

# **Amateur Hour to Alerting Power:**

Overcoming Challenges in Constructing a PII Observability Pipeline

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### whoami

- Security Engineer @ WeightWatchers, Platform Operations
- Former disinformation researcher @ NCRI
  - <u>https://networkcontagion.us/reports/</u>
- 🖻 Tennis 🏓 | Retro Games 📥 | Vinyl Record 🜑 🛛 | Travel <u> </u>

### Agenda

- ► TL;DR
- The Rebirth of DLP
- Evolution of PII Identification Algorithms
- Building an In-House Solution:
  - Business Context
  - Architectural Design Decisions / Challenges
  - The Future / Potential Improvements





- Discussing the evolution of DLP, and how it affects PII identification & observability
- The trials and tribulations of creating a PII observability pipeline with given business context



## /The "Rebirth" of DLP

### Times have changed

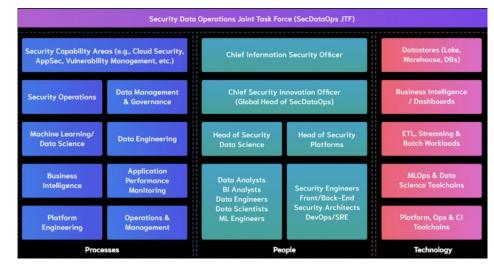
- Cloud-native architectural solutions are here to stay
- Open-source projects are rapidly improving
- CASBs just don't fit all the time



"Developing in-house capabilities in advanced analytics and artificial intelligence enables organizations to not only improve their own inhouse data-management solutions but also better integrate vendor tools and gain a clearer picture of their data-loss risk, making incidents easier to prevent and contain." McKinsey, 2022

### **#SecDataOps**

- "....Security teams have to adopt strong data analysis, engineering and science processes from data collection and storage to dissemination and archiving. The goal of SecDataOps is to ensure that data is always finely curated and accessible, and that security decisions are made with high-fidelity data."
  - Jonathan Rau



- <u>https://blog.lightspin.io/guide-secdataops-vulnerability-management-aws</u>
- https://www.darkreading.com/risk/why-secdataops-is-the-future-of-your-security-program



# /Evolution of PII Identification Algorithms

### Traditional Based DLP by Itself is 😔!





### **Rule-Based Matching / Checksums**

- Regular Expressions
- Blocklists / Dictionaries
- Validating data integrity / tampering
- Conditional Statements





## Contextual Analysis is 💥





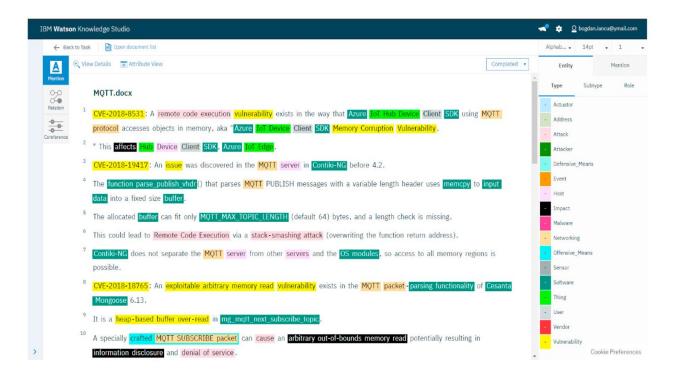
### Named Entity Recognition

- Some overlap with rule-based methodologies, which require manual intervention
- Enhanced when using document preprocessing techniques like tokenization, POS tagging, and dependency parsing
- Models can require lots of training data depending on data annotation requirements

Me: \*uses machine learning\* Machine: \*learns\* Me:

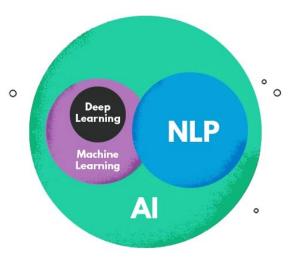


### **Custom NER Model Example**



### Buzzword / phrase(s) Lore!!

- ► Feature Extraction & Selection / Dimensionality Reduction
  - Word Embeddings
  - Word Segmentation
  - Topic Modelling
  - $\circ$  Tokenization
  - $\circ$  Lemmatization
- Language Models / Frameworks
  - LSTM
  - BERT
  - $\circ$  Word2Vec
  - SpaCY / NLTK
  - Cloud Providers
  - $\circ$  HuggingFace



