

Understanding “Cyber Conflict”

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1. Motivation

‘Oxford English Dictionary defines Control as “a device or mechanism used to regulate or guide the operation of a machine, apparatus, or system” . It is important to understand **what processes, risks and relationships** influence the degree of control and conflict when interests of multiple stakeholder dominate.

2. Problem

Emergence of cyber as the new arena for conflict raises three basic questions:

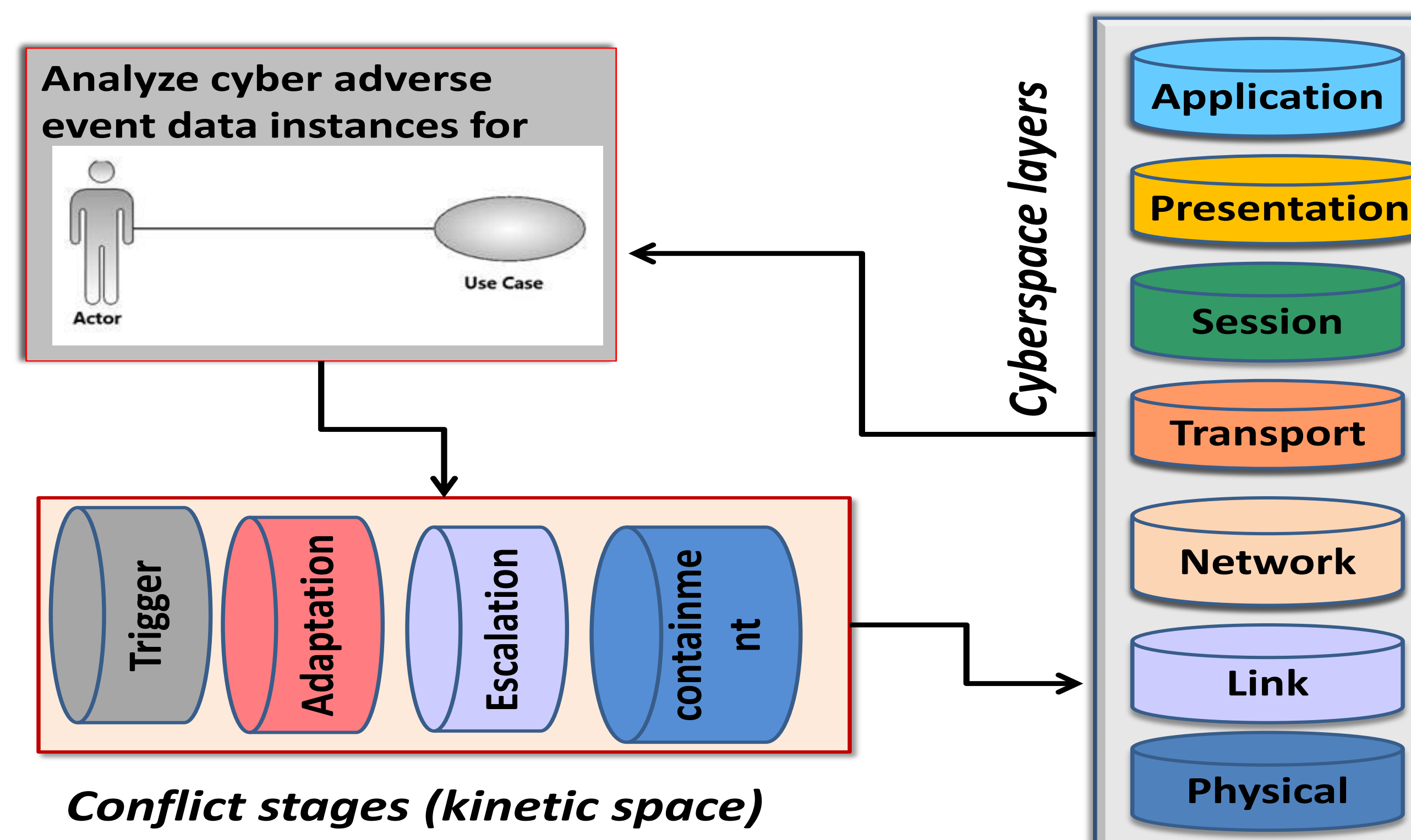
- What qualifies as a Cyber Conflict? (multiple definitions exist).
- Does intervention of cyber in conflict life-cycle requires new models to decipher control points in cyberspace?
- What is different between conflicts in kinetic and cyberspace?

3. Solution

Application of USE CASE ANALYSIS to understand the mechanics of cyber conflict to arrive at a model of cyber conflict in a data driven manner (analysis of events since 2001). In Software Engineering domain use case analysis is used as an established tool to define processes and roles a stakeholder employs to interact with a system, and system’s response to the user stimulus.

4. Building The Model

Hypothesis: For a conflict to qualify as cyber conflict layers of cyberspace must act as a major control points for its introduction, adaptation, horizontal escalation and containment.



5. Initial Findings and Value

- Cyber conflict uses all layers of cyberspace in order to qualify as a valid instance of cyber conflict.
- Confusing “cyber conflict” with the “conflict using cyber” can be misleading.
- In cyber conflict the dynamics of interaction among conflict stages does not always follow the stages as understood in the kinetic space.
- The model helps to define the relationship between actors and layers of cyberspace as control points to suggest mitigation approach.

Thank You!

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