

IT357 Tools and Techniques in Defensive Security
Assignment 6 – Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems
....We're just Snorting about.....

10 Questions – 50 Points

SAVE THIS AS A PDF, SUBMIT THE PDF DOCUMENT ON REGGIENET

Objective: To configure an Intrusion Detection & Prevention System running in conjunction with a Firewall.

Preparation:

For this assignment, you will use the Ubuntu-LAN VM, Win10-WAN and the pfSense web UI.

NOTE: Don't forget to set your Win10 power settings to "never" screen power and "never" sleep.

Pre-Setup steps for the scenario:

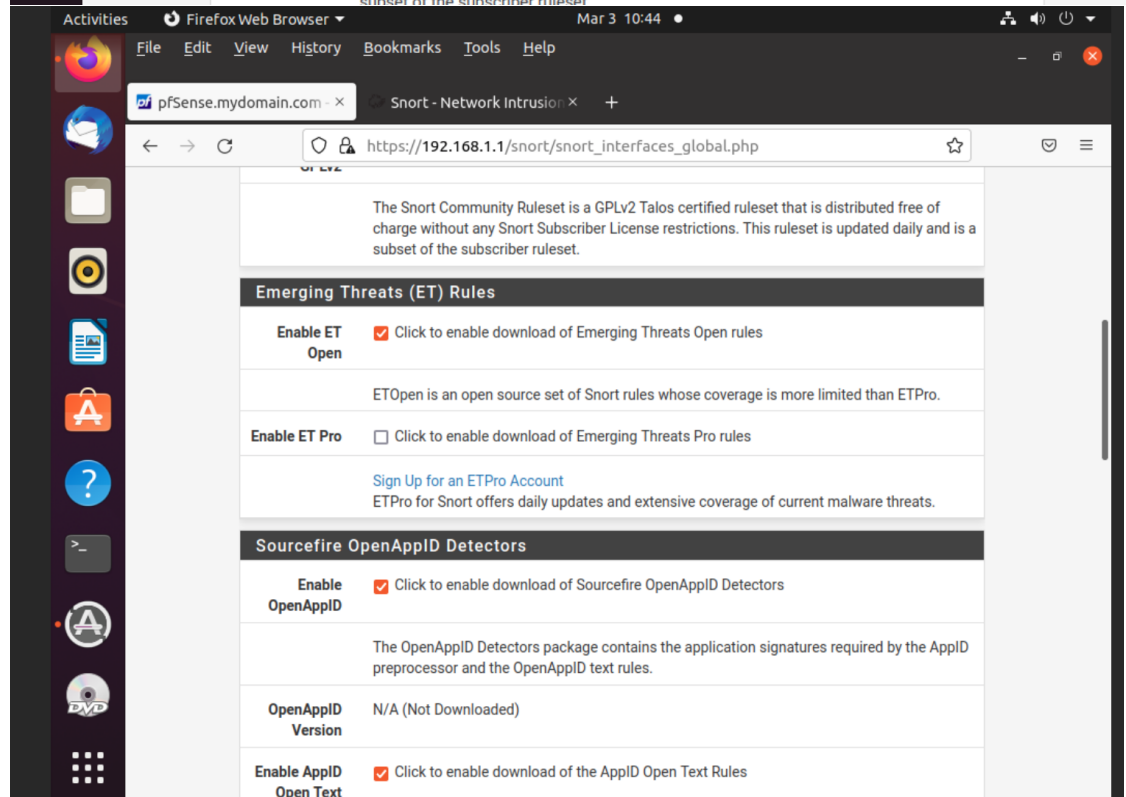
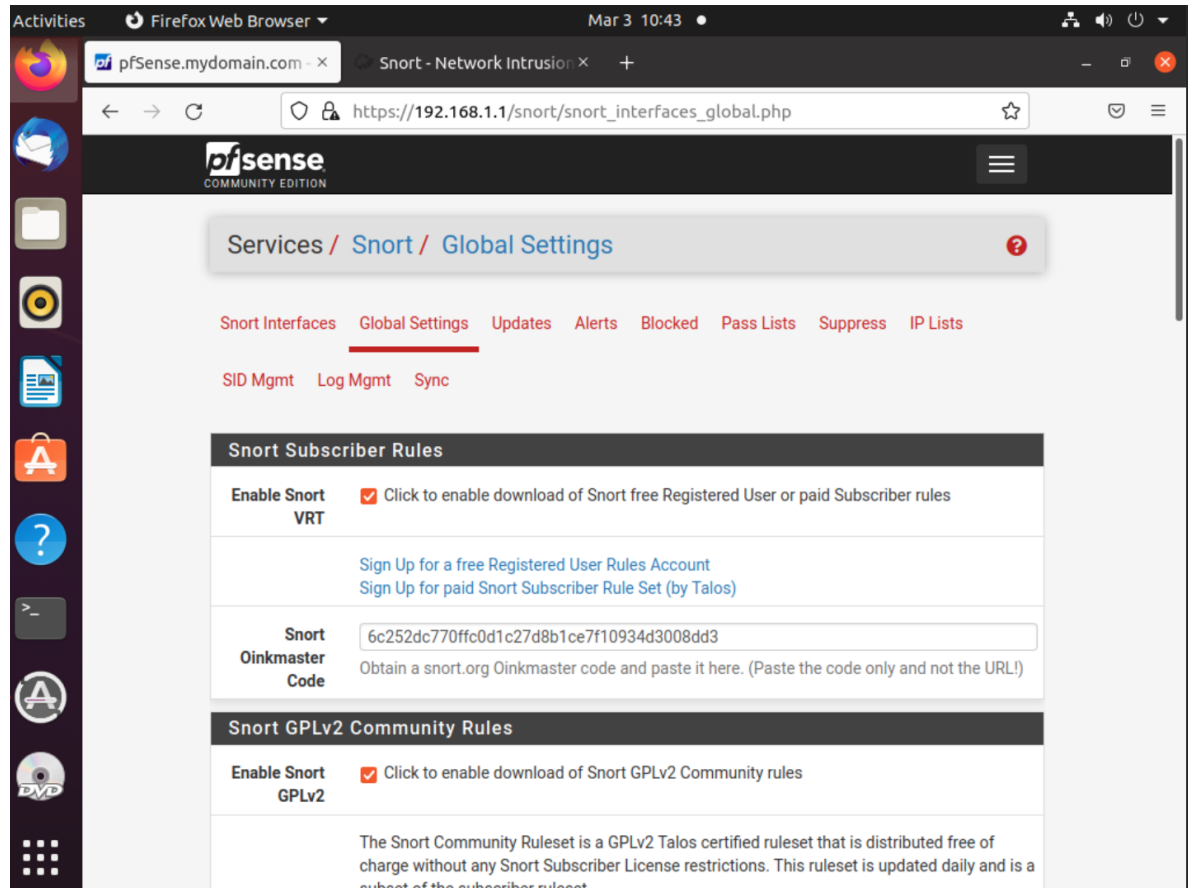
1. **Take a snapshot of your pfSense VM** before proceeding with this assignment. In the unlikely event that something is incorrectly configured, and you are unable to remove the problematic settings, it will be much easier to simply roll back to the previously good configuration and start over from there.
2. Before taking a snapshot in Proxmox, you will first want to shut down the VM. The best way to do this is choose option 6 from the pfSense console to "halt" the system.
3. With the VM shut down, in the control panel on the right side of the Proxmox web UI, select the **Snapshot** tab and click the **Take Snapshot** button. Once the snapshot is complete, don't forget to start the pfSense VM before continuing.

