Overview

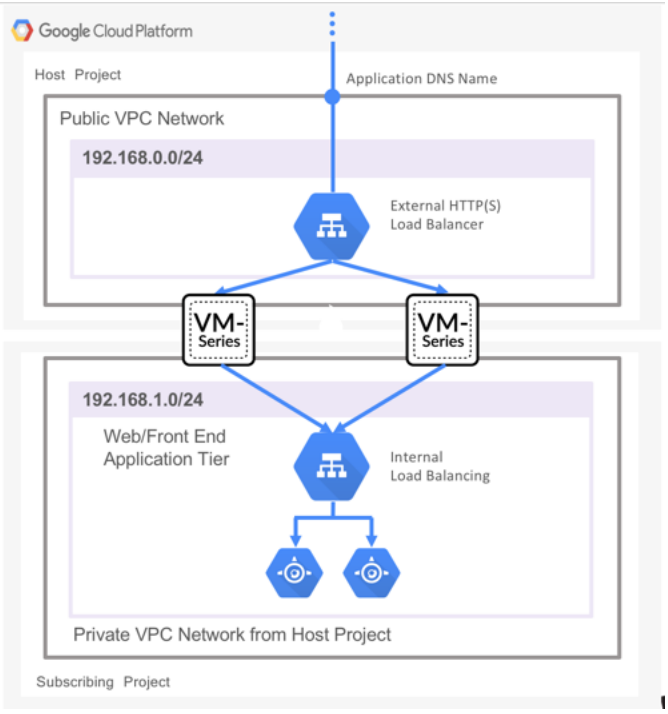
The following components are used in this demo:

- GCP Cloud Armor
- GCP Service Account
- Linux worker node

Prerequisites include:

- HTTP(S) Load Balancer
- Palo Alto Networks Firewall(s) with URLF and Threat subscriptions (duh)
- Webserver(s)

A typical deployment might resemble the diagram below (Shared VPC optional):



The gcp-aolf.py script may be downloaded from GitHub

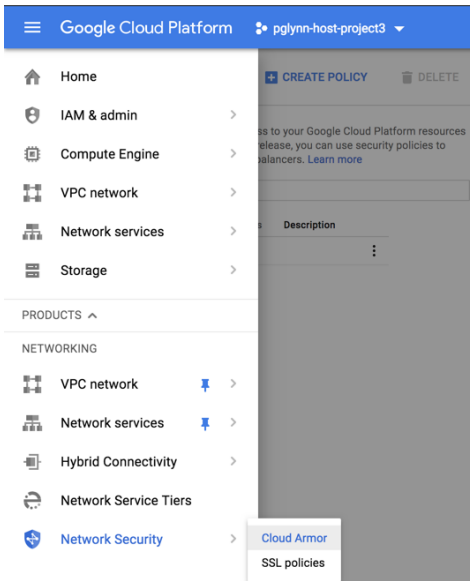
Introduction

1) In this demo we will use detectable threats between a browser and the web server (in this case we use a SQL Injection attack) to trigger action-oriented log forwarding.
2) The firewall will detect the SQL Injection threat and forward the log data to the worker node via an HTTP log forwarding action.

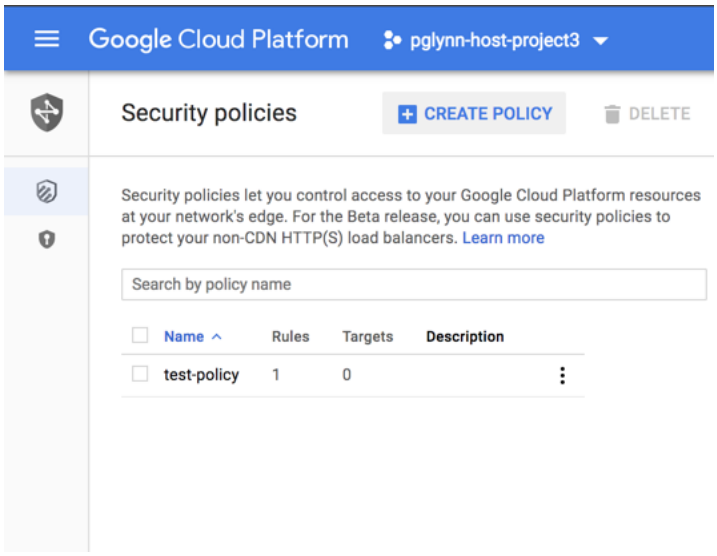
3) The worker node queries the firewall for additional information based on the sessionID, NAT Source Port, and received time of the detected threat. The response includes the IP address in the X-Forwarded-For HTTP header.
4) The worker node extracts the IP of the attacker from the X-Forwarded-For.
5) The worker node determines the correct rule priority and adds a rule to the Cloud Armor security policy.

Initial Setup

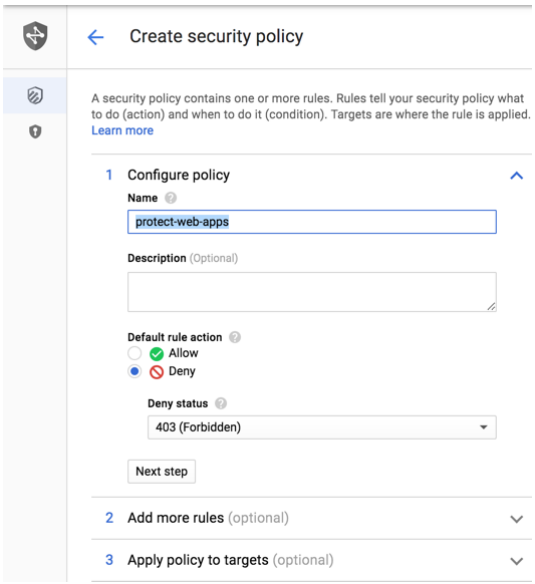
1) Create the initial Cloud Armor security policy. Navigate to **Networking > Network Security > Cloud Armor**:



