



# Using macOS Spotlight and Osquery to Prevent Data Breaches



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# “There’s no such thing as bad publicity”

~ *Exploitative racist jerk: P.T. Barnum*



[Fortune 500 company leaked 264GB in client](#),  
ZDNet - Jun 7, 2019

A veteran Fortune 500 company has plugged a data leak. The size of the database, only a small sample was taken,

[Tech Data leaks 246GB of customer data](#)  
TechRadar - Jun 7, 2019



[Contact Info for Millions of Instagram Influencers Leaked](#)

Mac Rumors - May 20, 2019

A database that contained contact information for millions of Instagram brand accounts was recently leaked online, reportedly by a former employee.

[Data of Instagram influencers, celebrities leaked, database traced to ...](#)  
Livemint - May 21, 2019



[Marketing Firm Exactis Leaked a Personal Info Database With 340 million ...](#)

WIRED - Jun 27, 2018

You've probably never heard of the marketing and data aggregation firm Exactis. But it may well have heard of you. And now there's also a ...



[Reddit hacked: Hackers steal complete copy of old database backup](#)

HackRead - Aug 2, 2018

This allowed attackers to access Reddit's primary access points for code and steal a complete copy of database backup between 2005 and ...

## CBP's trove of U.S. travelers' photos and license plates were leaked in a data breach

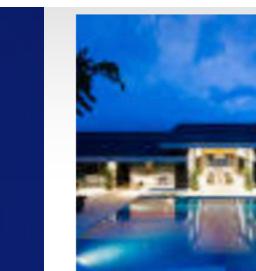
June 10, 2019



A Customs and Border Patrol subcontractor holding travelers' personal information has suffered a data breach, CBP revealed Monday.

The leaked information included "license plate images

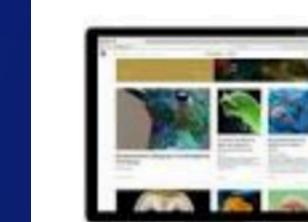
As of March 9, of the 1,485 major breaches that have been listed on the wall of shame since September 2009, affecting a total of 155.4 million individuals, roughly 40 percent, have involved lost or stolen unencrypted computing devices.



[Unsecured database exposes 85GB in security logs of major hotel ...](#)

ZDNet - May 30, 2019

An unsecured database that exposed the security logs – and therefore sensitive information – has been connected to Pyramid Hotel Group, a hotel and ...



[Flipboard Database Leaked Usernames And Passwords](#)

UberGizmo - May 29, 2019

The news aggregator has confirmed that some of its databases were accessed by an unauthorized copy which resulted in usernames and ...

[Flipboard Hacked, \(Twice?\) Resets all Passwords, Tokens](#)

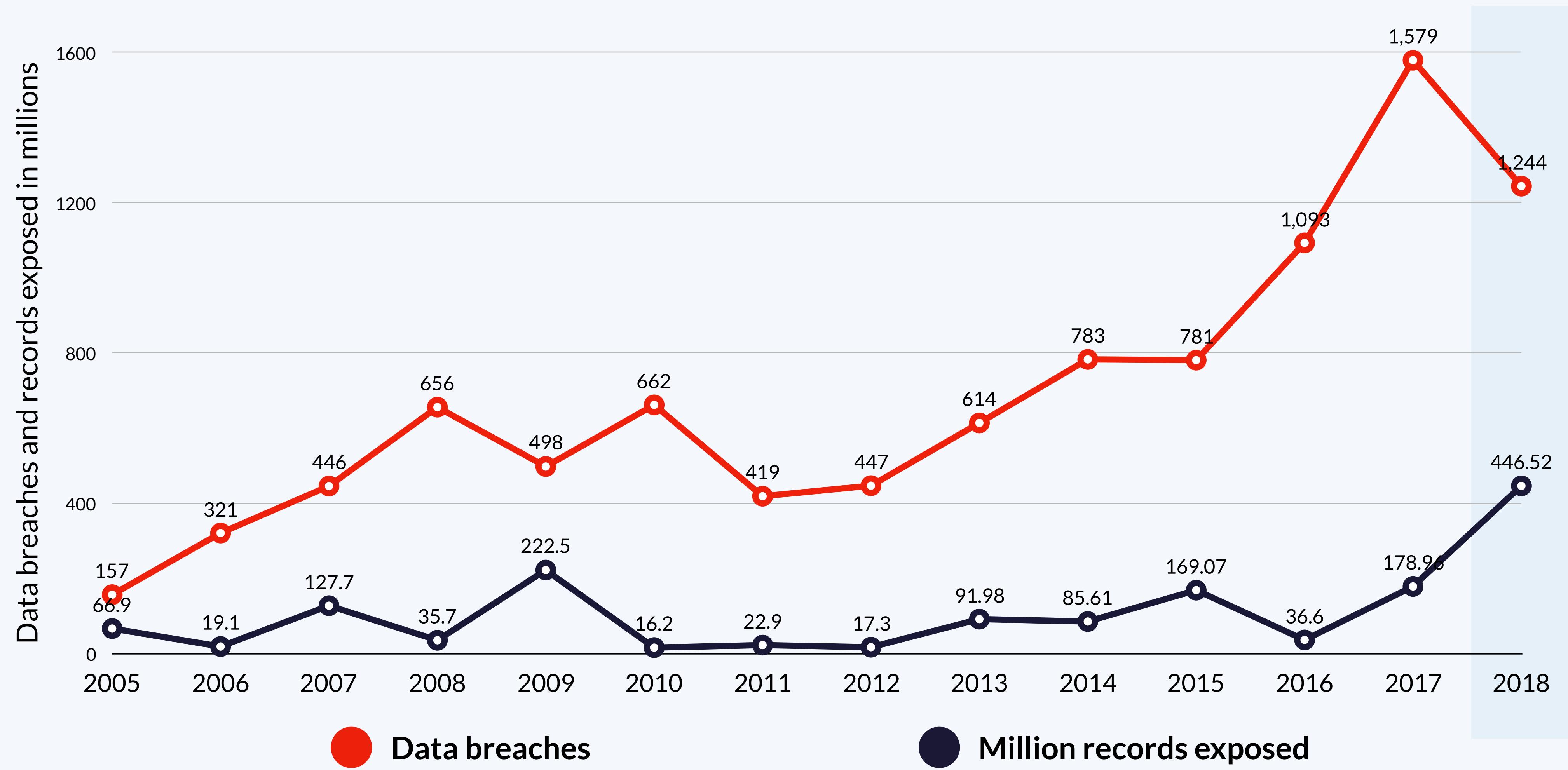
Computer Business Review - May 29, 2019

#BreachAlert: Hackers break into Flipboard, steal user emails and ...

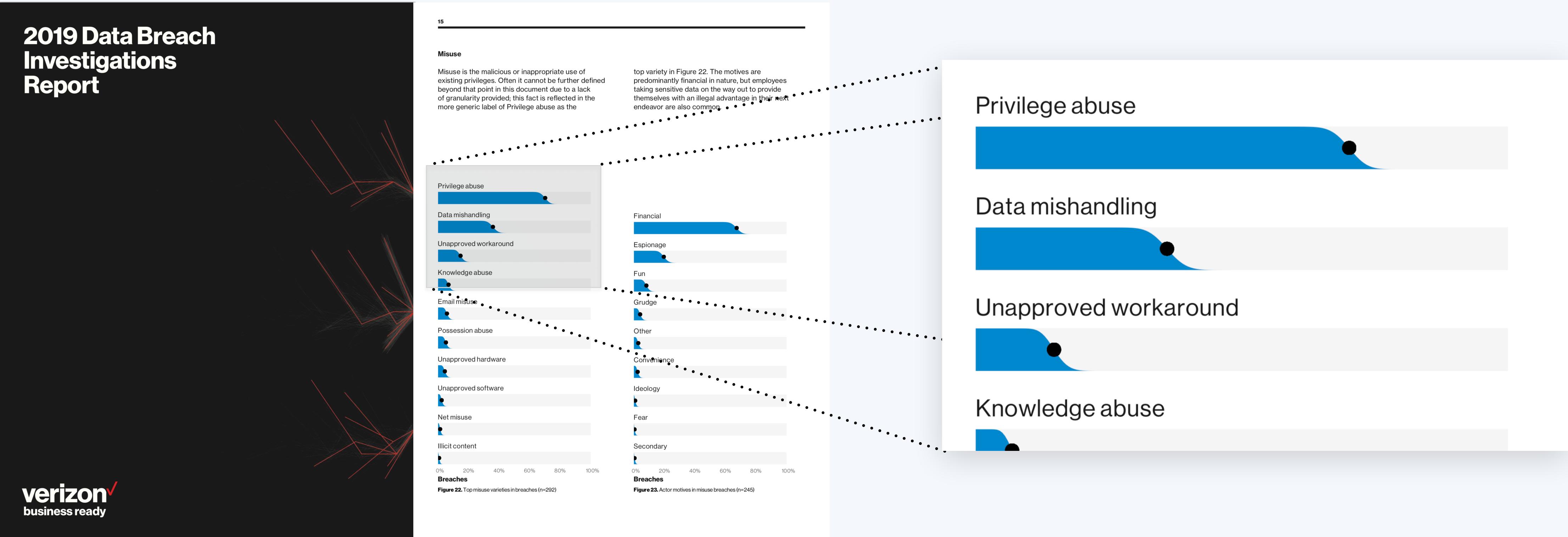
Yahoo News - May 29, 2019

[View all](#)

# Data Exfiltration in Numbers



# How do databases get compromised / breached?



# How do local copies of your production database end up on devices?



*"Oh No! I can't reproduce this customer problem in development? What can I do?"*



*"I Know! I'll download A COPY of the  
production database and Test with that!"*

**Making a copy isn't evil, but forgetting  
to delete it may hurt your company**

# What are characteristics of database copies and data exports?

Large File Size

Filetype like .db or .sql .gzip

Downloaded from a consistent source

Named ‘backup’... I hope?

