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CSCRC AND CSIRO DATA61 SEMINAR  
THURSDAY MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup>

# Anomaly Detection in Key-Management Activities Using Metadata: Case Study and Framework

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# INTRODUCTION

- Enterprise information systems produce massive volumes of data
- Information is transmitted over communications networks
- Cryptographic techniques is used to protect stored and transmitted enterprise data

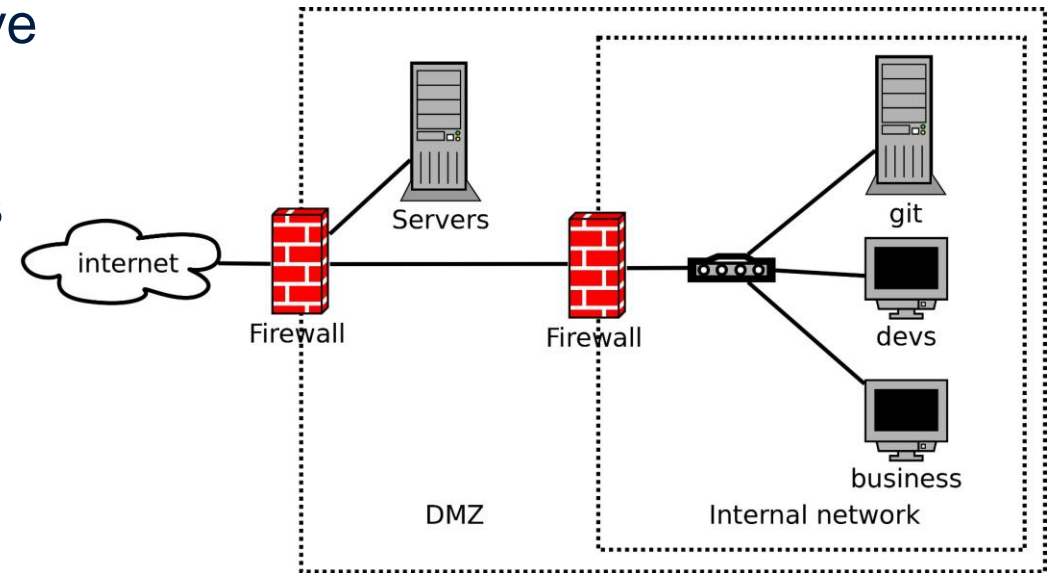


Figure 1. Enterprise network

# RESEARCH MOTIVATION

- Applying cryptography requires the use of cryptographic keys
- A key management system is required to achieve organisational data protection objectives
- Enterprise Key-Management (EKM) server may be used for management of the keys

