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# **Velociraptor: Digging deeper!**

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### Who are we?

### **Dr Michael Cohen**

- Experienced digital forensic software developer.
- Developer of foundation forensic tools including Volatility and Rekall.
- Former lead developer of Grr Rapid Response at Google Inc.

#### **Nick Klein**

- Director of Klein & Co. digital forensic and cyber response team.
- SANS DFIR Certified Instructor.







# What will you need today?

A Windows computer or virtual machine, with admin access.

A copy of Velociraptor from our official release page:

https://github.com/Velocidex/velociraptor/releases

A hunting frame of mind.



# What is Velociraptor?

Velociraptor is a unique DFIR tool, giving you power and flexibility through the Velociraptor Query Language (VQL)

## VQL is used for everything:

- Collecting information from endpoints
- Controlling monitoring and response on endpoints
- Controlling and managing the Velociraptor server.



# **Velociraptor overview**

Everything uses the same binary - both clients and server.

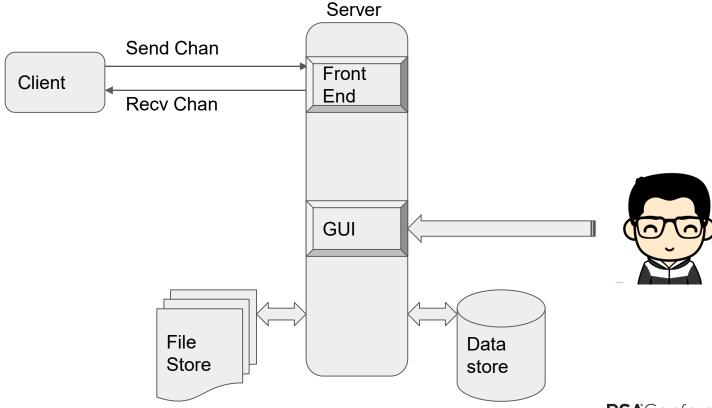
- The server is controlled via the server configuration file.
- The client is controlled via the client configuration file.

In this lab, we run the server *and* client on the same machine.

In real cases, we typically deploy a Velociraptor server in the cloud.



### **Architecture overview**





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# **Installing Velociraptor**

Download the Windows MSI from our releases page:

https://github.com/Velocidex/velociraptor/releases

On Windows, double-click the MSI to install.

Or run:

C:> msiexec /i velociraptor.msi

Note: You can try other OS versions, but today we'll use Windows.



# **Configuring Velociraptor**

Everything is controlled by a pair of configuration files.

The configuration files contain key data, making them unique (and secure) to your deployment.

The server configuration file contains private keys - make sure to secure it!

Genering new configuration files is easy:

```
C:> cd "c:\Program Files\Velociraptor"
```

C:> Velociraptor.exe config generate -i



```
C:\Program Files\Velociraptor>Velociraptor.exe config generate -i
Welcome to the Velociraptor configuration generator
I will be creating a new deployment configuration for you. I will
begin by identifying what type of deployment you need.
Self Signed SSL
Generating keys please wait....
? Enter the frontend port to listen on. 8000
? What is the public DNS name of the Frontend (e.g. www.example.com): localhost
? Path to the datastore directory. C:\Users\test\AppData\Local\Temp
? Path to the logs directory. C:\Users\test\AppData\Local\Temp
? Where should i write the server config file? server.config.yaml
? Where should i write the client config file? client.config.yaml
? GUI Username or email address to authorize (empty to end): mic
? GUI Username or email address to authorize (empty to end):
C:\Program Files\Velociraptor>
```

# **Starting the server**

The same binary acts as a server or client depending on configuration options.

The previous step generated two files:

```
client.config.yaml
    server.config.yaml
```

Open two Command Prompt windows as administrator.

Start the Velociraptor server and frontend:

```
velociraptor.exe --config server.config.yaml frontend -v
```



# **Starting the server**

```
C:\Program Files\Velocirapto<mark>r>Velociraptor.exe --config server.config.yaml frontend -v</mark>
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:14Z <del>Starting Frontend. {"build_time":"2019-06-30T11:35:47+10:00"</del>,"commit":"109b4b4","version":"0
.3.0"
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:14Z Loaded 122 built in artifacts
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:14Z Launched Prometheus monitoring server on 127.0.0.1:8003
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:14Z Frontend is ready to handle client TLS requests at 0.0.0.0:8000
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:14Z Launched gRPC API server on 127.0.0.1:8001
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:14Z Starting hunt manager.
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:15Z Starting Hunt Dispatcher Service.
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:15Z Starting Stats Collector Service.
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:14Z GUI is ready to handle TLS requests {"listenAddr":"127.0.0.1:8889"}
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:15Z Starting Server Monitoring Service
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:15Z Starting Server Artifact Runner Service
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:15Z Collecting Server Event Artifact: Server.Monitor.Health/Prometheus
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:15Z Starting Client Monitoring Service
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:15Z Collecting Client Monitoring Artifact: Generic.Client.Stats
[INFO] 2019-06-30T01:50:15Z Collecting Client Monitoring Artifact: Windows.Events.ProcessCreation
```



### Test that the GUI works

Connect to the GUI address mentioned previously:

https://localhost:8889/

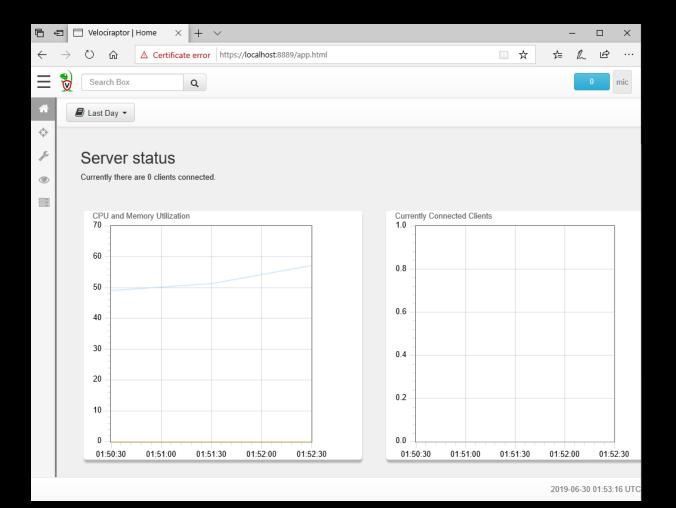
Note the certificate error - this is OK. It's because we chose self-signed SSL mode. You can click through the warning for now.

In real deployments we use proper SSL certificates.



The server is ready.

Now let's configure some clients.



# Starting a client

In Windows, installing the Velociraptor MSI installs a client service.

The service needs the client configuration file.

Simply move the client configuration file into plase (see next slide).

When deploying at scale, you can use **SCCM** or **Group Policy** to do this - today we simply use Windows Explorer or the shell.



#### Administrator: Command Prompt

Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.17763.107]
(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\WINDOWS\system32>cd "\Program Files\Velociraptor"

C:\Program Files\Velociraptor
>copy client.config.yaml Velociraptor.config.yaml
1 file(s) copied.

C:\Program Files\Velociraptor>\_

Copy the client configuration file, then start the Velociraptor service.



<u>†</u> Task Manager									×
File Options View									
rocesses   Performance   App hi		ory Startup l	Jsers	Details	Services				
Name	PID	Status		er name	CPU	Memory (a	UAC virtualizat		^
■ Velociraptor.exe	2740	2740 Running		t	00	32,948 K	Not allowed		
■ Velociraptor.exe	5248	5248 Running		STEM	00	9,552 K	Not allowed		
Windows.WARP.JITS	7828	Running	LO	CAL SE	00	1,468 K	Not allowed		
Windows.WARP.JITS	7308	8 Running		CAL SE	00	1,576 K	Not allowed		
Windows.WARP.JITS	4836	Running		CAL SE	00	1,428 K	Not allowed		
Windows.WARP.JITS	5652	Running	LO	CAL SE	00	896 K	Not allowed		
WindowsInternal.Co.	4840	Suspended		t	00	0 K	Disabled		
wininit.exe	476	Running	SYS	STEM	00	328 K	Not allowed		
winlogon.exe	572	Running	SYS	STEM	00	720 K	Not allowed		~

### The Dashboard

The **Dashboard** shows the current state of the installation:

- How many clients are connected
- Current CPU load and memory footprint on the server.

