Efficient Packet Capture Creation and Testing on Suricata

David Wharton

Senior Security Researcher,

Counter Threat Unit

Will Urbanski

Principal Consultant, Office of the CTO

Secureworks

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A Tale of Two Tools

This talk is about tools!

A tool for creating packet captures!

A tool for testing rules with packet captures!

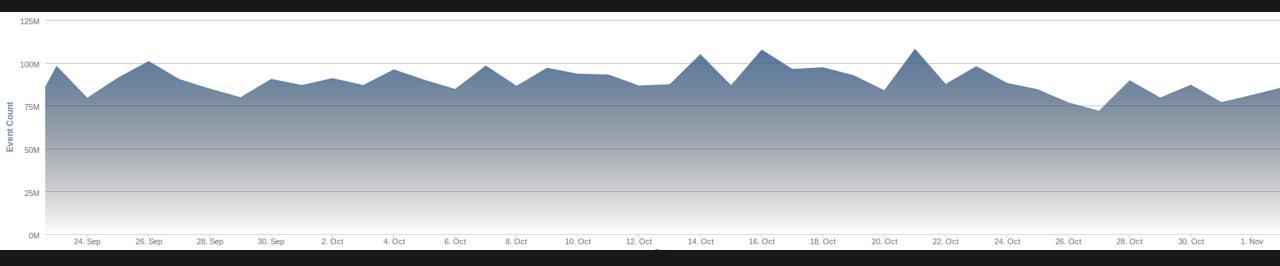
We're releasing these tools after the talk!

We hope you find them useful!



Background

- 60 to 125+ million IPS/IDS events a day
 - From some sets of sensors; the total number is higher
- Create rulesets for and actively manage and monitor over 6K IPS/IDS sensors
 - Suricata and Snort-based (also Palo-Alto NGFW....)
 - Over 20K rules
- Mature rule creation & ruleset release process
- Ruleset releases at least once a day (sometimes more)



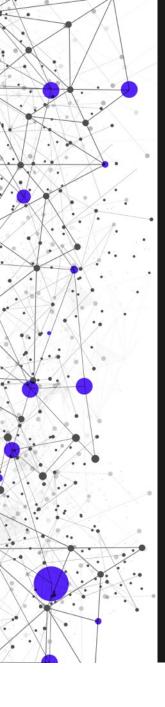
Problem Definitions

Rule Creation - Requirements

- Rules must work as expected
 - "Why doesn't my rule work?"
- All rules must have passing true positive test case
- Rules tuned for false positives must have a false positive test case
- Multi-platform / sensor support

Coverage – Questions

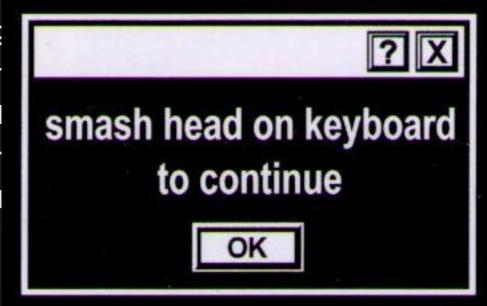
- Do we have detection for <insert malware here>?
- Do we have coverage for <insert vuln here>?
- Will this pcap trigger any rules on our sensor(s)?
- Does this unknown malware traffic match any known malware signatures?



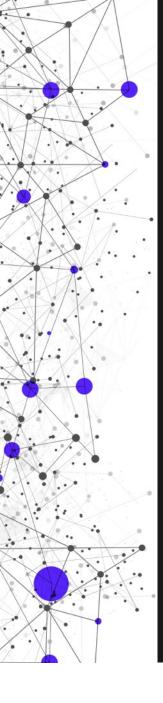
IDS/IPS Testing Paradigm

"Do we have coverage for X"

- 1. Read write-un/blog/bullatin/twoot/advisory/amail
- 2. Spin up tarç
- 3. Start Wiresh
- 4. Run nc, pyt
- 5. Stop Wiresh
- 6. Run against



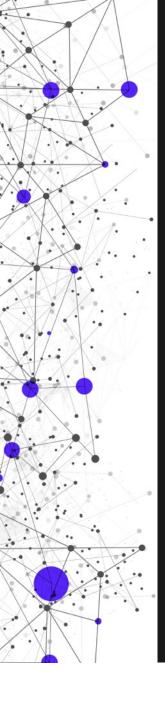




If only we had a tool...

