



Course material

Course:

Understanding the digital supply chain and its stakes for humanitarian actors

Video:

7.1.2 Cyberresilience

Concepts (extracted from automatically generated subtitles):

Threat actor. Means of funding operations. Spectrum of threat actors. Broad non-targeted ransomware attack. Nation-state actors. Good example of a high-profile target. Main motivation of the attacker. Humanitarian organisation. Similar problem. Nation-state-aligned actor. Broad categories. Humanitarian crises. Lot of literature. Pii of vulnerable people. Vulnerable people.



[to video sequence search](#)

(within Understanding the digital supply chain and its stakes for humanitarian actors.)



[to video](#)

Center for Digital Education. More educational support material here:

<https://www.epfl.ch/education/educational-initiatives/cede/educational-technologies-gallery/boocs-en/>

LEADERSHIP IN CYBERSECURITY

LEADERSHIP, BEST PRACTICES AND CYBER HYGIENE

Understanding the Threat

Paul Hume,
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notes

summary

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Understanding the Threat



To understand the threat to your organisation or indeed to yourself, you need to understand two elements before considering how to react:

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- **Who is the threat actor?**
- **Why is this actor attacking your organization?**

who and why. The who refer to as the threat actor, and the why is the value they could get from attacking your organisation.

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- **Who is the threat actor?**
- **Why is this actor attacking your organization?**

You will see in a lot of literature a spectrum of threat actors listed ranging from the unsophisticated to well resourced nation-state actors. You will have seen this in the evolution of threat landscape module with Miriam.

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The Cyber Threat Spectrum



Each actor has sometimes overlapping motivations ranging from curiosity to greed,

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The Cyber Threat Spectrum



and sometimes threat actors move between these broad categories. For example, a nation-state-aligned actor

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The Cyber Threat Spectrum



may also start deploying ransomware as a means of funding operations, thus then becoming an organised crime group. In the end, it's useful to know the types of threat actors that exist

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Understanding the Threat



alongside their different motivations, but it doesn't tell you the whole story. Now that you have some idea of the actors who may attack you, it is time to think about why they would do so.

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Understanding the Threat



In other words, what is attractive about your organisation? Now, it is fairly easy to understand why a ransomware gang would attack a commercial organisation. Money.

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Understanding the Threat



But why would they attack a humanitarian organisation where we don't have equivalent finances? We use what we have to protect

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summary

1m 37s



Understanding the Threat



and assist people living in humanitarian crises. Unless you are caught up in a broad non-targeted ransomware attack, we can say that cash might not be our most attractive asset.

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1m 49s



Understanding the Threat



The main motivation of the attacker, what then?

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Why attacking humanitarian organizations?

Cash might not be our most attractive asset
but information might be!

Indeed humanitarian often collect personally
identifiable information (PII) of vulnerable
people.

Well, from the attacker's perspective, information might be the asset. As humanitarians, we often record people's information, when providing them aid.

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summary

2m 3s





Why attacking humanitarian organizations?

Cash might not be our most attractive asset
but information might be!

Indeed humanitarian often collect personally
identifiable information (PII) of vulnerable
people.

This means we therefore have a collection of personally identifiable information or PII of vulnerable people that could be used

notes

summary

2m 13s





Why attacking humanitarian organizations?

Cash might not be our most attractive asset
but information might be!
Indeed humanitarian often collect personally
identifiable information (PII) of vulnerable
people.

in a subsequent action to exploit those vulnerable people. The quantity and quality of that information determines its value to the attacker,

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summary

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Why attacking humanitarian organizations?

Cash might not be our most attractive asset
but information might be!
Indeed humanitarian often collect personally
identifiable information (PII) of vulnerable
people.

and to an extent whether they would find you an attractive target or not.

notes

summary

2m 37s



Equifax Example



A good example of a high-profile target is Equifax in the US.

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2m 41s



Equifax Example



That was breached in 2017, and 150 million people's identities were compromised. The attacker was then able to create false identities

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2m 49s



Equifax Example



to undertake fraudulent activities and also to sell the details.

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Organizations and Geopolitics:

- Organizations might be attacked as they might be associated with certain political or religious perspectives.
- Even neutrality might be seen as a political statement.

The other important variable is the context of your organisation from a geopolitical threat perspective.

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3m 3s



Organizations and Geopolitics:

- Organizations might be attacked as they might be associated with certain political or religious perspectives.
- Even neutrality might be seen as a political statement.

By this, I mean, if your organisation is associated with a particular political or religious perspective, and it often is whether you like it or not, you may be attractive to attack as a representative of that perspective.

