

# OSQuery on Debian 10

**Installation guide & Security  
Operations**



**By Sanil Almeida (CPTE | CEH)**

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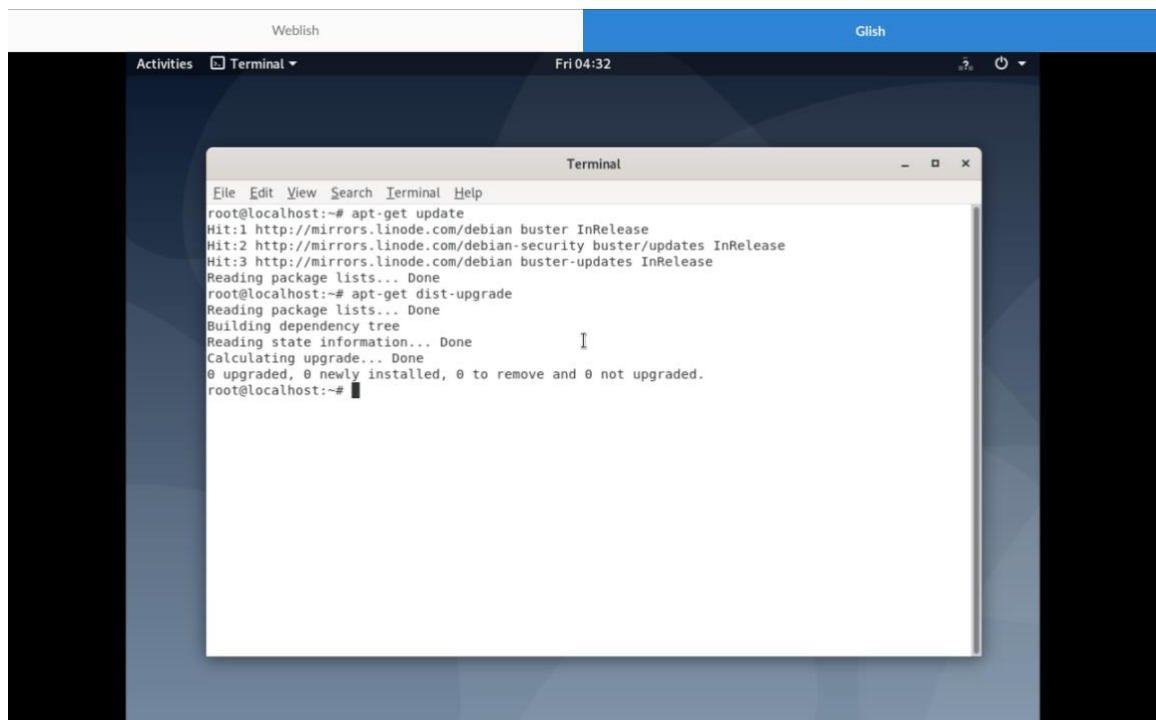
# STEPS TO FOLLOW:

## Step 1

On your Debian 10 machine open terminal window and type in the following commands to update and upgrade existing packages.

```
# sudo apt-get update
```

```
# sudo apt-get dist-upgrade
```

A screenshot of a Linux desktop environment. At the top, there is a blue header bar with the text 'Weblish' on the left and 'Glish' on the right. Below this, a terminal window is open, displaying the output of two commands. The first command is 'apt-get update', which shows three hits from mirrors.linode.com for debian buster, debian-security buster/updates, and debian buster-updates, all in 'InRelease' state. The second command is 'apt-get dist-upgrade', which shows that no packages need to be upgraded, newly installed, removed, or not upgraded. The terminal window has a menu bar with 'File', 'Edit', 'View', 'Search', 'Terminal', and 'Help'. The background of the desktop is a dark blue geometric pattern.

```
root@localhost:~# apt-get update
Hit:1 http://mirrors.linode.com/debian buster InRelease
Hit:2 http://mirrors.linode.com/debian-security buster/updates InRelease
Hit:3 http://mirrors.linode.com/debian buster-updates InRelease
Reading package lists... Done
root@localhost:~# apt-get dist-upgrade
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Calculating upgrade... Done
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 0 not upgraded.
root@localhost:~#
```

## Step 2

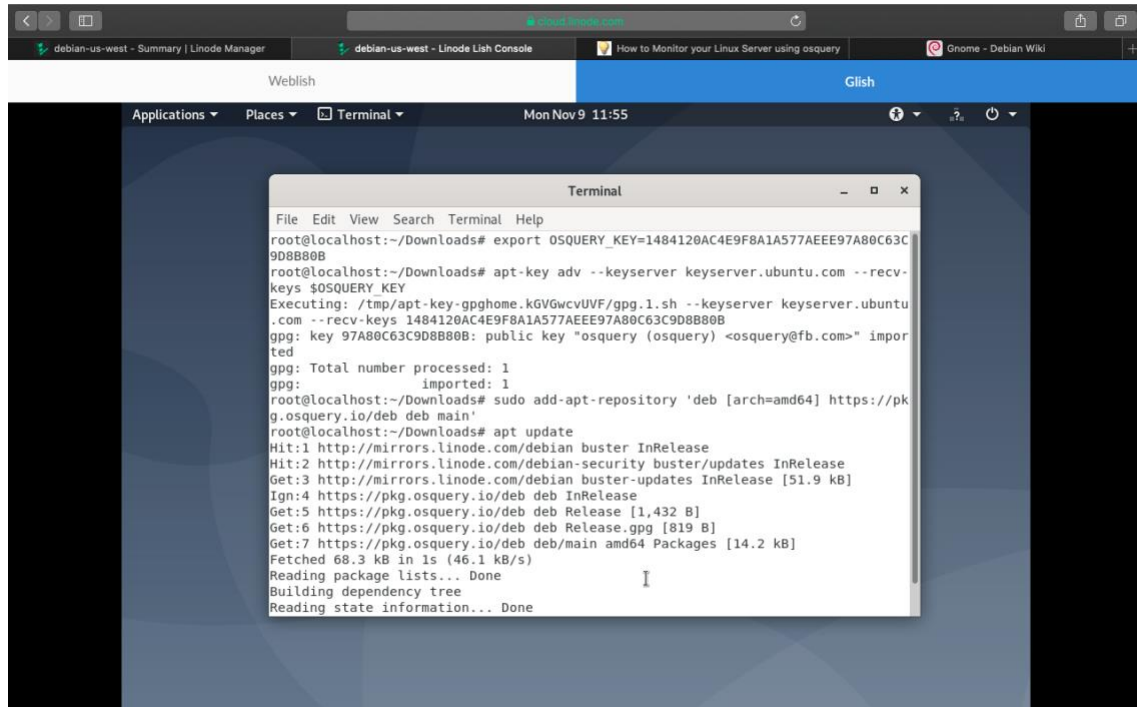
After installing the packages it is time to **download** OSQuery. Run the following commands in the terminal.

```
# export OSQUERY_KEY=
1484120AC4E9F8A1A577AEEE97A80C63C9D8B80B
```

```
# sudo apt-key adv --keyserver hkp://keyserver.ubuntu.com:80 --
recv-keys $OSQUERY_KEY
```

```
# sudo add-apt-repository 'deb [arch=amd64]
https://pkg.osquery.io/deb deb main'

# sudo apt-get update
```

