

# TALOS

Cisco Security Research

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# Fighting the Good Fight

# Cisco Talos

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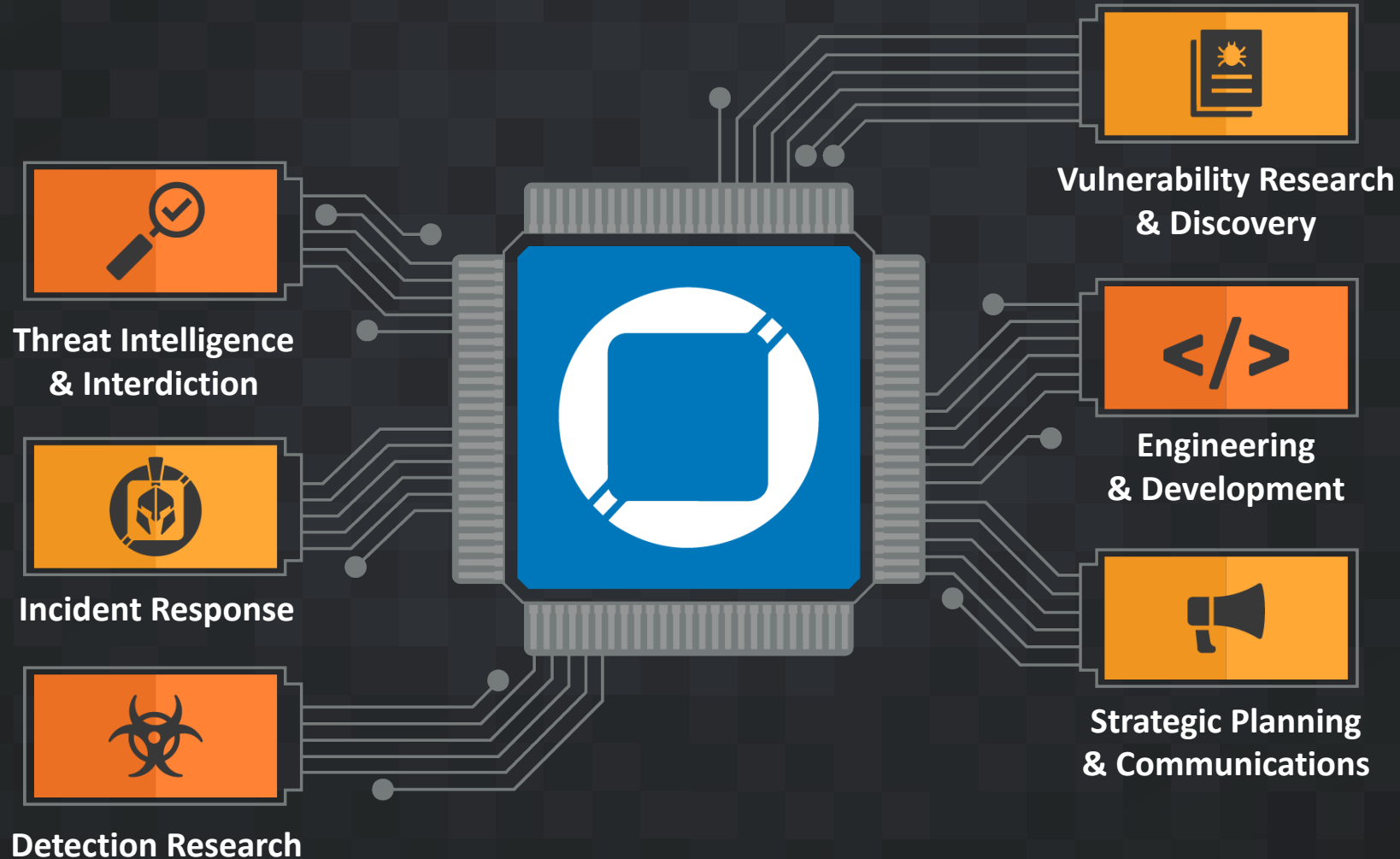
02 November 2022

