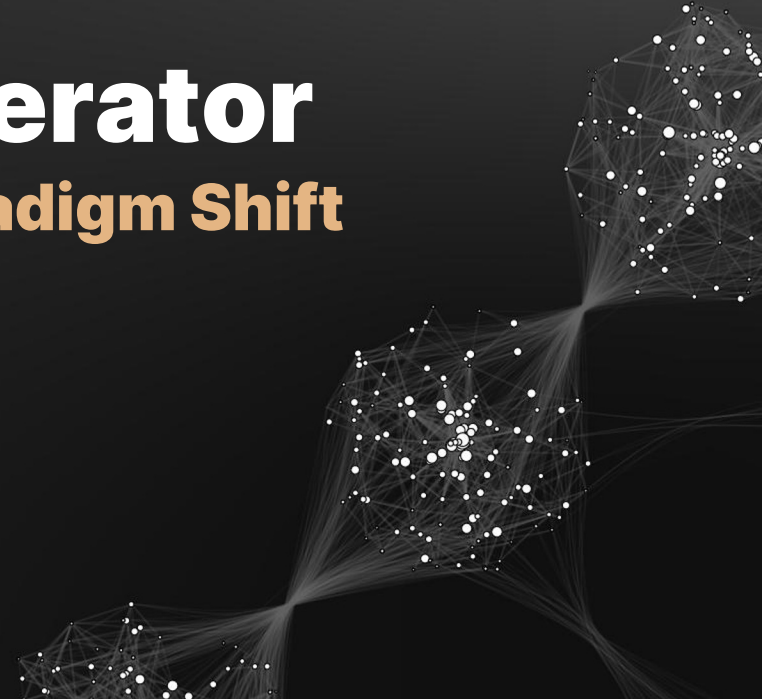


# **ATT&CKing The Operator**

## **Disrupting The Ransomware Paradigm Shift**





# Nick Lowe

## Sr. Director, Intelligence Services Recorded Future

- 17+ years cyber security industry experience
- Former Director, Falcon OverWatch at CrowdStrike
- Extensive experience serving as both a practitioner and senior leader specializing in threat hunting, security operations, threat intelligence, managed security services and incident response
- Regular speaker, frequently presenting at global cyber security conferences and briefing executive audiences across private and public sector entities on the threat landscape and various cyber security topics
- Based in Sydney, Australia



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# Agenda


- The State Of The Threat Landscape
- Outpacing The Adversary
- Looking Beyond The CVE
- Know The Enemy, Hunt The Enemy
- Call To Action
- **Q&A**



# **The State Of The Threat Landscape**



# **Evolving Adversary Operations in 2023**

- **Zero Day Acquisition An Increasing Operational Priority**
  - **Continued Prolific Exploitation of Known Historic Vulnerabilities**
  - **Rapid Adoption of New Vulnerabilities Narrowing Time-To-Exploitation**
  - **Evolving Criminal Ecosystem Continues to Lower Barriers to Entry**
  - **Ransomware Paradigm Shift From Encryption To Extortion**
  - **Nation State and Criminal Adversaries Highly Adaptable & Increasingly Fast Moving**
  - **Initial Access Preferences Shifting**
  - **Growth in IAB Activity Negating Initial Access Challenges**
  - **Identity Under Siege**
- 
- An abstract graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of a network of interconnected nodes and lines, resembling a molecular structure or a digital network, rendered in a light gray color against the dark background.



