

# Google: The APT You Have

Todd Heberlein  
Net Squared, Inc.  
2 Aug 2012

SANS San Francisco  
<https://www.sans.org/san-francisco-2012/>

# Practice, Practice, Practice

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# Overview

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- From test to diagnosis
- End of the line for network analysis
- Role of audit trails
- Google, the APT, from the audit trail perspective

# Thoughts on “Advanced Persistent Threats”

# Advanced Persistent Threat

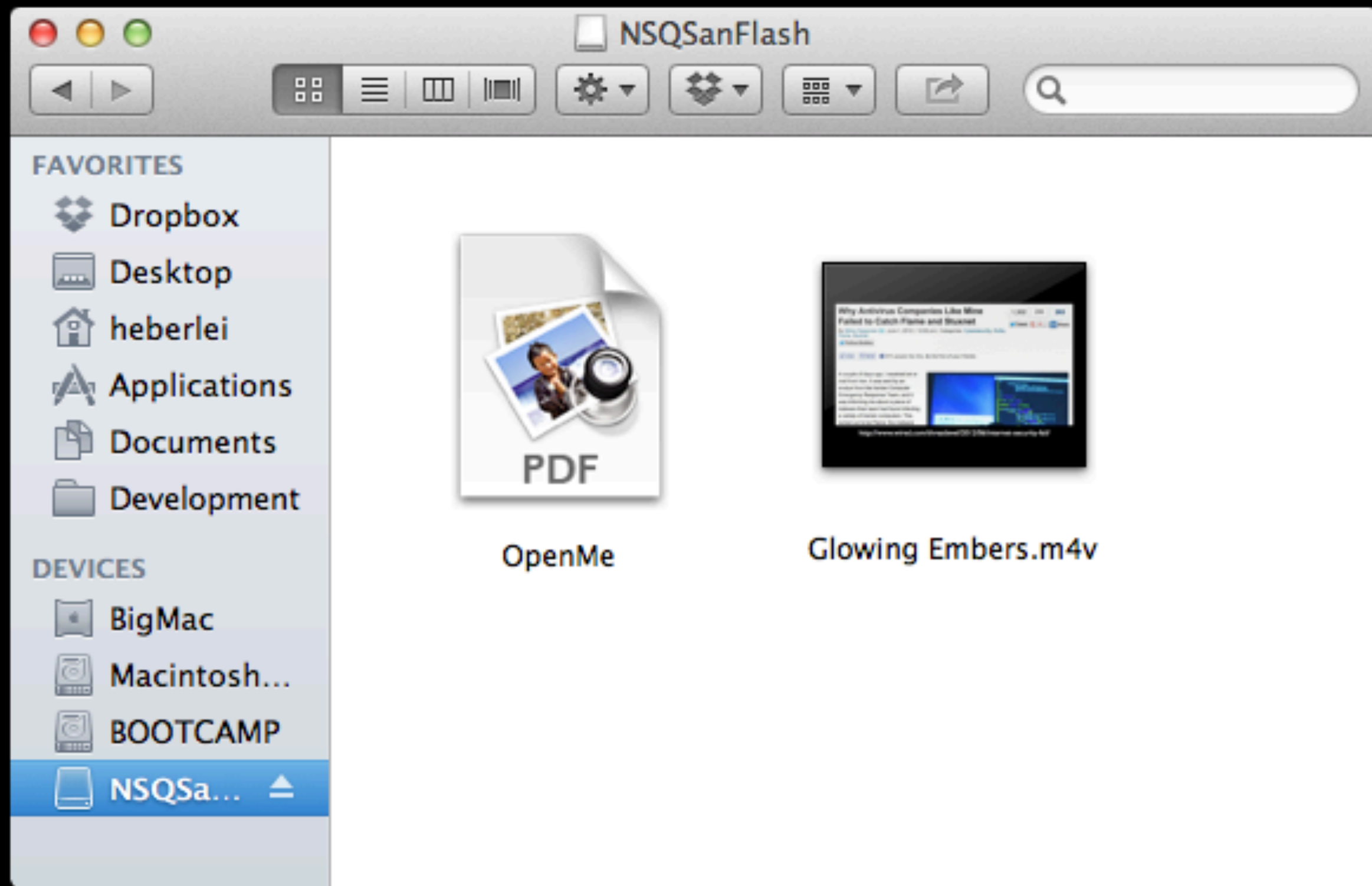


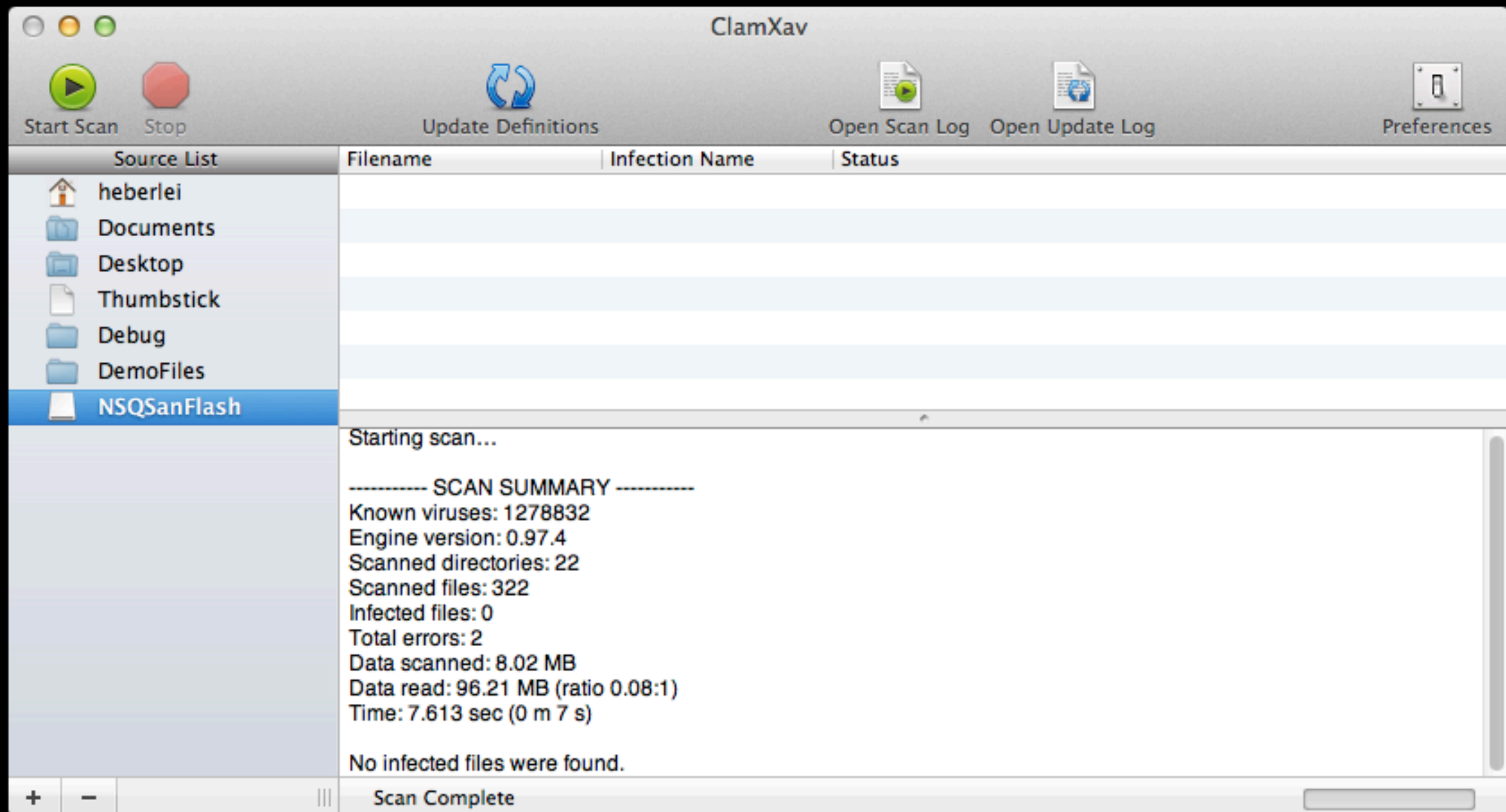
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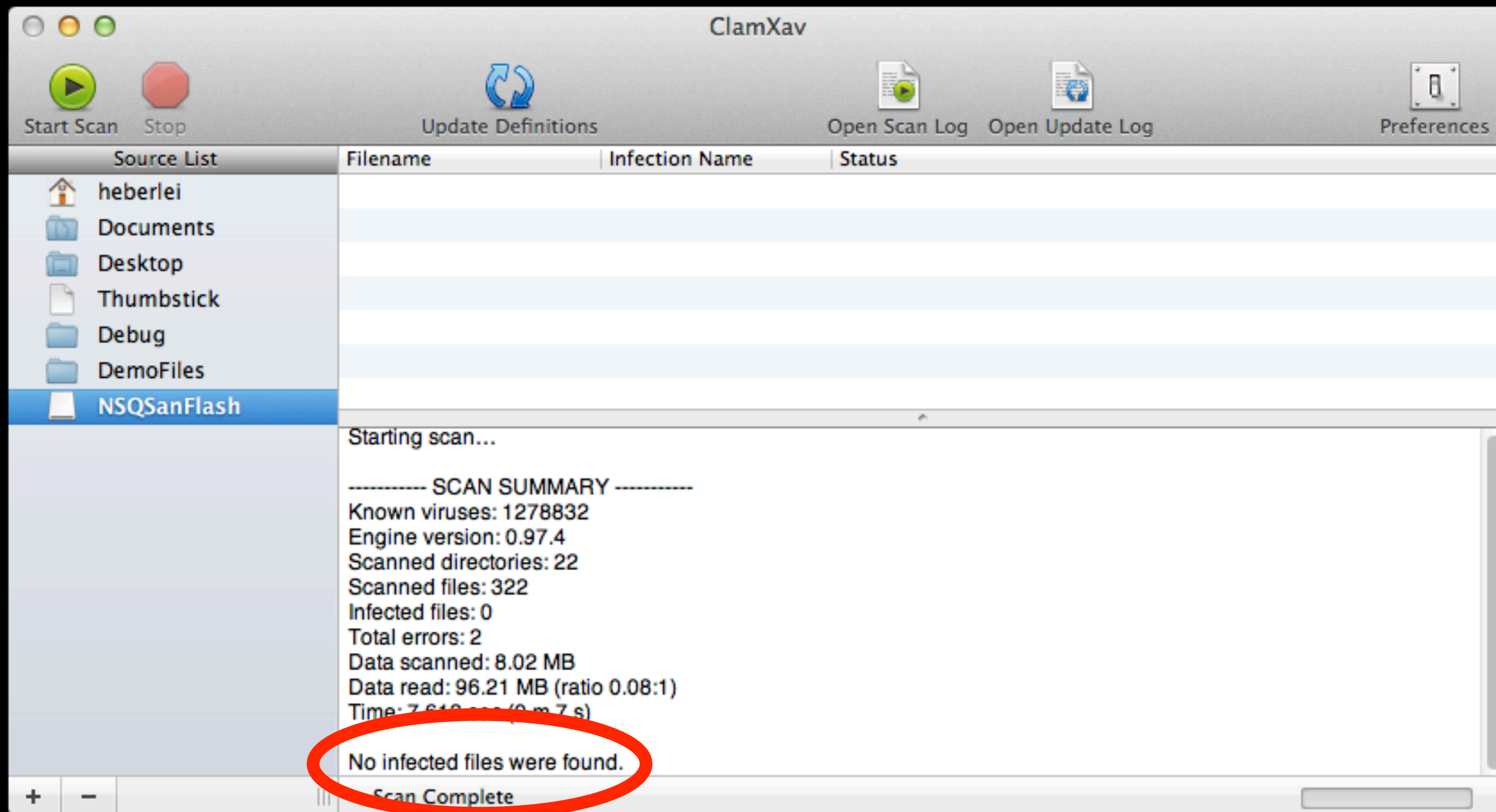
Anything that gets past automated detection / prevention

# Demo

(PDF Trojan horse)









# iAntivirus



There were no threats found.  
141 files were scanned.

OK





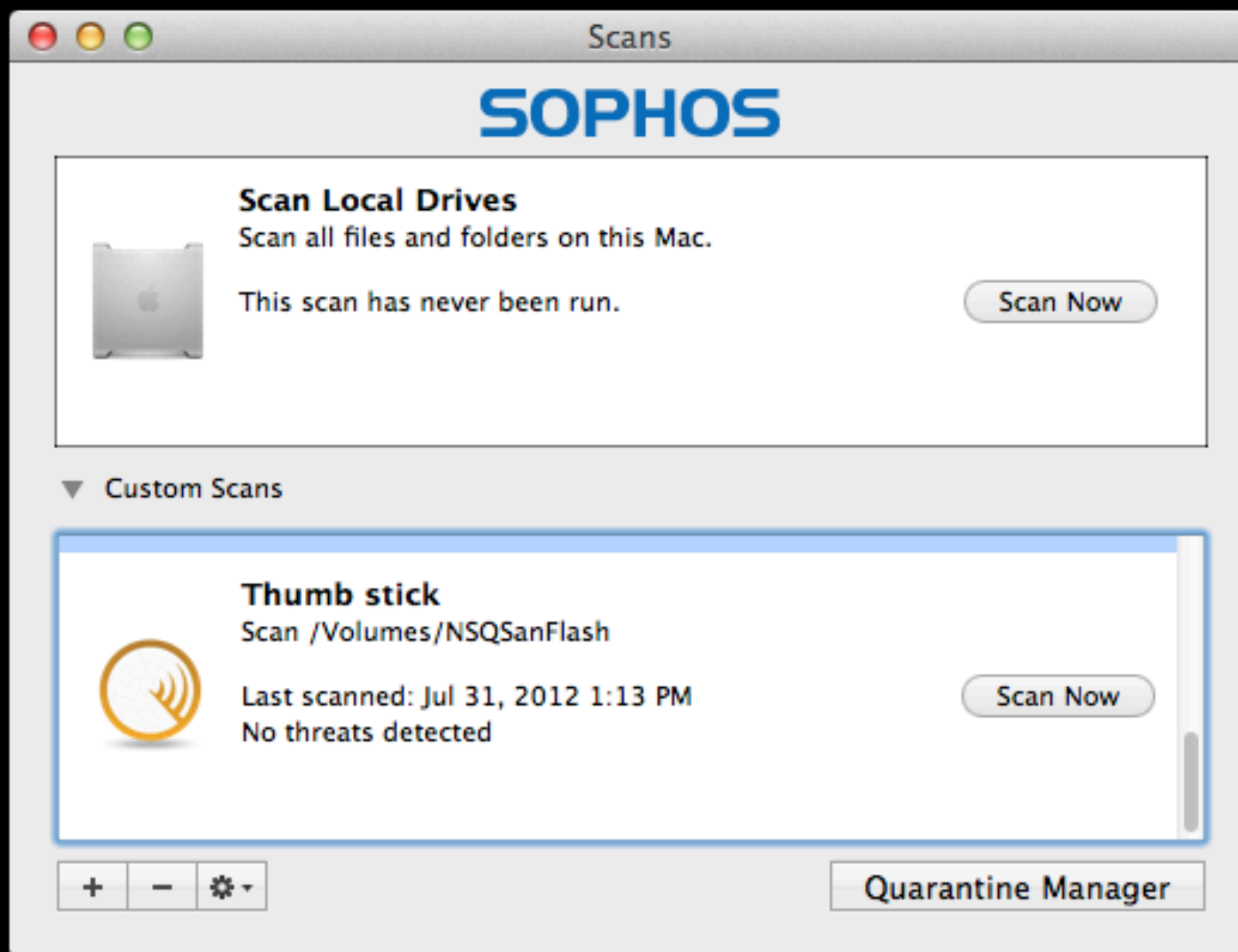
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Scans

**SOPHOS**

### Scan Local Drives

Scan all files and folders on this Mac.



This scan has never been run.

Scan Now

#### ▼ Custom Scans

### Thumb stick

Scan /Volumes/NSQSanFlash



Last scanned: Jul 31, 2012 1:13 PM

No threats detected

Scan Now

+

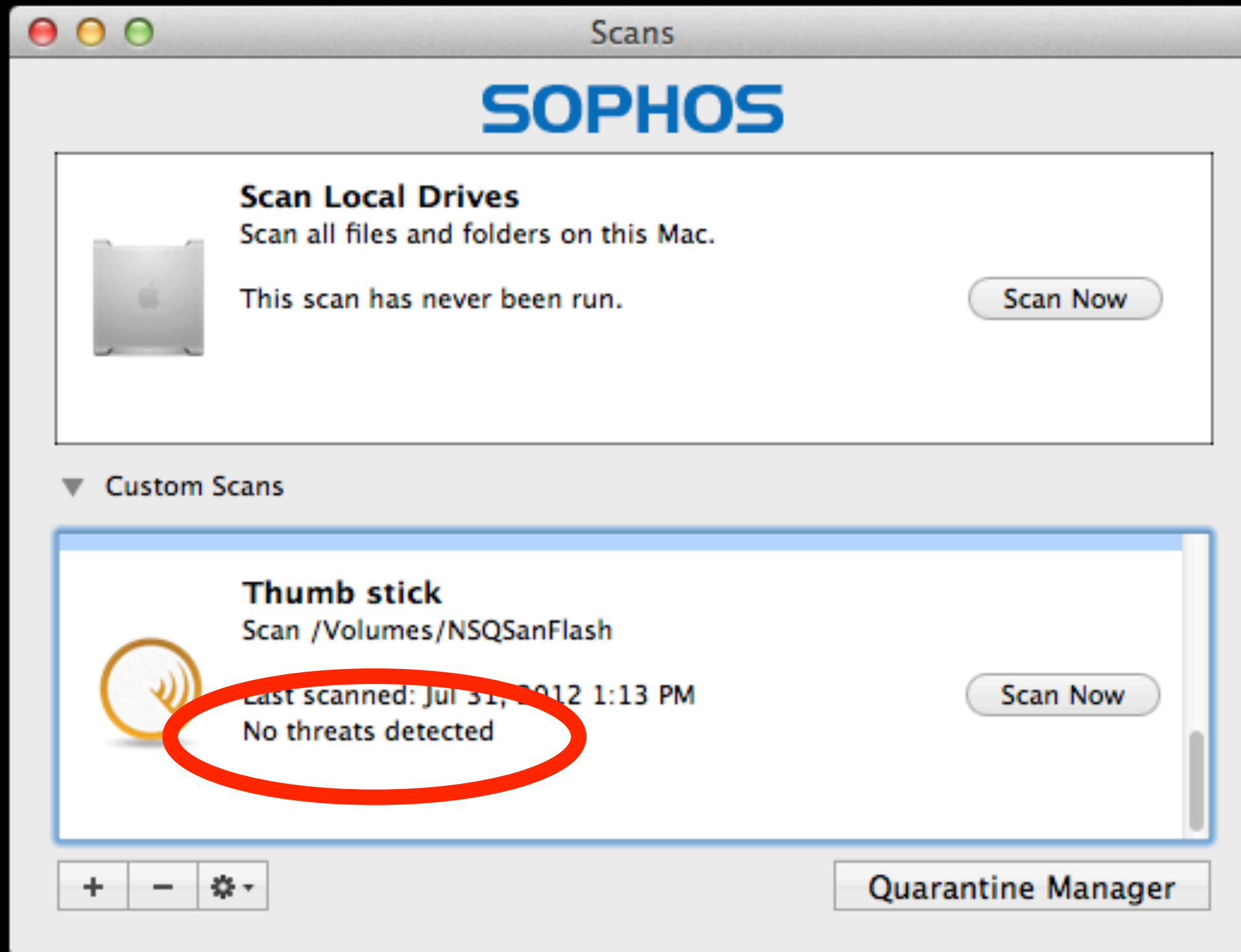
-

⚙

▼

Quarantine Manager





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Quarantine Manager

```
int main(int argc, char *argv[])
{
    @autoreleasepool {

        /* Open embedded PDF File */
        NSBundle *myBundle = [NSBundle mainBundle];
        NSString *filepath = [NSString stringWithFormat:
                               @"%@/Contents/Resources/Aurora.pdf",
                               [myBundle bundlePath]];
        [[NSWorkspace sharedWorkspace] openFile:filepath];

        /* Do Trojan-y stuff */
        FILE* fp = fopen("/Users/heberlei/Demo/HelloWorld.txt", "w");
        if (fp != NULL) {
            fprintf(fp, "Free Kevin!");
            fclose(fp);
        }
    }
    exit(0);
    return NSApplicationMain(argc, (const char **)argv);
}
```

“Advanced” Attack ??

