

Chapter 10: Intrusion Data Analysis

Information Security

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10.2 Working with Network Security Data

Module Objectives

Module Title: Working with Network Security Data

Module Objective: Interpret data to determine the source of an alert.

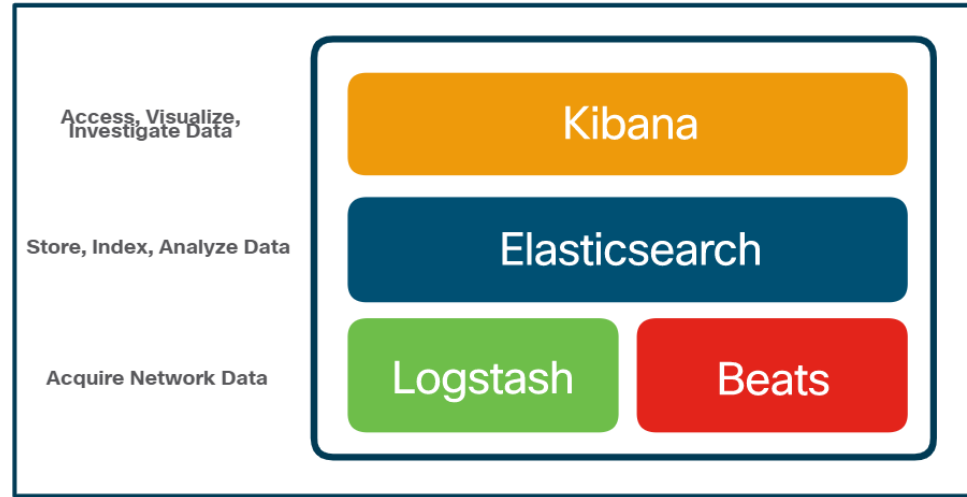
Topic Title	Topic Objective
A Common Data Platform	Explain how data is prepared for use in a Network Security Monitoring (NSM) system.
Investigating Network Data	Use Security Onion tools to investigate network security events.
Enhancing the Work of the CyberSecurity Analyst	Describe network monitoring tools that enhance workflow management.

ELK

Security Onion includes Elastic Stack that consists of Elasticsearch, Logstash, and Kibana (ELK).

Core Components of ELK:

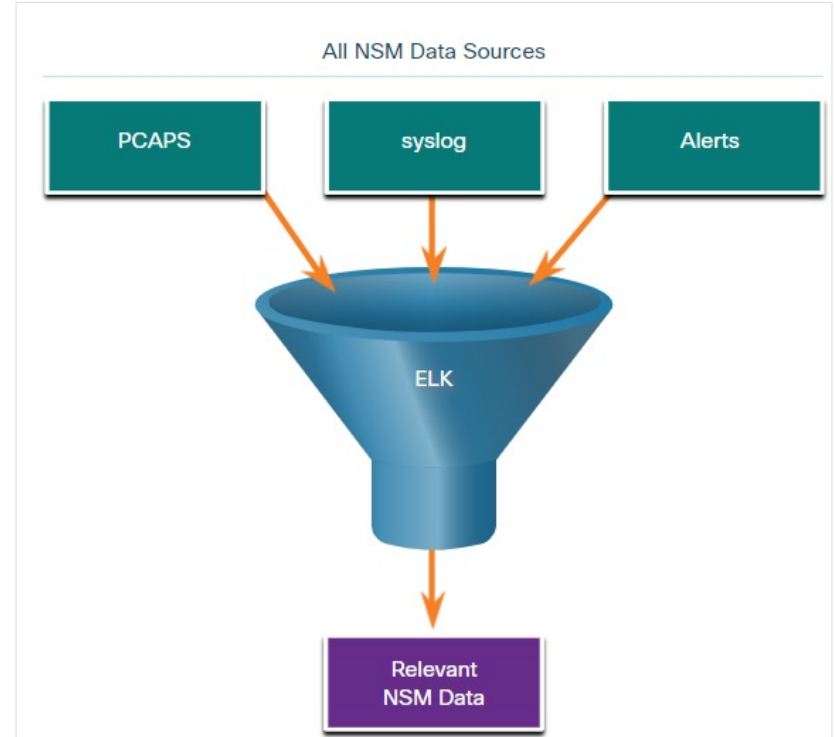
- **Elasticsearch:** An open-core platform for searching and analyzing an organization's data in near real time.
- **Logstash:** Enables collection and normalization of network data into data indexes that can be efficiently searched by Elasticsearch.
- **Kibana:** Provides a graphical interface to data that is compiled by Elasticsearch.
- **Beats:** Series of software plugins that send different types of data to the Elasticsearch data stores.



