

CYBER THREAT INTELLIGENCE USE CASES

Combining: Theory, Technology and Experience

Jurgen Visser



```
srcip="172.16.160.210" user="root"
caller="root" reason="Too many failures
from client IP, still blocked for 537
seconds"
<54>Jul 5 17:17:43 SymantecServer SEP-
PROD: Virus found,IP Address:
10.235.237.89,Computer name:
A41021,Source: Real Time Scan,Risk name:
Backdoor.IRCBot!win32
<177>Jul 5 14:18:53 SourceFire
snort[10340]: [1:2007933:3] ET EXPLOIT
Microsoft Office Memory Corruption
Vulnerability (CVE-2017-11882)
[Classification: Microsoft Application
Attack] [Priority: 2]: (TCP)
72.246.97.42:80 -> 10.12.1.140:1629
<54>Jul 5 14:05:55 SymantecServer SEP-
PROD: Virus found,IP Address:
10.11.8.78,Computer name:
A372d759,Source: Scheduled Scan,Risk
name: W97M.Melissa.A
<30>Jul 5 19:22-19:16:27 aua[4983]:
id="3005" severity="warn" sys="System"
sub="auth" name="Authentication failed"
srcip="172.16.160.210" user="sysadmin"
caller="root" reason="Too many failures
from client IP, still blocked for 517
seconds"
```

Jurgen Visser

Cyber Defense Specialist



Cyber Defense Specialist passionate about analyzing cyber security risks and strategizing, architecting, building, maturing them into enterprise level cyber security initiatives.

- 3x Threat Intelligence Certified: **GCTI, CTIA, CRTIA**
- Information Security Blogger at **www.correlatedsecurity.com**

Threat
Detected



Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)

1. The Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) program helps **Senior Business leaders make informed forward-leaning strategic, operational, and tactical decisions on existing, emerging or predicted cyber threats** to the organization.
2. Cyber Threat Intelligence works best **on top of a already functioning security program** which sits on top of a mature IT organization

Threat Detected

Dimension	★ Beginner CTI Program	★★ Intermediate CTI Program	★★★ Advanced CTI Program
Budget	Low (below 1-10k USD +/-) Yearly	Medium (50k-150k USD) Yearly	High (200k-400k USD) Yearly
People	1x Junior CTI analyst	1x Junior CTI analyst 1x Mid-level CTI Lead	1x Junior CTI analyst 1x Mid-level CTI analyst 1x Senior CTI Lead
Products	CTI USE CASE 0: Keyword Repository CTI USE CASE 1: Intelligence Platform Alerts CTI USE CASE 2: Cyber Threat Intelligence Feeds CTI USE CASE 3: Vulnerability Intelligence CTI USE CASE 4: Infostealer monitoring	CTI USE CASE 0: Keyword Repository CTI USE CASE 1: Intelligence Platform Alerts CTI USE CASE 2: Cyber Threat Intelligence Feeds CTI USE CASE 3: Vulnerability Intelligence CTI USE CASE 4: Infostealer monitoring CTI USE CASE 5: Daily CTI Report CTI USE CASE 6: Phishing Intelligence CTI USE CASE 7: Threat Hunting	CTI USE CASE 0: Keyword Repository CTI USE CASE 1: Intelligence Platform Alerts CTI USE CASE 2: Cyber Threat Intelligence Feeds CTI USE CASE 3: Vulnerability Intelligence CTI USE CASE 4: Infostealer monitoring CTI USE CASE 5: Daily CTI Report CTI USE CASE 6: Phishing Intelligence CTI USE CASE 7: Threat Hunting CTI USE CASE 8: Internal Strategic Intelligence Report CTI USE CASE 9: External Strategic Intelligence Report CTI USE CASE 10: Threat Intelligence Sharing

THEORY





Cyber Threat Intelligence: Foundations

1. Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) is defined as the **collection and analysis of information about threats and adversaries**. Drawing patterns that **provide an ability to make knowledgeable decisions** for preparedness, prevention, and response actions against various cyber-attacks.
2. The Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) program helps **Senior Business leaders make informed** forward-leaning strategic, operational, and tactical **decisions** on **existing, emerging or predicted cyber threats** to the organization.

Cyber Threat Intelligence: Concepts

Actionable Threat Intelligence =

Objectively written + Timely delivery + Accurate facts + Actionable Recommendations

Threat Actor Campaign =

Actor Name + Observed Attacks/Intrusions + Actor TTP's + Key indicators (IOC's or IoA's)

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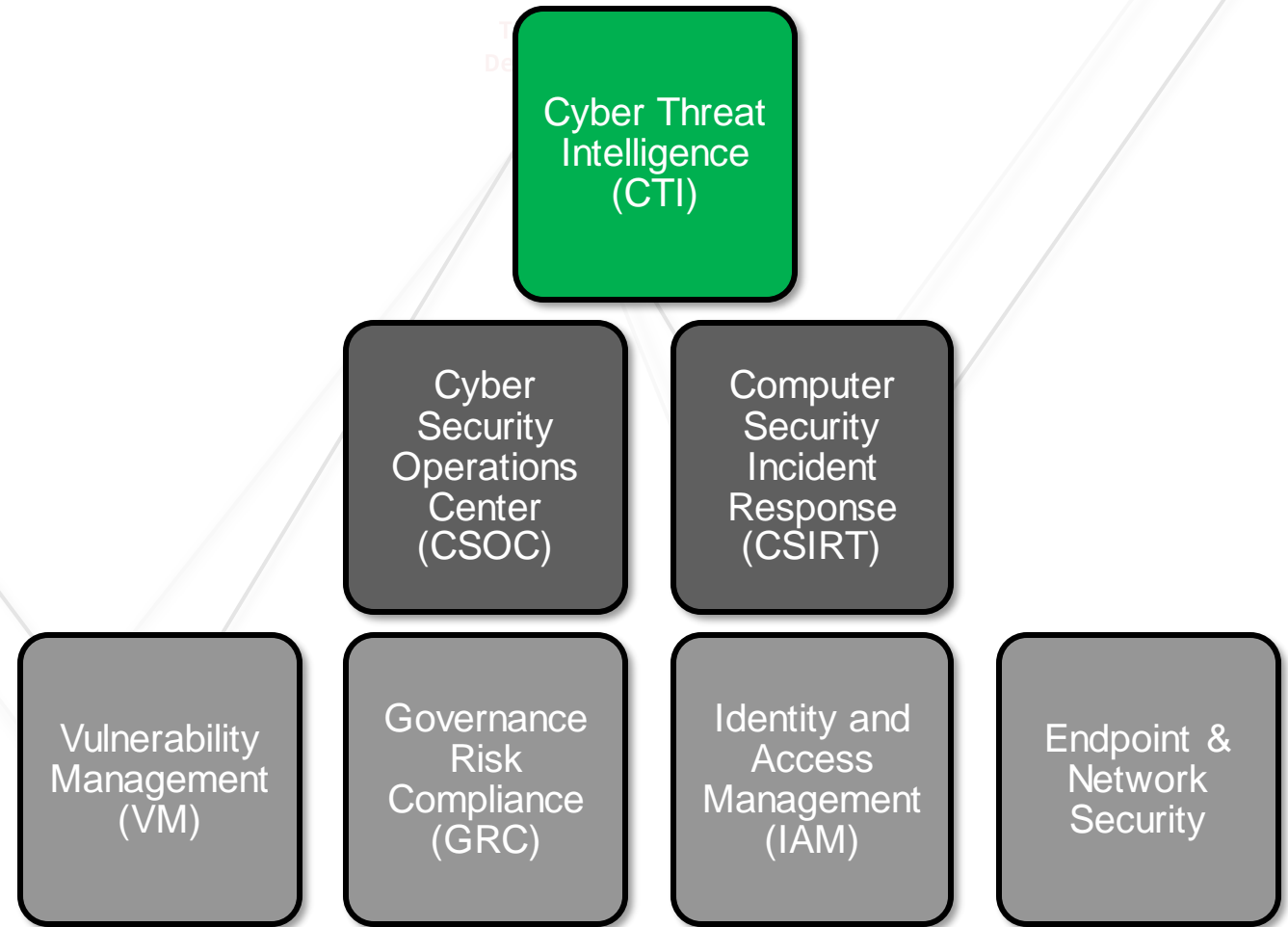
Cyber Threat Intelligence: Distinctions

- Threat Detected
- 1. Types of Threat intelligence:** Strategic Threat Intelligence, Tactical Threat Intelligence, Operational Threat Intelligence, Technical Threat Intelligence
 - 2. Types of Intelligence Sources:** Open-Source Intelligence (OSINT), Human Intelligence (HUMINT), Cyber Counterintelligence (CCI), Technical Intelligence (TECHINT), Social Media Intelligence (SOCMINT)

