

AN INTRODUCTION TO WORKFLOWS IN MISP

MISP - THREAT SHARING

CIRCL / TEAM MISP PROJECT

MISP PROJECT

<https://www.misp-project.org/>

13TH ENISA-EC3 WORKSHOP



2024-10-02

An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

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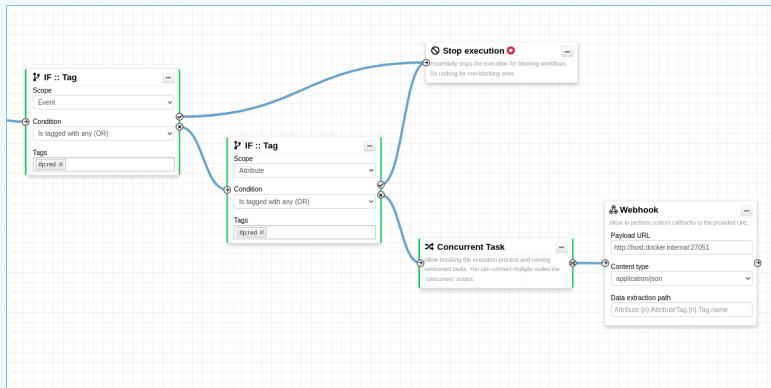
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CONTENT OF THE PRESENTATION

- MISP Workflows fundamentals
- Getting started
- Design of the system & how it can be extended



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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

└─ Content of the presentation

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- Initial idea came during GeekWeek7.5¹
- Needs:
 - ▶ Prevent default MISP behaviors
 - ▶ Hook specific actions to run callbacks
- Use-cases:
 - ▶ Prevent publication of events not meeting some criterias
 - ▶ Prevent querying thrid-party services (e.g. virustotal) with sensitive information
 - ▶ Send notifications in a chat rooms
 - ▶ And much much more..

¹Workshop organized by the Canadian Cyber Center

└─What problems are we trying to tackle

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- Needs:
 - ▶ Prevent default MISP behaviors
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WORKFLOW – FUNDAMENTALS

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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP
└─ Workflow - Fundamentals

WORKFLOW - FUNDAMENTALS

1. An **action** happens in MISP
2. If there is an **enabled** Workflow for that **action**, run it
3. If all went fine, MISP **continue** to perform the action
 - The operation can potentially be cancelled by blocking modules

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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

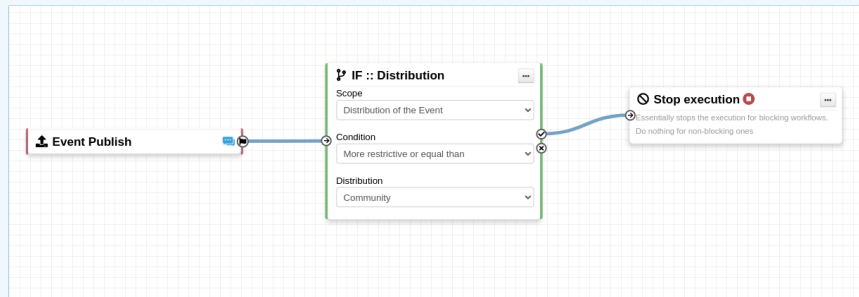
└ Workflow - Fundamentals

└ Simplistic overview of a Workflow in action

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TERMINOLOGY

- **workflow:** Sequence of all operations (nodes) to be executed. Basically the whole graph.
- **execution path:** A path composed of nodes
- **trigger:** Starting point of a workflow. Triggers are called when specific actions happen in MISP
 - ▶ A trigger can only have one workflow and vice-versa



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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

└ Workflow - Fundamentals

└ Terminology

TERMINOLOGY

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Typical execution process:

1. An action happens in MISP
2. The workflow associated to the trigger is ran
3. Execution result?
 - ▶ **success**: Continue the action
 - ▶ **failure** | **blocked**: Cancel the action

