Learning from Authoritative Security Experiment Results (LASER) Workshop | ACSAC 2021 December 7, 2021 | Online

Methodological Challenges In Investigating the UX of CTI Data Sharing Platforms

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The ability to protect or defend the use of cyberspace from cyber attacks (NIST)







Cybersecurity Domains and Threats

Figure 1: ENISA Threat Landscape 2021 - Prime threats Cryptojacking Disinformation

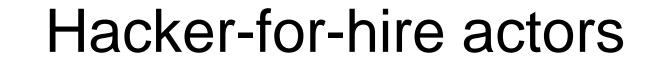
Communication

Operations

Information

Physical

Public-National



* enisa

ENISA THREAT

LANDSCAPE 2021

Hacktivists

State-sponsored actors

Cybercrime actors





Cybersecurity Tools

Network Security Monitoring

Encryption

Web Vulnerability Scanning / Intrusion Detection / Sniffers

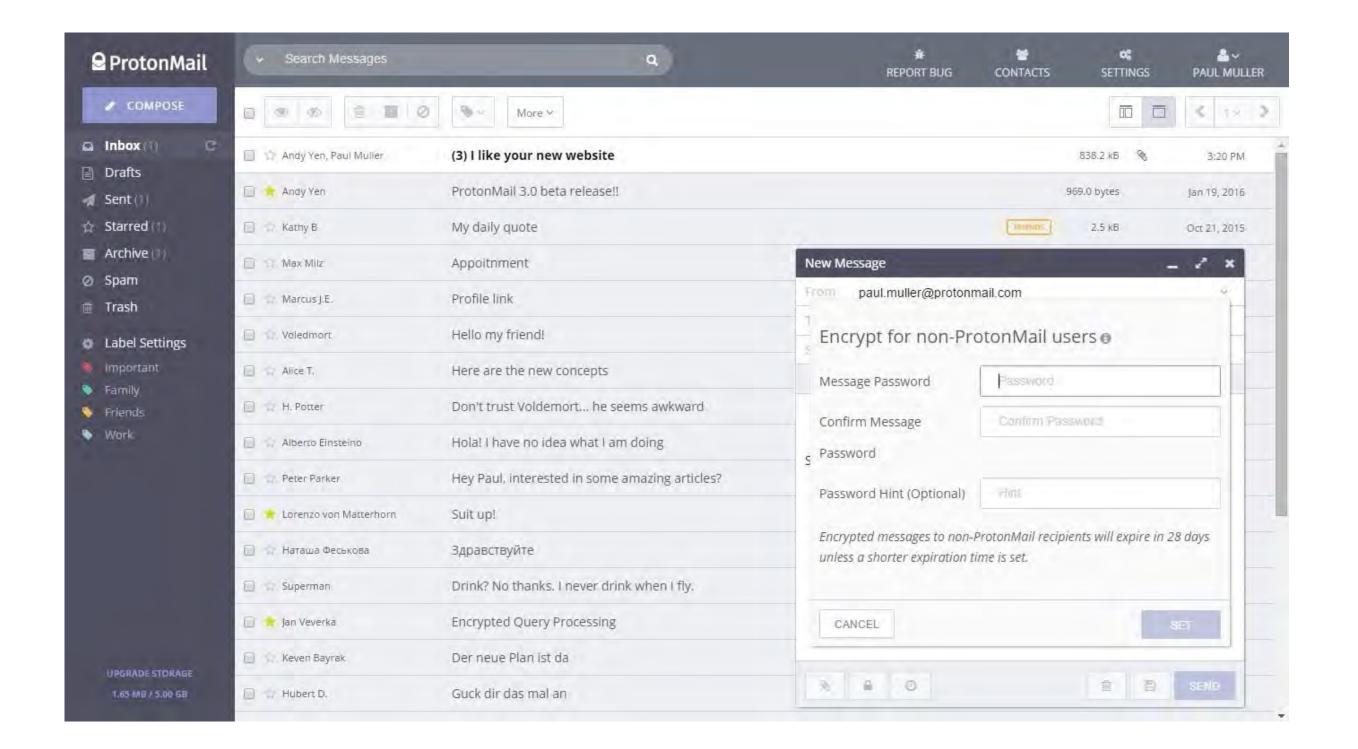
Penetration Testing

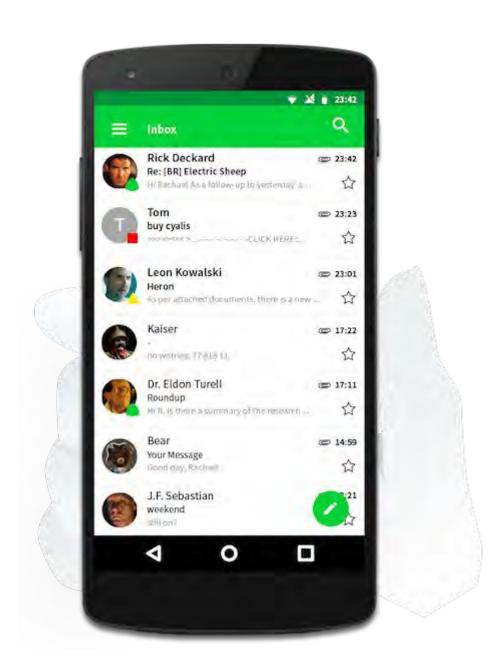
Antivirus

Cyber-Threat Intelligence Platforms

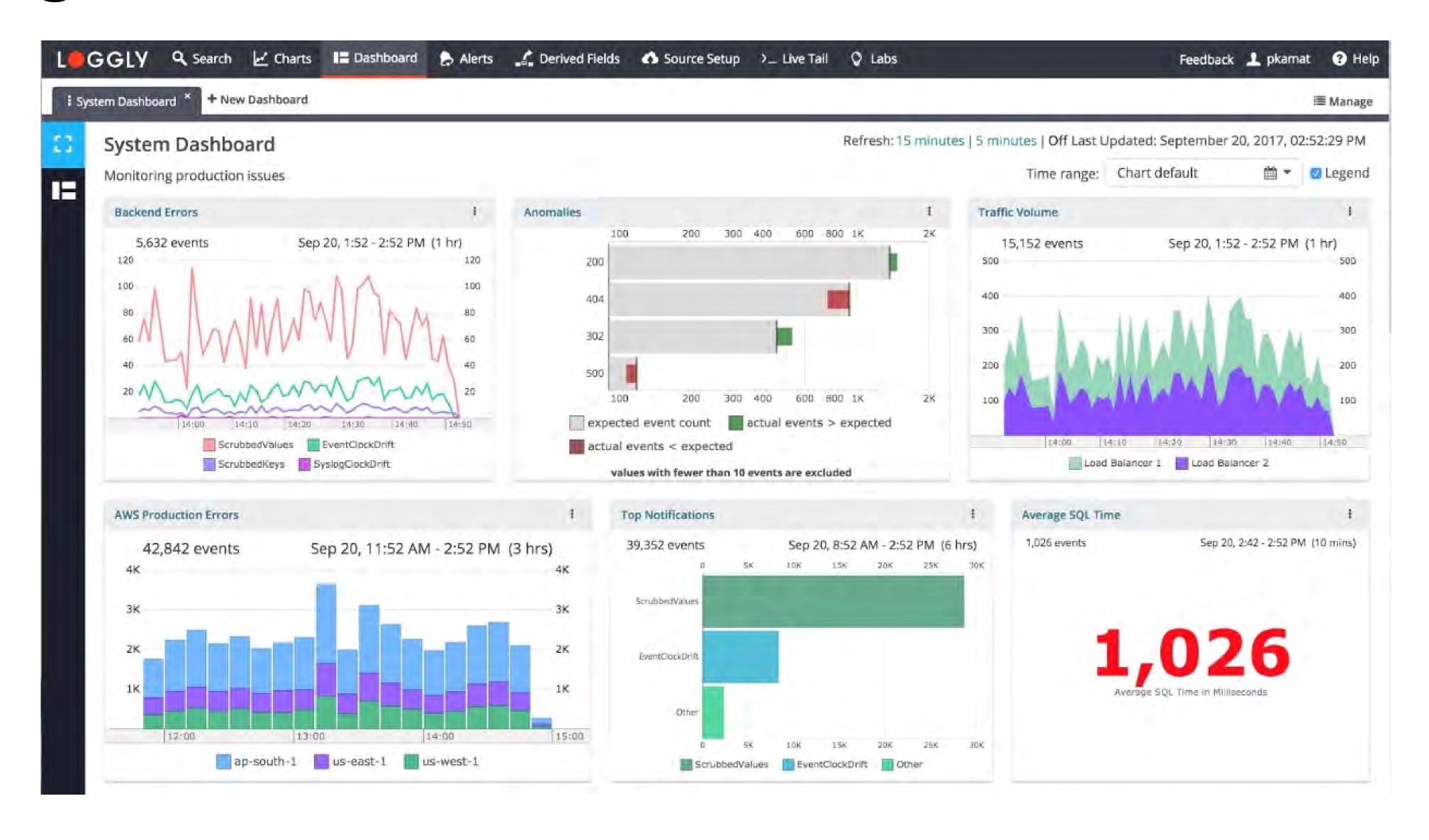


Small Business





Large/Medium Business



Cybersecurity Tools (sociotechnical viewpoint)

Network Security Monitoring

Encryption

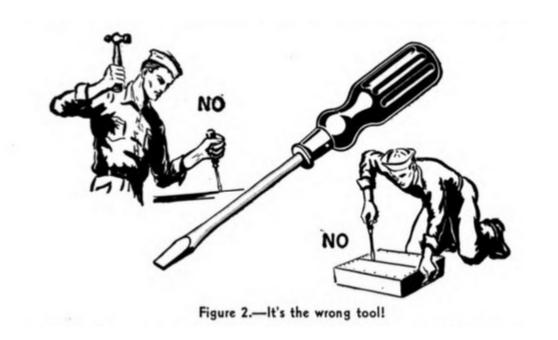
Web Vulnerability Scanning / Intrusion Detection / Sniffers