Part 1: Snort Setup in pfSense

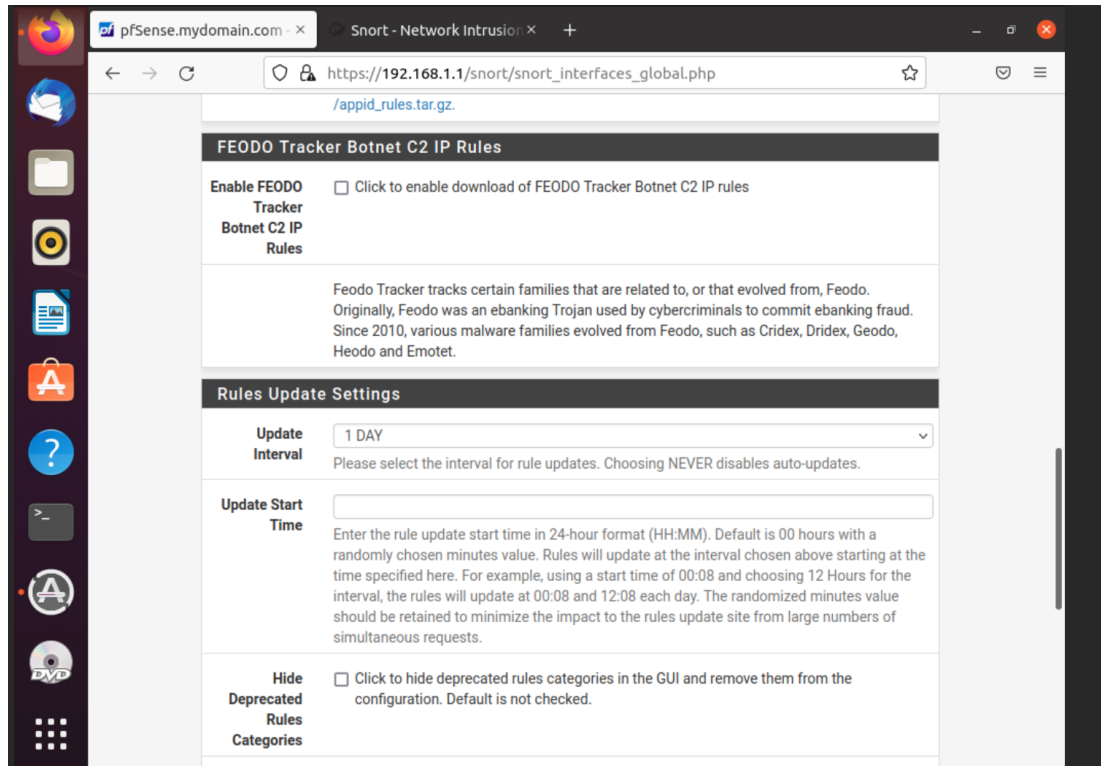
Snort is an IDPS tool that can operate as a standalone service or can be easily integrated with several firewall systems. Enabling Snort within pfSense can be carried out by simply installing the Snort package.

