SNORT NIDS

Tutorial

Working with Snort

What is SNORT?

Snort is a free open source network traffic analysis tool, written by Martin Roesch at Sourcefire (Cisco acquired for \$2.7 billion in July 2013.)

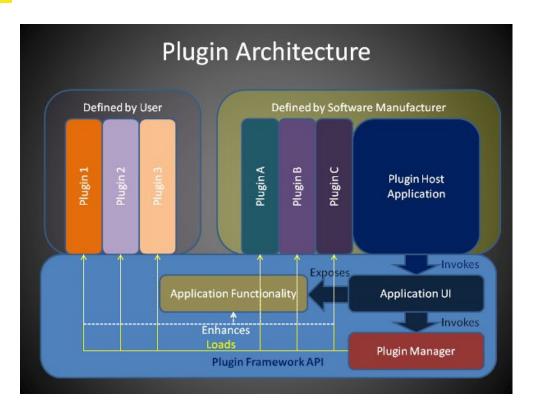
Snort support the following network analysis functionalities:

- 1. Sniffer
- 2. Packet Logger
- 3. Intrusion Detection
- 4. Intrusion Prevention

Snort could be used for real-time network traffic analysis or for after the fact network forensics analysis.

SNORT Design & Architecture

SNORT has a lightweight design based on a **plug-in architecture**. This plug-in architecture give SNORT endless flexibility to extend and customize SNORT features and capabilities.



SNORT Plugins Types

You can extend snort by implementing your own components and integrating them with snort, rather than (or in addition to) using the default components.

Preprocessor

 Packets are examined/manipulated before being handed to the detection engine

Detection

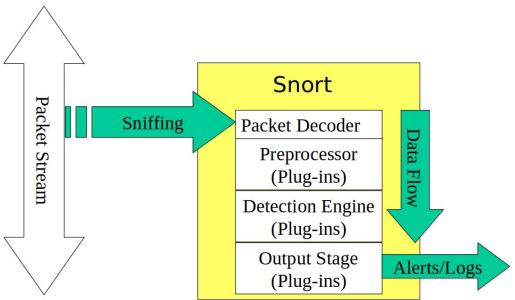
• Perform single or multiple tests on one or more aspect/field of the packet

Output

Report results from the other plug-ins

SNORT Architecture

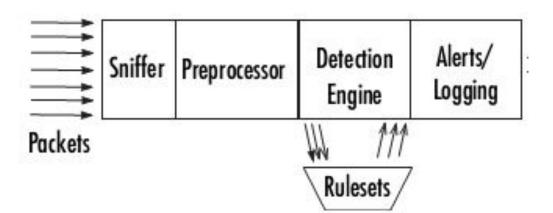
Snort has also a **layer architecture** where each layer receive an input form the top layer, perform some actions and pass the output to the bottom layer



SNORT Architecture and Components

The key **components** in SNORT are:

- 1. Network Sniffer
- 2. Preprocessor
- 3. Detection Engine
- 4. Knowledge-base
- 5. Notifier (Logging and Alerts)



SNORT Components: Network Sniffer

This a **basic packet sniffer** has similar features other network traffic sniffer (e.g. tcpdump, wireshark) and it is based on libpcap

The network sniffer also known as **packets decoder** takes the packets from different types of network interfaces

Send the packets to the **preprocessor** if the packets require preprocessing or send the packets to the **detection engine** if preprocessing is not required.

SNORT Components: Preprocessor

The preprocessing allowing users and programmers to drop modular plugins into Snort

The preprocessing code **runs before the detection engine** is called, but after the packet has been decoded.

The preprocessors can **modify and edit the packets data** to prepare them for the detection engine if require.

A preprocess could **rearrange packets contents** that have been crafted by the hacker to avoid detection during deep packet inspection. Or **reassemble packets fragments** and send the whole packet to the detection engine for signature testing.

SNORT Components: Detection Engine

The detection engine uses a set of rules to catch any intrusion activity exists in a packet.

