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TASK :- Threat Intelligence

The **Automotive Threat Matrix (ATM)** is a valuable cybersecurity knowledge base that enumerates adversary tactics and techniques specific to the automotive industry. It's a specialized version of frameworks like MITRE ATT&CK®, tailored to the unique attack surfaces of modern vehicles.

Here is a breakdown of the tactics you listed, along with explanations and procedures for specific techniques.

1. Reconnaissance

This is the initial phase where an attacker gathers information about a target vehicle, fleet, or its connected ecosystem without directly interacting with it.

- **Technique 1: Gather Target Information - from Other**
 - **Explanation:** An attacker gathers publicly available information about the vehicle, its manufacturer, or the software and hardware it uses. This can include studying published research papers, press releases about new technologies, or even looking for job postings that mention specific Electronic Control Units (ECUs) or software platforms.
- **Technique 2: Gather Target Information - from Vehicle**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker actively or passively collects information directly from the vehicle. This could involve using a device to scan for Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, or cellular signals to identify the vehicle's unique IDs, software versions, and open ports. They might also physically examine the vehicle's diagnostic ports (like the OBD-II port) to see what protocols are used.
- **Technique 3: Public Data Leak Analysis**
 - **Explanation:** Attackers search for leaked data from a vehicle manufacturer or supplier. This could include source code, system schematics, or vulnerability reports that were not properly secured. This information is invaluable for identifying specific vulnerabilities and planning future attacks.

Step-by-step Procedure for Gather Target Information - from Vehicle:

1. **Passive Scanning:** The attacker uses a wireless scanner to listen for Bluetooth and Wi-Fi signals from the vehicle. They capture the device names, MAC addresses, and service advertisements to identify the type of infotainment system or telematics unit.

2. **Active Probing:** The attacker uses a device to send harmless probes to open ports on the vehicle's wireless interfaces. They analyze the responses to determine the type of operating system and software versions running on the vehicle's head unit or other ECUs.
3. **Physical Inspection:** If a physical interaction is possible, the attacker plugs a device into the OBD-II port. They run a basic diagnostic scan to identify all the ECUs in the car, their communication protocols (e.g., CAN, LIN), and their software versions. This gives them a detailed "map" of the vehicle's internal network.

2. Manipulate Environment

This tactic involves manipulating the vehicle's environment to trick it into performing a malicious action. This is often done to influence the sensors or communication channels of the vehicle.

- **Technique 1: Analog Sensor Attacks:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker physically or remotely manipulates a vehicle's sensors. This could involve placing a small object on a radar sensor to block its view, shining a laser at a camera to blind it, or using an electromagnetic pulse to interfere with a proximity sensor.
- **Technique 2: Jamming or Denial of Service:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker uses a jammer to block communication signals. This can be used to prevent a vehicle from receiving GPS signals, cellular data, or Over-the-Air (OTA) updates. It can also be used to jam a vehicle's internal networks (like the CAN bus), which can cause critical functions to fail.
- **Technique 3: Rogue Wi-Fi Access Point:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker sets up a malicious Wi-Fi access point with the same name as a legitimate one the vehicle has connected to before (e.g., "Home Wi-Fi," "Starbucks Wi-Fi"). When the vehicle connects to the rogue access point, the attacker can intercept its internet traffic or even launch attacks against its infotainment system.

3. Initial Access

This is the first point of entry into the vehicle's network or a connected system.

- **Technique 1: Exploit via Removable Media:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker loads a malicious file onto a USB drive and convinces the driver to plug it into the vehicle's infotainment system. The system's software may have a vulnerability that allows the malicious file to execute, giving the attacker a foothold.

- **Technique 2: Exploit via Radio Interface:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker exploits vulnerabilities in the vehicle's wireless interfaces (Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, cellular modem) to gain remote access. This can involve exploiting known bugs in the firmware of these components to execute malicious code.
- **Technique 3: Phishing:**
 - **Explanation:** An attacker sends a phishing email to a vehicle owner, technician, or fleet manager. The email may trick the recipient into downloading a malicious app, revealing their credentials for a connected service (e.g., a mobile app for remote vehicle control), or granting access to their account.

