

Project Obsidian

Obsidian Forensics:

The Importance of Sysmon for Investigations

ExtremePaperClip



whoami



ExtremePaperClip:

- Digital Forensics Nerd
- Linux Geek
- InfoSec Dork
- Lifelong Student of Everything
- Amateur History Buff
- Spice Fanatic
- Loads of Fun

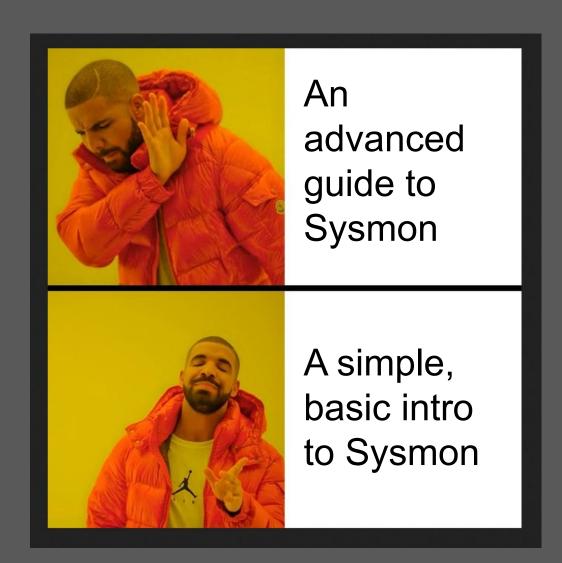
@ExtremePaperC



What this talk is... and is not

This talk IS NOT

This talk IS





agenda

- 1 What is Sysmon?
- 2 Overview of the Sysmon Events
- 3 What is the Sysmon Config?
- 4 Installing Sysmon
- 5 Examples of my favorite Sysmon Events
- 6 Sysmon examples during an investigation



What is Sysmon?

TL;DR

Sysmon creates the logs that *should* exist in Windows Event Logs by default, but do not.



What is Sysmon?

SOME FACTS ABOUT SYSMON:

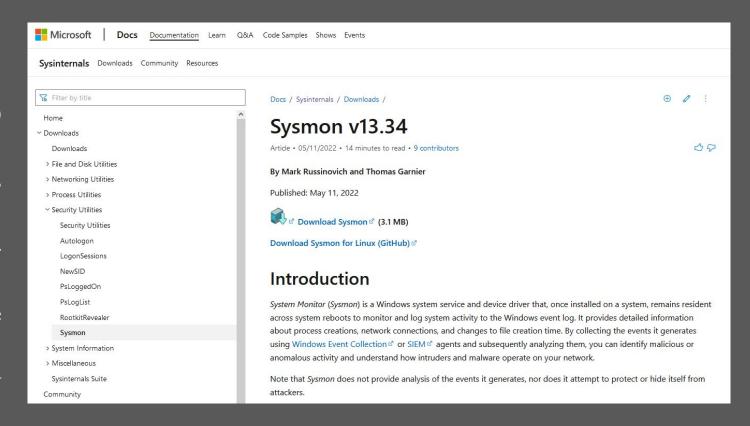
Sysmon (short for System Monitor)

Part of Windows Sysinternals

Released in 2014

Device Driver & Service

Creates logs specifically for Security





Brief History of Sysmon

First released in 2014

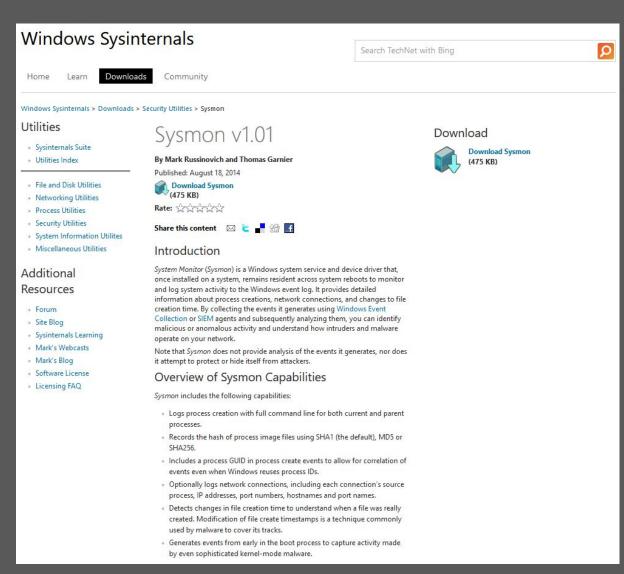
Initially only had 3 Event ID's

Event ID 1: Process creation

Event ID 2:

A process changed a file creation time

Event ID 3: Network connection





The latest version of Sysmon has 26 Event IDs

Sysmon v13.34

Article • 05/11/2022 • 14 minutes to read • 9 contributors

By Mark Russinovich and Thomas Garnier

Published: May 11, 2022



Download Sysmon for Linux (GitHub) ♂

ID	Tag
1 ProcessCreate	Process Create
2 FileCreateTime	File creation time
3 NetworkConnect	Network connection detected
4 n/a	Sysmon service state change (cannot be filtered)
5 ProcessTerminate	Process terminated
6 DriverLoad	Driver Loaded
7 ImageLoad	Image loaded
8 CreateRemoteThread	CreateRemoteThread detected
9 RawAccessRead	RawAccessRead detected
10 ProcessAccess	Process accessed
11 FileCreate	File created
12 RegistryEvent	Registry object added or deleted
13 RegistryEvent	Registry value set
14 RegistryEvent	Registry object renamed
15 FileCreateStreamHash	File stream created
16 n/a	Sysmon configuration change (cannot be filtered)
17 PipeEvent	Named pipe created
18 PipeEvent	Named pipe connected
19 WmiEvent	WMI filter
20 WmiEvent	WMI consumer
21 WmiEvent	WMI consumer filter
22 DNSQuery	DNS query
23 FileDelete	File Delete archived
24 ClipboardChange	New content in the dipboard
25 ProcessTampering	Process image change
26 FileDeleteDetected	File Delete logged



Event ID 1: Process creation

The process creation event provides extended information about a newly created process. The full command line provides context on the process execution. The ProcessGUID field is a unique value for this process across a domain to make event correlation easier. The hash is a full hash of the file with the algorithms in the HashType field.

Event ID 2: A process changed a file creation time

The change file creation time event is registered when a file creation time is explicitly modified by a process. This event helps tracking the real creation time of a file. Attackers may change the file creation time of a backdoor to make it look like it was installed with the operating system. Note that many processes legitimately change the creation time of a file; it does not necessarily indicate malicious activity.

Event ID 3: Network connection

The network connection event logs TCP/UDP connections on the machine. It is disabled by default. Each connection is linked to a process through the ProcessId and ProcessGUID fields. The event also contains the source and destination host names IP addresses, port numbers and IPv6 status.

Event ID 4: Sysmon service state changed

The service state change event reports the state of the Sysmon service (started or stopped).

Event ID 5: Process terminated

The process terminate event reports when a process terminates. It provides the UtcTime, ProcessGuid and ProcessId of the process.



Event ID 6: Driver loaded

The driver loaded events provides information about a driver being loaded on the system. The configured hashes are provided as well as signature information. The signature is created asynchronously for performance reasons and indicates if the file was removed after loading.

Event ID 7: Image loaded

The image loaded event logs when a module is loaded in a specific process. This event is disabled by default and needs to be configured with the –I option. It indicates the process in which the module is loaded, hashes and signature information. The signature is created asynchronously for performance reasons and indicates if the file was removed after loading. This event should be configured carefully, as monitoring all image load events will generate a large number of events.

Event ID 8: CreateRemoteThread

The CreateRemoteThread event detects when a process creates a thread in another process. This technique is used by malware to inject code and hide in other processes. The event indicates the source and target process. It gives information on the code that will be run in the new thread: StartAddress, StartModule and StartFunction. Note that StartModule and StartFunction fields are inferred, they might be empty if the starting address is outside loaded modules or known exported functions.



Event ID 9: RawAccessRead

The RawAccessRead event detects when a process conducts reading operations from the drive using the \\.\
denotation. This technique is often used by malware for data exfiltration of files that are locked for reading, as well as to avoid file access auditing tools. The event indicates the source process and target device.

Event ID 10: ProcessAccess

The process accessed event reports when a process opens another process, an operation that's often followed by information queries or reading and writing the address space of the target process. This enables detection of hacking tools that read the memory contents of processes like Local Security Authority (Lsass.exe) in order to steal credentials for use in Pass-the-Hash attacks. Enabling it can generate significant amounts of logging if there are diagnostic utilities active that repeatedly open processes to query their state, so it generally should only be done so with filters that remove expected accesses.

