Crowdstrike Malware Investigation and Response with Mission Control

By: Jit Arora Senior Security Solution Architect Splunk

Purpose

This document is intended for customers using Crowdstrike Falcon and ingesting data in Splunk Cloud with Enterprise Security. Crowdstrike Falcon Detect provides advance capabilities in detecting malicious indicators across the endpoint fleet, and the "Crowdstrike Falcon" app in Splunk presents the information about detections and incidents in the dashboards. Users can analyse the crowdstrike data and alerts in these dashboards and perform the investigation and containment manually. Since the tasks and activities involved in the investigation process are repeatable, it makes this use case a good candidate for automation.

Utilizing the power of Mission Control incident management and automation via Splunk SOAR, the Crowdstrike Falcon detections and incidents can be managed in the Incident Review section of Mission Control, along with the incidents from all other security domains. These incidents can be responded to, at machine speed, and with the inclusion of human element for decision making process to remediate and contain the incident with Crowdstrike, the whole incident workflow can be managed within Splunk.

This document describes the content specifically built for implementation of this use case.

Assumptions

- 1. This solution requires a Splunk Cloud deployment with Enterprise Security and Mission Control.
- 2. Crowdstrike Falcon should be implemented across the servers and endpoints and the Crowdstrike Falcon detect data should be ingested in Splunk.
- 3. Crowdstrike OAuth API connector configured with correct set of permissions in Mission Control SOAR

Solution

Although the Crowdstrike Falcon alerts for detections and incidents are available in the Splunk app for Crowdstrike Falcon, managing them in the Crowdstrike Falcon app creates isolation and doesn't provide comprehensive visibility and centralised control for incident management.

Creating a simple correlation search in Enterprise Security for these detections and incidents, can help bring together these Crowdstrike alerts in the Incident Review queue of Splunk Analyst, so they can manage these incidents together with the other incidents.

First, to create notables or incidents for Crowdstrike Falcon Detections in Splunk Mission Control, create a correlation search in Enterprise Security, using the below SPL (this is sourced from the Crowdstrike Falcon app with a little tweak)

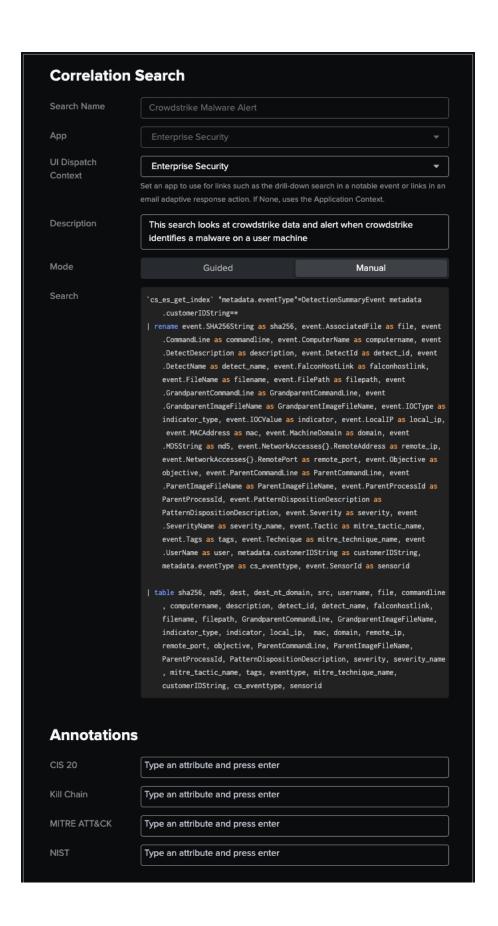
`cs_es_get_index` "metadata.eventType"=DetectionSummaryEvent metadata.customerIDString=*
event.SHA256String as sha256, event.AssociatedFile as file, event.CommandLine as commandline,
event.ComputerName as computername, event.DetectDescription as description, event.DetectId as detect
event.DetectName as detect_name, event.FalconHostLink as falconhostlink, event.FileName as filename,
event.FilePath as filepath, event.GrandparentCommandLine as GrandparentCommandLine,
event.GrandparentImageFileName as GrandparentImageFileName, event.IOCType as indicator_type, event.I
as indicator, event.LocalIP as local_ip, event.MACAddress as mac, event.MachineDomain as domain,
event.MD5String as md5, event.NetworkAccesses{}.RemoteAddress as remote_ip,
event.NetworkAccesses{}.RemotePort as remote_port, event.Objective as objective, event.ParentCommand
ParentCommandLine, event.ParentImageFileName as ParentImageFileName, event.ParentProcessId as
ParentProcessId, event.PatternDispositionDescription as PatternDispositionDescription, event.Severit
severity, event.SeverityName as severity_name, event.Tactic as mitre_tactic_name, event.Tags as tags
event.Technique as mitre_technique_name, event.UserName as user, metadata.customerIDString as
customerIDString, metadata.eventType as cs_eventtype, event.SensorId as sensorid

