

Managing HPC Security at LANL using Splunk and Nessus

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What We're Going to Talk About

- 1. LANL HPC's current Security Motivations
- 2. Integrating Data into Splunk
- 3. Using that Data
 - 1. Operational Monitoring
 - 2. Continuous Security Monitoring
- 4. Enable Interactions based on that Data
 - 1. Automated Cyber Baseline
 - 2. Vulnerability Management









HPC Security

- Effective security requires the use of:
 - Varied sources of data
 - Multiple tool sets
- Typically, each tool will have a standalone interface for interaction
 - Viewing results for the tool
 - Controlling the tool
- Combining data integration and tool control in Splunk can effectively turn it into a unified security engine





Nessus Agent











Motivation For Pursuing a Unified Security Engine

- Having multiple security tools is great for increasing the scope of what is known about systems being managed
- Manually integrating the results between Tool X and Tool Y is not
- With each new tool comes a new management interface and more time spent context switching to carry out day to day tasks
- By creating a single location for both data and control, more time can be spent using the tools instead of managing them



Integrating Data in Splunk

- The most straight forward step to creating a unified security engine
- Integrating data is the fundamental function of Splunk
- Allows HPC to combine data from multiple sources and correlate the results
 - Syslog (e.g., system logs, admin scripts, Slurm logs + queries)
 - Network logs (e.g., firewall)
 - Tenable vulnerability scans
 - Message Broker (e.g., Kafka, RabbitMQ)
- Ingesting system logs simply requires setting up a data source in Splunk
- For third-party tools, typically a Splunk app exists to do the integration
 - Tenable Add-On for Splunk handles Tenable data ingestion



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Use the Data

- Monitor and correlate data from different sources
- Provide Dashboards and Reports for various support roles
 - Operations
 - Admins
 - Cyber Analysts
- · Alerts, alerts, alerts
- Operations Monitoring and Continuous Security Monitoring

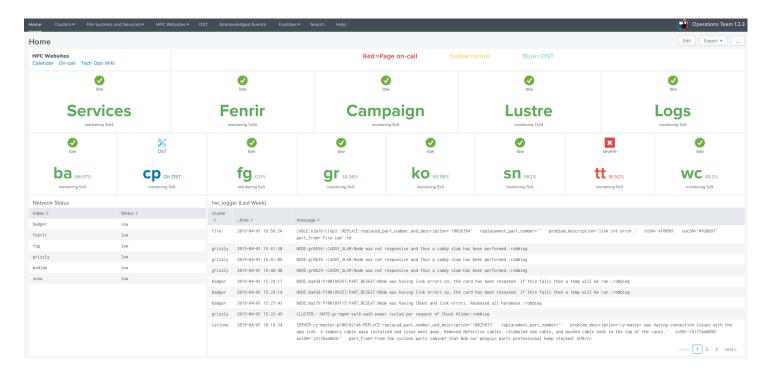


24/7 Operations Monitoring

- HPC Cluster Monitoring
 - Interactive Dashboards
 - Highly customized to LANL HPC Operations Center
 - Custom acknowledgeable events
 - Alert Management
- Shared Resources (networks, filesystems, facilities)
 - High Visibility for Operators
 - Service Administrators can drill down to troubleshoot

