



LOG ANALYSIS & THREAT MITIGATION STRATEGY

SUBMITTED TO: CYBER SECURITY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

FUTURE INTERNS

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CYBERSECURITY INTERN

DATE: DECEMBER 2025

TOOL USED: SPLUNK SIEM

SUBJECT: FORENSIC ANALYSIS OF SIMULATED NETWORK

COMPROMISE (IR-2025-07-03-001)

INTRODUCTION:

This document details the forensic analysis of anomalous system logs captured within the organization’s Security Operations Center (SOC). The primary objective is to detect potential security breaches, categorize them by severity level, and formulate effective remediation strategies. Utilizing **Splunk** for log correlation and analysis, this investigation successfully identified various malicious activities, including ransomware behavior, rootkits, Trojans, spyware, and worm propagation attempts.

ADD Data

Select SourceSet Source TypeInput SettingsReviewDone

Set Source Type

This page lets you see how the Splunk platform sees your data before indexing. If the events look correct and have the right timestamps, click "Next" to proceed. If not, use the options below to define proper event breaks and timestamps. If you cannot find an appropriate source type for your data, create a new one by clicking "Save As".

Source: **SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt**[View Event Summary](#)

Source type: Select Source Type

Save As

filter

Default Settings
Splunk's default source type settings

Application

Database

Email

Log to Metrics

Metrics

Miscellaneous

Network & Security

Operating System

Structured

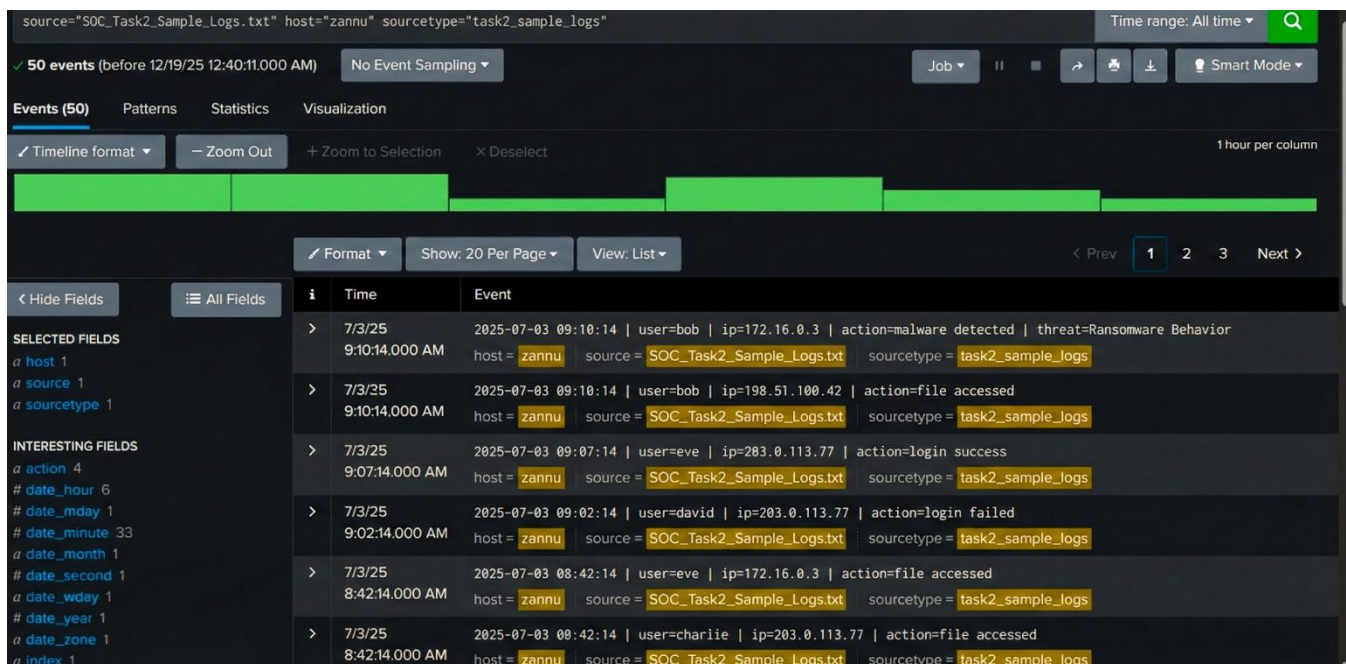
Uncategorized

Web

FormatSelect...Select...