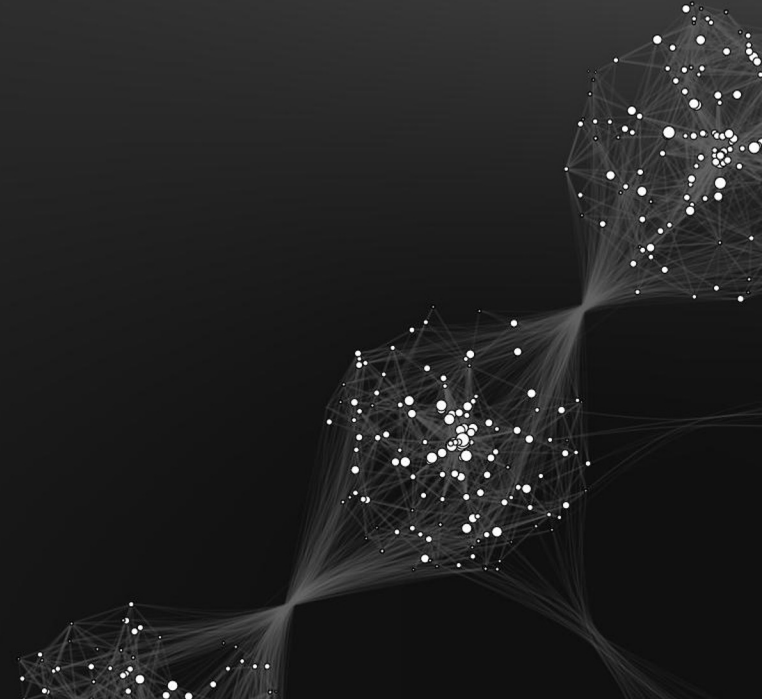
# Hiding In Plain Sight

- Diminishing reliance on malware enabling lateral movement without obstruction
- Adversaries having increasing success in progressing their actions on objectives without the need to deploy malware
- Proliferation of LOTL techniques combined with use of compromised privileged credentials poses challenges for defenders reliant on technology alone

# Why You Need To Care

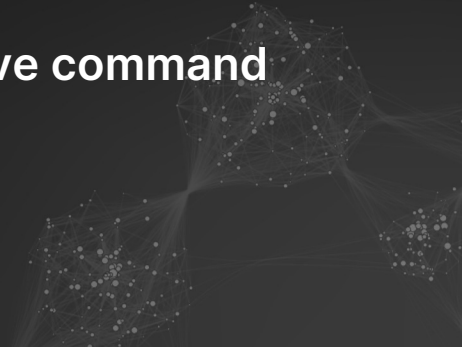
- Speed of Detection Is Critical As Adversary Tempo Accelerates
  - Basic Security Hygiene Remains a Challenge, And Adversaries Know It
  - Surging IAB Activity Exposing Organisations To Veritable Army of Threat Actors
  - Reactive Defences Powerless Against Increasingly Capable Adversaries
  - The Time-To-Mass-Exploitation Delta Continues To Narrow as Public Disclosure of Vulnerabilities Rapidly Followed by Same Day In The Wild Exploitation
- 
- An abstract graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of a network of interconnected nodes and lines, resembling a molecular structure or a data network, rendered in a light gray color against the dark background.

# Outpacing The Adversary





# Learning From The **MOVEit MFT** Compromise

- Large scale supply chain compromise
  - Targeted, rather than opportunistic attack initially exploiting zero-day SQL injection vulnerability
  - Carefully considered, multiple stage exploitation process
  - Extensive collection of tactics, techniques and procedures utilized to support actor objectives
  - Focus on access maintenance to enable ongoing interactive command execution on compromised systems
- 

## DEAR COMPANIES.

CLOP IS ONE OF TOP ORGANIZATION OFFER PENETRATION TESTING SERVICE AFTER THE FACT.

THIS IS ANNOUNCEMENT TO EDUCATE COMPANIES WHO USE PROGRESS MOVEIT PRODUCT THAT CHANCE IS THAT WE DOWNLOAD ALOT OF YOUR DATA AS PART OF EXCEPTIONAL EXPLOIT. WE ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO PERFORM SUCH ATTACK AND RELAX BECAUSE YOUR DATA IS SAFE.

WE ARE TO PROCEED AS FOLLOW AND YOU SHOULD PAY ATTENTION TO AVOID EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES TO IMPACT YOU COMPANY.

IMPORTANT! WE DO NOT WISH TO SPEAK TO MEDIA OR RESEARCHERS. LEAVE.

STEP 1 - IF YOU HAD MOVEIT SOFTWARE CONTINUE TO STEP 2 ELSE LEAVE.

