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Building and Sustaining an Effective Incident Response Center





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Drivers



- Compliance / Regulatory requirements
- Centralized monitoring & responding to IT availability incidents
- Monitor the effectiveness of the security controls and recommend improvement, move from reactive response to proactive mitigation
- Build infrastructure to retain centralized event logs for analysis, investigation purpose – Isolated / Integrated
- User IT activity monitoring / Threat intelligence / visibility / Real time alerts
- Part of institutionalized, formal detection and response capability Incident management and Real-time decision support system
- Peer pressure / status symbol

Mission & Vision



- CERT Computer Emergency Response Team
- CSIRT Computer Security Incident Response Team
- IRT Incident Response Team / IRC Incident Response Centre
- CIRT Computer Incident Response Team
- SOC / CSOC Security Operations Centre / Cyber Security Operations Center
- CIRC Computer Incident Response Capability or Center
- SIRT / SERT Security Incident / Emergency Response Team
- SNOC Security & Network Operations Center



Align with business objectives, priorities and risk posture

Constituents & Success factors



Constituents

- Business
- Technical Teams
- Audit / HR / Legal / Privacy
- Compliance & Regulatory
- Physical and Crisis Management
- CIO / CRO / CMO / COO

Success factors

- Define expectations
- Determine the right services
- Consistent quality of service
- Communication / Reporting
- Right Metrics & Feedback
 Build the trust





Threat Actors & Targets



Prioritization

- Typology of threat actors
- Strategic intent
- Motive
- Capabilities
- Targets

Motive

- Financial damage
- Disruption or control
- Espionage
- Fraud / Corruption
- Blackmail / Sabotage
- Access to data

Actors

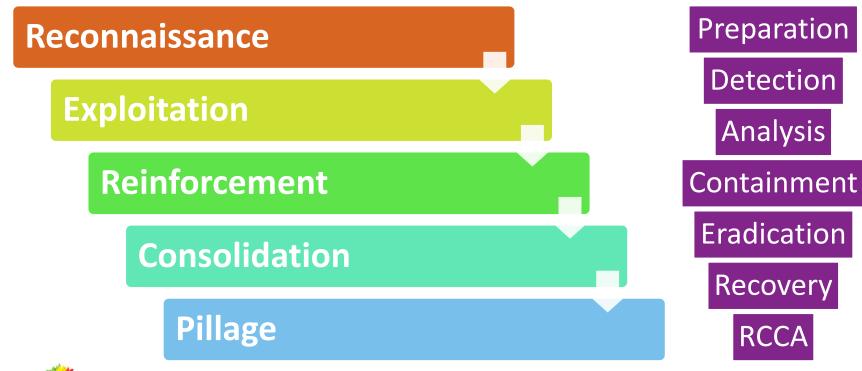
- Cybercriminals
- Terrorist / Insurgents
- Hacktivism / Patriotism
- Script kiddies
- Cyber-researchers
- Advanced / Rogue States
- Competition



Varies between Industry, service and Geo locations

Incident & Defense Lifecycle





Key Challenges



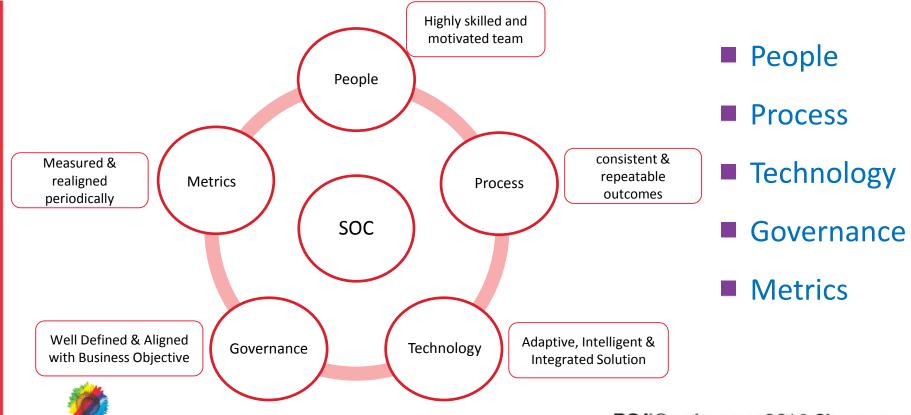
- Availability of the right people with right skills and spirit
- False positives resulting in flooding of Security irrelevant alerts
- Tool limitation in handling large data pool, advance queries and analytics capabilities to provide required context and situational awareness
- Insufficient & irrelevant event collection Cloud, Legacy, Applications
- Highly sophisticated, coordinated and zero day attacks which are mostly unpredictable
- Complicit users, misaligned policies, lack of adequate logs, business support ...



