SDN-Based Stateless Firewall

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I. Project Overview

In this project a software defined environment based on mininet and containernet is created. This SDN is OpenFlow-based, and a flow-based SDN firewall implementation is needed. To achieve this flow-based firewall filtering policies are set in place to regulate traffic and L2 and L3 SDN controllers are used. POX OpenFlow controllers also need to be used. Techniques to test network traffic are set in place.

II. Network Setup

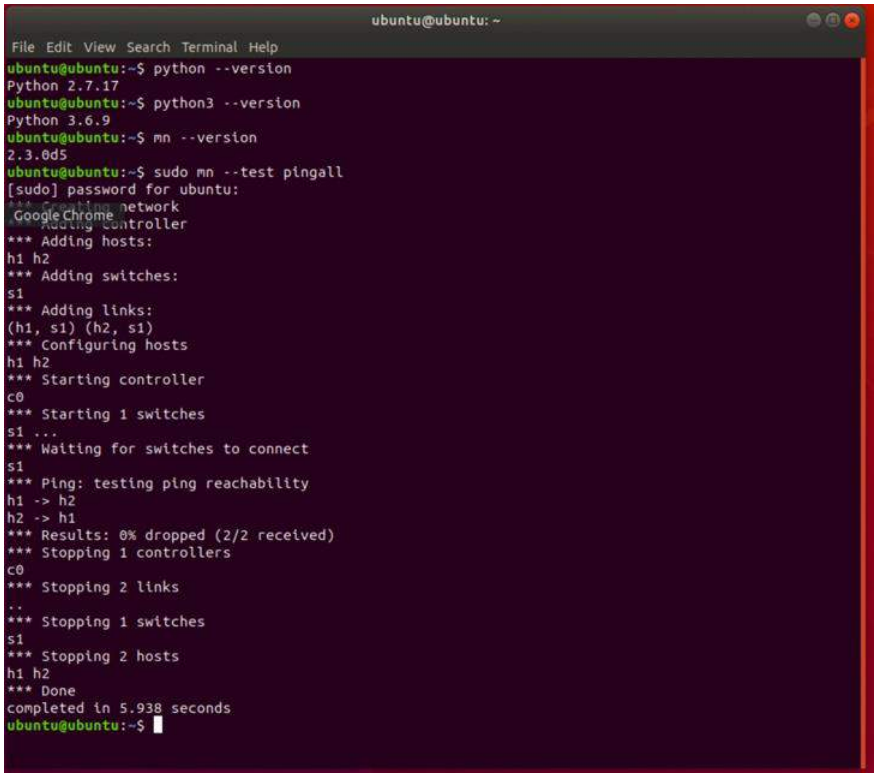
A new VM has been created using the given vdi image and following lab CS-SYS-00101 again this VM has been setup with NAT network (10.0.2.0/24).

III. Software

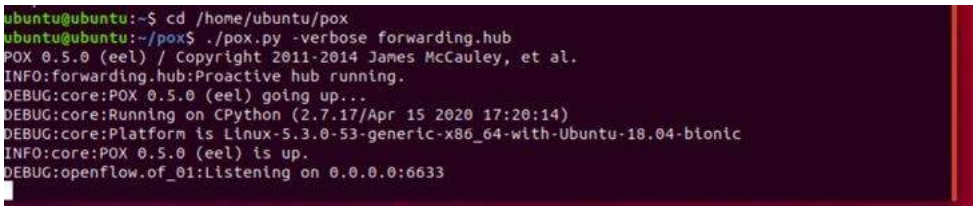
For the lab the following software has been used:

- Open vSwitch https://www.openvswitch.org/
- Mininet
- POX Controller
- ContainerNet
- packages installed: mininet, POX, OVS , Python & Python 3

"Mininet is **a software emulator for prototyping a large network on a single machine**. Mininet can be used to quickly create a realistic virtual network running actual kernel, switch and software application code on a personal computer."
Containernet is a fork of the famous Mininet network emulator and allows to use Docker containers as hosts in emulated network topologies.



Check mininet installation



Check POX installation

IV. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Lab assessments

1.) (5 points) Create a mininet based topology with 4 container hosts and one controller switches and run it.

