

[FORGOTTEN]

tryhackme SOC

Level 1

- You need a basic understanding of fundamental computing principles and a broad understanding of the different areas of cyber security to complete this pathway. If you do not already have these prerequisites, complete the [Pre-Security Pathway](#) and [Intro To Cyber Security Pathway](#).
- [Cyber Defence Frameworks](#)
 - [A career as a Junior \(Associate\) Security Analyst](#)
 - [A day In the life of a Junior \(Associate\) Security Analyst](#)
 - [Security Operations Center \(SOC\)](#)
- [\[a\] Pyramid Of Pain \[1 - 4 \]](#)

Cyber Defence Frameworks

Discover frameworks and policies that help establish a good security posture. Learn how organisations use these in defensive strategies.

A career as a Junior (Associate) Security Analyst

In the Junior Security Analyst role, you will be a Triage Specialist. You will spend a lot of time triaging or monitoring the event logs and alerts.

The responsibilities for a Junior Security Analyst or Tier 1 SOC Analyst include:

- Monitor and investigate the alerts (most of the time, it's a 24x7 SOC operations environment)
- Configure and manage the security tools
- Develop and implement basic [IDS \(Intrusion Detection System\)](#) signatures
- Participate in SOC working groups, meetings
- Create tickets and escalate the security incidents to the Tier 2 and Team Lead if needed

Required qualifications (most common):

- 0-2 years of experience with Security Operations
- Basic understanding of Networking (OSI model (Open Systems Interconnection Model) or TCP/IP model (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol Model)), Operating Systems (Windows, [Linux](#)), Web applications. To further learn about OSI and TCP/IP models, please refer to the [Introductory Networking Room](#).
- Scripting/programming skills are a plus

Desired certification:

- [CompTIA Security+](#)

As you progress and advance your skills as a Junior Security Analyst, you will eventually move up to Tier 2 and Tier 3.

An overview of the Security Operations Center (SOC) Three-Tier Model:



What will be your role as a Junior Security Analyst?

A day In the life of a Junior (Associate) Security Analyst

To understand the job responsibilities for a Junior (Associate) Security Analyst, let us first show you what a day in the life of the Junior Security Analyst looks like and why this is an exciting career journey.

To be in the frontline is not always easy and can be very challenging as you will be working with various log sources from different tools that we will walk you through in this path. You will get a chance to monitor the network traffic, including IPS (Intrusion Prevention System) and IDS (Intrusion Detection System) alerts, suspicious emails, extract the forensics data to analyze and detect the potential attacks, use open-source intelligence to help you make the appropriate decisions on the alerts.

One of the most exciting and rewarding things is when you are finished working on an incident and have managed to remediate the threat. Incident Response might take hours, days, or weeks; it all depends on the scale of the attack: did the attacker manage to exfiltrate the data? How much data does the attacker manage to exfiltrate? Did the attacker attempt to pivot into other hosts? There are many questions to ask and a lot of detection, containment, and remediation to do. We will walk you through some fundamental knowledge that every Junior (Associate) Security Analyst needs to know to become a successful Network Defender.

The first thing almost every Junior (Associate) Security Analyst does on their shift is to look at the tickets to see if any alerts got generated.

Are you ready to immerse yourself into the role of a Junior Security Analyst for a little bit?

Security Operations Center (SOC)

The core function of a SOC (Security Operations Center) is to investigate, monitor, prevent, and respond to threats in the cyber realm 24/7 or around the clock. Per [McAfee's definition of a SOC](#), "Security operations teams are charged with monitoring and protecting many assets, such as intellectual property, personnel data, business systems, and brand integrity. As the implementation component of an organisation's overall cyber security framework, security operations teams act as the central point of collaboration in coordinated efforts to monitor, assess, and defend against cyberattacks". The number of people working in the SOC can vary depending on the organisation's size.

What is included in the responsibilities of the SOC?



Preparation and Prevention

As a Junior Security Analyst, you should stay informed of the current cyber security threats (Twitter and [Feedly](#) can be great resources to keep up with the news related to Cybersecurity). It's crucial to detect and hunt threats, work on a [security roadmap](#) to protect the organisation, and be ready for the worst-case scenario.