1. Install the Snort package. From your Ubuntu-LAN VM, log into the pfSense web UI using its LAN interface IP address from a browser (e.g., <https://192.168.1.1>) and navigate to **System → Package Manager** and click on the **Available Packages** tab. Scroll down through the list of packages to find Snort. Click the green **Install** button and the **Confirm** button on the next page.
 - a. Alternatively, you can use the search functionality on the Available Packages page to quickly find Snort in the list of packages.
2. Now that Snort is installed on pfSense, it is time to get it configured. Navigate to **Services → Snort** and click on the **Global Settings** tab. First, enable the download of various rule sets. Here, we are not necessarily enabling the rules, just allowing the download of different categories or groups or rules.
 - a. Check the box to **Enable Snort VRT** under the *Snort Subscriber Rules*.
 - i. You'll need your own Oinkmaster code to leverage the use of the free Snort rules. Click the link to **Sign Up for a free Registered User Rules Account**. A new tab should open the Snort Sign Up web page in your browser. Use your ISU email account to create a registered user account. If you already have a Snort account, you can simply click the **Sign In** link in the upper right-hand corner of the page.
 - ii. Once the account has been created, click on your account name in the upper left-hand corner to open your account settings page. Click on the **Oinkcode** tab within the left-hand navigation pane. Copy your Oinkcode from this page and paste it into the **Snort Oinkmaster Code** field in the *Snort Subscriber Rules* section of the Snort Global Settings page of pfSense.
 - b. Check the box for **Enable Snort GPLv2** in the *Snort GPLv2 Community Rules* section
 - c. Check the box for **Enable ET Open** in the *Emerging Threats (ET)* Rules section
 - d. Check the boxes for both the **Enable OpenAppID** and **Enable AppID Open Text Rules** in the *Sourcefire OpenAppID Detectors* section. These rules will allow us to identify traffic associated with specific applications.
 - e. In the *Rules Update Settings* section, change the **Update Interval** to **1 Day** from the dropdown. This setting determines how often pfSense will check for and download new or updated rule sets.
 - f. Q1) Leave the remaining settings on this page at their default. Click the blue **Save** button at the bottom of the page. (3 pts)

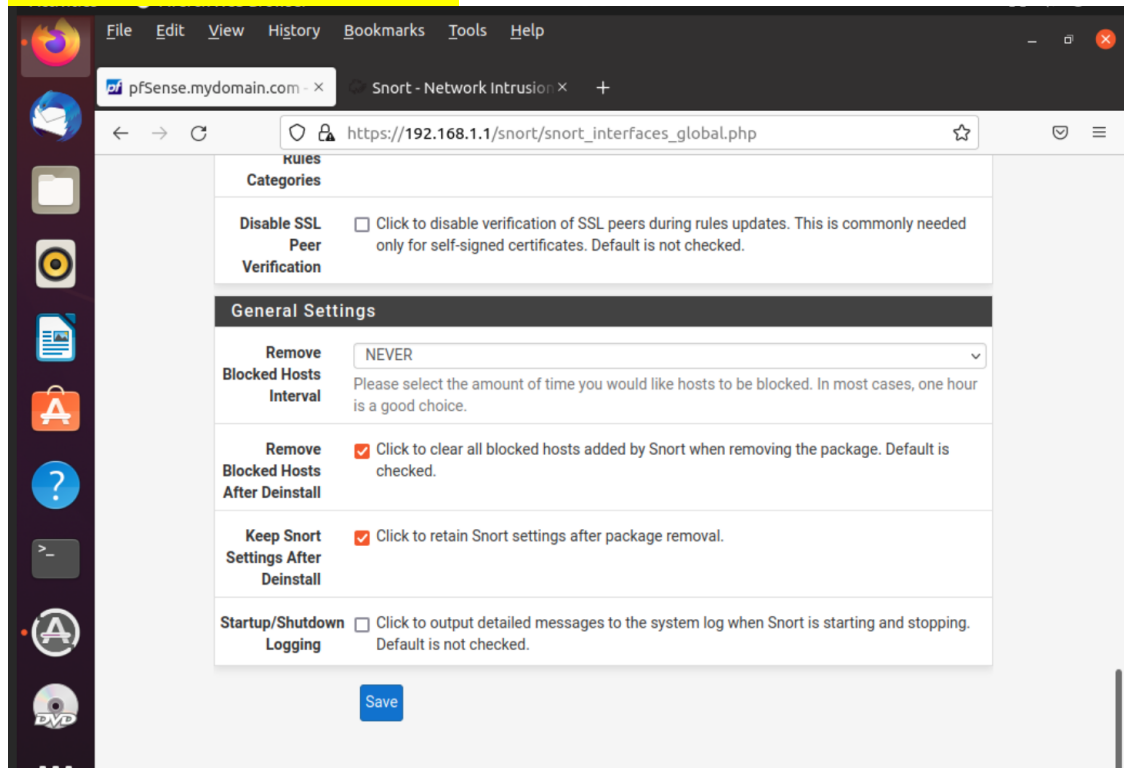
[Insert



g.
h.



