



# Extending MITRE ATT&CK for better adversary profiling

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**EU MITRE ATT&CK Community Workshop**

*Mikel Gastesi*

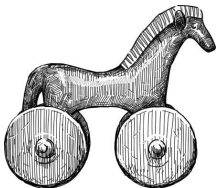
**Cyber Deception Platform**

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# \$ whoami



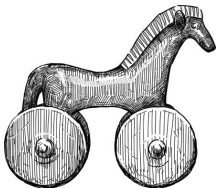
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- ✓ Threat Researcher at CounterCraft
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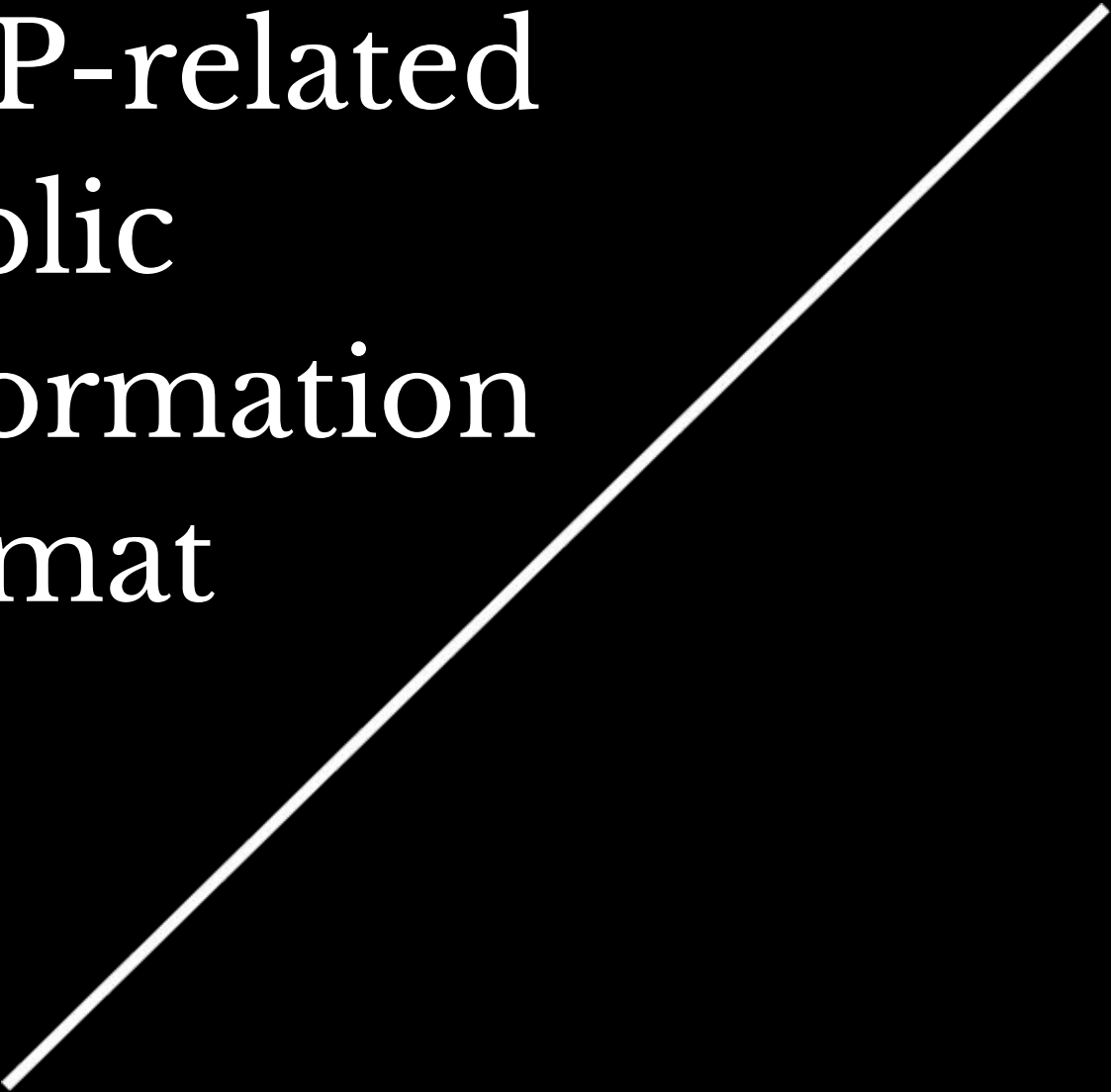
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# Agenda

