

So You've Decided to Use MITRE ATT&CK®: Now What?

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Learning objectives

- Threat-informed defense and its applications
- The benefits and limitations of MITRE ATT&CK
- How to develop a threat-informed defense strategy



Threat-Informed Defense and its Applications

What is "Threat-Informed Defense"?



Threat-Informed Defense

"The systematic application and deep understanding of adversary tradecraft and technology to assess, organize and optimize your defenses."

- Understanding adversary tactics, techniques and procedures is critical to effectively defending your systems
- Without this, you're left with defending against anything and everything
- Threat-Informed Defense helps you to prioritize where to allocate time and resources for security

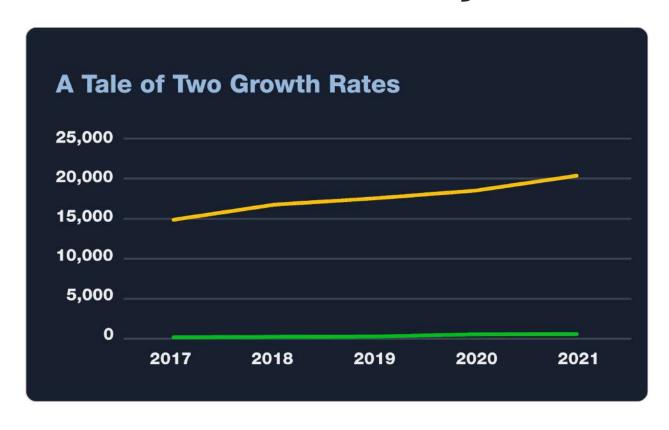


[†] https://www.tidalcyber.com/blog/threat-informed-defense-what-is-it

Why is Threat-Informed Defense so important?



Because the Old Way Doesn't Work



 It is not feasible to ensure everything in your enterprise is always fullypatched against exploitable vulnerabilities





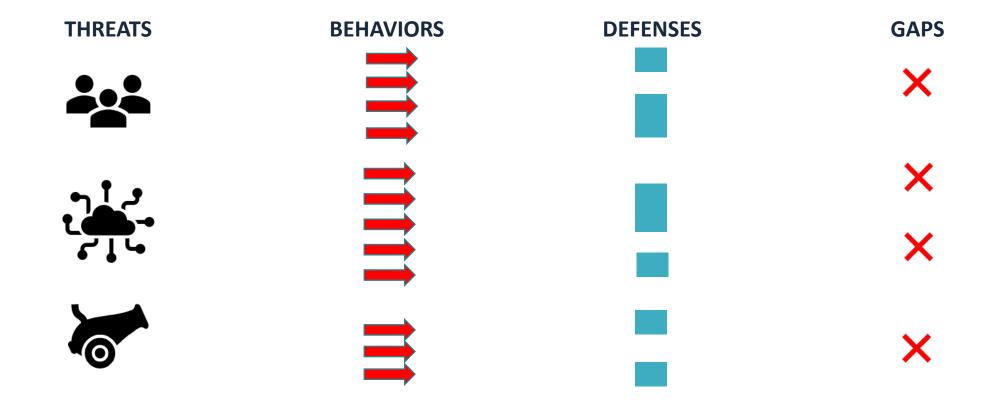


Supports Focus & Prioritization

- Threat-Informed Defense allows defenders to focus and prioritize their activities and investments, based on:
 - Specific threats they face including groups, software, campaigns translated into the specific behaviors they employ
 - How existing defenses stack up against those behaviors
 - Identify key gaps



Mind the Gap(s)!





What is the MITRE ATT&CK knowledge base?



MITRE ATT&CK

MITRE ATT&CK® is a globally-accessible knowledge base of adversary tactics and techniques based on real-world observations.[†]

- ATT&CK is the globally-accepted encyclopedia of adversary behaviors
- ATT&CK serves as a common language to facilitate communication within and between organizations
- ATT&CK is made freely-available by the non-profit MITRE Corporation





MITRE ATT&CK: The Basics

Tactics: the "why" of an adversary's behavior – their technical objective

••• Persistence

Privilege Escalation

Credential Access

Lateral Movement

•••

Techniques: the "how" of an adversary's behavior – the actions they take to achieve their objective

