

Running Enterprise Security at Capacity Accurately Thanks to Data Model Acceleration

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By attending this talk, you agree to owe a beer to the speaker.



Who is This Guy?

- French
- Lives in England
- ► Works for **THALES** UK
- ▶ PhD in theoretical physics
- ▶ 10 years in the IT security industry
- Currently
 - On paper: Senior Cyber Security Analyst
 - In reality: Resident Data Scientist / Splunk Guru
- ► Spoke at .conf2016:



https://conf.splunk.com/files/2016/recordings/become-a-regular-expressions-ninja-and-unlock-your-splunk-potential.mp4



What is He Talking About?

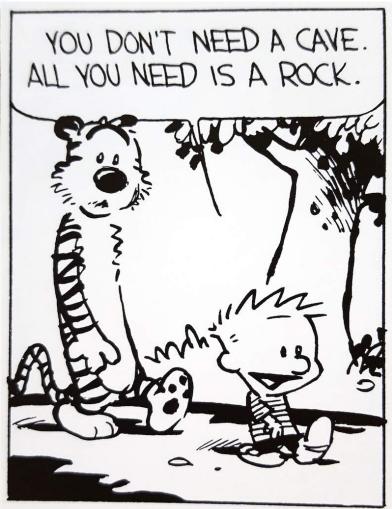
- 1. Our story and why we're here giving this talk
- 2. The best introduction to **Data Models** ever!
- Dive into the world of DM Acceleration
- 4. The Big Picture: accuracy, load and Data Model acceleration
- 5. How to optimize DM Acceleration



What is This Talk Not About?

- tstats tutorial
- Enterprise Security (ES)
- ► ITSI
- Spelunking







Calvin & Hobbes





A Love Story



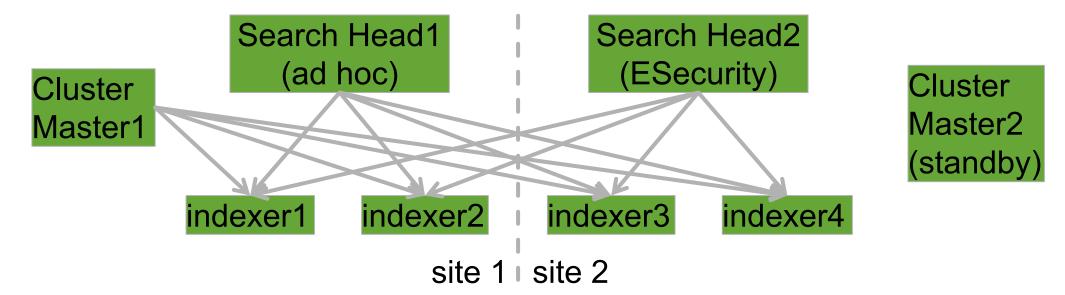




Company Meets Splunk

(2013)

- ► Assesses data inputs (~50 GB daily) and use cases (Security, ~10 users)
- ▶ Looks at minimum requirements for Splunk 6.0.1 ES 3.0 (12 cores & 12GB RAM!)
- ▶ Buys over-spec'd hardware (16 cores & 32GB RAM)



Honeymoon period: the relationship feels fresh and exciting!



Trouble

(2013 -> 2016)

- Many upgrades later (Splunk 6.0 ES 3.0 to Splunk 6.4 ES 4.4), minimum requirements are 16 cores & 32GB RAM, hardware is no longer over spec'd
- ▶ More data has been on-boarded (~150GB daily)
- More use cases / searches / alerts have been developed
- Best practices not necessarily followed...
- Splunk gives and gives, but reaches its limits:
 - Skipped scheduled searches
 - Laggy & crashy data model acceleration
 - Risk of false negatives...





Money Doesn't Buy Happiness

(But it helps)

- ► Throw hardware at the problem and scale up:
 - Indexer cluster (add more indexers)
 - Search head cluster (a bit complex with ES)
 - More RAM
 - SSDs?



- ▶ But...
 - Can't afford it and/or will take too long, need a fix NOW
 - Most importantly, will it be enough? Do we really understand what affects accuracy?



Bring in the Counselors

- Health check with Splunk PS
 - Kick-start ideas for tune-up
- ▶ Long-term Splunk PS engagement
 - Implemented many improvements
 - Made data model acceleration really key to managing load

This talk is the summary of what we learned

Disclaimer

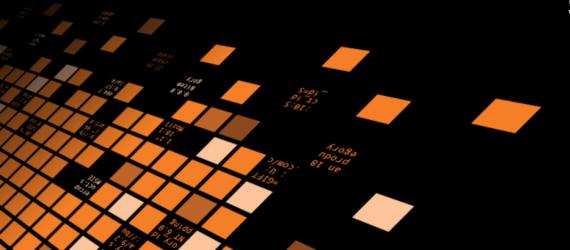
► This is what works for us, your mileage may vary!





"A Data Model is a Hierarchically Structured Search-time Mapping of Semantic Knowledge About One or More Datasets."

Splunk docs





Life Without Data Models

▶ index=endpoints sourcetype=calvin:AV

25-sep-2017 4pm OPS threat definition updated to revision 1986

25-sep-2017 5pm DETECTION path=hobbes.exe verdict=BAD threat=water.balloon

_time	log_type	path	verdict	threat
Sep-25 4pm	OPS			
Sep-25 5pm	DETECTION	hobbes.exe	BAD	water.balloon

▶ index=servers sourcetype=hobbes:malwarebuster

2017/09/25T6pm loglevel=alert state=infected virusname=baseball-cheat path=calvin.exe

2017/09/25T7pm loglevel=alert state=infected boot sector is compromised

	_time	loglevel	state	virusname	path
	Sep-25 6pm	alert	infected	baseball-cheat	calvin.exe
7.7	Sep-25 7pm	alert	infected		



The Malware Data Model

As part of the Common Information Model (CIM)

all malware events should:

- Be tagged with "malware" and "attack"
- ► Have a "signature" field
- Have an "action" field
- "action" must be either "allowed" or "blocked"
- ... etc ...

Now, let's write some props and transforms for each vendor to make their data CIM-compliant...





sourcetype



aliased to "signature"

index=endpoints sourcetype=calvin:AV

_time	log type	path	verdict	threat	defined
Sep-25 5pm	DETECTION	hobbes.exe	BAD	water.balloon	only for
					calvin:AV

eventtype: "AV-calvin-detection"

definition: sourcetype=calvin:AV log_type=DETECTION

tags: malware, attack

eval'ed field "action":
case(verdict=="BAD","blocked",
 verdict=="GOOD", "allowed")

- ▶ We package this configuration in an "Technical Add-on" (TA) called TA-calvinAV
- Or we get it ready made from Splunkbase
- ▶ We do something similar for the Hobbes AV sourcetype



Life With CIM Compliant Data

▶ index=endpoints sourcetype=calvin:AV

25-sep-2017 4pm OPS threat definition updated to revision 1986

25-sep-2017 5pm DETECTION path=hobbes.exe verdict=BAD threat=water.balloon

_time	log_type	path	verdict	threat	action	signature	tag
Sep-25 4pm	OPS						malware
Sep-25 5pm	DETECTION	hobbes.exe	BAD	water.balloon	blocked	water.balloon	malware, attack

▶ index=servers sourcetype=hobbes:malwarebuster

2017/09/25T6pm loglevel=alert state=infected virusname=baseball-cheat path=calvin.exe

2017/09/25T7pm loglevel=alert state=infected boot sector is compromised

	_time	loglevel	state	virusname	path	action	signature	tag
1	Sep-25 6pm	alert	infected	baseball-cheat	calvin.exe	blocked	baseball-cheat	malware, attack
. 1; : 1; : 57.	Sep-25 7pm	alert	infected			blocked		malware, attack

Life With CIM Compliant Data

▶ tag=malware tag=attack

25-sep-2017 5pm DETECTION path=hobbes.exe verdict=BAD threat=water.balloon 2017/09/25T6pm loglevel=alert state=infected virusname=baseball-cheat object=calvin.exe

2017/09/25T7pm loglevel=alert state=infected boot sector is compromised

_time	log_type	loglevel	path	state	verdict	virusname	threat	action	signature	tag
Sep-25 5pm	DETECTION		hobbe s.exe		BAD		water. balloon	blocked	water. balloon	malware, attack
Sep-25 6pm		alert	calvin. exe	infected		baseball- cheat		blocked	baseball- cheat	malware, attack
Sep-25 7pm		alert		infected				blocked		malware, attack

CIM = abstraction layer = you can do vendor-agnostic searches



Life With CIM Compliant Data

▶ tag=malware tag=attack action=blocked | **stats** count **by** signature

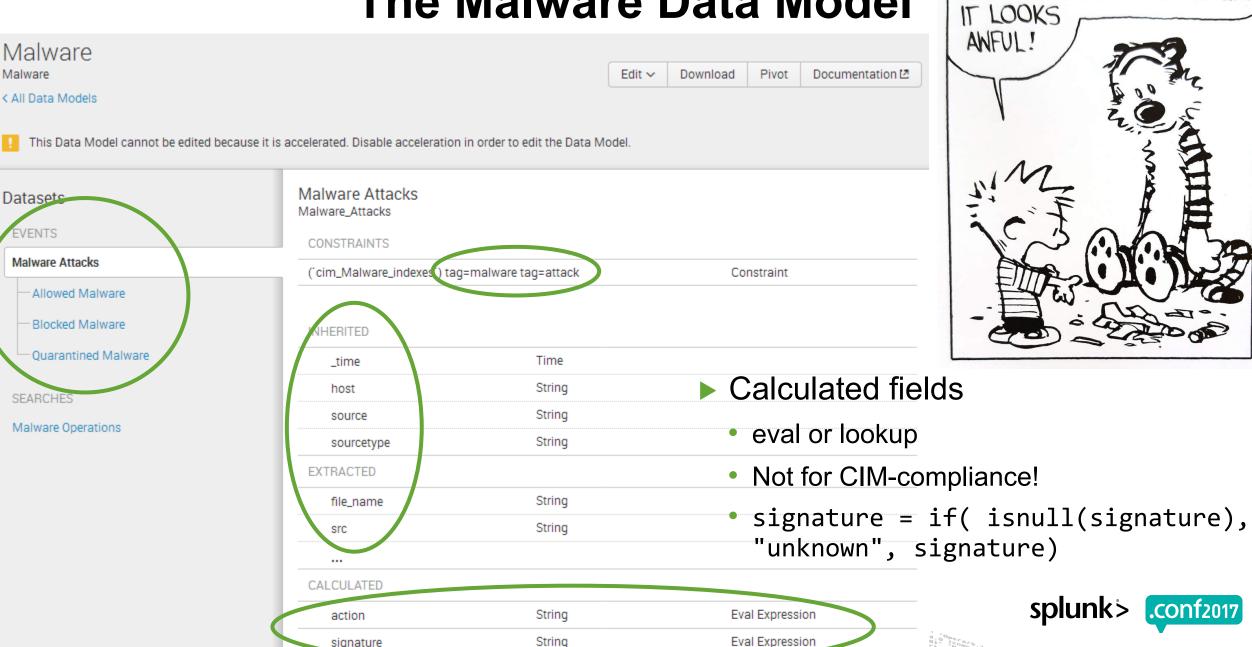
signature	count
baseball-cheat	1
water.balloon	1

▶ Let's take it to the next level...



