

Observability for security. Deep dive into Osquery.

Artem Mishchenko 15.12.2023

SELECT * FROM speaker_info WHERE name = 'Artem Mishchenko';





name = Artem Mishchenko position = Infrastructure Security TechLead, inDrive certifications = OSCP interests = SOC, Linux, K8S and Cloud Security

Agenda

- 1. Observability and Security
- 2. Osquery Basics
- 3. Advanced Osquery
- 4. Osquery Management
- 5. Examples and experience
- 6. Conclusions





1. Observability And Security

Classic Observability



Security Team Problems

- Basic logging is not enough
- No access to production with SSH
- Incident response process is slow
- Need to ask Linux admin to take file from production system
- No opportunity to make simple and fast vulnerability checks
- How to check remote system settings, line config lines?



What do we want?

- Get current remote machine state!
- Identify security misconfigurations!
- Do lightweight Threat Hunting!
- Collect artifacts for investigations!
- Make simple vulnerability checks!
- More security alerts for SOC team!
- Save money!



Can we get all of this with Osquery?

Let's see at the end!



2. Osquery Basics





- Initially Facebook project, now part of Linux Foundation
- Open Source, 20k+ stars on Github
- Cross platform (Windows, MacOS, Linux, Chrome OS)
- Exposes an operating system as a high-performance relational database
- Tries to follow the concept of read-only tool without OS changes and RCE
- <u>osqueryi</u> is a standalone console shell for local queries
- <u>osqueryd</u> is a monitoring daemon that allow you schedule queries
 - osquery.conf to store queries and packs
 - osquery.flags for daemon configuration options

https://osquery.io

https://www.uptycs.com/blog/osquery-what-it-is-how-it-works-and-how-to-use-it

Just a couple of Osquery examples



Just a couple of Osquery examples



https://osquery.io/

Why SQL is cool?

```
[attribute]
SELECT pid, name, username FROM processes
JOIN users ON processes.uid=users.uid
[join]
WHERE uid != 0
[constraints]
```

- SQL: Structured Query Language
- Many developers and admins are familiar with SQL
- Core concepts of SQL are platform agnostic
- Core concepts have attributes

Osquery Schema

osquery		НО	ME	SCHEMA	BLOG	DOCS	GITH	HUB	DOWNLO	ADS
273 Tables						Osquer	y Version:	5.7.0) (current)	•
account_policy_data	Show only Tables compatib	le with: 📀						Res	tore Default	t View
acpi_tables ad_config alf alf exceptions Improve this Description on Github						nDirectory.				ć
alf_explicit_auths app_schemes	COLUMN	TYPE	DESC	RIPTION						
apparmor_events apparmor_profiles	uid	BIGINT	User	ID						
appcompat_shims apps	creation_time	DOUBLE	Whe	n the account	was first crea	ted				
apt_sources arp_cache	failed_login_count	BIGINT	The I after	number of faile a correct pass	d login atten word is ente	npts using an red.	incorrect pa	ssword. (Count resets	
asl atom_packages	failed_login_timestamp	DOUBLE	The	time of the last	failed login a	ittempt. Rese	ets after a co	rrect pas	sword is ente	ered
augeas authenticode	password_last_set_time	DOUBLE	The	time the passw	ord was last	changed				

Complex query for Osquery

SELECT p.*, pos.* FROM process_open_sockets AS pos INNER JOIN processes AS p ON p.pid = pos.pid WHERE remote_address <> "" AND remote_port != 0 AND pos.pid > 0 LIMIT 5;

+ pid +	laddr	lport	raddr	rport	+ family +	+ proto +	++ path ++
1135 1135 1135 1135 1135 1135	192 192. 192. 192. 192.	56493 55620 56536 55527 56531	140 35 104 34 216	443 443 443 443 443	2 2 2 2 2	6 6 6 6	<pre>firefoxfirefoxfirefoxfirefoxfirefoxfirefoxfirefox</pre>

https://zercurity.medium.com/connection-network-socket-monitoring-with-osquery-8d3b28e5cce

Complex query for Osquery

SELECT p.*, lp.* FROM listening_ports AS lp INNER JOIN processes AS p ON p.pid = lp.pid WHERE address <> "" AND port != 0 AND lp.pid > 0 LIMIT 5;

+ name	+ addr 	port	family	proto	path
SystemUIServer	0.0.0.0	57645	2	17	/System
postgres	::1	5432	10	6	/Applic
postgres	127.0	5432	2	6	/Applic
trezord	127.0	21325	2	6	/Applic
Chrome Helper	0.0.0.0	5353	2	17	/Applic

https://zercurity.medium.com/connection-network-socket-monitoring-with-osquery-8d3b28e5cce

