

Location Tracking in Splunk



Remember to read part 2 later at [Location Tracking in Splunk - Drilldown](#)

I wanted to utilize [splunk](#) even more (or same) as Edd in [Go Splunk Yourself!](#)

First signup for a tracking solution called [OpenPaths](#) failed, as the project seems dead and the iOS is not tracking.

Looking into the Apple Store, I found [followmee.com](#) and I signed up for an account. [Followmee.com](#) has a complete mapping (Tracking) solution, so I could just have stopped it there, but the focus was splunk.

The only interesting App setting on the iPhone is the tracking state and how often the App tracks, read <http://followmee.com/Howto.aspx?t=howtoconfigureiphone>



Tracking Power

It specifies how aggressively the app will track. The default setting is medium, which gives you a new location update every 5 to 10 minutes. If you want more frequent update, choose the high setting, which updates every 1 to 2 minutes. Currently, my setting is High

Getting data out

Next, the data can be extracted to XLS or CSV, but this was too manual, I wanted to utilize and automate, so I signed up for [API services](#), which has 2 primary functions:

Past hours history for a device

Past gives a json like:

```
{
  "Data": [
    {
      "Date": "2017-12-03T15:26:14+01:00",
      "Latitude": 57.01060,
      "Longitude": 10.03402,
      "Type": "GPS",
      "Speed(mph)": null,
      "Speed(km/h)": null,
      "Altitude(ft)": 16,
      "Altitude(m)": 5,
      "Accuracy": 124
    },
    {
      "Date": "2017-12-03T15:53:52+01:00",
      "Latitude": 57.01172,
      "Longitude": 10.04380,
      "Type": "GPS",
      "Speed(mph)": null,
      "Speed(km/h)": null,
      "Altitude(ft)": 0,
      "Altitude(m)": 0,
      "Accuracy": 165
    },
    {
      "Date": "2017-12-03T15:57:05+01:00",
      "Latitude": 57.01323,
      "Longitude": 10.04936,
      "Type": "GPS",
      "Speed(mph)": null,
      "Speed(km/h)": null,
      "Altitude(ft)": 2,
      "Altitude(m)": 2,
      "Accuracy": 165
    },
    {
      "Date": "2017-12-03T16:03:25+01:00",
      "Latitude": 57.01406,
      "Longitude": 10.04982,
      "Type": "GPS",
      "Speed(mph)": null,
      "Speed(km/h)": null,
      "Altitude(ft)": 3,
      "Altitude(m)": 1,
      "Accuracy": 65
    },
    {
      "Date": "2017-12-03T16:05:50+01:00",
      "Latitude": 57.01049,
      "Longitude": 10.03452,
      "Type": "GPS",
      "Speed(mph)": null,
      "Speed(km/h)": null,
      "Altitude(ft)": 16,
      "Altitude(m)": 5,
      "Accuracy": 67
    },
    {
      "Date": "2017-12-03T16:15:17+01:00",
      "Latitude": 57.01063,
      "Longitude": 10.03377,
      "Type": "GPS",
      "Speed(mph)": null,
      "Speed(km/h)": null,
      "Altitude(ft)": 19,
      "Altitude(m)": 6,
      "Accuracy": 65
    },
    {
      "Date": "2017-12-08T18:20:06+01:00",
      "Latitude": 57.01431,
      "Longitude": 10.03389,
      "Type": "GPS",
      "Speed(mph)": 38,
      "Speed(km/h)": 61,
      "Altitude(ft)": 36,
      "Altitude(m)": 11,
      "Accuracy": 10
    },
    {
      "Date": "2017-12-08T18:21:58+01:00",
      "Latitude": 57.01034,
      "Longitude": 10.03387,
      "Type": "GPS",
      "Speed(mph)": 4,
      "Speed(km/h)": 6,
      "Altitude(ft)": 29,
      "Altitude(m)": 9,
      "Accuracy": 5
    }
  ]
}
```

Current location for a device

Current gives a json like

```
{
  "Data": [
    {
      "DeviceName": "Normann P.'s iPhone",
      "DeviceID": "11787783",
      "Date": "2017-12-08T18:21:58+01:00",
      "Latitude": 57.01034,
      "Longitude": 10.03387,
      "Type": "GPS",
      "Speed(mph)": 4,
      "Speed(km/h)": 6,
      "Altitude(ft)": 29,
      "Altitude(m)": 9,
      "Accuracy": 5
    }
  ]
}
```

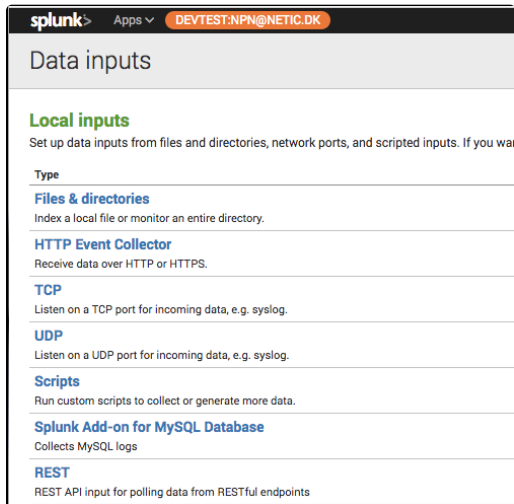
In splunk, it's a bit complicated to split multivalue json into events, and since this is a POC and I don't really care that much for history, I will go for the current location...



Use the website <http://json.parser.online.fr/> to text and examine Your json

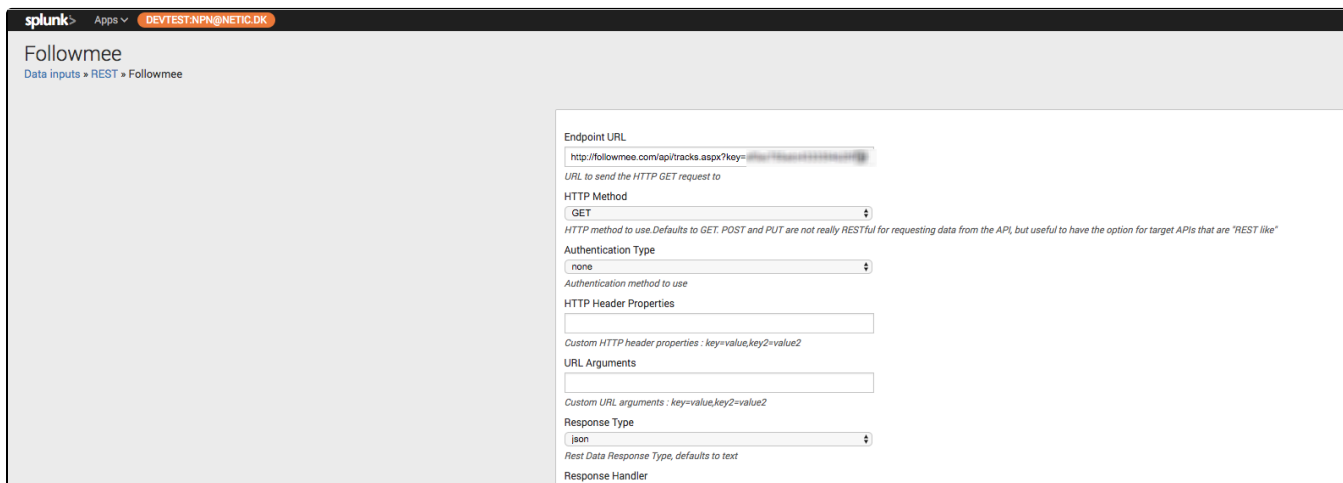
Getting data in

To get data in splunk, several approaches can be made - and typically I would choose a on-disk script to pull data from the API to a file to be parsed (via cron), but this time I wanted to play with getting the json in splunk the simplest way, so I installed the [REST API Modular Input Add On](#), even though it's pretty old. The Add On adds an input possibility:



So, after adding a new index for the data, and getting the API Key from the followmee.com website, we add an input for the REST Url

```
http://followmee.com/api/tracks.aspx?  
key=*****&username=moseisleydk&output=json&function=currentfordevice&deviceid=11787783
```



And sourcetype and index:

Source type

Set sourcetype field for all events from this source.

Set sourcetype

Manual

Source type

followmee-json

If this field is left blank, the default value of script will be used for the source type.

☒ **More settings**

Host

Host field value

splunkserver

Index

Set the destination index for this source.

Index

followmee

Cancel Save

Notice the polling interval:

Polling Interval

Polling interval in either seconds or a CRON time format, defaults to 60 seconds.

I leave it blank, so the REST Url will be called every 60 secs. Also refer to "**Tracking Power**" above.

Presenting the data

Looking at possible visualisations, I first went for the map/geostats visualisation, but the density and zoomlevel is more world event like than street/block level needed, so I installed the [Location Tracker - Custom Visualization](#).

And created the needed search:

```
index="followmee" | dedup _time | eval User="Normann" | table _time "Data{}.Latitude" "Data{}.Longitude" User
```

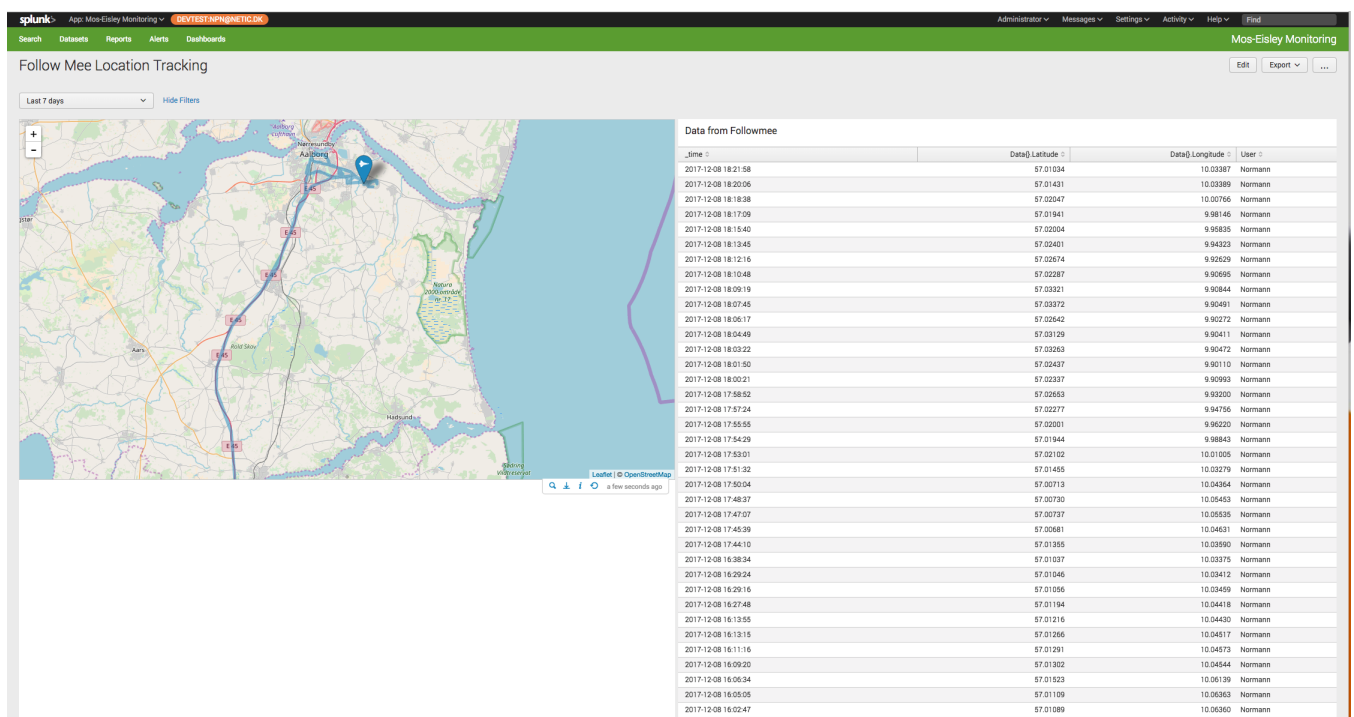


As follow me reports a lot of the same data on the API when the phone is not moving by reporting same time as last for same location, the "dedup" command removes these. The current search is not time important, only location specific. For Time importance, I would probably make another Dashboard

after looking at what the REST Add On fetches from the followmee.com API:

< Hide Fields	≡ All Fields	i	Time	Event
Selected Fields <i>a</i> host 1 <i>a</i> source 1 <i>a</i> sourcetype 1 Interesting Fields # Data{}.Accuracy 6 # Data{}.Altitude(ft) 30 # Data{}.Altitude(m) 30 # Data{}.Date 69 # Data{}.DeviceID 1 # Data{}.DeviceName 1 # Data{}.Latitude 69 # Data{}.Longitude 68 # Data{}.Speed(km/h) 37 # Data{}.Speed(mph) 37 # Data{}.Type 1 # date_hour 7 # date_mday 2 # date_minute 44 # date_month 1 # date_second 44 # date_wday 2 # date_year 1 # date_zone 1 # index 1 # linecount 1 # punct 1 # splunk_server 1 # timeendpos 1 # timestartpos 1 # User 1 + Extract New Fields		>	08/12/2017 18:21:58.000	<pre>{ [-] Data: [[-] { [-] Accuracy: 5 Altitude(ft): 29 Altitude(m): 9 Date: 2017-12-08T18:21:58+01:00 DeviceID: 11787783 DeviceName: Normann P.'s iPhone Latitude: 57.01034 Longitude: 10.03387 Speed(km/h): 6 Speed(mph): 4 Type: GPS }] }</pre> Show as raw text host = splunkserver source = rest://Followmee sourcetype = followmee-json
		>	08/12/2017 18:20:06.000	<pre>{ [-] Data: [[+]] }</pre> Show as raw text host = splunkserver source = rest://Followmee sourcetype = followmee-json
		>	08/12/2017 18:18:38.000	<pre>{ [-] Data: [[+]] }</pre> Show as raw text host = splunkserver source = rest://Followmee sourcetype = followmee-json
		>	08/12/2017 18:17:09.000	<pre>{ [-] Data: [[+]] }</pre> Show as raw text host = splunkserver source = rest://Followmee sourcetype = followmee-json
		>	08/12/2017 18:15:40.000	<pre>{ [-] Data: [[+]] }</pre> Show as raw text

And then build a Dashboard:



Compared to followmee.com:

