



Welcome to

## 9. Network Forensics

### Communication and Network Security 2024

Henrik Kramselund he/him han/ham hlk@zencurity.com @kramse

Slides are available as PDF, kramse@Codeberg  
9-Network-Forensics.tex in the repo security-courses

# Goals for today



## Today's goals:

- Talk about centralized logging using syslog as example
- We already used Elasticsearch and Kibana, a bit
- See and develop small pattern matching Grok expressions

# Plan for today



## Subjects

- Centralized syslog
- Netflow data
- Collect Network Evidence
- Analyze Network data
- Network Forensics
- (Create Incident Reports)

## Exercises

- Run Zui a desktop security tool
- Indicator of Compromise
- Syslog configuration
- Bonus: Create a Kibana dashboard for looking at logs
- Look at forensics exercises from ENISA)

# Reading Summary



ANSM chapter 4,(5,6 moved) - 24 pages

4. Session Data

5. Full Packet Capture

6. Packet String Data

## Reading Summary, continued



**The Zeek Network Security Monitor**

### ANSM chapter 4: Session Data

- Netflow and IPFIX - described on more detail
  - Introduce and mentions another tool SiLK <https://tools.netsa.cert.org/silk/>
- If we end up having time today, or another day, we should look into this tool chain also!

## IP reputation



Zeek documentation Intel framework

<https://docs.zeek.org/en/stable/frameworks/intel.html>

Suricata reputation support

<https://suricata.readthedocs.io/en/latest/reputation/index.html>

# Exercise

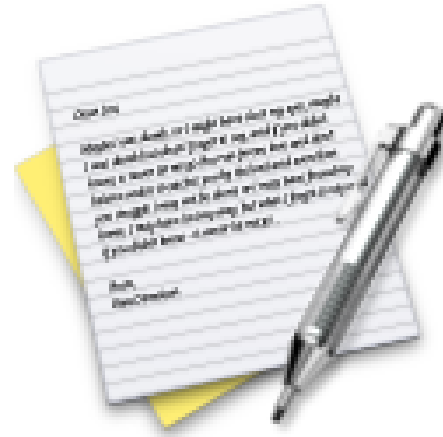


Now lets do the exercise

**i Zui desktop app 20 min**

which is number **61** in the exercise PDF.

# Exercise



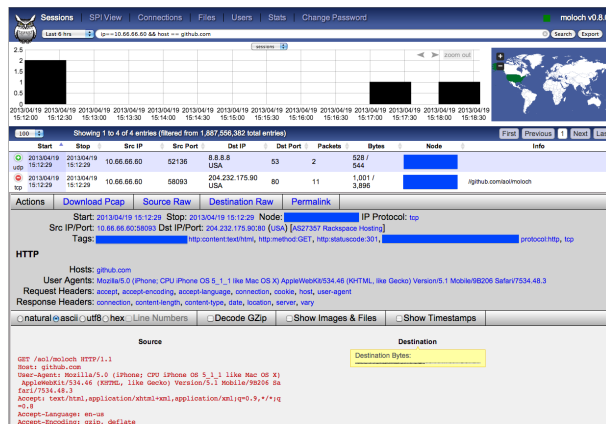
Now lets do the exercise

## ! Indicators of Compromise 30min

which is number **62** in the exercise PDF.



# Logging today



Log analysis is required today - and we have many logs

Gather logs, parse logs, explain logs - fix stuff

Search your logs with the Elastic stack

Show sample logs from Suricata, Sudo, SSH, ... what we have

# How to get started



How to get started searching for security events?

Collect basic data from your devices and networks

- Netflow data from routers
- Session data from firewalls
- Logging from applications: email, web, proxy systems

## Centralize!

Process data

- Top 10: interesting due to high frequency, occurs often, brute-force attacks
- *ignore*
- Bottom 10: least-frequent messages are interesting

## Centralized syslog



Logfiler er en nødvendighed for at have et transaktionsspor

Logfiler giver mulighed for statistik

Logfiler er desuden nødvendige for at fejlfinde

Det kan være relevant at sammenholde logfiler fra:

- routere
- firewalls
- webservere
- intrusion detection systemer
- adgangskontrolsystemer
- ...

