### Dormant Malware Attacks - What's Next?

**Daniel Frye**CedarCrestone, Inc.



Session ID: SP02-108

Session Classification: Advanced

**RS**\(\text{CONFERENCE}\)2012



# Understanding the APT / dormant malware problem

#### Reality of APT / Dormant Malware

- The non-scientific definition of 'advanced persistent threat' is the same as 'dormant malware'
  - "Something's in the system that's quiet and malicious"
- How is this different than any other virus, worm, backdoor, rootkit, Trojan, or malicious employee?
  - Frankly... it's not.



#### World News

#### Malware Has Been Lurking on City College of San Francisco System for a Decade

January 16, 2012

Students, faculty, and staff at City College of San Francisco (California) are being urged to change their passwords, refrain from using computers at the school to conduct financial transactions or any activity that requires a password, and check their home computers for infection following the detection of malware on the school's computer system. It appears that at least seven different strains of malware have been on the system for years. The problem was detected in November 2011, when those responsible for monitoring network activity noticed anomalous traffic patterns. An investigation revealed that malware had been stealing data for more than a decade. The compromised information includes banking data.

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/01/16/BA8T1MQ4E5.DTL



#### Input / Output

- Change in a 'system' relies on two things:
  - Input (I)
  - Output (O)
- Even internally to the 'system' we use (I) and (O)
  - Functions(), Procedures() at the code level
  - Queries, data files, network traffic at each successive level
- Theory: If you monitor all things (I) and (O) you can see all things affecting the 'system'
  - Corollary: If you see all things affecting the 'system' you have perfect intelligence



#### Attack detection

- Attacks are never invisible, but they may be hard to detect
  - Covert channels to C&C servers (network traffic)
  - New listening ports or processes being opened
  - System files modified (checksum)
  - Account modifications (additional rights granted)
- Attackers exploit a box by manipulating the I/O
  - Vulnerable port (worm, TCP/IP flaws, etc)
  - Vulnerable program (XSS, Sql\_inj, PDF, etc)
- Even Zero Days leave footprints somewhere!

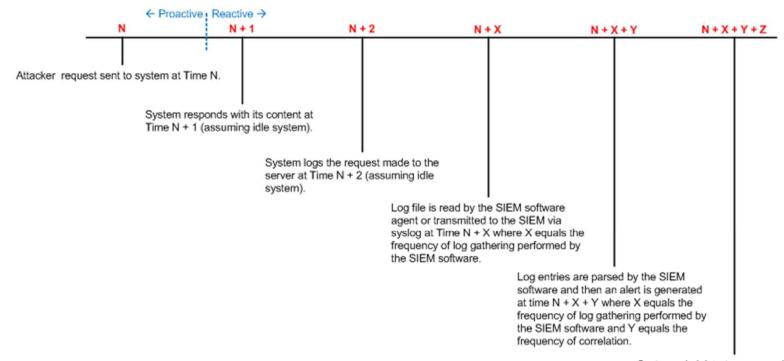


#### Manipulating Input / Output

- The point at which the attack is successful changes our defense from proactive to reactive
  - Events occur which indicate successful attack(s)
- Significant delays in detection impair response
  - Damage increased
  - Effectiveness of responders reduced
- Delays to response come in many forms
  - System
  - Human



#### Effects of Correlation Time on Response



System administrators respond to the alert at Time N + X + Y + Z where X equals the frequency of log gathering performed by the SIEM software, Y equals the frequency of correlation, and Z equals the time taken by the administrator(s) to respond to the alert.





# Developing your strategy for APT / dormant malware (also known as security)

#### **Using Metrics**

- Properly leveraged, metrics can tell you if you're doing better or worse
- Helps with...
  - Budget requests
  - Staffing levels
  - Choosing priorities
  - Finding process issues
  - Training needs
  - Technology issues



#### Types of Metrics

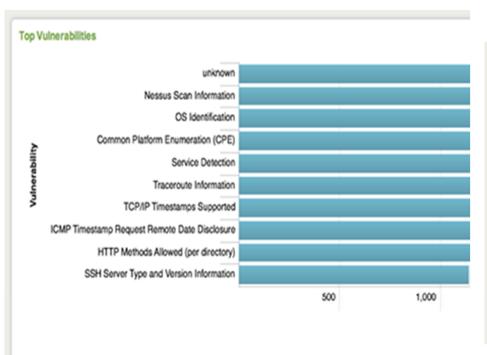
- Two types of Metrics
  - Digital Metrics
    - Discrete, repetitive, efficient measurements
      - Go get Andrew Jaquith's book Security Metrics
        - » http://www.amazon.com/Security-Metrics-Replacing-Uncertainty-Doubt/dp/0321349989
  - Analog Metrics
    - Trending, scenarios, probability... \*not\* discrete

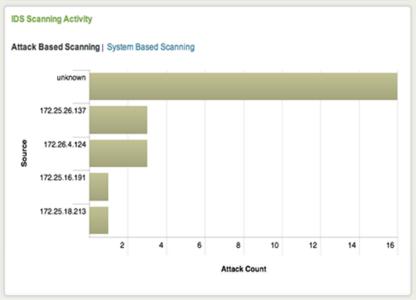
"If you're presented with either/or... it's probably both."



