



# How LLMs are revolutionizing the cybersecurity field ?

A focus on Threat Intelligence (TI)

Presented by Dr.-Ing. Natasha Alkhatib





### Who am I

- ☐ Cybersecurity Lead at Symbio.
- ☐ Ex-cybersecurity engineer at ETAS Bosch.
- ☐ Holds a Ph.D. in AI for Automotive Cybersecurity from Institut Polytechnique de Paris.
- □ Specializes in AI-powered automotive cybersecurity solutions.





### Agenda

- Threat Intelligence as a defensive application of LLMs
  - ☐ What is Threat Intelligence ?
  - ☐ The Threat Intelligence Lifecycle
  - LLM as part of the TI Lifecycle
  - ☐ Google Threat Intelligence with Gemini Pro 1.5
  - Beyond Threat Intelligence
- ☐ The offensive side of LLMs



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- lacksquare The offensive side of LLMs

"Every battle is won before it is ever fought."

- Sun Tzu

### What is Threat Intelligence ?



### What have you heard about **Threat Intelligence**?

Welcome to the **TI** 2024 Conference in Berlin, Germany. Today, we will discuss the following: .. Nice report on state-sponsored attacks, how shall I protect my enterprise ?

TI provides external context for security decisions

Let's add **TI** to our security program!



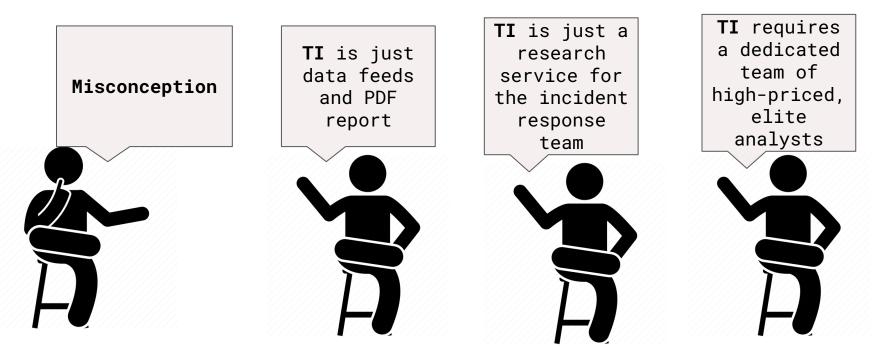








### What have you heard about **Threat Intelligence**?





### Then, what is **Threat Intelligence** ?

- ☐ Today, the cybersecurity industry faces numerous challenges
  - → threat actors
  - ☐ / false alarms
  - Shortage of skilled professionals

- Connectivity and automation revolutionizing the world
- □ They're also bringing / vulnerability to cyberattacks.







### Then, what is **Threat Intelligence** ?

- TI is **knowledge** that allows you to **prevent** and **mitigate** attacks on **digital systems**.
- Rooted in data, threat intelligence provides context like:
  - Who's attacking you?
  - ☐ What are their **motivation** and **capabilities**?
  - ☐ What indicators of compromise to look for in your systems?

Ok, so it helps us make informed decisions about our security.







# Who can benefit from **Threat**Intelligence ?







### Who can benefit from Threat Intelligence?

Team	Challenge	TI's benefits
Security Operations	FALSE ALARMS	Automatically prioritize and filter alerts and other threats.
Vulnerability Management	Need to prioritize the most important vulnerabilities.	<ul> <li>Provides access to external insights and context.</li> <li>Differentiate immediate threats to their specific enterprise from merely potential threats.</li> </ul>
High-level security staff	Understand the current threat landscape	Provides key insights on: threat actors, thei intentions, targets, tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs).



