



# Intro to the Public Repository for Detection Rules

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Elastic Security

July 15th, 2020



**Paul Ewing**  
Sr. Product Manager,  
Elastic Security

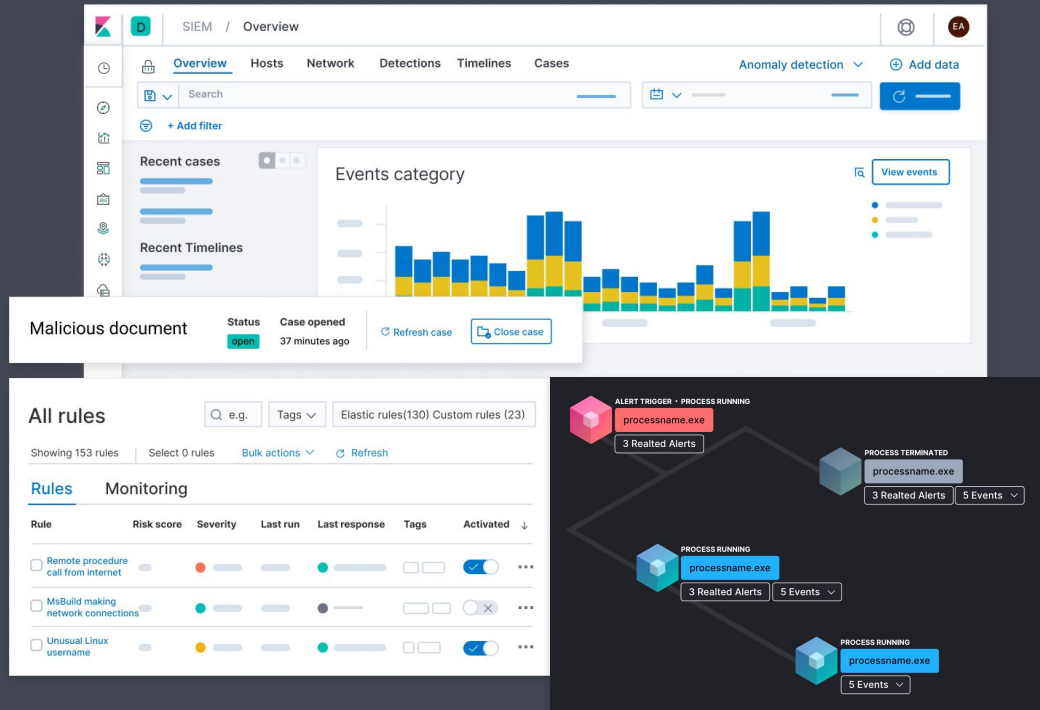


**Ross Wolf**  
Sr. Security Research Engineer,  
Elastic Security



# Unified protection for everyone

Elastic Security arms analysts to prevent, detect, and respond to threats — and it's free and open, available to analysts everywhere





Prevent



Detect



Respond

---

# Elastic Security

Unlimited insights across all your data for all time

# Elastic Security

Prevention, Detection, and Response for unified Protection



Security

Out-of-the-box solution for security analysts everywhere



Kibana

Visualize your Elasticsearch data and navigate the Elastic Stack



Elasticsearch

A distributed, RESTful search and analytics engine



Beats



Endpoint

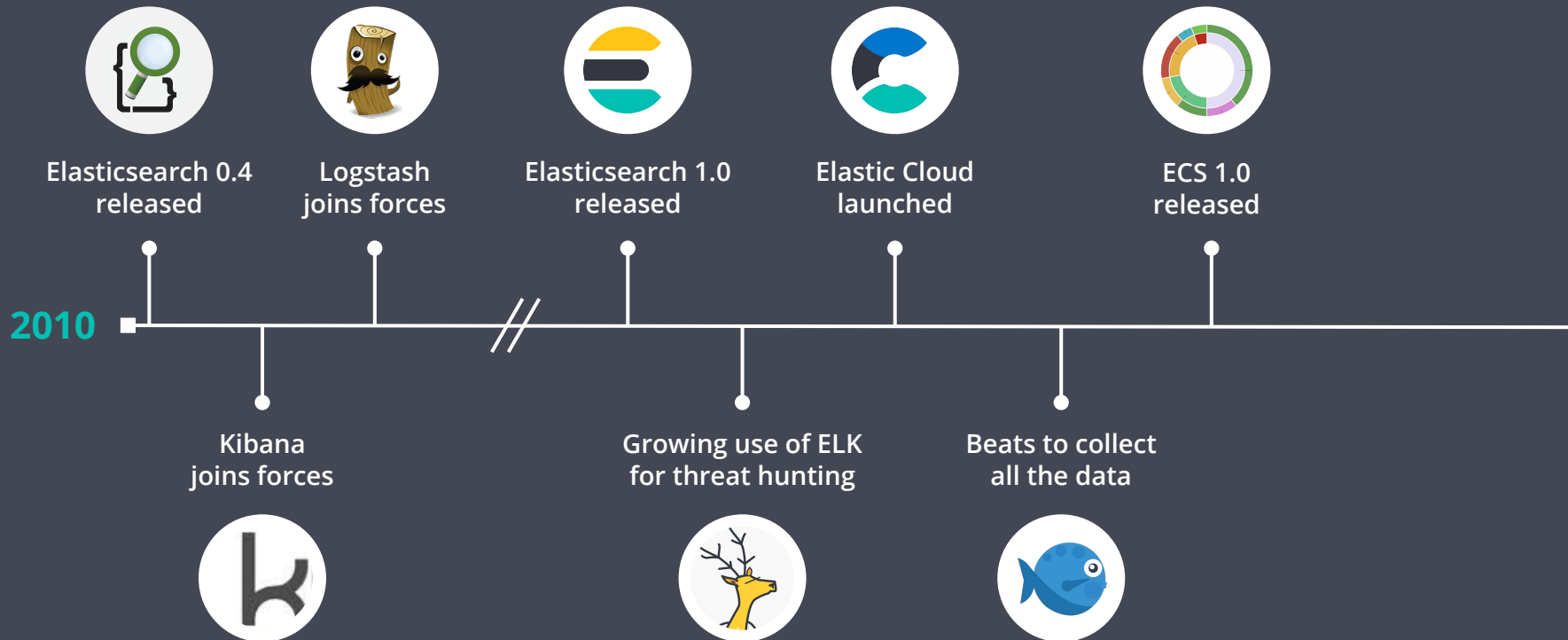


Logstash

Security content from Elastic and community

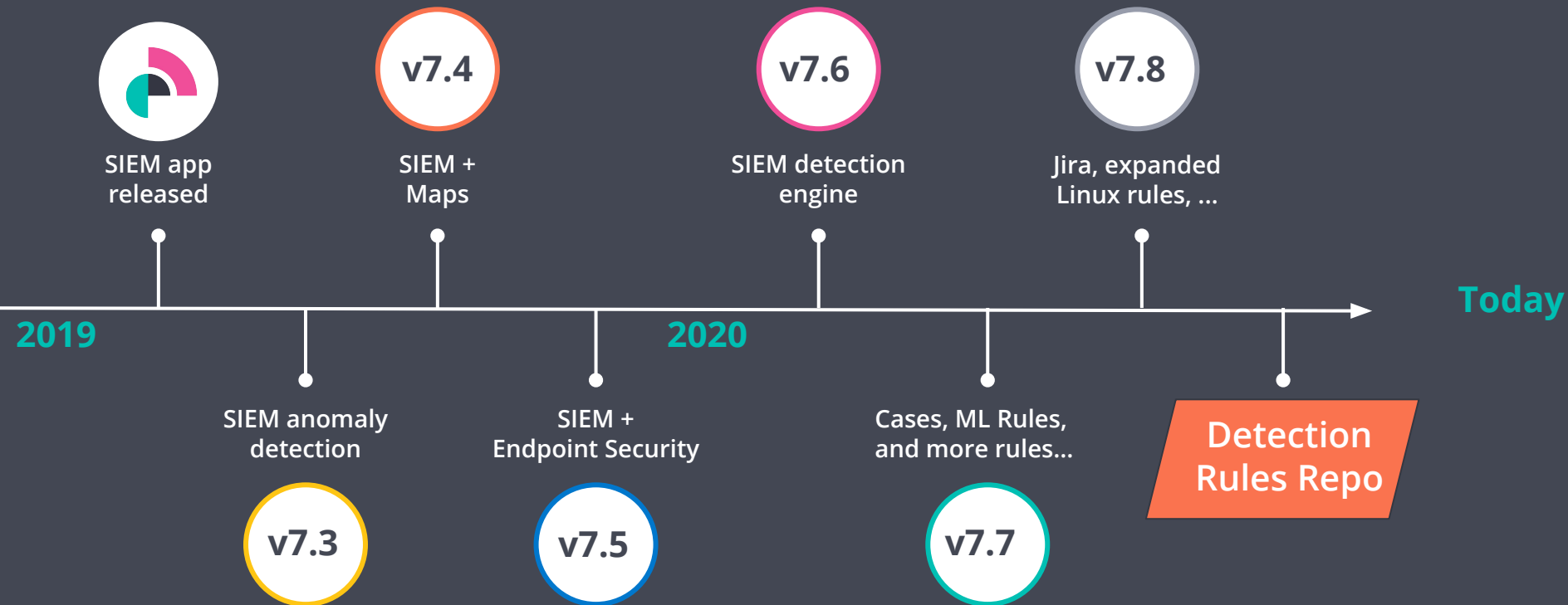
# Agenda

- 1 Elastic Security Timeline
- 2 Introduction to the Rules Repo
- 3 Detection Engineering
- 4 Contributing
- 5 Demo