#### **Metrics limitations**

• Must understand your limitations and the limitations of the system you're measuring!







#### **Using Compliance Initiatives**

- PCI, HIPAA, ISO27000 series, etc can all be used to define your baseline
  - Not perfect, but can be used as an 'analog' metric
- Measure the following:
  - % of controls covered
  - Your 'gut feeling' of how effective that control is
  - Number of estimated man hours to implement control
  - Cost of control
- Net result is a SWOT diagram of your ISMS and the building block of your strategy



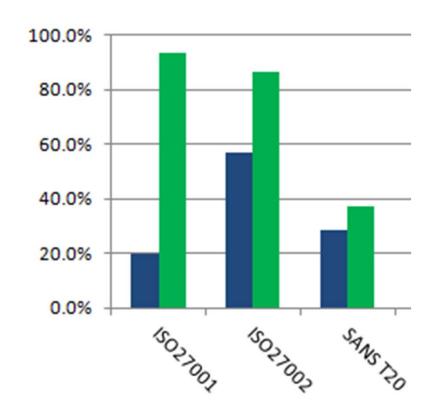
#### Sample Strategy Plan Using PCI

	Requirement 10: Track and monitor all access to network resources and cardholder data.	4.0%	88.0%	Total Hours	Security	Unix	Network	WinServer
	Requirement 10: Track and monitor all access to network resources and cardholder data.			3236	886	362	282	282
10.1	Establish a process for linking all access to system components (especially access done with administrative privileges such as root) to each individual user.	No	No	72	40	4	4	4
10.2	Implement automated audit trails for all system components to reconstruct the following events:	No	Yes	2750	750	250	250	250
10.2.1	All individual accesses to cardholder data	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.2.2	All actions taken by any individual with root or administrative privileges	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.2.3	Access to all audit trails	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.2.4	Invalid logical access attempts	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.2.5	Use of identification and authentication mechanisms	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.2.6	Initialization of the audit logs	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.2.7	Creation and deletion of system-level objects	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.3	Record at least the following audit trail entries for all system components for each event:			21	4	2	2	2
10.3.1	User identification	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.3.2	Type of event	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.3.3	Date and time	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.3.4	Success or failure indication	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.3.5	Origination of event	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.3.6	Identity or name of affected data, system component, or resource.	No	Yes	21	4	2	2	2
10.4	Synchronize all critical system clocks and times.	Yes	Yes	0	0	0	0	0
10.4.1	Critical systems have the correct and consistent time.	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0
10.4.2	Time data is protected.	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0
10.4.3	Time settings are received from industry-accepted time sources.	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0
10.5	Secure audit trails so they cannot be altered	No	Yes	0	0	0	0	0



#### Performance of Plan

- Measurements
  - Starting % coverage
  - Current % coverage
- Review increase or decrease per unit of time (month / year) with Executives
- Are we on target?
  - If not, why?





#### **Being Proactive**

- Risk Assessment != Risk Management
  - What can happen to this 'system'?
  - What is our "real time"[ish] threat and vulnerability stance?
  - Risk Management is an ongoing proactive process
- We are not all knowing... ask someone else
  - Finding your weaknesses is a "blacklist" approach; you don't know what you don't know!
  - Properly leveraging penetration testing techniques is a proactive approach to managing risk



#### Dealing with the Unknown

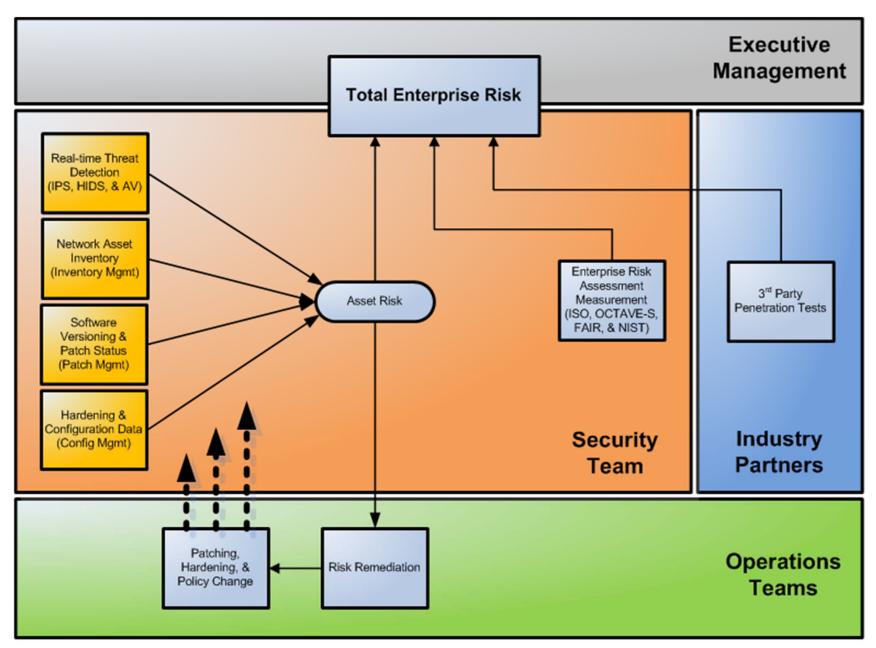
- The most significant factor of a <u>pentester</u> successfully breaching your security is the skill of the person doing the <u>testing</u>...
- The most significant factor of an <u>attacker</u> successfully breaching your security is the skill of the person doing the <u>attacking</u>...
- Pentesters utilize the same tools / techniques as attackers
  - Results in an evaluation of things we 'don't know'
- If you're not using good testers, you should be!