A **TI program** can produce dynamic improvements in security and operational efficiency



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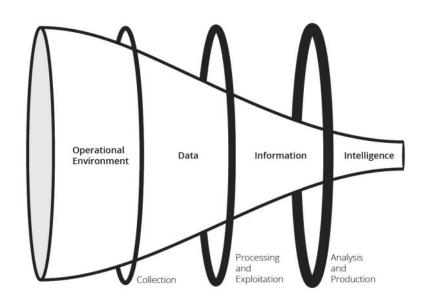


## Data and Information are Not Intelligence



### Distinctions between data, information, and intelligence

- Data consists of discrete facts and statistics gathered as the basis for further analysis.
- **Information** is multiple data points combined to answer specific questions.
- ☐ Intelligence analyzes data and information to uncover patterns and stories that inform decision-making.





# In cybersecurity





# Data



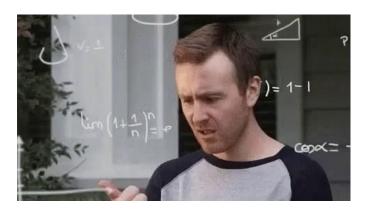






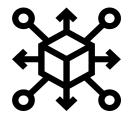
How many time has my organization been mentioned on social media this month ?

# Information

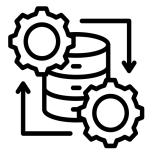


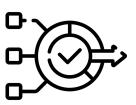






# Intelligence









# Types of Threat Intelligence



### Operational Threat Intelligence

- Also referred to as technical threat intelligence.
- $oldsymbol{\exists}$  Knowledge about ongoing cyber attacks, events, and campaigns.
  - ☐ Which attack vectors are being used?
  - ☐ What vulnerabilities are being exploited ?
  - ☐ What command and control domains are being employed by attackers ?
- ☐ Generally sourced from machines.
- Useful to personnel directly involved in the defense of an organization
   System architects, administrators, and security staff.
- Source: threat data feeds
- Guides improvements to existing security controls, processes, speeds up incident response.



### Strategic Threat Intelligence

- Provides a wide overview of an organization's threat landscape.
- Most helpful for informing high-level decisions
- Business-oriented
- Presented through reports or briefings
- Sources:
  - ☐ Policy documents from nation-states or nongovernmental organizations
  - ☐ News from local and national media
  - Articles in industry
  - White papers
  - ☐ Research reports



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  - Beyond Threat Intelligence
- ☐ The offensive side of LLMs

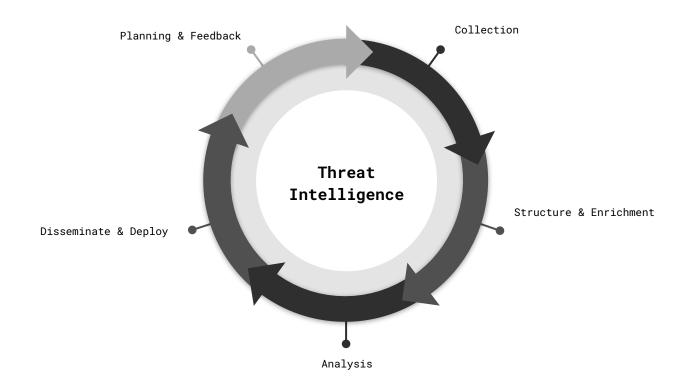
"You have to believe in your process."

- Tom Brady

The Threat Intelligence Lifecycle



### Threat Intelligence Lifecycle





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### Threat Intelligence Lifecycle

### Planning & Feedback



### Disseminate & Deploy

Personalize detections to each customer's profile and reduce time to detection

# Analysis

### Structure & Enrichment

Parse, normalize, and enrich raw data through AI/ML-based information extraction and detection

Help analysts prioritize and process vast amounts of information through scoring and summarization



### Collection

### Gather Information About Threat Activity

- Process of gathering information to address the most important intelligence requirements
- Information gathering can occur organically through a variety of means, including:



Internal Sources



Technical Sources



Human Sources



# Automate more !



### Data Collection Magic with AI

### Acquiring Top Threat Data

### ■ GPT-Crawler (BuilderIO):

- A crawler tool that integrates the capabilities of GPT-3, capable of understanding and processing complex web structures.
- Features: Strong natural language processing capabilities, high automation, and context understanding.
- Use Cases: Suitable for websites with complex structures and those requiring deep understanding.
- Example: Using GPT-Crawler to scrape threat data feed blogs, automatically categorizing and summarizing content.

