# Objective 9 Splunk!

Blue team professionals working in Security Operations Centers (SOCs) or incident response need software to collect log files from many different systems and display them in a useable, searchable format. Splunk is one product that fulfills this Security Information and Event Monitoring (SIEM) function. First, we to visit Fitzy Shortstack in the lobby of Santa’s castle.

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## Terminal Yara Analysis

YARA is a system of rules for recording information about malware so it can be distributed to ITSec people.

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In this terminal you will alter an executable binary file so that it passes YARA rules and measures the sweetness of North Pole candy. The terminal does not have a hex editor available, so you must edit the file with vim and xxd.

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### Step 1 question: Does it run?

Will ./the\_critical\_elf\_app run?

### Step 1 answer

No. When you run the application, it fails yara\_rule\_135.  
A screenshot of a computer

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### Step 2 question: Find the problem rule

The applications more and less both allow you to search for a term. Just enter ‘/’ followed by the searchterm. What is the rule triggering on?

### Step 2 answer

The find feature of less (/searchterm) helps us locate rule 135.  
A screenshot of a computer

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We must remove or alter the string “candycane” to pass this rule.  
Text

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### Step 3 question: Edit a binary with vim? Really?

After much searching, I found these links which explain how to use vim and xxd together to edit binary files.  
<https://askubuntu.com/questions/786658/how-do-i-edit-the-binary-or-hexadecimal-data-of-a-file-in-ubuntu#:~:text=xxd%20is%20a%20linux%20command,b%20and%20then%20press%20ENTER%20.&text=Press%20ESC%20and%20then%20i,which%20allows%20you%20to%20edit.>  
<https://transang.me/edit-binary-file-with-vim-and-the-xxd-command/>  
<https://vi.stackexchange.com/questions/343/how-to-edit-binary-files-with-vim>

### Step 3 answer

Open the\_critical\_app in vim. Text

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Then enter the vim command :%! xxd. This tells vim to run the xxd command against the text so we can read and edit it.  
Background pattern

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We can edit this.  
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Pressing “i” puts us in insert mode.  
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Then change the string candycane. I chose to change 6e (last n in candycane) to 6d. Notice that the hex changed, but the ASCII translation in the right column did not change.

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A screenshot of a computer

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Now, change the text back to binary. Hit escape to exit insert mode, then scroll to the very top of the text.  
Text

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Use :%! xxd -r to tell vi/xxd to put it back in binary.  
Background pattern

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Enter :wq to write the changes and quit vm.

### Step 4 question: Next?

Try to run the binary again. If it fails, fix it (again.)

### Step 4 answer

Run the binary and fail the next rule.  
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This time the rule is looking for hex strings, either 6c 6962 632e 736f 2e36 or 726f 6772 616d 2121.  
Text

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Our friend CyberChef from GCHQ can help.

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We had best change the second string, as the first may cause the libc.so.6 not to load. Use the same procedure as before. I like to pick on “m”, so I changed 6d to 6e.  
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### Step 5 question: Again?

This time the binary hits a more complicated rule. There’s an easy way to fix it, and a hard way.

### Step 5 answer

When we run the app again, we hit yet another YARA rule.  
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This one is more complicated.  
Text

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The condition is uint32(1) == 0x02464c45 AND filesize < 50KB AND 10 of them

Trying to find 10 strings that will not break the app by changing them seems like a lot of work. The uint32 test looks for the 32 bits, starting with the second byte in the file. It is little-endian, so will be backwards.  
 Graphical user interface, application, chat or text message

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It is looking for the magic bytes of an ELF executable; we cannot change that. So, make the file larger than 50 kB.

### Step 6 question: Make it bigger?

The not quite correctly named Linux app, truncate, can also add padding to files.  
<https://linuxhint.com/truncate-command-in-linux/>  
<https://superuser.com/questions/1535572/can-i-create-an-image-with-a-specific-size-in-bytes/1536157#1536157>

### Step 6 answer

Use truncate to increase the file size to just over 50 kB.  
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Solved.  
Text

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## Hints after solving Yara Analysis

Fitzy has assistance for us.

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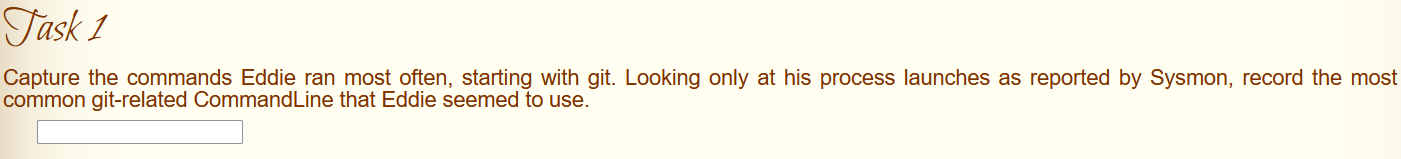
## Objective 9 Splunk!

