



**A CYBERWAR THAT YOU  
DON'T KNOW ABOUT**

# David vs Goliath: The Struggle for Cyber Security in Healthcare

Pascal Tse

St. Teresa's Hospital & St. Paul's Hospital

3 October 2023



# Agenda

---

- **Existing landscape**
  - Cyber attack like cancer
  - Healthcare attacks and success case
- Challenges and difficulties
  - People: Phishing, User & IT staff
  - Technology: Vendor, Upgrades, New tech
  - Resources: Ever growing needs, Money
- Road ahead
  - Back to basic
  - Management awareness
  - External engagement & sharing







## Key messages

---

- Caner = Cyber attack
- Young lady = New developed system
- Old lady = Well developed system
- Married lady = Have install basic protection

**STAY VIGILANT**

**MY FRIENDS**





Economy | Cybercrime

## Cyberattack on top Indian hospital highlights security risk

*The attack on AIIMS crippled operations as patients couldn't register for appointments, doctors couldn't access medical records.*



The hospital normally treats thousands of patients a day and those queues got longer as appointments were not possible [File: Alraf Qadiri/AP Photo]

7 Dec 2022



The leading hospital in India's capital limped back to normalcy on Wednesday after a cyberattack crippled its operations for nearly two weeks.

<https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2022/12/7/cyberattack-on-top-indian-hospital-highlights-security-risk>

