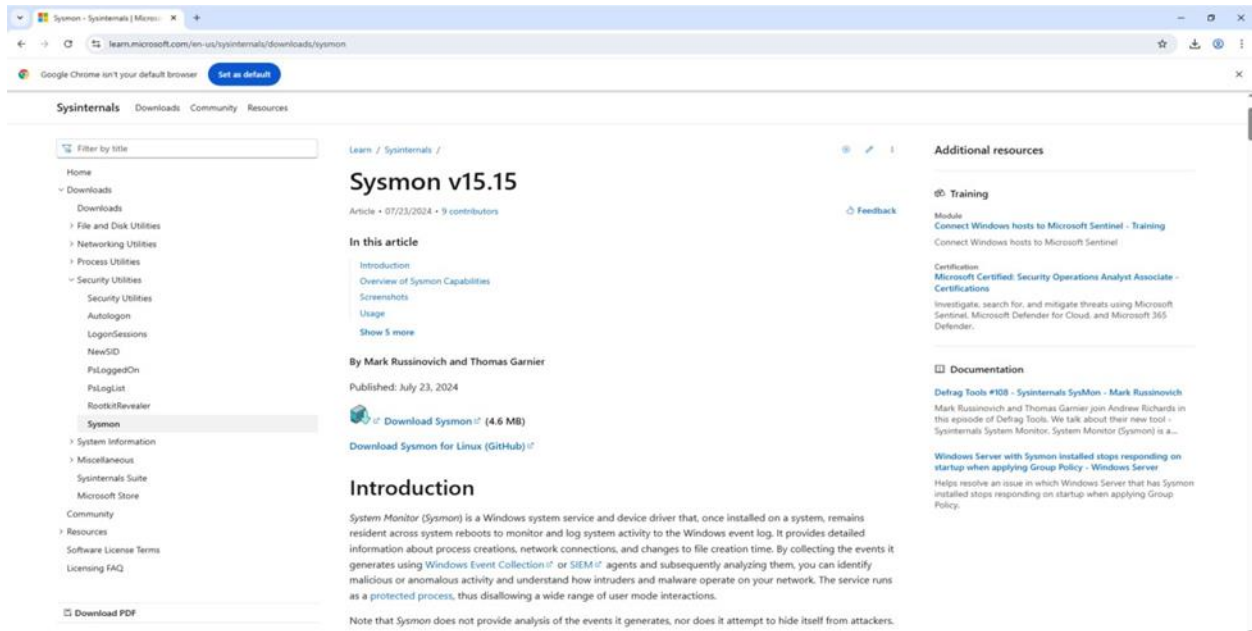


LAB Report 6 – using Wazuh to add Sysmon logging

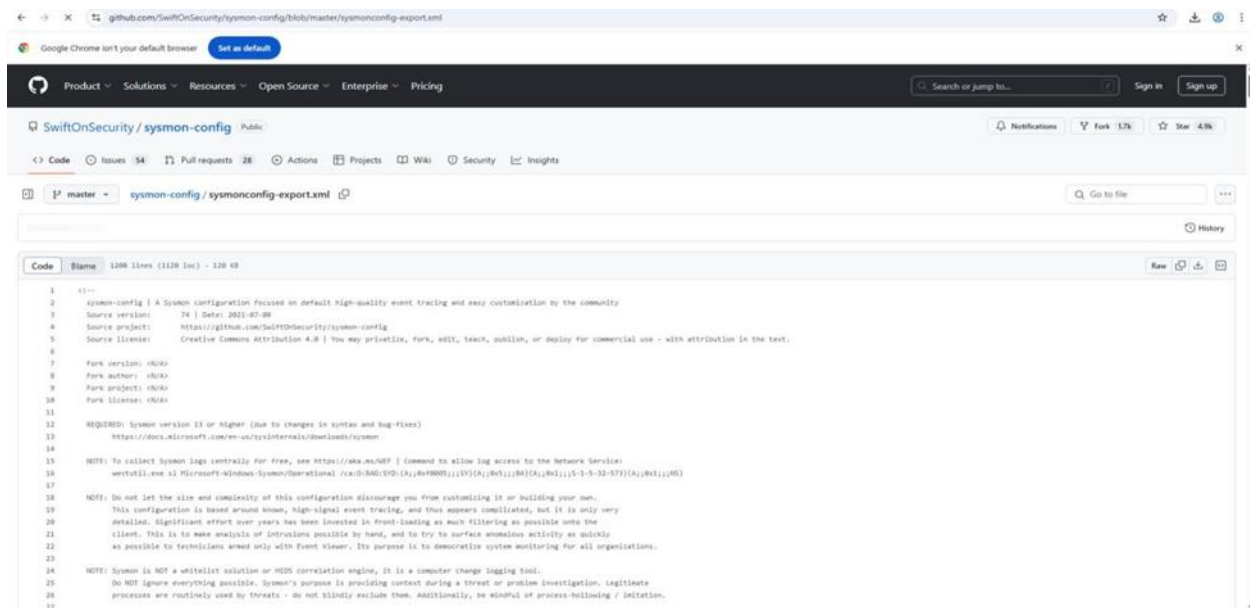
Name: Phanindhar Reddy Karnati
ID: 001667635

Date Submitted: 05/09/2025

- I set up Sysmon on a Windows-based endpoint and set it up to collaborate with Wazuh for sophisticated event log forwarding in order to improve the monitoring capabilities of our Security Onion setup. A component of Microsoft Sysinternals, Sysmon (System Monitor) enables us to gather comprehensive data on system events like file modifications, network connections, and process creation. The objective was to use Wazuh's Sysmon integration to enhance the event data gathered in Security Onion.

