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Extending SPL with Custom Search Commands

Jacob Leverich | Director of Engineering

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Who am I?

- Splunker for 3 years, based in San Francisco
- Engineering manager in Splunk's Incubation team
- Implemented Search Command Protocol Version 2
- Die-hard Longhorns fan





Agenda

- Introduction to Custom Search Commands
- How do Custom Search Commands work?
 - High-level concepts
 - Low-level details
- Types of Search Commands
- How to create new Custom Search Commands
- Wrap-up



Introduction to Custom Search Commands



What is a Custom Search Command?

• A user-defined SPL command.

% 3/3 "GET /Category.screen?category_id=GIFTSRJSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/category.screen?category.screen?category.id=GIFTSRJSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 322 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/category.screen?category.screen?category.id=GIFTSRJSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 322 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/category.screen?category.id=GIFTSRJSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 322 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/category.screen?category.id=GIFTSRJSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 322 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/category.id=GIFTSRJSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 322 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/category.id=FLoWERSRJSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 322 "http://buttercup-sh



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What is a Custom Search Command?

- A user-defined SPL command.
- Can be used to extend the SPL language!





Who uses Custom Search Commands?

- Partners
 - Concanon, etc.
- Customers
 - Use-case specific analytics
- Splunk!
 - predict command
 - İT Service Intelligence
 - Enterprise Security
 - DB Connect
 - Machine Learning Toolkit
- Anyone who wants to extend the Splunk platform
 - Integration with 3rd party services
 - Implementation of custom logic



How do Custom Search Commands work?

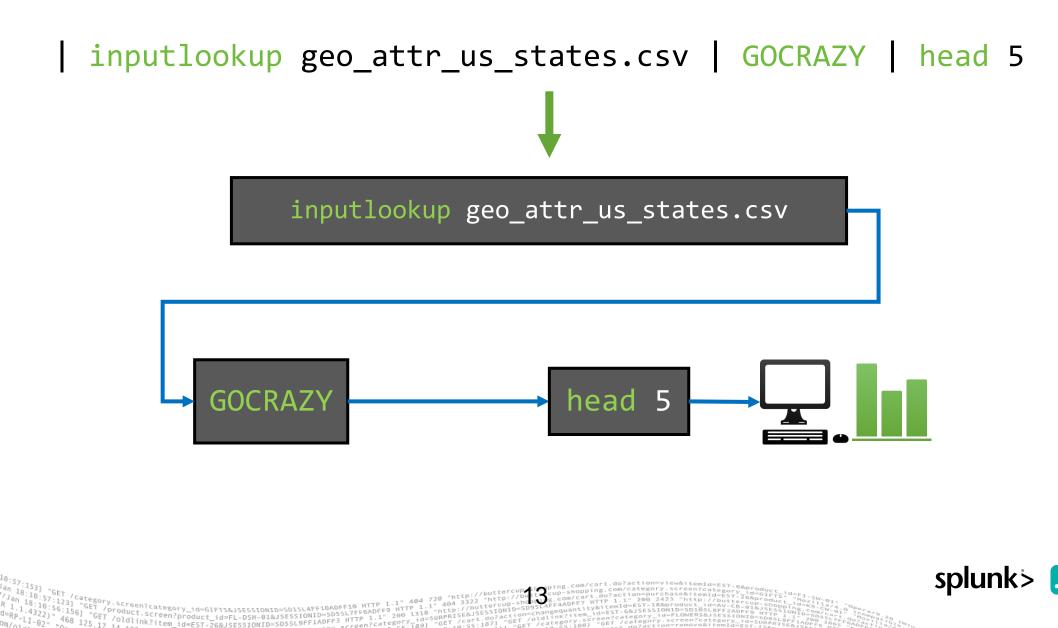


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How do Custom Search Commands work?

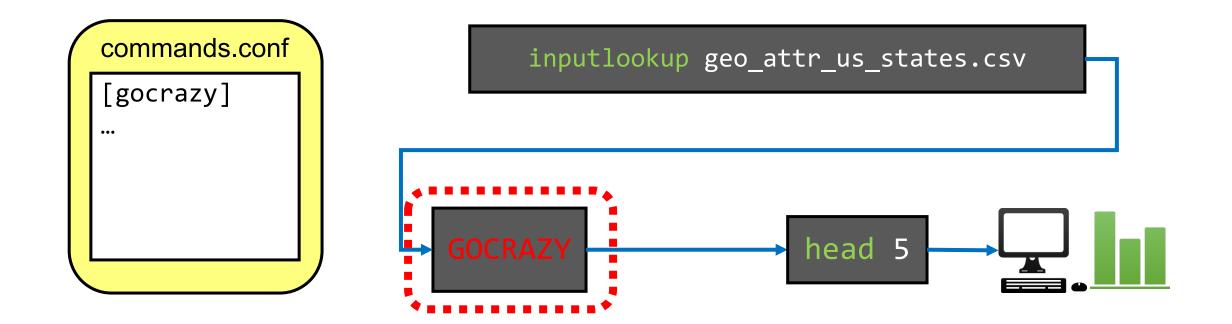
- 1. When parsing SPL, splunkd interrogates each command. "Are you a Custom Search Command?"
- 2. If so, spawn external process and allow it to parse arguments.
- 3. During search, pipe search results through external process.

