

# OPENDXL IN ACTIVE RESPONSE SCENARIOS

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CCD COE



**DEEP**SEC

November 2017

# AGENDA

- Who I am
- Why I am talking about OpenDXL
- How it works
- How we can/could use it
- Proof of Concept
- Conclusion and future work

The word cloud features a variety of technology-related terms. The most prominent words, shown in larger fonts, include 'artificial intelligence', 'machine learning', 'deep learning', 'big data', 'data science', 'fintech', 'chatbots', 'robotics', 'autonomous vehicles', 'VR', 'technology', 'trends', 'startups', 'cloud', 'blockchain', 'cybersecurity', 'nlp', 'devops', 'serverless', 'machine learning', 'disruption', 'self-driving', 'powered', 'autonomous', 'big data', 'next-gen', 'rise', 'bot', 'trends', 'iots', 'ie', 'chatbots', 'blockchain', 'vr', 'artificial intelligence', 'nlp', 'healthcare', 'humans', 'ie', 'cx', 'spdc', 'disruptive', 'future of work', 'google's', 'blockchain', 'drones', 'machine learning', 'watson', 'industry 4.0', 'digital transformation', 'ai's', 'robots', 'technologies', 'learning', 'python', 'iotw17', 'cloud', 'data-driven', 'real-time', 'robot', 'm2m', 'self-driving', 'deep', 'cognitive', 'algorithms', 'network', 'learning', 'python', 'iotw17', 'cloud', 'data-driven', 'real-time', 'robot', 'm2m', 'self-driving', 'deep', 'cognitive', 'algorithms', 'network'. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with a red diagonal line crossing through the center. The words are in various colors and sizes, representing their frequency or importance.

# ABOUT MYSELF



ANDMEKAITSE INSPEKTSIOON

TELE2

cert ee



CCDCOE

NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence  
Centre of Excellence  
Tallinn, Estonia

