


Dealing with Insider Cybersecurity Threats: SEI Research and Perspectives

A Webinar co-sponsored by
the Software Engineering
Institute of Carnegie Mellon
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Financial Industry Standards

Robert Binder
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SEI established as a US
Department of Defense (DoD)
Federally Funded Research
and Development Center
(FFRDC) at Carnegie Mellon
University in 1984

Only DoD R&D center
chartered in software
and cybersecurity

Offices in Pittsburgh, Arlington,
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Software Engineering Institute

Our Mission and Strategy

To support the Nation's defense by advancing the science, technologies, and practices needed to acquire, develop, operate, and sustain software systems that are innovative, affordable, trustworthy, and enduring.

We achieve our mission through

- Research
- Collaboration
- Development and Demonstration
- Transition



Focus on Assurance

Assured = Correct + Secure + Attainable

- **Correct:** the right system (validation), architected, built, and operating reliably (verification)
- **Secure:** hardened against known threats, resilient in operation to unknown threats
- **Attainable:** cost-effective (affordable), timely, and possible



The CERT Division produces, and transitions to the DoD technologies and practices that reduce the opportunity for—and limit the damage of—cyber attacks

Established in 1988 by the DoD on the heels of the Morris worm that wreaked havoc on the ARPANET

Focus areas include

- Cyber Science Foundations
- Digital Intelligence & Investigations
- Insider Threat
- Malware Analysis
- Resiliency
- Secure Coding
- Situational Awareness
- Workforce Development

Speakers

Moderators:

Bob Binder

- SEI Senior Engineer
- Co-Chair X9 D14
- Automated Testing SME

Jim Northey

- Ivititi Principal Services Consultant
- Co-Chair X9 D14
- FIX Protocol Global Technical Committee Chair

Panel:

Randy Trzeciak

- SEI Manager, Enterprise Threat and Vulnerability Management team

Daniel Costa

- SEI Insider Threat Technical Solutions Lead

Kurt Wallnau

- SEI Senior Member of the Technical Staff

Andrew Moore

- SEI Senior Member of the Technical Staff

Agenda

Randy Trzeciak

Insider Threats in the Banking & Finance Sector

Daniel Costa

Insider Anomaly Detection

Kurt Wallnau

Using Narrative Structures to Detect Insider Risks

Andrew Moore

The Role of Positive Incentives in Reducing Insider Threats

Q&A



Insider Threats in the Banking & Finance Sector

Randy Trzeciak

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The CERT Insider Threat Center

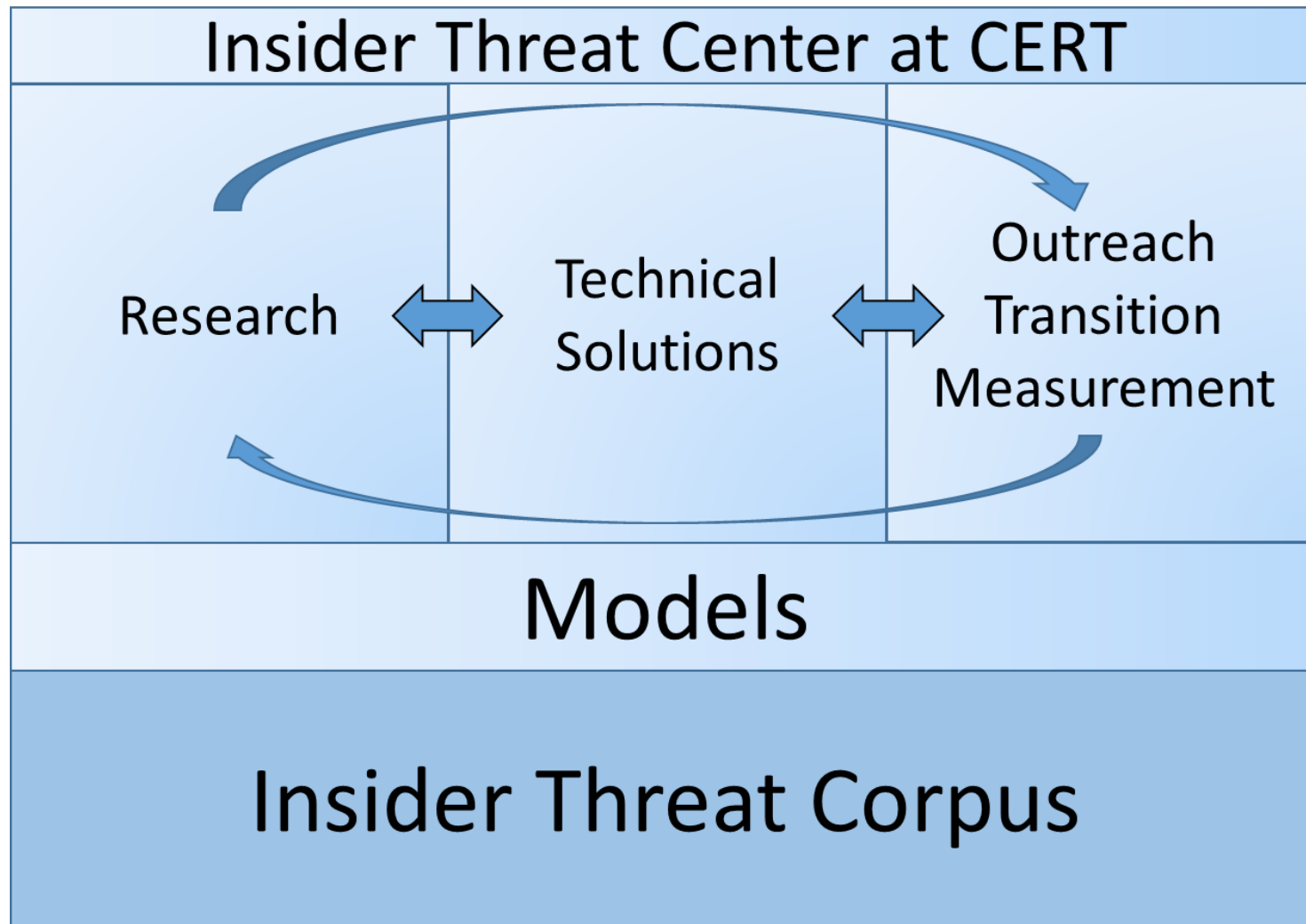


Center of insider threat expertise since 2001

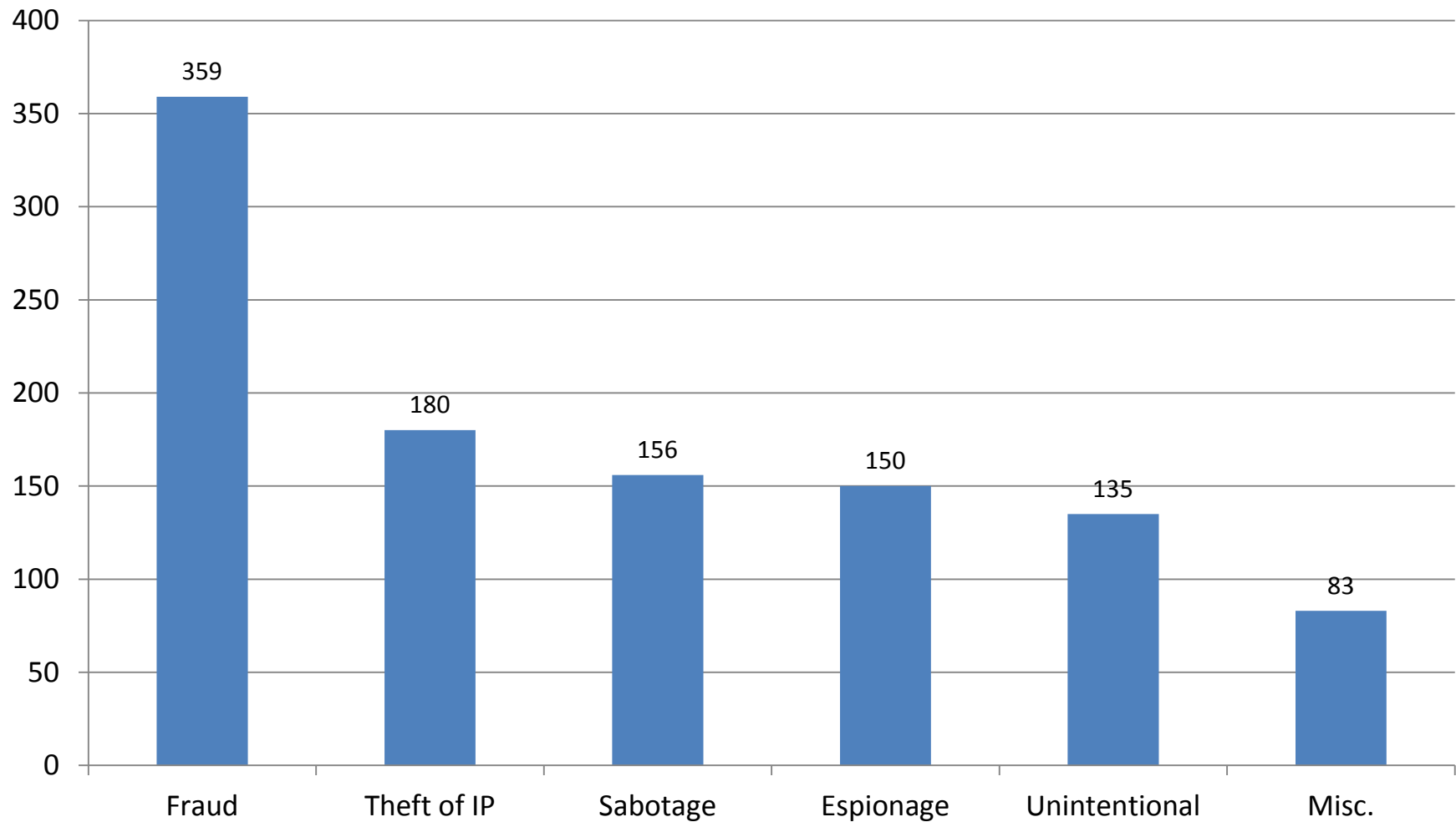
Mission: enable effective insider threat mitigation, incident management practices, and develop capabilities for deterring, detecting, and responding to evolving cyber threats

Action and Value: conduct research, modeling, analysis, and outreach to develop & transition socio-technical solutions to combat insider threats

