

# Using macOS Spotlight and Osquery to Prevent Data Breaches



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# **fritz** @ osquery Slack

# “There’s no such thing as bad publicity”

~ Exploitative racist jerk: P.T. Barnum



**Fortune 500 company leaked 264GB in client,**  
[ZDNet](#) - Jun 7, 2019  
A veteran Fortune 500 company has plugged a data breach of a size of the **database**, only a small sample was taken,  
**Tech Data leaks 246GB of customer data**  
[TechRadar](#) - Jun 7, 2019

## One Laptop Has Leaked Private Data On 130,000 Navy Sailors

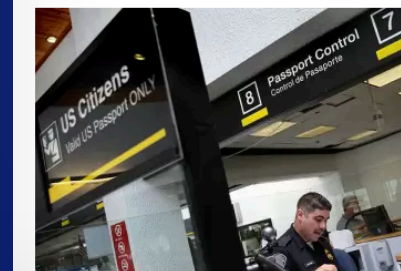


**Lee Mathews** Contributor  
Security  
*Observing, pondering, and writing about tech. Generally in that order.*

Loose laptop sink ships isn't a Navy slogan yet, but they might want to consider it. A report from the Navy yesterday revealed that a single compromised laptop may have allowed someone to get their hands on the personal information of

## CBP's trove of U.S. travelers' photos and license plates were leaked in a data breach

June 10, 2019



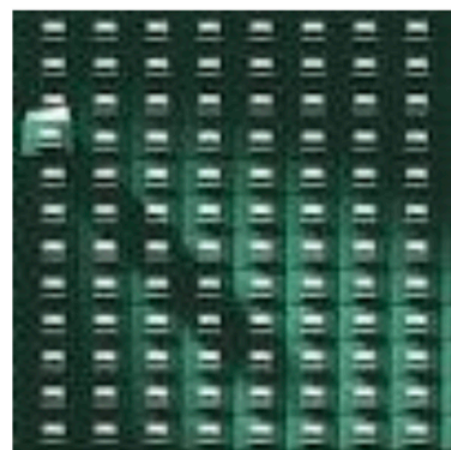
A Customs and Border Patrol subcontractor holding travelers' personal information has suffered a data breach, CBP revealed Monday.

The leaked information included "license plate images



**Contact Info for Millions of Instagram Influencers**  
[Mac Rumors](#) - May 20, 2019  
A **database** that contained contact information for brand accounts was recently **leaked** online, reportedly containing the personal information of  
**Data of Instagram influencers, celebrities leaked, database traced to ...**  
[Livemint](#) - May 21, 2019

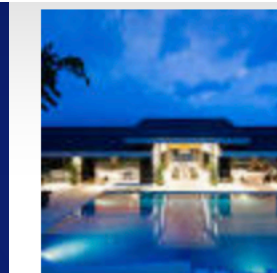
As of March 9, of the 1,485 major breaches that have been listed on the wall of shame since September 2009, affecting a total of 155.4 million individuals, roughly 40 percent, have involved lost or stolen unencrypted computing devices.



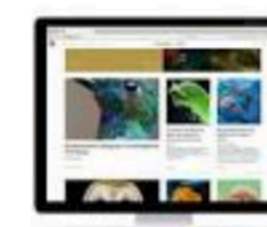
**Marketing Firm Exactis Leaked a Personal Info Database With 340 million records**  
[WIRED](#) - Jun 27, 2018  
You've probably never heard of the marketing and data aggregation firm Exactis. But it may well have heard of you. And now there's also a ...



**Reddit hacked: Hackers steal complete copy of old database backup**  
[HackRead](#) - Aug 2, 2018  
This allowed attackers to access Reddit's primary access points for code and steal a complete **copy** of **database** backup between 2005 and ...



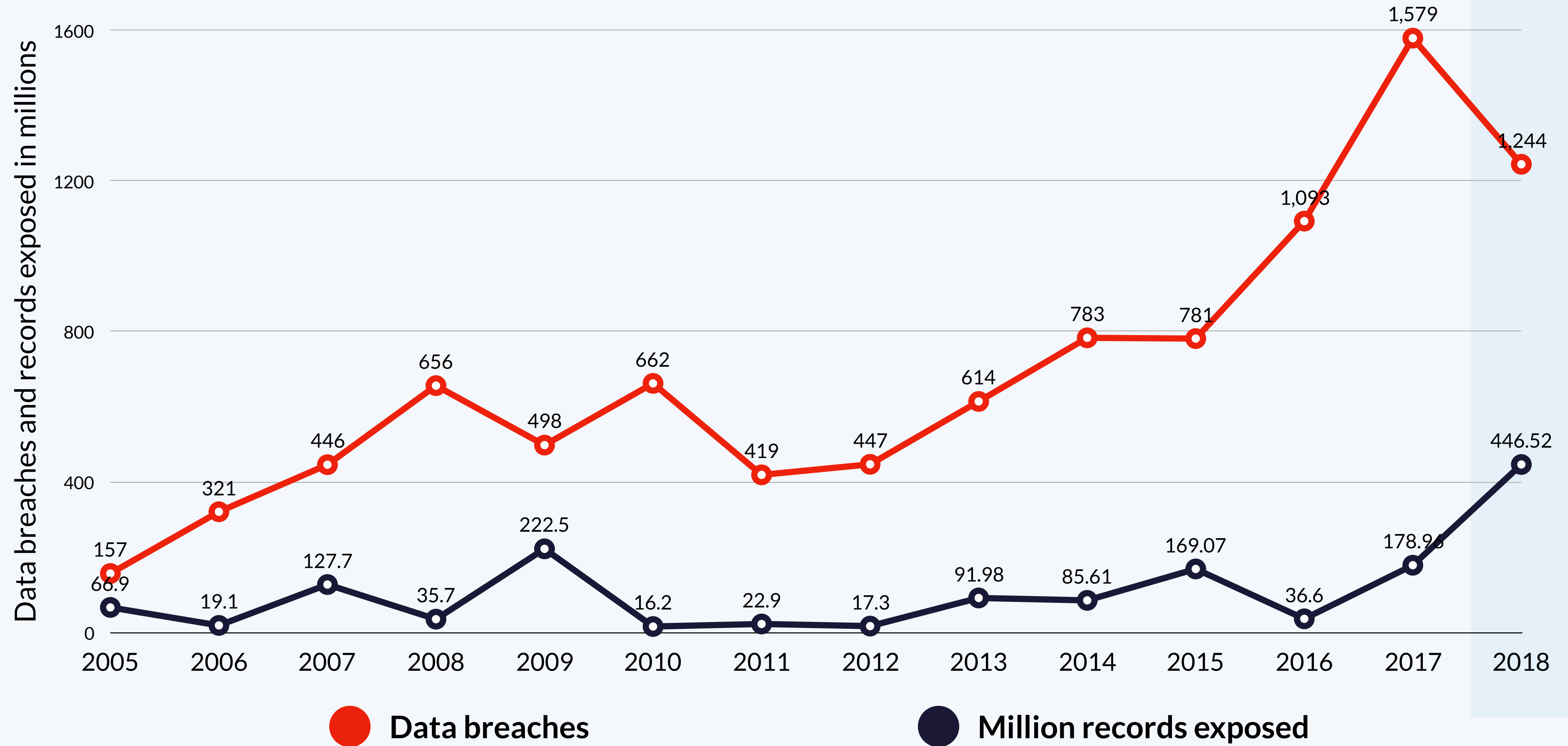
**Unsecured database exposes 85GB in security logs of major hotel ...**  
[ZDNet](#) - May 30, 2019  
An **unsecured database** that exposed the security logs – and therefore ... The server has been connected to Pyramid **Hotel Group**, a **hotel** and ...



**Flipboard Database Leaked Usernames And Passwords**  
[Ubergizmo](#) - May 29, 2019  
The news aggregator has confirmed that some of its **databases** were accessed by an unauthorized **copy** which resulted in usernames and ...  
**Flipboard Hacked, (Twice?) Resets all Passwords, Tokens**  
[Computer Business Review](#) - May 29, 2019  
**#BreachAlert: Hackers break into Flipboard, steal user emails and ...**  
[Yahoo News](#) - May 29, 2019

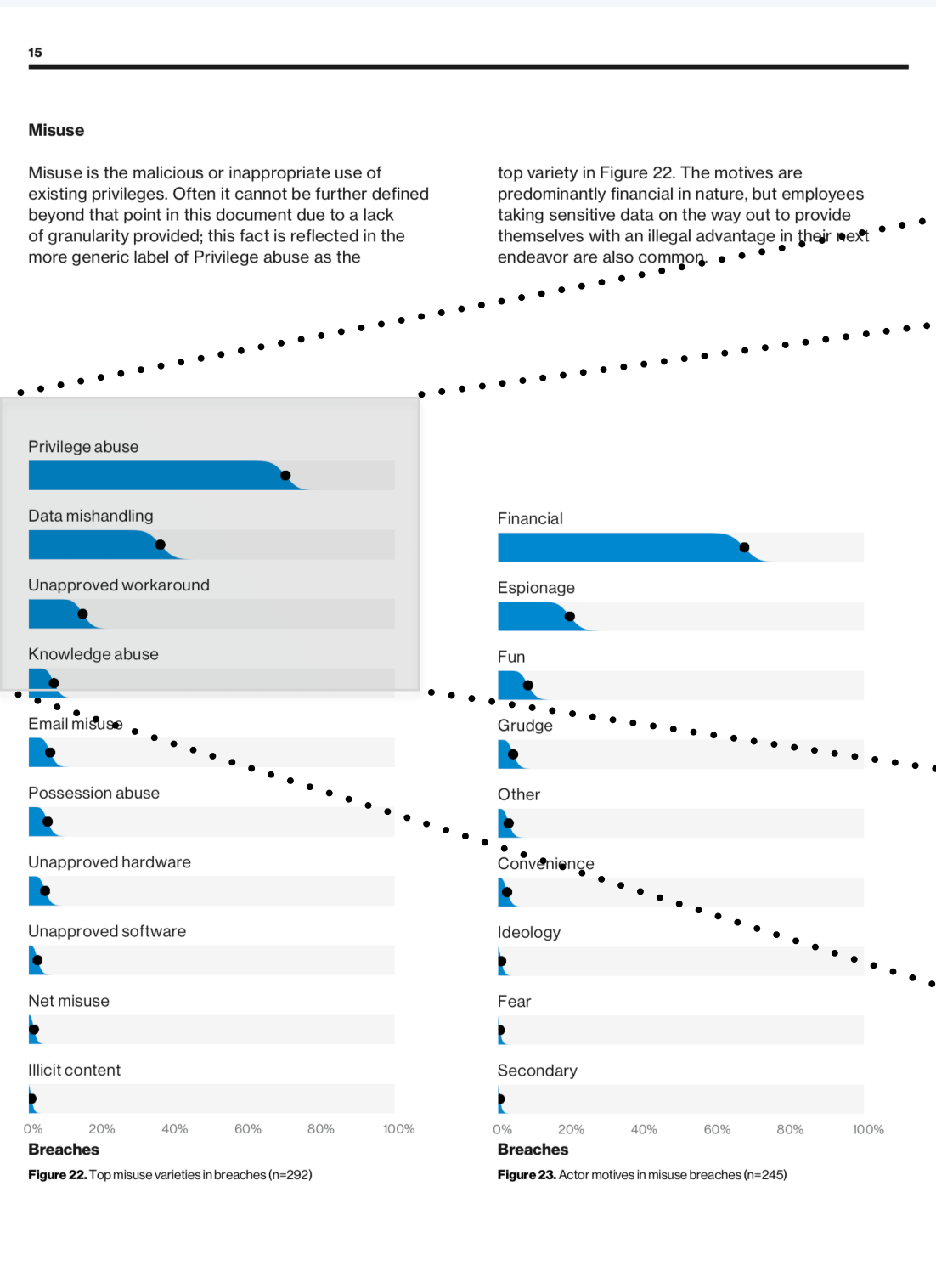
[View all](#)