...and it had the following properties

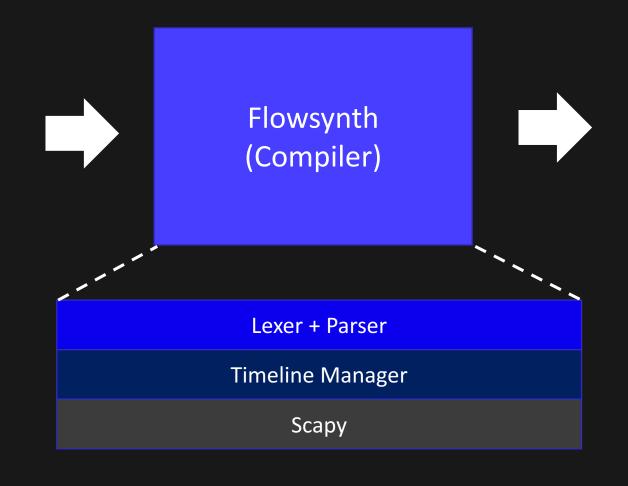
- Things it should do:
 - Make it simple to model two-way communication.
 - Support common transport protocols (Sorry, SCTP)
 - Easily express text and binary protocols.
 - Support comments, so I don't have to re-read the RFC when working with a binary protocol.
 - Easily chained with other tools.
- Things I <u>really</u> don't want to think about:
 - The TCP three-way handshake
 - Computing TCP SEQ and ACK numbers
 - Maximum Segment Size, VLAN tags, etc...



Flowsynth Network traffic modeling tool

- Enables a researcher to quickly generate network traffic.
- Painlessly generate:
 - Text-based hexdumps of packet captures
 - libpcap-format packet captures
- Reduces time and complexity of PCAP-creation workflows.
- PCAPs as code -- version-control friendly!

Flowsynth How it works

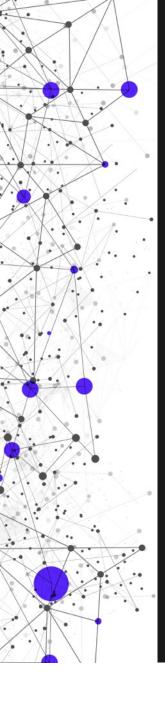


010101

011010

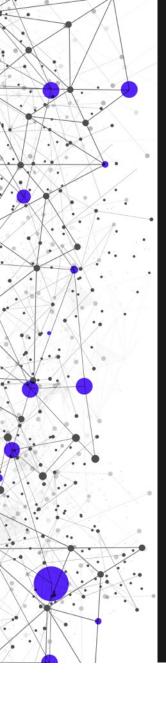
011100

TXT



Flowsynth Syntax Language

- Used to describe/define network flows and behavior
- Instruction types:
 - Flows
 - Define particular network flow and tuple (IPs, ports, protocol)
 - Events
 - Something happened! Like data transfer...or my flow was RST.
 - These reference and apply to defined flows.
 - Comments
 - Because everyone documents their PCAPs, right?
 - Start with '#'



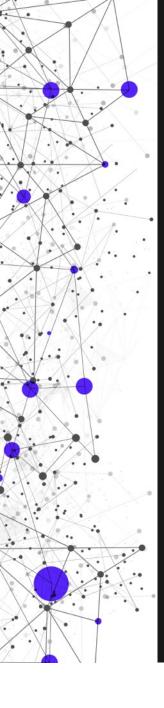
Flow Declarations Flow Declarations

Structure

```
flow [flow_name] [proto] [src]:[srcport] > [dst]:[dstport] ([flow_attributes]);
```

Example

```
flow my_connection tcp 192.168.23.4:44123 > 172.16.14.189:80 (tcp.initialize;
mss:1460;);
```



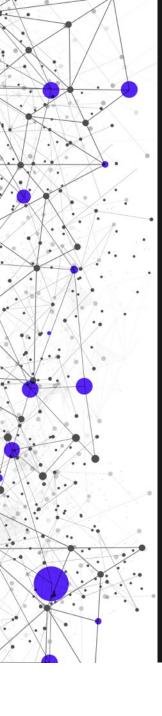
Flowsynth Syntax Language Event Declarations

Expresses data transferred between hosts in a flow.