A Common Data Platform

Data Reduction

- To reduce data, it is essential to identify the network data that should be gathered and stored to reduce the burden on systems.
- By limiting the volume of data, tools like Elasticsearch will be far more useful.



Data Normalization

- Data normalization is the process of combining data from a number of sources into a common format.
- A common schema will specify the names and formats for the required data fields.
- For example, IPv6 addresses, MAC addresses, and date and time can be represented in varying formats:

IPv6 Address Formats	Mac Formats	Date Formats
2001:db8:acad:1111:2222::33	A7:03:DB:7C:91:AA	Monday, July 24, 2017 7:39:35pm
2001:DB8:ACAD:1111:2222::33	A7-03-DB-7C-91-AA	Mon, 24 Jul 2017 19:39:35 +0000
2001:DB8:ACAD:1111:2222:0:0:33	A70.3DB.7C9.1AA	2017-07-24T19:39:35+00:00

- Data normalization is also required to simplify searching for correlated events.

A Common Data Platform

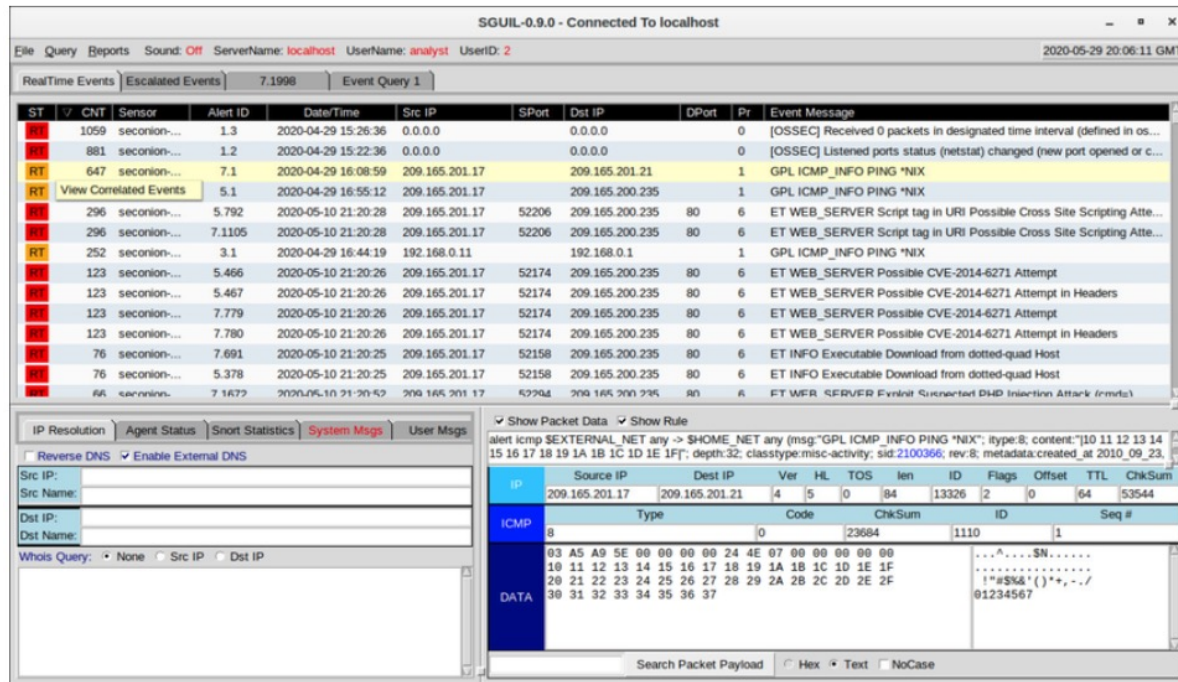
Data Archiving

- Retaining Network Security Monitoring (NSM) data indefinitely is not feasible due to storage and access issues.
- The retention period for certain types of network security information may be specified by compliance frameworks.
- Sguil alert data is retained for 30 days by default. This value is set in the **securityonion.conf** file.
- Security Onion data can always be archived to external storage by a data archive system, depending on the needs and capabilities of the organization.



Investigating Network Data Working in Sguil

- In Security Onion, the first place that a cybersecurity analyst will go to verify alerts is Sguil.
- Sguil automatically correlates similar alerts into a single line and provides a way to view correlated events represented by that line.
- To understand what is happening in the network, it may be useful to sort the **CNT** column to display the alerts with the highest frequency.



SGUIL-0.9.0 - Connected To localhost

File Query Reports Sound: Off ServerName: localhost UserName: analyst UserID: 2 2020-05-29 20:06:11 GMT

RealTime Events Escalated Events 7.1998 Event Query 1

ST	CNT	Sensor	Alert ID	DateTime	Src IP	SPort	Dst IP	DPort	Pr	Event Message