# **IN RESPONSE TO KEYNOTE - THAT WAS OUR AWARENESS RISING CAMPAIGN!**



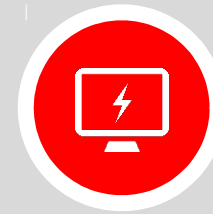
# ABOUT CCDCOE



RESEARCH



TRAINING



EXERCISE

T E C H N O L O G Y

S T R A T E G Y

O P E R A T I O N S

L A W



# RESEARCH AREAS



*Image copyright: [www.militaryaerospace.com](http://www.militaryaerospace.com)*



# CLOSER TO THE TOPIC



**LOCKED**  
SHIELDS



**CROSSED**  
SWORDS

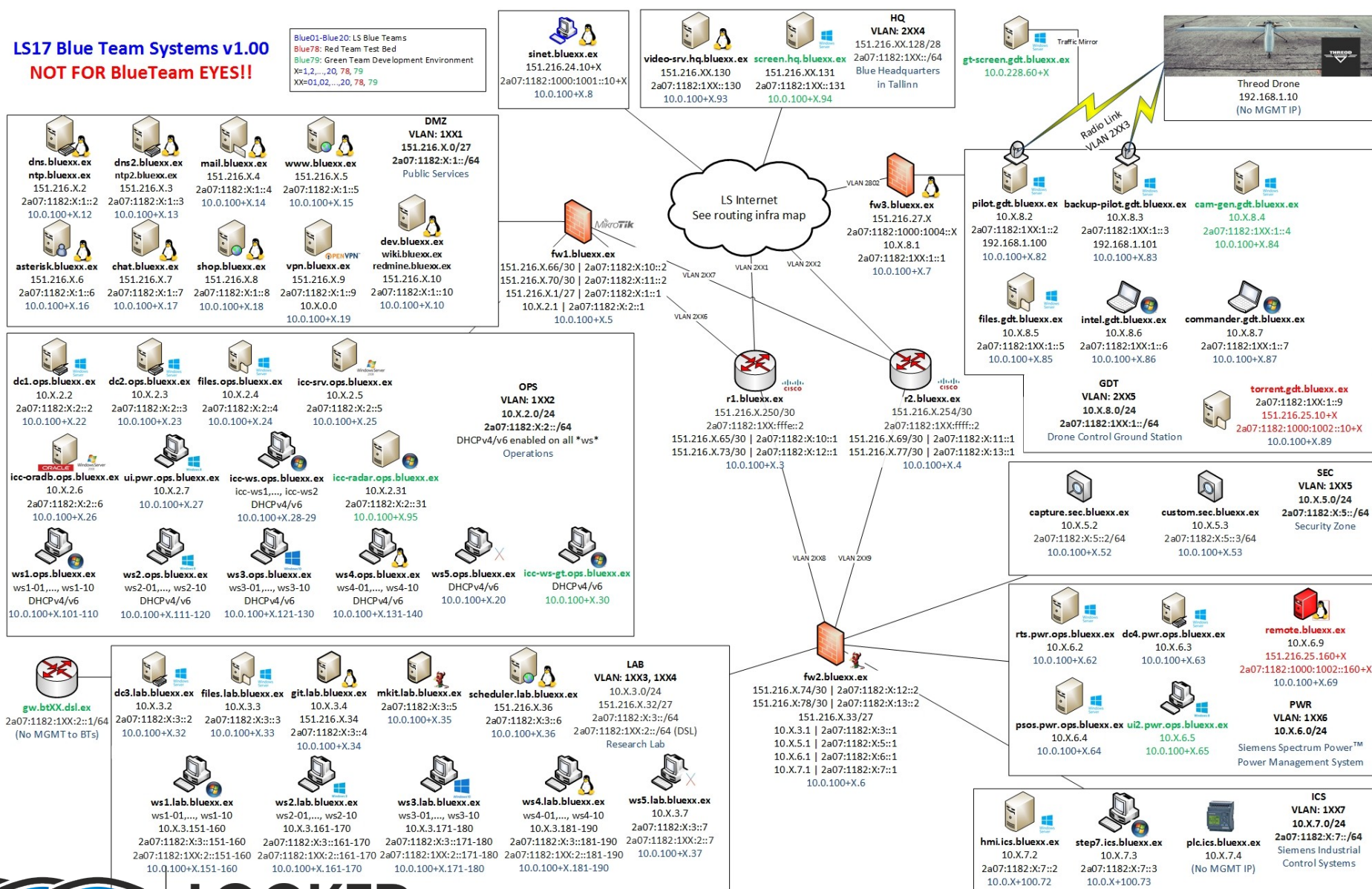




# CLOSER TO THE TOPIC

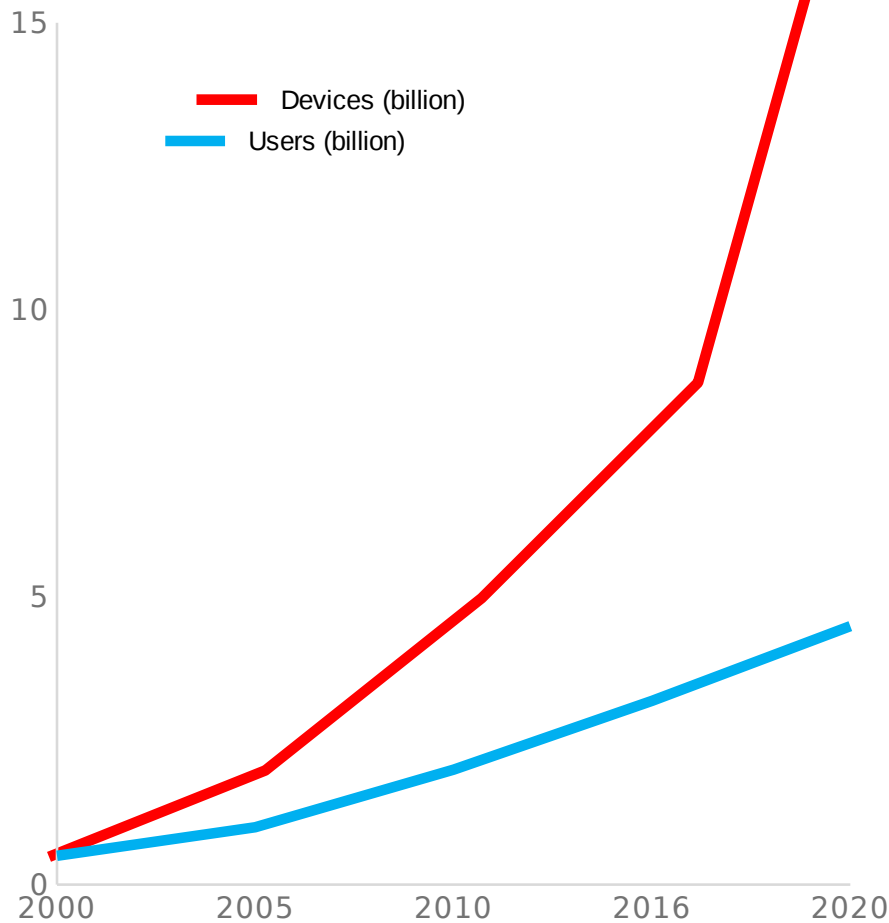
## LS17 Blue Team Systems v1.00 NOT FOR BlueTeam EYES!!

