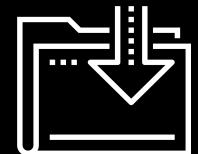




# Intrusion Detection, Snort, and Network Security Monitoring

Cybersecurity  
Network Security Day 2



# Class Objectives

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By the end of class, you will be able to:



Interpret and define Snort rules and alerts.



Explain how intrusion detection systems work and how they differ from firewalls.



Use Security Onion and its suite of network security monitoring tools to trace the path of network attacks.



Collect and analyze indicators of attack and indicators of compromise using NSM tools.

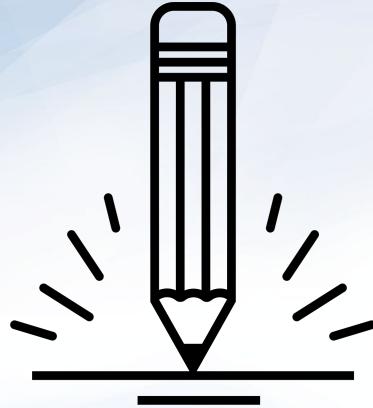


Apply knowledge of NSM, Snort rules, and Security Onion to establish situational awareness within a network.



Before we get started,  
we need to launch an  
instance of **Security Onion**.

This will generate alert  
data that we'll use to  
complete the labs.



## Activity: Security Onion Setup

Follow along as we set up Security Onion to generate alert data.

Suggested Time:  
10 Minutes



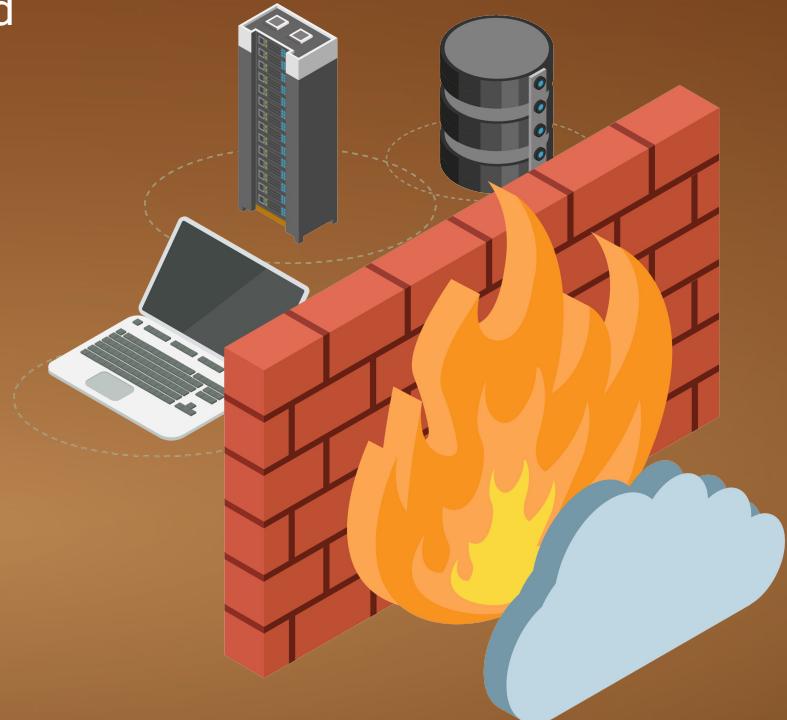
# Recap

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Firewalls protect networks by using rules to make decisions. Firewalls are designed to allow traffic from trusted sources and block traffic from untrusted sources.

- Firewalls do have limitations. They can be easily fooled through packet manipulation by clever attackers.
- For example, attackers can send malicious data through a firewall by hijacking or impersonating a trusted machine.

This is why it's crucial to have an effective defense in depth methodology to help protect sensitive data.



# Today's Class

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**Today, we will build upon the defense in depth methodology by using intrusion detection systems (IDS).**

We will learn how to use network security monitoring (NSM) and the Snort IDS engine to analyze indicators of attack (IOA) and indicators of compromise (IOC), perform network forensics, and acquire intelligence and situational awareness of our networks.

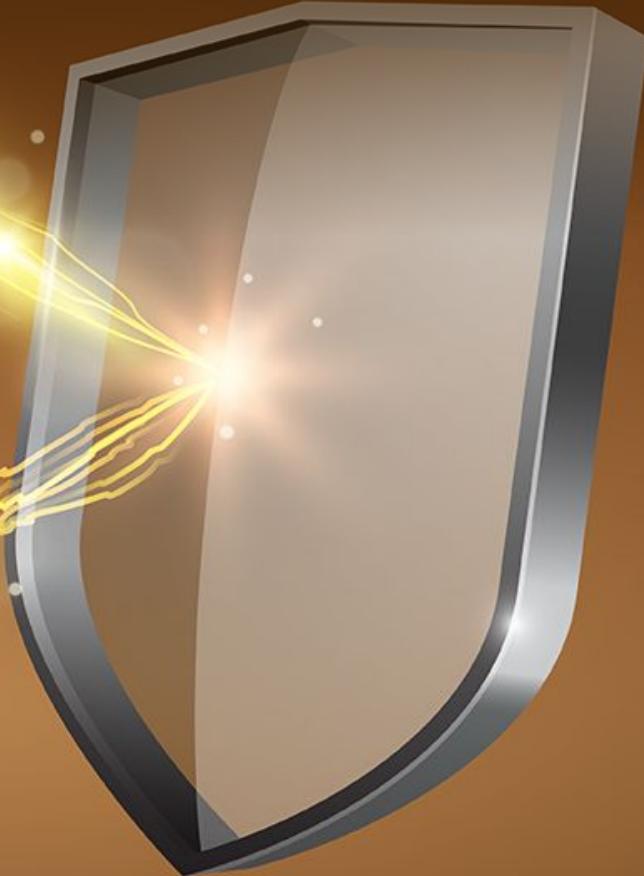
- The first half of the day will introduce intrusion detection and prevention systems. We will learn how to physically interconnect IDS systems and how to read, write, and interpret Snort rules.
- The second half of the day will introduce Security Onion and the role NSM tools play in network security.

# Introduction to Intrusion Detection and Snort

# Intrusion Detection Systems

Unlike firewalls, an IDS detects and alerts of an attack.

- IDS are *passive*. They do not respond to attacks, they only log and document information for future analysis.
- IDS helps organizations establish situational awareness of attackers, allowing them to harden defenses.



# IDS Types

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There are two types of IDS:

01

## Signature-based IDS

A signature-based IDS compares patterns of traffic to predefined signatures.

- Good for identifying well-known attacks.
- Can be updated as new attack signatures are released.
- Vulnerable to attacks through packet manipulation.
- Unable to detect zero-day attacks.

02

## Anomaly-based IDS

An anomaly-based IDS compares patterns of traffic against a well-known baseline.

- Good for detecting suspicious traffic that deviates from well-known baselines.
- Excellent at detecting when attackers probe and sweep a network.
- Prone to false alerts.
- Assumes network behavior does not deviate from well-known baselines.