When running hunts or intensive processing, memory and CPU requirements will increase but not too much.

You can customize the dashboard - it's also just an artifact.



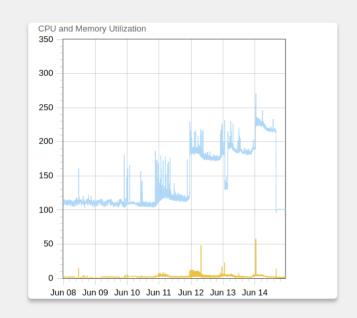
# Clients have a persistent connection to the server.

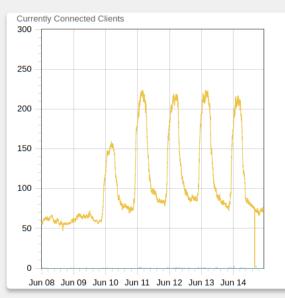
They're ready to receive your commands.

#### Server status

0

Currently there are 74 clients connected.





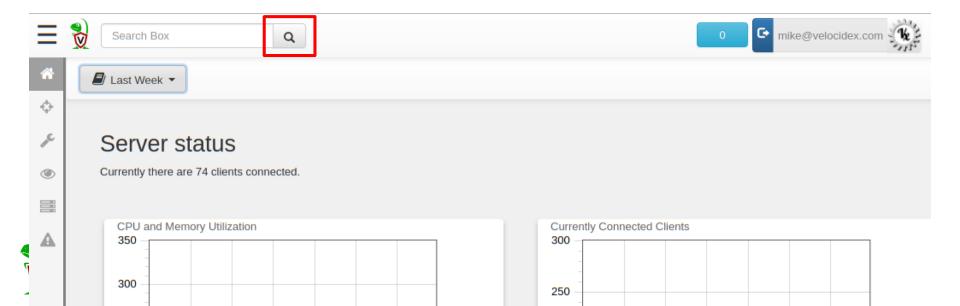
# Interactive investigations on individual clients



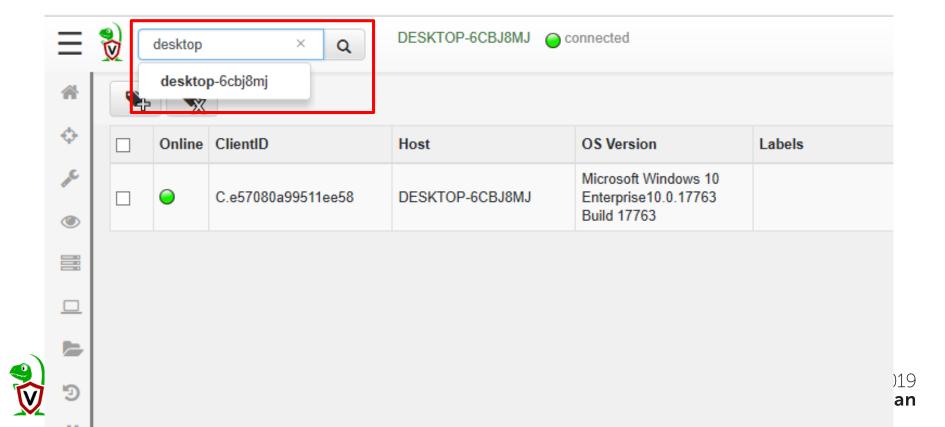
# **Searching for a client**

Sometimes we want to see information about a client.

Press the **Search** icon to see all the clients



### Or search for clients by hostname, label or client ID.

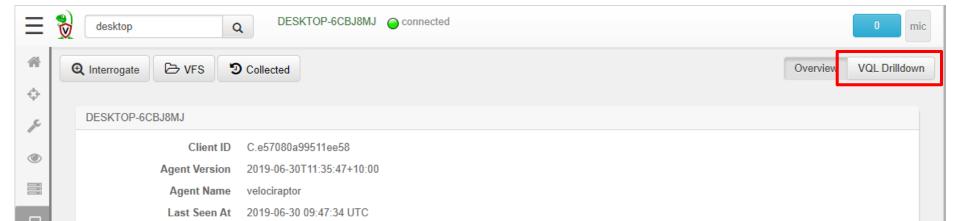


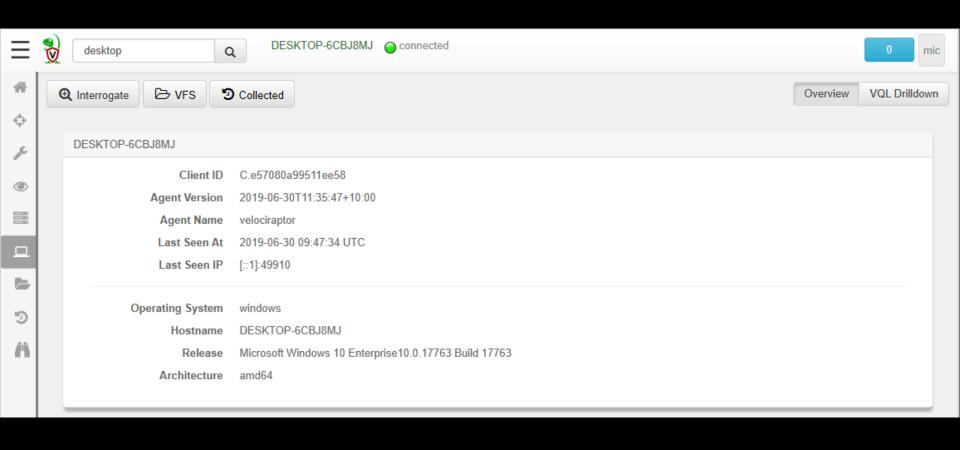
### **Client overview**

This provides some general information about a client.

Click VQL Drilldown to see more detailed information.

You can customize the information collected and shown by editing the configuration file, to add extra VQL queries.





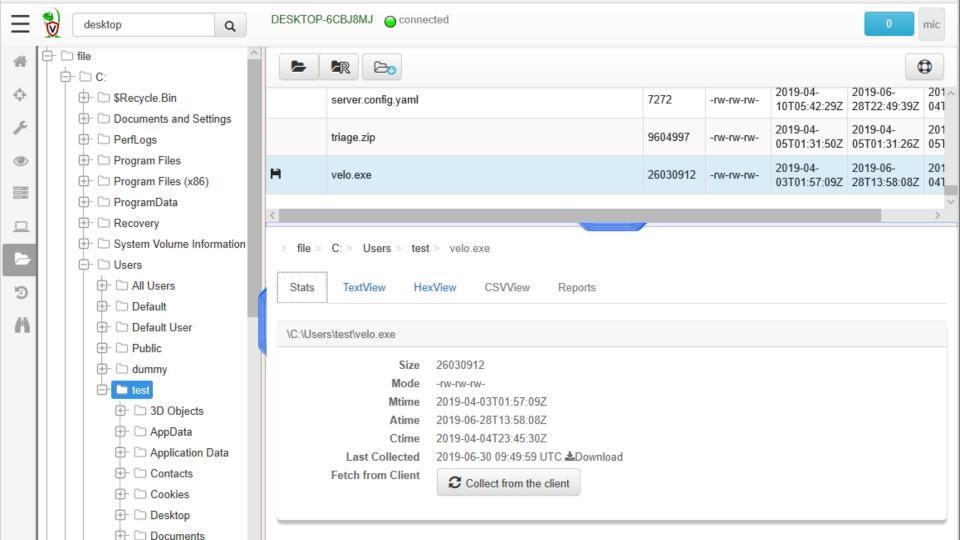
# The Virtual File System (VFS)

The VFS visualizes some server-side information we collect about the clients.