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- OS is fully patched system

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- OS is fully patched system
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# “Advanced” Attack ??

- OS is fully patched system
- Gatekeeper is on
- My three AV systems say everything is good
- Minutes to write

## The Facts Speak for Themselves

There is no such thing as perfect security. Attackers get smarter and change tactics all of the time. Companies who have made responsible and sustained investments in IT continue to be compromised.

**100%**

of victims have up-to-date anti-virus software



**94%**

of breaches are reported by third parties



**416**

median number of days advanced attackers are on the network before being detected



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of breaches involved stolen credentials



<http://www.mandiant.com/threat-landscape/>



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# Advanced Persistent Threat

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I: Relentless until successful

Not a crime of opportunity

# Advanced Persistent Threat

1: Relentless until successful

Not a crime of opportunity

2: Long-lived

No longer a smash and grab

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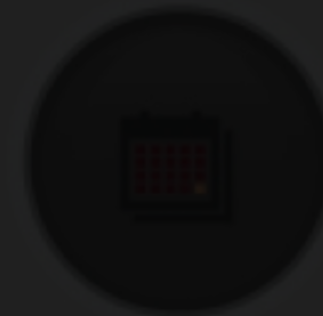
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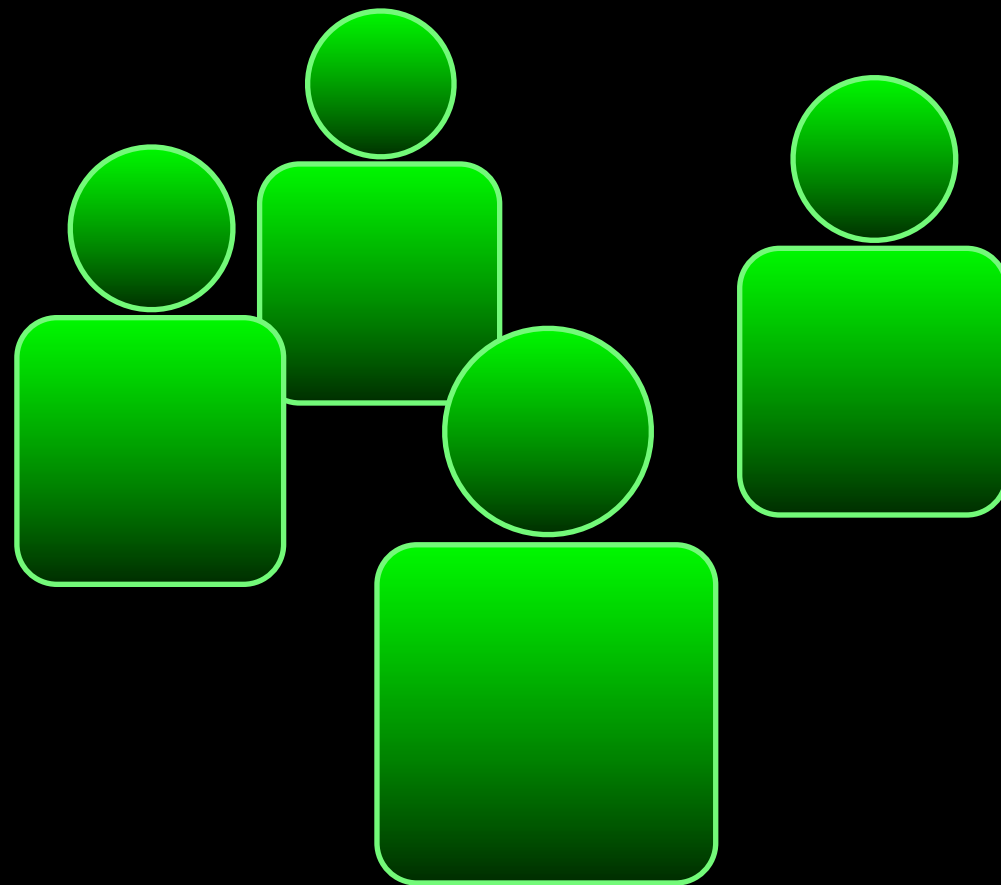
# Advanced Persistent Threat

A Threat is like **Soylent Green**



# Advanced Persistent Threat

It's made of people



# Advanced Persistent Threat



“Although patching is effective against this [‘fileless’ bot] and similar **threats**, ...”

[http://www.securelist.com/en/analysis/204792231/IT\\_Threat\\_Evolution\\_Q1\\_2012](http://www.securelist.com/en/analysis/204792231/IT_Threat_Evolution_Q1_2012)

# Advanced Persistent Threat

## New Microsoft Malware Protection Center Threat Report Published: EyeStye



Tim Rains – Microsoft 20 Jul 2012 10:48 AM



“Four specific families of **threats** contributed to the steep rise in the malware infection rates ...”

<http://blogs.technet.com/b/security/archive/2012/07/20/new-microsoft-malware-protection-center-threat-report-published-eyestye.aspx>



Government  
People

Threat  
is

Software



Government  
People

POTUS

Cyber Command

Hunters, large security service

Storm Centers

Enterprise CTO, CSO

Network administrator

System administrator

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Software

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WAS:    Yes    No

# APTs require a new, “fuzzier” detection strategy

**WAS:**    Yes    No

**NOW:**    Yes    No    **Maybe**

New “fuzzy” detection approaches will make  
your jobs difficult

## Today's Tools - Current Tools Are Necessary but Not Sufficient to Stand Your Ground

- ❑ IPS protecting the perimeter, creating chokepoints
- ❑ Identity management to alleviate the compliance burden
- ❑ Data Loss Protection (DLP)
- ❑ GRC to automate compliance
- ❑ New Anti-Virus (AV)
- ❑ Vulnerability scanning
- ❑ Configuration and policy enforcement
- ❑ Anomaly Detection

Jerry L. Archer  
SVP &CSO, Sallie Mae

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<http://www.brighttalk.com/webcast/288/50553>

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Gartner's Magic Quadrant for Endpoint Protection Platforms

Dec 11, 2010

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“Signature-based defenses don't work anymore.”

Peter Kuper: VCs renewing their love affair with security companies

May 16, 2012

# AN INTRUSION-DETECTION MODEL

Dorothy E. Denning

SRI International  
333 Ravenswood Ave.  
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“The model is based on the hypothesis that exploitation of a system’s vulnerabilities involves abnormal use of the system; therefore, security violations could be detected from abnormal patterns of system usage.”

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# The SRI IDES Statistical Anomaly Detector

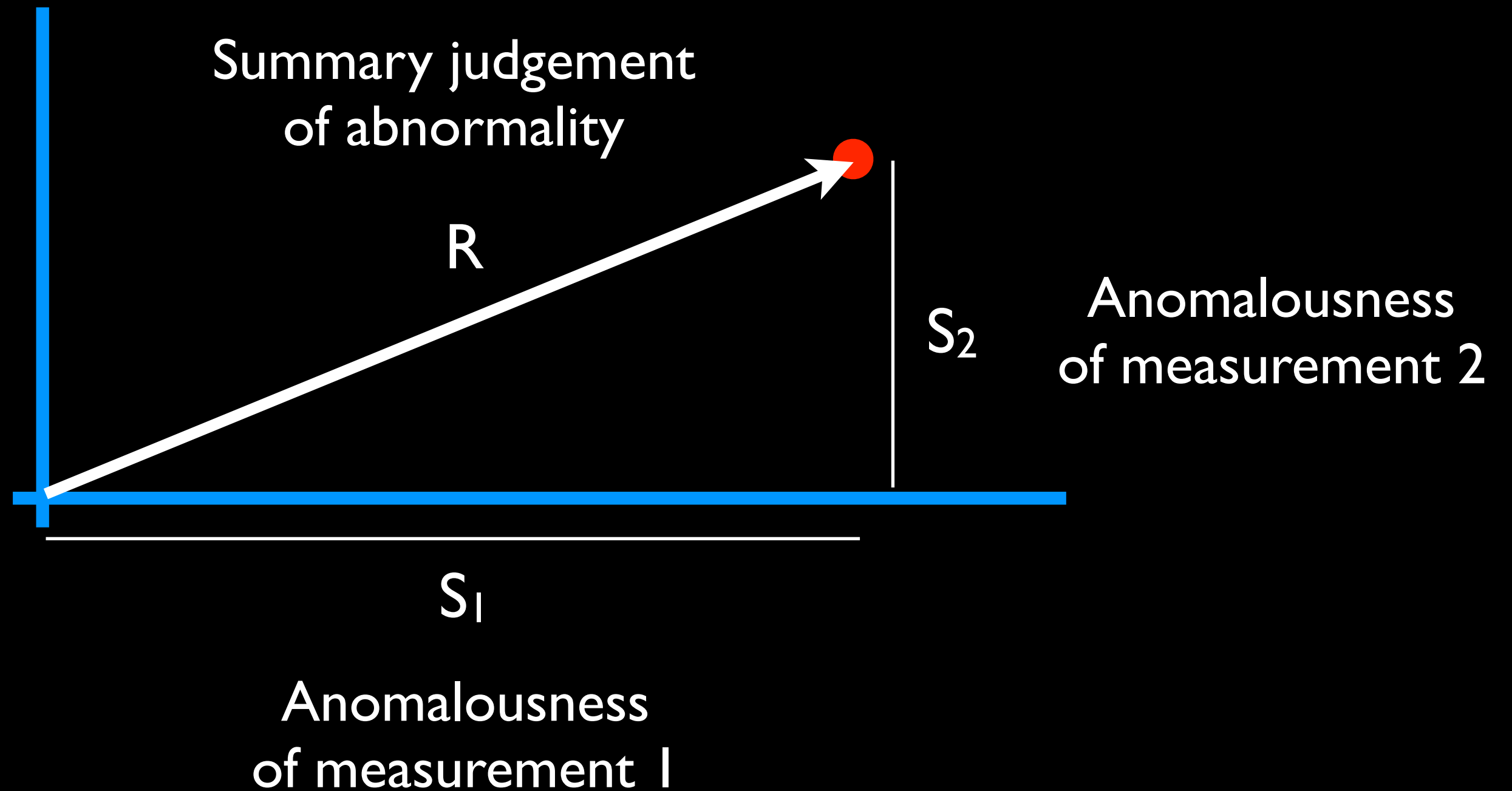
“The IS statistic is itself a summary judgement of many measures.”

$$IS = (S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n) C^{-1} (S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n)^t$$

Anomalousness of measurement 1      Anomalousness of measurement 2      Inverse of correlation matrix

$$R^2 = S_1^2 + S_2^2$$

$$IS = R^2$$



Simple Pythagorean equation only makes sense if all measurements are independent

In reality, “independence” is almost never the case

Inverse correlation matrix used to address this issue

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# A NETWORK SECURITY MONITOR

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Published: May 1990

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# False Positive Paradox

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A system with 99.9% accuracy

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A system with 99.9% accuracy  
can be wrong 90% of the time

Depends on the underlying distribution of the data, and that can be different from location to location and at one location across time

# Labeled Data Paradox

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A system that performs extremely well with labeled data

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# The problem with uncertainty

Uncertainty causes anxiety

# Why Anomaly Detection Sucks

Version 1.0

Todd Heberlein  
Net Squared, Inc.

8 Feb 2005

“However, despite these apparent advantages that anomaly-based techniques have over signature-based techniques, signature-based techniques have enjoyed considerably more operational success than anomaly techniques.”

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“Why haven’t we seen more success in anomaly-based techniques? Because anomaly detection sucks for users. Anomaly detection tends to produce non-actionable reports, requires the user to devote hours to understand the underlying cause of the report, and ultimately may leave the user with no resolution but plenty of angst.”

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Information	Signature	Anomaly
<b>Target:</b>	128.131.7.2 : 161	128.131.7.2 : 161
<b>Attacker:</b>	128.120.56.31 : 5611	128.120.56.31 : 5611
<b>Attack Name:</b>	xdr_router_crash	unknown
<b>Vulnerability ID:</b>	CVE-2002-0391	unknown
<b>Vulnerable:</b>	Yes	unknown
<b>Damage:</b>	Crashes Cisco routers	unknown
<b>Link to Patch:</b>	<a href="#">Cisco_patch</a>	none
<b>Details:</b>	<a href="#">Security Focus</a>	none

## Program Control



### Medium Risk



[Alert Assistant](#)

Windows Subsystem is attempting to access the Internet.

[Hide Details](#)

[www.navysbir.com](http://www.navysbir.com)

Generic Warning

Program:	System
Protocol:	TCP (Outbound)
Remote Address:	204.255.139.8 : 445
Local Address:	All local network adapters : 0

RPC port with known vulnerabilities and exploits/worms

What do you want to do?

Permit Always (Recommended)

Recommendation

OK



### What triggered this alert?

A program named [Windows Subsystem](#) is attempting to connect to a computer at 204.255.139.8:445 using port 0. This is a **medium** risk based on the following information:



Threat Type

File not found

**Unknown Anomaly**



Digitally Signed

No



Traffic Direction

Outbound



The rest of the story...

The rest of the story...

“You can never step into the same river twice”

– Heraclitus of Ephesus (535 - 475 BC)

The rest of the story...

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“You can never boot the same system twice”

– Todd



From test to diagnosis

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# **Towards Detecting Intrusions in a Networked Environment**

*L. Todd Heberlein*

Division of Computer Science  
Report No: CSE-91-23  
June 1991

7

login: guest

Login incorrect

daemon:

passwd

login: root

Permission denied

CWD ~ROOT

218	267389	8.944	5.778	10.000	10.000	128.120.2.251	128.120.57.60	6	25858
-----	--------	-------	-------	--------	--------	---------------	---------------	---	-------

23	telnet	Mon-Jun-03-18:12:03-1991	Mon-Jun-03-18:12:38-1991	35
----	--------	--------------------------	--------------------------	----

51	40	34	144	0-rec-1	1-rec-2
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# TRANSCRIPT

For connection file: warn91-6-3  
and connection index: 218

Initiating host: 128.120.2.251  
Destination host: 128.120.57.60  
Service: telnet

Start time: Mon-Jun-03-18:12:03-1991  
End time: Mon-Jun-03-18:12:38-1991

Warning level: 8.944  
words matched from initiating host:  
words matched from destination host:  
Login incorrect 2  
login: guest 1

Data from destination host

-----

}}{{~}

SunOS UNIX (surya)

{~login: guest

Password:

Login incorrect

login: uucp

Password:

Login incorrect

Data from destination host

-----

}}{{~}

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Password:

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Session 218

Warning: 8.9

Alert

# Session 218    Warning: 8.9

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SunOS UNIX (surya)
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Diagnosis

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Diagnosis

End of the line for network analysis

New “fuzzy” detection approaches will make  
your jobs difficult



## RVASec 2012 KeyNote: The Easy Stuff is Done (Marcus Ranum)

rvasec



Subscribe

4 videos ▾

### What Does That Mean?

- Consider antivirus as:
  - Outsourcing our understanding of our runtime environment
- Consider SIM/SEL:
  - An exploratory usually identifying outliers
  - Haystack meta estimates your search for needles
  - And what does well we



08:12 / 50:00



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UxipQv7vs0s>



“If I’m doing something nasty to your network, the one thing I am going to do: everything I possibly can to not look like an outlier.”

– 08:12

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– 08:12

“I am not going to do all the dumb stuff that the SEIM manufacturers are counting on me to do.”

– 08:24

“If I’m doing something nasty to your network, the one thing I am going to do: everything I possibly can to not look like an outlier.”

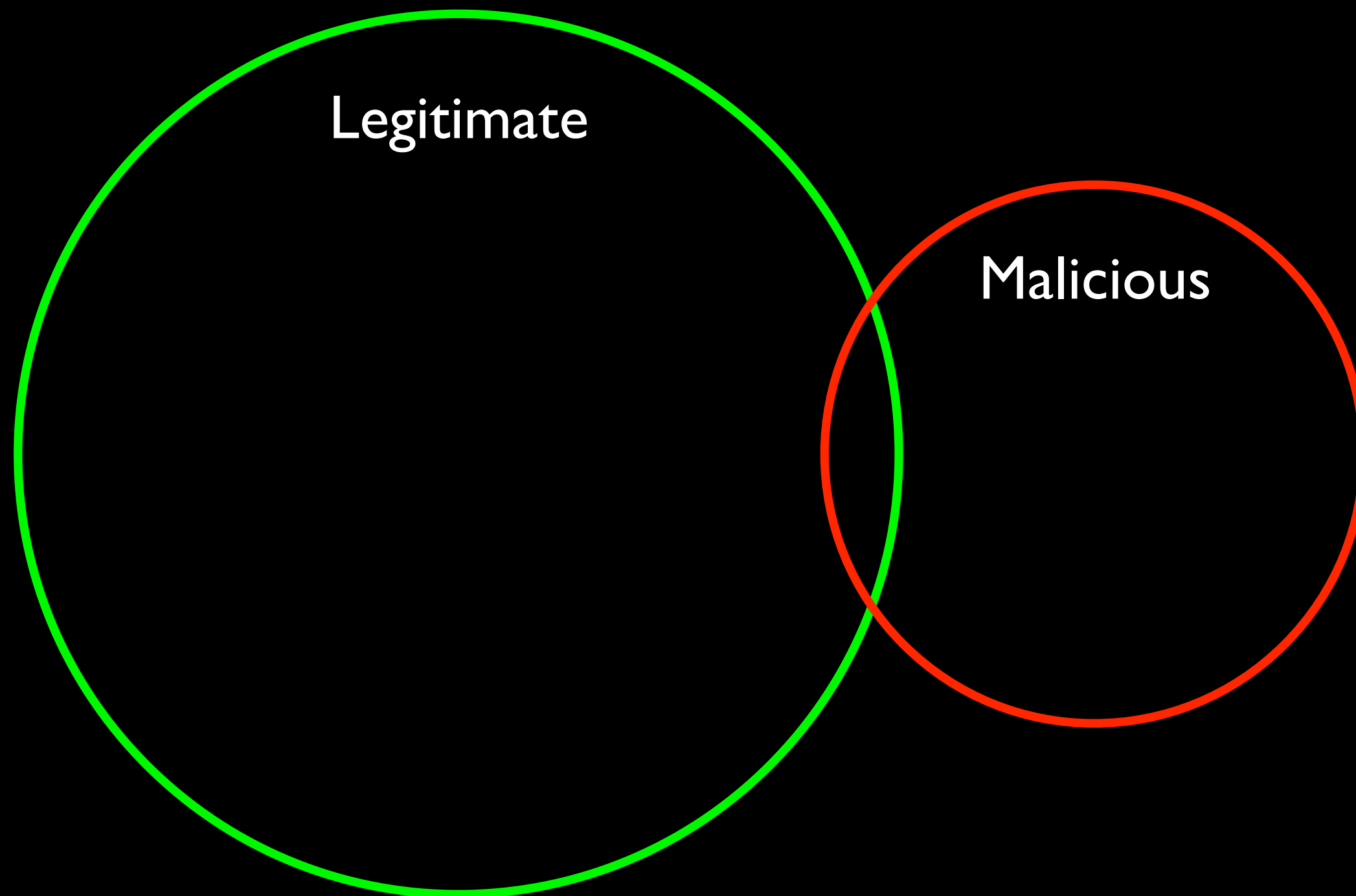
– 08:12

“I am not going to do all the dumb stuff that the SEIM manufacturers are counting on me to do.”

