

# From Data Deluge to actionable Insights with LLMs: Introducing "TI Mindmap"





Analyzing open-source intelligence and generating reports, as well as extracting immediate value from write-ups, takes hours each day.

Threat Intelligence

# Mandiant Exposes APT1 – One of China's Cyber Espionage Units – and Releases 3,000 Indicators

ehruary 19 2013

https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/mandiant-exposes-apt1-chinas-cyber-espionage-units/



Research Threat intelligence Microsoft Defender Threat actors 10 min read

Analyzing Forest Blizzard's custom postcompromise tool for exploiting CVE-2022-38028 to obtain credentials

By Microsoft Threat Intellige

https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/security/blog/2024/04/22/analyzing-forest-blizzards-custom-post-compromise-tool-for-exploiting-cve-2022-38028-to-obtain-credentials/

Posted By Sanseo, May 30, 2024

# Analysis of APT Attack Cases Using Dora RAT Against Korean Companies (Andariel Group)

https://asec.ahnlab.com/en/66088/

LilacSquid: The stealthy trilogy of PurpleInk, InkBox and InkLoader

By Asheer Malhotra



https://blog.talosintelligence.com/lilacsquid/

## Who am I?

Antonio Formato

Cybersecurity Technical Specialist @ Microsoft

https://medium.com/@antonio.formato

<u>@anformato</u>

https://www.linkedin.com/in/antonioformato/in

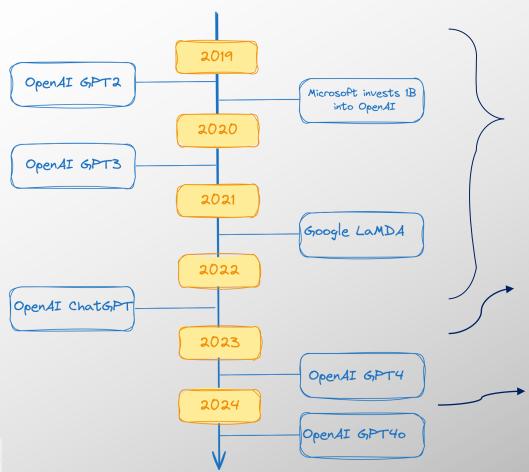
Special mentions and acknowledgments:

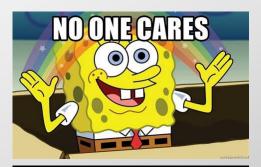
Oleksyi Meletski main project contributor

Thomas Roccia source of inspiration for the project



## LLMs: More than Just Chatbots!







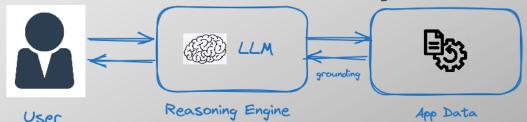




The timeline is not exhaustive and does not claim to be complete.

# LLM opportunity

- > LLMs are more than language generators, they can be seen as reasoning engines becoming brains of apps
- > LLMs are not only for conversational tasks, they can also:
  - > Extract structured data from unstructured text or images
  - > Generate synthetic structured data or unstructured data
  - > Help humans make decisions
  - > Make decisions and interact with other systems
  - > Grasp general patterns and relationships within the data
  - > Not just text. Foundational understanding across different domains