Osquery: Under the Hood



https://www.kolide.com/blog/osquery-under-the-hood

Osquery: Under the Hood



https://www.kolide.com/blog/osquery-under-the-hood

- нм нм
- When we start osqueryd, we get two processes:
 - Parent process The "watchdog"
 - Child process The "worker"

https://dactiv.llc/files/osquery-performance-at-scale.pdf

https://zercurity.medium.com/monitoring-and-managing-the-impact-of-query-performance-on-osquery-65d67fe7def69



- When we start osqueryd, we get two processes:
 - Parent process The "watchdog"
 - Child process The "worker"
- Potentially resource-intensive operations are performed in the worker process.
 - Run queries, output logs, etc.

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- When we start osqueryd, we get two processes:
 - Parent process The "watchdog"
 - Child process The "worker"
- Potentially resource-intensive operations are performed in the worker process.
 - Run queries, output logs, etc.
- The watchdog process checks the utilization stats for the worker on an interval.
 - Resource utilization limits exceeded -> Watchdog kills/respawns worker
 - Multiple watchdog kills put the query to blacklist (denylist) for 24 hours

https://dactiv.llc/files/osquery-performance-at-scale.pdf

https://zercurity.medium.com/monitoring-and-managing-the-impact-of-query-performance-on-osquery-65d67fe7def@1

I0121 08:44:48.398947 270000128 scheduler.cpp:96] Executing scheduled query expensive_query: select 1 from users, users, users, users, users W0121 08:45:13.591068 127172608 watcher.cpp:331] osqueryd worker (71861) stopping: Maximum sustainable CPU utilization limit exceeded: 21 I0121 08:45:13.996376 127172608 watcher.cpp:583] osqueryd watcher (71860) executing worker (71928) I0121 08:45:14.841640 163079616 init.cpp:415] osquery worker initialized [watcher=71860] I0121 08:45:14.842711 163079616 rocksdb.cpp:131] Opening RocksDB handle: /tmp/osquery.db ...W0121 08:45:23.252063 163079616 config.cpp:317] Scheduled query may have failed: expensive_query

SELECT * FROM osquery_schedule WHERE blacklisted = 1

Configuration options:

- --watchdog_level
- --watchdog_utilization_limit
- --watchdog_memory_limit

What should we do if we are not sure about the reliability of Watchdog? Let's turn on Cgroups! (for Linux)

osquery_memory_limit: "{{ (
ansible_memtotal_mb | int >= 16384) |
ternary('1G', '512M') }}"
osquery_cpu_quota: "{{ (
ansible_processor_vcpus | int >= 20) |
ternary('100%', '50%') }}"



Osquery Possible Use Cases

• Server Infrastructure

- Works good in Linux and Windows servers
- Observability tool for security regression tests
- Check something for compliance requirements
- Lightweight threat hunting and HIDS



Osquery Possible Use Cases

• Corporate Laptops/PCs

- Connections can be unstable
- Security posturing and device control
- Lightweight threat hunting & HIDS tool
- You have to think about employees privacy
- You have to be ready to properly explain osquery purposes to your colleagues



Osquery from the perspective of some employees - probe





3. Advanced Osquery

Osquery Event Tables

- Helps to collect data continuously
- Uses OS features to generate events, like Linux Audit Framework
- The data is cached in internal RocksDB in Osquery
- The feature creates additional system load (not always predictable)
- Osquery Watchdog often doesn't work as expected



--disable_events=false --enable_file_events=true --disable_audit=false

Osquery Augeas

SELECT * FROM augeas WHERE path = '<path>'

- Use concept of lenses
- Can parse different configuration formats
- Can help us to organise security checks for configs

osquery> SELECT label, value FROM augeas ...> WHERE path='/etc/ssh/sshd_config' AND ...> (label='PermitRootLogin' ...> OR label='PasswordAuthentication' ...> OR label='AllowAgentForwarding' ...> OR label='PermitEmptyPasswords'); ----+ label | value | ____+ PermitRootLogin | no PasswordAuthentication | no PermitEmptyPasswords | no AllowAgentForwarding l no _____+

Server /etc/ssh/sshd_config AllowAgentForwarding yes

Client ~/.ssh/ssh_config ForwardAgent yes



https://hx015.medium.com/ssh-session-hijack-analytic-a2c684ba410f

https://book.hacktricks.xyz/linux-hardening/privilege-escalation/ssh-forward-agent-exploitation