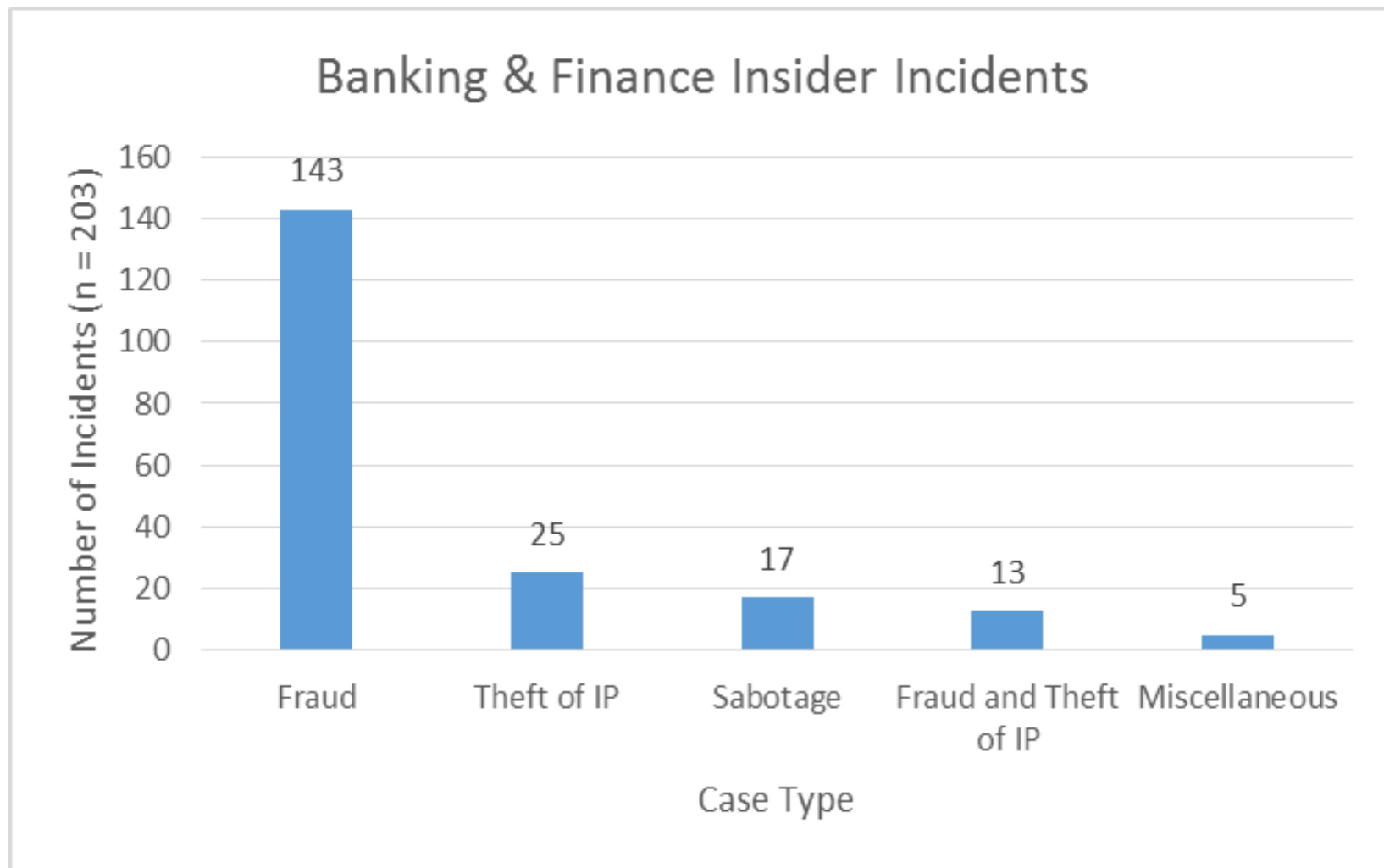
CERT's Unique Approach to the Problem



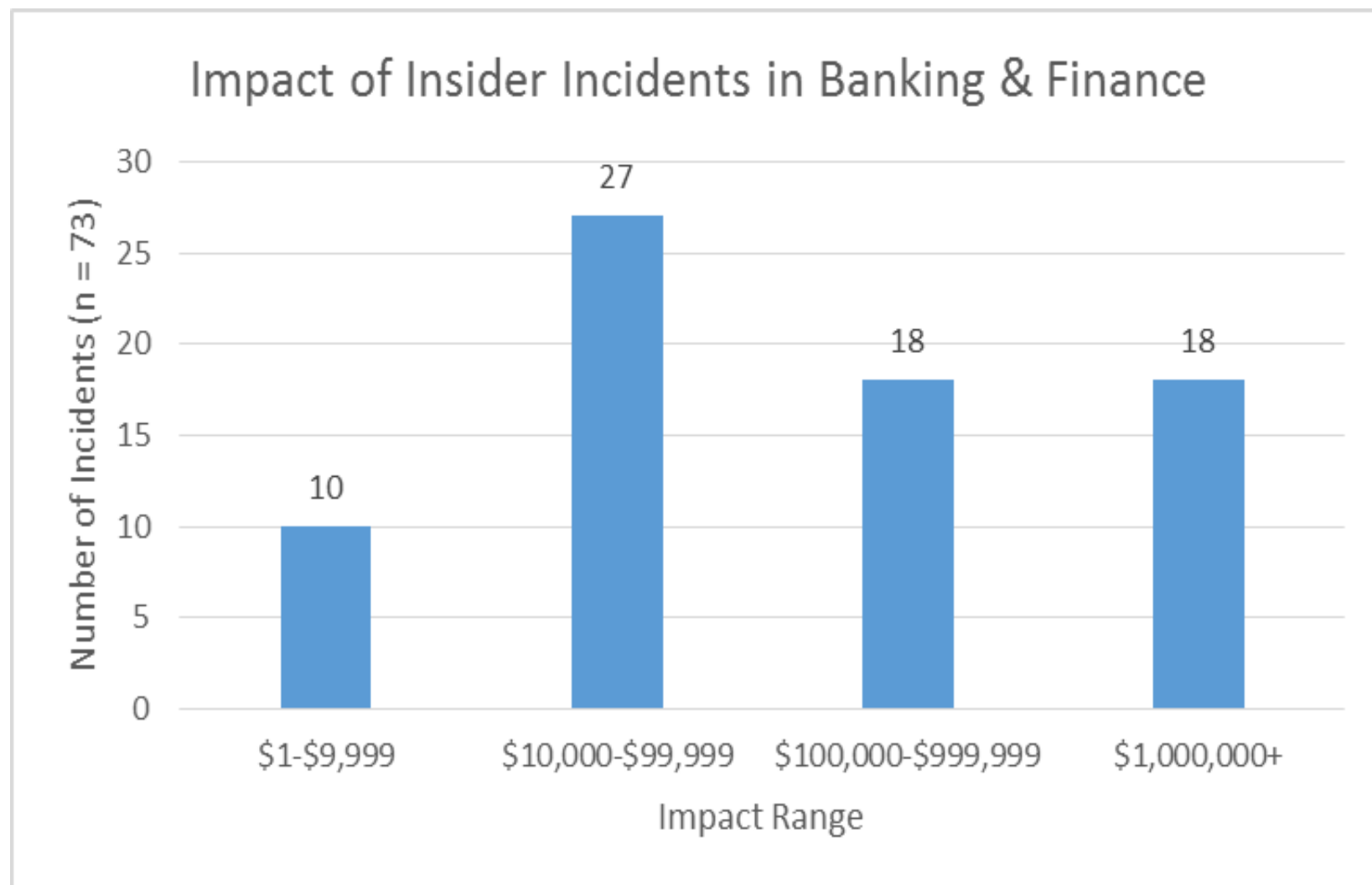
CERT's Insider Incident Corpus



CERT's Insider Incidents in B&F Sector

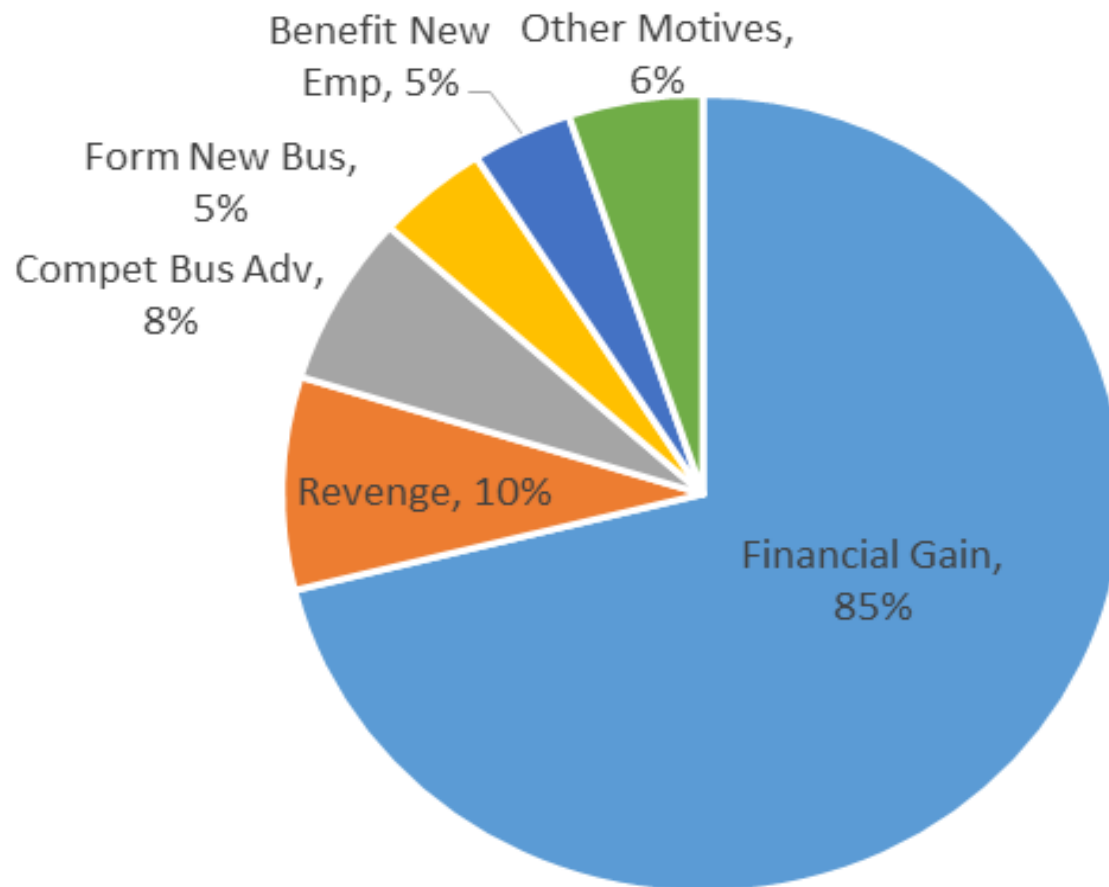


Financial Impact



Motivations

Insider Motive in Banking and Finance Incidents



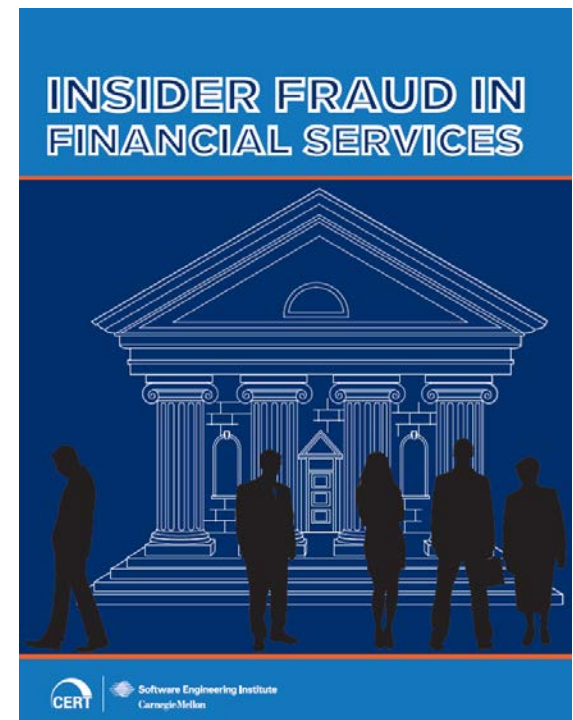
Insider Fraud Study

Funded by U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate (S&T)