Contains customer data

# Finding files with the file table

(Don't do this)

# The file table in osquery is amazing, but it has limits

```
osquery> SELECT * FROM file  
      WHERE path LIKE "/Users/%%"  
        AND size >= 100000000  
        AND (filename LIKE "%backup%" OR filename LIKE "%export%");
```

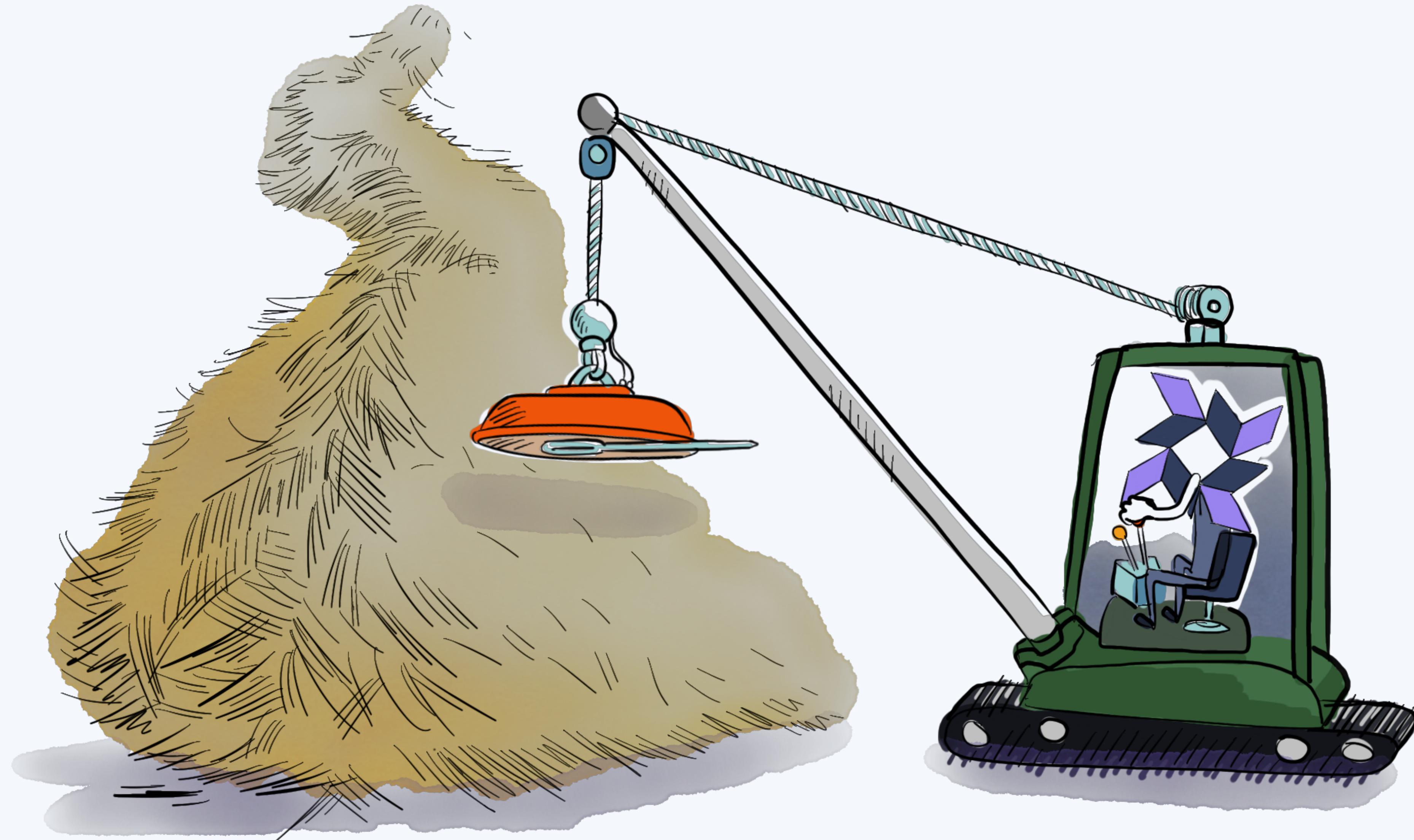


```
W0619 11:54:42.192272 381031872 filesystem.cpp:294] Symlink loop detected  
possibly involving: /Users/fritz/kolide/website/node_modules/wide-align
```

- You generally need to know where a file is located ahead of time
- Wildcards permitted, but broadly scoped recursive searching generally sucks (symlinks = sadness)
- The file table's introspection capabilities are ineffectually shallow

# There must be another way!

# mdfinding a needle in a haystack



# What is mdfind?

- Powers the macOS Spotlight omni-search feature
- Introduced in OS X 10.4 Tiger (2005)
- A highly performant, fully indexed Search (across 200+ metadata attributes)
- Supports boolean operators and other basic functions
- Indexes file text contents of many common filetypes



# How can we interact with mdfind?

## Spotlight (GUI)

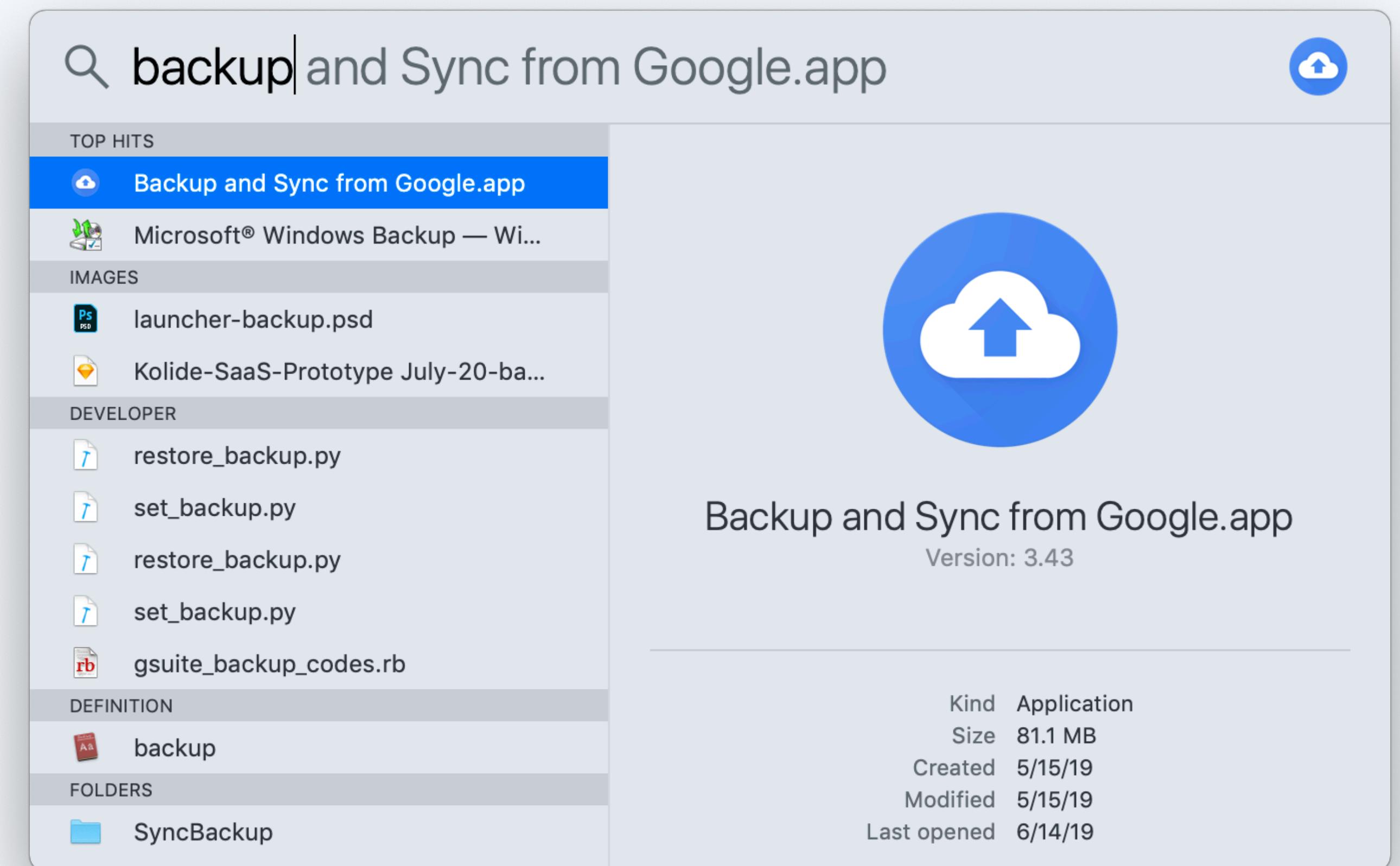
mdfind (CLI)

mdls (CLI)

mdutil (CLI)

mdimport (CLI)

 osquery mdfind table



# How can we interact with mdfind?

Spotlight (GUI)

**mdfind** (CLI)

**mdls** (CLI)

**mdutil** (CLI)

**mdimport** (CLI)

 osquery mdfind table

```
1. fritz-imac@fritz-imac: ~ (zsh)
→ ~ mdfind backup
/Users/fritz-imac/Google Drive/UX/mdfind-querycon.key
/Users/fritz-imac/Documents/Adobe/Adobe Media Encoder/13.0/SyncBackup
/Users/fritz-imac/go/pkg/mod/github.com/coreos/etc@v3.3.9+incompatible/contrib/systemd/etc2-backup-coreos
/Users/fritz-imac/git/jason/k2/app/views/plugins/kolide/database_backup_plugins
/Users/fritz-imac/go/pkg/dep/sources/https---github.com-coreos-etcd/contrib/systemd/etc2-backup-coreos
/Users/fritz-imac/Documents/Adobe/Adobe Media Encoder/12.0/SyncBackup
/Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/launcher-backup.psd
/Users/fritz-imac/Google Drive/UX/kolide-cloud/Kolide-SaaS-Prototype July-20-backup.sketch
/Applications/Backup and Sync.app
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/SLCache/0TQwNzA4NzgzNjx0DQ1NTA40DUwNjY3e3x9QkFDS1VQ.slc
/System/Library/PreferencePanes/TimeMachine.prefPane
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/en_GB/license.html
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/nl_NL/license.html
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/it_IT/license.html
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/pt_BR/license.html
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/en_US/license.html
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Widgets/AxisWidget.dae
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/_Deco Menu.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Random Fill.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Brick Fill.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Symmetry Fill.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Cross Weave.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Spiral.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Legal/en_GB/license.html
```

# How can we interact with mdfind?

Spotlight (GUI)

mdfind (CLI)