# Data Exfiltration in Numbers



# How do databases get compromised / breached?

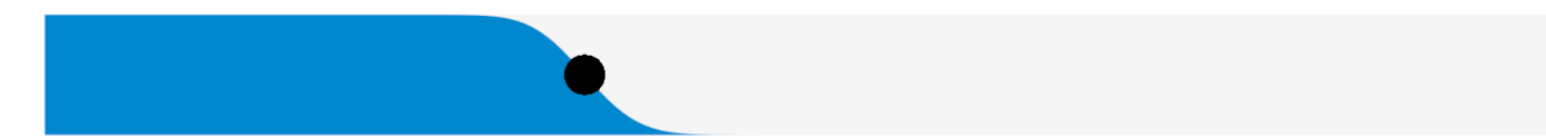
## 2019 Data Breach Investigations Report



### Privilege abuse



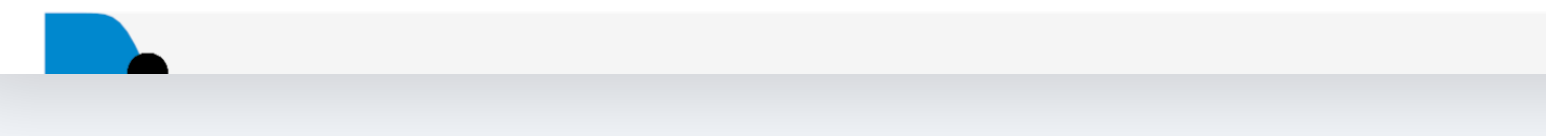
### Data mishandling



### Unapproved workaround



### Knowledge abuse



**How do local copies of your production database end up on devices?**



*"Oh No! I can't reproduce this customer problem in development? What can I do?"*



*"I Know! I'll download A COPY of the production database and Test with that!"*



**Making a copy isn't evil, but forgetting  
to delete it may hurt your company**

# What are characteristics of database copies and data exports?

Large File Size

Filetype like .db or .sql .gzip

Downloaded from a consistent source

Named 'backup'... I hope?

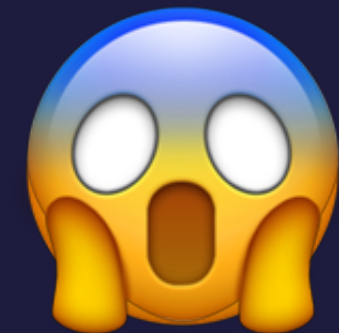
Contains customer data

# Finding files with the file table

(Don't do this)

# The file table in osquery is amazing, but it has limits

```
osquery> SELECT * FROM file
         WHERE path LIKE "/Users/%%"
         AND size >= 1000000000
         AND (filename LIKE "%backup%" OR filename LIKE "%export%");
```

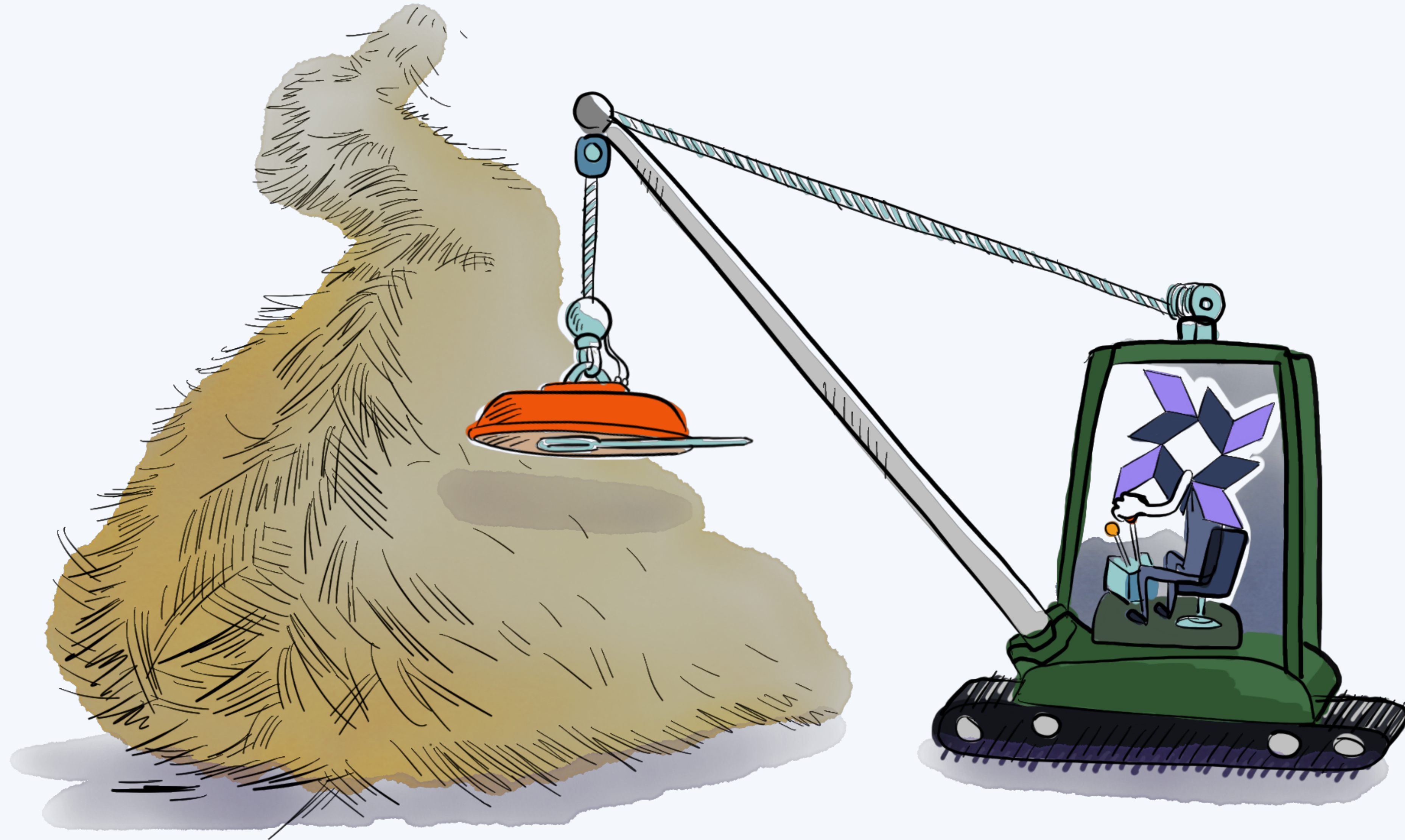


```
W0619 11:54:42.192272 381031872 filesystem.cpp:294] Symlink loop detected
possibly involving: /Users/fritz/kolide/website/node_modules/wide-align
```

- You generally need to know where a file is located ahead of time
- Wildcards permitted, but broadly scoped recursive searching generally sucks (symlinks = sadness)
- The file table's introspection capabilities are ineffectually shallow

**There must be another way!**

# finding a needle in a haystack



# What is mdfind?

- Powers the macOS Spotlight omni-search feature
- Introduced in OS X 10.4 Tiger (2005)
- A highly performant, fully indexed Search (across 200+ metadata attributes)
- Supports boolean operators and other basic functions
- Indexes file text contents of many common filetypes