AL	1059	seconion...	1.3	2020-04-29 15:26:36	0.0.0.0		0.0.0.0		0	[OSSEC] Received 0 packets in designated time interval (defined in os...
AL	881	seconion...	1.2	2020-04-29 15:22:36	0.0.0.0		0.0.0.0		0	[OSSEC] Listened ports status (netstat) changed (new port opened or c...
RT	647	seconion...	7.1	2020-04-29 16:08:59	209.165.201.17		209.165.201.21		1	GPL ICMP_INFO PING *NIX
RT		View Correlated Events	5.1	2020-04-29 16:55:12	209.165.201.17		209.165.200.235		1	GPL ICMP_INFO PING *NIX
AL	296	seconion...	5.792	2020-05-10 21:20:28	209.165.201.17	52206	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET WEB_SERVER Script tag in URI Possible Cross Site Scripting Atte...
AL	296	seconion...	7.1105	2020-05-10 21:20:28	209.165.201.17	52206	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET WEB_SERVER Script tag in URI Possible Cross Site Scripting Atte...
RT	252	seconion...	3.1	2020-04-29 16:44:19	192.168.0.11		192.168.0.1		1	GPL ICMP_INFO PING *NIX
AL	123	seconion...	5.466	2020-05-10 21:20:26	209.165.201.17	52174	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET WEB_SERVER Possible CVE-2014-6271 Attempt
AL	123	seconion...	5.467	2020-05-10 21:20:26	209.165.201.17	52174	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET WEB_SERVER Possible CVE-2014-6271 Attempt in Headers
AL	123	seconion...	7.779	2020-05-10 21:20:26	209.165.201.17	52174	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET WEB_SERVER Possible CVE-2014-6271 Attempt
AL	123	seconion...	7.780	2020-05-10 21:20:26	209.165.201.17	52174	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET WEB_SERVER Possible CVE-2014-6271 Attempt in Headers
AL	76	seconion...	7.691	2020-05-10 21:20:25	209.165.201.17	52158	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET INFO Executable Download from dotted-quad Host
AL	76	seconion...	5.378	2020-05-10 21:20:25	209.165.201.17	52158	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET INFO Executable Download from dotted-quad Host
AL	66	seconion...	7.1672	2020-05-10 21:20:52	209.165.201.17	52204	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET WEB_SERVER Possible CVE-2014-6271 Attempt

