

Towards a fully automated Blue Team at Locked Shields

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The history

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Machine Learning-based Detection of C&C Channels with a Focus on the Locked Shields Cyber Defense Exercise

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Abstract: The diversity of applications and devices in enterprise network with large traffic volumes make it inherently challenging to quickly identify traffic. When incidents occur, emergency response teams often lose precious time reverse-engineering the network topology and configuration before the malicious activities and digital forensics.

Towards Generalizing Machine Learning Models to Detect Command and Control Attack Traffic

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Abstract: Identifying compromised hosts from network traffic traces has become challenging because benign and malicious traffic is encrypted, and both use the same protocols and ports. Machine learning-based anomaly detection models have been proposed to address this challenge by classifying malicious traffic based on network flow features learned from historical patterns. Previous work has shown that such models successfully identify compromised hosts in the same network environment in which they were trained. However, cyber incidence response teams often have to look for intrusions in foreign networks, and we have found that learned models often fail to generalize to different network conditions. In this paper, we analyse the root cause of this problem using five network traces collected from different years and teams of Locked Shields, the world's largest live-fire cyber defence exercise. We then explore techniques to make machine learning models generalize better to unknown network environments and evaluate their accuracy.

Keywords: machine learning, traffic classification, network security, command and control, Locked Shields



DOCTORAL THESIS

Automating Defences against Cyber Operations in Computer Networks

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Towards an Active, Autonomous and Intelligent Cyber Defense of Military Systems: the NATO AICA Reference Architecture

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Abstract—Within the future complex massively interconnected vehicles, sensors and effectors, and demanding extremely low failure rates operators cannot have an easy enough reactions to cyber-attacks, and intelligent cyber defense. Ma Defense may provide an answer to presents the concept and architecture of the AICA concept, methodology and purpose that drive Reference Architecture (AICARA) and Technology Group. Thirdly, features and challenges of Multi / defense Agent (MAICA). Fourth assumed AICA Reference Architecture our preliminary research issues, as we present the future lines of research the AICA / MAICA concept.

Keywords—intelligent agent, an security

I. RATIONALE FOR THIS
Today, five broad types of system Air operations:

- Office and information management services
 - information management
 - human resource management
- This paper is based on NATO E "Intelligent, Autonomous and Resilient."

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Towards an AI-powered Player in Cyber Defence Exercises

