



IE4040

Information Assurance and Auditing

Assignment – 2020

Firewall audit using Nipper Studio

B.Sc. (Hons) Degree in Information Technology – Specialization in
Computer Systems and Network Engineering

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1. Introduction

Configurations, access rules and security policies need to be audited regularly to identify weaknesses; however, many organizations don't have the time or resources to do this manually. Titania offers a simple and innovative solution, as its Nipper Studio does all the hard work so you don't have to. Capable of auditing critical infrastructure devices from an impressive range of vendors, it doesn't need to scan the network and so has zero impact on general operations. Nipper Studio analyses device configuration files, allowing it to offer far more detailed reporting than vulnerability scanners. Even better, it includes compliance reporting modules for key data protection regulations, including PCI-DSS, STIG, NIST, SANS plus CIS, and brings them all together to provide essential vulnerability audits and best practice guides.

There are now two methods of interrogating devices. We can upload their configuration files or access them directly from Nipper Studio over Telnet, SSH, HTTP or HTTPS. Either way, the first thing to do is choose a device from the extensive list, which includes Palo Alto, Check Point, Cisco, Dell EMC, Fortinet, HPE, SonicWALL, WatchGuard and more. This software helps us accurately identify risks in our network infrastructure and provides precise remediation, including command line fixes.

- Nipper discovers vulnerabilities in firewalls, switches and routers, automatically prioritizing risks to our organization
- Automate checks against specified standards, benchmarks or risk management frameworks to save valuable time when auditing compliance
- Identify vulnerabilities and non-compliance with the standards
- Prioritize any risks found against the framework
- Get detailed remediation advice for each non-compliance, so that we can action it and secure our systems and data.

1.1 Importance of firewall audit

Once a firewall is in place, it is critical to security of any business to conduct regular firewall audits on an annual basis at the minimum. Annual audits increase the odd that we will be able to catch any weaknesses in the security of our network. In addition to the software associated with firewalls, security controls and policy controls also be reviewed and adapted as necessary to address changes in technology or in our business.

2. Download and Installation

First, Go to the Titania official website using this URL <https://www.titania.com/download/nipper/> .Then you can download it for any operating system as shown below.

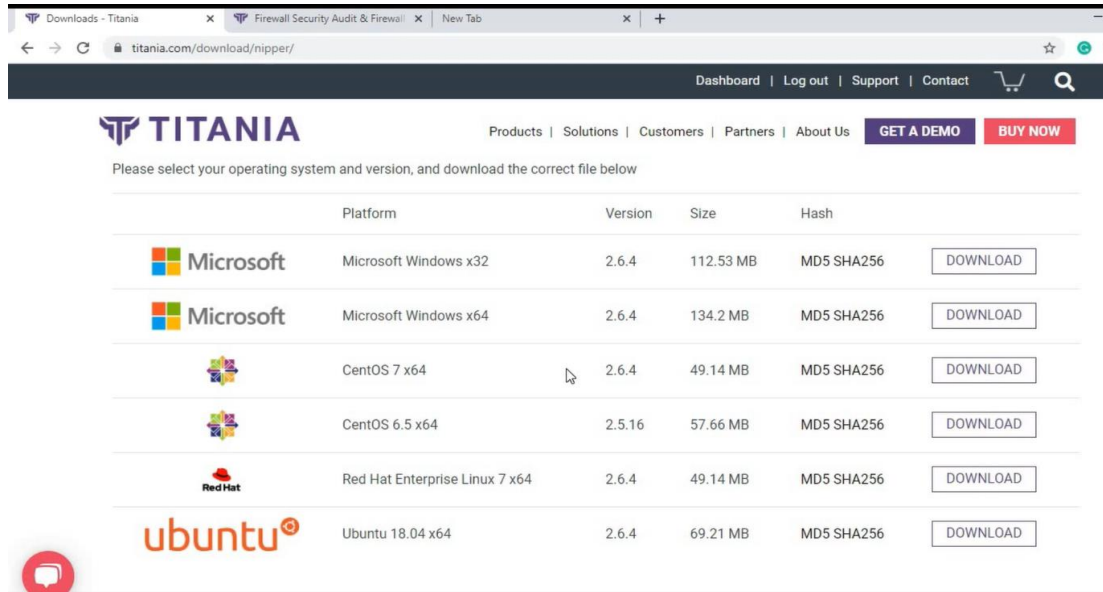


Figure 1:Download versions

3. Beginning of the auditing process

When installation is done, Open the Nipper Studio software. Then we can see the home page and to start the audit click on 'New Report'.



Figure 2:Home Page

Here we can access our devices in two methods. First one is 'Add Directory'. But I am going to access my virtual enterprise firewall in Eve-ng using 'Add network' method as shown below.