Top level corresponds to the type of information we collect:

- File Access the file system using the filesystem API
- NTFS Access the file system using raw NTFS parsing
- Registry Access the Windows Registry using the Registry API
- Artifacts A view of all artifacts collected from the client.





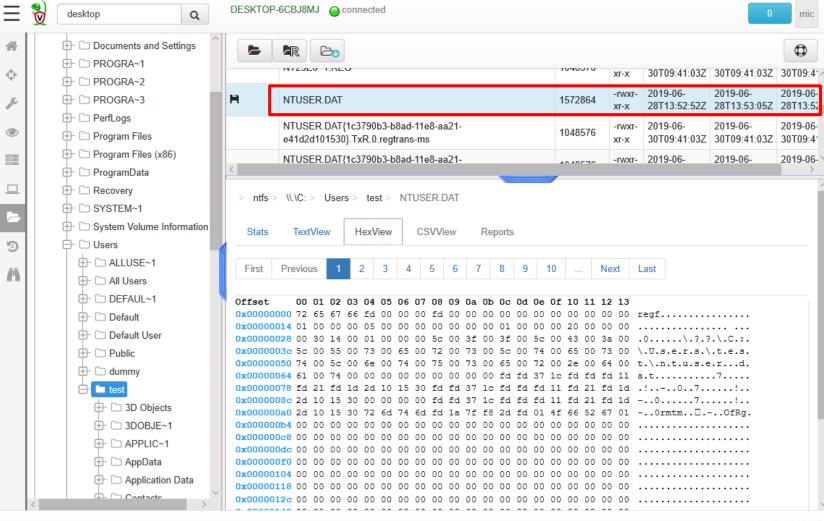
# **Exercise: Browse the client file system using VFS**

**Task:** Find your user NTUSER.DAT file and download it locally.

### Hunting hints:

- NTUSER.DAT stores the Registry for your user account
- It's locked when the user is logged in
- Therefore you need to fetch it using raw NTFS access
- Do you know where this file is located?





# Use Velociraptor artifacts to automate everything



# Use Velociraptor artifacts to automate everything

We can collect information about *many* things in DFIR cases:

Registry keys, files, WMI queries, sqlite databases ...

But we really just want to answer specific questions:

- What program did the attacker run?
- What files were downloaded?
- What DNS lookups occured?
- Did a particular file exist on a client?



# Velociraptor uses expert knowledge to find the evidence

A key objective of Velociraptor is encapsulating DFIR knowledge into the tool

- We have high level questions to answer
- We know where to look for evidence of user / system activities

We build artifacts to collect and analyze the evidence in order to answer our investigative questions.



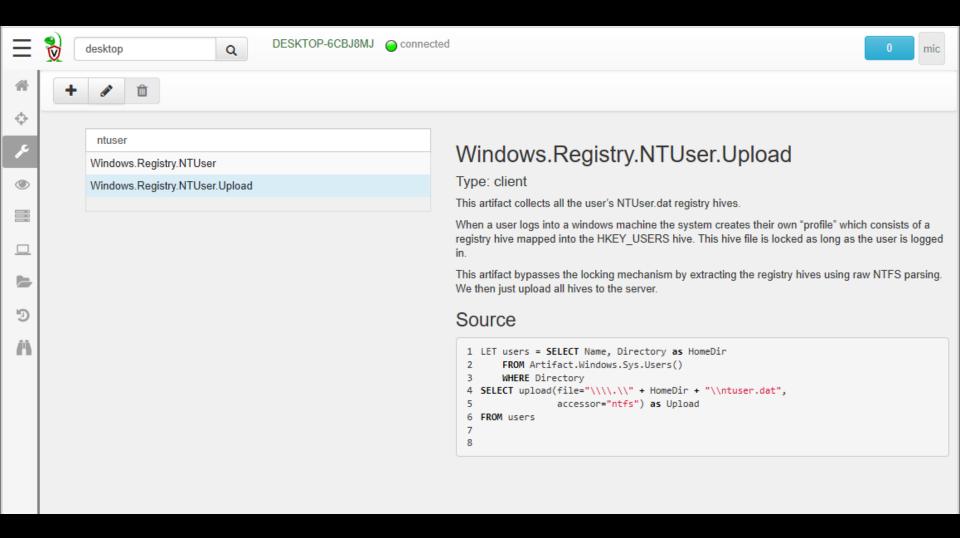
# Velociraptor's unique feature - user specified artifacts

### An artifact is a YAML file ...

- (therefore user-readable, shareable and editable)
- ... that answers a question ...
- ... by collecting data from the endpoint ...
- ... and reporting on this data in a human readable way.

# Artifacts encode expert knowledge into human reusable components.





### **Exercise: Collect all user NTUSER.DAT files**

Previously we downloaded one NTUSER.DAT - let's get them all.

Select Collected Artifacts to view all artifacts previously collected.

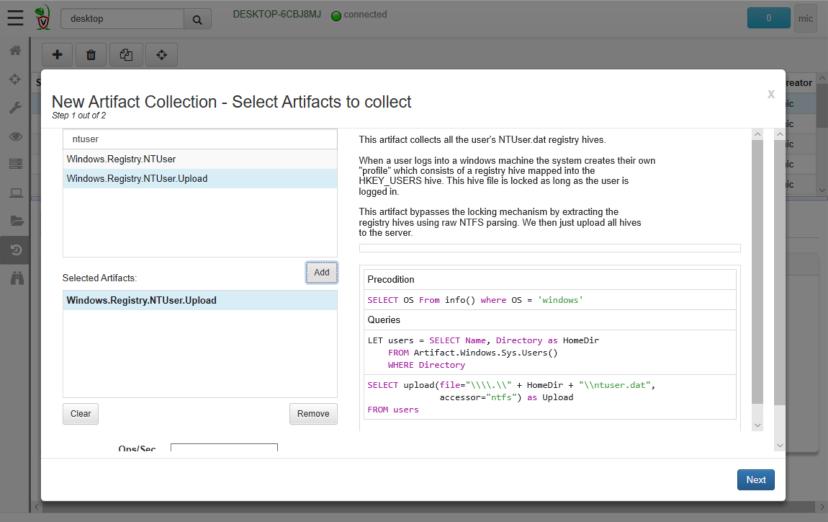
Click Collect More Artifacts to open the New Artifact Wizard.

Search for an artifact that fetches NTUSER.DAT files.

Click **Add** to add the artifact to the list for collection.

Click **Next** to start the collection.





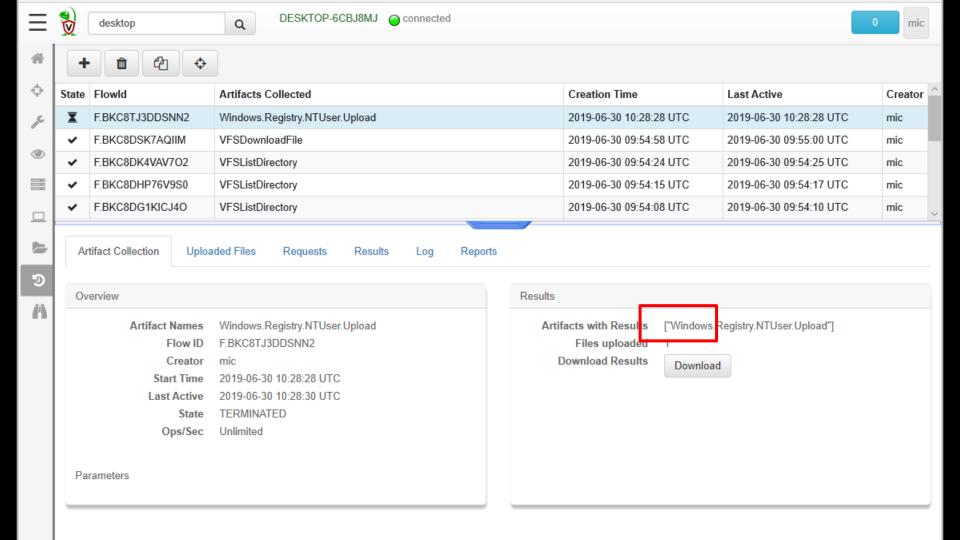
### Get the collected data

One file will be downloaded for every user on the client.

