Project 4 - Auditing with OSquery and YARA

OSquery is an multi-platform operating system instrumentation framework. It is supported for Windows, OSX, Linux and FreeBSD. [1]

OSQuery exposes the operating system's data in the form of a relational database that is tuned for high-performance. It can be used for various kinds of instrumentation of the OS. Running processes, kernel modules, installed packages and more for basic monitoring of the system. It can also be used for network monitoring to get open ports, firewall rules and more. It can even be connected with syslog to read syslog events. Some of the examples queries and their outputs are shown below.

PART 1: BASIC MONITORING OF A SYSTEM

P1.1a - SELECT pid,name,user_time,system_time FROM processes ORDER BY pid DESC LIMIT 10;

oid name	user_time	system_time	ļ
928 kworker/2:0-events	10	140	
927 kworker/3:0-events	0	260	
924 osqueryi	200	80	
912 kworker/1:1-ata_sff	10	0	
897 zsh	400	200	
896 asciinema	0	10	
895 asciinema	40	10	
894 asciinema	310	440	
815 kworker/1:3-events	0	1500	
812 kworker/0:2-cgroup_des	trov 110	140	

P1.2a - SELECT version, arguments, device FROM kernel_info;

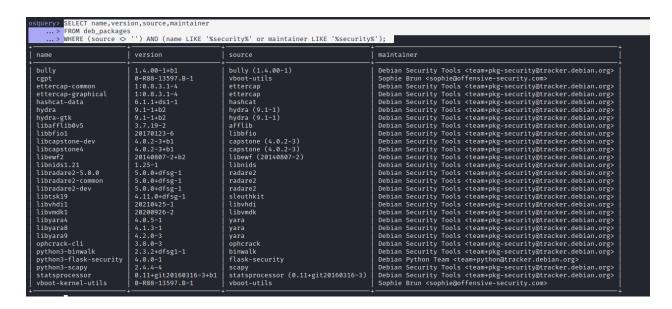
squery> <mark>SELECT versi</mark>	on, arguments, dev	ice FROM kernel_info;
version	arguments	device
5.14.0-kali4-amd64	ro quiet splash	 UUID=bb71bd36-b961-41e3-8202-84c2f0bcbdfa

P1.2b - SELECT name, size, used_by, address FROM kernel_modules ORDER BY name ASC LIMIT 10;

```
osquery> SELECT name, size, used_by, address FROM kernel_modules ORDER BY size DESC LIMIT 10;
 name
                   size
                            used_by
                                                                     address
                                                                     0×ffffffffc0874000
                   917504
 ext4
                   663552
                                                                     0×ffffffffc0955000
 sunrpc
                   634880
                            vmwgfx,ttm,drm_kms_helper
                                                                     0×ffffffffc02c1000
 drm
                                                                     0×ffffffffc0815000
 vmwgfx
                   385024
 aesni_intel
                   380928
                                                                     0×ffffffffc05d9000
                   331776
                            usbhid,ehci_pci,uhci_hcd,ehci_hcd
                                                                     0×ffffffffc03ed000
 usbcore
                                                                     0×ffffffffc0794000
 drm_kms_helper
                   307200
                            vmwgfx
                   294912
                                                                     0×ffffffffc0539000
 libata
                            ata_generic,ata_piix
                   274432
                            br netfilter
                                                                     0×ffffffffc0bea000
 bridge
 nf_tables
                   262144
                            nft_chain_nat,nft_counter,nft_compat
                                                                     0×ffffffffc0c47000
```

P1.3a -SELECT name, version, source, maintainer

- ...> FROM deb_packages
- ...> WHERE (source <> ") AND (name LIKE '%security%' or maintainer LIKE '%security%');



P1.3b - SELECT name, version FROM deb_packages WHERE name LIKE '%iptables%';

P1.4a - SELECT path, username, groupname, permissions

- ...> FROM suid_bin
- ...> WHERE username LIKE 'root' AND groupname LIKE 'root' AND permissions LIKE 's';