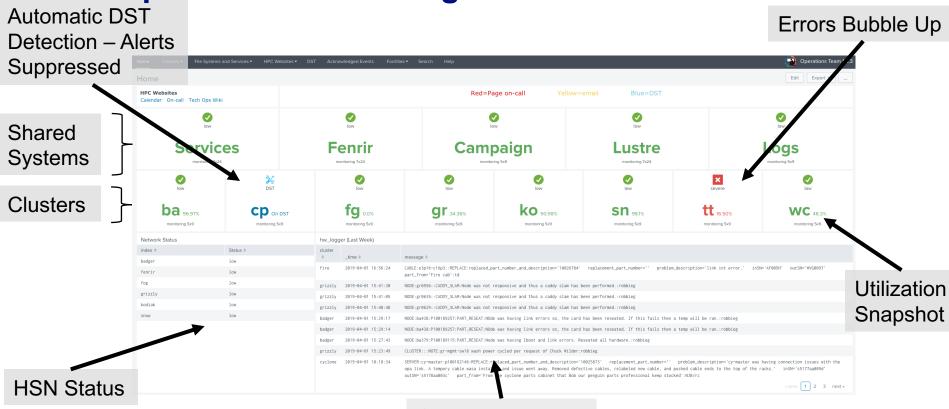


24/7 Operations Monitoring





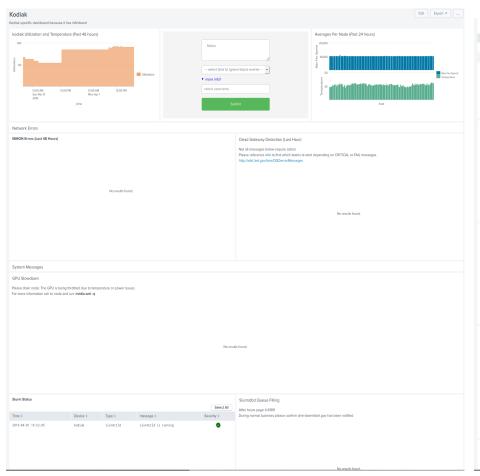
24/7 Operations Monitoring





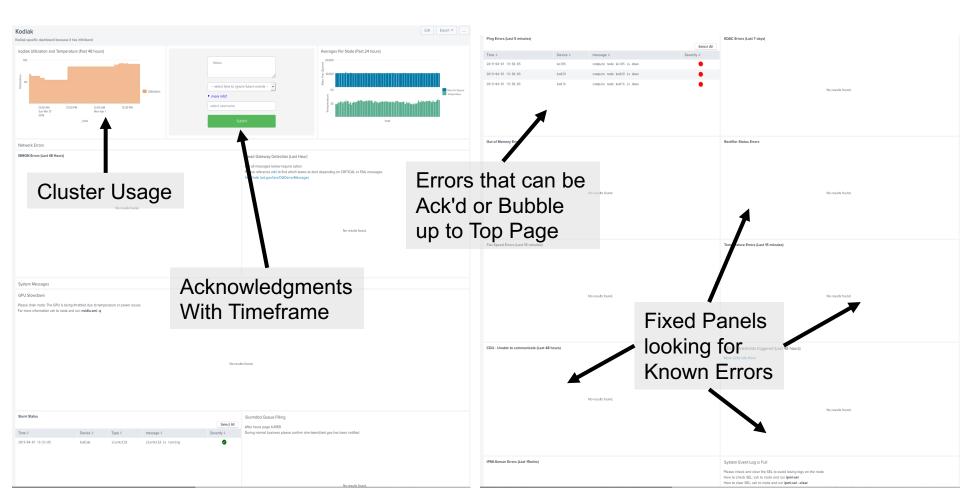
Ops Hardware Notes Logged

Panel Drilldown with Acknowledgments



Ping Errors (Last 5 minutes)				EDAC Errors (Last 7 days)	
_			Select All		
Time 0 2019-04-01 19:50:05	Device ¢ ko185	message 0 compute node ko185 is down	Severity \$		
2019-04-01 19:50:05	ko185 ko829	compute node kol85 is down compute node ko829 is down	•		
			•		
2019-04-01 19:50:05	ko@16	compute node lo816 l3 dann	•	No results found.	
Out of Memory Errors		No results found.		Becilier Status Errors No results found.	
Fan Speed Errors (Last 15 minutes)		No results found.		Temperature Errors (Last 15 minutes) No results found.	
CDU - Unable to communicate (Last 48 ft		No results found.		CDU - Thresholds triggered £.ast 48 hours) More CDU info Here No results found.	
IPMI-Sensor Errors (Last 15mins)				System Event Log is Full Please check and clear the SEL to avoid losing logs on the node How to lock SEL six to node and not ipiesed How to lock SEL six to node and not ipiesed—clear How to lock SEL six to node and not ipiesed—clear How to lock SEL six to node and not ipiesed—clear	

