MISP - Open Source Threat Intelligence Sharing Platform

Supporting Law Enforcement Investigations

CIRCL / Team MISP Project

MISP Project https://www.misp-project.org/

Interpol



MISP: STARTED FROM A PRACTICAL USE-CASE

- During a malware analysis workgroup in 2012, we discovered that we worked on the analysis of the same malware.
- We wanted to share information in an easy and automated way to avoid duplication of work.
- Christophe Vandeplas (then working at the CERT for the Belgian MoD) showed us his work on a platform that later became MISP.
- A first version of the MISP Platform was used by the MALWG and the increasing feedback of users helped us to build an improved platform.
- MISP is now a community-driven development.

ABOUT CIRCL

The Computer Incident Response Center Luxembourg (CIRCL) is a government-driven initiative designed to provide a systematic response facility to computer security threats and incidents. CIRCL is the CERT for the private sector, communes and non-governmental entities in Luxembourg and is operated by securitymadein.lu g.i.e.

MISP AND CIRCL

- CIRCL is mandated by the Ministry of Economy and acting as the Luxembourg National CERT for private sector.
- CIRCL leads the development of the Open Source MISP threat intelligence platform which is used by many military or intelligence communities, private companies, financial sector, National CERTs and LEAs globally.
- CIRCL runs multiple large MISP communities performing active daily threat-intelligence sharing.



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MANY OBJECTIVES FROM DIFFERENT USER-GROUPS

- Sharing indicators for a detection matter.
 - Do I have infected systems in my infrastructure or the ones I operate?
- Sharing indicators to block.
 - I use these attributes to block, sinkhole or divert traffic
- Sharing indicators to perform intelligence.
 - ► Gathering information about campaigns and attacks. Are they related? Who is targeting me? Who are the adversaries?

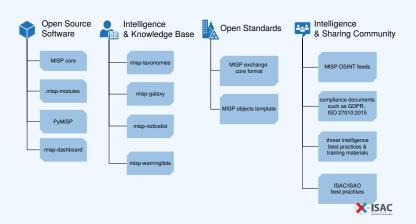
→ These objectives can be conflicting (e.g. False-positives have different impacts)

SHARING DIFFICULTIES

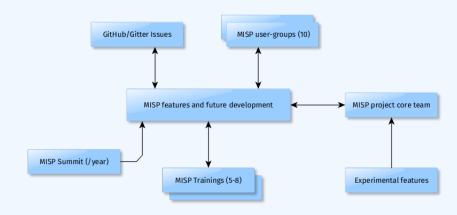
- Sharing difficulties are not really technical issues but often it's a matter of social interactions (e.g. trust).
- Legal restriction¹
 - Our legal framework doesn't allow us to share information
 - Risk of information-leak is too high and it's too risky for our organization or partners.
- Practical restriction
 - ▶ We don't have information to share.
 - We don't have time to process or contribute indicators.
 - Our model of classification doesn't fit your model.
 - Tools for sharing information are tied to a specific format, we use a different one.

https://www.misp-project.org/compliance/

MISP PROJECT OVERVIEW



MISP MODEL OF GOVERNANCE



GETTING SOME NAMING CONVENTIONS OUT OF THE WAY...

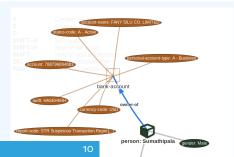
- Data layer
 - Events are encapsulations for contextually linked information
 - Attributes are individual data points, which can be indicators or supporting data.
 - ▶ **Objects** are custom templated Attribute compositions
 - Object references are the relationships between other building blocks

GETTING SOME NAMING CONVENTIONS OUT OF THE WAY...

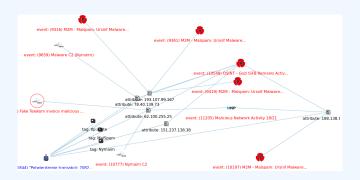
- Context layer
 - ► Tags are labels attached to events/attributes and can come from Taxonomies
 - Android Malware, C2, ...
 - ► **Taxonomies** are a set of common classification allowing to express the same vocabulary among a distributed set of users and organisations
 - tlp:green, false-positive:risk="high", gsma-fraud:technical="sim-card-cloning", gsma-attack-category:spoofing
 - Galaxy-clusters are knowledge base items used to label events/attributes and come from Galaxies. Basically a taxonomy with additional meta-information.
 - Typical Galaxy-clusters: threat actors, preventive measures, ...
 - misp-galaxy:bhadra-framework="Billing frauds", misp-galaxy:bhadra-framework="DNS-based attacks",misp-galaxy:threat-actor="APT 29"

A RICH DATA-MODEL: TELLING STORIES VIA RELATIONSHIPS





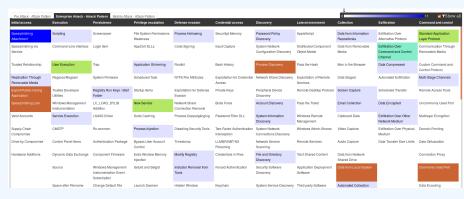
CORRELATION FEATURES: A TOOL FOR ANALYSTS



■ To corroborate a finding (e.g. is this the same campaign?), reinforce an analysis (e.g. do other analysts have the same hypothesis?), confirm a specific aspect (e.g. are the sinkhole IP addresses used for one campaign?) or just find if this threat is new or unknown in your community.