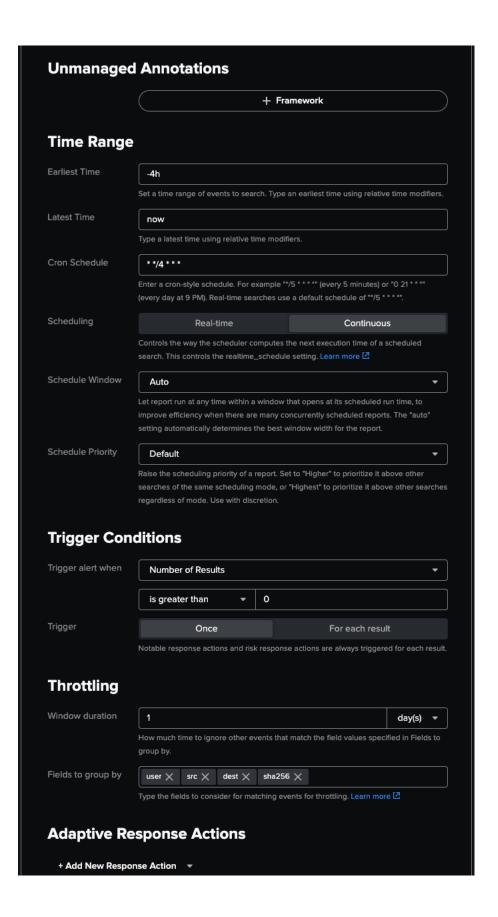
sha256, md5, dest, dest_nt_domain, src, username, file, commandline, computername, description, detections.

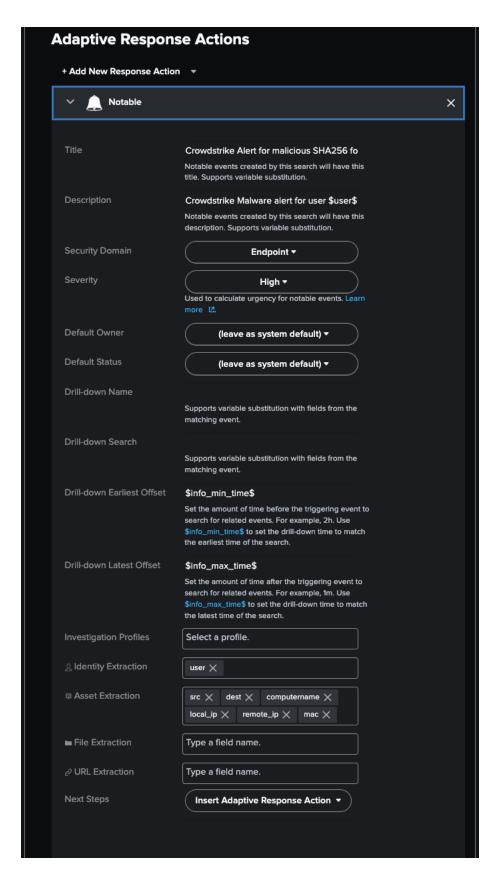
cha256, md5, dest, dest_nt_domain, src, username, file, commandline, computername, description, detect detect_name, falconhostlink, filename, filepath, GrandparentCommandLine, GrandparentImageFileName, indicator_type, indicator, local_ip, mac, domain, remote_ip, remote_port, objective, ParentCommandl ParentImageFileName, ParentProcessId, PatternDispositionDescription, severity, severity_name, mitre_tactic_name, tags, eventtype, mitre_technique_name, customerIDString, cs_eventtype, sensorid

The values mentioned above with the 'rename' and 'table' commands are utilised in the downstream Mission Control Incidents and SOAR playbook. Should you require to change the names of any of these fields, please note that you will have to change them in the Incident Review settings and in SOAR playbooks as well. The Mission Control configuration and SOAR playbooks I have prepared are based on the above search.

