

# No REST API for the Wicked: Scripting FileMaker Made Me a Better MSP

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

I'm Alex Narvey and today I am going to show you how I used FileMaker to make my MSP life a little easier. I'm going to race through this preso so don't worry about writing things down. Just get the slides from [precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Lets start with No REST API for the Wicked...

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR

# Mac mini MSP Stack



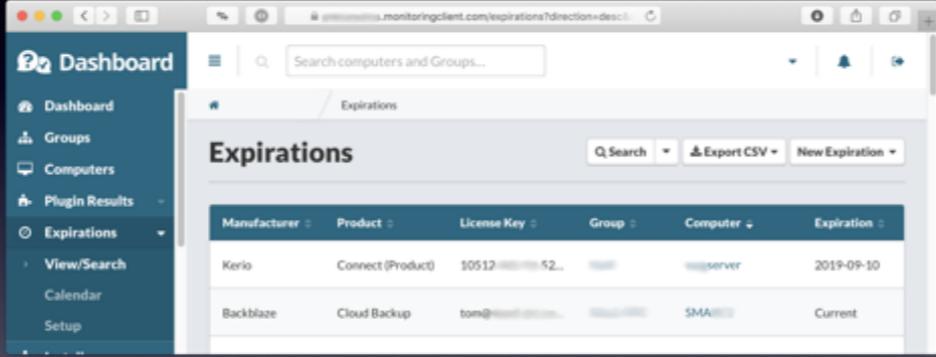
[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Many MSPs use Watchman Monitoring as a basic part of their tool Stack. It is so useful.

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR



The screenshot shows a web dashboard with a dark blue sidebar and a light blue main content area. The sidebar contains a navigation menu with items: Dashboard, Groups, Computers, Plugin Results, Expirations, View/Search, Calendar, and Setup. The main content area is titled 'Expirations' and features a search bar, 'Export CSV' button, and 'New Expiration' button. Below this is a table with the following data:

Manufacturer	Product	License Key	Group	Computer	Expiration
Kerio	Connect (Product)	10512-10000-52...	...	...server	2019-09-10
Backblaze	Cloud Backup	tom@backblaze...	...	SMAR...	Current

precursor.ca/slides

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

One of my favourite things is that it automatically notifies you about expirations like for BackBlaze, CrashPlan, Kerio Connect, and other software subscriptions.

CLICK



## Manually enter:

- Search a Group name
- Select a Manufacturer\*
- Select a Product\*
- Fill in Certificate Name
- Fill in Expiration Date

Track a new Expiration

Group  
Search Groups... Cancel

Manufacturer  
Select a Manufacturer  
The Manufacturer list can be edited in the Expirations Setup...

Product  
Select a product  
The Product list can be edited in the Expirations Setup...

Expiration Details

License Key \* 0/190  
Enter a serial number, license, or other identifier.

Expiration Date \*  
The date this Expiration will expire.

Renewable

Notes about this Expiration

Cancel Add Expiration

*“Like an animal!”*

[precursor.ca/slides](http://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Both for Domains and Certificates you have to enter all the information manually...

“Like an animal!”

CLICK

## *Registrars and Issuers* have to be manually added to Manufacturers

### Manufacturers & Products

Each Expiration is related to both a Manufacturer and Product. For example: A domain name might have a Manufacturer named "GoDaddy" and a Product named "Domain Registration". Add or edit Manufacturers and Products Below.

Note: The Manufacturers and Products reported by monitored computers are considered Managed, and are not available for editing.

Manufacturers	Products
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="button" value="Add Manufacturer"/>	<input type="button" value="Add Product"/>

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

And you can't even select the Manufacturer without having added it first on a separate pane.

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR

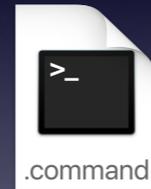


[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

And that's a pain!  
CLICK

## Use Watchman's REST API & Automate!



[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

So I decided to try and use some of the programming methods I have been exposed to and automate this process.

CLICK

# Automating Domain & SSL Expirations

1. Get the expiration info online...
2. Populate Watchman with the info...

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Step one would be to acquire the Expiration info online  
and  
Step two would be to populate that info into Watchman  
All programmatically.  
CLICK

# Part 1

## Getting the expiration info...



[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

So lets start with Part 1: Getting the expiration info...

CLICK

**Domain info:** `$ man whois`

**Certificate info:** `$ man openssl`

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Fortunately, there are command line tools available to do this.

