FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

THE JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

INTRUSION DETECTION & NETWORK FORENSICS (CISC 6680)

Lab: Investigating Network Attacks

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Contents

Port Scan Detection

As an SOC analyst, to analyse port scan detection, I would first look at specific filters and protocols used in the PCAP files of Cloudshark. I would check the source and destination IPv4 and IPv6 addresses, and find out the details of the IP address. Then, I would look into the tcp filter to understand the sequences that the source is sending to the destination. I would look for incomplete SYN requests, which indicate a closed port or firewall. Furthermore, the **Len** factor can tell us more about if there is a payload or not. Sequence of port numbers could denote a stealth scan for incomplete SYN requests and thus I would examine each packet to investigate the TCP ports, UDP ports, length, src and destination IP and RST packets. A constant RST packet could mean the sender is trying to reset the connection in order to send malicious packets. The criticality I would assign to this alert would be **high** because the open ports scanning could reveal a lot of information to the attacker and knowledge about open ports could lead to unauthorized entry into the network. The dashboard most useful for this would be one that shows incomplete SYN requests, continuous RST requests and Len >0 related dashboards. Mainly, network activity dashboards would be the most useful.

The business impacts for this kind of alert would be that the attacker gets entry into the network and launches malicious payloads, thereby harming the complete organization or disruption of all services. The short-term risks can be security breaches if vulnerabilities are discovered after the port scanning. Long-term risks could be that an APT could be running for a long time without being noticed and thus can be ready to launch a big attack on the organization thereby completely exfiltrating data or exploiting vulnerabilities over a very long time.

To remediate this kind of alert, the first thing is place is the incident response plan, and the network access to be limited only to certain resources in the network. Furthermore, there has to be a team deployed for constant patch management in the network side to keep fixing vulnerabilities incase an attacker gets access to network ports and traffic.

Worms – Slammer

As an SOC Analyst, to investigate the alert for worms, specifically that of the Slammer, the Slammer worm tries to exploit vulnerabilities in the MS SQL database server and thus, I would first filter the PCAP to look for all UDP packets because slammer uses UDP packets for transmission. Then I would look for the source and destination IP, which would majorly have different sources but a common destination IP. After this, I would analyse the UDP packets and try to find a pattern with the payload, which would be 376 bytes, being the slammer payload size. Additionally, I would look for destination ports where the port is 1434, which slammer uses to exploit the vulnerability on the MS SQL server. The criticality I would assign to this is **high** because the worms have a tendency to spread themselves, so once they are in the system, it is more likely to spread very quickly. As for a dashboard, I would use dashboards which show UDP requests and packet details like destination ports, payload length and destination IP addresses.

The business implications of a worm in a network could be vastly different because they could cause major disruptions to the services being provided by the server, thereby resulting in loss of productivity of the server. The short-term risks could be service unavailability and DDoS resulting in complete network congestion during the early stages. Long-term risks include persistent security risks and a lot of challenges with regards to business continuity. The server and domains can be completed banned, and there could be compliance-based charges imposed on the organization too.

To remediate this alert type, the affected systems can be made isolated systems and then they can investigate forensically to understand the cause of the attack. Moreover, security patches could be based on the analysis and investigations made. The antivirus and security softwares should be updated and policies could be reinforced to understand all different tactics the slammer has used to infiltrate the network. Lastly, all compromised accounts, PC's and users may need to be newly created or updated in order to avoid future events like these.

Command & Control – Zeus

As an SOC Analyst, I would first look for investigation in the network traffic and irregular spikes in network traffic. Zeus botnets use a lot of HTTP and HTTPS traffic which may or may not have random user agent strings. I would also try to try to understand all random IP addresses an investigation on those IP addresses to understand the legitimacy of those IPs. The DNS traffic would show quite a lot of domain names if a Zeus botnet has been employed in the network. If we check the ports, there would be multiple random ports, where normal services don't run and they would be very high numbered ports. Additionally, a high payload in the len part could mean there is a malicious payload being injected into the system. The criticality I would assign to this alert type would be **high** due to the multiple botnets that can be employed if one part of the network gets filtrated. The dashboards that could be useful for investigating this alert type could be protocol-based dashboards like payloads, ssh, tls or https requests, packet analysis filters and timeline dashboards.