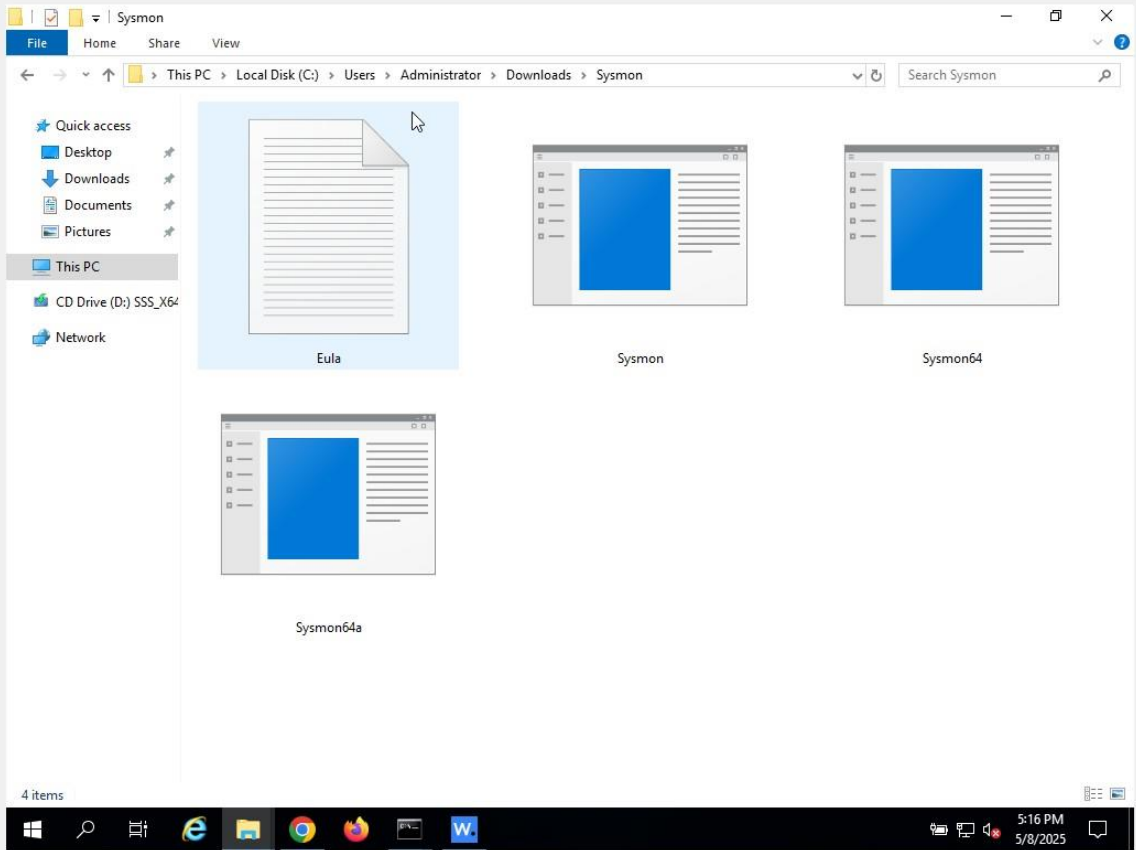


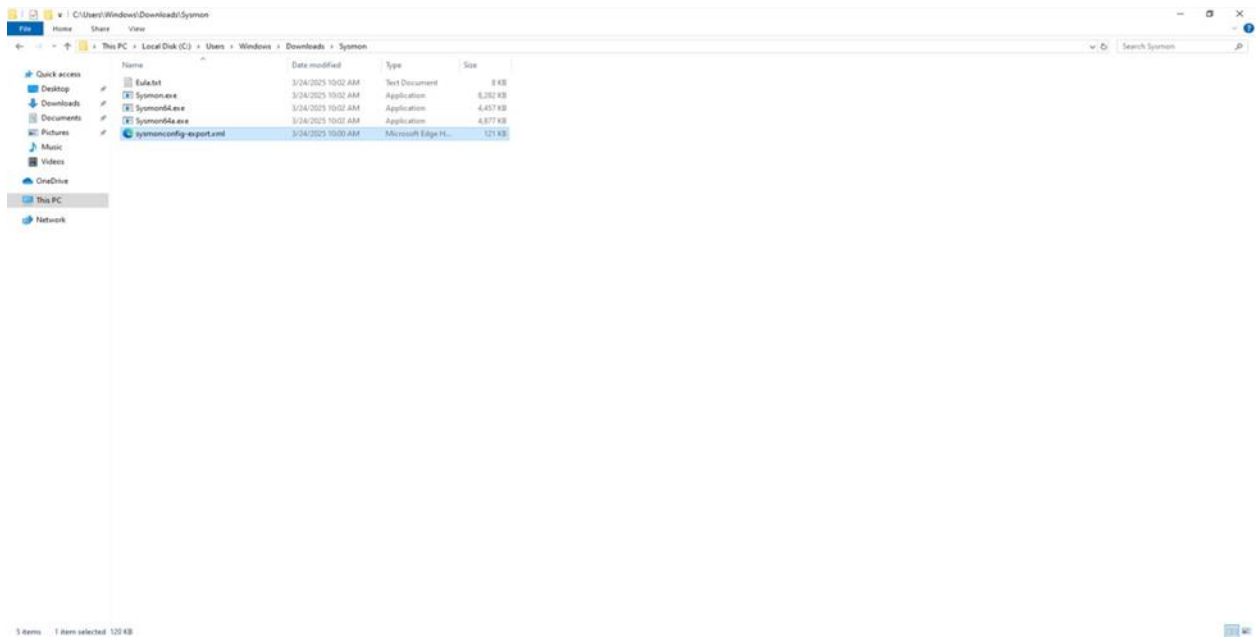
I began by downloading the latest version of Sysmon from Microsoft's official Sysinternals site. The package came in a ZIP format containing executables for both 32-bit and 64-bit Windows systems. Alongside this, I also downloaded a pre-made configuration file (sysmonconfig-export.xml) from SwiftOnSecurity's GitHub repository, which includes rules optimized for compatibility with SIEM tools like the ELK stack used in Security Onion.