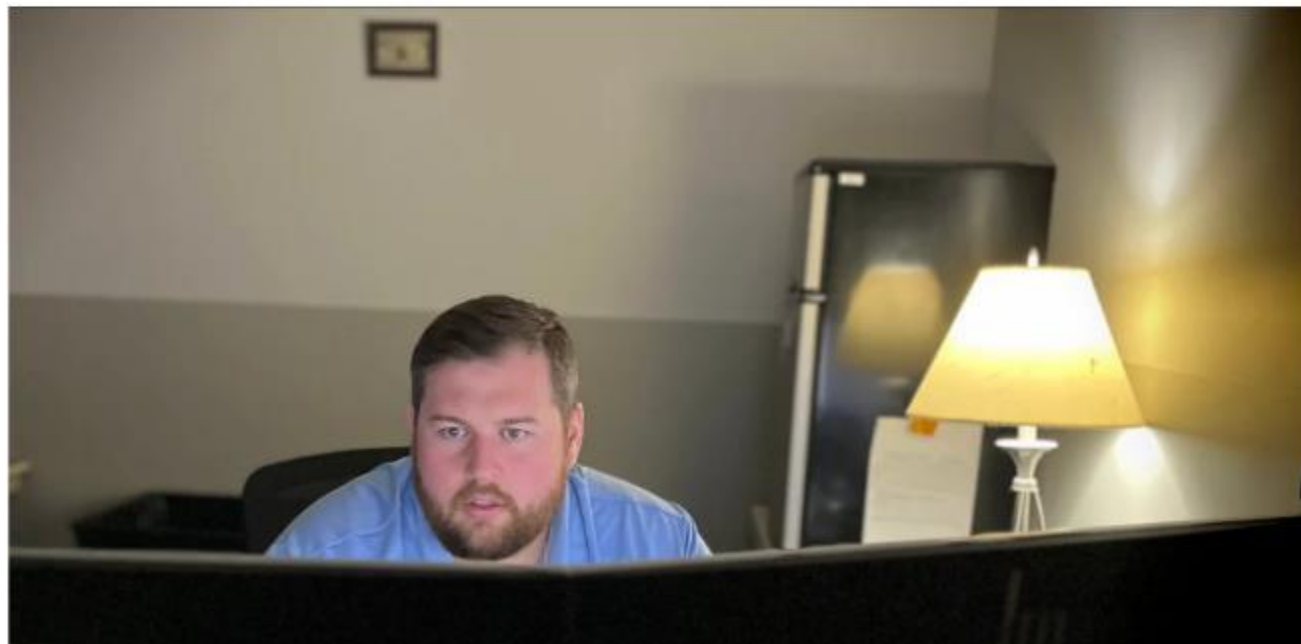
HEALTH REPORTING IN THE STATES

## Cyberattacks on health care are increasing. Inside one hospital's fight to recover

May 8, 2023 · 5:00 AM ET

FROM SIDE EFFECTS PUBLIC MEDIA

By Farah Yousry



<https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2023/05/08/1172569347/cyberattacks-on-health-care-are-increasing-inside-one-hospital's-fight-to-recover>

Data Breaches

# 14 Biggest Healthcare Data Breaches [Updated 2023]



Edward Kost

updated Jul 27, 2023





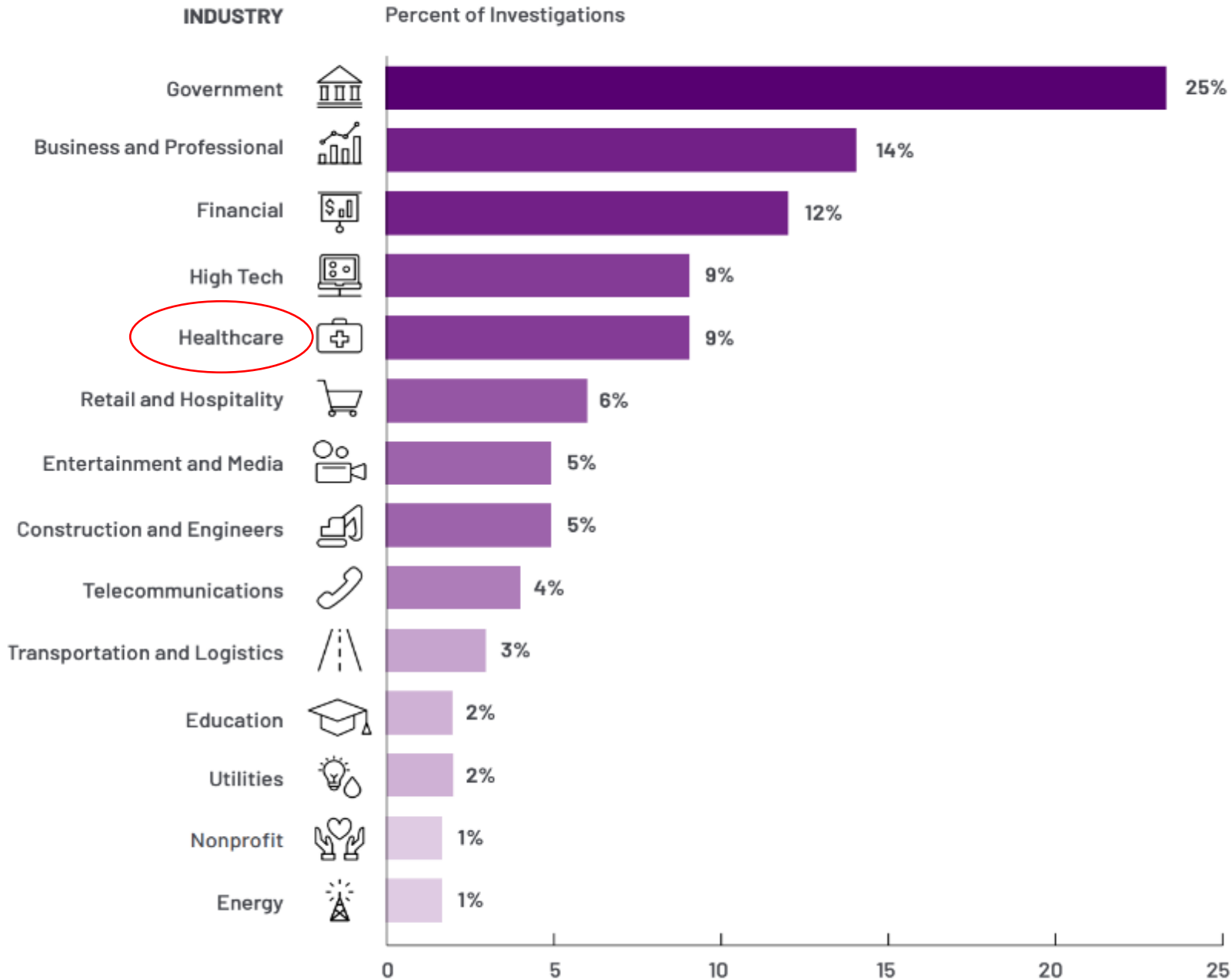
# Top 5 Biggest Data Breaches in Healthcare Ranked by Impact

