CEREBRATE

COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT AND TOOL ORCHESTRATION

ANDRAS IKLODY & SAMI MOKADDEM

CEREBRATE PROJECT

FIRSTCON22





Who are we?



- The Computer Incident Response Center Luxembourg (CIRCL)
- CIRCL is the CERT for the private sector, communes and non-governmental entities in Luxembourg
- CIRCL leads the development of the open-source MISP threat intelligence platform
 - ► As well as running multiple large MISP communities performain active daily threat-intelligence sharing

MELICERTES II: A QUICK RECAP OF THE MORNING SESSION

- MeliCERTes
- Common tooling for CSIRTs
- Cerebrate a central component of the new tooling
- Takes care of:
 - ► Contact management
 - orchestration
 - Sharing group distribution and management

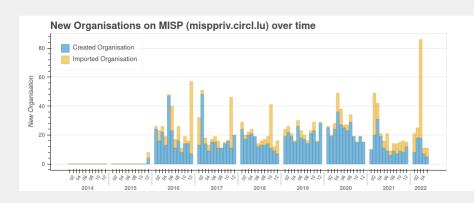
SOME STATS ABOUT ONE OF OUR MISP INSTANCE: MISPPRIV (1)

Events	97680 (+794)
Attributes	29378602
	(+678136)
Attributes / event	301
Correlations found	42930929
Proposals active	2753
Users	4171
Users with PGP keys	2812 (67.4%)
Organisations	2048
Local Organisations	1499
Event creator orgs	600
Average Users / Org	2.8

User and Organisation Statistics

User (Total)	4171
User (Month)	44 ^
User (Year)	268 ^
Org Local (Total)	1499
Org Local (Month)	15 ^
Org Local (Year)	70 ^
Org External (Total)	549
Org External (Month)	4 ^
Org External (Year)	102 ^

SOME STATS ABOUT ONE OF OUR MISP INSTANCE: MISPPRIV (2)



ISSUES WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE

Rising number of communities is great!

- Bridge the gap between between communities
- Sharing with peers that face similar threats
- Reuse of TTPs across sectors
- **Hybrid threats** How seemingly unrelated things may be interesting to correlate
- **Spread the love**, as our field is ahead of several other sectors when it comes to information sharing

ISSUES WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE

However, broader and more diverse communities lead to more issues

- Non-technical issues
 - Sharing difficulties in terms of social interactions (e.g trust)
 - #FirstCON22 greatly helps in that aspect!
 - ► Lots of points of contacts
- Technical issues
 - Centralised identity management
 - ► Data might change or evolve over time
 - ► Loads of UUIDs to manually process
 - Distribution list management is difficult across communities



ISSUES WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE WITH CEREBRATE

- Constituencies of organisations
 - ► Geographic & sectorial
 - ▶ But also technical: CIDR blocks & AS Numbers
- Cryptographic key lookup for information signing
 - MISP's protected event feature (New since MISP v2.4.156)

ISSUES WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE WITH CEREBRATE

- Constituencies of organisations
 - ► Geographic & sectorial
 - ► But also technical: CIDR blocks & AS Numbers
- Cryptographic key lookup for information signing
 - ► MISP's protected event feature (New since MISP v2.4.156)

Hint:

Come to MISP workshop to learn more!



ISSUES WE'RE TRYING TO SOLVE WITH CEREBRATE

- Customisable data model adaptable to each community
 - Based on the sheer amount of different types of communities, it's a must
- Sharing group management
- Synchronisation and lookup system

OUR ATTEMPT AT SOLVING THEM: CEREBRATE

Open source community management and orchestration tool





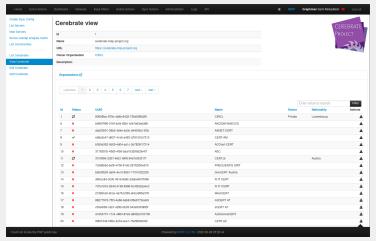
- Central tool for the **Melicertes 2 project** (Co-funded by the EU as a CEF project SMART 2018/1024)
- Rich Contact Database
- Tightly coupled management system and companion for MISP (and other tools)
 - ► Get in touch with us if you need help building integrations!
- Planned as the primary MISP **fleet management** tool

