



# TACTICAL ADVERSARY: BUILDING A PRACTICAL INTERNAL **RED TEAM** ABHIJITH B R [Abx]

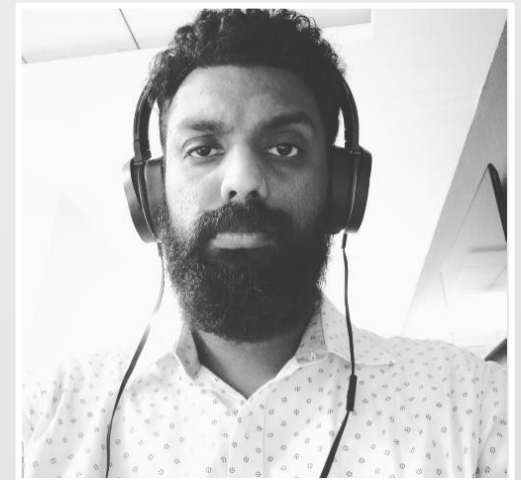
DEFCON 28 SAFE MODE DCG VILLAGE 2020, AUG 7TH



tacticaladversary.io

# ABHIJITH B R [Abx]

- Leading Offensive security operations in a global FinTech company
- Former Deputy Manager cyber security at Nissan motor corporation, previously with EY
- A decade of experience in the security domain
- Founder of <https://RedTeamVillage.org> community  
*[No, It is not associated with DC]*
- Lead at DEFCON Group Trivandrum (<https://dco471.org/>)
- Started running <https://tacticaladversary.io> blog this year



@abhijithbr

# LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR!

**VULNERABILITY  
ASSESSMENT  
IS NOT RED TEAMING.**

**PENETRATION TESTING  
IS ALSO NOT  
RED TEAMING.**

# WHAT IS RED TEAM

**Historically, a red team was a group of military personnel playing the role of adversaries, the role of the enemy or opposing force team ("RED"), as opposed to the friendly forces team ("BLUE"). With time, the red teams mission and capabilities evolved and they turned into a force tasked with challenging the security posture of military bases, outposts and other "targets".**

*[Redteams.net]*

# WHAT IS RED TEAM

**A RED TEAM IS A GROUP OF HIGHLY SKILLED PEOPLE THAT CONTINUOUSLY CHALLENGE THE PLANS, DEFENSIVE MEASURES AND SECURITY CONCEPTS.**

