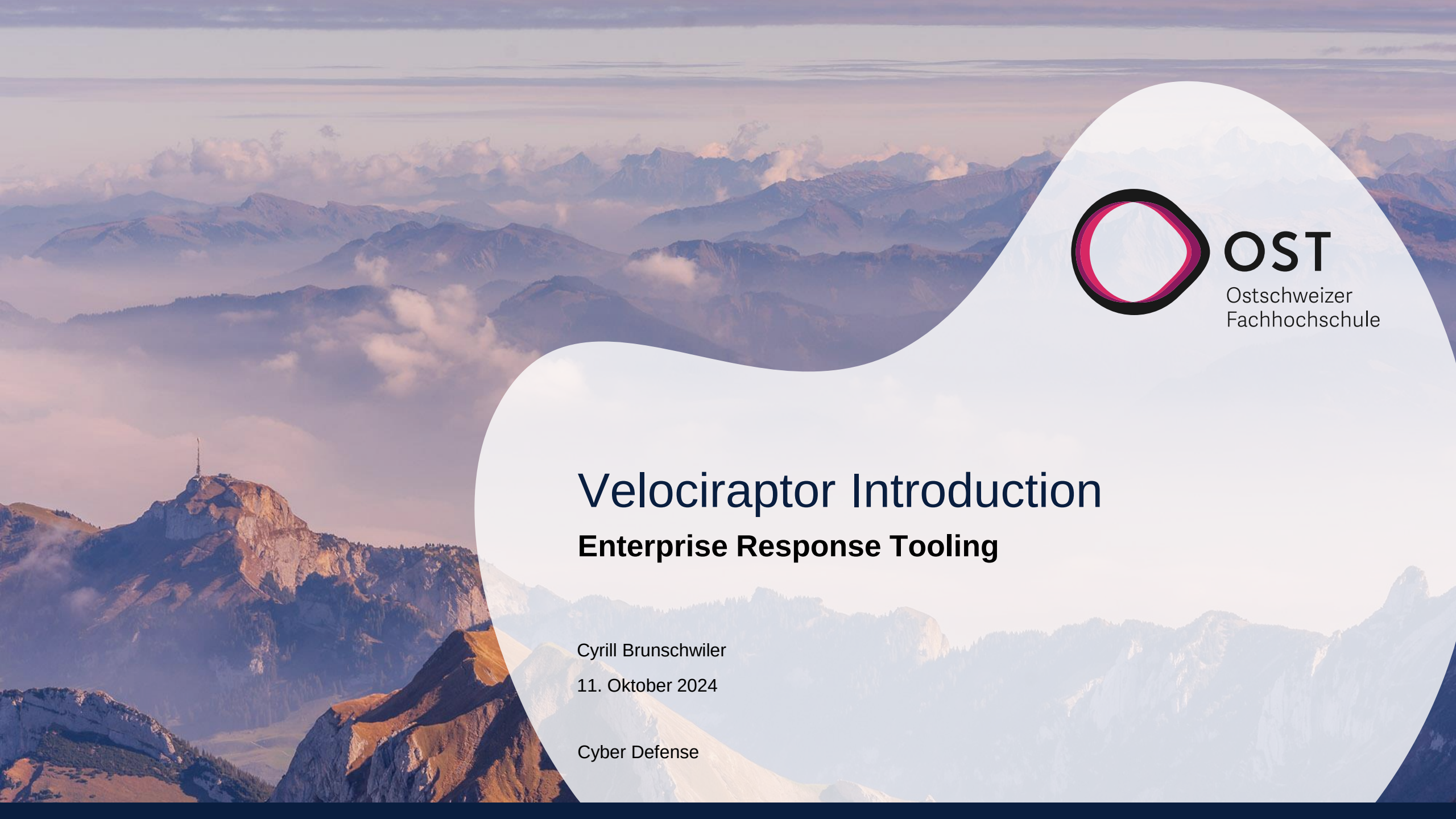


OST
Ostschweizer
Fachhochschule

Velociraptor Introduction

Enterprise Response Tooling

Cyrill Brunschwiler

11. Oktober 2024

Cyber Defense

Velociraptor ?

Credits: Universal Pictures

Velociraptor

Credits: Fred Wierum

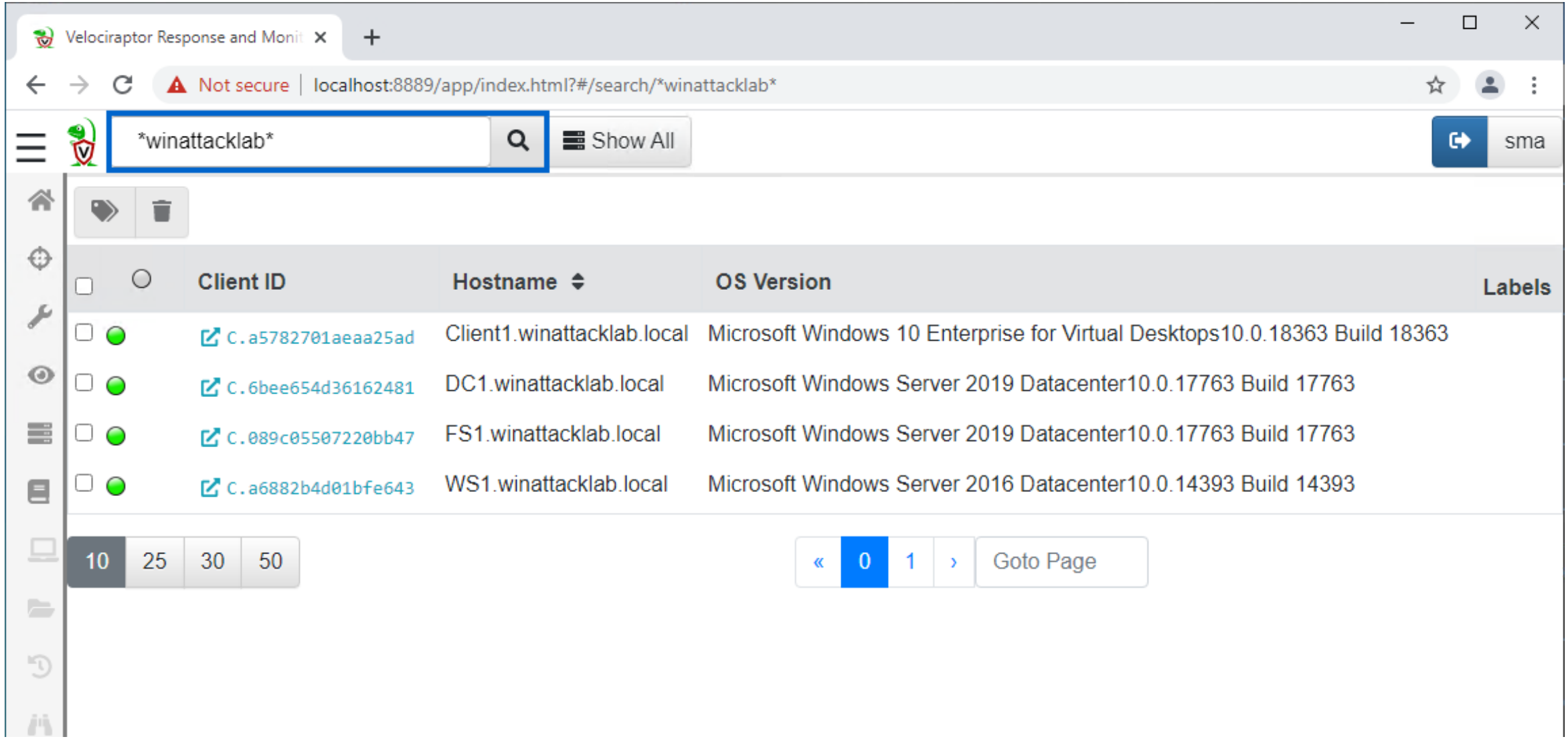
Velociraptor !

Use Velociraptor to collect evidence, hunt for IOCs or just to monitor for something to happen. For that purpose, there are different kinds of client and server artifacts (scripts to collect stuff) some general and some that trigger on events which you could use for monitoring.

Usually, connected clients stats curve reflects very much the general working hours

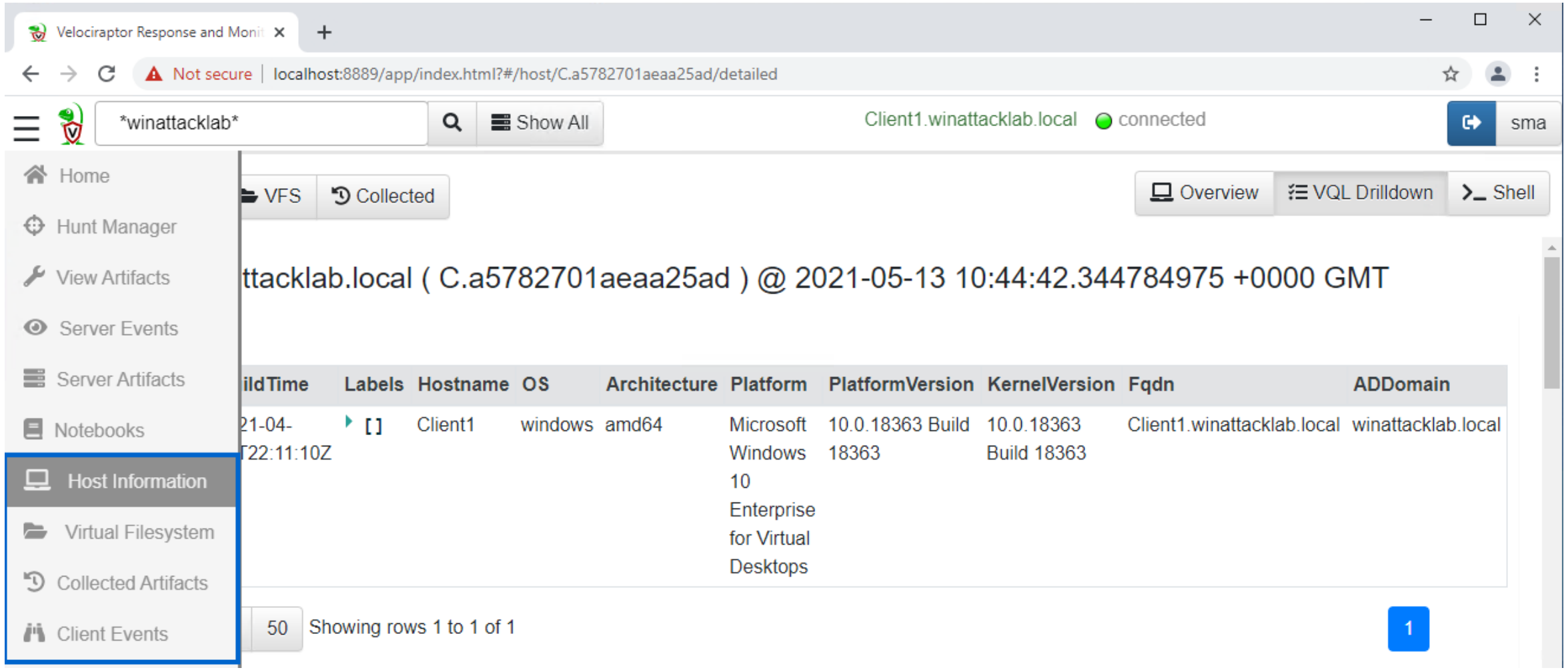
User Interface Basics

Search Connected Clients



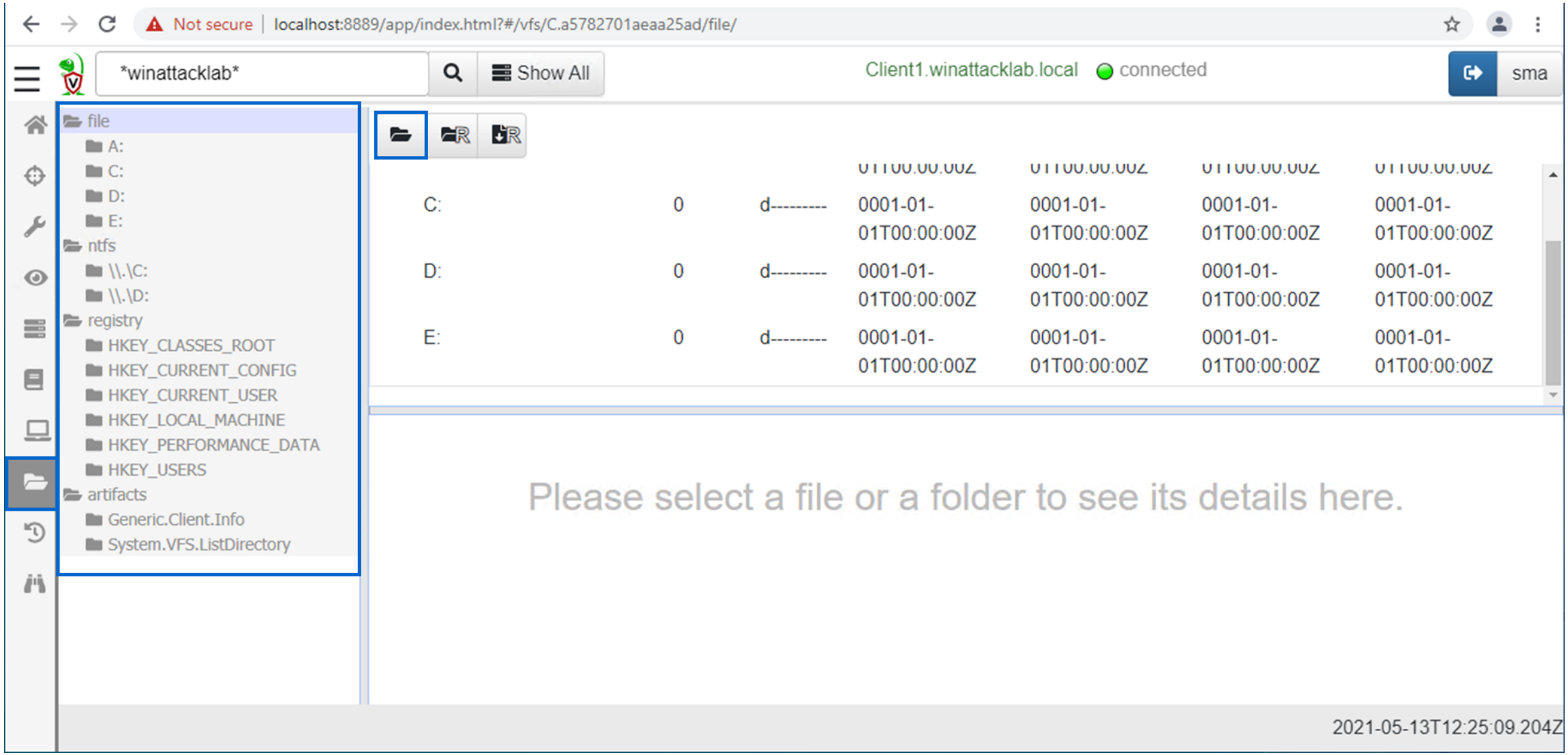
Note, for the lab, the forensics client is connected, too.

Access Connected Client



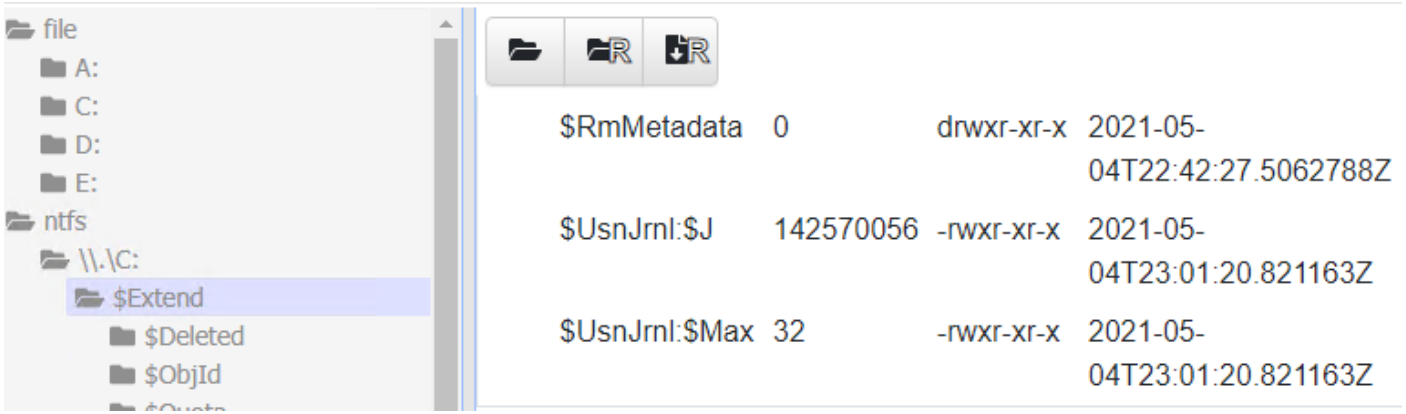
Select a client and the lower part of the menu becomes active. It's always client dependent

Virtual File System

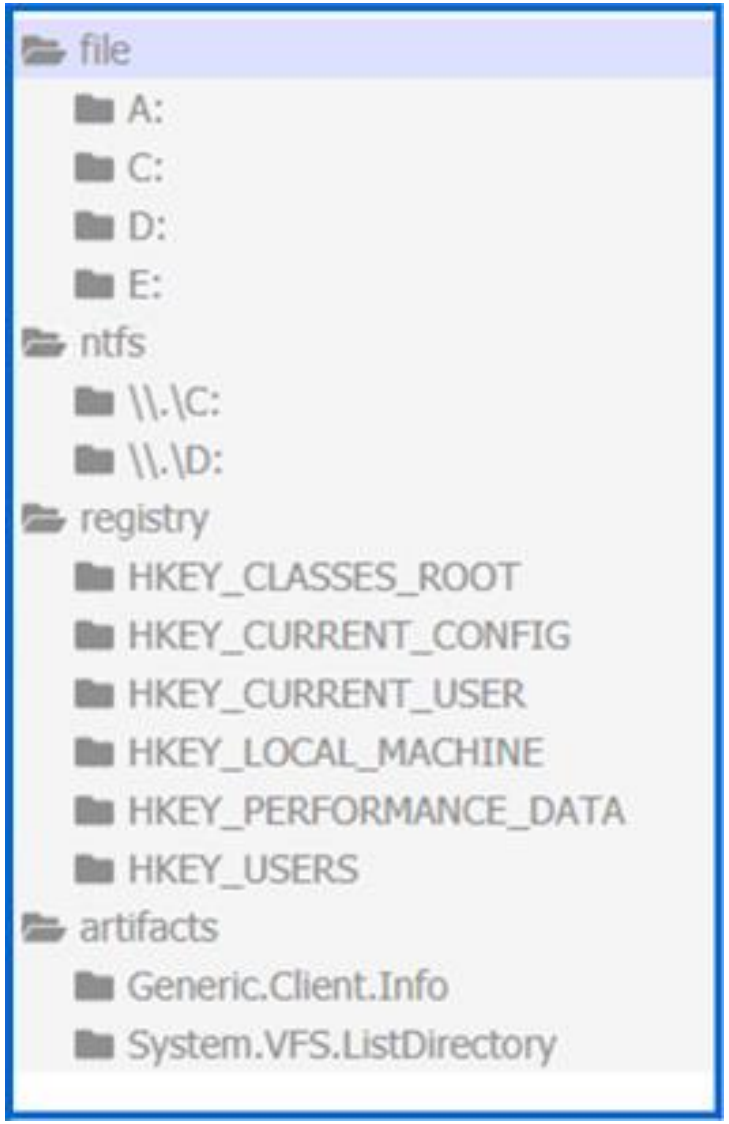


Virtual File System (VFS)