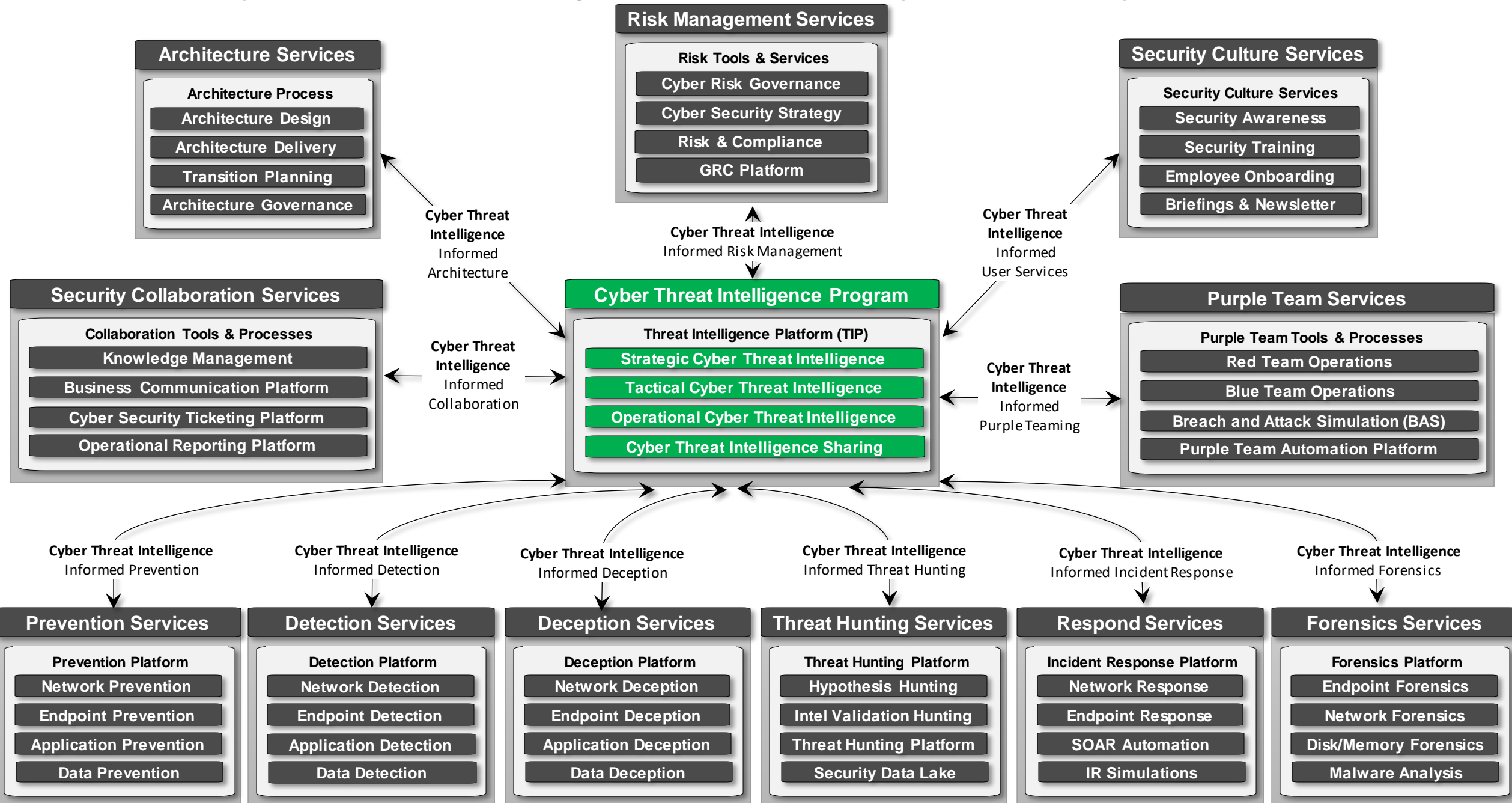
Cyber Threat Intelligence: Requirements

1. Cyber Threat Intelligence works best **on top of a already functioning security program** which sits on top of a mature IT organization

2. Cyber Threat Intelligence Requirements need to come **top-down NOT bottom-up.**



Cyber Threat Intelligence Informed Cyber Security Services



Reference slide: Cyber Threat Intelligence MindMap

80/20 Analysis of key knowledge in CTI

Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI)



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CTI Technological Challenges

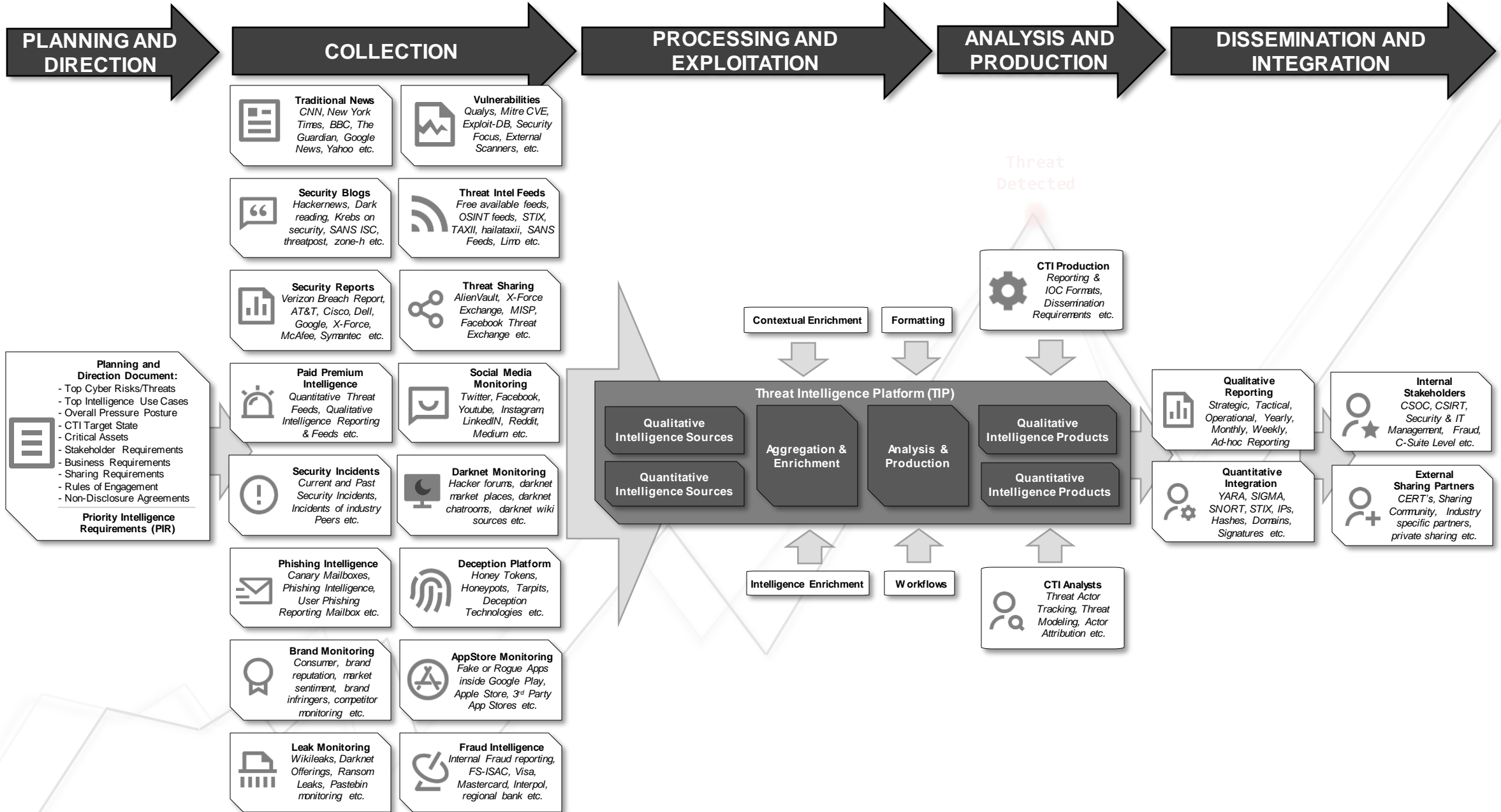
1. The CTI vendor industry is in an **early maturity stage** where there are many **different vendors** but all with **different collection scopes**.