# Protecting Customers

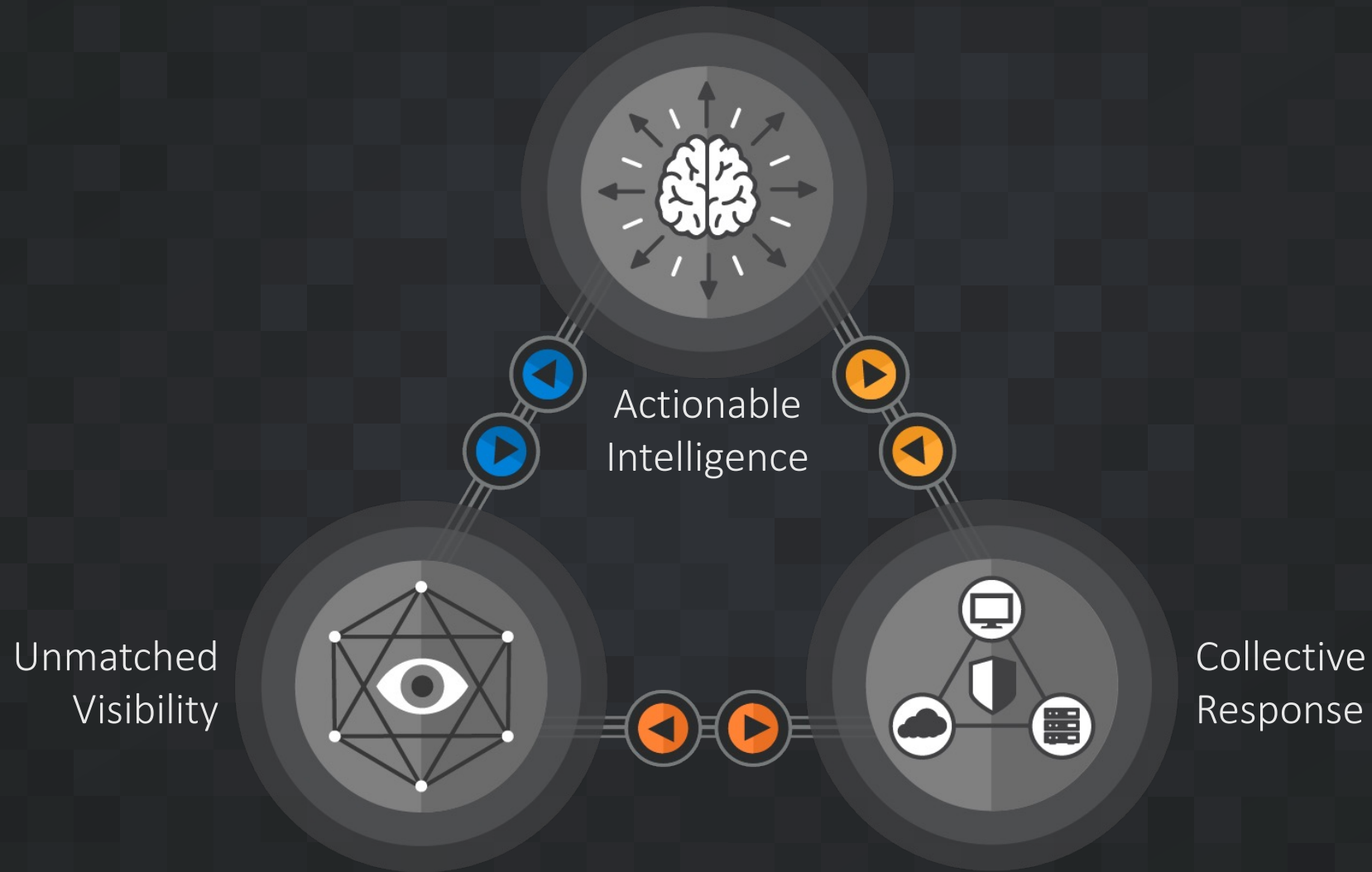


# Our job is protecting your network

Talos is the threat intelligence group at Cisco. We are here to fight the good fight — we work to keep our customers, and users at large, safe from malicious actors.



# Why trust Talos?





# Unmatched Visibility

To stop more, you have to see more.