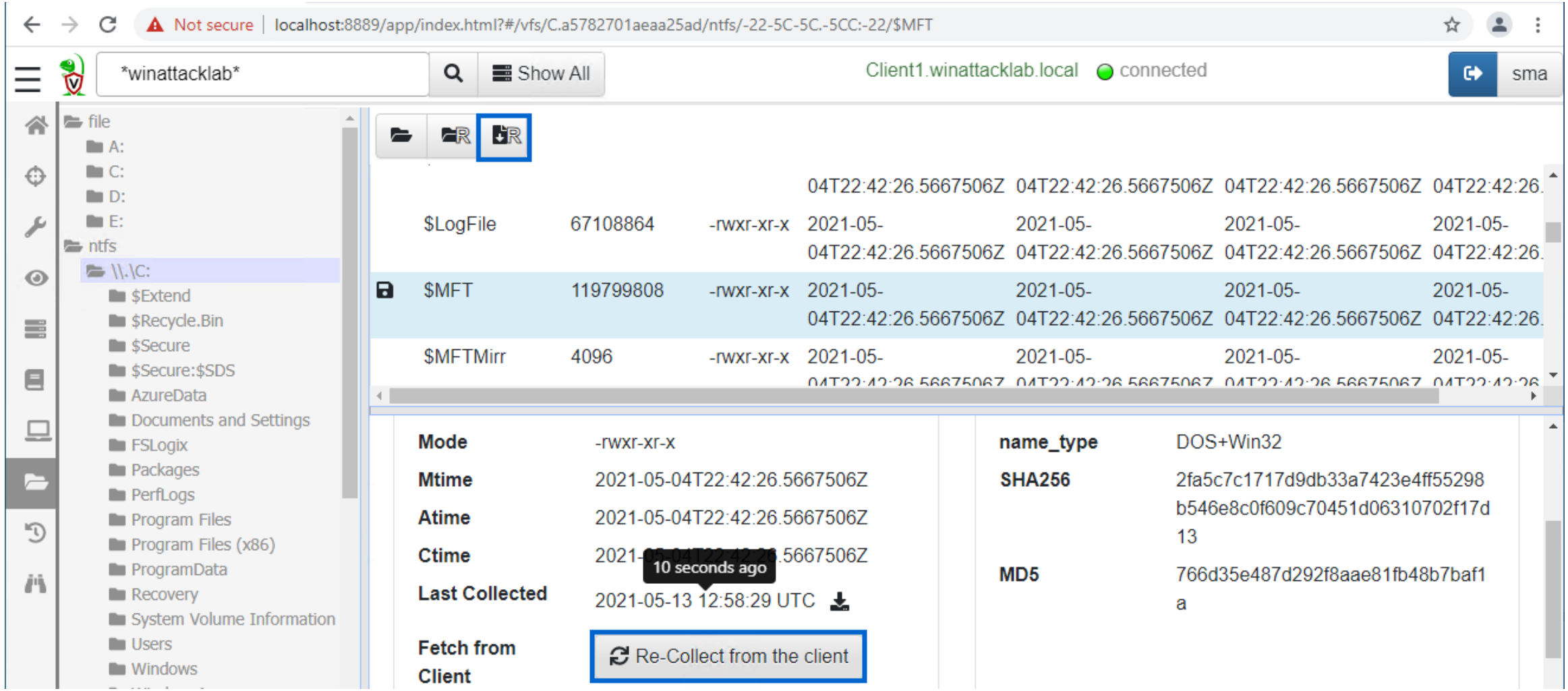
- **File -** File system access based on OS FS API
- **NTFS** – NTFS raw parsing filesystem access



- **Registry** - Windows Registry access using the Registry API
- **Artifacts** - Artifacts collected from the client incl. type and time in Velociraptor Artifacts are commands and scripts that actually grab some data (we usually call these artifacts) from clients.



File Download (collection)



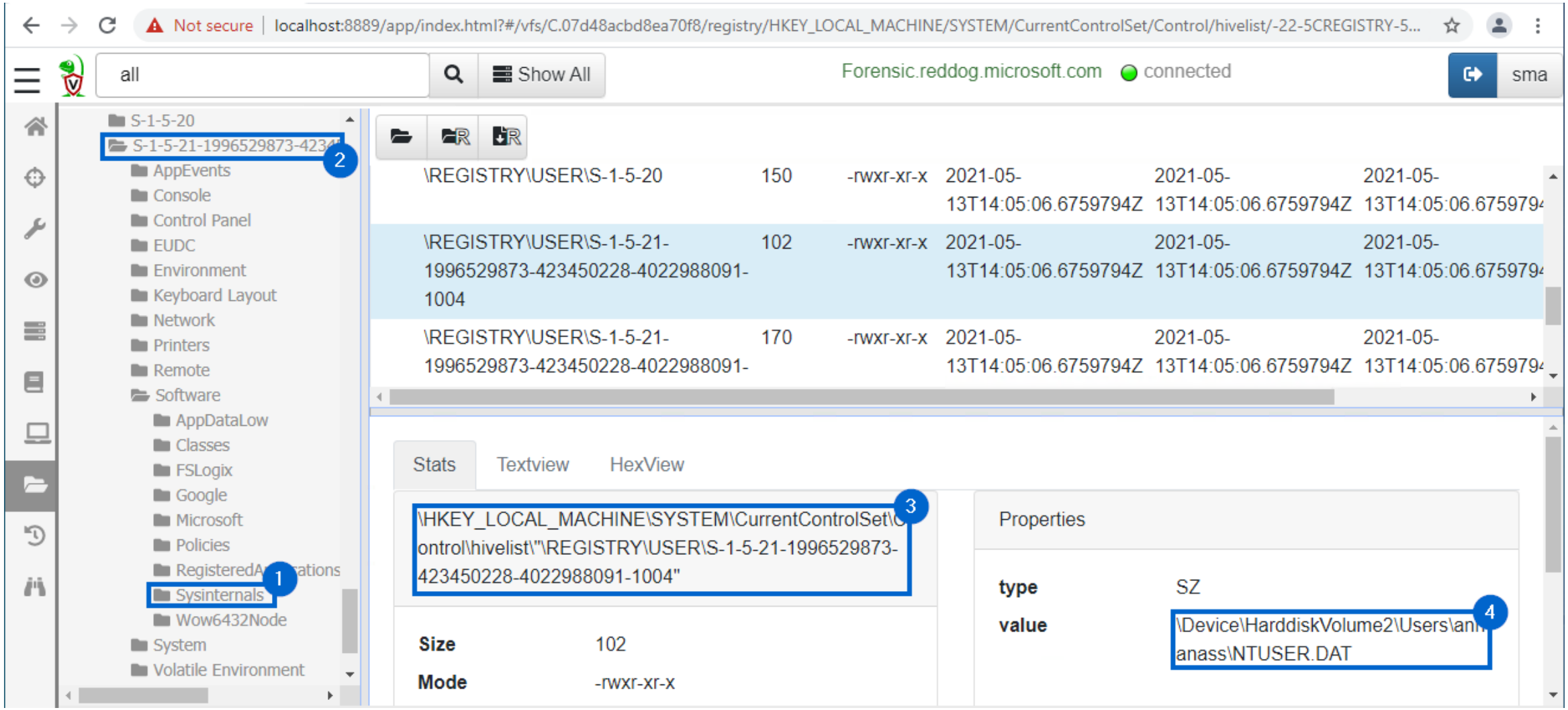
You may collect files individually (lower button) or an entire folder recursively (top button). Files get marked with the floppy once available on the server.

Velociraptor VFS Exercise

Find evidence of execution of Sysinternals tools on the Forensics machine using the VFS browser

As you may know, Sysinternals tools create a registry key when they're first run. Find out which Sysinternals tools have been run by users on the system.

Velociraptor VFS Exercise Solution



User annanass executed some Sysinternals tools

Velociraptor Artifacts

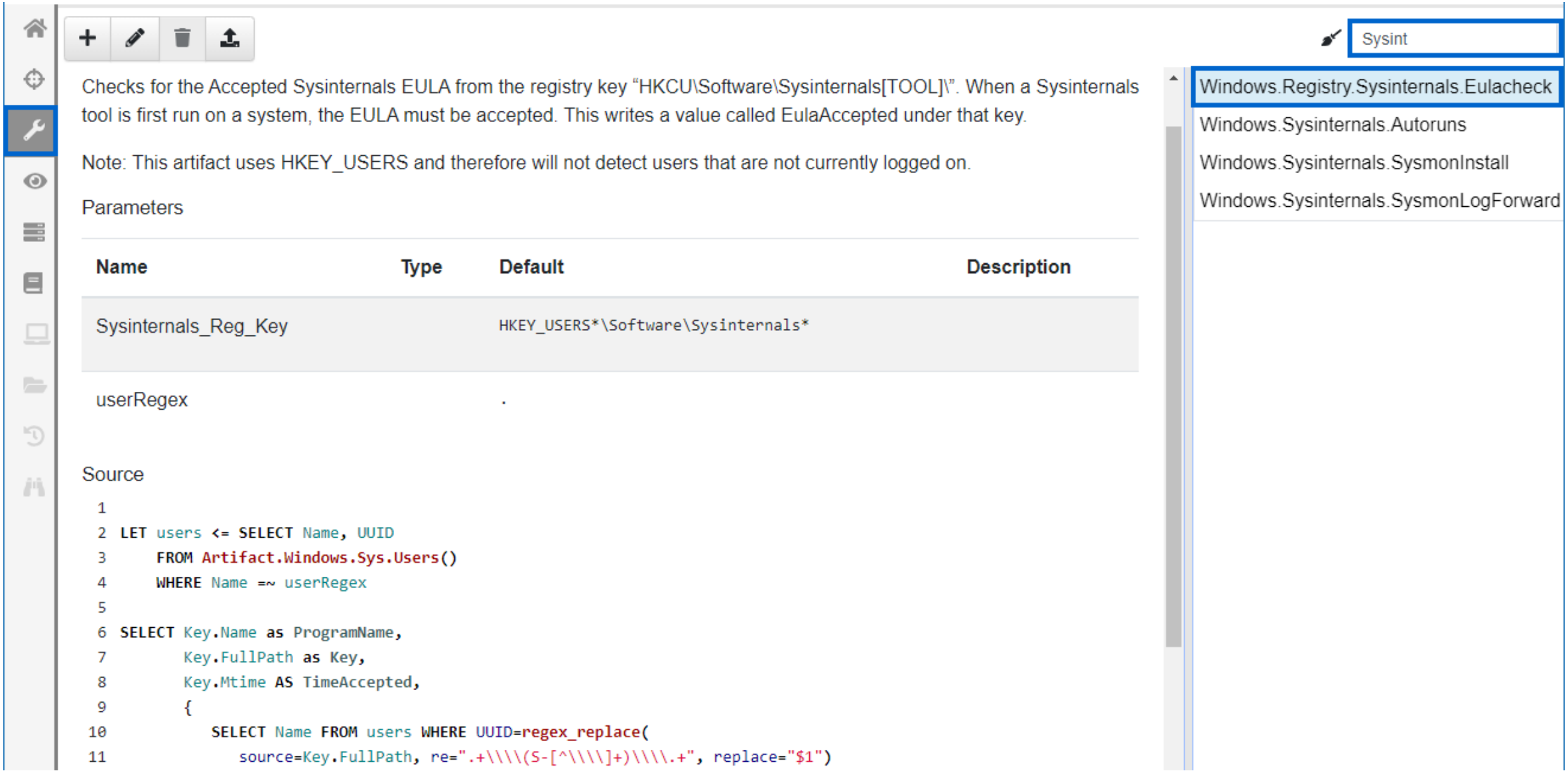
Velociraptor Artifacts

Velociraptor is a query language engine. Basically everything is a query (VQL).

Artifacts aim to encapsulate evidence collection

- Structure is YAML
- Ideally includes comments
- Allow for customization where reasonable
- Recursion. Use Artifacts in the query language

Velociraptor Artifact, Sysinternals Example



Velociraptor Artifact Exercise

Find evidence of execution of Sysinternals tools on the Forensics machine using Velociraptor Client Artifacts.

Using an Artifact comes with the advantage to not necessarily know every evidence location by heart and helps to avoid the nifty little faults that often happen while under pressure.

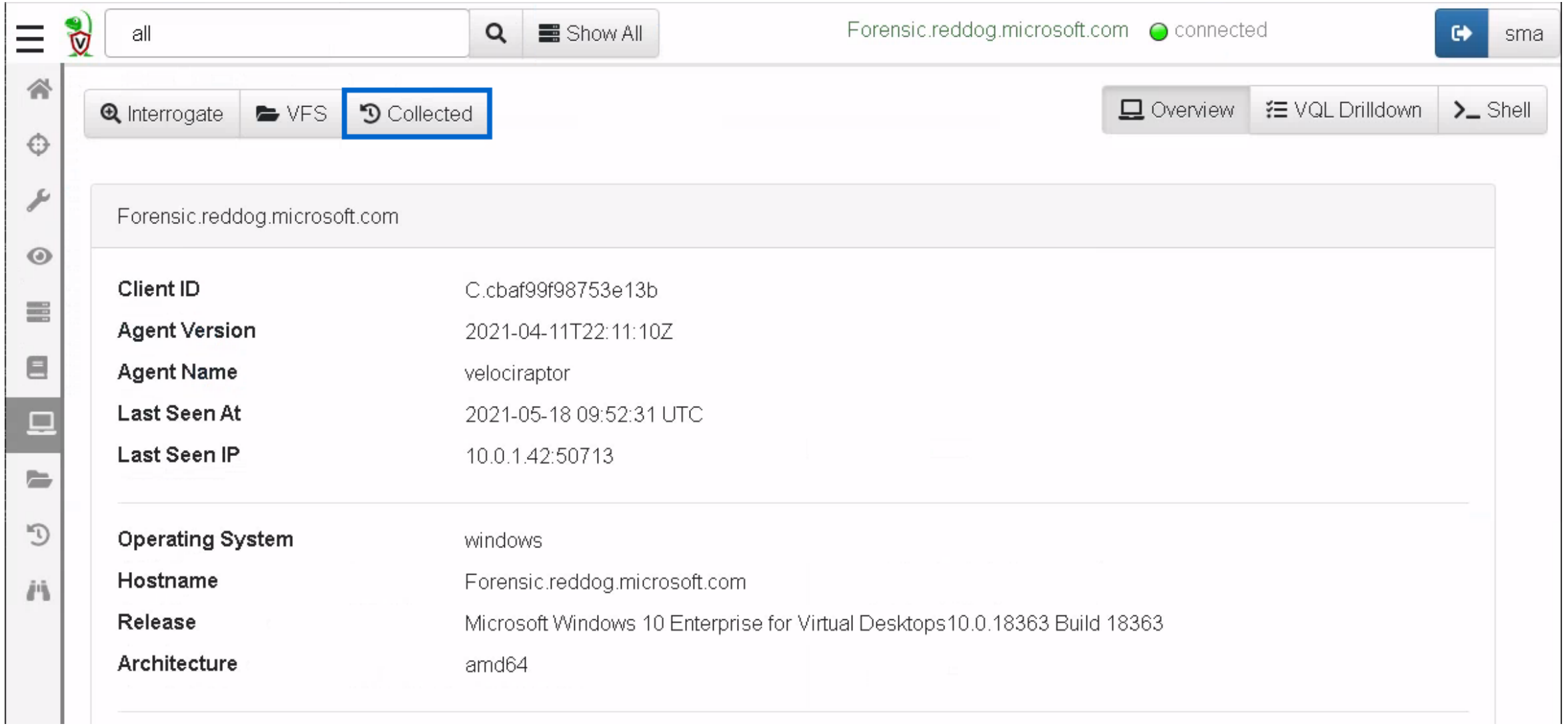
Artifacts FTW!

Search the Forensics machine for execution of Sysinternals tools and let me know

- Who (which user) ?
- What (which of the tools) ?
- When (the time of EULA acceptance) ?

