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Strategic Cyber Security Report — May 2023 Edition



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A Monthly summary of Strategic Information for Cyber Security Leaders



Edition:
May/2023

This is a series spun from a need I identified when talking to CISOs — as explained on the kick-off article, this series follows the format of:

What's Top of mind in 3 domains: People, Processes, Technology for CISOs.

People

Google announces Safety news during I/O

As one of the leaders in the AI and technology space, Google announced a raft of safety-related news that touch multiple solutions of their portfolio.

A few of the highlights are:

- Access to trustworthy information

Something the industry is looking very closely is identifying veracity and origin of content online and one of their announcements is a new tool to improve information about images. In their own words:

"About this Image" provides you with important context like when an image or similar images were first indexed by Google, where it may have first appeared, and where else it's been seen online like a news, social or fact checking site.

They've also announced the expansion of the Content Safety API to review of potential child sexual abuse material (CSAM) videos, on top of the already available image checks.

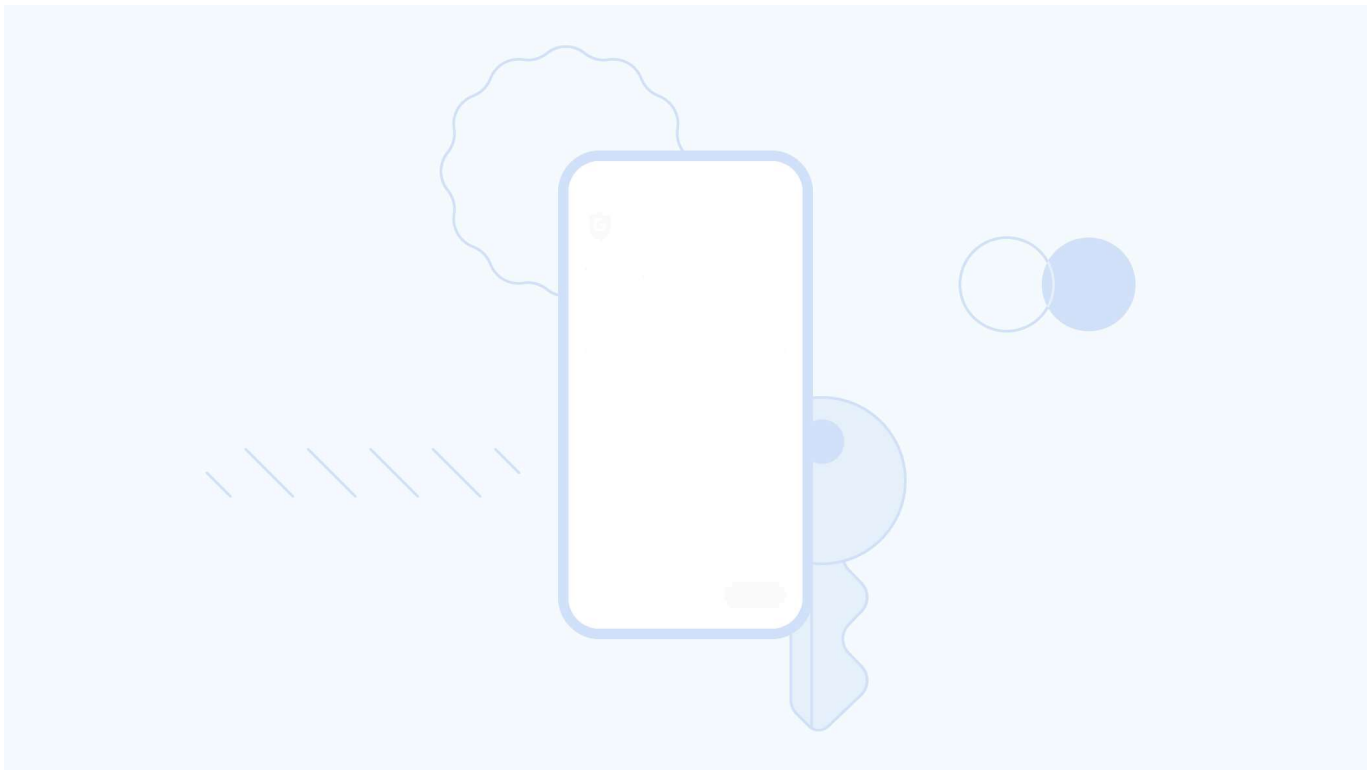
Today, we're expanding the API to include potential CSAM in video content. This is an important step forward for the child safety ecosystem, as video files account

for nearly 50% of all files reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC).

- Passwordless

Amongst the announcements, Google included news on their own “passwordless” solution.

It uses the TPM in devices to authenticate — extremely handy for mobile users and Windows Hello enabled devices.



source: [Google](#)

Dark web Scans for Gmail accounts

Starting in the US and heading to select international markets in the future, Google announced the availability of scan for all Gmail accounts on the Dark web — this was only available to google one subscribers until recently.