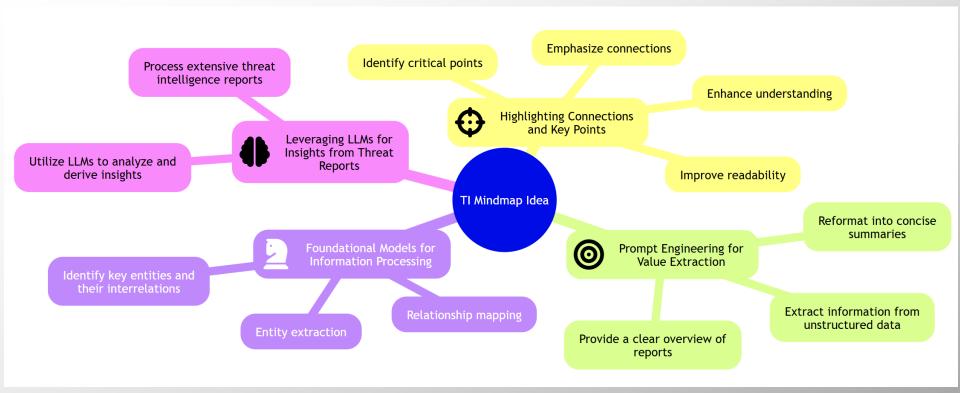
# Why LLMs in Cyber Threat Intelligence

- > Semantic Analysis: 🔍
  - > Understand threat reports more in depth
  - > Uncover context and relationships
- > Bridging Analyst Skill Gaps: 🚇
  - > Technical and strategic insights
  - > Operate in both realms effectively
- > Entity Extraction:
  - > Identify and catalog key entities
- > Summarization: 92
  - > Concise summaries of lengthy reports
- > Automated Report Generation: 🔊
  - > Create human-readable threat reports

- > Vulnerability Analysis: \
  - > Extract info on vulnerabilities
- > Knowledge Base Enrichment: 💵
  - > Update with latest threat info
- > Anomaly Detection: 1
  - > Spot unusual patterns
- > Pattern Recognition:
  - > Predict future threats
- > Language Translation:
  - > Facilitate global collaboration



# TI Mindmap Idea decoded with Mermaid.js™



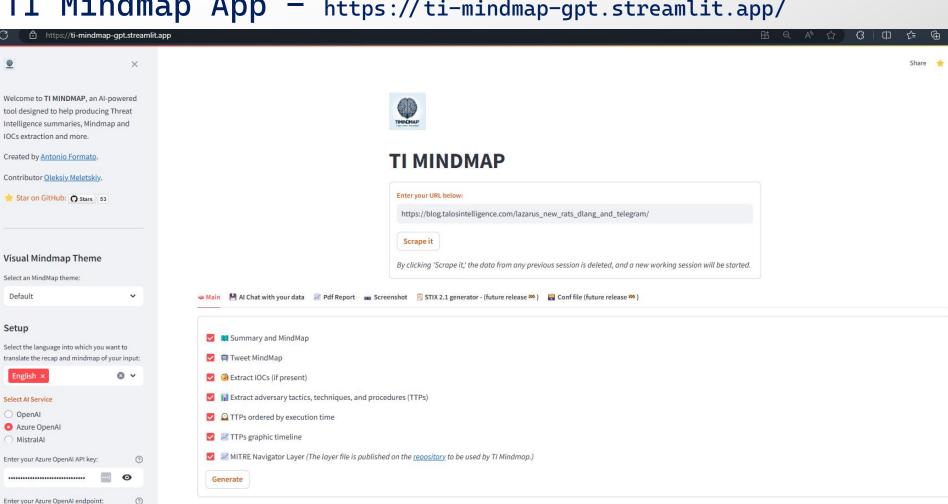


## What TI Mindmap is

- > Open-source Python project
- > Cyber Threat Intelligence Analysis prototype app
- > Tool powered by Streamlit
- > LLMs (OpenAI, Azure OpenAI, MistralAI) to:
  - Interpret complex cyber threat data
  - ■Create Mindmap
  - → Generate summaries and insights
  - QExtracts IOCs (VT enrichment)
  - Extract and track TTPs overtime
  - Generate MITRE Navigator Layer
  - AI chat on threat reports
  - Provide pdf report
  - ♠Tweet your Mindmap



# TI Mindmap App - https://ti-mindmap-gpt.streamlit.app/



# Mindmap Example

## Metaprompt

system prompt = (

Instructions

Task-specific

context

Supporting

Model's

information

f"You are tasked with creating an in-depth mindmap in {language} language designed specifically for a threat analyst. "

f"This mindmap aims to visually organize key findings and crucial highlights from the text. Please adhere to the following guidelines in English but apply the approach

"1. Avoid using hyphens in the text, as they cause errors in the Mermaid.js code. \n"

"2. Limit the number of primary nodes branching from the main node to four. These primary nodes should encapsulate the top four main themes. Add detailed sub-nodes to

"3. Incorporate icons where suitable to enhance readability and comprehension. \n"

"4. You MUST use single parentheses around each node to give them a rounded shape. \n" "5. Avoid using icons and emojis. \n "

"6. DO NOT insert spaces after the text of each line and DO NOT use parentheses or special characters for the names of the chart fields. \n "

"7. Start mermaid code with word mindmap, don't use anythong else in first line. \n "

