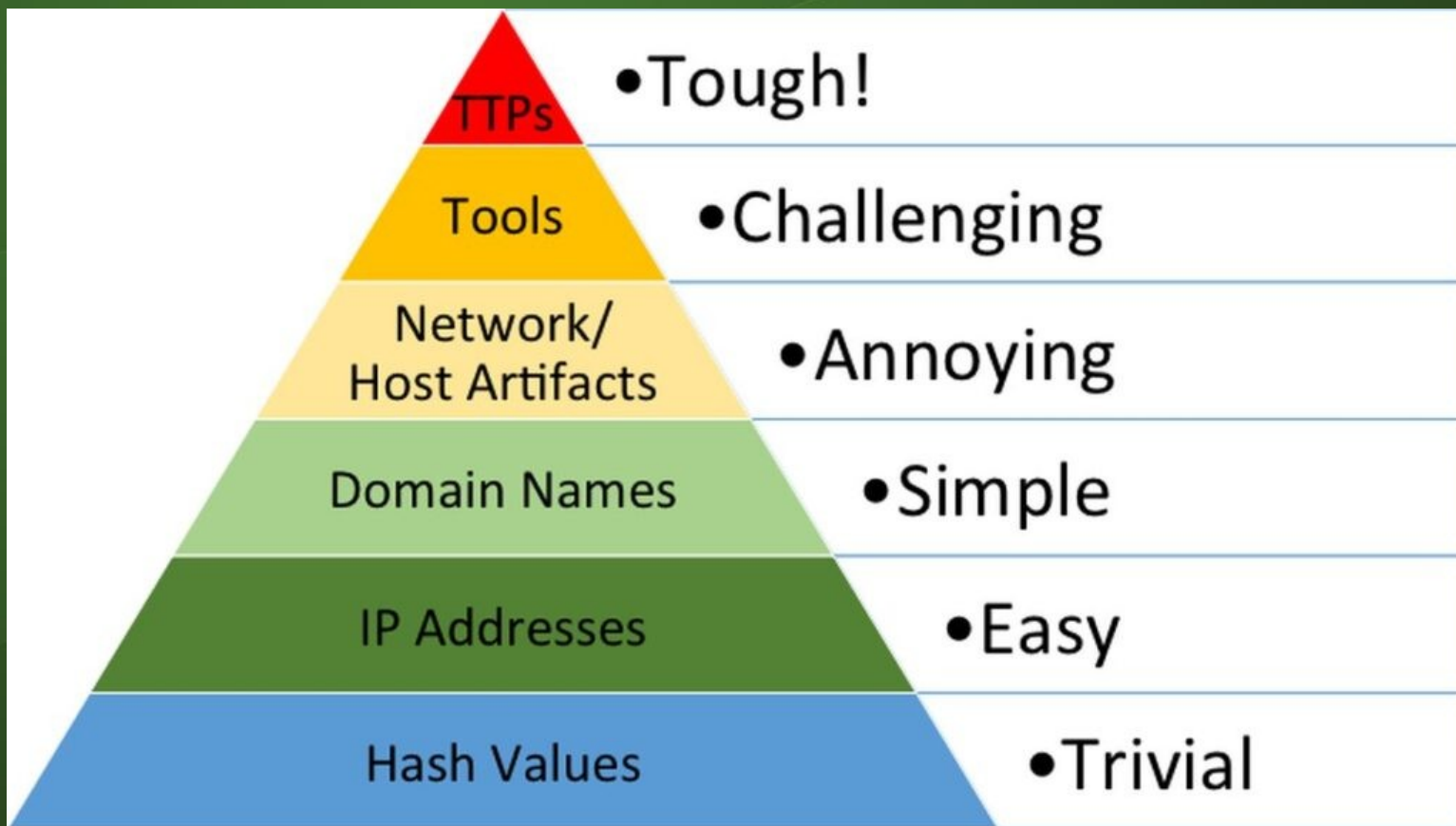
IPv4: 160

# Roll Your Own



source: PEAK Threat Hunting Framework

# The Pyramid Of Pain



How Do We Leverage Threat Intelligence?

