SPLICE Splunk Indicator of Compromise Engine

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Introduction

SPLICE provides a way of consuming IOCs in Splunk to leverage the embedded atomic indicators and provide greater context than common threat feeds. Once ingested, those IOCs becomes searchable across all your data - any kind of data - using a set of commands. SPLICE allows you to leverage Filenames, Hashes, Domain Names, Email, URLs and IP Addresses (more atomic indicators coming soon).

SPLICE relies on libtaxii, python-cybox and python-stix to support STIX v1.1 (including v1.1.1), CybOX v2.1 and OpenIOC v1.0

SPLICE can monitor local directories, or mount points, for incoming IOCs as well as TAXII feeds to periodically poll IOCs.

SPLICE has been successfully tested with: Soltra v2.0 and MISP v1.0.

OpenIOC

A typical OpenIOC can look like the following example found on www.iocbucket.com

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="us-ascii"?>
<ioc xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"</pre>
   \hookrightarrow \texttt{bd56357-844e-4cb9-97c8-0a0f954f262a"} \quad \texttt{last-modified}
   \hookrightarrow = "2013-08-08T18:02:12" xmlns="http://schemas.mandiant.
   \hookrightarrow com/2010/ioc">
  <short_description>Reveton</short_description>
  <description>http://bharath-m-narayan.blogspot.com
      \hookrightarrow /2013/08/live-security-professional.html</description
  <authored_by>Megan Carney</authored_by>
  <authored_date > 2013 - 08 - 08T17:55:36 < / authored_date >
  ks />
  <definition>
    <Indicator operator="OR" id="0ed08e74-ec02-495b-baf8-3</pre>
        \hookrightarrowab5fc61be05">
       <IndicatorItem id="d93e769b-dc89-413f-93bf-</pre>
           \hookrightarrowecd538d13290" condition="is">
         <Context document="FileItem" search="FileItem/Md5sum
             \hookrightarrow" type="mir" />
         <Content type="md5">2eeeaa69b70944cac8a30545b3f49b77
             \hookrightarrow </ Content >
       </TridicatorItem>
       <IndicatorItem id="61c6dfdc-6b59-473e-9643-</pre>
           \hookrightarrow a712e8c44e92" condition="is">
         <Context document="FileItem" search="FileItem/Md5sum
             \hookrightarrow" type="mir" />
         <Content type="md5">e3675273325b7f7df3b13fe93cd30fac
             \hookrightarrow </ Content >
       </IndicatorItem>
       <IndicatorItem id="76672f94-0014-425e-a58a-53</pre>
           \hookrightarrow f5a372b37b" condition="is">
         <Context document="FileItem" search="FileItem/Md5sum
             \hookrightarrow" type="mir" />
         <Content type="md5">8a6e45d16c82c4c79cbd7730207183ca
             \hookrightarrow </ Content >
       </IndicatorItem>
       <IndicatorItem id="b0ac27a7-14a5-46b7-91df-</pre>
           \hookrightarrow b2ffe97f55ac" condition="is">
         <Context document="FileItem" search="FileItem/Md5sum
             \hookrightarrow" type="mir" />
         <Content type="md5">e5a2409ad36943053135ba9bd3e08ba6
             \hookrightarrow </ Content >
       </IndicatorItem>
```

```
⇔abebd6c2316f" condition="contains">
         <Context document="UrlHistoryItem" search="

    UrlHistoryItem/URL" type="mir" />

         <Content type="string">beg.rocklandgrad.com/forum/wm
             \hookrightarrow/keys/board.php?connect=17</Content>
       </IndicatorItem>
       <IndicatorItem id="4e4e5842-2bc5-46c7-a5fc-230</pre>
           \hookrightarrow f899c139a" condition="contains">
         <Context document="UrlHistoryItem" search="
             \hookrightarrow \texttt{UrlHistoryItem/URL" type="mir" />}
         <Content type="string">beg.rocklandgrad.com/forum/wm
             \hookrightarrow / keys/WFolw</Content>
       </IndicatorItem>
       <IndicatorItem id="2d388b3f-5928-4583-99b9-3</pre>
           ⇔eabc8d167b5" condition="contains">
         <Context document="UrlHistoryItem" search="
             \hookrightarrow \texttt{UrlHistoryItem/URL" type="mir" />}
         <Content type="string">beg.rocklandgrad.com/forum/wm
             \hookrightarrow/keys/7T8INre2</Content>
       </IndicatorItem>
       <IndicatorItem id="08dd1e7c-e3de-4cc2-ba58-85</pre>
           ⇒a1f690fdb5" condition="contains">
         <Context document="UrlHistoryItem" search="
             \hookrightarrowUrlHistoryItem/URL" type="mir" />
         <Content type="string">down.jjconway.com/backend.php

    ∴ ? nomic = 638& amp; main = 7& amp; watch = 112& amp; energy

             \hookrightarrow =1121& amp; beta=400& amp; bugs=134& amp; linux=168&
             \hookrightarrow amp; rates = 371& amp; apply = 677& amp; outdoors
             \hookrightarrow =1569755419</Content>
       </IndicatorItem>
     </Indicator>
  </definition>
</ioc>
Several blocks exist in this IOC for different types of information. To make it
simple, we can assume that an IOC is a collection of IndicatorItem blocks like
the following:
       <IndicatorItem id="2d388b3f-5928-4583-99b9-3</pre>
           \hookrightarrow eabc8d167b5" condition="contains">
         <Context document="UrlHistoryItem" search="
             <Content type="string">beg.rocklandgrad.com/forum/wm
             \hookrightarrow/keys/7T8INre2</Content>
       </IndicatorItem>
Or,
       <IndicatorItem id="76672f94-0014-425e-a58a-53</pre>
```

<IndicatorItem id="0dd5b32d-4002-45a8-abba-</pre>

 \hookrightarrow f5a372b37b" condition="is">

Those IndicatorItem blocks actually handle the real content that's interesting from a Splunk perspective: the data you want to search for in your particular context. In the previous example, the actual data is:

- a URL (UrlHistoryItem/URL) : beg.rocklandgrad.com/forum/wm/keys/7 \hookrightarrow T8INre2
- a MD5 Hash of a file (FileItem/Md5sum): 8a6e45d16c82c4c79cbd7730207183ca

STIX, CybOX

STIX is a standard developed by MITRE and seeks to describe threat information in a comprehensive and detailed manner. With STIX, one should be able to describe attack campaigns, threat actors, courses of action, TTPs, exploit targets, indicators, observables and more. The coverage of STIX is significantly larger than OpenIOC.

STIX uses CybOX to describe indicators and while the logic is essentially the same as presented for OpenIOC, the language is different. Here is an example of a CybOX object:

```
<cybox:Properties xsi:type="FileObj:FileObjectType">
    <FileObj:File_Name>Iran's Oil and Nuclear Situation.doc
        \hookrightarrow</FileObj:File_Name>
    <FileObj:Size_In_Bytes>106604</FileObj:Size_In_Bytes>
    <FileObj:Hashes>
        <cyboxCommon: Hash>
           <cyboxCommon:Type>MD5</cyboxCommon:Type>
           <cyboxCommon:Simple_Hash_Value condition="Equals">
                \hookrightarrow \texttt{E92A4FC283EB2802AD6D0E24C7FCC857} < / \, \texttt{cyboxCommon}
                \hookrightarrow:Simple_Hash_Value>
        </cyboxCommon: Hash>
    </FileObj:Hashes>
</cybox:Properties>
Or.
<cybox:Properties xsi:type="URIObj:URIObjectType" type="URL</pre>
    " >
    <URIObj:Value condition="Equals">www.documents.myPicture
        \hookrightarrow.info</URIObj:Value>
</cybox:Properties>
```

In CybOX language, indicators are cybox:Properties. Just like in the example with OpenIOC, the two previous samples describe:

- a URL (URIObj:URIObjectType): www.documents.myPicture.info
- a MD5 Hash (FileObj:FileObjectType): E92A4FC283EB2802AD6D0E24C7FCC857

IOC Logic

The atomic indicators are linked to each other in an IOC file with Boolean logic. More complex IOCs can be described as in the following example: (Indicator A) AND ((Indicator B) OR (Indicator C)) AND NOT (Indicator D).

This logic is not supported in the current release of SPLICE (1.1) because:

- In most cases, IOCs are created to search for the existence of something. In other words, only few IOCs exist that test the non-existence of something (e.g., the key Y is not present in the registry).
- IOCs are created by humans and humans make mistakes. Alerting on a small subset of an IOC is still relevant from a security perspective, especially in SIEM or SOC contexts.
- Threats evolve. An IOC may describe version X of a malware but the next iteration of the malware may change slightly causing the IOC to become inaccurate.

However, note that understanding the IOC Boolean logic is on the roadmap of SPLICE.

SPLICE

Installing SPLICE

SPLICE can be found on Splunk Base. Once downloaded, use the Manage Apps menu as you would do with any other Splunk add-on: Apps > Manage Apps > Install app from file > select the previously downloaded file.

Please note that SPLICE has only been tested on Linux systems at this time.

SPLICE relies on MongoDB to store the ingested IOCs and the extracted atomic indicators. You will need to setup a MongoDB instance somewhere in your environment in order for SPLICE to work (use the regular MongoDB installation

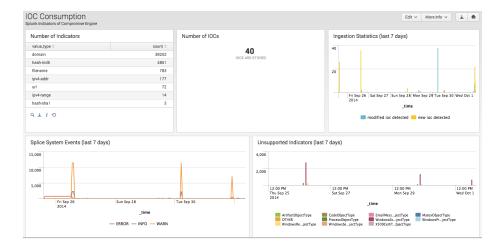


Figure 1: SPLICE

process). Ideally, you would install this MongoDB instance on the Splice Search Head but you could alternatively install it elsewhere.

The first time you access SPLICE, you will be asked to configure the minimally required options illustrated by the following screens:

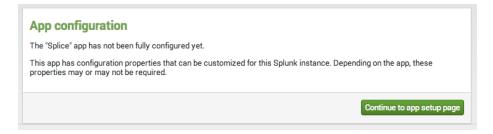


Figure 2: App Configuration

Since SPLICE stores the IOCs and the extracted atomic indicators in a MongoDB server, this step is absolutely mandatory. This configuration will be shared across all modular inputs and the custom search commands of SPLICE.

Upgrading to v1.3.x

To utilize v1.3.x, you will need to do a fresh installation of SPLICE. Also, you will want to consider changing some of the new defaults. Some of the SPLICE changes were due to user feedback and others were due to the new Splunk Enterprise Security (ES) integration in this release (Enterprise Security Integration).

IMPORTANT: Do not "upgrade" until you read the items below.



Figure 3: MongoDB Connection URI

- The SPLICE App directory name has changed from "splice" to "SA-Splice". You will want to disable SPLICE and restart Splunk before proceeding with the upgrade. Don't erase the app at this time as you may need to copy local customizations to the new app location. Or you may have modified the default parsers or created new ones.
- Install SPLICE as any other app through the Splunk App Manager.
- During setup, if you want to use the previous MongoDB configuration information, you can find this in \$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/splice/local/

 →splice.conf
- Default Scheduled Searches are now configured to not show as triggered alerts when matches are found. You can re-enable these in the scheduled searches if you choose to see alerts through Splunk's "Triggered Alerts" In any case the searches will continue to run and populate the summary index.
- The macro iocs_detected_sum_index has been created and utilized through SPLICE to allow users to easily change the summary index for detected iocs. The default summary index value for detected iocs has been changed from ioc_search_results to iocs_detected. You may want to change the macro value to point back to ioc_search_results or else the new detected iocs will be saved in the new summary index and also your dashboards won't show the previous detection data. However, you could also choose to migrate your data to the new summary index.
 - Data migration options:
 - * You could migrate your data by piping the old data from ioc_search_results and collecting in the new summary index iocs_detected (index="ioc_search_results" | collect index=" \leftarrow iocs_detected") OR
 - * You could use the backfill script via the command line with fill summary_index.py.
- Move any modified/created parsers to the parser directory of SA-Splice.

- If applicable, apply any local customizations (e.g., modifications to the scheduled searches) to SPLICE 1.3.x that you still wish to keep from the previous version. You could do this by performing the customizations through the gui or moving the appropriate configuration files from \$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/splice/local At the very minimum, you'll want to make sure that the data inputs (TAXII feeds, etc.) you had previously configured are migrated or manually created again for the new SPLICE installation.
- If you are not using Enterprise Security, you may want to disable the two new saved searches ("Endpoint Multiple Hosts Related to the Same IOC Rule" AND "Endpoint Multiple IOCs related to one host Rule") related to ES correlation searches.
- Restart Splunk.

Splunk license impact

SPLICE does **not** impact your Splunk license:

- IOCs are stored directly in MongoDB (out of the scope of Splunk licensing)
- Matching events are stored using the collect command which works only on already indexed data (see Automating IOC searches for details)
- SPLICE is a free app.

Data Inputs

SPLICE provides two Modular Input options that are accessible via two new menus under the **Settings** > **Data Inputs** menu. Note that those Modular Inputs rely on MongoDB and so the installation steps need to have been successfully completed (installation steps).

Mount point monitor The Modular Input "IOC - Mount point monitor" allows monitoring of directories for incoming IOCs. Those directories can be local directories or mount points with at least read-only permissions. This Modular Input will monitor .ioc and .xml files (case insensitive).

Once a new file is detected, or an existing file has been modified, the file is read and stored in the MongoDB in its original form (collection "raw"). The stored IOC is marked as "to be parsed" in order to extract from it the atomic indicators.

Please note that the name you use for the data input will be the name that is used for the IOC Sources dashboard to compare your different sources of IOCs.

The configuration should be quite straightforward like in the following example:

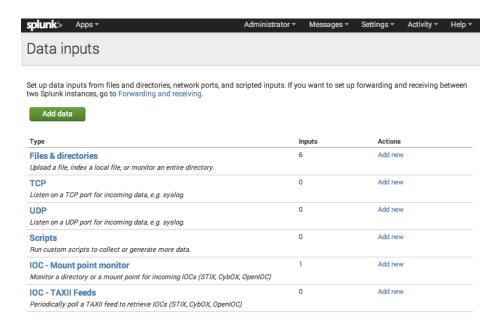


Figure 4: Data Inputs

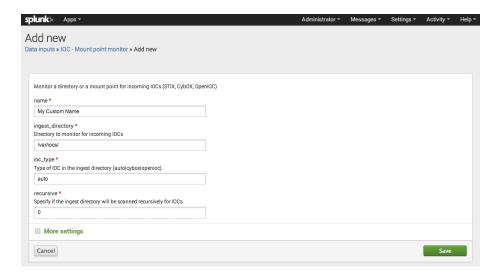


Figure 5: Data Inputs Mount Point

TAXII Feeds TAXII defines a set of services and message exchanges that, when implemented, enable sharing of actionable cyber threat information across organization and product/service boundaries. TAXII, through its member specifications, defines concepts, protocols, and message exchanges to exchange cyber threat information for the detection, prevention, and mitigation of cyber threats.

TAXII is the preferred method of exchanging information represented using the Structured Threat Information Expression (STIX) language, enabling organizations to share structured cyber threat information in a secure and automated manner.

Please note that the time synchronization between your TAXII server and your Splunk server is **very important** as the retrieved IOCs are filtered by time. If a clock drift exists, you may miss some IOCs or even consume the very same IOC multiple times.

Pre-configured TAXII Feeds Hailataxii.com is a repository of Open Source Cyber Threat Intelligence feeds in STIX format. TAXII Feeds for hailataxii.com have been pre-configured. However, they have been initially set in a disabled state. If you wish to utilize these feeds you must enabled each one of them. There is a separate input for each of the current seven hailataxxi feeds:

- 1. hailataxii.com guest.Abuse ch
- 2. hailataxii.com guest.CyberCrime_Tracker
- 3. hailataxii.com guest.EmergineThreats rules
- 4. hailataxii.com guest.Lehigh_edu
- 5. hailataxii.com guest.MalwareDomainList Hostlist
- 6. hailataxii.com guest.blutmagie_de_torExits
- 7. hailataxii.com guest.dshield_BlockList

NOTE: Splunk Inc. is not affiliated with hailataxii.com. Splunk is not responsible for either its content or reliability. It may take a significant time for the initial synchronization of some of thes feeds. While SPLICE will store the entire IOCs, SPLICE can only parse out the atomic indicators that are properly formatted and for which it currently supports.

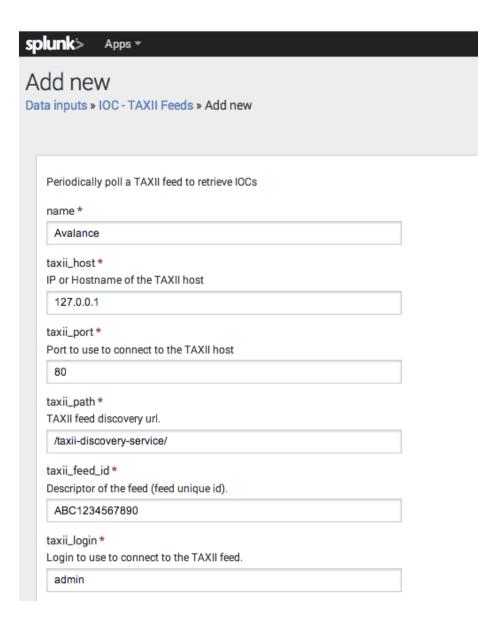


Figure 6: Data Inputs TAXII Feed

IOCs and their Indicators

An IOC, regardless of its description language (OpenIOC, STIX, ...), is composed of atomic indicators (IndicatorItem, cybox:Properties, ...). This term is a generic way of describing the smallest amount of measurable data in the IOC for one to utilize for correlation.

Moreover, an IOC is generally built with a unique identifier (id) like in the following examples:

