



DEPARTMENT OF  
NETWORKED SYSTEMS  
AND SERVICES

## Security Operations

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## Contents

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- Vulnerability management
- Patch management
- Configuration management
- Change management
- AAA (previously)
  
- Situation awareness (logging and monitoring)
- Intrusion detection (soon)
  
- Incident management
- Backup and recovery

## PreDeCo - Ransomware

- Vulnerability management
- Patch management
- Coi
- Cha
- AA

- Situ
- Int

- Inc
- Bac



Prevention

Detection

Correction

Security is a pain in the \*\*\* in the short run but paying ransom is worse

## Ransomware incidents

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- What is ransomware?
  - Type of malware
  - Prevents you from accessing your device and the data
  - Demand ransom for decryption
  - Optional: publish data
- Early pitfalls
  - Problems with crypto
  - Copied content instead of local rewrite
  - Volume Shadow Copy Service
  - Only parts are encrypted for efficiency
- Unfortunately current implementations are corrected

## Wannacry - 2017

- On Friday May 12<sup>th</sup> 2017, several organizations were affected by a new Ransomware strain.
- The Ransomware was very successful in part because it used a SMB vulnerability to spread inside networks.
- The vulnerability was patched by Microsoft in March for supported versions of Windows.
- The exploit, known under the name ETERNALBLUE, was released in April as part of a leak of NSA tools.
- Estimated > 200,000 victims according to various anti virus vendors in 150 countries
- Economic loss up to US\$4 billion



Source: SANS Technology Institute CC-SA 4.0

## Wannacry - 2017

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- Infection: vulnerable smb (Eternalblue by NSA/The Shadow Brokers), patch existed by the time
- Network worm
- Files with specific extensions were encrypted.
- The victim saw a ransom message asking for approx. \$300  
Ransomware demands were increase to \$600 after 3 days. After 7 days, the files may not longer be recoverable.
- The ransomware also installed a backdoor to access the system remotely via port 445 (Double Pulsar, also part of the NSA tool set).
- Kill switch exist  
(iuqerfsodp9ifjaposdfjhgosurijfaewrwergwea.com registered in a few hours)
- Attribution: North Korea

Source: SANS Technology Institute CC-SA 4.0

Eternalblue was stolen and leaked by The Shadow Brokers

## Colonial Pipeline attack - 2021

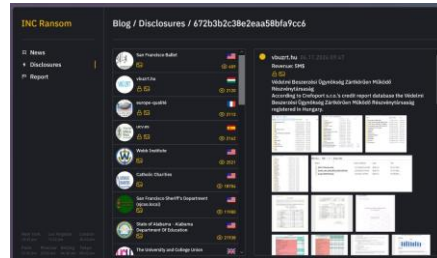
- Attackers used a compromised VPN password
- Targeted the billing system
- Ransom paid (75 bitcoin)
- 63.7 bitcoin recovered
- Pipelines restarted in 1 week

Major U.S. gasoline pipeline hit by cyberattack



## Anyone can be a victim

- Synlab – Synnovis (hospital, operations cancelled, London), 2024
- Hipocrate Information System (hospitals central system, Romania), 2024
- UMC Health System (hospital, USA), 2024
- Sch KSzK, 2023
- CNEA Bariloche Atomic Center (Comision Nacional de Energia Atomica), 2024
- Védelmi Beszerzési Ügynökség  
2024
- Nemzeti Régészeti Intézet  
2025



<https://www.rionegro.com.ar/politica/hackearon-el-sistema-de-la-cnea-y-los-efectos-llegaron-al-centro-atómico-bariloche-3911600/>





## Vulnerability management

- Continuous proactive process (lifecycle)
- Reduce risk by minimizing exploitable vulnerabilities
- Why not patching all vulns?
  - Unknown vuln/asset
  - Limited manpower
  - Downtime restrictions



# Vulnerability management

- Discovery
  - Create full asset inventory
  - Automatic vulnerability discovery
- Prioritize assets
  - How critical is the asset
  - How critical is the asset group (HA is against random failures)
- Assessment
  - Criticality of asset
  - Vulnerability classification
- Reporting
  - Create a mitigation plan
- Remediation
  - Fix the vulnerabilities with highest risk
- Update asset and vuln list (GOTO step 1)



