



**Cyber Security Threat Intelligence & How to Protect Data**

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Level 3 Communications

# A little about Level 3...



Over **\$8B** In Annual Revenue



~**12,500** Employees

Hallo  
もしもし  
Bonjour Olá  
Hola Hello 你好

Connecting **60+** Countries and Counting



**200,000+** Route Miles of Fiber Globally



Approx. **360** Multi-tenant Datacenters

# Security from Our Lens



We monitor  
**~1.3 billion**  
Security events per day



We respond to and  
**mitigate ~120**  
DDoS attacks a day



We **identify** and **remove**  
at least **one C2**  
network a month



We monitor over  
**45 billion**  
NetFlow sessions per day



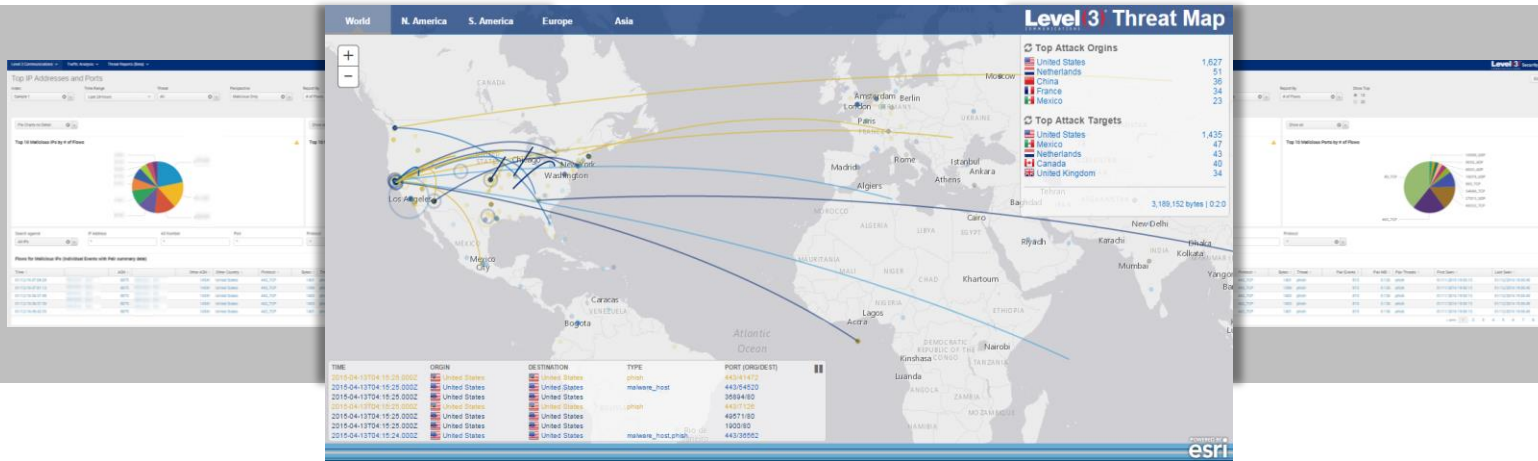
We **collect**  
**~87 TB**  
of data per day



We perform  
**daily audits,**  
protect and monitor  
**all** our products & systems

# Threat Intelligence – Process & Technology

# Protection Approach



## KNOW WHAT YOU ARE PROTECTING

- Inventory your data, systems, applications and locations
- Know the importance of your intellectual property
- How is it being accessed and by whom

## THREAT INTELLIGENCE

- Global Threat View
- Behavior Monitoring
- Internal and External Honeypots
- Social Honeypots

## ADVANCED PROTECTION

- Segmentation
- DDoS Protection
- SandBoxing

## MONITORING

- Independent security layer monitoring
- Invest in SOC, Incident Response and Forensic analysis