Blue01-Blue20: LS Blue Teams  
Blue78: Red Team Test Bed  
Blue79: Green Team Development Environment  
X=1,2,...,20, 78, 79  
XX=01,02,...,20, 78, 79



LOCKED  
SHIELDS

# GROWTH OF CYBERSPACE



**95**

Countries developing legislative initiatives

**77**

Countries with national cybersecurity strategies

**17**

Countries with declared offensive capabilities

**20+**

Cyber commands

# SHOULD WANT MUST ...

## NETWORK SECURITY



What my friends think I do



What my mom thinks I do



What society thinks I do



What the end users think I do



What I think I do

|               |           |            |          |
|---------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| Success Audit | 4/10/2009 | 1:06:32 AM | Security |
| Failure Audit | 1/10/2007 | 1:06:32 AM | Security |
| Failure Audit | 4/10/2009 | 1:06:32 AM | Security |
| Failure Audit | 4/10/2009 | 1:06:32 AM | Security |
| Failure Audit | 1/10/2007 | 1:06:32 AM | Security |
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| Failure Audit | 1/10/2007 | 1:06:32 AM | Security |
| Failure Audit | 4/10/2009 | 1:06:32 AM | Security |
| Failure Audit | 4/10/2009 | 1:06:32 AM | Security |

What I actually do

# SUMMARIZING INTRO

- We are daily handling large amount of events and incidents with various tools and appliances
- Integration “could be better” (=it should not take hundreds of man hours to make things work together)
- Evolution makes keeping integrated stuff working together harder
- We are short of time and people

# ACTIVE RESPONSE

- Security incident flow orchestration tools have arrived!
- What about active response, what is it?
  - Is it about blocking?
  - Is it about deception?
  - Is it about attribution?
  - Is it about getting even?
  - Is it about getting “our stuff back”?