< Prev123Next >

	Time	Event
15	7/3/25 5:42:14.000 AM	2025-07-03 05:42:14 user=eve ip=203.0.113.77 action=malware detected threat=Trojan Detected
16	7/3/25 7:02:14.000 AM	2025-07-03 07:02:14 user=alice ip=203.0.113.77 action=login failed
17	7/3/25 4:18:14.000 AM	2025-07-03 04:18:14 user=bob ip=198.51.100.42 action=login success
18	7/3/25 9:02:14.000 AM	2025-07-03 09:02:14 user=david ip=203.0.113.77 action=login failed
19	7/3/25 9:07:14.000 AM	2025-07-03 09:07:14 user=eve ip=203.0.113.77 action=login success
20	7/3/25 4:47:14.000 AM	2025-07-03 04:47:14 user=bob ip=10.0.0.5 action=login failed



SCOPE OF DATA ANALYSIS:

- Network & System Logs: Analysis of connection attempts and file access records.
- Authentication Events: Review of successful logins and failed access attempts.
- Security Alerts: Investigation of malware signatures, including Trojans, Rootkits, and Ransomware indicators.

INCIDENT SUMMARY:

A correlation analysis of system logs within the **Splunk SIEM** environment identified a cluster of 22 distinct malware alerts. These alerts, which originated from recurring IP addresses and targeted multiple user accounts, were aggregated and treated as a single, coordinated security incident.

INCIDENT CLASSIFICATION: MALWARE INFECTION

- Severity Level: High
- Detection Vector: Splunk SIEM
- Total Events: 22

KEY FINDINGS:

- **Malware Detection:** Analysis confirmed the presence of distinct malware families, specifically Trojan and Ransomware signatures.
- **Indicators of Compromise (IoCs):** Traffic analysis highlighted recurrent activity from specific IP addresses, identifying them as compromised endpoints requiring immediate isolation.
- **Scope of Impact:** The attack was not isolated to a single entity; evidence suggests widespread compromise affecting multiple user accounts across the network.

SUSPICIOUS ALERTS IDENTIFIED:

- **Suspicious Activity Timeline & Frequency:** The forensic analysis focused on log activity recorded between 04:19 AM and 09:10 AM on July 3, 2025.
- **Top Suspicious IPs by Alert Volume:** The following IP addresses were identified as the primary sources of malicious alerts:
 - 172.16.0.3: 8 Alerts (Highest Volume)
 - 10.0.0.5: 4 Alerts
 - 192.168.1.101: 4 Alerts
 - 203.0.113.77: 4 Alerts
 - 198.51.100.42: 2 Alerts

Timestamp	User	IP Address	Threat Type	Action	Priority
2025-07-03 09:10:14	bob	172.16.0.3	Ransomware Behavior	Malware Detected	High
2025-07-03 07:51:14	eve	10.0.0.5	Rootkit Signature	Malware Detected	High
2025-07-03 07:45:14	charlie	172.16.0.3	Trojan Detected	Malware Detected	Medium

Timestamp	User	IP Address	Threat Type	Action	Priority
2025-07-03 05:48:14	bob	10.0.0.5	Trojan Detected	Malware Detected	Medium
2025-07-03 05:42:14	eve	203.0.113.77	Trojan Detected	Malware Detected	Medium

index=main action="malware detected"

Time range: All time

22 events (before 12/18/25 10:46:44.000 PM) No Event Sampling

Job

Smart Mode

Events (22)