STEP 2 - EMAIL OUR TEAM UNLOCK@RSY-BOX.COM OR UNLOCK@SUPPORT-MULTI.COM

STEP 3 - OUR TEAM WILL EMAIL YOU WITH DEDICATED CHAT URL OVER TOR

WE HAVE INFORMATION ON HUNDREDS OF COMPANIES SO OUR DISCUSSION WILL WORK VERY SIMPLE

STEP 1 - IF WE DO NOT HEAR FROM YOU UNTIL JUNE 14, 2023 WE WILL POST YOUR NAME ON THIS PAGE

STEP 2 - IF YOU RECEIVE CHAT URL GO THERE AND INTRODUCE YOU

STEP 3 - OUR TEAM WILL PROVIDE 10% PROOF OF DATA WE HAVE AND PRICE TO DELETE

STEP 4 - YOU MAY ASK FOR 2-3 FILES RANDOM AS PROOF WE ARE NOT LYING

STEP 5 - YOU HAVE 3 DAY TO DISCUSS PRICE AND IF NO AGREEMENT YOUR CUSTOM PAGE WILL BE CREATED

STEP 6 - AFTER 7 DAYS ALL YOU DATA WILL START TO BE PUBLICATION

STEP 7 - YOUR CHAT WILL CLOSE AFTER 10 NOT PRODUCTIVE DAY AND DATA WILL BE PUBLISH

WHAT WARRANTY? OUR TEAM HAS BEEN AROUND FOR MANY YEARS. WE HAVE NOT EVEN ONE TIME NOT DO AS WE PROMISE. WHEN WE SAY DATA IS DELETE IT IS CAUSE WE SHOW VIDEO PROOF. WE HAVE NO USE FOR FEW HUNDRE DOLLARS TO DECEIVE YOU.

CALL TODAY BEFORE YOUR COMPANY NAME IS PUBLISH HERE.

FRIENDLY CLOP.

PS. IF YOU ARE A GOVERNMENT, CITY OR POLICE SERVICE DO NOT WORRY, WE ERASED ALL YOUR DATA. YOU DO NOT NEED TO CONTACT US. WE HAVE NO INTEREST TO EXPOSE SUCH INFORMATION.

## UPDATES

BISSELL.COM 60TB COMPANY DATA GET READY FOR SOMETHING INTERESTING

EMERALDX.COM 100TB COMPANY DATA GET READY FOR SOMETHING INTERESTING

## UPDATES

360EQUIPMENTFINANCE.COM FILES PARTS - 192.168.38.12, 192.168.38.124, 192.168.38.126, 192.168.38.131, 192.168.38.132, 192.168.38.133,

192.168.38.136, 192.168.40.190 PUBLISHED

PRECISIONMEDICALBILLING.NET FILES PARTS - 192.168.17.46, 46, 47, 50, 51, 55, 66, 70, 71, 72, 74 - 79, 81, 156, 192.168.2.68, 192.168.2.69, 192.168.2.70 PUBLISHED

HCI.EDU FILES PARTS - 10.6.0.6, 10.21.2.674, 10.22.6.76 PUBLISHED

# CLOP: (LEMUR) Looting And Extortion

- Successful exploitation led to unauthorized access to underlying MOVEit DB's
- Deployment of LEMURLOOT webshell to persist operator access and support pursuit of hands-on actions on objectives
- Deletion of default MOVEit user account with 'LoginName' and 'RealName' values set to 'Health Check Services'
- Creation of new actor controlled, privileged account with matching values
- Enumeration of Azure data and SQL DB contents
- Collection and .gzip compression of data followed by exfiltration



# Profiling The Adversary

## Adversary Aliases

**ClOp**  
FANCY CAT, TA505, FIN11, Lace Tempest

## Classification Origin

Criminal  
Russia

## Targeting

All Sectors

## Methods

Affinity for targeting and exploiting MFT platforms including Accellion FTA, SolarWinds Serv-U, GoAnywhere & MOVEit

