

Dirt to Data

- Where is your data?
- Who has access to it?
- Is it being watched?



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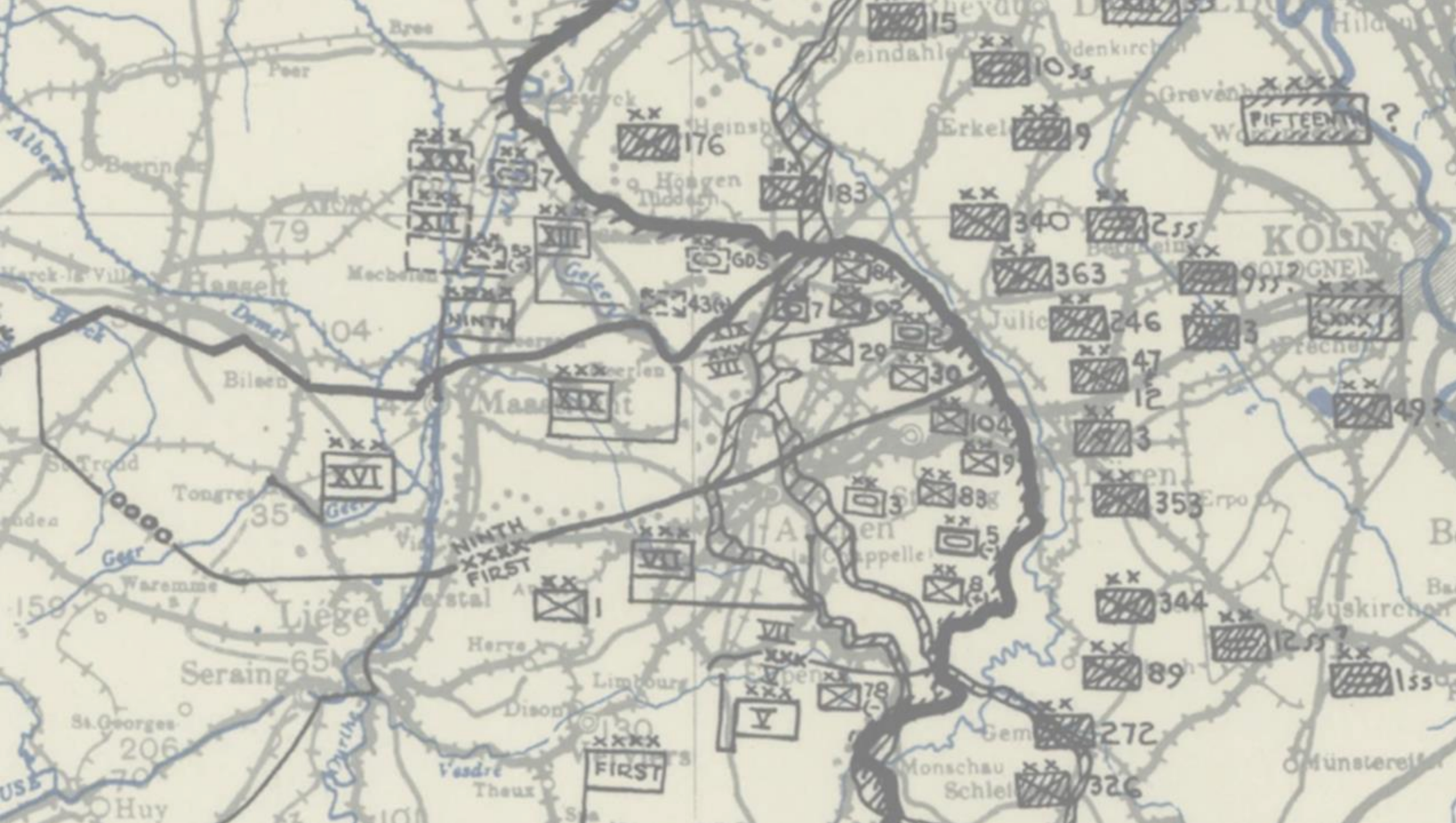
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Before the Internet: Data Has Always Been in Play

- Roman Empire – Sealed wax tablets, encrypted scrolls, guarded couriers
- WWII – Operation Mincemeat – Deception with physical data planted on a corpse





UKRAINE

RUSSIA



Modern APTs: The New Threat Actors, Same Old Objective

- APT29 (Russia) – Targets U.S. federal & defense orgs
- APT40 (China) – Naval and supply chain espionage
- Lazarus Group (North Korea) – Financial and psychological disruption



Stand by for the next phase of operations.

