## AIL Framework for Analysis of Information Leaks

Practical and Efficient Data-Mining of Suspicious Websites, Forums and Tor Hidden-Services



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#### Links

- AIL project https://github.com/ail-project
- AIL framework https://github.com/ail-project/ail-framework
- Training materials
   https://github.com/ail-project/ail-training
- Online chat https://gitter.im/ail-project/community

# Legal and Ethics

## Privacy, AIL and GDPR (PII)

- Many modules in AIL can process personal data and even special categories of data as defined in GDPR (Art. 9).
- The data controller is often the operator of the AIL framework (limited to the organisation) and has to define legal grounds for processing personal data.
- To help users of AIL framework, a document is available which describe points of AIL in regards to the regulation<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup>https:

## Potential legal grounds

- Consent of the data subject is in many cases not feasible in practice and often impossible or illogical to obtain (Art. 6(1)(a)).
- Legal obligation (Art. 6(1)(c)) This legal ground applies mostly to CSIRTs, in accordance with the powers and responsibilities set out in CSIRTs mandate and with their constituency, as they may have the legal obligation to collect, analyse and share information leaks without having a prior consent of the data subject.
- Art. 6(1)(f) Legitimate interest Recital 49 explicitly refers to CSIRTs' right to process personal data provided that they have a legitimate interest but not colliding with fundamental rights and freedoms of data subject.

## Ethics in Information Security and Cybersecurity

- The materials and tools presented can open a significant numbers of questions regarding ethics;
- Our researches and tools are there for education, supporting the public good and improve incident response;
- We ask all users and participants to follow ethical principles and act professionaly<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>https://www.acm.org/code-of-ethics

## Introduction

#### Concepts - Deep Web

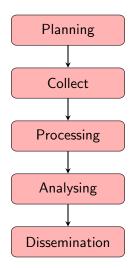
- Deep Web is the part of World Wide Web not indexed or directly accessible by standard web search-engines;
- This can be content hidden from crawlers by requiring a specific access and this can includes private social media, password-protected forums or content protected by different measures such as paywalls or specific security interface to access the information;
- A large portion of content accessible via Internet is part of the deep web<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>also called invisible web, hidden web or non-indexed web

#### Concepts - darknet

- **Darknet** is an overlay network running on top of Internet requiring specific software to access the network and its services;
- Tor, I2P and Freenet are the most commonly used ones. Many are used for hidden services access and some for proxy access to the Internet;
- There are legitimate use-cases for such network but also many illegal or criminal usage.

### Lifecycle of collection and analysis



# Collecting, processing and analysing content - web pages

- Building a search engine on the web is a challenging task because:
  - o it has to crawl webpages,
  - it has to to make sense of unstructured data,
  - o it has to **index** these data,
  - it has to provide a way to retrieve data and structure data (e.g. correlation).
- Doing so on Tor is even more challenging because:
  - o services don't always want to be found,
  - o parts of the dataset have to be discarded.
- in each case, it requires a lot of bandwidth, storage and computing power.

# Collecting, processing and analysing content - structured data

- Some data are structured and are easy to process:
  - metadata!
  - API responses.
- Some even provide cryptographic evidences:
  - o authentication mechanisms between peers,
  - OpenGPG can leak a lot of metadata
    - key ids,
    - subject of email in thunderbird,
  - o Bitcoin's Blockchain is public,
  - o pivoting on these data with external sources yields interesting results.

# AIL design Objectives

#### Objectives of the session

- Show how to use and extend an open source tool to monitor web pages, pastes, forums and hidden services
- Explain challenges and the design of the AIL open source framework
- Review different collection mechanisms and sources
- Learn how to create new modules
- Learn how to use, install and start AIL
- Supporting investigation using the AIL framework and including it in cyber threat intelligence lifecycle

## AIL Framework

#### From a requirement to a solution: AIL Framework

#### History:

- AIL initially started as an internship project (2014) to evaluate the feasibility to automate the analysis of (un)structured information to find leaks.
- In 2019, AIL framework is an open source software in Python. The software is actively used (and maintained) by CIRCL and many organisations.
- In 2020, AIL framework is now a complete project called ail project<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup>https://github.com/ail-project/

