



Lab 8: Firewalls & Intrusion Detection Systems

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Firewall & IDS

- Firewall
 - A device or application that **analyzes packet headers** and enforces policy based on protocol type, source address, destination address, source port, and destination port. Packets that do not match policy are rejected
- Intrusion Detection System (IDS)
 - A device or application that **analyzes whole packets**, both header and payload, looking for known events. When a known event is detected, a **log message is generated** detailing the event
- Intrusion Prevent System (IPS)
 - A device or application that **analyzes whole packets**, both header and payload, looking for known events. When a known event is detected, **the packet is rejected**
- Modern devices combines all of these functions in a single device/application (Smart Firewall)



Types of IDS

- Host-based IDS (HIDS)
 - Installed locally on machines
 - Monitoring local user security
 - Monitoring program execution
 - Monitoring local system logs
- Network-based IDS (NIDS)
 - Sensors are installed on the network
 - Monitor network activity (deep packet inspection)



Types of Network-based IDS

- Signature-based IDS
 - Compares incoming packets with known signatures
 - E.g., Snort, Bro, Suricata
- Anomaly-based IDS
 - Learns the normal behavior of the system
 - Generates alerts on packets that are different from the normal behavior



Signature-based IDS

- Anti-virus tools
- Problems
 - “Zero-day” attacks
 - Polymorphic attacks



Anomaly-based IDS

- Anomaly-based IDS is capable of identifying “Zero-day” attacks
- Problems
 - High false positive rates
 - Labeled training data



IDS Evaluation Metrics

- True Positives (TP)
 - A genuine attack is detected
- True Negatives (TN)
 - Benign traffic identified as benign
- False Positives (FP)
 - Harmless behavior is misclassified as an attack
- False negatives (FN)
 - A genuine attack is not detected

- An intrusion detection system is:
 - Accurate: if it detects all genuine attacks
 - Precise: if it never reports legitimate behavior as an attack



IDS Evaluation Metrics

- The true positive rate is: $TP / (TP + FN)$
 - TP is the number of the true positives
 - FN is the number of the false negatives
 - $TP + FN$ is the total number of positives
- The false positive rate: $FP / (FP + TN)$
 - FP is the number of the false positives
 - TN is the number of the true negatives
 - $FP + TN$ is the total number of negatives



IDS Evaluation Metrics

- An undetected attack might lead to severe problems; frequent false alarms can lead to the system being disabled or ignored. A perfect IDS would be both accurate and precise
- Suppose that only 1% of traffic are actually attacks; the detection accuracy of your IDS is 90%; the false positive rate is 10%
- If you have an alarm, what is the chance that it is a false alarm?



IDS Evaluation Metrics

- Suppose that only 1% of traffic are actually attacks
 - 1000 events: 990 benign; 10 attacks
- The detection accuracy of your IDS is 90%
 - True positive rate: 90%
 - True positive number: $10 * 90\% = 9$ true alarms
- The false positive rate is 10%
 - False positive rate: 10%
 - False positive number: $990 * 10\% = 99$ false alarms
- $P(\text{attacks/alarms}) = 9 / (9 + 99) = 0.083333$
- There is approximately 92% chance that a raised alarm is false

Snort

- Signature-based IDS
- Can be run as IPS or IDS
- First released in 1997 but still updated and maintained today
- Latest version Snort 2.9.8.2





Snort Rules

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET  
any (msg:"SCAN SYN FIN";flags:SF; reference:  
arachnids,198; classtype:attempted-recon;  
sid:624; rev:1;)
```

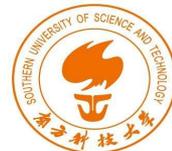
rule header (rule options)



Snort Rule Header

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any  
(msg:"SCAN SYN FIN";flags:SF; reference:  
arachnids,198; classtype:attempted-recon; sid:624;  
rev:1;)
```





Snort Rule Header Action

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any  
(msg:"SCAN SYN FIN";flags:SF; reference: arachnids,198;  
classtype:attempted-recon; sid:624; rev:1;)
```

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any
```