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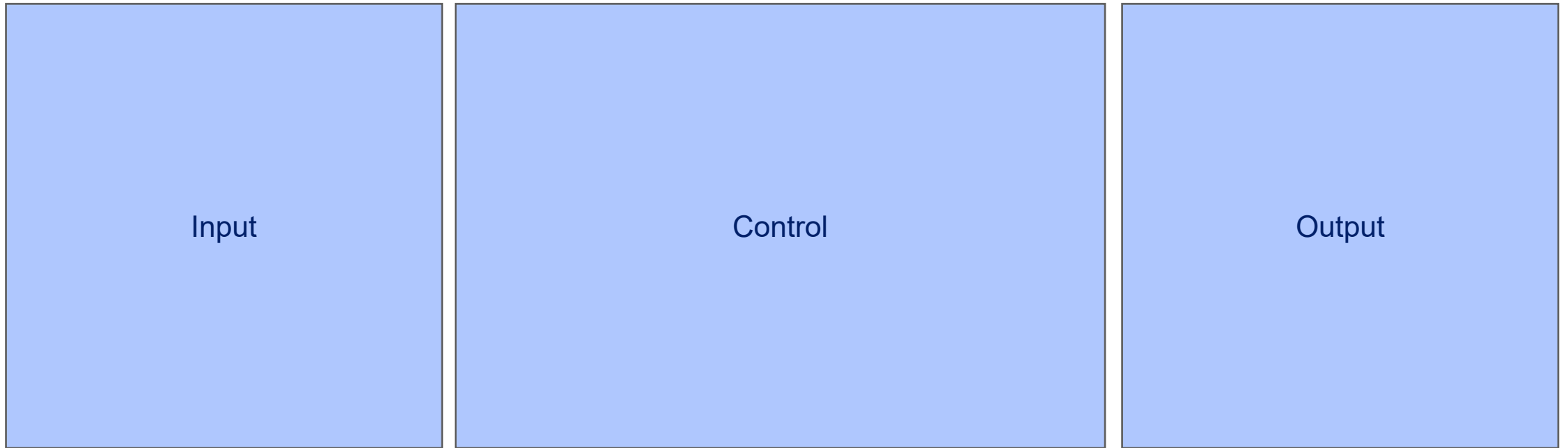
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