**mdls** (CLI)

mdutil (CLI)

mdimport (CLI)

 osquery mdfind table

```
mtei9-qeu89  
lf3gp-37zwg  
eyp3q-pb9p9  
g3m7k-hgue7  
v43y6-9g964  
9t467-4c89k  
ci2c9-66989  
97i66-r888t  
72673-fti98  
3hr32-z4244  
hc6f2-39468  
4r2f4-4439m  
n6t47-9476w  
8826u-7to76  
6yk74-996v4  
7f398-3ag22
```

```
→ ~ mdls /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/github-recovery-codes.txt  
_kMDItemRenderData = <09000000 c0875bc1 41000>  
kMDItemContentCreationDate = 2019-05-14 15:38:55 +0000  
kMDItemContentCreationDate_Ranking = 2019-05-14 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemContentModificationDate = 2019-06-17 19:54:38 +0000  
kMDItemContentType = "public.plain-text"  
kMDItemContentTypeTree = (  
    "public.plain-text",  
    "public.item",  
    "public.text",  
    "public.data",  
    "public.content",  
    "public.plain-text"  
)  
kMDItemDateAdded = 2019-05-14 15:38:55 +0000  
kMDItemDateAdded_Ranking = 2019-05-14 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemDisplayName = "github-recovery-codes.txt"  
kMDItemFSContentChangeDate = 2019-06-17 19:54:38 +0000  
kMDItemFSCreationDate = 2019-05-14 15:38:55 +0000  
kMDItemFSCreatorCode = ""  
kMDItemFSFinderFlags = 0  
kMDItemFSHasCustomIcon = (null)  
kMDItemFSInvisible = 0  
kMDItemFSIsExtensionHidden = 0  
kMDItemFSIsStationery = (null)  
kMDItemFSLabel = 0  
kMDItemFSName = "github-recovery-codes.txt"  
kMDItemFSNodeCount = (null)  
kMDItemFSOwnerGroupID = 20  
kMDItemFSOwnerUserID = 502  
kMDItemFSSize = 191  
kMDItemFSTypeCode = ""  
kMDItemInterestingDate_Ranking = 2019-06-17 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemKind = "Plain Text Document"  
kMDItemLastUsedDate = 2019-06-17 19:41:48 +0000  
kMDItemLastUsedDate_Ranking = 2019-06-17 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemLogicalSize = 191  
kMDItemPhysicalSize = 4096  
kMDItemWhereFroms = (  
    "https://github.com/settings/auth/recovery-codes/download",  
    "https://github.com/settings/auth/recovery-codes"  
)  
→ ~
```

kMDItemWhereFroms = (  
 "https://github.com/settings/auth/recovery-codes/download",  
 "https://github.com/settings/auth/recovery-codes"

# How can we interact with mdfind?

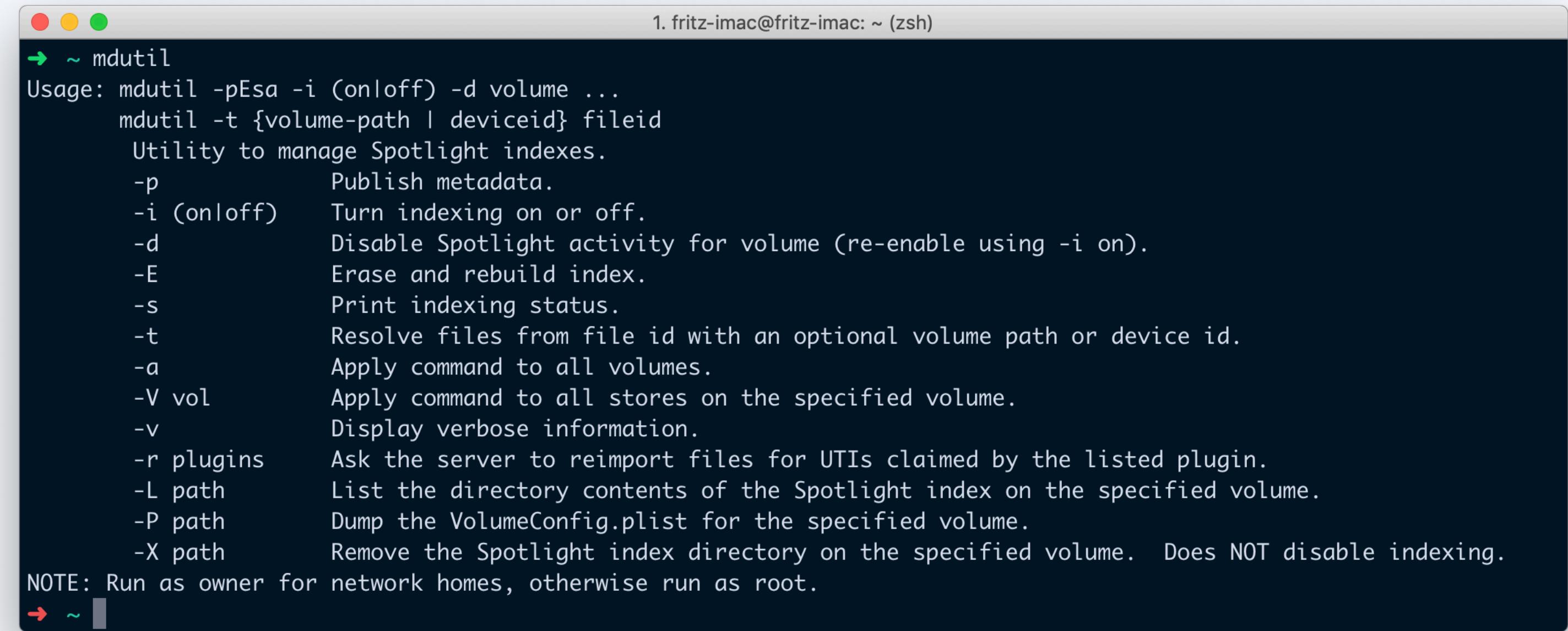
Spotlight (GUI)

mdfind (CLI)

mdls (CLI)

**mdutil** (CLI)

mdimport (CLI)



```
1. fritz-imac@fritz-imac: ~ (zsh)
→ ~ mdutil
Usage: mdutil -pEsa -i {on|off} -d volume ...
        mdutil -t {volume-path | deviceid} fileid
        Utility to manage Spotlight indexes.
        -p          Publish metadata.
        -i {on|off}  Turn indexing on or off.
        -d          Disable Spotlight activity for volume (re-enable using -i on).
        -E          Erase and rebuild index.
        -s          Print indexing status.
        -t          Resolve files from file id with an optional volume path or device id.
        -a          Apply command to all volumes.
        -V vol      Apply command to all stores on the specified volume.
        -v          Display verbose information.
        -r plugins Ask the server to reimport files for UTIs claimed by the listed plugin.
        -L path     List the directory contents of the Spotlight index on the specified volume.
        -P path     Dump the VolumeConfig.plist for the specified volume.
        -X path     Remove the Spotlight index directory on the specified volume. Does NOT disable indexing.
NOTE: Run as owner for network homes, otherwise run as root.
```

 osquery mdfind table

# How can we interact with mdfind?

Spotlight (GUI)

mdfind (CLI)

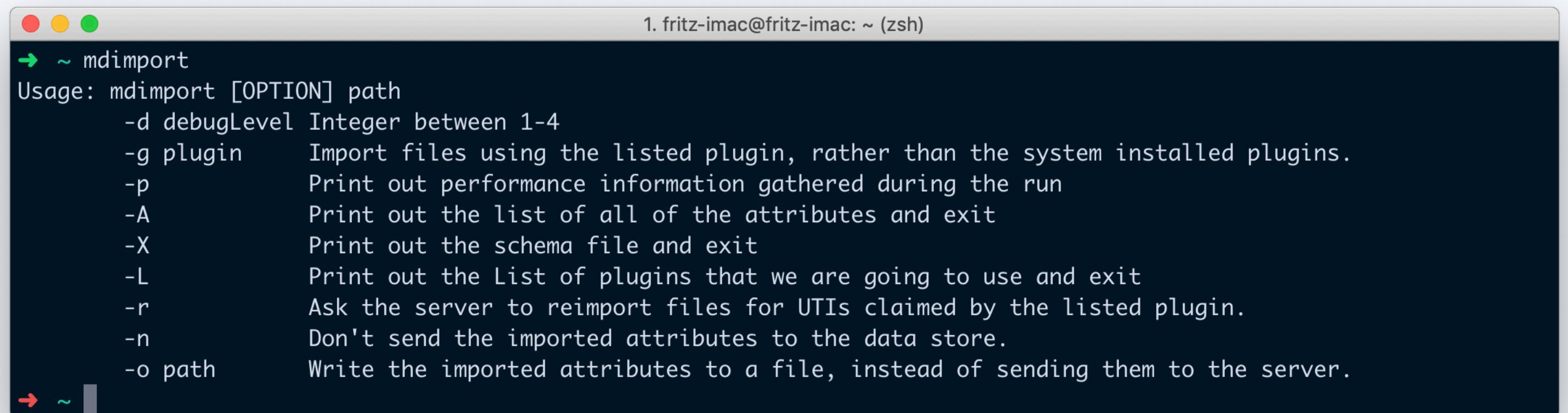
mdls (CLI)

mdutil (CLI)

**mdimport** (CLI)

---

 osquery mdfind table



```
1. fritz-imac@fritz-imac: ~ (zsh)
→ ~ mdimport
Usage: mdimport [OPTION] path
      -d debugLevel Integer between 1-4
      -g plugin    Import files using the listed plugin, rather than the system installed plugins.
      -p            Print out performance information gathered during the run
      -A            Print out the list of all of the attributes and exit
      -X            Print out the schema file and exit
      -L            Print out the List of plugins that we are going to use and exit
      -r            Ask the server to reimport files for UTIs claimed by the listed plugin.
      -n            Don't send the imported attributes to the data store.
      -o path       Write the imported attributes to a file, instead of sending them to the server.
```

# How can we interact with mdfind?

Spotlight (GUI)

mdfind (CLI)

mdls (CLI)

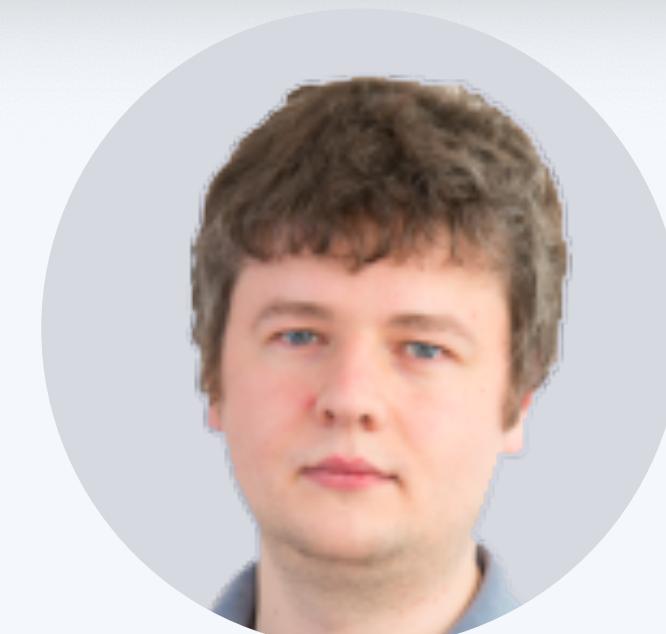
mdutil (CLI)

mdimport (CLI)