GOALS AND DESIGN

- Goals: Simplicity, lightweight and open-source
- Technologies used: PHP, cakephp4, BS5, ...
 - (almost) the same as in MISP for easier maintainability and code re-use
- IAM centric design
 - ► Tightly integrated with Keycloak
- Core functionalities: Auditing, API
 - Any changes should be easily accessible to counter errors or foul plays
 - ► From our perspective, automation and integration is essential and should be as easy as possible

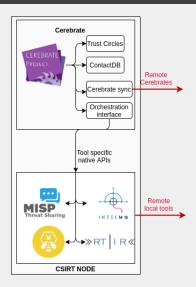
GOALS AND DESIGN

Built with tool integration in mind, acting as a contact database



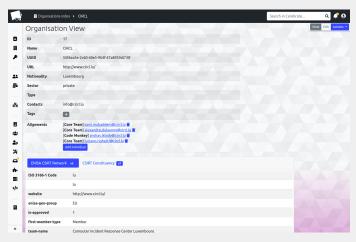
MISP is able to look up Organisations & Sharing Group in
Cerebrate

CEREBRATE'S PLACE IN A TYPICAL CSIRT SOFTWARE STACK

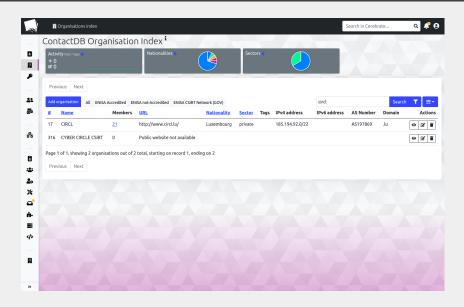


CEREBRATE'S CONTACT DATABASE

- Contact database for the CSIRT network
 - Common contact fields such as UUID, name, contact email address, nationality, URL, ...

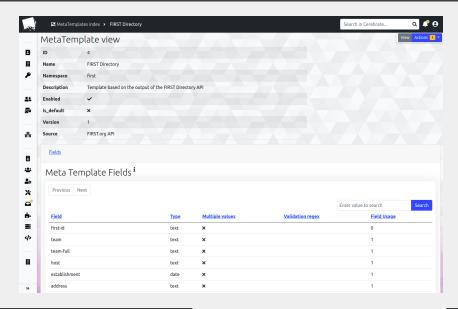


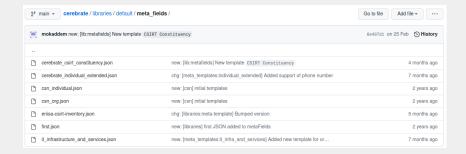
CEREBRATE'S CONTACT DATABASE



- Flexible system to store additional information: meta-fields (KV-store)
- These meta-fields are part of a larger structure called meta-templates
- Support of multiple templates used by various entities out there
 - ► FIRST Directory
 - ► ENISA CSIRT inventory
 - ► CSIRT Constituency (CIDR blocks, AS Numbers, ...)

FIRST Directory v1	ENISA CSIRT Network
team	CIRCL
team-full	CIRCL - Computer Incident Response Center Luxembourg
host	security made in Lëtzebuerg" (SMILE) g.i.e.
establishment	2008-01-05
address	CIRCL - Computer Incident Response Center Luxembourg c/o smile - "security made in Letzebuerg" GIE 16, bd d'Avranches L-1160 Luxembourg"
country	Luxembourg
website	https://www.circl.lu/
email	info@circl.lu
timezone	GMT+1
operating-hours	During legal workdays (Monday to Friday) from 9:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 Central European Time (GMT+0100, GMT+0200 from April to October according to daylight saving periode)
constituency	Government, Private and Public sectors
constituency- description	CIRCL is the CERT for the private sector, communes and non-governmental entities for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
member-since	May 29, 2014
This meta-template conta	ins 13 meta-fields

