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Administrators Anonymous Deep Dive:

Hands-on with the Splunk Deployment Server

Interactive Workshop PLA1310C



Bring on the future.

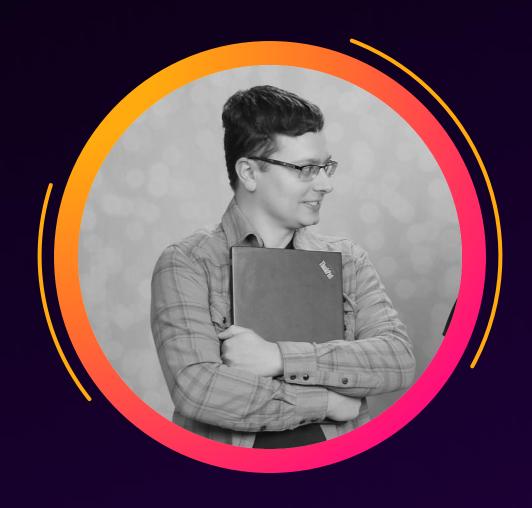


Splunk Show Link:

https://splk.it/ pla1310c

Who the heck are these guys?





Robert Palcisko

Splunk Administrator Hurricane Labs

Tom Kopchak

Director of Technical Operations
Hurricane Labs



Enough about us! Who are you?





Splunk Show

Lab Environment

Photo credit:







Splunk Show

Lab Environment

Lab Materials

Workshop instructions

Photo credit:









Splunk Show

Lab Environment

Lab Materials

Workshop instructions

Help from us

We brought our friends

Photo credit:











Splunk Show

Lab Environment

Lab Materials

Workshop instructions

Help from us

We brought our friends

Audience Participation

We're all here to learn from each other

splunk> .conf24

Photo credit:

Let's get started!

Part 1: Accessing Splunk Show

Lab 1: Accessing Splunk Show

- Log into Splunk Show and obtain your login credentials
- Access Splunk Web for your Show instance
 - Navigate to the Forwarder Management Interface
 - Confirm you see Universal Forwarders checking in
- SSH to your Show instance (via web browser)
 - SSH runs on HTTPS on port 7469 (use a web browser, NOT an SSH client)
 - Splunk Enterprise is installed in /opt/splunk
 - Universal Forwarder instances are installed in /opt/splunkforwarder<#>
 - UF #1: /opt/splunkforwarder1
 - UF #2: /opt/splunkforwarder2
 - UF #3: /opt/splunkforwarder3
 - Splunk is running as root user
- Make sure you know where you are when running commands!

Lab 1: Splunk Show Credentials

- SplunkWeb UI = admin / R3sili3nt!
- SSH = splunk / SplunkH00di3

SSH to your Splunk Show Instance!

SSH to your Show instance (via web browser)

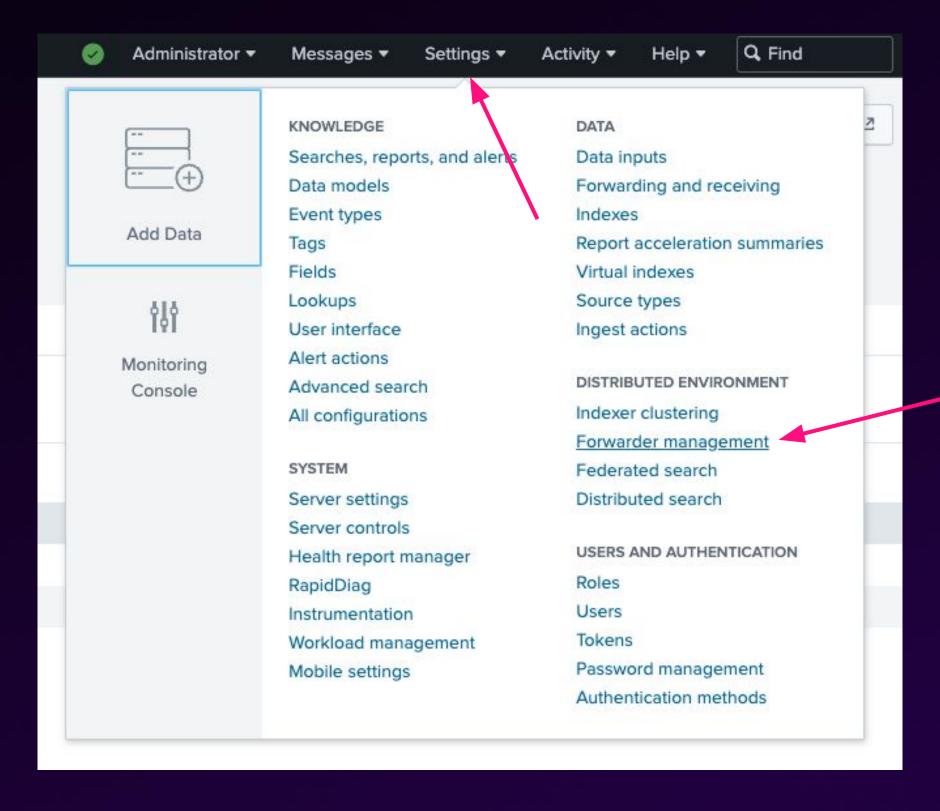
SSH runs on HTTPS on port 7469 (use a web browser, NOT an SSH client)

Switch to root user: sudo -i

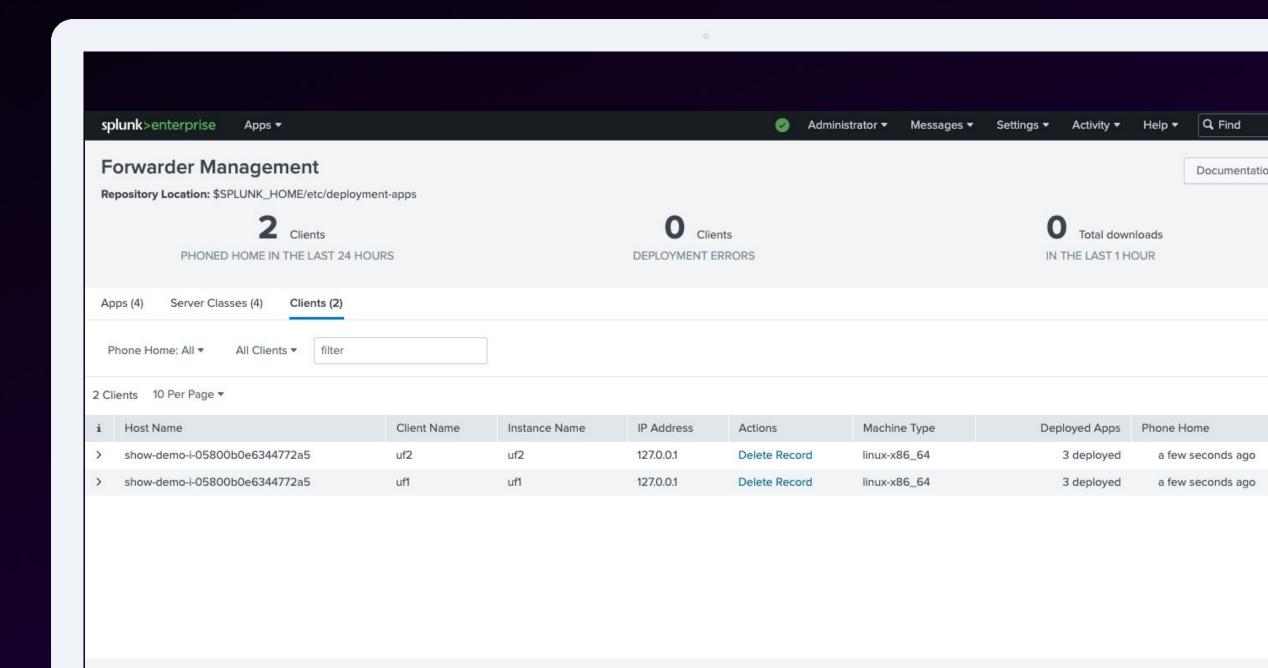
Switch to Splunk Enterprise: cd /opt/splunk/

Switch to Universal Forwarders: cd /opt/splunkforwarder1/

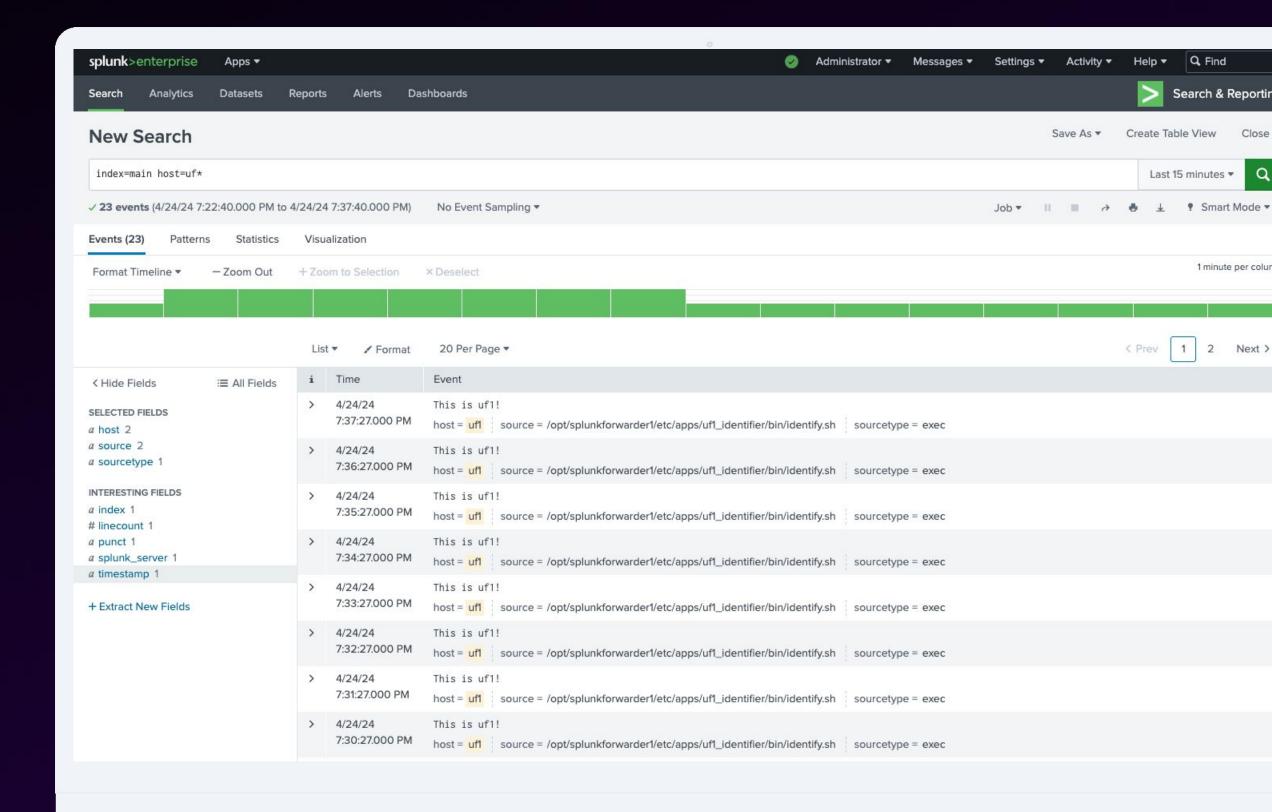
Explore the Forwarder Management Interface



Explore the Forwarder Management Interface



Confirm your UFs are logging



Are we there yet?