Event ID 11: FileCreate

File create operations are logged when a file is created or overwritten. This event is useful for monitoring autostart locations, like the Startup folder, as well as temporary and download directories, which are common places malware drops during initial infection.



Event ID 12: RegistryEvent (Object create and delete)

Registry key and value create and delete operations map to this event type, which can be useful for monitoring for changes to Registry autostart locations, or specific malware registry modifications.

Sysmon uses abbreviated versions of Registry root key names, with the following mappings:

Key name	Abbreviation
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE	HKLM
HKEY_USERS	нки
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\System\ControlSet00x	HKLM\System\CurrentControlSet
HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Classes	HKCR

Event ID 13: RegistryEvent (Value Set)

This Registry event type identifies Registry value modifications. The event records the value written for Registry values of type DWORD and QWORD.

Event ID 14: RegistryEvent (Key and Value Rename)

Registry key and value rename operations map to this event type, recording the new name of the key or value that was renamed.



Event ID 15: FileCreateStreamHash

This event logs when a named file stream is created, and it generates events that log the hash of the contents of the file to which the stream is assigned (the unnamed stream), as well as the contents of the named stream. There are malware variants that drop their executables or configuration settings via browser downloads, and this event is aimed at capturing that based on the browser attaching a Zone. Identifier "mark of the web" stream.

Event ID 16: ServiceConfigurationChange

This event logs changes in the Sysmon configuration - for example when the filtering rules are updated.

Event ID 17: PipeEvent (Pipe Created)

This event generates when a named pipe is created. Malware often uses named pipes for interprocess communication.

Event ID 18: PipeEvent (Pipe Connected)

This event logs when a named pipe connection is made between a client and a server.



Event ID 19: WmiEvent (WmiEventFilter activity detected)

When a WMI event filter is registered, which is a method used by malware to execute, this event logs the WMI namespace, filter name and filter expression.

Event ID 20: WmiEvent (WmiEventConsumer activity detected)

This event logs the registration of WMI consumers, recording the consumer name, log, and destination.

Event ID 21: WmiEvent (WmiEventConsumerToFilter activity detected)

When a consumer binds to a filter, this event logs the consumer name and filter path.



Event ID 22: DNSEvent (DNS query)

This event is generated when a process executes a DNS query, whether the result is successful or fails, cached or not. The telemetry for this event was added for Windows 8.1 so it is not available on Windows 7 and earlier.

Event ID 23: FileDelete (File Delete archived)

A file was deleted. Additionally to logging the event, the deleted file is also saved in the ArchiveDirectory (which is C:\Sysmon by default). Under normal operating conditions this directory might grow to an unreasonable size - see event ID 26: FileDeleteDetected for similar behavior but without saving the deleted files.

Event ID 24: ClipboardChange (New content in the clipboard)

This event is generated when the system clipboard contents change.

Event ID 25: ProcessTampering (Process image change)

This event is generated when process hiding techniques such as "hollow" or "herpaderp" are being detected.

Event ID 26: FileDeleteDetected (File Delete logged)

A file was deleted.



What is the Sysmon Config?

TL;DR

The **Sysmon Config** file, is an XML file that defines what gets *included* or *excluded* in the Sysmon logs. It's a big deal.









WHY IS THE SYSMON CONFIG SO IMPORTANT?







Why is the Sysmon Config so important?



Include too much = Garbage Data Lake



Why is the Sysmon Config so important?



Exclude too much = You won't see the baddies



Sysmon Config Example

RuleGroup

ProcessCreate

Image

CommandLine

```
XML
  <EventFiltering>
    ≺RuleGroup name="group 1" groupRelation="and">
     <ProcessCreate onmatch="include">
       Image condition="contains">timeout.exe</Image>
       CommandLine condition="contains">100
      </ProcessCreate>
    </RuleGroup>
    <RuleGroup groupRelation="or">
      <ProcessTerminate onmatch="include">
        <Image condition="contains">timeout.exe</Image>
       <Image condition="contains">ping.exe</Image>
      </ProcessTerminate>
    </RuleGroup>
    <ImageLoad onmatch="include"/>
  </EventFiltering>
```



The Sysmon Config

Sysmon Config Conditions

Condition	Description
is	Default, values are equals
is any	The field is one of the ; delimited values
is not	Values are different
contains	The field contains this value
contains any	The field contains any of the ; delimited values
contains all	The field contains all of the ; delimited values
excludes	The field does not contain this value
excludes any	The field does not contain one or more of the ; delimited values
excludes all	The field does not contain any of the ; delimited values
begin with	The field begins with this value
end with	The field ends with this value
not begin with	The field does not begin with this value
not end with	The field does not end with this value
less than	Lexicographical comparison is less than zero
more than	Lexicographical comparison is more than zero
image	Match an image path (full path or only image name). For example: lsass.exe will match c:\windows\system32



Pre-Made Sysmon Config?