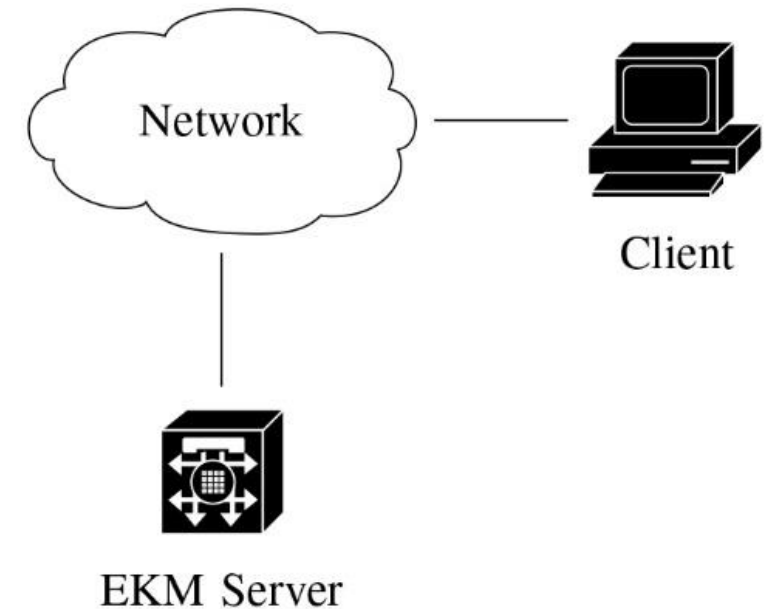


Figure 2. The EKMS network

# RESEARCH MOTIVATION

- Various operations may be used  
e.g., create, activate, get, revoke, locate, destroy, modify attribute
- These activities provide additional data
- Analysis of the metadata may reveal information from which inferences about normal and abnormal activity may be made

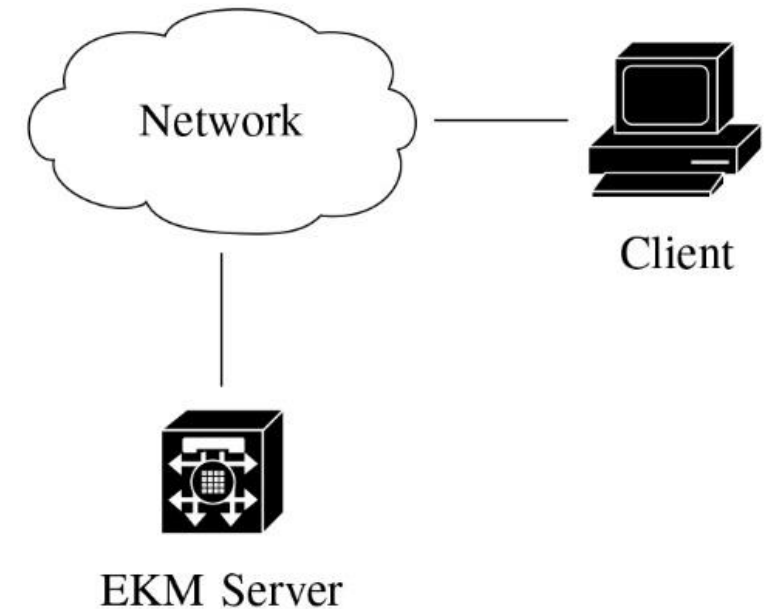


Figure 2. The EKMS network

# RESEARCH MOTIVATION

The aim is to develop a framework that can be applied to the EKM metadata:

- for generating heuristics based on categories of behavior
- for use in detecting anomalous enterprise network activities (perhaps malicious)

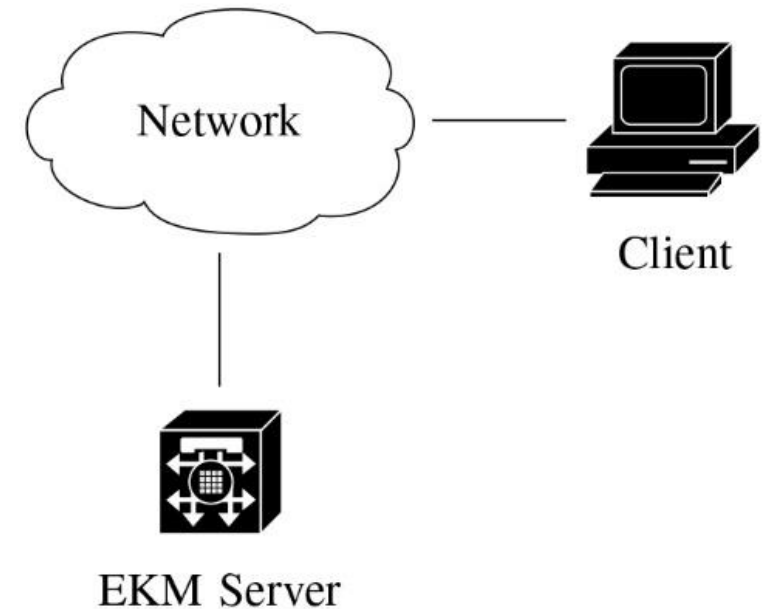


Figure 2. The EKMS network

# RESEARCH CHALLENGE

- Defining adversary's aims and capabilities for a set of predefined scenarios
- Determining the specific EKM metadata characteristics to use for anomaly detection

