

# Using Home Advantage

Combating Anti-Forensics and Linkage  
Blindness in Enterprise Entrenchment



“know when to hold em”

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# Quick?

When an incident has been detected and analyzed, it is important to contain it before the spread of the incident overwhelms resources or the damage increases. Most incidents require containment, so it is important to consider it early in the course of handling each incident.

- NIST SP800-61 Rev. 1, page 3-19

# Effective Incident Response, Part 1

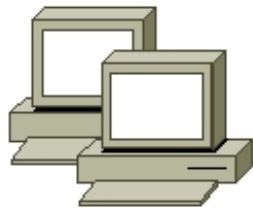
- Scope
- Scope scope scope
- Scope scope
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# Definitions

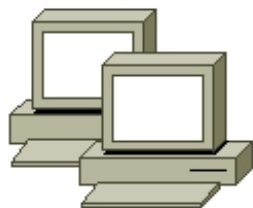
- Linkage blindness
  - failure to recognize that crimes were committed by the same offender because they occurred in different jurisdictions
- Tandem modus operandi
  - use parallel but distinct methods of operating on compromised systems

These complicate scope assessment

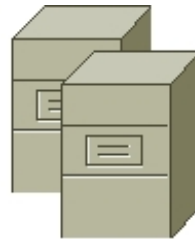
# Target Selection & Admin



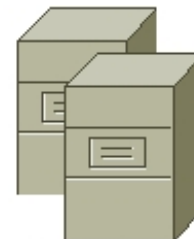
WORKSTATIONS



MORE  
WORKSTATIONS



APP SERVERS



DOMAIN  
CONTROLLERS

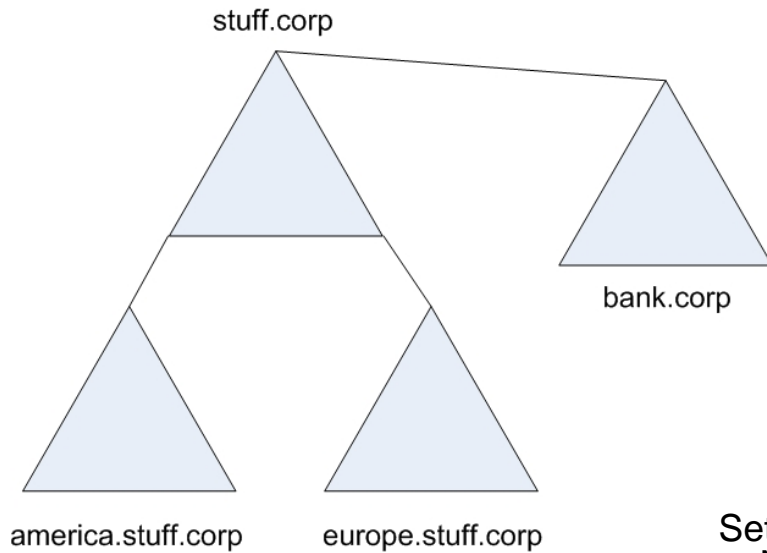
Poison Ivy - [Listening on Port: 3460 (Connections: 2)]