## Capabilities Overview

#### Common usage

- Check if mail/password/other sensitive information (terms tracked) leaked
- Detect reconnaissance of your infrastructure
- Search for leaks inside an archive
- Monitor and crawl websites

## Support CERT and Law Enforcement activities

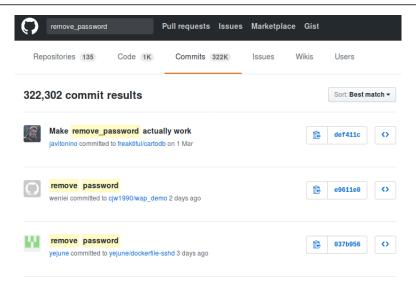
- Proactive investigation: leaks detection
  - List of emails and passwords
  - Leaked database
  - AWS Keys
  - Credit-cards
  - o PGP private keys
  - Certificate private keys
- Feed Passive DNS or any passive collection system
- CVE and PoC of vulnerabilities most used by attackers

#### Support CERT and Law Enforcement activities

- Website monitoring
  - monitor booters
  - o Detect encoded exploits (WebShell, malware encoded in Base64, ...)
  - SQL injections
- Automatic and manual submission to threat sharing and incident response platforms
  - MISP
  - TheHive
- Term/Regex/YARA monitoring for local companies/government

## Sources of leaks

#### Mistakes from users:





## Sources of leaks: Paste monitoring

- Example: https://gist.github.com/
  - Easily storing and sharing text online
  - Used by programmers and legitimate users
    - $\rightarrow$  Source code & information about configurations

## Sources of leaks: Paste monitoring

- Example: https://gist.github.com/
  - Easily storing and sharing text online
  - $\circ~$  Used by programmers and legitimate users
    - $\rightarrow$  Source code & information about configurations
- Abused by attackers to store:
  - List of vulnerable/compromised sites
  - Software vulnerabilities (e.g. exploits)
  - Database dumps
    - → User data
    - $\rightarrow$  Credentials
    - → Credit card details
  - More and more ...

#### Examples of pastes (items)

```
text 2.02 KB
text 4.41 KB
                                               KillerGram - Yuffie - Smoke The Big Dick [smkwhr] (Upload
         - - - - Tool by Y3t1v3t ( u
                                                text 2.66 KB
        text 4.57 KB

    <item name="%the component to be disabled%" xsi:type="array">

          1. #include "wejwyj.h"
                                                          <item name="config" xsi:type="array">
                                                              <item name="componentDisabled" xsi:type="boolean">true</item>
          3. int zapisz (FILE *plik_
                                                         </item>
                int i, j;
                                                   5. </item>
          5. if (obr->KOLOR==0) {
                                                   7. <2xml version="1.0"?>
 10.
                fprintf (plik_wy, "P2
                fprintf (plik wv. "%d
                                                   9. <page xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" xsi:noNamespace
                fprintf (plik wv. "%d
                                                      /etc/page configuration.xsd">
                for (i=0: i<obr->wvmv
                                                  10.
                                                          <body>
                for (i=0; i<obr->wvmx; i++
                                                              <referenceBlock name="checkout.root">
                    fprintf (plik wy, "%d ",
                                                                  <arguments>
                                                                      <argument name="jsLayout" xsi:type="array">
```

#### Why so many leaks?

- Economical interests (e.g. Adversaries promoting services)
- Ransom model (e.g. To publicly pressure the victims)
- Political motives (e.g. Adversaries showing off)
- Collaboration (e.g. Criminals need to collaborate)
- Operational infrastructure (e.g. malware exfiltrating information on a pastie website)
- Mistakes and errors

#### Yes!

and we have to deal with this as a CSIRT.

