Accelerating Security Response through Automation

Incorporating Threat Intelligence into security tools

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Methodology and Demographics

Between Jan. 19 and Feb. 11, 2022, researchers surveyed 1,227 security and IT leaders who spend more than half their time on security issues.

11 countries

15 industries

 Aerospace and defense, consumer packaged goods, education, financial services (banking, securities, insurance), government (federal/national, state and local), healthcare, technology, life sciences, manufacturing, media, energy, retail/wholesale, telecom, transportation/logistics, utilities



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Why Security Keeps Getting Harder

A year-over-year comparison reveals that security teams face more threats and more complexity, but also have fewer people to get the job done.

Challenges of increasing severity revolve around too many tools, too few analysts, and not enough time.





The threat landscape is getting exponentially more sophisticated



Our security stack and the number of tools/vendors in use has become overwhelmingly complex



We are increasingly struggling to retain skilled security resources to handle the workload



We are increasingly struggling to find/hire enough skilled security resources to handle the workload



- Moving workloads to the public cloud has made it more difficult to monitor the attack surface
- 28% 21%

We are too busy fighting daily attacks to refine our tools and processes to support the expanding attack surface and threat landscape



We are increasingly overwhelmed with the number of alerts







The events over the past two years have changed the world forever...

Fueling investments in innovation and resilience





But these investments often create more data problems

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Magnifying existing challenges in securing your business today...

and creating further SecOps Inefficiencies



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Security Teams Are Firefighting

Security teams spend 31% of their time fighting crises (up from 26% last year) rather than preparing for supply chain, ransomware and other attacks.

Why?

- 26% cite overwhelming tool complexity.
- 29% cite hiring or retention challenges.
- **28%** cite cloud complexity and lack of visibility.



Talent in Crisis

Security talent is harder to find (and keep) than ever before. The ongoing talent challenges have led to a number of issues

Say that the resulting increase in their workload has led them to consider looking for a new role

Say team members have been forced to take on responsibilities they aren't ready for

76%

Report that talent shortages directly led to the failure of one or more projects/initiatives

68%

Say that workers have resigned, citing burnout



The State of Cloud

The still-growing role of cloud computing has become essential to organizations, but it has also hampered security visibility.

- **73%** of organizations use multiple public clouds today.
- **34%** use three or more public cloud service providers.
- **56%** expect they will use three or more public cloud service providers (laaS and PaaS) 24 months from now.

The two main cloud-native security challenges

- Maintaining consistency across data centers and cloud (45%)
- Using multiple security controls, which leads to cost and complexity (37%)





3/32C2U616E642U/U61/463686 6C6206C6974746C65 16E642 16C20Data BreachE204 6520 2E6F6163686573204C697474CC Cyber Attack696EA1 486FAF6 6564207368 206E61C F766 60 C6E207468652A 261736B60142 368AF93010808B4FA017745C7A6 AFFA33C08E00F2A5697D011A56AI 2073 C732C20736852756B013 6E642001A B719System Safety 00F2A5694C028BE5BF7D011A0010

Attacked From All Sides

Following the SolarWinds, Kaseya and Log4Shell attacks, supply chain threats are front and center; 40% of survey respondents said that their organization had been affected by a supply chain attack, and 90% of orgs have increased their focus on third-party risk.

But other threats abound:

- **Ransomware:** 79% were attacked; 20% had data/systems held hostage.
- **Phishing:** 51% report business email compromise.
- Insider attacks: 39% of organizations report an inside job.



Ransomware: Get Your Playbooks Ready

Among respondents who fell victim to a successful ransomware attack:

- Only **33%** avoided the ransom by restoring from backup.
- About **66%** reported that the criminals were paid.
- Asked how much the largest ransom paid to attackers was, the average response was about US **\$347,000**.

Most Orgs Were Ransomware Targets

79% fended off an attack ... or fell victim.



The Most Promising Security Strategies (Besides Hiring)

Not all doom and gloom

Organizations can turn to other strategies to bolster their security posture and alleviate at least some of the pressures that their security teams face.







Organizations are investing in resilience

By 2025, Gartner predicts big changes in attitudes and resources devoted to resilience

70%

of CEOs will mandate a culture of organizational resilience

To survive coinciding threats from COVID-19, cybercrime, severe weather events, civil unrest and political instabilities¹

50%

of asset-intensive organizations will expand their operational resilience initiative

To include the growing security and safety risks of cyberphysical systems (CPS)

30%

of enterprises will establish new roles focused on IT resilience

and boost end-to-end reliability, tolerability and recoverability by at least 45%²

Sources:

(1) Gartner, Outlook for Organizational Resilience, 2021

2) Gartner, IT Resilience — 7 Tips for Improving Reliability, Tolerability and Disaster Recovery



Driving an increased need for cyber resilience

"The ability to anticipate, withstand, recover from, and adapt to adverse conditions, stresses, attacks, or compromises on systems that use or are enabled by cyber resources."





