Module 1: Mapping to ATT&CK® from Narrative Reports

Adam Pennington November 2020

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Learn to identify behaviors in narrative reporting

Module 1 Objectives

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Understand how to translate behaviors into Tactics, Techniques, and Sub-Techniques



Practice mapping narrative reporting to ATT&CK®



Understand analyst and source bias, and learn how to hedge against them



Module 1 Agenda



Lesson 1.1:Challenges, Advantages, and the ATT&CK® Mapping Process



Lesson 1.2: Finding and Researching Behaviors



Lesson 1.3: Translating Behaviors into Tactics



Lesson 1.4: Identifying Techniques and Sub-techniques



Lesson 1.5: Mapping to a Narrative Report



Lesson 1.6: Hedging Your Biases



Lesson 1.1: Challenges, Advantages, and the Process of Mapping to ATT&CK



Lesson 1.1 Objectives

Recognize the prerequisites to ATT&CK mapping

Understand the challenges and advantages to mapping to ATT&CK

Learn the ATT&CK process for mapping to narrative reporting



Understand ATT&CK

You need to know what to look for before you can start mapping Get Started with ATT&CK

- Complete the ATT&CK Fundamentals training
- Watch an ATT&CK presentation like MITRE ATT&CK: The Play at Home Edition, from Black Hat USA 2019
- Read the Philosophy Paper and items from ATT&CK's Getting Started page
- Read the Tactic descriptions
- Skim the Techniques and Sub-techniques
- Challenge yourself to ongoing learning and discussion
 - Learn a Technique and associated Sub-techniques a week
 - Review Techniques and Sub-techniques with another analyst or a team

Mapping to ATT&CK: Challenges and Advantages

Challenges

- Mapping to ATT&CK requires a shift in thinking
- The volume of ATT&CK techniques & subtechniques can seem overwhelming
- The "technical" detail of some ATT&CK techniques can seem complex

Advantages

- Forces a shift in thinking about behaviors: from indicators
- Allows opportunities to discover new adversary techniques
- Facilitates enhanced learning of the "technical" side





Lesson 1.1 Summary

Reviewed the prerequisites to ATT&CK mapping and the associated resources to get started with ATT&CK

Assessed some of the challenges and corresponding advantages of mapping to ATT&CK

Examined the ATT&CK mapping process for narrative reporting





Lesson 1.2: ATT&CK® Mapping Process: Finding and Researching the Behavior



Lesson 1.2 Objectives

Discover how to find behaviors (Step 1)

Learn how to research behaviors (Step 2)

Review narrative reporting for example behaviors



Step 1: Find the Behavior

01

Look for what the adversary or software does during the steps of the compromise 02

Focus on precompromise, initial compromise and postcompromise details

 Identify how the adversary gained initial access and how they moved through the compromise of the victim network/system 03

Look for the "verbs" in the narrative reporting to identify adversary behavior, such as:

- 'used email attachments,'
- 'create scheduled task,' and
- 'installed tools'



Step 1: Find the Behavior

Information that may not be useful for ATT&CK mapping are those that don't provide details about adversary behavior, such as:

- Static malware analysis
- Infrastructure registration information
- Stand-alone industry/victim targeting information



Step 1: Find the Behavior

The most interesting PDB string is the "4113.pdb," which appears to reference CVE-2014-4113. This CVE is a local kernel vulnerability that, with successful exploitation, would give any user SYSTEM access on the machine.

The malware component, test.exe, uses the Windows command "cmd.exe" /C whoami" to verify it is running with the elevated privileges of "System" and creates persistence by creating the following scheduled task:

schtasks /create /tn "mysc" /tr C:\Users\Public\test.exe /sc ONLOGE [Tactic] | 2. [Technique/Sub-[Tactic] | 1. [Technique/Sub-technique] When executed, the malware first establishes a SOCKS5 connection to 192.157.198.103 using TCP port 1913. The malware sends the SOCKS5 connection request "05 01 00" and verifies the server response starts with " 00".

https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2014/11/operation_doubletap.html

