Detecting MITRE T1070.004 / T1485 Detected — File Deletion & Data Destruction using wazuh.

Objective:

Validate detection, alerting, and response capabilities for host-based file deletion (T1070.004) and data destruction (T1485) on the windows agent and identify gaps in logging, retention, and automated containment.

MITRE mapping:

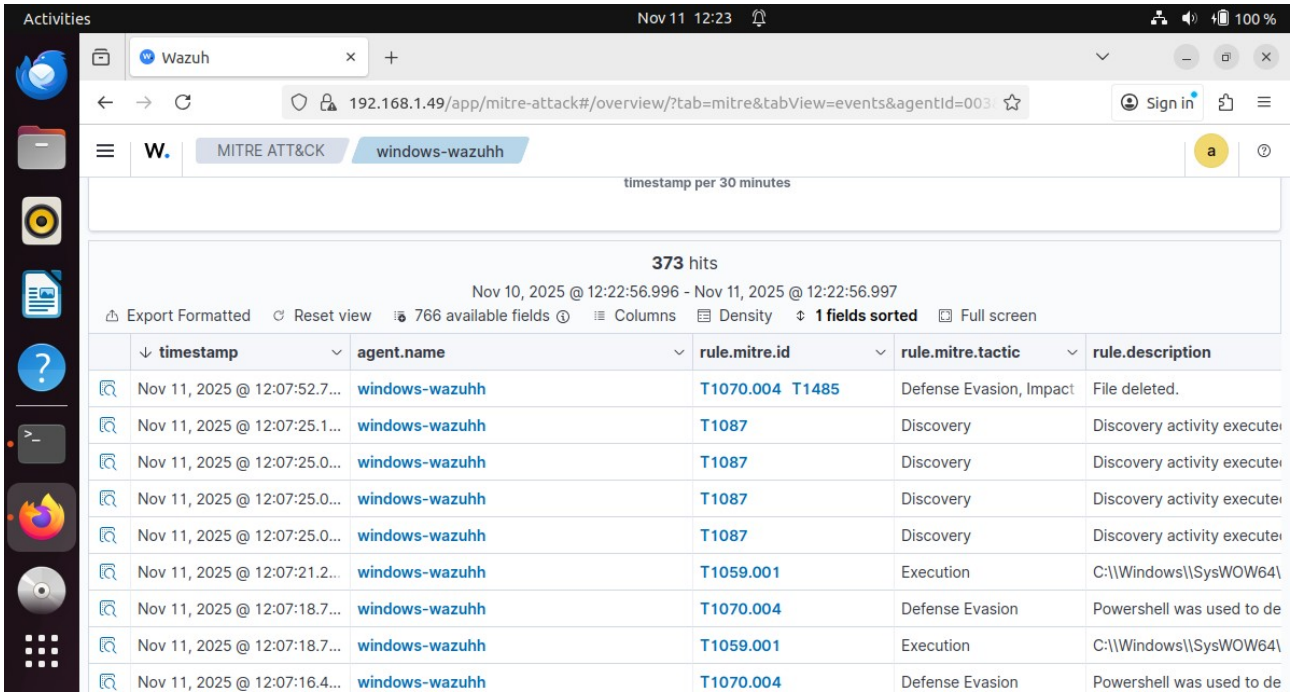
- Technique: T1070.004 — *File Deletion* (sub-technique of T1070 — Indicator Removal on Host)
- Technique: T1485 — *Data Destruction*
- Tactics: Defense Evasion (primary for T1070.004) and Impact (primary for T1485)

Goals :

Confirm that Wazuh and SOC procedures detect and escalate file-deletion and destructive behavior, preserve sufficient forensic evidence, and enable timely recovery from data loss.

Before Alert Triggered:

Check if the timestamp 12:07 is the last attack that was triggered on the Wazuh manager before this alert.