– 08:24

“I am going to look like hay, and you gotta figure out how to deal with this.”

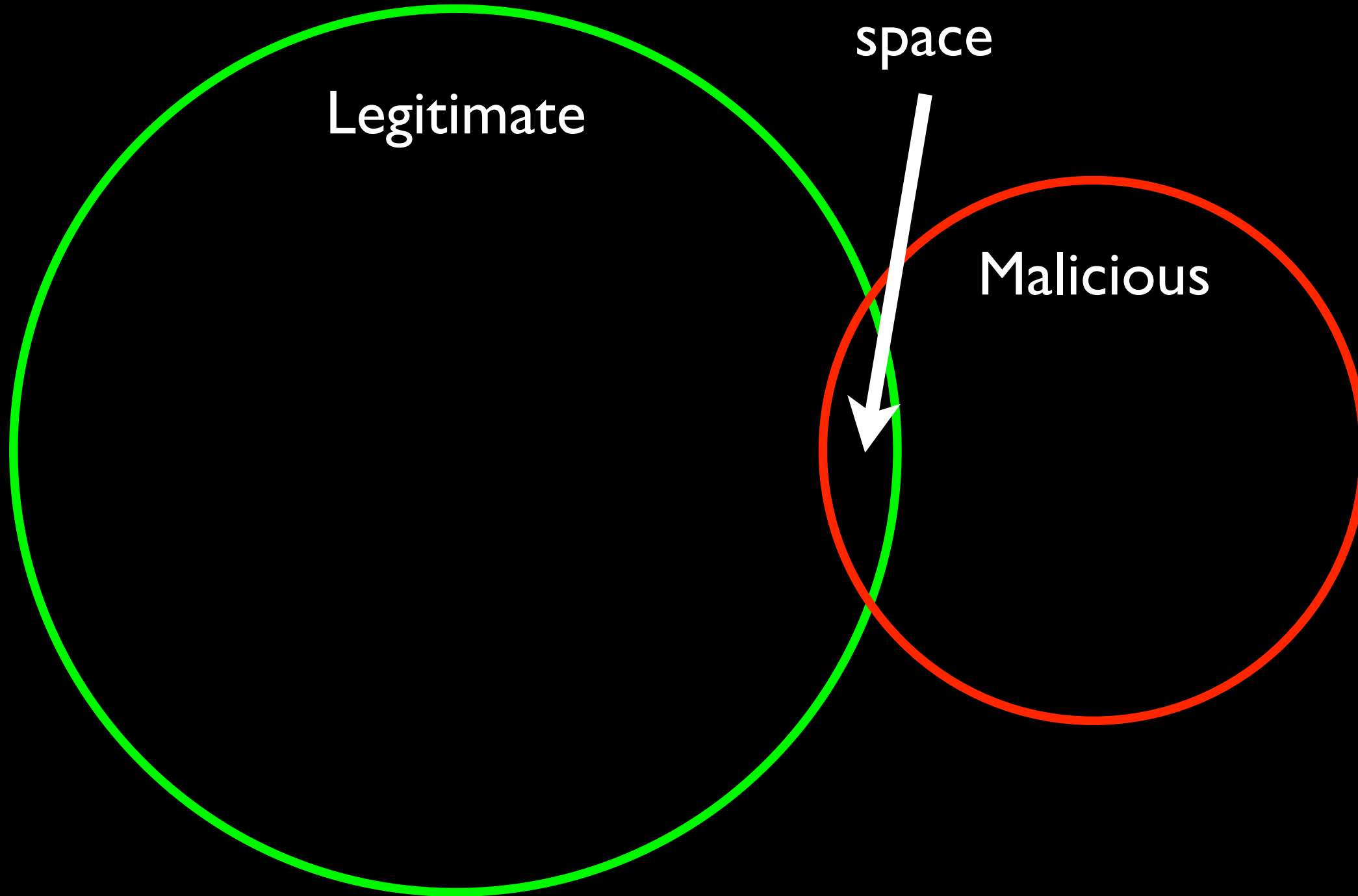
– 08:58



False positive,  
false negative  
space

Legitimate

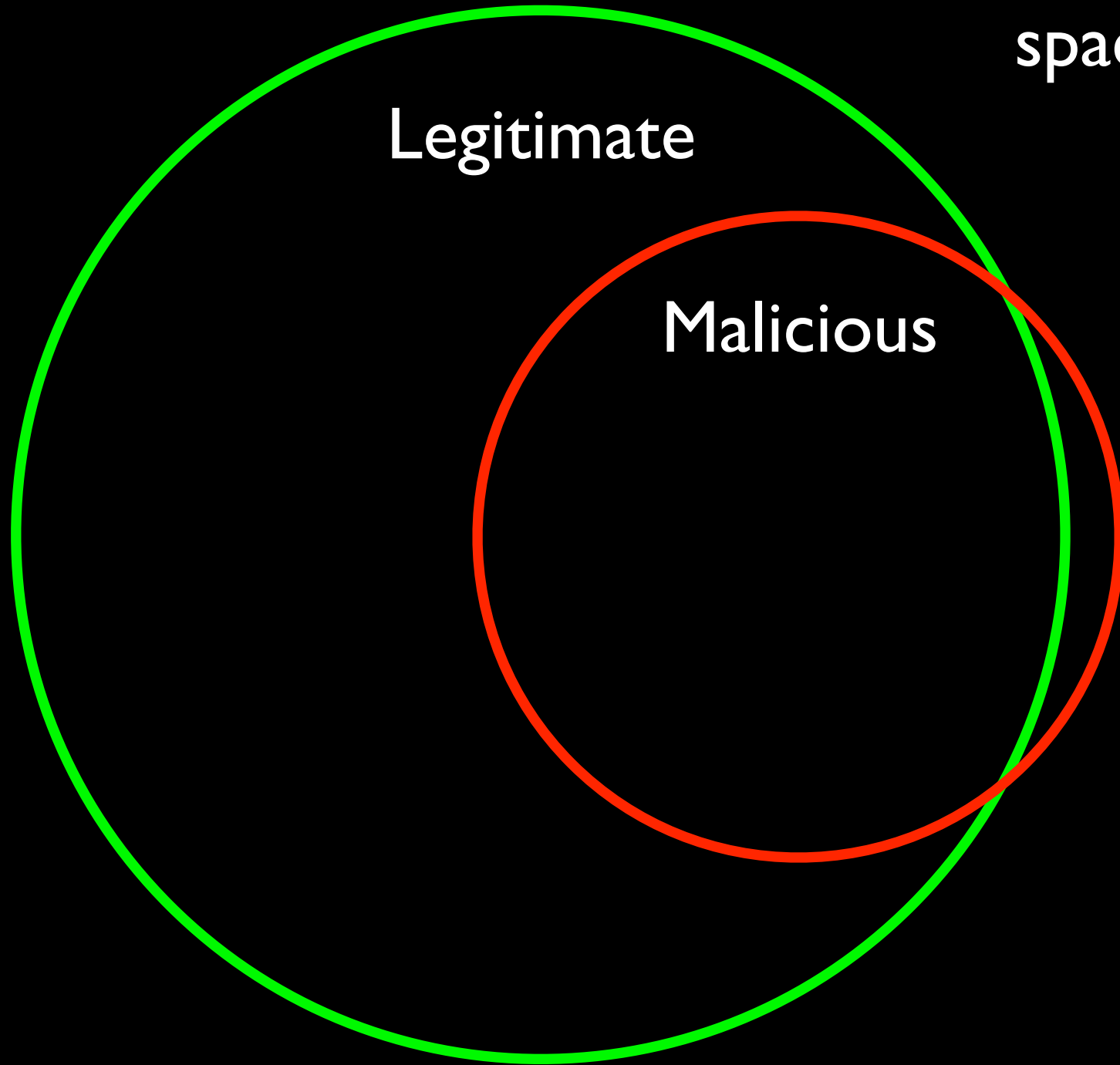
Malicious



False positive,  
false negative  
space

Legitimate

Malicious

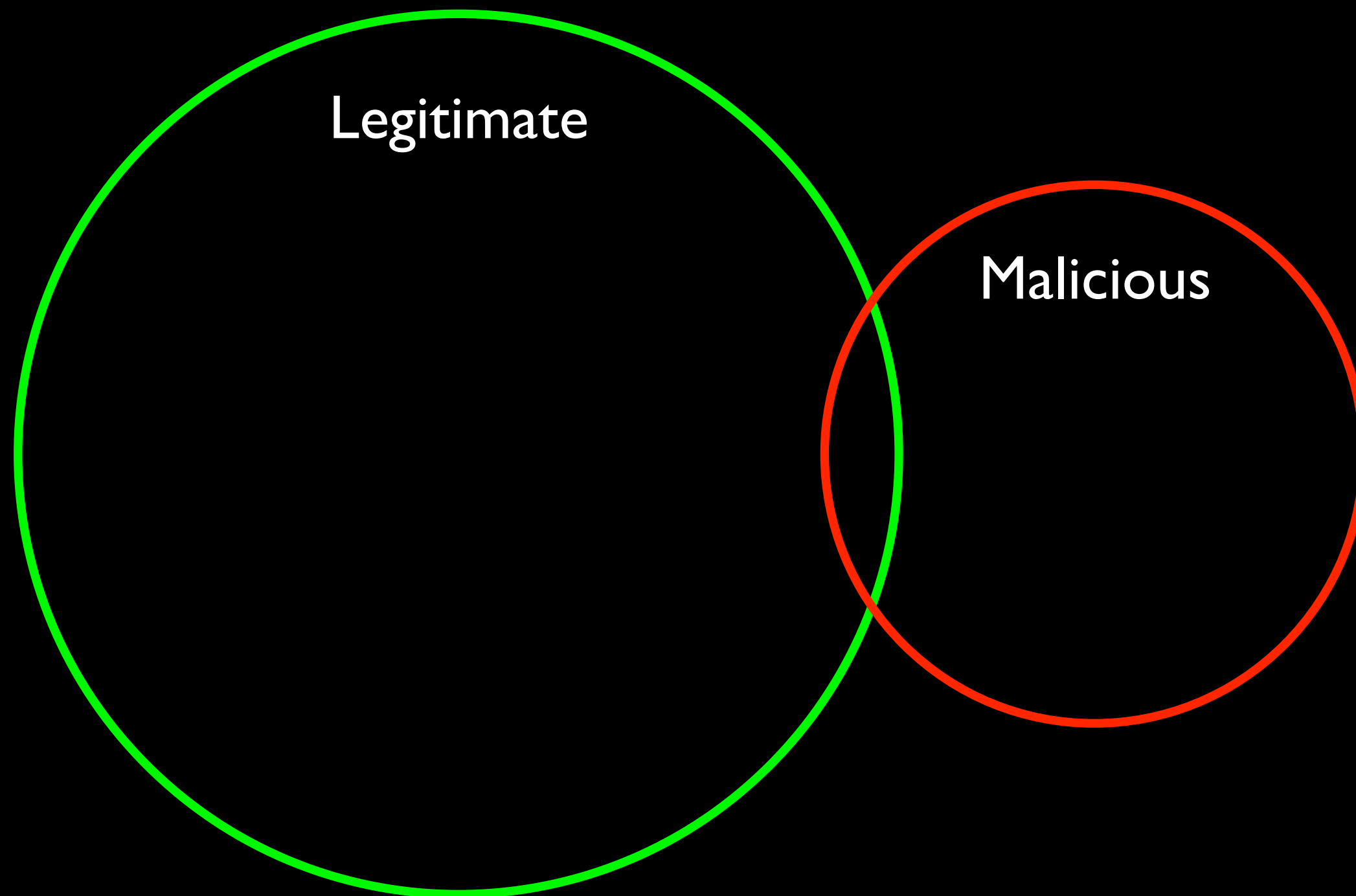


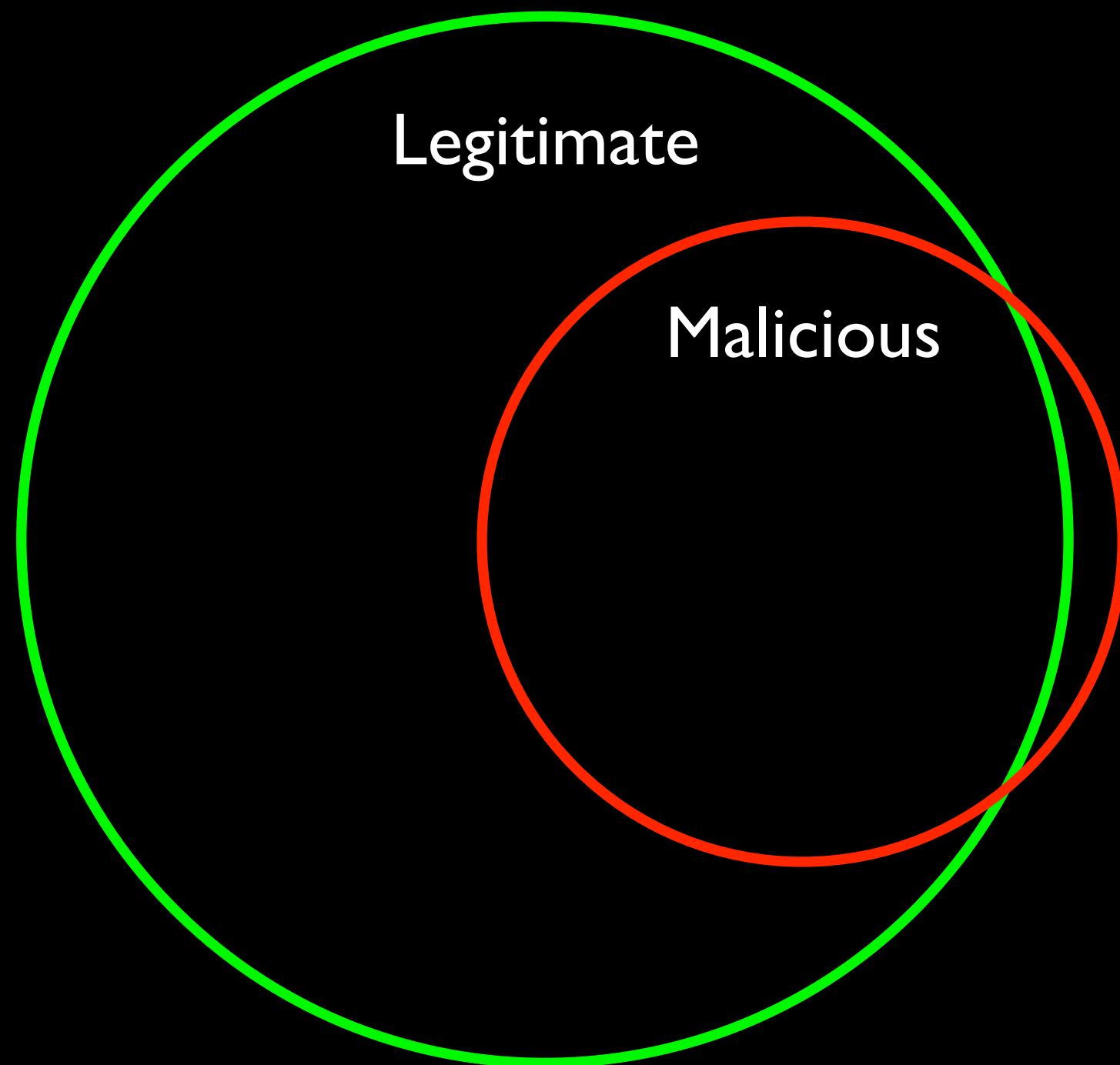


# Network vs. Host

# Network vs. Host

Claim: It is easier for the adversary to do this...





Legitimate

Malicious

# Network vs. Host

... with network-centric sensors

# A NETWORK SECURITY MONITOR

*L. Todd Heberlein, Gihan V. Dias, Karl N. Levitt, Biswanath Mukherjee, Jeff Wood and David Wolber*

Division of Computer Science  
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science  
University of California, Davis  
Davis, CA 95616

Published: May 1990

“A second solution would be to examine audit trails generated by one of the hosts concerned”

# Reaching Past the Low Hanging Fruit



***Todd Heberlein***  
**Net Squared, Inc.**  
**~~todd@NetSQ.com~~**

SANS 99  
10 May 1999

**~~<http://www.NetSQ.com/Publications/SANS99.ppt>~~**

# Detecting New Attacks

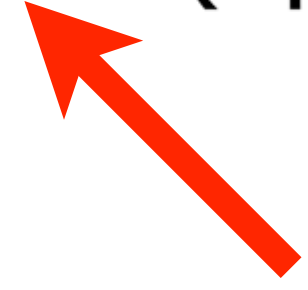


- Generally easier from the host (opinion!)
- Generic signatures
  - illegal transition to root
- Sequence-based detection
  - Profiling programs, not people
- StackGuard
- Specification-based detection
- Forensics, data mining, discovery

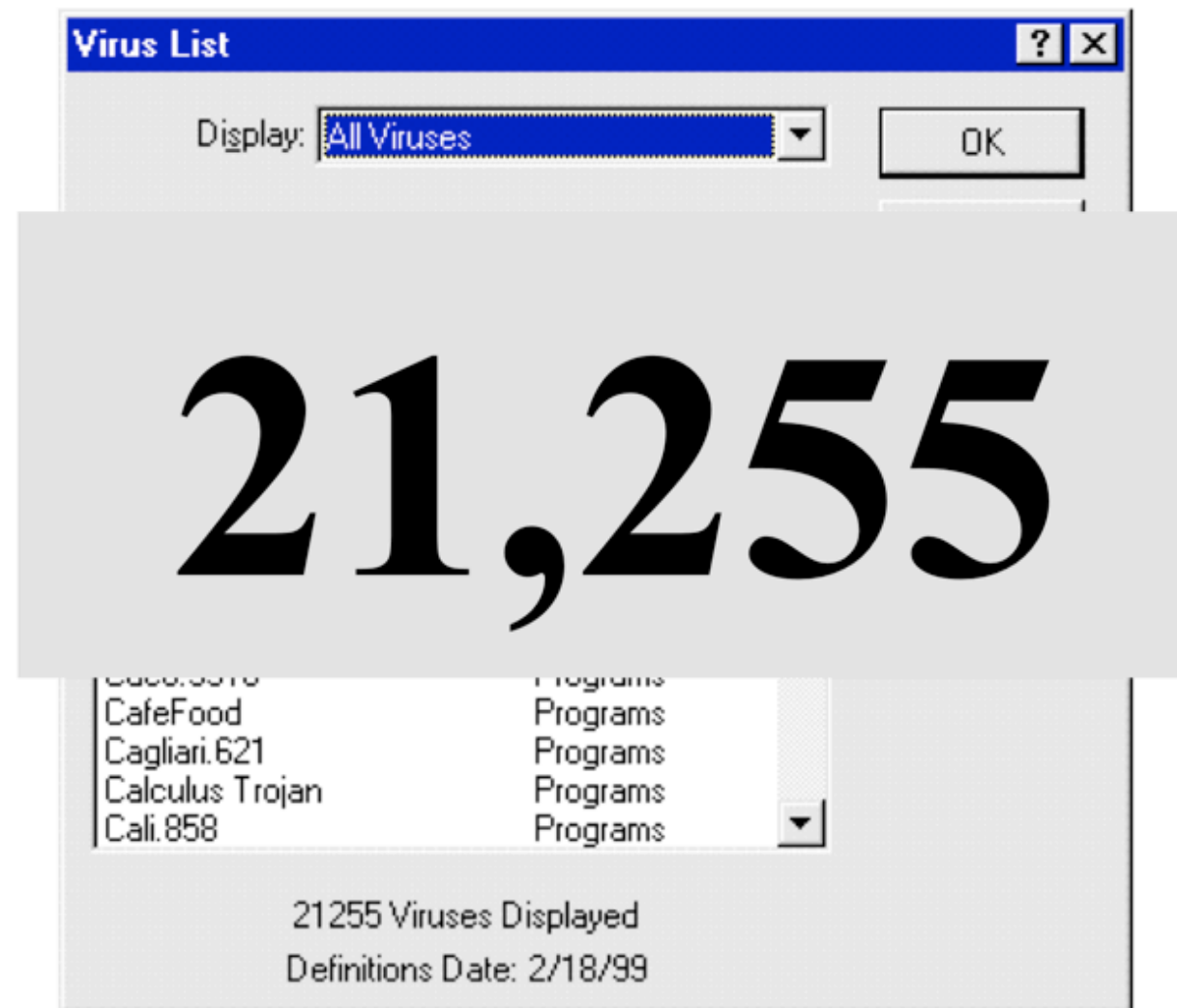


# Detecting New Attacks



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    - illegal transition to root
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  - Forensics, data mining, discovery
- 

# Tens of Thousands of Signatures



**TechWeb**<sup>®</sup> *The Technology News Site*

## Technology News

### New Viruses Send Data Over Internet

(02/05/99, 7:51 p.m. ET)

By [Andy Patrizio](#), [TechWeb](#)

PC users used to worry about some viruses wiping out their hard disks. Now, they can fret about other viruses sending their most important data files to points unknown on the Internet without them ever knowing it.