2. There is **No single vendor** that does everything on all fronts well.

- OSINT only **vs.** Darkweb only
- APT Focus **vs.** Cybercrime focus
- Threat Enrichment API **vs.** Threat feeds and feed aggregation
- Very specific targeted collection source **vs.** wide array of collection sources
- Where you can put in keywords **vs.** rigid pre-determined collection scope.



Cyber Threat Intelligence Lifecycle Overview





Key Take-Aways







1. Expect **intelligence bias** from the intelligence firm country's origin.
2. Product categories like: **Brand Protection, Domain Management, Attack Surface Management, SOAR, Social Media Platforms, Bug Bounty Platforms** can be used for CTI use cases
3. **Defining the Intelligence product first** and match the CTI platform against it.

EXPERIENCE

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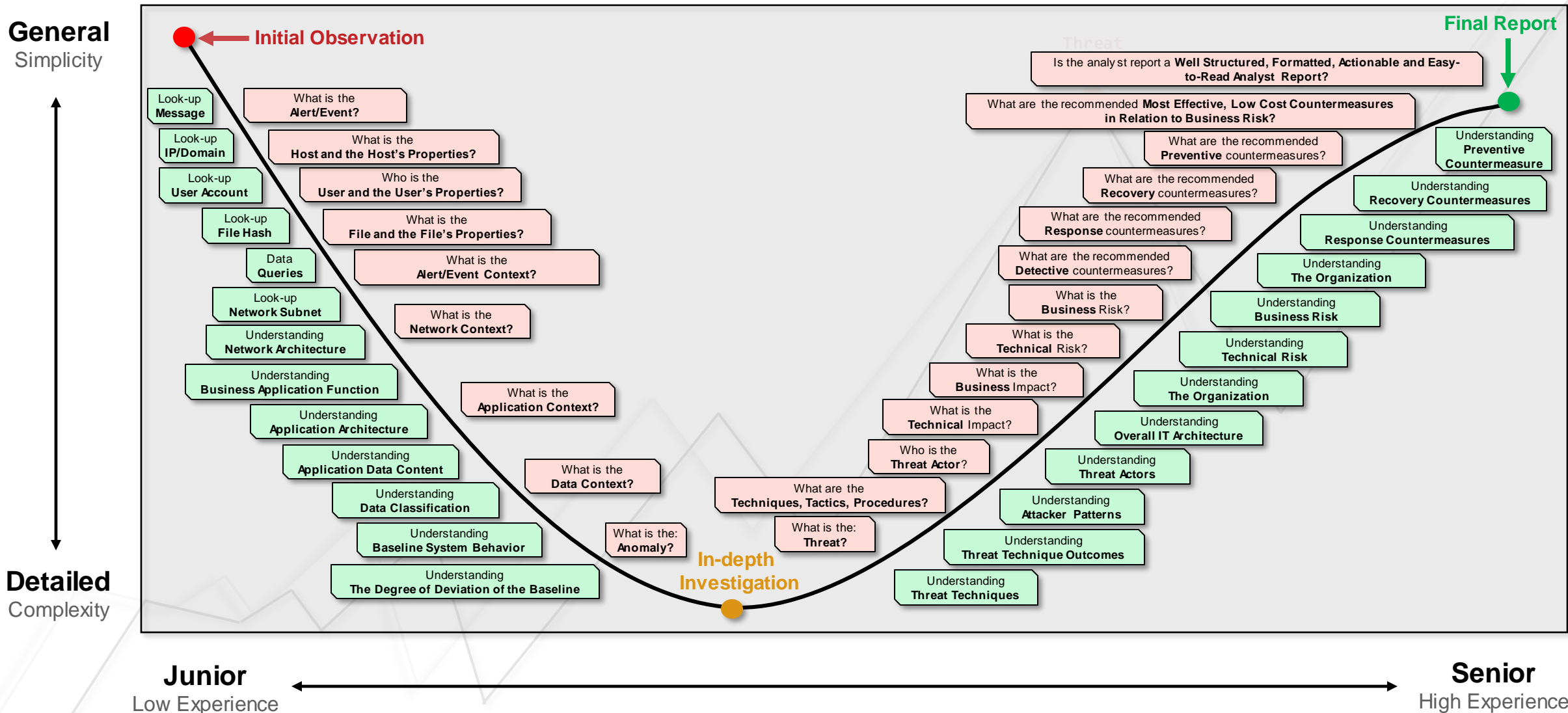


Theory + Experience = Recommendation

Theory	Experience	Recommendation
Cyber Threat Intelligence Requirements need to come top-down NOT bottom-up.	Most organizations won't tell you what they want or need.	 List mock-up CTI products and ask stakeholders if they see value in it.
Start with Priority Intelligence Requirements (PIR) first.	Vendor requesting for a list of domains and company brands.	 Map the mock-up CTI products against the technology platforms
Tracking threat actors is a very elaborate process that requires in depth details	Only a few threat actors are truly relevant, after modeling them tracking them is not hard.	 Once modelled, do tracking of threat actors using detection rules on CTI platforms.
Use any of the 15+ different threat modelling techniques out there.	Only the main phases of MITRE ATT&CK and Attack Cards help.	 Use only the MITRE ATT&CK main phases and Attack cards.
Use elaborate threat actor threat modelling against Mitre ATT&CK to drive red teaming	Red Teams are more helped with tools and entry points.	 Provide emerging hack tool and vulnerability intelligence.
Cyber threat intelligence is only for cybersecurity purposes	CTI lends itself to support brand protection and Fraud as well.	 Ask for additional budget from Fraud and Branding team.