The Zeus botnet is designed to steal all kinds of sensitive data, so it could cost a lot of personal information to the organization along with financial loss. The short-term risks could be operational risk and service disruptions, along with stealing of personal data. In long-term risks, the data that was exfiltrated could be used to launch impersonation attacks or selling of data on the dark web. It could also cause loss of a competitive advantage for the organization.

For quick and long-term remediation, the network access should be immediately disabled to avoid any further botnets being created inside the network. The affected systems need to be completed wipes and sanitized to remove all the viruses that may have entered into the network. After this, network segmentation can be applied to keep all critical and sensitive servers on a local server to avoid any connections to the outside world. Lastly, continuous network monitoring needs to be implemented.

Appendix

1. Port Scanning

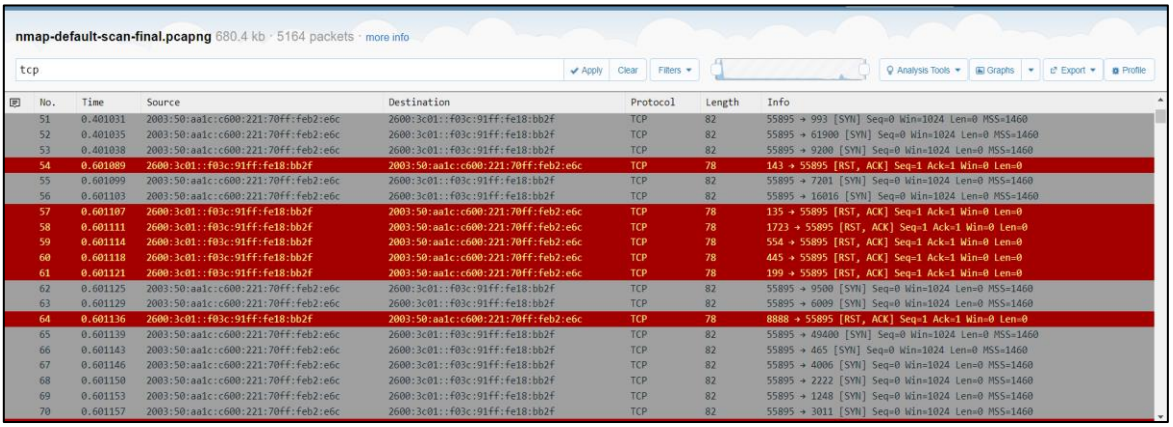

Fig. 1. TCP to notice open ports from destination.