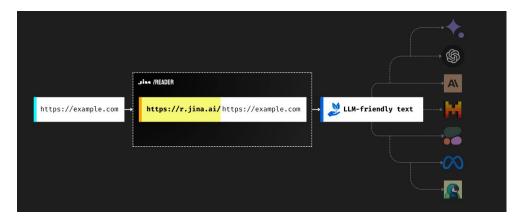


### Data Collection Magic with AI

### Acquiring Top Threat Data

### □ Jina AI's reader:

- □ tackles the challenges of feeding web data into language models (LLMs).
- Scraping webpages and passing raw HTML to LLMs can be complex, unreliable, and expensive due to the high volume of unwanted tokens.
- The Reader API solves this by extracting only the core content from a URL and converting it into clean, LLM-friendly text.
- This not only ensures high-quality input for your AI systems but also reduces costs by minimizing the number of tokens processed.

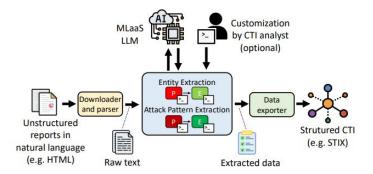




### Structure and Enrichment

Gather Information About Threat Activity

- Processing is the transformation of collected information into a format usable by the organization.
- Different collection methods often require different means of processing.



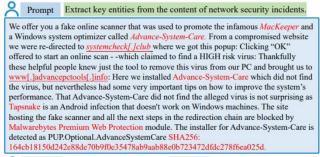


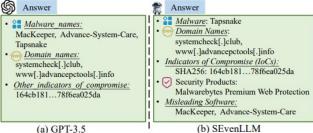
# Automate more !



### Data Processing Magic with LLM

SEvenLLM for Threat Information Extraction and Understanding





# SEVENLLM : Benchmarking, Eliciting, and Enhancing Abilities of Large Language Models in Cyber Threat Intelligence

Hangyuan Ji<sup>1</sup>, Jian Yang<sup>1</sup>, Linzheng Chai<sup>1</sup>, Chaoren Wei<sup>1</sup>, Liqun Yang<sup>1</sup>, Yunlong Duan<sup>1</sup>, Yunli Wang<sup>1</sup>, Tianzhen Sun<sup>1</sup>, Hongcheng Guo<sup>1</sup>, Tongliang Li<sup>1</sup>, Changyu Ren<sup>1</sup>, Zhouiun Li<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>State Key Laboratory of Complex & Critical Software Environment, Beihang University {jhy\_1, jiaya, challenging, weichaoren, lqyang, tonyliangli, cyren, lizj}@buaa.edu.cn;

Source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2405.03446



### Data Processing Magic with LLM

Information Extraction

Task Name	Task Description
Key Entity Recognition	Identify the main entity information in the text, such as attacker organization, victim type, main person, the common vulnerabilities
Main Relation Extraction	Extract the relationships between major entities such as attacker, victim, attack method and so on. Through relationship extraction, connections between entities can be established to help cybersecurity experts better understand the content and context of threat intelligence.
Important Event Extraction	Key information such as the type, time, location, and impact of the event can be identified through critical event extraction
Attack Tool Identification	Tools and toolchains utilized in the attack are identified and extracted
Domain Intelligence Acquisition	Domain names often involve information about phishing sites and locations, obtaining the domain name used by the attacker to look for potential relevance.