Factors to consider include:

- time variant characteristics of the environment
- changes in user habits
- variations in workload across different periods and context dependent variables

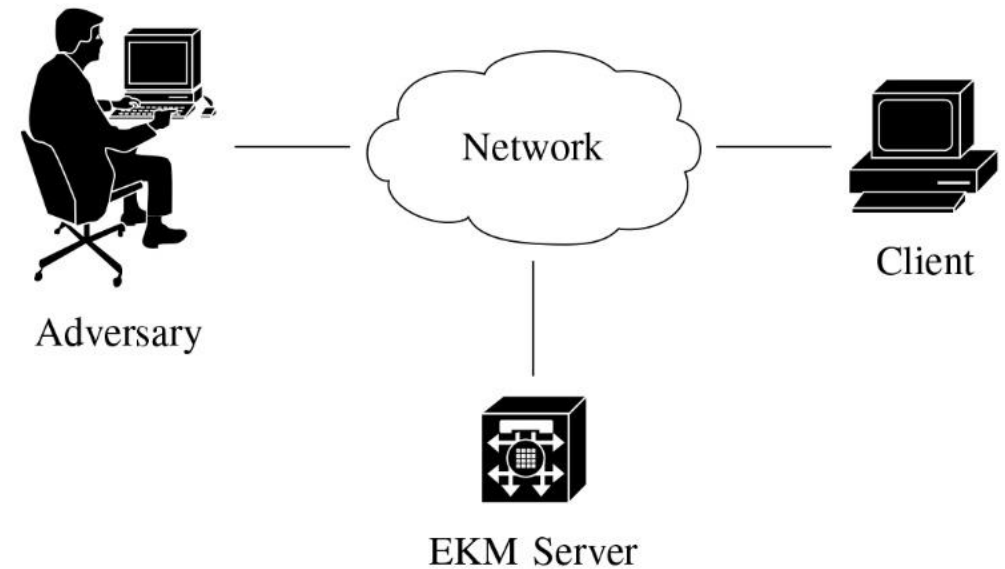


Figure 3. The adversarial model

# RESEARCH BRIEF

This work involves:

- Hands-on use of an EKM system
- Simulations of various enterprise operations
- Generation of datasets for a variety of use conditions
- Analysis of the datasets to establish heuristics
- Application of statistical and deep learning based pattern recognition methods for anomaly detection
- Integration with existing anomaly detection using other network metadata

