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The Value of Threat Intelligence

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About Me

- Involved in Security since the late 90's
- Started with 1 of the pioneering SIEM solutions
- Branched off into Governance, Risk & Compliance
- Cyber Threat Intel – feeds, curation, expansion, operationalization

** Disclaimer: This presentation does not have all the answers or a big red easy button.*

Value of Threat Intelligence - Where To Start?

- Sources of threat data/intelligence
 - OSINT – Open Source Intelligence
 - Exchange Membership
 - Commercial Vendors
 - Inhouse Tradecraft Analysis/Hunting

- Where is your Organization in the cyber journey?
 - Beginner – manually collecting/integrating OSINT
 - Intermediate – automatic integration, data reviews
 - Advanced – SOAR, strategic intel, remediation run book?

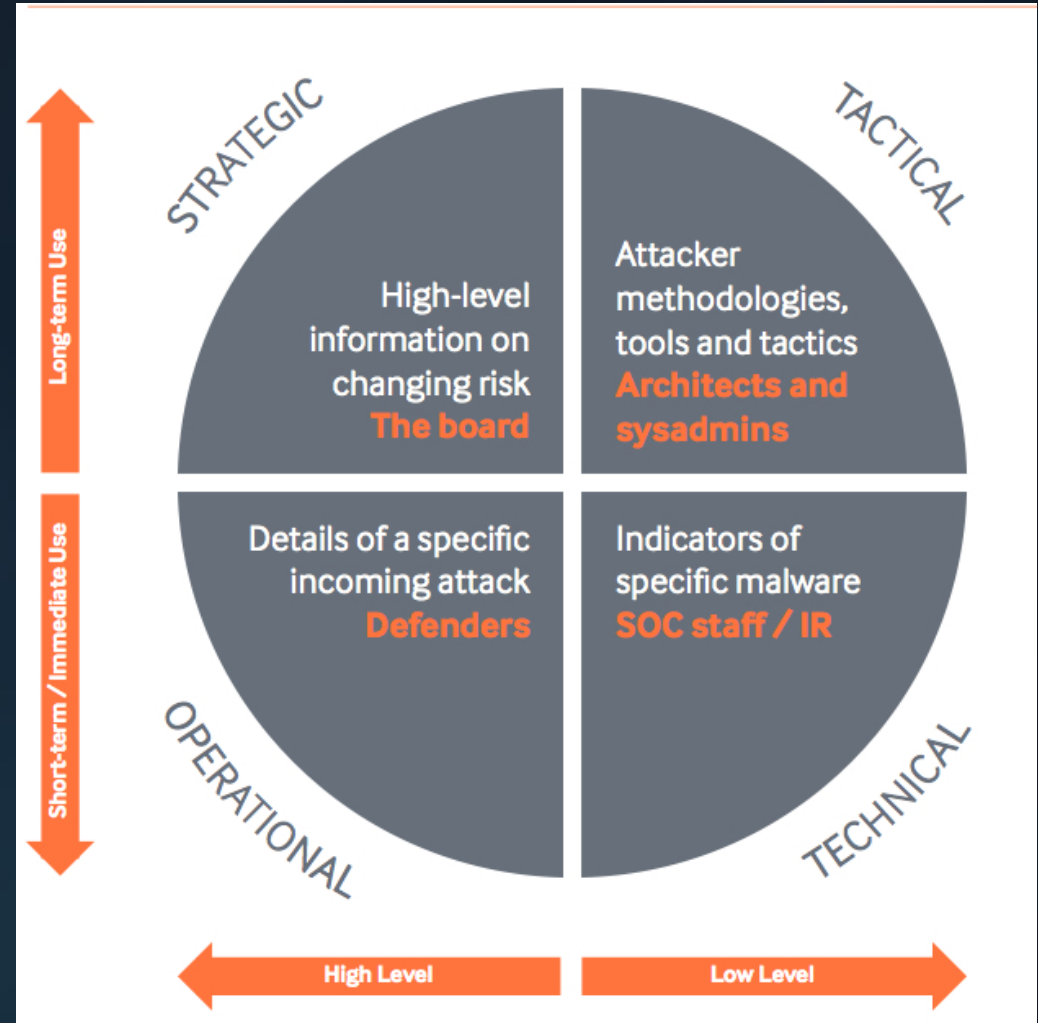


How Do CTI Sources Differ?