"8. DO NOT write ``` as the first and last line. \n"

"9. Avoid using a line with style root. \n"

"10. Avoid closing with any comment starting with #. \n"

"11. DO NOT use theme as the second line; the second line must start with root syntax. \n"

"12. Special characters need to be escaped or avoided, like brackets in domain. Example: not use mail[.]kz but use mail.kz. \n"

"13. When encapsulating text within a line, avoid using additional parentheses as they can introduce ambiguity in Mermaid syntax. Instead, use dashes to enclose your "14. Instead of using the following approach (Indicators of compromise (IOC) provided), use this: (Indicators of compromise - IOC - provided). \n"

"15. DO NOT close line with . but use just )"

## User prompt

Example of user inputs

output format

Define the USER prompt

user prompt = ( "Title: Threat Report Summary: Kazakhstan-associated YoroTrooper disguises origin of attacks as Azerbaijan\n\nThreat actors known as YoroTrooper, presumably originati

Illustration of the expected

Assistant prompt

output Define the ASSISTANT prompt assistant prompt = (

"mindmap\nroot(YoroTrooper Threat Analysis)\n (Origin and Target)\n ::icon(fa fa-crosshairs)\n (Likely originates from Kazakhstan)\n (Mainly targets

## From article...

Operation Blacksmith: Lazarus targets organizations worldwide using novel Telegram-based malware written in DLang

By Jungsoo An, Asheer Malhotra, Vitor Ventura

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023 08:50



- Cisco Talos recently discovered a new campaign conducted by the Lazarus Group we're calling "Operation Blacksmith,"
  employing at least three new <u>DLang-based malware families</u>, two of which are remote access trojans (RATs), where one of
  these uses Telegram bots and channels as a medium of command and control (C2) communications. We track this
  Telegram-based RAT as "NineRAT" and the non-Telegram-based RAT as "DLRAT." We track the DLang-based downloader as
  "BottomLoader."
- Our latest findings indicate a definitive shift in the tactics of the North Korean APT group Lazarus Group. Over the past year and a half, Talos has disclosed three different remote access trojans (RATs) built using uncommon technologies in their development, like QtFramework, PowerBasic and, now, DLang.
- Talos has observed an overlap between our findings in this campaign conducted by Lazarus including tactics, techniques
  and procedures (TTPs) consistent with the North Korean state-sponsored group Onyx Sleet (PLUTIONIUM), also known as
  the Andariel APT group. Andariel is widely considered to be an APT sub-group under the Lazarus umbrella.
- This campaign consists of continued opportunistic targeting of enterprises globally that publicly host and expose their
  vulnerable infrastructure to -day vulnerability exploitation such as CVE-2021-44228 (Log4j). We have observed Lazarus
  target manufacturing, agricultural and physical security companies.

#### DLRAT: A DLang-based RAT and downloader. This malware contains hardcoded commands to perform system reconnaissance. It starts by executing the commands on the endpoint to gather preliminary information about the system: "ver", "whoami" and "getmac". With this, the operators will have information about the version of the operating system, which user is running the malware and MAC address that allows them to identify the system on the network. rsp, 20h execute ver r8, cs:off 14016F138 [r8+48h], rax [r8+50h], rdx rsp, 20h execute\_whoami rsp, 20h r9, cs:off 14016F138 [r9+58h], rax [r9+60h], rdx rsp, 20h call execute\_getmac Once the first initialization and beacon is performed, an initialization file is created, in the same directory, with the name "SynUnst.ini". After beaconing to the C2, the RAT will post, in a multipart format, the collected information and hardcoded session information.



IOCs for this research can also be found at our GitHub repository here.