Prevention methods include gathering intelligence data on the latest threats, threat actors, and their [TTPs \(Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures\)](#). It also includes the maintenance procedures like updating the firewall signatures, patching the vulnerabilities in the existing systems, block-listing and safe-listing applications, email addresses, and IPs.

To better understand the TTPs, you should look into one of the CISA's (Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency) alerts on APT40 (Chinese Advanced Persistent Threat). Refer to the following link for more information, <https://us-cert.cisa.gov/ncas/alerts/aa21-200a>.

Monitoring and Investigation

A SOC team proactively uses [SIEM \(Security information and event management\)](#) and [EDR \(Endpoint Detection and Response\)](#) tools to monitor suspicious and malicious network activities. Imagine being a firefighter and having a multi-alarm fire - one-alarm fires, two-alarm fires, three-alarm fires; the categories classify the seriousness of the fire, which is a threat in our case. As a Security Analyst, you will learn how to prioritise the alerts based on their level: Low, Medium, High, and Critical. Of course, it is an easy guess that you will need to start from the highest level (Critical) and work towards the bottom - Low-level alert. Having properly configured security monitoring tools in place will give you the best chance to mitigate the threat.

Junior Security Analysts play a crucial role in the investigation procedure. They perform triaging on the ongoing alerts by exploring and understanding how a certain attack works and preventing bad things from happening if they can. During the investigation, it's important to raise the question "How? When, and why?". Security Analysts find the answers by drilling down on the data logs and alerts in combination with using open-source tools, which we will have a chance to explore later in this path.

Response

After the investigation, the SOC team coordinates and takes action on the compromised hosts, which involves isolating the hosts from the network, terminating the malicious processes, deleting files, and more.

[a] Pyramid Of Pain [1 - 4]

1

Learn what is the Pyramid of Pain and how to utilize this model to determine the level of difficulty it will cause for an adversary to change the indicators associated with them, and their campaign.

This well-renowned concept is being applied to cybersecurity solutions like [Cisco Security](#), [SentinelOne](#), and [SOCRadar](#) to improve the effectiveness of CTI (Cyber Threat Intelligence), threat hunting, and incident response exercises.

Understanding the Pyramid of Pain concept as a Threat Hunter, Incident Responder, or SOC Analyst is important.

Are you ready to explore what hides inside the Pyramid of Pain?

2

As per Microsoft, the hash value is a numeric value of a fixed length that uniquely identifies data. A hash value is the result of a hashing algorithm. The following are some of the most common hashing algorithms:

- **MD5 (Message Digest, defined by RFC 1321)** - was designed by Ron Rivest in 1992 and is a widely used cryptographic hash function with a 128-bit hash value. MD5 hashes are **NOT** considered **cryptographically secure**. In 2011, the IETF published RFC 6151, "[Updated Security Considerations for the MD5 Message-Digest and the HMAC-MD5 Algorithms](#)," which mentioned a number of attacks against MD5 hashes, including the hash collision.
- **SHA-1 (Secure Hash Algorithm 1, defined by RFC 3174)** - was invented by United States National Security Agency in 1995. When data is fed to SHA-1 Hashing Algorithm, SHA-1 takes an input and produces a 160-bit hash value string as a 40 digit hexadecimal number. [NIST deprecated the use of SHA-1 in 2011](#) and banned its use for digital signatures at the end of 2013 based on it being susceptible to brute-force attacks. Instead, NIST recommends

migrating from SHA-1 to stronger hash algorithms in the SHA-2 and SHA-3 families.

- **The SHA-2 (Secure Hash Algorithm 2)** - SHA-2 Hashing Algorithm was designed by

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and the National Security Agency (NSA) in 2001 to replace SHA-1. SHA-2 has many variants, and arguably the most common is SHA-256. The SHA-256 algorithm returns a hash value of 256-bits as a 64 digit hexadecimal number.

A hash is not considered to be cryptographically secure if two files have the same hash value or digest.

Security professionals usually use the hash values to gain insight into a specific malware sample, a malicious or a suspicious file, and as a way to uniquely identify and reference the malicious artifact.

You've probably read ransomware reports in the past, where security researchers would provide the hashes related to the malicious or suspicious files used at the end of the report. You can check out [The DFIR Report](#) and [FireEye Threat Research Blogs](#) if you're interested in seeing an example.

