Exercise 1: Mapping Adversary Behavior

You will use the MITRE ATT&CK Navigator to map the fictional adversary behaviors based on tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) using the MITRE ATT&CK Enterprise Matrix. The security incidents have not occurred yet, but you will work on creating the security incidents in a later exercise.

You will map the behaviors based on the mock threat report, which describes the fictional adversary TTPs. This will allow you to *translate* the behaviors into the MITRE ATT&CK model.



With every update of MITRE ATT&CK, MITRE also updates the ATT&CK Navigator to reflect the changes. The tool may look different from the images in this lab guide, depending on the current live version. If you are not able to follow any of the steps in this exercise, tell your instructor.

Configure the ATT&CK Navigator Settings

You will access the ATT&CK Navigator and configure the settings to what you require for your mapping.

To configure the ATT&CK Navigator settings

1. On the bastion host, open Google Chrome, click the **SOC Analyst** bookmark folder, and then click the **ATT&CK Navigator** bookmark (https://mitre-attack.github.io/attack-navigator/).



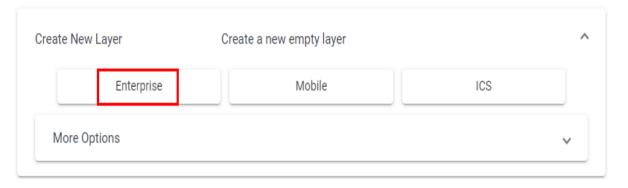
2. Click Create New Layer.

MITRE ATT&CK® Navigator

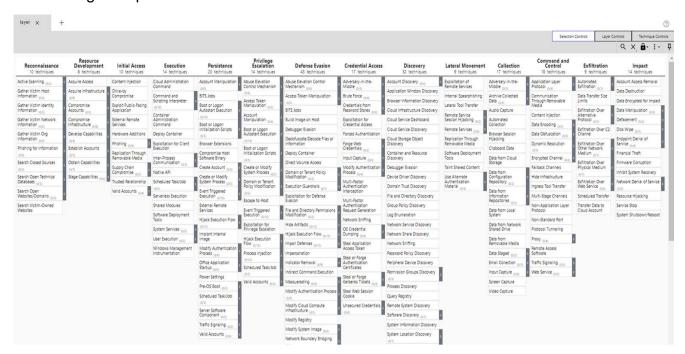
The ATT&CK Navigator is a web-based tool for annotating and exploring ATT&CK matrices. It can be used to visualize defensive coverage, red/blue team planning, the frequency of detected techniques, and more.



3. Click Enterprise.



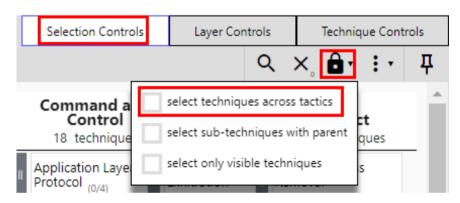
The ATT&CK Navigator opens.



To get a more precise mapping of Group ABC behaviors, you must set a specific configuration of the ATT&CK Navigator.

4. In the **Selection Controls** toolbar, click the lock icon (□), and then clear the **select techniques** across tactics checkbox.

Your configuration should match the following example:





According to the MITRE ATT&CK model definition, a technique and subtechnique can span across multiple tactics. The default configuration of the ATT&CK Navigator is set for the automatic selection of a technique or subtechnique across all applicable tactics. In this exercise, this would eventually create inaccurate selections that would not reflect the described behaviors of Group ABC.

Map the Reconnaissance Tactic

According to the mock report, Group ABC first performs **Reconnaissance** (tactic) by accessing a target's public website, learning about the organization, its employees, and roles, and downloading hosted documents to find a vulnerability. These actions are included in **Search Victim-Owned Websites** (technique).

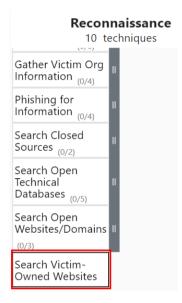
The group also uses a list of common usernames to probe the target email systems, in order to **Gather Victim Identity Information** (technique) and obtain valid **Email Addresses** (subtechnique) that exist on the target.

The group is also known to perform **Active Scanning** (technique) by **Scanning IP Blocks** (subtechnique) and using **Vulnerability Scanning** (subtechnique).