Accessing the show environment

- Logged into Splunk Web
- SSH into your instance
- Can view UFs in the forwarder management interface
- Familiar with the directory structure for UF installations



Part 2: The Deployment Server (and how it works)



1. Centralized App updates



- 1. Centralized App updates
- 2. Consistency in apps deployed to hosts



- 1. Centralized App updates
- 2. Consistency in apps deployed to hosts
- 3. Automated App deployment to specific hosts



Config Files

serverclass.conf

- Defines serverclasses and associated apps
- Maps apps to groups of Forwarders
- Can configure restarting splunkd on the Forwarder

```
#cat /opt/splunk/etc/system/local/serverclass.conf
[serverClass:all_UniversalForwarders]
blacklist.0 = splunkinfra*
whitelist.0 = *
[serverClass:all_UniversalForwarders:app:outputs]
restartSplunkWeb = 0
restartSplunkd = 1
[serverClass:uf1]
whitelist.0 = uf1*
[serverClass:uf1:app:uf1_identifier]
restartSplunkWeb = 0
restartSplunkd = 1
[serverClass:uf2]
whitelist.0 = uf2*
```

serverclass.conf (continued)

- Like all .conf files, multiple serverclass.conf files can exist and be combined together
 - Standard order of precedence applies
- /opt/splunk/bin/splunk btool serverclass list --debug | awk '{ print \$1 }' | sort -u

```
# /opt/splunk/bin/splunk btool serverclass list --debug|
awk '{ print $1 }' | sort -u
/opt/splunk/etc/apps/search/local/serverclass.conf
/opt/splunk/etc/system/default/serverclass.conf
/opt/splunk/etc/system/local/serverclass.conf
```

deploymentclient. conf

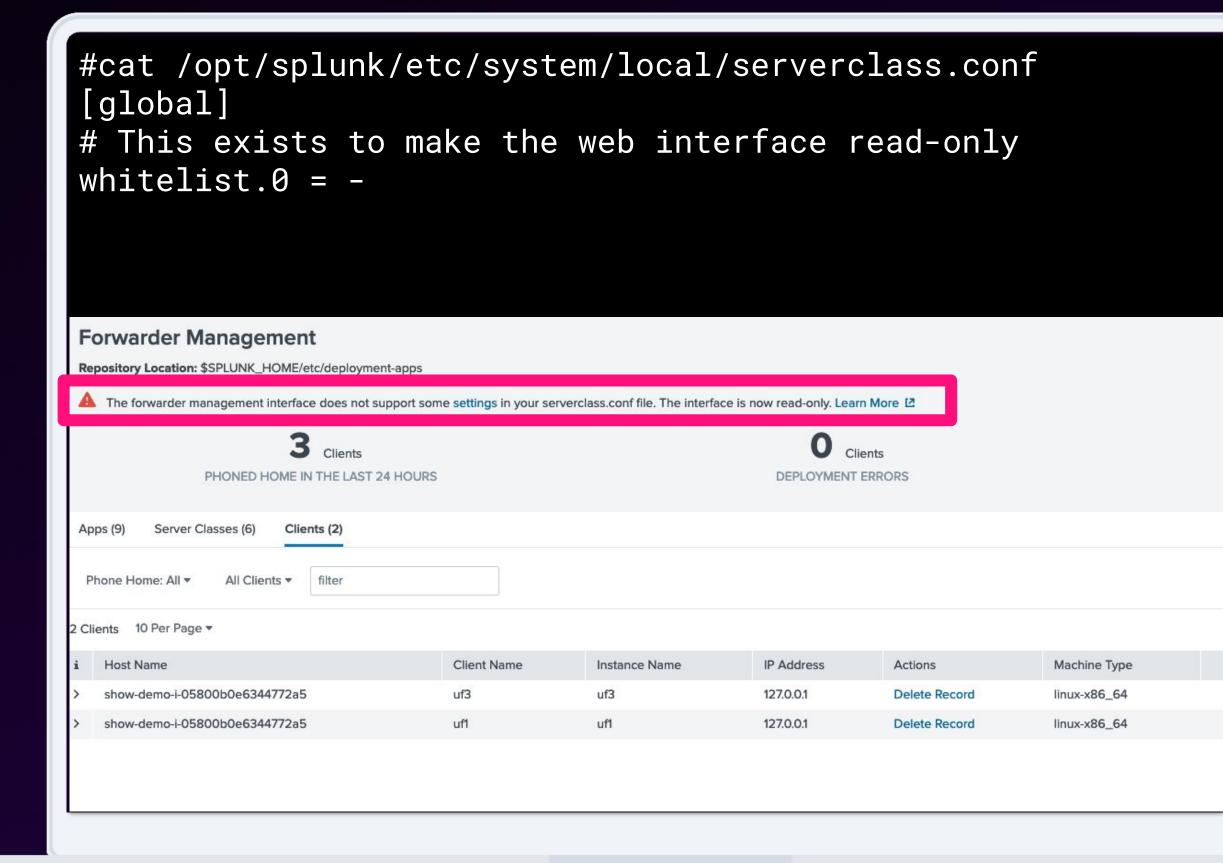
- Exists on every Deployment Client
- Provides deployment server related instructions to the Forwarder
- Location may vary use btool to locate
- phoneHomeIntervalInSecs how frequently the Forwarders
 check in to the DS

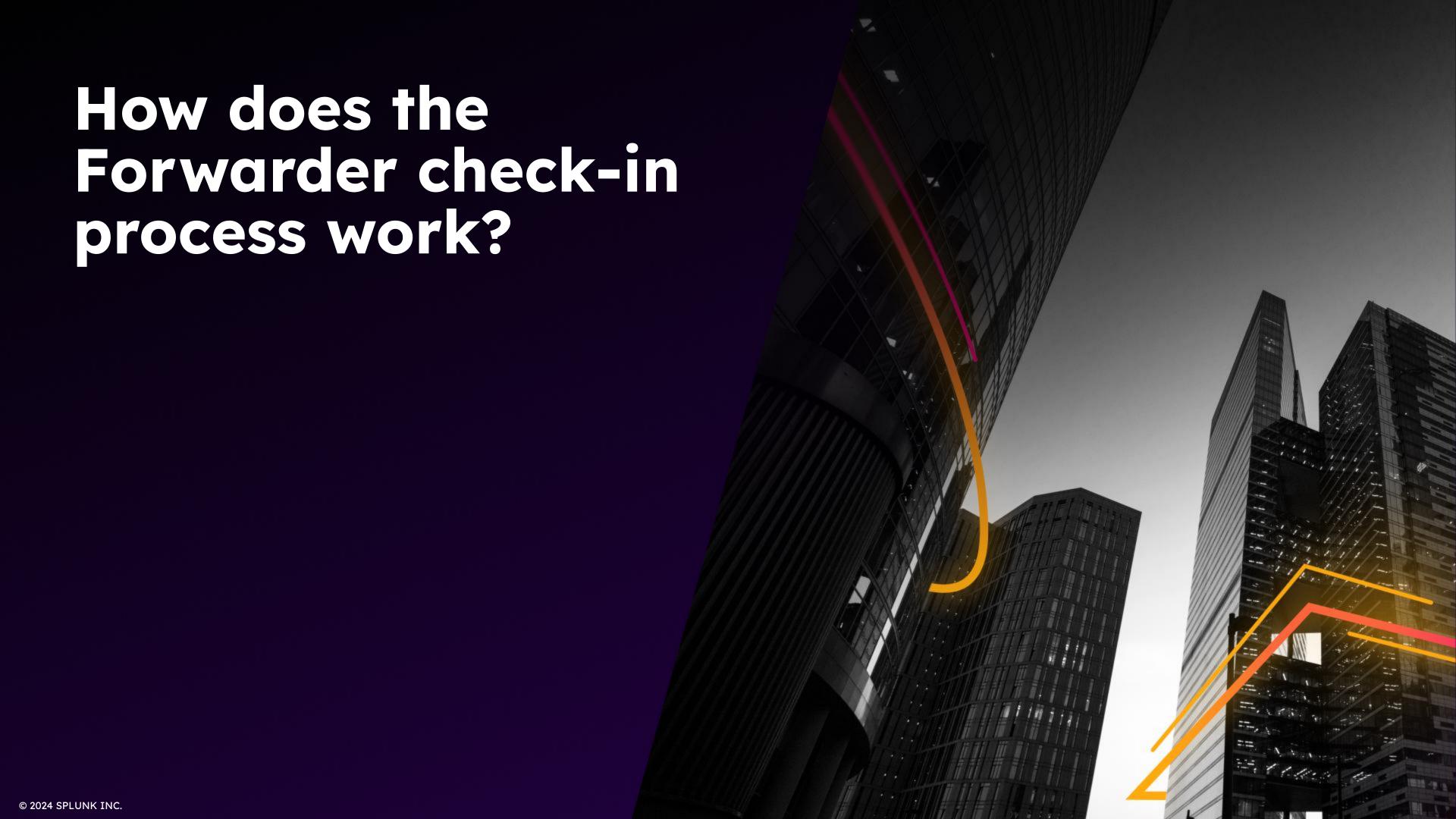
```
[deployment-client]
```

[target-broker:deploymentServer]
targetUri = my.deployment.server:8089
phoneHomeIntervalInSecs = 300

Enabling Read-Only Forwarder Management

- Prevent changes from being made to serverclasses from the GUI
- Useful if managing configuration via external version control





 Forwarder starts up, has deploymentclient.conf telling it what DS to use



- Forwarder starts up, has deploymentclient.conf telling it what DS to use
- Forwarder connects to DS and subscribes to serverclass channel



- Forwarder starts up, has deploymentclient.conf telling it what DS to use
- Forwarder connects to DS and subscribes to serverclass channel
- Forwarder downloads apps from DS



- Forwarder starts up, has deploymentclient.conf telling it what DS to use
- Forwarder connects to DS and subscribes to serverclass channel
- Forwarder downloads apps from DS
- Forwarder restarts (if applicable)



Let's look at some logs

Forwarder Initialization

```
04-23-2024 16:41:44.312 +0000 INFO DS_DC_Common [732603 MainThread] - Initializing the PubSub system.
04-23-2024 16:41:44.312 +0000 INFO DS_DC_Common [732603 MainThread] - Initializing core facilities of PubSub system.
04-23-2024 16:41:44.318 +0000 WARN DC:DeploymentClient [732603 MainThread] - This DC shares a host with its DS.
targetUri=localhost:8089 hostname=show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5
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04-23-2024 16:41:44.321 +0000 INFO DCManager [732603 MainThread] - No server classes currently installed. Could not find
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splunkd.log (on UF)

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127.0.0.1 - - [23/Apr/2024:16:41:47.771 +0000] "POST /services/broker/channel/subscribe/connection_127.0.0.1_9089_localhost_show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5_uf1/tenantService%2Fhandsh ake%2Freply%2Fshow-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5%2Fuf1 HTTP/1.1" 200 58 "-" "Splunk/9.1.4 (Linux 6.5.0-1014-aws; arch=x86_64)" - - - 0ms  

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```

```
04-23-2024 16:41:47.771 +0000 INFO PubSubSvr [731668 TcpChannelThread] - Subscribed: channel=tenantService/handshake/reply/show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5/uf1 connectionId=connection_127.0.0.1_9089_localhost_show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5_uf1 listener=0x7f41ac830c00 04-23-2024 16:41:56.322 +0000 INFO PubSubSvr [731668 TcpChannelThread] - Subscribed: channel=deploymentServer/phoneHome/default/reply/show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5/uf1 connectionId=connection_127.0.0.1_9089_localhost_show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5_uf1 listener=0x7f41ac830c00
```

```
04-23-2024 16:41:47.771 +0000 INFO PubSubSvr [731668 TcpChannelThread] - Subscribed: channel=tenantService/handshake/reply/show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5/uf1 connectionId=connection_127.0.0.1_9089_localhost_show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5_uf1 listener=0x7f41ac830c00 04-23-2024 16:41:56.322 +0000 IN PubSubSvr [731668 TcpChannelThread] - Subscribed: channel=deploymentServer/phoneHome) default/reply/show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5/uf1 connectionId=connection_127.0.0.1_9089_localhost_show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5_uf1 listener=0x7f41ac830c00
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```
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splunkd.log (on UF)

```
04-23-2024 16:42:56.325 +0000 INFO DeployedApplication [732617 HttpClientPollingThread_uf1] - Checksum mismatch 0 <> 14291942956695506570 for app=outputs. Will reload from='localhost:8089/services/streams/deployment?name=default:all_UniversalForwarders:outputs'  
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splunkd.log (on DS)

04-23-2024 16:42:56.326 +0000 INFO PackageDownloadRestHandler [731668 TcpChannelThread] - peer=127.0.0.1:34720 Download started and completed for path=/opt/splunk/var/run/tmp/all_UniversalForwarders/outputs-1713890268.bundle.gz serverclass=all_UniversalForwarders app=outputs

```
127.0.0.1 - - [23/Apr/2024:16:42:56.324 +0000] "POST /services/broker/phonehome/connection_127.0.0.1_9089_localhost_show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5_uf1 HTTP/1.1" 200 24 "-" "Splunk/9.1.4 (Linux 6.5.0-1014-aws; arch=x86_64)" - - - 0ms

