FROM EVIDENCES TO ACTIONABLE IN-FORMATION

E.206

CIRCL COMPUTER INCIDENT RESPONSE CENTER LUXEMBOURG

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



MARCH 21, 2022

From evidences to actionable information

FROM EVIDENCES TO ACTIONABLE IN-FORMATION

E.206

ONPUTER INCIDENT RESPONSE CENTER LUXEMBOURS
PROJECT
:://www.misp-project.org/
Threat Sharii
21, 2022

OBJECTIVES OF THIS MODULE

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

From evidences to actionable information

Objectives of this module

2022-

HOW EVIDENCES CAN BE USEFUL FOR DEFENSE

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

EVIDENCES CAN BE USEFUL FO SE

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)

From evidences to actionable information

How evidences can be useful for defense

-How evidences can be useful for defense

e most common recommendations to protect people and det from cyber attacks are smally. Manishing software up to date Bellable sackupe Bellable sackupe

- 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.

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**

From evidences to actionable information

How evidences can be useful for defense

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WHY IS CONTEXTUALISATION IMPORTANT

From evidences to actionable information
Why is contextualisation important

IS CONTEXTUALISATION IMPO

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 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

From evidences to actionable information Why is contextualisation important

└─Why is contextualisation important

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Allow false-positive management

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

EXPECTATIONS OF THE RECIPIENTS

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**, likelyhood and origin of the data

From evidences to actionable information —Why is contextualisation important

Expectations of the recipients

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Being able to understand the data and its classification
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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

From evidences to actionable information -Why is contextualisation important

-What do recipient hope to do with the data

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 904afe59f6438848be96fd26fdeabo1267070d25

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

From evidences to actionable information —Why is contextualisation important

└─Is context really that important?

| SCONTER FALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

Raw data is south that coaless Type don't know what it is about the transport of the trans

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?

- 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

From evidences to actionable information —Why is contextualisation important

Is context really that important?

CONTEXT REALLY THAT IMPORTANT?

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WHAT SORT OF CONTEXT IS PERTINENT

- To what kind of user this data is for
- What type of action can be performed with it
- Estimtaion on accuracy, reliability and likelyhood
- 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

From evidences to actionable information Why is contextualisation important

What sort of context is pertinent

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WHAT OPTIONS DO WE HAVE IN MISP

2022-03-

From evidences to actionable information What options do we have in MISP

-What options do we have in MISP

■ MITRE ATTRCK

MISP offers mutliples 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

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

☐ Tag	Events	Attributes	Tags
workflow:state="complete"	11	0	workflow:state="complete"
workflow:state="draft"	0	0	workflow:state="draft"
workflow:state="incomplete"	55	10	workflow:state="incomplete" <
workflow:state="ongoing"	0	0	workflow:state="ongoing"

From evidences to actionable information What options do we have in MISP



—Taxonomies

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

From evidences to actionable information -What options do we have in MISP

-Galaxies and Galaxy Clusters

2022-

- · Including descriptions, links, synonyms, meta information
- # Flexible and reusable

GALAXIES AND GALAXY CLUSTERS

Ransomware galaxy

777

7ev3n

373

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

From evidences to actionable information -What options do we have in MISP

-Galaxies and Galaxy Clusters

B Ransomware galaxy

Sevleg

7ev3n-HONE\$T

MITRE ATT&CK AND GALAXY MATRICES

- 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

From evidences to actionable information

What options do we have in MISP

-MITRE ATT&CK and Galaxy Matrices

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

MITRE ATT&CK AND GALAXY MATRICES



From evidences to actionable information What options do we have in MISP

☐ MITRE ATT&CK and Galaxy Matrices



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.