Husk - tiden er vigtig! Network Time Protocol (NTP) anbefales

Husk at logfilerne typisk kan slettes af en angriber - hvis denne får kontrol med systemet



syslog er system loggen på UNIX og den er effektiv

- man kan definere hvad man vil se og hvor man vil have det dirigeret hen
- man kan samle det i en fil eller opdele alt efter programmer og andre kriterier
- man kan ligeledes bruge named pipes - dvs filer i filsystemet som tunneller fra chroot'ed services til syslog i det centrale system!
- man kan nemt sende data til andre systemer

Man bør lave en centraliseret løsning

## syslogd.conf eksempel



```
*.err;kern.debug;auth.notice;authpriv.none;mail.crit    /dev/console
*.notice;auth,authpriv,cron,ftp,kern,lpr,mail,user.none /var/log/messages
kern.debug;user.info;syslog.info                        /var/log/messages
auth.info                                                /var/log/authlog
authpriv.debug                                           /var/log/secure
...
# Uncomment to log to a central host named "loghost".
#*.notice;auth,authpriv,cron,ftp,kern,lpr,mail,user.none @loghost
#kern.debug,user.info,syslog.info                        @loghost
#auth.info,authpriv.debug,daemon.info                   @loghost
```

# Andre syslogs syslog-ng



- der findes andre syslog systemer eksempelvis syslog-ng
- konfigureres gennem `/etc/syslog-ng/syslog-ng.conf`

```
options {  
    long_hostnames(off);  
    sync(0);  
    stats(43200);  
};  
  
source src    unix-stream("/dev/log"); internal(); pipe("/proc/kmsg"); ;  
destination messages    file("/var/log/messages"); ;  
destination console_all  file("/dev/console"); ;  
log    source(src); destination(messages); ;  
log    source(src); destination(console_all); ;
```

Kan eksempelvis TCP og garanteret aflevering af beskeder

# Web server access log



```
root# tail -f access_log
::1 - - [19/Feb/2004:09:05:33 +0100] "GET /images/IPv6ready.png
HTTP/1.1" 304 0
::1 - - [19/Feb/2004:09:05:33 +0100] "GET /images/valid-html401.png
HTTP/1.1" 304 0
::1 - - [19/Feb/2004:09:05:33 +0100] "GET /images/snowflake1.png
HTTP/1.1" 304 0
::1 - - [19/Feb/2004:09:05:33 +0100] "GET /~h1k/security6.net/images/logo-1.png
HTTP/1.1" 304 0
2001:1448:81:beef:20a:95ff:fef5:34df - - [19/Feb/2004:09:57:35 +0100]
"GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 1456
2001:1448:81:beef:20a:95ff:fef5:34df - - [19/Feb/2004:09:57:35 +0100]
"GET /apache_pb.gif HTTP/1.1" 200 2326
2001:1448:81:beef:20a:95ff:fef5:34df - - [19/Feb/2004:09:57:36 +0100]
"GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 209
2001:1448:81:beef:20a:95ff:fef5:34df - - [19/Feb/2004:09:57:36 +0100]
"GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 209
```

Web server logs are pretty standardized, common log format.



Now lets do the exercise

## **i** Logging med syslogd og syslog.conf 10min

which is number **63** in the exercise PDF.



# Big Data tools: Elasticsearch



## elasticsearch

Book: the definitive guide

<http://www.elasticsearch.org/guide/en/elasticsearch/guide/current/index.html>

<http://www.elasticsearch.org/overview/kibana/>

<http://www.elasticsearch.org/overview/logstash/>

We are all Devops now, even security people!

# Ansible configuration management



```
- apt: name= item  state=latest
  with_items:
    - unzip
    - elasticsearch
    - logstash
    - redis-server
    - nginx
- lineinfile: "dest=/etc/elasticsearch/elasticsearch.yml state=present
  regexp='script.disable_dynamic: true' line='script.disable_dynamic: true'"
- lineinfile: "dest=/etc/elasticsearch/elasticsearch.yml state=present
  regexp='network.host: localhost' line='network.host: localhost'"
- name: Move elasticsearch data into /data
  command: creates=/data/elasticsearch mv /var/lib/elasticsearch /data/
- name: Make link to /data/elasticsearch
  file: state=link src=/data/elasticsearch path=/var/lib/elasticsearch
```

only requires SSH+python <http://www.ansible.com>

# Kibana



Highly recommended for a lot of data visualisation

Non-programmers can create, save, and share dashboards

Source: <https://www.elastic.co/products/kibana>

# Logstash pipeline



Logstash is an open source, server-side data processing pipeline that ingests data from a multitude of sources simultaneously, transforms it, and then sends it to your favorite “stash.” (Ours is Elasticsearch, naturally.)

