Cybersecurity Incident Report: Network Traffic Analysis

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Part 1: Summary of the Issue

Network analysis using tcpdump identified anomalies in DNS traffic. Specifically, multiple failed DNS lookup attempts were observed for yummyrecipesforme.com from 192.51.100.15:52444 to the DNS server 203.0.113.2:53.

Each DNS request received an **ICMP "UDP port 53 unreachable"** error message, indicating that the DNS server was either unresponsive or misconfigured. This issue was recorded three times at **13:24:32.192571** with identical error responses.

Key Observations from Network Logs

- The affected protocol: UDP (Port 53 DNS)
- Error message received: "ICMP: UDP port 53 unreachable, length 254"
- Frequency of occurrence: Three consecutive DNS query failures
- Possible causes:
 - 1. The DNS server at 203.0.113.2 is offline or not listening on port 53.
 - 2. Misconfiguration of DNS settings, such as missing or incorrect A records.
 - 3. A potential **Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack**, overwhelming the DNS server.

Part 2: Incident Analysis

Time of Incident:

The incident was logged at **13:24:32.192571**, with three consecutive failed DNS queries.

How the Incident Was Identified:

Multiple users reported that they were unable to access the company's website, <u>www.yummyrecipesforme.com</u>. Attempts to reach the site resulted in a **"destination port unreachable"** error.

Investigation Steps by the IT Team:

- Initial Verification: Attempted to access
 www.yummyrecipesforme.com, confirming the same error.
- 2. **Packet Capture & Analysis**: Used tcpdump to monitor network traffic and diagnose DNS failures.
- 3. Key Findings:
 - The DNS server at 203.0.113.2 failed to respond to lookup requests.
 - Instead of resolving the domain, an ICMP error response was returned, stating "UDP port 53 unreachable."
 - No valid **A record** was received for yummyrecipesforme.com.

Likely Root Cause of the Incident:

- The **DNS server is down** or misconfigured, leading to lookup failures.
- The A record for yummyrecipesforme.com is missing or incorrect in the DNS configuration.
- **Potential DoS attack**: If an attacker is overwhelming the DNS server with excessive requests, legitimate queries may fail.

Screenshot of tcpdump log:

```
13:24:32.192571 IP 192.51.100.15.52444 > 203.0.113.2.domain: 35084+ A? yummyrecipesforme.com. (24)
13:24:36.098564 IP 203.0.113.2 > 192.51.100.15: ICMP 203.0.113.2 udp port 53 unreachable length 254

13:26:32.192571 IP 192.51.100.15.52444 > 203.0.113.2.domain: 35084+ A? yummyrecipesforme.com. (24)
13:27:15.934126 IP 203.0.113.2 > 192.51.100.15: ICMP 203.0.113.2 udp port 53 unreachable length 320

13:28:32.192571 IP 192.51.100.15.52444 > 203.0.113.2.domain: 35084+ A? yummyrecipesforme.com. (24)
13:28:50.022967 IP 203.0.113.2 > 192.51.100.15: ICMP 203.0.113.2 udp port 53 unreachable length 150
```