Correlation Search configuration (screenshots)







The description, title, time range, mitre annotations and other settings can be modified as per customer's requirement.

Mission Control configuration

Incident types

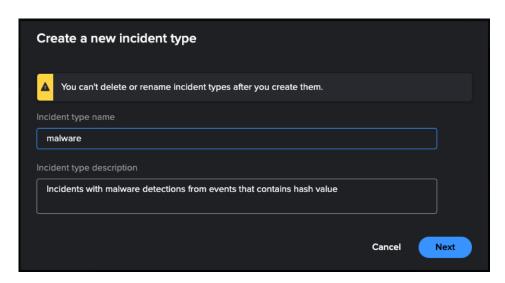
Create a new incident type, in my case I created a new one with value: "malware"

Navigation: Mission Control -> Settings -> Incident Settings -> Incident type

Click on "Incident type" button on the far right



Add the new incident type – malware with a description



Incident type macro

Now, you need to assign the incoming notables from the "Crowdstrike Malware Alert" correlation search you created earlier with this new incident type, using the Incident type macro feature of Mission Control

Navigation: Mission Control -> Settings -> Incident Settings -> Incident type macro

e.g.

```
ident_type=case(threat_collection="email_intel","threat_email",
ollection="ip_intel","threat_ip",
ame="Endpoint - Crowdstrike Malware Alert - Rule","malware",
ault")
```

In the above macro configuration, I have added a new case statement condition for

```
search_name="Endpoint - Crowdstrike Malware Alert - Rule"
assign the
incident_type = "malware"
```

Response template

Next, we will create a Response template in Mission Control, which will be automatically assigned to all the incidents for "Crowdstrike Malware Alert"

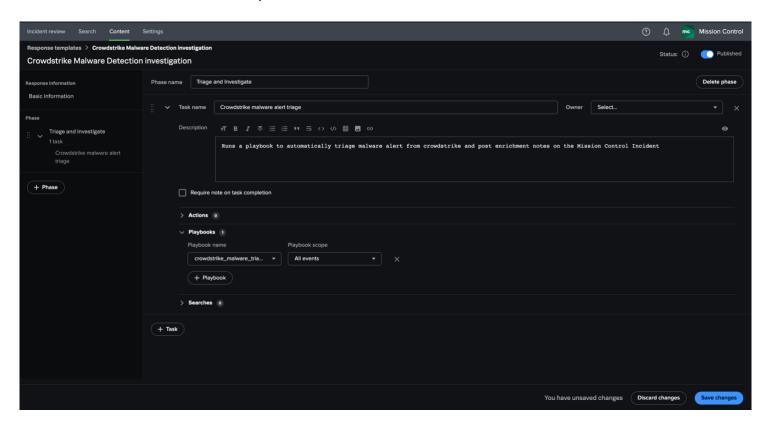
Navigation: Mission Control -> Content -> Response templates -> Response templates

Click on "Response Template" button on the far right



Create a new response template like below screenshot:

Please note: at this stage, you can leave the "Playbooks" assignment blank, as you will create a playbook in Mission Control SOAR in the next steps.



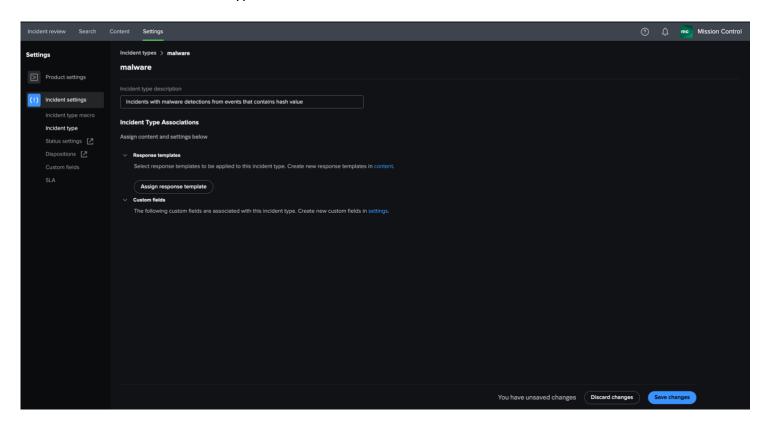
Save the Response template and publish it, by moving the enable button on the far right



