Threat Hunting: Velociraptor for Endpoint Monitoring

hackingarticles.in/threat-hunting-velociraptor-for-endpoint-monitoring

Raj September 1, 2020

A velociraptor is a tool for collecting host-based state information using Velocidex Query Language (VQL) queries.

To learn more about Velociraptor, read the documentation on https://www.velocidex.com/docs

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Introduction to Velociraptor

Velociraptor is a free and open-source software project developed by the Velocidex Company. Velociraptor is generally based on GRR, OSQuery, and Google's Rekall tools. Velociraptor allows users to collect Forensics Evidence, Threat Hunting, Monitoring artifacts, Executing remote triage process. As an open-source platform, Velociraptor continues to improve and evolve through inputs and feedback of digital forensics investigation and cybersecurity practitioner

Velociraptor natively works on Linux, Windows, and macOS. You can create or deploy a server within few minutes using SCCM or Group policy.

Architecture

Main components- all in one binary

Frontend

- · Receive connections from clients
- Queue message to clients
- Process Responses from clients (Flows)

GUI

Allow Scheduling Flows/Hunts

- Inspect results from Flows/Hunts
- View the client's virtual file system

What is VQL

Velociraptor Query Language (VQL) is an expressive query language designed to adapt your requirements easily without doing any modifications in codes, Query, or artifacts nor deploying any additional software.

VQL encapsulates digital forensics expertise into human-readable files called 'artifacts' which can be shared and exchanged freely within the community.

Let's begin

As shown in the above image there are a few agents like windows or Linux or cloud distros... these agents will point to TCP port 8000 while Digital forensics or cybersecurity experts will consult the web interface to TCP port 8889. The best part of this Architecture is if one of the computers leaves the office or another environment and operates from home or by any other place, it will be able to continue reporting to the server.

Prerequisites

To configure Velociraptor in your Windows Platform, there are some prerequisites required for installation.

- Windows 10 with minimum 4gb Ram and 4 CPU cores
- Admin privileges
- CMD with admin Privilege

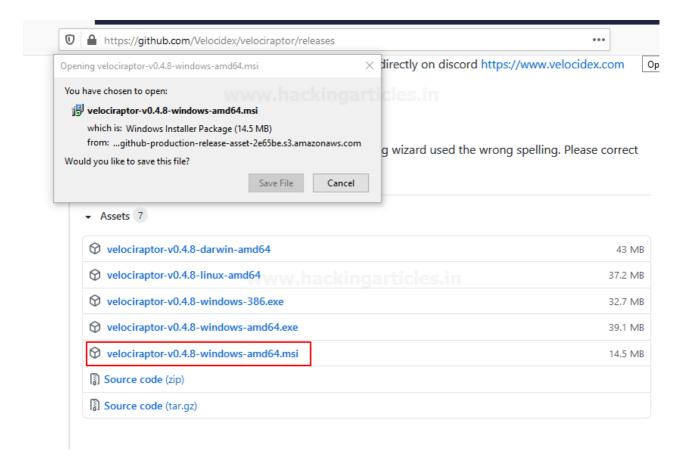
Velociraptor Environment

In this blog we will target to install Velociraptor on windows 10, to make it as real as possible, the installation can be carried out to a server in the cloud as shown in the image above. In this blog, I'm going to use windows 10 as a server. You can Download Velociraptor by following the below Link.

https://github.com/Velocidex/velociraptor/releases

Windows Version

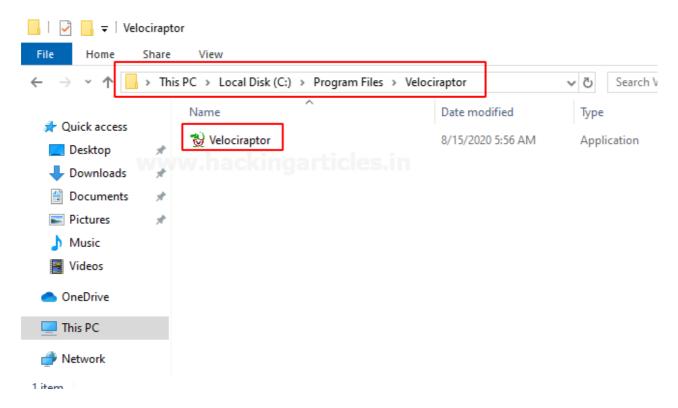
To download the latest version of Velociraptor in a windows server, go to the official GitHub page by following the above link then locate and select the option **velociraptor-v0.4.8-windows-amd64.msi** or you can directly download by accessing the above .msi extension hyperlink.



