

# Lab Class 6 - Intrusion Detection using Snort

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## References:

- [Snort website](#)
- [Snort manual and Documentation](#)
- [Snort cheat sheet](#)

## Assignment 1 - Snort initial experiments

1. Install **Snort 2.9** on one of the machines.
2. Try Snort in **packet sniffer mode** (check the [snort man page](#) for details on each of the command line option):

```
| snort -v
```

3. With application data dumping:

```
| snort -vd -i <interface> (run this in one machine and then run telnet/ping from  
another machine into it)
```

4. In packet logger mode (ascii -- other modes exist):

```
| snort -vd -K ascii -l ./log_folder/
```

5. Now ping a machine and check what was logged in the folder "log\_folder".

**Note:** Directories are created according to the source/destination of traffic. Within them, are the files for several protocols/packets.

6. Log in binary (tcpdump) format:

```
| snort -b -l ./log
```

7. Snort in "playback mode" from log file:

```
| snort -vd -r snort.log
```

8. Reading the packet log file using tcpdump:

```
| tcpdump -r snort.log
```

## Assignment 2 - Running Snort as a simple NIDS

1. Create a configuration file (**snort.conf**) to:
  - Log communications using `ICMP`
  - Log and alert when **GET** commands are detected in **HTTP** connections
  - Send all data from previous **HTTP** sessions to a separate log file, in printable (readable) format

- The configuration file can be as follows:

```
log icmp any any -> any any (msg:"Teste";sid:00001;)

alert tcp any any -> any any (msg:"Um Get!"; content:"GET";
nocase; sid:00002;)

log tcp any any -> any any
(logto:"myhttpdata";session:printable;sid:00003;)
```

Check the meaning of these configurations and how to write rules in the [Snort manual](#) and [Documentation](#).

2. To avoid interference from other traffic test locally (i.e., using the **loopback** interface) with:

```
snort -vd -l ./snort_log/ -c snort.conf -K ascii -k none -i lo
```

3. Now ping your own machine and access a local webserver (may need to install and start it):

- **ping 127.0.0.1**
- **telnet 127.0.0.1 80**
- **GET /**

4. Check files **snort\_log/alert** and **snort\_log/myhttpdata** and also within folder **127.0.0.1**.

5. Investigate how to use Snort to **detect port scanning** (e.g., **nmap**):

- Check the following documentation on **sfportscan**
- Register and download **snortrules-snapshot-29111**  
(<https://www.snort.org/downloads#rules>)
- Using the configuration file for Snort (usually under **/etc/snort/snort.conf**) and the community rules for your Snort version (that you can also put in **/etc/snort/**), set Snort to detect port scanning attempts (e.g., with **nmap**) to the local system.
- Run Snort in NIDS mode
- Launch a port scan (e.g. **UDP** port scan with **nmap**) to the system, and check if it was detected in the log files
- Investigate other attacks that can be detected by Snort by configuring rules to testing them accordingly.

Naturally, there are more user-friendly dashboards to keep track of Snort events. For example: in a Grafana Snort IDS/IPS Dashboard

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