CLICK

```
% IANA WHOIS server
% for more information on IANA, visit http://
www.iana.org
% This query returned 1 object

refer:      whois.verisign-grs.com
Domain:     COM
Organisation: VeriSign Global Registry Services
address:    12001 Bluemont Way
address:    Reston Virginia 20190
address:    United States
contact:    administrative
name:       Registry Customer Service
organisation: VeriSign Global Registry Services
address:    12001 Bluemont Way
address:    Reston Virginia 20190
address:    United States
phone:      +1 703 925-6999
fax-no:     +1 703 948 3978
e-mail:     info@verisign-grs.com

contact:    technical
name:       Registry Customer Service
organisation: VeriSign Global Registry Services
address:    12001 Bluemont Way
address:    Reston Virginia 20190
address:    United States
phone:      +1 703 925-6999
fax-no:     +1 703 948 3978
e-mail:     info@verisign-grs.com

nserver:    A.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.5.6.30
2001:503:a83e:0:0:0:2:30
nserver:    S.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.33.14.30
2001:503:231d:0:0:0:2:30
nserver:    C.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.26.92.30
2001:503:83eb:0:0:0:0:30
nserver:    D.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.31.80.30
2001:500:856e:0:0:0:0:30
nserver:    E.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.12.94.30
2001:502:1c01:0:0:0:0:30
nserver:    F.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.35.51.30
2001:503:d414:0:0:0:0:30
```

```
nserver:    G.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.42.83.30
2001:503:eea3:0:0:0:0:30
nserver:    H.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.54.112.30
2001:502:8cc8:0:0:0:0:30
nserver:    I.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.43.172.30
2001:503:9c1c:0:0:0:0:30
nserver:    J.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.48.79.30
2001:502:7094:0:0:0:0:30
nserver:    K.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.52.178.30
2001:503:d2d:0:0:0:0:30
nserver:    L.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.41.162.30
2001:500:d937:0:0:0:0:30
nserver:    R.GTLD-SERVERS.NET 192.55.83.30
2001:501:01f9:0:0:0:0:30
ds-rdata:   38989 8 2
201503050505419234E26269F5895044A833FC459580F4A
9184FC41A5766
whois:      whois.verisign-grs.com
status:     ACTIVE
remarks:    Registration information: http://
www.verisigninc.com
created:    1985-01-01
changed:    2017-10-03
source:     IANA
Domain Name: MDYOVR.COM
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.swebuck.com
Registrar URL: http://www.wordpress.com
Updated Date: 2018-07-18T10:25:04Z
Creation Date: 2018-08-17T20:38:27Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2019-08-17T20:38:27Z
Registrar: Automatic Inc.
Registrar IANA ID: 1531
Registrar Abuse Contact Email:
domainbus@automatic.com
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1 877 273-3049
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
https://icann.org/epp/clientTransferProhibited
Domain Status: clientUpdateProhibited
https://icann.org/epp/clientUpdateProhibited
icann.org/epp/clientUpdateProhibited
Name Server: NS1.WORDPRESS.COM
Name Server: NS2.WORDPRESS.COM
```

```
DNSSEC: unsigned
URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint
Form: https://www.icann.org/wiccf/
See Last Update of whois database:
2018-04-04T01:28:09Z <<
Domain Name: MDYOVR.COM
Registry Domain ID: 2154582926_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.swebuck.com
Registrar URL: http://www.automatic.com/
Updated Date: 2018-07-18T10:25:04Z
Creation Date: 2017-08-17T20:38:27Z
Registrar Registration Expiration Date:
2019-08-17T20:38:27Z
Registrar: Automatic Inc.
Registrar IANA ID: 1531
Reseller: WordPress.com
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited https://
icann.org/epp/clientTransferProhibited
Domain Status: clientUpdateProhibited https://
icann.org/epp/clientUpdateProhibited
Registry Registrant ID:
Registrant Name: Private Whois
Registrant Organization: Knock Knock WHOIS Not
There, LLC
Registrant Street: 9450 SW Gemini Dr, No. 63259
Registrant City: Beaverton
Registrant State/Province: OR
Registrant Postal Code: 97008-7185
Registrant Country: US
Registrant Phone: +1.8772738550
Registrant Fax Ext:
Registrant Email: mdoyvr.com@privatwho.is
Registrar Admin ID:
Admin Name: Private Whois
Admin Organization: Knock Knock WHOIS Not There,
LLC
Admin Street: 9450 SW Gemini Dr, No. 63259
Admin City: Beaverton
Admin State/Province: OR
Admin Postal Code: 97008-7185
Admin Country: US
Admin Phone: +1.8772738550
Admin Phone Ext:
Admin Fax:
```

```
Admin Fax Ext:
Admin Email: mdoyvr.com@privatwho.is
Registry Tech ID:
Tech Name: Private Whois
Tech Organization: Knock Knock WHOIS Not There,
LLC
Tech Street: 9450 SW Gemini Dr, No. 63259
Tech City: Beaverton
Tech State/Province: OR
Tech Postal Code: 97008-7185
Tech Country: US
Tech Phone: +1.8772738550
Tech Phone Ext:
Tech Fax:
Tech Fax Ext:
Tech Email: mdoyvr.com@privatwho.is
Name Server: ns1.wordpress.com
Name Server: ns2.wordpress.com
Name Server: ns3.wordpress.com
DNSSEC: unsigned
Registrar Abuse Contact Email:
domainbus@automatic.com
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.8772738409
URL of the ICANN Whois Data Problem Reporting
System: http://wdprs.internic.net/
>>> Last update of WHOIS database:
2018-07-18T10:25:04 <<<
```

For example, if we do a **WHOIS** command on the domain mdoyvr.com we get all this!

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR

```
$ echo | whois mdoyvr.com \  
| grep 'Registrar:' \  
| awk NR==1{'print $2,$3}'  
Automattic Inc.
```

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

And if we pipe that output to various grep and awk routines we can suss out things like Registrar's name and the expiry date.

CLICK



```
$ echo | openssl s_client -servername www.mdoyvr.com \  
-connect www.mdoyvr.com:443 2>/dev/null \  
| openssl x509 -noout -issuer \  
| grep -o 'O=.*' \  
| cut -f2 -d= | cut -f1
```

Let's Encrypt

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

And again if we pipe that output through various grep and cut commands we can suss out the name of the Certificate's issuer and the expiry date.

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR



**AppleScript has a *do shell script* command**

**FileMaker can perform AppleScripts**

**FileMaker can enter results of a shell script into a field**

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Now to automate these shell scripts I recalled that AppleScript has a “do shell script” command, and that FileMaker can perform AppleScripts and enter the results into a database field.

CLICK

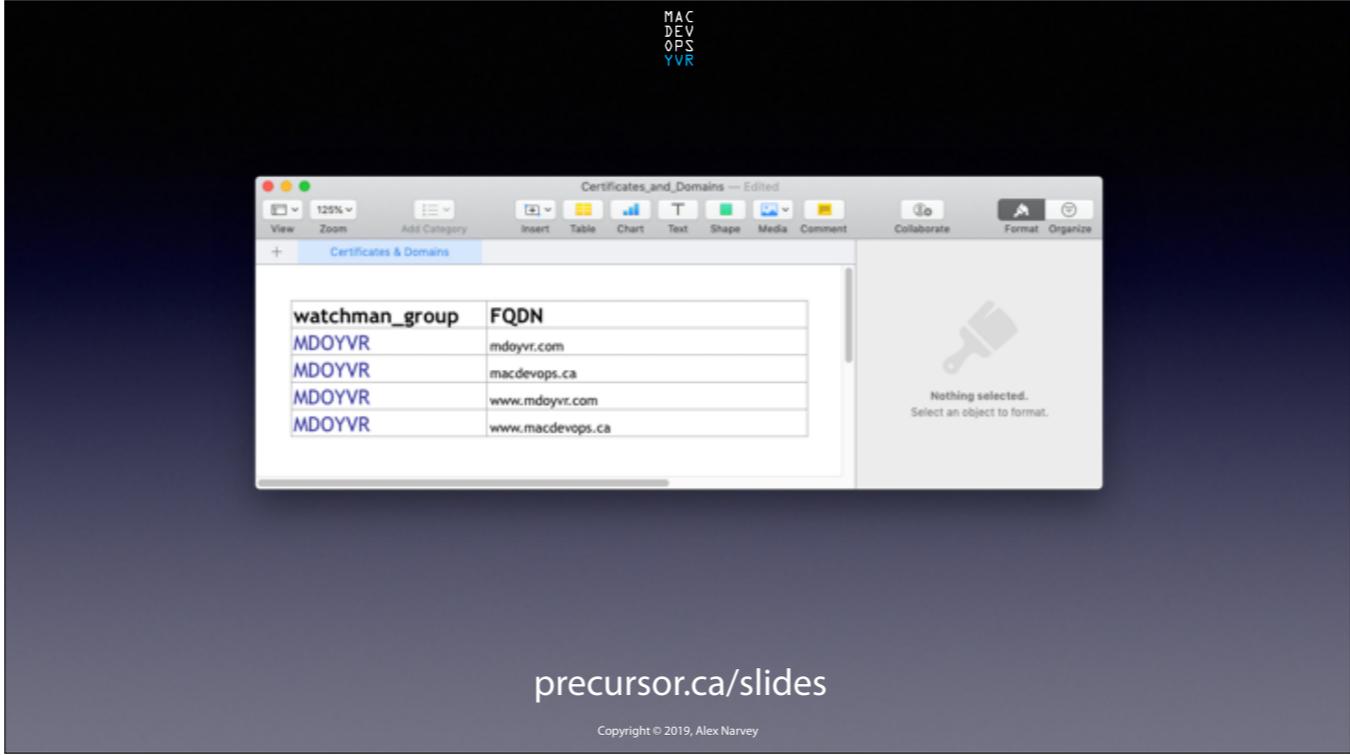
# 1) import domain names and cert hostnames from an Excel spreadsheet to create individual records in a FileMaker database

