Vultron Update

APRIL 24, 2023

Allen Householder Threat Ecosystem Analysis, CERT/CC https://infosec.exchange/@adh Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute

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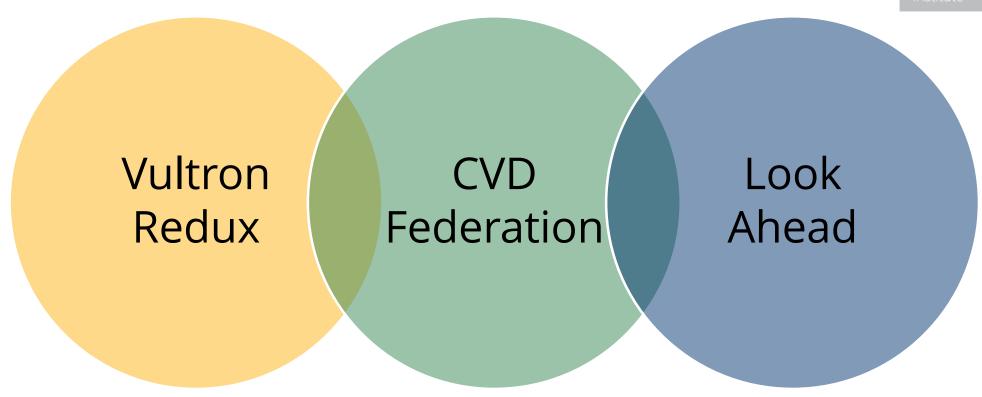
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DM23-0415

Agenda

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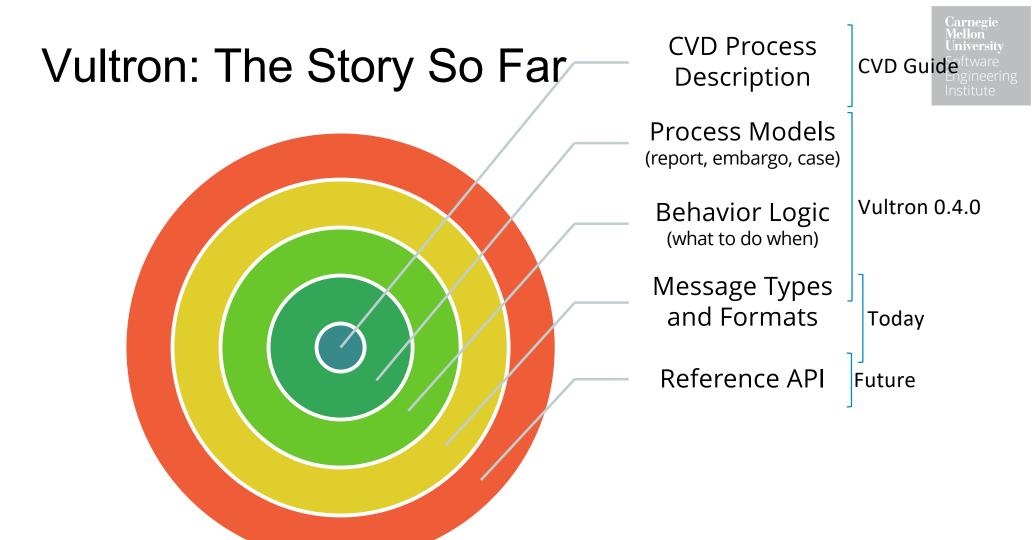


Vultron Update

What is Vultron?

