AIL Project

How to Improve and Support Your Threat Intelligence Process



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Background

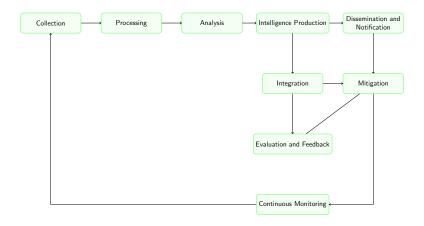
- Over the past five years, we have developed the AIL project¹ to fulfill our needs at CIRCL in intelligence gathering and analysis.
- As AIL gained popularity, an increasing number of users began integrating it into their threat intelligence processes and workflows.
- In this presentation, we outline some of the processes where AIL
 can serve as a valuable tool, facilitating and enhancing the work
 of intelligence analysts.

¹https://www.ail-project.org/

AIL overview

- The AIL Project is an open-source framework comprising various modules designed for the collection, crawling, digging, and analysis of unstructured data.
- AIL features an extensible Python-based framework for the analysis of unstructured information, collected either through an advanced Crawler manager or from various feeders, including social networks and custom feeders.
- AIL also provides support for actively crawling Tor hidden services, as well as crawling protected websites and forums by utilizing pre-recorded session cookies.

Threat Intelligence Process



Processing - extracting selector/patterns

- Detecting specific search patterns in a large dataset, such as a significant ransomware leak, can be challenging for analysts.
- AIL includes a rich set of existing search patterns (e.g. IBAN) along with default Yara rules, and you have the ability to create custom ones.



Analysis - evaluating vulnerability severity/risk

- What is the visibility, usage, mentions, or risk of a vulnerability observed in forums, channels, pastes, or websites?
- AIL can assist you in determining the severity/risk level or in reviewing the usage of a vulnerability (e.g., the number of PoCs).



Dissemination - distributing analysis

- AIL exports data using the MISP standard format and offers complete integration with MISP to facilitate the dissemination of data.
- All the context within AIL uses the MISP taxonomies and galaxy.
- The insights provided by AIL are often used as complementary information for threat intelligence reports and landscapes.



Conclusion

- While AIL can be a valuable tool for organisations dealing with data leaks and information breaches, it's important to remember that it is primarily designed for information leak analysis and not for the entire threat intelligence process.
- Organizations should use AIL in conjunction with other threat intelligence solutions and processes to establish a comprehensive threat intelligence strategy.
- AIL is an open-source project, and if you discover modules that could assist in your processes, please let us know or contribute directly.

Links

- AIL project https://github.com/ail-project (all components including feeders and crawler infrastructure)
- AIL framework https://github.com/ail-project/ail-framework (analysis framework)
- Training materials and slide deck https://github.com/ail-project/ail-training