From evidences to actionable information What options do we have in MISP

-MISP Objects

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MISP OBJECTS

A file object

2018-03-27	Name: file 🛂 References: 1 🛂	•		
2018-03-27	Payload delivery	filename: filename	putty.exe	+
2018-03-27	Other	size-in-bytes: size-in-bytes	774200	+
2018-03-27	Other	entropy: float	6.7264597226	+
2018-03-27	Payload delivery	md5: md5	b6c12d88eeb910784d75a5e4df954001	=
2018-03-27	Payload delivery	sha1: sha1	5ef9515e8fd92a254dd2dcdd9c4b50afa8007b8f	•
2018-03-27	Payload delivery	sha256 : sha256	81de431987304676134138705fc1c21188ad7f27edf6b77a6551aa6931944 85e	•
2018-03-27	Payload delivery	sha512: sha512	$e174ecf4ffb36d30c2cc66b37f82877d421244c924d5c9f39f2e0f37d85332b\\7d107d5ac5bd19cb7ffdcdbdd8b506d488faa30664ef610f62f3970c163cca7\\6$	•
2018-03-27	Payload delivery	malware-sample:	putty.exe	=

From evidences to actionable information What options do we have in MISP

└─MISP Objects



RELATIONSHIPS

- Analysts want more than a table of atribbute, 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

From evidences to actionable information —What options do we have in MISP

└Relationships

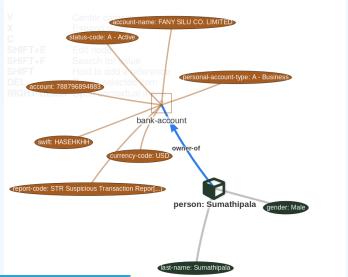
m Analysts want more than a table of atribute, they want to see how each of them interact with the others

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MISP allow these relationship to be built between objects

RELATIONSHIPS

A relationship betwen 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** os 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

From evidences to actionable information

-What options do we have in MISP

-Timeliness with Sightings and first seen / last seen

Adding Temporality os a good way to avoid having the data

TIMELINESS WITH SIGHTINGS AND first_seen / last seen

Screenshot of the timeline widget when viewing a MISP event



From evidences to actionable information

What options do we have in MISP

enhot of the timeline widget when viewing a MCP even

Timeliness with Sightings and first_seen /
last_seen

BEST PRACTISES TO ENCODE AND CONTEXTUALISE

From evidences to actionable information

Best practises to encode and contextualise

BEST PRACTISES TO ENCODE AND CO TEXTUALISE

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!

From evidences to actionable information

Best practises to encode and contextualise

-Encoding: Event

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ENCODING: ATTRIBUTES AND OBJECTS

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

Atomic data by themselve rarely exists: They are often related to something else

- Interactions between 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

ODING: ATTRIBUTES AND OBJECTS

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- Property encoding these relationships turns flat data into a connected graph

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CONTEXTUALISATION: DISTRIBUTIONS AND PERMISSI-**BLE 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

From evidences to actionable information Best practises to encode and contextualise

> -Contextualisation: Distributions and permissible actions

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

From evidences to actionable information

Best practises to encode and contextualise

—Contextualisation: Attributes and their context

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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

From evidences to actionable information

Best practises to encode and contextualise

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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!

From evidences to actionable information

Best practises to encode and contextualise

-Contextualisation: Origin, likelyhood and reliability

TEXTUALISATION: ORIGIN, LIKELYHOOD AND ABILITY

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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 likelyhood
 - ► Taxonomy: estimative-language
 - ► i.e: estimative-language:likelihood-probability="very" likelv"

From evidences to actionable information Best practises to encode and contextualise

> -Contextualisation: Origin, likelyhood and reliability

CONTEXTUALISATION: ORIGIN, LIKELYHOOD AND

CONTEXTUALISATION: MAKE THE ATTRIBUTION

- 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 boostrap the analysis procdess

From evidences to actionable information

Best practises to encode and contextualise

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CONTEXTUALISE: PROVIDE ADVICES ON HOW TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

To help recipients to better protect themselve, 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 compromision
 - ► 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

From evidences to actionable information

Best practises to encode and contextualise

-Contextualise: Provide advices on how to protect themselves

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To help recipients to better protect themselve, additional

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From evidences to actionable information

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

■ Incorporate all contextualisation options into API filters

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

ld	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
Туре	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	

false positives

From evidences to actionable information -How can context be leveraged

-Leveraging the context

■ Warninglist system helps to exclude known false-positives LIST OF KNOWN IPV4 PUBLIC DNS RESOLVERS

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



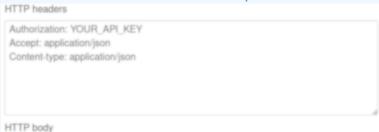
From evidences to actionable information —How can context be leveraged