# Intrusion Detection Architecture

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Intrusion detection systems have two basic architectures:

A large brown rectangular box containing the letters "NIDS" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**NIDS**

**Network intrusion detection (NIDS)**  
filters an entire subnet on a network.

A large brown rectangular box containing the letters "HIDS" in white, bold, sans-serif font.

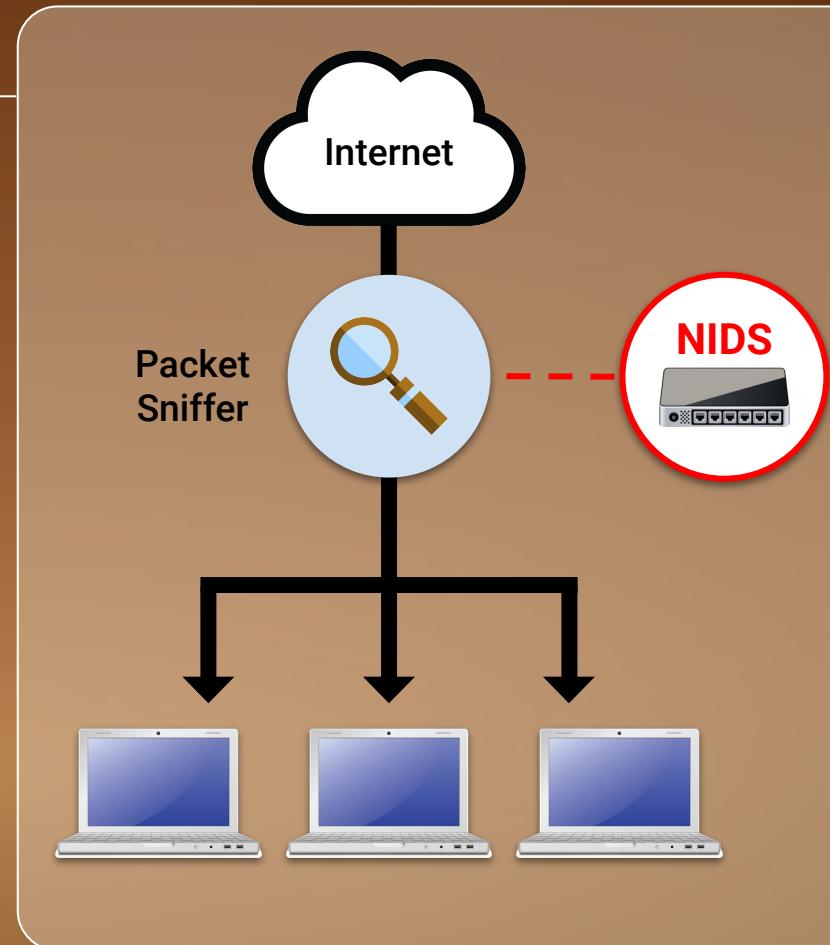
**HIDS**

**Host-based intrusion detection (HIDS)**  
runs locally on a host-based system  
or user's workstation or server.

# Intrusion Detection Architecture

**Network intrusion detection (NIDS)**  
filters an entire subnet on a network.

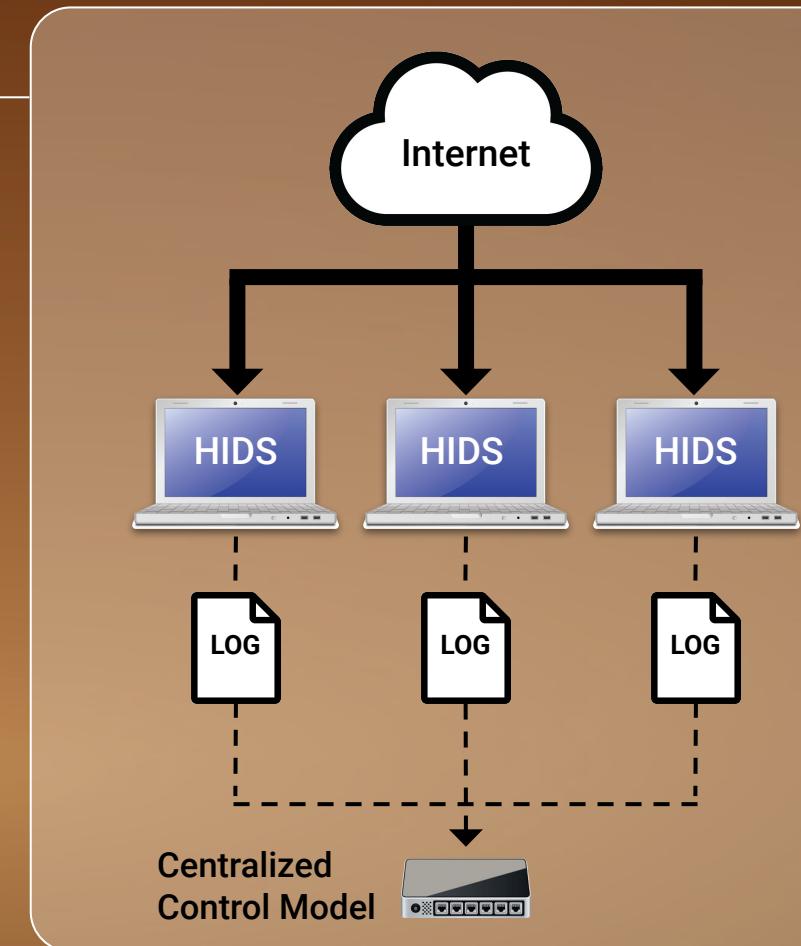
- Matches all traffic to a known library of attack signatures.
- Passively examines network traffic at points that it's deployed.
- Relatively easy to deploy and difficult to detect by attackers.



# Intrusion Detection Architecture

**Host-based intrusion detection (HIDS)** runs locally on a host-based system or user's workstation or server.

- Acts as a second line of defense against malicious traffic that successfully gets past a NIDS.
- Examines entire file systems on a host, compares them to previous snapshots or baselines, and generates an alert if there are significant differences between the two.



# Intrusion Prevention System



An **Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)** can do everything an IDS can, but can **also** respond to attacks.