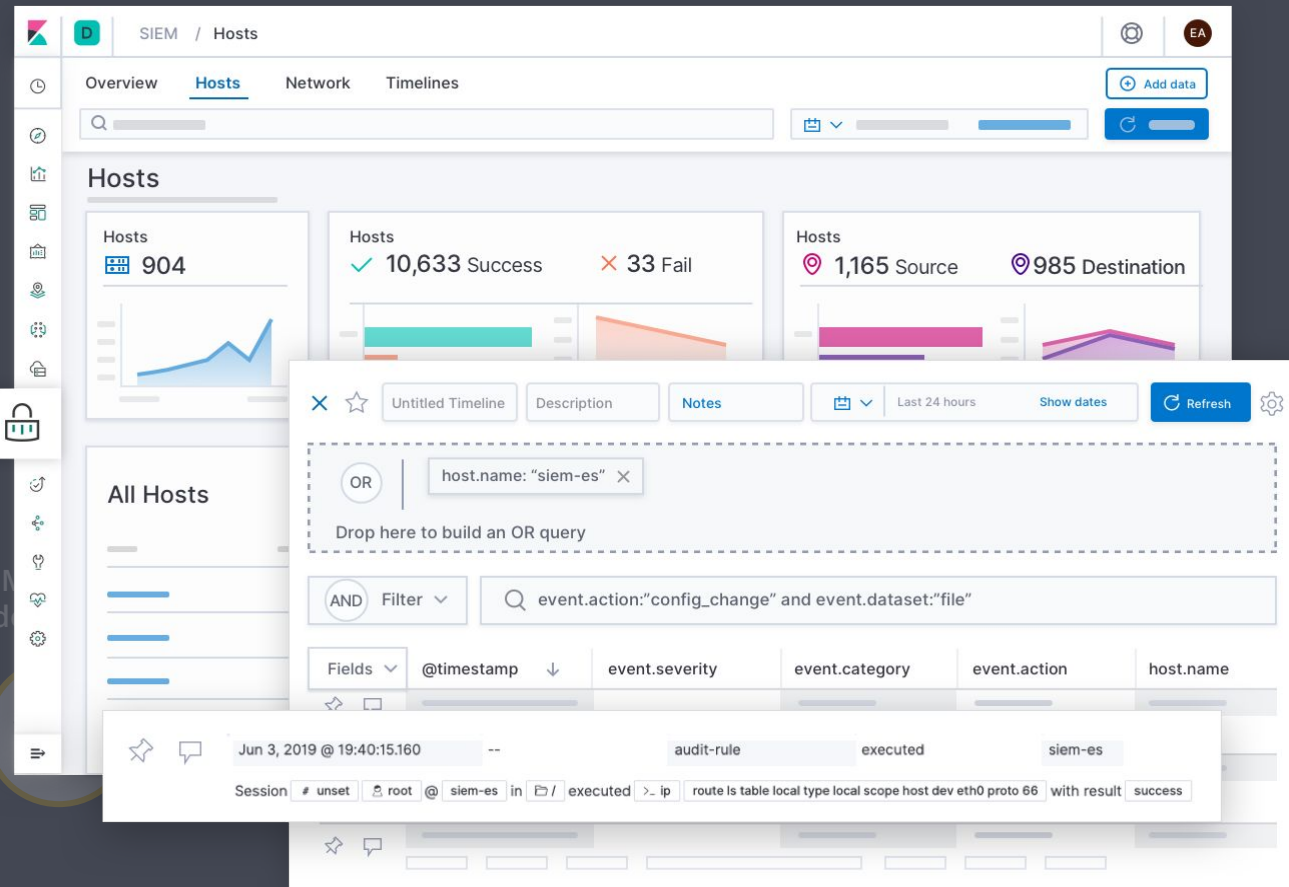
# Elastic Security







SIEM app released

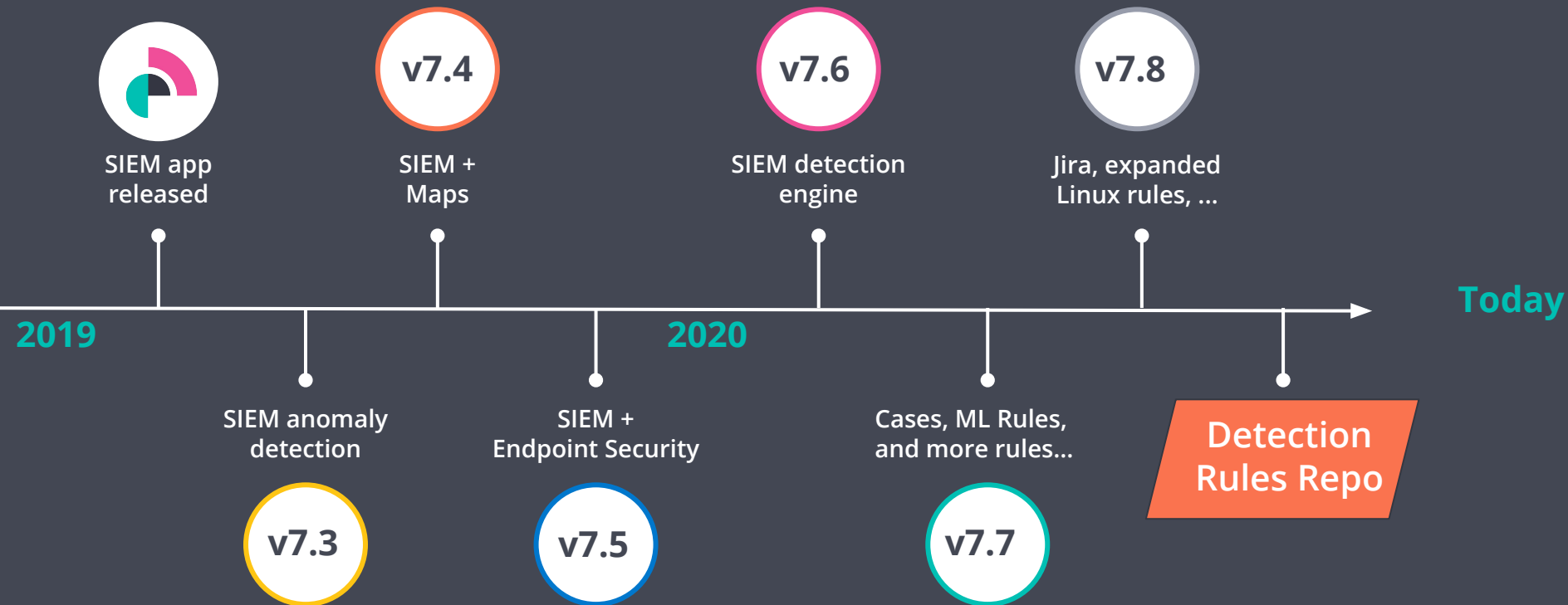


The screenshot displays the Elastic Security SIEM interface. The top navigation bar shows 'SIEM / Hosts' with tabs for Overview, Hosts (selected), Network, and Timelines. A search bar and a date range selector (Last 24 hours) are present. The main content area is titled 'Hosts' and features three summary cards: 'Hosts 904' with a line chart, 'Hosts 10,633 Success 33 Fail' with a bar chart, and 'Hosts 1,165 Source 985 Destination' with a bar chart. Below these is a section for 'All Hosts' with a table of host details. A query builder modal is open, showing a query: `host.name: "siem-es"` and `event.action: "config_change" and event.dataset: "file"`. The timeline view at the bottom shows a single event on Jun 3, 2019 at 19:40:15.160, with details: audit-rule, executed, siem-es, Session # unset, root @ siem-es in / executed >\_ ip route is table local type local scope host dev eth0 proto 66 with result success.