Velociraptor installation

Let's start deploying master server in windows And after the download complete what we can do now is to go to the download folder and just simply install it.

Here, windows will try to prevent this happening but once the installer is complete what we saw here is that under the program files have the Velociraptor folder.



now let's open the command prompt with administrator privilege and navigate to

```
cd C:\Program Files\Velociraptor
```

so now what we need to do is to generate the configuration to do this enter the below arguments into the CMD prompt

velociraptor.exe config generate -i

```
C:\Program Files\Velociraptor>Velociraptor.exe config generate -i 🚤
 What OS will the server be deployed on? windows
 Please select the datastore implementation
 FileBaseDataStore
 Path to the datastore directory. C:\Windows\Temp
Welcome to the Velociraptor configuration generator
I will be creating a new deployment configuration for you. I will
begin by identifying what type of deployment you need.
Self Signed SSL
 Enter the frontend port to listen on. 8000
 What is the public DNS name of the Frontend (e.g. www.example.com): localhost
 Enter the port for the GUI to listen on. 8889
 Are you using Google Domains DynDNS? No
 GUI Username or email address to authorize (empty to end):
[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:29:32-07:00 Generating keys please wait....
 Path to the logs directory. C:\Windows\Temp/logs
 Where should i write the server config file? server.config.yaml
 Where should i write the client config file? client.config.yaml
C:\Program Files\Velociraptor>_
```

And we would like to generate the configuration for the Windows machine so select windows and then hit enter then next select FilebaseDatastore you can also go with the MySQL option but the MySQL option is suitable for the production environment and then next select the path of Velociraptor configuration is c:\window\Temp and then use Self-signed SSL we would like to leave everything on default but if you have different requirements you can make changes as per your own and at last we are not using any google domains so on that place type N and hit enter and enter till last to set options as default as shown In the image below.

Now you can check the configuration of your server by entering below argument

```
type server.config.yaml
```

```
C:\Program Files\Velociraptor>type server.config.yaml
version:
 name: velociraptor
 version: 0.4.8
 commit: 5ba463d2
 build_time: "2020-08-15T22:41:35+10:00"
Client:
 server urls:
  - https://localhost:8000/
 ca certificate: |
    ----BEGIN CERTIFICATE----
   MIIDKzCCAhOgAwIBAgIRAICuk+MgCA7I4QwoeAoiFWgwDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQAw
   GjEYMBYGA1UEChMPVmVsb2NpcmFwdG9yIENBMB4XDTIwMDgzMDE4MjkzMloXDTMw
   MDgyODE4MjkzMlowGjEYMBYGA1UEChMPVmVsb2NpcmFwdG9yIENBMIIBIjANBgkq
   hkiG9w0BAQEFAAOCAQ8AMIIBCgKCAQEAp10ujavF7+pjSZBdkFzG9SIBaeNu1f0T
    7oNsPZylwTz90towSOo/iWVv+JUSvlncv78wTrd+F4eAZBEQjkC6zDsviXoJqUDx
   GPHeK4mkDIIk3yByEzJFzwIlcWuJPMU8D6cD70YvfEBwWHNrSv8BGhtGPTQaesnX
    wI9oBrJIl16NpciP9CmkzFIMjAGbSP9g2Nd+P02mzQaGbXmRMQqRQu5BK5C4XAxT
    BJ3Yosf1+o5rWP7SxvYRct1N/q01JYeKGmyOhN1rBTEJf11N0JRFM8yL76sIUsbg
    KVkogl9pIBUw3M9BayX0ASjWbCQ0YNISKhifeGC7rAPX74J2oJ3BvwIDAQABo2ww
    ajAOBgNVHQ8BAf8EBAMCAqQwHQYDVR01BBYwFAYIKwYBBQUHAwEGCCsGAQUFBwMC
   MA8GA1UdEwEB/wQFMAMBAf8wKAYDVR0RBCEwH4IdVmVsb2NpcmFwdG9yX2NhLnZ1
   bG9jaWRleC5jb20wDQYJKoZIhvcNAQELBQADggEBADdT1UgF245KmXFKduJCXKH9
   ZMOSg+QSsxePvjqOvtQeyPhZtP3/voGUj7+03JLw1h+nhHJfP+40f42pNmfBQjXV
   MnOe0po5C7TbYXkGG64rkPgoKrgXugABlT2tyvFlm1qzS0ifOoJbIWpJ7QsQM82M
    embdVbA/UzbfQHzhZ/WyxJG+QmmHp3Zk6POuFw+eMrCtx2qzkZZnmBr0Op8dtMof
   NORUo/yvlVoq2nkkVyrhsi7/Unl8LZfsVGhVDORAaHbDCaE0/gZtlzH2y6Q5dTPP
   WQoju8ipBecQJ4wHIfvYgTBLhO5KdPFRo9CHeoG++Lo2rUCU+bdftQsgqScQxOY=
    ----END CERTIFICATE----
 nonce: oqt8hQR+15U=
 writeback_darwin: /etc/velociraptor.writeback.yaml
 writeback linux: /etc/velociraptor.writeback.yaml
 writeback_windows: $ProgramFiles\Velociraptor\velociraptor.writeback.yaml
 max_poll: 60
 windows_installer:
    service_name: Velociraptor
    install_path: $ProgramFiles\Velociraptor\Velociraptor.exe
    service_description: Velociraptor service
 darwin installer:
    service_name: com.velocidex.velociraptor
    install_path: /usr/local/sbin/velociraptor
 version:
   name: velociraptor
   version: 0.4.8
   commit: 5ba463d2
   build_time: "2020-08-15T22:41:35+10:00"
 use_self_signed_ssl: true
  pinned_server_name: VelociraptorServer
 max_upload_size: 5242880
 local buffer:
```