<https://www.elastic.co/products/logstash>

```
input { stdin { } }  
output {  
  elasticsearch { host => localhost }  
  stdout { codec => rubydebug }  
}
```

- Logstash receives via **input**
- Processes with **filters** - grok
- Forward events with **output**

# Logstash as SNMPtrap and syslog server



```
input {
  snmptrap {
    host => "0.0.0.0"
    type => "snmptrap"
    port => 1062
    community => "xxxxx"  }
  tcp {
    port => 5000
    type => syslog  }
  udp {
    port => 5000
    type => syslog  }
}
```

- We run logstash on port 5000 - but use IPtables port forwarding
- Have you even configured SNMP traps?
- Maybe you have a device sending SNMP traps right now ...

# IPtables forwarding



```
*nat
:PREROUTING ACCEPT [0:0]
# redirect all incoming requests on port 514 to port 5000
-A PREROUTING -p tcp --dport 514 -j REDIRECT --to-port 5000
-A PREROUTING -p udp --dport 514 -j REDIRECT --to-port 5000
-A PREROUTING -p udp --dport 162 -j REDIRECT --to-port 1062
COMMIT
```

Inserted near beginning of `/etc/ufw/before.rules` on Ubuntu

Remember defense in depth, dont run a privileged Java VM process as root 😊

# Grok expressions



```
filter {
  if [type] == "syslog" {
    grok {
      match => { "message" => "%{SYSLOGTIMESTAMP:syslog_timestamp}
        %{SYSLOGHOST:syslog_hostname} %{DATA:syslog_program}
        (?:\[%{POSINT:syslog_pid}\])?: %{GREEDYDATA:syslog_message}" }
      add_field => [ "received_at", "%{@timestamp}" ]
      add_field => [ "received_from", "%{host}" ]
    }
    syslog_pri { }
    date {
      match => [ "syslog_timestamp", "MMM d HH:mm:ss", "MMM dd HH:mm:ss" ]
    }
  }
}
```

- Logstash filter expressions grok can normalize and split data into fields

Source: Config snippet from recommended link

<http://logstash.net/docs/1.4.1/tutorials/getting-started-with-logstash>

# Grok expressions, sample from my archive



```
filter {
# decode some SSHD
if [syslog_program] == "sshd" {
  grok {
# May 20 10:27:08 odn1-nsm-01 sshd[4554]: Accepted publickey for hlk from
10.50.11.17 port 50365 ssh2: DSA 9e:fd:3b:3d:fc:11:0e:b9:bd:22:71:a9:36:d8:06:c7

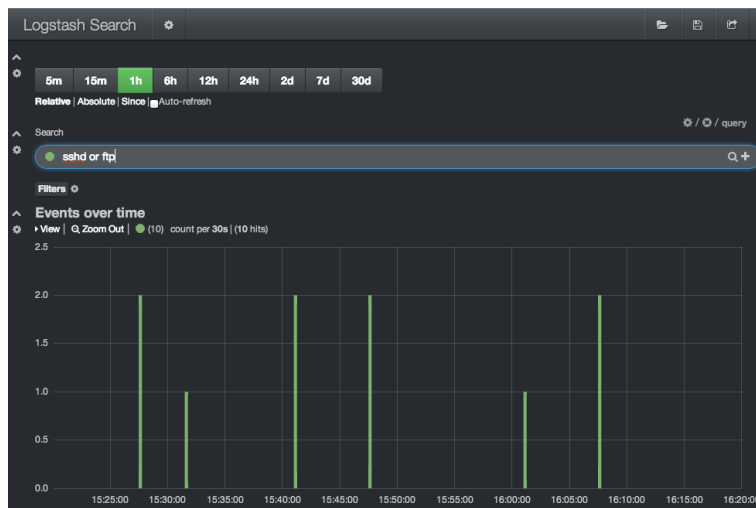
match => { "message" => "%{SYSLOGTIMESTAMP:timestamp} %{HOSTNAME:host_target}
sshd\[ %{BASE10NUM}\]: Accepted publickey for %{USERNAME:username} from
%{IP:src_ip} port %{BASE10NUM:port} ssh2" }

# "May 20 10:27:08 odn1-nsm-01 sshd[4554]: pam_unix(sshd:session):
session opened for user hlk by (uid=0)"
match => { "message" => "%{SYSLOGTIMESTAMP:timestamp} %{HOSTNAME:host_target}
sshd\[ %{BASE10NUM}\]: pam_unix\(sshd:session\): session opened for user
%{USERNAME:username}" }
```

- Logstash filter expressions grok can normalize and split data into fields



# View data efficiently



View data by digging into it easily - must be fast

Logstash and Kibana are just examples, but use indexing to make it fast!