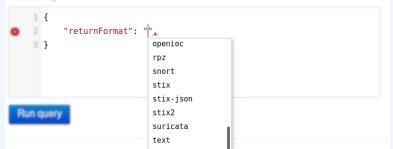
Leveraging the context



4

■ Allow users to build their own export module





From evidences to actionable information How can context be leveraged

Leveraging the context



ENABLING COMMON USER PROFILES TO BETTER PER-FORM 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

From evidences to actionable information How can context be leveraged

> Enabling common user profiles to better perform their tasks

low does different user profiles benefits to most of

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- incident responder: Self-explanatory data relieves press and reduces the change of misunderstanding it
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- m risk analyst: Help highlighting potential security gaps and

How to structure non-technical information

From evidences to actionable information

How to structure non-technical information

TO STRUCTURE NON-TECHNICARMATION

OBJECTIVES

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

From evidences to actionable information

How to structure non-technical information

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to produce meaninful insights,

Model these interactions,

 Outline what Socio-Technical intercations are useful share.

1. A note for the slide handout

Objectives

WE LIVE IN SOCIO-TECHNICAL SYSTEMS

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

CIO-TECHNICAL SYSTEMS

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1. A note for the slide handout

2022

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.

From evidences to actionable information

How to structure non-technical information

Plan

Plan

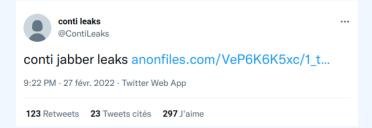
CONTI RANSOMWARE GROUP LEAK ANALYSIS

From evidences to actionable information Conti ransomware group leak analysis

ANSOMWARE GROUP LEA

RANSOMWARE JABBER CHATS LEAK

Published on Twitter:



Contained XMPP server logs:

```
ts": "2020-09-08Т00:28:49.471678",
"from": "ceram@q3mcco35auwcstmt.onion",
"to": "stern@q3mcco35auwcstmt.onion",
"body": "Проинструктируйте меня. Что делать?"
```

From evidences to actionable information —Conti ransomware group leak analysis

—Ransomware Jabber chats leak



RANSOMWARE JABBER CHATS LEAK IN AIL

We use AIL¹ to dig into the data:

- AIL processes the data and search for relevant information
 - ► PGP kevs.
 - ► 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.

https://ail-project.org/

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From evidences to actionable information Conti ransomware group leak analysis

—Ransomware Jabber chats leak in AIL

No use ALL's odig into the date.

If It processes the date and search for relevant information

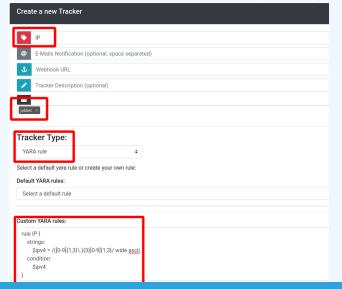
If It processes the date and search for relevant information

If I was not to the search of the search

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

RANSOMWARE JABBER CHATS LEAK IN AIL

Prepare AIL to detect IPv4 addresses by creating a 'tracker':



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Format All 10

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-Ransomware Jabber chats leak in AIL

- 1. We choose the tag 'IP' to label the relevant items.
- We select the 'jabber' source, that is to say that this leak hunter rule will only be applied on items coming from the jabber data source
- 3. We select the tracker type "YARA rule" as we plan to use yara for this leak hunter
- 4. Finally we write the yara rule containing a regex that matches IPv4 addresses
- 5. A "regex" leak hunter could do the same job, so why do we prefer using a yara rule trakcer instead? Because AlL's retro hunt feature uses yara rules only, therefore it's easier to reuse yara trackers that regex ones.

2022-03-21

use MISP to correlate this information from past cases,

■ TODO

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Dig

ease attribution of these past cases through IoC,

■ TODO

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add context to past cases from the chats logs in order to ease their investigation,

■ TODO

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support colleagues and other CSIRTs with real Intelligence.

■ TODO

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Dig

support colleagues and other CSIRTs with mal intelligence.

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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

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└─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
- MISP has a format and tools designed to suppor

2022

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

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Acknowledgment

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