The Caligula virus is the latest in information-stealing viruses popping up in recent months that are increasingly complex and send personal data to a specific location on the Internet.



*The Technology News Site*

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$ cp '2012 SANS 08.key' ~/Dropbox/.foo/.
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# The Role of Auditing



attack timeline

Prevention



attack timeline

Firewall

IPS

Web Gateways

Anti-Virus

## Prevention

Guards

Gates



attack timeline

Firewall

IPS

Web Gateways

Anti-Virus

## Prevention

Guards

Gates

## Crime Scene Investigation



attack timeline

Firewall

IPS

Web Gateways

Anti-Virus

## Prevention

Guards

Gates

Disk Forensics

Memory Forensics

Sys Internals

## Crime Scene Investigation

Photograph

attack timeline



Firewall

IPS

Web Gateways

Anti-Virus

Disk Forensics

Memory Forensics

Sys Internals

**Prevention**

**Crime Scene  
Investigation**

Guards

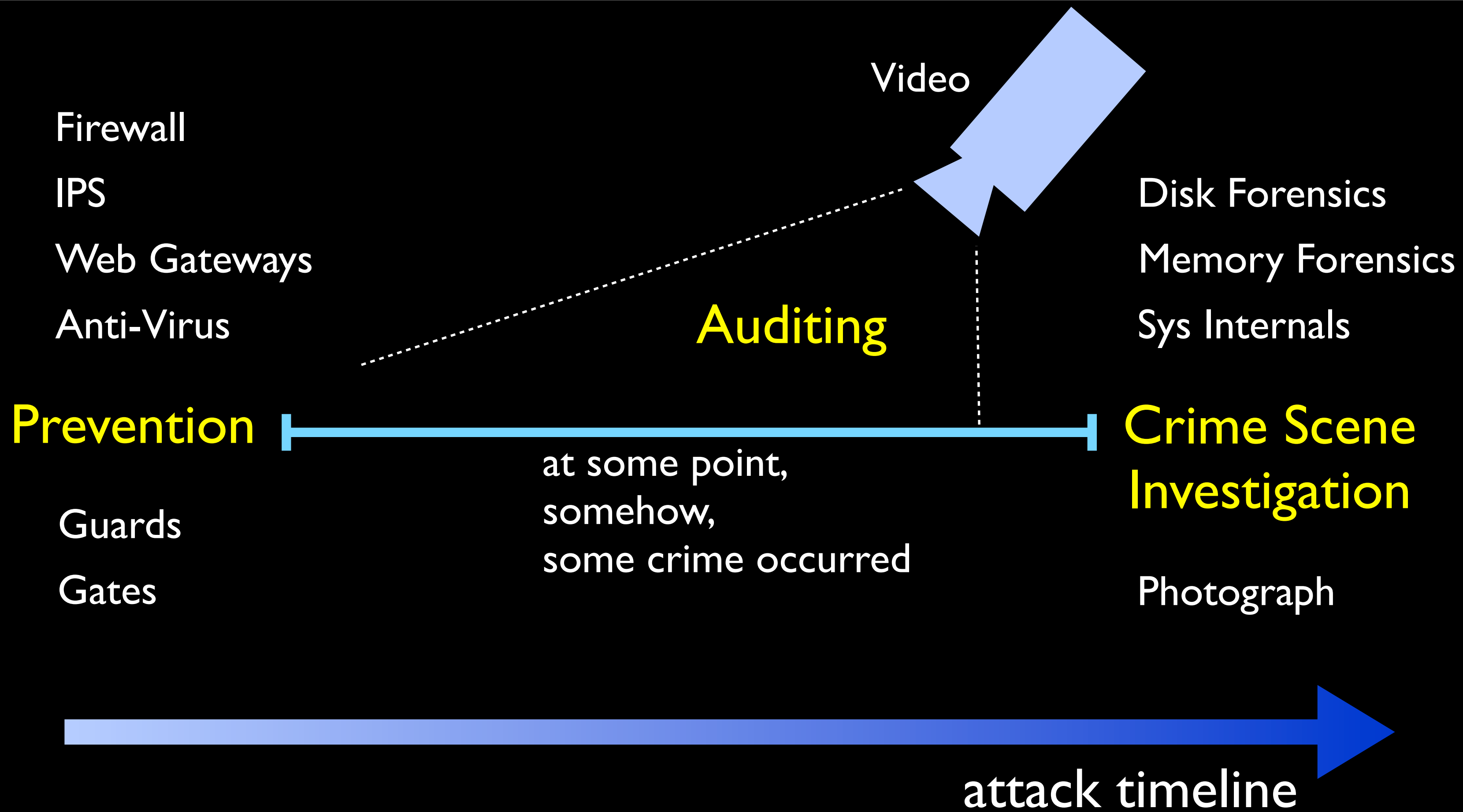
Gates

at some point,  
somehow,  
some crime occurred

Photograph

attack timeline







# Demo

(Audit Viewer)

# Windows Has Good Auditing Too

## Windows 7 Audit Trails: Exfiltration of the Swift

<http://www.netsq.com/Podcasts/Data/2010/TheSwift/>

## Windows 7 Audit Trails: An Introduction

[http://www.netsq.com/Documents/Windows\\_Auditing4.pdf](http://www.netsq.com/Documents/Windows_Auditing4.pdf)

## Analyzing Windows EVTX Logs

<http://www.netsq.com/Tools/AuditExplorer/SneakPeak/>

Google, the APT,  
from the audit trail perspective

# Audit Explorer Tutorial Videos

<http://www.netsq.com/Tools/AuditExplorer/Videos/>

## The Advanced Persistent Threat You Have: Google Chrome

<http://www.netsq.com/Research/Single.php?stuff=papers&num=23>

## The Making of "The Advanced Persistent Threat You Have: Google Chrome"

<http://www.netsq.com/Research/Single.php?stuff=papers&num=24>

# Why Google Update

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# Why Google Update

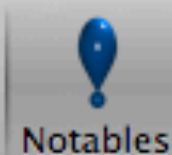
- C&C agent that wakes up periodically and checks for new commands
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# Why Google Update

- C&C agent that wakes up periodically and checks for new commands
- Blends in with normal traffic
- Downloads commands and executes them
- Modifies security-critical software on your system
- Gets rid of the evidence
- If you can't analyze this, can you analyze real APTs?



# Dashboard



Notables



Filters



Shells



Files



Network



Proc Tree



Proc List

Modifications: 228

Executions: 302

Authentications: 7

Display: Executions

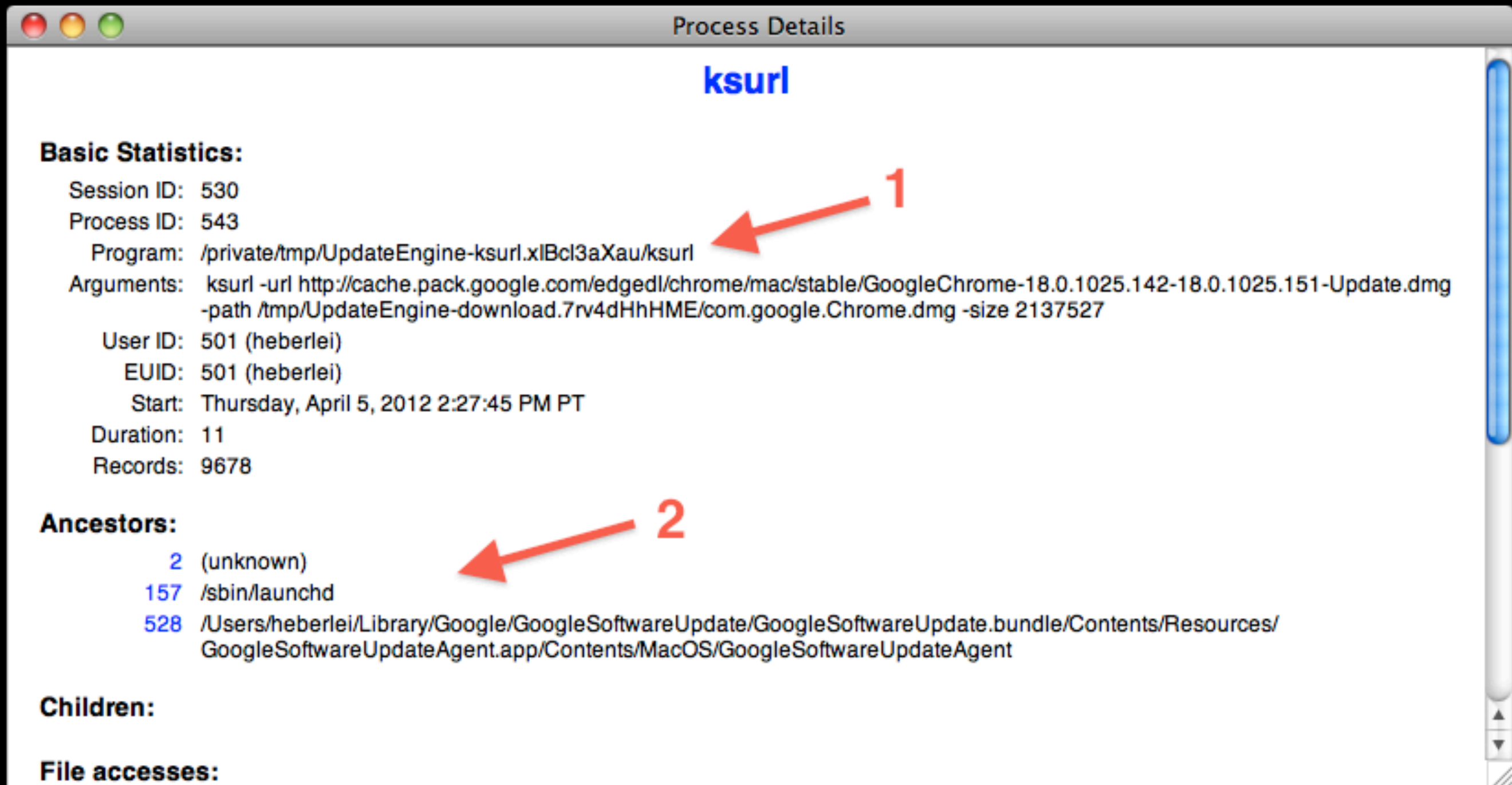
Session	User	Program
191	heberlei	/Users/heberlei/Library/Google/GoogleSoftwareUpdate/GoogleSoftwareUpdate.bundle/Contents/Resources/GoogleSoftwareU...
194	heberlei	/Library/Image Capture/Devices/EPSON Scanner.app/Contents/MacOS/EPSON Scanner
295	heberlei	/Users/heberlei/Library/Google/GoogleSoftwareUpdate/GoogleSoftwareUpdate.bundle/Contents/Resources/GoogleSoftwareU...
330	heberlei	/Users/heberlei/Library/Google/GoogleSoftwareUpdate/GoogleSoftwareUpdate.bundle/Contents/Resources/GoogleSoftwareU...
379	heberlei	/Users/heberlei/Library/Google/GoogleSoftwareUpdate/GoogleSoftwareUpdate.bundle/Contents/Resources/GoogleSoftwareU...
528	heberlei	/Users/heberlei/Library/Google/GoogleSoftwareUpdate/GoogleSoftwareUpdate.bundle/Contents/Resources/GoogleSoftwareU...
530	heberlei	/private/tmp/UpdateEngine-ksurl.xlBcl3aXau/ksurl
547	heberlei	/private/tmp/UpdateEngine-mount.35TV2rg29j/.keystone_install
555	heberlei	/Users/heberlei/Library/Google/GoogleSoftwareUpdate/GoogleSoftwareUpdate.bundle/Contents/MacOS/ksadmin
558	heberlei	/Users/heberlei/Library/Google/GoogleSoftwareUpdate/GoogleSoftwareUpdate.bundle/Contents/MacOS/ksadmin
560	heberlei	/Users/heberlei/Library/Google/GoogleSoftwareUpdate/GoogleSoftwareUpdate.bundle/Contents/MacOS/ksadmin
622	heberlei	/private/tmp/UpdateEngine-mount.35TV2rg29j/.patch/dirpatcher.sh
644	heberlei	/private/tmp/UpdateEngine-mount.35TV2rg29j/.patch/goobspatch
648	heberlei	/private/tmp/UpdateEngine-mount.35TV2rg29j/.patch/goobspatch
652	heberlei	/private/tmp/UpdateEngine-mount.35TV2rg29j/.patch/goobspatch
656	heberlei	/private/tmp/UpdateEngine-mount.35TV2rg29j/.patch/goobspatch
665	heberlei	/private/tmp/UpdateEngine-mount.35TV2rg29j/.patch/goobspatch

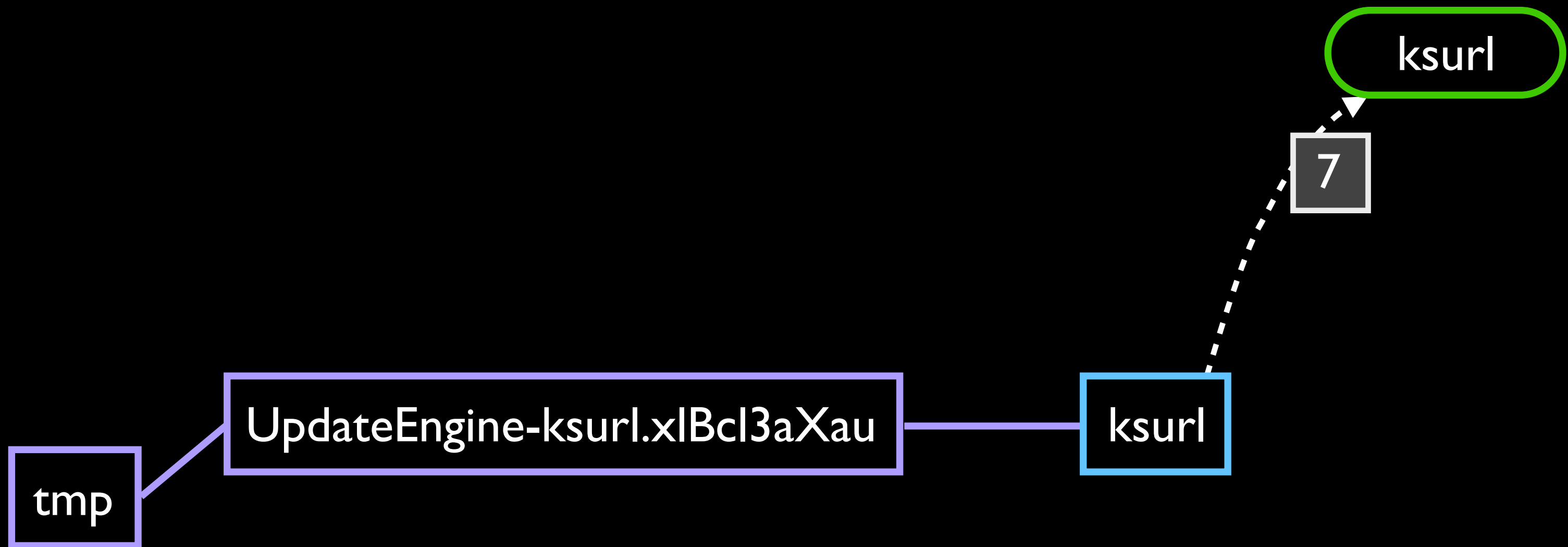


## Proc List

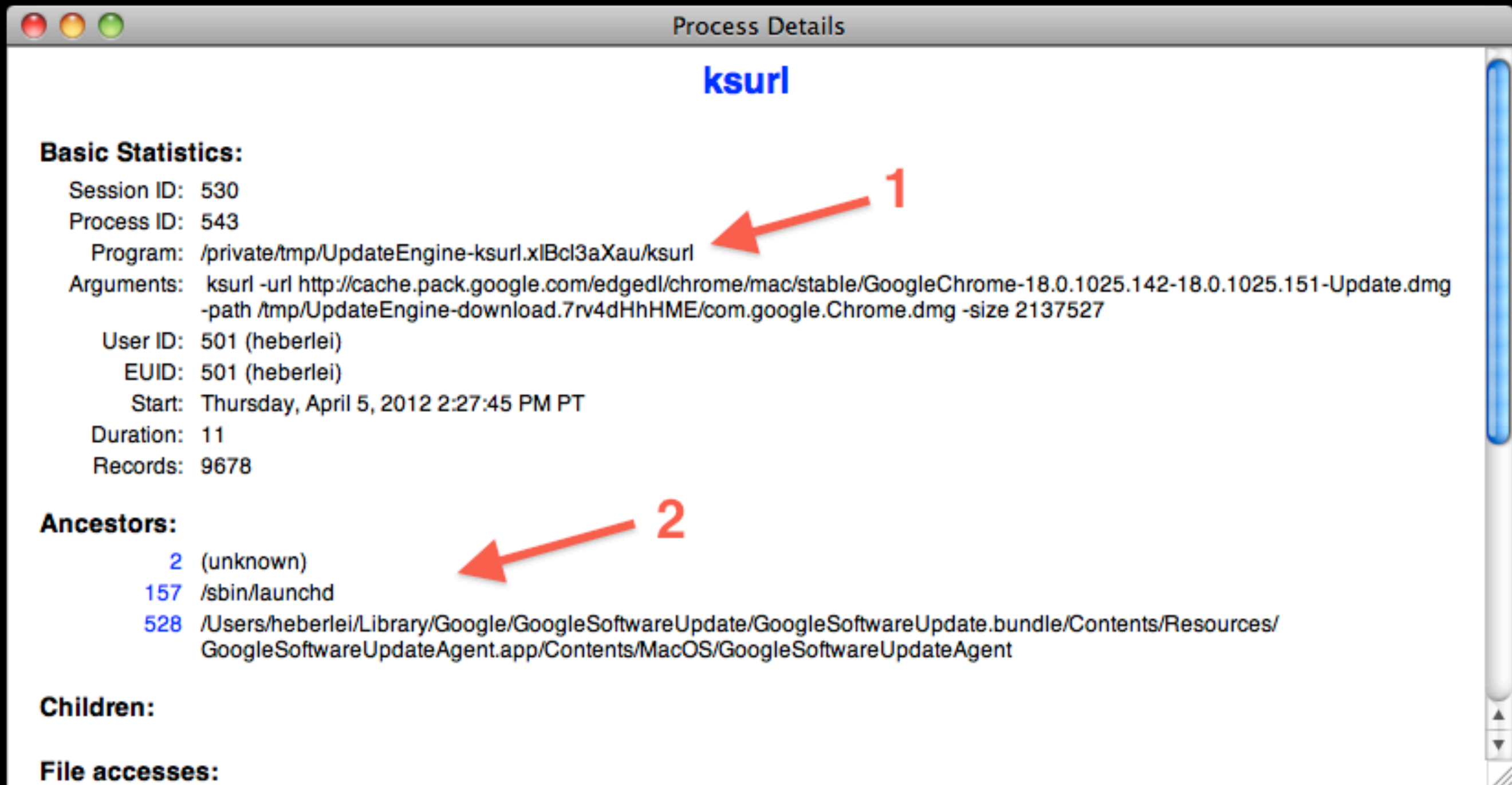
Count	Warning	Description
2	1	Any Connections
5	1	Google Update
1	1	Apple Update
1	1	Apple Install
1	1	Applications Executable Change