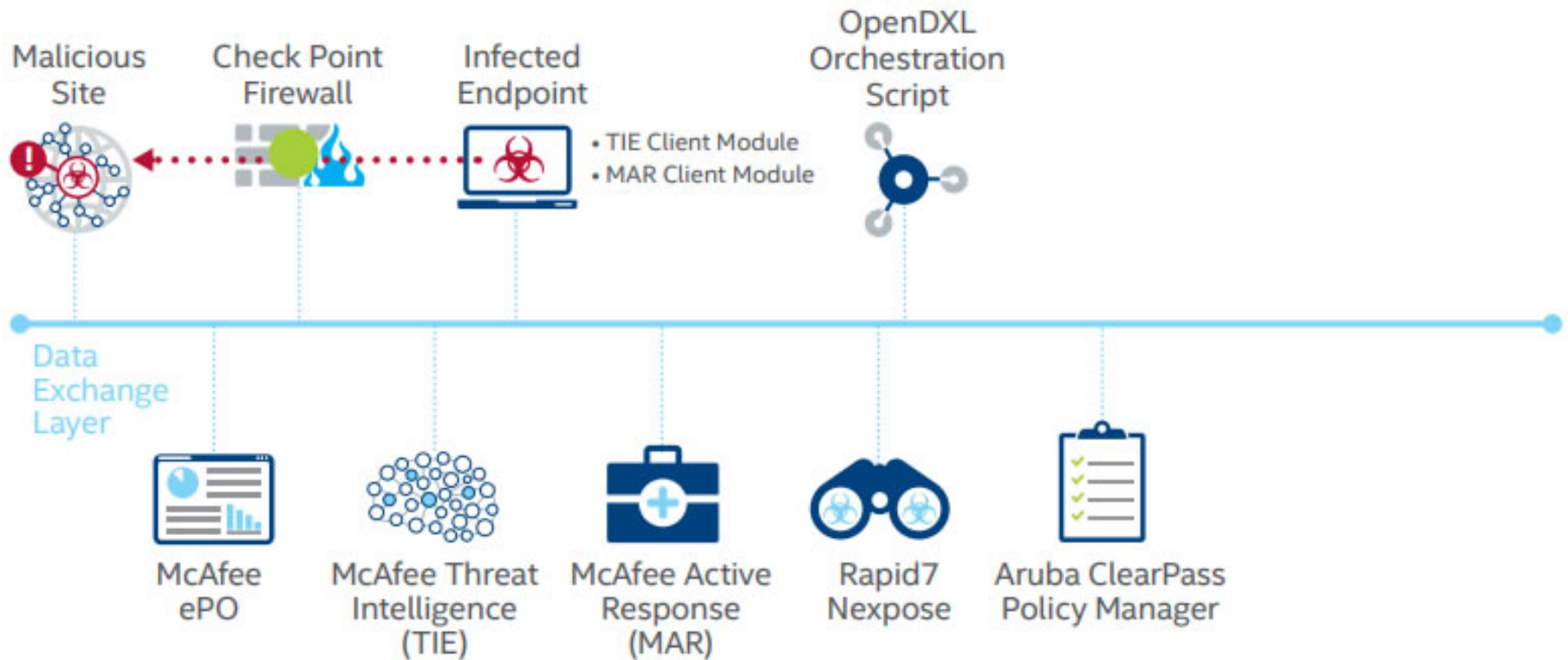
# ACTIVE PROTECTION

According to Christopher Ensey 2 there are six conditions to be met in order to have active protection in place:

1. Centralized event management
2. Analytics
3. Open APIs
4. Dynamic infrastructure.
5. The Human element
6. Complete visibility