Example for Event publish:

1. An Event is about to be published
2. MISP executes the workflow listening to the event-publish trigger
 - ▶ **success**: Continue the publishing action
 - ▶ **failure** | **blocked**: Stop publishing and log the reason

└ Workflow - Fundamentals

└ Workflow execution process

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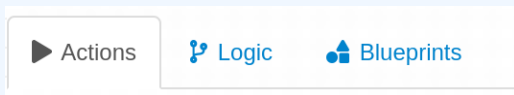
Currently 2 types of workflows:

- **Blocking:** Completion of the action can be prevented
 - ▶ If a **blocking module** blocks the action
 - ▶ If a **blocking module** raises an exception
- **Non-blocking:** Workflow execution outcome has no impact
 - ▶ **Blocking modules** can still stop the execution

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- Workflows can be triggered by **any users**
- Workflows can be triggered by actions done via the **UI** or **API**
- However, the user for which the workflow executes has:
 - ▶ The site-admin permission
 - ▶ Is from the `MISP.host_org_id`
- Ensures data is processed regardless of ownership and access: **no ACL**

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3 classes of modules

- **action:** Allow to executes functions, callbacks or scripts
 - ▶ Can stop execution
 - ▶ e.g. Webhook, block the execution, perform enrichments, ...
- **logic:** Allow to redirect the execution flow.
 - ▶ IF condition, fork the blocking execution into a non-blocking one, ...
- **blueprint:** Allow to reuse composition of modules
 - ▶ Can save subworkflows and its module's configuration

3 sources of action modules

■ Built-in **default** modules

- ▶ Part of the MISP codebase
- ▶ **app/Model/WorkflowModules/action/[module_name].php**


■ User-defined **custom** modules

- ▶ Written in PHP
- ▶ Can extend existing default modules
- ▶ Can use MISP's built-in functionalities (restsearch, enrichment, push to zmq, ...)
- ▶ Faster and easier to implement new complex behaviors
- ▶ **app/Lib/WorkflowModules/action/[module_name].php**

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3 sources of action modules

■ Modules from the **enrichment service**

- ▶ **Default** and **custom** modules
- ▶ From the *misp-module* 
- ▶ Written in Python
- ▶ Can use any python libraries
- ▶ New *misp-module* module type: action

→ Both the PHP and Python systems are **plug-and-play**

└ Workflow - Fundamentals

└ Sources of Workflow modules

3 sources of action modules

■ Modules from the **enrichment service**

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▶ From the *misp-module*

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













▶ Can use any python libraries

▶ New *misp-module* module type: action

→ Both the PHP and Python systems are **plug-and-play**

TRIGGERS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

Currently 8 triggers can be hooked. 3 being blocking.

Trigger name	Scope	Trigger overhead	Description	Run counter	Blocking Workflow	MISP Core format	Workflow ID	Last Update	Enabled	Actions
 Attribute After Save	attribute	high 	This trigger is called after an Attribute has been saved in the database	58	✗	✓	160	2022-07-29 06:58:11	✓	  
 Enrichment Before Query	others	low 	This trigger is called just before a query against the enrichment service is done	841	✓	✓	162	2022-07-29 08:32:32	✓	  
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 Event Publish	event	low 	This trigger is called just before a MISP Event starts the publishing process	1	✓	✓	180	2022-07-29 12:14:10	✓	  
 Object After Save	object	high 	This trigger is called after an Object has been saved in the database	35	✗	✓	161	2022-07-28 13:59:37	✗	  
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 User After Save	user	low 	This trigger is called after a user has been saved in the database	55	✗	✗	159	2022-07-28 14:00:03	✓	  
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- Workflow - Fundamentals
- Triggers currently available