It can dissert a packet and apply rules on different parts of the packet. This includes the:

- 1. The IP header of the packet
- 2. The Transport layer header: e.g. TCP, UDP.
- 3. The application layer level header: e.g. SSH, FTP, HTTP, SNMP, SMTP, IMAP, etc
- 4. Packet payload: you can create a rule to find a string inside the data.

SNORT Components: Knowledge-base

Snort support a large **rule-based** that is updated regularly by the snort community and CISCO/Sourcefire.

Snort users can **design and write** their own **custom rules**. The rules have if-then-else structure. Rules are usually grouped or categorized by protocols or attacks

□ D1 1	⊔ Multimedia	□ Scan
. Backdoors	.□ MySQL	.□ Shellcode
. Chat	.□ NETBIOS	.□ SMTP
. DDoS	.□ NNTP	.□ SNMP
.□ Finger	.□ Oracle	.□ SQL
.□ FTP .□ ICMP .□ IMAP	.□ P2P	.□ Telnet
	.□ POP	.□ TFTP
	.□ RPC	.□ Virus
		.□ Web
		.□ X11

SNORT Components: Notifier Logging and Output

The captured packet may be used to log the activity or generate an alert.

Logs are kept in simple text files, tcpdump-style files, or some other formats

Log files are stored under /var/log/snort folder by default on Debian like OS

Snort support many output plugins such as: **text** output, **syslog** server, **XML**, **IDMEF** (Intrusion Detection Message Exchange Format), **MySQL**, **Oracle**, **SPLANK**, **SMB**, etc

Installing and Configuring SNORT

Snort can run on **Windows**, **Linux**, and **Mac OS**. However, the recommend platform for deploying and running SNORT is Linux-like OS

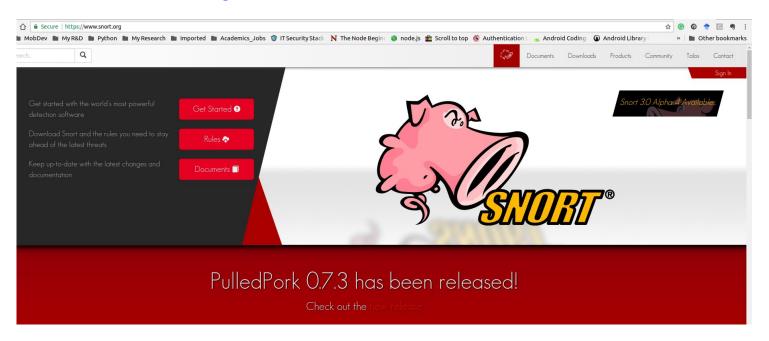
Snort essentially runs via command line interface. There are some third parties GUIs for snort, although the most common use of snort is through a command line.

The basic Snort configuration on different platforms is almost the same with some minor changes.

Snort comes with a **default configuration** that can be modified to execute specific functionality.

Installing SNORT

You can download snort from www.snort.org



Installing SNORT

There are different options to download and install SNORT, depend on you need and setting.

- 1. You can download SNORT binaries for your platform (e.g. ubuntu, mac, windows, redhat, etc)
- 2. You can download and install snort using your Linux distro software and package management tool.
- 3. You can download the source code and build and compile snort from the source code.

To install SNORT on Ubuntu using the software and package manager, use the following commands:

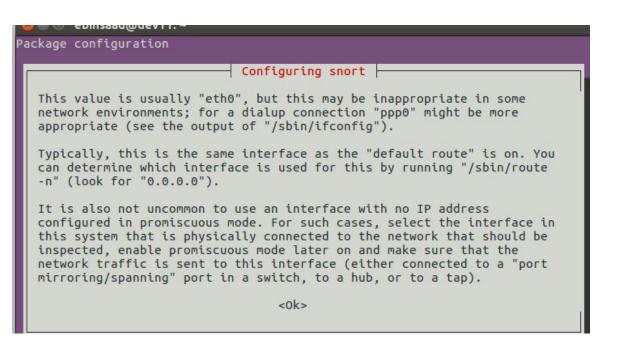
sudo apt-get install snort

You will need to configure the network interface and the home network during installation. You can edit this information at anytime