Penetration Testing

Antivirus

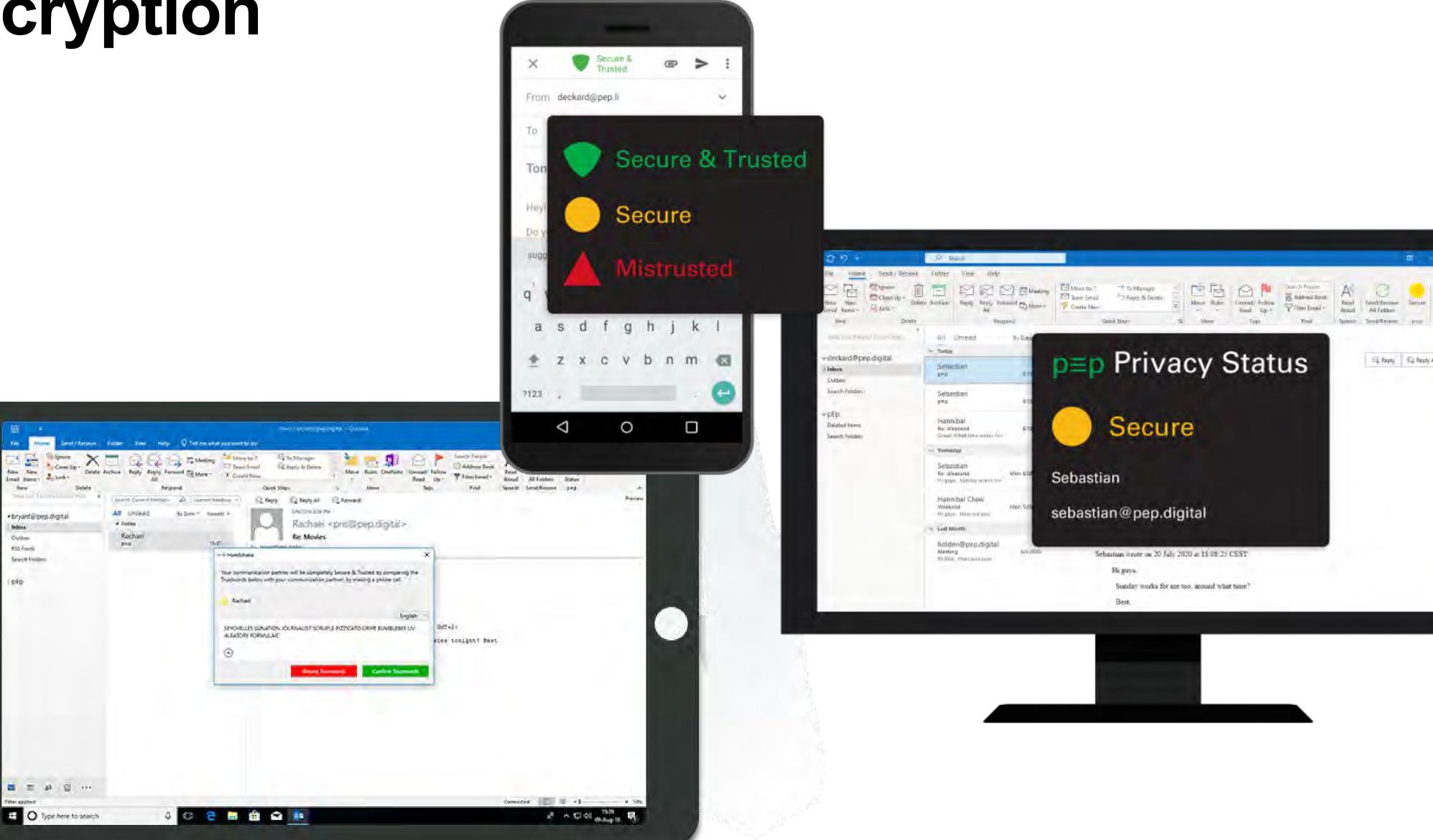
Cyber Threat Intelligence

effectiveness?



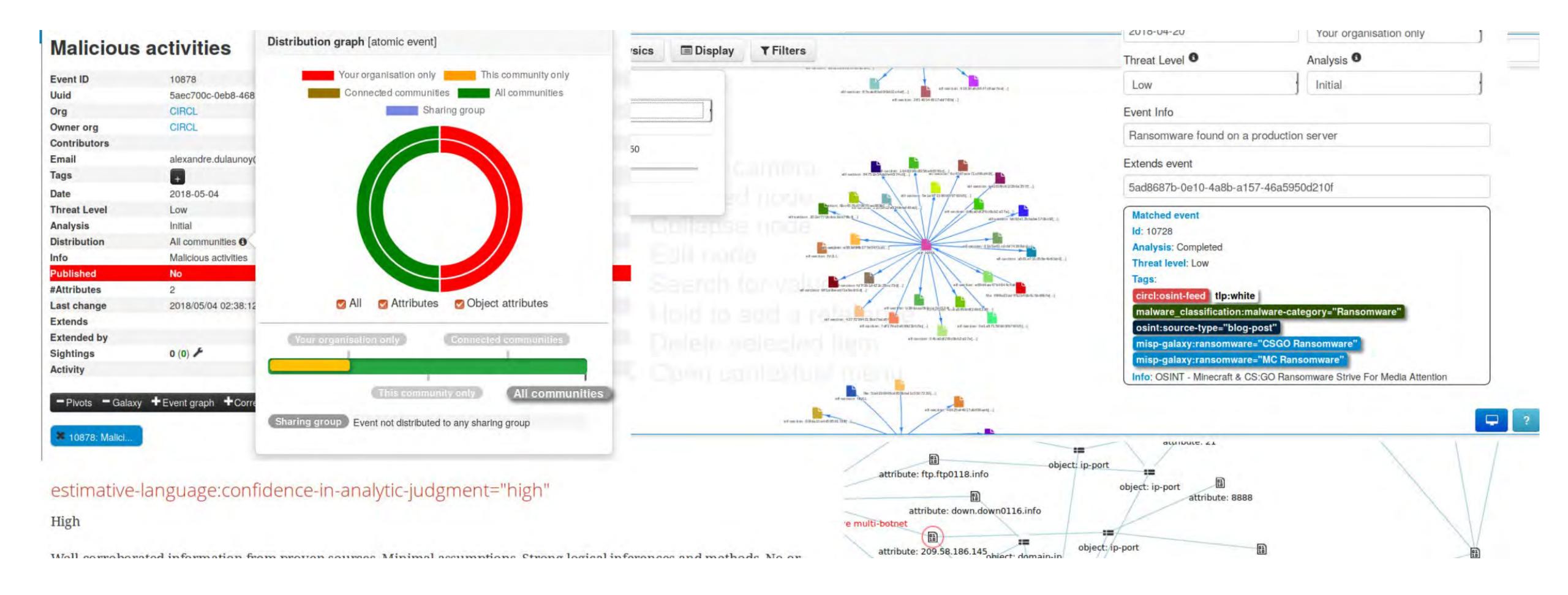


Encryption



St. Repty St. Repty All St. Forward

Cyber Threat Intelligence



Common Methodological Challenges

- Definition / Metrics (e.g., effectiveness)
- Appropriate Variables (e.g., for usability, UX)
- Methods and instrument of evaluation (e.g., questionnaire)
- Ecological Validity (e.g., population)



Cyber Threat Intelligence Platform

- Collect
- Process
- Analyse
- Deploy
- Disseminate

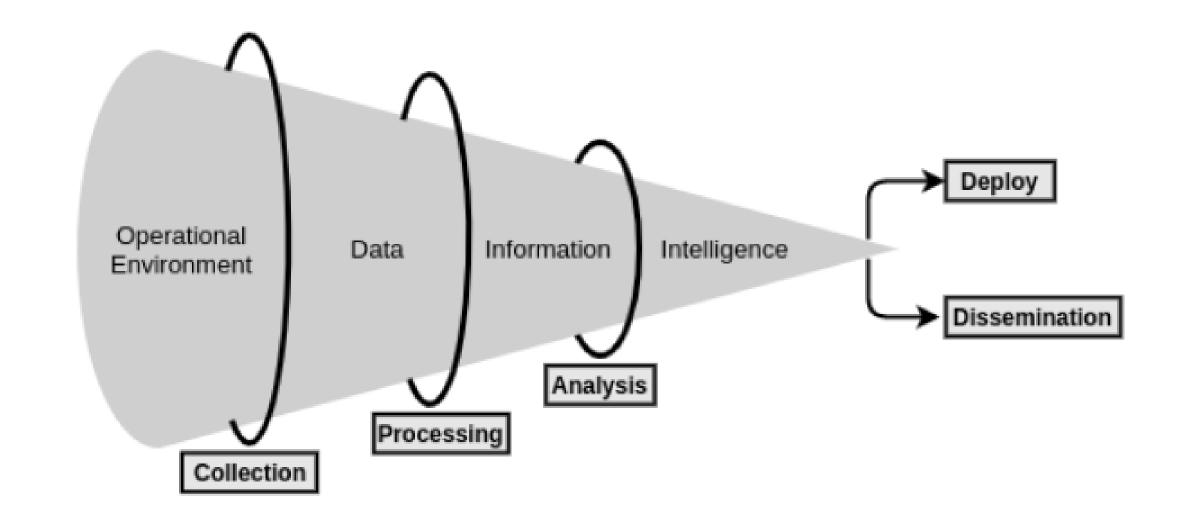


Figure 1. Threat Intelligence Production Process Flow.

From: A Methodology to Evaluate Standards and Platforms within Cyber Threat Intelligence. Alessandra de Melo e Silva, João José Costa Gondim Robson de Oliveira Albuquerque, and Luis Javier García Villalba, Future Internet 2020, 12, 108

Table 7. Evaluation of Tl platforms.