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WORKFLOW – GETTING STARTED

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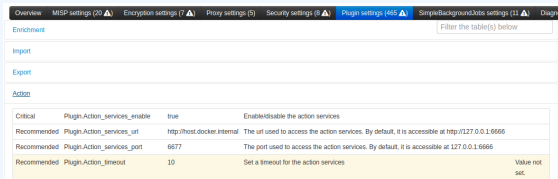
An Introduction to Workflows in MISP
└─ Workflow - Getting started

WORKFLOW - GETTING STARTED

GETTING STARTED WITH WORKFLOWS (1)

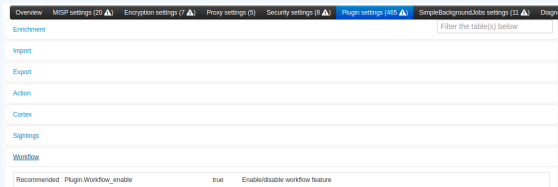
Review MISP settings:

1. Make sure `MISP.background_jobs` is turned on
2. Make sure workers are up-and-running and healthy
3. Turn the setting `Plugin.Workflow_enable` on



Critical	Plugin.Action_services_enable	true	Enable/disable the action services
Recommended	Plugin.Action_services_url	http://host.docker.internal	The url used to access the action services. By default, it is accessible at http://127.0.0.1:6666
Recommended	Plugin.Action_services_port	6677	The port used to access the action services. By default, it is accessible at 127.0.0.1:6666
Recommended	Plugin.Action_timeout	10	Set a timeout for the action services

4. [optional:misp-module] Turn the setting `Plugin.Action_services_enable` on



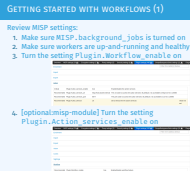
Recommended	Plugin.Workflow_enable	true	Enable/disable workflow feature
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Workflow - Getting started

Getting started with workflows (1)



GETTING STARTED WITH WORKFLOWS (2)

If you wish to use action modules from misp-module, make sure to have:

- The latest update of misp-module
 - ▶ There should be an action_mod module type in misp-modules/misp_modules/modules
- Restarted your misp-module application

```
1 # This command should show all 'action' modules
2 $ curl -s http://127.0.0.1:6666/modules | \
3 jq '.[ ] | select(.meta."module-type"[ ] | contains("action")) |
4 {name: .name, version: .meta.version}'
```

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└ Workflow - Getting started

└ Getting started with workflows (2)

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1. Go to the list of modules

- ▶ Administration > Workflows > List Modules
- ▶ or /workflows/moduleIndex

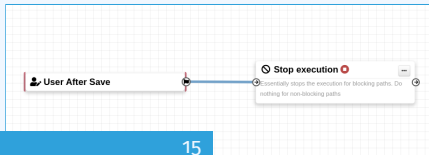
2. Make sure **default** modules are loaded

3. [optional:misp-module] Make sure **misp-module** modules are loaded

CREATING A WORKFLOW WITH THE EDITOR

1. Go to the list of triggers Administration > Workflows
2. Enable and edit a trigger from the list
3. Drag an action module from the side panel to the canvas
4. From the trigger output, drag an arrow into the action's input (left side)
5. Execute the action that would run the trigger and observe the effect!

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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

Workflow - Getting started

Creating a workflow with the editor

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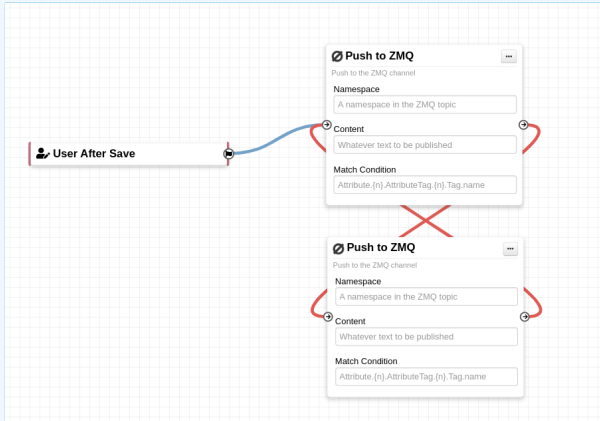
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WORKING WITH THE EDITOR