#### **Automating our Risk Metrics**

- Risk broken down into:
  - Operational Risk
    - Real-time Threats
    - Asset Discovery
    - Patch Management
    - Hardening & Configuration standards
  - 2. Enterprise Risk
  - 3. Unknown Risk
- Risk Assessment combined with Operations will "always probably" happen







#### In Review...

- We need to detect changes & activity
- We need to measure our processes
- We need a strategy for our ISMS
- We need to evaluate Risk as an ongoing process
- We have to deal with 'unknowns' in our 'system'



# Bullo

#### Building the tools we need

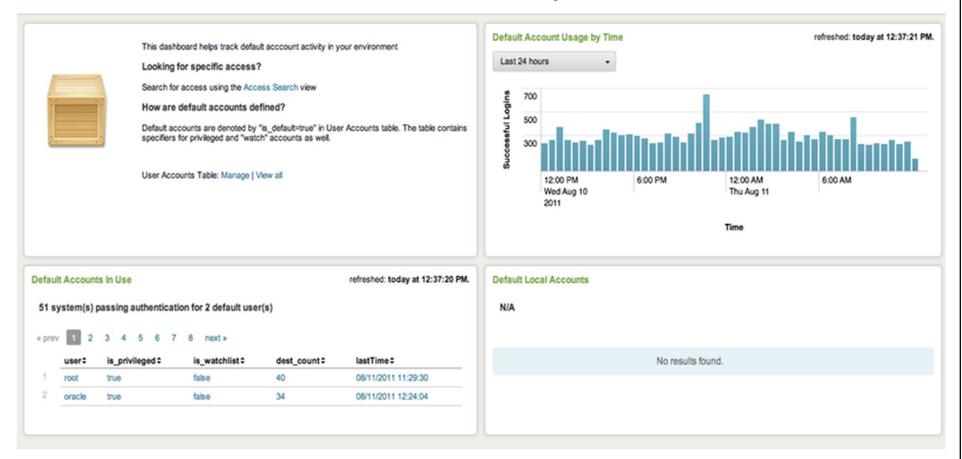
#### Flexibility

- The more complex the process, the more likely a custom solution is required
  - Windows event logs == easy
  - Web application logs from an ERP system == hard
- We need dashboard creation and user modifiable searches, graphs, and reports
  - No "developer" time
  - Every company presents and processes information differently



#### Default accounts

These are still active? Really?





#### Tracking port activity

#### Monitoring external / internal IP Space

- What ports have changed over time?
- Monitoring for services or ports that were unauthorized or misconfigured
- Port changes over time to show growing external IP space, i.e. increased "Risk"

8	Microsoft Windows 2000 SP3/SP4 or Windows XP SP1/SP2 Microsoft Windows XP SP2 or SP3	80 443	tcp	open	http
		443	tcp	open	https
		5414	tcp	open	statusd
		6389	tcp	open	clarion-evr01
		13456	tcp	open	unknown
		60020	tcp	open	unknown
)	Sun Solaris 9 or 10 (SPARC)	21 22 111	tcp	open	ftp
		22	tcp	open	ssh
		111	tcp	open	rpobind
		2049	tcp	open	nfs
		4045	tcp tcp	open	lockd
		6389 8089	tcp	open	clarion-evr01
		8089	tcp	open	unknown
		13722	tcp	open	netbackup
		13782	top	open	netbackup
		13783	tcp	open	netbackup
		32774	tcp	open	sometimes-rpc
0	Sun Solaris 9 or 10 (SPARC)	21	tcp	open	ftp
		22	tcp	open	ssh
		21 22 111	tcp	open	rpobind
		4045	tcp	open	lockd
		6389	tcp	open	clarion-evr01
		8089	tcp	open	unknown



#### Vulnerability scanning mistakes

 Don't look at data of what was scanned, but also consider what <u>wasn't</u> scanned

Delinquent Scanning	refreshed: today at 6:02:27 PM.
Show systems that have reported vulnerabilities in the last	365
days but not in the last 30 days	
View full results	



#### Tracking change of interesting events

- Dashboards used to track increase / decrease of event types
- Gives you 'at-a-glance' focus to problem areas





#### **Network anomalies**







## Non-traditional areas of APT / Dormant malware

#### **Dormant Malware in BYOT**

- Less control of the environment...
  - Finding unprotected systems (missing A/V, no encryption, no PID scanning tools)
  - Making sure software versions are up-to-date
- ... means more probability of dormancy
  - Less familiarity with operating patterns
  - Typically less 'technical know-how'
- Endpoint tool(s) fed through a 'security intelligence' tool can help build these tracking needs into your metrics



#### Highly available systems

- Less time to patch and maintain systems...
  - SCADA / Water / Energy
  - Telco systems
  - Centrifuges
- ... means more probability of dormancy
  - If something was infected, now what?
- Gateway and network tools still carry the same types of traffic so our monitor / intelligence tools are still valid