QUESTIONS

CONCERNS

COMPLAINTS

1ST ROW, L-R — HALEY KELLY SMITH WILSON THOMPSON PETERS McLANEY COLEY MONTISETT SHEPHERD
2ND ROW, L-R — CORRIN BURKHALTER ROBERTS BROWN KING RUTLAND HARDIN McCULLOUGH KASSEL DODD WILLSON
3RD ROW, L-R — VOULS GUILDEAD PITTS DOUCET LT. RIDER LT. BASSETT W/O WILSON WALLACE HARRIS WADE PURSLEY DAVIS SKIPPER
4TH ROW, L-R — REESE ROBINSON JACQUIAY CORNELLIOUS SELMAN KIRKSEY EBERHARDT WEEKS BURON ADAMS TRACY
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OAKOC: Framing the Battlespace

- O – Obstacles
- A – Avenues of Approach
- K – Key Terrain
- O – Observation and Fields of Fire
- C – Cover and Concealment

O – Kinetic: Obstacles

- Natural: rivers, cliffs, swamps
- Man-made: mines, wire, barriers
- Obstacles shape movement, block access, or channel engagement

O – Cyber: Obstacles

- Firewalls, ACLs, segmentation, encryption
- Controls that limit movement or deny access
- Shape, restrict, or expose adversary maneuver inside the perimeter

A – Kinetic: Avenues of Approach

- Ground, air, sea routes for enemy/friendly movement
- Enable maneuver toward objectives
- Shape timing, surprise, and tempo

A – Cyber: Avenues of Approach

- Lateral movement paths
- Credential abuse, RDP, VPN, API misuse
- Every uncontrolled pathway is an attack vector

K – Kinetic: Key Terrain

- Any position offering tactical or strategic advantage
- Control influences mission success
- Often tied to visibility, mobility, or logistics

K – Cyber: Key Terrain

- Domain controllers, data repositories, backup systems
- If compromised, mission impact is severe
- Must be prioritized for visibility and protection

O – Kinetic: Observation & Fields of Fire

- What you can see and engage
- High ground = visibility
- Fields of fire = coverage zones

O – Cyber: Observation & Fields of Fire

- Logs, telemetry, behavioral analytics
- Visibility = observability
- Fields of fire = response capability

C – Kinetic: Cover and Concealment

- Cover: protection from fire
- Concealment: hidden from view
- Used for survival, deception, and advantage

C – Cyber: Cover and Concealment

- Cover = segmentation, encryption, isolation
- Concealment = obfuscation, deception, misdirection
- Control what's seen, what's accessible, and what's real

OAKOC – The Terrain Has Evolved

Doctrine Doesn't Change—Terrain Does

If you know how to defend dirt, you already know how to defend data.

You just have to re-learn the terrain.

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4.1 – Data Catalog Risk Alignment

Step 1: Map the Terrain Before You Fight On It

- Discover, catalog, and tag critical data
- Assess risk to exposure, loss, manipulation
- Establish a data baseline and track movement

4.2 – Enterprise Data Governance

Step 2: Establish Control of the Terrain

- Label and tag data for machine-enforceable policies
- Implement just-enough and just-in-time access
- Define rulesets and enforce through centralized control

4.3 – Data Labeling & Tagging

Step 3: Enable Machine-Speed Decision Making

- Enforce labels and tags based on policy
- Prioritize mission-critical assets
- Automate for scale and consistency

4.4 – Data Monitoring & Sensing

Step 4: ISR for the Data Battlespace

- Make all sensitive data observable
- Send logs to SIEM, DLP, and threat engines
- Monitor for abnormal movement, access, and use

4.5 – Data Encryption, Rights Management, & DLP

Step 5: Deny the Enemy Use of the Terrain

- Encrypt at rest and in transit
- Enforce DRM controls outside enterprise systems
- Use DLP to detect and stop exfiltration or misuse

Mission Reflection

Where is your data?

Who has access to it?

Is it being watched?

Have your answers changed?