Other popular examples include Graylog and Grafana

# Suricata with Dashboards



Picture from Twitter

<https://twitter.com/nullthreat/status/445969209840128000>

<http://suricata-ids.org/>

# Exercise



Now lets do the exercise

## Create Kibana Dashboard 15min

which is number **64** in the exercise PDF.

# Collect Network Evidence from the network



## Network Flows

Cisco standard NetFlow version 5 defines a flow as a unidirectional sequence of packets that all share the following 7 values:

- Ingress interface (SNMP ifIndex)
- Source IP address
- Destination IP address
- IP protocol
- Source port for UDP or TCP, 0 for other protocols
- Destination port for UDP or TCP, type and code for ICMP, or 0 for other protocols
- IP Type of Service

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NetFlow>



Netflow is getting more important, more data share the same links

Accounting is important

Detecting DoS/DDoS and problems is essential

Netflow sampling is vital information - 123Mbit, but what kind of traffic

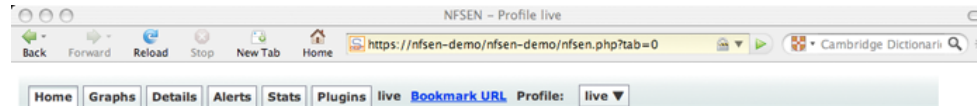
NFSen is an old but free application <http://nfsen.sourceforge.net/>

Currently also investigating sFlow - hopefully more fine grained

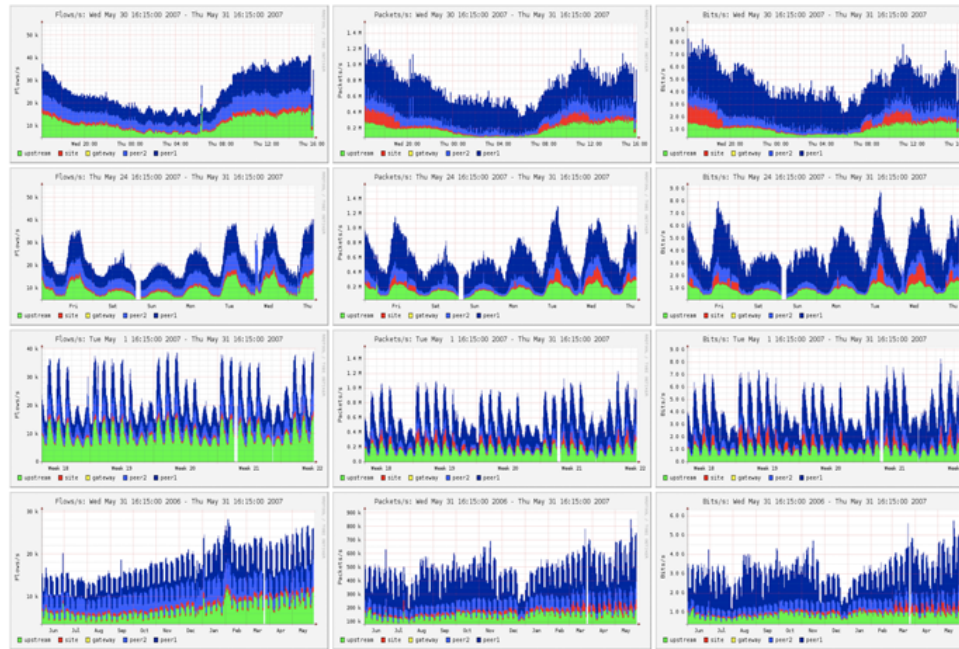
sFlow, short for "sampled flow", is an industry standard for packet export at Layer 2 of the OSI model,