Today




# Elastic Security





SIEM app  
released

2019


D
SIEM

Overview

Hosts

Network

Timelines

Anomaly detection

+ Add data

SIEM BETA

Security Information & Event Management with the Elastic Stack

Getting Started

Welcome to Security Information & Event Management (SIEM). Get started by reviewing our [documentation](#) or [ingesting data](#). For information about upcoming features and tutorials, be sure to check out our [SIEM Solution](#) page.

Feedback

If you have input or suggestions regarding your experience with Elastic SIEM, please feel free to [submit feedback online](#).

Hosts

Showing: 1

ANOMALY DETECTION SETTINGS

Run any of the Machine Learning jobs below to view anomalous events throughout the SIEM application. We've provided a few common detection jobs to get you started. If you wish to add your own custom jobs, simply create and tag them with "SIEM" from the [Machine Learning](#) application for inclusion here.

Elastic Jobs


Custom Jobs

Showing: 3 Jobs

Job Name	Run Job
<div>Auditbeat</div> <div>siem-api-rare_process_linux_ecs</div> <div>SIEM Auditbeat: Detect unusually rare processes on Linux (beta)</div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<div>Auditbeat</div> <div>Module</div> <div>siem-api-rare_process_windows_ecs</div> <div>SIEM Winlogbeat: Detect unusually rare processes on Windows (beta)</div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<div>Auditbeat</div> <div>siem-api-suspicious_login_activity_ecs</div> <div>SIEM Auditbeat: Detect unusually high number of authentication attempts (beta)</div>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

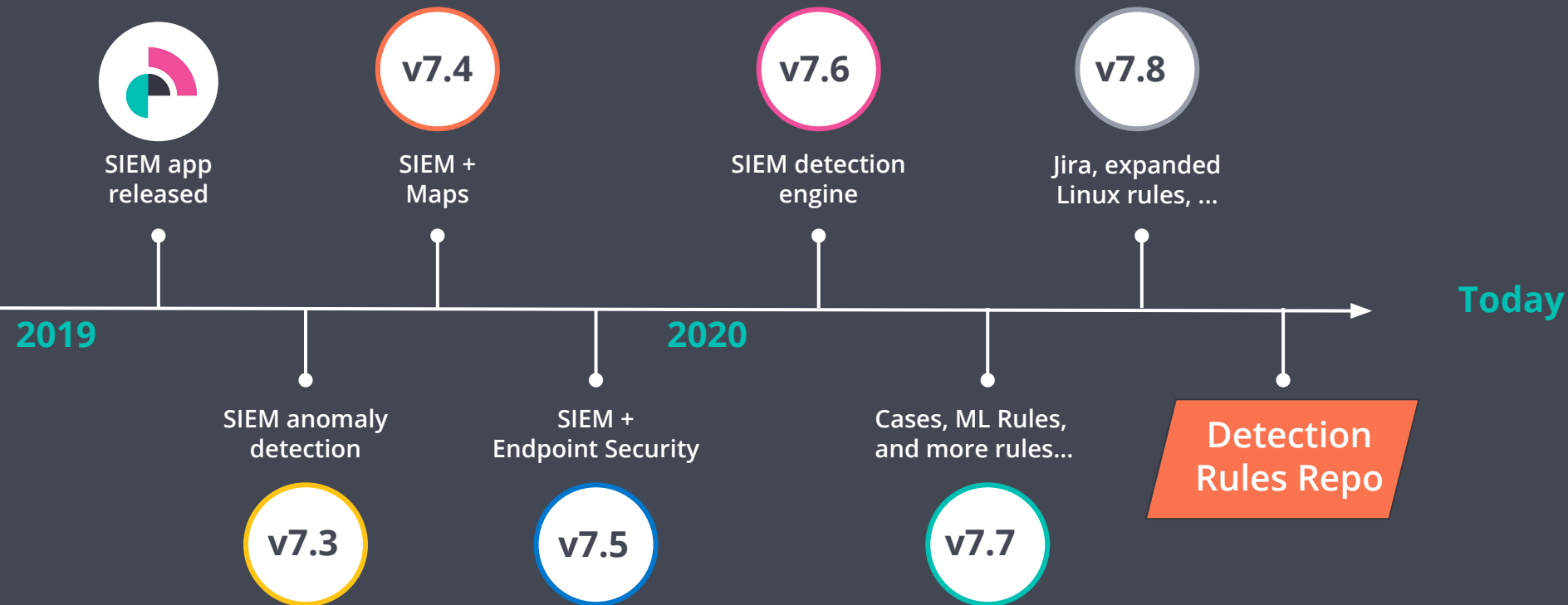
Auditbeat User	210,078	Filebeat Suricata	27,299
Filebeat System	0	Filebeat Zeek	0
Module		Packetbeat DNS	2,749
Winlogbeat	75,369	Packetbeat Flow	25

