

Custom Alert Rules in Wazuh

Introduction

Wazuh is an open-source security detection tool that works on top of the ELK stack (Elasticsearch, Logstash, and Kibana) and is designed to identify threats using its alert rule system. This system uses rules to search for potential security threats or issues in logs from various sources, such as operating system logs, application logs, endpoint security logs, etc.

Out of the box, Wazuh has a comprehensive set of pre-configured rules. While these rules cover a wide range of potential security issues, there are still scenarios or risks unique to an organisation that these rules may not cover. To compensate for this, organisations can create custom alert rules, which is the focus of this room.

Learning objectives:

- Learn how important data is extracted from logs using Decoders.
- Learn how alerts are triggered using Rules.
- Learn how to add new rules to extend detection capabilities.
- Learn how to simulate a real-world attack to test existing rules.

Room Prerequisites

- Knowledge and experience with Wazuh - If you need an overview of its features, visit the [Wazuh room](#).
- Familiarity with regular expressions - Wazuh decoders and rules rely heavily on regular expressions, so brush up by checking out the [Regular Expressions room](#).
- Knowledge of [Sysmon](#) - We'll use Sysmon logs as an example for this room.

Connecting to the machine

We will interact with the Wazuh dashboard and server installed on a virtual machine for this room.

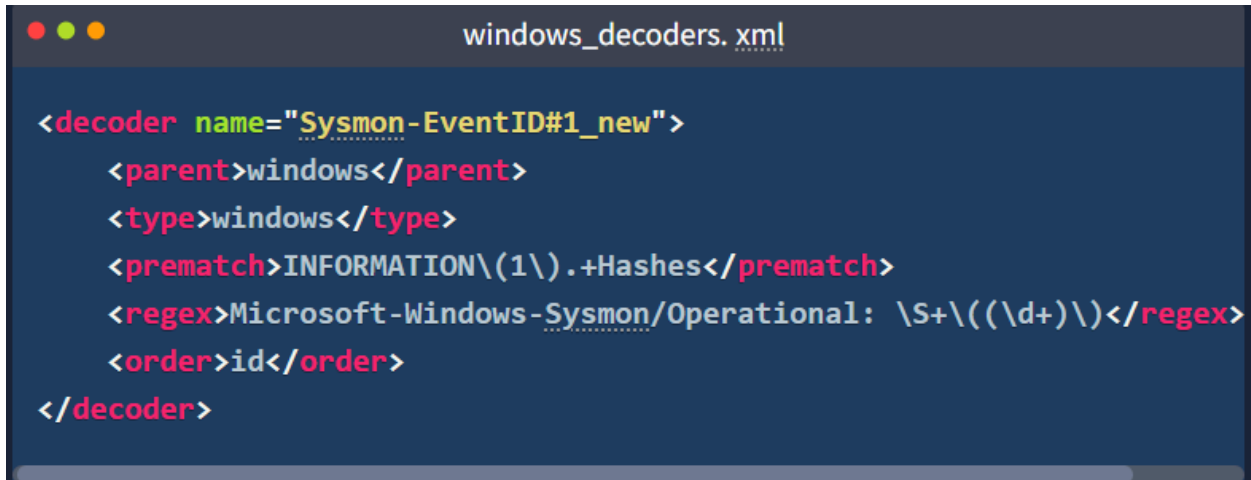
Start the virtual machine in split-screen view by clicking on the green "Start Machine" button on the upper right section of this task. If the VM is not visible, use the blue Show Split View button at the top-right of the page. Leave the VM running for 5 minutes for Wazuh to finish setting up. The steps to access the dashboard and server will be given in later tasks.

Decoders

One of the many features of Wazuh is that it can ingest logs from different sources and generate alerts based on their contents. However, various logs can have varied data types and structures. To manage this, Wazuh uses Decoders that use regex to extract only the needed data for later use.

Understanding Decoders

To help us better understand what Decoders are and how they work, let us look at how logs from a tool like Sysmon (System Monitor) are processed. As a popular tool, there is already a pre-existing decoder for this listed in the `windows_decoders.xml` file on [Wazuh's Github page](#). This file can also be downloaded for your reference by clicking on the "Download Task Files" button on the top right corner of this task.

A screenshot of a code editor window titled 'windows_decoders.xml'. The editor has a dark blue background with syntax-highlighted XML code. The code defines a decoder named 'Sysmon-EventID#1_new' with a parent of 'windows', type of 'windows', a prematch regex for 'INFORMATION\\(1\\).+Hashes', a regex for 'Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational: \\S+\\((\\d+)\\)', and an order of 'id'.

```
<decoder name="Sysmon-EventID#1_new">
  <parent>windows</parent>
  <type>windows</type>
  <prematch>INFORMATION\\(1\\).+Hashes</prematch>
  <regex>Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational: \\S+\\((\\d+)\\)</regex>
  <order>id</order>
</decoder>
```

Let's break down the parts of this Decoder block:

- decoder name - The name of this decoder. (Note: Multiple decoder blocks can have the same name; think of this as though they are being grouped together).
- parent - The name of the parent decoder. The parent decoder is processed first before the children are
- prematch - Uses regular expressions to look for a match. If this succeeds, it will process the "regex" option below.
- regex - Uses regular expressions to extract data. Any string in between a non-escaped open and closed parenthesis is extracted.
- order - Contains a list of names to which the extracted data will be stored.

There are a whole lot more options that can be set for decoders. For now, we are only interested in the ones listed above. If you want to check out all the options, you can visit the Wazuh documentation's [Decoder Syntax page](#).

