

FROM EVIDENCES TO ACTIONABLE INFORMATION

E.206

CIRCL COMPUTER INCIDENT RESPONSE CENTER LUXEMBOURG

MISP PROJECT

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

MARCH 25, 2022 - VO.7



2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

FROM EVIDENCES TO ACTIONABLE INFORMATION

E-206

CIRCL COMPUTER INCIDENT RESPONSE CENTER LUXEMBOURG

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

MARCH 25, 2022 - VO.7



- How evidences can be useful for defense
- Why is contextualisation important
- What options do we have in MISF
- Best practises to encode and contextualise
- How can context be leveraged
- How to structure non-technical information
 - ▶ Practical case: Conti analysis

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

Objectives of this module

- How evidences can be useful for defense
- Why is contextualisation important
- What options do we have in MISF
- Best practises to encode and contextualise
- How can context be leveraged
- How to structure non-technical information
 - ▶ Practical case: Conti analysis

HOW EVIDENCES CAN BE USEFUL FOR DEFENSE

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└ How evidences can be useful for defense

HOW EVIDENCES CAN BE USEFUL FOR
DEFENSE

The most common recommendations to protect people and assets from cyber attacks are usually:

1. Maintaining softwares up to date
2. Staff awareness
3. Reliable Backups
4. Endpoints protection tools (IDS or SIEM)

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└─ How evidences can be useful for defense

└─ How evidences can be useful for defense

1. An Intrusion Detection System (IDS) is a tool that aims at detecting vulnerability exploits or suspicious activity against a server or a service.
2. A Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) allows centralise security alerts and events generated by endpoints and network devices.

The most common recommendations to protect people and assets from cyber attacks are usually:
1. Maintaining softwares up to date
2. Staff awareness
3. Reliable Backups
4. Endpoints protection tools (IDS or SIEM)

HOW EVIDENCES CAN BE USEFUL FOR DEFENSE

- We can only help endpoints protection tools
- With the proper knowledge and methods, it is possible the maximize their accuracy and performance

These systems can rely on information extracted from

- Log files
- Network captures
- Disk forensic
- ...

However, from a MISP user perspective the hardest part in not to encode the raw evidences, it is to encode them so that they become **actionable**

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└─ How evidences can be useful for defense

└─ How evidences can be useful for defense

- We can only help endpoints protection tools
- With the proper knowledge and methods, it is possible the maximize their accuracy and performance

These systems can rely on information extracted from

- Log files
- Network captures
- Disk forensic
- ...

However, from a MISP user perspective the hardest part in not to encode the raw evidences, it is to encode them so that they become **actionable**

WHY IS CONTEXTUALISATION IMPORTANT

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└ Why is contextualisation important

WHY IS CONTEXTUALISATION IMPORTANT

WHY IS CONTEXTUALISATION IMPORTANT

- Allow the distinction between information of interest and raw data
- provide guidance on how to use this information can be used for for protection
- Filter out noise from information unrelated from the use-case or activity
- Enable risk assessment based on attack type, TTP and threat actor
- Allow triage in large volume of data
- Allow false-positive management

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Why is contextualisation important

└ Why is contextualisation important

1. Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTP) describe the context and a detailed description of the behavior taken by an actor

WHY IS CONTEXTUALISATION IMPORTANT

- Allow the distinction between information of interest and raw data
- provide guidance on how to use this information can be used for for protection
- Filter out noise from information unrelated from the use-case or activity
- Enable risk assessment based on attack type, TTP and threat actor
- Allow triage in large volume of data
- Allow false-positive management

Most common expectations of recipients when receiving information

- Being able to **consume** the data
- Find information is **relevant** for them and their partners
- Being able to **understand** the data and its classification
- Assess the **credibility**, likelihood and origin of the data

Most common expectations of recipients for handling the data

- Being able to **filter** data efficiently for different use-cases
- Obtain as much **knowledge** out of the data as possible
- Know how this data was produced and where its **origin**
- Deduce why is the data **relevant** for them and how **critical** it is

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Why is contextualisation important

└ What do recipient hope to do with the data

Most common expectations of recipients for handling the data

- Being able to **filter** data efficiently for different use-cases
- Obtain as much **knowledge** out of the data as possible
- Know how this data was produced and where its **origin**
- Deduce why is the data **relevant** for them and how **critical** it is

IS CONTEXT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

- Raw data **is** useful but useless if you don't know what it is about
- That's why it should carry how and why it's relevant

```
1 1.2.3.9
2 137.221.106.104
3 28c643a1f69f9fca9481a4bc9f3f38f3
4 904afe59f6438848be96fd26fdeab01267070d25
5 evil.org
6 accounting.xlsx.exe
7 cat.jpg.exe
```

- In MISP, all data intrinsically have some context
 - ▶ **Type:** ip-src / sha1 / domain
 - ▶ **Category:** network-activity / payload-delivery / external-analysis
 - ▶ **to_ids:** yes / no

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Why is contextualisation important

└ Is context really that important?

1. The 'to_ids' flag is used to differentiate between indicators and supporting data. If the flag is set, it means the attribute is an indicator and is meant for protective tools.

IS CONTEXT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

```
■ Raw data is useful but useless if you don't know what it is about
■ That's why it should carry how and why it's relevant

1.2.3.9
137.221.106.104
28c643a1f69f9fca9481a4bc9f3f38f3
904afe59f6438848be96fd26fdeab01267070d25
evil.org
accounting.xlsx.exe
cat.jpg.exe

■ In MISP, all data intrinsically have some context
  ▶ Type: ip-src / sha1 / domain
  ▶ Category: network-activity / payload-delivery / external-analysis
  ▶ to_ids: yes / no
```

IS CONTEXT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

- Sometime, more contextual information is not needed as data inherently convey its context:
 - ▶ Tor exit nodes
 - ▶ Botnet / C2 trackers
 - ▶ Ransomwares' bitcoin addresses
 - ▶ ...
- But most of the time, **context is essential**

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Why is contextualisation important

└ Is context really that important?