IP Resolution Agent Status Short Statistics System Msgs User Msgs

☐ Reverse DNS ☒ Enable External DNS

Src IP:
Src Name:
Dst IP:
Dst Name:

Whos Query: ☐ None ☐ Src IP ☐ Dst IP

☒ Show Packet Data ☒ Show Rule

Alert icmp \$EXTERNAL_NET any -> \$HOME_NET any (msg:"GPL ICMP_INFO PING *NIX"; type:8; content:"110 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F"; depth:32; classtype:misc-activity; sid:2100366; rev:8; metadata:created_at 2010_09_23;

IP	Source IP	Dest IP	Ver	HL	TOS	len	ID	Flags	Offset	TTL	ChkSum
ICMP	209.165.201.17	209.165.201.21	4	5	0	84	13326	2	0	64	53544
Type	Code	ChkSum	ID	Seq #							
8	0	23684	1110	1							
DATA	03 A5 A9 5E 00 00 00 00 24 4E 07 00 00 00 00 00 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 2A 2B 2C 2D 2E 2F 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37										

Search Packet Payload ☐ Hex ☒ Text ☐ NoCase

Sguil Alerts Sorted on CNT

Investigating Network Data

Sguil Queries

- Queries can be constructed in Sguil using the Query Builder. It simplifies constructing queries to a certain degree.
- Cybersecurity analyst must know the field names and some issues with field values to effectively build queries in Sguil.
- For example, Sguil stores IP addresses in an integer representation.

The screenshot displays the Sguil-0.9.0 interface, which is connected to localhost. The top section shows a query result table with columns: ST, CNT, Sensor, Alert ID, Date/Time, Src IP, SPort, Dst IP, DPort, Pr, and Event Message. The table contains six rows of data, all with a status of 'OK'. The bottom section shows the 'System Msgs' tab with a table of system messages. The 'Show Packet Data' tab is also visible, showing a packet capture for a TCP connection from 209.165.201.17 to 209.165.200.235 on port 80. The packet data includes a hex dump and a text representation of the packet payload.

ST	CNT	Sensor	Alert ID	Date/Time	Src IP	SPort	Dst IP	DPort	Pr	Event Message
OK	1	seconion-eth1-1	5.521	2017-07-05 18:38:29	209.165.201.17	40754	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET SCAN Nmap Scripting Engine User-Agent Detected (Nmap Scripting Engine)
OK	1	seconion-eth1-1	5.522	2017-07-05 18:38:29	209.165.201.17	40754	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET SCAN NMAP SQL Spider Scan
OK	1	seconion-eth1-1	5.523	2017-07-05 18:38:29	209.165.201.17	40754	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET SCAN Possible Nmap User-Agent Observed
OK	1	seconion-eth2-1	7.587	2017-07-05 18:38:29	209.165.201.17	40754	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET SCAN Nmap Scripting Engine User-Agent Detected (Nmap Scripting Engine)
OK	1	seconion-eth2-1	7.588	2017-07-05 18:38:29	209.165.201.17	40754	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET SCAN NMAP SQL Spider Scan
OK	1	seconion-eth2-1	7.589	2017-07-05 18:38:29	209.165.201.17	40754	209.165.200.235	80	6	ET SCAN Possible Nmap User-Agent Observed

Sid	Net	Hostname	Type	Last
1	seconion-ossac	seconion-ossac	ossac	2017-07-19 21:05:17
2	seconion-eth0	seconion-eth0	pcap	2017-07-19 13:44:58
3	seconion-eth0	seconion-eth0-1	snort	
4	seconion-eth1	seconion-eth1	pcap	2017-07-19 13:45:11
5	seconion-eth1	seconion-eth1-1	snort	2017-07-05 18:53:42
6	seconion-eth2	seconion-eth2	pcap	2017-07-19 13:45:22
7	seconion-eth2	seconion-eth2-1	snort	2017-07-05 18:53:42

Update Interval (secs): 15 NOW

Search Packet Payload: ☐ Hex ☐ Text ☒ NoCase

Investigating Network Data

Pivoting from Sguil

- Sguil provides the ability for the cybersecurity analyst to pivot to other information sources and tools.
- Log files are available in Elasticsearch.
- Relevant packet captures can be displayed in Wireshark.
- Sguil can provide pivots to Passive Real-time Asset Detection System (PRADS) and Security Analyst Network Connection Profiler (SANCP) information.