And as we can see what the configuration for our server is and it sets our frontend is listening to **localhost** port **8000** and the certificate directory and so on... basically it's just a description what the configuration for our server.

Now, since we have this part done what we need to is to add user and we can do it with entering the below command

velociraptor.exe --config server.config.yaml user add vijay --role administrator

And we need to create the password to access the GUI interface

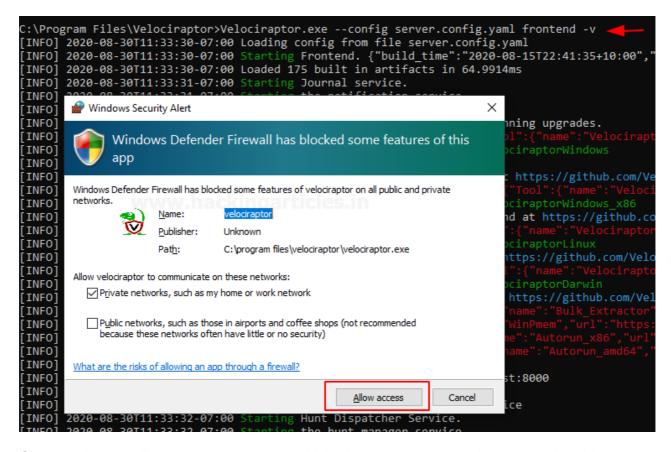
```
C:\Program Files\Velociraptor>Velociraptor.exe --config server.config.yaml user add vijay --role administrator _____
Enter user's password:
C:\Program Files\Velociraptor>_
```

and what we can do now is to run our server so how we can run it.... To do this issue the following command

velociraptor.exe --config server.config.yaml frontend -v

Here -v stands for verbose

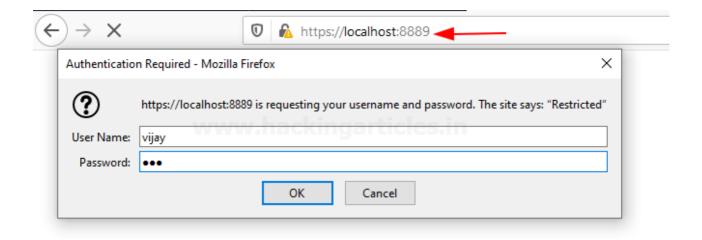
By running the above argument a prompt screen opens on your screen that needs admin access to setting up the environment and then the setup continues.



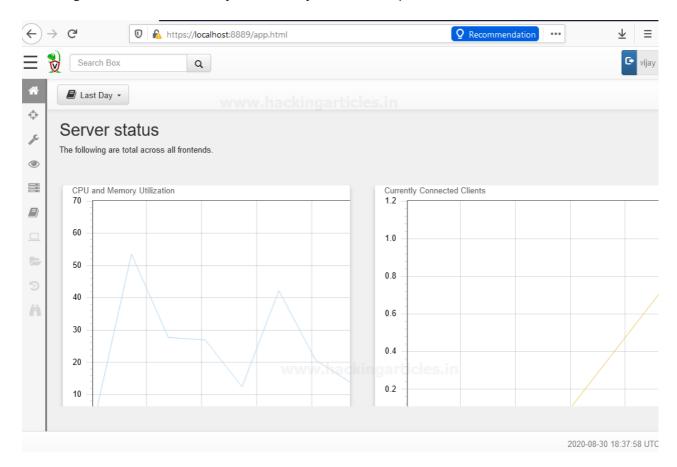
Congratulations! Finally, you have setup Velociraptor in your windows machine. You can now access the Velociraptor GUI interface at your favourite browser by ping following URL

https://localhost:8889

And use your credentials to log in that you created at the time of installation.



