# **Study Guide**

### **Introduction to Splunk**

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**Module 1:** Introduction

Lesson 1.1: Welcome

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Intro to Splunk

- Learning Objectives
  - Discuss Splunk products and use cases
  - Navigate the web console and run basic Splunk commands
  - Set up basic alerts, reports and dashboards based on simple searches
  - Install a practice environment and add data
  - Be aware of other important topics for further study
- Course Break Down
  - Module 1: Introduction Module
  - Module 2: Splunk products and resources
  - Module 3: Setting up Splunk
  - Module 4: Data
  - Module 5: Basic searches, Alerts, Reports and Dashboards
  - Module 6: Conclusion, review and other notes

### Lesson 1.2: What is Splunk?

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Using Splunk

- Splunk is a company specializing in data use and processing
  - 'Splunk turns machine data into answers'

- Splunk software aggregates, processes, analyzes and helps you use small to a massive amount of data. Its particularly helpful for turning unstructured data into usable information
- Splunk history
  - o 2003 Founded
  - o 2012 Went public
  - o 2017 Employees become some of the height paid in the world
  - 2018 Several major acquisitions including Phantom, VictorOps and KryptonCloud
- Splunk is good for organizing raw data
- Splunk takes data that's difficult to handle and makes it usable in a variety of ways
- Reporting, alerting, troubleshooting, threat hunting and making a business decision and so on

#### **Lesson 1.3: Splunk and Your Career**

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Career, Certifications

- Average Salary
  - \$66,966 to \$149,142 per year
- Resume Items
  - Installed and maintained small Splunk enterprise environment
  - Created alerts, dashboards and reports from Splunk data
  - Onboarded new data sources for Splunk environment
- Splunk Certification Paths
  - Splunk core certified user
    - Free
    - Requires completion of online Splunk fundamentals 1 course
  - Splunk core certified power user
    - Splunk Fundamentals 1 & 2 required, plus exam
    - Splunk fundamentals 2 costs \$2000 USD
    - The exam costs \$125 USD
  - Splunk Enterprise Certified Admin
    - Previous courses and certifications required

- Splunk enterprise system administration course, Splunk enterprise data administration course, Certification exam
- Other Certifications
  - Splunk enterprise certified architect
  - Splunk certified developer
  - Splunk enterprise security certified admin
  - Splunk IT service intelligence certified admin
- Many different job possibilities, Splunk can be an added bonus to an existing skillset or a career itself.
- Certification paths exist and after the first certification it costs money

### Module 2: Splunk Products, Resources and Certifications

Lesson 2.1: Splunk Products, Resources and Certifications

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Introduction

https://www.splunk.com/

#### Lesson 2.2: Splunk website

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Training, Documentation

- Splunk website has a variety of resources that can be accessed
- https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation
  - Documentation area
- Installation manuals
- Q&As on the website
- Splunkbase has Apps that can be installed
- Splunk Training

#### Lesson 2.3: **Splunk products**

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Products, knowledge

- Splunk core
  - Splunk Free Max Daily Indexing Volume 500MB
  - Splunk Light Max Daily Indexing Volume 20GB

Brought to you by:



- Splunk Enterprise Max Daily Indexing Volume Unlimited
- Splunk Cloud Max Daily Indexing Volume Unlimited
- Pricing is based on how much data is indexed on a daily basis
- Speciality Focuses
  - Splunk Enterprise Security (ES)
  - Splunk User Behaviour Analytics (UBA)
  - Splunk IT Service Intelligence
  - Splunk Insights for Infrastructure
  - Splunk Insights for AWS Cloud Monitoring
  - Splunk Insights for Ransomware
  - Splunk for Industrial IoT
- Splunk Enterprise
  - Investigate
    - Log aggregation
    - Rules, statistics, correlation
    - Ad Hoc searches & data pivot
      - Realm of known
- Splunk UBA
  - Detection
    - Risk behaviour detection
    - Entity profiling, scoring
    - Kill chain, graph analysis
      - Realm of unknown
- Other Products
  - Phantom
    - Automation tool, that sets off an automated chain of events
  - VictorOps
    - Manage on-call schedules and create notification either through push notification, phone calls or emails
- Splunk enterprise security is an addon to add on a Splunk platform to give additional tools
- Summary
  - Splunk platforms
    - Splunk Enterprise, Splunk Cloud, Splunk light, Splunk free