IS CONTEXT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

- Sometime, more contextual information is not needed as data inherently convey its context:
 - ▶ Tor exit nodes
 - ▶ Botnet / C2 trackers
 - ▶ Ransomwares' bitcoin addresses
 - ▶ ...
- But most of the time, **context is essential**

WHAT SORT OF CONTEXT IS PERTINENT

- To what kind of user this data is for
- What type of action can be performed with it
- Estimation on accuracy, reliability and likelihood
- What are the impacts
- For threat actors:
 - ▶ Who is it? What tools were used?
 - ▶ What are their motivations? Who are their targets?
- How can we prevent/detect/block/remediate the attack

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Why is contextualisation important

└ What sort of context is pertinent

- To what kind of user this data is for
- What type of action can be performed with it
- Estimation on accuracy, reliability and likelihood
- What are the impacts
- For threat actors:
 - ▶ Who is it? What tools were used?
 - ▶ What are their motivations? Who are their targets?
- How can we prevent/detect/block/remediate the attack

WHAT OPTIONS DO WE HAVE IN MISP

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└─What options do we have in MISP

WHAT OPTIONS DO WE HAVE IN MISP

WHAT OPTIONS DO WE HAVE IN MISP

MISP offers multiples means to contextualise

- Taxonomies
- Galaxies and Galaxy Clusters
- MITRE ATT&CK
- MISP Objects and relationships
- Sightings and `first_seen` / `last_seen`

Let's have an overview of each of them

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└─What options do we have in MISP

└─What options do we have in MISP

WHAT OPTIONS DO WE HAVE IN MISP

MISP offers multiples means to contextualise

- Taxonomies
- Galaxies and Galaxy Clusters
- MITRE ATT&CK
- MISP Objects and relationships
- Sightings and `first_seen` / `last_seen`

Let's have an overview of each of them

- Simple labels **standardised** on vocabularies
- Taxonomy tags often **self-explanatory**
 - ▶ workflow:state="draft"
 - ▶ doesn't need more explanation
- Triple tag system: namespace:predicate="value"
- Different organisational/community cultures require different nomenclatures
 - ▶ JSON libraries that can easily be defined without the involment of the MISP-project team

<input type="checkbox"/> Tag	Events	Attributes	Tags
<input type="checkbox"/> workflow:state="complete"	11	0	workflow:state="complete" ↗
<input type="checkbox"/> workflow:state="draft"	0	0	workflow:state="draft" ↗
<input type="checkbox"/> workflow:state="incomplete"	55	10	workflow:state="incomplete" ↗
<input type="checkbox"/> workflow:state="ongoing"	0	0	workflow:state="ongoing" ↗

└ What options do we have in MISP

└ Taxonomies

- Simple labels **standardised** on vocabularies
- Taxonomy tags often **self-explanatory**
 - ▶ workflow:state="draft"
 - ▶ doesn't need more explanation
- Triple tag system: namespace:predicate="value"
- Different organisational/community cultures require different nomenclatures
 - ▶ JSON libraries that can easily be defined without the involment of the MISP-project team

<input type="checkbox"/> Tag	Events	Attributes	Tags
<input type="checkbox"/> workflow:state="complete"	11	0	workflow:state="complete" ↗
<input type="checkbox"/> workflow:state="draft"	0	0	workflow:state="draft" ↗
<input type="checkbox"/> workflow:state="incomplete"	55	10	workflow:state="incomplete" ↗
<input type="checkbox"/> workflow:state="ongoing"	0	0	workflow:state="ongoing" ↗

- Galaxy: Container to group galaxy clusters of the same type
- Galaxy Cluster: knowledge-base item with complex meta-data aimed for human consumption
- Community driven **knowledge-base libraries used as tags**
- Including descriptions, links, synonyms, meta information, etc.
- **Flexible and reusable**
- Works the exact same way as taxonomies but with more **meta-data**
 - ▶ `misp-galaxy:ransomware="CryptoLocker"`
 - ▶ Contains description, reference, documentation and other meta-data

└─What options do we have in MISP

└─Galaxies and Galaxy Clusters

- Galaxy: Container to group galaxy clusters of the same type
- Galaxy Cluster: knowledge-base item with complex meta-data aimed for human consumption
- Community driven **knowledge-base libraries used as tags**
- Including descriptions, links, synonyms, meta information, etc.
- **Flexible and reusable**
- Works the exact same way as taxonomies but with more **meta-data**
 - ▶ `misp-galaxy:ransomware="CryptoLocker"`
 - ▶ Contains description, reference, documentation and other meta-data

Bitcoin Ransomware galaxy

Galaxy ID	373
Name	Ransomware
Namespace	misp
Uuid	3f44af2e-1480-4b6b-9aa8-f9bb21341078
Description	Ransomware galaxy based on...
Version	4

Value ↓

Synonyms

.CryptoHasYou.

777

Sevleg

7ev3n

7ev3n-HONE\$T

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└─What options do we have in MISP

└─Galaxies and Galaxy Clusters

Galaxies and Galaxy Clusters	
Bitcoin Ransomware galaxy	
Galaxy ID	373
Name	Ransomware
Namespace	misp
Uuid	3f44af2e-1480-4b6b-9aa8-f9bb21341078
Description	Ransomware galaxy based on...
Version	4
Value ↓	Synonyms
.CryptoHasYou.	
777	Sevleg
7ev3n	7ev3n-HONE\$T

- MITRE ATT&CK is one of the best knowledge base of **adversary TTPs**
- **Widely used** and supported by a lot of tools
- The catalogue includes a **matrix-like** interface
- Offers clear visualisation for the kill chain
- MISP Fully support ATT&CK and embraced it's matrix structure
- Multiples matrices for other concerns are available:
 - ▶ Badhra: Similar to ATT&CK but for telecom operators
 - ▶ attck4fraud: Regrouped clusters related to fraud actions

└─What options do we have in MISP

└─MITRE ATT&CK and Galaxy Matrices

1. The kill chain are the sequential steps that adversaries can perform in order to achieve an attack

- MITRE ATT&CK is one of the best knowledge base of adversary TTPs
- **Widely used** and supported by a lot of tools
- The catalogue includes a **matrix-like** interface
- Offers clear visualisation for the kill chain
- MISP Fully support ATT&CK and embraced it's matrix structure
- Multiples matrices for other concerns are available:
 - ▶ Badhra: Similar to ATT&CK but for telecom operators
 - ▶ attck4fraud: Regrouped clusters related to fraud actions