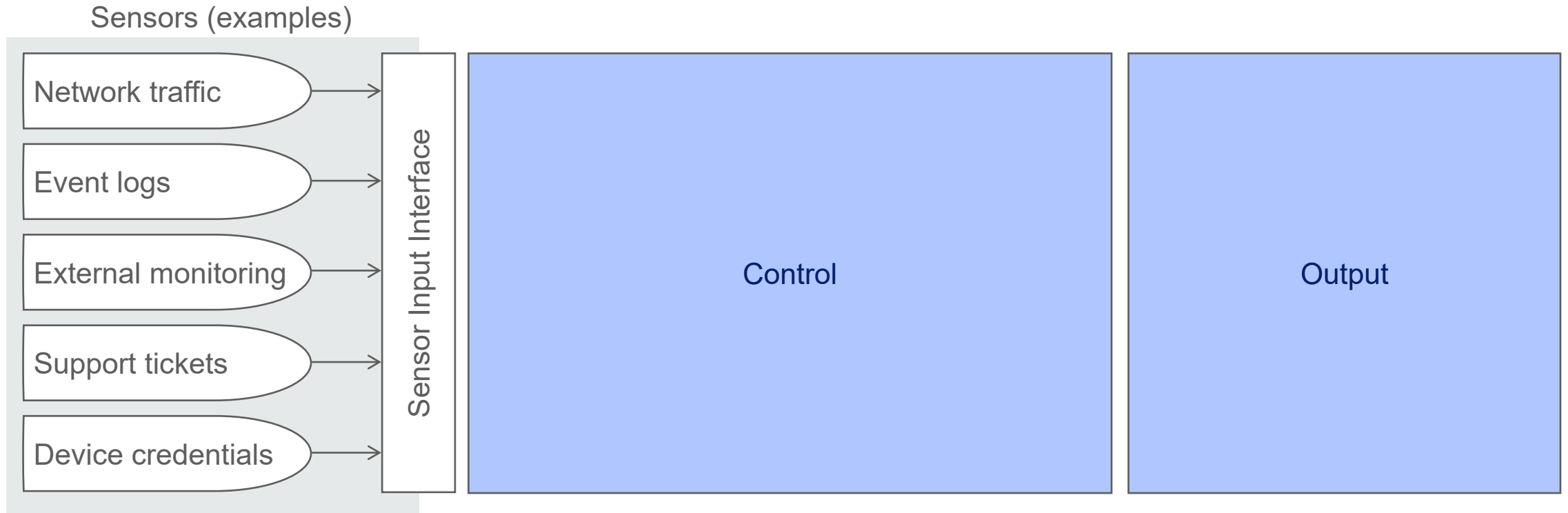
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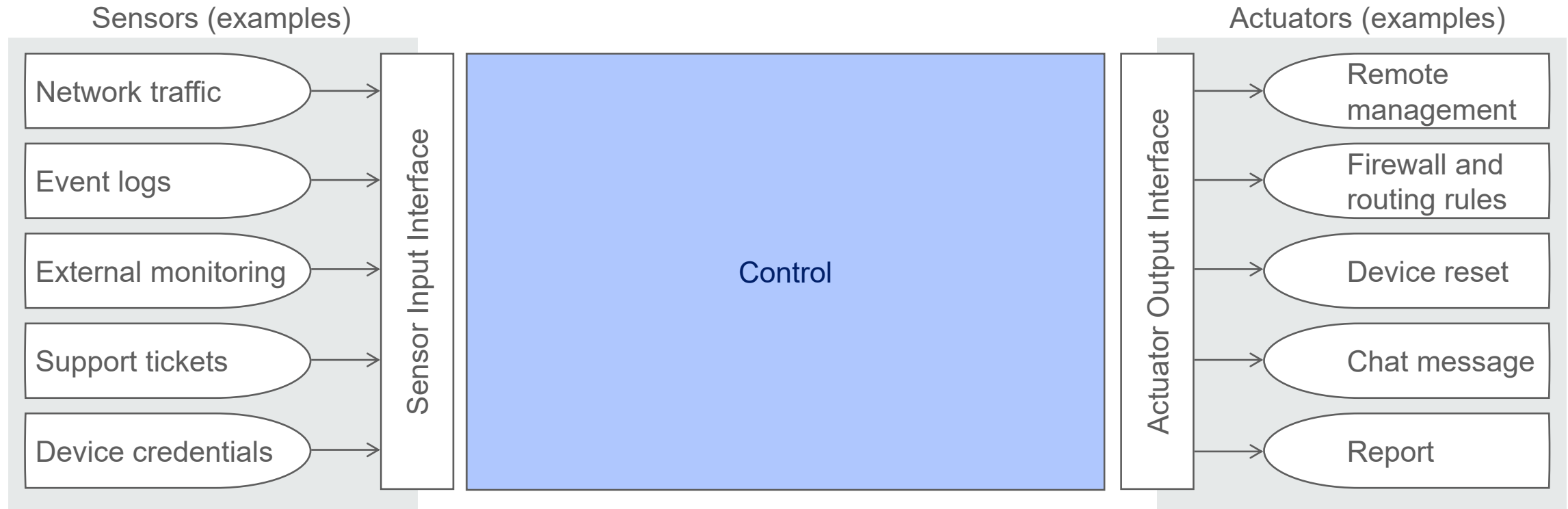
Automated Blue Team framework overview