Various online tools can be used to do hash lookups like [VirusTotal](#) and [Metadefender Cloud - OPSWAT](#).

3f33734b2d34cce83936ce99c3494cd845f1d2c02d7f6da31d42dfc1ca15a171

14 security vendors flagged this file as malicious

3f33734b2d34cce83936ce99c3494cd845f1d2c02d7f6da31d42dfc1ca15a171
m_croatian.wnry
rtf

38.15 KB Size
2021-07-09 02:43:46 UTC
28 days ago

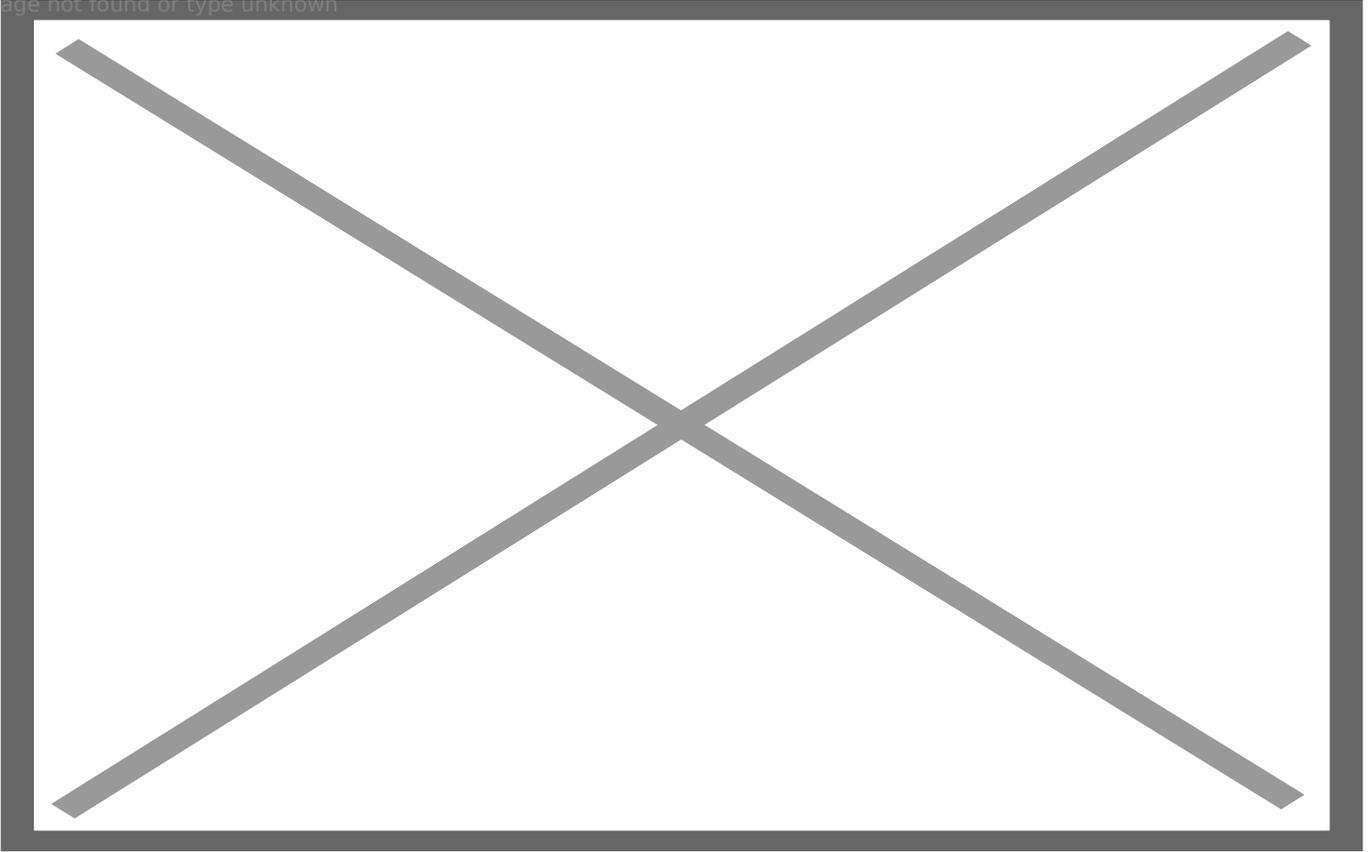
RTF

DETECTION	DETAILS	RELATIONS	BEHAVIOR	COMMUNITY
Antiy-AVL		Trojan.Generic.ASSuf.19EC8	CAT-QuickHeal	RTF.Trojan.Agent.40329
Comodo		Malware@#1t7uob1a9vm9d	ESET-NOD32	Win32/Filecoder.WannaCryptor.D
Gridinsoft		Ransom.U.Ransom.oa	Ikarus	Trojan.Win32.Filecoder
Lionic		Trojan.MSOffice.Generic.4lc	McAfee	RTF/Wannacry.a
McAfee-GW-Edition		RTF/Wannacry.a	Microsoft	Ransom:Win32/WannaCrypt.Alrsm
Symantec		Trojan.Gen.NPE.2	Tencent	Win32.Trojan.Filecoder.Dvzt
TrendMicro		TROJ_RANSOMNOTE.RTF	TrendMicro-HouseCall	TROJ_RANSOMNOTE.RTF

Below the hash in the screenshot above, you can see the filename. In this case, it is "m_croatian.wnry"

MetaDefender Cloud - OPSWAT:

Image not found or type unknown



As you might have noticed, it is really easy to spot a malicious file if we have the hash in our arsenal. However, as an attacker, modifying a file by even a single bit is trivial, which would produce a different hash value. With so many variations and instances of known malware or ransomware, threat hunting using file hashes as the IOC (Indicators of Compromise) can become difficult.

Let's take a look at an example of how you can change the hash value of a file by simply appending a string to the end of a file using `echo`: File Hash (Before Modification)

```
PS C:\Users\THM\Downloads> Get-FileHash .\OpenVPN_2.5.1_I601_amd64.msi -Algorithm MD5
```

Algorithm	Hash	Path
MD5	D1A008E3A606F24590A02B853E955CF7	C:\Users\THM\Downloads\OpenVPN_2.5.1_I601_amd64.msi

File Hash (After Modification)

```
PS C:\Users\THM\Downloads> echo "AppendTheHash" >> .\OpenVPN_2.5.1_I601_amd64.msi
PS C:\Users\THM\Downloads> Get-FileHash .\OpenVPN_2.5.1_I601_amd64.msi -Algorithm MD5