As announced by Google:

anyone with a Gmail account in the U.S. will be able to run scans to see if your Gmail address appears on the dark web and receive guidance on what actions to take to protect yourself. We'll soon be expanding access to our dark web report to select international markets.

All the details are available here.

Microsoft Build — News

Microsoft Build isn't just about developers, the org announced a number of ways it's implementing and tackling content safety in its services (granted, used by developers 😊).

Content Safety from Microsoft

Among these, are ways to detect and assign severity scores to unsafe content in Azure AI. According to Microsoft's announcement:

Azure AI Content Safety., now in preview, enables developers to build safer online environments by detecting and assigning severity scores to unsafe images and text across languages, helping businesses prioritize what content moderators review.

And more was announced:

Additionally, the responsible AI dashboard in Azure Machine Learning now supports text and image data in preview.

Read the announcement here.

Microsoft Fabric and the future of Cloud hosting?

Part of the benefits of Cloud infrastructure is the common platform where your data resides. Now Microsoft is announcing a Data Analytics platform for AI — for multiple uses within Azure, called Microsoft Fabric.

Today we are unveiling Microsoft Fabric — an end-to-end, unified analytics platform that brings together all the data and analytics tools that organizations need. Fabric integrates technologies like Azure Data Factory, Azure Synapse Analytics, and Power BI into a single unified product, empowering data and business professionals alike to unlock the potential of their data and lay the foundation for the era of AI.

Read more about Microsoft Fabric [here](#).



Media Provenance for Bing Image and Microsoft designer

The future of information is “Media Provenance”. As defined by [NY times](#):

(Media Provenance is) Helping readers distinguish credible news from misinformation through advancing adoption, reader experience and accessibility of a cryptographic approach to media provenance.

Microsoft has been leading this field with projects to increase media provenance authentication as they explain:

New media provenance capabilities coming to Microsoft Designer and Bing Image Creator will enable consumers to verify whether an image or video was generated by AI. The technology uses cryptographic methods to mark and sign AI-generated content with metadata about its origin. Microsoft has been a leader in R&D on methods for authenticating provenance and co-founded Project Origin and the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity (C2PA) standards body.

Learn more about it in the announcement: [The era of the AI Copilot \(microsoft.com\)](#).

Check out these and more announcements in [Build's Book of news](#).

Process

Forrester Wave for Cloud Native Security 2023

Forrester released theirs Wave for IaaS Platform Native Security Q2 2023.

It's a good look into Public cloud providers or hyperscalers, and how they do in Platform Native Security,

It identifies and scores the most significant providers to help security and risk professionals select the right one for their needs.

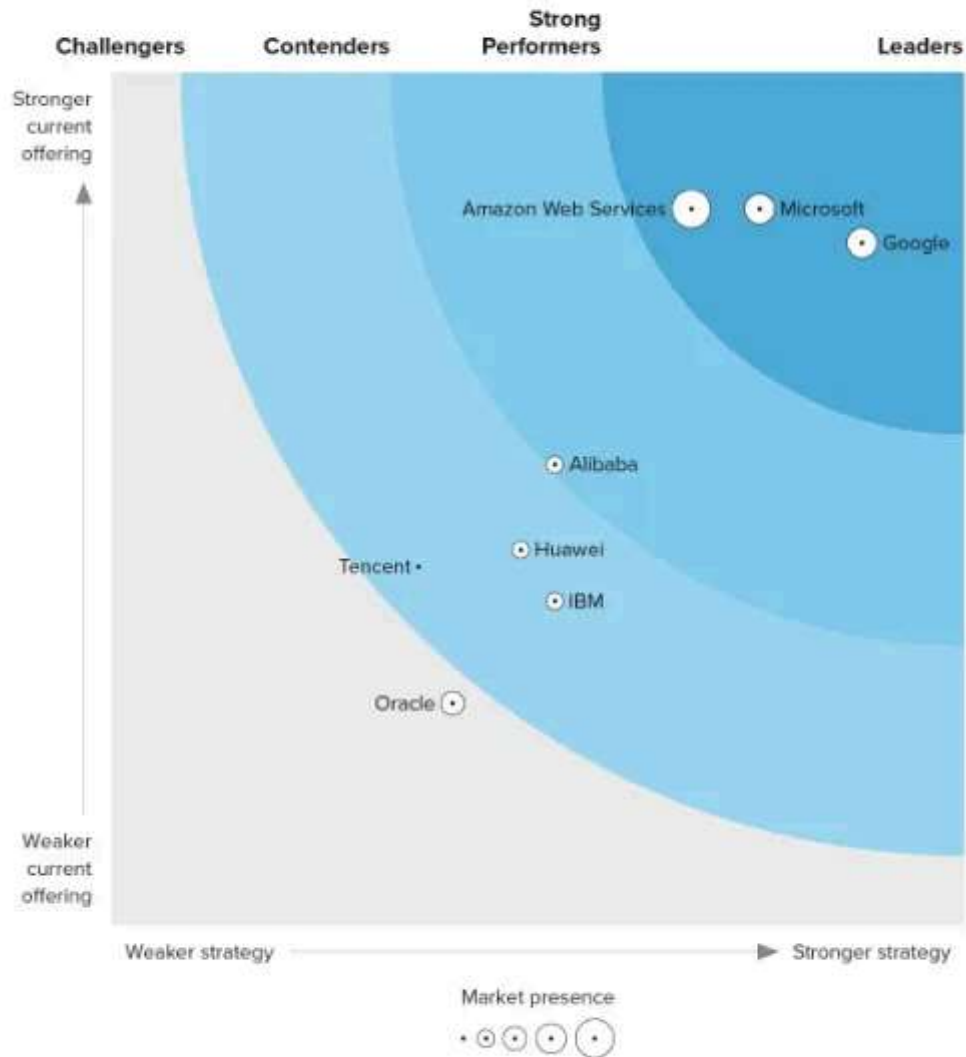
At the top of the evaluation — unsurprisingly — are Google, Microsoft, and Amazon Web Services. According to Forrester, Google offers strong administrative IAM, hypervisor, guest OS, and container security. Microsoft provides multicloud support and strong CSPM/CIEM capabilities. Amazon Web Services provides powerful IAM and hypervisor and container security.