LOOK AT THIS STUPID MODEL

The Malware Data Model



String

signature

The datamodel Command

▶ | datamodel Malware Malware_Attacks search
25-sep-2017 5pm DETECTION path=hobbes.exe verdict=BAD threat=water.balloon
2017/09/25T6pm loglevel=alert state=infected virusname=baseball-cheat object=calvin.exe
2017/09/25T7pm loglevel=alert state=infected boot sector is compromised

time			path	state	verdict	virusname	threat		Malware Attacks. signature	Malware_ Attacks. tag
Sep-25 5pm			hobbes.exe		BAD		water. balloon	blocked	water. balloon	malware, attack
Sep-25 6pm	•	:	calvin.exe	infected		baseball- cheat		blocked	baseball- cheat	malware, attack
Sep-25 7pm				Infected				blocked	unknown	malware, attack



The datamodel Command

| datamodel Malware Malware_Attacks search | search Malware_Attacks.action=blocked | stats count by Malware_Attacks.signature

Malware_Attacks.signature	count
baseball-cheat	1
water.balloon	1
unknown	1

- Constraint and vendor stuff is abstracted away
- ▶ Still access to raw event and all fields



- Freshly brewed: uses latest search-time configuration and DM definition
- Doesn't benefit from DM acceleration :-(
- Note: datamodel command to be replaced with from command



The tstats Command

| tstats count from datamodel=Malware where Malware_Attacks.action=blocked by Malware_Attacks.signature

Malware_Attacks.signature	count
baseball-cheat	1
water.balloon	1
unknown	1

Does the same as the datamodel command BUT:

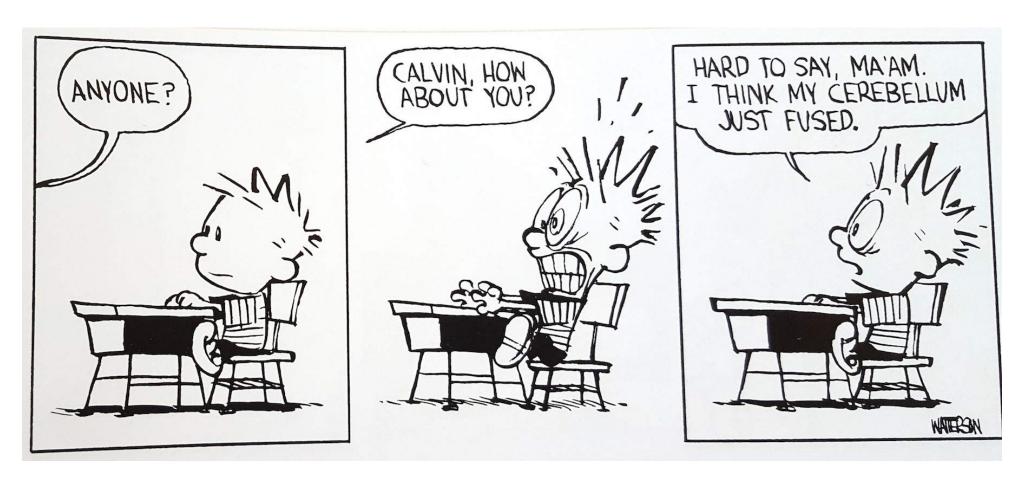
► No access to _raw or any non-DM fields Events •



- Stats oriented, no way to just get a table of all the events one by one
- Will benefit from DM acceleration!!!
- Can also be used outside DM with indexed fields



The Pivot Command & Datasets Ul



- ▶ Don't ask me!
- ▶ It's powered by tstats...
- ...so go learn tstats!

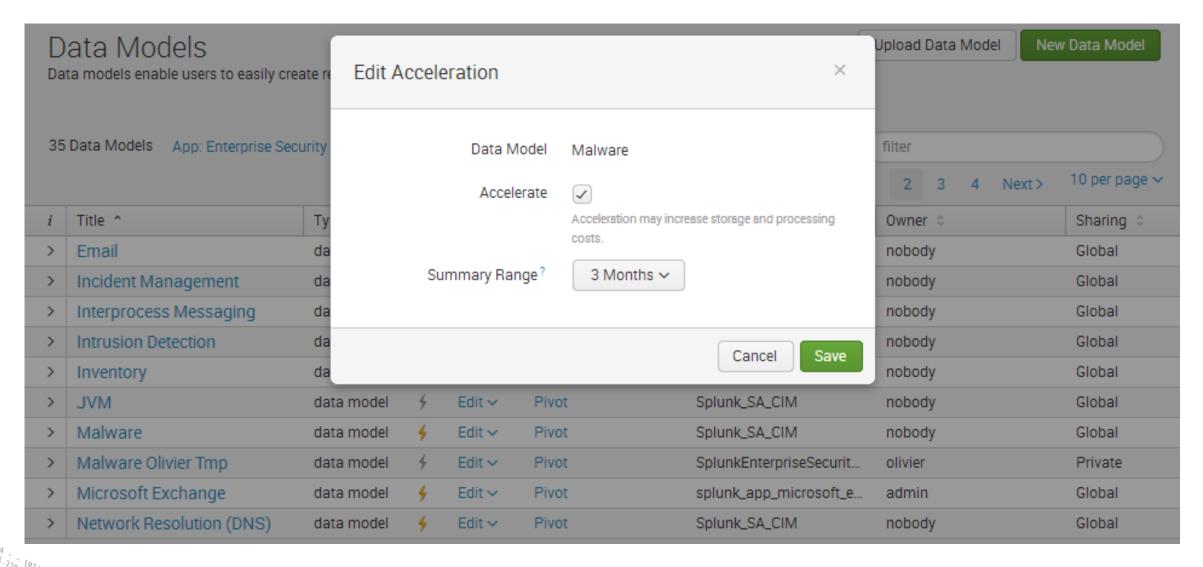




Accelerating Data Models



Data Model Acceleration





How DM Acceleration Works

- ▶ Remember this search?
- datamodel Malware Malware_Attacks search

25-sep-2017 5pm DETECTION path=hobbes.exe verdict=BAD threat=water.balloon 2017/09/25T6pm loglevel=alert state=infected virusname=baseball-cheat object=calvin.exe 2017/09/25T7pm loglevel=alert state=infected boot sector is compromised

time	:		path	state	verdict	virusname	threat	Attacks.	Malware Attacks. signature	Malware_ Attacks. tag
Sep-25 5pm			hobbes.exe		BAD		water. balloon	blocked	water. balloon	malware, attack
Sep-25 6pm	:	•••	calvin.exe	infected		baseball- cheat		blocked	baseball- cheat	malware, attack
Sep-25 7pm				Infected				blocked	unknown	malware, attack



How DM Acceleration Works

- Something similar now runs every 5 minutes
- Any non-DM fields are filtered out

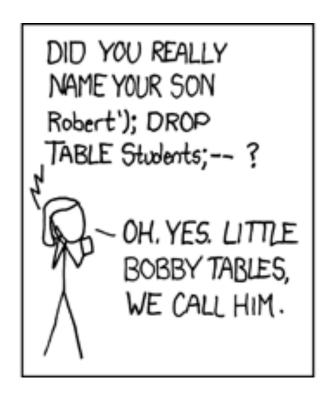
_time	Malware_Attacks.action	Malware_Attacks.signature	Malware_Attacks.tag
Sep-25 5pm	blocked	water.balloon	malware attack
Sep-25 6pm	blocked	baseball-cheat	malware attack
Sep-25 7pm	blocked	unknown	malware attack

- ► The results are shoved into the **Data Model summary**
- Earliest/latest cover whole retention period
- Only freshly indexed data is considered (late-arriving data included!)
- ▶ DM summary = extra .tsidx files in buckets on the indexer
- No _raw included



Data Model Acceleration

- ▶ Think of the DM summary as a traditional DB table:
 - DM definition = schema (list of columns)
 - Constraint is run as a search, each result = one row
- Except:
 - Implementation is really not like a DB table...!
 - No way to just list rows/events one by one



- With DM acceleration, tstats command is automagically much faster!
- ▶ Best of both worlds:
 - Late binding schema (not much set in stone at index-time, flexible search-time configuration)
 - Speed of rigid schema with accelerated DM



tstats summariesonly=t

- ▶ tstats automatically use DM summaries if they are available
- ► The last few minutes won't be, most likely
- Doesn't sound like much, but impact is big
- ▶ Use summariesonly=t
- Careful:
 - Make sure the retention period covers your earliest/latest
 - If you have a time picker in a dashboard, make use you tell your users!

Oldest record in DM

Tue May 30 11:08:31 2017

Search within DM range?

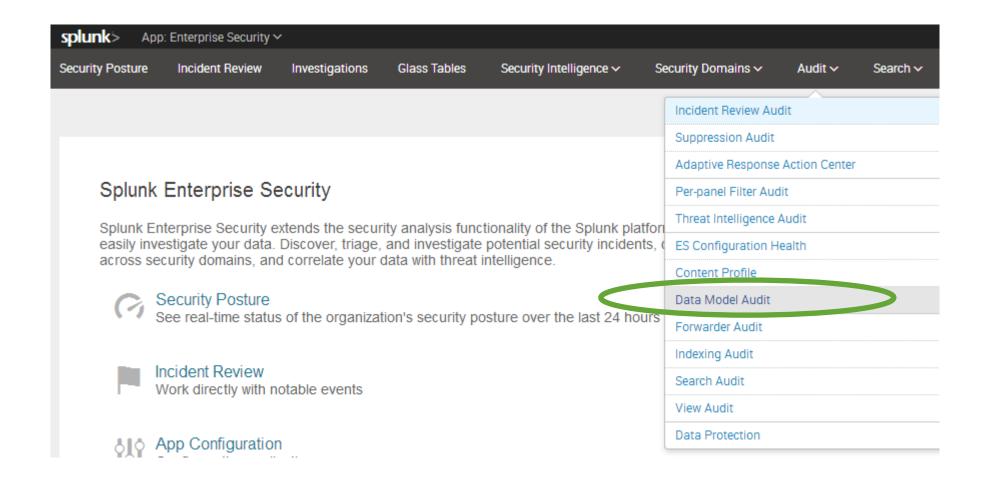




Make sure the DM summary is fully populated (backfilled + no lag)