Create Account

Cloud Account

Domain Account

Local Account

Brute Force

Input Capture

Network Sniffing

Procedures: commands/APIs and parameters used

Sub-Techniques: more specific versions of some techniques



[†] https://attack.mitre.org/

MITRE ATT&CK: The Basics

Reconnaissance 10 techniques	Resource Development 7 techniques	Initial Access 9 techniques	Execution 12 techniques	Persistence 19 techniques	Privilege Escalation 13 techniques	Defense Evasion 39 techniques	Credential Access	Discovery 27 techniques	Lateral Movement 9 techniques	Collection 17 lectroiques	Command and Control	Exfiltration 9 techniques	Impact 13 techniques
Active Scanning	Acquire Infrastructure	Valid Accounts		Scheduled Task/Job	i i	Modify Autho	ntication Process	System Service Discovery	Remote Services	■ Data from Local System	Data Obfuscation =	Exfiltration Over Other	_ Data Destruction
Gather Victim	Compromise Accounts	Replication Through	Windows Management	Valid Accounts			Netw	ork Sniffing	Software Deployment	Data from Removable	Fallback Channels	Network Medium	Data Encrypted for Impact
Host Information	Compromise Infrastructure	Removable Media	Instrumentation		Hijack Execution Flow		OS Credential Dumping	= Application Window _	Tools	Media	Application Layer Protocol =	Scheduled Transfer	Service Stop
Gather Victim Identity	Develop Capabilities	Trusted Relationship	Software Deployment	Boot or Logon	initialization Scripts	Direct Volume Access	Input Capture	■ Discovery	Replication Through	Input Capture	≡ Proxy ≡	Data Transfer Size Limits	Inhibit System Recovery
Information	Establish Accounts	Supply Chain Compromise	Tools	Create or Mod	ify System Process	Rootkit	Brute Force	≡ System Network	Removable Media	Data Staged	Communication Through	Exfiltration Over	Defacement =
Gather Victim Network	Obtain Capabilities	Hardware Additions	Shared Modules	Event Trigg	ered Execution	Obfuscated Files or	Two-Factor Authentication	Configuration Discovery	Internal Spearphishing	Screen Capture	Removable Media	C2 Channel	Firmware Corruption
Information	Stage Capabilities	Exploit Public-Facing	User Execution	■ Boot or Logon.	Autostart Execution	Information	Interception	System Owner/User	Use Alternate	Email Collection	■ Web Service =	Exfiltration Over	_ Resource Hijacking
Gather Victim Org	i i	Application	Exploitation for Client	Account Manipulation	Proce	is Injection	Exploitation for Credential	Discovery	Authentication Material	Clipboard Data	Multi-Stage Channels	Physical Medium	Network Denial of Service =
Information	=	Phishing	Execution	External Remote Services	Access Tok	n Manipulation	Access	System Network	Lateral Tool Transfer	Automated Collection	Ingress Tool Transfer	Exfiltration Over	_ Endpoint Denial of Service =
Phishing for Information	E	External Remote Services	System Services	Office Application Startup	Abuse Elevation	Control Mechanism	Steal Web Session Cookie	Connections Discovery	Taint Shared Content	Audio Capture	Data Encoding =	Web Service	System Shutdown/Reboot
Search Closed Sources	<u>=</u> 1	Drive-by Compromise	Command and Scripting	Create Account	■ Domain Po	licy Modification	Unsecured Credentials	■ Permission Groups	Exploitation of Remote	Video Capture	Traffic Signaling	Automated Exfiltration	Account Access Removal
Search Open		Vi to the state of	Interpreter	Browser Extensions	Escape to Host	Indicator Removal on Host	Credentials from	Discovery	Services	Man in the Browser	Remote Access Software	Exfiltration Over	■ Disk Wipe ■
Technical Databases	=		Native API	Traffic Signaling	Exploitation for Privilege	Modify Registry	Password Stores	File and Directory	Remote Service Session	_ Data from Information	■ Dynamic Resolution =	Alternative Protocol	Data Manipulation =
Search Open			Inter-Process	BITS Jobs	Escalation	Trusted Developer Utilities	Steal or Forge Kerberos	Discovery	Hijacking	Repositories	Non-Standard Port	Transfer Data to	23.5************************************
Websites/Domains			Communication	Server Software	≣	Proxy Execution	Tickets	= Peripheral Device		Man-in-the-Middle	■ Protocol Tunneling	Cloud Account	
Search Victim-Owned			Container Administration	Component		Traffic Signaling	Forced Authentication	Discovery		Archive Collected Data	≡ Encrypted Channel ≡		
Websites	_		Command	Pre-OS Boot	≣	Signed Script Proxy	Steal Application Access	Network Share Discovery		Data from Network	Non-Application Layer		
			Deploy Container	Compromise Client		Execution	Token	Password Policy Discovery		Shared Drive	Protocol		
Has sub-techniques			31 31 31 31 31	Software Binary		Rogue Domain Controller	Man-in-the-Middle	■ Browser Bookmark		Data from Cloud		tie e	
				Implant Container Image		Indirect Command	Forge Web Credentials	■ Discovery		Storage Object			
				Modify Authentication		Execution	The state of the s	Virtualization/Sandbox		Data from Configuration	=		
				Process		BITS Jobs		Evasion	=	Repository	_		

Cloud Service Dashboard

Remote System Discovery

Network Service Scanning

Software Discovery

System Information

Account Discovery

System Time Discovery

Domain Trust Discovery

Cloud Service Discovery

System Location Discovery

Discovery Cloud Infrastructure

Discovery

Discovery

XSL Script Processing

Virtualization/Sandbox

Authentication Material

Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information

Template Injection

File and Directory Permissions Modification

Cloud Regions

Use Alternate

Impair Defenses

Hide Artifacts

Masquerading

Execution **Exploitation for Defense** Evasion Execution Guardrails Modify Cloud Compute Infrastructure Pre-OS Boot Subvert Trust Controls Build Image on Host Deploy Container Modify System Image