127.0.0.1 - - [23/Apr/2024:16:42:56.325 +0000] "POST /services/broker/phonehome/connection_127.0.0.1_9089_localhost_show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5_uf1 HTTP/1.1" 200 988 "-" "Splunk/9.1.4 (Linux 6.5.0-1014-aws; arch=x86_64)" - - - 0ms

127.0.0.1 - - [23/Apr/2024:16:42:56.326 +0000] "POST /services/streams/deployment?name=default:all_UniversalForwarders:outputs HTTP/1.1" 200 528 "-" "Splunk/9.1.4 (Linux 6.5.0-1014-aws; arch=x86_64)" - - - 0ms
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```

Forwarder App Installation & Restart

splunkd.log (on UF)

```
04-23-2024 16:42:56.338 +0000 INFO ApplicationManager [732617 HttpClientPollingThread_uf1] - Detected app creation: outputs 04-23-2024 16:42:56.647 +0000 INFO loader [732609 HTTPDispatch] - Shutdown HTTPDispatchThread 04-23-2024 16:42:56.647 +0000 INFO Shutdown [732622 Shutdown] - Shutting down splunkd 04-23-2024 16:42:56.346 +0000 WARN DC:DeploymentClient [732617 HttpClientPollingThread_uf1] - Restarting Splunkd...
```

Forwarder App Installation & Restart

splunkd.log (on UF)

```
04-23-2024 16:42:56.338 +0000 INFO ApplicationManager [732617 HttpClientPollingThread_uf1] - Detected app creation: outputs 04-23-2024 16:42:56.647 +0000 INFO loader [732609 HTTPDispatch] - Shutdown HTTPDispatchThread 04-23-2024 16:42:56.647 +0000 INFO Shutdown [732622 Shutdown] - Shutting down splunkd 04-23-2024 16:42:56.346 +0000 WARN DC:DeploymentClient [732617 HttpClientPollingThread_uf1] - Restarting Splunkd...
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Forwarder App Installation & Restart

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```

You have a UF that is sending data to Splunk but not checking into the Deployment Server

- UF1 & UF2 = checking in successfully to the Deployment Server
- UF3 = Not checking in successfully

Your task: troubleshoot why this is broken!

Hint: /opt/splunkforwarder3/bin/splunk btool deploymentclient list --debug

root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunkforwarder3/etc/apps/all_deploymentclient/local# cat deploymentclient.conf
[deployment-client]
phoneHomeIntervalInSecs = 30

[target-broker:deploymentServer]
targetUri = localhost:8089

root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunkforwarder3/etc/apps/all_deploymentclient/local# /opt/splunkforwarder3/bin/splunk btool deploymentclient list [deployment-client]
clientName = uf3
phoneHomeIntervalInSecs = 30
targetUri = old-deployment-server.hurricanelabs.nope:8089
[target-broker:deploymentServer]
targetUri = localhost:8089

root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunkforwarder3/etc/apps/all_deploymentclient/local# /opt/splunkforwarder3/bin/splunk btool deploymentclient list --debug /opt/splunkforwarder3/etc/apps/all_deploymentclient/local/deploymentclient.conf [deployment-client] /opt/splunkforwarder3/etc/system/local/deploymentclient.conf clientName = uf3 /opt/splunkforwarder3/etc/apps/all_deploymentclient/local/deploymentclient.conf phoneHomeIntervalInSecs = 30 /opt/splunkforwarder3/etc/system/local/deploymentclient.conf targetUri = old-deployment-server.hurricanelabs.nope:8089 /opt/splunkforwarder3/etc/apps/all_deploymentclient/local/deploymentclient.conf [target-broker:deploymentServer] /opt/splunkforwarder3/etc/apps/all_deploymentclient/local/deploymentclient.conf targetUri = localhost:8089

The Deployment Server Recap

- Remember, btool is your friend
- Config precedence can make updating deploymentclient.conf configurations challenging
- When troubleshooting a broken UF, start with the basics first
 - Correct Splunk configuration
 - Network connectivity to DS



Part 3: App Bundles & serverclass.xml

App Bundles

DS - Explore a Bundle

/opt/splunk/var/run/tmp/serverclassname

Bundle = compressed tarball of the deployment app

- appname-epochtimeofserverclass
- uf1_identifier-1713892441.bundle (tar archive)
- uf1_identifier-1713892441.bundle.gz (gunzip compressed)



Consistency is key

• Bundles are structured in a defined way.

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- Bundles are re-created when the serverclass is reloaded, only after modifications to the serverclass' contents are made.

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 - Forces file ownership using a userid and groupid of **0**, and the username and groupname of **splunk**

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 - Files are sorted consistently within the tarball
 - Forces file ownership using a userid and groupid of **0**, and the username and groupname of **splunk**
- Permissions and ownership:
 - User information in the tarball is ignored
 - Owner is the user that the SplunkForwarder is configured to use

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- Bundles are re-created when the serverclass is reloaded, only after modifications to the serverclass' contents are made.
 - Files are sorted consistently within the tarball
 - Forces file ownership using a userid and groupid of **0**, and the username and groupname of **splunk**
- Permissions and ownership:
 - User information in the tarball is ignored
 - Owner is the user that the SplunkForwarder is configured to use
 - Permissions are kept:
 - Scripted inputs set to executable will remain that way

How are bundles created?

File Permissions & ownership

root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunk/var/run/tmp/uf1#tar --numeric-owner -tvf uf1_identifier-1713892441.bundle

-rw-r--r-- 0/0

-rw-r--r-- 0/0

-rw-r--r-- 0/0

20 2024-04-08 18:17 bin/identify.sh

218 2024-04-08 18:34 local/app.conf

115 2024-04-08 18:42 local/inputs.conf

61 2023-02-06 20:43 metadata/local.meta

Exists on every Deployment Client after initialization:

\$SPLUNK_HOME/var/run/
serverclass.xml

Identifies the following:

 Each serverclass where the Forwarder is configured

- Each serverclass where the Forwarder is configured
- Apps associated with each serverclass

- Each serverclass where the Forwarder is configured
- Apps associated with each serverclass
- App installation status, restart configuration, and state

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- Apps associated with each serverclass
- App installation status, restart configuration, and state
- Associated bundle file

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<deployResponse restartSplunkd="false" restartSplunkWeb="false"</pre>
stateOnClient="enabled" issueReload="false"
repositoryLocation="$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/apps"
endpoint="$deploymentServerUri$/services/streams/deployment?name
=$tenantName$:$serverClassName$:$appName$">
  <serverClass name="all_UniversalForwarders">
    <app name="outputs" checksum="14291942956695506570"</pre>
restartSplunkd="true" restartSplunkWeb="false"
localArchive="/opt/splunkforwarder1/var/run/all_UniversalForward
ers/outputs-1713890268.bundle" installed="true"/>
  </serverClass>
</deployResponse>
```

Lab 3: Serverclass XML Investigation

- Parse serverclass XML to understand the previously deployed configuration
- Investigate UF4

Lab 3: Serverclass XML Investigation

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:~# cat /opt/splunkforwarder4/var/run/serverclass.xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
<deployResponse restartSplunkd="false" restartSplunkWeb="false" stateOnClient="enabled" issueReload="false" repositoryLocation="$SPLUNK_HOME/etc/a</pre>
pps" endpoint="$deploymentServerUri$/services/streams/deployment?name=$tenantName$:$serverClassName$:$appName$">
  <serverClass name="100_IngestAction_AutoGenerated">
    <app name="splunk_ingest_actions" checksum="17136782134994119078" restartSplunkd="false" restartSplunkWeb="false" stateOnClient="enabled" issu</pre>
eReload="true" localArchive="/opt/splunkforwarder4/var/run/100_IngestAction_AutoGenerated/splunk_ingest_actions-1714074586.bundle" installed="true"
"/>
  </serverClass>
  <serverClass name="all_UniversalForwarders">
    <app name="all_deploymentclient" checksum="8236339152916141319" restartSplunkd="true" restartSplunkWeb="false" localArchive="/opt/splunkforwar</pre>
der4/var/run/all_UniversalForwarders/all_deploymentclient-1714074586.bundle" installed="true"/>
    <app name="outputs" checksum="15120128795082040217" restartSplunkd="true" restartSplunkWeb="false" localArchive="/opt/splunkforwarder4/var/run</pre>
/all_UniversalForwarders/outputs-1714074586.bundle" installed="true"/>
  </serverClass>
  <serverClass name="uf4">
    <app name="uf4_identifier" checksum="2805611991501769146" restartSplunkd="true" restartSplunkWeb="false" localArchive="/opt/splunkforwarder4/v</pre>
ar/run/uf4/uf4_identifier-1714074587.bundle" installed="true"/>
  </serverClass>
</deployResponse>
```

Lab 3: Serverclass XML Investigation

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunkforwarder4/var/run#
grep -i -e "serverclass name" -e "app name" serverclass.xml | awk ' { print $1, $2 }'
<serverClass name="100_IngestAction_AutoGenerated">
<app name="splunk_ingest_actions"
<serverClass name="all_UniversalForwarders">
<app name="all_deploymentclient"
<app name="outputs"
<serverClass name="uf4">
<app name="uf4">
<app name="uf4_identifier"</a>
```

App Bundles Recap

- Use serverclass.xml to determine what apps are managed by the DS
- When moving a Forwarder to a new DS, this can be used to identify apps that are on the Forwarder but missing on the DS



New Splunk 9.2 Features

9.2 Migration Tasks

- Deploy new internal indexes
 - _dsclient
 - dsphonehome
 - dsappevent
- Ensure your deployment server can search the search peers or selectively indexes data
- Reference:
 https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/S
 plunk/9.2.1/Updating/Upgradepre-9.2depl
 oymentservers



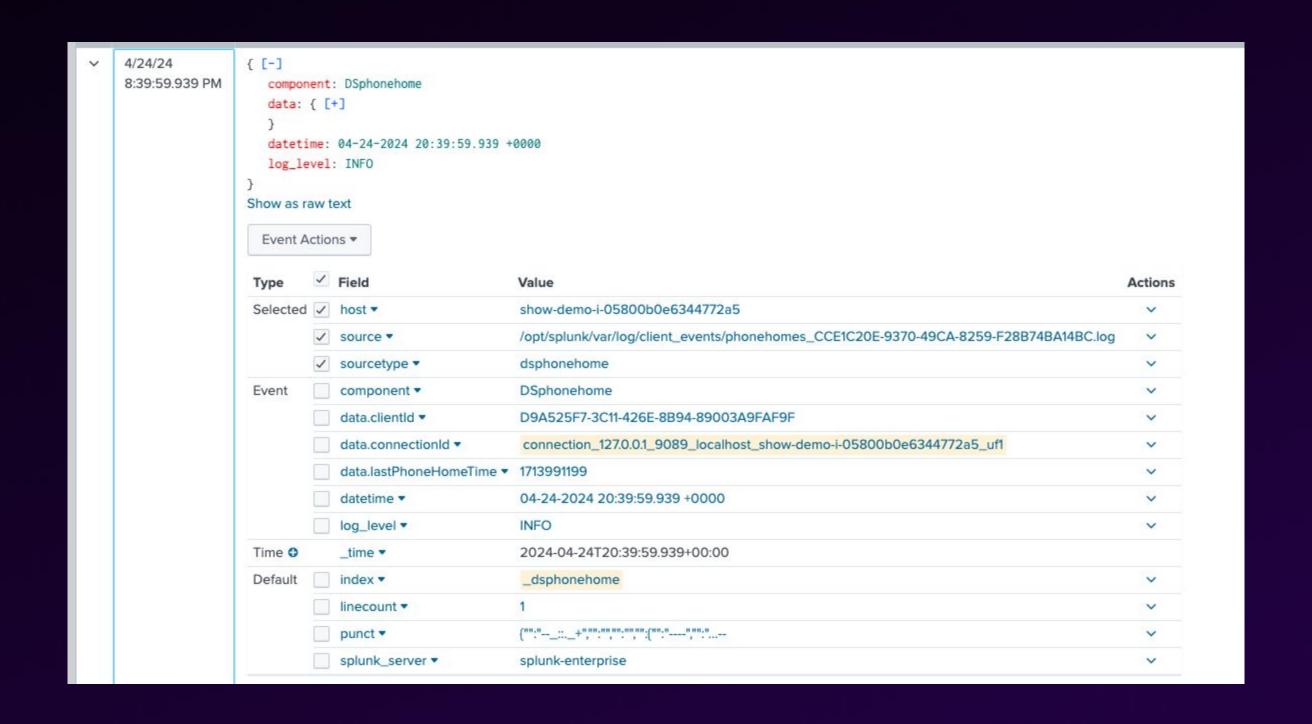
_dsclient index: shows client info

4/23/24

4:41:47.769 PM

{ [-] component: DSclient data: { [+] datetime: 04-23-2024 16:41:47.769 +0000 log_level: INFO Show as raw text Event Actions ▼ Value Actions show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5 V Selected ✓ host ▼ ✓ source ▼ /opt/splunk/var/log/client_events/clients_CCE1C20E-9370-49CA-8259-F28B74BA14BC.log ✓ sourcetype ▼ dsclient component ▼ **DSclient** V Event data.build * a414fc70250e V data.clientId ▼ D9A525F7-3C11-426E-8B94-89003A9FAF9F V data.connectionId • connection_127.0.0.1_9089_localhost_show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5_uf1 data.dns ▼ localhost data.guid ▼ D9A525F7-3C11-426E-8B94-89003A9FAF9F data.hostname * show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5 D9A525F7-3C11-426E-8B94-89003A9FAF9F data.instanceld • V data.instanceName ▼ uf1 V 127.0.0.1 data.ip ▼ V 9089 data.mgmt * V uf1 data.name ▼ V data.package ▼ universal_forwarder data.packageType ▼ data.splunkVersion ▼ 9.1.4 data.upgradeStatus ▼ data.upgradeTime ▼ data.utsname * linux-x86_64 datetime * 04-23-2024 16:41:47.769 +0000 V INFO log_level ▼ Time O 2024-04-23T16:41:47.769+00:00 time * Default index ▼ _dsclient linecount ▼ {"":"--_::_+","":","":{"":"---","":"---" punct ▼ splunk_server ▼ splunk-enterprise

