



Keep only those privileges that speak to your heart

Automating Active Directory Privilege Clean-up

Luis F Monge Martinez



Journey

People cannot change their tidying habits without first changing their way of thinking.

Marie Kondo



1

Realizing we have a problem/s

2

Understanding “The problem”

3

Understanding how it affect us

4

Prioritize our problems

5

Help others

6

Pray and/or annoy



Luis F Monge Martínez

Endpoint and Active Directory security in EEAS.

Former Incident Handler, Incident Responder, Thread Hunter, Forensic Analyst, Cybersecurity Investigator, IT admin, IT supp., communications operator...

Data analysis lover and in love with Jupyter Notebooks.

Medium: @luckyluk3

GitHub: lucky-luk3



Realizing we have a problem

The wake up!



The wake up

From routine to incertitude



The wake up

From routine to incertitude



The wake up

From routine to incertitude



How many
admins do we
have on our
systems?

The wake up

From routine to incertitude



Domain admins?
Schema admins?
Local admins?
DB admins?

The wake up

From routine to incertitude



The wake up

From routine to incertitude



What does admin
mean?
Is everyone admin in
some way?
Am I the admin of
myself?

The wake up

From routine to incertitude



Understanding “The problem”

Let's focus on Active Directory



The problem

If you think the solution to a problem is only technical, you are not understanding the problem.



The problem

A fool with a tool is still a fool.

Grady Booch



The problem



Lack of knowledge

- Even if everybody uses AD almost nobody really understands it.
- Excessive rights by default.
- Impact in case of compromise.



Show must go on!













- An excessive focus on operations.
- The most over privileged the easiest for operations.
- Security in AD is time demanding and problematic.



Lack of tools

- Native tools...
- Commercial tools focus on compliance.
- Open Source or free tools focused in AD configurations.
- EDRs somehow.
- Now BloodHound Enterprise!! Finally!

The problem

 Users	69.098
 Groups	61.132
 Apps	1.267
 Service Principals	10.307
 Devices	132.505
 Management Groups	0
 Subscriptions	3
 Resource Groups	11
 VMs	2
 Key Vaults	1
 Tenants	0
 Relationships	9.801.940



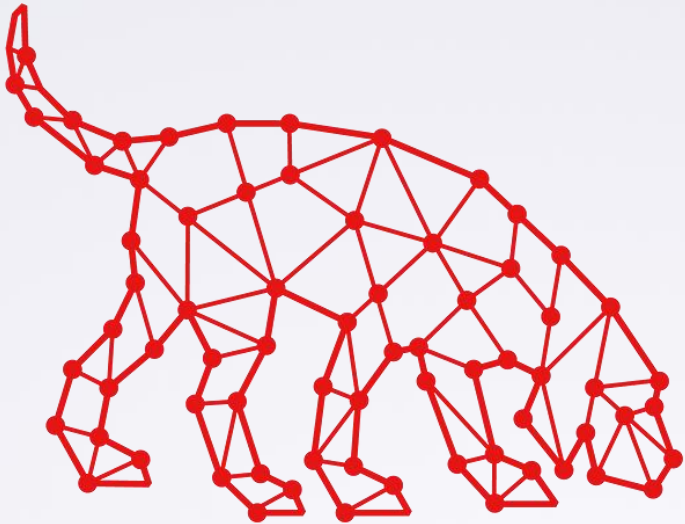
@Lennart

Understanding “our” problem

Get on with it!