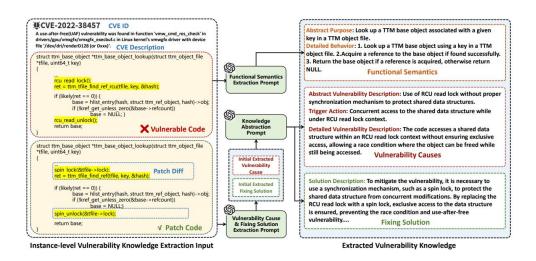


### Data Processing Magic with LLM

Vul-RAG for Vulnerability Detection

### Vul-RAG: Enhancing LLM-based Vulnerability Detection via Knowledge-level RAG

Xueving Du Geng Zheng Kaixin Wang **Fudan University** Alibaba Group **Fudan University** China China China Jiayi Feng Wentai Deng Mingwei Liu Fudan University Nanjing University Sun Yat-sen University China China China Bihuan Chen Xin Peng Tao Ma **Fudan University Fudan University** Alibaba Group China China China Yiling Lou **Fudan University** China



Source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2406.11147

- Process that turns processed information into intelligence that can inform decisions.
- Decisions might involve:
  - ☐ Investigate a potential threat?
  - lacktriangle What actions to take immediately to block an attack.
  - How to strengthen security controls?
  - ☐ How much investment in additional security resources is justified?
- ☐ The form in which the information is presented is especially important.
- It is useless and wasteful to collect and process and then deliver it in a form that can't be understood and used by the decision maker.



# Automate more !



#### Data Analysis Magic with LLM

SEvenLLM for Threat Information Extraction and Generation

Task Name	Task Description
Attack Means Analysis	Analyze the means and specific methods used in attacks during cybersecurity incidents
Attack Strategy Analysis	Analyze the attacker's tactics, attack plan, or usual methods in a cybersecurity incident.
Correlation Analysis	Analyze the connections and correlated evidence between different threat intelligence reports and cybersecurity incidents.
Attack Tool Identification	Tools and toolchains utilized in the attack are identified and extracted
Attack Intent Analysis	Analyze the attacker's potential motivation, intent, target industry, or target area.

Source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2405.03446

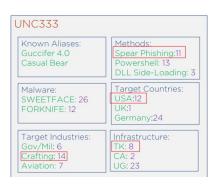


#### Data Analysis Magic with LLM

#### ATOMIC for clustering and associating attacker activity at Scale

□ Goal: Merge a new group either into an existing group once the link can be proven, or to graduate it to its own group if we are confident it represents a new and distinct actor set.

How similar are these groups?





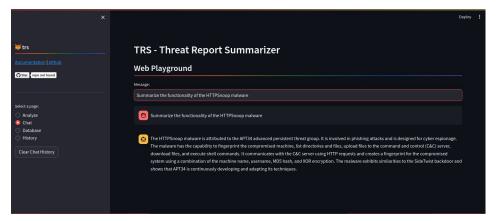
 $Source: \ https://cloud.google.com/blog/topics/threat-intelligence/clustering-and-associating-attacker-activity-at-scale and the source of t$ 



#### Data Analysis Magic with LLM

Trs for threat intelligence report analysis via LLM

- trs leverages OpenAI and ChromaDB to analyze and chat with cyber threat intelligence reports and blogs.
- Supply a threat report URL to pre-built commands for summarization, MITRE TTP extraction, mindmap creation, and identification of detection opportunities, or run your own custom prompts against the URLs text content.



Source: https://github.com/deadbits/trs



# Operationalize Intelligence to Proactively Detect Threats Disseminate and Deploy

- Dissemination involves getting the finished intelligence output to the places it needs to go.
- Strategic threat intelligence via analyst-curated reports and threat graph insights
- Tactical intelligence is converted to machine-readable data (MRTI) and signatures for immediate use by customers and partners.
- Personalize the threat intelligence to the needs of each customer by recommending relevant intelligence and customize scoring based on each customer's threat profile (e.g., industry, geographic region, vulnerabilities).

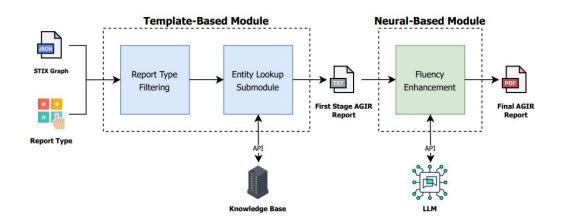


# Automate more !



#### Threat Intelligence Reporting with LLM

AGIR: Automating Cyber Threat Intelligence Reporting with Natural Language Generation



Source: https://arxiv.org/pdf/2310.02655



### Planning and Feedback

Refine Future Threat Intelligence Collections

- The high-quality data about threat actors and their TTPs is used directly to train the AI technologies used throughout the Threat Intelligence Lifecycle, which leads
  - Improved detections
  - Better intelligence collection over time.
- Feedback from customers, both from explicit and implicit feedback mechanisms ensures that the intelligence collections are aimed at those threats that matter most to the customers.