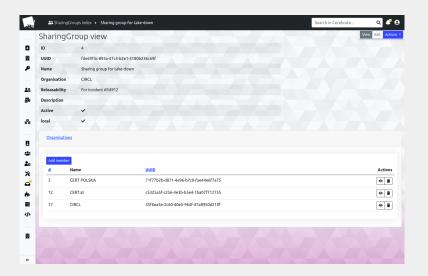




CEREBRATE'S CONTACT DATABASE: SHARING GROUP MANAGEMENT

- Easy way to **create** and **share** distribution lists
- Allow sharing groups to be **reusable**
- Circumvent limitations of traditional Threat Intelligence Sharing Platform
 - ► The exchange of sharing groups on creation / modification rather than on data exchange
 - Avoids the duplication of similar sharing groups

CEREBRATE'S CONTACT DATABASE: SHARING GROUP MANAGEMENT

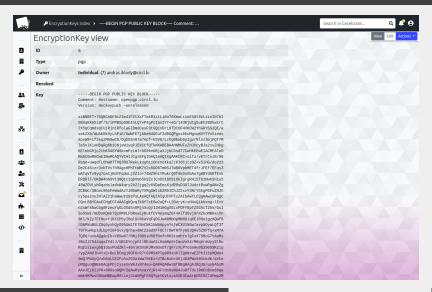


CEREBRATE'S CONTACT DATABASE: IDENTITY AND SIGNING

- Cerebrate can act as a trusted contact database containing cryptographic keys (PGP, S/MIME)
- Which can be used by other application to sign and validate information
 - ► See MISP's protected Event feature



CEREBRATE'S CONTACT DATABASE: IDENTITY AND SIGNING



CEREBRATE'S CONTACT DATABASE: OPEN DIRECTORY

- Cerebrate can be configured to act as an open directory of contact information
- Other tools (including other Cerebrate nodes) can use this directory
- Allows for information and information source validation

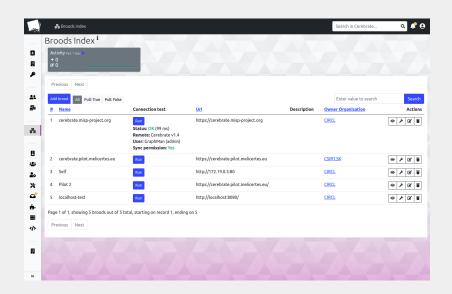


DATA SHARING

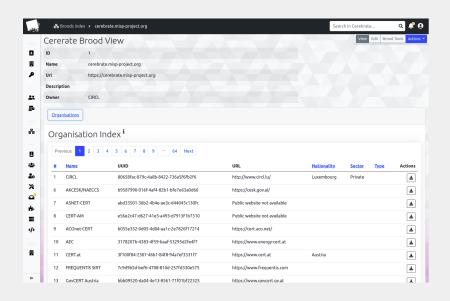
Basically the same strategy as the one used in MISP:

- Connect with other Cerebrate nodes
- **Diagnose** connectivity issues
- Remotely **browse** data of the other node
- Fetch and save organisation, individual, sharing-group data

DATA SHARING



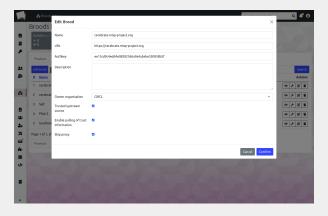
DATA SHARING



DATA SHARING: SYNCHRONISATION STRATEGIES

Two synchronisation strategies:

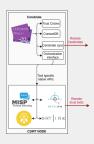
- 1. Standard: Only fetch and save new records
- 2. **Trusted upstream source**: Remote Cerebrate acts as an authoritative instance



MANAGING LOCAL TOOLS

Why would Cerebrate have integration with other tools?

- To support information sharing, being able to validate information sources is crucial
- Traditional information sharing software stacks have to have their own organisation database
- Why re-invent the wheel everytime?



