

ZEEK INTRUSION DETECTION SERIES

Lab 7: Introduction to Zeek Signatures

Using Zeek's signature framework, we can craft pattern-based filters to analyze log files efficiently. Below are examples of how to use Zeek signatures for network analysis.

2.1 Starting a new instance of Zeek.

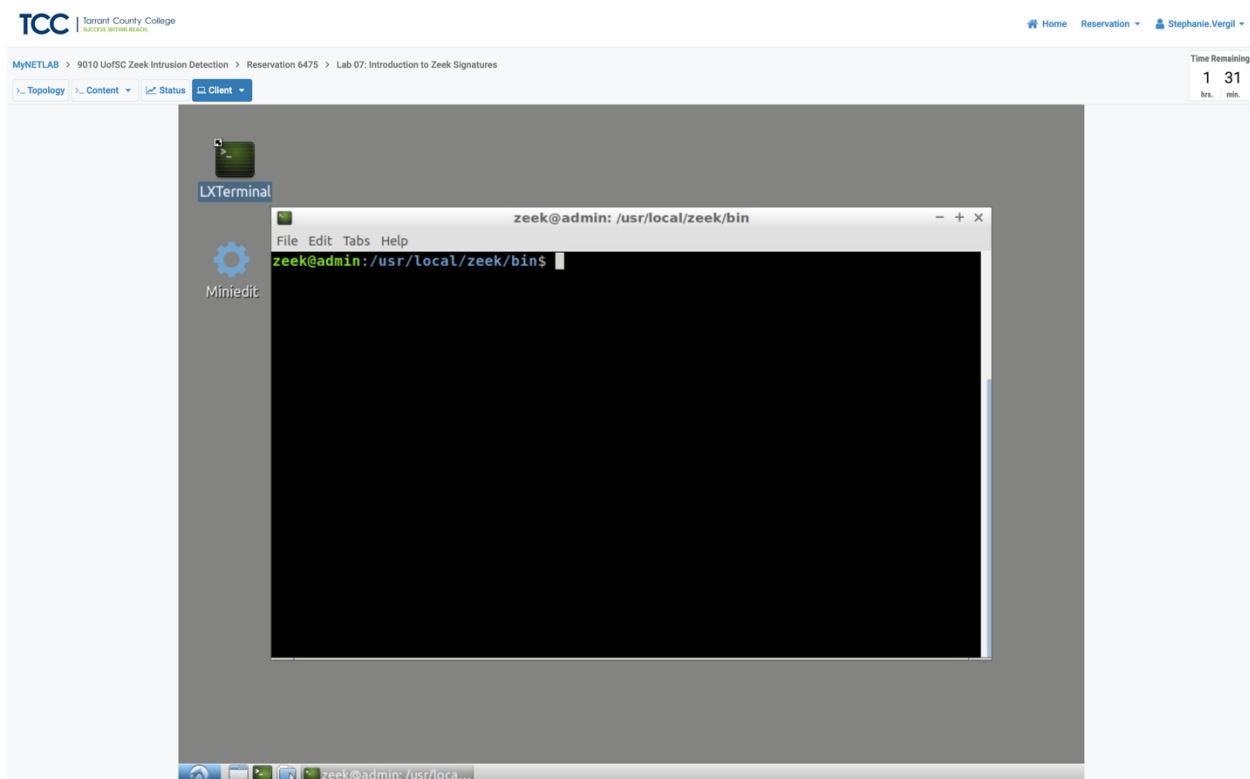
Step 1. Click on the Client button to launch the client machine.

Step2. Once the client machine is open, the desktop will display and on the left side of the screen double click on the LXTerminal to launch.

Step 3. To start Zeek enter the following command:

```
cd $ZEEK_INSTALL/bin && sudo ./zeekctl start
```