Panel Drilldown with Acknowledgments



Alerts on the Cyber Panel

- Empty most of the time
- Alerts when thresholds are reached for:
 - Illegal Escalation Attempts
 - Failed Gateway Logins
 - Failed Cluster Logins
 - Login by Invalid User
- Allows 24/7 Operators to monitor for known cyber events, frees up Cyber folks



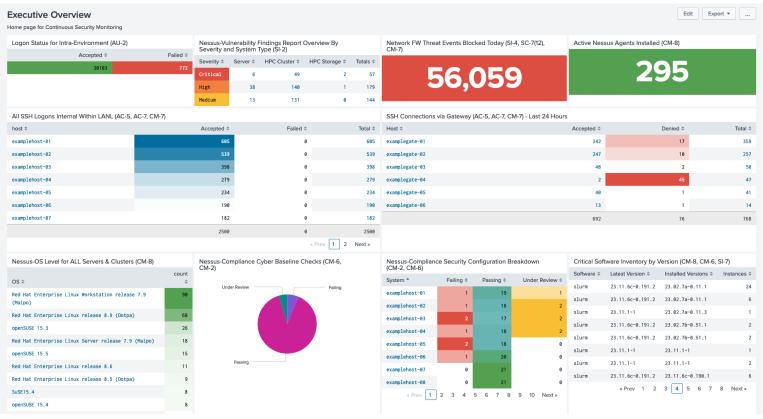
Continuous Security Monitoring

- Big picture for NIST 800-137
 - Information Security Continuous Monitoring
 - Continuous Diagnostics and Mitigation
- **OS Versions**
- Track Downtime
- **Vulnerabilities**
- Firewall policy trigger counts
- Recording known attack surfaces



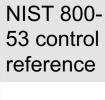


Continuous Security Monitoring



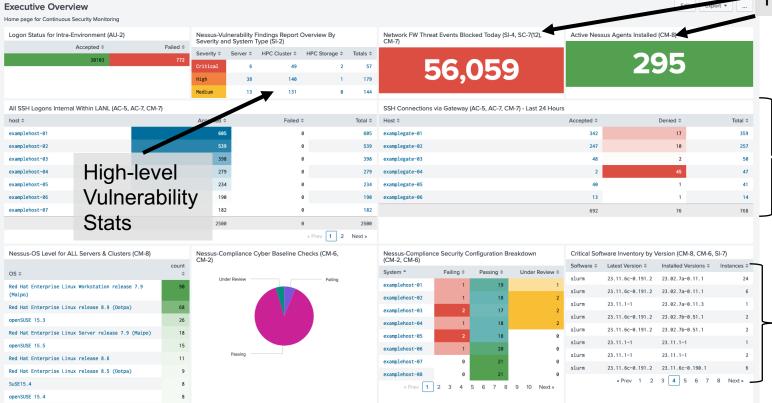


Continuous Security Monitoring





Inventory and Compliance





Expand Usability of Splunk by Allowing Interaction

- Two types of interaction: stateful information and other tool control
- Stateful information
 - Allows admins to provide information about data in the context of that data
 - Utilizes Splunk kvstores
- Other Tool control
 - Allow controlled access to security tools without directly accessing the tool itself
 - Empowers administrators to fix system issues before they become a problem
 - Helps make security more transparent to the administrators
 - Fewer surprise security notices
- Two areas where this interaction is leveraged
 - Automated Cyber Baseline (Compliance Check)
 - Vulnerability Management



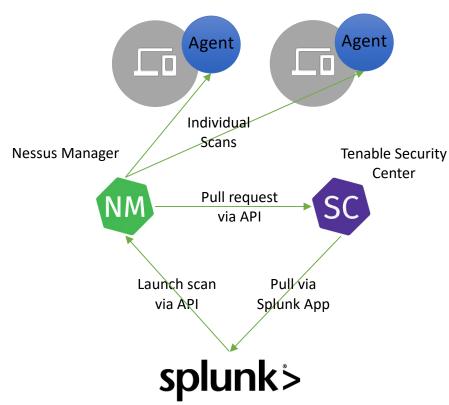
Adding Control Capabilities to Splunk

- The not so straight forward way of using Splunk
- Having to log into multiple interfaces to get updated data is tedious
- The preferred method is to perform these operations from where data is being viewed
 - Singular familiar interface
- Motivating factor was launching Tenable's Nessus Agent scans
 - Utilized for both Automated Cyber Baseline and Vulnerability Scans