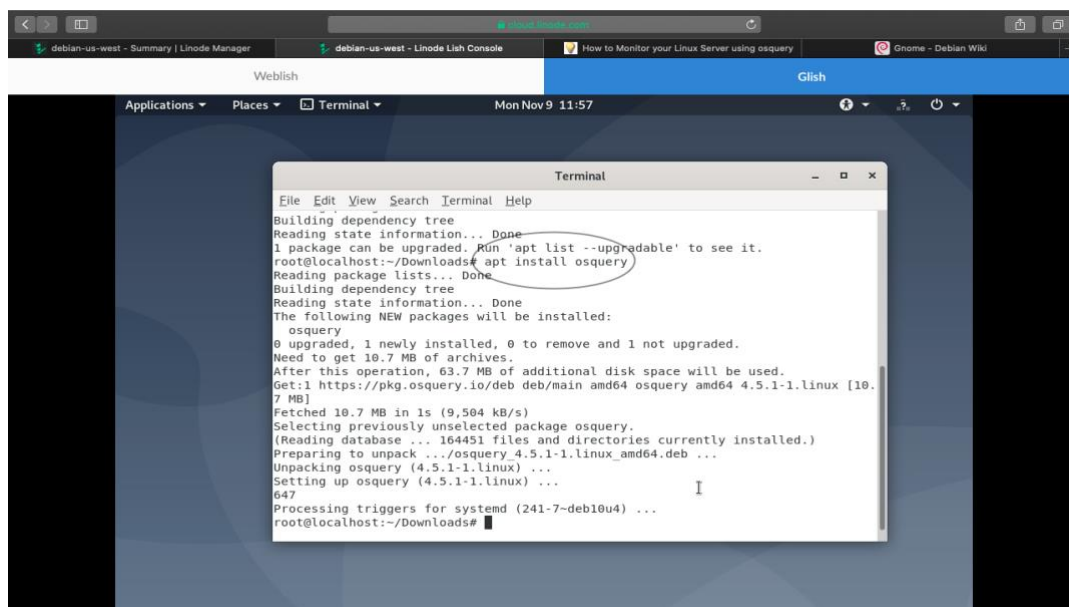


```
root@localhost:~/Downloads# export OSQUERY_KEY=1484120AC4E9F8A1A577AEEE97A80C63C9D8B80B
root@localhost:~/Downloads# apt-key adv --keyserver keyserver.ubuntu.com --recv-keys $OSQUERY_KEY
Executing: /tmp/apt-key-gpghome.kGVGwcvUVF/gpg.1.sh --keyserver keyserver.ubuntu.com --recv-keys 1484120AC4E9F8A1A577AEEE97A80C63C9D8B80B
gpg: key 97A80C63C9D8B80B: public key "osquery (osquery) <osquery@fb.com>" imported
gpg: Total number processed: 1
gpg:      imported: 1
root@localhost:~/Downloads# sudo add-apt-repository 'deb [arch=amd64] https://pkg.osquery.io/deb deb main'
root@localhost:~/Downloads# apt update
Hit:1 http://mirrors.linode.com/debian buster InRelease
Hit:2 http://mirrors.linode.com/debian-security buster/updates InRelease
Get:3 http://mirrors.linode.com/debian buster-updates InRelease [51.9 kB]
Ign:4 https://pkg.osquery.io/deb deb InRelease
Get:5 https://pkg.osquery.io/deb deb Release [1,432 B]
Get:6 https://pkg.osquery.io/deb deb Release.gpg [819 B]
Get:7 https://pkg.osquery.io/deb deb/main amd64 Packages [14.2 kB]
Fetched 68.3 kB in 1s (46.1 kB/s)
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
```

## Step 3

Now, to **install** OSQuery, execute following command in the terminal.

```
# sudo apt-get install osquery
```



```
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
1 package can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see it.
root@localhost:~/Downloads# apt install osquery
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  osquery
0 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 1 not upgraded.
Need to get 10.7 MB of archives.
After this operation, 63.7 MB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 https://pkg.osquery.io/deb deb/main amd64 osquery amd64 4.5.1-1.linux [10.7 MB]
Fetched 10.7 MB in 1s (9,504 kB/s)
Selecting previously unselected package osquery.
(Reading database ... 164451 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../osquery_4.5.1-1.linux_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking osquery (4.5.1-1.linux) ...
Setting up osquery (4.5.1-1.linux) ...
647
Processing triggers for systemd (241-7-deb10u4) ...
root@localhost:~/Downloads#
```