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## Google Threat Intelligence





#### MLin PL Gemini 1.5 Pro as part of Google Threat Intelligence



- ☐ Gemini 1.5 Pro offers the world's longest context window, with support for up to 1 million tokens.
- It was able to process the entire decompiled code of the malware file for <u>WannaCry in a single pass</u>, taking 34 seconds to deliver its analysis and identify the killswitch.
- Gemini-driven entity extraction tool :
  - ☐ It can automatically crawl the web for relevant open source intelligence (OSINT)
  - ☐ It can classify online industry threat reporting.
  - ☐ It then converts this information to knowledge collections, with corresponding hunting and response packs pulled from motivations, targets, tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs), actors, toolkits, and Indicators of Compromise (IoCs).





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## Beyond Threat Intelligence

- ☐ Audit:
  - □ <u>chatqpt-code-analyzer</u> ChatGPT Code Analyzer for Visual Studio Code
- □ Offensive:
  - <u>PentestGPT</u> A GPT-empowered penetration testing tool (Source:)
- Reverse Engineering:
  - <u>LLM4Decompile</u> Reverse Engineering: Decompiling Binary Code with Large Language Models



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**Poison** is in everything, and nothing is without poison.

The **dosage** makes it either a **poison** or a **remedy**.

- PARACELSUS





# Adversarial application of LLMs

Reconnaissance 10 techniques	Resource Development 8 techniques	Initial Access 10 techniques	Execution 14 techniques	Persistence 20 techniques	Privilege Escalation 14 techniques	Defense Evasion 44 techniques	Credential Access 17 techniques	Discovery 32 techniques	Lateral Movement 9 techniques	Collection 17 techniques	Command and Control 18 techniques	Exfiltration 9 techniques	Impact 14 techniques
Active Scanning (3)	Acquire Access	Content Injection	Cloud Administration Command	Account Manipulation (7)	Abuse Elevation Control	Abuse Elevation Control Mechanism (6)	Adversary-in- the-Middle (4)	Account Discovery (4)	Exploitation of Remote Services	Adversary-in-the- Middle (4)	Layer	Automated Exfiltration (1)	Account Access Removal
Gather Victim Host Information (4)	Acquire Infrastructure (8)	Drive-by Compromise	Command and	BITS Jobs	Mechanism (6)  Access Token	Access Token Manipulation (5)	Brute Force (4)	Application Window Discovery	Internal Spearphishing	Archive Collected	Protocol (5) Communication	Data Transfer Size Limits	Data Destruction (1)
Gather Victim Identity Information (3)	Compromise Accounts (3)	Exploit Public- Facing Application	Interpreter (11)	Boot or Logon  Autostart Execution (14)	Manipulation (5)	BITS Jobs	Credentials from Password Stores (6)	Browser Information Discovery	Lateral Tool Transfer	Data (3) Audio Capture	Through Removable Media	Exfiltration Over	Data Encrypted for Impact
Gather Victim Network Information (6)	Compromise Infrastructure (8)	External Remote Services	Administration Command	Boot or Logon	Manipulation (7)	Build Image on Host  Debugger Evasion	Exploitation for Credential Access	- Cloud Infrastructure Discovery	Remote Service	Automated Collection	Content Injection	Alternative Protocol (3)	Data Manipulation (3)
Gather Victim Org Information (4)	Develop Capabilities (4)	Hardware Additions		Scripts (5)	Boot or Logon Autostart Execution (14)	Deobfuscate/Decode Files	Forced	Cloud Service Dashboard	Hijacking (2)	Browser Session	Encoding (2)	Exfiltration Over C2 Channel	Defacement (2)