Interacting With Nessus from Splunk



- Achieved using custom searches that use the Tenable API
- A button on dashboards will use JavaScript to launch searches using the Splunk API
- The custom searches use Python for handling Tenable API calls
- Scan progress is provided as feedback on the dashboard



Automated Cyber Baseline – Multi-Host View

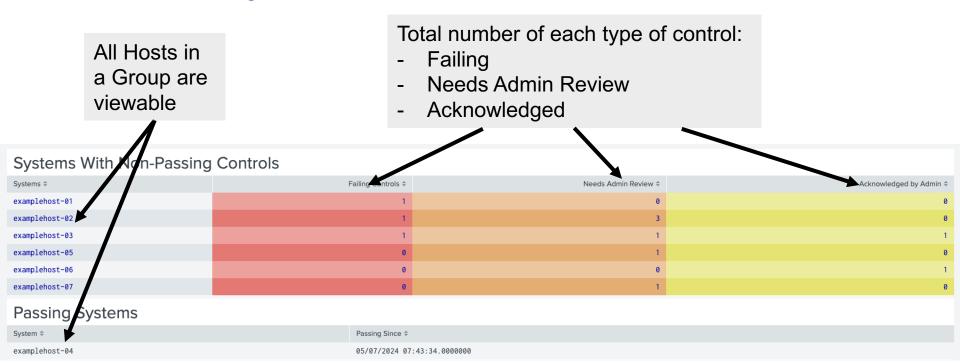
Systems With Non-Passing Controls						
Systems \$	Failing Controls \$	Needs Admin Review	Acknowledged by Admin ‡			
examplehost-01	1	0	0			
examplehost-02	1	3	0			
examplehost-03	1	1	1			
examplehost-05	0	1	0			
examplehost-06	0	0	1			
examplehost-07	0	1	0			
Passing Systems						
System \$	Passing Since \$	Passing Since \$				

