Newsletter N.8

Dear Reader,
continues the proposal of some topics from the ongoing experimentation in the ANITA project. Still in the foreground the component of automatic analysis of textual content (NLP/NLU) this time applied to the identification of interesting insights for LEAs resulting from a cross analysis of the surface and deep Web.

OPEN A DARK WEB WINDOW ON THE SURFACE WEB!

The difficulty in retrieving activities and account information on the dark web is a recurrent problem that limits the investigations of the law enforcement agencies. Even when a nickname has been found, there's the need (and the challenge) from investigators to link it with a plethora of other information that usually is not present on the dark nets themselves.

But what if they were on the surface net? If the user hidden behind that nickname was active on the surface with the same nickname, where would he be found?

The ANITA crawler, developed by Expert System, runs in support of this dilemma: it provides specific services to investigate the social platforms that are best suited to the proliferation of illegal activities on the surface web, such as Twitter and Reddit, and has a keyword search service that filters the contents based on the thematic areas of interest (drug trafficking, weapons, financing for terrorism)!

The matching of the surface profile with the one retrieved on the dark web is supported both by the reputational factor (from studies performed, it is found that a vendor tends to keep the same username on various platforms in order to gain visibility a wider spectrum of sources) and by the "author identification" system (cf. newsletter 5).

On Twitter and Reddit, starting from the username, it is possible to retrieve information about the vendor's account (account creation date, profile picture, e-mail address and so on) and the contents (text and multimedia) shared on the platform. This data allows the system to profile the vendor, and to intercept explicit or implicit references to the illegal activities he's pursuing and the network of other actors involved in them!

Finding out what a vendor's interests are, who he attends and maybe what he eats...

Sometimes it can turn out to be very useful! ☺

UPCOMING EVENTS

The planned dissemination and training events are suspended. The new dates will be communicated as soon as possible.
An updated list with all dissemination activities is available here: https://www.anita-project.eu/events.html

Last Articles & Publications

Article in Journal	Design Principles for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR): a Formal Concept Analysis and its Evaluation	10.1016/j.is.2019.101469	D. A. Tamburri	Elsevier Information Systems Vol. 91	November 2019	https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306437919305216?via%3Dihub
Article in Journal	Implicit and Explicit Regularization for Optical Flow Estimation	10.3390/s20143855	Karageorgos, K.; Dimou, A.; Alvarez, F.; Daras, P.	Sensors - MDPI.com	June 2020	https://www.mdpi.com/1424-8220/20/14/3855

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