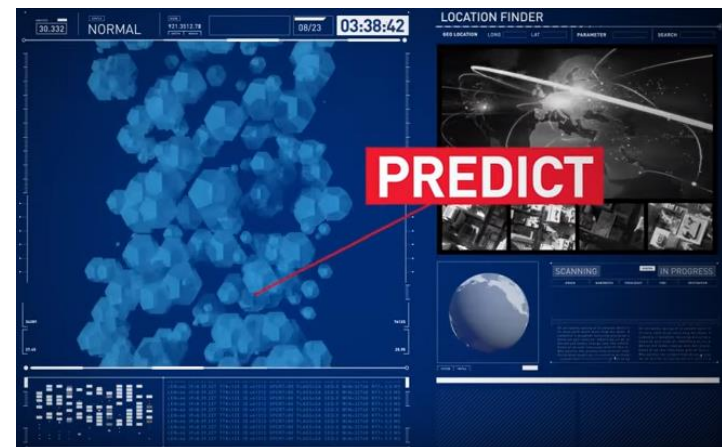
## ➔ Collected and curated data driving reputation

- Automated retrieval of publicly published lists.
- Manual retrieval of OSINT data.
- Purchases of non-public lists.
- Real matches from our sensor network (Q3)

## ➔ Developed data driving reputation

- Proprietary Level 3 algorithms.
- Tracking of new IOCs from campaigns/botnets.
- Machine-learning-driven models finding new IOCs.
- Anomaly detection on the Internet-feeding models (Q3).
- Detailed analyst-driven analytics on events and risks.
- Aggregated risk scoring, driving focused response.

Level 3 obtains approximately  
**45 billion**  
sampled NetFlow  
records per day.



# Threat Intelligence - Process & Technology - Some Lessons Learned

# Deriving Value from Big Data

## Lessons Learned

### Life Cycle of Data Operation

- Identify Sources of Data
  - Where are they?
  - What are they?
  - What format is the data in?
  - How much data is there?
- Verify that YOUR systems are generating clean data
  - How do you verify that the data stream is correct and reliable?
- Verify that collaborative systems are generating clean data
  - How are you verifying that?
  - Must continue to monitor and refine the data
  - Reports must continue to provide **actionable information**
- Value of reports over time
  - Must evolve or will eventually be ignored



# Deriving Value from Big Data

## Lessons Learned continued

- **Very easy to underestimate resource requirements**
  - You will need 5x more than you think of everything...
- **Time is a real factor**
  - Writing queries across a huge volume of data (billions of rows) potentially in multiple repositories takes time (days!)
  - Running queries takes time
- **Developer and Analyst skill sets are hard to find**
  - Tenacity is key as well as willingness to “come up empty”
  - Analysts must be able to write code – not just SQL queries
  - Developers and analysts must work together to be successful