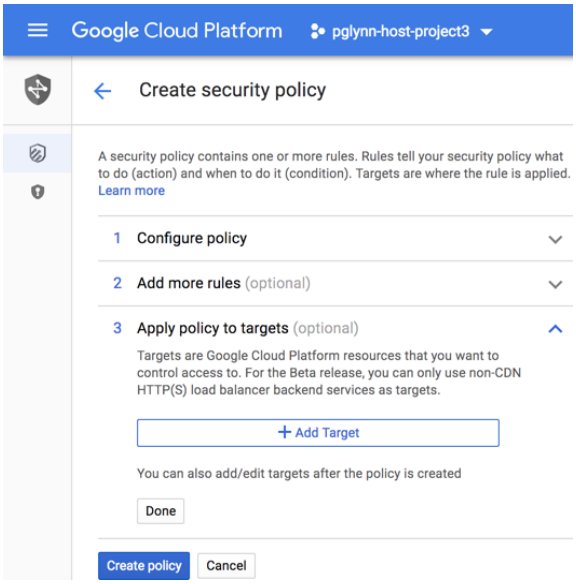
2) Click **CREATE POLICY**



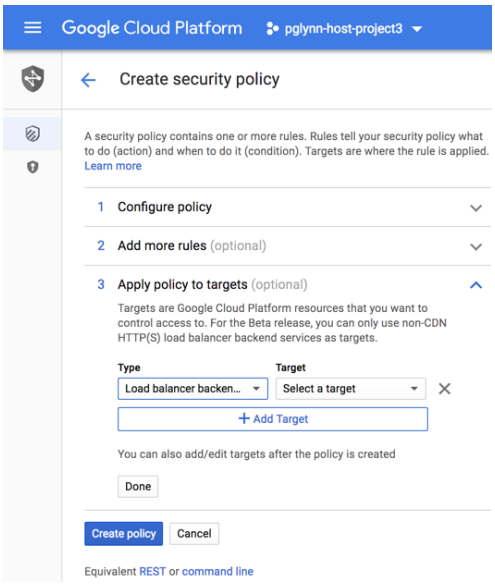
3) Specify a **Name**



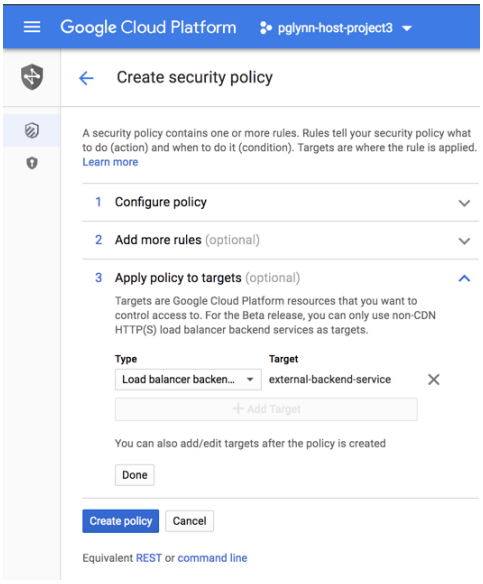
4) Click **Apply policy to targets**



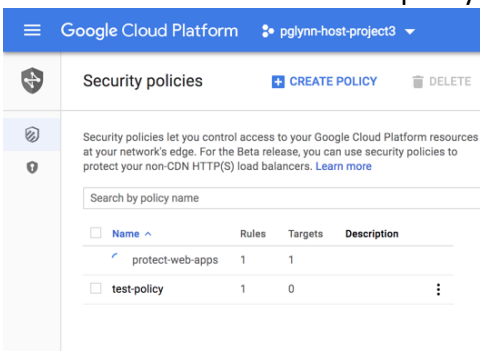
5) Click **+ Add Target**



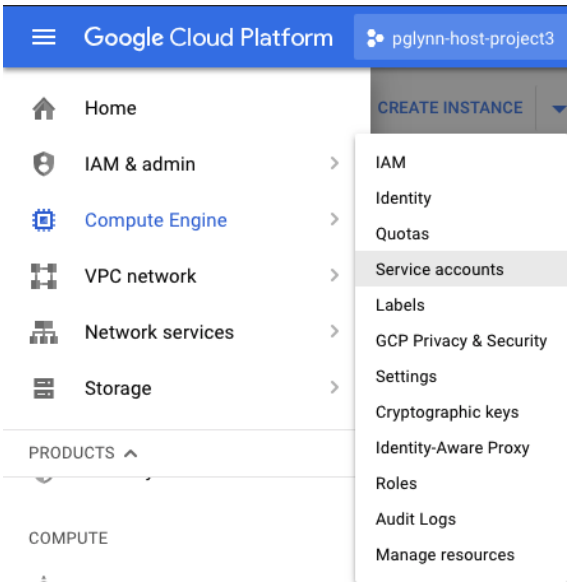
6) Select the public HTTP(S) Load Balancer



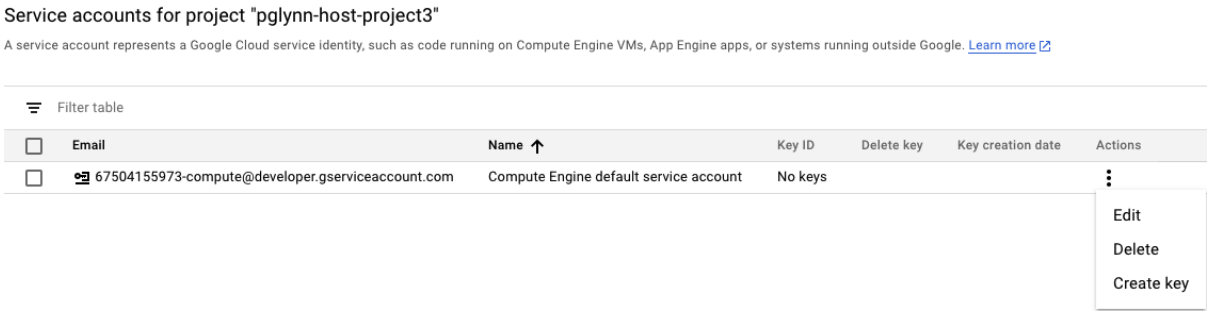
7) Click **Create policy.** It will take a few moments to create the policy.



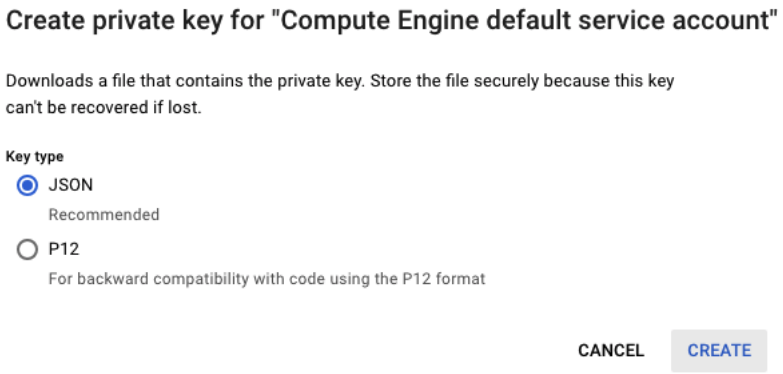
8) Create a service account key. Navigate to **IAM & admin > Service accounts**



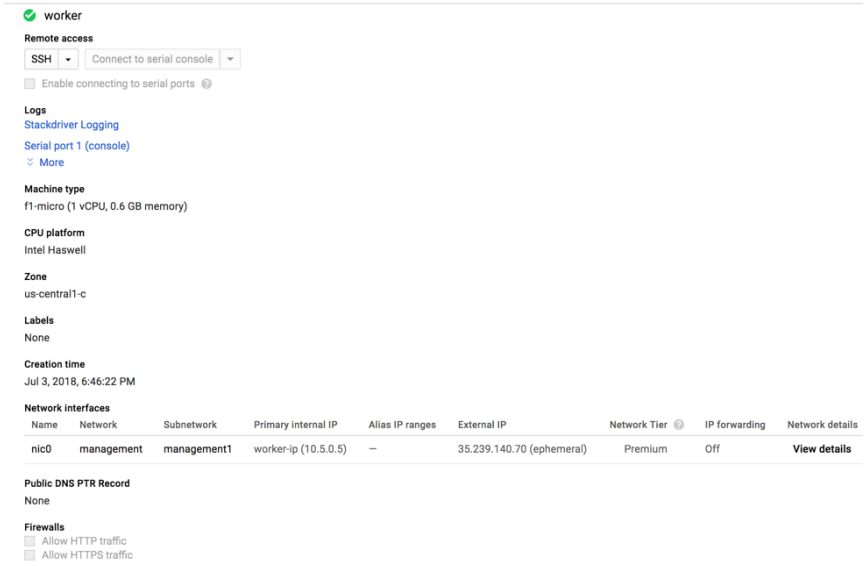
9) Click on the vertical ellipses beside the default service account and select **Create key**