	MISP [59]	OpenCTI [62]	CIF [63,64]	CRITs [60,61] Anomali STAXX [6	551	
		Holiste A	rchitecture				
Use case applicability	3.53.1	±+++	44.X		Table 3. Evaluation criteria for CTI platforms		
Adherence 5W3H method	3.537	****	*		Table 3. Evaluat	non criteria for C11 platforms.	
		Intelliger	ice Process	-			
Import formats	OpenIOC, STIX, CybOX, JSON, CSV, XML	STIX, CybOX, JSON, CSV, XML	XML, JSON, Zip	CS	Data Model Architecture		
Automatic gathering	Using MISP feeds	Using connectors with sources or other platforms	Automatic synchronization with different sources	Possib g	Holistic Architecture	Use case applicability	
Export format	MISP, OpenIOC, CSV, XML, JSON	CSV, STIX	CSV, JSON, HTML, XLS	CS	5W3H method	Answering capability	
Cambrie pionalization	hverse dashhands and		Command line interface	Simp an ex	Intelligence Process		
Graphic visualization	dashboard and relationship graphics	STIXv2 based graphics	with possible integration with visualization tool	gener	Collection	Import formats	
Correlation	Automatic for every data in platform	Automatic for every data in platform	Not addressed	Neces	Conection	Automatic gathering	
Classification	Based on the type of the indicator	Based on STIXv2 objects	Based on the type of the indicator	Based	Processing	Export format	
Integration	IDS, SIEMs and other TI platforms	Other TI platforms	IDSs (Snort, Splunk, Bro, Bind)	N		Graphic visualization	
Sharing method	Reliable group of instances using different models	Particular instance to share between users	Reliable group of instances using a centralized service	Reliable	Analysis	Correlation	
Additional					Classification		
Documentation	Extensive and well elaborated	Extensive and well elaborated	Limited detail with succinct descriptions	Satisfa	Deploy	Integration with security systems	
License model	Open Source (GNU General Public License)	Open Source (Apache License)	Open Source (GNU General Public License)	Open So	Dissemination	Sharing method	
		Legend: very high (++++) hig	gh (+++) medium (++) low (+).				
					Additional		
					Usability	Documentation	
					Osability	License model	

From: A Methodology to Evaluate Standards and Platforms within Cyber Threat Intelligence. Alessandra de Melo e Silva, João José Costa Gondim Robson de Oliveira Albuquerque, and Luis Javier García Villalba, Future Internet 2020, 12, 108

Research Questions

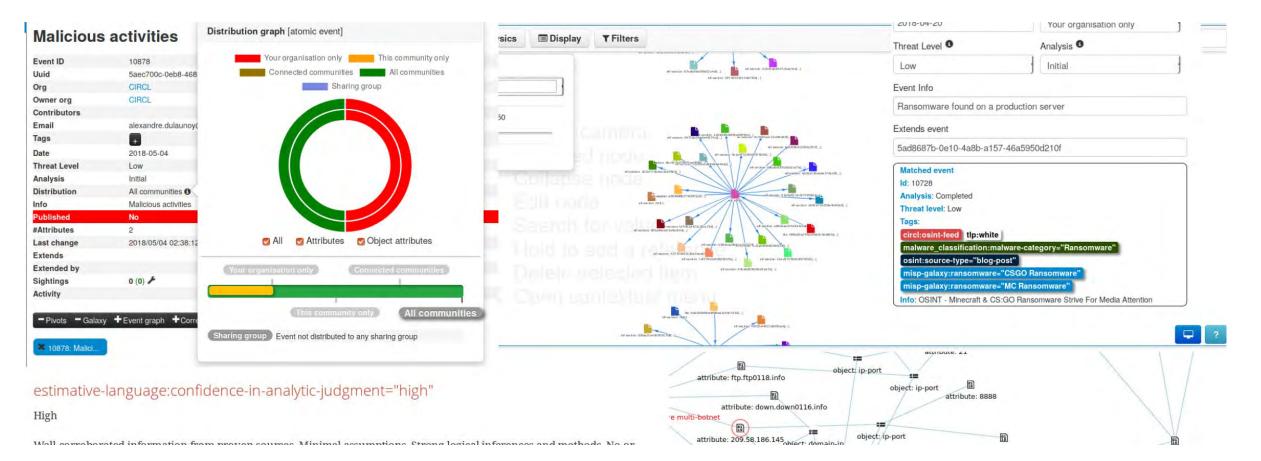
- How do different security information workers evaluate the UX of MISP?
- What do users value about MISP and what do they think could be improved?
- Which user needs are addressed and accounted for by MISP?
- Which are neglected?



MISP

MISP Threat Sharing

- A leading open-source CTI sharing platform
 - ► Inception within military circles 15 years ago
 - Used by over 6,000 organizations worldwide
 - Ul and API users

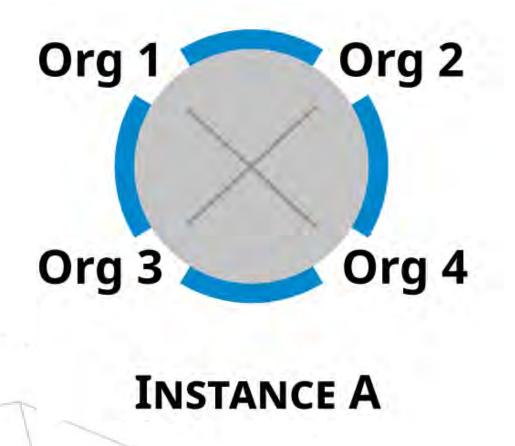


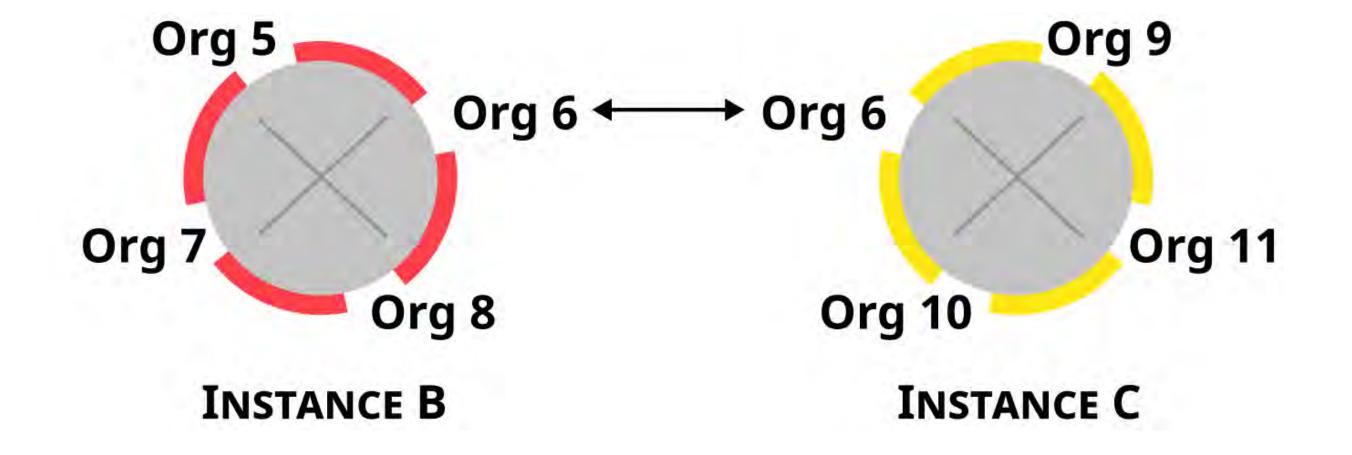
Characterized as holistic and applicable in diverse scenarios