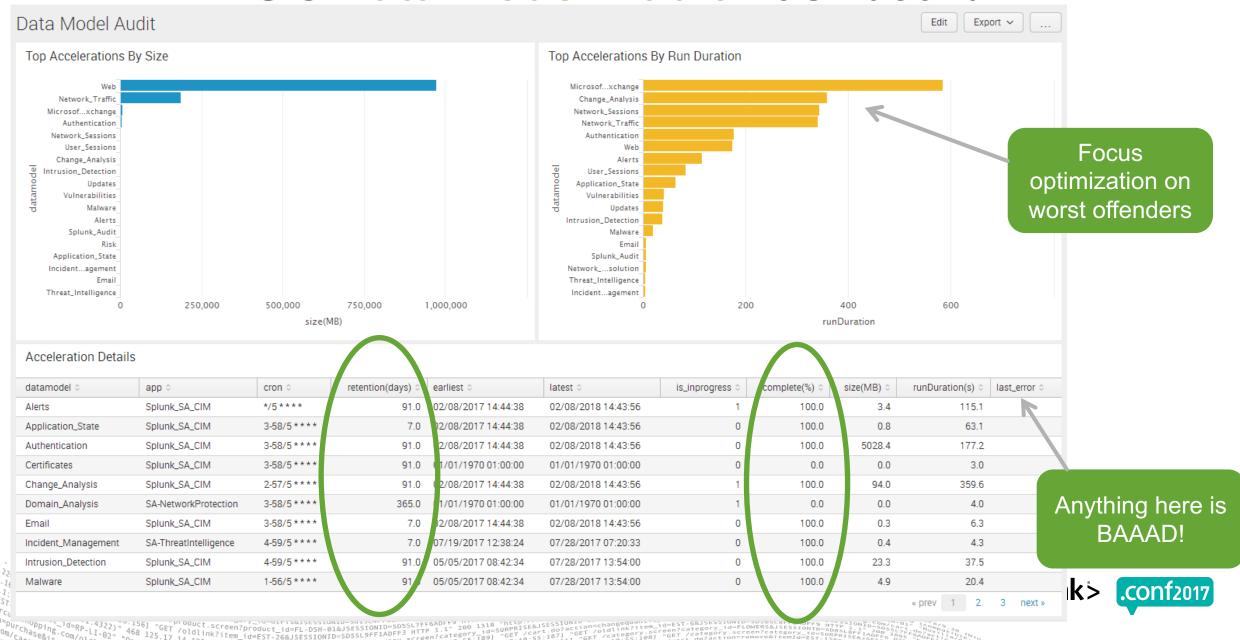


ES's Data Model Audit Dashboard





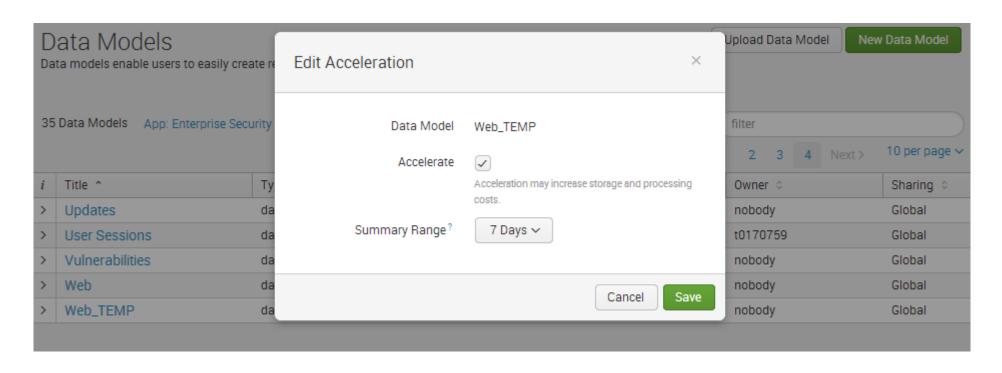
ES's Data Model Audit Dashboard



Monitoring DM Acceleration Lag



Data Model Acceleration



▶ In datamodels.conf:

"GET /Product.screen?product_id=FL-DSH-01&JSESSIONID=SDSLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1"

6) "GET /Oldlinbard 10 HTTP 1.1"

700 HTTP 1.1

```
[Web_TEMP]
acceleration = 1
acceleration.earliest_time = -1w
```



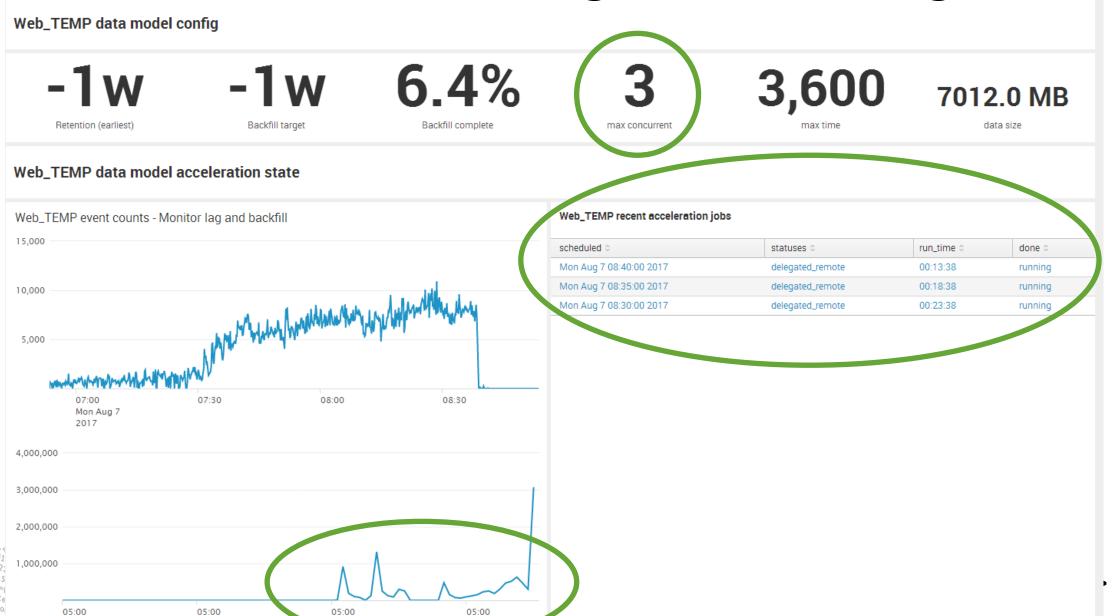
Understanding DM Backfilling

Dashboard
Source
included!



