# Building Custom IDS Sensor Suricata & Zeek

# Contents

Introduction and Goal of this Document	2
Building Elasticsearch Server with TLS Communications	2
Building CentOS7 Sensor	2
Configure NIC card & Hostname	2
Update Sensor and add the following packages	2
Add Zeek Directory Path to Profile	3
Create Zeek & Surcata Log Directories	3
Extract tarball to /	4
Install and Configure Zeek	5
Configure Zeek log directories	5
Create the Following Zeek Directories	6
Configuring Zeek Nodes & Networks	6
Starting Zeek	7
Install and Configure Suricata	9
Configuring Suricata	9
Setup root Cronjob	9
Edit and Update suricata.yml	12
Adding Suricata Service Startup Script	13
Logging Data to Elasticsearch	15
Install Filebeat	15
Install Metricbeat to Monitor the Sensor	20
Install and Configure Packetbeat	21
Want to Collect Netflow Data?	25
Add to /etc/rc.local	25
References	26
Annex: Tarball Files and Directories	27

#### Introduction and Goal of this Document

The primary goal of this document is to provide a framework to build your own sensor(s) using CentOS 7 with Suricata and Zeek. It also has information to capture netflow data using softflowd.

The last step is to use this document to send all the logs to Elasticsearch using filebeat. It also has information to use packetbeat as a replacement or complement to netflow.

## Building Elasticsearch Server with TLS Communications

This document is how to add encryption between the sensor(s) and Elasticsearch for secure communication.

- [1] https://handlers.sans.edu/gbruneau/elk/TLS\_elasticsearch\_configuration.pdf
- [2] https://isc.sans.edu/forums/diary/Secure+Communication+using+TLS+in+Elasticsearch/26902/

# **Building CentOS7 Sensor**

Download and install CentOS7

Sensor needs a minimum of 2 interfaces (management and capture)

Recommend 3 drives:

- Main drive with /, swap, /home, /var/log
- Second drive with Suricata logs
- Third drive with Zeek logs

#### Configure NIC card & Hostname

Configure the management NIC card with a static IP.

\$ sudo nmtui

Update Sensor and add the following packages:

\$ sudo yum -y update

\$ sudo yum -y install open-vm-tools ntp bind-utils net-tools wget unzip tcpdump git

```
$ sudo yum -y install epel-release htop
$ sudo timedatectl list-timezones
$ sudo timedatectl set-timezone UTC
$ sudo systemctl stop ntpd
$ sudo ntpdate 0.centos.pool.ntp.org
$ sudo systemctl start ntpd
$ sudo su root -
Add Zeek Directory Path to Profile
$ sudo su -
# vi /root/.bashrc
export PATH=/opt/zeek/bin:$PATH
Reload the root profile to include Zeek
# . /root/.bashrc
Create Zeek & Surcata Log Directories
# cfdisk /dev/sdb
# mkfs.xfs /dev/sdb1
# mkdir -p /nsm/suricata
# cfdisk /dev/sdc
# mkfs.xfs /dev/sdc1
# mkdir -p /nsm/zeek
Add these two partitions to /etc/fstab:
```

# vi /etc/fstab

```
/dev/sdb1 /nsm/suricata xfs defaults 0 0
/dev/sdc1 /nsm/zeek xfs defaults 0 0
# mount -a
# df -h
Suricata logs location: /nsm/suricata
```

# Extract tarball to /

Zeek logs location: /nsm/zeek

I use VMware sensors for my sensors with a prebuilt VM. This tarball has all the scripts and files included in all the steps listed below. Any files or script that need to be create, update or modified to configure the sensor, they are part of this package to speed up getting the sensor built. The tarball can be downloaded at this location.

There are two tarball, the first installation.tgz is to setup all the scripts listed below to install the software and the second tarball is to preconfigure some of the sensor configuration files.

```
Extract this tarball as follow: tar zxvf installation.tgz -C /
```

Installation script: <a href="https://handlers.sans.edu/gbruneau/scripts/installation.tgz">https://handlers.sans.edu/gbruneau/scripts/installation.tgz</a>

Extract this tarball after installing all the binaries: tar zxvf sensor.tgz -C /

Sensor script: <a href="https://handlers.sans.edu/gbruneau/scripts/sensor.tgz">https://handlers.sans.edu/gbruneau/scripts/sensor.tgz</a>

The list of directories and files are listed in the Annex.