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SFlow>

# Netflow using NFSen



## Overview Profile: live, Group: (nogroup)

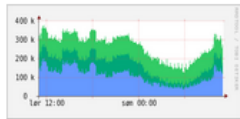


nfsen 1.3

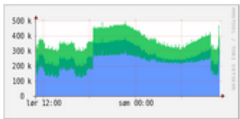


Profile: live

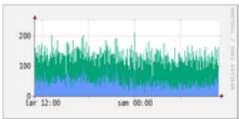
TCP



any



ICMP

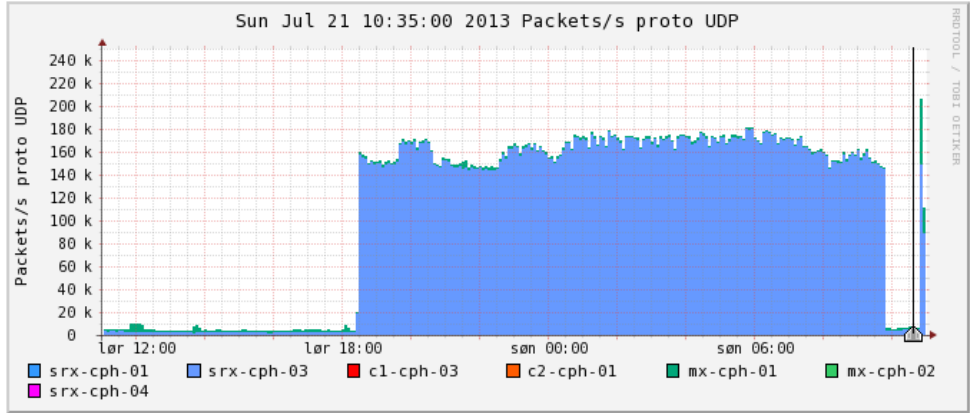


other



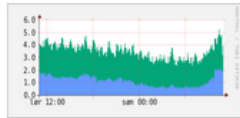
Profileinfo:

Type: live  
Max: unlimited  
Exp: never  
Start: Jun 23 2011 - 13:10 CEST  
End: Jul 21 2013 - 11:00 CEST

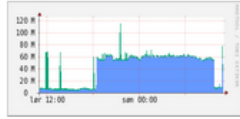


t\_start 2013-07-21-10-35  
t\_end 2013-07-21-10-35

Flows



Traffic



Select  Display:

☒ Lin Scale ☒ Stacked Graph  
☐ Log Scale ☐ Line Graph

An extra 100k packets per second from this netflow source (source is a router)

# Netflow processing from the web interface



NetFlow Processing

Source: peer1 peer2 gateway site upstream  
Filter: and <none>

Options:  
☐ List Flows ☒ Stat TopN  
Top: 10  
Stat: Flow Records order by flows  
Aggregate: ☒ proto ☒ srcPort ☒ dstPort  
Limit: ☐ Packets ☐ / IPv6 long  
Output: line ☐ / IPv6 long  
Clear Form process

```
** nfdump -M /netflow0/nfsen-demo/profile-data/live/peer1:peer2:gateway:site:upstream -T -r 2007/05/31/04/nfcapd.200705310440
nfdump filter:
any
Aggregated flows 2797250
Top 10 flows ordered by flows:
Date flow start      Duration Proto   Src IP Addr:Port    Dst IP Addr:Port    Packets  Bytes  Flows
2007-05-31 04:39:54.045 299.034 UDP      116.147.95.88:1110  188.142.64.162:27014 68       5508   68
2007-05-31 04:39:56.282 298.174 UDP      116.147.249.27:1478 188.142.64.163:27014 67       5427   67
2007-05-31 04:39:57.530 298.206 UDP      117.196.44.62:1031  188.142.64.166:27014 67       5427   67
2007-05-31 04:39:57.819 298.112 UDP      117.196.75.134:1146 188.142.64.167:27014 67       5427   67
2007-05-31 04:39:53.787 297.216 UDP      61.191.235.132:4121 60.9.138.37:2121    62       3720   62
2007-05-31 04:39:55.354 300.833 UDP      60.9.138.37:2121    118.25.93.95:2121   61       3660   61
2007-05-31 04:39:58.936 298.977 UDP      60.9.138.36:2121    119.182.123.166:2121 61       3660   61
2007-05-31 04:39:54.329 303.585 UDP      120.150.194.76:2121 60.9.138.37:2121    61       3660   61
2007-05-31 04:39:53.916 300.734 UDP      60.9.138.37:2121    125.167.25.128:2121 61       3660   61
2007-05-31 04:39:57.946 300.353 UDP      60.9.138.36:2121    121.135.4.186:2121  61       3660   61

IP addresses anonymized
Summary: total flows: 4616424, total bytes: 156.6 G, total packets: 172.6 M, avg bps: 644.8 M, avg pps: 90946, avg bpps: 929
Time window: 2007-05-31 04:11:49 - 2007-05-31 04:44:58
Total flows processed: 4616424, skipped: 0, Bytes read: 240064932
Sys: 6.184s flows/second: 746464.4 Wall: 6.185s flows/second: 746361.3
```

Bringing the power of the command line forward



# How to get started



How to get started searching for security events?