More info: https://www.misp-project.org



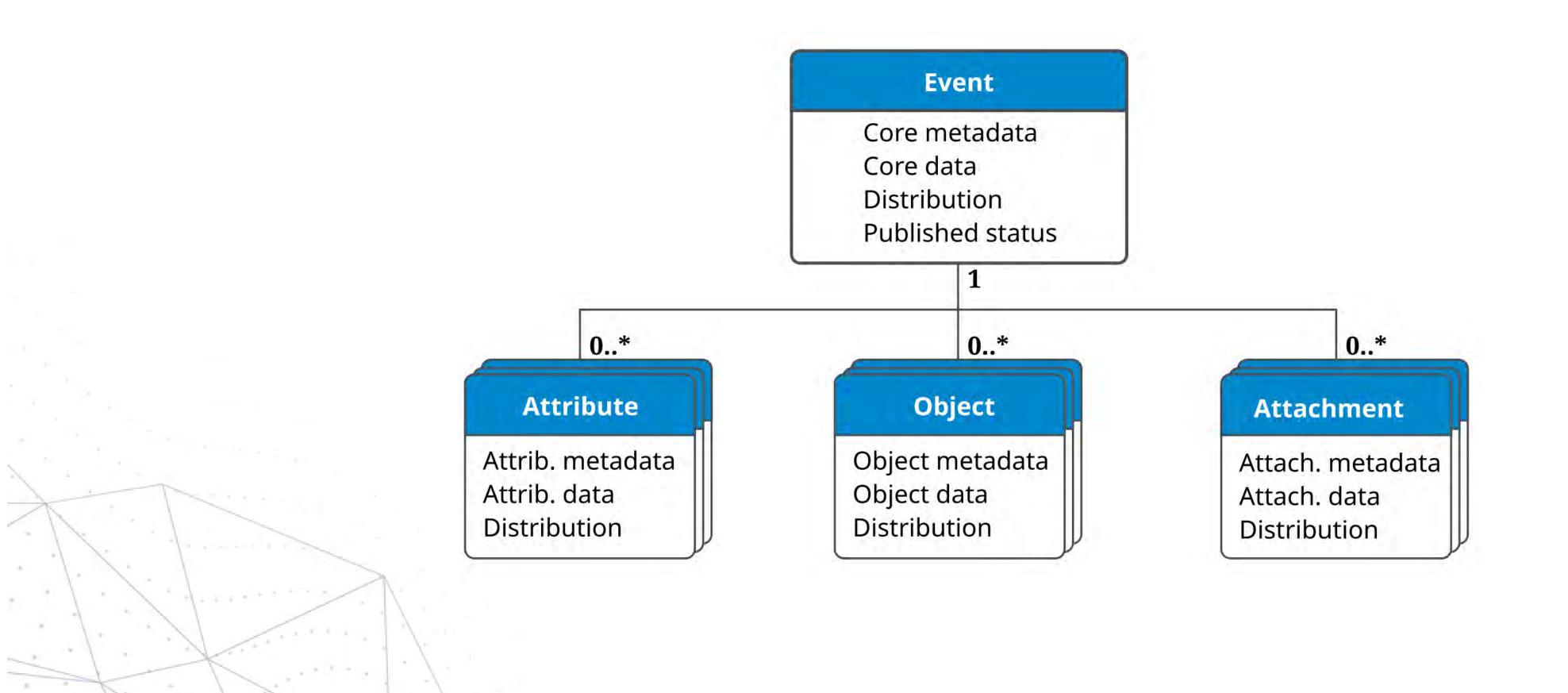
MISP: Sharing and Event Representation







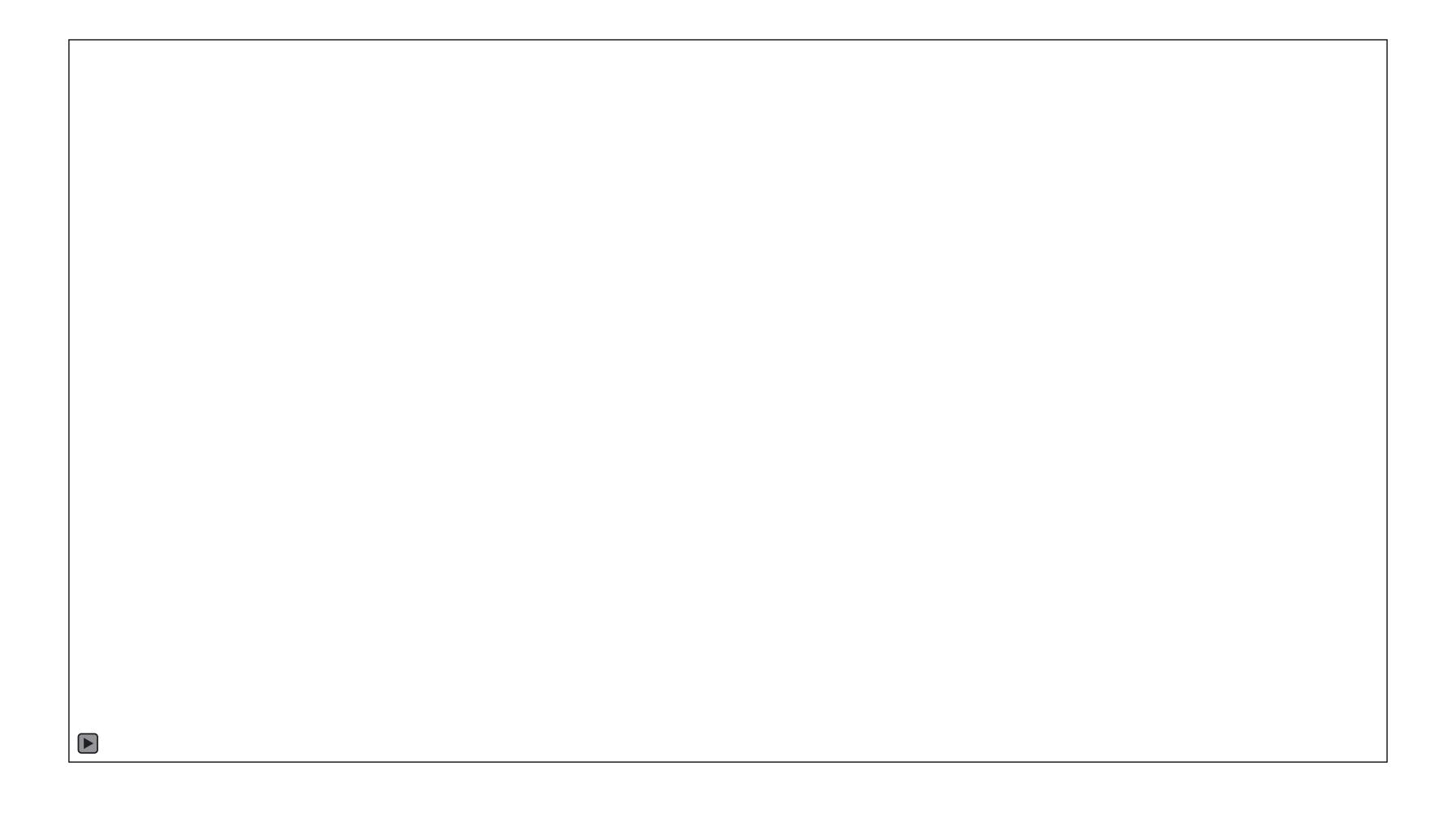
MISP: Sharing and Event Representation







MISP: Sharing and Event Representation





Methodological Challenges

Reaching out the "right" population

- Professionals (i.e., busy)
- Not always keen to be visible (i.e., sensibility)
- Users are not MISP contributors
- No known list of users

Research Questions

- How do different security information workers evaluate the UX of MISP?
- What do users value about MISP and what do they think could be improved?
- Which user needs are addressed and accounted for by MISP?
- Which are neglected?



Methodological Questions

How to reach out the "right" population?

- How to recruit?
- Where (e.g., at SPARTA, CyberSecurity4Europe)?
- How to incentivize participation?

Research Questions

- How do different security information workers evaluate the UX of MISP?
- What do users value about MISP and what do they think could be improved?
- Which user needs are addressed and accounted for by MISP?
- Which are neglected?





MISP Training Events

MISP Events

Want to join us at an event, discuss opportunities or projects around the MISP project, share your experience about threat intelligence or discuss how MISP could be improved to support security professionals?

MISP hackathon

 Open Source Security Hackathon - pen Source Security hackathon -Monday 25th October 2021 and Tuesday 26th October 2021

MISP at conferences

Virtual MISP Summit 0x06 - Thursday 21st October 2021.

Current MISP Training(s)

(some) Past MISP Training(s)

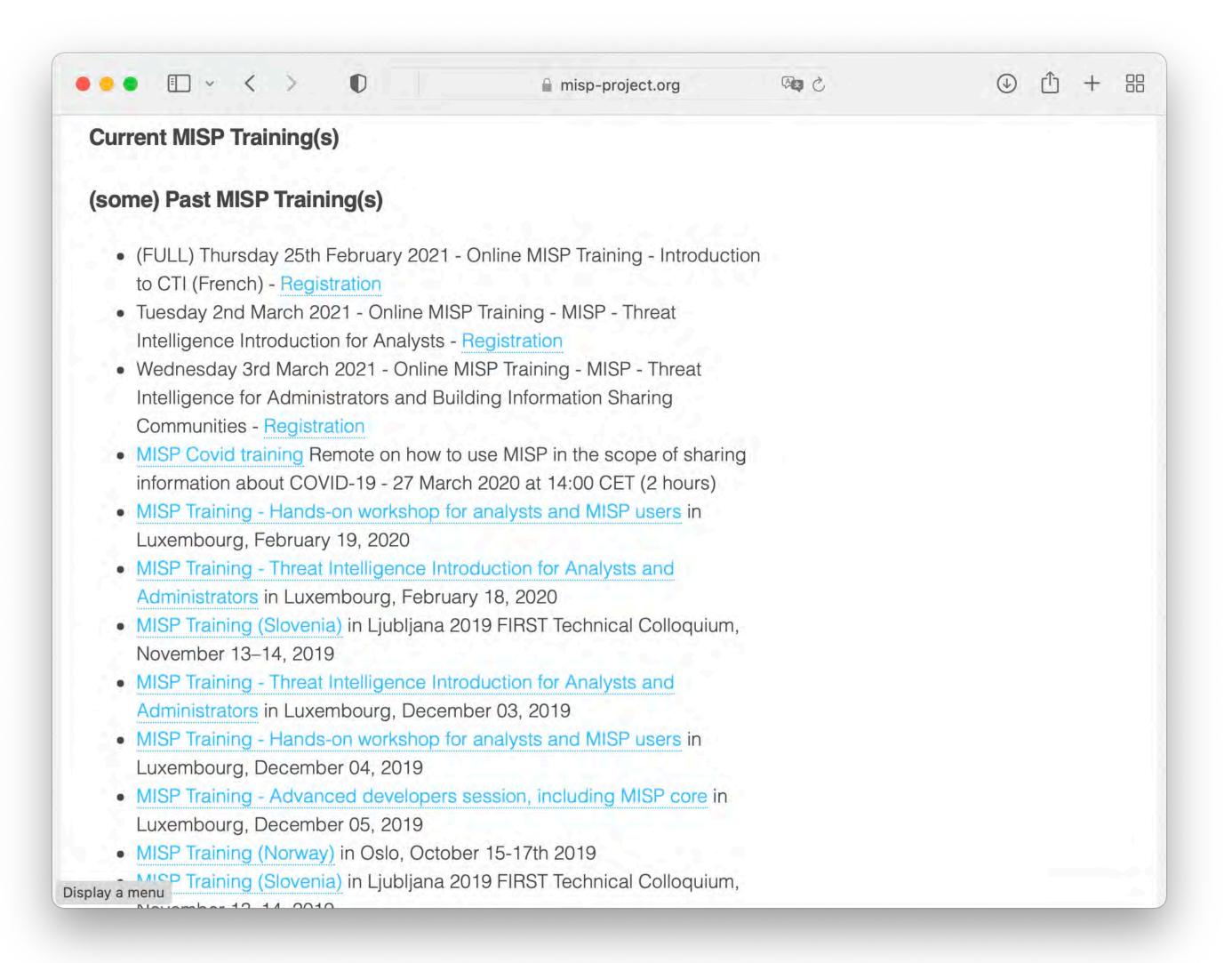
- (FULL) Thursday 25th February 2021 Online MISP Training Introduction to CTI (French) - Registration
- Tuesday 2nd March 2021 Online MISP Training MISP Threat Intelligence Introduction for Analysts - Registration
- Wednesday 3rd March 2021 Online MISP Training MISP Threat
 Intelligence for Administrators and Building Information Sharing Communities
 Registration
- MISP Covid training Remote on how to use MISP in the scope of sharing information about COVID-19 - 27 March 2020 at 14:00 CET (2 hours)
- MISP Training Hands-on workshop for analysts and MISP users in Luxembourg, February 19, 2020
- MISP Training Threat Intelligence Introduction for Analysts and Administrators in Luxembourg, February 18, 2020
- MISP Training (Slovenia) in Ljubljana 2019 FIRST Technical Colloquium, November 13–14, 2019
- MISP Training Threat Intelligence Introduction for Analysts and Administrators in Luxembourg, December 03, 2019
- MISP Training Hands-on workshop for analysts and MISP users in Luxembourg, December 04, 2019