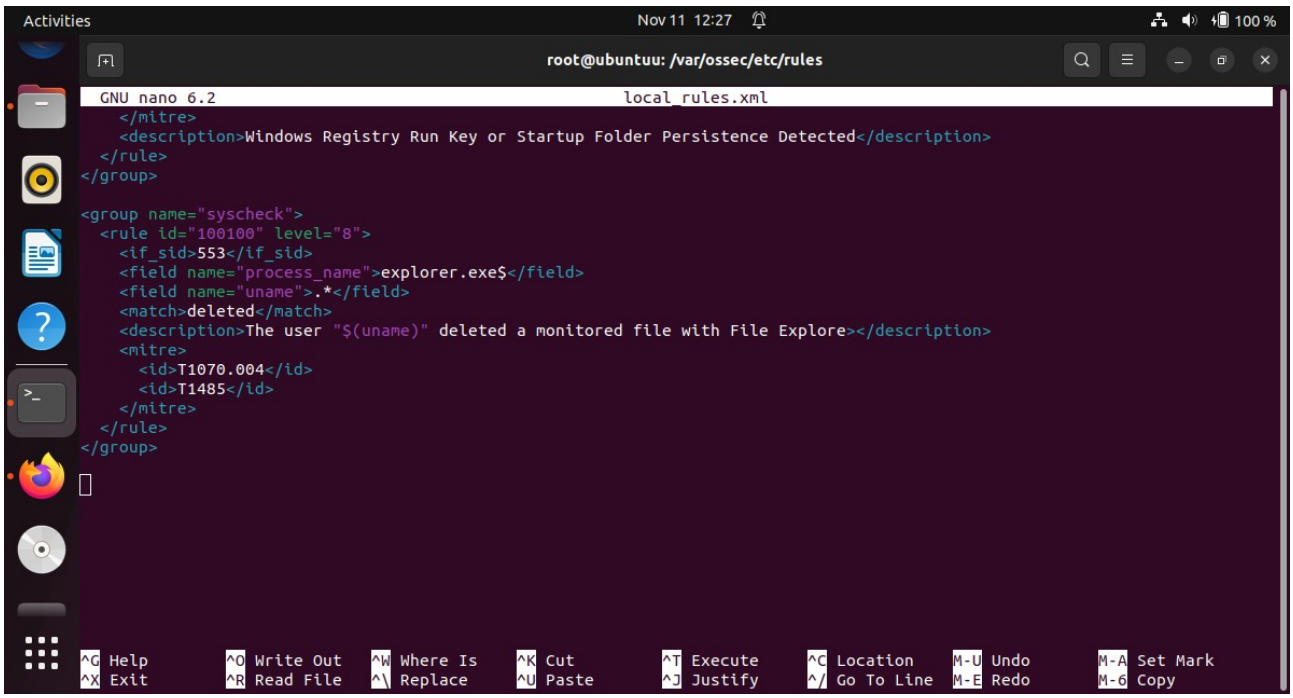
Steps to Reproduce :

Open this dir : cd /var/ossec/etc/rules

$nano local_rules.xml

Add below the rules on the local rules file :

```
<group name="syscheck">
  <rule id="100100" level="8">
    <if_sid>553</if_sid>
    <field name="process_name">explorer.exe$</field>
    <field name="uname">.*</field>
    <match>deleted</match>
    <description>The user "$(uname)" deleted a monitored file with File
Explore></description>
    <mitre>
      <id>T1070.004</id>
      <id>T1485</id>
    </mitre>
  </rule>
</group>
```



Restart the Wazuh server to apply the configuration changes:

$ systemctl restart wazuh-manager

Windows Agent :

Perform the following steps to configure the Wazuh FIM module to monitor file deletion in the C:\test directory.