- The most diverse data set
- Community partnerships
- Proactively finding problems

Unmatched visibility is built on relationships



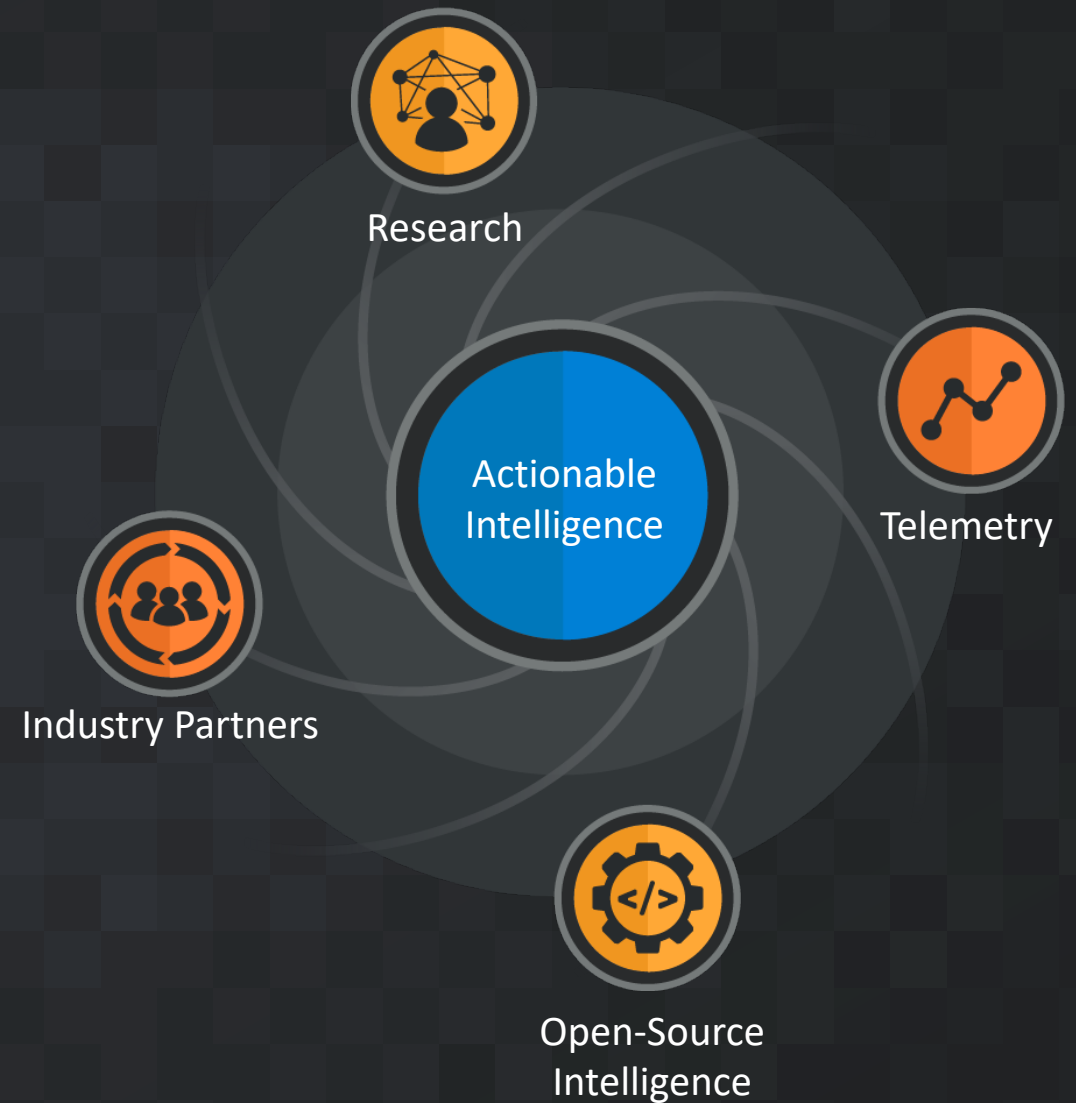


# Actionable Intelligence

Security controls are best served by data that lets tools respond to immediate threats.

- Rapid coverage
- Distillation and analysis
- Threat Context

It's not detect and forget, it's detect and analyze.





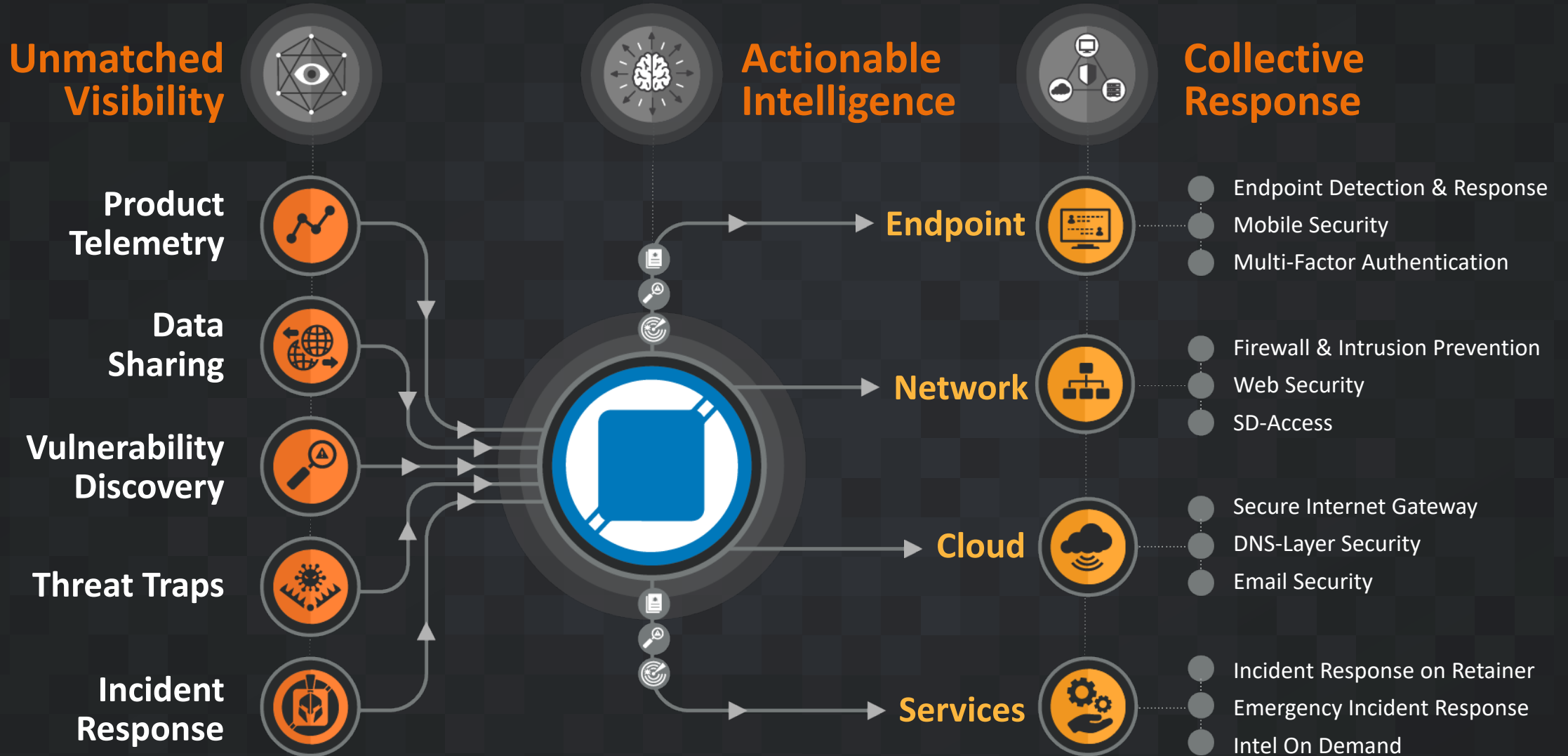
# Collective Response

The ability to bring rapid protection to close off multiple attack vectors instantaneously is crucial

- **Breadth:** See once, protect everywhere
- **Depth:** Response and interdiction drives continuous research
- **Scale:** Delivering portfolio-wide protection, in real-time



