



Splunk Enterprise  
Security™

# ES @ 100TB

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# ES @ 100TB

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# What this talk is about

1. Scale tests in lab environment
2. Simulated workload
3. Confidence vote

# What this talk is “NOT” about

1. Deployment architecture guidance
2. Sizing guide
3. Use case optimization

# In This Session

1. Why the 100TB test?
2. Workload considerations
3. Tests and results
4. Best practices for scaling





# Why the 100TB Test?

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# Incidents and Asks

\* Problem Statement: Continuous memory spikes on ES causing search head causing Splunk to go down - a total of 6 times today.

Doing great at 15TB, can we get to 30?

reality (at the moment and trending towards healthier in most many buckets in those indexes.

An expensive  
Some get  
Some getting out  
Some returning after 500+ secs  
Expanding a 35TB to 60TB, getting ready to buy hardware (millions\$), will it work?

Bundle errors were seen (unable to distribute)  
ES warning on memory, but is up. Slowed

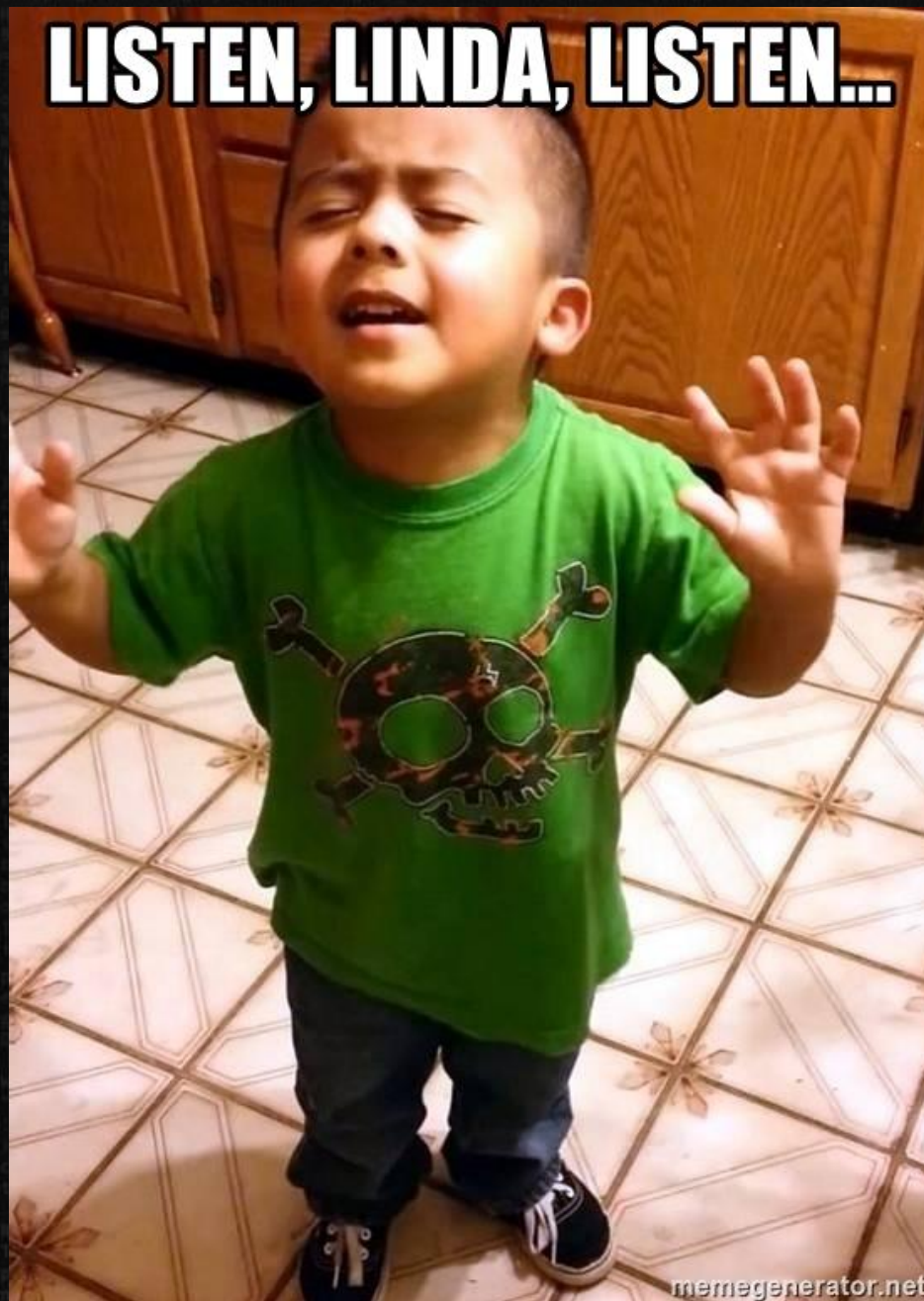
Can Enterprise Security use search-head clustering?

