An Introduction to Cybersecurity Information Sharing
MISP - Malware Information Sharing Platform & Threat Sharing

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Agenda

- (10:00 - 10:45) Introduction to MISP and information sharing
- (10:45 - 12:15) MISP user perspective from manual analysis to feeds
- (12:15 - 13:30) **Lunch Break**
- (13:30 - 14:00) MISP and integration
- (14:00 - 14:45) MISP admin perspective
- (14:45 - 15:25) Taxonomies, warning-lists, galaxies
- (15:25 - 15:35) **Short Break**
- (15:35 - 16:00) Modules - user perspective
- (16:00 - 16:45) Viper: a use-case
- (16:45 - 17:00) Future, discussions, ...

MISP and starting 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**.

Development based on practical user feedback

- There are many different types of users of an information sharing platform like MISP:
  - **Malware reversers** willing to share indicators of analysis with respective colleagues.
  - **Security analysts** searching, validating and using indicators in operational security.
  - **Intelligence analysts** gathering information about specific adversary groups.
  - **Law-enforcement** relying on indicators to support or bootstrap their DFIR cases.
  - **Risk analysis teams** willing to know about the new threats, likelyhood and occurences.
  - **Fraud analysts** willing to share financial indicators to detect financial frauds.

MISP model of governance
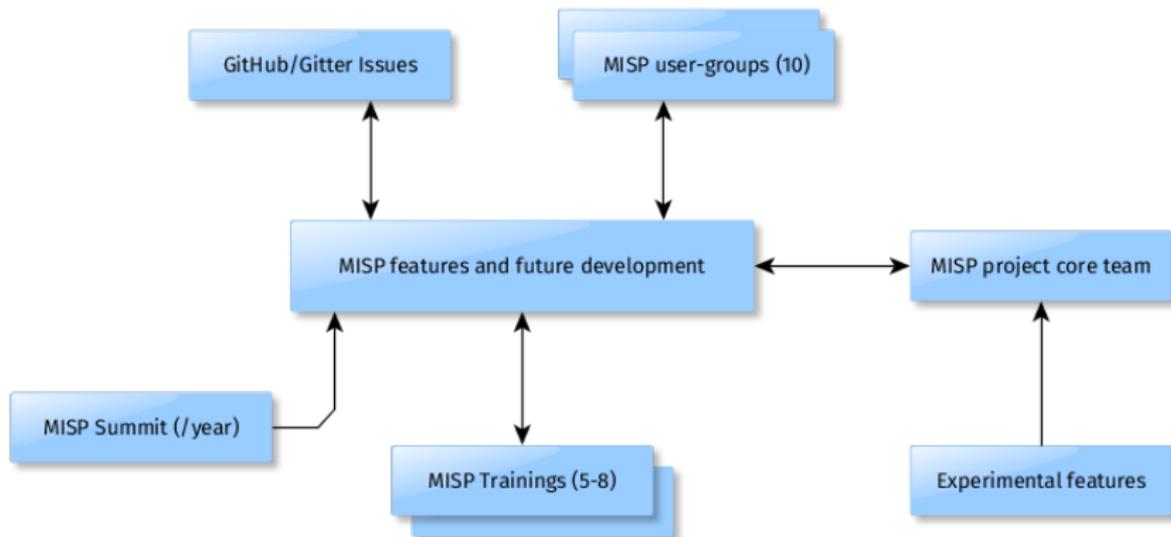
Many objectives from different user-groups

- 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?'
- $\rightarrow$ 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 restriction
  - "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."

MISP Project Overview

- The **core project**[a] (PHP/Python) supports the backend, API and UI.
- Modules (Python) to expand MISP functionalities.
- Taxonomies (JSON) to add categories and global tagging.
- Warning-lists (JSON) to help analysts to detect potential false-positives.
- Galaxy (JSON) to add threat-actors, tools or "intelligence".
- Objects (JSON) to allow for templated composition of security related atomic points of information.

MISP Threat Sharing

Galaxy

warning-lists

Taxonomies

modules (import, export, enrichment)

MISP features

- MISP[1] is a threat information sharing free and open source software.
- MISP has **a host of functionalities** that assist users in creating, collaborating and sharing threat information - e.g. flexible sharing groups, **automatic correlation**, free-text import helper, event distribution and proposals.
- Many export formats which support IDSes / IPSes (e.g. Suricata, Bro, Snort), SIEMs (eg CEF), Host scanners (e.g. OpenIOC, STIX, CSV, yara), analysis tools (e.g. Maltego), DNS policies (e.g. RPZ)
- After some years of trial-and-error, we explain the background behind current and new **MISP features**.

[1]https://github.com/MISP/MISP

Communities using MISP

- Communities are groups of users sharing within a set of common objectives/values.
- CIRCL operates multiple MISP instances with a significant user base (more than 800 organizations with more than 1900 users).
- **Trusted groups** running MISP communities in island mode or partially connected mode.
- **Financial sector** (banks, ISACs, payment processing organizations) use MISP as a sharing mechanism.
- **Military and international organizations** (NATO, military CSIRTs, n/g CERTs,...).
- **Security vendors** running their own communities (e.g. Fidelis) or interfacing with MISP communities (e.g. OTX).