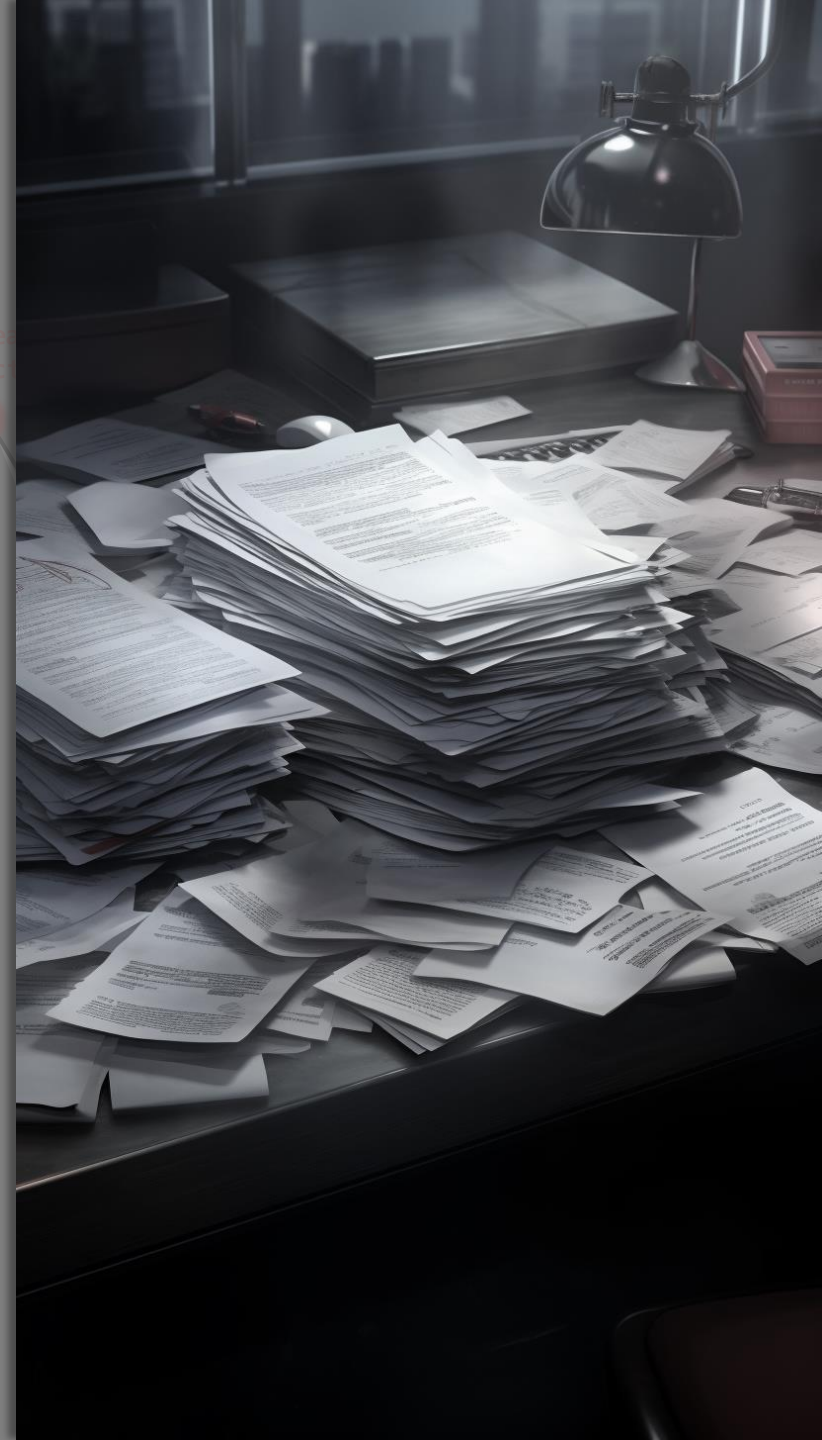
Cyber Security Analyst Maturity Curve

“A senior cyber security analyst should be able to reach the **simplicity at the far side of complexity** and to be able to communicate the cyber security risks, threats and related countermeasures **simply, effectively and actionable**.”



USE CASES

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Detect



CTI USE CASE 0: Keyword Repository

Create a Series of Lists:

1. Company brand keywords
2. Domain list
3. Subsidiary list
4. Appstore apps list
5. VIP e-mail list
6. Public code repo list
7. Third party list
8. Used Application List

Company Brands		Subsidiary List
ExampleTech Solutions		TechNova Solutions - Example Labs
BlueExample Inno	Domain list	opor Innovations - EcoExample Ventures
ExampleXpress S	ExampleTechSolutions.com	Dynamics - ExampleXpress Technologies
BrightExample La	BlueExampleInnovations.net	erience Ventures - ExampleFusion Labs
SilverExample Sy	ExampleXpressServices.biz	Labs - GreenExample Innovations
	BrightExampleLabs.org	
	SilverExampleSystems.co	

Who can benefit from this?

1. The Cyber Threat Intelligence team

What can they do with it?

- A. Breach dataset triage keywords
- B. Domain look-a-like detection keywords
- C. Darkweb mention detection keywords
- D. Unsanctioned Appstore keywords
- E. VIP infostealer detection keywords
- F. Secrets leakage detection keywords
- G. Third party breach keywords
- H. Vulnerability Intelligence Triage

CTI USE CASE 1: Intelligence Platform Alerts

Take action intelligence platforms generated alerts

1. Look-a-like, fake or impersonation detections
 1. Domain look-a-like, fake or impersonation
 2. Social media look-a-like, fake or impersonation
 3. Mobile app store look-a-like, fake or impersonation
2. Keys or secrets leakage
 1. Code repo/container images secrets detected
 2. Copy paste websites (pastebin etc.)
 3. Specific web services that might contain secrets or keys
3. Attack surface management
 1. Ports opened up
 2. Vulnerable web services
 3. Cloud data bucket exposure
4. Darknet monitoring
 1. Activity involving the organization
5. 3rd Party breach monitoring
 1. Activity involving a third party organizations

Who can benefit from this?