one or more screen shots here sho

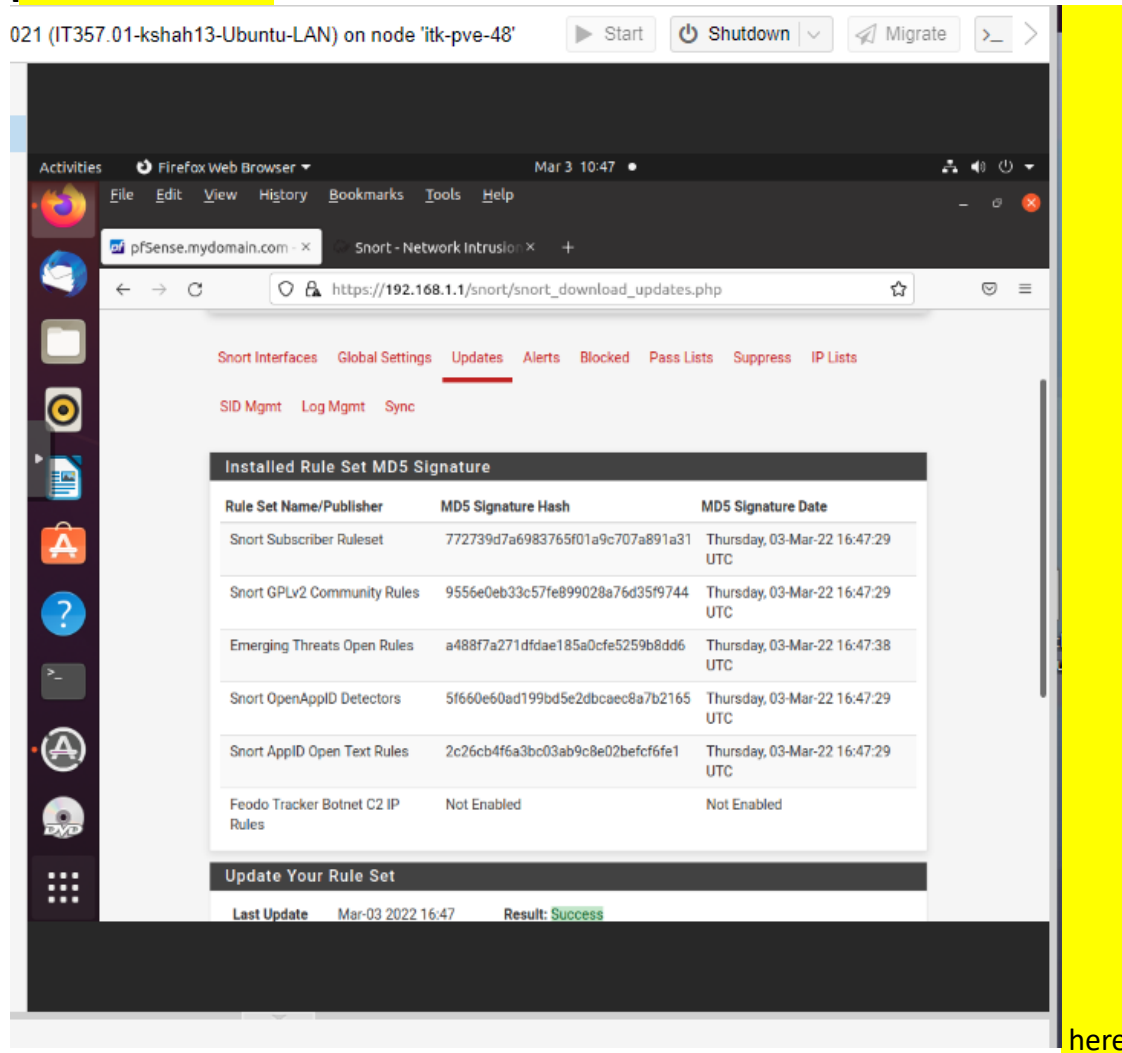


wing the contents of your Global Settings page. Prove to me you've done the above steps.]

3. Back at the top of the Snort page, click on the **Updates** tab. You'll notice that none of your rule sets have been downloaded yet. In the *Update Your Rule Set* section click on the blue **Update Rules** button. A task window will open showing that the download is in progress.

Q2) Once the download is complete, you will see that the Installed Rule Set table will be populated with the rule set hashes and dates. (3 pts)

[Insert a screen shot



of the updated Installed Rule Set table.]

4. Snort is installed, we have our rule sets downloaded, now let's apply Snort inspection to an interface and choose the rules that we want to apply.
 - a. Still on the Snort service configuration pages, click on the **Snort Interfaces** tab to the far left. Click on the green **Add** button on the right of the page. This will open a new page for the WAN interface. pfSense will correctly assume that the WAN interface will be your first choice of interfaces to inspect traffic.