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

So all we need to do is import a list of domain names and certificate host names in to FileMaker and have it run these scripts for us.

CLICK



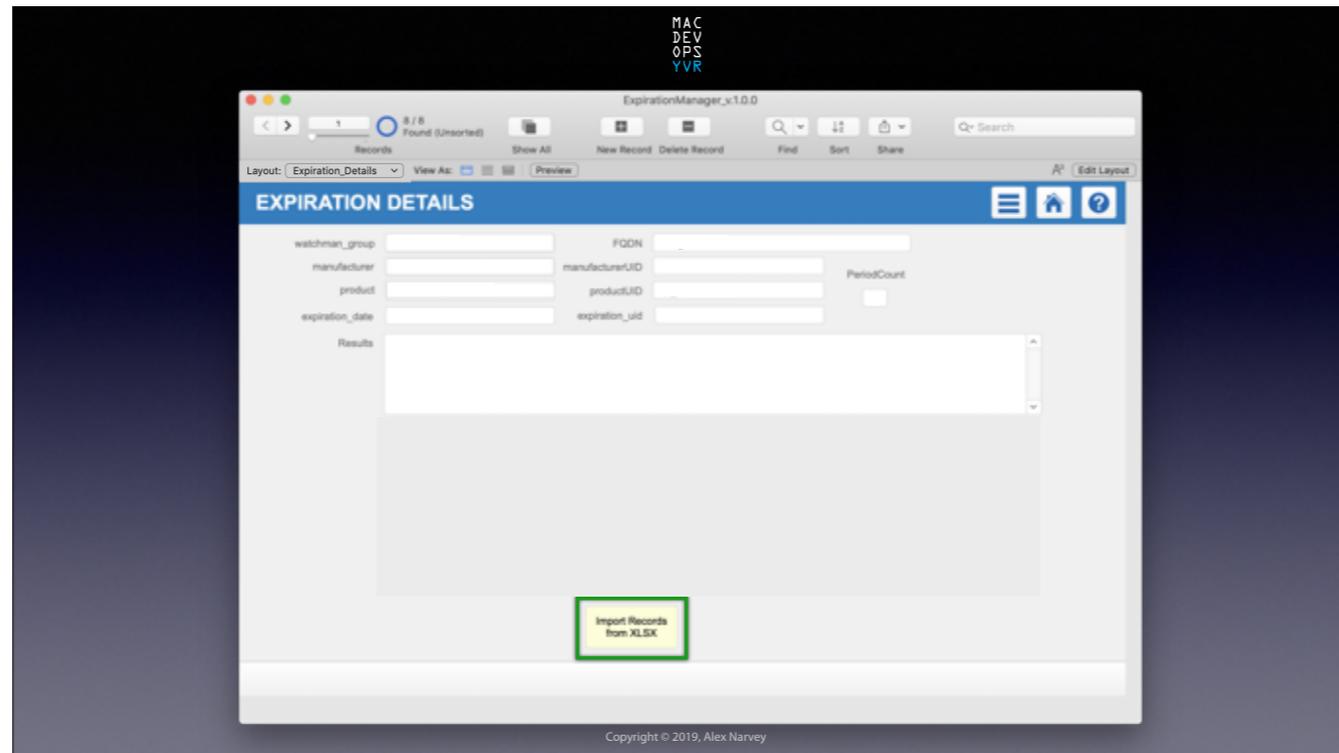
[precursor.ca/slides](http://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