1. Cyber Threat Intelligence Team
2. CSIRT Team
3. Takedown Team

What can they do with it?

- A. Initiate a **takedown request** with the respective host (internal or external).
- B. Kick-off security investigation to remediate with **CSIRT**.

CTI USE CASE 2: Cyber Threat Intelligence Feeds

Consolidated Feed of Threat Indicators of compromise (IOC):

- A. **Risk score** helps filter out high false positive feed entries on the correlation rules.
- B. **Related intelligence** column helps the analyst quickly understand the detection context when the alert triggers.

Who can benefit from this?

1. The CSOC Team

What can they do with it?

- A. Add it to correlation rules such as:
 1. Admin user login **AND** match **"Feed IP List"**
 2. File Usage **AND** match **"Feed Hash List"**
 3. Connection **AND** match **"Feed Domain List"**
 4. URL Connect **AND** match **"Feed URL List"**

Risk Score	Indicator of Compromise	Type	Related Intelligence
85	192.168.1.100	IP Address	Malware "XYZBot" observed communicating with this IP
70	www.example.com	Domain	Phishing campaign linked to this domain
70	www.malicious-site.com/malware.exe	URL	Malicious executable linked to this URL
80	f4ca5a1b0af60e24a3c1f500f7d69d57	MD5 File Hash	Known malware hash observed on several systems
75	202.54.23.12	IP Address	Multiple intrusion attempts from this IP
55	bad-domain.net	Domain	Suspicious activities reported from this domain
90	45.67.89.123:443	IP	Suspicious behavior on this IP/Port
60	202.54.23.124	IP Address	Unusual traffic patterns associated with this MAC
65	98.76.54.32	IP Address	Potential reconnaissance activity from this IP
45	d41d8cd98f00b204e9800998ecf8427e	MD5 File Hash	Suspicious file hash detected in system logs

CTI USE CASE 3: Vulnerability Intelligence

Create a periodically updated vulnerability intelligence table:

1. Send it out to stakeholders frequently.

Risk Level	CVE ID (Score)	Type of Vulnerability	Affected Product	Do we Use it?	POC Available?	Actively Exploited?	Sought after in Darkweb?
High	CVE-2023-1234 (9.8)	Remote Code Execution	Windows Server 2019	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
High	CVE-2023-5678 (7.5)	SQL Injection	My SQL 8.0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
High	CVE-2023-9876 (10.0)	Zero-Day	Adobe Acrobat DC	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
High	CVE-2023-4321 (6.1)	Cross-Site Scripting	WordPress 5.9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Medium	CVE-2023-8765 (5.0)	Information Disclosure	Linux Kernel	No	No	No	Yes
Medium	CVE-2023-3456 (7.2)	Privilege Escalation	Cisco ASA	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Medium	CVE-2023-7890 (4.3)	Denial of Service (DoS)	Apache HTTP Server 2.4	Yes	Yes	No	No
Low	CVE-2023-6543 (3.6)	Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF)	Django 4.0	Yes	Yes	No	No
Low	CVE-2023-2109 (4.7)	Remote File Inclusion	PHP 8.0	Yes	No	No	No
Low	CVE-2023-1111 (5.5)	Insecure Deserialization	Java Spring Framework	Yes	Yes	No	Yes

Who can benefit from this?

1. The vulnerability management team.
2. The red team/penetration test team.

What can they do with it?

- A. Prioritize Patching
- B. Exploitation.

CTI USE CASE 4: Infostealer monitoring

Pull infostealers from multiple sources and create a table:

1. Backcheck previously leaked credentials to observe trends and save time.

Web Browser	URL	Username	Password	Session Token	Is this a new leak?
Chrome	www.example.com/login	user123	p@ssw0rd123	abcd1234	Yes
Firefox	www.fakebanking.com	johndoe	secretbank99	xyz5678	Yes
Safari	www.socialmedia.net/profile	alice_smith	ilovecats	pqrst6789	Yes
Edge	www.shoppingmart.com/cart	shopper007	shopping123	lmno9012	Yes
Opera	www.emailprovider.com/inbox	emailuser	emailpass	uwx3456	Yes
Chrome	www.example.com/logout	user123	p@ssw0rd123	efgh7890	No, leaked before
Firefox	www.gamingforum.com	gamer_guy	gaming4life	ijkl1234	No, leaked before
Safari	www.cloudstorage.net/files	clouduser	cloudpass	mno5678	No, leaked before.
Edge	www.companyintranet.com	employee123	company@123	qrst9012	No, leaked before.
Opera	www.randomforum.com/thread	forum user	letspost!	uwx3456	No, leaked before.

Who can benefit from this?

1. The Customer Support Team
2. The CSIRT team

What can they do with it?

- A. Inform users their credentials are leaked
- B. Reset passwords and harden account configurations
- C. Eradicate any active malware on the machine.

CTI USE CASE 5: Daily CTI Report

Create a daily Report

1. Maximum of 5 intelligence items
2. Keep the text to the point
3. Answer the following questions
 1. What is the observation?
 2. How is it relevant?
 3. What is the recommendation?
 4. Who can benefit from this intelligence?
4. ChatGPT Prompt example:

Act as a cyber threat intelligence analyst read the following article text and answer the following questions with maximum of 2 sentences answer and add emojis in bold: 1. what is the observation?, 2. what are the actionable recommendation? <ARTICLE TEXT>

⚠ Daily Cyber Threat Intelligence Alert ⚠

1. What is the observation?

The LockBit 3.0 ransomware builder has been leaked, resulting in the creation of new LockBit ransomware variants with altered tactics like unique ransom notes and communication channels. 🤖

2. How is it relevant?

Ransomware is considered a high risk to our organization.

