[How can I exclude files from VFIND scanning?]

(1) Introduction

You can exclude some files from VFIND scanning through many ways as follows. Especially, the information in section 2.2 will be very useful if you run scanning with VFIND and UAD under smartscan mode (-s -ssw options for UAD and -ssr options for VFIND), because the --noscan/--noscans option is ignored under smartscan mode.

In general, the commands for VFIND scanning have two types; Commands with UAD and commands without UAD. We strongly recommend customers that use UAD with VFIND together, because the file-type information from UAD can significantly reduce the VFIND's scanning/searching time against many vdl files. Without the information, sometimes VFIND needs to scrutinize all the vdl files which have "Unknown" limitation. Providing more information to VFIND makes the scanning time speedy through reducing/limitating the feasible region for search. Furthermore, VFIND cannot handle/expand an archive file by itself, and need a support from UAD.

If you use only VFIND for scanning, you just need to use --noscan/--noscans option for VFIND, and the information in this paper is not necessary. This paper assumes that VFIND is used with UAD together for scanning.

(2) Possible ways

2.1 Using --noscan (or --noscans) option of VFIND under non-smartscan mode

If you are using VFIND and UAD "WITHOUT" smartscan options (-s -ssw for UAD and -ssr for VFIND), you can use --noscan (or --noscans) option to exclude some files/directories.

--noscan=<value>:
        Turn off scanning of the named file or directory. This may be
        useful if the scanned file file or directory contains a lot of
        false positives of different virii, e.g. if it's a virus scanning
        database or similar.

--noscans=<value>:
        Turn off scanning of files or directories listed in the specified
        file. Each line of the file should contain a filename as
        specified for the --noscan option. Leading and trailing

whitespace is ignored, as are empty lines, and comment lines beginning with '#'.

Therefore, the typical command for VFIND scanning without smartscan options will be following form.
find /..path../ -type f -print | ${BIN_DIR}vfind --noscans=file --uad="..uad-options..."

In this case, the --uad=".." option (in VFIND) is mainly useful for multithreaded vfind-mt which will run a separate UAD process for each thread, and the file names from standard input will be distributed among the threads running in parallel.

2.2 Using supplementary script(s) under smartscan mode

If you are using VFIND and UAD "WITH" smartscan options (-s -ssw for UAD and -ssr for VFIND), the --noscan/--noscans option in VFIND is IGNORED under smartscan mode.
In this case, you need to use one of two supplementary scripts to exclude files under smartscan mode as follows. One supplementary script is bash and the other one is perl script.
Although the results are same from the two scripts, the "usuage" for them is a little bit different, and followings are the inforamtion.
The new scripts will be included in VSTK (/opt/vstk/bin) from VSTK-178, and assumes that the "/opt/vstk/bin" was assigned to "BIN_DIR" variable to explain the usage here.

2.2.1 Script #1 (noscans.sh)

This script can be used to filter/exclude some files from find command (pipe). The files which is excluded from the scanning should be listed in one file (e.g. noscans.txt) and the file name (e.g. noscans.txt) needs to be provided as a 2nd argument of this script when it starts. The format of the file (e.g. noscans.txt) is that one file-name per one line.

Usage:
The "find" command part in your original script can be replaced with this script.
For example, if your original script is
find /path/ additional-find-options |...| uad -s -ssw | vfind -ssr --noscans=file

It needs to be changes as follows
${BIN_DIR}noscan.sh /path/ file |...| uad -s -ssw | vfind -ssr

Note:
This script uses only "-type f -print" as the addtional option for "find" command by default.
If you need to add/modify the "find" options, please modify the "ADDITIONAL_FIND_OPTS"
variable in the script.

2.2.2 Script #2 (excluder.pl)

For use in a pipeline to exclude certain files.

Usage:
The file "exclude-list.txt" defines the paths of the items to be excluded
For example, if your original script is
find /path/ additional-find-options |...| uad -s -ssw | vfind -ssr
--noscans=file

It needs to be change as follows
find /path/ additional-find-options | ${BIN_DIR}excluder.pl |...| uad -s -ssw | vfind -ssr
and it will prevent vfind/vfind-mt from scanning the files in the "exclude-list.txt" file

Note:
Unlike noscans.sh in 2.2.1, the file name (exclude-list.txt) to include the exclude-file-list is not a parameter from user. The name is fixed and it needs to be
located in the current directory.
Unlike noscans.sh in 2.2.1, this script does not cover "find" command, and you need to
type in all the find and its options as before.

2.3 Other possible ways

If the number of files to be excluded from the scanning is very small, you can get the same effect by directly handling UNIX/Linux command without using above approaches in 2.1 and/or 2.2.

For example, you can use additional option for "find" command such as -prune, or you can filter the filename from the "find" pipe using grep -v.
However, this way is not very appropriate/efficient if the number of files to be excluded is large and/or if it needs to be changed frequently.