Operations not allowed:

- Execution loop are not authorized
 - ▶ Current caveat: If an action re-run the workflow in any way



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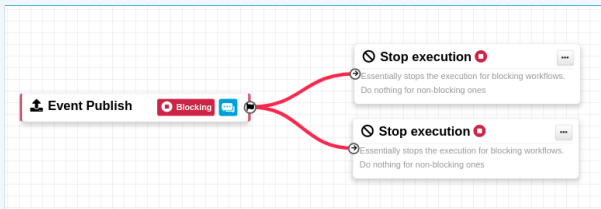
└ Workflow - Getting started

└ Working with the editor



Operations not allowed:

- Multiple connections from the same output
 - ▶ Execution order not guaranteed and confusing for users



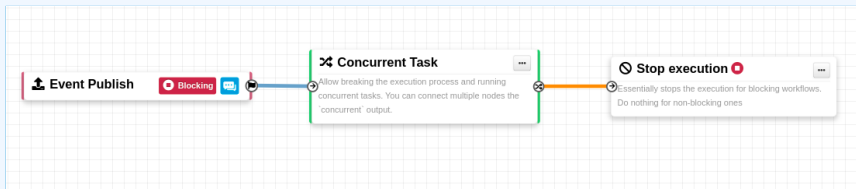
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Operations showing a warning:

- **Blocking** modules after a **concurrent tasks** module
- **Blocking** modules in a **non-blocking** workflow

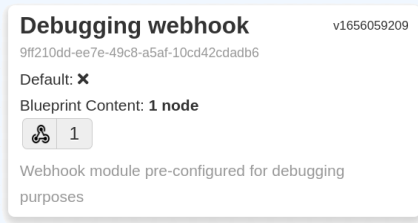


- Blocking modules after a concurrent tasks module
- Blocking modules in a non-blocking workflow



WORKFLOW BLUEPRINTS

1. Blueprints allow to **re-use parts** of a workflow in another one
2. Blueprints can be saved, exported and **shared**



Blueprints origins:

1. From the "official" misp-workflow-blueprints repository
2. Created or imported by users

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└ Workflow - Getting started

└ Workflow blueprints

WORKFLOW BLUEPRINTS

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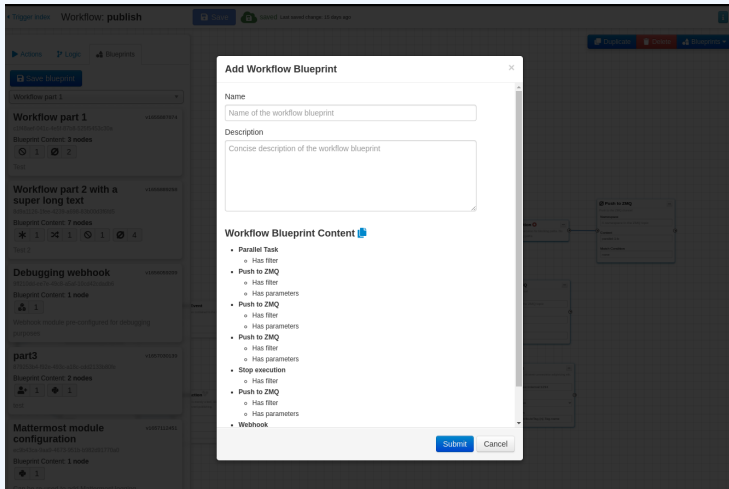


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WORKFLOW BLUEPRINTS: CREATE

Select one or more modules to be saved as blueprint then click on the save blueprint button



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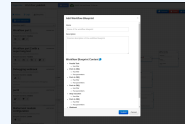
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└ Workflow - Getting started