Cluster peer status is flapping Up and Down.

App	Role	Search Head	User	Runtime	Usage (MB)	Started
	head	_self	admin	9min 45.92s	96286.32	Fri Mar 8 10:47:10 EST 2019
1 DA-ESS- NetworkProtection	head	_self	admin	9min 50.77s	91116.09	Fri Mar 8 10:47:20 EST 2019
					4.23	Fri Mar 8 10:47:20 EST 2019



# LISTEN, LINDA, LISTEN...



memegenerator.net



# Workload Considerations

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Key test parameters



# Representative Workload

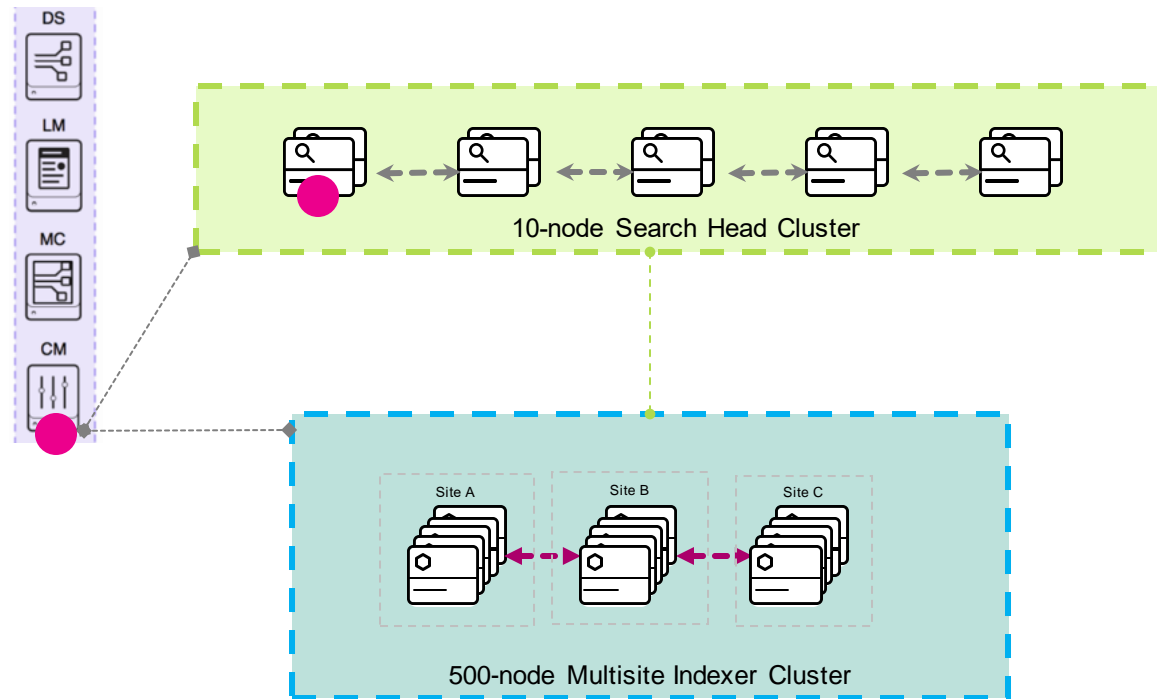
Search Head Cluster - Multi-Site	20-node search head cluster with ES	✓
Indexer Cluster – Multi-Site	3 sites; replication factor: 2; search factor: 2	✓
SmartStore	Enabled, with AWS S3 object store	✓
Top Technology Add-Ons (TAs)	TAs in ES, F5 bigip, palo-alto, checkpoint-opseclea, bluecoat-proxysg, akamai	✓
Top source types	Pan:traffic, wineventlog, syslog, f5:bigip:apm:syslog, akamai:cm:json, opsec, bro_dns, and more	✓
Scheduled searches	Correlation, tracker, generating	✓
Data Model Acceleration	All built-in CIM data models accelerated	✓
ES UI pages	Top 10 pages: security_posture, incident_review, etc.	✓
Ad-hoc searches in Splunk Web	160K searches per day, e.g., "search index=_internal INFO sourcetype=splunkd"	✓
Many buckets	13M	✓
Knowledge Bundles	1.4M assets, 300K identities; total 1.2GB in size	✓
Notable events per day	2000+	✓
Splunk version	7.3.0	✓
Enterprise Security	5.3.0	✓

