NTREPID®

OSINT for Law Enforcement
Case Study: Code Name Osian

Mission Challenges

Osian's mission is to conduct online research, gathering OSINT to build a narrative about groups of interest. Prior to partnering with Ntrepid, Osian used several disparate solutions bridged together. Their analysts used dedicated standalone laptops operating outside the agency's network to conduct mission operations. Those laptops connected to the internet over either a commercial internet connection or portable Wi-Fi hotspot. While the solution didn't provide protection for the organization's network and infrastructure, the methodology was also not effective at hiding the organization's activity and the devices were vulnerable to malware and fingerprinting. The solution did not provide global IP diversity and exposed their actual location. Reusing IP addresses for multiple investigations left suspicious signatures and led to an unacceptable level of blocking and misinformation.

Some Osian analysts were technologically savvy enough to set up virtual machines on their laptops, but these solutions were not standardized and provided no support. All maintenance and security measures were done at the discretion of the analyst.

Finally, independent laptops did not allow for analyst to collaborate during investigations, nor did they provide activity monitoring for oversight. Supervisors were effectively blind to the details of analysts' activities, and there was no safe way to transfer files. They relied on written summaries and watching over the analysts' shoulders.

The Ntrepid Solution

Ntrepid responded to Osian's mission challenges by deploying Nfusion and Timestream. This dual solution addresses Osian's managed attribution, data organization, and collaboration requirements, allowing analysts to interact on the internet discreetly, securely, and efficiently with an authentic signature. Nfusion supplies Osian with a scalable comprehensive platform that integrates with third-party OSINT tools, such as i2Analyst Notebook and Maltego. Nfusion enables packaging and exporting of collected data to import into a timeline and presentation in Timestream.

Ntrepid's discreet procurement and management of a global network of dedicated IP addresses satisfies Osian's need for global egress options without attribution to Ntrepid or Osian. Using Nfusion, analysts can mask their identity and appear to be operating in any of the designated locations. As a result, analysts can access previously blocked websites and avoid targeted misinformation.

Nfusion meets Osian's security requirements by isolating all operational activity in a remote virtualized environment, separated from the analyst's local desktop and network. In addition, the Nfusion virtual machines are destroyed at the end of each session, eliminating undetected malware, advanced persistent threats, and trackers. Nfusion safely stores and persists captured data and web page snapshots in the data management application, Journal.

Comprehensive Solutions for OSINT Analysts

Benefits

Nfusion and Timestream are a force multiplier that provide a combined solution suite for undercover online research, evidence collection, collaboration, chronological visualization, and presentation of intricate, long-running investigations.

Ntrepid's solution enables total visibility, monitoring, and logging of analyst activity. With the administrative auditing and oversight toolset, managers are finally able to view which, how many, and how often websites are visited, as well as export screenshots and activity metrics via Safehold.

With these new capabilities, Osian's analysts can spend more time on task, devoting their attention to the mission, not the technology. Operating with greater productivity, efficiency, and security alongside reduced risk has been a game changer for their ability to successfully execute on their critical missions.

About Ntrepid

Ntrepid is a mission-driven provider of cutting-edge managed attribution technology solutions for government and law enforcement to discreetly and safely conduct sophisticated cyber operations in the most demanding online environments. We leverage our deep experience in the national security community to anticipate our customers' needs and provide solutions before the requirements are expressed. Our heavy investment in R&D allows us to stay ahead of the rapidly changing internet landscape. Ntrepid's innovative solutions enable advanced OSINT/PAI research and investigations while protecting your organization, mission, and operators.

Contact Us To Learn More About Our Full Spectrum Suite of Managed Attribution Products

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