

Incident Response and Log Analysis

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Outline

1. Introduction
2. Incident Response Frameworks
 - Cyber Kill Chain
 - The Diamond Model
 - Other prominent frameworks
3. NIST & NCSC Guidance
4. Log Analysis
 - Security Onion

Cyber Kill Chain

The Cyber Kill Chain

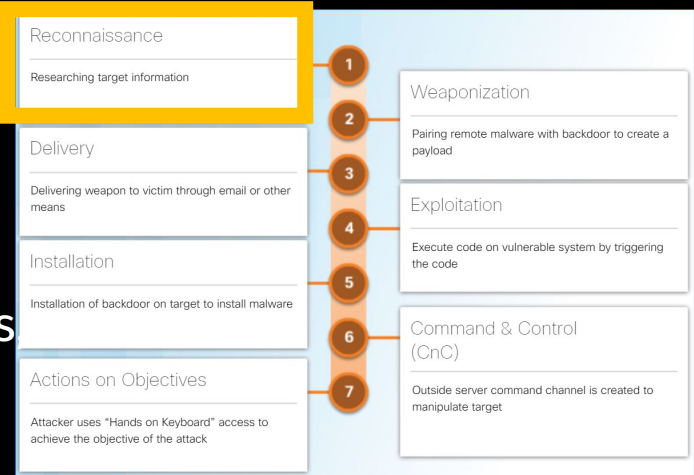
Steps of the Cyber Kill Chain®

- Developed by **Lockheed Martin** to identify and prevent cyber intrusions.
 - The steps of the Cyber Kill Chain help analysts understand the techniques, tools, and procedures of threat actors.
 - The threat actor gains more access to the target as they progress through the steps.
 - The goal is to stop them as early as possible to lessen the damage done.



Reconnaissance

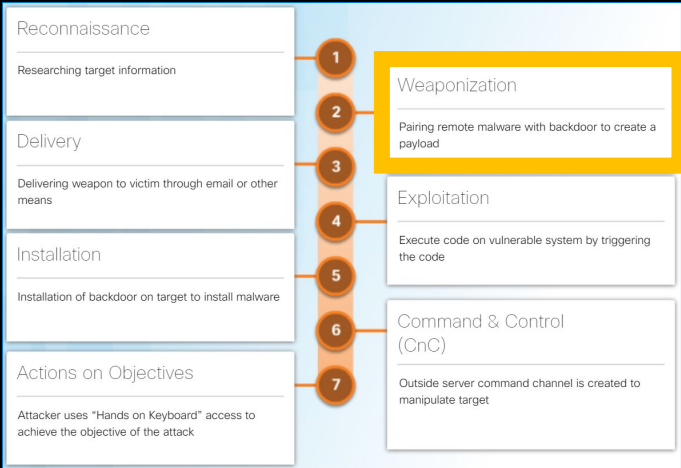
- **Reconnaissance** is when the threat actor performs research, gathers intelligence, and selects targets.
- Organizations may provide information on websites public-facing network devices, in news articles, conference proceedings, and social media outlets.



Adversary Tactics	SOC Defenses
Plan and conduct research: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harvest email addresses• Identify employees on social media networks• Collect all public relations information (press releases, awards, conference attendees, etc.)• Discover Internet-facing servers	Discover Adversary's Intent: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Web log alerts and historical searching data• Data mine browser analytics• Build playbooks for detecting browser behavior that indicate recon activity• Prioritize defense around technologies and people that recon activity is targeting

Weaponization

- **Weaponization** uses the vulnerability information gathered in the reconnaissance step to identify and develop a weapon against specific targeted systems in the organization.

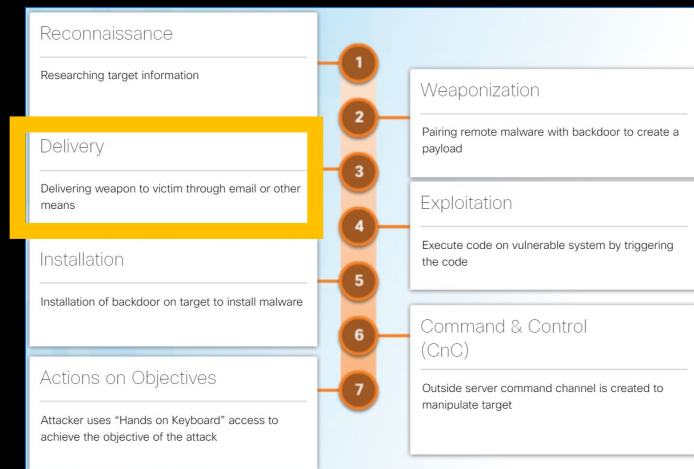


Adversary Tactics	SOC Defenses
<p>Prepare and stage the operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Obtain an automated tool to deliver the malware payload (weaponizer).• Select or create a document to present to the victim.• Select backdoor and command and control infrastructure.	<p>Detect and collect weaponization artifacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct full malware analysis.• Build detections for the behavior of known weaponizers.• Is malware old, "off the shelf" or new malware that might indicate a tailored attack?• Collect files and metadata for future analysis.• Determine which weaponizer artifacts are common to which campaigns.

The Cyber Kill Chain

Delivery

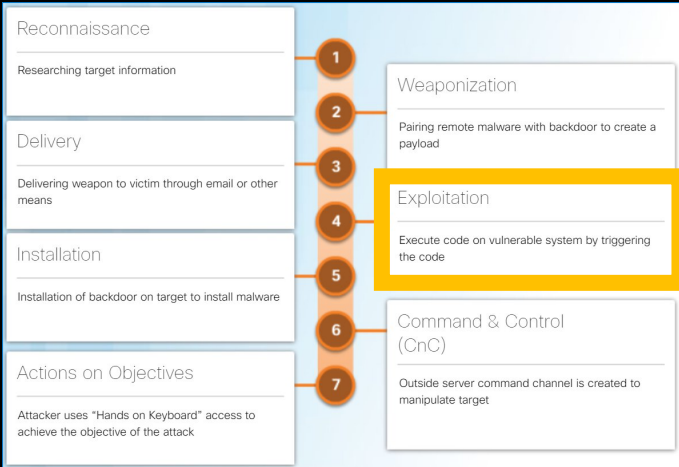
- **Delivery** is when the threat actor delivers the developed weapon using either a website, a removable USB media, or an email attachment.



