Anomaly Hunting with Splunk



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Speakers Bio

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 - Machine Learning
 - Insider Threat
 - Enterprise Security
 - @macycron

What is Data Science?

"Data science is the civil engineering of data. Its acolytes possess a practical knowledge of tools and materials, coupled with a theoretical understanding of what's possible."

-Mike Driscoll CEO, Metamarket

Agenda

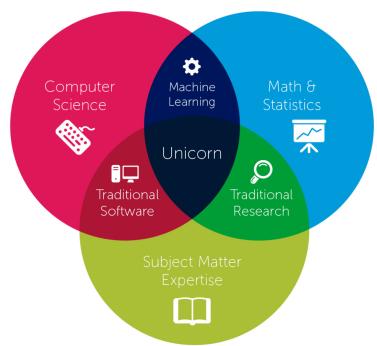
- 5 Step Data Science Methodology for Security
- Quantitative vs Qualitative Analysis
- Descriptive Statistics
- Exploratory Data Analysis (EDA)
- Explore Core and Add-on Splunk analytic capabilities



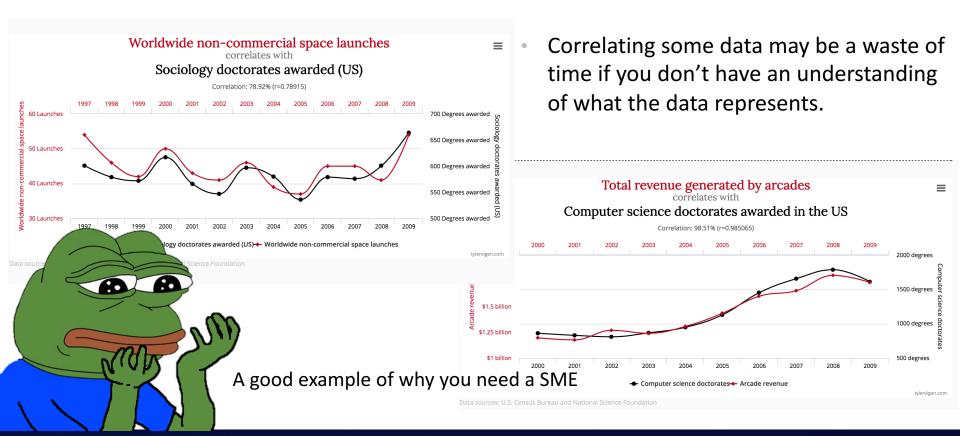
Security Data Analysis

Splunk empowers the security analyst by making their machine data valuable, usable and actionable...but....

- Information Overload
 - IDS alerts, Virus Scans, tools.
- Multidisciplinary approach is needed for next gen problems
 - SIEM alone, ML alone, are not enough without SME.
- Our goal is to empower security analysts reach the middle using statistical techniques built into Core Splunk,
 Enterprise Security & ITSI.
- Everyone is capable of becoming a unicorn.



Correlation != Causation 😊



5 Step Data Science Methodology for Security OPS

Step 1 Scope relevant machine data to onboard into Splunk.

Step 2 Collect requirements and validate relevant machine data.

Step 3 Exploratory Data Analysis. (Searching & Visualizing!)

Step 4 Formulate hypothesis working with Domain Experts.

Step 5 Test and repeat steps as needed until hypothesis is answered.



Step 1

Scope relevant machine data to onboard into Splunk.