YOUR BRAIN RIGHT NOW:

"...so where do I get a good pre-made Sysmon Config that I can start with?"

Great Question



Pre-Made Sysmon Config



"Sup, people?
...I heard you like bad-ass
pre-made Sysmon Configs
...Right?"

Note: Olaf Hartong never said this

Introducing: "Olaf Hartong"



Olaf's Sysmon Config

In Short:

Olaf's Sysmon Config Rules



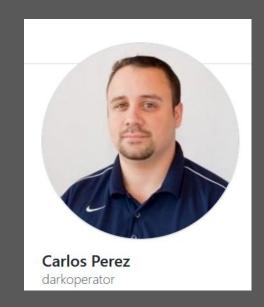
```
NOTICE: This is a balanced generated output of Sysmon-modular with medium verbosity
                                                                                                                           -->
                          due to the balanced nature of this configuration there will be potential blind spots
                                                                                                                           -->
<!--
                          for more information go to https://github.com/olafhartong/sysmon-modular/wiki
                                                                                                                           -->
                                                                                                                           -->
                                                                                                                           -->
<!-- ///#(**
                          **%(///
                                                                                                                           -->
<!-- ((&&&**
                         **&&&((
<!-- (&&&**
     ((&&**()))))))//(((((/**&&))
                                   (&&///((////((((((////&&(
       &////(/////(((((/(////&
       ((// ////////// /(((
      &(((((#./////// #((((&
       &&&&((#//////((#((&&&&
         &&&&(#/***//(#(&&&&
<!--
                                                                                                                           -->
           &&&&****///&&&&
<!--
                                                                                                  by Olaf Hartong
                                                                                                                           -->
<!--
                                                                                                                           -->
<!--
               .*&&*.
                                                                                                                           -->
<!--
                                                                                                                           -->
<Sysmon schemaversion="4.60">
 <HashAlgorithms>*</HashAlgorithms>
 <!-- This now also determines the file names of the files preserved (String) -->
 <CheckRevocation>False</CheckRevocation>
 <!-- Setting this to true might impact performance -->
  <DnsLookup>False</DnsLookup>
 <!-- Disables lookup behavior, default is True (Boolean) -->
  <ArchiveDirectory>Sysmon</ArchiveDirectory>
  <!-- Sets the name of the directory in the C:\ root where preserved files will be saved (String)-->
  <EventFiltering>
   <!-- Event ID 1 == Process Creation - Includes -->
   <RuleGroup groupRelation="or">
     <ProcessCreate onmatch="include">
       <ParentImage name="technique id=T1546.008,technique name=Accessibility Features" condition="image">sethc.exe</ParentImage>
       <ParentImage name="technique id=T1546.008,technique name=Accessibility Features" condition="image">utilman.exe</ParentImage>
       <ParentImage name="technique id=T1546 008 technique name=Accessibility Features" condition="image" losk exec/ParentImage</p>
```