Server /etc/ssh/sshd_config AllowAgentForwarding yes

Client ~/.ssh/ssh_config ForwardAgent yes

SSH_AUTH_SOCK=/tmp/ssh -haqzR16816/agent.16816



https://hx015.medium.com/ssh-session-hijack-analytic-a2c684ba410f

https://book.hacktricks.xyz/linux-hardening/privilege-escalation/ssh-forward-agent-exploitation

Server

/etc/ssh/sshd_config
AllowAgentForwarding yes

Client ~/.ssh/ssh_config

ForwardAgent yes

SSH_AUTH_SOCK=/tmp/sshhaqzR16816/agent.16816



SSH_AUTH_SOCK=/tmp/ssh-haqzR16816/agent.16816 ssh bob@10.10.0.1

https://hx015.medium.com/ssh-session-hijack-analytic-a2c684ba410f

https://book.hacktricks.xyz/linux-hardening/privilege-escalation/ssh-forward-agent-exploitation

What can we do here with Osquery?

1) Find hosts with allowed AllowAgentForwarding and disable it where possible

SELECT label, value FROM augeas WHERE path = '/etc/ssh/sshd_config' and label = "AllowAgentForwarding" and value = "yes"

2) Find users who currently use ssh agent and wean them off forwarding agents everytime, and also help fix their ssh configs

SELECT * FROM file JOIN users using (uid) WHERE file.path LIKE '/tmp/ssh%'

- 3) Made better network isolation to reduce blast radius
- 4) Decided to use alternative tunneling methods like limited AllowTcpForwarding

File Carving

SELECT * FROM carves WHERE path LIKE '/etc/osquery/%/' and carve=1

- Take files from remote device with this feature
- Better to use it with osquery manager
- Carefully use this feature with employees' devices or disable



Do read-only SQL queries to remote hosts

Capture files from remote hosts without SSH

https://zercurity.medium.com/file-retrieval-with-osquery-using-carves-on-zercurity-9b157f7c0801 https://fleetdm.com/docs/using-fleet/fleetctl-cli#file-carving

Yara Rules and Osquery

SELECT * FROM yara WHERE path like '/root/%%' AND sigrule IN ('rule eicar { strings: \$s1="X50!P%@AP[4\\PZX54(P^)7CC)7}\$EICAR-STANDARD-ANTIVIRUS-TEST-FI LE!\$H+H*" fullword ascii condition: all of them

) AND matches='eicar'

- Swiss knife to identify malware
- Whole system scan can become expensive quickly
- Can work with osquery process and FIM events
- Target smaller set of files (like current processes or specific directory)

https://www.eicar.org/download-anti-malware-testfile/ https://github.com/InQuest/awesome-yara

Osquery Extensions

- Can be written on C++, Python or Go
- For example, with help of osquery-go
 - <u>https://github.com/osquery/osquery-go</u>
- Acts as a separate binary
- Some interesting extensions examples
 - <u>https://github.com/trailofbits/osquery-extensions</u>



https://www.uptycs.com/blog/detect-java-security-vulnerabilities-at-scale-osquery https://www.kolide.com/blog/how-to-write-a-new-osquery-table

Osquery Concerns and Lacks

- Lack of tables for container engines beyond Docker
- Lack of tables for Cloud and Kubernetes
 - Extensions from Uptycs company are deprecated and no more supported
- Works better in host operating systems



Osquery Concerns and Lacks

- We can try deploy Osquery in K8S, but implementation can be tricky (especially in dynamic/managed environment)
 - You can look a couple of examples in research of Alexander Ivanov from Wrike (<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FvE</u> <u>MwVW6bBI</u>)
- You can't use osquery to find arbitrary file on filesystem (<u>https://www.kolide.com/blog/the-file</u> <u>-table-osquery-s-secret-weapon</u>)





4. Osquery Management

How to manage Osquery for a whole infrastructure?

- Distribute specific queries through config
 - Can use Ansible, Puppet, Chef, SaltStack, etc
 - If you need to make changes you need to apply them explicitly
 - Gather logs from local files on endpoints with your favorite log shipper

How to manage Osquery for a whole infrastructure?

