

Identifier Lead Triage with ECHOBASE



NSA - S2I51 NSA - T1442

JUN 2012

TOP SECRET//COMINT//REL TO USA, CAN, AUS, GBR, NZL

The Problem



SIGINT is very good at 2 things:

- 1. Establishing lists of potential leads (50-10k+)
- 2. Manual analysis to vet individual targets

Potential leads 50-10k+

7777

Manual analysis

Tradecraft



A common model for identifier lead lists, today:

Seed List
Provided to
SIGDEV

Normalize and Expand Selectors

Foreignness and Compliance Check

SIGINT
Queries on
Selector
activity and
behavior
attributes

????

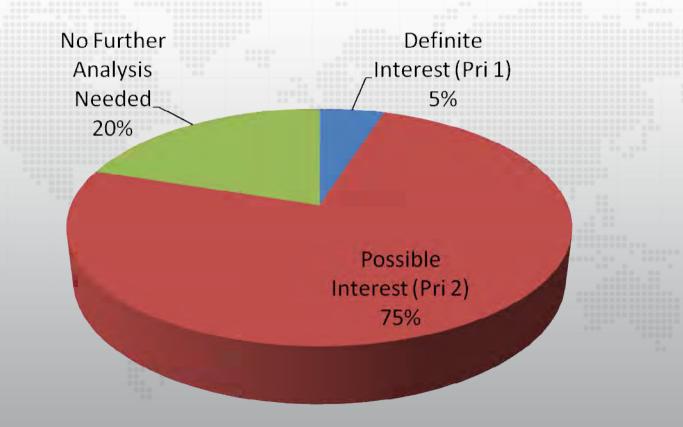
Bulk enrichment of 'SIGINT business knowledge'

Manual analysis

Triage Today



After initial enrichment checks, the analyst is often left with too many identifiers of "possible interest"

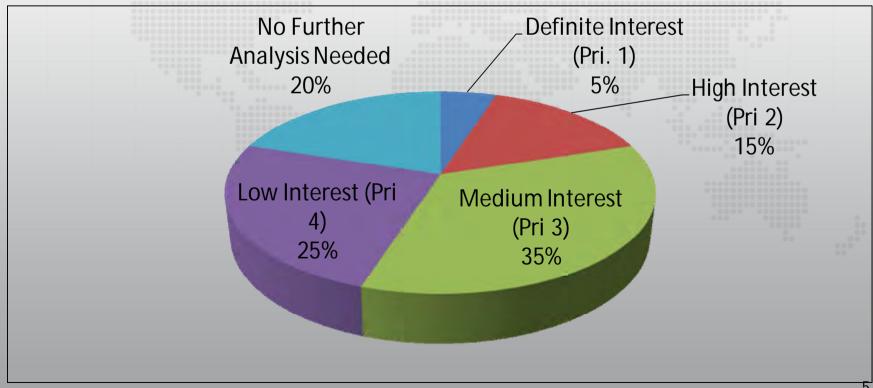


Percentages are conceptual

Bulk Lead Triage via Behavior Analytics



- Hundreds or thousands of selectors to go through high level vetting very quickly
- Better triage prioritization allows for highly adjustable thresholds to be set for follow -on analysis
- Compliance can be inserted at both the "batch result" and "query" level
- Potentially utilize multiple clouds & cross-enterprise analytics



Identifier 'SIGINT Business' Enrichment

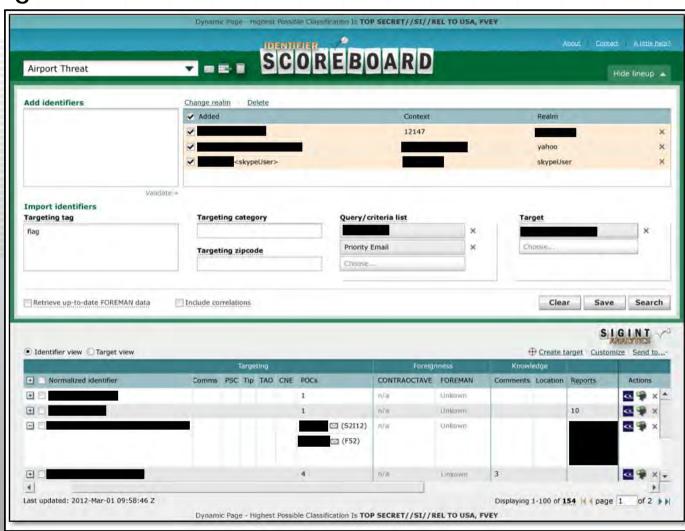
SIGDEN

Bulk gathering, via Identifier Scoreboard

(phase 2/phase 3)

- Targeting
- Authorities
- Reporting
- Targets
- Knowledge
- Foreignness
- Compliance