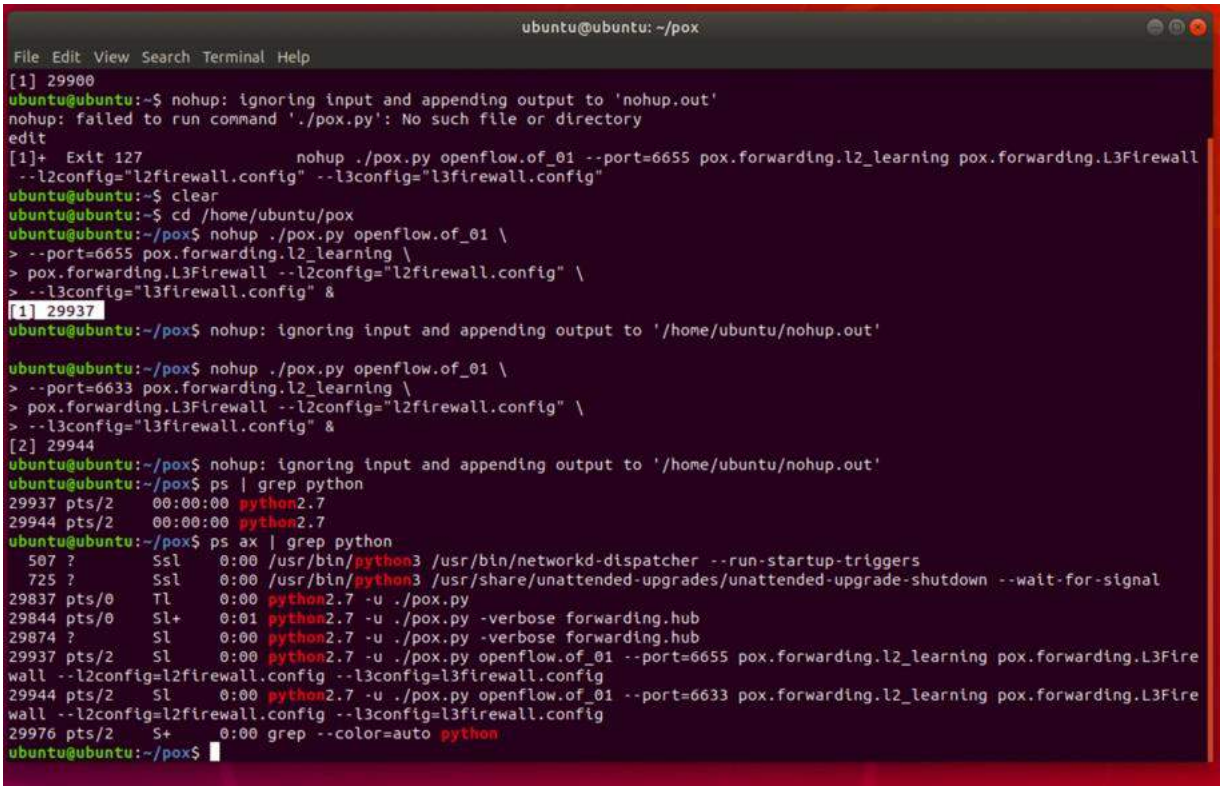
- *a. Add link from controller1 to switch 1.*
- *b. Add link from controller2 to switch 1.*
- *c. Add link from switch 1 to container 1.*
- *d. Add link from switch 1 to container 2.*
- *e. Add link from switch 1 to container 3.*
- *f. Add link from switch 1 to container 4.*

First, we'll need to create two controllers with POX for port 6655 and 6633.

The commands used were:

```
nohup ./pox.py openflow.of_01 --port=6655 pox.forwarding.l2_learning --
l3config="l3firewall.config" &
```

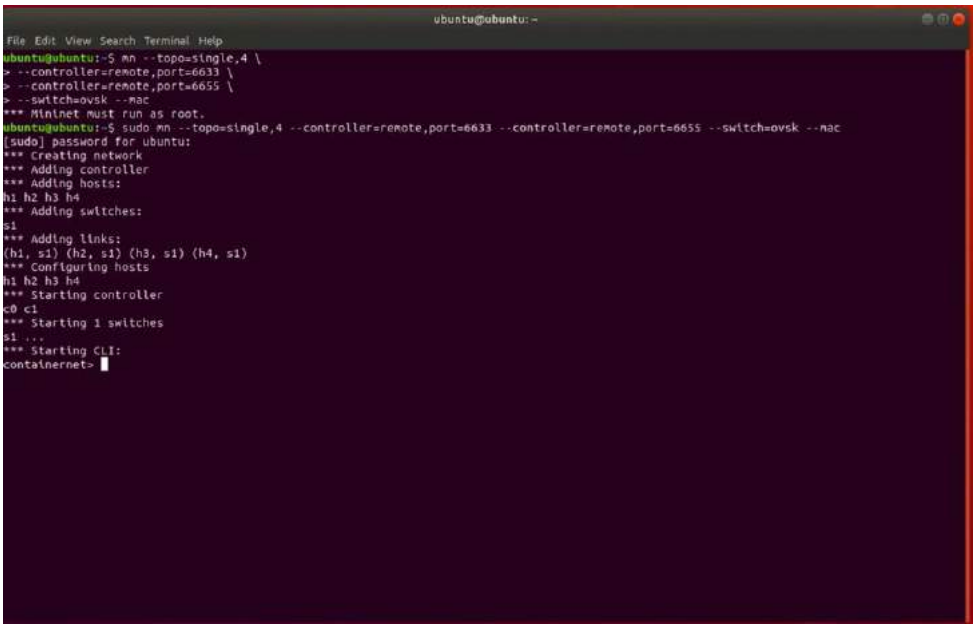
```
nohup ./pox.py openflow.of_01 --port=6633 pox.forwarding.l2_learning --
l3config="l3firewall.config" &
```



We can see 2 separate processes have spawned up for the two pox commands, their IDs are 29937 and 29944 which we can check easily with *ps and filter with grep*, which means two pox controllers are running as processes at the same time at port 6655 and 6633.

Next, we'll run mininet using containernet in another terminal or window. We'll create the required mininet environment consisting of 4 containernet hosts, one OVS switch and two controllers running on port 6633 & 6655 that will bind to the 2 previously created POX controllers. As described in the lab the –mac option will assign small, unique & fixed set of mac address based on host id. The command used is :

```
mn --topo=single,4 --controller=remote,port=6633 --controller=remote,port=6655
--switch=ovsk --mac
```