Clicking the terminal next to Angel Candysalt in the castle great room takes you to a Splunk interface. The sample Splunk searches were very helpful.

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### Task 1 question



### Task 1 answer

I used sample search 4 and found the most used git command was git status.

### Task 2 question

### Task 2 answer

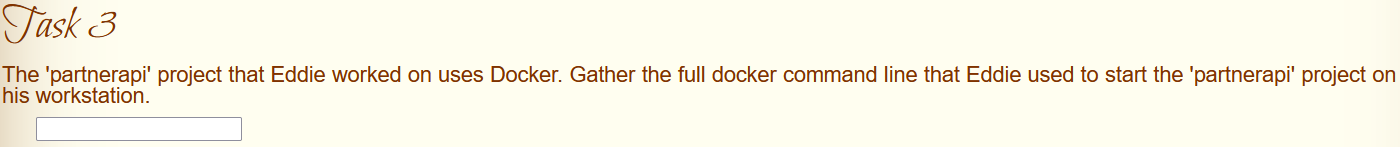
Use search 4 again, and add a regex to search for “origin” .

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The answer was [git@github.com:elfnp3/partnerapi.git](mailto:git@github.com:elfnp3/partnerapi.git)

### Task 3 question



### Task 3 answer

Again, sample search 4 helps.

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docker compose up

### Task 4 question

Note. Task 4 was modified in early January because the elfnp3 github entry was deleted.

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### Task 4 answer

Sample search 6 is set up for webhook events.  
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Because of the change, they accept either <https://github.com/snoopysecurity/dvws-node> or dvws-node.

### Task 5 question



### Task 5 answer

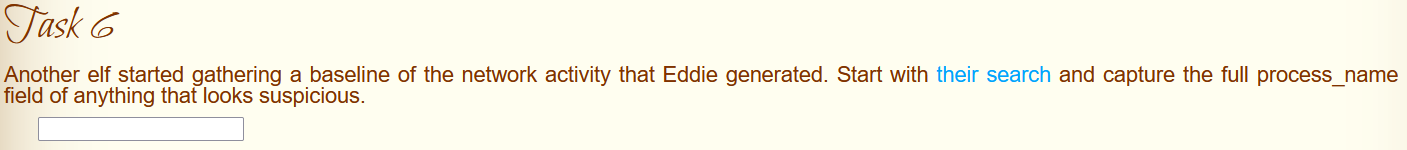
I modified search 4 again to add a regex for “npm”.

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holiday-utils-js is the answer they are looking for.

### Task 6 question



### Task 6 answer

That search leads you to two IP addresses. The second is the one that had the alerts.

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Drilling into one of the events took me here.

Text, application

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<snip>  
Graphical user interface, text, application

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The problem process was /usr/bin/nc.openbsd.

### Task 7 question

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### Task 7 answer

Starting with the query from Task 6, find the process\_id, 6791. Go back to sample search 2 and modify it to look for process\_id=6971.

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Next, look for the ParentProcessID so we can look for other processes that it launched.  
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The parent was 6788, so look for other processes that have the same parent.  
index=main sourcetype=journald source=Journald:Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational EventCode=1 ParentProcessId=6788

Graphical user interface, text, email

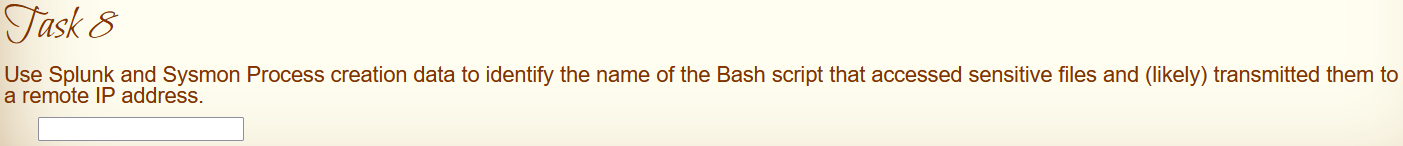
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One of the children of 6788 launched a cat command to steal Eddie’s credentials.  
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There were 6 files.

### Task 8 question



### Task 8 answer

Keep walking up the parent tree, starting with process\_id 6788.

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The command line for 6788 was /bin/bash. No help there, find the parent for 6788.  
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The parent of 6788 was 6784, what did it do?  
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The command line was /bin/bash, so we keep looking. The parent of 6784 was 6783.  
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The new parent is 6783, so search for it.  
Graphical user interface, text, application, email

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Aha! It was /bin/bash/preinstall.sh, which is part of the package Santa asked Eddy to load. Oops.

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