# How can we interact with mdfind?

## Spotlight (GUI)

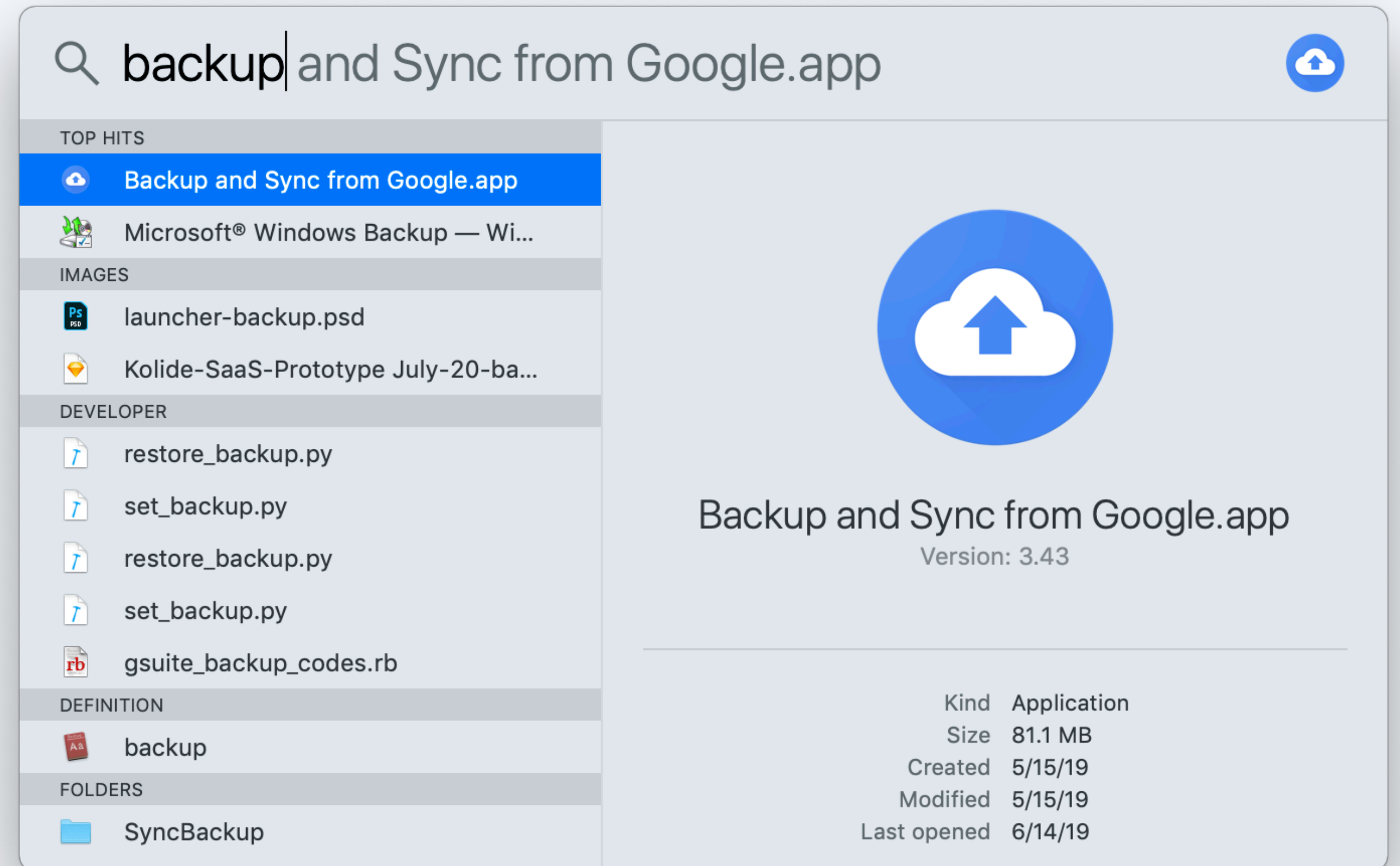
mdfind (CLI)

mdls (CLI)

mdutil (CLI)

mdimport (CLI)

 osquery mdfind table





# How can we interact with mdfind?

Spotlight (GUI)

**mdfind** (CLI)

---

mdls (CLI)

mdutil (CLI)

mdimport (CLI)

 osquery mdfind table

```
1. fritz-imac@fritz-imac: ~ (zsh)
→ ~ mdfind backup
/Users/fritz-imac/Google Drive/UX/mdfind-querycon.key
/Users/fritz-imac/Documents/Adobe/Adobe Media Encoder/13.0/SyncBackup
/Users/fritz-imac/go/pkg/mod/github.com/coreos/etcd@v3.3.9+incompatible/contrib/systemd/etcd2-backup-coreos
/Users/fritz-imac/git/jason/k2/app/views/plugins/kolide/database_backup_plugins
/Users/fritz-imac/go/pkg/dep/sources/https---github.com-coreos-etcd/contrib/systemd/etcd2-backup-coreos
/Users/fritz-imac/Documents/Adobe/Adobe Media Encoder/12.0/SyncBackup
/Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/launcher-backup.psd
/Users/fritz-imac/Google Drive/UX/kolide-cloud/Kolide-SaaS-Prototype July-20-backup.sketch
/Applications/Backup and Sync.app
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/SLCache/OTQwNzA4NzgzNjkxODQ1NTA4ODUwNjY3e3x9QkFDS1VQ.slc
/System/Library/PreferencePanels/TimeMachine.prefPane
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/en_GB/license.html
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/nl_NL/license.html
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/it_IT/license.html
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/pt_BR/license.html
/Library/Application Support/Adobe/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/AMT/Legal/en_US/license.html
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Widgets/AxisWidget.dae
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/_Deco Menu.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Random Fill.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Brick Fill.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Symmetry Fill.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Cross Weave.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Presets/Deco/Spiral.jsx
/Applications/Adobe Photoshop CC 2018/Legal/en_GB/license.html
```

# How can we interact with mdfind?

Spotlight (GUI)

mdfind (CLI)

**mdls** (CLI)

mdutil (CLI)

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 osquery mdfind table

```
github-recovery-codes.txt
mtei9-geu89
lf3gp-37zwg
eyp3q-pb9p9
g3m7k-hgue7
v43y6-9g964
9t467-4c89k
ci2c9-66989
97i66-r888t
72673-fti98
3hr32-z4244
hc6f2-39468
4r2f4-4439m
n6t47-9476w
8826u-7to76
6yk74-996v4
7f398-3ag22
```

```
→ ~ mdls /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/github-recovery-codes.txt
_kMDItemRenderData = <09000000 c0875bc1 410003>
kMDItemContentCreationDate = 2019-05-14 15:38:55 +0000
kMDItemContentCreationDate_Ranking = 2019-05-14 00:00:00 +0000
kMDItemContentModificationDate = 2019-06-17 19:54:38 +0000
kMDItemContentType = "public.plain-text"
kMDItemContentTypeTree = (
    "public.plain-text",
    "public.item",
    "public.text",
    "public.data",
    "public.content",
    "public.plain-text"
)
kMDItemDateAdded = 2019-05-14 15:38:55 +0000
kMDItemDateAdded_Ranking = 2019-05-14 00:00:00 +0000
kMDItemDisplayName = "github-recovery-codes.txt"
kMDItemFSContentChangeDate = 2019-06-17 19:54:38 +0000
kMDItemFSCreationDate = 2019-05-14 15:38:55 +0000
kMDItemFSCreatorCode = ""
kMDItemFSFinderFlags = 0
kMDItemFSHasCustomIcon = (null)
kMDItemFSInvisible = 0
kMDItemFSIsExtensionHidden = 0
kMDItemFSIsStationery = (null)
kMDItemFSLabel = 0
kMDItemFSName = "github-recovery-codes.txt"
kMDItemFSNodeCount = (null)
kMDItemFSOwnerGroupID = 20
kMDItemFSOwnerUserID = 502
kMDItemFSSize = 191
kMDItemFSTypeCode = ""
kMDItemInterestingDate_Ranking = 2019-06-17 00:00:00 +0000
kMDItemKind = "Plain Text Document"
kMDItemLastUsedDate = 2019-06-17 19:41:48 +0000
kMDItemLastUsedDate_Ranking = 2019-06-17 00:00:00 +0000
kMDItemLogicalSize = 191
kMDItemPhysicalSize = 4096
kMDItemWhereFroMs = (
    "https://github.com/settings/auth/recovery-codes/download",
    "https://github.com/settings/auth/recovery-codes"
)
→ ~
```

```
kMDItemWhereFroMs = (
    "https://github.com/settings/auth/recovery-codes/download",
    "https://github.com/settings/auth/recovery-codes"
)
```

# How can we interact with mdfind?

Spotlight (GUI)

mdfind (CLI)

mdls (CLI)

**mdutil** (CLI)

mdimport (CLI)

 osquery mdfind table

```
1. fritz-iac@fritz-iac: ~ (zsh)
→ ~ mdutil
Usage: mdutil -pEsa -i (onloff) -d volume ...
      mdutil -t {volume-path | deviceid} fileid
Utility to manage Spotlight indexes.
  -p          Publish metadata.
  -i (onloff) Turn indexing on or off.
  -d          Disable Spotlight activity for volume (re-enable using -i on).
  -E          Erase and rebuild index.
  -s          Print indexing status.
  -t          Resolve files from file id with an optional volume path or device id.
  -a          Apply command to all volumes.
  -V vol      Apply command to all stores on the specified volume.
  -v          Display verbose information.
  -r plugins  Ask the server to reimport files for UTIs claimed by the listed plugin.
  -L path     List the directory contents of the Spotlight index on the specified volume.
  -P path     Dump the VolumeConfig.plist for the specified volume.
  -X path     Remove the Spotlight index directory on the specified volume. Does NOT disable indexing.
NOTE: Run as owner for network homes, otherwise run as root.
→ ~
```

# How can we interact with mdfind?

Spotlight (GUI)

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mdutil (CLI)

**mdimport** (CLI)

---

 osquery mdfind table

```
1. fritz-imac@fritz-imac: ~ (zsh)
→ ~ mdimport
Usage: mdimport [OPTION] path
  -d debugLevel Integer between 1-4
  -g plugin      Import files using the listed plugin, rather than the system installed plugins.
  -p            Print out performance information gathered during the run
  -A            Print out the list of all of the attributes and exit
  -X            Print out the schema file and exit
  -L            Print out the List of plugins that we are going to use and exit
  -r            Ask the server to reimport files for UTIs claimed by the listed plugin.
  -n            Don't send the imported attributes to the data store.
  -o path       Write the imported attributes to a file, instead of sending them to the server.
→ ~
```

# How can we interact with mdfind?

Spotlight (GUI)

mdfind (CLI)

