CYBER CUPULA

Operation “Baobab” : Neutralizing an active cyber gang operating from Nigeria and UK, targeting commercial banks worldwide

The strategy of offensive cyber operation to achieve technical and psychological supremacy

February 2019

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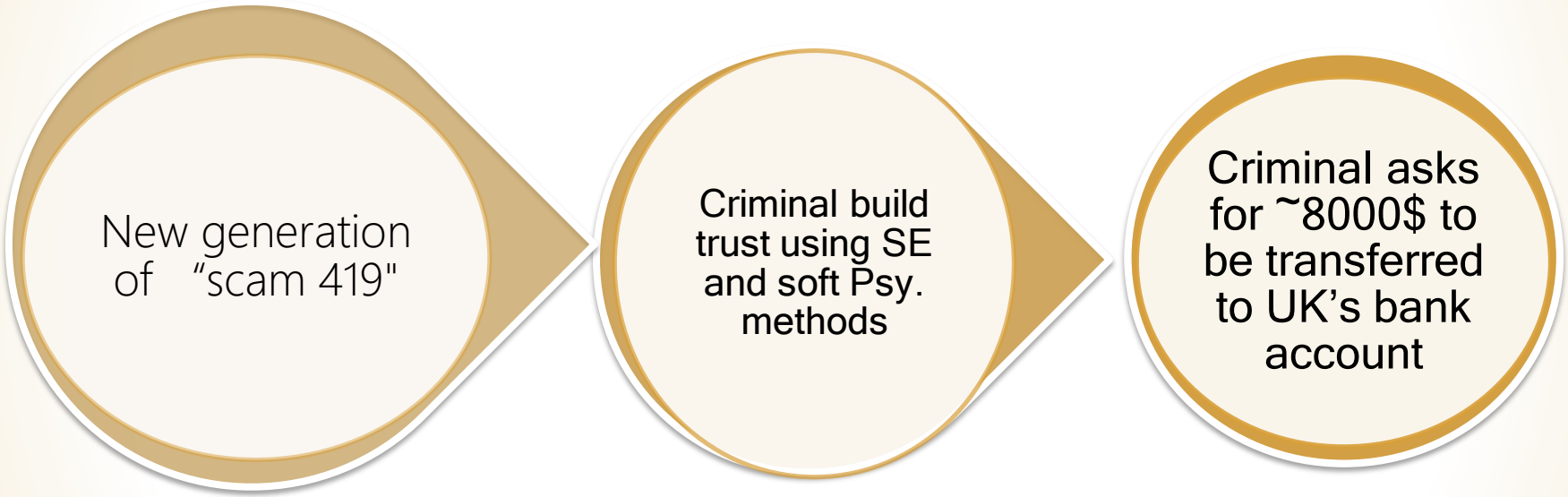
Who am I?

- Active Defense Cyber Humint specialist
- Israeli intelligence
- Serial entrepreneur
- Studied History
- Doing Judo

