

Final Project of CSE406 (Computer Security Sessional)

Project : Snort 3 Tool : NIDS

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submitted by

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1 Abstract



Snort, created by Martin Roesch in 1998, is a versatile IDS/IPS that offers real-time analysis of network traffic to detect and respond to potentially malicious activities. It operates on a rule-based system, where users can define custom rules or employ pre-existing rule sets to identify and mitigate threats. Snort's rule-based approach allows it to monitor network traffic at both the network and application layers, thereby offering comprehensive protection against a wide range of network-based attacks and vulnerabilities. Snort represents a vital asset in the arsenal of network security tools. Its rule-based detection, adaptability, and open-source philosophy have established it as a trusted solution for identifying and mitigating network threats. As cyber threats continue to evolve, Snort's role in defending against these threats remains indispensable, ensuring the resilience of modern network infrastructures.



2 Introduction

2.1 What is Snort3

Snort is a popular free and open-source IDS/ IPS system that is used to perform traffic/ protocol analysis and content matching. Snort can be used to detect and prevent various attacks based on predefined rules.

2.2 Snort Operations

- Packet Sniffing: Analyzes the actual network traffic in realtime
- Network Intrusion Detection and Prevention: Analyzes packets and matches traffic against signatures and drop packets.
- Packet Logging: Collects and logs network traffic into a log file

2.3 How Does Snort3 Work?

Snort detects malicious traffic or attacks by leveraging pattern matching. When active, Snort captures packets, reassembles them, analyzes them, and determines what needs to be done to the packet based on predefined rules. Snort has a large number of rule sets created by the community that are very useful to begin with. Snort rules are very similar to a typical firewall rule, whereby, they are used to match network activity against specific patterns or signatures and



consequently make a decision as to whether to send an alert or drop the traffic (in the case of IPS).

2.4 Snort3 Rules

- Community Rules: Free rule sets created by the Snort community.
- Registered Rules: Free rule sets created by Talos. In order to use them, a user must register for an account.
- Subscription Only Rules: These rule sets require an active paid subscription in order to be accessed and used.
- Customized Rules: We can write our own rules based on our requirements.

The syntax of customized rules are:

Rule Description:

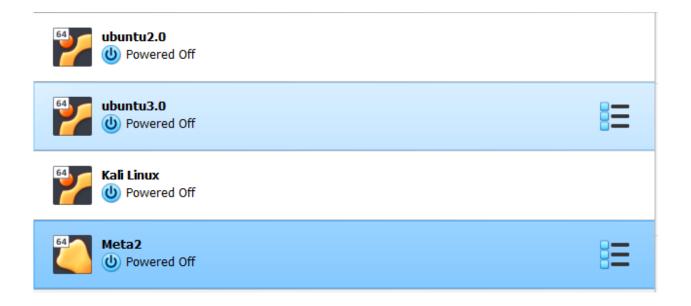
Action
Protocol
Source Address
Source Port
Direction
Destination Address
Destination Port
Message / Description
Rule ID Number
Rule Revision Number



3 Prerequisites

3.1 Virtual Machine Setup

Four VMs are used for this project:



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The roles of these VMs are:

• **ubuntu2.0:** Snort3 is installed here.

• ubuntu3.0: Vulnerable Machine.

• kali linux: Attacker Machine

• Meta2: More vulnerable Machine.



The IP addresses of all Virtual Machines must be within the same subnet to connect with each other.

IP addresses of the four VMs:

• **ubuntu2.0**: 192.168.48.4

• **ubuntu3.0**: 192.168.48.5

• **kali linux:** 192.168.48.6

• **Meta2:** 192.168.48.7

3.2 Snort3 Installation

We follow this link to install snort3:

https://cytoolz.com/blog/snort-3-install-and-configure-intrusion-detection-system-on-ubuntu-22-04