The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the GitHub repository for SwiftOnSecurity/sysmon-config. The repository is public and has 54 issues, 28 pull requests, and 17 forks. The file sysmonconfig-export.xml is selected, showing 1200 lines of XML code. The code includes a header section with metadata and a main configuration section for Sysmon.

```
1 <?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-16" standalone="yes"?>
2 sysmon-config | A Sysmon configuration focused on default high-quality event tracing and easy customization by the community
3 Source version: 74 | Date: 2021-07-09
4 Source project: https://github.com/SwiftOnSecurity/sysmon-config
5 Source license: Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 | You may privatize, fork, edit, teach, publish, or deploy for commercial use - with attribution in the text.
6
7 File version: <N/A>
8 File author: <N/A>
9 File project: <N/A>
10 File license: <N/A>
11
12 REQUIRED: Sysmon version 11 or higher (due to changes in syntax and bug-fixes)
13 https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/sysmon
14
15 NOTE: To collect Sysmon logs centrally for free, see https://aka.ms/NEP | Command to allow log access to the Network Service:
16 wscntutil.exe x Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational /ca:0-BAD5D0-A1d8-FB00111511A1851118A1A11151-5-5-52-5711A1851118A1
17
18 NOTE: Do not let the size and complexity of this configuration discourage you from customizing it or building your own.
19 This configuration is based around known, high-signal event tracing, and thus appears complicated, but it is only very
20 detailed. Significant effort over years has been invested in front-loading as much filtering as possible onto the
21 client. This is to make analysis of intrusions possible by hand, and to try to surface anomalous activity as quickly
22 as possible to technicians armed only with Event Viewer. Its purpose is to democratize system monitoring for all organizations.
23
24 NOTE: Sysmon is NOT a whitelisting solution or MD5 correlation engine, it is a computer change logging tool.
25 Do NOT ignore everything possible. Sysmon's purpose is providing context during a threat or problem investigation. Legitimate
26 processes are routinely used by threats - do not blindly exclude them. Additionally, be mindful of process-hollowing / detouring.
27
```





```
Administrator Command Prompt
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.19045.5487]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Windows\system32>cd C:\Users\Windows\Downloads\System
C:\Users\Windows\Downloads\System>.System4.exe -accepteula -i systemconfig-export.xml

System Monitor v15.15 - System activity monitor
by Mark Russinovich and Thomas Garnier
Copyright (C) 2014-2024 Microsoft Corporation
Using libxml2. libxml2 is Copyright (C) 1998-2012 Daniel Veillard. All Rights Reserved.
sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com

Loading configuration file with schema version 4.50
System schema version: 4.00
Configuration file validated.
System4 installed.
SystemDrv installed.
Starting SystemDrv.
SystemDrv started.
Starting System4..
System4 started.

C:\Users\Windows\Downloads\System>
```

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.17763.3650]
(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>cd C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon

C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon>dir
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is E6CA-8602

Directory of C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon

05/08/2025  03:29 PM    <DIR>          .
05/08/2025  03:29 PM    <DIR>          ..
05/08/2025  03:29 PM                7,490 Eula.txt
05/08/2025  03:29 PM      8,480,560 Sysmon.exe
05/08/2025  03:29 PM    4,563,248 Sysmon64.exe
05/08/2025  03:29 PM    4,993,440 Sysmon64a.exe
               4 File(s)      18,044,738 bytes
               2 Dir(s)    113,106,178,048 bytes free