Adversary Tactics	SOC Defenses
<p>Launch malware at target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Direct against web servers • Indirect delivery through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malicious email • Malware on USB stick • Social media interactions • Compromised websites 	<p>Block delivery of malware:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the infrastructure path used for delivery. • Understand targeted servers, people, and data available to attack. • Infer intent of the adversary based on targeting. • Collect email and web logs for forensic reconstruction.

Exploitation

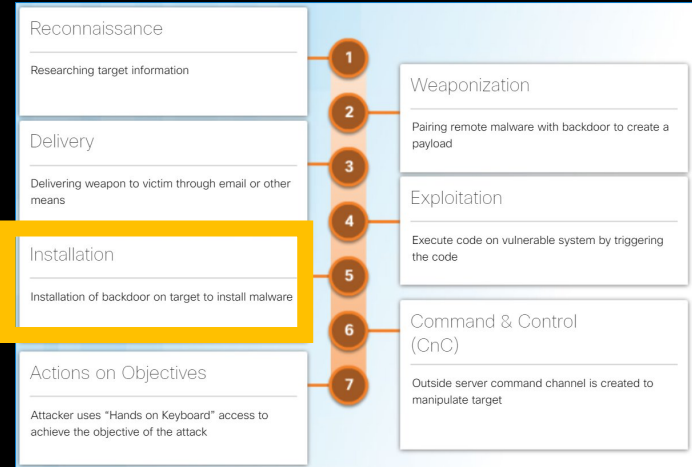
- **Exploitation** is when the threat actor triggers the weapon and executes it to compromise the vulnerability and gain control of the target.



Adversary Tactics	SOC Defenses
<p>Exploit a vulnerability to gain access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use a software, hardware, or human vulnerability• Acquire or develop the exploit• Use an adversary-triggered exploit for server vulnerabilities• Use a victim-triggered exploit such as opening an email attachment or a malicious web link	<p>Train employees, secure code, and harden devices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employee awareness training and email testing• Web developer training for securing code• Regular vulnerability scanning and penetration testing• Endpoint hardening measures• Endpoint auditing to forensically determine origin of exploit

Installation

- **Installation** is when the threat actor establishes a back door into the system to allow for continued access to the target.



Adversary Tactics	SOC Defenses
<p>Install persistent backdoor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install webshell on web server for persistent access.• Create point of persistence by adding services, AutoRun keys, etc.• Some adversaries modify the timestamp of the malware to make it appear as part of the operating system.	<p>Detect, log, and analyze installation activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HIPS to alert or block on common installation paths.• Determine if malware requires admin privileges or only user.• Endpoint auditing to discover abnormal file creations.• Determine if malware is known threat or a new variant.

Command and Control

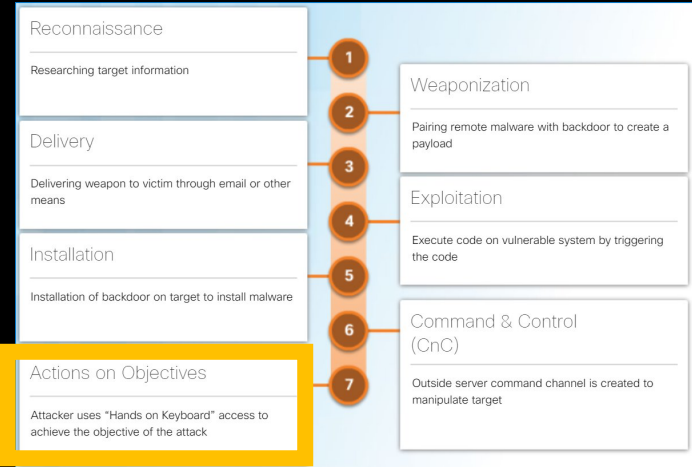
- **Command & Control** (CnC or C2) is when an outside server channel is used by the threat actor to manipulate a target by issuing commands to the software that they installed on the target.



Adversary Tactics	SOC Defenses
<p>Open channel for target manipulation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open two way communications channel to CnC infrastructure.• Most common CnC channels are over web, DNS, and email protocols.• CnC infrastructure may be adversary owned or another victim network itself.	<p>Last chance to block operation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research possible new CnC infrastructures.• Discover CnC infrastructure thorough malware analysis.• Prevent impact by blocking or disabling CnC channel.• Consolidate the number of Internet points of presence.• Customize blocks of CnC protocols on web proxies.

Actions on Objectives

- **Actions on Objectives** is the final step of the kill chain and is when the attacker achieves attack objective.
 - Can be used for data theft, performing a DDoS attack, or using the compromised network to create and send spam.
 - Threat actor is deeply rooted in the systems of the organization and may be extremely difficult to remove from the network.



Adversary Tactics	SOC Defenses
Reap the rewards of successful attack: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Collect user credentials.• Privilege escalation.• Internal reconnaissance.• Lateral movement through environment.• Collect and exfiltrate data.• Destroy systems.• Overwrite, modify, or corrupt data.	Detect by using forensic evidence: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish incident response playbook.• Detect data exfiltration, lateral movement, and unauthorized credential usage.• Immediate analyst response for all alerts.• Forensic analysis of endpoints for rapid triage.• Network packet captures to recreate activity.• Conduct damage assessment.