Step-by-step Procedure for Exploit via Removable Media:

1. **Vulnerability Research:** The attacker identifies a vulnerability in the infotainment system's software, such as an unpatched bug in its media player that can be triggered by a specially crafted file (e.g., a .mp4 or .mp3 file).
2. **Payload Creation:** The attacker creates a malicious executable file or script that exploits the vulnerability. The payload is designed to run silently and establish a connection to the attacker's server, or to install a persistent backdoor.
3. **Media Preparation:** The attacker places the malicious file on a USB flash drive and renames it to something innocuous like "Music.mp3" or "Update.zip."
4. **Social Engineering:** The attacker finds a way to get the USB drive to a target. They might leave it in a public place, or even impersonate a technician to give it to the owner, claiming it's an important system update.
5. **Execution:** When the victim plugs the USB drive into the car and the infotainment system attempts to process the file, the malicious code is executed, giving the attacker initial access to the system.

4. Execution

This tactic involves running malicious code on the compromised system.

- **Technique 1: Command and Scripting Interpreter:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker uses the vehicle's built-in command interpreter (e.g., a shell on a Linux-based infotainment system) to run commands. This could be used to install malware, modify system settings, or launch other attacks.
- **Technique 2: Native API:**

- **Explanation:** The attacker uses the vehicle's native software APIs to run malicious code. For example, they might use the API for the infotainment system to send spoofed messages to the vehicle's internal networks (like the CAN bus).
- **Technique 3: Abuse Standard Diagnostic Protocol to Temporarily Modify Execution:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker uses the On-Board Diagnostics (OBD) protocol to send commands to ECUs. This could be used to temporarily disable safety features, unlock doors, or even control the vehicle's steering and acceleration.

5. Persistence

This tactic is about maintaining access to the vehicle even if it is turned off or restarted.

- **Technique 1: Disable Software Update:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker modifies the vehicle's software update process to prevent legitimate updates from being installed. This ensures that their backdoor remains in place and is not patched out by the manufacturer.
- **Technique 2: Modify OS Kernel, Boot Partition, or System Partition:**
 - **Explanation:** If the attacker has root access to an ECU's operating system, they can modify the kernel or a boot partition. This allows them to load their own malicious code every time the vehicle starts up, ensuring their persistence.
- **Technique 3: Abuse Standard Diagnostic Protocol for Persistence:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker uses the diagnostic protocol to re-flash the firmware of an ECU with a malicious version that includes a backdoor. This provides a very robust form of persistence that can be difficult for the average user or mechanic to detect.

6. Privilege Escalation

After gaining initial access, the attacker attempts to gain higher privileges.

- **Technique 1: Exploit Co-Located Computing Device for Privilege Escalation:**
 - **Explanation:** Many vehicles have multiple computing devices in close proximity (e.g., the infotainment system and the telematics unit). The attacker might exploit a vulnerability in the less-secure infotainment system to gain access to the more-secure telematics unit, which often has a higher level of privilege.
- **Technique 2: Process Injection:**

- **Explanation:** The attacker injects malicious code into a legitimate, high-privileged process on the system. This allows the malicious code to run with the same privileges as the legitimate process, bypassing security controls.
- **Technique 3: Exploit OS Vulnerability:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker exploits a vulnerability in the ECU's operating system to gain root or administrator-level privileges. This gives them complete control over the system.

7. Defense Evasion

Attackers use this tactic to avoid being detected by security tools.

- **Technique 1: Bypass Code Integrity Protections:**
 - **Explanation:** Many automotive systems use code signing to ensure that only legitimate software can run. The attacker finds a way to bypass these protections, such as exploiting a bug in the code verification process, to run their malicious code.
- **Technique 2: Bypass Network Filtering:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker uses various techniques to make their malicious network traffic look like legitimate traffic. This can involve using the same ports, protocols, and data formats as a normal system, making it harder for a firewall or Intrusion Detection System (IDS) to detect.
- **Technique 3: Bypass UDS Security Access:**
 - **Explanation:** The Unified Diagnostic Services (UDS) protocol often has security access levels. The attacker finds a way to bypass these levels to gain access to protected diagnostic functions, which can be used to disable safety features or re-flash firmware.

8. Credential Access

The goal here is to steal credentials to gain further access.

- **Technique 1: ECU Credential Dumping:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker gains access to an ECU's memory or storage and extracts hardcoded credentials, such as passwords, API keys, or cryptographic keys, that are used to authenticate with other systems.
- **Technique 2: Input Capture:**

- **Explanation:** The attacker installs a keylogger on the infotainment system to capture credentials as the user types them into an app. They might also capture PINs or other sensitive information.
- **Technique 3: Unsecured Credentials:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker finds credentials that were not properly secured. This could be in plaintext in a configuration file, in an unencrypted section of memory, or simply a default password that was never changed.

9. Discovery

Once inside, the attacker tries to learn more about the vehicle's internal network.