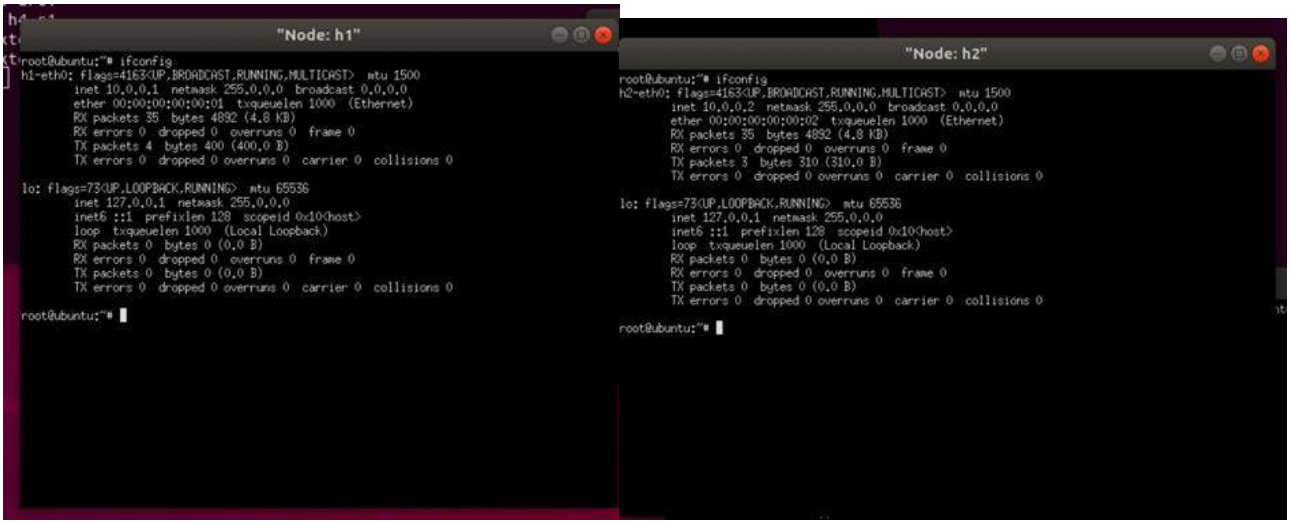


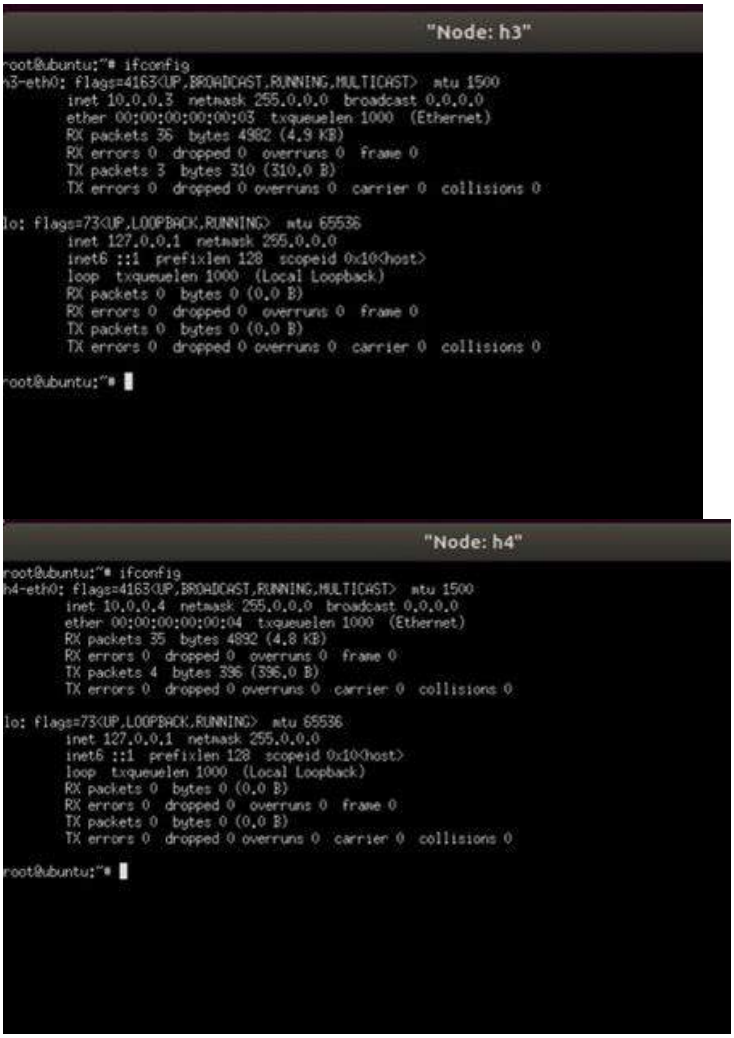
By using nodes command available nodes (or created topology) shows up :

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo mn --topo=single,4 --control
vsk --mac
[sudo] password for ubuntu:
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
*** Adding hosts:
h1 h2 h3 h4
*** Adding switches:
s1
*** Adding links:
(h1, s1) (h2, s1) (h3, s1) (h4, s1)
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2 h3 h4
*** Starting controller
c0 c1
*** Starting 1 switches
s1 ...
*** Starting CLI:
containernet> nodes
available nodes are:
c0 c1 h1 h2 h3 h4 s1
containernet>
```

And by using xterm h1 h2 h3 h4 – for all 4 containers, we get access to the CLI of each container on which ifconfig has been run to see network interface & IP :