MITRE ATT&CK AND GALAXY MATRICES

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

What options do we have in MISP

MITRE ATT&CK and Galaxy Matrices



Pre Attack - Attack Pattern	Enterprise Attack - Attack Pattern	Mobile Attack - Attack Pattern									
Initial access	Execution	Persistence	Privilege escalation	Defense evasion	Credential access	Discovery	Lateral movement	Collection	Exfiltration	Command and control	
Spearphishing Attachment	Scripting	Screen saver	File System Permissions Weakness	Process Hollowing	Security Memory	Password Policy Discovery	AppleScript	Data from Information Repositories	Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol	Standard Application Layer Protocol	
Spearphishing via Service	Command-Line Interface	Login Item	AppCert DLLs	Code Signing	Input Capture	System Network Configuration Discovery	Distributed Component Object Model	Data from Removable Media	Exfiltration Over Command and Control Channel	Communication Through Removable Media	
Trusted Relationship	User Execution	Trap	Application Shimming	Rookit	Bash History	Process Discovery	Pass the Hash	Man in the Browser	Data Compressed	Custom Command and Control Protocol	
Replication Through Removable Media	Registry/Regasm	System Firmware	Scheduled Task	NTFS File Attributes	Exploitation for Credential Access	Network Share Discovery	Exploitation of Remote Services	Data Staged	Automated Exfiltration	Multi-Stage Channels	
Exploit Public-Facing Application	Trusted Developer Utilities	Registry Run Keys / Start Folder	Startup Items	Exploitation for Defense Evasion	Private Keys	Peripheral Device Discovery	Remote Desktop Protocol	Screen Capture	Scheduled Transfer	Remote Access Tools	
Spearphishing Link	Windows Management Instrumentation	LC_LOAD_DLLLIB Addition	New Service	Network Share Connection Removal	Brute Force	Account Discovery	Pass the Ticket	Email Collection	Data Encrypted	Uncommonly Used Port	
Valid Accounts	Service Execution	LSASS Driver	Sudo Caching	Process Doppelganging	Password Filter DLL	System Information Discovery	Windows Remote Management	Clipboard Data	Exfiltration Over Other Network Medium	Multilayer Encryption	
Supply Chain Compromise	CMSTP	Rc.common	Process Injection	Disabling Security Tools	Two-Factor Authentication Interception	System Network Connections Discovery	Windows Admin Shares	Video Capture	Exfiltration Over Physical Medium	Domain Fronting	
Drive-by Compromise	Control Panel Items	Authentication Package	Bypass User Account Control	Timestamp	LLMNR/NBT-NS Poisoning	Network Service Scanning	Remote Services	Audio Capture	Data Transfer Size Limits	Data Obfuscation	
Hardware Additions	Dynamic Data Exchange	Component Firmware	Extra Window Memory Injection	Modify Registry	Credentials in Files	File and Directory Discovery	Taint Shared Content	Data from Network Shared Drive		Connection Proxy	
	Source	Windows Management Instrumentation Event Subscription	Setuid and Setgid	Indicator Removal from Tools	Forced Authentication	Security Software Discovery	Application Deployment Software	Data from Local System		Commonly Used Port	
	Space after Filename	Change Default File	Launch Daemon	Hidden Window	Keychain	System Service Discovery	Third-party Software	Automated Collection		Data Encoding	

Atomic attributes are great, but are lacking a way to express that some can be related to others.

MISP Objects are there to fill the gap:

- **Template system** to build complex structures composed of attributes
- Logically **group attributes** that are contextually linked between each others
 - ▶ A *file* object can contain: a size, name, content, cryptographic hashes, etc.
 - ▶ A *car* object can contain: a brand, a model, a license plate, etc.

└─What options do we have in MISP

└─MISP Objects

Atomic attributes are great, but are lacking a way to express that some can be related to others.

MISP Objects are there to fill the gap:

- **Template system** to build complex structures composed of attributes
- Logically **group attributes** that are contextually linked between each others
 - ▶ A *file* object can contain: a size, name, content, cryptographic hashes, etc.
 - ▶ A *car* object can contain: a brand, a model, a license plate, etc.

A file object

2018-03-27	Name: file
	References: 1
2018-03-27	Payload delivery filename: putty.exe
	filename
2018-03-27	Other size-in-bytes: 774200
	size-in-bytes
2018-03-27	Other entropy: 6.7264597226
	float
2018-03-27	Payload delivery md5: b6c12d88eeb910784d75a5e4df954001
	md5
2018-03-27	Payload delivery sha1: 5ef9515e8fd92a254dd2dcdd9c4b50afa8007b8f
	sha1
2018-03-27	Payload delivery sha256: 81de431987304676134138705fc1c21188ad7f27edf6b77a6551aa6931944
	sha256 85e
2018-03-27	Payload delivery sha512: e174ecf4fffb36d30c2cc66b37f82877d421244c924d5c9f39f2e0f37d85332b
	sha512 7d107d5ac5bd19cb7ffdcdbdd8b506d488faa30664ef610f62f3970c163cca7 6
2018-03-27	Payload delivery malware-sample: putty.exe

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

What options do we have in MISP

MISP Objects



- Analysts want more than a table of attribute, they want to see how each of them **interact** with the others
- Relationships are essentials to describe scenarios or stories with the data
- MISP allow these relationship to be built between objects

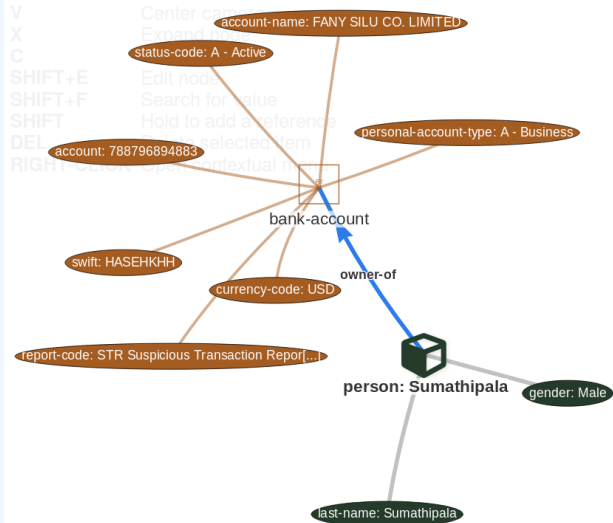
└─What options do we have in MISP

└─Relationships

- Analysts want more than a table of attribute, they want to see how each of them **interact** with the others
- Relationships are essentials to describe scenarios or stories with the data
- MISP allow these relationship to be built between objects

RELATIONSHIPS

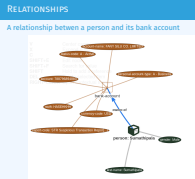
A relationship between a person and its bank account



From evidences to actionable information

└ What options do we have in MISP

└ Relationships



TIMELINESS WITH SIGHTINGS AND `first_seen` / `last_seen`

Adding **Temporality** is a good way to avoid having the data frozen in time

■ Sightings

- ▶ Allows to signal the fact that an indicator was **sighted**
- ▶ They can record the time and where they were the sighting was seen
- ▶ E.g.: Sight C2 servers or phishing websites

■ `first_seen` / `last_seen`

- ▶ These two data-points allow to set when the specified item was first and last seen
- ▶ Enables the visualisation of data timeframe with a timeline
- ▶ *e.g: Track the duration of a campaign or duration for which something was online*

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└─What options do we have in MISP

└─Timeliness with Sightings and `first_seen` / `last_seen`

TIMELINESS WITH SIGHTINGS AND `first_seen` / `last_seen`

Adding **Temporality** is a good way to avoid having the data frozen in time

- Sightings
 - ▶ Allows to signal the fact that an indicator was **sighted** was seen
 - ▶ E.g.: Sight C2 servers or phishing websites
- `first_seen` / `last_seen`
 - ▶ These two data-points allow to set when the specified item was first and last seen
 - ▶ Enables the visualisation of data timeframe with a timeline
 - ▶ e.g: Track the duration of a campaign or duration for which something was online

Screenshot of the timeline widget when viewing a MISP event



From evidences to actionable information

- └ Timeliness with Sightings and first_seen / last_seen



BEST PRACTISES TO ENCODE AND CONTEXTUALISE

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└ Best practises to encode and contextualise

BEST PRACTISES TO ENCODE AND CONTEXTUALISE

Always keep in mind that the recipient is a human:

- Include a self-explanatory title
- Make it concise
- Include a report along with the machine parsable data
 - It can either be included as an attribute or as an event-report

It will make the live of the analyst easier: That analyst might end up being you!