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Report Management

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S = Start

R = Received

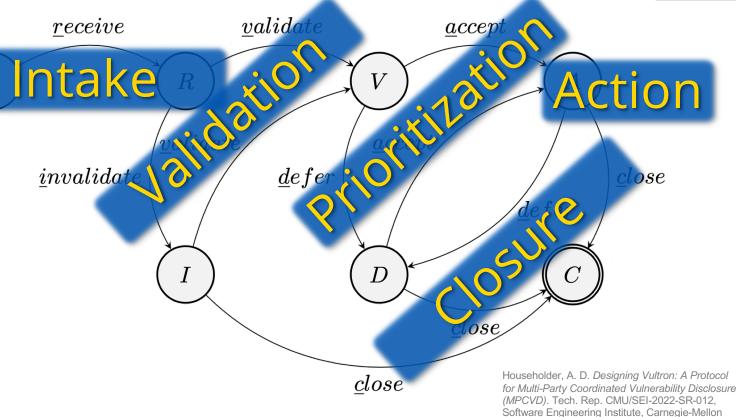
V = Valid

A = Accepted

I = Invalid

D = Deferred

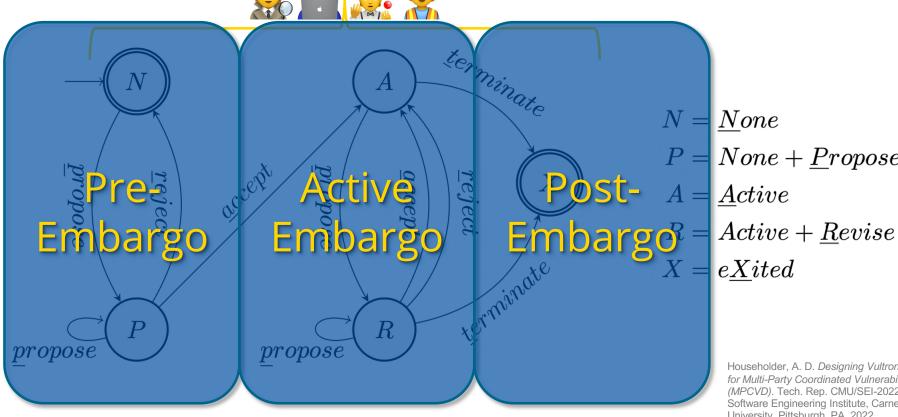
C = Closed



University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2022.

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Embargo Management



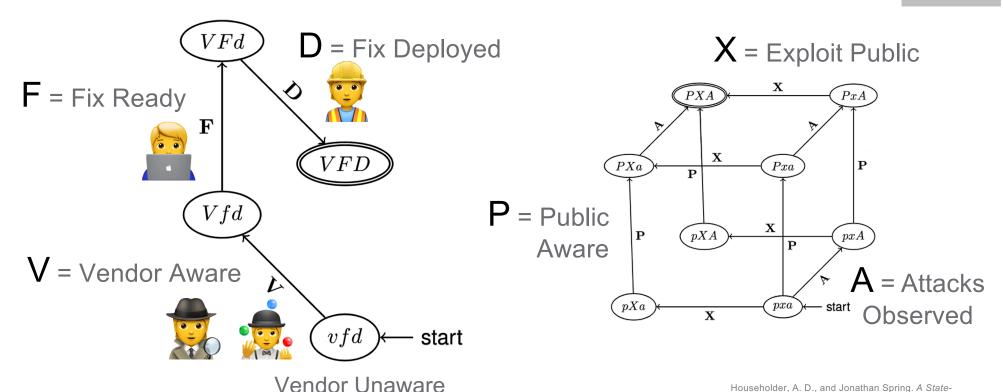
 $P = None + \underline{Proposed}$

eXited

Householder, A. D. Designing Vultron: A Protocol for Multi-Party Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure (MPCVD). Tech. Rep. CMU/SEI-2022-SR-012, Software Engineering Institute, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2022.

Case State Model

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Householder, A. D., and Jonathan Spring. A State-Based Model for Multi-Party Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure (MPCVD). Tech. Rep. CMU/SEI-2021-SR-021, Software Engineering Institute, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2021.

Case State Ordering Preferences

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Vendor Aware, Fix Ready, Fix Deployed



Householder, A. D., and Jonathan Spring. A State-Based Model for Multi-Party Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure (MPCVD). Tech. Rep. CMU/SEI-2021-SR-021, Software Engineering Institute, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2021.