05/07/2024 07:43:34.0000000



examplehost-04

Automated Cyber Baseline – Multi-Host View



Screen Shot of the Multi-Machine view of the Automated Cybe Baseline Dashboard

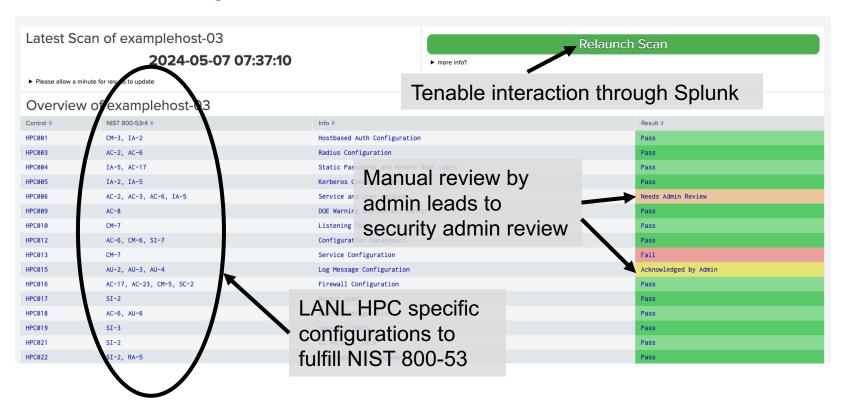


Automated Cyber Baseline – Host & Control View



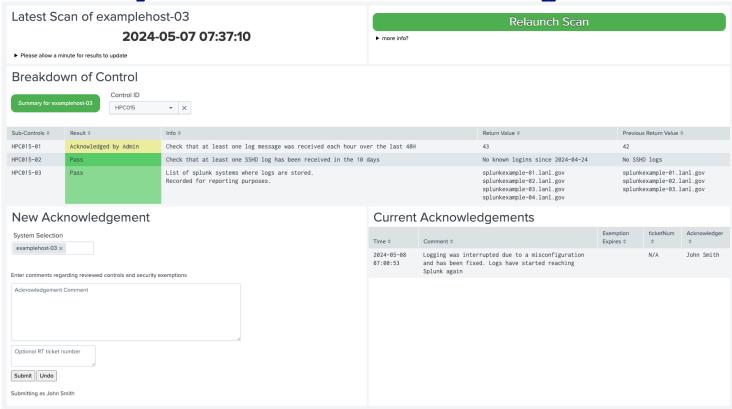


Automated Cyber Baseline – Host & Control View



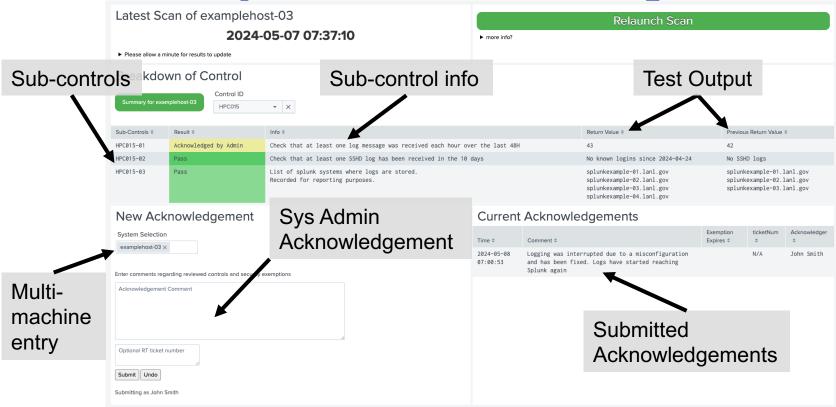


Automated Cyber Baseline - Acknowledgments



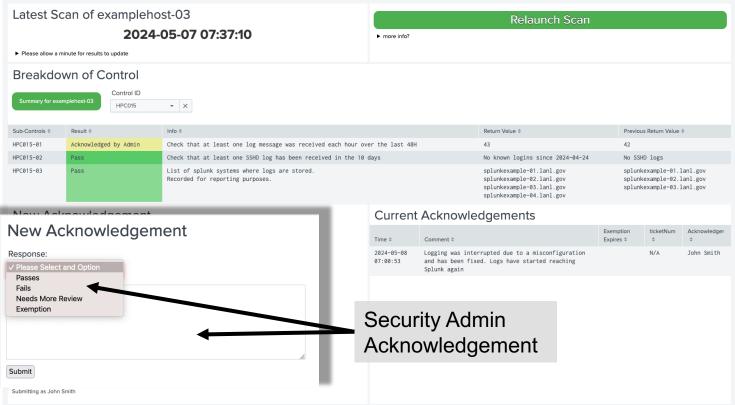


Automated Cyber Baseline - Acknowledgments



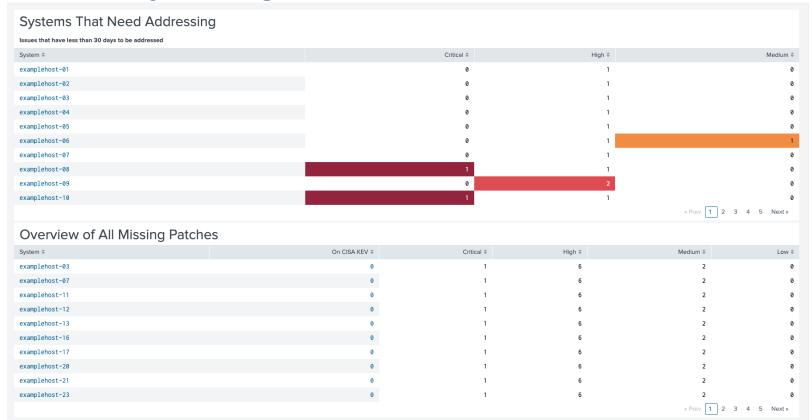


Automated Cyber Baseline - Acknowledgments



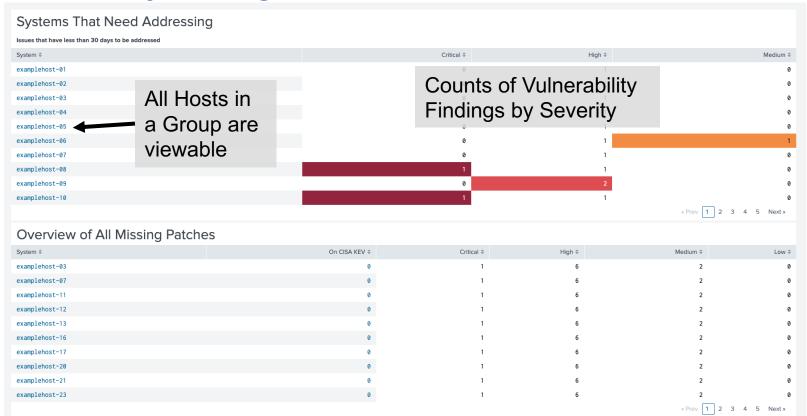


Vulnerability Management – Multi-Host View



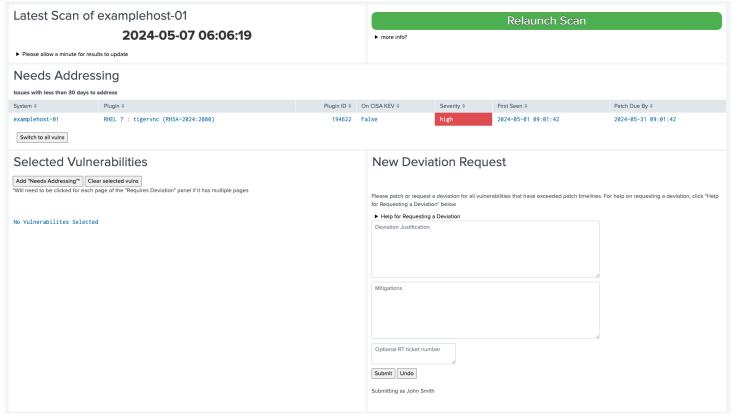


Vulnerability Management – Multi-Host View