- b. Verify that the **Enable** box is checked and that **WAN** is selected for **Interface** in the *General Settings* section. Leave all other settings at their default for now and click the blue **Save** button at the bottom of the page.
 - c. Click the **Save** button. Notice that additional sub-tabs will now be available for the WAN interface under the Snort Interfaces parent tab.
 5. Navigate to the **WAN Categories** sub-tab.
 - a. Under the *Snort Subscriber IPS Policy Selection* section, check the box for **Use IPS Policy**. This will add the **IPS Policy Selection** setting. For this setting, choose **Security** from the drop down. This setting simplifies the selection of snort rules to enable based on the policy you have chosen.
 - b. In the *Select the rulesets (Categories) Snort will load at Startup* section, click on the light blue **Select All** button to the left. This should automatically select the Snort GPLv2 rules, all of the ET Open Rules (Emerging Threats) in the left column, and all of the OPENAPPI rules (OpenAppID) rules in the far right column. Click the blue **Save** button.
 6. The downloaded rulesets have been applied to the interface, however, not all rules within a ruleset are enabled by default.
 - a. Click on the **WAN Rules** sub-tab.
 - b. Click on the **Category Selection** drop down near the top of the window will allow you to view or modify the rules within the different rulesets or categories.
 - c. From the **Category Selection** drop down, select **emerging-scan.rules**. Scroll down to the *Selected Category's Rules* section and you will see the full list of rules that make up the Emerging Threats Scans ruleset. Notice that there are many that are not enabled, designated by the red **X** along the left-hand margin.
 - d. Up in the *Rule Signature ID Enable/Disable Overrides* section, click on the green **Enable All** button to enable all of the rules in this ruleset.
 - e. Click the blue **Apply** button.
 7. Not all threats can be easily identified strictly by signatures. Some detections will benefit from pre-processing by the IDS. Select the **WAN Preprocs** sub-tab.
 - a. Scroll down to find and expand the *Application ID Detection* section. Check the **Enable** box to allow the IDS to use OpenAppID.
 - b. Expand the *Portscan Detection* section. Check the **Enable** box to enable port scanning detection on the WAN interface.
 - c. Leave the remaining default settings in place. Scroll to the bottom of the page.
 - d. Click the blue **Save** button.
 8. Navigate back to the **Snort Interfaces** parent tab. Under the Snort Status column you should see a red "**x**" and a blue triangle in the WAN table row.
 - a. Click on the blue triangle button to enable the Snort service on the WAN interface. It'll take just a minute while the red "**x**" turns into a spinning gear and eventually it will turn into a green check mark indicating that the service is now

running on the interface.

Part 2: Port Scan

We will use Nmap from the Win10-WAN VM to scan the WAN interface of pfSense to test that Snort is working. Snort should generate alerts on port scans. But, to ensure we get a fair amount of IDS alerts, we are going to throw a pretty extensive scan with scripts at it.

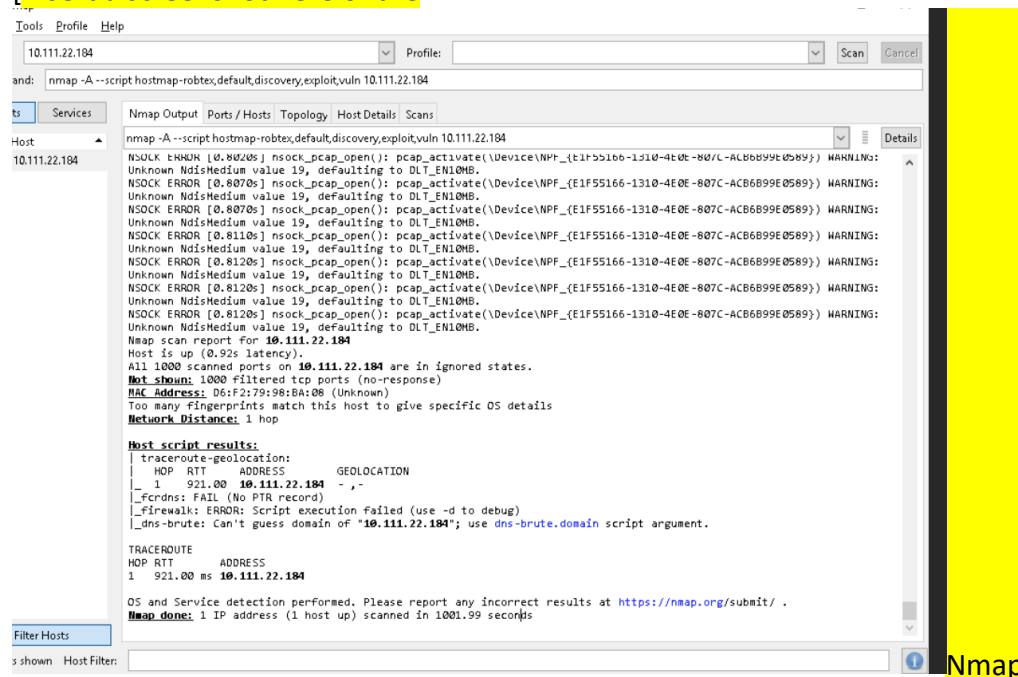
1. Switch to your Win10-WAN VM. Remember, this machine is on the outside, the “Internet” side of the pfSense firewall.
2. Turn off Windows Firewall.
3. Scan your target with Zenmap, the Windows GUI version of Nmap
 - a. In the **Command** field of the Zenmap UI, enter the following:

```
nmap -A --script hostmap-robtex,default,discovery,exploit,vuln [pfSense-WAN-IP]
```

Note that this command is case sensitive, there are no spaces after the commas, and that [pfSense-WAN-IP] will be the actual IP address of your pfSense’s WAN interface. The IP address is usually in the 10.x.y.z range.

- b. Click “Scan”.
- c. Q3) Nmap will show “Nmap done: 1 address scanned” or a similar message with an output of the results from the scan. (3 pts)

[Insert a screenshot here of the



window after it is completed.]

Part 3: Review and Tuning of Snort Alerts

Switch back to the **Ubuntu-LAN VM**.