From evidences to actionable information
└ Best practises to encode and contextualise

└ Encoding: Event

Always keep in mind that the recipient is a human:

- Include a self-explanatory title
 - Make it concise
 - Include a report along with the machine parsable data
 - It can either be included as an attribute or as an event-report
- It will make the live of the analyst easier: That analyst might end up being you!

Prefer the use of object rather than attributes for attributes intrinsically linked together.

Atomic data by themselves rarely exist: They are often related to something else

- Interactions between elements are frequent
 - ▶ They can often be described by using verbs: connects-to, contain-within, ...
- A story can be inferred without the need to put it into words
 - ▶ *"file was attached to email which when extracted contained a malware connecting to ip-address which was used C2"*
- Properly encoding these relationships turns flat data into a **connected graph**

From evidences to actionable information
└ Best practises to encode and contextualise
└ Encoding: Attributes and objects

Prefer the use of object rather than attributes for attributes intrinsically linked together.

Atomic data by themselves rarely exist: They are often related to something else

- Interactions between elements are frequent
 - ▶ They can often be described by using verbs: connects-to, contain-within, ...
- A story can be inferred without the need to put it into words
 - ▶ *"file was attached to email which when extracted contained a malware connecting to ip-address which was used C2"*
- Properly encoding these relationships turns flat data into a **connected graph**

CONTEXTUALISATION: DISTRIBUTIONS AND PERMISSIBLE ACTIONS

Adding context on **what** actions can be done on the data and **who** can it be shared with

■ Permissible actions taxonomies:

- ▶ *PAP*: Permissible Actions Protocol
- ▶ *IEPF*: Information Exchange Policy (IEP) Framework
- ▶ *pap:white* No restrictions in using this information

■ Sharing level taxonomies:

- ▶ *TLP*: Traffic Light Protocol
- ▶ *IEPF*: Information Exchange Policy (IEP) Framework
- ▶ *tlp:green*: Limited disclosure, restricted to the community

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└ Best practises to encode and contextualise

└ Contextualisation: Distributions and permissible actions

Adding context on **what** actions can be done on the data and **who** can it be shared with

- Permissible actions taxonomies:
 - ▶ *PAP*: Permissible Actions Protocol
 - ▶ *IEPF*: Information Exchange Policy (IEP) Framework
 - ▶ *pap:white* No restrictions in using this information
- Sharing level taxonomies:
 - ▶ *TLP*: Traffic Light Protocol
 - ▶ *IEPF*: Information Exchange Policy (IEP) Framework
 - ▶ *tlp:green*: Limited disclosure, restricted to the community

- Each data point has a meaning and tells a part of the story
- One should try to capture the answer to these question when contextualising:
 - ▶ In what context was this IoC seen?
 - ▶ Is it related to compromision? Does it tell us anything about the adversary infrastructure?
 - ▶ Was it used to exfiltrate data? Did it acted as a C2?
 - ▶ Did it perform subsequent actions?
 - ▶ ATT&CK can procure even more knowledge

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Best practises to encode and contextualise

└ Contextualisation: Attributes and their context

- Each data point has a meaning and tells a part of the story
- One should try to capture the answer to these question when contextualising:
 - ▶ In what context was this IoC seen?
 - ▶ Is it related to compromision? Does it tell us anything about the adversary infrastructure?
 - ▶ Was it used to exfiltrate data? Did it acted as a C2?
 - ▶ Did it perform subsequent actions?
 - ▶ ATT&CK can procure even more knowledge

However, think twice before tagging:

- If a tag applies to the whole content of the event, it should be attached on the event instead
- If the tag offers no real utility or hinder your ability to analyse the whole dataset, it should probably be ignored

From evidences to actionable information

└ Best practises to encode and contextualise

└ Contextualisation: Attributes and their context

However, think twice before tagging:

- If a tag applies to the whole content of the event, it should be attached on the event instead
- If the tag offers no real utility or hinder your ability to analyse the whole dataset, it should probably be ignored

CONTEXTUALISATION: ORIGIN, LIKELYHOOD AND RELIABILITY

- The source of information has an impact on how people evaluates its trust
 - ▶ Data without a source / origin might be considered unreliable
 - ▶ *i.e: A research paper without citing its sources is useless*
- MISP bridges people and and communities
 - ▶ The more one is connected, the greater the quantity and diversity of data
 - ▶ Not everything you read on the internet is true!

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Best practises to encode and contextualise

└ Contextualisation: Origin, likelihood and reliability

- The source of information has an impact on how people evaluates its trust
 - ▶ Data without a source / origin might be considered unreliable
 - ▶ *i.e: A research paper without citing its sources is useless*
- MISP bridges people and and communities
 - ▶ The more one is connected, the greater the quantity and diversity of data
 - ▶ Not everything you read on the internet is true!

CONTEXTUALISATION: ORIGIN, LIKELYHOOD AND RELIABILITY

If you can't share the source, provide the trust in the source

- Include the reliability and the credibility of the information
 - ▶ Taxonomy: admiralty-scale
 - ▶ *i.e: admiralty-scale:source-reliability="Usually reliable"*
- Include the quality and likelihood
 - ▶ Taxonomy: estimative-language
 - ▶ *i.e: estimative-language:likelihood-probability="very likely"*

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Best practises to encode and contextualise

└ Contextualisation: Origin, likelihood and reliability

If you can't share the source, provide the trust in the source

- Include the reliability and the credibility of the information
 - ▶ Taxonomy: admiralty-scale
 - ▶ *i.e: admiralty-scale:source-reliability="Usually reliable"*
- Include the quality and likelihood
 - ▶ Taxonomy: estimative-language
 - ▶ *i.e: estimative-language:likelihood-probability="very likely"*

- The purpose is not to blame but to identify the attacker's **intent**
- Knowing the intent greatly help to:
 - ▶ Know the objectives
 - ▶ Understand what are the targeted assets
 - ▶ Deduce the treat level
- It allows to identity behaviors
 - ▶ Might speed up the next investigation
 - ▶ Might bootstrap the analysis procdess

CONTEXTUALISE: PROVIDE ADVICES ON HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

To help recipients to better protect themselves, additional information can be provided.

- Indicate what can be done with the data
 - ▶ Use it to feed an IDS
 - ▶ Perform historical search with a SIEM to find a potential compromise
 - ▶ Inform your peers against a new type of threat
- Provide additional supporting materials
 - ▶ The original report form which the data is coming from
 - ▶ Home-brew scripts
 - ▶ Sigma rules for SIEM searches
 - ▶ Context and configurations under which the analysis was done

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└ Best practises to encode and contextualise

└ Contextualise: Provide advices on how to protect themselves

To help recipients to better protect themselves, additional information can be provided.