#### Unsupported systems / software

- When there is no support...
  - Legacy ERP systems
  - Workstation software which is End-of-Life
  - Test / lab equipment
- ... means more probability of dormancy
  - More attack surface
  - Less emphasis on monitoring the security of the system
- Anything on your network can still be a hidden access point for attackers



# Whe

#### Where you go from here

#### What to think about on the way home

- Look for areas where you traditionally don't have coverage
  - Systems "hiding" on your production network
  - Systems / software no longer under support
  - Systems not routinely connected to your network
- Find ways to measure the security machine; i.e. your processes
- 'Dormancy' is a breakdown of your <u>security processes</u>
- Security isn't done by just the SOC; give your admin's flexible tools (and data) they can use too



#### Contact Info / Q&A

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#### Perspectives

#### Perspectives

- IT Assurance perspective
  - Security, Compliance, and Governance
  - then across IT
  - then across the Business
- New malware is part of a broader class of issue
  - Anomaly detection similar to other areas:
    - Security and Compliance
    - Fraud Detection
    - On-Demand Investigations
  - Trend toward cascading failures



#### **Toolset Challenges**

- Multiple use cases
- Heterogeneous, distributed systems
  - Limited visibility across the whole stack
  - Poor consistency in data formats
  - Apps not designed for logging
- Highly dynamic environments
- Scalability/Performance
- Usability



#### Common Pitfalls

- Inflexible Schemas
  - Traditional DW approaches commit you to early decisions
  - Dependence on vendors for parsing logic
  - Poor support for custom / in-house apps
- Limited Reporting
  - Freedom to ask questions vs. fixed reports
- Poor Integration
  - Overdependence on vendor agents
- Lack of Customization
- Lack of Community





# The Evolution of Monitoring

#### **More Questions**

- eCommerce
  - Customer logins from reseller IPs?
  - Multiple customers from same IP?
  - Account or voicemail reset attempts?
  - Unusual paths through the app (advanced modeling)
- Who is accessing customer data?
  - Authorized users
  - Third-party fraud monitoring firms
    - "Who is watching the watchers"



#### The Evolution of Monitoring

- Free exploration
- Blacklisting / Event Identification
- Whitelisting
- Trending and Alerting
- Visualization

Phases may overlap or be skipped altogether



#### **Open Exploration**

- Often the starting point
  - Don't knock it
- Inclusive searching
  - The usual starting point
- Exclusive searching
  - Search for everything
  - Start whittling out the expected
  - Leads into whitelisting



#### Blacklisting / Event Identification

- Define event types
  - Known events
  - Tag as "good" / "Bad" / "Noise"
- Transactional analysis
  - Roll-up and summarization

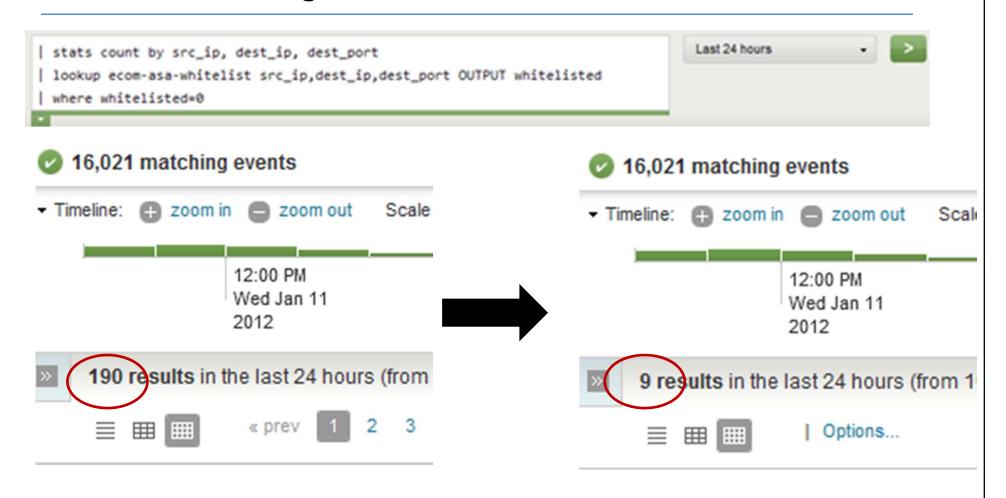


#### Whitelisting

- Sounds simple enough
  - But systems do it poorly or don't scale
- Log everything, monitor "interesting"
- Data reduction :: Better monitoring
- Two broad types
  - Event typing "The firewall blocked something"
  - Parametric "Blocked from X to Y"



#### Whitelisting for Data Reduction







#### **Trending Metrics**

- Start building a metrics database
- Record metrics at least daily
- Define thresholds
  - Report/alert on deviations
- Multiple Levels
  - Fixed cutoff
  - Simple "dashboard"-style trending
  - Statistical tracking