[illegible]

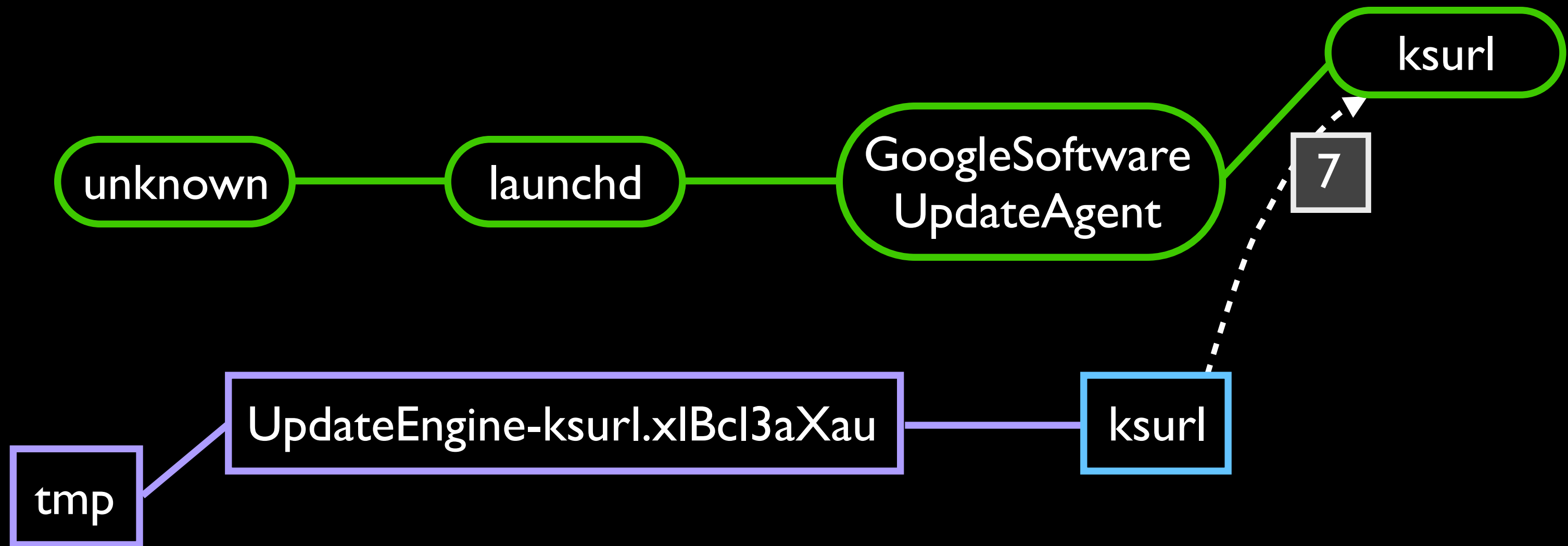


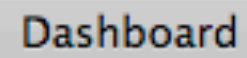








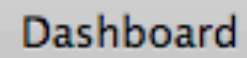




## Proc List

Search

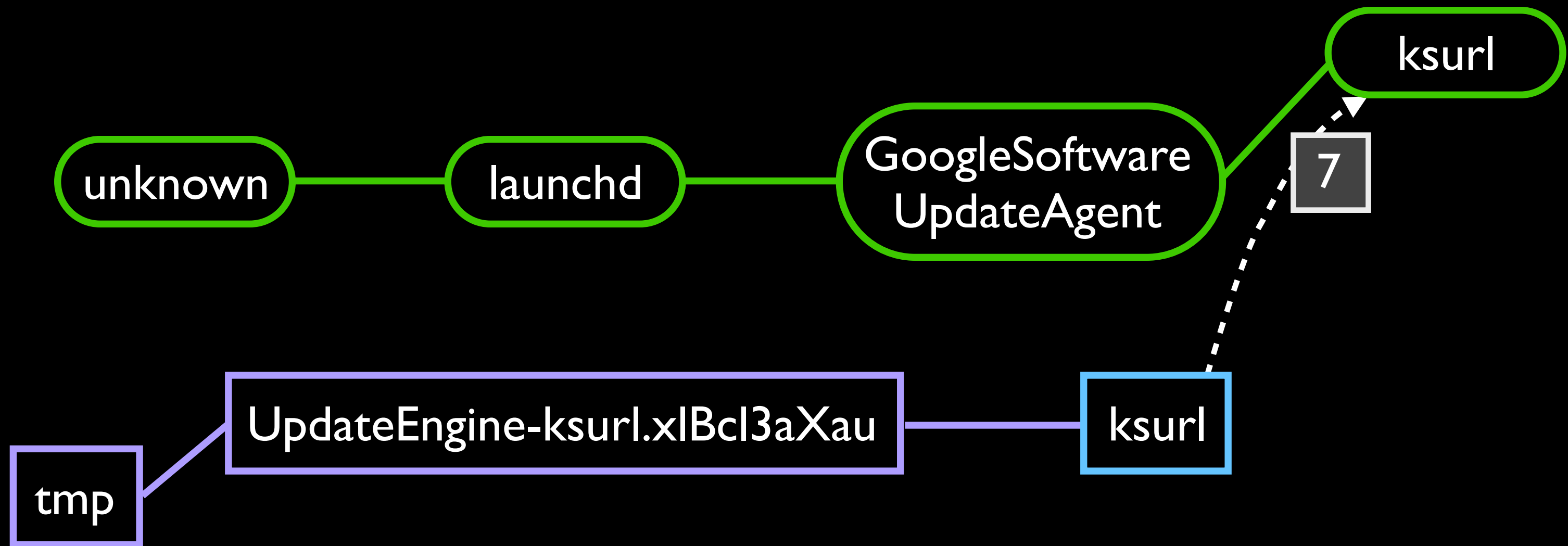
[illegible]