# By the Numbers



# Default Topology

Search Head Cluster + 1 large indexer cluster



Signs of stress

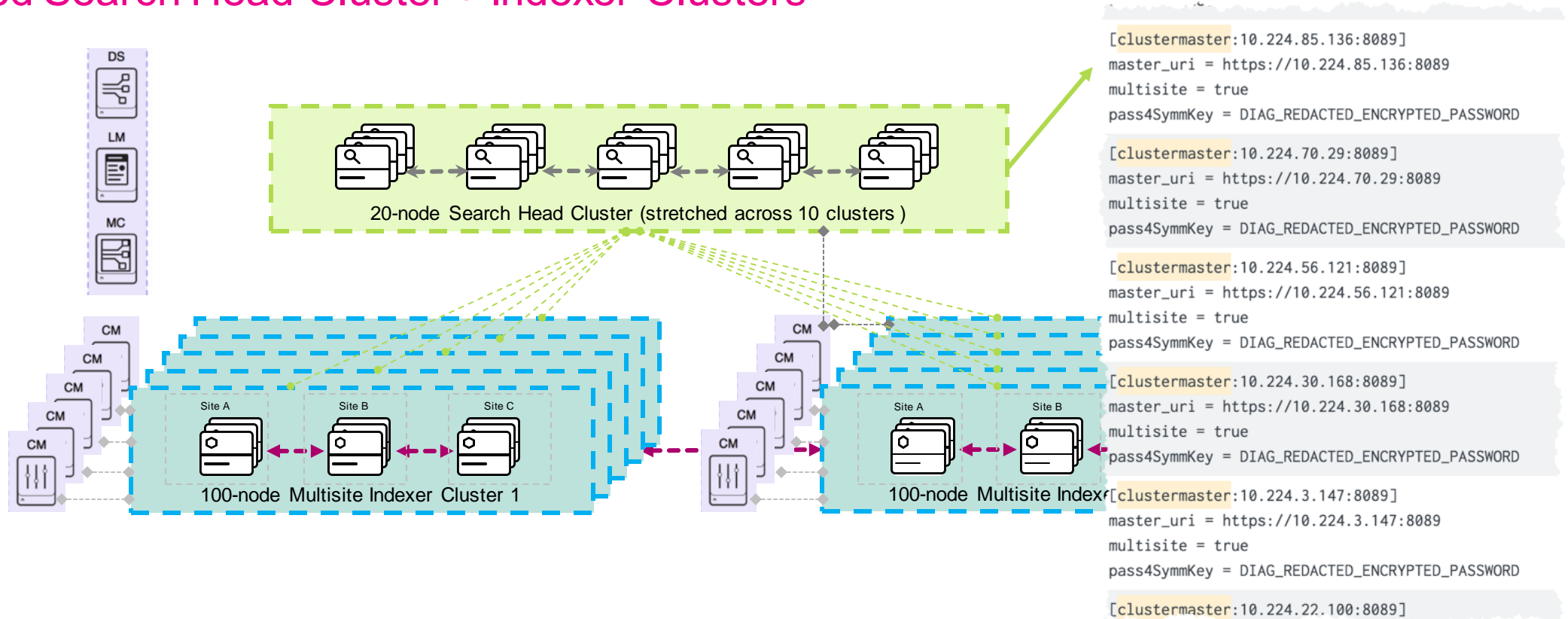
**Search head captain:** Knowledge bundle replication times increase; CPU 100%