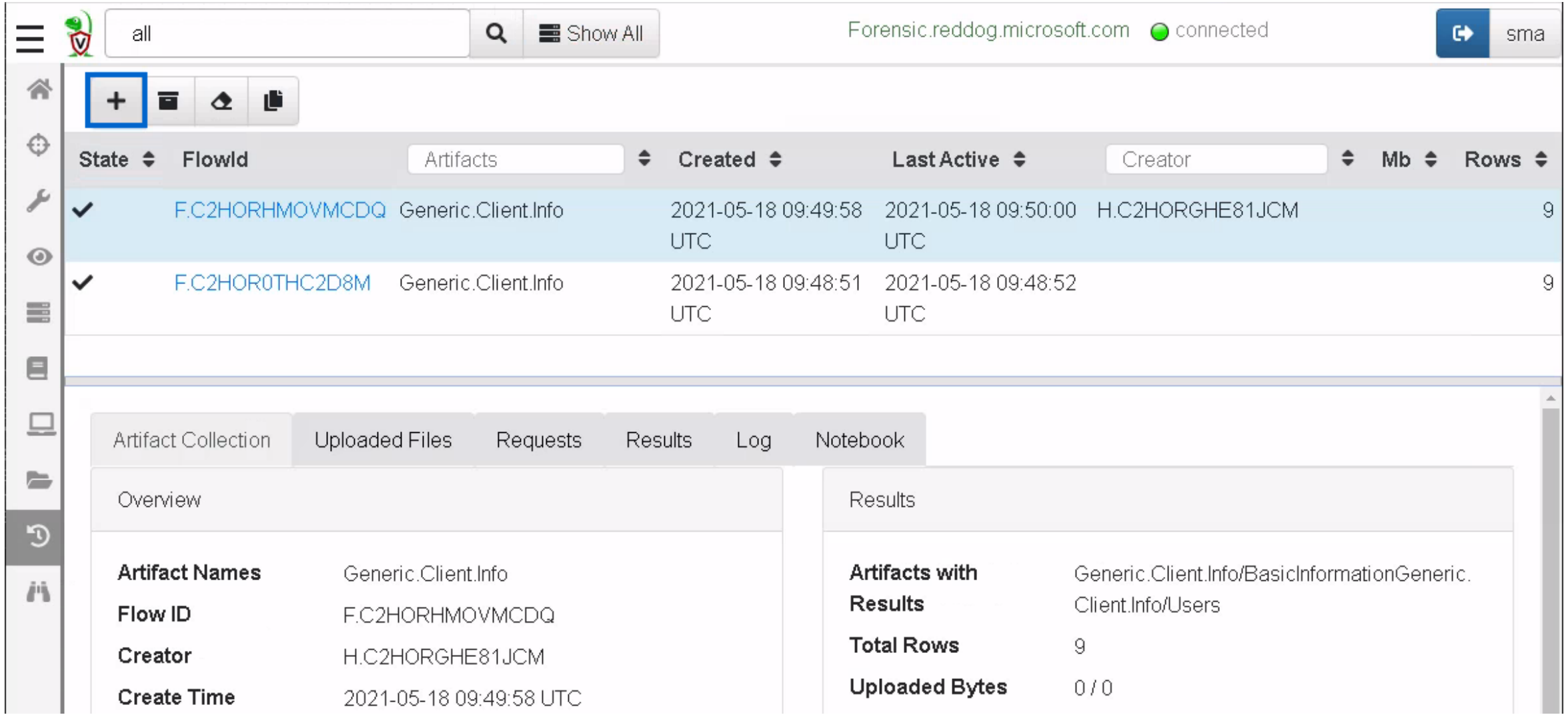
Velociraptor Artifact Exercise Solution

Choose Client, Open Collected Items (Flows)



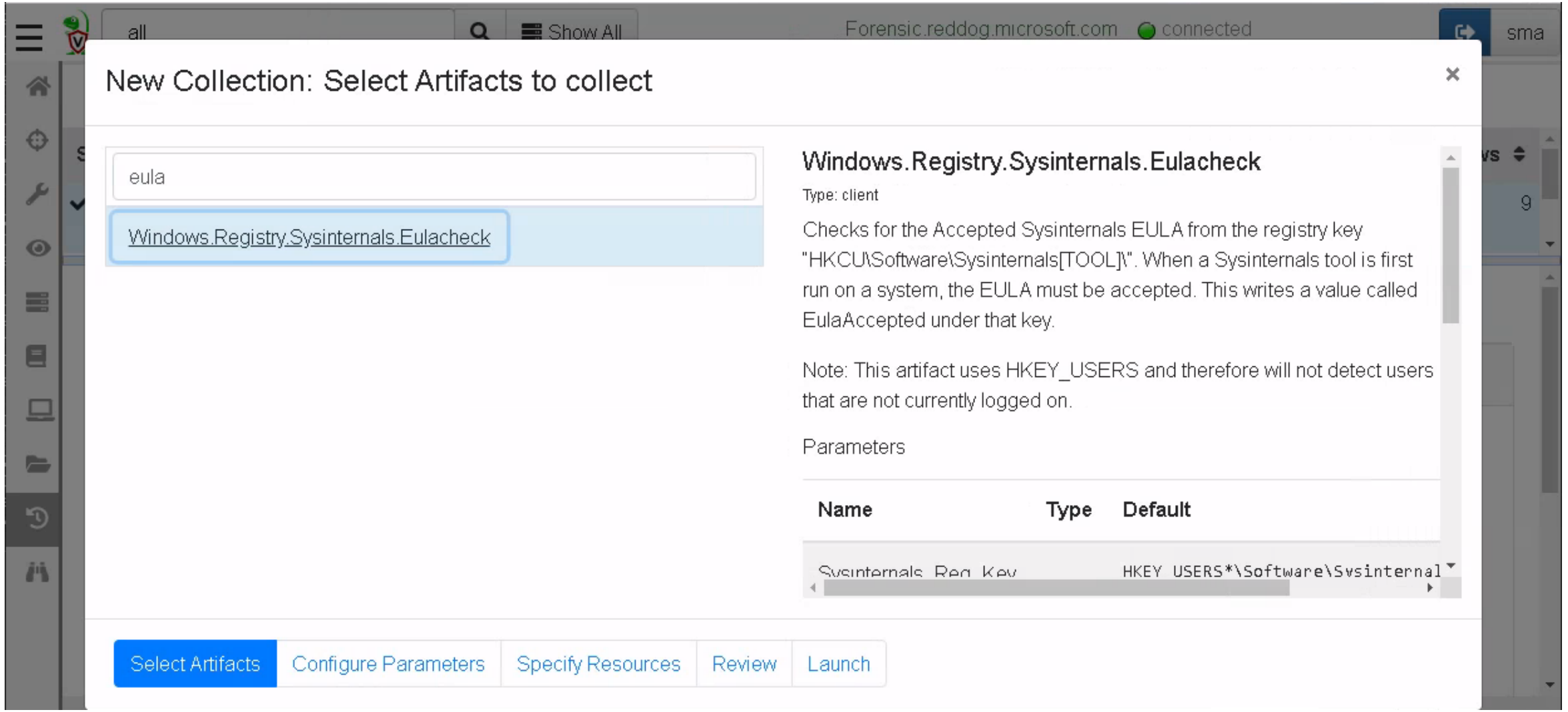
Velociraptor Artifact Exercise Solution

Add a New Flow



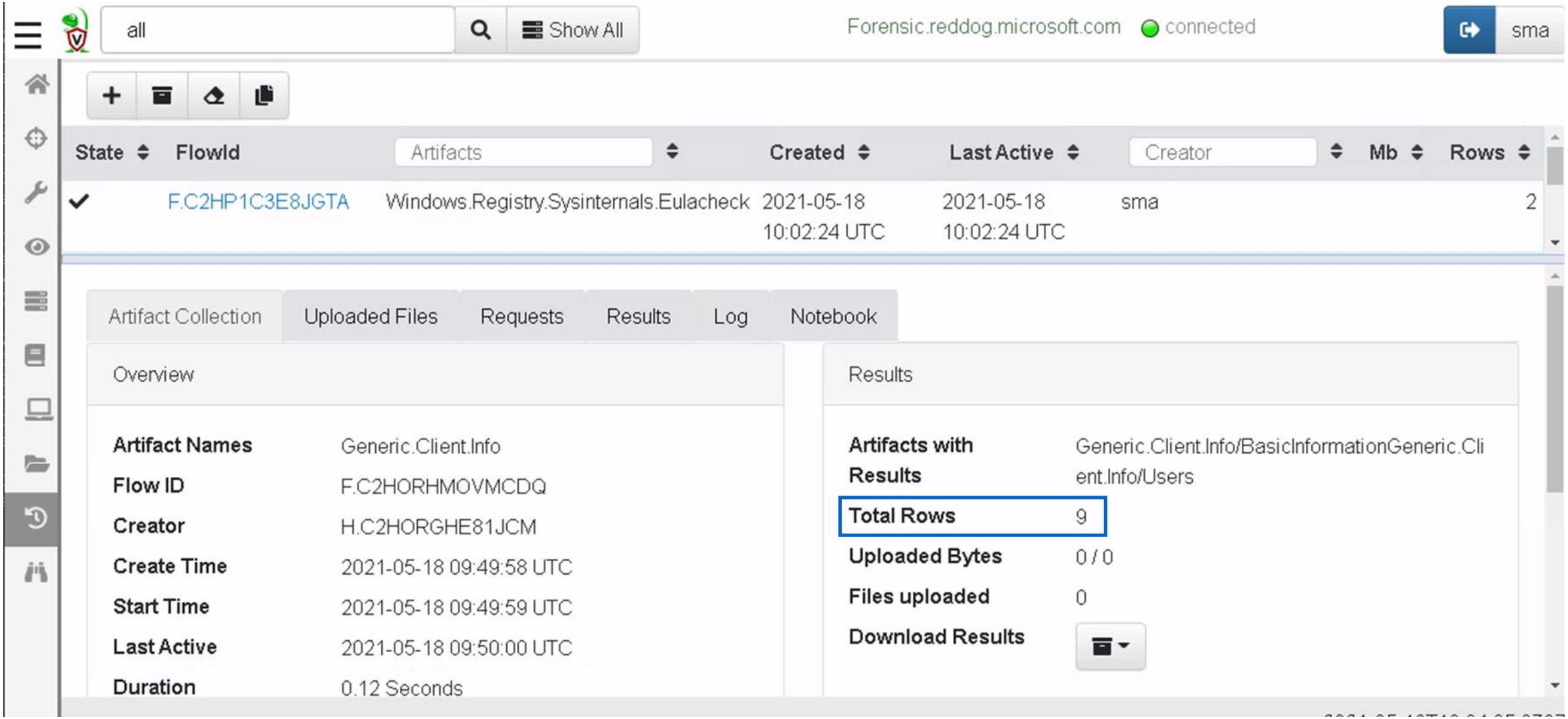
Velociraptor Artifact Exercise Solution

Select Artifact, Configure, Specify Resources, Launch



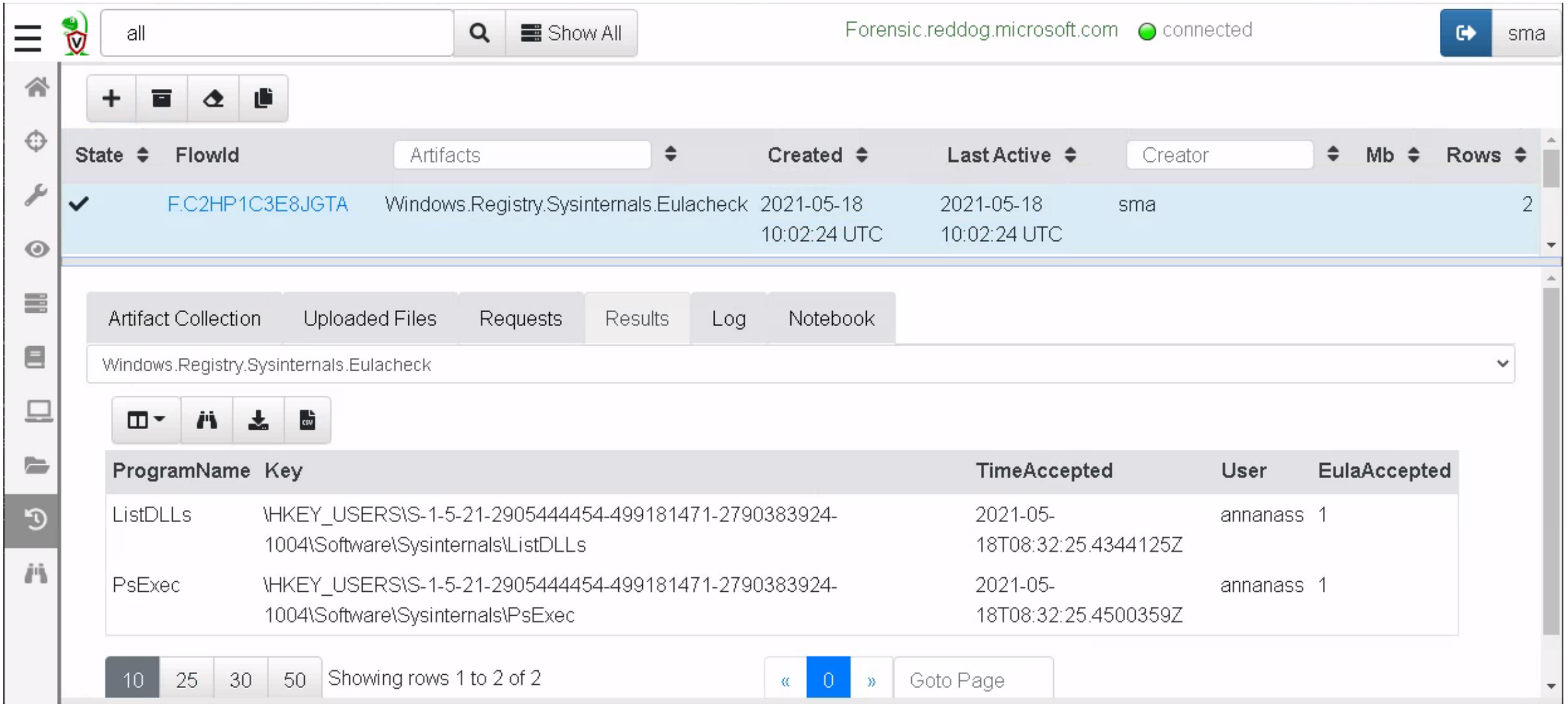
Velociraptor Artifact Exercise Solution

Check for Artifact Results

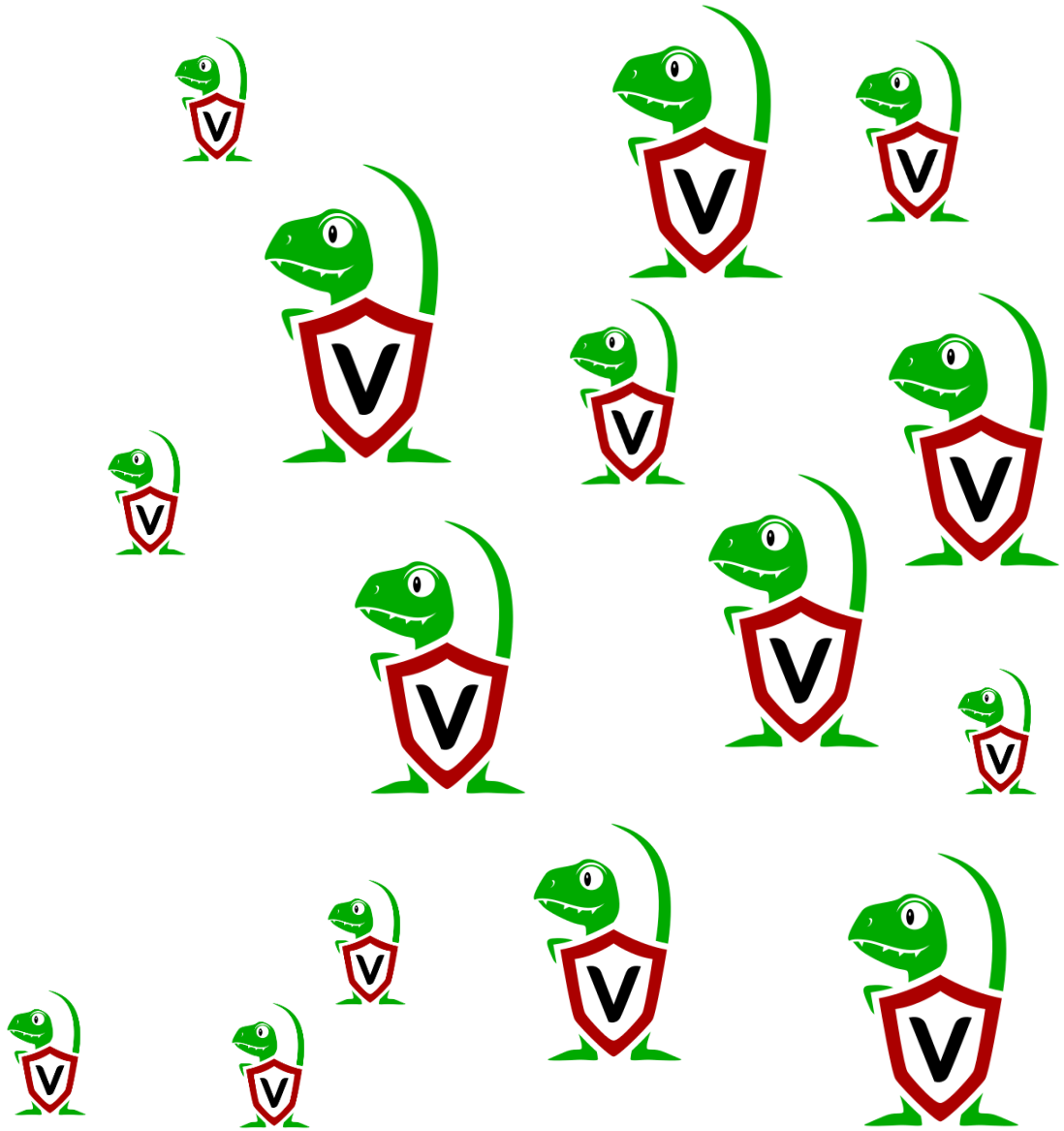


Velociraptor Artifact Exercise Solution

Switch to the Results Tab



Velociraptor Hunts

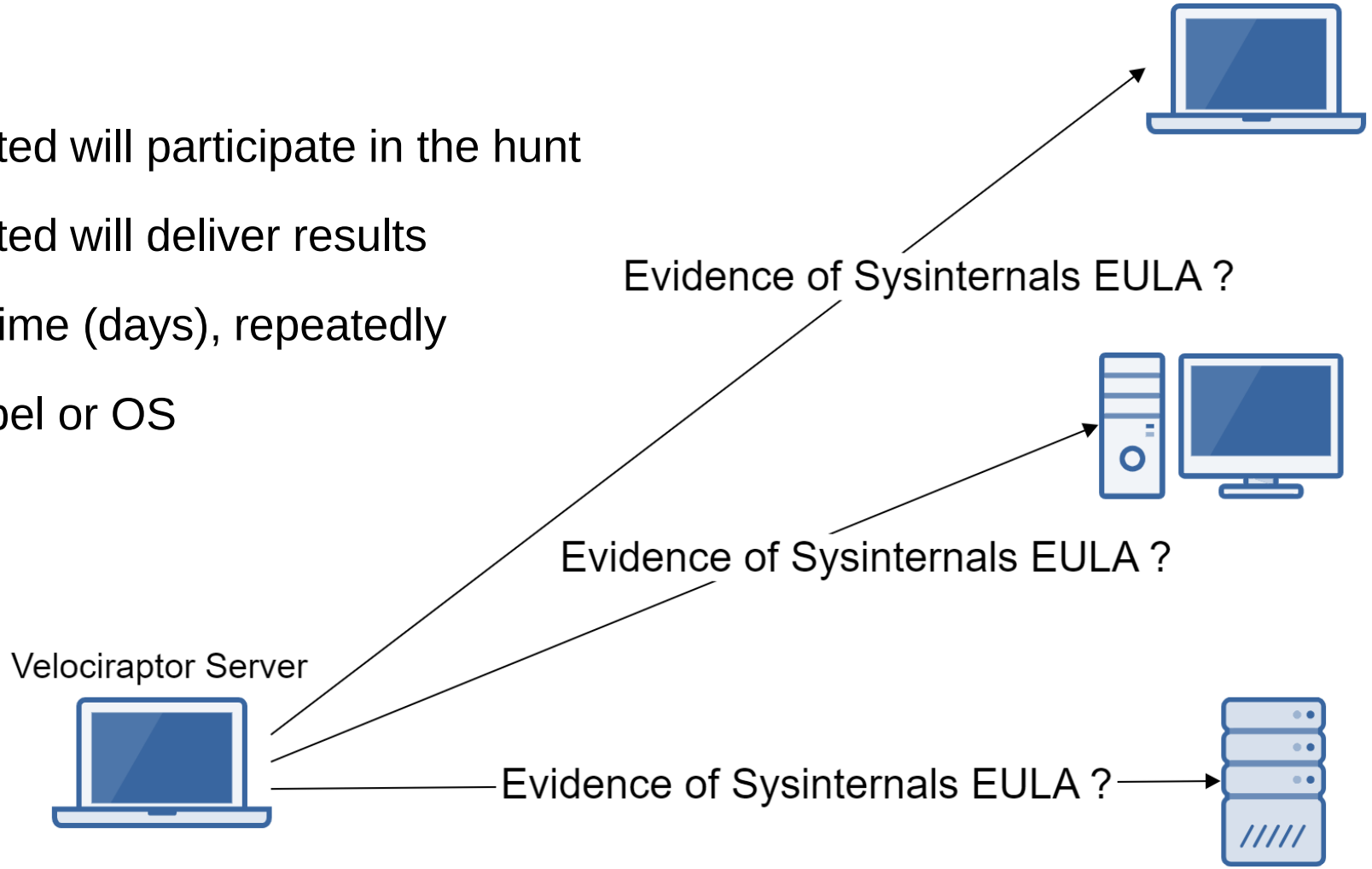


Velociraptor Hunting

Hunting enables you to collect the same artifacts over an entire fleet.