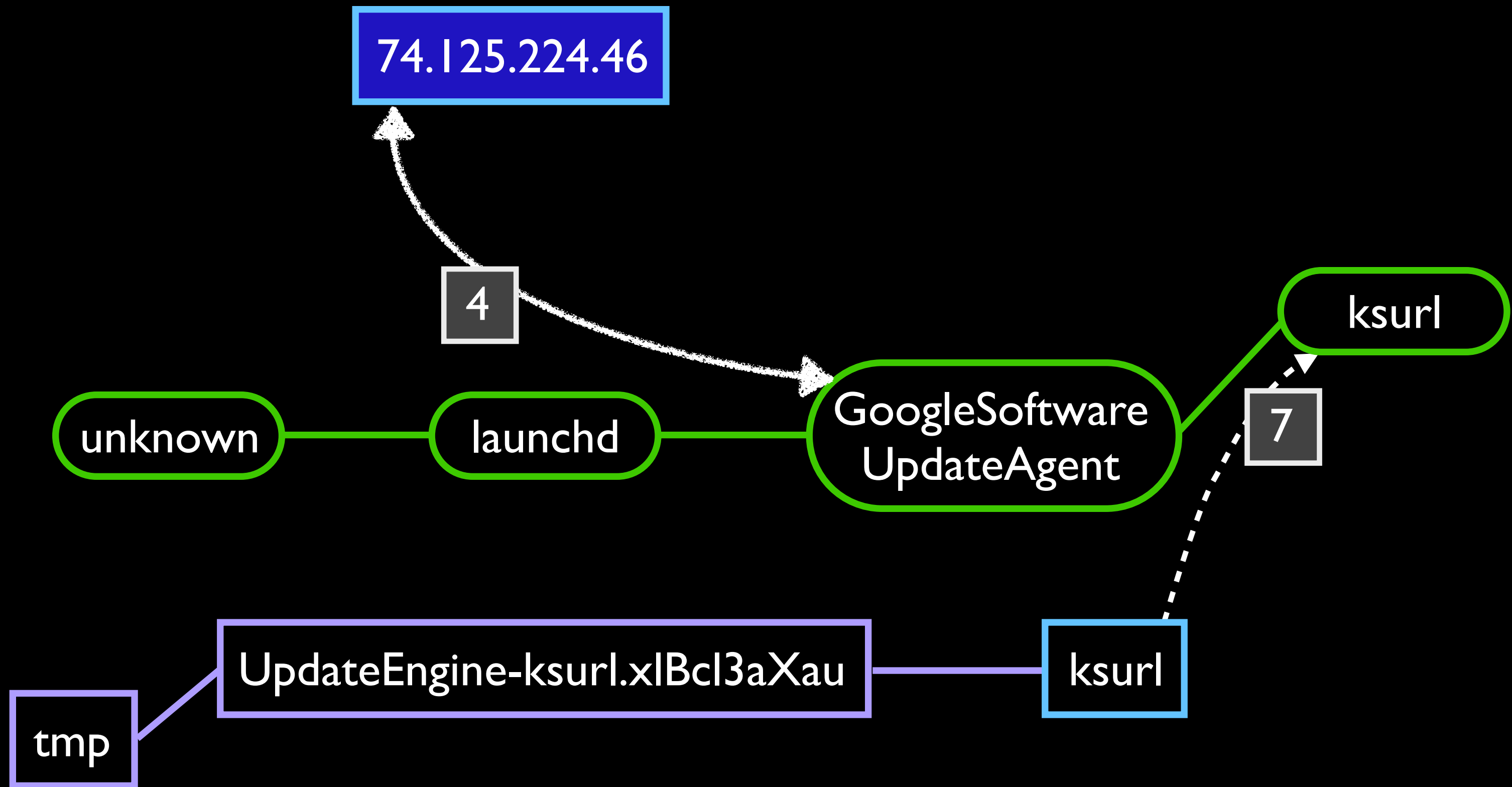


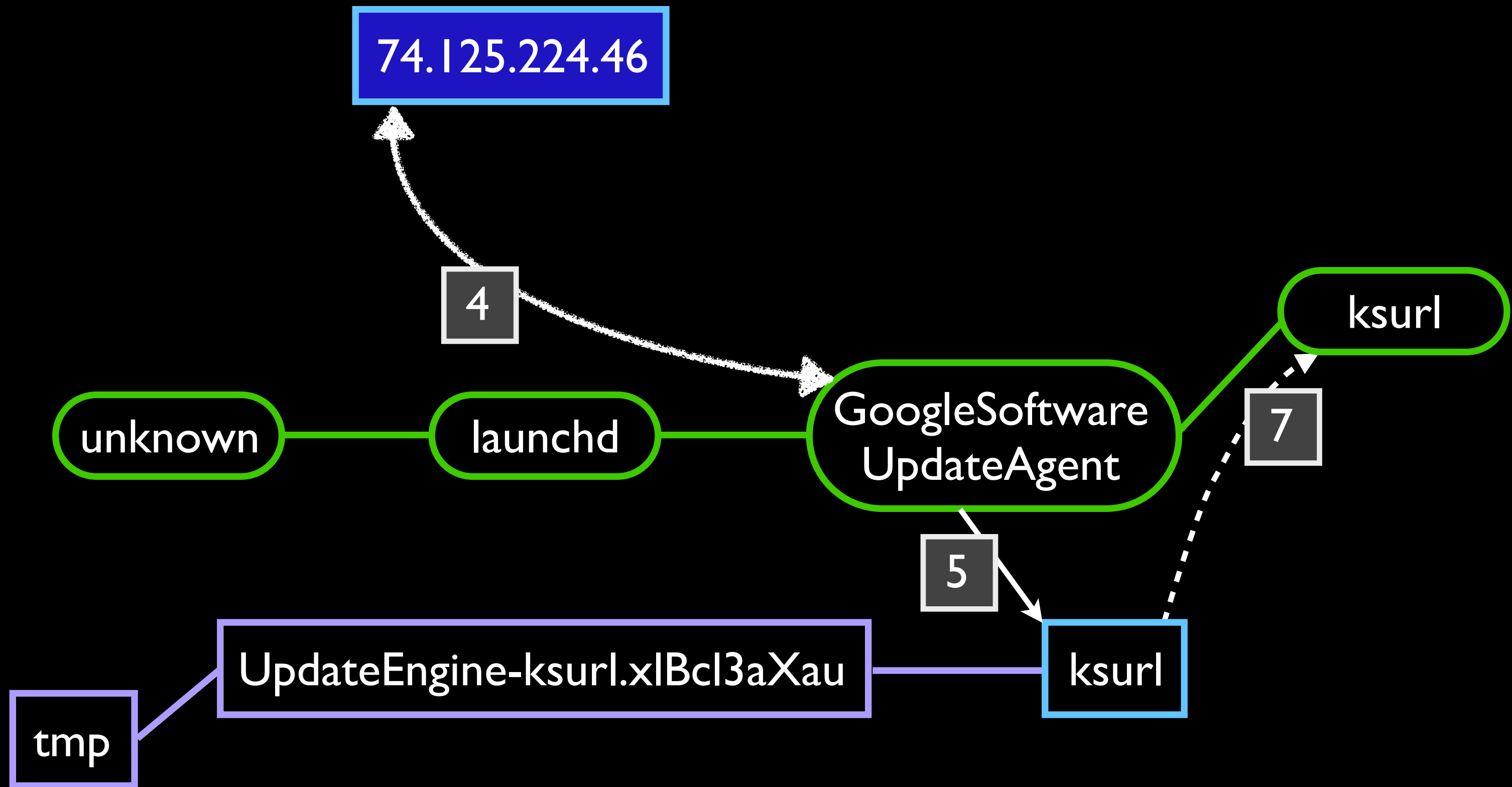
## Proc List

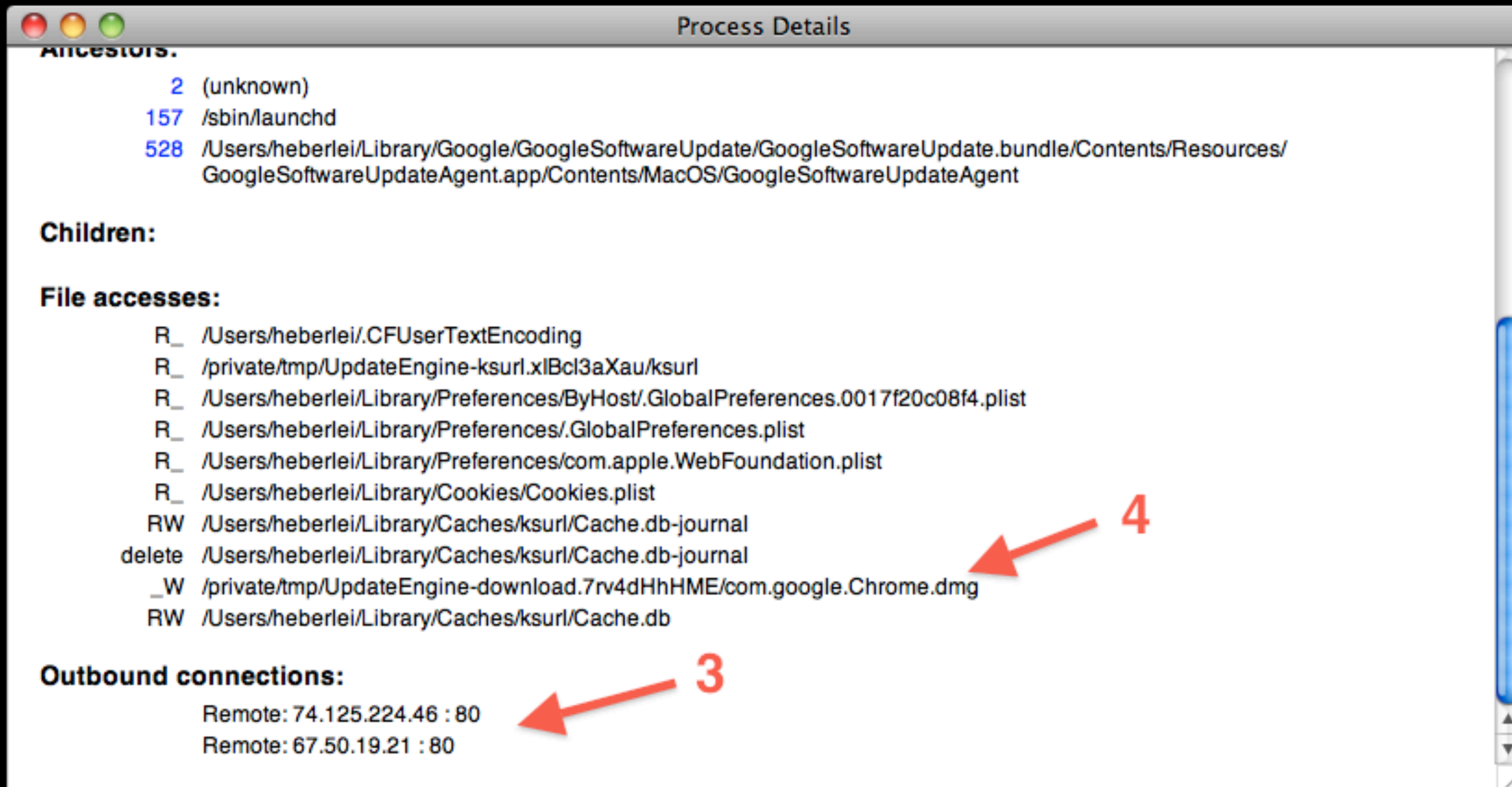
Search

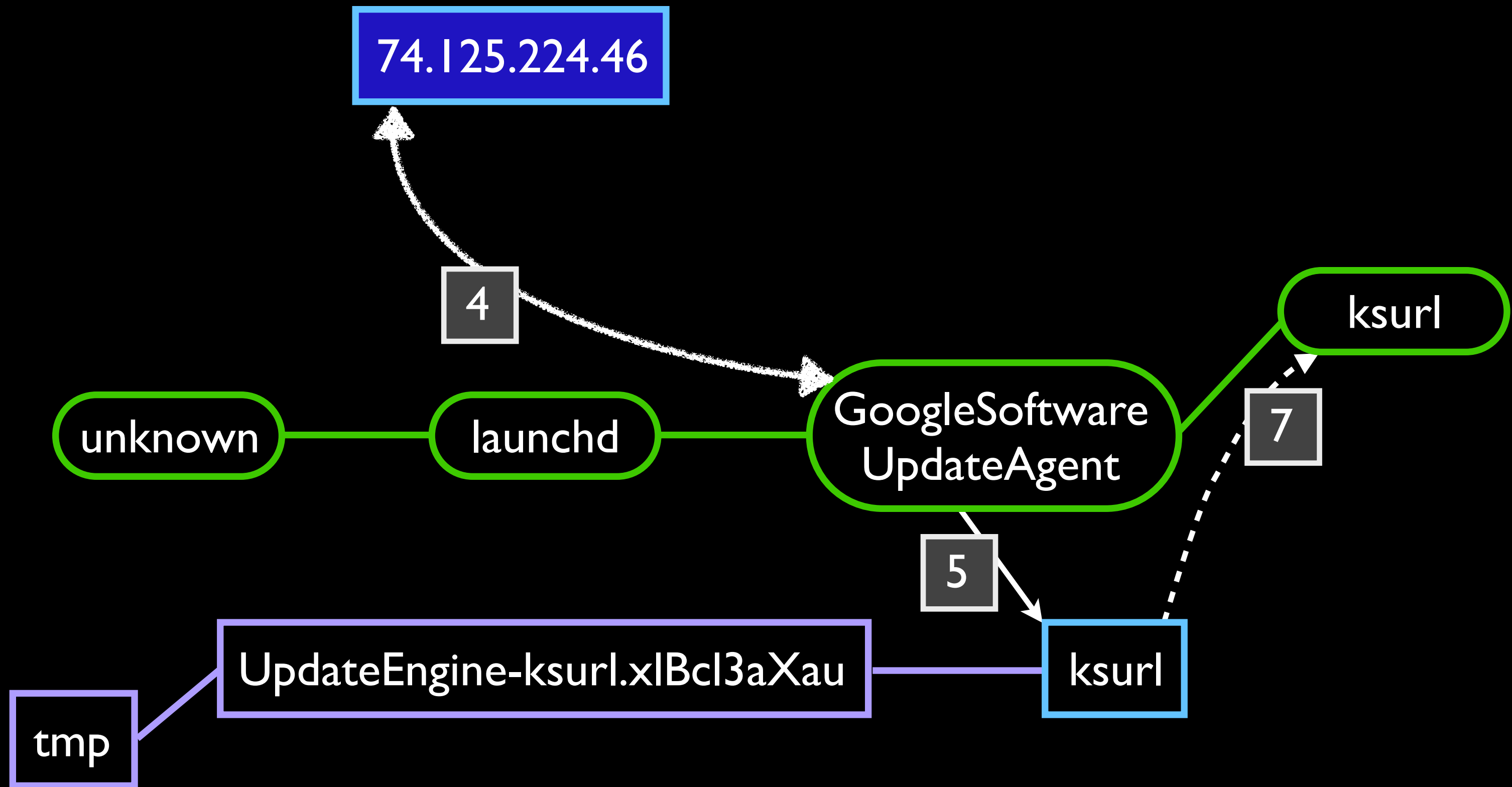
[illegible]