Attending MISP Training Events

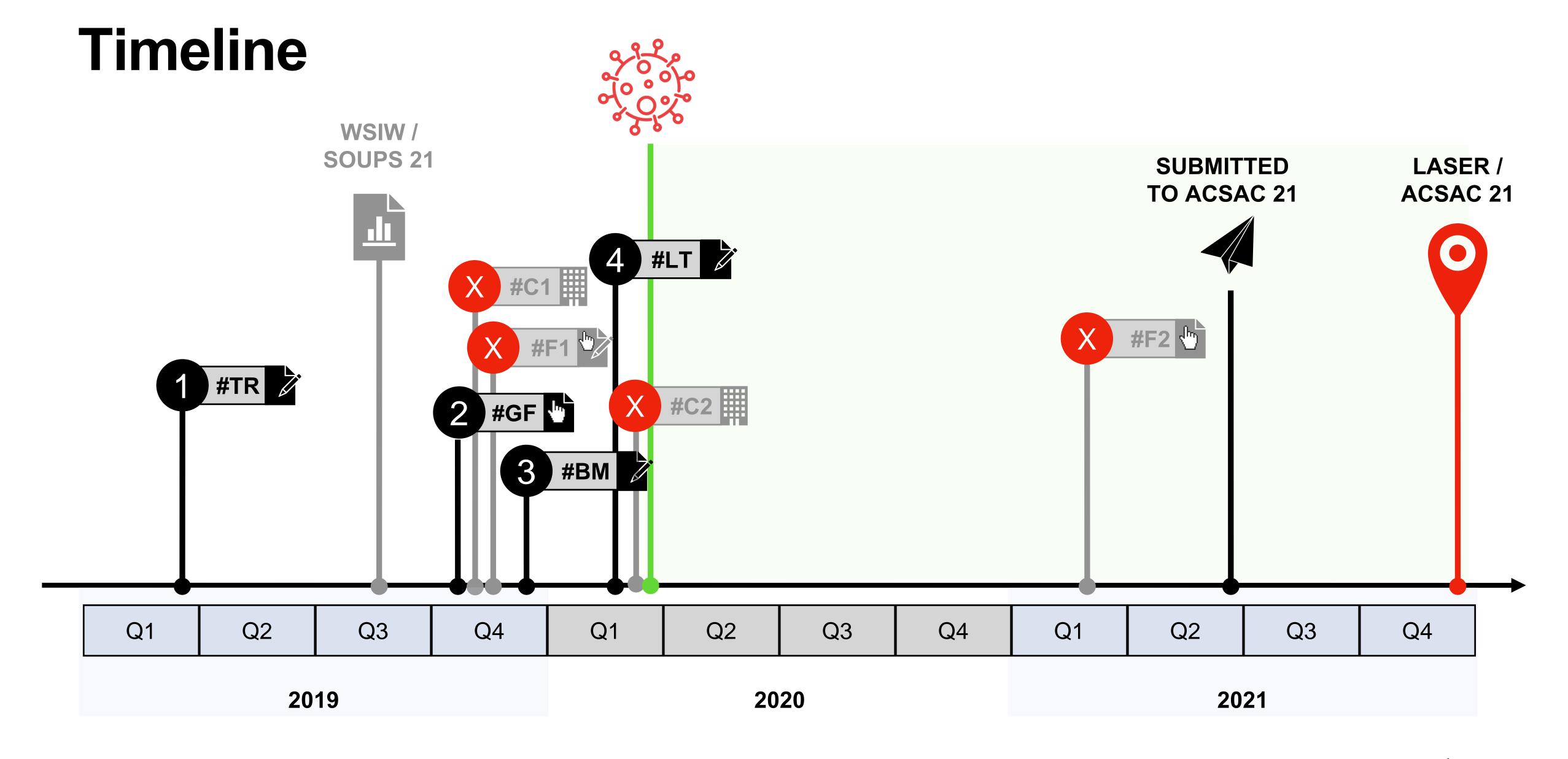
Initial Install, please configure nance **Threat Sharing** Welcome to MISP on ubuntu, change this message in MISP Settings Login Email Password No account yet? Register now!



Attending MISP Training Events

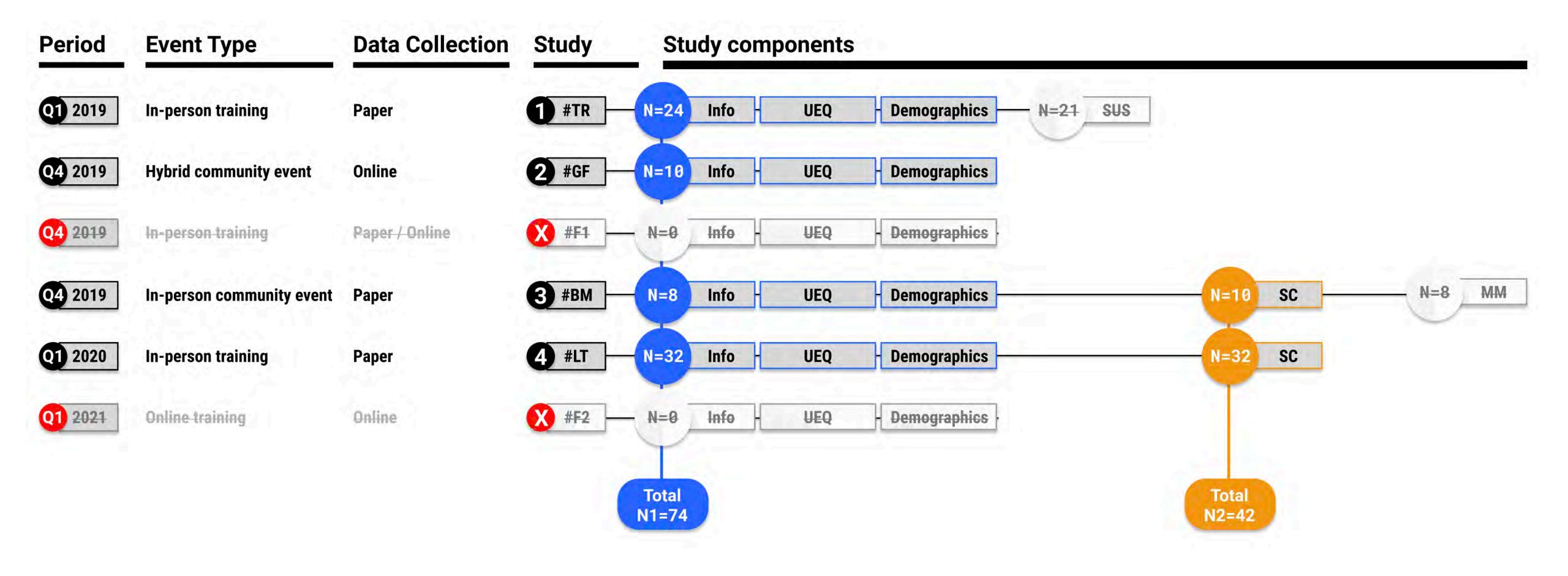






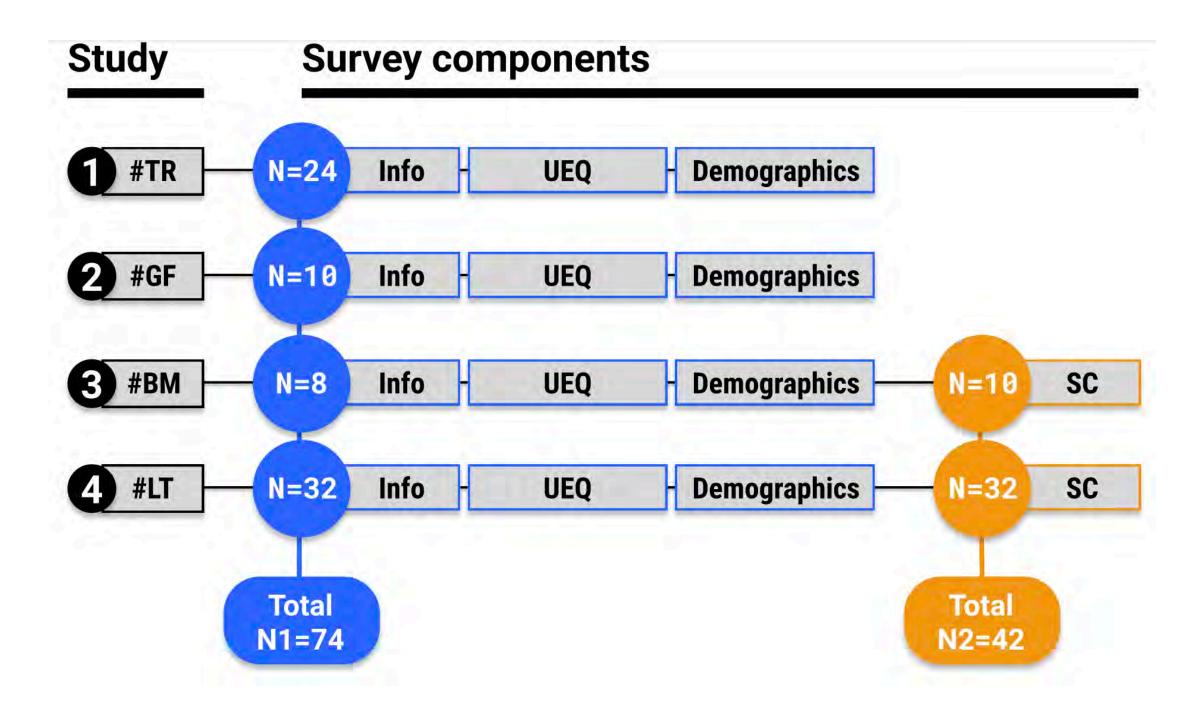


Methodology





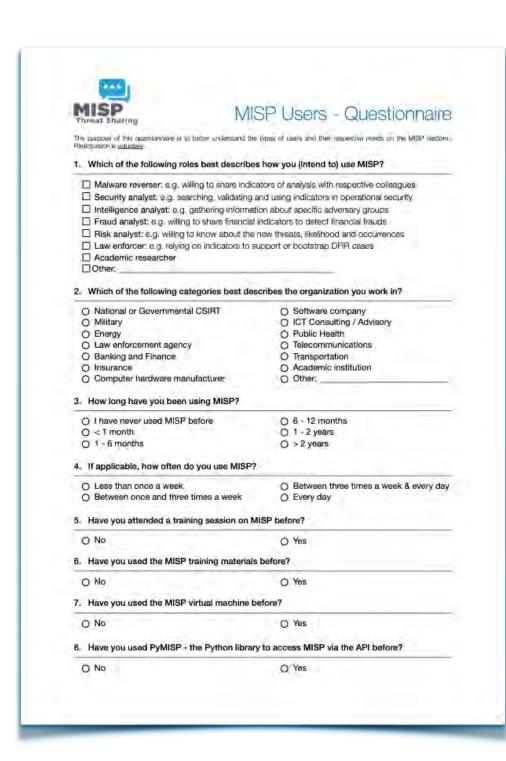
Methodology





Methodology (ACSAC paper materials)





Threat Sharing	Sentence Completion
Please complete the sentences below. The leave a sentence without an answer if you	are are no wrong replies, respond rather quickly Without thinking too long. You can feel that it is not suitable for your situation:
When I use MISP, I feel	
MISP is best for	
MISP is not suitable for	
I think the appearance of M	ISP is
I am happy with MISP beca	use
The problem with MISP is	
People who use MISP are t	ypically .,.
Compared to other threat in	nformation sharing platforms, MISP is