1. Navigate to **Services** → **Snort** and click on the **Alerts** tab.

Q4) You should see quite a few alerts, some should say NMAP and a type of scan. (3 pts)

[Insert a screenshot here]

The screenshot shows the Snort web interface with the 'Alerts' tab selected. The interface includes a navigation bar with links like 'Snort Interfaces', 'Global Settings', 'Updates', 'Alerts', 'Blocked', 'Pass Lists', 'Suppress', and 'IP Lists'. Below the navigation bar, there are 'Alert Log View Settings' and 'Alert Log View Filter' sections. The 'Alert Log View Settings' section has a dropdown for 'Interface to Inspect' (set to 'WAN (vtne)'), a checkbox for 'Auto-refresh view', and a text input for 'Alert lines to display' (set to '250'). There are 'Download' and 'Clear' buttons for the 'Alert Log Actions'. The 'Alert Log View Filter' section has a '+' icon. Below these sections is a table titled '212 Matched Entries from Active Log (filtered view)'. The table has columns: 'Pri', 'Proto', 'Class', 'Source IP', 'SPort', 'Destination IP', 'DPort', 'GID:SID', and 'Description'. The table shows four entries, all with 'Pri' 3, 'Proto' TCP, 'Class' Misc activity, 'Source IP' 10.111.22.184, 'SPort' 31033, 'Destination IP' 34.122.121.32, 'DPort' 80, and 'Description' http or ubuntu. The 'GID:SID' column shows '1:70473' for http and '1:71363' for ubuntu. Each entry has a magnifying glass icon and a '+' icon next to it.

Pri	Proto	Class	Source IP	SPort	Destination IP	DPort	GID:SID	Description
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	31033	34.122.121.32	80	1:70473	http
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	31033	34.122.121.32	80	1:71363	ubuntu
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	31033	34.122.121.32	80	1:70473	http
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	31033	34.122.121.32	80	1:71363	ubuntu

alerts in the web interface.]

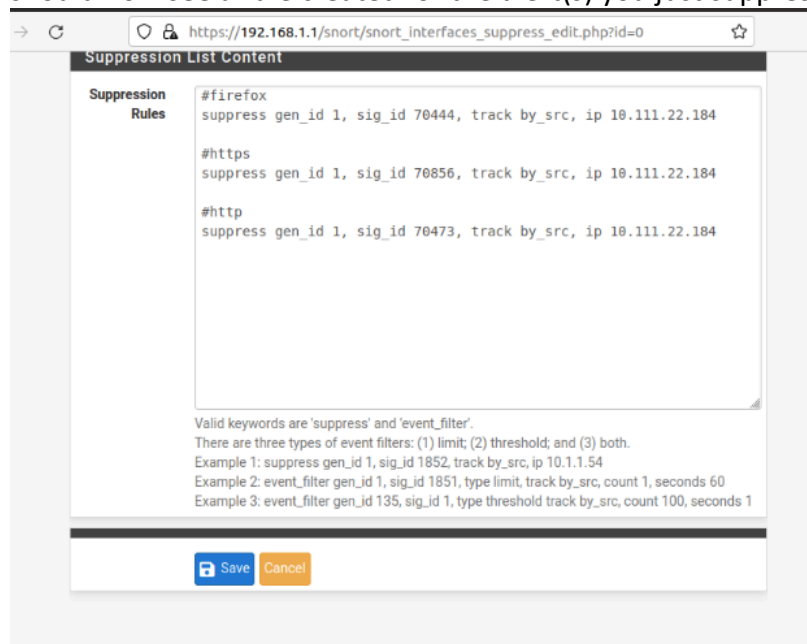
2. Let's assume that your Win10-WAN VM is a known safe member of your organization tasked with running external Nmap scans of your network. So, we'll want to suppress alerts associated with Nmap scans coming from this device.
 - a. Identify at least one of the alerts in your list that has a Description starting with "ET SCAN Nmap".
 - b. Find the "+" icon for this alert near the Win10-WAN IP address under the **Source IP** column. Click this "+" icon to add this alert to the list of suppressed alerts. Before you suppress the alert, make sure the IP address is correct for

Win10-WAN VM.....otherwise, you just suppressed the IP of an attacker.

NOTE: Suppressing alerts still allows Snort to process the rule but disables alerting. Suppression is more beneficial when making exceptions for specific alerts associated with specific IP addresses.

3. Navigate to the **Suppress** tab for the Snort service. There should be an automatically generated list with a name similar to “wansuppress_xxxxxx” located in the *Configured Suppression Lists* section. Click on the pencil edit icon for this list entry. Then after your screenshot, click “cancel”.

Q5) On the **Edit Suppression List** page and under the *Suppression List Content*, you should now see a rule created for the alert(s) you just suppressed. (3 pts)



[Insert a screen shot here of the created Suppression Rules.]

4. Let's generate some traffic from the Ubuntu-LAN VM for the OpenAppID component of Snort.

NOTE: Before continuing, verify that the Snort service is still running by navigating to the **Snort Interfaces** tab and check the Snort Status for the WAN interface. If it is stopped as indicated by the red “X”, click the blue triangle to restart the service.