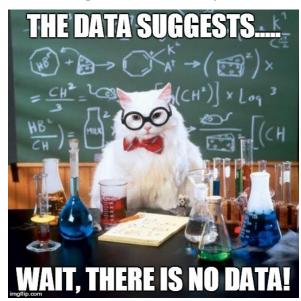




Example Data Sources for monitoring network and public

facing web applications

- Firewall Traffic
- SQL Server/HTTP Logs



Security Patterns in Machine Data

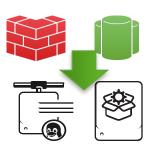
What To Look For	Data Source		
Abnormally high number of file transfers to USB or CD/DVD	Operating system		
Abnormally high number of files or records downloaded from an internal file store or database containing confidential information	File server / Database		
Abnormally large amount of data emailed to personal webmail accounts or uploaded to external file hosting site	Email server / web proxy		
Unusual physical access attempts (after hours, accessing unauthorized area, etc.)	Physical badge records / Authentication		
Excessive printer activity and employee is on an internal watch list as result of demotion / poor review / impending layoff	Printer logs / HR systems		
User name of terminated employee accessing internal system	Authentication / HR systems		
IT Administrator performing an excessive amount of file deletions on critical servers or password resets on critical applications (rogue IT administrator)	Operating system /Authentication / Asset DB		
Employee not taking any vacation time or logging into critical systems while on vacation (concealing fraud)	HR systems / Authentications		
Long running sessions, bandwidth imbalance between client & server, Bad SSL Configurations	IPS / IDS / Stream		
Known cloud or malware domains, bad SSL Configurations	Threat Intelligence, Custom Lookups		
High Entropy Subdomains	Web proxy, DNS, Wiredata		

Step 1

Scope relevant machine data to onboard into Splunk.



Collect requirements and validate relevant machine data.



Example Collection Methods

- Syslog Server for Firewall Traffic, Universal Forwarder
- Splunk Stream, DB Connect, IIS Logs for SQL Server

Example Validation Methods

- Splunkbase TA's
- Add-on Builder
- Regex101 to build search time fields
- Common Information Model



Step 1

Scope relevant machine data to onboard into Splunk.

Step 2

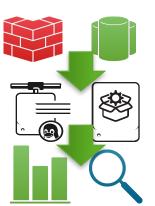
Collect requirements and validate relevant machine data.

Step 3

Exploratory Data Analysis. (Searching & Visualizing!)



- Torrent activity (dest_port 6881-6889, 6969), connections to Tor Addresses, or Malware domains
- Interesting Fields: http_user_agent, http_method
- SQL Injection logic OR WHERE 1=1?



Step 1

Scope relevant machine data to onboard into Splunk.

Step 2

Collect requirements and validate relevant machine data.

Step 3

Exploratory Data Analysis. (Searching & Visualizing!)

Step 4

Formulate hypothesis working with Domain Experts.



- Is this real torrent traffic or another application using the same ports?
- Can users install or run TOR Browser onto their desktops in this VLAN?
- Is this SQL injection valid in user_agent field or just bad parsing of data during the onboarding process?

Can I disprove the activity by adding more data or context?

Relevant Data Sources

Raw Data	Lookups	Context	Value	
Firewall Traffic	Username to IP	10.0.0.12 fails to login to 5 different servers	Determine user responsible	
Proxy	Username to IP	10.0.0.12 visits Dropbox and uploads 1TB of data	Determine user responsible	
Active Directory	User to Group Mapping	SPLUNK\JohnDoe authenticates to 30 different hosts in 30 second period	Determine scope of compromise, domain admin, SQL admin only?	
DHCP	User to IP, Host to IP	10.0.0.12, 10.0.0.35 attempt to connect to TOR IP address	Determine user or hosts responsible	
Email Transport	Baseline Usage	User sends email with large file attachments	Determine normal behavior	
Exchange / Email	Baseline usage	User sends 40 emails in 60 minute period	Determine normal behavior	
Packet Capture / Wire Data	Subnet to physical location / priority of asset	10.0.0.0/27 shows successful SSH connections originating from Russia	Determine where an asset is physically or scope of compromise based on VLAN	

Step 2 Collect requirements and validate relevant machine data.

Step 3 Exploratory Data Analysis. (Searching & Visualizing!)

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Step 5

Test and repeat steps as needed until hypothesis is answered.