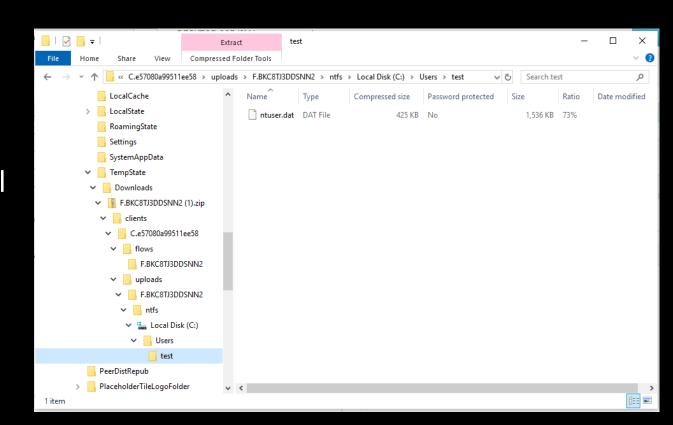
Click **Download** to download the results of this artifact collection through your web browser (see next slide).

The result is a ZIP file with the collected files (NTUSER.DAT) and a CSV file of the collection results.





The ZIP file contains a directory structure for each client mirroring the original directory structure on the client.



# Hunting across the whole network



## Hunting is the collection of artifacts across the network

Any artifact that can be collected on a single computer, can be hunted across the network.

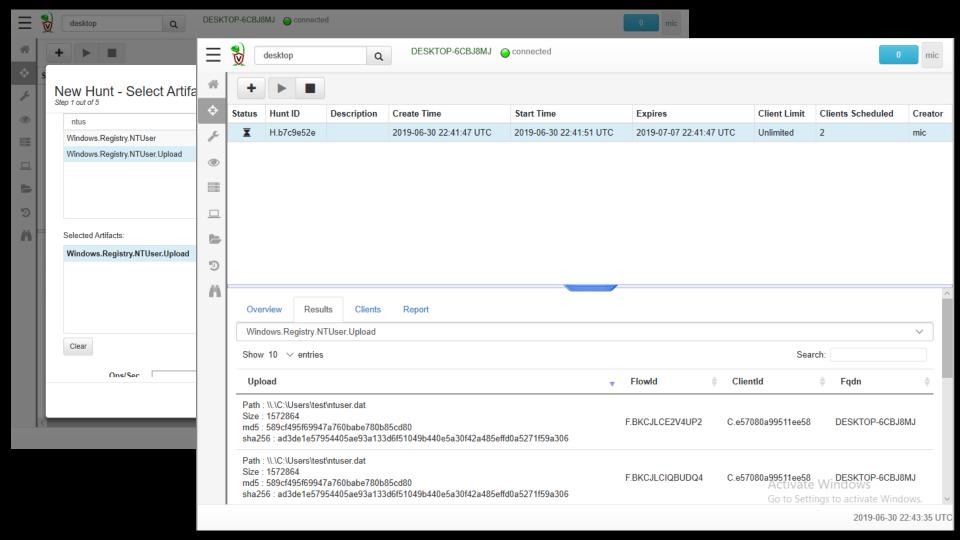
A hunt can cover a group of clients, or the whole network.

A hunt will continue running until it expires, or is stopped.

As new machines appear, they automatically join in the hunt.

Downloading the hunt results generates a ZIP file with all the uploaded files (in this exercise NTUSER.DAT files).





# Surgical collection of evidence



## Finding files

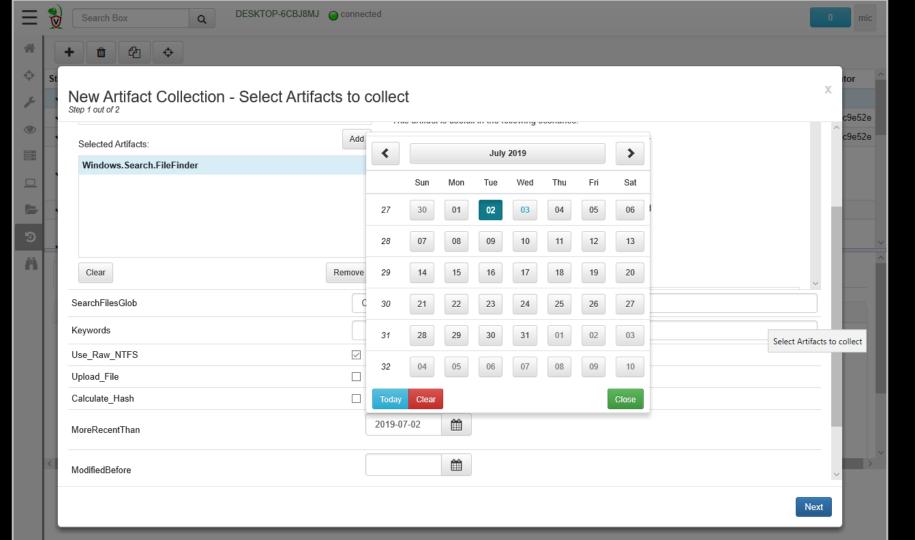
Searching for files is a fundamental capability.

Velociraptor provides a powerful File Finder artifact for this.

- Use wildcards to 'glob' over directories
- Use Yara to search the contents of files for keywords
- Filter by modified or created dates
- Upload matching files to the server, for further analysis.

The Windows.Search.FileFinder is a great start for many custom artifacts - just copy/paste and pre-populate with the right defaults.





## **Exercise: File collections**

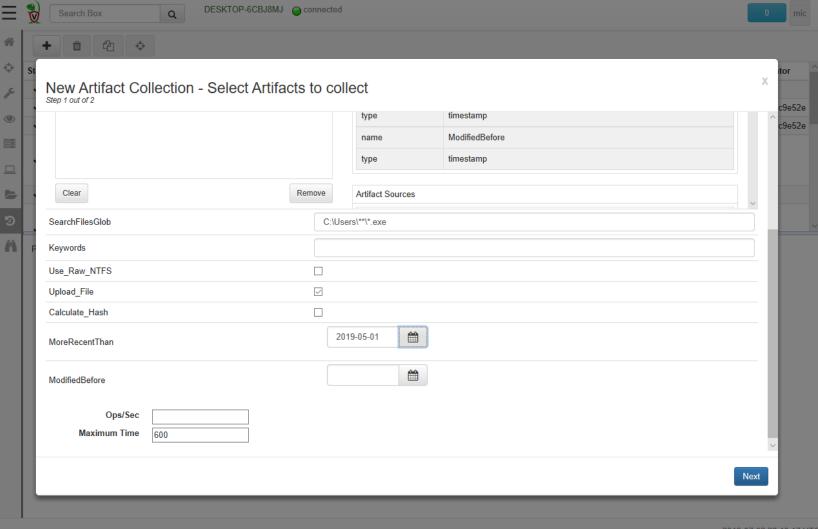
## Tasks:

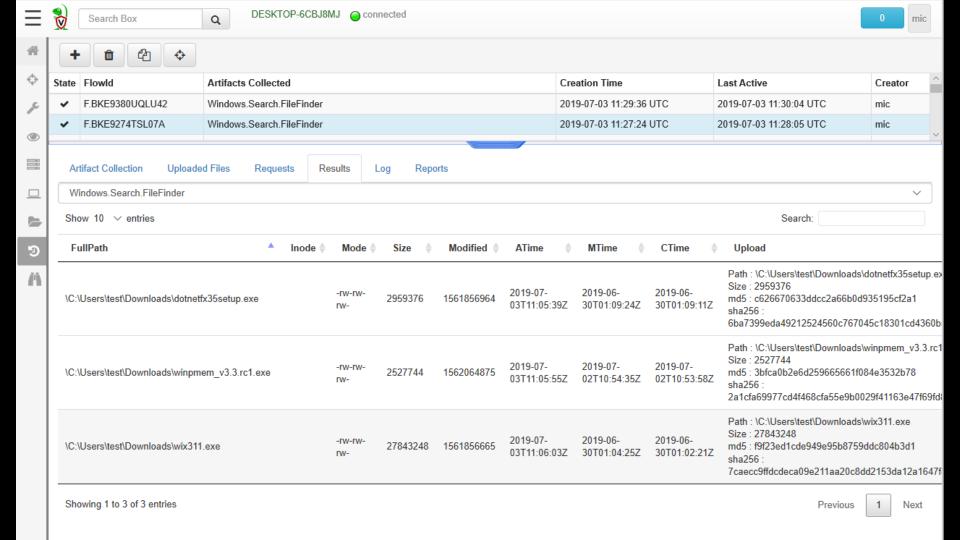
- Collect all exe's created in a home directory in the last day
- Collect all text files containing a keyword.

## Hunting hints:

- Create a text file containing the keyword "secret"
- Search for it as before.







## **Exercise: File collections - Microsoft Word docs**

Task: Collect Microsoft Word documents containing a keyword.

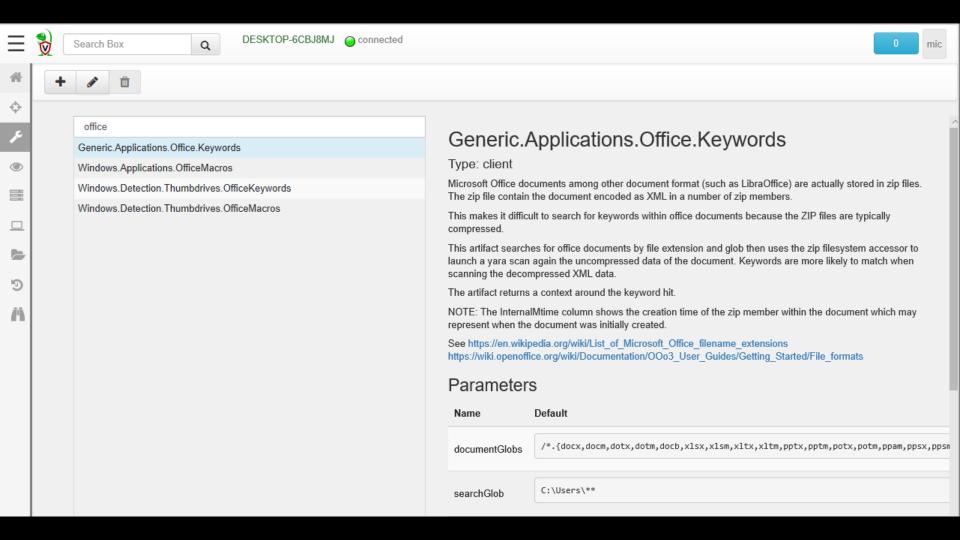
## Hunting hints:

- Create a Word document containing the word "secret"
- Search for it as before does it work?
  - (it won't work because Word documents are compressed)

## What can we do?

We have an artifact for that ...





## **Scenario: Chrome extensions**

Chrome extensions can be very dangerous.

They could access all website data including cookies and logon creds.

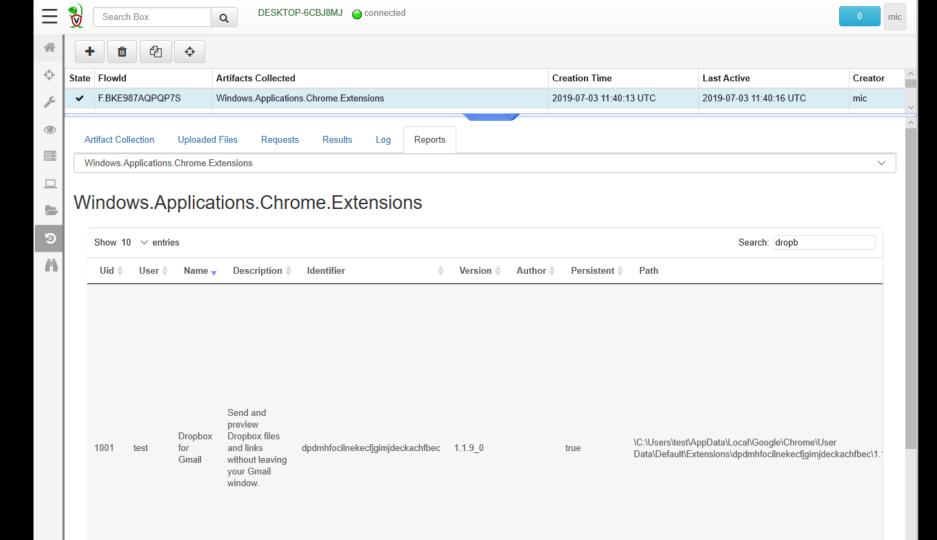
They can create XSS opportunities for complete compromise.

Exfil is difficult to spot, since all communications occur over SSL.

Many Chrome extensions have been found to be malicious or vulnerable.

So what Chrome extensions do your users have installed?





## **Exercise: IP theft**

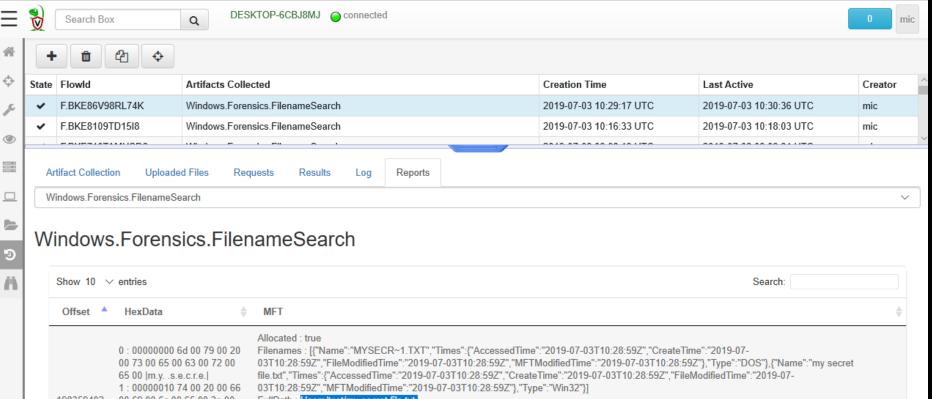
We've just been advised that our confidential data has been found on the dark web.

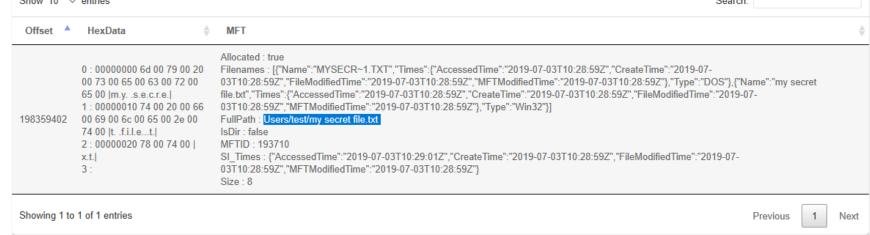
Task: We need to know which machines had this file in the past.