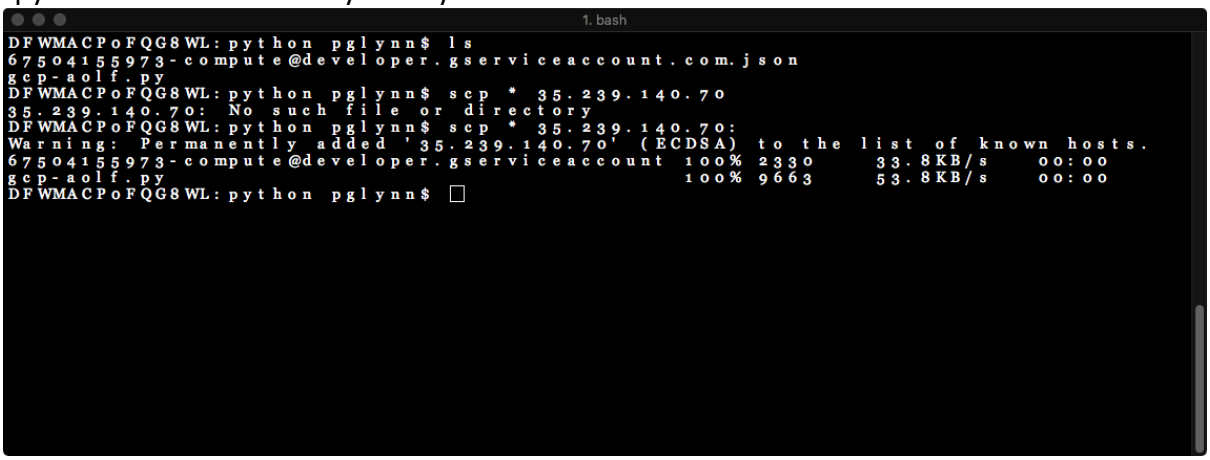
10) Leave the key type as JSON and click **CREATE**



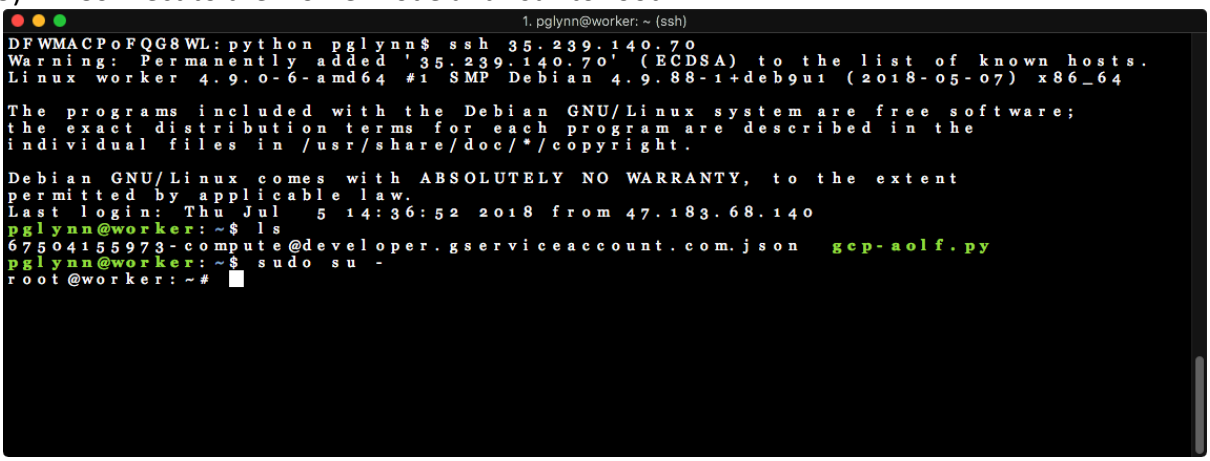
11) Save the key to a secure location as it allows API access to GCP resources
12) (optional) Rename the key to reflect the service account to which it is attached
13) Deploy a worker node with the following settings:
    a. Machine type: F1-micro
    b. Network: FW management subnet
    c. Internal IP: static
    d. External IP (optional): ephemeral



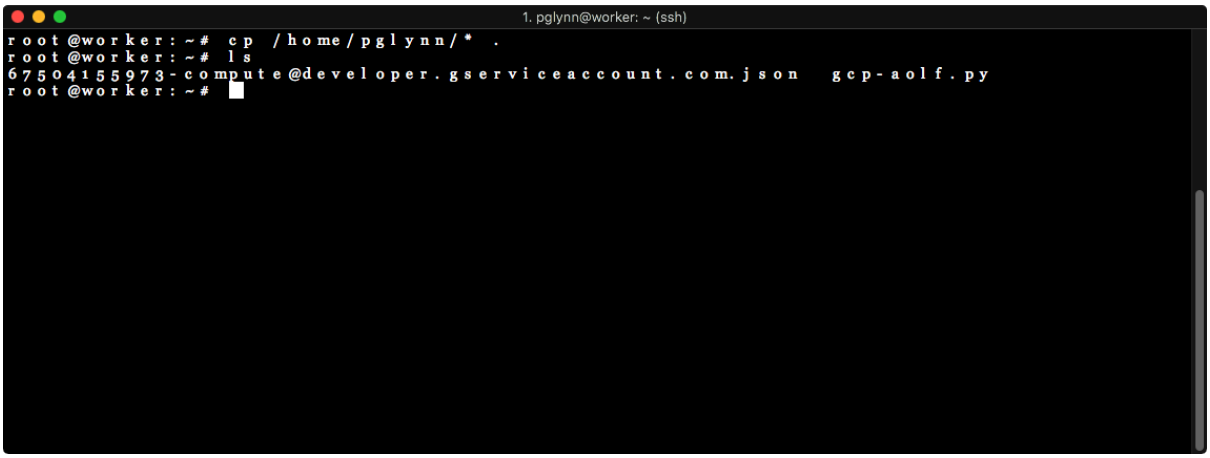
14) Copy the service account key and Python code to the worker node



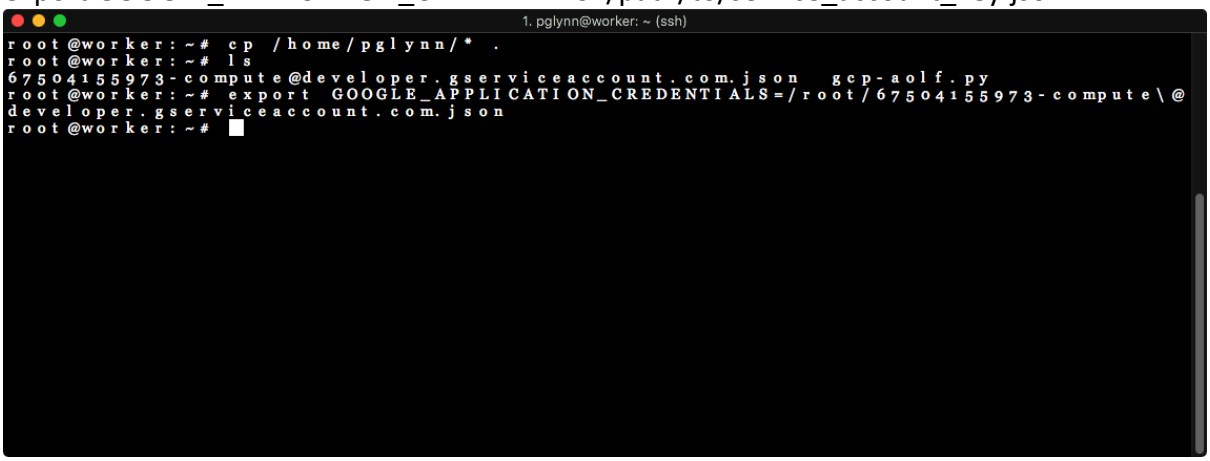
15) Connect to the worker node and “su” to root



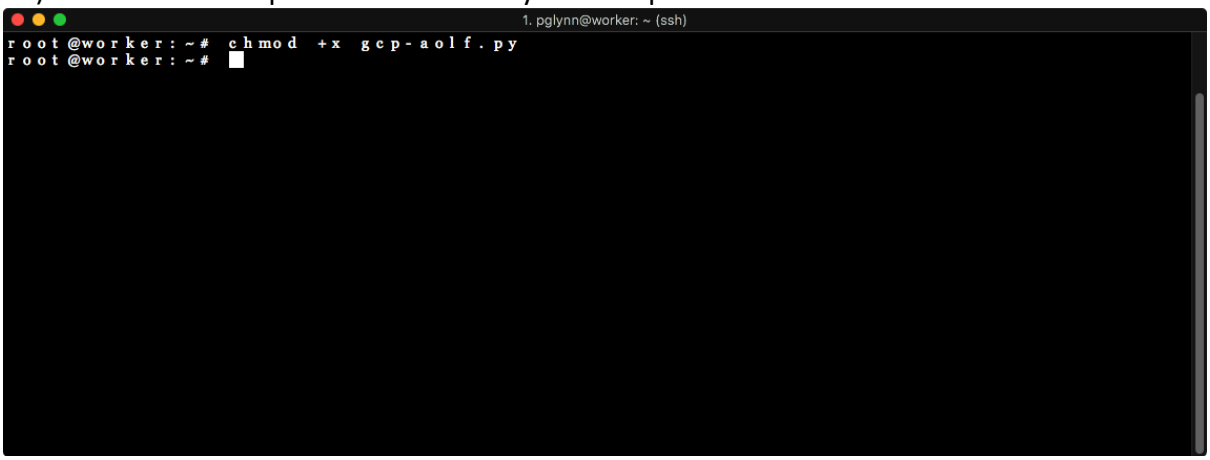
16) Copy the Python script and service account key to root’s home directory



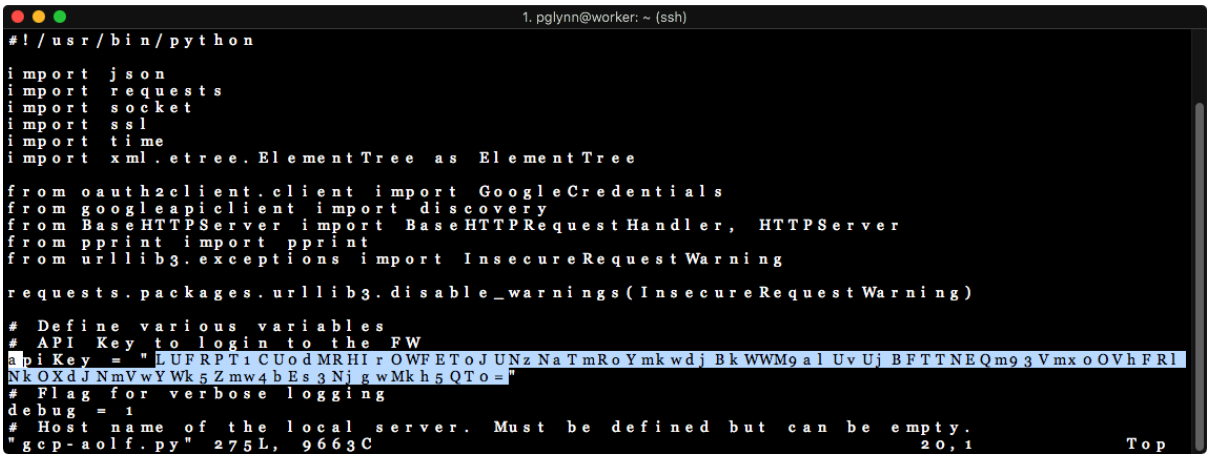
17) Create an environment variable pointing to the service account key. This is necessary as the Python script will need the key to authenticate to the GCP environment. The format is: export GOOGLE_APPLICATION_CREDENTIALS=/path/to/service_account_key.json



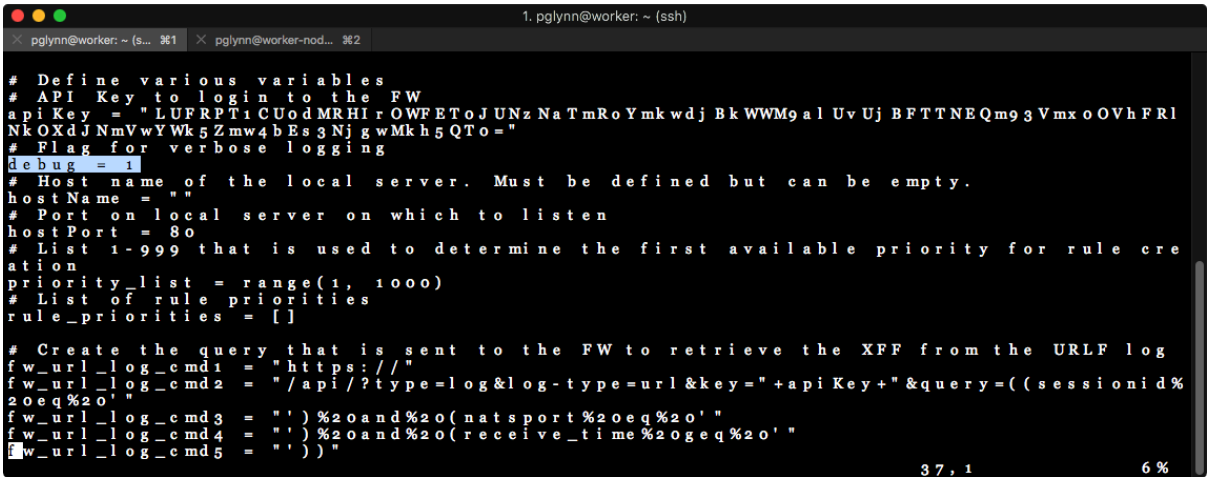
18) Add execute permission to the Python script:



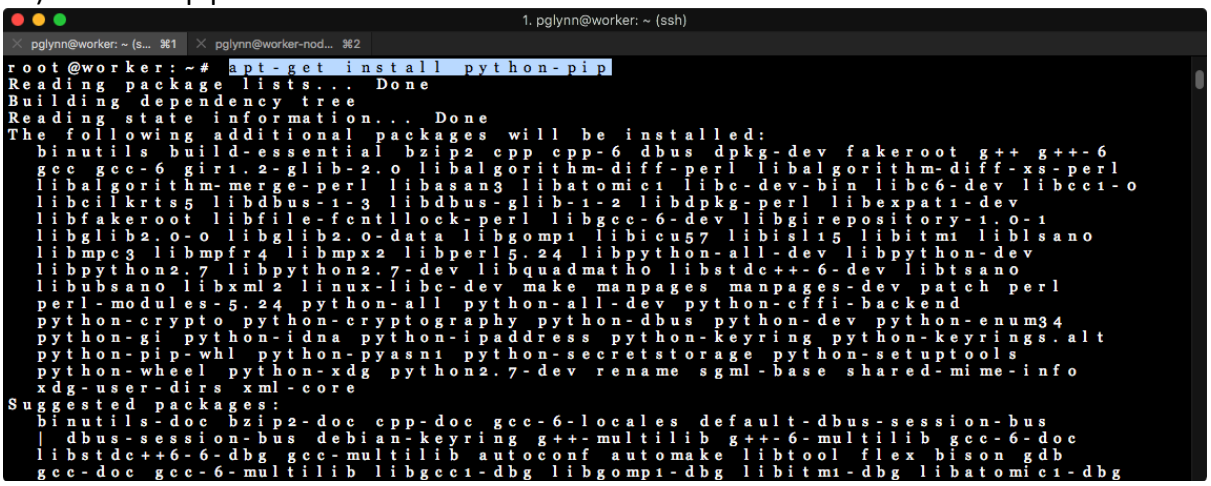
19) Edit the Python script and replace the FW API key with the one specific to your implementation



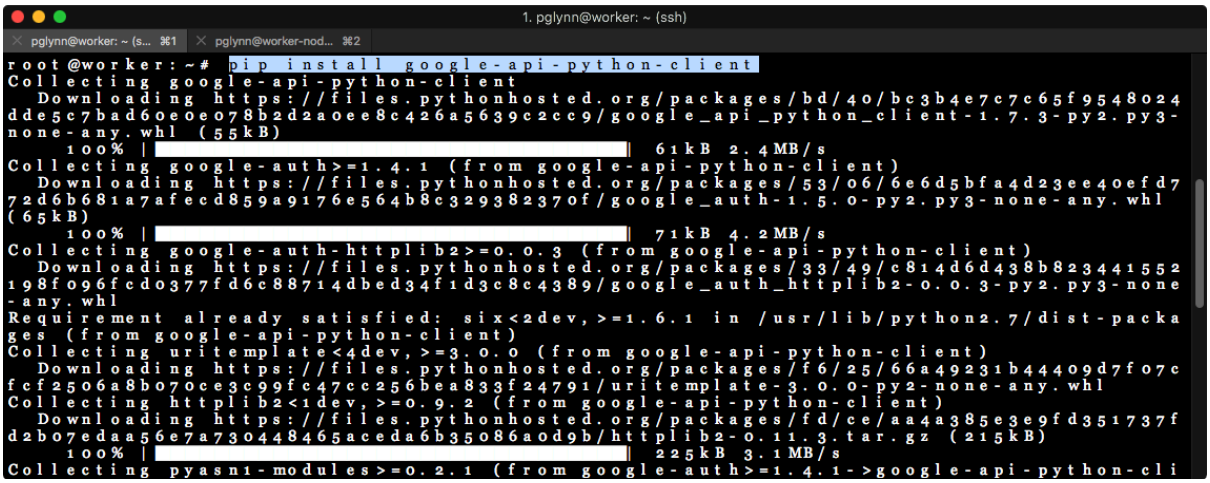
20) (optional) To monitor script execution or for debugging purposes, set the debug flag to "1"



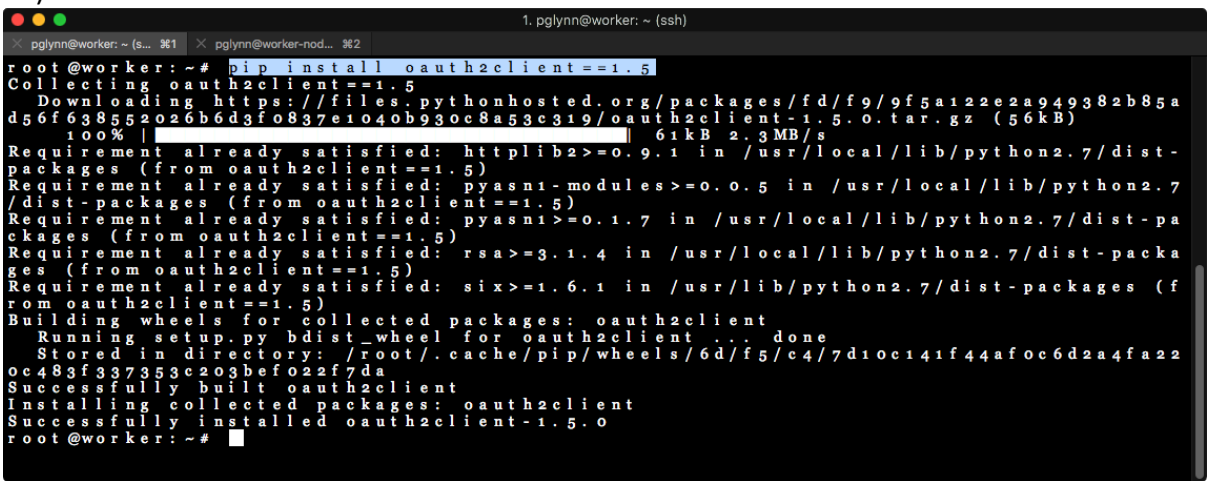
21) Install pip



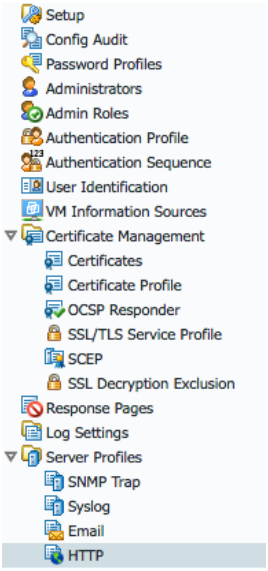
22) Install the Google API Client Library



23) Install the OAuth client

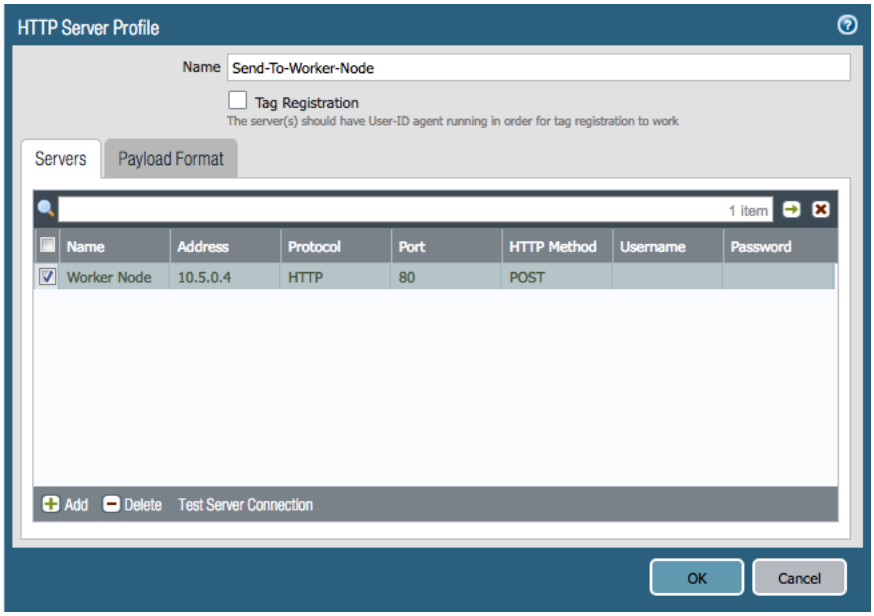


24) Login to the firewall and navigate to **Device > Server Profiles > HTTP**



25) Add a new server profile with the following parameters:
   a. Name: free-form text (e.g. Worker Node)
   b. Address: Internal IP of the worker node

c. Protocol: HTTP
d. Port 80
e. HTTP Method: POST

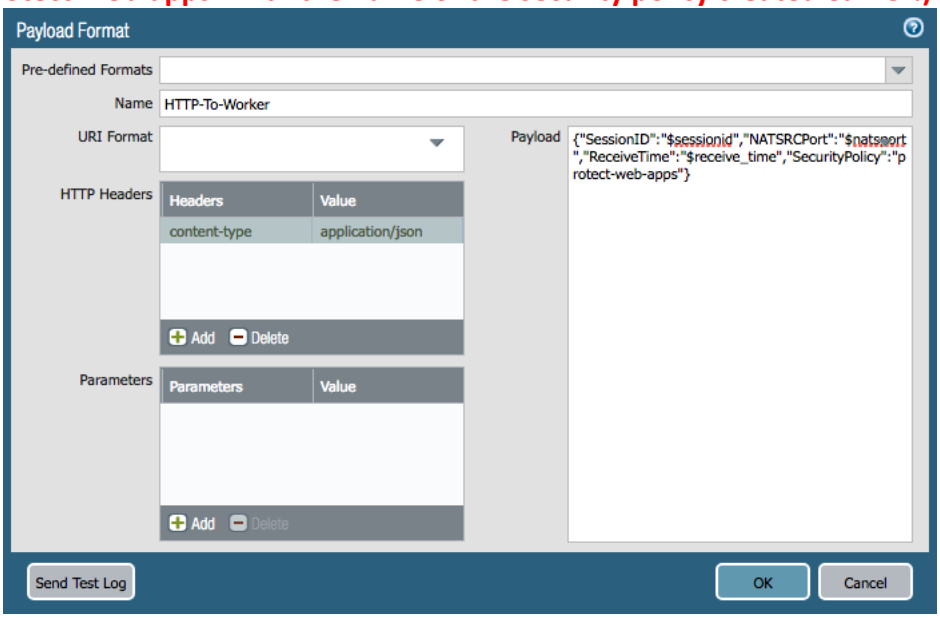


26) Under **Payload Format**, edit the log type for **Threat** and create a new payload format:

a. Name: Free-form text
b. Content-type: application/json
c. Payload:

{"SessionID":"$sessionid","NATSRCPort":"$natsport","ReceiveTime":"$receive_time","SecurityPolicy":"protect-web-apps"}

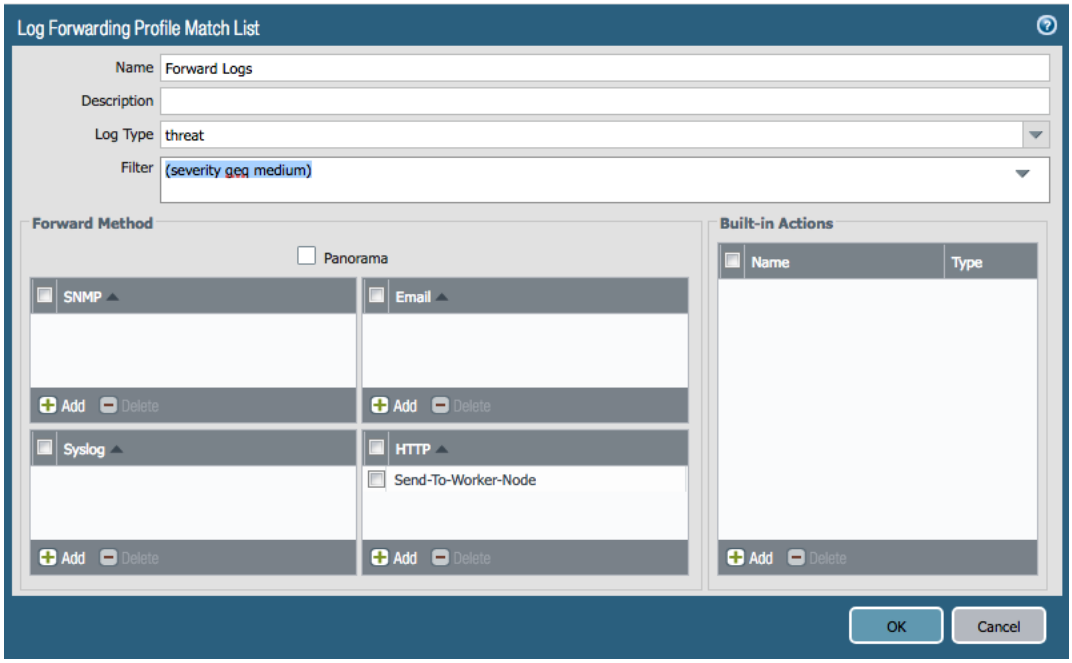
(replace "protect-web-apps" with the name of the security policy created earlier!)



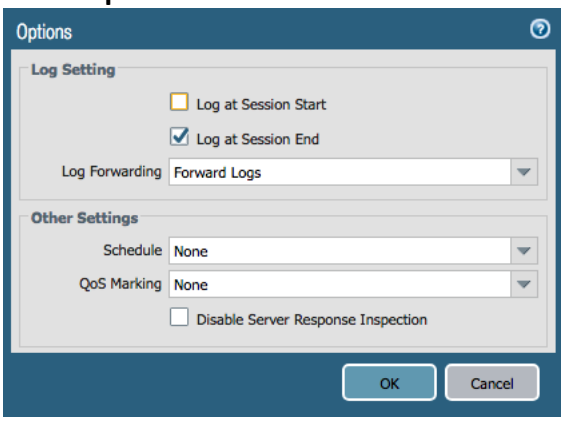
27) Navigate to **Objects > Log Forwarding** and add a new log forwarding profile with the following parameters:

a. Name: Free-form text
b. Log Type: Threat

c. Filter: (severity geq medium)
d. Forward Method: HTTP > (your HTTP Sever Profile)



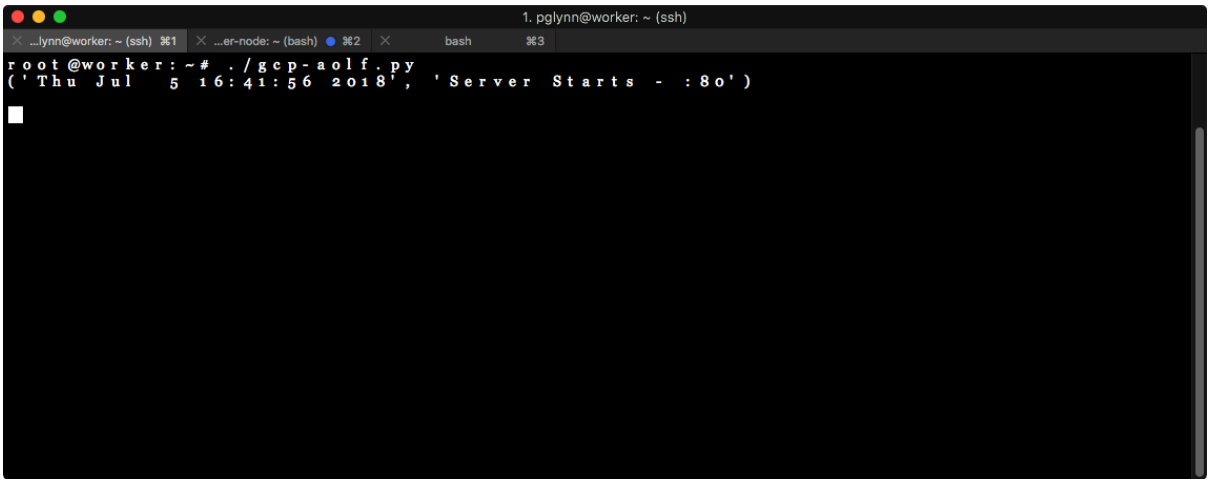
28) Edit the policy permitting web traffic from the untrust/internet side of the FW and add the log forwarding profile to the **Options**



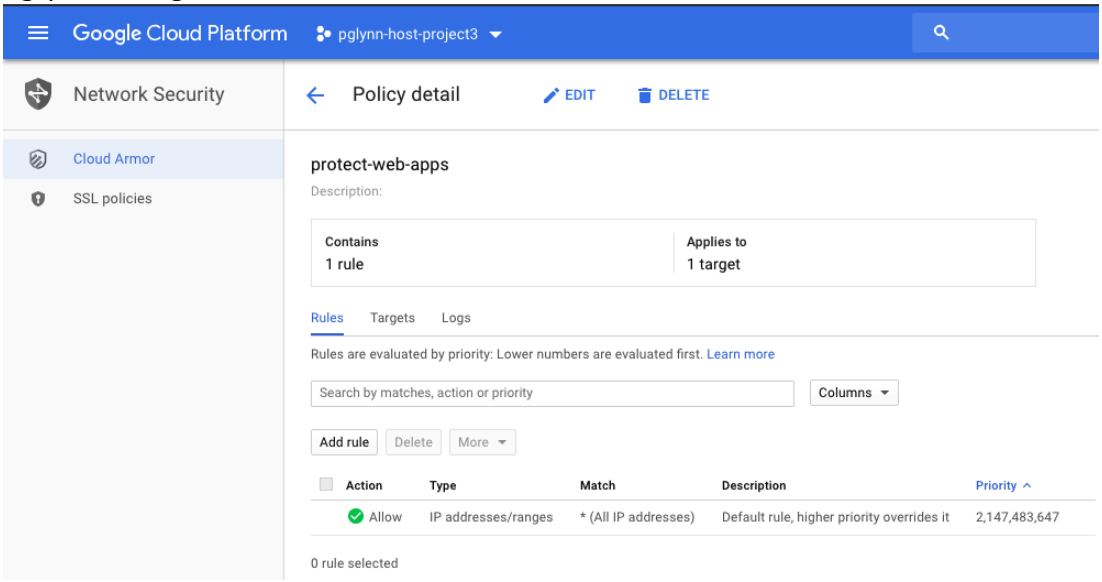
29) Commit the changes and replicate as required to other FW

Testing/Verification

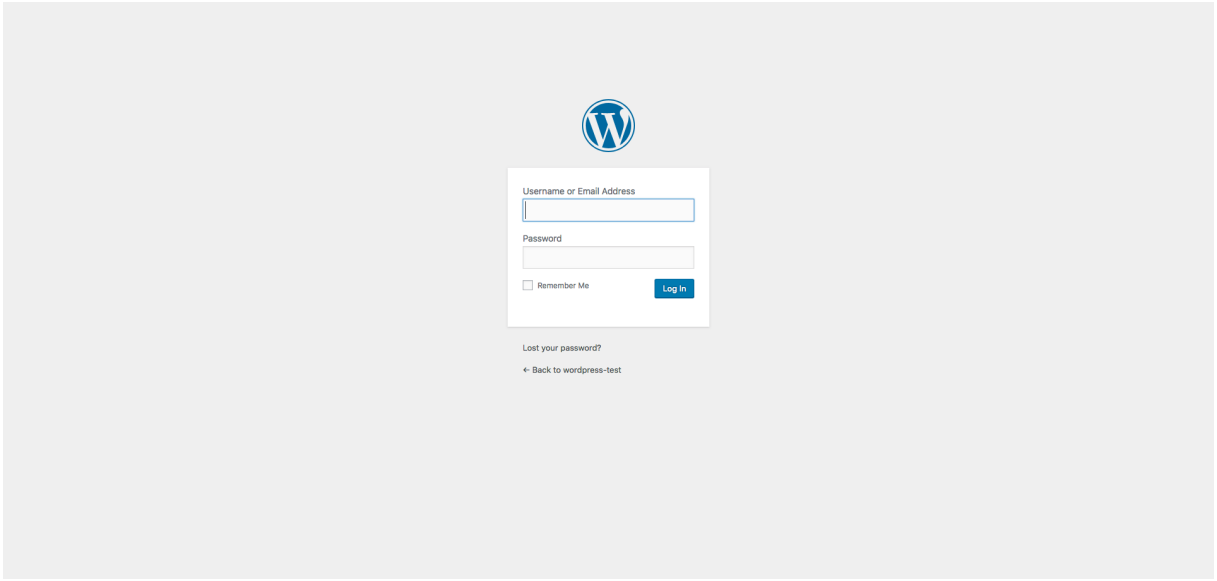
1) Launch the Python script from the worker node. You will have to be root if launching it manually as the script listens on a well-known port (TCP/80)



2) Check the Security Policy. In a production environment, there may be multiple rules blocking/permitting access.



3) Navigate to the web page (we are using a wordpress server for this example)

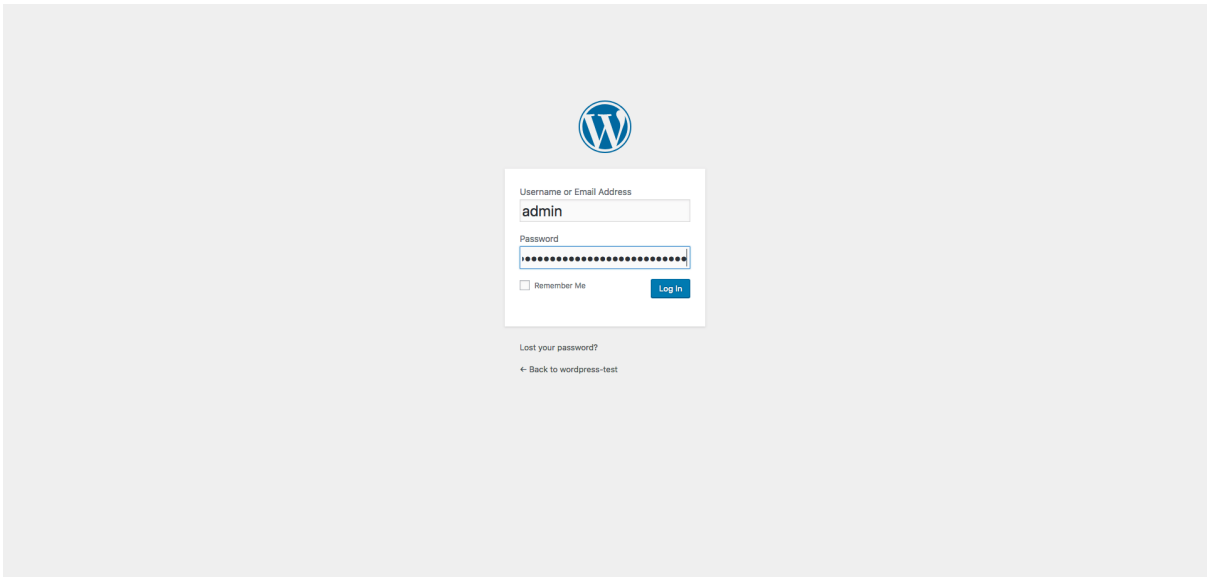


4) Input a valid username and for the password, simulate an XSS or SQL Injection attack. Examples include

<script>alert("HI")</script>

%' or '0'='0

1' or '1' = '1



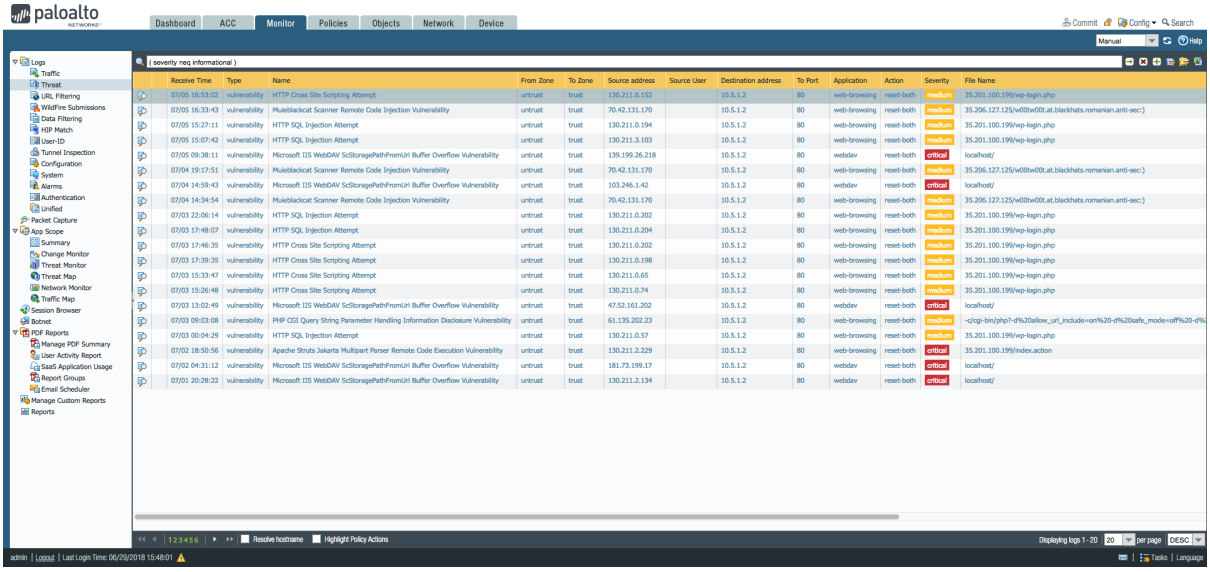
5) The firewall should block the attempted login