Operation "Baobab" – cybercriminals *modus operandi*



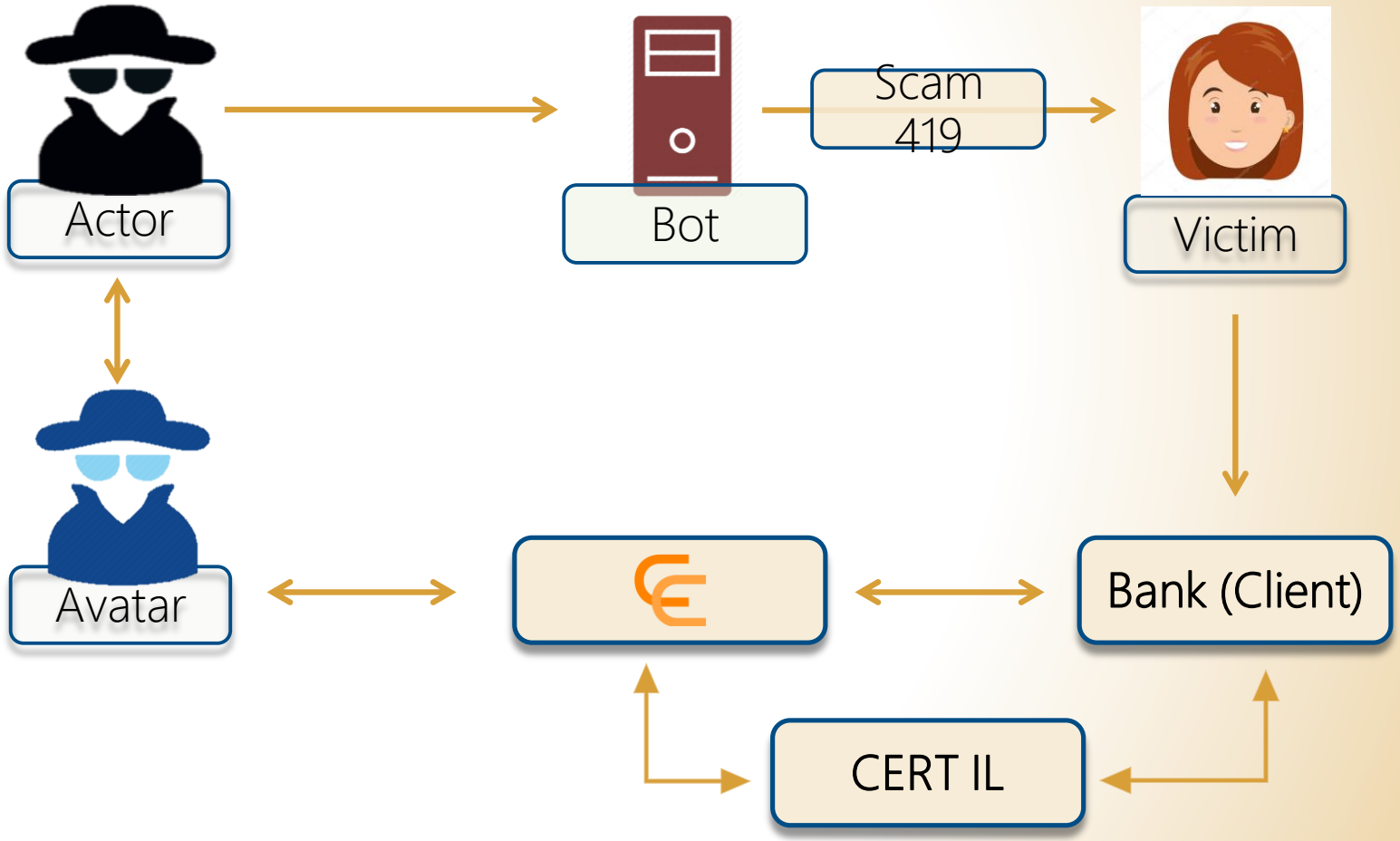
A new generation of scam 419: Cyber gangs well organized not the *script kidos* anymore.

"Baobab" operation - the 4 phases

- Establishing direct contact with presumed actor using several avatars, creating trust relationship, data collection
- Data fusion and analysis of the collected data of this campaign (emails, addresses, name, domains)
- Contact is established in the Clearnet, mapping the cyber gang actors
- Contacts with CERT IL, European bank, Law enforcement agencies, neutralization