Parsing #1: Split search into commands



Parsing #2: Look for custom search commands

inputlookup geo_attr_us_states.csv | GOCRAZY | head 5

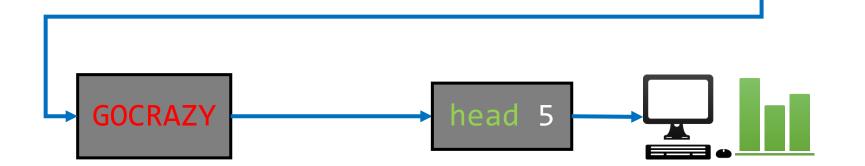




Parsing #3: Spawn external process

inputlookup geo_attr_us_states.csv | GOCRAZY | head 5

inputlookup geo_attr_us_states.csv



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\$SPLUNK_HOME/bin/python gocrazy.py

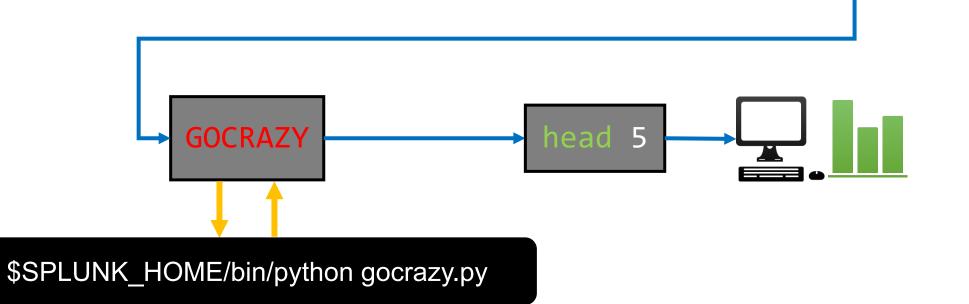
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Parsing #4: Let external process parse arguments

inputlookup geo_attr_us_states.csv | GOCRAZY | head 5

inputlookup geo_attr_us_states.csv



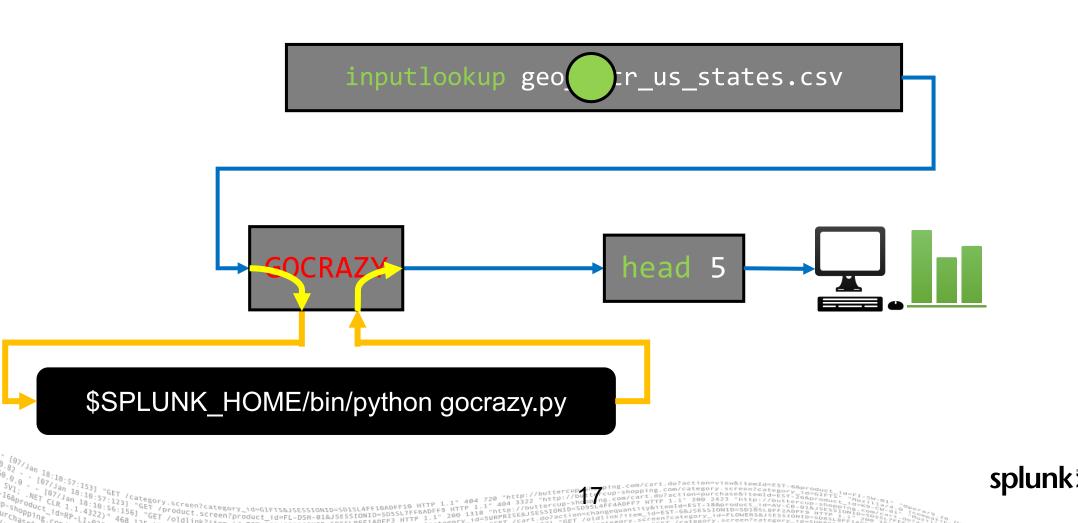
16

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Search: Pipe results through external process

inputlookup geo_attr_us_states.csv | GOCRAZY | head 5



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Recap: high-level concepts

- Enable you to register new SPL commands, extend the language.
- Allow you to intercept and modify search results during a search.
 - $\quad \mathsf{CSV} \text{ in } \rightarrow \mathsf{CSV} \text{ out}$
- Implemented as a external process (i.e. a program you write).
 - Typically written in Python.