The Cyber Kill Chain

Defensive Measures Mapped to CKC

Cyber Kill Chain Stage	Defensive Measures
1. Reconnaissance	OSINT reduction, firewalls, IDS, employee awareness
2. Weaponization	Threat intelligence, patching, sandbox analysis
3. Delivery	Email security, web filtering, USB controls
4. Exploitation	EDR, application whitelisting, exploit mitigations

The Cyber Kill Chain

Defensive Measures Mapped to CKC

Cyber Kill Chain Stage	Defensive Measures
5. Installation	NGAV, FIM, registry monitoring, endpoint hardening
6. Command & Control	Network segmentation, traffic filtering, honeypots
7. Actions on Objectives	Data encryption, DLP, backups, incident response

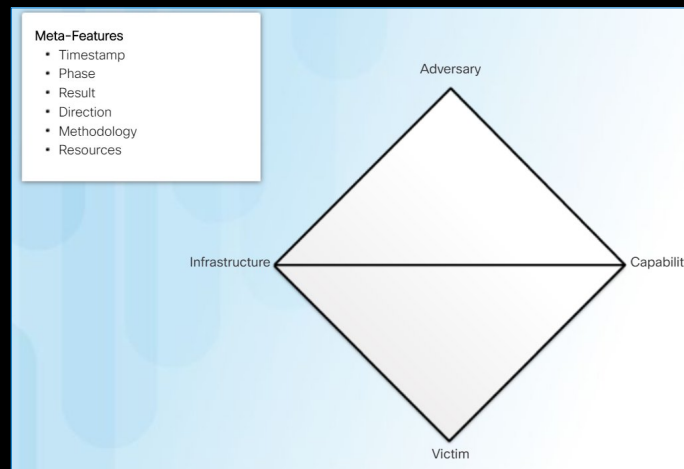
Diamond Model

The Diamond Model of Intrusion

Diamond Model Overview

- The Diamond Model identifies four parts involved in a security incident.

Meta-features expand the model to include important elements.



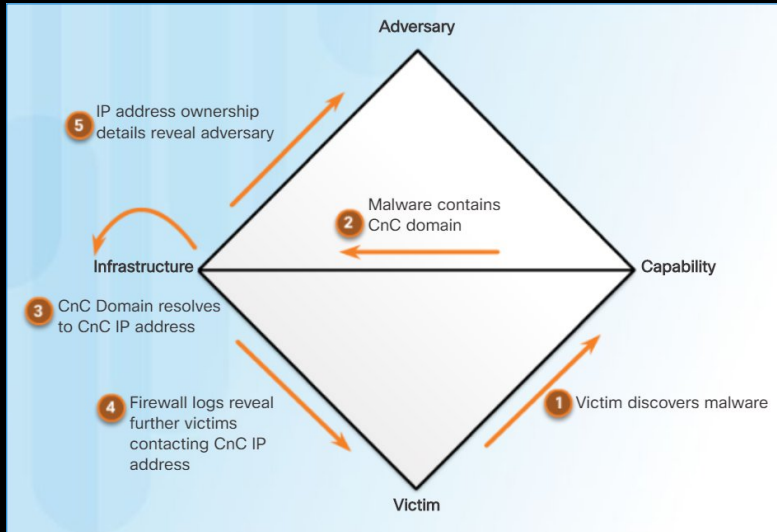
- Adversary** – Parties responsible for the intrusion.
- Capability** – Tool or technique used by the threat actor.
- Infrastructure** – The network path(s) used by the threat actor to establish and maintain command and control.
- Victim** – The target of the attack. The victim could then be used as part of the infrastructure to launch other attacks.

- The *adversary* uses *capabilities* over *infrastructure* to attack the *victim*.
 - Each line in the model shows how each part reached the other.

Pivoting Across the Diamond Model

- The Diamond Model is ideal for illustrating how the adversary pivots from one event to the next.

Example

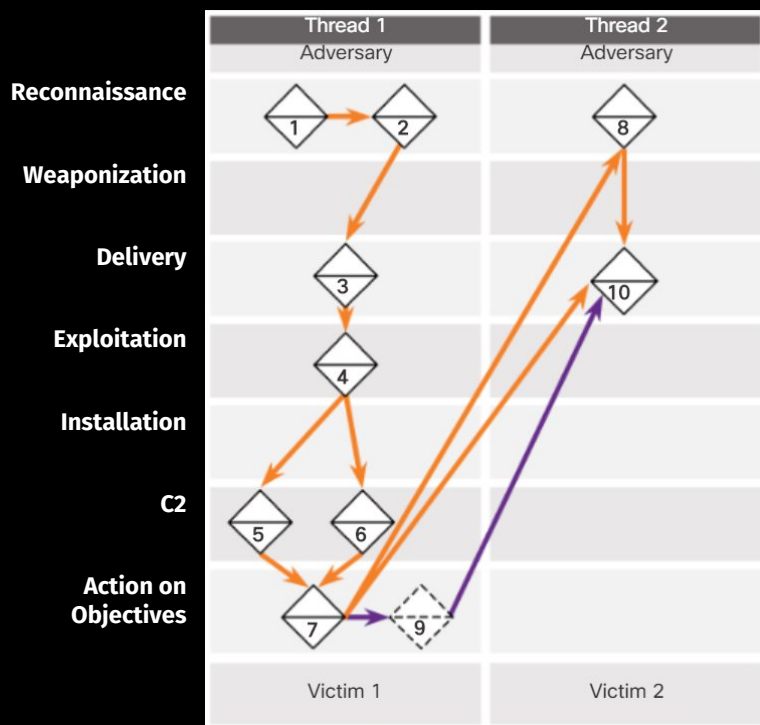


- 1) An employee reports that his computer is acting abnormally and a scan indicates the computer is infected with malware.
- 2) An analysis of the malware reveals that the malware contains a list of CnC domain names.
- 3) These domain names resolve to a list of IP addresses.
- 4) These IP addresses are used to investigate logs to determine if other victims in the organization are using the CnC channel.
- 5) The IP addresses are also used to identify the adversary.

The Diamond Model of Intrusion

The Diamond Model and the Cyber Kill Chain

- The example illustrates the process used by an adversary as they **traverse the Cyber Kill Chain**.