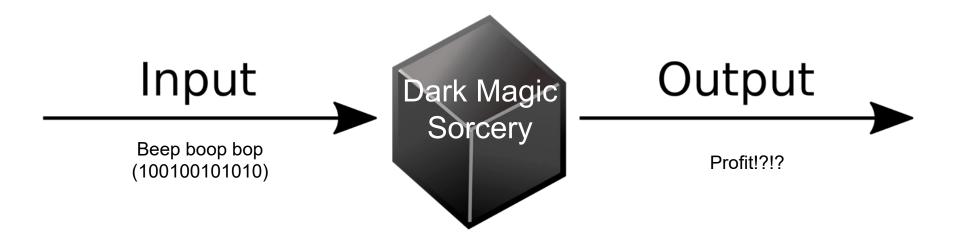


# eBuilding an In-House Solution

### **Business Context**

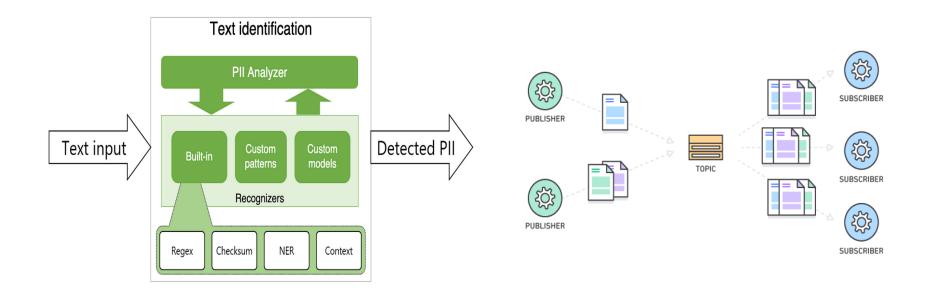
- Lots of member / subscriber calls about various issues (account & billing, general, q&a, deals, etc...)
  - On the magnitude of thousands a day
- Beyond vendor integrations, hard to oversee what is being said in call:
  - Need to understand scope of what is considered sensitive for monitoring (PCI DSS, SoX, etc...)

### **Proposed Architecture**





### **Proposed Architecture (slight detail)**



- <u>https://aws.amazon.com/what-is/pub-sub-messaging/</u>
- https://towardsdatascience.com/building-a-customized-pii-anonymizer-with-microsoft-presidio-b5c2ddfe523b



### **Tech Stack**

- AWS Comprehend & Translate
  - NLP model trained on vasts amount of PII data
  - Using translate service for non-english corpuses
- MongoDB (Structured logging)
- Alerting Stack
  - Pub-sub Model for identification & triage
- Asyncio Non-blocking API calls for 10x faster data preprocessing
- All Containerized via Docker
  - Run through Secure CI/CD Pipeline
  - Deployed on AWS EKS cluster







### **Call Volume / API Reliability**

- Processing thousands of calls via API can be computationally taxing
  - Need to leverage asynchronous / multiprocessing design patterns
- Accounting for server-side API issues:
  - HTTP 5XX can be really annoying!
- Structured Logging can be super helpful here!
   Creating logs that are useful and actionable





### "Interesting" transcription format

- Voice transcriptions have numbers and special characters as the grammatical representation
- For a majority of pre-trained models, this is an edge case when it comes to training data!

1. One	11 · Eleven	10- Ten
2. Two	12 · Twelve	20- Twenty
3. Three	13 · Thirteen	30- Thirty
4. Four	14 · Fourteen	40- Forty
5. Five	15 · Fifteen	50- Fifty
6. Six	16 · Sixteen	60- Sixty
7. Seven	17 · Seventeen	70- Seventy
7: Seven 8: Eight 9: Nine 10: Ten	17: Seventeen 18: Eighteen 19: Nineteen	70- Seventy 80- Eighty 90- Ninety 100 - Hundred 1,000 - Thousand

### AWS Comprehend Side by Side

### Personally identifiable information (PII) analysis mode

### Offsets

Identify the location of PII in your text documents.