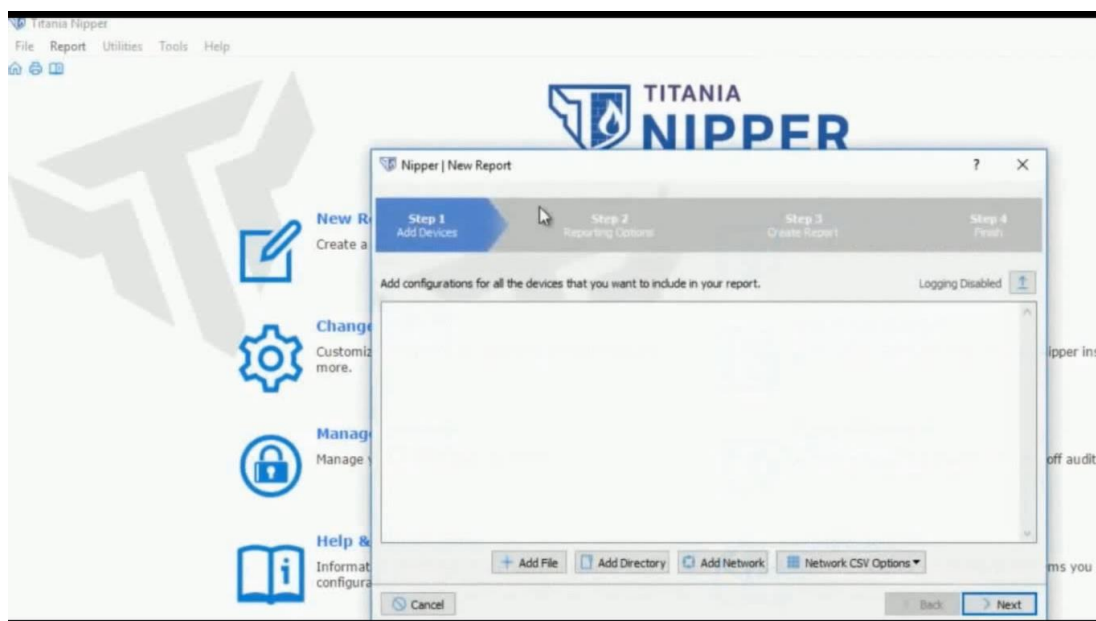


Figure 3:Access the Firewall

After Add network, we should fill this information according to the device and click on 'Add' button.

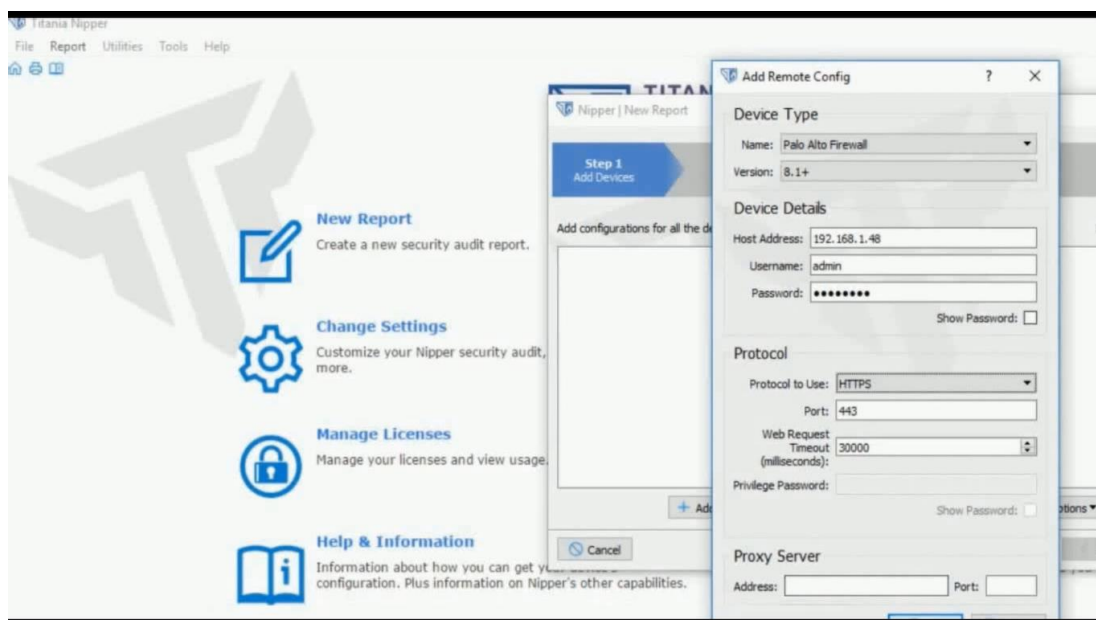


Figure 4:Establish the connection

Under the first step, we can see what are the information will include our audit report and we can customize those according to our requirement and go to 2nd step click on 'Next' button as shown below.

