

ST. FRANCIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
SECURITY LAB

Experiment – 10: Study of Intrusion detection system using SNORT

Aim: To study the Intrusion detection system using SNORT.

Objective: After performing the experiment, the students will be able to explore and use the Snort-IDS tool.

Lab objective mapped: L502.6: Students should be able to apply network security basics, analyze different attacks on networks and evaluate the performance of firewalls and security protocols, such as SSL, IPSEC, and PGP, and authentication mechanisms to design secure applications.

Prerequisite: Basic knowledge of network security.

Requirements: Windows OS, SNORT

Pre-Experiment Theory:

Snort is an open-source network intrusion prevention and detection system (IDS/IPS) developed by Sourcefire. Combining the benefits of signature, protocol, and anomaly-based inspection, Snort is the most widely deployed IDS/IPS technology worldwide. With millions of downloads and nearly 400,000 registered users, Snort has become the de facto standard for IPS.

Snort can be configured to run in three modes:

1. **Sniffer mode:** It simply reads the packets of the network and displays them for you in a continuous stream on the console (screen)
2. **Packet Logger mode:** logs the packets to disk.
3. **Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS) mode:** It performs detection and analysis on network traffic. This is the most complex and configurable mode.

Implementation:

1. Install snort on your system. Refer/download the snort user manual from its official website [1].
2. Test snort IDS using following commands, observe the output of each command. Take screenshots (SS). Write your observations under each SS.
 - a. `Snort -V`
 - b. `Snort -h`
 - c. `Snort -W`
 - d. `Snort -i interface number -v`
 - e. `Snort -i interface number -vd`
2. Run following command to use snort in Packet logger mode. View the log file created. Observe the content of log file using any packet logger software (e.g. Wireshark). Take SS of command output, the log file creation and the content of the log file. Write your observations under each SS.

`Snort -i interface number -dev -l C:\Snort\log`

3. Learn commands to use snort as IDS. Observe the snort rule file (*i.e., snort.conf file*). Analyze the rule file to configure it for your network environment.

```
Snort -i interface number -dev -l C:\Snort\log -h
192.168.1.0/24 -c snort.conf
```

Post Experimental Exercise- *(to be handwritten on journal sheets. Refer snort user manual for answers)*

1. _____ snort command displays packet header, packet data as well as the data link layer headers.
2. Explain the snort command that will be used for logging the packets on a high-speed network.
3. Explain the use of ‘-h’ option/switch while writing the snort rule.
4. Explain in detail Snort’s NIDS mode output options.
5. Explain the following snort command ‘snort -c snort.conf -A fast -h 192.168.1.0/24’

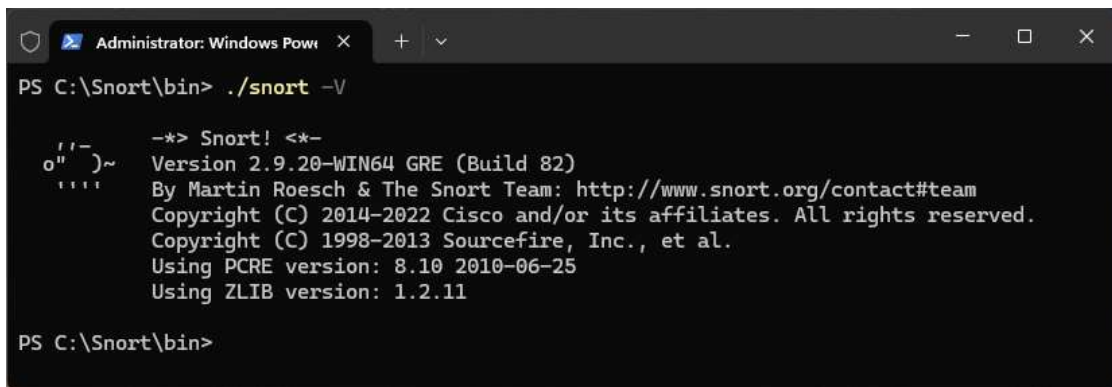
Conclusion:

In this experiment we were introduced to most used IPS/IDS software ‘Snort’. Snort acts as a security guard for any network, providing a proactive detection and prevention of any type of intrusion. Snort can perform packet sniffing, logging, and intrusion detection. We studied various options/switches that can be used for writing intrusion detection rules, for sniffing the network and for logging the network traffic.

