INDUSTRY BRIEF

Public Sector Fraud and Constituent Exposure
Live Attack Intelligence-based Strategies to Reduce Risk

With a constantly changing threat landscape, public sector organizations must look beyond traditional defenses to protect against cyber attack and fraud.

> “Attacks have become more sophisticated and persistent. Groups such as foreign governments, organized crime, and hacktivist networks have the capability for multi-dimensional, coordinated, ongoing attacks against specific entities such as U.S federal agencies.”
>
> **Daniel Berger**
> President and CEO of Redspin,
> a security assessment vendor

Online attacks against public sector agencies result in many of the same outcomes experienced by the private sector: high costs in terms of both financial and time loss, costs for investigation and administration of fraud claims, loss of constituent confidence and agency reputation. Government agencies also incur specific risks in terms of potential politically motivated attacks from hacktivists and exposure for a wide pool of constituents, employees, and others.

Targets of Both Financial and Political Attacks

As governments continue to move critical information online, government websites become more than ever exposed to cyber-crime. Fraudsters increasingly see the government’s online presence as an opportunity to steal both financial and personal data, expose millions of citizen records, and implement politically motivated stealth attacks against “undesirable” government policies and actions.

Conventional signature and policy-based defenses such as firewalls, IPS, anti-malware, and authentication systems have become less and less effective as the speed and sophistication of advanced malware and hacker attacks has continued to accelerate. These solutions meet basic standards required for securing stored data, controlling access to data, ensuring availability of data and applications, and monitoring system and network events to reduce the risk of compromise – but it is in many cases not enough to combat the constantly changing threats and techniques used by cybercriminals and hackers.

Traditional Defenses Not Keeping Up

The nature of institution and transaction attacks has rapidly changed over the last decade. With multiple attack vectors and a rapidly evolving threat landscape, the use of advanced techniques and attacks to perpetrate fraud can be achieved by targeting the government organization’s website, breaching perimeter security to directly access critical systems, or compromising the site user directly. Cybercriminals today use a combination of advanced attacks such as phishing, Trojans, Man-in-the-Browser attacks, and the use of anonymous proxies such as Tor (The Onion Router) to help mask the true origin of an attack and the locations of botnet command and control servers.

Enhancing Existing Security Investments

While traditional security controls used in a layered security strategy have largely met the needs of government institutions, they have proven to be virtually static in their defense and lack the knowledge and flexibility to proactively defend against the speed and sophistication of new advanced and zero-day threats.

Internet protocol (IP) reputation-based technology can be implemented into the layered security model as a means to identify and block connections to critical servers from IP addresses known or suspected of being associated with fraudulent activity. However, IP Reputation Services have a binary approach to blocking risky IPs and have become less effective over the last few years, many unable to keep pace with the different attack vectors or the speed with which IP addresses can change their risk, threat characteristics, and profile.

Threat Intelligence to Accurately Assess True Risk

The depth of intelligence required to combat this ever-changing threat landscape must move beyond blanket flagging of suspicious IP addresses to a fully-fledged, contextual IP intelligence service using multi-factor risk scores and geo-location information to block the sources of threats and fraudulent transactions as they happen.

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Norse live attack intelligence enables organizations to instantly assess the risk level and threat profiles of any IP address visiting a web page, attempting an account log-in, originating a new account application, or initiating an online transaction. The Norse DarkMatter live attack intelligence platform continuously detects millions of in-the-wild IP risk factors. Within 5 seconds each risk factor is systematically analyzed, categorized, added to an IP's timeline and history, and available as IP Intelligence for customers.

The end result is a trail of information and history for any given IP address to reveal negative, unethical, or illegal behavior. Up to 1,500 data points are compiled by Norse per IP address and can be used to identify threats in near real-time, giving financial organizations a new layer to their security and anti-fraud controls that proactively adapts to the evolving threat landscape to enhance existing perimeter aecurity, website security, eCommerce fraud prevention, and zero-day threat migration.

