



Introduction

The purpose of this document is to describe how to modify a Watchlist to remove known entries. This example utilizes the Virus Total Watchlist mainly because it's the list we get the most customer feedback on. The goal is to allow you to filter out entries you're aware of and do not wish to report their existence in your network.

Sections

Create a Custom Watchlist

The first step is to create a custom Virus Total Watchlist specific to your organization.

1. Go to the Search->Binaries->Add Criteria and select "VirusTotal Score" entry.

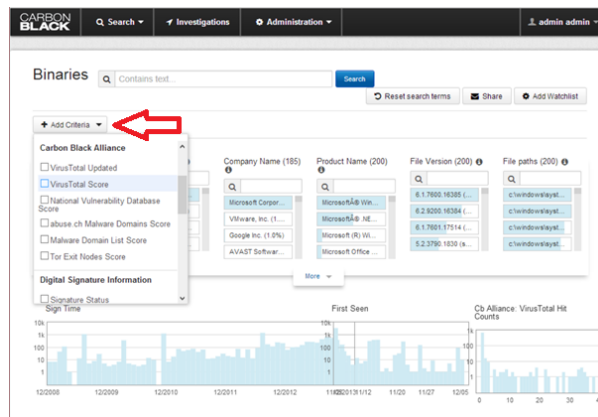


Figure 1 Select Criteria

2. Enter the threshold for the minimum number of vendor hits to alert on.

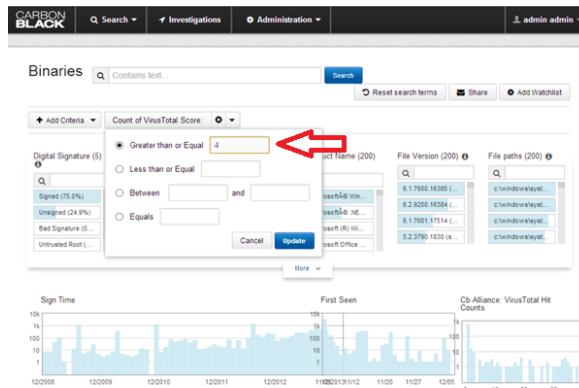


Figure 2 Set Threshold

- Select the binary that you wish to exclude from reporting in the future. **Caution:** this binary will no longer be reported by this Watchlist.

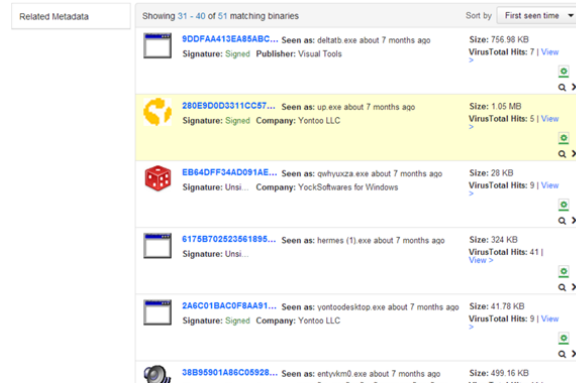


Figure 3 Find Binary to Exclude

- Enter the `-md5:<hash value>` into the search criteria box to prevent the hash from being displayed in the future.

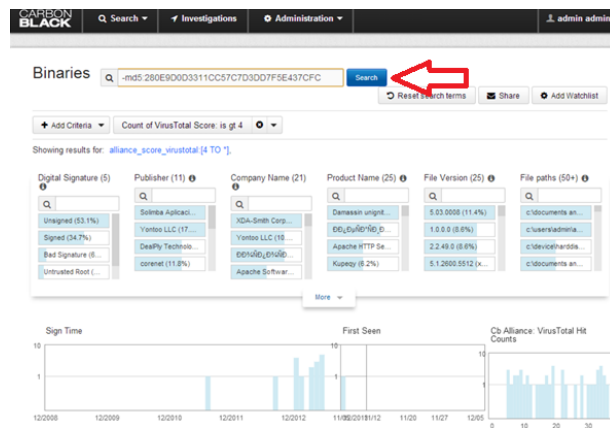


Figure 4 Enter Value to Exclude

- Name the Watchlist appropriately and save.