Collect basic data from your devices and networks

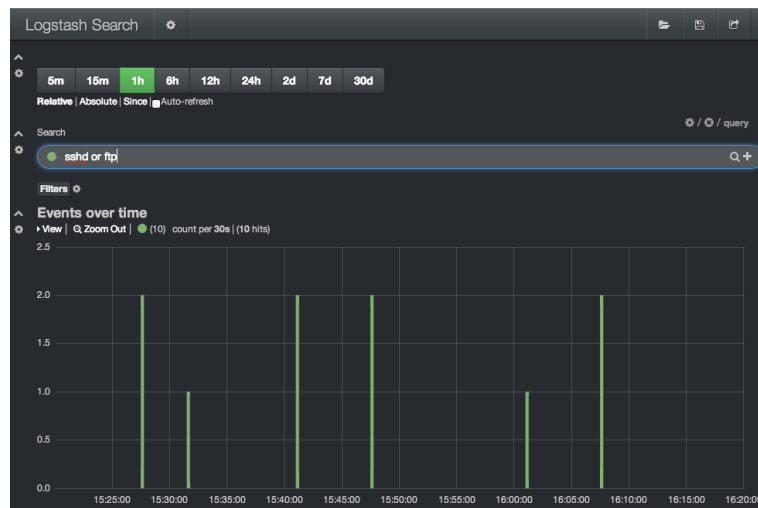
- Netflow data from routers
- Session data from firewalls
- Logging from applications: email, web, proxy systems

## Centralize!

Process data

- Top 10: interesting due to high frequency, occurs often, brute-force attacks
- *ignore*
- Bottom 10: least-frequent messages are interesting

# View data efficiently

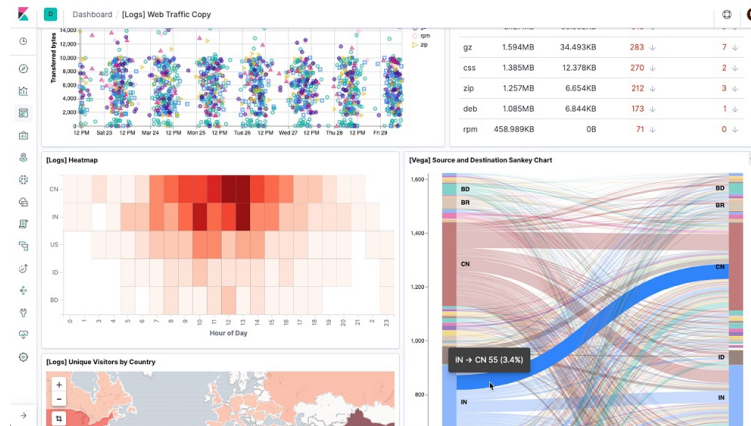


View data by digging into it easily - must be fast

Logstash and Kibana are just examples, but use indexing to make it fast!

Other popular examples include Graylog and Grafana

# Big Data tools: Elasticsearch



Elasticsearch is an open source distributed, RESTful search and analytics engine capable of solving a growing number of use cases.

<https://www.elastic.co>

We are all Devops now, even security people!

# Kibana



Highly recommended for a lot of data visualisation

Non-programmers can create, save, and share dashboards

Source: <https://www.elastic.co/products/kibana>

# Ansible configuration management



```
- apt: name= item  state=latest
  with_items:
    - unzip
    - elasticsearch
    - logstash
    - redis-server
    - nginx
- lineinfile: "dest=/etc/elasticsearch/elasticsearch.yml state=present
  regexp='script.disable_dynamic: true' line='script.disable_dynamic: true'"
- lineinfile: "dest=/etc/elasticsearch/elasticsearch.yml state=present
  regexp='network.host: localhost' line='network.host: localhost'"
```

only requires SSH+python <http://www.ansible.com>

I have a set of files that can install a mostly complete Elastic stack on Debian:  
<https://github.com/kramse/kramse-labs/tree/master/suricatazeek>