## Patch management

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- Part of vulnerability management
- Centralized process
- Apply vendor-issued patches (discovery might not find it yet)
- Remember: WannaCry used a patched well known SMB vuln
- Patch may contain
  - Security patch
  - Bug fixes
  - New features
- Patches must be prioritized
- Patches should be tested
- Related systems and admins must coordinate (downtime for others)
- Patch management is mandatory for compliance

## Configuration management

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- Configuration must be managed of
  - Software assets
  - Operating system
  - Network devices
  - Hardware...
- Version control is generally used (git, svn, etc)
- Infrastructure as code
  - Terraform
  - Ansible, Salt Stack...
- Configuration should not be changed directly
- Auditing capabilities
- Helps recovery a lot

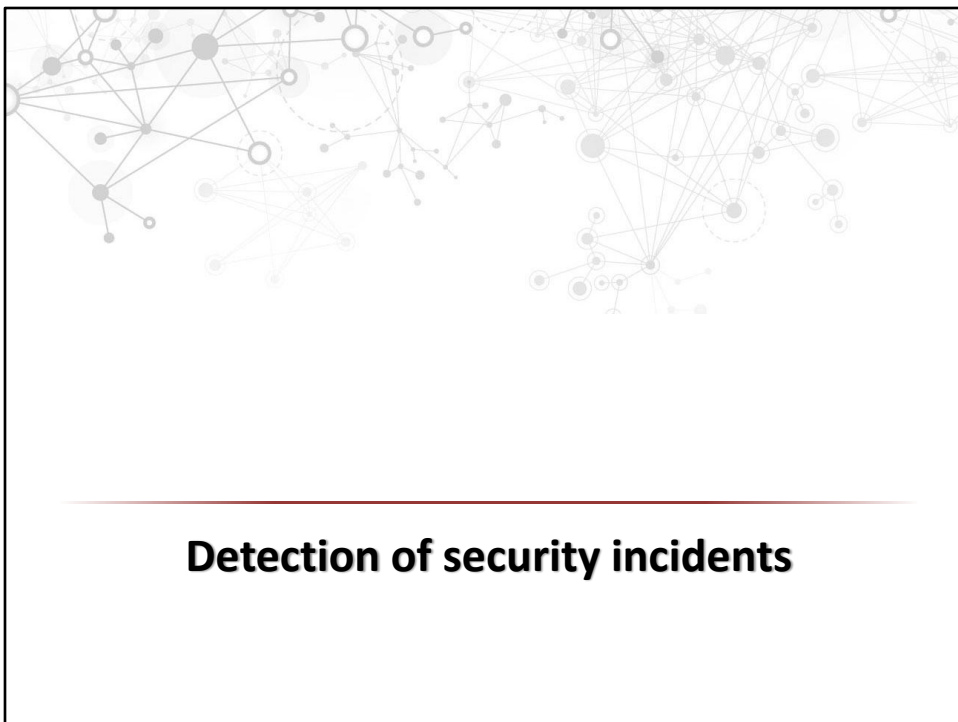


## Change management

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- New systems and services are needed
  - Feature request
  - Support
  - Price
- Systems and services must be changed
- Select new candidates
- Evaluate candidates
- Design coexistence of systems
- Implement change
- Evaluation of change
- Risk exposure may change





## What is a log

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- LOG = record of events (entries)
- Goal of logging:
  - Debugging
  - Performance optimization
  - Authorized and unauthorized activity recording
  - Record of compliance
  - Policy



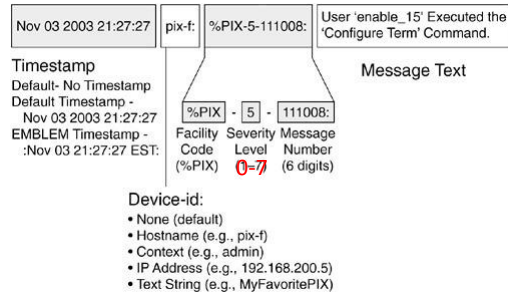
## Who creates logs

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- Applications
  - Web server
  - Email server
  - VPN
  - DHCP Server
  - AV
  - ...
- Network devices
  - Firewall
  - Switch
  - ...
- OS
- IDS, IPS
- ...