For us to know what data is to be extracted, we need to look at an example log entry from Sysmon:

*Mar 29 13:36:36 WinEvtLog: Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational:
INFORMATION(1): Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon: SYSTEM: NT AUTHORITY:
WIN-P57C9KN929H: Process Create: UtcTime: 2017-03-29 11:36:36.964
ProcessGuid: {DB577E3B-9C44-58DB-0000-0010B0983A00} ProcessId: 3784 Image:
C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe CommandLine:
"C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe" "-file"
"C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\test.ps1" CurrentDirectory: C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\ User:
WIN-P57C9KN929H\Alberto LogonGuid:
{DB577E3B-89E5-58DB-0000-0020CB290500} LogonId: 0x529cb TerminalSessionId:
1 IntegrityLevel: Medium Hashes:
MD5=92F44E405DB16AC55D97E3BFE3B132FA,SHA256=6C05E11399B7E3C8ED31
BAE72014CF249C144A8F4A2C54A758EB2E6FAD47AEC7 ParentProcessGuid:
{DB577E3B-89E6-58DB-0000-0010FA3B0500} ParentProcessId: 2308 ParentImage:
C:\Windows\explorer.exe ParentCommandLine: C:\Windows\Explorer.EXE*

The log entry above shows an example event a Wazuh agent installed in a Windows machine sent. It describes an event where the user ran a PowerShell script named test.ps1 from his system using the powershell.exe executable initiated by the Explorer process (C:\Windows\explorer.exe). As you can see, there's a lot of data in there, and it is a decoder's job to extract them.

Once this log entry is ingested, all appropriate decoder blocks will kick into action where they will first check the prematch option.

The decoder block above will check if any strings match the regular expression, "INFORMATION(1\).+Hashes".

If you feel your regex-fu needs some refreshing, let's break down the step-by-step process of how this will go:

- First, the regex will look for the INFORMATION string.
- Followed by an escaped open parenthesis \(.).
- Followed by a number 1.
- Followed by an escaped close parenthesis \).
- And then any number of characters .+.
- Until it reaches the Hashes string.

If you check the expression above with the log entry, you will find out it is a match. And because it is a match, the decoder would process the regex option below. This time it will try to match the string, "Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational: \S+\\((\d+)\)":

- First, the regex will look for the Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational: string.

- Followed by any string of any length \S+.
- Followed by an escaped open parenthesis.
- Followed by an open parenthesis ((Remember, this is where the extracted data will start).
- Then by any digit character of any length \d+.
- Then a closing parenthesis) (This is where the extracted data ends).
- And finally followed by an escaped closing parenthesis \).

After all of the above steps, the value of 1 will be extracted and stored in the id field as listed in the order option.

Testing the Decoder

We can quickly test decoders from the Wazuh dashboard using the "Ruleset Test" tool. But first, let's access the dashboard:

If you haven't yet, run the virtual machine by pressing the "Start Machine" button on Task 1. Wait for a few minutes for Wazuh to load correctly.

To access the Wazuh dashboard, you can do it in two ways:

- Connect via OpenVPN (More info here) and then type the machine's IP `http://MACHINE_UP` on your browser's address bar.
- Log in to AttackBox VM, open the web browser inside AttackBox, and then type the machine's IP `http://MACHINE_IP` on the address bar.

You'll encounter a Security alert, which you can safely ignore by clicking "Advanced > Accept the Risk and Continue".



Warning: Potential Security Risk Ahead

Firefox detected a potential security threat and did not continue to **10.10.61.90**. If you visit this site, attackers could try to steal information like your passwords, emails, or credit card details.

What can you do about it?

The issue is most likely with the website, and there is nothing you can do to resolve it.

If you are on a corporate network or using antivirus software, you can reach out to the support teams for assistance. You can also notify the website's administrator about the problem.

[Learn more...](#)

Go Back (Recommended)

Advanced...

Someone could be trying to impersonate the site and you should not continue.

Websites prove their identity via certificates. Firefox does not trust 10.10.61.90 because its certificate issuer is unknown, the certificate is self-signed, or the server is not sending the correct intermediate certificates.

Error code: [SEC_ERROR_UNKNOWN_ISSUER](#)

[View Certificate](#)