# Install and Configure Zeek

The Zeek pre-build package is available for download at this location which will add the repo to the sensor.

https://software.opensuse.org//download.html?project=security%3Azeek&package=zeek

This blog is about collecting Zeek logs with Elasticsearch:

https://www.elastic.co/blog/collecting-and-analyzing-zeek-data-with-elastic-security

# cd /etc/yum.repos.d/

# wget https://download.opensuse.org/repositories/security:zeek/CentOS\_7/security:zeek.repo

# yum -y install zeek

→ Zeek is installed in the /opt/zeek directory

## Configure Zeek log directories

# vi /opt/zeek/etc/zeekctl.cfg

# Location of the log directory where log files will be archived each rotation

# interval.

LogDir = /nsm/zeek/logs

# Location of the spool directory where files and data that are currently being

# written are stored.

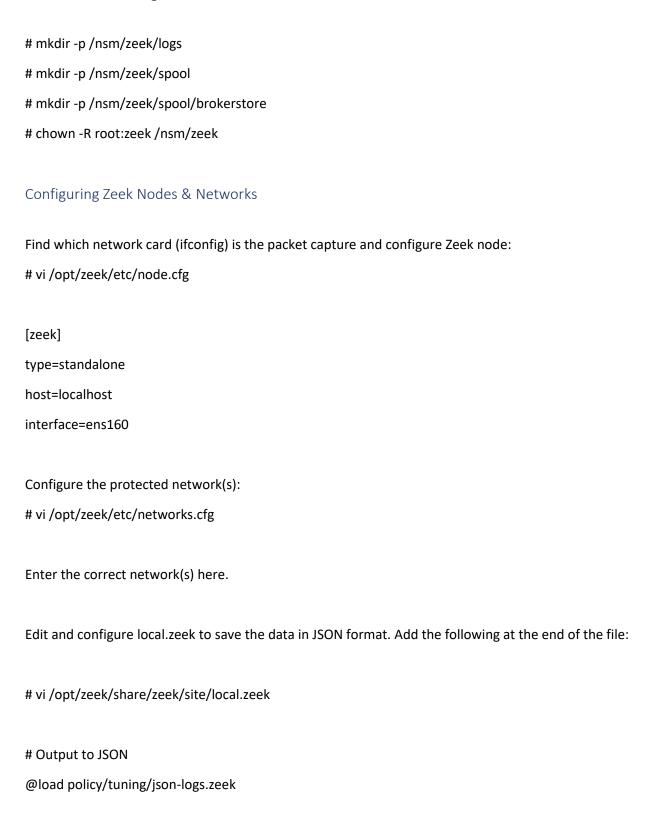
SpoolDir = /nsm/zeek/spool

# Location of the directory in which the databases for Broker datastore backed

# Zeek tables are stored.

BrokerDBDir = /nsm/zeek/spool/brokerstore

### Create the Following Zeek Directories



Add the following Zeek Service configuration file to start Zeek when the sensor boot:

```
# vi /etc/systemd/system/zeek.service
```

```
[Unit]
Description=Zeek Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS)
After=network.target
[Service]
Type=forking
User=root
Group=zeek
Environment=HOME=/nsm/zeek/spool
ExecStart=/opt/zeek/bin/zeekctl deploy
ExecStop=/opt/zeek/bin/zeekctl stop
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
Starting Zeek
# zeekctl install
# systemctl daemon-reload
# systemctl enable zeek
# systemctl start zeek
# systemctl status zeek
```

Log location: /nsm/zeek/spool/zeek

## Install and Configure Suricata

Suricata pre-build packages 6.x packages information is available at the following URL:

https://suricata.readthedocs.io/en/suricata-6.0.2/install.html#rhel-centos-8-and-7

The following example is used to install Suricata 6.0 on CentOS. If you wish to install 5.0 instead, change the version in @oisf/suricata-6.0.

```
# yum -y install epel-release yum-plugin-copr
# yum -y copr enable @oisf/suricata-6.0
```

# yum -y install suricata

### Configuring Suricata

The following steps assumes that all the events from Suricata will be stored into Elasticsearch, the log files can be removed at regular interval to keep that directory clean.