 **osquery mdfind table**



```
1. osqueryi (osqueryd)
osquery> select * from mdfind where query = "kMDItemFSName == 'secret'";
+-----+-----+
| path | query |
+-----+-----+
| /usr/share/cups/banners/secret | kMDIT |
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/kolide-osquery-launcher/etc/kolide/secret | kMDIT |
| /Users/fritz-imac/git/kolide/cloud/tools/launcher/secret | kMDIT |
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/secret | kMDIT |
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/kolide-osquery-launcher (3)/data/etc/kolide/secret | kMDIT |
| /Users/fritz-imac/git/kolide/cloud/node_modules/lazystream/secret | kMDIT |
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/deb-contents/etc/kolide/secret | kMDIT |
| /Users/fritz-imac/git/stethoscope-app/node_modules/lazystream/secret | kMDIT |
+-----+
osquery>
```

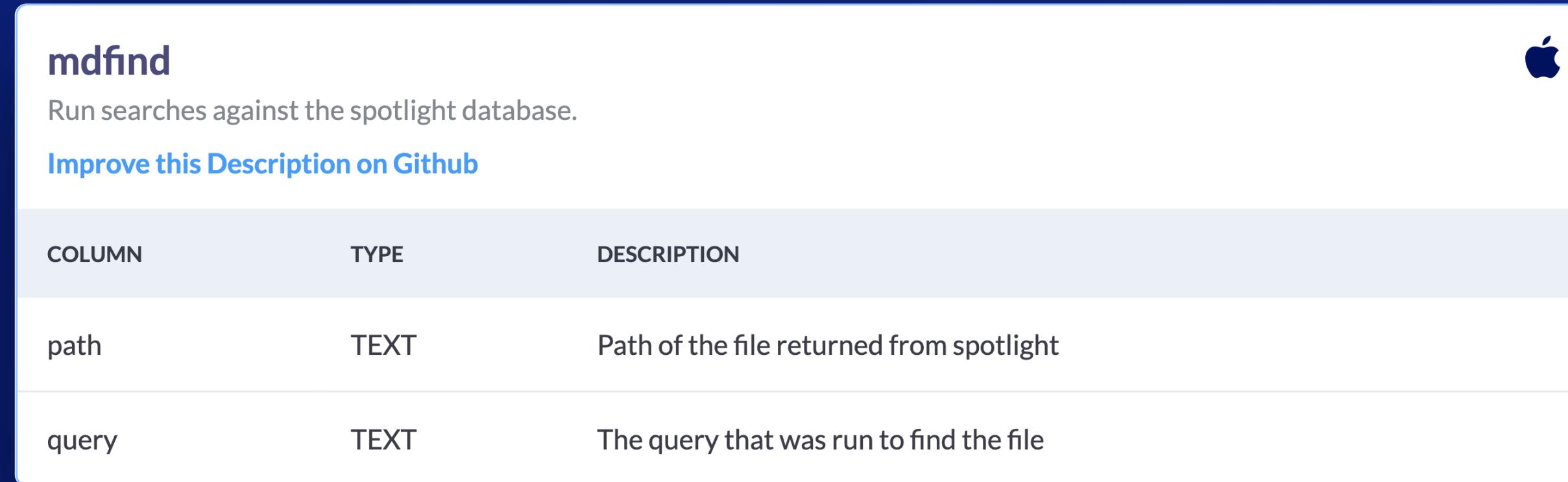


**Groob**



**Obelisk**

# Using mdfind in osquery



The screenshot shows the osqueryi interface with the mdfind table highlighted. The table has two columns: path and query. The path column is described as "Path of the file returned from spotlight" and the query column as "The query that was run to find the file".

COLUMN	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
path	TEXT	Path of the file returned from spotlight
query	TEXT	The query that was run to find the file

```
SELECT * FROM mdfind  
WHERE query = "kMDItemFSName == 'foobar'" ;
```

# kMD Attributes are *the key* to mdfind

## kMDItemFSName

**k** - (Hungarian Notation for konstant)

**MD** - (metadata)

**Item**

**AttributeName**

\$> **mdimport -A**

kMDItemAccountIdentifier  
kMDItemAcquisitionMake  
kMDItemAcquisitionModel  
kMDItemAdditionalRecipientEmailAddresses  
kMDItemAlbum  
kMDItemAlternateNames  
kMDItemAltitude  
kMDItemAperture  
kMDItemAppStoreCategory  
kMDItemAppStoreCategoryType  
kMDItemAppleLoopDescriptors  
kMDItemAppleLoopsKeyFilterType  
kMDItemAppleLoopsLoopMode  
kMDItemAppleLoopsRootKey  
kMDItemApplicationCategories  
kMDItemAttributeChangeDate  
kMDItemAudiences  
kMDItemAudioBitRate  
kMDItemAudioChannelCount  
kMDItemAudioEncodingApplication  
kMDItemAudioSampleRate  
kMDItemAudioTrackNumber  
kMDItemAuthorAddresses  
kMDItemAuthorContactIdentifiers  
kMDItemAuthorEmailAddresses  
kMDItemAuthors  
kMDItemBitsPerSample  
kMDItemBundleIdentifier  
kMDItemCFBundleIdentifier  
kMDItemCalendarHolidayIdentifier  
kMDItemCity  
kMDItemCodecs  
kMDItemColorSpace  
kMDItemComment  
kMDItemComposer  
kMDItemContactKeywords  
kMDItemContentCreationDate  
kMDItemContentModificationDate  
kMDItemContentType  
kMDItemContentTypeTree  
kMDItemContributors  
kMDItemCopyright  
kMDItemCountry  
kMDItemCoverage  
kMDItemCreator  
kMDItemDateAdded  
kMDItemDeliveryType  
kMDItemDescription  
kMDItemDestinationRecipients  
  
kMDItemDirector  
kMDItemDisplayName  
kMDItemDocumentContainer  
kMDItemDocumentLineage  
kMDItemDueDate  
kMDItemDurationSeconds  
kMDItemEXIFGPSVersion  
kMDItemEXIFVersion  
kMDItemEditors  
kMDItemEmailAddresses  
kMDItemEmailCategory  
kMDItemEmailConversationID  
kMDItemEncodingApplications  
kMDItemExecutableArchitectures  
kMDItemExecutablePlatform  
kMDItemExposureMode  
kMDItemExposureProgram  
kMDItemExposureTimeSeconds  
kMDItemFNumber  
**kMDItemFSContentChangeDate**  
**kMDItemFSCreationDate**  
kMDItemFSExists  
kMDItemFSHasCustomIcon  
kMDItemFSInvisible  
kMDItemFSIsExtensionHidden  
kMDItemFSIsReadable  
kMDItemFSIsStationery  
kMDItemFSIsWriteable  
kMDItemFSLabel  
**kMDItemFSName**  
kMDItemFSNodeCount  
kMDItemFSOwnerGroupID  
kMDItemFSOwnerUserID  
**kMDItemFSSize**  
kMDItemFinderComment  
kMDItemFinderOpenDate  
kMDItemFlashOnOff  
kMDItemFocalLength  
kMDItemFonts  
kMDItemGenre  
kMDItemHasAlphaChannel  
kMDItemHeadline  
kMDItemHiddenAdditionalRecipientEmailAddresses  
kMDItemISOSpeed  
kMDItemIdentifier  
kMDItemInformation  
kMDItemInstantMessageAddresses  
kMDItemInstructions  
kMDItemIsApplicationManaged  
kMDItemIsGeneralMIDISequence  
kMDItemIsLikelyJunk  
  
kMDItemIsQuarantined  
kMDItemIsScreenCapture  
kMDItemKeySignature  
kMDItemKeywords  
kMDItemKind  
kMDItemLanguages  
kMDItemLastUsedDate  
kMDItemLatitude  
kMDItemLayerNames  
kMDItemLensModel  
kMDItemLogicSongAlternatives  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedAudioFiles  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedEXSInstruments  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedImpulseResponses  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedUltrabeatFiles  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedVideoFiles  
kMDItemLogicalSize  
kMDItemLongitude  
kMDItemLyricist  
kMDItemMailboxes  
kMDItemMaxAperture  
kMDItemMediaTypes  
kMDItemMeteringMode  
kMDItemMusicalGenre  
kMDItemMusicalInstrumentCategory  
kMDItemMusicalInstrument  
kMDItemNamedLocation  
kMDItemNumberOfPages  
kMDItemOrganization  
kMDItemOrientation  
kMDItemOriginApp  
kMDItemOriginMessage  
kMDItemOriginSender  
kMDItemOriginServer  
kMDItemOriginSubject  
kMDItemOriginalFile  
kMDItemOriginalSize  
kMDItemPageHeight  
kMDItemPageWidth  
kMDItemParticipant  
kMDItemPath  
kMDItemPerformer  
kMDItemPhoneNumber  
kMDItemPhysicalSize  
kMDItemPixelCount  
kMDItemPixelHeight  
kMDItemPixelWidth  
kMDItemPrimaryRecipientEmailAddresses  
kMDItemProducer  
kMDItemProfileName  
kMDItemProjects  
kMDItemPublishers  
kMDItemPurchaseDate  
  
kMDItemRecipientAddresses  
kMDItemRecipientContactIdentifiers  
kMDItemRecipientEmailAddresses  
kMDItemRecipients  
kMDItemRecordingDate  
kMDItemRecordingYear  
kMDItemRedEyeOnOff  
kMDItemRelatedUniqueIdentifier  
kMDItemResolutionHeightDPI  
kMDItemResolutionWidthDPI  
kMDItemRights  
kMDItemScreenCaptureType  
kMDItemSecurityMethod  
kMDItemStarRating  
kMDItemStateOrProvince  
kMDItemStreamable  
kMDItemSubject  
kMDItemSupportFileType  
kMDItemTempo  
**kMDItemTextContent**  
kMDItemTheme  
kMDItemTimeSignature  
kMDItemTitle  
kMDItemTotalBitRate  
  