Step 1 Scope relevant machine data to onboard into Splunk. Collect requirements and validate relevant machine data. Step 3 Exploratory Data Analysis. (Searching & Visualizing!) Step 4 Formulate hypothesis working with Domain Experts. Step 5 Test and repeat steps as needed until hypothesis is answered.

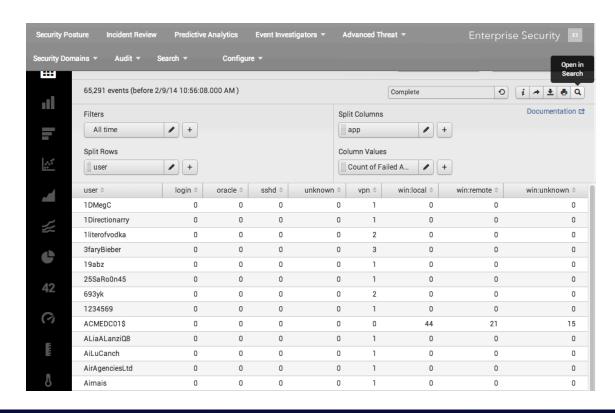
Quantitative vs Qualitative Analysis

- Quantitative measure:
- 5 Failed logins in 60 mins
- Threshold and periodicity fixed



- Qualitative measure:
- The failed login rate is increasing abnormally for this user.
- Threshold and periodicity is variable

Quantitative – Static Thresholds





Quantitative

Enterprise Security version 2 - 3

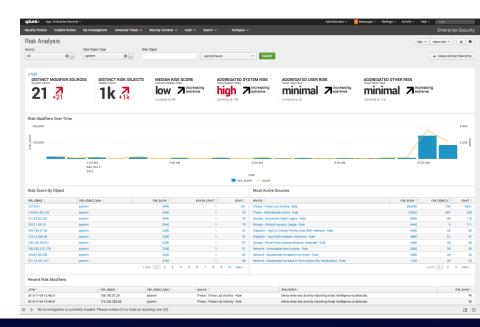
```
| datamodel("Authentication","Authentication")
| stats values Authentication.tag as tag,
count(eval(Authentication.action== failure")) as failure ,
count eval(Authentication.action == success")) as success
by Authenication.src
| search failure > 6 success > 1
```

Count Failures and successes by source, trigger when more than 6 failures in an hour followed by a success

Extreme Search

 An app that provides the ability to evaluate and interpret Splunk search results in a *qualitative* rather than a *quantitative* manner.

 Qualitative terms in Extreme search are expressed in terms of "fuzzy" quantitative ranges.
 Eg. Minimal, high, extreme



Qualitative – 2 steps

Enterprise Security 3 - 4+ SA-ExtremeSearch

- 1. Create the model in a Context
- Count failures by src in an hour

| tstats `summariesonly` count as failures from datamodel=Authentication.Authentication where Authentication.action="failure" by Authentication.src,_time span=1h

Gather stats median, min, max, (descriptive statistics)

```
stats median(failures) as median, min(failures) as min, count as count eval max = median*2
```

Update the context with current stats

```
| xsUpdateDDContext app="SA-AccessProtection" name=failures_by_src_count_1h container=authentication scope=app | stats count
```

Time Range -25h to -1h

Visualize Context



Qualitative – Step 2 Compare Data to Model

- Compare the context model to a data sample
- Ex. Brute Force one hour Time Range -65m -5m

```
| `datamodel("Authentication","Authentication")`
| stats values(Authentication.tag) as tag, values(Authentication.app) as app,
count(eval('Authentication.action'=="failure")) as failure,
count(eval('Authentication.action'=="success")) as success by Authentication.src
| `drop_dm_object_name("Authentication")`
| search success>0
| xswhere failure from failures_by_src_count_1h in authentication is above medium
| `settags("access")`
```