## Step 4

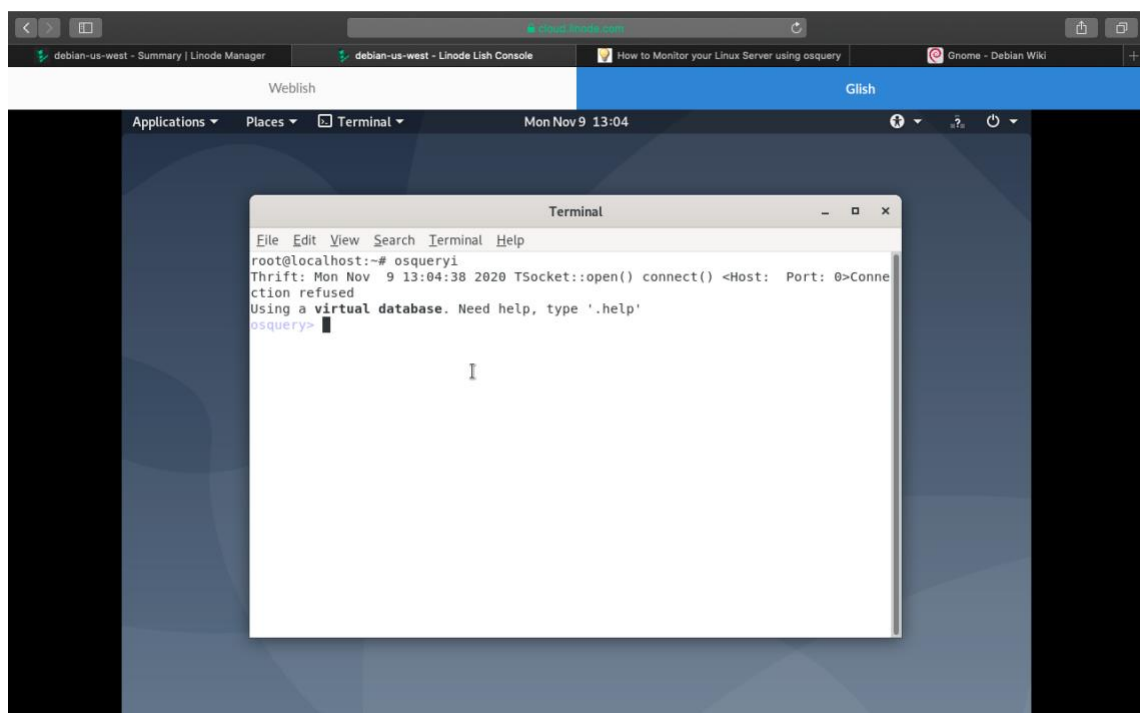
Once the OSQuery has been installed we can launch it as a daemon or a standalone service.

To launch it as a daemon use the command,

```
# osqueryd
```

To launch it as a standalone service use the command,

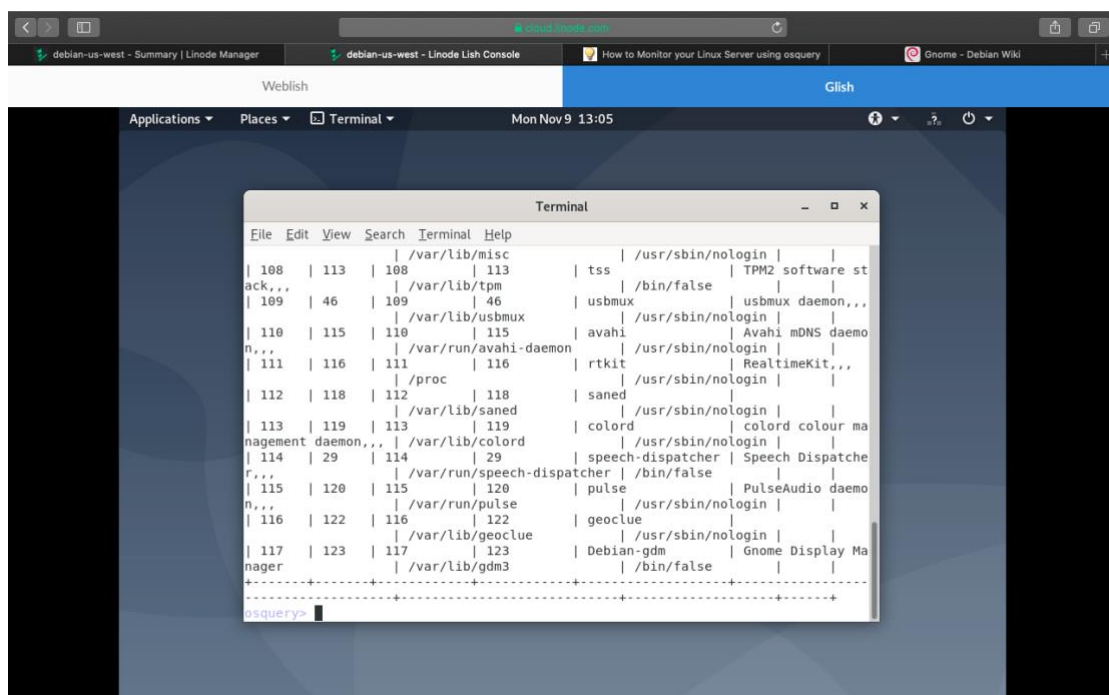
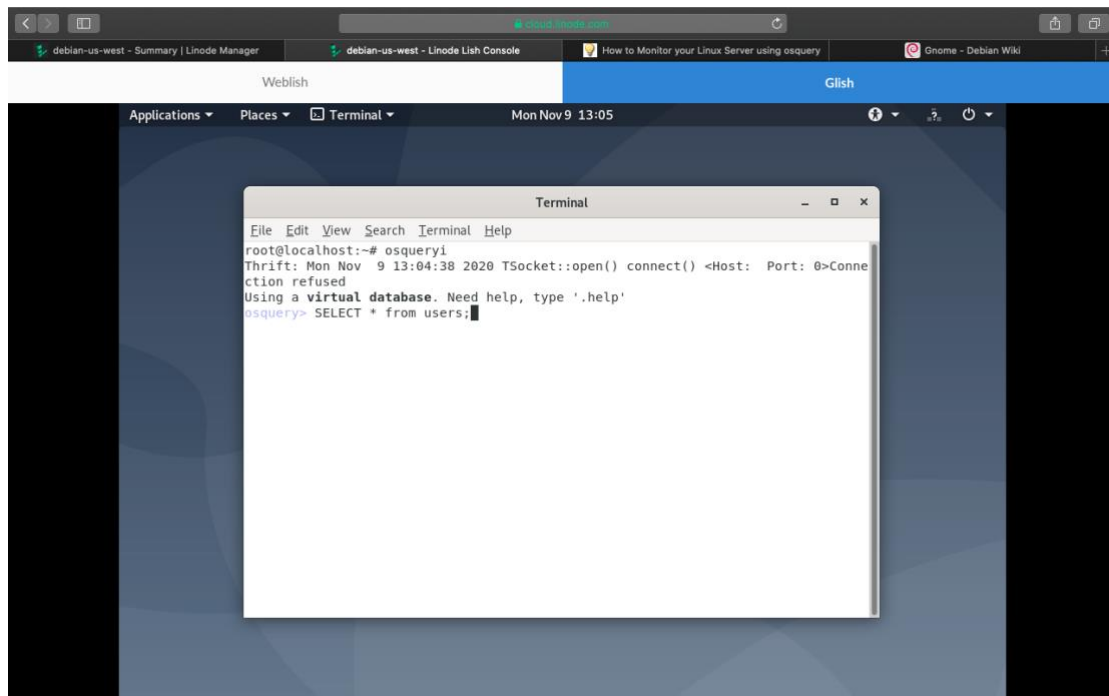
```
# osqueryi
```



## Step 5

After starting the service in the CLI, you can fire SQL queries. As shown in the example below to retrieve user information from the system.