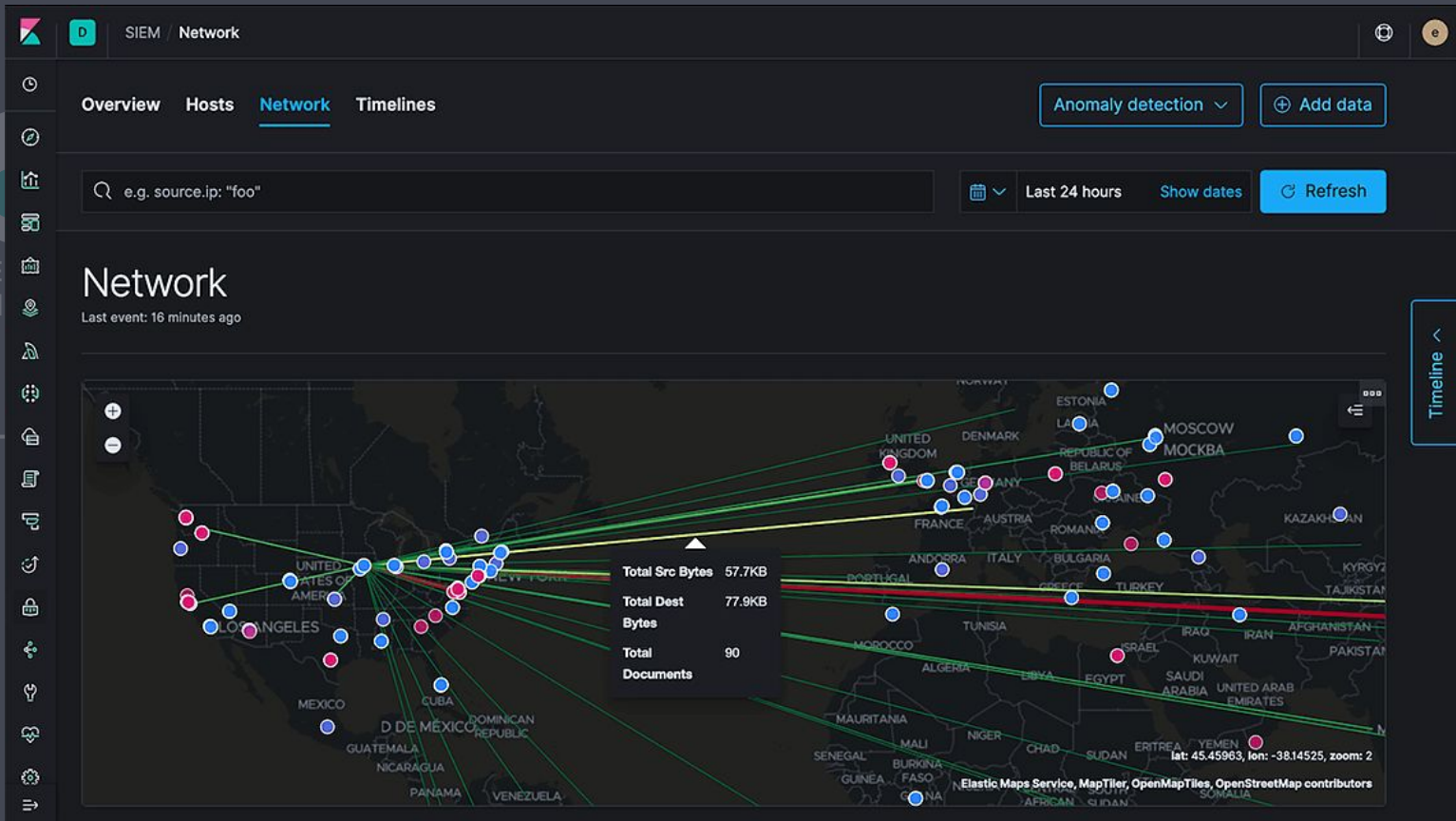
Today





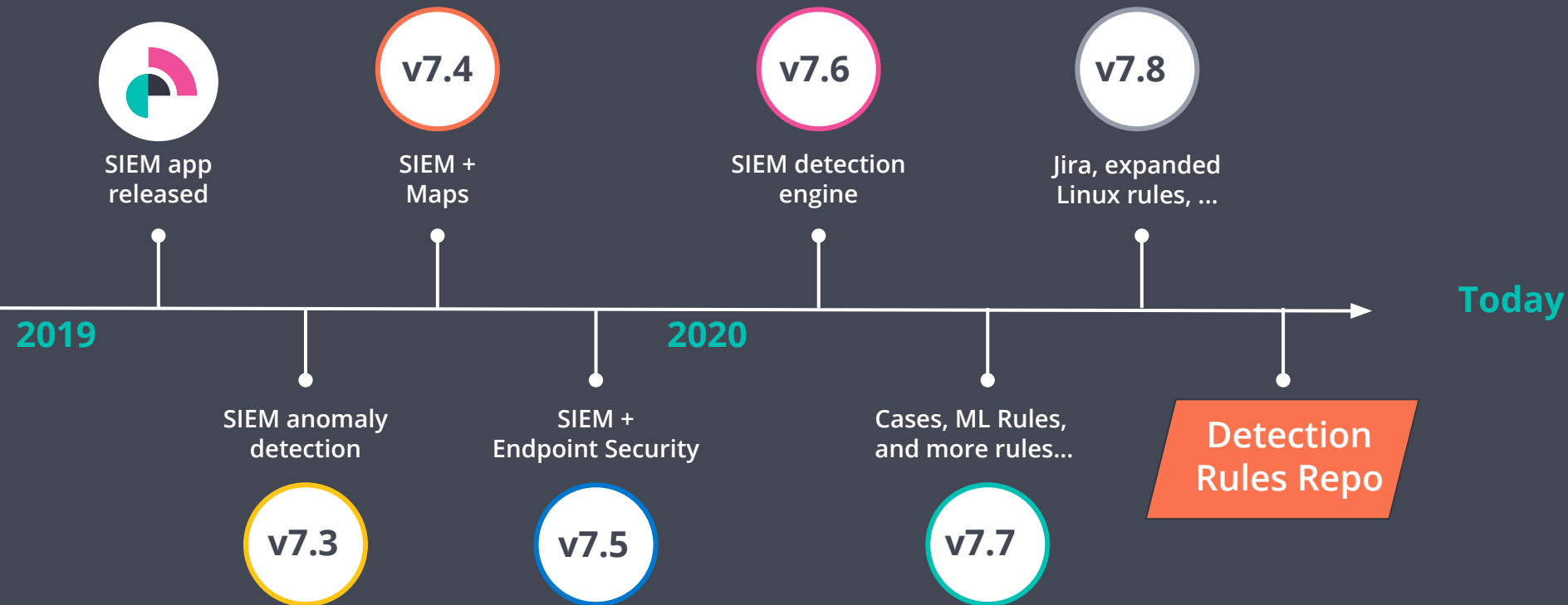
# Elastic Security







# Elastic Security



E.

## Alert Details

### Detected Malicious File

Take Action

Endgame MalwareScore® detected the opening of a document with a malicious macro on **ENDPOINT-W-0-03 (172.31.27.13)** on Oct 3, 2019 at 2:14:49 AM UTC.

Overview

Related Alerts

Comments

Enrichments

Execution

1 Enrichment

Oct 3, 2019 2:15:04 AM UTC

**Process** PROCESS TERMINATED  
powershell.exe

ATT&CK T1086

PowerShell

Execution

[View on MITRE](#)

1 Enrichment

Oct 3, 2019 2:16:05 AM UTC

**Process** PROCESS TERMINATED  
sc.exe

ATT&CK T1489

Service Stop

Impact

[View on MITRE](#)

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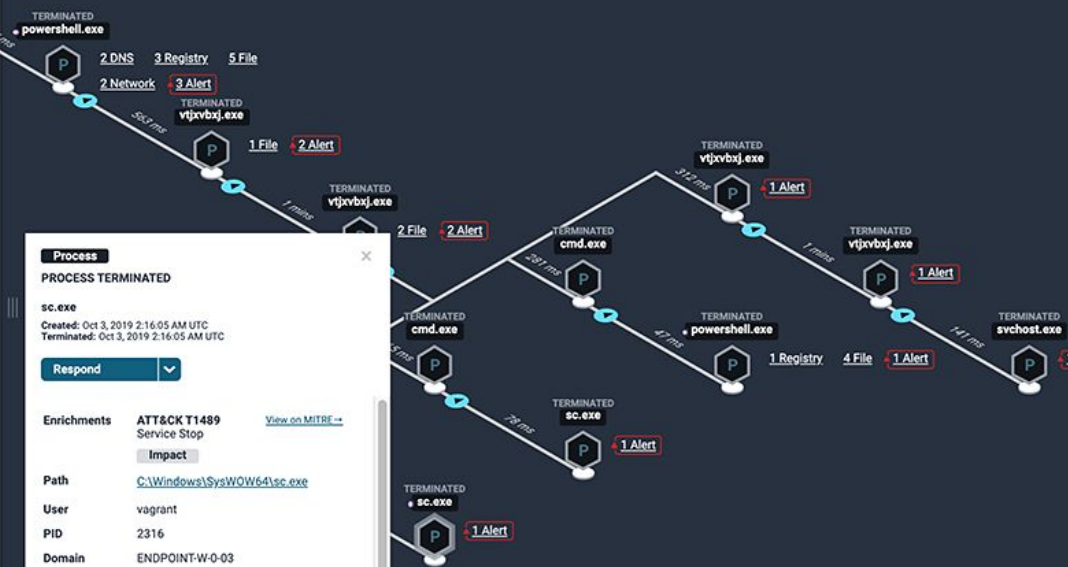
## RESOLVER

14 Threats

9 Behaviors

23 Total

Retrieve New Data



### Process

#### PROCESS TERMINATED

sc.exe

Created: Oct 3, 2019 2:16:05 AM UTC

Terminated: Oct 3, 2019 2:16:05 AM UTC

Respond

Enrichments

ATT&CK T1489

Service Stop

Impact

Path [C:\Windows\SysWOW64\sc.exe](#)