## BSD syslog (RFC3164)

- Developed in 80s
- Orig: part of sendmail
- RFC3164 2001
  - Documents the status
- RFC5424 2009
  - Standardizes syslog
  - Obsoletes 3164



- Device ID: usually hostname (no FQDN)
- Facility: kern, user mail, daemon, auth...
- Severity: 0-Emergency, 7-Debug
- MSG: Latin-1 free text

## Problems with Syslog

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- UDP 514
- No unique identifier for events
- No acknowledgement
- No security (integrity protection or encryption)
- Timestamp: no year or timezone in many cases
- No multiline messages
- No L7 acknowledgement
  
- Best effort service no reliability

## Syslog API and syslogd

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- Applications normally uses the Syslog API
- Syslog events goes to /dev/log
- syslogd collects records from /dev/log and stores them (default: /var/log/syslog) according to a configuration

```
#include <syslog.h>
```

```
syslog (LOG_MAKEPRI(LOG_LOCAL1, LOG_ERROR), "Unable to make  
network connection to %s. Error=%m", host);
```

```
import syslog
```

```
syslog.syslog(syslog.LOG_ERR, "Some error happened")
```

## Reliable Delivery for syslog (RFC 3195 2001)

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- Based on original RFC3164
- Uses TCP (acknowledgement)
- Cryptographic protection
  - Encryption: TLS\_RSA\_WITH\_3DES\_EDE\_CBC\_SHA
  - Authentication: based on MD5
- Raw profile: single line
- Cooked profile: multiline, xml
  
- Error codes from HTTP:
  - 200 Success
  - 500 General syntax error
  - ...

## New standards for syslog

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- RFC 3195 2001 TCP and some security
- **RFC5424** 2009 - Obsoletes old RFC3164
- RFC5425 - RFC5424 over TLS
- RFC5426 - RFC5424 over UDP
- RFC5427 - PRI definitions
- RFC5848 – digitally signed RFC5424 (SDATA field)
  
- Well-defined timestamp format
- Multiline
- TCP and TLS
- UTF-8
  - <165>1 2003-08-24T05:14:15.000003-07:00 192.0.2.1 myproc 8710
  - - %% It's time to make the do-nuts.

## Problems with 5424 extensions

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- No L7 acknowledgement
- No authentication (only implicit with optional TLS)
- Only optional integrity protection
- Not widely implemented (but: syslog-ng)

## Other logging solutions

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- Microsoft eventlog
  - EVT API -> file (%SystemRoot%\System32\winevt\Logs\\*.evtx)
  - Event Viewer
  - Local log facility
  - Remote log: RPC
- SQL (INSERT...)
- Text files (e.g Python import logging)
- CLF (Common Log Format) standard text log format for web server
  - 127.0.0.1 user-identifier frank [10/Oct/2000:13:55:36 -0700] "GET /apache\_pb.gif HTTP/1.0" 200 2326
- SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol)
  - GET/SET Request
  - Trap
  - SNMP v1-2c-3 (<3: cleartext community strings, 3: confidentiality, integrity, auth)
- SDEE (Security Device Event Exchange)
  - Mainly for security events
  - Standard of International Computer Security Association
  - Mainly used by Cisco



## Structured logging

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- JSON (JavaScript Object Notation):
  - { "sender" : "michael" "recipient": { "name" : "michael", "name" : "andrea", "name" : "itay" } subject:"I <3 logs" }
- WELF (WebTrends Enhanced Log file Format):
  - pri=123 date=2015-08-17T10:10:10.000+01:00  
host=test program=pf pid=123 IN=eth0 OUT=  
MAC=00:4a:54:c2:f7:e5:00:08:e5:ff:fd:90:08:00  
SRC=1.2.3.4 DST=5.6.7.8 LEN=40 TOS=0x00 PREC=0x00  
TTL=49 ID=0 DF PROTO=TCP SPT=51777 DPT=80  
WINDOW=0 RES=0x00 RST URGP=0
- XML

## Common problems

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- Different formats
- Not normalized (e.g. timestamp)
- String instead of structured text
- Volume problems
  - High EPS (event per second)
  - Lot of concurrent connections
  - 1 event creates lot of messages

## Storage questions

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- Local storage
  - No traffic
  - Hard to use
- Central storage
  - Network usage
  - „Safe” place (attacker cannot erase after compromise)
- Mixed storage
  - Locally interesting
  - Locally interesting but without storage (router, switch)
  - Globally interesting
- Encrypted storage?
- Digitally signed storage?