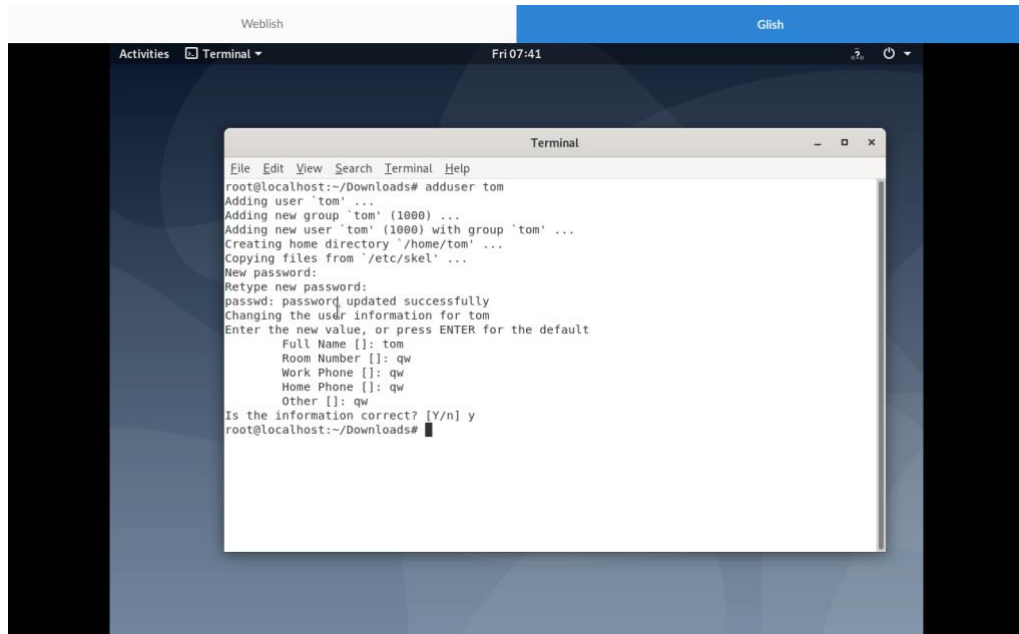
```
osquery> SELECT * from users;
```



# Security Operations

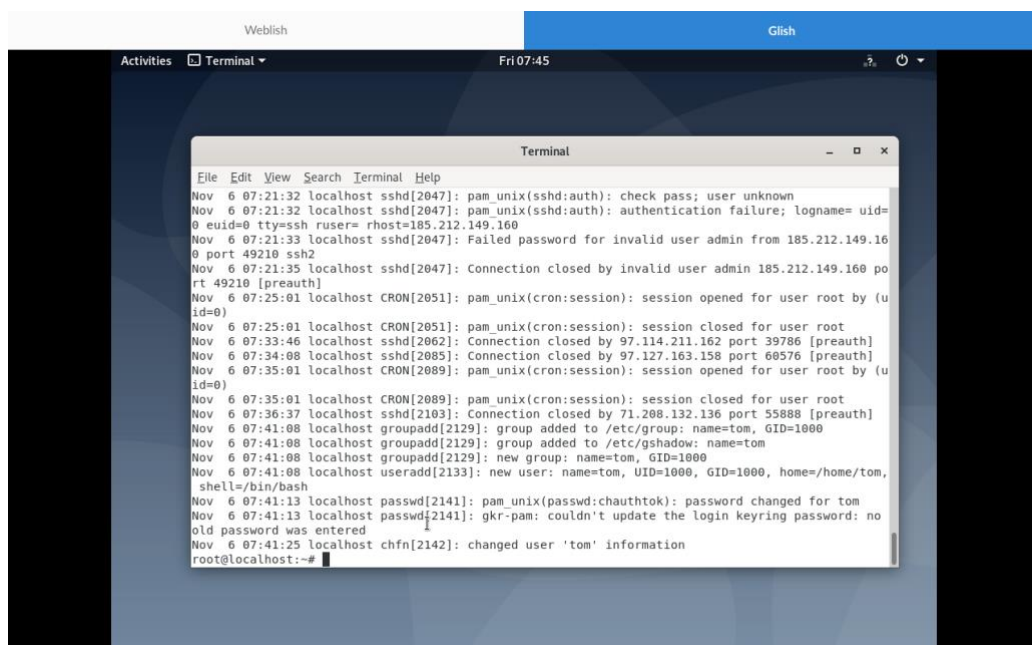
## 1. Scenario (Inefficient Logging through SIEM)

- We create a user on the system named Tom. Using the command, **# adduser tom**



```
root@localhost:~/Downloads# adduser tom
Adding user 'tom' ...
Adding new group 'tom' (1000) ...
Adding new user 'tom' (1000) with group 'tom' ...
Creating home directory '/home/tom' ...
Copying files from '/etc/skel' ...
New password:
Retype new password:
passwd: password updated successfully
Changing the user information for tom
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
  Full Name []: tom
    Room Number []: qw
    Work Phone []: qw
    Home Phone []: qw
      Other []: qw
Is the information correct? [Y/n] y
root@localhost:~/Downloads#
```