Custom Commands: low-level details

- How results are exchanged between splunkd and external process
- "Types" of search commands





splunkd ↔ custom command

- There are two "protocols" for custom commands:
 - Version 1, legacy protocol used by Intersplunk.py (available since Splunk 3.0)
 - Version 2, new protocol used by Python SDK (available since 6.3)
 - In both protocols, all communication over stdin/stdout
- Version 2 protocol
 - Spawns external process once, streams results through chunk by chunk
 - Simple commands.conf configuration
 - "chunked=true"
 - Support for platform-specific programs
- Version 1 protocol
 - Spawns external process for each chunk of search results (!)
 - "Transforming" commands limited to 50,000 events



Search Command protocol comparison

Protocol	APIs	Performance	Scalability	Simple configuration	Platform- specific programs	Programming languages
Version 1 (legacy)	Intersplunk.py, Python SDK	×	×	×	×	Python
Version 2	Python SDK					Python, <i>arbitrary</i> <i>binaries</i>

creen?product id=FL-DSH-01&JSE

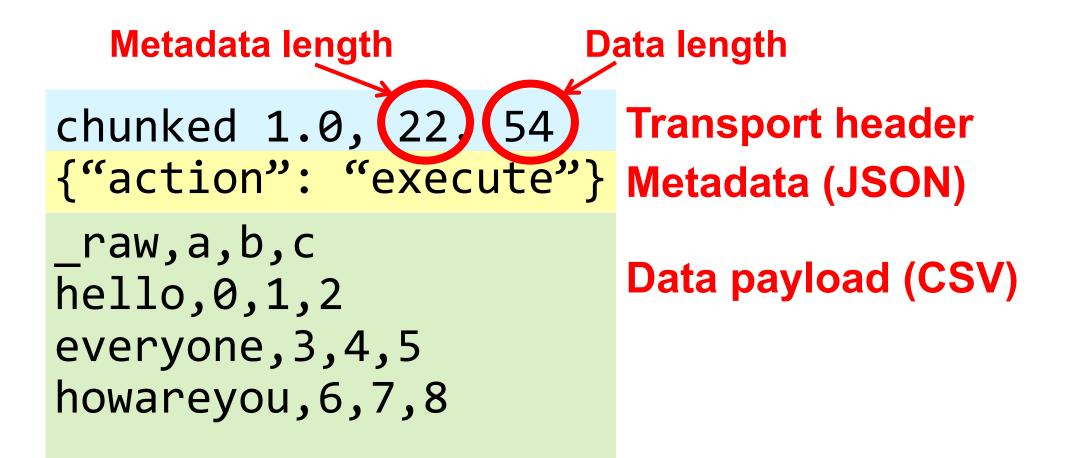


Search Command Protocol Version 2

- Transaction-oriented
 - splunkd sends a command, external process responds with reply
- Simple bi-directional transport protocol:
 - ASCII transport header
 - JSON metadata payload
 - CSV search results payload
- Every search starts with a "getinfo" command (capability exchange)
- Subsequently, issues "execute" commands with search results



Transport "chunk"