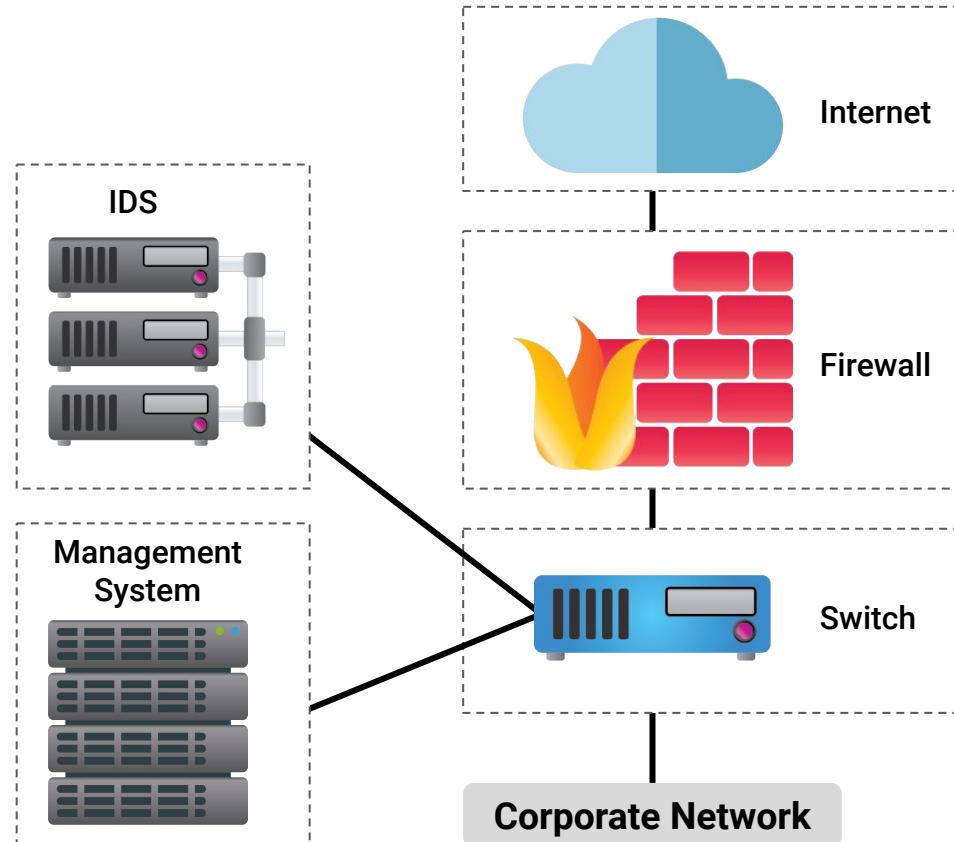
IPS can react to packets by blocking malicious traffic, preventing it from being delivered to a host on the network.

# IDS vs. IPS

IDS connects via a network tap or mirrored SPAN port.

- **Network TAP** (Test Access Port) is a hardware device that provides access to a network. Network taps transit both inbound and outbound data streams on separate channels at the same time, so all data will arrive at the monitoring device in real time.
- **SPAN** (Switched Port Analyzer), also known as **port mirroring**, sends a mirror image of all network data to another physical port, where the packets can be captured and analyzed.
- IDS requires an administrator to react to an alert by examining what was flagged.

## Intrusion Detection System (IDS)

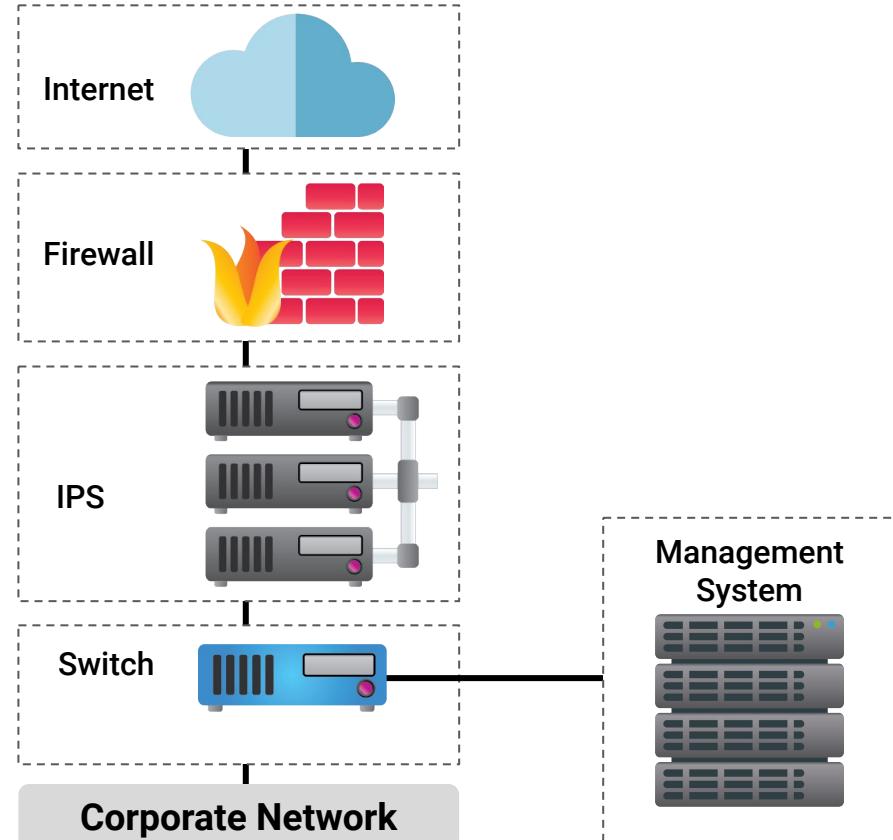


# IDS vs. IPS

IPS connects **inline** with the flow of data, typically between the firewall and network switch.

- Requires more robust hardware due to the amount of traffic flowing through it.
- IPS will automatically take action by blocking and logging a threat, thus it doesn't require administrative intervention.

## Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)



# IDS Alerts

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An **alert** is a message that is sent to an analyst's console as an indicator of attack (IOA).

An IDS system generates alerts when a **Snort rule** detects malicious traffic that matches a signature.

```
alert ip any any -> any any {msg: "IP Packet Detected";}
```

# IDS Alerts

---

Indicators can be either:

01

## Indicator of Attack (IOA)

Indicators of attack indicate attacks happening in real time.

- Proactive approach to intrusion attempts.
- Indicate that an attack is currently in progress but a full breach has not been determined.
- Focus on revealing the intent and end goal of an attacker, regardless of the exploit or malware used in the attack.

02

## Indicator of Compromise (IOC)

Indicators of compromise indicate previous malicious activity.

- Indicate that an attack has occurred, resulting in a breach.
- Used to establish an adversary's techniques, tactics, and procedures (TTPs).
- Expose all the vulnerabilities used in an attack, giving network defenders the opportunity to revamp their defense as part of their mitigation strategy.

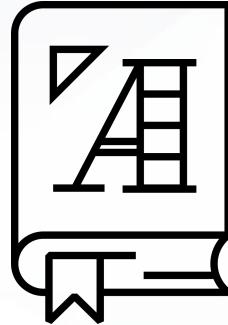
# Snort

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There are many varieties of intrusion detection systems, but today's class will focus on **Snort**, the world's most popular open-source solution.

- **Network security monitoring (NSM)** is the process of identifying weaknesses in a network's defense.
- It also provides organizations with situational awareness of their network.