_dsphonehome index: shows check in info



_dsappevent index: shows app actions

4/24/24

3:01:56.934 AM

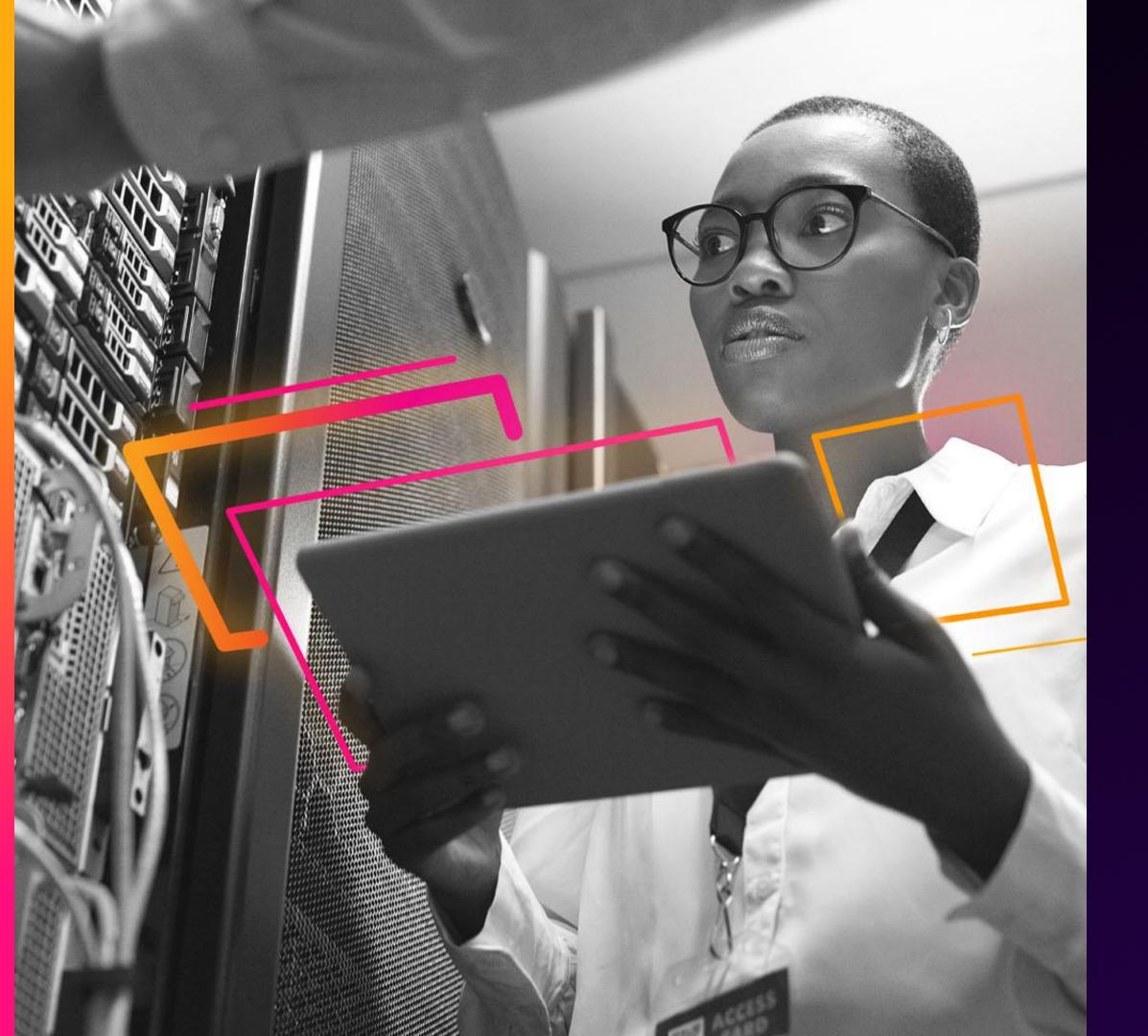
```
[-]
   component: DSappevent
   data: { [-]
     action: Install
     appName: splunk_ingest_actions
     checksum: 17136782134994119078
     clientId: D9A525F7-3C11-426E-8B94-89003A9FAF9F
     failedReason:
    key: D9A525F7-3C11-426E-8B94-89003A9FAF9F_100_IngestAction_AutoGenerated_splunk_ingest_actions
     result: Ok
     serverClassName: 100_IngestAction_AutoGenerated
     timestamp: 1713927716
   datetime: 04-24-2024 03:01:56.934 +0000
   log_level: INFO
Show as raw text
  Event Actions *
                                     Value
                                                                                                                                    Actions
                                     show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5
Selected ✓ host ▼
                                     /opt/splunk/var/log/client_events/appevents_CCE1C20E-9370-49CA-8259-F28B74BA14BC.log

✓ source ▼
                                     dsappevent

✓ sourcetype ▼
                                                                                                                                       V
Event
                                     DSappevent
             component *
                                                                                                                                       V
                                     Install
             data.action ▼
             data.appName ▼
                                     splunk_ingest_actions
                                     17136782134994119078
             data.checksum ▼
             data.clientId .
                                     D9A525F7-3C11-426E-8B94-89003A9FAF9F
             data.failedReason ▼
             data.key -
                                     D9A525F7-3C11-426E-8B94-89003A9FAF9F_100_IngestAction_AutoGenerated_splunk_ingest_actions
                                     Ok
             data.result .
             data.serverClassName ▼ 100_IngestAction_AutoGenerated
             data.timestamp ▼
                                     1713927716
                                     04-24-2024 03:01:56.934 +0000
             datetime ▼
                                     INFO
             log_level ▼
Time O
                                     2024-04-24T03:01:56.934+00:00
              time 🔻
Default
             index ▼
                                     _dsappevent
             linecount •
                                     {"":"--_::_+","":"","":"","":("":"----","":"----"
             punct •
             splunk_server ▼
                                     splunk-enterprise
```

Part 4: DS Design & App Checksums

Deployment Server Scaling



Deployment Server Design

Scaling your implementation

- Scaling your deployment server
- Distributed/load-balanced DS
- DS Clustering
- Cross-Server Checksums



- When you need a dedicated deployment server?
 - More than 50 clients

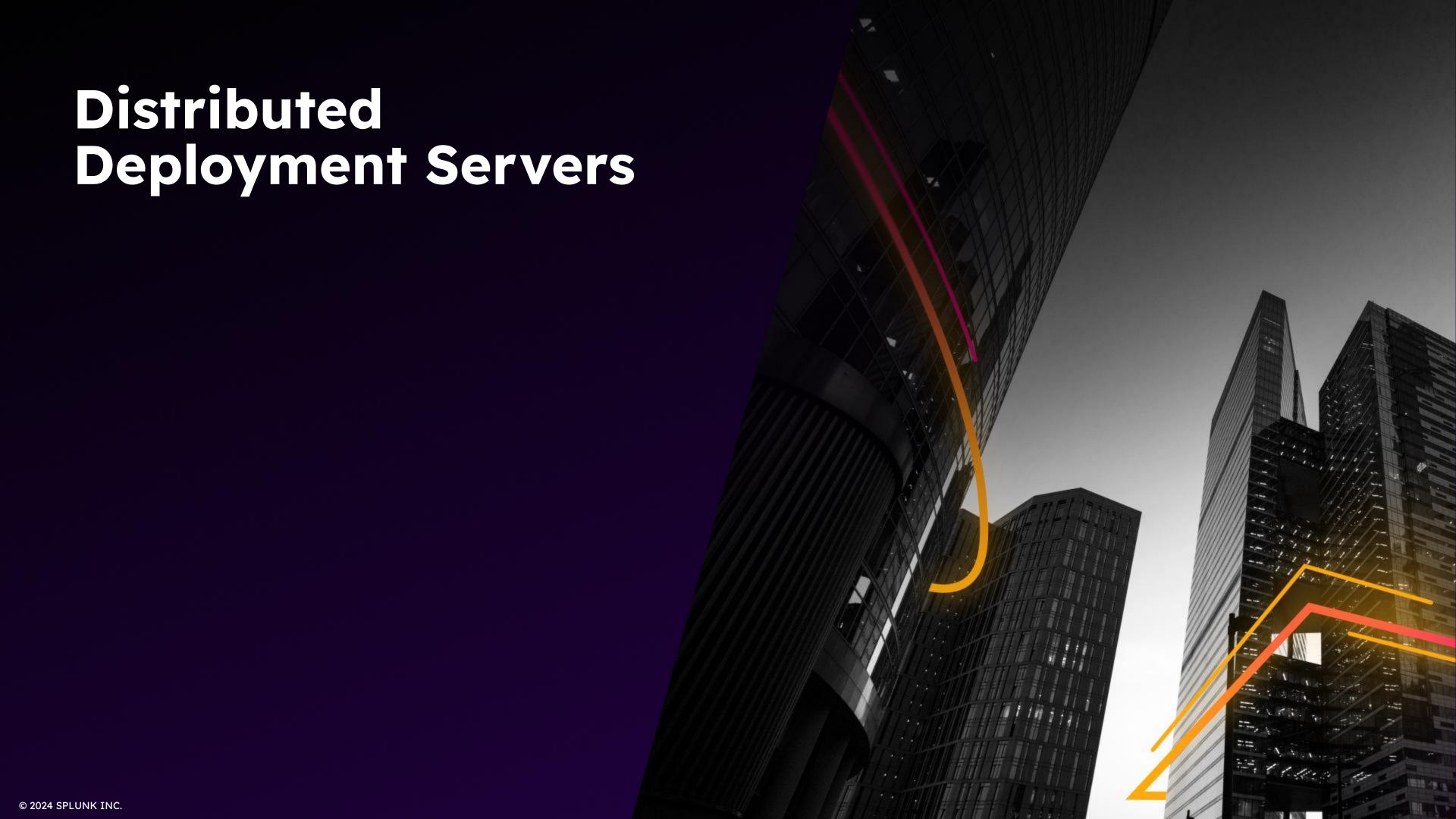


- When you need a dedicated deployment server?
 - More than 50 clients
- Maximum clients per deployment server?
 - 25k (new in Splunk 9.2)
 - Older versions: ~10k(ish)



- When you need a dedicated deployment server?
 - More than 50 clients
- Maximum clients per deployment server?
 - 25k (new in Splunk 9.2)
 - Older versions: ~10k(ish)
- Need more?
 - Distributed Deployment Servers
 - Deployment Server Clustering





Distributed Deployment Servers

• The forwarder check in is an HTTP request = can be load balanced



Distributed Deployment Servers

- The forwarder check in is an HTTP request = can be load balanced
- Approach
 - Synchronize configurations across multiple DSes (outside of Splunk)



Distributed Deployment Servers

- The forwarder check in is an HTTP request = can be load balanced
- Approach
 - Synchronize configurations across multiple DSes (outside of Splunk)
 - Use a load-balancer to balance forwarder check ins across multiple DS



Distributed Deployment Servers

- The forwarder check in is an HTTP request =
 can be load balanced
- Approach
 - Synchronize configurations across multiple DSes (outside of Splunk)
 - Use a load-balancer to balance
 forwarder check ins across multiple DS
 - Consideration load balancer stickiness
 must be longer than phoneHomeInterval





 Still requires load balancing or a multi-value DNS record



- Still requires load balancing or a multi-value DNS record
- Requires shared drive between DSes



- Still requires load balancing or a multi-value DNS record
- Requires shared drive between DSes
- All deployment servers use the same deployment-apps location and log to the same client_events log





- Each app has a calculated checksum to identify when the content changes
- Recall bundles contain the modification times of the files



crossServerChecksum

- Each app has a calculated checksum to identify when the content changes
- Recall bundles contain the modification times of the files
- Problem: if different modification times exist on different deployment servers, each will have a different checksum



crossServerChecksum

- Each app has a calculated checksum to identify when the content changes
- Recall bundles contain the modification times of the files
- Problem: if different modification times exist on different deployment servers, each will have a different checksum
- Problem: infinite loop of app downloads as forwarders switch between different DSes



How are checksums calculated?