# Security Onion

"Security Onion is a free and open platform built by defenders for defenders. It includes network visibility, host visibility, intrusion detection honeypots, log management, and case management. Security Onion has been downloaded over 2 million times and is being used by security teams around the world to monitor and defend their enterprises."

source: <https://docs.securityonion.net/en/2.4/about.html>

# Security Onion

"Security Onion is a free and open platform built by defenders for defenders. It includes **network visibility**, **host visibility**, intrusion detection honeypots, **log management**, and case management. Security Onion has been downloaded over 2 million times and is being used by security teams around the world to monitor and defend their enterprises."

source: <https://docs.securityonion.net/en/2.4/about.html>

# Security Onion

## network visibility

- Suricata IDS engine

- Zeek metadata generation and logging

- file carving

## host visibility

- endpoint logs and telemetry from Windows, OS X, and Linux

## log management

- network and cloud service logs

# Detection Languages

- Zeek Intel
- Suricata
- YARA
- Sigma



# The Detection Engineering Workflow



```
graph LR; A[Choose Your Indicator] --> B[Identify The Data Source]; B --> C[Write And Test The Detection]; C --> D[Deploy To Production]; D --> E[Monitor And Tune];
```

Choose  
Your  
Indicator

Identify  
The  
Data Source

Write And  
Test The  
Detection

Deploy  
To  
Production

Monitor  
And  
Tune

# Workflow Example

# Threat Intelligence Example

A recent threat hunt identified data being exfiltrated from a workstation by a malicious process named wombat.exe. This executable had an original filename of dnsExfiltrator.exe and was apparently sourced from Github. It was written to disk by another executable called AVUpdate.exe, which was downloaded from a counterfeit web site that the user was sent to by a phishing email.

Wombat.exe was exfiltrating files using encoded DNS subdomains in very long TXT queries, all for the domain threescoops.online.

We have the email address that sent the phishing email, the hash values for AVUpdate.exe and wombat.exe, as well as the IP addresses for the counterfeit web site, the probable C2 for AVUpdate, and the destination of the DNS requests.

How do we detect this in the future?

# The Detection Engineering Workflow



Choose  
Your  
Indicator

Identify  
The  
Data Source

Write And  
Test The  
Detection

Deploy  
To  
Production

Monitor  
And  
Tune

# Threat Intelligence Example

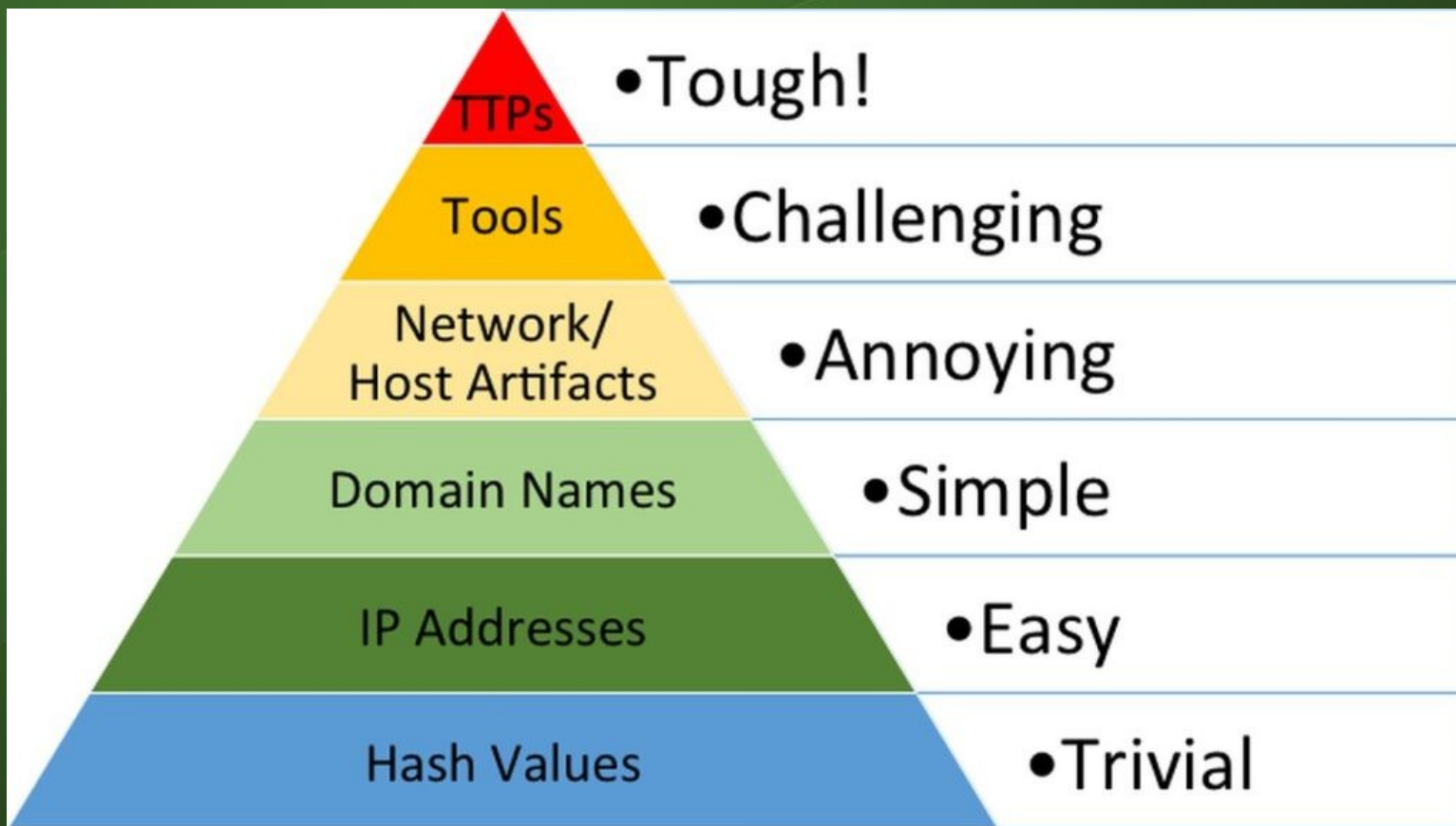
A recent threat hunt identified data being exfiltrated from a workstation by a malicious process named **wombat.exe**. This executable had an original filename of **dnsExfiltrator.exe** and was apparently sourced from Github. It was written to disk by another executable called **AVUpdate.exe**, which was downloaded from a counterfeit web site that the user was sent to by a phishing email.