```
available nodes are:
c0 c1 h1 h2 h3 h4 s1
containernet> xterm h1 h2 h3 h4
containernet>
```



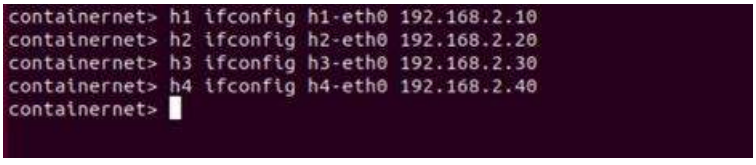


We can see their IP addresses are 10.0.0.1, 10.0.0.2, 10.0.0.3 and 10.0.0.4 respectively.

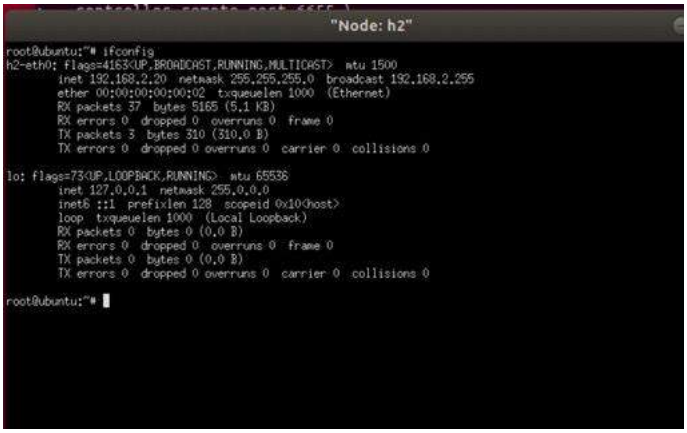
2.) Make the interfaces up and assign IP addresses to interfaces of container hosts.

- ***Assign IP address 192.168.2.10 to container host #1.***
- ***Assign IP address 192.168.2.20 to container host #2.***
- ***Assign IP address 192.168.2.30 to container host #3.***
- ***Assign IP address 192.168.2.40 to container host #4.***

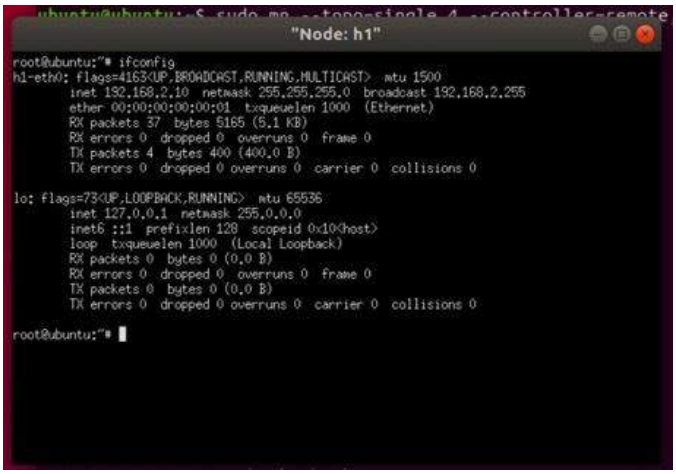
The IP addresses are configured from the containernet command line using the following commands :



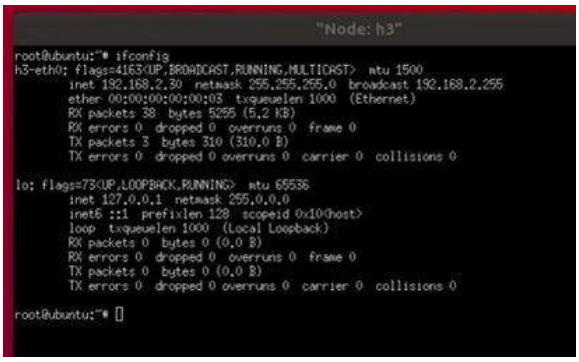
We check our containers IP's again by using xterm & ifconfig for each container CLI :