Brought to you by:



- Additional analytics, intelligence operationalization
  - Splunk insights, Splunk enterprise security..etc
- Other tools
  - Phantom, VictorOps

### **Module 3: Setting Up Splunk**

### Lesson 3.1: Setting Up Splunk

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Setting up Splunk, Support

- Planning Your Environment
  - For a production environment, planning is needed!
  - If you're using an unusual setup, check Splunk's system requirements prior to installation (Link in Supplemental Resources)
  - o If you're working with an old system, you may need an older version of Splunk
  - Try to match your test/practise environment to the environment you will work in
- https://splunk-sizing.appspot.com/
  - Plans for storage requirements, based on how much data
- https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/Splunk/7.3.1/Capacity/Introductiontocapacitypla nningforSplunkEnterprise
  - Capacity planning manual, checks what requires are needed to set up
- https://docs.splunk.com/Documentation/Splunk/7.3.1/Installation/Chooseyourplatform
  - Installation Manual shows supported OSes and system requirements
- https://www.splunk.com/en\_us/download.html
  - Splunk sandbox has a free 7-day trial

#### **Lesson 3.2: Parts of Splunk**

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Data pipeline, How Splunk works

- Data Pipeline
  - Input
    - Splunk is getting data
  - Parsing
    - Data turning to events, Example, line breaks or data transformed based on certain rules

Brought to you by:



- Indexing
  - Taking the parsed events and putting them into an index for later use
- Searching
  - Interaction between the search head and the indexers. The search head is responsible for search management, search management is where you would go to running a search and that search requests go into the indexer, then the results get sent back to the search head to view and work with
  - At the searching level, schedule searches, alerts and dashboards
- UF (Universal Forwarder) Example, an agent set up on a windows server to collect Windows event logs
- IDX Parsing and Indexing, taking the data breaking it into events and organising it so the search heads can easily find
- SH (Search Heads)
- UF ⇒ IDX ⇒ SH
- Search Heads
  - Search management
  - Scheduled searches, alerts, dashboards
  - Distributes searches to indexers
- Indexers
  - o Receive, index, store data
  - Search data based on search requests from search heads
- Index noun: a data repository
- Index verb: Processing raw data
- Indexer: Splunk instance that indexes data

An indexer indexes data and puts it into an index

- Forwarders
  - Sends data onward
  - Universal Forwarder
  - Light forwarder (deprecated)
  - Heavy forwarder

- Other server roles
  - Deployment server can help you manage forwarders, and set apps by groups..etc
- Distributed environments
  - "Horizontal scaling"
  - Separate out the pieces
- Deployment Scales
  - Very small office/department
    - <20GB
    - <100 forwarders</p>
  - Large Enterprise
    - 300GB+
    - Up to 1000s of forwarders
- Clustering
  - Data replication
    - Availability
    - Fidelity
    - Recovery
- Review
  - Forwarders send data, indexers turn data into events and place them in indexes, search heads send search requests, display data
  - A large company will likely need a distributed environment
  - Clustering provides redundancy

#### Lesson 3.3: Installing Splunk on Linux

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Installation, Linux, Splunk

- https://www.splunk.com/en\_us/download.html
- Choose Splunk Free, then click on Linux and download depending on your distribution
- Can also download using the command line using wget
- Once downloaded use the command line to uncompress it by doing to the directory of the downloaded file and type tar xvzf [package name].tgz -C /opt
- That will download to /opt/splunk/bin/splunk
- To start Splunk using the command line: /opt/splunk/bin/splunk start