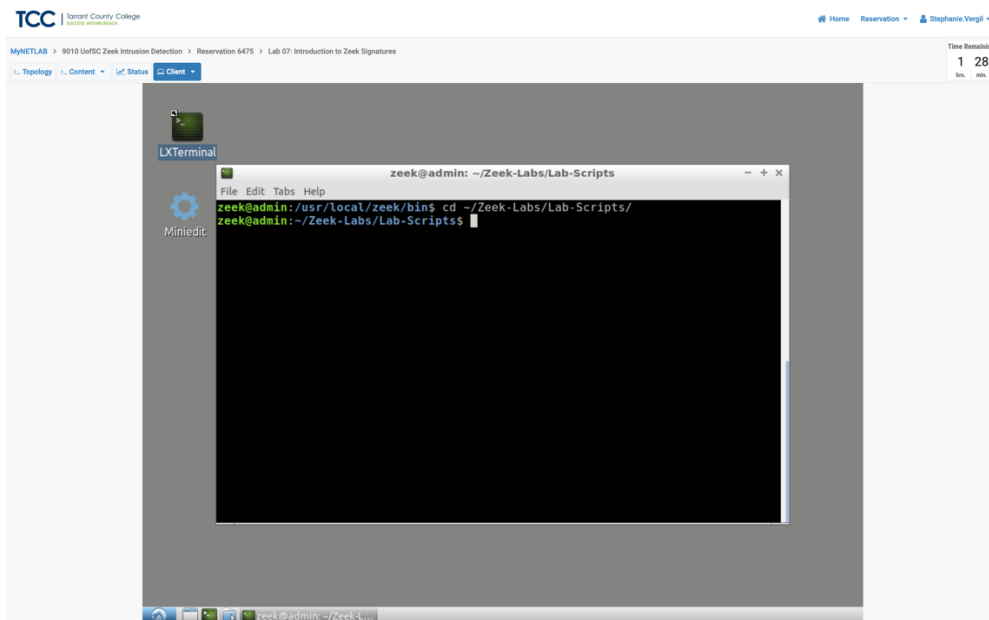
once prompt enter the password to continue. This command enters Zeek's default installation directory and invokes Zeekctl tool to start a new instance.



2.2 Viewing a premade Zeek signature file.

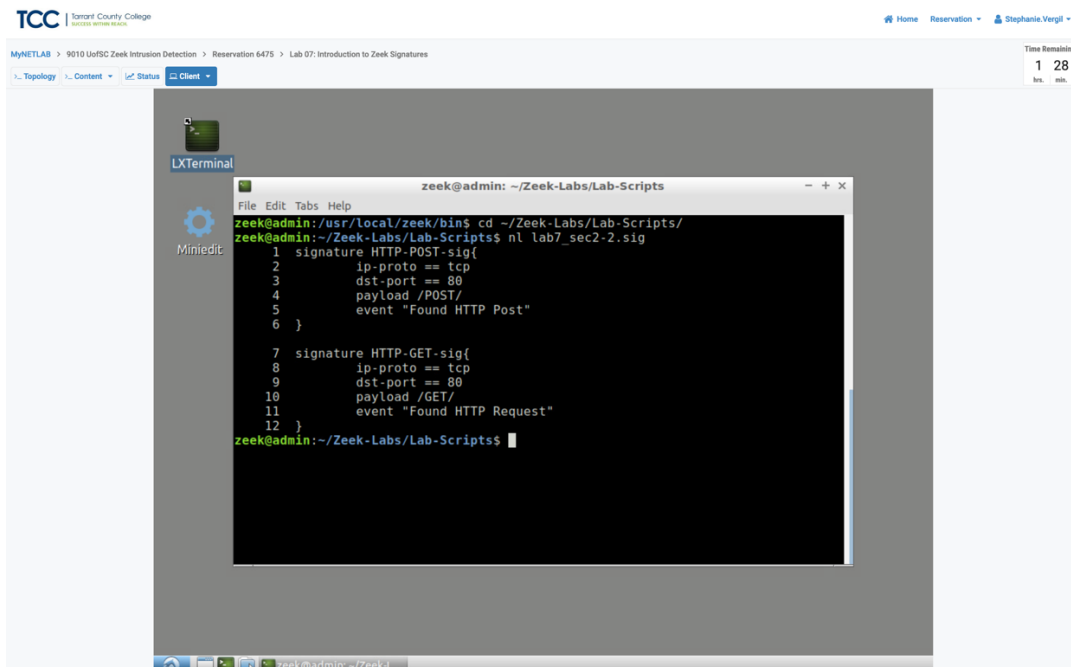
Step 1. Enter the following command to Navigate to the Lab-Scripts directory:

```
cd ~/Zeek-Labs/Lab-Scripts/
```



Step 2. Enter the following command to display the contents of the lab7_sec2-2.sig file using nl:

```
nl lab7_sec2-2.sig
```



This signature file contains two signatures to be matched during network traffic analysis and is explained as follows.

Each number represents the respective line number:

1. This line defines a new signature object, with the name HTTP-POST-sig.
2. Defines the desired match's transport protocol to be TCP.
3. Defines the desired match's destination port to be 80.
4. Defines the desired match's payload to contain the regular expression equivalent to 'POST'.
5. Defines an event if the match is found. Currently, the event will post a "Found HTTP Post" message.
7. This line defines a new signature object, with the name HTTP-GET-sig.
8. Defines the desired match's transport protocol to be TCP.
9. Defines the desired match's destination port to be 80.
10. Defines the desired match's payload to contain the regular expression equivalent to 'GET'.
11. Defines an event if the match is found. Currently, the event will post a "Found HTTP Request" message.