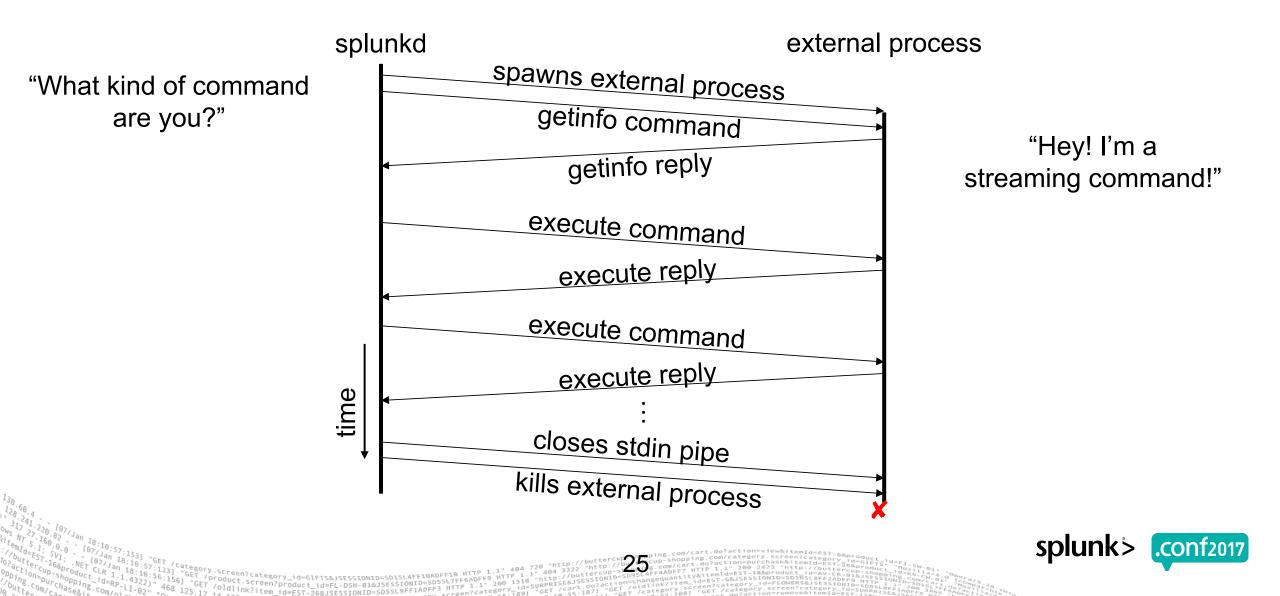
Example: GOCRAZY

inputlookup geo_attr_us_states.csv | head 5 | GOCRAZY





Protocol Version 2: Transaction timeline



"getinfo" command

- Metadata in the getinfo command sent by splunkd:
 - Command arguments
 - Full SPL query string
 - Execution context (app, user)
 - Search sid
 - splunkd URI and auth token (for making REST requests)
- Metadata in the custom command's reply:
 - Type of search command (streaming/stateful/reporting/etc.)
 - Which fields splunkd should extract (required fields)
 - Whether or not it generates results (e.g. must be first search command)



Sample "getinfo" metadata

```
"action": "getinfo",
"streaming command will restart": false,
"searchinfo": {
   "earliest time": "0",
   "raw args": [
        "LinearRegression", "petal length", "from", "petal width"
   ],
    "session key": "...",
    "maxresultrows": 50000,
    "args": [
        "LinearRegression", "petal length", "from", "petal width"
    ],
    "dispatch_dir": "/Users/jleverich/builds/conf_mlapp_demo/var/run/splunk/dispatch/1475007525.265",
    "command": "fit".
    "latest time": "0",
    "sid": "1475007525.265",
    "splunk version": "6.5.0",
    "username": "admin",
    "search": "%7C%20inputlookup%20iris.csv%20%7C%20fit%20LinearRegression%20petal length%20from%20petal width",
    "splunkd uri": "https://127.0.0.1:8090",
    "owner": "admin".
    "app": "Splunk ML Toolkit"
},
"preview": false
                                                                                                 splunk
```

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"execute" command

- Metadata in execute command sent by splunkd
 - Whether or not preceding commands are "finished"
- Metadata in the custom command's reply:
 - Whether or not this command is "finished"
- splunkd and search commands negotiate completion of search
 - Both must indicate "finished" = True

Types of Search Commands



Types of Search Commands

- "Streaming" commands
- "Stateful Streaming" commands
- "Transforming" commands
 - "Events" commands
 - "Reporting" commands



"Streaming" commands

- Process search results one-by-one
 - Can't maintain global state
 - Must not re-order search results
- Eligible to run at Indexers
 - Can run in parallel on Indexers
- Examples:
 - eval
 - where
 - rex



"Streaming" command example

... | eval foo="bar" | ...

field_C field_A field_B the jumps dog

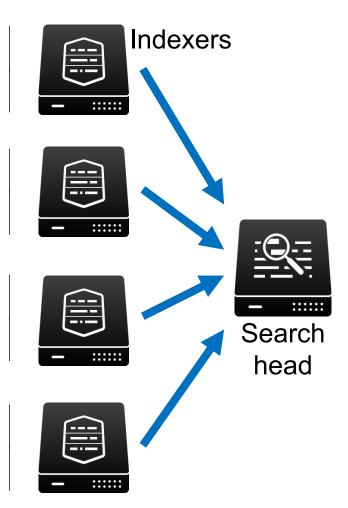
Remote results

field_A	field_B	field_C
quick	over	oops

field_A	field_B	field_C
brown	the	too

field_A	field_B	field_C
fox	lazy	many

category_id=GIFTS&iSESSIONID=SD1 /product.screen?product id=FL-DSN-01&JSESSIONID=SD3SLAFF10ADFF12FF6ADFF9 T /oldi.screen?product id=FL-DSN-01&JSESSIONID=SD3SL7FF6ADFF9



Final search results

field_A	field_B	field_C	foo
the	jumps	dog	bar
quick	over	oops	bar
brown	the	too	bar
fox	lazy	many	bar



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"Stateful Streaming" commands

- Process search results one-by-one
 - Can maintain global state
 - Must not re-order search results
- Only run at Search Head
- Examples:
 - accum
 - streamstats
 - dedup



"Stateful Streaming" command example

... | accum foo | ...

