USING THE MITRE ATT&CK FRAMEWORK TO ANALYZE THREAT ACTORS & MALWARE

Mandiant Advantage Threat Intelligence (MATI) allows you to explore Threat Actors and Malware on the basis of the **MITRE ATT&CK® Framework (https://attack.mitre.org/)**. Analyzing Threat Actors and Malware this way helps you explore threats in terms of adversary Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) based on real-world observations.

In the MITRE ATT&CK Framework:

- **Tactics (https://attack.mitre.org/tactics/enterprise/)** represent the route or path of a MITRE ATT&CK technique or sub-technique, which is the tactical goal (*why*) of an adversary.
- **Techniques and sub-techniques (https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/enterprise/)** represent *how* an adversary achieves a tactical goal by performing an action.

MATI currently supports MITRE ATT&CK version 8 (v8).

After reading this article, you will be able to:

- **Discover how to analyze Threat Actors and their associated TTPs** by focusing on use cases for tightening your security controls throughout the attack lifecycle.
- **Test your defenses against specific Malware or Threat Actors** directly in the Mandiant Security Validation (MSV) platform if you have a subscription.
- **Learn how to explore specific Malware families** , using the role of Backdoor as an example filter.

Video: Explore MITRE ATT&CK

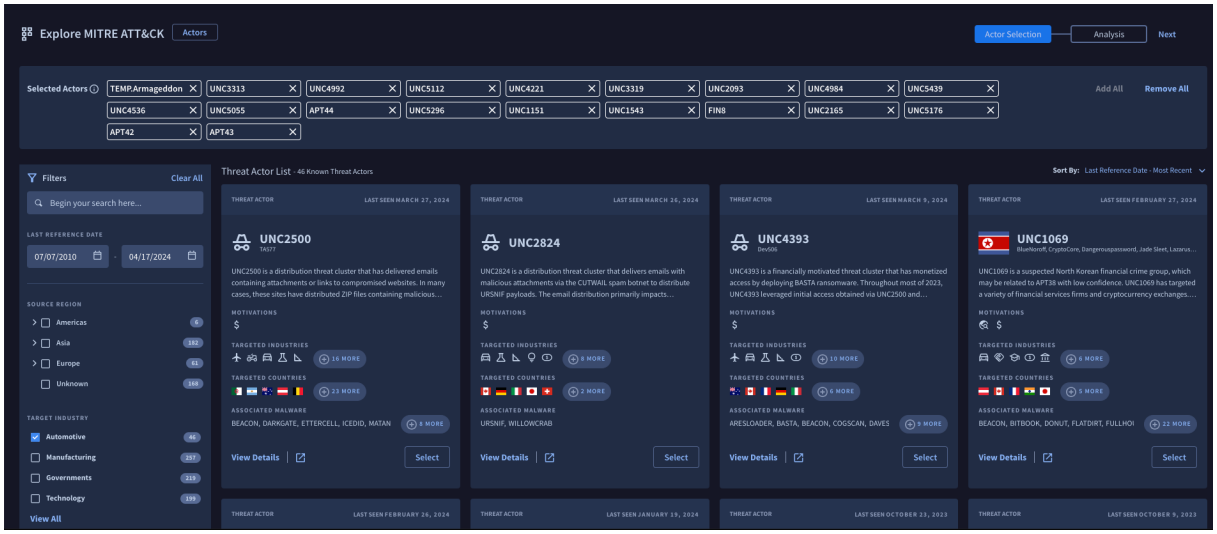
Analyze Threat Actors using the Explore MITRE ATT&CK Dashboard

For example, say you want to explore the TTPs associated with five Actors recently observed targeting the automotive industry:

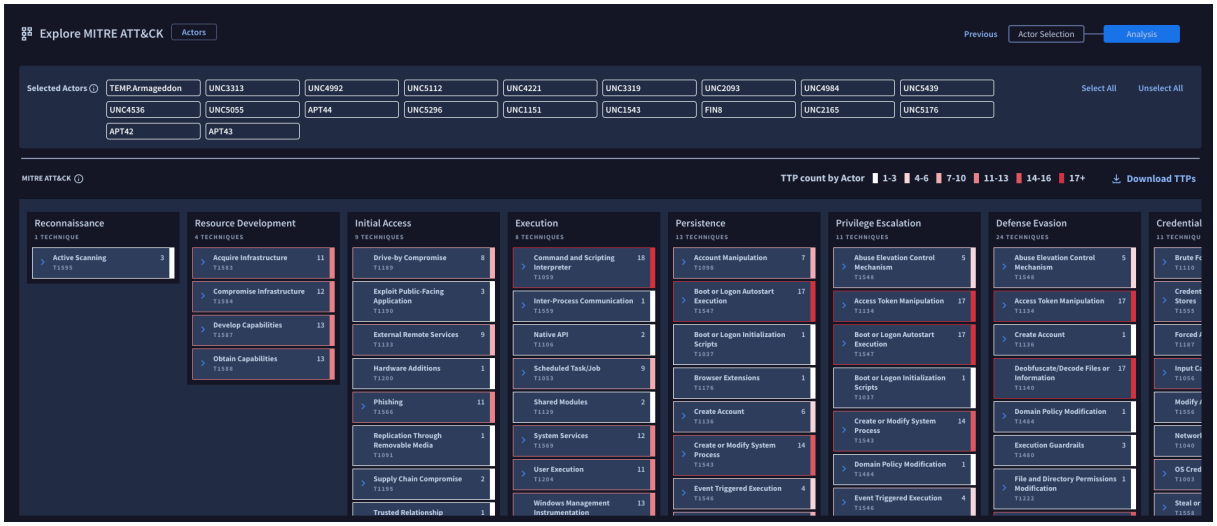
- UNC2500
- UNC2633
- UNC2824
- UNC4705
- UNC2529