Algorithm Hash                Path
-----
MD5          9D52B46F5DE41B73418F8E0DACEC5E9F C:\Users\THM\Downloads\OpenVPN_2.5.1_I601_amd64.msi
```

Answer the questions below

Analyse the report associated with the hash

"b8ef959a9176aef07fdca8705254a163b50b49a17217a4ff0107487f59d4a35d" [here](#). if not search it, What is the filename of the sample?

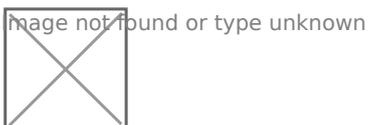
3

You may have learned the importance of an IP Address from the ["What is Networking?" Room](#), the importance of the IP Address. An IP address is used to identify any device connected to a network. These devices range from desktops, to servers and even CCTV cameras! We rely on IP addresses to send and receive the information over the network. But we are not going to get into the structure and functionality of the IP address. As a part of the Pyramid of Pain, we'll evaluate how IP addresses are used as an indicator.

In the Pyramid of Pain, IP addresses are indicated with the color green. You might be asking why and what you can associate the green colour with?

From a defense standpoint, knowledge of the IP addresses an adversary uses can be valuable. A common defense tactic is to block, drop, or deny inbound requests from IP addresses on your parameter or external firewall. This tactic is often not bulletproof as it's trivial for an experienced adversary to recover simply by using a new public IP address.

Malicious IP connections ([app.any.run](#)):



NOTE! Do not attempt to interact with the IP addresses shown above.

One of the ways an adversary can make it challenging to successfully carry out IP blocking is by using **Fast Flux**.

According to [Akamai](#), Fast Flux is a DNS technique used by botnets to hide phishing, web proxying, malware delivery, and malware communication activities behind compromised hosts acting as proxies. The purpose of using the Fast Flux network is to make the communication between malware and its command and control server (C&C) challenging to be discovered by security professionals.