- Indicate what can be done with the data
 - ▶ Use it to feed an IDS
 - ▶ Perform historical search with a SIEM to find a potential compromise
 - ▶ Inform your peers against a new type of threat
- Provide additional supporting materials
 - ▶ The original report form which the data is coming from
 - ▶ Home-brew scripts
 - ▶ Sigma rules for SIEM searches
 - ▶ Context and configurations under which the analysis was done

HOW CAN CONTEXT BE LEVERAGED

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└─ How can context be leveraged

HOW CAN CONTEXT BE LEVERAGED

Let's make use of this well-structured, context-rich data

- Incorporate all contextualisation options into API filters

```
1 {  
2   "AND": [  
3     "admiralty-scale:source-reliability=\"Reliable\""  
4   ],  
5   "OR": [  
6     "threat-actor=\"Sofacy\"",  
7     "sector=\"Chemical\"",  
8     "country=\"Luxembourg\"",  
9   ]  
10 }
```

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ How can context be leveraged

└ Leveraging the context

Let's make use of this well-structured, context-rich data

- Incorporate all contextualisation options into API filters

```
{  
  "AND": [  
    "admiralty-scale:source-reliability=\"Reliable\""  
  ],  
  "OR": [  
    "threat-actor=\"Sofacy\"",  
    "sector=\"Chemical\"",  
    "country=\"Luxembourg\"",  
  ]  
}
```

LEVERAGING THE CONTEXT

- On-demande potential false positive exclusion
- Warninglist system helps to exclude known false-positives reducing alert-fatigue

LIST OF KNOWN IPV4 PUBLIC DNS RESOLVERS

Id	89
Name	List of known IPv4 public DNS resolvers
Description	Event contains one or more public IPv4 DNS resolvers as attribute with an IDS flag set
Version	20181114
Type	string
Accepted attribute types	ip-src, ip-dst, domain ip
Enabled	Yes (disable)

Values

1.0.0.1
1.1.1.1
1.11.71.4

Warning: Potential false positives
List of known IPv4 public DNS resolvers
Top 1000 website from Alexa
List of known google domains

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

- └ How can context be leveraged
 - └ Leveraging the context

- On-demande potential false positive exclusion
- Warninglist system helps to exclude known false-positives reducing alert-fatigue

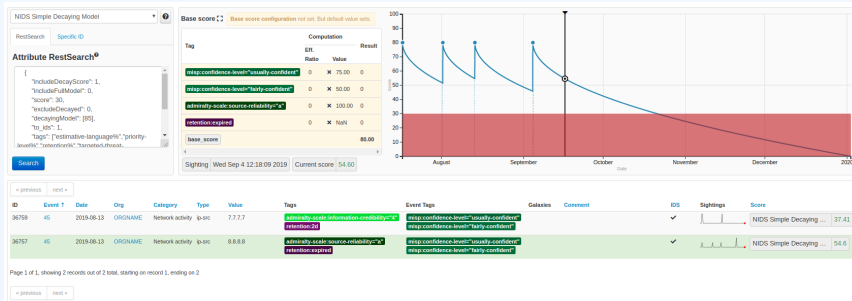
LIST OF KNOWN IPV4 PUBLIC DNS RESOLVERS

Id	89
Name	List of known IPv4 public DNS resolvers
Description	Event contains one or more public IPv4 DNS resolvers as attribute with an IDS flag set
Version	20181114
Type	string
Accepted attribute types	ip-src, ip-dst, domain ip
Enabled	Yes (disable)

Warning: Potential false positives
List of known IPv4 public DNS resolvers
Top 1000 website from Alexa
List of known google domains

LEVERAGING THE CONTEXT

- IoC prioritization and lifecycle management
- Integrate decay models to filter out expired/unrelevant data



2022-03-25

- From evidences to actionable information
 - └ How can context be leveraged
 - └ Leveraging the context



LEVERAGING THE CONTEXT

■ Allow users to build their own export module

HTTP headers

Authorization: YOUR_API_KEY
Accept: application/json
Content-type: application/json

HTTP body

```
1 {  
2   "returnFormat": "  
3 }
```

Run query

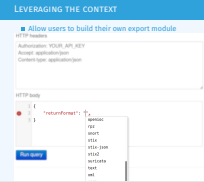
- openioc
- rpz
- snort
- stix
- stix-json
- stix2
- suricata
- text

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ How can context be leveraged

└ Leveraging the context



ENABLING COMMON USER PROFILES TO BETTER PERFORM THEIR TASKS

How does different user profiles benefits to most of well-structured, context-rich data

- **incident responder:** Self-explanatory data relieves pressure and reduces the change of misunderstanding it
- **SOC operator:** Reduce alert-fatigue and energy to filter unwanted data
- **ISP:** Ease the task to decide if the data is fit for blocking based on trust and context the data was seen in
- **threat analyst:** Provide insight on the modus operandi and goals of attacker
- **risk analyst:** Help highlighting potential security gaps and formulate advices on preventive actions
- **decision maker:** Guide resources allocation based on current/emerging threats for their region and sector

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ How can context be leveraged

└ Enabling common user profiles to better perform their tasks

ENABLING COMMON USER PROFILES TO BETTER PERFORM THEIR TASKS

How does different user profiles benefits to most of well-structured, context-rich data

- **incident responder:** Self-explanatory data relieves pressure and reduces the change of misunderstanding it
- **SOC operator:** Reduce alert-fatigue and energy to filter unwanted data
- **ISP:** Ease the task to decide if the data is fit for blocking based on trust and context the data was seen in
- **threat analyst:** Provide insight on the modus operandi and goals of attacker
- **risk analyst:** Help highlighting potential security gaps and formulate advices on preventive actions
- **decision maker:** Guide resources allocation based on current/emerging threats for their region and sector

HOW TO STRUCTURE NON-TECHNICAL INFORMATION

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└─ How to structure non-technical information

HOW TO STRUCTURE NON-TECHNICAL
INFORMATION

- Identify non-technical data that can be useful for an investigation,
- Illustrate how non-technical and technical data can interact to produce meaningful insights,
- Model these interactions,
- Outline what Socio-Technical interactions are useful to share.

From evidences to actionable information

- └ How to structure non-technical information
 - └ Objectives

1. A note for the slide handout

- Identify non-technical data that can be useful for an investigation,
- Illustrate how non-technical and technical data can interact to produce meaningful insights,
- Model these interactions,
- Outline what Socio-Technical interactions are useful to share.

Computer and their security is linked to human activities:

- Technical traces show human activities,
- Technical traces can convey human intent,
- Human interactions can explain and give context to Technical traces,
- CyberCrime requires infrastructures and logistics that are discussed between humans,
- TTPS are discussed and exchanged,
- Human interaction can help attributing attacks to threat actors,
- Human interaction can help deciphering intent and motives, and discriminate human error from sabotage.