Wombat.exe was exfiltrating files using **encoded DNS subdomains in very long TXT queries**, all for the domain **threescoops.online**.

We have the **email address** that sent the phishing email, the **hash values** for AVUpdate.exe and wombat.exe, as well as the **IP addresses** for the counterfeit web site, the probable C2 for AVUpdate, and the destination of the DNS requests.

How do we detect this in the future?

# The Pyramid Of Pain



# Threat Intelligence Example

A recent threat hunt identified data being exfiltrated from a workstation by a malicious process named **wombat.exe**. This executable had an original filename of **dnsExfiltrator.exe** and was apparently sourced from Github. It was written to disk by another executable called **AVUpdate.exe**, which was downloaded from a counterfeit web site that the user was sent to by a phishing email.

Wombat.exe was exfiltrating files using **encoded DNS subdomains in very long TXT queries**, all for the domain **threescoops.online**.

We have the **email address** that sent the phishing email, the **hash values** for AVUpdate.exe and wombat.exe, as well as the **IP addresses** for the counterfeit web site, the probable C2 for AVUpdate, and the destination of the DNS requests.

How do we detect this in the future?

# The Detection Engineering Workflow



Choose  
Your  
Indicator

Identify  
The  
Data Source

Write And  
Test The  
Detection

Deploy  
To  
Production

Monitor  
And  
Tune



# Potential Data Sources

- DNS metadata from Zeek
- DNS queries in endpoint telemetry
- Logs from internal DNS server
- Custom Suricata IDS signature

# Potential Data Sources

- DNS metadata from Zeek
- DNS queries in endpoint telemetry
- Logs from internal DNS server
- Custom Suricata IDS signature

# The Detection Engineering Workflow



Choose  
Your  
Indicator

Identify  
The  
Data Source

Write And  
Test The  
Detection


Deploy  
To  
Production

Monitor  
And  
Tune

# Sigma Detection Rule


## Detecting Lengthy DNS TXT Requests

 OVERVIEW

 OPERATIONAL NOTES

 DETECTION SOURCE

 TUNING (0)

 HISTORY

### Summary

This will raise an alert for any DNS request spotted by Zeek that is longer than 200 characters and of type TXT.