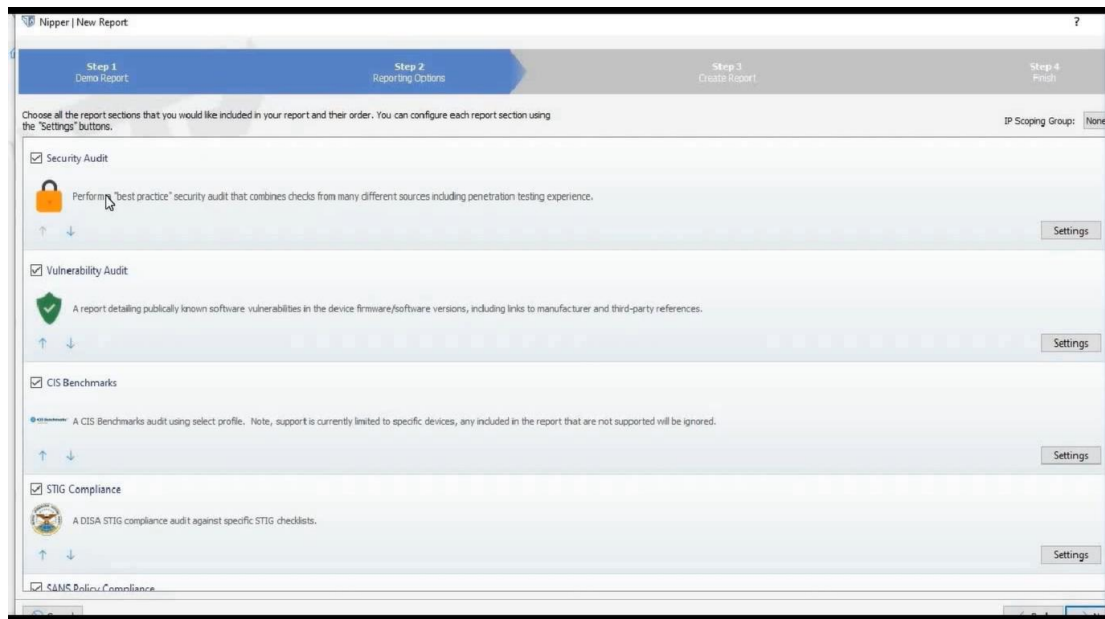


Figure 5:Customize report information

In here Just click on the 'Next' button for next step.

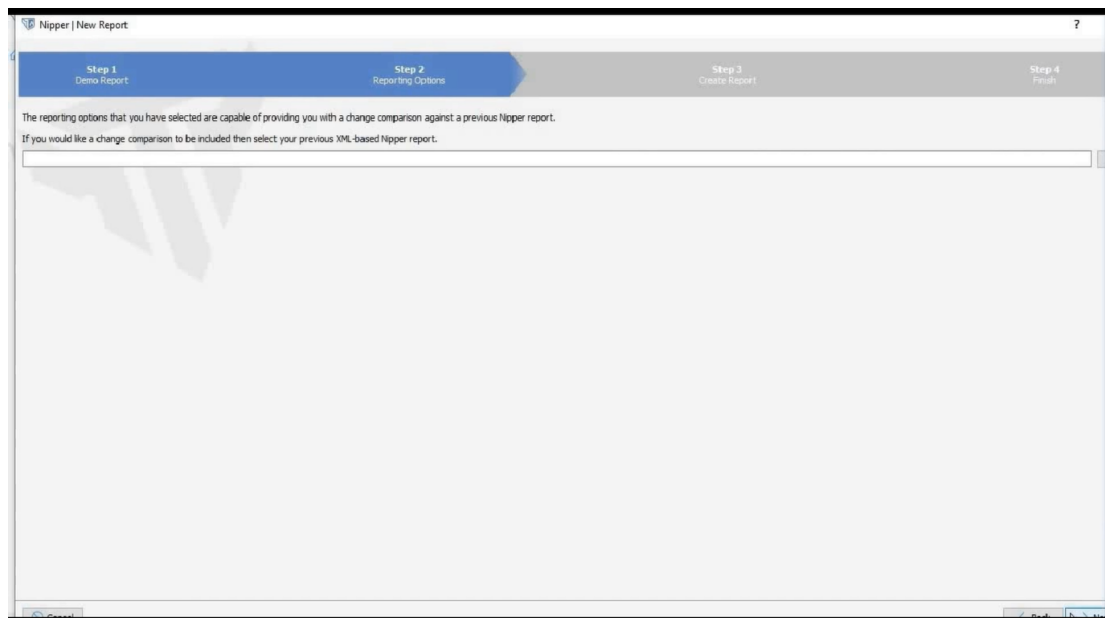


Figure 6: Second Step

Under the 3rd step we can see that our report is ready status and the time it was processed and click on 'Next' to get the processed report as shown below.