Hashe

#### HazvLoad

000752074544950ae9020a35ccd77de277f1cd5026b4b9559279dc3b86965eee

#### NineRAT

534f5612954db99c86baa67ef51a3ad88bc21735bce7bb591afa8a4317c35433 ba8cd92cc059232203bcadee260ddbae273fc4c89b18424974955607476982c4 47e017b40d418374c0889e4d22aa48633b1d41b16b61b1f2897a39112a435d30 f91188d23b14526676706a5c9ead05c1a91ea0b9d6ac902623bc565e1c200a59 5b02fc3cfb5d74c09cab724b5b54c53a7c07e5766bffe5b1adf782c9e86a8541 82d4a0fef550al4f01a07041c16d851f262d859a3352475c62630e2c16a21def

#### BottomLoader

0e416e3cc1673d8fc3e7b2469e491c005152b9328515ea9bbd7cf96f1d23a99f

#### DLRAT

e615ea30dd37644526060689544c1a1d263b6bb77fe3084aa7883669c1fde12f 9a48357c06758217b3a99cdf4ab83263c04bdea98c347dd14b254cab6c81b13a

Operation Blacksmith: Lazarus targets organizations worldwide using novel Telegram-based malware written in Dlang, by Cisco Talos





#### **LLM Generated Summary** 🖘

Operation Blacksmith: Lazarus Targeting Worldwide Organizations

The latest threat campaign named "Operation Blacksmith," orchestrated by the Lazarus Group, leverages at least three new DLang-based malware families against organizations on a global scale. A recent report by Cisco Talos identified this activity and discovered that two of the malware families are remote access trojans (RATs). One of these RATs uses Telegram bots and channels for command and control (C2) communications and is referred to as "NineRAT."

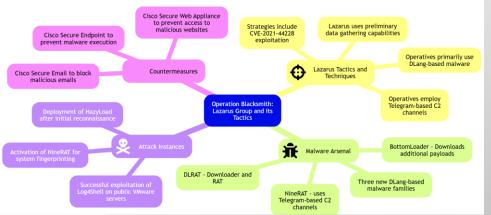
The non-Telegram-based RAT is known as "DLRAT," while the DLang-based downloader has been dubbed "BottomLoader."

A significant revelation is that there appears to be tactical overlap between the Lazarus Group's operation and tactics, techniques, and procedures used by the North Korean state-sponsored group Onyx Sleet, also known as Andariel APT group. Andariel is supposedly an APT subgroup under the Lazarus umbrella. This overlapping activity indicates potential collusion or information sharing among North Korean APT groups.

The Lazarus operational model involves opportunistic targeting of organizations that have publicly exposed their vulnerable infrastructures to n-day vulnerability exploitation such as CVE-2021-44228 (Log4j). Sectors that Lazarus has infiltrated include manufacturing, agriculture, and physical security. The group also targeted a South American agricultural organization in March 2023 and a European manufacturing entity in September 2023.

One of the key characteristics of Operation Blacksmith is the novel use of Telegram as a C2 channel and the creation of new custom malware like NineRAT, DLRAT, and BottomLoader which are all DLANG-based. NineRAT uses Telegram APIs for command execution, inbound and outbound file transfer, and C2 communication. The DLRAT and BottomLoader malware variants are designed to deploy and manage additional payloads on an infected endpoint which further complicates the mitigation efforts and enhances persistence.

The Lazarus Group's Operation Blacksmith began with successful exploitation of the Log4Shell vulnerability, CVE-2021-44228, to infiltrate publicly facing VMware Horizon servers. Once within the client's network, the group deployed its custom-built implant and commenced extensive hands-on-keyboard activity. Cisco Talos reports that the Lazarus Group's shift to DLang for malware development signals a significant tactical evolution among North Korean APT groups.



## LLM Generated Summary

Avg Latency: 34 sec

Prompt technique: Task-Specific

Input: scraped text, language

selection

## Mindmap

Avg Latency: 18 sec

Prompt technique: few-shot learning

Input: scraped text, system, user,

assistant prompts



## **IOCs Extraction**

AVG Latency: 44 sec Prompt technique: few-shot learning Input: system, user prompts

## Tweet generation

Avg Latency: 7 sec Prompt technique: Task-Specific Input: scraped text, system, user prompts

#### **Extracted IOCs**

	Indicator	Type	Description	Virus Total URL
0	tech.micrsofts.com	Domain	Domain used by Lazarus	https://www.virustotal.com/gui/domain/tech.micrsofts.com
1	tech.micrsofts.tech	Domain	Domain used by Lazarus IP used by Lazarus IP used by Lazarus	https://www.virustotal.com/gui/domain/tech.micrsofts.tech
2	27.102.113.93	IP Address		https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/27.102.113.93
3	185.29.8.53	IP Address		https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/185.29.8.53
4	155.94.208.209	IP Address	IP used by Lazarus	https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/155.94.208.209
5	162.19.71.175	IP Address	IP used by Lazarus	https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/162.19.71.175
6	201.77.179.66	IP Address	IP used by Lazarus	https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/201.77.179.66