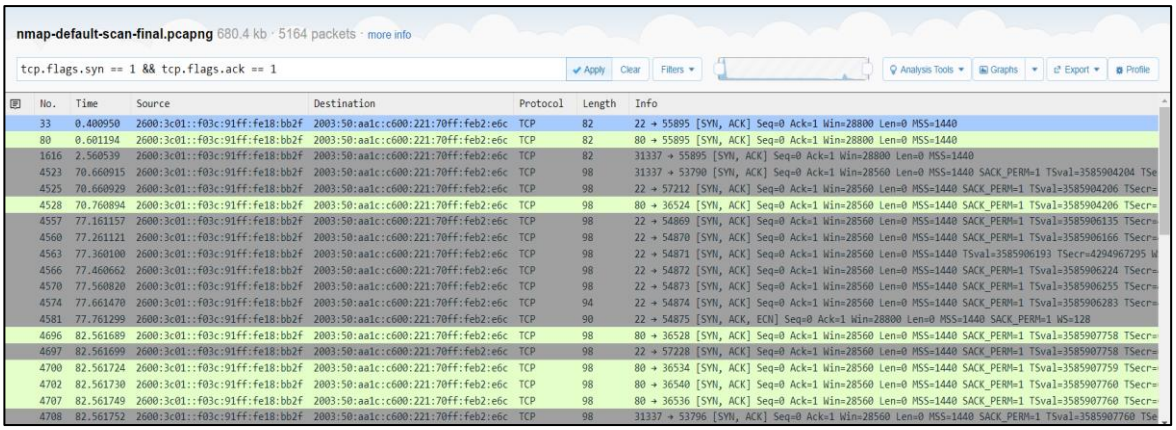

Fig. 2. TCP to set ack and syn flags as 1 to show complete connections

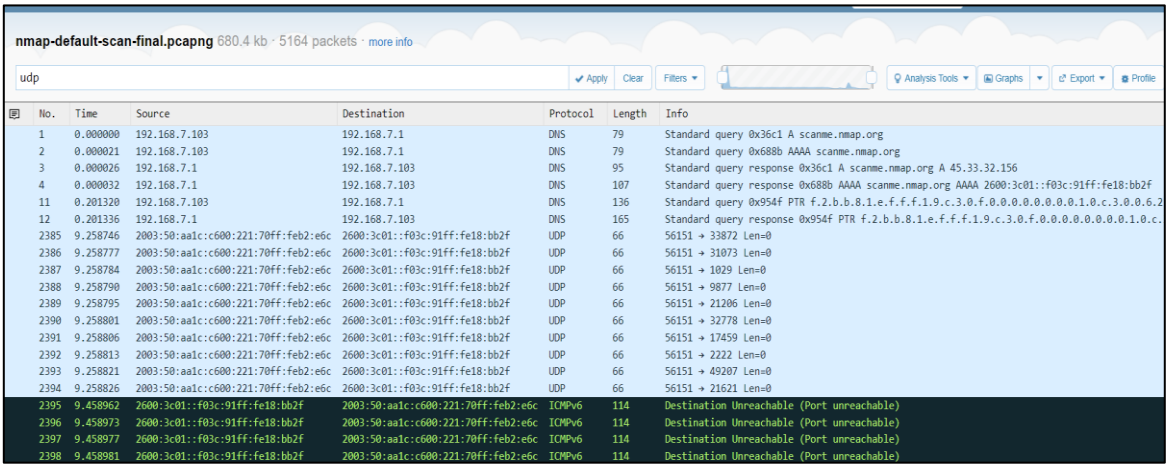

Fig. 3. UDP to check to check if ports are open now.

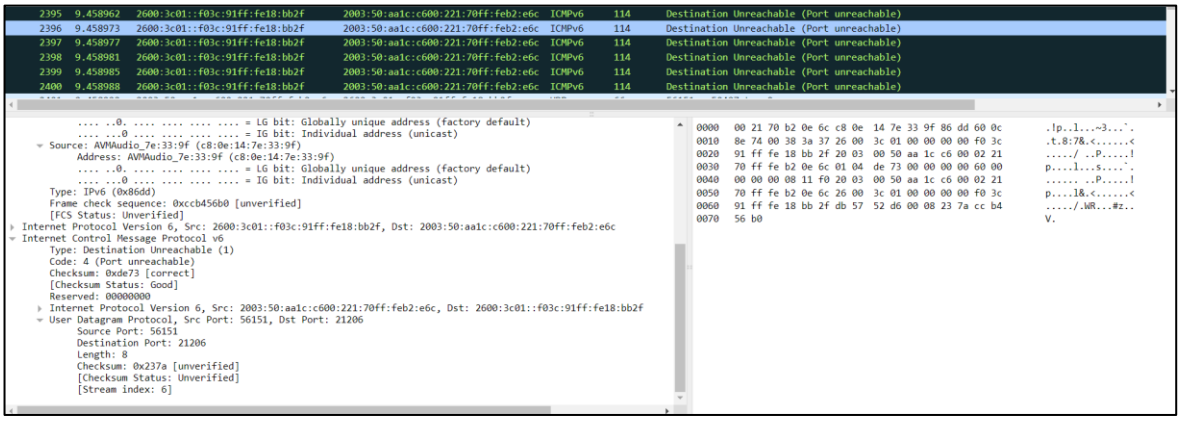

Fig. 4. UDP packets to see that ports are not reachable and same src and dest.IP.