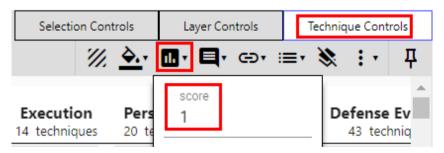
You will use the ATT&CK Navigator to map the **Reconnaissance** tactic.

To map the Reconnaissance tactic

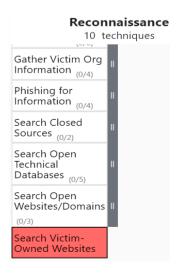
1. In the ATT&CK Navigator, in the Reconnaissance column, select Search Victim-Owned Websites.



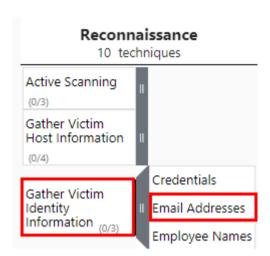
2. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.



The selection is highlighted.

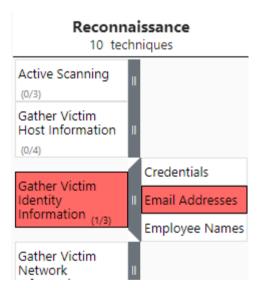


- 3. In the **Reconnaissance** column, to the right of the **Gather Victim Identity Information** technique, click || to expand the subtechniques.
- 4. Hold the Shift key, and then in the **Reconnaissance** column, select both the **Gather Victim Identity Information** technique and **Email Addresses** subtechnique.

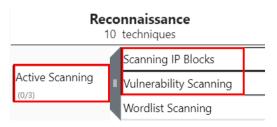


5. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.



- 6. To the right of the **Gather Victim Identity Information** technique, click || to collapse the subtechniques.
- 7. In the **Reconnaissance** column, to the right of the **Active Scanning** technique, click || to expand the subtechniques.
- 8. Hold the Shift key, and then in the **Reconnaissance** column, select both the **Active Scanning** technique and **Scanning IP Blocks** and **Vulnerability Scanning** subtechniques.



9. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.

Reconnaissance 10 techniques Scanning IP Blocks Vulnerability Scanning Wordlist Scanning

10. To the right of the **Active Scanning** technique, click | to collapse the subtechniques.



In this case, you are using the score system to create a visual cue for the selections. You can use the score system for other purposes such as indicating priorities and risk-level associated with specific techniques and subtechniques.

Map the Initial Access Tactic

According to the mock report, Group ABC uses spear phishing for initial access. Specifically, the group uses *spear phishing with a malicious file attachment*, which is a subtechnique of the broader **Phishing** technique.

You will use the ATT&CK Navigator to map the **Initial Access** tactic.

To map the Initial Access tactic

- 1. In the ATT&CK Navigator, in the **Initial Access** column, to the right of the **Phishing** technique, click || to expand the subtechniques.
- 2. Hold the Shift key, and then in the **Initial Access** column, select both the **Phishing** technique and **Spearphishing Attachment** subtechnique.



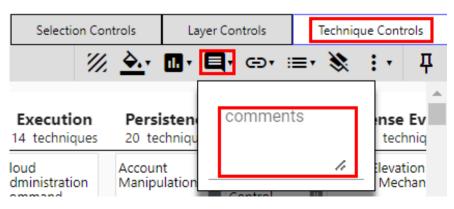
3. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.



You mapped the Group ABC technique and subtechnique for the **Initial Access** tactic. However, in the lesson, you learned another aspect of an adversary behavior that is a component of the ATT&CK model—procedures. Since the ATT&CK Navigator does not have a specific object to map procedures, you will use the comment section of the **Spearphishing Attachment** subtechnique to annotate the Group ABC procedure of attaching a malicious document to the spear-phishing email.

4. Click the **Spearphishing Attachment** subtechnique to select it, and then in the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the comment icon to open the comment field.



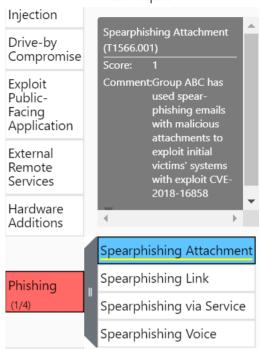
5. In the comment field, type something like the following text:

Group ABC has used spear-phishing emails with malicious attachments to exploit initial victims' systems with exploit CVE-2018-16858.