After login into the interface, you'll have your Velociraptor GUI dashboard



Here we can see the home page, which is about basically the load of the server, connected client's users, and so on....and this is not all we can end to do....

Addition of Host

Currently, we have no clients connected to the server so let's rectify that by opening a new terminal with admin privilege

And then follow the below arguments

```
cd C:\Program Files\Velociraptor
velociraptor.exe --config client.config.yaml client -v
```

And the client Is connected and is going to enrol in the specific server based on the client config file so you could use the client config file with very little modifications to enrol your client to your existing master server if needed in the future.

```
C:\Program Files\Velociraptor>Velociraptor.exe --config client.config.yaml client -v

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Loading config from file client.config.yaml

Genering new private key....

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Starting Crypto for client C.f22a3624995c4a4c

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Expecting self signed certificate for server.

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Expecting self signed certificate for server.

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Starting Event query service.

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Starting Nanny service.

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Starting HTTPCommunicator: HTTP Connector to [https://localhost:800[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Starting HTTPCommunicator: HTTP Connector to [https://localhost:8000/INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Received PEM for VelociraptorServer from https://localhost:8000/[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Receiver: Connected to https://localhost:8000/reader

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:03-07:00 Receiver: Enqueue {"item_len":925, "total_length":925}

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:04-07:00 Sender: Connected to https://localhost:8000/control

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:04-07:00 Ring Buffer: Commit {"leased_length":925, "total_length":925}

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:04-07:00 Ring Buffer: Commit {"leased_length":925, "total_length":925}

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:04-07:00 Ring Buffer: Truncate {"total_length":925, "total_length":925}

[INFO] 2020-08-30T11:35:04-07:00 Receiver: sent 674 bytes, response with status: 200 OK

[DEBUG] 2020-08-30T11:35:04-07:00 Receiver sent 674 bytes, response with status: 200 OK

[DEBUG] 2020-08-30T11:35:04-07:00 Receiver sent 674 bytes, response with status: 200 OK

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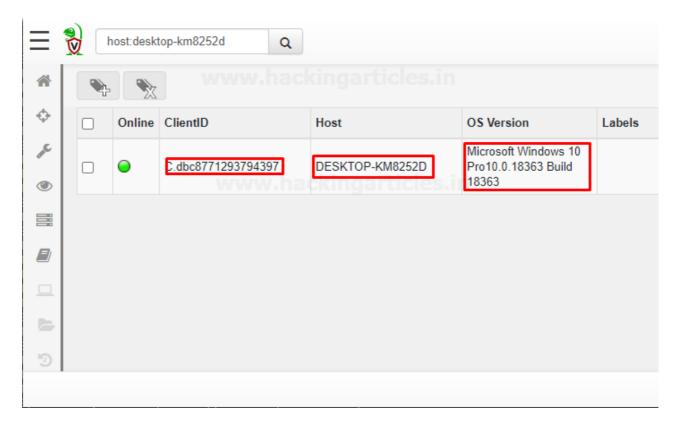
[DEBUG] 2020-08-30T11:35:04-07:00 Receiver sent 674 bytes, response with status: 200 OK

[DEBUG] 2020-08-30
```

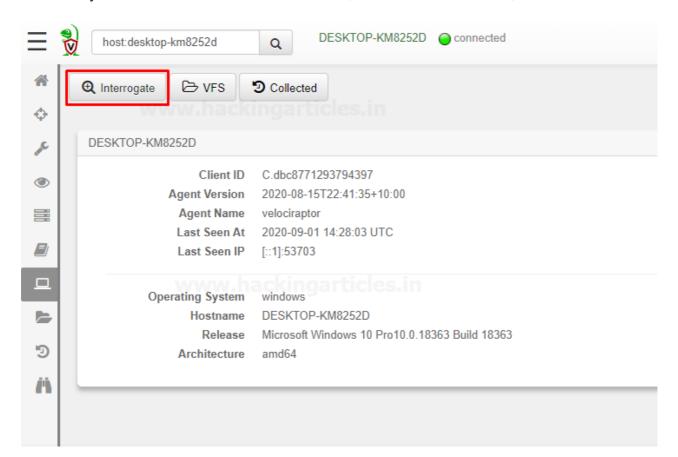
And now what you see is that your client has successfully connected to the localhost and we have one client added into the master server.