**kMDItemContentChangeDate**  
**kMDItemFSCreationDate**  
**kMDItemFSName**  
**kMDItemFSSize**  
**kMDItemTextContent**  
**kMDItemWhereFroms**  
  
kMDItemUserTags  
kMDItemVersion  
kMDItemVideoBitRate  
kMDItemWeakRelatedUniqueIdentifier  
**kMDItemWhereFroms**  
kMDItemWhiteBalance

# Mdfind Query Syntax

**== equals**

```
"kMDItemFSName == 'foo'"
```

**c makes string case insensitive**

```
"kMDItemFSName = 'Fo0'c"
```

**!= doesn't equal**

```
"kMDItemFSName != 'foobar'"
```

**d ignores diacritical marks (such as à, ê, ñ, ß, etc.)**

```
"kMDItemFSName = 'föö'd"
```

**< less than**

```
"kMDItemFSSize < 24"
```

**\* string wildcard (can trail or lead, Cannot infix)**

```
"kMDItemFSName == '*foo*'"
```

**> greater than**

```
"kMDItemFSSize > 10737418240"
```

**&& AND condition**

```
"kMDItemFSName = 'foo' && kMDItemTextContent = 'bar'"
```

**<= less than or equal to**

```
"kMDItemFSName <= 'foobar'"
```

**|| OR condition**

```
"kMDItemFSName = 'foo' || kMDItemFSName = 'bar'"
```

**>= greater than or equal to**

```
"kMDItemFSContentChangeDate >= $time.this_month(-2)"
```

**( ) Separating and nesting groups of conditions**

```
"(kMDItemFSName = 'foo' || kMDItemFSName = 'bar') &&..."
```

# Finding a DB backup



/Users/fritz/dev/pg/backups/backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql

# Finding a DB Backup

## Attempt #1: Naive Single Condition (filename only)

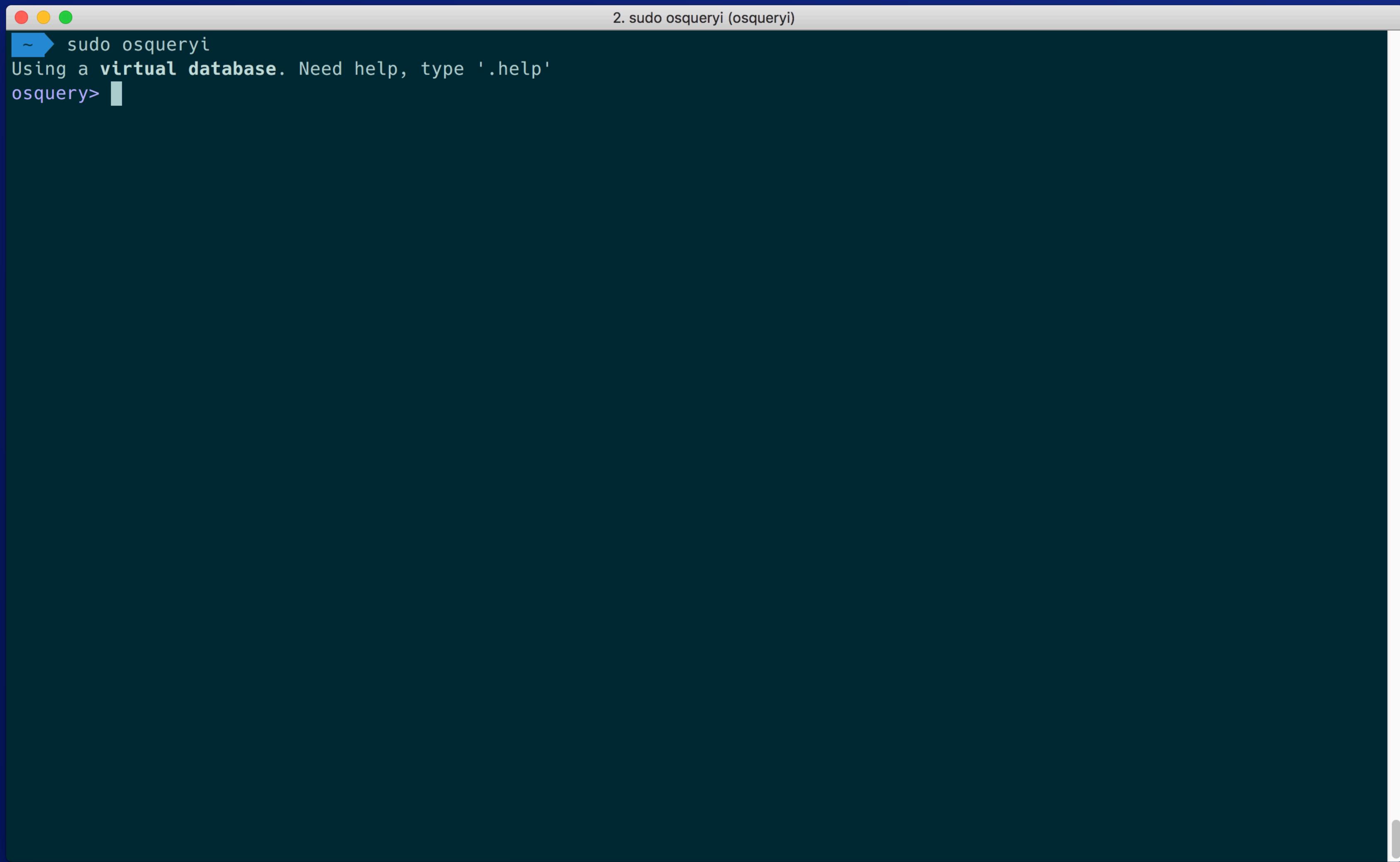
The basic mdfind query: Single condition, zero complexity

- Looks for a file with the string backup in the title.
- Similar output to what a perfect recursive file table search would return

```
fritz — sudo osqueryi — osqueryi — osqueryd • sudo — 58x13
osquery> SELECT COUNT(*) files_found,CASE WHEN (max(CASE WHEN f.filename = "backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql" THEN 1 ELSE 0 END)) THEN 'true' ELSE 'false' END AS database_found from file f, mdfind md using(path) WHERE md.query =
...> "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*'";
+-----+-----+
| files_found | database_found |
+-----+-----+
| 180          | true           |
+-----+-----+
osquery>
```

```
osquery> SELECT f.path
      FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
     WHERE md.query = "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*'"
```

# Live demo



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "2. sudo osqueryi (osqueryi)". The window has a dark green background and white text. It shows the command "sudo osqueryi" being run, followed by a message: "Using a **virtual database**. Need help, type '.help'". The prompt "osquery>" is visible at the bottom.

```
~ ➔ sudo osqueryi
Using a virtual database. Need help, type '.help'
osquery>
```

# Finding a DB Backup

Attempt #2: Two conditions (scope based on size)

Two Conditions:

- Looks for a file with the string 'backup' in the title.
- Omits any results that are smaller than 100 MB in size

```
osquery> SELECT COUNT(*) files_found,CASE WHEN (max(CASE when f.file  
name = "backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql" THEN 1 ELSE 0 END)) THEN 't  
rue' ELSE 'false' END AS database_found from file f, mdfind md using  
(path) WHERE md.query =  
...> "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*' &&kMDItemFSSize >= 100000000";  
+-----+-----+  
| files_found | database_found |  
+-----+-----+  
| 13 | true |  
+-----+-----+  
osquery>
```

```
osquery> SELECT f.path  
      FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)  
     WHERE md.query =  
           "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*' && kMDItemFSSize >= 100000000";
```

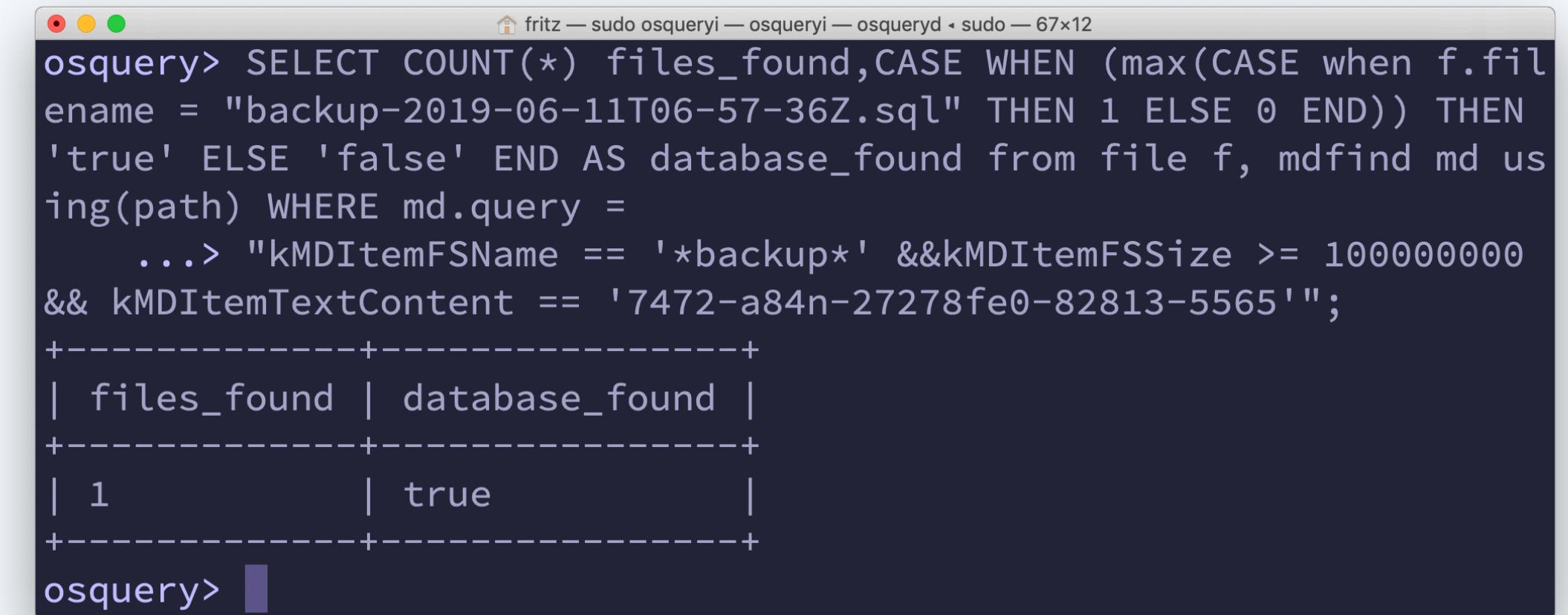
# Finding a DB Backup

Attempt #3: Three conditions (Check Item Content Index)

Three Conditions:

- Looks for a file with the string 'backup' in the title.
- Omits any results that are smaller than 100 MB in size
- Looks for any file whose contents contains a known customer UUID

```
osquery> SELECT f.path
      FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
      WHERE md.query =
        "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*' && kMDItemFSSize >= 100000000 &&
        kMDItemTextContent == '7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565';
```



```
fritz — sudo osqueryi — osqueryi — osqueryd • sudo — 67x12
osquery> SELECT COUNT(*) files_found,CASE WHEN (max(CASE when f.filename = "backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql" THEN 1 ELSE 0 END)) THEN 'true' ELSE 'false' END AS database_found from file f, mdfind md using(path) WHERE md.query =
... > "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*' &&kMDItemFSSize >= 100000000
&& kMDItemTextContent == '7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565'";
+-----+-----+
| files_found | database_found |
+-----+-----+
| 1           | true          |
+-----+-----+
osquery>
```

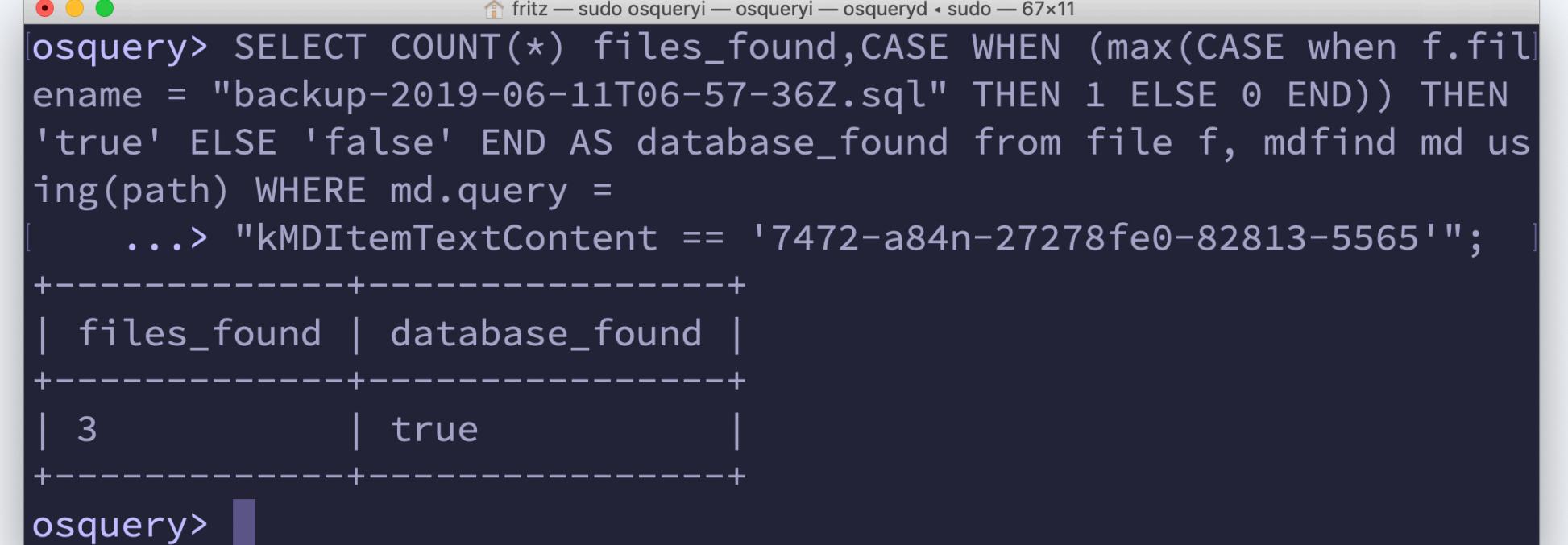
# Finding a DB Backup

Attempt #4: Back to one condition (Less complexity can be a good thing)

One Condition:

- Looks for any file whose contents contains the unique UUID string:

**'7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565'**



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "fritz — sudo osqueryi — osqueryi — osqueryd + sudo — 67x11". The window displays the following SQL query and its results:

```
osquery> SELECT COUNT(*) files_found,CASE WHEN (max(CASE when f.filename = "backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql" THEN 1 ELSE 0 END)) THEN 'true' ELSE 'false' END AS database_found from file f, mdfind md using(path) WHERE md.query =
[ ... > "kMDItemTextContent == '7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565'";
+-----+-----+
| files_found | database_found |
+-----+-----+
| 3           | true          |
+-----+-----+
osquery>
```

```
osquery> SELECT f.path
      FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
      WHERE md.query =
      "kMDItemTextContent == '7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565'";
```

# A different approach

Using wherefrom

- What about files that are gzipped or tarred where file contents aren't cached?
- kMDItemWhereFroms

```
fritz — sudo osquery — osqueryd • sudo — 90x25
osquery> SELECT mdfind.path,
...>     ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) AS size_megabytes,
...>     datetime(f.btime, 'unixepoch') AS file_created,
...>     ea.value AS download_source
...>     FROM extended_attributes ea
...> JOIN mdfind ON mdfind.path = ea.path
...> JOIN file f ON f.path = mdfind.path
...> AND mdfind.query =
...>     "kMDItemWhereFroms == '*https://data.heroku.com/datastores/*'"
...> AND ea.key = 'where_from'
...>     GROUP BY ea.value;
path = /Users/fritz/dev/pg/heroku/cae2d014-a2f5-4ecd-8a70-7d0b7cd0bb1f.gzip
size_megabytes = 582.77
file_created = 2019-06-20 17:55:11
download_source = https://data.heroku.com/datastores/d229d538-688b-4bf5-b541-0a38fcfb6cf7

path = /Users/fritz/dev/pg/heroku/cae2d014-a2f5-4ecd-8a70-7d0b7cd0bb1f.gzip
size_megabytes = 582.77
file_created = 2019-06-20 17:55:11
download_source = https://xfrtu.s3.amazonaws.com/3bcd6532-d18f-42cd-9f09-f4632d2603f8/2019
-06-20T17%3A43%3A30Z/cae2d014-a2f5-4ecd-8a70-7d0b7cd0bb1f?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256
&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAJ5HNUZMBKBNNO SYQ%2F20190620%2Fs-east-1%2Fs%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Da
te=20190620T175511Z&X-Amz-Expires=3600&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=13754ebc24]
873cf7044a5860c9a38f20c986c44062f02a49d332c7a92f03e3c
osquery>
```

```
osquery> SELECT f.path
  FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
 WHERE md.query =
"kMDItemWhereFroms == '*https://data.heroku.com/datastores/*'"
```

**We did it! We're the best!**

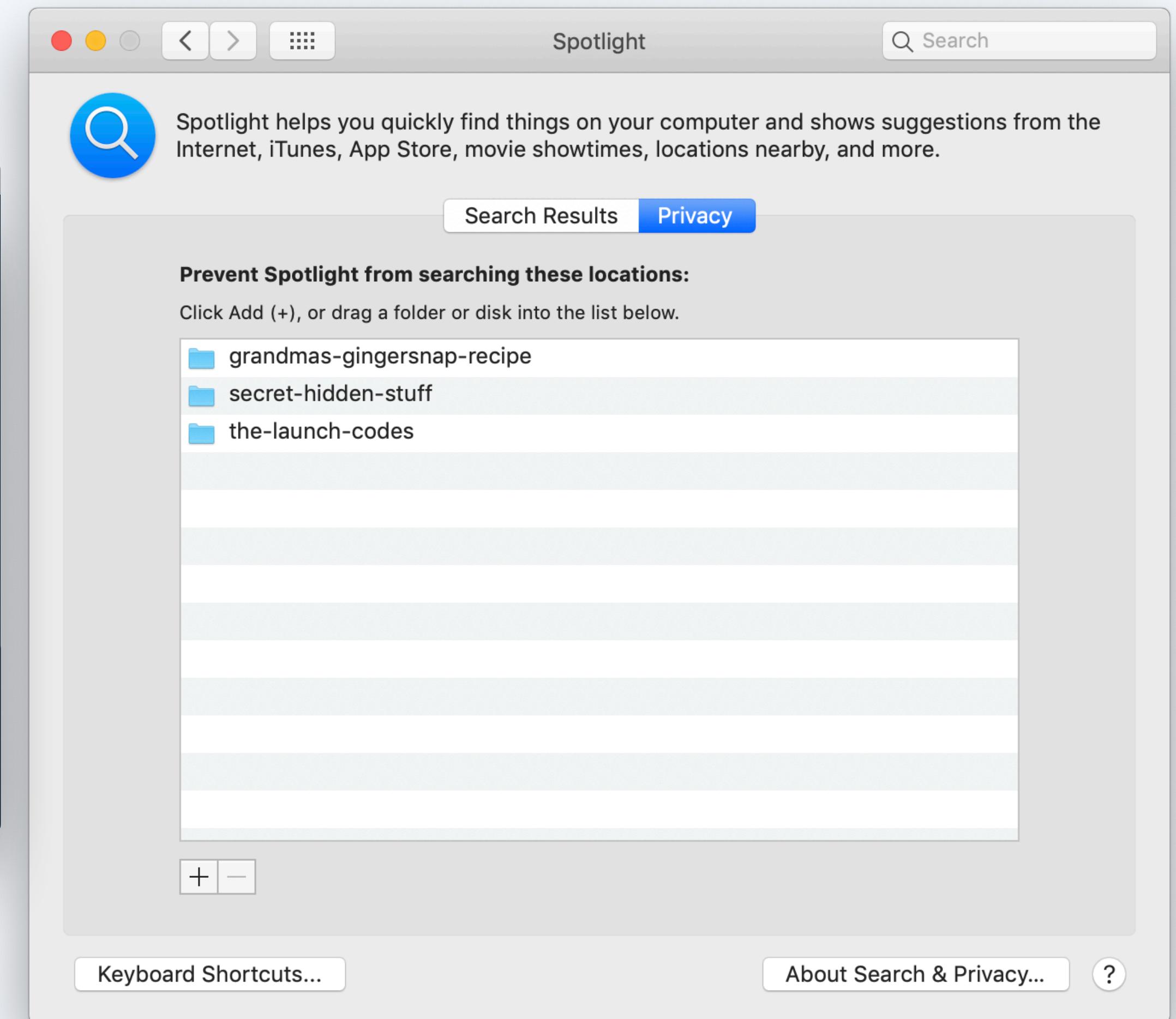
*But sometimes mdfind won't work...*

# Caveats

- macOS only
- Can be disabled by the end user
- Limited to User-Visible directories (with optional omissions)
- Attempts to not cache files that appear to contain key material
- Uses a different query syntax than osquery