osquery> SELECT path, username, group> FROM suid bin	oname, perm	issions	
> WHERE username LIKE 'root'	AND groupnar	ne LIKE 'roo	t' AND permissions LIKE 's';
path osquery	username	groupname	permissions nameuth_part3.cast_r
/bin/chsh	root	root	S
/bin/sudo	root	root	İs
/bin/newgrp	root	root	s
/bin/ntfs-3g	root	root	i s
/bin/fusermount3	root	root	i s
/bin/fusermount	root	root	s
/bin/vmware-user-suid-wrapper	root	root	is i
/bin/sudoedit	root	root	i s
/bin/chfn	root	root	i s
/bin/passwd	root	root	i s
/bin/su	root	root	is i
/bin/vmware-user	root	root	S
/bin/sg	root	root	s
/bin/pkexec	root	root	s
/bin/gpasswd	root	root	S
/bin/mount	root	root	S
/bin/umount	root	root	i s
/sbin/mount.cifs	root	root	is i
/sbin/umount.nfs	root	root	is i
/sbin/mount.ntfs-3g	root	root	i s
/sbin/mount.nfs	root	root	i s
/sbin/umount.nfs4	root	root	i s
/sbin/mount.nfs4	root	root	is i
/sbin/mount.ntfs	root	root	i s
/sbin/mount.smb3	root	root	is i
/usr/bin/chsh	root	root	i s
/usr/bin/sudo	root	root	i s
/usr/bin/newgrp	root	root	s
/usr/bin/ntfs-3g	root	root	s
/usr/bin/fusermount3	root	root	s
/usr/bin/fusermount	root	root	s
/usr/bin/vmware-user-suid-wrapper	root	root	s
/usr/bin/sudoedit	root	root	s
/usr/bin/chfn	root	root	s
/usr/bin/passwd	root	root	S
/usr/bin/su	root	root	S
/usr/bin/vmware-user	root	root	S
/usr/bin/sg	root	root	S
/usr/bin/pkexec	root	root	S
/usr/bin/gpasswd	root	root	S
/usr/bin/mount	root	root	S
/usr/bin/umount	root	root	S
/usr/sbin/mount.cifs	root	root	S
/usr/sbin/umount.nfs	root	root	S
/usr/sbin/mount.ntfs-3g	root	root	S
/usr/sbin/mount.nfs	root	root	S
/usr/sbin/umount.nfs4	root	root	S
/usr/sbin/mount.nfs4	root	root	S
/usr/sbin/mount.ntfs	root	root	S
/usr/sbin/mount.smb3	root	root	S
+	+	+	++

P1.4b - SELECT * FROM sudoers WHERE header LIKE '%sudo%';

	+		+	
source	header	rule_details	I	
/etc/sudoers	%sudo	ALL=(ALL:ALL) ALL	Ť	

PART 2: NETWORK AND PROCESS MONITORING

P2.1a - SELECT * from listening_ports LIMIT 10;

id	port	protocol	family	address	fd	socket	path	net_namespace
42	4767	6	2	127.0.0.1	5	17819	i	4026531992
91	80	6	10	::	4	16785		4026531992
15	546	17	10	fe80::20c:29ff:fe63:4f10	24	16907		4026531992
15	58	255	10	::	21	10218		4026531992
	0	0	1	İ	39	0	/run/systemd/notify	4026531992
039	0	0	1		12	0	@/tmp/.ICE-unix/1039	4026531992
22	0	0	1	İ	3	0	/run/systemd/journal/syslog	4026531992
09	0	0	1		7	0	@/tmp/.X11-unix/X0	4026531992
	0	0	1		145	0	/run/systemd/fsck.progress	4026531992
357	0	0	1		3	0	/run/systemd/journal/dev-log	4026531992

P2.1b - SELECT pid, socket, protocol, local_address, remote_address, local_port, remote_port FROM process_open_sockets LIMIT 4;

pid	socket	protocol	local_address	remote_address	local_port	remote_port	
542	17819	 6	127.0.0.1	0.0.0.0	+ 		
691	16785	6	:::	::	80	0	
515	16800	17	10.0.0.81	10.0.0.1	68	67	
515	16907	17	fe80::20c:29ff:fe63:4f10	::	546	0	

P2.1c -SELECT interface_addresses.interface, interface_addresses.address, interface_details.ibytes, interface_details.obytes FROM interface_addresses INNER JOIN interface_details

ON interface_addresses.interface=interface_details.interface;

P2.2a -SELECT chain, policy, src ip, src port, dst ip, dst port, bytes FROM iptables;