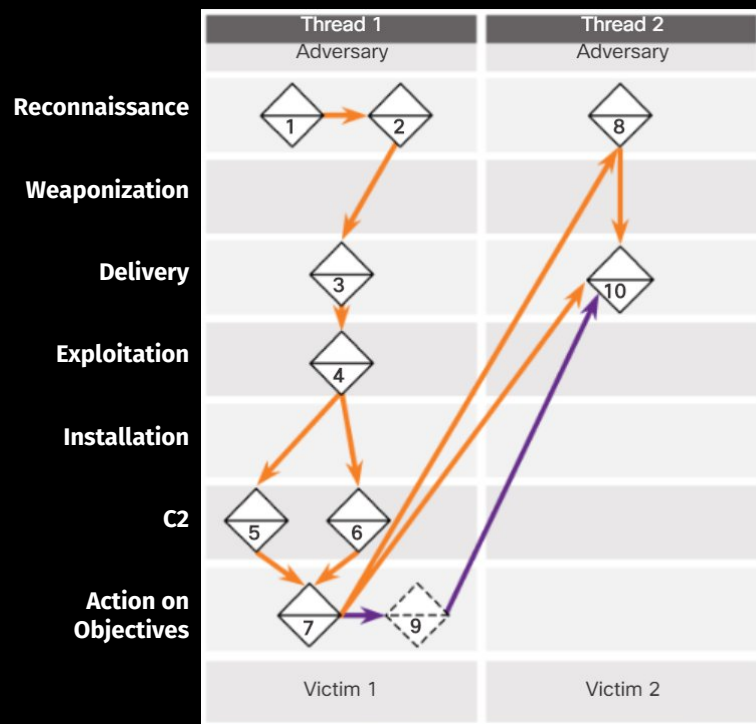


- Adversary conducts a web search for victim company Gadgets, Inc. receiving as part of the results their domain gadgets.com.
- Adversary searches “network administrator gadget.com” and discovers the network administrators’ email addresses.
- Adversary sends phishing emails with a Trojan horse attached to the network administrators.
- One network administrator (NA1) opens the malicious attachment which executes the enclosed exploit.
- NA1’s host registers with a CnC controller by sending an HTTP Post message and receiving an HTTP Response in return.
- Analysis of the malware identifies additional backup IP addresses.
- Through a CnC HTTP response message sent to NA1’s host, the malware begins to act as a proxy for new TCP connections.

The Diamond Model of Intrusion

The Diamond Model and the Cyber Kill Chain (Cont.)

- The example illustrates the process used by an adversary as they traverse the Cyber Kill Chain.



- Through the proxy established on NA1's host, Adversary does a web search for "most important research ever" and finds Victim 2, Interesting Research Inc.
- Adversary checks NA1's email contact list for any contacts from Interesting Research Inc. and discovers the contact for the Interesting Research Inc. Chief Research Officer.
- Chief Research Officer of Interesting Research Inc. receives a spear-phish email from Gadget Inc.'s NA1's email address sent from NA1's host with the same payload as observed in Event 3.

The adversary now has two compromised victims from which additional attacks can be launched.

Log Analysis

Host Logs

- Host-based intrusion protection (HIDS) runs on individual hosts.
 - HIDS not only detects intrusions, but in the form of host-based firewalls, can also prevent intrusion.
 - Creates logs and stores them on the host.
 - Microsoft Windows host logs are visible locally through Event Viewer.
 - Event Viewer keeps four types of logs: Application logs, System logs, Setup logs, and Security logs.

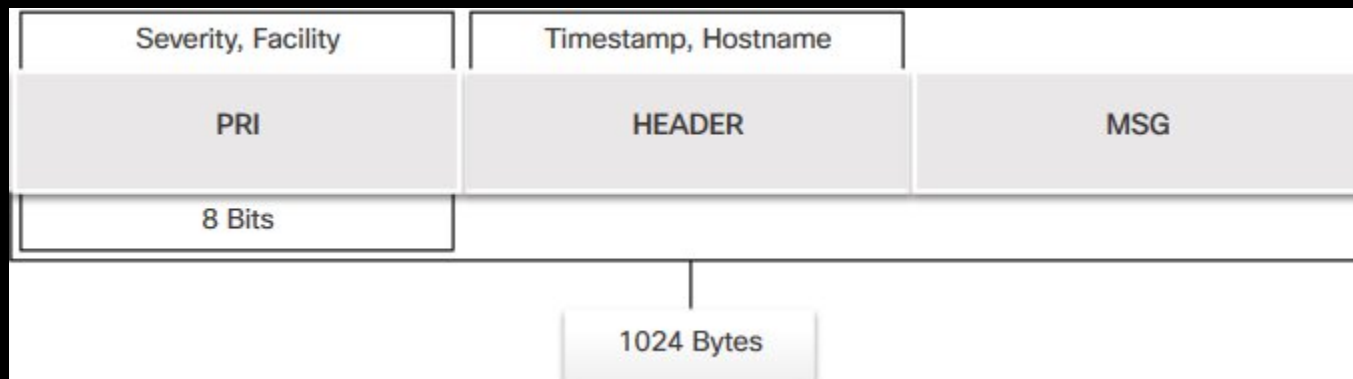
Event Type	Description
Error	An event that indicates a significant problem such as loss of data or loss of functionality. For example, if a service fails to load during startup, an Error event is logged.
Warning	An event that is not necessarily significant, but may indicate a possible future problem. For example, when disk space is low, a Warning event is logged. If an application can recover from an event without loss of functionality or data, it can generally classify the event as a Warning event.
Information	An event that describes the successful operation of an application, driver, or service. For example, when a network driver loads successfully, it may be appropriate to log an Information event. Note that it is generally inappropriate for a desktop application to log an event each time it starts.
Success Audit	An event that records an audited security access attempt that is successful. For example, a user's successful attempt to log on to the system is logged as a Success Audit event.
Failure Audit	An event that records an audited security access attempt that fails. For example, if a user tries to access a network drive and fails, the attempt is logged as a Failure Audit event.

**Windows
Host Log
Event
Types**

End Device Logs

Syslog

- Many types of network devices can be configured to log events to syslog servers.
 - Client/server protocol
 - Syslog messages have three parts: PRI (priority), HEADER, and MSG (message text).
 - PRI consists of two elements, the Facility and Severity of the message.
 - Facility consists of broad categories of sources that generated the message, such as the system, process, or application, directs message to appropriate log file.
 - Severity is a value from 0-7 that defines the severity of the message.



Syslog (Cont.)