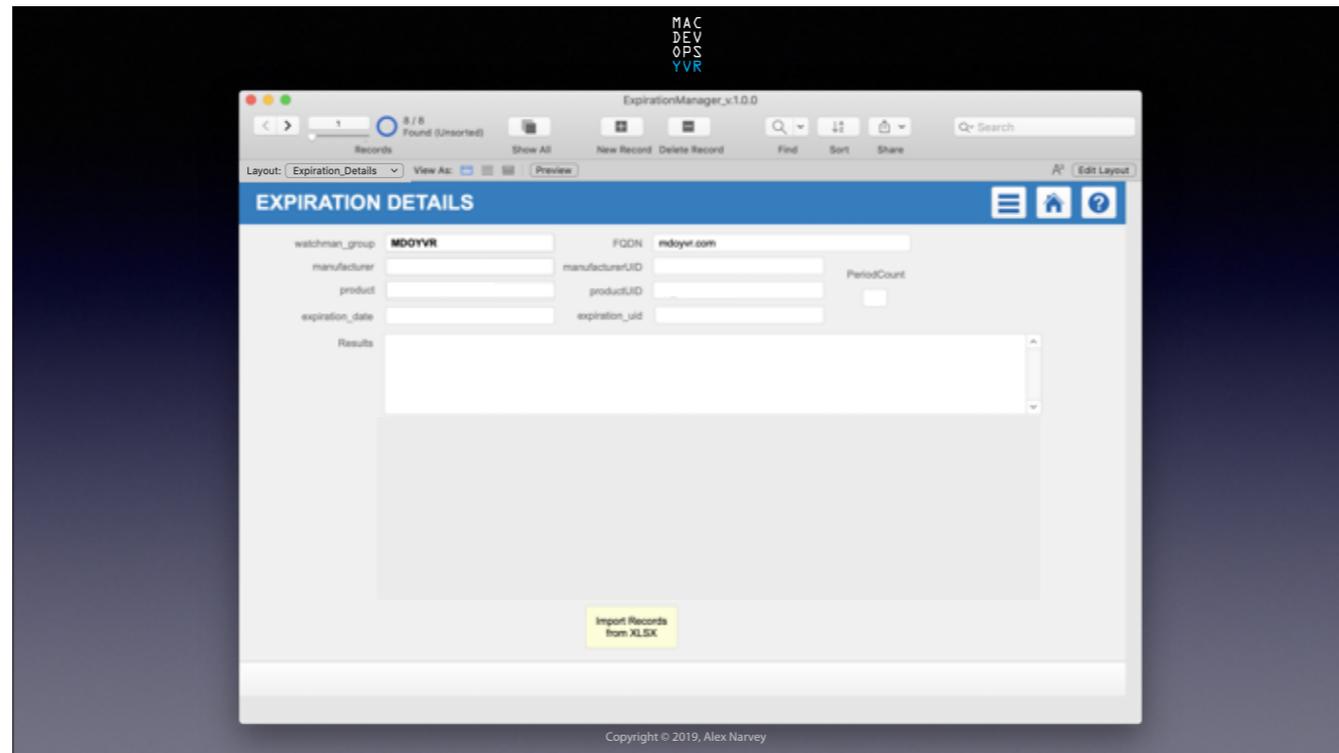
Here's an example spreadsheet. For the purpose of this exercise I am unofficially the MSP for MacDevOps: YVR and I have created a Group in my Watchman Dashboard called "MDOYVR".

I am going to track Mat X's new domain [mdoyvr.com](http://mdoyvr.com) and the old one too: [macdevops.ca](http://macdevops.ca) and the security certificates for both.

CLICK



So here's a look at the FileMaker Expiration Details layout.  
We click the button to run the import script and...  
CLICK



FileMaker now has some records with the Watchman Group name and FQDN we want expiration info for.

CLICK

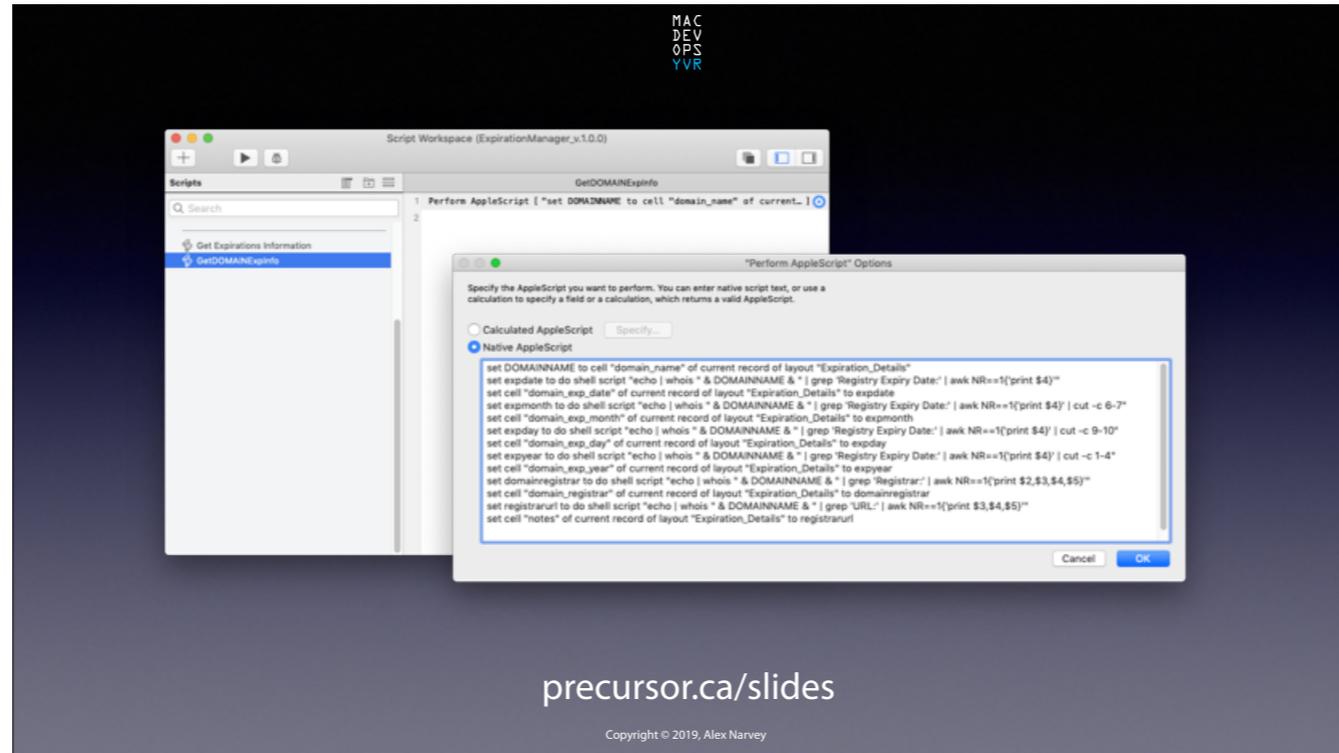
**2) a script loops through the records performing the appropriate *whois* or *openssl* command and entering the expiration info into the FileMaker record**

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

We get FileMaker to loop through these records, perform the scripts and put the info it collects into the appropriate fields of our records.