```
# STIX header
```

SPLICE extracts this information when the IOC is ingested and references it as ioc_id. As this field is optional, every IOC ingested by SPLICE will also have an internal id referenced as ioc_raw_id.

This logic also applies to the atomic indicators. Splice uses indicator_id to reference the indicator id when it's present, or if its missing, indicator_raw_id for the SPLICE's internal indicator id.

Every IOC and atomic indicator stored by SPLICE is accessible by the user (see iocdisplay command). However, please note that not setting an id for either the IOC or its indicators is generally considered a bad practice. Future versions of STIX may make the ids mandatory.

Finally, an IOC stored in the Mongo database looks like the following:

```
// .. other fields ...
}
And atomic indicators look like:
# Example of possible atomic indicators
{
         "_id"
                          : ObjectId("542b716feaa76eb49c7be3e7
            '') ,
         "raw_id"
                          : ObjectId("542b716feaa76eb49c7be3d4
            "),
         "ioc_id"
                         : "opensource: Package-c6afaad1-92e7-4
             \hookrightarrow\! \texttt{c01-b18f-eb3fdca0247d"} ,
         "indicator_id" : "opensource:File-fa253ff2-05fa-40b7
             \hookrightarrow \texttt{-9f75-092691234a0c"} ,
         "value"
                         : "config.bin",
         "value_type"
                        : "filename",
}
{
         "_id"
                          : ObjectId("542b716feaa76eb49c7be3e8
             "raw_id"
                          : ObjectId("542b716feaa76eb49c7be3d4
            "),
         "ioc_id"
                         : "opensource: Package-c6afaad1-92e7-4
             \hookrightarrow c01-b18f-eb3fdca0247d",
         "indicator_id" : "opensource:Address-50bb69cc-7b76
            \hookrightarrow -4444-8175-dad1b4f54062",
                        : "23.252.120.143",
         "value"
         "value_type" : "ipv4-addr",
}
```

Enterprise Security Integration

SPLICE 1.3.1 introduces integration with Splunk Enterprise Security (ES). SPLICE should be installed on the same search head as ES.

Two ES correlation searches are included. Both searches utilize the summary index from SPLICE where IOC matches are stored. Both are configured to look back one week and suppress further alerts for one day for matches to the same host or indicator You can further customize these settings.

- "Endpoint Multiple Hosts Related to the Same IOC Rule": This correlation search looks for lateral movement within your environment. For example, a match on this correlation search could indicate some sort of malware outbreak.
- "Endpoint Multiple IOCs related to one host Rule": This correlation search discovers if more than one distinct IOC is associated with a

single host. A match for this search would increase the chance that the host is at risk and not merely a false positive.

SPLICE Forms

Indicator Search

The Indicator Search form can be used to search for the existence of indicators within SPLICE. The form is searching for the saved indicators within MongoDB. The search comes in the form of a regular expression along with an option to ignore case. You may click the results to view the IOC in the IOC Viewer form.



*Please note that the search is a PCRE Expression and in case of IP address searches, the address will not be searched across subnets. However, searches for IP addresses will work if the saved indicator is a single IP address.

IOC Viewer

The IOC Viewer allows you to view your stored IOCs. To retrieve an IOC, you may use any of the following fields: IOC ID (ioc_id), Indicator ID (indicator_id \hookrightarrow), SPLICE Indicator ID (indicator_raw_id) and SPLICE IOC ID (ioc_raw_id). Besides seeing the raw IOC text, you can also view IOC key-value pairs.

SPLICE Dashboards

There are four pre-built dashboards included in SPLICE. These dashboards utilize many of the custom search commands you'll see in the next sections of this document.

1. IOC Alerts includes information on recent correlated indicator alerts. The alerts are saved in the summary index defined by the macro iocs_detected_sum_index (SPLICE 1.3.1 and above uses the iocs_detected summary index while previous versions used ioc_search_results) and all of the alert dashboards utilize this index.

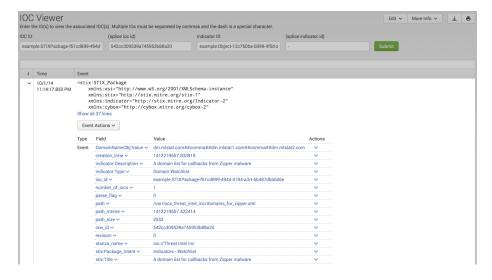


Figure 7: ioc_viewer

- 2. IOC Alert Trending focuses on alert trends and statistics.
- 3. IOC Sources provides information on IOC data for different IOC sources. The sources are retrieved by the name of the Data input.
- 4. IOC Consumption provides information on IOCs, Indicators and SPLICE system events. This information is retrieved from MongoDB and logs.

IOCSearch

The IOCSearch command is designed to search your data for the atomic indicators that were extracted from the ingested IOCs. Those atomic indicators are read from the MongoDB at search time.

The syntax is as follow:

```
.. your search.. | iocsearch map="<fields mapping to use>"
```

The iocsearch command appends 2 new fields to your events: ioc_indicators_count \hookrightarrow and ioc_indicators_json. The first one will contains the number of matching atomic indicators while the second will contain the details of each atomic indicator that matched.

To correctly parse the results contained in the field ioc_indicators_json, a macro has been created to align the field names regarding the workflow action expectations (see example below). The macro will produce the following fields:

• indicator_object_id: The ID of the atomic indicator.

- indicator_value: The real indicator that has been searched (for example, 'evildomain.tld' or '127.0.0.1')
- indicator_value_type : The type of data. Refer to type mapping below.
- indicator_type : either value or regex
 - value: strict matching of the content, the indicator_value.
 - regex: indicator_value is evaluated as a PCRE regex.

The ioc_indicators_json can contain one or multiple indicators results, depending on your IOCs and the mapping for your search.

Type mapping

The mapping (option map) is used to assign a type to fields in order to search the corresponding atomic indicators.

The format is: field_name:field_type where field_type belongs to any of the following:

field_type	meaning	iocsearch specifics
ipv4-addr	IPv4 address	searched across
ipv4-addi	Ex: 192.168.1.123	ipv4-addr, ipv4-range and ipv4-cidr
ipv4-range	IPv4 netblock with format 'from'-'to' Ex: 1.2.3.4-1.2.8.9	searched across ipv4-range and ipv4-cidr
ipv4-cidr	IPv4 netblock with CIDR notation Ex: 1.2.3.4/16	searched across ipv4-range and ipv4-cidr
domain	A domain name Ex: host.tld	-
url	An URL Ex: http://host.tld/page	-
filename	Name of the relevant file	-
hash-	Hash of the relevant file	strict match in
$<\!\!type\!\!>$	Ex: hash-md5, hash-sha1, hash-sha256, etc	lowercase ('a'=='a')
hash	Generic type that refers to all known hashes types hash-md5, hash-sha1, hash-sha256, etc. This should only be used when the searched fields are of an unknown or multiple hash type. NOTE: You could likely get duplicate alerts from this and the hash- <type> scheduled searches. You may want to tune the searches to only search relevant hash data based on your environment.</type>	
email- <specific></specific>	Email related items. Could be one of: email-from, email-to, email-cc, email-bcc, email-sender, email-reply_to, email-x_originating_ip, email-subject, email-in_reply_to, email-message_id, email-errors_to, email-boundary, email-content_type, email-mime_version, email-precedence, email-user_agent, email-x_mailer, email-raw_header, email-raw_body, email-email_server NOTE: This mapping has not been done with OpenIOC because we don't have samples. Please help us to improve SPLICE by submitting us your samples.	There is no parsing inside extracted fields like raw_header or raw_body (consider those as strings).

A map can be constructed from one or more associations (see example below). However, it is not possible to type multiple times the same field within the same map (ex: src:ipv4-addr,src:domain will fails). If you want to do so, you have to split your map into multiple searches.

Sample usage

Here is an example from a search of proxy logs:

```
index=proxy | iocsearch map="cs_Referer:url,cs_host:domain, \hookrightarrowc_ip:ipv4-addr,src:ipv4-addr"
```

In this example, the field cs_Referer is designed as an URL, the field cs_host is designed as a domain name while the src and c_ip fields are designed as IPv4 addresses.

The next example will filter the results of an iocsearch to display only events having indicators identified and use the macro to correctly parse the output.

Workflow Actions: from atomic indicator to IOCs

The workflow actions require specific field names to appear in your search results. This is the case with the fields ioc_id, indicator_id, indicator_raw_id and ioc_raw_id. When these fields exist, a new drop-down menu appears and lets you display the corresponding IOCs associated with this/those object_id(s).

In the Event Actions or in the field event action a new action named Display

→associated IOCs allows you to drill down from raw results (atomic indicators)
to the complete IOCs that included those indicators.



Figure 8: IOCSearch Workflow Action

NEW: A new workflow action "IOC full sweep" allows a user to search for historical hits to detected IOCs from the ioc_id or ioc_raw_id fields.

CIM mapping

While the iocsearch command can use any field name, it's **highly recommended** to rely on Common Information Model (CIM) field names (src_ip, dest_ip, etc). Those will ensure compatibility with Enterprise Security and permit an easy integration in SPLICE Dashboards.

For more information on the CIM, please see CIM and the CIM App

Default Scheduled Searches

Out of the box, SPLICE provides default scheduled searches relying on CIM fields: ioc_default_search_domain, ioc_default_search_filename, ioc_default_search_hash, ioc_default_search_ipv4-addr, ioc_default_search_ipv6 \(
\to -addr and ioc_default_search_url.\) Those searches are run every hour (+ 10 minutes) on the previous hour. Please note that default scheduled searches for email indicators are not included. However, you could create them based off of the other default scheduled searches and your requirements. You may also want to create some additional scheduled searches that would run periodically and look further back just for any new indicators (for example, search back 30 days).

If any match is found, the following actions are performed:

- Storage of the matching event in the summary index defined by the macro iocs_detected_sum_index (SPLICE 1.3.1 and above uses the iocs_detected

 → summary index while previous versions used ioc_search_results). A field marker will be added to events to let you know which saved searches triggered.
- The RSS feed will be populated (ex: http://<your splunk host>/en-US/rss/ioc_default_search_ipv4)
- An Alert will be triggered (see saved searches section for details)

Those default searches are designed to be very generic and can be deactivated using the regular Settings > Searches, reports, and alerts > App context (
←Splice) menu.

Tip: If you choose to use searches, it is highly recommended that you customize and tune them. For example, you should try to narrow the search for each one to only where matching data could exist. Some commons ways of doing this would be to restrict the search to only certain indexes and/or sourcetypes based on what you are searching for in each individual saved search .

Understanding SPLICE Scheduled Searches

Here are the minimal steps to follow to successfully automate the searching and recording of IOCs in your data.

The first step is to understand how the iocsearch command works. Please refer the to IOCSearch chapter.

Minimal steps

The following steps are an illustration of the automation of searches of IOCs across proxy logs. The workflow is as follow:

- 1. Periodically search logs using the iocsearch command
- Store the results in a dedicated index (log lines having at least one match to any indicator). You should use the macro iocs_detected_sum_index to define the summary index as this macro is also used by SPLICE activity dashboards.
- 3. Once your matching events are indexed, you can create dashboards, alerts, etc, that fit your needs and context.

Example

Here is an example of such a search (points 1 and 2 from above).

```
index=proxy_logs
  | iocsearch map="cs_uri:url,cs_host:domain,src:ipv4-addr"
  | search ioc_indicators_count > 0
  | 'parse_ioc_indicators_json'
  | rename _raw as raw_
  | collect 'iocs_detected_sum_index' marker="marker=\"proxy
```

Explanation:

- Line 1-4: this is standard call to the iocsearch command using the appropriate macro to correctly format fields. Please refer to the IOCSearch chapter for more details.
- Line 5: rename the _raw field in order to keep all the extracted fields and make sure they are stored with the data (next line).

• Line 6: collect all the data and store it in the summary index defined by the macro iocs_detected_sum_index. This index must exist before calling the collect command. Moreover, we add a marker (field: marker, value: proxy) to make it easier to later reference those events (for custom dashboards for example).

The result of this command should be rather ugly as we rename the <u>_raw</u> field. However, this step only is only intended to store the matching events, not necessarily to present them to the user.

Keeping the results

Finally, you can see the stored events in the summary index by running the macro iocs_detected_sum_index or using a regular query with the specific name of your summary index (for versions of SPLICE before 1.3.1, index=ioc_search_results). However, to make it look nicer, you may want to rename the field raw_:

index="ioc_search_results" | rename raw_ as _raw

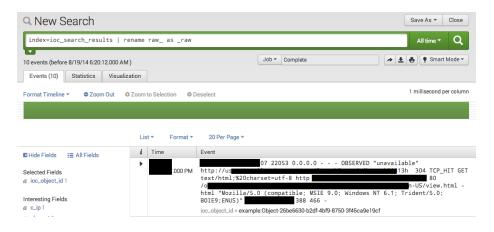


Figure 9: ioc_search_results

By following those steps you will store the SPLICE fields with the data, which are required by the workflow actions. In other words, the workflow actions associated to this field are available from the summary index defined in the macro iocs_detected_sum_index. Please refer to the workflow actions for more details.

Be aware that if you run the same search multiple times using the collect command, you will append duplicate results to the existing index. In other words, if you don't take caution about the time period you are searching before using the collect command, you will be storing multiple instances of the very same

results in the summary index. This will lead to incorrect SPLICE dashboards and the frequency of the individual indicators will be skewed.

A triggered alert (Activity > Triggered Alerts > Splice) will looks like the following:

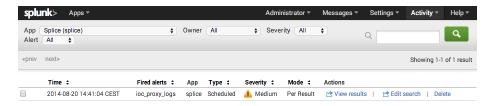


Figure 10: triggered alert

Fields sourcetype, source, index and host

The collect command will rename a few fields. For example, the field sourcetype will become stash instead of your original sourcetype. However the original information is not lost and is kept in renamed fields that start with orig_like orig_sourcetype.

To replace the stash sourcetype by the original one you can run the following command:

```
'iocs_detected_sum_index'
| rename raw_ as _raw
| rename orig_sourcetype as sourcetype
```

IOCStats

The IOCStats command is a command dedicated to retrieve simple statistics about IOCs stored in your mongoDB instance in order to populate SPLICE dashboards. To list the available statistics, use the list option as follow:

| iocstats stat=list

Note that this command is a generating command and therefore must be the very first argument in the Splunk search query.

For example, to get the number of stored IOCs simply use:

```
| iocstats stat=number_of_iocs
```

IOCFilter

The Splunk command iocfilter has been created to let you search the stored atomic indicators. This command includes the parameter regex which is the pattern (PCRE) to search for and a flag ignorecase that turns on or off the case sensitivity. Note that this flag is optional at search time and is set to False by default. Morevover, as SPLICE can (de)activate specific indicators, iocfilter let you decide if you want to display disabled indicators through the displaydisabled boolean flag. Furthermore, the boolean flag addTime has been added to retrieve the creation date of the IOC within the Indicator (it could be useful for filtering).

Here is an example that searches for the word micro and ignores the case (can match Micro, MIcro, micRO, micro, etc).

```
| iocfilter regex="MICRO" ignorecase=True
```

When using metacharacters in the pattern like \d , \s , \w , etc, you must escape them. As a general rule, the backslash must be escaped (or doubled) like in the following example that searches for the pattern $2\d$:

```
| iocfilter regex="2\\d1" ignorecase=True
```

In case you forgot to do so, the following error will appears:

```
Error in 'iocfilter' command: command="iocfilter", Poorly

→formed string literal: <your-pattern>
```

Here is an example that retrieve the creation time for the associated IOCs and convert it to a human readable form though regular Splunk functions:

IOCExportCSV

The iocexportcsv command is designed to export atomic indicators as CSV and has been especially created to work with the Enterprise Security 3+ Threat List framework.

This command expects 4 parameters:

- value_type : the type of atomic indicator to export
- alias : the alias to rename the csv header

- directory: a directory where splunkd would be able to write the CSV file
- filename : exported filename

At this time, no append mode exists and the command exports all atomic indicators at once. This command also appends the extension '.csv' if it was not included in the parameter filename.

Example:

As an output you should see a log message similar to this one:

```
file /tmp/myIpList.csv created with 311 entries
```

The produced CSV file will look like the following example, where the field description will be filled with the atomic indicator unique id extracted from the original IOC. If a single value is referenced by multiple atomic indicators, only one will be outputed.

```
# head /tmp/myIpList.csv
description, ip
example: Address -9c915242-671d-47e4-bcb5-17035e1902d7
    fireeye:object-b7f34877-3ba5-44e9-9a36-c16ba7d7ad94
    \hookrightarrow, 122.200.124.57
fireeye: object -80ee612f -d300-462c-af4a-883baaaeeea8
    \hookrightarrow , 98.126.211.218
fireeye: object-afe13da0-2b49-4f7d-a0e4-46b9b8eaceec
    \hookrightarrow , 98 . 126 . 211 . 219
example: Address -8c2716f3 -e09a -4f1b -9a5d -88f2ef1f1a21
    \hookrightarrow , 124.232.135.84
fireeye:object-142748e8-8000-4029-8291-31cd191a48ce
    \hookrightarrow , 219.90.112.203
fireeye: object -4ce029f3-4805-4ace-9b0c-43dfa12cb06f
    \hookrightarrow , 74.208.56.101
fireeye: object -4090671d-0e98-4768-935b-32c2c9de6ed3
    \hookrightarrow , 121.41.129.179
fireeye: object -40ad5a6c-e776-4cbb-a423-e266bc6d940a
    \hookrightarrow , 204.74.215.58
```

IOCDisplay

This command has been created to allow one to retrieve one or more IOCs based on the submitted object IDs (atomic indicator IDs) or IOC IDs. This command will give you access to the raw content of the IOCs.

The usage is as follow:

Note also that the ioc_id parameter admit a star as input value (ioc_id="*") to retrieve all the IOCs stored in the mongo.

Sample usage:

```
| iocdisplay indicator_id="example:Address-7e3827ad-9019-494 

\hookrightarrowa-b8ae-2c24c3749442,example:Object-1980ce43-8e03-490b 

\hookrightarrow-863a-ea404d12242e"
```

The parameters admitted by iocdisplay are: *ioc_id: the ID extracted from the IOC (could be None) * raw_id: the Splice Internal ID for the IOC * indicator_id: the ID extracted from the Object (could be None) * indicator_raw_id: the Splice Internal ID for the Object

IOCToggle

This command has been created to change the state of atomic indicators based on any provided identifier (ioc_id, ioc_raw_id, indicator_id, indicator_raw_id). When calling this command with an IOC ID, the state (enabled/disabled) is toggled for all of the indicators that associated to this IOC. The toggle sets indicators to enabled when they are disabled and to disabled when they are enabled.

Disabling an indicator means that this indicator remains in the database but will no more be returned by the iocsearch command. This is generally used to reduce false positives or improper indicator definitions.

The usage is as follow:

```
| ioctoggle ioc_id="<comma separated list of object IDs>"
```

Note that you can use ioc_id, ioc_raw_id, indicator_id and indicator_raw_id (and you can combine them if needed).

Sample usage:

```
| ioctoggle ioc_id="mandiant:package-e33ffe07-2f4c-48d8-b0af

←-ee2619d765cf"
```

The command ioctoggle also supports an optional parameter, all. When used, the current state of the referenced indicators are disregarded and are all set to the specified value (enabled or disabled).

Sample usage:

```
| ioctoggle ioc_id="mandiant:package-e33ffe07-2f4c-48d8-b0af \hookrightarrow-ee2619d765cf" all="disabled"
```

SPLICE Parsers

SPLICE v1.2 introduces the notion of **parsers** by externalizing the code that actually transforms a supported indicator (STIX, CybOX, OpenIOC) to a Splunk Indicator from the core of SPLICE .

The parsers (python scripts) are stored in the \$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/splice/ \(\to \text{bin/splice/parsers/} \) directory.

Parsers have been externalized as modules to let users write their own parsers: maybe you have IOCs with currently unsupported indicators and you want to add support for them, maybe you want to edit the provided default parsers to enhance them, etc.

- Parsers need to have the very same name (case sensitive) as the indicator they refer to (ex: AddressObjectType.py or FileItem.py).
- Parsers are expecting input and are expected to return data in a normalized way (see details below).
- Parsers must implement the Base Class in order to integrate smoothly (and inherit few useful functions!) within SPLICE core.

SPLIndicator

SPLIndicator is a crucial piece in SPLICE parsers because they represent the atomic indicator in a way that Splunk can understand them through SPLICE.

The signature of such an indicator is as follows:

```
SPLIndicator(indicator_id, type, value_type, value)
```

• indicator_id is the identifier found for the the indicator (could be None).

- type must be either value (strict matching, equality) OR regex (evaluated as a PCRE). The type field defines how the value field will be evaluated by SPLICE during a search.
- value_type is a normalized type of data (ipv4-addr, domain, url, etc please refer to data types section in this documentation).

Parsers for STIX, CybOX

A module must be named like the CybOX object they refer to. For example, to create a module for the object AddressObjectType:

- Create a python script named AddressObjectType.py in the parsers directory
- 2. Create a class AddressObjectType in that script that inherits from the BaseObjectType class
- 3. Instantiate the parse() method

As input, the class will receive:

- 1. The identifier of the atomic indicator (object_id)
- 2. All the properties of the CybOX object (properties)

As output, the parser must return an array of SPLIndicator

Here is the skeleton of a AddressObjectTypemodule:

```
from .. import splindicator
from .. import common
from .. import errors

from BaseObjectType import BaseObjectType

__author__ = "<YOUR NAME>
__version__ = "1.0.0"
__email__ = "<YOUR MAIL>"

class AddressObjectType(BaseObjectType):
    def parse(self):
    if self.properties == None:
```

```
return []

self.log("INFO", "This is an example to call the logger

→")

# ... define how to parse the object here ...

return [] # an array of SPLIndicator _MUST_ be returned
```

You'll notice that a logger is also provided by the Base class. The severity provided to the logger should be INFO, WARNING or WARN, ERROR or DEBUG. Note that the self.log() function will automatically append the object_id to the provided message in order to give the end-user relevant logs messages.

Parsers for OpenIOC

A module must be named like the OpenIOC document they refer to. For example, to create a module for the object FileItem:

- 1. Create a python script named FileItem.py in the parsers directory
- 2. Create a class FileItem in that script that inherits from the BaseItem class
- 3. Instantiate the parse() method

As input, the class will receive:

- 1. The identifier of the atomic indicator (object_id)
- 2. The properties of the IndicatorItem (indicator_item)
- 3. The properties of the content item (content)
- 4. The properties of the context item (context)

As output, the parser must return an array of SPLIndicator

Here is the skeleton of a FileItem module:

from BaseItem import BaseItem

```
__author__ = "<YOUR NAME>
__version__ = "1.0.0"
__email__ = "<YOUR MAIL>"

class FileItem(BaseItem):
    def parse(self):
        return self.generic_parser()
```

Note that OpenIOC Indicators are very similar even if they describe various things (FileItem, DnsEntryItem, etc). You are completely free to instantiate the parse() method as you wish but in most cases the default generic_parser() method may be enough.

Just like STIX/CybOX parsers, a log() method is also defined.

Events and Logging

Logging schema

The Modular Inputs as well as the custom search commands rely on the Splunk SDK.

They both use the provided loggers and functions to write log messages. In other words, they don't know where or how the log messages are written to as they use functions provided by the SDK.

There are two kinds of messages:

- Log messages, like info, warning, error messages, generated by the custom search commands. They translate a state of the command and are written to \$SPLUNK_HOME/var/log/splunk/splunkd.log They can be accessed through the _internal index.
- Events, which are only generated by the Modular Inputs. They aren't log messages and they are written to the main index. Those events can be compared to log lines read from a regular log file. So, when an IOC is read, an Event "this IOC has been read" is generated (this is different from a log message).

Please note that the logging scheme has a known bug

Internal Events

Those events can be accessed with the following search:

```
index=_internal source="*/splunkd.log" splice
```

Here are a few samples of log lines:

```
08-13-2014 00:55:51.953 +0200 INFO ExecProcessor - message

→from "python /opt/splunk/etc/apps/splice/bin/ioc.py"

→event_type="modified ioc detected" ioc_file="/var/iocs/

→STIX_sample.xml" mtime="1407884150.92" size="266268"

→status="new size (is:266268, was:266269)"