Conducted by the CERT Insider Threat Center in collaboration with the U.S. Secret Service (USSS)

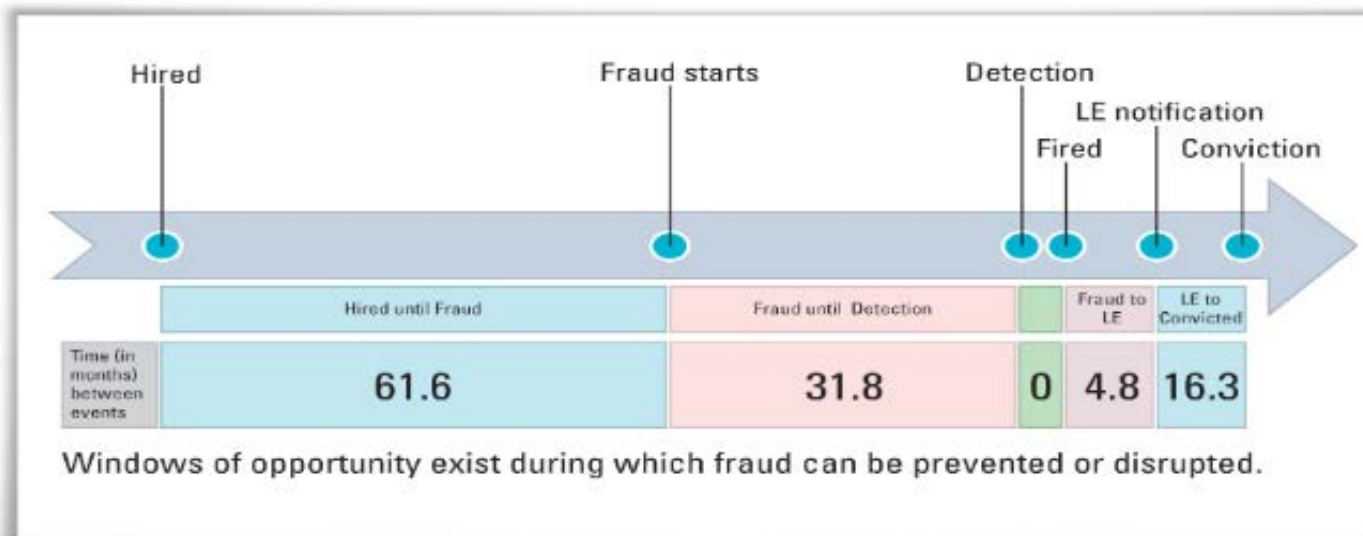
Full report: “Insider Threat Study: Illicit Cyber Activity Involving Fraud in the U.S. Financial Services Sector”
(<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/library/abstracts/reports/12sr004.cfm>)

Booklet: “Insider Fraud in Financial Services”
(<http://www.sei.cmu.edu/library/abstracts/brochures/12sr004-brochure.cfm>)



Low and Slow

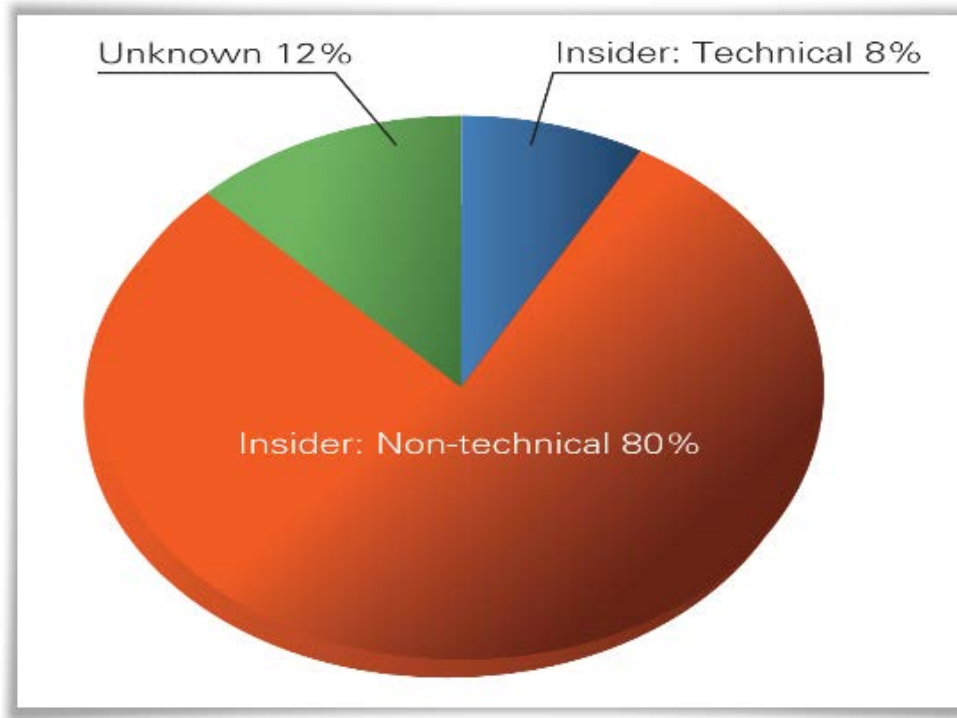
Criminals who executed a “low and slow” approach accomplished more damage and escaped detection for longer.



There are, on average, over 5 years between a subject’s hiring and the start of the fraud. There are 32 months between the beginning of the fraud and its detection.

Low-Tech

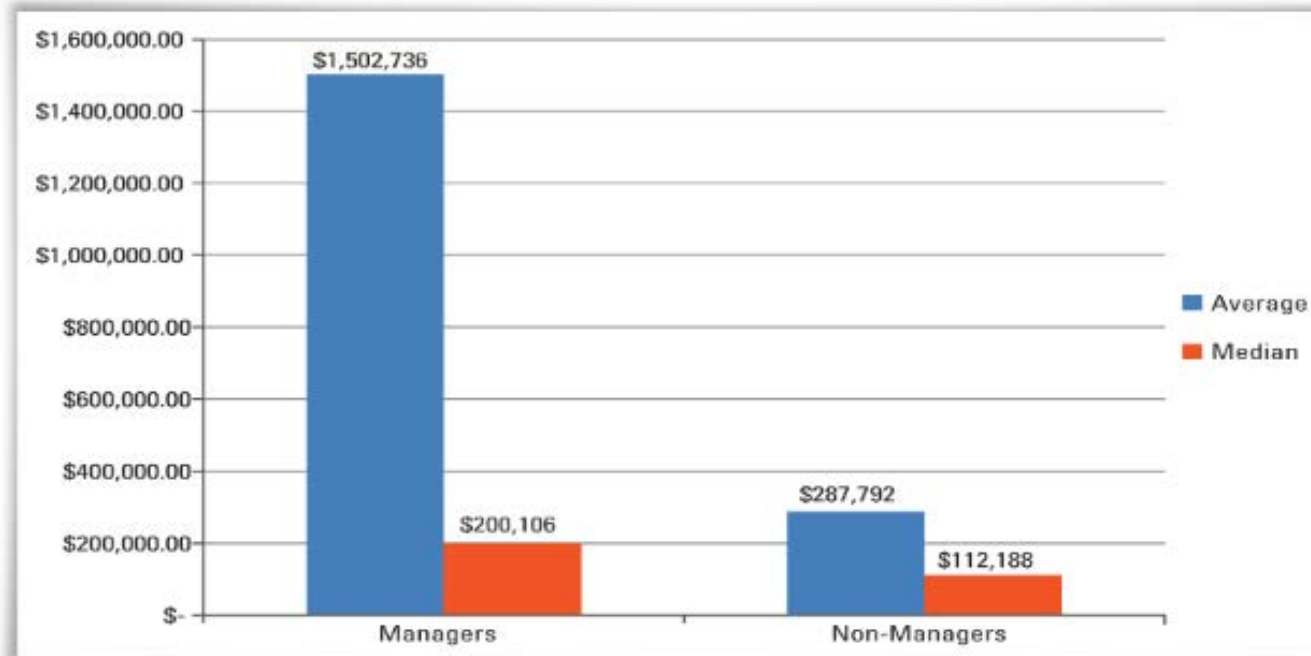
Insiders' means were not very technically sophisticated.



Non-technical subjects were responsible for 65 (81 percent) incidents. Seven were external attackers, but their methods were also non-technical.

Managers vs. Non-Managers

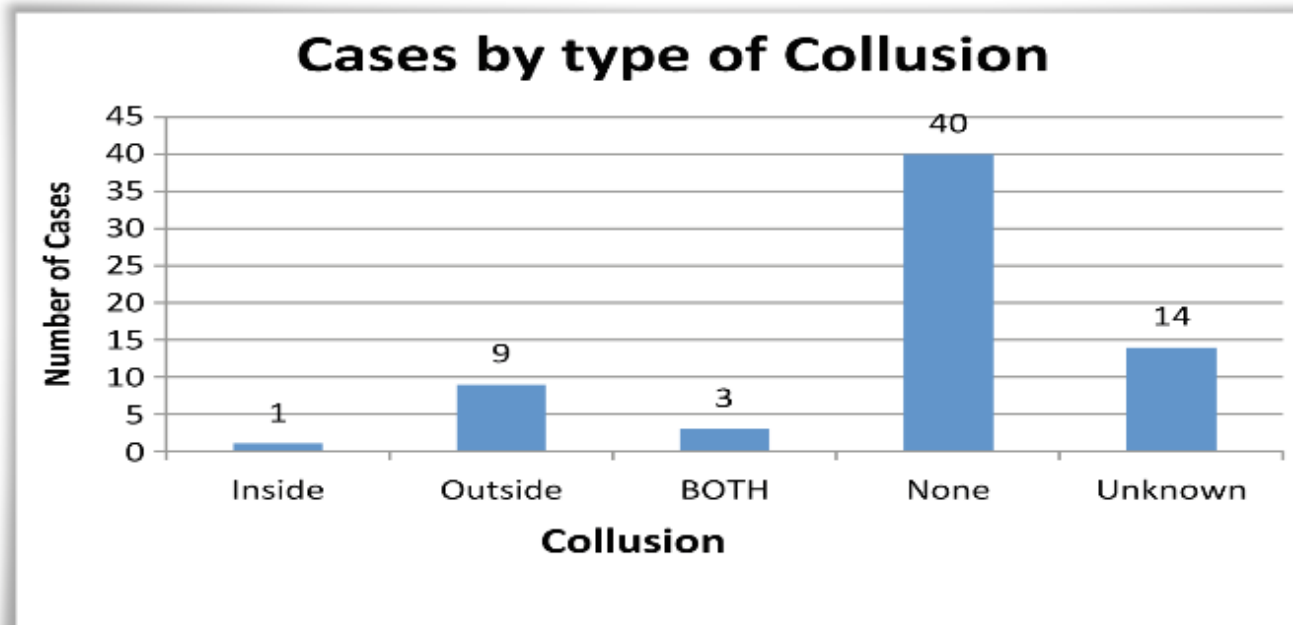
Fraud by managers differs substantially from fraud by non-managers by damage and duration.