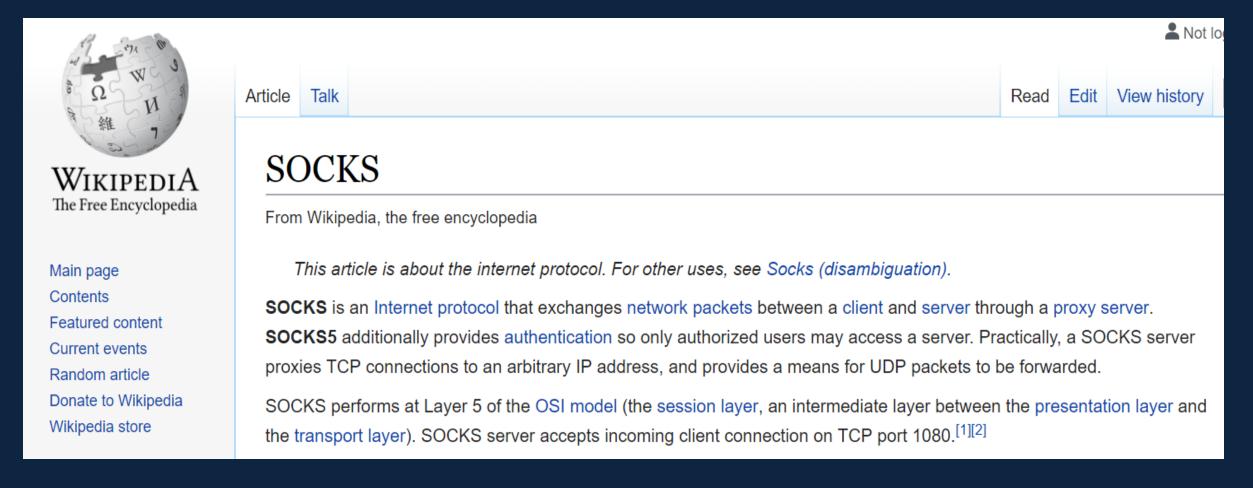


Step 2: Research the Behavior

- Perform additional research on unfamiliar adversary/software behaviors
 - Examine details about network protocols that were used including their OSI layer/capabilities, assigned port number, associated service, and any potential vulnerabilities that can be leveraged by adversaries, such as SMB
 - □ Collaborate within your own organization (defenders/red teamers)
 - □ Leverage external resources
- Understanding core behaviors helps with next steps and enhances analytic skills



Step 2: Research the Behavior





Step 2. Research the Behavior

speed guide.net							
B Home » Ports Database » Port Details							
Port 1913 Details threat/application/port search: known port assignments and vulnerabilities							
Port(s)	Protocol	Service		Details	Source		
1913	tcp,udp	armadp	armadp		IANA		
1 records found							

https://www.speedguide.net/port.php?port=1913



Lesson 1.2 Summary

Learned the guidelines and reviewed tips for finding behaviors

Reviewed the importance of understanding core behaviors and performing additional research on unfamiliar behaviors

Examined research resources and reviewed narrative reporting



Lesson 1.3: ATT&CK® Mapping Process: Translating the Behavior into a Tactic



Lesson 1.3 Objectives

Understand the 14 Tactics and why they matter

Practice identifying a behavior in narrative reporting

Learn how to translate behaviors into Tactics



- Consider: what goals is the adversary trying to accomplish?
- There are only 14 options
- for tactics:
 - Reconnaissance
 - Resource Development
 - Initial Access
 - Execution
 - Persistence
 - Privilege Escalation
 - Defense Evasion

- Credential Access
- Discovery
- Lateral Movement
- Collection
- Command and Control
- Exfiltration
- Impact

TACTIC	BEHAVIOR
Reconnaissanc e	The adversary is trying to gather information they can use to plan future operations.
Resource Development	The adversary is trying to establish resources they can use to support operations.
Initial Access	Initial Access consists of techniques that use various entry vectors to gain their initial foothold within a network.
Execution	Execution consists of techniques that result in adversary-controlled code running on a local or remote system.
Persistence	Persistence consists of techniques that adversaries use to keep access to systems across restarts, changed credentials, and other interruptions that could cut off their access.



TACTIC	BEHAVIOR	
Privilege Escalation	Privilege Escalation consists of techniques that adversaries use to gain higher-level permissions on a system or network.	
Defense Evasion	Defense Evasion consists of techniques that adversaries use to avoid detection throughout their compromise.	
Credential Access	Credential Access consists of techniques for stealing credentials like account names and passwords.	
Discovery	Discovery consists of techniques an adversary may use to gain knowledge about the system and internal network.	
Lateral Movement	Lateral Movement consists of techniques that adversaries use to enter and control remote systems on a network.	



TACTIC	BEHAVIOR
Collection	Collection consists of techniques adversaries may use to gather information and the sources information is collected from that are relevant to following through on the adversary's objectives.
Command and Control	Command and Control consists of techniques that adversaries may use to communicate with systems under their control within a victim network.
Exfiltration	Exfiltration consists of techniques that adversaries may use to steal data from your network. Once they've collected data, adversaries often package it to avoid detection while removing it. This can include compression and encryption.
Impact	Impact consists of techniques that adversaries use to disrupt availability or compromise integrity by manipulating business and operational processes.