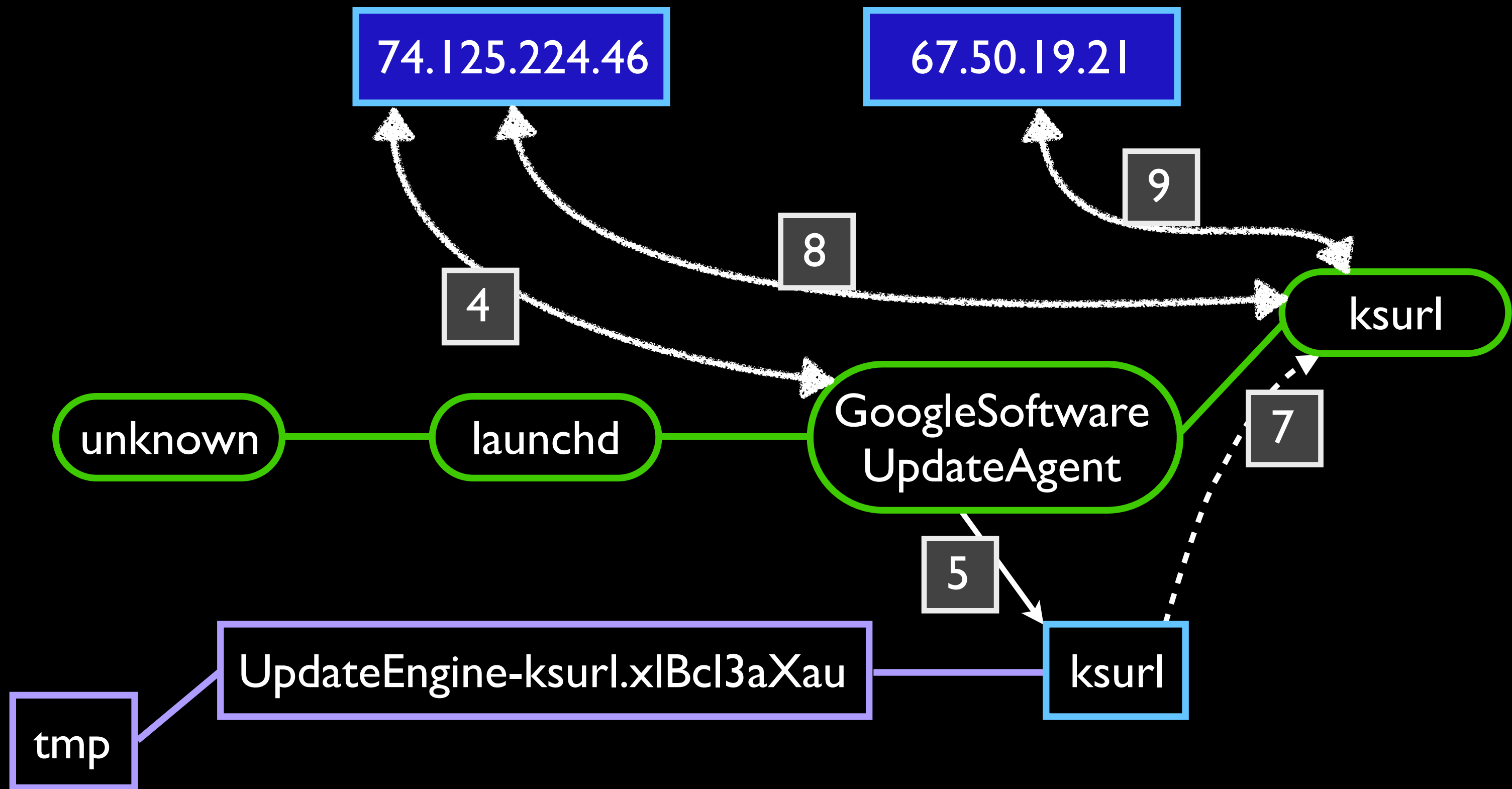


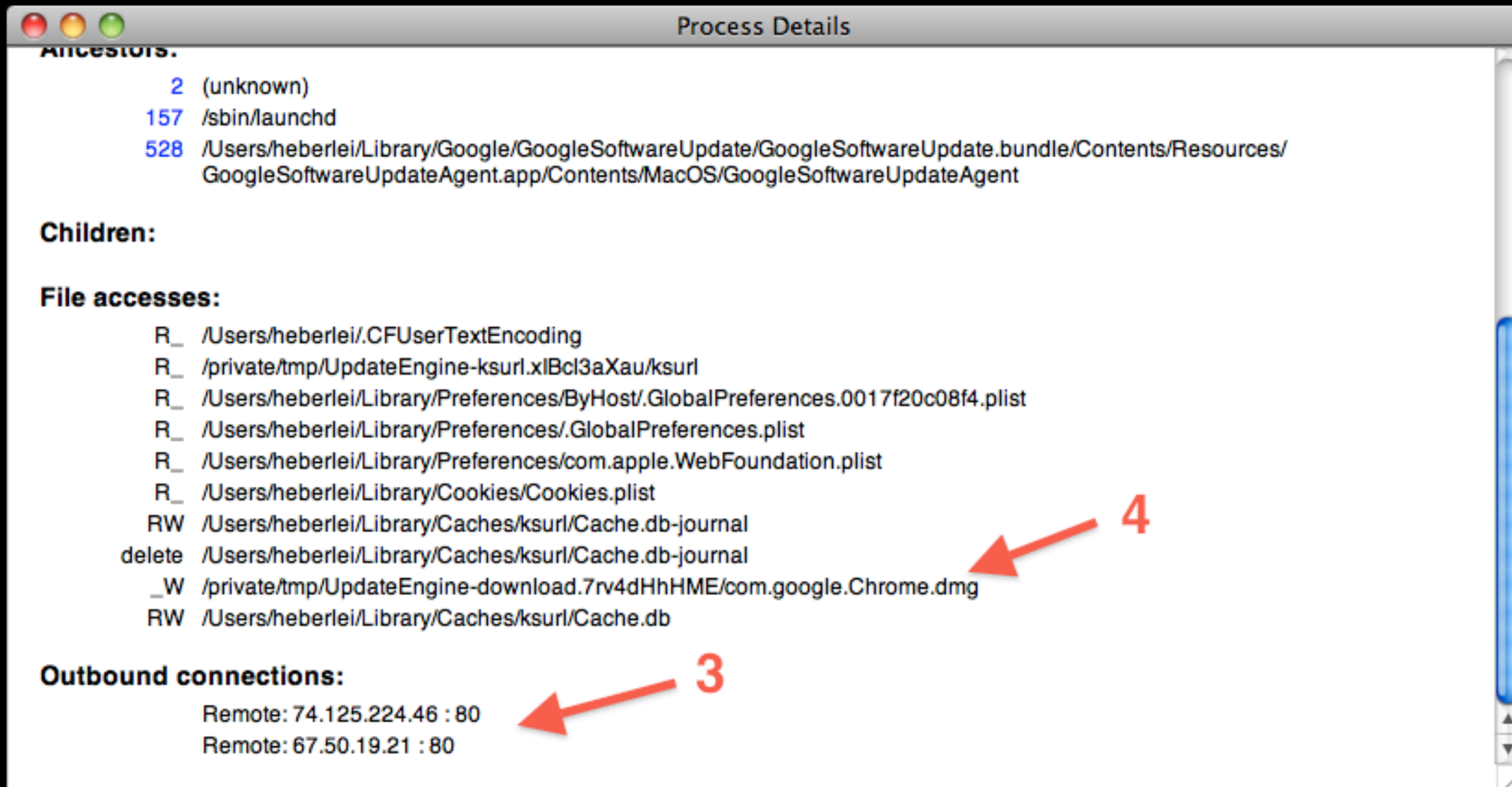


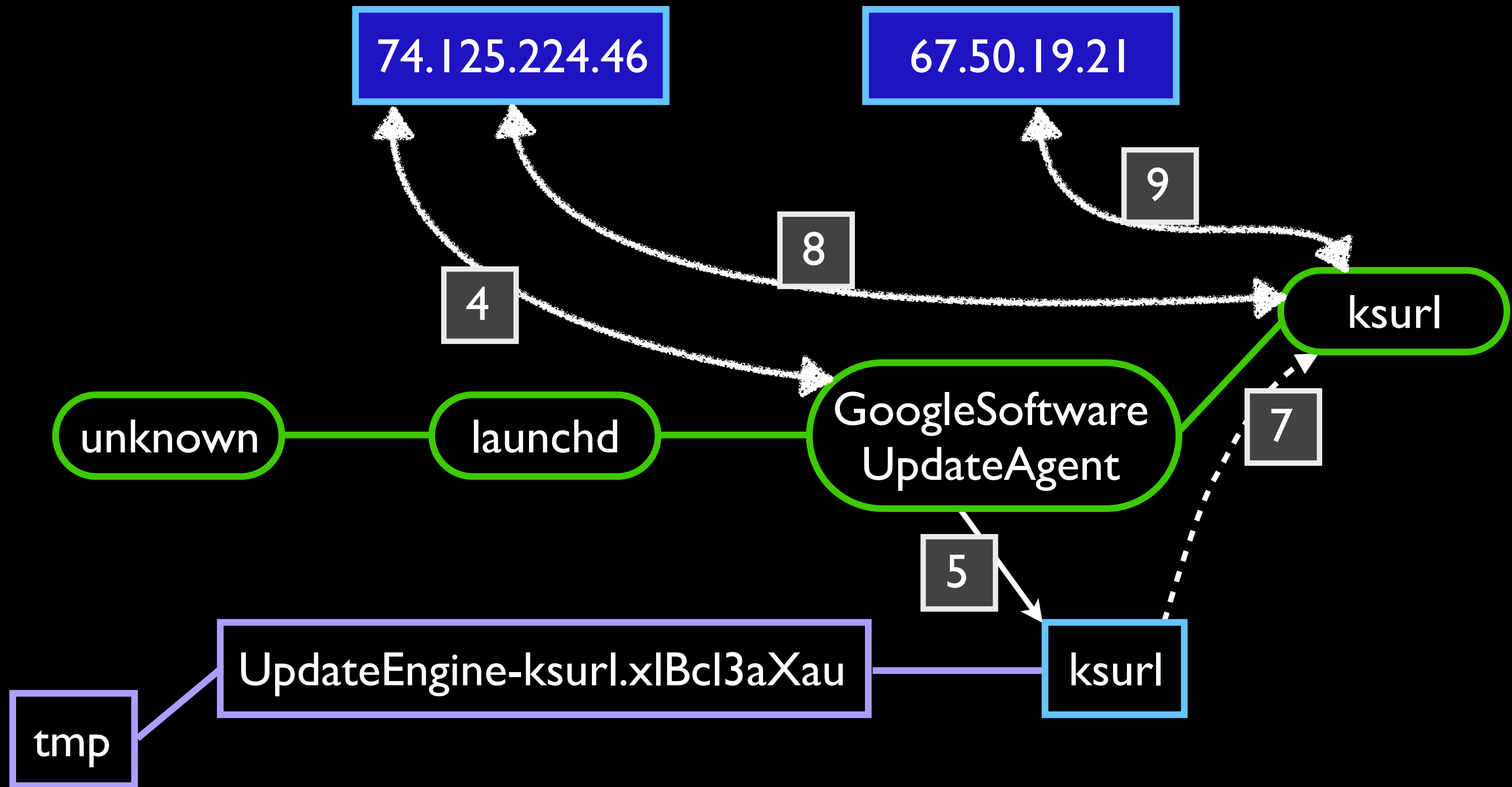


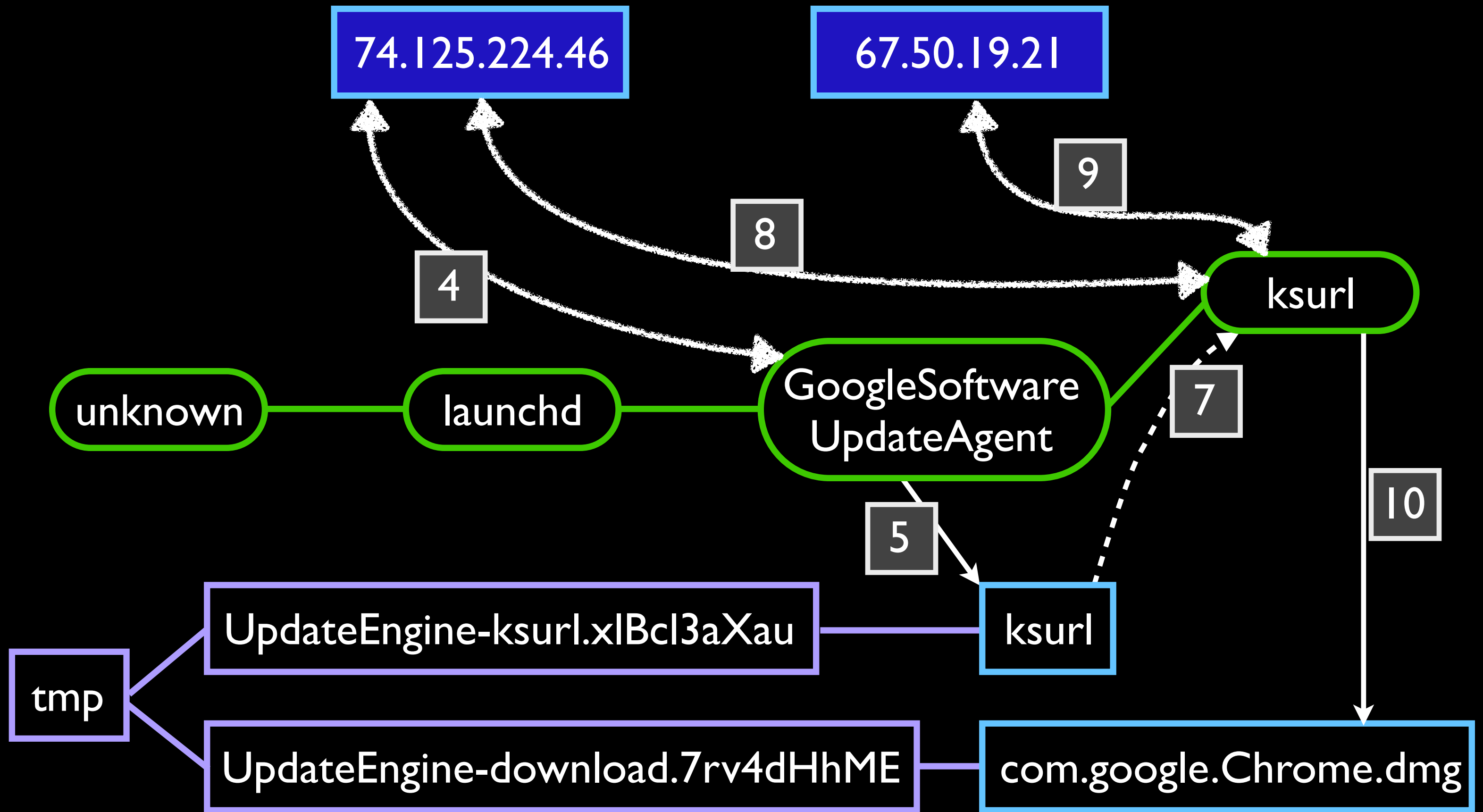


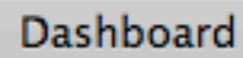








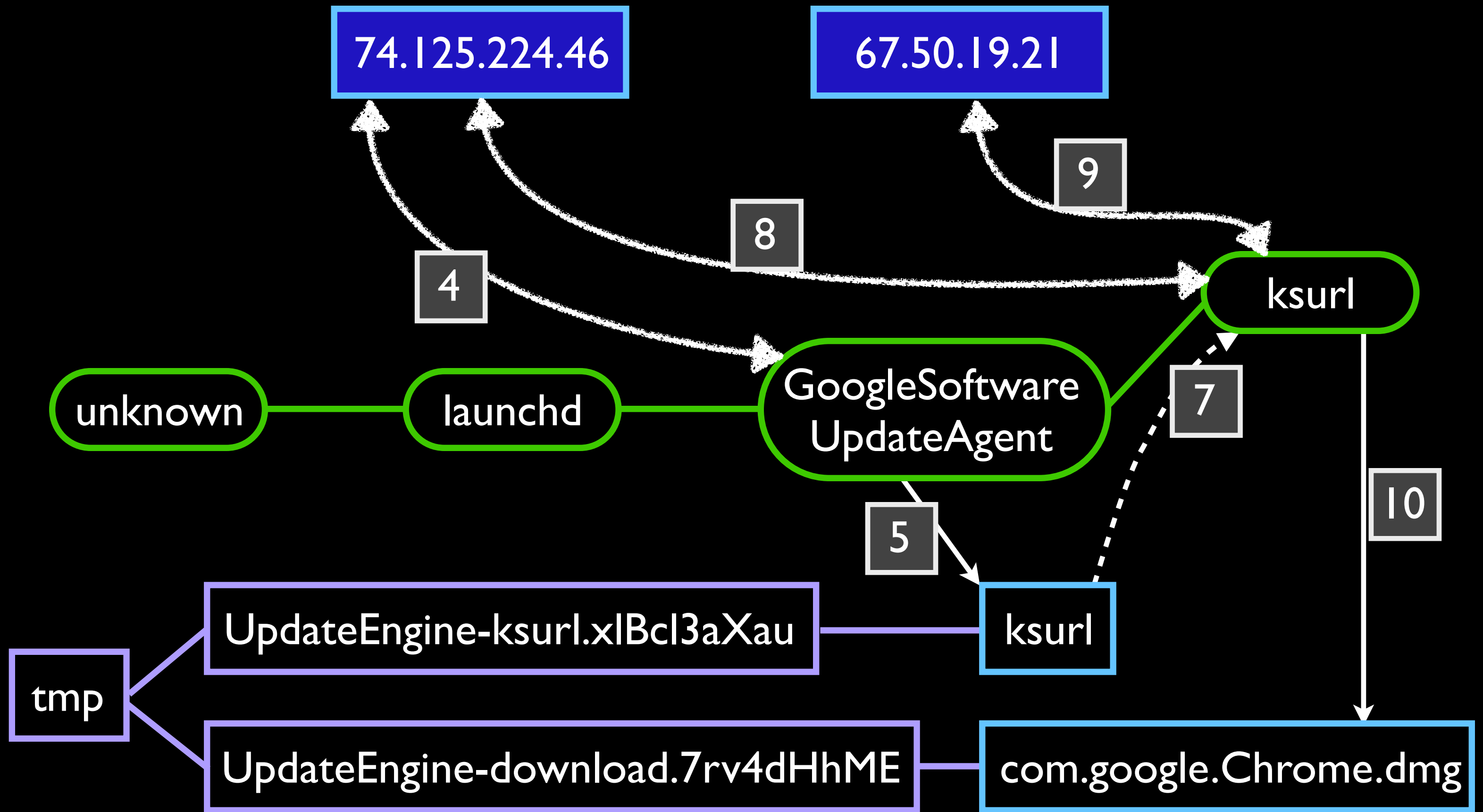


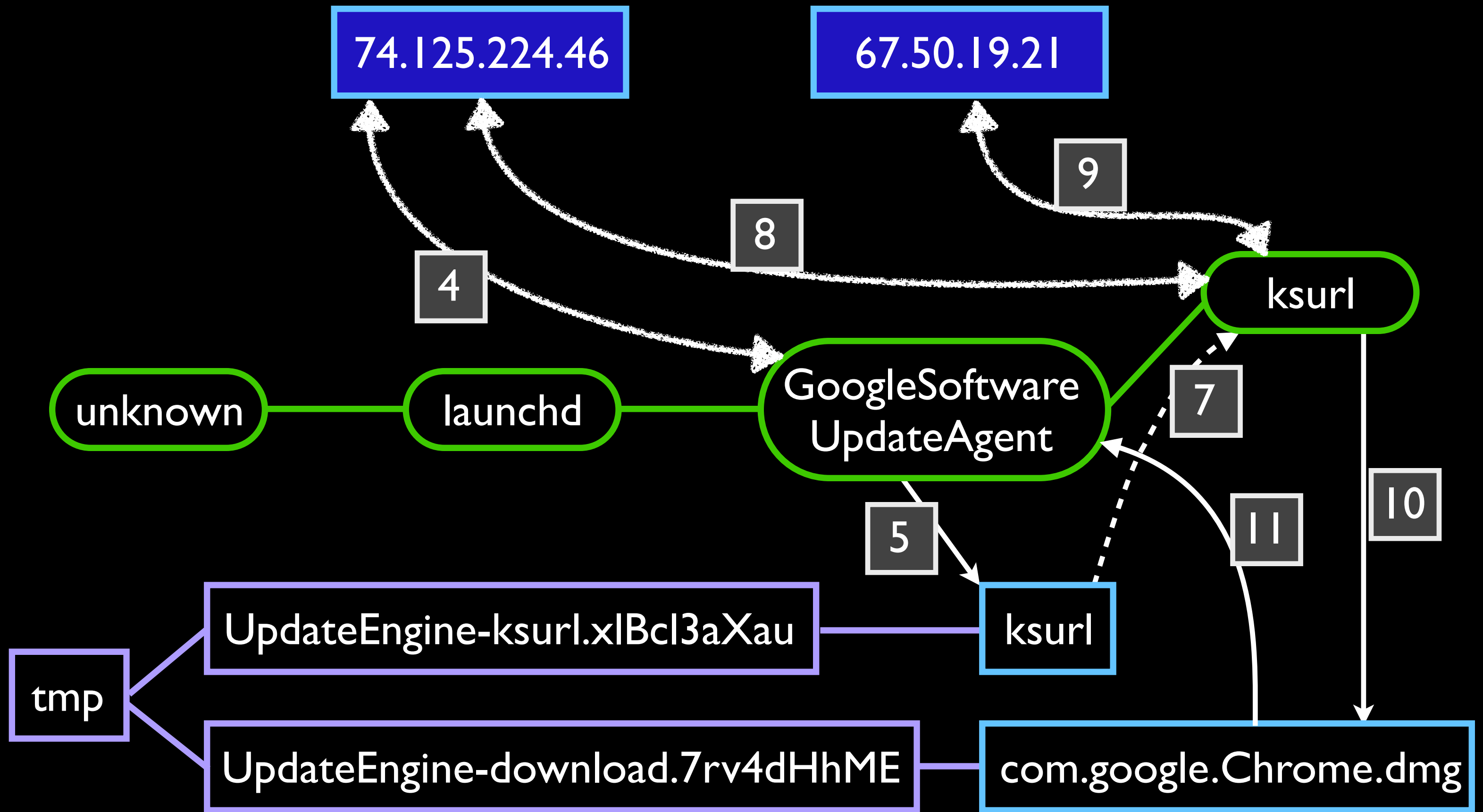


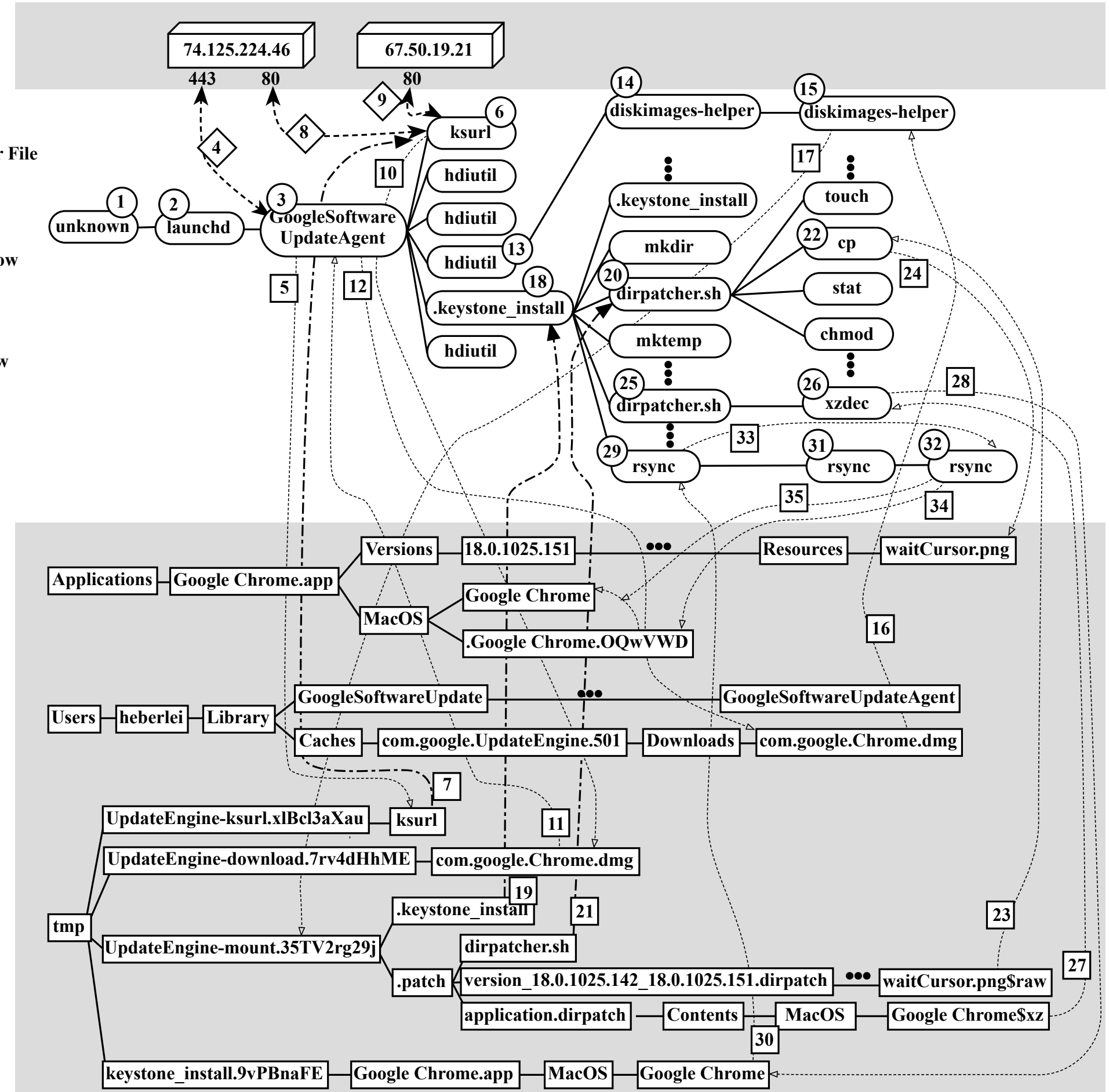
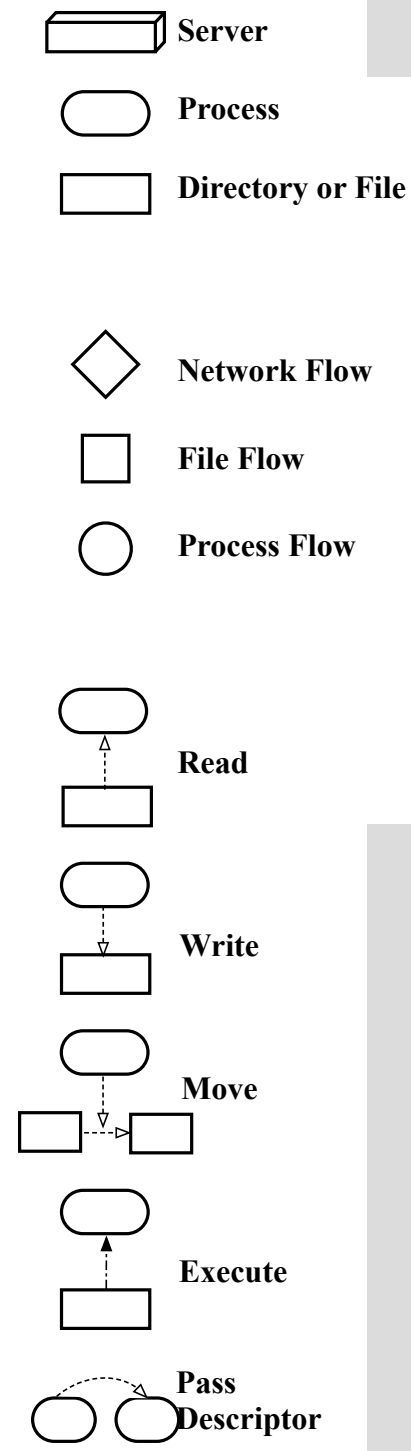
## Proc List

Search

[illegible]





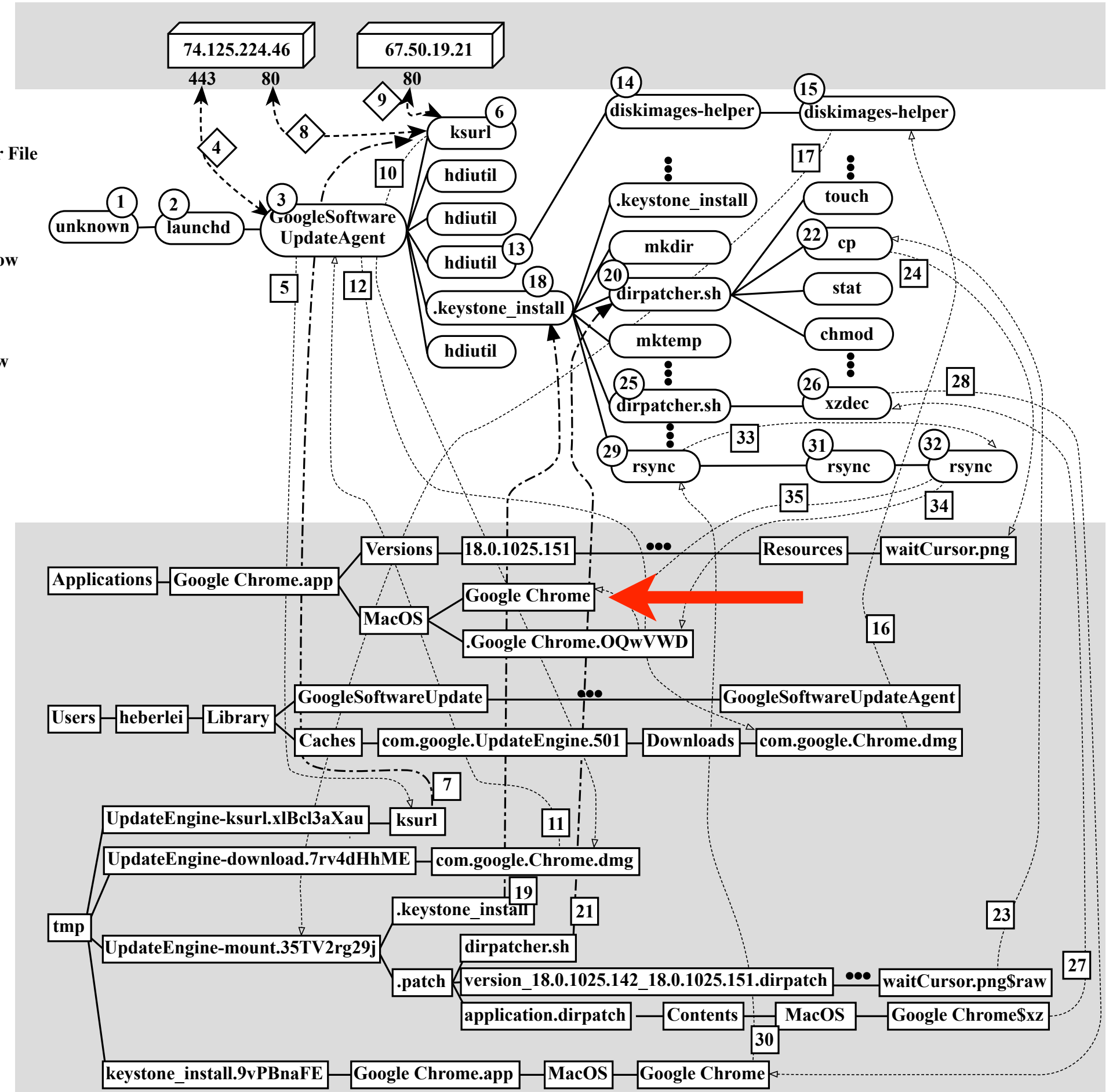
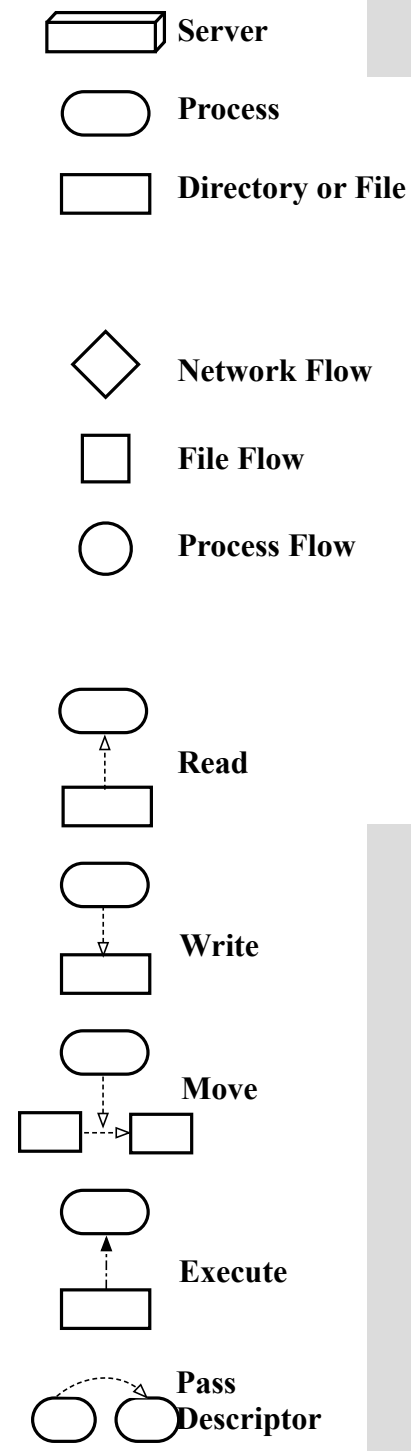