- Contacting companies or organisations who did specific accidental leaks
- Discussing with media about specific case of leaks and how to make it more practical/factual for everyone
- Evaluating the economical market for cyber criminals (e.g. DDoS booters<sup>5</sup> or reselling personal information reality versus media coverage)
- Analysing collateral effects of malware, software vulnerabilities or exfiltration
  - $\rightarrow$  And it's important to detect them automatically.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>https://github.com/D4-project/

#### Paste monitoring at CIRCL: Statistics

- Monitored paste sites: 27
  - o gist.github.com
  - o ideone.com

o ..

	2016	2017	08.2018
Collected pastes	18,565,124	19,145,300	11,591,987
Incidents	244	266	208

Table: Pastes collected and incident<sup>6</sup> raised by CIRCL

<sup>6</sup>http://www.circl.lu/pub/tr-46

# Current capabilities

#### AIL Framework: Current capabilities

- Extending AIL to add a new analysis module can be done in 50 lines of Python
- The framework supports multi-processors/cores by default.
   Any analysis module can be started multiple times to support faster processing during peak times or bulk import
- Multiple concurrent data input
- Tor Crawler (handle cookies authentication)

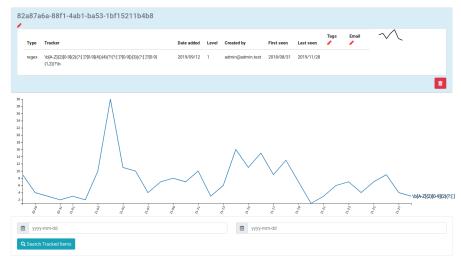
#### AIL Framework: Current features

- Extracting credit cards numbers, credentials, phone numbers,
   ...
- Extracting and validating potential hostnames
- Keeps track of duplicates
- Submission to threat sharing and incident response platform (MISP and TheHive)
- Full-text indexer to index unstructured information
- Tagging for classification and searches
- Terms, sets, regex and YARA tracking and occurences
- Archives, files and raw submission from the UI
- PGP, Cryptocurrency, Decoded (Base64, ...) and username Correlation
- And many more

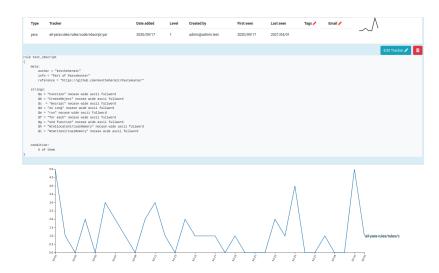
#### Terms Tracker

- Search and monitor specific keywords/patterns
  - o Automatic Tagging
  - o Email Notifications
- Track Term
  - o ddos
- Track Set
  - o booter,ddos,stresser;2
- Track Regex
  - o circl\.lu
- YARA rules
  - https://github.com/ail-project/ail-yara-rules

#### Terms Tracker

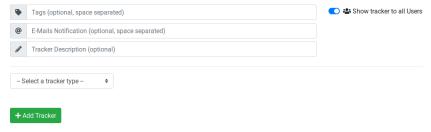


#### YARA Tracker



#### Terms Tracker - Practical part

• Create and test your own tracker



## Recon and intelligence gathering tools

- Attacker also share informations
- Recon tools detected: 94
  - sqlmap
  - dnscan
  - o whois
  - msfconsole (metasploit)
  - dnmap
  - o nmap
  - o ...

### Recon and intelligence gathering tools

```
Hostname
               www.pabloquintanilla.cl
                                             ISP
                                                   Wix.com Itd.
    Continent
                North America
                                  Flag
    US
    Country United States Country Code
                                             US
    Region Unknown
                           Local time 19 Nov 2019 07:59 CST
                           Postal Code Unknown
    City
          Unknown
    TP Address 185,230,60,195
                           Latitude
                                             37.751
                      Longitude -97.822
    > www.pabloguintanilla.cl
    Server:
                38.132.106.139
    Address: 38.132.106.139#53
    Non-authoritative answer:
    www.pabloquintanilla.cl canonical name = www192.wixdns.net.
    www192.wixdns.net
                     canonical name = balancer.wixdns.net.
    Name: balancer.wixdns.net
    Address: 185,230,60,211
    Domain name: pabloquintanilla.cl
    Registrant name: SERGIO TORO
    Registrant organisation:
    Registrar name: NIC Chile
36 of 95 gaistrar HPL . https://www.pic
```