Vultron Message Types

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Report Mgt

RS Report Submission

RI | Report Invalid

RV | Report Valid

RA | Report Accepted

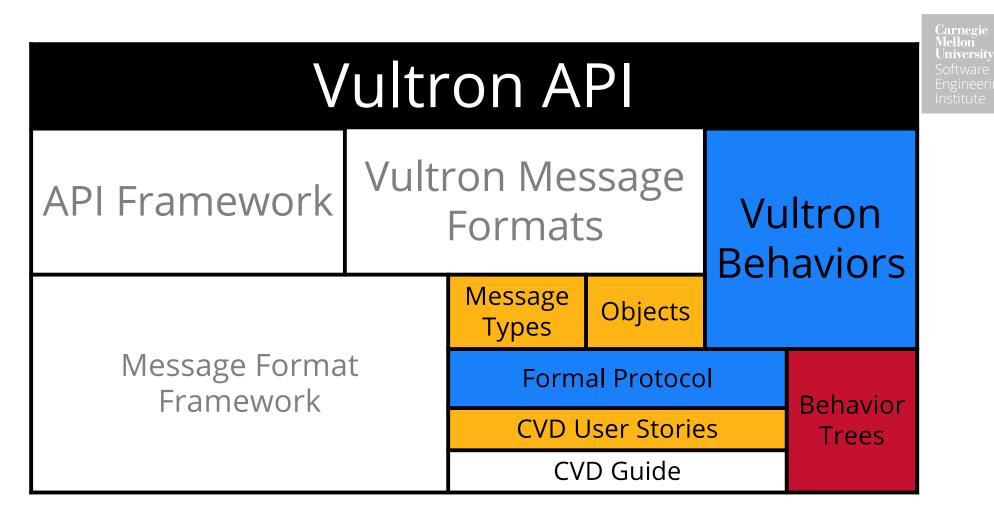
RD | Report Deferred

RC | Report Closed

RK Report Ack

RE | Report Error

Householder, A. D. *Designing Vultron: A Protocol for Multi-Party Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure (MPCVD)*. Tech. Rep. CMU/SEI-2022-SR-012, Software Engineering Institute, Carnegie-Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, 2022.



What we talked about last time...

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Forward the Federation

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Control

Compliance

Cooperation

Compliance

Cooperation

Cooperation

Short-term efficiency
Long-term fragility

Centralized

Do what you want

Autonomy

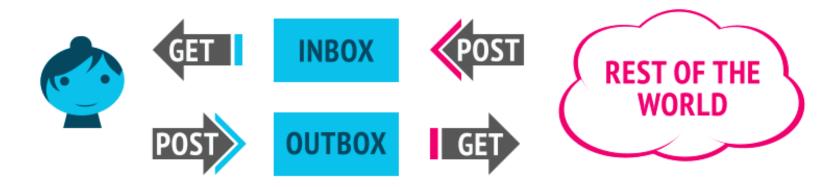
Cooperation

Short-term inefficiency
Long-term resilience

Activity Pub

actor reads incoming messages

send messages to actor (federation!)

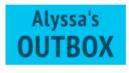


actor sends messages / posts content outside world can read messages from actor

Alyssa places a Note in her outbox







```
{"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "type": "Note",
  "to": ["https://chatty.example/ben/"],
  "attributedTo": "https://social.example/alyssa/",
  "content": "Say, did you finish reading that book I lent you?"}
```

Alyssa's server wraps her Note in a Create activity and places it in Ben's Inbox



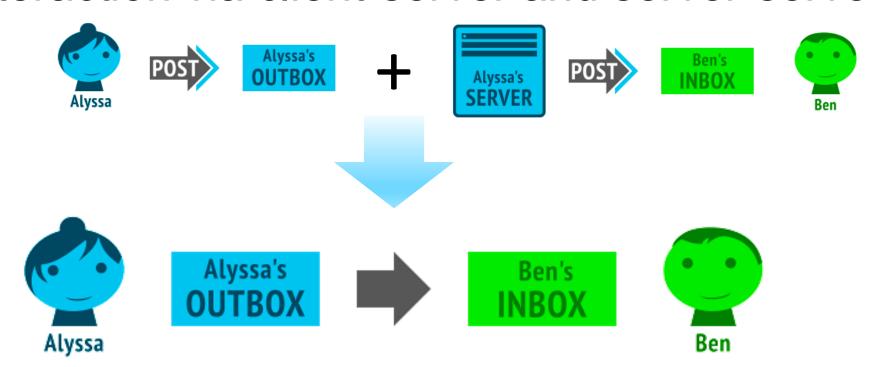








ActivityPub builds seamless distributed interaction via client-server and server-server



https://www.w3.org/TR/activitypub/

Carnegie

Carnegie

Ben replies to Alyssa with a Note

```
{"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
"type": "Create",
"id": "https://chattv.example/ben/p/51086",
"to": ["https://social.example/alyssa/"],
"actor": "https://chatty.example/ben/",
"object": {"type": "Note",
           "id": "https://chatty.example/ben/p/51085",
           "attributedTo": "https://chatty.example/ben/",
           "to": ["https://social.example/alyssa/"],
           "inReplyTo": "https://social.example/alyssa/posts/49e2d03d-b53a-4c4
           "content": "Argh, yeah, sorry, I'll get it back to you tomorrow.
                       I was reviewing the section on register machines,
                           since it's been a while since I wrote one."}}
```

https://www.w3.org/TR/activitypub/

20

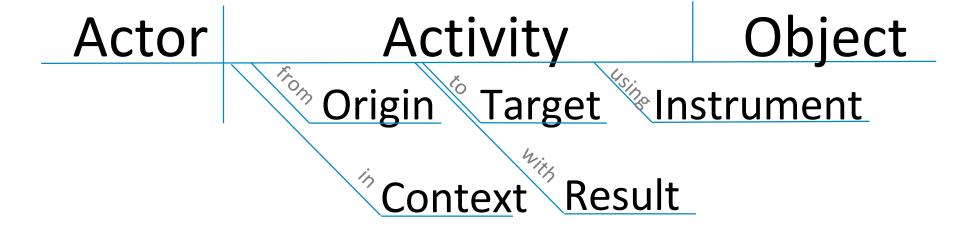
Alyssa Likes Ben's reply



```
{"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "type": "Like",
  "id": "https://social.example/alyssa/posts/5312e10e-5110-42e5-a09b-934882b3
  "to": ["https://chatty.example/ben/"],
  "actor": "https://social.example/alyssa/",
  "object": "https://chatty.example/ben/p/51086"}
```

