

MISP restSearch API

An easy way to query, add and update your threat intelligence in MISP

CIRCL / Team MISP Project



FIRST workshop

- The MISP API has grown gradually with a UI first design in many cases
- Endpoints all solved specific issues with their own rulesets
- Growth was organic - whenever the need to add a new functionality / filter popped up we've added it
- Lead to frankenmonsters such as this:

<http://localhost:5000/events/csv/download/false/false/tag1&&tag2&&tag3/Network%20activity/domain>

GOALS WE'VE SET FOR OURSELVES

- Open up every functionality in MISP available via the UI to the API
- Including ones related to **instance management**
- APIs that expect input objects for data creation should be **self-describing**
- **URL parameters should be discouraged**, but still usable by legacy tools (deprecation)
- APIs should be heavily **tested** (Raphael Vinot's exhaustive test suite in PyMISP)
- Largest focus on Export APIs

- Scrapped all existing type specific APIs (**deprecated**, documentation moved to legacy, still available)
- **Single entry point** - all export APIs baked into restSearch
- Queries consist of a combination of:
 - ▶ **Scope** (Event, Attribute, Sighting, more coming in the future)
 - ▶ **Filter parameters** - passed via JSON objects, url parameters (key value or ordered list)
 - ▶ A **return format**
- Everything that we could do before the rework we should be able to accomplish after the rework
- Under the hood now also used by the UI search and exports

- One of our largest issues solved: **pagination**
 - ▶ **Scope specific** pagination (number of events, attributes, etc)
 - ▶ Simply control it via the framework friendly **page / limit** parameters
 - ▶ Alternatively, use the improved **time based controls** (timestamp, publish_timestamp windows)

- Single execution with subqueries
- Internal pagination **aligned with memory limits**
 - ▶ Probing of available memory for the current process
 - ▶ **Chunking of the query results** to fit in object specific memory envelopes
 - ▶ Constructing export set on disk in chunks has slashed memory usage considerably

DESIGNING TOOLS THAT USE THE APIS CAN BE COMPLEX, BUT THERE'S HELP

- The result of our own frustration
- Built in **ReST client** with templating
- Extensive query builder UI by Sami Mokaddem
- Build queries in a simple interface, automatically set URLs, headers, etc
- Uses the self documentation of APIs
- Export your queries as **cURL or Python scripts**
- Built in testing tools (performance measurements, result parsers)
- Store queries for reuse and download the results directly

WHY IS THE SEARCH API RECEIVING SO MUCH FOCUS?

- The **maturity** of the communities and threat intel sharing at large has improved
- We are sharing more
- Most importantly: we are sharing **more context** along with technical indicators
- This allows us to **manage our data more accurately** before feeding them to our protective tools
- Different contexts (APT targeting me? Persisting techniques?)
- lifecycle management
- Use several queries / boolean operators to select the slice of data most relevant for the task

CLI TOOLS FOR THE CLI GOD, AUTOMATION FOR THE AUTOMATION THRONE

- Open up commonly used system management tasks to the CLI
 - ▶ sync servers/feeds
 - ▶ caching feeds
 - ▶ Password resets
 - ▶ Server settings
 - ▶ Bruteforce protection resets
 - ▶ Enrichment
 - ▶ Worker management
- Goal was also to move away from the often malfunctioning scheduler and have cron friendly CLI scripts

SO WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS LOOK LIKE IN PRACTICE?

Demo time!

- Add export modules to the restSearch API
- Improve the query language to support some missing features (such as AND boolean operators)
- Support for extended events via the restSearch API
 - ▶ We're missing a framing structure in the export module system (how are a list of conversions encapsulated and delimited?)
 - ▶ Proof of concept of the system implemented by Christian Studer already works using the STIX / STIX2 export subsystems
 - ▶ Would open us up to simple customisable search APIs
- Open up search APIs to other scopes (objects, users, organisations, proposals, feeds, galaxies, taxonomies)