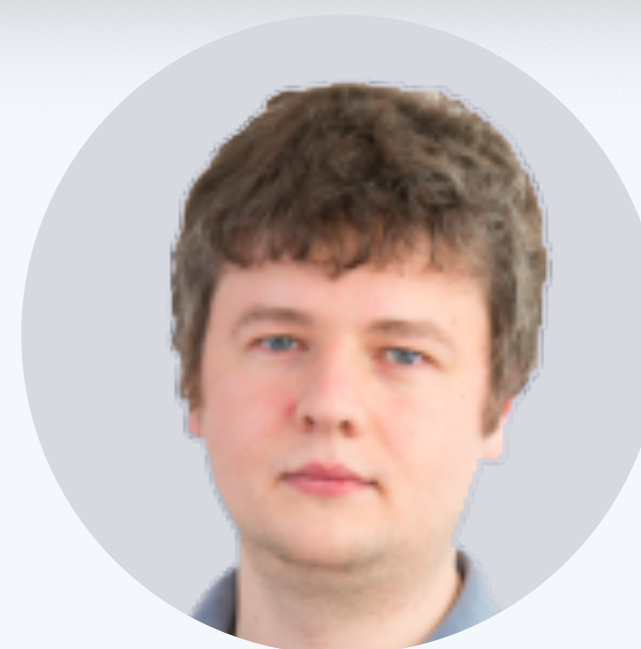
mdls (CLI)

mdutil (CLI)

mdimport (CLI)

 **osquery mdfind table**

```
1. osqueryi (osqueryd)
osquery> select * from mdfind where query = "kMDItemFSName == 'secret'";
+-----+-----+
| path                                     | query |
+-----+-----+
| /usr/share/cups/banners/secret           | kMDIt |
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/kolide-osquery-launcher/etc/kolide/secret | kMDIt |
| /Users/fritz-imac/git/kolide/cloud/tools/launcher/secret | kMDIt |
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/secret       | kMDIt |
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/kolide-osquery-launcher (3)/data/etc/kolide/secret | kMDIt |
| /Users/fritz-imac/git/kolide/cloud/node_modules/lazystream/secret | kMDIt |
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/deb-contents/etc/kolide/secret | kMDIt |
| /Users/fritz-imac/git/stethoscope-app/node_modules/lazystream/secret | kMDIt |
+-----+-----+
osquery>
```




Groob



Obelisk

# Using mdfind in osquery

**mdfind** 

Run searches against the spotlight database.

[Improve this Description on Github](#)

COLUMN	TYPE	DESCRIPTION
path	TEXT	Path of the file returned from spotlight
query	TEXT	The query that was run to find the file

```
SELECT * FROM mdfind  
WHERE query = "kMDItemFSName == 'foobar'";
```

**kMD Attributes are *the key* to mdfind**

**kMDItemFSName**

**k** – (Hungarian Notation for konstant)

**MD** – (metadata)

**Item**

**AttributeName**

# \$> mdimport -A

kMDItemAccountIdentifier  
kMDItemAcquisitionMake  
kMDItemAcquisitionModel  
kMDItemAdditionalRecipientEmailAddresses  
kMDItemAlbum  
kMDItemAlternateNames  
kMDItemAltitude  
kMDItemAperture  
kMDItemAppStoreCategory  
kMDItemAppStoreCategoryType  
kMDItemAppleLoopDescriptors  
kMDItemAppleLoopsKeyFilterType  
kMDItemAppleLoopsLoopMode  
kMDItemAppleLoopsRootKey  
kMDItemApplicationCategories  
kMDItemAttributeChangeDate  
kMDItemAudiences  
kMDItemAudioBitRate  
kMDItemAudioChannelCount  
kMDItemAudioEncodingApplication  
kMDItemAudioSampleRate  
kMDItemAudioTrackNumber  
kMDItemAuthorAddresses  
kMDItemAuthorContactIdentifiers  
kMDItemAuthorEmailAddresses  
kMDItemAuthors  
kMDItemBitsPerSample  
kMDItemBundleIdentifier  
kMDItemCFBundleIdentifier  
kMDItemCalendarHolidayIdentifier  
kMDItemCity  
kMDItemCodecs  
kMDItemColorSpace  
kMDItemComment  
kMDItemComposer  
kMDItemContactKeywords  
kMDItemContentCreationDate  
kMDItemContentModificationDate  
kMDItemContentType  
kMDItemContentTypeTree  
kMDItemContributors  
kMDItemCopyright  
kMDItemCountry  
kMDItemCoverage  
kMDItemCreator  
kMDItemDateAdded  
kMDItemDeliveryType  
kMDItemDescription  
kMDItemDestinationRecipients

kMDItemDirector  
kMDItemDisplayName  
kMDItemDocumentContainer  
kMDItemDocumentLineage  
kMDItemDueDate  
kMDItemDurationSeconds  
kMDItemEXIFGPSVersion  
kMDItemEXIFVersion  
kMDItemEditors  
kMDItemEmailAddresses  
kMDItemEmailCategory  
kMDItemEmailConversationID  
kMDItemEncodingApplications  
kMDItemExecutableArchitectures  
kMDItemExecutablePlatform  
kMDItemExposureMode  
kMDItemExposureProgram  
kMDItemExposureTimeSeconds  
kMDItemFNumber  
**kMDItemFSContentChangeDate**  
**kMDItemFSCreationDate**  
kMDItemFSExists  
kMDItemFSHasCustomIcon  
kMDItemFSInvisible  
kMDItemFSIsExtensionHidden  
kMDItemFSIsReadable  
kMDItemFSIsStationery  
kMDItemFSIsWriteable  
kMDItemFSLabel  
**kMDItemFSName**  
kMDItemFSNodeCount  
kMDItemFSOwnerGroupID  
kMDItemFSOwnerUserID  
**kMDItemFSSize**  
kMDItemFinderComment  
kMDItemFinderOpenDate  
kMDItemFlashOnOff  
kMDItemFocalLength  
kMDItemFonts  
kMDItemGenre  
kMDItemHasAlphaChannel  
kMDItemHeadline  
kMDItemHiddenAdditionalRecipientEmailAddresses  
kMDItemISOSpeed  
kMDItemIdentifier  
kMDItemInformation  
kMDItemInstantMessageAddresses  
kMDItemInstructions  
kMDItemIsApplicationManaged  
kMDItemIsGeneralMIDISequence  
kMDItemIsLikelyJunk

kMDItemIsQuarantined  
kMDItemIsScreenCapture  
kMDItemKeySignature  
kMDItemKeywords  
kMDItemKind  
kMDItemLanguages  
kMDItemLastUsedDate  
kMDItemLatitude  
kMDItemLayerNames  
kMDItemLensModel  
kMDItemLogicSongAlternatives  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedAudioFiles  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedEXSInstruments  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedImpulseResponses  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedUltrabeatFiles  
kMDItemLogicSongUsedVideoFiles  
kMDItemLogicalSize  
kMDItemLongitude  
kMDItemLyricist  
kMDItemMailboxes  
kMDItemMaxAperture  
kMDItemMediaTypes  
kMDItemMeteringMode  
kMDItemMusicalGenre  
kMDItemMusicalInstrumentCategory  
kMDItemMusicalInstrumentID  
kMDItemNamedLocations  
kMDItemNumberOfPages  
kMDItemOrganization  
kMDItemOrientation  
kMDItemOriginApp  
kMDItemOriginMessage  
kMDItemOriginSender  
kMDItemOriginSenderAddress  
kMDItemOriginalFilename  
kMDItemOriginalSize  
kMDItemPageHeight  
kMDItemPageWidth  
kMDItemParticipatingAccounts  
kMDItemPath  
kMDItemPerformer  
kMDItemPhoneNumber  
kMDItemPhysicalSize  
kMDItemPixelCount  
kMDItemPixelHeight  
kMDItemPixelWidth  
kMDItemPrimaryRecipientEmailAddresses  
kMDItemProducer  
kMDItemProfileName  
kMDItemProjects  
kMDItemPublishers  
kMDItemPurchaseDate

kMDItemRecipientAddresses  
kMDItemRecipientContactIdentifiers  
kMDItemRecipientEmailAddresses  
kMDItemRecipients  
kMDItemRecordingDate  
kMDItemRecordingYear  
kMDItemRedEyeOnOff  
kMDItemRelatedUniqueIdentifier  
kMDItemResolutionHeightDPI  
kMDItemResolutionWidthDPI  
kMDItemRights  
kMDItemScreenCaptureType  
kMDItemSecurityMethod  
kMDItemStarRating  
kMDItemStateOrProvince  
kMDItemStreamable  
kMDItemSubject  
kMDItemSupportFileType  
kMDItemTempo  
**kMDItemTextContent**  
kMDItemTheme  
kMDItemTimeSignature  
kMDItemTitle  
kMDItemTotalBitRate

kMDItemFSContentChangeDate  
kMDItemFSCreationDate  
kMDItemFSName  
kMDItemFSSize  
kMDItemTextContent  
kMDItemWhereFroms



# Mdfind Query Syntax

## **== equals**

```
"kMDItemFSName == 'foo'"
```

## **!= doesn't equal**

```
"kMDItemFSName != 'foobar'"
```

## **< less than**

```
"kMDItemFSSize < 24"
```

## **> greater than**

```
"kMDItemFSSize > 10737418240"
```

## **<= less than or equal to**

```
"kMDItemFSName <= 'foobar'"
```

## **>= greater than or equal to**

```
"kMDItemFSContentChangeDate >= $time.this_month(-2)"
```

## **c makes string case insensitive**

```
"kMDItemFSName = 'FoO'c"
```

## **d ignores diacritical marks (such as à, ê, ñ, ß, etc.)**

```
"kMDItemFSName = 'föö'd"
```

## **\* string wildcard (can trail or lead, Cannot infix)**

```
"kMDItemFSName == '*foo*'"
```

## **&& AND condition**

```
"kMDItemFSName = 'foo' && kMDItemTextContent = 'bar'"
```

## **|| OR condition**

```
"kMDItemFSName = 'foo' || kMDItemFSName = 'bar'"
```

## **() Separating and nesting groups of conditions**

```
"(kMDItemFSName = 'foo' || kMDItemFSName = 'bar') &&..."
```

# Finding a DB backup

`/Users/fritz/dev/pg/backups/backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql`



# Finding a DB Backup

Attempt #1: Naive Single Condition (filename only)