Open another browser tab and navigate to a few of the web sites in the list below. You may want to click around on a few links or buttons on each of the sites before continuing to the next site.

www.amazon.com
www.facebook.com
www.spotify.com
www.pandora.com

- Q6) Navigate back to the Snort Service **Alerts** tab. You should now see a bunch of new alerts with a GID:SID value similar to 1:7xxxx and just a single word in the Description column. These might include: http, https, mozilla, amazon, facebook, etc. (3 pts)

[Insert a screen s

Most Recent 250 Entries from Active Log								
Pri	Proto	Class	Source IP	SPort	Destination IP	DPort	GID:SID	Description
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	13728	176.32.103.205	443	1:70012	Amazon Webservices
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	61308	205.251.242.103	80	1:70012	Amazon Webservices
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	21833	104.244.42.131	443	1:70656	twitter
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	21833	104.244.42.131	443	1:70656	twitter
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	21833	104.244.42.131	443	1:70656	twitter
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	21833	104.244.42.131	443	1:70656	twitter
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	21833	104.244.42.131	443	1:70656	twitter
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	21833	104.244.42.131	443	1:70656	twitter
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	21833	104.244.42.131	443	1:70656	twitter
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	21833	104.244.42.131	443	1:70656	twitter
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	21833	104.244.42.131	443	1:70656	twitter

hot here of

the newly generated alerts.]

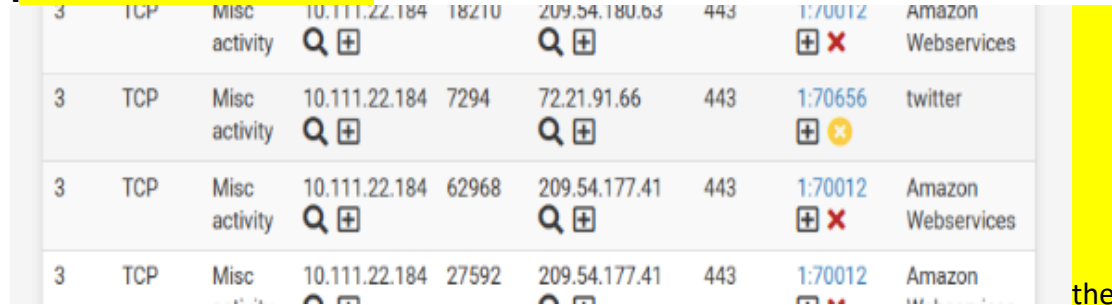
NOTE: if you can't see all of this in one screen.....make your SPICE VM window a bit bigger. You should see all of this info on one screen and one row. Then take your screenshot.

- The OpenAppID rules can be useful for many things. Among those might be for tracking usage of certain applications or services that may be unwanted or go against your organizations security policy. However, they can also generate a lot of unnecessary noise in your alerts. Using suppression for OpenAppID rules stops the alerts but, the IDS is still processing packets to identify the associated application putting an unnecessary load on your system resources. For these it might be best to disable the rule altogether.

Q7) To do this, identify an OpenAppID alert you would like to disable in the list (these

would be the ones that typically have a single word for the Description and have a GID:SID similar to 1:7xxxx) and click on the red “x” under the GID:SID column. (3 pts)

[Insert a screen shot here of



3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	18210	209.54.180.63	443	1:70012	Amazon Webservices
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	7294	72.21.91.66	443	1:70656	twitter
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	62968	209.54.177.41	443	1:70012	Amazon Webservices
3	TCP	Misc activity	10.111.22.184	27592	209.54.177.41	443	1:70012	Amazon Webservices

disabled alert that now should have a yellow “x”.]

7. Another way to disable rule sets would be to disable an entire rule set or category from the rules assigned to an interface.
 - a. Navigate back to the **Snort Interfaces** tab and edit the WAN interface by clicking on the pencil. From the WAN interface settings click on the **WAN Rules** sub-tab.
 - b. For the **Category Selection** near the top of the page, click the drop down menu and select **openappid-webbrowser.rules**.
 - c. Let’s assume that your organization does not care to track which web browsers are being used. Scrolling down to the *Selected Category’s Rules* will show a long list of rules identifying different web browsers. Click on the red **Disable All** button under the *Rule Signature ID (SID) Enable/Disable Overrides* section.
 - d. Click the blue **Apply** button.

Q8) You should now see that all the browser identification rules have been disabled, indicated by the “X” in the State column.

[Insert a screen shot he

State	Action	SID	Proto	Source	SPort	Destination	DPort	Message
Default Disabled	Alert	70401	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	chrome
Default Disabled	Alert	70408	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	curl
Default Disabled	Alert	70444	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	firefox
Default Disabled	Alert	70482	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	internet_explorer
Default Disabled	Alert	70501	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	konqueror
Default Disabled	Alert	70597	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	safari
Default Disabled	Alert	70679	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	wget
Default Disabled	Alert	70964	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	mozilla
Default Disabled	Alert	70970	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	seamonkey
Default Disabled	Alert	70977	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	opera
Default Disabled	Alert	71184	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	dooble
Default Disabled	Alert	71185	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	lynx
Default Disabled	Alert	71186	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	epiphany
Default Disabled	Alert	71187	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	chimera2
Default Disabled	Alert	71188	tcp	\$HOME_NET	any	\$EXTERNAL_NET	any	links

re showing the
list of disabled web browser rules.]

Part 4. Snort and pfSense for Intrusion Prevention

We have been using Snort on pfSense to generate alerts for application awareness and to detect potentially malicious traffic. However, we have the capability to block IP addresses associated with Snort alerts. Effectively converting our Snort installation into an Intrusion Prevention System.