The screenshot displays the Sguil interface. The top section shows a list of events with columns: ST, CNT, Sensor, Alert ID, Date/Time, Src IP, SPort, Dst IP, DPort, Pr, and Event Message. A red box highlights a specific event with Alert ID 5.1557, which is titled 'Event History Transcript (force new)'. Below this, the 'IP Resolution' tab is active, showing a table with columns: SId, Net, Hostname, Type, and Last. The bottom section shows a packet capture view with columns: Source IP, Dest IP, Ver, HL, TOS, len, ID, Flags, Offset, TTL, ChkSum, and a search bar for packet payload.

Note: The Sguil interface refers to PADS instead of PRADS.

Investigating Network Data

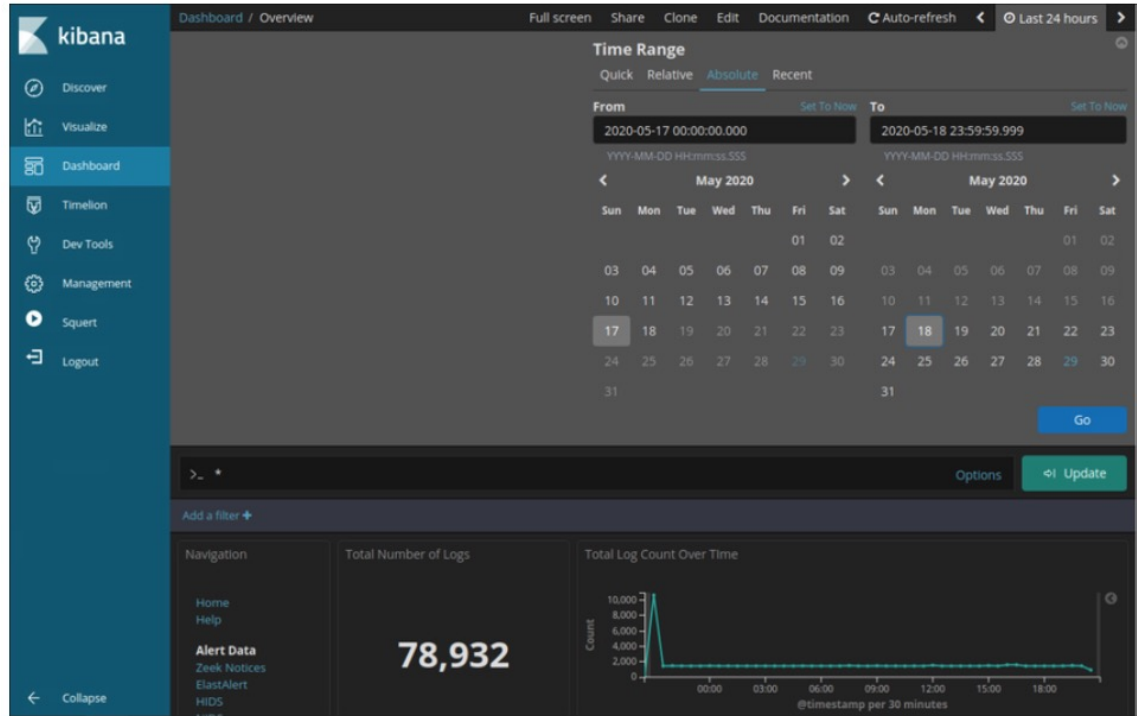
Event Handling in Sguil

- Sguil is a console that enables a cybersecurity analyst to investigate, verify, and classify security alerts.
- Three tasks can be completed in Sguil to manage alerts:
 - Alerts that have been found to be false positives can be expired.
 - An event can be escalated by pressing the F9 key.
 - An event can be categorized.
- Sguil includes seven pre-built categories that can be assigned by using a menu or by pressing the corresponding function key.