To filter and analyze Threat Actors

1. Select **Explore > MITRE ATT&CK** to go to the Explore MITRE ATT&CK dashboard
2. Choose **Actors** from the drop-down. This displays all Actors currently tracked by Mandiant.
3. Select **Automotive** from the list of **TARGET INDUSTRY** filters to narrow your search.
4. Sort the resulting **Actors List** by **Last Seen - Most Recent**.



5. Click **Analysis** or **Next** to populate the MITRE ATT&CK heat map with TTPs specific to the **Selected Actors**.



If more than one Actor is selected and analyzed as per the MITRE ATT&CK framework, the heat map shows the number of selected Actors associated with each technique or sub-technique to aid in prioritizing mitigation efforts. If there are multiple sub-techniques associated with a technique, an expander arrow can be clicked to reveal them. Clicking directly on either a technique or a sub-technique provides a brief description.

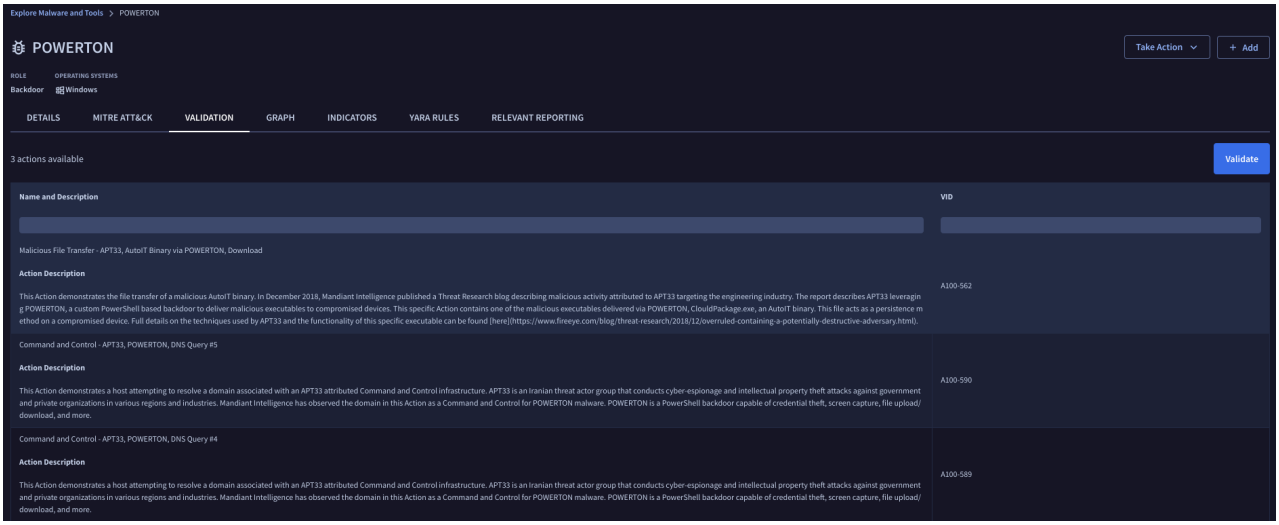
> You can select and de-select **Actors** on the heat map page itself to easily compare Actor TTPs within the heat map view.

Testing defenses against Threat Actors

If you have a Security Validation subscription, selecting either a technique or a sub-technique also provides a list of Actions that can be used in the Security Validation platform to test your defenses against it. Click the expander arrow (>) to review the description of each Action.

> You can only view **Validations** if you have a Security Validation subscription.

Click **Validate** to pivot directly to the Security Validation platform and test your defenses.



Download the MITRE ATT&CK heat map as a CSV

You can download the MITRE ATT&CK (multi-actor) heat map as a CSV file for further analysis by clicking **Download TTPs**. This allows you to filter and sort heat map data to aid in prioritizing mitigation efforts. For example, you can filter on specific techniques or sub-techniques for a given MITRE Category Name (or, tactic), and then sort Actor(s) Usage Count to focus on the most commonly used techniques.