C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon>
```

After copying both files to the Windows endpoint (in this case, **OT-DC1**), I launched a PowerShell terminal with administrator privileges. I navigated to the folder containing the Sysmon executable and configuration file, and then executed the installation command. This setup immediately activated the Sysmon driver, which began capturing events and logging them under the "Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" log channel.

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.17763.3650]
(c) 2018 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Administrator>cd C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon

C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon>dir
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is E6CA-8602

Directory of C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon

05/08/2025  03:29 PM    <DIR>          .
05/08/2025  03:29 PM    <DIR>          ..
05/08/2025  03:29 PM                7,490 Eula.txt
05/08/2025  03:29 PM      8,480,560 Sysmon.exe
05/08/2025  03:29 PM      4,563,248 Sysmon64.exe
05/08/2025  03:29 PM      4,993,440 Sysmon64a.exe
               4 File(s)      18,044,738 bytes
               2 Dir(s)  113,106,178,048 bytes free

C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon>dir
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is E6CA-8602

Directory of C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon

05/08/2025  05:20 PM    <DIR>          .
05/08/2025  05:20 PM    <DIR>          ..
05/08/2025  03:29 PM                7,490 Eula.txt
05/08/2025  03:29 PM      8,480,560 Sysmon.exe
05/08/2025  03:29 PM      4,563,248 Sysmon64.exe
05/08/2025  03:29 PM      4,993,440 Sysmon64a.exe
05/08/2025  03:30 PM          123,257 sysmonconfig-export.xml
               5 File(s)      18,167,995 bytes
               2 Dir(s)  113,106,071,552 bytes free

C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon>
```

```
Administrator: C:\Windows\system32\cmd.exe
05/08/2025 03:29 PM <DIR> ..
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 7,490 Eula.txt
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 8,480,560 Sysmon.exe
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 4,563,248 Sysmon64.exe
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 4,993,440 Sysmon64a.exe
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 4 File(s) 18,044,738 bytes
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 2 Dir(s) 113,106,178,048 bytes free

C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon>dir
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is E6CA-8602

Directory of C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon

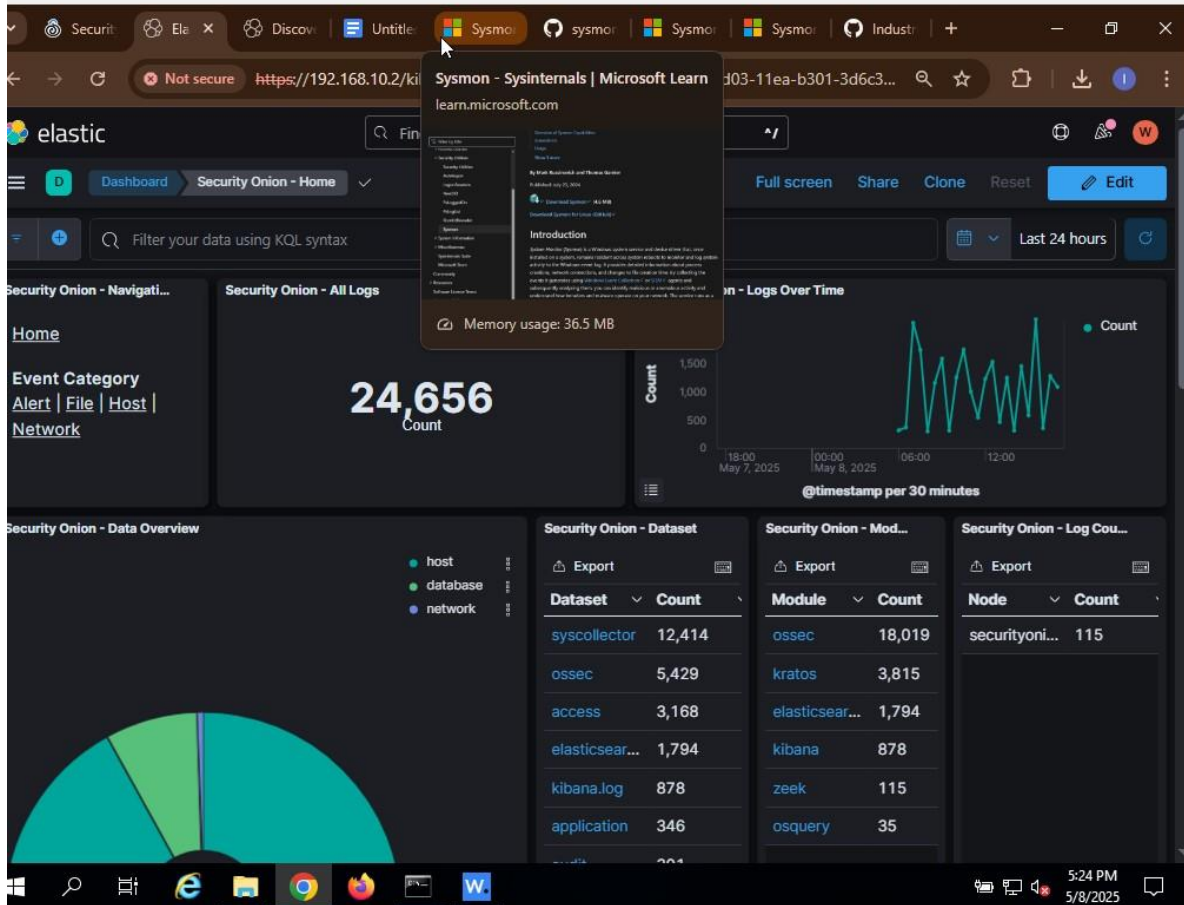
05/08/2025 05:20 PM <DIR> .
05/08/2025 05:20 PM <DIR> ..
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 7,490 Eula.txt
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 8,480,560 Sysmon.exe
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 4,563,248 Sysmon64.exe
05/08/2025 03:29 PM 4,993,440 Sysmon64a.exe
05/08/2025 03:30 PM 123,257 sysmonconfig-export.xml
05/08/2025 03:30 PM 5 File(s) 18,167,995 bytes
05/08/2025 03:30 PM 2 Dir(s) 113,106,071,552 bytes free

C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon>.\Sysmon64.exe -accepteula -i sysmonconfig-export.xml

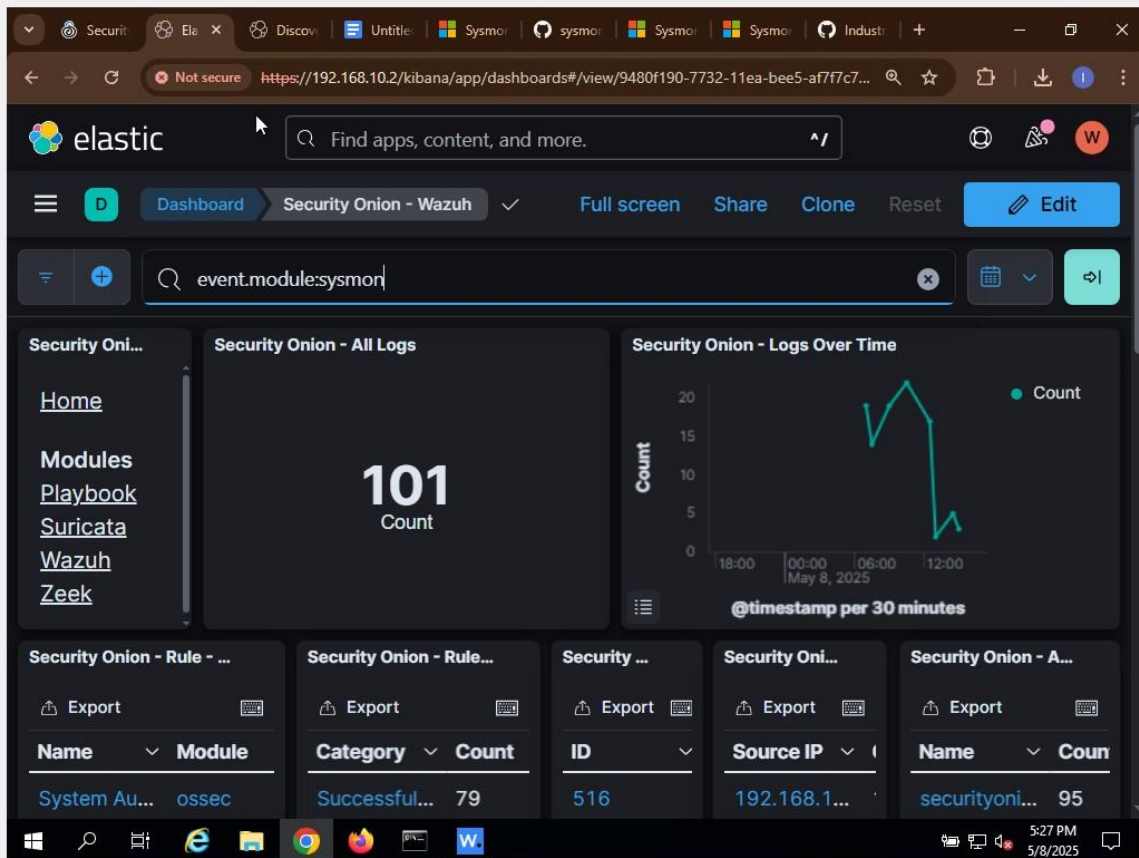
System Monitor v15.15 - System activity monitor
By Mark Russinovich and Thomas Garnier
Copyright (C) 2014-2024 Microsoft Corporation
Using libxml2. libxml2 is Copyright (C) 1998-2012 Daniel Veillard. All Rights Reserved.
Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com

Loading configuration file with schema version 4.50
Sysmon schema version: 4.90
Configuration file validated.
Sysmon64 installed.
SysmonDrv installed.
Starting SysmonDrv.
SysmonDrv started.
Starting Sysmon64..
Sysmon64 started.

C:\Users\Administrator\Downloads\Sysmon>
```

