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3:30 pm - 3:50 pm

Supply Chain Detection & Response: Defending Against Evolving Nation-State Threats

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Abstract:

The Indo-Pacific threat landscape is undergoing a rapid transformation, driven by intensifying geopolitical tensions—particularly around the Taiwan Strait—and the increasing activity of state-aligned adversaries. Nation-state actors are moving beyond traditional, direct attack vectors and instead exploiting the weakest link: the supply chain. This evolution represents a strategic shift in targeting, leveraging the interconnectedness of modern ecosystems to achieve broader impact with greater stealth and deniability.

The supply chain in the Indo-Pacific is both wide and complex, encompassing entities ranging from advanced defense contractors and critical infrastructure providers to basic logistics and support suppliers. Each represents a potential entry point for compromise, creating an environment where a single exploited vendor can cascade risk across entire sectors. The lack of holistic visibility into these dependencies magnifies exposure, leaving both private and public organizations vulnerable to disruption, espionage, and coercion.

Supply Chain Detection and Response (SCDR) emerges as a critical paradigm to address this evolving threat. By integrating continuous monitoring, advanced detection of anomalous activity across third-party and fourth-party networks, and intelligence-driven response playbooks, SCDR enables defenders to identify vulnerabilities before adversaries exploit them, disrupt campaigns targeting supplier ecosystems, and strengthen overall resilience.

In the Indo-Pacific theater, Supply Chain Detection and Response (SCDR) offers a critical framework for shifting from reactive defense to proactive risk management. By bridging the gap between threat intelligence, operational security, and strategic resilience, SCDR enables armed forces to safeguard mission readiness, protect defense-industrial supply chains, and maintain operational superiority in the face of evolving nation-state threats.

In this presentation, we will explore the concept of Supply Chain Detection and Response (SCDR) and its implications for defenders—how it strengthens visibility, reduces risk, and transforms supply chain security from a passive challenge into an active defense capability.