# Enterprise Privacy Concerns

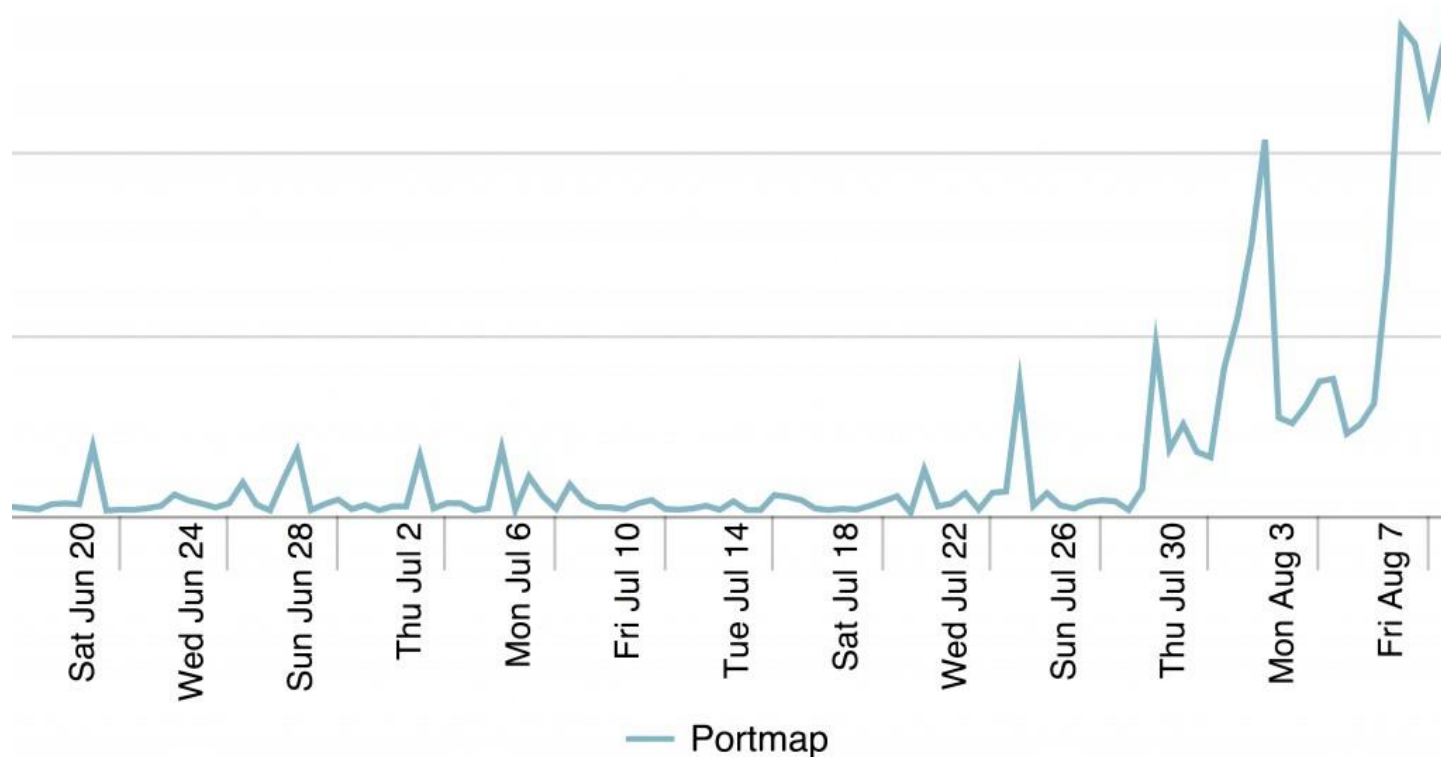
- Intellectual Property
- Market Share Data
- Competitive Data
- Financial Information
- Strategic Information
- Employee Privacy
- Customer/CRM Data
- Test and Development