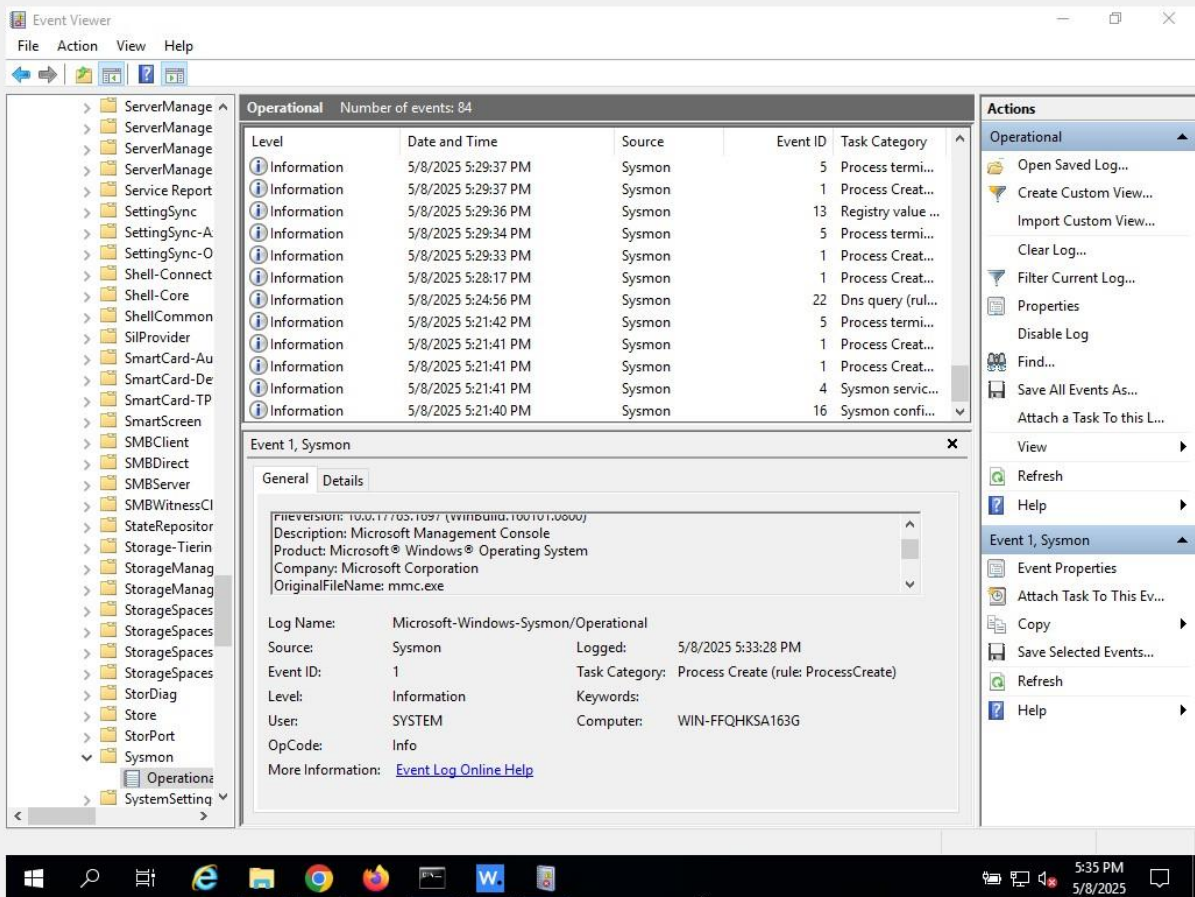



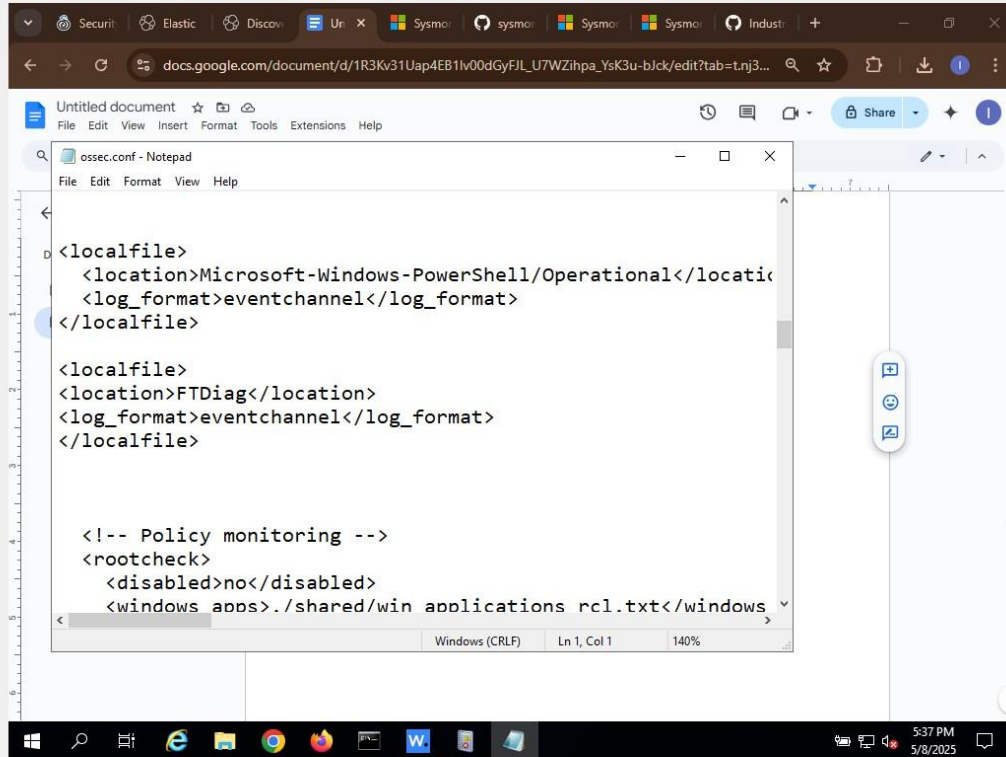
Once Sysmon was active, Wazuh — already installed and running on the endpoint — started monitoring the Sysmon logs. These entries were forwarded to Security Onion, where they became part of the Elasticsearch database.