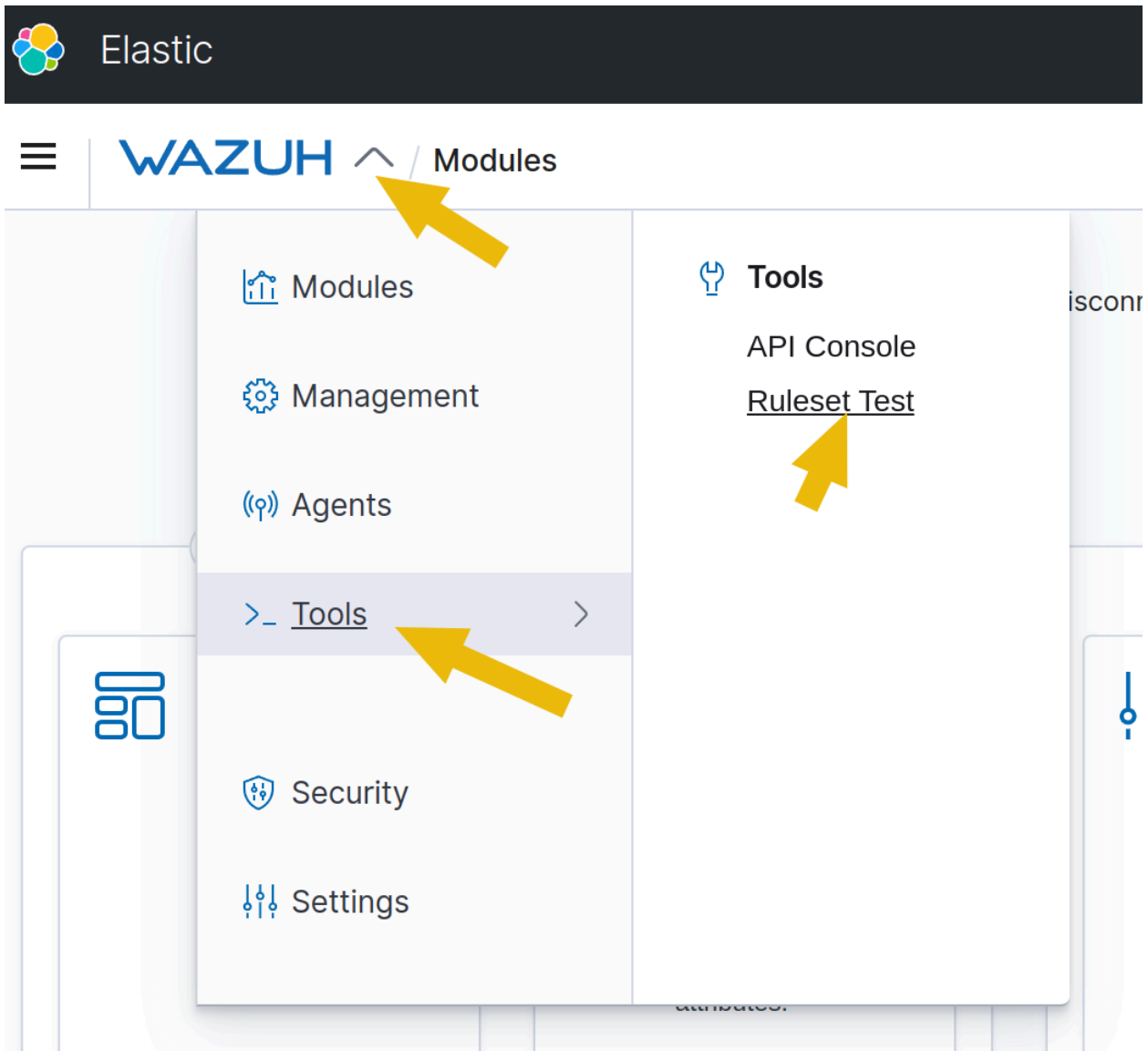
Go Back (Recommended)

Accept the Risk and Continue

When presented with the Wazuh login screen, enter wazuh for the username and TryHackMe! for the password.

Once in the Wazuh dashboard, access the "Ruleset Test" tool page by doing the following:

- Click on the dropdown button on the Wazuh Logo
- Click on Tools > Ruleset Test



Once on the Ruleset Test page, paste the example Sysmon log entry above into the textbox and click the "Test" button. This will output the following results:

```
Ruleset Test Output

**Phase 1: Completed pre-decoding.
  full event: Mar 29 13:36:36 WinEvtLog: Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational: INFORMATION(1): Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon: SYSTEM: NT AUTH
  timestamp: Mar 29 13:36:36
  hostname: WinEvtLog:
  program_name: WinEvtLog

**Phase 2: Completed decoding.
  name: windows
  parent: windows
  data: {
    "srcuser": "WIN-P57C9KN929H\\Alberto",
    "id": "1",
    "sysmon": {
      "processGuid": "{DB577E3B-9C44-58DB-0000-0010B0983A00}",
      "processId": "3784",
      "image": "C:\\Windows\\System32\\WindowsPowerShell\\v1.0\\powershell.exe",
      "commandLine": "\"C:\\Windows\\System32\\WindowsPowerShell\\v1.0\\powershell.exe\" \"-file\" \"C:\\Users\\Alberto\\Desktop\\tes",
      "currentDirectory": "C:\\Users\\Alberto\\Desktop\\",
      "logonGuid": "{DB577E3B-89E5-58DB-0000-0020C8290500}",
      "logonId": "0x529cb",
      "terminalSessionId": "1",
      "integrityLevel": "Medium",
      "hashes": "92F44E405DB16AC55D97E3BFE3B132FA,SHA256=6C05E11399B7E3C8ED318AE72014CF249C144A8F4A2C54A758EB2E6FAD47AEC7",
      "parentProcessGuid": "{DB577E3B-89E6-58DB-0000-0010FA3B0500}",
      "parentProcessId": "2308",
      "parentImage": "C:\\Windows\\explorer.exe"
    }
  }
}
```

As you can see in the output above, this output has three stages. For the topic of Decoders, we will focus on the first two phases for now.

- Phase 1 is the pre-decoding phase. The event log is parsed, and the header details like timestamp, hostname, and program_name are retrieved. This is done automatically on the backend by Wazuh.
- Phase 2 is the decoding phase, where the decoders do their magic. When done, all the extracted data from the declared decoder blocks are displayed here. For example, we can see in the results that the "id" field has been assigned the value of 1, which shows that the decoder works.