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summary

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Organizations and Geopolitics:


- Organizations might be attacked as they might be associated with certain political or religious perspectives.
- Even neutrality might be seen as a political statement.

A similar problem can eventuate if you are deliberately neutral on a topic or in our case, the ICRC case, in a conflict.

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Organizations and Geopolitics:

- Organizations might be attacked as they might be associated with certain political or religious perspectives.
- Even neutrality might be seen as a political statement.

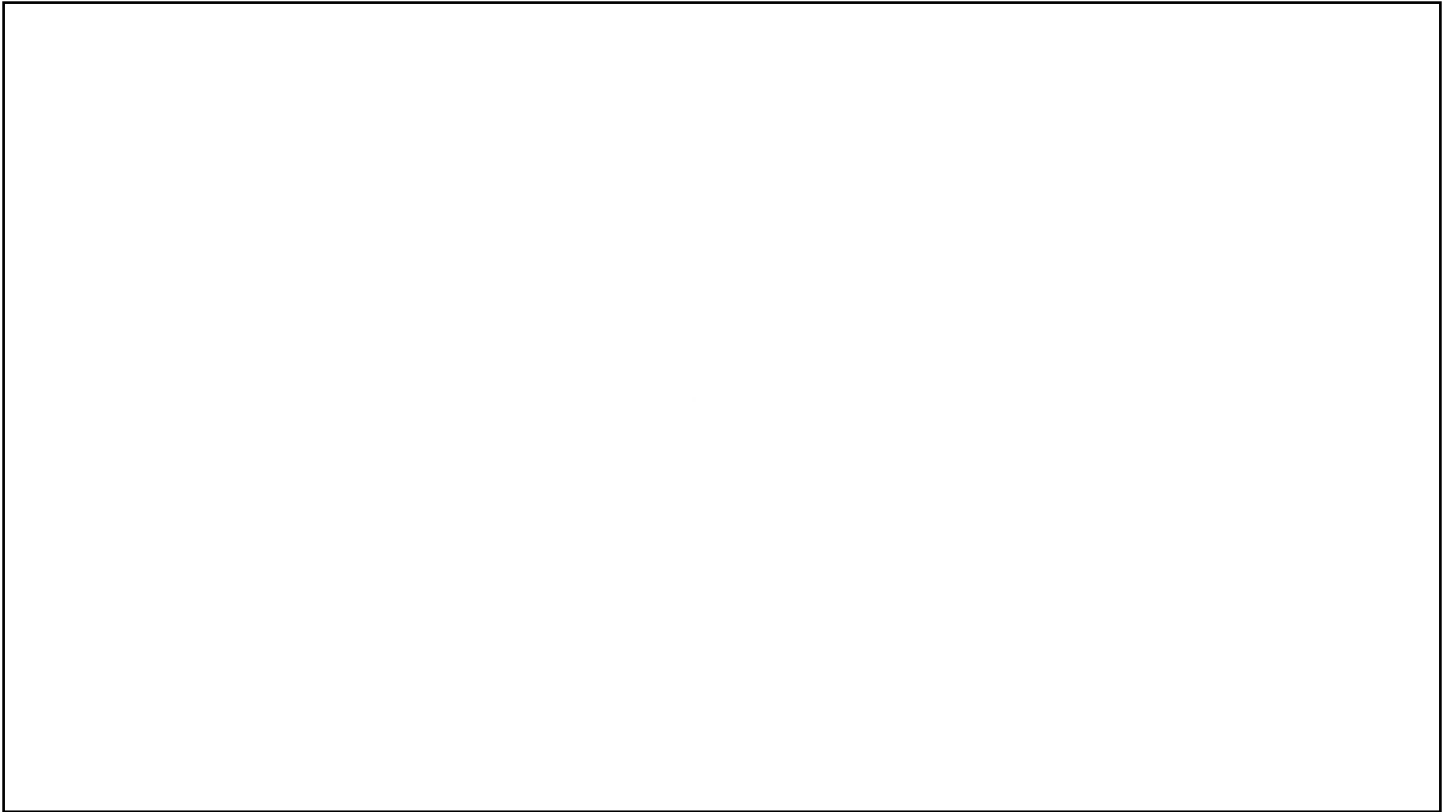
You might then be attractive to people that consider neutrality a problem.

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Now that we've reviewed who can attack you and why, we'll try to understand what it is in your organisation that makes their work easier. I mean vulnerabilities, and that's the topic of the next video.

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