Mon Jul 24

Understanding DM Backfilling



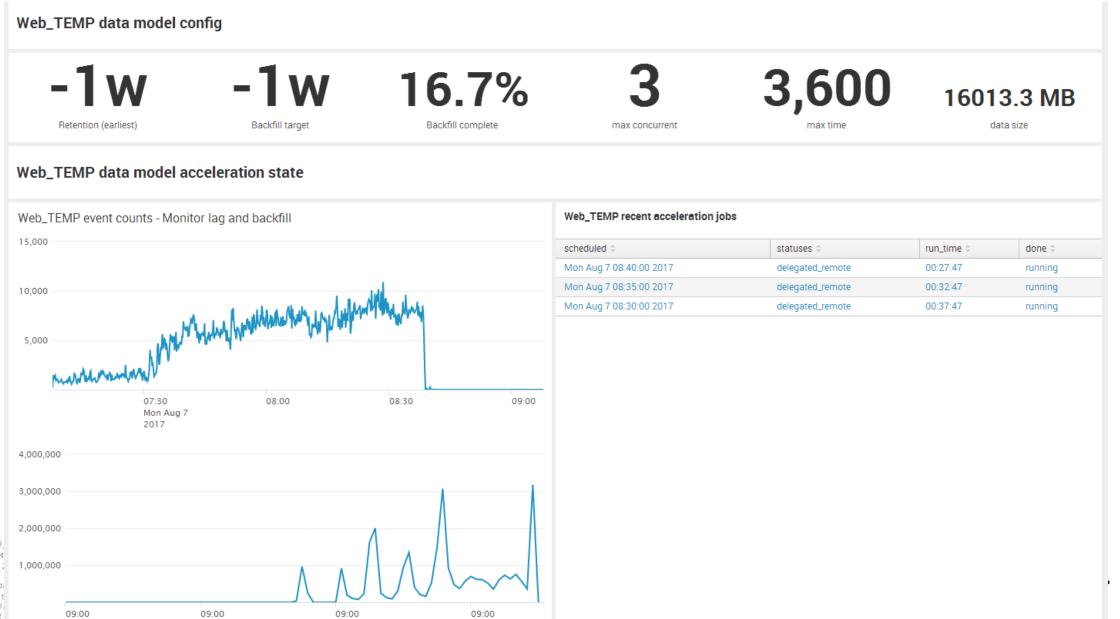
Mon Jul 24

Fri Jul 28

Tue Aug 1

Sat Aug 5



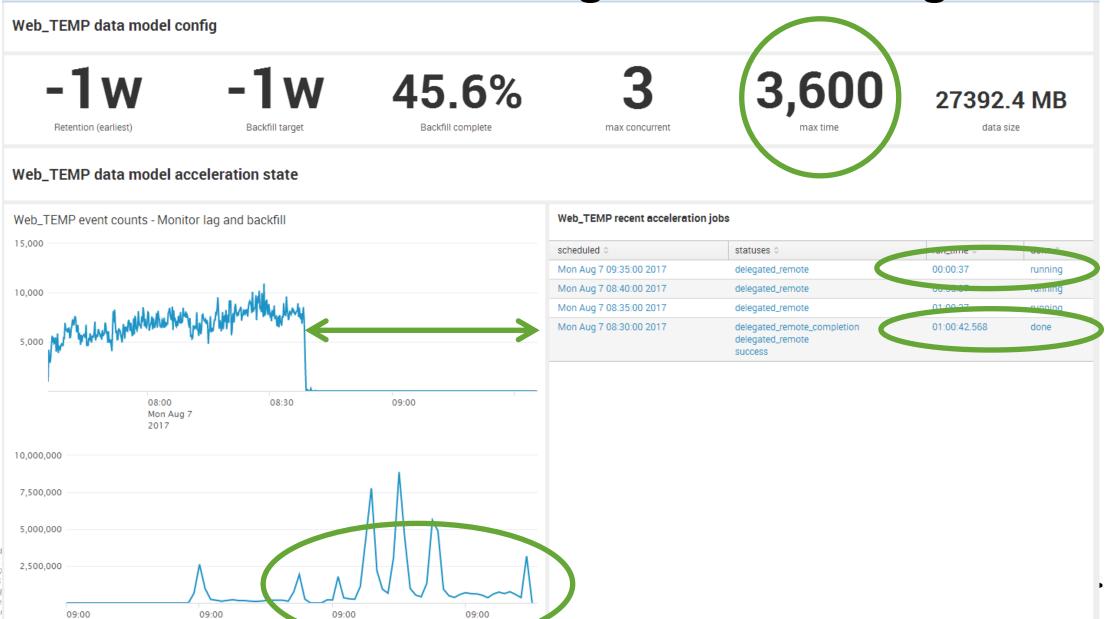


Sat Aug 5

Fri Jul 28

Tue Aug 1





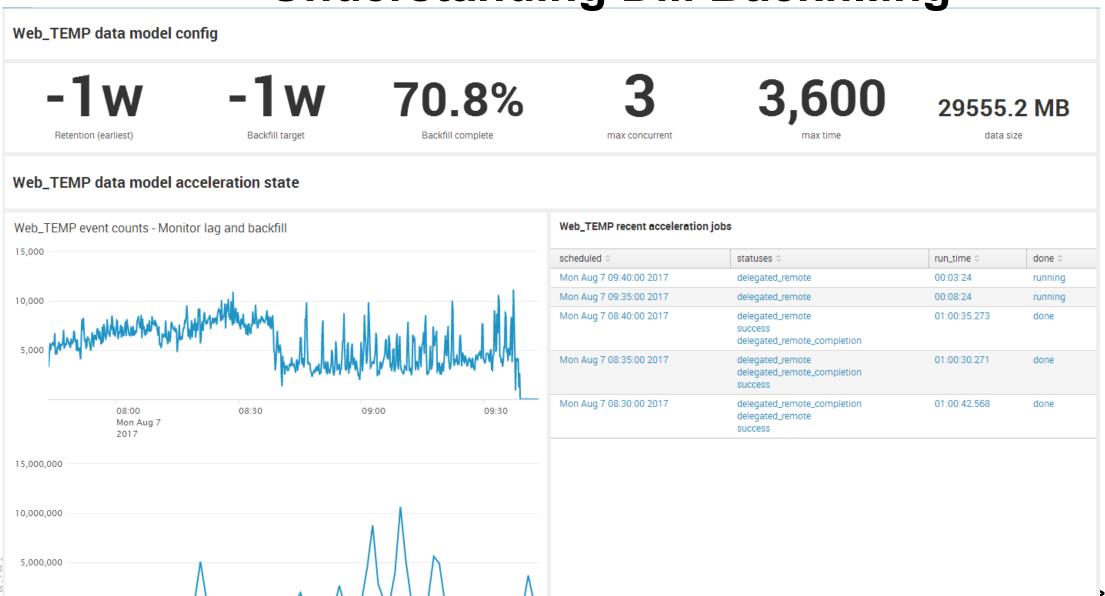
Mon Jul 24

Fri Jul 28

Tue Aug 1

Sat Aug 5





09:00

Mon Jul 24

09:00

Fri Jul 28

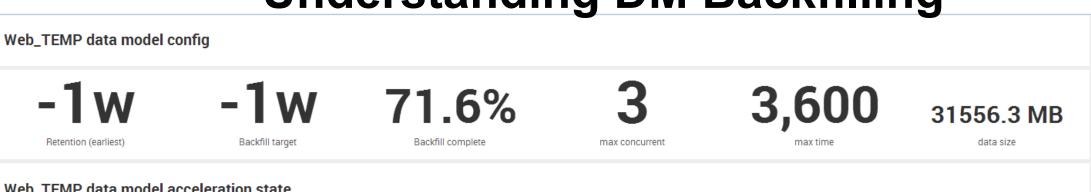
09:00

Tue Aug 1

09:00

Sat Aug 5





Web_TEMP data model acceleration state





done :

running

running

running

done

done

done



09:00

Mon Jul 24

09:00

Fri Jul 28

09:00

Tue Aug 1

09:00

Sat Aug 5





-1w

Retention (earliest)

-1w

97.9%

Backfill complete

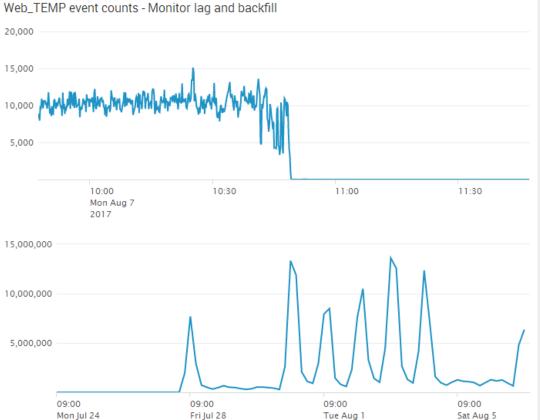
3

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

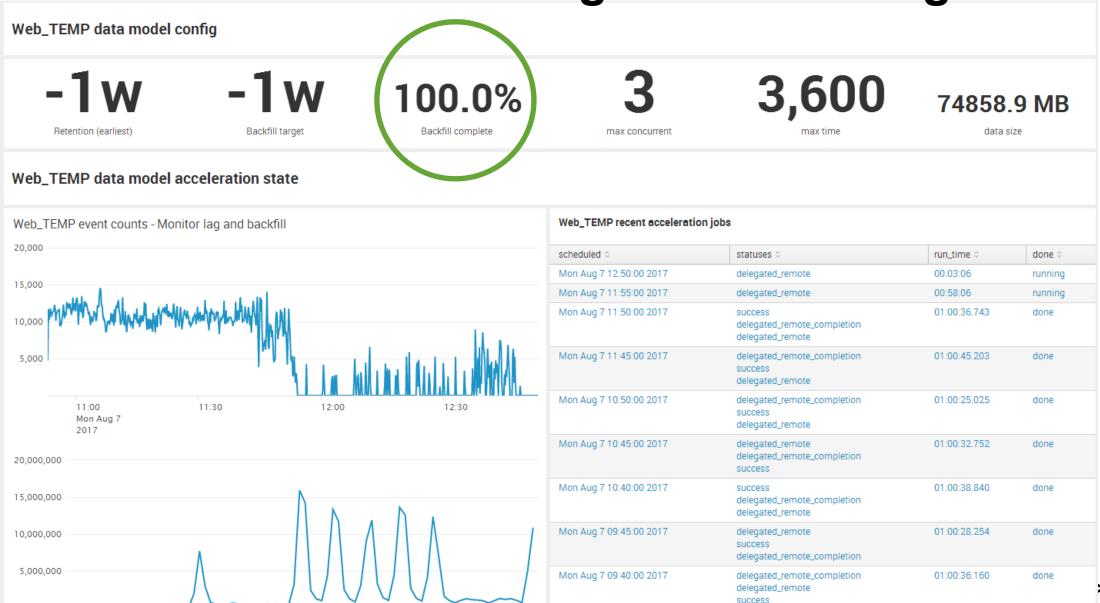
3,600

64577.9 MB



cheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
lon Aug 7 11:45:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:02:21	running
lon Aug 7 10:50:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:57:21	running
lon Aug 7 10:45:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:32.752	done
on Aug 7 10:40:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:38.840	done
lon Aug 7 09:45:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:28.254	done
lon Aug 7 09:40:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	01:00:36.160	done
lon Aug 7 09:35:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote success	01:00:35.933	done
lon Aug 7 08:40:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:35.273	done
lon Aug 7 08:35:00 2017	delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion success	01:00:30.271	done
lon Aug 7 08:30:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion	01:00:42.568	done





Mon Aug 7 09:35:00 2017

success

delegated_remote_completion

09:00

Sat Aug 5

Tue Aug 1

09:00

Mon Iul 24

09:00

Fri lul 28



01:00:35.933

done

Web_TEMP data model config

-1w

Retention (earliest)

-1w

99.7%

Backfill complete

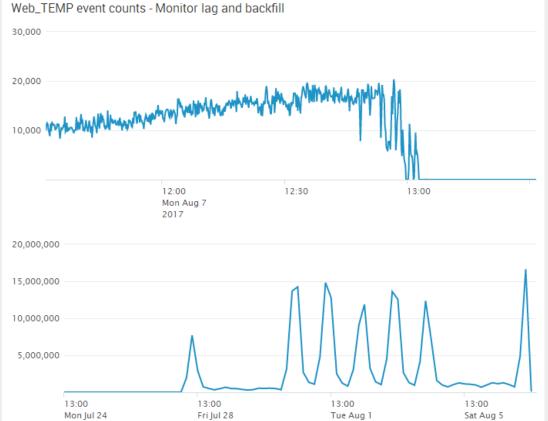
3

max concurrent

Web TEMP recent acceleration jobs

3,600

80793.5 MB



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Mon Aug 7 13:00:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:31:32	running
Mon Aug 7 12:55:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:36:32	running
Mon Aug 7 12:50:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:41:32	running
Mon Aug 7 11:55:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:34.854	done
Mon Aug 7 11:50:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:36.743	done
Mon Aug 7 11:45:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:45.203	done
Mon Aug 7 10:50:00 2017	delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion success	01:00:25.025	done
Mon Aug 7 10:45:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	01:00:32.752	done
Mon Aug 7 10:40:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:38.840	done
Mon Aug 7 09:45:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:28.254	done





-1w

-1w

99.6%

3

3,600

81794.1 MB

Retention (earliest)

Backfill target

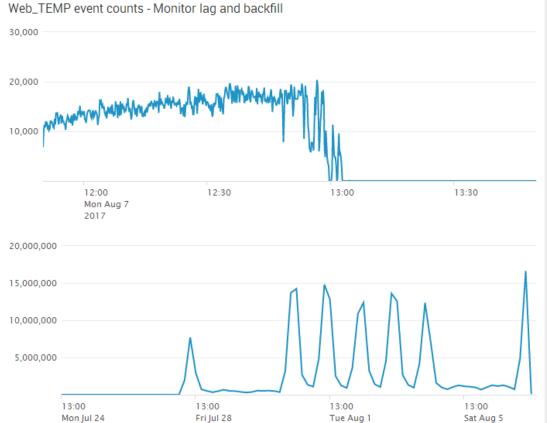
Backfill complete

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

max time

data size



cheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Mon Aug 7 13:00:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:50:05	running
Mon Aug 7 12:55:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:55:05	running
Mon Aug 7 12:50:00 2017	delegated_remote	01:00:05	running
Mon Aug 7 11:55:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:34.854	done
Mon Aug 7 11:50:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:36.743	done
/lon Aug 7 11:45:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:45.203	done
/lon Aug 7 10:50:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote success	01:00:25.025	done
/lon Aug 7 10:45:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:32.752	done
/lon Aug 7 10:40:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:38.840	done
Mon Aug 7 09:45:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:28.254	done





-1w

Retention (earliest)

-1w

100.0%

Backfill complete

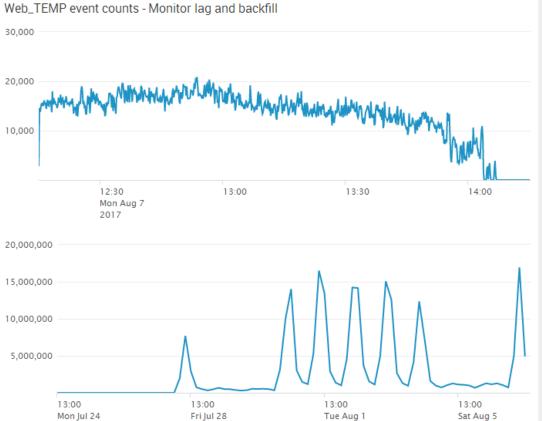
3

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

3,600

85477.0 MB



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Mon Aug 7 14:05:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:10:08	running
Mon Aug 7 14:00:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:15:08	running
Mon Aug 7 13:55:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:20:08	running
Mon Aug 7 13:00:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote success	01:00:27.755	done
Mon Aug 7 12:55:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:36.166	done
Mon Aug 7 12:50:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:45.038	done
Mon Aug 7 11:55:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:34.854	done
Mon Aug 7 11:50:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:36.743	done
Mon Aug 7 11:45:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:45.203	done
Mon Aug 7 10:50:00 2017	delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion success	01:00:25.025	done







Retention (earliest)

