

DATA MINING TOR, SOCIAL NETWORKS, OSINT WITH AIL PROJECT

E.102

CIRCL COMPUTER INCIDENT RESPONSE CENTER LUXEMBOURG

MISP PROJECT

<https://www.misp-project.org/>

MARCH 23, 2022



2022-03-23

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INTRODUCTION

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- **Deep Web** is the part of World Wide Web not indexed or directly accessible by standard web search-engines;
- This can be content hidden from **crawlers** by requiring a specific access and this can include private social media, password-protected forums or content protected by different measures such as paywalls or specific security interface to access the information;
- A large portion of content accessible via Internet is part of the deep web¹.

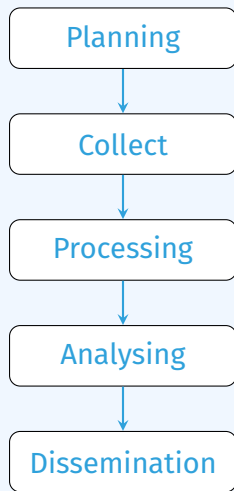
¹also called invisible web, hidden web or non-indexed web

1. There is a huge misconception about the difference between the darknet and deep web. The differences are important because it's two different aspects which can be related to each other.

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- **Darknet** is an overlay network running on top of Internet requiring specific software to access the network and its services;
- Tor, I2P and Freenet are the most commonly used ones. Many are used for hidden services access and some for proxy access to the Internet;
- There are **legitimate use-cases** for such network but also many **illegal or criminal usage**.



COLLECTING, PROCESSING AND ANALYSING CONTENT - WEB PAGES

- Building a search engine on the web is a challenging task because:
 - ▶ it has to crawl webpages,
 - ▶ it has to make sense of **unstructured data**,
 - ▶ it has to **index** these data,
 - ▶ it has to provide a way to retrieve data and structure data (e.g. correlation).
- Doing so on Tor is even more challenging because:
 - ▶ services don't always want to be found,
 - ▶ parts of the dataset have to be discarded.
- in each case, it requires a lot of bandwidth, storage and computing power.

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└ Collecting, processing and analysing content

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COLLECTING, PROCESSING AND ANALYSING CONTENT - STRUCTURED DATA

- Some data are structured and are easy to process:
 - ▶ metadata!
 - ▶ API responses.
- Some even provide cryptographic evidences:
 - ▶ authentication mechanisms between peers,
 - ▶ OpenPGP can leak a lot of metadata
 - key ids,
 - subject of email in thunderbird,
 - ▶ Bitcoin's Blockchain is public,
 - ▶ pivoting on these data with external sources yields interesting results.

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AIL DESIGN OBJECTIVES

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└ AIL design Objectives

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OBJECTIVES OF THE SESSION

- Show how to use and extend an open source tool to monitor web pages, pastes, forums and hidden services
- Explain challenges and the design of the AIL open source framework
- Review different **collection mechanisms** and **sources**
- Learn how to create new modules
- Learn how to use, install and start AIL
- **Supporting investigation using the AIL framework** and including it in cyber threat intelligence lifecycle

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AIL FRAMEWORK

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└ AIL Framework

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FROM A REQUIREMENT TO A SOLUTION: AIL FRAMEWORK

History:

- AIL initially started as an **internship project** (2014) to evaluate the feasibility to automate the analysis of (un)structured information to find leaks.
- In 2019, AIL framework is an **open source software** in Python. The software is actively used (and maintained) by CIRCL and many organisations.
- In 2020, AIL framework is now a complete project called **ail project**².

²<https://github.com/ail-project/>

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CAPABILITIES OVERVIEW

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└ Capabilities Overview

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- **Check** if mail/password/other sensitive information (terms tracked) leaked
- **Detect** reconnaissance of your infrastructure
- **Search** for leaks inside an archive
- **Monitor** and crawl websites

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- Proactive investigation: leaks detection
 - ▶ List of emails and passwords
 - ▶ Leaked database
 - ▶ AWS Keys
 - ▶ Credit-cards
 - ▶ PGP private keys
 - ▶ Certificate private keys
- Feed Passive DNS or any passive collection system
- CVE and PoC of vulnerabilities most used by attackers

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└ Capabilities Overview

└ Support CERT/CSIRTs and Law Enforcement

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- Website monitoring
 - ▶ monitor booters
 - ▶ Detect encoded exploits (WebShell, malware encoded in Base64...)
 - ▶ SQL injections
- Automatic and manual submission to threat sharing and incident response platforms
 - ▶ MISP
 - ▶ TheHive
- Term/Regex/Yara monitoring for local companies/government

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- Example: <https://gist.github.com/>
 - ▶ Easily storing and sharing text online
 - ▶ Used by programmers and legitimate users
 - Source code & information about configurations

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└ Sources of leaks: Paste monitoring

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WHY SO MANY LEAKS?

- Economical interests (e.g. Adversaries promoting services)
- Ransom model (e.g. To publicly pressure the victims)
- Political motives (e.g. Adversaries showing off)
- Collaboration (e.g. Criminals need to collaborate)
- Operational infrastructure (e.g. malware exfiltrating information on a pastie website)
- Mistakes and errors

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ARE LEAKS FREQUENT?

Yes!

and we have to deal with this as a CSIRT.

- **Contacting companies or organisations** who did specific accidental leaks
- **Discussing with media** about specific case of leaks and how to make it more practical/factual for everyone
- Evaluating the economical market for cyber criminals (e.g. DDoS booters³ or reselling personal information - reality versus media coverage)
- Analysing collateral effects of malware, software vulnerabilities or exfiltration

→ And it's important to detect them automatically.

³<https://github.com/D4-project/>

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■ Monitored paste sites: 27

- ▶ *gist.github.com*
- ▶ *ideone.com*
- ▶ ...

	2016	2017	08.2018
Collected pastes	18,565,124	19,145,300	11,591,987
Incidents	244	266	208

Table: Pastes collected and incident⁴ raised by CIRCL

⁴<http://www.circl.lu/pub/tr-46>

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└ Paste monitoring at CIRCL: Statistics

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