

# Forensic Investigator Splunk App

~~2600~~ ~~2800~~ 2900 Downloads Later

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- Sr. Technical Director at Cylance
- Forensic Investigator Developer

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- Forensic Investigator Developer



# Agenda

- What Is The Forensic Investigator App?
- Design Process
- Architectural Considerations
- Handling Feedback
- Handling Updates
- Lessons Learned

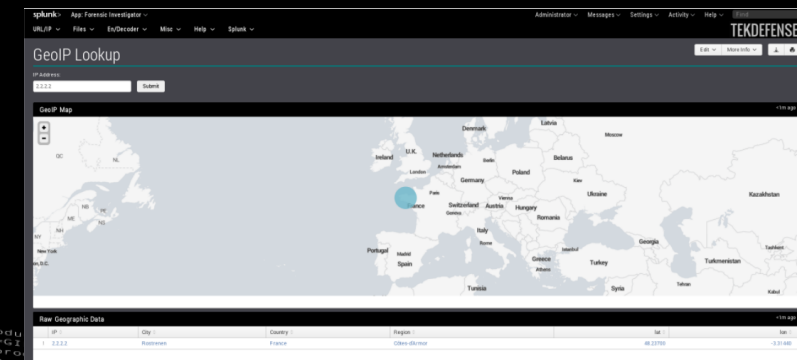
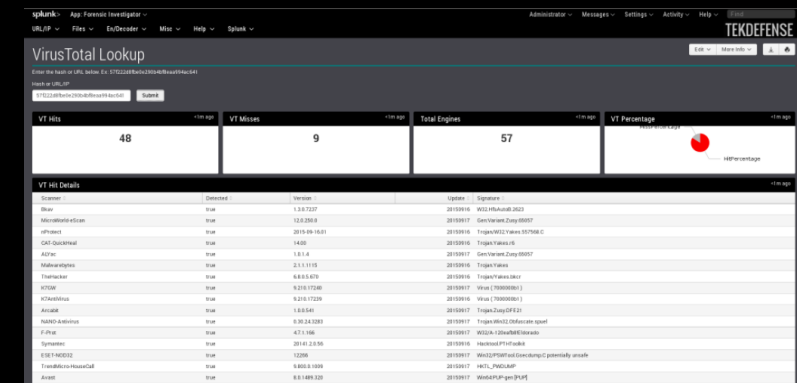
# What Is The Forensic Investigator App?

<https://splunkbase.splunk.com/app/2895/>

- Free Splunk app designed to assist forensic investigators / digital first responders
- Diverse Developer backgrounds: Cylance, Splunk, DHS, Microsoft, FireEye, TekDefense
- Loaded with tools to help investigations

URL/IP	Domain	Files	En/Decoder	Host
VT Lookup *	WHOIS Lookup 1 *	VT Lookup *	Cyber Chef	MAC OUI Lookup
Automater *	WHOIS Lookup 2 *	Automater *	Base64 Converter	Ping
Metascan IP *		Metscan hash *	Hex Converter	Traceroute
URL Unshortener		File Hasher	XOR Converter	SMB Share View
LinkExtractor *			Hash Identifier	NetBios Viewer
GeoIP Lookup			ROT(n) Converter	Port Scanner
DNS Resolver			IP Converter	Banner Grabber
URL Decoder				
URL Parser				

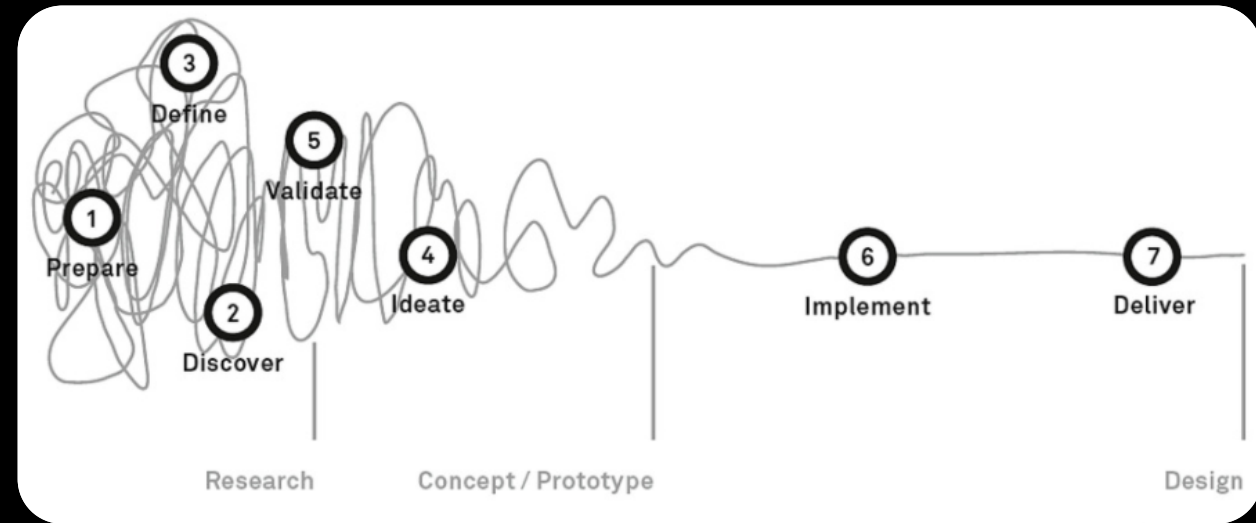
\* Requires Internet access / API calls





# Design Process

- ▶ Take time at the start to avoid pitfalls
  - App, Index, and sourcetype names
    - Examples: alerts, fi:alerts, fi:alerts:syslog
  - Inputs
    - Enable everything?
  - Eventtypes
    - Use them early
      - eventtype=fi\_index
  - Admin required functions