When executed, the malware first establishes a SOCKS5 connection to 192.157.198.103 using TCP port 1913. ... Once the connection to the server is established, the malware expects a message containing at least three bytes from the server. These first three bytes are the command identifier. The following commands are supported by the malware ... "

□ A connection in order to command the malware to do something → Command and Control



Lesson 1.3 Summary

Examined the types of behaviors associated with the 14 Tactics

Reviewed how to link behaviors to adversary goals

Translated a behavior into the corresponding Tactic



Lesson 1.4: ATT&CK® Mapping Process: Identifying Techniques or Sub-techniques



Lesson 1.4 Objectives

Learn the key strategies for identifying Techniques and Sub-techniques

Review strategy examples and external resources to use for research

Identify Techniques and Sub-techniques in narrative reporting (Step 4)



Identifying the technique or sub-technique is often the most challenging step

- □ Techniques and subs are not always easy to identify
- Some techniques help facilitate more than one tactic, and this is reflected throughout ATT&CK
 - For example, Hijack Execution Flow: DLL Side-Loading [T1574.002] falls under Persistence, Privilege Escalation, Defense Evasion



- Not every behavior is necessarily a technique or sub-technique
 Not all adversary behaviors can or should be used as a basis for alerting or providing data to an analyst not every behavior that can be mapped is malicious
 - Context is key: assessing the circumstances around the behavior can help identify if its malicious in nature (e.g., tools used by attackers that are not explicitly malicious, but their hostile usage is)

□ Not all possible techniques are documented, nor will they ever be



Key Strategies

Review the list of Techniques and Sub-techniques for the Tactic you previously identified

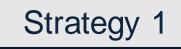
Search

attack.mitre.org

- Use the
 - search bar
- Leverage"CTRL + F

Assess a few Group and Software pages to understand how ATT&CK performs technique analysis





WORLD

Review the list of Techniques and Sub-techniques for the Tactic you previously identified



 \bigcirc

When figuring out what Sub-techniques apply to behaviors, leverage the same key strategies used for finding Techniques Review the behavior for the associated Tactic, assess the corresponding list of Techniques and Subtechniques, or work through key word searches/procedure level details

Level of Report Detail:

- Sometimes it makes more sense to map the Technique first before moving to Sub-techniques
- Other times, based on the level of detail in the report, it might be simpler to identify the Sub-technique immediately

Strategy 2

Search the ATT&CK site

 Key Words
 Try key words searches in the search bar
 CRTL+F
 Use "CRTL + F" keyword searches across the list of techniques
 Details and Commands Strings
 Try "procedure"-level detail
 Try specific command strings



Strategy 3

Assess a few "Techniques Used" on the Group and Software pages to review how ATT&CK performs technique analysis

Techniques Used

ATT&CK[®] Navigator Layers -

Domain	ID		Name	Use
Enterprise	T1568	.003	Dynamic Resolution: DNS Calculation	APT12 has used multiple variants of DNS Calculation including multiplying the first two octets of an IP address and adding the third octet to that value in order to get a resulting command and control port. ^[1]
Enterprise	T1203		Exploitation for Client Execution	APT12 has exploited multiple vulnerabilities for execution, including Microsoft Office vulnerabilities (CVE-2009-3129, CVE-2012-0158) and vulnerabilities in Adobe Reader and Flash (CVE-2009-4324, CVE-2009-0927, CVE-2011-0609, CVE-2011-0611). ^{[2][3]}
Enterprise	T1566	.001	Phishing: Spearphishing Attachment	APT12 has sent emails with malicious Microsoft Office documents and PDFs attached. ^{[2][3]}
Enterprise	T1204	.002	User Execution: Malicious File	APT12 has attempted to get victims to open malicious Microsoft Word and PDF attachment sent via spearphishing. ^{[2][3]}
Enterprise	T1102	.002	Web Service: Bidirectional Communication	APT12 has used blogs and WordPress for C2 infrastructure. ^[1]
(\mathbf{x})				

Example: Keyword Search: Search Bar

- Take adversary behaviors such as:
 - (1) 'used email attachments,'
 - \square (2) 'create scheduled task,' and
 - □ (3) 'installed tools'
- Use the ATT&CK search bar:
 - □ (1) Phishing: Spearphishing Attachment, Sub-technique T1566.001
 - □ (2) Scheduled Task/Job, T1053 (potential Sub-technique T1053.005)
 - (3) Ingress Tool Transfer, T1105



Example: Keyword Search: Search Bar

"the malware first establishes a SOCKS5 connection"

SOCKS

Socksbot, Software S0273

Socksbot Socksbot is a backdoor that abuses Socket Secure (SOCKS) proxies. 2018 Last Modified: 30 March 2020 Versio...