Note

- Only systems that are connected will participate in the hunt
- Only systems that are connected will deliver results
- Hunts are run for quite some time (days), repeatedly
- Hunts may be restricted by label or OS



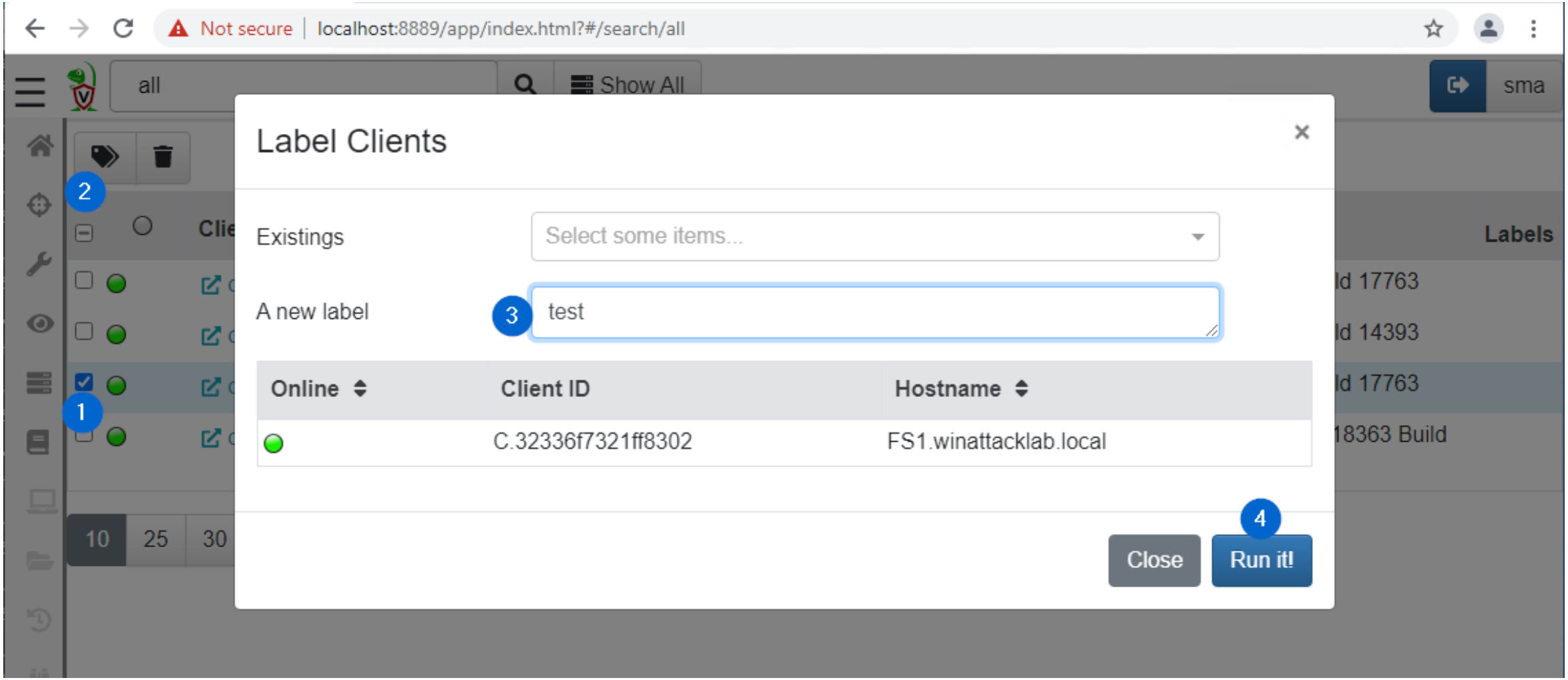
Velociraptor Hunt Exercise

Find evidence of execution of Sysinternals tools on labeled machines using a hunt

- Add a label “test” to the Forensics machine
- Run a hunt against “test” labeled systems using the Sysinternals EULA Artifact again

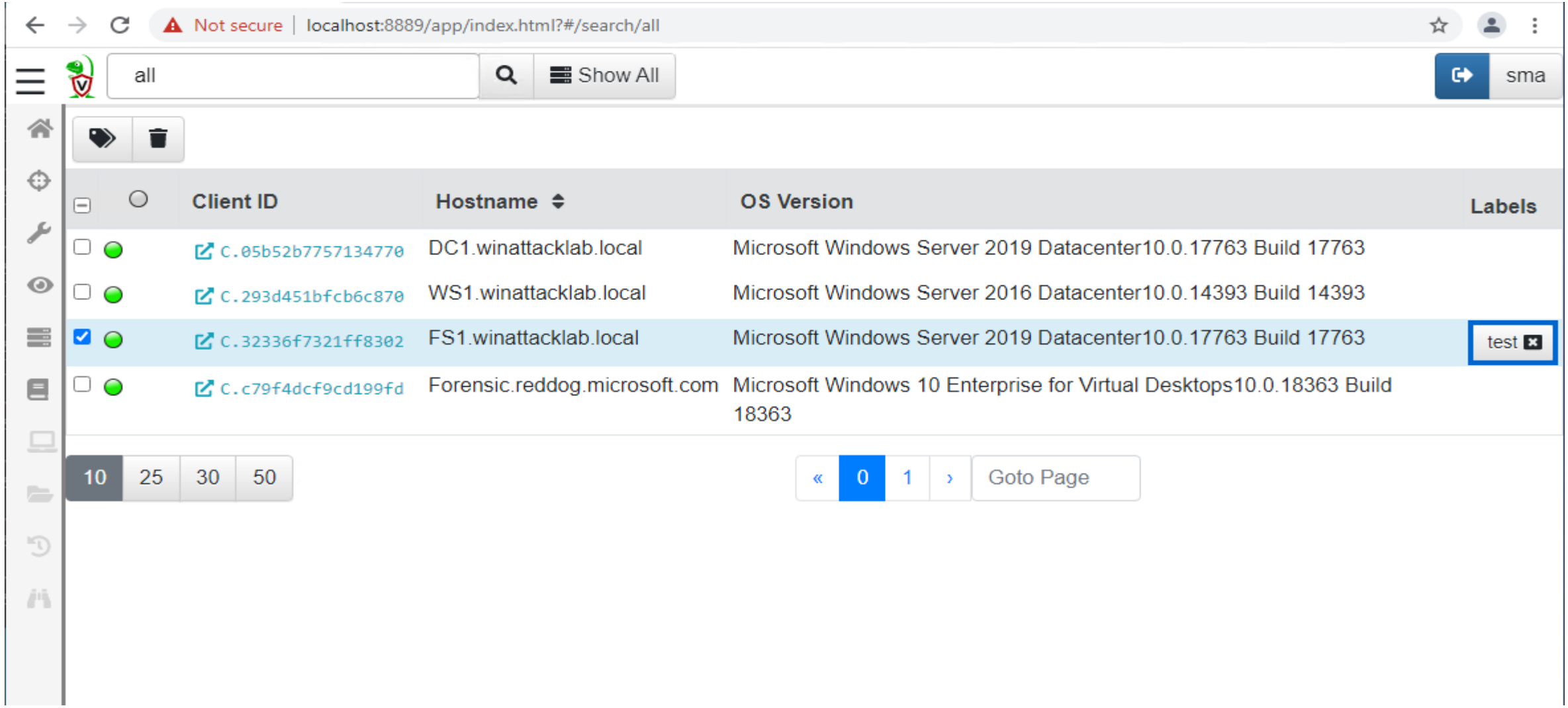
Velociraptor Hunt Exercise Solution

Add a Label to Selected Clients



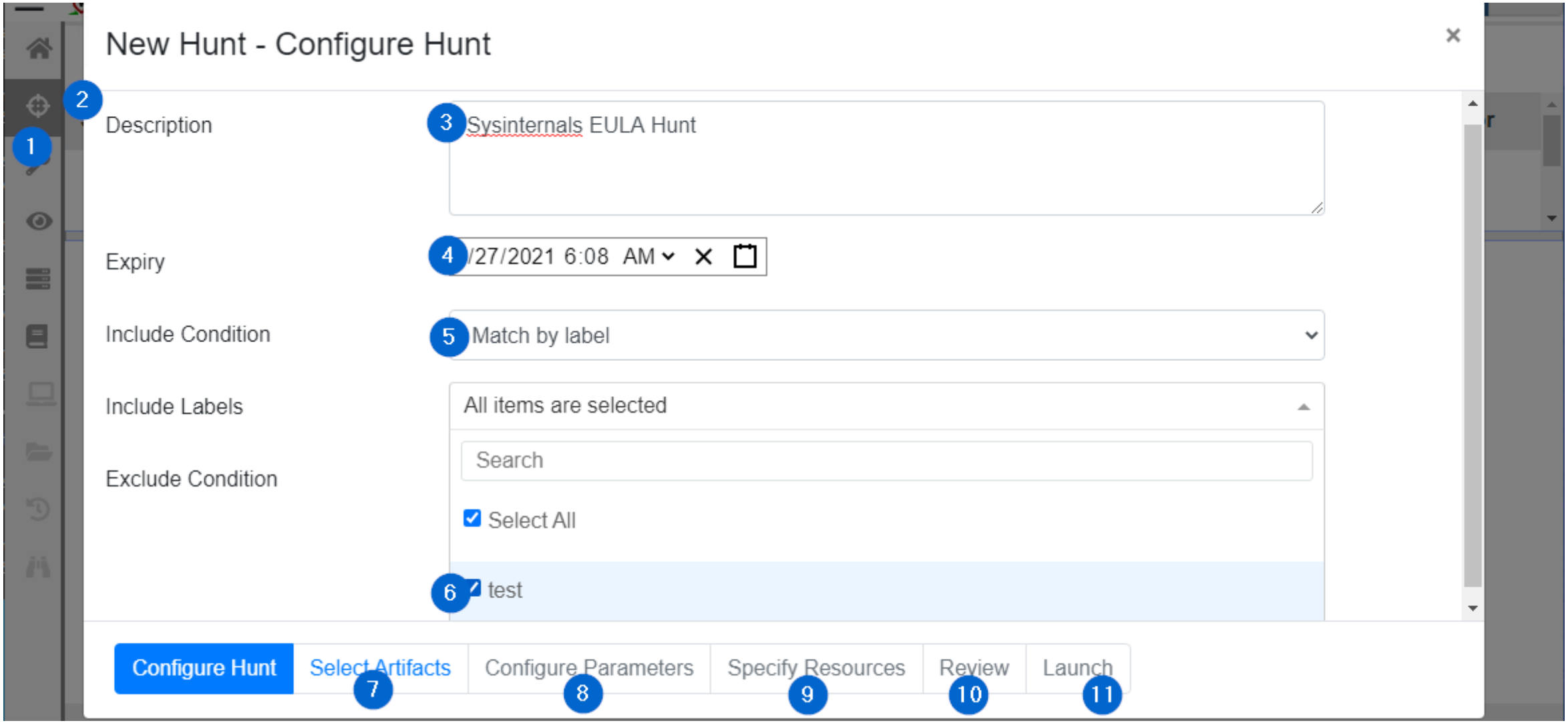
Velociraptor Hunt Exercise Solution

Forensics Machine Labeled with “test”



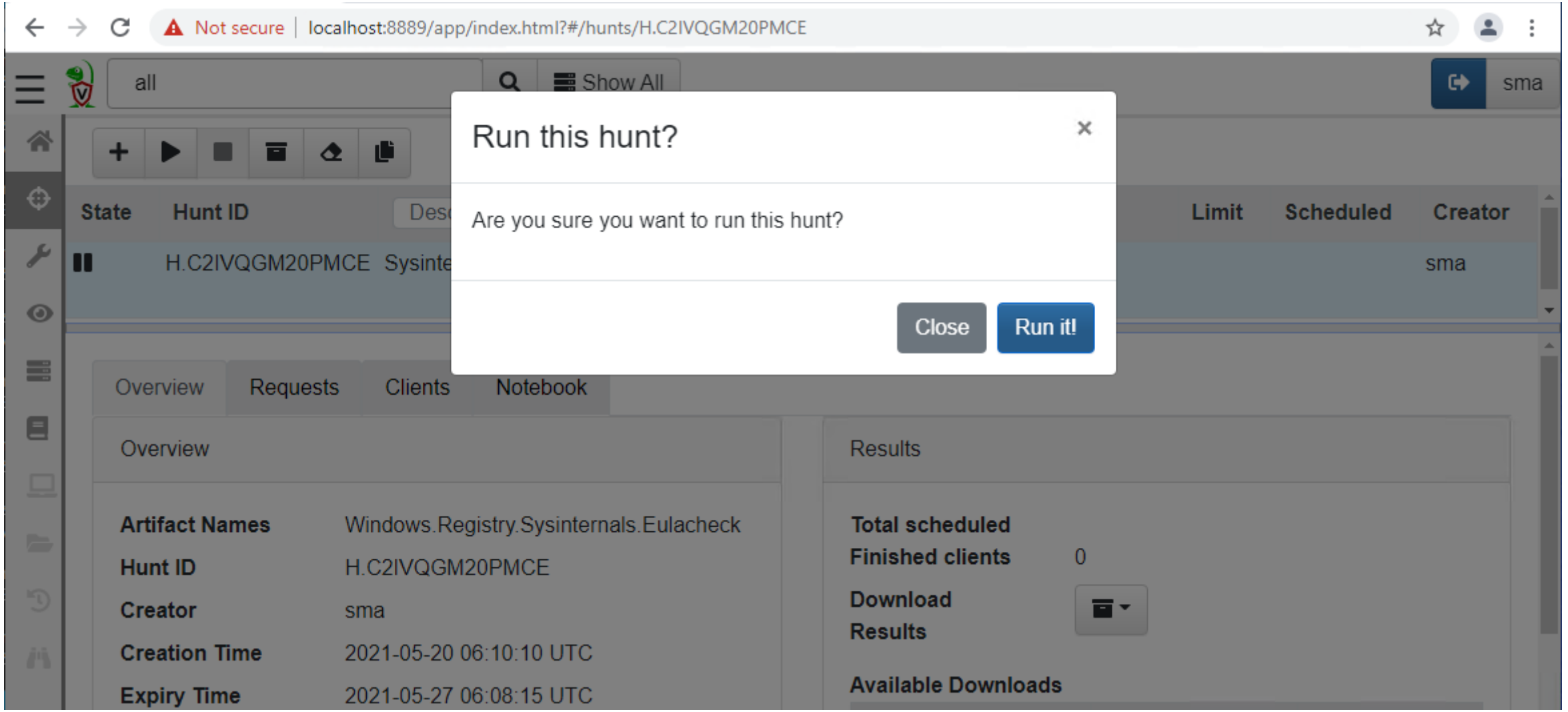
Velociraptor Hunt Exercise Solution

Add (+) a New Hunt on Systems with Label “test”



Velociraptor Hunt Exercise Solution

Newly Created Hunts are Always Paused, Run it



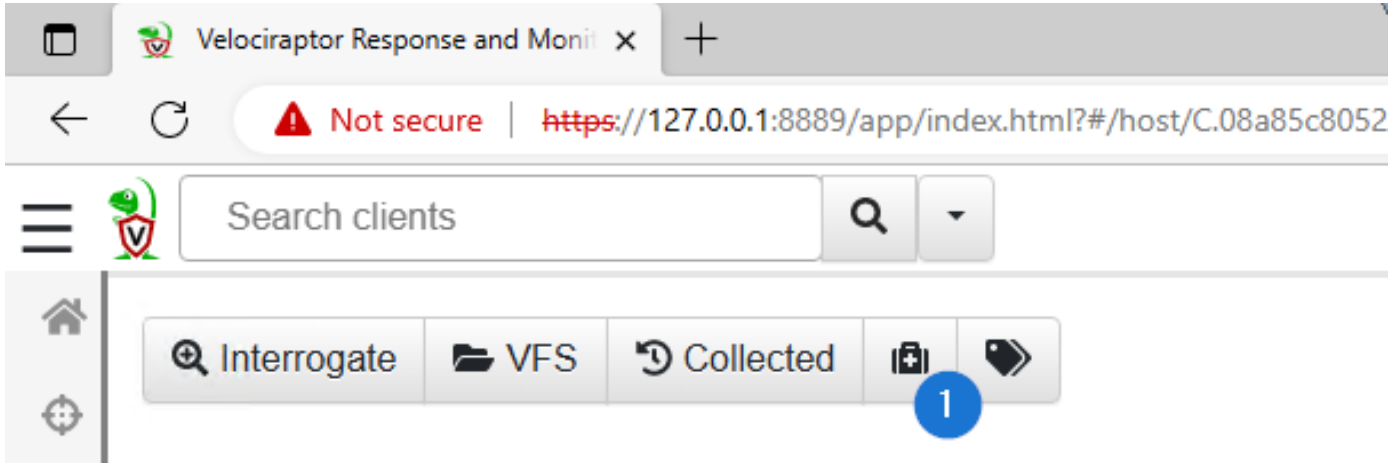
Active Containment

Gaining time

Isolate a Host

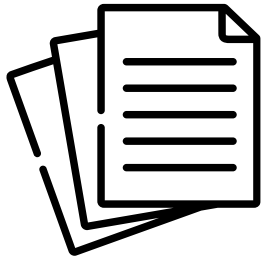
Cut Communication Instantly

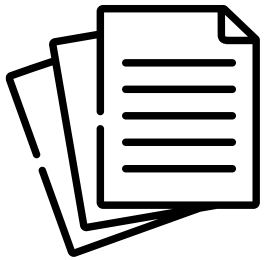
Select the client and use the isolate host feature to restrict communication to server and host only.



The host will be labelled «Quarantine» to be findable later on.

Collecting Files





Collecting Files

Quick Triage with Velociraptor

Incident Response may require for quick conservation of a number artifacts to be analyzed later on or being given somewhere else for analysis. With Velociraptor comes the KapeFiles Client Artifact which is a great collector of relevant files.