Our problem

Increasing visibility

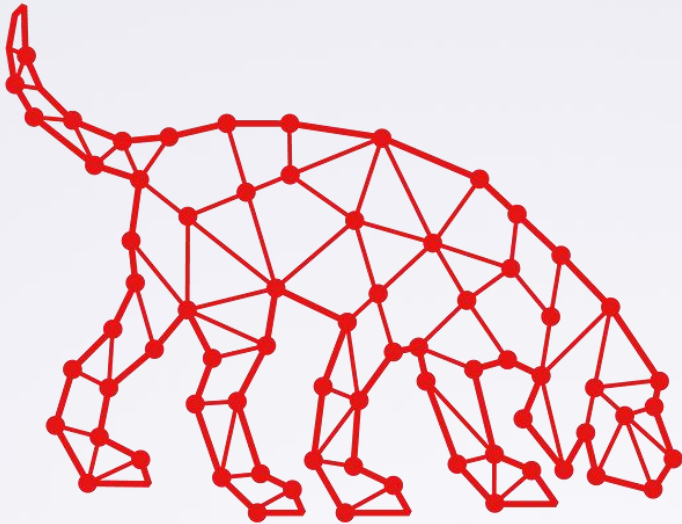


BLOODHOUND
COMMUNITY EDITION



Our problem

Increasing visibility



BLOODHOUND
COMMUNITY EDITION

Easy to deploy

<https://github.com/SpecterOps/bloodhound-cli>

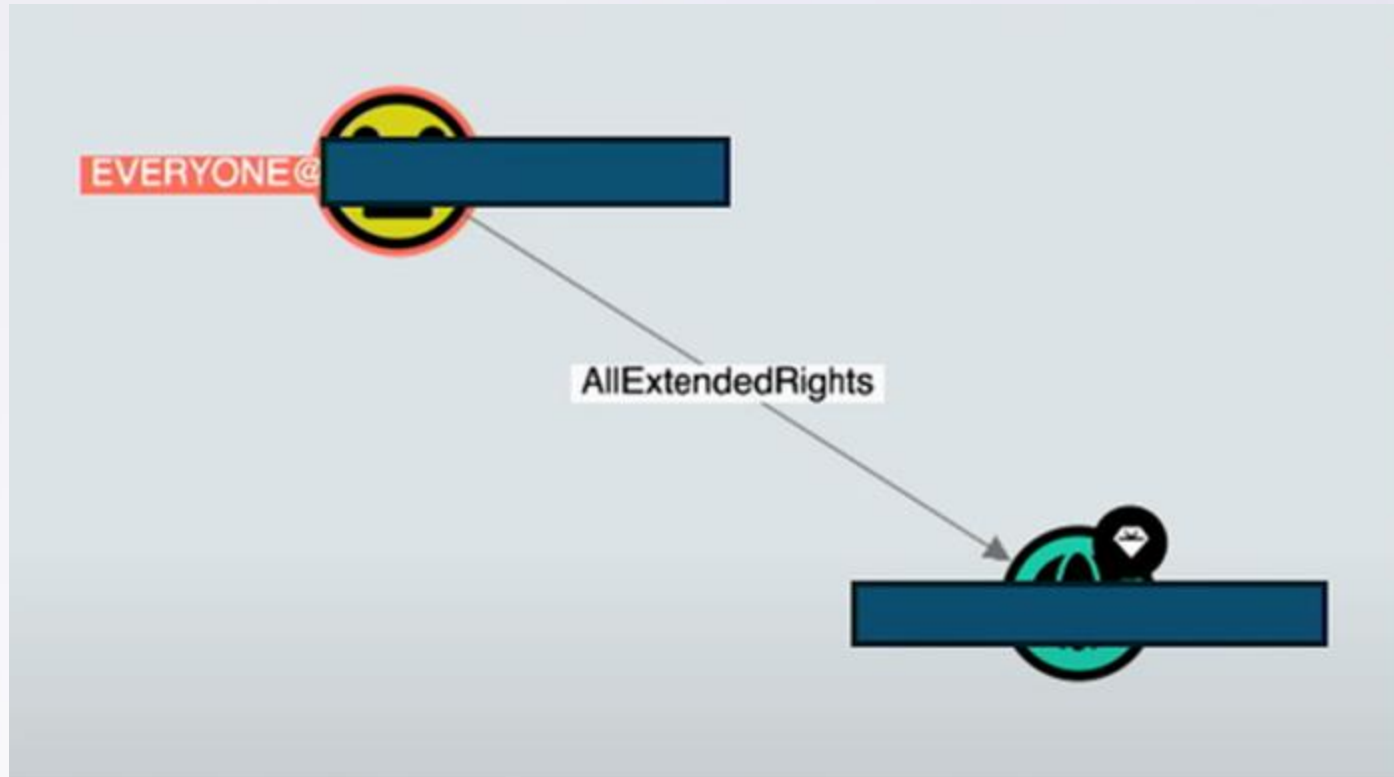
Remove these today:

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/find-fix-three-common-ad-issues-andy-robbins/>



Our problem

Increasing visibility



Our problem

Increasing visibility



Justin Kohler

The BloodHound Enterprise State of Attack Path Management

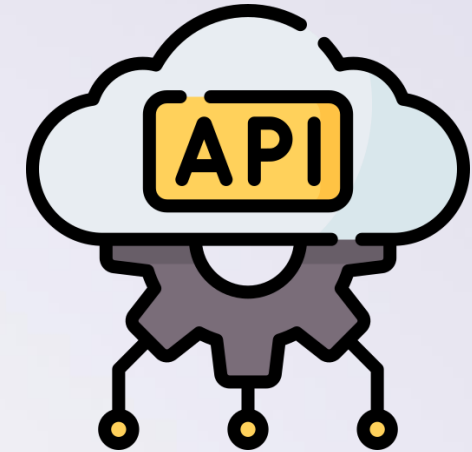
<https://youtu.be/mm5LU3cX6IU?si=yW6xTYR2x3TfgjTV>



BLOODHOUND
ENTERPRISE

Our problem

Increasing visibility



Our problem

Our data - SharpHound

Aces	gmsa	passwordcantchange	smartcardrequired
admincount	HasSIDHistory	passwordexpired	SPNTargets
allowedtodelegate	hasspn	passwordnotreqd	supportedencryptiontypes
ContainedBy	homedirectory	PrimaryGroupSID	title
description	IsACLProtected	profilepath	trustedtoauth
displayname	IsDeleted	pwdlastset	UnconstrainedDelegation
distinguishedname	lastlogon	pwdneverexpires	unicodepassword
domain	lastlogontimestamp	reconcile	unixpassword
DomainSID	lockedout	samaccountname	usedeskeyonly
dontreqpreauth	logonscript	sensitive	useraccountcontrol
email	logonscriptenabled	serviceprincipalnames	userpassword
enabled	name	sfupassword	whencreated
encryptedtextpwdallowed	ObjectIdentifier	sidhistory	



Our problem

Our data - SharpHound

Aces	gmsa	passwordcantchange	smartcardrequired
admincount	HasSIDHistory	passwordexpired	SPNTargets
allowedtodelegate	hasspn	passwordnotreqd	supportedencryptiontypes
ContainedBy	homedirectory	PrimaryGroupSID	title
description	IsACLProtected	profilepath	trustedtoauth
displayname	IsDeleted	pwdlastset	UnconstrainedDelegation
distinguishedname	lastlogon	pwdneverexpires	unicodepassword
domain	lastlogontimestamp	reconcile	unixpassword
DomainSID	lockedout	samaccountname	usedeskeyonly
dontreqpreauth	logonscript	sensitive	useraccountcontrol
email	logonscriptenabled	serviceprincipalnames	Userpassword
enabled	name	sfupassword	whencreated
encryptedtextpwdallowed	ObjectIdentifier	sidhistory	