Non-Application Layer Protocol, Technique T1095 - Enterprise

... er protocols, such as the Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP), transpo such as Socket Secure (SOCKS), as well as redirected/tunneled protocols, suc Because ICMP is part of the Internet Protocol Suite, it is require...

Proxy, Technique T1090 - Enterprise

... e Version Procedure Examples Name Description APT41 APT41 used a tool body has the ability to use a reverse **SOCKS** proxy module.[27] AuditCred Audit proxy server between the victim and C2 server.[10] Blue Mockingbird Blue Moc

Wizard Spider, TEMP.MixMaster, Grim Spider, Group G0102

... liver Microsoft documents containing macros to download either Emotet, Bo NewBCtestnDll64 as a reverse SOCKS proxy.[2] Enterprise T1021 .001 Remote movement.[2] Enterprise T1018 Remote System Discovery Wizard Spider has u

Command and Control, Tactic TA0011 - Enterprise ... er protocols, such as the Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP), transpo

Non-Application Layer Protocol

Adversaries may use a non-application layer protocol for communication between host and C2 server or among infected hosts within a network. The list of possible protocols is extensive.^[1] Specific examples include use of network layer protocols, such as the Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP), transport layer protocols, such as the User Datagram Protocol (UDP), session layer protocols, such as Socket Secure (SOCKS), as well as redirected/tunneled protocols, such as Serial over LAN (SOL).

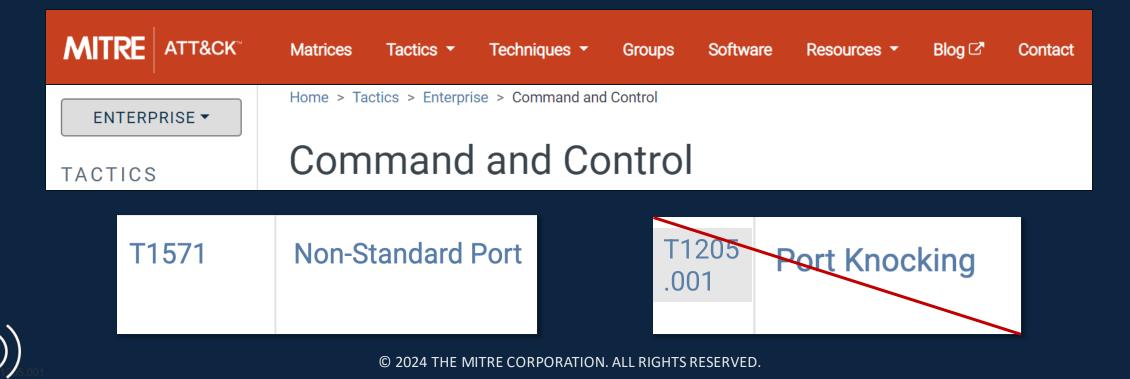
ICMP communication between hosts is one example. Because ICMP is part of the Internet Protocol Suite, it is required to be implemented by all IP-compatible hosts; ^[2] however, it is not as commonly monitored as other Internet Protocols such as TCP or UDP and may be used by adversaries to hide communications.

BUBBLEWRAP can communicate using SOCKS.^[4]

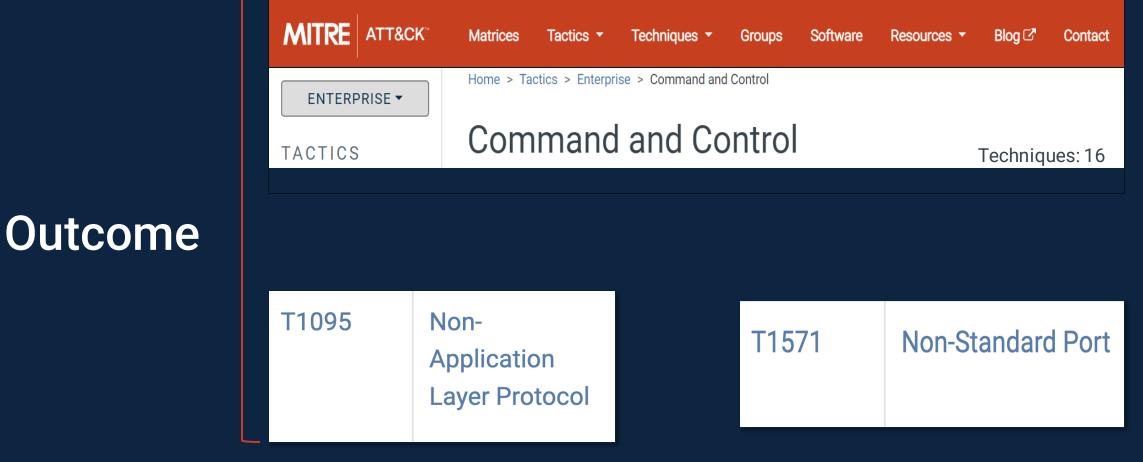
Step 4. Identify What Technique & Sub Applies