Of 61 subjects, 31 (51 percent) were managers, VPs, bank officers, or supervisors. The median results show that managers consistently caused more actual damage (\$200,106) than non-managers (\$112,188).

Collusion

Most cases do not involve collusion.



There was not a significant number of cases involving collusion, but those that did occur generally involved external collusion (i.e., a bank insider colluding with an external party to facilitate the crime).

Audits, Complaints, and Suspicious

Most incidents were detected through an audit, customer complaints, or co-worker suspicions.

The most common way attacks were detected was through routine or impromptu audits.

Over half of the insiders were detected by other victim organization employees, though none of the employees were members of the IT staff.

As expected, most initial responders to the incidents were managers or internal investigators (75 percent).

Recommended Best Practices for Insider Threat Mitigation

1 - Know and protect your critical assets.	11 - Institute stringent access controls and monitoring policies on privileged users.
2 - Develop a formalized insider threat program.	12 - Deploy solutions for monitoring employee actions and correlating information from multiple data sources.
3 - Clearly document and consistently enforce policies and controls.	13 - Monitor and control remote access from all endpoints, including mobile devices.
4 - Beginning with the hiring process, monitor and respond to suspicious or disruptive behavior.	14 - Establish a baseline of normal behavior for both networks and employees
5 - Anticipate and manage negative issues in the work environment.	15 - Enforce separation of duties and least privilege.
6 - Consider threats from insiders and business partners in enterprise-wide risk assessments.	16 - Define explicit security agreements for any cloud services, especially access restrictions and monitoring capabilities.
7 - Be especially vigilant regarding social media.	17 - Institutionalize system change controls.
8 - Structure management and tasks to minimize unintentional insider stress and mistakes.	18 - Implement secure backup and recovery processes.
9 - Incorporate malicious and unintentional insider threat awareness into periodic security training for all employees.	19 - Close the doors to unauthorized data exfiltration.
10 - Implement strict password and account management policies and practices.	20 - Develop a comprehensive employee termination procedure.

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Insider Anomaly Detection

Daniel Costa

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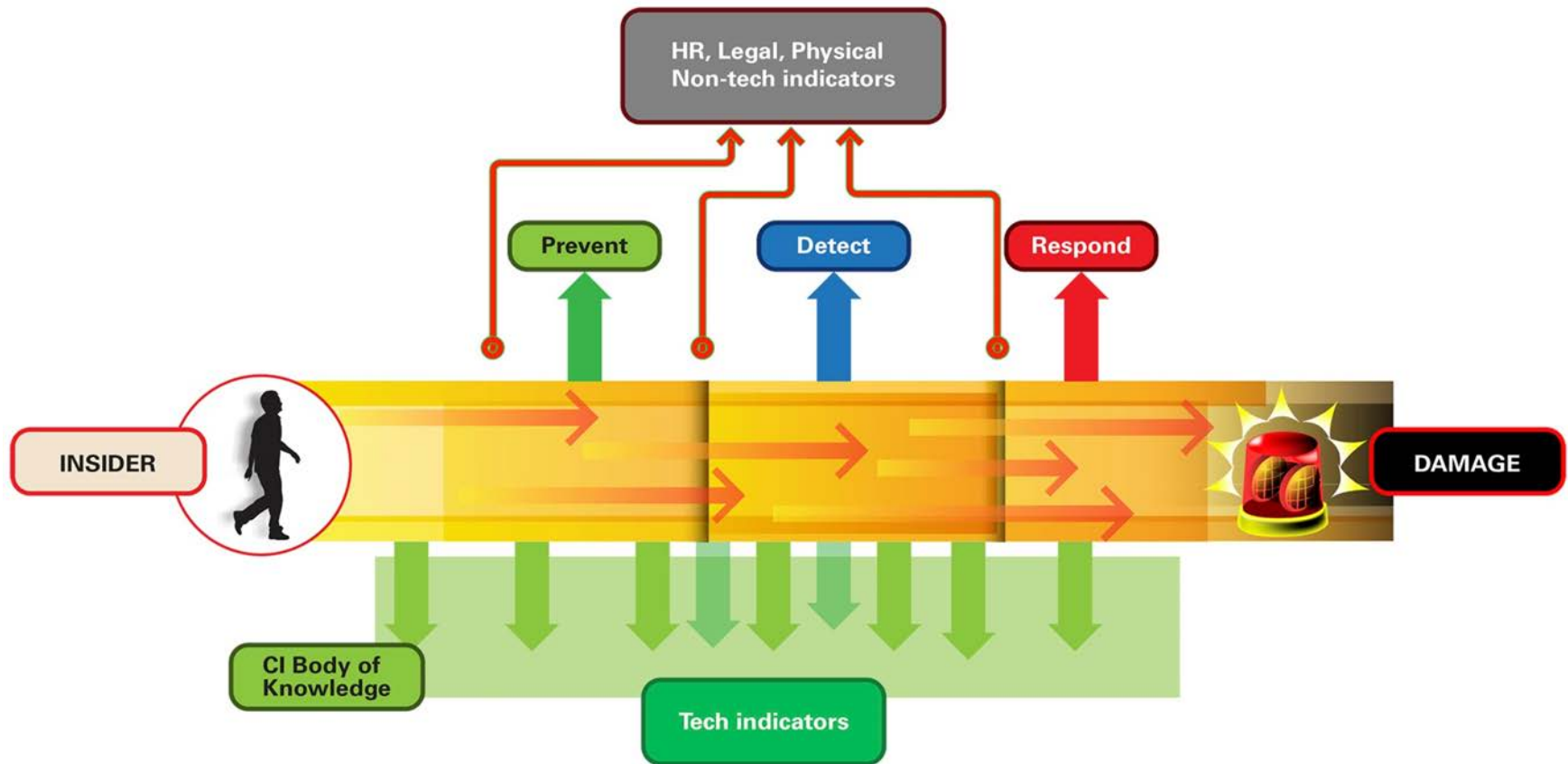
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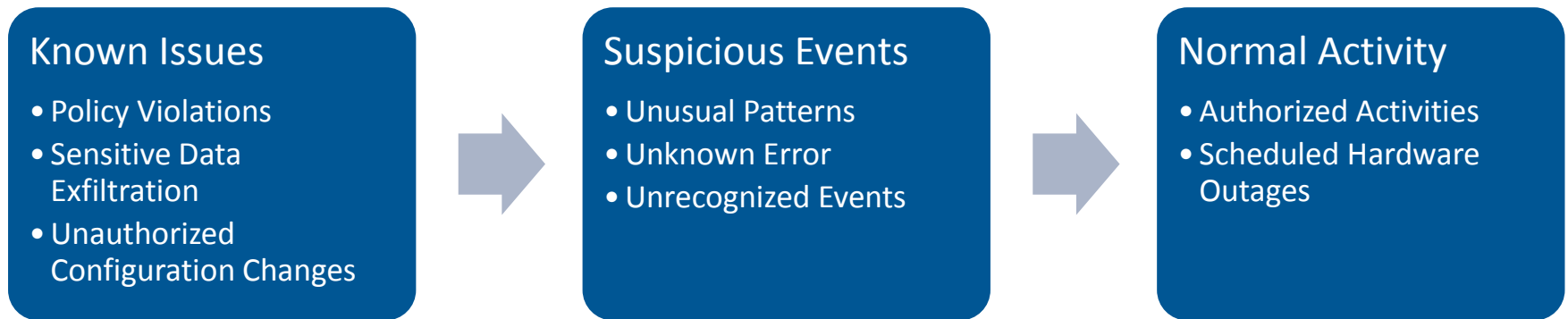
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Goal for an Insider Threat Program



A Phased Approach to Insider Threat Anomaly Detection



Vectors for Insider Anomaly Detection

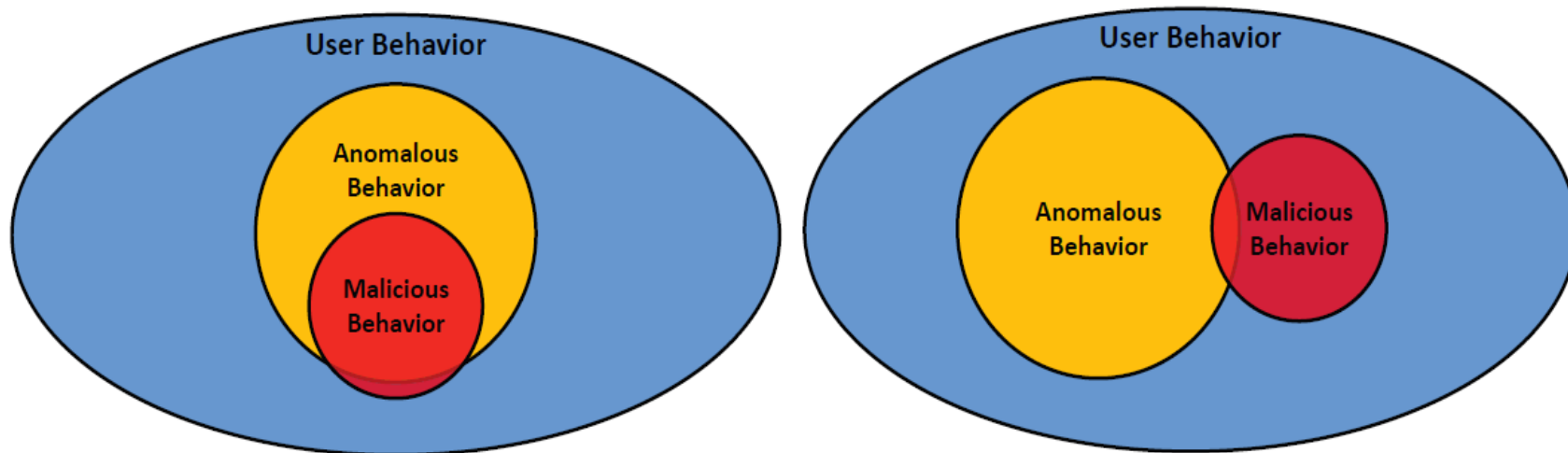
Vector	Examples
Time of Activity	After-hours logins, print jobs, or facility access
Volume of Activity	Large data uploads, file deletions, or print jobs
Account Activity	Service / machine accounts logging in interactively, browsing the web, or
File Access	Authorized access, but no need-to-know for a particular critical asset
Application Use	Administrative assistant executing PowerShell commands, excessive clearing of host-based security logs, excessive use of regedit.exe

Context is Key

... Anomalous relative to what?