CLICK



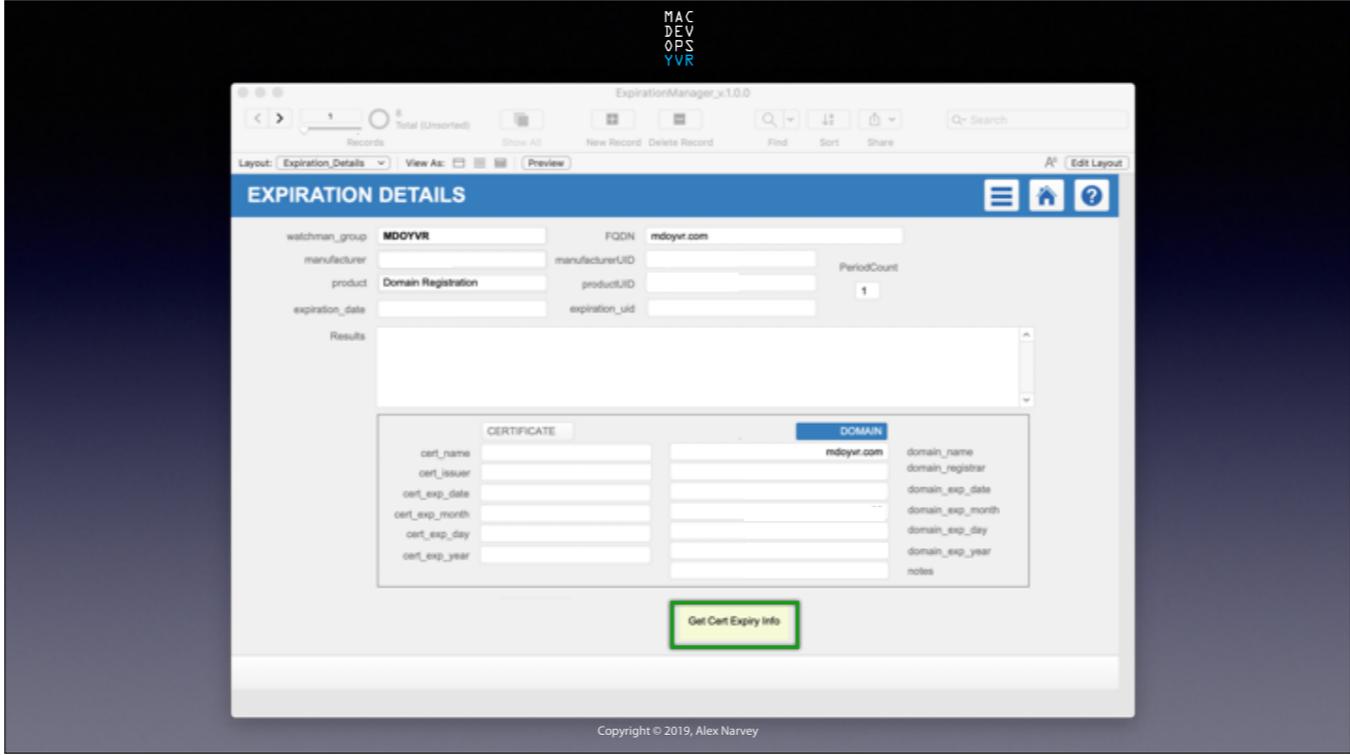
[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Here is an example of the script to get the info for a domain name.

CLICK

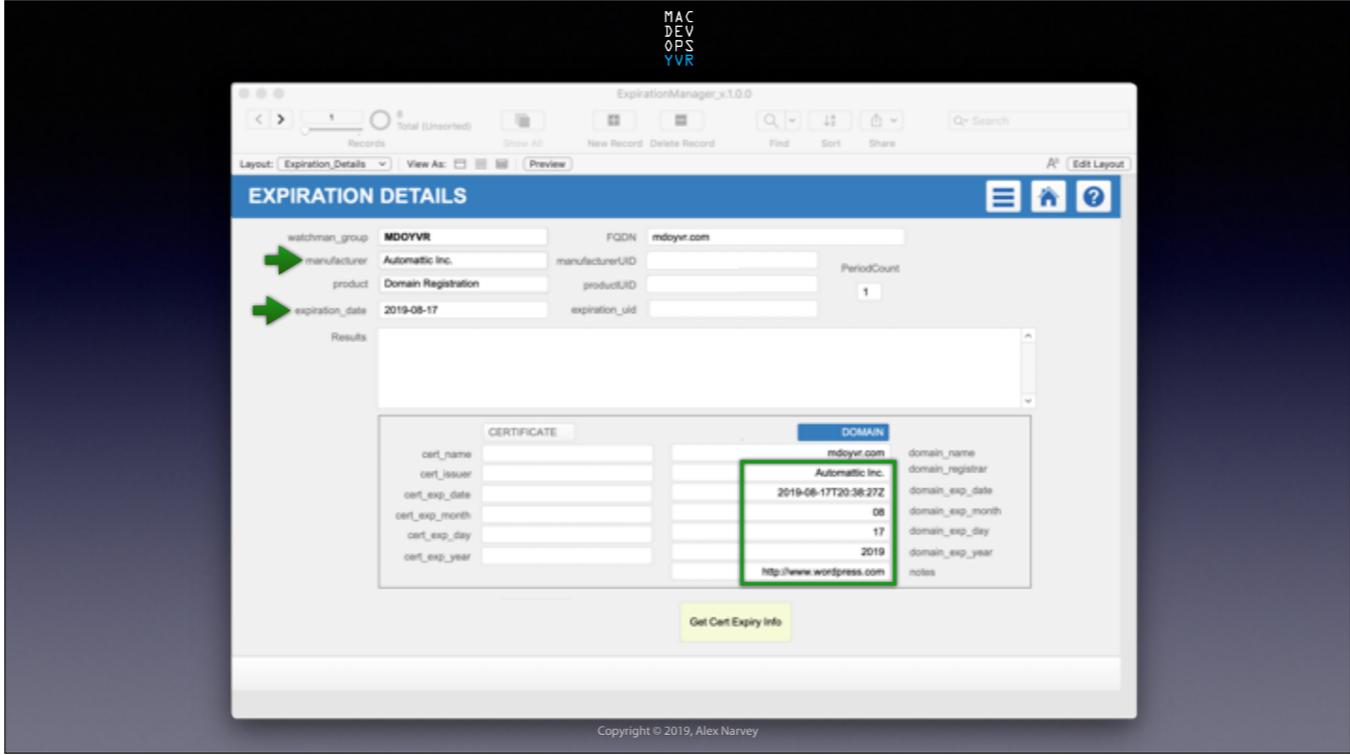
MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR



We click the button to start the script and it loops through the records and...

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR

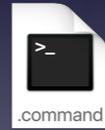


Voila! We have the expiration information.

CLICK

## Part 2

# Populate Watchman with expiration info



[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Now all we have to do is push that info up to our Watchman Monitoring Dashboard.

But how can we do that?