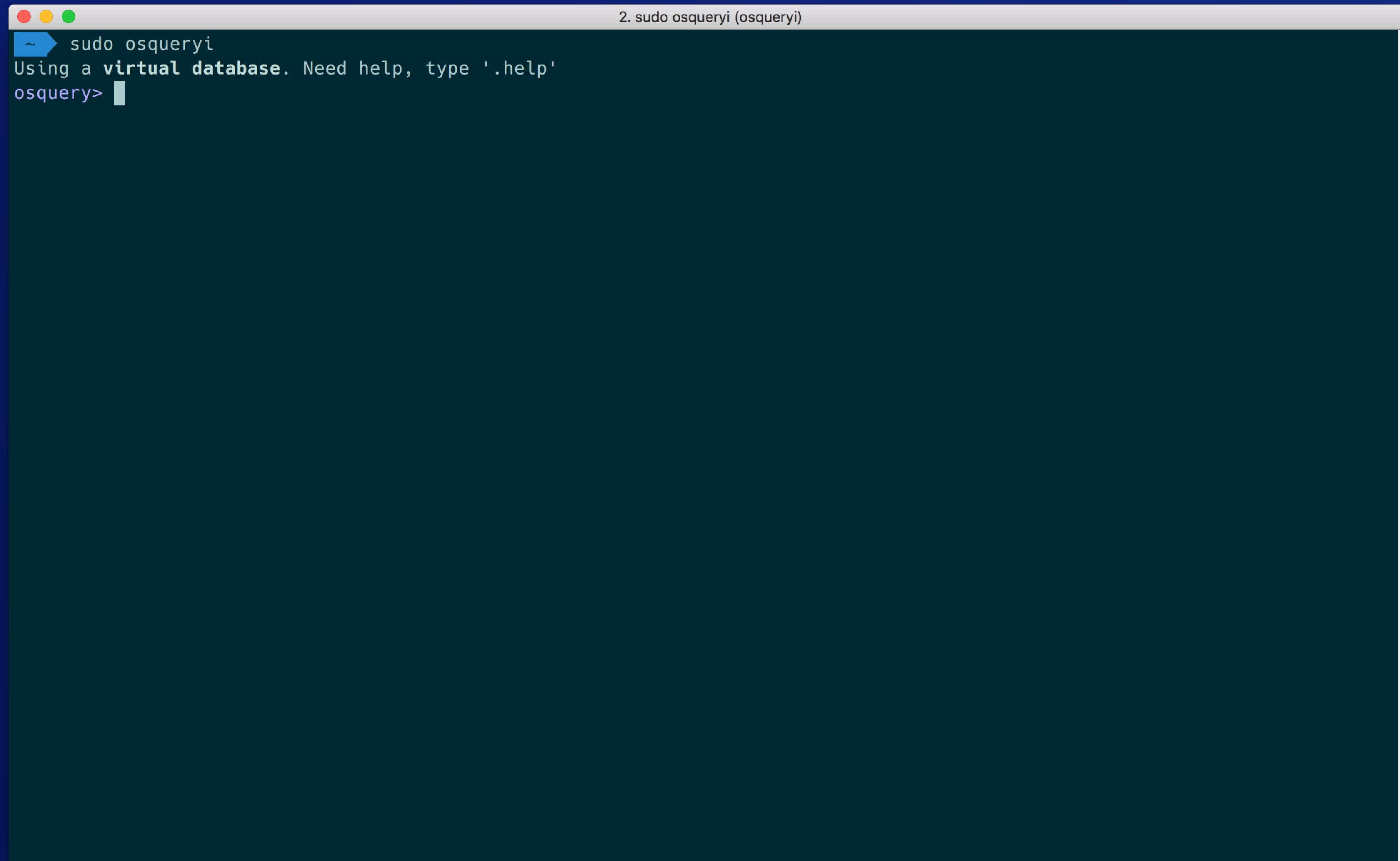
The basic mdfind query: Single condition, zero complexity

- Looks for a file with the string backup in the title.
- Similar output to what a perfect recursive file table search would return

```
fritz — sudo osqueryi — osqueryi — osqueryd • sudo — 58x13
osquery> SELECT COUNT(*) files_found, CASE WHEN (max(CASE w
hen f.filename = "backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql" THEN 1
ELSE 0 END)) THEN 'true' ELSE 'false' END AS database_foun
d from file f, mdfind md using(path) WHERE md.query =
...> "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*';
+-----+-----+
| files_found | database_found |
+-----+-----+
| 180         | true           |
+-----+-----+
osquery>
```

```
osquery> SELECT f.path
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
WHERE md.query = "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*'"
```

# Live demo



```
2. sudo osqueryi (osqueryi)
~$ sudo osqueryi
Using a virtual database. Need help, type '.help'
osquery> |
```

# Finding a DB Backup

Attempt #2: Two conditions (scope based on size)

Two Conditions:

- Looks for a file with the string 'backup' in the title.
- Omits any results that are smaller than 100 MB in size

```
fritz — sudo osqueryi — osqueryi — osqueryd • sudo — 68x11
osquery> SELECT COUNT(*) files_found,CASE WHEN (max(CASE when f.file
name = "backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql" THEN 1 ELSE 0 END)) THEN 't
rue' ELSE 'false' END AS database_found from file f, mdfind md using
(path) WHERE md.query =
    ...> "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*' &&kMDItemFSSize >= 100000000";
+-----+-----+
| files_found | database_found |
+-----+-----+
| 13          | true           |
+-----+-----+
osquery>
```

```
osquery> SELECT f.path
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
WHERE md.query =
    "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*' && kMDItemFSSize >= 100000000";
```

# Finding a DB Backup

Attempt #3: Three conditions (Check Item Content Index)

Three Conditions:

- Looks for a file with the string 'backup' in the title.
- Omits any results that are smaller than 100 MB in size
- Looks for any file whose contents contains a known customer UUID

```
fritz — sudo osqueryi — osqueryi — osqueryd • sudo — 67x12
osquery> SELECT COUNT(*) files_found,CASE WHEN (max(CASE when f.filename = "backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql" THEN 1 ELSE 0 END)) THEN 'true' ELSE 'false' END AS database_found from file f, mdfind md using(path) WHERE md.query =
    ...> "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*' &&kMDItemFSSize >= 100000000 && kMDItemTextContent == '7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565'";
+-----+-----+
| files_found | database_found |
+-----+-----+
| 1          | true          |
+-----+-----+
osquery>
```

```
osquery> SELECT f.path
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
WHERE md.query =
    "kMDItemFSName == '*backup*' && kMDItemFSSize >= 100000000 &&
kMDItemTextContent == '7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565';
```

# Finding a DB Backup

Attempt #4: Back to one condition (Less complexity can be a good thing)

One Condition:

- Looks for any file whose contents contains the unique UUID string:

**'7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565'**

```
fritz — sudo osqueryi — osqueryi — osqueryd • sudo — 67x11
osquery> SELECT COUNT(*) files_found, CASE WHEN (max(CASE when f.filename = "backup-2019-06-11T06-57-36Z.sql" THEN 1 ELSE 0 END)) THEN 'true' ELSE 'false' END AS database_found from file f, mdfind md using(path) WHERE md.query =
...> "kMDItemTextContent == '7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565'";
+-----+-----+
| files_found | database_found |
+-----+-----+
| 3           | true           |
+-----+-----+
osquery>
```

```
osquery> SELECT f.path
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
WHERE md.query =
"kMDItemTextContent == '7472-a84n-2727f8e0-82813-5565'";
```

# A different approach

Using wherefrom

- What about files that are gzipped or tarred where file contents aren't cached?
- kMDItemWhereFroms

```
fritz — sudo osqueryi — osqueryi — osqueryd — sudo — 90x25
osquery> SELECT mdfind.path,
...>     ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) AS size_megabytes,
...>     datetime(f.btime, 'unixepoch') AS file_created,
...>     ea.value AS download_source
...>     FROM extended_attributes ea
...> JOIN mdfind ON mdfind.path = ea.path
...> JOIN file f ON f.path = mdfind.path
...> AND mdfind.query =
...>     "kMDItemWhereFroms == '*https://data.heroku.com/datastores/*'"
...> AND ea.key = 'where_from'
...> GROUP BY ea.value;
path = /Users/fritz/dev/pg/heroku/cae2d014-a2f5-4ecd-8a70-7d0b7cd0bb1f.zip
size_megabytes = 582.77
file_created = 2019-06-20 17:55:11
download_source = https://data.heroku.com/datastores/d229d538-688b-4bf5-b541-0a38fcfb6cf7

path = /Users/fritz/dev/pg/heroku/cae2d014-a2f5-4ecd-8a70-7d0b7cd0bb1f.zip
size_megabytes = 582.77
file_created = 2019-06-20 17:55:11
download_source = https://xfrtu.s3.amazonaws.com/3bcd6532-d18f-42cd-9f09-f4632d2603f8/2019-06-20T17%3A43%3A30Z/cae2d014-a2f5-4ecd-8a70-7d0b7cd0bb1f?X-Amz-Algorithm=AWS4-HMAC-SHA256&X-Amz-Credential=AKIAJ5HNUZMBKBNOSYQ%2F20190620%2Fus-east-1%2Fs3%2Faws4_request&X-Amz-Date=20190620T175511Z&X-Amz-Expires=3600&X-Amz-SignedHeaders=host&X-Amz-Signature=13754ebc24873cfc7044a5860c9a38f20c986c44062f02a49d332c7a92f03e3c
osquery>
```

```
osquery> SELECT f.path
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)
WHERE md.query =
"kMDItemWhereFroms == '*https://data.heroku.com/datastores/*'"
```