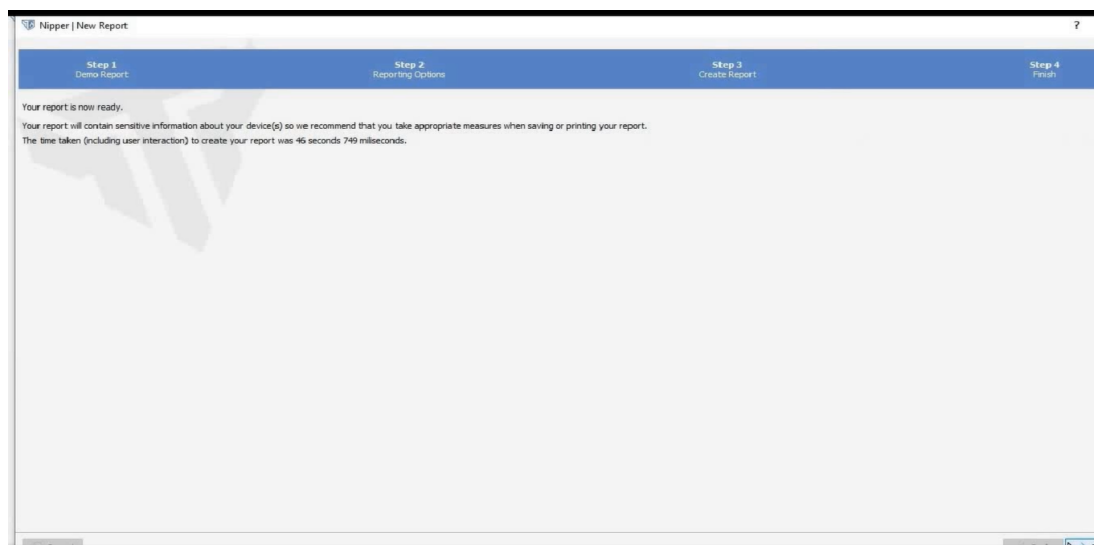


Figure 7: Step 3

4. Report Overview

This is the finalized audit report that the nipper studio is processed. It includes information based on seven sections such as a best practice Security Audit, a software Vulnerability Audit, a CIS Benchmark audit, etc. as shown below.

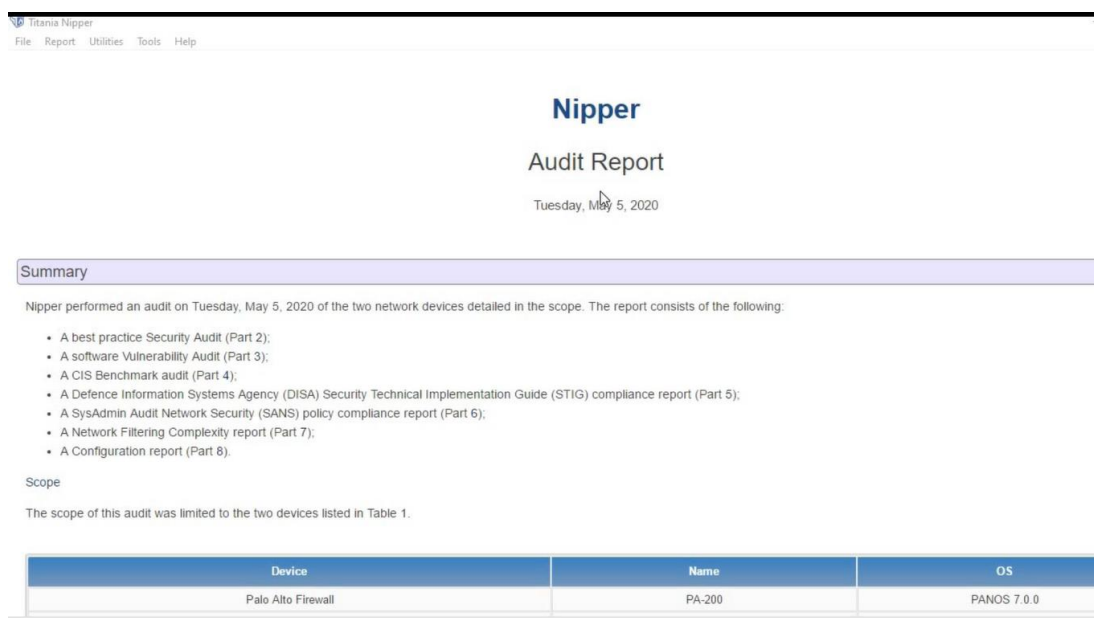


Figure 8: Beginning of the audit report

Under the security audit summary, we can see nipper has identified number of 17 issues in the firewall and nipper has presented that information in pie chart very clearly as shown below.

