Intrusion Detection, Access Control and Other Security Tools

CSE 4471: Information Security

Instructor: Adam C. Champion, Ph.D.

Intrusion Terminology

- *Intrusion:* attack on information where malicious perpetrator tries to break into, disrupt system
- *Intrusion detection:* includes procedures and systems created and operated to detect system intrusions
- *Intrusion reaction:* covers actions organization takes upon detecting intrusion
- Intrusion correction activities: restore normal operations
- *Intrusion prevention:* actions that try to deter intrusions proactively

Intrusion Detection Systems (IDSs)

- Detects "configuration" violation, sounds alarm
- IDSs inform admins of trouble via e-mail, pagers
- Can configure systems to notify external security org. of "break-in"

IDS Terminology

- *Alert*, *alarm*: self-explanatory
- False negative: IDS fails to detect actual attack
- False positive: Attack alert when none occurred
- Confidence value: Estimate of attack probability
- *Alarm filtering:* self-explanatory

IDS Classification Methods

- (1) IDS detection methods:
 - Signature-based (sig IDS)
 - Statistical anomaly-based (stat IDS)
- ② IDS operation:
 - Network-based intrusion detection syst. (NIDS)
 - Host-based IDS (HIDS)
 - Application-based systems (AppIDS)

Classification (1): Sig. IDS

- Find network, host traffic patterns that match known signatures
- Advantage: Many attacks have distinct signatures
- Disadvantages:
 - IDS's signature database must be updated to keep pace with new attacks
 - Malicious code authors intentionally use tricks to fool these IDSs

Classification (1): Stat. IDS

- Statistical anomaly-based IDS sample network activity, compare to "known normal" traffic
- IDS sounds alarm when activity is outside baseline parameters
- Advantage: IDS can detect new types of attacks
- Disadvantages:
 - Requires more overhead, compute power than signature-based IDSs
 - May generate many false positives

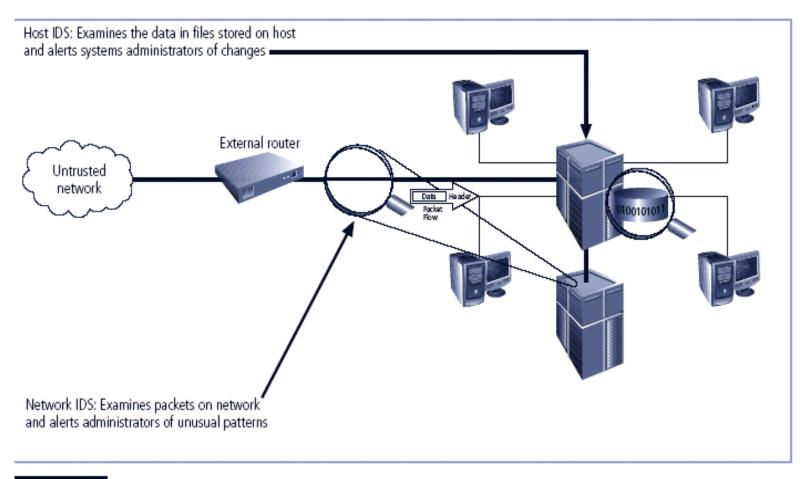


FIGURE 7-1 Intrusion Detection Systems

Classification (2): NIDS

- Resides on computer or appliance connected to segment of an organization's network; looks for signs of attacks
- When examining packets, a NIDS looks for attack patterns
- Installed at specific place in the network where it can watch traffic going into and out of particular network segment

NIDS Signature Matching

- NIDSs look for attack patterns for detection
- Accomplished via certain implementation of TCP/IP stack:
 - Protocol stack verification: look for invalid packets
 - App. protocol verification: look at higher-order
 protocols for unexpected behavior or improper use

NIDS Advantages, Disadvantages

Advantages

- Org. can monitor large network with few devices
- Passive; deployment minimally disrupts operations
- Less susceptible to attack; attackers may not detect them

Disadvantages

- Can be overwhelmed by volume of network traffic
- Need to monitor *all* traffic
- Cannot analyze encrypted network packets
- Cannot determine if attack was successful
- Cannot detect some attacks (e.g., fragmented packets)