- OSINT
 - Specific classifications – Domain, IP, Hashes, etc.
 - Atomic indicators
 - Refresh frequency?
 - Integration into existing security controls
- Exchange Platform / Collaboration
 - Atomic indicators VS Finished Intel?
 - Collaboration? Dialog with co-members?
 - Integration into existing security controls?
- Commercial
 - Relevant organizational or industry specific analysis
 - Custom research or professional services
 - Niche focus

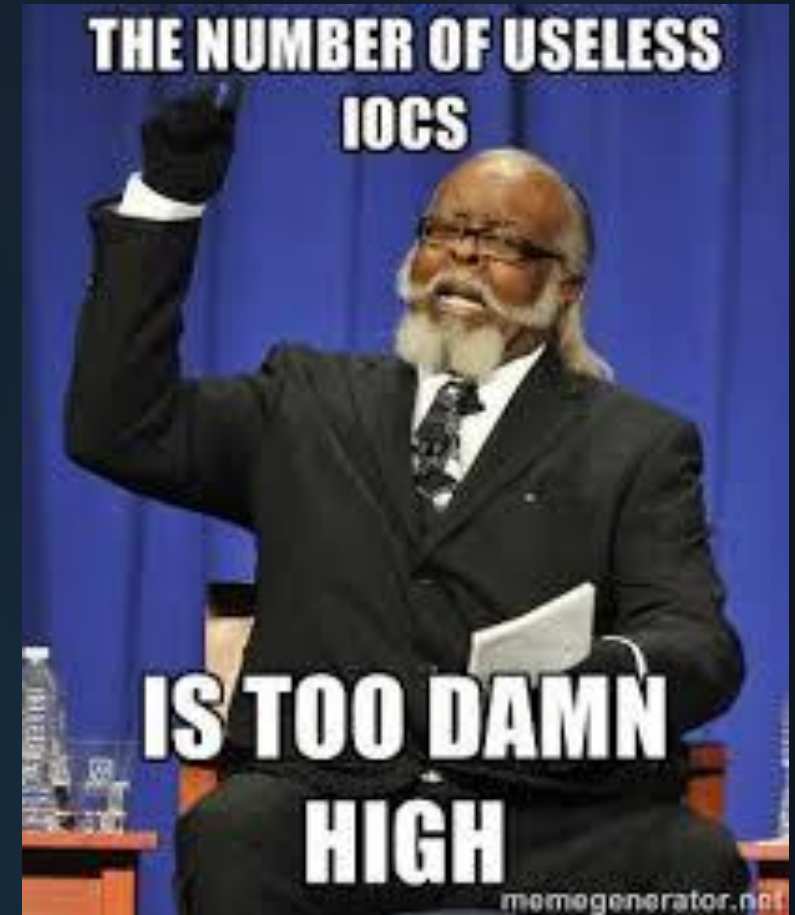
Types of Intelligence

- Tactical
 - Atomic indicators
 - Automation – feeds or API
 - Integration into security tools (TIP)
- Operational
 - Who, Why & How
 - Requires human analysis
 - SOC Operations
- Strategic
 - Difficult to generate
 - Geopolitical situations
 - Financially motivated
 - Educated decisions to mitigate risk