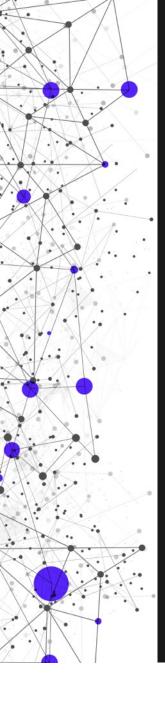
Structure

```
[flow name] [directionality] ([event_attributes]);
directionality = ">" | "<"
event_attributes is one or more of: content | filecontent | tcp_option</pre>
```

Example

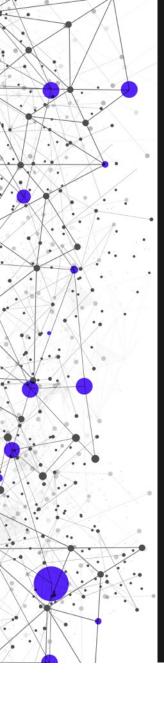


Flowsynth Syntax Language A more complex example



Some fancier things...

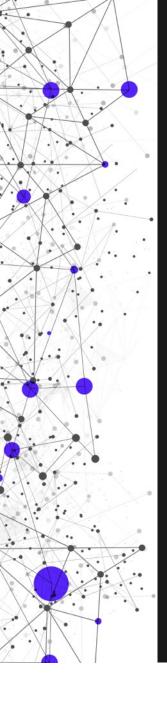
- filecontent: load content from file on disk filecontent:"/tmp/ek-landingpage.html"
- tcp.seq sets the TCP sequence number tcp.seq:150;
- tcp.ack sets the TCP acknowledgement number tcp.ack:9000;
- tcp.noack tells Flowsynth not to create an ACK response for this data
- tcp.flags.syn set the SYN flag
- tcp.flags.ack set the ACK flag
- tcp.flags.rst set the RST flag



Using Flowsynth

- Python 2.x
- Scapy (and its dependencies)

```
→ flowsynth-gh git:(init) python src/flowsynth.py -h
usage: flowsynth.py [-h] [-f OUTPUT_FORMAT] [-w OUTPUT_FILE] [-q] [-d]
                    [--display {text, json}]
                    input
positional arguments:
  input
                        input files
optional arguments:
  -h, --help
                        show this help message and exit
  -f OUTPUT_FORMAT
                        Output format. Valid output formats include: hex, pcap
                        Output file.
  -w OUTPUT_FILE
                        Run silently
                        Run in debug mode
  --display {text, json}
                        Display format
```



DEMO

Dalton

Agenda

- Overview
- Demo
 - So you know what I'm talking about
- Details
- Demo
 - More examples
 - Flowsynth WebUI
- Questions



- Testing Rulesets/Ruleset Coverage
- Troubleshooting and Developing Signatures
 - Testing custom signatures
- Testing Variable Changes
- Testing Configuration Changes
- Testing specific IDS engine behavior
- Crafting custom packet captures
 - Flowsynth WebUI



Common questions I ask

- "Are we covered?"
- "Does my rule alert as expected on our sensor(s)?"
 - "Does this rule work?"
 - "Why not?"
 - "What about this other sensor / version?"