References:

- [1] “Snort User’s Manual 2.9.16”, <https://snort.org/>
- [2] Bart Lenaerts-Bergmans , “SNORT AND SNORT RULES EXPLAINED”, <https://www.crowdstrike.com/cybersecurity-101/threat-intelligence/snort-rules/>
- [3] “Basic snort rules syntax and usage”, <https://resources.infosecinstitute.com/topics/penetration-testing/snort-rules-workshop-part-one/>
- [4] “Writing Snort Rules with Examples and Cheat Sheet”, <https://cyvatar.ai/write-configure-snort-rules/>
- [5] “INSTALLING & CONFIGURING SNORT| INSTALASI SNORT WINDOWS 11”, https://youtu.be/V6B8B7_6gfE

Snort -V

A screenshot of a Windows PowerShell window titled 'Administrator: Windows PowerShell'. The command prompt shows 'PS C:\Snort\bin> ./snort -V'. The output displays the Snort version and build information, including the version number (2.9.20-WIN64 GRE Build 82), copyright information (2014-2022 Cisco and/or its affiliates, 1998-2013 Sourcefire, Inc.), and the versions of PCRE (8.10 2010-06-25) and ZLIB (1.2.11) used.

```
PS C:\Snort\bin> ./snort -V

--> Snort! <*-
o" )~ Version 2.9.20-WIN64 GRE (Build 82)
    By Martin Roesch & The Snort Team: http://www.snort.org/contact#team
    Copyright (C) 2014-2022 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.
    Copyright (C) 1998-2013 Sourcefire, Inc., et al.
    Using PCRE version: 8.10 2010-06-25
    Using ZLIB version: 1.2.11

PS C:\Snort\bin>
```

The command `snort -V` is used to display the version of Snort installed. In this output, Snort version 2.9.20 for Windows 64-bit (WIN64 GRE Build 82) is shown. It also provides information about the PCRE (Perl Compatible Regular Expressions) and ZLIB versions used. This helps verify that Snort is correctly installed and provides details on the underlying libraries it uses for regular expressions and compression.

Snort -h

C:\Snort\bin\snort.exe: option requires an argument -- h

```
--> Snort! <*-
o" )~ Version 2.9.20-WIN64 GRE (Build 82)
    By Martin Roesch & The Snort Team: http://www.snort.org/contact#team
    Copyright (C) 2014-2022 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.
    Copyright (C) 1998-2013 Sourcefire, Inc., et al.
    Using PCRE version: 8.10 2010-06-25
    Using ZLIB version: 1.2.11
```

USAGE: C:\Snort\bin\snort.exe [-options] <filter options>

C:\Snort\bin\snort.exe /SERVICE /INSTALL [-options] <filter options>

C:\Snort\bin\snort.exe /SERVICE /UNINSTALL

C:\Snort\bin\snort.exe /SERVICE /SHOW

Options:

-A Set alert mode: fast, full, console, test or none (alert file alerts only)

-b Log packets in tcpdump format (much faster!)

-B <mask> Obfuscated IP addresses in alerts and packet dumps using CIDR mask

-c <rules> Use Rules File <rules>

-C Print out payloads with character data only (no hex)

-d Dump the Application Layer

-e Display the second layer header info

-E Log alert messages to NT Eventlog. (Win32 only)

-f Turn off fflush() calls after binary log writes

-F <bpf> Read BPF filters from file <bpf>

-G <0xid> Log Identifier (to uniquely id events for multiple snorts)

-h <hn> Set home network = <hn>

(for use with -l or -B, does NOT change \$HOME_NET in IDS mode)

-H Make hash tables deterministic.