Youtube Link:

https://youtu.be/uPdCmuFh40M?si=gJXhh7eJ9ibMkw4R



4 Demonstration

4.1 Pakcet Sniffing

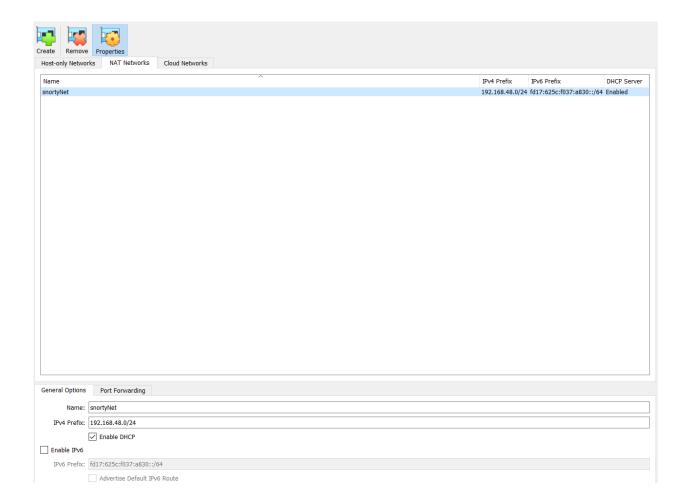
Packet sniffing in Snort refers to the capability of the Snort Intrusion Detection System (IDS) to capture and inspect network packets as they traverse a network interface. It is one of the fundamental functions of Snort, allowing it to analyze network traffic in real-time for the detection of suspicious or malicious activity. Packet sniffing specifically refers to the process of capturing and inspecting network packets as they traverse a network interface. This is the initial step where the IDS monitors the raw network traffic for any suspicious or malicious activity. So, we are not demonstrating this feature separately and we are jumping to Intrusion Detection directly.

4.2 Network Intrution Detection

Snort3 rules operate similarly to conventional firewall rules. They are designed to analyze network activity, looking for specific patterns or signatures. When a match is found, Snort3 can take action by either generating an alert or dropping the packet if configured as an Intrusion Prevention System (IPS). This proactive approach helps in enhancing network security by identifying and responding to potential threats in real-time. For verifying this a home network is created below.

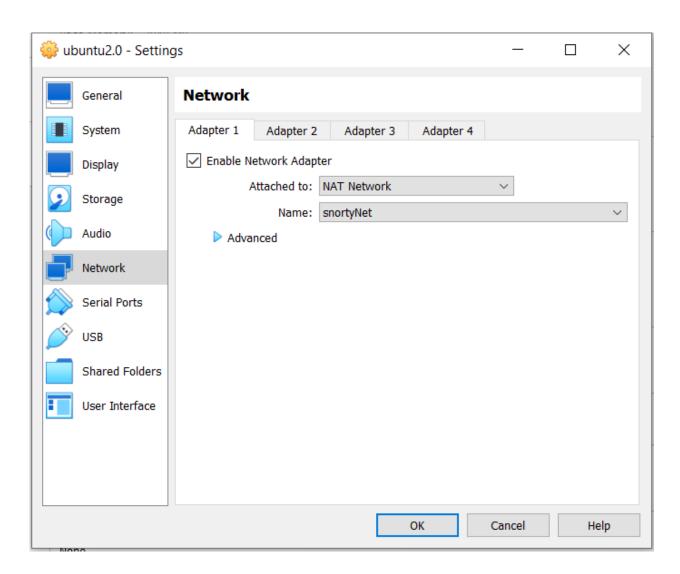


 \bullet A Home Network (Name : snorty Net , IP : 192.168.48.0/24) is Created:



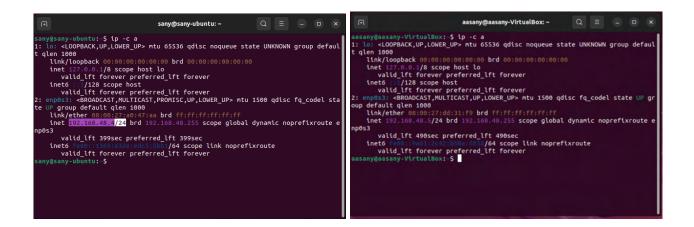


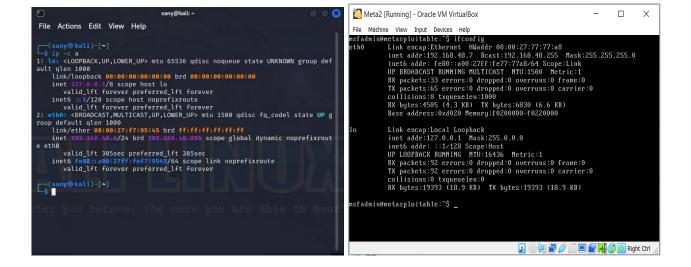
• Virtual Machines are connected to the Home Network:





• The IP addresses of all Virtual Machines are set within the same subnet to connect with each other.