As for the other data like "processGuid", "processId", etc.), they were extracted by a separate decoder block, like the one below:

```
windows_decoders.xml

<decoder name="Sysmon-EventID#1_new">
  <parent>windows</parent>
  <type>windows</type>
  <regex offset="after_regex">ProcessGuid: (\\.) \\s*ProcessId: (\\.) \\s*Image: (\\.) \\s*CommandLine: (\\.)\\s+CurrentD</regex>
  <order>sysmon.processGuid, sysmon.processId, sysmon.image, sysmon.commandLine</order>
</decoder>
```

You will notice more values in the order option in this decoder. Each named value corresponds to the number of data enclosed in the parenthesis found in the regex option. In this case, the data in the first pair of parenthesis() will be stored on sysmon.processGuid, the second on sysmon.processId, and so on.

Answer the questions below:

Looking at the Sysmon Log, what will the value of sysmon.commandLine be?

The screenshot shows the Wazuh Ruleset Test interface. The 'Ruleset Test' tab is active. Below the 'API Console' header, there is a 'Ruleset Test' section. It displays a Sysmon log entry with the following details: ProcessId: 3784, Image: C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe, CommandLine: "C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe" -file "C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\test.ps1", CurrentDirectory: C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop, User: WIN-P57C9KN929H\Alberto, LogonGuid: (DB577E3B-89E5-58DB-0000-0020CB290500), LogonId: 0x529cb, TerminalSessionId: 1, IntegrityLevel: Medium, Hashes: MD5=92F44E405DB16AC55D97E3BFE3B132FA, SHA256=6C05E11399B7E3C8ED31BAE72014CF249C144A8F4A2C54A758EB2E6FAD47AEC7, ParentProcessId: 2308, ParentImage: C:\Windows\explorer.exe, ParentCommandLine: C:\Windows\Explorer.EXE. Below the log entry, there is a 'Test' button and a 'Clear session' button. The 'id' field is set to '1'. The 'srcuser' field is set to 'WIN-P57C9KN929H\Alberto'. The 'sysmon.commandLine' field is set to 'C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe" -file "C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\test.ps1'.

Answer: "C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe" -file "C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\test.ps1"

What would the extracted value be if the regex is set to "User: \S*"?

The screenshot shows the Wazuh Ruleset Test interface. The 'Ruleset Test' tab is active. Below the 'API Console' header, there is a 'Ruleset Test' section. It displays a Sysmon log entry with the following details: ProcessId: 3784, Image: C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe, CommandLine: "C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe" -file "C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\test.ps1", CurrentDirectory: C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop, User: WIN-P57C9KN929H\Alberto, LogonGuid: (DB577E3B-89E5-58DB-0000-0020CB290500), LogonId: 0x529cb, TerminalSessionId: 1, IntegrityLevel: Medium, Hashes: MD5=92F44E405DB16AC55D97E3BFE3B132FA, SHA256=6C05E11399B7E3C8ED31BAE72014CF249C144A8F4A2C54A758EB2E6FAD47AEC7, ParentProcessId: 2308, ParentImage: C:\Windows\explorer.exe, ParentCommandLine: C:\Windows\Explorer.EXE. Below the log entry, there is a 'Test' button and a 'Clear session' button. The 'id' field is set to '1'. The 'srcuser' field is set to 'WIN-P57C9KN929H\Alberto'. The 'sysmon.commandLine' field is set to 'C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe" -file "C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\test.ps1'.

Answer: WIN-P57C9KN929H\Alberto

Rules

Rules contain defined conditions to detect specific events or malicious activities using the extracted data from decoders. An alert is generated on the Wazuh dashboard when an event matches a rule.

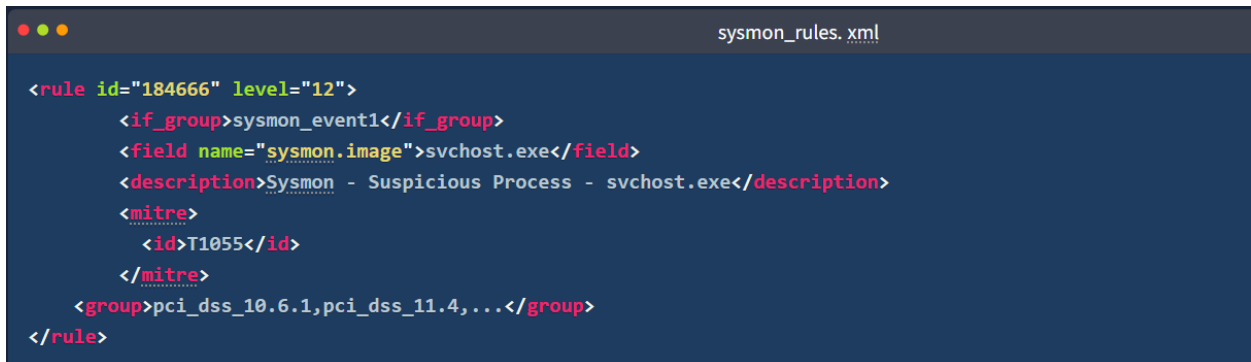
In this task, we will look at the pre-existing Sysmon rules defined in the sysmon_rules.xml rule file found on [Wazuh's Github page](#). This file can also be

downloaded for your reference by clicking on the "Download Task Files" button on the top right corner of this task.

The downloaded file contains multiple rule blocks, but we will focus primarily on blocks that look for suspicious Sysmon events with an ID of 1.