Classification (2): HIDS

- HIDS runs on a particular computer, monitors activity only on that system
- Benchmarks, monitors key system files; detects when intruders' file I/O
- HIDSs work on principle of configuration management
- Unlike NIDSs, HIDSs can be installed to access info. that's encrypted in transit over network

HIDS Advantages, Disadvantages

Advantages

- Detect local events, attacks on host systems that NIDSs may not
- Can view encrypted traffic (as it has been decrypted on system)
- HIDSs unaffected by switched network protocols
- Can detect inconsistencies in apps, programs by examining audit logs

Disadvantages

- Harder to manage than NIDSs
- Vulnerable to attacks against host operating system, HIDS
- Cannot detect scans of multiple hosts, non-network devices
- HIDSs potential targets for denialof-service (DoS) attack
- May use lots of disk space
- Possible large compute performance overhead on host systems

Application-Based IDS

- Application-based IDS (AppIDS) looks at apps for abnormal events
- AppIDS may be configured to intercept requests:
 - File System
 - Network
 - Configuration
 - Process's Virtual Memory Address Space

Advantages and Disadvantages of AppIDSs

Advantages

- Aware of specific users; can observe interaction between apps and users
- Functions with encrypted incoming data

Disadvantages

- More susceptible to attack
- Less capable of detecting software tampering
- May be fooled by forms of spoofing

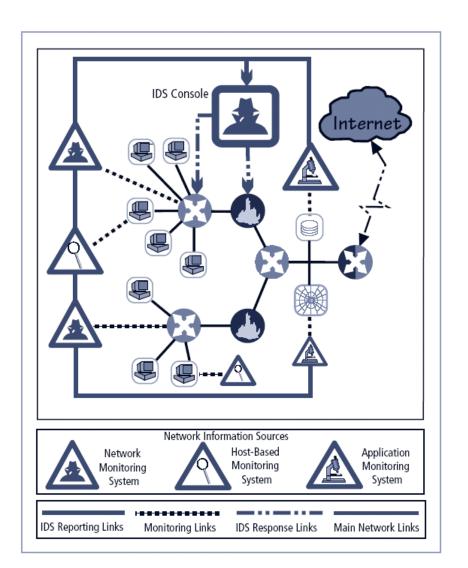
Selecting IDS Approaches and Products

- Technical and policy considerations
 - What is your systems environment?
 - What are your security goals?
 - What is your existing security policy?
- Organizational requirements and constraints
 - What requirements are given from outside the org.?
 - What are your org's resource constraints? (\$\$\$)

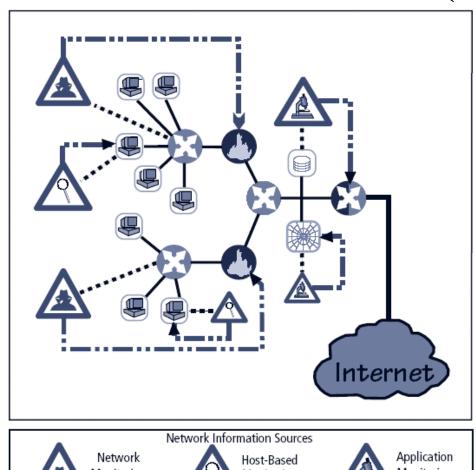
IDS Control Strategies

- An IDS can be implemented via one of three basic control strategies
 - Centralized: all IDS control functions are implemented and managed in a central location
 - Fully distributed: all control functions are applied at the physical location of each IDS component
 - Partially distributed: combines the two; while individual agents can still analyze and respond to local threats, they report to a hierarchical central facility to enable organization to detect widespread attacks

Centralized IDS Control (Fig. 7-4)

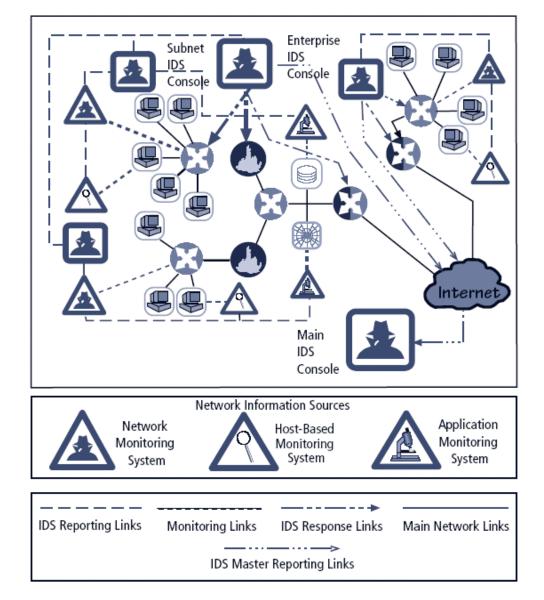


Fully Distributed IDS Control (Fig. 7-5)