# chown -R suricata:suricata /nsm/suricata

#### Setup root Cronjob

Edit the root contab and add the following configuration:

# cronjob -e

```
* 0-23 * * * /usr/sbin/logrotate -f /etc/logrotate.conf > /dev/null
2>1&

# Remove old gzip files every hours
5 0-23 * * * /root/scripts/remove_suricata.sh > /dev/null 2>1&

# Suricata rule update - /var/lib/suricata/rules
0 12 * * * /usr/bin/suricata-update update --reload-command
"/usr/bin/systemctl kill -s USR2 suricata" > /var/log/suricata-update.log 2>&1
```

Suricata Rules Update: https://suricata-update.readthedocs.io/en/latest/quickstart.html

```
Suricata Update: <a href="https://github.com/OISF/suricata-update">https://github.com/OISF/suricata-update</a>
# suricata-update update-sources
# suricata-update list-sources
Configuring Suricata to enable Threshold and the option to disable Signatures and Rulesets:
https://raw.githubusercontent.com/OISF/suricata-update/master/suricata/update/configs/update.yaml
# cd /etc/suricata
# wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/OISF/suricata-
update/master/suricata/update/configs/disable.conf
# wget https://raw.githubusercontent.com/OISF/suricata-
update/master/suricata/update/configs/threshold.in
Edit disable.conf and disable these group at the end of the file if you are not using them. This will
prevent errors when starting Suricata.
# vi /etc/suricata/disable.conf
group: modbus
group: dnp3
Update Suricata Logrotate file with the following additions:
# vi /etc/logrotate.d/suricata
```

# Sample /etc/logrotate.d/suricata configuration file.

{

daily

rotate 3

/nsm/suricata/\*.log /nsm/suricata/\*.json

```
size 500M
    missingok
    compress
    delaycompress
    copytruncate
    create 0644 suricata suricata
    sharedscripts
    postrotate
        /bin/kill -HUP `cat /var/run/suricata/suricata.pid
2>/dev/null` 2>/dev/null || true
       # systemctl stop suricata.service
       # systemctl stop filebeat.service
       # systemctl start suricata.service
       # systemctl start filebeat.service
    endscript
}
Create this script to remove old Suricata files regularly:
# mkdir /root/scripts
# vi /root/scripts/remove_suricata.sh
#!/bin/sh
# Guy Bruneau, guybruneau@outlook.com
# Date: 17 March 2021
# Version: 1.0
# Remove old gzip file every hours
/usr/bin/rm -f /nsm/suricata/eve.json-*.gz
```

```
/usr/bin/rm -f /nsm/suricata/fast.log-*.gz
/usr/bin/rm -f /nsm/suricata/stats.log-*.gz
/usr/bin/rm -f /nsm/suricata/suricata.log-*.gz
# chmod 755 /root/scripts/remove_suricata.sh
```

## Edit and Update suricata.yml

Update suricata.yml to match the correct network interface, monitored network(s) ranges and log directory.

# vi /etc/suricata/suricata.yaml

HOME\_NET: "[192.168.0.0/16,10.0.0.0/8,172.16.0.0/12]"

af-packet:

# - interface: eth0

- interface: ens160

# The default logging directory. Any log or output file will be

# placed here if it's not specified with a full path name. This can be

# overridden with the -l command line parameter.

default-log-dir: /nsm/suricata/

##

## Configure Suricata to load Suricata-Update managed rules.

##

default-rule-path: /var/lib/suricata/rules

```
rule-files:
```

- suricata.rules

## Adding Suricata Service Startup Script

Add the following Suricata Service configuration file to start Suricata when the sensor boot:

# vi /etc/systemd/system/suricata.service

```
[Unit]
Description=Suricata Intrusion Detection Service
After=syslog.target network.target
[Service]
EnvironmentFile=-/etc/sysconfig/suricata
ExecStart=/usr/sbin/suricata -c /etc/suricata/suricata.yaml
/var/run/suricata/suricata.pid --af-packet
ExecReload=/bin/kill -HUP $MAINPID
User=suricata
Group=suricata
CapabilityBoundingSet=CAP NET ADMIN CAP NET RAW CAP IPC LOCK
AmbientCapabilities=CAP NET ADMIN CAP NET RAW CAP IPC LOCK
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
# systemctl daemon-reload
# systemctl enable suricata
# systemctl start suricata
# systemctl status suricata
```

## Logging Data to Elasticsearch

This section is to configure the sensor to send the logs collected by Suricata and Zeek (or any other applications and services) to Elasticsearch.

#### Install Filebeat

Install the GPG key and add the repo information.

# rpm --import https://artifacts.elastic.co/GPG-KEY-elasticsearch

```
# vi/etc/yum.repos.d/elasticsearch.repo

[elasticsearch-7.x]
name=Elasticsearch repository for 7.x packages
baseurl=https://artifacts.elastic.co/packages/7.x/yum
gpgcheck=1
gpgkey=https://artifacts.elastic.co/GPG-KEY-elasticsearch
enabled=1
autorefresh=1
type=rpm-md

# yum -y install filebeat
```

#### **Configure Filebeat**

```
# cd /etc/filebeat/modules.d

# filebeat modules -help

# filebeat modules list | head

# filebeat modules enable zeek suricata

# filebeat modules enable netflow → enable only if planning to install softflowd

# filebeat modules list | head
```

```
[root@idstest modules.d]# filebeat modules list | head
Enabled:
suricata
zeek
Disabled:
activemg
```

# vi /etc/filebeat/modules.d/suricata.yml

#### Add the following path:

```
var.paths: ["/nsm/suricata/eve.json"]
```

```
# Module: suricata
# Docs: https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/beats/filebeat/7.x/filebeat-module-suricata.html
- module: suricata
# All logs
eve:
    enabled: true

# Set custom paths for the log files. If left empty,
# Filebeat will choose the paths depending on your OS.
# var.paths:
    var.paths: ["/nsm/suricata/eve.json"]
```

# vi /etc/filebeat/modules.d/zeek.yml

Set custom var.paths: for all the log files. I set *dnp3* and *modbus* to false. If you are using them, keep them as true

var.paths: ["/nsm/zeek/spool/zeek/\*.log"]

```
# Module: zeek
# Docs: https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/beats/filebeat/7.x/filebeat-module-zeek.html

- module: zeek
    capture_loss:
        enabled: true
        var.paths: ["/nsm/zeek/spool/zeek/*.log"]
    connection:
        enabled: true
        var.paths: ["/nsm/zeek/spool/zeek/*.log"]
    dce_rpc:
        enabled: true
        var.paths: ["/nsm/zeek/spool/zeek/*.log"]
    dhcp:
        enabled: true
        var.paths: ["/nsm/zeek/spool/zeek/*.log"]
    dhcp:
        enabled: true
        var.paths: ["/nsm/zeek/spool/zeek/*.log"]
    dnp3:
        enabled: false
        var.paths: ["/nsm/zeek/spool/zeek/*.log"]
```

If you are going to use <u>softflowd</u> verify the port and the network.

# vi /etc/filebeat/modules.d/netflow.yml

#### Setup filebeat.yml to Elasticsearch

It is time configure filebeat to send the logs to Elasticsearch and configure the network location of Elasticsearch, some processors and enable x-pack monitoring.