Labels
 Label text documents with PII.

### Analyzed text

Hello Zhang Wei, I am John, Your AnyCompany Financial Services, LLC credit card account <u>1111-0000-1111-0008</u> has a minimum payment of \$24.53 that is due by July <u>31st</u>. Based on your autopay settings, we will withdraw your payment on the due date from your bank account number XXXXX1111 with the routing number <u>XXXXX0000</u>. Customer feedback for Sunshine Spa, <u>123 Main St</u>, Anywhere. Send comments to Alice at sunspa@mail.com.

I enjoyed visiting the spa. It was very comfortable but it was also very expensive. The amenities were ok but the service made the spa a great experience.

### ▼ Results

Q Search		< 1 > @	
Entity	⊽ Туре	▼ Confidence	⊽
Zhang Wei	Name	0.99+	
John	Name	0.99+	
1111-0000-1111-0008	Credit debit number	0.99+	
July 31st	Date time	0.99+	
XXXXXX1111	Bank account number	0.99+	
XXXXX0000	Bank routing	0.99+	
123 Main St	Address	0.99+	
Alice	Name	0.99+	
sunspa@mail.com	Email	0.99+	

### Personally identifiable information (PII) analysis mode

### Offsets

Identify the location of PII in your text documents.

Labels
 Label text documents with PII.

### Analyzed text

hello <u>zhang wei</u> i am john your anycompany financial services llc credit card account <u>one one one one zero zero zero zero</u> one one one one zero zero zero eight has a minimum payment of twenty four fifty three that is due by july thirty-first based on your autopay settings we will withdraw your payment on the due date from your bank account number <u>xxxxxx one one one one</u> with the routing number <u>xxxxx zero zero zero zero</u> customer feedback for sunshine spa <u>one hundred twenty three main st</u> anywhere send comments to <u>alice at sunspa at mail dot com</u> i enjoyed visiting the spa it was very comfortable but it was also very expensive the amenities were ok but the service made the spa a great experience

### Results

Q Search				< 1 > ©
Entity	▽	Туре	$\nabla$	Confidence $\nabla$
zhang wei		Name		0.99+
john		Name		0.99+
one one one zero zero zero zero		Credit debit number		0.99+
one one one zero zero zero eight		Credit debit number		0.99+
july thirty-first		Date time		0.99+
xxxxxx one one one		Bank account number		0.99+
xxxxx zero zero zero zero		Bank routing		0.99+
one hundred twenty three main st		Address		0.99+
alice at sunspa at mail dot com		Email		0.99+

Janky



### AWS Comprehend Model(s) Complications

### Application integration

### API call and API response of ContainsPiiEntities API Info



### Application integration

### API call and API response of DetectPiiEntities API Info



2nd "Pass" (For Triaging) (Weight Watchers

25

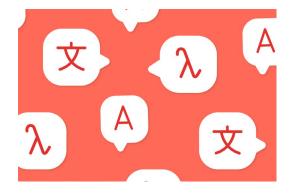
### PII (but foreign)

French	Rule Based Match / NER #1
Portuguese	<ul> <li>Rule Based Match / NER #1</li> <li>Rule Based Match / NER #2</li> </ul>
Spanish	Rule Based Match / NER #1
Swiss	<ul> <li>Rule Based Match / NER #1</li> <li>Rule Based Match / NER #2</li> <li>Rule Based Match / NER #3</li> </ul>
Other	Rule Based Match / NER #N



### Life Hack: Just Translate!

- Creating custom programmatic solutions to account for N languages can be difficult
  - Language identification mechanisms come in clutch
- May lose a bit of context, but when scoped down to various entities, the context becomes general (credit card numbers, bank account numbers, etc...)