Partially Distributed IDS Control (Fig. 7-6)



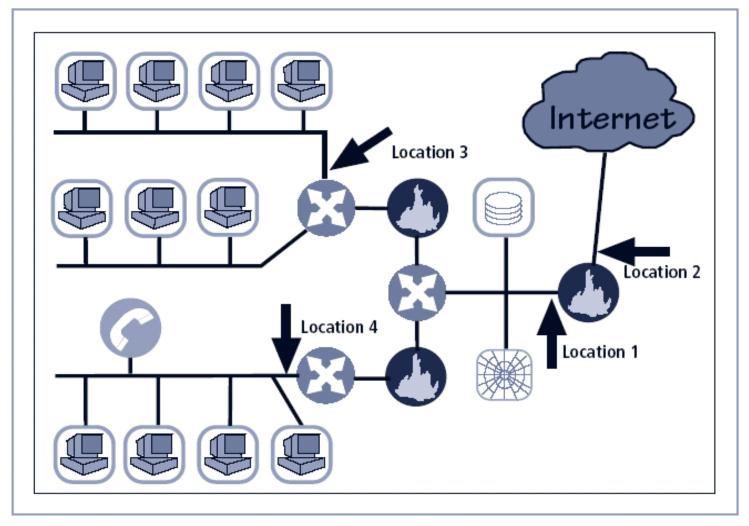
IDS Deployment Overview

- IDS system placement can be a "black art"
 - Similar to "what type of IDS should be use?" question
- Need to balance organization's security needs with budget
- We can use NIDS and HIDS in tandem to cover both individual systems that connect to an org's networks *and* the networks themselves

Deploying NIDSs (1)

- NIST recommends four locations for NIDSs:
 - Location 1: behind each external firewall, in the network DMZ
 - Location 2: outside an external firewall
 - Location 3: on major network backbones
 - Location 4: on critical subnets

Deploying NIDSs (2) (Fig. 7-7)



Deploying HIDS

- Setting up HIDSs: tedious, time-consuming (?)
- Steps:
 - First: install HIDSs on most critical systems
 - Next: install HIDSs on all systems or until
 organization reaches tolerable degree of coverage

Measuring Effectiveness of IDSs

- IDSs are evaluated using two dominant metrics:
 - # of attacks detected in a known collection of probes
 - Network bandwidth at which IDSs fail
- Example: At 1 Gbits/sec, IDS detected 95% of directed attacks against it
- Many vendors provide test suites for verification
- Example test suites:
 - Record, retransmit real packet trace from virus/worm
 - Perform same for malformed packets (e.g., SYN flood)
 - Launch

Honeypots, Honeynets, and Padded Cell Systems

- *Honeypots:* decoy systems designed to lure potential attackers away from critical systems
- Design goals:
 - Divert attacker from accessing critical systems
 - Gather information about attacker's activity
 - Encourage attacker to linger so admins can document event, respond
- *Honeynets:* collection of honeypots connected in a subnet
- *Padded cell:* honeypot protected in order to hinder compromise
 - Typically works in tandem with traditional IDS
 - When IDS detects attackers, it transfers them to "special environment" where they cannot cause harm (hence the name)