You can check snort version after the installation complete using the command

snort --version

SNORT sniffer configuration



SNORT sniffer configuration and home network

```
Package configuration
                  Interface(s) which Snort should listen on:
                  wlp4s0
                                    <0k>
```

Check snort installation and version by typing:

snort --version

Configuring SNORT

Snort comes with a default configuration file that you can use as a template to configure your snort deployment or to create different configuration files for different analysis tasks. To open and edit the configuration file use the following command

sudo gedit /etc/snort/snort.conf

Configuring SNORT

To open and edit the configuration file use the following command

sudo gedit /etc/snort/snort.conf

```
snort.conf
  ● ® Open ▼ Fl
   VRT Rule Packages Snort.conf
   For more information visit us at:
     http://www.snort.org
                                            Snort Website
     http://vrt-blog.snort.org/ Sourcefire VRT Blog
     Mailing list Contact:
                                snort-sigs@lists.sourceforge.net
     False Positive reports:
                              fp@sourcefire.com
      Snort bugs:
                                bugs@snort.org
      Compatible with Snort Versions:
      VERSIONS : 2.9.7.0
     Snort build options:
      OPTIONS: --enable-gre --enable-mpls --enable-targetbased --enable-ppm --enable-
perfprofiling --enable-zlib --enable-active-response --enable-normalizer --enable-reload --enable-
react -- enable-flexresp3
     Additional information:
     This configuration file enables active response, to run snort in
     test mode -T you are required to supply an interface -i <interface>
      or test mode will fail to fully validate the configuration and
      exit with a FATAL error
                                                 Plain Text ▼ Tab Width: 8 ▼
                                                                             Ln 1. Col 1 ▼ INS
```

Configuration Options

```
This file contains a sample snort configuration.
 You should take the following steps to create your own custom configuration:
 1) Set the network variables.
  2) Configure the decoder
  3) Configure the base detection engine
  4) Configure dynamic loaded libraries
  Configure preprocessors
  6) Configure output plugins
    Customize your rule set
    Customize preprocessor and decoder rule set
    Customize shared object rule set
```

Configuring Home Network

You can define your home network or use the default

```
# Note to Debian users: this value is overriden when starting
# up the Snort daemon through the init.d script by the
# value of DEBIAN_SNORT_HOME_NET s defined in the
# /etc/snort/snort.debian.conf configuration file
#
ipvar HOME_NET any
# Set up the external network addresses. Leave as "any" in most situations
ipvar EXTERNAL_NET any
# If HOME_NET is defined as something other than "any", alternative, you can
# use this definition if you do not want to detect attacks from your internal
# IP addresses:
#ipvar EXTERNAL_NET !$HOME_NET
```

Configuring Home Network

To setup the network addresses you want to protect, you need to update the \$HOME_NET accordingly. The default setting in the snort configuration snort.conf is as follows:

ipvar HOME_NET any

For instance, to protect subnet 142.104.64.0/24, change the above line in "snort.conf" to the following:

ipvar HOME_NET 142.104.64.0/24

Configuring Network Services

By default, snort will monitor all the servers running on your network. The following default line indicates that snort will monitor all the web servers on your network:

To monitor specific web servers on your network, for instance, running at 142.104.64.199 and 142.104.64.201, change the above line in "snort.conf" to the following:

ipvar HTTP_SERVERS [142.104.64.199, 142.104.64.201]

Configuring Network Services

You can also configure snort to monitor specific ports. For instance, by updating the HTTP_PORTS variable, you can monitor specific ports running on the web server. For example, the default setting for HTTP is defined in the snort.conf file as follows:

ipvar HTTP_PORTS 80

You can add additional ports by changing the above setting. For instance, the following line will allow monitoring ports 80, 81, and 8080 on the web server:

ipvar HTTP_PORTS [80,81, 8080, 443]