Patterns

Statistics

Visualization

Timeline format

Zoom Out

Zoom to Selection

Deselect

1 hour per column

Format

Show: 20 Per Page

View: List

Prev

1

2

Next

Hide Fields

All Fields

SELECTED FIELDS

action 1

host 1

source 1

sourcetype 2

INTERESTING FIELDS

action 1

date_hour 4

date_mday 1

date_minute 10

date_month 1

Time

Event

> 7/3/25 9:10:14.000 AM 2025-07-03 09:10:14 | user=bob | ip=172.16.0.3 | action=malware detected | threat=Ransomware Behavior host = zannu source = SOC_Task2_Sample_Log.txt sourcetype = task2_sample_logs

> 7/3/25 9:10:14.000 AM 2025-07-03 09:10:14 | user=bob | ip=172.16.0.3 | action=malware detected | threat=Ransomware Behavior host = zannu source = SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt sourcetype = soc_sample_logs

> 7/3/25 7:51:14.000 AM 2025-07-03 07:51:14 | user=eve | ip=10.0.0.5 | action=malware detected | threat=Rootkit Signature host = zannu source = SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt sourcetype = task2_sample_logs

> 7/3/25 7:51:14.000 AM 2025-07-03 07:51:14 | user=eve | ip=10.0.0.5 | action=malware detected | threat=Rootkit Signature host = zannu source = SOC_Task2_Sample_Logs.txt sourcetype = soc_sample_logs

Search

Analytics

Datasets

Reports

Alerts

Dashboards

Search & Reporting

New Search

Save As

Create Table View

Close

index=main action="malware detected" | stats count by ip

Time range: All time

22 events (7/3/25 4:18:14.000 AM to 12/18/25 11:08:16.000 PM) No Event Sampling

Job

Smart Mode

Events

Patterns

Statistics (5)