- Use manager tools for Osquery
 - Fleetdm (formerly known as Kolide Fleet)
 - Kolide
 - o Osctrl
 - Zentral
 - Zercurity
 - Elastic Stack Osquery Manager
 - etc

https://github.com/osquery/osquery?tab=readme-ov-file#osquery-fleet-managers

Fleetdm (formerly known as Kolide Fleet)

- Core is open and free
- Live queries across all Osquery fleet
- Can schedule queries and log results
- Can save queries as policies and notify about violations
- Supports labels and packs (yet)
- Other features like MDM in paid version



Fleetdm Architecture



https://fleetdm.com/docs/deploy/introduction#infrastructure-dependencies

Fleetdm Security Hardening

• SAML SSO

- Group membership based access + implicit 2FA
- Google Workspace, Okta, etc

Minimal RBAC

- Only three roles in free version (Admin, Maintainer, Observer)
- Add user to "Observer" role and allow only specific queries
- Unfortunately we can't assign users to restricted scopes in core

Fleetdm Security Hardening

- Separate settings for Fleetdm and Osquery handlers in LB
 - Stronger requirements for admin panels (2FA, etc)
 - Different ACL for osquery and users
- Gather audit events from MySQL DB to SIEM
 - MySQL "activities" table

Separate settings for Fleetdm on Nginx

location ~ /api/(v1/)?osquery {
 proxy_pass https://fleet;
 proxy_set_header Host \$host;
 proxy_set_header X-Forwarded-For \$proxy_add_x_forwarded_for;
 proxy_buffering off;

location / { proxy_pass https://fleet; proxy_read_timeout 90; proxy_connect_timeout 90; proxy_set_header Host \$host; proxy_set_header X-Real-IP \$remote_addr; proxy_set_header X-Forwarded-For \$proxy_add_x_forwarded_for; proxy_set_header Proxy ""; proxy_set_header Upgrade \$http_upgrade; proxy_set_header Connection \$connection_upgrade;





Fleetdm Labels and Osquery Packs

- Packs just a group of queries
- Labels feature to create subgroups of hosts
- We can't schedule query to labeled group of hosts, only pack
- There is a default global pack in Fleetdm for all hosts

Popular public packs:

https://github.com/osquery/osquery/tree/experimental/packs

https://github.com/palantir/osquery-configuration

https://github.com/teoseller/osquery-attck

https://fleetdm.com/securing/mapping-fleet-and-osquery-results-to-the-mitre-attck-framework-via-splunk

Osquery MITRE ATT&CK Pack

1	{
2	"platform": "windows",
3	"description": "ATT&CK: T1107,T1158,T1191,T1118,T1216,T1059,T1170,T1086,T1117,T1053,T1035,T1197,T1128,T1134,T1126,T1087,T1201,T1069,T1057,
4	"queries": {
5	"attrib.exe": {
6	"query":"select * from file WHERE directory = 'C:\\Windows\\Prefetch\\' and filename like '%attrib%';",
7	"interval": 600,
8	"description": "Attrib Execute, usaullay used to modify file attributes – ATT&CK T1158",
9	"platform": "windows"
10	},
11	"schtasks.exe": {
12	"query":"select * from file WHERE directory = 'C:\\Windows\\Prefetch\\' and filename like '%schtasks%';",
13	"interval": 600,
14	"description": "Schtasks Execute, usaullay used to create a scheduled task - ATT&CK T1053,S0111",
15	"platform": "windows"
16	},
17	"taskeng.exe": {
18	"query":"select * from file WHERE directory = 'C:\\Windows\\Prefetch\\' and filename like '%taskeng%';",
19	"interval": 600,
20	"description": "taskeng Execute, usaullay used to create a scheduled task – ATT&CK T1053",
21	"platform": "windows"
22	},

https://fleetdm.com/securing/mapping-fleet-and-osquery-results-to-the-mitre-attck-framework-via-splunk

Osquery Data Pulling Model

Available intervals options:

• distributed_interval: 60

- Can be changed directly in
 Osquery flags and in Fleetdm
- Iogger_tls_period: 10
 - Can be changed directly in Osquery flags and in Fleetdm
- config_refresh: 60
 - Only in Osquery flags





5. Examples and experience

Osquery for Security: sshd config

config-auth-ssh allowed PermitRootLogin 🖍	Author						
We should have only PermitRootLogin=no in production 🧪	0						
Query:	Query:						
<pre>1 SELECT label, value FROM augeas WHERE path = '/etc/ssh/sshd_config' and</pre>	label =						
Compatible with: 🗸 macOS 🗙 Windows 🗸 Linux							
Observers can run							
Users with the Observer role will be able to run this query on hosts where they have access.							
config-auth-ssh allowed PasswordAuther	entication 🧭	Author ⑧ SIEM Admin User					
Query:							
<pre>SELECT label, value, path FROM augeas WHERE path = '/etc/ssh/sshd_config' and label =</pre>							
Compatible with: 🗸 macOS 🗙 Windows 🗸 Linux							
Observers can run							
Users with the Observer role will be able to run this query on hosts w	where they have access.						