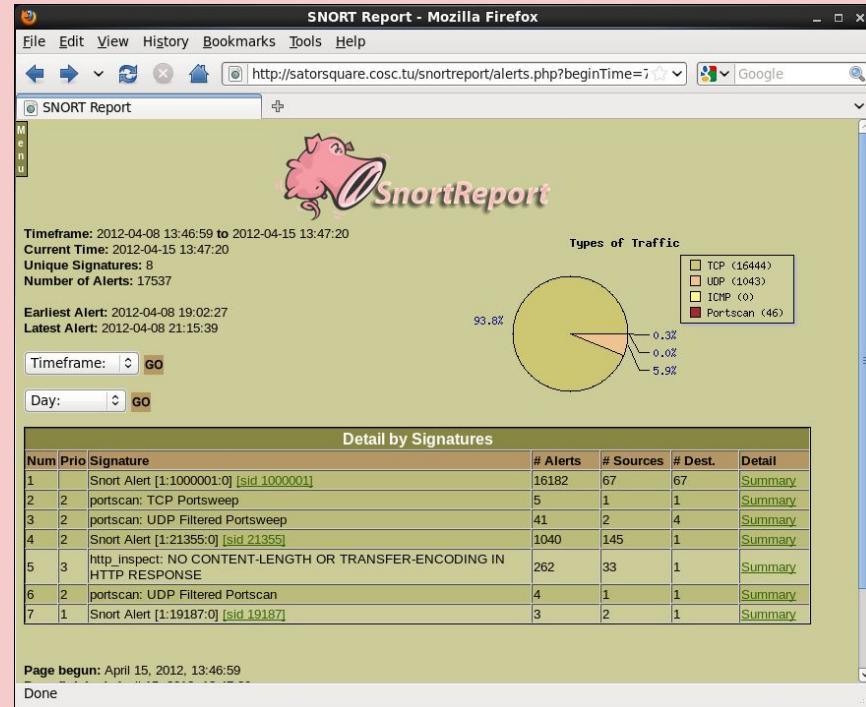
**Snort** is a free, open source  
network IDS/IPS.

# Snort

Snort is a free, open source network IDS/IPS. It can perform real-time traffic analysis and can log packets on a network.

Snort adds additional layers of defense that can be applied at various layers of the defense in depth model, including:

- Perimeter IDS and IPS architecture
- Network IDS and IPS architecture
- Host IDS and IPS architecture



# Snort Configuration Modes

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Snort can operate in three modes:

01

## **Sniffer Mode**

Reads network packets and displays them on screen.

02

## **Packet Logger Mode**

Performs packet captures by logging all traffic to disk.

03

## **Network IDS Mode**

Monitors network traffic, analyzes it, and performs specific actions based on administratively defined rules.

# Snort Rules

Snort uses rules to detect and prevent intrusions. It operates by:



01

Reading a configuration file.

02

Loading the rules and plugins.

03

Capturing packets and monitoring traffic for patterns specified in rules.

04

When traffic matches a rule pattern, generating an alert and logging the matching packet for later inspection.

# Snort Rules

---

Rules can direct Snort to monitor the following information:

01

## **OSI Layer**

We can watch for IP and TCP data.

02

## **Source and Destination Address**

Where the traffic is flowing from and to.

03

## **Byte Sequences**

Patterns contained in data packets that might indicate malware, etc.

# Snort Rules

---

```
alert ip any any -> any any {msg: "IP Packet Detected";}
```

This rule logs the message **“IP Packet Detected”** when it detects an IP packet.

# Snort Rules

## Rule Header

**alert**

Action Snort will take when triggered.

**any**

Applies to packets coming from any source IP address.

**10.199.12.8**

The destination IP address.

```
alert tcp any any -> 10.199.12.8 21
```

**tcp**

Applies rule to all TCP packets.

**any**

Applies the rule to packets from any port.

**21**

Applies the rule to traffic to destination port 21.

## Rule Option

```
{msg: "TCP Packet Detected";}
```

**{msg: "TCP Packet Detected";}**

The message printed with the alert.



## Activity: IDS and Snort

Today, you will play the role of an SOC analyst for the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

In this activity, you will strengthen your knowledge of concepts related to Snort and intrusion detection systems.

**Suggested Time:**  
**10 Minutes**





**Time's Up! Let's Review.**

# Networking Security Monitoring and Security Onion

# Network Security Monitoring Case Study

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On November 24, 2014, a group of attackers released confidential information from Sony Pictures that contained personally identifiable information (PII) for all employees, including full names, home addresses, social security numbers, and financial information.

It was discovered that assailants had lurked on Sony's network for 17 months.

- A number of executives and upper management were fired.
- PII of all employees was exposed.
- Sony suffered massive damage to its reputation.
- Sony had to pay massive fines for violating federal regulations.



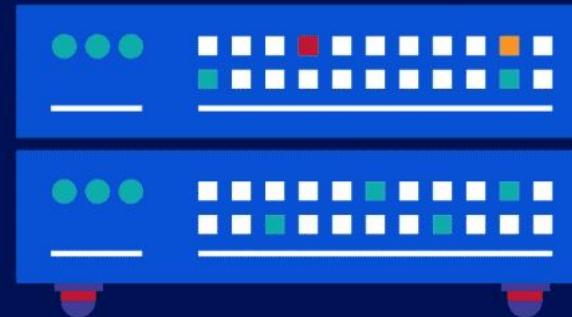


If Sony had a strong **network security monitoring** program, they would have discovered the attack much sooner—perhaps within hours—stopped it, and gotten a better understanding of the TTPs of the attacker.

# Network Security Monitoring

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Network security monitoring  
use a variety of data analysis  
tools to detect and stop threats  
after most front-end layers are  
compromised.



# NSM Strengths

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NSM allows organizations to:



Track adversaries through a network and determine intent.



Acquire intelligence and situational awareness.



Be proactive by identifying vulnerabilities.



Be reactive through incident response and network forensics.



Provide insights about advanced persistent threats.



Uncover and track malware.



# NSM Weaknesses

NSM has its limitations:



Cannot read encrypted traffic.



Powerful hardware and CPU requirements mean higher costs.



Difficulty reading radio transmissions, meaning attackers can use mobile radio communications to obfuscate attacks.



NSM is an invasive process that monitors and records all network data.



Placement of an NSM can be limited at certain areas of the network.



# NSM Stages and Processes

---

NSM operates in two stages, each involving two processes:

01

Detection

An alert is generated in the Sguil analyst console.

02

Response

A security team responds to a security incident.

# NSM Stages and Processes

## Detection

An alert is generated in the Sguil analyst console.

### Collection

The event is observed and the data is stored in the form of a PCAP file.

Host data

Net data

Application logs

Data from third party

Data from constituent

Analyst  
console(s)

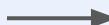
### Analysis

The alert data is identified, validated, documented, and categorized according to its threat level.