Kali seems to have a bug in this table implementation as pointed out by TA Vineeth in Piazza. Even though there are iptable rules, they dont seem to be listed here. IPtables rules are listed in the screenshot below

```
L-$ sudo iptables -L -V
Chain INPUT (policy ACCEPT 0 packets, 0 bytes)
pkts bytes target prot opt in out source
0 0 REJECT icmp -- any any anywher
0 0 DROP all -- any any anywher
4 336 DROP all -- any any dns.goo
                                                                                     anywhere
anywhere
dns.google
                                                                                                                           anywhere
dns.google
                                                                                                                                                                  icmp echo-request reject-with icmp-port-unreachable
 Chain FORWARD (policy DROP 0 packets, 0 bytes)
 Chain FORWARD (policy DRDP 0 packets, 0 bytes)
pkts bytes target prot opt in out source
0 0 DOCKER-USER all -- any any anywhere
0 0 DOCKER-ISOLATION-STAGE-1 all -- any any
0 0 ACCEPT all -- any docker0 anywhere
0 0 DOCKER all -- any docker0 anywhere
0 0 ACCEPT all -- docker0 !docker0 anywhere
0 0 ACCEPT all -- docker0 docker0 anywhere
                                                                                                                          destination
                                                                                                               anywhere
anywhere
                                                                                                                         anywhere
anywhere
                                                                                                                              anywhere
anywhere
Chain OUTPUT (policy ACCEPT 0 packets, 0 bytes)
pkts bytes target prot opt in out source
0 0 DROP all -- any any dns.google
Chain DOCKER (1 references)
pkts bytes target prot opt in out source
                                                                                                                          destination
Chain DOCKER-ISOLATION-STAGE-1 (1 references)
 pkts bytes target prot opt in out source destir
0 0DOKER-ISOLATION-STAGE-2 all -- docker0!docker0 anywhere
0 0RETURN all -- any any anywhere anywh
                                                                                                                                                            anywhere
                                                                                                                            anywhere
anywhere
Chain DOCKER-USER (1 references)
                                       prot opt in out source
all -- any any anywhere
 pkts bytes target
0 0 RETURN
                                                                                                                           anywhere
```

P2.3a - SELECT pid, name, cmdline FROM processes WHERE cmdline LIKE '%sbin%';

```
osquery> SELECT pid, name, cmdline FROM processes WHERE cmdline LIKE
                                                                       '%sbin%';
                          cmdline
 pid
        name
 2201
                          /usr/sbin/cron -f
         cron
 484
        haveged
                          /usr/sbin/haveged --Foreground --verbose=1
 515
         NetworkManager
                          /usr/sbin/NetworkManager --no-daemon
         rsyslogd
 522
                          /usr/sbin/rsyslogd -n -iNONE
  543
        ModemManager
                          /usr/sbin/ModemManager
 581
         lightdm
                          /usr/sbin/lightdm
                          /sbin/agetty -o -p -- \u --noclear tty1 linux
 610
        agetty
                          /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
 636
         apache2
                          /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
 686
         apache2
 687
                          /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
         apache2
 688
         apache2
                          /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
                          /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
 690
        apache2
 691
                          /usr/sbin/apache2 -k start
        apache2
osquery>
```

P2.3b - SELECT pid, name, uid, resident_size FROM processes ORDER BY resident_size DESC LIMIT 7;

```
osquery> SELECT pid, name, uid, resident_size FROM processes ORDER BY resident_size DESC LIMIT 7;
 pid
        name
                      uid
                             resident_size
 609
                              163440000
         Xorg
                      1000
                             92976000
         xfwm4
 1370
         qterminal
                      1000
                             88216000
         dockerd
                             86324000
 1168
         xfdesktop
                      1000
                             55140000
         containerd
                             55084000
 577
                      1000
 1162
         Thunar
                             53064000
```

P2.3c - SELECT pid, name, uid, euid, resident_size FROM processes WHERE uid != euid;

```
osquery> SELECT pid, name, uid, euid, resident_size FROM processes WHERE uid \neq euid;
 pid
                         euid
                                 resident_size
         name
                  uid
 1384
         sudo
                  1000
                          0
                                 5284000
                  1000
 5181
                          0
                                 4060000
         passwd
```

```
P2.4a - SELECT username, pid, host,
```

- ... > datetime(time, 'unixepoch', 'localtime') AS connection started
- ...> FROM
- ...> last LIMIT 10;

```
osquery> SELECT username, pid, host,
    ... > datetime(time, 'unixepoch', 'localtime') AS connection_started
    ... > FROM
    ... > last LIMIT 10;
 username | pid
                   | host | connection_started
 kali
             968
                     :0
                            2021-05-31 03:34:47
 kali
             0
                     :0
                            2021-05-31 18:16:03
 kali
            828
                     :0
                            2021-09-15 15:36:49
 kali
            0
                     :0
                            2021-09-15 17:04:51
                            2021-09-15 22:04:40
            804
                     :0
 kali
                            2021-09-15 22:07:58
 kali
             0
                     :0
  kali
             827
                     :0
                            2021-09-16 06:21:50
                     :0
                            2021-09-16 06:26:05
 kali
             0
             20325
                     :0
                            2021-09-20 12:29:58
 kali
                     :0
                            2021-09-20 19:50:43
 kali
             0
```

PART 3: ENABLING THE EVENTS and Syslog

Syslog is a powerful Linux logging framework that can be used for various logs and events management. It is used as a standard logging format widely across the industry. One of the major advantages of syslog is - logging messages can be classified based on the severity level such as - emergency, warning, informational etc. This will make it easier for anyone who is analyzing the logs to prioritize whats is important based on the use case. It can be used as central logging system to collect logs from various applications and various machines in the network into a centralized syslog server.

