

# DEFENDER ADVANCED THREAT HUNTING

MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE



A wide-angle, high-angle shot of a city skyline at sunset or sunrise, with a dramatic, cloudy sky above. On the far left, the blue and silver face of Optimus Prime is partially visible. On the far right, the dark, metallic face of Megatron is partially visible. In the center, the word "WELCOME" is written in large, white, sans-serif capital letters.

**WELCOME**

# AGENDA

**01** Who I am

**02** What  
Advanced  
Hunting/ KQL  
are

**03** Basic KQL

**04** Missing  
Software

**05** Network  
Conenctions

**06** The Future is  
YOURS!



# WHO IS SHECKY?

- Senior Security Engineer
- 25+ years in IT/Infosec
- Trainiac
- Family man

## CONTACT INFO

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# WHAT IS DEFENDER ADVANCED HUNTING/KQL



- Defender Advanced Hunting is part of the Defender Security suite
- Telemetry comes from Different Defender products including :
  - Office
  - Endpoint
  - Identity
- Tons of Data available, rivals Sysmon information:  
[Sysmon vs Microsoft Defender for Endpoint, MDE Internals 0x01 | by Olaf Hartong | FalconForce | Medium](#)
- All Stored in a backend Database
- KQL stands for Kusto Query Language
- Kusto is the internal Microsoft name for Azure Data Explorer
- KQL is the query language to sort through the data

# THE BASICS

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Azure Log Analytics Advanced hunting interface. On the left, there is a schema browser with sections for Alerts, Apps & identities, and Email & collaboration, each containing a list of event types. The main area is a query editor with a 'Query' section containing a single line of Kusto query language:

```
1 | where Timestamp > ago(1d)  
| where FileName contains "whoami"  
| where InitiatingProcessParentFileName != "Skype.exe"  
| project Timestamp, DeviceName, AccountName, InitiatingProcessFileName, FileName,  
ProcessCommandLine, DeviceId, ReportId, InitiatingProcessParentFileName
```

At the top right, there are buttons for 'Run query', 'Save', 'Share link', and time range filters ('Last 7 days'). Below the query editor, there are tabs for 'Getting started' and 'Results'.

DeviceProcessEvents

```
| where Timestamp > ago(1d)  
| where FileName contains "whoami"  
| where InitiatingProcessParentFileName != "Skype.exe"  
| project Timestamp, DeviceName, AccountName, InitiatingProcessFileName, FileName,  
ProcessCommandLine, DeviceId, ReportId, InitiatingProcessParentFileName
```

# THE BASICS



## Advanced hunting

New query + Create new

Schema Functions Queries ...

Search

DeviceFileEvents

Timestamp

DeviceId

DeviceName

ActionType

FileName

FolderPath

SHA1

SHA256

MD5

FileOriginUrl

FileOriginReferrerUrl

FileOriginIP

PreviousFolderPath

PreviousFileName

FileSize

InitiatingProcessAccountDomain

# QUERY LAYOUT

DeviceProcessEvents

```
| where Timestamp > ago(1d)  
| where FileName contains "whoami"  
| where InitiatingProcessParentFileName != "Skype.exe"  
| project Timestamp, DeviceName, AccountName, InitiatingProcessFileName,  
FileName, ProcessCommandLine, DeviceId, ReportId, InitiatingProcessParentFileName
```

- Table Name (i.e DeviceProcessEvents, DeviceEvents)
- Qualifiers:
  - Where statement both include and exclude
  - And/Or
  - Multiple Where to tighten results
- Output:
  - Project to select specific tables
- Comments use a double // before them and can occur anywhere

## ADVANCED ITEMS

- Use Variables
- If Statements
- Distinct Output Based on Data Name(i.e DeviceName)
- Summarize sets
- Output based on set containing or not containing data
- Join Multiple Tables on specific items (i.e. DeviceName)



# SOFTWARE QUERIES

## DEFENDER HUNTING QUERY

```
DeviceTvmSoftwareInventory
```

```
    | where DeviceName !contains "<computer name not wanted to  
search on like VDIs>"
```

```
    | where OSPlatform !contains "server"
```

```
    | where OSPlatform !contains "linux"
```

```
    | summarize all_software_installed = make_set(SoftwareName)
```

```
by DeviceName
```

```
    | where set_has_element( all_software_installed,  
"qualys_cloud_security_agent") == 0
```

## AZURE LOG ANALYTICS

```
AppInventory_CL
```

```
    | where TimeGenerated > ago(120d)
```

```
    | summarize all_software_installed = make_set(AppName_s) by  
ComputerName_s
```

```
    | where set_has_element( all_software_installed, "Qualys Cloud  
Security Agent") == 0
```



# REMOTE DESKTOP CONNECTION QUERY

```
DeviceNetworkEvents
| where Timestamp > ago(7d)
| where ActionType == "ConnectionSuccess"
| where RemotePort == 3389
| where InitiatingProcessFileName == "mstsc.exe"
| join DeviceLogonEvents on DeviceName
//| where IsLocalAdmin != 1
| where AccountName !contains "<service account name>"
| where AccountName !contains "<SCCM Server Name>"
| where AccountName !endswith "$"
| where InitiatingProcessAccountName1 != "system"
| where LogonType contains "Interactive"
| summarize any(AccountName, InitiatingProcessAccountName,
LogonType, IsLocalAdmin, RemoteUrl, RemotePort,
InitiatingProcessFileName, InitiatingProcessCommandLine) by
DeviceName
//| project DeviceName, InitiatingProcessAccountName, LogonType,
IsLocalAdmin, RemoteUrl, RemotePort, InitiatingProcessFileName,
InitiatingProcessCommandLine, Timestamp
```



# POTENTIAL TROUBLES



- Pulling Data Into SIEM is limited
- Ingesting the data into Sentinel is not free
- Queries only go back 30 days
- Data from the endpoint can take 20 minutes to see in Defender
- For real Advanced Items you potentially have to go through JSON
- Not everything that the defender agent sees is available
- API usage can get goofy
- Finally, many new features are Ala-Carte

# LINKS

Must Learn KQL:

[https://github.com/rod-trent/MustLearnKQL -](https://github.com/rod-trent/MustLearnKQL)

Defender Ninja Training:

[https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-defender-for-endpoint/become-a-microsoft-defender-for-endpoint-ninja/ba-p/1515647 -](https://techcommunity.microsoft.com/t5/microsoft-defender-for-endpoint/become-a-microsoft-defender-for-endpoint-ninja/ba-p/1515647)

Microsoft KQL Repository:

[https://github.com/microsoft/Microsoft-365-Defender-Hunting-Queries -](https://github.com/microsoft/Microsoft-365-Defender-Hunting-Queries)





# RECAP

- Advanced Hunting using KQL can be very powerful
- The data inside of Defender is very fruitful
- Looking for things like RDP or Software missing (or installed) helps security overall
- You can create custom detections from these queries provided you have DeviceIds, ReportIds, and Timestamps projected



THANK YOU