Configuring Output Module

This consists of selecting the output plugins and format for Snort. The output plugins entry specifies how snort alerts messages will be logged.

```
# Step #6: Configure output plugins
# For more information, see Snort Manual, Configuring Snort - Output Modules
 # unified2
# Recommended for most installs
# output unified2: filename merged.log, limit 128, nostamp, mpls event types, vlan event types
output unified2: filename snort.log, limit 128, nostamp, mpls event types, vlan event types
# Additional configuration for specific types of installs
# output alert unified2: filename snort.alert, limit 128, nostamp
# output log unified2: filename snort.log, limit 128, nostamp
# syslog
# output alert syslog: LOG AUTH LOG ALERT
# pcap
# output log tcpdump: tcpdump.log
# metadata reference data. do not modify these lines
include classification.config
```

Configuring Output Module

There are other options to configure the output module. For example, the following line instructs snort to use the CSV format to log the alerts:

output alert_csv: alert.csv default

You can also log to a database like MySQL, in this case we need first to create and add SNORT database to our MySQL engine. Snort come with a file called **create_mysql**, which has the schema for the database.

```
output database: log, mysql, user=snort
password=snortpass dbname=snort host=mysql.host
```

Configure SNORT rules

Using the snort configuration file we can enable or disable any rules-set. Every group of rules-set is usually stored in one rules file

```
Step #7: Customize your rule set
# For more information, see Snort Manual, Writing Snort Rules
# NOTE: All categories are enabled in this conf file
# Note to Debian users: The rules preinstalled in the system
# can be *very* out of date. For more information please read
# the /usr/share/doc/snort-rules-default/README.Debian file
# If you install the official VRT Sourcefire rules please review this
# configuration file and re-enable (remove the comment in the first line) those
# rules files that are available in your system (in the /etc/snort/rules
# directory)
# site specific rules
include $RULE PATH/local.rules
```

Configure SNORT rules

Using the snort configuration file we can enable or disable any rules-set. Every group of rules-set is usually stored in one rules file

```
#include $RULE PATH/app-detect.rules
include $RULE PATH/attack-responses.rules
include $RULE PATH/backdoor.rules
include $RULE PATH/bad-traffic.rules
#include $RULE PATH/blacklist.rules
#include $RULE PATH/botnet-cnc.rules
#include $RULE PATH/browser-chrome.rules
#include $RULE PATH/browser-firefox.rules
#include $RULE PATH/browser-ie.rules
#include $RULE PATH/browser-other.rules
#include $RULE PATH/browser-plugins.rules
#include $RULE PATH/browser-webkit.rules
include $RULE PATH/chat.rules
#include $RULE PATH/content-replace.rules
include $RULE PATH/ddos.rules
include $RULE_PATH/dns.rules
include $RULE PATH/dos.rules
```

Working with SNORT Rules

When installing snort using your Linux distro it usually come with many rules set installed on your machine. For **Debian-like OS** the rules are under

/etc/snort/rules/

🔞 🖨 🗊 ebinsaad@dev11: ~ ebinsaad@dev11:~\$ ls /etc/snort/rules/ attack-responses.rules community-web-dos.rules policy.rules backdoor.rules community-web-iis.rules pop2.rules bad-traffic.rules community-web-misc.rules pop3.rules chat.rules community-web-php.rules porn.rules ddos.rules community-bot.rules rpc.rules community-deleted.rules deleted.rules rservices.rules community-dos.rules dns.rules scan.rules community-exploit.rules dos rules shellcode, rules community-ftp.rules experimental.rules smtp.rules exploit.rules community-game.rules snmp.rules community-icmp.rules finger.rules sal.rules telnet.rules community-imap.rules ftp.rules community-inappropriate.rules icmp-info.rules tftp.rules community-mail-client.rules icmp.rules virus.rules community-misc.rules imap.rules web-attacks.rules community-nntp.rules web-cai.rules info.rules community-oracle.rules local rules web-client.rules community-policy.rules web-coldfusion.rules misc.rules community-sip.rules multimedia.rules web-frontpage.rules community-smtp.rules mysql.rules web-iis.rules community-sql-injection.rules netbios.rules web-misc.rules community-virus.rules nntp.rules web-php.rules community-web-attacks.rules oracle.rules x11.rules