Our problem

Our data - BloodHound

admincount	enabled	logonscriptenabled	sessions
adminRights	encryptedtextpwdallowed	name	sidhistory
allowedtodelegate	gmsa	objectid	smartcardrequired
constrainedDelegation	gpos	passwordcantchange	sqlAdmin
controllables	groupMembership	passwordexpired	supportedencryptiontypes
controllers	hasspn	passwordnotreqd	system_tags
dcomRights	highvalue	profilepath	title
description	homedirectory	psRemoteRights	trustedtoauth
displayname	isaclprotected	pwdlastset	unconstraineddelegation
distinguishedname	lastlogon	pwdneverexpires	usedeskeyonly
domain	lastlogontimestamp	rdpRights	useraccountcontrol
domainsid	lastseen	samaccountname	whencreated
dontreqpreauth	lockedout	sensitive	
email	logonscript	serviceprincipalnames	



Our problem

Our data - BloodHound

admincount	enabled	logonscriptenabled	sessions
adminRights	encryptedtextpwdallowed	name	sidhistory
allowedtodelegate	gmsa	objectid	smartcardrequired
constrainedDelegation	gpos	passwordcantchange	sqlAdmin
controllables	groupMembership	passwordexpired	supportedencryptiontypes
controllers	hasspn	passwordnotreqd	system_tags
dcomRights	highvalue	profilepath	title
description	homedirectory	psRemoteRights	trustedtoauth
displayname	isaclprotected	pwdlastset	unconstraineddelegation
distinguishedname	lastlogon	pwdneverexpires	usedeskeyonly
domain	lastlogontimestamp	rdpRights	useraccountcontrol
domainsid	lastseen	samaccountname	whencreated
dontreqpreauth	lockedout	sensitive	
email	logonscript	serviceprincipalnames	



Our problem

Our data – Processing data



Scan with SharpHound

Process JSON data
extracting names, UID,
ACES and Properties

Ask BHCE API for
extender info

Create Pandas
Dataframe

Our problem

Making the correct questions

- What are the most privileged Users/Groups?
 - Controllables
 - Filtering
 - Name convention
 - Grouping
 - Plotting
 - Export to SCV
 - ...

```
df_users[["name", "controllables"]].sort_values(by="controllables", ascending=False).head(10)
```

	name	controllables
0	LUIS@MYLAB.LOCAL	3572.0
3	MARIA@MYLAB.LOCAL	3570.0
1469	LOUIS_TYLER@MYLAB.LOCAL	3570.0
1621	TIMOTHY ESTRADA@MYLAB.LOCAL	3363.0
689	ALYSSA_LEWIS@MYLAB.LOCAL	3363.0
485	MARGIE_TORRES@MYLAB.LOCAL	3363.0
1261	LENARD_MACDONALD@MYLAB.LOCAL	3363.0
410	COURTNEY_MERCADO@MYLAB.LOCAL	3363.0
1272	MAGDALENA_LAMBERT@MYLAB.LOCAL	3363.0
1138	BRENDA_CONWAY@MYLAB.LOCAL	3363.0

