

THREATCONNECT® AND ACTRA EDITION

The Arizona Cyber Threat Response Alliance, Inc., (ACTRA), consisting of public and private sector members ranging from Fortune 100 companies through mid-market organizations, chose ThreatConnect's "Information Sharing and Analysis Organization (ISAO)/Information Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) Edition" to facilitate the sharing of important cyber threat information amongst its membership. Today ACTRA's membership represents public and private entities across 14 "USDHS Designated Critical Sectors" in multiple states, those with critical intellectual property and those having significant economic impact if compromised. ACTRA is independent of, but closely affiliated with, the FBI's Arizona InfraGard Membership Alliance, serving as its "operational cyber arm."

About the ACTRA

ACTRA serves as the hub for collaborative cyber information sharing in a neutral environment of trust where partners from industry, academia, law enforcement, and intelligence come together, leveraging cross-sector resources to more effectively analyze critical, real-time intelligence and respond to emerging cyber threats to Arizona's critical infrastructure and key resources.

The Problem: No Safe Way to Collect and Share Cyber Threat Information

ACTRA set out to find a solution to share important threat data with its membership. Due to the complexity and confidential nature of cyber threats, ACTRA established a list of requirements that needed to be met prior to service selection.

"We needed a solution that would allow our vetted private and public sector members to share threat information so we could strengthen our ability to respond to threats together."

Frank J. Grimmelmann
President & CEO/Intelligence Liaison Officer
ACTRA

ACTRA chose the ThreatConnect ISAO edition because of its strength in meeting or exceeding members' requirements. ACTRA assigned a staff member to develop, maintain, and lead recruiting for the ThreatConnect ISAC/ISAO group. Due to the confidential nature of some cyber threats, members are asked to accept a code of conduct, and also join the FBI's InfraGard Program as a minimum threshold. By carefully vetting members and asking them to agree to minimum standards to participate, ACTRA ensured that the membership would only consist of high-quality participants with vested interest in preserving the region's critical infrastructure/key resources and protecting our national security interests.

Community Advantages

- > Private member collaboration environment
- > Anonymous member information sharing
- > Document and threat indicator storage
- > Membership growth scalability
- > Support from a leading threat intelligence research team
- > User-level access control

Member Requirements

- > Advanced analytics
- > Community notifications
- > API access to community intelligence
- > Automated response actions
- > Access to other threat intelligence communities
- > On-boarding support/training

Provider Technology Requirements

- > Multi-source intelligence data aggregation
- > Analytic features to produce actionable intelligence
- > Workflow development support
- > Critical analytic task prioritization
- > Secure, easy to administer, and reliable

How ThreatConnect® Solved the Problem

ThreatConnect's ISAO/ISAC edition allowed ACTRA to provide a single Threat Intelligence Platform (TIP) for its membership to aggregate their threat data, analyze a complex set of indicators, and take corrective action against their adversaries. Members are able to maximize the value of their existing individual and collective adversary knowledge. Using the various monitoring and alerting features for domain names, and Whois Registrations, members are able to automatically track and be alerted to new adversary actions, rather than having to manually search for them. Once alerted, the member has the ability to act on the community-based intelligence, seamlessly integrating actions into their network defense products. ACTRA has taken workforce development within its membership to a new level, through the creation of the ACTRA Cybersecurity Threat Intelligence Academy in 2015, a highly focused, multi-month, hands-on embedded threat intelligence training program with the Threat Connect Platform providing its foundation.

The ThreatConnect® Edge

ThreatConnect enables community members to pool their threat intelligence and their resources. As a result, community members are seeing an improvement in the protection of their assets, key resources, and region's critical infrastructure. With ThreatConnect, key private and public sector, and agency and intelligence stakeholders are able to focus on bringing in intelligence that matters to them from multiple sources, automate tracking of adversary infrastructure, allow contributions from their regional community peers, and benefit from research contributed by ThreatConnect. The member — and broader — stakeholders are now able to take a proactive stance against different adversaries, having extensive detection in place before they are targeted.

ThreatConnect® Enables Proactive Network Defense

ThreatConnect helped the ACTRA members to aggregate their threat data.

The membership now has one platform to aggregate all of their intelligence sources, share what they know about the threats they are seeing, collaborate with others for greater situational awareness about each adversary, and make it possible to track and follow only the most relevant and actionable data, while retaining alignment of all stakeholders' interests.

ThreatConnect eliminated working in a vacuum.

Members' existing knowledge of threat groups was limited to information they individually collected, and limited to taking action only after targeting occurred. They are now able to share information and effectively track and proactively protect their networks collectively and collaboratively.

ThreatConnect provides the ability to enrich and deeply analyze shared threat intelligence.

Because of stakeholders' participation in the community, they are able to get specific and relevant information on a threat group targeting entities, and proactively establish workflows to preempt a threat infiltrating their network.

With ThreatConnect®, the Community Membership Works More Intelligently

Learn more about how ThreatConnect can help your organization or community aggregate threat data, analyze and track specific threat information, and take action to defend your network. Sign up for a free account to get started at www.threatconnect.com.

To learn more about how agencies use ThreatConnect to secure their mission, click here:

<https://threatconnect.com/federal-state-local-government/>

To visit our ISAC & ISAO press release, please click here:

<https://www.threatconnect.com/press-releases/threatconnect-inc-announces-free-edition-for-isac-and-isao/>