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Insider Threat Inside Out

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Focused Operations



Agenda

- Insider Threat Baseline
- Changes Based on Trends
- False Employees
- Detection
- Case Review

Hero versus Anti-hero

Hero

Heroic
Strong Moral Code
Saves victims

Anti-hero

Anti-villain

Villain

Antagonistic
Moral Code doesn't
fit societal norm
Targets victims

The anti-villain and anti-hero sit on the outer edges of traditional roles.

Insider Threat Defined



One or more individuals with **access** and/or **insider knowledge** that allows them to exploit vulnerabilities with the intent to cause harm.

This includes direct risks associated with a company's programs and operations, as well as the indirect risks that may compromise critical infrastructure.

Insider Types



Intentional

Fraud
Sabotage
Theft



Accidental

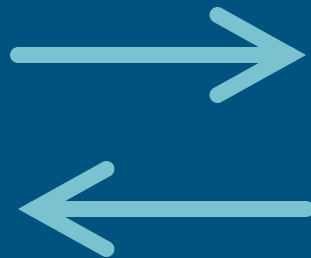
Negligent
Unwitting
Cultural



Insider Out

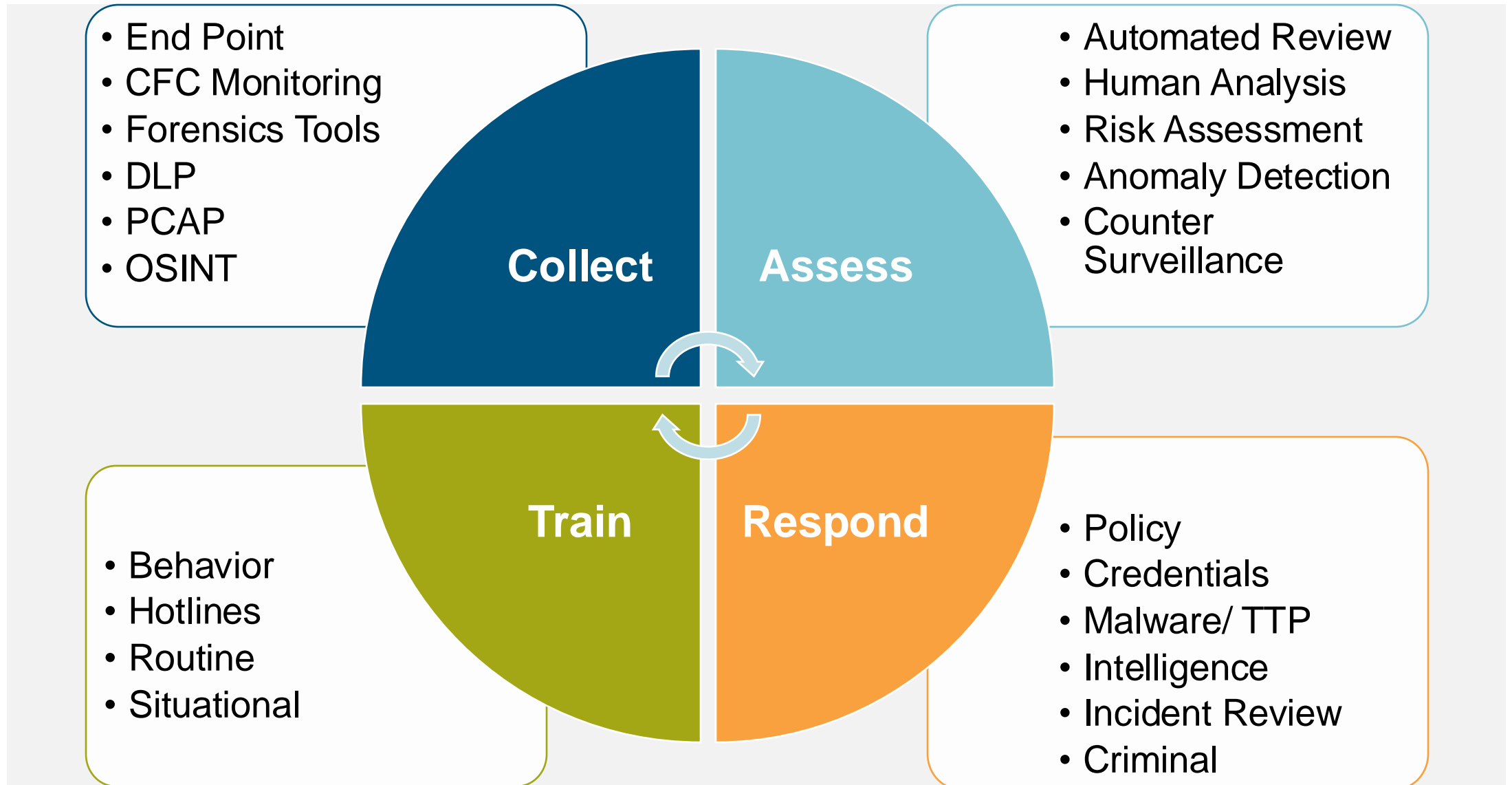
3rd party
False Employee
Former Employee

What Changed?



- **COVID-19 created increased need for remote work**
 - Hiring, managing, and working remote require new skills
 - Identity and work validation
 - Manage to outcome vs output
- **Generative AI**
 - Document review and creation (resumes)
 - Image/video creation and enhancement

Insider Threat Detection Cycle C.A.R.T.



Pre-Employment Phase Anomalies



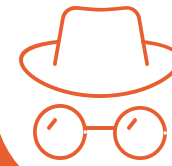
Identity

- Has identity documents that are **forged or stolen**.
- Has online presence and social media **profiles that conflict or don't match resume** details.



Background

- **Provides fraudulent credentials** - professional or educational.
- Has **vague descriptions** of past jobs with employers that have no online presence.
- **Past roles and skillsets don't match**.



Behavior

- Uses **different names** on multiple professional accounts.
- Has intermediaries apply for jobs on their behalf.

Onboarding Phase Anomalies



Identity

- Has identity documents that:
 - Show signs of **tampering or digital alteration**.
 - **Don't match** information from verification services.



Background

- **Provides conflicting details** or explanations for resume gaps or reasons for leaving past employers.
- **Cannot verify credentials** or provide references.
- Has history of **short tenures** with multiple employers.



Behavior

- **Reluctant to use video** communications, possibly to avoid identity verification.
- Requests payment before start date.
- Has **odd banking details** or requests payment through unconventional means.

Employment Phase Anomalies



Asset Misuse

- **Hides actual location** with remote or VPN services
- Uses unapproved remote access tools.
- Accesses or downloads **sensitive data unrelated to their work.**
- Transfers large amounts of data without authorization.
- Manipulates code, software, or **introduces vulnerabilities.**



Violations

- **Violates security policies.**
- Attempts to **bypass security measures** or gain access to sensitive areas of the IT infrastructure.
- Installs **unauthorized software or hardware** that could gather information or grant external access to the network.



Behavior

- Has **inconsistent work patterns** (time, location).
- Requests **early payment** or advance for no clear reason.
- Changes bank account details for deposits often.
- Struggles to build normal professional **relationships.**
- Expresses frustration if denied access to **specific projects.**

Threat Intelligence

Staying a Step Ahead: Mitigating the DPRK IT Worker Threat

September 23, 2024

Mandiant

Written by: Codi Starks, Michael Barnhart, Taylor Long, Mike Lombardi, Joseph Pisano, Alice Revelli



<https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/mitigating-dprk-it-worker-threat>

Thank You!

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