CLICK

The screenshot shows the 'Create an Expiration' page in the Watchman Monitoring REST API documentation. The page includes a sidebar with navigation options like 'Nested Expansion', 'Errors', 'Pagination', and 'Change Log'. The main content area is titled 'Create an Expiration' and contains a note about expiration ownership, a table of parameters, and an example request and object.

**Note about Expiration ownership.**  
When creating an Expiration you must provide either a `group_id` or `computer_id` for the Expiration to be associated to. Expirations created for a given `computer_id` will automatically be related to the Group of the assigned computer.

Param	Default	Purpose	Character Limit
<code>license_key</code>	string	The Expiration's license, serial number, or other identifier	191
<code>expires_at</code>	integer	The date the license expires on	
<code>expiration_manufacturer_id</code>	string	The UID of the expiration_manufacturer	191
<code>expiration_product_id</code>	string	The UID of the expiration_product	191
<code>group_id</code>	string	The UID of the Group	191

**Example Request**

```
curl https://your_subdomain.monitoringclient.com/v2.5/expiration/Post_Req-This_Example_API_Key \
-d expiration[license_key]=14940-11rups-odfadig \
-d expiration[expires_at]=2015-03-30 \
-d expiration[expiration_manufacturer_id]=ev_a77668913d \
-d expiration[expiration_product_id]=ep_8a6c751252 \
-d expiration[group_id]=g_ac23d783d9 \
-d expiration[computer_id]=c_3d51745e6b \
-d expiration[renewable]=false
```

**Example Object**

```
{
  "uid": "e_6340968c41",
  "license_key": "8128C345DEf0",
  "expires_at": null,
  "expiration_manufacturer": "ev_a77668913d",
  "expiration_product": "ep_8a6c751252",
  "computer": "c_3d51745e6b",
  "group": "g_ac23d783d9",
  "renewable": false,
  "notes": null,
  "created_at": 1441269663
}
```

precursor.ca/slides

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Watchman Monitoring has a REST API to interact with.  
And it has excellent documentation with plenty of detailed examples.  
CLICK

# { REST }

```
curl https://mdoyvr.monitoringclient.com/v2.5/expirations/?  
api_key=g0ZeR1PVYm7dIdwD--PGYDVzuBIOS_sp8aeHzD \  
-d expiration[license_key]=www.mdoyvr.com \  
-d expiration[expires_at]=2019-06-14 \  
-d expiration[expiration_manufacturer_id]=em_6c511bd3ac \  
-d expiration[expiration_product_id]=ep_fe4d20ebcc \  
-d expiration[group_id]=g_ff9679b20e \  
-d expiration[renewable]=true
```

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

According to Watchman we have to make a POST that looks something like this.

CLICK

# JSON

```
{  
  "uid": "e_614b9d8c41",  
  "license_key": "A12BC345DEF6",  
  "expires_at": "1558656000",  
  "expiration_manufacturer": "em_6c511bd3ac",  
  "expiration_product": "ep_fe4d20ebcc",  
  "computer": null,  
  "group": "g_ff9679b20e",  
  "renewable": true,  
  "notes": null,  
  "created_at": 1441209663  
}
```

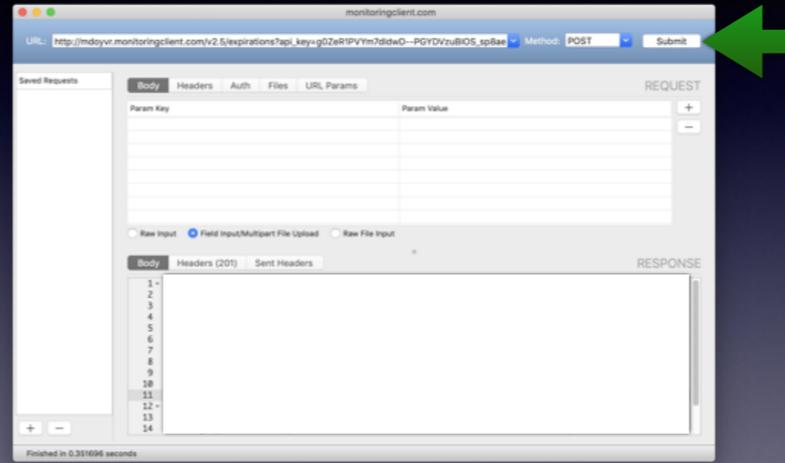
[precursor.ca/slides](http://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

And if our POST is successful it will populate Watchman with the info and return the following JSON to us.

CLICK

<https://github.com/mmattozzi/cocoa-rest-client>



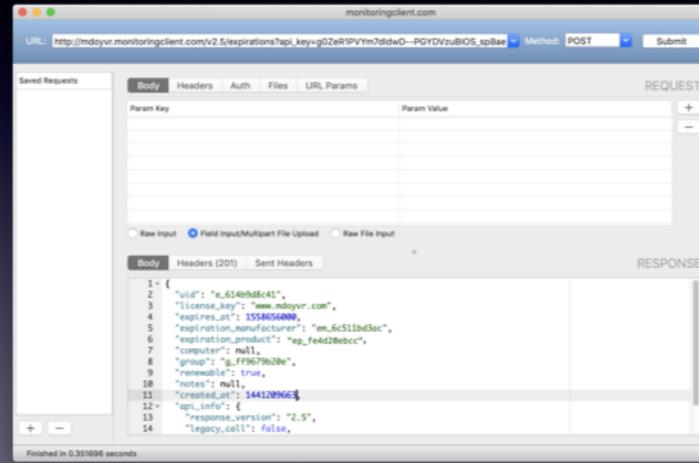
[precursor.ca/slides](http://precursor.ca/slides)

To test this out and practice I used the Cocoa Rest Client.

I just plugged the appropriate values into the URL line at the top and click the "Submit" button.

CLICK

<https://github.com/mmattozzi/cocoa-rest-client>



[precursor.ca/slides](http://precursor.ca/slides)

And sure enough, I got a valid JSON file returned with all the correct details.

CLICK

## REST can talk to Watchman API



**FileMaker's *Insert from URL* can do a REST POST  
and enter the JSON result into a field.**

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

So REST can talk to Watchman Monitoring and FileMaker has an *Insert from URL* command that can do a POST and then enter the resulting JSON into FileMaker fields.