└ Workflow blueprints: Create

WORKFLOW BLUEPRINTS: CREATE

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HASH PATH FILTERING

- Some modules have the possibility to filter or check conditions using CakePHP's path expression.

```
1 $path_expression = '{n}[name=fred].id';
2 $users = [
3     {'id': 123, 'name': 'fred', 'surname': 'bloggs'},
4     {'id': 245, 'name': 'fred', 'surname': 'smith'},
5     {'id': 356, 'name': 'joe', 'surname': 'smith'},
6 ];
7 $ids = Hash::extract($users, $path_expression);
8 // => $ids will be [123, 245]
```

IF :: Generic

Value
tlp:red

Operator
In

Hash path
Attribute.{n}.Tag

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Workflow - Getting started

Hash path filtering

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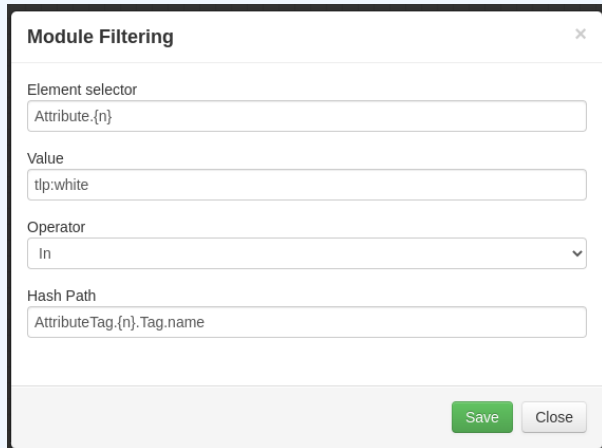
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MODULE FILTERING

- Some action modules accept **filtering** conditions
- E.g. the `enrich-event` module will only perform the enrichment on Attributes having a `tlp:white` Tag



The screenshot shows a 'Module Filtering' dialog box with the following fields:

- Element selector:** `Attribute.{n}`
- Value:** `tlp:white`
- Operator:** `In` (selected from a dropdown menu)
- Hash Path:** `AttributeTag.{n}.Tag.name`

At the bottom right, there are 'Save' and 'Close' buttons.

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└ Workflow - Getting started

└ Module filtering

MODULE FILTERING

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- E.g. the `enrich-event` module will only perform the enrichment on Attributes having a `tlp:white` Tag



This is a smaller version of the 'Module Filtering' dialog box shown on slide 22, containing the same fields and buttons.



- All triggers will inject data in a workflow
- In some cases, there is no format (e.g. User after-save)
- In others, the format is **compliant with the MISP Core format**
- In addition to the RFC, the passed data has **additional properties**
 - ▶ Attributes are **always encapsulated** in the Event or Object
 - ▶ Additional key **_AttributeFlattened**
 - ▶ Additional key **_allTags**
 - ▶ Additional key **inherited** for Tags

└ Workflow - Getting started

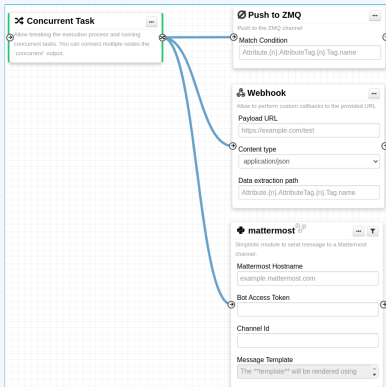
└ Data format in Workflows



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LOGIC MODULE: CONCURRENT TASK

- Special type of **logic** module allowing multiple connections
- Allows **breaking the execution** flow into a concurrent tasks to be executed later on by a background worker
- As a side effect, blocking modules **cannot cancel** ongoing operations



An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

└ Workflow - Getting started

└ Logic module: Concurrent Task

- Special type of **logic** module allowing multiple connections
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DEBUGGING WORKFLOWS: LOG ENTRIES

