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The bridge to possible

Snort2 to Snort3 Rule Migration

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BRKSEC-2083



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Agenda

- Intrusion Basics
- Rule Actions
- Intrusion Policy UI Elements
- Custom Rule Migration
- Rule Recommendations
- Conclusion

Intrusion Basics



Intrusion Basics

- Intrusion Detection
 - Passively monitor the network traffic
 - Generate alerts for potential intrusion
 - Known as **I**ntrusion **D**etection **S**ystems (**IDS**)
- Intrusion Prevention
 - IDS + Ability to block traffic
 - Known as **I**ntrusion **P**revention **S**ystems (**IPS**)

Inspection Modes



Name

Balanced_Security_Connectivity

Description

Drop when Inline

☐

Mode Detection ▼

Disable Prevention

Detection

Rule Actions



Rule Actions from UI - Snort2 (1/4)

Rule State ▼ Event Filtering ▼ Dynamic State ▼ Alerting ▼ Comments ▼

Generate Events

Drop and Generate Events

Disable

Message ↑

[OO] SMS Information Leakage variant Malicious apps_0516 (2)

- Generate Events: Detect and Notify through event. Does not drop the offending packet
- Drop & Generate Events: Detect, Drop and notify through event
- Disable: The rule is disabled for evaluation

Rule Actions from UI – Snort3 (2/4)

Rule Action

Block

Alert

Rewrite

Pass

Drop

Reject

Disable

Revert to default

Search by CVE, SID, Reference Info, or Rule Message

Preset Filters: 471 Alert rules | 8,998 Block rules | 37,563 Disabled rule

Rule Action

heartbeat read overrun attempt detected	<div>Alert</div>	⌵	⌵
id client HELLO after server HELLO ...	<div>Alert</div>	⌵	⌵
id server HELLO without client HEL...	<div>Alert</div>	⌵	⌵

Rule Actions from UI – Snort3 (3/4)

- Pass: Stop evaluating subsequent rules against the packet.
- Alert: Generate event only.
- Block: Drop the packet & Block remaining session.
- Drop: Drop the packet only.
- Rewrite: Required if "replace" option is used in signature/rule.
- Reject: Inject TCP RST or ICMP Unreachable
- Disable: The rule is disabled for evaluation.

Snort2 vs Snort3 Rule (4/4)

```
alert tcp $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET $HTTP_PORTS (msg:"BLACKLIST URI request for known malicious URI"; flow:established,to_server; content:"/setup_b.asp?prj="; nocase; http_uri; content:"&pid="; nocase; http_uri; content:"&mac="; nocase; http_uri; pcre:"/\//setup_b\.asp\?prj=\d\x26pid=[^\r\n]*\x26mac=/Ui"; metadata:service http; sid:19626; rev:2;)
```



```
alert http
(
  msg:"BLACKLIST URI request for known malicious URI";
  flow:established,to_server;
  http_uri;
  regex:"/setup_b\.asp\?prj=\d&pid=.*&mac=", nocase, fast_pattern;
  sid:19626; rev:4;
)
```

Intrusion Policy UI Elements



Intrusion Policy UI (1/7)

1

Show Snort 3 Sync status ⓘ

2

Intrusion Policy	Description	Base Policy	Usage Information	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version	
Balanced_Security_Connectivity		Balanced Security and Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version	✎ 📄 🗑
Connectivity_Over_Security		Connectivity Over Security	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version	✎ 📄 🗑
Max_Detection		Maximum Detection	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version	✎ 📄 🗑
Security_Over_Connectivity		Security Over Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version	✎ 📄 🗑
Test_Custom_IPS		Balanced Security and Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version	✎ 📄 🗑

3

All IPS Rules

IPS Mapping ⓘ

Compare Policies

Create Policy

4

5

Intrusion Policy UI (2/7)