-i <if> Listen on interface <if>

-I Add Interface name to alert output

-k <mode> Checksum mode (all,noip,notcp,noudp,noicmp,none)

-K <mode> Logging mode (pcap[default],ascii,none)

-l <ld> Log to directory <ld>

-L <file> Log to this tcpdump file

-n <cnt> Exit after receiving <cnt> packets

-N Turn off logging (alerts still work)

-O Obfuscate the logged IP addresses

-p Disable promiscuous mode sniffing

-P <snap> Set explicit snaplen of packet (default: 1514)

-q Quiet. Don't show banner and status report

-r <tf> Read and process tcpdump file <tf>

- R <id> Include 'id' in snort_intf<id>.pid file name
- s Log alert messages to syslog
- S <n=v> Set rules file variable n equal to value v
- T Test and report on the current Snort configuration
- U Use UTC for timestamps
- v Be verbose
- V Show version number
- W Lists available interfaces. (Win32 only)
- X Dump the raw packet data starting at the link layer
- x Exit if Snort configuration problems occur
- y Include year in timestamp in the alert and log files
- z <file> Set the preproc_memstats file path and name
- Z <file> Set the performonitor preprocessor file path and name
- ? Show this information

<Filter Options> are standard BPF options, as seen in TCPDump

Longname options and their corresponding single char version

--logid <0xid>	Same as -G
--perfmon-file <file>	Same as -Z
--pid-path <dir>	Specify the directory for the Snort PID file
--snaplen <snap>	Same as -P
--help	Same as -?
--version	Same as -V
--alert-before-pass	Process alert, drop, sdrop, or reject before pass, default is pass before alert, drop,...
--treat-drop-as-alert	Converts drop, sdrop, and reject rules into alert rules during startup
--treat-drop-as-ignore	Use drop, sdrop, and reject rules to ignore session traffic when not inline.
--process-all-events	Process all queued events (drop, alert,...), default stops after 1st action group

<code>--enable-inline-test</code>	Enable Inline-Test Mode Operation
<code>--dynamic-engine-lib <file></code>	Load a dynamic detection engine
<code>--dynamic-engine-lib-dir <path></code>	Load all dynamic engines from directory
<code>--dynamic-detection-lib <file></code>	Load a dynamic rules library
<code>--dynamic-detection-lib-dir <path></code>	Load all dynamic rules libraries from directory
<code>--dump-dynamic-rules <path></code>	Creates stub rule files of all loaded rules libraries
<code>--dynamic-preprocessor-lib <file></code>	Load a dynamic preprocessor library
<code>--dynamic-preprocessor-lib-dir <path></code>	Load all dynamic preprocessor libraries from directory
<code>--dynamic-output-lib <file></code>	Load a dynamic output library
<code>--dynamic-output-lib-dir <path></code>	Load all dynamic output libraries from directory
<code>--pcap-single <tf></code>	Same as -r.
<code>--pcap-file <file></code>	file that contains a list of pcaps to read - read mode is implied.
<code>--pcap-list "<list>"</code>	a space separated list of pcaps to read - read mode is implied.
<code>--pcap-loop <count></code>	this option will read the pcaps specified on command line continuously.
	for <count> times. A value of 0 will read until Snort is terminated.
<code>--pcap-reset</code>	if reading multiple pcaps, reset snort to post-configuration state before reading next pcap.
<code>--pcap-show</code>	print a line saying what pcap is currently being read.
<code>--exit-check <count></code>	Signal termination after <count> callbacks from DAQ_Acquire(), showing the time it takes from signaling until DAQ_Stop() is called.
<code>--conf-error-out</code>	Same as -x
<code>--enable-mpls-multicast</code>	Allow multicast MPLS
<code>--enable-mpls-overlapping-ip</code>	Handle overlapping IPs within MPLS clouds