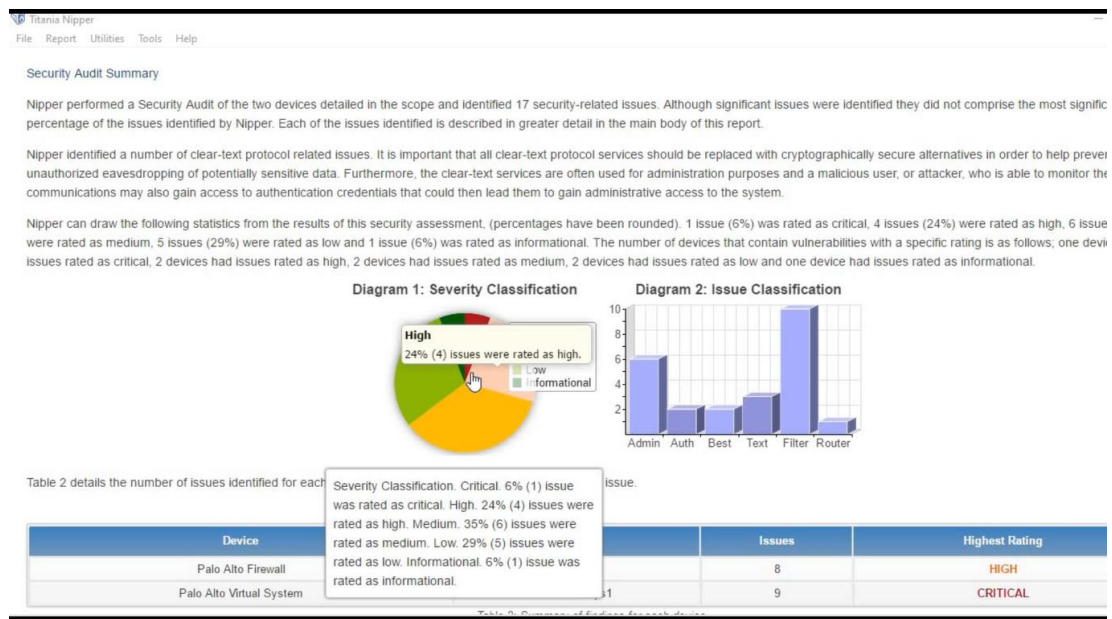


Figure 9: Security audit summary

5. Contents of the audit report

Here we can see our report contents under different topics as Your report, Security audit, Vulnerability report, CIS Benchmark, DISA STIG Compliance, SANS Policy Compliance, Filtering Complexity Report, Configuration Report and Appendix as shown figure 10

Contents
1 Your Report
1.1 Introduction
1.2 Demonstration Use Only
1.3 Evaluation Use Only
1.4 Report Conventions
1.5 Compliance Check Results
1.6 Network Filtering Actions
1.7 Object Filter Types
2 Security Audit
2.1 Introduction
2.2 Filter Rule Allows Packets From Any Source To Any Destination And Any Port
2.3 Rules Allow Access To Administrative Services
2.4 Rules Allow Access To Clear-Text Protocol Services
2.5 Clear Text Telnet Service Enabled
2.6 Long Session Timeout
2.7 Clear Text Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) Service Enabled
2.8 Rules Allow Access To Potentially Unnecessary Services
2.9 Rules Allow Access To Potentially Sensitive Services
2.10 User Account Names Contained "admin"
2.11 No Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) Route Flap Prevention
2.12 No Administrative Service Network Access Restrictions
2.13 Weak User Account Lockout Policy Setting
2.14 Filter Rules That Allow Any Protocol Were Configured
2.15 Filter Rules Allow Packets From A Source Range To Any Destination
2.16 Filter Rule Allows Packets From A Network Source To A Destination Range

Figure 10: Report Contents

Under introduction we can see that this report includes a security audit section, a software vulnerability audit section, a CIS report, a DISA STIG report section, a network filtering complexity report and a configuration report.

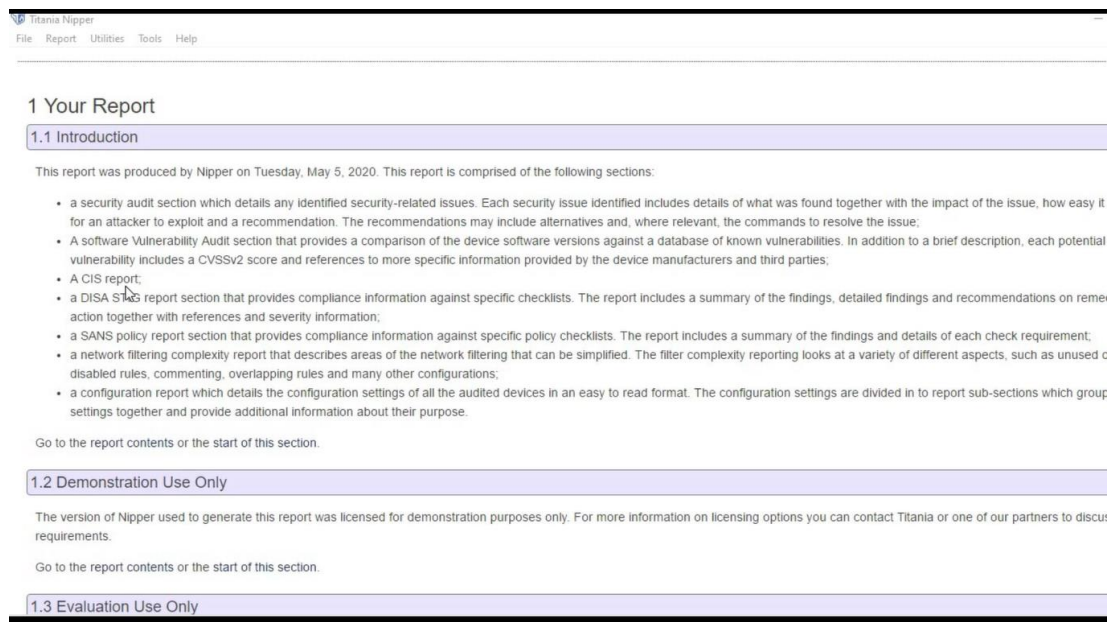


Figure 11:Report introduction

The security issue overview provides all the information about an issue with Issue Finding, Issue Impact, Issue Ease and Issue Recommendation as shown below.

