HOW TO TRIAGE AMCACHE (FAST)

STEP 1

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STEP 2

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AMCACHE

STEP 5

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STEP 8

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STEP 4

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What is AMCache?

- AMCache is a Windows registry hive that logs information about executed programs
- Stores metadata about binaries:
 - File path
 - SHA-1 hash
 - File version, size
 - First execution date
- Present on modern Windows systems (Amcache.hve)
- C:\Windows\AppCompat\Programs\Amcache.hve



Basic triage approach

- Python script to extract SHA-1 hashes from Amcache.hve
- Idea was simple... and old

"I've had this in mind for years — but never scripted it properly"

- Based on:
 - https://github.com/cristianzsh/amcache-evilhunter
 - python3 amcache_evilhunter.py -i path/to/Amcache.hve [OPTIONS]

```
[Amcache.hve]

↓

[Extract SHA-1s]

↓

[Query VirusTotal API]

↓

[Flag malicious → Export]
```



```
[Amcache.hve]

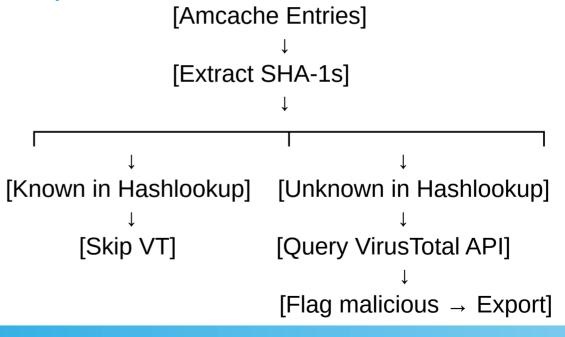
[Extract SHA-1s]

[Send each to VirusTotal]

[Wait... and wait...]
```

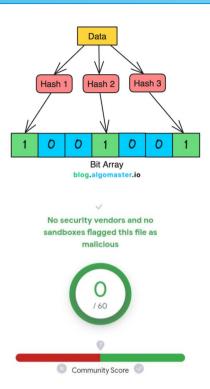
Improvement

- Why scan calc.exe with 70 AV engines, again?
- Solution: fork and use hashlookup.circl.lu
 - Open-source
 - Uses NSRL and other trusted datasets
 - Fast & anonymous



Way forward

- Better whitelisting
 - Local DB (hashlookup bloom filter)
 - Other trusted whitelist?
- Beyond VirusTotal (Optional/Complementary):
 - MalwareBazaar, Hybrid Analysis, or Triage APIs
 - Local YARA scan for known malware traits
- Automation Ideas:
 - Turn script into a worker for OpenRELiK
 - Live IR with velociraptor



Key takeaways

- Don't waste your triage time on calc.exe.
- Github.com/forenser84/amcache-evilhunter