Network Layer

Process Layer

File Layer

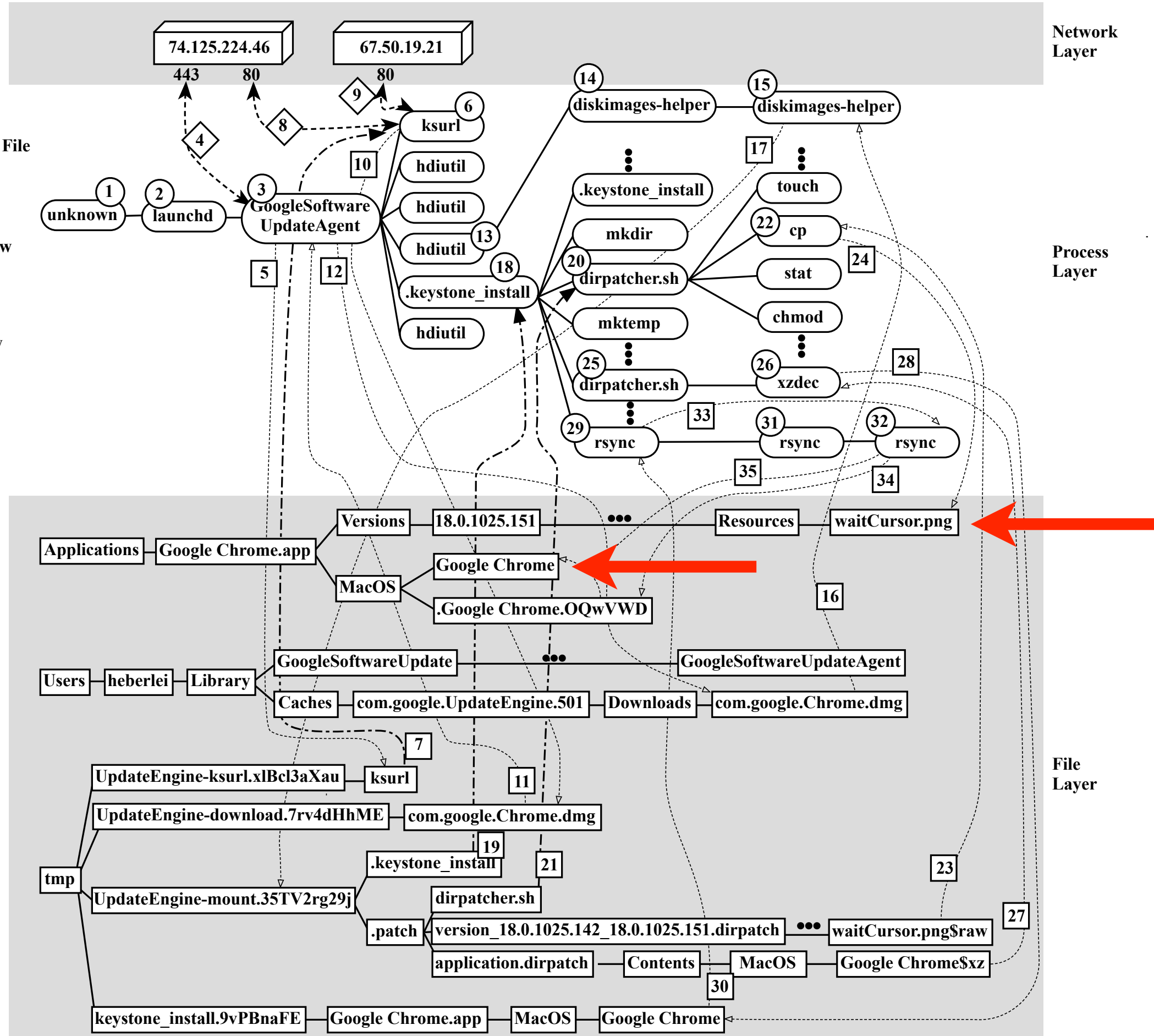
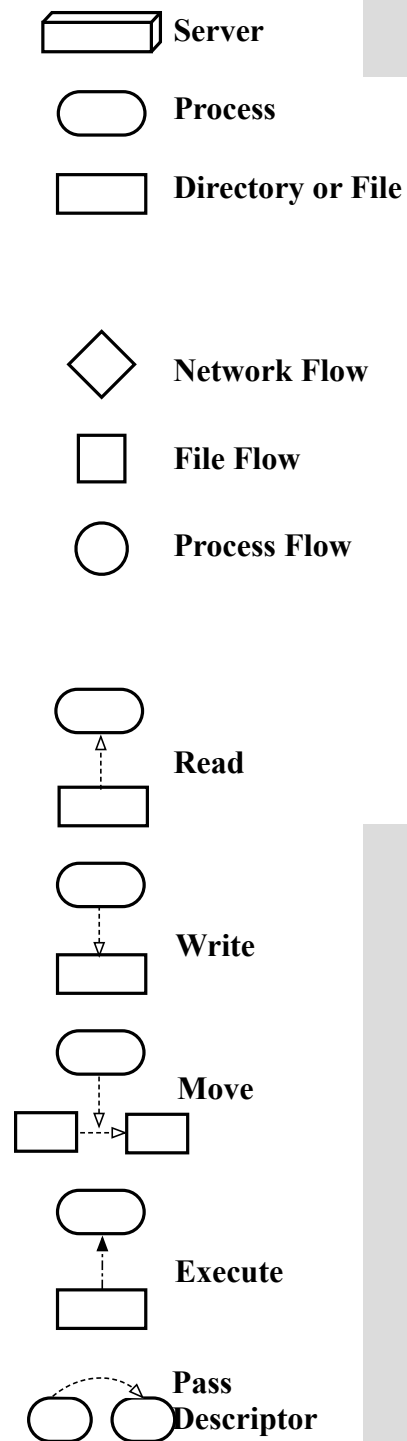




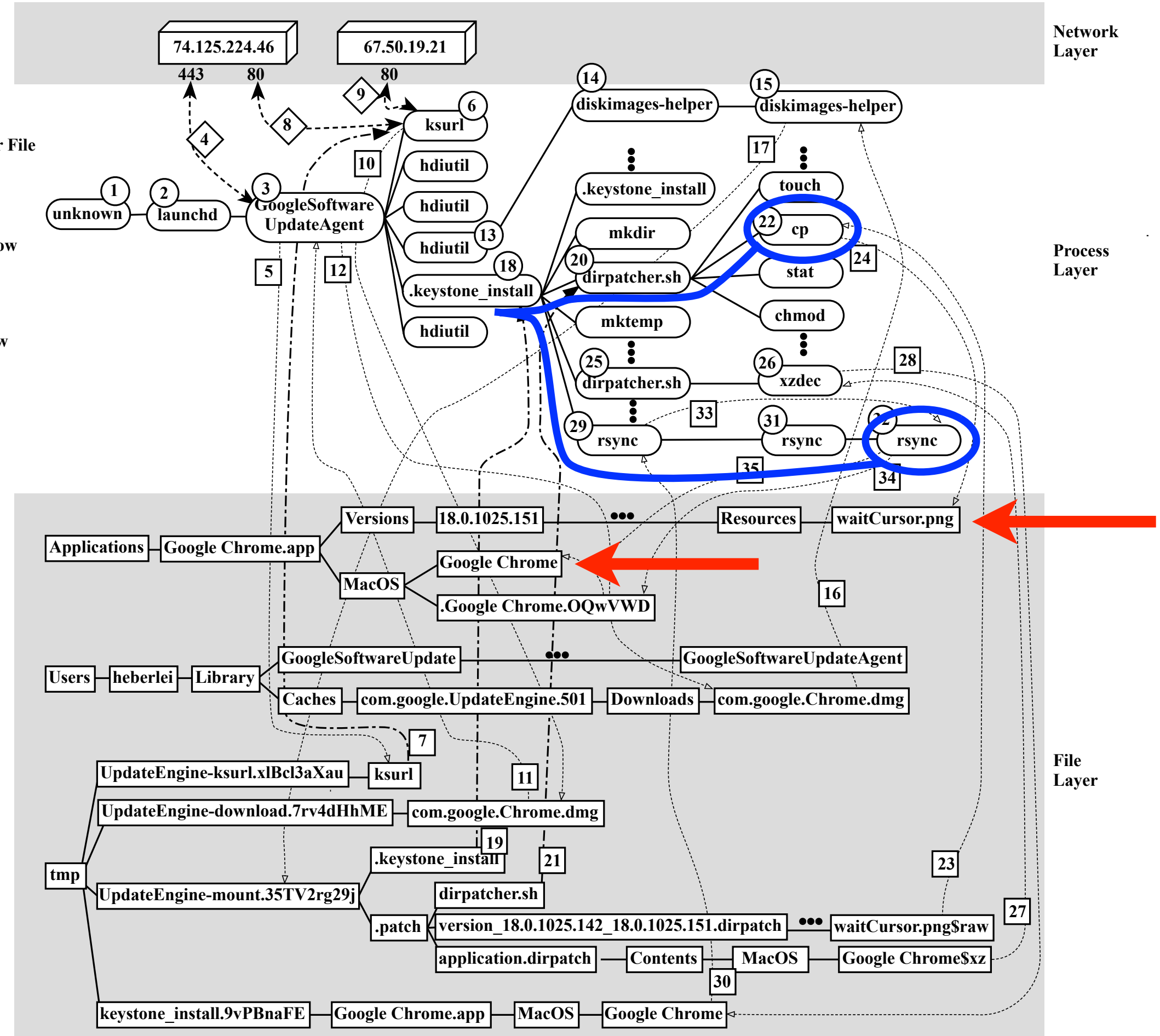
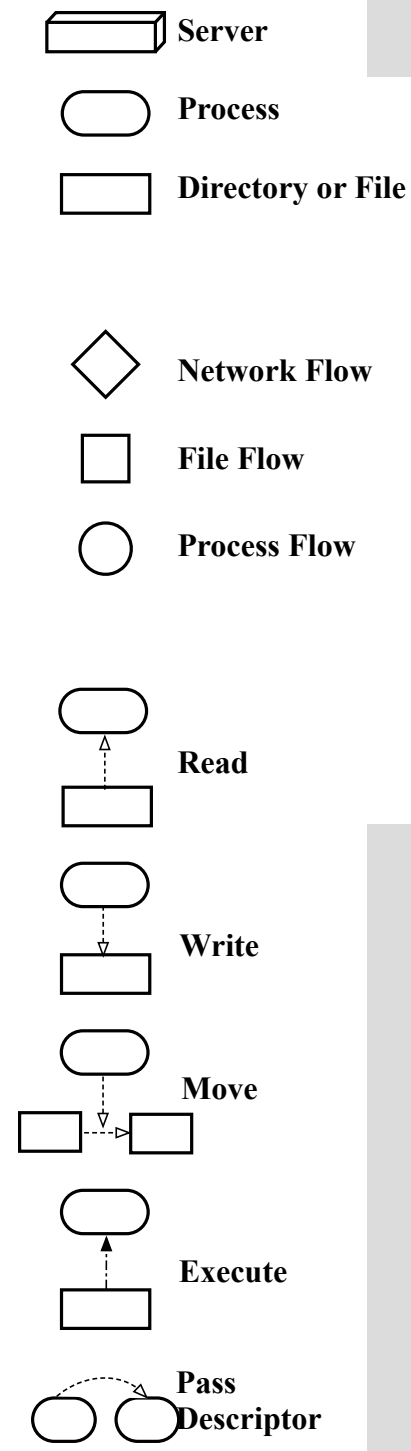
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Process Layer

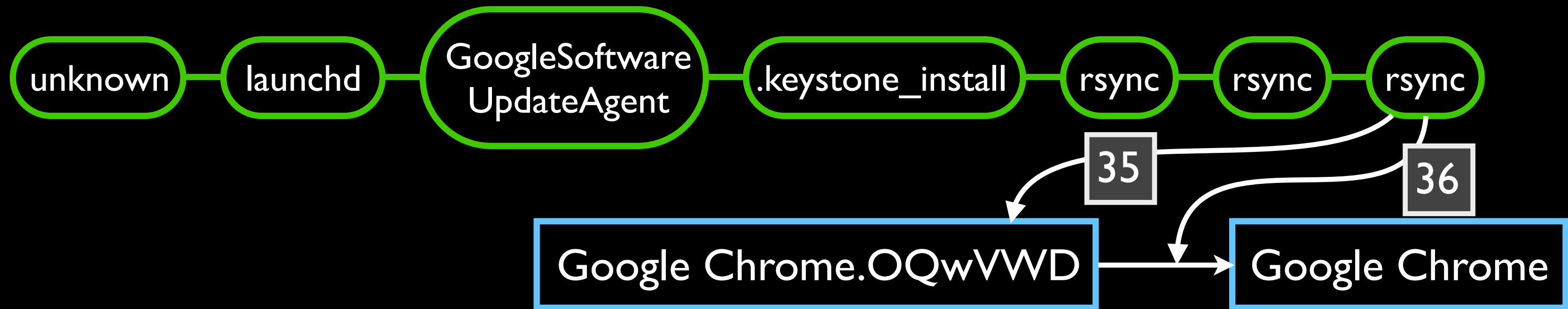
File Layer











unknown

Google Chrome

unknown

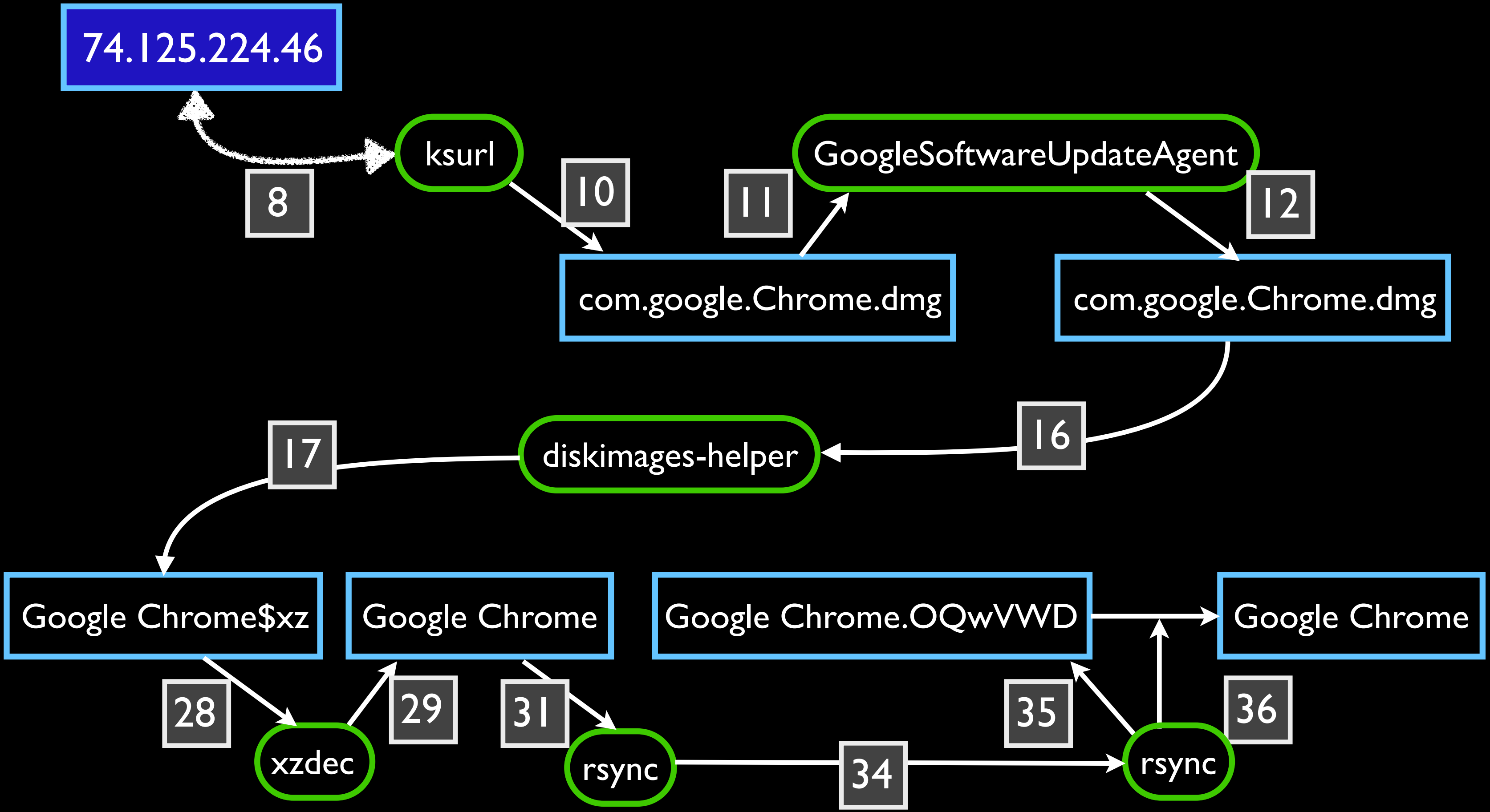
*From boot to file creation*

Google Chrome



74.125.224.46

Google Chrome



74.125.224.46

Google Chrome

74.125.224.46

From network to file placement

Google Chrome

# Why Audit

# Why Audit

- Programs may not exist in memory for very long

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- Programs may not exist on the system for very long

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- Need to identify what was stolen and what was modified



# Why Audit

- Programs may not exist in memory for very long
- Programs may not exist on the system for very long
- Need to identify what was stolen and what was modified
- Modern OSes have pretty good auditing, but we must provide feedback

# Why Audit cont...

# Why Audit cont...

- Network analysis is reaching the end of the line

# Why Audit cont...

- Network analysis is reaching the end of the line
- Get on the host

# Why Audit cont...

- Network analysis is reaching the end of the line
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- Yes, No, Maybe; It is a brave new world, and you must do the diagnosis

# Why Audit cont...

- Network analysis is reaching the end of the line
- Get on the host
- Yes, No, Maybe; It is a brave new world, and you must do the diagnosis
- Practice in real-world environment with lots of noise

Contact me: Todd Heberlein

web: [www.NetSQ.com](http://www.NetSQ.com)

email: [LTH@NetSQ.com](mailto:LTH@NetSQ.com)

email: [todd\\_heberlein@mac.com](mailto:todd_heberlein@mac.com)

Dashboard

Notables

Filters

Shells

Files

Network

Proc Tree

Proc List

### Filters:

Count	Warning	Description
1	1	Suspicious Word Access
1	1	Suspicious PowerPoint Access

### Matches:

Session	User	Program
93	Todd Heberlein	C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\Documents\Rar.exe

Process Details

Rar.exe

Basic Statistics:

Session ID: 93

Process ID: 1892

Program: C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\Documents\Rar.exe

User: Todd Heberlein, S-1-5-21-2440346551-490863464-346909543-1000

Start: Sunday, March 18, 2012 7:44:38 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Duration: 0

Records: 112

Ancestors:

46 (unknown)

76 C:\Windows\PSEXESVC.EXE

78 C:\Windows\System32\cmd.exe

Children:

File accesses:

R\_ C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Caches\cversions.1.db

R\_ C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Caches\{AFBF9F1A-8EE8-4C77-AF34-C647E37CA0D9}.1.ver0x0000000000000007.db

R\_ C:\Users\desktop.ini

R\_ C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\AppData

R\_ C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\Desktop\desktop.ini

R\_ C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\AppData\Roaming\WinRAR

R\_ C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\Documents\PACOM\Fleet1.docx

R\_ C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\Documents\PACOM\Ships.pptx

\_W C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\Documents\stuff2.rar



## Process Details

# Rar.exe

### Basic Statistics:

Session ID: 93

Process ID: 1892

Program: C:\Users\Todd Heberlein\Documents\Rar.exe

User: Todd Heberlein, S-1-5-21-2440346551-490863464-346909543-1000

Start: Sunday, March 18, 2012 7:44:38 PM Pacific Daylight Time

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**Back Slashes**



### Ancestors:

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### Children:

### File accesses: