

[Proactive Security] Building a Threat Hunting Program

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Adopt a Threat Hunting Mindset

Monitoring & Responding to Alerts

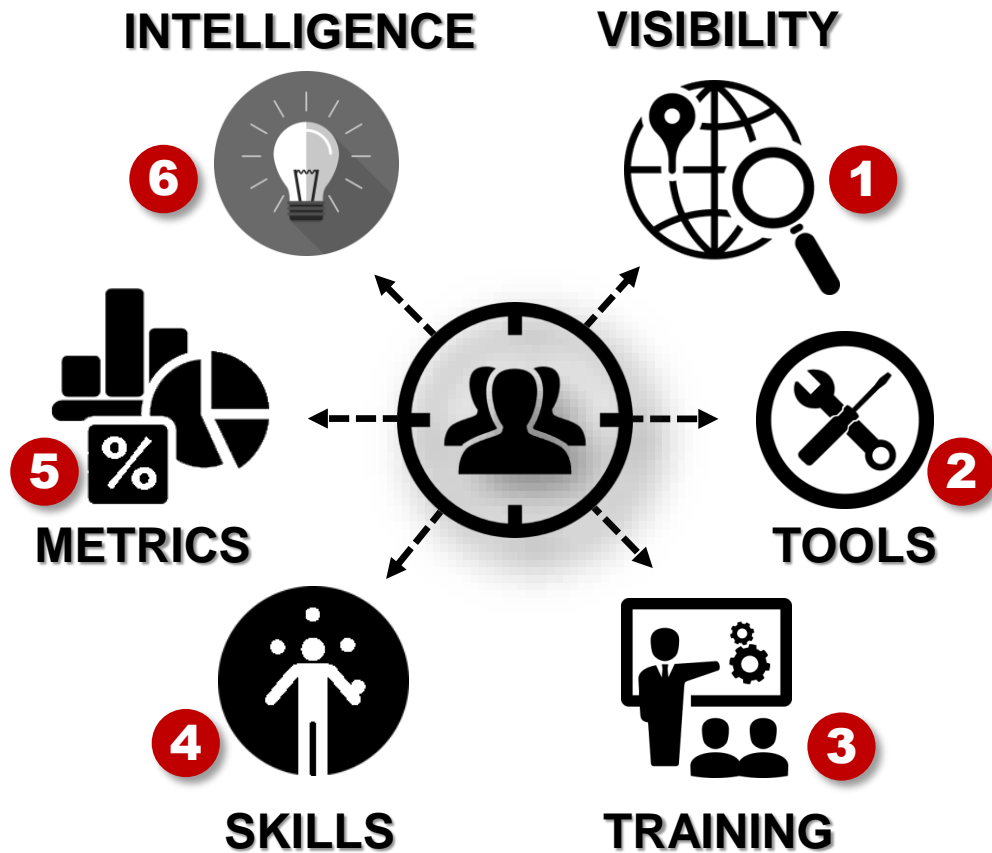


VS

Proactively Searching for threats, vulnerabilities and exploits



THREAT HUNTING PROGRAM | Key Focus Areas



- 1) Hunting starts with Visibility.
- 2) Tools and Automation improve efficiency.
- 3) Use both formal and informal training.
- 4) Requires skilled, experienced analysts, engineers, and incident responders.
- 5) Track and measure hunting activities.
- 6) Intelligence is more than a buzzword.

THREAT HUNTING PROGRAM | **Best Practices**

- 1) Make threat hunting part of your overall security strategy – Integrate threat hunting into existing workflows.
- 2) Begin with a question, theory, or metric and work toward answering that question through research and proactive hunting.
- 3) Invest in threat hunting tools.
 - *Use tools and automation to minimize repeatable tasks.*
 - *Look for innovative, efficient ways to analyze data faster to identify patterns.*
 - *Leverage intelligence and machine learning to help prioritize hunting activities.*
- 4) Set ground rules regarding roles and responsibilities.
- 5) Continuous learning; Revisit investigations and hunting techniques!
- 6) Establish a repeatable and consistent process (use a cyclical/closed loop approach).
- 7) Maximize data collection, but be mindful of the quality of data you collect (use a combination of logs, network and host/endpoint data).
- 8) Build repeatable process workflows and queries back into your tools, through custom content, as you learn.
- 9) Seek to reduce mean-time-to-detection and response; find intrusions and compromises more quickly, and earlier in the cyber attack chain.
- 10) Understand that threat hunting is not a single task. Develop your capabilities progressively.



THREAT HUNTING PROGRAM | **Risks / Challenges**

- 1) Too much reliance on “hunting tools” or any singular data type:
 - ✓ *Logs lie*
 - ✓ *Endpoint security tools miss things*
 - ✓ *Vendors can't fully automate hunting*
- 2) Alert-centric workflows
- 3) Open loop processes
- 4) Bias and fatigue (mix it up to keep the work interesting)
- 5) Failure to keep up with latest news / intelligence