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- Threading and shared memory allow us to scale Snort3 to our network and create a much faster start-up.
- This allows multiple packet processing to free up more memory for more packet processing power.

So, we use snort3 instead of snort2. The version of our snort is:

```
sany@sany-ubuntu: /
                                                            Q
sany@sany-ubuntu:/$ snort -V
           -*> Snort++ <*-
          Version 3.1.78.0
           By Martin Roesch & The Snort Team
           http://snort.org/contact#team
           Copyright (C) 2014-2024 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reser
ved.
           Copyright (C) 1998-2013 Sourcefire, Inc., et al.
           Using DAQ version 3.0.14
           Using LuaJIT version 2.1.0-beta3
           Using OpenSSL 3.0.2 15 Mar 2022
           Using libpcap version 1.10.1 (with TPACKET V3)
           Using PCRE version 8.39 2016-06-14
           Using ZLIB version 1.2.11
           Using LZMA version 5.2.5
sany@sany-ubuntu:/$
```



Snort3 Configuration

- Home NET:192.168.48.0/24
- EXTERNEL NET:!HOME NET



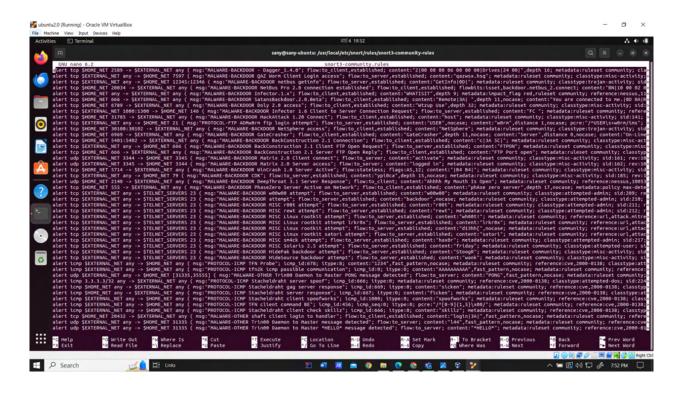
• local.rules file created to write custom rules:

```
ips =
{
    -- use this to enable decoder and inspector alerts
    --enable_builtin_rules = true,
    -- use include for rules files; be sure to set your path
    -- note that rules files can include other rules files
    -- (see also related path vars at the top of snort_defaults.lua)

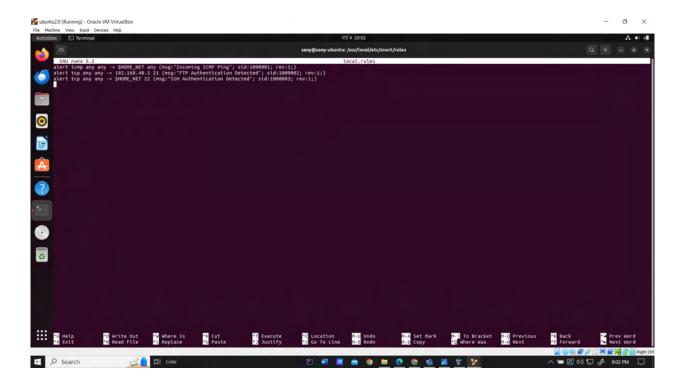
    variables = default_variables,
    rules = [[
        include /usr/local/etc/snort/rules/local.rules
        include /usr/local/etc/snort/rules/snort3-community-rules/snort3-community.rules
]]
}
```



Snort3 Community Rules



Snort3 Custom Rules





Custom rules explanation

Rule Description:

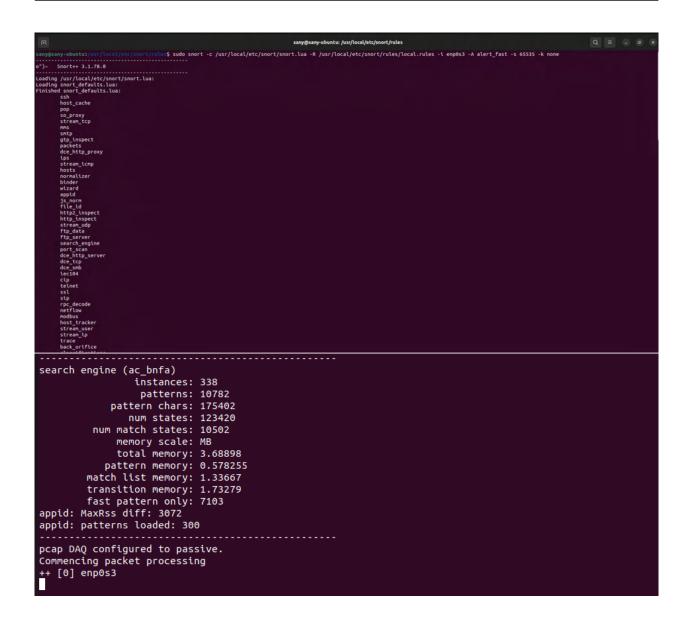
alert	Action
icmp	Protocol
any	Source Address
any	Source Port
->	Direction
\$HOME_NET	Destination Address
any	Destination Port
msg: "Incoming ICMP"	Message / Description
sid:1000001	Rule ID Number
rev:1	Rule Revision Number

Snort3 manual trigger

Command description:

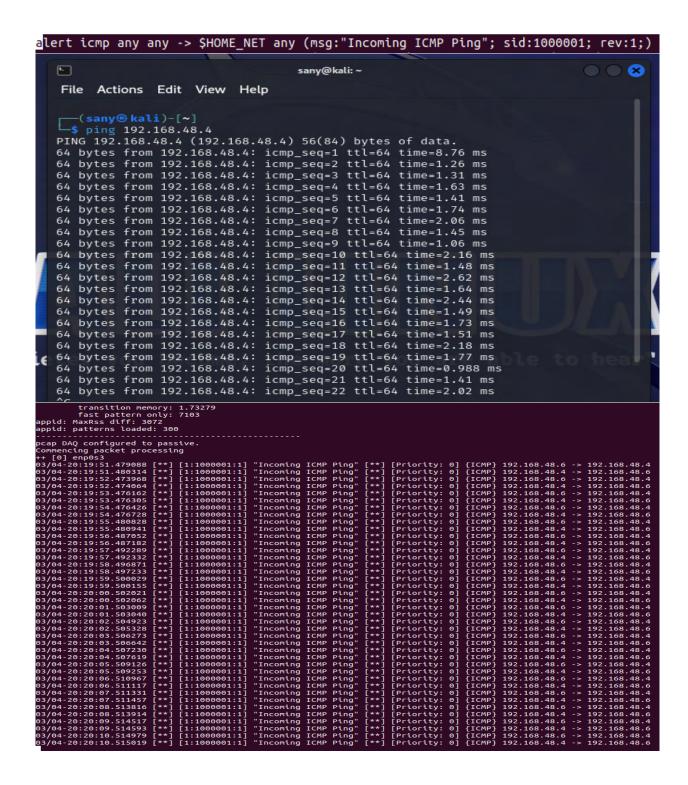
- c /usr/local/etc/snort/snort.lua	The $-c$ option specifies the configuration file to be used.
- R /usr/local/etc/snort/rules/local.rules	The –R option specifies the rule file to be used.
-i ens160	The $-i$ option specifies the network interface to listen on.
-A alert_fast	The −A option sets the alert mode. The 'alert_fast' mode set to prioritize performance over extensive logging
-s 65535	The $-s$ option sets the snaplen and it's set to 65535, equivalent to the entire packet to capture.
- k none	The $-k$ option sets the checksum mode. Setting to 'none' indicates that Snort deactivates the IP/TCP/UDP checksum validation.





