



# The Cognito automated threat detection and response platform

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Finds active cyberattackers inside cloud, data center and enterprise environments
- Automates security investigations with conclusive answers
- Persistently tracks threats across all phases of attack
- Monitors all traffic – internal and internet
- Analyzes logs from security systems, authentication systems and SaaS applications
- Covers all devices – any operating system, BYOD and IoT
- Secures all infrastructures – physical and virtual
- Integrates with leading SIEMs, firewalls, NAC, and endpoint solutions

Cognito™ from Vectra® is the fastest, most efficient way to find and stop cyberattackers in public clouds, private data centers and enterprise environments. It uses artificial intelligence to deliver real-time attack visibility and put attack details at your fingertips to empower immediate action.

By combining advanced machine learning techniques – including deep learning and neural networks – with always-learning behavioral models, Cognito quickly and efficiently finds hidden and unknown attackers before they do damage.

Cognito provides enterprise-wide visibility into hidden cyberattackers by analyzing all network traffic and logs from security systems, authentication systems and SaaS applications. This leaves attackers with nowhere to hide – from cloud and data center workloads to user and IoT devices.

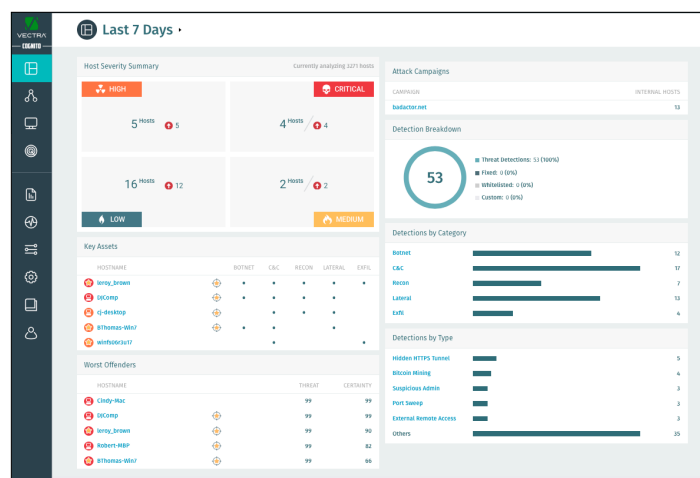
As part of the Cognito subscription, software updates with new threat detection algorithms are delivered to customers on a regular basis to ensure they are continuously protected from the latest advanced threats.

## Security analyst in software

Cognito automates the hunt for cyberattackers, shows where they're hiding and tells you what they're doing. The highest-risk threats are instantly triaged, correlated to hosts and prioritized so security teams can respond faster to stop in-progress attacks and avert data loss.

By automating the manual, time-consuming analysis of security events, Cognito condenses weeks or months of work into minutes and reduces the security-analyst workload on threat investigations by 29x.

This enables security operations teams that are understaffed and under siege to stay ahead of cyberattackers and respond faster to hidden threats.



Attacker detections are instantly prioritized, scored and correlated to compromised host devices

## How Cognito works

### VECTRA ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE



- Network traffic
- System, auth and SaaS logs
- IoCs (STIX)

- Machine learning
- Behavioral analytics
- Network effect

- Triage and correlate threats to hosts
- Prioritize hosts by risk
- Uncover attack campaigns

- Intuitive UI with rich context
- Enable automated response
- Firewall, endpoint, SIEM and NAC integration

### Rich metadata

Cognito gives you real-time visibility into network traffic by extracting metadata from packets rather than performing deep packet inspection, enabling protection without prying.

Metadata analysis is applied to all internal (east-west) traffic, Internet-bound (north-south) traffic, virtual infrastructure, and cloud computing environment. Cognito identifies, tracks, and scores every IP-enabled device inside the network.

