

## What It Actually Takes to Launch Threat Intelligence That Works

Threat intelligence is only useful when it targets the right priorities and is managed by people who know how to act on it. Whether you are building your first intelligence program or upgrading to something more capable, this checklist walks you through what needs to be in place so you do not just collect alerts but actually use them.

### What You'll Need to Get Threat Intelligence Off the Ground

Check these off before you hit "monitor."

- ☐ **Decide what you want to watch and why.**  
Not everything needs coverage. Start with what matters most: domains, VIPs, credentials, key systems, or high-risk regions.
- ☐ **Pick the level of depth that makes sense.**  
Need a basic pulse on credential leaks and compromised accounts? Cool. Want full-spectrum tracking, chatter analysis, and tailored threat actor patterns? Also cool. Just know where you're starting.
- ☐ **Choose who's going to own the alerts.**  
Intel is useless if it lands in a shared inbox nobody checks. Make sure someone's on point to handle what comes in.
- ☐ **Set ground rules for when issues escalate.**  
What counts as urgent? Who gets the call if an executive's credentials appear on a forum? Decide that now, not in the middle of an incident.
- ☐ **Figure out how you want the intel delivered.**  
A weekly digest? Real-time alerts? Executive summaries with context? If it doesn't fit into your workflow, it'll get ignored.
- ☐ **Make sure you can do something with what you learn.**  
If intel points to a compromised account or bad actor, can you act? Reset creds, block IPs, adjust controls? That's the point.
- ☐ **Don't skip the success criteria.**  
What does "this is working" look like for your team? Fewer surprises? Cleaner investigations? More clarity during risk reviews? Know what good looks like.

#### What This Means

If you have checked most of these, you are ready for threat intelligence that truly helps. If not, this checklist just saved you time. Either way, if you want it done right with useful insight instead of noise, we are here to handle it.

Smart threat intelligence.

**Real insight. No fluff.**

[info@networkats.com](mailto:info@networkats.com)