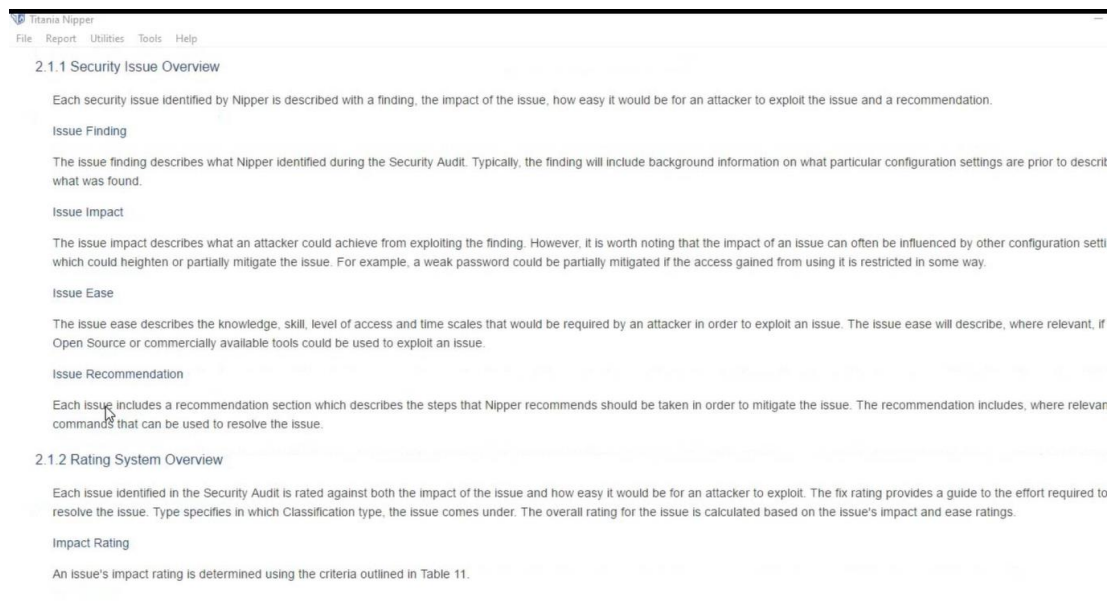


Figure 12:Security issue overview

Nipper has identified one critical rated issue, 4 high rated issues, 6 medium rated issued, five low rated issues and one info rated issue as shown below.

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One **CRITICAL** rated security issue was identified. Nipper determined that:

- network filtering rules were configured that allow packets from any source to any destination and any port (one device, see section 2.2).

Nipper identified four **HIGH** rated security issues. Nipper determined that:

- network filter rules were configured that enable access to administrative services (one device, see section 2.3);
- network filter rules were identified that allow access to clear-text protocol services (one device, see section 2.4);
- the Telnet service was enabled (one device, see section 2.5);
- the session timeout was too long (one device, see section 2.6).

Nipper identified six **MEDIUM** rated security issues. Nipper determined that:

- the HTTP server was enabled (one device, see section 2.7);
- network filter rules allowed access to potentially unnecessary network services (one device, see section 2.8);
- network filter rules allowed access to potentially sensitive network services (one device, see section 2.9);
- user account names contained "admin". (one device, see section 2.10);
- BGP routing processes were configured without route dampening (one device, see section 2.11);
- no administrative service network host access addresses were configured (one device, see section 2.12).

Nipper identified five **LOW** rated security issues. Nipper determined that:

- a weak user account lockout policy setting was configured (one device, see section 2.13);
- network filter rules were configured to use any protocol (one device, see section 2.14);
- network filtering rules were configured that allow packets from a source range to any destination (one device, see section 2.15);
- network filtering rules were configured that allow packets from a network source to a Destination range (one device, see section 2.16);
- no pre-logout banner message was configured (one device, see section 2.17).

One **INFO** rated security issue was identified. Nipper determined that:

- network filtering rules were configured that allow packets from a network source (one device, see section 2.18).

Nipper can draw the following statistics from the results of this security assessment, (percentages have been rounded). 1 issue (6%) was rated as critical, 4 issues (24%) were rated as high, 6 issues (35%) were rated as medium, 5 issues (29%) were rated as low and 1 issue (6%) was rated as informational. The number of devices that contain vulnerabilities with a specific rating is as follows:

Figure 13: Issues classification

These are the recommendations that nipper has identified for above mentioned issues and suggest the recommendation for each issue according to their situation as Critical, High, Medium or Low as shown in figure 14.

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Go to the report contents or the start of this section.

2.20 Recommendations

This section collates the issue recommendations into a single location in order to provide a guide to planning and mitigating the identified issues. The recommendations are listed in Table 26 together with the issue rating and a list of affected devices.