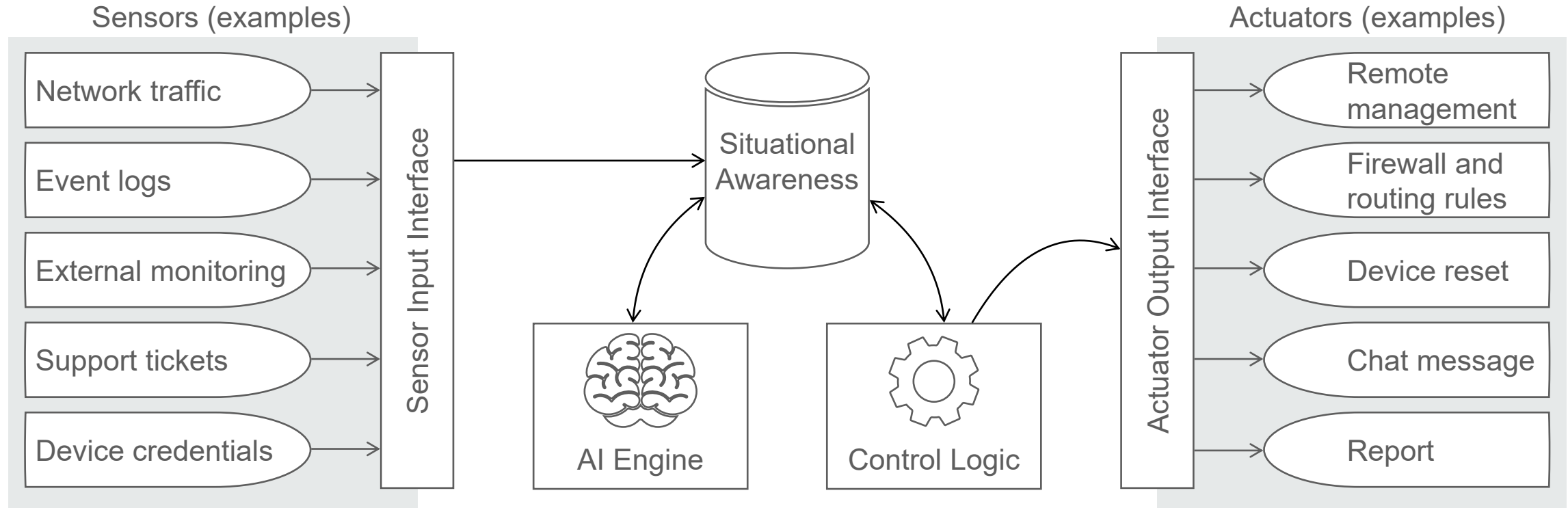
Automated Blue Team framework overview



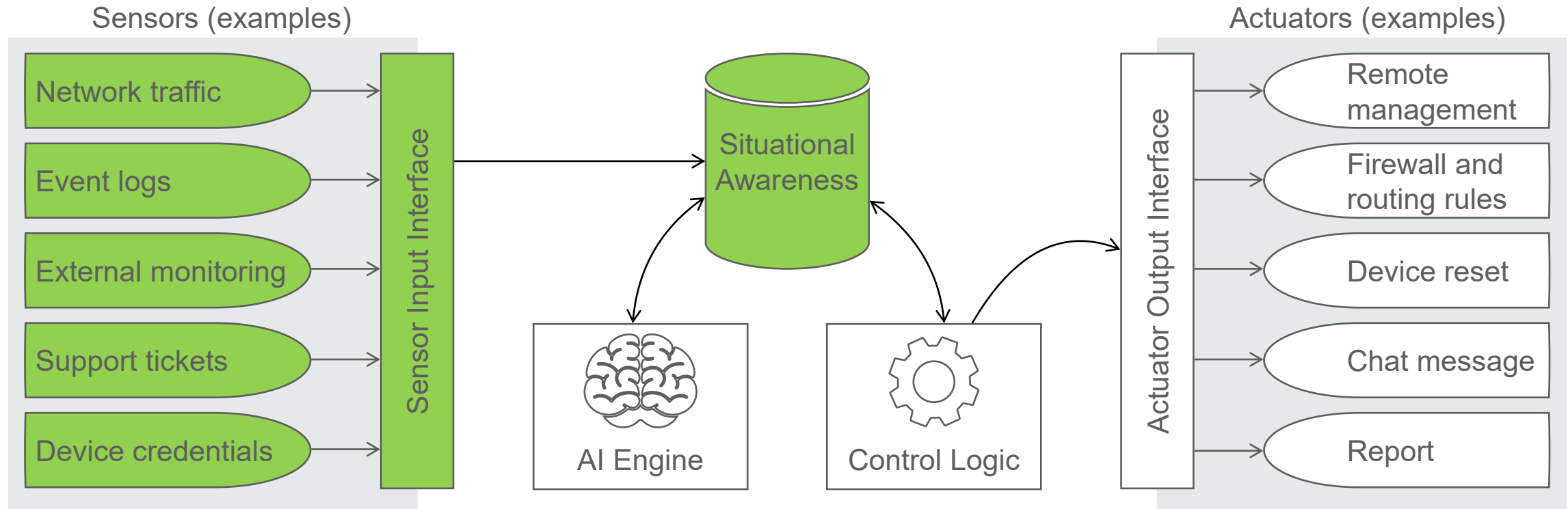
Automated Blue Team framework overview



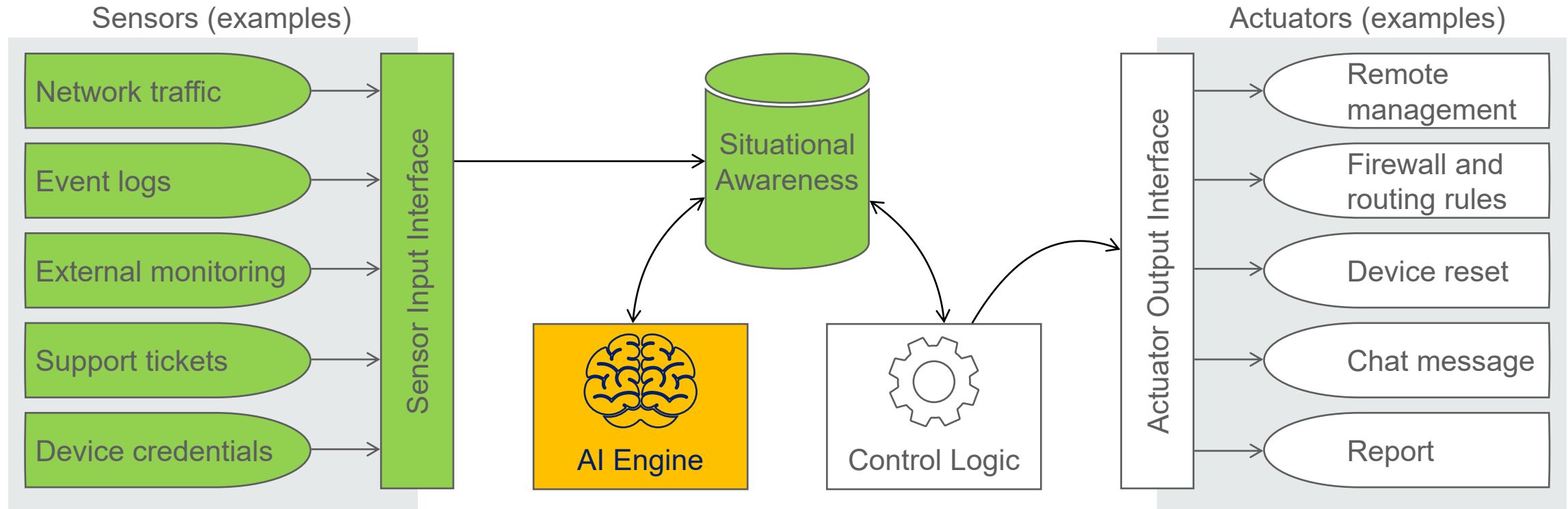
Automated Blue Team framework overview



Automated Blue Team framework overview



Automated Blue Team framework overview



Four levels of AI

Four levels of AI



Level 0: Reactive narrow AI

Signature-based decisions

Four levels of AI



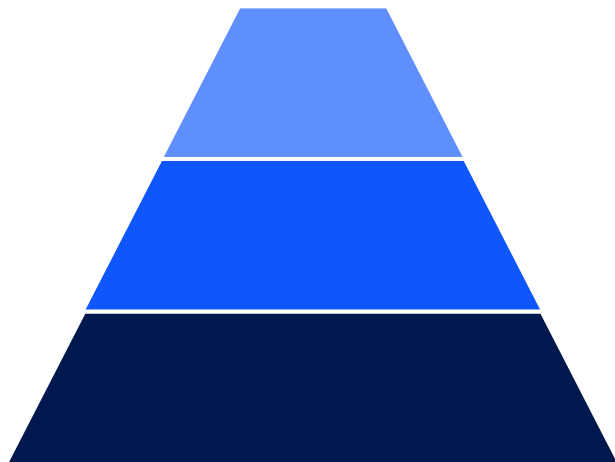
Level 1: Limited-memory narrow AI

“Machine learning” today

Level 0: Reactive narrow AI

Signature-based decisions

Four levels of AI



Level 2: General AI

Mimics human intelligence

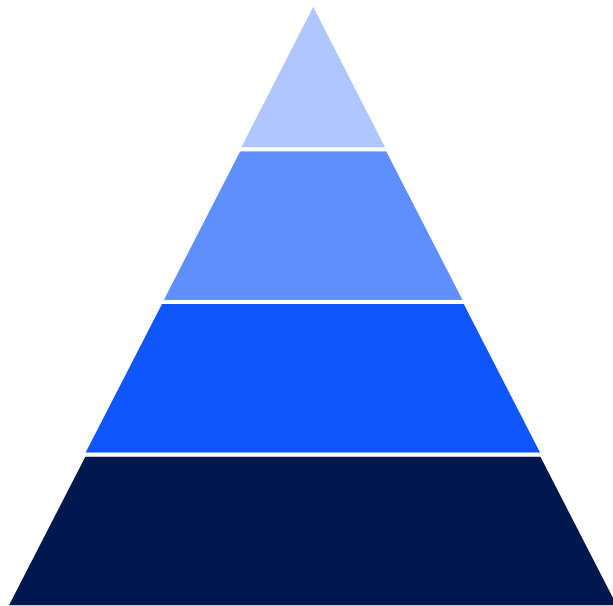
Level 1: Limited-memory narrow AI

“Machine learning” today

Level 0: Reactive narrow AI

Signature-based decisions

Four levels of AI



Level 3: Super AI

Surpasses human intelligence

Level 2: General AI

Mimics human intelligence

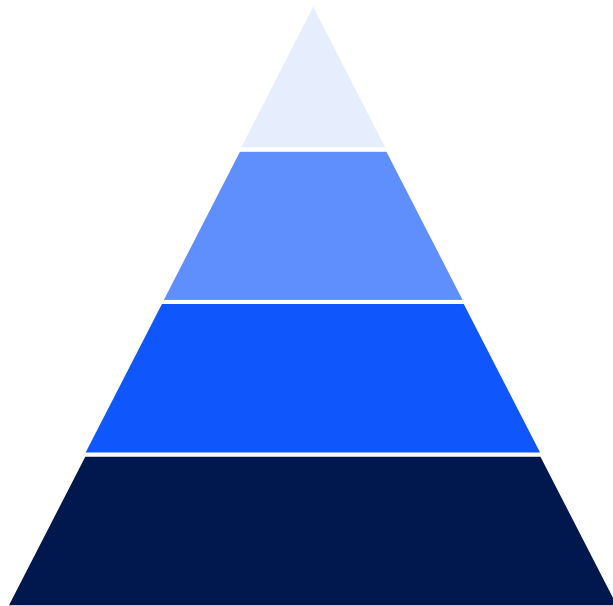
Level 1: Limited-memory narrow AI

“Machine learning” today

Level 0: Reactive narrow AI

Signature-based decisions

~~Only level 0 and level 1 exist today~~
Levels 0 – 2 exist today



Level 3: Super AI

Surpasses human intelligence

Level 2: General AI

Mimics human intelligence