<code>--max-mpls-labelchain-len</code>	Specify the max MPLS label chain
<code>--mpls-payload-type</code> that is encapsulated by MPLS	Specify the protocol (ipv4, ipv6, ethernet)
<code>--require-rule-sid</code> specified.	Require that all snort rules have SID
<code>--daq <type></code> pcap).	Select packet acquisition module (default is pcap).
<code>--daq-mode <mode></code>	Select the DAQ operating mode.
<code>--daq-var <name=value></code>	Specify extra DAQ configuration variable.
<code>--daq-dir <dir></code>	Tell snort where to find desired DAQ.
<code>--daq-list[=<dir>]</code> dir. Default is static modules only.	List packet acquisition modules available in dir.
<code>--dirty-pig</code> shutdown.	Don't flush packets and release memory on shutdown.
<code>--cs-dir <dir></code>	Directory to use for control socket.
<code>--ha-peer</code> with peer.	Activate live high-availability state sharing with peer.
<code>--ha-out <file></code>	Write high-availability events to this file.
<code>--ha-in <file></code> on startup (warm-start).	Read high-availability events from this file
<code>--suppress-config-log</code>	Suppress configuration information output.

The command ``snort -h`` displays the help information for Snort, providing users with a list of available command-line options and flags. This is useful for understanding how to configure and run Snort for various purposes, such as packet capturing, intrusion detection, or logging.

Snort -W

```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Snort\bin> ./Snort -W

    --> Snort! <*-
    ~~~~~
    Version 2.9.20-WIN64 GRE (Build 82)
    By Martin Roesch & The Snort Team: http://www.snort.org/contact#team
    Copyright (C) 2014-2022 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.
    Copyright (C) 1998-2013 Sourcefire, Inc., et al.
    Using PCRE version: 8.10 2010-06-25
    Using ZLIB version: 1.2.11

Index  Physical Address      IP Address      Device Name      Description
-----  -
1      00:00:00:00:00:00         disabled        \Device\NPF_{EA00F7D4-CE1E-418E-8A53-BDDE1963314
7}     WAN Miniport (Network Monitor)
2      00:00:00:00:00:00         disabled        \Device\NPF_{1C0C9DF0-B3FC-4362-8E0B-195A597A3BE
0}     WAN Miniport (IPv6)
3      00:00:00:00:00:00         disabled        \Device\NPF_{45EFE334-CC67-4DED-8ACA-BA3EC5292E5
A}     WAN Miniport (IP)
4      DC:46:28:78:18:A1        192.168.3.89    \Device\NPF_{37A772F1-E9DC-4856-8B1A-09B88D239D2
6}     Intel(R) Wi-Fi 6 AX201 160MHz
5      C8:7F:54:16:BC:65        192.168.3.244   \Device\NPF_{A786A402-6D39-41B8-9B27-3EEFF1B11ED
A}     Intel(R) Ethernet Connection (17) I219-V
6      DE:46:28:78:18:A1        169.254.137.13  \Device\NPF_{C2097824-D18A-49A0-9CB5-AE4526E8F74
D}     Microsoft Wi-Fi Direct Virtual Adapter #2
7      DC:46:28:78:18:A2        169.254.116.91  \Device\NPF_{04CD2F84-EDAF-4427-9F16-E5D4DDF9CAA
F}     Microsoft Wi-Fi Direct Virtual Adapter
8      00:00:00:00:00:00        0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000 \Device\NPF_Loopback A
dapter for loopback traffic capture
PS C:\Snort\bin> |
```

```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Snort\bin> ipconfig

Windows IP Configuration

Wireless LAN adapter Local Area Connection* 9:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :

Wireless LAN adapter Local Area Connection* 10:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :

Ethernet adapter Ethernet:

    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :
    Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::8ee5:dd45:35a6:b978%15
    IPv4 Address. . . . . : 192.168.3.244
    Subnet Mask . . . . . : 255.255.248.0
    Default Gateway . . . . . : 192.168.7.254

Wireless LAN adapter Wi-Fi:

    Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
    Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :
PS C:\Snort\bin> |
```


The command `snort -i <interface_number> -vd` tells Snort to listen on a specified network interface (indicated by ``) and to display packet data in a verbose and detailed format. The `-vd` option includes both the human-readable output of packet contents and additional information about the packet structure, which aids in in-depth analysis of network traffic.