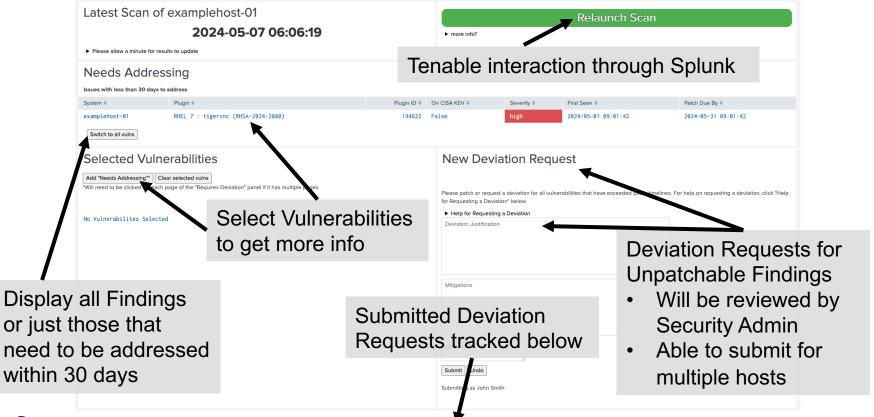


Vulnerability Management – Dealing with Findings





Vulnerability Management – Dealing with Findings





Wrap Up

- LANL HPC has been able to create an effective infrastructure for gathering, monitoring, alerting on, and interacting with HPC system and security data
- This has allowed easier integrations with the human components of HPC
- Our Current Future Plans
 - Improved notifications for system administrators to enable more timely vulnerability management information
 - Integration with the fledging LANL vulnerability deviation request process
 - NIST 800-53 rev. 5 compliance in Dashboards
 - Monitoring containerized service solutions
 - STIG scanning integration
 - Investigation of AI support





Thank You!

Questions?



Over 70 years at the forefront of supercomputing.