## Hunting hints:

- Create a new file called my secret file.txt on your client
- Scan your MFT for the unique string
- This may work even if the file is deleted.







## Scenario: Hunt down "shadow IT"

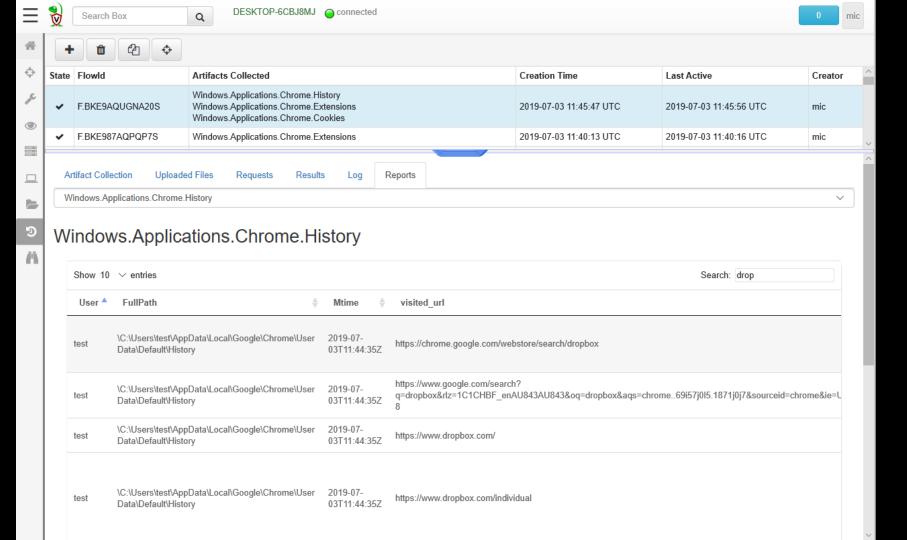
Dropbox is one common "shadow IT" threat.

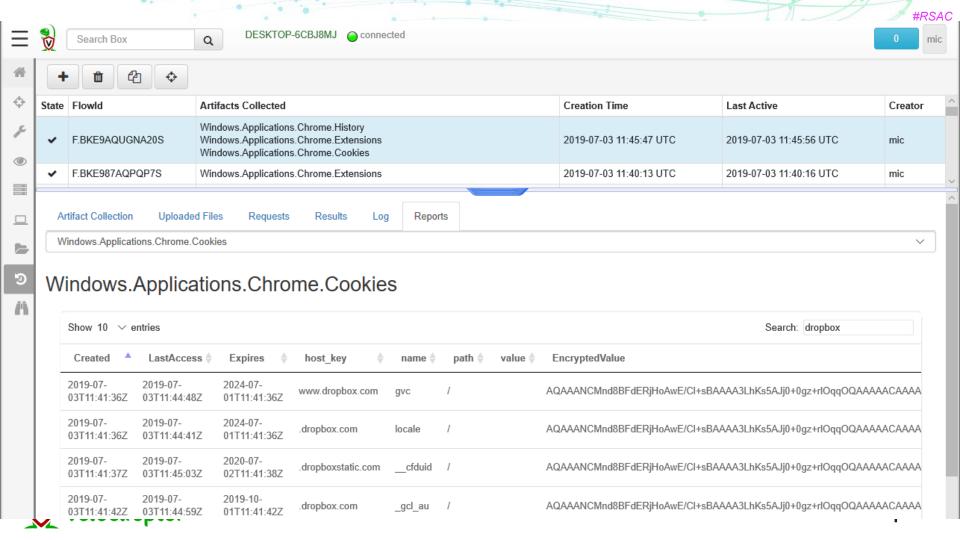
It can be accessed through a web browser or an installed program.

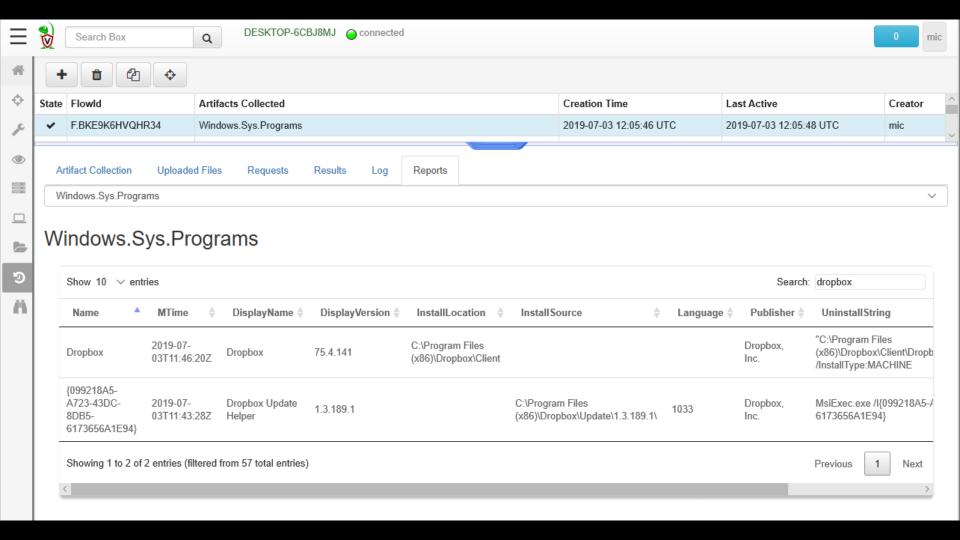
### Exercise:

- Which of your users have Dropbox accounts?
- When did they access Dropbox through their web browsers?
- What confidential documents are shared through Dropbox?
- Let's search web browsing history for accesses to Dropbox.









## Scenario: Use of Microsoft SysInternal tools

SysInternal tools are powerful system administration tools which are also used by attackers "living off the land".

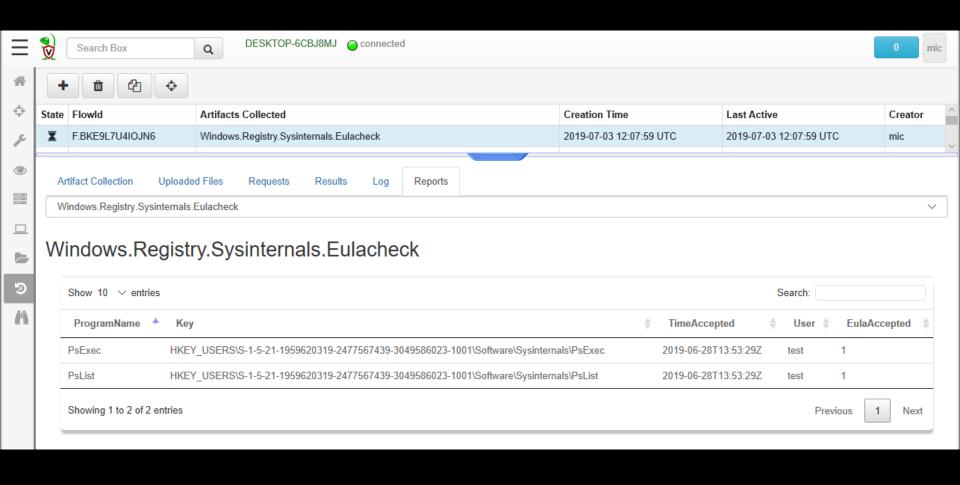
Did any SysInternal tools ever run on your endpoint?

For non-administrator accounts, this is very suspicious.

 Hint: Sysinternals tools require the user accepting a EULA, which leaves an interesting forensic artifact - a Registry key showing the user accepted the EULA.