File Preferences Window Help

Connections Statistics Settings

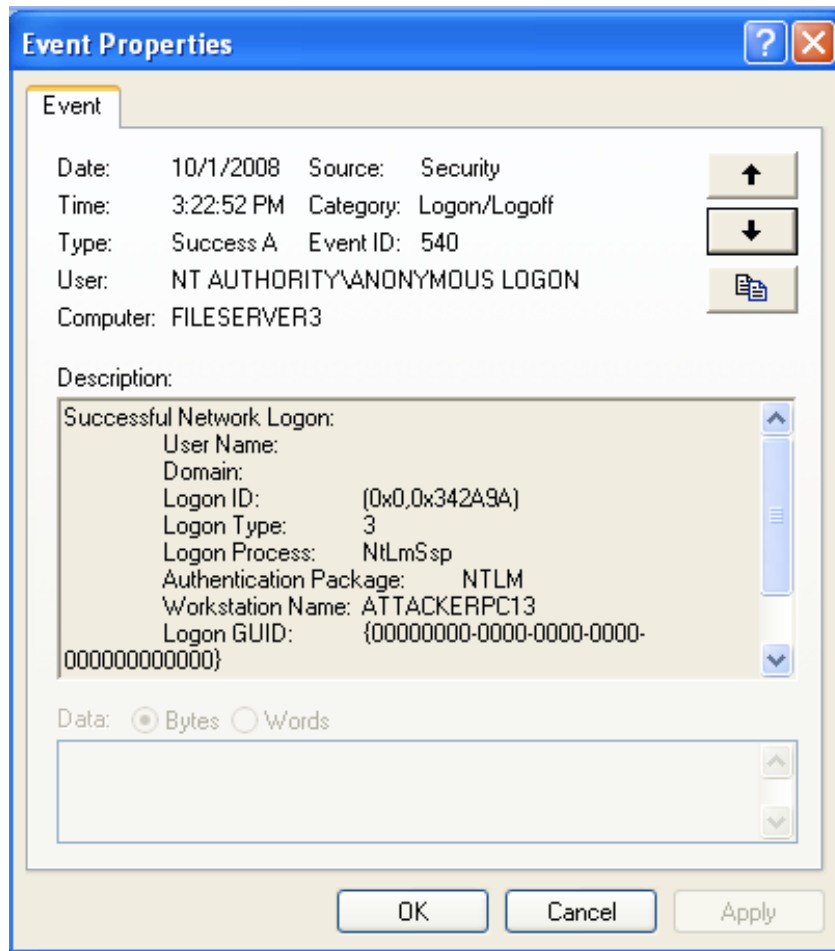
ID	WAN	LAN	Con. Type
Test_3	192.168.184.136	192.168.184.136	Direct
Test_4	192.168.184.132	192.168.184.132	Direct

# Enterprise Credential Theft/Injection



```
Set objOU = GetObject("LDAP://OU=Any OU,dc=Domain  
Name, dc=Domain Extension")  
Set objUser = objou.Create("User", "cn=User Name")  
objUser.Put "sAMAccountName", "User Name"  
objUser.SetInfo  
objUser.ChangePassword "", "Password"  
objUser.AccountDisabled = FALSE  
objUser.SetInfo
```

# Linkage Analysis: Think Global



**x All Local and Network Logons**

# Tool Variance

Rootkit / Backdoor Package	Victim Systems			
	1-10 Workstations	11-20 Workstations	21-30 App Servers	31-40 Domain Controllers
1A (abc.exe)	X			
1B (def.exe)		X		
1C (ghi.exe)			X	
2A (123.dll)	X			
2B (456.dll)		X		
2C (789.dll)			X	
3A (xyz123.exe)				X



# Host Linkage Analysis

```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd.exe

C:\work\scan>ssdeep -n e:\malware_piecewise_hashset.txt wtadlczi.dll
C:\work\scan\wtadlczi.dll matches ufuftjtr.dll (40)
C:\work\scan\wtadlczi.dll matches ufuftjtr[2].dll (40)
C:\work\scan\wtadlczi.dll matches uglfnysu.dll (30)
C:\work\scan\wtadlczi.dll matches wtadlczi.dll (100)
C:\work\scan\wtadlczi.dll matches uxxehvrc.dll (40)
C:\work\scan\wtadlczi.dll matches uxxehvrc[2].dll (40)
C:\work\scan\wtadlczi.dll matches uxxehvrc[3].dll (40)

C:\work\scan>
```

svchost.exe	1152	Micro...	NT AUTHORITY...	C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe -k NetworkService
svchost.exe	1336	Micro...	NT AUTHORITY...	C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe -k LocalService
spoolsv.exe	1456	Micro...	NT AUTHORITY...	C:\WINDOWS\system32\spoolsv.exe