Activity Vocabulary brings sentence structure





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Actor Types

Person	Represents an individual person.
Group	Represents a formal or informal collective of Actors.
Organization	Represents an organization.
Application	Describes a software application.
Service	Represents a service of any kind.

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Activity Types

Offer, Invite Accept, Reject Add, Move, Remove Like, Dislike Follow, Ignore, Block Announce

Leave, Travel, Arrive Create, Update, Delete Join, Leave Read, View, Listen Question Undo

Object Types

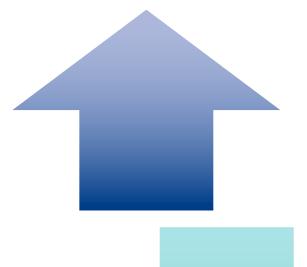
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Article	Page
Audio	Place
Document	Profile
Event	Relationship
lmage	Tombstone
Note	Video

+ Actor types and Activity types

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Activity Vocabulary is Extensible



All Objects, Actors, Activities are extensible

 You can define arbitrary new types



Custom types might inhibit interoperability

 Reuse existing types whenever possible

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Vultron + Activity Vocabulary Objects (Nouns)

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Vultron + Activity Vocabulary: Actors

CVD participants are just Actors*...



Finder/Reporters



Vendors



Coordinators



Deployers



Others

...they can be represented as

participate in a

case? 🗑

- Person

- Group

- Organizati Can a threat feed

- Applicati

Service

Can an Application be a Deployer? 🔽

Can a **Service** be a Coordinator? 🗲

*Well, almost. We'll address how to represent their roles in different cases in a moment



```
"type": "Person",

"id": "https://vuls.example.com/finder-reporter",

"name": "Finn der Reporter",

"following": nul
"followers": nul
"liked": null,
"streams": null,
"preferredUserna"
"endpoints": nul
}
```

```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "type": "Person",
  "id": "https://vuls.example.com/finder-reporter",
  "name": "Finn der Reporter",
 "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "inbox": {
    "@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/7346501d-c5e9-4b53-9835-
e23de794557a",
    "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "items": [],
    "current": 0
  "outbox": {
    "@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/3a177852-2739-4b45-9ae4-
cef7a8752e19",
    "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "following": null,
  "followers": null,
  "liked": null,
  "streams": null,
  "preferredUsername": null,
  "endpoints": null
```



```
"type": "Organization",
   "id": "https://vendor.example/psirt",
"name": "Vendor O'Product",
```

```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "type": "Organization",
  "id": "https://vendor.example/psirt",
  "name": "Vendor O'Product",
  "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "inbox": {
    "@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/498b6ab6-9ac2-4557-b3fc-
6ae5a8e4d367".
    "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "items": [],
    "current": 0
  "outbox": {
    "@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/d17cbe44-0cf0-440e-ad1b-
32212c8c42c5",
    "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "items": [],
    "current": 0
  "following": null,
  "followers": null,
  "liked": null,
  "streams": null,
  "preferredUsername": null,
  "endpoints": null
```



```
"type": "Organization",

"id": "https://coordinators-r-us.example,",

"name": "Coordinators R Us",

"following": null,

"streams": null,

"preferredUsern
```

```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "type": "Organization",
  "id": " https://coordinators-r-us.example",
  "name": "Coordinators R Us",
  "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "inbox": {
    "@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/498b6ab6-9ac2-4557-b3fc-
6ae5a8e4d367",
    "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "items": [].
    "current": 0
  },
  "outbox": {
    "@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/d17cbe44-0cf0-440e-ad1b-
32212c8c42c5",
    "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "items": [],
  "following": null,
  "followers": null,
  "liked": null,
  "streams": null,
  "preferredUsername": null,
  "endpoints": null
```