...not a raw SIGINT query



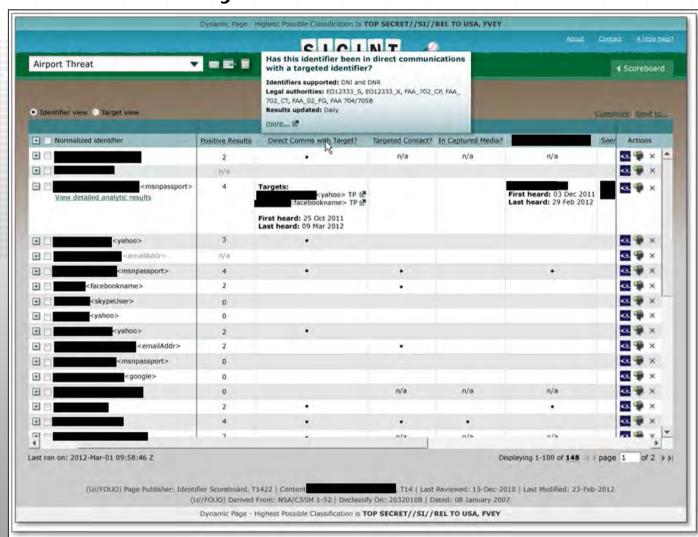
'Yes/No' Identifier Behavior



Bulk triage, via SIGINT Analytics Mode (start of phase 4)

Core set of 'yes/no' behavioral questions about a set of identifier leads

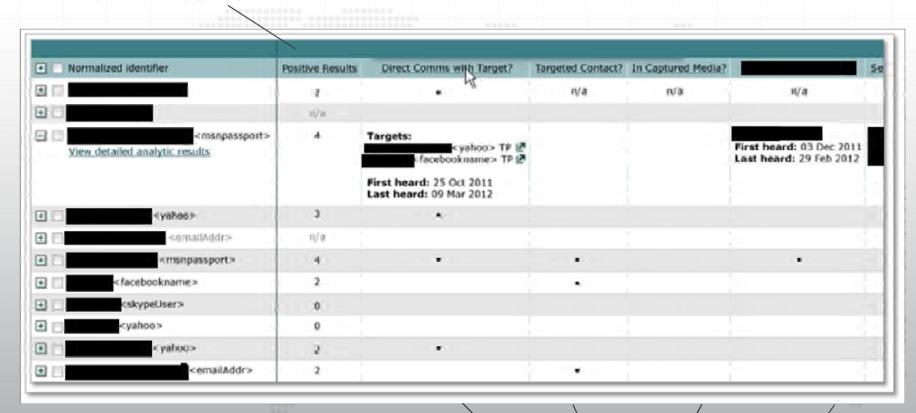
...against raw SIGINT!