- A fixed threshold
 - More than five 'Access Denied' errors generated in an hour
- An individual's established patterns
 - Abnormally high level of cloud-based data uploads, based on a 30-day rolling average
 - Sudden increase in the use of language associated with negative emotions
- A peer group's established patterns
 - Abnormally low number of help desk trouble ticket resolutions compared to all system administrators

Current Research Challenges in Insider Threat Mitigation



Measuring the effectiveness of indicators

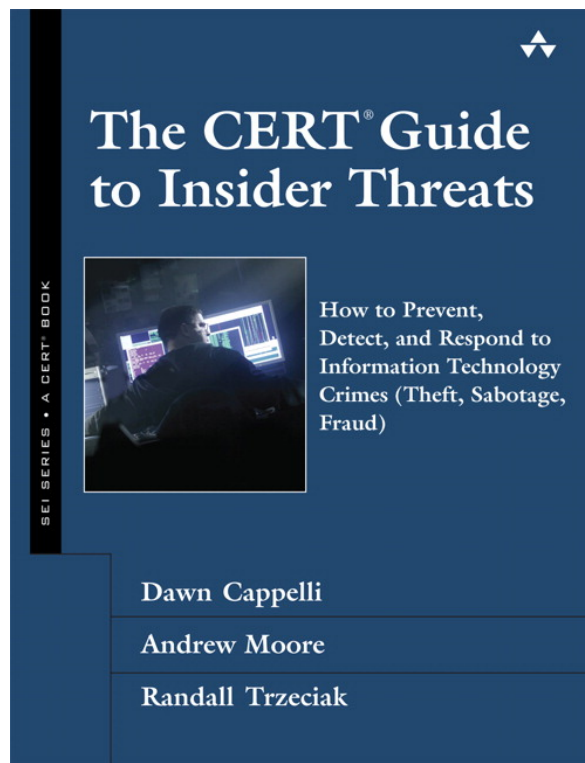
- Across different contexts

Rates of occurrence for probabilistic models

- Access to incident data
- Access to 'baseline' data

Source: Claycomb, William R., Philip A. Legg, and Dieter Gollmann. "Guest Editorial: Emerging Trends in Research for Insider Threat Detection." JoWUA 5.2 (2014): 1-6.

CERT Insider Threat Resources and Services



www.cert.org/insider-threat

- Insider Threat Awareness Training
- Insider Threat Certificate Programs
- Insider Threat Vulnerability Assessments
- Insider Threat Program Evaluations
- Technical Reports
 - CERT Common Sense Guide to Mitigating Insider Threats, 5th Edition
 - Analytic Approaches to Detect Insider Threats
- Technical Controls
 - Using Plagiarism Detection Algorithms to Prevent Data Exfiltration in Near Real Time
 - Using a SIEM signature to detect potential precursors to IT Sabotage
- Insider Threat Blog
- Insider Threat Analytics Development and Tool Testing
- Customized Insider Threat Research

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Using Narrative Structures to Detect Insider Risks

Kurt Wallnau

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ADAMS Red Team Task and Protocol (High Level)

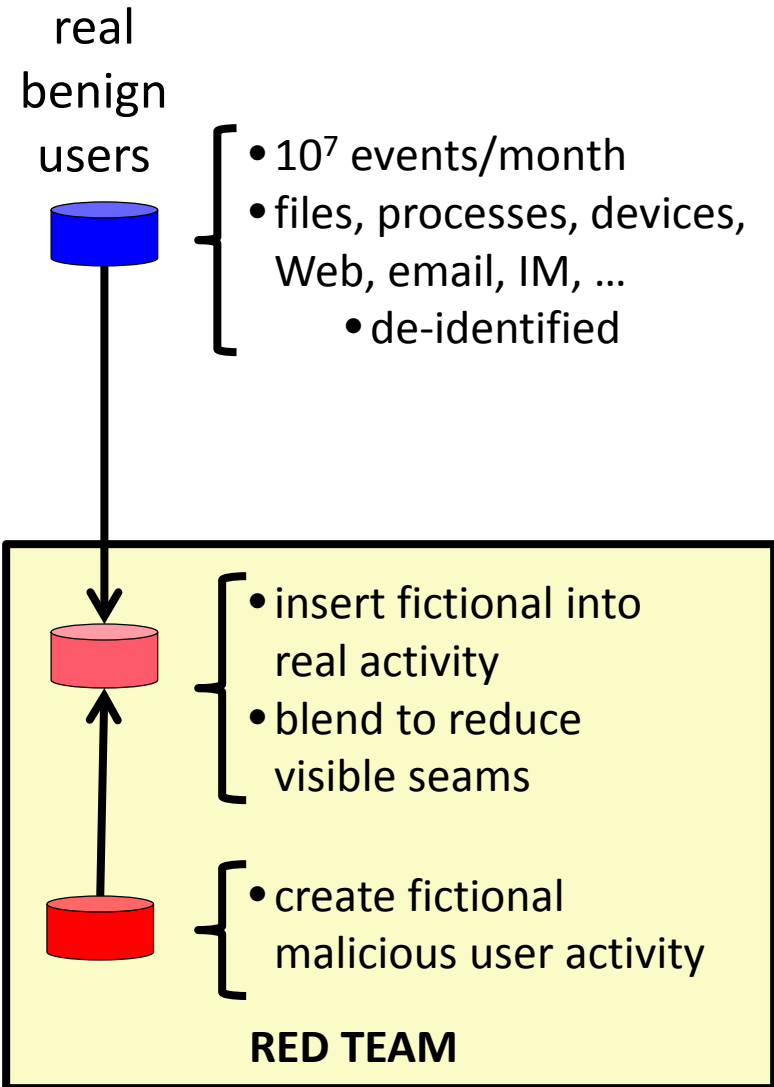
DARPA/ADAMS: Anomaly Detection at Multiple Scales (Rand Waltzman, PM)

Provide test data to support research:

- Inject “simulated” threat activity into “real” but benign background data
- Realistic social complexity of threats
 - unfold over days, weeks, months, ...
 - precursor and violation behavior
 - single/multiple actors
- Valid and representative test sample with low risk of distracting data artifacts

Anomaly vs. Violation

- Q: How to specify test data that does not degenerate to a “violation”?
- A: Abstraction to dramatic narratives and dramatic performance!

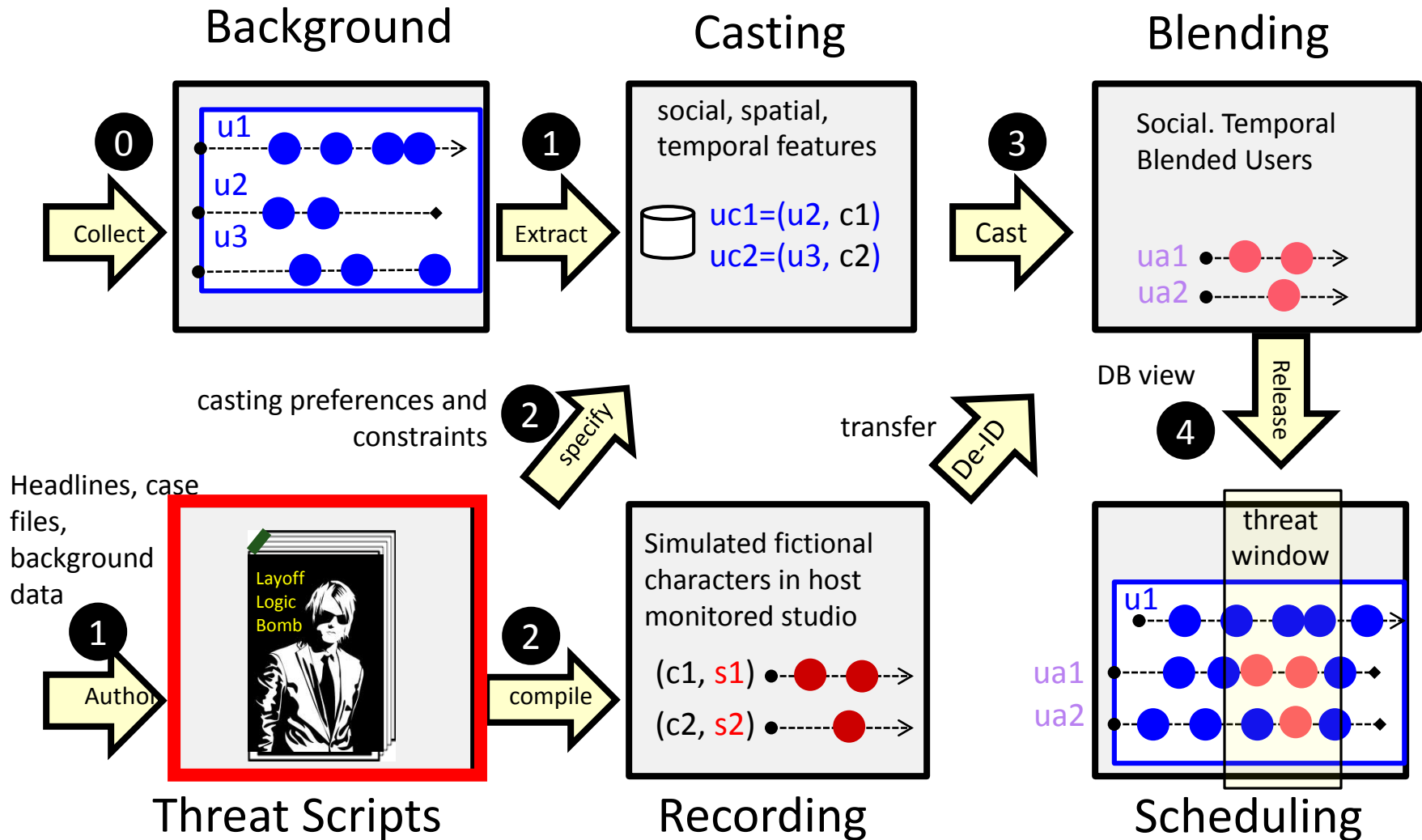


Drama is a foundational source of socio-conflict patterns

To illustrate, this summarizes the top-level structure of Polti's "Thirty-Six Dramatic Situations" (1921):