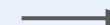
IOC-centric analysis,  
or “matching”

IOC-free analysis,  
or “hunting”

Event observed/stored



Identification



Validation



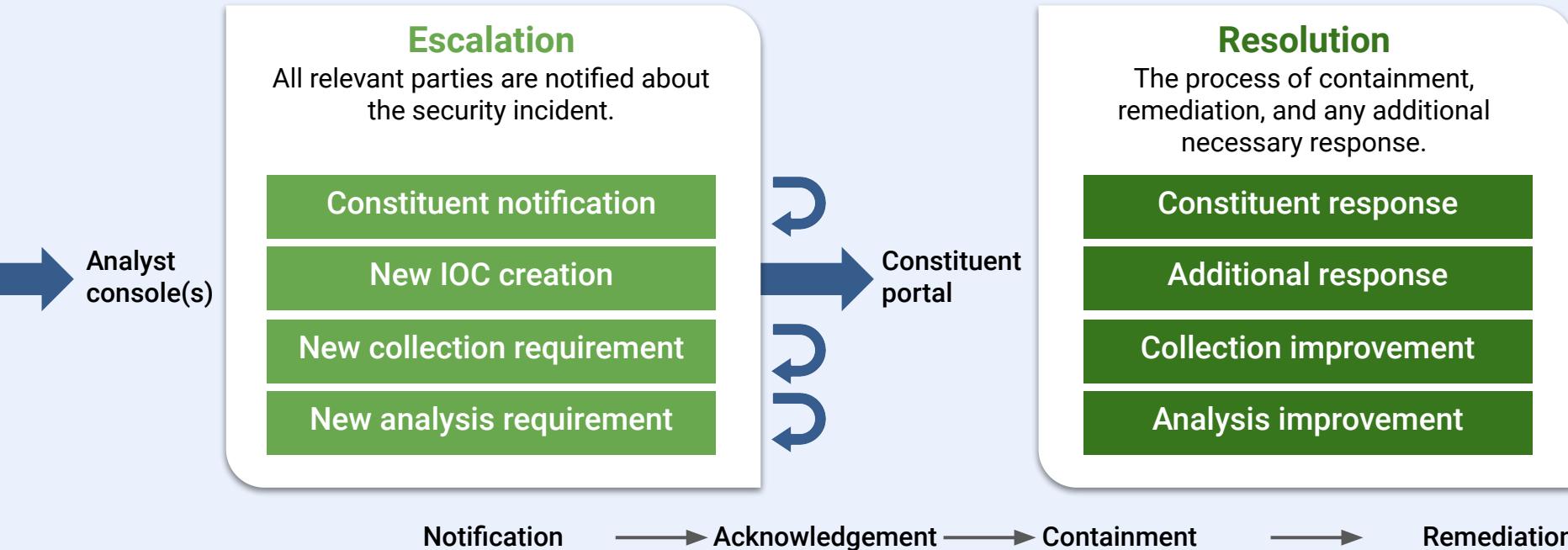
Document

Request more data

# NSM Stages and Processes

## Response

A security team responds to a security incident.





**Intrusion detection systems** are generally placed at strategic points in a network where traffic is most vulnerable.

These devices are typically placed next to a router or switch that filters traffic.

# NSM Sensor Connectivity

---

IDS can be physically connected to a network in two ways:

01

## SPAN or Mirrored Port

A SPAN port is a function of an enterprise-level switch that allows you to mirror one or more physical switch ports to another port.

A mirror image of all data will flow across both ports equally.

02

## Network TAP

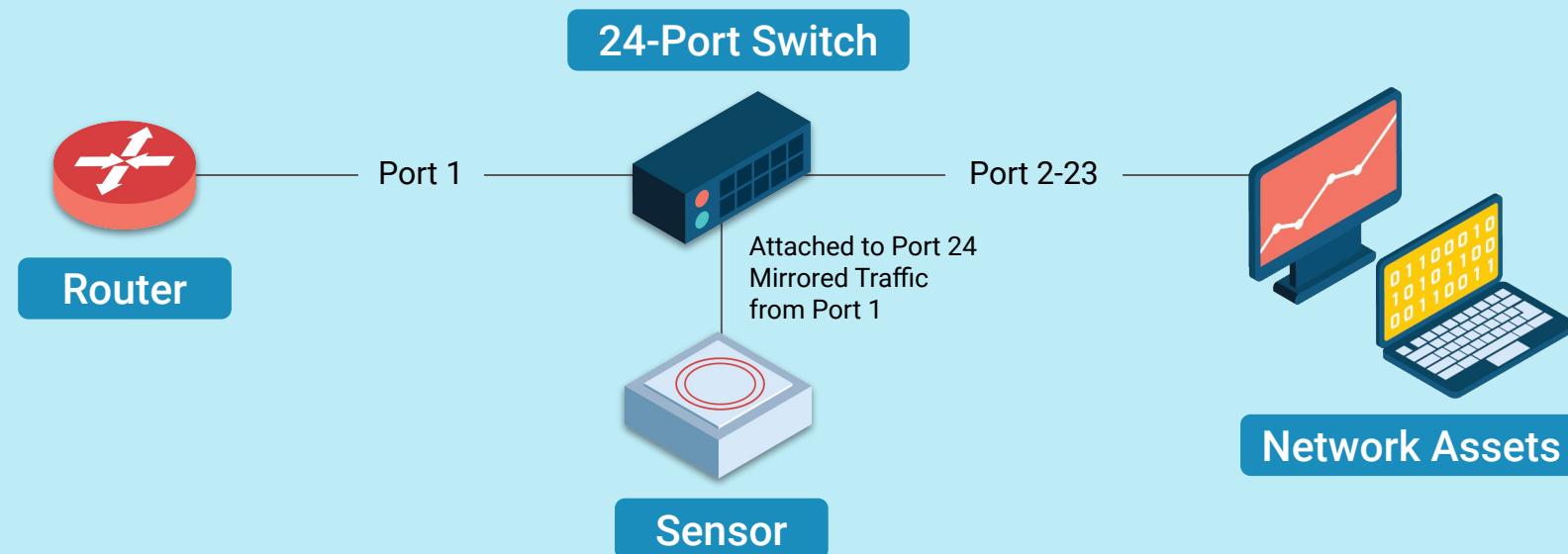
The most common type of TAP is an aggregated TAP, in which a cable connects the TAP monitor port with the NIC on the sensor. This specific placement allows traffic to be monitored between the router and switch.

# NSM Sensor Connectivity

01

## SPAN or Mirrored Port

A SPAN port is a function of an enterprise-level switch allowing you to mirror one or more physical switch ports to another port. A mirror image of all data flows across both ports equally. This allows the IDS to perform packet captures on all inbound and outbound traffic within a network.



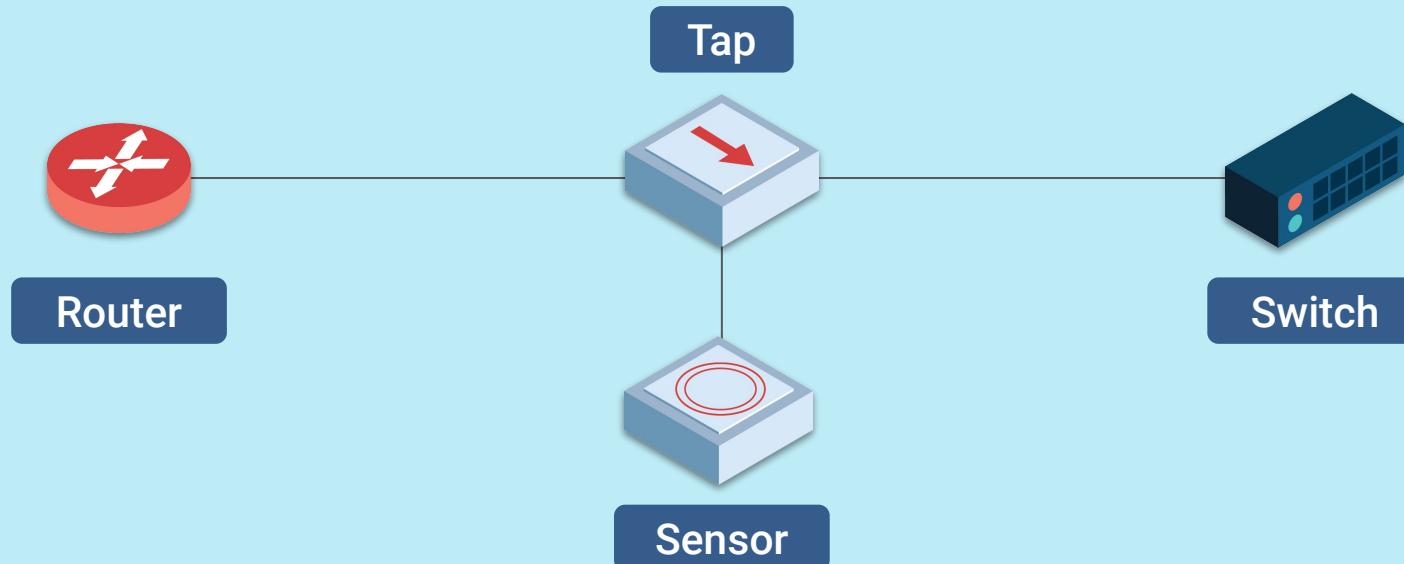
# NSM Sensor Connectivity

02

## Network Tap

The most common type of TAP

is an aggregated TAP, in which a cable connects the TAP monitor port with the NIC on the sensor. This specific placement allows traffic to be monitored between the router and switch.

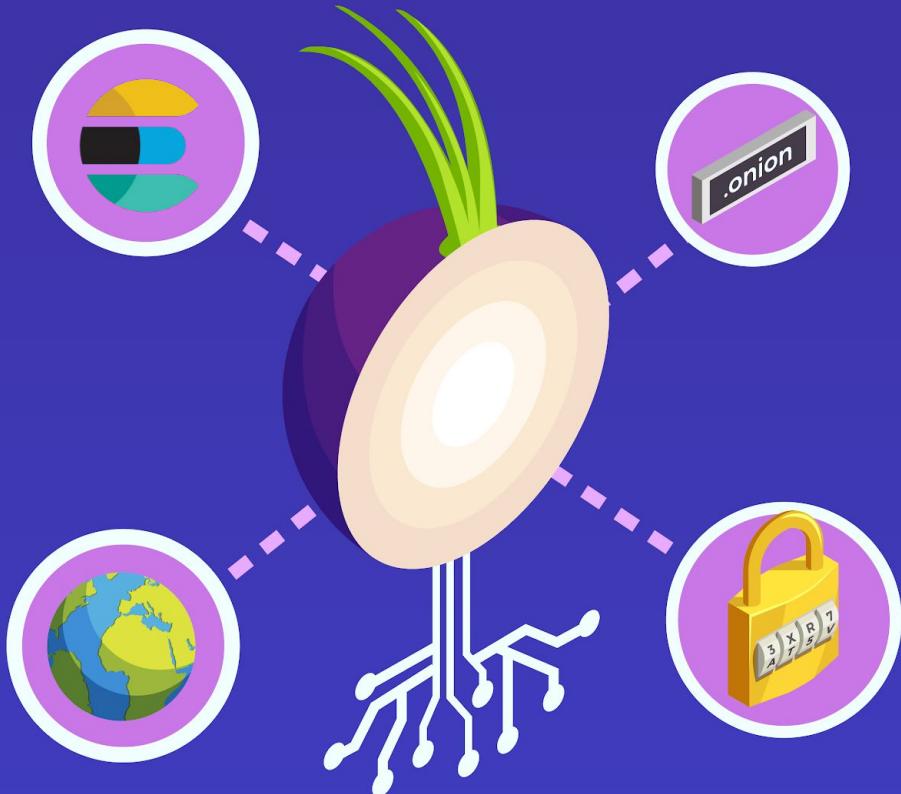


# Security Onion

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Today we'll work with Security Onion, a network security monitoring platform that provides context, intelligence, and situational awareness of a network.

Security Onion is an Ubuntu-based, open source Linux distribution that contains many NSM tools used to protect networks from attacks.



# Security Onion and NSM

We'll also use a few NSM tools for incident detection and response:

01

## Sguil

Pulls alert data from Snort, allowing us to more thoroughly analyze alerts.

02

## Transcript

Provides a view of PCAP transcripts that are rendered with TCP flow.

03

## NetworkMiner

Performs advanced network traffic analysis through extraction of artifacts contained in PCAP files.

# Sguil

---

Sguil has six key functions that help with analysis:

- 01 → Performs simple aggregation of alert data records.
- 02 → Makes available certain types of metadata.
- 03 → Allows queries and review of alert data.
- 04 → Allows queries and review of session data.
- 05 → Allows easy transitions between alert or session data and full content data.
- 06 → Counts and classifies events, enabling escalation and other incident response decisions.

# Sguil

---

Sguil has four main sections:

01

Alert Panel

02

Snort Rule

03

Packet Data

04

IP Resolution

# Sguil Alert Panel

SGUIL-0.9.0 - Connected To localhost										
RealTime Events   Escalated Events										
ST	CNT	Sensor	Alert ID	Date/Time	Src IP	SPort	Dst IP	DPort	Pr	Event Message
RT	337	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.1	2019-08-10 17:55:30	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] File added to the system.
RT	449	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.2	2019-08-10 17:55:30	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] Integrity checksum changed.
RT	3	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.3	2019-08-10 17:55:31	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] Interface entered in promiscuous(sniffing) mode.
RT	2	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.86	2019-08-10 17:55:46	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] Host-based anomaly detection event (rootcheck).
RT	7	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.87	2019-08-10 17:55:55	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] New group added to the system
RT	7	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.89	2019-08-10 17:55:55	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] New user added to the system
RT	9	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.101	2019-08-10 17:58:31	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] Dpkg (Debian Package) half configured.
RT	5	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.105	2019-08-10 17:58:39	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] New dpkg (Debian Package) installed.
RT	15	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.115	2019-08-10 18:04:53	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] Listened ports status (netstat) changed (new port opened or closed).
RT	1	instructor-virtualbox-ossec	1.116	2019-08-10 18:04:53	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0.0.0.0	0	0	[OSSEC] Received 0 packets in designated time interval (defined in ossec.conf). Please check interface, cabling, and tap/span!
RT	3	instructor-virtualbox-emp0s3-1	3.1	2019-08-10 18:07:40	217.160.0.187	80	10.0.2.15	49664	6	GPL ATTACK_RESPONSE id check returned root

ST or Status	Colors indicate severity levels of real-time "or "RT" events.  Red Critical, possible data breach in progress. Must be resolved immediately. Orange Moderate, high potential for data breach. Requires immediate review. Yellow General, low potential for data breach. Requires review.
Alert ID	A randomly generated numerical ID created by Sguil.
Source IP	IP address of the source identified by the alert.
Event Message	The message generated by the Snort rule option.