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field_A	field_B	field_C	foo	field_A	field_B	field_C
the	jumps	dog	1	the	jumps	dog
quick	over	oops	1	quick	over	oops
brown	the	too	1	brown	the	too
fox	lazy	many	1	fox	lazy	many

category_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SD1SL4FF10ADFF10 HTTP /product.screen?product id=FL-DSN-01&JSESSIONID=SD3SLAFF10ADFF12FF6ADFF9 T /oldi.screen?product id=FL-DSN-01&JSESSIONID=SD3SL7FF6ADFF9



foo

2

3

4

"Events" commands

- Process search results as a whole
 - May re-order search results
 - Typically maintain all fields in each event, especially:
 - raw, _time, index, sourcetype, source, host
- Only run at Search Head
- May run several times for "preview"
- Examples:
 - sort
 - eventstats



"Events" command example

... | sort field_A | ...

field_A	field_B	field_C	foo	field_A	field_B	field_C	foo
the	jumps	dog	1	brown	the	too	3
quick	over	oops	2	fox	lazy	many	4
brown	the	too	3	quick	over	oops	2
fox	lazy	many	4	the	jumps	dog	1

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duct.screen?product_id=FL-DSN-01&JSESSIONID=SD5SL7FF6A



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"Reporting" commands

- Process search results as a whole
 - Typically transform the results (e.g. aggregate, project, summarize, etc.)
- Only run at Search Head
- May run several times for "preview"
- Results show up in the "Statistics" tab
- Examples:
 - stats
 - timechart
 - transpose

"Reporting" command example

... | stats count | ...

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field_A	field_B	field_C	foo		
the	jumps	dog	1		
quick	over	oops	2	\rightarrow	count
brown	the	too	3		4
fox	lazy	many	4		

Y_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SD1SL4FF10ADFF10 HTTP

Product.screen?product id=FL-DSN-01&JSESSIONID=SD3SL4FF10ADFF10 /oldi



Beware of large result sets!

- "Events" and "Reporting" commands process results as a whole.
 - May contain 1,000,000s of search results!
 - Write Streaming or Stateful commands instead when possible.
- Build-in capacity limits, or spill results to disk when necessary.

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Streaming "pre-op"

Commands may specify a "pre-op" to prepend in SPL

... | stats count | ... → ... | prestats count | stats count | ...

- Communicated to splunkd in getinfo metadata (streaming_preop)
- Useful to parallelize computation, reduce volume of data transfer
- Must be "Streaming" (i.e., may run at Indexers)

Implementing Custom Search Commands with the Splunk SDK for Python



splun

Basic steps to create a search command

- 1. Create an "App"
- 2. Deploy the Python SDK for Splunk in the **bin** directory
- 3. Write a script for your Custom Search Command
- 4. Register your command in **commands.conf**
- 5. Restart Splunk Enterprise
- 6. *(optional)* Export the command to other apps

Create an "App"

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splunk> Apps ~	Adminis	trator 🗸 M	essages \sim	Settings \sim	Activity \checkmark Help \sim	Find	
Apps							
							٩
Browse more apps Install a	app from file Create app						
Browse more apps Install a	app from file Create app					Results per page	25
	app from file Create app	Version 🕈	Update ≑ checking	Visible ‡	Sharing ≑	Results per page(Status ≑	25 ¢ Actions
Showing 1-19 of 19 items		Version 🗘		Visible ≑ No	Sharing ≑ App ∣ Permissions		
Showing 1-19 of 19 items	Folder name \$	Version 🗘	checking		-	Status ‡	
Showing 1-19 of 19 items Name \$ SplunkForwarder	Folder name ≑ SplunkForwarder	Version ¢	checking Yes	No	App Permissions	Status ¢ Disabled Enable	Actions
Showing 1-19 of 19 items Name SplunkForwarder SplunkLightForwarder	Folder name ≑ SplunkForwarder SplunkLightForwarder		Checking Yes Yes	No No	App Permissions App Permissions	Status ¢ Disabled Enable Disabled Enable	Actions Launch ap
Showing 1-19 of 19 items Name \$ SplunkForwarder SplunkLightForwarder ML Toolkit and Showcase Python for Scientific	Folder name ¢ SplunkForwarder SplunkLightForwarder Splunk_ML_Toolkit	1.2	checking Yes Yes Yes	No No Yes	App Permissions App Permissions App Permissions	Status ¢ Disabled Enable Disabled Enable Enabled Disable	