Syslog Severity and Facility

Integer	Severity
0	Emergency: System is unusable
1	Alert: Action must be taken immediately
2	Critical: Critical conditions
3	Error: Error conditions
4	Warning: Warning conditions
5	Notice: Normal but significant condition
6	Informational: Informational messages

Integer	Facility
0	kern: Kernel messages
1	user: User-level messages
2	mail: Mail system
3	daemon: System daemons
4	auth: Security/authorization messages
5	syslog: Messages generated internally by Syslogd
6	lpr: Line printer subsystem
7	news: Network news subsystem
8	uucp: Unix-to-Unix copy subsystem
9	Clock daemon
10	authpriv: Security/authorization messages
11	ftp: FTP daemon
12	NTP subsystem
13	Log audit

Priority = (Facility X 8) + Severity

Server Logs

- Server Logs are an essential source of data for network security monitoring.
 - Email and web servers keep access and error logs.
 - DNS proxy server logs document all DNS queries and responses that occur on the network.
 - DNS proxy logs can identify hosts that visited dangerous websites and identify DNS data exfiltration and connections to malware CnC servers.

Web Server Logs

Apache Access Log

```
203.0.113.127 - dsmith [10/Oct/2016:10:26:57 -0500]  
"GET /logo_sm.gif HTTP/1.0" 200  
2254 "http://www.example.com/links.html"  
"Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Win64; x64; rv:47.0)  
Gecko/20100101 Firefox/47.0"
```

IIS Access Log

```
6/14/2016, 16:22:43, 203.0.113.24, -, W3SVC2, WEB3,  
198.51.100.10, 80, GET, /home.htm, -, 200, 0, 15321,  
159, 15, HTTP/1.1, Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; MSIE 9.0;  
Windows Phone OS 7.5; Trident/5.0; IEMobile/9.0), -,  
http://www.example.com
```


End Device Logs

Apache Webserver Access Logs

- Apache Webserver access logs record the requests for resources from clients to the server.
 - Two log formats
 - Common log format (CLF)
 - Combined log format, which is CLF with the addition of the referrer and user agent fields

Apache Access Log Format

```
203.0.113.127 - dsmith [10/Oct/2016:10:26:57 -0500] "GET /logo_sm.gif
HTTP/1.0" 200 2254 "http://www.example.com/links.html"
"Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Win64; x64; rv:47.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/47.0"
```

Field	Name	Description	Example
1	Client IP address	IP address of requesting client	203.0.113.127
2	Client identity	Client userid, frequently omitted	-
3	User ID	User name of authenticated user, if any	dsmith
4	Timestamp	Date and time of request	[10/Oct/2016:10:26:57 -0500]
5	Request	Request method and requested resource	GET /logo_sm.gif HTTP/1.0"
6	Status Code	HTTP status code	200
7	Size of Response	Bytes returned to client	2254
8	Referrer	Location, if any, from which the client reached the resource	http://www.example.com/links.html
9	User Agent	Browser used by client	Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Win64; x64; rv:47.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/47.0

End Device Logs

IIS Access Logs

- Microsoft IIS creates access logs that can be viewed from the server with Event Viewer.

IIS Access Log Format

```
6/14/2016, 16:22:43, 203.0.113.24, -, W3SVC2, WEB3, 198.51.100.10, 80, GET, /home.htm, -, 200, 0, 15321, 159, 15, HTTP/1.1, Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; MSIE 9.0; Windows Phone OS 7.5; Trident/5.0; IEMobile/9.0), -, http://www.example.com
```

Item	Field	Explanation	Example
Date	date	date on which the activity occurred	6/14/2016
Time	time	UTC time, at which the activity occurred	16:22:22
Client IP Address	c-ip	IP address of the client that made the request	203.0.113.24
User Name	cs-username	authenticated user name	-
Service Name and Instance Number	s-sitename	Internet service name and instance number	W3SVC2
Server Name	s-computername	name of the server that generated the log entry	WEB3
Server IP Address	s-ip	IP address of the server	198.51.100.10
Server Port	s-port	server port for the service	80
Method	cs-method	requested action (HTTP method)	GET
URI Stem	cs-uri-stem	target of the action	/home.htm
URI Query	cs-uri-query	the query the client was trying to perform	-

URI Query	cs-uri-query	the query the client was trying to perform	-
HTTP Status	sc-status	HTTP status code	200
Win32 Status	sc-win32-status	Windows status code	0
Bytes Sent	sc-bytes	bytes that the server sent	15321
Bytes Received	cs-bytes	bytes that the server received	159
Time Taken	time-taken	length of time that the action took, in milliseconds	15
Protocol Version	cs-version	the protocol version	HTTP/1.1
User Agent	cs(User-Agent)	browser type that the client used	Mozilla/5.0 (compatible; MSIE 9.0; Windows Phone OS 7.5; Trident/5.0; IEMobile/9.0)
Cookie	cs(Cookie)	The content of the cookie sent or received, if any	-
Referrer	cs(Referrer)	site that provided a link to the requested page	http://www.example.com