Web_TEMP data model config

100.0%

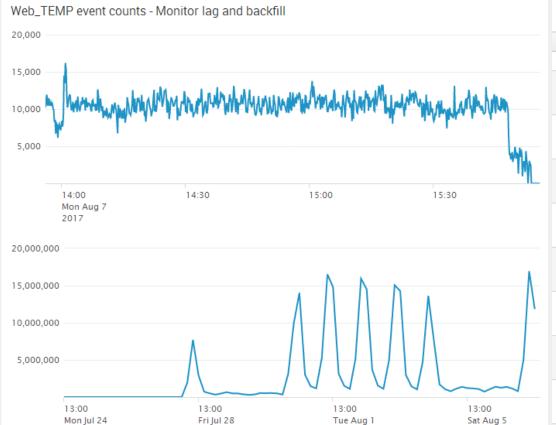
Backfill complete

max concurrent

3,600

92742.9 MB

data size



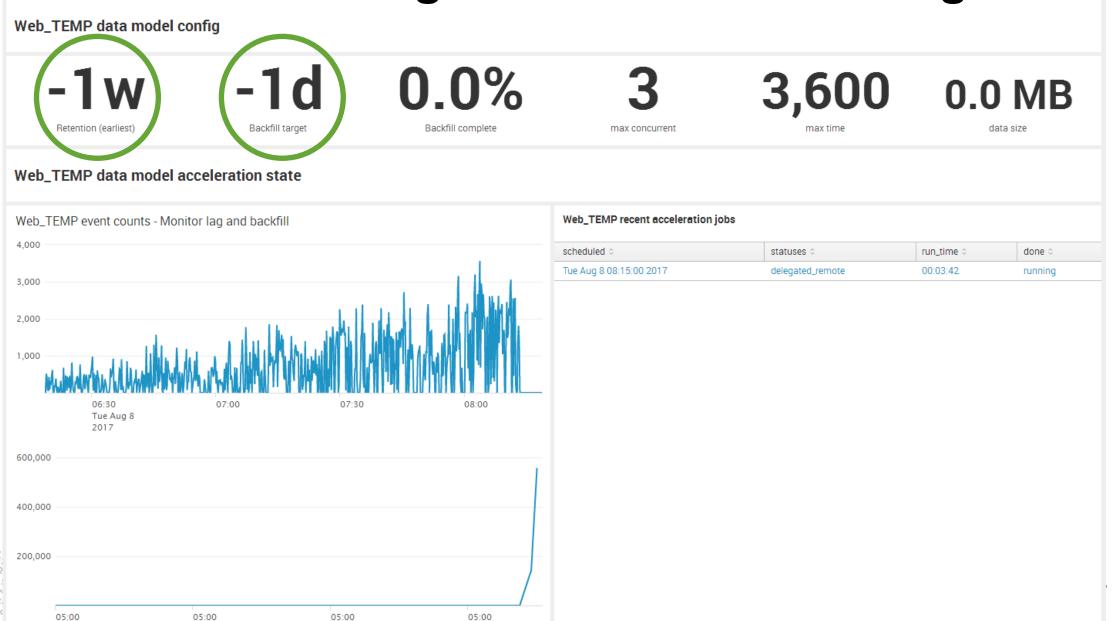
scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Mon Aug 7 15:55:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:01:00	running
Mon Aug 7 15:50:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	00:04:04.099	done
Mon Aug 7 15:45:00 2017	delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion success	00:06:22.033	done
Mon Aug 7 15:40:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	00:03:08.203	done
Mon Aug 7 15:35:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:03:31.414	done
Mon Aug 7 15:30:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	00:03:27.861	done
Mon Aug 7 15:25:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:07:07.885	done
Mon Aug 7 15:15:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	00:04:22.531	done
Mon Aug 7 15:10:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion success delegated_remote	00:15:11.326	done



▶ In datamodels.conf:

```
[Web_TEMP]
acceleration = 1
acceleration.earliest_time = -1w
acceleration.backfill_time = -1d
```





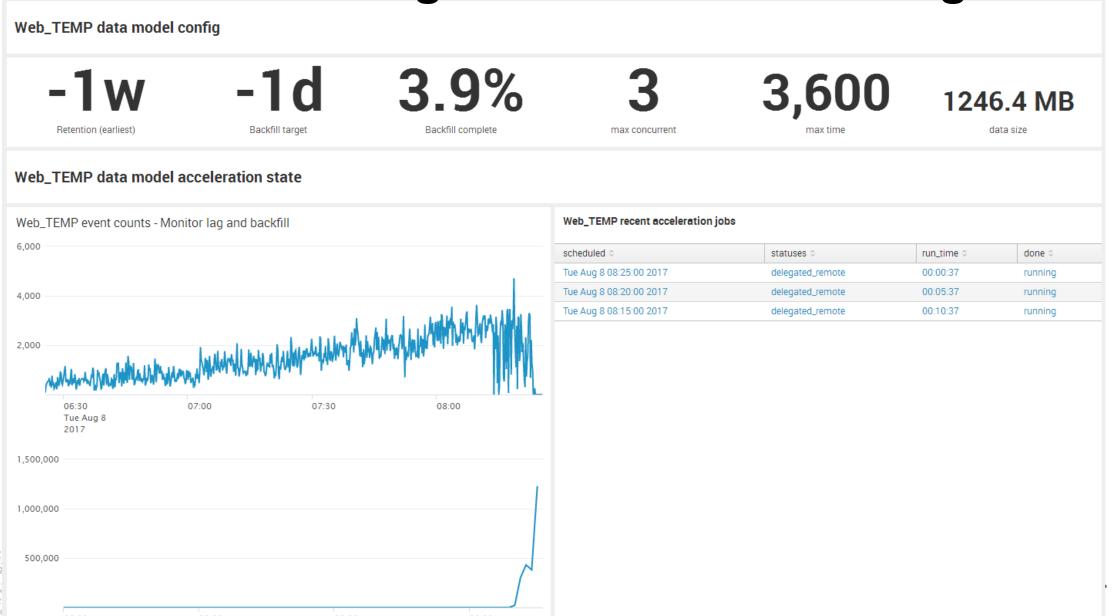
Sun Aug 6

Sat Jul 29

Tue Jul 25

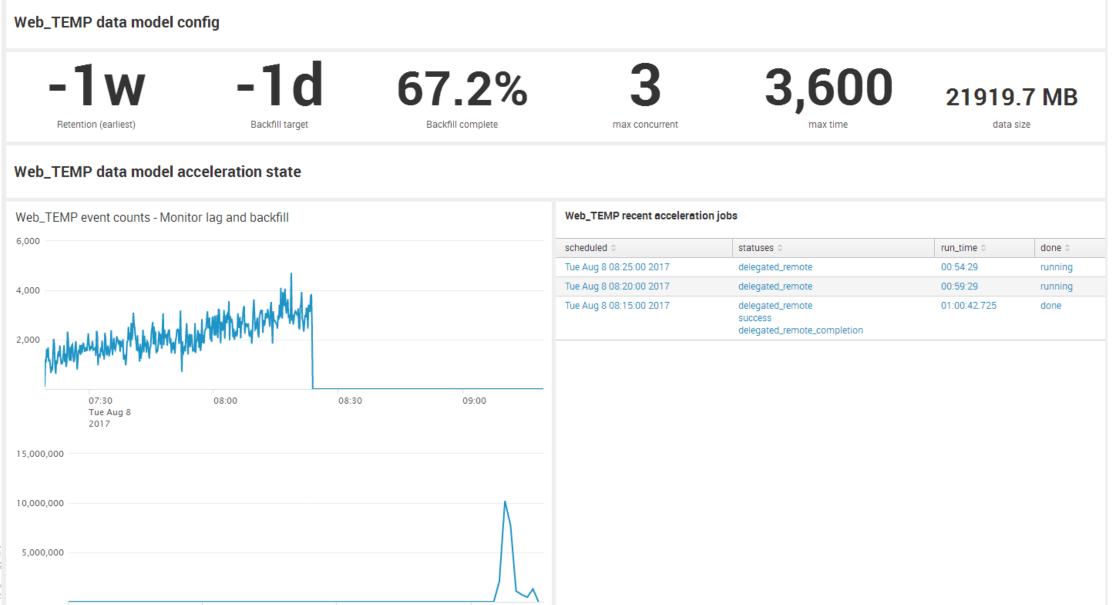
Wed Aug 2





Sun Aug 6





09:00

Tue lul 25

09:00

Sat Iul 29

09:00

Wed Aug 2

09:00

Sun Aua 6





-1w

Retention (earliest)

-1d

Backfill target

79.3%

Backfill complete

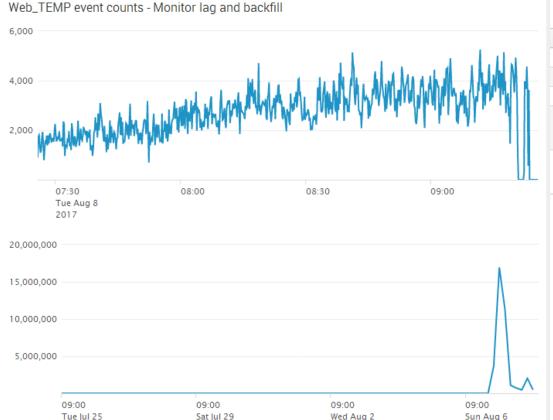
3

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

3,600

22514.0 MB



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Tue Aug 8 09:25:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:00:42	running
Tue Aug 8 09:20:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:05:42	running
Tue Aug 8 08:25:00 2017	delegated_remote	01:00:42	running
Tue Aug 8 08:20:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:36.010	done
Tue Aug 8 08:15:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:42.725	done



Web_TEMP data model config

-1w

-1d

95.8%

3

3,600

31559.2 MB

Retention (earliest)

Backfill target

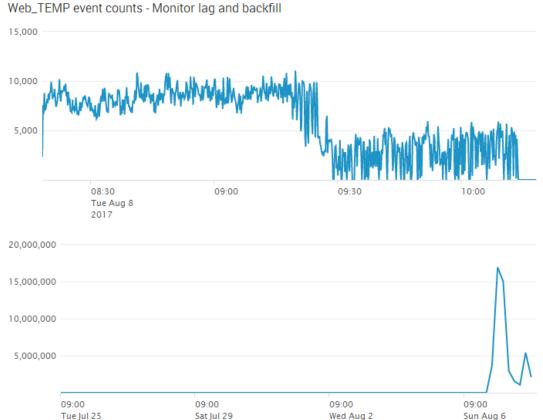
Backfill complete

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

max time

data size



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Tue Aug 8 10:15:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:03:17	running
Tue Aug 8 09:30:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:48:17	running
Tue Aug 8 09:25:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:53:17	running
Tue Aug 8 09:20:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:51:42.094	done
Tue Aug 8 08:25:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion success delegated_remote	01:00:32.226	done
Tue Aug 8 08:20:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:36.010	done
Tue Aug 8 08:15:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:42.725	done







-1w

Retention (earliest)

-1d

100.0%

Backfill complete

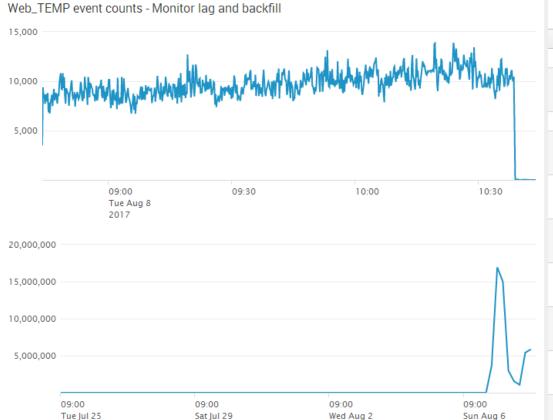
3

max concurrent

3,600

33148.6 MB

data size



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Tue Aug 8 10:40:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:03:56	running
Tue Aug 8 10:35:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:03:46.529	done
Tue Aug 8 10:30:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:13:56	running
Tue Aug 8 10:15:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	00:21:17.056	done
Tue Aug 8 09:30:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	00:55:19.804	done
Tue Aug 8 09:25:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	01:00:34.957	done
Tue Aug 8 09:20:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:51:42.094	done
Tue Aug 8 08:25:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	01:00:32.226	done
Tue Aug 8 08:20:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	01:00:36.010	done
Tue Aug 8 08:15:00 2017	delegated_remote success	01:00:42.725	done



▶ In datamodels.conf:

```
Web TEMP]
acceleration = 1
acceleration.earliest time = -1w
acceleration.backfill time = -1d
acceleration.max time = 900
```





-1w

-1d

0.0%

3

900

0.0 MB

Retention (earliest)

Backfill target

Backfill complete

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

scheduled:

Tue Aug 8 12:55:00 2017

max time

statuses

delegated_remote

data size

done 0

running

Web_TEMP data model acceleration state

Web_TEMP event counts - Monitor lag and backfill

No results found.