### **Real World Example**

Detection for Conversation ID: PM 'a5b8c4f4-219e-4dd3-9d58-8a652874e649 with potential label(s): SSN HIDE DETAILS CUSTOM DETAILS communication id a28db5d7-f779-4c30-93b8-fd1dbca4105e a5b8c4f4-219e-4dd3-9d58-8a652874e649 conversation\_id "Name": "BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER", labels\_transcript\_pii\_result "Score": 1 "BeginOffset": 3866. "EndOffset": 3913, "OffsetDifference": 47, "Score": 0.9998670220375061, "Type": "SSN" offset\_transcript\_pii\_result "BeginOffset": 3914, "EndOffset": 3973, "OffsetDifference": 59, "Score": 0.9996612668037415, "Type": "SSN"

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l21-Uih\_\_QoAFttk37BvVKmuo7YarK3txp0i3lrLjE1j91R9YRKTwwCKymZIz4J3NjxDQGv2PC6v6W\_wuTZi\_\_NkBej6WPml\_6GwfTQEzEAEQdgq0Kyao4Wq7t\_KgmTxwmFrP\_u SstUC0wsDGURKeWE 8yCxwl0lU8qD0w9n0qI4czlLZJQT7wR-xdVWaeTH6U16F75BK9h3ETc1aUD MpzWJvf8s2apEMYrT6kiN1wUuiks0-sqZw8U-KzlDUALpTi6oMqAr\_4PRbBhmc01gmmn\_PoOKW2gRvZi2\_0VUGlbmoEMRkBmFMrdGk1yVJrSuAjAydU5lD8IIcvBIonJvByX5pV8HatUZs\_w-NnldLrBNpBvC8pA7A0EnM8daNAhuL1GcVq8VjmzlGxsMPls0nVC\_eeZ0DA\_UqUEUGVXCkxq8lF0pV7brNzRAGaxl5bmMrkT3ir4BqyjFbsN4fNops1mDJoH\_WAjyXtqfPyn wwUYmiam0PVVzXppW1llooyWfHNhb0gu7vw9FV6E36w6sL-Ll6Xfao-mGu9vx21lHiwpc4di c5vSrHvLwH-PCm0UCcZk5ENaMF6HriFtDnJInZiExuQ95dGdABwUYlV8Tioyj@wBjcqXEKXVuKsb5jNiett37l4EkfpkSpMl9f3wN9ECoGrBv2rAzV-aiQXKFRXTnU5h6gsxw8leJCwZQtZor2fr4JTPWzQZwL VcderLqXkIhlQEDmJzvZw4Pi5HIYR6vlXQ1-qt0DdZ86JX nBfyxUyZG0KqXYAHyIXK-q DWC7xPt0uX8miPHYB6rA-19GrnVVuuErW0PaAdoihFX0bD686YFaeGrsB4FXGYSF0Gz8020zfDlRd6EVpC10E Grah1VZr0hbM935Vw0BsBmWYHp7UcWiCW0RBf5rAcvWiesiwit0aH12SaDWiLEr6Bd 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 $kt\_77 \texttt{ImC6TFVFW5FJrEJhFARWEuq87} foa 36 \texttt{eMichrBqH-Z6DHQP6yvECWfXTzkvujC18-iaCmnT2qI7EfbGcE2tsAjxD7W9XHzXruU6vXwX35G1Az-iaCmnT4qI7W9XHzXruU6vXwX35G1Az-iaCmnT4qI7W9XHzXruU6vXwX35G1Az-iaCmnT4qI7W9XHzXruU6vXwX3G1Az-iaCmnT4qI7W9XHzXruU6vXwX3G1Az-iaCmnT4qI7W9XHzXruU6vXwX3G1Az-iaCmnT4qI7W9XHzXruU6vXwX3G1Az-iaCmnT4qI7W9XHzXruU6vXwX$ 

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### General Information







### **Potential Improvements**

- Fully event driven / serverless
  - Current architecture currently relies on some API polling -> semi state management
- More automated actionability / remediation
  - AWS Actions
  - Custom Webhook
    - Flagging / Deleting affected calls
    - Visualize metrics / findings in operational dashboard
- Relying more on open source
  - Microsoft Presidio, Octopii, EarlyBird, etc...
  - Dependent on having cleaner transcription format, which will help reduce cost





# **Thank You!**



# **Q & A**