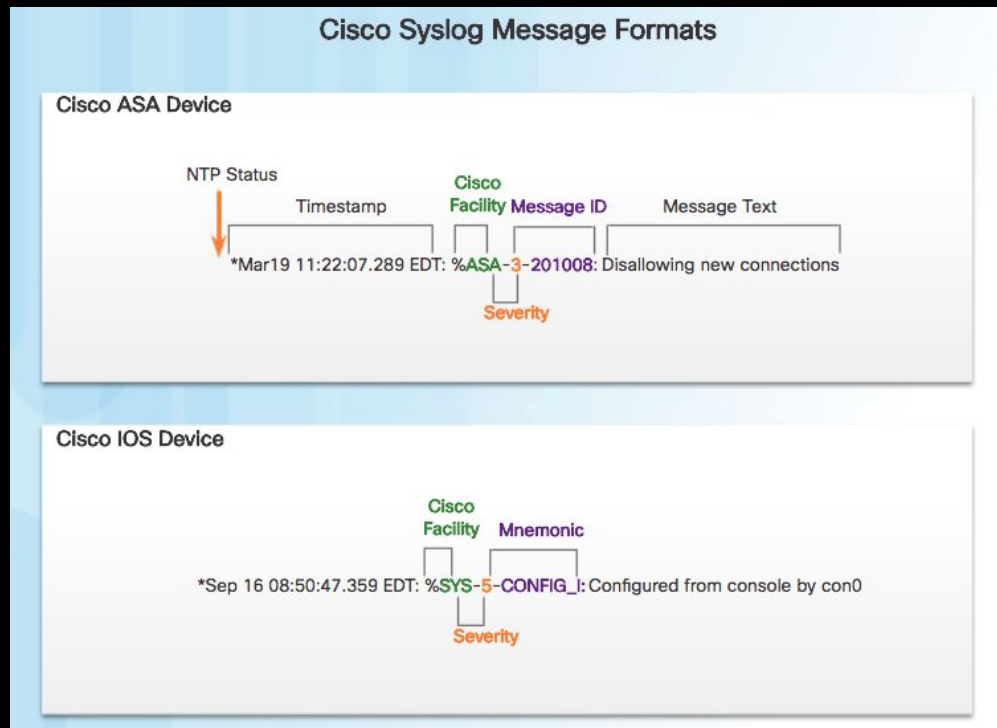
Network Logs

Proxy Logs

- Proxy servers contain valuable logs that are a primary source of data for network security monitoring.
 - Proxy servers make requests for resources and return them to the client.
 - Generate logs of all requests and responses.
 - Can be analyzed to determine which hosts are making the requests, whether the destinations are safe or potentially malicious, and to gain insights into the kind of resources that have been downloaded.
- Web proxies provide data that helps determine whether responses from the web were generated in response to legitimate requests or only appear to be responses.
- Open DNS offers a hosted DNS service that extends the capability of DNS to include security enhancements.
 - DNS super proxy
 - Apply real-time threat intelligence to managing DNS access and the security of DNS records

Logging from Cisco Devices

- Cisco devices can be configured to submit events and alerts to security management platforms using SNMP or syslog.

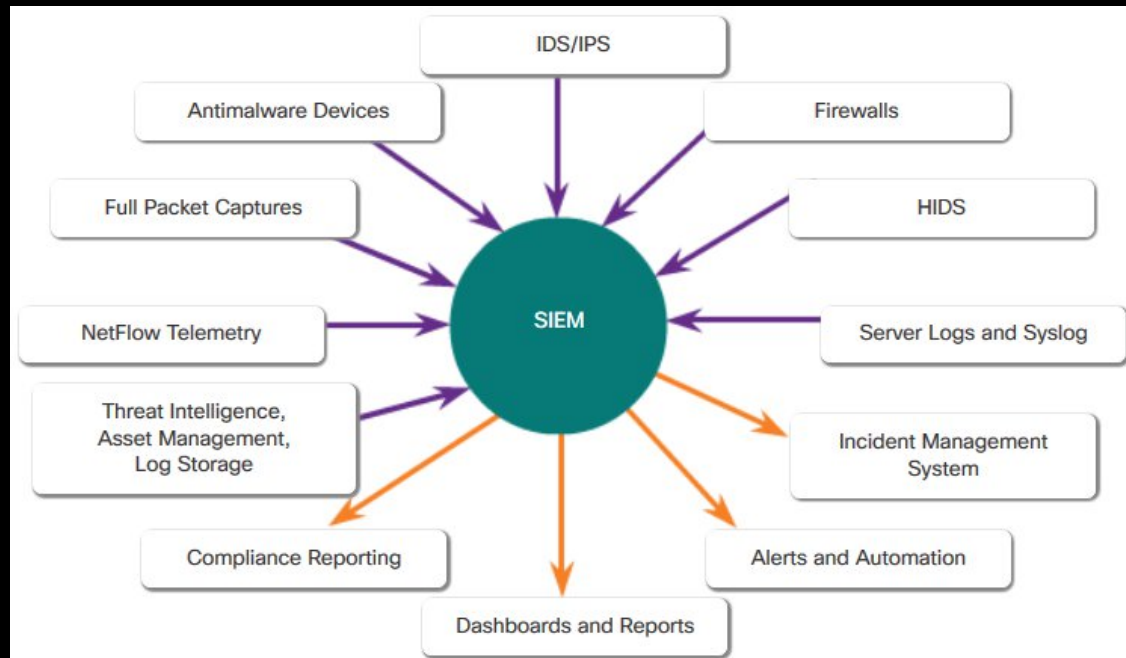


End Device Logs

SIEM and Log Collection

- Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) technology
 - Provides real-time reporting and long-term analysis of security events.
 - Uses the following functions: Log collection, Normalization, Correlation, Aggregation, Reporting, Compliance
 - A popular SIEM is Splunk..

SIEM
Components



Security Information Event Management (SIEM)

Tasks and Capabilities:

- **Log Data Aggregation** – (linux, apps, database, switches, routers)
- **Log Forensics** – search raw and formatted logs
- **Event Correlation and Alerting** – set rules, thresholds
- **File integrity Monitoring** – track changes
- **Log Analysis & Dashboard** – real-time log data in chart, graphs, reports
- **User Monitoring** – track suspicious user activity or privilege escalation
- **Object Access Auditing** – tracking access, editing and deletion of files
- **Compliance Reports** – pre-defined reports
- **Log Data Retention** – internal audits, historical data

Commercial Examples:

[IBM Qradar](#)
[LogRhythm](#)
[Splunk](#)