• First 64 bits of the MD5 hash of the .bundle file, represented as a decimal (base 10) integer.



 First 64 bits of the MD5 hash of the .bundle file, represented as a decimal (base 10) integer. # md5sum all_deploymentclient-1714600173.bundle
724d5ad2533555074f299cbffb99fcf7

 First 64 bits of the MD5 hash of the .bundle file, represented as a decimal (base 10) integer. # md5sum all_deploymentclient-1714600173.bundle
724d5ad2533555074f299cbffb99fcf7

grab the first 64 bits 724d5ad253355507

 First 64 bits of the MD5 hash of the .bundle file, represented as a decimal (base 10) integer.

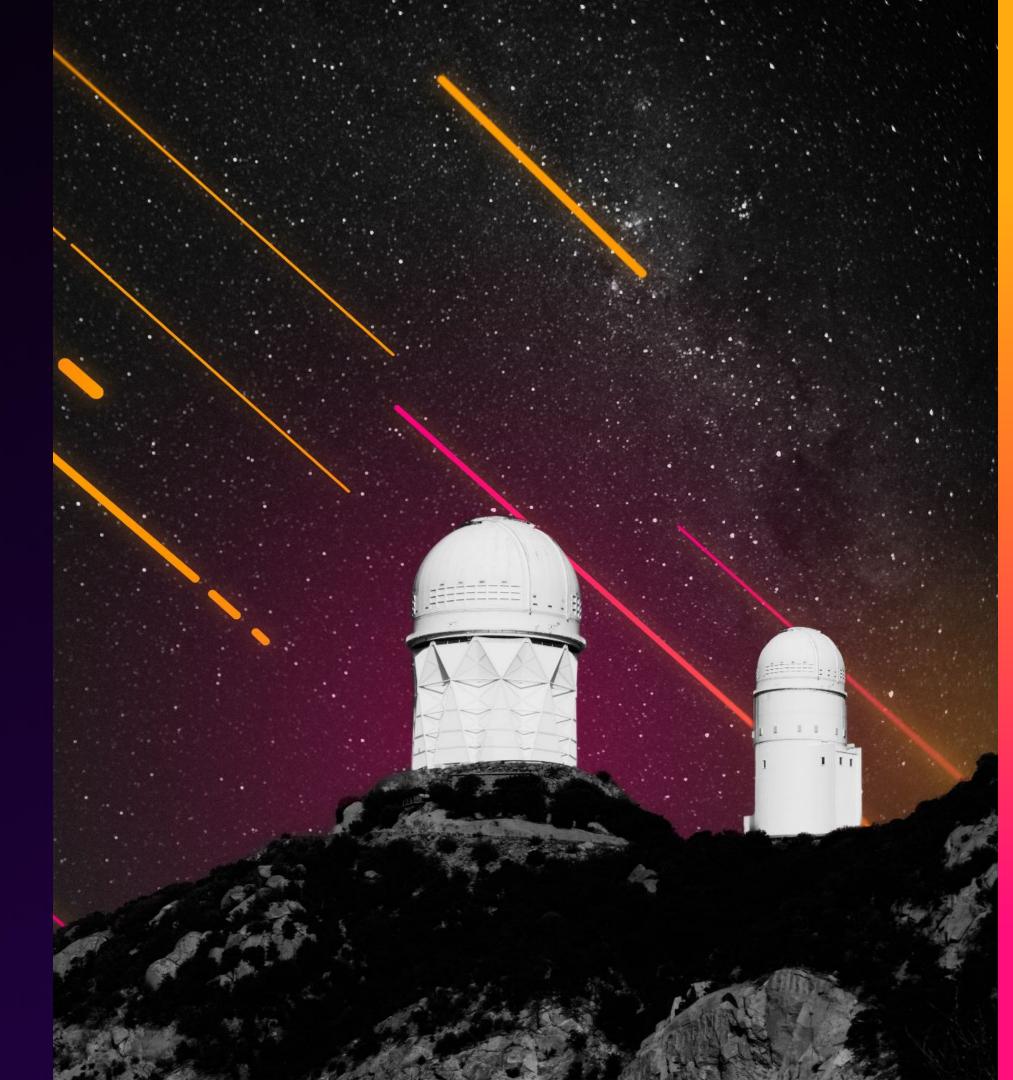
```
# md5sum all_deploymentclient-1714600173.bundle
724d5ad2533555074f299cbffb99fcf7

# grab the first 64 bits
724d5ad253355507

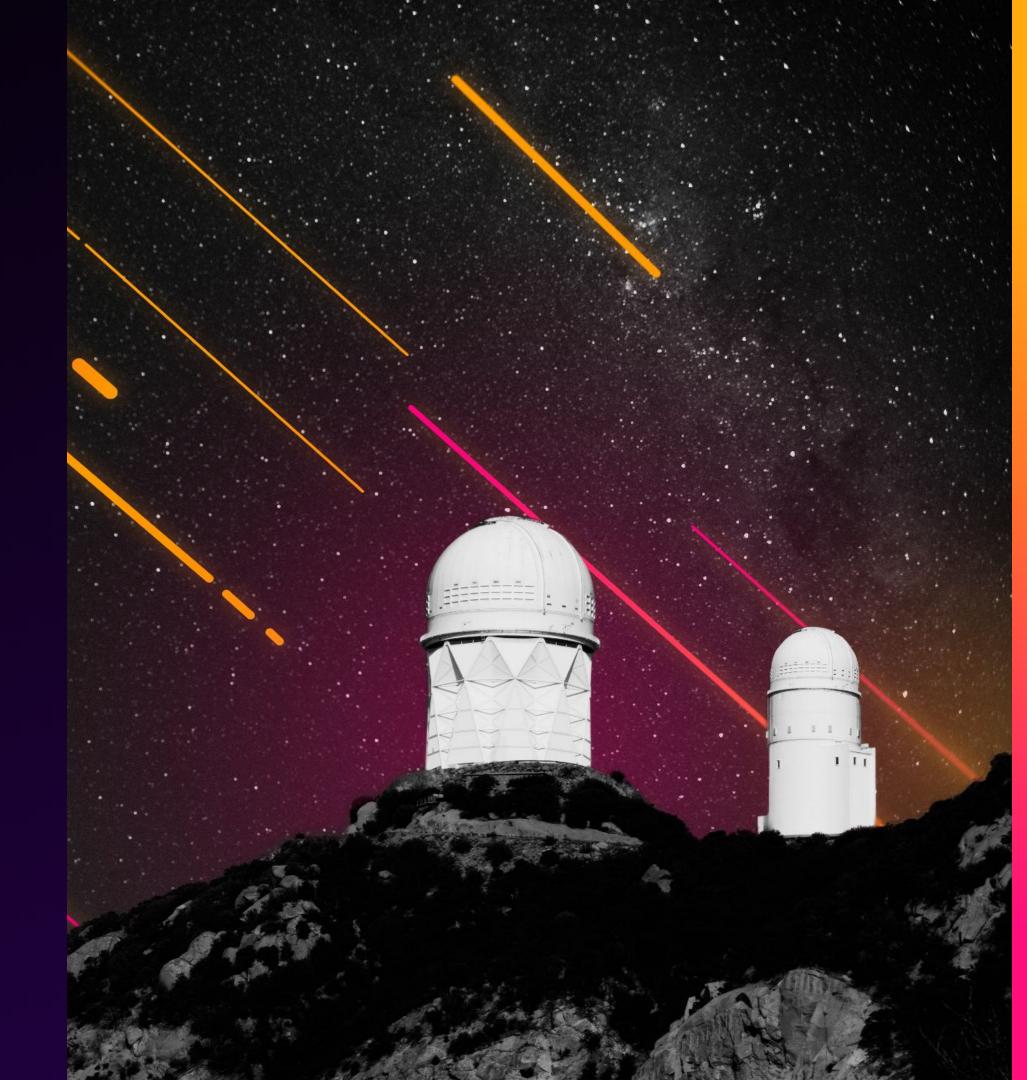
# convert from hex to decimal
# echo $((0x724d5ad253355507))
8236339152916141319
```

• First 64 bits of the MD5 hash of the .bundle file, represented as a decimal (base 10) integer.

```
# md5sum all_deploymentclient-1714600173.bundle
724d5ad2533555074f299cbffb99fcf7
# grab the first 64 bits
724d5ad253355507
# convert from hex to decimal
 echo $((0x724d5ad253355507))
8236339152916141319
 compare to serverclass.xml
  <serverClass name="all_UniversalForwarders">
    <app name="all_deploymentclient"
checksum="8236339152916141319" restartSplunkd="true"
restartSplunkWeb="false"
localArchive="/opt/splunkforwarder1/var/run/all_UniversalFo
rwarders/all_deploymentclient-1714600173.bundle"
installed="true"/>
```



• Simple! The modification time of every file is set to 0

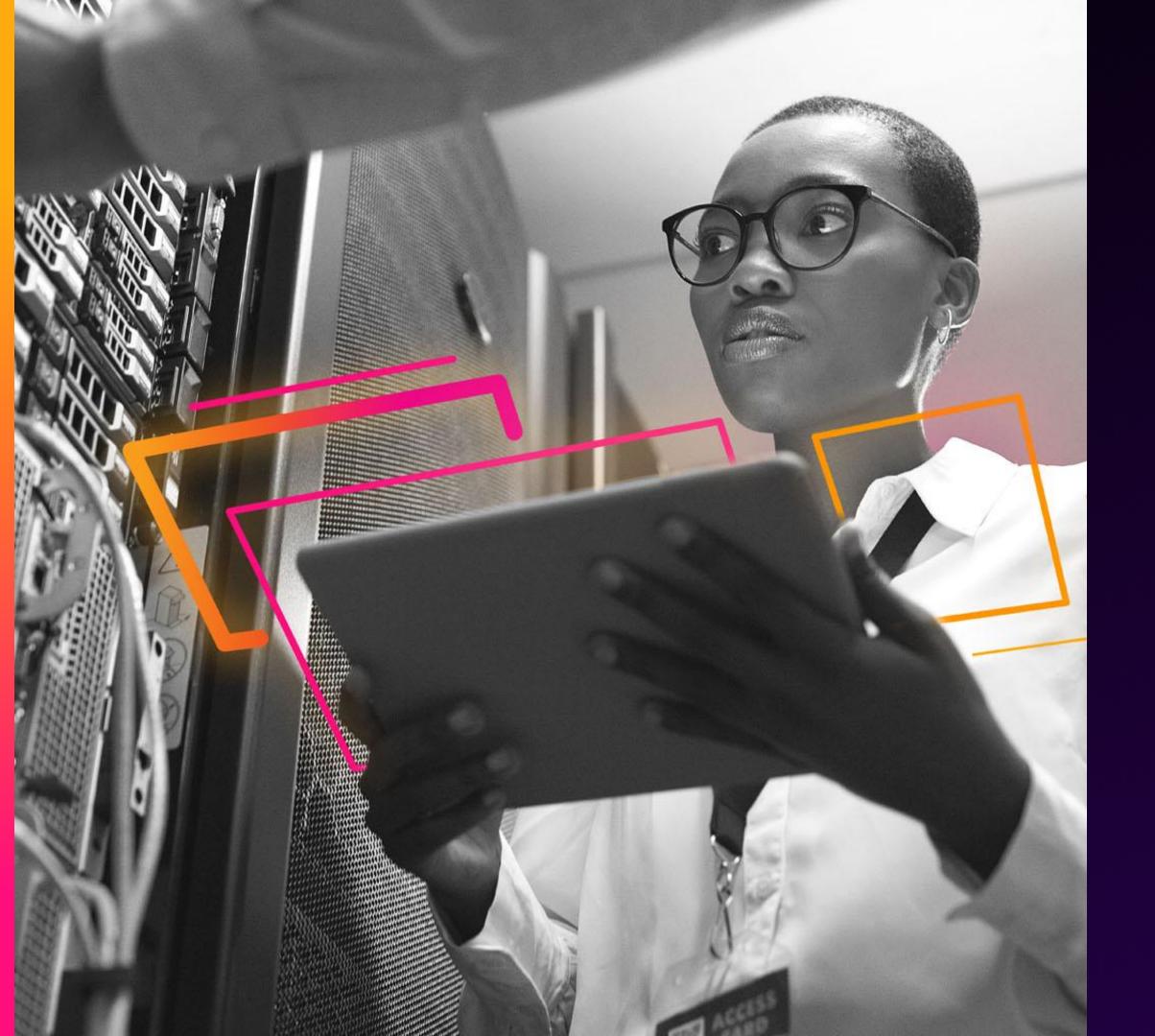


- Simple! The modification time of every file is set to 0
- Ensures that differences in file modification times across servers do not result in the checksum being different