Forensics Investigation / Threat Hunting

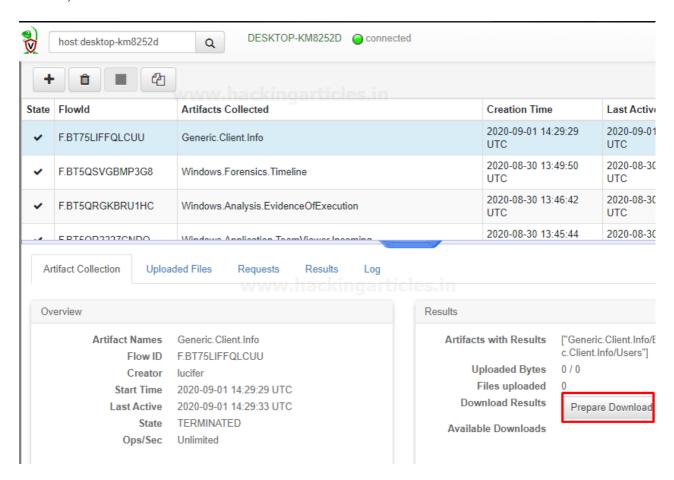
Now if you go back to the homepage you could be able to see your host by searching in the filter box.



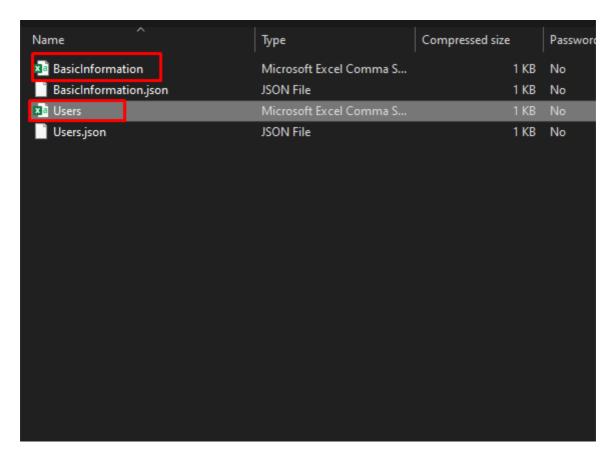
And then you can see the host have a client id, hostname OS version, and so on....



And we could interrogate the host and we could check collected information and by default, some basic information is collected about clients.

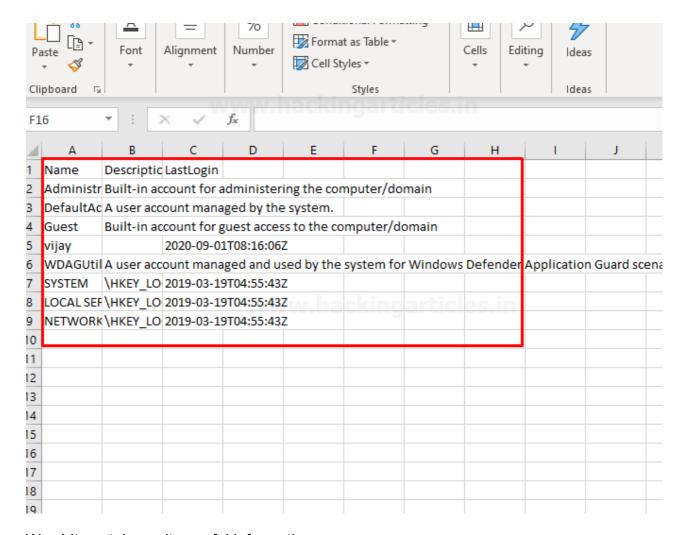


So now what we can and should do is to try to figure out what's inside this information by downloading it. As we can see a zip folder downloaded inside downloads after opening it you can see these files there that contain the host details.