We have an artifact for that too!





# Event artifacts and endpoint monitoring

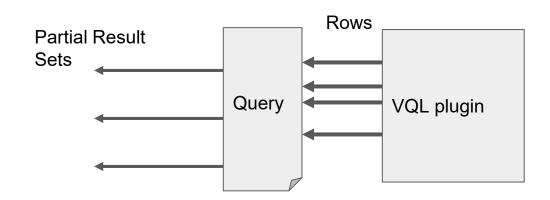


## What are event artifacts?

Event artifacts are never-ending VQL queries that watch for events on clients and stream those events to the server.

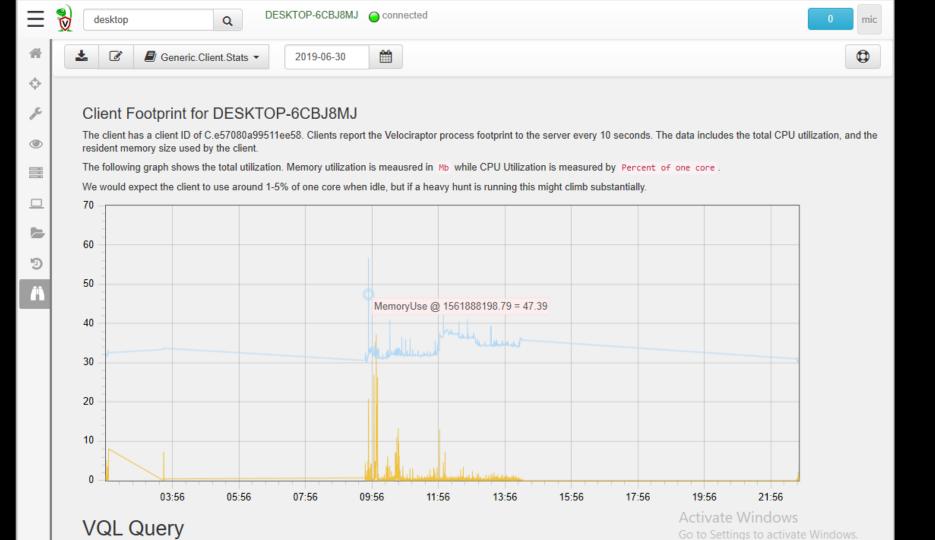
Example:

**Generic.Client.Stats** 





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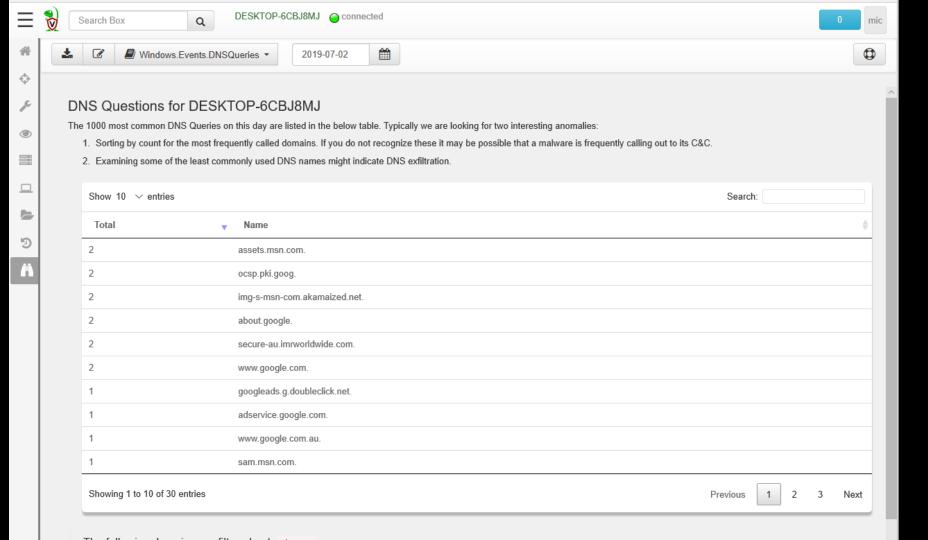
## **Scenario: Monitor all DNS lookups**

DNS lookups are an excellent network signal.

They can reveal C2 activity and help scope the extent of compromise across a network by showing all clients attempting to connect to known-bad domains.

We can store all DNS lookups from clients, then search this data when threat intel reveals C2 and other suspicious DNS names.





## Scenario: Monitor endpoint for USB drive insertion

USB drives are a constant threat:

- They can introduce malware
- They're commonly used to exfiltrate confidential documents.

We want an artifact that watches every client for USB drives being inserted, then sends us a listing of all files copied to them.

This has long been a limitation of Windows forensic artifacts!



# Automating response with server event artifacts



## **Post-process client events**

Server event artifacts are similar to the client event artifacts, except they run on the server.

The server listens for events and responds to them.

The events may originate with the clients **or** post-process any other activity on the server.



## **Exercise: Decode encoded PowerShell commands**

PowerShell can accept a base64 encoded command line, often used by attackers to pass commands and script blocks.

These are easy to decode individually, but harder at scale.

Velociraptor can decode these automatically.

Test this by running the following encoded PowerShell:

powershell -encodedCommand
ZABpAHIAIAAiAGMAOgBcAHAAcgBvAGcAcgBhAG0AIABmAGkAbABlAHMAI
gAgAA==



## **Exercise: Alert if a new service is installed**

Installation of new services could indicate attacker activities.

Example: winpmem is a tool used to obtain memory images.

It installs a kernel driver and a service called **pmem**.

Velociraptor can easily send an email alert if this is detected.

```
C:\Users\test\Downloads>winpmem_v3.3.rc1.exe -L -dd
2019-07-02 22:08:47 I This is The WinPmem memory imager. version 3.3rc1
2019-07-02 22:08:47 I Extracted 45368 bytes into C:\Users\test\AppData\Local\Temp\pme5CB8.tmp
2019-07-02 22:08:47 I Driver Unloaded.
2019-07-02 22:08:47 I Loaded Driver C:\Users\test\AppData\Local\Temp\pme5CB8.tmp
2019-07-02 22:08:47 I Setting acquisition mode 2
2019-07-02 22:08:47 I CR3: 0x00001AA002
3 memory ranges:
Start 0x00001000 - Length 0x0009E000
Start 0x00100000 - Length 0x00002000
Start 0x00103000 - Length 0xD8EED000

2019-07-02 22:08:47 W Memory access driver left loaded since you specified the -l flag.
2019-07-02 22:08:47 I Unable to delete C:\Users\test\AppData\Local\Temp\pme5CB8.tmp: Access is denied.
```



## **Customizing artifacts**



## **Customizing artifacts**

Artifacts simply contain VQL statements.

It's easy to modify existing artifacts to your needs.

As you learn VQL, you can easily write your own.

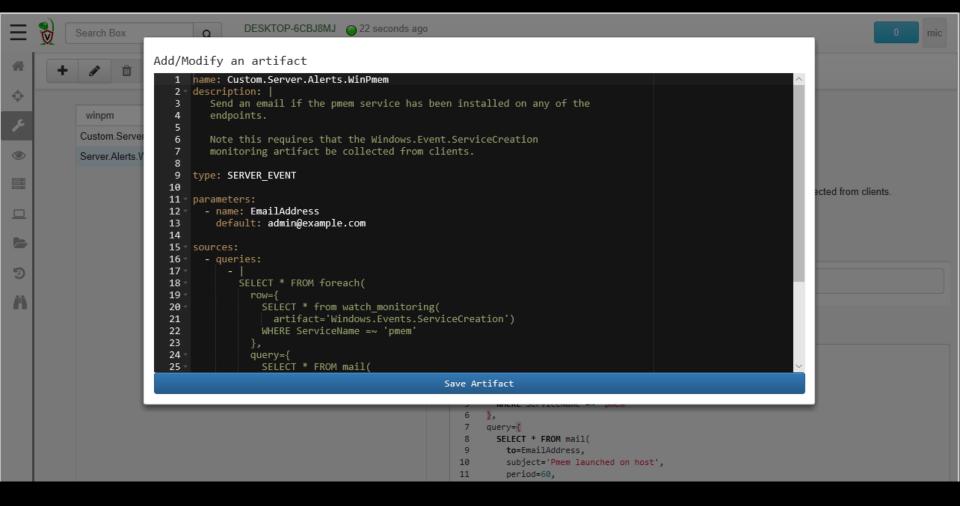
Custom artifacts start with the Custom. Prefix.