Have a look at the wave in the full, official report.

THE FORRESTER WAVE™

Infrastructure-As-A-Service Platform Native Security

Q2 2023



Source: Forrester Research, Inc. Unauthorized reproduction, citation, or distribution prohibited.

Source: [Forrester Research](#)

[Access the full report by Forrester here.](#)

Technology

Microsoft Domain consolidation

They said the reason why of this change:

Consolidating authenticated user-facing Microsoft 365 experiences onto a single domain will benefit customers in several ways. For end users, it will streamline the overall experience by reducing sign-in prompts, redirects, and delays when navigating across apps. For admins, it will drastically reduce the complexity of the allow-lists required to help your tenant stay secure while enabling users to access the apps and services they need to do their work.

And also, how this transition will impact and take place:

*Initially, only net-new services will be deployed on the cloud.microsoft domain. Existing workloads have a broader range of implications to consider and will transition at a slower pace. **In most cases, no customer action will be needed to continue using Microsoft 365 workloads the same way you do today.** Admins seeking to update their allow lists will find that *.cloud.microsoft has already been added to the official list of Office 365 URLs and IP address ranges, and end users will find that existing links and bookmarks will eventually redirect them automatically to the new domain.*

Read the [public announcement here](#).

TikTok employees found tracking Reporter

According to a BBC report, a journalist was found to being spied on through — otherwise harmless — pet account in TikTok.

Employees from TikTok made unauthorized access to the journalist's account, traced them based on their account and used the information to pinpoint their location and who they were potentially with, according to claims. Employees have since been fired.

The source is BBC, [reported here](#).

Learn more about my Cloud and Security Projects: <https://linktr.ee/acamillo>

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Thank you for reading and leave your thoughts/comments!

./references

Scattered throughout the document

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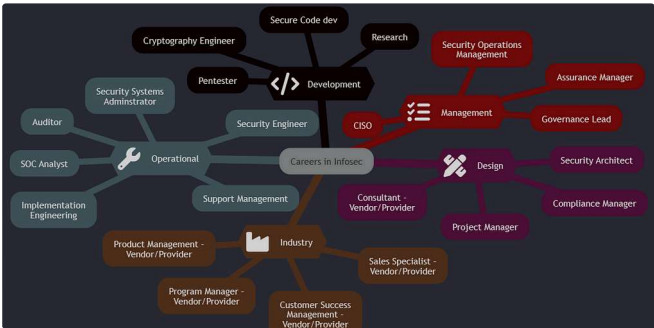



Written by Andre Camillo, CISSP

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I've recently had the chance to talk about Diversity & Inclusion & the cyber security fiel...

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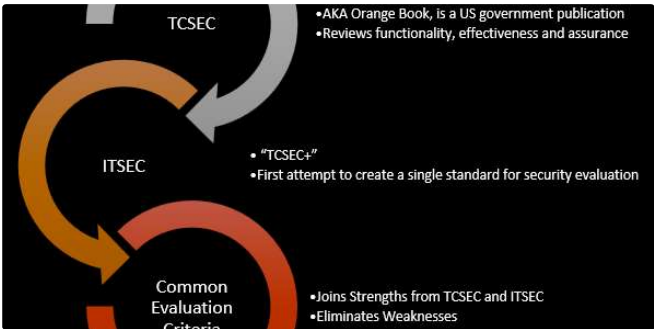


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