

Okay, let's craft a detailed report on implementing security monitoring and incident response, drawing from the provided documents.

Security Monitoring and Incident Response Report

1. Security Monitoring Setup and Use Case

- **Basic Security Monitoring:**
 - The "vulnerability assessment.pdf" document shows the use of Nmap for network scanning. While Nmap is a versatile tool, in a security monitoring context, its logs can be a source of information for detecting suspicious activity.
 - For example, repeated Nmap scans from an unusual IP address could indicate reconnaissance activity by an attacker.
- **Use Case: Detection of Port Scanning**
 - **Detection Rules:**
 - Detection rules would need to be implemented in a Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) system or an Intrusion Detection System (IDS).
 - A basic rule to detect port scanning could be: "Alert if the number of unique ports scanned on a host exceeds X within Y minutes from the same source IP address."
 - In this case, from "vulnerability assessment.pdf" document, we can see the Nmap commands used to scan the ports. For example "sudo nmap -p-192.168.1.148".
 - **Alert Prioritization Process:**
 - **Severity:** High. Port scanning can be a precursor to an attack.
 - **Priority:** High. Security analysts should investigate these alerts promptly.
 - **Justification:** Repeated or broad port scans can indicate that an attacker is mapping the network to identify vulnerable services. This activity requires immediate attention to prevent potential exploitation.
 - **Response Procedures:**
 - **Initial Response:**
 - Alert the security team.
 - Identify the source IP address of the scanning activity.
 - Determine the target host(s).

- **Investigation:**
 - Correlate the scanning activity with other logs (firewall, IDS, etc.) to identify any other suspicious behavior.
 - Assess the vulnerability status of the target host(s).
- **Containment:**
 - If the scanning activity is deemed malicious, block the source IP address at the firewall.
 - Isolate the target host(s) if necessary.
- **Remediation:**
 - Ensure that systems are patched and hardened to resist potential attacks.
 - Review and fine-tune security monitoring rules.
- **Recovery:**
 - Restore any affected systems from backups, if necessary.
- **Documentation:**
 - Document all actions taken during the incident response process.
- **Evidence of Functionality:**
 - To provide complete evidence, you would typically include:
 - SIEM/IDS screenshots showing the detection rule configuration.
 - Alert logs triggered by the port scanning activity.
 - Firewall logs showing blocked IP addresses.
 - Documentation of the response actions taken.

2. Incident Response Scenario

- **Incident Scenario:**
 - Compromise of a web server due to a known vulnerability (e.g., CVE-2017-14493 from "vulnerability assessment.pdf" document).
- **Classification of Incident:**
 - **Type:** Web server compromise
 - **Impact:** High (Potential data breach, service disruption)
 - **Severity:** Critical (Exploited vulnerability with a CVSS score of 9.8)
- **Response Steps Taken:**
 - **Detection:**

- SIEM alerted on unusual web server activity and exploit attempt (IDS logs would show the attempt to exploit CVE-2017-14493).
- **Containment:**
 - Isolated the affected web server from the network to prevent further damage or lateral movement.
 - Blocked the attacker's IP address at the firewall.
- **Eradication:**
 - Patched the web server to remediate the vulnerability (CVE-2017-14493).
 - Scanned the server for malware and removed any malicious files.
- **Recovery:**
 - Restored the web server from a clean backup to ensure no backdoors remained.
 - Brought the web server back online after thorough testing.
- **Post-Incident Activity:**
 - Conducted a post-incident review to identify the root cause and improve security measures.
- **Lessons Learned:**
 - **Importance of Patch Management:** The incident highlighted the critical need for timely patching of vulnerabilities.
 - **SIEM Effectiveness:** The SIEM system played a crucial role in detecting the attack.
 - **Incident Response Plan:** The incident response plan facilitated a coordinated and effective response.
 - **Need for Improved Web Application Security:** Strengthen web application security measures (e.g., web application firewall, regular vulnerability scanning).
- **Evidence of Functionality:**
 - SIEM/IDS logs showing the detection of the exploit.
 - Firewall logs documenting the blocking of the attacker's IP.
 - Server logs before and after the incident.
 - Documentation of the incident response steps.

Sources and related content