- Simple! The modification time of every file is set to 0
- Ensures that differences in file modification times across servers do not result in the checksum being different
 - Caveat running the touch command to update an app will no longer work to force the app to be redeployed, since the modtime is no longer factored in the bundle checksum.





Other Scaling Considerations

- Multiple DS environments for different use cases
 - Server DS
 - Workstation DS
- Different DS environments per region
- How else might we scale DS load?

- Investigate checksum before and after
- Observe the behavior by exploring the contents of the bundle files

Explore the contents of the serverclass bundle directories:

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:~# cd /opt/splunk/var/run/tmp/all_UniversalForwarders; ls -l total 32
-rw------ 1 root root 10240 Apr 30 01:52 all_deploymentclient-1714441937.bundle
-rw------ 1 root root 530 Apr 30 01:52 all_deploymentclient-1714441937.bundle.gz
-rw------ 1 root root 10240 Apr 30 01:52 outputs-1714441937.bundle
-rw------ 1 root root 532 Apr 30 01:52 outputs-1714441937.bundle.gz
```

Extract the bundle file:

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunk/var/run/tmp/all_UniversalForwarders# tar -zxvf all_deploymentclient-1714441937.bundle.gz -C /tmp/all_deploymentclient_original local/app.conf local/deploymentclient.conf metadata/local.meta
```

Explore the contents of the extracted bundle:

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunk/var/run/tmp/all_UniversalForwarders# ls -ltrah /tmp/all_deploymentclient_original/local/ total 16K -rw-r--r- 1 splunk splunk 257 Apr 25 18:38 app.conf -rw-r--r- 1 splunk splunk 110 Apr 25 19:48 deploymentclient.conf drwxr-xr-x 4 root root 4.0K May 1 17:23 .. drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4.0K May 1 17:23 .
```

Enable crossServerChecksum:

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:~# head -2 /opt/splunk/etc/system/local/serverclass.conf
[global]
crossServerChecksum = true
```

Note the modification times of the serverclass directories:

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:~# cd /opt/splunk/var/run/tmp/; ls -l total 24
drwx----- 2 root root 4096 May 1 21:17 100_IngestAction_AutoGenerated
drwx----- 2 root root 4096 May 1 21:25 all_UniversalForwarders
drwx----- 2 root root 4096 May 1 21:17 linux_webservers
drwx----- 2 root root 4096 May 1 21:17 uf1
drwx----- 2 root root 4096 May 1 21:17 uf2
drwx----- 2 root root 4096 May 1 21:17 uf3
```

View the bundle files:

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:~# cd /opt/splunk/var/run/tmp/all_UniversalForwarders; ls -l total 32
-rw------ 1 root root 10240 May 1 21:17 all_deploymentclient-1714598276.bundle
-rw------ 1 root root 508 May 1 21:17 all_deploymentclient-1714598276.bundle.gz
-rw------ 1 root root 10240 May 1 21:17 outputs-1714598276.bundle
-rw------ 1 root root 511 May 1 21:17 outputs-1714598276.bundle.gz
```

Extract a new bundle to a new temp directory:

root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunk/var/run/tmp/all_UniversalForwarders# tar -zxvf all_deploymentcli ent-1714598276.bundle.gz -C /tmp/all_deploymentclient_crossServer local/app.conf local/deploymentclient.conf metadata/local.meta

View the extracted bundle:

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:~# ls -ltrah /tmp/all_deploymentclient_crossServer/local/
total 16K
-rw-r--r-- 1 splunk splunk 110 Jan 1 1970 deploymentclient.conf
-rw-r--r-- 1 splunk splunk 257 Jan 1 1970 app.conf
drwxr-xr-x 4 root root 4.0K May 1 21:37 ...
drwxr-xr-x 2 root root 4.0K May 1 21:37 ...
```

Scaling and Design Recap

- What did you see in the bundle files after enabling crossServerChecksum?
- How can we increase the capacity of our deployment server infrastructure?



Part 5: DS Hardening

Let's Talk Security





Why protect the DS?

 By default, any forwarder can connect to a DS and obtain configuration



DS - Forwarder Security

Why protect the DS?

 By default, any forwarder can connect to a DS and obtain configuration

 What do you need to know to get configuration information for a different host?



DS - Forwarder Security

Why protect the DS?

- By default, any forwarder can connect to a DS and obtain configuration
- What do you need to know to get configuration information for a different host?
- Where might this be a problem?



DS - Forwarder Security

Why protect the DS?

- By default, any forwarder can connect to a DS and obtain configuration
- What do you need to know to get configuration information for a different host?
- Where might this be a problem?
- What else can the DS do?



DS Security Tips

- Restrict who can access the DS
 - Run the DS on a dedicated instance
 - SplunkWeb and SSH access to the DS should be limited



Impersonating Another Forwarder

- Serverclasses typically will filter on:
 - Hostname
 - Machine Type
- A rogue deployment client with the same hostname will get the same apps

- Deployment Server cannot easily identify systems with conflicting hostnames
 - Clean up conflicting client names with the clone-prep-clear-config command on affected forwarders
 - Deployment server will log when known forwarder attributes change
 - We can use this search to find duplicate GUIDs
 - index=_internal sourcetype=splunkd
 "has changed some of its properties on
 the latest phone home"

Authenticating Forwarders

Securing the connection

- Forwarders can be authenticated via:
 - pass4SymmKey
 - Shared certificates
- Most straightforward: pass4SymmKey





Requires server.conf and restmap.conf changes

Requires server.conf and restmap.conf changes

On Deployment Server

\$ cat restmap.conf
[broker:broker]
authKeyStanza=deployment
requireAuthentication = true

[streams:deployment]
authKeyStanza=deployment
requireAuthentication = true

- Requires server.conf and restmap.conf changes
- Use a different shared secret from other pass4Symmkey values in your environment

```
###### On Deployment Server ######
$ cat restmap.conf
[broker:broker]
authKeyStanza=deployment
requireAuthentication = true
[streams:deployment]
authKeyStanza=deployment
requireAuthentication = true
$ cat server.conf
[deployment]
pass4SymmKey = <shared_secret>
```

- Requires server.conf and restmap.conf changes
- Use a different shared secret from other pass4Symmkey values in your environment

```
###### On Deployment Server ######
$ cat restmap.conf
[broker:broker]
authKeyStanza=deployment
requireAuthentication = true
[streams:deployment]
authKeyStanza=deployment
requireAuthentication = true
$ cat server.conf
[deployment]
pass4SymmKey = <shared_secret>
###### On Universal Forwarder/Deployment Client ######
$ cat server.conf
[deployment]
pass4SymmKey = <shared_secret>
```

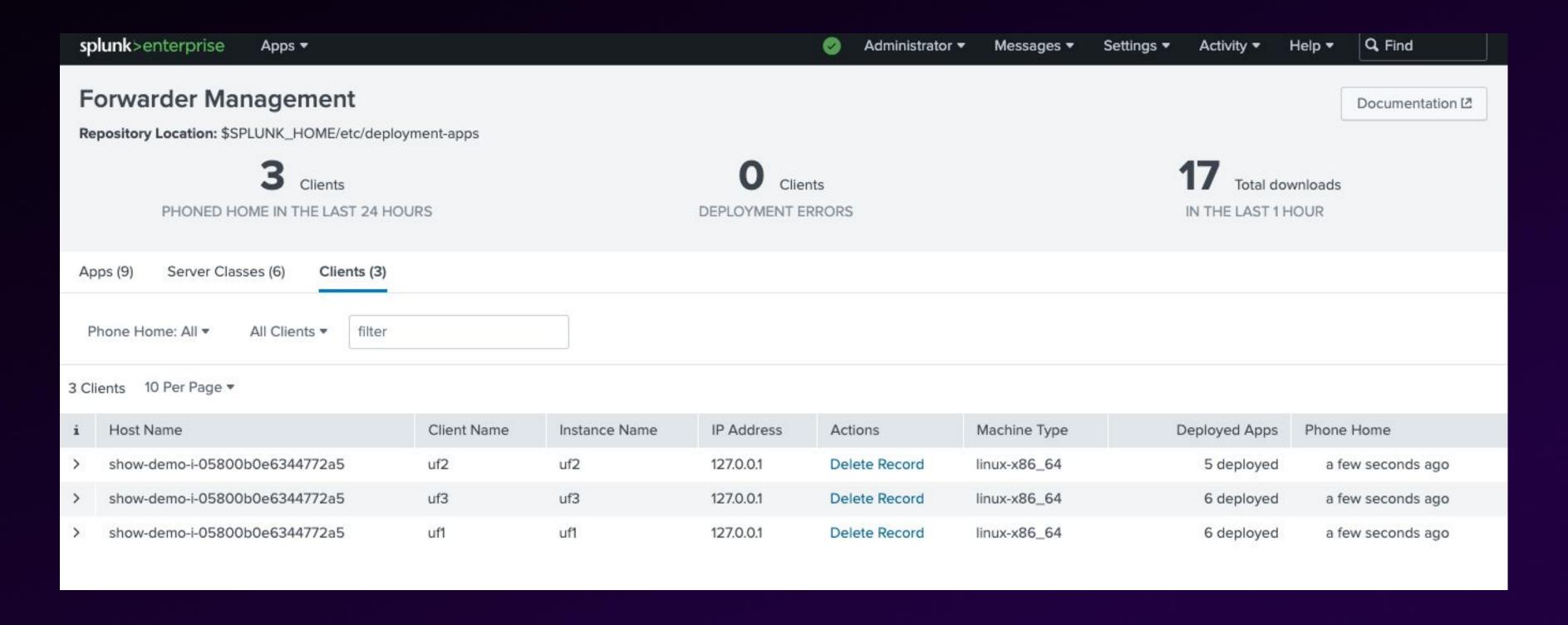
• Implementing authentication between forwarders and the Deployment Server

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:~# cat /opt/splunk/etc/deployment-apps/uf_authentication/local/server.conf
#If you are using shared secrets for authentication to the Deployment Server, add the unique
#pass4SymmKey for this authentication here. This needs to match the key in infra_ds_authentication
```

```
[deployment]
pass4SymmKey = Really_S3cure_P@ssword!
```

```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunk# cat /opt/splunk/etc/disabled-apps/infra_ds_authentication/local/server.conf
#Set the password here
#Currently set to Really_S3cure_P@ssword!
[deployment]
pass4SymmKey = Really_S3cure_P@ssword!
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunk# cat /opt/splunk/etc/disabled-apps/infra_ds_authentication/local/restmap.conf
[broker:broker]
authKeyStanza=deployment
requireAuthentication = true

[streams:deployment]
authKeyStanza=deployment
requireAuthentication = true
```



```
root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:/opt/splunk/etc/apps/infra_ds_authentication/local# cat server.conf
#Set the password here
#Currently set to Really_S3cure_P@ssword!
[deployment]
pass4SymmKey = $7$guZWNt00+Lj4a0mHaqaQo4u0WWhN9rbw6tUqDvW4S8VzAvFne/Cg1508YWDWHvuBZ5RSkpjyIg==
```

root@show-demo-i-05800b0e6344772a5:~# /opt/splunk/bin/splunk show-decrypted --value '\$7\$guZWNt00+Lj4a0mHaqaQo4u0WWhN9rbw6tUqDvW4S8VzAvFne/Cg1508YWDWHvuBZ5RSkpjyIg=='Really_S3cure_P@ssword!