# RESEARCH ARCHITECTURE

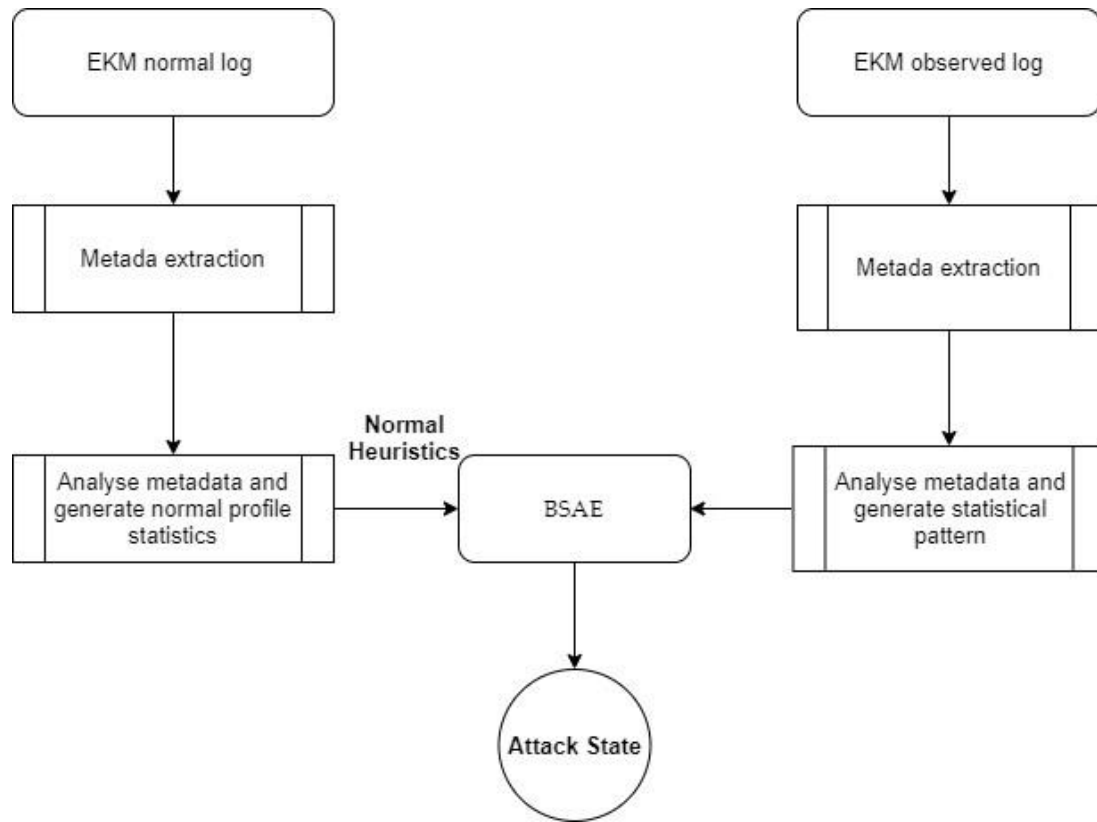


Figure 4. Detection based on EKMS log

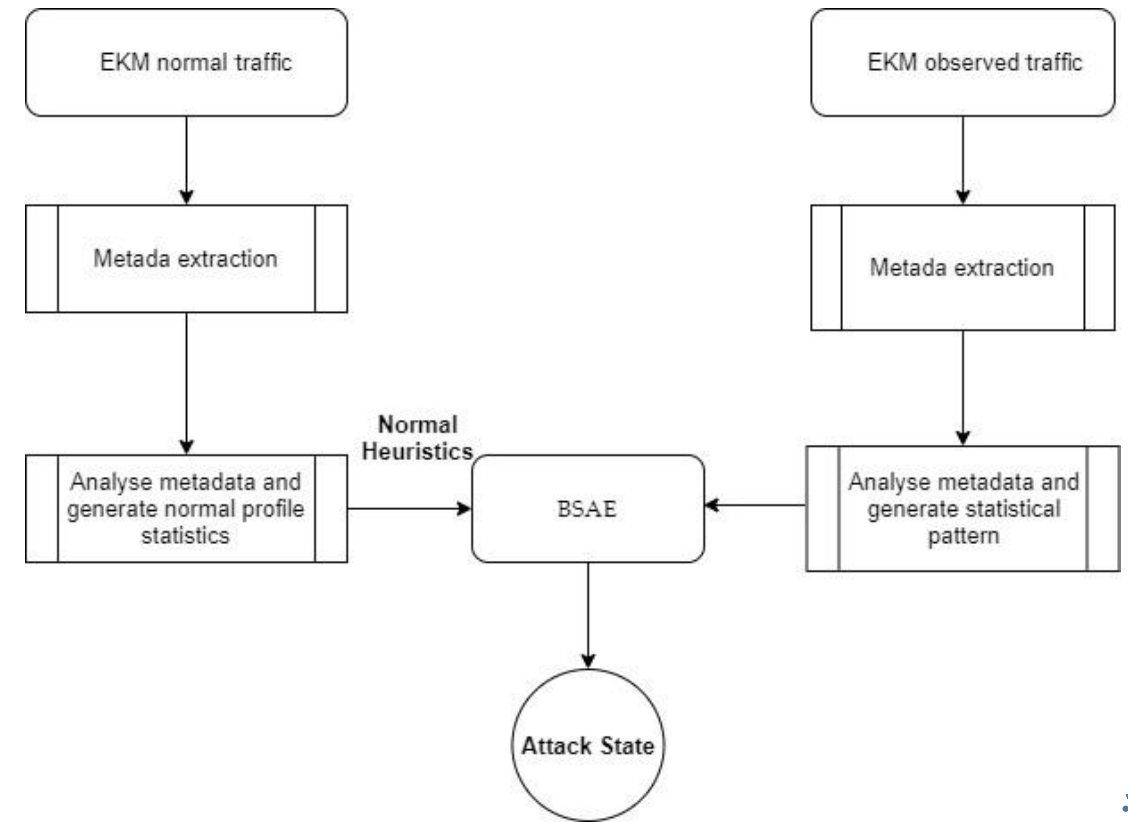


Figure 5. Detection based on EKMS traffic



# RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION

To the best of our knowledge, this is the first work applying EKM metadata for enterprise network anomaly detection.

Our contribution is developing a framework that includes:

- A process to identify EKMS metadata associated with normal and abnormal behaviors
- A process to generate datasets of EKMS metadata for normal and abnormal enterprise activities
- Application of neural networks with specific parameters for automated anomaly detection