### Decoder

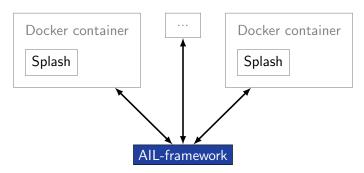
- Search for encoded strings
  - o Base64
  - Hexadecimal
  - Binary
- Guess Mime-type
- Correlate paste with decoded items

## Decoder:

estimated type	hash	first seen	last seen 🚶	nb item []	size	Virus Total	Sparkline 🍴
application/x-dosexec	c11c2be8d9ba4e86c8effaa411aa6b867ba75abe	2019/11/28	2019/11/28	1	191	✓ Send this file to VT	
application/x-dosexec	a50cba731204ecce193b40178399a250b5ce6f67	2019/11/28	2019/11/28	1	32768	✓ Send this file to VT	
application/x-dosexec	cc5f2f0da71f443ec12ae1b3cb6ab8bad80f22c4	2019/11/28	2019/11/28	1	203	✓ Send this file to VT	
application/x-dosexec	eed67e8fa9cb9a43fea21ae653983a8e0a174f63	2019/11/26	2019/11/28	6	83	✓ Send this file to VT	_/_

### Crawler

- Crawlers are used to navigate on regular website as well as .onion addresses (via automatic extraction of urls or manual submission)
- Splash ("scriptable" browser) is rending the pages (including javascript) and produce screenshots (HAR archive too)



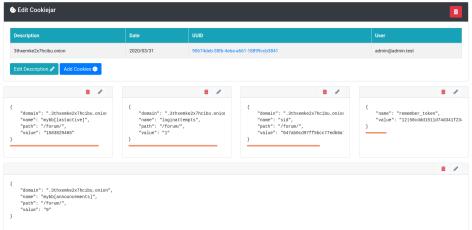
### Crawler

### How a domain is crawled by default

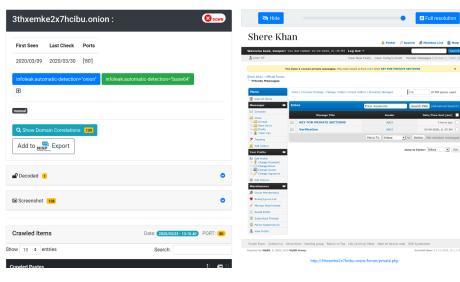
- 1. Fetch the first url
- 2. Render javascript (webkit browser)
- 3. Extract all urls
- 4. Filter url: keep all url of this domain
- 5. crawl next url (max depth = 1)

### Crawler: Cookiejar

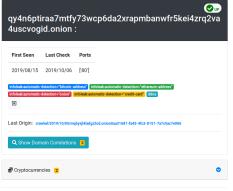
Use your cookies to login and bypass captcha