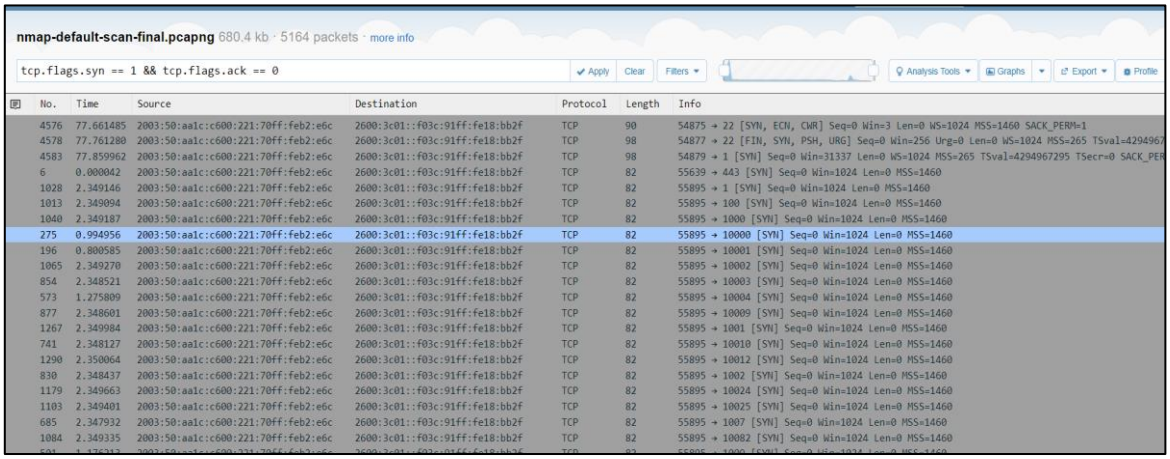

Fig. 5. TCP flags to set syn to 1 and ack to 0 for incomplete transmission

2. Worms - Slammer

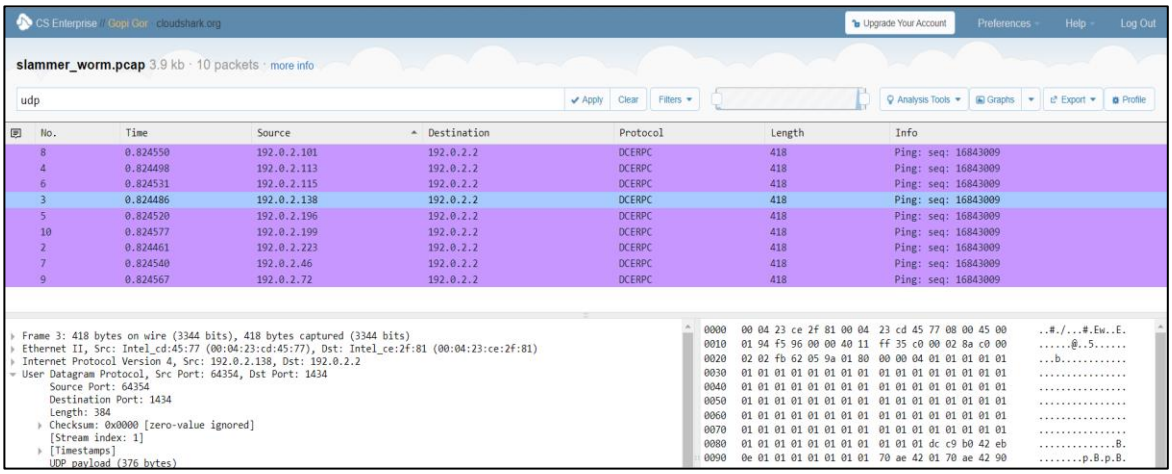

Fig. 6. UDP showing dest. port of 1434 to exploit MS SQL DB vulnerabilities

3. C&C – Zeus Botnet

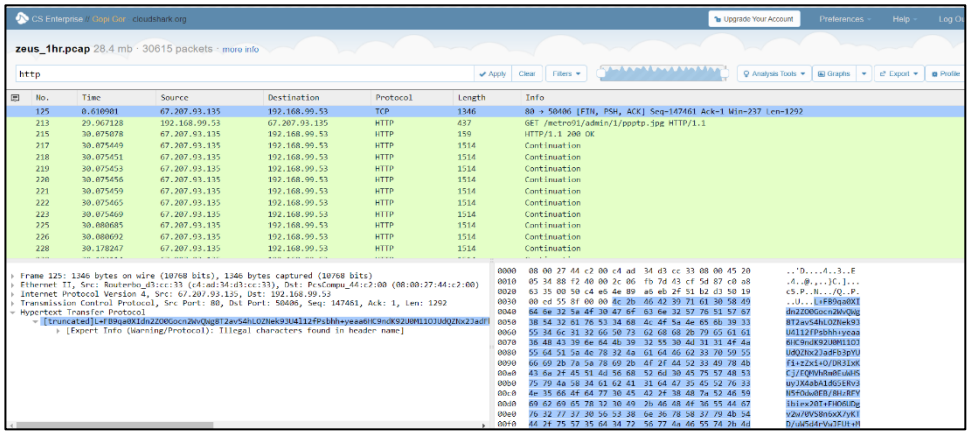