/oldlink?item_id=EST-

/category

screen?category_

. 48:10:57:153] "GET / Category.screen?category_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercupAGET McT CLR 1.1:10:57:123] "GET /product.screen?category_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercupAnd duct_id=Rp.L1.4322)" 468 J25:17 thttp://buttercupAnd duct_id=Rp.L2.4322)" 468 J25:17 thttp://buttercupAnd duct_id=Rp.L2.4322]" 468 J25:17 thttp://but

10:57:153] "GET



Deploy the Python SDK in the bin directory

cd \$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/MyNewApp/bin

pip install -t . splunk-sdk



Write a script for your Custom Search Command

\$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/MyNewApp/bin/foobar.py

```
import sys
from splunklib.searchcommands import dispatch, StreamingCommand, Configuration
@Configuration()
class FoobarCommand(StreamingCommand):
    def stream(self, records):
        for record in records:
            record['foo'] = 'bar'
            yield record
if __name__ == "__main__":
    dispatch(FoobarCommand, sys.argv, sys.stdin, sys.stdout, __name__)
```

splunk> .conf2017

Register your command in commands.conf

\$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/MyNewApp/default/commands.conf

[foobar] chunked=true

filename=foobar.py ## <--- optional</pre>



Restart Splunk Enterprise

\$SPLUNK_HOME/bin/splunk restart

//jan 18:10:57:123] "GET /Category.screen?category_id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercup.actionscient.do?action=view&itemId=EST_actionGIFTS'L="id=F1_action=view".id=GIFTS&JSESSIONID=SDISLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercup.action=view.itemId=EST_action=view.itemId=EST_action=View.itemId=EST_



Export to other apps (optional)

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Apps								
								٩
Browse more apps Install a	pp from file Create app							
Showing 1-19 of 19 items							Results per page (25 🛊
Name 🕈	Folder name 🗢	Version ¢	Update checking	Visible ‡	Sharing ¢	Status ≑	Actions	
SplunkForwarder	SplunkForwarder		Yes	No	App Permissions	Disabled Enable		
SplunkLightForwarder								
1 5	SplunkLightForwarder		Yes	No	App Permissions	Disabled Enable		
ML Toolkit and Showcase	SplunkLightForwarder Splunk_ML_Toolkit	1.2	Yes Yes	No Yes	App Permissions App Permissions	Disabled Enable Enabled Disable	Launch app Edit rop	erties View
Python for Scientific		1.2 1.2						
Python for Scientific Computing	Splunk_ML_Toolkit		Yes	Yes	App Permissions	Enabled Disable	Edit properties V w o	
Python for Scientific Computing Log Event Alert Action	Splunk_ML_Toolkit Splunk_SA_Scientific_Python_darwin_x86_64	1.2	Yes Yes	Yes No	App Permissions App Permissions	Enabled Disable Enabled Disable	Edit properties V w d	bjects 🛽
Python for Scientific Computing Log Event Alert Action Webhook Alert Action	Splunk_ML_Toolkit Splunk_SA_Scientific_Python_darwin_x86_64 alert_logevent	1.2 6.4.1	Yes Yes Yes	Yes No No	App Permissions App Permissions App Permissions	Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled Disable	Edit properties Vi w o Edit properties Vi w o Edit properties Vi w o	objects 12
Python for Scientific Computing Log Event Alert Action Webhook Alert Action Apps Browser	Splunk_ML_Toolkit Splunk_SA_Scientific_Python_darwin_x86_64 alert_logevent alert_webhook	1.2 6.4.1 6.4.1	Yes Yes Yes Yes	Yes No No No	App Permissions App Permissions App Permissions App Permissions App Permissions	Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled Disable	Edit properties Vi w o Edit properties Vi w o Edit properties Vi w o	objects 12 objects objects objects
Python for Scientific Computing Log Event Alert Action Webhook Alert Action Apps Browser custom_search_example	Splunk_ML_Toolkit Splunk_SA_Scientific_Python_darwin_x86_64 alert_logevent alert_webhook appsbrowser	1.2 6.4.1 6.4.1	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	Yes No No No	App Permissions	Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled	Edit properties Vi w o Edit properties Vi w o Edit properties Vi w o Edit properties Vi v o	objects 12 objects objects objects objects
ML Toolkit and Showcase Python for Scientific Computing Log Event Alert Action Webhook Alert Action Apps Browser custom_search_example framework Getting started	Splunk_ML_Toolkit Splunk_SA_Scientific_Python_darwin_x86_64 alert_logevent alert_webhook appsbrowser custom_search_example	1.2 6.4.1 6.4.1	Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes Yes	Yes No No No No	App Permissions App Permissions	Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled Enabled Disable	Edit properties Vi w d Edit properties Vi w d Edit properties Vi w d Edit properties Vi w d Edit properties Vi w d	objects objects objects