1. Create the C:\test directory on the endpoint:

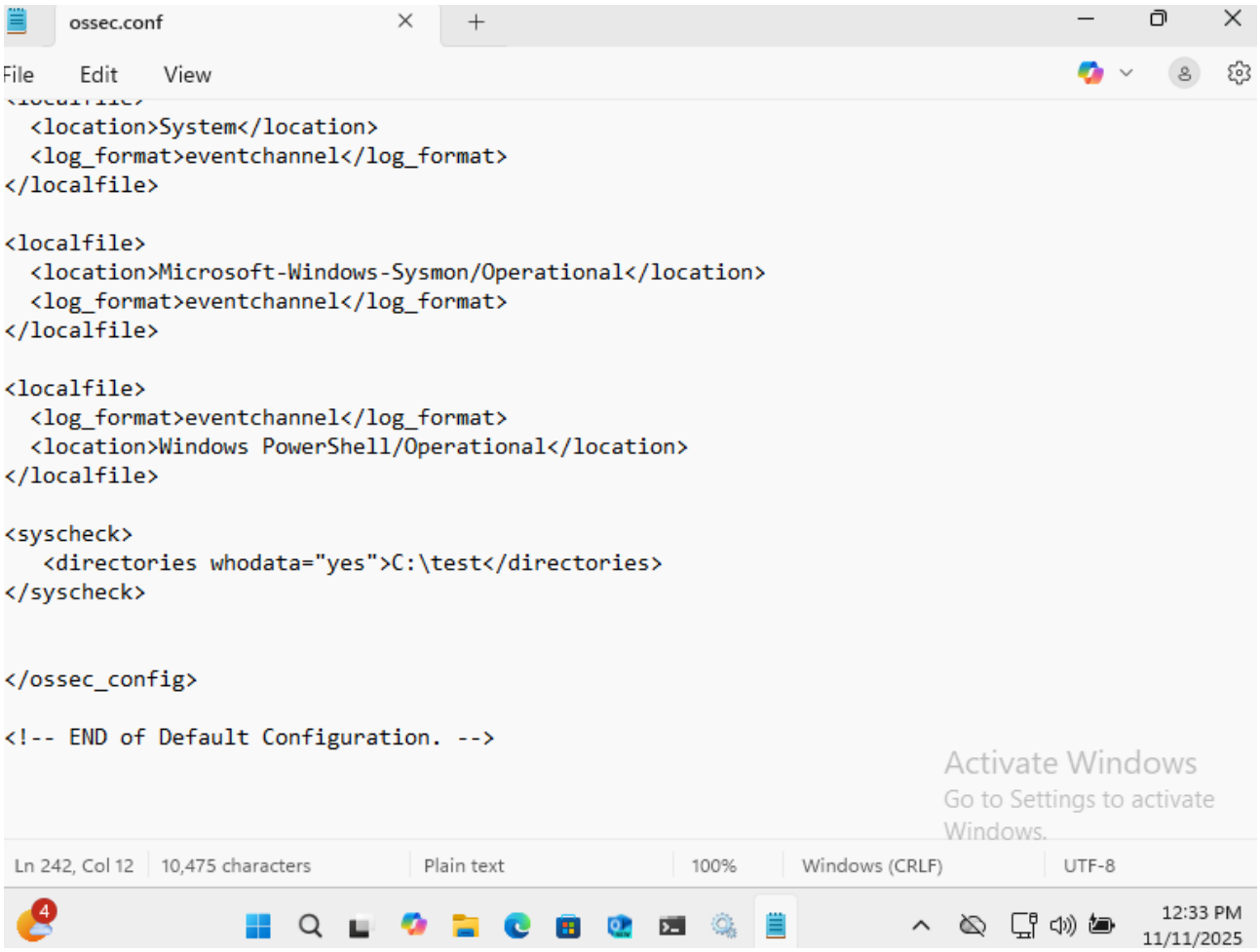
> mkdir C:\test

2 .Edit the Wazuh agent C:\Program Files (x86)\ossec-agent\ossec.conf configuration file of the Wazuh agent. Add the C:\test directory for monitoring:

<syscheck>

<directories whodata="yes">C:\test</directories>

</syscheck>



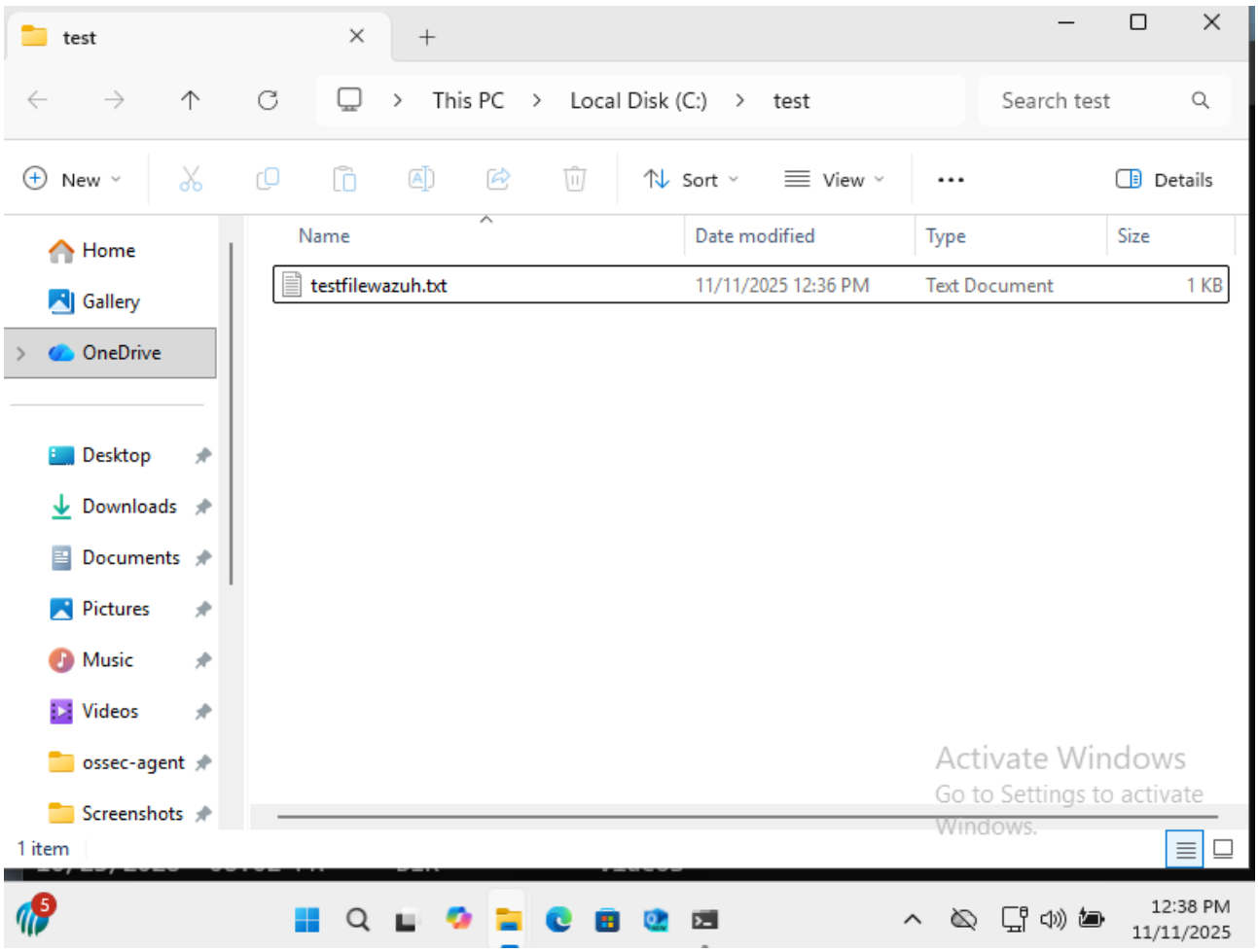
3. Restart the Wazuh agent using Powershell with administrator privilege to apply the changes:

> **Restart-Service -Name wazuh**

or service tab restart wazuh service.