Approaches

- Run hunt or collection within the Velociraptor Infrastructure
- Run standalone collector with Velociraptor

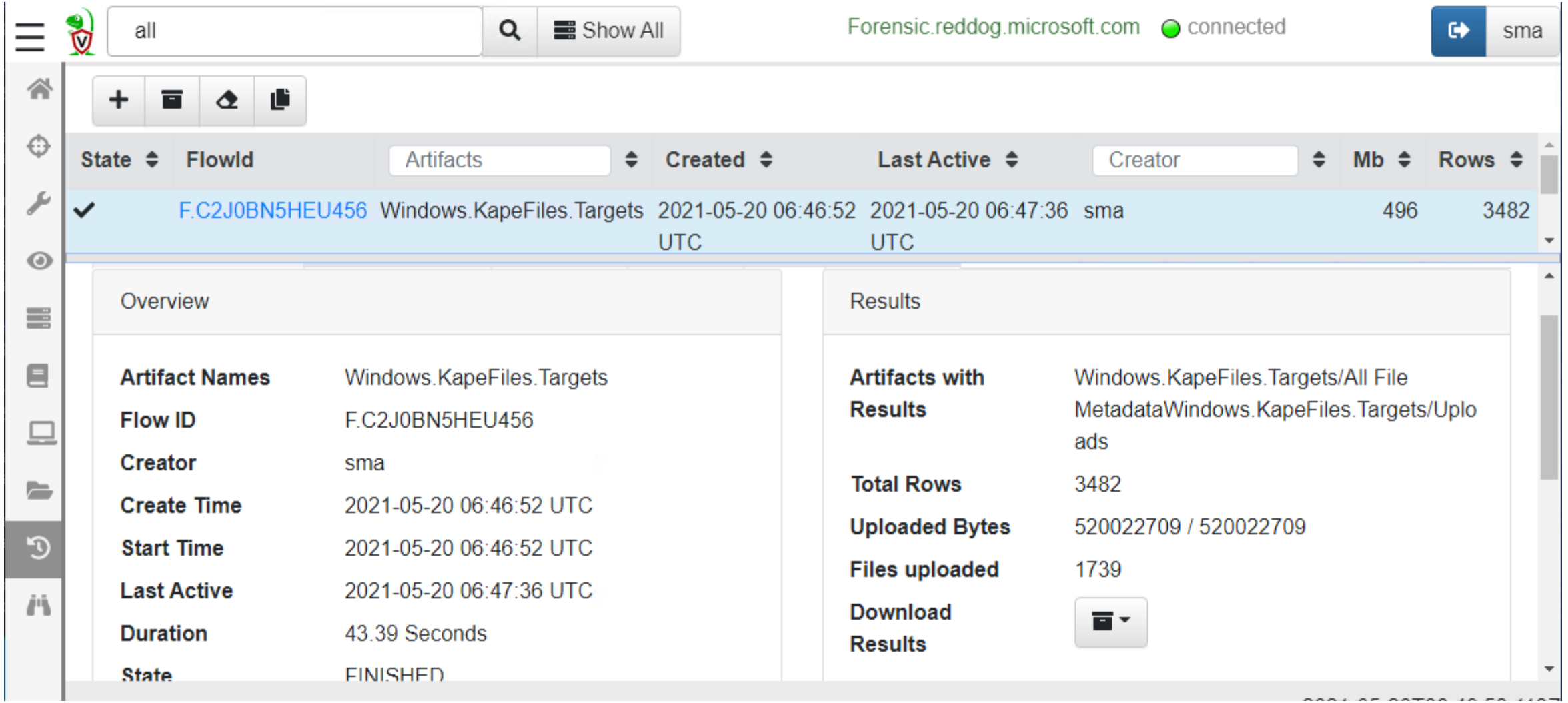
What to collect

- _BasicCollection,
- _SANS_Triage,
- _KapeTriage

… usually do well

Collecting Files

KapeFiles Collection using _SANS_Triage



Collecting Files

Potential Issues

Collection Stats from the Forensics Client

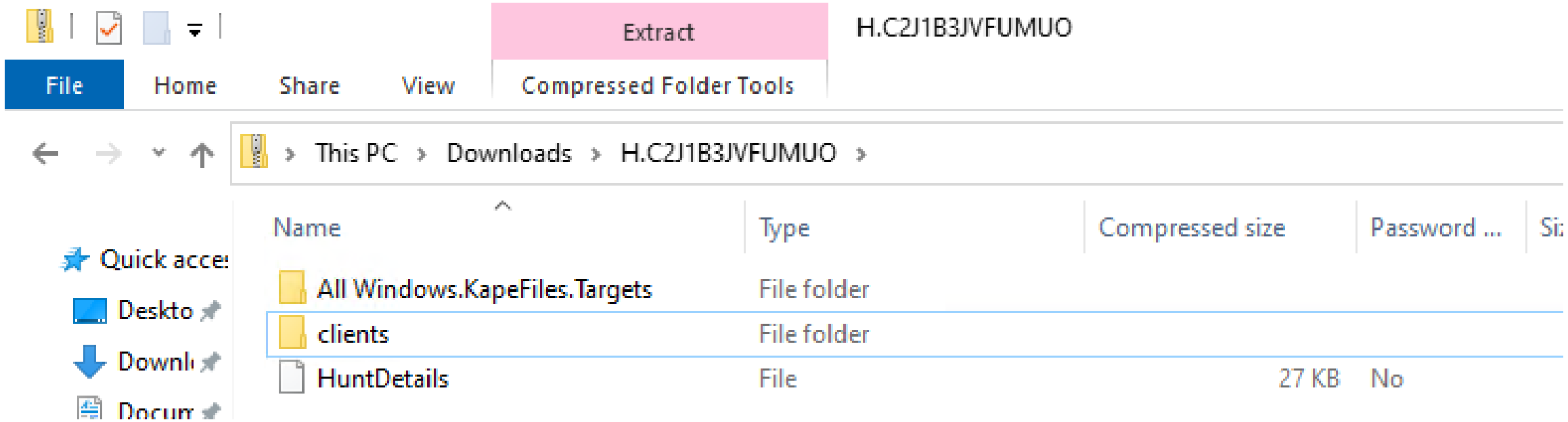
- Collection ran for 45 seconds
- Collection returned 1750 files
- 1750 files sum up to 500MB (most for the MFT, NTFS Journals, System registry)
- 1750 files zipped for download 70MB

Note, the Forensics Client is a “pretty empty” system.

Collecting large files will not result in a memory bottleneck as Velociraptor throttles clients if needed. However, extensive hunts on machines or collection of user document folders, virtual machine images, memory dumps could easily jam your server’s connection or fill your server’s disk. Be careful!

Collecting Files

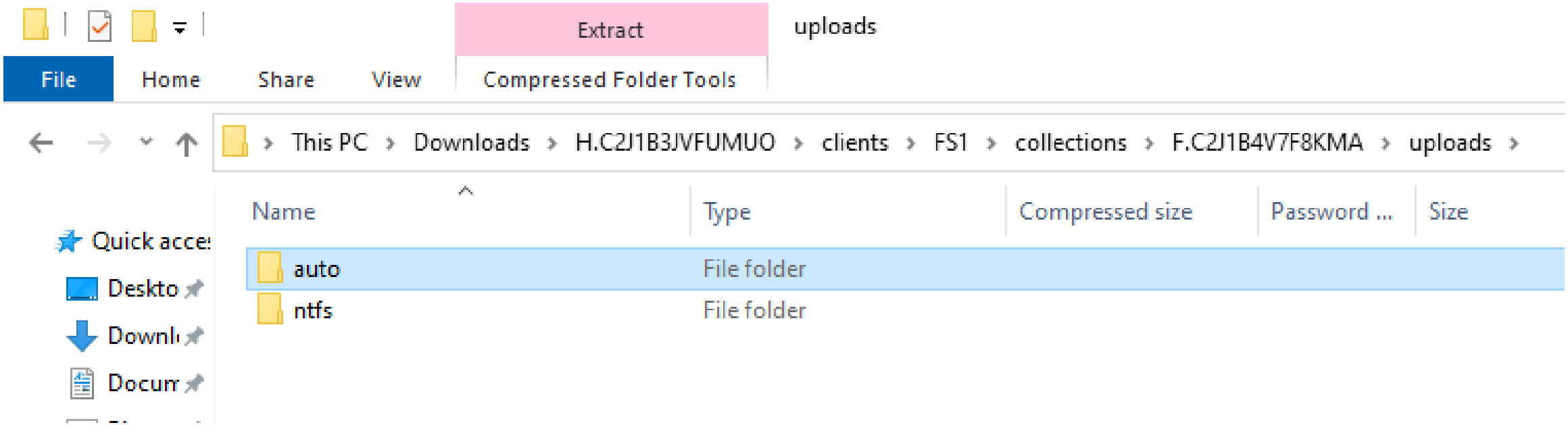
Download Archives Structure, Top Level



- The top level includes the hunt configuration details including some meta info.
- The client folder contain the results per client workstation name.

Collecting Files

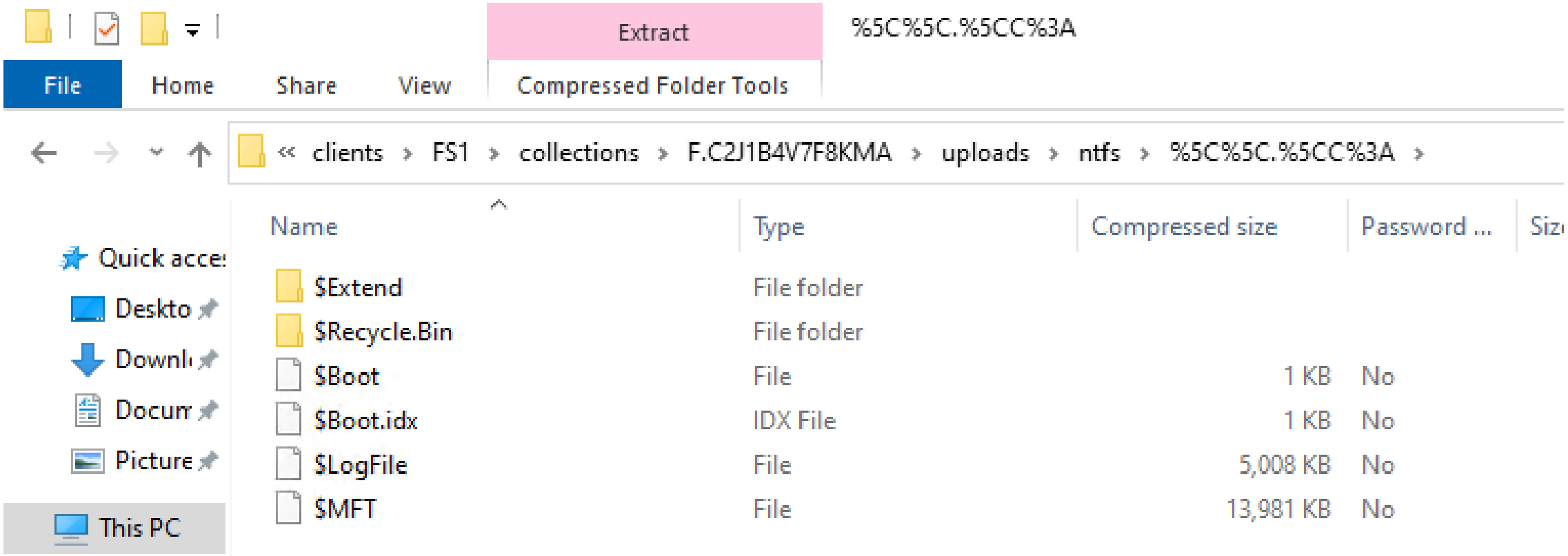
Download Archives Structure, Per Client Flow Level



Within the collections flow folder. The uploaded files are separated by the accessor they got collected with.

Collecting Files

Download Archives Structure, Per Client Flow Level



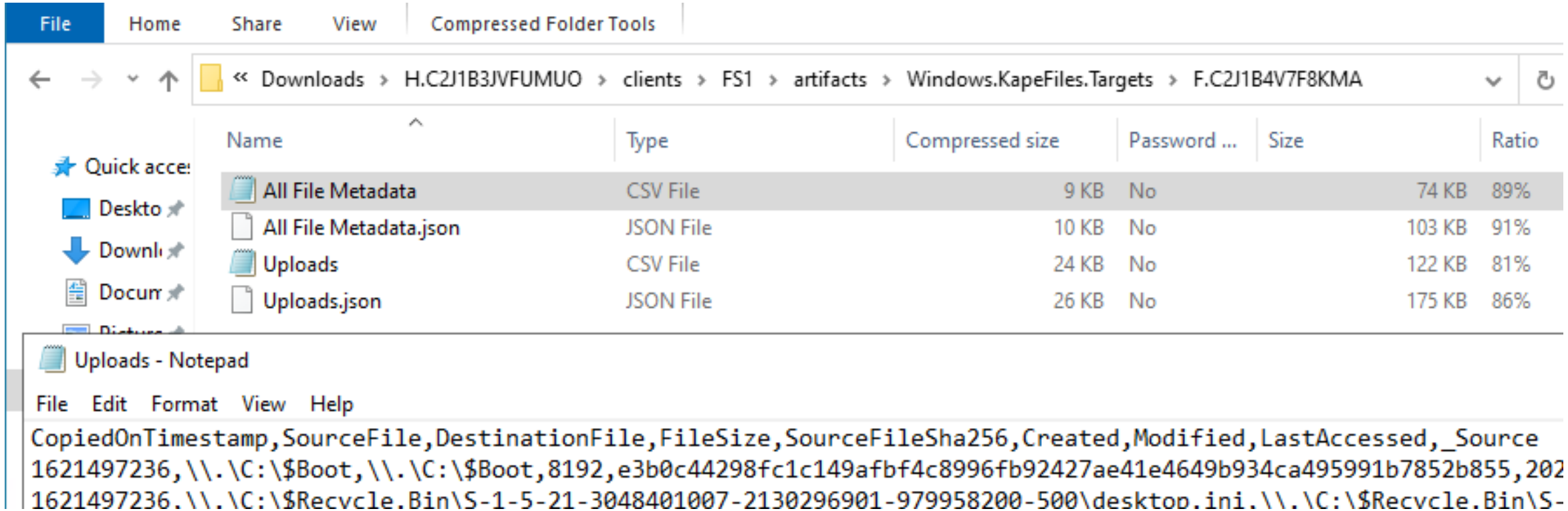
Thus $MFT et al will be available from the ntfs folder. Any common files from the auto folder.

Collecting Files

Download Archives Structure, Timestamps and Hashes

Kape does by default create a VHDX and timestomp files in it. So non-tech savvy folks may browse it like a real disk. You are better of by using the $MFT directly.

Timestamps and file hashes in the meta info files



Manually Collecting Files

Manual Approach using the Velociraptor Binary

```
PS C:\> velociraptor.exe artifacts list *Kape*
Windows.KapeFiles.Targets
```

```
PS C:\> velociraptor.exe artifacts show Windows.KapeFiles.Targets
...
parameters:
...
  - name: _BasicCollection
    description: "Basic Collection (by Phill Moore): Thumbcache DB, at .job,
at .job, at SchedLgU.txt, at SchedLgU.txt, XML, XML, LNK Files from Recent,
...
```

```
PS C:\> velociraptor.exe artifacts collect Windows.KapeFiles.Targets
--args=_BasicCollection=Y --output=Collection_$env:computername.zip
```

Extract a Collection and Adjust (Timestomp) Files

Usefull if you want to run tools that rely on the timestamps (eg. Prefetch analysis)

Velociraptor will only record the modified time in the zip file header itself but all the times are present in the metadata file:

“Windows.KapeFiles.Targets/All File Metadata.json”

Example - command line invocation

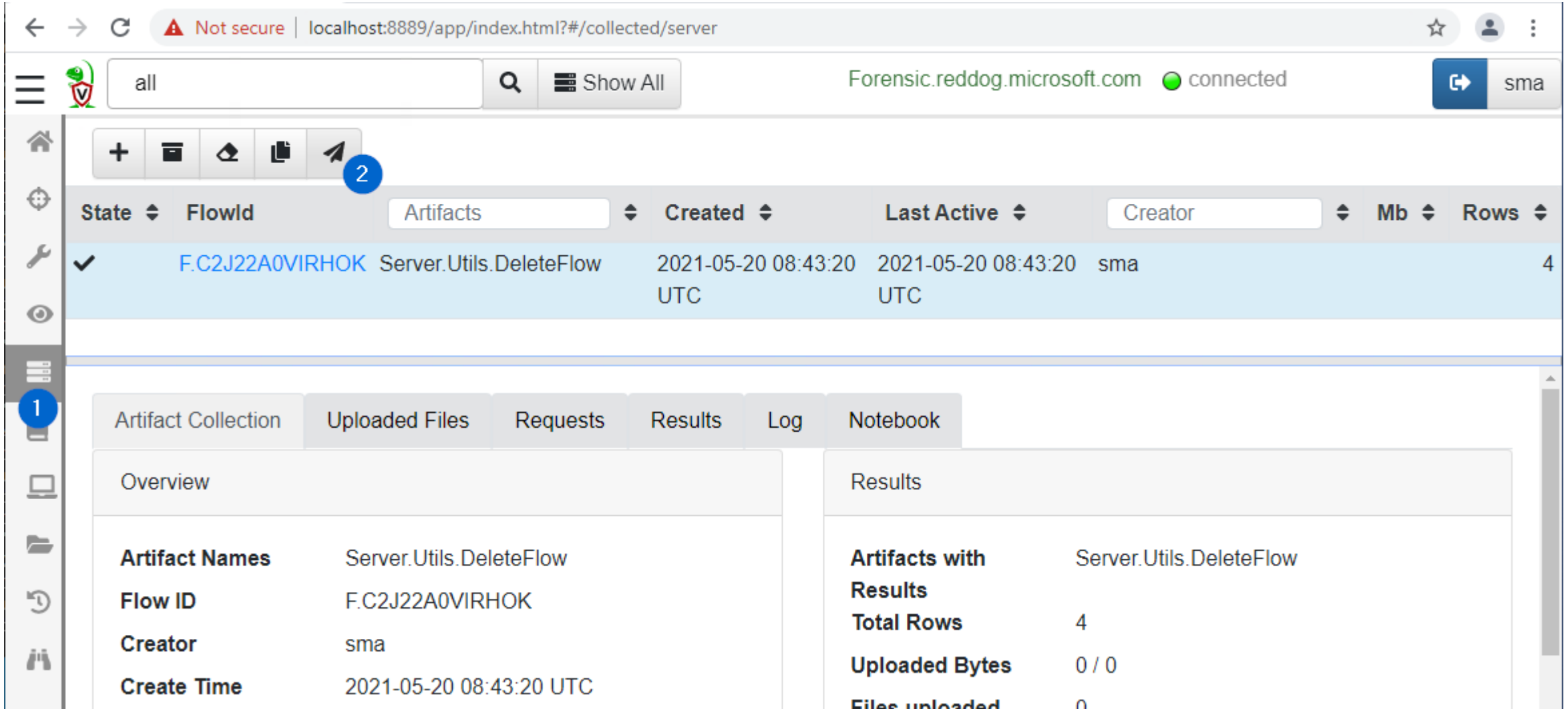
```
PS C:\> velociraptor.exe artifacts collect Windows.KapeFiles.Extract
--argsContainerPath=Collection.zip --args OutputDirectory=/tmp
```

Side note:

- Windows allows 3 timestamps to be set (MAC time except for Btime)
- Linux only allows 2 timestamps (Modified and Accessed).