CLICK

# { REST }

```
curl https://mdoyvr.monitoringclient.com/v2.5/expirations/?  
api_key=g0ZeR1PVYm7dIdwD--PGYDVzuBIOS_sp8aeHzD \  
-d expiration[license_key]=www.mdoyvr.com \  
-d expiration[expires_at]=2019-06-14 \  
-d expiration[expiration_manufacturer_id]=em_6c511bd3ac \  
-d expiration[expiration_product_id]=ep_fe4d20ebcc \  
-d expiration[group_id]=g_ff9679b20e \  
-d expiration[renewable]=true
```

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

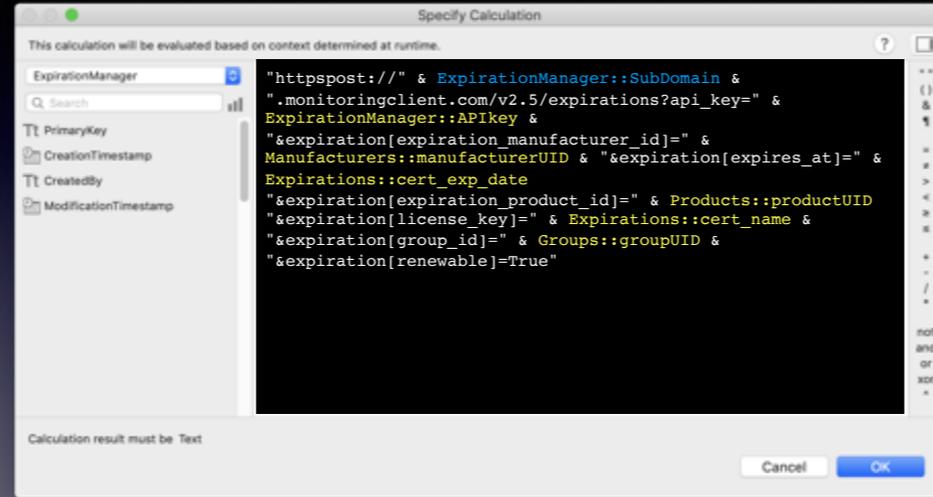
Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Now here's that example of a REST POST command from the Watchman documentation...

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR

POST



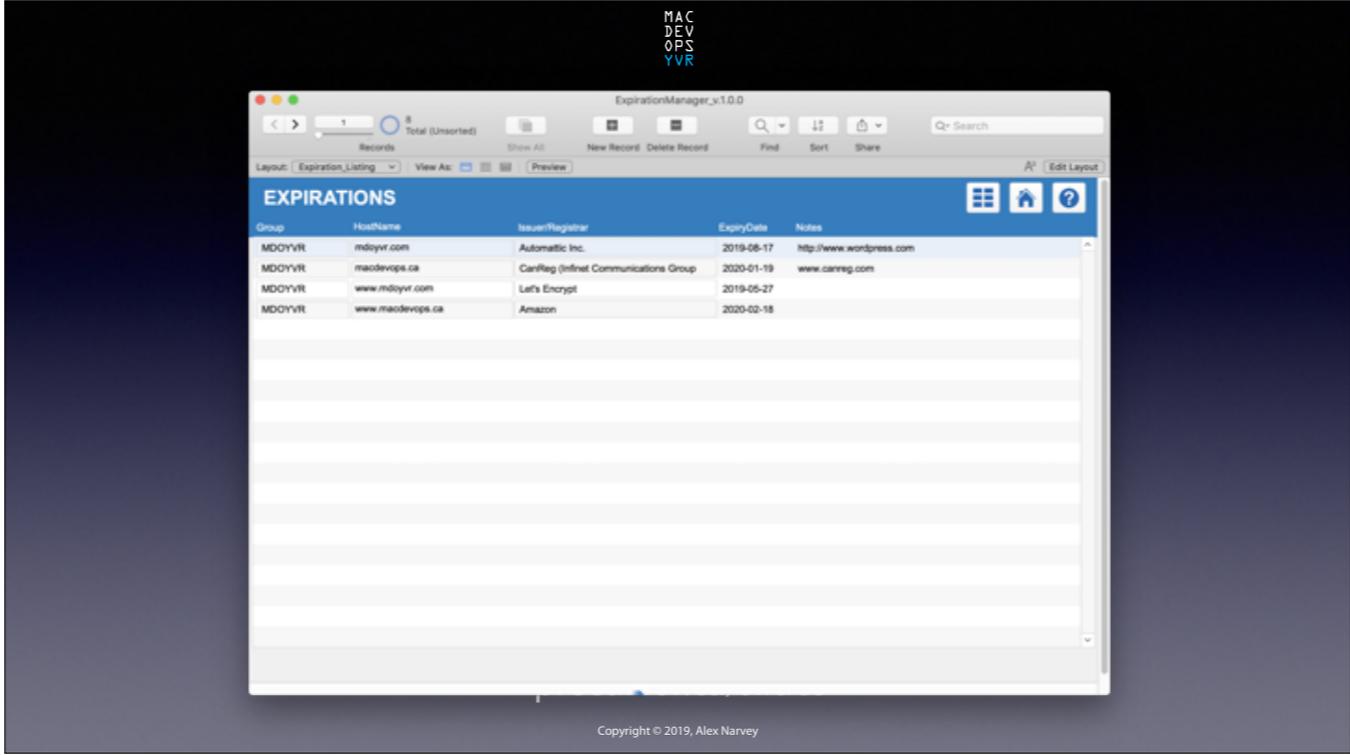
[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

And here is what it looks like in the "Insert from URL" command within FileMaker.

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR



Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Here's a look at all the records that got created in Watchman and recorded to FileMaker when we clicked that button.