Issue	Rating	Recommendation	Affected Devices	Severity
Filter Rule Allows Packets From Any Source To Any Destination And Any Port	CRITICAL	Configure the network filtering rules to restrict access to network services from only those hosts that require the access.	PA-200-vsyz1	High
Rules Allow Access To Administrative Services	HIGH	Modify the filter rules to only permit access to administrative services where it is necessary.	PA-200-vsyz1	High
Rules Allow Access To Clear-Text Protocol Services	HIGH	Modify the filter rules to prevent access to clear-text protocol services.	PA-200-vsyz1	High
Clear Text Telnet Service Enabled	HIGH	Disable the Telnet service.	PA-200	High
Long Session Timeout	HIGH	Configure a session timeout of at most 10 minutes.	PA-200	High
Clear Text HTTP Service Enabled	MEDIUM	Disable the HTTP server.	PA-200	Medium
Rules Allow Access To Potentially Unnecessary Services	MEDIUM	Modify the filter rules to prevent access to potentially unnecessary network services.	PA-200-vsyz1	Medium
Rules Allow Access To Potentially Sensitive Services	MEDIUM	Modify the filter rules to restrict access to potentially sensitive network services.	PA-200-vsyz1	Medium
User Account Names Contained "admin"	MEDIUM	Ensure administrative or elevated privilege accounts do not contain information identifying them as such.	PA-200	Medium
No BGP Route Flap Prevention	MEDIUM	Configure BGP route dampening for all BGP routing processes.	PA-200	Medium
No Administrative Service Network Access Restrictions	MEDIUM	Restrict the administrative services to only those network addresses that require access.	PA-200	Medium
Weak User Account Lockout Policy Setting	LOW	Configure a user account lockout policy to disable access after 3 failed login attempts.	PA-200	Low
Filter Rules That Allow Any Protocol Were Configured	LOW	Modify the filter rules to use a specific protocol.	PA-200-vsyz1	Low
Filter Rule Allows Packets From Any Source To Any Destination	LOW	Configure the network filtering rules to restrict access to network services from only those hosts that	PA-200-vsyz1	Low

Figure 14:Recommendation for issues

In here, we can see the vulnerabilities which are identified by Nipper software and there are four vulnerabilities has occurred in the firewall system as shown below.



Figure 15: Vulnerability findings

Under conclusion section of the vulnerability findings, each occurred vulnerability has categorized to rating level such as High, Medium and Low and the CVSSv2 score for each vulnerability has assigned by the Nipper studio as shown figure 16.

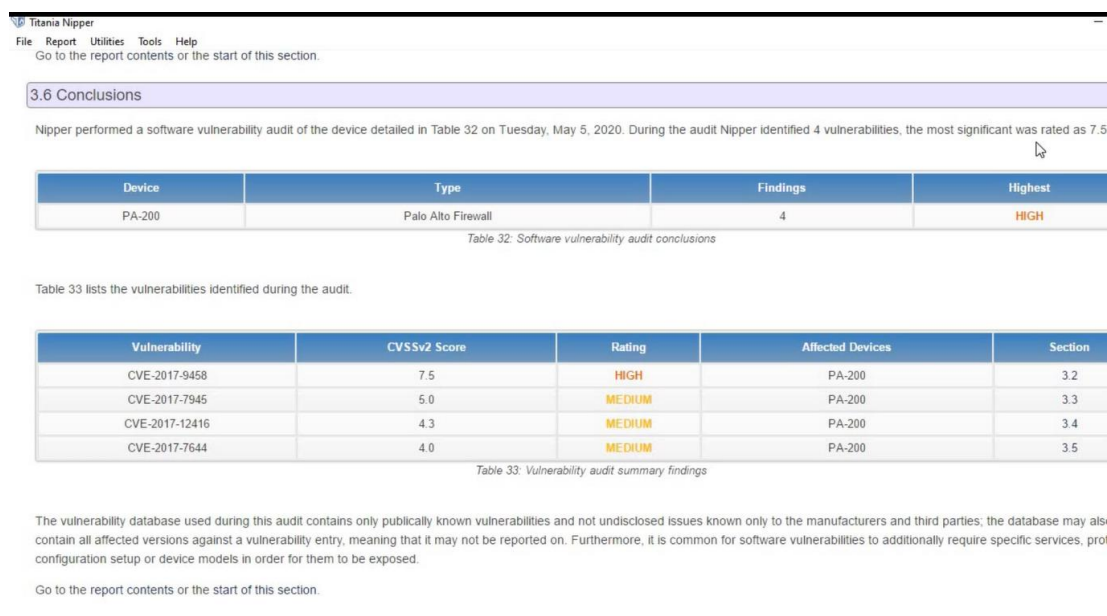


Figure 16: Vulnerability categorization

For vulnerability issues, Nipper strongly recommends that the latest software updates should be applied to the affected device and when applying the latest software updates usually all the known vulnerabilities will be resolve.