Signed Binary Proxy

Network Boundary Bridging Weaken Encryption

Evasion Unused/Unsupported

MITRE ATT&CK **Enterprise Framework**

attack.mitre.org



[†] https://attack.mitre.org/

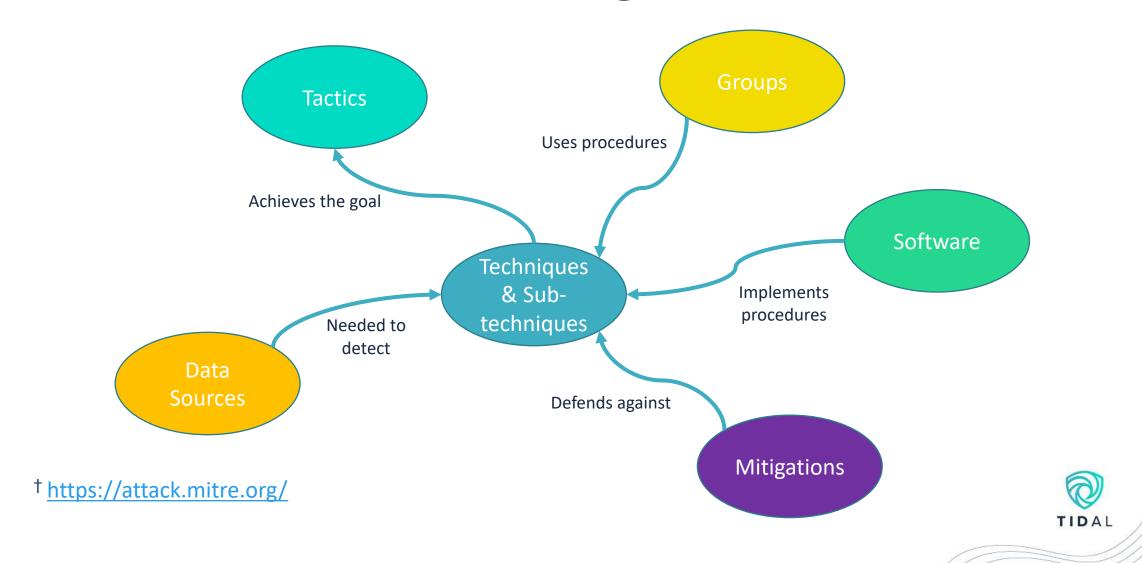
MITRE ATT&CK: Additional Data Resources

- Groups: Adversary groups linked to the techniques and software they employ
 - Procedures: specific examples of adversary implementations of techniques
- Software: Both malware and tools that adversaries use to achieve their objectives
- Data Sources/Components: Classification of data types mapped to the techniques they can be used to detect
- References: Published reporting cited to support inclusion in ATT&CK





MITRE ATT&CK: Connecting the Dots



MITRE ATT&CK:
Benefits & Limitations



ATT&CK Benefits

- Provides a common foundation for threat-informed defense across geographic and sectorial boundaries
- Level of abstraction tactics, techniques and sub-techniques balances specificity with manageable size/scope
- Vibrant community with many freely-available resources

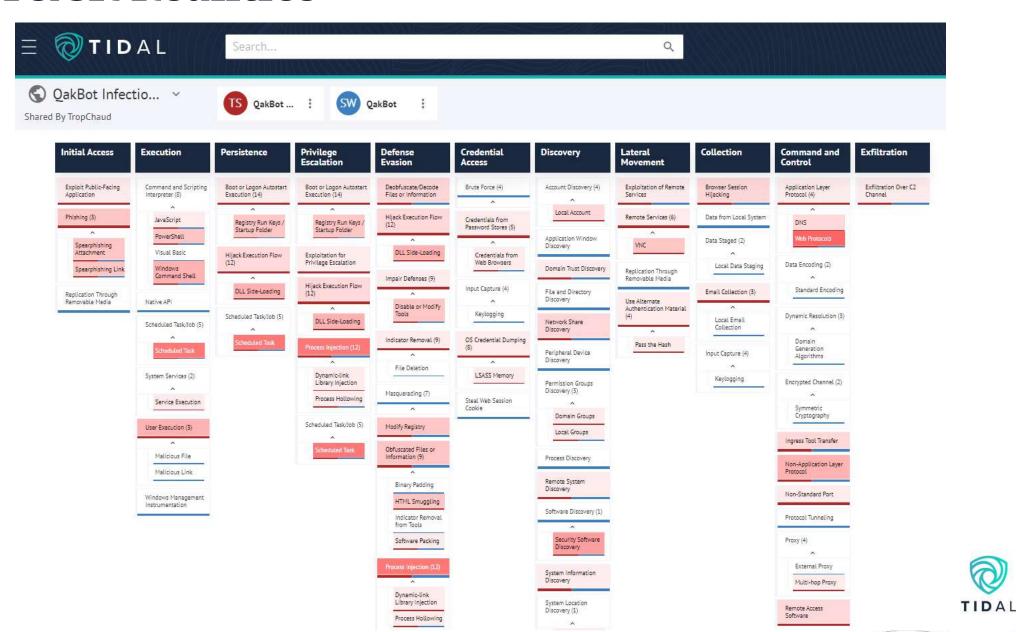


ATT&CK Realities

- MITRE relies on open-source reporting and community contributions as their inputs
 - Implication: it isn't exhaustive (but nothing is) think of it as a great starting point
- MITRE updates ATT&CK twice a year
 - Typically in April & October
- Level of abstraction tactics, techniques and sub-techniques may not convey enough detail (i.e. procedures)
- Not all ATT&CK techniques are created equal
 - Some techniques are more important than others