OSquery can be linked with syslog to get the events of the system from the osqueryi interface in the form SQL queries.

This can be done with the help of some configuration changes to allow syslog to pipe the messages to osquery and osquery can then populate the table with the events received from syslog. An example of what can be added /etc/ryslog.conf is shown in the screenshot below:

```
template(
name="OsqueryCsvFormat"
type="String"

String="%timestamp:::date-rfc3339,csv%,%hostname:::csv%,%syslogseverity:::csv%,%syslogfacility-text:::csv%,%syslogtag:::csv%,%msg:::csv%\n"
)
*.* action(type="ompipe" Pipe="/var/osquery/syslog_pipe" template="OsqueryCsvFormat")
```

After syslog is configured to pipe values into osquery, we can add a configuration file that determines the settings needs to be used by osquery while handling the events. Options such as logger_path, verbose, enable_syslog and many more. OSquery works based on the values set to these options. More of the options can be found in the osquery documentation and digital ocean article linked below in references. [2][3]

One of the additions to these configuration files is the packs - these are extended configuration files provided by osquery community so that they can directly be used without having to write then on our own. These packs can be used for incident-response, vuln-management and more. Active packs in the system are listed below using the osquery_packs table. [4]

P 3.1



PART 4: FILE INTEGRITY MONITORING

File integrity monitoring can be very useful to keep track of important files and how and when they are being changed. Osquery supports FIM by modifying the configuration file listed above to enable_file_events and few other parameters that need to be changed in the configuration file.

File paths to be monitored has an option to use wildcard characters that can be used to specific files in one level or recursively or ending with specific characters and so on. [5] For this example, I made a simple pack that I have modified to use monitor the files in /home/namruth. Screenshot of the pack is shown below:

Duration of the interval to run the query can be set (180 seconds in this case) and file paths can be set with wild characters. Path to this pack needs to be added in the osquery.conf file. Screenshots below show the file events generated before and after creating a text file /home/namruth folder which is being monitored.

P4.1

osquery> SELECT target_path, act	tion FROM	file_e
target_path	action	†
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	ì
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	moth
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	l
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	1
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	1
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	1
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	1
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED UPDATED	!
/tmp/#2753080 /tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	ļ
/tmp/#2753076 /tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	ł
/tmp/#2753080 /tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	ł
/tmp/#2753000 /tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	ł
/tmp/#2753076 /tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	ł
/tmp/#2753080 /tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	1
/tmp/#2753000 /tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	1
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	l
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	i
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	i
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	İ
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	İ
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	İ
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	İ
/home/namruth/.test4.txt.swp	CREATED	İ
/home/namruth/.test4.txt.swp	UPDATED	
/home/namruth/.test4.txt.swp	UPDATED	
/home/namruth/.test4.txt.swp	DELETED	
/home/namruth/.test4.txt.swp	CREATED	
/home/namruth/.test4.txt.swp	UPDATED	
/home/namruth/.test4.txt.swp	UPDATED	l
/home/namruth/test4.txt	CREATED	
/home/namruth/test4.txt	UPDATED	
/home/namruth/test4.txt	UPDATED	
/home/namruth/.test4.txt.swp	DELETED	
/tmp/#2753080	UPDATED	
/tmp/#2753078	UPDATED	
/tmp/#2753081	UPDATED	ļ

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PART 5: USING YARA FOR MALWARE ANALYSIS

Yara is a tool used for identifying malware samples. As the number of malware variants grew rapidly in the last few years, this tool can be used to write simple to complex boolean expressions that can be used identify malware families. Any yara file typically has three sections: meta - description of the rule, author etc, strings - strings that can be used to match the malware and condition - boolean expression using the strings and other keywords in yara.[6]

A sample example shown in yara documentation -

```
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 80 2B C1 83 C0 27 99 6A 4E 59 F7 F9}
        $c = "UVODFRYSIHLNWPEJXQZAKCBGMT"
    condition:
        $a or $b or $c
}
```

P5.1

I uploaded the file on virus total to see its reputation and other properties -https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/e6995b5428e887d790c6b77b32fddc143658ce2125ba192e8 255d1ab70db6cac

I used the "strings" command to identify some of the useful strings in the file. These are:

watchdog Watchdog WatchDog /proc/self/exe POST /cdn-cgi/ AVAUATA QGVammikg PGDPGQJ NMACVKML AMMIKG AMLVGLV NGLEVJ VPCLQDGP GLAMFKLE

This file is mirai malware variant. Some of its unique properties are:

Its file size is typically less than 200KB

It is an ELF executable with magic number 0x7f454c46, converting it to little endian format to be used in the rule below

It contains atleast one the strings listed in the second block above.