Brought to you by:



• Enter a username and password and once configured it should show you the web address to open the web interface

### Lesson 3.4: Installing Splunk on Windows

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Installation, Windows, Splunk

- https://www.splunk.com/en\_us/download.html
- Choose Splunk Free
- Choose 32bit or 64 bit based on your OS
- Once downloaded execute the windows installer file and go through the options to configure the installation
- Once downloaded can access the interface on **localhost:8000** in a web browser
- Typing in the username and password to enter the interface

#### <u>Lesson 3.5</u>: **Installing a Universal Forwarder**

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Universal Forwarder, Splunk, Installation

- · Review: UF
  - Universal Forwarder is a type of forwarder that..forwards data
  - Install on a machine that you wish to collect data from
  - There are other ways to get data into Splunk, but this is a popular method
- A Few Checks
  - Can host talk to Splunk server?
  - Splunk ports
  - What permissions are needed to access or retrieve the data you want to forward?
- Splunk Ports

Component	Purpose	Communicates on	Listens on
All Components	Management/REST API	N/A	TCP/8089
Search head/Indexer	Splunk Web access	Any	TCP/8000
Search head	App Key-Value Store	Any	TCP/8065, TCP/8191

Brought to you by:



Indexer	Receiving data from forwarders	N/A	TCP/9997
Indexer cluster peer node/Search head cluster member	Cluster replication	N/A	TCP/9887
Index/Forwarder	Network input (Syslog)	N/A	UDP/514

- https://www.splunk.com/en\_us/download/universal-forwarder.html
- Link to download Splunk Universal Forwarder

### Module 4: Data

Lesson 4.1: Data

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Data, Splunk, Configurations

- This Module:
  - Using the web interface
  - Ways to get data into Splunk
  - Indexes and source types
  - Modifying input.conf to get data

#### Lesson 4.2: Web Interface Tour

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Data, Splunk, Configurations

- To check the status of Splunk to know if it is running or not type /opt/splunk/bin/splunk status in the command line
- To tell Splunk to automatically start up when the machine starts to type the following: /opt/splunk/bin/splunk enable boot-start
- To start Splunk type the following /opt/splunk/bin/splunk start
- Which will show the HTTP port number, hopefully, port:8000
- To enter into the web interface type the following in the URL **localhost:8000** then enter your credentials

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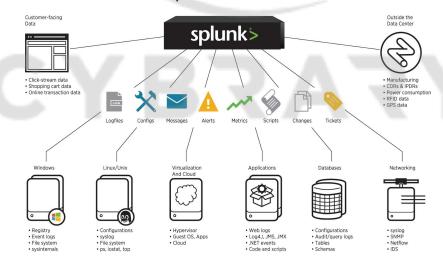
- Once logged in the Apps are found on the left-hand side, Clicking on the Search & Reporting app, from here you can search for data
- To view internal data type the following in the search bar: **index=\_internal** which can be saved as a report, Alert or an Event type.
- There are different options is visualise the data, The i button at the top is the health status of Splunk, Messages are a good place to check for any possible errors or issues
- For an overall view of the health status of Splunk, Settings → Monitoring Consoles an overview of usages and statuses
- Settings → Searches, reports and alerts, a report section for alerts, reports and saved searches
- Settings → Access Controls → Users, to add a new user
- Settings → Access Controls → Roles, to set new roles for the user

### Lesson 4.3: Ways to Get Data

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Data, Splunk, Configurations

This image shows you what Splunk can index

### What Splunk Can Index



- There are many ways to get data
  - Monitor files and directories

Brought to you by:



- Upload data
- Run scripts and collect results
- TCP/UDP ports
- Syslog collection
- Collect events using WMI
- Connect to databases
- APIs
- And more
- Indexes
  - An indexer indexes data and puts it in an index
  - Data repository
  - Help with
    - Search efficiency
    - Separating policies
    - Access control
- Source types
  - Identify the structure of events
- Field extractions
  - Fields have name/value pairings
  - Jun 2 14:55:46 fire00 fire00: NetScreen device\_id=fire00
    [Root]system-notification-00257(traffic): start\_time="2006-06-02 14:55:45#
    duration=0 policy\_id=119 service=udp/port:7001 proto=17 src zone=Trust dst
    zone=Untrust action=Deny sent=0 rcvd=0 src=192.168.2.1 dst=1.2.3.4
    src\_port=3036 dst\_port=7001
  - action=Deny
  - action=Allow
- To upload a data file into Splunk, go to Settings → Add Data → Upload
- Once uploaded can select a source type on the left-hand side and customise it to your liking
- Once data is uploaded, the fields on the lefthand side can be customised by clicking on
  - + Extract New Fields link
- Click on a sample event to work with then select 'next' to select a method
  - Regular Expression
    - Splunk Enterprise will extract fields using a regular expression

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- Delimiters
  - Will extract fields using a delimiter (such as commas, spaces or characters)
- Clicking next will give the option to write your own Regex (Regular Expression)
- Can select fields and customise it to the way you want it

### Lesson 4.4: Inputs Monitoring

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Data Inputs, Splunk configurations, Splunk

- Configuration Files
  - o Settings, authentication information, save searches, etc.
  - o Ends in .conf
  - Written in stanzas (contains configuration parameters)
  - Splunk often needs to be restarted after changes
- Inputs.conf
  - The input.conf is found at: \$SPLUNK\_HOME/etc/system/local
  - o [monitor://<path>]
  - o index=
  - source type =
- Configure receiving
  - o On Splunk web interface
  - Server settings check
  - Listen on port 9997
- To set up Splunk to listen on port 9997
  - Settings → Forwarding and receiving → configure receiving → New receiving port, then enter the port you have listening on the universal forwarder
- To check what ports are listening type in the following command in terminal: netstat
   -tulpn

**Module 5: Using Data** 

Lesson 5.1: Using Data

Brought to you by:



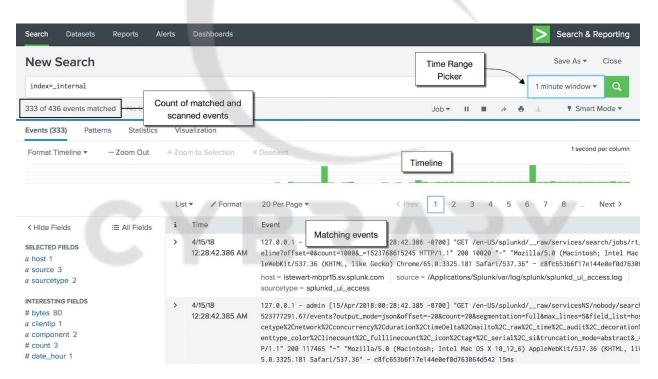
Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Handling data,

- In this module:
  - Searches
  - Alerts
  - Reports & Dashboards
  - Apps

#### Lesson 5.2: Searches

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Handling data, Splunk Searches

• To get started login to the Splunk web interface and go to the search and reporting app



- SPL: Search Processing Language
- Six categories of search commands:

Brought to you by:



- Distribute streaming
- Centralized streaming
- Transforming
- Generating
- Orchestrating
- Dataset processing
- Searching tips:
  - o The more specific, the better
  - o Limit searches by time, index, and other fields
- Fields:
  - Searchable name/value pairings
  - Field names are case sensitive
  - Field values are not case sensitive
  - You can use wildcards
  - Use quotation marks if there are spaces
- Username=Sarah is not the same as username=Sarah
- Username=sarah is the same as Username=SaRaH
- \* ← is a wildcard and can be used in searches
  - Name=sa\*
  - o Results: Samantha, Sarah
- For spaces use quotation marks " "
  - Name="Sarah Smith"
- Boolean operators:
  - AND
  - o OR
  - NOT
  - Username=sarah AND Machine=host3
  - Username=sarah OR Machine=host3
  - Username=sarah NOT Machine=host3
  - Username=sarah Machine!=host3
- Transforming data:
  - Pipes: |
  - o index=windows | stats count by host | sort -count
  - index=windows | table host | dedup host