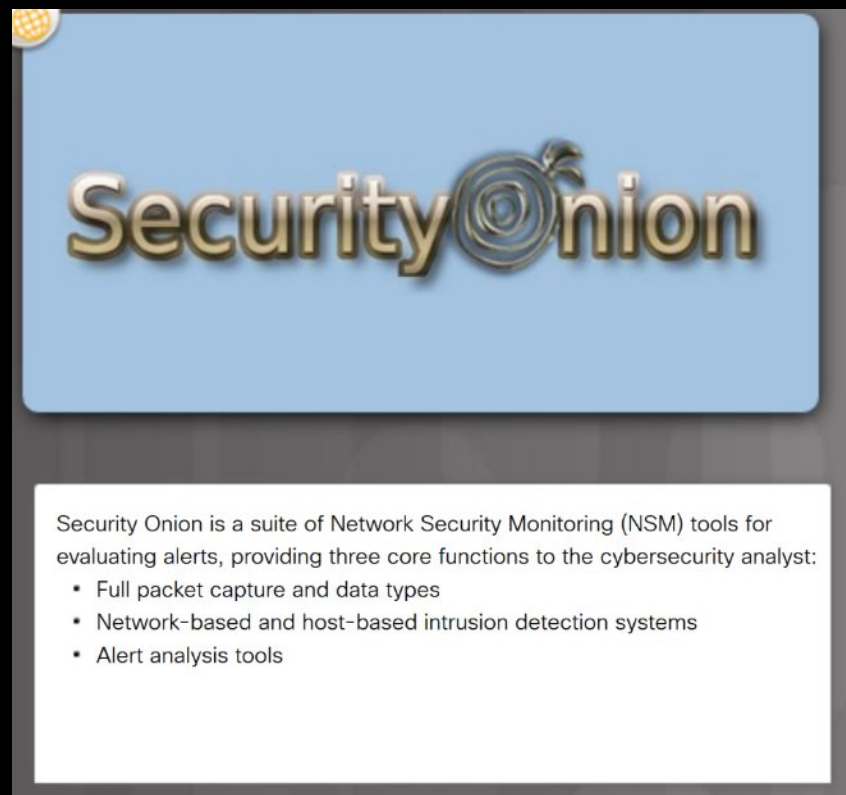
Open Source:

[Loggly](#)
[Sumo Logic](#)
[Logzilla](#)
[Wazuh](#)

Sources of Alerts

Security Onion

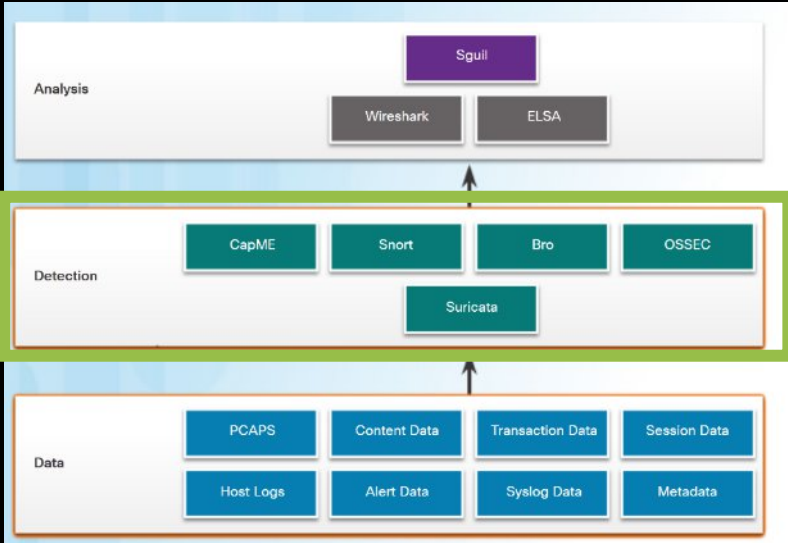
- Security Onion is an open-source suite of Network Security Monitoring (NSM) tools that run on an Ubuntu Linux distribution.
- Some components of Security Onion are owned and maintained by corporations, such as Cisco and Riverbend Technologies, but are made available as open source.



Detection Tools for Collection

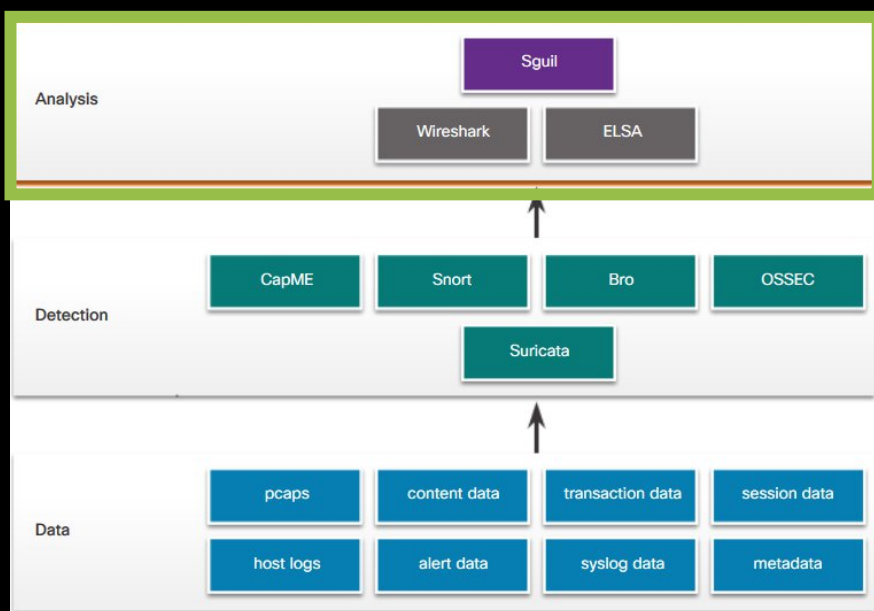
- **CapME** provides the cybersecurity analyst with an easy-to-read means of viewing an entire Layer 4 session.
- **Snort** uses rules and signatures to generate alerts.
- **Bro** uses policies, in the form of scripts that determine what data to log and when to issue alert notifications.
- **OSSEC** actively monitors host system operations, including conducting file integrity monitoring, local log monitoring, system process monitoring, and rootkit detection.
- **Suricata** uses native multithreading, which allows the distribution of packet stream processing across multiple processor cores.

A Security Onion Architecture



Analysis Tools

A Security Onion Architecture



- **Sguil** – This provides a high-level cybersecurity analysts' console for investigating security alerts from a wide variety of sources.
- **ELSA** –replaced by ELK
- **Wireshark** – This is a packet capture application that is integrated into the Security Onion suite.

Alert Generation

- Pr - the IP protocol number for the event.