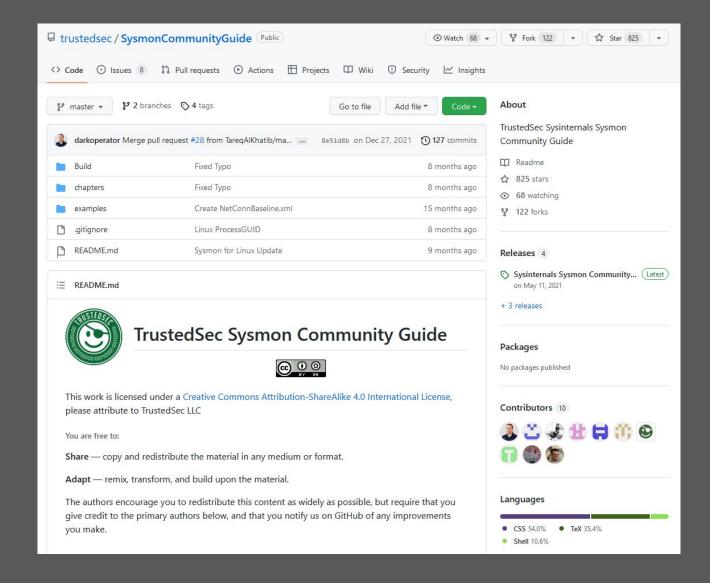


TrustedSec Sysmon Community Guide

TrustedSec has a wonderful Sysmon guide

Written by Carlos Perez







Installing Sysmon

1 - Download Sysmon, unzip

https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/downloads/sysmon

2 - Save Sysmon config to the SAME folder

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/olafhartong/sysmon-modular/master/sysmonconfig.xml

3 - Run this command:

Sysmon64.exe -accepteula -i sysmonconfig.xml



Installing Sysmon

Done

```
C:\Example>Sysmon64.exe -accepteula -i sysmonconfig.xml

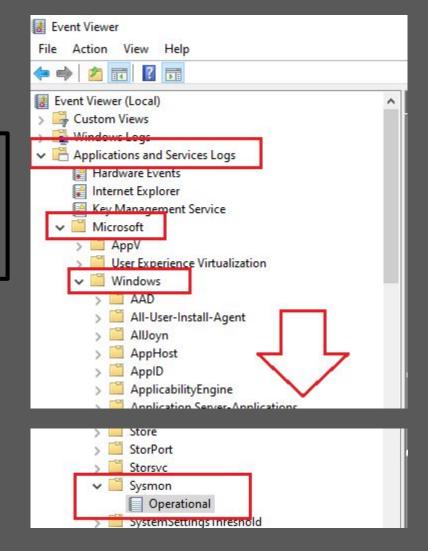
System Monitor v13.34 - System activity monitor
By Mark Russinovich and Thomas Garnier
Copyright (C) 2014-2022 Microsoft Corporation
Using libxml2. libxml2 is Copyright (C) 1998-2012 Daniel Veillard. All Rights Reserved.
Sysinternals - www.sysinternals.com

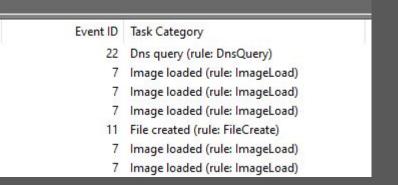
Loading configuration file with schema version 4.60
Sysmon schema version: 4.81
Configuration file validated.
Sysmon64 installed.
SysmonDrv installed.
Starting SysmonDrv.
SysmonDrv started.
Starting Sysmon64..
Sysmon64 started.
```



Installing Sysmon

To see the Sysmon logs:







Now what?

"OK, I have installed Sysmon ...now what?"

Send Sysmon events to a SIEM!



555

"Wait...what is a SIEM?"

(SIEM) = Security Information & Event Management







(Paid/Free)

https://www.splunk.com/

(Free)

https://securityonionsolutions.com/

(Free)

https://www.elastic.co/



Examples of my favorite Sysmon Events

Event ID 1: Process creation

The process creation event provides extended information about a newly created process. The full command line provides context on the process execution. The ProcessGUID field is a unique value for this process across a domain to make event correlation easier. The hash is a full hash of the file with the algorithms in the HashType field.

Event ID 3: Network connection

The network connection event logs TCP/UDP connections on the machine. It is disabled by default. Each connection is linked to a process through the ProcessId and ProcessGUID fields. The event also contains the source and destination host names IP addresses, port numbers and IPv6 status.

Event ID 22: DNSEvent (DNS query)

This event is generated when a process executes a DNS query, whether the result is successful or fails, cached or not. The telemetry for this event was added for Windows 8.1 so it is not available on Windows 7 and earlier.



Example: Sysmon Event ID 1

Event ID 1: Process creation

The process creation event provides extended information about a newly created process. The full command line provides context on the process execution. The ProcessGUID field is a unique value for this process across a domain to make event correlation easier. The hash is a full hash of the file with the algorithms in the HashType field.