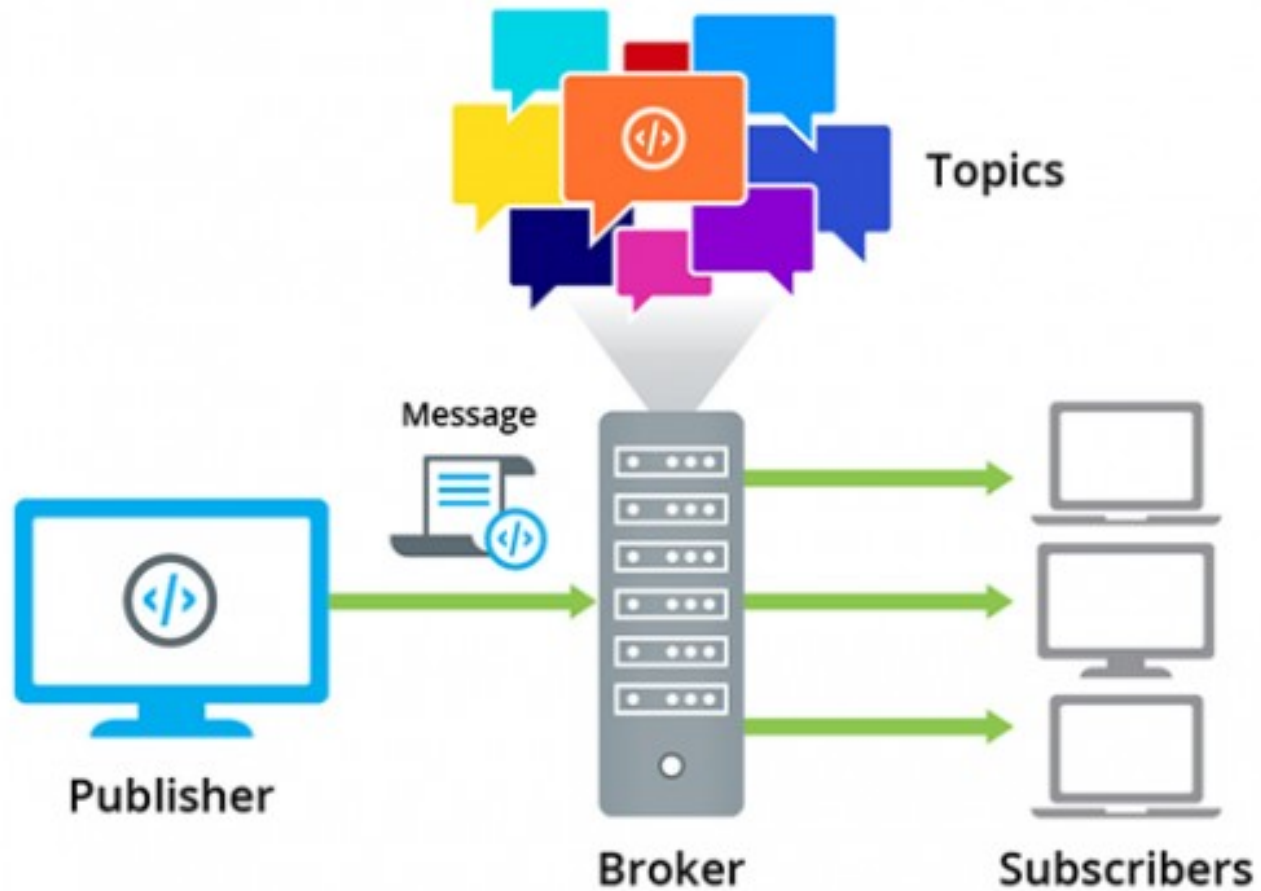


# SURPRISING MOVE FROM THE INDUSTRY



Picture copyright: McAfee

# OPEN ARCHITECTURE



*Picture copyright: McAfee*

# **“OPEN” IN OPENDXL**

- Based on open standard protocol: MQTT
- No implementation guidelines
  - No rules or registry for central element – topic
- Client libraries on GitHub
- Broker as Docker image

# CORE: MQTT

- Connected clients may subscribe to the data paths (topics) and process the data received from there however they see fit, clients can also publish data
- Goals: speed and reliability
- Feature: since queuing is not required to be supported as a standard feature you'll miss the messages if you are off-line
  - Logger/historian type of service could be useful ...

In depth: “Exploiting IoT's MQTT Protocol by (Moshe Zioni)”

# SECURITY

- **Security is the “S” in IoT ;-)**
- TLS securing communication
- Topic based access
- PKI infrastructure for authentication
  - Challenge: setting up and maintaining your own CA
  - Challenge: deal with compromised client on CA level

## OPTION 1. ORCHESTRATION

- Transmitted data is interpreted same way by all parties
- Interface to control the systems/devices
- Workflow design challenges and opportunities
- Good birds eye view of the events
- Many HUGE! mistakes can be avoided



## OPTION 2. INDEPENDENT AGENTS

- Can be deployed quickly
- Requires support from appliance/application/system
- Anarchy in MQTT topics can be a blocking point
- BAD things can (and will) happen
- It is good starting point though ...

# OPTION 1. IN MQTT LANGUAGE

## Orchestrated

/mcafee/service/tie/cert/reputation/get

/mcafee/service/tie/cert/reputation/set

/mcafee/service/tie/file/reputation/get

/mcafee/service/tie/file/reputation/set

/mcafee/service/tie/file/url/reputation/add

... etc ...