3. What is the recommendation?

Strengthen your organization's ransomware defenses by enhancing employee training on phishing and social engineering, regularly updating data backups, and investing in advanced threat detection systems to stay a head of evolving ransomware techniques. 🛡

4. Who can benefit from this intelligence?

A. Phishing simulation team, B. CSOC C. Data Security Team

Who can benefit from this?

1. Wide array of internal technical or non-technical stakeholders.

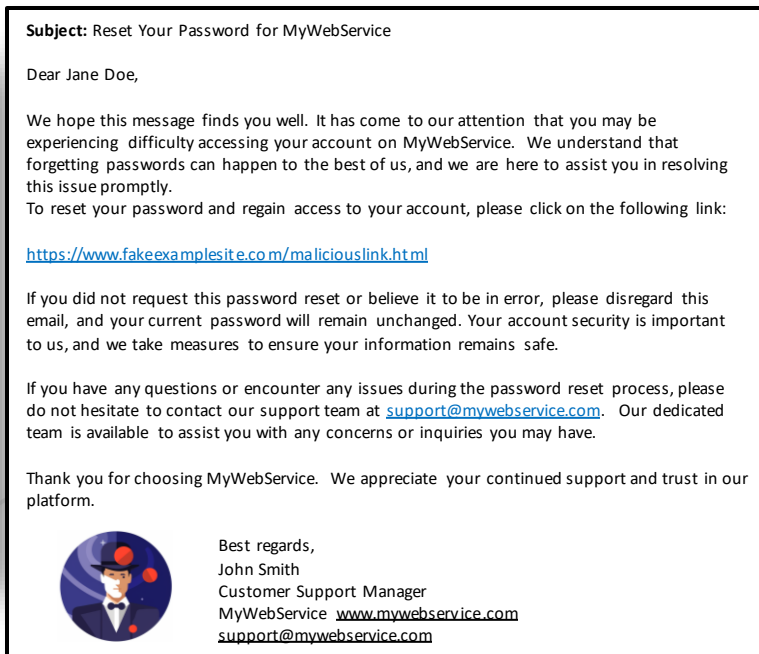
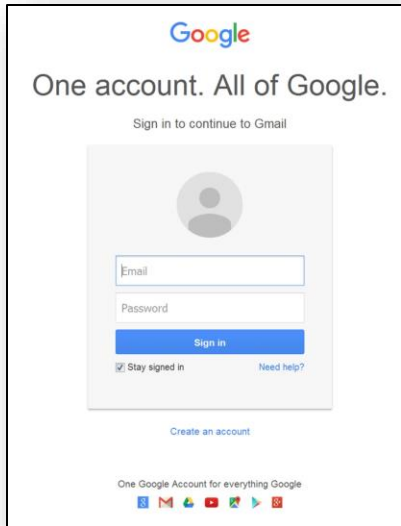
What can they do with it?

- A. External Cyber Situational Awareness Purposes
- B. Proactive or reactive actionable recommendations to boost the organizations cyber security or compliance levels.

CTI USE CASE 6: Phishing Intelligence

Provide Phishing templates for inspiration internally.

1. Monitor the external web for active phishing campaign examples and send them to the appropriate phishing team and/or the red team.
 - *Pro-active threat hunting for examples is also possible.*



Who can benefit from this?

1. The Red Team
2. The Internal Phishing Team
3. The E-Mail Security Team
4. The Security Awareness Team



What can they do with it?

- A. Use for the next red team exercise.
- B. Use for next phishing exercise.
- C. Use for hardening the email filter.
- D. Use as recent examples for awareness.

CTI USE CASE 7: Threat Hunting

Threat hunting requests that will proactively search

1. What is the hypothetical threat?
2. What is threat hunt methodology?
<Execute the threat hunt>
3. What are the findings?
4. What is the impact?
5. What is our analytical conclusion?
6. What are the recommendations?

 **Cyber Threat Hunt** : ExampleAppX

1. What is the hypothetical threat?

Cyber hackers are either plotting to attack or creating hacking tools to attack ExampleAppX

2. What is threat hunt methodology?

- A. Define the keywords: ExampleAppX AND (HackOR AttackOR Exploit OR DoS)
- B. Search all Darknet and social media sites for chatter
- C. Report findings

3. What are the findings?

- Exploit.in Contained a post mentioning "ExampleAppX Exploit kit"
- Socialmedia post contained a post mentioning a exploit being sold related to ExampleAppX

4. What is the impact?

- The safety image of ExampleAppX is impacted due to the popularity of the exploit kit.

5. What is our Analytical conclusion?

- Currently there are attackers actively attempting to exploit "ExampleAppX".

6. What are the recommendations?

- A. Takedown Social media posts
- B. Download the exploit kit for further investigation.

Who can benefit from this?