No results found.

run_time

00:01:43



Web_TEMP data model config

-1w

Retention (earliest)

-1d

5.7%

Backfill complete

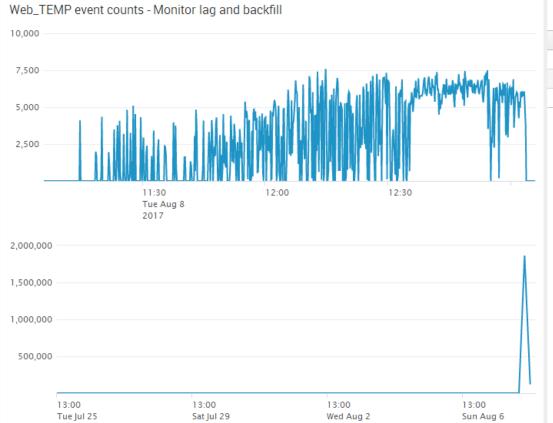
3

max concurrent

900

1896.7 MB

data size



Web_I EMP recent acceleration jobs			
scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Tue Aug 8 13:05:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:00:55	running
Tue Aug 8 13:00:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:05:55	running
Tue Aug 8 12:55:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:10:55	running



Web_TEMP data model config

-1w

-1d

15.3%

3

900

5081.7 MB

Retention (earliest)

Backfill target

Backfill complete

max concurrent

max time

data size



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Tue Aug 8 13:05:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:09:49	running
Tue Aug 8 13:00:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:14:49	running
Tue Aug 8 12:55:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion success delegated_remote	00:15:33.225	done



Web_TEMP data model config

-1w

-1d

28.8%

3

900

7243.0 MB

Retention (earliest)

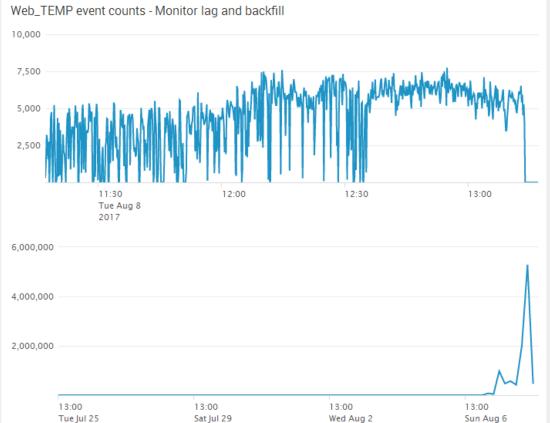
Backfill target

Backfill complete

max concurrent

max time

data size



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Tue Aug 8 13:15:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:02:06	running
Tue Aug 8 13:05:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:12:06	running
Tue Aug 8 13:00:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	00:15:29.185	done
Tue Aug 8 12:55:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:15:33.225	done



Web_TEMP data model config

-1w

-1d

53.8%

3

900

9509.0 MB

Retention (earliest)

Backfill target

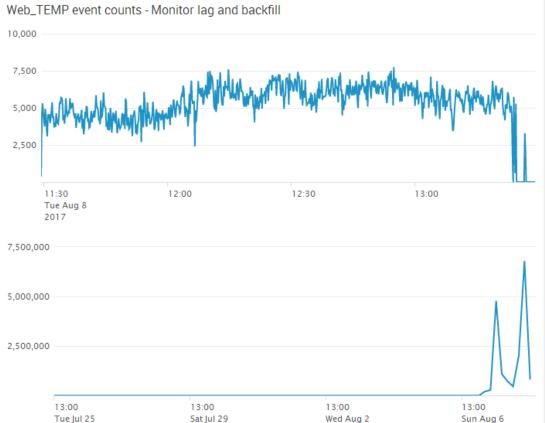
Backfill complete

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

max time

data size



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Tue Aug 8 13:25:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:04:19	running
Tue Aug 8 13:20:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:09:19	running
Tue Aug 8 13:15:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:14:19	running
Tue Aug 8 13:05:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:15:24.075	done
Tue Aug 8 13:00:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	00:15:29.185	done
Tue Aug 8 12:55:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:15:33.225	done



Web_TEMP data model config

-1w

-1d

60.1%

3

900

12669.1 MB

Retention (earliest)

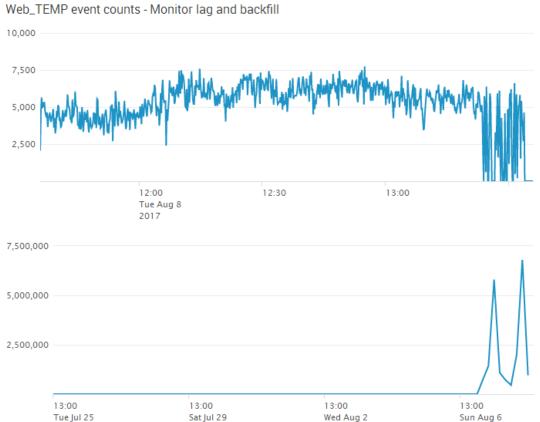
Backfill target

Backfill complete

max concurrent

max time

data size



cheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
ue Aug 8 13:35:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:00:56	running
ue Aug 8 13:25:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:10:56	running
ue Aug 8 13:20:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:15:56	running
Tue Aug 8 13:15:00 2017	delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion success	00:15:29.881	done
Tue Aug 8 13:05:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:15:24.075	done
ue Aug 8 13:00:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	00:15:29.185	done
ue Aug 8 12:55:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:15:33.225	done



Web_TEMP data model config

-1w

-1d

90.4%

3

900

14777.6 MB

Retention (earliest)

Backfill target

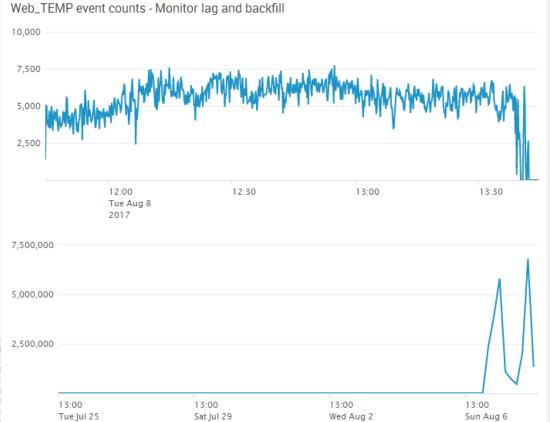
Backfill complete

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

max time

data size



cheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
ue Aug 8 13:40:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:04:37	running
ue Aug 8 13:35:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:09:37	running
ue Aug 8 13:25:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote success	00:15:33.947	done
ue Aug 8 13:20:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	00:15:35.357	done
ue Aug 8 13:15:00 2017	delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion success	00:15:29.881	done
ue Aug 8 13:05:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:15:24.075	done
ue Aug 8 13:00:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	00:15:29.185	done
ue Aug 8 12:55:00 2017	success delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion	00:15:33.225	done



Web_TEMP data model config

-1w

-1d

90.5%

3

900

17035.2 MB

Retention (earliest)

Backfill target

Backfill complete

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

max time

data size



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Tue Aug 8 13:55:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:02:02	running
Tue Aug 8 13:45:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:12:02	running
Tue Aug 8 13:40:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:15:34.541	done
Tue Aug 8 13:35:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion success delegated_remote	00:15:38.147	done
Tue Aug 8 13:25:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote success	00:15:33.947	done
Tue Aug 8 13:20:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	00:15:35.357	done
Tue Aug 8 13:15:00 2017	delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion success	00:15:29.881	done
Tue Aug 8 13:05:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:15:24.075	done
Tue Aug 8 13:00:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion success delegated_remote	00:15:29.185	done
Tue Aug 8 12:55:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:15:33.225	done



Web_TEMP data model config



-1w

Retention (earliest)

-1d

Backfill target

95.2%

Backfill complete

3

max concurrent

Web_TEMP recent acceleration jobs

900

max time

19032.5 MB

data size



scheduled 0	statuses 0	run_time 0	done 0
Tue Aug 8 14:05:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:03:34	running
Tue Aug 8 14:00:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:08:34	running
Tue Aug 8 13:55:00 2017	delegated_remote	00:13:34	running
Tue Aug 8 13:45:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	00:15:31.668	done
Tue Aug 8 13:40:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion success delegated_remote	00:15:34.541	done
Tue Aug 8 13:35:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion success delegated_remote	00:15:38.147	done
Tue Aug 8 13:25:00 2017	delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote success	00:15:33.947	done
Tue Aug 8 13:20:00 2017	delegated_remote success delegated_remote_completion	00:15:35.357	done
Tue Aug 8 13:15:00 2017	delegated_remote delegated_remote_completion success	00:15:29.881	done
Tue Aug 8 13:05:00 2017	success delegated_remote_completion delegated_remote	00:15:24.075	done



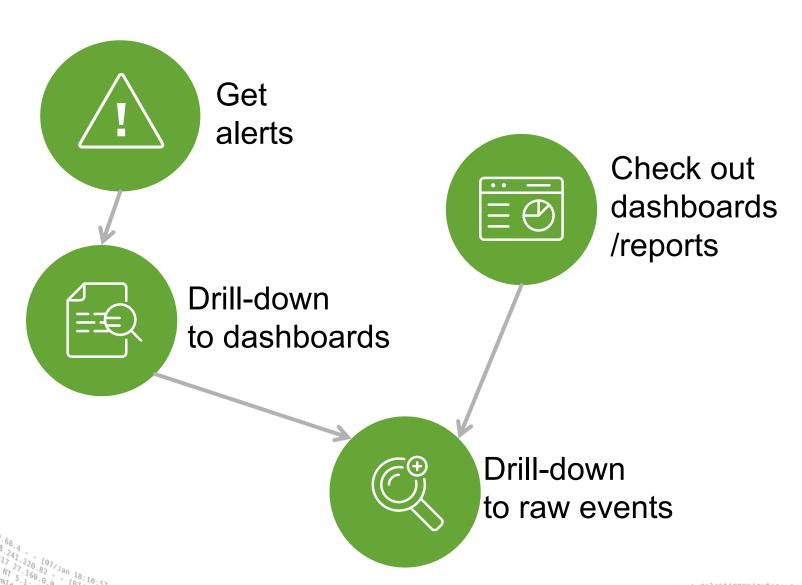


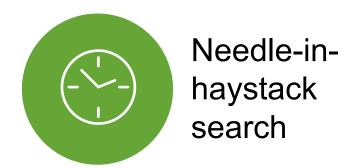
The Big Picture

Accuracy, Load & Data Models



What Do People Really Want?