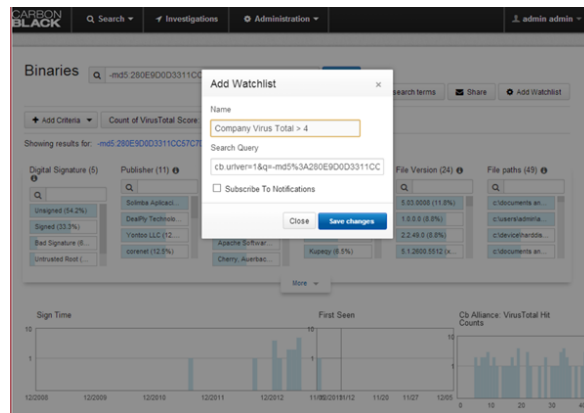


Figure 5 Save the Watchlist

Update the Watchlist

In this section we'll walk through the process to update a Watchlist to ignore additional binaries. Virus Total will sometimes alert on unwanted programs that you have authorized to be run in your environment. To prevent them continually alerting you on the Watchlist you can ignore them by prepending a "-" at the beginning of the key you wish to ignore and chain multiple values together with the conditional "OR" statement separating them. For example `-md:<32-bits> OR -md:<32-bits> OR -md:<32-bits>` etc... Keep in mind that larger list will decrease responsiveness of the UI due to additional processing requirements.

1. Expose the content from your Virus Total Watchlist created in the last section by selecting the search button.

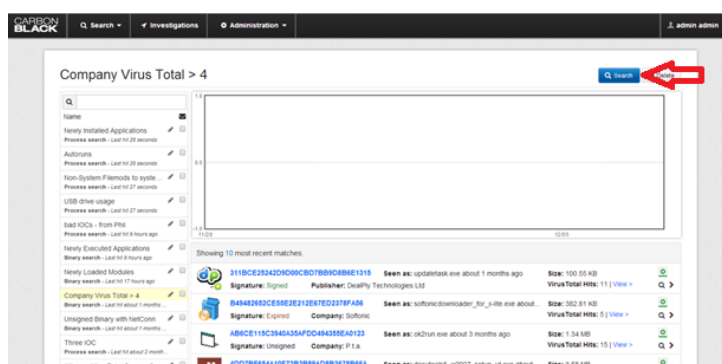


Figure 6 Expose Watchlist Query

2. The original query string should look something like `alliance_score_virustotal: [4 TO *] OR -md5:<32-bits>` unless this isn't your first modification. Copy this value to your clipboard to allow addition of new conditionals.

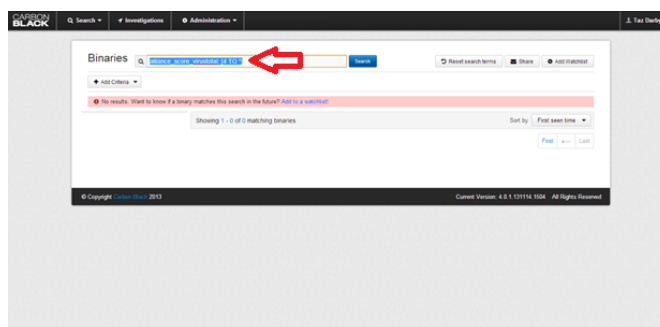


Figure 7 Copy Watchlist Query

3. Add the MD5 value you want to exclude by prepending the minus symbol in front of the item you wish to suppress and the appropriate conditional. Press the search button to ensure the results are what you intended.