Error: Server Error

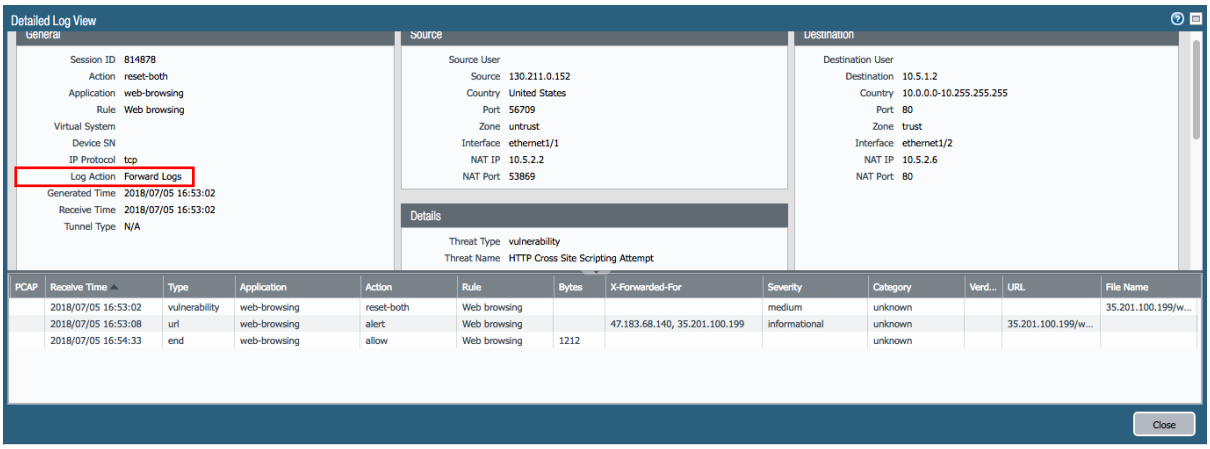
The server encountered a temporary error and could not complete your request.

Please try again in 30 seconds.

6) A Threat log event will be generated

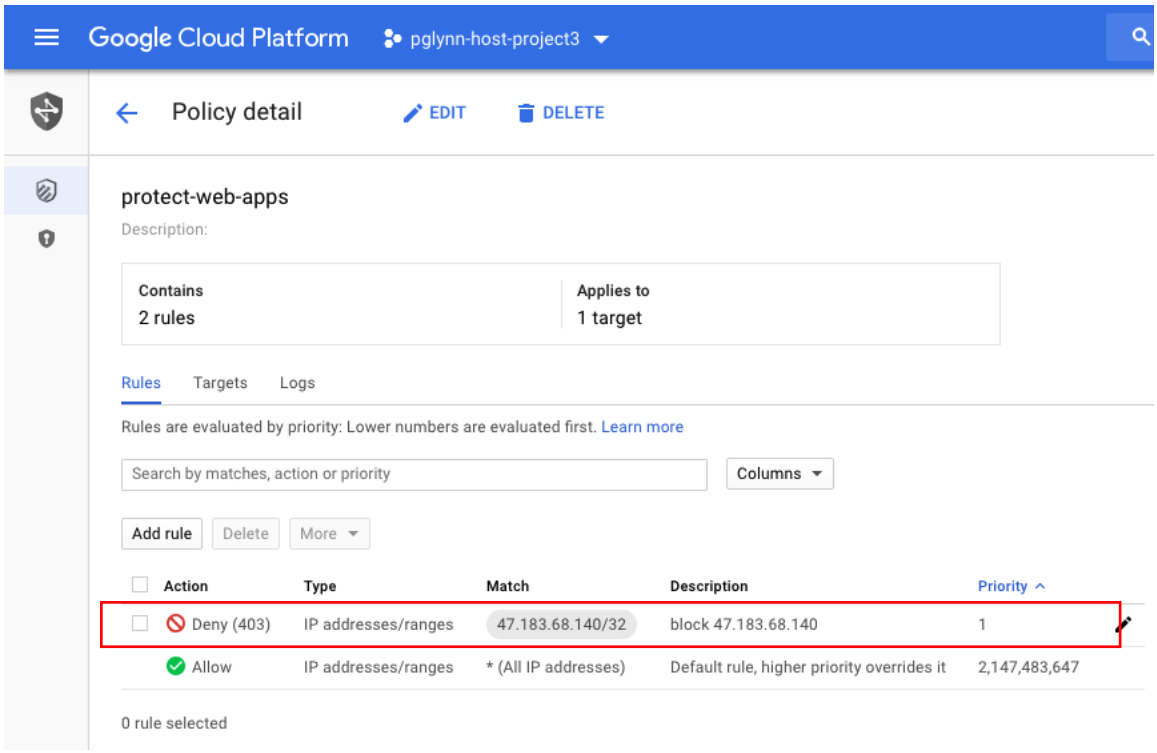


7) Details on the log entry will show the Traffic, URL, and Threat logs as well as the log forwarding action



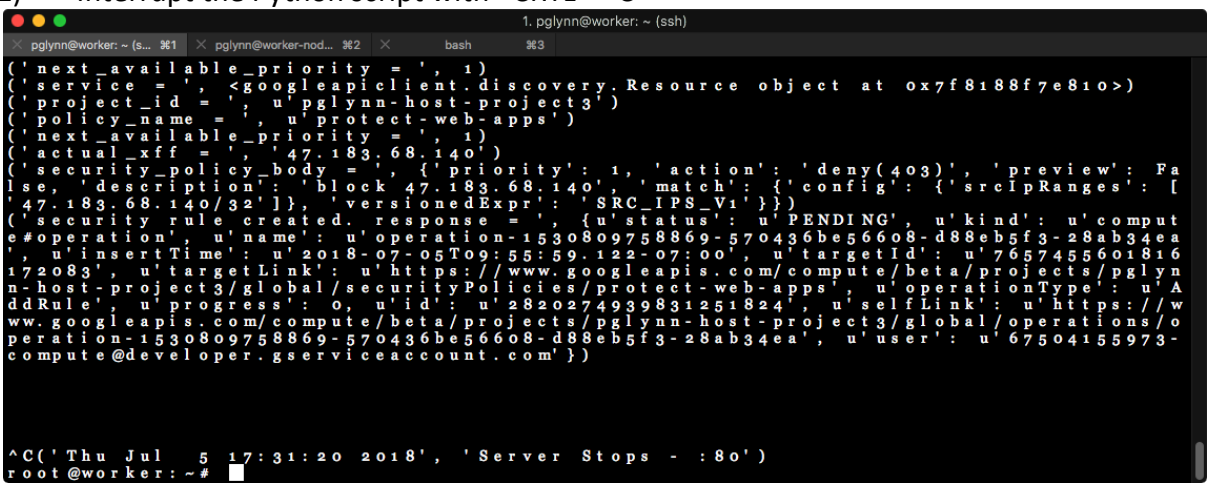
8) If debugging is enabled, you will see a large amount of output culminating in the acceptance of the request to create a new rule

9) Check the security policy after a few moments (a browser refresh may be required)



10) Verify by re-attempting the XSS/SQL Injection attempt from the browser. You should see a **403 Forbidden** error

11) Interrupt the Python script with <CRTL>-<C>



Troubleshooting

- For the script to be able to execute, it needs to load two python libraries: google-api-python3-client and oauth2client==1.5. If those two libraries are not installed prior to running the script, it will exit with an error
- If the service account does not have the correct permissions or the authentication key has not been loaded, the script will run but fail when attempting to query the GCP environment. For more details on the API calls, including required IAM permissions, see

https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/reference/rest/beta/securityPolicies/list
https://cloud.google.com/compute/docs/reference/rest/beta/securityPolicies/addRule