Key Features of Norse Solutions

- SaaS-based solution delivers live threat and fraud intelligence
- Configurable IPQ Risk Score allows easy implementation of risk-weighted decisions and controls
- Contextual risk categories enable creation of rules and polices unique to your business
- Geofilter and GeoMatch scoring identifies fraud by geographical attributes
- Flexible REST API enables rapid, light-weight integration and deployment
- Powerful analytics provide rich and comprehensive reporting data

Key Benefits for the Enterprise

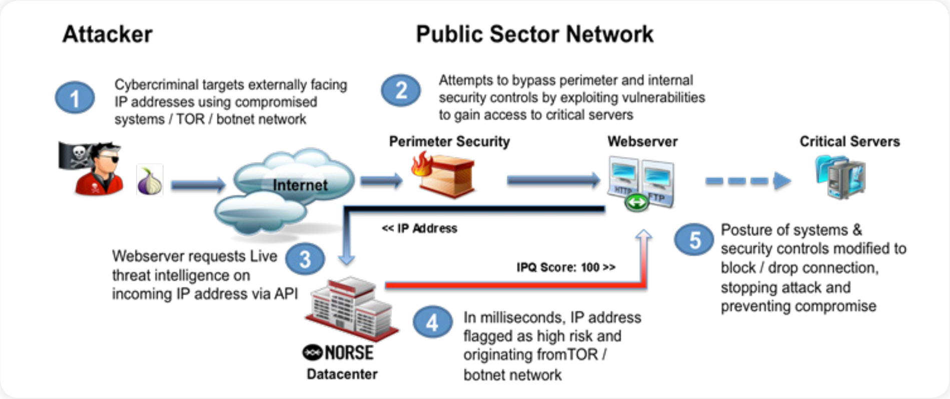
- Maximize effectiveness of existing security investments with Live Threat Intelligence
- Reduce customer account takeover fraud via stolen credentials
- Lower the cost of direct fraud, customer service, and fraud investigation
- Reduce costs from fraudulent account creations

How to Buy

DarkList is available as an annual subscription based on company size. Call Norse sales at +1 972.333.0622 for a demonstration or quote, or email us at sales@norse-corp.com

DarkViking is available as an annual subscription based on company size. Call Norse sales at +1 972.333.0622 for a demonstration or quote, or email us at sales@norse-corp.com

DarkWatch is available as a bundled 1U hardware and virtual appliance, and volume discounts are available. Call Norse sales at +1 972.333.0622 for a demonstration or quote, or email us a sales@norse-corp.com


Attacker
Public Sector Network
1
Cybercriminal targets externally facing IP addresses using compromised systems / TOR / botnet network
2
Attempts to bypass perimeter and internal security controls by exploiting vulnerabilities to gain access to critical servers
Perimeter Security
Webserver
Critical Servers
Internet
HTTP
FTP
<< IP Address
IPQ Score: 100 >>
3
Webserver requests Live threat intelligence on incoming IP address via API
4
In milliseconds, IP address flagged as high risk and originating fromTOR / botnet network
5
Posture of systems & security controls modified to block / drop connection, stopping attack and preventing compromise
NORSE
Datacenter

Norse live attack intelligence is easily integrated at virtually any point in an enterprise IT infrastructure

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ABOUT NORSE

Norse is the global leader in live attack intelligence. Norse delivers continuously-updated and unique Internet and darknet intel that helps organizations detect and block attacks that other systems miss. The superior Norse DarkMatter™ platform detects new threats and tags nascent hazards long before they're spotted by traditional "threat intelligence" tools. Norse's globally distributed "distant early warning" grid of millions of sensors, honeypots, crawlers and agents deliver unique visibility into the Internet – especially the darknets, where bad actors operate. The Norse DarkMatter™ network processes hundreds of terabytes daily and computes over 1,500 distinct risk factors, live, for millions of IP addresses every day. Norse products tightly integrate with popular SIEM, IPS and next-generation Firewall products to dramatically improve the performance, catch-rate and security return-on-investment of your existing infrastructure.