### Crawler: Cookiejar

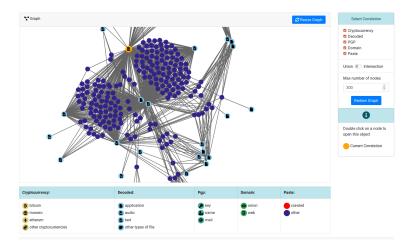


### Crawler: DDoS Booter



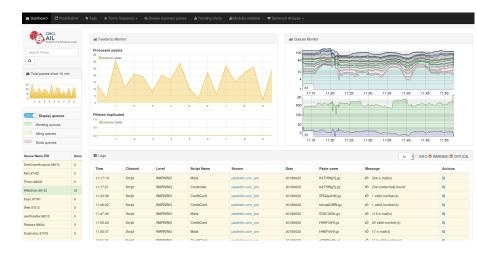


## Correlations and relationship



# Live demo!

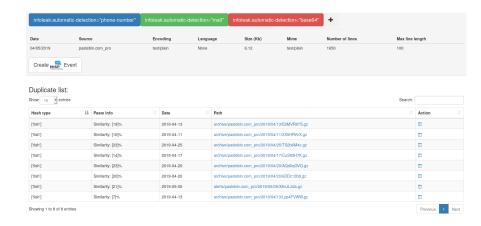
### Example: Dashboard



### Example: Text search



### Example: Items Metadata (1)

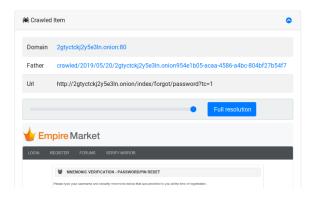


### Example: Items Metadata (2)

#### Hash files:



### Example: Items Metadata (3)



### Example: Browsing content

#### Content:

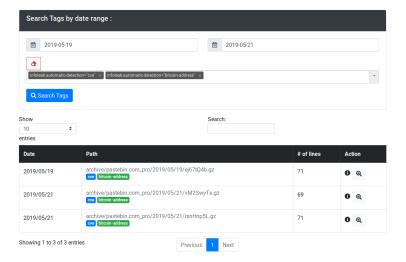
```
http://members2.mofosnetwork.com/access/login/
somosextremos:buddy1990
brazzers_glenn:cocklick
brazzers61:braves01
http://members.naughtvamerica.com/index.php?m=login
gernblanston: 3unc2352
Janhuss141200:310575
igetalliwant:1377zeph
pwilks89:mon22key
Bman1551:hockey
MoFos IKnowThatGirl PublicPickUps
http://members2.mofos.com
Chrismagg40884:loganm40
hrando1:zzhrando1
aacoen:1q2w3e4r
1rstunkle23:my8self
BraZZers
http://ma.brazzers.com
gciensen:gci21pva
skycsc17:rbcdnd
                                 >| Get Daily Update Fresh Porn Password Here |<
                                           => http://www.erq.io/4mF1
```

### Example: Browsing content

#### Content:

```
Over 50000+ custom hacked xxx passwords by us! Thousands of free xxx passwords to the hottest paysites!
>| Get Fresh New Premium XXX Site Password Here |<
    http://www.erg.io/4mF1
http://ddfnetwork.com/home.html
eu172936:hCSBqKh
UecwB6zs:159X0$!r#6K78FuU
http://pornxn.stiffia.com/user/login
feldwWek8939:RObluJ8XtB
dabudka: 17891789
brajits:brajits1
http://members.pornstarplatinum.com/sblogin/login.php/
qiqiriveracom:xxxjay
jayx123:xxxjay69
http://members.vividceleb.com/
Rufio99:fairhaven
ScHiFRvi:102091
Chaos84:HOLE5244
Riptor795:blade7
Domi80:harkonnen
GaggedUK:a1k0chan
```

### Example: Search by tags



## MISP

### MISP Taxonomies

- **Tagging** is a simple way to attach a classification to an event or anattribute
- Classification must be globally used to be efficient.
- Provide a set of already defined classifications modeling estimative language
- Taxonomies are implemented in a simple JSON format <sup>7</sup>.
- Can be easily cherry-picked or extended

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>https://github.com/MISP/misp-taxonomies

### Taxonomies useful in AIL

- infoleak: Information classified as being potential leak.
- estimative-language: Describe quality and credibility of underlying sources, data, and methodologies.
- admiralty-scale: Rank the reliability of a source and the credibility of an information
- **fpf**<sup>8</sup>: Evaluate the degree of identifiability of personal data and the types of pseudonymous data, de-identified data and anonymous data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Future of Privacy Forum

### Taxonomies useful in AIL

- tor: Describe Tor network infrastructure.
- dark-web: Criminal motivation on the dark web.
- **copine-scale**<sup>9</sup>: Categorise the severity of images of child sex abuse.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Combating Paedophile Information Networks in Europe