Fig. 7. UDP to check to check if ports are open now.

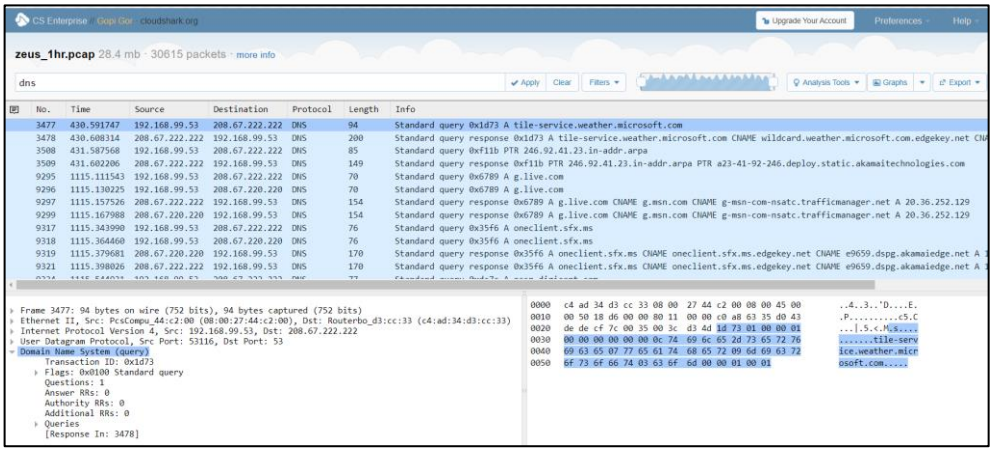

Fig. 8. UDP to check to check if ports are open now.

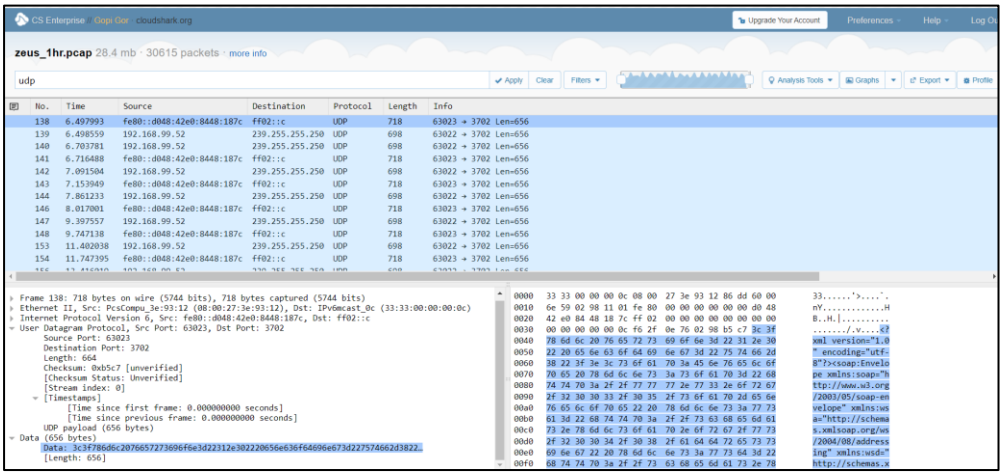

Fig. 9. UDP to check to check if ports are open now.

References

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