# IMPLEMENTATION

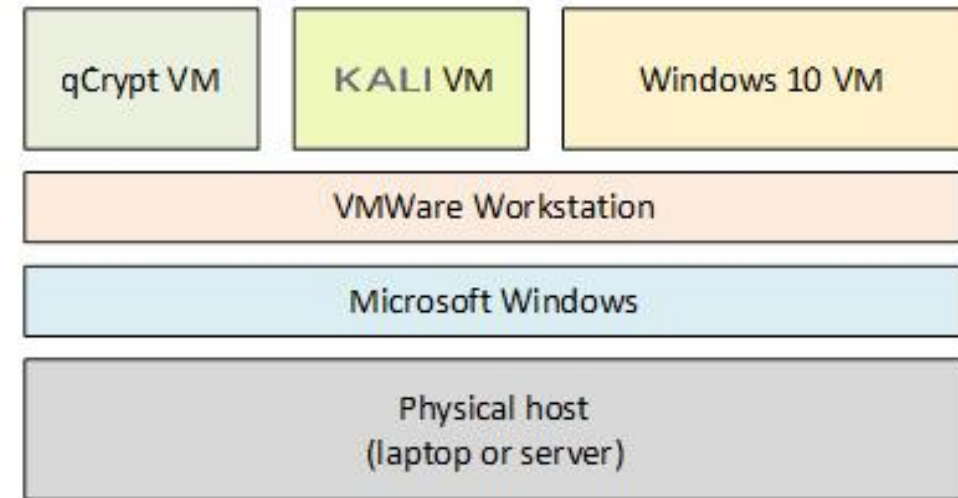
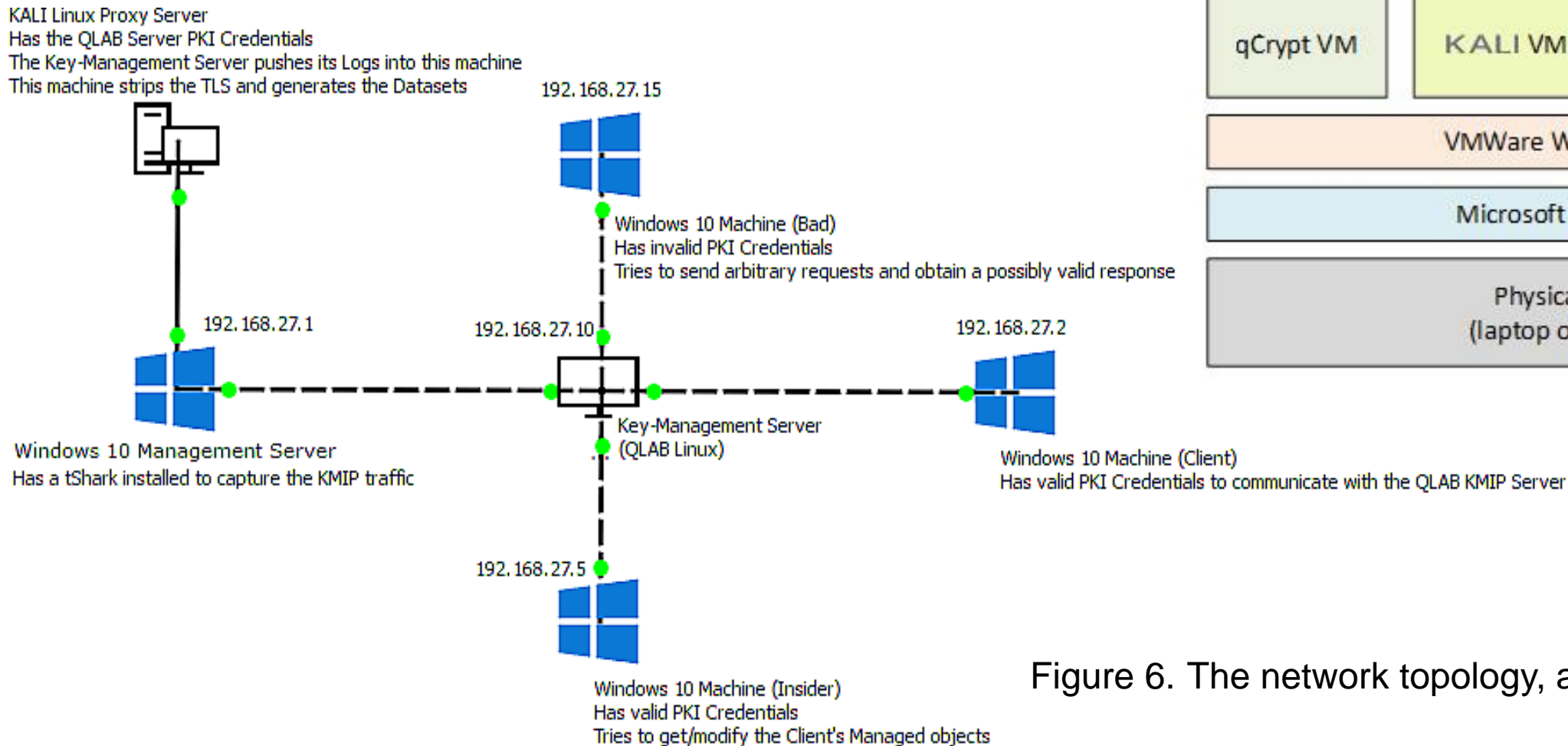


Figure 6. The network topology, actors, and nodes

# RFC5424 [1] LOG-BASED METADATA

## Awaiting connection

**2021.09.05.01.19.36**

New connection accepted from 192.168.27.2:55598

Connection server started

ciphers: AES128-SHA:AES128-SHA256:AES256-  
checking ca

Initialising\_SSL ctx

Supplied PIN null

Selected OS entropy source on port 10002

accepted connection from client (fd=7)