Extorts victims with threats of publishing exfiltrated confidential data

## Tooling

LEMURLOOT	Cobalt Strike
DEWMODE	Trubot
SDBot	FlawedAmmyy

## MITRE ATT&CK TTPs

T1190: Exploit Public Facing Application  
T1059.001: PowerShell  
T1505.003: Webshell  
T1105: Ingress Tool Transfer  
T1041: Exfiltration Over C2 Channel  
T1021.002: SMB/Windows Admin Shares  
T1068: Exploitation For Privilege Escalation

# MOVEit Exploitation. By The Numbers.

**2+**

Years Testing  
The Exploit



**6**

Distinct  
Vulnerabilities



**2000**

Victim  
Organisations

+





### **CVE-2023-34362**

SQL injection vulnerability enabling unauthenticated attacker to gain unauthorised access to SQL DB, query, execute statements and modify DB contents



### **CVE-2023-35036**

SQL injection vulnerability enabling unauthenticated attacker to access DB and submit crafted payloads to MOVEit application resulting in possible modification or disclosure of MOVEit DB content



### **CVE-2023-35708**

SQL injection vulnerability enabling unauthenticated attacker to access DB and submit crafted payloads to MOVEit application resulting in possible modification or disclosure of MOVEit DB content



### **CVE-2023-36932**

SQL injection vulnerability enabling unauthenticated attacker to access DB and submit crafted payloads to MOVEit application resulting in possible modification or disclosure of MOVEit DB content



### **CVE-2023-36933**

Allows attacker to invoke a method resulting in unhandled exception, potentially causing the MOVEit application to unexpectedly terminate



### **CVE-2023-36934**

SQL injection vulnerability enabling unauthenticated attacker to access DB and submit crafted payloads to MOVEit application resulting in possible modification or disclosure of MOVEit DB content

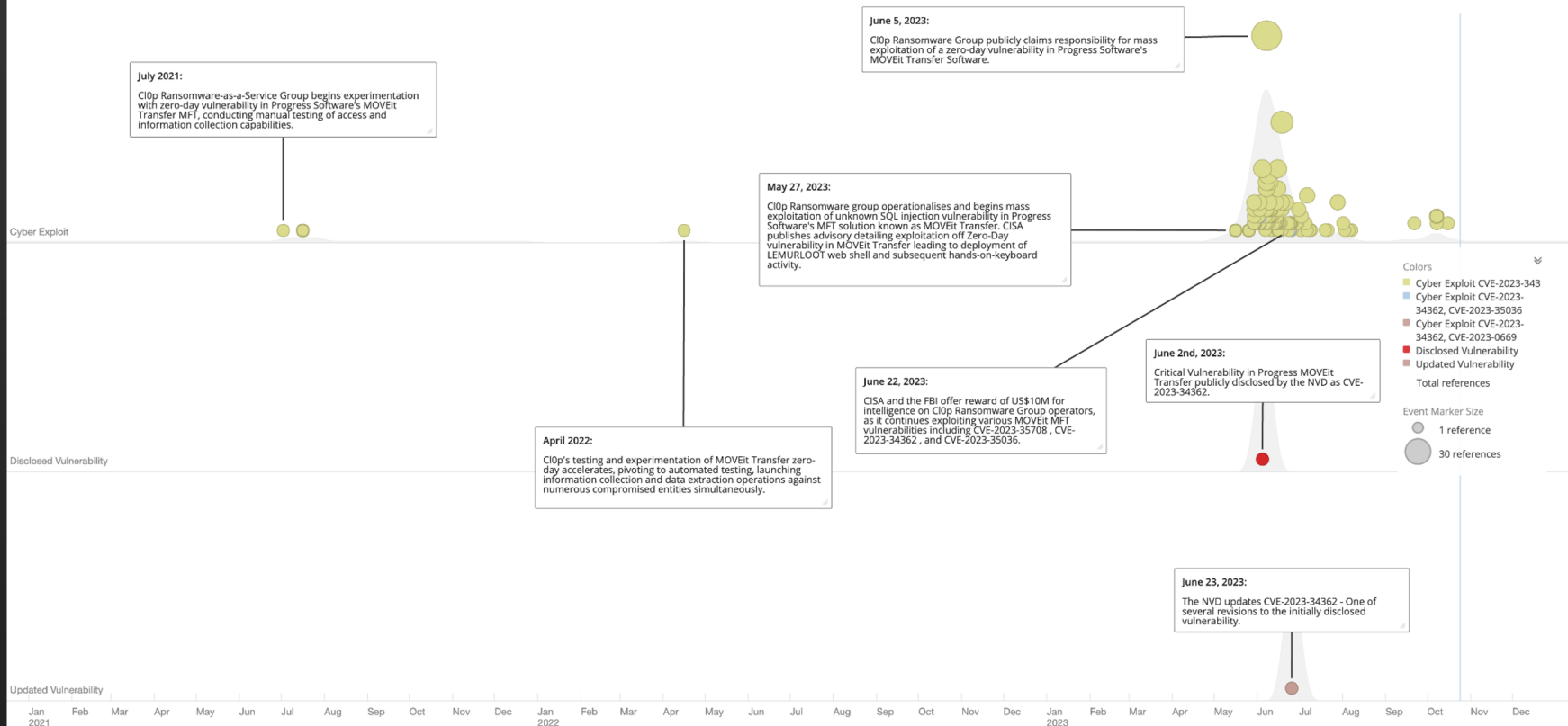
## **6 Distinct CVE's**

```
rule M_Webshell_LEMURLOOT_DLL_1 {
    meta:
        disclaimer = "This rule is meant for hunting and is not tested
to run in a production environment"
        description = "Detects the compiled DLLs generated from
human2.aspx LEMURLOOT payloads."
        sample =
"c58c2c2ea608c83fad9326055a8271d47d8246dc9cb401e420c0971c67e19cbf"
        date = "2023/06/01"
        version = "1"
    strings:
        $net = "ASP.NET"
        $human = "Create_ASP_human2.aspx"
        $s1 = "X-siLock-Comment" wide
        $s2 = "X-siLock-Step3" wide
        $s3 = "X-siLock-Step2" wide
        $s4 = "Health Check Service" wide
        $s5 = "attachment; filename={0}" wide
    condition:
        uint16(0) == 0x5A4D and uint32(uint32(0x3C)) == 0x00004550 and
        filesize < 15KB and
        $net and
        (
            ($human and 2 of ($s*)) or
            (3 of ($s*))
        )
}
```