Honeypots: Advantages and Disadvantages

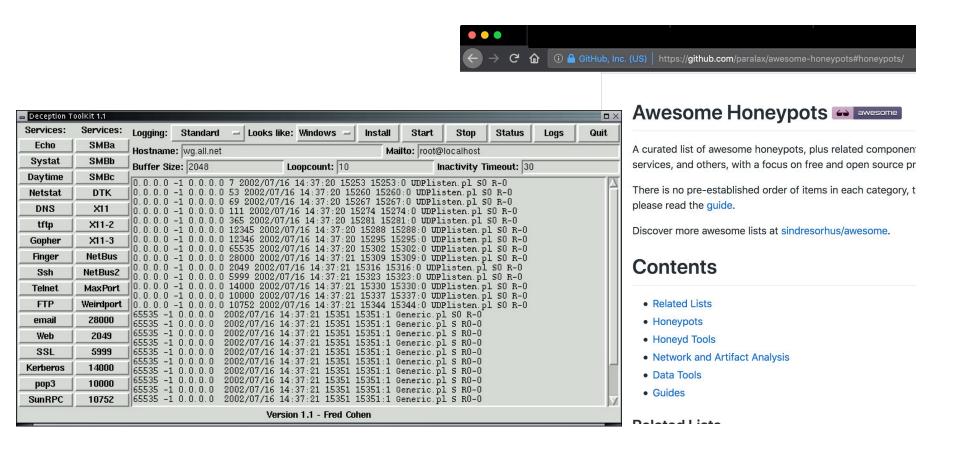
Advantages

- Diverts attackers to targets they can't damage
- Admins have time to determine response
- Honeypots can monitor attackers' actions; attack logs can help improve system security
- Honeypots may catch insiders snooping around network

Disadvantages

- Legal implications are not well defined
- Honeypots' effectiveness as security tech is unclear
- Expert attacker detecting honeypot may get angry, launch worse attack against org.
- Admins, security managers need expertise to use honeypots

Honeypot Examples



Sources: Fred Cohen & Associates (https://github.com/paralax/awesome-honeypots/

Trap and Trace Systems

- Various techniques that detect intrusion, trace it to origin
- "Trap" consists of honeypot/padded cell, alarm
- Legal drawbacks to trap and trace:
 - Enticement: attracts attacker to system by placing tantalizing info. in certain places
 - Entrapment: lures person into committing crime for conviction purpose
 - Enticement is legal/ethical; entrapment is *not*
- More info: D.J. Gottfried, "Avoiding the Entrapment Defense in a Post-9/11 World," *FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin*, 1 Jan. 2012, https://leb.fbi.gov/articles/legal-digest/legal-digest-legal-digest-avoiding-the-entrapment-defense-in-a-post-911-world.

Scanning and Analysis Tools (1)

- Often used to collect information that attacker would need to launch successful attack
- Attack protocol: sequence of attacker's steps to attack target system/network
- Footprinting: determining what hostnames, IP addresses a target org. owns
- Fingerprinting: systematic survey of resources found in footprinting stage
 - Useful for discovering weaknesses in org.'s network or systems

Scanning and Analysis Tools (2)

- Hostname queries: nslookup, dig (Un*x)
- IP address ownership:
 - whois, https://whois.domaintools.com/
- Internet search queries:"Proprietary", "Confidential"
- Also: https://tools.wordtothewise.com/

```
C O DOMAINTOOLS (US) https://whois.domaintools.com/

DOMAINTOOLS PROFILE - CONNECT - MONITOR - SUPPORT

.

Whois Lookup

Dignoplany Search
```

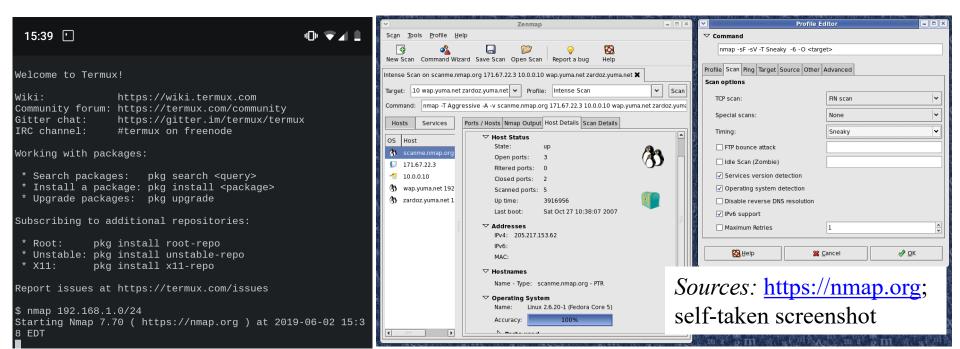
```
adamcchampion > ~ > Teaching > CSE4471 > AdamSlides > nslookup bigcorp.com
               2606:4700:4700::1111
Address:
               2606:4700:4700::1111#53
Non-authoritative answer:
       bigcorp.com
Address: 198.71.233.161
 adamcchampion > ~ > Teaching > CSE4471 > AdamSlides > dig bigcorp.com
 <<>> DiG 9.10.6 <<>> bigcorp.com
  global options: +cmd
  Got answer:
  ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 5328
  flags: gr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 1
  EDNS: version: 0, flags:; udp: 1452
  QUESTION SECTION:
bigcorp.com.
  ANSWER SECTION:
                       529
                               IN
                                               198.71.233.161
bigcorp.com.
  Query time: 43 msec
  SERVER: 2606:4700:4700::1111#53(2606:4700:4700::1111)
  WHEN: Sun Jun 02 15:25:38 EDT 2019
   MSG SIZE rcvd: 56
```