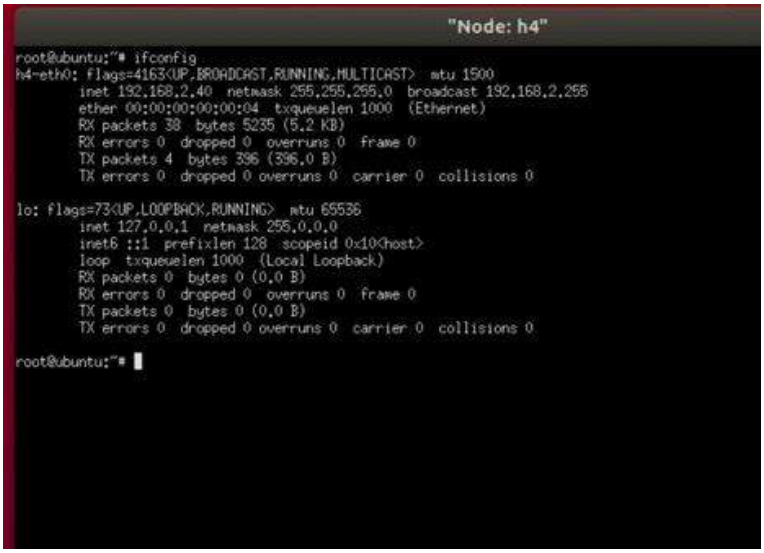
h2: 192.168.2.20



h1: 192.168.2.10



h3: 192.168.2.30



h4: 192.168.2.40

3.) ***(15 points) Add new rule to l3config file for blocking ICMP traffic from source IP 192.168.2.10 and desti-***

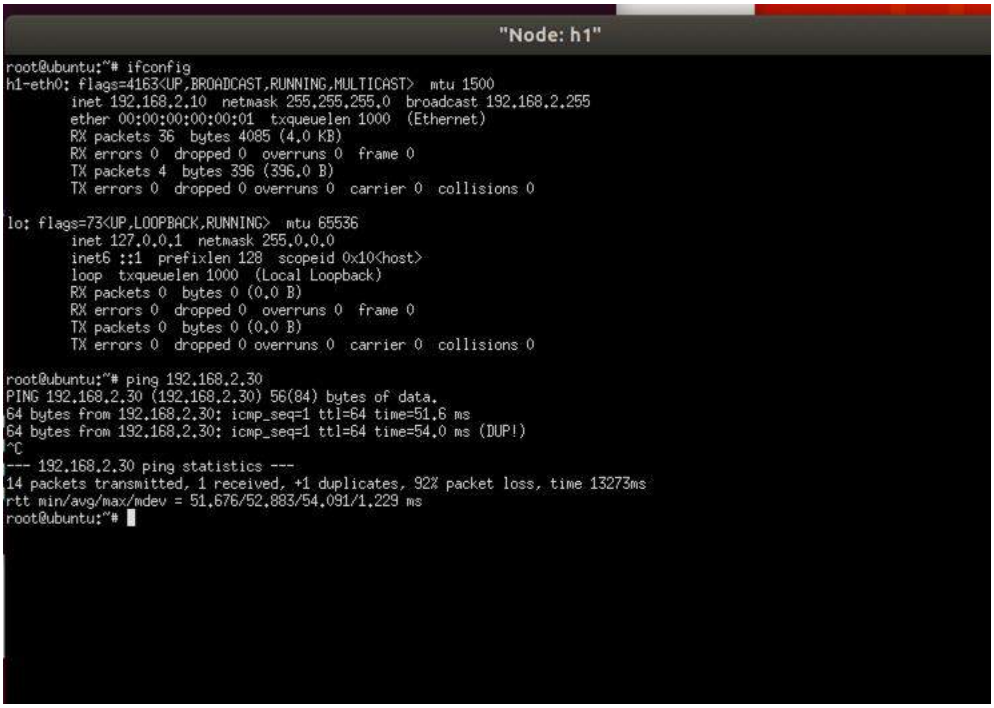
nation IP 192.168.2.30.

4.) ***(15 points) Add new rule to l3config file for blocking ICMP traffic from source IP 192.168.2.20 and desti- nation IP 192.168.2.40.***
5.) ***(15 points) Add new rule to l3config file for blocking HTTP traffic from source IP 192.168.2.20.***
6.) ***(15 points) Add new rule to l2config file for blocking traffic from MAC address 00:00:00:00:00:02 to desti- nation MAC address 00:00:00:00:00:04.***
7.) ***(15 points) Add new rule to l3config file for blocking tcp traffic from 192.168.2.10 to 192.168.2.20.***