Example: Keyword Search: CRTL + F

"establishes a SOCKS5 connection to 192.157.198.103 using TCP port 1913"



Step 4. Identify What Technique & Sub Applies





Step 4. Identify What Technique & Sub Applies

Knowledge Check: What Techniques/Sub-techniques Can You Identify?

The most interesting PD Privilege Escalation (3) Exploitation for Privilege Escalation (1)068) 3. This CVE is a local kernel vul Execution (4. Command and Scripting Interpreter: Windows Command Shell (11059.003) hachine.

The malware component, test.exe, uses the **Discovery | 5. System Owner/User Discovery (T1033)** y it is running with the elevated privileges of "System" and **Persistence of 16. Scheduled Task/Job: Scheduled Task (T1053.005)**

schtasks /create /tn "mysc" /tr C:\Users\Public\test.exe /sc ONLOGON Command and Control | 2. Non-Standard Port (T1571)

When execute **Command and Control** 1, Non-Application Layer Protocol (T1095) 8.103 using TCP port 1913. The malware sends the SOCKS5 connection request "05 01 00" and verifies the server response starts with "05 00".



Lesson 1.4 Summary

Learned the key strategies for identifying Techniques and Sub-techniques

Reviewed applying the strategies on the ATT&CK site and leveraging external resources to use for research

Practiced Identifying Techniques and Sub-techniques in narrative reporting





Lesson 1.5: Mapping to a Narrative Report



Lesson 1.5 Objectives

Practice identifying the Tactics, Techniques and Sub-techniques in a Narrative Report

Compare your results to another analyst's outcomes

Review the exercise results



Exercise 1: Mapping to a Narrative Report

- Analyze a threat report using the ATT&CK® mapping process to find the techniques and sub-techniques
 - 21 highlighted techniques and sub-techniques in the Cybereason Cobalt Kitty report
- 1. Review the Cobalt Kitty report under the Resource Section
 - Choose "highlights only" or "tactic hints"
- 2. Use the PDF or a text document/piece of paper to record your results
- 3. Write down the ATT&CK tactic and technique or sub-technique you think applies to each behavior
- Remember:
 - Do search bar and keyword searches of the ATT&CK website: <u>https://attack.mitre.org</u>
 - □ You don't have to be perfect!
 - $\hfill\square$ Use this as a chance to dive into ATT&CK

We suggest giving yourself 30 minutes for this exercise.

Exercise 1 Optional Bonus Step: Comparing Your Results

- Step 5 of the ATT&CK mapping process: Compare your results to other analysts
- Collaboration helps hedge against analyst biases
- Compare what you each had for each technique answer
 - Discuss where there are differences how did you arrive at your conclusions?
 - □ It's okay to disagree!
- Please pause. We suggest giving yourself 10 minutes for this part of the exercise. If you do not have other analysts to discuss your answers with, you may advance to the next portion.



Reviewing the Exercise: Cybereason Report

Consider:

What were the *easiest* & *hardest* techniques or subtechniques to identify?



How did you identify each technique or sub?



What challenges did you have? How did you address them?



1. Two types of payloads were found in the spear-phishing email... link to a malicious site

- □ Initial Access Phishing: Spearphishing Link (T1566.002)
- 2. Two types of payloads were found in the spear-phishing emails ... Word documents
 - □ Initial Access Phishing: Spearphishing Attachment (T1566.001)

3. Two types of payloads were found in the spear-phishing emails ... Word documents with malicious macros

- Defense Evasion/Execution Command Scripting Interpreter: Visual Basic (T1059.005)
- 4. Two types of payloads were found in the spear-phishing emails

<u>Execution – User Execution: Malicious Link (T1204.001)</u> RE CORPORATION. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.



