



The hunt for threat intelligence

Machine learning is speeding the processing of cybersecurity data



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TODAY'S CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS

are being asked to monitor, sift through and analyze vast amounts of data in order to understand the most pressing threats. They're asked to prioritize the fixing of vulnerabilities based on highest risk to their agency. They're asked to constantly reevaluate their threat profile. And they're asked to do this in the face of increasingly complex environments and sophisticated attackers.

But central to all that is getting through huge, untenable swaths of data — from both internal and external sources — to truly understand what agencies are up against. It's impossible for humans to do this alone. Machine learning and artificial intelligence can help.

Machine-based tools ingest data in a variety of languages and from a variety of sources, including social media feeds and the dark web, and then transform all that unstructured data into actionable threat intelligence. For example, if there's a sharp increase in discussions about a vulnerability or threat, a machine learning-based tool can analyze those conversations and highlight what's most important.

Similarly, machine-based threat intelligence is helping the airline industry block malware linked to an Iranian state-sponsored campaign against critical infrastructure in part by synthesizing online activity in multiple languages.

Agencies have so much data that no team of analysts could possibly rate and assess everything, and many struggle to find the important pieces of information. An effective solution is one in which the simple tasks — data aggregation, comparison, labeling and contextualization — are completed by machines, leaving humans to do what only they can: make effective, informed decisions. ■

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