From evidences to actionable information
└─ How to structure non-technical information
└─ We live in Socio-Technical Systems

1. A note for the slide handout

Computer and their security is linked to human activities:

- Technical traces show human activities,
- Technical traces can convey human intent,
- Human interactions can explain and give context to Technical traces,
- CyberCrime requires infrastructures and logistics that are discussed between humans,
- TTPS are discussed and exchanged,
- Human interaction can help attributing attacks to threat actors,
- Human interaction can help deciphering intent and motives, and discriminate human error from sabotage.

Use OSINT and data leaks to:

- bring context to other ransomware cases,
- better understand the gang day to day operations,
- get insights on events' timeline,
- confirm or invalidat previous hypotheses,
- select relevant information to share and produce an intelligence report.

└ Plan

1. A note for the slide handout

Use OSINT and data leaks to:

- bring context to other ransomware cases,
- better understand the gang day to day operations,
- get insights on events' timeline,
- confirm or invalidat previous hypotheses,
- select relevant information to share and produce an intelligence report.

CONTI RANSOMWARE GROUP LEAK ANALYSIS

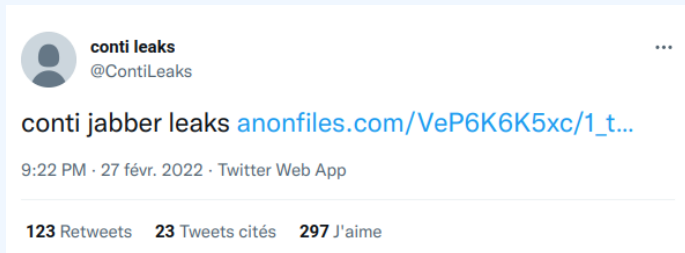
2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└ Conti ransomware group leak analysis

CONTI RANSOMWARE GROUP LEAK
ANALYSIS

RANSOMWARE JABBER CHATS LEAK

Published on Twitter:

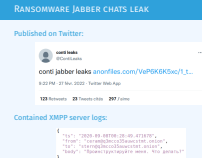


Contained XMPP server logs:

```
{
  "ts": "2020-09-08T00:28:49.471678",
  "from": "ceram@q3mcco35auwcstmt.onion",
  "to": "stern@q3mcco35auwcstmt.onion",
  "body": "Проинструктируйте меня. Что делать?"
}
```

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
└ Conti ransomware group leak analysis
└ Ransomware Jabber chats leak



We use AIL¹ to dig into the data:

- AIL processes the data and search for relevant information
 - ▶ PGP keys,
 - ▶ Bitcoin addresses, maybe others,
 - ▶ onion hidden services,
 - ▶ IP addresses.
- Once we find relevant information we push it into MISP,
- we use MISP correlation engine to find relevant past cases.

¹<https://ail-project.org/>

└ Conti ransomware group leak analysis

└ Ransomware Jabber chats leak in AIL

1. It is important to understand what we search for before digging into the data with AIL.
2. Gang may discuss payments, so we are interested in crypto currencies
3. Gang may discuss IP addresses and infrastructure, etc.
4. For the training, we use a dedicated AIL container that contains RAW translated jabber chats.

We use AIL¹ to dig into the data:

- AIL processes the data and search for relevant information
 - ▶ PGP keys,
 - ▶ Bitcoin addresses, maybe others,
 - ▶ onion hidden services,
 - ▶ IP addresses.
- Once we find relevant information we push it into MISP,
- we use MISP correlation engine to find relevant past cases.

¹<https://ail-project.org/>

We use pyail to feed conti ransomware logs into AIL

```
1 from pyail import PyAIL
2 #... imports
3 #... setup code
4 for content in sys.stdin:
5     elm = json.loads(content)
6     tmp = elm['body']
7     tmpmt = {}
8     tmpmt['jabber:to'] = elm['to']
9     tmpmt['jabber:from'] = elm['from']
10    tmpmt['jabber:ts'] = elm['ts']
11    tmpmt['jabber:id'] = "{}".format(uuid.uuid4())
12    pyail.feed_json_item(tmp, tmpmt, ailfeedertype,
        source_uuid)
```

```
1 $ cat ~/conti/* | jq . -c | python ./feeder.py
```

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

- Conti ransomware group leak analysis
 - Ransomware Jabber chats leak in AIL

1. A note for the slide handout

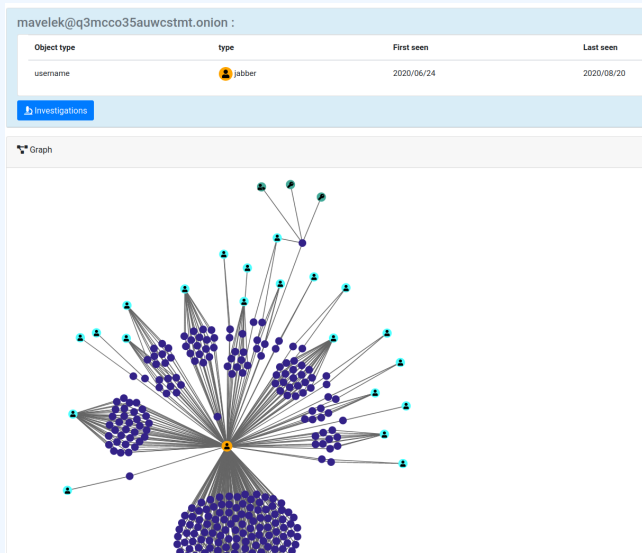
We use pyail to feed conti ransomware logs into AIL

```
from pyail import PyAIL
... imports
... setup code
for content in sys.stdin:
    elm = json.loads(content)
    tmp = elm['body']
    tmpmt = {}
    tmpmt['jabber:to'] = elm['to']
    tmpmt['jabber:from'] = elm['from']
    tmpmt['jabber:ts'] = elm['ts']
    tmpmt['jabber:id'] = "{}".format(uuid.uuid4())
    pyail.feed_json_item(tmp, tmpmt, ailfeedertype,
        source_uuid)

$ cat ~/conti/* | jq . -c | python ./feeder.py
```

RANSOMWARE JABBER CHATS LEAK IN AIL

AIL allows to explore the data set



2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

- Conti ransomware group leak analysis
- Ransomware Jabber chats leak in AIL

1. For this particular account, we see interactions with various accounts,
2. as well as the exchange of the PGP key.



First we quickly extract at most 1000 bitcoin addresses without context:

```
1 $ . ~/AILENV/bin/activate
2 $ python ~/ail-framework/tools/
  extract_cryptocurrency.py -t bitcoin -n
  1000 | jq .[].nodes[].text | tr -d '"'
```

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Conti ransomware group leak analysis

└ Correlating with MISP's data

1. The script extracts the bitcoin addresses from AIL,
2. we use jq to select the right bit of data,
3. we trim the unnecessary quotes with tr.