"Baobab" operation phase 1: establishing contacts

- Victim informed Bank
- Collaboration with CERT IL
- Avatar Creates contact



Trust created using HUMINT capabilities

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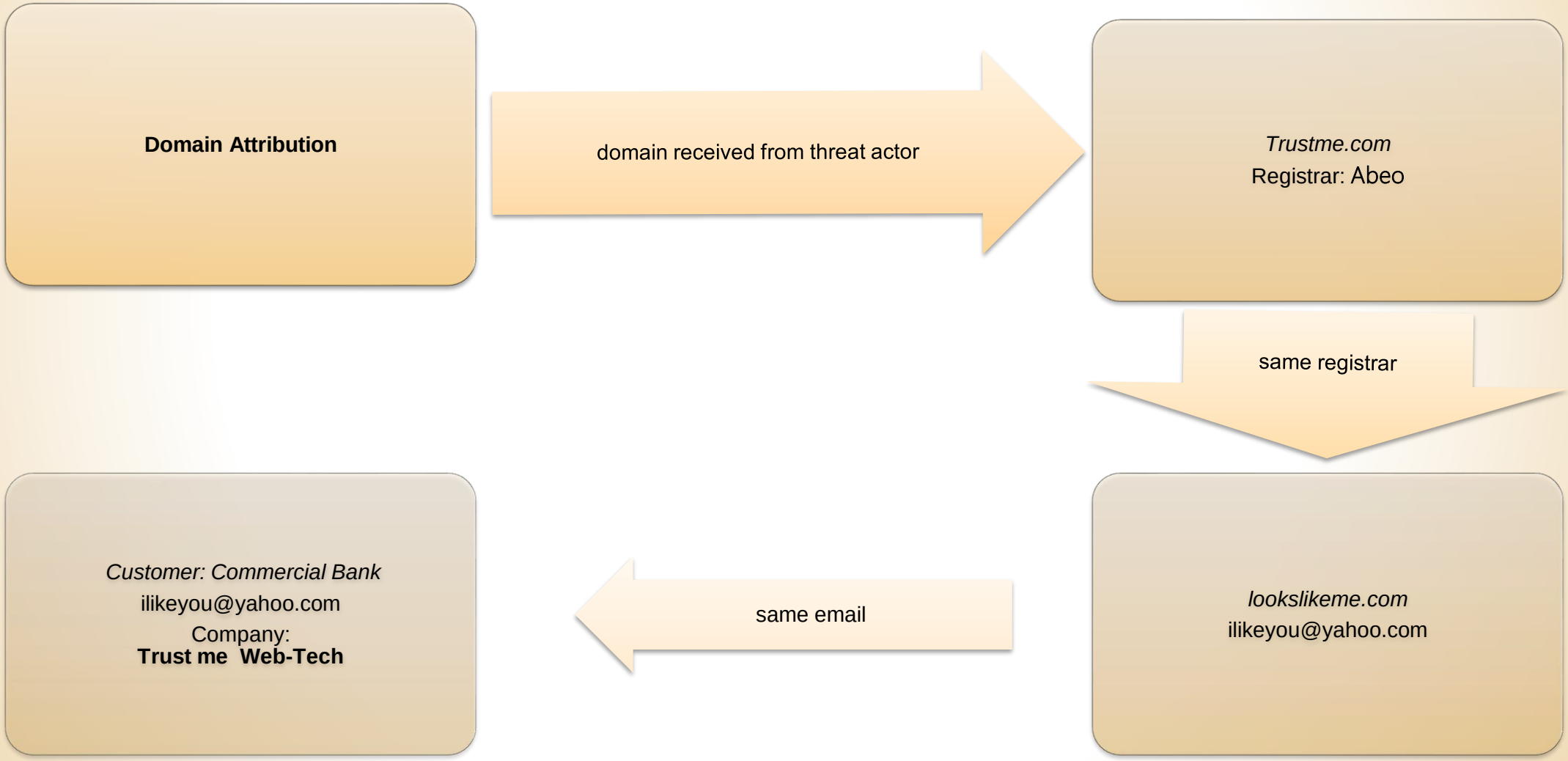
Threat Actors' Details	
Trust me Web-Tech	• https://www.facebook.com/pages/Trust meWeb-Tech/849221142932317
Trust me.com	• https://www.facebook.com/pages/trustme-IT-product-FH/73762938532387 • Trust me.org • Trust me.net
Abeo Okafor	• Nigerian male in his 40s, Lives in Lagos City, Nigeria. • Studied Computer Sciences at *University of Lago* (UNILAG). • Abeo expertise is in the web hosting / domains registration field • DOB: March 14, 1976 • Phone #: +234 909 749 2387 • https://twitter.com/abeo • https://www.facebook.com/abokafor • Personal email: abeo.okafor@Yahoo.com
Bako Eze CTO at *Trustme.com*	• Skype: bako. eze327 • https://twitter.com/bakoeze2889 • Mail: bako.eze3776@gmail.com • https://www.facebook.com/bako.eze3776 • Avatar name: Champion
M**aria Awa** (Finance)	• 34 Canal Street, Manchester M2 4NH. United Kingdom https://www.facebook.com/maria.awa • https://twitter.com/mariaawa36 • https://www.instagram.com/hindimaria5