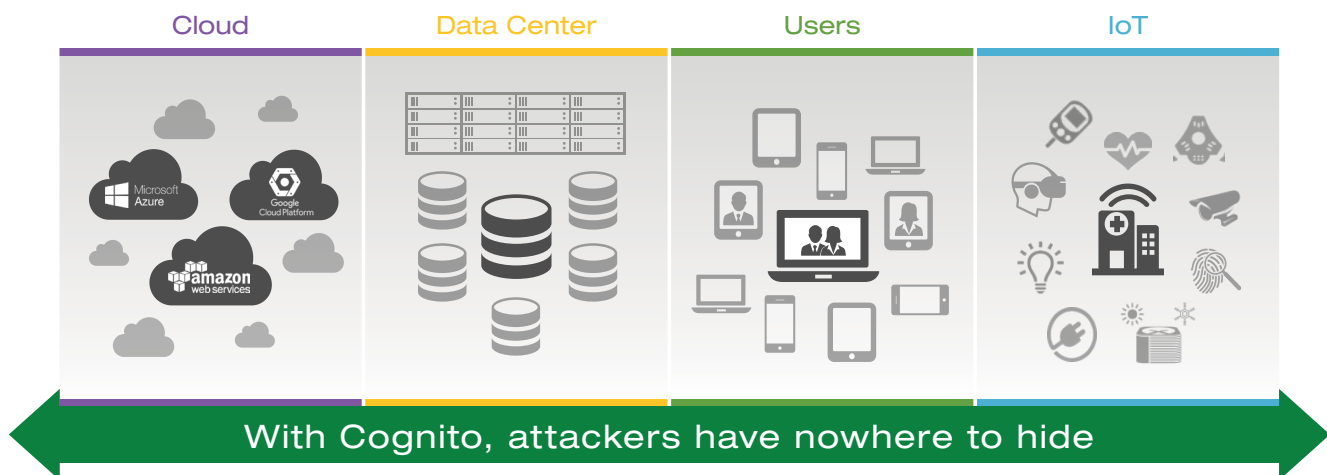
This visibility extends to laptops, servers, printers, BYOD and IoT devices as well as all operating systems and applications, including traffic between virtual workloads in data centers and the cloud, even SaaS applications.

System, authentication and SaaS logs provide context enrichment to network metadata analysis for accurate identification of systems and users.

Cognito uses STIX threat intelligence to detect threats based on known indicators of compromise derived from threat intelligence. These are correlated with other attacker behaviors to ensure pinpoint accuracy of host threat and certainty scores to prioritize risk.

### Identify attacker behaviors

The collected metadata is analyzed with behavioral detection algorithms that spot hidden and unknown attackers. This exposes fundamental attacker behaviors in network traffic, such as remote access tools, hidden tunnels, backdoors, credential abuse, and internal reconnaissance and lateral movement.



Cognito provides threat detection coverage across the entire enterprise

Cognito continuously learns your local environment and tracks all physical and virtual hosts to reveal signs of compromised devices and insider threats. A wide range of cyberthreats are automatically detected in all phases of the attack kill-chain, including:

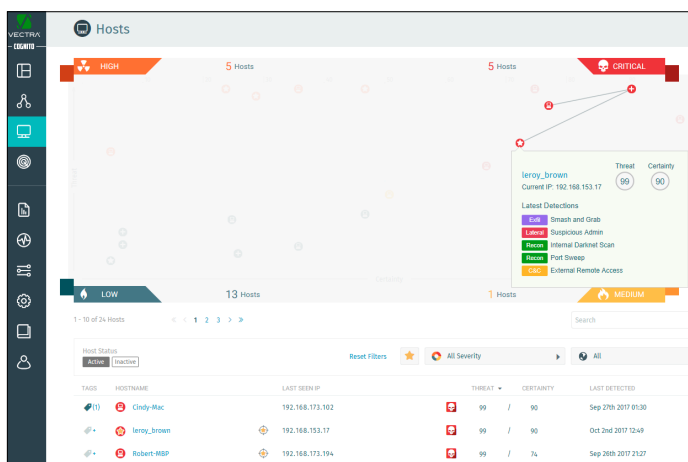
- Command-and-control and other hidden communications
- Internal reconnaissance
- Lateral movement
- Abuse of account credentials
- Data exfiltration
- Early indicators of ransomware activity
- Botnet monetization
- Attack campaigns, including the mapping of all hosts and their associated attack indicators

Cognito also monitors and detects suspicious access to critical assets by authorized employees, as well as policy violations related to the use of cloud storage, USB storage and other means of moving data out of the network.

### Automated analysis

The Threat Certainty Index™ consolidates thousands of events and historical context to pinpoint hosts that pose the biggest threat.