**We did it! We're the best!**

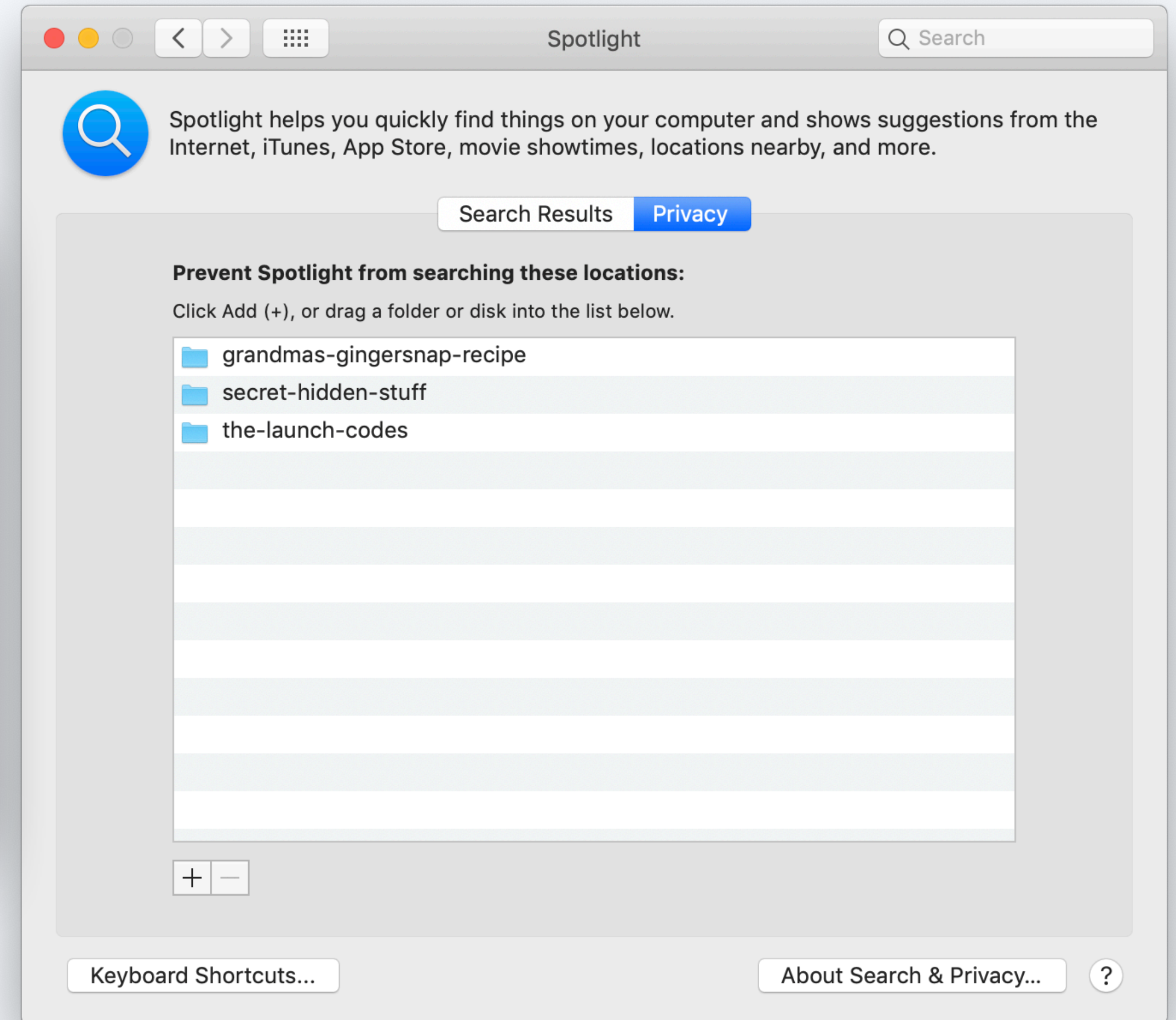
*But sometimes mdfind won't work...*

# Caveats

- macOS only
- Can be disabled by the end user
- Limited to User-Visible directories (with optional omissions)
- Attempts to not cache files that appear to contain key material
- Uses a different query syntax than osquery

# Checking for mdfind exclusions on your devices

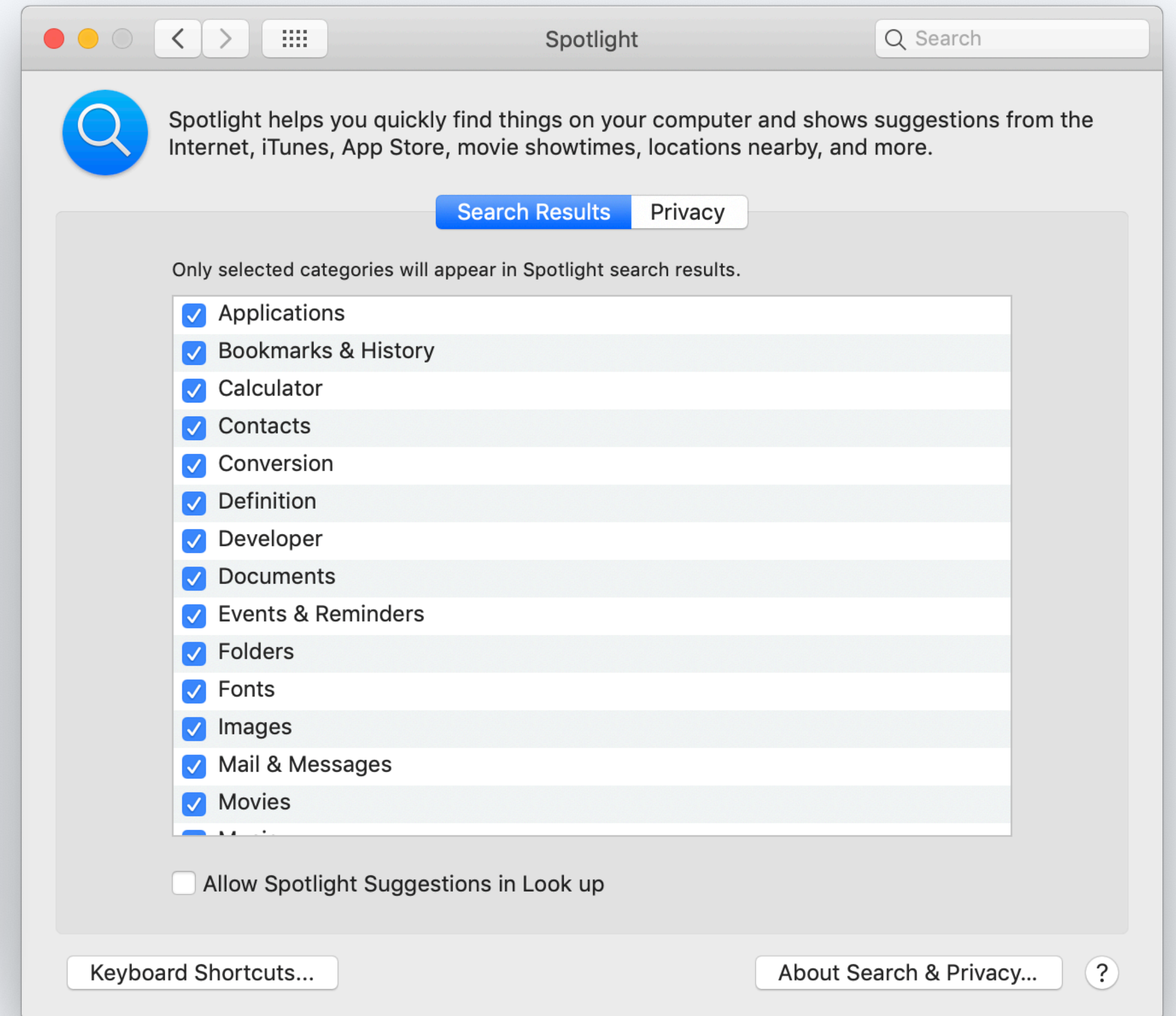
```
osquery> SELECT value AS mdfind_excluded_path FROM plist where path =  
'/.Spotlight-V100/VolumeConfiguration.plist'  
AND key = 'Exclusions'  
AND value is not null  
AND value <> '';  
  
+-----+  
| mdfind_excluded_path |  
+-----+  
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/grandmas-gingersnap-recipe |  
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/secret-hidden-stuff |  
| /Users/fritz-imac/Downloads/the-launch-codes |  
+-----+  
osquery> █
```



# Checking for mdfind exclusions on your devices

```
osquery> SELECT value FROM plist where path LIKE
'/Users/%/Library/Preferences/com.apple.Spotlight.plist' AND key =
'orderedItems';

value = APPLICATIONS
value = 1
value = BOOKMARKS
value = 1
value = CONTACT
value = 1
value = DOCUMENTS
value = 1
value = SPREADSHEETS
value = 1
value = SYSTEM_PREFS
value = 1
value = IMAGES
value = 1
value = MUSIC
value = 1
value = MOVIES
```



# Privacy Implications of mdfind

```
kMDItemInstantMessageAddresses =  
+1 (203) 313-2253  
+1 (860) 733-2618  
+1 (203) 490-4876
```

```
kMDItemDescription =  
"Hey you guys going to QueryCon this week?  
Absolutely, I'm giving a talk this year!  
Drinks 🍺 afterwards? You know it!"
```

```
→ ~ mdls '/Users/fritz-imac/Library/Messages/Archive/2019-06-18/Chat with <202a><202d>+1 (203)  
313-2253<202c><202c> et al on 2019-06-18 at 10.22.32.ichat'  
_kMDItemDisplayNameWithExtensions = "Chat with +1 (203) 313-2253 et al on 2019-06-18 at  
10.22.32.ichat"  
kMDItemAuthorAddresses = (  
  "e:"  
)  
kMDItemAuthors = (  
  "Fritz Ifert-Miller",  
  "\U202a\U202d+1 (203) 313-2253\U202c\U202c",  
  "\U202a\U202d+1 (860) 733-2618\U202c\U202c",  
  "\U202a\U202d+1 (203) 490-4876\U202c\U202c"  
)  
kMDItemContentCreationDate = 2019-06-18 13:58:28 +0000  
kMDItemContentCreationDate_Ranking = 2019-06-18 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemContentModificationDate = 2019-06-18 18:29:47 +0000  
kMDItemContentType = "com.apple.ichat.transcript"  
kMDItemCoverage = "chat809819206630457684"  
kMDItemDateAdded = 2019-06-18 18:29:58 +0000  
kMDItemDateAdded_Ranking = 2019-06-18 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemDeliveryType = "SMS"  
kMDItemDescription = "Hey you guys going to QueryCon this week? Absolutely, I'm  
giving a talk this year! Drinks 🍺 afterwards? You know it!"  
kMDItemDisplayName = "Chat with +1 (203) 313-2253 et al on 2019-06-18 at  
10.22.32.ichat"  
kMDItemDurationSeconds = 16278  
kMDItemFSContentChangeDate = 2019-06-18 18:29:47 +0000  
kMDItemFSCreationDate = 2019-06-18 14:22:32 +0000  
kMDItemFSName = "Chat with +1 (203) 313-2253 et al on 2019-06-18 at  
10.22.32.ichat"  
kMDItemInstantMessageAddresses = (  
  "e:",  
  12033132253,  
  18607332618,  
  12034904876  
)  
kMDItemInterestingDate_Ranking = 2019-06-18 00:00:00 +0000  
kMDItemIsApplicationManaged = 1
```