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"http:/

404 3322

netp:

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Export to other apps (optional)

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howing 1-6 of Name ¢ exevents exreport	6 items Config type ≎ commands	Owner ≑ No owner	App ≎ custom_search_example	Global Permissions	Status ¢ Enabled Disable
howing 1-6 of Name \$	6 items Config type ♀ commands commands	Owner ¢ No owner No owner	App ↓ custom_search_example custom_search_example	Global Permissions Global Permissions	Status ¢ Enabled Disable Enabled Disable
howing 1-6 of Name \$ exevents exreport exstateful	6 items Config type commands commands commands	Owner ¢ No owner No owner No owner	App ≎ custom_search_example custom_search_example custom_search_example	Global Permissions Global Permissions Global Permissions	Status ¢ Enabled Disable Enabled Disable Enabled Disable

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404 3322

/product.screen?product_id=GIPTS&JSESSIONID=SDISL4FF18ADFF3 HTTP 1.3 PF /product.screen?product_id=FL=DSH=01&JSESSIONID=SDFSJFF6ADFF3 7 /oldlink?item_id=EST-26&JSESSIONID=SDSSJFF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1 " 200 JAC 7 da content de ST-26&JSESSIONID=SDSJF1ADFF3 HTTP 1.1 " 200 JAC splunk>



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Export to other apps (optional)

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admin									
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can_delete power									
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oower splunk-system-role									

Example Streaming Command

\$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/MyNewApp/bin/exstream.py

```
import sys
from splunklib.searchcommands import dispatch, StreamingCommand, Configuration
@Configuration()
class ExStreamCommand(StreamingCommand):
    def stream(self, records):
        for record in records:
            record['foo'] = 'bar'
            yield record
if __name__ == "__main__":
    dispatch(ExStreamCommand, sys.argv, sys.stdin, sys.stdout, __name__)
```

splunk> .conf2017

Example Stateful Streaming Command

\$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/MyNewApp/bin/exstateful.py

```
import sys
from splunklib.searchcommands import dispatch, StreamingCommand, Configuration
@Configuration(local=True)
class ExStatefulCommand(StreamingCommand):
    def stream(self, records):
        for record in records:
            record['foo'] = 'bar'
            yield record
if __name__ == "__main__":
    dispatch(ExStatefulCommand, sys.argv, sys.stdin, sys.stdout, __name__)
```



Example Events Command

\$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/MyNewApp/bin/exevents.py

```
import sys
from splunklib.searchcommands import dispatch, EventingCommand, Configuration
@Configuration()
class ExEventsCommand(EventingCommand):
    def transform(self, records):
        1 = list(records)
        l.sort(key=lambda r: r['_raw'])
        return 1
if name == " main ":
    dispatch(ExEventsCommand, sys.argv, sys.stdin, sys.stdout, __name__)
```

splunk> .conf2017

Example Reporting Command

\$\$PLUNK_HOME/etc/apps/MyNewApp/bin/exreport.py

```
import sys
from splunklib.searchcommands import dispatch, ReportingCommand, Configuration
@Configuration()
class ExReportCommand(ReportingCommand):
    @Configuration()
    def map(self, records):
        return records
    def reduce(self, records):
        count = 0
        for r in records:
            count += 1
        return [{'count': count}]
if name__ == "__main__":
    dispatch(ExReportCommand, sys.argv, sys.stdin, sys.stdout, name )
                                         54
     468 125.17 14 dlink?item
```

A little advice

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- Custom commands are programs that run on Splunk instances
 BEWARE UNVALIDATED INPUT!
 - Sanitize user arguments AND search results
- Use role-based access control to restrict access
- Be prepared to handle 1,000,000s of events
- Be excellent to each other.







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What Now?