# Sguil Snort Rule and Packet Data

The screenshot shows the Sguil interface with two main sections: 'Snort Rule' at the top and 'Packet Data' below it.

**Snort Rule:** The top section displays a Snort rule. The rule text is:

```
alert ip any any -> any any (msg:"GPL ATTACK_RESPONSE id check returned root"; content:"uid=0|28|root|29"; fast_pattern:only; classtype:bad-unknown; sid:2100498; rev:8; metadata:created_at 2010_09_23, updated_at 2010_09_23); /nsm/server_data/securityonion/rules/instructor-virtualbox-ens3-1/downloaded.rules: Line 753
```

**Packet Data:** The lower section shows network traffic analysis. It includes a table for IP, TCP, and DATA layers, and a detailed view of a selected packet.

IP	Source IP	Dest IP	Ver	HL	TOS	len	ID	Flags	Offset	TTL	ChkSum
	217.160.0.187	10.0.2.15	4	5	0	338	6970	0	0	64	30722

TCP	Source Port	Dest Port	R	U	A	P	R	S	F	Offset	Res	Window	Urp	ChkSum		
	80	49664	.	.	X	X	.	.	.	42368002	4154312314	5	0	65535	0	37579

DATA	Hex	Text
	48 54 54 50 2F 31 2E 31 20 32 30 30 20 4F 4B 0D 0A 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 6D 6C 0D 0A 43 6F 6E 74 65 6E 74 6E 65 6E 74 69 6F 6E 3A 29 68 65 65 70 6D 61 6C 69 76 65 6D 6A 6B 65 65 70 2D 41 6C 69 76 65 3A 20 74 69 6D 65 6F 75 74 3D 31 35 6D 0A 44 61 74 65 3A 20 53 61 74 2C 20 31 30 26 41 75 67 20 32 30 31 39 20 31 38 3A 30 37 3A 34 30 20 47 4D 54 0D 0A 53 65 72 74 65 72 3A 20 41 70 61 63 68 65 0D 0A 4C 64 72 74 2D 4D 61 60 66 60 65 C4	HTTP/1.1 200 OK. .Content-Type: text/html. .Content-Length: 39.. .Connection: keep-alive..Keep-Alive .Timeout=15.. .Date: Sat, 10 Aug 2019 18:07:40 GM .Server: Apache .Last-Modified

Annotations in the screenshot highlight specific areas:

- A red box highlights the Snort rule text.
- A red box highlights the 'Source Port' and 'Dest Port' fields in the TCP table.
- A red box highlights the 'Text' view of the selected packet's payload.
- A red arrow points from the Snort rule text to the highlighted 'Text' view.
- A red arrow points from the highlighted 'Source Port' and 'Dest Port' fields to the highlighted 'Text' view.

## Snort Rule

In the top portion of this window is the Snort NIDS engine that generated alert data when traffic matched one of its rules.

- Alert data is an indicator of attack. An analyst may have to determine if it represents benign or malicious activity.
- Alert data from the Snort NIDS stores entries in the Event Messages column that begin with text like "ET" (for Emerging Threats, an IDS rule source).

## Packet Data

The lower, more colorful part of this window is the portion of Sguil that performs network packet analysis.

- The packet analyzer presents a detailed view of the data capture that includes packet header information and data streams presented in hex and text form.

# Sguil's IP Resolution

This section of Sguil's analyst console provides reverse DNS lookup information.

- This information is used to reveal identifying information about the attacker, including domain name registries and IP addresses.
- Other information may include country of origin, and possibly the names, email addresses, and/or phone numbers of the DNS registrants.

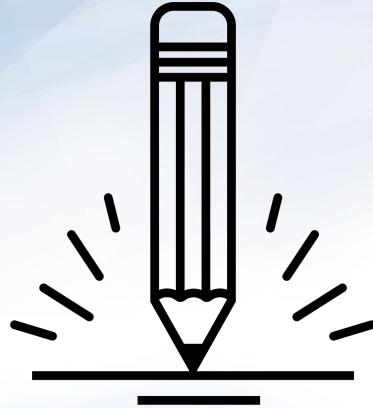
IP Resolution Agent Status Snort Statistics System Msgs User Msgs

Reverse DNS  Enable External DNS

Src IP:	217.160.0.187
Src Name:	217-160-0-187.elastic-ssl.ui-r.com
Dst IP:	10.0.2.15
Dst Name:	Unknown

Whois Query:  None  Src IP  Dst IP

inetnum:	217.160.0.0 - 217.160.1.255
netname:	SCHLUND-CUSTOMERS
descr:	1&1 Internet AG
country:	DE
admin-c:	IPAD-RIPE
tech-c:	IPOP-RIPE
remarks:	INFRA-AW
remarks:	in case of abuse or spam, please mailto: abuse@oneandone.net
status:	ASSIGNED PA
mnt-by:	AS8560-MNT
created:	2015-09-14T12:43:21Z
last-modified:	2015-09-14T12:43:21Z
source:	RIPE # Filtered
role:	IP Administration
address:	1&1 Internet SE
admin-c:	RME9-RIPE
admin-c:	JR2342-RIPE
tech-c:	RME9-RIPE
tech-c:	JR2342-RIPE
nic-hdl:	IPAD-RIPE



## **Activity:** Security Onion and NSM

In this activity, you will reinforce your knowledge of Security Onion and network security monitoring.

**Suggested Time:**  
**20 Minutes**





**Time's Up! Let's Review.**

Countdown timer

15:00

(with alarm)