8.) ***(15 points) Add new rule to l3config file for blocking udp traffic from 192.168.2.10 to 192.168.2.20.***

The following is a screenshot of *l2firewall.config* containing rules for layer 2 at MAC address level, blocked traffic between source MAC address to destination MAC address:

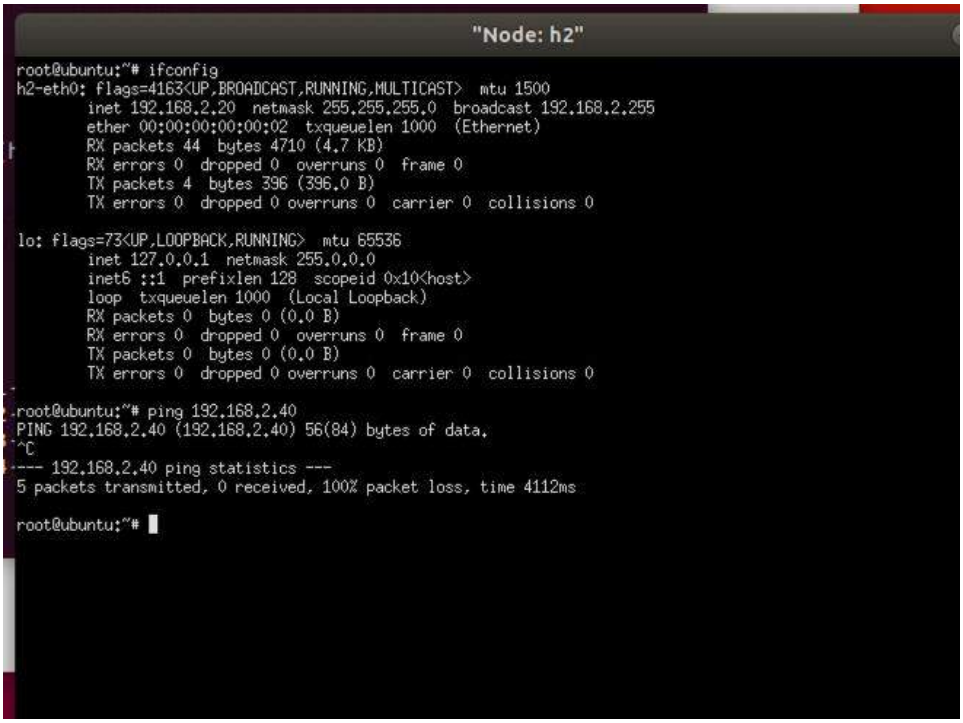
The following is a screenshot of *l3firewall.config* containing flow rules for layer3 describing blocked traffic:

Then pox and mininet need to be restarted.
Let's now test the firewall rules one by one. First, we'll ping host3 from host1 to see if ICMP traffic has been blocked.

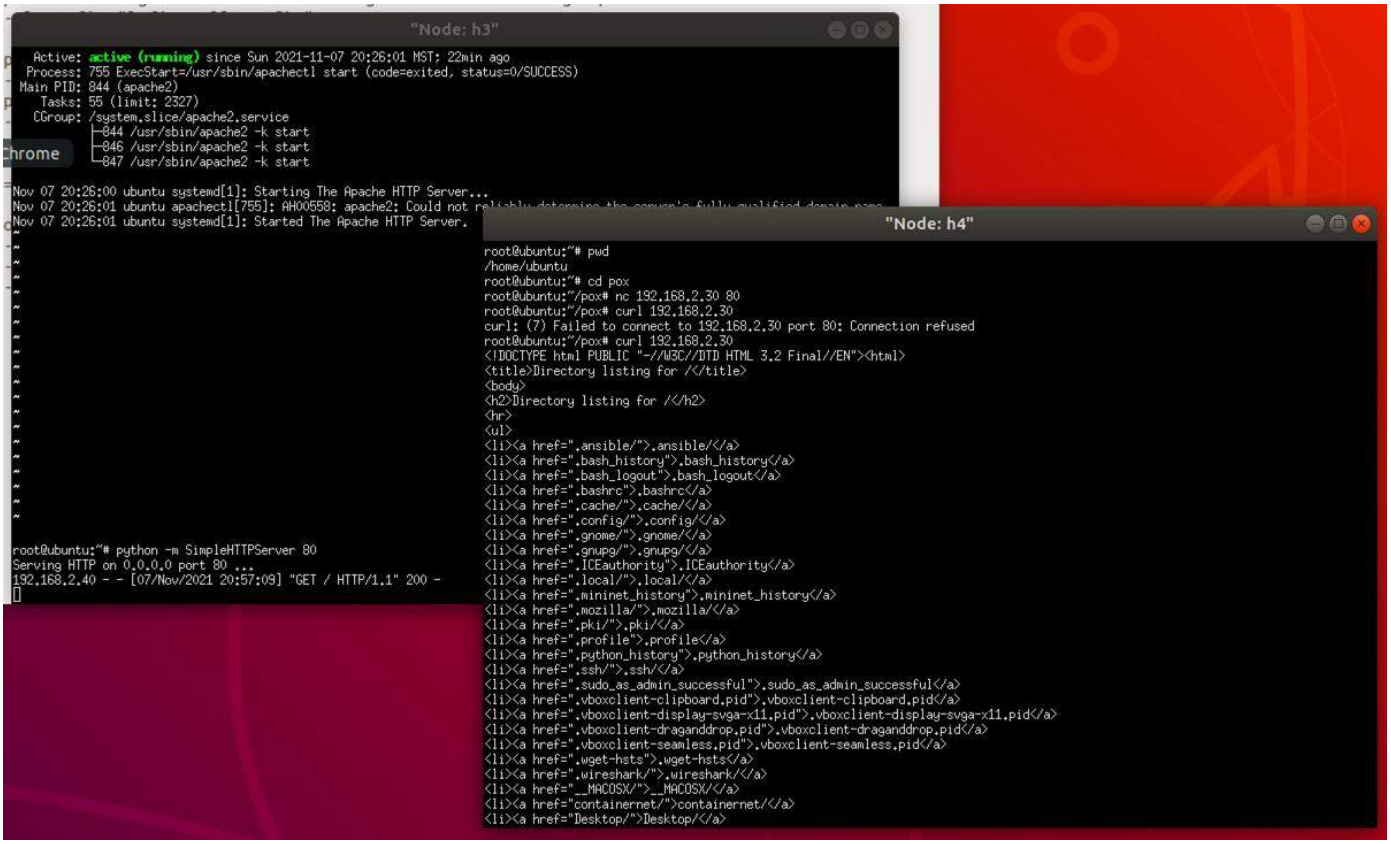


We can see that starting with the second packet sent the traffic is blocked and there is 92% packet loss.

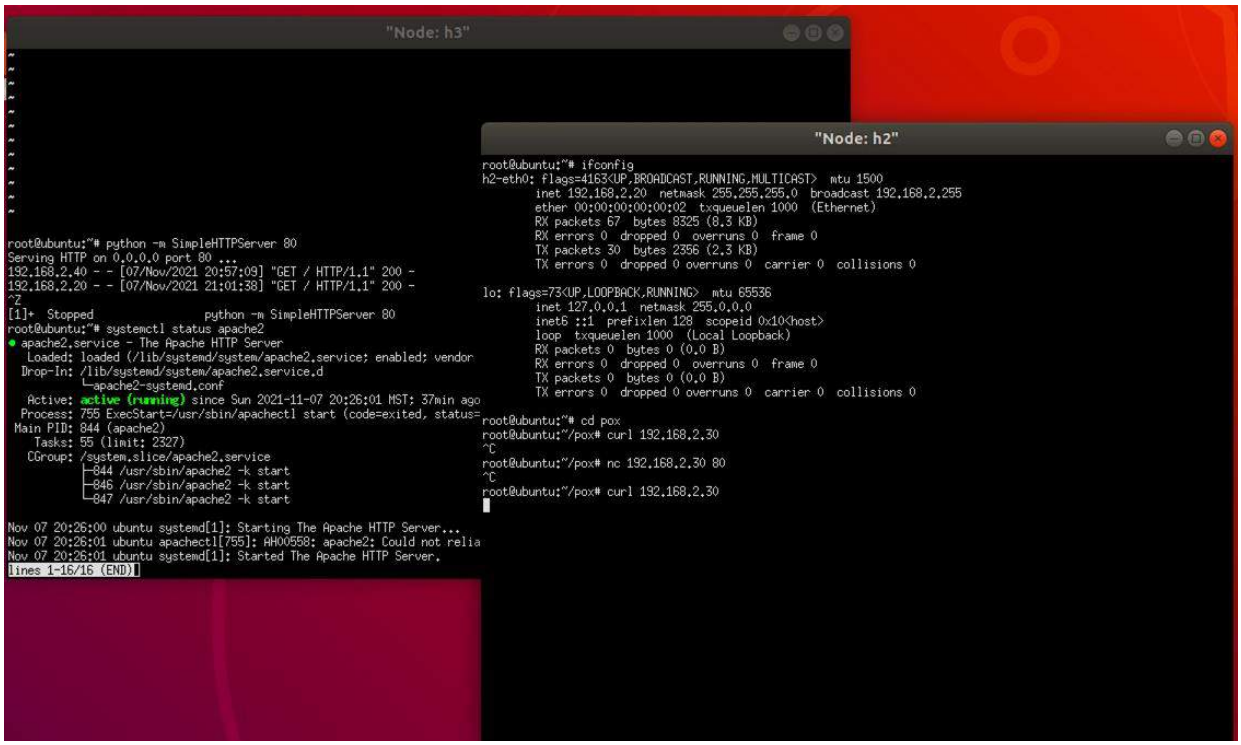