Name	Date	Impact	How	What	Lessons Learned
Tricare Data Breach	Sep 2011	5 million	Stolen <b>encrypted</b> backup tapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Security No</li> <li>• Name</li> <li>• Address</li> <li>• Phone #</li> <li>• Health data etc.</li> </ul>	Encryption method aligned with federal standard
Community Health Systems Data Breach	April-June 2014	4.5 million	<b>Software vulnerability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Names</li> <li>• Birth dates</li> <li>• Social Security numbers</li> <li>• Phone numbers</li> <li>• Addresses</li> </ul>	Patch vulnerabilities
UCLA Health Data Breach	July 2015	4.5 million	Wasn't aware of attack which was more than <b>6 months</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Names</li> <li>• Dates of birth</li> <li>• Social security numbers</li> <li>• Medicaid</li> <li>• Health plan identification numbers</li> <li>• Some medical data</li> </ul>	Investigation whenever suspicious activity

# Top 5 Biggest Data Breaches in Healthcare Ranked by Impact

Name	Date	Impact	How	What	Lessons Learned
Advocate Health Care Data Breach	August 2013	4.03 million	Stolen PC with unencrypted medical information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demographics</li><li>• Credit card numbers with expiration dates</li><li>• Clinical information</li><li>• Health insurance information</li></ul>	Encrypt data at rest
Medical Informatics Engineering Data Breach	July 2015	3.9 million	Compromised username and password and undetected for 19 days.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Demographics</li><li>• Usernames, hashed passwords, security questions and answers</li><li>• Clinical information</li></ul>	Dark web monitoring solution

## Global Industries Targeted, 2022



## Industry Targeting

- 1) Government
- 2) Business & Professional
- 3) Financial
- 4) High tech and
- 5) Healthcare industries are favoured by adversaries.

These industries remain attractive targets for both financially and espionage motivated actors.

source:

<https://mandiant.widen.net/s/dlzgn6w26n/m-trends-2023>

**Health data US\$350**  
**VS**  
**Credit card US\$1**



## Fighting a zero-day attack

The evening of 2 September 2019 had been peaceful and uneventful at the Hospital

### FROM THE EDITOR

- Lesson learnt from cyber war victory
- Editorial Board
- Editorial Team



# Fighting a zero-day attack

The evening of 2 September 2019 had been peaceful and uneventful at the Hospital Authority (HA) Information Technology Operation Centre in Kowloon Bay when an alert on the computer-monitoring dashboard suddenly lit up and jolted employees into urgent action. A network server was running with abnormal high utilisation rose from 10% to 70% for unknown reasons. What followed was a fortnight-long battle to defend the authority's systems against hackers who tried to break into the HA network with terrifying stealth in an apparent attempt to steal the data of millions of patients.

## Malicious attack detected

Server utilisation is the system loading rate measuring the amount of computational work performed. When an incident of any kind is detected, IT team experts handled the IT glitch and restarted the server promptly, so that the server returns to normal. In this case, the IT team discovered hackers had tried to penetrate the HA network in a sophisticated 'zero-day attack' that accessed systems without leaving a trace, indicating a particularly ominous threat to patient data. The incident was reported to the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer and the Cyber Security and Technology Crime Bureau of the Hong Kong Police Force.