“Baobab” operation phase 2 : Phishing campaigns

“BAOBAB” gang Associated Phishing Campaigns			
Fake Site	**Legitimate Site**	**Comment**	**Threat Actor Details**
online-lloyed.net	lloydsbank.com (US)	ACTIVE	abeo.okafor@Yahoo.com
Baobab	**Baobab**	**INACTIVE**	abeo.okafor@Yahoo.com
ABM Amroo.com	ABN Amro.com	ACTIVE	bako.eze3776@gmail.com
Online.Banking.CITI.org	Citi.com	INACTIVE	abeo.okafor@Yahoo.com
BMP Paribass.com.sg	BNP Paribas.com.sg	INACTIVE	bako.eze3776@gmail.com
onlinecitibike.com, citi-bankos.net	online.citi.com (EU)	INACTIVE	bako.eze3776@gmail.com

“Baobab” operation phase 2 : Domain attribution



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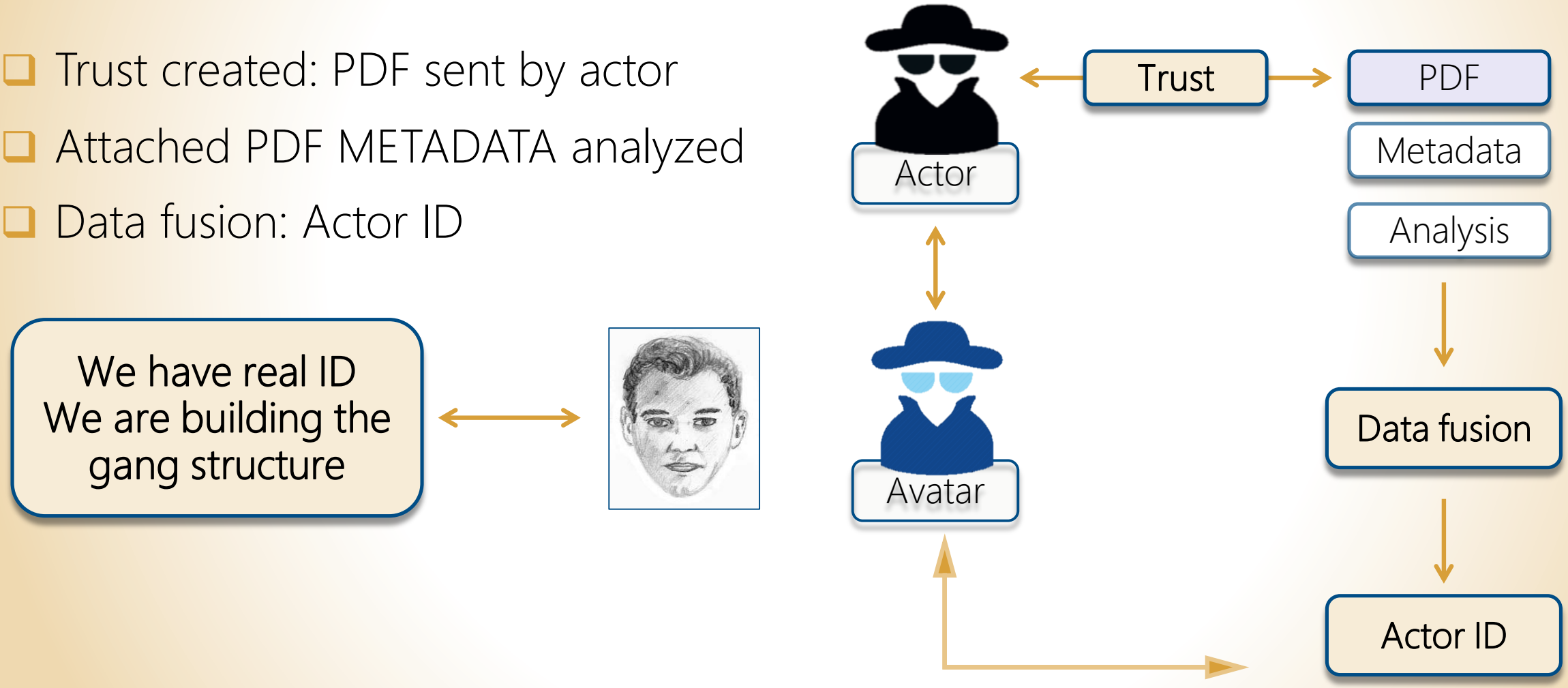
"Baobab" operation phase 2: Data fusion & analysis

