

Pretty Good SOC

Effectively Enhancing our SOC with Sysmon & PowerShell Logging to detect and respond to today's real-world threats

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Agenda

- Introduction & Background
- TransAlta Information and Challenges
- ► What was our problem?
- Our Journey
- New Log Configuration
- Endpoint Detection and Forensics
- What's Next
- References and Links
- ► Q&A



Kent Farries Background and Role

- I have been with TransAlta for 17 Years in various roles over the years. Desktop, Server, Manager, Architect. Currently Focused on Security and Operational Intelligence
- We are dedicated to the protection of TransAlta's computing infrastructure while enabling a safe computing landscape where the people of TransAlta can conduct business efficiently
- Favorite Splunk t-shirt
 - I like big data and I cannot lie
- Interesting fun fact about me
 - I was a video game champion in 1982 and you can find me listed in IMDB for the Chasing Ghosts Documentary as well as on the Twin Galaxies gaming site



Ikenna Nwafor Background and Role

- Over 14 years in Information Security and Network Management; 3 years at TransAlta as a Senior Information Systems Security Analyst
- Mostly focused on the Governance Risk and Compliance (GRC), Incident Response, Security Operations, User Education and Security Awareness
- A member of TransAlta's Information Security team responsible for ensuring the security of TransAlta's network and Critical Infrastructure
- Certifications CISSP, CISM, CISA, GICSP
- Favorite Splunk T-Shirt
 - Because You Can't Always Blame Canada

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TransAlta Overview

- Over one hundred years of power generation
 - Wind, hydro, solar, natural gas, coal
 - Clean Power Transition Underway
- Operations in Canada, U.S. and Australia
- Well respected power generator and wholesale marketer of electricity
- Critical Infrastructure for Utility Power Generation
- Regulatory Requirements NERC CIP, SOX
- IT Security Team based in Calgary with SOC outsourced

What was our problem?

Advanced Endpoint Solution, Endpoint Visibility



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Red Team Exercise in 2016 Identified Some Gaps

- Our legacy Endpoint Solution was not able to prevent some modern attacks
- ► We lacked visibility at our Endpoints
- We didn't always have the information to answer when and how attackers or malware got on our systems
- Our Managed SOC was focused on traditional threats not modern threats

Our Approach Was Simple

Test then deploy an Advanced Endpoint Solution (EDR/EPP?)

- We really wanted Prevention, Detection, and Response but didn't want to buy two solutions
- Integrate the logs into Splunk for alerting and correlation
- Collect the right logs from all endpoints
 - Advanced Security Audit Policy Settings
 - PowerShell
 - USB
 - Custom locations
- Create new use cases to detect advanced attacks and address our gaps
- Regular Red Team type testing to validate our use cases and verify the gaps were remediated



Why Splunk for EDR?

▶ We wanted all of our logs in one place to make it easy to search and correlate

- Splunk Forwarder allows us greater flexibility
 - Filter out unwanted or low value events to save bandwidth and license costs
 - Efficiently collect logs from remote locations over slow links
 - Collect additional logs not stored in the Windows Event Logs
 - Collect Host Information
- Sysmon
 - Provides rich information beyond what the built-in Windows logging/tools provide. Allows us to hunt effectively
- PowerShell Logs to look for modern attacks. Favorite tool for attackers

USB Logging to verify Malware source and look for data loss from Insiders



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Key Benefits from Approach

- Advanced Endpoint Prevention allows us to focus our resources on what we could not prevent
- Excellent Visibility at the Endpoint
 - High Fidelity Alerts to assist with hunting and forensics
 - What happened on a given system
 - Was there any lateral movement
 - How did it enter a given system
 - What tools were being used
 - Detect Reconnaissance
 - Searching for Hashes from IOC's or Threat Intel



Our Journey

Highlights from 2009 - 2017



Legacy SIEM vs SIEM With Data Enrichment

	src 0						dest_port 0		cou	nt 0	
index=pan_logs act	10110-0010						21			78 Last	50 minutes ~ Q
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iplocation dest_ replace "" with	100100-00100						63278			2	
fillnull value=u	100100-00100					64848				2	
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	172.102.00.100						65419			2	
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Splunk Enterprise at TransAlta Corp.