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.
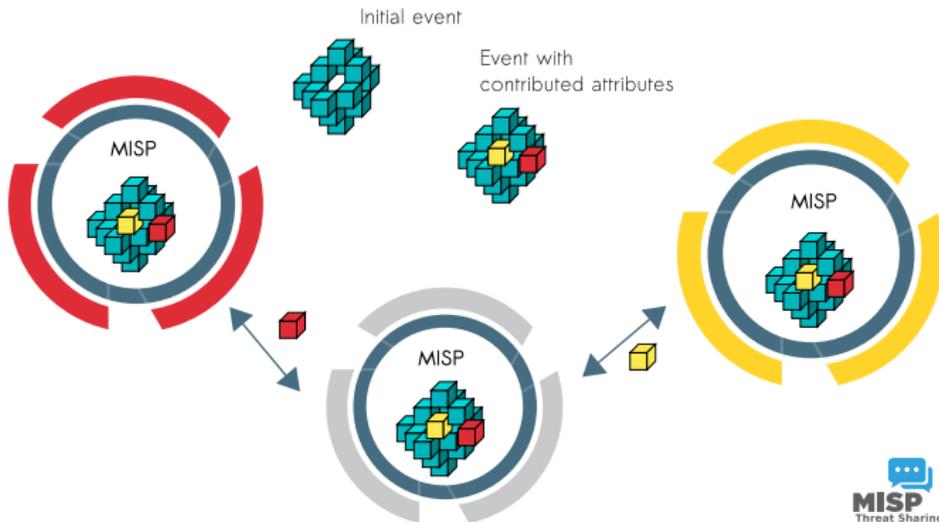
Events, Objects and Attributes in MISP

- MISP events are encapsulations for contextually linked information
- MISP attributes[2] initially started with a standard set of "cyber security" indicators.
- MISP attributes are purely **based on usage** (what people and organizations use daily).
- Evolution of MISP attributes is based on practical usage and users (e.g. recent addition of the **financial indicators** in 2.4).
- MISP objects are attribute compositions describing points of data using many facets, constructed along the lines of community and user defined templates
- MISP galaxies granularly contextualise, classify and categorise data based on **threat actors**, **preventive measures** or tools used by adversaries.

[2]attributes can be anything that helps describe the intent of the event package from indicators, vulnerabilities or any relevant information

Terminology about Indicators

- Indicators[3]
  - Indicators contain a pattern that can be used to detect suspicious or malicious cyber activity.
- Attributes in MISP can be network indicators (e.g. IP address), system indicators (e.g. a string in memory) or even bank account details.
  - **A type (e.g. MD5, url) is how an attribute is described**.
  - An attribute is always in a category (e.g. Payload delivery) which puts it in a context.
    - **A category is what describes** an attribute.
  - An IDS flag on an attribute allows to determine if **an attribute can be automatically used for detection**.

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[3]IoC (Indicator of Compromise) is a subset of indicators

Helping Contributors in MISP

- Contributors can use the UI, API or using the freetext import to add events and attributes.
  - Modules existing in Viper (a binary framework for malware reverser) to populate and use MISP from the vty or via your IDA.
- Contribution can be direct by creating an event but **users can propose attributes updates** to the event owner.
- **Users should not be forced to use a single interface to contribute**.

Example: Freetext import in MISP

Supporting Classification

- Tagging is a simple way to attach a classification to an event or an attribute.
- **Classification must be globally used to be efficient**.
- MISP includes a flexible tagging scheme where users can select from more than 42 existing taxonomies or create their taxonomy.

Supporting Sharing in MISP

- Delegate events publication to another organization (introduced in MISP 2.4.18).
  - The other organization can take over the ownership of an event and provide **pseudo-anonymity to initial organization**.
- Sharing groups allow custom sharing (introduced in MISP 2.4) per event or even at attribute level.
  - Sharing communities can be used locally or even cross MISP instances.
  - **Sharing groups** can be done at **event level or attributes level** (e.g. financial indicators shared to a financial sharing groups and cyber security indicators to CSIRT community).

Sightings support

- Sightings allow users to notify the community about the activities related to an indicator.
- In recent MISP versions, the sighting system supports negative sigthings (FP) and expiration sightings.
- Sightings can be performed via the API, and the UI, even including the import of STIX sighting documents.
- Many use-cases for scoring indicators based on users sighting.

Improving Information Sharing in MISP

- False-positives are a recurring challenge in information sharing.
- In MISP 2.4.39, we introduced the misp-warninglists[4] to help analysts in their day-to-day job.
- Predefined lists of well-known indicators which are often false-positives like RFC1918 networks, public DNS resolver are included by default.

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[4]https://github.com/MISP/misp-warninglists

Improving support of sharing within and outside an organization

- Even in a single organization, multiple use-cases of MISP can appear (groups using it for dynamic malware analysis correlations, dispatching notification).
- In MISP 2.4.51, we introduced the ability to have **local MISP** servers connectivity to avoid changes in distribution level. This allows to have mixed synchronization setup within and outside an organization.
- Feed support was also introduced to support synchronization between untrusted and trusted networks.

Bootstrapping MISP with indicators

- We maintain the default CIRCL OSINT feeds (TLP:WHITE selected from our communities) in MISP to allow users to ease their bootstrapping.
- The format of the OSINT feed is based on standard MISP JSON output pulled from a remote TLS/HTTP server.
- Additional content providers can provide their own MISP feeds. (https://botvrij.eu/)
- Allows users to **test their MISP installations and synchronisation with a real dataset**.
- Opening contribution to other threat intel feeds but also allowing the analysis of overlapping data[5].

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[5]A recurring challenge in information sharing

Conclusion

- **Information sharing practices come from usage** and by example (e.g. learning by imitation from the shared information).
- MISP is just a tool. What matters is your sharing practices. The tool should be as transparent as possible to support you.
- Enable users to customize MISP to meet their community's use-cases.