Understanding Rules

Here is an example of an alert rule that looks for the "svchost.exe" string in the "sysmon.image" field:

A screenshot of a code editor window titled "sysmon_rules.xml". The editor shows an XML rule block for "sysmon_event1". The rule has an ID of 184666 and a level of 12. It is triggered by the "sysmon.image" field containing the value "svchost.exe". The description is "Sysmon - Suspicious Process - svchost.exe". The MITRE ID is T1055. The rule is associated with the "pci_dss_10.6.1, pci_dss_11.4, ..." group.

```
<rule id="184666" level="12">
  <if_group>sysmon_event1</if_group>
  <field name="sysmon.image">svchost.exe</field>
  <description>Sysmon - Suspicious Process - svchost.exe</description>
  <mitre>
    <id>T1055</id>
  </mitre>
  <group>pci_dss_10.6.1,pci_dss_11.4,...</group>
</rule>
```

A rule block has multiple options. In this case, the options that interest us at this moment are the following:

- rule id - The unique identifier of the rule.
- rule level - The classification level of the rule ranges from 0 to 15. Each number corresponds to a specific value and severity, as listed in the Wazuh documentation's rule classifications page [here](#).
- if_group - Specifies the group name that triggers this rule when that group has matched.
- field name - The name of the field extracted from the decoder. The value in this field is matched using regular expressions.
- group - Contains a list of groups or categories that the rule belongs to. It can be used for organizing and filtering rules.

As with decoders, there are other options available for rules. You can check out the complete list on the [Rules Syntax page](#) in the Wazuh documentation.

Testing the Rule

Go back to the "Ruleset Test" page. Paste the exact log entry we used in the previous task. The result should be the same, but this time, we will focus on Phase 3 of the output.

```
Ruleset Test Output

**Phase 3: Completed filtering (rules).
  id: 184665
  level: -
  description: Sysmon - Event 1
  groups: ["sysmon","sysmon_event1"]
  firedtimes: 1
  gdpr: "-"
  gpg13: "-"
  hipaa: "-"
  mail: "-"
  mitre.id: "-"
  mitre.technique: "-"
  nist_800_53: "-"
  pci_dss: "-"
  tsc: "-"
```

Phase 3 shows what information an alert would contain when a rule is triggered, like "id", "level", "description", etc.

Right now, the output shows that the triggered rule ID is 184665. This is not the rule block that we examined above, which has the ID of 184666. The reason for this is that 184666 is looking for "svchost.exe" in the "sysmon.image" field option. For this rule to trigger, we need to change

"C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe" to
"C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe", as shown below:

```
Mar 29 13:36:36 WinEvtLog: Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational:
INFORMATION(1): Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon: SYSTEM: NT AUTHORITY:
WIN-P57C9KN929H: Process Create: UtcTime: 2017-03-29 11:36:36.964
ProcessGuid: {DB577E3B-9C44-58DB-0000-0010B0983A00} ProcessId: 3784 Image:
C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe CommandLine:
"C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe" "-file"
"C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\test.ps1" CurrentDirectory: C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\ User:
WIN-P57C9KN929H\Alberto LogonGuid:
{DB577E3B-89E5-58DB-0000-0020CB290500} LogonId: 0x529cb TerminalSessionId:
1 IntegrityLevel: Medium Hashes:
MD5=92F44E405DB16AC55D97E3BFE3B132FA,SHA256=6C05E11399B7E3C8ED31
BAE72014CF249C144A8F4A2C54A758EB2E6FAD47AEC7 ParentProcessGuid:
{DB577E3B-89E6-58DB-0000-0010FA3B0500} ParentProcessId: 2308 ParentImage:
C:\Windows\explorer.exe ParentCommandLine: C:\Windows\Explorer.EXE
```

When this is done, press the "Test" button again to run the Ruleset Test. The output should now be different, especially in Phase 3:

```
Ruleset Test Output

**Phase 3: Completed filtering (rules).
  id: 184666
  level: 12
  description: Sysmon - Suspicious Process - svchost.exe
  groups: ["sysmon","sysmon_process-anomalies"]
  firetimes: 1
  gdpr: ["IV_35.7.d"]
  gpg13: "-"
  hipaa: ["164.312.b"]
  mail: true
  mitre.id: {"id":["T1055"],"tactic":["Defense Evasion","Privilege Escalation"],"technique":["Process Injection"]}
  mitre.technique: {"id":["T1055"],"tactic":["Defense Evasion","Privilege Escalation"],"technique":["Process Injection"]}
  nist_800_53: ["AU.6","SI.4"]
  pci_dss: ["10.6.1","11.4"]
  tsc: ["CC7.2","CC7.3","CC6.1","CC6.8"]
**Alert to be generated.
```

Because our rule now matches the log, the triggered Rule is now 184666. There is now also more information on the output thanks to the mitre and group options in the rule block.

Answer the questions below:

From the Ruleset Test results, what is the <mitre> ID of rule id 184666?

```
mitre.id: {"id":["T1055"]},
```