#### **LLM Generated Tweet**

Edit your tweet:

- 1.Save Mindmap above
- 2.Click it Tweet it
- 3. Add saved mindmap to your tweet





#### TTPs table

Technique	Technique ID	Tactic	Comment
Obfuscated Files or Information	T1027	Defense Evasion	NineRAT malware uses Telegram as a Command and Control (C2) channel to evade network and host-based detection measures
Command and Scripting Interpreter	T1059	Execution	The Lazarus Group used PowerShell and cmd.exe to run commands for the initial reconnaissance and later stages of the attack
Process Injection	T1055	Privilege Escalation, Defense Evasion	The Lazarus used a modular infection chain with different components to achieve defense evasion and functional separation
Exploitation for Client Execution	T1203	Execution	Lazarus exploited Log4j (CVE-2021-44228) to gain initial access
Account Manipulation	T1098	Persistence	The Lazarus Group created a new user account and granted it administrative privileges
Credential Dumping	T1003	Credential Access	Laazrus used credential dumping utilities like ProcDump and MimiKatz
System Information Discovery	T1082	Discovery	During the initial reconnaissance, Lazarus used several commands to gather system information. Later, NineRAT was used to finger- print the systems

#### TTPs ordered by execution time

- 1. Resource Development, [No sub-tactic] (NA): Lazarus Group creates a new user account and grants it administrative privileges (T1098)
- 2. Initial Access, Exploit Public-Facing Application (T1190): Lazarus exploits Log4j (CVE-2021-44228) for initial access (T1203)
- 3. Execution, Command and Scripting Interpreter (T1059): The Lazarus Group uses PowerShell and cmd.exe to run commands for execution
- Execution, Exploitation for Client Execution (T1203): Lazarus exploits Log4i (CVE-2021-44228) to execute malicious commands
- 5. Privilege Escalation, Process Injection (T1055): Lazarus uses a modular infection chain with different components for privilege escalation and defense evasion
- 6. Defense Evasion, Obfuscated Files or Information (T1027): Lazarus Group uses Telegram as a Command and Control (C2) channel to evade network and host-based detection measures (T1027)
- 7. Credential Access, OS Credential Dumping (T1003.005): Lazarus uses credential dumping utilities like ProcDump and MimiKatz for OS credential dumping (T1003)
- 8. Credential Access, Credential Dumping (T1003): Lazarus dumps credentials using ProcDump and MimiKatz tools
- 9. Discovery, System Information Discovery (T1082): Lazarus Group gathers system information during the initial reconnaissance, later NineRAT is used to finger-print the systems (T1082)

#### Lazarus Group Operation Blacksmith



#### TTPs Table

Avg Latency: 23 sec

Prompt technique: Task-

Specific

Input: scraped text, user

prompt

## TTPs by exec time

Avg Latency: 14 sec

Prompt technique: Task-

Specific

Input: scraped

text, system, user prompts

## TTP timeline

Avg Latency: 17 sec few-shot learning Input: scraped text, system, user, assistant prompts



## Mitre layer file

Avg Latency: 45 sec Prompt technique: few-shot learning Input: scraped text, system, user assistant prompts

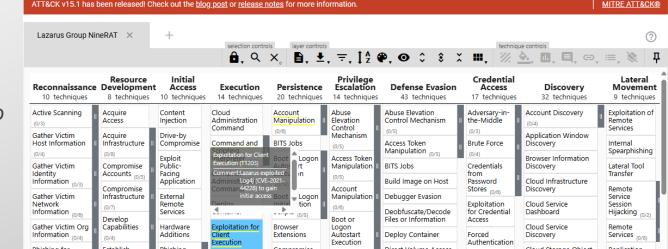
Mitre Navigator embedded as iFrame into Streamlit app.



#### MITRE ATT&CK Navigator layer json

```
"Table Transment of the state of the st
```

## Mitre Navigator



## AI Chat



User: Who conducted the attack campaign?

Al: The attack campaign was conducted by the Lazarus group.

User: Who are the authors of the post?

Al: The authors of the post are Jungsoo An, Asheer Malhotra, and Vitor Ventura.

Your message:

Does the article mention PLUTONIUM?