Next, pinging host4 from host2 we notice all traffic is blocked and there is 100% packet loss.



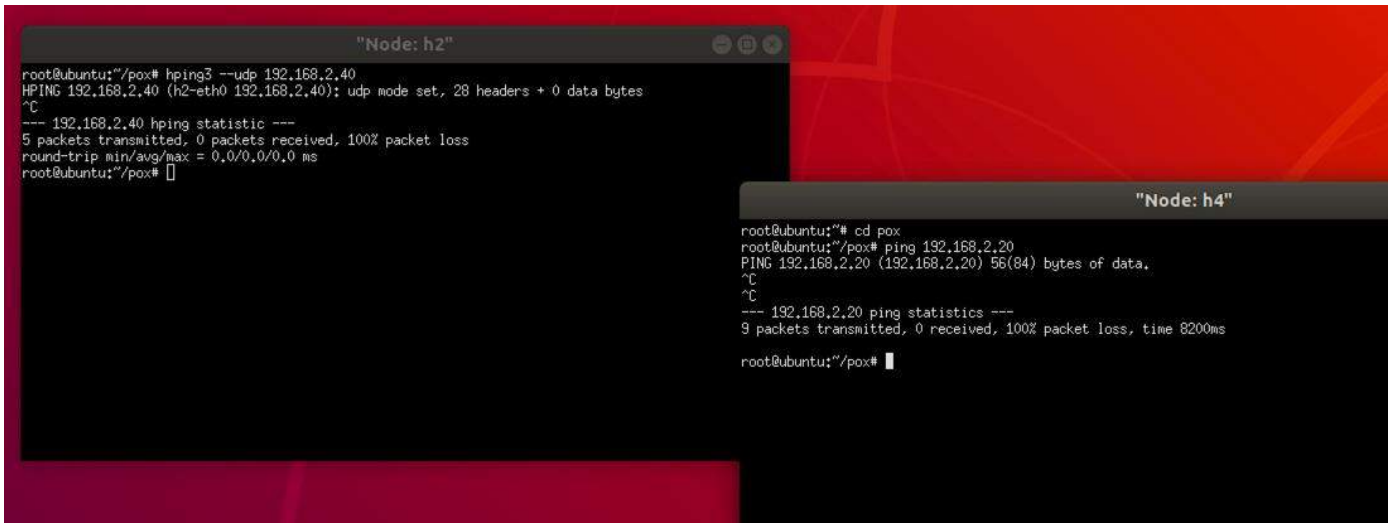
Started a web server on host3 using python SimpleHttpServer on port 80 and retrieved content from the web server using host4 that had no problem connecting to it :



However Host2 is not able to receive any HTTP traffic and thus trying to reach the web server and access content from host 2 is not possible:

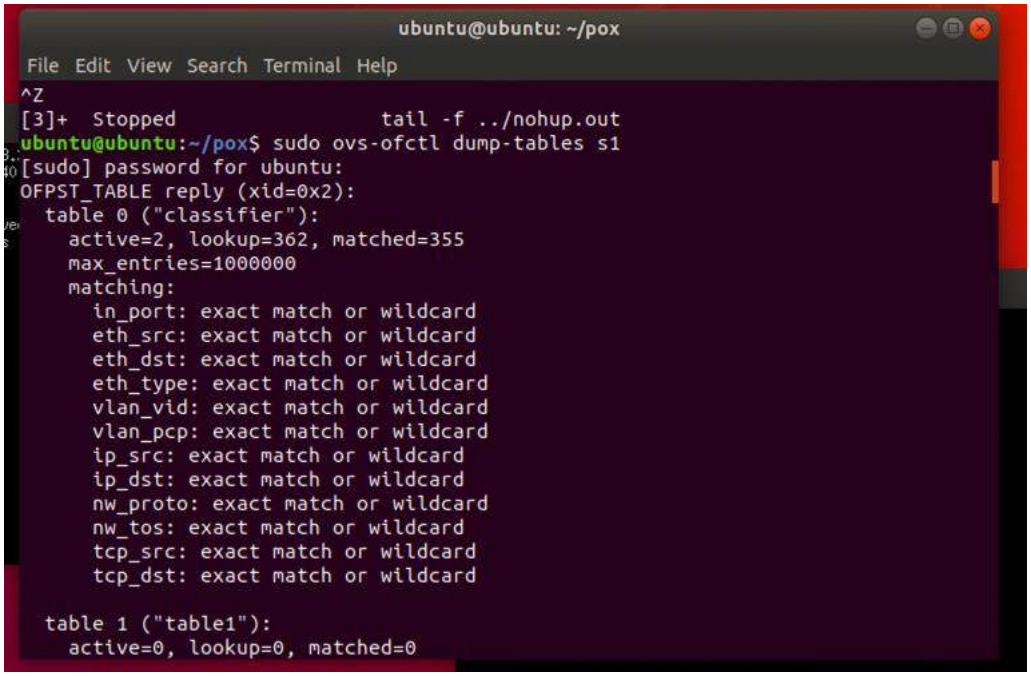


To demonstrate no traffic is allowed between Mac address of host2 and host4, host2 uses udp to ping (hping3) host4 but no traffic is allowed as visible from screenshot.

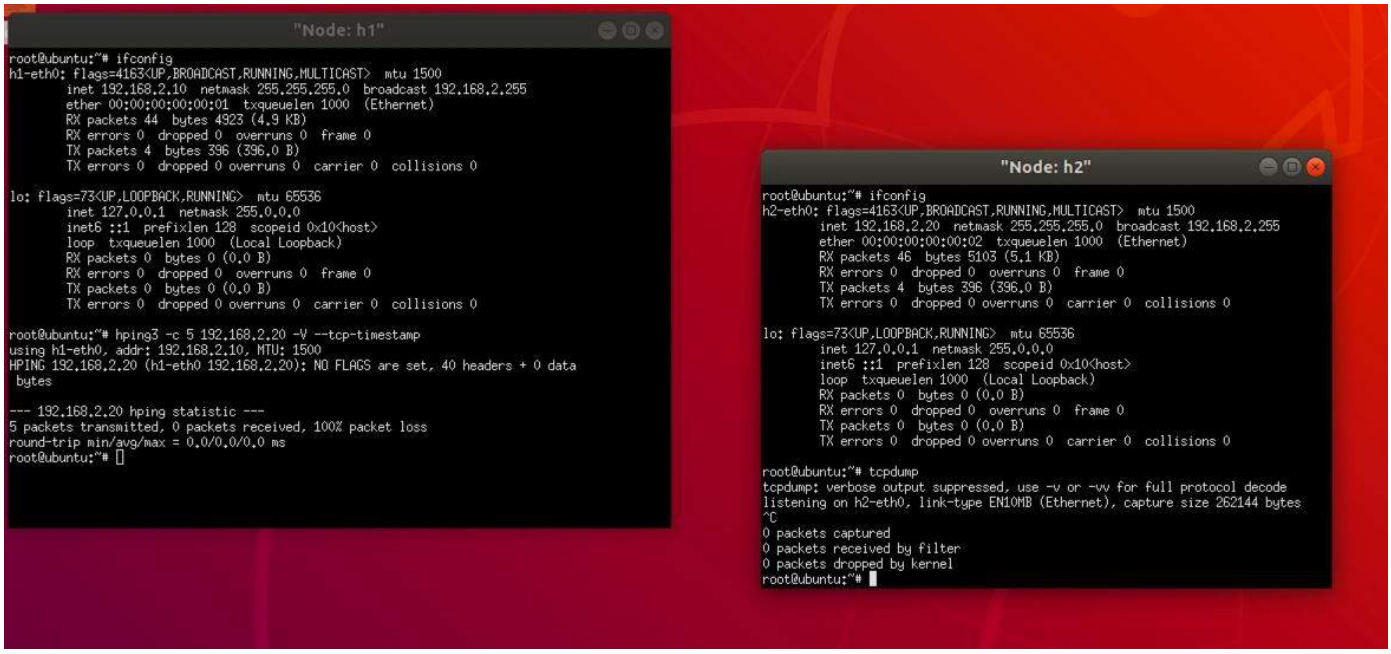


The enforced blocked traffic between the 2 MAC addresses can be found inside the nohup.out file of the pox controller:

I also tried using dump flow tables with the command: *sudo ovs-ofctl dump-tables s1* but I could not get much information out of it related to the MAC addresses, here is a screenshot:

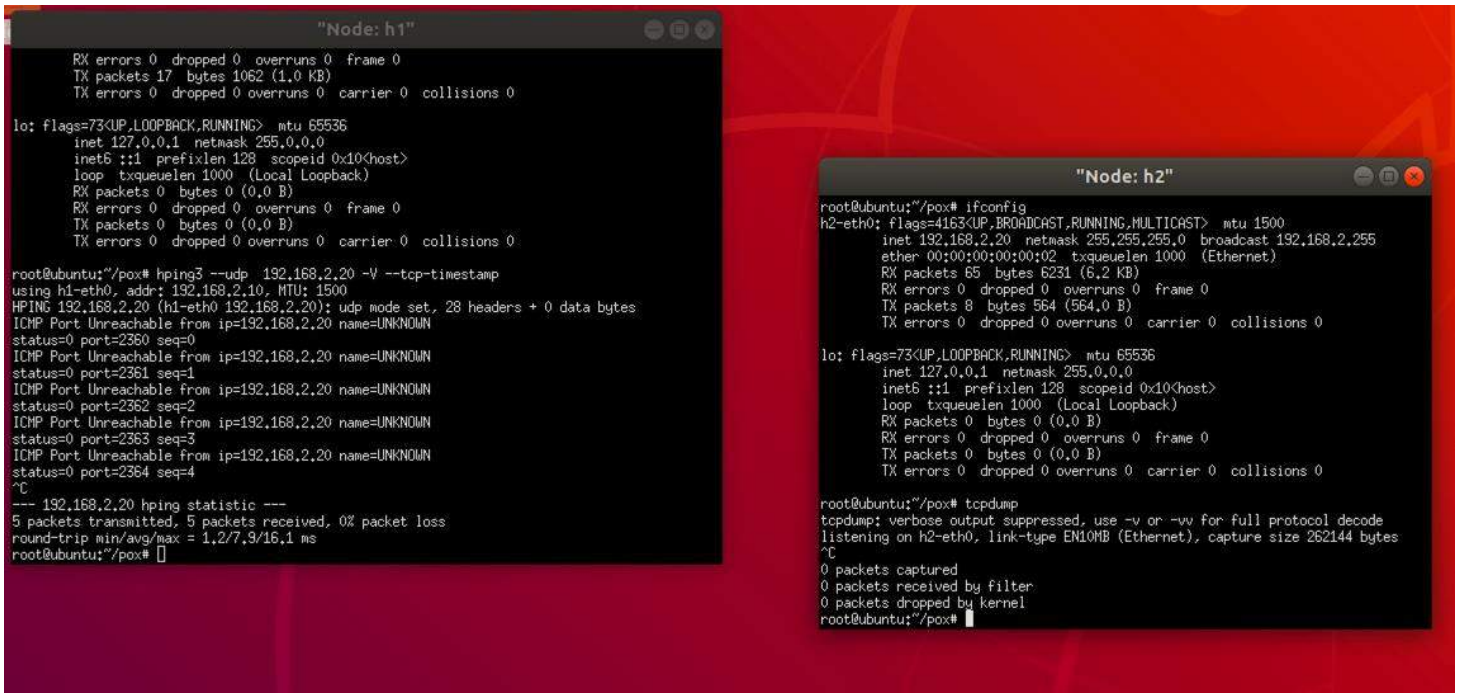


To demonstrate no tcp packet reaches host2 from host1 the following screenshot has been taken:



On host1 hping3 has been used to send host2 5 packets and none of them were sent or received, as the tcpdump run on host2 shows.

Similar to the above check-up UDP traffic between host1 and host2 has also been blocked, as the following screenshot depicts:



V. APPENDIX B: ATTACHED FILES

- Project Report 2 PDF
- l2firewall.config – screenshot
- l3firewall.config - screenshot

VI. References

1. ContainerNet https://containernet.github.io/
2. Mininet & POX tutorial https://www.comp.nus.edu.sg/~tbma/teaching/cs4226y16_past/tutorial-Mininet-POX.pdf