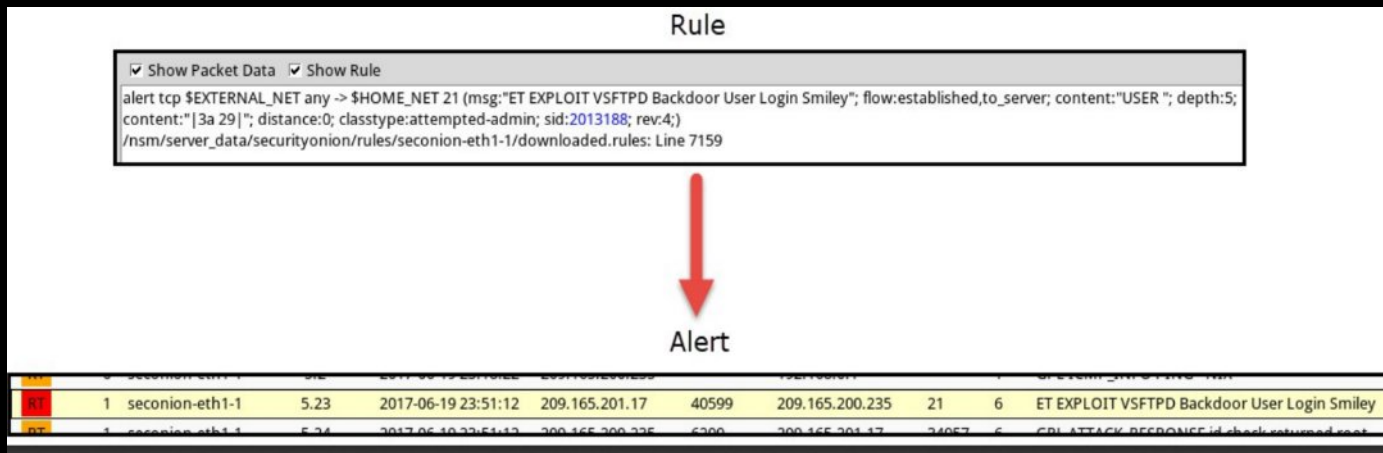
Sguil Window

[illegible]

Sources of Alerts

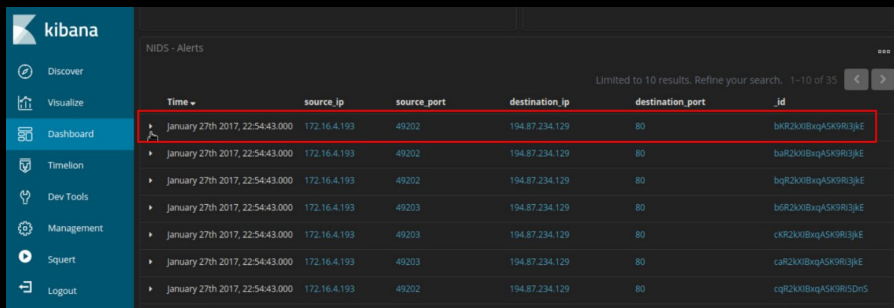
Rules and Alerts

- Alerts can come from a number of sources:
 - NIDS - Snort, Bro and Suricata
 - HIDS – OSSEC
 - Asset management and monitoring - Passive Asset Detection System (PADS)
 - HTTP, DNS, and TCP transactions - Recorded by Bro and pcaps
 - Syslog messages - Multiple sources



Threat Analysis

- # Kibana capME



CAPME

Not secure | localhost/capme/elastic.php?esid=bKR2kIXbkASK9Rj3JkE

pcap file related to this alert

Log entry:
2020-06-08 01:06:23 pid(19978) Alert Received: 0 1 trojan-activity seconion-import-1 (2017-01-27 22:54:43) 9 24 [ET CURRENT_EVENTS RIG EK URI Struct Mar 13 2017 M2]
172.16.4.193 194.87.234.129 6-803060238 pcap

IDS rule:

alert top \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET \$HTTP_PORTS (msg:"ET CURRENT_EVENTS RIG EK URI Struct Mar 13 2017 M2"; flow-established-to_server; urlenc:<90;c
content:"QMwXcl"; http_url_pcre:"/^.*(?![QqMmWwXxCl])?(?=([A-Za-z_]{0-9})?[A-Z][a-zA-Z_]*)(?:/[A-Za-z_]+)?(?:\.[A-Za-z_]+)*(&*=[^=
/%]*)\$/";
meta:category CURRENT_EVENTS; classtype trojan-activity; sid:2024049; rev:1); metadata:affected_product Windows_XP_Vista_7_8_10_Server_32_64_Bit;
affected_product Web_Browser_Plugins_attack_target Client_Endpoint_deployment_Perimeter_tag Exploit_k_Rig_significance_high signature_severity Major; created_at 2017_03_13;
malware_family Exploit_KIR performance_impact Low; updated_at 2017_03_13];

Detailed Log Entry:

CAPME: Detected gzip encoding.
CAPME: Automatically switched to Bro transcript.

Sensor Name: seconionimport-1.
Timestamp: 2017-01-27 22:54:43
Connection ID: CL1
Src IP: 172.16.4.193
Dst IP: 194.87.234.129
Src Port: 42902
Dst Port: 80
OS Fingerprint: 172.16.4.193-42902 - Windows XP/2000 (RFC1323+, w-, timestamp-) [GENERIC]
OS Fingerprint: Signature: [8192.128.152.M1460.N.WB.N.N.S.:Windows.7]
[SRC: GET /?c=Vvald&b=WvVald.95ec.7.6.cbe7fcs7.f8cp=hnttkfrYvwgYjrFawIyYeAwgQC_gleKbzRKtgCzLIyMYZAhLr6VVzw42w&lfi=2320&t=wH/QmwXcwDNFYnCMERbyhknkdAjKPyak2_dzZauoGcnrZOBSUUSUGFcPCEn38vus-Vivaldi.114qt57.406tlvtXs8bf-f#4180](#)
SRC_ACCEPT: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,*/*
SRC_REFERER: http://www.homesimprovement.com/remodeling-your-kitchen-cabinets.html
SRC_ACCEPT_LANGUAGE: en-US
SRC_USER_AGENT: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0) like Gecko
SRC_ENCODING: gzip, deflate

the requested file was gzip compressed

timestamp 22:54:43

the GET request for the file

the compromised referring website

Sources

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