SIGINT Analytics Mode



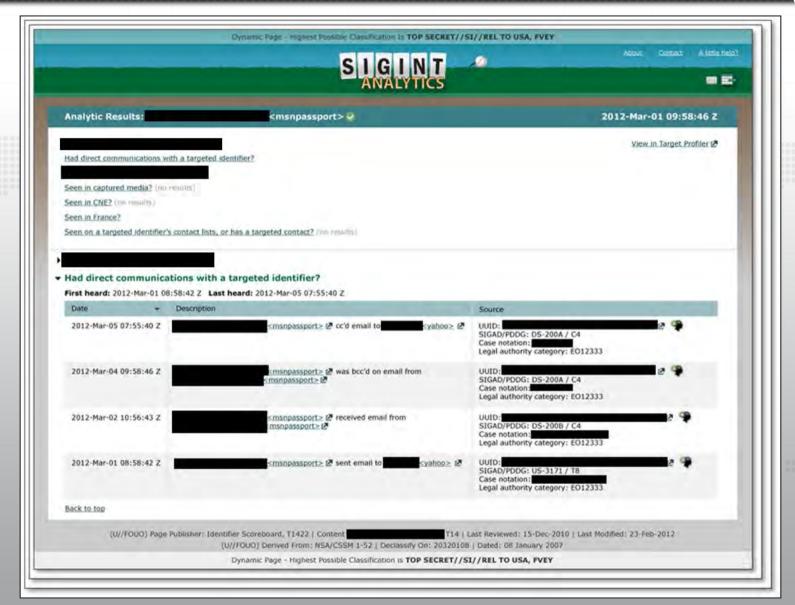
Triage by aggregate behaviors



One column per 'yes/no' question

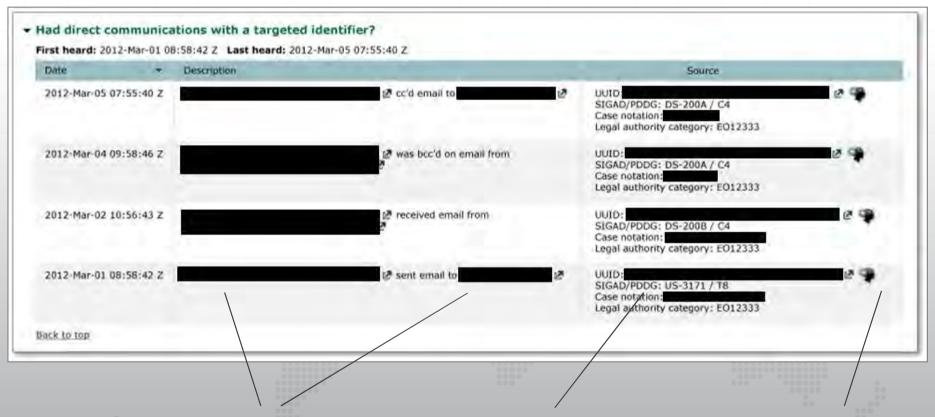
Quickly zero in on worthy leads

SIGINT Analytics Mode – Detailed View



SIGINT Analytics Mode – Detailed View





Go view target knowledge

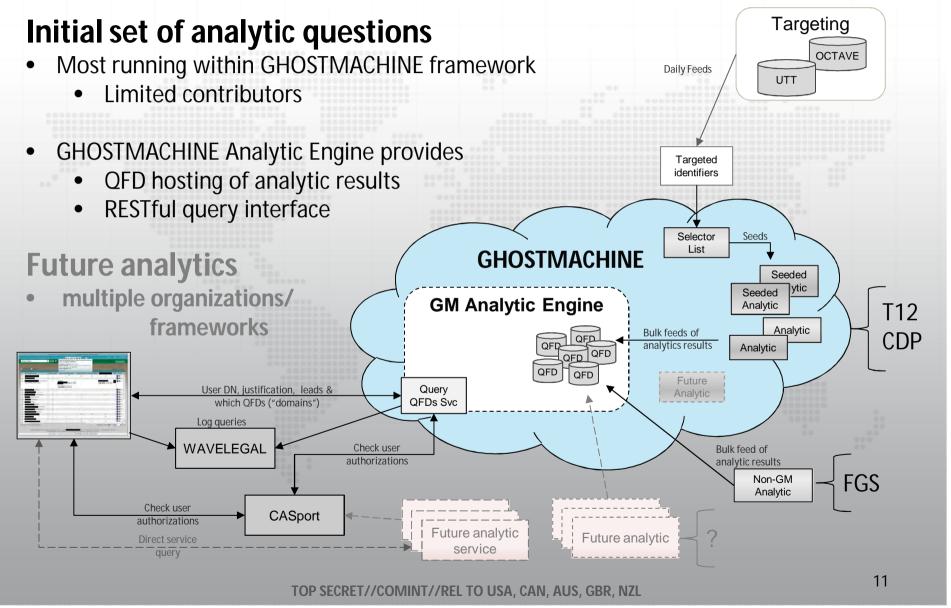
Go view content

Add new knowledge

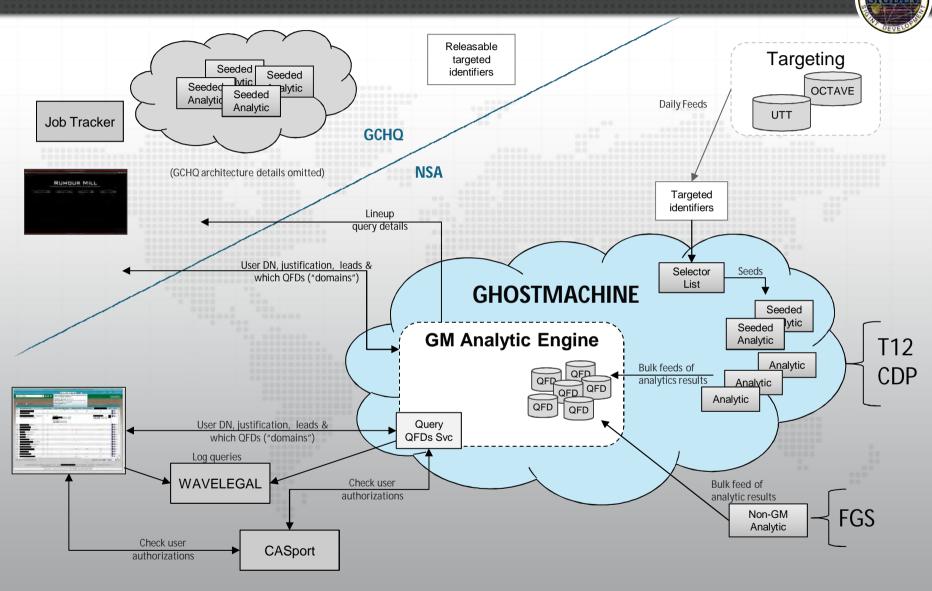
External links to guide next steps in analysis

ECHOBASE Analytics Architecture





2012 Olympics Sharing



2012 Olympics Support



- NSA SID Leads Evaluation Cell
 - Triage of Olympics-based leads through the event
 - Leverage both NSA and GCHQ-produced analytics

Greater SID-wide usage following the Olympic period

Contact/Information



- Briefers:
 - :::
 - _
- ECHOBASE Alias:
 - _
- NSA WikiInfo page:
 - _