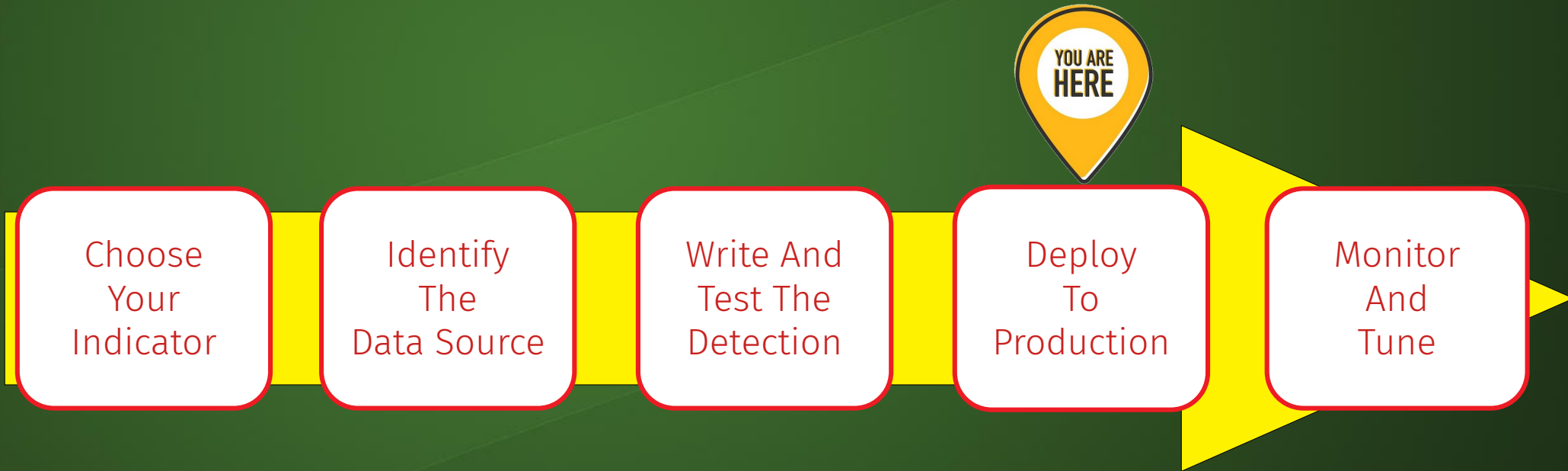
### References

<https://so-manager/#!/case/2pkuSJEBfcdMPWCpkW9X>

### Detection Logic

```
logsource:
  category: dns
  product: zeek
detection:
  selection_dns_type:
    dns.query.type_name: TXT
  selection_dns_query_length:
    dns.query.length|gte: '200'
  condition: all of selection_*
```

# The Detection Engineering Workflow



# The Detection Engineering Workflow

Choose  
Your  
Indicator

Identify  
The  
Data Source

Write And  
Test The  
Detection

Deploy  
To  
Production

Monitor  
And  
Tune



# Threat Intelligence Example 2

(Adapted from <https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/triton-actor-ttp-profile-custom-attack-tools-detections/>)

A recent threat bulletin outlines the behavior of a group using Scheduled Task XML Triggers as a persistence mechanism. A compromised Windows server would have a new daily task installed via `schtasks.exe`, pointing to an unsigned executable named `napupdatedb.exe`. This executable would open a PLINK backdoor for remote SSH connections.

How do we detect this in the future?

# Threat Intelligence Example 2

(Adapted from <https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/triton-actor-ttp-profile-custom-attack-tools-detections/>)

A recent threat bulletin outlines the behavior of a group using **Scheduled Task XML Triggers** as a persistence mechanism. A compromised **Windows server** would have a new daily task installed via **schtasks.exe**, pointing to an unsigned executable named **napupdatedb.exe**. This executable would open a **PLINK** backdoor for **remote SSH connections**.

How do we detect this in the future?



# The Detection Engineering Workflow



```
graph LR; A[Choose Your Indicator] --> B[Identify The Data Source]; B --> C[Write And Test The Detection]; C --> D[Deploy To Production]; D --> E[Monitor And Tune];
```

Choose  
Your  
Indicator

Identify  
The  
Data Source

Write And  
Test The  
Detection

Deploy  
To  
Production

Monitor  
And  
Tune

# Conclusion

# Questions?



@infosecgoon



infosecgoon@roadflares.org



<https://www.github.com/infosecgoon>