# Packet capture

- Full packet capture (mainly for forensics, later in this lecture)
- Flow collection
  - Who communicates with whom at when
  - No payload collected
  - NetFlow / IPFIX (NetFlow v10)
  - Source IP, Destination IP, Source port, Destination port, Time, Header fields...
  - Sender: router, switch, firewall, server...
  - Destination: flow collector
  - Analyser: dashboard, report, alert



## The ELK Stack

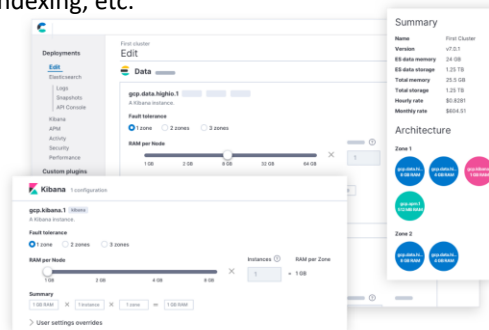
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- ELK = elasticsearch, logstash, kibana
- One of the most popular log management and analytics solutions
- All open source software

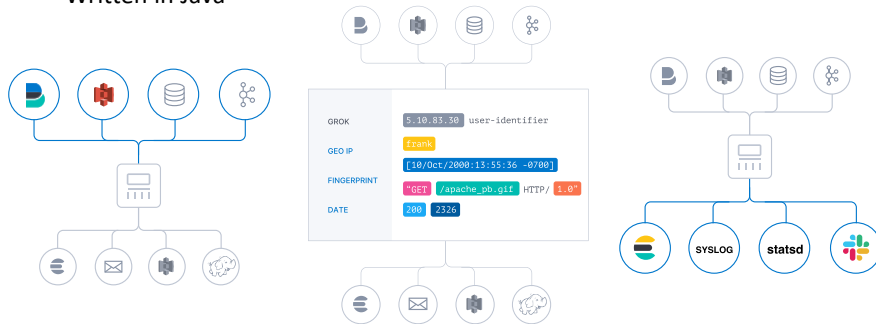
# The ELK Stack

- Elasticsearch
  - A search and analytics engine, based on Apache Lucene
  - A NoSQL database
  - Has a REST API
  - Sharding and replica support
  - Plugins for analysis, alerting, indexing, etc.
  - Written in Java



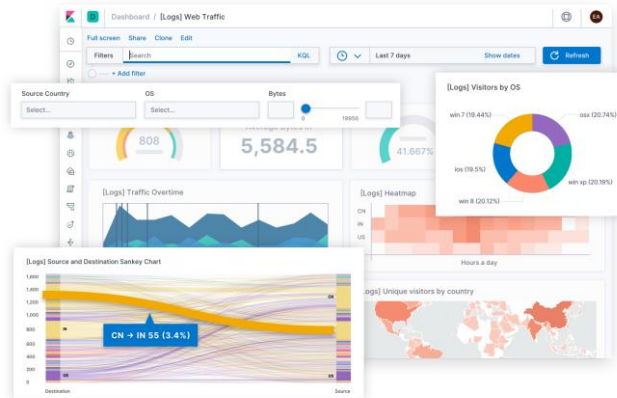
# The ELK Stack

- Logstash (Alternative: Fluentd/td-agent)
  - Collects and processes logs from different sources
  - Supports more than 50 different source formats
  - Supports several output formats
  - In our case, it feeds data to Elasticsearch
  - Written in Java



# The ELK Stack

- Kibana
  - A web interface to query data in Elasticsearch
  - Data visualization, dashboards
  - Written in node.js





# The ELK Stack

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- Beats (Alternative: Fluentbit)
  - Originally not part of the ELK stack
  - Collects and feeds extra information (not necessarily logs)
  - Written in Go