"type": "Organization",

"id": "https://weedyploy.example",

"name": "Weedy Ploy Infrastructure",

```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "type": "Organization",
  "id": " https://weedyploy.example",
  "name": "Weedy Ploy Infrastructure",
  "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "inbox": {
    "@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/498b6ab6-9ac2-4557-b3fc-
6ae5a8e4d367",
    "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "items": [],
    "current": 0
  "outbox": {
    "@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/d17cbe44-0cf0-440e-ad1b-
32212c8c42c5",
    "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
    "items": [].
    "current": 0
  "following": null,
  "followers": null,
  "liked": null,
  "streams": null.
  "preferredUsername": null,
  "endpoints": null
```

Vultron + Activity Vocabulary: Objects



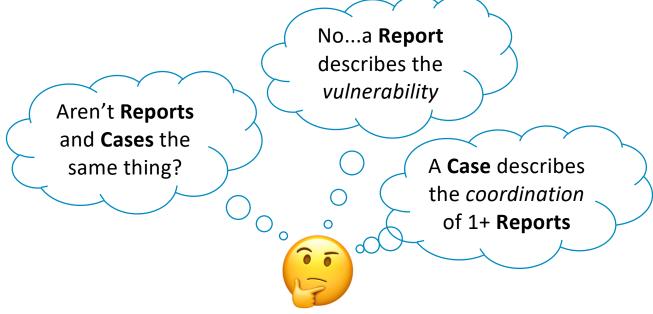
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activityst We're going to need a few customized "type": "VulnerabilityReport", "id": "https://finder.reporter.example/report objects... No...the **Report** object "name": "finding-101029", "published": "2023-04-07T18:22:56+00:00", is just a small wrapper "updated": "2023-04-07T18:22:56+00:00", "content": "I found a vulnerability!", object... - Vulnerability Report "attributedTo": "https://vuls.example.com/finder-reporter" Are you ...that can contain a suggesting yet well-defined format another vul like CSAF or just report format? plain text

Vultron + Activity Vocabulary: Objects

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We're going to need a few customized objects...

- Vulnerability Report
- Vulnerability Case



Report

```
"@context":
"https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
   "type": "VulnerabilityReport",
   "id":
"https://finder.reporter.example/report/101
029",
   "name": "finding-101029",
   "published": "2023-04-07T18:22:56+00:00",
   "updated": "2023-04-07T18:22:56+00:00",
   "content": "I found a vulnerability!",
   "attributedTo": [
        "https://vuls.example.com/finder-
reporter"
   ]
}
```

Case

```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "type": "VulnerabilityCase",
  "id": "https://vendor.example/psirt/case/18283771",
  "name": "vendor-case-18283771",
  "published": "2023-04-07T18:31:00+00:00",
  "updated": "2023-04-07T18:31:00+00:00",
  "attributedTo": "https://vendor.example/psirt",
  "caseParticipants": [...],
  "vulnerabilityReports": [
    "https://finder.reporter.example/report/101029'
  "caseStatus": [
      "type": "CaseStatus",
      "id": "https://for.example/6d88fda5-d392-4c90-a77d-
3209d5f2550a",
      "name": "EMBARGO_MANAGEMENT_NONE
CS_PUBLIC_UNAWARE__NO_EXPLOIT__NO_ATTACKS",
      "published": "2023-04-07T18:31:00+00:00",
      "emState": "EMBARGO_MANAGEMENT_NONE",
      "pxaState":
"CS_PUBLIC_UNAWARE__NO_EXPLOIT__NO_ATTACKS"
  "activeEmbargo": null
```

Vultron + Activity Vocabulary: Objects

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We're going to need a few customized objects...

- Vulnerability Report
- Vulnerability Case
 - Case Participants

An **Actor** represents an identity for an individual or organization.

But an **Actor** will have different roles & status across cases...

Isn't a

Participant just
an Actor?



...so we need a way to represent their role in the context of a given case. That's a Participant

Actor

```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "type": "Organization",
  "id": "https://vendor.example/psirt",
  "name": "Vendor O'Product",
  "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
 "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
  "inbox": {
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/498b6ab6-9ac2-4557-b3fc-
6ae5a8e4d367",
    "items": [],
    "current": 0
  "outbox": {
    "type": "OrderedCollection",
    "id": "https://for.example/d17cbe44-0cf0-440e-ad1b-
32212c8c42c5".
    "items": [],
    "current": 0
 "following": null,
 "followers": null,
  "liked": null,
 "streams": null,
  "preferredUsername": null,
  "endpoints": null
```

Participant

```
"@context":
"https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "type": "CaseParticipant",
  "id": "https://for.example/9977b4dd-76b4-
4727-9b24-f1b8d5adc2b0",
  "name": "Vendor O'Product",
  "published": "2023-04-07T18:31:00+00:00",
  "actor": "https://vendor.example/psirt",
  "context":
"https://vendor.example/psirt/case/18283771
  "caseRoles": [
    "CVD_ROLE_VENDOR"
  "participantStatus": [...]
```

University

Vultron + Activity Vocabulary: Objects

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We're going to need a few customized objects...