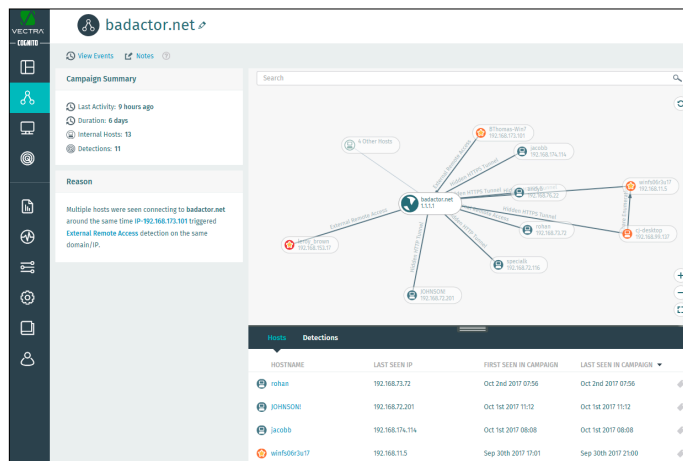
Instead of generating more events to analyze, Cognito boils down mountains of data to show what matters most. Threat and certainty scores trigger notifications to your staff or a response from other enforcement points, SIEMs and forensic tools.



The Vectra Threat Certainty Index

The Attack Campaigns feature further automates security detections by connecting the dots of related attacker behaviors and exposing the relationship between hosts across internal detections, external advanced command-and-control detections, and connectivity to common command-and-control infrastructures.

As attackers perform reconnaissance and move laterally from host to host in a network, Cognito correlates their behaviors across all involved hosts and detections and presents a synthesized view of the entire attack campaign.



Cognito presents a synthesized view of an entire attack campaign

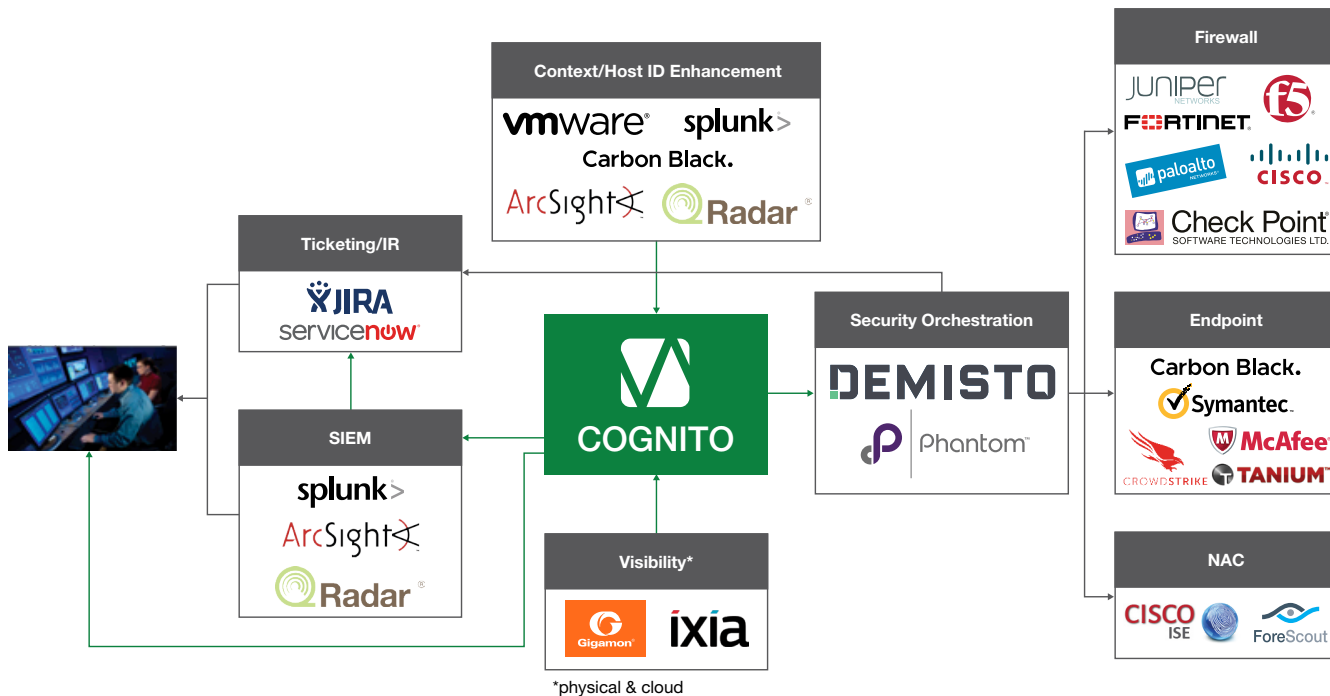
Cognito pivots to show views of hosts or related campaign detections, and analyzes event history spanning its entire lifetime to better understand the activity and full scope of attack.