Break



# Alert: FTP File Extraction

# Security Onion Demo Setup

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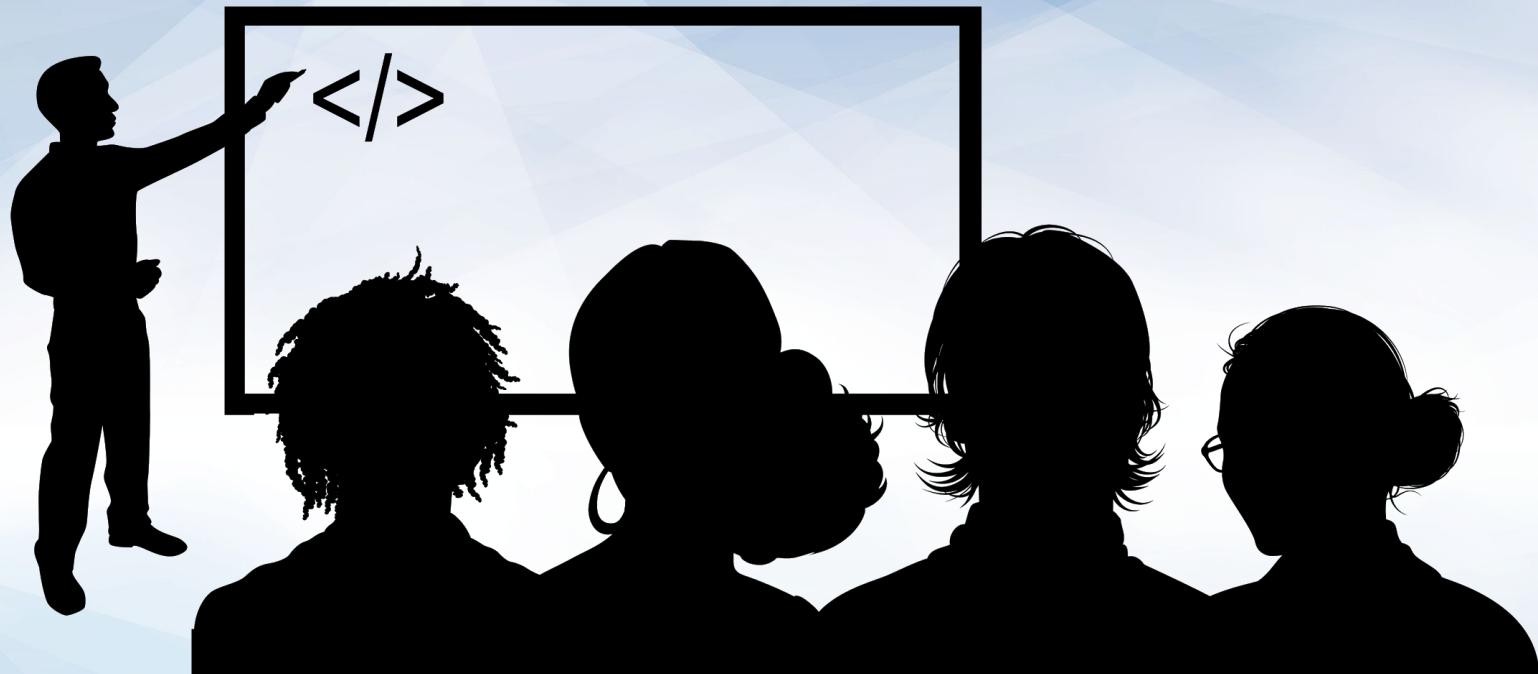
Sometimes, an alert requires an analyst to do some data mining.

- A security analyst must have a thorough understanding of how NSM tools are integrated.
- These skills help speed up incident and response efforts.





In the next guided tour,  
we'll use Sguil as the starting  
point for learning other NSM  
tools for security  
investigations.



Instructor Demonstration  
Security Onion - Sguil

# Security Onion and NetworkMiner Demo

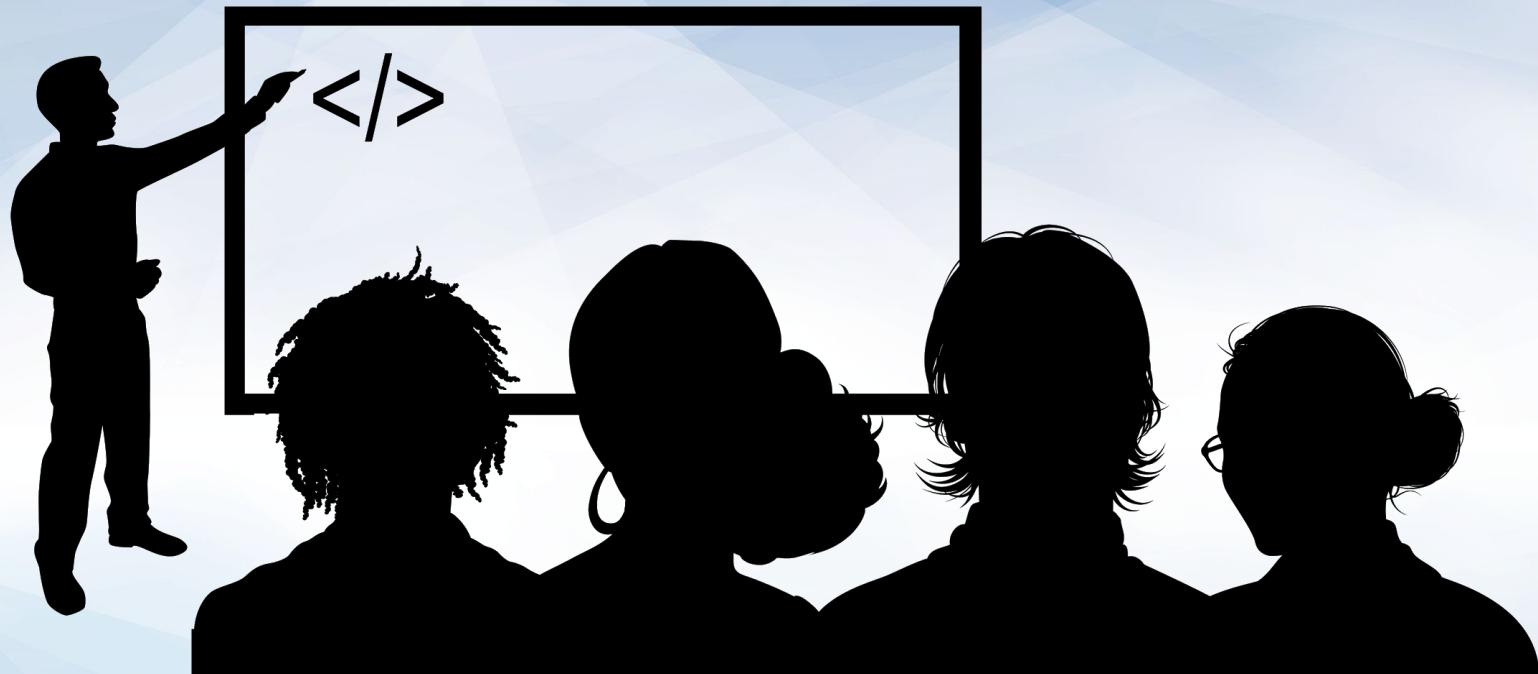
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Now that we now know there was a drive-by attack, we must search for any files that were downloaded to the host.

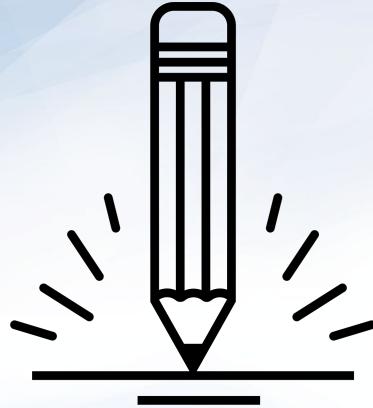
We'll use a forensics tool called **NetworkMiner** to extract any files that were installed on the user's machine, and put together an attacker profile.

- Network Miner is an NSM tool that performs advanced Network Traffic Analysis (NTA) of extracted artifacts, presented through an intuitive interface.





Instructor Demonstration  
Security Onion - NetworkMiner



## Activity: Alert - FTP File Extraction

In this activity, you will examine an alert to determine if any systems were breached and if any data was supplanted or exfiltrated from the network.

Suggested Time:  
20 Minutes





**Time's Up! Let's Review.**

# Questions?

*The  
End*