The screenshot displays the Sguil console interface. At the top, there's a menu bar with options like File, Query, Reports, Sound, Off, ServerName: localhost, Username: analyst, UserID: 2, and a timestamp 2020-06-01 17:26:38 GMT. Below the menu, there are tabs for RealTime Events and Escalated Events. The main window shows a table of events with columns: ST, CNT, Sensor, Alert ID, Date/Time, Src IP, SPort, Dst IP, DPort, Pr, and Event Message. A list of events is shown, with some highlighted in yellow. A context menu is open over one of the events, showing options like 'Escalate (F9)', 'Cat I: Unauthorized Root Access (F1)', 'Cat I: Add Comment', 'Cat II: Unauthorized User Access (F2)', 'Cat II: Add Comment', 'Cat III: Attempted Unauthorized Access (F3)', 'Cat III: Add Comment', 'Cat IV: Successful Denial of Service Attack (F4)', 'Cat IV: Add Comment', 'Cat V: Poor Security Practice or Policy Violation (F5)', 'Cat V: Add Comment', 'Cat VI: Reconnaissance/Probes/Scans (F6)', 'Cat VI: Add Comment', 'Cat VII: Virus Infection(F7)', and 'Cat VII: Add Comment'. Below the event list, there's a section for IP Resolution, Agent Status, and Snort. The bottom part of the interface shows a packet capture view with fields for Source IP, Dest IP, Ver, HL, TOS, Len, ID, Flags, Offset, TTL, and ChkSum. The packet data is shown in a hex and text format.

Investigating Network Data Working in ELK

- Logstash and Beats are used for data ingestion in the Elastic Stack.
- Kibana, which is the visual interface into the logs, is configured to show the last 24 hours by default.
- Logs are ingested into Elasticsearch into separate indices or databases based on a configured range of time.
- The best way to monitor the data in Elasticsearch is to build customized visual dashboards.



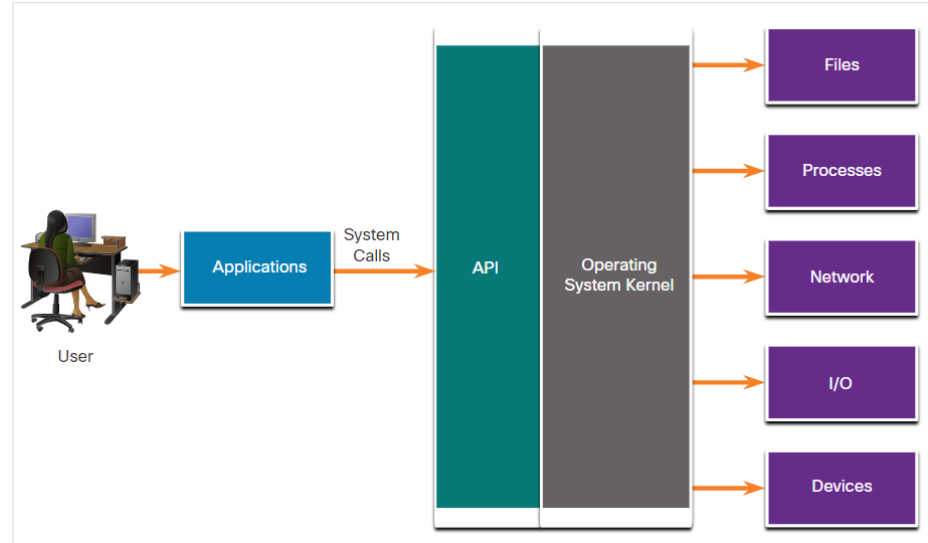
Queries in ELK

- Elasticsearch is built on Apache Lucene, an open-source search engine software library featuring full text indexing and searching capabilities.
- Using Lucene software libraries, Elasticsearch has its own query language based on JSON called Query Domain Specific Language (DSL).
- Along with JSON, Elasticsearch queries make use of elements such as Boolean operators, Fields, Ranges, Wildcards, Regex, Fuzzy Search, and Text Search.
- Elasticsearch was designed to interface with users using web-based clients that follow the HTTP REST framework.
- Methods used for executing the queries are URI, cURL, JSON and Dev Tools.