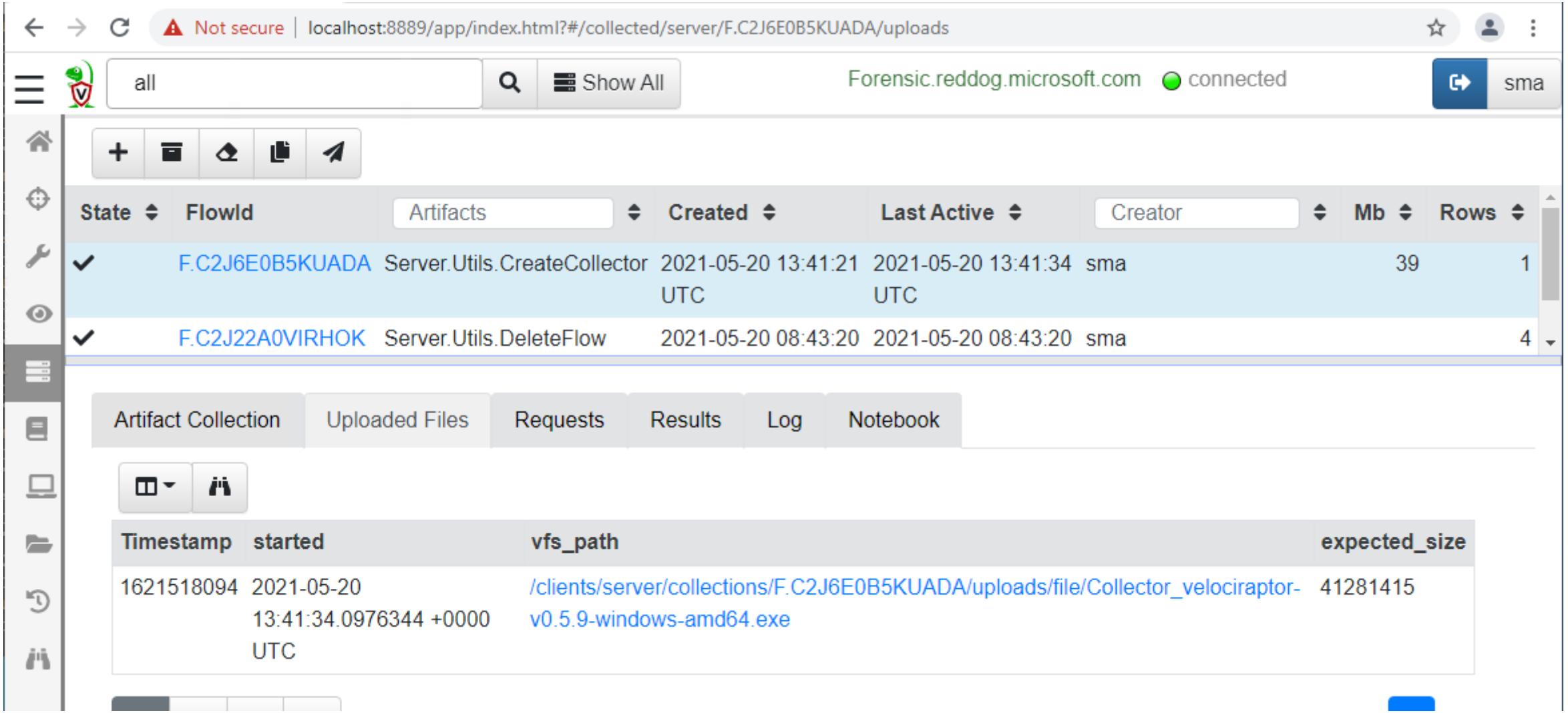
Collecting Files with an Offline Collector

Open the Offline Collector Build tool, select Artifacts and Build

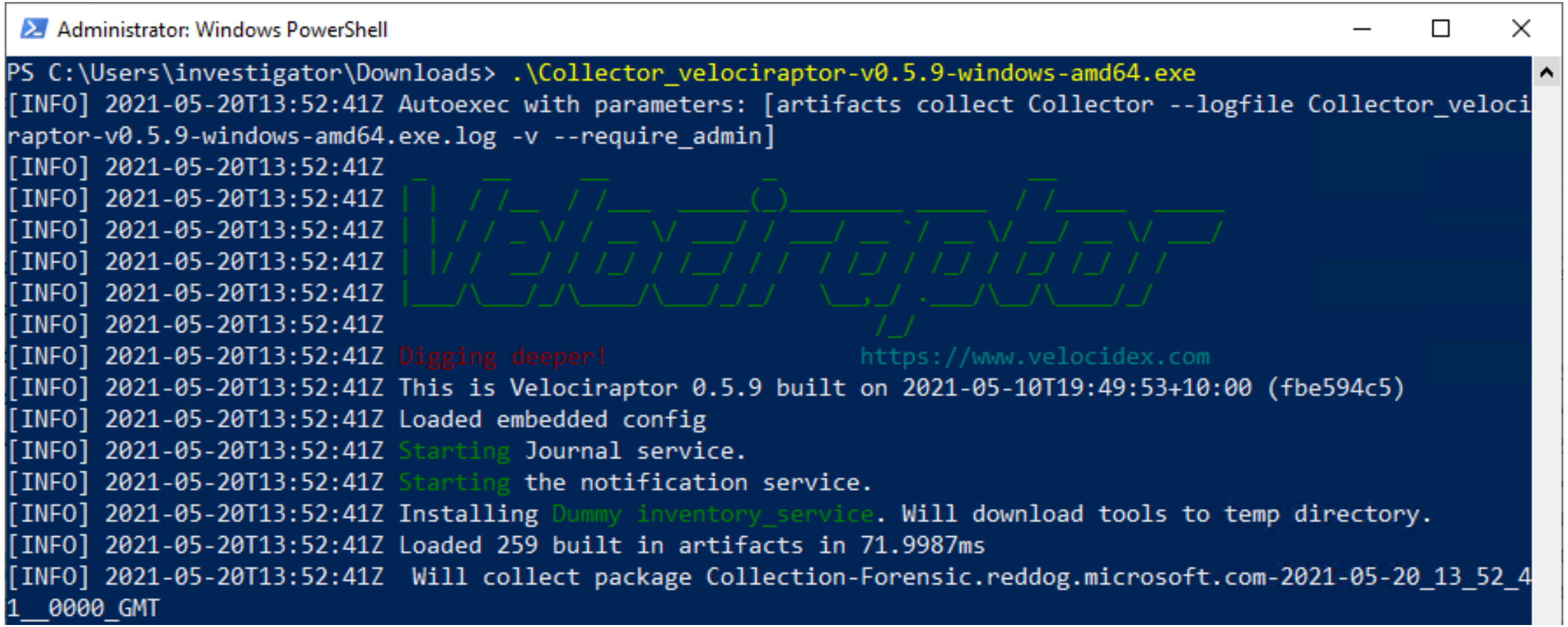


Collecting Files with an Offline Collector

Open the Offline Collector Build tool, select Artifacts and Build



Run an Offline Collector (no params needed)



Collection-Forensic.reddog.microsoft.com-2021-05-20_13_46...	65,134 KB	Compressed (zipped) Folder
Collector_velociraptor-v0.5.9-windows-amd64.exe	583 KB	Text Document
Collector_velociraptor-v0.5.9-windows-amd64	40,314 KB	Application


BBC
S P E E EEEEEEEED!

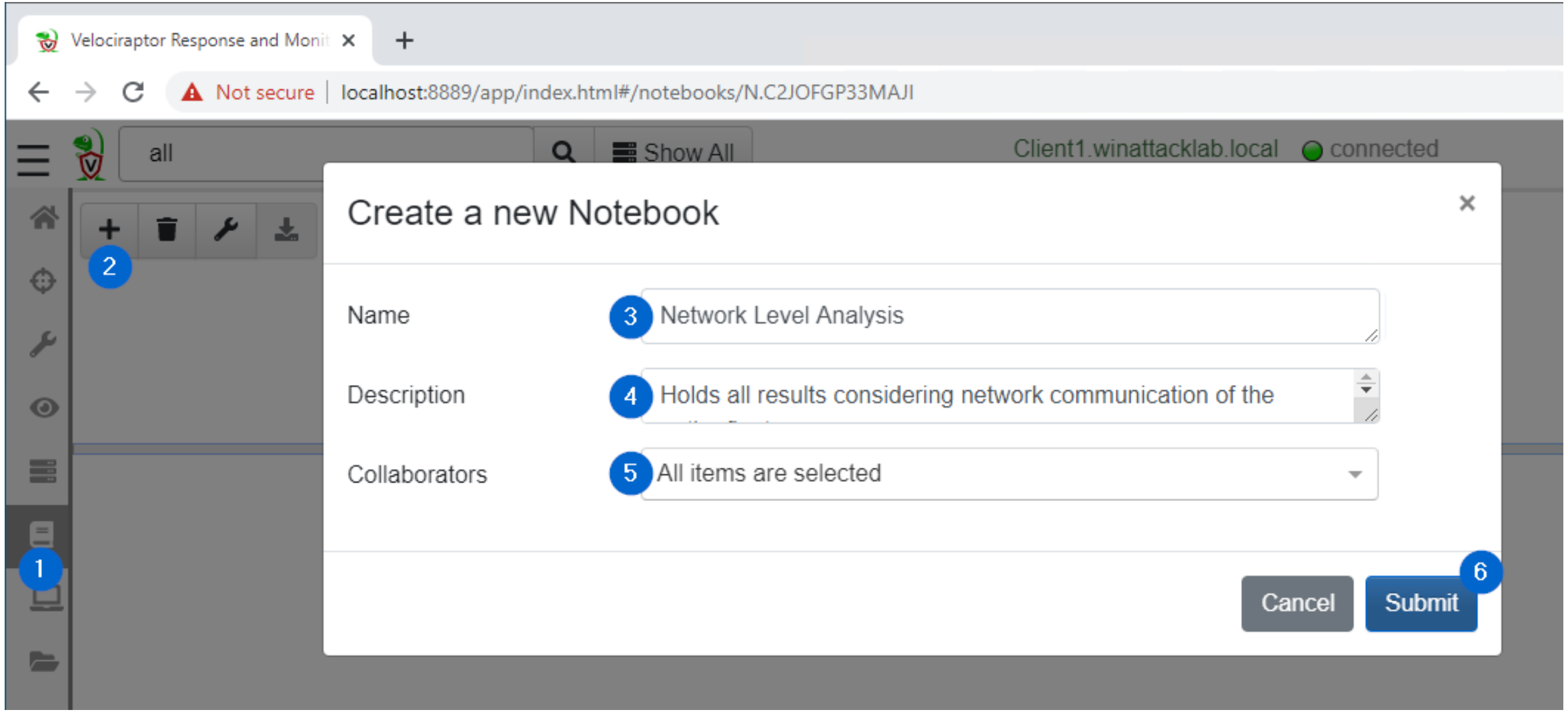
Velociraptor Speed to Numberz

Action, Artifact	Time
Hunt for the full file path on a target systems using Windows.System.CmdShell with param “cmd.exe /c dir C:\Users\mpotter\compass-test-file.txt”	Instant
Hunt for filename only using Windows.Forensics.FilenameSearch which searches the $MFT	30 sec
Creating a hash DB on target by Generic.Forensic.LocalHashes.Glob filtered for C:\Users*** (4400 files).	4 min
Use Generic.Forensic.LocalHashes.Query to **search a hash DB**	Instant
Hunt for successful logons using Windows.EventLogs.ExplicitLogon **on Client**	10 sec
Hunt for successful logons using Windows.EventLogs.ExplicitLogon **on DC**	50 sec
Yara scan processes on a Windows box for a simple string	5 min
Collecting 4GB of physical memory on a client => 1.2GB Zip Archive	12 min

Notebooks

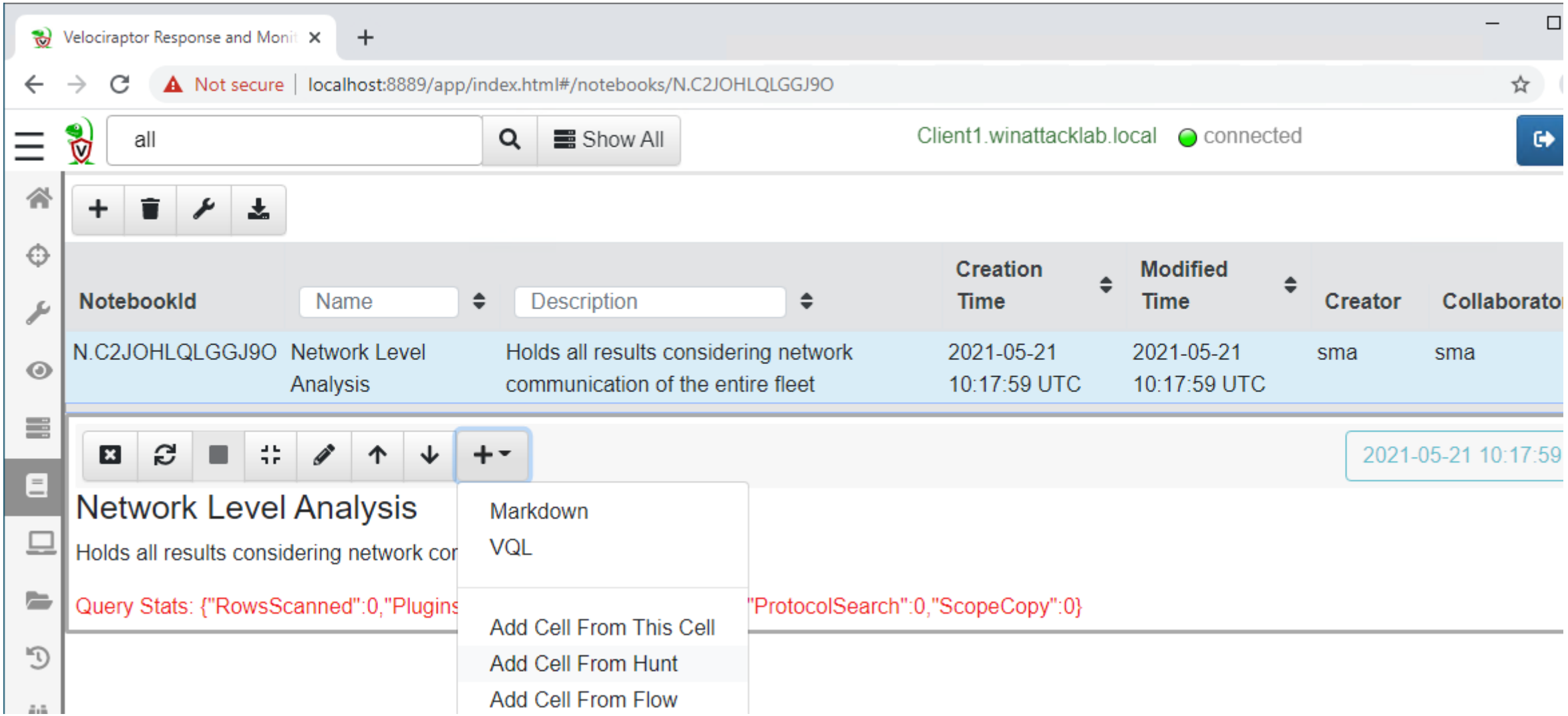
Velociraptor Notebooks

Create a New Notebook



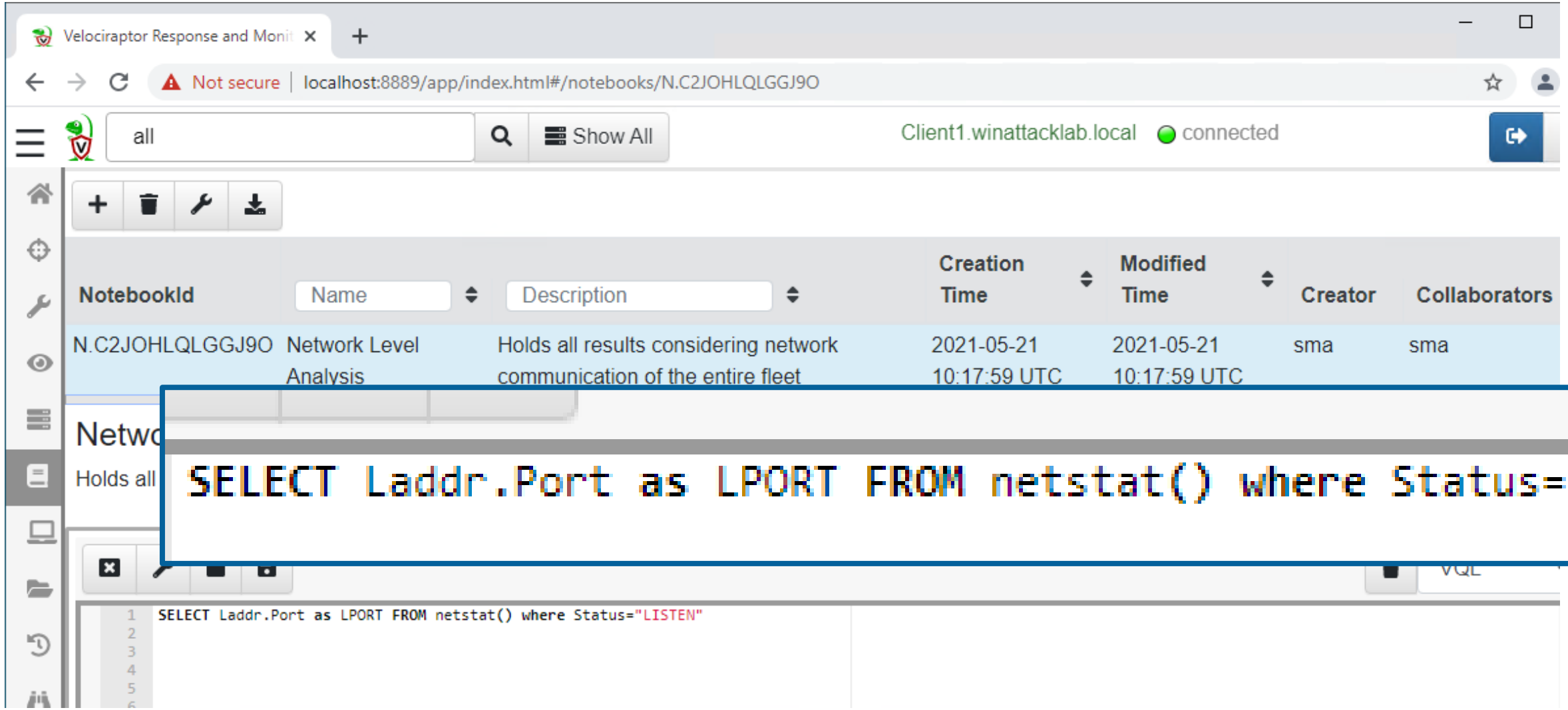
Velociraptor Notebooks

Edit Cells or Add New Cells using Existing Results (Hunts and Flows)