- https://github.com/splunk/splunk-sdk-python
 - <u>https://github.com/splunk/splunk-sdk-python/tree/master/examples/searchcommands_app</u>

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- Dev Portal Documentation
 - <u>http://dev.splunk.com/view/python-sdk/SP-CAAAEU2</u>
- Contact: Developer Ecosystem Team <devinfo@splunk.com>

Thank You

Don't forget to rate this session in the .conf2017 mobile app





Q&A

P222.50



Backup Slides



Streaming Commands only serialize required fields

```
{"required_fields": ["fieldX"], ...}
```

Internal result set

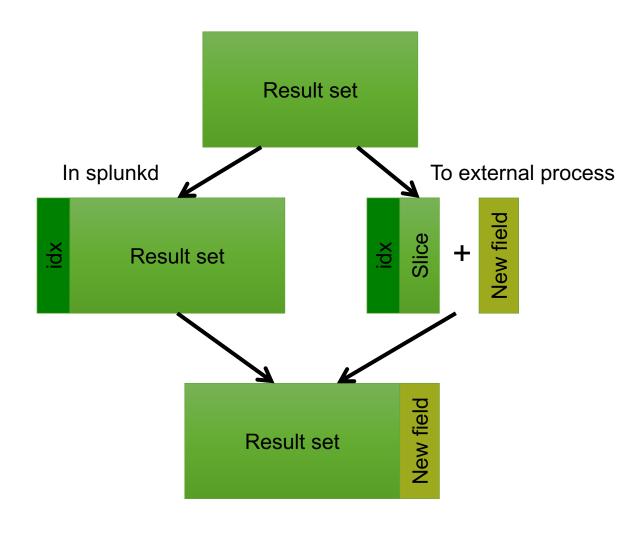
_raw,_time,_cd,_indextime,...,fieldX a,140000000,x:y,140000010,...,BOB a,140000001,x:y,1400000011,...,JIM a,1400000002,x:y,1400000012,...,BOB a,1400000003,x:y,1400000013,...,JIM a,1400000004,x:y,1400000014,...,JIM a,1400000005,x:y,1400000015,...,BOB a,1400000006,x:y,1400000016,...,JIM a,1400000007,x:y,1400000017,...,BOB a,1400000008,x:y,1400000018,...,BOB a,140000009,x:y,1400000019,...,JIM

External result set

_chunked_idx,fieldX 0,BOB 1,JIM 2,BOB 3,JIM 4,JIM 5,BOB 6,JIM 7,BOB 8,BOB 9,JIM

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"Right outer-join" on required fields



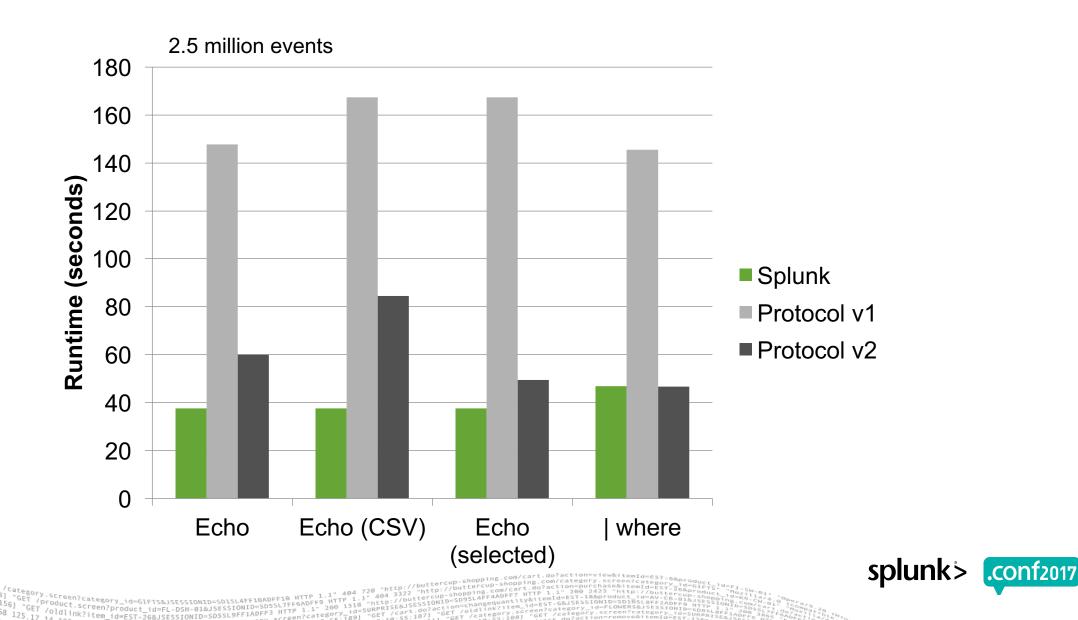
Screen?product id=FL-DSH-01&JSE

- Supports
 - Removing events
 - Adding events
 - Editing fields
 - Adding fields
- Can't re-order events

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CONT2017

Performance comparison



"Streaming" command example

... | eval foo="bar" | ...

field_A	field_B	field_C
the	jumps	dog
quick	over	oops
brown	the	too
fox	lazy	many

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Product.screen?product_id=FI-DSH-01&JSESSIONID=SD5SL7FF6ADFF2