I verified this integration by accessing the Security Onion web portal, opening Kibana, and navigating to the “Sysmon” dashboard under the “Home” → “Host” section. There, I observed detailed logs such as PowerShell executions, including metadata like usernames, parent processes, file paths, command-line arguments, and process hashes.

```
process.command_line      \\C:\\Windows\\System32\\WindowsPowerShell\\v1.0\\powershell.exe\"
process.entity_id         {17B2E20D-F27D-5FF0-F300-000000003300}
process.executable        C:\\Windows\\System32\\WindowsPowerShell\\v1.0\\powershell.exe
process.parent.command_line C:\\Windows\\System32\\RuntimeBroker.exe -Embedding
process.parent.entity_id  {17B2E20D-D79E-5FF0-AC00-000000003300}
process.parent.executable C:\\Windows\\System32\\RuntimeBroker.exe
process.pe.company        Microsoft Corporation
process.pe.description    Windows PowerShell
process.pe.file_version   10.0.14393.286 (rs1_release.160915-0644)
process.pe.original_file_name PowerShell.EXE
process.pe.product        Microsoft® Windows® Operating System
process.ppid              4940
process.working_directory C:\\Users\\Administrator\\
user.name                 OT-DOMAIN\\Administrator
winlog.channel            Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational
winlog.computer            OT-DC1.OT-Domain.local
winlog.eventRecordID      2996
winlog.event_data.hashes  MD5=097CE5761C89434367598B34FE32893B,SHA256=BA4038FD20E474C047BE8AAD
winlog.event_data.integrityLevel High
winlog.event_data.logonGuid {17B2E20D-D79C-5FF0-BA3B-2D0000000000}
winlog.event_data.logonId 0x2d3bba
winlog.event_data.processId 1828
```