Background

A Brief History of Dalton

Code Caveats



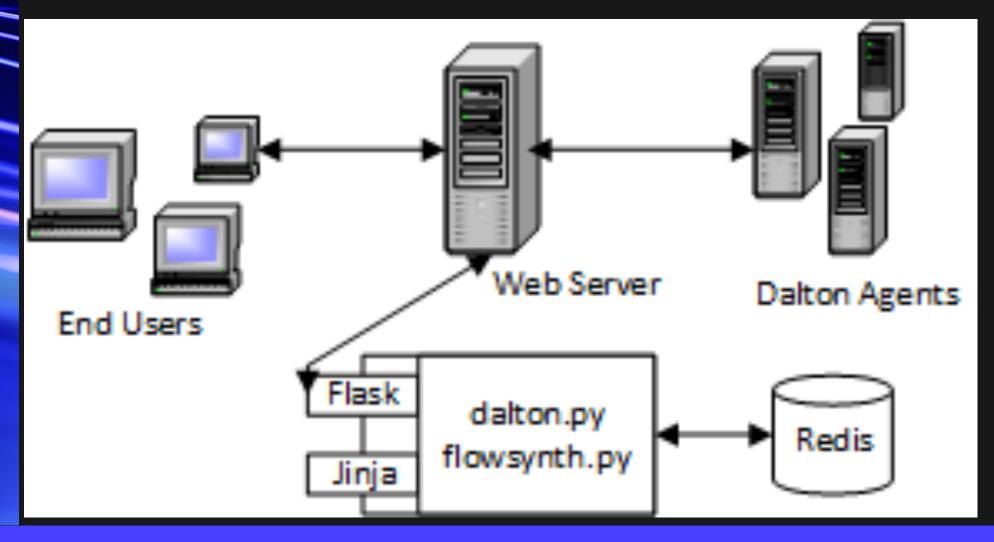
Functionality

Summary

- Test pcaps on sensors against rulesets
- Engines supported
 - Suricata
 - Snort
- Rulesets supported:
 - Pre-defined
 - Ad-hoc (custom)
- Inputs:
 - Pcap(s)
 - Rule(s)

Architecture

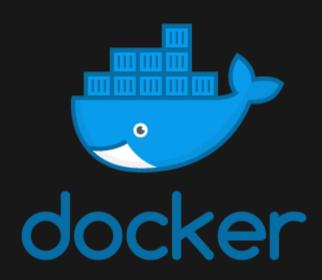
Summary





Requirements

- Docker
- Docker Compose
- Internet Connection (to build)



Quickstart

./start-dalton.sh

Or (same thing):

• docker-compose build && docker-compose up -d

Then navigate to http://<docker-host>/dalton/

docker-compose.yml

Agent definition

For multiple sensors of the same version, can use same image

```
# Suricata 3.2.3 from source
 agent-suricata-3.2.3:
    build:
      context: ./dalton-agent
      dockerfile: Dockerfiles/Dockerfile suricata
      args:
        - SURI_VERSION=3.2.3
    image: suricata-3.2.3:latest
    container_name: suricata-3.2.3
    environment:

    AGENT_DEBUG=${AGENT_DEBUG}

    restart: always
```

docker-compose.yml

Suricata current

```
# Suricata current (latest) from source
  agent-suricata-current:
    build:
      context: ./dalton-agent
      dockerfile: Dockerfiles/Dockerfile_suricata
      args:
        - SURI_VERSION=current
    image: suricata-current:latest
    container_name: suricata-current
    environment:

    AGENT_DEBUG=${AGENT_DEBUG}

    restart: always
```



Build your own!

- Sensors don't have to be Docker containers
- Requirements:
 - Engine (Suricata or Snort)
 - Python
 - dalton-agent.py
 - dalton-agent.conf
 - (network connection between sensor and Dalton Controller)



Sensors

- Poll Controller periodically to see if there are new jobs
 - Default: every 1 second
- If job for Agent, job is retrieved, run, and results reported back
- dalton-agent.py
- dalton-agent.conf
 - Technology supported
 - Address of Controller
 - Poll interval
 - See inline comments





Sensors

Sensor ID	Technology	Agent Version	IP Address	Last Heartbeat
4f29c1134d2f	Suricata 4.0.0	2.0.0	172.18.0.6	Nov 07 02:07:17 (0 minutes ago)
518e496a521d	Suricata 3.2.3	2.0.0	172.18.0.6	Nov 07 02:07:17 (0 minutes ago)
c4a3bcdb77c4	Snort 2.9.9.0	2.0.0	172.18.0.6	Nov 07 02:07:17 (0 minutes ago)
5d6f4565eac7	Snort 2.9.8.3	2.0.0	172.18.0.6	Nov 07 02:07:17 (0 minutes ago)
45eab895a8bd	Snort 2.9.11	2.0.0	172.18.0.6	Nov 07 02:07:17 (0 minutes ago)
00de56f98380	Suricata 4.0.1	2.0.0	172.18.0.6	Nov 07 02:07:17 (0 minutes ago)

- Automatically added to Controller when they first poll
- Removed after period of inactivity
 - Default: 20 mins (see agent_purge_time in dalton.conf)



Recent Jobs

Queued Jobs: 0 | Running Jobs: 0

Show Recent: 25 | 50 | 100 | 200 | 300 | 500 | 1000

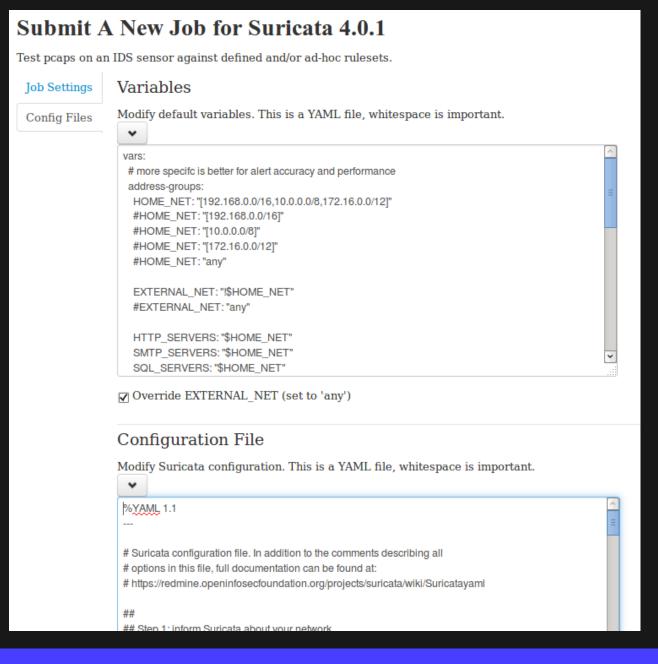
Job ID	Queue	Submission Time	Status
3ab5694b699ac3e7	Suricata 4.0.0	Nov 09 12:47:10	Complete (Success)
54e6ba1c6ce88f0b	Suricata 1.3.6	Nov 09 12:47:02	Complete (Success)
df2b40cf97ab46ec	Suricata 1.3.6	Nov 09 12:46:41	Complete (Error)
2e7b7d04a44ede2e	Suricata 3.2.4	Nov 09 12:46:09	Complete (Success)
bc5a00006bcf73ea	Snort 2.9.9.0	Nov 09 12:45:58	Complete (Success)
39c5121e9b7bcaad	Snort 2.9.7.5	Nov 09 12:45:47	Complete (Success)

- Jobs cleared out of database periodically based on redis_expire (time)
 parameter in dalton.conf
- Jobs aren't purged from disk until Queue page loaded
 - Force cleanup by making a HTTP GET to /dalton/controller_api/delete-oldjob-files
- Jobs can be accessed via GET /dalton/job/<jobid>
- Jobs files can be downloaded (link in Web UI on job page); includes pcap, rules, and settings for job.
 - GET /dalton/sensor_api/get_job/<jobid>.zip



Config Files

- Edit settings on a per-job basis
- In the UI, variables are separated from the rest of the config
 - Override EXTERNAL_NET enabled by default



Sensor Config Files

- e.g. suricata.yaml or snort.conf
- Stored on disk
- Put in engine-configs/<engine>/ directory on host
 - engine-configs/suricata/
 - engine-configs/snort/

or

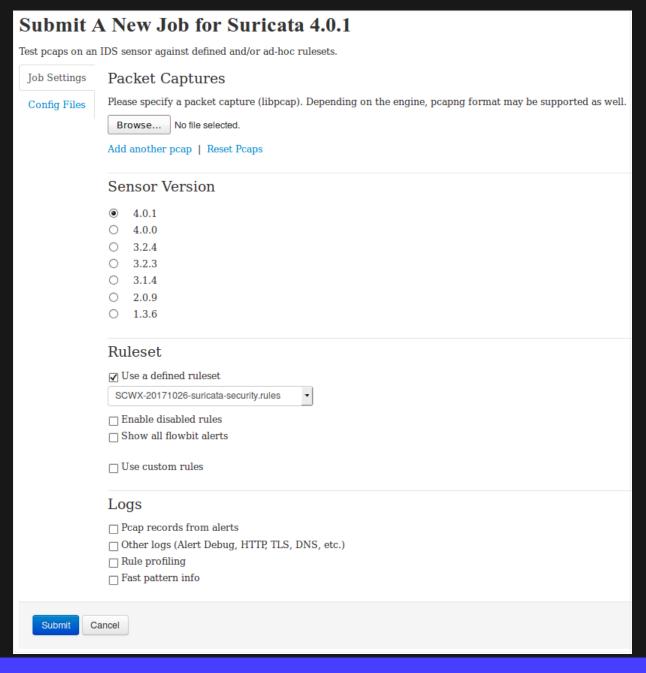
- Put in /opt/dalton/engine-configs/<engine>/ directory on container
- engine-configs directory shared with container so you can add on host or container
- Actually, engine-configs is a symlink to app/static/engine-configs so you can just put in there instead too