"The zero-day attack deployed a new malware tailored to HA's IT system," explains Chief Information Security Officer **Fuller Yu**, whose team quickly concluded the attack was the work of an advanced hacking team, making it challenging for the IT team to clean up malware that had not yet been publicly disclosed and patched. "We were at a disadvantage – it was



## FROM THE EDITOR

- Lesson learnt from cyber war victory
- Editorial Board
- Editorial Team

## COVER STORY

- Fighting a zero-day attack
- Masterstroke to combat cyber attack
- Fight cyber criminals
- Understand HA network from 10 numbers

## HELEN HA

- Let's get ready on race day
- New blood donation vehicle is hitting the road!

## PEOPLE

- A love affair with the sky
- Is it a UFO? The delights of cross-country flying

## WHAT'S NEW

- New Chairman steers a course towards common goals
- Getting to know Henry Fan
- Better patient care through dementia-friendly ward
- Myths about dementia
- Take complaints and feedback as health check



# Agenda

---

- Existing landscape
  - Cyber attack like cancer
  - Healthcare attacks and success case
- **Challenges and difficulties**
  - People: Phishing, User & IT staff
  - Technology: Vendor, Upgrades, New tech
  - Resources: Ever growing needs, Money
- Road ahead
  - Back to basic
  - Management awareness
  - External engagement & sharing

# Cyber Security war in Healthcare is like David vs Goliath



Infected is  
so easy





To err is human

Both users & IT

---



Medical vendors using old Windows OS



Microsoft

**Windows** xp



**Windows 7**

Never ending  
patching work

Ever rising new  
attacks



# Ever revolving technologies

## EDR

- ✓ Monitoring and protection of endpoint devices
- ✓ Does not offer complete coverage
- ✓ Emphasis on detection

## MDR

- ✓ Managed 24/7 investigation services
- ✓ Automated technologies
- ✓ Central communication and coordination hub for managed service and in-house teams
- ✓ A remote team that tells you how to respond to problems and how to solve them
- ✓ Prioritization of threats and alerts
- ✓ Threat Hunting
- ✓ Investigation
- ✓ Guided response
- ✓ Managed remediation

## XDR

- ✓ Layered approach that detects and responds to threats on networks as well as endpoints
- ✓ Telemetry from multiple security controls to provide holistic defense



Risk is escalating: Users want more and more features



# Money perspectives

- Need money for
  - 1) Hardware & Software
  - 2) IT resource ie head count
  - 3) Salary increment
- We vs Boss = IT vs Management (non IT)
- Cost centre vs Revenue generation





# Agenda

---

- Existing landscape
  - Cyber attack like cancer
  - Healthcare attacks and success case
- Challenges and difficulties
  - People: Phishing, User & IT staff
  - Technology: Vendor, Upgrades, New tech
  - Resources: Ever growing needs, Money
- **Road ahead**
  - Back to basic
  - Management awareness
  - External engagement & sharing



# Seven Habits of Cyber Security



## 1. Security Policy and Security Management

- Define and document the security requirements with respect to cyber security risks
- Review and update regularly the security requirements and security policy
- Disseminate regularly the information on the latest security policy to staff members



## 2. Endpoint Security

- Install security software such as anti-virus and anti-malware software
- Keep the definition file and patches of security software up-to-date
- Keep the operating system and software of the endpoints up-to-date
- Login with a non-privileged and non-administrator account for daily usage



## 3. Network Security

- Protect organisation network with a firewall and minimise network ports exposed to the Internet
- Use "DENY" as default rule on firewall, and only "ALLOW" necessary traffic
- Allow only approved IP addresses to have Internet access
- Use a secured VPN connection for remote access
- Use encrypted network protocols (e.g. HTTPS)
- Review regularly the firewall rules