Let's check what's inside these folders open it one by one and this part is gonna a little bit special but it's not enough

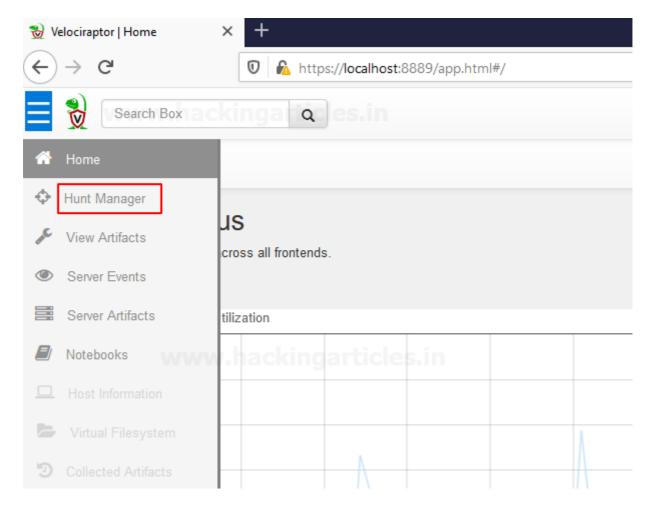
Hold tight!



Wow! It contains quite useful information

Let's dig it deeper

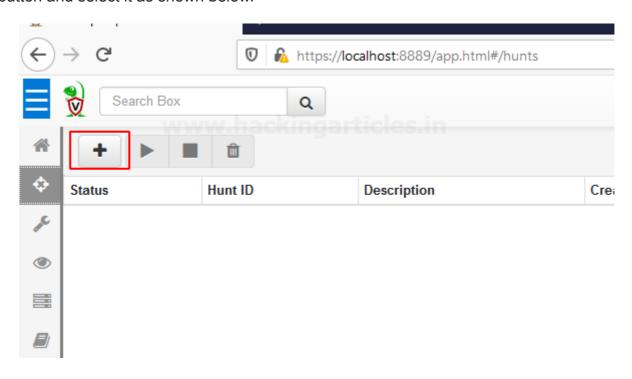
So now we have the **Hunt manager** you can easily find it on your Dashboard



Hunt manager allows you to hunt for the specific events that happened to your client and also you can view specific artifacts and you could see the server events as well and you could check server artifacts on the dashboard console of Velociraptor

Let's begin the **Hunt**

we need to create a hunt with specific artifacts To do this move your cursor to the "+" button and select it as shown below.

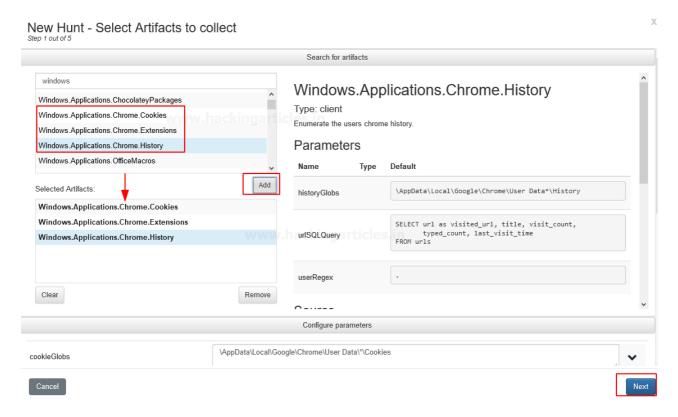


Chrome Hunting

Now the time has come for us to like spy on our user HaHaHa with the help of our clients if they are using chrome so we are going to check on which website or page they have visited recently unless they are not using incognito mode

To create new hunt in the search window start typing windows then select the artifacts that you want to hunt and add then select "**Next**",

In my case, I'm selecting Chrome Cookies, Chrome Extensions, Chrome History you can select as much you want.

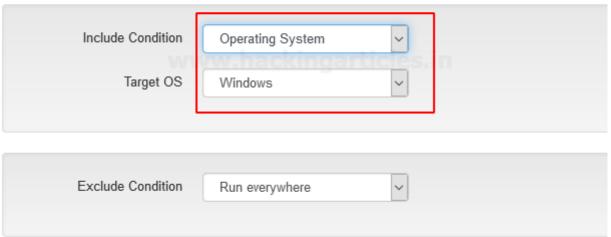


After selecting next it redirects you to next prompt when you need to Hunt Description and then select "**Next**"

Hunt conditions should be in "operating system" select it in the drop-down menu of Include Condition then select Target OS "Windows" and then hit "Next"