Subject = C=AU/ST=ACT/O=QuintessenceLabs

Subject = CN=QUT/C=AU/ST=QLD/L=Brisbane/O=QUT

Shared ciphers: AES256-SHA256

Current connection cipher AES256-SHA256

addr= 192.168.27.2, port=55598, cert\_serial=46EE

issuer= C = AU, ST = ACT, O = QuintessenceLabs

Received **104 byte** message

Operation **Discover Versions succeeded**

Operation allowed by the action **policy**

Received **384 byte** message

operation= **Create**, addr=**192.168.27.2**, user=**client**

Operation allowed by **global rule**

Operation Create **succeeded**

Connection server stopped

Figure 7. The RFC5424 log-based metadata

# RFC5424 [1] LOG-BASED DATASETS

2021.09.05.01.19.36,104,DiscoverVersions,192168272,client,policy,Success,320,Locate,192168272,client,owner,0,0,0,Success,Get,192168272,client,0,UIDexists,owner,0,Success,0

2021.09.05.01.19.37,104,DiscoverVersions,192168272,client,policy,Success,200,GetAttributes,192168272,client,0,UIDexists,owner,0,0,0,0,0,0,Success,0,0,0,0,0

2021.09.05.01.19.39,104,DiscoverVersions,192168272,client,policy,Success,224,AddAttribute,192168272,client,0,UIDexists,owner,0,0,0,0,0,0,Success,0,0,0,0,0

2021.09.04.01.40.07,104,DiscoverVersions,1921682722,client,policy,Success,200,GetAttributes,1921682722,client,0,UIDexists,owner,0,0,0,0,0,0,Success,0,0,0,0,0

2021.09.04.01.40.08,104,DiscoverVersions,192168272,leonie,policy,Success,224,AddAttribute,192168272,leonie,0,UIDexists,owner,0,0,0,0,0,0,Success,0,0,0,0,0

2021.09.04.01.40.08,104,DiscoverVersions,192168272,client,policy,Success,344,Locate,192168272,client,owner,0,0,0,Success,Revoke,192168272,client,0,UIDexists,owner,RevokefromActivetoDeactivated,0,Success

Figure 8. Sample datasets: training (top) and testing (bottom)

# KMIP [2] TRAFFIC-BASED METADATA

**REQUEST\_MESSAGE:STRUCTURE(376):stru1**  
REQUEST\_HEADER:STRUCTURE(56):stru2  
PROTOCOL\_VERSION:STRUCTURE(32):stru3  
PROTOCOL\_VERSION\_MAJOR:INTEGER(4):1  
PROTOCOL\_VERSION\_MINOR:INTEGER(4):4  
BATCH\_COUNT:INTEGER(4):1  
REQUEST\_BATCH\_ITEM:STRUCTURE(304):stru2  
OPERATION:ENUMERATION(4):CREATE  
REQUEST\_PAYLOAD:STRUCTURE(264):stru3  
OBJECT\_TYPE:ENUMERATION(4):SYMMETRIC\_KEY  
TEMPLATE\_ATTRIBUTE:STRUCTURE(240):stru4  
ATTRIBUTE:STRUCTURE(64):stru5  
ATTRIBUTE\_VALUE:STRUCTURE(40):stru6  
ATTRIBUTE:STRUCTURE(48):stru6  
ATTRIBUTE\_VALUE:ENUMERATION(4):Cryptographic Algorithm  
ATTRIBUTE:STRUCTURE(48):stru6  
ATTRIBUTE\_VALUE:INTEGER(4):12  
ATTRIBUTE:STRUCTURE(48):stru6  
ATTRIBUTE\_VALUE:INTEGER(4):256

**RESPONSE\_MESSAGE:STRUCTURE(208):stru1**  
RESPONSE\_HEADER:STRUCTURE(72):stru2  
PROTOCOL\_VERSION:STRUCTURE(32):stru3  
PROTOCOL\_VERSION\_MAJOR:INTEGER(4):1  
PROTOCOL\_VERSION\_MINOR:INTEGER(4):4  
BATCH\_COUNT:INTEGER(4):1  
REQUEST\_BATCH\_ITEM:STRUCTURE(120):stru2  
OPERATION:ENUMERATION(4):CREATE  
RESULT\_STATUS:ENUMERATION(4):SUCCESS  
RESPONSE\_PAYLOAD:STRUCTURE(64):stru3  
OBJECT\_TYPE:ENUMERATION(4):SYMMETRIC\_KEY