## 4. System Security

- Perform system hardening with security policies enabled and unused services disabled
- Keep all system software including operating system, security software and patches up-to-date
- Encrypt sensitive information on the system storage
- Validate and filter input from Internet users (e.g. web server forms) properly in application to avoid SQL Injection type of attack



## 5. Security Monitoring

- Enable logging features in network devices (e.g. firewall) and servers
- Centralise logs within the organisation for periodic review and monitoring
- Review the logs and security alerts and respond to detected issues in a timely manner
- Monitor network traffic (e.g. Internet traffic) to detect if there is any abnormal traffic pattern



## 6. Incident Handling

- Develop incident response plans for handling various security incidents (e.g. ransomware, data breach, distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attack, etc.)
- Backup systems and data regularly
- Keep backups offline (or better still offsite)
- Perform regular backup restore drills to ensure that data can be restored properly



## 7. User Awareness

- Remind staff members regularly on their roles and responsibilities in protecting the organisation's information assets
- Perform drills (e.g. simulated phishing attacks) to test staff readiness against common cyber attacks

GovCERT.HK  
Government Computer Emergency Response Team  
Hong Kong

HKCERT  
Hong Kong Computer Emergency Response Team  
Coordination Centre

香港警務處  
Hong Kong Police Force

For details, please visit HKCERT website at:

[www.hkcert.org](http://www.hkcert.org)



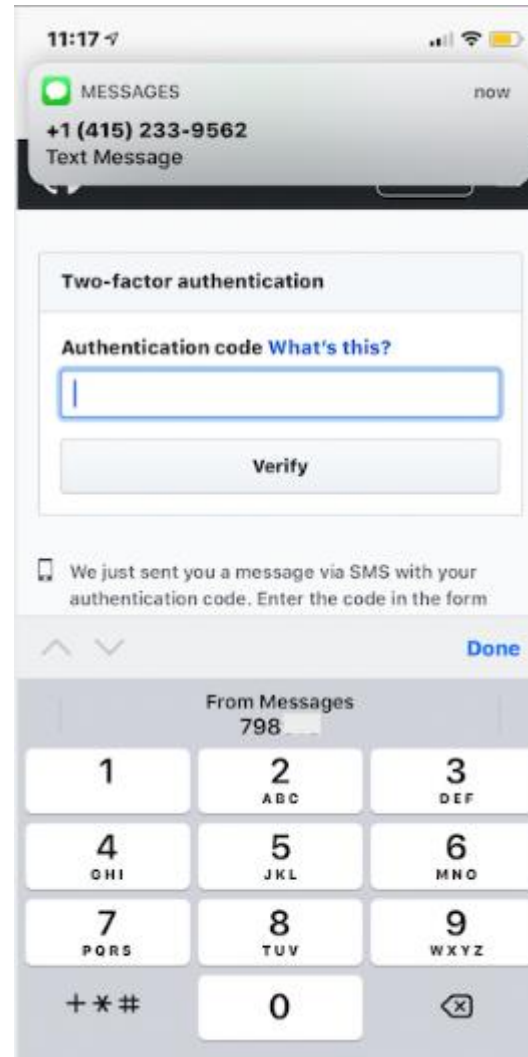
Back to basics



# Phishing



# 2 Factor Authentication



Microsoft Authenticator



Google Authenticator

# EPP vs EDR vs XDR

Which Threat Detection  
Solution is Right for You?





# Get management awareness

---

- Educate management
- Share latest news with management & IT
- Share peer's experience and update
- Budget Cybersecurity tools, service and staff
- Table-top exercise
- Playbook





Educate  
management:  
Not just scare  
them

## Need Temporary Wifi Solutions? - Event Technology Services

Capability to provide networking and WIFI up to several thousand connections. kitesystems.com

OPEN

Trending

Section News

Features

Event & Promotion

Coffee Break

Login

Individual Order Form

Top News

Editorial

Local

Finance

China

World

Sports

Central Station

Columns

# Hacked data from Cyberport released on dark web

Local | 12 Sep 2023 6:44 pm



The Standard Channel    

Experience Macao Fl... 

