

Efficient Pipelining for Windows Driver Vulnerability Research

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Topic

Problem

Solution

Results

Windows Kernel Driver Vulnerabilities

Privileged signed kernel drivers

Abusing vulnerabilities

- Escalate Local Privilege
- Bypass Security Products
- Install Firmware Rootkits



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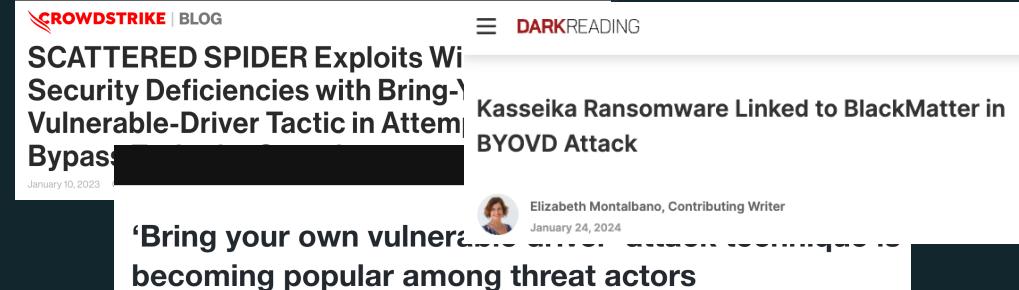
Abusing ↓ vulnerabilities

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Insufficient Auditing of Kernel Drivers

- Microsoft relying on third-parties



A screenshot of a news article from CrowdStrike's blog. The title is 'SCATTERED SPIDER Exploits Wi... Security Deficiencies with Bring-... Vulnerable-Driver Tactic in Attempt Bypass'. The date is January 10, 2023. The author is Elizabeth Montalbano, Contributing Writer. The text includes a quote: 'Bring your own vulnerability' is becoming popular among threat actors.

Solution

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Windows Kernel Driver Vulnerabilities

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Abusing **vulnerabilities**

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Insufficient Auditing of Kernel Drivers

- Microsoft relying on third-parties
- No central repository
- Fast release cycle
- Missing ARM support

Solution

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Windows Kernel Driver Vulnerabilities

Privileged signed kernel drivers

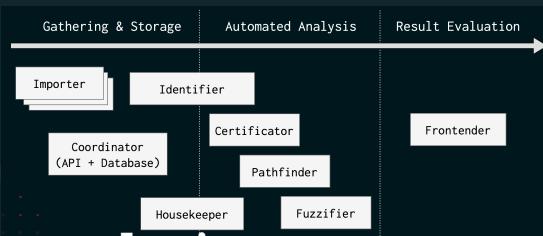
Abusing **vulnerabilities**

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Continuous Automated Driver Analysis

- Multi-source
- ARM support
- Automated
- Static & Dynamic analysis



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Windows Kernel Driver Vulnerabilities

Privileged signed kernel drivers

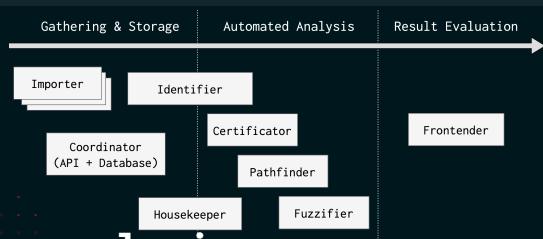
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Continuous Automated Driver Analysis

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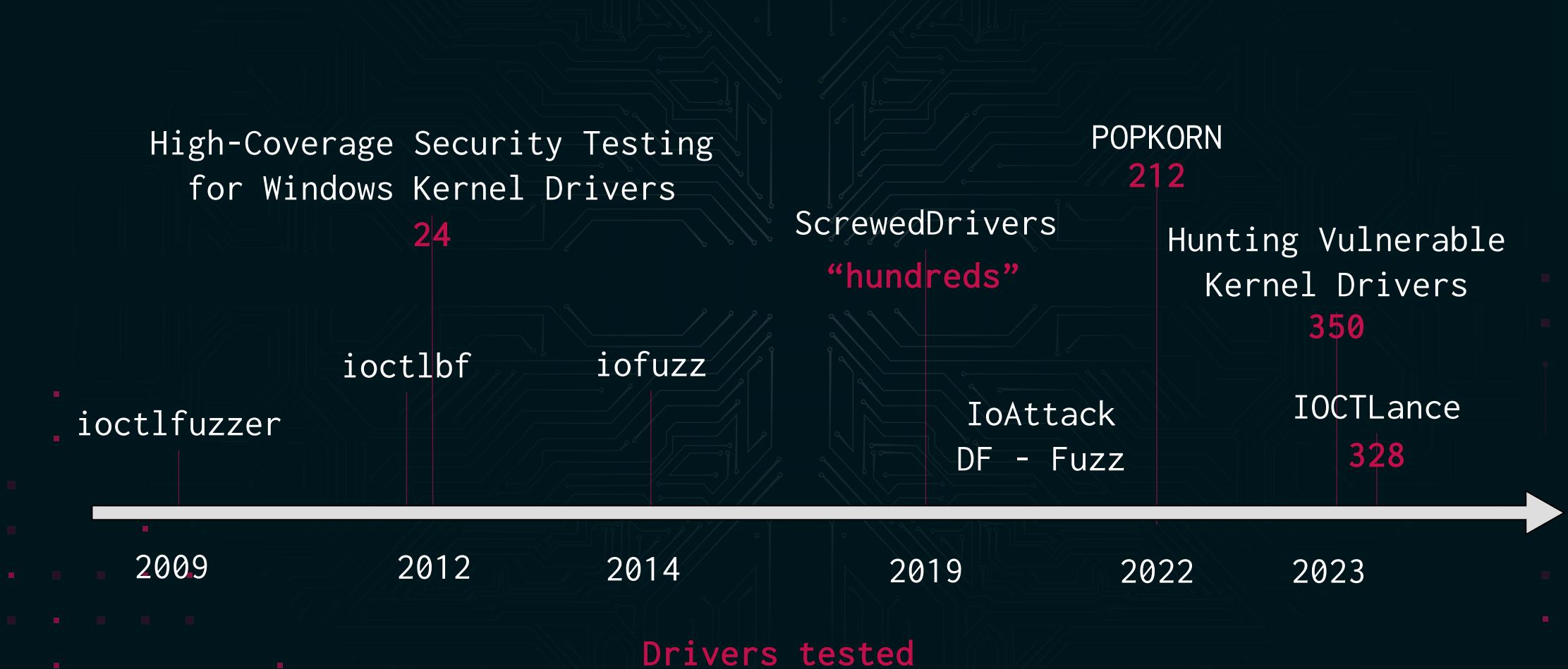


Insufficient Auditing of Kernel Drivers

- Microsoft relying on third-parties
- No central repository
- Fast release cycle
- Missing ARM support

- Over 46'000 drivers gathered
 - ~27'000 automatically analysed
 - ~1'000 ARM drivers
- 10 new vulnerable drivers found

> Timeline of existing work



› Challenges for Automation

Gathering

- Non-existing central driver repository
 - Continuous release of new drivers
 - Varying distribution forms