The **Spearphishing Attachment** subtechnique is now underlined, and you can hover over it to see the comment that you added.

Initial Access

10 techniques





Because procedures do not affect future labs, and for time management reasons, this is the only procedure from Group ABC that you will detail in the ATT&CK Navigator. However, in a real-world situation, you should collect and document as many details as possible about an adversary.

6. To the right of the **Phishing** technique, click || to collapse the subtechniques.

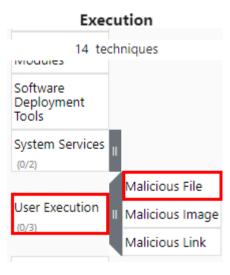
Map the Execution Tactic

You will map the **Execution** behavior of the Group ABC attacks. According to the mock report, the group's attacks require the target user to execute the malicious file.

You will use the ATT&CK Navigator to map the **Execution** tactic.

To map the Execution tactic

- 1. In the **Execution** column, to the right of the **User Execution** technique, click || to expand the subtechniques.
- 2. Hold the Shift key, and then in the **Execution** column, select both the **User Execution** technique and **Malicious File** subtechnique.



You may need to scroll down to see these items.

3. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.

Execution 14 techniques Deployment Tools System Services (0/2) Malicious File User Execution (1/3) Malicious Image Malicious Link Windows Management Instrumentation

4. To the right of the **User Execution** technique, click || to collapse the subtechniques.

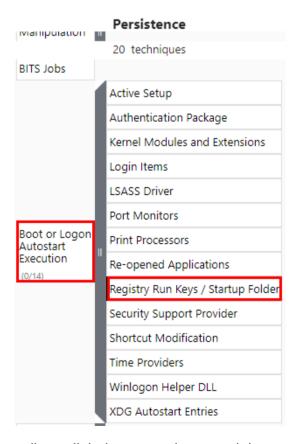
Map the Persistence Tactic

For the **Persistence** stage, according to the threat report, Group ABC creates a new Windows system service that starts automatically when the operating system starts up.

You will use the ATT&CK Navigator to map the **Persistence** tactic.

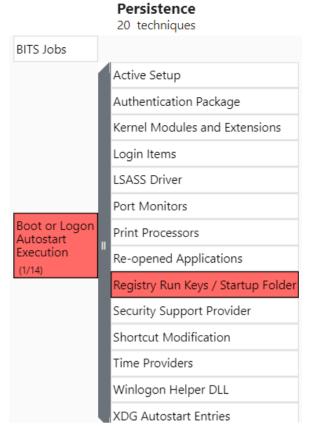
To map the Persistence tactic

- 1. In the **Persistence** column, to the right of the **Boot or Logon Autostart Execution** technique, click | to expand the subtechniques.
- 2. Hold the Shift key, and then in the **Persistence** column, select both the **Boot or Logon Autostart Execution** technique and **Registry Run Keys / Startup Folder** subtechnique.



3. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.



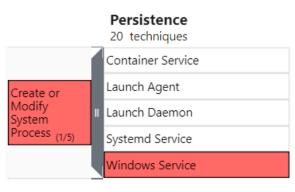
- 4. To the right of the **Boot or Logon Autostart Execution** technique, click || to collapse the subtechniques.
- 5. In the **Persistence** column, to the right of the **Create or Modify System Process** technique, click || to expand the subtechniques.
- 6. Hold the Shift key, and then in the **Persistence** column, select both the **Create or Modify System Process** technique and **Windows Service** subtechnique.

Create Account (0/3) Create or Modify System Process (0/5) Create or Modify System Process (0/5) Windows Service

Persistence

7. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.



8. To the right of the **Create or Modify System Process** technique, click || to collapse the subtechniques.

Map the Defense Evasion Tactic

The mock report describes that after establishing persistence, Group ABC tries to clear the Windows Audit Log Security entries on the compromised target in order to evade detection.

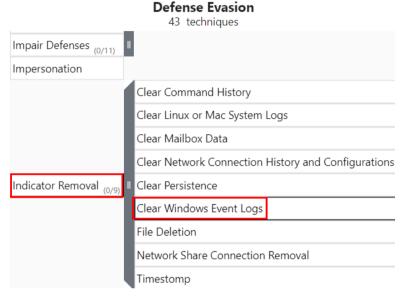
You will use the ATT&CK Navigator to map the **Defense Evasion** tactic.