# From Unknown to Understood



# Talos Incident Response Retainer Services

<http://cs.co/CTIRDescription>

## Core



Emergency  
Incident Response



Intel on  
Demand

## Preparing



IR Plans/  
Playbook



IR Readiness  
Assessments

## Training



Tabletop  
Exercises



Cyber Range  
Training

## Hunting Adversaries



Compromise  
Assessments



Threat  
Hunting

## Simulating Adversaries



Red  
Team



Purple  
Team

# Options to Fit Your Customer's Needs



## Service Level Objectives

4 Hours by Phone

## Hours

40 hours



## Service Level Objectives

4 Hours by Phone;  
24 hours in-transit

## Hours

80 hours

## Travel Included:

1 Consultant,  
up to 3 days



## Service Level Objectives

4 Hours by Phone;  
24 hours in-transit

## Hours

120 hours

## Travel Included:

Up to 2 Consultants,  
up to 3 days each

## Benefits included in retainer options

- 24x7x365 access worldwide for Emergencies
- Dedicated Talos IR Consultants

## Additional Benefits-

- Threat Intelligence Enrichment (Cisco Talos Emergency Intel Bulletins & Monthly Updates)

## Tool Access-

- AMP, Umbrella, SW Cloud or Duo\*

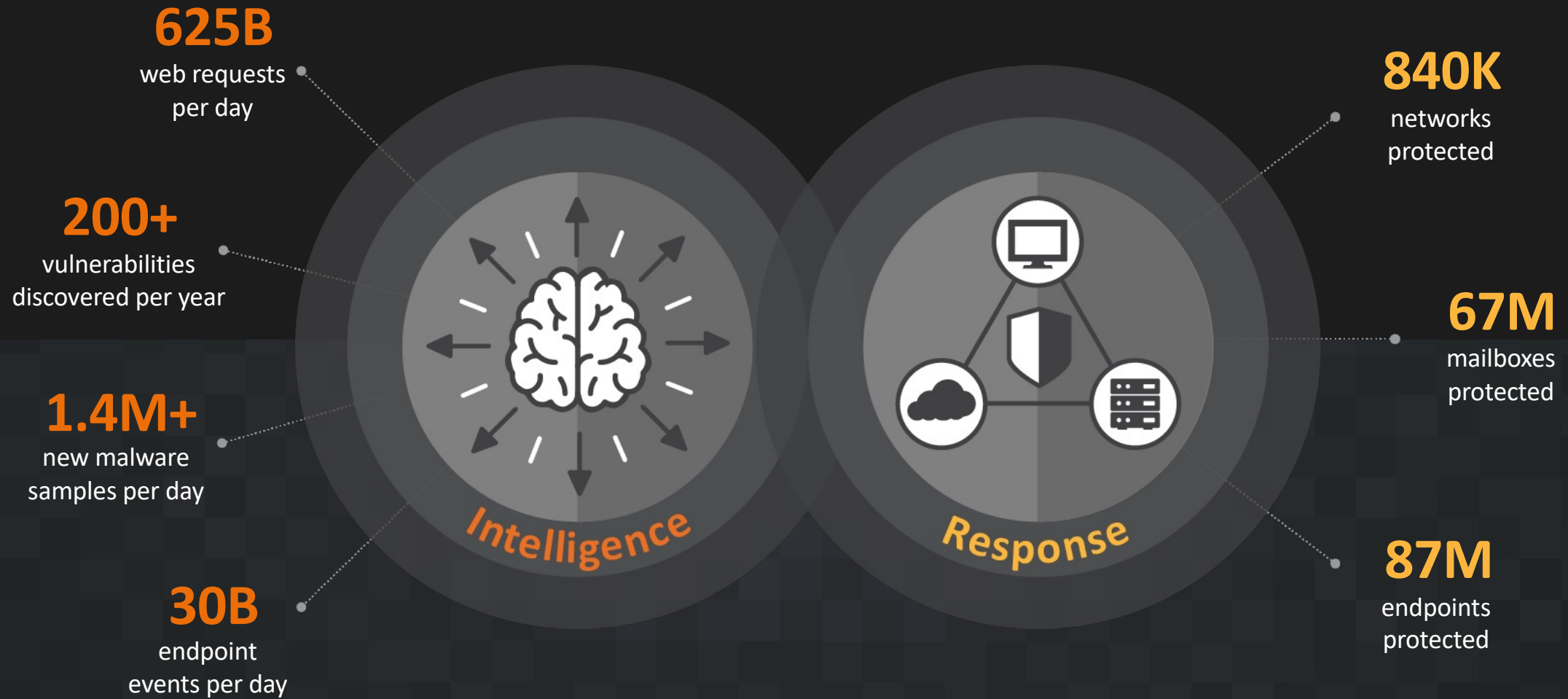
## Limitations-

- If contract hours are under **50 hours** in total, only Emergency Services will be available

Additional **options** are also available within your **Enterprise Agreement (EA)**

\* As needed for ER, Compromise Assessment & at the discretion of the CTIR team

# World-class breadth and depth of Cisco Talos



# Reporting Scope



This report covers incident response engagements closed out in Q3 2022 (July, August, September)



It documents the top threats we observed, TTPs, impact, and security weaknesses that facilitated adversary actions



Covers engagements in organizations in a wide variety of industries

# Observed Trends



Top threat was  
commodity  
malware



Top initial vector  
was exploited or  
misconfigured  
public-facing  
applications



Top weakness was  
lack of MFA

# Top Threats

# Commodity Malware

- Comprised 20% of all threats
- Variety of different families
- Looking forward: Ongoing Qakbot activity delivering a variety of threats