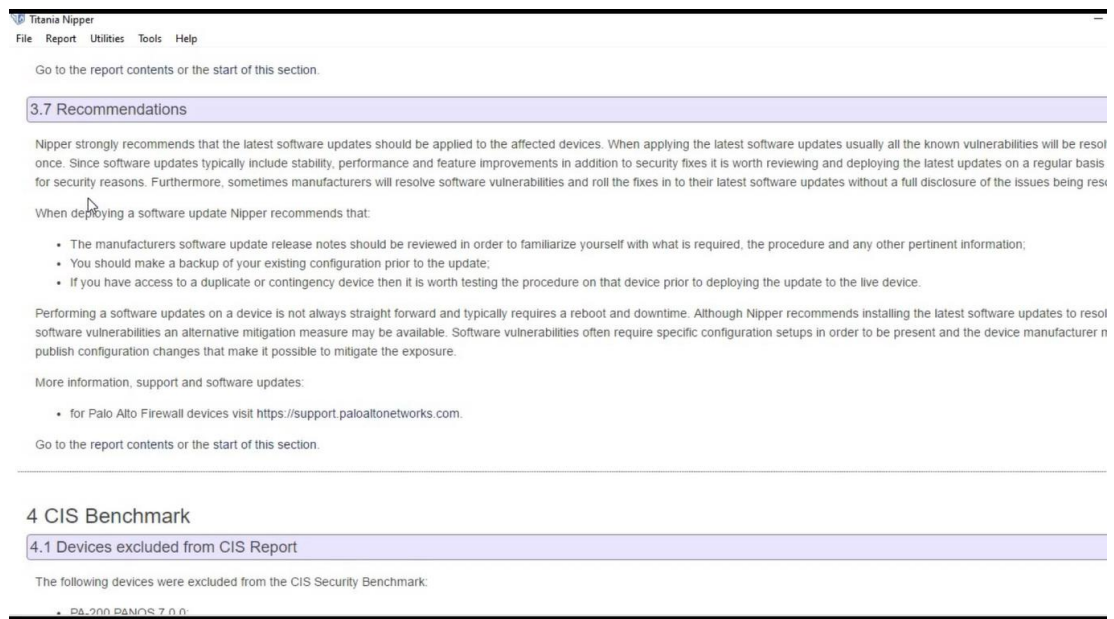


Figure 17: Recommendations for vulnerabilities

We can see here vulnerability severity code definition table and Nipper has mentioned that any vulnerability, the exploitation of which will directly and immediately result in loss of confidentiality, availability or integrity.

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Table 34: STIG device audit check lists

Vulnerability Severity Code Definition

Table 35 provides the vulnerability severity codes and its definitions.

CAT	DISA/DIACAP Category Code Guidelines	Examples
I	Any vulnerability, the exploitation of which will directly and immediately result in loss of Confidentiality, Availability, or Integrity. An ATO will not be granted while CAT I weaknesses are present. Note: The exploitation of vulnerabilities must be evaluated at the level of the system or component being reviewed. A workstation for example, is a standalone device for some purposes and part of a larger system for others. Risks to the device are first considered, then risks to the device in its environment, then risks presented by the device to the environment. All risk factors must be considered when developing mitigation strategies at the device and system level.	Includes BUT NOT LIMITED to the following examples of direct and immediate loss: 1. May result in loss of life, loss of facilities, or equipment, which would result in mission failure. 2. Allows unauthorized access to security or administrator level resources or privileges. 3. Allows unauthorized disclosure of, or access to, classified data or materials. 4. Allows unauthorized access to classified facilities. 5. Allows denial of service or denial of access, which will result in mission failure. 6. Prevents auditing or monitoring of cyber or physical environments. 7. Operation of a system/capability which has not been approved by the appropriate DAA. 8. Unsupported software where there is no documented acceptance of DAA risk.
		Includes BUT NOT LIMITED to the following examples that have a potential to result in loss: 1. Allows access to information that could lead to a CAT I vulnerability.

Figure 18: Vulnerability severity code definitions

At the end of the audit report we can see appendixes that nipper audit tool has used to generate this firewall audit report. We can see there are eight levels such as 0 to 7 and their name and description as shown here.

The screenshot shows the 'Appendix' section of the Nipper Audit Report. It includes a sub-section '9.1 Logging Severity Levels' which contains a table listing eight severity levels from 0 to 7. Each level has a name and a description. Below the table is a caption 'Table 189: Logging message severity levels'. The interface also shows navigation links like 'Go to the report contents or the start of this section.' and a '9.2 OSPF LSA Message Types' section header.

Level	Name	Description
0	Emergencies	The system is unusable.
1	Alerts	Immediate action is required
2	Critical	Critical conditions
3	Errors	Error conditions
4	Warnings	Warning conditions
5	Notifications	Significant conditions
6	Informational	Informational messages
7	Debugging	Debugging messages

Table 189: Logging message severity levels

Figure 19:Appendix of report

Finally, we can save our firewall audit report as several file formats, Hence I choose PDF to save the report as shown figure 20.

The screenshot shows the Nipper Audit Report interface with the 'File' menu open. The 'Save' option is selected, and a submenu is displayed showing various export formats. The 'PDF' option is highlighted. The background shows the 'Summary' section of the report, which includes a list of audit findings and a table of devices audited.

Device	Name	OS
Palo Alto Firewall	PA-200	PANOS 7.0.0

Figure 20:Export the audit report

6. Conclusion

There are different types of firewall auditing tools. They have different auditing mechanisms and different processing methods. Using nipper studio audit tool, we can identify what are the vulnerabilities are occurred and which kind of issues that we have. This will provide better solution for an organization to maintain a good performance.

7. References

- [1] "Firewall Security Audit & Firewall Vulnerability Testing - Titania", *Titania.com*, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://www.titania.com/products/nipper/>. [Accessed: 07-May- 2020].
- [2] T. Studio, "Titania Nipper Studio Product Review | SC Media", *SC Media*, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://www.scmagazine.com/review/titania-nipper-studio/>. [Accessed: 07- May- 2020].
- [3] K. Michael, "Why Businesses Should Be Conducting Annual Firewall Assessments and Reviewing Rules - Rochester, Buffalo, Syracuse | Dox", *Dox*, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://www.doxnet.com/2018/01/businesses-conducting-annual-firewall-assessments-reviewing-rules/>. [Accessed: 07- May- 2020].