- Config filename should match up with SENSOR_TECHNOLOGY string submitted by Agent (controlled by dalton-agent.conf).
- Must start with 'suricata-' for Suricata agents
- Must start with 'snort-' for Snort agents
- And usually followed by "version" number(s)
- e.g. 'suricata-4.0.1.yaml'
- But as long as the config filename "version" section matches up with Agent's SENSOR_TECHNOLOGY value then it is fine.
- For example, if a sensor identifies as "suricata-5.9.1' then the Controller will look for a file starting with 'suricata-5.9.1' in the engineconfigs/suricata/ directory
- If no exact match found, approximate match attempted based on version number(s)
- Default Suricata .yaml and Snort .conf files come with Dalton



Dalton Jobs Job Settings



Job Settings - pcaps

- Multiple pcaps can be sumitted per job
 - **Even same one multiple times**
 - Max configured by max pcap files in dalton.conf
- libpcap or pcapng, depending on what the sensor supports
- Can submit compressed / archive files!
 - Supported file extensions (and their inferred formats) are .zip, .gz, .gzip, .bz2, .tar, .tgz, and .tar.gz
 - If encrypted, password 'infected' used on zip archives
 - Since zip and tar can contain multiple files, only files with .pcap, .cap, .pcapng extensions extracted
- Suricata jobs with multiple pcaps have pcaps merged on submission (mergecap)
 - Suricata doesn't (currently) support multiple pcaps in read pcap mode

Packet Captures

Please specify a packet capture (libpcap). Depending on the engine, pcapng format may be supported as well.

Browse... No file selected.

Add another pcap | Reset Pcaps



Job Settings – Sensor Version

- Jobs run on selected SENSOR_TECHNOLOGY (version)
- Determines queue for job
- Available versions based on current Agents

Sensor Version

- O 4.0.0
- 3.2.4
- 3.2.3
- O 3.1.4
- 2.0.9
- O 1.3.6

Job Settings - Pre-defined Rulesets

- Stored on disk
- All rules in one file
- Put in rulesets/<engine>/ directory on host
 - rulesets/suricata/
 - rulesets/snort/

or

- Put in /opt/dalton/rulesets/<engine>/ directory on container
- rulesets directory shared with container so you can add on host or container
- Must end in '.rules'

Ruleset

Use a defined ruleset

SCWX-20171108-suricata-security.rules

SCWX-20171108-suricata-security.rules

SCWX-20171108-suricata-malware.rules SCWX-20171106-suricata-security.rules SCWX-20171106-suricata-malware.rules SCWX-20171002-suricata-security.rules SCWX-20171002-suricata-malware.rules SCWX-20170925-suricata-security.rules SCWX-20170925-suricata-malware.rules SCWX-20170922-suricata-security.rules SCWX-20170922-suricata-malware.rules ET-20171108-all-suricata.rules ET-20171106-all-suricata.rules