Attach the Response template to the Incident type

Navigation: Mission Control -> Settings -> Incident Settings -> Incident type

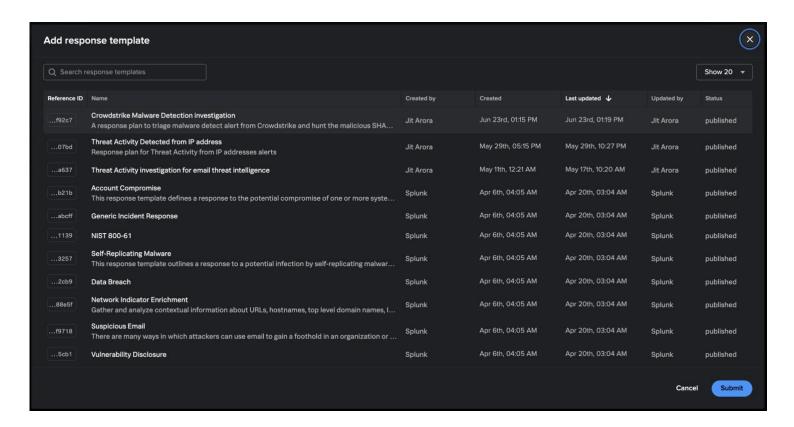
Click on the "malware" incident type



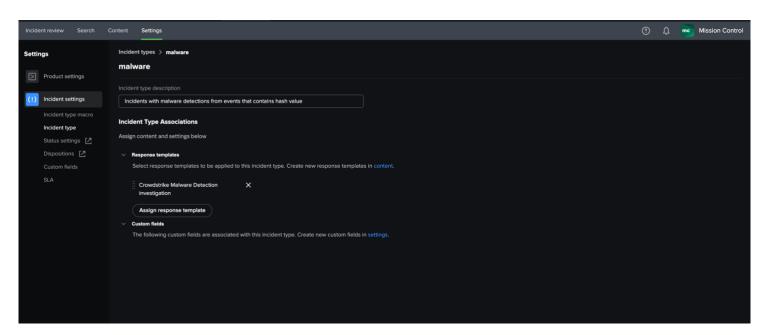
Click on the "Assign response template" button



Select the "Crwordstrike Malware Detection Investigation" response template and click on Submit

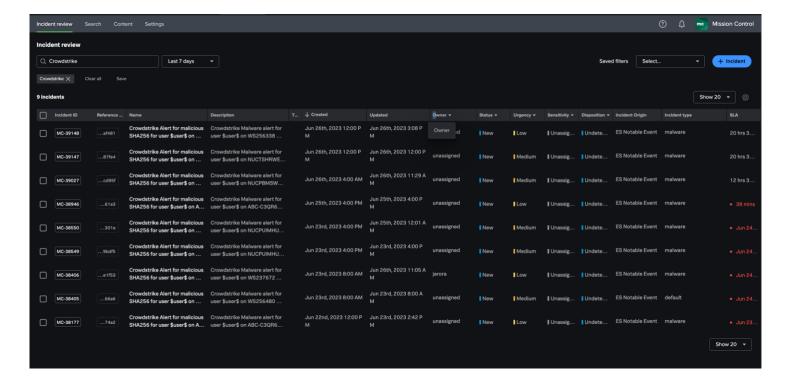


The Incident settings for malware should like like below:



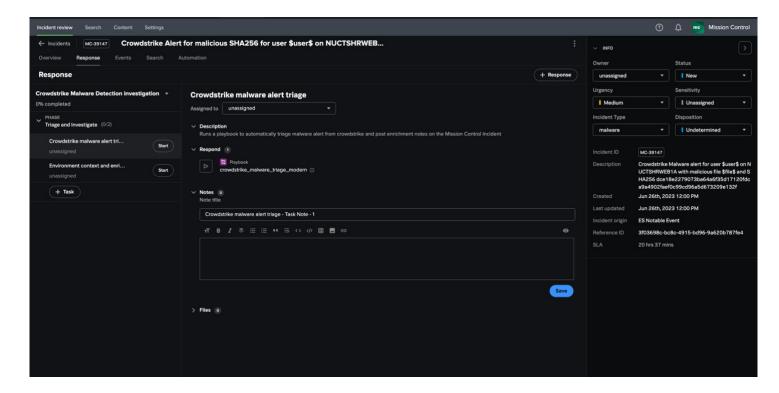
Test the Incident creation and attachment of Response template

Based on the schedule for correlation search configured earlier, available detections in Crowdstrike data and the tasks completed for Incident type and Response Template configuration, the Mission Control Incident review queue should have some incidents with incident type "malware" and Response plan showing in the Response tab of the incident.



Note the Incident type field above

Click on one of the incident and go into details and then click on the Response tab



The response plan is attached successfully to the incident

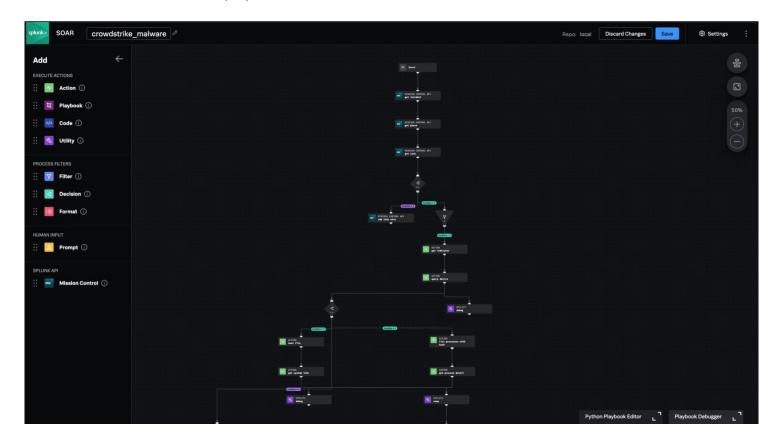
SOAR Playbook

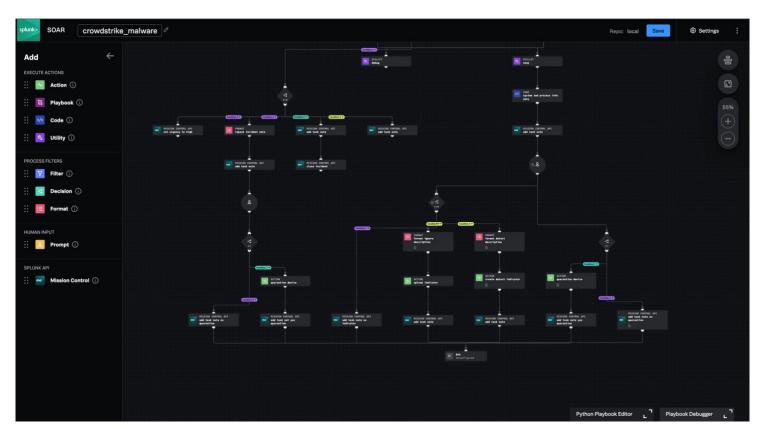
The playbook is configured to capture the malicious SHA256 identified in Crowdstrike alert and operate on it with various actions provided by the SOAR Connector for Crowdstrike - "Crowdstrike OAuth API"

The flow of the playbook is described as:

- 1. Playbook is launched from the response plan assigned to the incident in Mission Control
- 2. It fetches the incident and response plan data using get_incident, get_phase and get_task API in the Mission Control block of SOAR
- 3. From the incident data, it uses the SHA256 value to look for existing indicators in Crowdstrike using the get_indicator action
- 4. From the incident data, it uses the hostname value to query the device details from Crowdstrike, using the query device action
- 5. If the indicator is not found in crowdstrike, it performs the following actions and write the summary as a task note in the Mission Control response plan
 - a. List processes with hash
 - b. Get process details
 - c. Hunt file in crowdstrike and identify number of affected hosts
 - d. Get system information of all affected hosts
- 6. Based on the output of above action and summary written in the task note, it prompts the incident owner to make a decision on below:
 - Should SOAR create the indicator in Crowdstrike for future detections
 - b. Should the endpoint be quarantined by Crowdstrike as containment
- 7. If the indicator is found in crowdstrike, it performs the following actions and write the summary as a task note in Mission Control response plan
 - a. If the value of "policy" in crowdstrike for the indicator is "none", it adds a task note to the incident as indicator is not malicious and close the incident
 - b. If the value of "policy" in crowdstrike for the indicator is "detect", it raise the incident urgency to "High" and creates a task note about the indicator being a repeat offender and prompts the incident owner to decide further actions as below:
 - i. Should the endpoint be guarantined in crowdstrike
 - c. If the value of policy is neither "detect" nor "none", it raises an exception in the task note as "The playbook received an unexpected indicator policy and needs to be extended to handle this situation." this can be further developed for this use case

Below is the screenshot of the playbook:

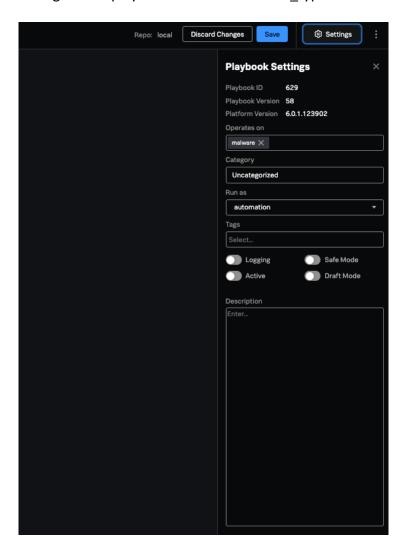




The inspiration of this playbook comes from the original "crowdstrike_malware_triage" community playbook which was created a long time ago and was built in the Classic Visual Playbook Editor of Splunk Phantom. I have used same the response workflow as was in the original playbook and used all the latest and greatest features of Mission Control to create this in Modern VPE.

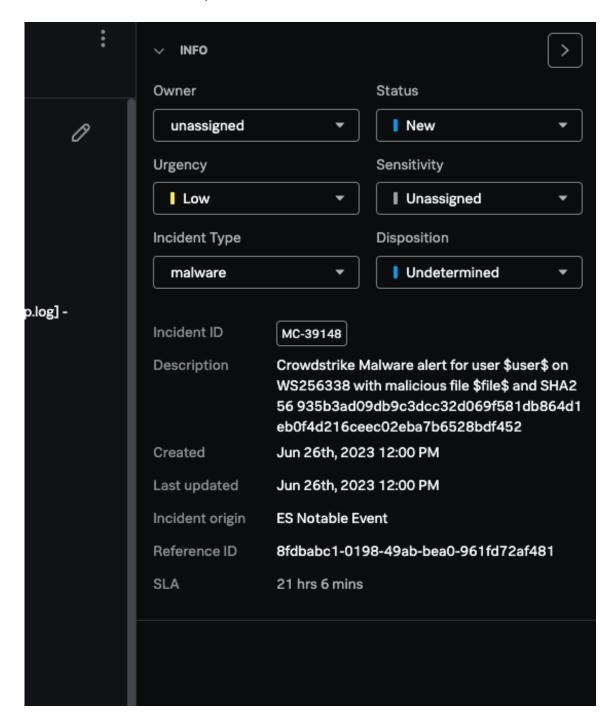
Import the playbook in your Splunk SOAR environment and configure the playbook to use Crowdstrike OAuth API asset

Configure the playbook to run on incident_type "malware" in Settings:



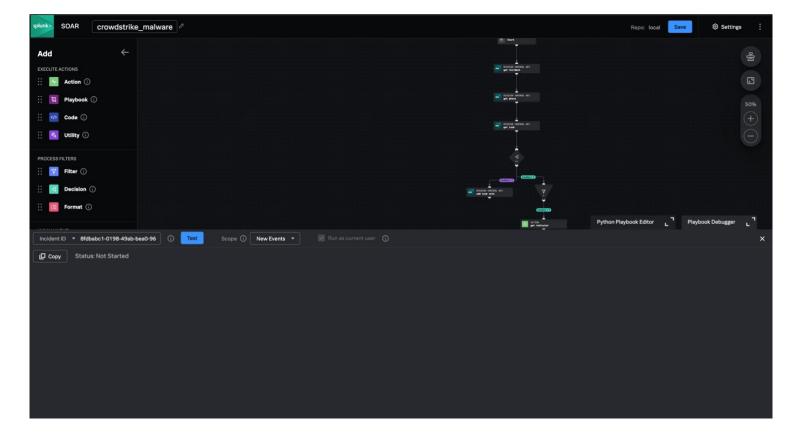
Perform testing of the playbook

Browse to the details of a Crowdstrike incident in Mission Control and copy the incident ID (shown as "Reference ID" in the below screenshot)