Top 10 Agents With Login Failures

rits_Iname ÷	count \$	percent ‡
Pin	371	4.768025
The state of the s	337	4.331063
THE PERSONAL PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY PROPERTY AND PERSONAL PROPERTY PROPERTY PROPERTY PROPERTY PROPERTY	262	3.367176
	253	3.251510
Triffill of Longitum	225	2.891659
	209	2.686030
	197	2.531808
A MARIE TO THE PARTY OF THE PAR	185	2.377586
	163	2.094846
	159	2.043439

rits_Iname \$	count ‡	percent \$
The state of the s	28	5.137615
10000	27	4.954128
	23	4.220183
And the Control of th	23	4.220183
	21	3.853211
	21	3.853211
	20	3.669725
	20	3.669725
	17	3.119266
	16	2.935780





	ptions
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20 per page -

Overlay:	None	•
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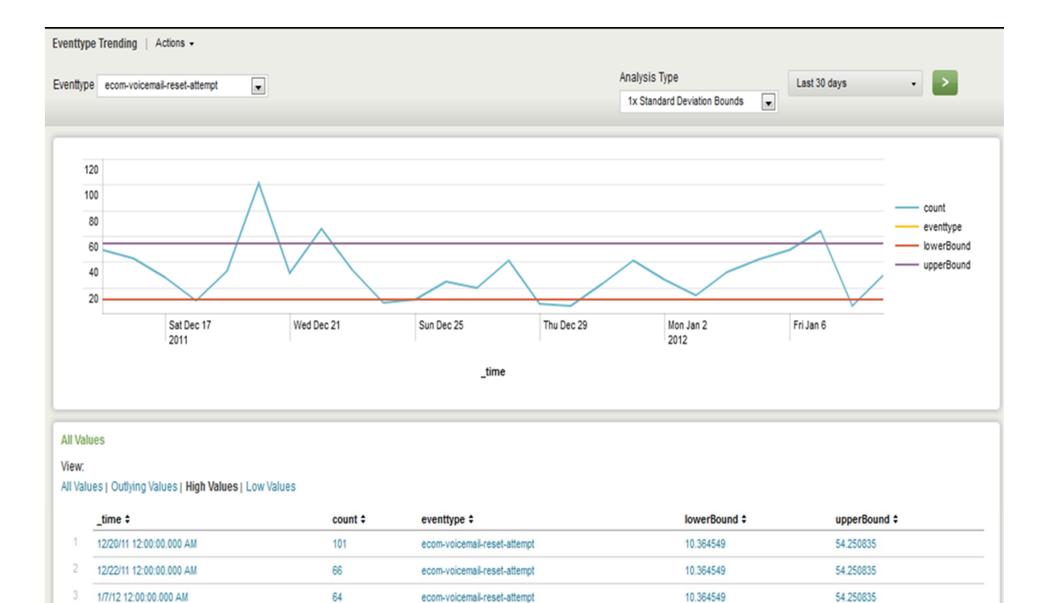
sparkline(count(event)) \$	median(count)	mean \$
V~~~~~	1	1.8
	4	4.6
	2	2.3
	135	135.0
	56	57.1
-m-h	2	7.6
	4	4.4
~~~~~	2	3.0
	5	5.9
	14	15.1
v~~~~~	4	5.4
1 mmm	1	1.6
	7ww/M 	V       1         ✓       4         ✓       135          56          2          4          2          4          2          5          14

#### **Trending Metrics - Statistical Tracking**

- Basic thresholds
  - Does an event occur more than 0 times?
- Relative thresholds
  - ... occur more than twice as often as yesterday?
  - ... occur unusually based on another, related metric
- Statistical modeling
  - ... more then X std. deviations from mean?
  - ... more than X above the running average?
    - simple moving average
    - exponential averaging give greater weight to recent data
  - Do correlated events stay correlated?







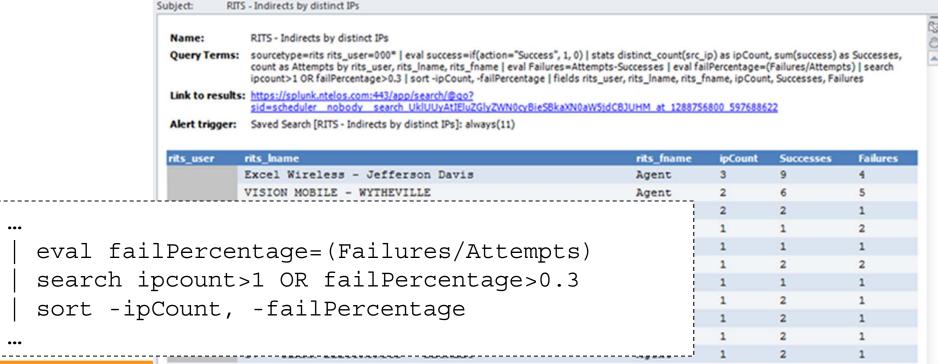
View full results





#### A Compound, Relative Metric

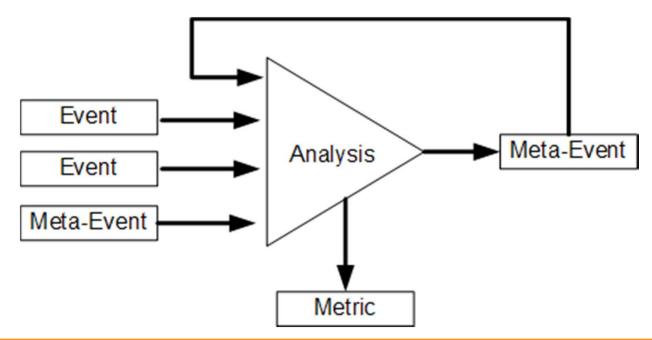
- Summary alert if
  - More than 30% of login attempts failed,
  - or logins came from more than one source IP





#### Compound/Feedback Metrics

- Search/post-process to generate "meta-events"
- Traditional S[IE]M approach
- BUT extend over multiple iterations





#### **Correlation Metrics**

- Build a correlation matrix
  - Compare each metric to every other metric