Deployment Server Hardening Recap

- Why deploy Forwarder authentication?
- How to implement pass4SymmKey authentication



Part 6: Serverclass Design and Automation

Best practices in serverclasses



Best practices in serverclasses

Multiple Serverclasses can apply to the same host



Best practices in serverclasses

- Multiple Serverclasses can apply to the same host
- We can utilize narrow-scoped serverclasses to deploy serverclasses in an cumulative manner



Best practices in serverclasses

- Multiple Serverclasses can apply to the same host
- We can utilize narrow-scoped serverclasses to deploy serverclasses in an cumulative manner
- Keep each app in as few serverclasses as possible





Best practices in serverclasses



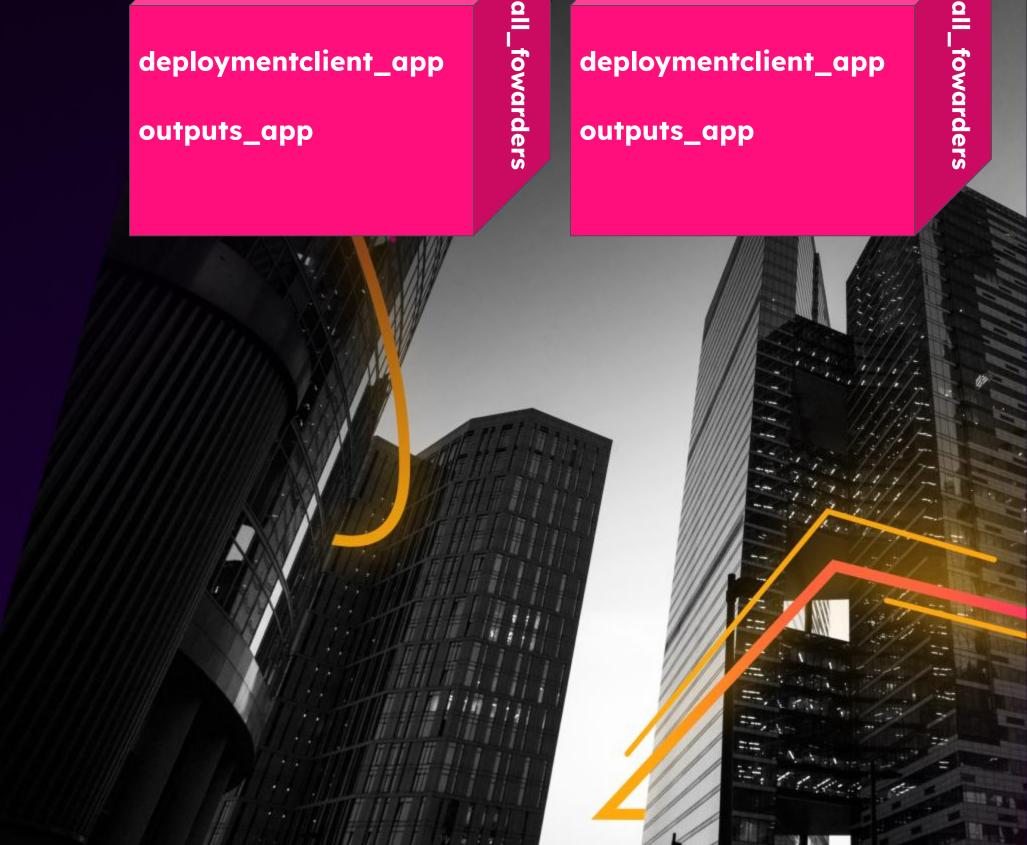
Role: Windows Print Servers

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app



all_fowarders

Best practices in serverclasses

apps contained in serverclass

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app



Best practices in serverclasses



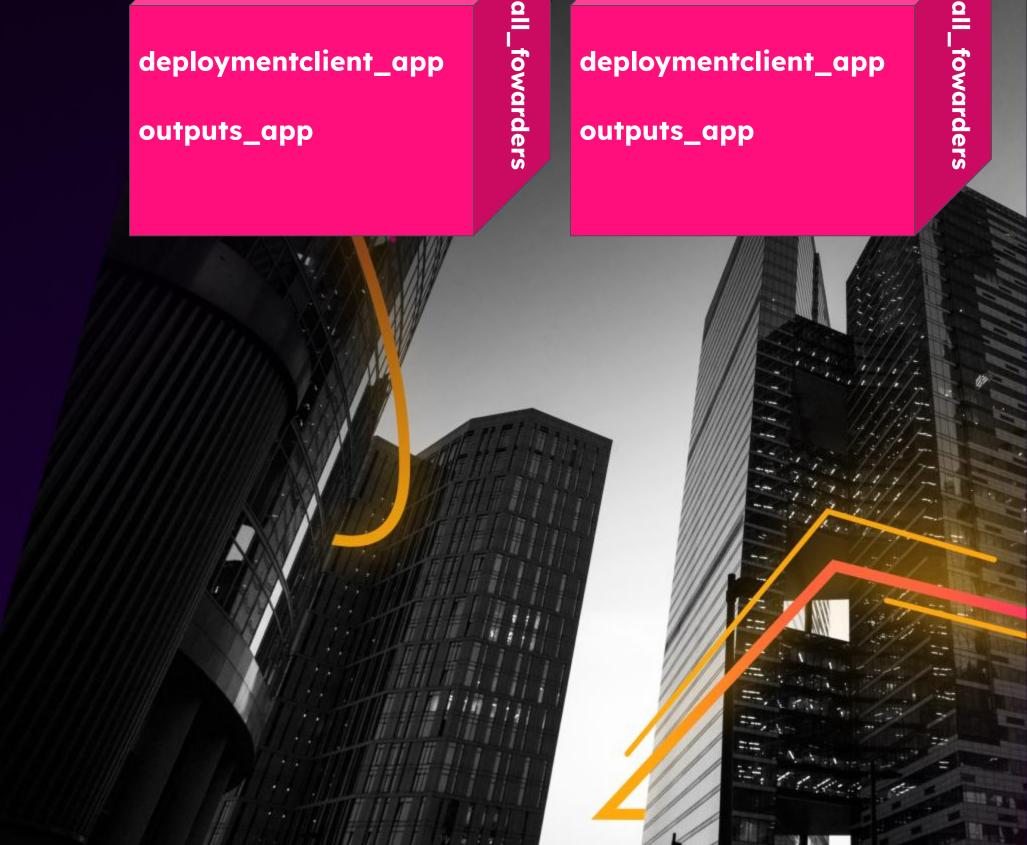
Role: Windows Print Servers

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app



Best practices in serverclasses

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

win_mon_inputs_app

win_perf_inputs_app

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

win_mon_inputs_app

win_perf_inputs_app

all_windows

all_fowarders

Best practices in serverclasses

Role: Windows Web Servers

Role: Windows Print Servers

all_fowarders

all_windows

win_print_srv

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

win_mon_inputs_app

win_perf_inputs_app

win_iis_inputs_app

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

win_mon_inputs_app

win_perf_inputs_app

win_print_inputs_app

Best practices in serverclasses

 Reduces need to exclude hosts from serverclasses **Role: Windows Web Servers**

Role: Windows Print Servers

all_fowarders

all_windows

win_print_srv

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

win_mon_inputs_app

win_perf_inputs_app

win_iis_inputs_app

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

win_mon_inputs_app

win_perf_inputs_app

win_print_inputs_app

Best practices in serverclasses

- Reduces need to exclude hosts from serverclasses
- Reduces bundles created every reload after an app is changed

Role: Windows Web Servers

Role: Windows Print Servers

all_fowarders

all_windows

win_print_srv

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

win_mon_inputs_app

win_perf_inputs_app

win_iis_inputs_app

deploymentclient_app

outputs_app

win_mon_inputs_app

win_perf_inputs_app

win_print_inputs_app



How to handle updating serverclasses

Manually update serverclass.conf



How to handle updating serverclasses

- Manually update serverclass.conf
- Use regex for whitelist/blacklists



How to handle updating serverclasses

- Manually update serverclass.conf
- Use regex for whitelist/blacklists
- Build a lookup using data from Splunk!



How to handle updating serverclasses

- Manually update serverclass.conf
- Use regex for whitelist/blacklists
- Build a lookup using data from Splunk!
- Protip: avoid some of this trouble with an organization-wide naming convention!



Using Regex

- Match an expected host naming convention
- Match an expected IP address or range



Serverclass Filter Strategies

- whitelist.<n> = <clientName> | <IP address> | <hostname> | <instanceId>
- blacklist.<n> = <clientName> | <IP address> | <hostname> | <instanceId>
 - (Modified PCRE allowed)
 - . means \.
 - * means . *

	P-DC*	.*-SQL.*202.*	P-(SQL DC)*	D*
P-DC-afk2019	V		V	
D-DC-brb2019				V
P-DC-brb2022	V		V	
P-SQL-hmm2022		V	V	
D-SQL-bak2022		V		V
P-SQL-aob2016			V	

- machineTypesFilter
 - OS architecture filtering

Automate it.



Using a Splunk lookup

 Generate to match hosted application or service results



- Generate to match hosted application or service results
- Generate based on problematic system logs



- Generate to match hosted application or service results
- Generate based on problematic system logs
- Generate based on | ldapsearch results



- whitelist.from_pathname|blacklist.from_pathname
 - File path to text file or csv

- whitelist.from_pathname|blacklist.from_pathname
 - File path to text file or csv
 - May be used with (whitelist|blacklist).select_field
 - Selects the field containing the clientName, IP address, or hostname

- whitelist.from_pathname|blacklist.from_pathname
 - File path to text file or csv
 - May be used with (whitelist|blacklist).select_field
 - Selects the field containing the clientName, IP address, or hostname
 - May be used with (whitelist|blacklist).where_field
 - Selects a field that can be used as an additional filter in the CSV

Serverclass Lookup Strategies

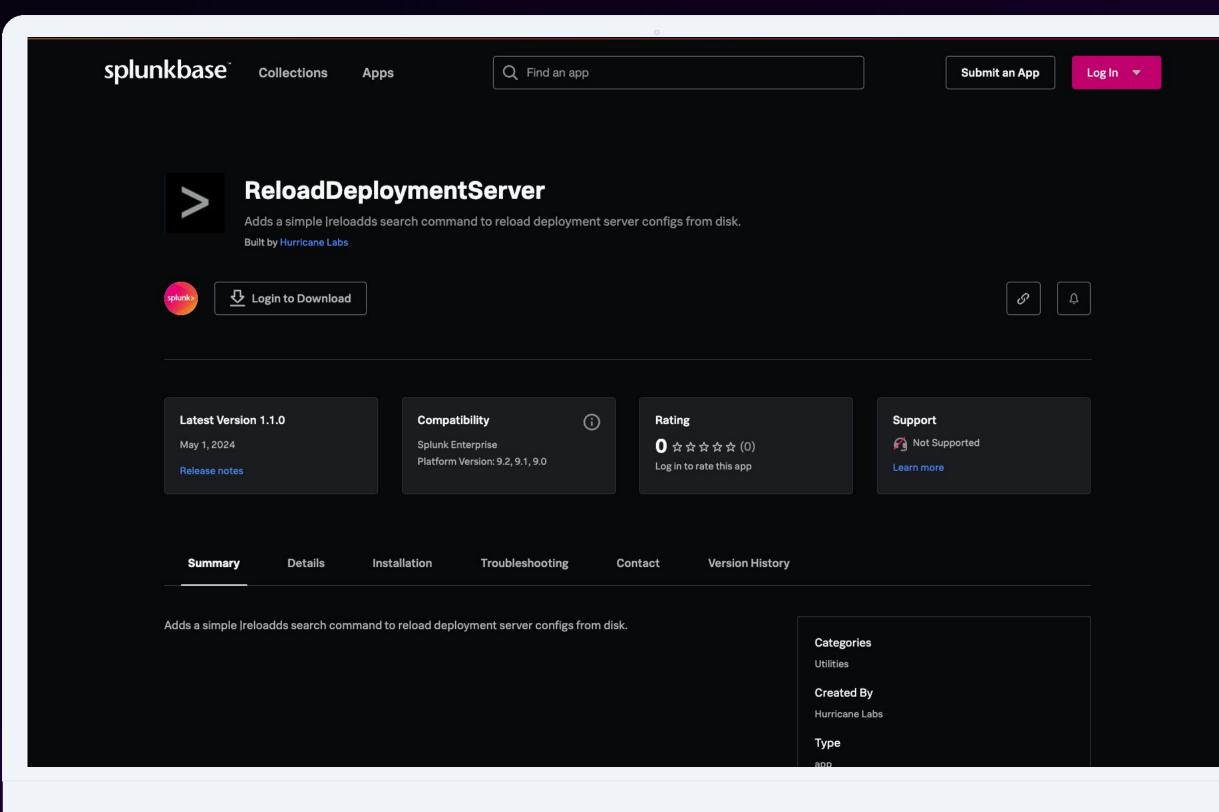
Using a Splunk lookup

- whitelist.from_pathname|blacklist.from_pathname
 - File path to text file or csv
 - May be used with (whitelist|blacklist).select_field
 - Selects the field containing the clientName, IP address, or hostname
 - May be used with (whitelist|blacklist).where_field
 - Selects a field that can be used as an additional filter in the CSV
 - Requires use of (whitelist|blacklist).where_equals to specify the filter match
 - (whitelist|blacklist).where_equals allows for PCRE matches