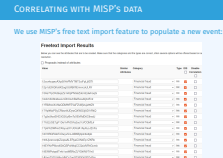
CORRELATING WITH MISP'S DATA

We use MISP's free text import feature to populate a new event:

Freetext Import Results					
Below you can see the attributes that are to be created. Make sure that the categories and the types are correct, often several options will be offered based on the resolution.					
<input type="checkbox"/> Proposals instead of attributes					
Value	Similar Attributes	Category	Type	IDS	Disable Correlation
12ccnkqczAXp58YePMVTMT3uiFpLj9DTt		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12p1cEthQKc8K2ogUijWjKtiEmnrcoULAY		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15As7FpCKd6qsZa1kKpPNG6ZdomEdwhoqG		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16cb7AUf64daxLmDhXzvhBeRzeuNj34Fc2		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17RiMroeXvNwQDMf9FEVaFZvWj2uja99Z5		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17Yq9fkbPSyCRbsn8UDywQXWG3jADf1RkQ		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17g3e3foeEHD3G3UyBmTcXEKrdD6C8rsdJ		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17h32zGE7gF1De1kPhDVia2ac7VCQM3Jr		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17p9YoDWHcCX6yuaX1UGVdA1AyXucJZnFa		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18VHRQFAi6TvDwyvSrZJ4BKBj3ptc8v8pb		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
193UjvwxxvqbZJopaALERyaCXN4Ep1ZKRb		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19EYKePWvc8G6QSPoN9qiCCQsidVR4Gcmb		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19EtWPotqs8Tnkt1oaWBNxZJYGktN9TVn5		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1A5ypTVDUH8vJdNCs7opGT9PjG62PZYXbn		Financial fraud	btc	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

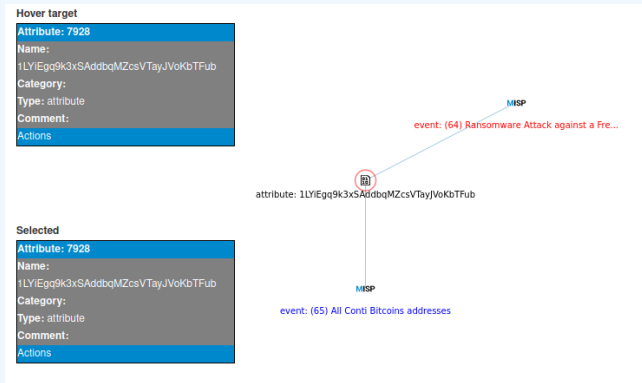
2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information
— Conti ransomware group leak analysis
— Correlating with MISP's data



1. MISP allows to verify for each field is it detected the right type of attribute.

MIPS links one related event



From evidences to actionable information

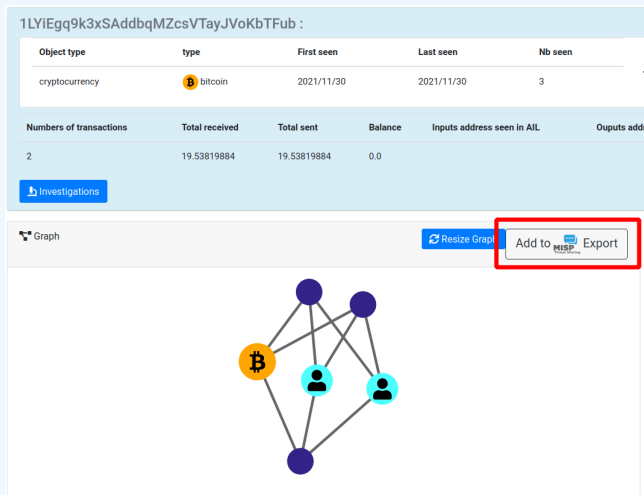
- Conti ransomware group leak analysis
- Correlating with MISP's data



1. MISP automatically match various attributes between events,
2. In this case, one bitcoin address was spotted in another event.

CORRELATING WITH MISP'S DATA

To add some contextual information about attackers' social interactions we go back to AIL:



2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

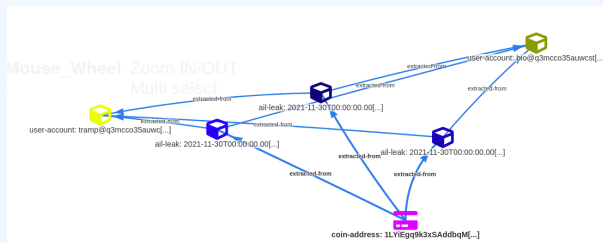
- Conti ransomware group leak analysis
 - Correlating with MISP's data



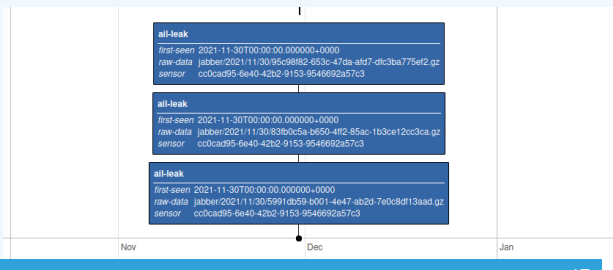
1. This bitcoin address appeared in three interactions (AIL items), between two individuals.
2. We use the "Add to MISP export" button to export this bitcoin address to MISP.
3. When prompted by AIL we choose to export the address on two levels to reach usernames:
4. Bitcoin address -> items -> usernames

CORRELATING WITH MISP'S DATA

In MISP's event graph, we can now see objects' relationships:



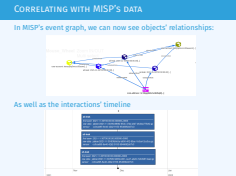
As well as the interactions' timeline



2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

- Conti ransomware group leak analysis
- Correlating with MISP's data



Here the communications related to this address:

- The BTC-wallet for payment:
1LYiEgq9k3xSAddbqMZcsVTayJVoKbTFub
- and if we close the question, the wallet remains the same?
The BTC-wallet for payment:
1LYiEgq9k3xSAddbqMZcsVTayJVoKbTFub
- Ok, \$1,150,000. The BTC-wallet for payment:
1LYiEgq9k3xSAddbqMZcsVTayJVoKbTFub We are waiting the payment today.

From evidences to actionable information

- └ Conti ransomware group leak analysis
 - └ Social Contextualisation

Here the communications related to this address:

- The BTC-wallet for payment:
1LYiEgq9k3xSAddbqMZcsVTayJVoKbTFub
- and if we close the question, the wallet remains the same?
The BTC-wallet for payment:
1LYiEgq9k3xSAddbqMZcsVTayJVoKbTFub
- Ok, \$1,150,000. The BTC-wallet for payment:
1LYiEgq9k3xSAddbqMZcsVTayJVoKbTFub We are waiting the payment today.

We gathered new information:

- We confirmed that the ransomware gang is indeed Conti,
- we know the amount of money claimed by the attacker.

We will pack this information in a digestible package:

- We extend the existing event with the event created from AIL,
- we create an Event Report that explains the context and the new intelligence produced from the additional facts we gathered with AIL.