To map the Defense Evasion tactic

In the **Defense Evasion** column, to the right of the **Indicator Removal** technique, click || to expand the subtechniques.

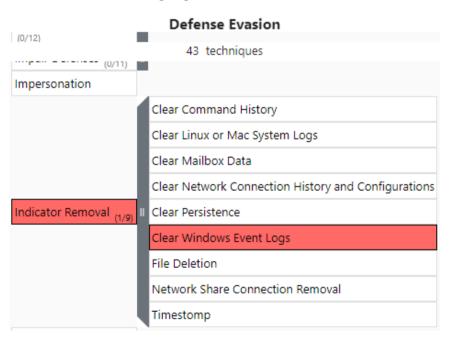
Depending on your screen resolution, you may have to scroll down to see this technique.

2. Hold the Shift key, and then in the **Defense Evasion** column, select both the **Indicator Removal** technique and **Clear Windows Event Logs** subtechnique.



3. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.



4. To the right of the **Indicator Removal** technique, click || to collapse the subtechniques.

Map the Command and Control Tactic

The next tactic you will map is the **Command and Control** tactic. You will map the following two behaviors of Group ABC under this tactic:

- The download of the malicious file that, along with the setup of Run keys, will automatically reestablish the Command and Control (C&C) channel once a user logs in to the compromised host
- The use of port TCP/443 to establish the C&C channel between the compromised host and the C&C server

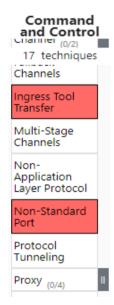
The first behavior of the two listed above—the download of additional artifacts—maps to the **Ingress Tool Transfer** technique. The second behavior—related to the establishment of a raw TCP C&C channel over a well-known port that is associated with another protocol (in this case, HTTPS)—maps to the **Non-Standard Port** technique.

You will use the ATT&CK Navigator to map the **Command and Control** tactic.

To map the Command and Control tactic

- 1. In the **Command and Control** column, hold the Shift key, and then select both the **Ingress Tool Transfer** technique and **Non-Standard Port** technique.
- 2. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.



Map the Credential Access Tactic

To gain **Credential Access** (tactic), Group ABC has been known to use **Brute Force** (technique) and **Password Guessing** (subtechnique).

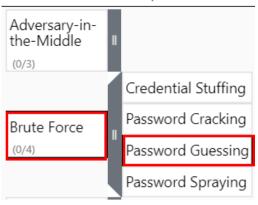
You will use the ATT&CK Navigator to map the **Credential Access** tactic.

To map the Credential Access tactic

- 1. In the **Credential Access** column, to the right of the **Brute Force** technique, click || to expand the subtechniques.
- 2. In the **Credential Access** column, hold the Shift key, and then select both the **Brute Force** technique and **Password Guessing** subtechnique.

Credential Access

17 techniques

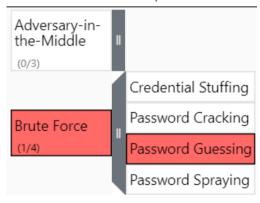


3. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.

Credential Access

17 techniques



4. To the right of the **Brute Force** technique, click || to collapse the subtechniques.

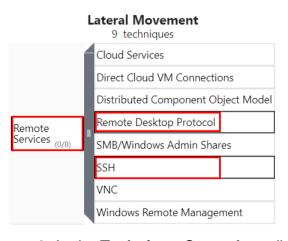
Map the Lateral Movement Tactic

The adversary group will achieve **Lateral Movement** (tactic) by using **Remote Services** (technique), specifically **Remote Desktop Protocol** (subtechnique) and **SSH** (subtechnique), to move to high-priority targets.

You will use the ATT&CK Navigator to map the **Lateral Movement** tactic.

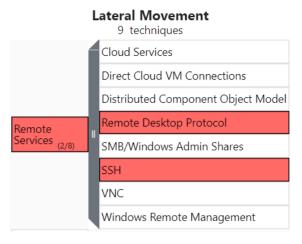
To map the Lateral Movement tactic

- 1. In the **Lateral Movement** column, to the right of the **Remote Services** technique, click || to expand the subtechniques.
- 2. In the **Lateral Movement** column, hold the Shift key, and then select the **Remote Services** technique and the **Remote Desktop Protocol** and **SSH** subtechniques.



3. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.



4. To the right of the **Remote Services** technique, click || to collapse the subtechniques.

Map the Exfiltration Tactic

Group ABC will use **Exfiltration** (tactic) to steal sensitive files that can be used for nefarious purposes, such as for ransom or selling to other cyber criminals. They are known to use SMB to transfer files, which falls under **Exfiltration Over Alternate Protocol** (technique).

You will use the ATT&CK Navigator to map the **Exfiltration** tactic.

To map the Exfiltration tactic

- 1. In the **Exfiltration** column, hold the Shift key, and then select the **Exfiltration Over Alternative Protocol** technique.
- 2. In the **Technique Controls** toolbar, click the **score** icon, and then set the **score** to 1.

The selections are highlighted.

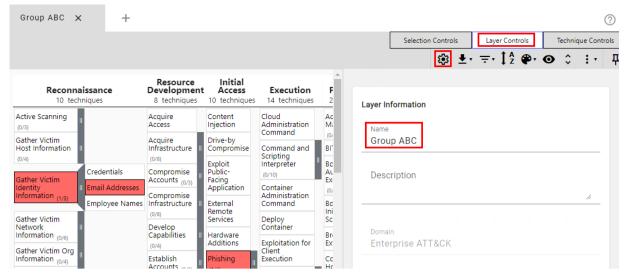


Finalize and Download the Security Report

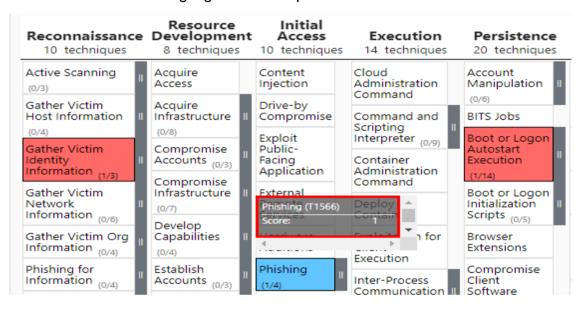
You will complete the security report, and then download it. In a real-world situation, you could then send the security report to a Security Operations team, for example.

To finalize and download the security report

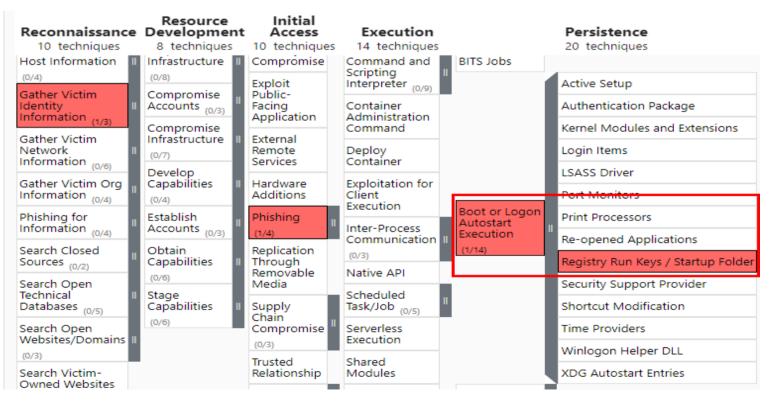
- 1. In the Layer Controls toolbar, click the gear icon to open the Layer Information window.
- 2. In the **Name** field, type Group ABC to change the layer name.



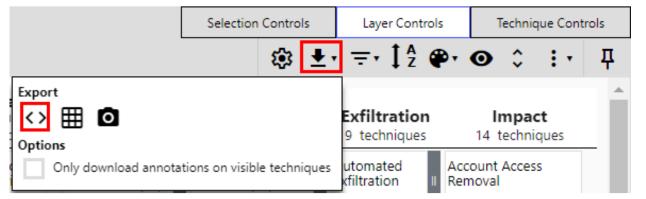
3. Hover over the highlighted techniques to see that their scores are all set to 1.



4. Click || to the right of a technique to expand the subtechniques for the technique.



In the Layer Controls toolbar, click the download single layer as json icon to download your layer as a JSON file.



Downloading this file provides you with a backup of your layer that you can then upload to the ATT&CK Navigator in a later exercise.

6. In Chrome, leave the tab with the ATT&CK Navigator open for a later lab exercise.

LAB-1 > Mapping Adversary Behavior