- Tom has been created as a normal user of which logs are maintained and stored in the **/var/log/auth.log** file. To check the logs we run the command, **# cat var/log/auth.log**



```
Nov 6 07:21:32 localhost sshd[2047]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): check pass; user unknown
Nov 6 07:21:32 localhost sshd[2047]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=
0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser= rhost=185.212.149.160
Nov 6 07:21:33 localhost sshd[2047]: Failed password for invalid user admin from 185.212.149.16
0 port 49210 ssh2
Nov 6 07:21:35 localhost sshd[2047]: Connection closed by invalid user admin 185.212.149.160 po
rt 49210 [preauth]
Nov 6 07:25:01 localhost CRON[2051]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (u
id=0)
Nov 6 07:25:01 localhost CRON[2051]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Nov 6 07:33:46 localhost sshd[2062]: Connection closed by 97.114.211.162 port 39786 [preauth]
Nov 6 07:34:08 localhost sshd[2085]: Connection closed by 97.127.163.158 port 60576 [preauth]
Nov 6 07:35:01 localhost CRON[2089]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (u
id=0)
Nov 6 07:35:01 localhost CRON[2089]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Nov 6 07:36:37 localhost sshd[2103]: Connection closed by 71.208.132.136 port 55888 [preauth]
Nov 6 07:41:08 localhost groupadd[2129]: group added to /etc/group: name=tom, GID=1000
Nov 6 07:41:08 localhost groupadd[2129]: group added to /etc/gshadow: name=tom
Nov 6 07:41:08 localhost groupadd[2129]: new group: name=tom, GID=1000
Nov 6 07:41:08 localhost useradd[2133]: new user: name=tom, UID=1000, GID=1000, home=/home/tom,
shell=/bin/bash
Nov 6 07:41:13 localhost passwd[2141]: pam_unix(passwd:chauthtok): password changed for tom
Nov 6 07:41:13 localhost passwd[2141]: gkr-pam: couldn't update the login keyring password: no
old password was entered
Nov 6 07:41:25 localhost chfn[2142]: changed user 'tom' information
root@localhost:~#
```

- This log is then fetched by SIEMs like IBM Qradar. There is a potential flaw in such logging. We will explore it as we break down this scenario.
- Next, using the **# vim /etc/passwd** command we add another user like **"tom"** and name that user as **"henry"**. The **privileges** for henry can be changed by editing his **(UID)** user identifier and his **(GID)** group identifier to **root** by **0**. We also change henry's directory to **root**.

```

File Edit View Search Terminal Help
irc:x:39:39:ircd:/var/run/ircd:/usr/sbin/nologin
gnats:x:41:41:Gnats Bug-Reporting System (admin):/var/lib/gnats:/usr/sbin/nologin
nobody:x:65534:65534:nobody:/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
apt:x:100:65534::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-timesync:x:101:102:systemd Time Synchronization,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-networkd:x:102:103:systemd Network Management,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-resolved:x:103:104:systemd Resolver,,:/run/systemd:/usr/sbin/nologin
messagebus:x:104:110::/nonexistent:/usr/sbin/nologin
sshd:x:105:65534::/run/ssh:/usr/sbin/nologin
systemd-coredump:x:999:999:systemd Core Dumper:./usr/sbin/nologin
dnsmasq:x:106:65534:dnsmasq,,:/var/lib/misc:/usr/sbin/nologin
tss:x:107:112:TPM2 software stack,,:/var/lib/tpm:/bin/false
usbmux:x:108:46:usbmux daemon,,:/var/lib/usbmux:/usr/sbin/nologin
rtkit:x:109:114:RealtimeKit,,:/proc:/usr/sbin/nologin
avahi:x:110:115:Avahi mDNS daemon,,:/var/run/avahi-daemon:/usr/sbin/nologin
speech-dispatcher:x:111:29:Speech Dispatcher,,:/var/run/speech-dispatcher:/bin/false
geoclue:x:112:116:/var/lib/geoclue:/usr/sbin/nologin
pulse:x:113:118:PulseAudio daemon,,:/var/run/pulse:/usr/sbin/nologin
saned:x:114:120:/var/lib/saned:/usr/sbin/nologin
colord:x:115:121:colord colour management daemon,,:/var/lib/colord:/usr/sbin/nologin
gdm:x:116:122:Gnome Display Manager:/var/lib/gdm3:/bin/false
lightdm:x:117:123:Light Display Manager:/var/lib/lightdm:/bin/false
redis:x:118:124:/var/lib/redis:/usr/sbin/nologin
tom:x:1000:1000:tom,qw,qw,qw:/home/tom:/bin/bash
henry:x:0:0:tom,qw,qw,qw:/home/tom:/bin/bash
-- INSERT --
40,28 Bot

```

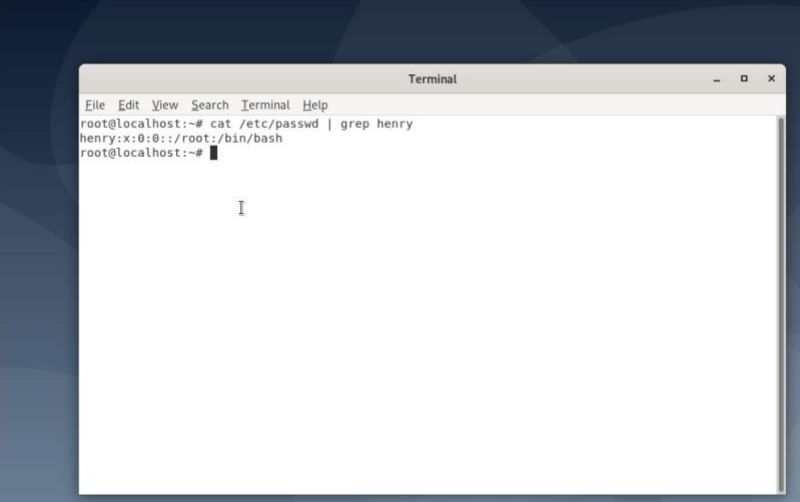
- After creating henry we again view the **log file** to check if creation of user **"henry"** is logged by the system.

```

File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Nov 6 07:25:01 localhost CRON[2051]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
Nov 6 07:25:01 localhost CRON[2051]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Nov 6 07:33:46 localhost sshd[2062]: Connection closed by 97.114.211.162 port 39786 [preauth]
Nov 6 07:34:08 localhost sshd[2085]: Connection closed by 97.127.163.158 port 60576 [preauth]
Nov 6 07:35:01 localhost CRON[2089]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
Nov 6 07:35:01 localhost CRON[2089]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Nov 6 07:36:37 localhost sshd[2103]: Connection closed by 71.208.132.136 port 55888 [preauth]
Nov 6 07:41:08 localhost groupadd[2129]: group added to /etc/group: name=tom, GID=1000
Nov 6 07:41:08 localhost groupadd[2129]: group added to /etc/gshadow: name=tom
Nov 6 07:41:08 localhost groupadd[2129]: new group: name=tom, GID=1000
Nov 6 07:41:08 localhost useradd[2133]: new user: name=tom, UID=1000, GID=1000, home=/home/tom, shell=/bin/bash
Nov 6 07:41:13 localhost passwd[2141]: pam_unix(passwd:chauthtok): password changed for tom
Nov 6 07:41:13 localhost passwd[2141]: gkr-pam: couldn't update the login keyring password: no old password was entered
Nov 6 07:41:25 localhost chfn[2142]: changed user 'tom' information
Nov 6 07:45:01 localhost CRON[2161]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
Nov 6 07:45:01 localhost CRON[2161]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
Nov 6 07:51:18 localhost sshd[2167]: Did not receive identification string from 42.63.154.190 port 36830
Nov 6 07:55:01 localhost CRON[2170]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0)
Nov 6 07:55:01 localhost CRON[2170]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root
root@localhost:~#