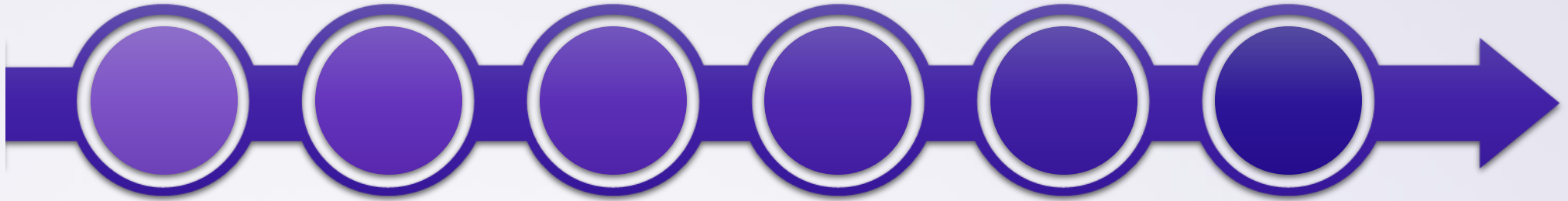


Prioritize problems

Let's make this more professional

Risk process

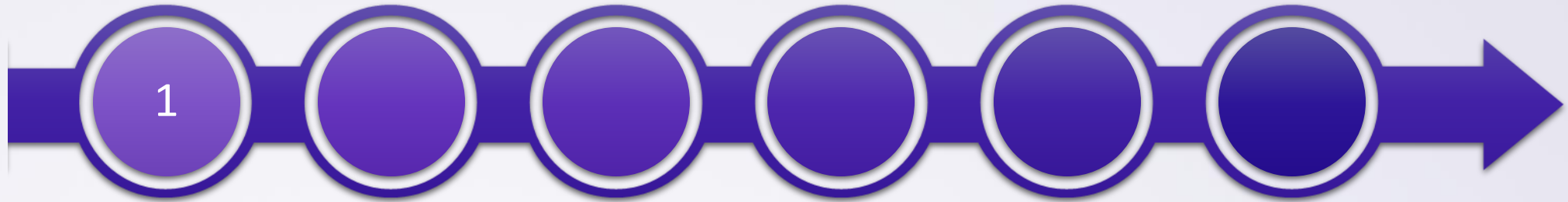
From mess to order



Risk process

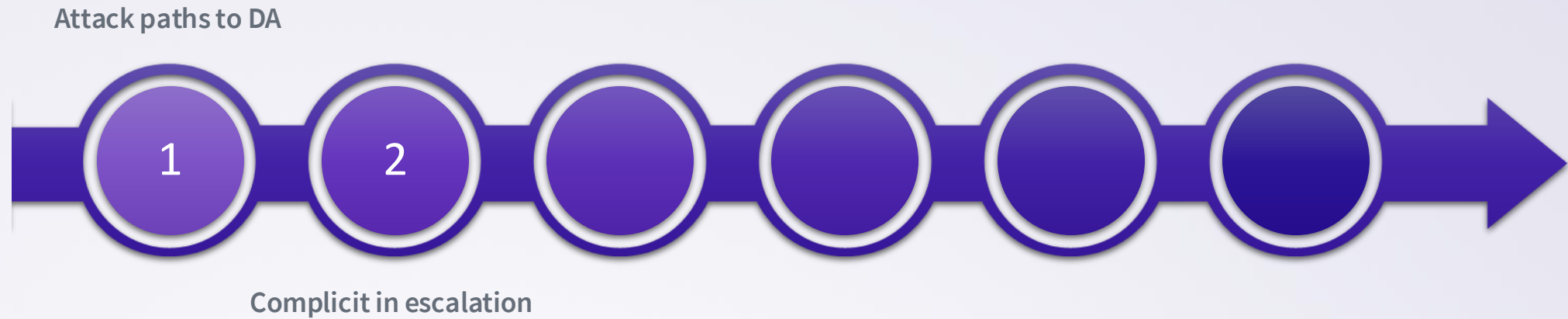
From mess to order

Attack paths to DA



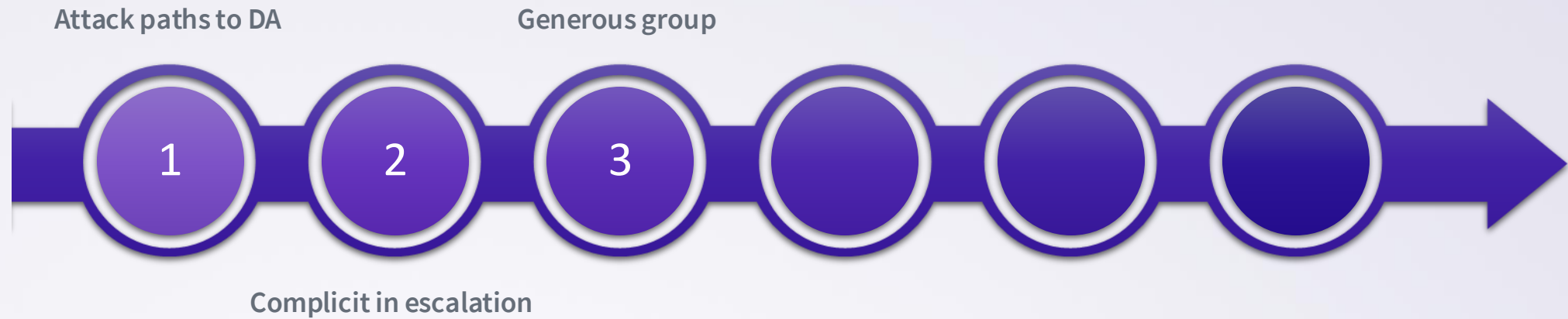
Risk process

From mess to order



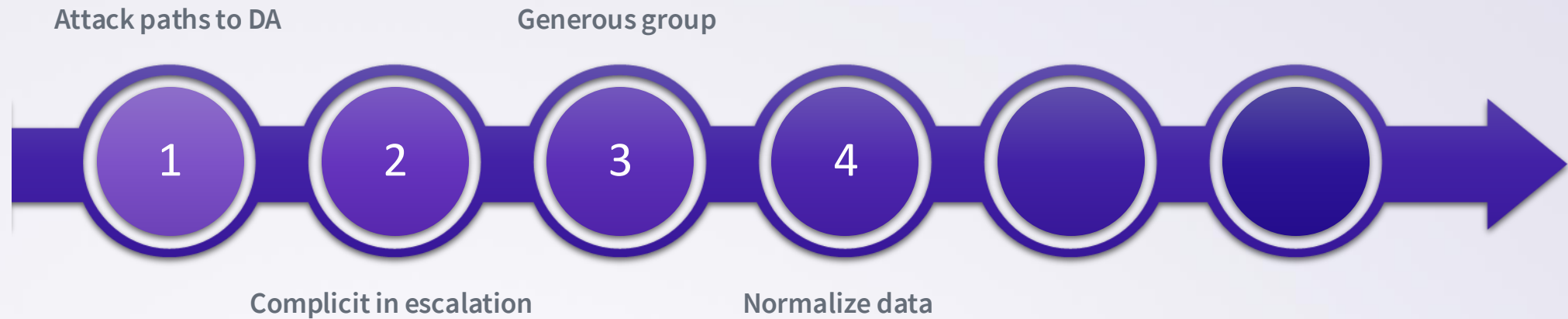
Risk process

From mess to order



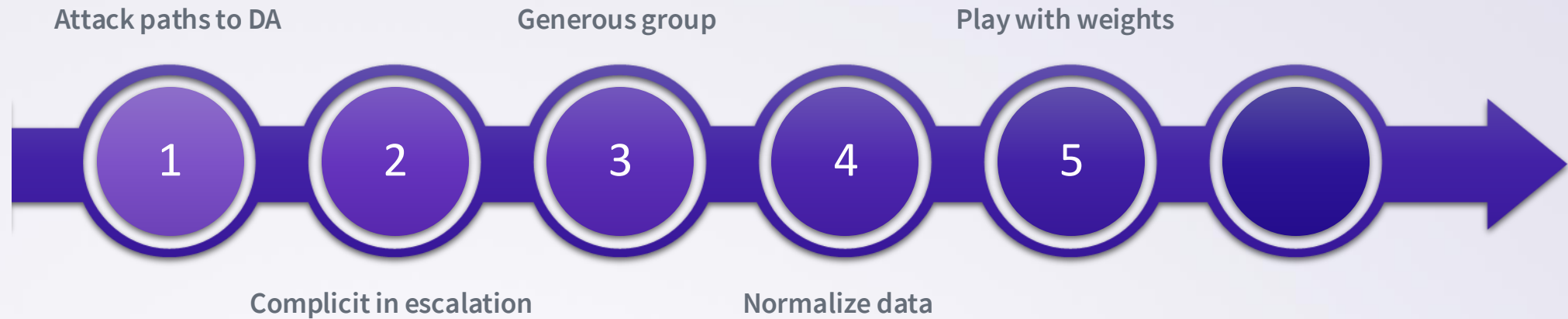
Risk process

From mess to order



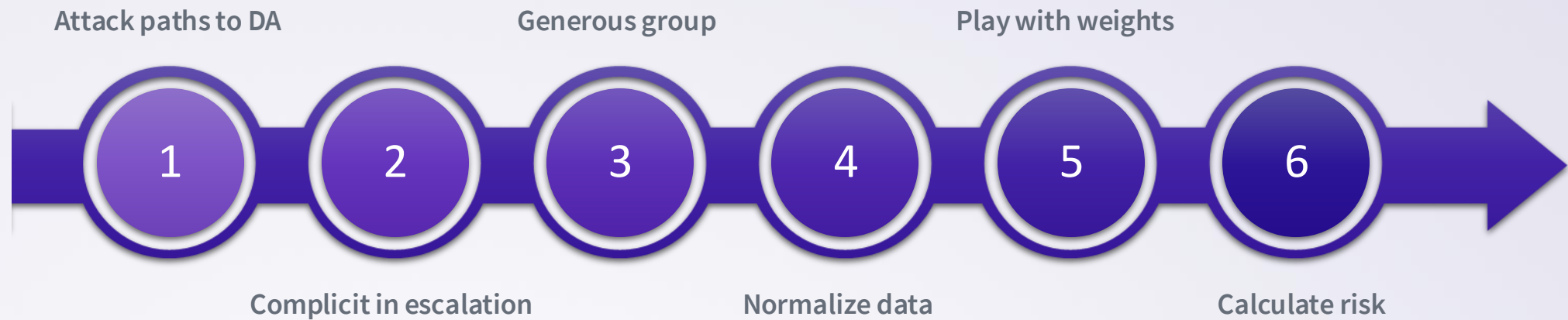
Risk process

From mess to order



Risk process

From mess to order



Risk process

From mess to order

Users

- **Controllables**
- **Controllers**
- **Path to Domain Admins (Number of Edges)**
- **In path to Domain Admins (Number)**
- **Sessions**

Groups

- **Controllables**
- **Controllers**
- **Path to Domain Admins (Number of Edges)**
- **In path to Domain Admins (Number)**
- **Sessions**
- **Members**
- **Mean members controllers – Group controllers (Inverted)**



Risk process

From mess to order

Normalized Risk Tuner

User:

Controllables weight: 1 Controllers weight: 1 Path_da_nedges weight: 1 N_in_path_da weight: 1
Sessions weight: 1

Groups:

Controllables weight: 1 Controllers weight: 1 Path_da_nedges weight: 1 Members weight: 1
Sessions weight: 1 N_in_path_da weight: 1 Usr_mean_control weight: 1

Tune Risk



Understanding “our” problem

Again and better

The complicated problems

The need of understanding the data

User Graph Analysis

Column filter: ▼

Selection:

Events: 1000

X: ▼

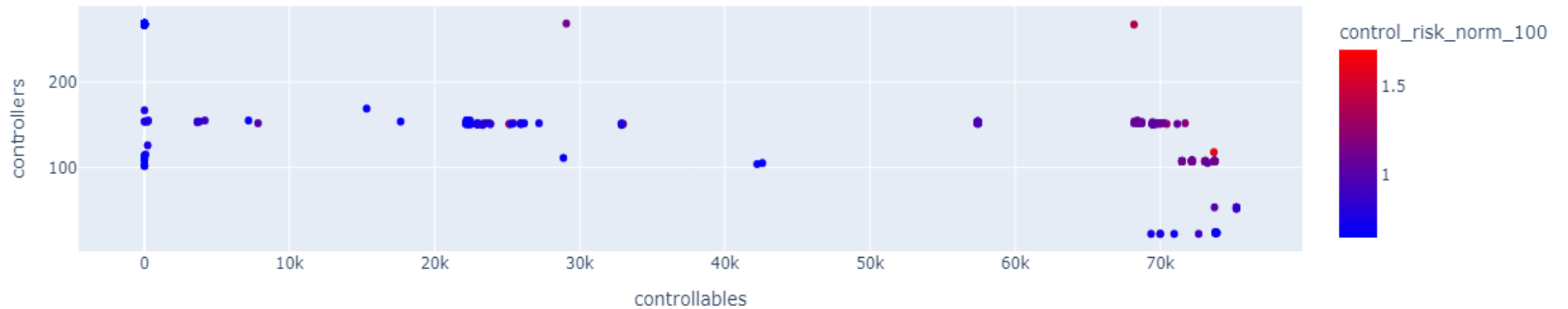
Y: ▼

Color: ▼

The complicated problems

The need of understanding the data

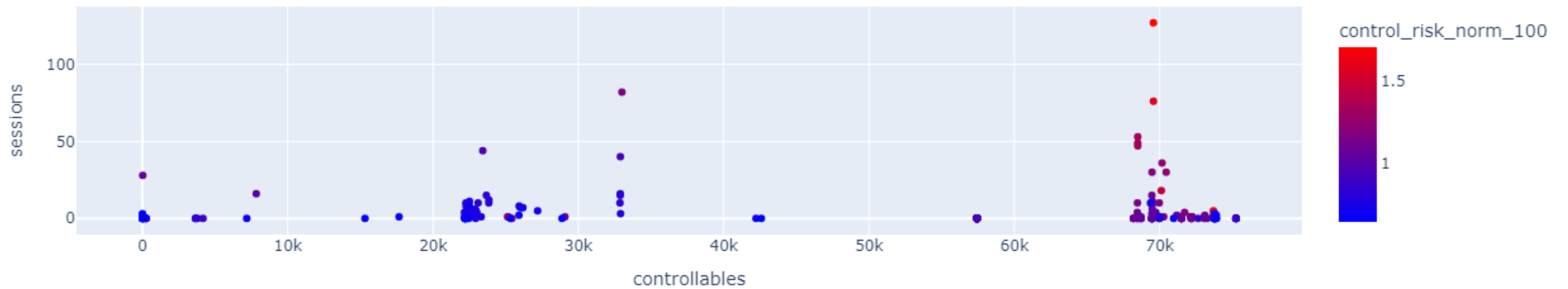
Graph controllables VS controllers



The complicated problems

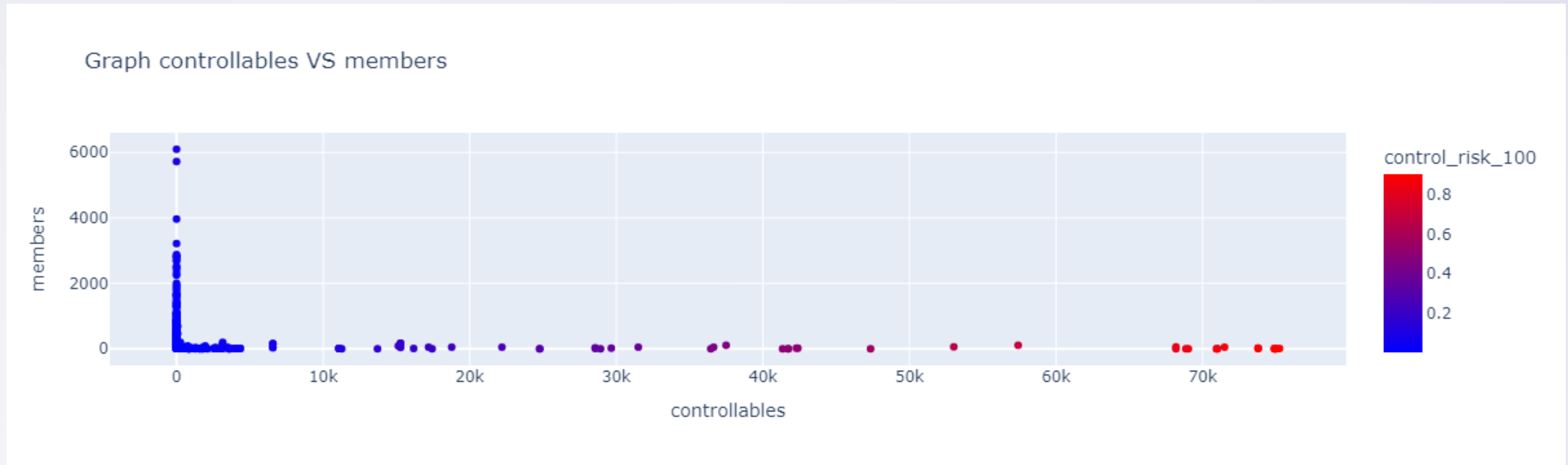
The need of understanding the data

Graph controllables VS sessions



The complicated problems

The need of understanding the data



The complicated problems

The need of understanding the data



Helping others (Optional)

Understanding the problem. Yes, again.