**Cluster Master:** SmartStore bootstrap, rolling restart, fixup times increase



# Better: Distributed Clustered Deployment

## Stretched Search Head Cluster + Indexer Clusters



**Size:** This environment has **16,688 CPU cores**, **262 TB of RAM** (~20 full data center racks!)

**AWS Instance types:** **c5.9xlarge** (search head), **i3.8xlarge** (indexer), **x1.16xlarge** (cluster master),

10 Gigabit network, 4X1.9 NVMe SSD as local storage

**How to:** Google "Splunk configure multi cluster search"



# Tests & Results

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How does ES perform on SHC at 100TB?

# ES Results

## Per day

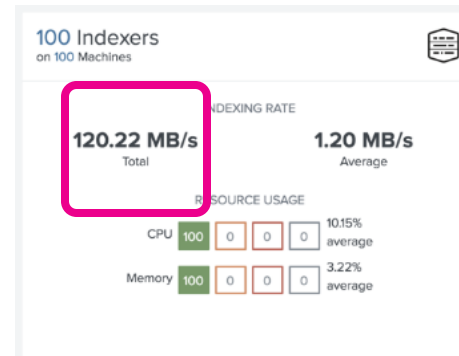
Ingestion: 100GB / indexer / day

Searches: 160,000 / day

Concurrency: 70 at peak

## Search performance

- ▶ DMA ≤ 300 seconds
- ▶ Correlation < 100 seconds
- ▶ Ad-hoc 8~50 seconds
- ▶ ES UI page load times: avg. 50 seconds
- ▶ Skip rates < 1%
- ▶ Rolling restart time: a few minutes

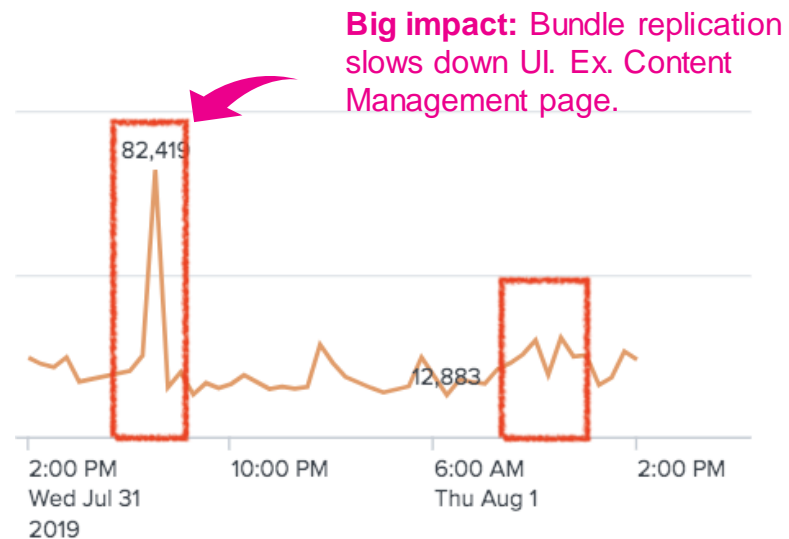
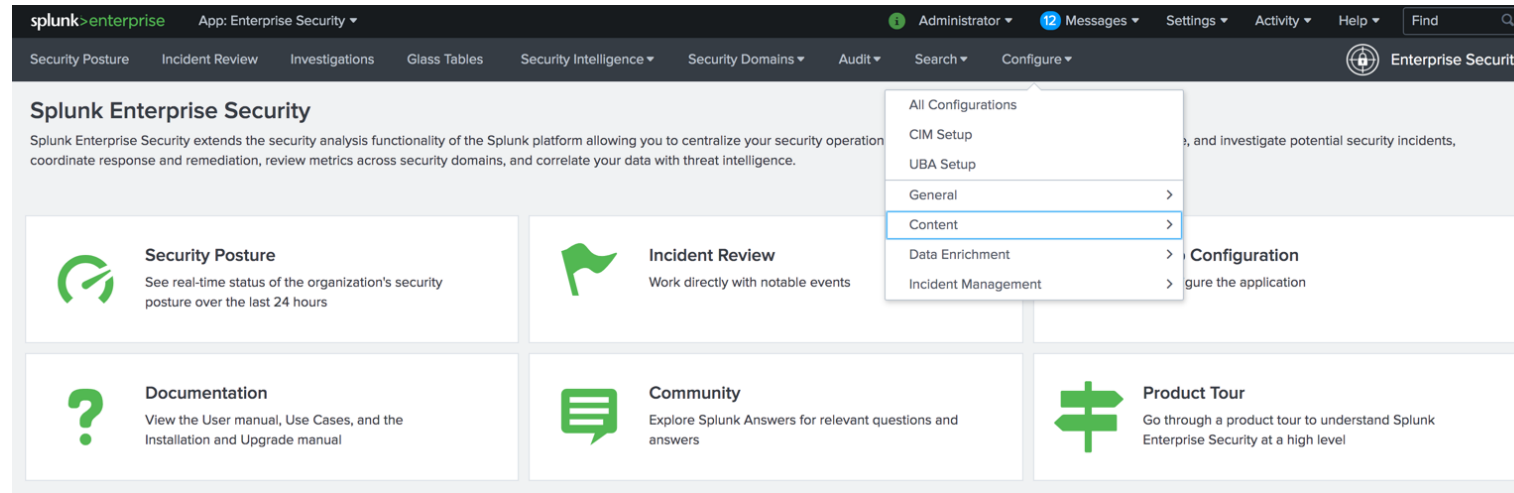