**Filebeat**  
Log Files



**Metricbeat**  
Metrics



**Packetbeat**  
Network Data



**Winlogbeat**  
Windows Event Logs



**Auditbeat**  
Audit Data

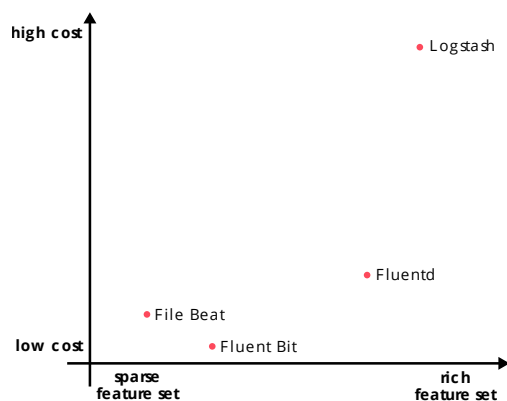


**Heartbeat**  
Uptime Monitoring



**Functionbeat**  
Serverless Shipper

## Logstash vs Beats vs Fluentd vs Fluentbit

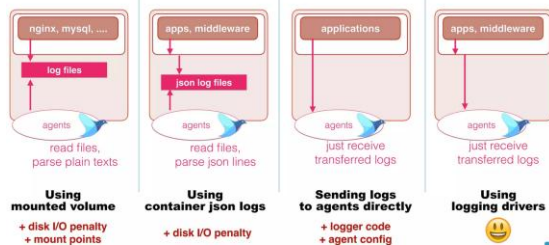


Source: velebit.ai

## Distributed logging

- Microservices (containers)
- Everchanging infra (no fixed storage/network/roles)
  - Transfer logs asap
  - Push logs (instead of pull)
  - Inject names/tags into log records (filter logs based on tags later)

### How to Ship Logs from Docker Containers



Source:  
The Patterns of  
Distributed Logging  
and Containers  
(by Satoshi Tagomori)

<https://www.slideshare.net/tagomoris/the-patterns-of-distributed-logging-and-containers>

# Where to aggregate?

Many possible solutions

Different patterns with

pros and cons

In general:

- Source: yes

- Destination: ?