- Look for highly correlated metrics
- Monitor these for changes



#### **Multi-Tiered Metrics**

- Track multiple levels of the same type of activity
- Structure your metrics database accordingly
- Example:
  - Login Attempts
    - Login Attempts by User
      - Attempts by user and server
        - » Attempts by user / server / source IP



# Data

### **Data Augmentation**

#### **More Questions**

#### Malware

- Are alerts legitimate?
- Do alerts get proper follow-up?

#### eCommerce

- Customer logins from reseller IPs?
- Multiple customers from same IP?
- Account or voicemail reset attempts?
- Unusual paths through the app (advanced modeling)



#### **More Questions**

- Fraud prevention
  - Who is accessing customer data?
    - Authorized users?
    - Third-party fraud monitoring firms?
    - "Who is watching the watchers"



#### Augmenting Event Knowledge

- Correlate across data sources
  - Building meta-events
  - e.g.,FireEye -> Antivirus -> IDS -> Firewall...
- Bring related information in as soon as possible
  - What user did that IP belong to?
  - File Integrity Monitor new hash == malware?
- Develop integrated workflows
  - More visibility for first responders



#### Example: User-to-IP bindings

- Audit trails often show IP address
  - Investigators usually want a user name
- Track information from other data sources
- Map the results in automatically



#### **Correlating Across Devices**

- Are malware alerts getting follow-up?
  - Antivirus log + Antivirus log + IDS + helpdesk
    - If FireEye detects a potential infection, did A/V stop it?
    - Did IDS detect unusual traffic from the machine?
    - Was there a helpdesk ticket opened?
- Change Management
  - Are system changes being approved?
  - Are people changing what they say they are?
  - CMDB + File Integrity Monitor + Change Control
- These are feedback metrics



Search

#### Results

Select a view:

44.134

Firewall Configuration | Recent Firewall Changes | Perimeter Firewall Hits | ISA Server Hits | RITS Login Attempts

If this tab shows "Not Present", then the Agent either did not exist in the firewall the last time Splunk checked. Check the next tab to see whether the agent has been added recently.