Test the configuration

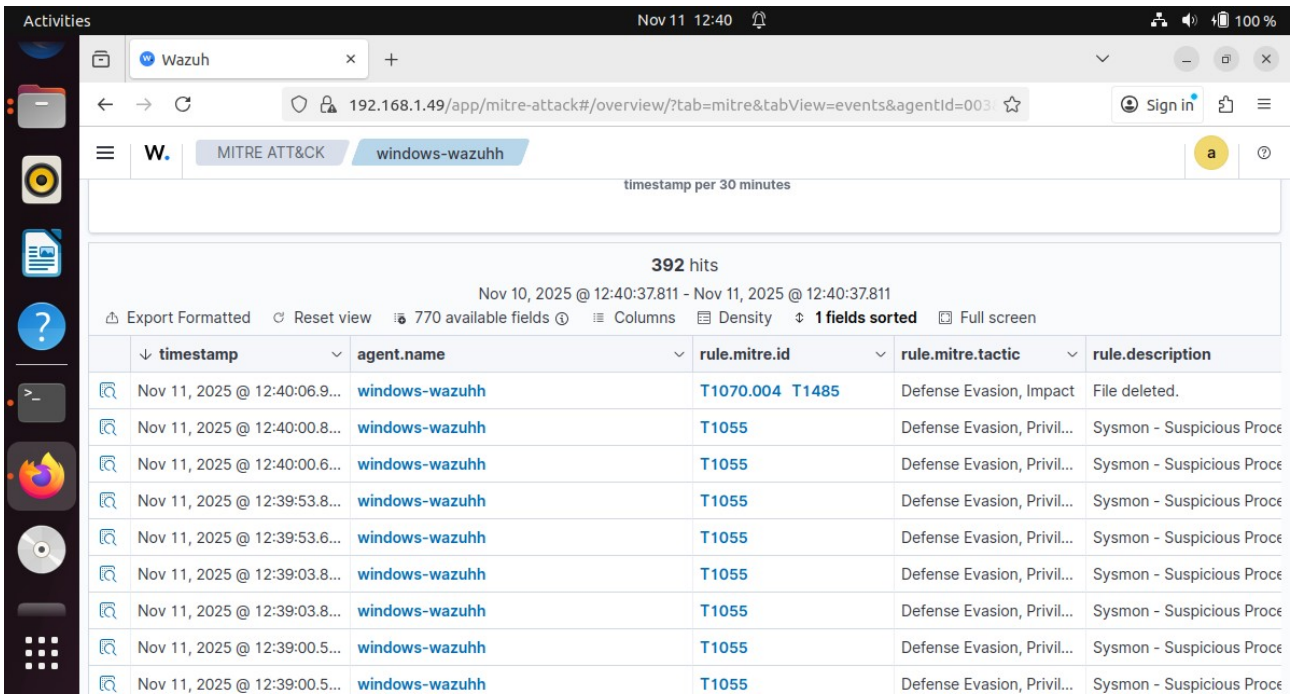
1. Create a text file with Notepad and save the file in the C:\test directory as testfilewazuh.txt.
2. Delete the testfilewazuh.txt file with Windows File Explorer.