- ✓ TTP related public information format
- ✓ Problems / Limitations
- ✓ How we obtain TTP information
- ✓ Our approach to solve the issues



# TTP-related public information format



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# Threat Actor Groups - TTP Info

## - A list of techniques per actor

### Techniques Used

Domain	ID	Name	Use
Enterprise	T1071	.004 Application Layer Protocol: DNS	APT39 has used remote access tools that leverage DNS in communications with C2. <sup>[8]</sup>
		.001 Application Layer Protocol: Web Protocols	APT39 has used HTTP in communications with C2. <sup>[8][3]</sup>
Enterprise	T1560	.001 Archive Collected Data: Archive via Utility	APT39 has used WinRAR and 7-Zip to compress an archive stolen data. <sup>[1]</sup>
Enterprise	T1197	BITS Jobs	APT39 has used the BITS protocol to exfiltrate stolen data from a compromised host. <sup>[3]</sup>
Enterprise	T1547	.001 Boot or Logon Autostart Execution: Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder	APT39 has maintained persistence using the startup folder. <sup>[1]</sup>
		.009 Boot or Logon Autostart Execution: Shortcut Modification	APT39 has modified LNK shortcuts. <sup>[1]</sup>
Enterprise	T1110	Brute Force	APT39 has used Ncrack to reveal credentials. <sup>[1]</sup>
Enterprise	T1115	Clipboard Data	APT39 has used tools capable of stealing contents of the clipboard. <sup>[9]</sup>

Source: <https://attack.mitre.org/groups/G0087/>

# Threat Actor Groups - TTP Info

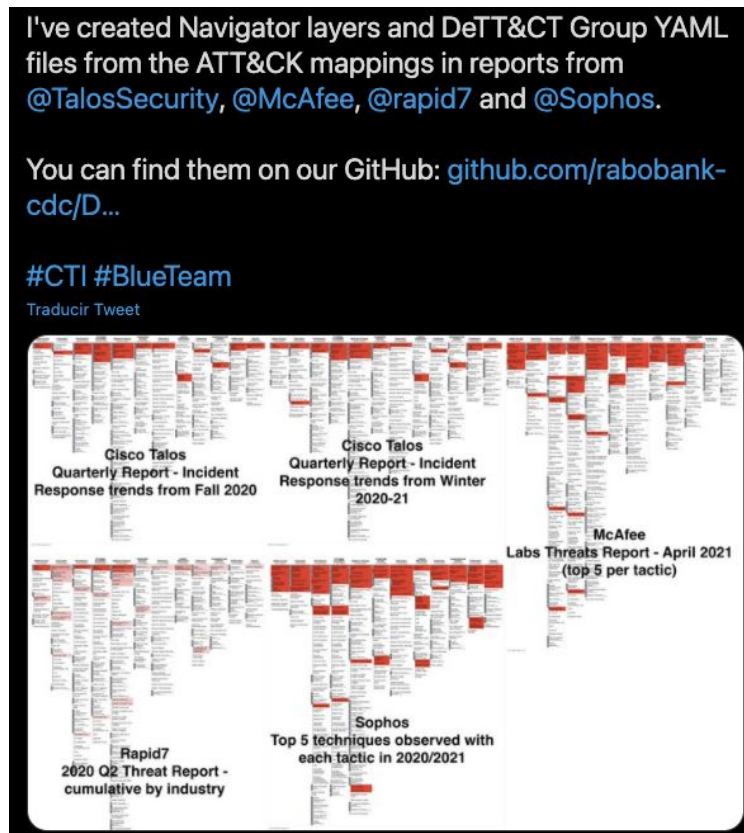
- A list of techniques linked to indicators

Execution	Discovery	Command and Control
T1059.007: JavaScript/JScript 1	T1057: Process Discovery 1	T1132: Data Encoding 1
T1059.004: Unix Shell 1		T1105: Ingress Tool Transfer 1
T1059.006: Python 1		T1094: Custom Command and Control Protocol 2
T1059.005: Visual Basic 1		