**“Speed. Both Your  
Greatest Adversary,  
And Biggest Advantage.”**

# CVE-2023-34362: C!0p MOVEit MFT Initial Exploitation and Disclosure Timeline

Click To Add Annotation







# Criminal Adversaries Picking Up The Pace

- Actors increasingly operationalizing exploits same day
- Proof-of-Concept code readily available on Dark Web forums
- Delta between disclosure and mass exploitation represents the very narrow window of opportunity for defenders to stop adversaries in their tracks





## **Proactive Effects. Powered By ATT&CK.**

- Helps to close the detection gap and enable critical early warning
- Empowers defenders with a superior vantage point
- Accelerates analysis and decision outcomes and lightens the cognitive burden on analysts
- Informs proactive operations including threat hunting missions

# Looking Beyond The CVE





# New CVE. Same Old Tricks.

- Number of disclosed vulnerabilities continues to accelerate year-on-year, with **25,000+** in the last 12 months
- Reactively focusing defensive efforts on mitigation of individual CVE's does little to thwart determined adversaries who will simply pivot if one exploit is unsuccessful.
- Focus on post-exploitation behaviors rather than individual CVE's.

# **Adversary Tactics** **And Techniques**







CIOP



VOLT TYPHOON



ALPHV



LAZARUS



**Four Adversaries. One Thing In Common.**



# Ransomware. Without Ransomware.

- Ransomware continues to undergo paradigm shift as operators increasingly favor extortion over encryption
- The evolution of ransomware into double and triple extortion negates the need to deploy or execute an encryption binary
- Defenders must look beyond the existence of known ransomware