If this tab shows "Present", then the agent does not need to be added. Check the later tabs to see if the agent has tried to connect through the firewall, and whether RITS is seeing failed logins.

If this tab shows "Invalid", then the agent has given an incorrect IP address. Usually this occurs when an indirect rep has connected to the corporate LAN over VPN, or whe the agent provides an internal IP address such as 192.168.xx.xx. Have the agent visit whatismyip.com from a store computer to get the correct address.

Present

Configuration Last Refreshed: 09/01/2011 13:34:45.0





Source IP  Last 4 hours ▼ Search
Results
Select a view: Firewall Configuration   Recent Firewall Changes   Perimeter Firewall Hits   ISA Server Hits   RITS Login Attempts
This tab lists recent configuration changes to the firewall that match the specified IP address. You can use this page to determine whether the IP address has been added since the last time Splunk's list of allowed IP addresses was updated.
No matching events found.







Last 4 hours

Search

#### Results

#### Select a view:

Firewall Configuration | Recent Firewall Changes | Perimeter Firewall Hits | ISA Server Hits | RITS Login Attempts

This tab lists recent firewall log entries matching the specified IP address. "Built" or "Permitted" entries indicate that agent successfully passed packets through the firewall.

All valid connection attempts will be on dest\_port 443. Denied connection attempts on port 80 indicate that the agent is using an incorrect URL.

« prev 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 next »

_time \$	action \$	protocol \$	src_ip \$	src_port \$	dest_ip \$	dest_port \$	dest_service \$	access_group \$
1/17/12 9:20:05.000 PM	Deny	icmp	4.134		<b>CONTRACT</b>			OUTSIDE-IN
1/17/12 9:19:56.000 PM	Deny	icmp	134		205/00/00/00/00			OUTSIDE-IN
1/17/12 9:19:51.000 PM	Deny	icmp	44.134					OUTSIDE-IN
1/17/12 9:19:46.000 PM	Deny	icmp	57.44.134		Q			OUTSIDE-IN
1/17/12 9:19:46.000 PM	Deny	icmp	.44.134		562			OUTSIDE-IN
1/17/12 9:19:46.000 PM	Deny	icmp	14.134		Zhoucosino			OUTSIDE-IN