1	SUPPLICATION	• Persecutor, Suppliant Power in authority whose decision is uncertain
2	DELIVERANCE	• Unfortunate, Threatener, Rescuer
3	PURSUED BY VENGEANCE	• Avenger, Criminal
4	VENGEANCE TAKEN FOR KINDRED UPON KINDRED	• Avenging Kinsman, Guilty Kinsman; Remembrance of the Victim Relative of Both.
5	PURSUIT	• Punishment, Fugitive
6	DISASTER	• Vanquished Power, Victorious Enemy or Messenger
7	FALLING PREY TO CRUELTY OR MISFORTUNE	• Unfortunate, Master or Misfortune
8	REVOLT	• Tyrant, Conspirator
9	DARING ENTERPRISE	• Bold Leader, Object, Adversary
10	ABDUCTION	• Abductor, Abducted, Guardian
11	THE ENIGMA	• Interrogator, Seeker, Problem
12	OBTAINING	• Solicitor with an Adversary Who is Refusing, Arbitrator. Opposing Parties
13	ENMITY OF KINSMEN	• Malevolent Kinsman Hatred or Reciprocally Hating Kinsman
14	RIVALRY OF KINSMEN	• Preferred Kinsman, Rejected Kinsman, The Object
15	MURDEROUS ADULTERY	• Two Adulterers, Betrayed Spouse
16	MADNESS	• Madman, Victim
17	FATAL IMPRUDENCE	• Imprudent, Victim or Object Lost
18	INVOLUNTARY CRIMES OF LOVE	• Lover, Beloved, Revealer
19	SLAYING OF A KINSMEN UNRECOGNIZED	• Slayer, Unrecognized Victim
20	SELF SACRIFICE FOR AN IDEAL	• Hero, Ideal, Creditor or the Person or Thing Sacrificed
21	SELF SACRIFICE FOR A KINDRED	• Hero, Kinsmen, Creditor or the Person or Thing Sacrificed
22	ALL SACRIFICED FOR A PASSION	• Lover, Object of Fatal Passion, Person or Thing Sacrificed
23	NECESSITY OF SACRIFICING LOVED ONES	• Hero, Beloved Victim, Necessity for Sacrifice
24	RIVALRY OF SUPERIOR AND INFERIOR	• Superior Rival, Inferior Rival, The Object
25	ADULTERY	• Deceived Spouse, Two Adulterers
26	CRIMES OF LOVE	• Lover, Beloved
27	DISCOVERY OF THE DISHONOR OF A LOVED ONE	• Discoverer, Guilty One
28	OBSTACLES TO LOVE	• Two Lovers, Obstacle
29	AN ENEMY LOVED	• Beloved Enemy, Lover, Hater
30	AMBITION	• Ambitious Person, Thing Coveted. Adversary
31	CONFLICT WITH GOD	• Mortal, Immortal
32	MISTAKEN JEALOUSY	• Jealous One, Object of Possession. Supposed Accomplice, Cause or Author of the Mistake
33	ERRONEOUS JUDGMENT	• Mistaken One, Victim or Mistake. Cause or Author of the Mistake, Guilty Person
34	REMORSE	• Culprit, Victim or Sin. Interrogator
35	RECOVERY OF A LOST ONE	• Seeker, Found One
36	LOSS OF LIVED ONES	• Kinsman Slain, Kinsman Spectator, Executioner

Simulated Threat Dramas by Background Extension



Authoring: Passed Over (Story Summary)

Story Name: *Passed Over*

Plot Summary:

After hearing rumors ... Subject's project is being phased out ... Subject has devoted more than a decade in the project and been groomed as project leader... becomes disgruntled, makes demands and threats to leadership...installs malware on several machines before submitting a resignation.

Threat Class: *IT Sabotage*

Predicate: Subject installed malware on multiple company IT assets before resigning.

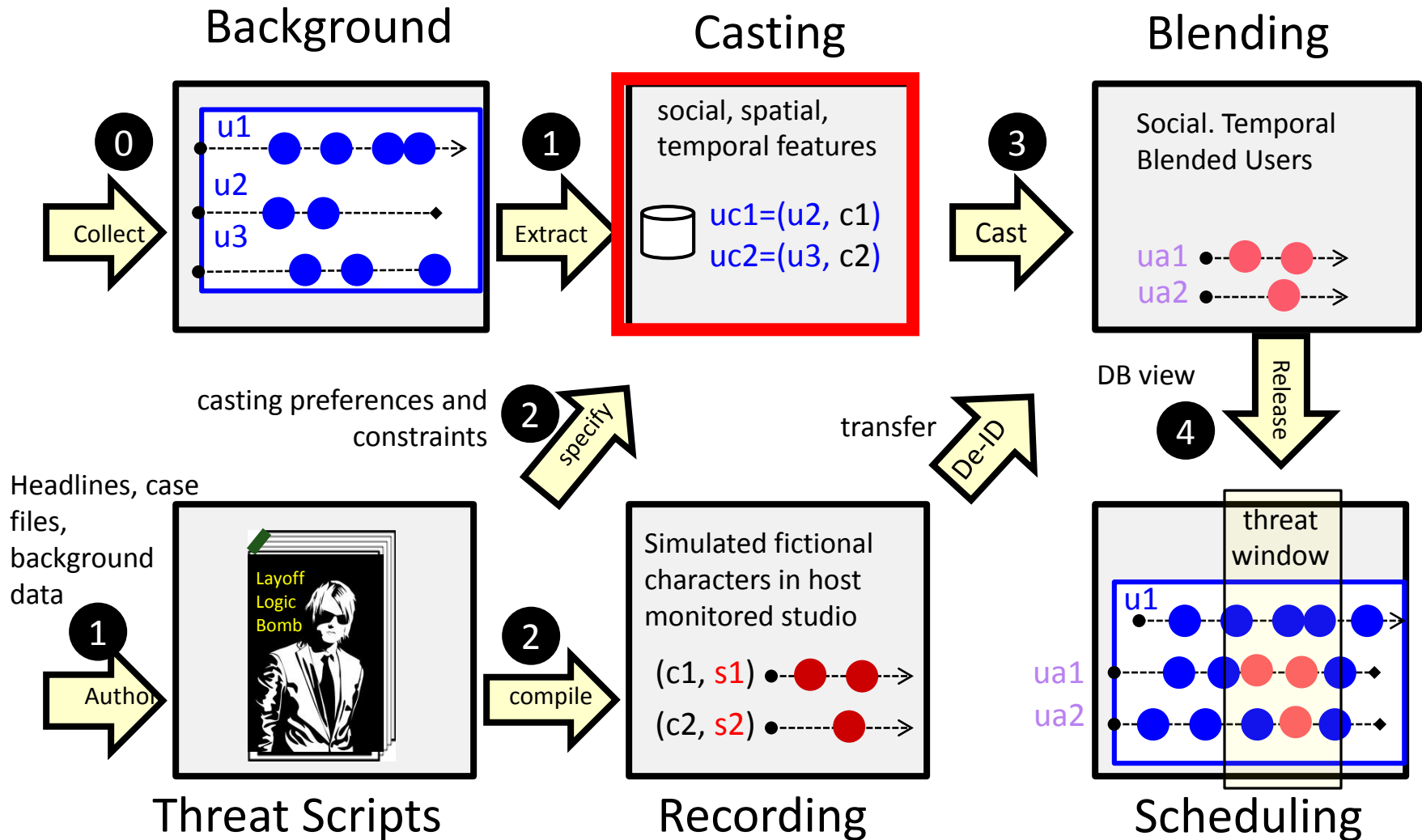
Cast:

Subject: Mid-level, 10 yrs on project being phased out.
Coworkers. Friends and co-workers of Subject.
Supervisors: Subject and Coworkers supervisors.

Casting:

COMS "sentiment" Subject
IMU Subject
IMU Coworker1
IMU Coworker2
COLO Subject Supervisor2
COWO Subject Coworker1
COWO Subject Coworker2
IMCM Subject Coworker1
IMCM Subject Coworker2
SUPV Supervisor1 Subject
SUPV Supervisor2 Supervisor1
SUPV Supervisor Coworker2

Simulated Threat Dramas by Background Extension



Casting

Goal: find the “right” users to perform dramatic simulations

- Character features: job roles, activity preferences
- Social features: friend and team graphs, reporting structure

> 70 casting features induced by narratives (not pre-defined)

- They reveal something about the underlying threat construct

Character or Social Features Used for Casting Users

ACTIVE window X	X is active during time window
AFFILIATED X Y	X, Y have same company affiliation
ATWORK date X	X is at work on date
CEMAILU X	X is a user of corporate email

COLOCATED: Geographic features (Metadata)

COLOCATED X Y	X, Y are in the same geographic location
COTIMEZONES X Y	X, Y are in the same timezones
COWORKERS X Y	X, Y are co-workers
DEVELOPER X	X is a software developer
DIDON activity date X	X did activity on date
EMAILCOMS X Y	X, Y have communicated by email

FRIENDS: com graphs/frequencies (SureView)

FRIENDS X Y	X, Y are friends
HVYIMU	X is a "heavy" IM user
HTTPU X	X uses the Web
IMCOMS X Y	X, Y have communicated by IM
IMU X	X is a user of IM
INTERNU X	X is affiliated with the monitored company
LOCATION "loc" X	X is in geographic location named "loc"
MANYHOSTU X	X uses many host computers
NETDRIVEU X	X uses removable storage media
OFFLINE H x T1 x T2	Host H is unavailable during time interval [T1, T2]
POPULAR X	X is popular socially
PVTEMAILCOM X Y	X, Y have communicated by email privately
REMOVDRVU X	X uses removable drive (e.g. USB stick)

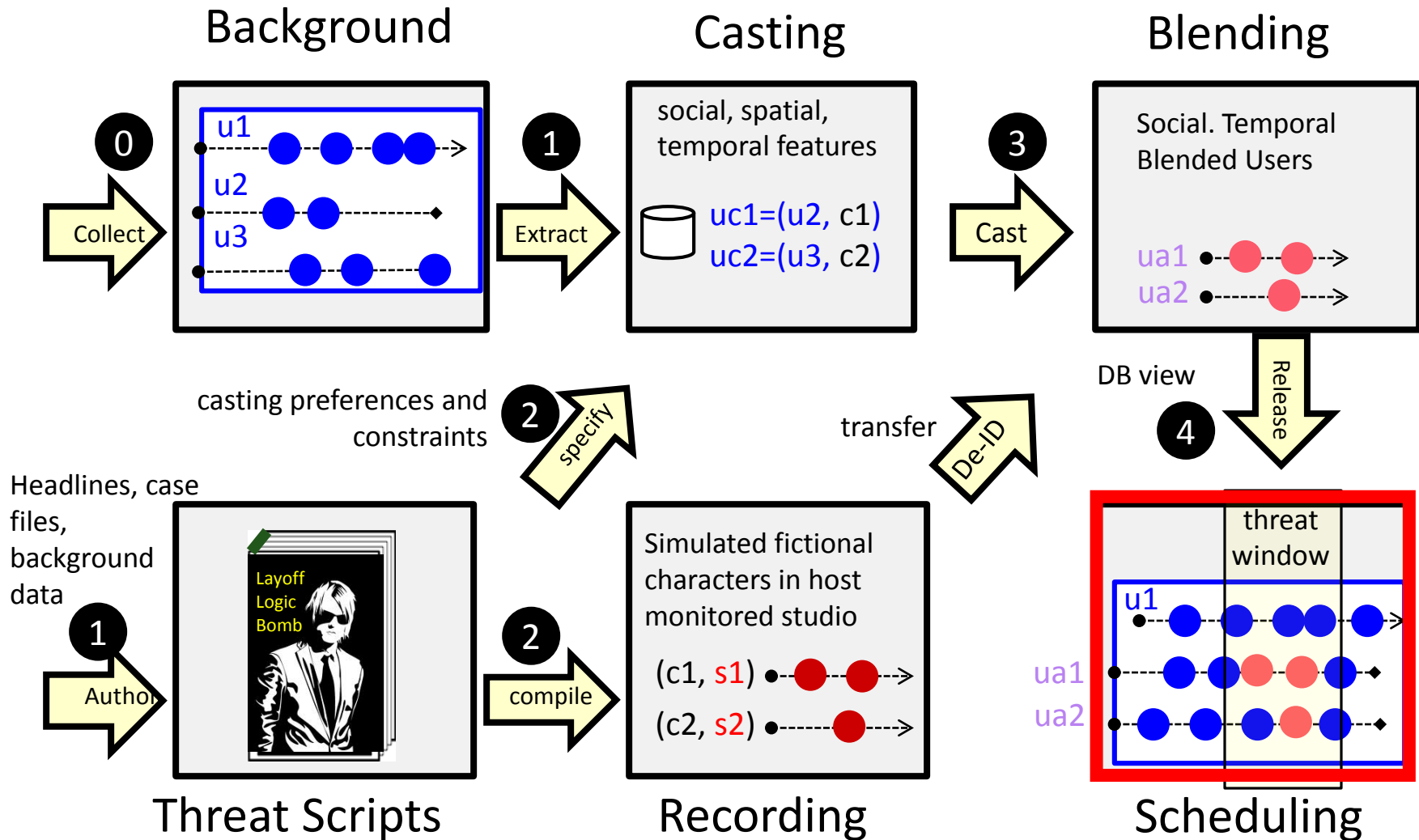
SUPERVISES: reporting graphs (Metadata)