# Threat Intelligence - How the Information can be used to protect yourselves and others

# Old Playgrounds for New Tricks

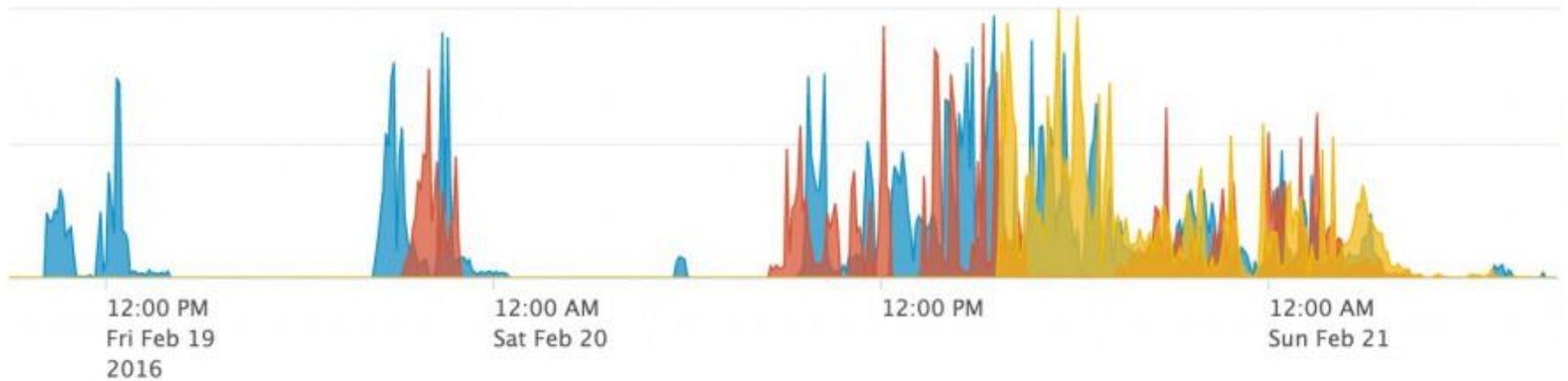
## DDoS Attack Vector: Portmapper



- **News Articles:** US-Cert, SC Magazine, threatpost, The Register, eWeek, TechRadar, TechWorld, IT World Canada