PS! Concept is not so different from RESTful API, example: /v2/hash/:hash

# OPTION 2. IN MQTT LANGUAGE

## Independent

/feed/bad/ipv4

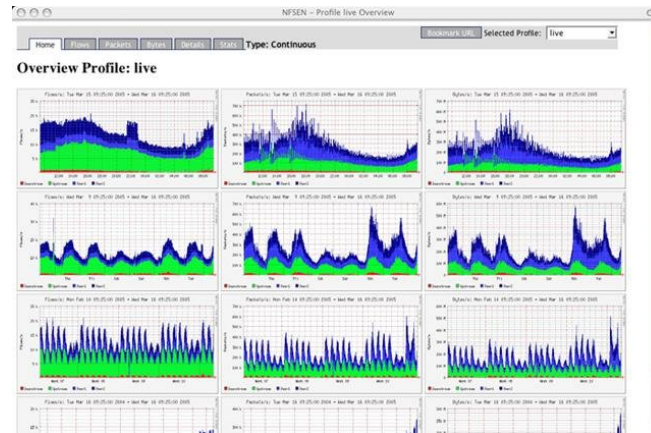
/feed/bad/ipv6

/feed/compromised/ipv4

/feed/compromised/ipv6

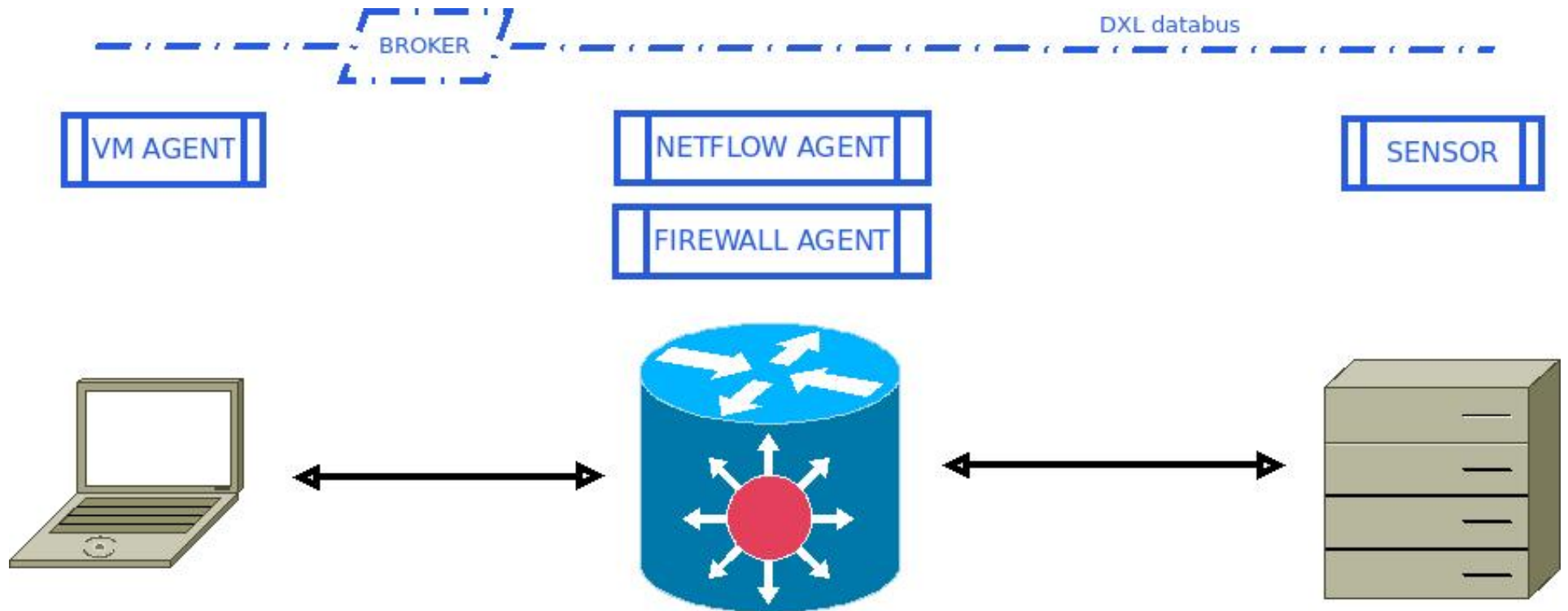
... etc ...

# PROOF OF CONCEPT



VirtualBox

# PROOF OF CONCEPT



# SETTING UP BROKER

- NB! we will **not** be using any McAfee commercial products
- The Docker is required in our broker machine
- It'll take about 5 minutes to set up the broker (*the coffee machine is far away @ office ...*)



# FIREWALL AGENT

- Simple Python interface to Linux iptables
- Respond to events emitted in topics:
  - /feed/bad/ipv4
  - /feed/bad/ipv6
- Apply DENY rule

# NETFLOW AGENT

- Python interface to open source tool nfdump
- React to events by looking up records for current day:
  - /feed/bad/ipv4
  - /feed/bad/ipv6
- by looking up records for current day and emitting event (only if match is found) with:
  - /feed/compromised/ipv4
  - /feed/compromised/ipv6