# Design Process (Cont'd)

## ► Fast & Frequent Iterations

- Quick and Dirty is OK
  - | script vtlookup \_\_EXECUTE\_\_ "\$search\_hash\_url\$"
- Work towards standardization over time
  - Most tech debt has proven nominal

```
bash-4.2$ ls -alh
total 28K
drwx--x---  7 splunk splunk 4.0K Dec 25  2016 .
drwxr-xr-x 93 splunk splunk 4.0K Jul 10 21:17 ..
drwx--x---  4 splunk splunk 4.0K Dec  4  2016 appserver
drwx--x---  2 splunk splunk 4.0K Jul 11 15:41 bin
drwx--x---  3 splunk splunk 4.0K Jul 11 15:39 default
drwx--x---  2 splunk splunk 4.0K May 16 20:02 metadata
drwx--x---  2 splunk splunk 4.0K Dec  4  2016 static
```

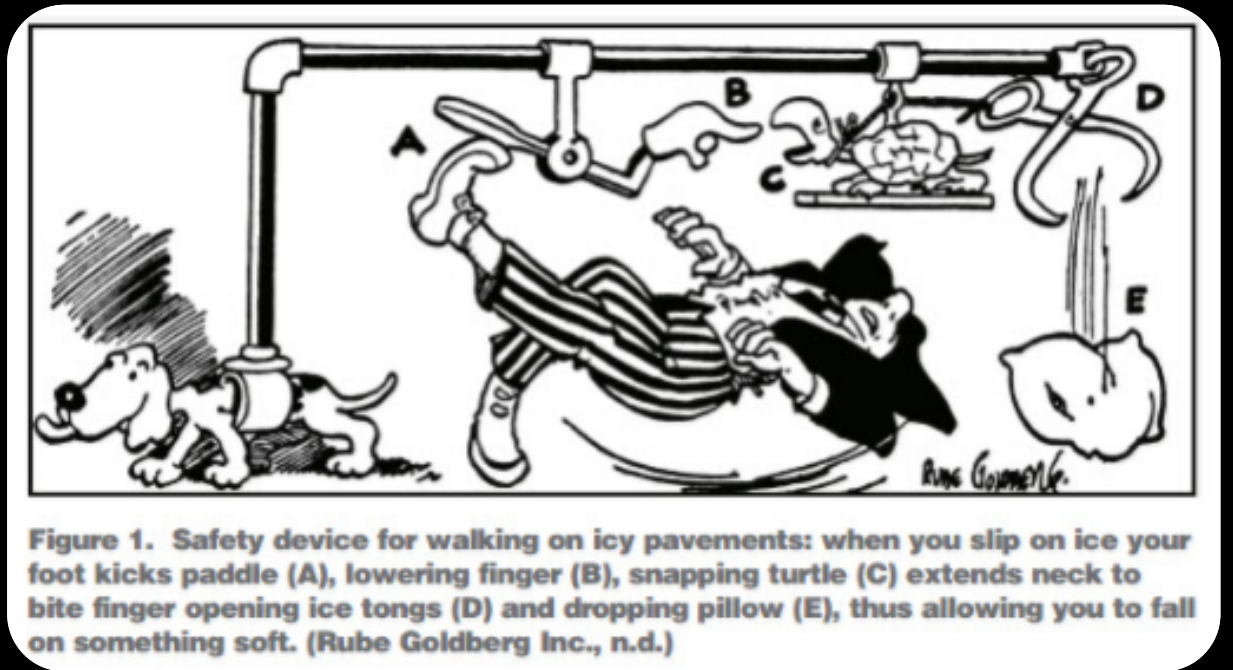
## ► Change Has Consequences

- App Certification doesn't like many small updates
- One small change may have huge consequences for large install bases
- Change for the sake of change is often bad

# Architectural Considerations

- ## ► How will your users install and use the app?

- App + TA
  - Search head vs. indexer vs. forwarder?
- Splunk on Windows or Nix?
  - Paths matter (ex: \$SPLUNK\_HOME?)
- Cloud vs. on-prem
  - Editing configuration files
- Proxy aware
  - Passing lots of secrets via GET?





# Handling Feedback

## ► Feedback Is Great! (most of the time)

- Mechanism
  - Email link within the app
  - Splunk Answers
- Great ideas
  - Your users may have awesome ideas
  - Let them help drive the road map
- Narrow focus
  - Be careful to not be consumed with user ideas – they may not be best for the whole



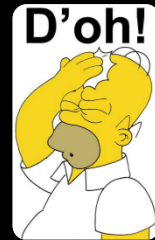
# Handling Updates

## ► Rule #1 - Don't break anything

- User's environment
  - Saved searches
  - Parsing inefficiencies



- Your own app
  - Installation failure
  - Collisions on Setup



- Your user's custom dashboards
  - Changing index and sourcetype names

## ► Rule #2 – See rule #1

# Lessons Learned

1. Spend a little time in design – pays dividends
2. Think about how people will install and use the app
3. Have a diverse development team / board of advisers
4. Handle feedback gracefully
5. Don't break anything (best effort)
6. Don't be afraid to publish your own app

# Thank You

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