**Tip:** You can find cluster ingestion rate in the Monitor Console. Example shows one of our clusters during level load.

## Resource utilization

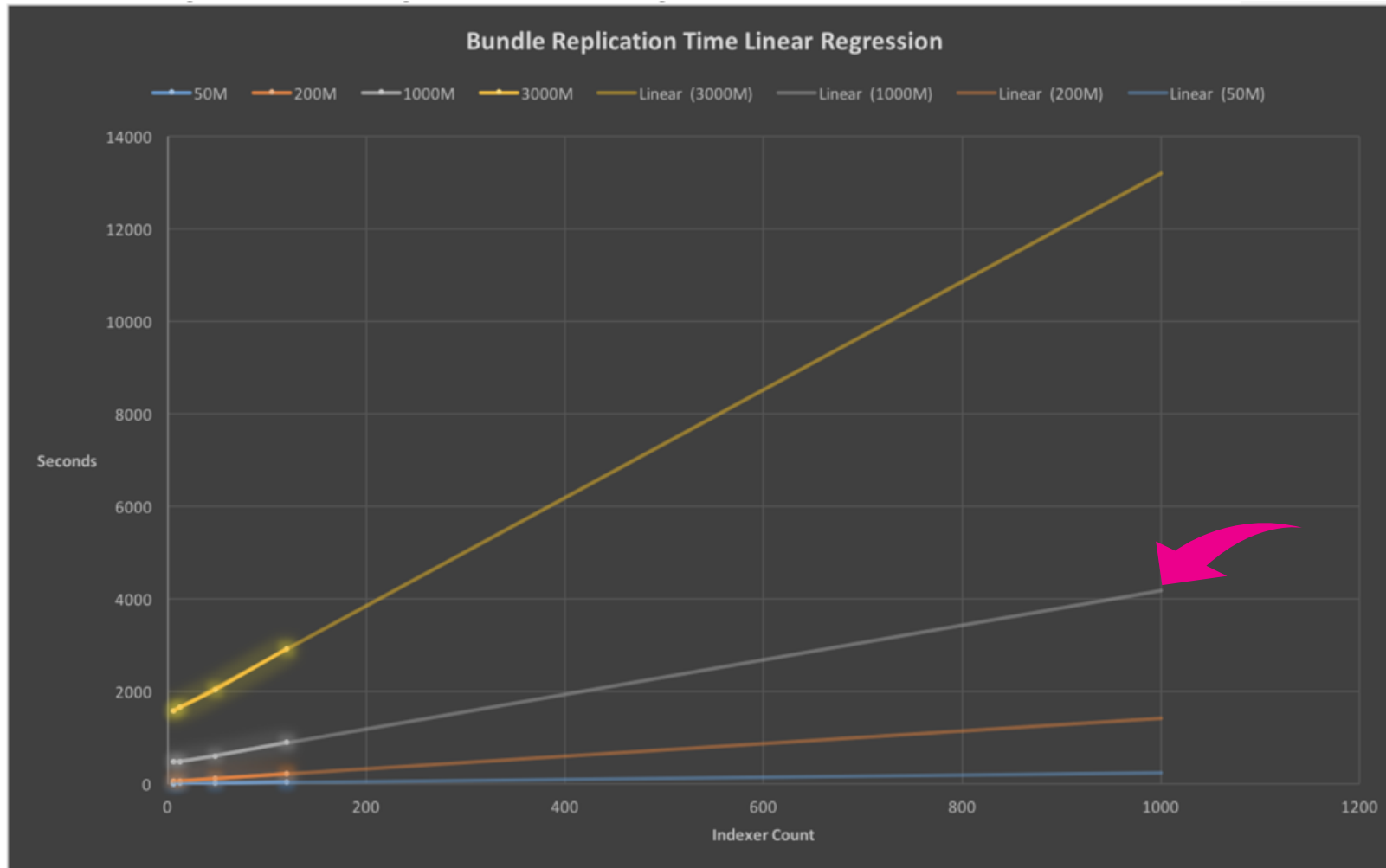
- ▶ Both search head & indexer
  - CPU% < 15%
  - Memory < 20GB
  - IOPS < 74K
  - Network < 40 MB/s
- ▶ Low resource usage
  - 300~400TB/day possible on this stack
  - Over-provisioned