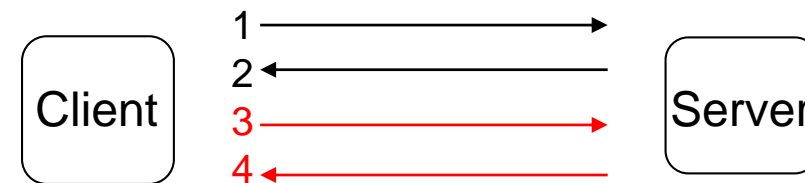


Figure 9. The KMIP traffic-based metadata

# KMIP [2] TRAFFIC-BASED DATASETS

```
REQUESTMESSAGESTRUCTURE376stru1,STRUCTURE376stru1,STRUCTURE56stru2,STRUCTURE32stru3,INTEGER41,INTEGER44,INTEGER41,STRUCTURE304stru2,ENUMERATION4CREATE,STRUCTURE264stru3,ENUMERATION4SYMMETRICKEY,STRUCTURE240stru4,STRUCTURE64stru5,STRUCTURE40stru6,STRUCTURE48stru6,ENUMERATION4CryptographicAlgorithm,STRUCTURE48stru6,INTEGER412,STRUCTURE48stru6,INTEGER4256,0,0,0,0,0,0
```

```
RESPONSEMESSAGESTRUCTURE208stru1,STRUCTURE208stru1,STRUCTURE72stru2,STRUCTURE32stru3,INTEGER41,INTEGER44,INTEGER41,STRUCTURE120stru2,ENUMERATION4CREATE,ENUMERATION4SUCCESS,STRUCTURE64stru3,ENUMERATION4SYMMETRICKEY,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
```

```
REQUESTMESSAGESTRUCTURE312stru1,STRUCTURE312stru1,STRUCTURE88stru2,STRUCTURE32stru3,INTEGER41,INTEGER44,ENUMERATION4STOP,BOOLEAN8True,INTEGER42,STRUCTURE160stru2,ENUMERATION4LOCATE,STRUCTURE120stru3,STRUCTURE40stru4,ENUMERATION4ObjectType,STRUCTURE64stru4,STRUCTURE40stru5,STRUCTURE40stru5,ENUMERATION4ACTIVATE,STRUCTURE0stru6,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
```

```
RESPONSEMESSAGESTRUCTURE256stru1,STRUCTURE256stru1,STRUCTURE72stru2,STRUCTURE32stru3,INTEGER41,INTEGER44,INTEGER42,STRUCTURE56stru2,ENUMERATION4LOCATE,ENUMERATION4SUCCESS,STRUCTURE0stru3,STRUCTURE104stru3,ENUMERATION4ACTIVATE,ENUMERATION4OPERATIONFAILED,ENUMERATION4INVALIDMESSAGE,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
```

Figure 10. Sample datasets: training (top) and testing (bottom)

# SUMMARY

- This research investigated EKM metadata, determined characteristics for extraction, and looked for possible patterns to detect anomaly.
- Demonstrated the possibility to detect anomalous activity within an organisation through events such as:
  - requests for key material of specific or unexpected sizes,
  - outside of normal time periods,
  - with unusual frequency,
  - or from abnormal locations.
- Additionally, this could be integrated with other enterprise information to sharpen detection capabilities.



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# Thanks for your attention

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# REFERENCES

[1] The Syslog Protocol (<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc5424>)

[2] Key Management Interoperability Protocol Specification (<http://docs.oasis-open.org/kmip/spec/v1.4/kmip-spec-v1.4.html>)