□ Execution – Command and Scripting Interpreter: Windows Command Shell (T1059.003)

6. The two scheduled tasks are created on infected Windows

Execution/Persistence - Scheduled Task/Job: Scheduled Task (T1053.005)

7. schtasks /create /sc MINUTE /tn "Windows Error Reporting" /tr "mshta.exe about:'<script language=\"vbscript\"...

Execution/Defense Evasion – Signed Binary Proxy Execution: Mshta (T1218.005)

8. That downloads and executes an additional payload from the same server © Command and Control – Ingress Tool Transfer(T1105)



9. powershell.exe 📀 😳

- □ Execution Command and Scripting Interpreter: PowerShell (T1059.001)
- 10. it will pass an obfuscated and XOR'ed PowerShell payload to cmd.exe
 - Defense Evasion Obfuscated Files or Information (T1027)
- 11. The attackers used trivial but effective persistence techniques .. Those techniques consist of: Windows Registry Autorun
 - □ Persistence Boot or Logon Autostart Execution: Registry Run Keys/Startup Folder (T1547.001)
- 12. the attackers used NTFS Alternate Data Stream to hide their payloads
 - Defense Evasion NTFS File Attributes (T1096)

https://cybr.ly/cobaltkitty

13 & 14. The attackers created and/or modified Windows Services

- □ Persistence System Services: Service Execution (T1569.002)
- □ Persistence Create or Modify System Process: Windows Service (T1543.003)
- 15 & 16. The attackers used a malicious Outlook backdoor macro ... edited a specific registry value to create persistence
 - □ Persistence Office Application Startup (T1137)
 - □ Defense Evasion Modify Registry (T1112)

17. The attackers used different techniques and protocols to communicate with the C&C servers ... HTTP

□ Command and Control - Application Layer Protocol: Web Protocols (T1071.001)



18 & 19. The attackers downloaded COM scriptlets using regsvr32.exe

- □ Command and Control Ingress Tool Transfer (T1105)
- □ Execution Signed Binary Proxy Execution: Regsvr32 (T1218.010)

20. binary was renamed "kb-10233.exe", masquerading as a Windows update

- Defense Evasion Masquerading: Match Legitimate Name or Location (T1036.005)
- 21. network scanning against entire ranges...looking for open ports...

Discovery - Network Service Scanning (T1046)



Optional Exercise 2: Bonus Report

 If you'd like more practice mapping narrative reporting to ATT&CK, work through the FireEye APT39 report using the same process.

□ The PDF is available in the Resource section under Exercise 2.

Answers are provided in a separate PDF.



Lesson 1.5 Summary

Practiced identifying the Tactics, Techniques and Sub-techniques in a Narrative Report

Reviewed the importance of comparing your results to another analyst's outcomes

Evaluated the exercise results

Lesson 1.6: Hedging Your Biases



Lesson 1.6 Objectives

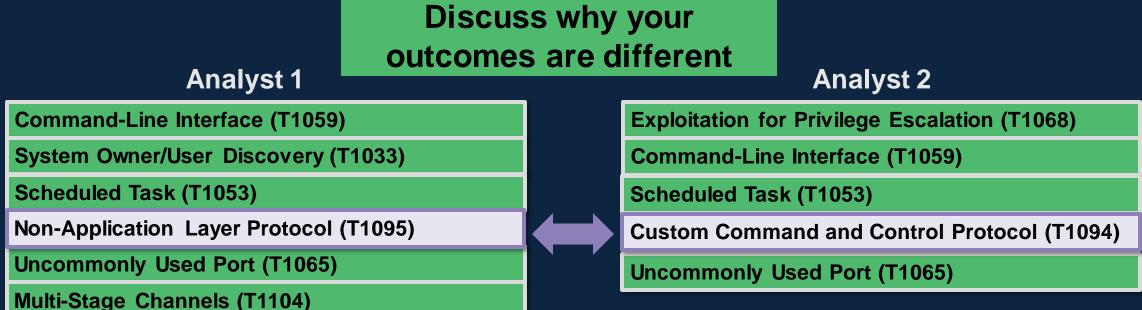
Review the importance of collaboratively assessing ATT&CK® mappings

Learn about analyst and source biases and ways to hedge against them



Step 5. Compare Your Results

 Comparing your results to other analysts helps hedge against analyst biases





Be consistent in how you map and apply techniques: If other analysts can't review your mappings, ensure you're consistent in how you think of and apply a technique.