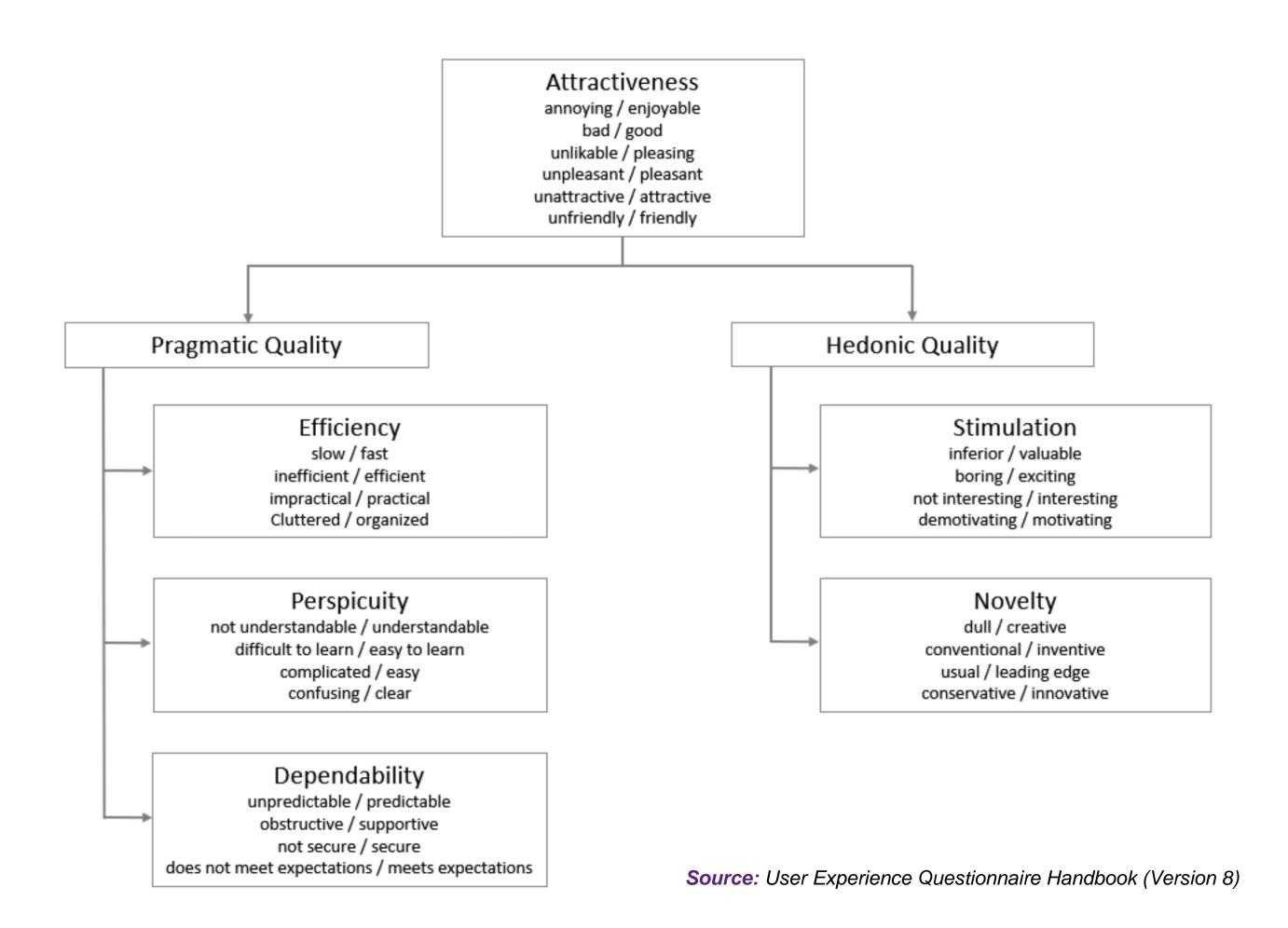
Methodology (All materials)

For the assessment of the MISP platform, please fill out the following questionnaire, which consists of pairs of contrasting attributes that may apply to the platform. You can express your agreement with the attributes by ticking the circle that most closely reflects your impression. Example: attractive		Instructions Please check the box that reflects your immediate response to each statement. Don't think too long about each statement. Make sure you respond to every statement. If you don't know how to respond, simply check box 3. Questionnaire Strongly Disagree Strongly Disagree 1. I think that I would like to use this system frequently 2. I found the system unnecessarily complex		Please work in pairs or a small group. Read the following scenario and provide your input on a separate sheet. With this task we would like to understand better how different users perceive the deletion functionality within MISP. Your organization has been using MISP for a few years now and is part of a number of sharing communities. Over the years you have seen data being
valuable O O O O O O O O O	The purpose of this questionnaire is to better understand the types of users and their respective needs on the MiSP platform Participation is soluntary. 1. Which of the following roles best describes how you (intend to) use MISP? Malware reverser: e.g. willing to share indicators of analysis with respective colleagues	I thought the system was easy to use I think that I would need the support of a technical person to be able to use this system I found the various functions in this system were well integrated I thought there was too much inconsistency in this system I would imagine that most people would learn to use this system very quickly I found the system very cumbersome to use I felt very confident using the system I needed to learn a lot of things before I could get going with this system	Please complete the sentences below. There are no wrong replies, respond rather quickly without thinking too long. You can leave a sentence without an answer if you feel that it is not suitable for your situation. When I use MISP, I feel MISP is best for I think the appearance of MISP is I am happy with MISP because	leaked or unintentionally shared beyond the intended recipients. A new junior member, Jerry, is joining your team and your task is to explain to Jerry how deletion of events in MISP works. You can freely choose how you would like to describe the deletion process, for example by drawing a diagram, sketch etc, or writing it down in words.
	O Less than once a week O Between three times a week & every day O Between once and three times a week O Every day 5. Have you attended a training session on MISP before? O No O Yes 6. Have you used the MISP training materials before? O No O Yes 7. Have you used the MISP virtual machine before? O No O Yes 8. Have you used PyMISP - the Python library to access MISP via the API before? O No O Yes		People who use MISP are typically Compared to other threat information sharing platforms, MISP is	



Methodology - User Experience Questionnaire









Methodology - MISP Users - Questionnaire

☐ Malware reverser: e.g. willing to share indica	ators of analysis with respective colleagues
☐ Security analyst: e.g. searching, validating a	이용이 많이 않는다면서 이는 내용 지원 점점으로 가능하는 생각이 하셨다.
☐ Intelligence analyst; e.g. gathering information	그녀는 물이 가장 있다는 이 사람들이 아니라 아니라 하나 있다면 하게 되었다.
Fraud analyst: e.g. willing to share financial i	
☐ Risk analyst: e.g. willing to know about the r	and the state of t
그 이 이 그는 것이 아이를 가는 것이 하고 있다. 그렇게 하는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이 없는 것이다.	
Law enforcer: e.g. relying on indicators to su	apport of bootstrap Drin cases
Academic researcher	
Other:	
2. Which of the following categories best des	oribas the organization you work in?
z. Which of the following categories best des	cribes the organization you work in:
O National or Governmental CSIRT	O Software company
O Military	O ICT Consulting / Advisory
O Energy	O Public Health
O Law enforcement agency	O Telecommunications
O Banking and Finance	O Transportation
O Insurance	O Academic institution
O Computer hardware manufacturer	O Other:
3. How long have you been using MISP?	
O I have never used MISP before	O 6 - 12 months
O < 1 month	O 1 - 2 years
O 1 - 6 months	O > 2 years
4. If applicable, how often do you use MISP?	
	1 115 ET 1 711 PY 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 2 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
O Less than once a week	 Between three times a week & every day

O No	O Yes	
6. Have you used the MISP t	raining materials before?	
O No	O Yes	
7. Have you used the MISP v	irtual machine before?	
O No	O Yes	
8. Have you used PyMISP - t	he Python library to access MISP via the API be	fore?
O No	O Yes	

Methodology - Sentence Completion

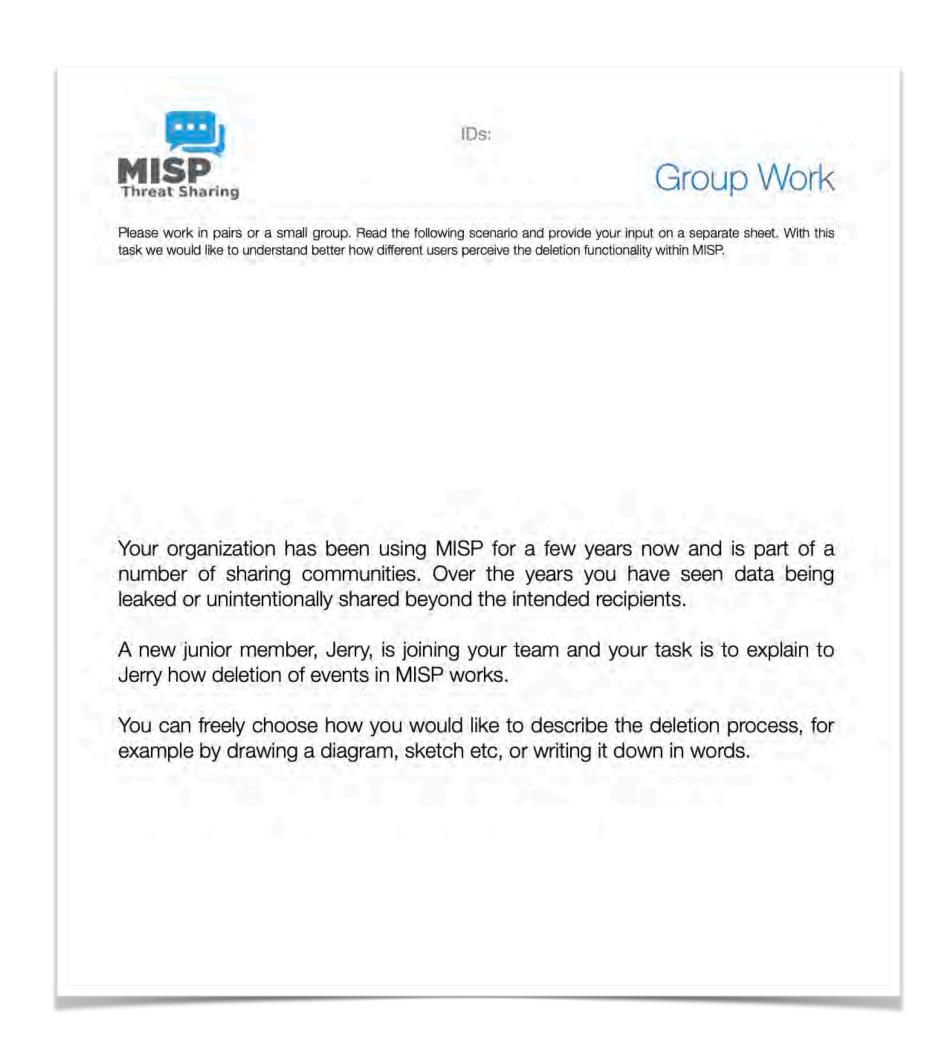
When I use MISP, I feel	I am happy with MISP because
VVIIGITI GOU	The problem with MISP is
MISP is best for	People who use MISP are typically
MISP is not suitable for	- Eopie wito use mior are typically
	Compared to other threat information sharing platforms, MISP is
I think the appearance of MISP is	