Note: *Advanced Elasticsearch queries are beyond the scope of this course. In the labs, you will be provided with the complex query statements, if necessary.*

Investigating Process or API Calls

- Applications interact with an Operating System (OS) through system calls to the OS Application Programming Interface (API).
- If malware can fool an OS kernel into allowing it to make system calls, many exploits are possible.
- OSSEC rules detect changes in host-based parameters.
- OSSEC rules will trigger an alert in Sguil.
- Pivoting to Kibana on the host IP address allows you to choose the type of alert based on the program that created it.
- Filtering for OSSEC indices results in a view of the OSSEC events that occurred on the host, including indicators that malware may have interacted with the OS kernel



Investigating Network Data

Investigating File Details

- In Sguil, if the cybersecurity analyst is suspicious of a file, the hash value can be submitted to an online site to determine if the file is a known malware.
- In Kibana, Zeek Hunting can be used to display information regarding the files that have entered the network.
- Note that in Kibana, the event type is shown as **bro_files**, even though the new name for Bro is Zeek.

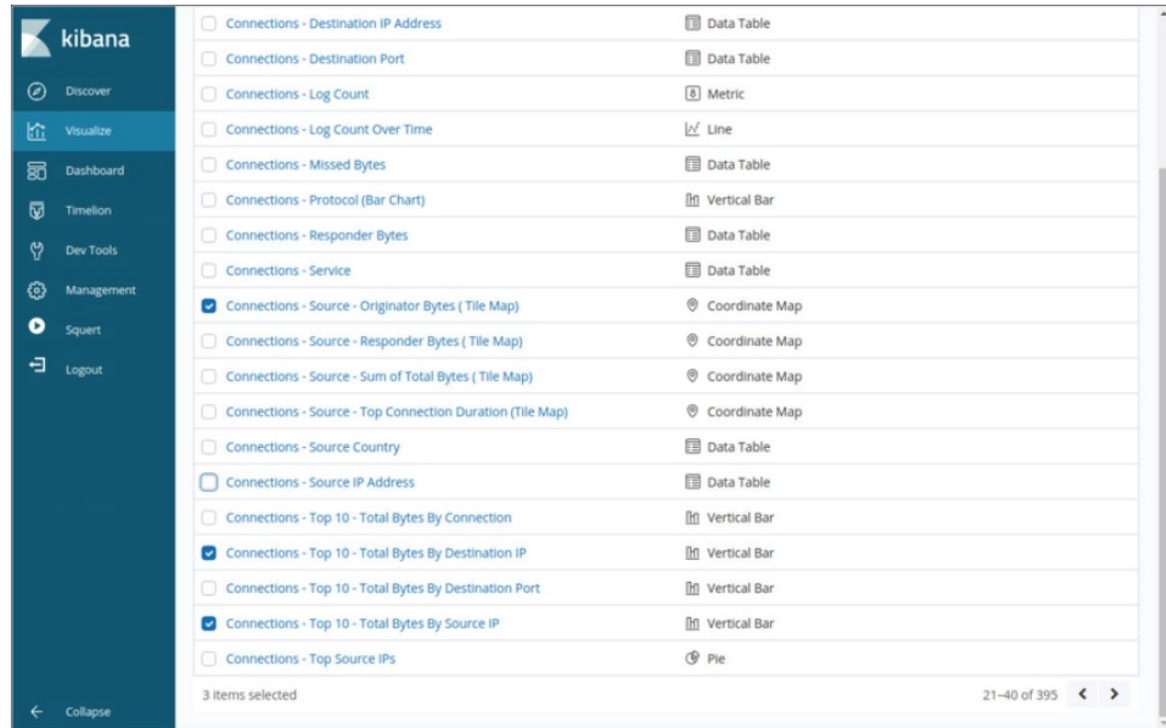
The screenshot displays the Kibana dashboard for 'Zeek - Files'. The left sidebar shows navigation options: Discover, Visualize, Dashboard (selected), Timeline, Dev Tools, Management, Squert, and Logout. The main content area shows a search bar with the query 'mimetype.keyword:"application/xml"' and a 'Refresh' button. Below the search bar, the 'Files - Logs' section displays a list of file details. The first entry is highlighted with a yellow background and labeled 'bro_files'. The details include event_type, file_ip, fuid, host, ips, is_orig, local_orig, md5, message, mimetype, missing_bytes, overflow_bytes, port, seen_bytes, sha1, source, source_ips, syslog-facility, and syslog-file_name.