Open the playbook in VPE, and click on the Playbook Debugger window at the bottom.

Paste the incident id value copied earlier in the Playbook Debugger and click on Test



Troubleshoot and resolve all the errors and ensure successful functionality of the playbook by:

- 1. Going through the playbook debug log
- 2. Ensuring all the notes are being created in the incident
- 3. Ensuring the correct user prompts are appearing in the Mission Control prompt section

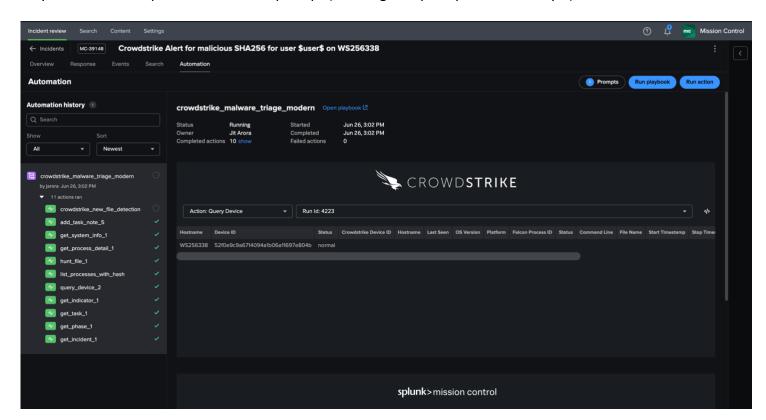
After the successful testing of playbook and sufficient confidence in the response workflow, the playbook can be made "Active" in the playbook settings, which will enable it to run automatically as soon as the incident is created in Mission Control.

This will enable analyst to receive the information and user prompts when they arrive at the incident, rather than waiting for the playbook to complete lengthy information gathering tasks, if they choose to fire the playbook manually for each incident.

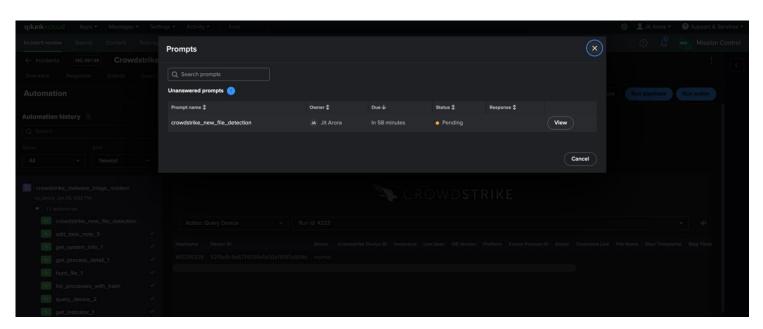
Optionally, the user prompts can also be coupled with simple email notifications, so that analyst can be notified via email when there is a response task waiting for them in Mission Control.

Example screenshots:

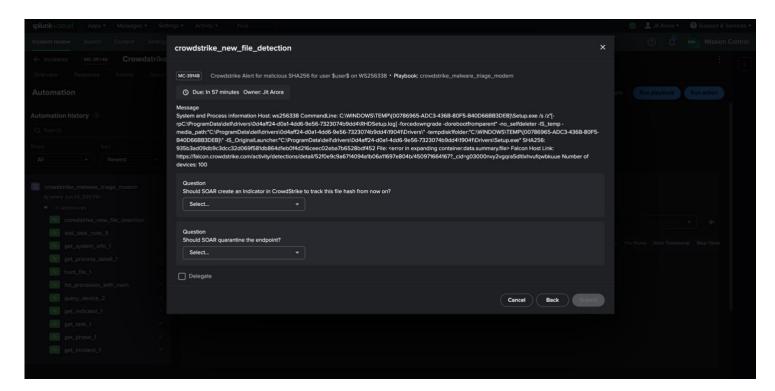
Playbook execution paused at the user prompt (showing as 1 prompt for MC Analyst)