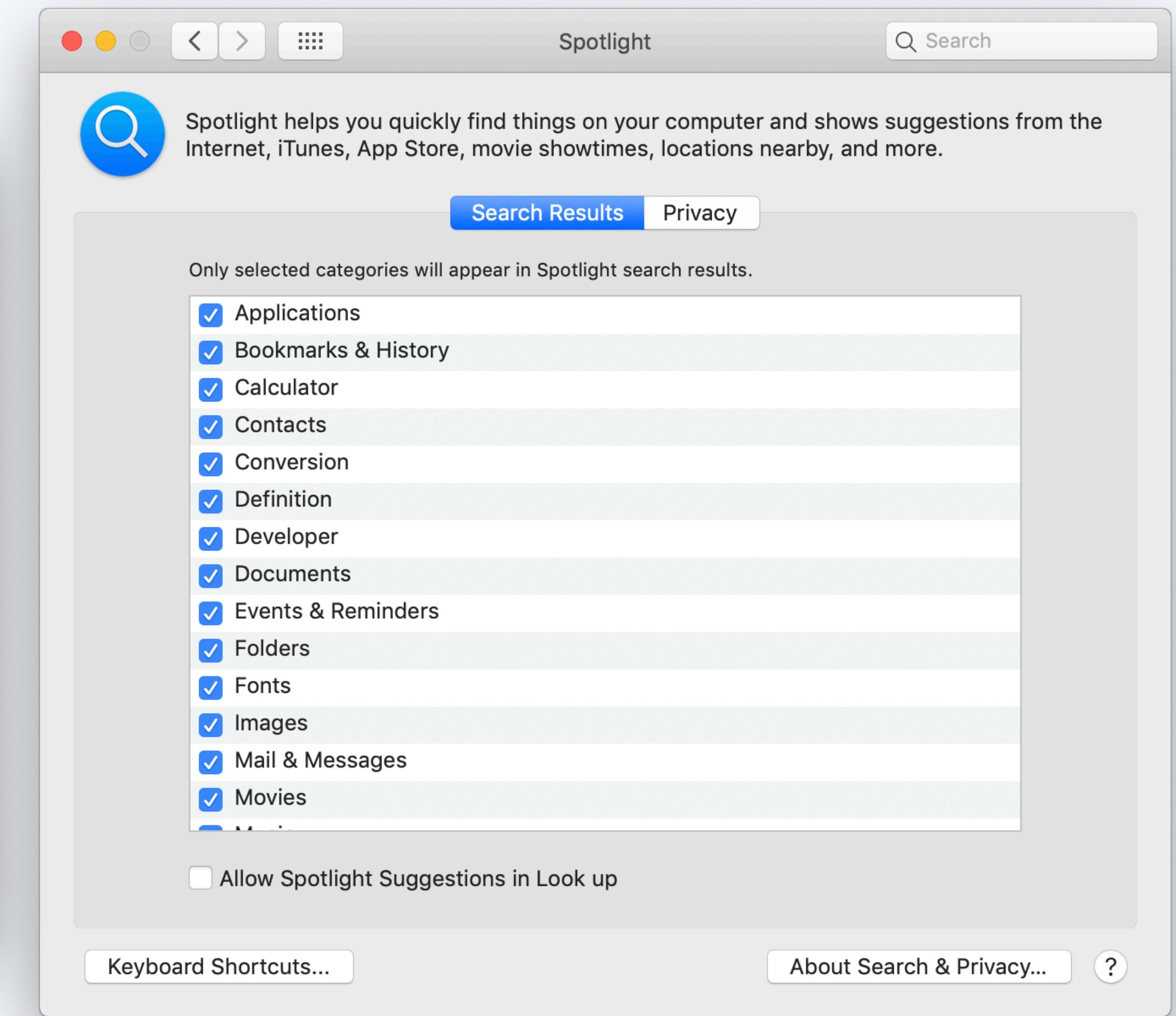
# Checking for mdfind exclusions on your devices

```
osquery> SELECT value AS mdfind_excluded_path FROM plist where path =  
'/.Spotlight-V100/VolumeConfiguration.plist'  
AND key = 'Exclusions'  
AND value is not null  
AND value <> '';  
  
+-----+  
| mdfind_excluded_path |  
+-----+  
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/grandmas-gingersnap-recipe |  
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/secret-hidden-stuff |  
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/the-launch-codes |  
+-----+  
osquery>
```



# Checking for mdfind exclusions on your devices

```
osquery> SELECT value FROM plist where path LIKE  
'/Users/%/Library/Preferences/com.apple.Spotlight.plist' AND key =  
'orderedItems';  
  
value = APPLICATIONS  
value = 1  
value = BOOKMARKS  
value = 1  
value = CONTACT  
value = 1  
value = DOCUMENTS  
value = 1  
value = SPREADSHEETS  
value = 1  
value = SYSTEM_PREFS  
value = 1  
value = IMAGES  
value = 1  
value = MUSIC  
value = 1  
value = MOVIES
```



# Privacy Implications of mdfind

kMDItemInstantMessageAddresses =  
+1 (203) 313-2253  
+1 (860) 733-2618  
+1 (203) 490-4876

kMDItemDescription =  
"Hey you guys going to QueryCon this week?  
Absolutely, I'm giving a talk this year!  
Drinks 🍻 afterwards? You know it!"

```
→ ~ mdls '/Users/fritz-imac/Library/Messages/Archive/2019-06-18/Chat with <202a><202d>+1 (203)  
313-2253<202c><202c> et al on 2019-06-18 at 10.22.32.ichat'  
_kMDItemDisplayNameWithExtensions = "Chat with +1 (203) 313-2253 et al on 2019-06-18 at  
10.22.32.ichat"  
kMDItemAuthorAddresses = ( "  
"e:" )  
kMDItemAuthors = ( "Fritz Ifert-Miller", "\U202a\U202d+1 (203) 313-2253\U202c\U202c", "\U202a\U202d+1 (860) 733-2618\U202c\U202c", "\U202a\U202d+1 (203) 490-4876\U202c\U202c" )  
kMDItemContentCreationDate = 2019-06-18 13:58:28 +0000  
kMDItemContentCreationDate_Ranking = 2019-06-18 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemContentModificationDate = 2019-06-18 18:29:47 +0000  
kMDItemContentType = "com.apple.ichat.transcript"  
kMDItemCoverage = "chat809819206630457684"  
kMDItemDateAdded = 2019-06-18 18:29:58 +0000  
kMDItemDateAdded_Ranking = 2019-06-18 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemDeliveryType = "SMS"  
kMDItemDescription = "Hey you guys going to QueryCon this week? Absolutely, I'm  
giving a talk this year! Drinks 🍻 afterwards? You know it!"  
kMDItemDisplayName = "Chat with +1 (203) 313-2253 et al on 2019-06-18 at  
10.22.32.ichat"  
kMDItemDurationSeconds = 16278  
kMDItemFSContentChangeDate = 2019-06-18 18:29:47 +0000  
kMDItemFSCreationDate = 2019-06-18 14:22:32 +0000  
kMDItemFSName = "Chat with +1 (203) 313-2253 et al on 2019-06-18 at  
10.22.32.ichat"  
kMDItemInstantMessageAddresses = ( "  
"e:", 12033132253, 18607332618, 12034904876 )  
kMDItemInterestingDate_Ranking = 2019-06-18 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemIsApplicationManaged = 1
```

# Privacy Implications cont.

Open issue for data leakage via brute forcing mdfind wildcard capabilities

```
import osquery
import string

printable = string.printable[:string.printable.find("\n")]

class FileReader:
    def __init__(self):
        self.instance = osquery.SpawnInstance()
        self.instance.open()

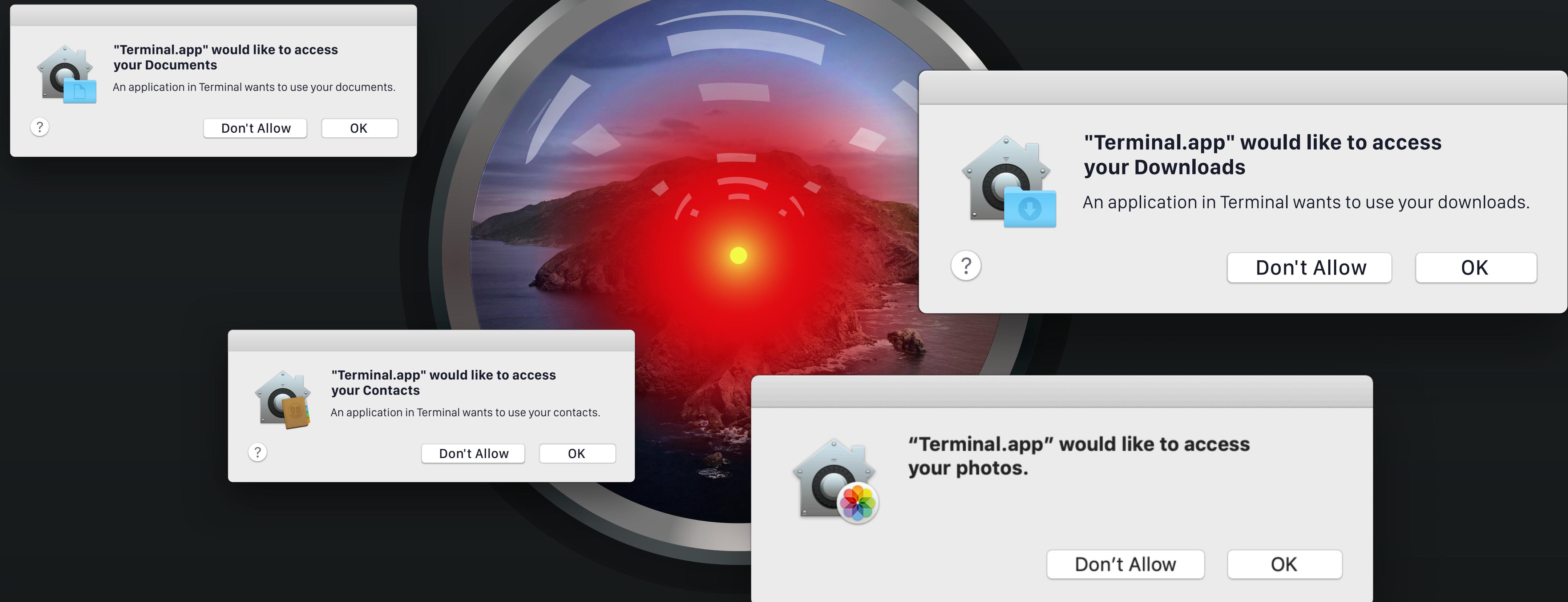
    def read(self, path):
        prefix = ''
        while True:
            print("Prefix so far: {}".format(prefix))
            for c in printable:
                query = r"""select * from mdfind where query = "kMDItemTextContent == '{}' && kMDItemFSName == '{}';""".format(prefix + c, path)
                query_result = self.instance.client.query(query)
                if len(query_result.response):
                    prefix += c
                    break
                else:
                    break
            print("Final string found: {}".format(prefix))

if __name__ == "__main__":
    f = FileReader()
    f.read("secret.txt")
```

```
$ cat secret.txt
1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2d2g
$ time python read-file-with-osquery.py
Prefix so far:
Prefix so far: 1
Prefix so far: 1d
Prefix so far: 1d0
Prefix so far: 1d0p
Prefix so far: 1d0pu
Prefix so far: 1d0puz
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt98
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt988
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y2
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25q
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qq
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qqu
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquw
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwa
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwam
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamc
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcb
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbz
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzn
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6j
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2d
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2d2
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2d2g
```