New Hunt - Where to run? Step 3 out of 5

Cancel

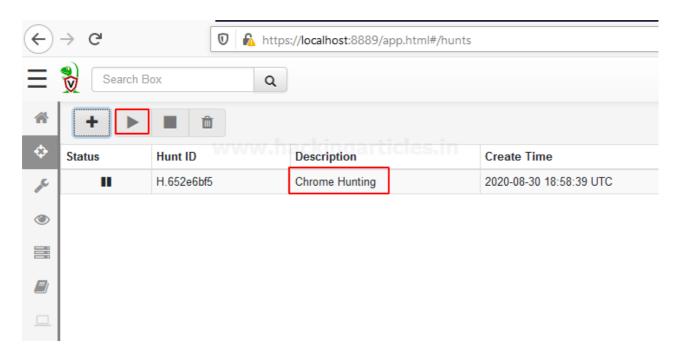


At next screen, you have your hunt Description or Artefact review if you do some modifications with the artifacts if needed otherwise leave it as default and then select option "Create Hunt"

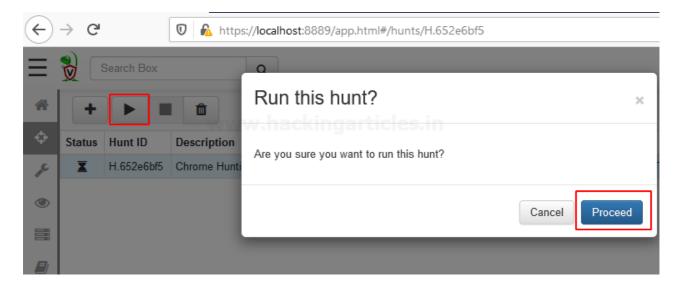
Back Next

Back Create Hunt

Now we have created a new Hunt Named Chrome Hunting it reflects to your Hunts panel And We would like to run this hunt by pressing the play button to see what's next in the result...

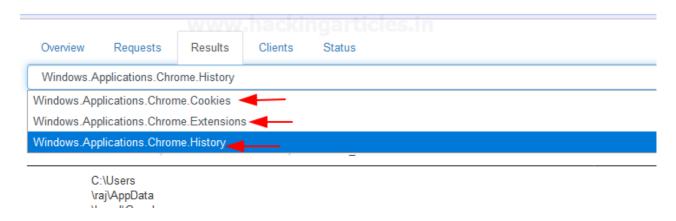


And then a pop flash on your screen that wants your permission to proceed...

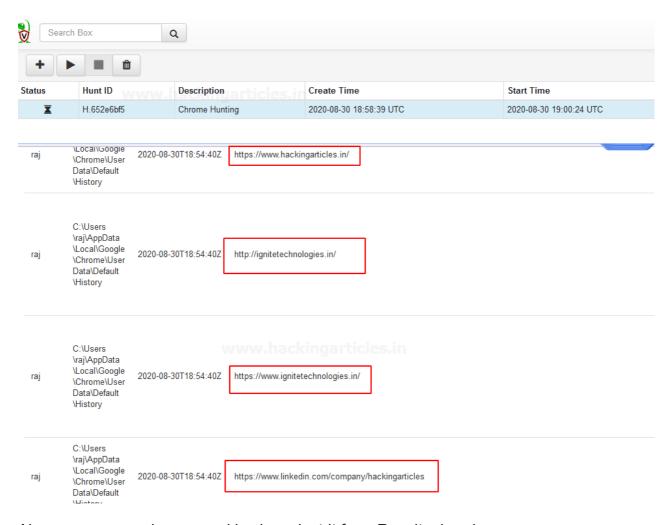


After proceeding it will take you to next screen where you have your hunt results you can select which results you want to see by drop down the Results tab

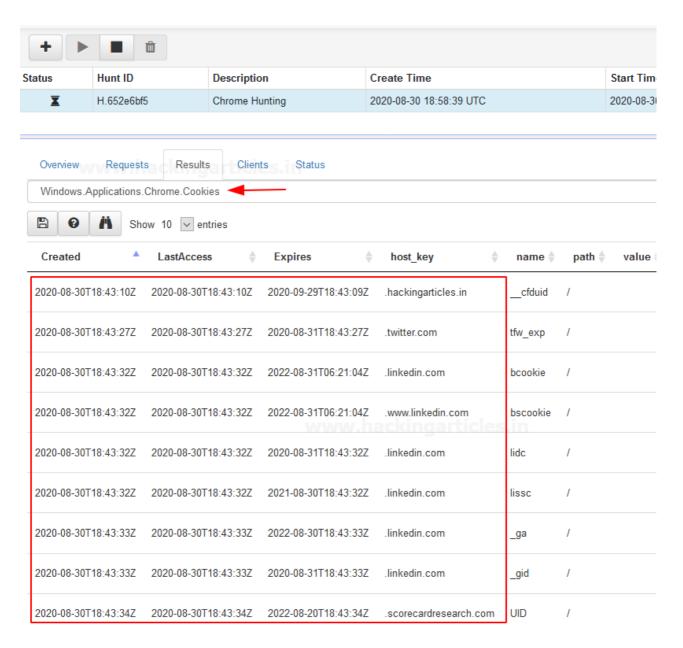




As we can see we have a history of chrome that the client used to visit on the chrome