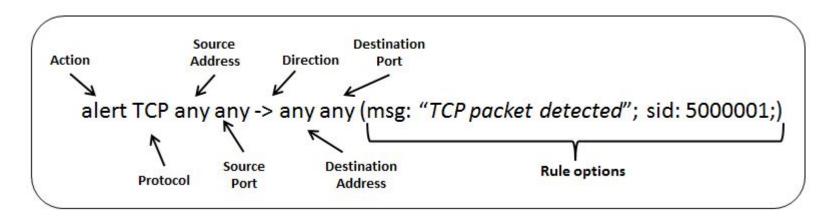
Working with SNORT Rules

You may use any text editor to open, view, and edit the rules files. For example we can open the ddos.rules file using the following command

gedit /etc/snort/rules/ddos.rules

```
🗎 🗇 ddos.rules [Read-Only] (/etc/snort/rules) - gedit
# Certified Rules License Agreement.
# $Id: ddos.rules.v 1.23.2.3.2.1 2005/05/16 22:17:51 mwatchinski Exp $
# DDOS RULES
alert icmp $EXTERNAL NET any -> $HOME NET any (msg:"DDOS TFN Probe"; icmp id:678; itype:8;
content: "1234": reference: arachnids.443: classtype: attempted-recon: sid:221: rev:4:)
alert icmp SEXTERNAL NET any -> SHOME NET any (msg: "DDOS tfn2k icmp possible communication":
icmp id:0; itype:0; content: "AAAAAAAAA"; reference:arachnids,425; classtype:attempted-dos;
sid:222; rev:2;)
alert udp SEXTERNAL NET any -> SHOME NET 31335 (msg: "DDOS Trin00 Daemon to Master PONG message
detected"; content: "PONG"; reference:arachnids,187; classtype:attempted-recon; sid:223; rev:3;)
alert icmp $EXTERNAL NET any -> $HOME NET any (msq:"DDOS TFN client command BE"; icmp id:456;
icmp seq:0; itype:0; reference:arachnids,184; classtype:attempted-dos; sid:228; rev:3;)
alert tcp $HOME NET 20432 -> $EXTERNAL NET any (msg:"DDOS shaft client login to handler";
flow:from server.established: content:"login|3A|": reference:arachnids.254:
reference:url,security.royans.net/info/posts/bugtrag ddos3.shtml; classtype:attempted-dos;
alert udp $EXTERNAL NET any -> $HOME NET 18753 (msg:"DDOS shaft handler to agent": content:"alive
tijqu": reference:arachnids.255; classtype:attempted-dos; sid:239; rev:2;)
                                                  Plain Text ▼ Tab Width: 8 ▼
                                                                               Ln 1, Col 1 ▼ INS
```

Understanding SNORT Rules



Action: informs Snort what kind of action to be performed when it detects a packet that matches the rule description. The default action is **alert**, the other actions are: **log**, **pass**, **drop**, **reject and sdrop**.

SNORT Question

Why snort uses "alert" rule only?

Ask Question



Among community rules and registered rules, all are "alert" type rules only. Since there are more rule types like log,pass,activate,dynamic,drop,sdrop available, snort official rule sets use only alert type.

3

Why other type of rules are not included in the snort official rule sets?



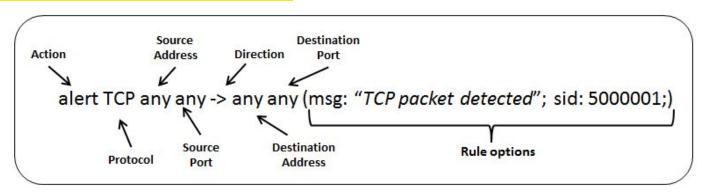
ids snort

asked 2 years, 5 months ago

viewed 688 times

active 2 years, 4 months ago

Understanding SNORT Rules

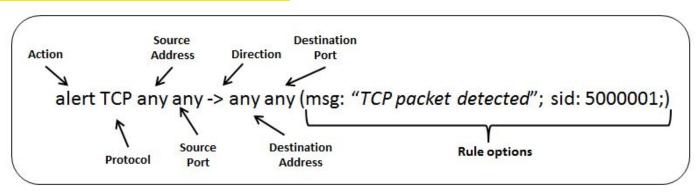


Protocol: this option tell snort to apply this rule for a specific protocol e.g (**ip, tcp, udp, icmp, any**)

Source IP: this option tell snort to apply this rule for a specific source IP address, subnet or any ip address.