- Workflow execution is logged in the application logs:
 - ▶ `/admin/logs/index`
- Or stored on disk in the following file:
 - ▶ `/app/tmp/logs/workflow-execution.log`
- Use the `webhook-listener.py` tool
 - ▶ `/app/tools/misp-workflows/webhook-listener.py`

Logs

« previous

next »

Emails Authentication issues MISP Update results Setting changes **Warnings and errors**

Id ↑	Email	Org	Created	Model	Model	Action	Title
					ID		
49146	SYSTEM	SYSTEM	2022-08-01 07:34:40	Workflow	162	execute_workflow	Finished executing workflow for trigger 'enrichment-before-query' (162). Outcome: success
49144	SYSTEM	SYSTEM	2022-08-01 07:34:39	Workflow	162	execute_workflow	Started executing workflow for trigger 'enrichment-before-query' (162)

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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

└ Workflow - Getting started

└ Debugging Workflows: Log Entries


DEBUGGING WORKFLOWS: LOG ENTRIES

- Workflow execution is logged in the application logs:
 - ▶ `/admin/logs/index`
- Or stored on disk in the following file:
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- Use the `webhook-listener.py` tool
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Logs

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DEBUGGING WORKFLOWS: DEBUG MODE

- The  Debug Mode: On can be turned on for each workflows
- Each nodes will send data to the provided URL
 - ▶ Configure the setting: `Plugin.Workflow_debug_url`
- Result can be visualized in
 - ▶ **offline:** `tools/misp-workflows/webhook-listener.py`
 - ▶ **online:** `requestbin.com` or similar websites

LIVE		PAUSE	🔍 Type to search...
Today			
2:25:10 pm	POST	/end?outcome=blocked	
2:25:09 pm	POST	/exec/stop-execution?result=success	
2:25:09 pm	POST	/exec/tag-if?result=success	
2:25:08 pm	POST	/init?type=blocking	


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└ Workflow - Getting started

└ Debugging Workflows: Debug mode

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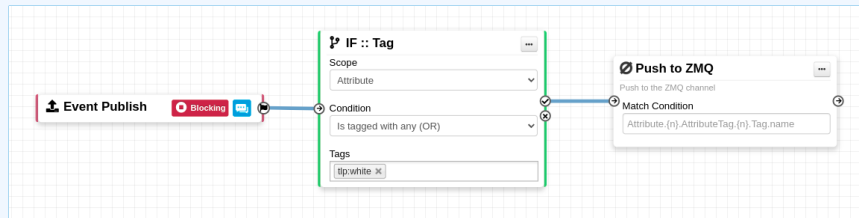
LEARNING BY EXAMPLES

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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP
└ Learning by examples

LEARNING BY EXAMPLES

WORKFLOW EXAMPLE 1



1. The Event-Publish trigger uses the MISP core format
2. The IF::Tag module checks if at least one of the Attribute has the tlp:white tag
3. If it does, the Push-to-ZMQ module will be executed

An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

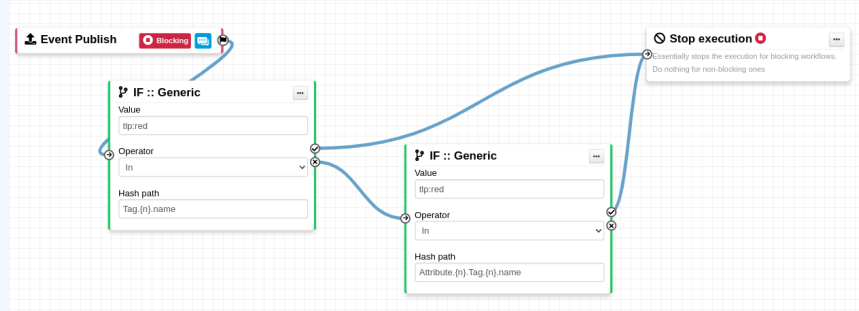
Learning by examples

Workflow example 1

WORKFLOW EXAMPLE 1

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WORKFLOW EXAMPLE 2

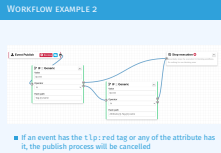


- If an event has the `tlp:red` tag or any of the attribute has it, the publish process will be cancelled