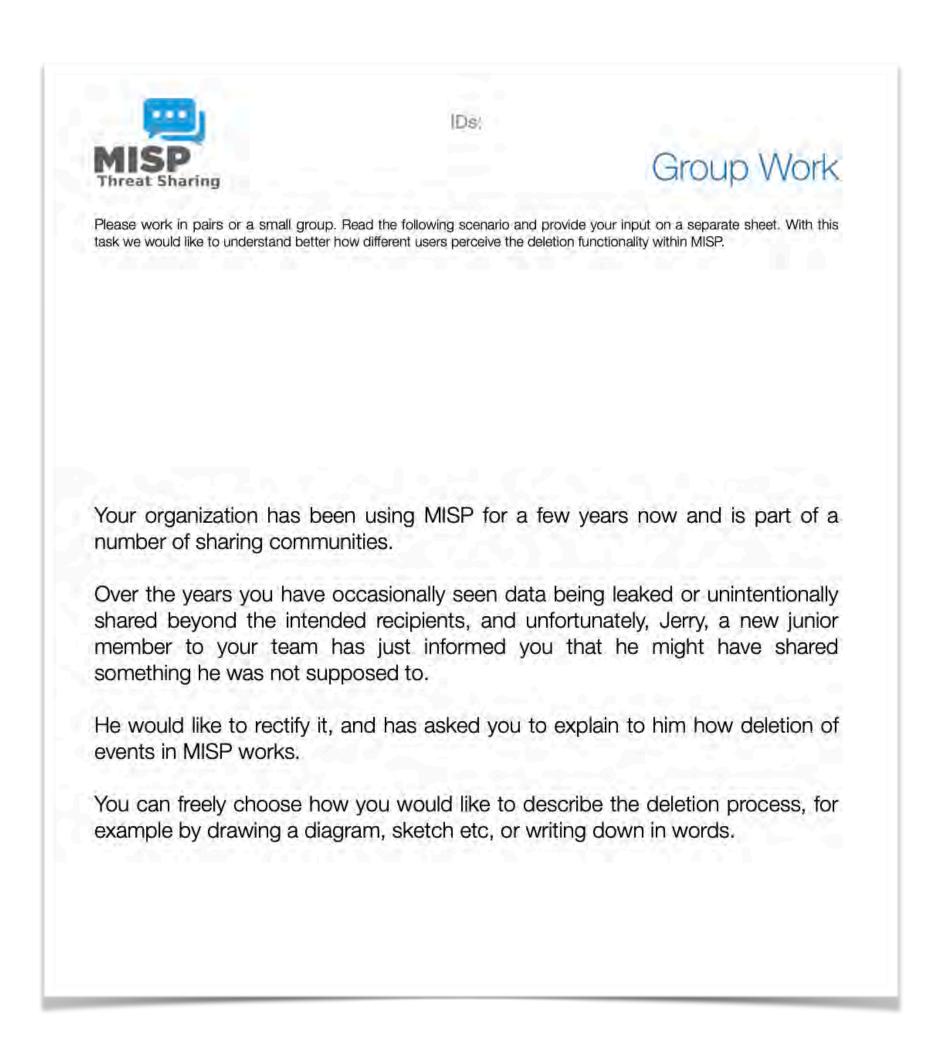
Adapted from: Kujala et al. (2014)



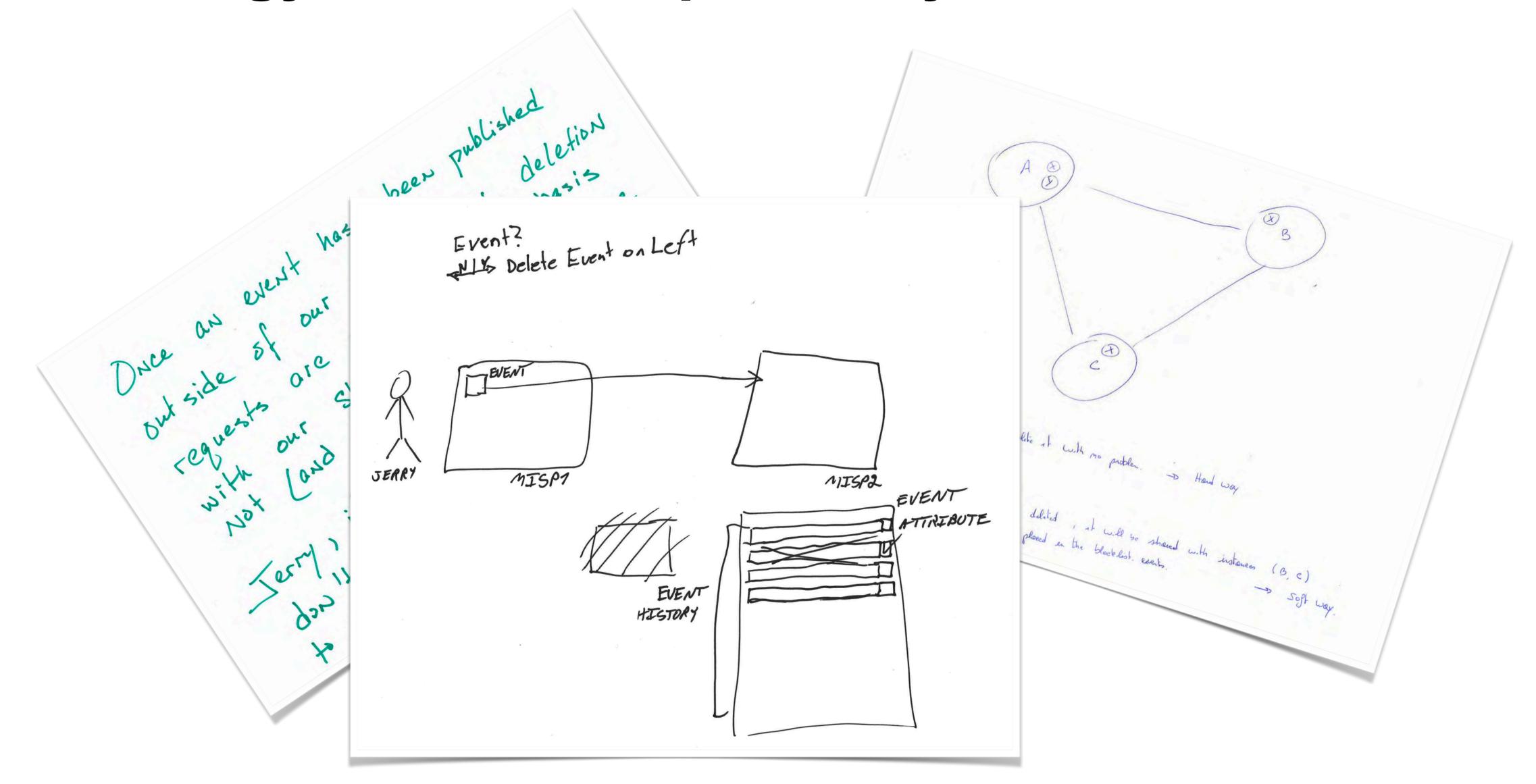


Methodology - MM - Group Activity





Methodology - MM - Group Activity



Discussion Points





Artifacts

Did you use experimentation artifacts borrowed from the community?

NO

- First study of its kind
- No baseline to qualify the observed measurements within the CTI context

YES

- Measured values set in relation to benchmark datasets provided with the UEQ
- General benchmark (452 product evaluations) & Web sites and Web services (85 product evaluations)