Source Port: This part of header describes the source Port from which traffic is coming.

Understanding SNORT Rules



Direction operator ("->", "<>"): It denotes the direction of traffic flow between sender and receiver networks.

Destination IP: This part of header describes the destination network interface in which traffic is coming for establishing a connection.

Destination Port: This part of header describes the destination Port on which traffic is coming for establishing a connection.

Understanding SNORT Rules

Rule Options: The body for rule option is usually **written between circular brackets** "()" that contains **keywords** with their argument and the keyword are separated by semicolon ";"

There are general options and the keywords, and there are options and keywords that are protocol specific.

In the options we may specify or search for a unique pattern in the packet payload using the keyword **content**

You may use **regex** or regular expression to **match payload contents**

We can write a SNORT rule to generate an alert when we detect incoming or outgoing ICMP ping request

alert icmp any any <> any any (itype:8;msg: "ping detected"; sid:1000001;)

The above rule will generate an alert message on every ping packet detect by the IDS regardless the ping message direction.

The above rule is an example of a **valid** SNORT rule but a **bad** one.

Let us write a rule to detect a **DOS Jolt attack**.

Jolt attack is a denial of service (DoS) attack caused by a very large ICMP packet that is fragmented in such a way that the targeted machine is unable to reassemble it

```
alert ip $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET any (msg:"DOS Jolt attack";
dsize:408; fragbits:M; reference:cve,1999-0345; classtype:attempted-dos;
sid:268; rev:4;)
```

Let us write a rule to detect potential SQL injection attacks that use SQL keywords like [and, or] or attacks that use special characters

```
alert tcp any any -> any 80 (msg: "AND SQL Injection"; content:
    "and"; nocase; sid:100000008; )
alert tcp any any -> any 80 (msg: "OR SQL Injection"; content:
    "or"; nocase; sid:100000009; )
```

alert tcp any any -> any 80 (msg: "Form Based SQL Injection";
content: "%27"; sid:1000003;)

Let us write a rule to malicious attachments (e.g. virus, botnet, etc) in TCP traffic.

```
alert tcp $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET 25 (msg:"VIRUS OUTBOUND bad file attachment"; flow:to_server,established; content: "Content-Disposition/3A/";nocase; pcre:"/filename\s*=\s*.*?\.(?=[abcdehijlmnoprsvwx])(a(d[ep]|s[dfx])/c([ho]m/li/md/pp) |d(iz|ll|ot)|e(m[fl]|xe)|h(lp|sq|ta)|jse?|m(d[abew]|s[ip])|p(p[st]|if|[lm]|ot)|r(eg|tf)|s(cr|[hy]s|wf)|v(b[es]?|cf|xd)|w(m[dfsz]|p[dmsz]|s[cfh])|xl[tw]|bat|ini|lnk|nws|ocx)[\x27\x22\n\r\s]/iR"; classtype:suspicious-filename-detect; sid:721; rev:8;)
```

SNORT Question

Log Attacks in Different Files using Snort



How can I log attacks separately using snort. I basically want to log attacks invoked from different files separately. Like if I have 2 files, ddos.rules and log.rules, then I want logs generated from ddos.rules in one file and logs generated from log.rules in another.



Is it possible, and if so how can I do it?

Write and Deploy your own Snort Rules

As a new SNORT user it is recommend that you write your new snort rules into the file **local.rules**. Which is commonly used to store custom SNORT rules for a given site.