Helping others

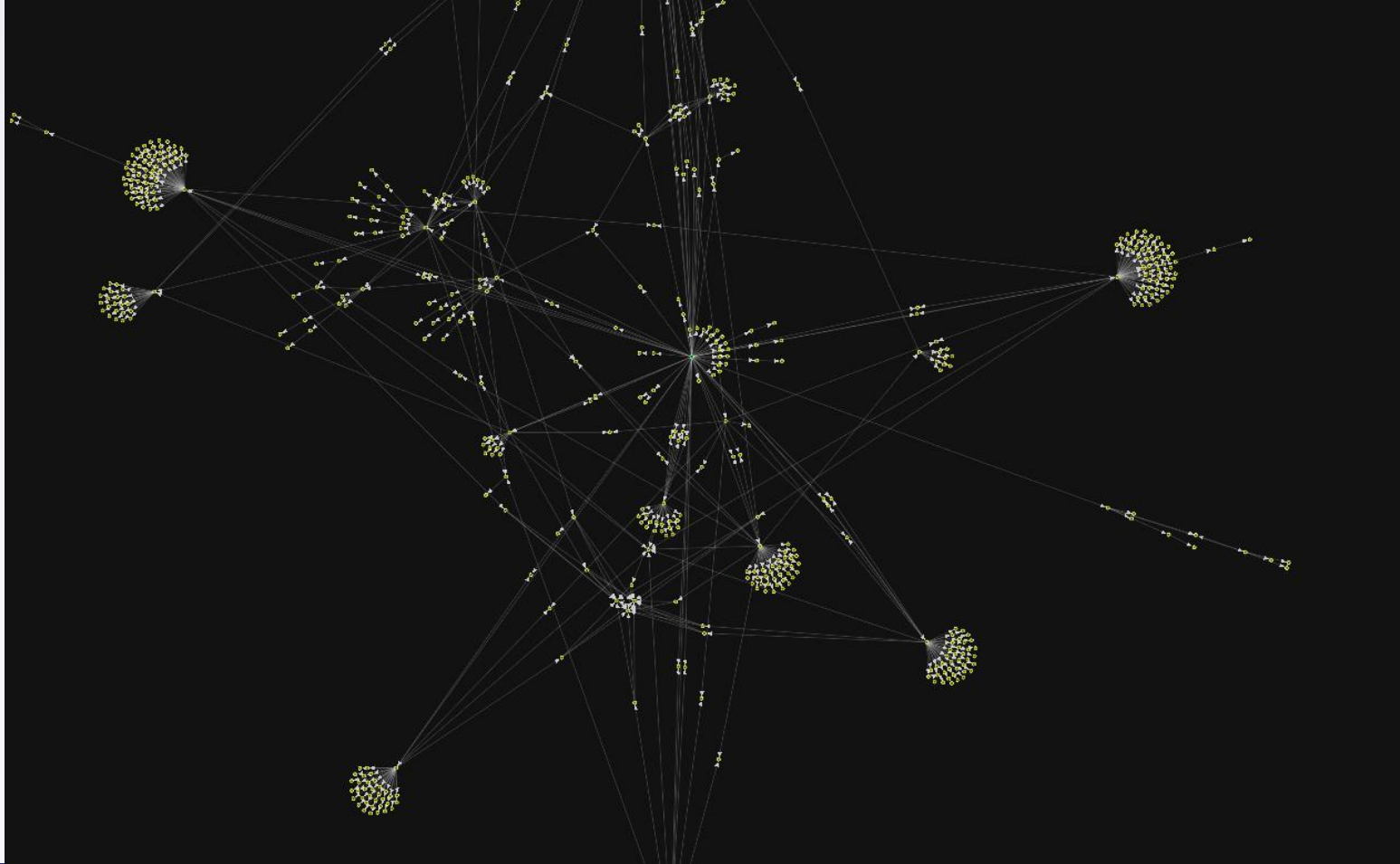
Understanding the root cause

	name	controllables	controllers	path_da_nedges	n_in_path_da	sessions	control_risk_norm_100
8954	Bad.Guy	73501.0	400.0	35.0	678.0	127.0	1.710745



Helping others

Understanding the root cause



Helping others

Understanding the root cause

CHECK ORIGIN OF RIGHTS FROM USER/GROUP

Check from which group an user/group is receiving rights.

User/Group name:

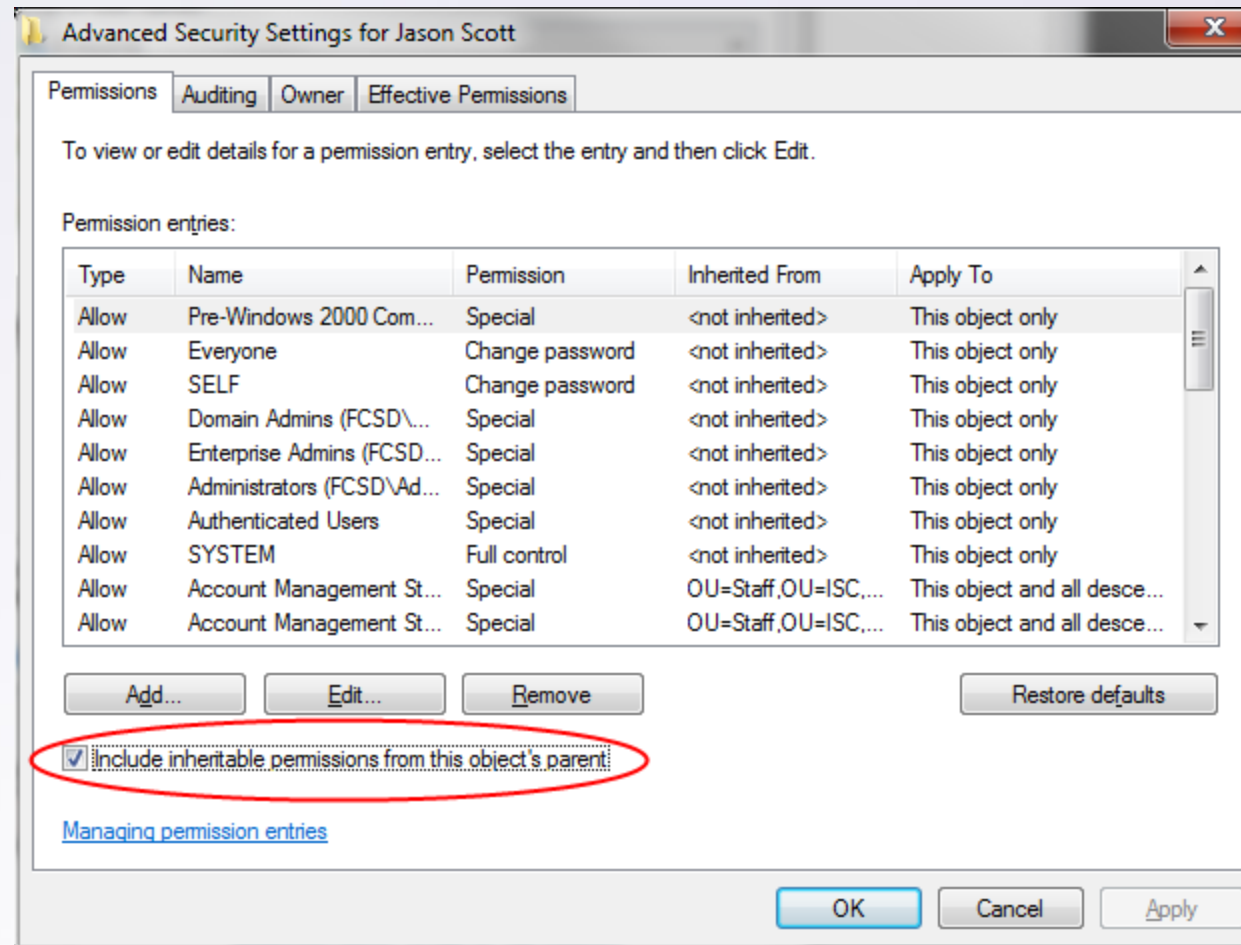
Check rights

	name	controllables	controllers	control_risk
4	DOMAIN ADMINS@MYLAB.LOCAL	3571.0	4.0	4296.0
442	ADMINISTRATORS@MYLAB.LOCAL	3381.0	6.0	3495.0
387	BE-240-ADMINGROUP1@MYLAB.LOCAL	116.0	276.0	460.0
48	SO-160-DISTLIST1@MYLAB.LOCAL	0.0	274.0	297.0
65	SU-ORL-DISTLIST1@MYLAB.LOCAL	0.0	220.0	618.0
105	LO-CHA-DISTLIST1@MYLAB.LOCAL	0.0	221.0	263.0
120	DA-24A-DISTLIST1@MYLAB.LOCAL	0.0	219.0	354.0



Helping others

Understanding the root cause



Helping others

Understanding the root cause

CHECK RIGHTS FROM ORIGIN, LOCATION

Check rights from user/group, location of rights.

User/Group name:

Check rights

Rights destination stored in **df_rights_destination** variable.

	destination	destination_type	RightName
0	OU=OBSOLETE,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericAll
1	OU=HOME,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericAll
2	OU=MAIL,OU=CENTRALSERVICES,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericWrite
3	OU=FACTORY,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericAll
4	CN=WKS-123301,OU=OFFICES,OU=LOCATION1,OU=REMOTE LOCATIONS,OU=FACTORY,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	Explicit	GenericWrite
5	CN=REMOTE ADMINS,OU=GROUPS,OU=LOCATION1,OU=REMOTE LOCATIONS,OU=FACTORY,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	Explicit	GenericWrite
6	OU=USERS,OU=OFFICES,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericWrite
7	CN=TERMINAL SERVER LICENSE SERVERS,CN=BUILTIN,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	Explicit	GenericWrite
8	OU=USERS,OU=OFFICES,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericAll
9	OU=OFFICES,OU=BACKUP SERVERS,OU=SERVERS,OU=IT,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericAll
10	CN=PRI-1203,OU=PRINTERS,OU=SERVERS,OU=IT,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	Explicit	GenericAll

Helping others

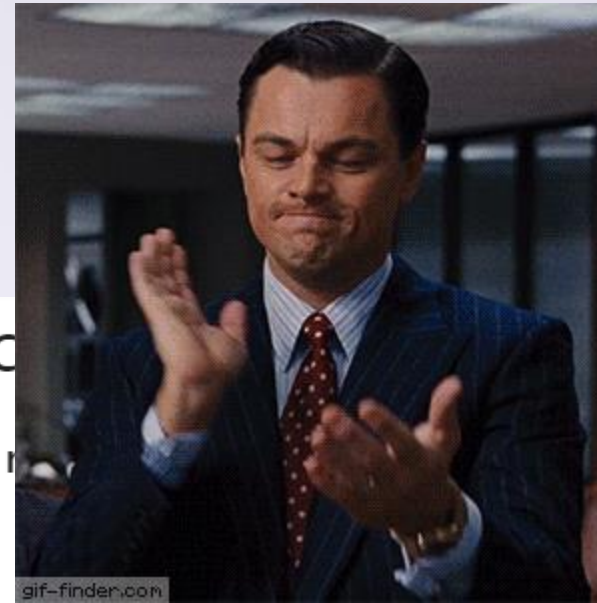
Understanding the root cause



RIGHTS FROM ORIGIN, LOC

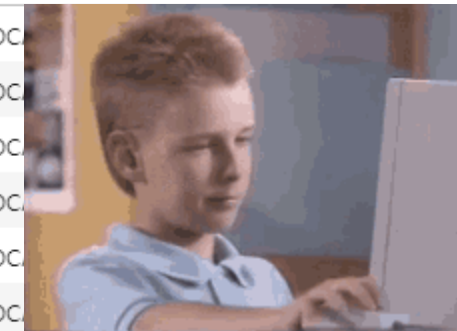
from user/group, location of r

n_admins



Rights destination stored in **df_rights_destination** variable.

		destination	destination_type	RightName
0		OU=OBSOLETE,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL		
1		OU=HOME,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL		
2		MAIL,OU=CENTRALSERVICES,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL		
3		OU=FACTORY,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL		
4	CN=WKS-123301,OU=	OTE LOCATIONS,OU=FACTORY,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL		
5	CN=REMOTE ADMINS,OU=	OTE LOCATIONS,OU=FACTORY,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL		
6		OU=USERS,OU=OFFICES,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericWrite
7		LICENSE SERVERS,CN=BUILTIN,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	Explicit	GenericWrite
8		OU=USERS,OU=OFFICES,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericAll
9		OU=OFFICES,OU=BACKUP SERVERS,OU=SERVERS,OU=IT,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	OU	GenericAll
10		CN=PRI-1203,OU=PRINTERS,OU=SERVERS,OU=IT,DC=MY,DC=DOMAIN,DC=LOCAL	Explicit	GenericAll



Pray and/or annoy

Annoy!

The solution

People don't do what you expect but what you inspect.

Louis V. Gerstner



The solution

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.

African proverb



Demo!

Sum up

- Educate our admins.
 - Policies.
 - Project admin \neq AD admin.
 - Temporary rights.
 - Rights segregations.
- Use data visualization.
- Try to help others.



Sum up

- Educate our admins.
 - Policies.
 - Project admin \neq AD admin.
 - Temporary rights.
 - Rights segregations.
- Use data visualization.
- Try to help others.

**If you don't know your domain,
nobody will do it for you.**





Thank you

Questions?

Luis F Monge Martinez