10:57:1531 "GET



Align SIEM Dashboards, Reports, Alerts to Critical

			CIS Critical Security C	ontrols V6.0			Cybersecurity Framewo	NSA Attack Mi	tigation	Splunk	
#	D		Cybersecuri	ty Framework	(CSE) Core		NSA Attack Mit	Adversav Actions to Splunk	Severity	Category	
CSC 1	Inventory of A Unauthorized	Identify	Protect	Detect	Respond	Recover	Adversay Actions to Attack Your Organization	Severity	Category	Very High	Report & Analyze
CSC 2	Inventory of A Unauthorized Secure Configu and Software of	ID.AM Asset Management					Reconnaissance	Very High	Report & Analyze	Very High	Report & Analyze
CSC 3 CSC 4 CSC 5	Laptops, Work Continuous Vu Assessment ar Controlled Use Privileges	ID.AM Asset Management					Reconnaissance	Very High	Report & Analyze	Very High Very High High/Med	Report & Analyze Report & Analyze Search & Investigate
CSC 6	Maintenance, Analysis of Au		PR.IP Information protection				Get In	Very High	Report & Analyze	Medium	Add Knowledge
CSC 7 CSC 8	Email and Web	ID.RA Risk Assessment		DE.CM Continuous Monitoring	RS.MI Mitigation		Reconnaissance	Very High	Report & Analyze	High/Med	Search & Investigate Search & Investigate
CSC 9	Limitation and Ports, Protoco		PR.AC Access Control				Stay In	High/Med	Search & Investigate	High/Med	Search & Investigate
CSC 10	Data Recovery Secure Configu			DE.AE Anomalies and Events	RS.AN Analysis		Stay In	Medium	Add Knowledge	Medium	Add Knowledge
CSC 11	Devices such a and switches	s Firewalls, Routers Prot	ect attackers	ation management and cha from exploiting vulnerabl	nge control process in orc e services and settings.	der to prevent	protection		Get In	High/Med	Search & Investigate



Previous State of SOC (Based on SANS Maturity)



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Our Target State for 2017 (Moving to Level 5)



Sample List of Use Cases: We have about 60 New Ones

No	Security Essentials	Domain	Priority
	Geographically Improbable Access		
1	(Superman)	Access Domain	medium
2	New Local Admin Account	Access Domain	medium
3	New Logon Type for User	Access Domain	medium
4	Significant Increase in Interactive Logons	Access Domain	medium
5	First Time Accessing a GitHub Repository	Data Domain	medium
6	Remote PowerShell Launches	Network Domain	medium
	Source IPs Communicating with Far More		
7	Hosts Than Normal	Network Domain	medium
8	Sources Sending Many DNS Requests	Network Domain	medium
	Sources Sending a High Volume of DNS		
9	Traffic	Network Domain	medium
10	Concentration of Hacker Tools by Filename	Endpoint Domain	medium
11	Anomalous New Listening Port	Endpoint Domain	medium



New Log Configuration

Sysmon, PowerShell, Windows Events



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Sysmon Configuration

- We used SwiftOnSecurity's config as a baseline and modified it to meet our needs
- Key Sysmon Configuration options
 - Exclude Splunk Binaries
 - <Image condition="is">C:\Program Files\Splunk\bin\splunkd.exe</Image>
 - <Image condition="is">C:\Program Files\Splunk\bin\btool.exe</Image>
 - Include LSASS for Mimikatz type operations
 - <TargetImage condition="is">C:\windows\system32\lsass.exe</TargetImage>
- ► GPO (Group Policy) used for configuration updates

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Sysmon – Splunk Configuration

- Splunk Forwarder installed on all Endpoints
- Splunk Sysmon 6.0 TA installed on Search Heads
- Inputs.conf Deployed through Deployment Server to Endpoints
 - ####### Sysmon #######
 - [WinEventLog://Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational]
 - disabled = false
 - renderXml = true
 - index = yourindex

PowerShell Configuration

- Splunk Forwarder installed on all Endpoints
- WMF 5.1 (Windows Management Framework) deployed to legacy systems (Windows 7). Windows 10 includes WMF 5.X
- Group Policy Configured for Logging
 - https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2016/02/greater_visibilityt.html
- Deployment Server used to push out configuration
- Inputs.conf for PowerShell (We exclude events that will not be required for forensics or created too much noise)
 - [WinEventLog://Microsoft-Windows-PowerShell/Operational]

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- disabled = false
- index = yourindex
- blacklist1 = 4105,4106
- blacklist2 = EventCode="4103" Message="(?:SplunkUniversalForwarder\\bin\\splunk-powershell.ps1)"
- Etc... We have around 6 implemented