Osquery for Security: SSH Private Keys

use	users-leaks ssh users private keys 🧪					
Add		Ø TOU				
Query	y					
1	SELECT path, mode, username, datetime(mtime, 'unixepoch', 'localtime') AS mtime, datetime(atime, 'unixepoch', 'localtime') AS atime, inode, file.	uid,				
	file.gid					
2	FROM users					
3	JOIN user_ssh_keys USING (uid), file USING (path);					
Comp	patible with: 🗸 macOS 🗸 Windows 🗸 Linux 🗙 ChromeOS					
_ c	Dbservers can run					
Users	s with the observer role will be able to run this query on hosts where they have access.					

Osquery for Security: Privileged Docker Containers

Find Containers Running As Privileged 🖍

https://community.carbonblack.com/t5/Query-Exchange/Find-Containers-Running-As-Privileged/idi-p/75266 🧪

Query



Compatible with: ✓ macOS × Windows ✓ Linux × ChromeOS

Observers can run

Users with the observer role will be able to run this query on hosts where they have access.

Osquery for Security: Software Packages

vulners rpm packages 💉					
Get software packages from RHEL based servers for Vulners API requests 🧪					
Query:					
1 SELECT (SELECT REPLACE(value, '"','') FROM augeas where path='/etc/os-release' and label='ID') as osname, (SELECT REPLACE(value, '"','' where path='/etc/os-release' and label='VERSION_ID') as osversion, name '-' version '-' release '-' arch as packa rpm_packages) FROM <mark>augeas</mark> ge FROM				
Compatible with: X macOS X Windows ✓ Linux					
Observers can run Users with the Observer role will be able to run this query on hosts where they have access.					
vulners deb packages 🖍 Get software packages from Debian based servers for Vulners API requests 🖍	Aut 8 SIEM Admin U				
Query:					
1 SELECT (SELECT REPLACE(value, '"','') FROM augeas where path='/etc/os-release' and label='ID') as osname, (SELECT REPLACE(value where path='/etc/os-release' and label='VERSION_ID') as osversion, name ' ' version ' ' arch as package FROM de	, '"','') FROM augeas b_packages				
Compatible with: X macOS X Windows ✓ Linux					

Observers can run

Users with the Observer role will be able to run this query on hosts where they have access.

Osquery for Security: Software Packages

Host 🜩	osname 🜩	osversion 🗢	package 🗢
	ubuntu	22.04	zstd 1.4.8+dfsg-3build1 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	zlib1g 1:1.2.11.dfsg-2ubuntu9.2 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	zabbix-agent2 1:6.2.9-1+ubuntu22.04 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	xz-utils 5.2.5-2ubuntu1 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	xxd 2:8.2.3995-1ubuntu2.12 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	xkb-data 2.33-1 all
	ubuntu	22.04	xfsprogs 5.13.0-1ubuntu2 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	xdg-user-dirs 0.17-2ubuntu4 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	wireless-regdb 2022.06.06-0ubuntu1~22.04.1 all
	ubuntu	22.04	whiptail 0.52.21-5ubuntu2 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	wget 1.21.2-2ubuntu1 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	vim-tiny 2:8.2.3995-1ubuntu2.12 amd64
	ubuntu	22.04	vim-runtime 2:8.2.3995-1ubuntu2.12 all

https://vulners.com/

Concerns for the future of Fleetdm





- There is no Packs button in Fleetdm anymore
- This page is available only by direct link /packs/manage
- Fleetdm developers focus on paid version and "Teams" feature
- "Teams" feature can provide great experience for scope restriction
- But Fleetdm wants to use Teams as replacement for Packs and Labels
- Fleet will support Packs until the next major version release

Concerns for the future of Fleetdm

How to live further?

We still didn't decide, but we can



- Try another osquery manager
- Fork specific Fleetdm version, support and develop it ourselves
- Just live with old version until it breaks
- Live without Packs and Label and query all hosts anytime
- Maybe something else



6. Conclusions

What did we get as result?

- Get current remote machine state! => Different Osquery tables, can write new with extensions
- Identify security misconfigurations! => Augeas and other tables
- Do lightweight Threat Hunting! => Different Osquery tables
- Collect artifacts for investigations! => Carving table
- Make simple vulnerability checks! => Yara rules and packages gathering with Osquery (for checks with a third-party API)
- More security alerts for SOC team! => Different Osquery tables
- Save money! => Osquery is free, Fleetdm also has free core version

Thank you for the attention!



My LinkedIn

Q&A