MANAGING LOCAL TOOLS

There will inevitably be integration between local tools and Cerebrate. Why not go a step further?

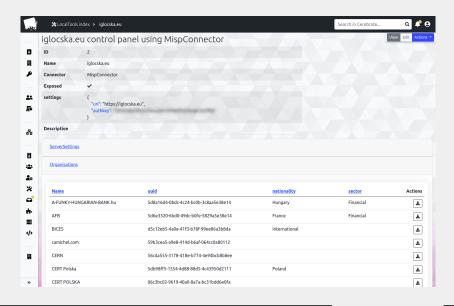
- Cerebrate exposes a modular system to manage these local tools
- Based on a configuration file, user interfaces can be created to visualise data and instruct local tools to perform operations



LOCAL TOOL: MISP CONNECTOR CAPABILITIES

- **Configure** a MISP instances via server settings
- **Fetch** Organisations & Sharing Groups
- **Diagnose** other connected MISP servers
- Manage users, ...

LOCAL TOOL: MISP CONNECTOR CAPABILITIES

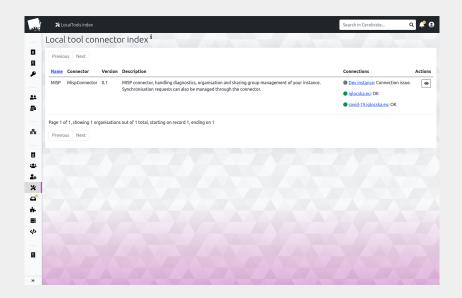


LOCAL TOOL: MISP CONNECTOR CAPABILITIES

Why do one when we can do many?

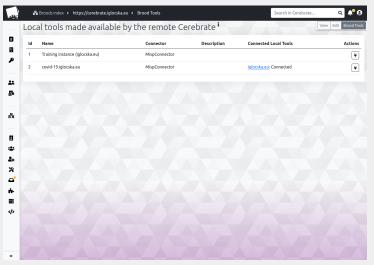
- Cerebrate can connect to multiple tools via its associated connector
- Allowing local tool fleet management
 - ► MISP fleet management!

LOCAL TOOL: MISP FLEET MANAGEMENT



- Cerebrate's main goal is to ease community management
- Select which local tools are meant to be exposed to the community for requests
- Open dialogues to community members to request tool-to-tool interconnections

Cerebrate can leverage its access to local tool to reach out to tools from other Cerebrate nodes



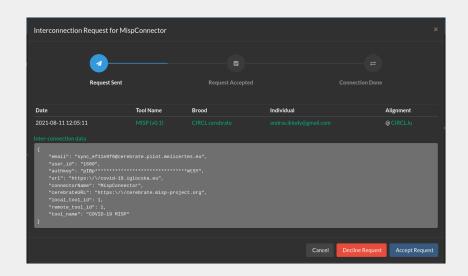
36

- Local tools can be **exposed** to other Cerebrate nodes
- Inter-connection requests can be issued from one node to another
- Following a 3-way handshake protocol, inter-connections can be:
 - ▶ Issued
 - ► Accepted
 - ► Finalised

43



MISP INTERCONNECTION VIA CEREBRATE



WHAT ELSE DOES CEREBRATE HAVE?

- Mailing list management
- ACL system
- Inbox system
 - ► Inter-connection requests, enrolment requests
- Tagging
- Update system
- Audit logs
- Open API

WHAT ELSE DOES CEREBRATE HAVE?

Cerebrate has dark theme and more!





CURRENT ROADMAP

- Data signing / validation
 - ► Community centric PKI
 - ► Enable data validation services for tools such as MISP
- Integration with other tools
 - ► Ticketing systems
 - ► Tighter Mailing list integration (Mailman)
 - ► Messaging App (Mattermost)

THANKS!

- Want to integrate your tool with Cerebrate?
 - \rightarrow Get in touch!
- Want to have a live demo?
 - \rightarrow Get in touch!
- Want to suggest features or integrations? That's right → Get in touch!