Also, we can see chrome cookies by select It form Results dropdown



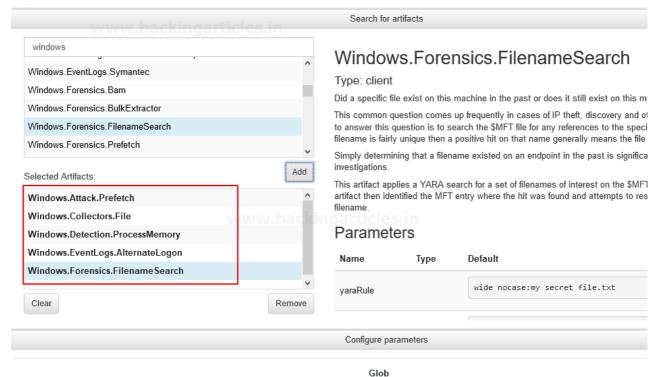
Let's Begin some Forensics investigation

Will do it by adding some predefined windows artifacts here, I'm using

- · Attack.Prefetch
- · Collectors.File
- Detection.ProcessMemory
- EventLogs.AlternateLogon
- · Forensics.FilenameSearch

New Hunt - Select Artifacts to collect

Step 1 out of 5



Enter the Hunt Parameters or Hunt Description

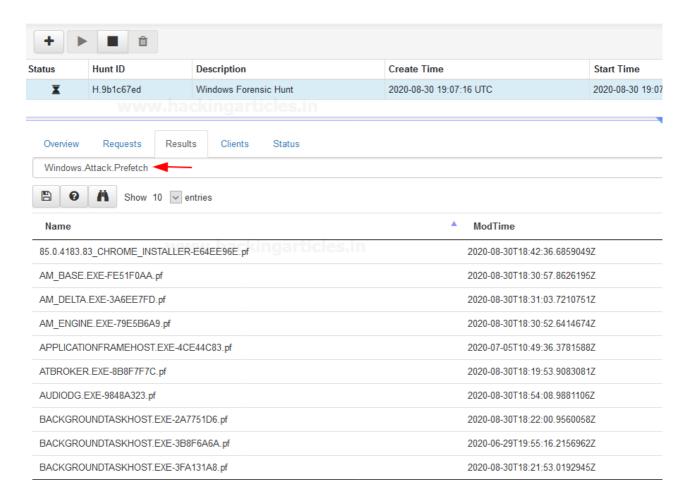
New Hunt - Hunt parameters

Step 2 out of 5

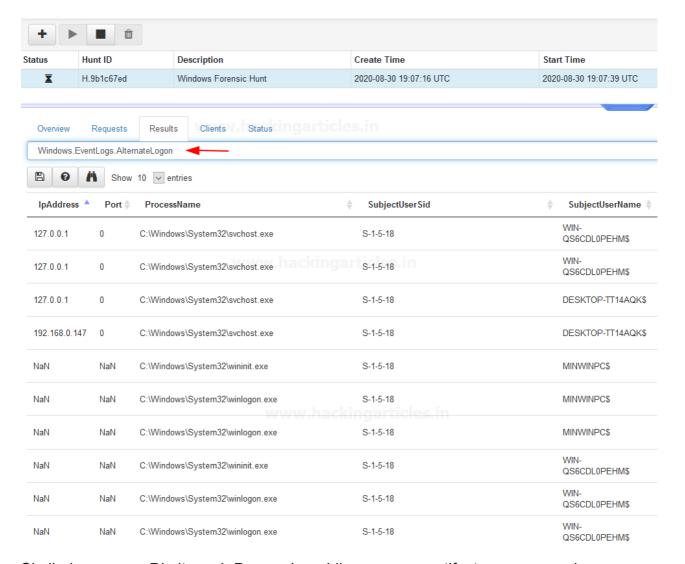
Hunt Description

Windows Forensic Hunt

And at the next screen, we have our Hunt results.... For example, if you want to see "Windows.Attack.Prefetch" select It form Results dropdown



Same if you want to see "Windows.EvemtLogs.AlternateLogon" select it from result dropdown and hit enter....



Similarly, you can Dig it much Deeper by adding as many artifacts as you need

Hang tight this is not enough!

More will be discussed in part 2nd.

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