2.3 Executing the premade Zeek signature file.

Step 1. Enter the following command to navigate to the TCP-Traffic directory:

```
cd ../TCP-Traffic/
```

Step 2. Enter the following command to Process the smallFlows.pcap packet capture file using the signature file lab7_sec2- 2.sig.

```
zeek -r ../Sample-PCAP/smallFlows.pcap -s ../Lab-Scripts/lab7_sec2-2.sig
```

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Time Remaining
1 27
hrs. min.

Topology Content Status Client

LXTerminal

```
zeek@admin: ~/Zeek-Labs/TCP-Traffic
File Edit Tabs Help
zeek@admin:~/usr/local/zeek/bin$ cd ~/Zeek-Labs/Lab-Scripts/
zeek@admin:~/Zeek-Labs/Lab-Scripts$ nl lab7_sec2-2.sig
 1 signature HTTP-POST-sig{
 2     ip-proto == tcp
 3     dst-port == 80
 4     payload /POST/
 5     event "Found HTTP Post"
 6 }
 7 signature HTTP-GET-sig{
 8     ip-proto == tcp
 9     dst-port == 80
10     payload /GET/
11     event "Found HTTP Request"
12 }
zeek@admin:~/Zeek-Labs/Lab-Scripts$ cd ../TCP-Traffic/
zeek@admin:~/Zeek-Labs/TCP-Traffic$ zeek -r ../Sample-PCAP/smallFlows.pcap -s ..
/Lab-Scripts/lab7_sec2-2.sig
zeek@admin:~/Zeek-Labs/TCP-Traffic$
```

Step 3. Enter the following command to list the generated log files in the current directory:

ls

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Time Remaining
1 26
hrs. min.

Topology Content Status Client

LXTerminal

```
zeek@admin: ~/Zeek-Labs/TCP-Traffic
File Edit Tabs Help
zeek@admin:~/usr/local/zeek/bin$ cd ~/Zeek-Labs/Lab-Scripts/
zeek@admin:~/Zeek-Labs/Lab-Scripts$ nl lab7_sec2-2.sig
 1 signature HTTP-POST-sig{
 2     ip-proto == tcp
 3     dst-port == 80
 4     payload /POST/
 5     event "Found HTTP Post"
 6 }
 7 signature HTTP-GET-sig{
 8     ip-proto == tcp
 9     dst-port == 80
10     payload /GET/
11     event "Found HTTP Request"
12 }
zeek@admin:~/Zeek-Labs/Lab-Scripts$ cd ../TCP-Traffic/
zeek@admin:~/Zeek-Labs/TCP-Traffic$ zeek -r ../Sample-PCAP/smallFlows.pcap -s ..
/Lab-Scripts/lab7_sec2-2.sig
zeek@admin:~/Zeek-Labs/TCP-Traffic$ ls
conn.log  dpd.log  notice.log  snmp.log  x509.log
dhcp.log  files.log packet filter.log  ssl.log
dns.log   http.log  signatures.log  weird.log
zeek@admin:~/Zeek-Labs/TCP-Traffic$
```

A new log file that has not been previously introduced is now displayed: signatures.log. Log will contain all signature matches and their corresponding events and notices.

Step 4. To view the contents of the signatures.log file using the gedit text editor enter the following command:

gedit signatures.log

```
#separator \x09
#set separator ,
#empty_field (empty)
#unset_field -
#path signatures
#open 2024-04-10-13-23-09
#fields ts uid src_addr src_port dst_addr dst_port note sig_id
event msg sub msg sig_count host_count
#types time string addr port port enum string string string count count
1295981542.484409 C01nky3JZJ2QKRr73f 192.168.3.131 57011 72.14.213.138 80
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature HTTP-GET-sig 192.168.3.131: Found HTTP Request GET /complete/search?
client=chrome&hl=en-US&q=cr HTTP/1.1\x0d\x0aHost: clients1.google.ca\x0d\x0aConnection: keep-alive\x0d\x0aUser-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Window...
1295981542.727459 CI75TelxHyl5Mhl6f 192.168.3.131 55950 72.14.213.102 80
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature HTTP-GET-sig 192.168.3.131: Found HTTP Request GET /complete/search?
client=chrome&hl=en-US&q=msn HTTP/1.1\x0d\x0aHost: clients1.google.ca\x0d\x0aConnection: keep-alive\x0d\x0aUser-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windo...
1295981543.182793 C0qZufatrPaHyuv6 192.168.3.131 55953 65.55.206.209 80
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature HTTP-GET-sig 192.168.3.131: Found HTTP Request GET / HTTP/
1.1\x0d\x0aHost: msn.ca\x0d\x0aConnection: keep-alive\x0d\x0aAccept: application/xml,application/
xhtml+xml,text/html;q=0.9,text/plain;q=0.8,image/p...
1295981543.354015 Cvevos3WU2BC4ok1R3 192.168.3.131 55954 65.55.17.37 80
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature HTTP-GET-sig 192.168.3.131: Found HTTP Request GET / HTTP/
1.1\x0d\x0aHost: ca.msn.com\x0d\x0aConnection: keep-alive\x0d\x0aAccept: application/xml,application/
xhtml+xml,text/html;q=0.9,text/plain;q=0.8,ima...
1295981543.474636 CWYQYVbrCo50ZuEoj 192.168.3.131 55955 207.46.148.38 80
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature HTTP-GET-sig 192.168.3.131: Found HTTP Request GET /action/
MMN Homepage HTTP/1.1\x0d\x0aHost: view.atdmt.com\x0d\x0aConnection: keep-alive\x0d\x0aReferer: http://
ca.msn.com/\x0d\x0aAccept: /*\x0d\x0aUser-Agent: Mozil...
1295981543.474636 - 192.168.3.131 - - -
Signatures::Multiple_Sig_Responders HTTP-GET-sig Found HTTP Request 192.168.3.131 has triggered
signature HTTP-GET-sig on 5 hosts - 5
1295981543.528088 CqjleD2Yg0QLkPIah 192.168.3.131 55956 66.235.139.121 80
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature HTTP-GET-sig 192.168.3.131: Found HTTP Request GET /b/ss/
msnportalhomepagecaen/1/H.7-pdv-2/s84495919100008?
[A0B]&ndh=1&t=25%2F0%2F2011%2010%3A52%3A23%202%20480&ns=msnportal&pageName=MSN%2...
1295981543.536159 CYNmtk3bnYeS5vn29h 192.168.3.131 55957 65.55.5.232 80
```

The file is explained as follows:

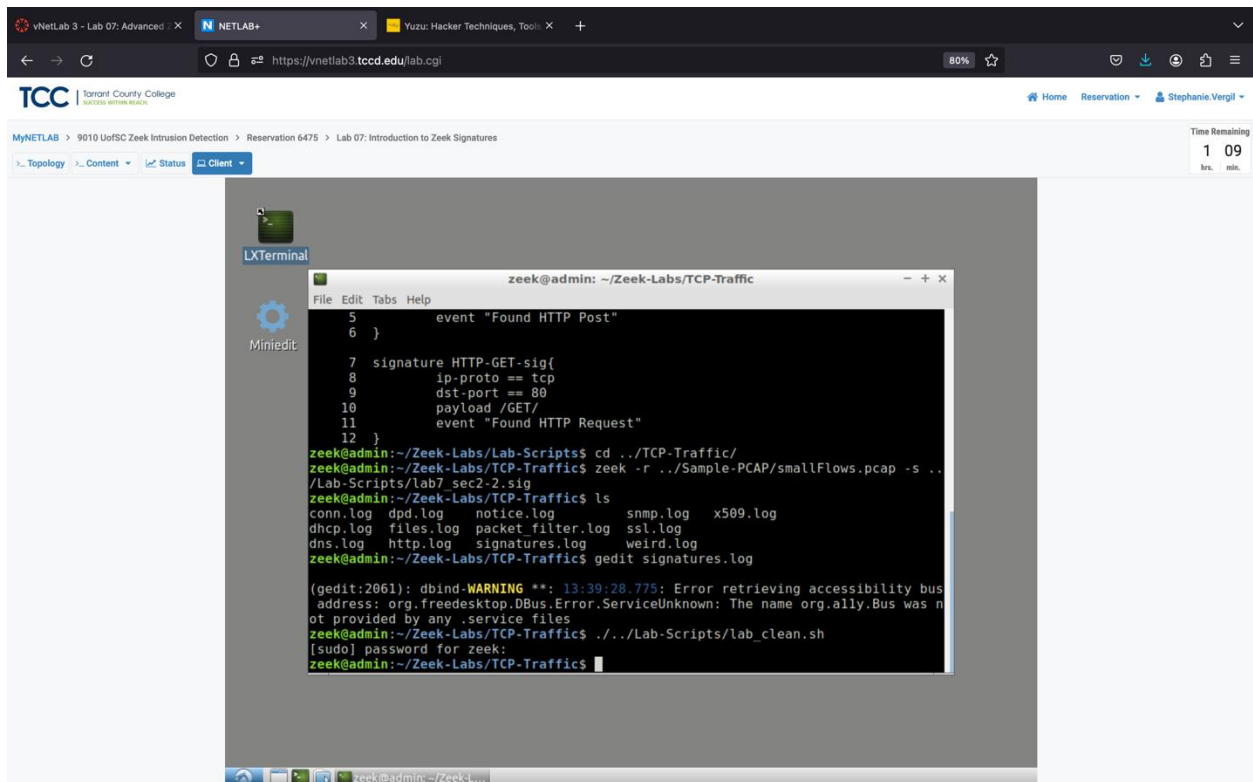
The red box indicates the name of the signature that was matched.