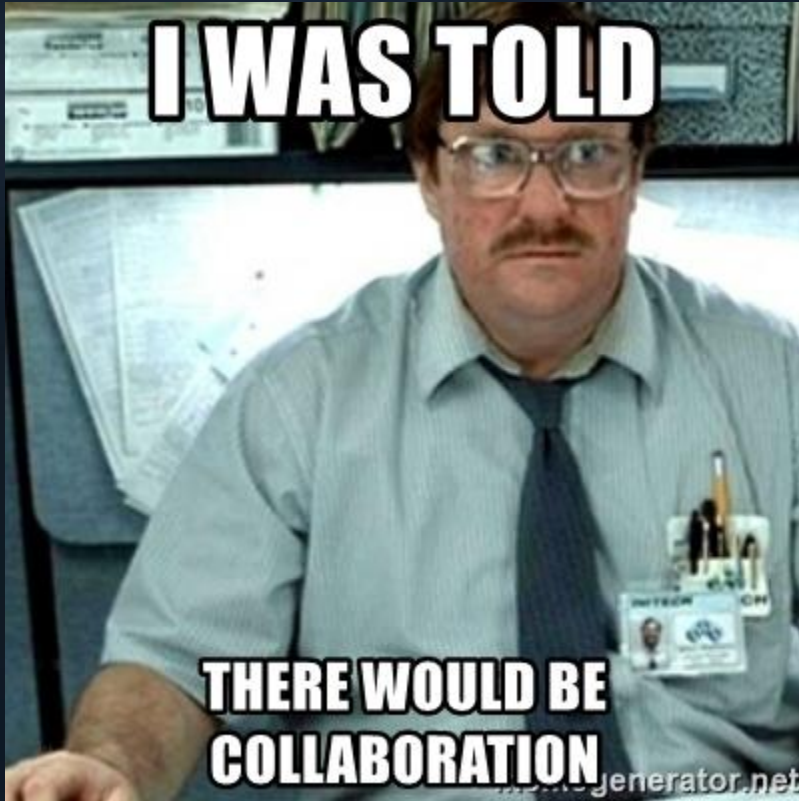


OSINT – Considerations

- Volume
 - Quantity VS Quality?
 - Vast amounts of IOCs VS sub-set of high fidelity, high confidence IOCs
 - Indicator status?
 - IOC Lifecycle – active VS inactive; process to age out?
 - Housekeeping – removal of inactive indicators?
- Collection & Ingestion
 - Format Standards – Structured VS Unstructured
 - STIX, JSON, CSV, email, etc
 - Frequency – hourly, daily
 - Full pull or delta of new indicators?
- Integration
 - Into existing security controls – format?
 - Active versus inactive/false positive?
 - Fidelity...



Exchange Platforms – Considerations



- Collaboration with Peers
 - Active sightings
 - Finished intelligence?
 - Forums or discussion boards?
- Manual export or automated feed?
 - Supported formats/standards – STIX, OpenIOC, etc
 - Full threat model constructs/associations?
- Global? Regional?
 - Language support in portal/platform?
- Risks Generic/cross vertical or Unique to Industry

Commercial Feeds – Considerations

- Relevant?
 - Relevancy to your organization – custom analysis service related to your organization
- Uniqueness of data?
 - Only paying for curation
 - Vendor differentiation
 - Feeds targeting specific classification of threat – C&C Domain, DGA, Malware Hash, etc
- Decay window or periodicity of data
 - Immediate activity or strategic focusing on associations and long term trends?
- Integration into environmental security controls
 - Automation, operationalization
 - Tracking ROI
- Existing Security Posture
 - Resources, budget, maturity, program

Other Sources of Intel

- Tradecraft Intel Generation

- Requires resources
- Mature cyber programs
- C.A.R.T.
 - Complete – enough information to make a decision?
 - Accurate – is the expanded information enough to make a good decision?
 - Relevant – is the intel related to me, my organization and the mission?
 - Timely – is the creation of the intel soon enough to make a decision?



Checkpoint

So far we've talked about:

- Different sources of threat data/intel
- Different types of threat data/intel
- Considerations and challenges
- Organization maturity

Deriving Value or Driving Value?