1

Intrusion Policies

Network Analysis Policies

Show Snort 3 Sync status ⓘ

Information

All IPS Rules

IPS Mapping ⓘ

Compare Policies

Create Policy

Intrusion Policy				
Balanced_Security_Connectivity	Balanced Security and Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ
Connectivity_Over_Security	Connectivity Over Security	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ
Max_Detection	Maximum Detection	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ
Security_Over_Connectivity	Security Over Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ
Test_Custom_IPS	Balanced Security and Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ

FMC 7.0 and above versions have a Snort 3 version for all the intrusion policies. Sync status shows the synchronization status of the Snort 3 policy configurations with the Snort 2 version. If there are additional policy configuration changes after the last synchronization, you may need to re-sync manually. See the sync status of each policy to know more.

Intrusion Policy UI (3/7)

Intrusion Policies		Network Analysis Policies	
Hide Snort 3 Sync status ⓘ		Search by Intrusion Policy, Description, or Base Policy	
		All IPS Rules	IPS Mapping ⓘ
		Compare Policies	Create Policy
Intrusion Policy	Description	Base Policy	Usage Information
Balanced_Security_Connectivity		Balanced Security and Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device
➔ Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2. 2021-11-24 05:26:09			Snort 2 Version Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ
Connectivity_Over_Security		Connectivity Over Security	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device
➔ Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2			Snort 2 Version Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ
Max_Detection		Maximum Detection	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device
➔ Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2			Snort 2 Version Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ
Security_Over_Connectivity		Security Over Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device
➔ Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2. 2021-11-24 05:26:09			Snort 2 Version Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ
Test_Custom_IPS		Balanced Security and Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 1 Device
➔ Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2. 2021-11-24 05:26:09			Snort 2 Version Snort 3 Version ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ

Intrusion Policy UI (4/7)

Snort 2 to Snort 3 Sync Summary

This is a utility to synchronize Snort 2 policy configuration with Snort 3 version to start with a similar coverage.

- Snort 3 policy configuration is synched from Snort 2 version by the system when FMC is upgraded from pre-7.0 version.
- Before upgrading a device to Snort 3, If changes are made in Snort 2 version, you can use this utility to have the latest synchronization from Snort 2 version to Snort 3 version so that you start with similar coverage.

Note: After moving to Snort 3, it is recommended that you manage the Snort 3 version of the policy independently and do not use this utility as a regular operation.

[Click here](#) to learn more.

Policy Name: Balanced_Security_Connectivity

➔ **Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2.** 2021-11-24 05:26:09

Used by: 1 Access Control Policy | 1 Device (Snort 2), 0 Devices (Snort 3)

Summary Details

Rule Overrides

- ✔ Same base policy and inspection mode are updated to Snort3 policy.
- ✔ All rules with user action overrides synced to Snort 3 version.

[Download Summary Details](#)

Close

Intrusion Policy UI (5/7)

2

3

IPS Policy Mapping



For intrusion policies, Cisco Talos provides mapping information which is used to find the corresponding Snort 2 version of the policies for the Snort 3 version. This mapping ensures that Snort 3 version of policies have their equivalent Snort 2 version. However, to achieve this there could be a few considerations, for example:

- An exact rule mapping between the Snort 2 version and the Snort 3 version

- One Snort 2 rule could split into two or more Snort 3 rules

- Two or more Snort 2 rules can be converted into one Snort 3 rule

Note: It is possible that a few Snort 2 rules do not exist in Snort 3. In such cases, those rule overrides will not be migrated.