Windows Event Logs

- Base Config from Ultimate Windows Security and MalwareArchaeology
- Enabled Advanced Security Audit Policy Settings
 - Force audit policy subcategory settings (Windows Vista or later) to override audit policy category settings.
- Excluded high volume and low value events (4674)
 - Privilege use, Non Sensitive Privilege Use
- Since we are using Sysmon we excluded Detailed Process Tracking Events
 - 4688 Detailed Tracking, Process Creation

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- 4689 Detailed Tracking, Process Termination
- Event Count Comparison for same 2 hour window
 - Sysmon generated 1.8 Million events across 1,600 hosts
 - 22.6 Million events were created for 4674 (21.9M), 4688/4689 (.7M)



Windows Event Logs – High Volume Events

✓ 23,485,215 events (8/11/17 12:00:00.000 PM to 8/11/17 2:00:00.000 PM) No Event Sampling ∨	Job 🗸 🔲 🔳 🤌 🏺 🛓	✓ Fast Mode ✓
Events Patterns Statistics (5) Visualization		
100 Per Page 🗸 🖌 Format 🛛 Preview 🗸		
EventCode 🗘 💉 signature 🗘	1	count 🌣 🧭
4674 An operation was attempted on a privileged object		21,876,702
4624 An account was successfully logged on		441,732
4634 An account was logged off		412,357
4688 A new process has been created		397,231
4689 A process has exited		357,193
✓ 19,123,793 events (8/11/17 12:00:00.000 PM to 8/11/17 2:00:00.000 PM) No Event Sampling ✓	Job 🗸 🔢 🔳 🤌 🛃 🛓	$ m 5$ Fast Mode \sim
Events Patterns Statistics (657) Visualization		
100 Per Page 🗸 🖌 Format 🛛 Preview 🗸	< Prev 1 2 3 4 5	6 7 Next≻
Process_Name ©		✓ count ≎
C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\OUTLOOK.EXE		3,755,723
C:\Program Files (x86)\Google\Chrome\Application\chrome.exe		1,454,790
C:\Windows\System32\Isass.exe		1,415,541
C:\Windows\explorer.exe		1,136,301
C:\Windows\System32\svchost.exe		1,067,223
		4 949 795

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Endpoint Detection and Forensics

Sysmon, PowerShell, Windows Events



Storage and Bandwidth





User Investigation (First Phase based on HR/Management Approvals)



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User Investigation (Continued from Previous Slide)

Internet Traffic

src_ip ≎	src_nt_host 0	DisplayName 0	Department 0	src_zone 0	tac_location_desc 0	dest_ip 0	Country 0	Region 0	City 0	app 0	category ©	SentMB 0	ReceivedMB 0	VoIMB 0
10010-000	1,000040	April 100 million	SACENT REPORT	INSIDE	Head Office, T2-4W2	209.89.157.200	Canada	Alberta	Edmonton	web-browsing	Email_Security Desk	4.63	969.60	974.22
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10010-000	1,00044	Res Charles	54.097 NO+60	INSIDE	Head Office, T2-4W2	209.89.157.202	Canada	Alberta	Edmonton	web-browsing	Email_Security Desk	2.67	538.07	540.73
10010-000	The second s	April 100 million	14.007 80400	INSIDE	Head Office, T2-4W2	204.79.197.223	United States	Washington	Redmond	web-browsing	Email_Security Desk	2.88	485.40	488.28
10.001.00	5,000 BB	0.09 (0.02)	CONTRACTOR OF A DESCRIPTION OF A DESCRIP	GLOBALPROTECT	GlobalProtect VPN, Head Office	142.152.7.222	Canada	Alberta	Calgary	web-browsing	SSL Decryption Exceptions	6.09	337.80	343.89
10.000	1,00044	April April 1	14.057 8040	INSIDE	Head Office, T2-4W2	209.89.157.192	Canada	Alberta	Edmonton	web-browsing	Email_Security Desk	1.20	267.57	268.78
10010-007	The second s	April April 1	SACRET REPORT	INSIDE	Head Office, T2-4W2	209.89.157.193	Canada	Alberta	Edmonton	ms-update	computer-and-internet-info	10.39	254.30	264.68
100000-000	The second s	April 100 million	SACOT REMO	INSIDE	Head Office, T2-4W2	209.89.157.194	Canada	Alberta	Edmonton	ms-update	computer-and-internet-info	9.12	236.71	245.83
100200-000	101010-010	April 1997	SACENT REPORT	INSIDE	Head Office, Data Centre	209.89.157.179	Canada	Alberta	Edmonton	ms-update	Email_Security Desk	0.94	215.06	216.00
100103-000	101010410	April April 1	14.057 8040	INSIDE	Head Office, Data Centre	209.89.157.200	Canada	Alberta	Edmonton	ms-update	Email_Security Desk	1.06	206.74	207.80
											«prev 1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9 1	0 next »