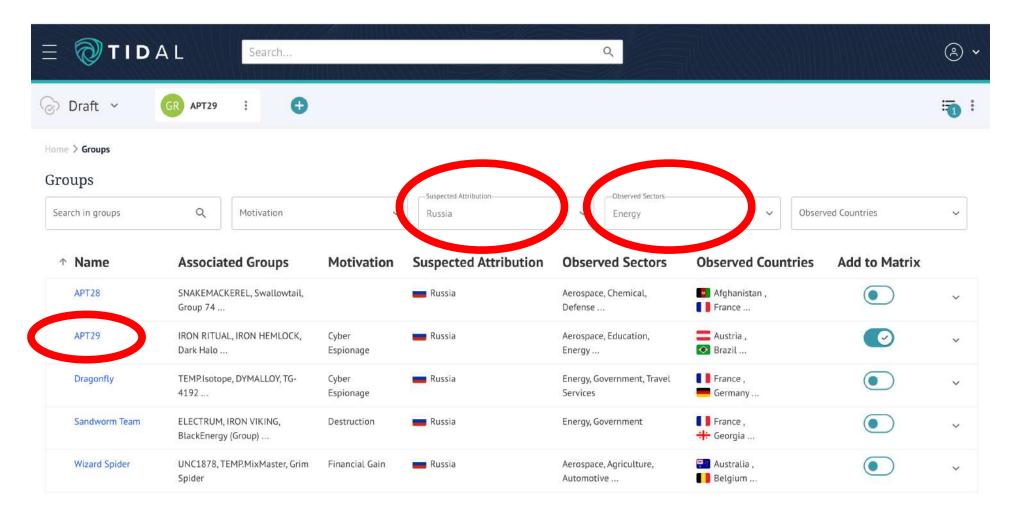
ATT&CK Realities



Implementing Threat-Informed Defense

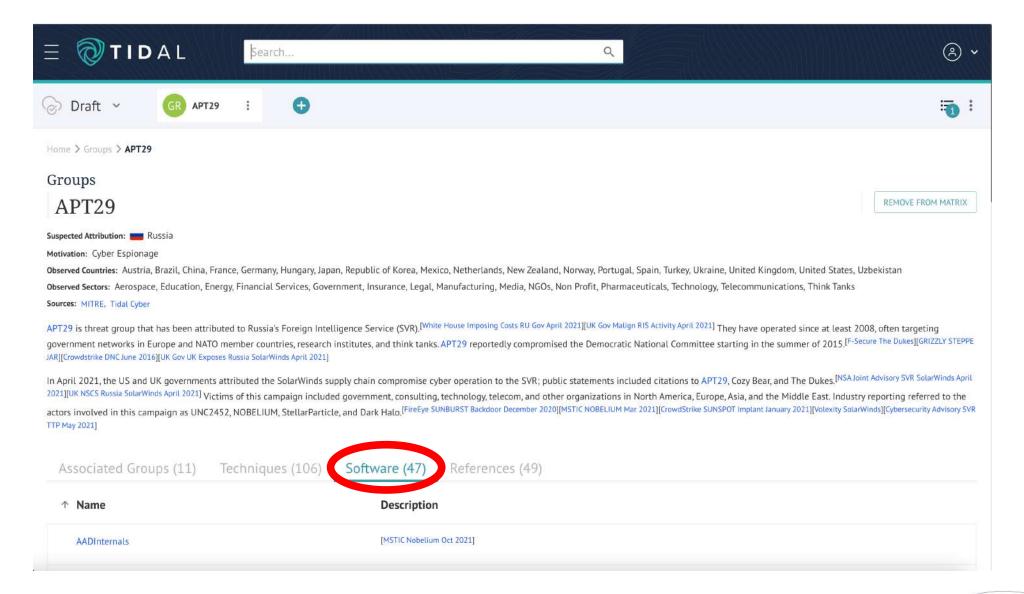


Step One: Identify your threats: Groups



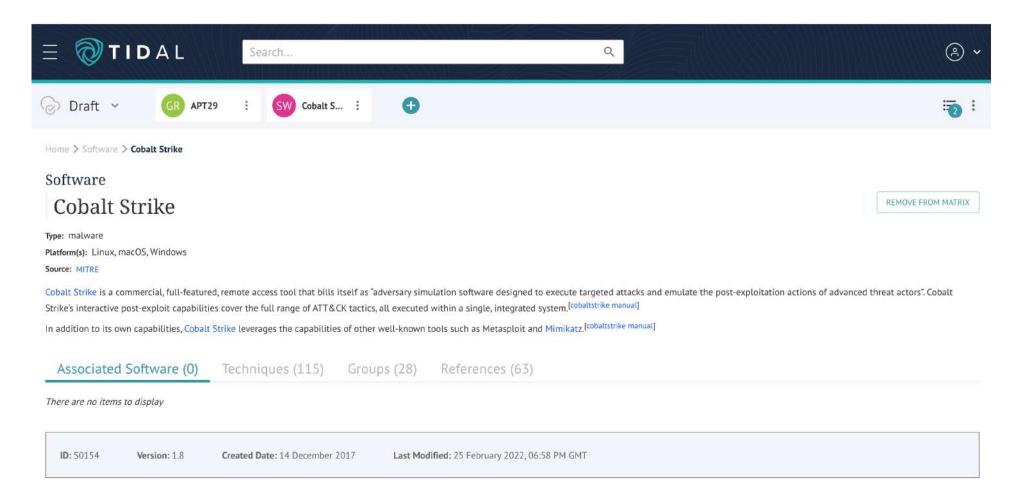


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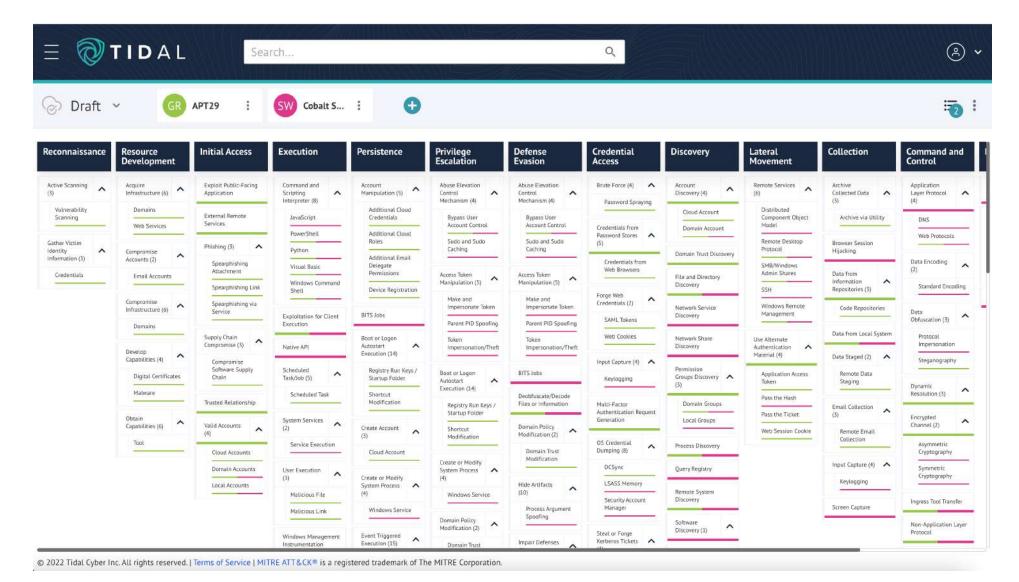