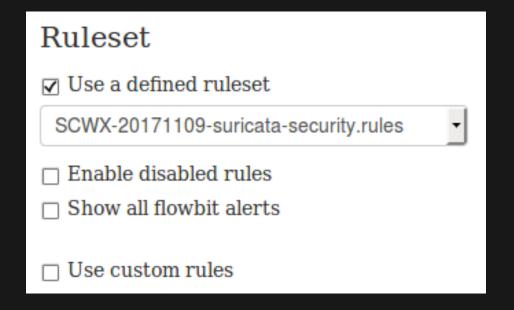
ET-20170922-all-suricata.rules



Job Settings - Pre-defined Rulesets

- If no rulesets defined, the Dalton Controller will attempt to download the latest Suricata and Snort rulesets from Emerging Threats Open on launch
- Easy to automate getting new rulesets with tools like rulecat or PulledPork
- Dalton controller installs rulecat when built
- python /usr/local/lib/python2.7/site packages/idstools/scripts/rulecat.py --url
 https://ws.secureworks.com/ti/ruleset/<api_key>/Suricata_suricata malware_latest.tgz --merged /opt/dalton/rulesets/suricata/SCWX-\$(date +"%Y%m%d")-suricata-malware.rules
- python /usr/local/lib/python2.7/sitepackages/idstools/scripts/rulecat.py --url
 https://rules.emergingthreats.net/open/suricata1.3/emerging.rules.tar.gz --merged /opt/dalton/rulesets/suricata/ET\$(date +"%Y%m%d")-all-suricata.rules

Job Settings – Pre-defined Rulesets



- Enable disabled rules
 - May cause issues with variables depending on ruleset and config
- Show all flowbit alerts
 - Removes 'flowbits:noalert;' from rules



Custom Rules

Ruleset

- Use a defined ruleset
- Use custom rules

alert tcp \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (msg: "Suspicious User-Agent (ZmxhZz1EYWx0b24g)"; flow:established,to_server; content: "ZmxhZz1EYWx0b24g"; http_user_agent;)

alert tcp \$HOME_NET any -> \$EXTERNAL_NET any (msg:"HTTP Request to www.secureworks.com"; flow:established,to_server; content:"www.secureworks.com"; http_host; depth:19;)

- Can be used with or without pre-defined ruleset
- Literally (becomes) a rules file
 - One rule per line
 - Lines starting with '#' are ignored (and blank lines)
- (next to) No error checking
- If no 'sid' provided, one is added
- I use this every time I craft a rule

Logs

Logs

| Pcap records from alerts
| Other logs (Alert Debug, HTTP, TLS, DNS, etc.)
| Rule profiling
| Fast pattern info

- Pcap records from alerts
 - Really just unified2 data so includes ExtraData records
- Other logs (Suricata only)
 - Engine Stats*
- Packet Stats*
- Alert Debug
- HTTP Log
- DNS Log
- TLS Log
- EVE Log
- *returned even if "Other logs" not checked
- Rule profiling
 - From the engine's rule performance profiling output
- Fast pattern info (Suricata only)
 - Requires two Suricata runs



Job Results

Dalton

♠Home

+ New ▼

≡Queue

Sensors

⊁Flowsynth

About



Report for d36bff492c8dd4ec Suricata 4.0.1

Status: Success

Alerts: 112

Processing Time: 2 seconds

Download Job Zipfile (includes pcap(s), rules, and config)

▲ Alerts

Alert Details

IDS Engine

♥ Performance

■ EVE JSON

♥ Keyword Perf

Packet Stats

HTTP Log

Engine Stats

DNS Log

Alert Debug

TLS Log

Debug

11/20/2012-12:31:35.298063 [wDrop] [**] [1:20043529:1] 43529 VID39248 ZeroAccess Trojan P2P Communicat ions [**] [Classification: (null)] [Priority: 1] {UDP} 192.168.1.111:1065 -> 135.254.253.254:16464

11/20/2012-12:31:32.601382 [wDrop] [**] [1:20047815:2] 47815 VID39248 ZeroAccess GeoIP check with Maxm ind [**] [Classification: (null)] [Priority: 1] {TCP} 192.168.1.111:1044 -> 50.22.196.70:80

11/20/2012-12:31:36.299183 [wDrop] [**] [1:20043529:1] 43529 VID39248 ZeroAccess Trojan P2P Communicat

Dalton API

Job Results

- RESTful API to retrieve data about submitted jobs
- Job results available in the Web UI are exposed via API
- Response is JSON
 - values / data not necessarily JSON
 - EVE log is, if that is enabled in config
- GET /dalton/controller_api/v2/<jobid>/<key>
- <key>:
 [alert|alert_detailed|all|debug|error|ids|other_logs|perf|start_time|statcode|status|submission_time|tech|time|user]