1. CSIRT, CSOC, CTI
2. Other internal stakeholders can initiate a threat hunt request (RFI).

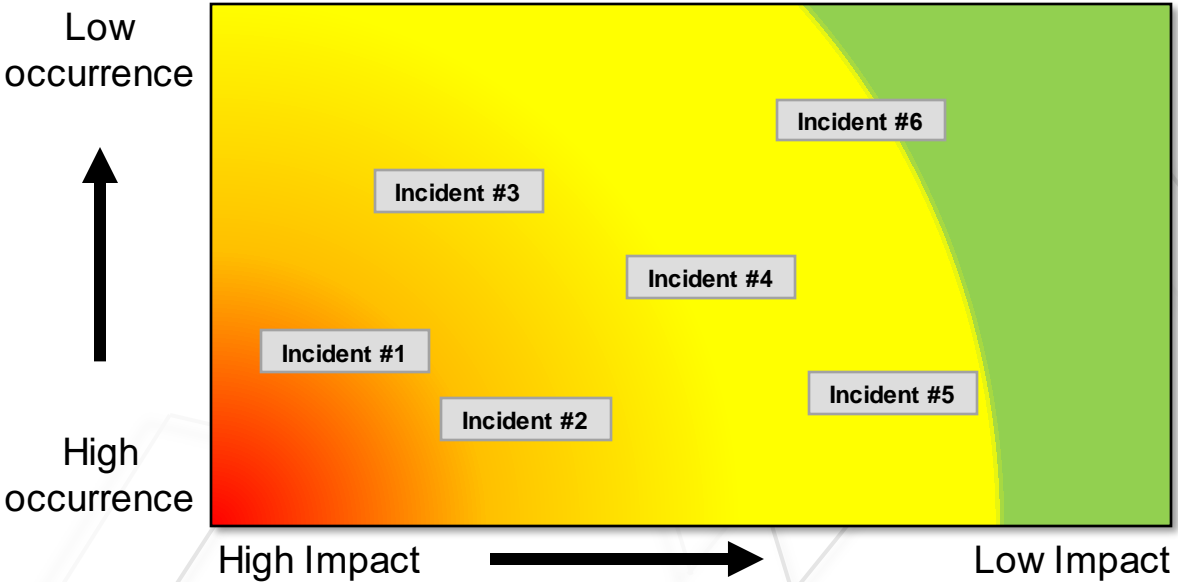
What can they do with it?

1. CSIRT can initiate a hunt during incidents.
2. CSOC can initiate a hunt during triage.
3. CTI can initiate hunts periodically if the intelligence collection cannot be automated.

CTI USE CASE 8: Internal Strategic Intelligence Report

A: Create a threat landscape based on internal incidents.

1. Gather the internal incident registry.
2. Map it to a overall threat table and reflect it in the following diagram style.



Who can benefit from this?

1. Wide array of internal technical or non-technical stakeholders.

What can they do with it?

- A. Internal Cyber Situational Awareness Purposes
- B. Proactive or reactive actionable recommendations to boost the organizations cyber security or compliance levels.

CTI USE CASE 9: External Strategic Intelligence Report

A: Translate external threat intelligence reports to internal actionable intelligence

1. Monitor external web sources for actionable intelligence reports.
2. Triage those reports that are perceived as “potentially high value”
3. Read and extract key recommendations to a intelligence report with the following table:

Risk Score <small>(after Controls applied)</small>	Report Risk Score	What is the threat	How is it relevant?	What is recommended?	What are we missing?	Recommendation
5	5	Data Breach	Unauthorized access to sensitive data	Implement strong access controls and encryption.	Regular security audits	Continuously monitor and update security measures.
4	3	DDoS Attack	Disrupts cloud services availability	Employ DDoS mitigation tools and services.	Redundancy planning	Establish backup and failover mechanisms.
4	5	Insider Threat	Malicious activities by authorized users	Conduct employee training and implement user behavior analysis.	Insider threat alerts	Enhance monitoring of user activities.
3	4	Phishing	Deceptive tactics to steal credentials	Implement email filtering and user awareness training.	Endpoint protection	Enhance endpoint security solutions.
3	5	Misconfigured Cloud Resources	Insecure cloud settings lead to vulnerabilities	Utilize cloud security best practices and automated monitoring.	Regular configuration audits	Continuously assess and adjust configurations.
2	3	API Vulnerabilities	Weaknesses in API endpoints	Regularly update APIs and apply access controls.	Penetration testing	Perform thorough penetration testing on APIs.
1	3	Cloud Service Outages	Interruptions in cloud services	Create a disaster recovery plan and use multiple cloud providers.	Failover planning	Establish failover mechanisms and testing procedures.

Who can benefit from this?

1. Wide array of internal technical or non-technical stakeholders.

What can they do with it?

- A. External Cyber Situational Awareness Purposes
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CTI USE CASE 10: Threat Intelligence Sharing

A: Cultivate relations, create groupchats and/or sharing platforms with sharing partners

1. Create a **intelligence sharing policy**
2. Determine industry peer relations
3. Determine government peer relations
4. Determine global peer relations
5. Create a common sharing location to exchange intelligence

Who can benefit from this?

1. Wide array of internal technical or non-technical stakeholders.

What can they do with it?

- A. External Cyber Situational Awareness Purposes
- B. Proactive or reactive actionable recommendations to boost the organizations cyber security or compliance levels.

Intelligence Sharing Partner	Sharing Classification Scope	Do Share	Don't Share
Government Agencies	National Security Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- High-confidence indicators of imminent cyberattacks with significant national impact.- Strategic intelligence on threat actors targeting critical infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Raw, unverified data without context or analysis.- Personally identifiable information (PII) or sensitive personal data.
Cybersecurity Vendors	Technical Threat Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Specific malware samples, hashes, or signatures.- Vulnerability details with proof-of-concept exploits.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Customer-specific data or incident reports unless authorized.- Trade secrets or intellectual property.
Information Sharing Groups	Cross-Industry Threats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Aggregated and anonymized data on common threats and vulnerabilities.- Reports on successful incident response strategies and best practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Detailed internal network diagrams or system architecture.- Internal incident reports without permission.

CONCLUSION

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Conclusion

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2. Cyber Threat Intelligence works best **on top of a already functioning security program** which sits on top of a mature IT organization

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