User vagrant

PID 2316

Domain ENDPOINT-W-0-03

MD5 d2f7a0adc2ee0f65ab1f19d2e00c16b8

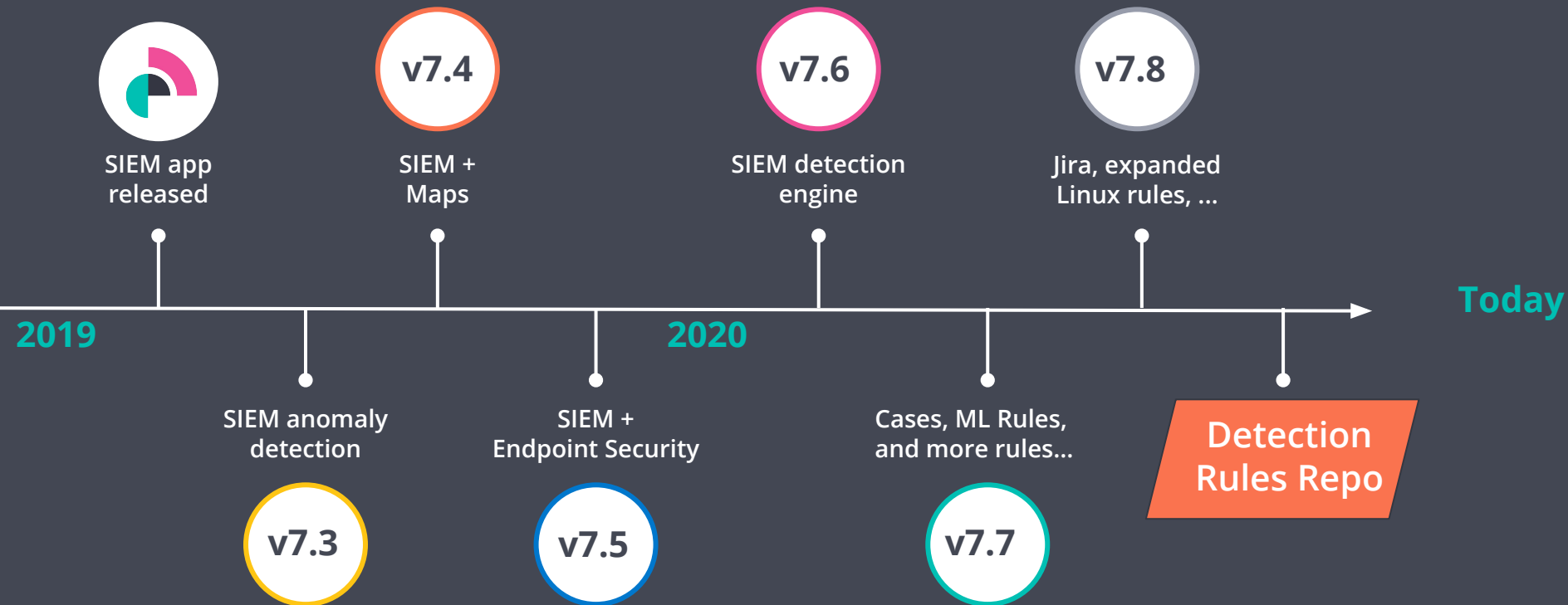
PPID 680

Command Line sc stop WinDefend

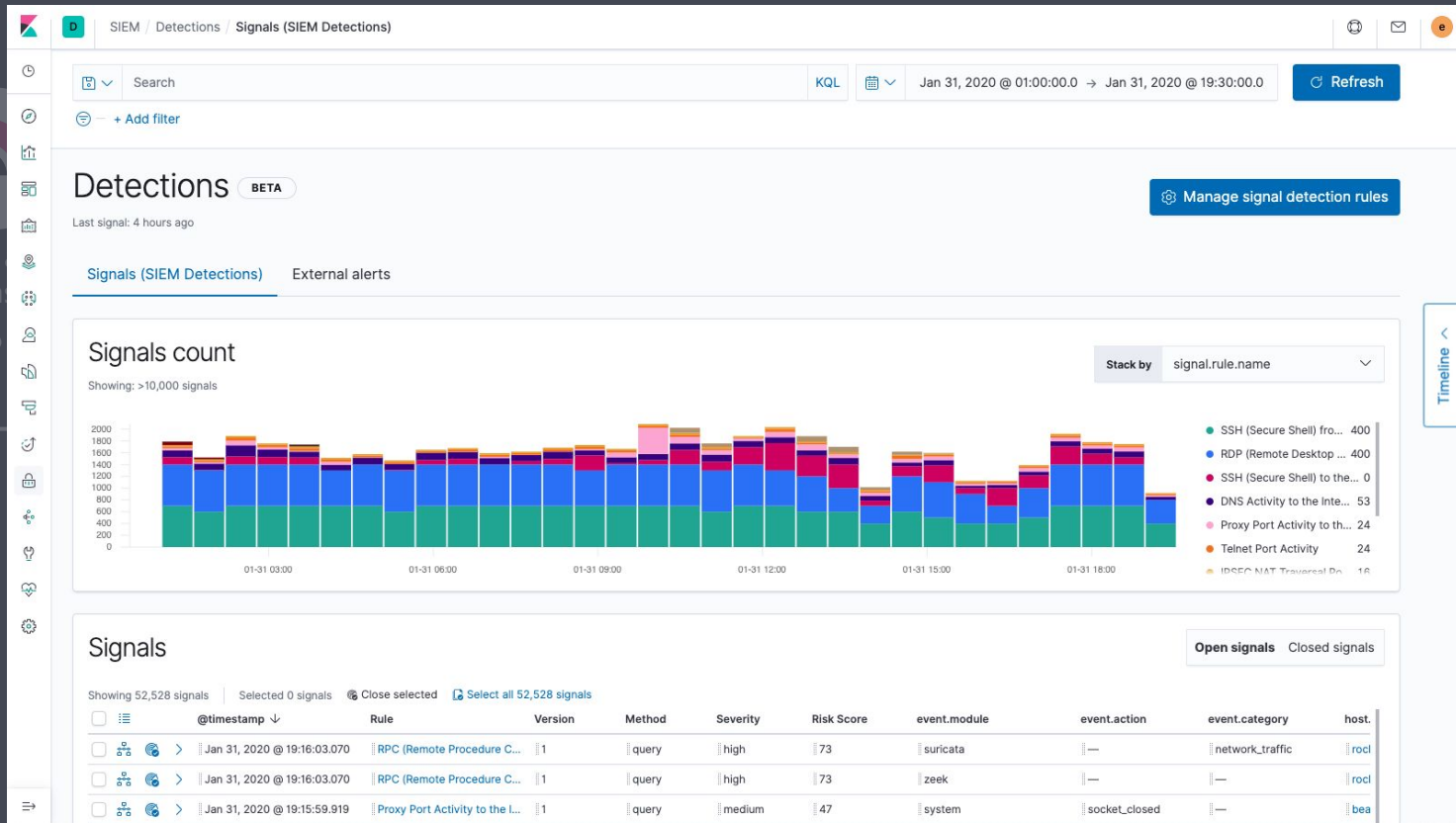
Today



# Elastic Security



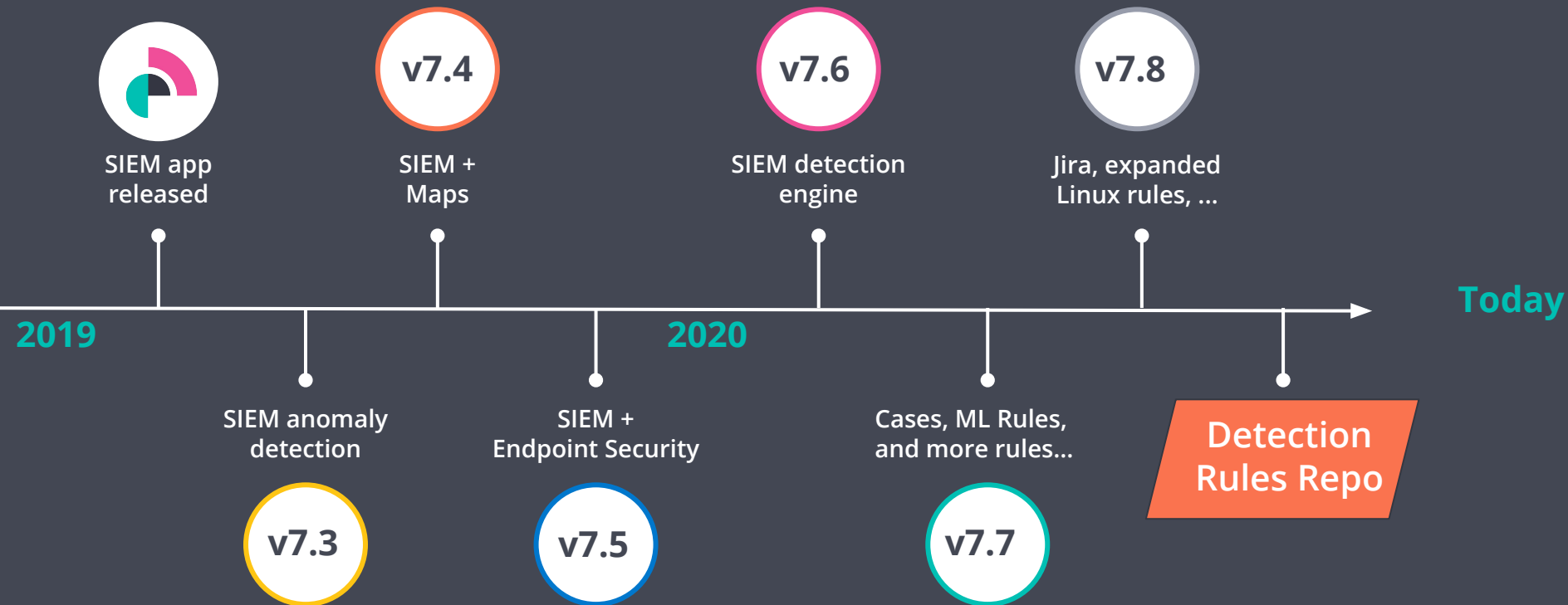




Today



# Elastic Security



Last response:  succeeded at Jun 8, 2020 @ 23:52:16.635 

Adversaries may attempt to disable the iptables or firewall service in an attempt to affect how a host is allowed to receive or send network traffic.