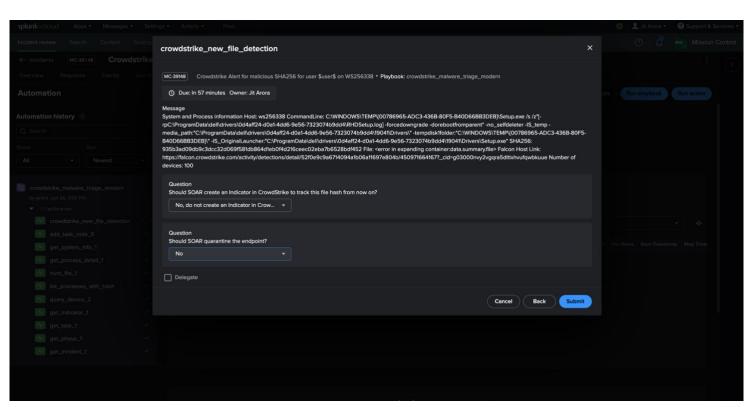
After clicking on the Prompt



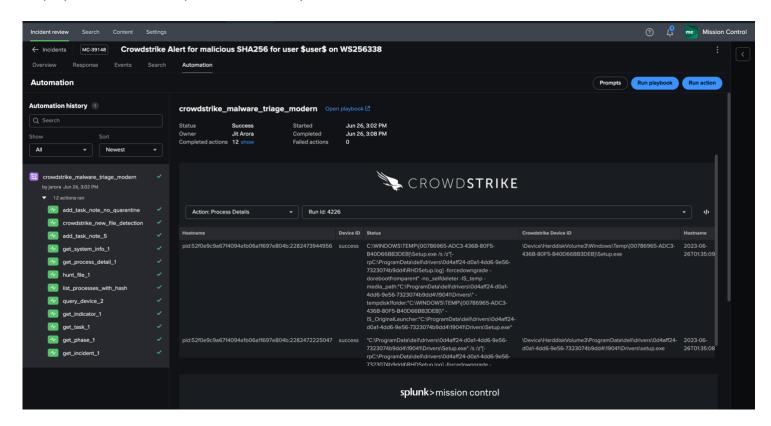
Details of the message and available action in the prompt



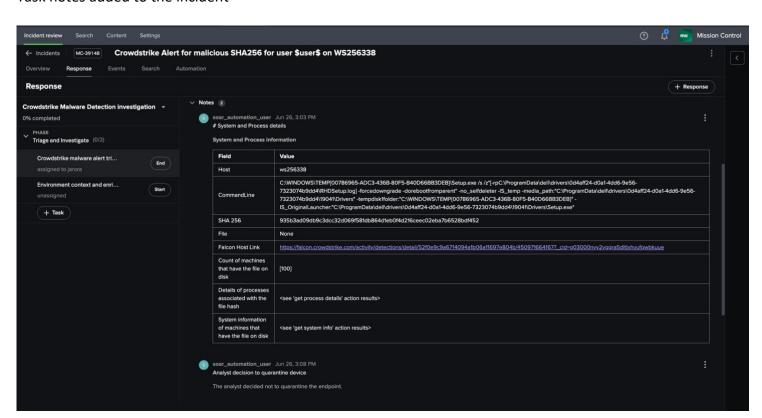
After submitting the appropriate response



All playbook actions completed successfully



Task notes added to the incident



Summary

This process can bring the advance capabilities of Crowdstrike Falcon to the centre of incident triage, investigation and response in Splunk Mission Control. Many decisions and logics involved in this response workflow are kept at a basic level, so it is recommended to take into consideration the nature and behaviour of customer's organisation and modify those thresholds and logics accordingly to achieve a comprehensive investigation and analysis.

This content and the playbook prepared for this use case is open to public on my GitHub and can be customised and extended to achieve the desired outcome.

Any feedback is welcome that I can incorporate into this documentation and content.

Happy Splunking with Mission Control ☺