Brought to you by:



- Search modes:
  - Fast mode
  - Smart mode
  - o Verbose mode

#### Lesson 5.3: Alerts

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Handling data, Splunk Alerts

- Alerts:
  - Use saved searches to look for events
  - Trigger when certain conditions are met
  - index=firewall threatname=sql\_injection | table src\_ip dest\_ip message
    - Triggers an alert if an SQL injection is attempted
  - o index=authentication Machine=importantmachine action=failure
    - Continuously runs and triggers alerts when there are more than 5 events triggered in the last 10 minutes
- Timing:
  - Scheduled
    - Cron expression
  - Real-time
    - Resource-greedy
  - Stagger saved searches
- Actions:
  - Send email
  - Webhook (to update a web resource)
  - Write results to csv
  - Add to triggered alerts
  - Others

#### **Lesson 5.4**: **Reports and Dashboards**

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Handling data, Spunk Reports & Dashboards

Brought to you by:



- Reports
  - Saved searches
  - Pivot: Build tables and visualizations using multiple fields and metrics without writing searches
- Reports
  - o Can be scheduled
  - Can have triggered actions
- Dashboards:
  - Help visualize data
  - o Can be an interactive form
  - Simple XML or HTML or Splunk interface
  - App use interface

#### Lesson 5.5: App Basics

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Handling data, Splunk Apps

- Apps vs Add-ons
  - Apps: User interface
  - Add-ons: retrieve/work with data behind-the-scenes
- Apps:
  - Splunk built, vendor, built, user-built
  - Install in the test environment first
- Splunkbase: Site for apps and add-ons
  - https://splunkbase.splunk.com/
- Popular apps to look for:
  - Splunk Security Essentials
  - DBConnect used to retrieve data from databases
  - Lookup File Editor modify lookup tables from the web console
  - Vendor-specific apps
- Developer Life:
  - You can make an app
  - Splunk Certified Developer

Brought to you by:



### **Module 6: Conclusion**

#### Lesson 6.1: More to Learn

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Continued Learning

- Splunk Fundamentals 1 is a free course hosted on the Splunk website
- Searching:
  - Lookup tables
  - Search macros
  - Summary indexing
  - Subsearches
  - o CIM Common Information Model
- Architecture:
  - Distributed environments
  - Clustered environments
  - Buckets
  - Load-balancing
  - Best practices
- Development:
  - Browse Splunkbase
  - Develop apps
- Troubleshooting, Management and other Topics:
  - btool
  - Job inspector
  - Crash logs
  - Project management

#### Lesson 6.2: Final Review

Skills Learned From This Lesson: Splunk, Review

- Module 1:
  - Splunk "Turns machine data into answers"
  - Lots of career opportunities
- Module 2:

Brought to you by:



- Resources
- Training
- Certifications
- Splunk Products:
  - Splunk enterprise
  - Splunk enterprise security
  - Splunk UBA
  - o Phantom
  - VictorOps
  - Other
- Module 3:
  - Data pipeline
  - Parts of Splunk
  - Splunk installation
- Parts of Splunk:
  - Forwarders (UF)
  - Indexers (IDX)
  - Search headers (SH)
- Module 4:
  - Web interface
  - o Adding data
  - o Inputs.conf
- Many ways to get data:
  - Monitor files and directories
  - Upload data
  - Run scripts and collect results
  - TCP/UDP ports
  - Syslog collection
  - Collect events using WMI
  - Connect to databases
  - APIs
- Module 5:
  - Basic searches
  - Alerts

Brought to you by:



- o Reports
- Dashboards
- Apps
- Make specific searches
- Stagger saved search times
- Example searches
- Module 6:
  - o Lots of learning paths