# macOS 10.15 Catalina

## "I'm sorry Fritz, I can't let you search that"

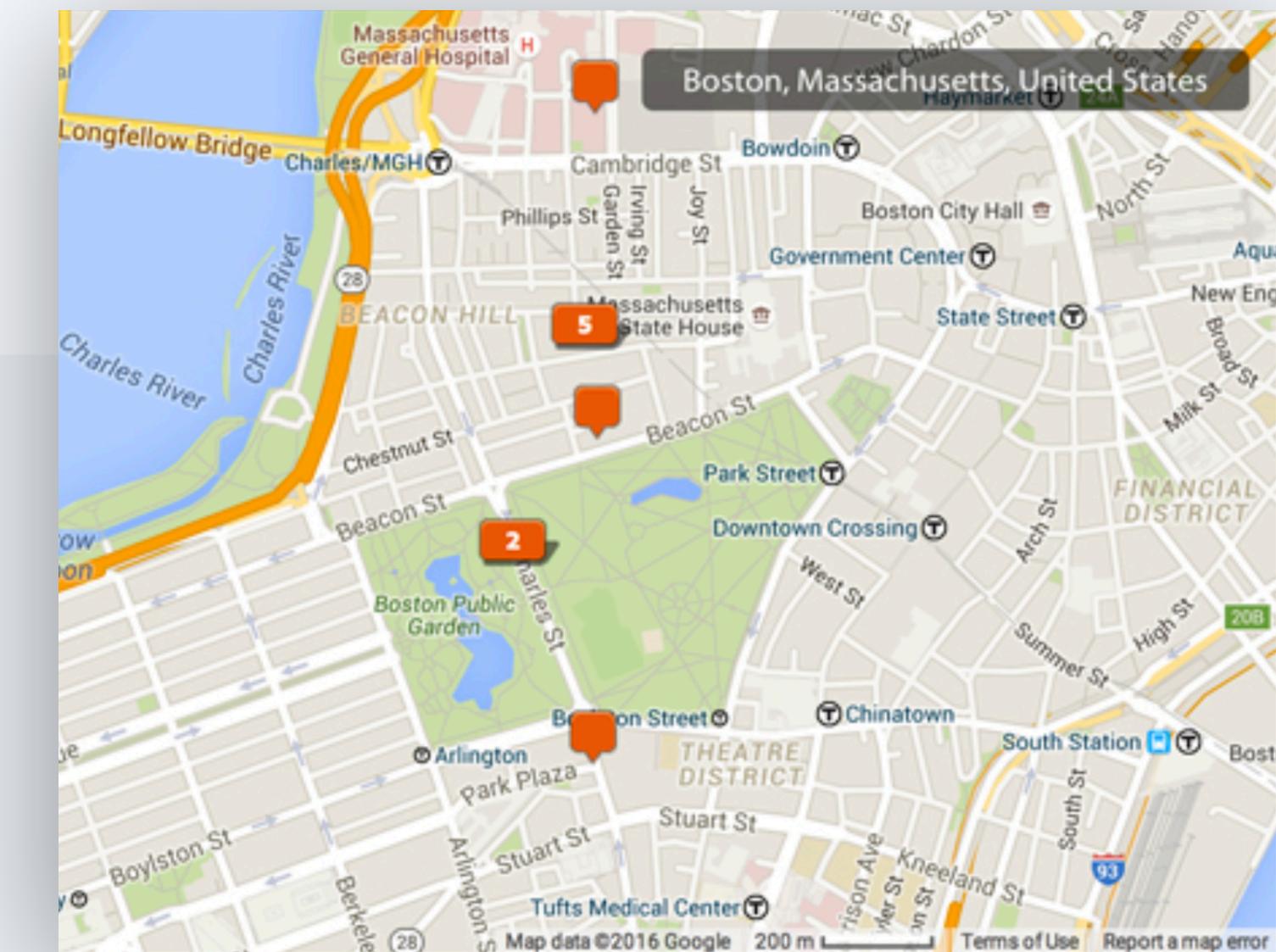


Find while the mdfind'ing is good.

# Find photos taken within a given coordinate range

Adaptable to if you worked at an R&D facility with strict no photo policy

```
SELECT f.path,  
       ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) size_megabytes,  
       f.btime file_created_epoch,  
       datetime(f.btime, "unixepoch") file_created  
  FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)  
 WHERE md.query =  
"kMDItemLatitude > 42.146512 && kMDItemLatitude < 42.48565 &&  
kMDItemLongitude < '-70.74414' && kMDItemLongitude > '-71.3241"';
```



# Find items downloaded from a specific source

*Great for finding forgotten 2FA backup codes and data exports*

```
SELECT f.path,  
       ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) size_megabytes,  
       f.btime file_created_epoch,  
       datetime(f.btime, "unixepoch") file_created  
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)  
WHERE md.query =  
"kMDItemWhereFroms =  
'https://myaccount.google.com/_/two-step-verification/  
backupcodes/download?*'";
```

# Find items from a specific time range

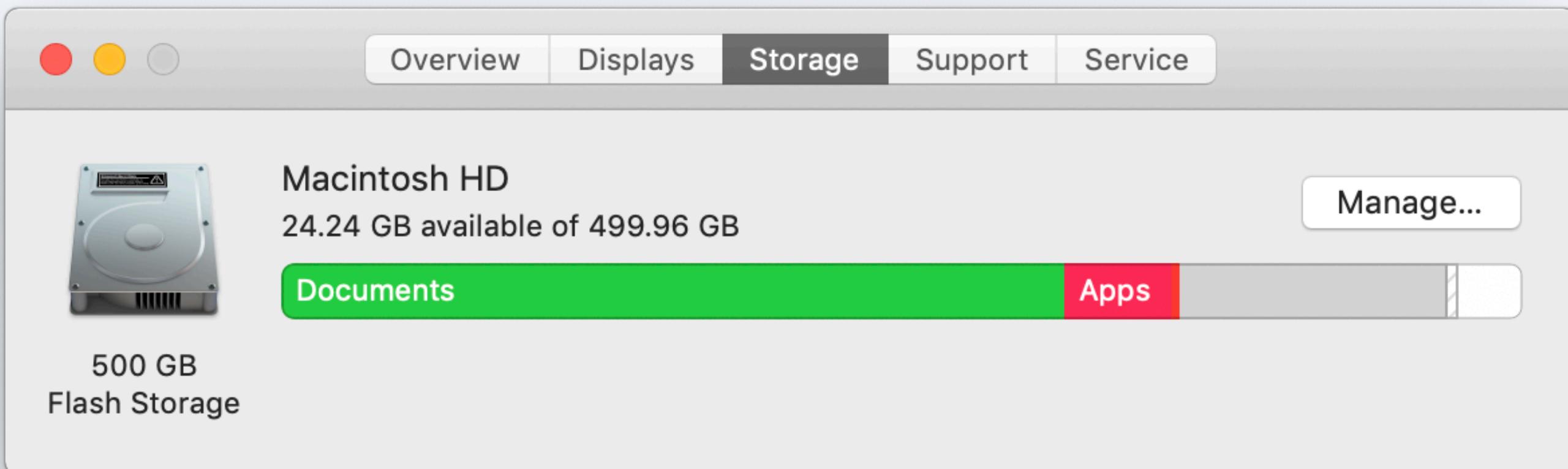
*Good for cleaning up old export jobs after they are no longer being used*

```
SELECT f.path,  
       ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) size_megabytes,  
       f.btime file_created_epoch,  
       datetime(f.btime, "unixepoch") file_created  
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)  
WHERE md.query =  
"(kMDItemFSCreationDate >= $time.today(-14)) &&  
(kMDItemFSName = '*.csv')";
```

# Determine how much disk space a filetype is consuming

*Useful if you are trying to rebuild Apple's storage widget*

```
SELECT ROUND(CAST(SUM(f.size * 10e-10) AS decimal(20,2))) AS sum_GB, COUNT(1) AS number_files
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
WHERE md.query = "kMDItemFSName == '*.sketch'"
```



# Joining on extended\_attributes to display metadata contents

For example: Where files were downloaded from

```
SELECT mdfind.path,  
       ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) AS size_megabytes,  
       datetime(f.btime, 'unixepoch') AS file_created,  
       ea.value AS download_source  
  FROM extended_attributes ea  
 JOIN mdfind ON mdfind.path = ea.path  
 JOIN file f ON f.path = mdfind.path  
   AND mdfind.query =  
      "(kMDItemWhereFroms != '') && (kMDItemDateAdded >= $time.today(-14))"  
  AND ea.key = 'where_from'  
 GROUP BY ea.value  
 ORDER BY f.btime DESC  
 LIMIT 100;
```

# Additional Reading

## Kolide mdfind Blog Post:

<https://blog.kolide.com/spotlight-search-across-every-mac-in-your-fleet-with-osquery-55789c765986>

## Apple Spotlight Query Syntax Documentation:

<https://developer.apple.com/library/archive/documentation/Carbon/Conceptual/SpotlightQuery/Concepts/QueryFormat.html>

## Apple Spotlight Metadata Attributes Documentation:

<https://developer.apple.com/library/archive/documentation/CoreServices/Reference/MetadataAttributesRef/Reference/CommonAttrs.html>

# Questions?

# Thank you!

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🌐  [github.com / Fritzx6](https://github.com/Fritzx6)

# **fritz** @ osquery Slack