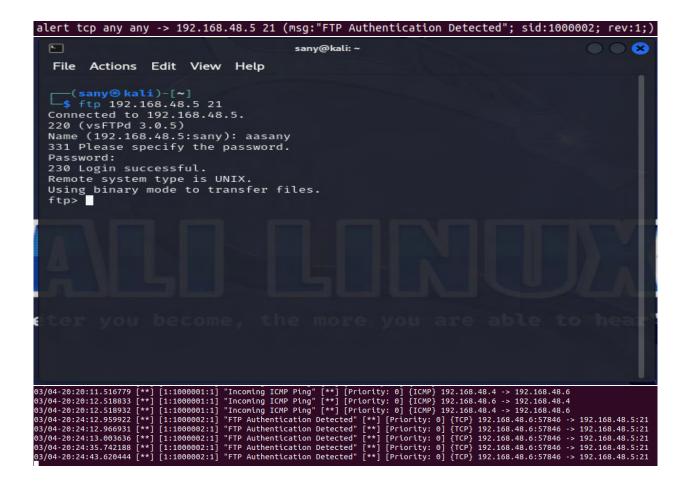


A ping command is executed from Kali Linux to test the connectivity to our Ubuntu 2.0



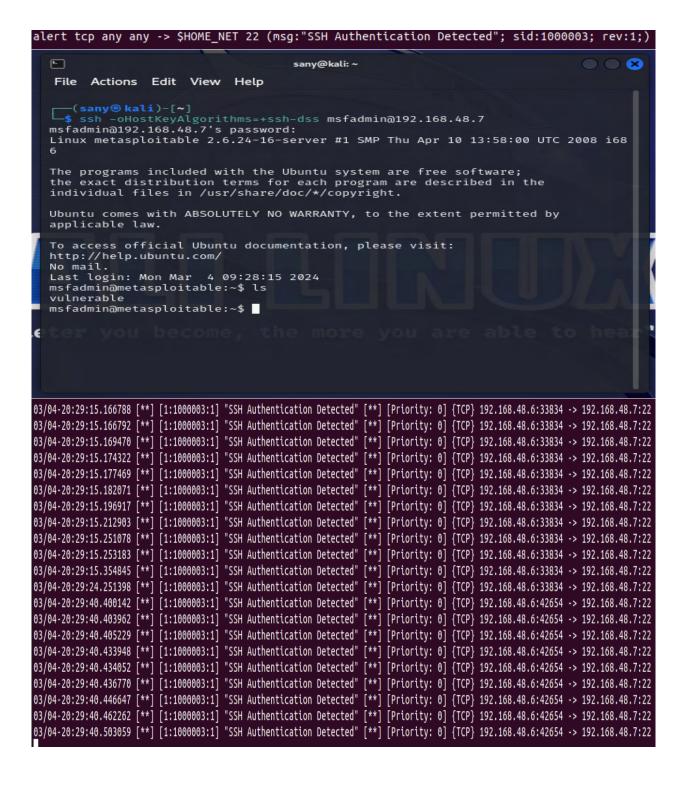


To initiate an FTP (File Transfer Protocol) connection to Ubuntu 3.0 on port 21 from Kali Linux.





To establish an SSH connection to Metasploit2 with specific configuration options from Kali Linux.





Snort3 IDS Logging

Packet logging in Snort refers to the process of capturing and recording network packets that match specific rules or signatures defined in the Snort intrusion detection system (IDS) configuration. Snort3 gives us the ability to log the intrusions in various file structure as we wish. For Snort to be an effective intrusion detection tool, it should log all alerts and store them on a local file or on a remote log server. Snort3 provides multiple options to log the Snort alerts. This latest update on Snort significantly improves the logging format that is compatible with the modern log management tools.