Accuracy, Load & Data Models DM **Correlation searches** summaries notable events drill down to dashboard drill down to raw kg DM acceleration

RAW DATA

sources

needle-in-haystack kg kg kg









Healthy sources

- Accurate time (NTP)
 - Accurate TZ
 - ▶ No lag

sources

No rubbish







needle-in-haystack kg kg kg

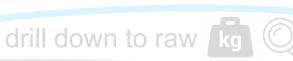
DM acceleration







drill down to dashboard









notable events



Scheduler

DM summaries

Correlation searches



drill down to dashboard

sources



RAW DATA

Healthy index-time

- Accurate timestamp extraction
- Accurate event breaking
- Accurate routing (index & sourcetype)











Healthy search-time Correlation searches

- CIM-compliant field extractions
- CIM-compliant eventtypes & tags



Healthy acceleration

Timely acceleration searches (no lag)



DM acceleration



needle-in-haystack







DM summaries

Correlation searches

notable events

drill down to dashboard

drill down to raw





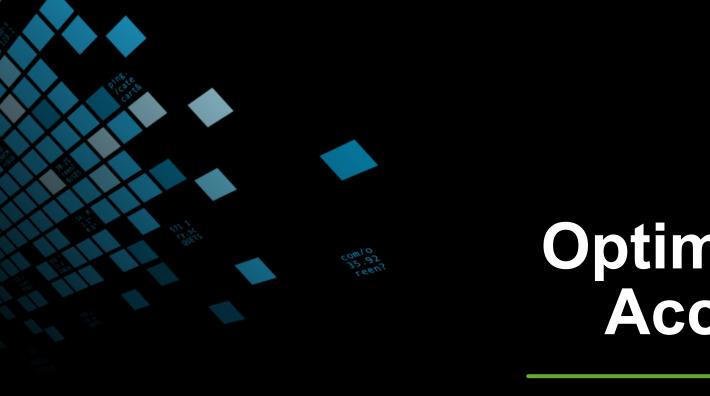


- tstats summariesonly=t
- (15s VS 1s, matters if ran every 5 min.)
 - Targeted raw data drilldowns





sources



Optimizing DM Acceleration



Update a DM Without Rebuilding

datamodels.conf

```
[Web_TEMP]
acceleration = 1
acceleration.earliest_time = -1w
acceleration.backfill_time = -1d
acceleration.max_time = 900
acceleration.max_time = 900
```

limits.conf

```
[tstats]
allow_old_summaries = true
```

- Splunk Web doesn't let you change an accelerated DM :-(
- Turning off the acceleration and back on again may trigger a rebuild anyway



Update a DM Without Rebuilding

1. Ensure acceleration is 100% up to date

```
Malware.json

"modelName": "Malware",
   "displayName": "Malware",
   ... + custom changes...
```

2. Clone DM via web UI

5. Manually cp clone to overwrite original

6. Delete clone via web UI

```
Malware clone2.json

"modelName": "Malware",
   "displayName": "Malware",
   ...+ custom changes...
```

4. Manually cp and edit modelName & displayName

```
Malware clone.json

"modelName": "Malware clone",
   "displayName": "Malware clone",
   ...
```

3. Implement changes via web UI to benefit from validation

```
Malware clone.json

"modelName": "Malware clone",
   "displayName": "Malware clone",
   ... + custom changes ...
```



Optimize Constraint – Optimize Tags/Eventtypes

tag=malware tag=attack

- ▶ Look at eventtypes and tags to narrow them down
 - Remove eventtypes that you know will never happen in your data
 - Tweak eventtypes to make them faster
 - Painstaking! Only if you know what you're doing!

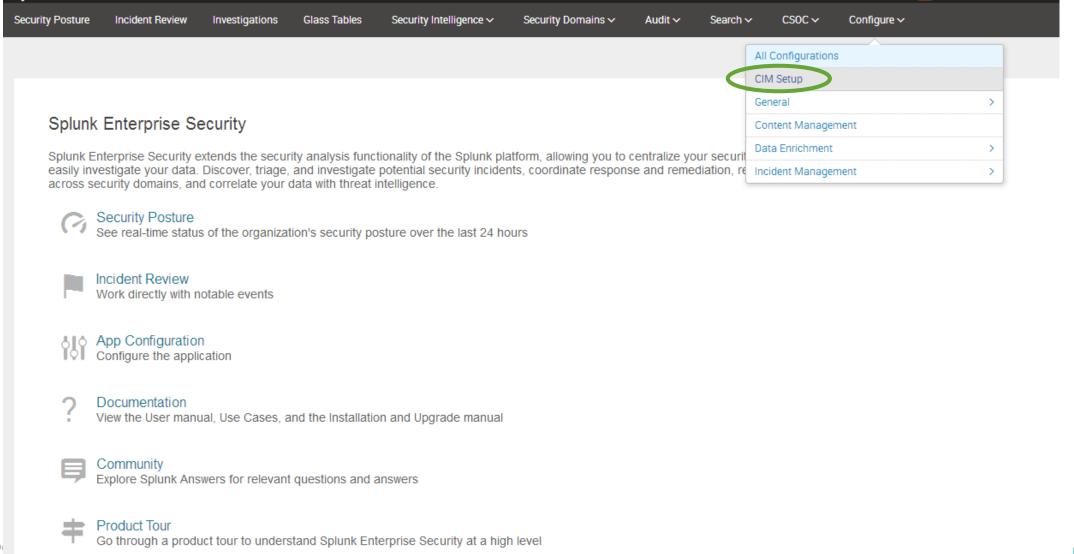


- Remember when I said the constraint for the Malware DM is this? tag=malware tag=attack
- ▶ I lied! It's actually:

```
`cim_Malware_indexes` tag=malware tag=attack
```

- ► The CIM setup page sets that macro
- For other non splunk_SA_CIM DMs, you must manually edit the constraint in the same spirit







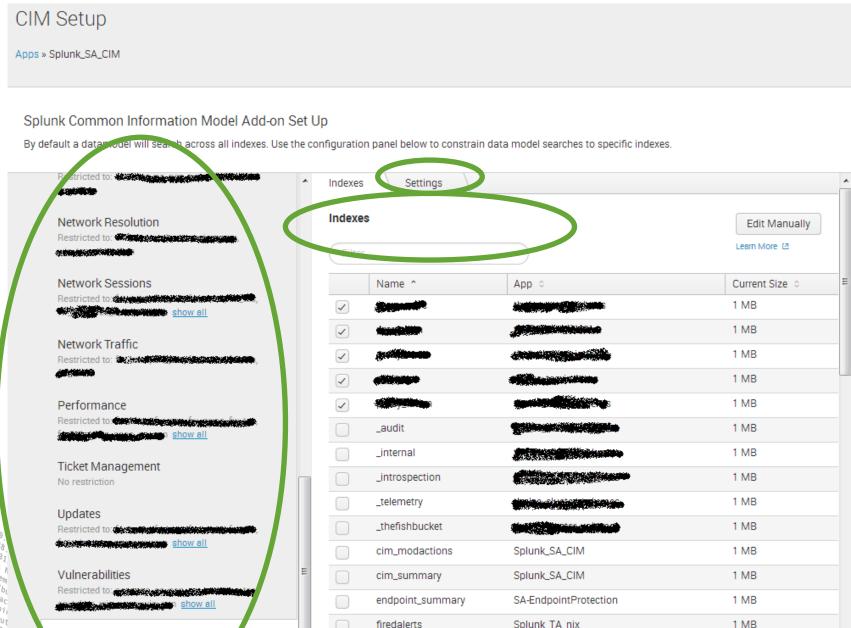
Apps

Browse more apps

Showing 1-77 of 77 items Results per

Name \$	Folder name \$	Version \$	Update checking \$	Visible \$	Sharing ¢	Status \$	Actions
Othales_system_local	Othales_system_local		Yes	No	App Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
CSOC Reporting	CSOC_Reporting	0.1	Yes	Yes	App Permissions	Enabled	Launch app Edit properties View objects
DA-ESS-AccessProtection	DA-ESS-AccessProtection	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
DA-ESS-EndpointProtection	DA-ESS-EndpointProtection	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
DA-ESS-IdentityManagement	DA-ESS-Identity Management	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
DA-ESS-NetworkProtection	DA-ESS-NetworkProtection	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
DA-ESS-ThreatIntelligence	DA-ESS-ThreatIntelligence	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
SA-AccessProtection	SA-AccessProtection	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
SA-AuditAndDataProtection	SA-AuditAndDataProtection	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
SA-EndpointProtection	SA-EndpointProtection	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
SA-IdentityManagement	SA-Identity Management	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
SA-NetworkProtection	SA-NetworkProtection	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
SA-ThalesMigratedSearch	SA-ThalesMigratedSearch		Yes	No	App Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
SA-ThreatIntelligence	SA-ThreatIntelligence	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
SA-UEBA	SA-UEBA	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Disabled	
SA-Utils	SA-Utils	4.7.1	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Edit properties View objects
Enterprise Security	SplunkEnterpriseSecuritySuite	4.7.1	Yes	Yes	Global Permissions	Enabled	Set up Launch app Edit properties View objects View details on SplunkApps
SplunkForwarder	SplunkForwarder		Yes	No	App Permissions	Disabled	
SplunkLightForwarder	SplunkLightForwarder		Yes	No	App Permissions	Disabled	
Splunk Common Information Model	Splunk_SA_CIM	4.8.0	Yes	No	Global Permissions	Enabled	Set up dit properties View objects View details on SplunkApps
Extreme Search	Splunk_SA_ExtremeSearch	2.4.1	Yes	Yes	Global Permissions	Enabled	Launch app Edit properties View objects





- Don't put all your data in the same index
- ► (nor in hundreds!)