### Drive response

Respond quickly and decisively to threats by putting the most relevant information and context at your fingertips. Unlike security analytics products, Cognito eliminates manual investigations by automatically prioritizing and correlating threats with compromised hosts and key assets that are the target of an attack.

Cognito puts threat detection details – including host context, packet captures, and threat and certainty scores – within immediate reach.

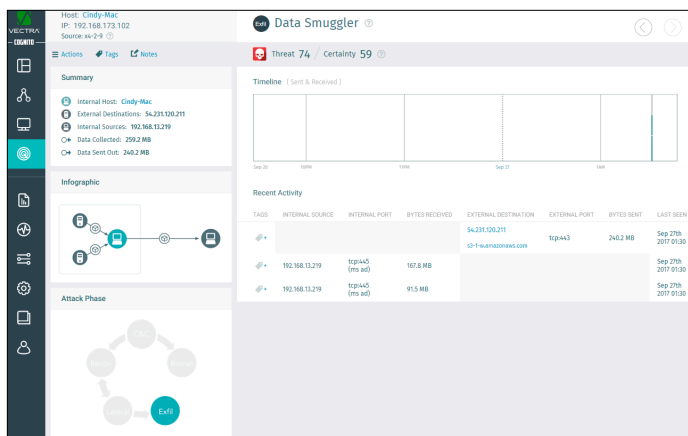
In addition, Cognito works with your next-generation firewalls, endpoint security, NAC, and other enforcement points to automatically block unknown and customized cyberattacks. Cognito also provides a clear starting point for threat investigations, which boosts the efficiency of SIEMs and forensic analysis tools.



\*physical & cloud

Cognito works with widely used security enforcement points, SIEMs and forensic analysis tools

## Security that thinks®



Real-time detection of data exfiltration in progress

## Security context that saves time

Cognito unburdens and empowers security operations teams that are understaffed. This is achieved by automating the time-consuming analysis of security events and eliminating the need to endlessly hunt for hidden threats.

Each detection is explained in detail, along with the underlying event and historical context that led to the detection. Security analysts can instantly view a connection map of any host to see other hosts the device is communicating with and how.

Cognito also provides on-demand access to metadata from captured packets for further forensic analysis. This gives security teams the proof and accuracy they need to take immediate, decisive action.

## Strengthen your existing security infrastructure

Whether providing the intelligence to block a new class of threat with firewalls, endpoint security, NAC and other enforcement points, or providing a clear starting point for a more extensive search with SIEMs and forensic tools, Cognito gives you more value from existing security technologies.

Cognito integrates with leading endpoint security solutions to automatically add enriched context to investigations and enables security operations teams to isolate compromised host devices.

A robust API enables automated response and enforcement with virtually any security solution. Cognito also generates syslog messages and CEF logs for all detections as well as prioritized host scores. This makes Cognito much more than just another source of logs and provides an ideal trigger for investigations and workflows within your SIEM.

## Full lifecycle detection of ransomware

Cognito detects ransomware campaigns against enterprises and other organizations across all phases of an attack. By monitoring all internal network traffic, Cognito identifies in seconds the fundamental behaviors of a ransomware attack as it attempts to take critical assets hostage.

In addition to detecting ransomware directly, Cognito detects ransomware precursors, including command-and-control traffic, network scans and spreading behavior that ransomware relies on to find and encrypt critical assets.