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR

# Demo

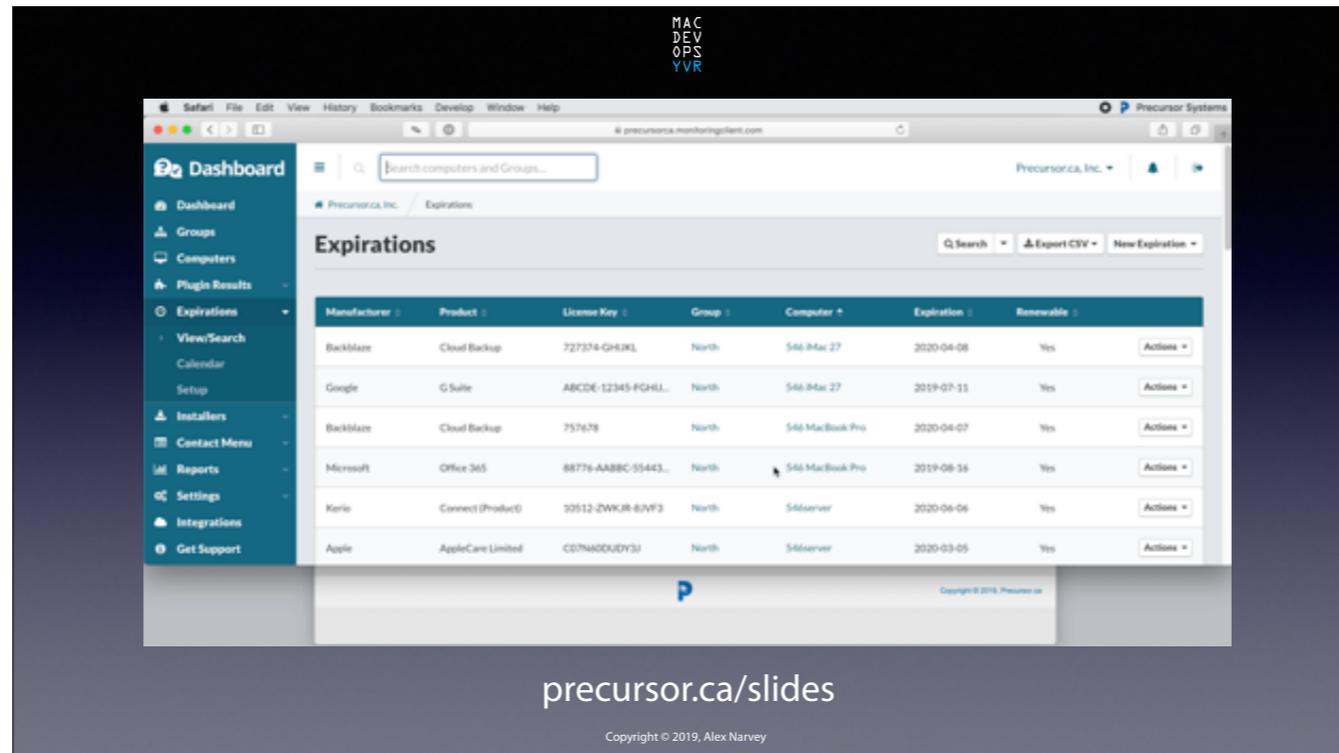
[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

And now we just barely have time for a Demo.

The demo is pre-recorded; but it has NOT been sped up. This is in actual time.

CLICK



You can see a Watchman Dashboard with some computer expirations. In this particular web view the Domain and Certificate expiration would appear at the top if there were any. So let's start the video and make some.

CLICK

First we import the records from our spreadsheet...

Now we get the expiration info. The first two are Domains and will appear on the right. The second two are Certificates and will appear on the left. In the real world when I used this on my actual Watchman Dashboard it took about 3-1/2 minutes to get the info for 65 domains and certs and 3 seconds to push them up to the Dashboard.

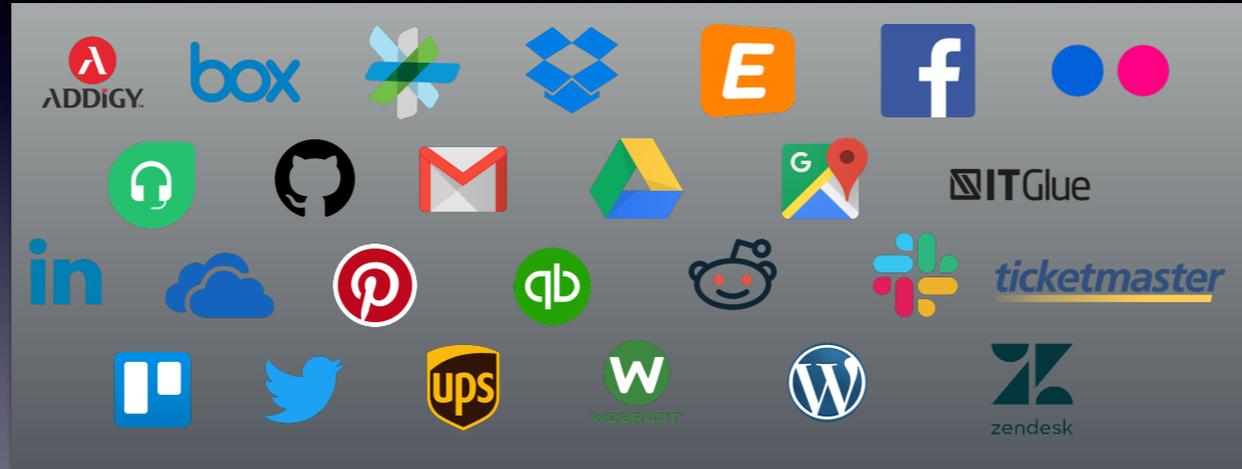
Now we are ready to add them Watchman...

They have been added to Watchman so I will refresh the page so you can see them...

TADA!

CLICK

# REST APIs



[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Watchman isn't the only online service that has a REST API. In fact, it is harder to find an online service that does NOT have one.

So FileMaker might be a good tool for you to work with to integrate your various services.

CLICK

# Resources

CocoaRestClient - Mike Mattozzi  
<https://github.com/mmattozzi/cocoa-rest-client>

BaseElements Plugin for FileMaker - Nicholas Orr  
<https://baseelementsplugin.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/115002990887>

DB Services Integrating FileMaker With RESTful APIs - dbservices Database Development & Consulting  
<https://dbservices.com/articles/integrating-filemaker-with-rest-apis/>

WEB001 - Manage Cloud Productivity Tools with Web Services and a Custom App - Salvatore Colangelo  
<https://community.filemaker.com/docs/DOC-7396>

Explore cURL for FileMaker (Innovation 004) - FileMaker DevCon 2017  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15JcmQ\\_JiQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15JcmQ_JiQ)

FileMaker 45 day trial:  
<https://content.filemaker.com/filemaker-trial>

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Here are some resources including some good presentations from FileMaker Devcon which are more detailed.

FileMaker is free if you are a member of the Apple Consultants Network or a FileMaker Reseller.

And it is also available as a 45 day trial.

Don't worry about writing these url's down as the slides are available at **[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)**

CLICK

MAC  
DEV  
OPS  
YVR

Alex Narvey



<https://Precursor.ca>



@precursorca

[precursor.ca/slides](https://precursor.ca/slides)

Copyright © 2019, Alex Narvey

Thanks for listening. I hope you find this useful.

THE END.