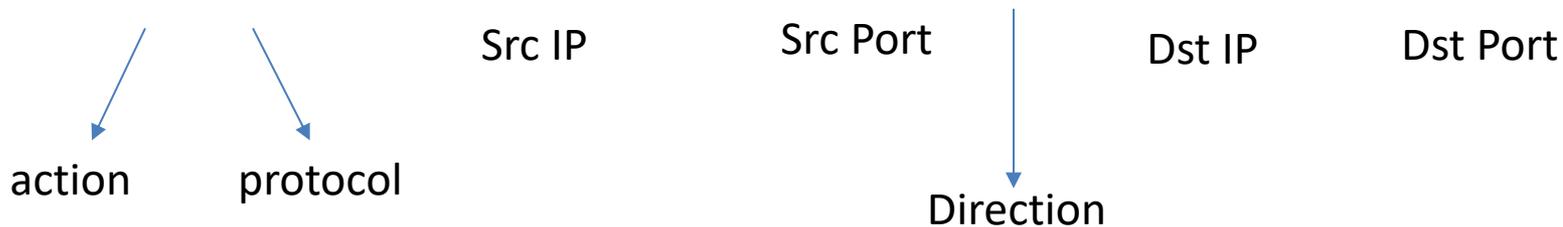
1. **alert**: Alerts and logs the packet when triggered.
2. **log**: Only logs the packet when triggered.
3. **pass**: Ignores or drops the packet or traffic matching.
4. **activate**: Alerts then activates a dynamic rule or rules.
5. **dynamic**: Ignores, until started by the activate rule, at which time, acts as a log rule.
6. **drop**: block and log the packet
7. **reject**: block the packet, log it, and then send a TCP reset if the protocol is TCP or an ICMP port unreachable message if the protocol is UDP.
8. **sdrop**: block the packet but do not log it.



Snort Rule Header Procotol

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any  
(msg:"SCAN SYN FIN";flags:SF; reference: arachnids,198;  
classtype:attempted-recon; sid:624; rev:1;)
```

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any
```



Protocols: TCP, UDP, ICMP, and IP

Future may include: ARP, IGRP, GRE, OSPF, RIP, IPX, etc.



Snort Rule Header IP

```
          Src IP          Src Port          Dst IP          Dst Port
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any
alert tcp 192.168.1.0/24 any -> 192.168.1.0/24 1:1024
alert tcp ![192.168.1.0/24,10.1.1.0/24] any -> 192.168.1.44
```

- \$EXTERNAL_NET is a config value set in snort.conf
- IP is specified also as dotted notation with CIDR masks.
“any” is also valid
- ! is the negation operator
- Multiple IP specifications can be included using square brackets [] and comma-separating. Do not add spaces



Snort Rule Header Port

```
          Src IP          Src Port    Dst IP    Dst Port
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any
alert tcp 192.168.1.0/24 any -> 192.168.1.0/24 1:1024
alert tcp ![192.168.1.0/24,10.1.1.0/24] any -> 192.168.1.44
```

Port can be specified as:

any -- any port

1:1024 -- ports 1 to 1024 inclusive

55: -- ports 55 and higher

:55 -- ports 0 to 55 (inclusive)

negation still works:

!6000:6001 - matches any port except 6000 and 6001



Snort Rule Header Direction

```
          Src IP          Src Port    Dst IP    Dst Port
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any
alert tcp 192.168.1.0/24 any -> 192.168.1.0/24 1:1024
alert tcp ![192.168.1.0/24,10.1.1.0/24] any -> 192.168.1.44
```

Direction can be specified as:

- > From right IP/Port (source) to left IP/Port (destination)
- <> Any direction

Note: <- does not exist... so the snort rules always read consistently.



Snort Rule Option

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any \  
(msg:"SCAN SYN FIN";flags:SF; reference: arachnids,198; \  
classtype:attempted-recon; sid:624; rev:1;)
```

name:value;

msg: <sample message>	Logs message into /var/snort/log
flags: <AFPRSU210>	Matches specific TCP flags
content: <text>	Matches specified text in packet
content: <hexadecimal>	Matches specified hex chars
sid: <snort ID>	Unique number to identify rules easily. Your rules should use SIDs > 1,000,000
rev: <revision #>	Rule revision number
reference:<ref>	Where to get more info about the rule
gid:<generator ID>	Identifies which part of Snort generated the alert. See /etc/snort/gen-msg.map for values



Snort

- More in the lab 8 instruction!