Risk score 47

Tags Elastic Linux

## Index patterns

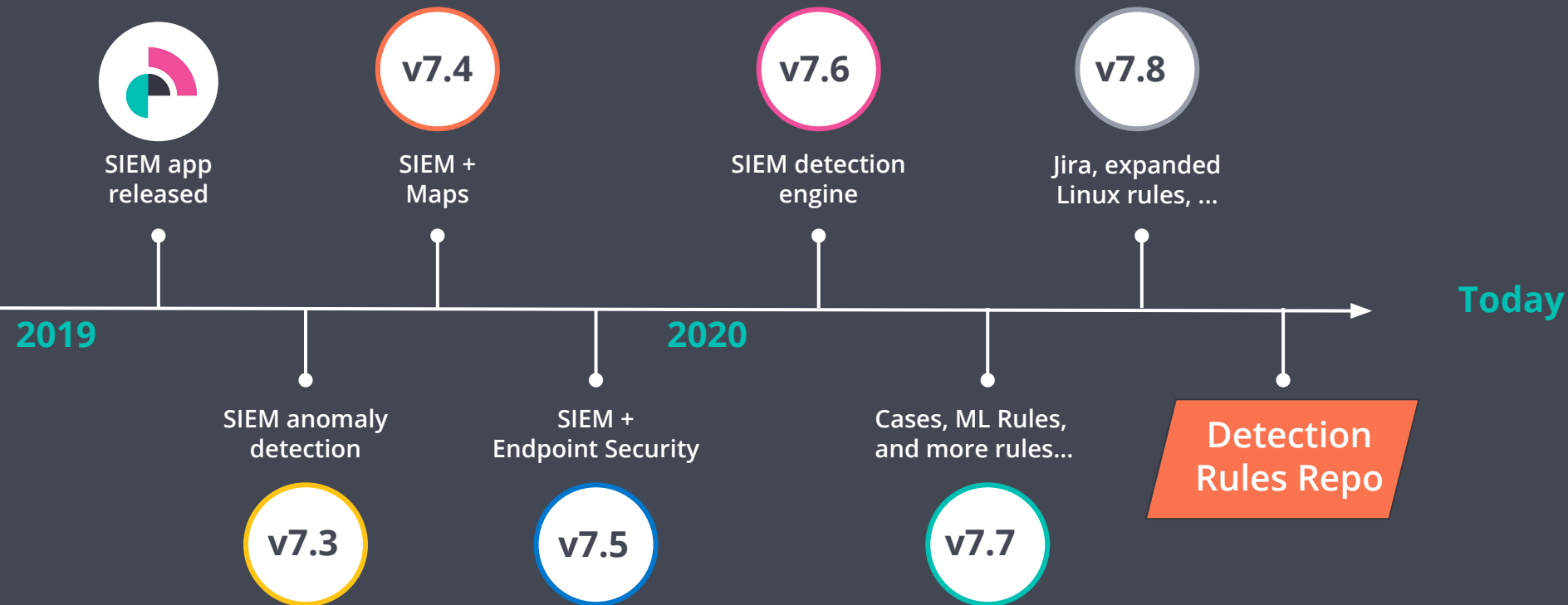
### Custom query

Rule type	Query
-----------	-------

**Timeline template**      None



# Elastic Security



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# Repo at a Glance

## Community & Collaboration

- A dev-first mentality for malicious behavior detection

## The Rules

- A place to engage on rules for all users of Elastic Security

## Contribution Guides

- Creating issues, submitting PRs, our philosophy, and more!

## Developer Tools

- Interactive CLI to create rules
- Syntax validation, ECS schemas, metadata checker, etc.

[github.com/elastic/detection-rules](https://github.com/elastic/detection-rules)

### Detection Rules

Detection Rules is the home for rules used by Elastic Security. This repository is used for the development, maintenance, testing, validation, and release of rules for Elastic Security's Detection Engine.

This repository was first announced on Elastic's blog post, [Elastic Security opens public detection rules repo](#).

### Table of Contents

- [Overview of this repository](#)
- [Getting started](#)
- [How to contribute](#)
- [Licensing](#)

### Overview of this repository

Detection Rules contains more than just static rule files. This repository also contains code for unit testing in Python and integrating with the Detection Engine in Kibana.

folder	description
<a href="#">detection_rules/</a>	Python module for rule parsing, validating and packaging
<a href="#">etc/</a>	Miscellaneous files, such as ECS and Beats schemas
<a href="#">kibana/</a>	Python library for handling the API calls to Kibana and the Detection Engine
<a href="#">kql/</a>	Python library for parsing and validating Kibana Query Language
<a href="#">rta/</a>	Red Team Automation code used to emulate attacker techniques, used for rule testing
<a href="#">rules/</a>	Root directory where rules are stored

# Repo Walkthrough



# detection-rules

elastic / detection-rules

<> Code ⓘ Issues 20 🔄 Pull requests 6 ▶ Actions 🔒 Security 📊 Insights

🌿 Branch: main ▾

Go to file

↓ Code ▾

🕒 53 commits 🌿 7 branches 📦 0 tags

📁 .github	Fix new rule template	4 days ago
📁 detection_rules	Generate linted .ts in package (#49)	4 days ago
📁 etc	[New Rule] AWS EC2 Snapshot Activity	6 days ago
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📁 kql	Add KQL module	14 days ago
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## About

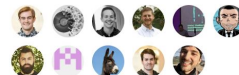
Rules for Elastic Security's detection engine

🔗 [www.elastic.co/guide/en/siem/guid...](https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/siem/guidelines/index.html)

📖 Readme

📄 View license

## Contributors 15



+ 4 contributors

## Languages



# detection-rules

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## Getting started

Although rules can be added by manually creating `.yaml` files, we don't recommend it. This repository also consists of a python module that aids rule creation and unit testing. Assuming you have Python 3.7+, run the below command to install the dependencies:

# detection-rules

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# detection-rules/rules/

main ▾

detection-rules / rules /

Go to file

Add file ▾

...

✓ 10 hours ago [History](#)

..

📁	apm	Populate rules/ directory.	14 days ago
📁	aws	[New rule] AWS Secrets Manager and System Manager	5 days ago
📁	linux	Improve ECS compatibility for endpoint rules	6 days ago
📁	ml	Fix terminology and doc links ( <a href="#">#54</a> )	10 hours ago
📁	network	Fix terminology and doc links ( <a href="#">#54</a> )	10 hours ago
📁	okta	Add event.module value to Okta rules ( <a href="#">#19</a> )	7 days ago
📁	promotions	[New Rule] Elastic Endpoint and External Alerts ( <a href="#">#42</a> )	4 days ago
📁	windows	Fix terminology and doc links ( <a href="#">#54</a> )	10 hours ago
📄	README.md	[New Rule] Elastic Endpoint and External Alerts ( <a href="#">#42</a> )	4 days ago

# detection-rules/rules/

Rules within this folder are organized by solution or platform. The structure is flattened out, because nested file hierarchies are hard to navigate and find what you're looking for. Each directory contains several `.toml` files, and the primary ATT&CK tactic is included in the file name when it's relevant (i.e.

`windows/execution_via_compiled_html_file.toml` )

folder	description
.	Root directory where rules are stored
apm/	Rules that use Application Performance Monitoring (APM) data sources
aws/	Rules written for the Amazon Web Services (AWS) module of filebeat
cross-platform/	Rules that apply to multiple platforms, such as Windows and Linux
linux/	Rules for Linux or other Unix based operating systems
macos/	Rules for macOS
ml/	Rules that use machine learning jobs (ML)
network/	Rules that use network data sources
okta/	Rules written for the Okta module of filebeat
promotions/	Rules that promote external alerts into detection engine alerts
windows/	Rules for the Microsoft Windows Operating System

# detection-rules/rules/



main

detection-rules / rules / windows / defense\_evasion\_encoding\_or\_decoding\_files\_via\_certutil.toml

Go to file



brokensound77 Improve ECS compatibility for endpoint rules

Latest commit 95908c2 7 days ago

History

6 contributors



42 lines (35 sloc) 1.13 KB

Raw

Blame



```
1  [metadata]
2  creation_date = "2020/02/18"
3  ecs_version = ["1.5.0"]
4  maturity = "production"
5  updated_date = "2020/06/24"
6
7  [rule]
8  author = ["Elastic"]
9  description = ""
10 Identifies the use of certutil.exe to encode or decode data. CertUtil is a native Windows component which is part of
11 Certificate Services. CertUtil is often abused by attackers to encode or decode base64 data for stealthier command and
12 control or exfiltration.
13 ""
14 index = ["winlogbeat-*"]
15 language = "kuery"
16 license = "Elastic License"
17 name = "Encoding or Decoding Files via CertUtil"
18 risk_score = 47
19 rule_id = "fd70c98a-c410-42dc-a2e3-761c71848acf"
20 severity = "medium"
21 tags = ["Elastic", "Windows"]
22 type = "query"
23
24 query = '''
25 event.category:process and event.type:(start or process_started) and
26   process.name:certutil.exe and process.args:(-decode or -encode or /decode or /encode)
27 '''
28
```

```
29
30 [[rule.threat]]
31 framework = "MITRE ATT&CK"
32 [[rule.threat.technique]]
33 id = "T1140"
34 name = "Deobfuscate/Decode Files or Information"
35 reference = "https://attack.mitre.org/techniques/T1140/"
36
37
38 [[rule.threat.tactic]]
39 id = "TA0005"
40 name = "Defense Evasion"
41 reference = "https://attack.mitre.org/tactics/TA0005/"
42
```