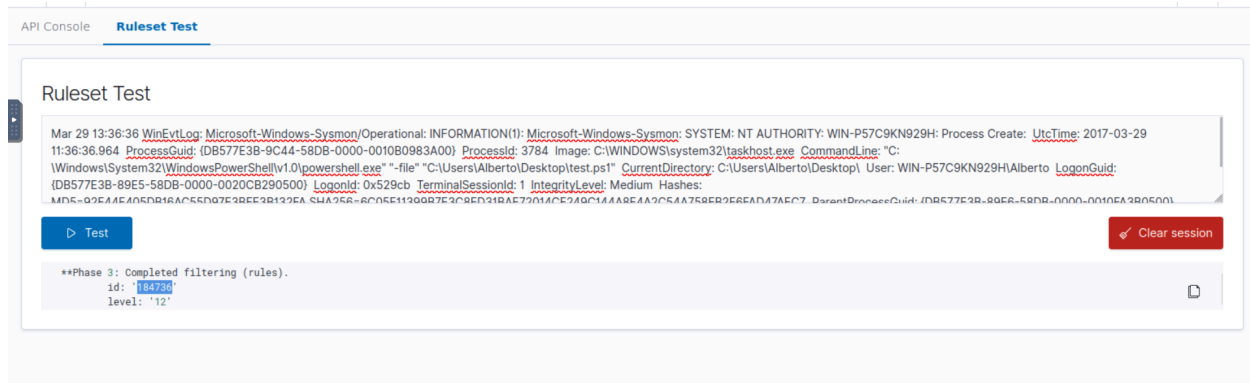
Answer: T1055

According to the Wazuh documentation, what is the description of the rule with a classification level of 12?

12	High importance event	These include error or warning messages from the system, kernel, etc. These may indicate an attack against a specific application.
----	-----------------------	---

Answer: High importance event

In the Ruleset Test page, change the value of "sysmon.image" to "taskhost.exe", and press the "Test" button again. What is the ID of the rule that will get triggered?

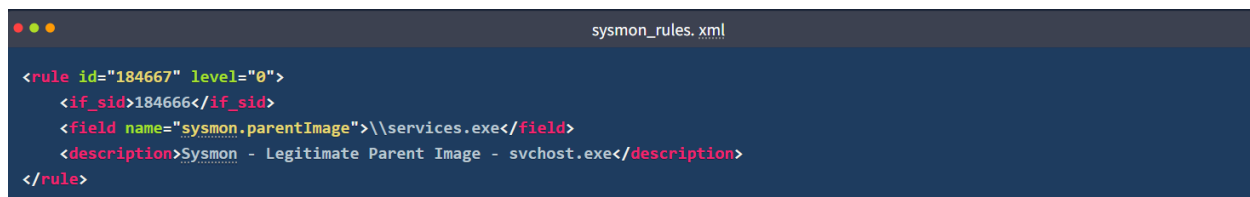


Answer: 184736

Rule Order

In Wazuh, rules are processed based on several factors determining rule order. One factor that will be discussed that is relevant to making custom rules is the "if" condition prerequisites.

We've seen the `if_group` option in the previous task, but there are other "if" condition prerequisites like the `if_sid` option shown below:



- `if_sid` - Specifies the ID of another rule that triggers this rule. In this example, the rule is triggered if an event with the ID of 184666 has been triggered.

These "if" condition prerequisites are considered the "parent" that must be evaluated first. Because of this parent-child relationship, it is essential to note that Wazuh Rules are triggered from a top-to-down manner. When rules are processed, the condition prerequisites are checked, and the rule order is updated.

Testing the Rule Order

Go back to the "Ruleset Test" page. Paste the exact log entry we used in the previous task. We want to trigger Rule ID 184667, so our Sysmon log entry should have the value of "sysmon.parentImage" changed to C:\\Windows\\services.exe.

The log entry should now look like the one below:

Mar 29 13:36:36 WinEvtLog: Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational:
 INFORMATION(1): Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon: SYSTEM: NT AUTHORITY:
 WIN-P57C9KN929H: Process Create: UtcTime: 2017-03-29 11:36:36.964
 ProcessGuid: {DB577E3B-9C44-58DB-0000-0010B0983A00} ProcessId: 3784 Image:
 C:\WINDOWS\system32\svchost.exe CommandLine:
 "C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe" "-file"
 "C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\test.ps1" CurrentDirectory: C:\Users\Alberto\Desktop\ User:
 WIN-P57C9KN929H\Alberto LogonGuid:
 {DB577E3B-89E5-58DB-0000-0020CB290500} LogonId: 0x529cb TerminalSessionId:
 1 IntegrityLevel: Medium Hashes:
 MD5=92F44E405DB16AC55D97E3BFE3B132FA,SHA256=6C05E11399B7E3C8ED31
 BAE72014CF249C144A8F4A2C54A758EB2E6FAD47AEC7 ParentProcessGuid:
 {DB577E3B-89E6-58DB-0000-0010FA3B0500} ParentProcessId: 2308 ParentImage:
 C:\Windows\services.exe ParentCommandLine: C:\Windows\Explorer.EXE

Pressing the "Test" button would then output the following:

```

Ruleset Test Output

**Phase 3: Completed filtering (rules).
  id: 184667
  level: -
  description: Sysmon - Legitimate Parent Image - svchost.exe
  groups: ["sysmon","sysmon_process-anomalies"]
  firedtimes: 1
  gdpr: "-"
  gpg13: "-"
  hipaa: "-"
  mail: "-"
  mitre.id: "-"
  mitre.technique: "-"
  nist_800_53: "-"
  pci_dss: "-"
  tsc: "-"
  
```

We can see that the triggered rule is 184667, which is what we expected. What is not shown in the output, however, is that before 184667 was triggered, Wazuh first checked if_sid and found that Rule ID184666 was a prerequisite. Before rule ID 184666, Wazuh then saw that it has an if_group set to sysmon_event1, which is associated with Rule ID 184665. This goes on and on until all the chains of prerequisites are satisfied.

Answer the questions below:

In the sysmon_rules.xml file, what is the Rule ID of the parent of 184717?

