

[III. CONTAINMENT, ERADICATION, RECOVERY, POST-INCIDENT ACTIVITIES]

Eradication

process of removing threat from org's environment (incl. identifying & eliminating root cause of incident)

- ex., ① rebuilding malware-infected endpoint from a clean baseline OS image
- ② updating all EDR clients to detect & stop the known attack vector

(ref. CHARTGPT)

Without ERADICATION efforts:

- * residual threats may still exist → risk of infection
- * compromised data/sys. remains unavailable
 - ↳ integrity still compromised, reputation tarnished
 - ↳ non-compliance w/ regulatory requirements/legal obligations
- * extended downtime
 - ↳ systems may need to remain offline or undergo maintenance
 - disrupt business ops → ↑ costs: recovery efforts, potential legal consequences

[IV. Post-Incident Activity]

* often most underrated activity in lifecycle

↳ fallacies - incident closed → no further activities required

↳ incident response ends after report approved & communicated

↳ identifying lessons learned should be done by other teams

* how to get adequate investment & funding for cyber incident response & forensics capability? → DATA

↳ # handled incidents per year

↳ time dimension per incident

↳ subjective assessment of each incident

Containment

isolating affected systems to ensure the incident doesn't escalate
ex., disconnecting malware-infected endpoint from network

III. Containment, Eradication & Recovery

Recovery

process of restoring & returning affected systems & devices back to their fully operational states
(incl. verifying if threats remain)

- ex., ① returning clean endpoint back to network & ready for work
- ② resumption of work as pre-incident

Strategy Considerations

→ potential damage to & theft of resources

→ need for evidence preservation

→ service availability

↳ time & resources required, effectiveness, duration

① use predefined templates to collect data (ex., hostname, IP addr., MAC addr., etc.)

② keep incident response / mitigation sys. isolated from affected network & systems

③ reconcile evidences & notes w/ other incident responders

④ identify missteps early, gather other supporting evidences

⑤ identify attacking hosts

↳ look for incoming connections (ex., login events, firewalls)

EID 4624 : successful login

EID 4625 : Failed login attempt

EID 4672 : Special privileges assigned

EID 4648 : Login using explicit credential

↳ research attacking hosts' IP address from threat intel src/search engines

↳ use incident db of known "bad" IP addr.

↳ monitor possible other communication channels

Activities

① undoing threat actors' actions (as much as possible)

② restoring to known good state (baseline) — rebuild endpoints, computers, appliances affected
↳ review config & restore to known "snapshot"

③ removing threat actors' presence & backdoors

↳ sus/unexpected processes that may provide access as backdoor

↳ disconnect access to C2 servers

④ perform security testing — vuln. assessment, pen tests; playback atk & ensure no reoccurrence

⑤ deal w/ unauthorized transactions (during incident window w/ before & after range tolerance)

⑥ revoke & renew access credentials

Evidence Retention

→ How long various types of data should be retained?

① General & specific data retention policy → How to dispose & wipe expired data?

② Safekeeping — secure data collected & filed for potential & future litigation

↳ access rights & confidentiality

↳ must survive thru leadership & staff changes

③ Cost — what happens to existing "seized" hardware & other assets?

↳ budget cost until disposal

Team-to-Team

- exist whenever technical responders in diff. orgs collaborate w/ their peers during any phase of incident handling lifecycle

Incident Response Coordination Relationships

Team-to-Coordinating Team

- exist b/w an organizational incident response team & a separate org that acts as a central pt for coordinated incident response & info (ex, ISAC, supervisory regulatory body)

Coordinating Team to Coordinating Team

- relationships b/w multiple coordinating teams (ex, US-CERT, ISACs) to share info relating to cross-cutting incidents which may affect multiple communities

ISAC: Information Sharing & Analysis Center

TLP: Traffic Light Protocol

TLP: RED Not for Disclosure

- * info \rightarrow disseminate to 3rd parties unless sender permits
- * only participating groups can have access to it

TLP: AMBER Limited Disclosure

- * info can be shared w/ participants of an org or some members of a community
- * additional restrictions can be made

TLP

TLP: GREEN

- community-wide disclosure
- * info can share w/ everyone of a particular community

- * but \rightarrow publish publicly on internet

TLP: WHITE

- unlimited disclosure
- * info can be shared publicly w/ everyone
- * subject to Copyright laws

Info Sharing Techniques

- * any incident related info must be classified

- \hookrightarrow internal only - use your org info classification
- \hookrightarrow external - use TLP classification

- * monitor trustworthiness & track record of recipients