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Proof of Concept (POC) – Lightweight Network Intrusion Detection System

Objective

To build a lightweight Network Intrusion Detection System (IDS) in Python that:

- Monitors live or offline traffic (PCAP).
- Detects ICMP pings (echo requests/replies).
- Detects TCP connection attempts (SYN packets).
- Detects common scan patterns (SYN/NULL/FIN scans, repeated connection attempts).
- Detects suspicious behaviors (ICMP floods, SYN floods).

Tools Used

- Programming Language: Python 3
- Libraries: scapy, collections, time
- Traffic Generation Tools: ping, nmap
- Test PCAPs: Generated with Wireshark/Tshark

Implementation Steps

1. Setup Environment

`pip install scapy`

2. Develop IDS Script (ids.py)

- Detect ICMP Echo requests/replies.
- Detect TCP SYN attempts.
- Track repeated SYN attempts across ports (port scan).
- Track high-rate ICMP/SYN packets (flood detection).

3. Run IDS on live interface or offline PCAPs.

`sudo python3 ids.py`

`sudo python3 ids.py -r traffic.pcap`

4. Generate Traffic

- Normal traffic: Web browsing.
- ICMP traffic: `ping <target_ip>`
- SYN scan traffic: `nmap -sS <target_ip>`

Detection Logic (Code Snippet)

```
if packet.haslayer(ICMP):  
    if packet[ICMP].type == 8:  
        print(f"[ALERT] ICMP Echo Request from {src}")  
  
if packet.haslayer(TCP) and packet[TCP].flags == "S":  
    print(f"[ALERT] TCP SYN attempt from {src} to {dst}:{dport}")
```

Demo Results

Normal PCAP

- Minimal/no alerts.

Attack PCAP

- ICMP Flood:
[ALERT] ICMP Flood detected from 192.168.1.5
- Port Scan:
[ALERT] Port Scan detected from 192.168.1.10 (>10 ports in 5s)
- SYN Flood:
[ALERT] SYN Flood detected from 192.168.1.12

(*Insert screenshots of terminal alerts here*)

Conclusion

- Successfully detected ICMP pings, SYN attempts, port scans, and flood behavior.
- Works both in live capture and PCAP replay mode.
- Can be extended with:
 - Signature-based rules.
 - Logging to files.
 - Real-time dashboard.

Next Steps

- Add detection for NULL/FIN scans.
- Build a web UI for alerts.
- Integrate with a database for storing incidents.

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