### threat sharing and incident response platforms





**Goal:** submission to threat sharing and incident response platforms.

### threat sharing and incident response platforms



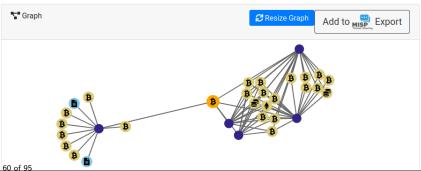
- 1. Use infoleak taxonomy<sup>10</sup>
- 2. Add your own tags
- 3. Export AIL objects to MISP core format
- 4. Download it or Create a MISP Event<sup>11</sup>

<sup>10</sup>https://www.misp-project.org/taxonomies.html

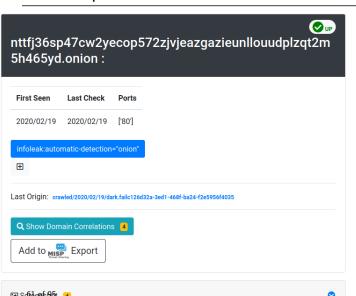
<sup>11</sup>https://www.misp-standard.org/rfc/misp-standard-core.txt

### MISP Export



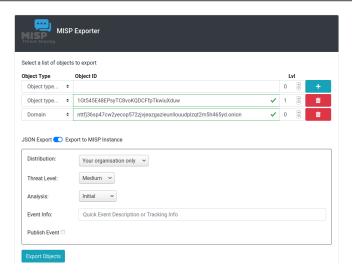


### MISP Export





## MISP Export



### Automatic submission on tags









63 of 95

## API

AIL exposes a ReST API which can be used to interact with the back-end<sup>12</sup>.

```
curl https://127.0.0.1:7000/api/v1/get/item/default
--header "Authorization:
iHc1_ChZxj1aXmiFiF1mkxxQkzawwriEaZpPqyTQj "
-H "Content-Type: application/json"
--data @input.json -X POST
```

• AIL API is currently covering 60% of the functionality of back-end.

<sup>12</sup>https:

Setting up the framework

## Setting up AIL-Framework from source

### Setting up AIL-Framework from source

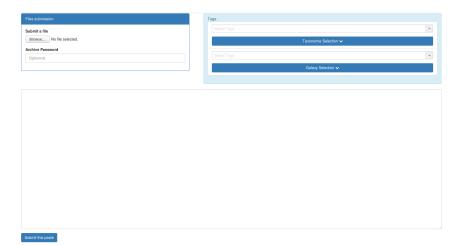
Feeding the framework

## Feeding AIL

There are different way to feed AIL with data:

- 1. Setup pystemon and use the custom feeder
  - o pystemon will collect items for you
- 2. Use the new JSON Feeder (twitter)
- 3. Feed your own data using the API or the import\_dir.py script
- 4. Feed your own file/text using the UI (Submit section)

# Via the UI (1)



## Via the UI (2)



### Feeding AIL with your own data - API

### Feeding AIL with Twitter posts and associated urls

- AIL feeder from Twitter<sup>13</sup>
- The AIL-feeder-twitter search in Twitter using Twint (without API), crawls the urls and pushes the results in AIL
- The JSON format format can be extended via meta fields

<sup>13</sup>https://github.com/ail-project/ail-feeder-twitter

## Feeding AIL with your own data - $import_dir.py(1)$

#### /!\ requirements:

- Each file to be fed must be of a reasonable size:
  - $\circ \sim$  3 Mb / file is already large
  - o This is because some modules are doing regex matching
  - o If you want to feed a large file, better split it in multiple ones

## Feeding AIL with your own data - import\_dir.py (2)

- 1. Check your local configuration configs/core.cfg
  - In the file configs/core.cfg,
  - Add 127.0.0.1:5556 in ZMQ\_Global
  - (should already be set by default)
- 2. Launch import\_dir.py with de directory you want to import
  - o import\_dir.py -d dir\_path

Starting the framework

#### Running your own instance from source

#### Accessing the environment and starting AIL

```
1 2 # Launch the system and the web interface 3 cd bin/ 4 ./LAUNCH -1
```