More>>

AIR QUALITY OBJECTIVES REVIEW 2030

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

31 August - 31 October 2023







Leverage external resources

# Ethical Phishing Email Campaign 2023

Raise your staff awareness against suspicious emails



Free of charge  
Registration opens  
until 13 May 2023



END



START NOW

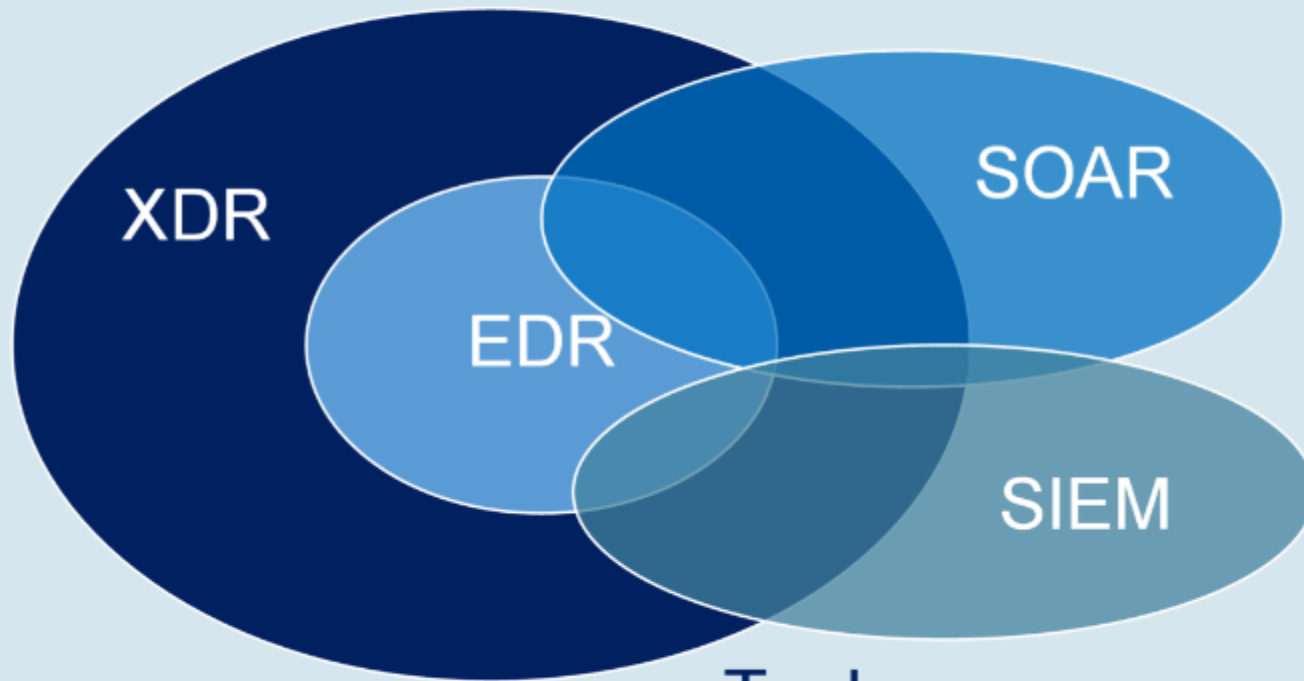


# INCIDENT RESPONSE



# SOC

MDR



Security Analysts



Processes

Services

Tools

...



## Experience sharing

- Join EHRSS Taskforce or Working Groups
- Join CyberSecurity Interest Group
- Join CyberSecurity events like phishing
- Gather latest CyberSecurity information trustworthy sources





Happy  
Ending