To open this file use any text editor using the following command

sudo gedit /etc/snort/rules/local.rules

ebinsaad@dev11:~\$ sudo gedit /etc/snort/rules/local.rules

Write and Deploy your own Snort Rules

As you can see the **local.rules** is by default an empty file (no predefined rules)

```
| Copen | Incomplete | Copen | Incomplete | Copen | Incomplete | Incom
```

Write and Deploy your own Snort Rules

Let us add the following rule and save the file:

alert tcp any any -> any 443 (msg: "detect HTTPs traffic"; sid:8000000001; rev:1;)

```
# $Id: local.rules, v 1.11 2004/07/23 20:15:44 bmc Exp $
# LOCAL RULES
# This file intentionally does not come with signatures. Put your local
# additions here.

alert tcp any any -> any 443 (msg: "detect HTTPs traffic"; sid:80000000001; rev:1;)
```

SNORT Log files

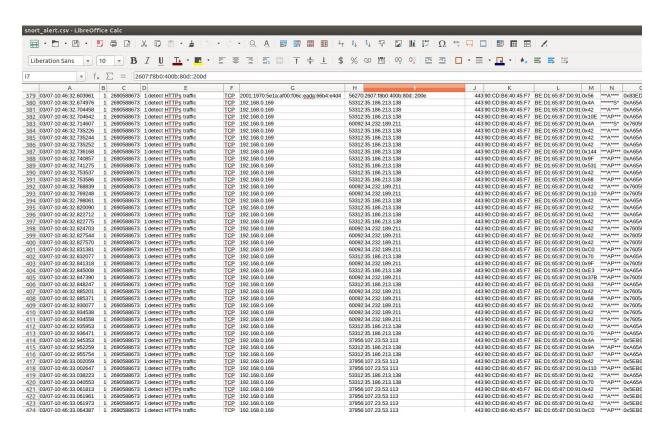
SNORT logs are by default stored /var/log/snort/

```
ebinsaad@dev11:~

ebinsaad@dev11:~$ ls /var/log/snort/
snort_alert.csv snort.log snort.log.1520437486

ebinsaad@dev11:~$ cp /var/log/snort/snort_alert.csv /home/ebinsaad/
```

SNORT Alerts in CSV file



- 1. **Disable** all rules and only enable the rules that match your organization security policy.
- 2. Use **passive actions** like log and alert until you are confident that the rules are correct. Then, you may consider more active actions.
- 3. Use **simple rules** and avoid complex rules that try to detect multiple attacks patterns.

4. Avoid **overgeneralized** rules; overgeneralized rules will result in false positives

```
Example: False Positive alert tcp any any ⇒ HOME_NET 22 (msg: "SSH Brute Force Attempt")
```

5. Avoid **overfitting** rules that use single attribute for the matching like port number or content. This is usually will increase the false negative.

```
Example: False Negative

alert tcp any any ⇒ HOME_NET 22 (msg:"Potential SSH Brute

Force Attack"; flow:to_server; flags:S; threshold:type threshold,

track by_src, count 30, seconds 60; classtype:attempted-dos;

sid:2001219; rev:4 resp:rst_all )
```

- 6. **Group** your custom rules by application, services or attacks.
- 7. Only **log packages** that you plan to inspect or use for forensic analysis. Example log packets about a virus and malware but do not log packets with spoofed IP
- 8. Use **informative** log and alert **messages**.
- 9. Check the available ruleset to make sure you are not creating duplicate rules

10. Add as many as possible information about the attack pattern or signature

1/31-17:37:39.987506 **[1:671:4**] "SMTP sendmail 8.6.9c exploit **[Classification: Attempted_User_Privilege_Gain]**" [Priority: 1] {TCP} 1.2.3.4:27191 -> 192.168.1.97:25

Impact: Severe. Remote execution of arbitrary code, leading to remote root compromise.

Affected Systems: Systems running unpatched versions of Sendmail 8.6.10 or earlier.

Corrective Action: Upgrade to the latest version of Sendmail.

Attack Scenario: An attacker sends an email with newline characters and a carriage return, including a path variable of P=/bin/sh. Directives included in the transmission are executed while the message remains in the Sendmail queue.

Certified Intrusion Analyst

https://www.giac.org/certification/certified-intrusion-analyst-gcia

Requirements

- 1 proctored exam
- 100-150 questions
- Time limit of 4 hours
- Minimum Passing Score of 67%

The End

Questions??