Skipping Steps in the Mapping Process

- Once you're experienced with ATT&CK mapping you maybe able to skip steps
 - 1. Find the behavior
 - 2. Research the behavior
 - 3. Translate the behavior into a tactic
 - 4. Identify the applicable technique or sub-technique
 - 5. Compare your results to other analysts

 But this increases your bias, and it won't work every time





Biases in ATT&CK Mapped Data

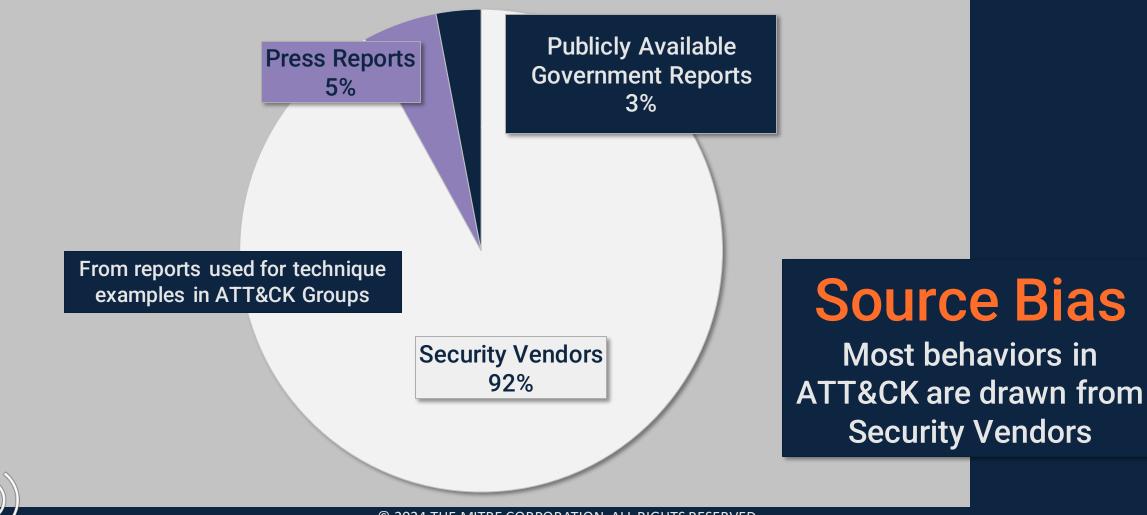
It is critical to recognize our biases in CTI

Two key types of bias in technique examples in ATT&CK
 Bias introduced by us as consumers
 Bias inherent in the sources we use

 Understanding these biases is the crucial first step in effectively leveraging this data



Consumer Biases: Source



Consumer Biases: Novelty & Availability

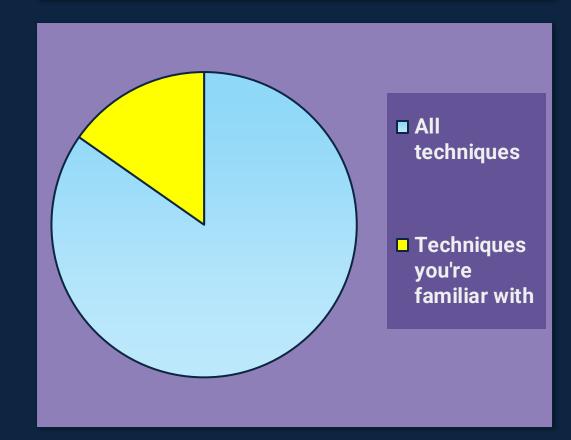
Novelty Bias

Repetitive behaviors vs. Exciting Emerging Threats

FUZZYDUCK APT1337 using **Transmitted Data** using PowerShell Manipulation!!!

Availability Bias

Techniques we remember vs. techniques we're not as familiar with



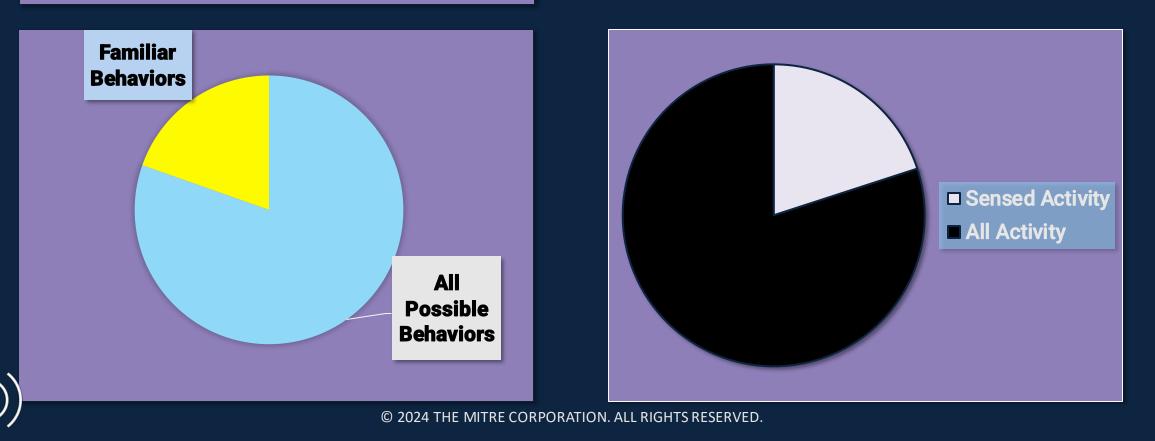
Source Biases: Availability and Visibility