- Vulnerability Report
- Vulnerability Case
 - Case Participants
 - Case & Participant Status

A Participant Status
represents a
Participant's perspective
of their RM, EM, and CS
states

What makes up a **Status**?

The Case Owner can update the overall **Case Status** for a case

Participant Status

```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
   "type": "ParticipantStatus",
   "id": "https://for.example/8ce1b298",
   "name": "REPORT_MANAGEMENT_RECEIVED

CS_VENDOR_AWARE__NO_FIX__NOT_DEPLOYED",
   "context": "https://vendor.example/psirt/case/18283771"
   "published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
   "updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
   "actor": "https://vendor.example/psirt",
   "rmState": "REPORT_MANAGEMENT_RECEIVED",
   "vfdState": "CS_VENDOR_AWARE__NO_FIX__NOT_DEPLOYED",
   "caseEngagement": true,
   "embargoAdherence": true
```

Case Status

```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
"type": "CaseStatus",
"id": "https://for.example/adcc7597",
"name": "EMBARGO_MANAGEMENT_NONE

CS_PUBLIC_UNAWARE__NO_EXPLOIT__NO_ATTACKS",
"context": "https://vendor.example/psirt/case/18283771"
"published": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
"updated": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00",
"emState": "EMBARGO_MANAGEMENT_NONE",
"pxaState": "CS_PUBLIC_UNAWARE__NO_EXPLOIT__NO_ATTACKS"
```



Vultron + Activity Vocabulary: Objects

We're going to need a few customized objects...

- Vulnerability Report
- Vulnerability Case
 - Case Participants
 - Case & Participant Status
 - Embargo Events

Embargo Events

sound complicated.

They're not.

They're just calendar

entries 17

00

...like literally an object with an endTime attribute associated with the context of a Case

"startTime": "2023-04-07T13:58:54+00:00", "endTime": "2023-05-22T13:58:54+00:00",



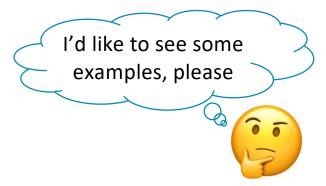
Vultron Update April 2023 © 2023 Carnegie Mellon University "type": "EmbargoEvent",

Vultron Update April 2023

Vultron + Activity Vocabulary Verbs

Carnegie Mellon University Software Engineering Institute Turns out most of the verbs (Activities) defined in the vocabulary are good enough for most of what we need.

There are a few where we need to clarify semantics.







Offer this **Vulnerability Report**



```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
  "asType": "Offer",
  "id": "https://for.example/a2d22497-67b8-4893-9bba-51e1b72ccc4d",
 "name": "https://vuls.example.com/finder-reporter Offer https://finder.
https://vendor.example/psirt",
  "published": "2023-04-17T19:34:46+00:00",
  "updated": "2023-04-17T19:34:46+00:00",
  "to": [
    "https://vendor.example/psirt"
  "actor": "https://vuls.example.com/finder-reporter",
  "target": "https://vendor.example/psirt",
  "object": "https://finder.reporter.example/report/101029"
```

```
"@context": "https://www.w3.org/ns/activitystreams",
"asType": "Read",
"id": "https://for.example/6a21c203-18cf-499f-bd3f-0614b597dcb1",
"name": "https://vendor.example/psirt Read
https://finder.reporter.example/report/101029",
"published": "2023-04-17T19:34:46+00:00",
"updated": "2023-04-17T19:34:46+00:00",
"to": [
    "https://vuls.example.com/finder-reporter"
],
"actor": "https://vendor.example/psirt",
"object": "https://finder.reporter.example/report/101029"
}
Read the
Vulnerability Report
```

Accept the Vulnerability Report





Create a Vulnerability Case from the Vulnerability Report

Add to the Vulnerability Case







Create a new Status (indicating that has a fix ready) to the Vulnerability Case.