SUPERVISES X Y	X is Y's direct supervisor
SUPERVISOR X	X supervises at least one Y
SUPERVISOR2LEV	X supervises at least one Y s.t. SUPERVISOR Y
SYSADMIN X	X is a systems administrator

SYSADMIN: activities (SureView)

WEBSTORAGEU X	X is a user of Web storage such as DropBox
---------------	--

Simulated Threat Dramas by Background Extension



Results

39 threat dramas, performed 89 times in 26 month-long windows

- espionage, sabotage, IP theft, fraud
- greed, family crises, extortion, misplaced idealism, resentment
- conspiracies, lone wolves, foreign agents, victims, enablers
- from case files, headlines, and events occurring in background

Story	#Perf	Story	#Perf
Anomalous Encryption	5	Insider Startup	7
Blinded Me with Science	1	Job Hunter	1
Bollywood Breakdown	2	Layoff Logic Bomb	1
Bona Fides	2	Manning Up	2
Breaking the Stovepipe	3	Manning Up II	1
Byte Me!	2	Masquerading (Orig)	1
Byte Me! Middleman	2	Masquerading 2	2
Circumventing Sureview	2	Naughty by Proxy	4
Conspiracy Theory	2	Outsourcer's Apprentice	3
Credit Czech	1	Panic Attack	2
Czech Mate	1	Parting Shot	1
Exfil using Steganography	1	Parting Shot: Deadly Aim	1
Exfil Before Layoff	3	Passed Over	4
Exfil Using Screenshots	4	Selling Login Credentials	2
From Belarus With Love	2	Snowed In	6
Gift Card Bonanza	1	Stealing Login Credentials	1
Hiding Undue Affluence	4	Strategic Tee Time	1
Indecent RFP	1	Survivor's Burden	4
Indecent RFP 2	2	The Big Goodbye!	2
		What's the Big Deal?	2

K. Wallnau, B. Lindauer, M. Theis, S. Durst, T. Champion, E. Renouf and C. Petersen, "Simulating Malicious Insiders in Real Host-Monitored User Data," *Usenix Workshop on Cybersecurity Experimentation and Test (CSET'14)*, San Diego, CA, August 2014.

Possible Implications

Localization:

- The technique is abstracted from collectors and collection policies
- Threats dramas can be written once, then cast and performed in local data

Scale:

- Thousands of performance variations of each threat data can be obtained quickly and automatically (different casts, temporal placement of scenes)
- End-to-end automation after the “creative” part (principally, threat authoring)

Realism and Validity:

- As real as any dramatic narrative and performance needs
- No “built-in” detector-technology bias in threat specifications

Contact Information

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The Role of Positive Incentives in Reducing Insider Threats

Andrew Moore

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Research Objective

Determine influence of workforce management practices on insider threat behaviors

Negative Incentives

Workforce management practices that attempt to *force* employees to act in the interests of the organization

Employee Constraints, Monitoring, Punishment

Positive Incentives

Workforce management practices that attempt to *attract* employees to act in the interests of the organization

Focus on Employee Strengths, Fair & Respectful Treatment

Negative incentives *alone* can *exacerbate* the threat they are intended to mitigate*

Basic Belief: Organizations should *explicitly* consider a *mix of positive and negative incentives* to build insider threat programs that are a net positive for employees

Initial Scope: Disgruntlement-spurred threat

* See “Effective Insider Threat Programs: Understanding and Avoiding Potential Pitfalls,” SEI Digital Library, March 2015.
http://resources.sei.cmu.edu/asset_files/WhitePaper/2015_019_001_446379.pdf

Three Dimensions of Employee-Organization Alignment

People



Connected @ Work

Job



Job Engagement

Organization



Perceived Organizational Support

Two-Pronged Exploratory Research Approach

1. *Insider Incident Case Study Analysis*

- How engaged, connected, and supported are insider threat actors?

2. *Organizational Survey*

- How much does organizational support influence insider cyber misbehavior?

Extension of previous work by focusing on

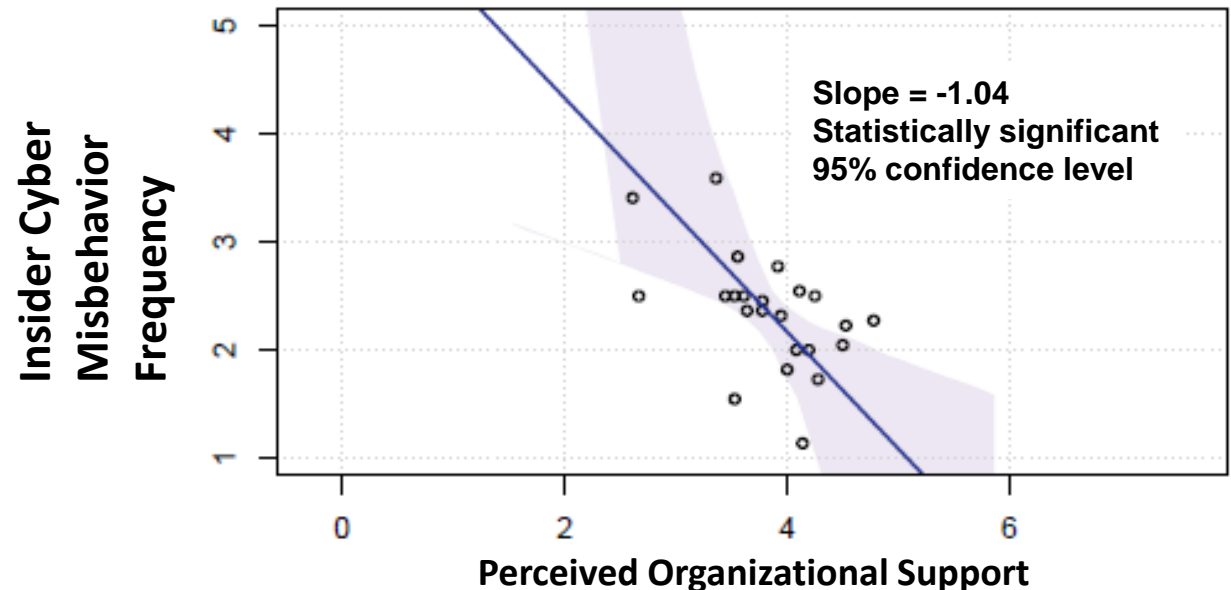
- Cyber-related insider threat behaviors
- Organizations actively establishing insider threat programs

Organizational Survey

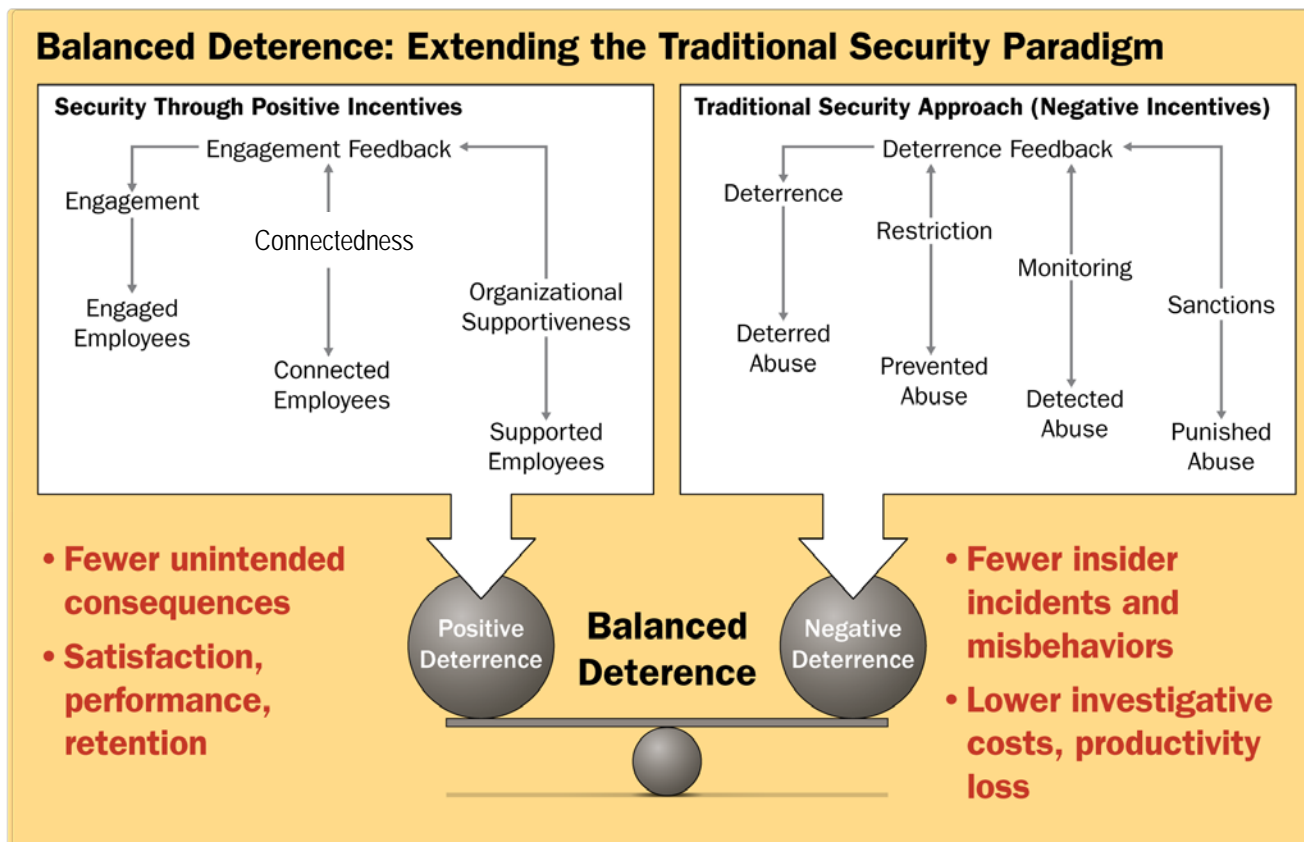
How much does organizational support influence insider cyber misbehavior?