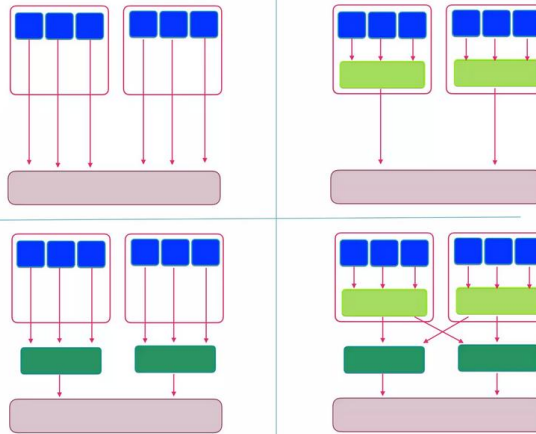
**Destination  
Side  
Aggregation**

**YES**

**Source Side Aggregation**

**NO**

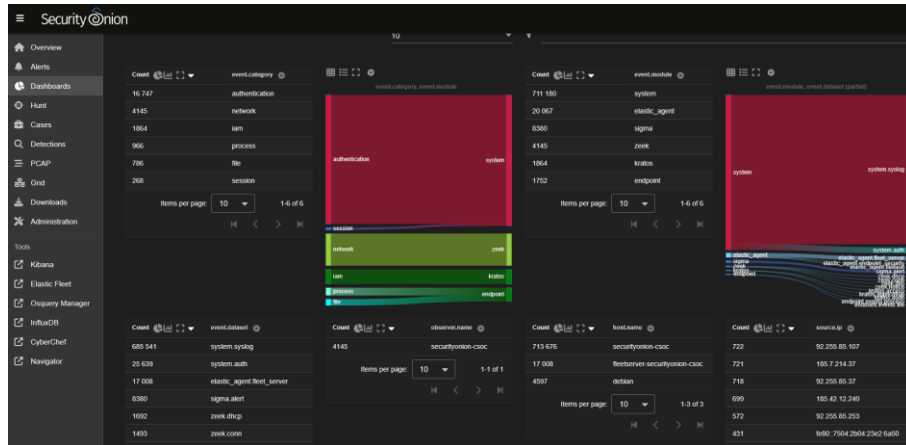
**YES**

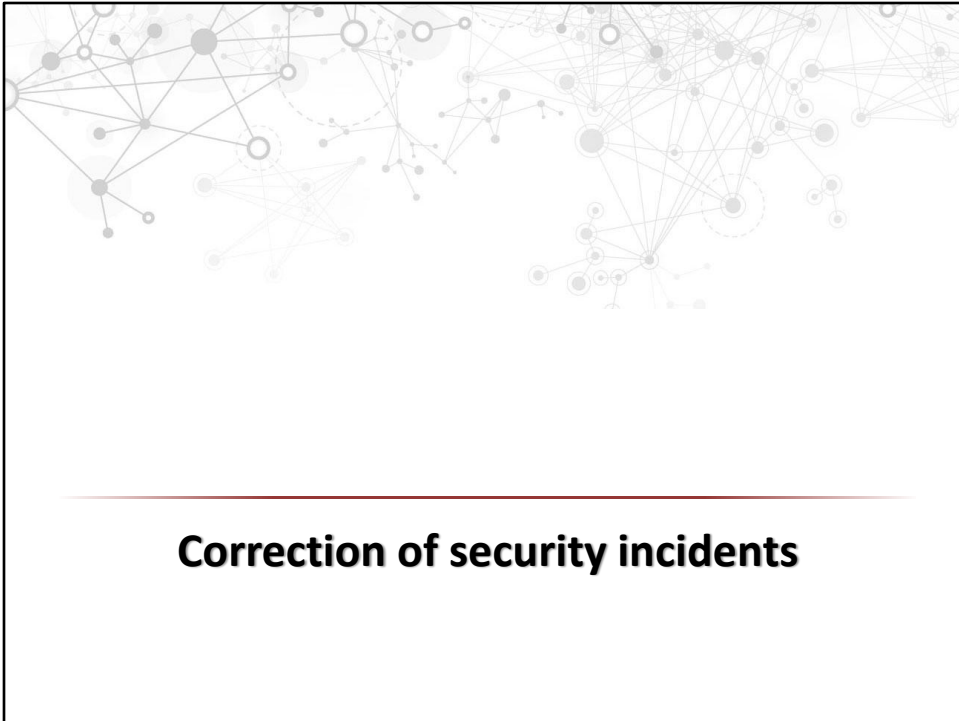


Source: The Patterns of Distributed Logging  
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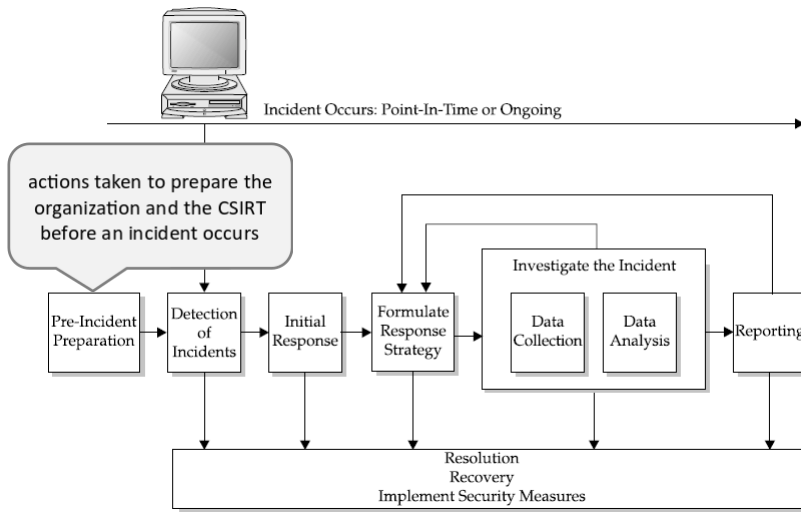
# SIEM