Field	Value
event_type	bro_files
file_ip	209.165.201.17
fuid	FFRuizivIHRerrgBd
host	gateway
ips	209.165.200.235,
is_orig	true
local_orig	true
md5	56ceda5bb5c4c6be9ea6f16e86ab676f
message	{"ts":"2020-05-10T21:20:56.997512Z","fuid":"FFRuizivIHRerrgBd","tx_hosts":["209.165.201.17"],"rx_hosts":["209.165.200.235"],"conn_uids":["CMQAno37Z8pyV39ZVe"],"source":"HTTP","depth":0,"analyzers":["SHA1","MD5"],"mime_type":"application/xml","duration":0.0,"local_orig":true,"is_orig":true,"seen_bytes":714,"total_bytes":714,"missing_bytes":0,"overflow_bytes":0,"timeout":false,"md5":"56ceda5bb5c4c6be9ea6f16e86ab676f","sha1":"e4541e67581c859a6782c3492cb222da2ab2cf1c"}
mimetype	application/xml
missing_bytes	0B
overflow_bytes	0B
port	38524
seen_bytes	714B
sha1	e4541e67581c859a6782c3492cb222da2ab2cf1c
source	HTTP
source_ips	*
syslog-facility	user
syslog-file_name	/nsm/bro/logs/current/files.log

Enhancing the Work of the Cybersecurity Analyst

Dashboards and Visualizations

- Dashboards provide a combination of data and visualizations which allows cybersecurity analysts to focus on specific details and information.
- Dashboards are usually interactive.
- Kibana includes the capability of designing custom dashboards.
- In addition, tools such as Squert in Security Onion provide a visual interface to NSM data.



Workflow Management

- Workflows are the sequence of processes and procedures through which work tasks are completed.
- Managing the SOC workflows:
 - Enhances the efficiency of the cyberoperations team
 - Increases the accountability of the staff
 - Ensures that all potential alerts are treated properly
- Sguil provides a basic workflow management but not a good choice for large operations. There are third party systems available that can be customized.
- Automated queries add efficiency to the cyberoperations workflow. These queries automatically search for complex security incidents that may evade other tools.

New Terms and Commands

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Elasticsearch, Logstash, and Kibana (ELK)• Security Onion• Squil• Network Security Monitoring (NSM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passive Real-time Asset Detection System (PRADS)• Security Analyst Network Connection Profiler (SANCP)• Squert |
|--|--|

Lab 35 - Convert Data into a Universal Format

In this lab, you will complete the following objectives:

- **Part 1:** Use command line tools to manually normalize log entries.
- **Part 2:** The timestamp field must be normalized.
- **Part 3:** The IPv6 field requires normalization.

Lab 36 - Regular Expression Tutorial

In this lab, you will complete the following objectives:

- Use an online tutorial to explore regular expressions.
- Describe the information that matches given regular expressions.

Lab 37 - Extract an Executable from a PCAP

Looking at logs is very important, but it is also important to understand how network transactions happen at the packet level.

In this lab, you will complete the following objective:

- Analyze the traffic in a previously captured pcap file and extract an executable file from the traffic.