## Next steps



Always improving things:

Suricata IDS <http://www.openinfosecfoundation.org/>

More graphs, with **automatic identification** of IPs under attack

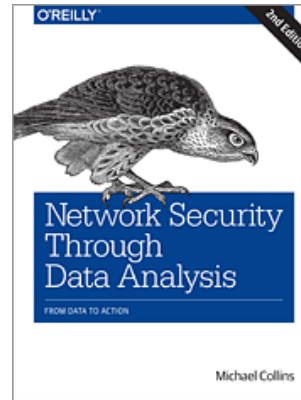
Identification of **short sessions without data** - spoofed addresses

Alerting from **existing** devices

Dashboards with key measurements

**Conclusion: Combine tools!**

# Network Security Through Data Analysis



Low page count, but high value! Recommended.

Network Security through Data Analysis, 2nd Edition by Michael S Collins  
Publisher: O'Reilly Media, Second release, 428 pages, 2017

And we have the ANSM book

# Network tools - more examples



## Using PacketQ

Let's have a practical look at how PacketQ works by trying to figure out what kind of DNS ANY queries are being sent towards our name-server.

DNS ANY traffic is currently commonly abused for DNS amplification attacks (See Blog post “DDoS-Angriffe durch Reflektierende DNS-Amplifikation vermeiden” in German). The first thing I want to know is what are the IP addresses of the victims of this potential DNS amplification attack:

```
packetq -t -s "select src_addr,count(*) as count from dns where qtype=255 group
by src_addr order by count desc limit 3" lolol.20130118.070000.000179
"src_addr" ,"count"
"216.245.221.243",933825
"85.126.233.70" ,16802
"80.74.130.55" ,91
```

- DNS: DSC and PacketQ <https://github.com/DNS-OARC/PacketQ>
- Packetbeat <https://www.elastic.co/products/beats/packetbeat>
- <http://securityblog.switch.ch/2013/01/22/using-packetq/>
- <http://jpmens.net/2013/05/27/server-agnostic-logging-of-dns-queries-responses/>





The European Union Agency for Network and Information Security (ENISA) is a centre of expertise for cyber security in Europe.

ENISA is contributing to a high level of network and information security (NIS) within the European Union, by developing and promoting a culture of NIS in society to assist in the proper functioning of the internal market.

<https://www.enisa.europa.eu/>

ENISA has published a number of network forensics documents which are free to use, so these are our basics.



Network forensics is a sub-branch of digital forensics relating to the monitoring and analysis of computer network traffic for the purposes of information gathering, legal evidence, or intrusion detection 5 .

Systems used to collect network data for forensics use usually come in three forms:

- Packet capture: All packets passing through a certain traffic point are captured and written to storage
- Intrusion detection systems
- Network flow sensors

The acronym OSCAR 8 stands for: Obtain information, Strategize, Collect evidence, Analyse, Report

Source: Forensic analysis Network Incident Response Handbook, Document for teachers 1.0 DECEMBER 2016, ENISA  
EXE2\_Forensic\_analysis\_II-Handbook.pdf

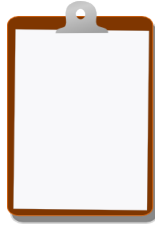


- We will use these as examples:
- ENISA Presenting, correlating and filtering various feeds Handbook, Document for teachers  
<https://www.enisa.europa.eu/topics/trainings-for-cybersecurity-specialists/online-training-material/documents/presentin>
- ENISA Forensic analysis, Network Incident Response  
[https://www.enisa.europa.eu/topics/trainings-for-cybersecurity-specialists/online-training-material/documents/2016-reso-exe2\\_forensic\\_analysis\\_ii-handbook](https://www.enisa.europa.eu/topics/trainings-for-cybersecurity-specialists/online-training-material/documents/2016-reso-exe2_forensic_analysis_ii-handbook)
- ENISA Network Forensics, Handbook, Document for teachers  
<https://www.enisa.europa.eu/topics/trainings-for-cybersecurity-specialists/online-training-material/documents/network->

How realistic are they?

Would you be able to perform an investigation now?

## For Next Time



Think about the subjects from this time, write down questions

Check the plan for chapters to read in the books

Visit web sites and download papers if needed

Retry the exercises to get more confident using the tools