1. Begin by going to **Services** → **Snort** and click on the **Global Settings** tab. Scroll down to the bottom section, *General Settings*. The first setting here, **Remove Blocked Hosts Interval**, sets the time for how long an IP that triggers an alert will be blocked. For the assignment, change **Remove Blocked Hosts Interval** to **15 min**. Click the blue **Save** button at the bottom of the page.
2. Next, navigate to the **Snort Interfaces** tab and click the pencil icon for the WAN interface to edit the interface settings. In the *Block Settings* section, check the box for **Block Offenders**. This should open up a few more settings. Leave the IPS Mode set to the default Legacy Mode but, change the **Which IP to Block** setting to **SRC** (a.k.a source IP). Click the blue **Save** button.
3. Then back to **Snort Interfaces** tab and click on the blue triangle to start the WAN interface again.
4. Let's verify Snort's blocking capabilities by sending a specially crafted packet that has

both the SYN and the FIN flags set. We allowed the signature to detect this type of packet earlier when we enabled all the emerging-scan rules.

- a. To run the test, switch back to the **Win10-WAN VM** and use the nping application from the command line.

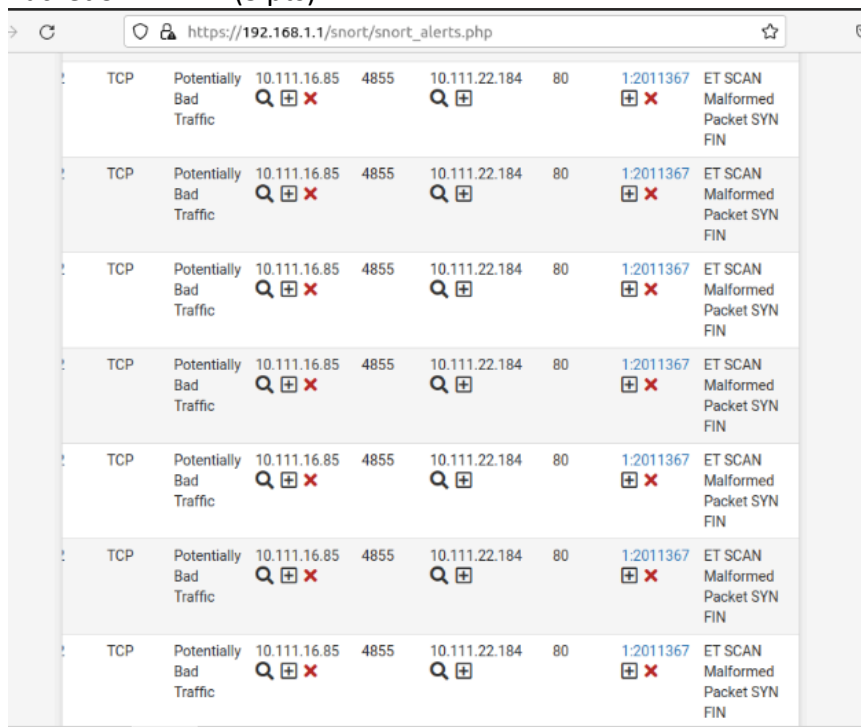
From the command line run the following command:

nping -tcp -c 10 -flags SF -p 80 [pfSense-WAN-IP]

The command will send 10 TCP connection packets with both the SYN and FIN flags set to port 80 of the pfSense WAN interface.

5. Switch back to the Snort **Service** page on pfSense and click on the **Alerts** tab.

Q9) You should now see about 10 alerts with a description containing “Malformed Packet SYN FIN”. (3 pts)



Protocol	Action	Source IP	Source Port	Destination IP	Destination Port	Packet Length	Description
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN
TCP	Potentially Bad Traffic	10.111.16.85	4855	10.111.22.184	80	1:2011367	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN

[Insert a screen shot here showing the newly generated alerts.]

6. Now click on the **Blocked** tab.

Q10) You should see the IP of your Win10-WAN VM listed among the Hosts Blocked list. (3 pts)

All blocked hosts will be saved

All blocked hosts will be removed

Refresh and Log View

Save

Save auto-refresh and view settings

Refresh

Default is ON

500

Number of blocked entries to view. Default is 500

Last 500 Hosts Blocked by Snort (only applicable to Legacy Blocking Mode interfaces)

#	IP	Alert Descriptions and Event Times	Remove
1	10.111.16.85	ET SCAN NMAP -sS window 1024 -- 2022-03-04 00:39:03 ET SCAN Suspicious inbound to mySQL port 3306 -- 2022-03-04 00:47:41 (portscan) TCP Filtered Portscan -- 2022-03-04 01:02:12 ET SCAN Suspicious inbound to Oracle SQL port 1521 -- 2022-03-04 01:00:16 ET SCAN Suspicious inbound to PostgreSQL port 5432 -- 2022-03-04 00:50:57 ET SCAN Suspicious inbound to MSSQL port 1433 -- 2022-03-04 00:56:32 ET SCAN Potential VNC Scan 5900-5920 -- 2022-03-04 00:40:17 ET SCAN Potential VNC Scan 5800-5820 -- 2022-03-04 00:04:28 ET SCAN NMAP OS Detection Probe -- 2022-03-04 01:03:42 ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN -- 2022-03-04 01:29:13	
2	10.111.21.219	ET SCAN Malformed Packet SYN FIN -- 2022-03-04 01:27:57	

2 host IP addresses are currently being blocked by Snort on Legacy Mode Blocking interfaces.

[Insert a screen shot here showing the Hosts Blocked list.]

SAVE THIS AS A PDF, SUBMIT THE PDF DOCUMENT ON REGGIENET