- Trust created: PDF sent by actor
- Attached PDF METADATA analyzed
- Data fusion: Actor ID



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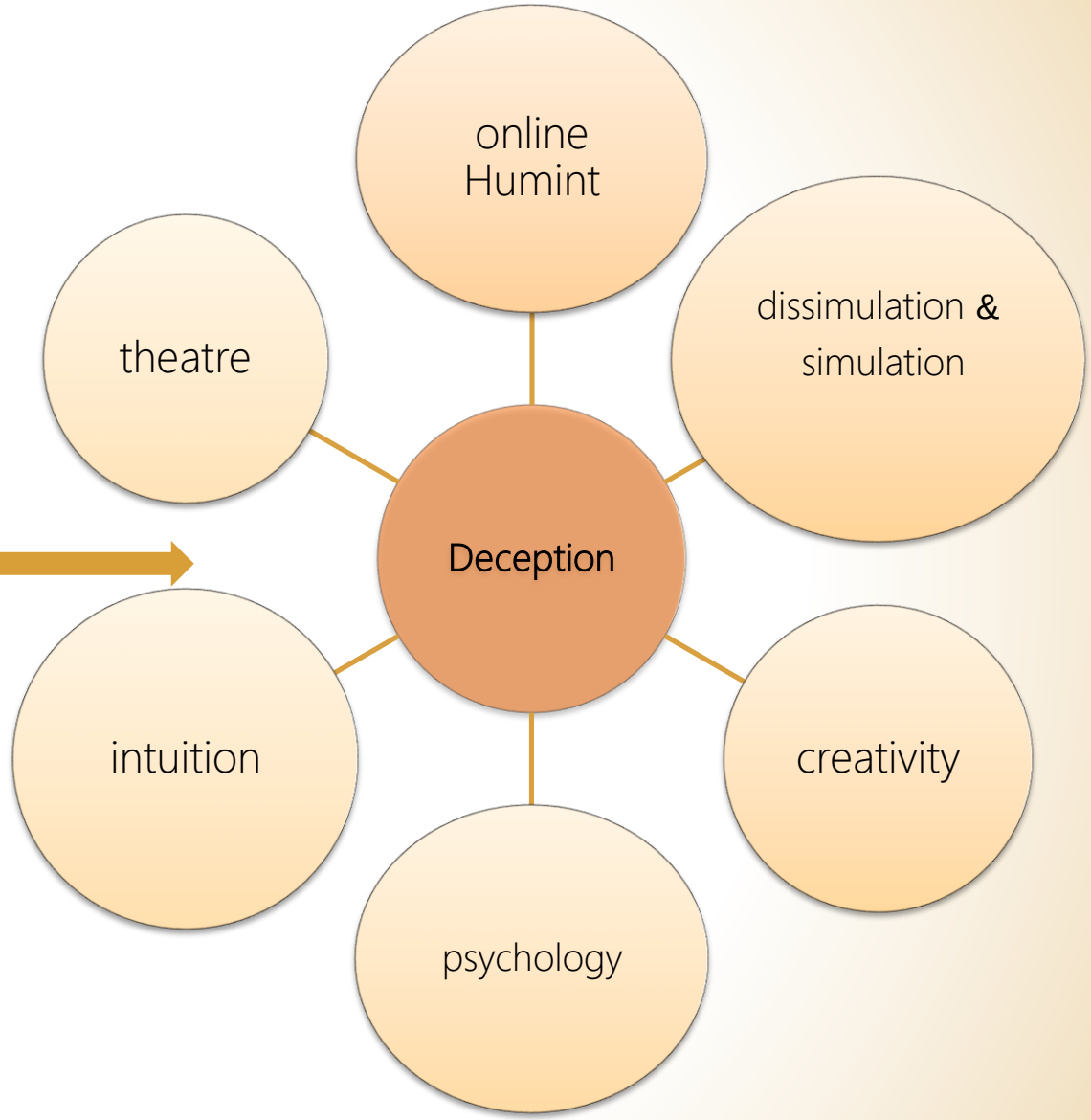
Cyber Humint deception: few words on this….