**Know Your Enemy.**  
**Hunt Them.**



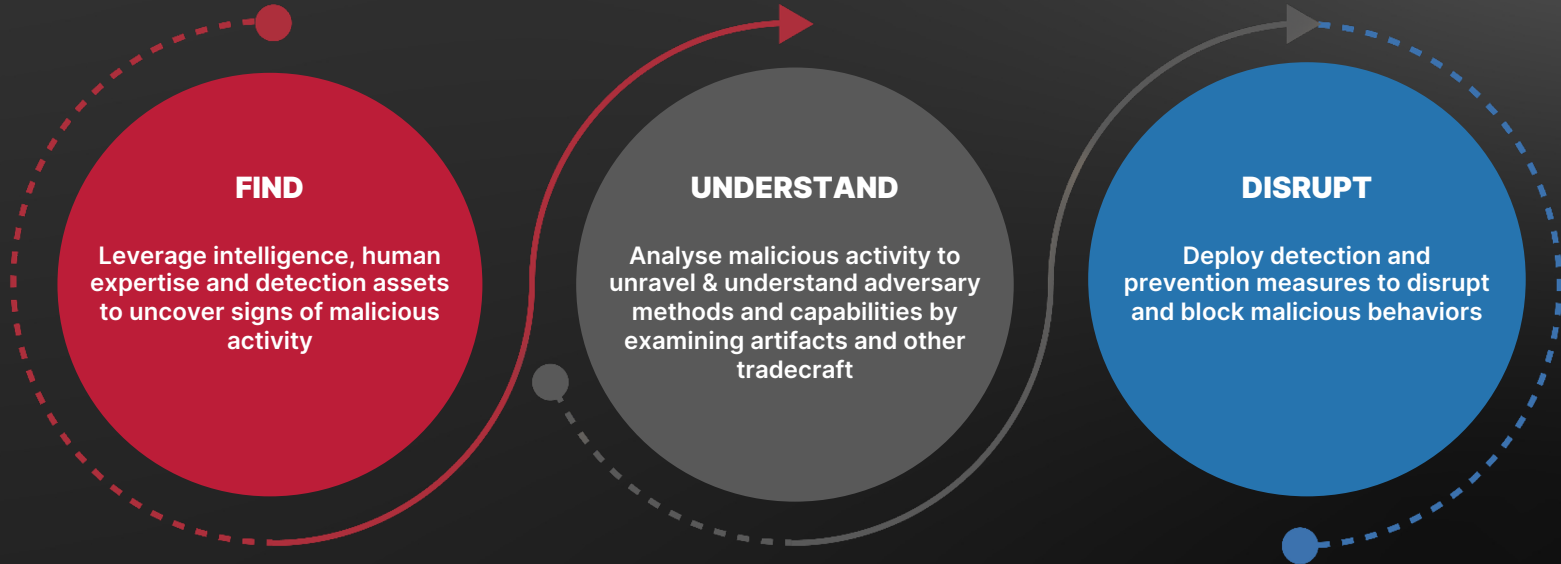




# Intelligence Driven Threat Hunting

- The proactive discovery of unknown malicious artifacts and adversary methods not accounted for in passive, automated monitoring.
- Real-time intelligence powers hunting operations with actionable context on adversary targets, capabilities and methods.
- Informs threat hunters as they iteratively cycle through a targeting loop