On the Wazuh rules GitHub page.

```
<rule id="184717" level="0">
  <if_sid>184716</if_sid>
  <field name="sysmon.parentImage">smss.exe</field>
  <description>Sysmon - Legitimate Parent Image - wininit.exe</description>
</rule>
```

Answer: 184716

Custom Rules

As mentioned before, the pre-existing rules are comprehensive. However, it cannot cover all use cases, especially for organizations with unique needs and requirements. To compensate for this, we can modify or create new rules to customize them for our needs.

There are several reasons why we want to have custom rules:

- You want to enhance the detection capabilities of Wazuh.
- You are integrating a not-so-well-known security solution.
- You use an old version of a security solution with an older log format.
- You recently learned of a new attack and want to create a specific detection rule.
- You want to fine-tune a rule.

We've previously looked at how Wazuh processes Sysmon logs from Windows, so this time, let's look at the rules for auditd for Linux machines and whether it can detect file creation events via Syscalls. This time we will be looking at the auditd_rules.xml rule file found on [Wazuh's Github page](#). This file can also be downloaded for your reference by clicking on the "Download Task Files" button on the top right corner of this task.

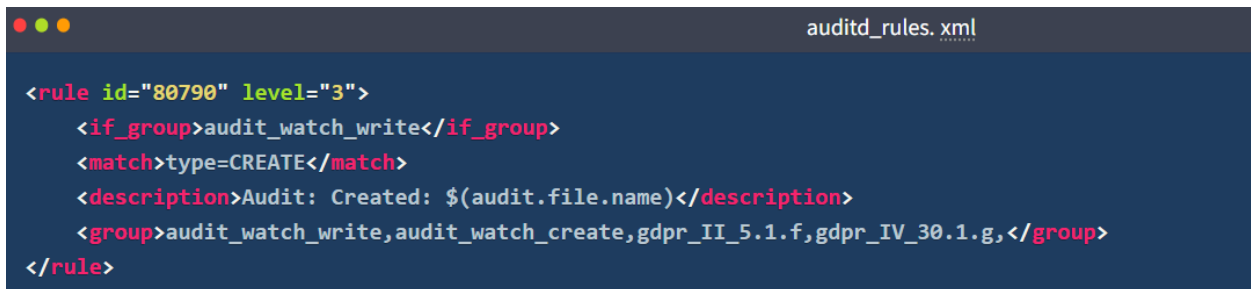
To help us better understand how to build our custom rule, let's look at an example of an auditd log:

```
type=SYSCALL msg=audit(1479982525.380:50): arch=c000003e syscall=2
success=yes exit=3 a0=7ffedc40d83b a1=941 a2=1b6 a3=7ffedc40cce0 items=2
ppid=432 pid=3333 audit=0 uid=0 gid=0 euid=0 suid=0 fsuid=0 egid=0 sgid=0 fsgid=0
tty=pts0 ses=2 comm="touch" exe="/bin/touch" key="audit-wazuh-w" type=CWD
msg=audit(1479982525.380:50): cwd="/var/log/audit" type=PATH
msg=audit(1479982525.380:50): item=0 name="/var/log/audit/tmp_directory1/"
inode=399849 dev=ca:02 mode=040755 ouid=0 ogid=0 rdev=00:00
nametype=PARENT type=PATH msg=audit(1479982525.380:50): item=1
```

```
name="/var/log/audit/tmp_directory1/malware.py" inode=399852 dev=ca:02
mode=0100644 ouid=0 ogid=0 rdev=00:00 nametype=CREATE type=PROCTITLE
msg=audit(1479982525.380:50):
proctitle=746F756368002F7661722F6C6F672F61756469742F746D705F64697265637
46F7279312F6D616C776172652E7079
```

The log describes an event wherein a touch command (probably as root user) was used to create a new file called malware.py in the /var/log/audit/tmp_directory1/ directory. The command was successful, and the log was generated based on an audit rule with the key "audit-wazuh-w".

When Wazuh ingests the above log, the pre-existing rule below will get triggered because of the value of <match>:



```
<rule id="80790" level="3">
  <if_group>audit_watch_write</if_group>
  <match>type=CREATE</match>
  <description>Audit: Created: ${audit.file.name}</description>
  <group>audit_watch_write,audit_watch_create,gdpr_II_5.1.f,gdpr_IV_30.1.g,</group>
</rule>
```

Adding Local Rules

For this exercise, let's create a custom rule that will override the above rule so we have more control over the information we display.

To do this, you need to do the following:

- Connect to the server using SSH at 10.10.96.209 and use thm for the username and TryHackMe! the password. The credentials and connection details are listed in Task 1 of this room.
- Use the sudo su command to become the root user.
- Open the file /var/ossec/etc/rules/local_rules.xml using your favourite editor.
- Paste the following text at the end of the file:



```
<group name="audit,">
  <rule id="100002" level="3">
    <if_sid>80790</if_sid>
    <field name="audit.cwd">downloads|tmp|temp</field>
    <description>Audit: ${audit.exe} created a file with filename ${audit.file.name} the folder ${audit.directory.name}</description>
    <group>audit_watch_write,</group>
  </rule>
</group>
```

The rule above will get triggered if a file is created in the downloads, tmp, or temp folders. Let's break this down so we can better understand:

- group name="audit," - We are setting this to the same value as the grouped rules in audit_rules.xml.
- rule id="100002" - Each custom rule needs to have a unique ID. Custom IDs start from 100001 onwards. Since there is already an existing example rule that uses 100001, we are going to use 100002.
- level="3" - We are setting this to 3 (Successful/Authorized events) because a file created in these folders isn't necessarily malicious.
- if_sid - We set the parent to rule ID 80790 because we want that rule to be processed before this one.
- field name="audit.directory.name" - The string here is matched using regex. In this case, we are looking for tmp, temp, or downloads matches. This value is compared to the audit.cwd variable fetched by the auditd decoder.
- description - The description that will appear on the alert. Variables can be used here using the format \$(variable.name).
- group - Used for grouping this specific alert. We just took the same value from rule 80790.