Source: <https://unit42.paloaltonetworks.com/atoms/chafer/>

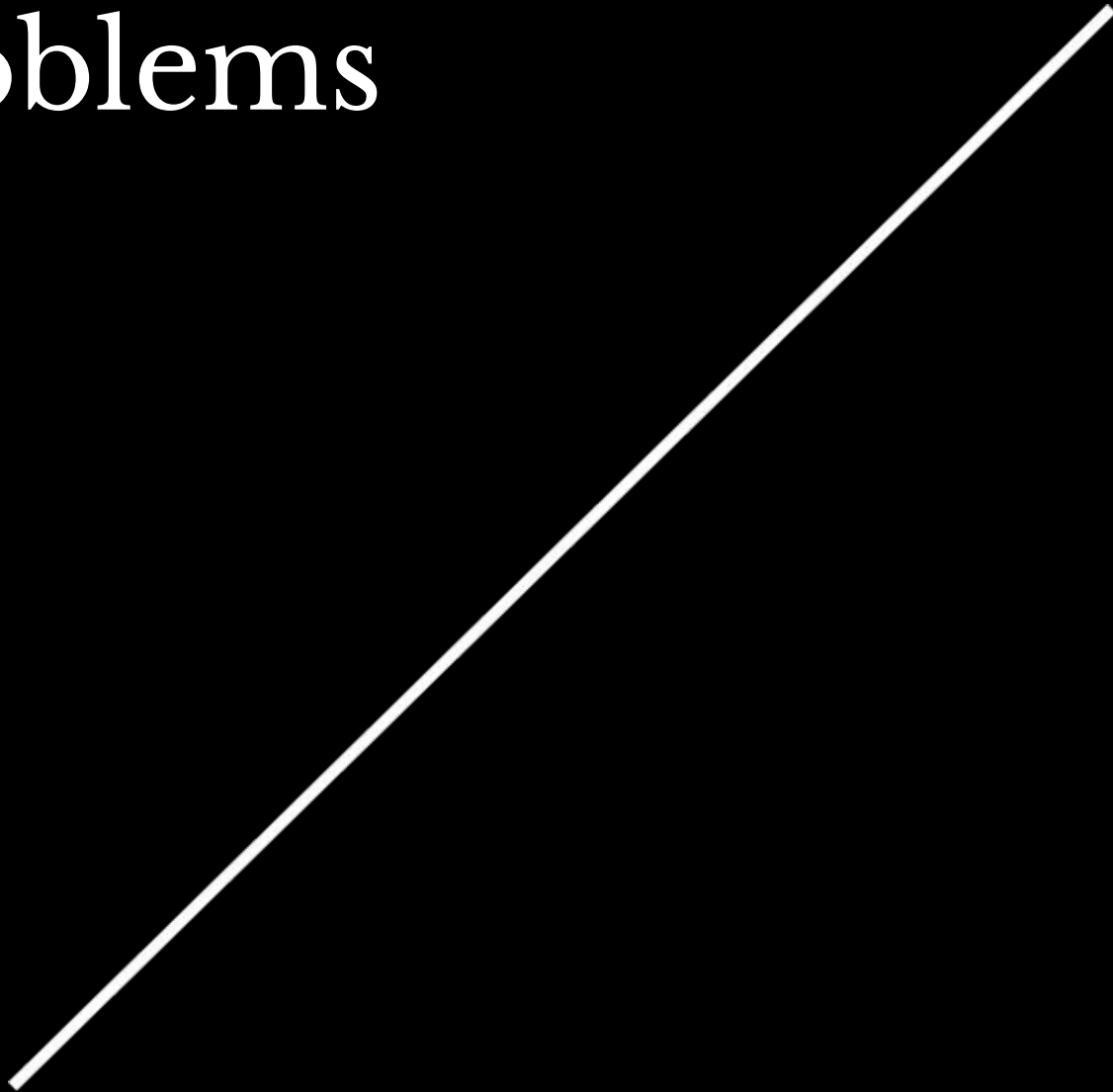
# Threat Actor Groups - TTP Info

- A list of techniques / layers per report /incident



Source: <https://twitter.com/Bakk3rM/status/1398293628074790913>

# Problems

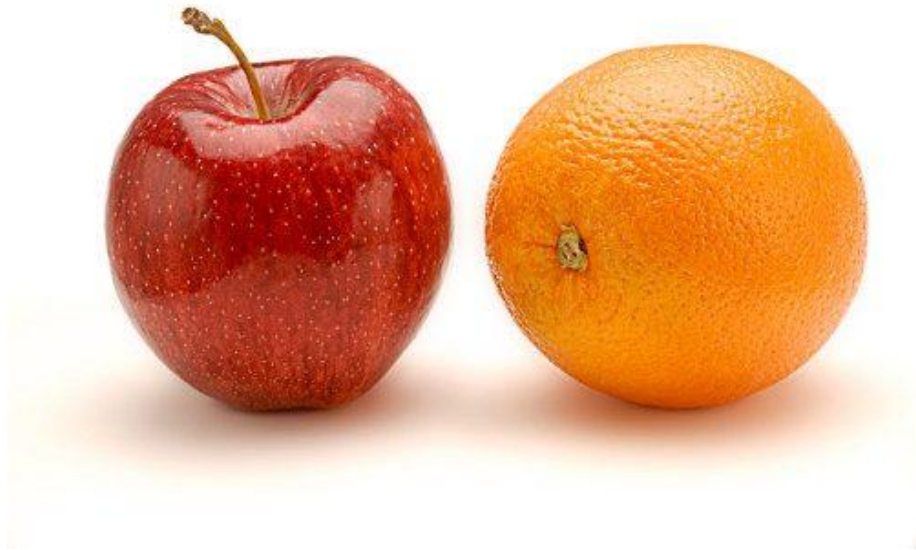




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# Problems?

- Without context, the information it is not easy to compare



✓ Data sources

✓ Bias?

✓ Incomplete?

✓ Mistake / NDA / partial vision



**problem?**

Ask for your money back!

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# Problems?

- Out of scope for today; techniques are not OS agnostic

## BITS Jobs

ID: T1197

Sub-techniques: No sub-techniques

① **Tactics:** Defense Evasion, Persistence

① **Platforms:** Windows

① **Permissions Required:** Administrator, SYSTEM, User

① **Data Sources:** **Command:** Command Execution, **Network Traffic:** Network Connection Creation, **Process:** Process Creation, **Service:** Service Metadata