Logging in JSON structure





Logging in CSV structure

```
sany@sany-ubuntu:-$ cat /var/log/snort/alert_csv.txt
03/06-23:44:24.130142, 13, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:24.132143, 14, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:25.131703, 19, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow 03/06-23:44:25.131746, 20, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:26.139191, 21, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:26.139233, 22, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:27.187272, 23, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:27.187316, 24, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:28.193035, 25, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:28.193096, 26, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:29.207309, 29, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:29.207348, 30, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:30.224900, 37, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:30.225008, 38, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:31.263115, 45, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:44:31.263240, 46, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:52.672749, 203, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:52.672919, 204, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:53.702664, 206, ICMP, raw, 84, C25, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:53.702707, 207, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:54.744779, 208, ICMP, raw, 84, C25, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:54.744833, 209, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:55.747360, 215, ICMP, raw, 84, C25, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:55.747415, 216, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:56.757205, 217, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:56.757259, 218, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:57.763793, 221, ICMP, raw, 84, C25, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:57.763845, 222, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:58.771767, 227, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:58.771840, 228, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:47:59.774567, 230, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow 03/06-23:47:59.774634, 231, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:48:00.792593, 234, ICMP, raw, 84, C25, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:48:00.792670, 235, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:01.004605, 289, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:01.004654, 290, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:02.012332, 291, ICMP, raw, 84, C25, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:02.012395, 292, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:03.032328, 296, ICMP, raw, 84, C25, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:03.032383, 297, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:04.046414, 298, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:04.046464, 299, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:05.052345, 300, ICMP, raw, 84, C25, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:05.052451, 301, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
03/06-23:49:06.114669, 302, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow 03/06-23:49:06.114714, 303, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow 03/06-23:50:24.959439, 328, ICMP, raw, 84, C2S, 192.168.48.6:0, 192.168.48.4:0, 1:1000001:1, allow 03/06-23:50:24.959506, 329, ICMP, raw, 84, S2C, 192.168.48.4:0, 192.168.48.6:0, 1:1000001:1, allow
```



A problem about where to set up snort:

Problem Statement

If a subscriber configures Snort to operate as a sniffer, it will scan network packets and identify them. Snort can also log those packets to a disk file. To use Snort as a packet sniffer, users set the host's network interface to promiscuous mode to monitor all network traffic on the local network interface. But what happens when the packets are coming from outside the LAN?

Solution

When packets are coming from outside the LAN (Local Area Network), such as from the internet or another external network, Snort can still capture and analyze them if it is deployed in a position where it can see the traffic.

Here's what happens:

Placement: Snort needs to be placed in a network segment where it can see the traffic. This could be at a network perimeter, where the LAN connects to the internet, or within a demilitarized zone (DMZ) if the network architecture includes one.

Network Tap or Port Mirroring: Snort can capture packets coming from outside the LAN by using network taps or by configuring port mirroring on network switches. Network taps directly copy the traffic passing through a network segment to a monitoring interface where Snort can capture it. Port mirroring, also known as SPAN (Switched Port Analyzer) or RSPAN (Remote SPAN), repli-



cates traffic from one or more ports to another port where Snort is connected.

Promiscuous Mode: Snort's interface must still be set to promiscuous mode, regardless of whether the traffic is coming from inside or outside the LAN. This mode allows the network interface to capture all packets on the network segment, not just those intended for the host running Snort.

Analysis: Once Snort captures the packets, it can analyze them using its rulesets to detect any suspicious or malicious activity. This includes traffic originating from outside the LAN that may be attempting to exploit vulnerabilities or perform unauthorized activities.

In summary, while Snort is typically deployed within LANs to monitor internal traffic, it can also be configured to monitor and analyze traffic coming from outside the LAN by being placed strategically within the network architecture and using appropriate capture methods like network taps or port mirroring.



5 Conclusion

In conclusion, Snort is a powerful and versatile intrusion detection and prevention system that plays a crucial role in network security. It operates based on predefined rules and can analyze network traffic in real-time, making it effective in detecting and responding to a wide range of malicious activities. Whether used for packet logging, packet sniffing, network intrusion detection, or network intrusion prevention, Snort provides valuable insights into network traffic and helps organizations defend against evolving cyber threats. Its open-source nature and extensive community support make it a valuable tool in the arsenal of network security solutions, ensuring the continued resilience of modern network infrastructures.