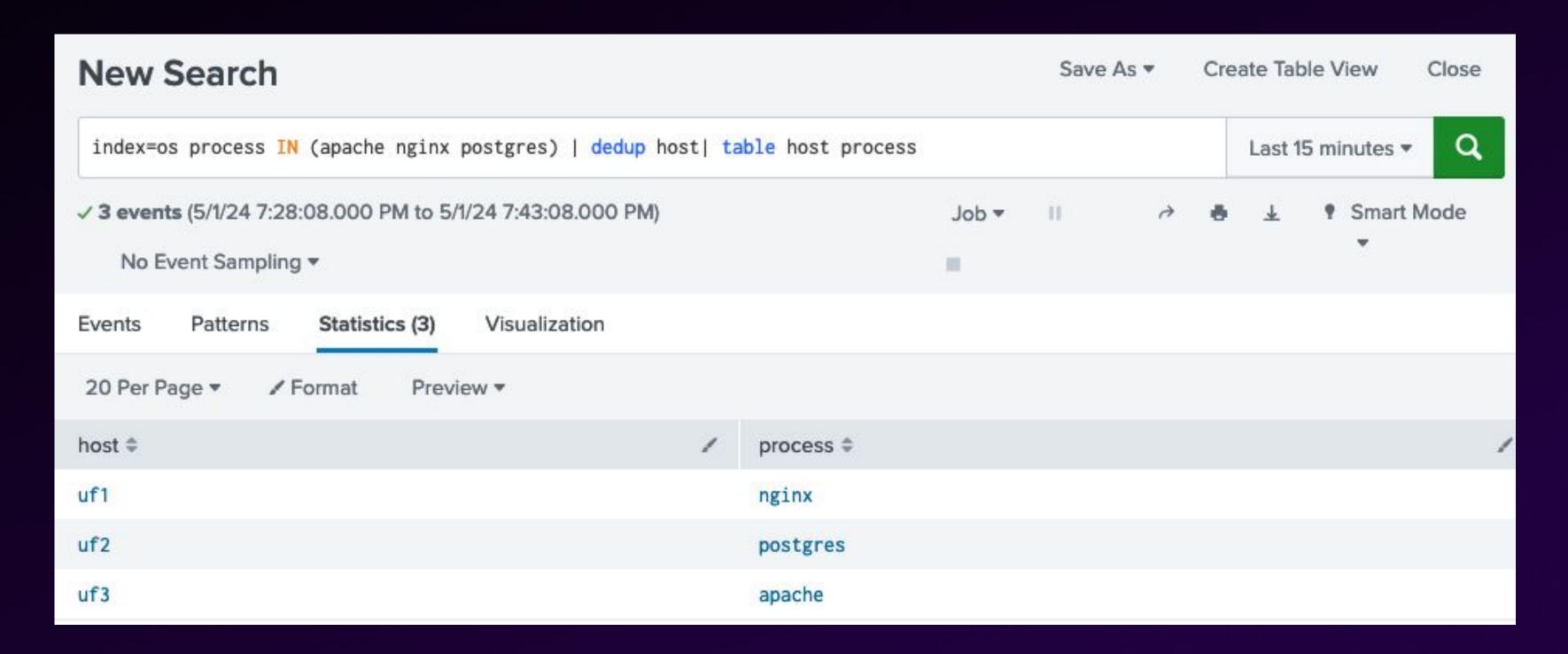
ReloadDeploymentServer app

https://splunkbase.splunk.com/app/7339

- Adds a | reloadds standalone search command
- Provides a "Reload Deployment Server" alert action



- Generate a lookup from a search
- Use this to populate a serverclass

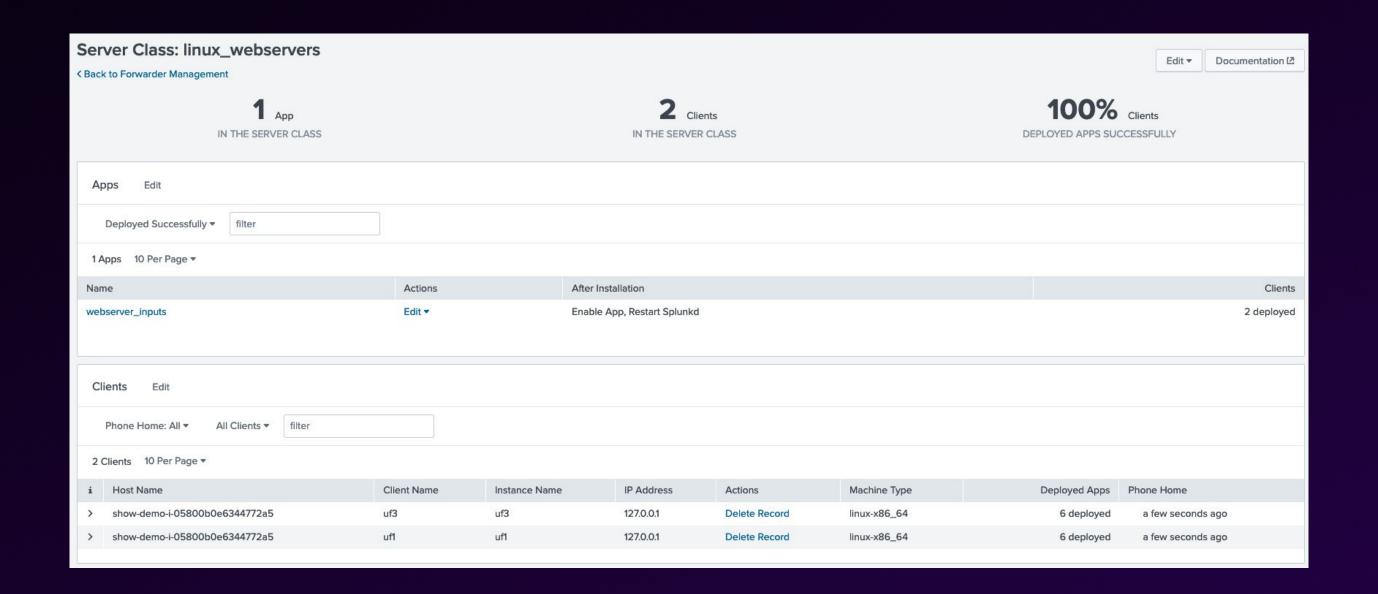


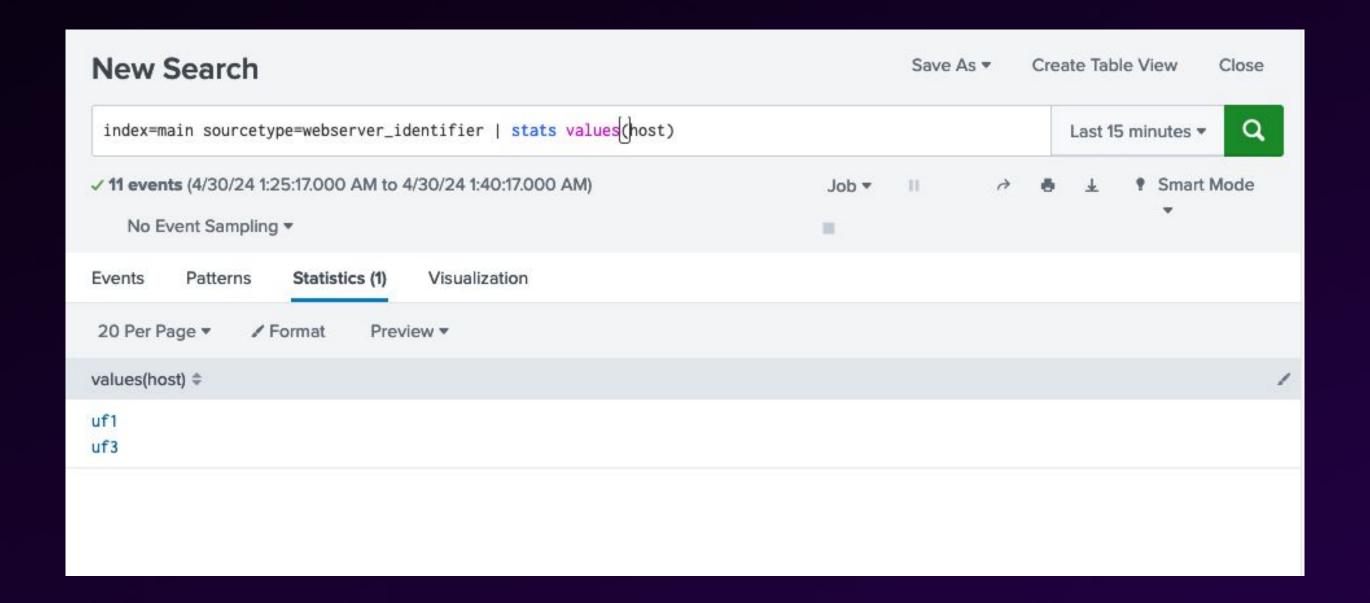
Save As Alert ×

Title	serverclass_gen		
Description	Generates a list of server hosts from processes		
Permissions	Private	•	Shared in App
Alert type	Sched	uled	Real-time
	Run on Cron Schedule ▼		
Time Range	Last 15 minutes ▶		
Cron Expression	*/2 * * * *		
	e.g. 00 18 *** (every day at 6	PM). Learn More	
Expires	24		hour(s) ▼
rigger Conditions			
Trigger alert when	Number of Results ▼		
	is greate	r than ▼ 0	
Trigger	Once		For each result
Throttle ?			
Trigger Actions			
	+ Add Actions ▼		
	✓ Output results to lookup		
When triggered	V a Output resu	ilts to lookup	Remove
When triggered	V a Output resu	serverclass.csv	Remove
When triggered	File name		
When triggered	File name	serverclass.csv Provide a new or existing .csv lookup to	Remove
When triggered	File name	serverclass.csv Provide a new or existing .csv lookup to file name.	able

```
[serverClass:linux_webservers]
whitelist.from_pathname = etc/apps/search/lookups/serverclass.csv
whitelist.select_field = host
whitelist.where_field = process
whitelist.where_equals = nginx, apache
machineTypesFilter = linux-x86_64

[serverClass:linux_webservers:app:webserver_inputs]
restartSplunkWeb = 0
restartSplunkd = 1
```





Serverclass Design Recap

- Populate a serverclass and reload the deployment server via a savedsearch
- Create a serverclass that utilizes a filtered lookup as a whitelist
- Use hostname schemes to accurately identify serverclass hosts



Let's Recap!





How the DS works

Photo credit:







How the DS works

Bundles & Checksums

Photo credit









How the DS works

Bundles & Checksums

Security Tips

Photo credit





How the DS works



Bundles & Checksums



Security Tips



Automation and Scaling

Photo credit



Questions?

Need more help?

Come visit us at the Hurricane Labs booth!



Take this and run.

Thank you!



Thankyou