```

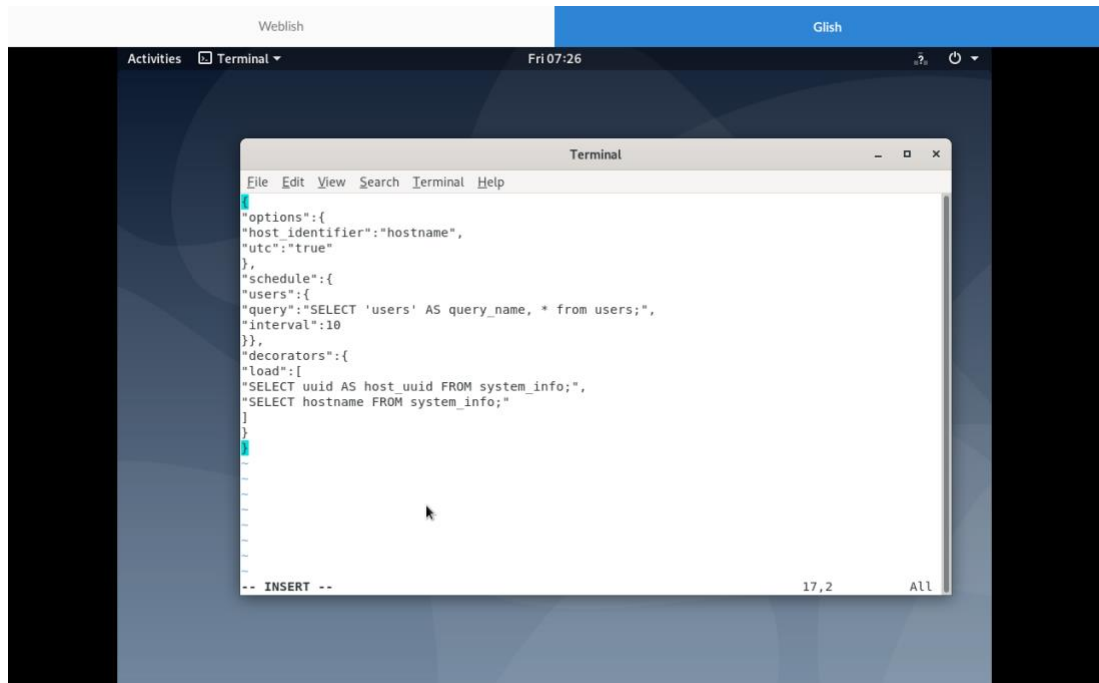


- 
- The screenshot shows a Linux desktop environment with a terminal window open. The terminal window has a title bar that says "Terminal" and standard window controls (minimize, maximize, close). Inside the terminal, the following commands and output are visible:
- ```
root@localhost:~# cat /etc/passwd | grep henry
henry:x:0:0::/root:/bin/bash
root@localhost:~#
```
- The cursor is positioned at the end of the last prompt line. The background of the desktop is a dark blue geometric pattern.

- The image shows a Kali Linux desktop environment. A file manager window is open, displaying a directory listing of `/usr/sbin`. The listing includes files like `nologin`, `rtkit`, `avahi`, `speech-dispatcher`, `geoclue`, `pulse`, `saned`, `colord`, `Debian-gdm`, `lightdm`, `redis`, `tom`, and `henry`. The terminal window in the background shows the command `ls -la /usr/sbin` and its output, which matches the file manager's display. The terminal output is as follows:

```
ls -la /usr/sbin
total 120
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 46 Nov 10 10:08 nologin
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 114 Nov 10 10:08 rtkit
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 115 Nov 10 10:08 avahi
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 29 Nov 10 10:08 speech-dispatcher
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 116 Nov 10 10:08 geoclue
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 118 Nov 10 10:08 pulse
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 120 Nov 10 10:08 saned
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 121 Nov 10 10:08 colord
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 122 Nov 10 10:08 Debian-gdm
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 123 Nov 10 10:08 lightdm
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 124 Nov 10 10:08 redis
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 1000 Nov 10 10:08 tom
-rwxr-xr-x 1 root root 0 Nov 10 10:08 henry
```

- To log the creation of users through OSQuery we can create a **.conf** file which will log the user data. Following is the script for that configuration file.