Phishing for Information	Establish Accounts (3)	Phishing (4)	Exploitation for Client Execution	Browser Extensions Compromise Host	Boot or Logon Initialization	or Information  Deploy Container	Authentication Forge Web	Cloud Service Discovery Cloud Storage Object	Remote Services (8)	Hijacking Clipboard Data	Data Obfuscation (3)	Exfiltration Over Other	Disk Wipe (2)
Search Closed Sources (2)	Obtain Capabilities (7)	Through Removable Media	Inter-Process Communication (3)	Software Binary Create		Direct Volume Access	Credentials (2)	Discovery  Container and Resource	Replication Through Removable Media	Data from Cloud Storage	Dynamic Resolution (3)	Network Medium (1)	Endpoint Denial of Service (4)
Search Open Technical	Stage Capabilities (6)	Supply Chain Compromise (3)	Native API Scheduled	Account (3)	System Process (s)	Domain or Tenant Policy Modification (2)	Modify Authentication	- Discovery  Debugger Evasion	Software	Data from	Encrypted Channel (2)	Exfiltration Over Physical	Financial Theft
Databases (5) Search Open	Capabilities (6)	Trusted Relationship	Task/Job (5)	System Process (5)	Domain or Tenant Policy	Execution Guardrails (2)	Process (9)	- Device Driver Discovery	Deployment Tools Taint Shared	Configuration Repository (2)	Fallback Channels	Medium (1) Exfiltration	Corruption
Websites/Domains (3) Search Victim-Owned		Valid Accounts (4)	Serverless Execution Shared Modules	Event Triggered Execution (17) Escape to Host	Exploitation for Defense Evasion	Multi-Factor Authentication Interception	Domain Trust Discovery	Use Alternate Re	Data from Information Repositories (5)	on	Service (4)	Inhibit System Recovery	
Websites			Software Deployment Tools	External Remote Services	Event Triggered Execution (17)	File and Directory Permissions Modification (2)	Multi-Factor Authentication	File and Directory Discovery	Material (4)	Data from Local System	Transfer Multi-Stage	Scheduled Transfer	Network Denial of Service (2)
			n System Services (2)	rstem Services (2) Hijack Execution E Flow (13)  ser Execution (3) Implant Internal	Exploitation for Privilege Escalation Hijack Execution	Hide Artifacts (12)	Request Generation Network Sniffing	Group Policy Discovery  Log Enumeration	Data from Ne Shared Drive Data from Removable M	Data from Network Shared Drive Data from	Channels	ort	Resource Hijacking (4)
			User Execution (3)			Hijack Execution Flow (13)		- Network Service Discovery			Layer Protocol		Service Stop System Shutdown/Reboot
			Windows Management Instrumentation	Modify Authentication Process (9)	Flow (13)	Impair Defenses (11) Impersonation Indicator Removal (10)	OS Credential Dumping (8)	Network Share Discovery		Removable Media	Non-Standard Port Protocol Tunneling		
					Injection (12) Scheduled		Steal Application Access Token	Network Sniffing  Password Policy Discovery		Email Collection (3)	n Proxy (4)		
				Office Application Startup (6)	Task/Job (5)	Indirect Command	Steal or Forge Authentication Certificates	Peripheral Device		Input Capture (4)	Remote Access Software		
				Power Settings	Valid Accounts (4)	Masquerading (10)	Steal or Forge	Discovery  Permission Groups		Screen Capture	Traffic Signaling (2)		
				Pre-OS Boot (5)		Modify Authentication Process (9)	Kerberos Tickets (5)	Discovery (3)  Process Discovery		Video Capture	Web Service (3)		
				Task/Job (5) Server Software		Modify Cloud Compute	Steal Web Session Cookie	Query Registry					
				Component (S)		Modify Cloud Resource	Unsecured Credentials (8)	Remote System Discovery					
				Traffic Signaling (2)		Hierarchy		Software Discovery (1)					

https://attack.mitre.org/matrices/enterprise/#

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# Thank you