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Our fundamental belief

Security is a data problem



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SIEM & SOAR Merging

SIEM

- Basic Security Monitoring
- Advanced Security Monitoring
- Log Collection
- Log Management
- Data Visualization
- Data Reporting
- Threat Hunting

SOAR

Threat Detection

Investigation

Response

- Operational Metrics
- Documented Workflows
- Trained Operators
- Define Playbooks and Processes
- Supported Technology Integrations

SOAR Will Not Make You Better at Running SIEM Published 4 May 2022 - ID G00759000 By Analyst(s): Al Price



Business Resilience demands Operational Cyber Resilience



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Analytics and Automation Are Essential for Cyber Resilience

Analytics and automation capabilities let security analysts work smarter and respond to threats at machine speed.

- 82% of respondents say their CISO is under pressure to increase their data analysis capabilities.
- Fully **85%** (up from **82%** last year) say that security analytics plays a bigger role in their overall cybersecurity strategy and decision-making today than it did two years ago.



Organizations' strong investment in analytics, automation and SOAR technologies continues.

- 67% of organizations are actively investing in technologies designed for security analytics and operations automation and orchestration.
- Of those, **35%** report their organization uses or will use the automation and orchestration capabilities built into their SIEM.

77% of organizations have integrated non-security analytics solutions (for **DevOps, IT operations, Risk Management**) with cybersecurityspecific analytics to support decision-making.



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Department of Labor

- Situation: Fraudulent unemployment claims have been submitted at an unprecedented rate since the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program first launched. At that time, there were approximately 1,800 – 2,000 fraud claims, daily. The NJ Department of Labor's Anti-fraud teams were not able to make sense of their data; the starting point was to mine data, consolidate reporting tools, and refine/evolve processes. At the time, NJ DOL were estimating losses in the millions due to this issue. Professional fraudsters were able to easily circumvent existing controls.
- Task: In tandem with a partner, a fraud dashboard was created to detect fraudulent claims before payment was made. The dashboard could be used to search any information on an application, including pre-populated, free-form or formatted data. The dashboard provides the amount of payments made, differentiates in-state and out-of-state zip codes and sends alerts when certain anomalies are detected. Executives can schedule reports detailing weekly, monthly, quarterly, and yearly metrics.
- Action: The dashboard has been able to detect fraudulent claims before payment was even made. It has been used in production over the last two years to help prevent millions of dollars in UIB fraud.
- Result: The Department of Labor been able to save the state \$6.7 Billion dollars in fraudulent claims.





LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

United States

- Situation: Largest county in the State. The IT team for the county oversees 40+ different physical locations. They had a breach of emails that led to people's accounts and credentials being compromised. This breach allowed people to access their network and the capability to make modifications to Peoplesoft including alterations to direct deposit account information. They had no centralized log management tool to do the research within the logs to find the root cause of the breach, which led them into a slow manual process for investigation. They had a specific timeframe to act on the breach and this was made more difficult by the data silos they had to comb through.
- ► **Task:** The security team was tasked with implementing a single solution log management tool with centralized visibility into the log data from all the 40+ locations within the county. Also, they were tasked to reduce the meantime to response, since the manually processes were taking them 4-6 hours on average.
- Action: They focused on centralized visibility into their IT infrastructure to ultimately reduce their risk of threats as well as their meantime to response. Their identified data sources to ingest into their SIEM are; VPN logs, Syslog Kiwi Devices, O365, Windows/Linux Servers, Internal Exchange Server, SEP Management Console, and SEP EDR logs.
- Result: After implementing their SIEM and focusing on a data centric solution, they were able to reduce their mean time to response from 4-6 hours to near-real time with advanced dashboarding/automation. They now have the ability to use this valuable threat intel to distribute amongst their different locations to alert faster and mitigate before anything serious happens.



Thank You



Key Recommendations

What more you can do beyond increasing security spending

- 1. Seek talent, teach skills: Look beyond the traditional security workforce and hire for raw talent, versus trained skills.
- 2. Know your cloud: Everyone from senior security leadership to tier-one security analysts needs to understand their hybrid, multicloud environment.
- 3. Build Partnerships
- **4. Use automation:** Enhance your analysts, not replace them.
- 5. Consolidate sprawling toolsets: Make sure your team has the right tools for the right jobs, while also making sure it can manage the responsibility of care.