Snort -i interface number -dev -l C:\Snort\log

```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Snort\bin> ./Snort -i 5 -dev -l C:\Snort\log
Running in packet logging mode

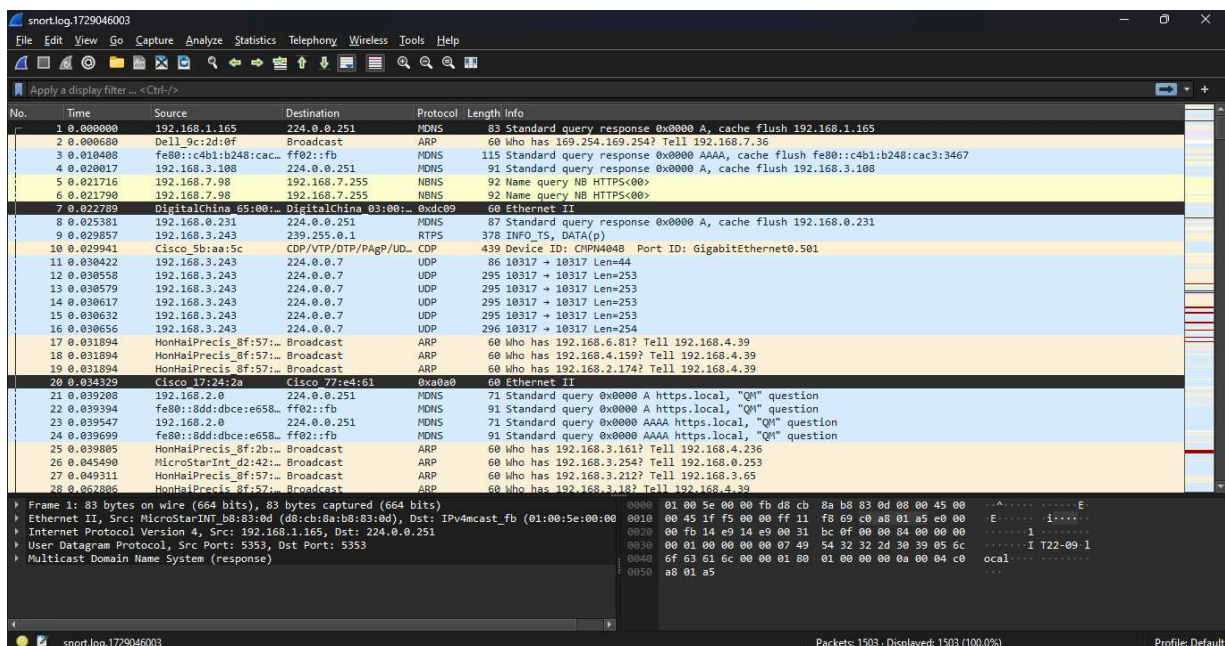
---- Initializing Snort ----
Initializing Output Plugins!
Log directory = C:\Snort\log
pcap DAQ configured to passive.
The DAQ version does not support reload.
Acquiring network traffic from "\Device\NPF_{A786A402-6D39-41B8-9B27-3EEFF1B11E
DA}:".
Decoding Ethernet

---- Initialization Complete ----

--> Snort! <*-