Process Create: RuleName: (NOTE: Olaf's Sysmon config contains MITRE ATT&CK ID's here) UtcTime: ProcessGuid: {61eeb816-d6f3-62d0-0d08-000000003800} ProcessId: 14580 Image: C:\Program Files (x86)\Notepad++\notepad++.exe FileVersion: 8.42 Description: Notepad++ Product: Notepad++ Company: Don HO don.h@free.fr OriginalFileName: notepad++.exe CommandLine: "C:\Program Files (x86)\Notepad++\notepad++.exe" CurrentDirectory: C:\Program Files (x86)\Notepad++\ User: USERNAME LogonGuid: {6leeb816-4lcd-62d0-26fd-330000000000} LogonId: 0x33FD26 TerminalSessionId: 2 IntegrityLevel: Medium Hashes: SHA1=D9F5FAFB314734F80D3E642B29BAC080ED737BB0,MD5=36CE3E79389C99C62\$ ParentProcessGuid: {61eeb816-41cf-62d0-7101-000000003800} ParentProcessId: 2056 ParentImage: C:\Windows\explorer.exe ParentCommandLine: C:\Windows\Explorer.EXE ParentUser: HOSTNAME\ACCOUNT



Example: Sysmon Event ID 3

Event ID 3: Network connection

The network connection event logs TCP/UDP connections on the machine. It is disabled by default. Each connection is linked to a process through the ProcessId and ProcessGUID fields. The event also contains the source and destination host names IP addresses, port numbers and IPv6 status.

```
Network connection detected:
RuleName: technique id=T1036, technique name=Masquerading
UtcTime:
ProcessGuid: {6leeb816-cebc-62cf-5900-00000003800}
ProcessId: 3636
Image: C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\Windows Defender\Platform\4.18.2205.7-0\MsMpEng.exe
User: NT AUTHORITY\SYSTEM
Protocol: tcp
Initiated: true
SourceIsIpv6: false
SourceIp: 192.168.1.20
SourceHostname: -
SourcePort: 1079
SourcePortName: -
DestinationIsIpv6: false
DestinationIp: 13.87.187.111
DestinationHostname: -
DestinationPort: 443
DestinationPortName: -
```



Example: Sysmon Event ID 22

Event ID 22: DNSEvent (DNS query)

This event is generated when a process executes a DNS query, whether the result is successful or fails, cached or not. The telemetry for this event was added for Windows 8.1 so it is not available on Windows 7 and earlier.

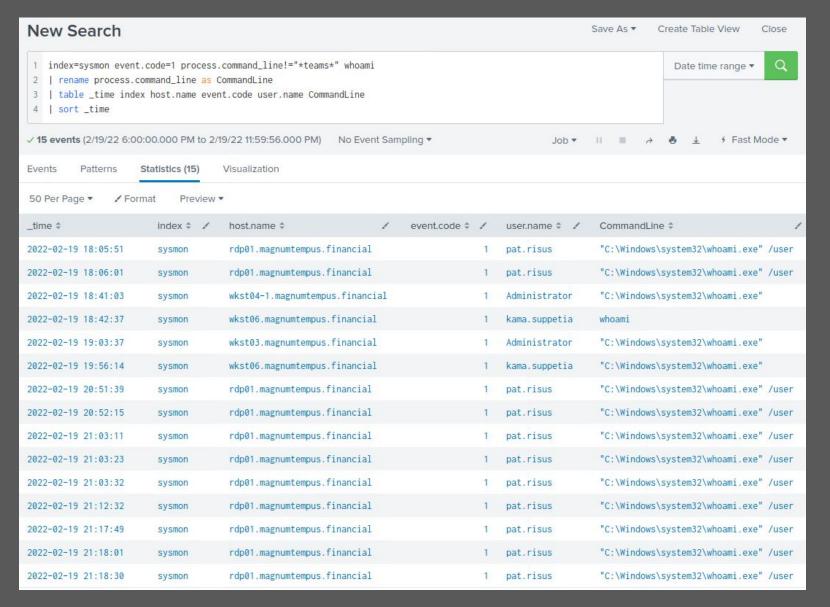
```
Dns query:
RuleName: -
UtcTime:
ProcessGuid: {6leeb816-41f6-62d0-cb01-000000003800}
ProcessId: 9544
QueryName: addons-pa.clients6.google.com
QueryStatus: 0
QueryResults: 2607:f8b0:4007:814::200a;
Image: C:\Program Files\Mozilla Firefox\firefox.exe
User: HOSTNAME\ACCOUNT
```