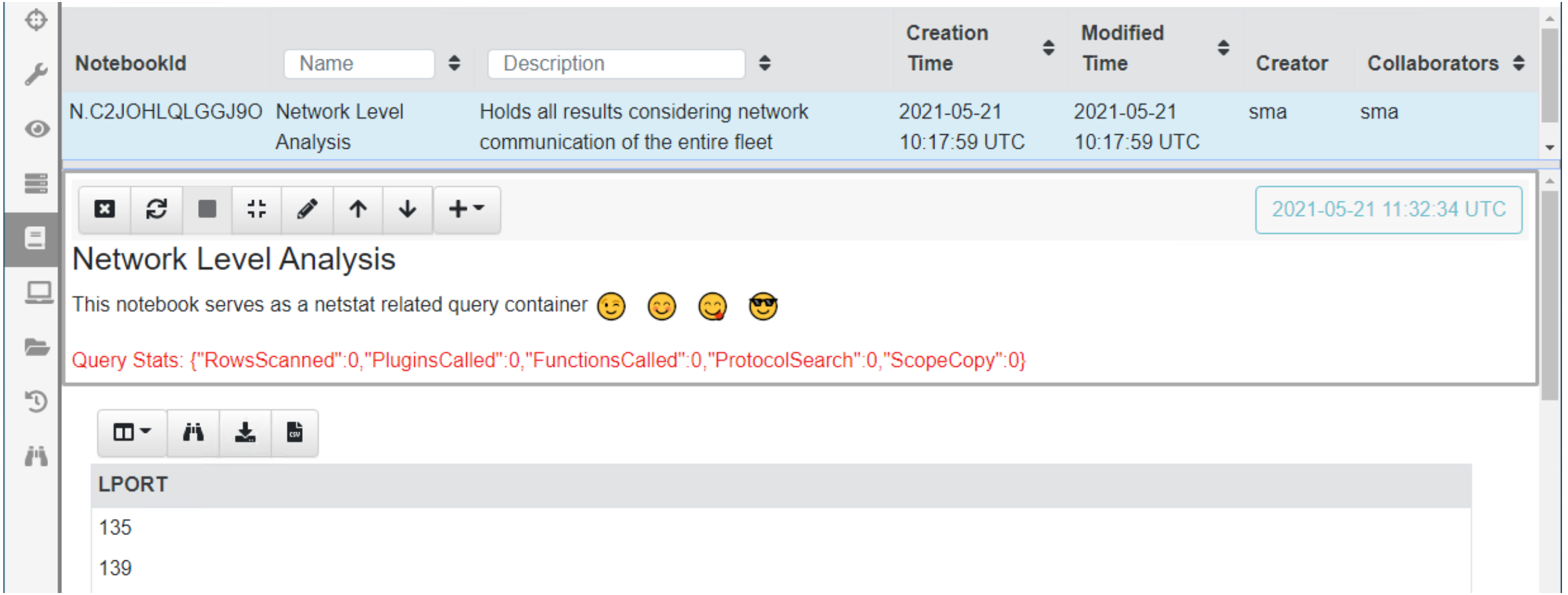
Velociraptor Notebooks

Add New VQL Query



Velociraptor Notebooks

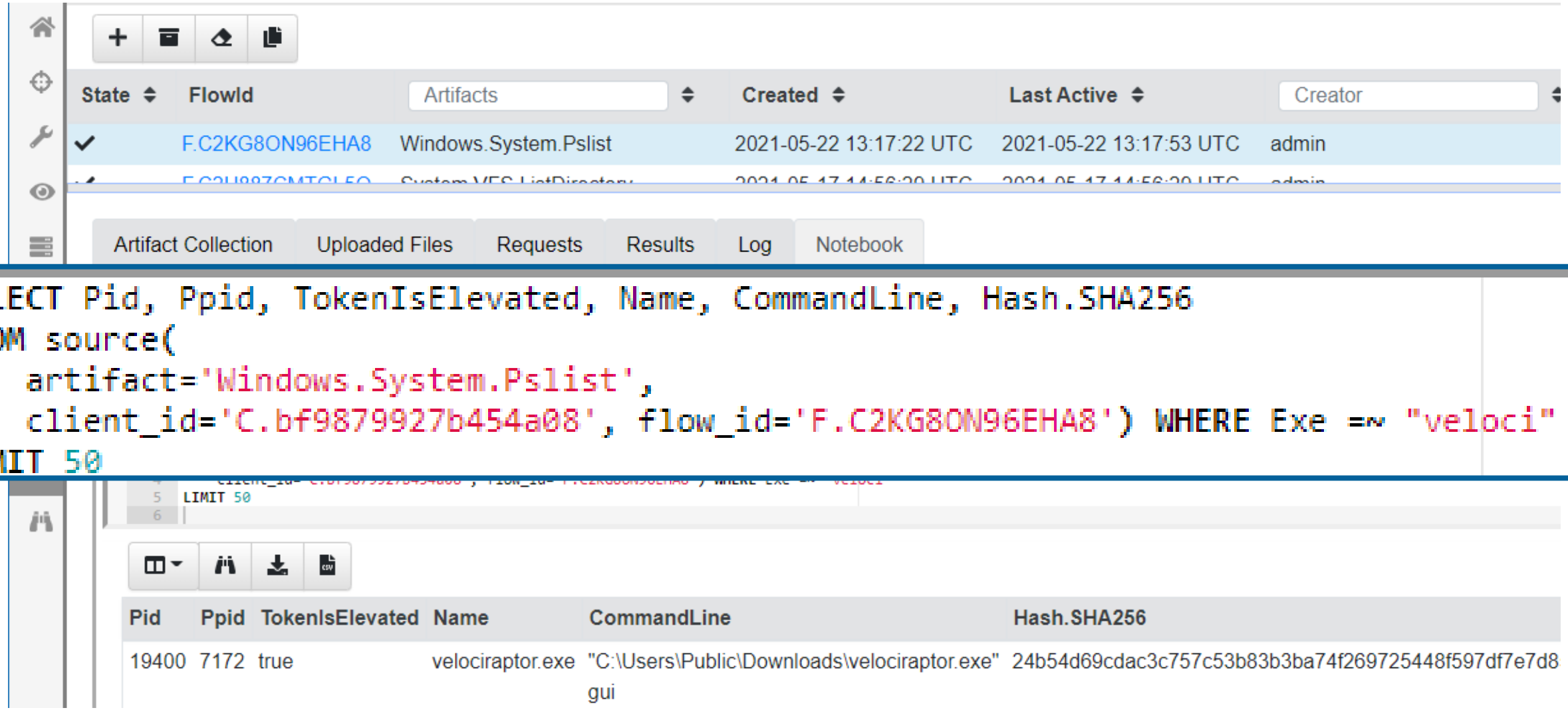
Results in Notebook Cells

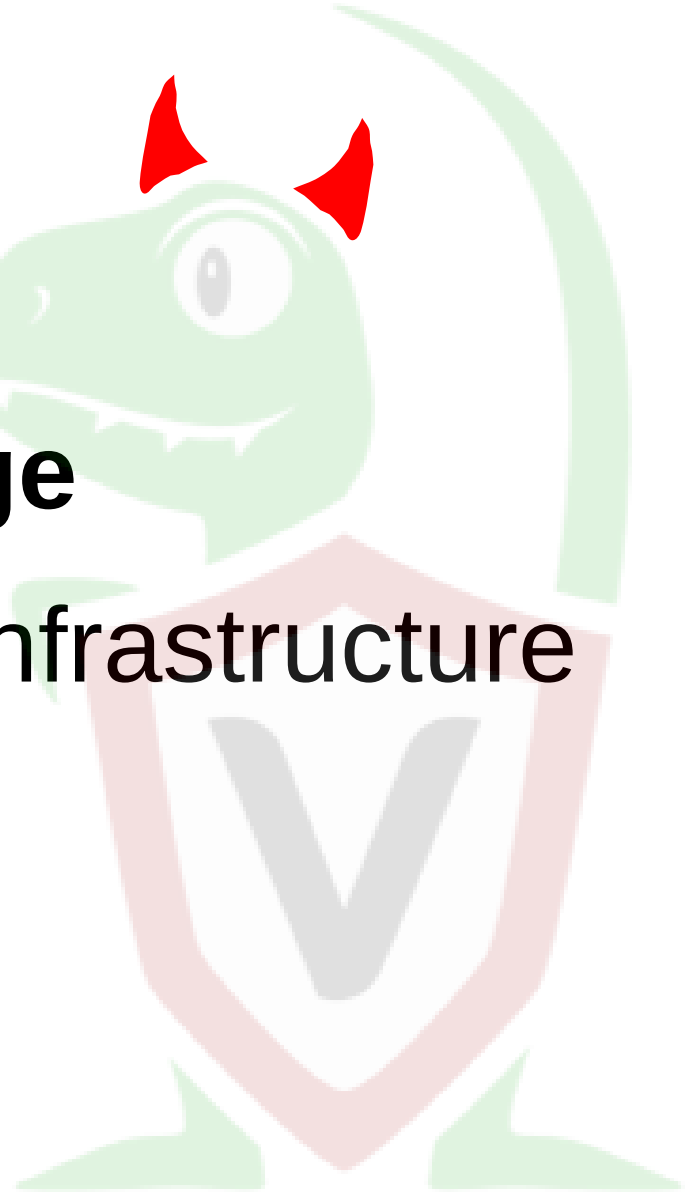


Results or errors are shown as soon as the VQL cell is saved.

Velociraptor Notebooks

Tailor Flow Results (e.g. filter a Pslist Artifact output)





Velociraptor Query Language

Querying the hell out of your infrastructure

Velociraptor Query Language

Introduction to VQL

What is VQL

- It looks like SQL
- Everything in Velociraptor is basically returning Table (Resultset)
- Functions and plugins are the major accelerators

```
SELECT Column1, Column2, Column3 FROM plugin(arg=1) WHERE Column1 = "X"
```

Column Specification

Plugin Clause

Filter Clause

Reference https://www.velocidex.com/docs/vql_reference/

Velociraptor Query Language

Helpful Syntax

Commenting your queries works with

```
-- comment   or   // comment
```

If you want to match strings

```
SELECT * FROM pslist() WHERE Exe =~ "veloci"
```

Put values or entire queries into a variable using LET

```
LET test = "gugus"
LET test = SELECT * FROM pslist()  // references the query (~pointer)
LET test <= SELECT * FROM pslist() // fills test with the result
```

Limit damage ;) using LIMIT

```
SELECT * FROM glob(globs="C:/**") LIMIT 5
```

It is suggested to use / for paths, always. \\ might work for Windows clients, though

Velociraptor Query Language

Logs, List of Files or Registry Entries

Use log() to do Candle-Light Debugging

```
SELECT Null FROM pslist() WHERE log(message="yeah, hit line")
```

Use the glob plugin to get a list of files easily.

```
SELECT Name FROM glob(globs="C:/Users/**/Downloads/*.ex?") LIMIT 5
```

Globs support wildcards such as

```
?   for a single letter
*   part of a string
**  used to traverse recursively into folder
```

Globs support different file accessors e.g. the Registry

```
SELECT FullPath, Name, Data.type, Data.value FROM
glob(globs="HKEY_USERS/*/Software/**/*", accessor="reg")
```

Reference https://www.velocidex.com/docs/vql_reference/

Velociraptor Query Language

Branching and Looping

Use if to branch depending on a condition

```
SELECT * FROM if(
    condition=Exe =~ "chrome",
    then={ expression or query },
    else={ expression or query }    // else is optional
)
```

You may loop over result sets using foreach applying a sub query

```
LET foo = SELECT * FROM pslist() where Exe =~ "chrome" LIMIT 5
SELECT * FROM foreach(
    row=foo,
    query={SELECT * FROM handles(pid=Pid)}
)
```

Reference https://www.velocidex.com/docs/vql_reference/

Velociraptor Query Language Exercise

Let’s give it a try

- Switch to the notebook view
- Create a new notebook
- Enter some text and copy&paste a screenshot
- Create a new VQL cell
- **Create a query that lists loaded DLLs for Velociraptor including compile time and signature**
  - Find the Velociraptor Pid (pslist)
  - Create a list of DLLs (modules, Pid)
  - Get the compile time (parse_pe, ExePath)
  - List if the binary is trusted and the signing subject (authenticode, Exe)

Velociraptor Query Language Exercise Solution

Create a query that lists loaded DLLs for Velociraptor including compile time and signature

```
LET pids = SELECT * FROM pslist() WHERE Exe =~ "veloci"
SELECT * FROM foreach(
   row = pids,
   query = {
      SELECT Pid, ExePath, parse_pe(file=ExePath).FileHeader.TimeDateStamp as
      CompileTime, authenticode(filename=ExePath).SubjectName as Subject,
      authenticode(filename=ExePath).Trusted as Trusted FROM modules(pid=Pid)
   })
```

Pid	ExePath	CompileTime	Subject	Trusted
17848	C:\Users\Public\Downloads\velociraptor.exe	2021-05-03T05:01:02Z	VELOCIDEX INNOVATIONS	trusted
17848	C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32\ntdll.dll	2070-07-28T17:06:43Z	Microsoft Windows	trusted
17848	C:\WINDOWS\System32\KERNEL32.DLL	2022-01-18T10:29:28Z	Microsoft Windows	trusted
17848	C:\WINDOWS\System32\KERNELBASE.dll	2038-08-30T10:21:27Z	Microsoft Windows	trusted

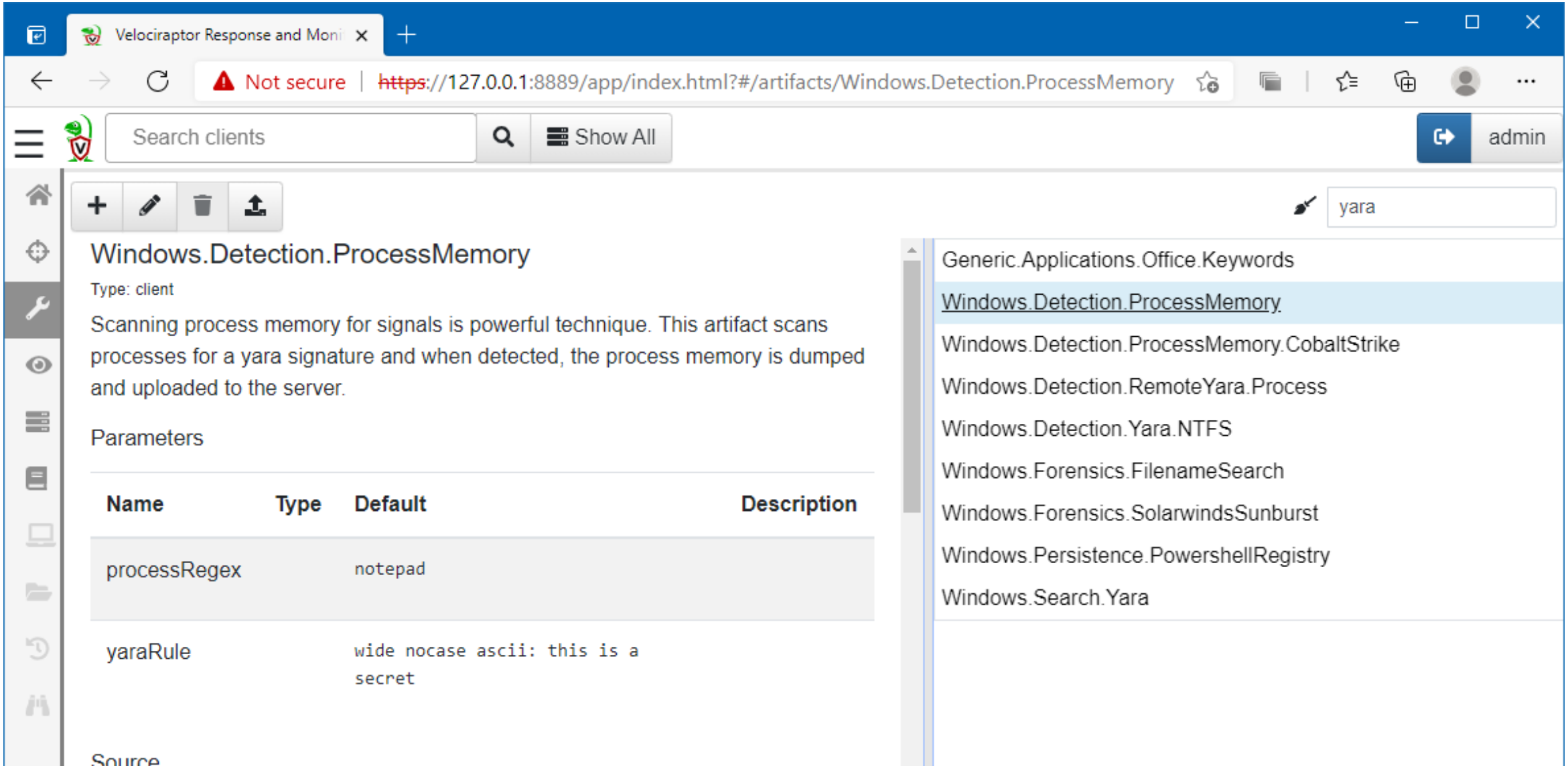
YARA Hunting

YARA Recap

```
rule silent_banker : banker
{
    meta:
        description = "This is just an example"
        threat_level = 3
        in_the_wild = true

    strings:
        $a = {6A 40 68 00 30 00 00 6A 14 8D 91}
        $b = {8D 4D B0 2B C1 83 C0 27 99 6A 4E 59 F7 F9}
        $c = "UVODFRYSIHLNWPEJXQZAKCBGMT"

    condition:
        $a or $b or $c
}
```

http://virustotal.github.io/yara/

YARA in Velociraptor



YARA Performance

You can get yara rules from many sources (threat intel, blog posts etc)

YARA is really a **first level triage tool**:

- Depending on signature many false positives expected
- Some signatures are extremely specific so make a great signal

Speed things up

- Try to collect additional context around the hits to eliminate false positives.

Avoid DoS

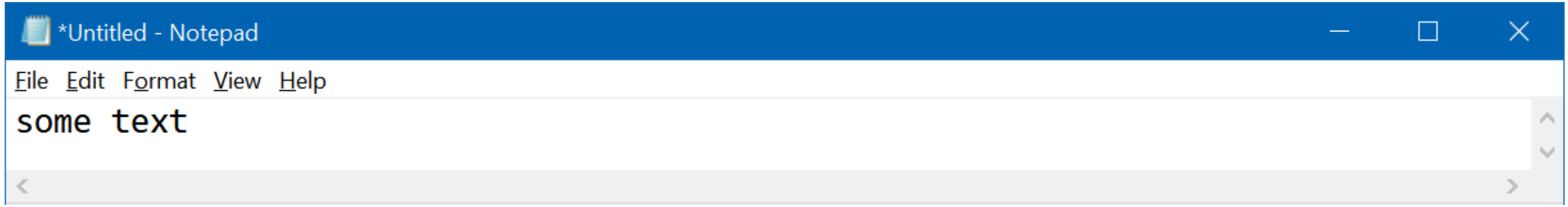
- Yara scanning is relatively expensive! Consider more targeted glob expressions and client-side throttling since usually YARA scanning is not time critical.

Source: Velocidex Enterprise

Velociraptor YARA (inline) Hunt Example

Let’s try to find something memory resident. Thus, you need to prepare a system with a specific string in memory.