Definition:

- Derived - obtain something from (a specified source)

"they derived comfort from this information"

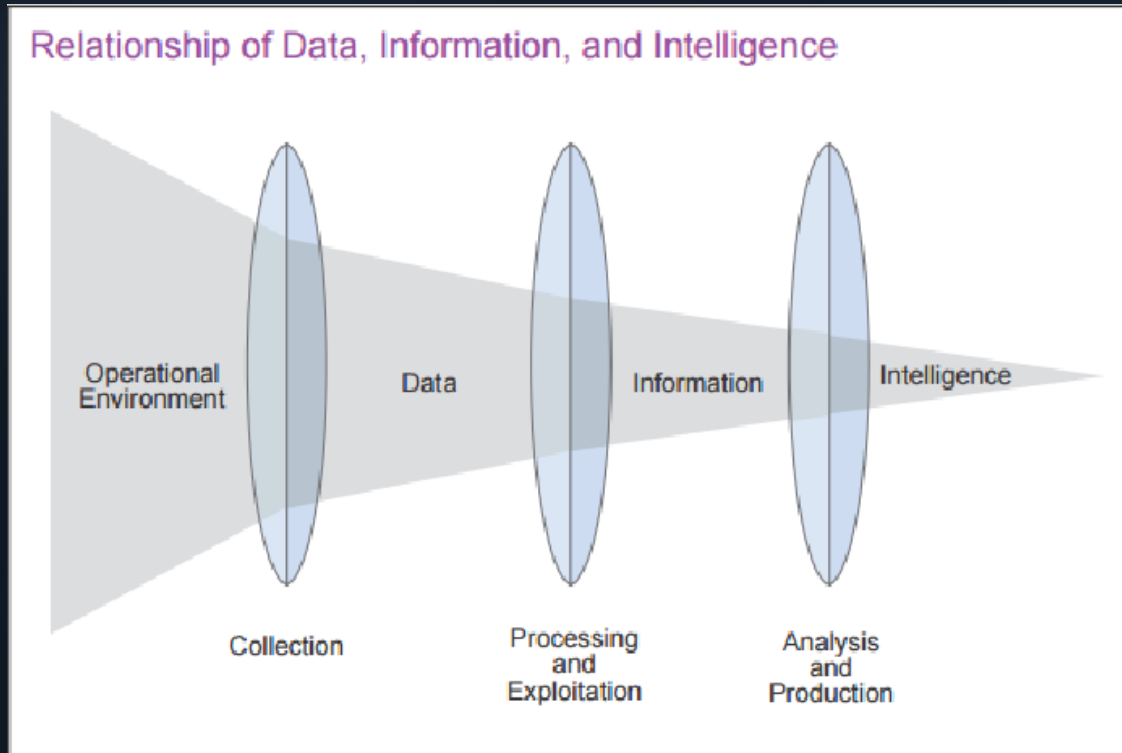
- Driving – communication force; exerting pressure

"driving a process or a series of activities undertaken to achieve a goal"

Deriving Value from Threat Intelligence?

- Context
 - historical tracking (changes in iType classification over time), reporting sources, changes in confidence or severity
- Indicator Expansion / Enrichment
 - pDNS, pSSL, Whois, OpenPorts, VT, WOT
- Integrations
 - Destinations for tactical integration of select IOCs
- Threat Intelligence Management Platform

Driving Value from Threat Intelligence



- Workflow & Process
 - Collection, enrichment, attribution
 - Based on evidence & IOC characteristics
 - Tracking – long term, strategic motivations
 - SOCMINT, Deep & Dark Web
 - Finished Intelligence
 - Environmental context
 - Asset criticality
 - Current asset exposures
 - Relevant to the Organization
- Threat Intelligence Management Platform
 - Critical tool in the workflow
 - Key part of the process

How Do I Get There?

- Planning, Policy, Process
- Investment in staff & resources
 - Skills Gap Analysis
 - Workflow audit & assessment
- Team Training
 - Course curriculum from skills gap assessment
 - Role-based



How Do I Get There?

- Workflow
 - Audit/assessment of existing internal tools configuration
 - 3rd party consultant / Professional Services
 - Action plan to fill gaps in remediation process
- *Refine, Refine, Refine*



Summary

Is there value in threat intelligence?

Recipe:

- Threat Intelligence Management Platform
- Workflow and process
- Investment in staff

Thank-you

Q & A