Availability Bias

Reporting and Attribution skewed towards the incident response data/specific behaviors each vendor sees regularly

Visibility Bias

Data aligned with sensors vs all activity



Source Biases: Victim and Novelty

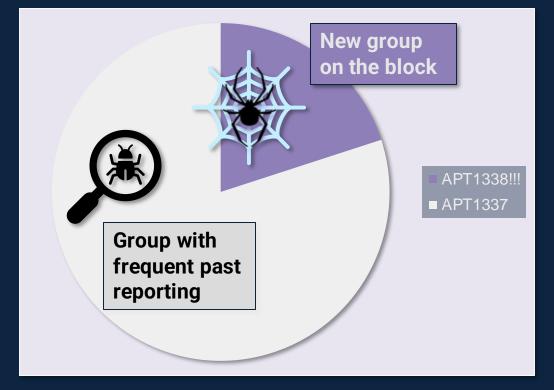
Victim Bias

Report development impacted by the interest the victim/ target engenders, and how open they are to reporting

Novelty Bias

Marketing and Level of Impact can motivate what type of reports are produced





Strategies for Hedging Biases

01: Collaborate

02: Adjust & Calibrate

03: Diverse Sources

04: Prioritize the Known



Collaborate and identify ways to mitigate biases

Diversity of thought makes for stronger teams



Adjust and calibrate your data sources



Add different data sources (including your own)



Prioritize the *known* over the *unknown*

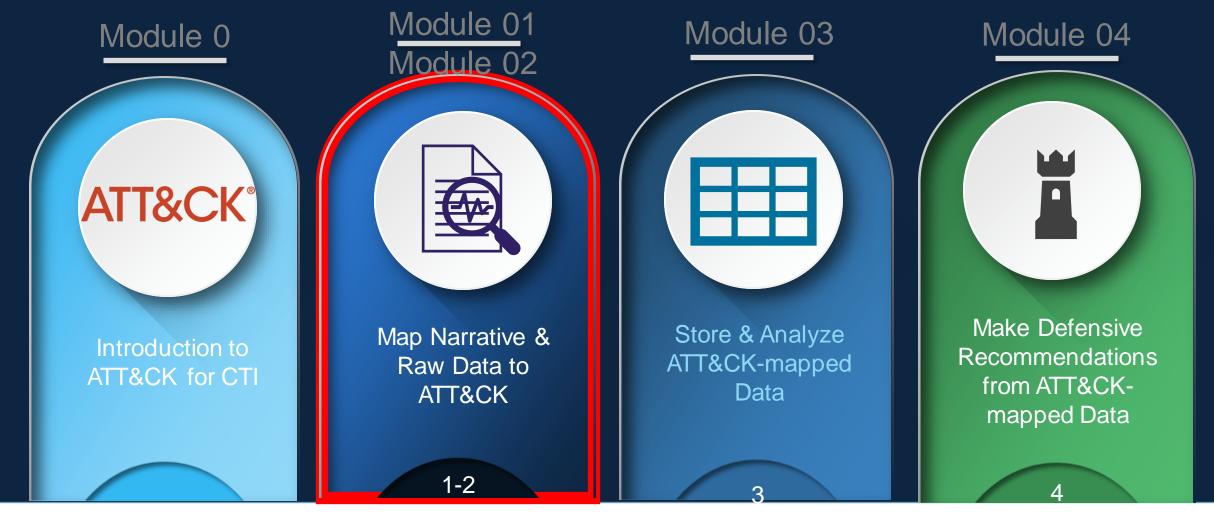
As opposed to absolute comparison

Lesson 1.6 Summary

Reviewed the importance of working with other analysts to collaboratively assess ATT&CK mappings to increase accuracy and minimize bias

Reviewed key user and source biases and ways to hedge against them in order to effectively leverage ATT&CK





ATT&CK for CTI

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Next Up:

Module 2: Mapping to ATT&CK from Raw Data