# vi /etc/filebeat/filebeat.yml

 $\rightarrow$  Goto Elasticsearch Output and Configure where Elasticsearch is located and if SSL encryption is used between the sensor and Elasticsearch

```
# ------ Elasticsearch Output ------
```

output.elasticsearch:

```
# Array of hosts to connect to.
```

hosts: ["localhost:9200"]

# loadbalance: true

# pipeline: geoip-info

```
# Protocol - either `http` (default) or `https`.
```

```
#protocol: "https"
# Authentication credentials - either API key or username/password.
#api_key: "id:api_key"
#username: "elastic"
#password: "changeme"
queue.mem:
events: 4096
flush.min_events: 512
flush.timeout: 5s
https://www.maxmind.com/en/geoip2-precision-demo
→ Goto Processors and add the JSON decode processor for Zeek and Suricata:
processors:
  - add host metadata: \sim
  - copy_fields:
      fields:
        - from: source.ip
          to: source.address
      fail on error: false
      ignore missing: true
  - copy_fields:
      fields:
        - from: destination.ip
          to: destination.address
      fail on error: false
      ignore missing: true
```

```
processors:
  - add host metadata: ~
  - add fields:
      when.network.source.address: private
      fields:
          source.geo.location:
            lat: 45.3316
            lon: -75.6718
          source.geo.continent name: North America
          source.geo.city name: Ottawa
          source.geo.country iso code: CA
          source.geo.region iso code: CA-ON
          source.geo.region name: Ontario
      target: ''
  - add fields:
      when.network.destination.address: private
      fields:
          source.geo.location:
            lat: 45.3316
            lon: -75.6718
          source.geo.continent name: North America
          source.geo.city name: Ottawa
          source.geo.country_iso_code: CA
          source.geo.region_iso_code: CA-ON
          source.geo.region name: Ontario
      target: ''
→ If you find filebeat is logging to much stuff, you can change the logging level to /var/log/messages
```

# Sets log level.	. The default log level is info.
# Available log	levels are: error, warning, info, debug
#logging.level:	debug
logging.level: e	rror
# ======	======================================
# Set to true to	enable the monitoring reporter.
monitoring	.enabled: true
Testing Configu	uration and Enabling Filebeat
# filebeat test of	config
# filebeat test of	output
# filebeat setup	opipelines
# filebeat setup	oindex-management
# systemctl ena	able filebeat
# systemctl star	rt filebeat
# systemctl stat	tus filebeat
Install Metric	beat to Monitor the Sensor
Metricbeat pro	vides statistics about the sensor.
# yum -y install	metricbeat
# vi /etc/metrio	cbeat/metricbeat.yml
	search Output and Configure where Elasticsearch is located and if SSL encryption is used ensor and Elasticsearch
#	Elasticsearch Output

```
output.elasticsearch:
# Array of hosts to connect to.
 hosts: ["localhost:9200"]
# Protocol - either `http` (default) or `https`.
 #protocol: "https"
 # Authentication credentials - either API key or username/password.
 #api_key: "id:api_key"
 #username: "elastic"
 #password: "changeme"
# cd /etc/metricbeat/modules.d
# Is -I system.yml
system.yml is enabled by default
# metricbeat modules list | head
# metricbeat test config
# metricbeat test output
# systemctl enable metricbeat
# systemctl start metricbeat
# systemctl status metricbeat
```

Install and Configure Packetbeat <a href="https://www.elastic.co/beats/packetbeat">https://www.elastic.co/beats/packetbeat</a>

Packetbeat is a lightweight packet analyzer that can be used to inspect certain type of traffic and provide flow data.

```
# yum -y install packetbeat
# vi /etc/packetbeat/packetbeat.yml
# Select the network interface to sniff the data. On Linux, you can use the
# "any" keyword to sniff on all connected interfaces.
packetbeat.interfaces.device: ens160
packetbeat.interfaces.snaplen: 1514
packetbeat.interfaces.type: af_packet
packetbeat.interfaces.buffer_size_mb: 100
→ Review this section and modify as required. Suggested update for DNS, HTTP and TLS
https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/beats/packetbeat/current/configuring-howto-packetbeat.html
- type: dns
# Configure the ports where to listen for DNS traffic. You can disable
# the DNS protocol by commenting out the list of ports.
ports: [53,5353]
include_authorities: true
include_additionals: true
send_request: true
send_response: true
- type: http
# Configure the ports where to listen for HTTP traffic. You can disable
# the HTTP protocol by commenting out the list of ports.
ports: [80, 81, 5000, 7001, 7780, 8000, 8002, 8008, 8080, 8088]
decode_body: true
send_request: true
```