- **Technique 1: File and Directory Discovery:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker enumerates the files and directories on the compromised ECU to find configuration files, logs, and other sensitive information.
- **Technique 2: Network Service Scanning:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker scans the vehicle's internal network to discover other ECUs and the services they are running. This helps them identify potential targets for lateral movement.
- **Technique 3: System Network Configuration Discovery:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker inspects the system's network configuration files to understand how different ECUs are connected and what communication protocols they use.

10. Lateral Movement

This tactic involves moving from one compromised ECU to another.

- **Technique 1: Bridge Vehicle Networks:**
 - **Explanation:** An attacker compromises an ECU that is connected to multiple vehicle networks (e.g., a gateway ECU that connects the CAN bus to the infotainment network). They can then use this ECU as a "bridge" to send malicious commands from the less-critical network to the more-critical one.
- **Technique 2: Reprogram ECU for Lateral Movement:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker re-flashes the firmware of a compromised ECU to include a "payload" that gives them a new point of entry on another network. This is a highly sophisticated form of lateral movement.
- **Technique 3: Abuse Standard Diagnostic Protocol for Lateral Movement:**

- **Explanation:** The attacker uses the diagnostic protocol to send commands to other ECUs on the network. This can be used to run commands, extract data, or even re-flash firmware on other ECUs without ever directly compromising them.

Step-by-step Procedure for Bridge Vehicle Networks:

1. **Initial Access:** The attacker gains access to a low-privileged system, such as the infotainment system, which is connected to the vehicle's CAN bus via a gateway ECU.
2. **Map the Network:** The attacker uses discovery techniques to map the vehicle's network topology and identify the gateway ECU. They also determine which ECUs are on the critical CAN bus.
3. **Exploit the Gateway:** The attacker exploits a vulnerability in the gateway ECU to gain control of its functionality. This is the "bridge" between the two networks.
4. **Inject Malicious Messages:** The attacker uses the compromised gateway ECU to inject spoofed CAN messages onto the critical CAN bus. These messages are crafted to look like they are coming from a legitimate ECU (e.g., the engine control unit).
5. **Execute the Attack:** The other ECUs on the critical network receive and process the spoofed messages, leading to a malicious outcome such as disabling the brakes, turning off the engine, or unlocking the doors. The attacker has successfully moved from the infotainment system to the critical network.

11. Collection

This tactic is about gathering valuable data from the compromised vehicle.

- **Technique 1: Capture Camera or Audio:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker gains access to the vehicle's cameras and microphones (e.g., for parking assist or hands-free calling) to record the occupants and their conversations.
- **Technique 2: Location Tracking:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker gains access to the vehicle's GPS and telematics data to track its location and travel history. This can be used for stalking, surveillance, or even for planning a physical attack.
- **Technique 3: Abuse Standard Diagnostic Protocol for Collection:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker uses the diagnostic protocol to retrieve a wide range of data from the vehicle, including VIN number, mileage, engine parameters, fault codes, and even sensitive data stored in ECUs.

12. Command and Control

This tactic describes how the attacker communicates with and controls their compromised resources.

- **Technique 1: Cellular Communication:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker uses the vehicle's built-in cellular modem to communicate with their command and control server. The traffic can be disguised as legitimate telematics data, making it difficult to detect.
- **Technique 2: Internet Communication:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker uses the vehicle's Wi-Fi or cellular internet connection to communicate with their C2 server. This traffic can be disguised as normal web traffic or as communication with a legitimate backend service.
- **Technique 3: Receive Only Communication:**
 - **Explanation:** The attacker uses a one-way communication channel to send commands to the vehicle. This could involve broadcasting a radio signal or using a dedicated channel that is not monitored. The vehicle's compromised system listens for these signals and executes the commands.

Step-by-step Procedure for Cellular Communication:

1. **Initial Compromise:** The attacker compromises the vehicle's telematics control unit (TCU) through a vulnerability in its cellular modem or software.
2. **Establish C2 Channel:** The attacker's malicious code on the TCU establishes a connection to their command and control (C2) server. This connection is often encrypted and uses a standard protocol like HTTPS to blend in with legitimate traffic.
3. **Send Commands:** The attacker sends commands to the compromised TCU from their C2 server. The commands can be simple, such as "unlock door," or more complex, such as "inject this malicious CAN message onto the bus."
4. **Exfiltrate Data:** The compromised TCU can also use the cellular connection to exfiltrate data, such as GPS coordinates, sensor readings, or recorded audio, to the attacker's server. This communication is hidden within the normal cellular data stream.