External Emails Sent

_time \diamond	src_user 0	recipient 0	subject 0		MBSize 0
2017-05-12 00:03:11	men, here garages and	jmeidinger@splunk.com	RE: Splunk Gartner SIEM reference		0.35
2017-05-12 00:57:27	men, here garacets can	jmeidinger@splunk.com	RE: Splunk Gartner SIEM reference		0.23
2017-05-11 21:56:21	met, felesgeworksten	jmeidinger@splunk.com	RE: Splunk Gartner SIEM reference		0.31
2017-05-11 21:56:21	res, fereige excelsion	gbhat@splunk.com	RE: Splunk Gartner SIEM reference		0.31
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External Emails Received

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2017-05-12 04:14:54	postmaster@transalta.onmicrosoft.com	terne Alter freighe second an own	Rule detected: Block External Emails with Blank Subject Line	0.04
2017-05-12 04:22:34	MSOnlineServicesTeam@MicrosoftOnline.com	terre dan berginan alam ann	Identity synchronization Error Report: Friday, 12 May 2017 04:22:32 GMT.	0.04
2017-05-12 04:52:48	MSOnlineServicesTeam@MicrosoftOnline.com	term data benderata and	Identity synchronization Error Report: Friday, 12 May 2017 04:52:33 GMT.	0.02
2017-05-12 04:55:15	postmaster@transalta.onmicrosoft.com	term data temperatura ann	Rule detected: Block External Emails with Blank Subject Line	0.15
2017-05-11 23:10:01	communications@optiv.com	terre dan terripa providence en	Cyber Sec News Optiv Advisor April 2017	0.23
2017-05-11 23:22:26	MSOnlineServicesTeam@MicrosoftOnline.com	terre dan terripa providence en	Identity synchronization Error Report: Thursday, 11 May 2017 23:22:04 GMT.	0.04
2017-05-11 23:22:47	postmaster@transalta.onmicrosoft.com	terre dan bergina salah sara	Rule detected: Block External Emails with Blank Subject Line	0.36
2017-05-11 23:52:26	MSOnlineServicesTeam@MicrosoftOnline.com	terre dan bergina salah sara	Identity synchronization Error Report: Thursday, 11 May 2017 23:52:02 GMT.	0.04
2017-05-11 23:58:35	postmaster@transalta.onmicrosoft.com	term Annies (en annies ann	Rule detected: Block External Emails with Blank Subject Line	2.94
2017-05-11 14:00:46	@exclaimer.com		Top 7 tips for great email signature photos	0.03
an 18.53] "GET		(buttercup-shopp	ing.com/cart.do?action=view&itemId=EST-6&product_id	spiurik> 🚾

category_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SD1SL4FF10ADFF10 HTTP 200 13 /oldlink?item 9FF1ADFF3 HTTP

Sysmon Example (Where did the Malware or Attack come from? Email, Web, USB, etc.)





We can quickly find all systems with a given file based on the SHA Hash or Sysmon Timeline lookup on a resource like VirusTotal ParentCommandLine SHA256 user 0 Computer ParentProcessId © signature _time (2017-04-26 14:28:50 4A555C1 the state of the s "C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\root\Office16\OUTLOOK.EXE" 10960 Process Create 2017-04-26 14:28:57 C:\Program Files\Microsoft Office\Root\Office16\WINWORD.EXE" /n "C:\Users AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\6BT05JS5\ISACA 109704 Process 9526BA18FAB5EBE97E699E37D0BBC478AF Demo for Word Link.docx" /o " Create 2017-04-26 14:28:57 "C:\Program Files (x86)\Adobe\Acrobat Reader DC\Reader\AcroRd32.exe" /o /eo /l /b /ac /id 109704 100016 Process 9526BA18FAB5EBE97E699E37D0BBC478AF29 Create "C:\Program Files (x86)\Adobe\Acrobat Reader DC\Reader\AcroRd32.exe" 2017-04-26 14:29:01 81516 Process 9526BA18FAB5EBE97E699E37D0BBC478AF C:\Users _____AppData\Local\Packages\Microsoft.MicrosoftEdge_8wekyb3d8bbwe\TempState\Downloads\Microsoft_Security_Intelligence_Report_Volume_21_English.pdf Create 14:28:51 14:28:53 14:29:00 14:28:50 14:28:52 14:28:54 14:28:55 14:28:56 14:28:57 14:28:58 14:28:59 14:29:01 4A555C1ABFA83BDC54 "C:\Program File... 9526BA18FAB5EBE97E6 "C:\Program File.. "C:\Program File.. "C:\Program File... SDIUNK> .cont2 V.Screen?category_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SD1SL4FF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1 SURPRISE&JSESSIONIL "GET /oldlink?item_id=ET-26&JStontD=SDSSLOFFADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 1318 25.17 Holdlink?item_id=ET-26&JSESSIONID=SDSSLOFFADFF3 HTTP 1.1" 200 1318