The following Snort 3 intrusion policies are automatically mapped to a Snort 2 equivalent policy. Link to [learn more](#)

Snort 3 to Snort 2 IPS Policy Mapping

▼ View Mappings

Snort 3 Intrusion Policy

Balanced Security and Connectivity

Connectivity Over Security

Maximum Detection

No Rules Active

Security Over Connectivity

Mapped Snort 2 Intrusion Policy

▶ Balanced Security and Connectivity

▶ Connectivity Over Security

▶ Maximum Detection

▶ No Rules Active

▶ Security Over Connectivity

Cancel

OK

Intrusion Policy UI (6/7)

4

Intrusion Policies

Network Analysis Policies

Policy Information

Rules

Firepower Recommendations

> Advanced Settings

> Policy Layers

Policy Information

< Back

Name

Balanced_Security_Connectivity

Description

Drop when Inline

☐

Base Policy

Balanced Security and Connectivity

Manage Base Policy

✓ The base policy is up to date (Rule Update 2022-03-30-001-vrt)

This policy has 9501 enabled rules

Manage Rules

→ 480 rules generate events

View

🕒 9021 rules drop and generate events

View

No recommendations have been generated. Click here to set up Firepower recommendations.

Intrusion Policy UI (7/7)

5

< Intrusion Policy

Policy Name: Balanced_Security_Connectivity

Used by: 1 Access Control Policy | 1 Device

Mode: Detection | Base Policy: Balanced Security and Connectivity

Disabled 37503 | Alert 471 | Block 8992 | Overridden 229 | Rewrite 0 | Pass 0 | Drop 0 | Reject 0

Rule Groups

51 items +

Excluded | Included | Overridden

All Rules Recommend

> Browser (6 groups)

> Server (8 groups)

> Policy (1 group)

> Indicator (4 groups)

> Potentially Unwanted Applications (3 groups)

> Malware (5 groups)

> File (9 groups)

All Rules

All rules assigned to current intrusion policy irrespective of rule group

Rule Action ▼

46,966 rules Preset Filters: 471 Alert rules | 8,992 Block rules | 37,503 Disabled rules | 229 Overridden rules | Advanced Filters

<input type="checkbox"/>	GID:SID	Info	Rule Action	Assigned Groups
> <input type="checkbox"/>	137:3	(ssl) heartbeat read overrun attempt detected	Alert	Protocol/Builtins
> <input type="checkbox"/>	137:1	(ssl) invalid client HELLO after server HELLO ...	Alert	Protocol/Builtins
> <input type="checkbox"/>	137:2	(ssl) invalid server HELLO without client HEL...	Alert	Protocol/Builtins
> <input type="checkbox"/>	137:4	(ssl) large heartbeat response detected	Alert	Protocol/Builtins
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:27984	APP-DETECT DNS request for Dynamic Inter...	Block	Potentially Unwanted Appl...
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:27994	APP-DETECT DNS request for Dynamic Inter...	Block	Potentially Unwanted Appl...

Surprised

- Why is the sync shown only for some policies?
- Why is the sync date not current?
- Why do we maintain snort2 and snort3 version of IPS policies?

Custom Rules

Custom Rules Migration (1/2)

Snort 2 All Rules

Snort 3 All Rules

[Intrusion Policy](#)

Back To Top

67 items

Search Rule Group

All Rules

Local Rules

> Browser (6 groups)

All Rules

All rules assigned to current intrusion policy irrespective of rule group

Rule Actions

Search by CVE, SID, Reference Info, or Rule Message

Tasks

46,966 rules

	GID:SID	Info	Rule Action	Assigned Gro
>	<input type="checkbox"/> 148:2	(cip) CIP data is non-conforming to ODV...	<input type="radio"/> Disable (Default)	Protocol/Buil

Upload Snort 3 rules

Convert Snort 2 rules and import

Convert Snort 2 rules and download

Custom Rules Migration (2/2)



Rule Recommendations



Rule Recommendations (1/4)

The screenshot shows a 'Firepower Rule Recommendations' dialog box. It has a title bar with a question mark and a close button. The main content area is divided into sections. Section 1, 'Security Level (Click tiles to select size)', shows a progress bar with four segments, the first two of which are filled with blue. Section 2, 'Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules', has an unchecked checkbox and a warning icon. Below it is a 'No Impact' message. Section 3, 'Protected Networks', has a dropdown menu and an 'Add +' button. At the bottom are 'Cancel', 'Generate', and 'Generate and Apply' buttons.