*[Redteams.net]*

**Our Red Team  
will be doing  
pentest and  
vuln scanning  
for the clients.**

*Security sales guy  
from Security company XYZ*



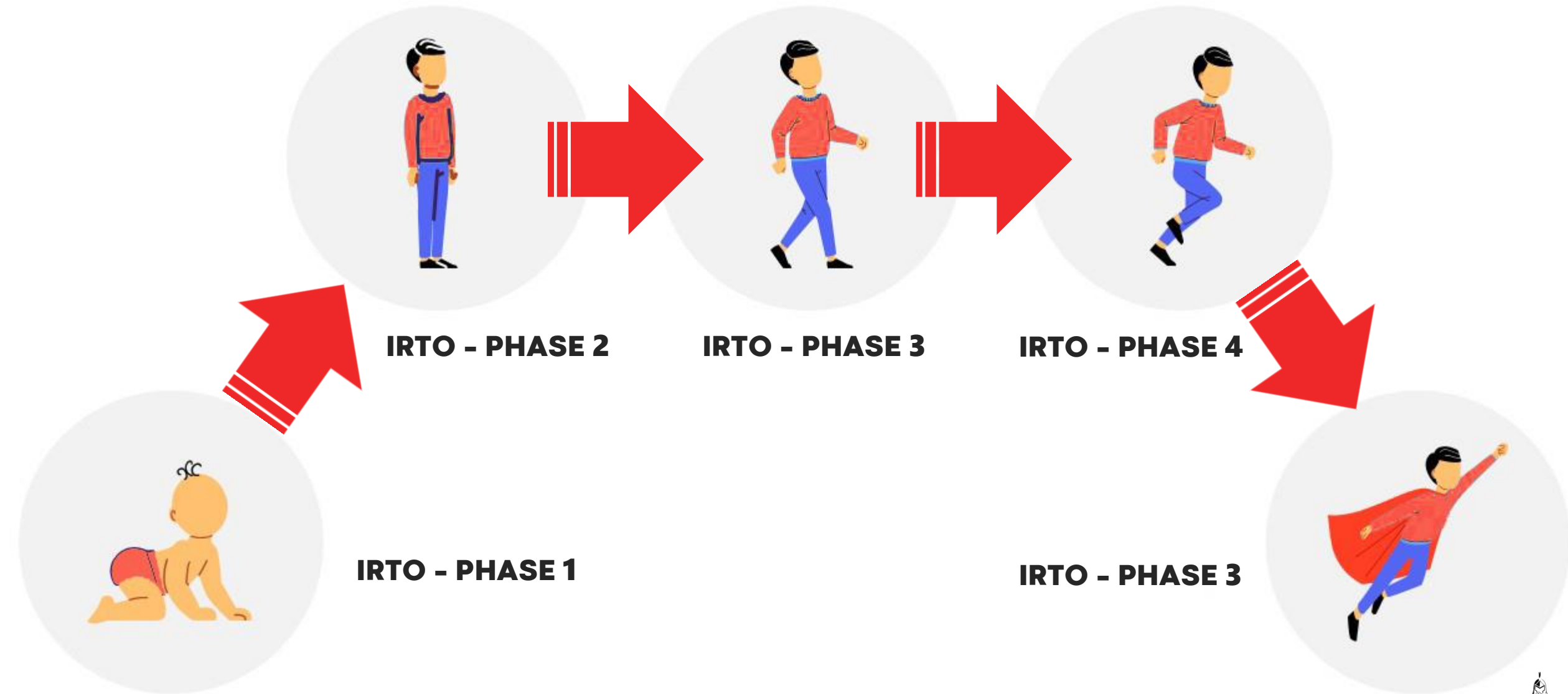


A conceptual illustration depicting a Red Team member and a Blue Team member in a sparring pose, rendered in the style of the traditional Kerala martial art Kalari Payatu. The Red Team member is on the left, in a dynamic, low-to-the-ground stance, wearing a red loincloth and holding a red mace (Kali) in their right hand. The Blue Team member is on the right, in a similar stance, wearing a blue loincloth and holding a blue mace (Kali) in their right hand. The background is a dark, textured blue with faint, repeating patterns of the Kalari Payatu symbol. The overall aesthetic is that of a digital art piece.

Conceptual Red Team vs Blue Team  
Portrayed as native Kerala martial art form “**Kalari Payatu**”

# **BUILDING AN INTERNAL RED TEAM. [ADVERSARIAL SIMULATION]**

# INTERNAL **RED TEAM** OPERATIONS FRAMEWORK\*



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*\*this is still a work in progress.*

*\*image credits goes to respective owners.*



# IRTO - PHASE 1 CRAWLING

- Get the budget approval
- Define the practical goals, objectives
- Identify the crown jewels and people
- Rules of engagement (ROE), reporting and other process documentation
- Assistance from the Management and Legal department
- Understand the security posture of the organization
- Hire the talent – The **Red Team**



# THE ~~A~~ TEAM RED



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\*image credits goes to respective owners.



# IRTO - PHASE 2 GET ON YOUR FEET

- **Red Team** external infrastructure (Digital ocean, GCP, AWS)
- Corp. tools, Improvised open source tooling capabilities
- Identifying the business specific risks
- Be friends with your organization's **Blue Team**
- Adversarial Emulation (Atomic red team, Caldera etc)
- Manual campaigns against the organization and employees
- Validate current defense mechanisms with **blue team** (MITRE)
- External attack surface discovery and mapping
- Designing a remediation process to address issues

# IRTO - PHASE 3 START WALKING

- Improved Tools, techniques and procedures (TTP's) based on current security posture
- Identify and eradicate findings 1, 2 - crown jewels and people\*
- Evaluation of Incident response process\*
- Automated Adversary Emulation
- Automated campaigns
- Targeted APT emulation based on Threat Intel
- Improvised RTO process documentation

# IRTO - PHASE 4 START RUNNING

- Collaborative and continuous **Purple team** exercises
- Enterprise tooling capabilities
- Targeted campaigns against the Crown jewels and key people
- Overt physical security assessments
- Continuous awareness programme for employees and key people
- Continuous training process for operators and defenders
- Proactive remediation process and plans



# IRTO - PHASE 5 TIME TO FLY

- Matured **red team** operations
- Significant improvement of organizational security posture
- Highly skilled operators
- Covert physical security assessments
- Custom tooling capabilities
- Continuous Adversary simulation to keep the **defenders** on their toes.
- Continuous RTO with well defined process

# PLANS: STRATEGIC AND TACTICAL

$$\text{STRATEGIC PLAN} = \text{TACTICAL PLAN } \mathbf{1} + \text{TACTICAL PLAN } \mathbf{2} + \text{TACTICAL PLAN } \mathbf{N}$$


[Long term objective]

[Divided into short term tactical engagements]

*\*The management always need updates*

# Q&A

Reach me on Discord **Abx#1474**

twitter: **@abhijithbr**

# THANK YOU 😊

Special thanks to,

*Jayson E Street*

*DEF CON Groups*

*TX and DEF CON Group Delhi*

*DEF CON Group Trivandrum members*

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\*image credits goes to <https://tacticaladversary.io/>