So, the primary concept of a Fast Flux network is having multiple IP addresses associated with a domain name, which is constantly changing. Palo Alto created a great fictional scenario to explain Fast Flux: "[Fast Flux 101: How Cybercriminals Improve the Resilience of Their Infrastructure to Evade Detection and Law Enforcement Takedowns](#)"

Read the following report (generated from [any.run](#)) for this sample [here](#) to answer the questions below:

Read the following [report](#) to answer this question. What is the **first IP address** the malicious process (**PID 1632**) attempts to communicate with?

Read the following [report](#) to answer this question. What is the **first domain name** the malicious process ((**PID 1632**)) attempts to communicate with?

4

Let's step up the Pyramid of Pain and move on to Domain Names. You can see the transition of colors - from green to teal.

Domain Names can be thought as simply mapping an IP address to a string of text. A domain name can contain a domain and a top-level domain ([evilcorp.com](#)) or a sub-domain followed by a domain and top-level domain ([tryhackme.evilcorp.com](#)). But we will not go into the details of how the Domain Name System (DNS) works. You can learn more about DNS in this "[DNS in Detail](#)" Room.

Domain Names can be a little more of a pain for the attacker to change as they would most likely need to purchase the domain, register it and modify DNS records. Unfortunately for defenders, many DNS providers have loose standards and provide APIs to make it even easier for the attacker to change the domain.

Malicious Sodinokibi C2 (Command and Control Infrastructure) domains:

Image not found or type unknown



Image not found or type unknown



Can you spot anything malicious in the above screenshot? Now, compare it to the legitimate website view below:

Image not found or type unknown



This is one of the examples of a Punycode attack used by the attackers to redirect users to a malicious domain that seems legitimate at first glance.

What is Punycode? As per [Wandera](#), "Punycode is a way of converting words that cannot be written in ASCII, into a Unicode ASCII encoding."

What you saw in the URL above is `adidas.de` which has the Punycode of `http://xn--addas-o4a.de/`

Internet Explorer, Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, and Apple Safari are now pretty good at translating the obfuscated characters into the full Punycode domain name.

To detect the malicious domains, proxy logs or web server logs can be used.