Save the file and run the code below to restart wazuh-manager so it can load the new custom rules:



```
Bash
systemctl restart wazuh-manager
```

Go back to the Wazuh dashboard, access the "Ruleset Test" page and paste the sample auditd log entry found above. If all goes well, you should see the following "Phase 3" output:



```
Ruleset Test Output

**Phase 3: Completed filtering (rules).
  id: '100002'
  level: '3'
  description: 'Audit: /bin/touch created a file with filename /var/log/audit/tmp_directory1/malware.py the folder /var/log/audit.'
  groups: '['audit',"audit_watch_write"]'
  firetimes: '1'
  mail: 'false'
```

From the results above, we can see that the custom rules that we created triggered an alert successfully.

Answer the questions below:

What is the regex field name used in the local_rules.xml?


```
<field name="audit.cwd">
```

Answer: `audit.cwd`

Looking at the log, what is the current working directory (cwd) from where the command was executed?

```
description: 'Audit: /bin/touch created a file with filename /var/log/audit/tmp_directory1/malware.py the folder /var/log/audit.'
```

Answer: `/var/log/audit`

Fine-Tuning

You can fine-tune the custom rule by adding more child rules, each focusing on specific related data from the logs. For example, you can use the values decoded by auditd decoder, as shown in the Phase 2 results of the previous test.

```
Ruleset Test Output

**Phase 2: Completed decoding.
  name: 'auditd'
  parent: 'auditd'
  audit.arch: 'c000003e'
  audit.auid: '0'
  audit.command: 'touch'
  audit.cwd: '/var/log/audit'
  audit.directory.inode: '399849'
  audit.directory.mode: '040755'
  audit.directory.name: '/var/temp/downloads/tmp_directory1/'
  audit.egid: '0'
  audit.euid: '0'
  audit.exe: '/bin/touch'
  audit.exit: '3'
  audit.file.inode: '399852'
  audit.file.mode: '0100644'
  audit.file.name: '/var/log/audit/tmp_directory1/malware.py'
  ....
```

We can use the above data to make our detection rules as broad or as specific as needed. The following is an expanded version of `local_rules.xml` that incorporates more of the log's data.

```

local_rules.xml

<group name="audit,">
  <rule id="100002" level="3">
    <if_sid>80790</if_sid>
    <field name="audit.directory.name">downloads|tmp|temp</field>
    <description>Audit: $(audit.exe) created a file with filename $(audit.file.name) in the folder $(audit.directory.name).</description>
    <group>audit_watch_write,</group>
  </rule>

  <rule id="100003" level="12">
    <if_sid>100002</if_sid>
    <field name="audit.file.name">|.py|.sh|.elf|.php</field>
    <description>Audit: $(audit.exe) created a file with a suspicious file extension: $(audit.file.name) in the folder $(audit.directory.name).</description>
    <group>audit_watch_write,</group>
  </rule>

  <rule id="100004" level="6">
    <if_sid>100002</if_sid>
    <field name="audit.success">no</field>
    <description>>Audit: $(audit.exe) created a file with filename $(audit.file.name) but failed</description>
    <group>audit_watch_write,</group>
  </rule>

  <rule id="100005" level="12">
    <if_sid>100003</if_sid>
    <field name="audit.file.name">>malware|shell|dropper|linpeas</field>
    <description>Audit: $(audit.exe) created a file with suspicious file name: $(audit.file.name) in the folder $(audit.directory.name).</description>
    <group>audit_watch_write,</group>
  </rule>

  <rule id="100006" level="0">
    <if_sid>100005</if_sid>
    <field name="audit.file.name">>malware-checker.py</field>
    <description>False positive. "malware-checker.py" is used by our red team for testing. This is just a temporary exception.</description>
    <group>audit_watch_write,</group>
  </rule>
</group>

```

You can test these rules by updating the local_rules.xml file and checking the output on the Ruleset Test Page.

Answer the questions below:

If the filename in the logs is "test.php", what rule ID will be triggered?

```

<rule id="100003" level="12">
  <if_sid>100002</if_sid>
  <field name="audit.file.name">|.py|.sh|.elf|.php</field>
  <description>Audit: $(audit.exe) created a file with a suspicious file extension
  <group>audit_watch_write,</group>
</rule>

```

Answer: **100003**

If the filename in the logs is "malware-checker.sh", what is the rule classification level in the generated alert?

```
<rule id="100003" level="12">
  <if_sid>100002</if_sid>
  <field name="audit.file.name">.py|.sh|.elf|.php</field>
  <description>Audit: $(audit.exe) created a file with a suspicious file extension
  <group>audit_watch_write,</group>
</rule>
```

Answer: 12

Conclusion

You should now know how to create custom rules to expand the detection capabilities for your organization. You would need to make many rules to cover a wide range of attacks, but these are all necessary to improve your security further.

As a recap, we learned the following:

- What decoders and rules are
- How decoders extract essential data from logs
- How rules use extracted data from decoders
- How rules are triggered and in what order
- How to customize rules
- How to test rules

While we've covered a lot in this room, note that this is just one aspect of the power that Wazuh offers. In future rooms, we hope to explore more of Wazuh's robust features to help fortify an organization's security posture.