## Impact

Commodity malware is widely available for purchase / free download and used by a variety of threat actors in various stages of their operations to deliver additional threats

# Commodity Malware Families



Qakbot (Qbot) banking trojan



Vidar infostealer



Redline Stealer



Remcos RAT

# Ransomware Families



Conti



BlackCat (ALPHV)



Unknown ransomware variant –  
amalgamation of other families

# Top Initial Vectors

Public-facing  
applications and  
email

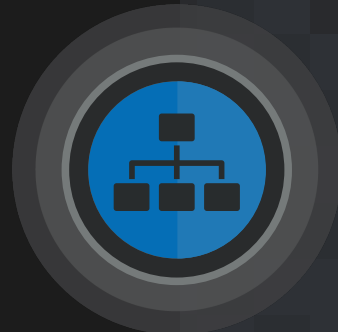


## Notable Observations

Adversaries identified and  
exploited vulnerable or  
misconfigured public-facing  
applications

# Actions after Compromise

# Traversing the Network



Post-breach, an attacker may want to internally propagate malware throughout the victim network to infect more hosts



Notable observations:  
Leveraging legitimate tools (LOLBins) such as WMI.

# Reaching Out to C2



Reaching out to C2 allows actor to carry out actions post-compromise



Infostealers relying on social media platforms to create C2 addresses

# Other Actions



Establishing persistence



Exfiltration

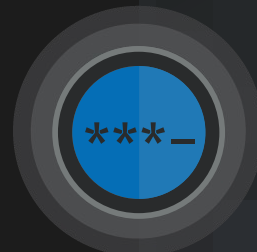


Evasion

# Top ATT&CK Techniques

- T1078 Valid Accounts
- T1190 Exploit Public-Facing Application
- T1136 Create Account
- T1059.001 Command and Scripting Interpreter: PowerShell
- T1083 File and Directory Discovery
- T1003 OS Credential Dumping
- T1027 Obfuscated Files or Information
- T1021.001 Remote Desktop Protocol
- T1562.001 Impair Defenses: Disable or Modify Tools
- T1056.001 Keylogging
- T1219 Remote Access Software
- T1486 Data Encrypted for Impact

# Recommendations



Instituting MFA!



Centralizing logs



Limiting Windows tools to trusted accounts



Segmenting network



Patching vulnerable systems

# Stay Connected and Up To Date

Spreading security news, updates, and other information to the public.



Talos publicly shares security information through numerous channels to help make the internet safer for everyone.

TALOSINTELLIGENCE.COM



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