Sysmon examples during an investigation

Sysmon Event ID 1

'"whoami"

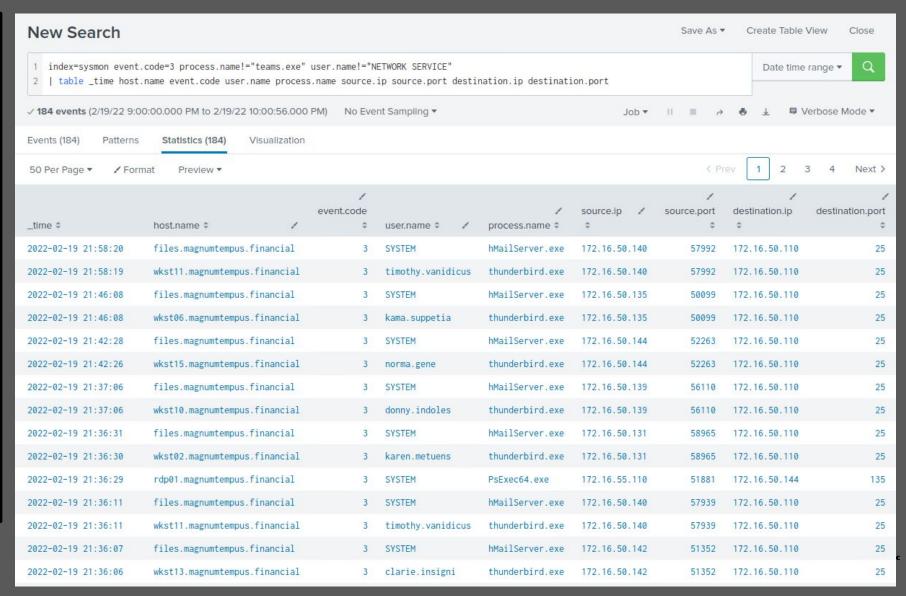




Sysmon examples during an investigation

Sysmon Event ID 3

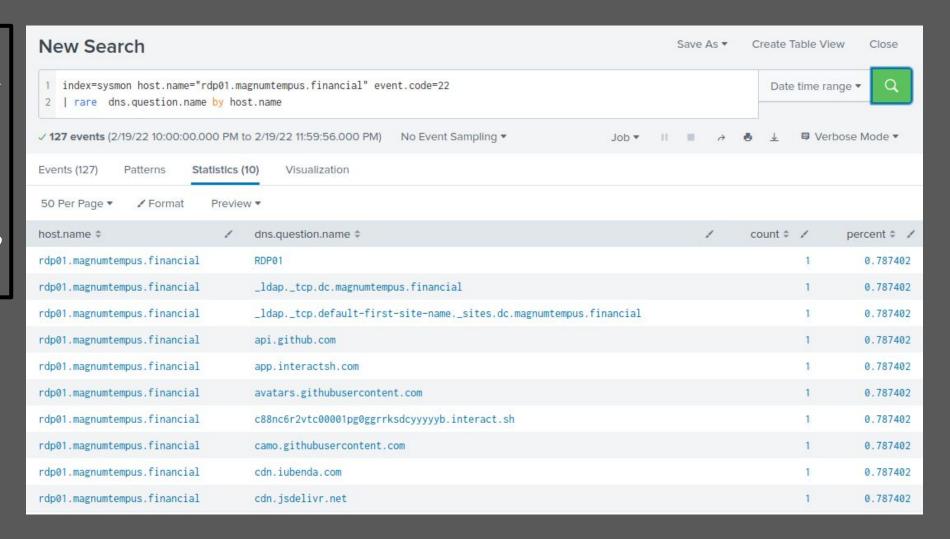
"processes"
"sourceIP"
"sourcePort"
"destIP"
"destPort"



Sysmon examples during an investigation

Sysmon Event ID 22

"rare DNS"



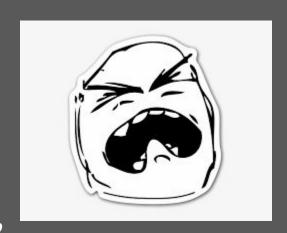


Some closing thoughts on Sysmon

"Rarely"

"Never"

"Hardly Ever"



"Never"

"Rarely"

"Yes, but not configured to send to the SIEM"





Project Obsidian THANK YOU!

join the conversation

https://discord.blueteamvillage.org

