

UNDERSTANDING ATTACK SURFACE MANAGEMENT SEEDS

What are Seeds?

Seeds are entities that Mandiant Advantage Attack Surface Management (MA-ASM) uses to start a data collection run. MA-ASM takes each Seed as a starting point and recursively analyzes all other Entities that are related to that Seed, adding each Entity that is encountered to the Collection.

When adding a Seed to a Collection, both the value and the type must be provided. MA-ASM uses this pairing to determine how to analyze this Seed and enumerate Entities from it. For example, if you add the domain `mandiant.com` as a Seed, then select `Domain` as the Seed type. If you want to refer to a website, you must provide the full URL of `http://www.mandiant.com` (including the prefix `http://`) and select the Seed type `Uri`.

For more specific information about the Seeds available in MA-ASM, see [Seed Examples](#).

The best Seeds for starting a new Collection

Domains and netblocks are the best types of Seeds to start with. This is because many child Entities can be discovered through enumeration. If resources and time allow, adding all known entities that belong to your organization is even better.

The more known entities that are provided to start, the better the scoping works. MA-ASM assigns a confidence rating to each Entity that is found, and automatically determines whether it is in scope or out of scope. By having more defined data points (in this case, Seeds that are in scope) the accuracy of the system goes up.



Keyword searches in MA-ASM may return results that are not directly related to an organization. As a result, Entities, such as domain Entities, are marked as out of scope (`scoped:false`). When using keyword Seeds, you need to review Entities to identify those of interest. To bring an Entity into scope (`scoped:true`), you must add the Entity to a Collection with the appropriate Seed type: Domain or IP address.

For more information about Seeds, see [Collections Tips and Tricks \(https://docs.mandiant.com/home/asm-collections-tips-and-tricks\)](https://docs.mandiant.com/home/asm-collections-tips-and-tricks).

Seed Examples

The following tables list the name, the description, and a sample value for each Seed type in MA-ASM. All sample entries are in the format that you'd enter them, unless you see **or**, which means there are two samples provided.

Active Seeds

Seed Type	Description	Sample Values
DnsRecord	DNS record	<code>est.acme.com</code>
Domain	Top-Level Domain (TLD)	<code>acme.com</code>
GithubAccount	Account in GitHub	<code>https://github.com/acme</code>
GithubRepository	Repository in GitHub	<code>https://github.com/acme/acme-core</code>
IpAddress	IP address, either IPv4 or IPv6	<code>1.1.1.1</code> or <code>3FFE:FFFF:7654:FEDA:1245:BA98:3210:4562</code>

Seed Type	Description	Sample Values
Nameserver	Domain Name Server (DNS), either fully-qualified domain name (FQDN) or IP address	ns1.acme.com or 2.2.2.2
NetBlock	A block of IP addresses (IPv4) in CIDR notation	1.1.1.1/24
UniqueKeyword	Globally unique keyword that can be reliably searched for	Acme
Uri	Link to a website or a webpage	https://acme.com

Legacy Seeds

These seeds have been deprecated, but may still be seen in MA-ASM as part of [Legacy Collections](https://docs.mandiant.com/home/asm-create-a-collection#legacy) (<https://docs.mandiant.com/home/asm-create-a-collection#legacy>).



Seed Type	Description	Sample Values
ApiEndpoint	HTTP-based API endpoint	https://app.acme.com/api
AutonomousSystem	An autonomous system number (AsNumber)	AS1234
AwsS3Bucket	AWS S3 bucket	publicfiles-acme
EmailAddress	Email address	no-reply@acme.com
UniqueToken	API key or analytics ID	UA-34505845