CONTEXTUALISATION AND AGGREGATION

 MISP integrates MITRE's Adversarial Tactics, Techniques, and Common Knowledge (ATT&CK) and similar Galaxy Matrix



SHARING IN MISP: DISTRIBUTION

MISP offers granulars distribution settings:

- Organisation only
- This community
- Connected communities
- All communities
- Distribution lists aka Sharing groups



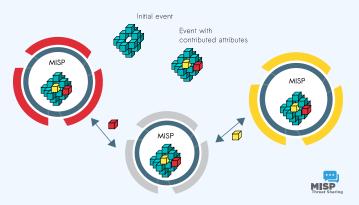
At multiple levels: Events, Attributes and Objects (and their Attributes)

SHARING IN MISP: ADVANCED USAGE

- **Delegation** for pseudo-anonymised information sharing
- Proposals and Extended events for collaborated information sharing
- 2-way synchronisation, Feed system, air-gapped sharing
- User defined filtered sharing for all the above mentioned methods
- Cross-instance information caching for quick lookups of large data-sets
- Support for multi-MISP internal enclaves

MISP CORE DISTRIBUTED SHARING FUNCTIONALITY

- MISP's core functionality is sharing where everyone can be a consumer and/or a contributor/producer.
- Quick benefit without the obligation to contribute.
- Low barrier access to get acquainted to the system.



INFORMATION QUALITY MANAGEMENT

- Correlating data
- Feedback loop from detections via Sightings
- False positive management via the warninglist system
- Enrichment system via MISP-modules
- Integrations with a plethora of tools and formats
- Flexible API and support libraries such as PyMISP to ease integration
- **Timelines** and giving information a temporal context
- Full chain for indicator life-cycle management

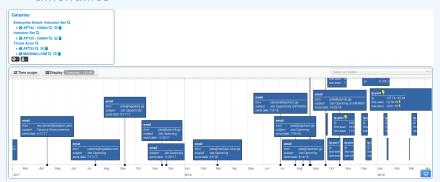
SIGHTINGS SUPPORT



- Has a data-point been sighted by me or the community before?
- Additionally, the sighting system supports negative sightings (FP) and expiration sightings.
- Sightings can be performed via the API or the UI.
- Many use-cases for scoring indicators based on users sighting.
- For large quantities of data,SightingDB by Devo

TIMELINES AND GIVING INFORMATION A TEMPORAL CONTEXT

- Recently introduced first_seen and last_seen data points
- All data-points can be placed in time
- Enables the visualisation and adjustment of indicators timeframes



LIFE-CYCLE MANAGEMENT VIA DECAYING OF INDICATORS



Expiration based on user-defined Models

DFIR AND MISP DIGITAL EVIDENCES

- **Share analysis and report** of digital forensic evidences.
- **Propose changes** to existing analysis or report.
- Extending existing event with additional evidences for local or limited use (sharing can be defined at event level or attribute level).
- Evaluate correlations² of evidences against external or existing attributes.
- **Report sighting** such as false-positive or true-positive (e.g. a partner/analyst has seen a similar indicator).

²MISP has a flexible correlation engine which can correlate on 1-to-1 value but also fuzzy hashing (e.g. ssdeep) or CIDR block matching.

BENEFITS OF USING MISP

- LE can leverage the long-standing experience in information sharing and bridge their use-cases with MISP's information sharing mechanisms.
- Accessing existing MISP information sharing communities by getting actionable information from CSIRTs/CERTs networks or security researchers.
- Bridging LE communities with other communities. Sharing groups can be created (and managed) between cross-sectors to support specific use-cases.
- MISP standard format is a flexible format which can be extended by the users who use the MISP platform. A MISP object template can be created in 30 minutes and directly share information with your model towards existing communities.

FUTURE OF INFORMATION SHARING

- MISP is a long-term project (started in 2012) and since information sharing is becoming more essential than ever to thwart threats, we have long-term plans for the project as the project is used in various critical information exchange communities
- We hope to have the means to be the enablers and the interface for real cross-sectorial sharing and support the organisations facing hybrid threats
- Tools, open standards and interoperable software (e.g. DFIR tools) are driving forces behind resilient information exchange communities
- Getting ideas and practical use-cases from LE community is vital, don't hesitate to contact us