Close (Leave) the Vulnerability Case

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A Join the **Vulnerability Case**

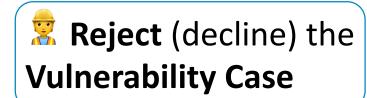


Accept the Vulnerability Report



Create a Vul invite in to the from the Vulne Vulnerability Case











Invite Ito the Vulnerability Case

Report Management Message Types

Activity

Create

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Indirect Object(s)

Target: Vulnerability Case

RS	Offer	Vulnerability Report	Target: Actor
	Invite	Actor	Target: Vulnerability Case
RI	Invalidate (Reject)	Vulnerability Report	
	Invalidate (Reject)	Vulnerability Case	
RV	Validate (Accept)	Vulnerability Report	
	Validate (Accept)	Vulnerability Case	
RA	Engage (Join)	Vulnerability Case	
RD	Defer (Leave)	Vulnerability Case	
RC	Close (Leave)	Vulnerability Case	(7)
RK	Read	Vulnerability Case	

Note

Object

RE

Embargo Management Message Types

Activity

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	Accivity	Object	man eet Object(5)
EP	Offer/Invite	Embargo Event	
ER	Reject	Embargo Event	
EA	Accept	Embargo Event	
	Add	Embargo Event	Context: Report or Case
EV	Offer/Invite	Embargo Event	Target: Case (as appropriate)
EJ	Reject	Embargo Event	angen ener (ar apprepriate)
EC	Accept	Embargo Event	
ET	Terminate (???)	Embargo Event	
EK	Read	Embargo Event	(70)
EE	Create	Note	Target: Vulnerability Case

Obiect

Indirect Object(s)

Case State Message Types

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	Activity	Object	Indirect Object(s)
CV			
CF	Create	Participant Status	Target: Participant Context: Case
CD			
СР			
CX	Create	Case Status	Target: Participant or Case Context: Case
CA			
CK	Read	Status	6
CE	Create	Note	Target: Case

General Inquiry Message Types

Activity

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	/ tedivity	Object	man eet Object(5)
GI	Create	Note	Target: Case Context: Case
GK	Read	Note	Context: Case
GE	Create	Note	Target: Case Context: Case

Object

Activity Vocabulary opens up possible expansions to things Vultron 0.4.0 left out:

- Ownership transfer of cases
- Suggesting new case participants
- Polling case participants (e.g., about Embargo changes)
- Probably more we haven't thought of yet



Indirect Object(s)

Vultron Notional Architecture

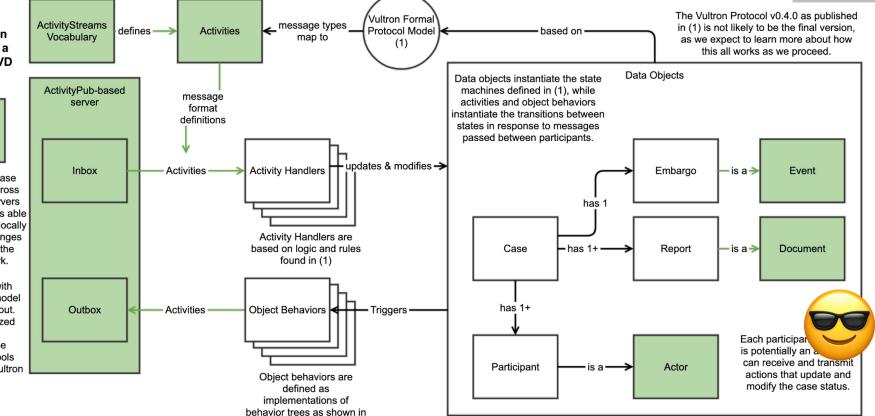
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Notional design for an agent in a federated MPCVD service

> Items based on ActivityPub and ActivityStreams protocols

A single MPCVD case might be spread across many federated servers with participant actors able to update their case locally and have those changes propagate across the federated network.

For those familiar with VINCE, the Vultron model turns VINCE inside out. Instead of a centralized service, the only centralization is the agreement to use tools compatible with the Vultron protocol.



Ch 7 of (1)

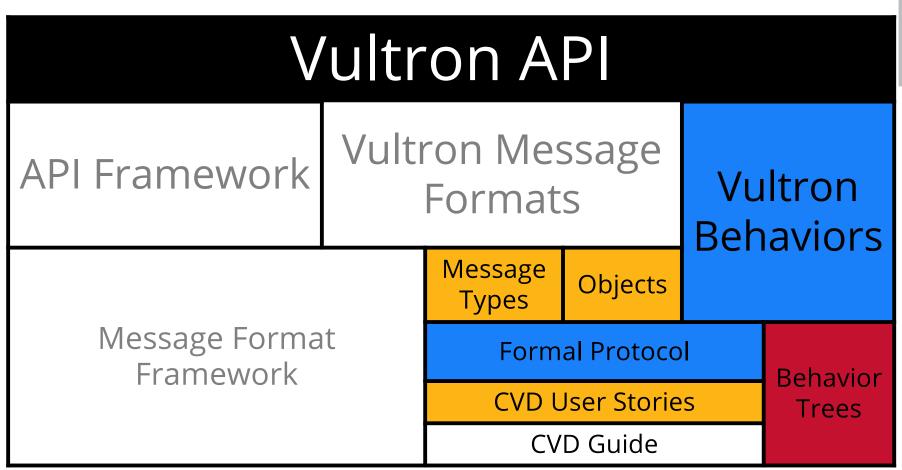
(1) https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/asset_files/SpecialReport/2022_003_001_887202.pdf