# Privacy Implications cont.

## Open issue for data leakage via brute forcing mdfind wildcard capabilities

```
import osquery
import string

printable = string.printable[:string.printable.find('')]

class FileReader:
    def __init__(self):
        self.instance = osquery.SpawnInstance()
        self.instance.open()

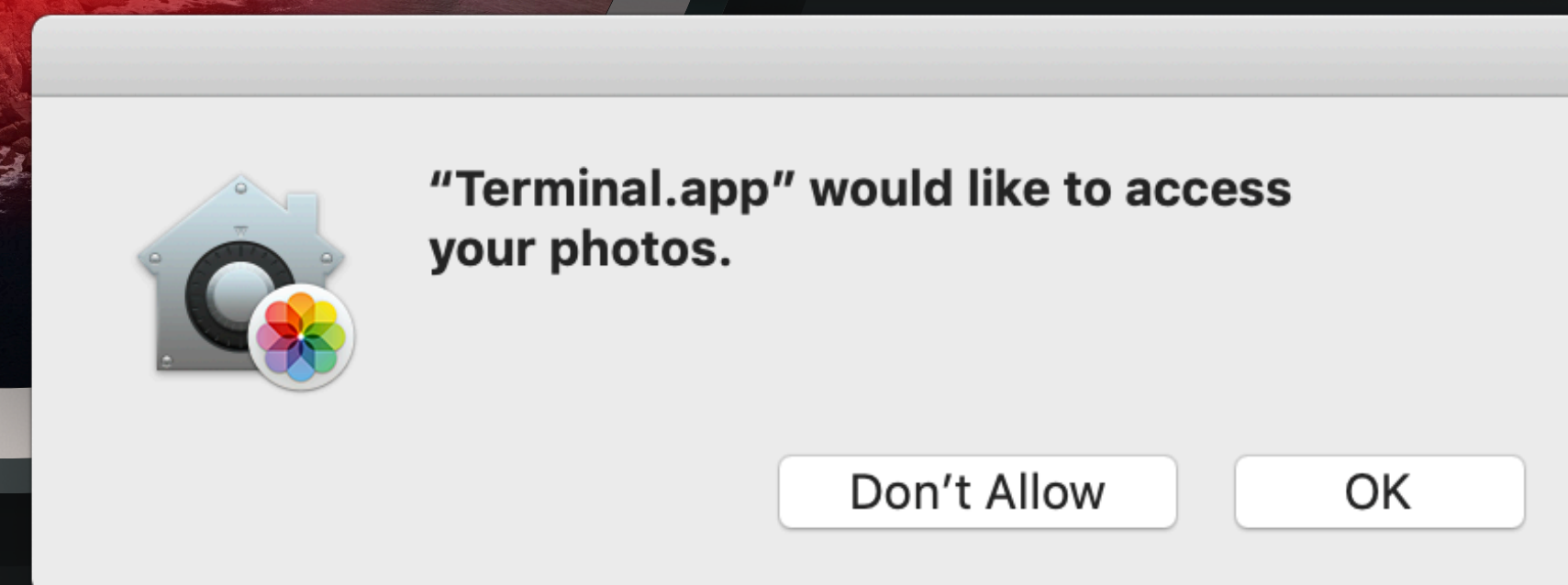
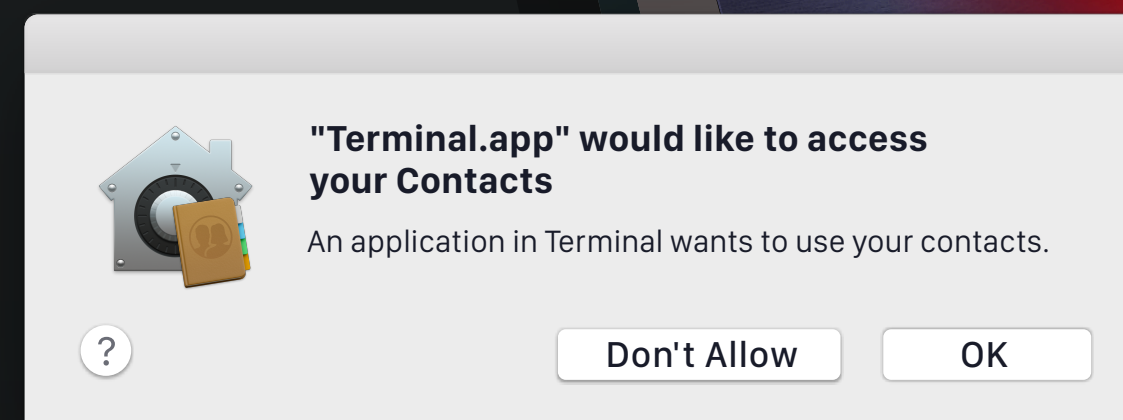
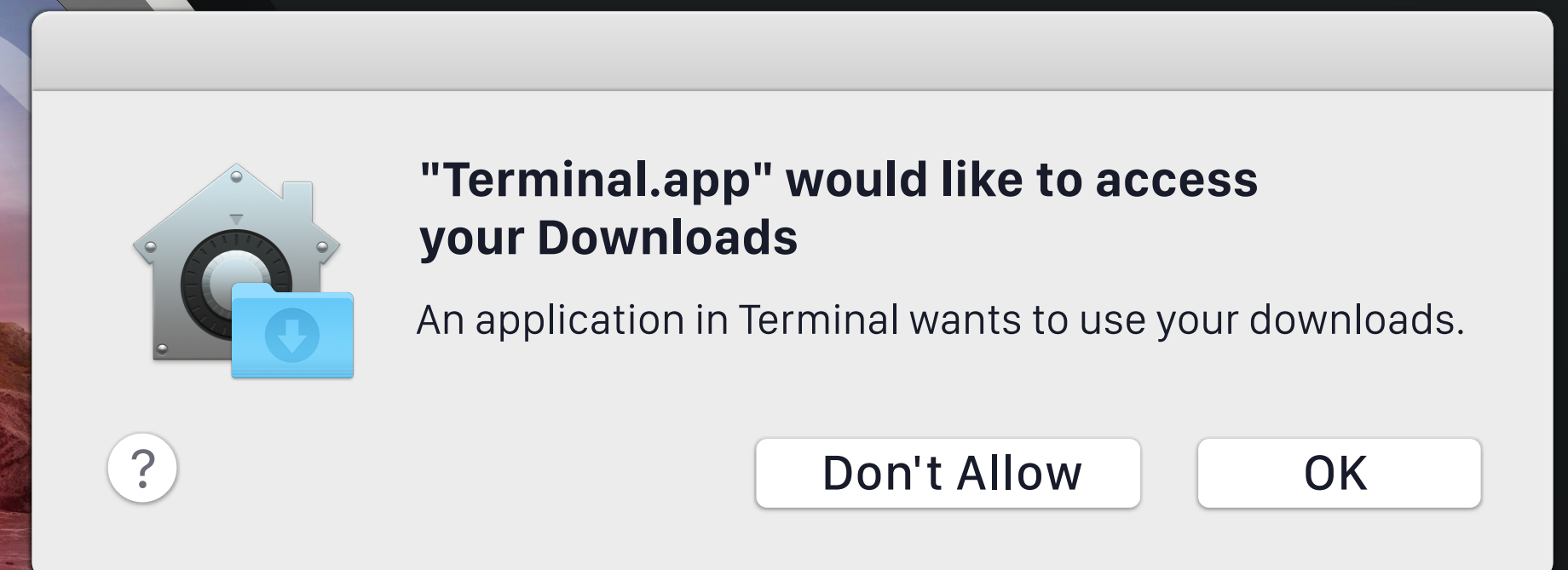
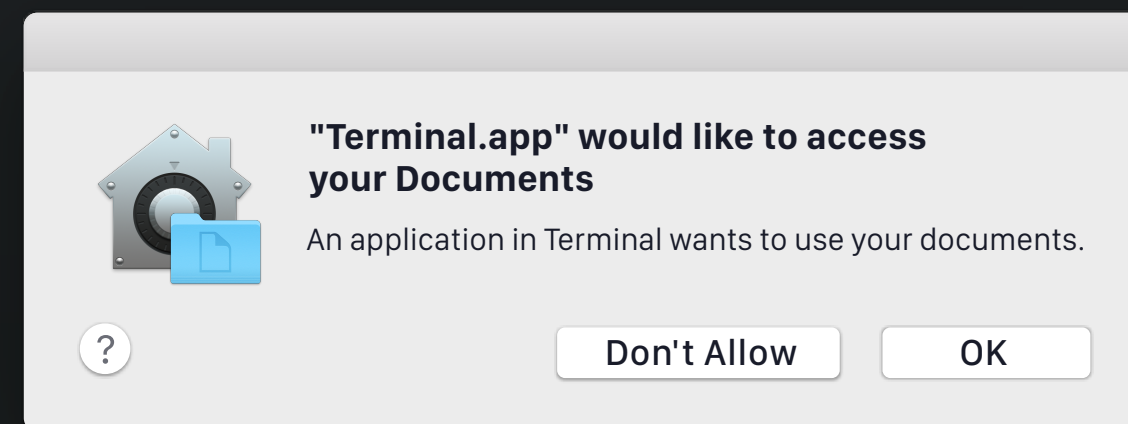
    def read(self, path):
        prefix = ''
        while True:
            print("Prefix so far: {}".format(prefix))
            for c in printable:
                query = r"select * from mdfind where query = 'kMDItemTextContent == '{}*' && kMDItemFSName == '{}';'".format(prefix + c, path)
                query_result = self.instance.client.query(query)
                if len(query_result.response):
                    prefix += c
                    break
            else:
                break
        print("Final string found: {}".format(prefix))

if __name__ == "__main__":
    f = FileReader()
    f.read("secret.txt")
```

```
$ cat secret.txt
1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2d2g
$ time python read-file-with-osquery.py
Prefix so far:
Prefix so far: 1
Prefix so far: 1d
Prefix so far: 1d0
Prefix so far: 1d0p
Prefix so far: 1d0pu
Prefix so far: 1d0puz
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt98
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt988
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y2
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25q
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qq
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qqu
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquw
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwa
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwam
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamc
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcb
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbz
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzn
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6j
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2d
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2d2
Prefix so far: 1d0puzt9880y25qquwamcbzng6jn5x2d2g
```