Analysis

Architecture support

- Recent Windows ARM drivers

Automated Fuzzing

- Environment requirements
 - Driver interaction complexity

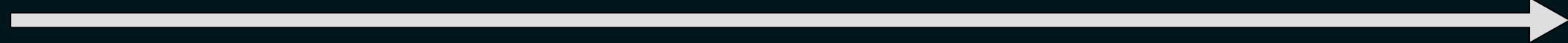
Efficient Verification

> Continuous Automated Analysis

Gathering & Storage

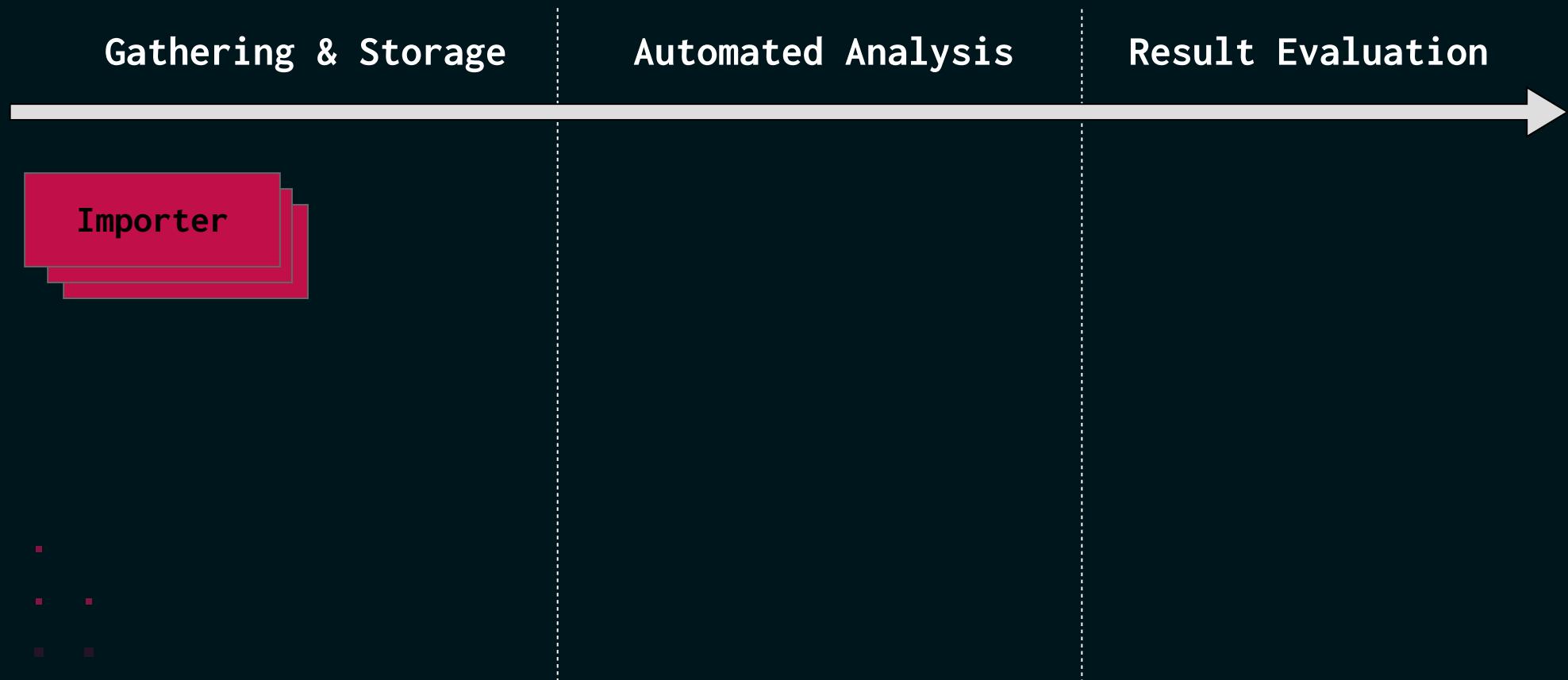
Automated Analysis

Result Evaluation

- 
- Multi-source gathering
 - Efficient storage
 - Driver Identification
 - Static analysis
 - Dynamic analysis
 - Prioritized filtering
 - Manual verification

Microarchitectural Pipeline Design

> File Importers



> File Importers

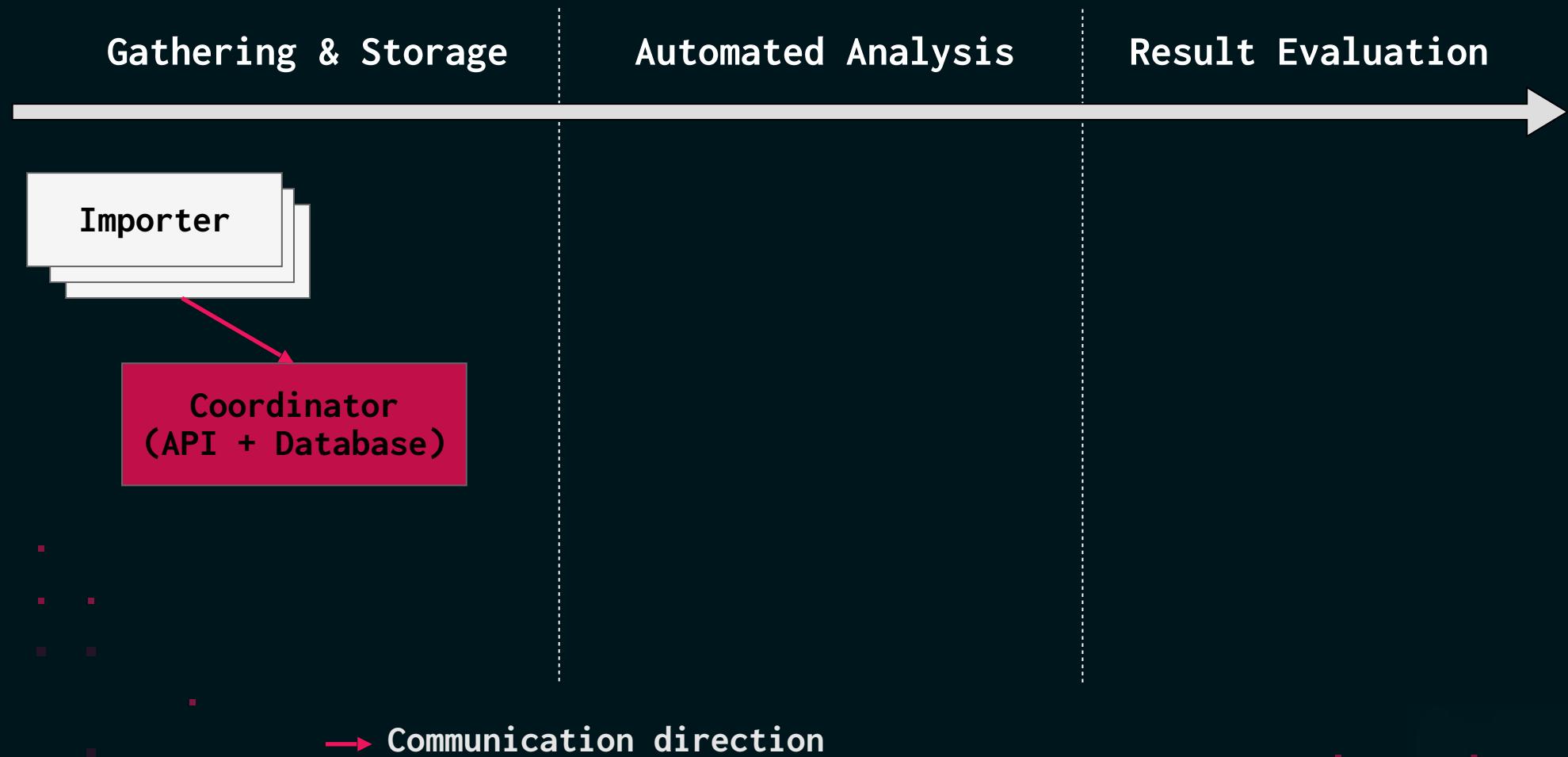
- Recursive Importer
 - Any files within a folder
- Cyber Defence Centre Importer
 - Microsoft XDR Queries in Client Networks
- Virus Total Importer
 - VT Intelligence Queries with filters

} Partially Automated

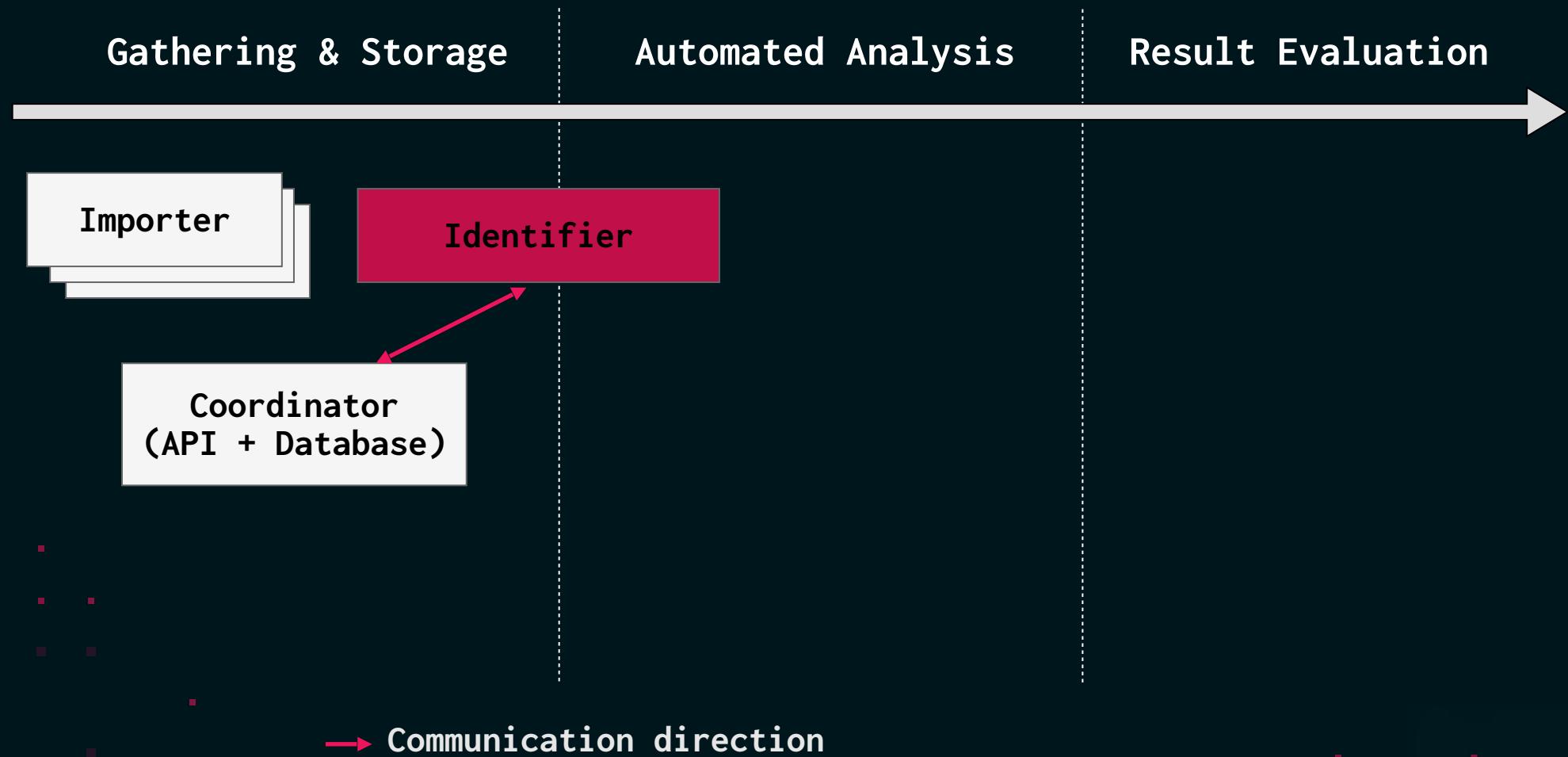
} Fully Automated

- Crawling Windows Update Catalog

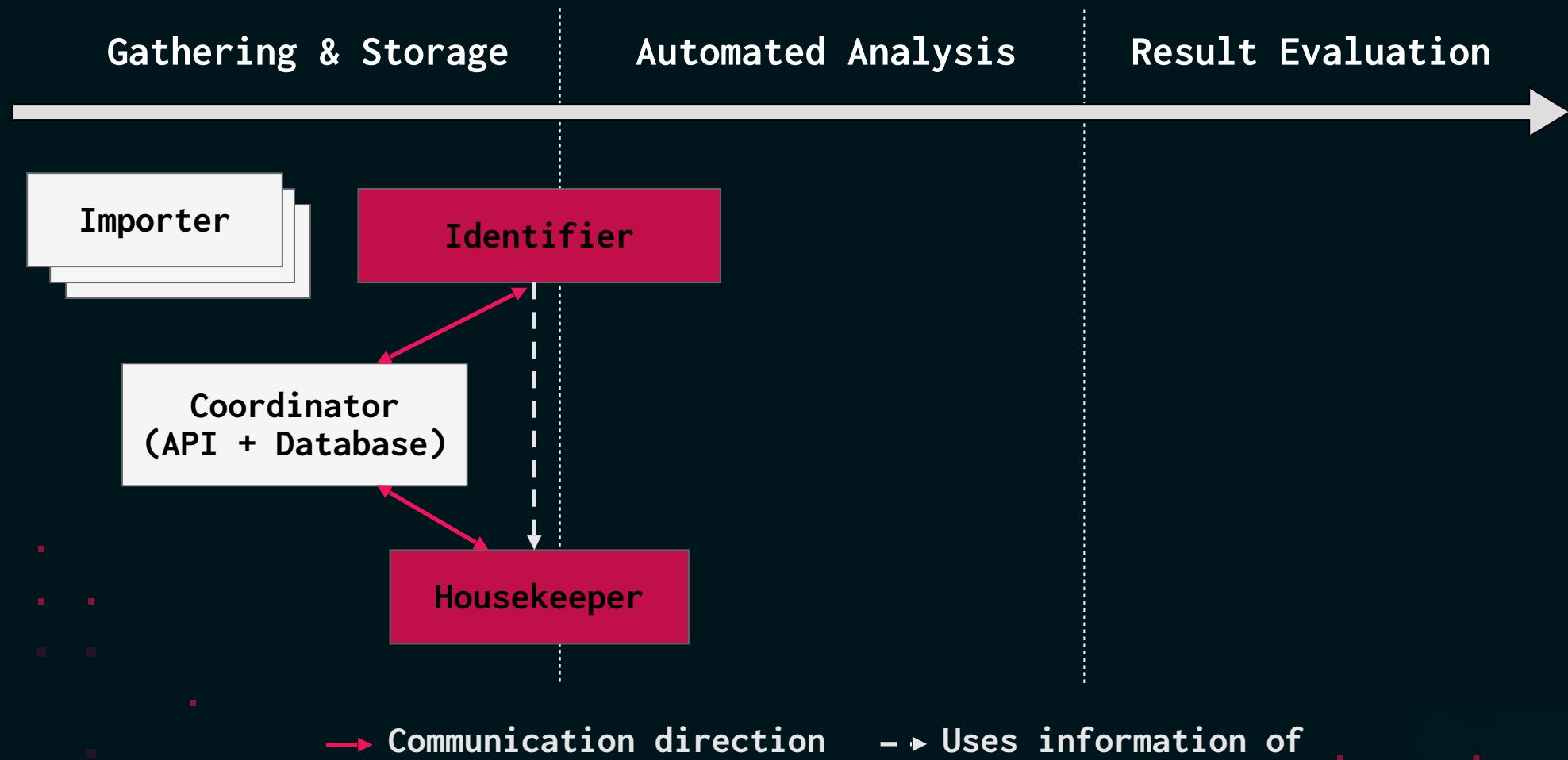
> Coordinator



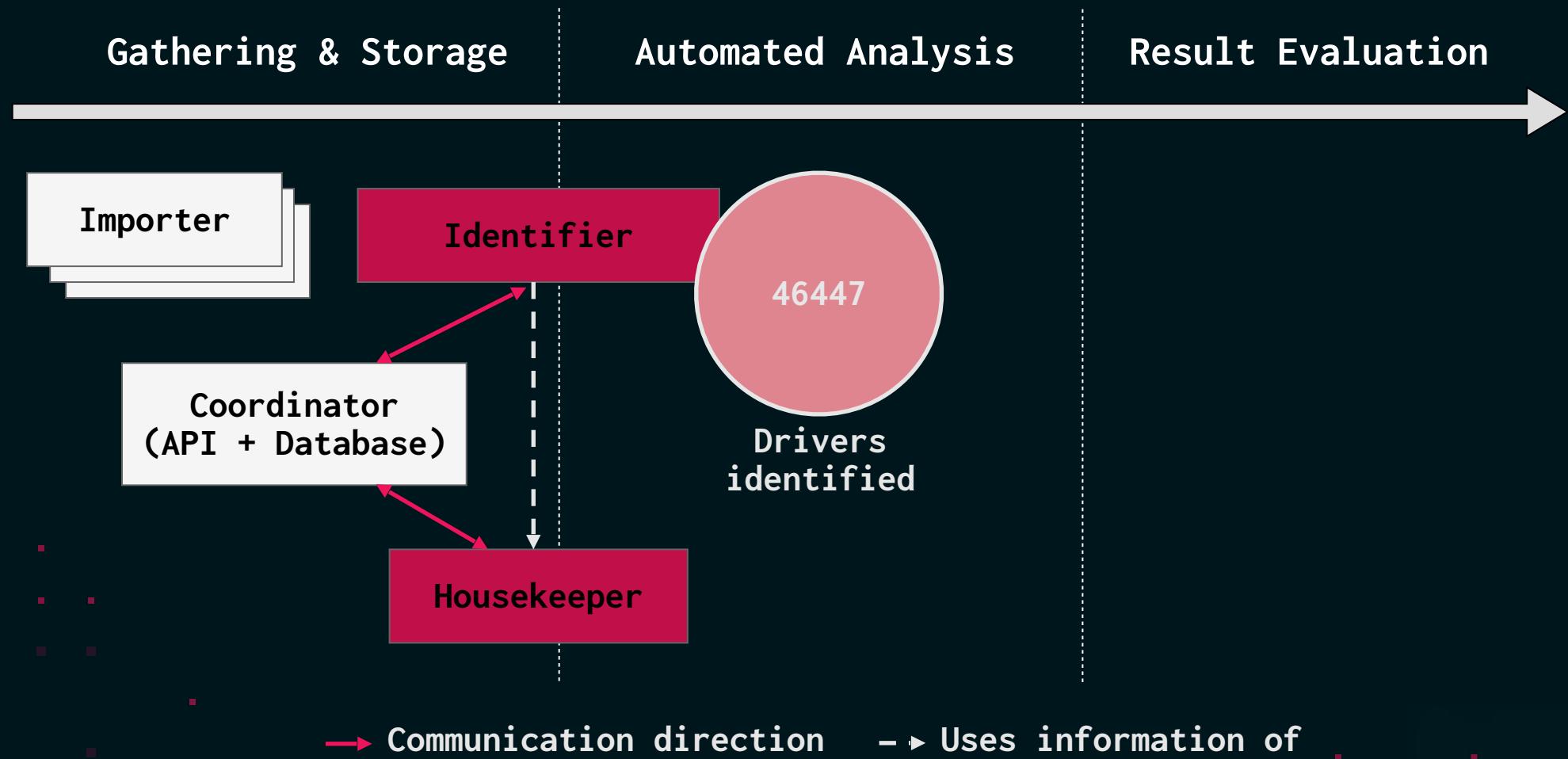
> Identifier & Housekeeper



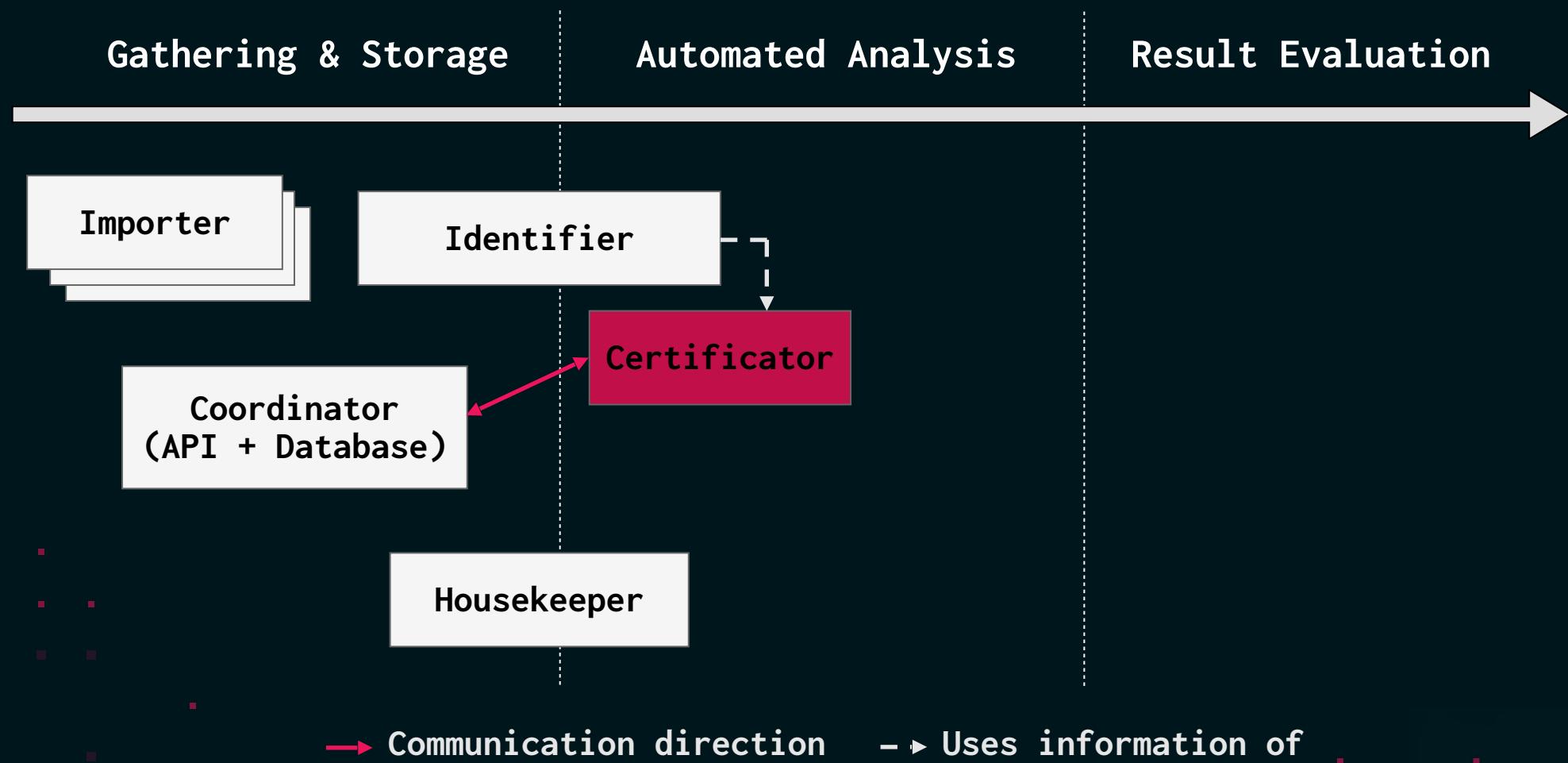
> Identifier & Housekeeper



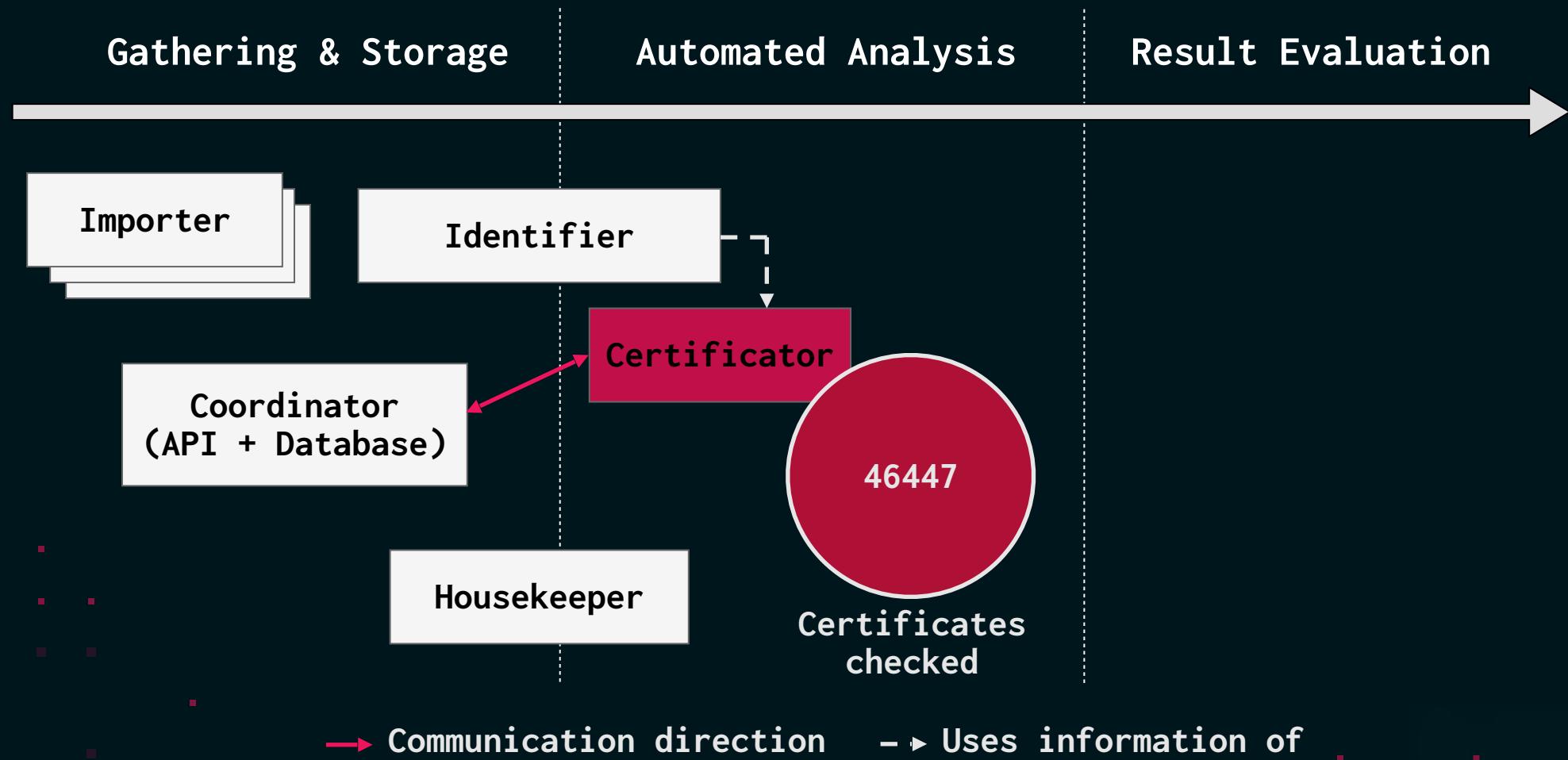
> Identifier & Housekeeper



> Certificator



> Certificator



> Pathfinder

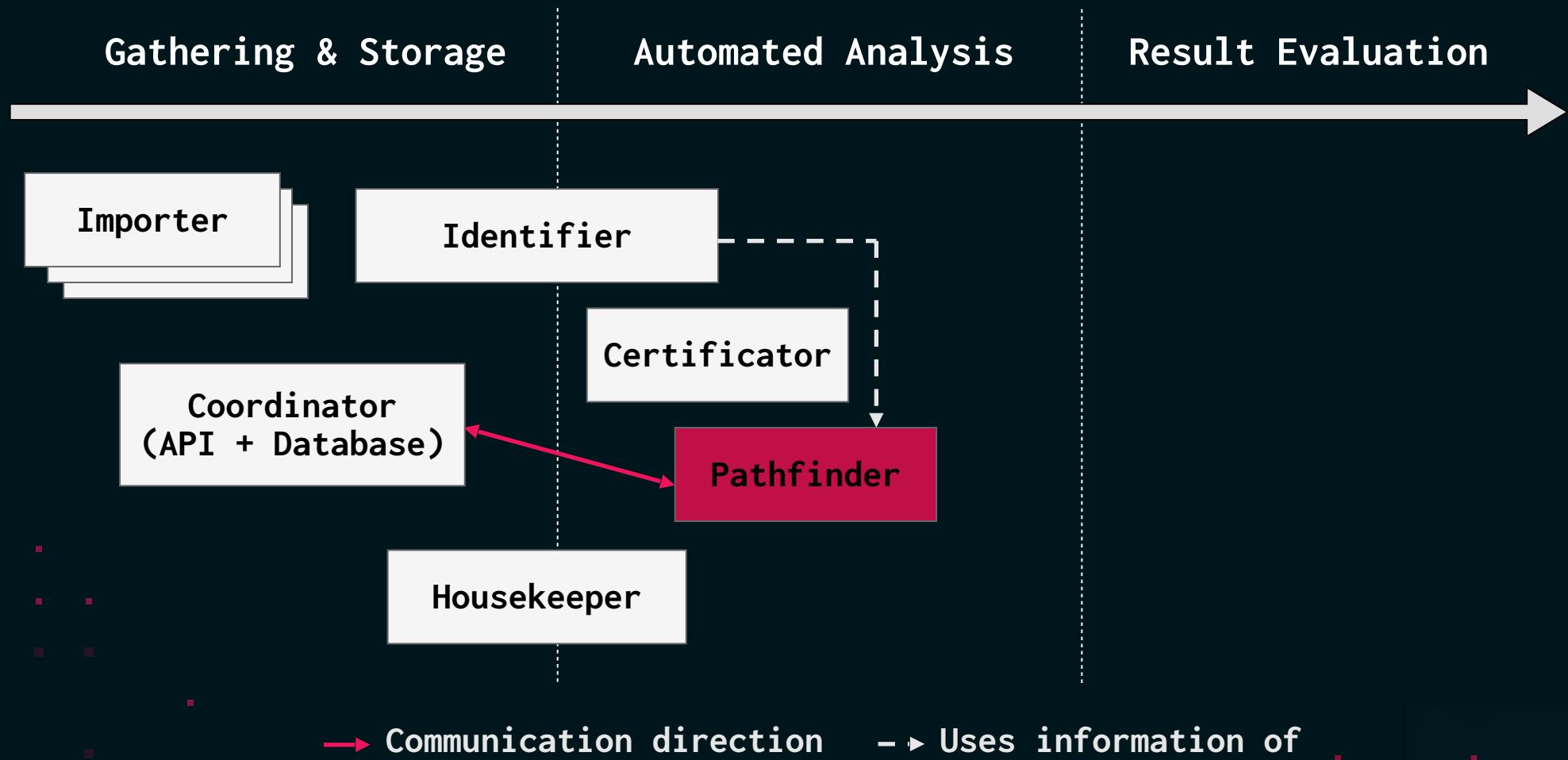
Paths to interesting kernel APIs

- Based on VMware TAU research
- Using Hex-Rays IDA Pro decompiler
- Modified for wider applicability

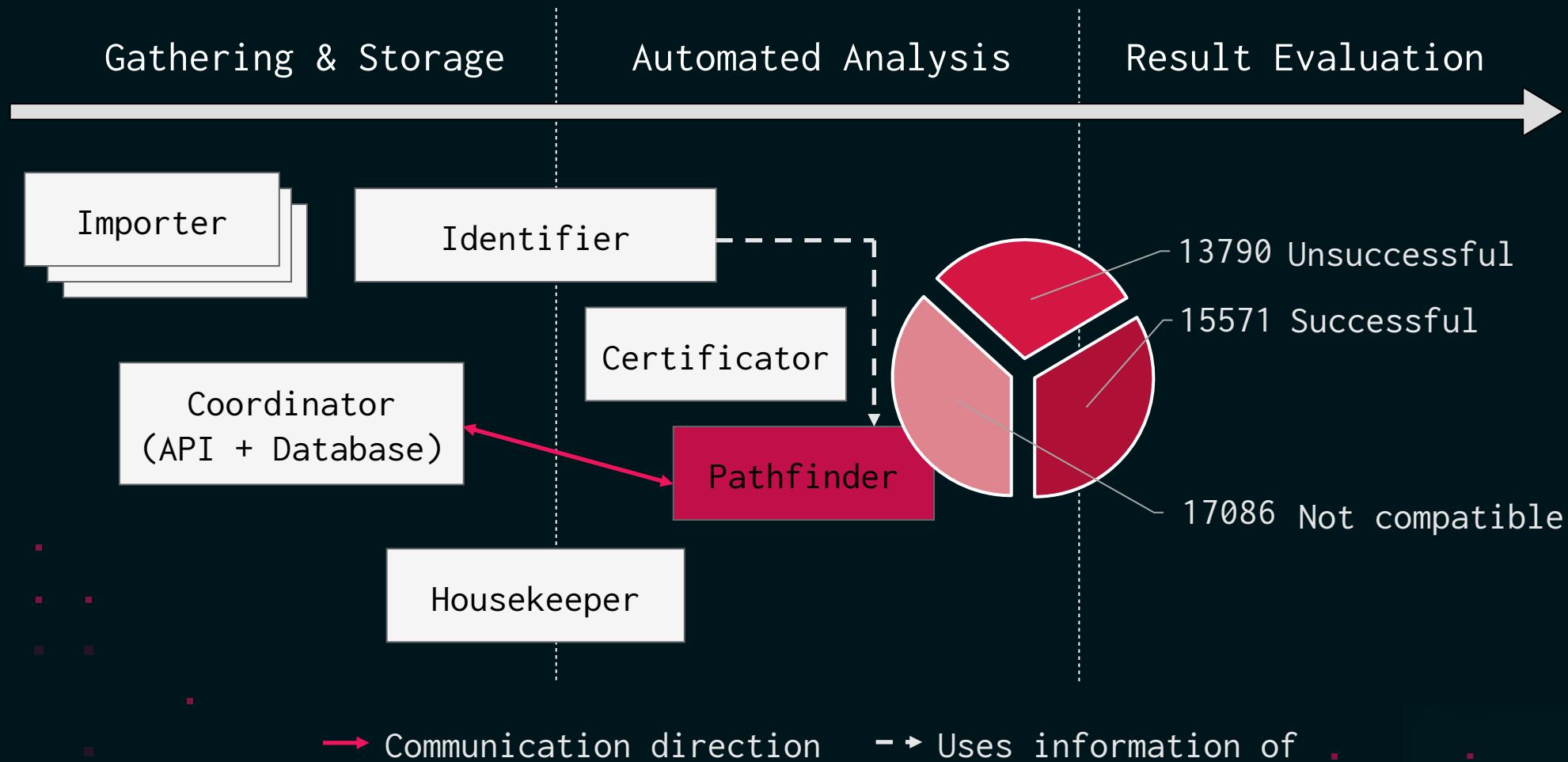
```
a1->DriverUnload = (PDRIVER_UNLOAD)sub_11580;
memset64(a1->MajorFunction, (unsigned __int64)fn_ioctl_handler_wdm_memset64, 0x1BuLL);
a1->MajorFunction[3] = (PDRIVER_DISPATCH)&sub_11958;
a1->MajorFunction[22] = (PDRIVER_DISPATCH)&sub_11A94;
a1->MajorFunction[27] = (PDRIVER_DISPATCH)sub_11AD8;
fn_11BD8(a1);
```

Addition for finding more handlers.

> Pathfinder



> Pathfinder



> Fuzzifier

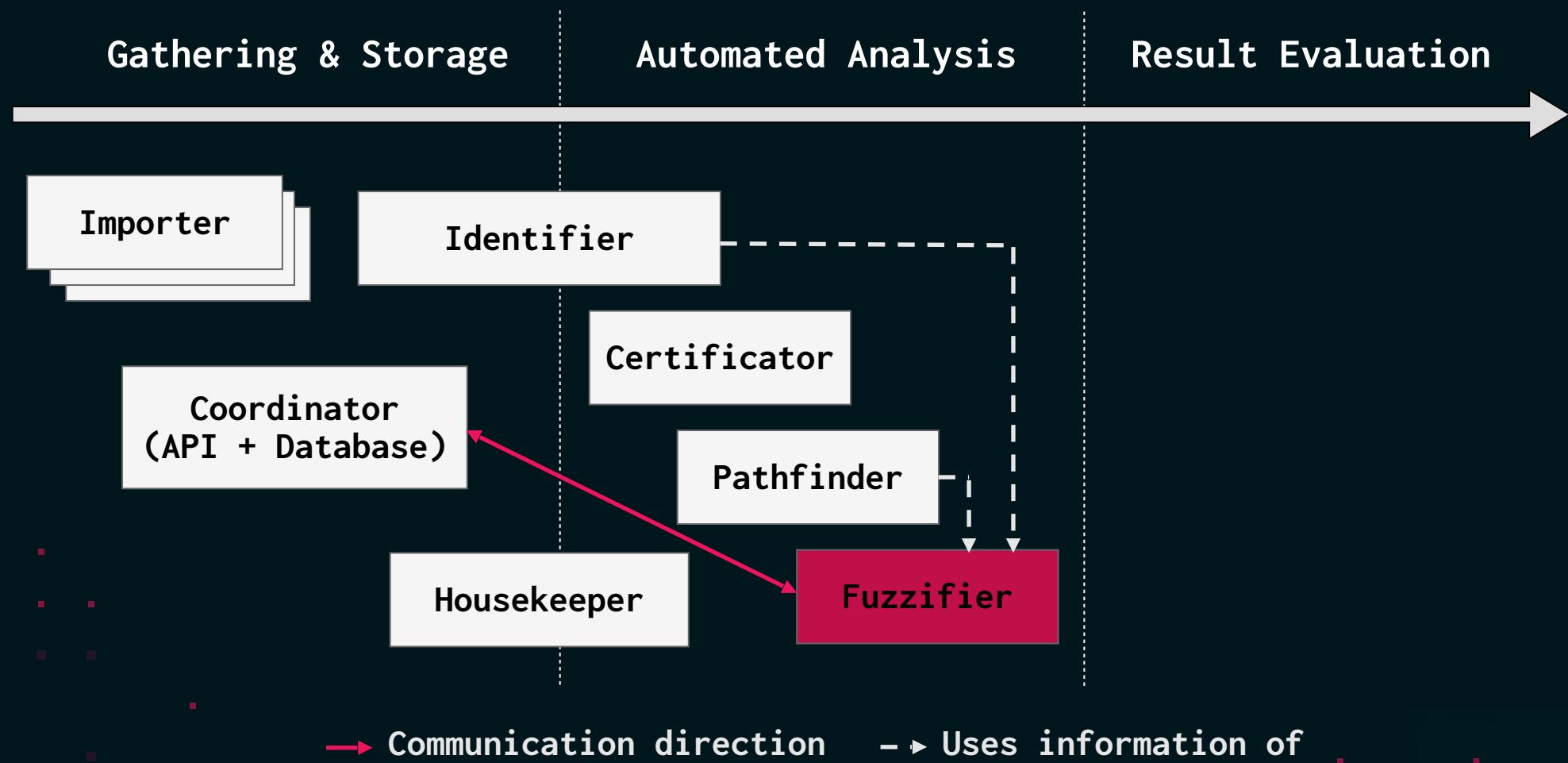
Fuzz testing AMD64 drivers

- Wrapper of Intel Labs kAFL/Nyx
- Modified Fuzzing Harness

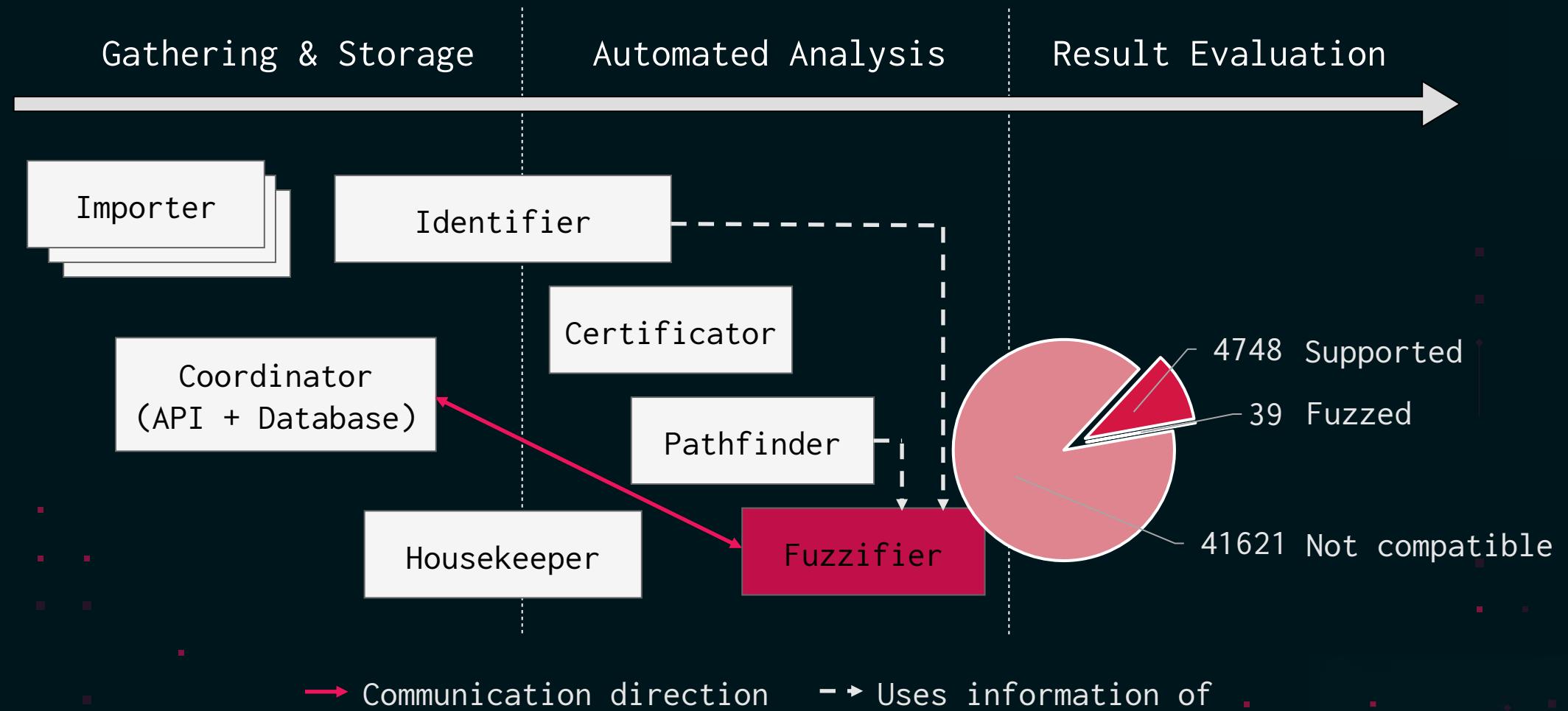


Fuzzing Payload with IOCTL Code

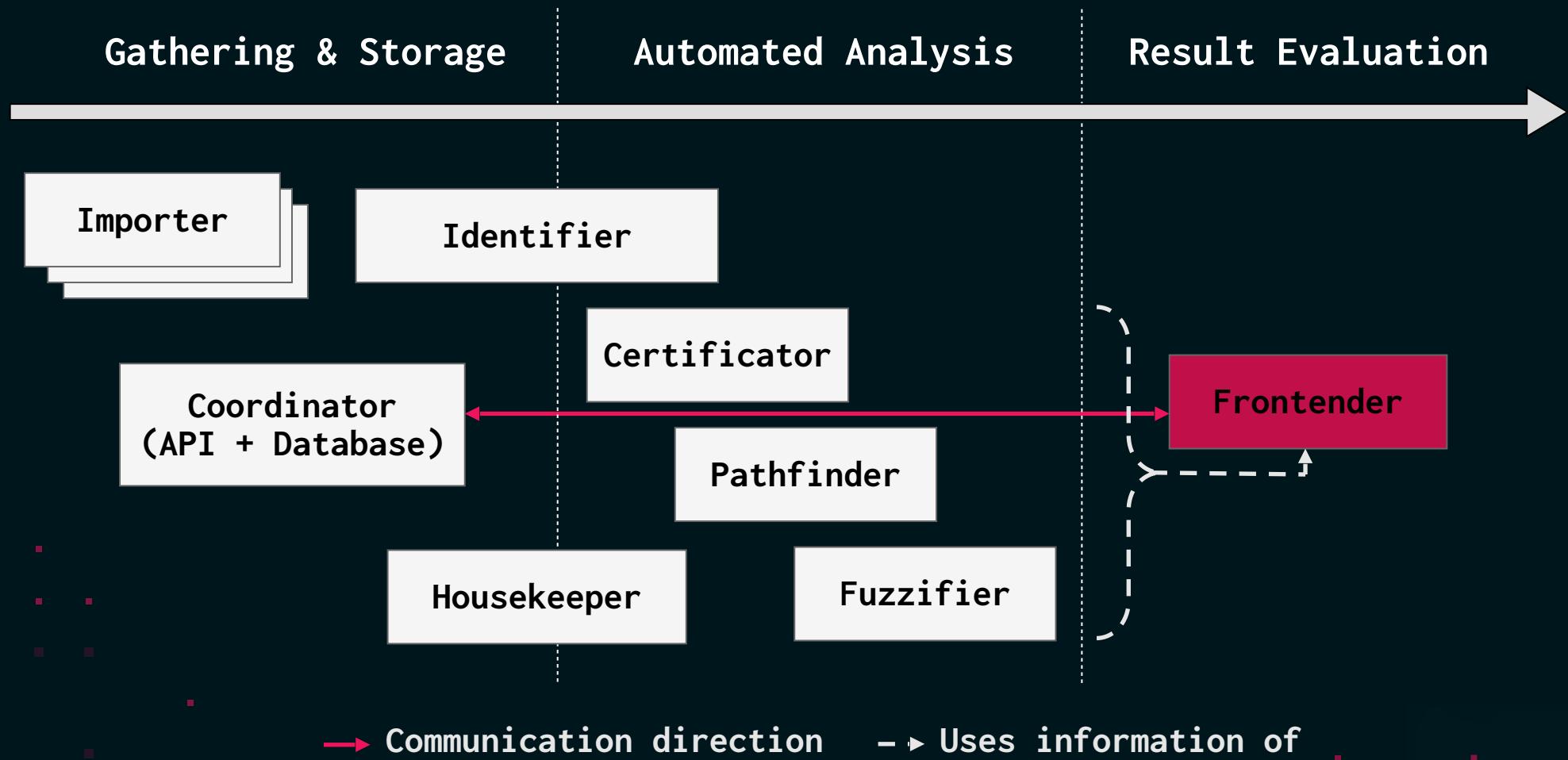
> Fuzzifier



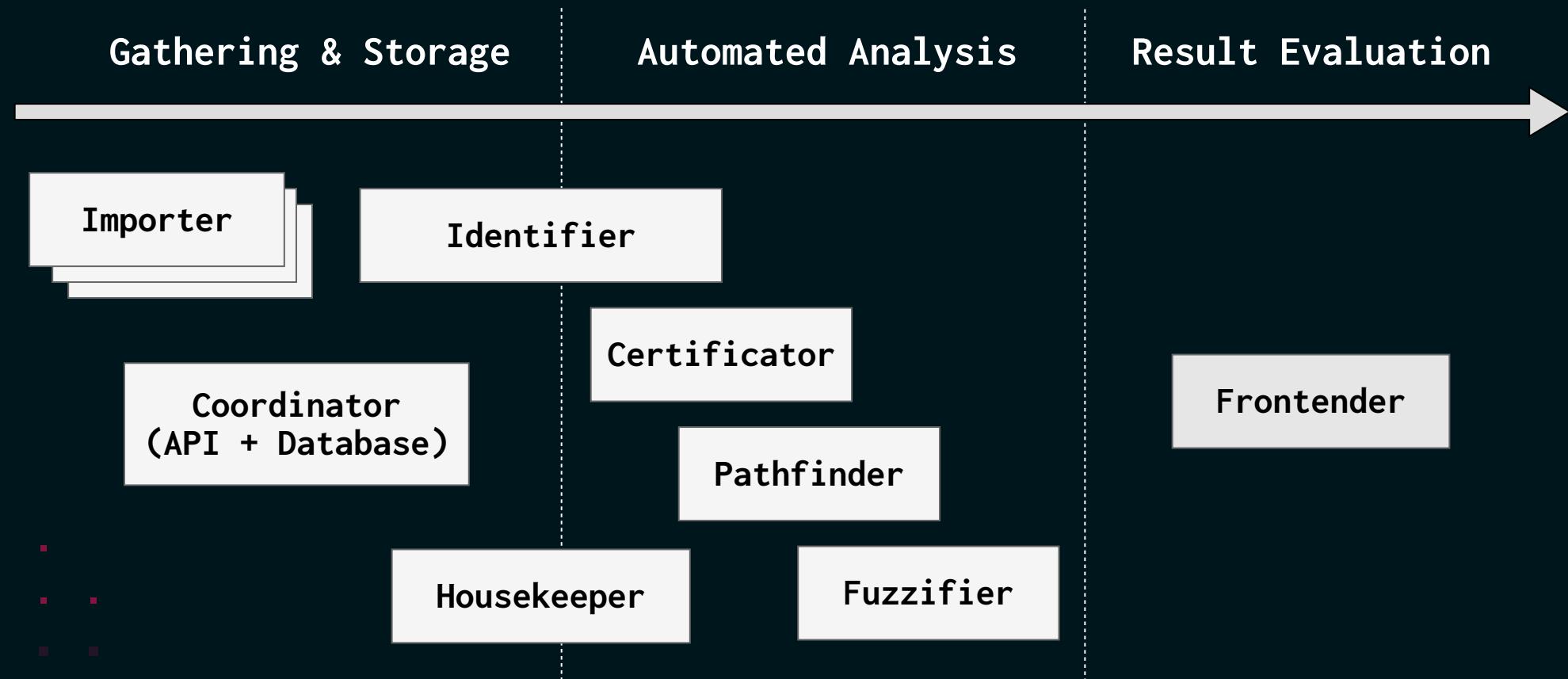
> Fuzzifier



> Frontender

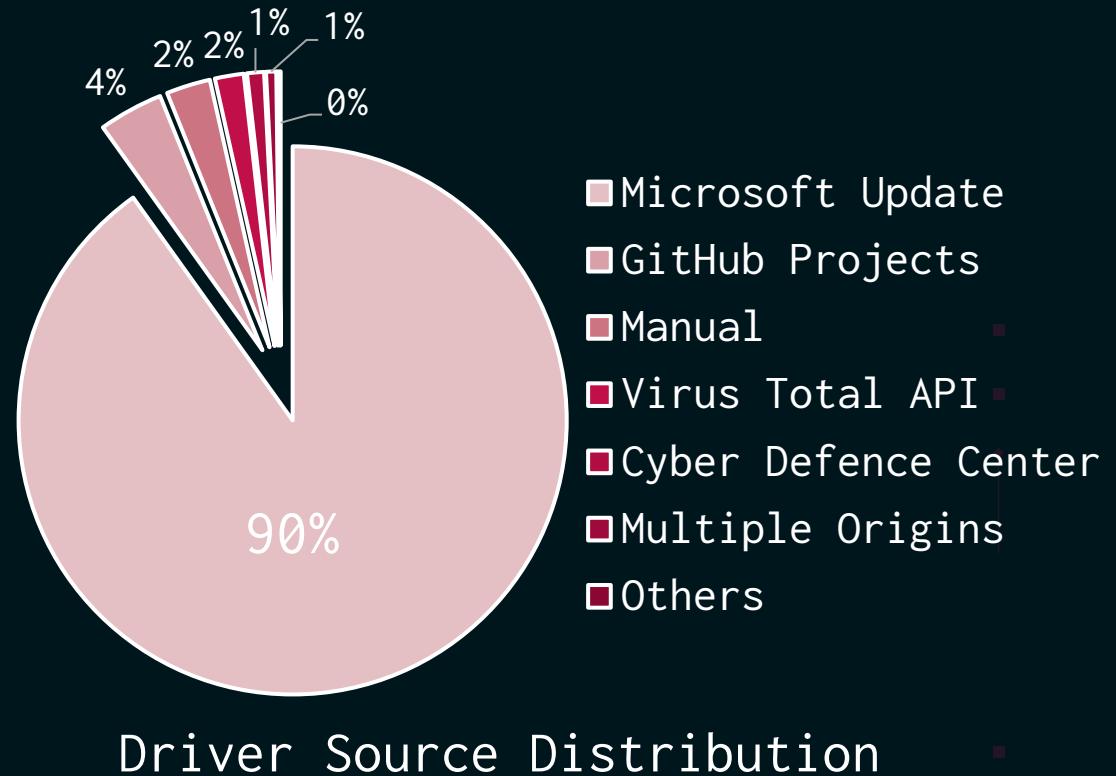


> Continuous Automated Analysis



> Pipeline Gathering

- 1'155'155 total files
- 46'447 driver files
 - 1'012 are ARM drivers
 - 1'949 known vulnerable



> Automated Analysis

Pathfinder improvements

- 94% of ARM drivers analysed
- 1'455 additional drivers through other modifications

> Automated Analysis

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- 1'455 additional drivers through other modifications

Automated fuzzing

- 5'275 fuzzing configurations tried
- 10 drivers crashes found

> New Vulnerable Drivers

Vendors	Signature Dates	Types of Vulnerabilities Found
Vendor 1	2014	rPM, wPM
Vendor 2	2022	rPM
Dynabook	2018	rPM
Tencent	2024	rMSR, wMSR, inB, outB
Dell	2017 2012 2014	rMSR, wMSR, inB, outB inB, outB, rPM rMSR, wMSR
Lenovo	2020	inB, outB, rMSR
NVidia	2015	inB, outB

rPM, wPM = Read/Write Physical Memory

rMSR, wMSR = Arbitrary Read/Write MSR

inB, outB = Arbitrary I/O Port Read/Write

> Coordinated Vuln. Disclosure

10.07.2024 initiated coordinated disclosure

Vendors	Response State
Vendor 1	No Response
Vendor 2	No Response
Dynabook	In Progress
Tencent	No Response
Dell	Rejected
Lenovo	Confirmed
NVidia	In Progress

{ Rejected because outdated
and not supported products.
Abuse still possible.

Progress on disclosure

> Example exploit - Token Exchange