Fire-up a Notepad* and enter some text. Well, it could be something else of course.



Try to find the “malicious” process and list its ID, name and executable path

- Create a yara rule that hits the “specific string” or “some text” (string, and condition)

```
LET r00l = 'rule detector { strings: $srch = "some text" condition : $srch }'
```

- Enumerate all processes (pslist)
- For every process, do a yara search (proc_yara, Pid)

Velociraptor YARA (inline) Hunt Example Solution

Finding a process is no magic.

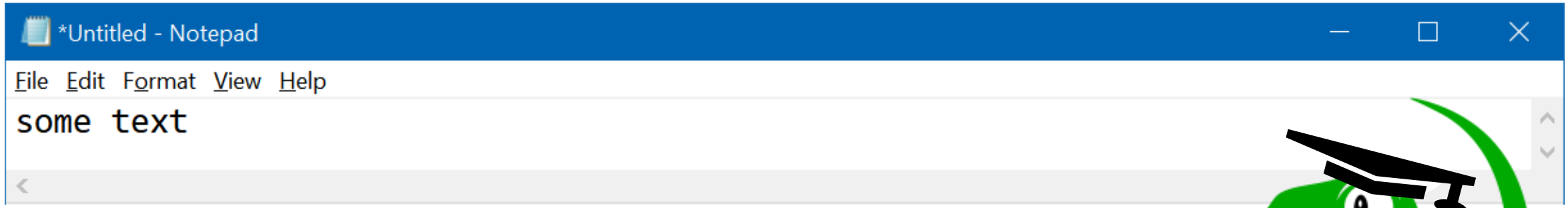
```
LET rule = 'rule dtect { strings: $srch = "Secret_Name" condition : $srch }'
LET pid = SELECT Pid, Exe, Name FROM pslist()
LET qry = SELECT Name, Exe, Pid from proc_yara( pid=Pid, rules=rule)

SELECT * FROM foreach(row=pid, query=qry)
```

Name	Exe	Pid
msedge.exe	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Edge\Application\msedge.exe	6676
POWERPNT.EXE	C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\POWERPNT.EXE	4548
velociraptor.exe	C:\Users\Public\Downloads\velociraptor.exe	5544
msedge.exe	C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft\Edge\Application\msedge.exe	9304
notepad++.exe	C:\Program Files\Notepad++\notepad++.exe	5984

Velociraptor YARA (file) Hunt Example

Let’s try to find something based on a rule file. We need something to be found and thus, you need to prepare a file with a specific string in it.

Fire-up a Notepad* and enter some text. Save it somewhere but use the ending “.txt”



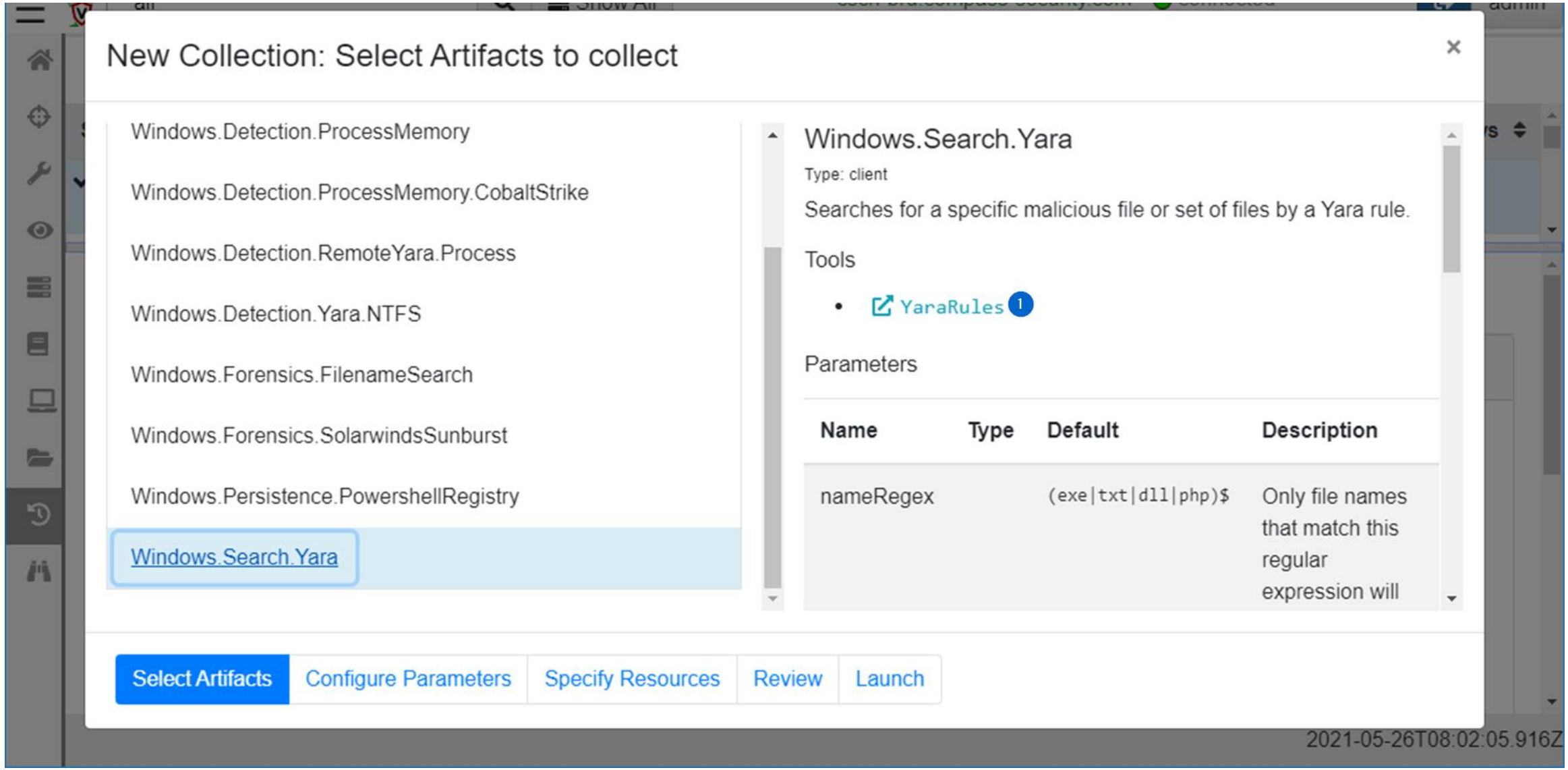
Try to find the “malicious” file using the Windows.Search.YARA Artifact.

- Save a yara rule into a file (string, and condition)

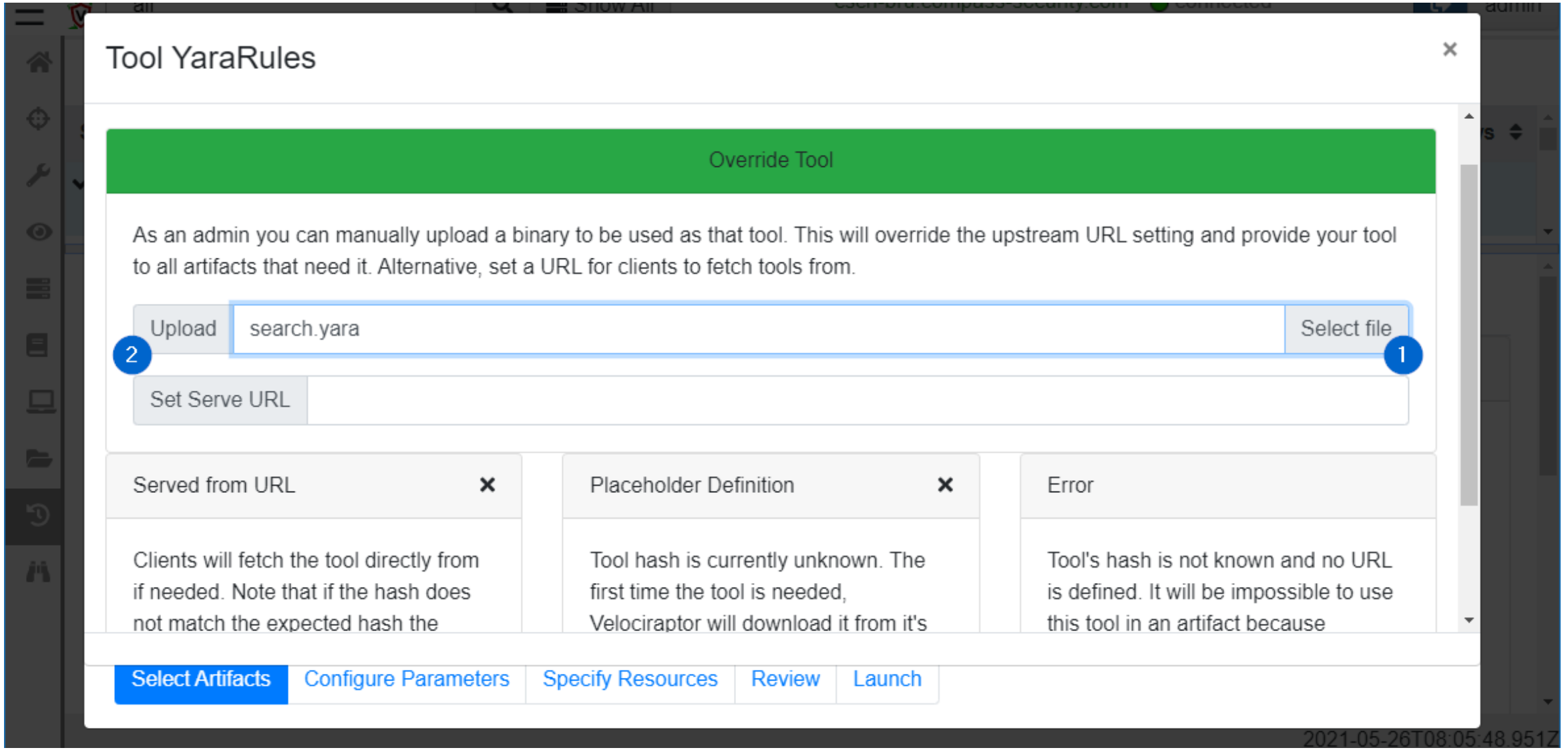
```
rule dtect { strings: $srch = "some text" condition : $srch }
```

- Upload the file using the Windows.Search.YARA Upload button
- Run the flow or hunt (you maybe want to narrow the scope to *.txt)

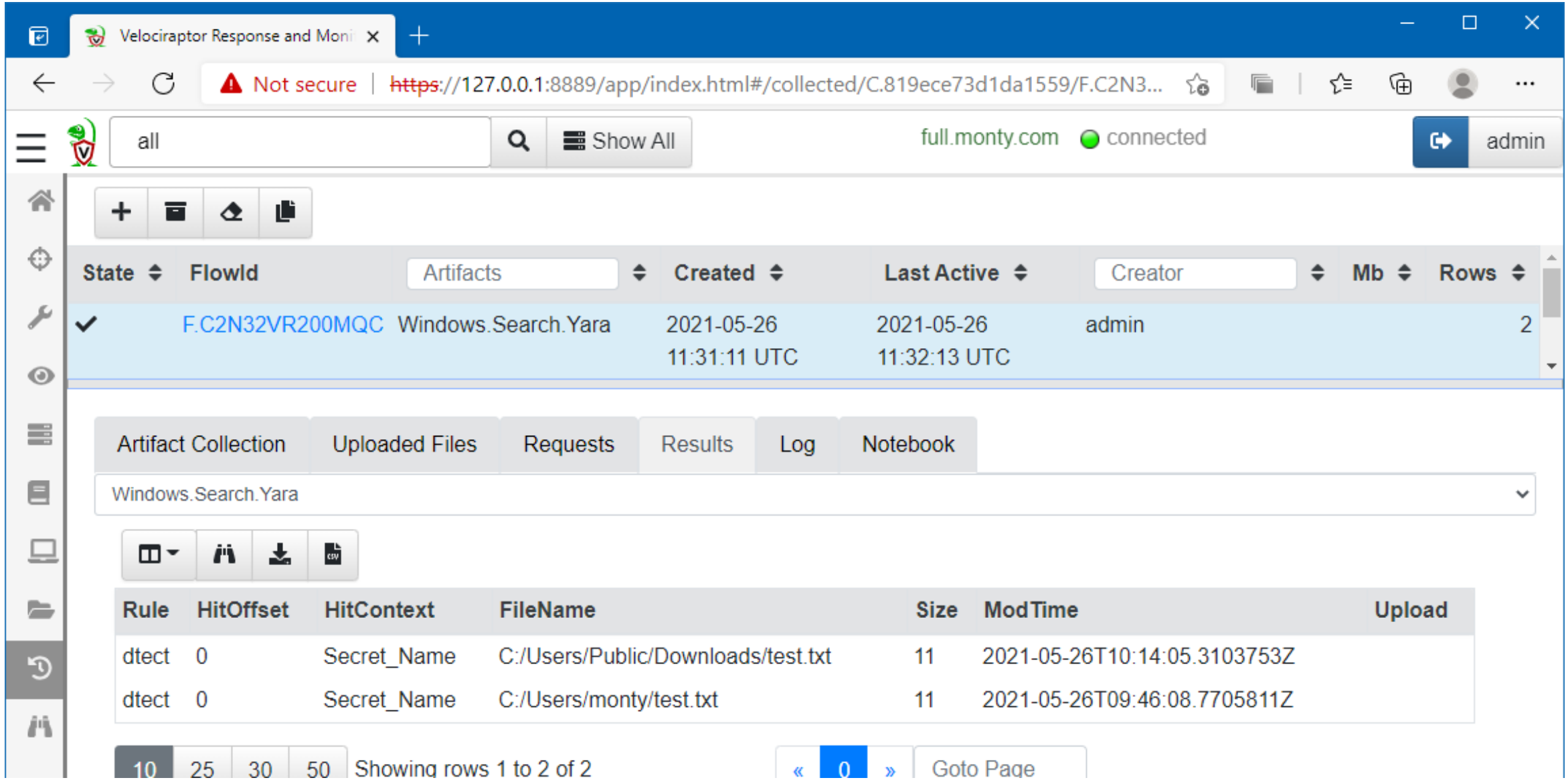
Velociraptor YARA (file) Hunt Example Solution



Velociraptor YARA (file) Hunt Example Solution



Velociraptor YARA (file) Hunt Example Solution



Logs

Logs Example

```
LET seclogs <= SELECT FullPath FROM
glob(globs="C:/Windows/System32/winevt/Logs/*Security*.evtx") LIMIT 3

SELECT *, timestamp(epoch=System.TimeCreated.SystemTime) as Time FROM
parse_evtx(filename=seclogs, accessor="ntfs") WHERE System.EventID.Value = 4624
ORDER BY Time
```

System	EventData	Message	Time
{ "Provider" : {... } "EventID" : {...} "Version" : 2 "Level" : 0 "Task" : 12544 "Opcode" : 0	{ "SubjectUserSid" : "S-1-0-0" "SubjectUserName" : "-" "SubjectDomainName" : "-" "SubjectLogonId" : 0 "TargetUserSid" : "S-1-5-18" "TargetUserName" : "SYSTEM" "TargetDomainName" : "NT AUTHORITY"	An account was successfully logged on. Subject: Security ID: S-1-0-0 Account Name: - Account Domain: - Logon ID: 0 Logon Type: 0 Impersonation Level: - New Logon: Security ID: S-1-5-18 Account Name: SYSTEM Account Domain: NT AUTHORITY Logon ID: 999 Logon GUID: 00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000 Process Information: Process ID: 4 Process Name: Network Information: Workstation Name: - Source Network Address: - Source Port: - Detailed Authentication Information: Logon Process: - Authentication Package: - Transited Services: - Package Name (NTLM only): - Key Length: 0 This event is generated when a logon session is created. It is generated on the computer that was accessed. The subject fields indicate the account on the local system which requested the logon. This is most commonly a service such as the Server service, or a local process such as Winlogon.exe or Services.exe. The logon type field indicates the kind of logon that occurred. The most common types are 2 (interactive) and 3 (network). The New Logon fields indicate the account for whom the new logon was created, i.e. the account that was logged on. The network fields indicate where a remote logon request originated. Workstation name is not always available and may be left blank in some	2020-06-26T12:08:22.425006389Z

The Mystery of Chinese Event Log Entries

Conversion Example, Little Endian => Big Endian

```
using System;
using System.Text;

namespace LEBEconversion
{
    class Program
    {
        static void Main(string[] args)
        {
            var source = "腩攀氈攀琀椀彀濟勻琀愀琀攀";
            var bytes = Encoding.BigEndianUnicode.GetBytes(source);
            var result = Encoding.Unicode.GetString(bytes);
            Console.WriteLine(result);
        }
    }
}
```

Source https://dylanbeattie.net/2016/10/25/the-mystery-of-chinese-junk.html

Dead Disk Forensics

Have a vmdk or dd which you'd like to run a few artefacts on?

```
// mount vmdk -> creates /mnt/flat
$ vmware-mount -f win10.vmdk /mnt

// auto generate mapping file
// alternatively use disk.dd instead of /mnt/flat
$ velo-linux-amd64 -v deaddisk --add_windows_disk /mnt/flat remapping.yaml

// let's have a look
$ velo-linux-amd64 --config_override remapping.yaml gui -v
```

Building Velociraptor

Building and Installing Velociraptor

Velociraptor will create configuration files from which you can build clients and servers for various architectures (provided the architecture has a compiler for GO available). Get the latest releases here https://github.com/Velocidex/velociraptor/releases

To build a Linux server Debian installer package on Windows, run

```
> velociraptor-v0.4.5-windows-amd64.exe config generate -i
> velociraptor-v0.4.5-windows-amd64.exe --config server.config.yaml debian server
```

To install the server deb package on Debian, run

```
> sudo dpkg -i velociraptor_server*.deb
> sudo server service velociraptor_server status //... maybe start
```

Installation of the package might fail due to dependency errors. In that case run **apt-get install -f** and rerun the above.

Building a Windows Installer

To create an .msi installer file. Use WIX https://wixtoolset.org/releases/ or unzip the Velociraptor source and change to the WIX folder

```
> cd velociraptor-src\docs\wix
> mkdir output
> copy pathtobinary\velociraptor-v0.4.5-windows-amd64.exe output\velociraptor.exe
> copy pathtobinary\client.config.yaml output\
> build_custom.bat
```

To install the msi Installer file locally, use

```
> msiexec /i custom.msi
```

Windows Deployment

You are strongly advised to sign Windows binaries to avoid hiccups with Defender. Use Microsoft's signtool.exe or osslsigncode on Linux.

Binaries are usually deployed either by

- GPO scheduled tasks
- GPO assigned software
- Microsoft System Center Configuration Manager (SCCM)
- Some other custom SW deployment mechanism

GPO deployments are fragile. To avoid multiple agents launched you should use the --mutant flag to specify a mutant preventing the agent from starting multiple times.

```
PS C:\> velociraptor.exe --config ... client -v --mutant HoldrioGugu
```


COMPASS
SECURITY