Level 1: Limited-memory narrow AI

“Machine learning” today

Level 0: Reactive narrow AI

Signature-based decisions

Five tasks for AI

Identification / classification

What is it?

Categorisation

What belongs together?

Assessment

What is important?

Recommendation

What should be done?

Prediction

What will happen?

Locked Shields 2023 and 2024: Data collection during the partners run

- We participated as a blue team during the partners run
- Blue team was passive
- Goal: Collect data for future developments
- Result: Paper with public dataset



LSPR23: A Novel IDS Dataset from the Largest Live-Fire Cybersecurity Exercise

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Abstract

Cybersecurity threats are rapidly evolving, becoming increasingly sophisticated, automated, and intelligent. This makes it difficult for organizations to detect and respond to these threats. Industry professionals are looking for solutions to improve the effectiveness of cybersecurity operations, and the importance of security, the importance of developing new methods to address these threats has emerged. Most of these solutions use machine learning. But these systems need large datasets with characteristics of malicious traffic. Such datasets are therefore rarely available.

This paper advances the state of the art by providing a new high-quality IDS dataset. The dataset originates from Locked Shields, one of the world's most extensive live-fire cyber defense exercises. This dataset features that (i) it contains realistic behavior of attackers and defenders; (ii) it contains sophisticated attacks; and (iii) it contains labels because the attacker's actions are documented.

The dataset includes approximately 16 million network flows, of which approximately 1.6 million were labeled as attacks. What is unique about this dataset is the use of a new labeling technique that increases the accuracy of data labeling.

We evaluate the robustness of our dataset using both quantitative and qualitative methodologies. We begin with a quantitative examination of the Suricata IDS alerts based on signatures and anomalies. Subsequently,

Under submission

And after the Locked Shields 2024?



- Automated detection and response to some types of attacks (Cobalt Strike)
- Evaluation in a simulated environment during the next 12 months
- Evaluation in LS 2025 with other Blue Teams

Towards a fully automated Blue Team at Locked Shields

Thanks for your attention!

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