08-13-2014 00:56:26 081 +0200 INFO ExecProcessor - magazine
```

- 08-07-2014 01:31:02.182 +0200 ERROR ExecProcessor message

 →from "python /opt/splunk/etc/apps/splice/bin/ioc.py"

 →ERRORcould not connect to localhost:27017: [Errno 111]

 →Connection refused

History

SPLICE v1.3.5 - 2015/03/30 - Feature

• iocfilter command new flag addTime

SPLICE v1.3.4 - 2015/02/15 - Fixes

- Fixed log messages for TAXII inputs to populate IOC Consumption dashboards
- Explained how to capture problematic IOCs for the StartTag error

SPLICE v1.3.3 - 2015/02/10 - Fixes

- iocdisplay documentation fixes
- iocdisplay command fixes

SPLICE v1.3.2 - 2015/02/04 - Feature Enhancements

- Improved STIX EmailMessage parser
- Improved STIX FileObject parser (now support Fuzzy Hashes)

SPLICE v1.3.1 - 2015/02/03 - Feature Enhancements

• Splunk Enterprise Security (ES) Integration

- App directory name changed from "splice" to "SA-Splice"
- Two ES Correlation Searches created:
 - * Endpoint Multiple Hosts Related to the Same IOC Rule
 - * Endpoint Multiple IOCs related to one host Rule
- Default Scheduled Searches are now configured to not show as triggered alerts when matches are found (this can be re-enabled manually)
- The macro iocs_detected_sum_index has been created and utilized through SPLICE to allow users to easily change the summary index for detected iocs
- Changed the default summary index value for detected iocs to iocs_detected
- Pre-configured TAXII feeds for hailataxii.com have been added
- Added relevant CIM-related eventypes to ioc matches
- Added relevant CIM-related tags to ioc matches
- Added IOC full sweep workflow to search for historical hits to detected iocs
- Fix of time parameters for Top Detected Indicator Types dashboard panel
- Fix of sort command that sometimes limited total returned ioc matches
- Added STIX parser for EmailMessageObjectType
- Fixed a typo in STIX parser for AddressObjectTye
- Enhanced STIX parser AddressObjectType with e-mail type coverage.
- Parser for URIObject no more requires the field 'type' and assume 'URL' as default value.

SPLICE v1.2.1 - 2014/12/24 - Maintenance release

• Fix of update_taxii_last_timestamp_label(), patch from CERT Australia.

SPLICE v1.2.0 - 2014/11/17 - Feature Enhancements

- STIX/CybOX parser externalization
- New OpenIOC parsing logic (compatible with OpenIOC v1.0 and v1.1)
- OpenIOC parser externalization
- Core code reorganization

- python-libtaxii upgraded to 1.1.104 (was: 1.1.102)
- python-stix upgraded to 1.1.1.2 (was: 1.1.1.0)
- python-cybox upgraded 2.1.0.8 (was: 2.1.0.6)
- Dashboard menus renamed (backend only)
- Documentation updates
- Ability to (de)activate atomic indicators
 - iocfilter command new parameter displaydisabled
 - Form Indicator Search new drop-down choice
 - iocsearch command modified to exclude deactivated indicators
 - new command ioctoggle to change the state of indicators
- TAXII dual authentication support with pem/key cert files
- [fix] wrong timezone used for the TAXII feeds
- iocsearch command now supports a generic hash type hash
- The previous individual scheduled hash searches were replaced with a scheduled universal hash search called ioc_default_search_hash

SPLICE v1.1 - 2014/10/08 - Public release

- Bug fixes
- New features

SPLICE v1.0 - 2014/09/01 - Restricted access release

• Initial release

Known Bugs

Logging Issue

SPLICE relies on the Splunk SDK for some pre-built functions like the one used for logging events or error messages. It has been observed that some error messages are not correctly written to the logger when using the search_command template from the SDK.

A workaround is to set the handlers to file in the logging.conf. The messages will be written in a chosen file instead of the regular \$SPLUNK_HOME/var/log/splunk/splunkd.log. Further investigation is in progress.

The external search command '<command>' did not return events in descending time order, as expected.

This error is most of the time related to an improper input like an incorrect IOC (example: defining an IPv4 with a digit above 255 like 192.168.256.4). This error is also related to the logging issue (see above) and will be fixed in a later release of SPLICE.

Using the fields command after iocsearch empty the field ioc_indicators_json

When using the command fields after the output of iocsearch, the field ioc_indicators_json is erased/cleaned. Results are lost.

StartTag: invalid element name

The following error may be observed with some TAXII feeds/servers. The error is related to improper feed content (ex: IOC carrying raw content with angle brackets not escaped by the use of the XML tag CDATA). This error happens at lxml level after passing through python-libtaxii. In short, this error is not related to SPLICE but to the TAXII Server and/or to the TAXII Feed because they are sending improper content regarding the TAXII standard (or XML to be more specific).

```
ERROR ExecProcessor - message from "python /opt/splunk/etc/ \hookrightarrow apps/splice/bin/taxii.py" something went wrong with \hookrightarrow TAXII polling: StartTag: invalid element name, line \hookrightarrow 2789, column 2
```

To capture the problematic IOCs, here is the procedure to follow:

Edit the python script \$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/SA-Splice/bin/taxii.py, around line 195-ish you should see the following code:

Add between those two lines the following statement, like in the example below:

For every response received, the response will be printed in the \$SPLUNK_HOME/ \(\sigma\rm \rm r/\log/\splunk/\splunkd.\log \log \text{file}.\) The output will look like the following:

Notice that the last line is something went wrong with TAXII polling: None which is normal due to the added resp.read() statement.

At this point, a manual review of the IOCs is required to identify IOCs that do not respect XML as in the following example (URL-encoded brackets):

```
xmlns:cyboxVocabs="http://cybox.mitre.org/
        \hookrightarrow \texttt{default\_vocabularies-2"}
    xmlns:marking="http://data-marking.mitre.org/Marking-1"
    xmlns:tlpMarking="http://data-marking.mitre.org/
        \hookrightarrow extensions/MarkingStructure#TLP-1"
    xmlns:edge="http://soltra.com/"
    xmlns:indicator="http://stix.mitre.org/Indicator-2"
    xmlns:stixCommon="http://stix.mitre.org/common-1"
    xmlns:stixVocabs="http://stix.mitre.org/
        \hookrightarrow default_vocabularies -1"
    xmlns:stix="http://stix.mitre.org/stix-1"
    xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance" id
        \hookrightarrow="edge: Package -12345678 -1234 -1234 -1234 -123456789 abc
        \hookrightarrow" version="1.1.1" timestamp="2015-02-11T21
        \hookrightarrow:16:31.157529+00:00">
    <stix:STIX_Header&gt;
         <stix:Handling&gt;
             <marking:Marking&gt;
                  < marking: Controlled_Structure&gt
                      \hookrightarrow; ../../../descendant-or-self::node()
                      ⇔</marking:Controlled_Structure&gt;
                  <marking:Marking_Structure xsi:type='

    tlpMarking:TLPMarkingStructureType;

    color = "GREEN"/>
             </marking:Marking&gt;
         </stix:Handling&gt;
    </stix:STIX_Header&gt;
    <stix:Indicators&gt;
         < stix: Indicator id="POUET: indicator
             \hookrightarrow -12345678 - 1234 - 1234 - 1234 - 123456789 \, \texttt{abc"} \  \  \, \texttt{xsi:type}
             \hookrightarrow='indicator:IndicatorType' version="2.0">
             <indicator:Type&gt;Malicious E-mail&lt;/
                  \hookrightarrow indicator: Type>
             <indicator:Description&gt;....description
                 \hookrightarrow \texttt{goes here.....\</indicator:Description\&}
                 \hookrightarrowgt;
             <indicator:Observable idref="POUET:Observable
                 \hookrightarrow -12345678-1234-1234-1234-123456789 abc ">
             .... other stuff goes here....
             </indicator:Observable&gt;
         </stix:Indicator&gt;
    </stix:Indicators&gt;
</stix:STIX_Package&gt;
</taxii_11:Content>
<taxii_11:Timestamp_Label >2015-02-11T21:16:31.158100+00:00
    \hookrightarrowtaxii_11:Timestamp_Label>
</taxii_11:Content_Block>
```