### Updating AIL

#### Launch the updater:

```
1 cd bin/
2 # git pull and launch all updates:
3 ./LAUNCH -u
4
5
6 # PS:
7 # The Updater is launched by default each time
8 # you start the framework with
9 # ./LAUNCH -1
```

AIL ecosystem - Challenges and design

#### AIL ecosystem: Technologies used

Programming language: Full python3

Databases: Redis and ARDB<sup>14</sup>

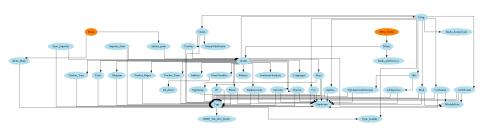
Server: Flask

Data message passing: ZMQ, Redis list and Redis

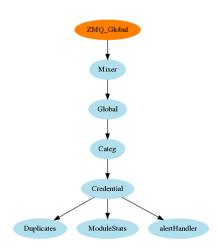
Publisher/Subscriber

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>We are migrating to kvrocks

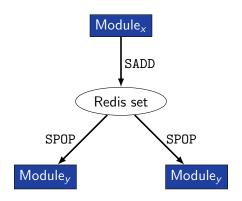
## AIL global architecture: Data streaming between module



# AIL global architecture: Data streaming between module (Credential example)



### Message consuming

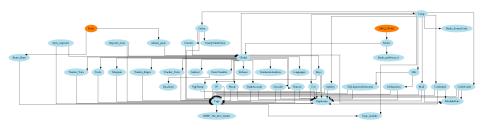


- $\rightarrow$  No message lost nor double processing
- $\rightarrow$  Multiprocessing!

## Creating new features

## Developing new features: Plug-in a module in the system

Choose where to put your module in the data flow:



Then, modify bin/package/modules.cfg accordingly

## Writing your own modules - /bin/template.py

```
import time
   from pubsublogger import publisher
   from Helper import Process
   if __name__ == '__main__':
       # logger setup
 6
       publisher.port = 6380
 7
       publisher.channel = 'Script'
       # Section name in configs/core.cfg
       config_section = '<section name>'
       # Setup the I/O queues
10
11
       p = Process(config_section)
12
       # Endless loop getting messages from the input queue
13
       while True:
14
           # Get one message from the input queue
15
           message = p.get_from_set()
16
           if message is None:
17
               publisher.debug("{} queue is empty, waiting".format(config_section))
18
               time.sleep(1)
               continue
19
20
           # Do something with the message from the queue
21
           something_has_been_done = do_something(message)
22
```

## Contribution rules



## Glimpse of contributed features

- Docker
- Ansible
- Email alerting
- SQL injection detection
- Phone number detection

• Feel free to fork the code, play with it, make some patches or add additional analysis modules.

- Feel free to fork the code, play with it, make some patches or add additional analysis modules.
- Feel free to make a pull request for your contribution

- Feel free to fork the code, play with it, make some patches or add additional analysis modules.
- Feel free to make a pull request for your contribution
- That's it!



#### Final words

- Building AlL helped us to find additional leaks which cannot be found using manual analysis and improve the time to detect duplicate/recycled leaks.
  - $\rightarrow$  Therefore quicker response time to assist and/or inform proactively affected constituents.

#### Implementation Steps in AIL project

- Gradual changes in AIL to add required functionalities to support the objectives.
- **Time-memory trade-off** can be challenging to ensure a functional framework.
- Evaluation and integration of new modules in AIL based on time-memory comparisons.
- Semantic aspects (task with Corexalys) are challenging due to the diverse data sources, unstructured data and languages seen.

#### Ongoing developments

- New JSON feeders
- Data retention and lifetime management of objects
- MISP modules expansion
- Extension of the tracker with typo-squatting library
- Auto classification of content by set of terms (semantic analysis)
- Improved export stream to third parties software
- Improved indexing relying on Solr, Lucene or other components

## Annexes

### Managing AIL: Old fashion way

#### Access the script screen

1 screen -r Script

#### Table: GNU screen shortcuts

Shortcut	Action
C-a d	detach screen
C-a c	Create new window
C-a n	next window screen
C-a p	previous window screen