Detecting IDS evasion with abnormal TTL

- Count of TTL by src, dest in an day, Gather Stats
- tstats max("All_Traffic.ttl") AS "Max of ttl" min("All_Traffic.ttl") AS "Min of ttl" median("All_Traffic.ttl") AS "Median of ttl" count("All_Traffic.ttl") AS "Count of ttl" from datamodel=Network_Traffic where (nodename = All Traffic) groupby "All Traffic.ttl" "All_Traffic.src" "All_Traffic.dest" prestats=true eval "All_Traffic.src ::: All_Traffic.dest"='All_Traffic.src' + " ::: " + 'All_Traffic.dest' "ttl"='All_Traffic.ttl' | xsCreateDDContext app="SA-Network" name=ttlvalues_by_src_dest_count_1d container=authentication scope=app type=domain terms=`xs_default_magnitude_concepts` stats count

Users with abnormal DLP activity

1. Create the Data-Driven Context | xscreateddcontext

- sourcetype=dlp | bin span=1d _time | stats count AS dlp_signature_user_count_1d by user, signature, _time | where dlp_signature_user_count_1d > 0
- | stats count(dlp_signature_user_count_1d) as count median(dlp_signature_user_count_1d) as median stdev(dlp_signature_user_count_1d) as size by user, signature | eval size=if(size<1,1,size)</pre>
- | xscreateddcontext name= dlp_signature_user_count_1d type=median_centered
 terms="low,expected,high" scope=app class="user,signature" container=all_insider_models_count_1d

Schedule this for moving 60 day window

2. Compare New Events to Context | xswhere

```
sourcetype=dlp | bin span=1d _time
| stats count as dlp_signature_user_count_1d by user , signature,_time
| xswhere dlp_signature_user_count_1d in all_insider_models_count_1d by user NOT expected
```

Show a dashboard of unusual events.

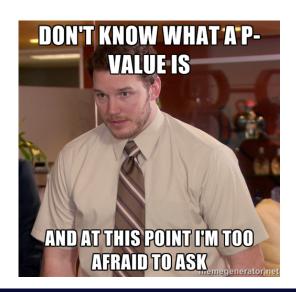
Static to Dynamic thresholds

- Extreme Search Examples
 - √ Authentication Analysis
 - √ Network Analysis
 - **V** DLP Analysis
- Exploratory Data Analysis Examples
 - Descriptive Statistics + Moving Window = Context
 - Visualization
 - Correlation
 - Machine Learning as EDA



Descriptive Statistics & EDA

- In high school math you learned about mean, mode, median, min, max, & frequency aka "Descriptive Statistics".
- You should make use of these to describe the data you are looking at and explore the relationships within your data set.
- This iterative process is called "Exploratory Data Analysis".



Descriptive Statistics & EDA

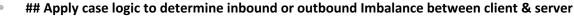
- ## Compare different duration times of data set for a specific time period.
- index=suricata event_type=flow
 | stats count as number_events, min(duration) as min_duration, max(duration) as max_duration,
 avg(duration) as avg_duration, median(duration) as median_duration, perc95(duration) as
 perc95_duration, stdev(duration) as stdev_duration
- Are there any long running sessions in the last 60 minutes?

number_events \$	min_duration \$	max_duration \$	avg_duration \$	median_duration \$	perc95_duration \$	stdev_duration 0
3397	0	3654	14.274948	0	60	78.859433

Descriptive Statistics - PCR

- Make use of eval to determine network flows or Producer Consumer Ratio (PCR)
- ## Create a ratio of bytes_in to bytes_out

```
index=suricata event_type=flow
| eval bytes_total=bytes_in+bytes_out
| eval bytes_ratio= ((bytes_out-bytes_in)/bytes_total)
| iplocation dest_ip
| table src_ip src_port dest_ip dest_port bytes_in bytes_out bytes_total bytes_ratio
| sort - bytes_ratio
```

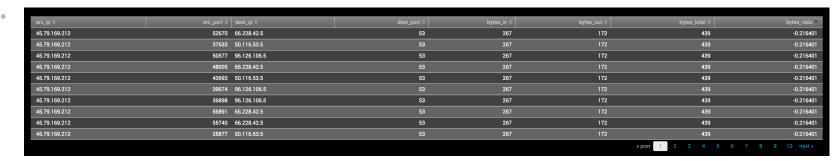


```
index=suricata event_type=flow
| eval bytes_total=bytes_in+bytes_out
| eval bytes_ratio= ((bytes_out-bytes_in)/bytes_total)
| eval bytes_pcr_range = case(bytes_ratio > 0.4 "Pure Push", bytes_ratio > 0 "70:30 Export", bytes_ratio == 0 "Balanced Exchange", bytes_ratio >= -0.5 "3:1 Import", bytes_ratio > -1 "Pure Pull"
| stats sparkline(count) AS activity by src_ip src_port dest_ip dest_port bytes_in bytes_out bytes_pcr_range
```

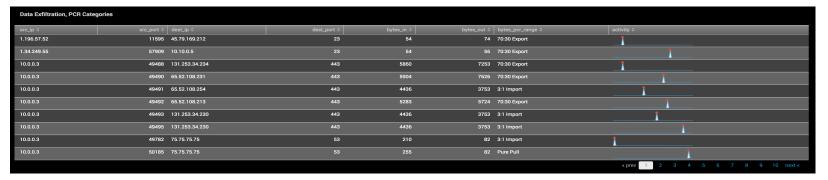


Descriptive Statistics - PCR

- Make use of eval to determine network flows or Producer Consumer Ratio (PCR)
- ## Create a ratio of bytes_in to bytes_out

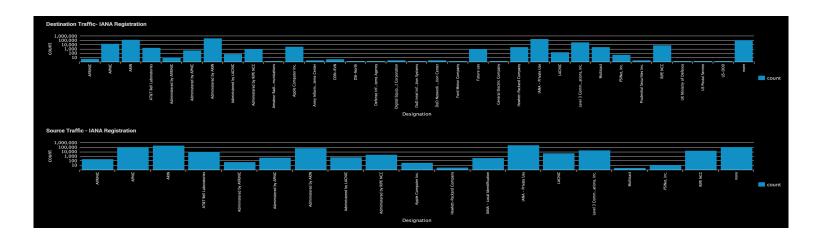


Apply case logic to determine inbound or outbound imbalance between client & server



Visualization & Creating Context (EDA)

- Visualization is a powerful EDA tool
 - Not everything can be described as bits, bytes, plaintext or pie charts.
- Correlation to add context to your data during the EDA process or test hypothesis.



Splunk Specific EDA - Visualization

Visualization useful for exploring multidimensional relationships.

Tells a story about the data you can't describe in text or tables.

"Where are connections 'originating', and how often am I seeing this activity?"



Number of Connections: 47616 I don't remember hiring

any remote employees in China.

Splunk Correlation as EDA

- CSV/KV Lookups Threat Intelligence, Known bad configurations
- ## Search for SSL connections with insecure cipher (key less than 128) to adversarial countries

```
index=bro sourcetype=bro_ssl
| lookup insecure_ciphers cipher OUTPUT reason_insecure
| search reason_insecure!="" | iplocation src_ip prefix=src_ | iplocation dest_ip prefix=dest_
| lookup adversaries country AS dest_Country OUTPUT isAdversary | search isAdversary=TRUE
| stats sparkline(count) AS activity count by src_ip dest_ip dest_Country
| sort - count
```

- Python Lookups Entropy Analysis of DNS / HTTP
- # Full Query for Suricata HTTP

```
index=suricata host=suricata event_type=http
| lookup ut_parse_extended_lookup url AS dest
| lookup ut_shannon_lookup word AS ut_subdomain OUTPUT ut_shannon AS ut_shannon_subdomain
| lookup ut_shannon_lookup word AS dest OUTPUT ut_shannon AS ut_shannon_dest | search ut_shannon_dest > 4 OR ut_shannon_subdomain > 4
| table ut_subdomain ut_shannon_subdomain dest ut_shannon_dest
| dedup dest ut_subdomain
```

Splunk Correlation as EDA

- CSV/KV Lookups Threat Intelligence, Known bad configurations
- ## Search for SSL connections with insecure cipher (key less than 128) to adversarial countries



- Python Lookups Entropy Analysis of DNS / HTTP
- # Full Query for Suricata HTTP



Machine Learning Toolkit as EDA

- Using CSV of Known Cloud Providers, Python Lookup to calculate entropy
- ## Search for http requests where the subdomain or domain have a high level of entropy, overlay CDN domains

```
index=suricata host=suricata event_type=http
| lookup ut_parse_extended_lookup url AS dest
| lookup ut_shannon_lookup word AS ut_subdomain OUTPUT ut_shannon AS ut_shannon_subdomain
| lookup ut_shannon_lookup word AS dest OUTPUT ut_shannon AS ut_shannon_dest | search ut_shannon_dest > 4 OR ut_shannon_subdomain > 4
| lookup cloud_providers domain AS ut_domain OUTPUT CDN_provider isProvider
| fillnull value=False
| table ut_subdomain ut_shannon_subdomain dest ut_shannon_dest isProvider
```

Search for categorical outliers based on src_ip, dest_ip, total_bytes, and bytes_ratio

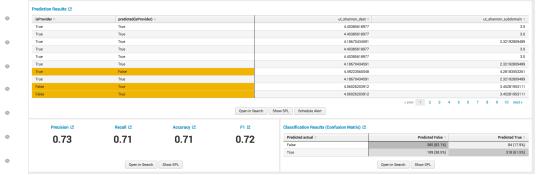
```
index=suricata event_type=flow | eval bytes_total=bytes_in+bytes_out
| eval bytes_ratio= ((bytes_out-bytes_in)/bytes_total)
| iplocation dest_ip
| table src_ip src_port dest_ip dest_port bytes_in bytes_out bytes_total bytes_ratio
```

Field(s) to analyze

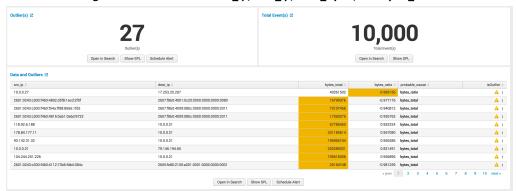
```
x src_ip x dest_ip x bytes_total x bytes_ratio
```

Machine Learning Toolkit as EDA

- Using CSV of Known Cloud Providers, Python Lookup to calculate entropy
- ## Search for http requests where the subdomain or domain have a high level of entropy, overlay CDN domains



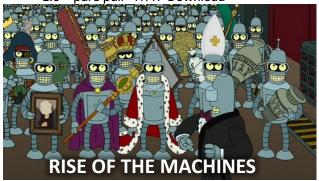
Search for categorical outliers based on src_ip, dest_ip, total_bytes, and bytes_ratio

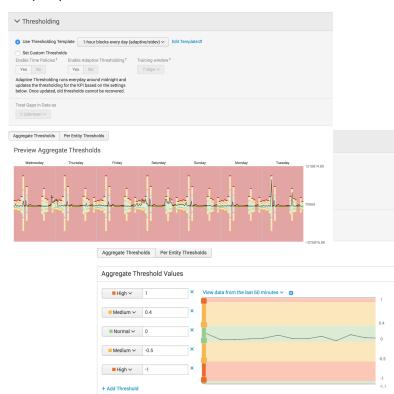


Descriptive Statistics & ML - ITSI

Make use of eval to create bytes total & bytes ratio for Producer Consumer Ratio (PCR) for KPI Base Search & NetFLOW