Read / Write physical memory abuse

1. Search physical memory for:

a. Privileged Process Token

b. Own Process Token

```
Found a valid EPROCESS struct at 000000031194CEB8:  
000000: 77 69 6e 69 6e 69 74 2e 65 78 65 00 00 00 00      wininit.exe....  
SYSTEM token at 000000031194CDC8 with:  
000000: 79 39 0d 59 0b 97 ff ff                         y9.Y....
```

Privileged Token found

2. Overwrite own Token

```
25 PhysicalAddress.QuadPart = *(unsigned int *)SystemBuffer_0;  
26 physPageRef = (char *)MmMapIoSpace(PhysicalAddress, pyhsPageSize, MmNonCached);  
27 v9 = 0;  
28 switch ( *(_DWORD *)SystemBuffer_0 + 1 )  
29 {  
30     case 1:                                         // arbitrary phys mem write  
31         qmemcpy(physPageRef, (char *)SystemBuffer_0 + 12, *((unsigned int *)SystemBuffer_0 + 2));
```

Physical Memory Write Vulnerability

> Cyber Defence Centre Findings

Cooperation with InfoGuard AG CDC

- Across three clients
- 33'000 endpoints checked

CDC Client	Total Drivers	Known Vulnerable	New Vulnerable
Client 1	250	7	2
Client 3	319	4	1
Client 2	108	1	2

Driver distribution across real business networks.

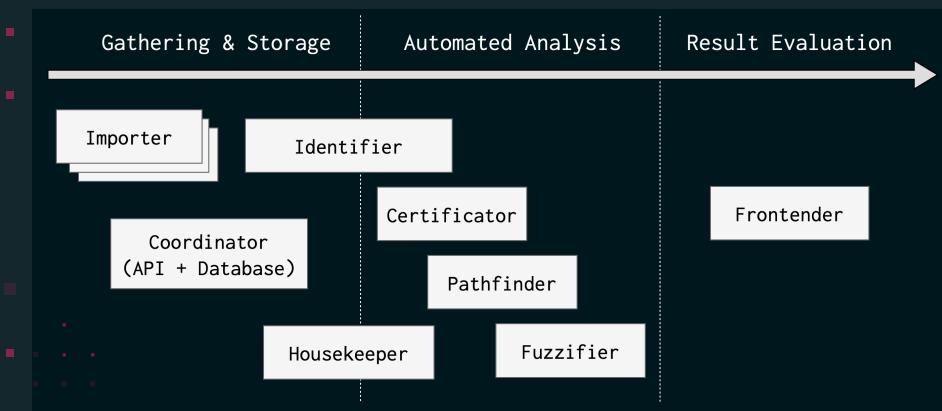
> Current Pipeline Limitations

- General {
 - Manual vulnerability verification necessary
 - Niche drivers possibly not found
- Tool-based {
 - Unsupported installers possibly contain more drivers
 - Undetected certificate revocations
 - Decompilation failures impact Pathfinder results
 - Fuzzing specific:
 - Environment or device requirements
 - Lack of ARM64 kernel support

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Continuous Automated Driver Analysis



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