Firepower Rule Recommendations ? X

1 Security Level (Click tiles to select size)

2 ☐ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules ⓘ

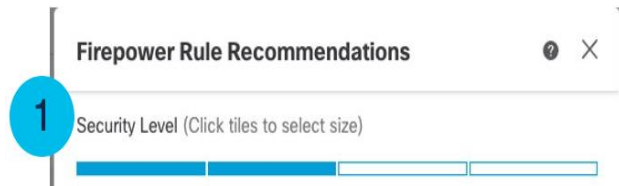
No Impact– No new rules will be enabled and no existing rules will be disabled. To increase protections, please select a higher Security Level.

3 Protected Networks ⓘ

▼ Add +

Cancel Generate Generate and Apply

Rule Recommendations (2/4)



Lower Security

Disables all rules except ones in CoS that matches potential vulnerabilities from discovered hosts.

Higher Efficiency

Keep existing & Disable rules for vulnerabilities not applicable on discovered hosts.

Focused Security (1)

Increased security enables rules for vulnerabilities based on SoC on discovered hosts.

Focused Security (2)

Increased protection enables rules based on MD for discovered host. *May impact performance.

Rule Recommendations (3/4)

2

☐ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules ⓘ

No Impact- No new rules will be enabled and no existing rules will be disabled. To increase protections, please select a higher Security Level.

- Security Level matches the base policy or lower
- Accept Recommendation is disabled.
- No changes to existing rules

Rule Recommendations (4/4)



3 Protected Networks ⓘ

▼ Add +

- Specify networks to monitor.
- Default value is Any (IPv4 + IPv6).
- Custom network objects can be chosen.

Intrusion Rule Updates

Product Updates

Rule Updates

Geolocation Updates

Running Snort Rule update version: **2022-03-30-001-vrt**

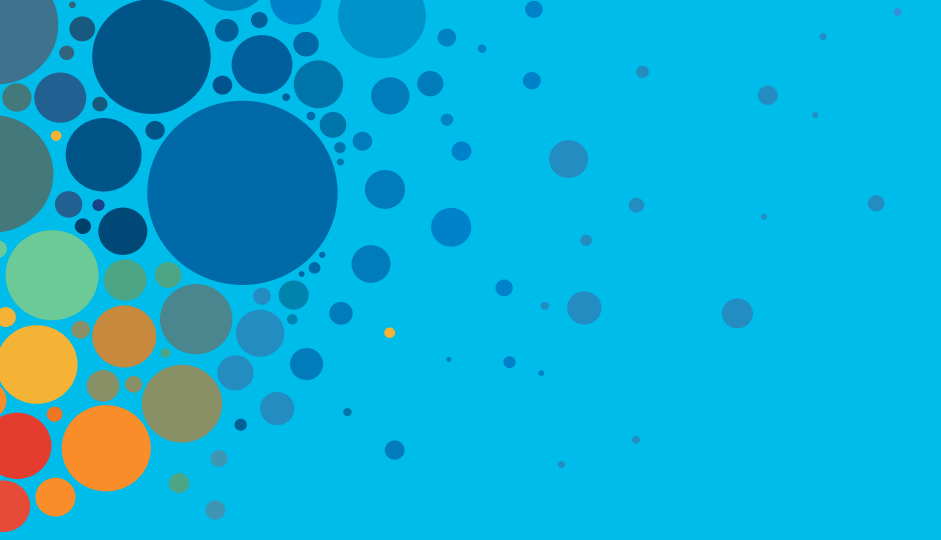
Running Lightweight Security Package (LSP) version: **lsp-rel-20220330-1606**

Snort2

Snort3

Conclusion

1. Exact rule mapping might not exist.
2. Migration is one way. (Snort2 to Snort3, not other way)
3. Synchronization does not migrate thresholds/suppressions.
4. Local rules to be migrated manually through built in tool.
5. Recommendations are not migrated



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Thank you

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