# ES UI Performance



# Bundle Replication

Linear and predictable



**Measured:** Bundle replication time of 1GB assets and identities onto 1000 nodes is close to predicted.





# Scaling Recommendations

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# Splunk/ES Tuning

Category	Tune this	Outcome
Indexing	<code>parallelIngestionPipelines=2</code>	Can leverage additional CPU cores for higher indexing throughput
Data Model Acceleration	<code>[cim_web_indexes] definition = (index=web OR index=bluct001)</code>	Data model acceleration does not have to look at index=*, reducing lag
Search Scheduling	<code>allow_skew = 50%</code>	Distribute your saved searches more evenly; avoid search “waves”
	<code>max_searches_per_cpu = 5</code>	Help reduce “Max concurrent searches reached” errors; experiment with your load
	<code>acceleration.max_concurrent = 5</code>	For data models that are slower to accelerate
Bundle Replication	<code>replication_period_sec = 3600</code>	Time between two successive bundle replications. If the default 1 minute is too frequent, increase to a longer period to reduce stress on search head

## Search Head Cluster Settings

server.conf [shclustering]	Lab	Default
cxn_timeout	120	60
send_timeout	120	60
rcv_timeout	120	60
cxn_timeout_raft	4	2
send_timeout_raft	10	5
rcv_timeout_raft	10	5
election_timeout_ms	120000	60000
heartbeat_period	60	5
heartbeat_timeout	120	60

**election\_timeout\_ms:** The amount of time, in milliseconds, that a member waits before trying to become the captain. Make them wait longer with more members.

# Cluster Settings

server.conf	100TB	Default
heartbeat_timeout	900	60
percent_peers_to_restart	25	10
cxn_timeout	900	60
executor_workers	100	10
heartbeat_period	10	5
rcv_timeout	900	60
send_timeout	900	5
quiet_period	180	60
rep_cxn_timeout	600	5
rep_send_timeout	600	5
rep_rcv_timeout	600	10
rep_max_send_timeout	900	180
rep_max_rcv_timeout	900	180
restart_timeout	180	60
max_fixup_time_ms	1000	5000

Increase timeouts for large Splunk deployments

Improve Cluster Master response times

Improve remote bucket bootstrapping (SmartStore)

More in depth –

Attend session **FN1635** “*What’s On Your Bucket List?*”  
*Thursday, October 24, 11:45 AM - 12:30 PM*

# In Conclusion

Yes, 100TB ES is doable!

Yes, you can run ES on SHC!

Proven topology for large scale

Tuning to help improve response times



Security, Compliance and Fraud Intermediate

**SEC2120 - Scaling Splunk Enterprise Security**

**SCHEDULE**

Wednesday, October 23, 04:15 PM - 05:00 PM

Marquis Montgomery, Principal Security Architect, Splunk

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