# Mission Objectives



# The Targeting Loop

## Anomaly Based Hunting

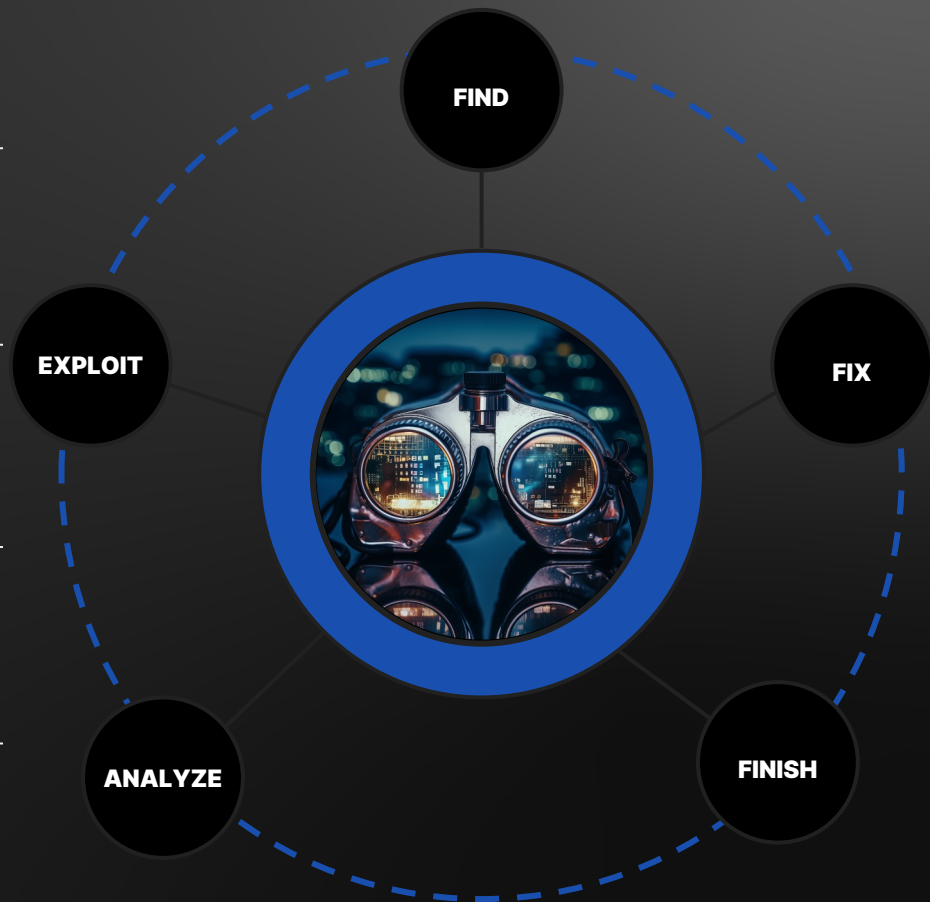
- Determination of statistical anomalies and trends across a broad data set of available telemetry

## Hypothesis Based Hunting

- Proactively develop and apply hypothesis around how an adversary is likely to operate based on in depth understanding of their methods, capabilities & targets

## Retrospective Hunting

- Intelligence driven approach to hunting leveraging static IOC's and atomic indicators, ie known bads.



# Hunting Common Post Exploitation Behaviors

- Post-Exploitation Behaviors Consistent With Web Service Compromise
  - **Example:** Webshells deployed beneath web processes such as the Apache web process `httpd`, or IIS worker process `w3wp.exe`
- Suspicious C2 Communications & Known Actor Tooling
  - **Example:** Webshell communications, use of cloud admin or file sync tools, attempted exfiltration to known actor infrastructure or commonly abused cloud file sharing platforms (ie MEGA, Dropbox)
- Early-Stage Hands-on Ransomware Preparation
  - **Example:** User account creation, lateral movement, network, user and cloud enumeration

```

rule M_Webshell_LEMURLOOT_DLL_1 {
  meta:
    disclaimer = "This rule is meant for hunting and is not tested to
run in a production environment"
    description = "Detects the compiled DLLs generated from
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    date = "2023/06/01"
    version = "1"
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    $net = "ASP.NET"
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    $s1 = "X-siLock-Comment" wide
    $s2 = "X-siLock-Step3" wide
    $s3 = "X-siLock-Step2" wide
    $s4 = "Health Check Service" wide
    $s5 = "attachment; filename={0}" wide
  condition:
    uint16(0) == 0x5A4D and uint32(uint32(0x3C)) == 0x00004550 and
    filesize < 15KB and
    $net and
    (
      ($human and 2 of ($s*)) or
      (3 of ($s*))
    )
}

```

# Hunting Webshells With Yara

- Looking for payloads associated with the LEMURLOOT webshell deployed by CI0p during the MOVEit compromise
- Displayed strings show rule focus is identification of .aspx webshell activity including tampering with and replacement of MOVEit DB user account

**Inform.**  
**Enrich.**  
**Hunt.**

**Thank you!**