Vultron Update April 2023

Looking Ahead

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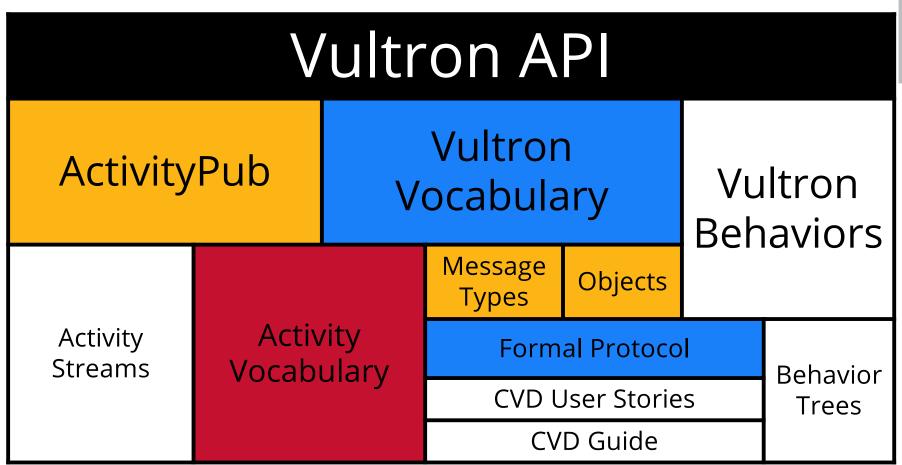
[DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT A] Approved for public release and unlimited distribution.



What we talked about last time...

https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/library/asset-view.cfm?assetid=887198

https://youtu.be/8WiSmhxJ2OM



https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/library/asset-view.cfm?assetid=887198

https://github.com/CERTCC/Vultron

What I talked about today...

Process Model

- CERT Guide to CVD (2017, 2019)
- A State-Based Model for MPCVD (2021)



Formal Protocol

 Designing Vultron v0.4.0 (2022)



Data Formats

Activity Vocabulary





Integration

 Vultron is not a drop-in replacement for VINCE or any other case trackers



Reference Implementation

- Identity?
- Directory?



Prototype(s)

- ActivityPub
- BehaviorTrees

Community involvement



What you can do next

- √ Ask Questions
- ✓ Read the report
- ✓ Watch the video
- √ Follow the work on **Github**

https://youtu.be/8WiSmhxJ2OM

https://github.com/CERTCC/Vultron
https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/asset_files/SpecialReport/2022_003_001_887202.pdf

Links

Designing Vultron: A Protocol for Multi-Party Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure (MPCVD) (Vultron v0.4.0) CMU/SEI-2022-SR-012

https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/asset_files/SpecialReport/2022_003_001_887202.pdf

Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure User Stories

https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/asset_files/WhitePaper/2022_019_001_887270.pdf

A State-Based Model for Multi-Party Coordinated Vulnerability Disclosure (MPCVD) CMU/SEI-2021-SR-021

https://resources.sei.cmu.edu/asset_files/SpecialReport/2021_003_001_737890.pdf

CERT Guide to CVD CMU/SEI-2017-SR-022

https://vuls.cert.org/confluence/display/CVD

University

For further reading...

I didn't have time to talk about them today, but Vultron and much of my recent work on improving the Vulnerability Response Ecosystem relies on:

- Elinor Ostrom's Core Design Principles for managing common pool resources
- David Sloan Wilson et al's application of them into the group selection and evolution of organizations

Wilson, D.S., Philip, M.M., MacDonald, I.F. et al. Core design principles for nurturing organization-level selection. Sci Rep 10, 13989 (2020). https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-020-70632-8

"It was long unanimously held among economists that natural resources that were collectively used by their users would be over-exploited and destroyed in the long-term. Elinor Ostrom disproved this idea by conducting field studies on how people in small, local communities manage shared natural resources, such as pastures, fishing waters, and forests. She showed that when natural resources are jointly used by their users, in time, rules are established for how these are to be cared for and used in a way that is both economically and ecologically sustainable."

https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/economicsciences/2009/ostrom/facts/