Challenges from every direction and is dynamic

Sustenance & Innovation

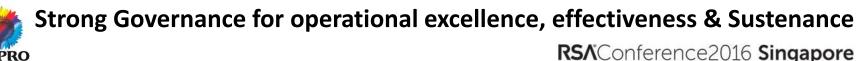




SOC Governance



- Foundation Process
- SOC Operations
- Incident Response
- Framework: The high level framework which defines the various elements, their objectives and the operating policies of the SOC
- Processes: Detailed description of the processes, their objectives, inputs, outputs, users, recipients, consumption, metrics etc.
- Procedures & Work Instructions: Detailed templates & documents



Foundation Process



- Log Management
- Change Management
- Release Management
- Configuration & Capacity Management
- Resource Management / Vendor Management
- Continues Improvement / Quality / SLA Management
- Business Continuity Management
- Legal & Compliance

SOC Operations



- SOC Security Policy / Security Organization
- Service Catalog
- Service Desk & Work Flow / Service Delivery Platform Management
- Physical Security
- Service Induction / Termination
- Access Management & Segregation of duties
- Constituent Communication Management / Escalation Process
- Human Resource, Risk Assessment, Auditing & Reporting



Incident Response



- Event Monitoring & Analysis
- Threat intelligence collection, Analysis and consumption
- Use case development and Optimization
- Incident Communication, Follow ups & Response framework
- Incident Life cycle management & Root Cause Analysis
- Asset, Data & Incident Categorization and Classification
- Generic & Specific Incident Handling / Management



Use case development



- Business case, scope and purpose
- Threat modelling
- Top down vs Bottom up
- Data sources and event of interests
- Reports and Metrics
- Thresholds and response plan



Goal...



- Was the attack credible?
- What was the attack?
- Who was the attacker?
- Was the attack success / failure? Which is the target?
- What was the motive?
- Was there any data extrusion?

- Was the asset vulnerable?
- Was the attack unique?
- Where did attack originate from?
- - Potential Root cause



Team - varied skills



Roles

- Infrastructure support
- SIEM & Tool Specialists
- Automation SME's
- Security Analysts
- Incident Handlers
- Researchers / Hunters
- Forensics / Reverse engineers
- Shift Leads

Structure

- Internal Distributed
- Internal Centralized
- Distributed & Centralized
- Coordinating
- Partially / Fully outsourced
- Virtual

Accountability

- Full Authority
- Shared Authority
- No Authority



Right people on board with the right attitude and spirit

Incident Handler



- Play book director
- POC for Events of Interest reported both internally and externally through its lifecycle
- Excellent technical and communication and soft skills to articulate and coordinate with varied constituents across the globe
- Passion and persistence
- Continues leaner and leader, matured from Incident responder to Handler



Tools



- Enterprise Device, application and log format coverage & support
- Ease of use, Integration and deployment
- Correlation, Query and Reporting capability and flexibility
- External threat and vulnerability feed integration
- OEM Continues Innovation, support and roadmap
- TCO Licensing models, scale, storage compression, Hardware

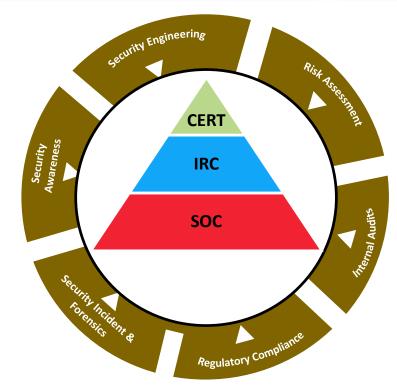




Incident Response Center Framework



Cyber Defense	Tiered Function R&R
Computer Emergency Response Center (CERT)	Cyber Intel Collection and Analysis, Threat Assessment, Threat Actor / Vector analysis, Advanced Forensic Analysis
Incident Response Center (IRC)	Real-Time Monitoring & Triage, Event Analysis, Trending & correlation, Incident coordination & Response, Root Cause Analysis and Mitigation, Situational Awareness, Custom signature creation, Scripting & automation
Security Operations Center (SOC)	Availability, Configuration, Change and Release Management, Sustenance of Security Devices, Emergency alerts & warnings, Call center