Trust and dependency



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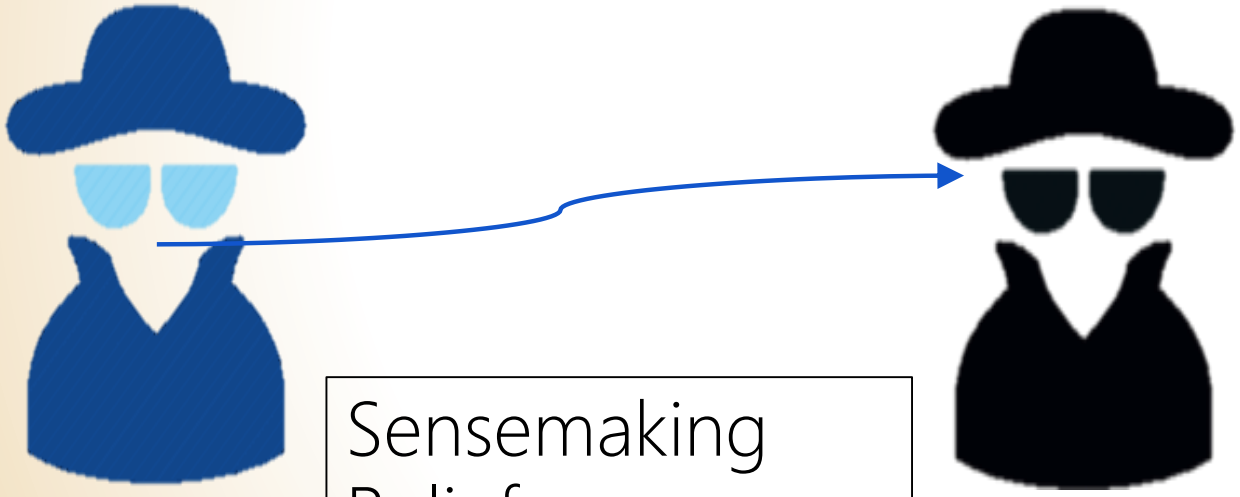
Deception: using human psychology