Step One: Identify your threats: Software



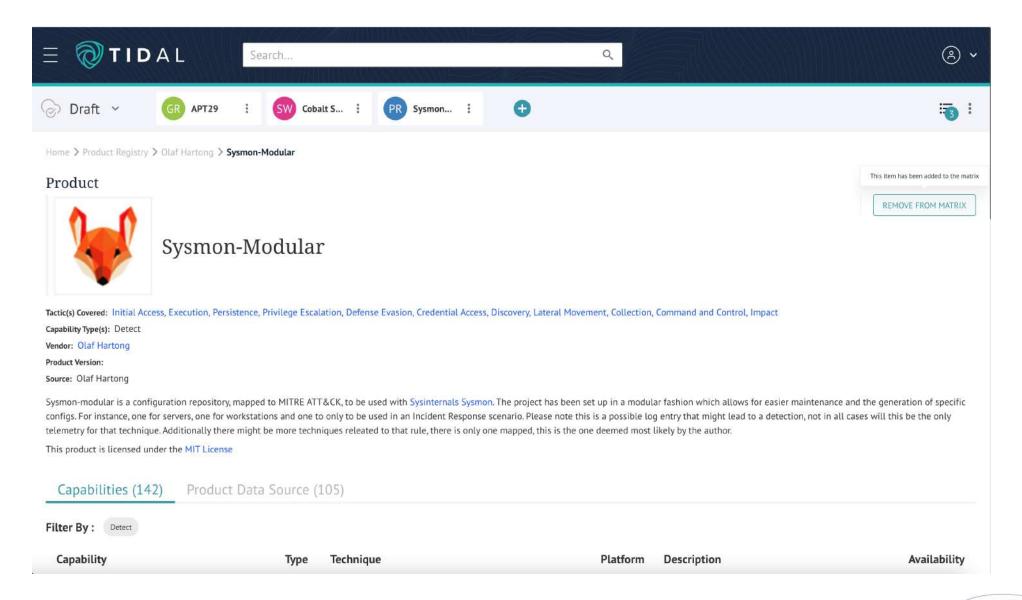


Step One: Identify your threats: Combined



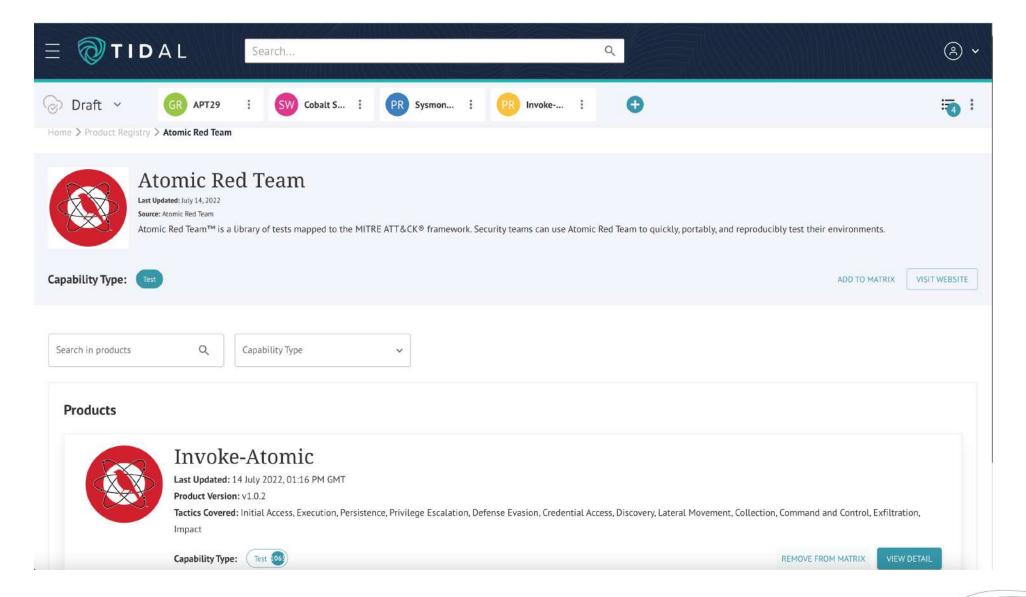


Step Two: Inventory your defenses: Detections



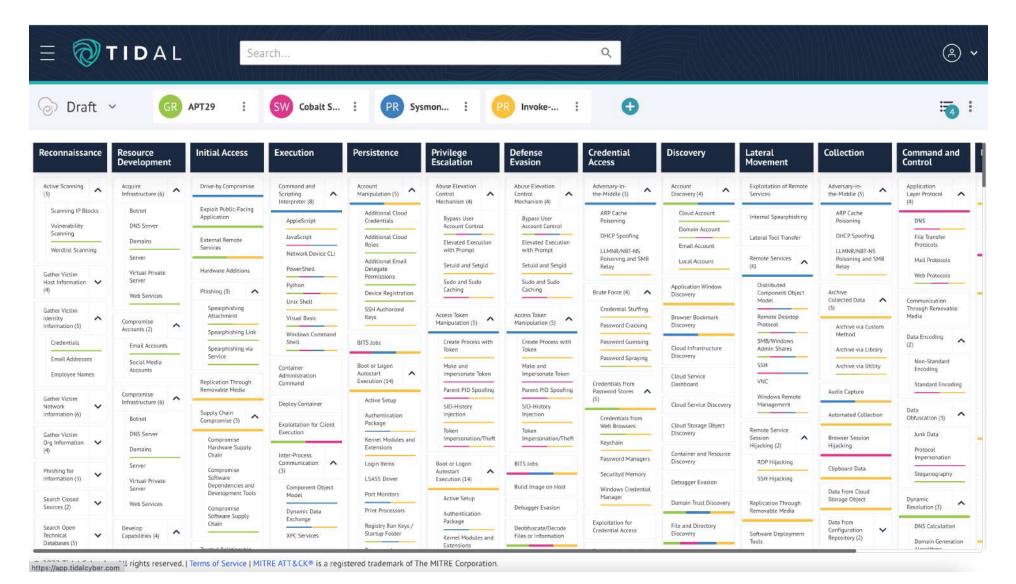


Step Two: Inventory your defenses: Tests



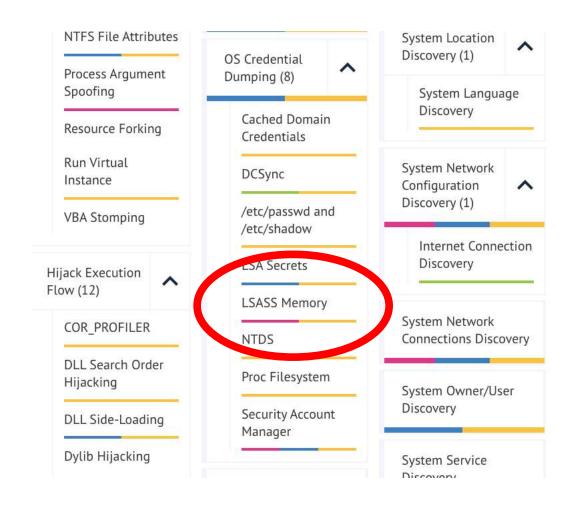


Step Three: Assess your Coverage



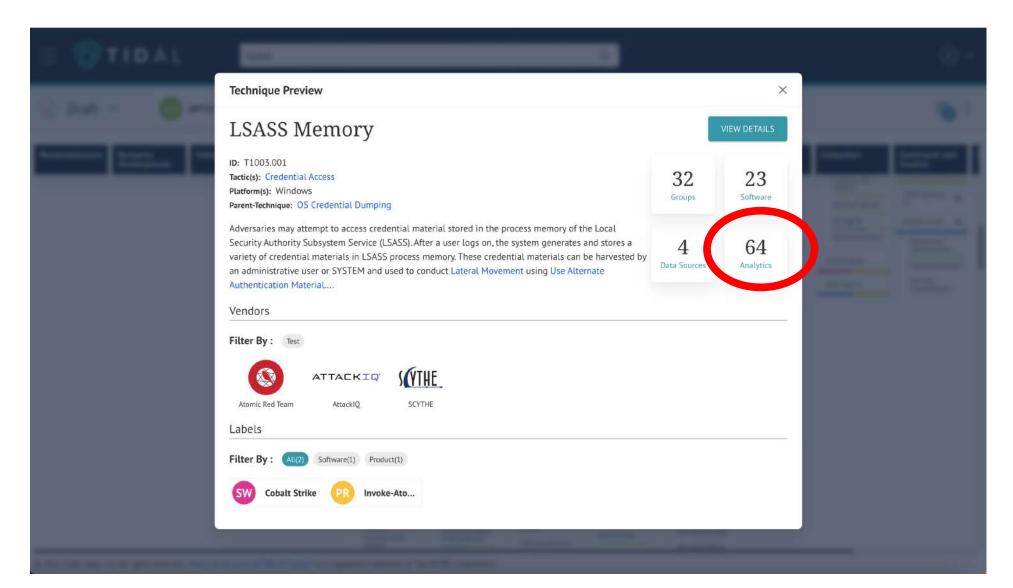


Step Four: Address Gaps – LSASS



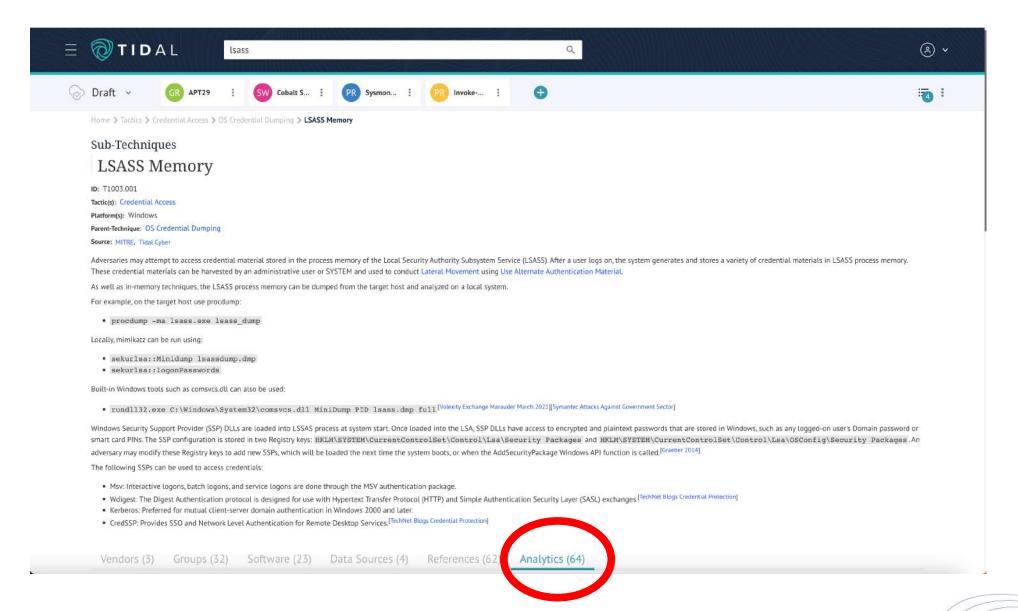


Step Four: Address Gaps – OSS Analytics



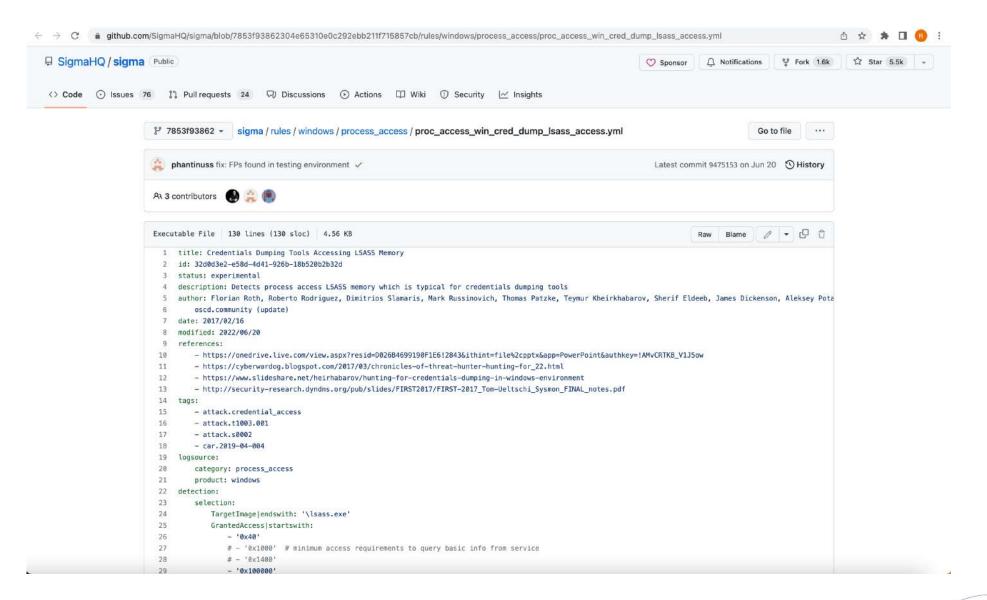


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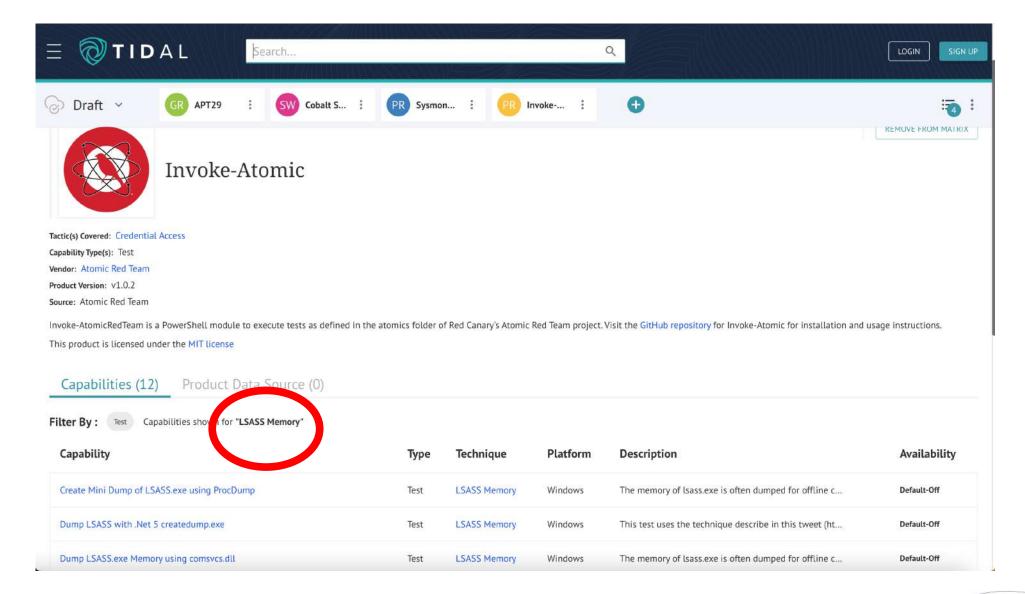


Step Four: Address Gaps- Add Sigma rules





Step Five: Verify Defenses – run ART tests





Step Six: Go To Step 1

- Threat-Informed Defense is an iterative, continuous process
- The environment is always changing
 - Evolution in threats new groups, new behaviors, new malware
 - Evolution in defenses new detections, new tests, new analytics
 - New public reporting of both



Putting it All Together into a Threat-Informed Strategy

Foundational Elements

Threat Model(s)

The adversary groups, campaigns, software and specific behaviors of concern

Specific behaviors

Inventory of Defenses

Protections, detections, mitigations, responses and tests deployed



Specific behaviors



Building a Threat Model

- Goal: Identify the threats to your organization and map those to specific behaviors you can defend against
- Sources of intelligence to drive threat modeling:
 - OSINT / Commercial threat intel sources based on targeting of sector, geography and technology platforms
 - ISACs/ISAOs
 - Internal knowledge past incidents, ongoing reconnaissance and probing, etc.

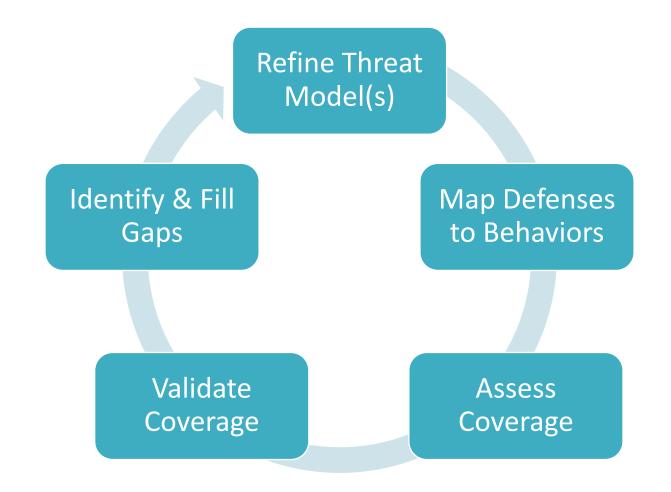


Inventory your Defenses

- Goal: Identify the security policies, controls and technologies deployed and map those to the specific behaviors they are effective against
- Helpful to segment by the type of defense:
 - Mitigation: prevents a behavior from being employed
 - Protection: blocks a specific behavior from achieving its objective
 - Detection: alerts when a behavior is seen in use
 - Response: takes corrective action when a behavior is detected
 - **Test**: verify if a specific defense is operating normally



Continuous Evaluation & Adaptation





Closing Thoughts



ATT&CK is a *Means*, not an *End*.

- Don't try to achieve 100% coverage of the entire ATT&CK matrix you will fail
- ATT&CK isn't a checklist to be blindly followed
- Focus on ATT&CK as the glue that helps you connect and organize your understanding of what adversaries do IRL
- Understand that ATT&CK isn't exhaustive and embrace the fact that you'll want to extend it for yourself



Threat-Informed Defense is a Journey

- Embrace the iterative and continuous nature of threat-informed defense
- Align people, processes and technology to support this ongoing set of activities
- Measure your progress and use that to course correct



Select Community Resources

- MITRE ATT&CK: <u>attack.mitre.org</u>
- Tidal Cyber Community Edition: app.tidalcyber.com
- Atomic Red Team: atomicredteam.io
- SIGMA: github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma
- Sysmon Modular: github.com/olafhartong/sysmon-modular



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Thank You!