The orange box indicates the event or message that was included when defining the signature.

The blue box indicates the packet payload that was matched against the input signatures.

Step 5. Close the gedit window and enter the following command to clear the contents of the TCP-Traffic directory:

./ ../Lab-Scripts/lab_clean.sh



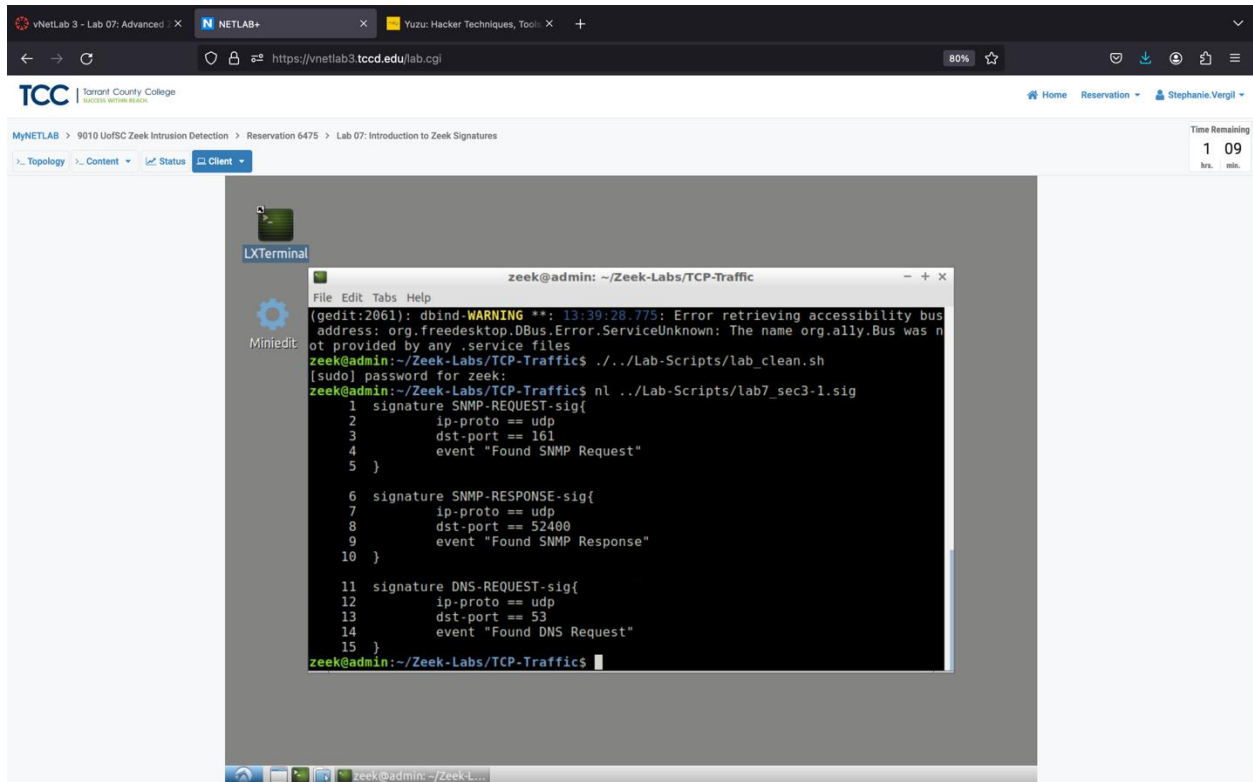
3 Executing Zeek signature matching for network traffic analysis

This section modifies the existing signature file to generate additional signature events and notices. We will be modifying the previous signatures from TCP-based HTTP messages to UDP-based SNMP and DNS messages.

3.1 Modifying the premade Zeek signature file.

Step 1. Enter the following command to view the contents of the lab7_sec3-1.sig file using nl:

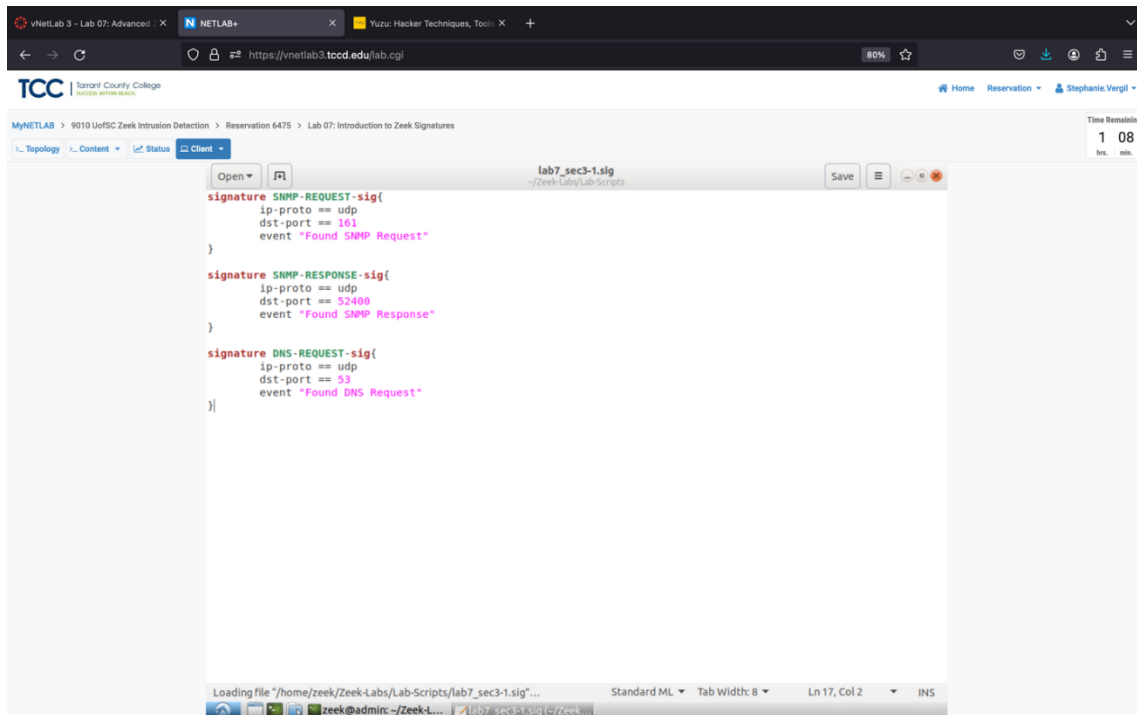
```
nl ../Lab-Scripts/lab7_sec3-1.sig
```



Step 2. Enter the following command to open the `lab7_sec3-1.sig` file with the gedit text editor:

```
gedit ../Lab-Scripts/lab7_sec3-1.sig
```

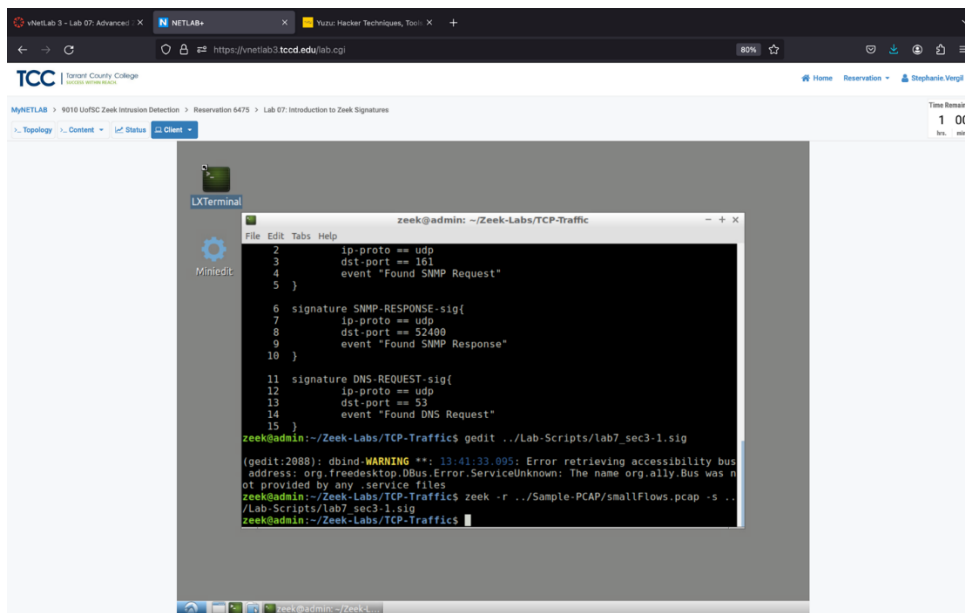
Step 3. Update the `lab7_sec3-1.sig` file to include the following signatures. Then, close out the gedit once finish editing.