undercover AVATAR

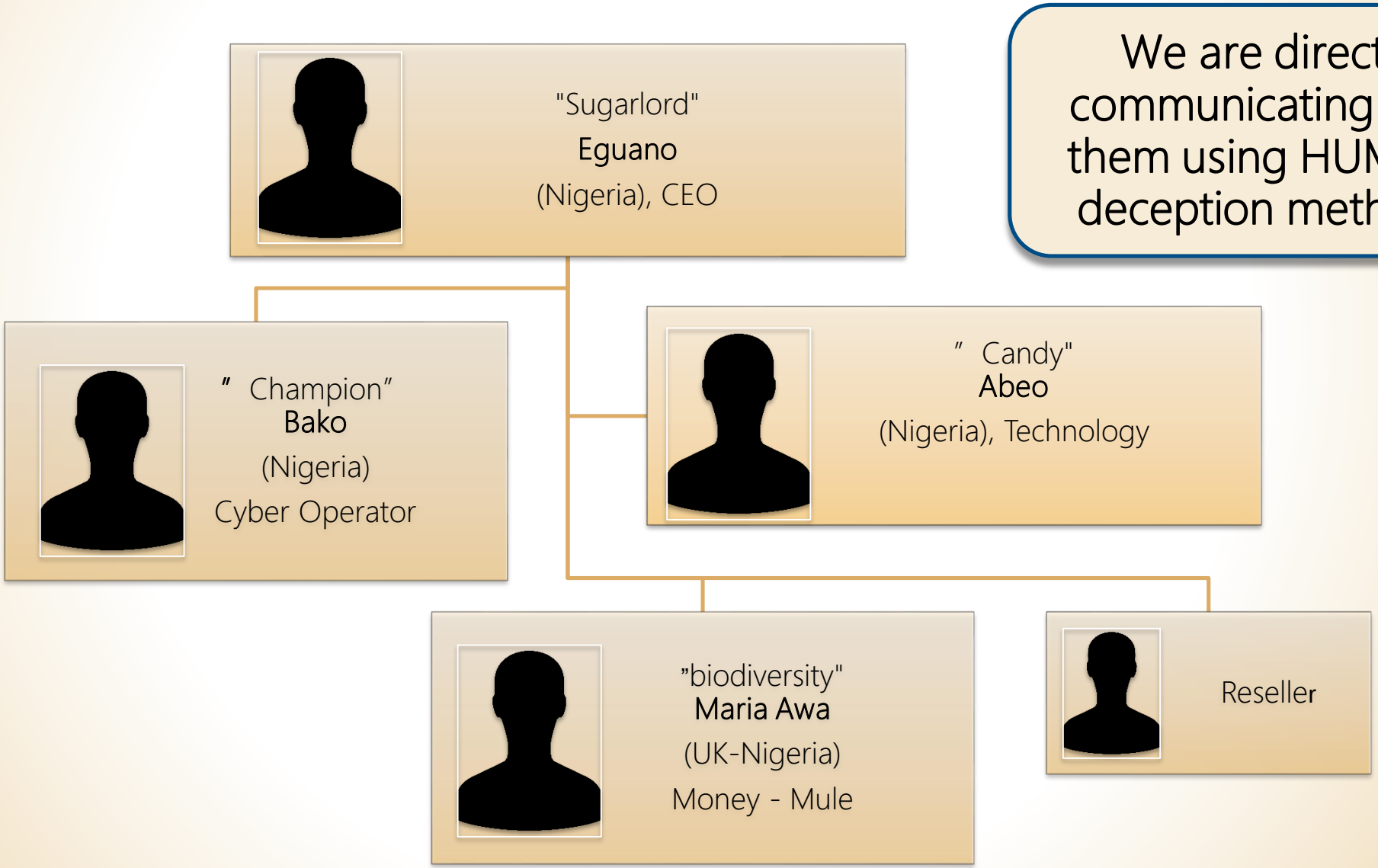
Cybercriminal in Africa



Sensemaking
Beliefs
Emotions
fears

"Baobab" operation phase 3: cyber gang structure

We are directly communicating with them using HUMINT deception methods



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Last mile: follow the money

Bank Name - UK Bank

Bank Address - 155 circle Rd, Manchester, M2 4DU, United Kingdom.

Account Name – Maria Awa

Account No – 42993359

Sort Code - 8828

SWIFT Code: ABCDEK34H18

IBAN: GB67 ABCD 6934 9376 3728 84

Beneficiary Address - 34 Canal Street, Manchester M2 4NH. United Kingdom

Like in the war on terrorism – this is very efficient

The Art of War, Sun Tzu*

- "All warfare is based on deception. Hence, when we are able to attack, we must seem unable;…
- "If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of hundred battles…"
- "The supreme art of war is to subdue the enemy without fighting."

*Chinese military strategist, Master Sun, 5th century BC