# New Playgrounds for Old Tricks

## The Linux Mint Backdoor: Kaiten Dos Bot

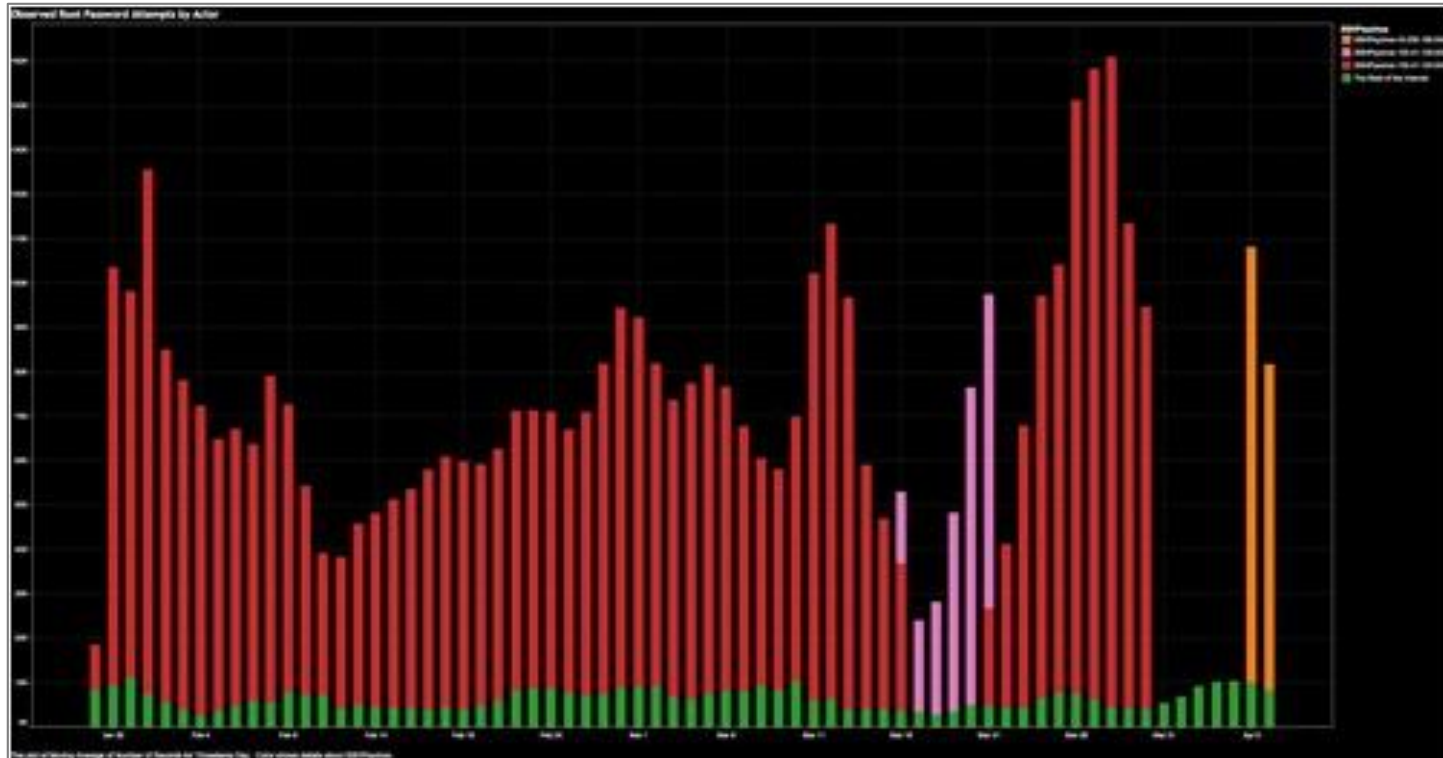


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# Using Threat Intelligence to Take Action

## SSH Psychos

SSH Psycho Traffic Vs. Rest of the Internet



- A visual depiction of the SSHPsycho traffic verses SSH traffic of the rest of the Internet

# Threat Intelligence - To share or not to share ?

# The Power of a Collective Response

InformationWeek  
**DARK**Reading

**SECURITYWEEK**  
INTERNET AND ENTERPRISE SECURITY NEWS, INSIGHTS & ANALYSIS

“

Researchers Disrupt Angler Exploit Kit, Ransomware Operation... estimate Angler is making **\$60 million per year** from ransomware alone.

”

“

Cisco, Level 3 Disrupt SSH Brute Force Attacks Used to Deliver DDoS Bot...at times, the attackers' activities accounted for **more than a third** of the total Internet SSH traffic.

”



# Collaborate with Service Providers and Peers

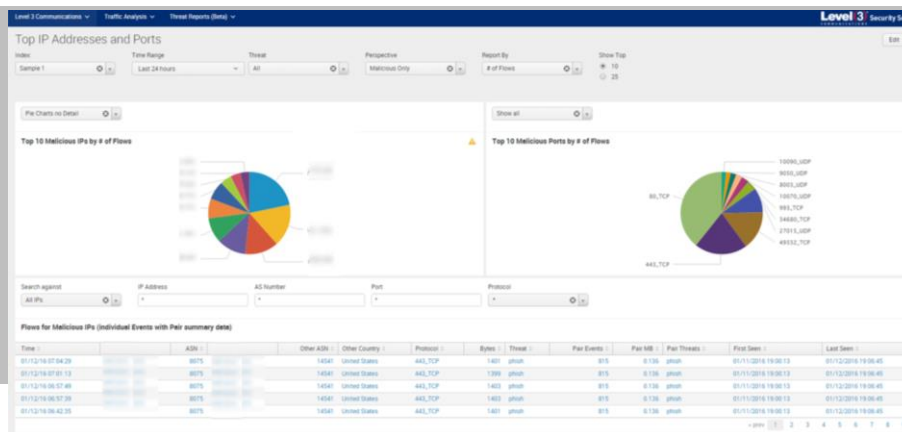
- The threat landscape is evolving rapidly
- Collaboration with peer organizations is vital
- Determine core competencies, perform functions that you do well, outsource others
- Some security functions must be done in partnership with your service provider(s)
- Take advantage of government resources: standards, programs, events, consortiums, services
- Information sharing partnerships are essential



# Barriers To Collaboration



**SHARED**  
Threat Data



**NOT SHARED**  
Victim Data

- Consumer and enterprise concerns about privacy
- Victim organizations concern of damage to brand reputation
- Threat research industry concern of eroding commercial value of threat data or security services
- Lack of resources to put toward threat collaboration
- Not a priority: focus is on blocking, not removing threat

**Thank You**