o" )~ Version 2.9.20-WIN64 GRE (Build 82)
    By Martin Roesch & The Snort Team: http://www.snort.org/contact#team
    Copyright (C) 2014-2022 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.

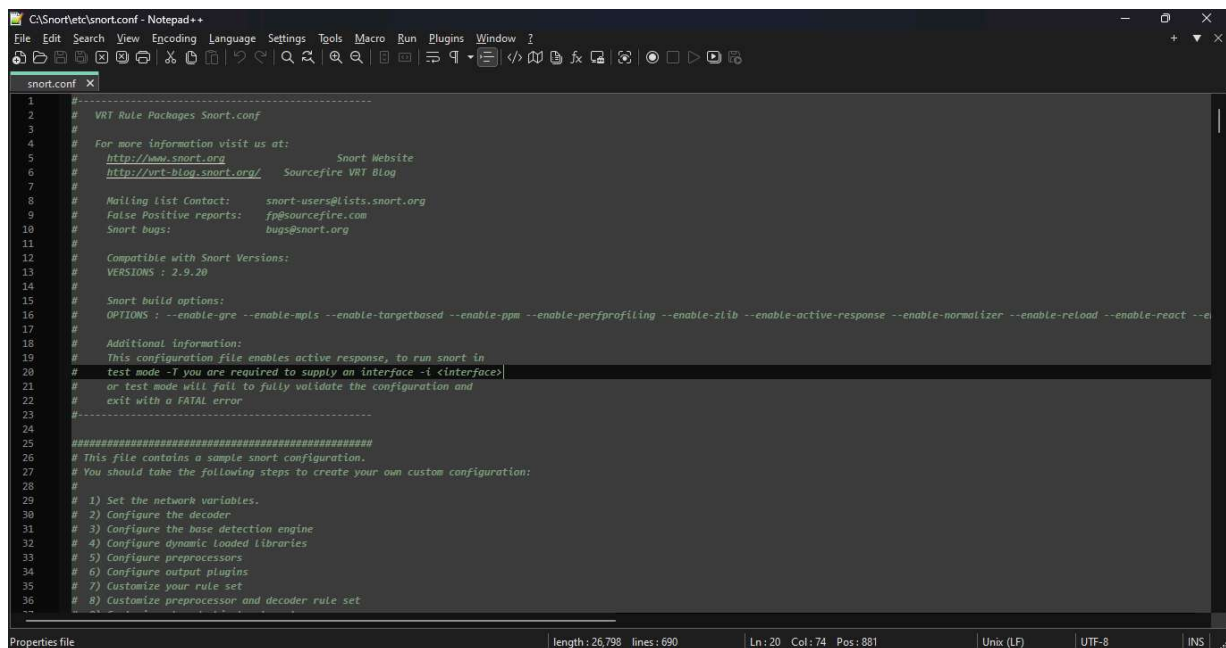
    Copyright (C) 1998-2013 Sourcefire, Inc., et al.
    Using PCRE version: 8.10 2010-06-25
    Using ZLIB version: 1.2.11

Commencing packet processing (pid=2292)
WARNING: No preprocessors configured for policy 0.
WARNING: No preprocessors configured for policy 0.
WARNING: No preprocessors configured for policy 0.
```