# macOS 10.15 Catalina

"I'm sorry Fritz, I can't let you search that"



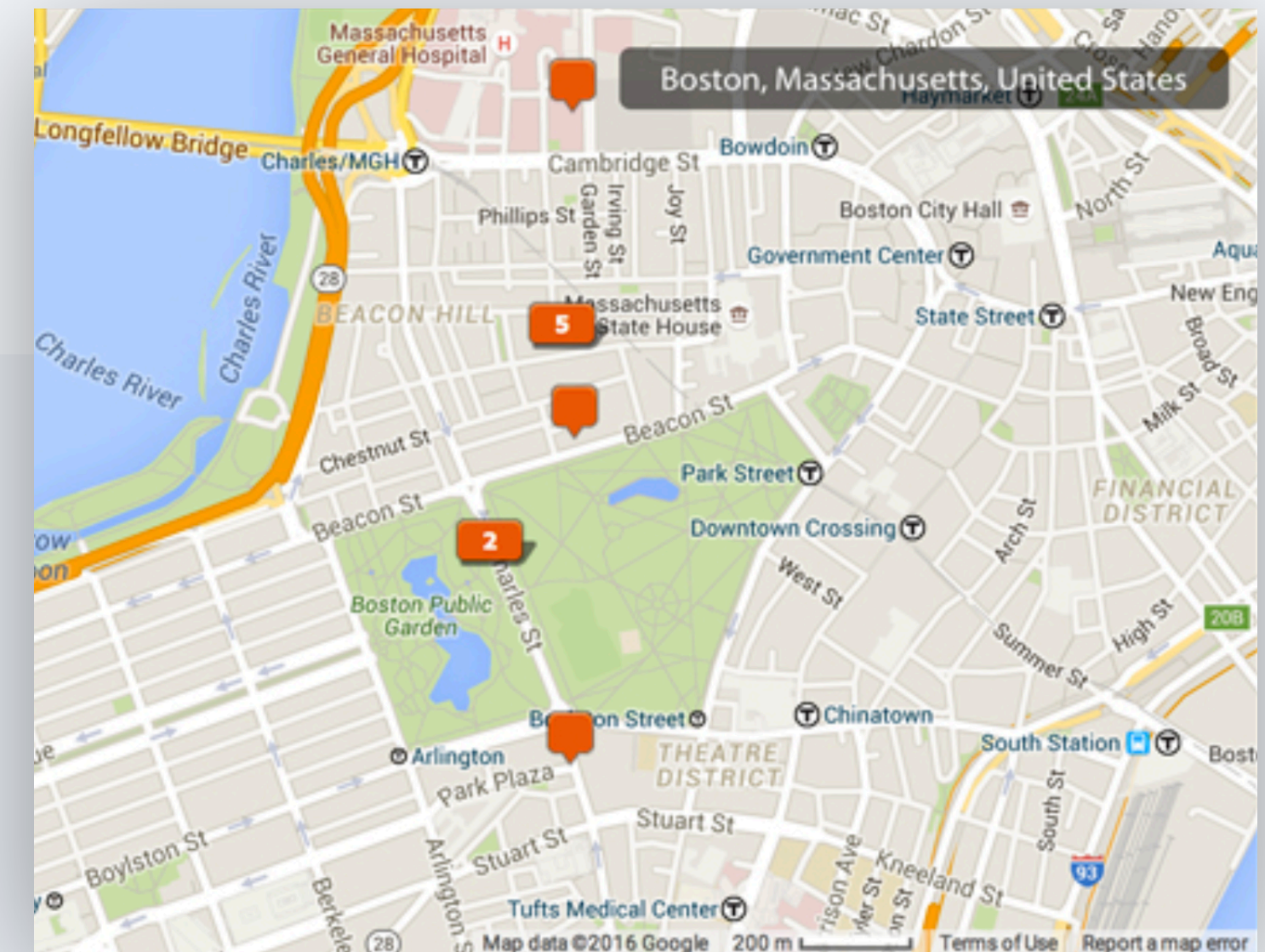
**Find while the mdfind'ing is good.**



# Find photos taken within a given coordinate range

*Adaptable to if you worked at an R&D facility with strict no photo policy*

```
SELECT f.path,  
       ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) size_megabytes,  
       f.btime file_created_epoch,  
       datetime(f.btime, "unixepoch") file_created  
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)  
WHERE md.query =  
"kMDItemLatitude > 42.146512 && kMDItemLatitude < 42.48565 &&  
kMDItemLongitude < '-70.74414' && kMDItemLongitude > '-71.3241'";
```



# Find items downloaded from a specific source

*Great for finding forgotten 2FA backup codes and data exports*

```
SELECT f.path,  
       ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) size_megabytes,  
       f.btime file_created_epoch,  
       datetime(f.btime, "unixepoch") file_created  
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)  
WHERE md.query =  
"kMDItemWhereFroms =  
'https://myaccount.google.com/_/two-step-verification/  
backupcodes/download?*';"
```

# Find items from a specific time range

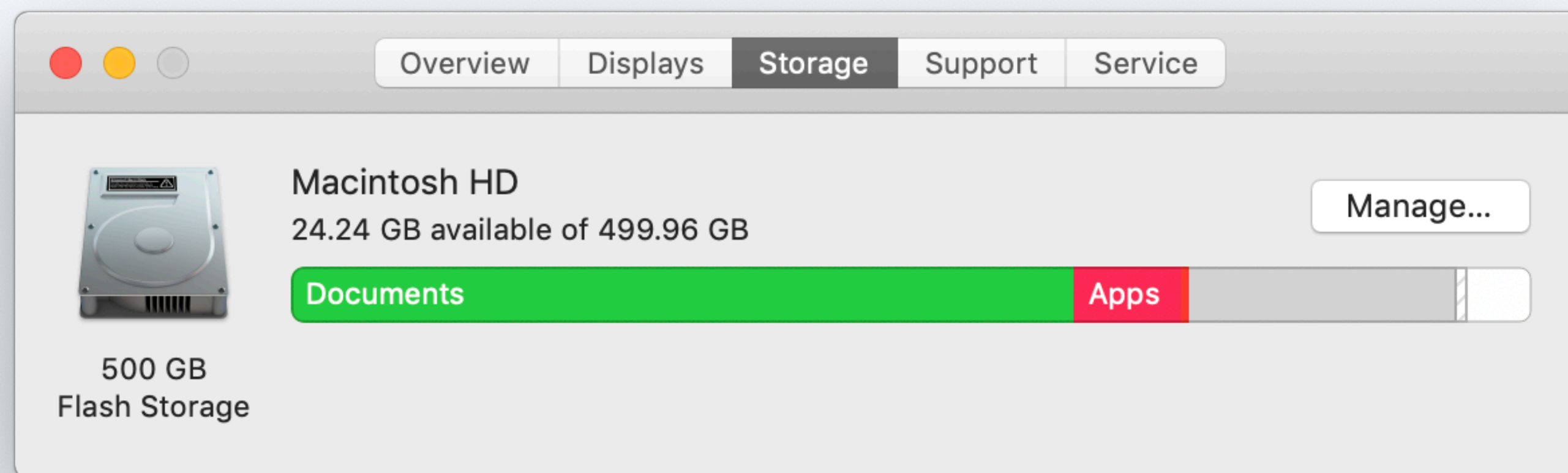
*Good for cleaning up old export jobs after they are no longer being used*

```
SELECT f.path,  
       ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) size_megabytes,  
       f.btime file_created_epoch,  
       datetime(f.btime, "unixepoch") file_created  
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)  
WHERE md.query =  
"(kMDItemFSCreationDate >= $time.today(-14)) &&  
(kMDItemFSName = '*.csv')";
```

# Determine how much disk space a filetype is consuming

*Useful if you are trying to rebuild Apple's storage widget*

```
SELECT ROUND(CAST(SUM(f.size * 10e-10) AS decimal(20,2))) AS  
sum_GB, COUNT(1) AS number_files  
FROM file f, mdfind md USING (path)  
WHERE md.query = "kMDItemFSName == '*.sketch'"
```



# Joining on extended\_attributes to display metadata contents

*For example: Where files were downloaded from*

```
SELECT mdfind.path,  
       ROUND((f.size * 10e-7),2) AS size_megabytes,  
       datetime(f.btime, 'unixepoch') AS file_created,  
       ea.value AS download_source  
FROM extended_attributes ea  
JOIN mdfind ON mdfind.path = ea.path  
JOIN file f ON f.path = mdfind.path  
AND mdfind.query =  
     "(kMDItemWhereFroms != '') && (kMDItemDateAdded >= $time.today(-14))"  
AND ea.key = 'where_from'  
GROUP BY ea.value  
ORDER BY f.btime DESC  
LIMIT 100;
```

# Additional Reading

## **Kolide mdfind Blog Post:**

<https://blog.kolide.com/spotlight-search-across-every-mac-in-your-fleet-with-osquery-55789c765986>

## **Apple Spotlight Query Syntax Documentation:**

<https://developer.apple.com/library/archive/documentation/Carbon/Conceptual/SpotlightQuery/Concepts/QueryFormat.html>

## **Apple Spotlight Metadata Attributes Documentation:**

<https://developer.apple.com/library/archive/documentation/CoreServices/Reference/MetadataAttributesRef/Reference/CommonAttrs.html>

# Questions?

# Thank you!

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