① **Defense Bypassed:** Firewall, Host forensic analysis

**Contributors:** Brent Murphy, Elastic; David French, Elastic; Red Canary; Ricardo Dias

**Version:** 1.2

**Created:** 18 April 2018

**Last Modified:** 13 April 2021

*Source: <https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1197/>*

# How we obtain TTP information



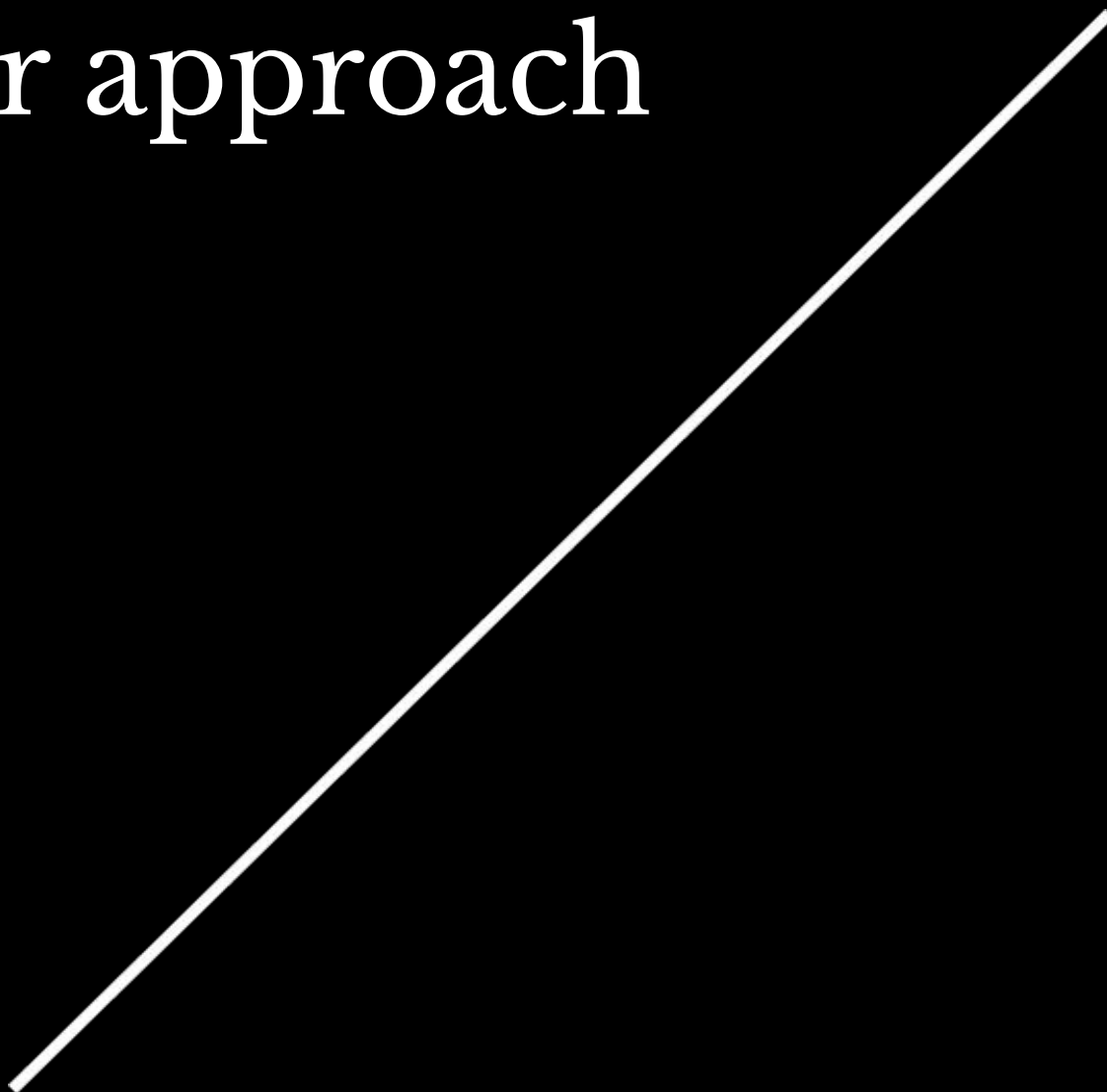
# How we obtain TTP information

- Fully monitorized environment
- 'Auto-magic' TTP detection in real time

Initial Access	Execution		Persistence
Drive-by Compromise	Command and Scripting Interpreter	PowerShell	Account Manipulation +
Exploit Public-Facing Application		AppleScript	BITS Jobs
External Remote Services		Windows Command Shell	Boot or Logon Autostart Execution +
Hardware Additions		Unix Shell	Boot or Logon Initialization Scripts +
Phishing +		Visual Basic	Browser Extensions
Replication Through Removable Media		Python	Compromise Client Software Binary
Supply Chain +		JavaScript	Create Account +
		Network Device CLI	

*TTP detection example*

# Our approach



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# Our approach

- ✓ We have context, so we added context.
- ✓ Grouping:
  - By campaign / attack
- ✓ Adding context value (I):
  - Timestamp / order
  - Host