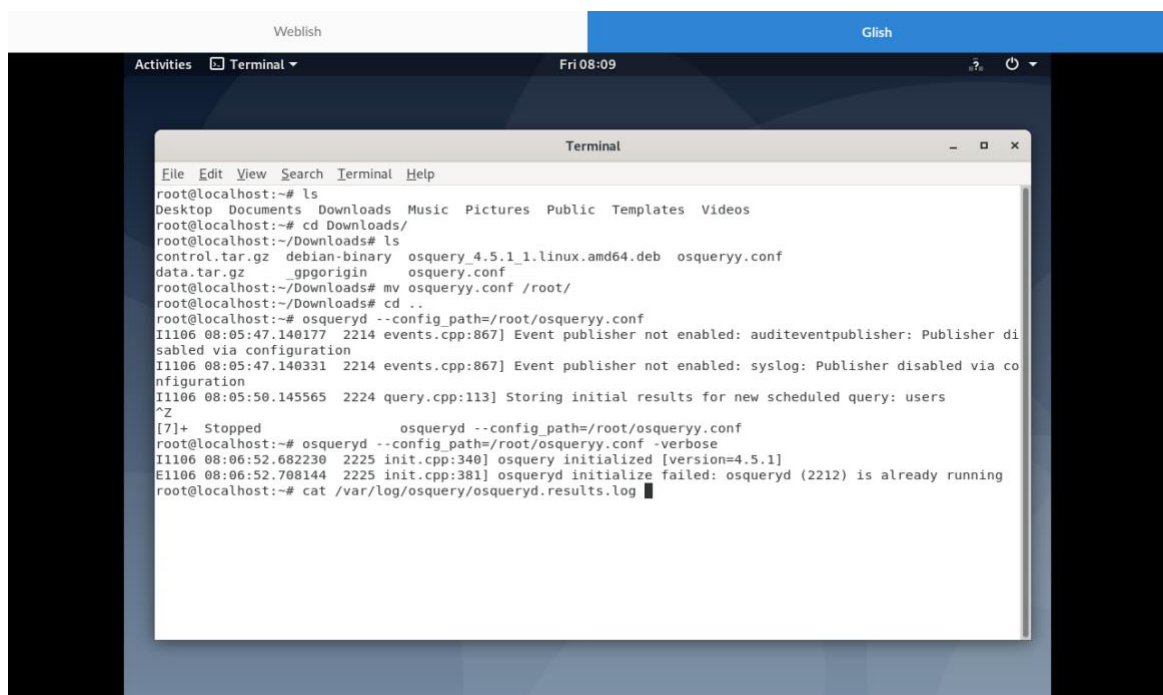
```

File Edit View Search Terminal Help
{
  "options": {
    "host_identifier": "hostname",
    "utc": "true"
  },
  "schedule": {
    "users": {
      "query": "SELECT 'users' AS query_name, * from users;",
      "interval": 10
    }
  },
  "decorators": {
    "load": [
      "SELECT uuid AS host_uuid FROM system_info;",
      "SELECT hostname FROM system_info;"
    ]
  }
}
-- INSERT --
17,2 All

```

- To display the results of that configuration file. We run the following command,

**# cat /var/log/osquery/osqueryd.results.log**

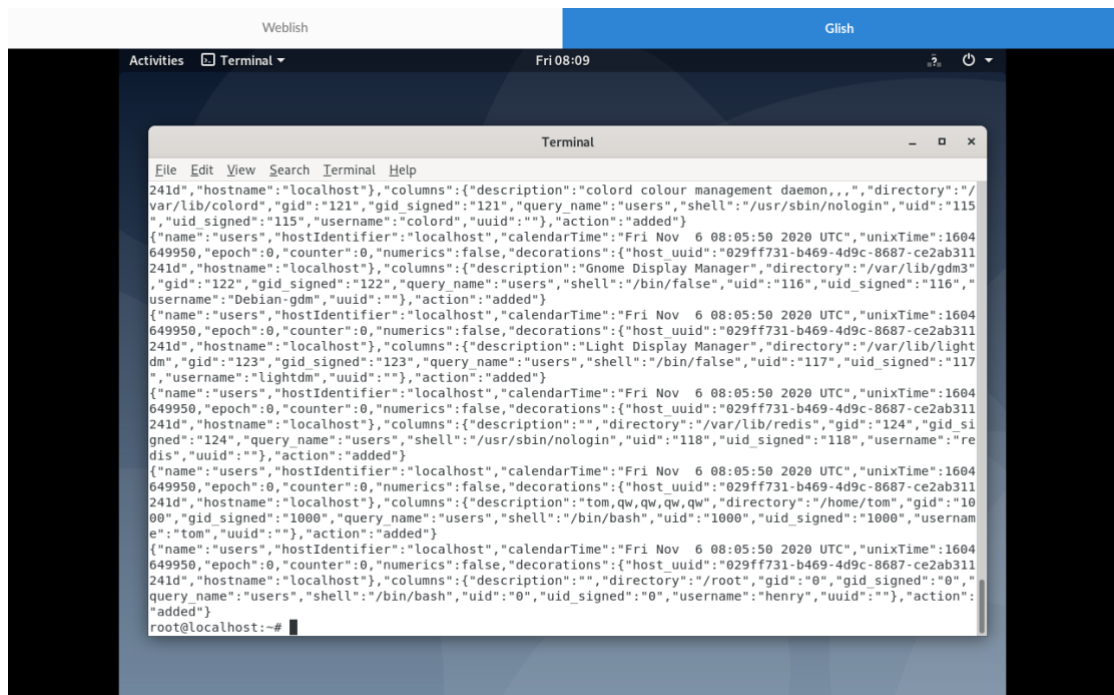


```

File Edit View Search Terminal Help
root@localhost:~# ls
Desktop Documents Downloads Music Pictures Public Templates Videos
root@localhost:~# cd Downloads/
root@localhost:~/Downloads# ls
control.tar.gz  debian-binary  osquery_4.5.1_1.linux.amd64.deb  osquery.conf
data.tar.gz    _gpgorigin    osqueryd.conf
root@localhost:~/Downloads# mv osquery.conf /root/
root@localhost:~/Downloads# cd ..
root@localhost:~# osqueryd --config_path=/root/osquery.conf
I1106 08:05:47.140177 2214 events.cpp:867] Event publisher not enabled: auditeventpublisher: Publisher disabled via configuration
I1106 08:05:47.140331 2214 events.cpp:867] Event publisher not enabled: syslog: Publisher disabled via configuration
I1106 08:05:50.145565 2224 query.cpp:113] Storing initial results for new scheduled query: users
^Z
[7]+  Stopped                  osqueryd --config_path=/root/osquery.conf
root@localhost:~# osqueryd --config_path=/root/osquery.conf -verbose
I1106 08:06:52.682230 2225 init.cpp:340] osquery initialized [version=4.5.1]
E1106 08:06:52.708144 2225 init.cpp:381] osqueryd initialize failed: osqueryd (2212) is already running
root@localhost:~# cat /var/log/osquery/osqueryd.results.log

```

- Results of the OSQuery log file are as shown below. Which consists of the user "**henry**". Thus, **SIEMs** can fetch this **log** files for better results.