You can use official or custom artifacts interchangeably.

You can also contribute your artifacts to the Velociraptor project.







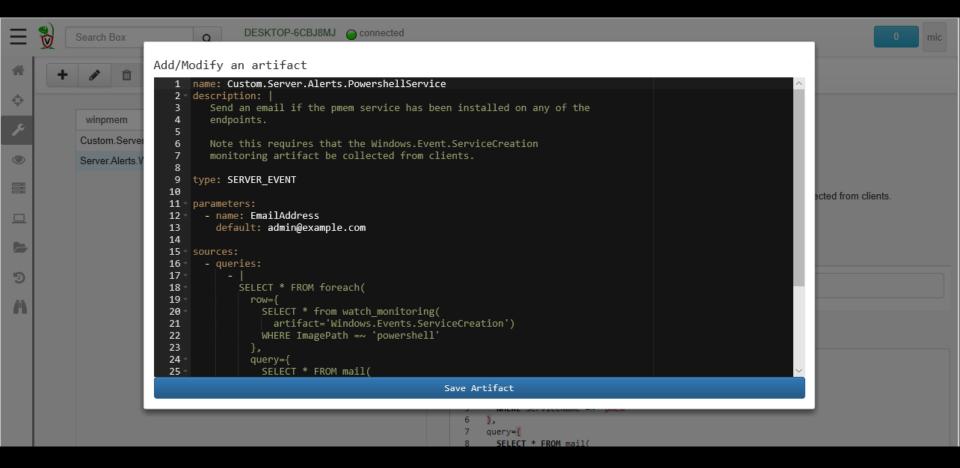
## **Scenario: Detecting lateral movement**

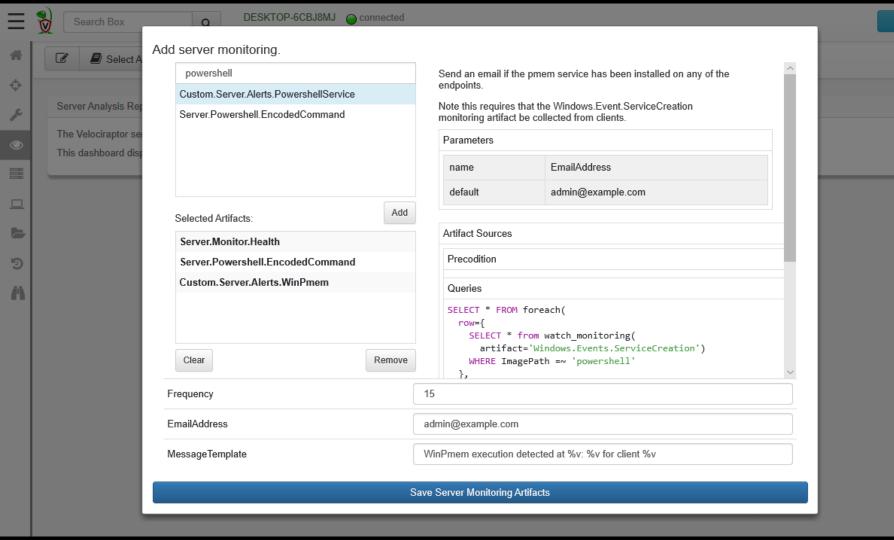
Imagine a new service spawning PowerShell:

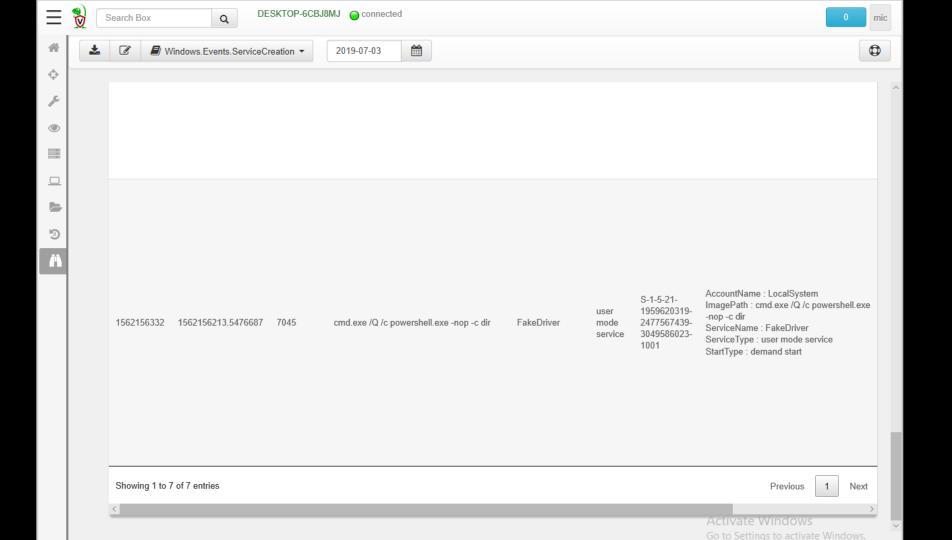
```
C:> sc create FakeDriver binpath="cmd.exe /Q /c
powershell.exe -nop -c dir"
C:>sc start FakeDriver
```

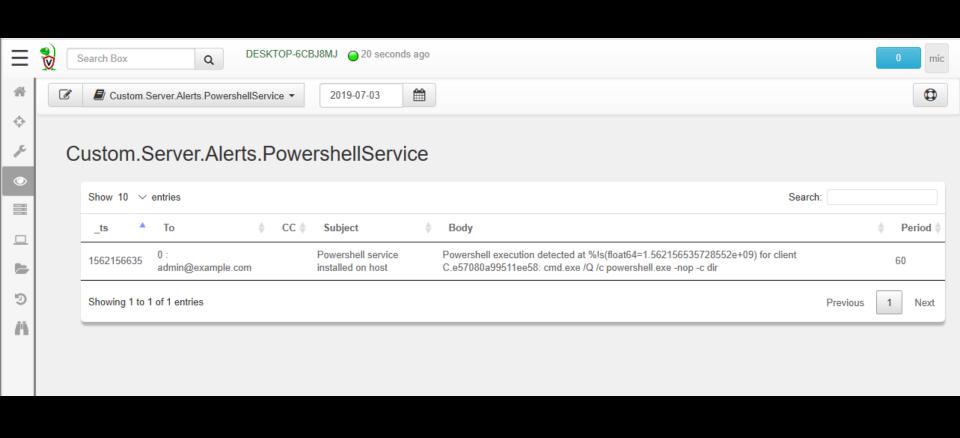
We can monitor clients for service creation events and alert when a service is installed using PowerShell.











## Apply what you learned

Ultimately we are trying to answer Questions about our endpoints.

Now think of how to answer **Questions** using your endpoint monitoring tool of choice - *think outside the box*.

Share your method with others so they can easily apply your work.



## **Start hunting today**

- Download Velociraptor from www.velocidex.com or GitHub
- Review the Quick Start documentation.
- Setup a Velociraptor server and deploy some test clients.
- Start by hunting for some pre-built artefacts.
- Then customise some hunts to your own requirements.
- Contribute back with your feedback and ideas.



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Thank you.

www.velocidex.com