

# Lab Class 5 - Intrusion Detection using Snort

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## References:

- [Snort website](#)
- [Snort manual](#) and [Documentation](#)
- [Snort cheat sheet](#)

## Assignment 1 - Snort initial experiments

1. Install **Snort 2.9** on one of the machines.
2. Try Snort in **packet sniffer mode** (check the [snort man page](#) for details on each of the command line option):

```
snort -v
```

3. With application data dumping:

```
snort -vd -i <interface> (run this in one machine and then run telnet/ping from another machine into it)
```

4. In packet logger mode (ascii -- other modes exist):

```
snort -vd -K ascii -l ./log_folder/
```

5. Now ping a machine and check what was logged in the folder "log\_folder".

**Note:** Directories are created according to the source/destination of traffic. Within them, are the files for several protocols/packets.

6. Log in binary (tcpdump) format:

```
snort -b -l ./log
```

7. Snort in "playback mode" from log file:

```
snort -vd -r snort.log
```

8. Reading the packet log file using tcpdump:

```
tcpdump -r snort.log
```

## Assignment 2 - Running Snort as a simple NIDS

1. Create a configuration file (**snort.conf**) to:
  - Log communications using ``ICMP``
  - Log and alert when **GET** commands are detected in **HTTP** connections
  - Send all data from previous **HTTP** sessions to a separate log file, in printable (readable) format

- The configuration file can be as follows:

```
log icmp any any -> any any (msg:"Teste";sid:00001;)
```

```
alert tcp any any -> any any (msg:"Um Get!"; content:"GET";  
nocase; sid:00002;)
```

```
log tcp any any -> any any  
(logto:"myhttpdata";session:printable;sid:00003;)
```

Check the meaning of these configurations and how to write rules in the [Snort manual](#) and [Documentation](#).

2. To avoid interference from other traffic test locally (i.e., using the `loopback` interface) with:

```
snort -vd -l ./snort_log/ -c snort.conf -K ascii -k none -i lo
```

3. Now ping your own machine and access a local webserver (may need to install and start it):

- `ping 127.0.0.1`

- `telnet 127.0.0.1 80`

- `GET /`

4. Check files `snort_log/alert` and `snort_log/myhttpdata` and also within folder `127.0.0.1`.

5. Investigate how to use Snort to **detect port scanning** (e.g., `nmap`):

- Check the following documentation on `sfportscan`
  - Register and download `snortrules-snapshot-29111` (<https://www.snort.org/downloads#rules>)
  - Using the configuration file for Snort (usually under `/etc/snort/snort.conf`) and the community rules for your Snort version (that you can also put in `/etc/snort/`), set Snort to detect port scanning attempts (e.g., with `nmap`) to the local system.
  - Run Snort in NIDS mode
  - Launch a port scan (e.g. `UDP` port scan with `nmap`) to the system, and check if it was detected in the log files
- Investigate other attacks that can be detected by Snort by configuring rules to testing them accordingly.

Naturally, there are more user-friendly dashboards to keep track of Snort events. For example: in a Grafana [Snort IDS/IPS Dashboard](#)

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