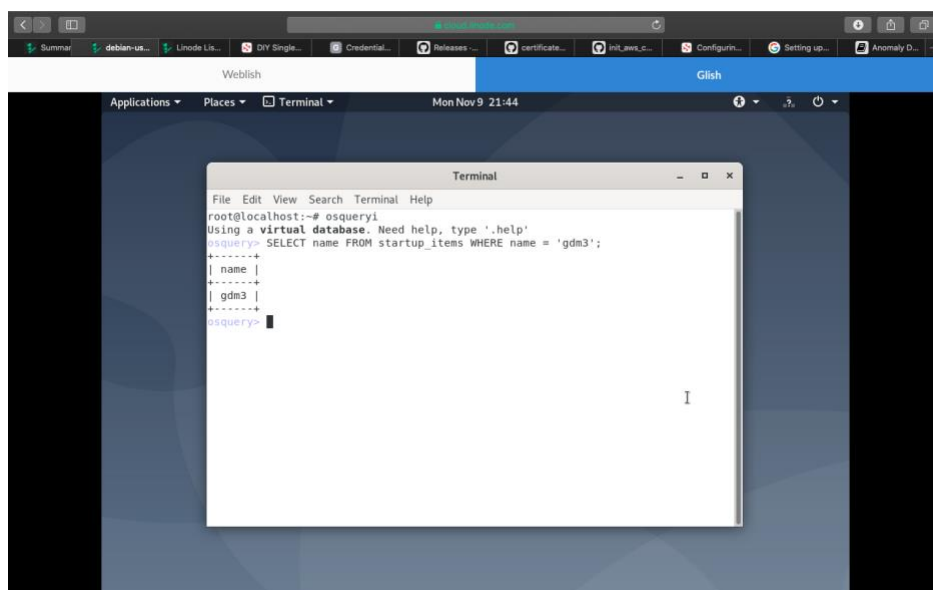
```

241d,"hostname":"localhost"},"columns":{"description":"colord colour management daemon,,,","directory":"/var/lib/colord","gid":"121","gid_signed":"121","query_name":"users","shell":"/usr/sbin/nologin","uid":"115","uid_signed":"115","username":"colord","uuid":"","action":"added"}
{"name":"users","hostIdentifier":"localhost","calendarTime":"Fri Nov 6 08:05:50 2020 UTC","unixTime":1604649950,"epoch":0,"counter":0,"numerics":false,"decorations":{"host uuid":"029ff731-b469-4d9c-8687-ce2ab311241d","hostname":"localhost"},"columns":{"description":"Gnome Display Manager","directory":"/var/lib/gdm3","gid":"122","gid_signed":"122","query_name":"users","shell":"/bin/false","uid":"116","uid_signed":"116","username":"Debian-gdm","uuid":"","action":"added"}
{"name":"users","hostIdentifier":"localhost","calendarTime":"Fri Nov 6 08:05:50 2020 UTC","unixTime":1604649950,"epoch":0,"counter":0,"numerics":false,"decorations":{"host uuid":"029ff731-b469-4d9c-8687-ce2ab311241d","hostname":"localhost"},"columns":{"description":"Light Display Manager","directory":"/var/lib/lightdm","gid":"123","gid_signed":"123","query_name":"users","shell":"/bin/false","uid":"117","uid_signed":"117","username":"lightdm","uuid":"","action":"added"}
{"name":"users","hostIdentifier":"localhost","calendarTime":"Fri Nov 6 08:05:50 2020 UTC","unixTime":1604649950,"epoch":0,"counter":0,"numerics":false,"decorations":{"host uuid":"029ff731-b469-4d9c-8687-ce2ab311241d","hostname":"localhost"},"columns":{"description":"","directory":"/var/lib/redis","gid":"124","gid_signed":"124","query_name":"users","shell":"/usr/sbin/nologin","uid":"118","uid_signed":"118","username":"redis","uuid":"","action":"added"}
{"name":"users","hostIdentifier":"localhost","calendarTime":"Fri Nov 6 08:05:50 2020 UTC","unixTime":1604649950,"epoch":0,"counter":0,"numerics":false,"decorations":{"host uuid":"029ff731-b469-4d9c-8687-ce2ab311241d","hostname":"localhost"},"columns":{"description":"tom,qw,qw,qw","directory":"/home/tom","gid":"1000","gid_signed":"1000","query_name":"users","shell":"/bin/bash","uid":"1000","uid_signed":"1000","username":"tom","uuid":"","action":"added"}
{"name":"users","hostIdentifier":"localhost","calendarTime":"Fri Nov 6 08:05:50 2020 UTC","unixTime":1604649950,"epoch":0,"counter":0,"numerics":false,"decorations":{"host uuid":"029ff731-b469-4d9c-8687-ce2ab311241d","hostname":"localhost"},"columns":{"description":"","directory":"/root","gid":"0","gid_signed":"0","query_name":"users","shell":"/bin/bash","uid":"0","uid_signed":"0","username":"henry","uuid":"","action":"added"}
root@localhost:~#

```

## 2. Scenario (Anomaly detection with OSQuery)

- OSQuery deployment will help you set up an infrastructural basis that helps you to identify **malicious** behavior using **scheduled** queries.



```

root@localhost:~# osqueryi
Using a VIRTUAL database. Need help, type '.help'
osquery> SELECT name FROM startup_items WHERE name = 'gdm3';
+-----+
| name |
+-----+
| gdm3 |
+-----+
osquery>

```

- We can see **services** like **gdm3** run at boot time. Now, considering the system is compromised at a later date or time.  
So, we can tackle such situations by utilizing the **log aggregation** capabilities of OSQuery to quickly determine when the **incident** happened and what was installed or added.
- Using the log aggregation guide we can receive following log lines in our SIEM's datastore.

```
{
  "name": "startup_items",
  "action": "added",
  "columns": {
    "name": "Phone.app",
    "path": "/Applications/Phone.app"
  },
  "hostname": "ted-osx.local",
  "calendarTime": "Fri Nov 7 09:42:42 2014",
  "unixTime": "1415382685",
  "epoch": "314159265",
  "counter": "1"
}
```

- It becomes evident and clear that a **potentially harmful** application termed "Phone" was added to the **startup\_items** at 09:42:42 on Friday November 7, 2014.

## REFERENCES & USEFUL LINKS:

- *OSQuery Deployment Docs -*  
<https://osquery.readthedocs.io/en/stable/deployment/anomaly-detection/>
- *Video playlist on OSQuery integration with Uptycs -*  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6-FgoWOoK2a-aLNvJ3YbR48ra9K98Yno>
- *Video playlist on Logging with OSQuery -*  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLHh9jhztIMyp4B7cbTanmCj2DYU6Qc3On>
- *OSQuery Repository on Git -* <https://github.com/osquery>