3.2 Executing the updated Zeek signature file.

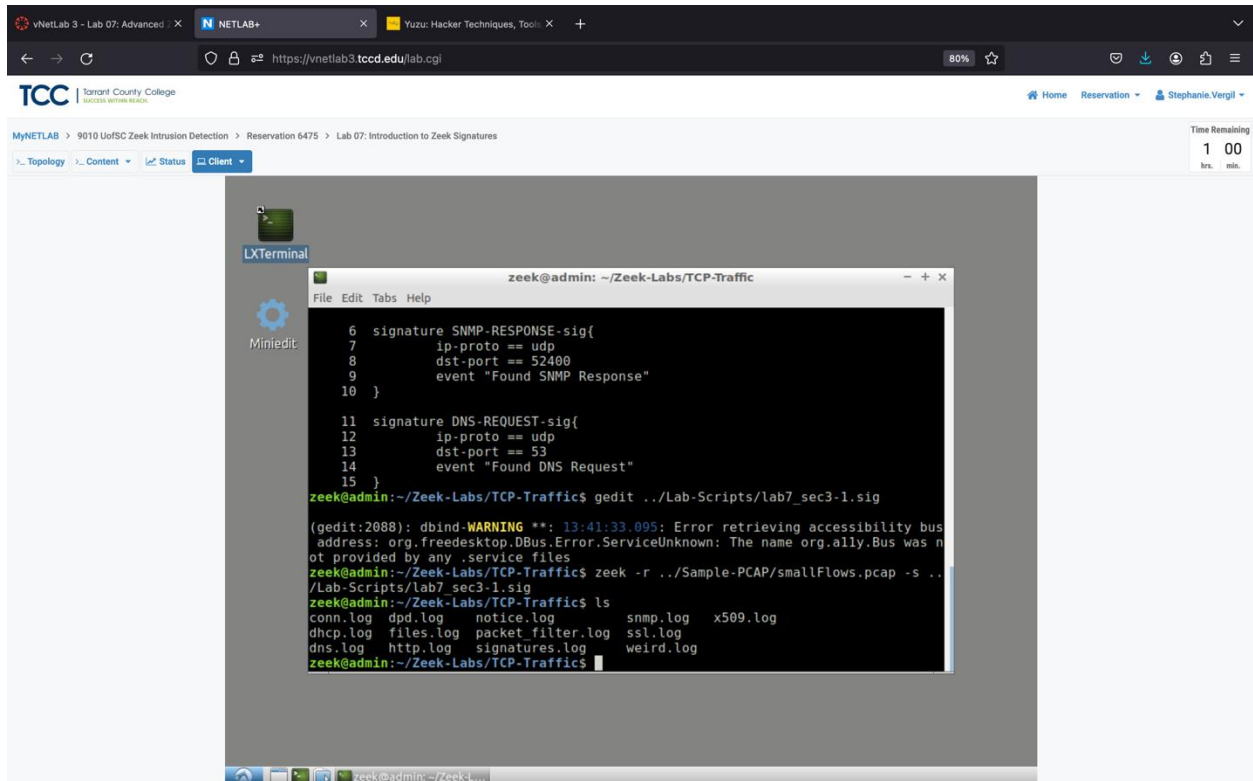
Step 1. Enter the following command to process the smallFlows.pcap packet capture file using the signature file lab7_sec3-1.sig:

Zeek -r ../Sample-PCAP/smallFlows.pcap -s ../Lab-Scripts/lab7_sec3-1.sig



Step 2. Enter the following command to list the generated log files in the current directory:

ls



The signatures.log file has been recreated and will contain the newly updated signature matches.

Step 3. Enter the following command to view the contents of the signatures.log file using the gedit text editor:

gedit signatures.log

Then, exit out the gedit.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `https://vnetlab3.tccd.edu/lab.cgi`. The page displays a Zeek log file named `signatures.log` from the `~/Zeek-Lab/TCP-Traffic` directory. The log file contains a table of network events with columns: `event`, `time`, `string`, `addr`, `port`, `addr`, `port`, `enum`, `string`, `string`, `string`, `count`, and `count`. The log entries are as follows:

event	time	string	addr	port	addr	port	enum	string	string	string	count	count
1295981655.843173		C18pI616VBH76d7E5			10.0.2.15	49796	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981655.926096		C897DU2dx1NrVW5Th			10.0.2.15	50559	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981658.781806		C8ZFjj3TcfMNx10Yv8			10.0.2.15	54657	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981658.854004		Cea7Ys431M0BjFLV19			10.0.2.15	57524	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981659.567918		CVNpeVILvOCASLZzUb			10.0.2.15	54795	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981659.783932		CLZqXs4xwvPw3eZD03			10.0.2.15	61870	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981660.144937		CB86312eZ4vYLyo3x5			10.0.2.15	64982	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981663.533829		CD3poz1NE6coGHwbe6			10.0.2.15	57632	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981664.266166		CDS1S21t3TuSNhNRxb			10.0.2.15	62310	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981664.492158		C3CuH430heIwWuMc			10.0.2.15	59794	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981665.894416		C9xcD7hKXHXGK7n1			10.0.2.15	58511	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981668.205083		CSgsnb4eUzoJmqSZic			10.0.2.15	58971	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981685.227252		C9LRr23nUEf4TRJJ7			10.0.2.15	59686	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981696.667788		CuV9poxDEb4ktcH8e			10.0.2.15	61133	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981711.656223		CuffP3X27Lecalqo9			10.0.2.15	59365	10.0.2.3				53	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	DNS-REQUEST-sig				10.0.2.15	Found DNS Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981744.511002		CxflQv3FW100bktwH6			192.168.3.131	52400	192.168.3.99				161	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	SNMP-REQUEST-sig				192.168.3.131	Found SNMP Request				(empty)	-	-
1295981744.570907		CxflQv3FW100bktwH6			192.168.3.99	161	192.168.3.131				52400	-
Signatures::Sensitive_Signature	SNMP-RESPONSE-sig				192.168.3.99	Found SNMP Response				(empty)	-	-