The Default VS Local Problem

▶ Let's start the story with version A of the Malware data model:

/opt/splunk/etc/apps/Splunk_SA_CIM/default/data/models/Malware.json

```
constraint: tag=malware tag=attack
fields: ...

A ....
```



The Default VS Local Problem

▶ One day we add a field to the data model, creating version A*:

/opt/splunk/etc/apps/Splunk_SA_CIM/default/data/models/Malware.json

```
constraint: tag=malware tag=attack
fields: ...

A ....
```

/opt/splunk/etc/apps/Splunk_SA_CIM/local/data/models/Malware.json

```
constraint: tag=malware tag=attack
fields: ... + custom field
....
```



The Default VS Local Problem

▶ Later we upgrade Splunk_SA_CIM from version A to version B:

/opt/splunk/etc/apps/Splunk_SA_CIM/default/data/models/Malware.json

```
constraint: `cim_Malware_indexes` tag=malware tag=attack fields: ...

B ....
```

/opt/splunk/etc/apps/Splunk_SA_CIM/local/data/models/Malware.json

```
constraint: tag=malware tag=attack
fields: ... + custom field
....
```

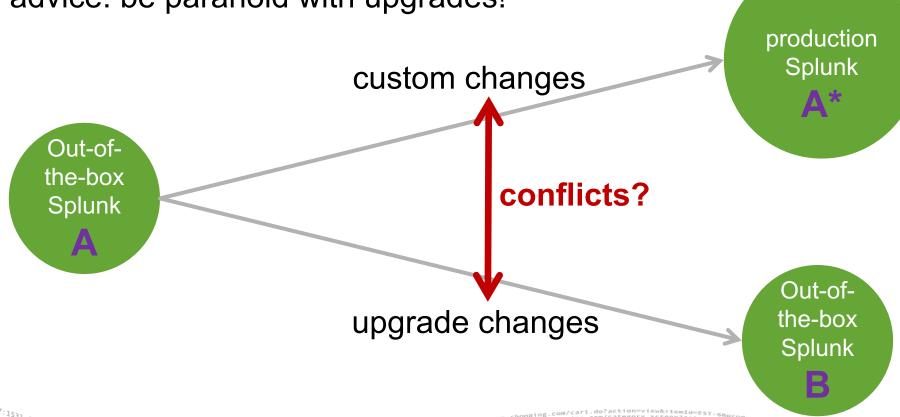


The Default VS Local Solution

▶ The advice you hear: "clone before you modify"

I don't see the point as it doesn't solve the problem

▶ My advice: be paranoid with upgrades!





Other Optimization

- ▶ Disable DM acceleration for DM you don't use (duh!)
 - Warning: they can come back to life automatically: https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/ES/4.7.2/Install/Datamodels#Data_model_acceleration_enforcement
- Don't enable DM acceleration on all your search heads (or move to SHC!)
- ► Reduce cardinality in DM:
 - E.g. session ID in network traffic
- Tweak retention:
 - Performance impact is small, space impact is potentially big

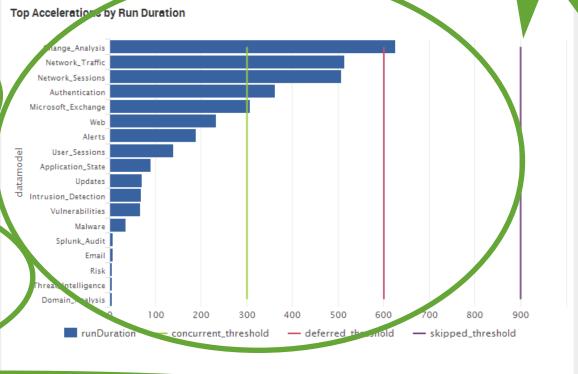


Monitoring Skipped Searches

Dashboard Source included!







ame ¢	status 0	reason \$	savedsearch_name
2017-08-02 14:30:36.964	skipped	The maximum number of concurrent auto-summarization searches on this cluster has been reached	_ACCELERATE_3069342D-2303-47C1-9C49-F47C14443597_nmon_admin_823b7abf6ee6821d_ACCELERATE_
2517-08-02 14:30:36.963	skipped	The maximum number of concurrent auto-summarization searches on this cluster has been reached	_ACCELERATE_DM_DA-ESS-ThreatIntelligence_Threat_Intelligence_ACCELERATE_
2017-08-02 14.56.25 061	skipped	The maximum number of concurrent auto-summarization searches on this cluster has been reached	_ACCELERATE_3069342D-2303-47C1-9C49-F47C14443597_nmon_admin_823b7abf6ee6931accELERATE_
2017-08-02 14:30:35.961	skipped	The number of concurrent auto-summarization searches on this cluster has been reached	ACCELERATE DM DA-ESS-ThreatIntelligence Threat Intelligence Threat



Lo. "Pr. "VEX.: "VIII/A: "VIII/A: "4(3) 17 4, """"! LVIII IN=ENT_JERICESCTINNID=DDJDLJI = """ ADDITE IN THE CONTROL OF THE CON

Reducing Skipped Searches

- ► Consider increasing quota of scheduled OR auto-summary searches (last resort!)
 - limits.conf:

```
[scheduler]
max_searches_perc = 50
max_auto_summary_searches = 50
```

- ► Careful: this might affect non-summary searches negatively!
- Careful: don't allow a powerful Search Head tier to overwhelm a struggling Indexer tier



Last Word: Protect Your Accuracy

- ► Enable data summary replication on your indexer cluster
 - Not default, but recommended by splunk
 - Don't do it for performance, do it for accuracy!
 - https://conf.splunk.com/files/2016/slides/replication-of-summary-data-in-indexer-cluster.pdf
 - In server.conf on Cluster Master :

```
[clustering]
summary_replication=true
```

- ► Consider increasing max_concurrent for a lagging DM:
 - In datamodels.conf:

```
acceleration.max concurrent = 3
```

Only do so if you have spare resources! (last-ish resort)

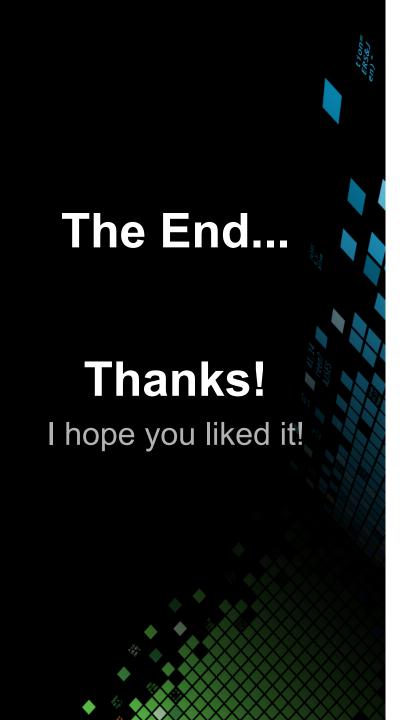


Want To Tinker More?

- ► That's all for Data Model Acceleration!
- ► There is a lot more you should do to optimize everything else in splunk (see further reading)







- 1. Slides and recording available on http://conf.splunk.com/sessions/2017-sessions.html in a few weeks
- 2. Slides available **now** if you email me at <u>gabriel.vasseur@uk.thalesgroup.com</u> Includes **source code** & **further reading!**
- 3. Rate this session in the app :-)
- 4. Poke me on the .conf app if you want to hang out!



Thank You

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



Thank You

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



Further Reading



On Data Models

► Acceleration docs

http://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/Splunk/latest/Knowledge/Acceleratedatamodels

► ES & Data Models docs

https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/ES/4.7.2/Install/Datamodels

conf 2016 talk @ http://conf.splunk.com/sessions/2016-sessions.html

"The power of data normalization: a look at CIM under the hood"

Mark Bonsack & Vladimir Skoryk



On Searches

conf 2016 talks @ http://conf.splunk.com/sessions/2016-sessions.html

► "Behind the magnifying glass: how search works" Jeff Champagne

► "How to scale: from _raw to tstats"

David Veuve

► "Fields, indexed tokens and you"
Martin Muller



On Optimizing Everything Else

conf 2016 talks @ http://conf.splunk.com/sessions/2016-sessions.html

- ► Jiffy-lube quick tune-up for your splunk environment Jeff Champagne & Sean Delaney
- ► Architectural anti-pattern: it seemed like a good idea at the time David Paper & Duane Waddle
- ► Worst practices and how to fix them Jeff Champagne



Source Code



Search Source

- ► Shared for inspiration only no guarantee!
- ► No support is included :-)
- But I might help if you ask kindly and I'm not crazy busy
- ▶ Works for me and my splunk setup, but your mileage may vary



Rebuild Monitor Source

```
TODO: Get the custom_decorations.css from the "Splunk 6.x Dashboard Examples" app and place it in etc/apps/YOURAPPNAMEHERE/appserver/static/
TODO: Replace any occurrence of "=Web" below with whichever DM you are using in your dashboard.
NOTE: $value_never_set$ is not supposed to be set :-)
<form stylesheet="YOURAPPNAMEHERE:custom_decorations.css">
   <row>
       <panel depends="$value never set$">
          <input type="dropdown" token="DM earliest token" searchWhenChanged="false">
                  <query>| `datamodel("Splunk Audit", "Datamodel Acceleration")` | `drop dm object name("Datamodel Acceleration")`
                               eval retention days=retention/(24*60*60) | eval DM earliest=if(retention==0,0,now()-retention)
                               table datamodel retention retention days DM earliest | eval DM earliest human=strftime(DM earliest, "%c")
                               search datamodel=Web</guery>
                  <earliest>0</earliest>
              </search>
              <fieldForLabel>DM_earliest</fieldForLabel>
              <fieldForValue>DM earliest</fieldForValue>
              <selectFirstChoice>true</selectFirstChoice>
           </input>
       </panel>
   </row>
   <row>
       <panel>
              <title>Oldest record in DM</title>
                  <query> tstats `summariesonly` min( time) as oldest from datamodel=Web | eval oldest=strftime(oldest,"%c")</query>
                  <earliest>0</earliest>
                  <latest></latest>
              <option name="height">50</option>
              <option name="drilldown">none</option>
           </single>
        </panel>
       <panel>
           <search>
              <query>| stats count as DM earliest | eval DM earliest="$DM earliest token$"
                               eval timepicker="$time_token.earliest$"
                               eval timepicker_earliest=if(match(timepicker,"^\d+$"),timepicker,relative_time(now(),timepicker))
                               eval is in range=if(timepicker earliest>=DM earliest,1,0)
                               eval is_in_range_human=if(is_in_range==1,"YES","NO")
                              rangemap field=is_in_range low=1-1 severe=0-0</query>
               <earliest>0</earliest>
                 <set token="dm_range_value">$result.is_in_range_human$</set>
                  <set token="dm_range">$result.range$</set>
           </search>
           <html>
              <div class="panel-head dashboard-element-header">
                  <h3 class="dashboard-element-title">Search within DM range?</h3>
              <div class="custom-result-value icon-only $dm range$"> </div>
           </html>
       </panel>
   </row>
             46:10:57:153] "GET /Category.screen?category_id=GIFTS&15E5SIONID=SD1SLAFF10ADFF10 HTTP 1.1" 404 720 "http://buttercup-shopping.com/cart.do?action=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viron=viro
```



Rebuild Monitor Source



Skipped Searches Status Source

```
mo
ishel>Splink - Buta Models Status(/label>
[isldest submitButton="false">
(siput type="time" taken="timepicker1">
(siput type="time" taken="timepicker1">
(siput type="time" taken="timepicker1">
(siput type="time")
(siput time")
(sefault)
(sefault)
(sigut time)
(sigut time)
                                                                                        | Head of the control of the control
```



"Don't believe everything you read on the internet."

Charles Babbage