The following fields are included in the exported CSV file:

- MITRE Category Name
- Technique ID
- Technique Name
- Sub-Technique IDs
- Sub-Technique Names
- Actor(s) usage count
- Actor 1
- Actor 2
- Actor 3

Analyze Malware using the Explore MITRE ATT&CK Dashboard

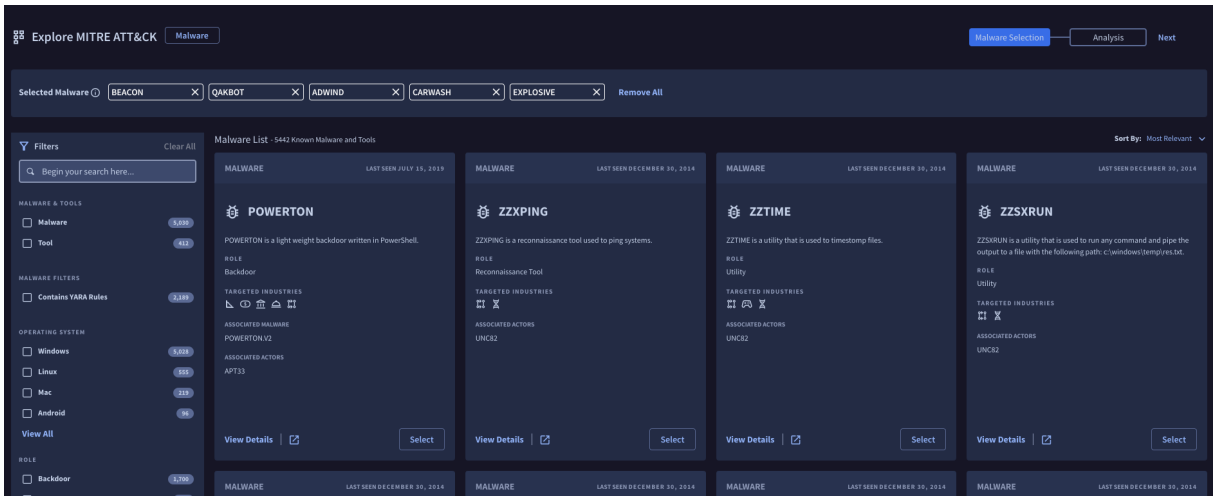
The workflow for exploring Malware is similar to exploring Actors, but with different filtering options. For example, suppose a recent report noted an increased use of backdoor Malware in your industry. A vulnerability scan of Malware in your environment included the following Malware families, so you want to explore them further to understand your associated risk:

- BEACON
- QAKBOT
- ADWIND
- CARWASH
- EXPLOSIVE

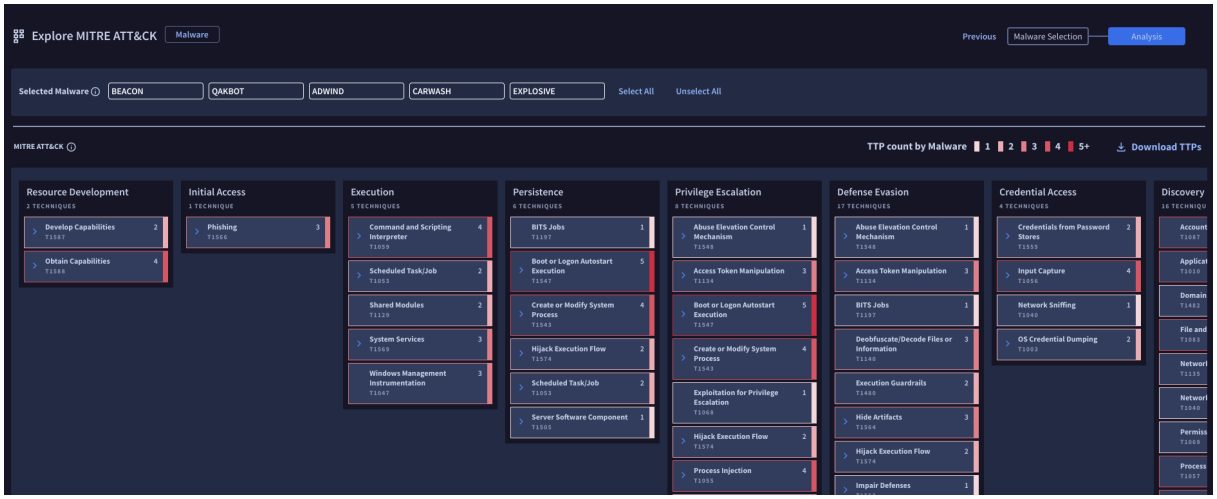
To filter and analyze malware

1. Select **Explore > MITRE ATT&CK** to go to the Explore MITRE ATT&CK dashboard
2. Choose **Malware** from the drop-down.

3. Select **Backdoor** from the list of **ROLE** filters.
4. Select the five Malware families noted in your vulnerability scan.



5. Click **Analysis** or **Next** to populate the MITRE ATT&CK heat map with TTPs specific to the selected Malware.



You can select and de-select **Malware** on the heat map page itself to easily compare **Malware** TTPs within the heat map view.

If more than one Malware is selected and analyzed in the MITRE ATT&CK framework, a heat map displays the number of selected Malware associated with each technique or sub-technique. As with Threat Actors, if you have a subscription to Security Validation and you click on a technique or sub-technique, you can pivot directly to the Security Validation platform to test your defenses against it. Again, you can download the heat map as a CSV for further analysis to aid in prioritizing mitigation efforts against the selected Malware.