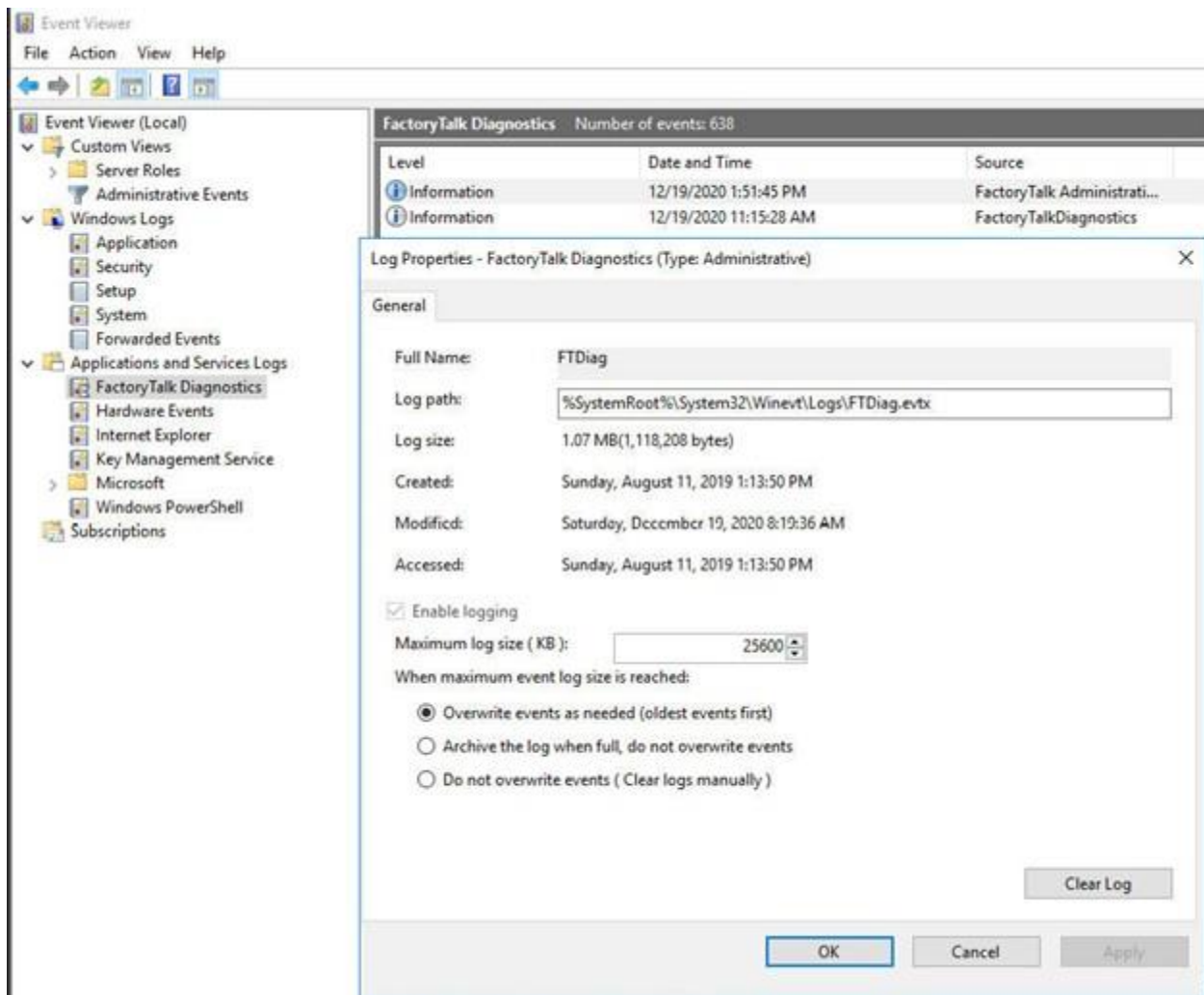
The screenshot shows a Google Docs editor window with a document titled "Untitled document". The document content is an XML configuration file named "ossec.conf". The configuration includes two `<localfile>` sections. The first section has a `<location>` of "Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational" and a `<log_format>` of "eventchannel". The second section has a `<location>` of "FTDiag" and a `<log_format>` of "eventchannel". Below these, there is a comment `<!-- Policy monitoring -->` followed by a `<rootcheck>` section. The `<rootcheck>` section has a `<disabled>` tag set to "no" and a `<windows apps>` tag set to ".\\shared\\win applications rcl.txt". The status bar at the bottom of the editor shows "Windows (CRLF)", "Ln 1, Col 1", and "140%". The Windows taskbar is visible at the bottom of the screen, showing the time as 5:37 PM on 5/8/2025.

```
<localfile>
  <location>Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational</location>
  <log_format>eventchannel</log_format>
</localfile>

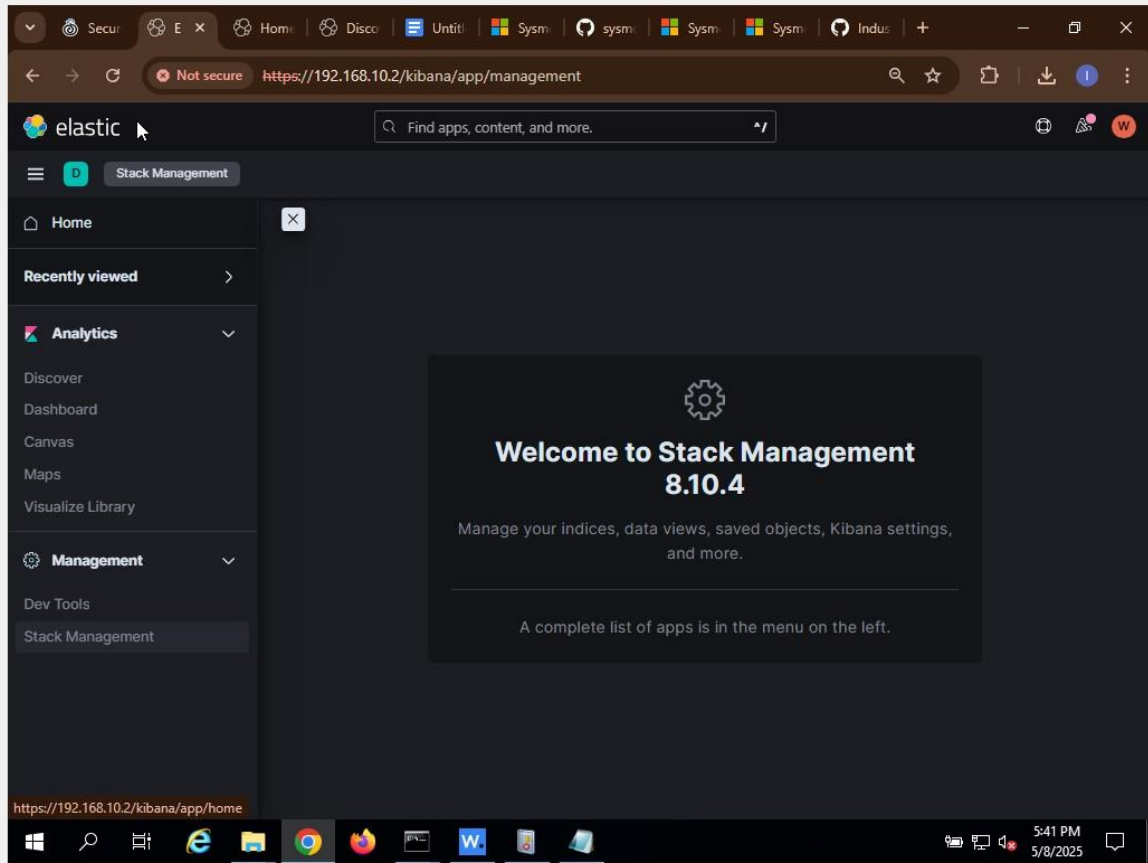
<localfile>
  <location>FTDiag</location>
  <log_format>eventchannel</log_format>
</localfile>

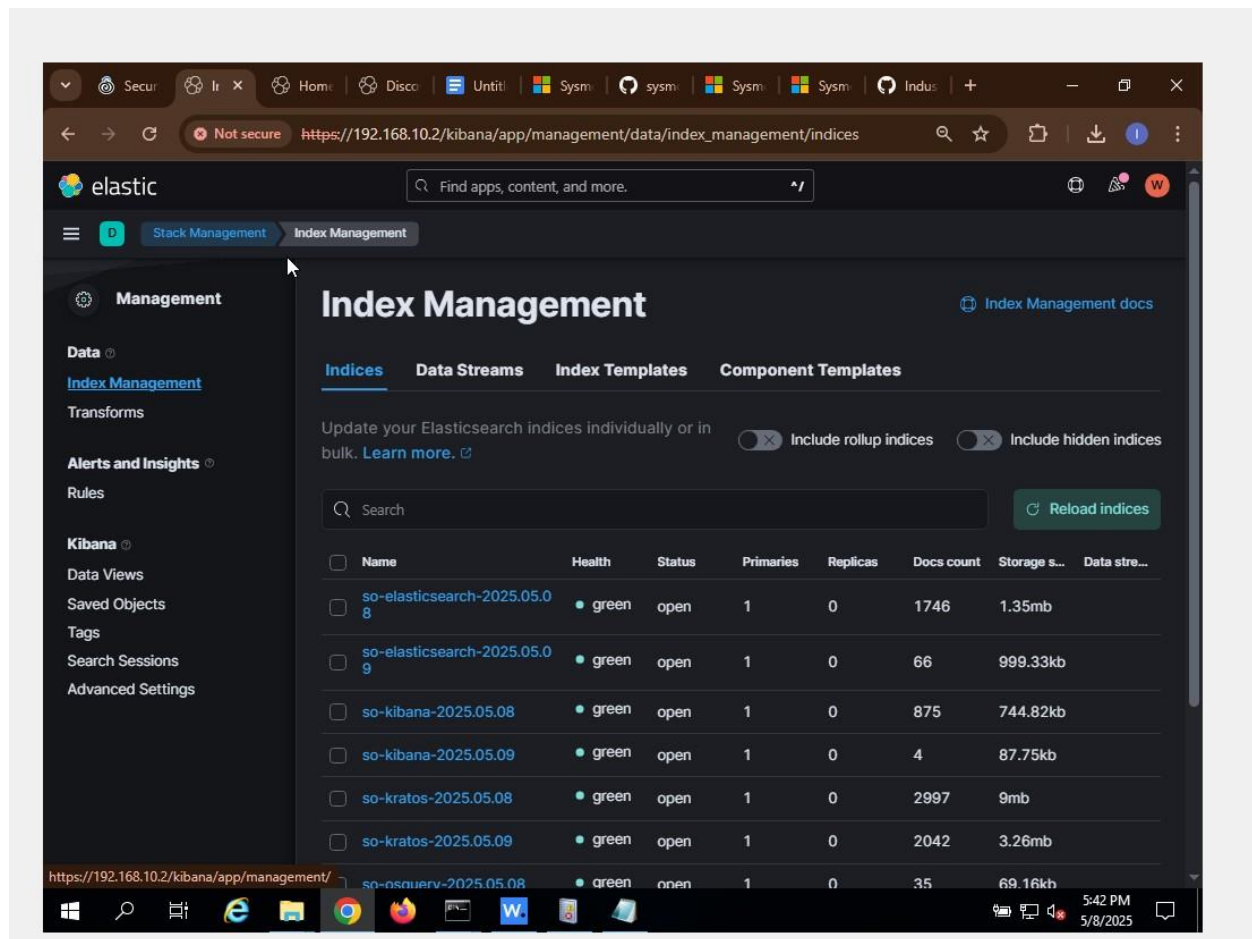
<!-- Policy monitoring -->
<rootcheck>
  <disabled>no</disabled>
  <windows apps>\\.\\shared\\win applications rcl.txt</windows>
```

I verified this integration by accessing the Security Onion web portal, opening Kibana, and navigating to the “Sysmon” dashboard under the “Home” → “Host” section.