Method: Survey Open Source Insider Threat (OSIT) Information Sharing Group

Results: based on 23 out of ~90 organizations



Vision: Extending the Traditional Security Paradigm



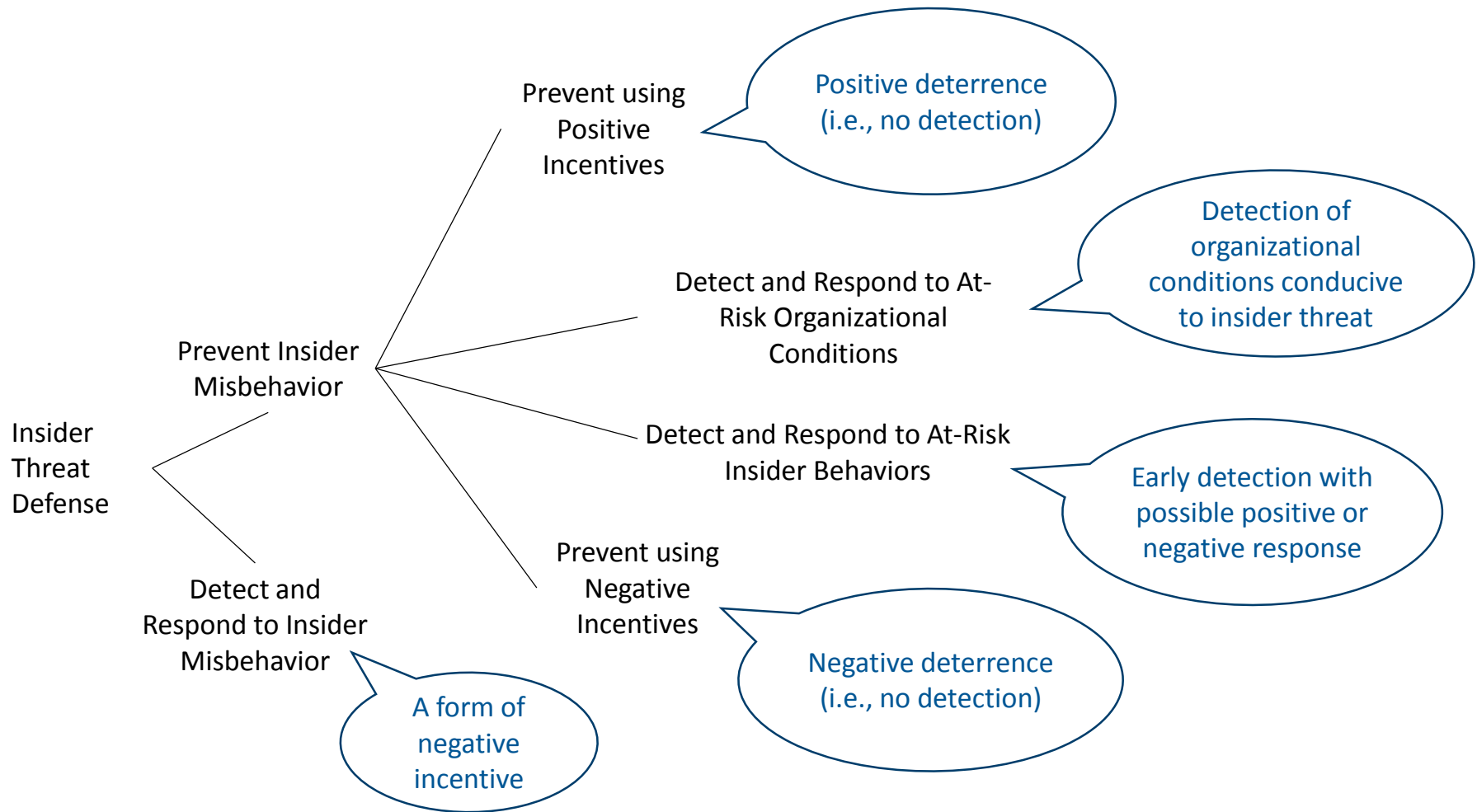
Backups

Categories of Negative Unintended Consequences in Insider Threat Programs (InTP)*

1. Interference with legitimate whistleblower processes and protections
2. InTP management/employee relationships
3. InTP management's lack or loss of interest in the InTP
4. Purposeful Misuse of the InTP by its staff or other employees
5. Accidental Misuse of the InTP by its staff or other employees

* See "Effective Insider Threat Programs: Understanding and Avoiding Potential Pitfalls," SEI Digital Library, March 2015.
http://resources.sei.cmu.edu/asset_files/WhitePaper/2015_019_001_446379.pdf

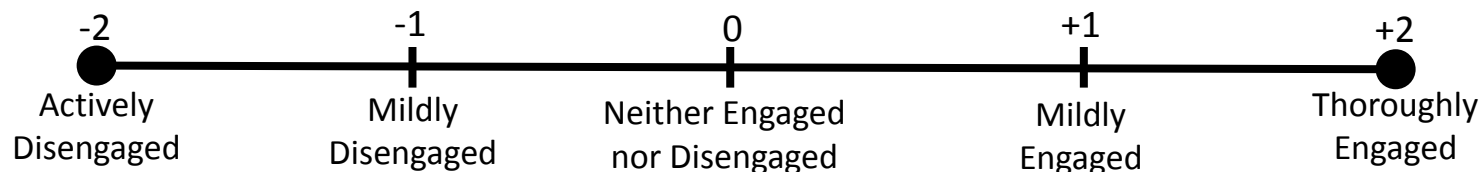
Research Context



Insider Incident Case Study Analysis

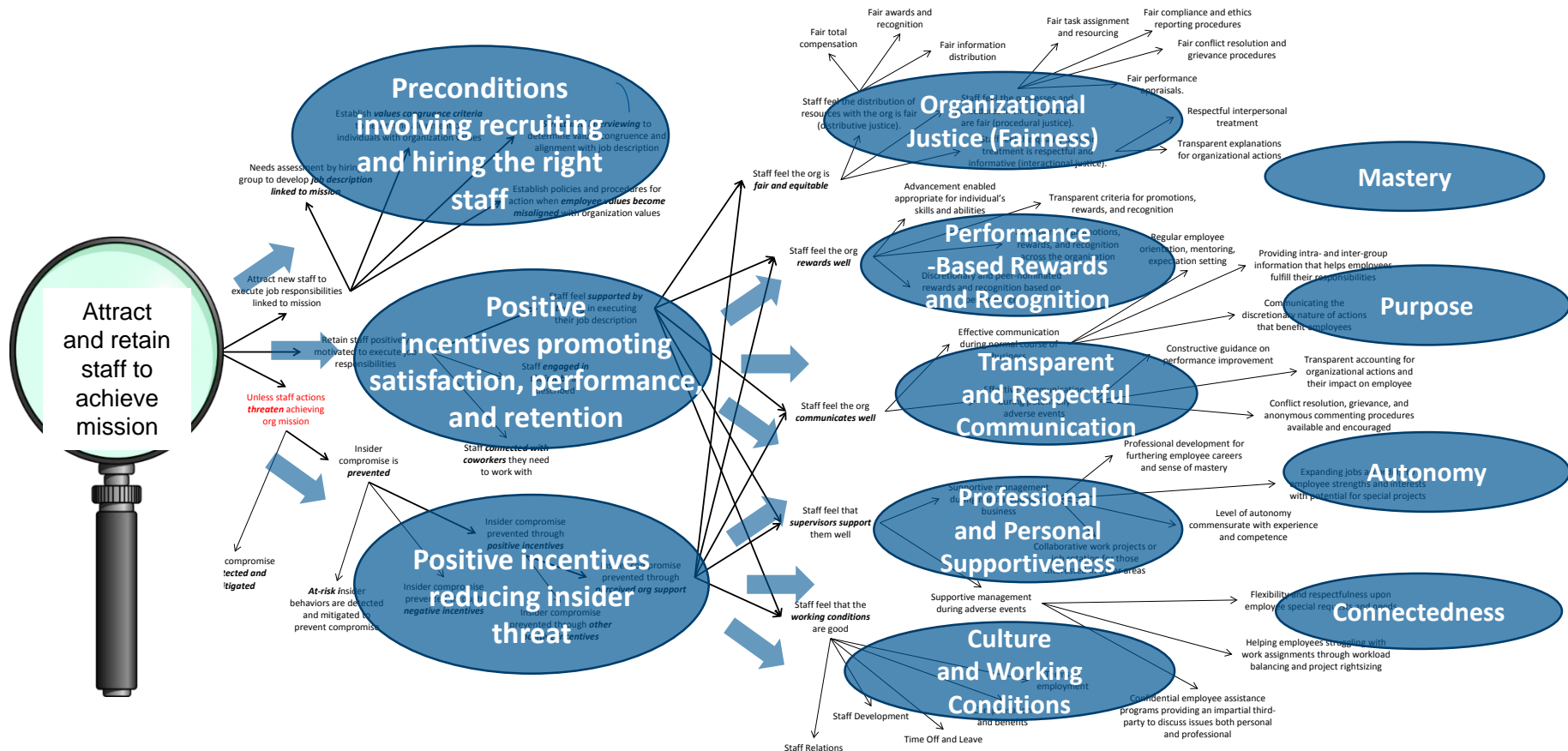
How engaged, connected, and supported are insider threat actors?

- **Method:** Rate dimensions on 5-point Likert scales over three time periods
 - For example, for Job Engagement



- **Challenge:** Assessing insider perceptions through observables (w/o interview)
- **Results:** (3 prominent incidents)
 - Dimensions became increasingly negative over time, with some fluctuation
 - *Organizational Support* most strongly negative in all 3 incidents
 - *Job Engagement* negative in 2 out of 3 incidents
 - *Connectedness at Work* negative in 1 out of 3 incidents
- **Initial Decision:** Focus on perceived organizational support as foundation.

Positive Incentive-Based Principles and Practice Areas



Future Research

Theory Development

- Experiment-based determination of cause-effect relationship between perceived organizational support and insider threat

Technology Development

- Detection of
 - at-risk organizational conditions associated with organizational support
 - insider alienation through indicative changes in insiders' network of workplace relationships

Adoption

- Determine how organizations can
 - determine an appropriate mix of positive and negative incentives
 - transition to that from their current state

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Special thanks to the Open Source Insider Threat (OSIT) Information Sharing Group for their responses to our survey.

For more details on this research see “The Critical Role of Positive Incentives in Reducing Insider Threat,”
SEI Technical Report CMU/SEI-2016-TR-014, December 2016.

http://resources.sei.cmu.edu/asset_files/TechnicalReport/2016_005_001_484929.pdf



Q & A

Open Source Insider Threat (OSIT) Information Sharing Group

Community of Interest for insider threat program
practitioners across government and industry organizations

Over 230 members from ~100 organizations

Special interest groups around sectors (banking/finance)
and sub-topics(data analytics)

Monthly Telecons

- Tool Vendor Demos

Bi-annual In-Person Meetings

- Hosted by various members of the group

To join, contact:

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Insider Threat Blog <https://insights.sei.cmu.edu/insider-threat/>

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Q & A