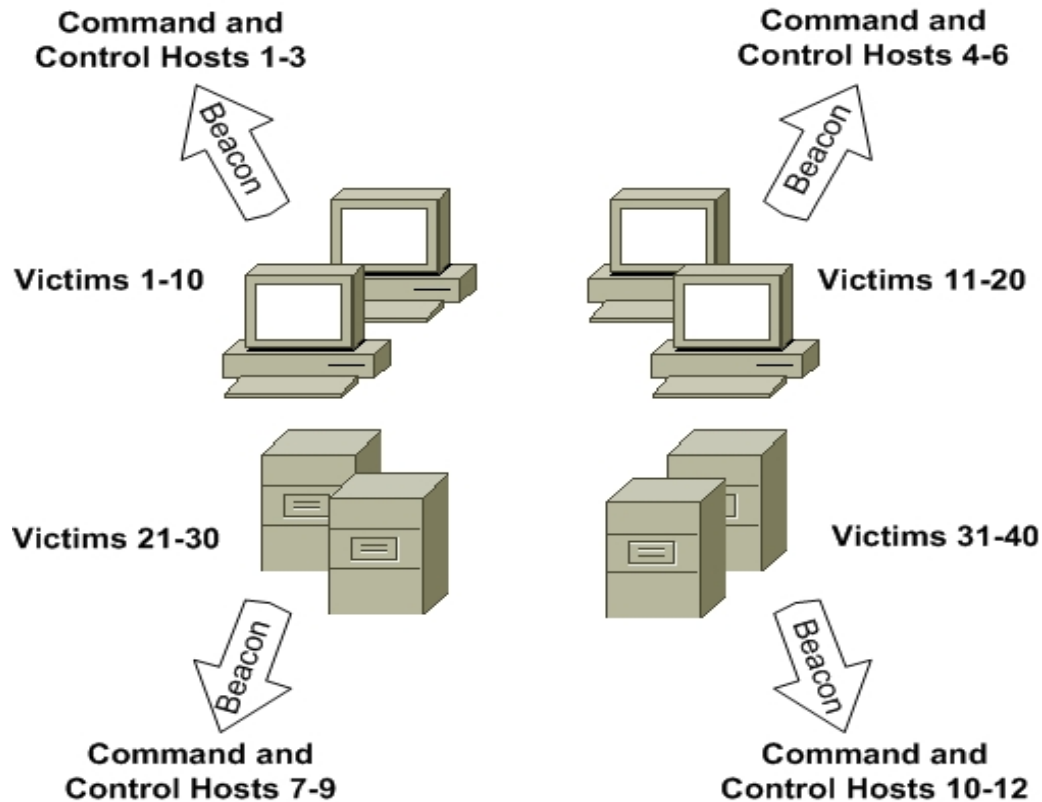
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```
lsass.exe pid: 740
Command line: C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe
```

Base	Size	Version	Path
0x01000000	0x6000	5.01.2600.5512	C:\WINDOWS\system32\lsass.exe
0x7c900000	0xaf000	5.01.2600.5512	C:\WINDOWS\system32\ntdll.dll
0x7c800000	0xf6000	5.01.2600.5512	C:\WINDOWS\system32\kernel32.dll
0x77dd0000	0x9b000	5.01.2600.5512	C:\WINDOWS\system32\ADVAPI32.dll
0x77e70000	0x92000	5.01.2600.5512	C:\WINDOWS\system32\RPCRT4.dll

# Command & Control Variance

A	00000100	00400100	0	udlllidl	
A	00000200	00401000	0	http://www.████████.com	
A	00000246	00401046	0	http://████████.biz	
A	0000028D	0040108D	0	ttp://████████.net/	
A	000002D2	004010D2	0	aneliknenfilrhrlrsektmflskh-tismalkirsihisrnlkshf	



# Network Linkage Analysis

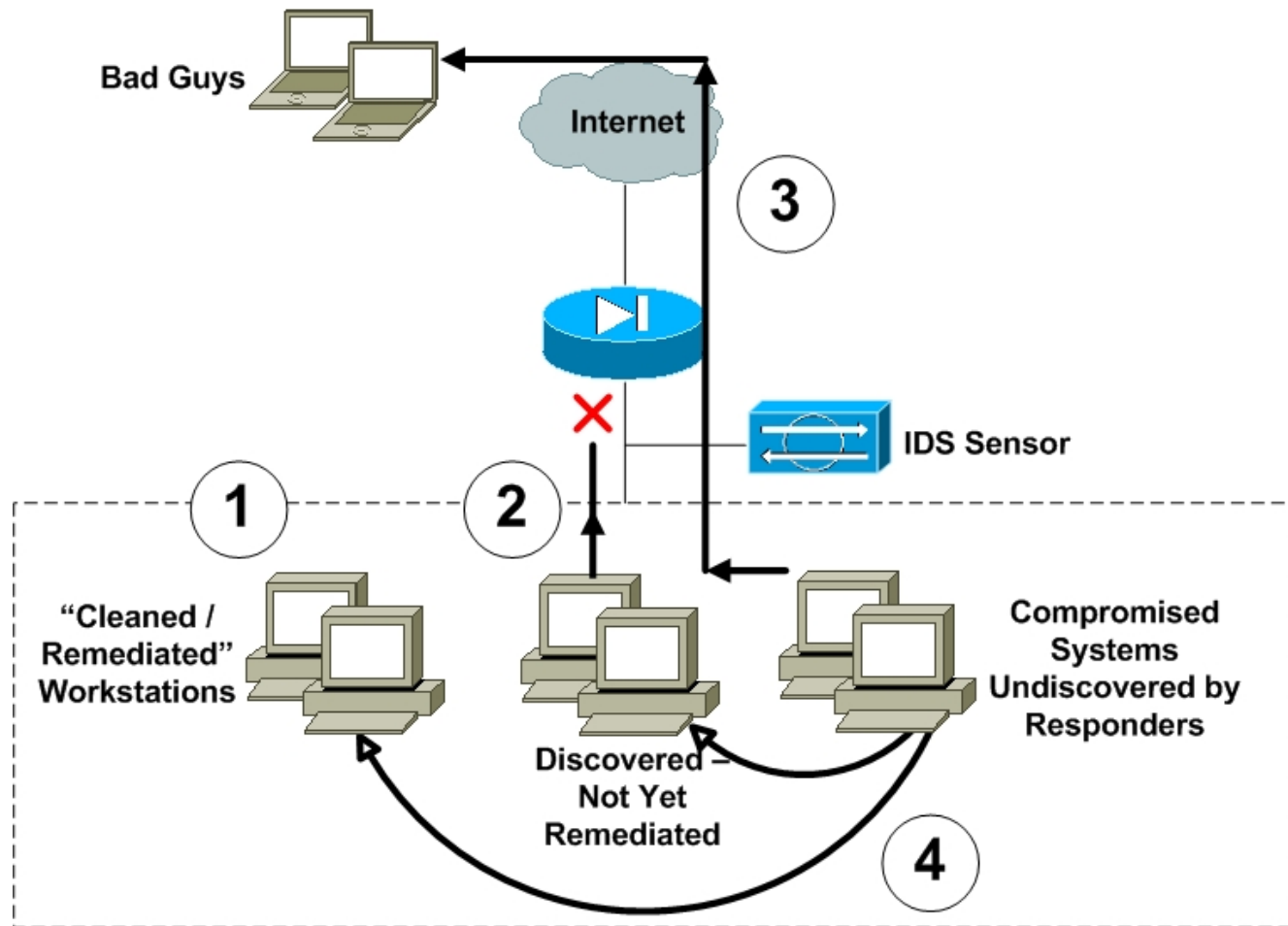
- Deep C&C traffic analysis
  - Common features in beacon packets
  - Discernible patterns in encrypted traffic
- Home Advantage
  - Deviations from normal traffic

# Effective Incident Response, Part 2

## NIST Incident Response Life Cycle

1. Preparation
2. Detection & Analysis
3. Containment, Eradication & Recovery
4. Post-Incident Activity

# Re-infection Vectors



# Containment Strategies

## CLASSIC:

- Block bad attacker IP addresses
- Block C&C domain names
- Rebuild or clean compromised systems
- Reset compromised credentials

## NEW:

- Active directory account validation sweep
- Change critical account names
- Restrict policies
- Establish internal perimeters
- Intensified monitoring
- WHITELISTING!!!11~

# Organizational Preparedness

- Team structure and training
- Windows domain isolation
- Remote forensics capabilities
- Customize IDS signature/preprocessor
- Centralized host logging
- Network logging (perimeter & internal)
- Focused monitoring of critical assets
- Tools for detecting deviations
  - Host and network abnormalities

# Scope!

- Contact [eoghan@jhu.edu](mailto:eoghan@jhu.edu)
- Sharing the knowledge