It contains watchdog string in various cases

It typically uses the path /proc/self/exe and the http request POST /cdn-cgi/

```
rule mirai_malware
 meta:
     description = "YARA Rule for Mirai botnet malware variant"
     author = "Namruth Reddy"
      date = "24-March-2022"
 strings:
      $s1 = "QGVaMMIKG" fullword ascii
     $s2 = "PGDPGQJ" fullword ascii
      $s3 = "NMACVKML" fullword ascii
      $s4 = "AMMIKG" fullword ascii
      $s5 = "AMLVGLV" fullword ascii
     $x1 = "watchdog" fullword ascii nocase
      $x2 = "POST /cdn-cgi/" fullword ascii
      $x3 = "/proc/self/exe" fullword ascii
      $x4 = "/dev/null" fullword ascii
      $x5 = "AVAUATA"
  condition:
      (filesize < 200KB and uint32(0) = 0 \times 464c457f and
       ( 1 of ($s*) ) and ( 5 of ($x*) ) )
```

I uploaded the file on virus total to see its reputation and other properties -

https://www.virustotal.com/gui/file/2923843a5ee9f6772b5a2a2c63bf606bd01fcb28bfeaede60a8 3b49e9a93266b/detection

I used the "strings" command to identify some of the useful strings in the file. These are:

185.239.242.109:4269

/proc/net/route

YakuzaBotnet

Scarface1337

Scarface1337Self Rep Fucking NeTiS and Thisity 0n Ur FuCkInG FoReHeAd We BiG L33T HaxErS

/proc/net/route

This file is a linux trojan variant malware.

It usually communicates to the IP 185.239.242.109:4269 and accesses files in the location /proc/net/route

It also contains useful words like Scarface1337 and YakuzaBotnet

File size of such malware is typicall < 100KB

It is an ELF executable with magic number 0x7f454c46, converting it to little endian format to be used in the rule below

After writing the yara rules for both the files, we execute yara to see if they are being identified correctly. Output of both the files are shown below:

P5.3

P5.4

PART 6: USING OSQUERY AND YARA TO IDENTIFY MALWARE SAMPLES

Osquery can be integrated with yara to check for file integrity event changes. There are two types of yara tables: [7]

- 1. Yara_events this table can be used for auto yara detection when a specific file integrity event is triggered.
- 2. Yara this is an on demand scan of a specific file.

Using the yara rules and malware files given in the assignment, yara on demand scan is executed and the values are populated in the yara table as shown below:

P6.1

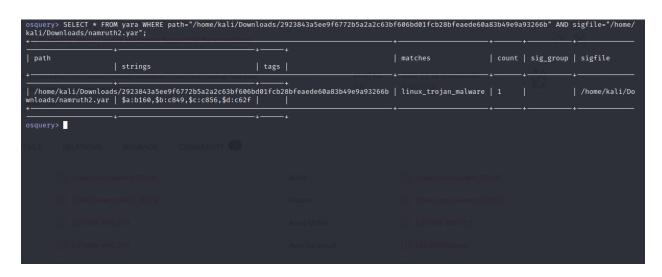
SELECT * FROM yara WHERE

path="/home/kali/Downloads/e6995b5428e887d790c6b77b32fddc143658ce2125ba192e8255d1ab70db6cac" AND sigfile="/home/kali/Downloads/namruth1.yar";



SELECT * FROM yara WHERE

path="/home/kali/Downloads/2923843a5ee9f6772b5a2a2c63bf606bd01fcb28bfeaede60a83b49e9a93266b" AND sigfile="/home/kali/Downloads/namruth2.yar";



References:

- [1] https://osquery.readthedocs.io/en/stable/
- [2] -

https://www.digitalocean.com/community/tutorials/how-to-monitor-your-system-security-with-osquery-on-ubuntu-16-04

- [3] https://osquery.readthedocs.io/en/stable/deployment/syslog/
- [4] https://osquery.readthedocs.io/en/stable/deployment/configuration/
- [5] https://osquery.readthedocs.io/en/stable/deployment/file-integrity-monitoring/
- [6] https://yara.readthedocs.io/en/stable/
- [7] https://osquery.readthedocs.io/en/stable/deployment/yara/