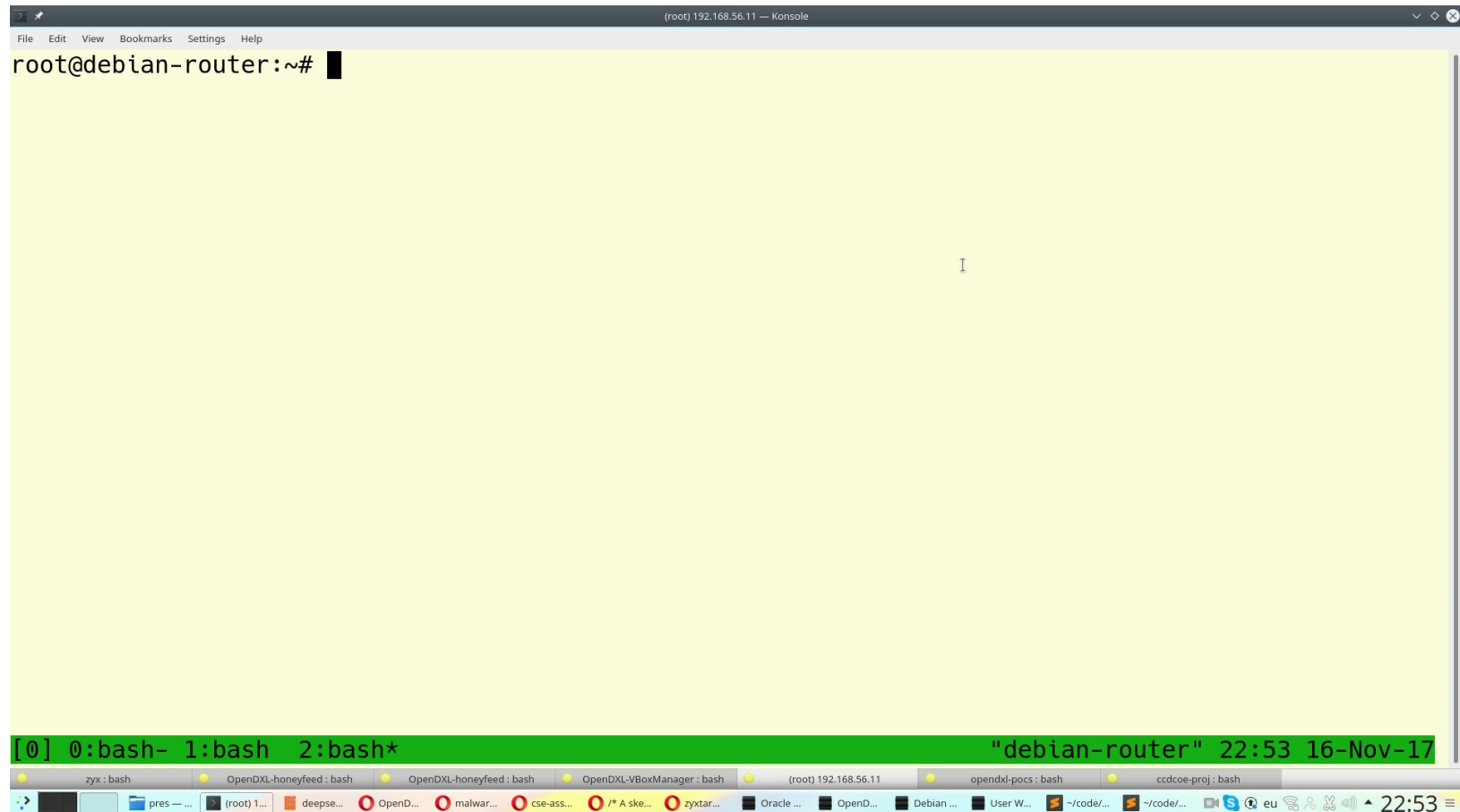
# **“BADNESS” SENSOR AGENT**

- (Really) simple Python logtailer
- Collect *3v1/* IPs from file and emit:
  - /feed/bad/ipv4
  - /feed/bad/ipv6

# VM MANAGING AGENT

- Python interface to Virtualbox manager
- React to events:
  - /feed/compromised/ipv4
  - /feed/compromised/ipv6
- by looking up IP matches from internal dictionary and reverting machine to known good state.

# RESULT



# CONCLUSION

- Great technology to keep an eye on
- Can be a bit challenging to deploy on large installations
- Topic use needs to be regulated to at least two levels from “root”
- Once the OpenDXL data bus client is compromised it can be hard to detect and mitigate, meanwhile adversary has in-depth look of security databus
- Time will tell if the industry goes with the trend
- Go Play with it!
  - <https://github.com/opendxl>
  - <https://github.com/zyxtarmo/opendxl-pocs>



**THANK YOU!**

Research on  
Automated Active Response Orchestration  
using OpenDXL will be completed 2018

*Ping me if you are interested*