Teapot Jobs

short and stout

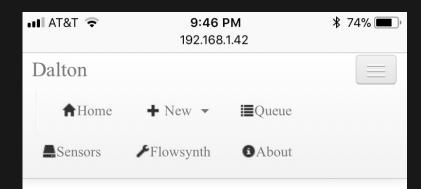
- Short lived
 - job expire timeouts are configured with the teapot_redis_expire option in dalton.conf
- Like any other job except:
 - Submitted using the teapotJob POST parameter (with any value)
 - Have a job_id that starts with 'teapot_'
 - Submission of a teapot job results in the job_id being returned instead of a redirect page
- Designed for voluminous and/or programmatic submissions
 - Although Dalton's programmatic job submission capabilities are currently less than ideal



- No SSL/TLS
 - Can add fairly easily to nginx container
- No authentication or authorization
 - Certainly possible (it has been done before, just not in this open source release)
 - Can DoS controller
- Redis key value limited to 512MB



- Fast!
- Configurable
 - Open Source
 - Use your own sensors / configs
- Don't have to submit to 3rd party / Internet
- Can be used locally / offline
 - If built beforehand
- Flowsynth WebUI built-in





Submit A New Job for Suricata 4.0.1

Test pcaps on an IDS sensor against defined and/or ad-hoc rulesets.

Job Settings

Packet Captures

Config Files

Please specify a packet capture (library). Depending on the engine

Works on mobile!

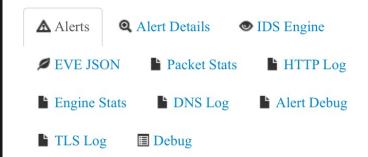
(Thanks bootstrap!)



Report for bd0723565dc7e28b Suricata 4.0.1

Status: Success Alerts: 112 Processing Time: 3 seconds

Download Job Zipfile (includes pcap(s), rules, and config)



11/20/2012-12:31:32.601382 [wDrop] [**] [1:20047815:2] 47815 VID39248 ZeroAccess GeoIP check with Maxmind [**] [Classific ation: (null)] [Priority: 1] {TCP} 192.1 68.1.111:1044 -> 50.22.196.70:80

11/20/2012-12:31:34.296933 [wDrop] [**] [1:20043529:1] 43529 VID39248 ZeroAccess Trojan P2P Communications [**] [Classifi cation: (null)] [Priority: 1] {UDP} 192. 168.1.111:1065 -> 180.254.253.254:16464

TODO / Improvements / Ideas

Dalton

- Job submission API
- Ruleset management from Web UI
 - add / delete / schedule
- Authentication & Authorization
 - Users and Agents
- API route for just EVE JSON log
- Update Bootstrap and/or jquery?
- Templates for Flowsynth WebUI
 - SMTP, FTP, etc.

- Better Docker scripts / Makefile
- Build in corporate proxied environments (fight the proxy)
- Build / publish Docker images
- More eloquent job queue than agents polling every second
- Custom rules syntax checker
- Automated rule problem finder
- Pcap to Flowsynth language converter (Flowsynth idea)

More Information

Read the README

(seriously!)

And the source code

Dalton

Dalton is a system that allows a user to quickly and easily run network packet captures ("pcaps") against an intrusion detection system ("IDS") sensor of his choice (e.g. Snort, Suricata) using defined rulesets and/or bespoke rules.

Dalton also includes wizard-like web interface for Flowsynth to facilitate custom pcap creation.

Quickstart:

./start-dalton.sh

or this which does the same thing:

docker-compose build && docker-compose up -d

Then navigate to http://<docker-host>/dalton/

To configure what sensors are available, see Adding Sensors.

If you are building behind a proxy, see Building Behind A Proxy

Contents

- Use Cases
- Design
- Requirements
- Installing and Running Dalton
 - O Building Behind A Proxy
- Using Dalton
 - Launching A New Job
 - Job Settings
 - Config Files
 - Job Results
- Job Queue
- Sensors
- Dalton API
- Teapot Jobs
- Adding Rulesets
- Adding Sensors
 - O Docker Sensors
 - Non-Docker Sensors
- Adding Sensor Configs
- Logging and Debugging
- Flowsynth WebUI
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Author



Questions?



Dalton:

https://github.com/secureworks/dalton



Flowsynth:

https://github.com/secureworks/flowsynth