- To be discussed soon

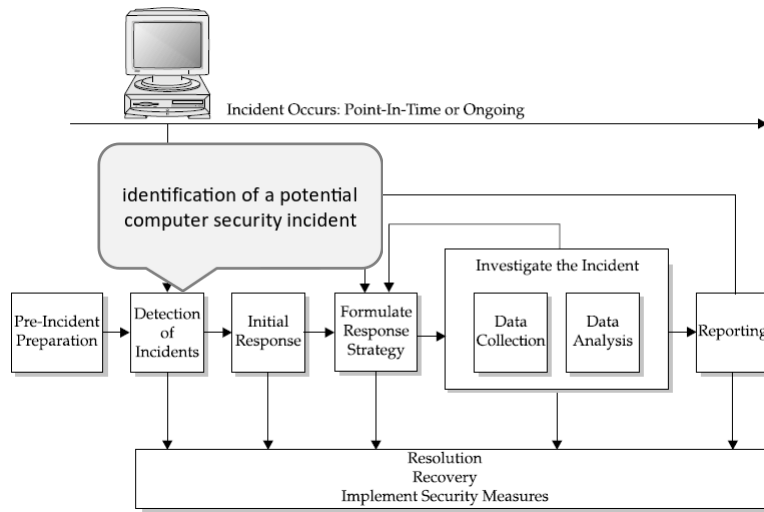




# Incident management



# Incident management





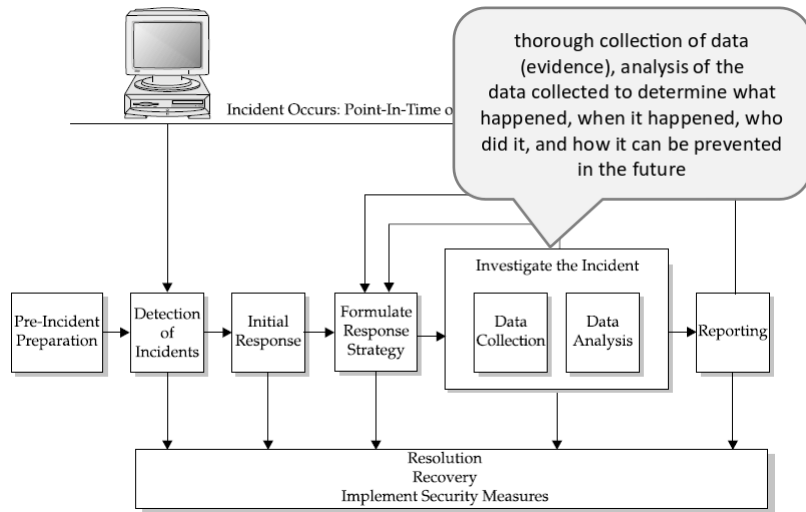
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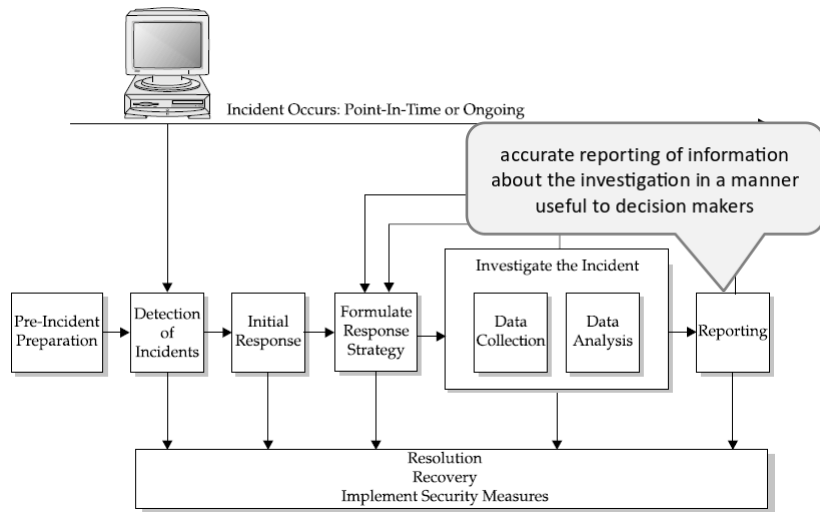
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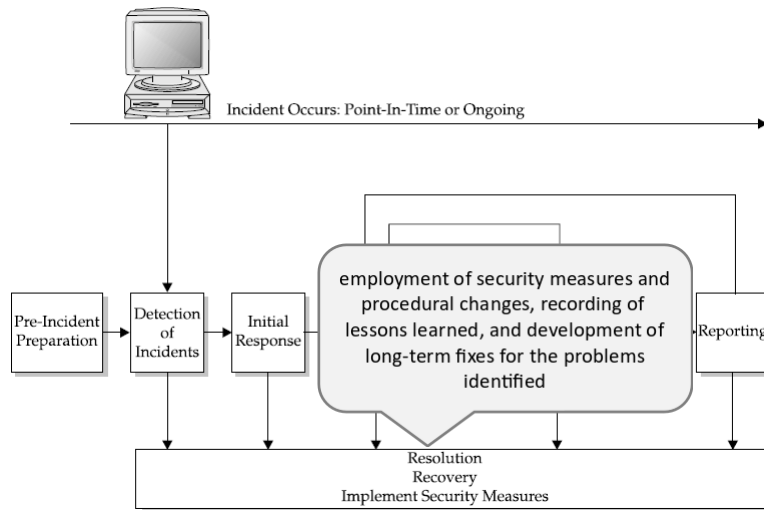
# Incident management