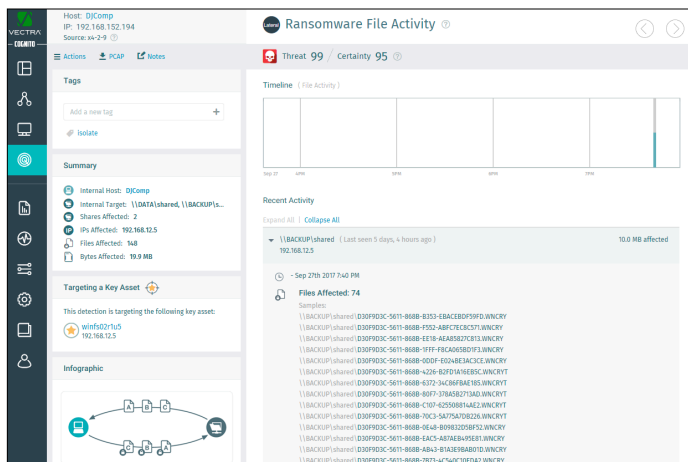
## Watching the watchers

While attackers may initially compromise an end-user device, the real prize involves commandeering administrator or system credentials. Cognito goes beyond simple user-behavior monitoring to detect signs of compromised administrators.

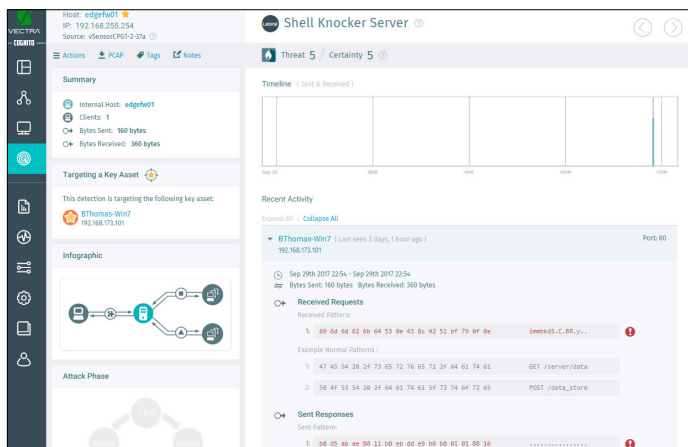
Cognito tracks administrative protocols and learns the specific machines or jump systems that are used to manage specific hosts, servers and workloads. This vigilance quickly reveals when a cybercriminal attempts to use administrative credentials and protocols to escalate an attack on the network.

## Native security for your private cloud

The private-cloud data center has become the heart and soul of many organizations, yet often remains a blind spot for security teams. Cognito persistently monitors critical data center applications, data, and infrastructure with the ability to detect even the most sophisticated attacks.



The Cognito ransomware detection



The Cognito Shell-Knocker detection

Some 80% of data center traffic never leaves the data center and is not monitored by traditional perimeter-based security. Cognito virtual sensors (vSensors) connect to any VMware vSwitch to ensure visibility into all traffic and detect threats passing between workloads in the virtual environment.

Cognito also integrates with VMware vCenter to provide an authoritative, always up-to-date view of your virtual environment. In fact, Cognito was first to bring together the required visibility, context and intelligence to find advanced attacks inside the data center.

## Security from hardware to workload

Data center security goes beyond virtualization and includes the physical server hardware and low-level tools used to manage the data center. Cognito provides unprecedented threat detection that extends from the application layer down to the underlying hardware.

For example, the Cognito Port Knocking detection reveals servers that are compromised by a rootkit, which could reside below the physical operating system itself. In addition, Cognito monitors and detects the improper use of low-level management protocols such as IPMI and iDRAC.

Normally used by administrators for infrastructure-lights-out management of server hardware, these protocols are increasingly targeted by attackers because they give an always-on backdoor into the virtual environment yet are not logged and are rarely monitored by security.

## Unifying data center operations

Modern data centers require constant coordination between networking, application development, virtualization teams, and of course, the security team. Cognito makes it easy for all groups to remain in sync and retain full visibility into the virtual environment, even when workloads are constantly on the move.

Cognito visually displays the connections between all workloads and the type of traffic flowing between them. With full VMware vCenter integration, Cognito provides an always up-to-date view of the environment and alerts about any assets that are not monitored for threats.



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