The command `snort -i <interface_number> -dev -l C:\Snort\log`` configures Snort to listen on a specified network interface (`<interface_number>`) and to log the packet data in a detailed format. The `-d`` option includes the data portion of the packets, the `-e`` option shows Ethernet headers, and the `-l C:\Snort\log`` specifies the directory where log files will be saved. This setup is useful for thorough analysis and record-keeping of network traffic.

**snort -i 5 -dev -l C:\Snort\log -h 192.168.1.0/24 -c
C:\Snort\etc\snort.conf**



```
1 #-----
2 # VRT Rule Packages Snort.conf
3 #
4 # For more information visit us at:
5 # http://www.snort.org Snort Website
6 # http://vrt-blog.snort.org/ Sourcefire VRT Blog
7 #
8 # Mailing list Contact: snort-users@lists.snort.org
9 # False Positive reports: fp@sourcefire.com
10 # Snort bugs: bugs@snort.org
11 #
12 # Compatible with Snort Versions:
13 # VERSIONS : 2.9.20
14 #
15 # Snort build options:
16 # OPTIONS : --enable-gre --enable-mpis --enable-targetbased --enable-ppm --enable-perfprofiling --enable-zlib --enable-active-response --enable-normalizer --enable-reload --enable-react --e
17 #
18 # Additional information:
19 # This configuration file enables active response, to run snort in
20 # test mode -T you are required to supply an interface -i <interface>
21 # or test mode will fail to fully validate the configuration and
22 # exit with a FATAL error
23 #-----
24
25 #####
26 # This file contains a sample snort configuration.
27 # You should take the following steps to create your own custom configuration:
28 #
29 # 1) Set the network variables.
30 # 2) Configure the decoder
31 # 3) Configure the base detection engine
32 # 4) Configure dynamic loaded libraries
33 # 5) Configure preprocessors
34 # 6) Configure output plugins
35 # 7) Customize your rule set
36 # 8) Customize preprocessor and decoder rule set
37 #-----
```



```
C:\Snort\etc\snort.conf - Notepad++
File Edit Search View Encoding Language Settings Tools Macro Run Plugins Window ?
snort.conf X
34 # 6) Configure output plugins
35 # 7) Customize your rule set
36 # 8) Customize preprocessor and decoder rule set
37 # 9) Customize shared object rule set
38 #####
39 #####
40 #####
41 # Step #1: Set the network variables. For more information, see README-variables
42 #####
43 #####
44 # Setup the network addresses you are protecting
45 $var HOME_NET any
46
47 # Set up the external network addresses. Leave as "any" in most situations
48 $var EXTERNAL_NET any
49
50 # List of DNS servers on your network
51 $var DNS_SERVERS $HOME_NET
52
53 # List of SMTP servers on your network
54 $var SMTP_SERVERS $HOME_NET
55
56 # List of web servers on your network
57 $var HTTP_SERVERS $HOME_NET
58
59 # List of sql servers on your network
60 $var SQL_SERVERS $HOME_NET
61
62 # List of telnet servers on your network
63 $var TELNET_SERVERS $HOME_NET
64
65 # List of ssh servers on your network
66 $var SSH_SERVERS $HOME_NET
67
68 # List of ftp servers on your network
69 $var FTP_SERVERS $HOME_NET
70
Properties file length: 26,798 lines: 690 Ln: 20 Col: 74 Pos: 881 Unix (LF) UTF-8 INS
```

```
Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Snort\bin> ./snort -i 5 -dev -l C:\Snort\log -h 192.168.1.0/24 -c C:\Snort\etc\snort.conf
Running in IDS mode

==== Initializing Snort ====
Initializing Output Plugins!
Initializing Preprocessors!
Initializing Plug-ins!
Parsing Rules file "C:\Snort\etc\snort.conf"
PortVar 'HTTP_PORTS' defined : [ 80:81 311 383 591 593 901 1220 1414 1741 1830 2301 2381 2809 3037 3
128 3702 4343 4848 5250 6988 7000:7001 7144:7145 7510 7777 7779 8000 8008 8014 8028 8080 8085 8088 80
90 8118 8123 8180:8181 8243 8280 8300 8800 8888 8899 9000 9060 9080 9090:9091 9443 9999 11371 34443:3
4444 41080 50002 55555 ]
PortVar 'SHELLCODE_PORTS' defined : [ 0:79 81:65535 ]
PortVar 'ORACLE_PORTS' defined : [ 1024:65535 ]
PortVar 'SSH_PORTS' defined : [ 22 ]
PortVar 'FTP_PORTS' defined : [ 21 2100 3535 ]
PortVar 'SIP_PORTS' defined : [ 5060:5061 5060 ]
PortVar 'FILE_DATA_PORTS' defined : [ 80:81 110 143 311 383 591 593 901 1220 1414 1741 1830 2301 238
1 2809 3037 3128 3702 4343 4848 5250 6988 7000:7001 7144:7145 7510 7777 7779 8000 8008 8014 8028 8080
8085 8088 8090 8118 8123 8180:8181 8243 8280 8300 8800 8888 8899 9000 9060 9080 9090:9091 9443 9999
11371 34443:34444 41080 50002 55555 ]
PortVar 'GTP_PORTS' defined : [ 2123 2152 3386 ]
Detection:
  Search-Method = AC-Full-Q
  Split Any/Any group = enabled
  Search-Method-Optimizations = enabled
  Maximum pattern length = 20
ERROR: C:\Snort\etc\snort.conf(247) Could not stat dynamic module path "/usr/local/lib/snort_dynamic
reprocessor/": No such file or directory.
```

The command `snort -i 5 -dev -l C:\Snort\log -h 192.168.1.0/24 -c C:\Snort\etc\snort.conf` configures Snort to listen on interface 5, logging detailed packet information to `C:\Snort\log`. The `-h 192.168.1.0/24` option sets the home network to include the specified subnet, allowing Snort to focus on traffic within that range. The `-c C:\Snort\etc\snort.conf` specifies the configuration file to use, which contains rules and settings for Snort's operation. This command sets up a comprehensive environment for monitoring and analyzing traffic specific to a local network.