# What we want to accomplish

[github.com/elastic/detection-rules](https://github.com/elastic/detection-rules)

- Improve security with the power of **open source**
- Share **best practices** for high fidelity rules
- **Develop quickly** and learn with you
- Provide the best **experience** for Elastic Security users

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# Detection engineering with Elastic Security

# PHILOSOPHY.md

The latest  
information is  
always in the repo

 elastic / **detection-rules**

<> Code 20 Issues 6 Pull requests 6 Actions Security Insights

Branch: main Go to file Code

53 commits 7 branches 0 tags

folder	.github	Fix new rule template	4 days ago
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# Our approach to detection engineering

PHILOSOPHY.md

- Shaped by our collective **real-world experience**
- Focus on **behaviors** more than custom tools
- Write logic **independent from the data source**
- Detect **true positives** while avoiding **false positives**
- Improve Elasticsearch **performance** when possible

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# Detect behaviors more than custom tools

PHILOSOPHY.md

- Emphasize **technique**, not **indicators**
  - Forces you to write generic detections
  - Avoids the risk of overfitting
  - Similar philosophy to MITRE ATT&CK®
- **Make exceptions** where it makes sense
  - When a high-fidelity behavioral detection is nontrivial

# Detect behaviors more than custom tools

PHILOSOPHY.md

## ✗ Indicator

`process.name:mimikatz.exe` or  
`process.command_line:*sekurlsa*`

## ✓ Behavior

`event.module:sysmon` and  
`event.code:10` and  
`winlog.event_data.TargetImage:`  
`lsass.exe`

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# Write logic independent of data sources

PHILOSOPHY.md

- **Accommodate** various data sources
- Use Elastic Common Schema (**ECS**)
  - Use fields and categorization in ECS
- Make rules **plug-and-play**
  - Requires data source to map correctly to ECS
  - Less logic to maintain

# Using Elastic Common Schema (ECS)

<https://github.com/elastic/ecs>

- Defines a **common** set of field names and types
- Enumerates **categorization fields** and **values** to bin similar events together
- Designed to be **extensible** and grow with our needs
- ECS is **adopted** throughout the Elastic Stack

# Write logic independent of data sources

PHILOSOPHY.md

 Specific to each source

`src:10.42.42.42` or

`client_ip:10.42.42.42` or

`apache2.access.remote_ip:`

`10.42.42.42` or

`context.user.ip:10.42.42.42`

 With standard ECS field

`source.ip:10.42.42.42`

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# Detect true positives while avoiding false positives

PHILOSOPHY.md

- Generic detections **increase FPs** disproportionately
  - Many techniques abuse built-in behavior and generate high volumes of benign activity
- Look for logic to **tip the scales towards TP**
- Attempt to **evade your detections**
  - Iterate until logic is rigorous

# Detect true positives while avoiding false positives

PHILOSOPHY.md

- **Create or Modify System Process: Windows Service**
  - ATT&CK technique T1543 subtechnique 003
- **System Services: Service Execution**
  - ATT&CK technique T1569, subtechnique 002

# Detect true positives while avoiding false positives

PHILOSOPHY.md

✗ Too vague

```
process.name:sc.exe
```

✗ Too many false positives

```
process.name:sc.exe and  
process.args:(create or config)
```

# Detect true positives while avoiding false positives

PHILOSOPHY.md

✗ Too easy to evade

`process.command_line:`

```
"sc *create * binPath*"
```

✗ Too easy to evade

`process.name:sc.exe` and

`process.command_line:`

```
"* create * binPath*"
```



# Detect true positives while avoiding false positives

PHILOSOPHY.md

✗ Too overfitted

`process.name:sc.exe` and  
`process.args:(create or config)`  
and `process.parent.name:cmd.exe`

✓ Good FP and TP balance

`process.name:sc.exe` and  
`process.args:(create or config)`  
and (`process.args:\\\\* or`  
not `user.name:SYSTEM`)

# Detect true positives while avoiding false positives

PHILOSOPHY.md

Use command line arguments to infer adversary intent

Lateral movement

Privilege escalation

✓ Good FP and TP balance

```
process.name:sc.exe and  
process.args:(create or config)  
and (process.args:\\\\* or  
not user.name:SYSTEM)
```

# Our approach to detection engineering

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- Shaped by our collective **real-world experience**
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- Improve Elasticsearch **performance** when possible

# Improve Elasticsearch performance when possible

PHILOSOPHY.md

- Use the proper **index patterns** when using Beats
- Target **ECS array fields** instead of parsing on the fly
- Prefer **exact matches** or **trailing wildcards**
- Don't be afraid to ask!

# Improve Elasticsearch performance when possible

PHILOSOPHY.md

## ✗ Unnecessary wildcards

```
process.name:sc.exe and  
process.command_line:(  
  *create* or *config*  
)
```

## ✓ Use parsed fields

```
process.name:sc.exe and  
process.args:(create or config)
```

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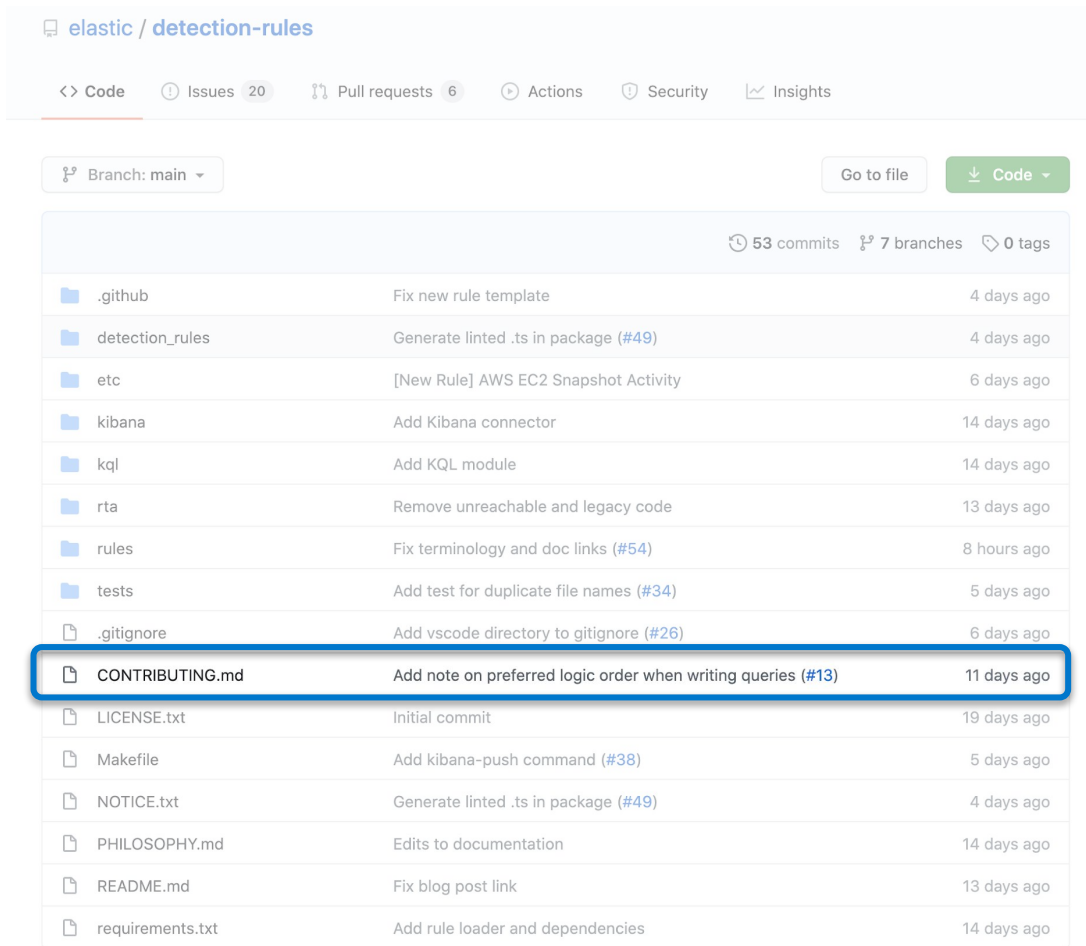
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# How to contribute to detection rules



# CONTRIBUTING.md

The latest  
information is  
always in the repo



The screenshot shows the GitHub repository page for `elastic / detection-rules`. The repository has 20 issues, 6 pull requests, and 0 tags. The file list shows various directories and files, with `CONTRIBUTING.md` highlighted by a blue box. The file `CONTRIBUTING.md` was added 11 days ago with the commit message "Add note on preferred logic order when writing queries (#13)".