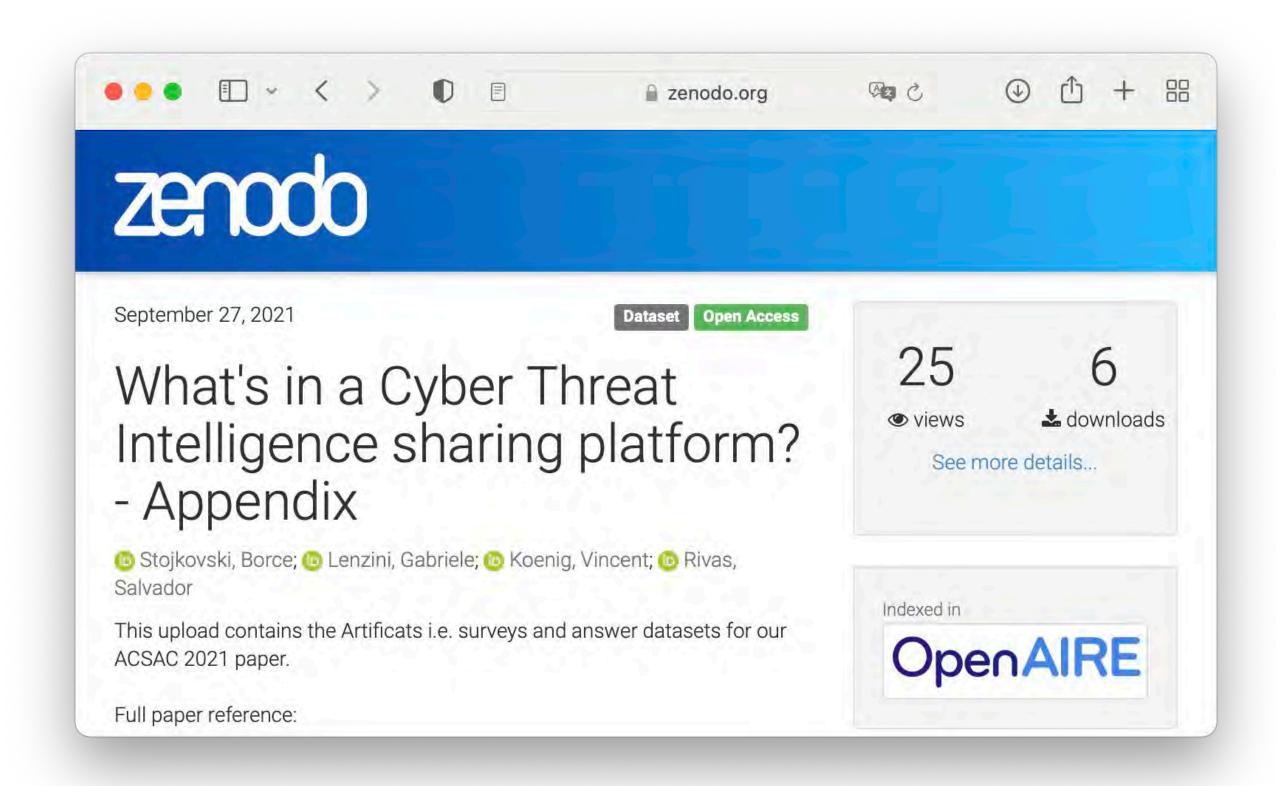


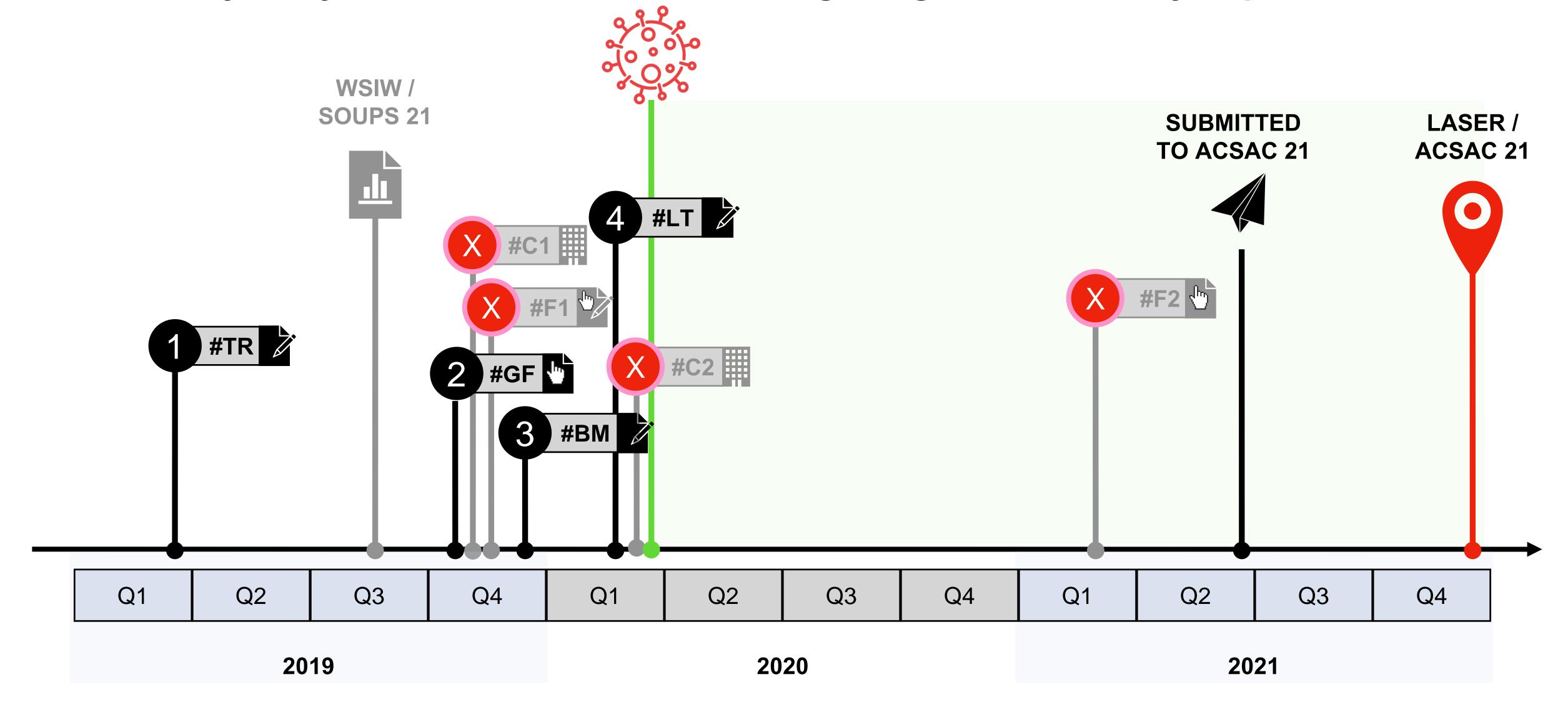
Artifacts

Did you share experimentation artifacts with the community?

- We have released our dataset (surveys and anonymized responses)
 - Stojkovski, Borce, Lenzini, Gabriele, Koenig, Vincent, & Rivas, Salvador. (2021). What's in a Cyber Threat Intelligence sharing platform? - Appendix [Data set]. Zenodo.

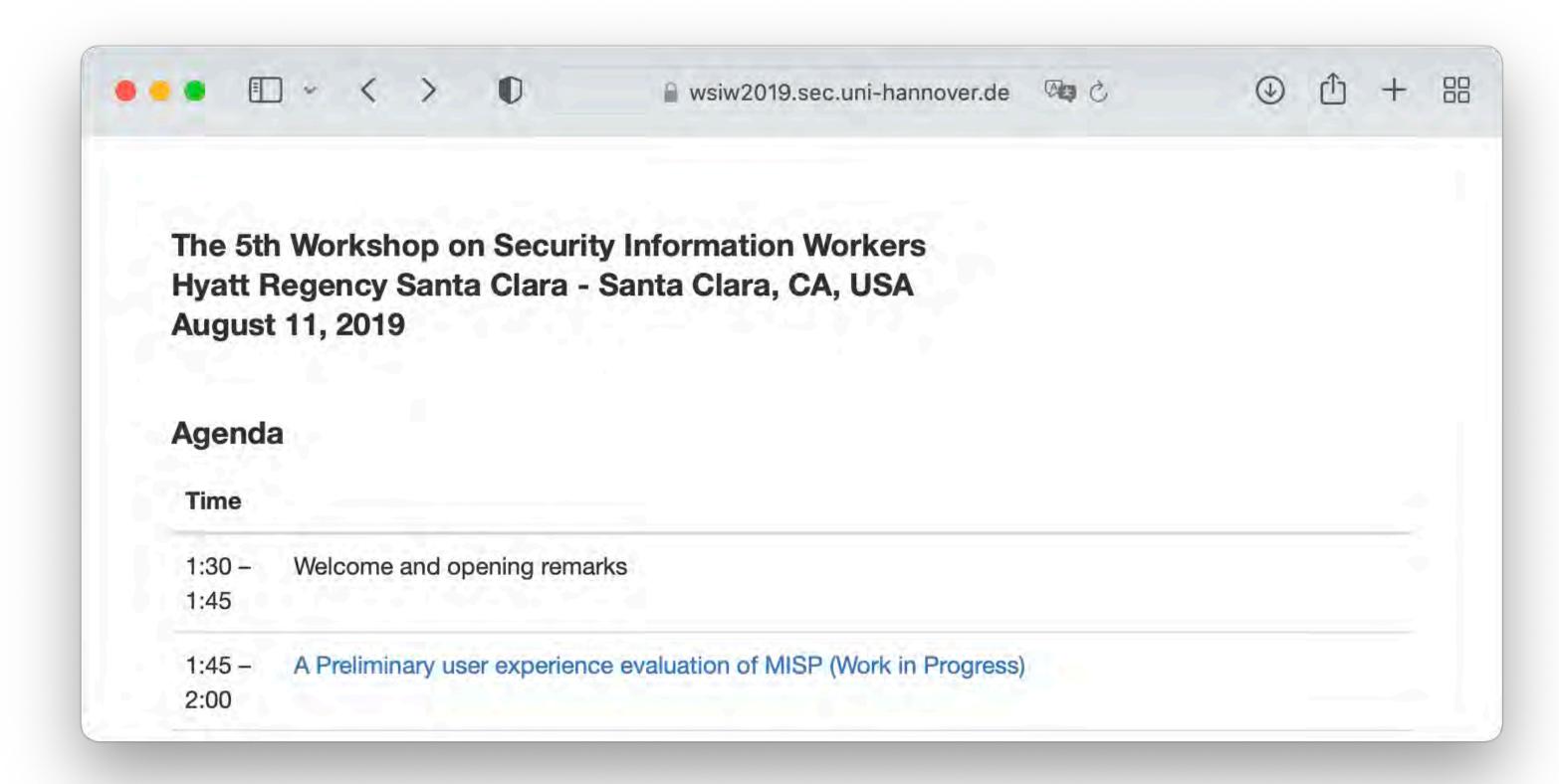
https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5531990





What did you try that did not succeed before getting to the results you presented?

Discussing early-stage research / work in progress at WSIW / SOUPS 2019







- Collecting new inputs during two additional training sessions (#F1 & #F2)
 - ► In-person training, #F1 in Q4-2019, survey distribution on paper and online
 - ► Online training, #F2 in Q1-2021, survey distribution online



- Onboarding two private organizations (#C1 & #C2) to participate in our study
 - Contact established following training sessions in Q4-2019 and Q1-2020
 - Invitation to take part in an online survey
 - Confirmation of interest, but no follow up



- Collecting a large number of user inputs via the online survey
 - Survey launched in Q4-2019
 - ► Total number of responses: 12
 - ▶ 9 in Q4-2019
 - ► 1 in Q2-2020, 1 in Q3-2020, 1 in Q4-2020



Lessons learned (discussion)

What can be learned from your methodology & your experience?

- Point
 - Subpoint
 - Subpoint
- Point
 - Subpoint
 - Subpoint



Discussion and Future Work





Github Usability and UX related issues

Overview of MISP GitHub issues identified in trainings per year

URL: https://github.com/MISP/MISP

Search query: label:from:training created:YYYY-MM-DD..YYYY-MM-DD label:"feature request"

	2020	2019	2018	2017	Total
Open	5	103	17	10	126
Feature Requests	4	20	6		30
Usability		4	2		6
Closed	1	22	2	0	25
Feature Requests		2	1		3
Usability		1			
Total	6	125	19	- 10	151

	2020	2019	2018	2017	Total
Open	4	17	20	18	59
Feature Requests	3	5	2	7	11
Closed	2	11	11	6	30
Feature Requests	2	0	1	0	3
Total	6	28	31	24	89

Thank you for your attention! Any questions?

Our original ACSAC 2021 paper:

What's in a Cyber Threat Intelligence sharing platform? A mixed-methods user experience investigation of MISP Borce Stojkovski; Gabriele LENZINI; Vincent KOENIG; Salvador RIVAS



