

## Using Attack Path Mapping to Develop Your Security Roadmap



This television series is inspired by true events. Some of the characters, names, businesses, incidents and certain locations and events have been fictionalized for dramatization purposes. Any similarity to the name, character or history of any person is entirely coincidental and unintentional.



#### PS > Get-User | Select Name, Alias, Location, \*Company, Role

Name

Alias

Location

Company

Role

SpeakingOnBehalfOfCompany

- : Hudson Bush
- : @HomeBrewedSec
- : Chattanooga, TN
- : Seguri
- : Practice Lead Security Operations
- : FALSE

## How do teams typically prioritize? 27

## **Historical Bias**

"I've never done it that way before." "This is how we've always done it". "This is how I've always done it".

# Fire Fighting

"This vulnerability is in the news."

"The board said we had to."

"We got breached."

Random

"It sounded fun" "It sparked joy" "It was next in Jira"

# Compliance

"(Insert standards body here) said we had to."

"Insurance said we had to.

"It was on a customer questionnaire."

## Why Attack Path Mapping?



## "Defenders think in lists. Attackers think in graphs. As long as this is true, attackers win."

-John Lambert @JohnLaTwC

# Why Attack Path Mapping?

#### Shift to Graph Thinking

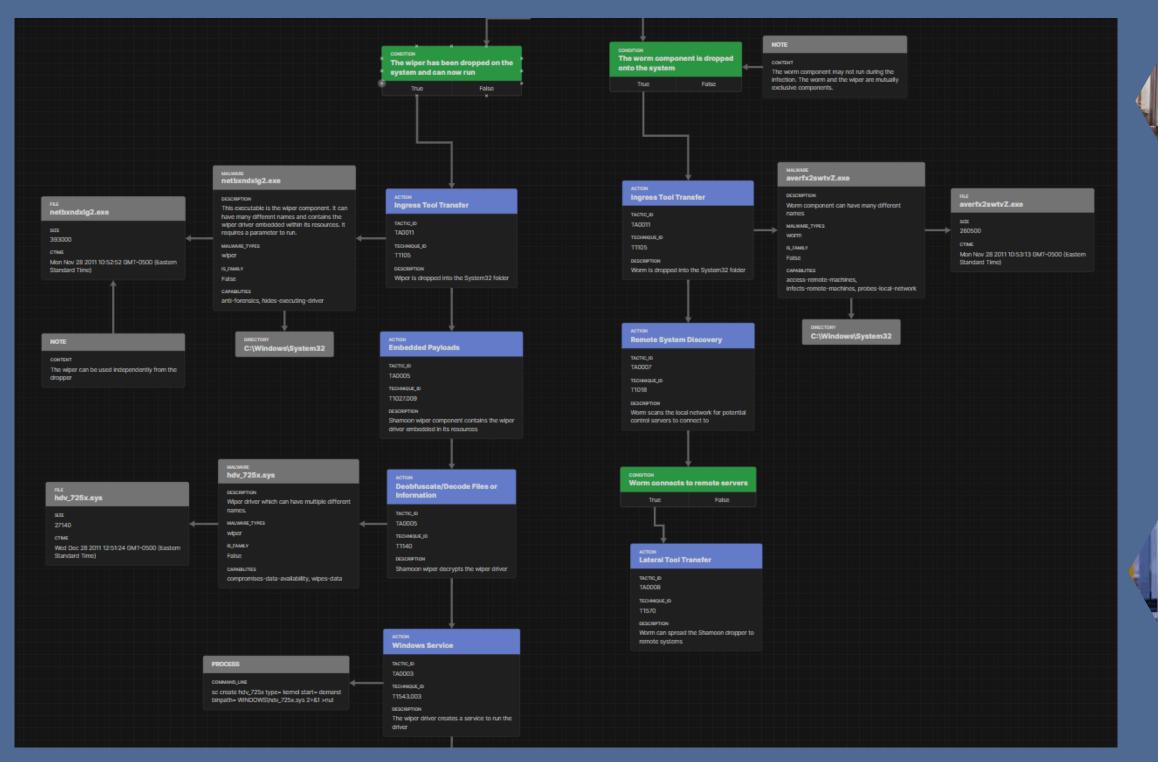
Aligns defender mindset with attacker strategies, providing a comprehensive view of interconnected attack vectors.

#### Data-Driven Prioritization

Enables logical, bias-free decision-making for implementing and prioritizing security controls based on actual attack paths. Enhanced Communication

Creates visual representations ("pretty graphs") to effectively convey complex security landscapes to both technical and non-technical stakeholders.

## Attack Path Mapping



#### MITRE Attack Flow Builder



# **Prerequisites**Over the second state of th

You need to know what you're protecting

Define your Perimeter (As much as anyone can do that in 2024)



## The Process **1. Brainstorm Attack Paths**

A good place to start is by "journaling" all the things that scare you.

Write down every conceivable attack path, no matter how small

Include both technical and nontechnical vectors

#### 2. Map to MITRE ATT&CK

Correlate attack paths with specific ATT&CK techniques

Cluster similar technique under their respective tactics

Add paths as necessary based on missing techniques (focus heavily on initial access)

Use MITRE D3FEND to map existing security controls

Identify gaps in your current defense strategy

Add additional attack paths as you identify them

Work with other teams to challenge your expectations

#### **3. Assess Current** Defenses

#### 4. Get Outside **Perspectives**

#### **5. Present!**

Create multiple versions: Internal only Security Leadership IT/Other Stakeholders Execs



# Demo Time

## t;cr

### (Too long; didn't read)

- Use all the techniques available to you to conceptualize your attack surface (because the attackers sure are)
- Use logic, not habit or bias to decide what controls to implement and prioritize
- Make pretty graphs



## Resources

**Attack Flow Builder:** https://center-for-threat-informeddefense.github.io/attack-flow/ui/

Good intro to Attack Flow Builder: https://medium.com/mitreengenuity/attack-flow-make-threat-informed-decisions-basedon-steps-in-a-cyber-attack-aaa54767282b

MITRE D3FEND: https://d3fend.mitre.org/

The Defender's Mindset: https://medium.com/@johnlatwc/defenders-mindset-319854d10aaa





## Slides at HomeBrewedSec.com/talks