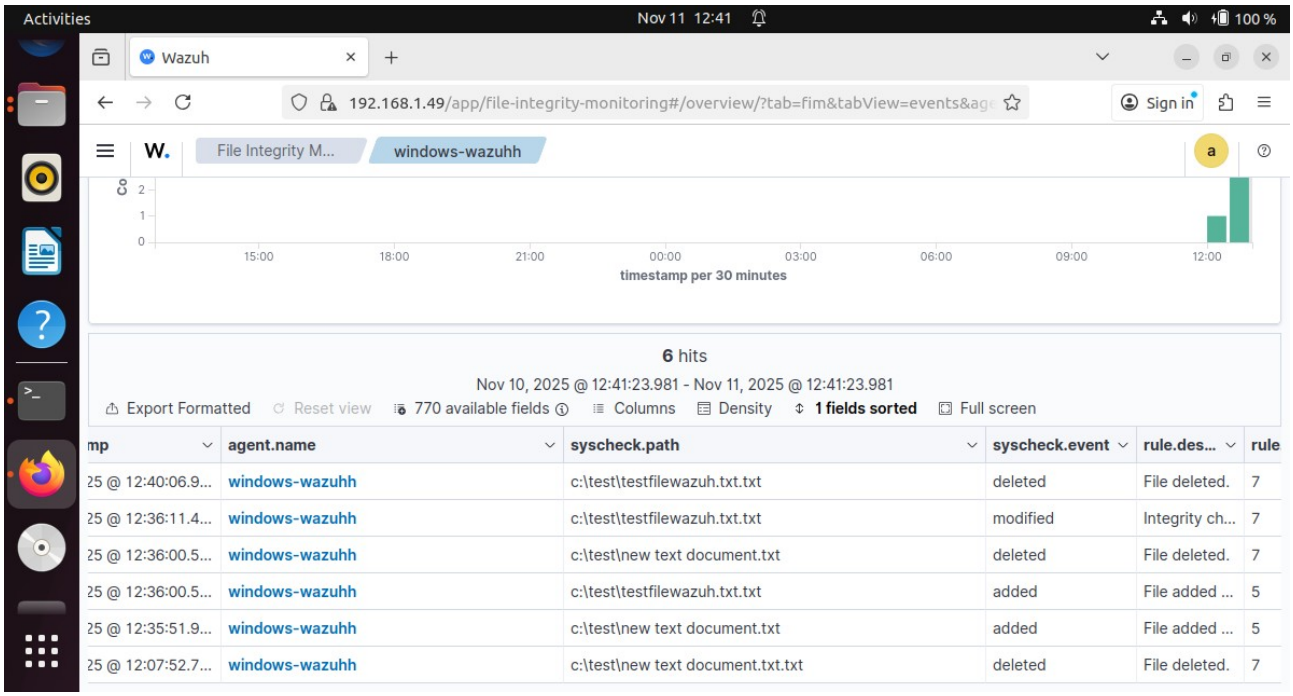


I created the testfilewazuh.txt and i deleted the same file on triggering purpose .

Wazuh triggered alert on the wazuh manager :

Check the timestamp 12:40 the alert triggered file deletion and at the same time FIM (File Integrity Monitory) also triggered.


Activities
Nov 11 12:40
100 %
Wazuh
192.168.1.49/app/mitre-attack#/overview/?tab=mitre&tabView=events&agentId=003
Sign in
MITRE ATT&CK
windows-wazuhh
timestamp per 30 minutes
392 hits
Nov 10, 2025 @ 12:40:37.811 - Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:40:37.811
Export Formatted
Reset view
770 available fields
Columns
Density
1 fields sorted
Full screen
timestamp
agent.name
rule.mitre.id
rule.mitre.tactic
rule.description
Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:40:06.9... windows-wazuhh T1070.004 T1485 Defense Evasion, Impact File deleted.
Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:40:00.8... windows-wazuhh T1055 Defense Evasion, Privil... Sysmon - Suspicious Proce
Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:40:00.6... windows-wazuhh T1055 Defense Evasion, Privil... Sysmon - Suspicious Proce
Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:39:53.8... windows-wazuhh T1055 Defense Evasion, Privil... Sysmon - Suspicious Proce
Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:39:53.6... windows-wazuhh T1055 Defense Evasion, Privil... Sysmon - Suspicious Proce
Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:39:03.8... windows-wazuhh T1055 Defense Evasion, Privil... Sysmon - Suspicious Proce
Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:39:03.8... windows-wazuhh T1055 Defense Evasion, Privil... Sysmon - Suspicious Proce
Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:39:00.5... windows-wazuhh T1055 Defense Evasion, Privil... Sysmon - Suspicious Proce
Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:39:00.5... windows-wazuhh T1055 Defense Evasion, Privil... Sysmon - Suspicious Proce


Activities
Nov 11 12:41
100 %
Wazuh
192.168.1.49/app/file-integrity-monitoring#/overview/?tab=fim&tabView=events&ag
Sign in
File Integrity M...
windows-wazuhh
2
1
0
15:00
18:00
21:00
00:00
03:00
06:00
09:00
12:00
timestamp per 30 minutes
6 hits
Nov 10, 2025 @ 12:41:23.981 - Nov 11, 2025 @ 12:41:23.981
Export Formatted
Reset view
770 available fields
Columns
Density
1 fields sorted
Full screen
mp
agent.name
syscheck.path
syscheck.event
rule.des...
rule
25 @ 12:40:06.9... windows-wazuhh c:\test\testfilewazuh.txt.txt deleted File deleted. 7
25 @ 12:36:11.4... windows-wazuhh c:\test\testfilewazuh.txt.txt modified Integrity ch... 7
25 @ 12:36:00.5... windows-wazuhh c:\test\new text document.txt deleted File deleted. 7
25 @ 12:36:00.5... windows-wazuhh c:\test\testfilewazuh.txt.txt added File added ... 5
25 @ 12:35:51.9... windows-wazuhh c:\test\new text document.txt added File added ... 5
25 @ 12:07:52.7... windows-wazuhh c:\test\new text document.txt.txt deleted File deleted. 7

Result :

The custom File Integrity Monitoring (FIM) rule successfully triggered in the Wazuh dashboard upon deletion of a monitored file via explorer.exe. The alert matched MITRE ATT&CK techniques:

- **T1070.004** – Indicator Removal on Host: File Deletion
- **T1485** – Data Destruction

These techniques reflect adversary actions to remove or destroy files to conceal activities or cause damage. The alert included the deleting user and process details, confirming Wazuh's effective detection and attribution of file deletion events.