send_response: true
- type: tls
# Configure the ports where to listen for TLS traffic. You can disable
# the TLS protocol by commenting out the list of ports.
send_certificates: true
include_raw_certificates: false
include_detailed_fields: true
fingerprints: [ md5, sha1, sha256 ]
ports:
- 443 # HTTPS
- 993 # IMAPS
- 995 # POP3S
- 4443
- 5223 # XMPP over SSL
- 8443
- 8883 # Secure MQTT
- 9243 # Elasticsearch
- 10443
ightarrow Goto Elasticsearch Output and Configure where Elasticsearch is located and if SSL encryption is used between the sensor and Elasticsearch
# Elasticsearch Output
output.elasticsearch:
# Array of hosts to connect to.
hosts: ["localhost:9200"]

# loadbalance: true

```
# Note: make sure geoip-info has been loaded into Stack Management → Ingest Node Pipelines
pipeline: geoip-info
# Protocol - either `http` (default) or `https`.
#protocol: "https"
# Authentication credentials - either API key or username/password.
#api_key: "id:api_key"
#username: "elastic"
#password: "changeme"
processors:
- add_host_metadata: ~
add_fields:
  when.network.source.ip: private
  fields:
    source.geo.location:
     lat: 45.3316
     lon: -75.6718
    source.geo.continent_name: North America
    source.geo.city_name: Ottawa
    source.geo.country_iso_code: CA
    source.geo.region_iso_code: CA-ON
    source.geo.region_name: Ontario
  target: "
- add_fields:
  when.network.destination.ip: private
```

# 

# Want to Collect Netflow Data?

Get the tarball from:  $\underline{\text{https://github.com/irino/softflowd}}$ 

Install softflowd /usr/local/sbin

Add to /etc/rc.local

# Netflow data

softflowd -i ens160 -v 9 -P udp -n 127.0.0.1:2055

# chmod 755 /etc/rc.local

## References

- [1] https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/elasticsearch/reference/current/install-elasticsearch.html
- [2] https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/beats/filebeat/current/configuring-howto-filebeat.html
- [3] https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/beats/metricbeat/current/configuring-howto-metricbeat.html
- [4] https://www.elastic.co/guide/en/beats/packetbeat/current/configuring-howto-packetbeat.html
- [5] <a href="https://suricata-update.readthedocs.io/en/latest/quickstart.html">https://suricata-update.readthedocs.io/en/latest/quickstart.html</a>

# Annex: Tarball Files and Directories

```
./etc:
filebeat
logrotate.d
packetbeat
rc.local
suricata
systemd
yum.repos.d
./etc/filebeat:
filebeat.yml
modules.d
./etc/filebeat/modules.d:
netflow.yml
suricata.yml
zeek.yml
./etc/logrotate.d:
suricata
./etc/packetbeat:
packetbeat.yml
./etc/suricata:
disable.conf
threshold.in
suricata.yaml
./etc/systemd:
```

```
./etc/systemd/system:
suricata.service
zeek.service
./etc/yum.repos.d:
_copr_@oisf-suricata-6.0.repo
elasticsearch.repo
epel.repo
epel-testing.repo
security:zeek.repo
./nsm:
suricata
zeek
./nsm/suricata:
./nsm/zeek:
logs
spool
./nsm/zeek/logs:
./nsm/zeek/spool:
brokerstore
./nsm/zeek/spool/brokerstore:
./opt:
zeek
```

```
./opt/zeek:
etc
share
./opt/zeek/etc:
node.cfg
zeekctl.cfg
./opt/zeek/share:
zeek
./opt/zeek/share/zeek:
site
./opt/zeek/share/zeek/site:
local.zeek
./root:
scripts
./root/scripts:
remove_suricata.sh
./usr:
local
./usr/local:
sbin
./usr/local/sbin:
```

softflowctl

```
softflowd
./var:
spool
./var/spool:
cron
./var/spool/cron:
```

root