Bloodhound & Windows Security Event Log



_time



Various PowerShell Attacker Tools



Detecting Mimikatz

Sysmon and PowerShell to the Rescue

index=* (sour -Windows- table dvc_c	index=* (sourcetype="XmlWinEventLog:Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" lsass.exe SourceImage="C:\\Windows\System32\\WindowsPowerShell\\v1.0\\powershell.exe") OR (sourcetype="WinEventLog:Microsoft Date time range ~ Q -Windows-PowerShell/Operational" iex OR Invoke-Expression) table dvc_dns,sourcetype,SourceImage,TargetImage,GrantedAccess,Message								
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of the second second	XmlWinEventLog:Microsoft- Windows-Sysmon/Operational	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe	C:\Windows\system32\lsass.exe	0x1438		~			
And in case of the local division of the loc	XmlWinEventLog:Microsoft- Windows-Sysmon/Operational	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe	C:\Windows\system32\lsass.exe	0x143a	to dump credentials				

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Group Enumeration

Sysmon and PowerShell

<pre>index=* sourcetype="XmlWinEventLog:Microsoft-Windows-Sysmon/Operational" "domain admins" table _time,host,user,Image,CommandLine,ParentImage,ParentCommandLine</pre>								Last 30 days ~ Q	
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2017-08-10 09:06:24	C:\\	Windows\System32\net.exe "(a	C:\Windows\ admins"	system32\net.exe" group /domain "	domain	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe	C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowe	rShell\v1.0\powershell.exe"	
2017-08-10 09:06:18	C:\\	Windows\System32\net1.exe C a	C:\Windows\s admins"	ystem32\net1 group /domain "dom	ain	C:\Windows\System32\net.exe	net group /domain "domain admins"		
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Security Awareness with USB Drops



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New Correlation Searches in ES



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Additional Benefits of Endpoint Logs 1 of 2

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Additional Benefits of Endpoint Logs 2 of 2



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What's Next

Automation and Improvements



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splunk>

Automation and Continuous Improvements

Splunk Enterprise Security Adaptive Response for High Fidelity Alerts

- Add attacker IP to Firewall rule
- Ransomware type indicators based Sysmon data. E.g. Shutdown workstation
- Use ES Glass Tables to Notable Events on the Cyber Kill Chain
- More Red Team Exercises to fine tune our alerts and capabilities
- SOC/Security team to validate current and new use cases with lab system

References and Links

Description	Link
Logging Cheat Sheets	https://www.malwarearchaeology.com/cheat-sheets/
Adversarial Tactics, Techniques & Common Knowledge	https://attack.mitre.org/wiki/Main_Page
FireEye on PowerShell	https://www.fireeye.com/blog/threat-research/2016/02/greater_visibilityt.html
Mark Russinovich, Azure CTO on Sysmon at RSA 2017	https://www.rsaconference.com/events/us17/agenda/sessions/7516-How-to-Go- from-Responding-to-Hunting-with-Sysinternals-Sysmon
Sysmon Resources	https://github.com/MHaggis/sysmon-dfir
Getting C-Level Support to Ensure a High-Impact SOC Rollout	https://www.sans.org/reading-room/whitepapers/analyst/c-level-support-ensure- high-impact-soc-rollout-37347
Splunk Security Essentials	https://splunkbase.splunk.com/app/3435/#/details
Deploy Sysmon through Group Policy	http://syspanda.com/index.php/2017/02/28/deploying-sysmon-through-gpo/

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ISESSIONID=SD5SL9FF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1



Q&A

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- You can find me on LinkedIn

153] "GET /Category.screen?category_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/category.screen?category_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 3322 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/category.screen?category.screen





Q&A

221 J. S.



Thank You

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