1/17/12 9:17:32.000 PM	Built	tcp	4.134	45652	Constitution in con-	443	https	
1/17/12 9:17:32.000 PM	Built	tcp	44.134	45651	(200 sile appoint a positive	443	https	
1/17/12 9:17:32.000 PM	Built	tcp	44.134	45650		443	https	
1/17/12 9:17:31.000 PM	Built	tcp	£ 44.134	45649	AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PARTY OF	443	https	





#### Results

#### Select a view:

Firewall Configuration | Recent Firewall Changes | Perimeter Firewall Hits | ISA Server Hits | RITS Login Attempts

This tab lists login attempts against the RITS Web server from the specified IP address. If any entries are seen here, then network connectivity and firewall configurations are correct.

Failures that appear here may indicate a disabled agent account, or incorrect login credentials.

_time \$	action \$	src_ip \$	dest_host \$	rits_user \$	rits_fname \$	rits_Iname \$
1/17/12 8:57:28.000 PM	Success	.44.134	WL	G TOOMS OF	Agent	CHECKE VERSETE VERSETE VERSE



# Closi

### **Closing Remarks**

#### **General Approach**

- Focus on the overall monitoring problem
  - Move beyond simple blacklisting and reporting
- Start building a metrics database
- Integrate/Correlate all of your data sources
- Explore visualization options



#### Contact Info / Q&A

#### **Paul Southerington**

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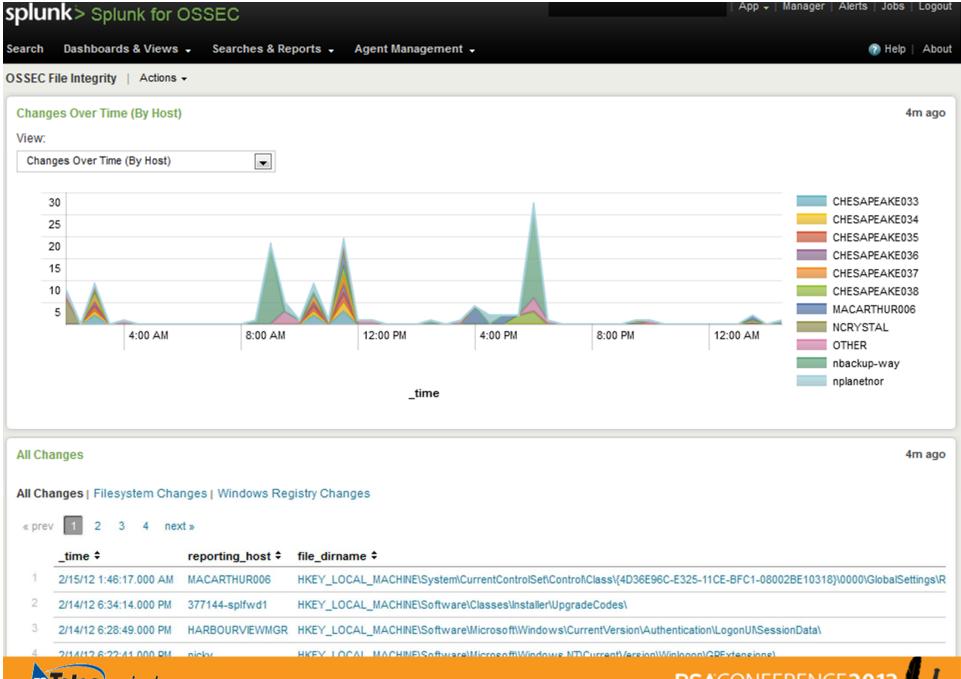
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### Spare Slides

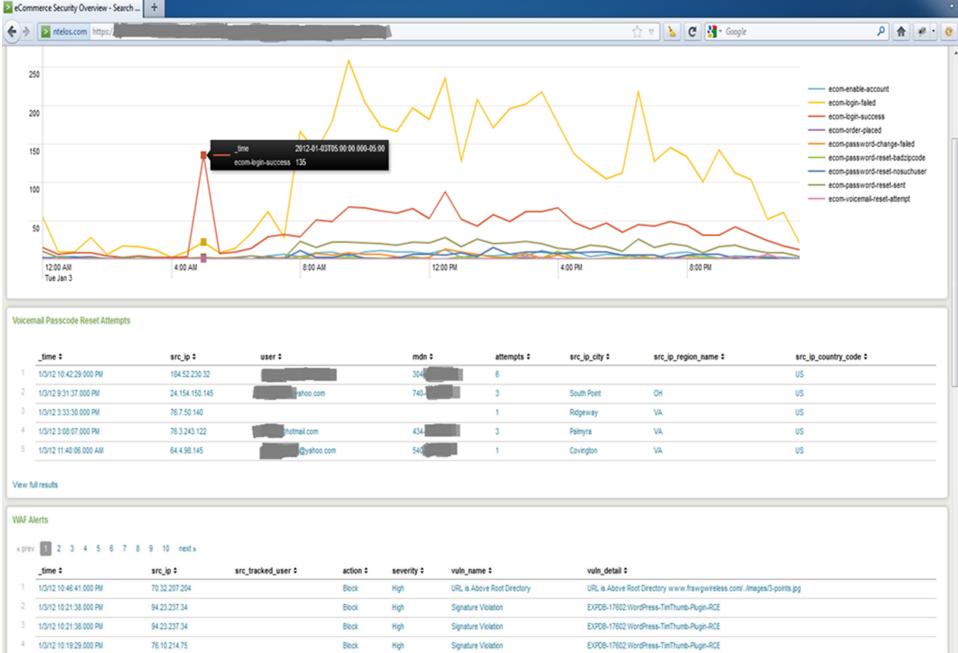
# Basic

#### **Basic Visualization**



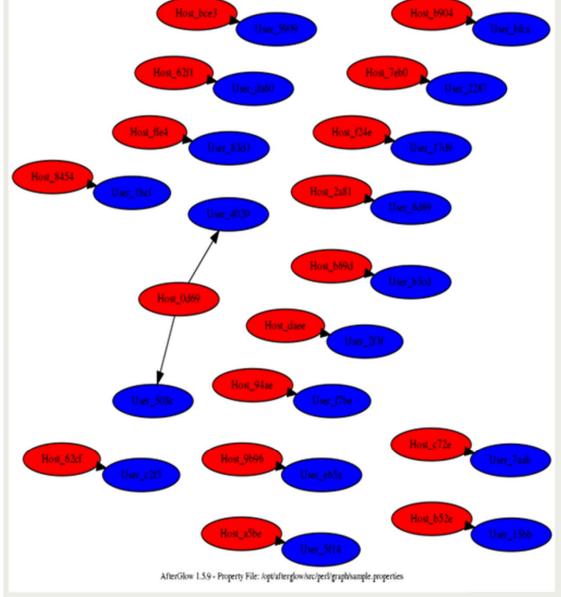






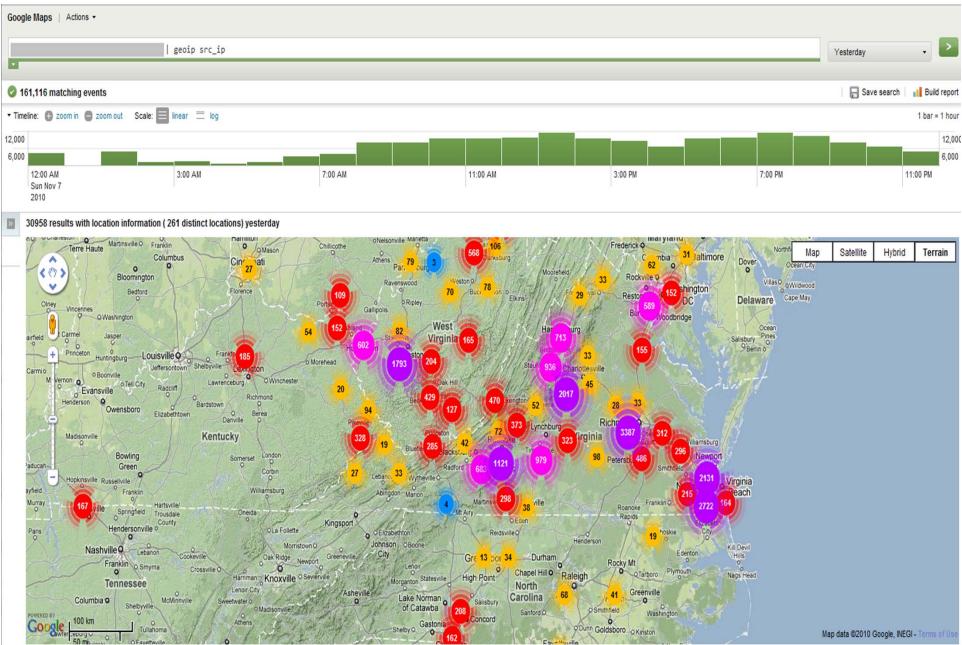










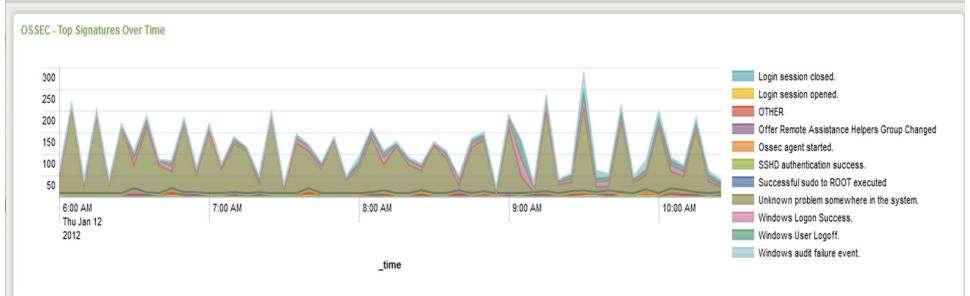


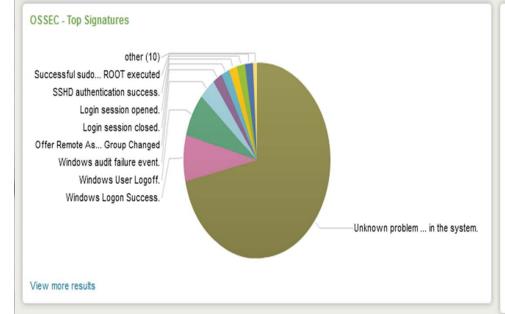




OSSEC Dashboard | Actions 
OSSEC Server

All OSSEC Servers





signature \$	count \$
Unknown problem somewhere in the system.	4327
Windows Logon Success.	466
Windows User Logoff.	434
Windows audit failure event.	213
Offer Remote Assistance Helpers Group Changed	128
Login session closed.	108
Login session opened.	108
SSHD authentication success.	108
Successful sudo to ROOT executed	108
Ossec agent started.	14