Visualization

Show: 20 Per Page

Format

Preview: On

ip

count

10.0.0.5 4

172.16.0.3 8

192.168.1.101 4

198.51.100.42 2

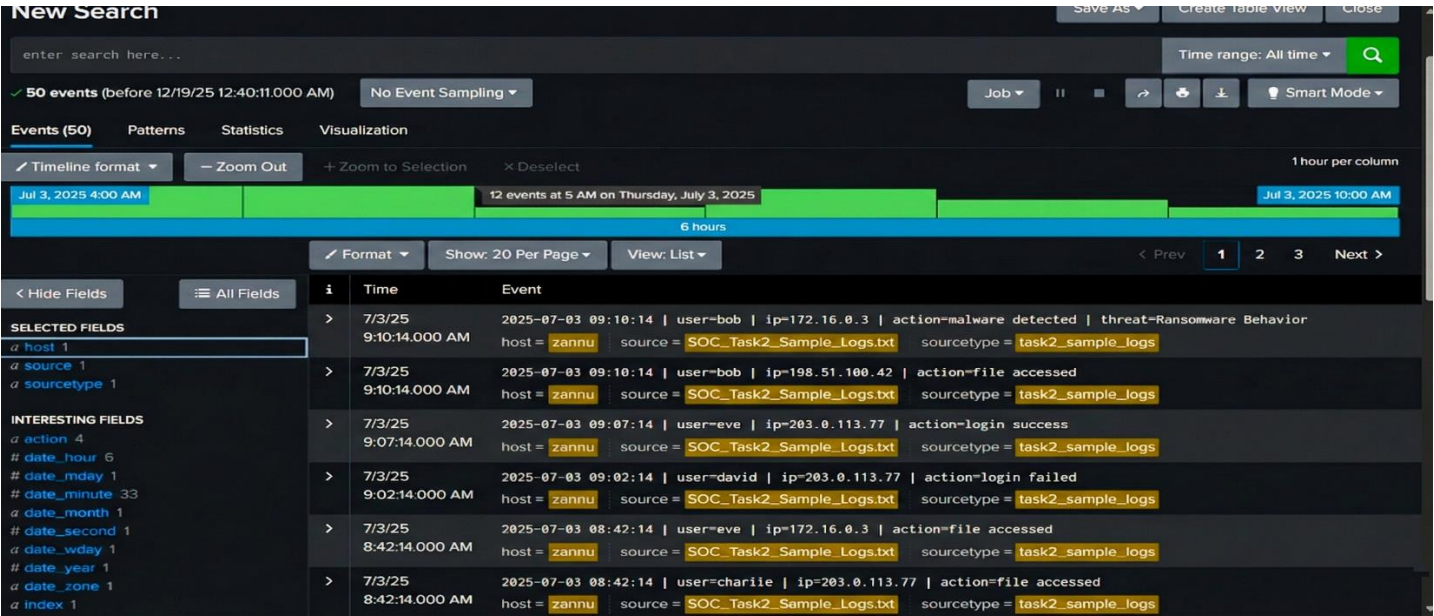
203.0.113.77 4

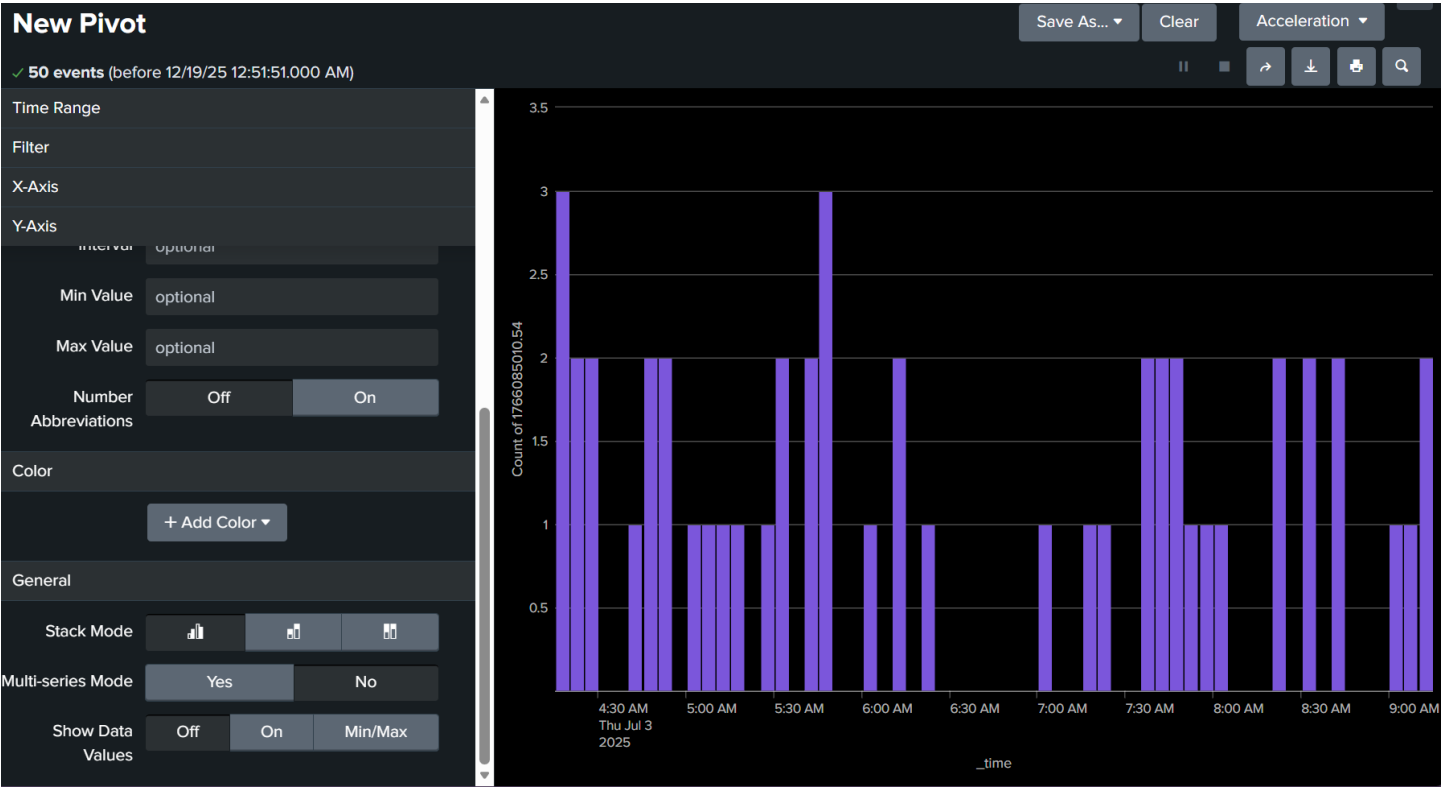
TIMELINE OF INCIDENTS:

Timestamp	Event Description	Source IP	User
2025-07-03 04:19	Rootkit Detected (Initial Access)	198.51.100.42	Alice
2025-07-03 04:29	Trojan Detected (Payload Execution)	192.168.1.101	Alice
2025-07-03 05:06	Worm Infection Attempt (Lateral Movement)	203.0.113.77	Bob
2025-07-03 05:42	Trojan Detected (Persistence)	203.0.113.77	Eve
2025-07-03 09:10	Ransomware Behavior (Action on Objectives)	172.16.0.3	Bob

TIMELINE OF COMPROMISE:

Malicious activity was observed over a continuous period on **July 3, 2025**. The first indicator of compromise (IoC) was logged at **04:19 AM**, with the final critical escalation recorded at **09:10 AM**, demonstrating sustained engagement by the attacker.





INCIDENT CLASSIFICATION & IMPACT ANALYSIS:

Priority	Threat Type	Impact Assessment	Remediation Strategy
High	Ransomware, Rootkit	Critical System Compromise: High risk of irreversible data encryption (Ransomware) and deep-system persistence (Rootkit), leading to potential full data loss.	Immediate Isolation: Disconnect infected hosts from the network. Force password resets for all affected users. Initiate forensic imaging and restoration from backups.
Medium	Trojan, Worm	Lateral Movement Risk: Evidence of unauthorized backdoor access (Trojan) and attempts to propagate	Containment & Eradication: Block malicious IPs at the firewall. Perform full anti-malware scans on

Priority	Threat Type	Impact Assessment	Remediation Strategy
		across the network (Worm).	endpoints. Investigate propagation vectors.
Low	Spyware	Data Privacy Risk: Potential for passive surveillance, keylogging, or unauthorized data collection (Exfiltration).	Sanitization: Update antivirus signatures and remove spyware. Review user activity logs for data leakage.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT ANALYSIS:

The incident resulted in widespread compromise across multiple endpoints and user profiles. The confirmed presence of ransomware and rootkits posed a critical threat to the organization's Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability (CIA). Specifically, the malicious activity introduced high risks of irreversible data loss (via encryption), deep system compromise, and significant disruption to business services.



REMEDIATION & MITIGATION ACTIONS TAKEN:

- Containment: Immediately isolated compromised endpoints from the corporate network to prevent lateral movement and further data exfiltration.
- Perimeter Defense: Updated firewall configurations to block traffic to and from identified malicious IP addresses.
- Eradication: Executed comprehensive anti-malware and antivirus scans on all affected assets to identify and remove malicious payloads.
- System Hardening: Applied critical system and software security patches to close vulnerabilities exploited during the attack.
- Future Prevention: Initiated targeted user security awareness training to reinforce best practices regarding phishing and suspicious file handling.

CONCLUSION:

The forensic analysis conducted for SOC Task 2 successfully uncovered a complex threat landscape, identifying critical malicious activities including **ransomware behavior, rootkit persistence, Trojan infections, and worm propagation attempts**. Given the severity of these findings, the incidents were classified as **High Priority**, necessitating immediate and targeted remediation strategies. To ensure long-term security and preventing future compromise, the implementation of continuous network monitoring and a rapid incident response framework is strongly recommended.