The file is explained as follows:

The red box indicates the DNS-REQUEST-sig signature match as well as the triggered IP address and event message.

The orange box indicates the SNMP-REQUEST-sig signature match as well as the triggered IP address and event message.

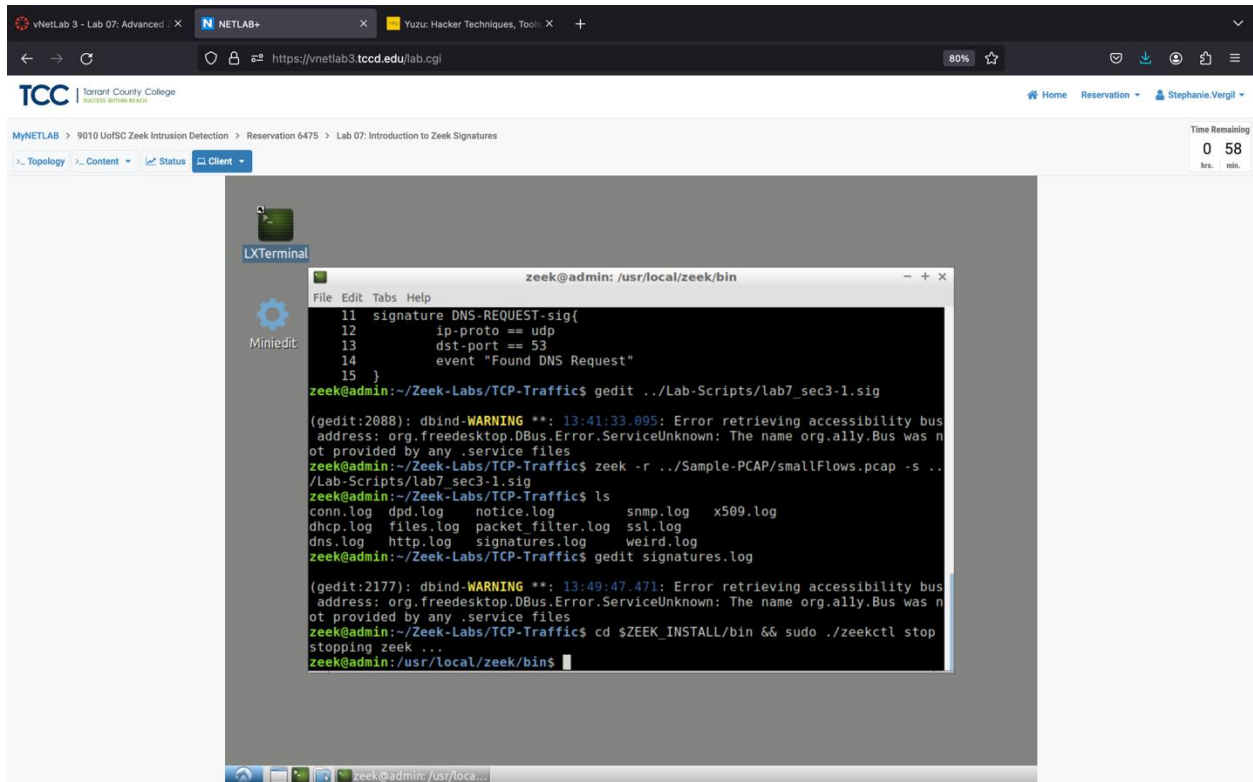
The blue box indicates the SNMP-RESPONSE-sig signature match as well as the triggered IP address and event message.

3.3 Closing the current instance of Zeek.

it is necessary to terminate the currently active instance of Zeek.

Step 1. Enter the following command to stop Zeek by entering the password if prompt:

```
cd $ZEEK_INSTALL/bin && sudo ./zeekctl stop
```



Leveraging pattern matching, Zeek signatures can be used to quickly discover packets that follow predetermined formats, while employing a low-level framework for generating warnings and notifications.