Sources: Self-taken screenshots; https://whois.domaintools.com



Port Scanners

- Tools used by attackers, defenders to identify computers on network (plus other info.)
- Can scan for certain computers, protocols, resources (or generic scans)
- Example: nmap (https://nmap.org/)

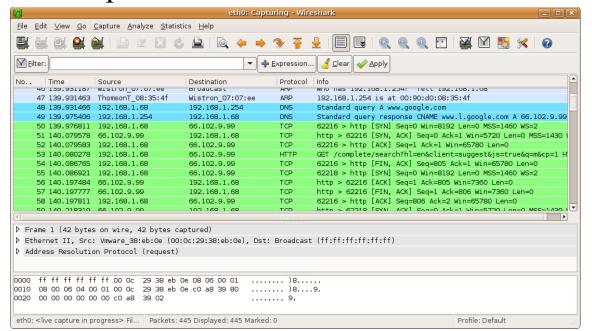


Firewall Analysis Tools

- Several tools automate discovery of firewall rules, assist admins in rule analysis
- Admins who are wary of using same tools that attackers use should remember:
 - User intent dictates how gathered info. is used
 - Need to understand ways to attack computer/network in order to defend it!
- Example: Nessus (https://www.tenable.com/products/nessus)

Packet Sniffers

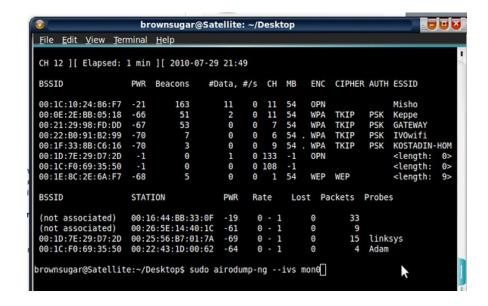
- Tool that gathers network packets, analyzes them
- Can provide network admin with info. to solve networking issues (or attacker eavesdropping)
- For legal use: admin must be on org.-owned network and have consent from net. owners
- Example tool: Wireshark



Source: Wikipedia (user SF007)

Wireless Security Tools

- Organization needs to consider wireless security in tandem with its deployed wireless networks
- Toolkits can sniff wireless traffic, scan hosts, and assess network privacy
- Don't use WEP!
- Example tools:
 - Wireshark
 - aircrack-ng



Source: Flickr (user: raynedata)

Access Control Devices

- Access control: authenticates, authorizes users
 - Authentication: validate a person's identity
 - Authorization: specify what the person can do with computers, networks
 - Recommended: use \geq two types of auth. technology
- Four main ways to authenticate person:
 - What a person knows (e.g., password);
 - What a person has (e.g., Duo Mobile app code);
 - Who a person is (e.g., fingerprint);
 - What a supplicant produces (e.g., work badge)

Summary

- Intrusion detection system (IDS) detects configuration violation and sounds alarm
- Network-based IDS (NIDS) vs. host-based IDS (HIDS)
- Complex selection of IDS products that fit an organization's needs!
- *Honeypots* are decoy systems; two variations are *honeynets* and *padded cell systems*

Summary

• Scanning and analysis tools are used to pinpoint vulnerabilities in systems, holes in security components, and unsecured aspects of network

• Authentication is validation of prospective user's (supplicant's) identity