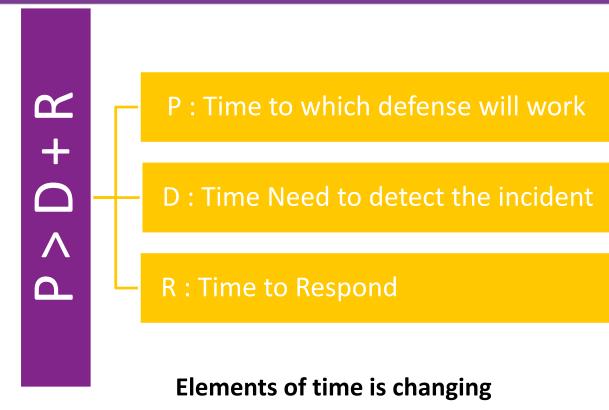




Continues Incident monitoring, analysis, Response & Reinforcement

Time based Security Incident Defense







Models



Structure

- Centralized
- Federated
- Remote
- Alert based

Availability

- 24x7
- Follow the Sun
- On Demand
- Consultative

Deliverables

- Free
- Membership
- Basic + Value added service
- Research / Advisories / News Letters
- Ad Hoc Service
- Professional Services



Defensible Network



- Persistent organizational commitment
- Inventories, mapped & Documented
- Claimed
- Controlled, Minimized & Baselined
- Assessed, Mitigated & Current
- Monitored & Measured



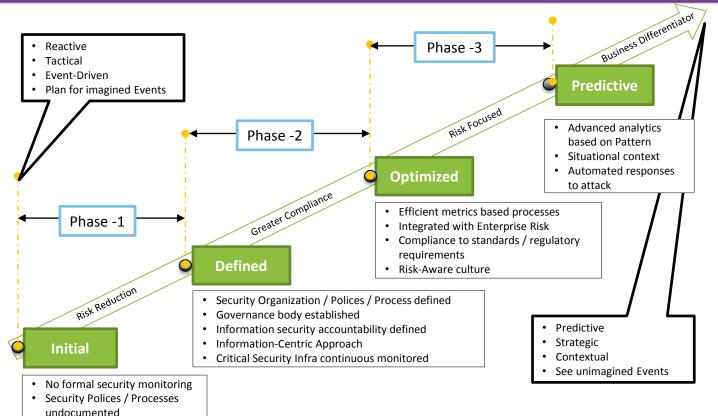
Pre-requisite for an effective Incident Response Centre

Incident Response Maturity Model

· Critical security Infra missing

IT-Centric Approach





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Optimized & Effective IRC



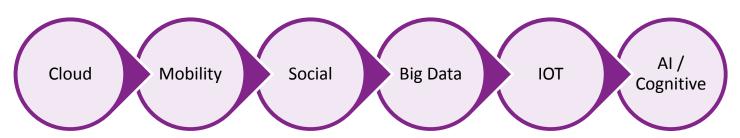
- Should be able to differentiate between normal to abnormal to suspicious with right baselines
- Should know yourself and enemy SWOT
- Should be supporting a defensive network
- Sensible time to identify and respond to all incidents covering when, who, what, how, where and why
- Well defined and tested playbook and incident response strategy
- Passionate and skilled resources
- Management and Business should be part of IRC along with IT



Central point for Incident response with full visibility across enterprise

NEW BUSINESS IMPERATIVE..





Evolving Regulations
Sophisticated & Targeted attacks
Connected partner / Platform echo systems
Blurred perimeters, Encrypted traffics
New business models & expectations



Incident response will become a priority for the security program & Budget allocation for incident response will go higher over the years

Wrap up – Key takeaways



- Revisit Short term and long term vision and stakeholders expectations
- Initiate project for a defensible network
 - Noise reduction
 - Malware eradication
 - Improving patching and hardening compliance
- Analysis of
 - logging levels
 - SIEM Rules,
 - Reports and Dashboards



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- Gartner

Thank You

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