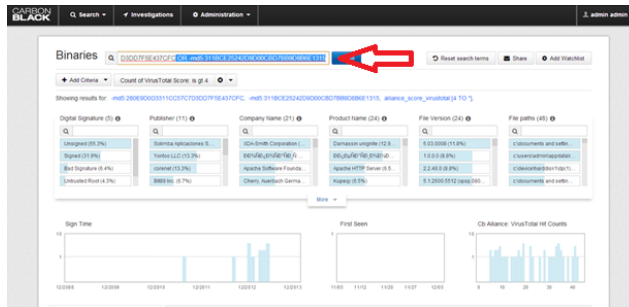


Figure 8 Insert Updated Query String

4. Save the new Watchlist with a temporary name.

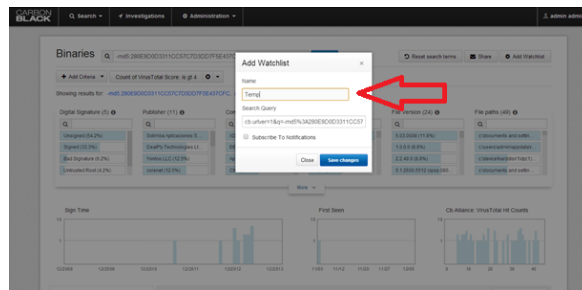


Figure 9 Save to Temporary Watchlist

5. Select the Watchlist to verify it is working correctly.

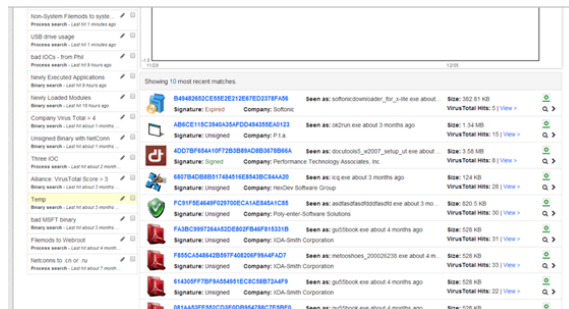


Figure 10 Test Watchlist

6. Delete the old Watchlist.

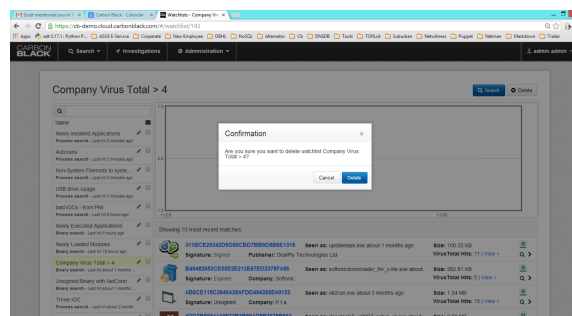


Figure 11 Delete Old Watchlist

7. Edit the name of Temp Watchlist name by selecting the pencil symbol and rename it to the Watchlist deleted in the previous step.

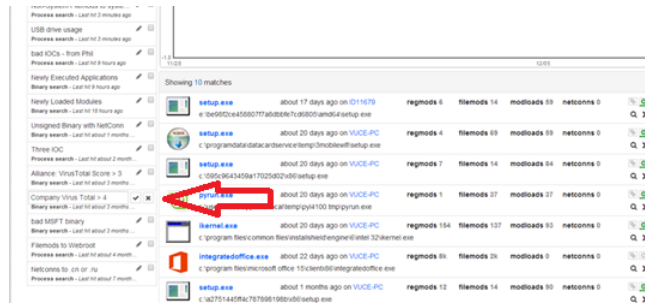


Figure 12 Rename Watchlist

Conclusion

Refining Watchlist entries for your environment will take some time as you expand Carbon Black sensors in the network; however, once refined they are a very effective tool in combating malware. Caution should be used when ignoring binaries as it may be authorized to run on certain admin computers but not on generic production workstations. Without the use of advanced conditionals you could ignore malicious activity.