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Learning by examples

Workflow example 2



- If an event has the `tlp:red` tag or any of the attribute has it, the publish process will be cancelled

EXTENDING THE SYSTEM

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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP
└─ Extending the system

EXTENDING THE SYSTEM

CREATING A NEW MODULE IN PHP

```
app > Lib > WorkflowModules > action > Module_blueprint_action_module.php > ...
1 <?php
2 include_once APP . 'Model/WorkflowModules/WorkflowBaseModule.php';
3
4 class Module_blueprint_action_module extends WorkflowBaseModule
5 {
6     public $is_blocking = false;
7     public $disabled = true;
8     public $id = 'blueprint-action-module';
9     public $name = 'Blueprint action module';
10    public $description = 'Lorem ipsum dolor, sit amet consectetur adipisicing elit.';
11    public $icon = 'shapes';
12    public $inputs = 1;
13    public $outputs = 1;
14    public $params = [];
15
16    public function exec(array $node, WorkflowRoamingData $roamingData, array &$errors = [])
17        : bool
18    {
19        parent::exec($node, $roamingData, $errors);
20        // If $this->is_blocking == true, returning 'false' will stop the execution.
21        $errors[] = __('Execution stopped');
22        return false;
23    }
24 }
```

- **app/Lib/WorkflowModules/action/[module_name].php**
- Module configuration are defined as public variables
- The exec function has to be implemented.
 - ▶ If it returns **true**, execution will proceed
 - ▶ If it returns **false**
 - And the module is blocking, the execution will stop and the operation will be blocked

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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

└ Extending the system

└ Creating a new module in PHP



- **app/Lib/WorkflowModules/action/[module_name].php**
- Module configuration are defined as public variables
- The exec function has to be implemented.
 - ▶ If it returns **true**, execution will proceed
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CREATING A NEW MODULE IN PYTHON

```
home > sami > git > misp-modules > misp_modules > modules > action_mod > testaction.py > ...
1 > import json-
2
3
4 mispererrors = {'error': 'Error'}
5
6 # config fields that your code expects from the site admin
7 moduleconfig = {
8     'foo': {
9         'type': 'string',
10        'description': 'blablabla',
11        'value': 'xyz'
12    },
13    'bar': {
14        'type': 'string',
15        'value': 'meh'
16    }
17 };
18
19 # blocking modules break the execution of the chain of actions (such as publishing)
20 blocking = False
21
22 # returns either "boolean" or "data"
23 # Boolean is used to simply signal that the execution has finished.
24 # For blocking modules the actual boolean value determines whether we break execution
25 returns = 'boolean'
26
27 moduleinfo = {'version': '0.1', 'author': 'Andras Iklody',
28               'description': 'This module is merely a test, always returning true. Triggers on event publishing.',
29               'module-type': ['action']}
30
31
32 def handler(q=False):
33     if q is False:
34         return False
35     result = json.loads(q) # nope
36     output = result # Insert your magic here!
37     r = {"data": output}
38     return r
39
40
41 > def introspection():-
```

- Module configuration are defined in the moduleinfo and moduleconfig variables
- The handler function has to be implemented.
- Blocking logic is the same as other modules

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An Introduction to Workflows in MISP

└ Extending the system

└ Creating a new module in Python

CREATING A NEW MODULE IN PYTHON



- Module configuration are defined in the moduleinfo and moduleconfig variables
- The handler function has to be implemented.
- Blocking logic is the same as other modules