# Incident management



# Incident management



## Backup and recovery

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- No recovery without backups
- No recovery without functional backups
- 3-2-1 rule of backups
  - 3 copies of the data made
  - 2 different storage media (e.g., HDD vs tape)
  - 1 copy offsite
- Full backup vs differential vs (backward) incremental backups
  - Different storage space requirement
  - Different recovery time
- Encrypted backups
- Compressed backups
- Golden images

Original Data usage: 98.892 TiB  
On-Disk usage: 1.831 TiB (1.85%)  
On-Disk chunks: 801597  
Deduplication Factor: 54.00

Differential: change since last full

Incremental: change since last backup

## Discussion

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- Hogy szerzel tudomást a sérülékenységekről?
- Mi alapján döntöd el, hogy mennyire sürgős? Tudsz esetleg példát mondani?
- Hogy követed a konfigurációkat?
- Hogy követed az asseteket? Hogy veszed észre, hogy új eszköz jelent meg a hálózaton?
- Ha le kell cserélni egy szoftvert, akkor mi a javasolt eljárásrend, ha nem akarsz a biztonsági kitettségedet növelni?
- Hogy döntöd el, hogy mit és hogyan kell menteni?
- Kellett már adatot mentésből visszaállítani?
- Kinek milyen loggyűjtést javasolnál?

## Control questions

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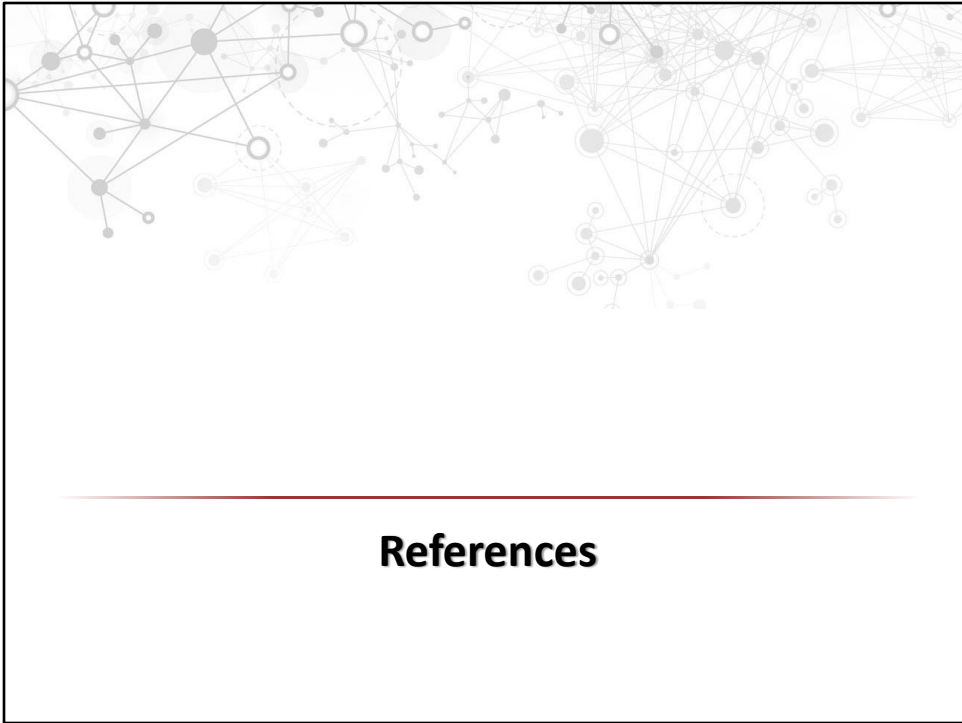
- What is a ransomware?
- What are the steps of vulnerability management?
- What is the goal of patch management?
- Why do we need configuration management?
  
- What is the traditional BSD syslog format?
- What are the drawbacks of standard syslog format?
- What extensions are proposed for syslog?
- What is NetFlow/IPFIX used for?
- What are the parts of the ELK stack? What is their task?



## Control Questions

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- What are the steps of incident management?
- Why do we need backup
- What kind of backup strategies do you know
- What is the 3-2-1 rule in backuping?



## References

## References

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