Send

Al: Yes, the article mentions PLUTONIUM. It states that Talos has observed an overlap between their findings in the campaign conducted by Lazarus and tactics, techniques and procedures consistent with the North Korean statesponsored group Onyx Sleet (PLUTONIUM), also known as the Andariel APT group.

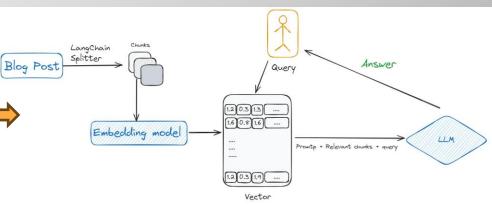
Al Chat with your data Pdf Report Screenshot STIX 2.1 generator - (future release 99)

### AI Chat

- > RAG (Retrieval Augmented Generation)
- > Chunking
- > Embedding
- > Embedding vector processed in memory
- > FAISS for similarity search
- > LangChain

TI Mindmap chatbot architecture





# Challenges in developing TI Mindmap

- > LLM response times
- > Variable and probabilistic output
- > Cost due to token usage
- > LLMs Don't Have Memory
- > LLMs Might Hallucinate
- > Willingness to minimize the need for a backend
  during the prototyping phase



# Latency -> per-call response times



## The latency depends on:

- > the model used
- > the number of tokens in the prompt.
- > the number of tokens generated.
- > the overall load on the deployment
   & system

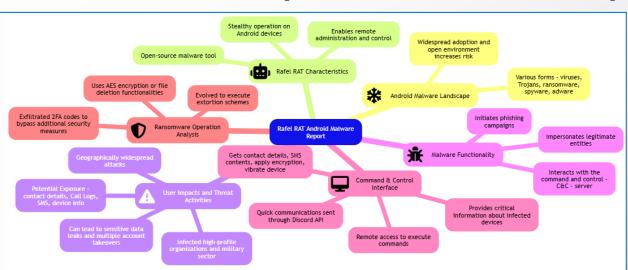
## Techniques for improving latency:

- > Select the appropriate model size
- > Don't use LLMs for extensive
   predefined text output.
- > Prompt optimization
- > Batching or parallelizing API calls
- > Limit the use of LLMs to only when strictly necessary (traditional methods are always valid)☺





# Variable and probabilistic output - example



1st run OK ☺

```
(Malware Functionality)
 19
 20
           ::icon(fa fa-bug)
 21
           (Initiates phishing campaigns)
 22
           (Impersonates legitimate entities)
 23
           (Interacts with the command and control - (C&C) server)
 24
         (Command & Control Interface)
           ::icon(fa fa-desktop)
 25
 26
           (Provides critical information about infected devices)
 27
           (Remote access to execute commands)
 28
           (Gets contact details, SMS contents, apply encryption, vibrate device)
           (Quick communications cont through Discond ADT)
Diagram syntax error
Error: Error: Parse error on line 23:
  .mand and control - (C&C) server) (Comm
```

Expecting 'SPACELINE', 'NL', 'EOF', got 'NODE ID'

Nth run Not OK ⊗ due to mermaid.js syntax error



# Mitigating Non-Determinism in LLMs

While it's impossible to eliminate the risks of nondeterminism entirely, there are some strategies that can help you achieve more consistent results

- > Craft Specific Prompts
- > Use templates
- > temperature: this controls the randomness of the model's response
- > Agents to augment LLMs



# Cost due to token usage

- > Commercial LLM are ready to use, do not require your infrastructure, but have significant costs.
- > Currently, the main cost is associated with input tokens rather than output tokens.
- > The average cost to process a writeup is about 1\$.

# Possible optimizations

- > Prompt engineering
- > Memory, caching
- > Selecting the right LLM model
- > Local Small Language Models





# Roadmap & new ideas

- > App Agentification
- > STIX 2.1 threat reports
- > Jupyter notebooks generator
- > Diamond model
- > > 5W1H report (WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, WHO, WHY, and HOW)
- > # API access
- > Extending input types (pdf, docx, etc...)
- > @Open-source SML Small Language Models



## How to get involved

- > The project is open to external contributions.
- > GitHub: https://github.com/format81/TI-Mindmap-GPT/
- > Streamlit App: https://ti-mindmap-gpt.streamlit.app/