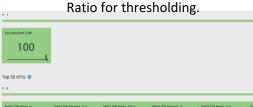
- index=suricata event_type=flow
 | eval bytes_total=bytes_in+bytes_out
 | eval bytes_ratio= ((bytes_out-bytes_in)/bytes_total)
- Thresholding score compares the current traffic against a rolling hourly average and standard deviation from mean for last 30 days of data.
- Bytes Ratio Thresholds based on PCR Static Ratios
 - 1.0 pure push FTP upload, multicast, beaconing
 - 0.4 70:30 export Sending Email
 - 0.0 Balanced Exchange NTP, ARP probe
 - -0.5 3:1 import HTTP Browsing
 - -1.0 pure pull HTTP Download



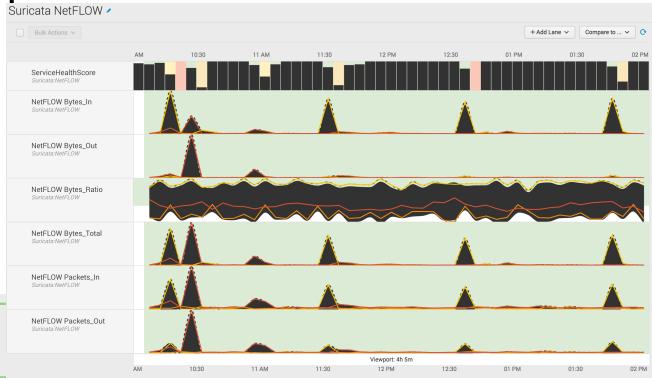


Descriptive Statistics & ML - ITSI

- Visualization of the same PCR
 Suricata Flow data using ITSI
- Health score based on 5 KPIs.
 The current traffic (bytes_in, bytes_out, bytes_total, packets_in, & packets_out) compared to a rolling hourly average, and standard deviation from mean.
- Attempting to define "What is normal and when is something deviating from the norm I've seen for 30 days?"
- Bytes Ratio based on PCR Static Ratio for thresholding.







Recap

- ▼ 5 Step Data Science Methodology for Security
- VDescriptive Statistics
- VQuantitative vs Qualitative Analysis
- VExploratory Data Analysis (EDA)
- VExplore native/ Add-on Splunk analytic capabilities



THANK YOU .conf2016 splunk>

Explore Splunk Analytics

- Anomalies
 - Analyzes numeric fields for their ability to predict another discrete field.
- Anomalousvalue
 - Computes an "unexpectedness" score for an event.
- Anomalydetection
 - Finds and summarizes irregular, or uncommon, search results.
- Cluster
 - Computes a probability for each event and detects unusually small probabilities.
- Kmeans
 - Groups similar events together.
- Outlier
 - Removes outlying numerical values.
- Rare
 - Displays the least common values of a field.

Glossary

- Descriptive Statistics
 - Min, Max, Median, Average(Mean), Standard Deviation, Mode
 - Z-Scores
- Exploratory Data Analysis
 - Searching the data and looking for relationships
 - Leveraging knowledge (lookups, reference tables)
- Entropy
 - Measurement of how mixed up something is
 - e.g. non-numerical field such as query compared against wordlist
- P-Values
 - "Captures the probability of observing the data you've observed"
- Linear Regression

References & Resources

- Doing Data Science http://www.tylervigen.com/spurious-correlations
- PCR A New Flow Metric http://qosient.com/argus/presentations/Argus.FloCon.2014.PCR.Presentation.pdf
- Data Driven Security http://datadrivensecurity.info/
- Splunk Syntax Highlighting http://blog.metasyn.pw/splunk-syntax-highlighting/
- Doing Data Science http://shop.oreilly.com/product/0636920028529.do
- Hunting the Known Unknowns (with DNS)
 https://conf.splunk.com/speakers/2015.html#search=Kovar&
- Lookups, and other goodies https://github.com/anthonygtellez/conf2016_extras
- IDS Evasion w TTL http://insecure.org/stf/secnet_ids/secnet_ids.html