  - User session/privileges
  - User connection type
- ✓ New TTPs (I)

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# Our approach

- ✓ Timestamp / order
  - How many times
  - Helpful for software
  - Not always meaningful, but it adds information
  
- ✓ Host
  - Linux? Windows?
  
- ✓ User session/privileges
  - Unprivileged user/root
  
- ✓ User connection type
  - Local? Network? External?

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# Our approach

## ✓ New TTPs

- Suspicious processes
- Suspicious file creation
- Suspicious network connections
- Suspicious script execution

## ✓ Suspicious behaviour != malicious != technique

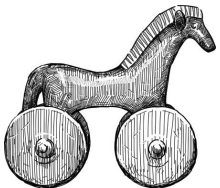
- Map when possible



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# Conclusions

- ✓ There is a lack of context that could help to make information more complete
  - Do you think it is contradictory to add more specific information to an abstract model?
- ✓ Techniques vs Suspicious activity
  - Investigate suspicious, confirm malicious

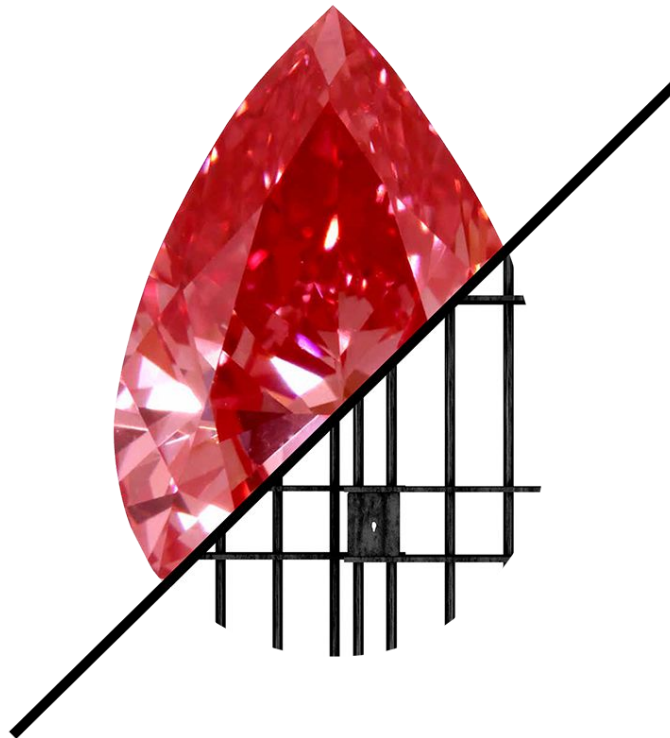


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# Thank you!!

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# Counter Craft



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