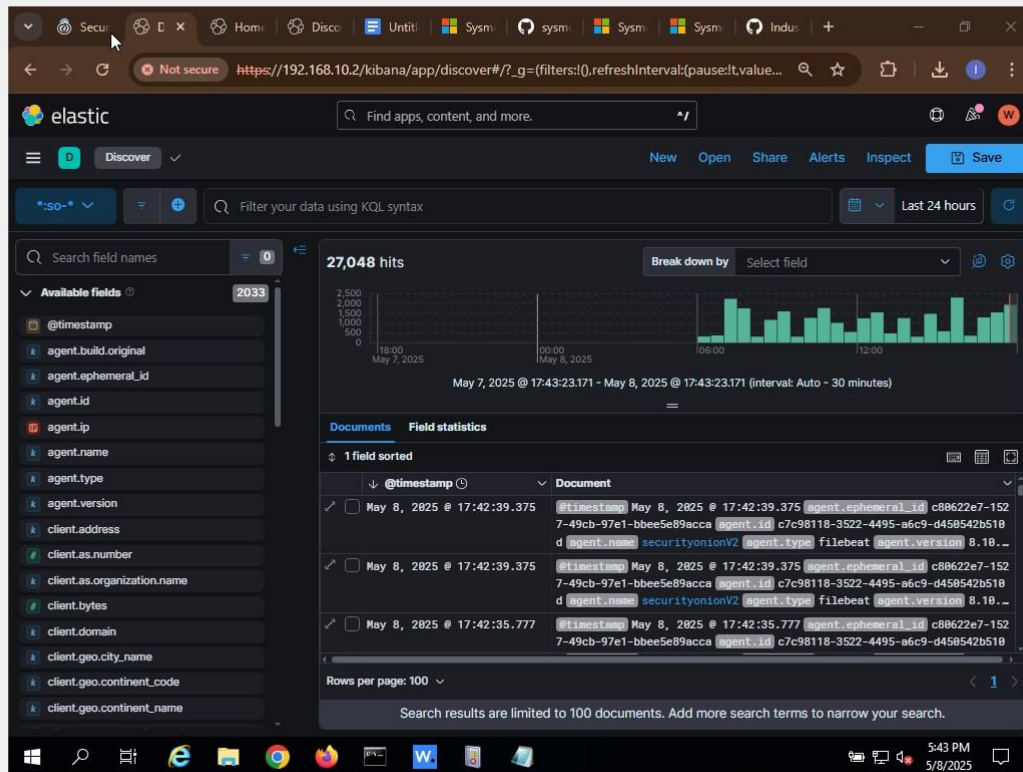


There, I observed detailed logs such as PowerShell executions, including metadata like usernames, parent processes, file paths, command-line arguments, and process hashes.

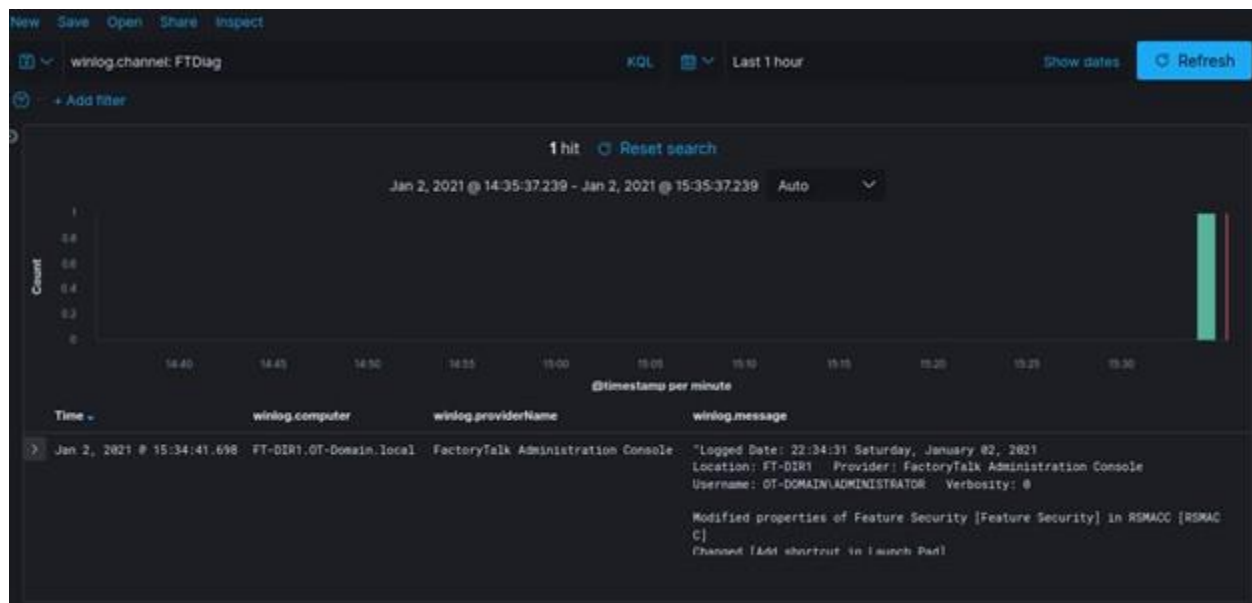




I then extended the functionality by adding another Windows event log to Wazuh's configuration. I focused on the FactoryTalk Diagnostics log, commonly used in Rockwell Automation environments..



Using the Windows Event Viewer, I located the full name of the log (FTDiag), and updated the Wazuh agent's configuration file to include it. After restarting the agent, this log was also collected and sent to Security Onion



Through this lab, I learned how to enrich host-based monitoring in a Security Onion deployment by integrating Sysmon and expanding Wazuh's event collection scope. These configurations allow us to detect and analyze a broader range of activities and potential threats within industrial control systems.

I have successfully completed the lab 6.