File	Commit Message	Time Ago
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<code>detection_rules</code>	Generate linted .ts in package (#49)	4 days ago
<code>etc</code>	[New Rule] AWS EC2 Snapshot Activity	6 days ago
<code>kibana</code>	Add Kibana connector	14 days ago
<code>kql</code>	Add KQL module	14 days ago
<code>rta</code>	Remove unreachable and legacy code	13 days ago
<code>rules</code>	Fix terminology and doc links (#54)	8 hours ago
<code>tests</code>	Add test for duplicate file names (#34)	5 days ago
<code>.gitignore</code>	Add vscode directory to gitignore (#26)	6 days ago
<b><code>CONTRIBUTING.md</code></b>	<b>Add note on preferred logic order when writing queries (#13)</b>	<b>11 days ago</b>
<code>LICENSE.txt</code>	Initial commit	19 days ago
<code>Makefile</code>	Add kibana-push command (#38)	5 days ago
<code>NOTICE.txt</code>	Generate linted .ts in package (#49)	4 days ago
<code>PHILOSOPHY.md</code>	Edits to documentation	14 days ago
<code>README.md</code>	Fix blog post link	13 days ago
<code>requirements.txt</code>	Add rule loader and dependencies	14 days ago

# Contributing to the repository

CONTRIBUTING.md

- Create a GitHub issue **first**
- **Fork** and **clone** the repository
- Use the **CLI** to create a rule
- Run **local tests** to validate syntax and logic
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# Create a GitHub issue first

CONTRIBUTING.md

- Forces us to **discuss early** in the process
  - Learn from each other and share ideas
- Choose from our **existing templates**
- **Include licenses** and links for external rules
- **Improves productivity** for pull requests
  - Less back-and-forth and more merging!

# Create a GitHub issue first

## CONTRIBUTING.md

elastic / detection-rules

Watch 28 Star 322 Fork 48

Code Issues 20 Pull requests 6 Actions Security Insights

is:issue is:open Labels 32 Milestones 0 New issue

20 Open 13 Closed Author Label Projects Milestones Assignee Sort

- [New Rule] AWS IAM Assume Role Brute Force Domain: Cloud Platform: AWS Rule: New #55 opened 8 hours ago by threat-punter
- [Bug] Kibana commit needs to update NOTICE.txt bug cli #53 opened 14 hours ago by rw-access
- Add ATT&CK subtechniques enhancement v7.10 #52 opened 15 hours ago by rw-access
- Add multiple tactics to ATT&CK mappings blocked enhancement v7.10 #51 opened 15 hours ago by rw-access

# Create a GitHub issue first

## CONTRIBUTING.md

### Bug report

Report a bug to report for the python/testing parts of Detection Rules

[Get started](#)

### Feature request

Suggest an idea for this project (Note: this does not include rule logic)

[Get started](#)

### New rule

Suggestions and ideas for new rules

[Get started](#)

### Release package

Meta Issue for a package release

[Get started](#)

### Rule deprecation

Recommendation to deprecate a rule

[Get started](#)

### Tune existing rule

Suggestion for logic changes to an existing rule

[Get started](#)

Don't see your issue here? [Open a blank issue.](#)


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CONTRIBUTING.md








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# Fork and clone the repository

## CONTRIBUTING.md

 **elastic / detection-rules**

 Watch 27  Star 321  Fork 47

 **Code**  Issues 20  Pull requests 6  Actions  Security  Insights  Settings

 main ▾




Go to file

Add file ▾

 Code ▾

About



✓ 10 hours ago ⌚ 53		
 .github	Fix new rule template	5 days ago
 detection_rules	Generate linted .ts in package (#49)	4 days ago
 etc	[New Rule] AWS EC2 Snapshot Activity	6 days ago

Rules for Elastic Security's detection engine

 [www.elastic.co/guide/en...](https://www.elastic.co/guide/en...)

 README

 View license

<https://docs.github.com/en/github/getting-started-with-github/fork-a-repo>



# Fork and clone the repository

CONTRIBUTING.md

- **git** clone  
<https://github.com/<username>/detection-rules.git>
- **cd** detection-rules
- **git** remote add upstream  
<https://github.com/elastic/detection-rules.git>

# Contributing to the repository

CONTRIBUTING.md

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# Use the CLI to create a rule

CONTRIBUTING.md

→ `python -m detection_rules create-rule  
rules/<path-to-rule>.toml [--required-only]`

*Rule type (machine\_learning, query, saved\_id): query*

*actions (multi, comma separated):*

*description (required): Look for child processes of MsBuild*

*...*

*Rule <name> saved to rules/<path-to-rule>.toml*

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# Run local tests to validate syntax and logic

CONTRIBUTING.md

→ `python -m detection_rules test`

```
===== test session starts =====
collected 73 items

tests/test_all_rules.py::TestValidRules::test_all_rule_files PASSED [ 1%]
tests/test_all_rules.py::TestValidRules::test_all_rule_queries_optimized PASSED [ 2%]
tests/test_all_rules.py::TestValidRules::test_all_rules_as_rule_schema PASSED [ 4%]
tests/test_all_rules.py::TestValidRules::test_all_rules_tuned PASSED [ 5%]
...
tests/kuery/test_parser.py::ParserTests::test_number_exists PASSED [ 98%]
tests/kuery/test_parser.py::ParserTests::test_number_wildcard_fail PASSED [100%]

===== 73 passed in 8.47s =====
```

# Contributing to the repository

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# Submit a pull request

CONTRIBUTING.md

- **Commit** your local changes in a new branch
- **Push** your branch to your fork
- **Open** a pull request
- Wait for review and expect to **make changes**
- When it's ready, we'll update labels and **merge**

# Agenda

- 1 Elastic Security Timeline
- 2 Introduction to the Rules Repo
- 3 Detection Engineering
- 4 Contributing
- 5 Demo



# Agenda

- 1 Elastic Security Timeline

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- 2 Introduction to the Rules Repo

---
- 3 Detection Engineering

---
- 4 Contributing

---
- 5 Demo

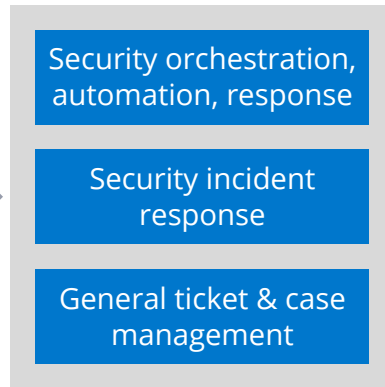
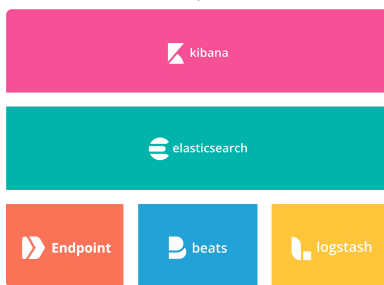
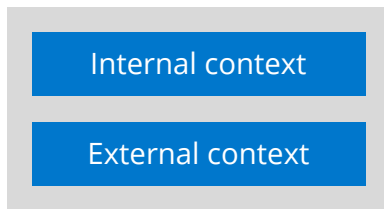
# DEMO

# Elastic Ecosystem

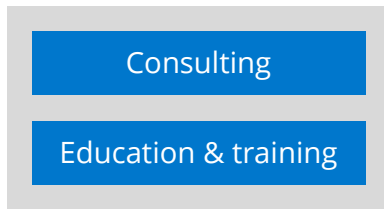
Scale your security program with  
the Elastic Community



- Host sources
- Network sources
- Cloud platforms & applications
- User activity sources
- SIEMs & centralized security data stores



## Community



These are just some of our partners, community members, and integrations. The presence of a vendor logo doesn't imply a business relationship with Elastic.



1

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2

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**[elastic.co/cloud](https://elastic.co/cloud)**

3

Join us on Slack:  
[ela.st/slack](https://ela.st/slack)





# Free on-demand training

We're releasing **free** on-demand courses over the next few weeks. We know social distancing isn't fun, but it can be a great opportunity to learn new things. So while other people are making a second pass through their Netflix queue, you can build your **Elastic Stack**, **observability**, and **security** skills and come out the other side an expert.

<https://training.elastic.co/learn-from-home>





# Thank You!

*...check out the repo, [github.com/elastic/detection-rules](https://github.com/elastic/detection-rules)*

*...join us on Slack, [#detection-rules](https://ela.st/slack) @ [ela.st/slack](https://ela.st/slack)*

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