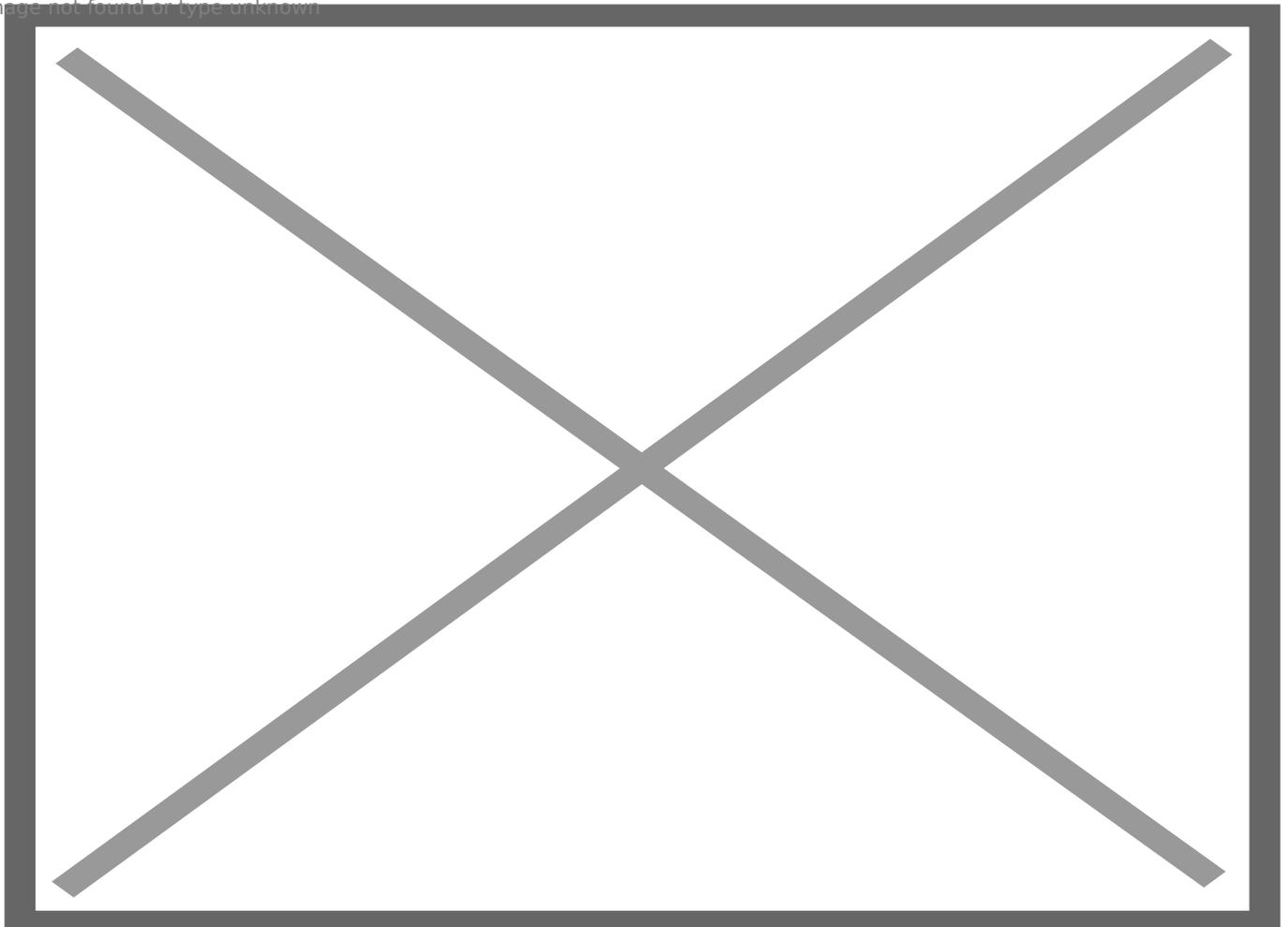
Attackers usually hide the malicious domains under **URL Shorteners**. A URL Shortener is a tool that creates a short and unique URL that will redirect to the specific website specified during the initial step of setting up the URL Shortener link. According to [Cofense](#), attackers use the following URL Shortening services to generate malicious links:

- bit.ly
- goo.gl
- ow.ly
- s.id
- smarturl.it
- tiny.pl
- tinyurl.com
- x.co

You can see the actual website the shortened link is redirecting you to by appending "+" to it (see the examples below). Type the shortened URL in the address bar of the web browser and add the above characters to see the redirect URL.

NOTE: The examples of the shortened links below are non-existent.

Image not found or type unknown



Viewing Connections in Any.run:

Because Any.run is a sandboxing service that executes the sample, we can review any connections such as HTTP requests, DNS requests or processes communicating with an IP address. To do so, we can look at the "networking" tab located just below the snapshot of the machine.

Please note: you should be extremely cautious about visiting any of the IP addresses or HTTP requests made in a report. After all, these are behaviours from the malware sample - so they're probably doing something dangerous!

HTTP Requests:

This tab shows the recorded HTTP requests since the detonation of the sample. This can be useful to see what resources are being retrieved from a webserver, such as a dropper or a callback.

illustrating the HTTP requests in the anyrun view

Connections:

This tab shows any communications made since the detonation of the sample. This can be useful to see if a process communicates with another host. For example, this could be C2 traffic, uploading/downloading files over FTP, etc.

illustrating the connections in the anyrun view

DNS Requests:

This tab shows the DNS requests made since the detonation of the sample. Malware often makes DNS requests to check for internet connectivity (I.e. if it can't reach the internet/call home, then it's probably being sandboxed or is useless).

illustrating the DNS requests in the anyrun view

Answer the questions below

Go to [this report on app.any.run](#) and provide the first **suspicious** URL request you are seeing, you will be using this report to answer the remaining questions of this task.

What term refers to an address used to access websites?

What type of attack uses Unicode characters in the domain name to imitate the a known domain?

Provide the redirected website for the shortened URL using a preview: <https://tinyurl.com/bw7t8p4u>

ur tired pl8o go to sleep, finish @

<https://tryhackme.com/room/pyramidofpainax>