We gathered new information:

- We confirmed that the ransomware gang is indeed Conti,
- we know the amount of money claimed by the attacker.

We will pack this information in a digestible package:

- We extend the existing event with the event created from AIL,
- we create an Event Report that explains the context and the new intelligence produced from the additional facts we gathered with AIL.

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Conti ransomware group leak analysis

└ Producing Intelligence

1. Extending an event will allow us to reference information from one event to the other as if they were the same event.

We gathered new information:

- We confirmed that the ransomware gang is indeed Conti,
- we know the amount of money claimed by the attacker.

We will pack this information in a digestible package:

- We extend the existing event with the event created from AIL,
- we create an Event Report that explains the context and the new intelligence produced from the additional facts we gathered with AIL.

View Event
View Correlation Graph
View Event History
Edit Event
Delete Event
Add Attribute
Add Object
Add Attachment
Add Event Report
Populate from...
Enrich Event
Merge attributes from...
Publish Event
Publish (no email)
Delegate Publishing
Contact Reporter
Download as...

Edit Event

Date: 2022-03-21
Distribution: Your organisation only
Threat Level: Undefined
Analysis: Initial

Event Info: 1LYiEgq9k3xSAddbqMZcsVTayJV0KbTFub Social Interactions

Extends Event
1128963e-516e-4c9b-b14e-ae2dcbf69e80

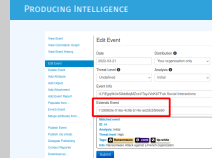
Matched event
ID: 64
Analysis: Initial
Threat level: High
Tags: Ransomware, conti, tip:white
Info: Ransomware Attack against a French organization

Submit

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

- Conti ransomware group leak analysis
- Producing Intelligence

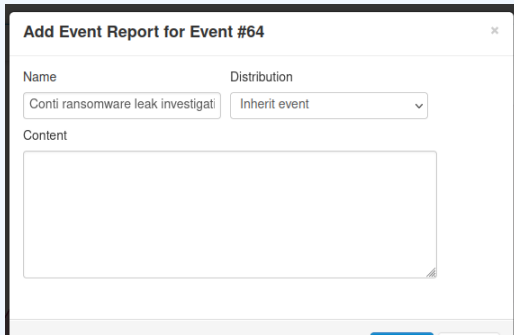


1. We extend the event that contains the ransomware case with the one we created in AIL by adding the first event's uuid in the latter "Extends Event" property.
2. Once the event is exented by another, one can switch between the "atomic view" and the "extended view" by clicking the arrows in the "Extended By" event property box.

PRODUCING INTELLIGENCE

We create an event report in the extending event to:

- explain the context around the leak,
- explain how the leak was exploited,
- describe the analyses that was done,
- show how the data from the leak shines a new light on the first event,
- explain to humans.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Add Event Report for Event #64". It has a close button (X) in the top right corner. The form contains three main sections: "Name" with a text input field containing "Conti ransomware leak investigati", "Distribution" with a dropdown menu showing "Inherit event", and "Content" with a large text area.

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

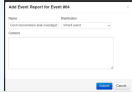
└ Conti ransomware group leak analysis

└ Producing Intelligence

1.

We create an event report in the extending event to:

- explain the context around the leak,
- explain how the leak was exploited,
- describe the analyses that was done,
- show how the data from the leak shines a new light on the first event,
- explain to humans.



A smaller version of the form shown in the previous block, titled "Add Event Report for Event #64".

Writing the story around the event fosters to addition of more contextual information:

Background

On Feb. 27th 2022, information popped up on the Internet that a disgruntled UA operator from Conti ransomware gang was about to leak information about their operations in the coming hours on his twitter account [twitter-id: ContiLeaks](#) . External analysis brings more details into this investigation [url: https://analyst1.com/file-assets/RANSOM-MAFIA-...](https://analyst1.com/file-assets/RANSOM-MAFIA-...)

Cryptocurrencies wallet used for moving money

When the french organization got ransomed, Conti asked for an undisclosed amount of money to be transefered on [btc: 1LYIEgq9k3xSAddbqMZcsVTayJVokbTFub](#) . The leak brought new information in the form of jabber chats between Contrl ransomware opearators [person: 2](#) and the french org, we know now that Conti asked for \$1,150,000.

Analysis

The analysis has been done using AIL.

2022-03-25

From evidences to actionable information

└ Conti ransomware group leak analysis

└ Producing Intelligence

1. Here we only added a twitter account, but numerous information could be added to the event to create a meaningful report.

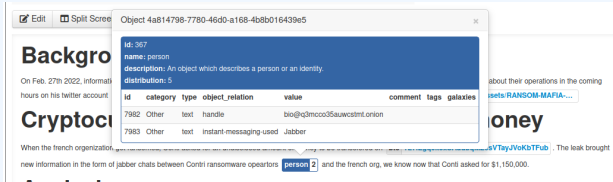
Writing the story around the event fosters to addition of more contextual information:

Background

Cryptocurrencies wallet used for moving money

Analysis

Event reports are supported by the data contained into the event, and as such allows for getting more information on clicking on the object from the report:



└ Conti ransomware group leak analysis

└ Producing Intelligence

1. In this view we click on a person object to get more details about it.

Event reports are supported by the data contained into the event, and as such allows for getting more information on clicking on the object from the report:



- Given the growth and diversification and maturity of users, **contextualisation is becoming essential**
- Well-structured, context-rich data is good as it enables better **decision making**
- It will rise user capabilities and thus **improve protection**
- MISP has a format and tools designed to support contextualised data

└ Conti ransomware group leak analysis

└ To sum it all up

- Given the growth and diversification and maturity of users, **contextualisation is becoming essential**
- Well-structured, context-rich data is good as it enables better **decision making**
- It will rise user capabilities and thus **improve protection**
- MISP has a format and tools designed to support contextualised data

Provide sources along with the data!

- Turning data into actionable intelligence - advanced features in MISP supporting your analysts and tools (CIRCL.lu)
 - ▶ <https://www.enisa.europa.eu/events/2019-cti-eu/2019-cti-eu-bonding-eu-cyber-threat-intelligence>
- Colouring Outside the Lines (Andras Iklody & Trey Darley)
 - ▶ <https://www.first.org/conference/2020/recordings>
- MISP Training Materials
 - ▶ <https://github.com/MISP/misp-training>

From evidences to actionable information

- └ Conti ransomware group leak analysis
 - └ Acknowledgment

Provide sources along with the data!

- Turning data into actionable intelligence - advanced features in MISP supporting your analysts and tools (CIRCL.lu)
 - ▶ <https://www.enisa.europa.eu/events/2019-cti-eu/2019-cti-eu-bonding-eu-cyber-threat-intelligence>
- Colouring Outside the Lines (Andras Iklody & Trey Darley)
 - ▶ <https://www.first.org/conference/2020/recordings>
- MISP Training Materials
 - ▶ <https://github.com/MISP/misp-training>