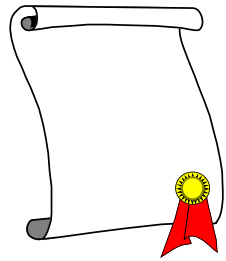


SNORT

Topics

- Background
 - What is Snort?
- Using Snort
- Snort Architecture
- Third-Party Enhancements

Background – Policy



- Successful intrusion detection depends on policy and management as much as technology
 - Security Policy (defining what is acceptable and what is being defended) is the first step
 - Notification
 - Who, how fast?
 - Response Coordination



Intro to Snort



- What is Snort?
 - Snort is a multi-mode packet analysis tool
 - Sniffer
 - Packet Logger
 - Forensic Data Analysis tool
 - Network Intrusion Detection System
- Where did it come from?
 - Developed out of the evolving need to perform network traffic analysis in both real-time and for forensic post processing

Snort “Metrics”

- Portable (Linux, Windows, MacOS X, Solaris, BSD, IRIX, Tru64, HP-UX, etc)
- Fast (High probability of detection for a given attack on 100Mbps networks)
- Configurable (Easy rules language, many reporting/logging options)
- Free (GPL/Open Source Software)

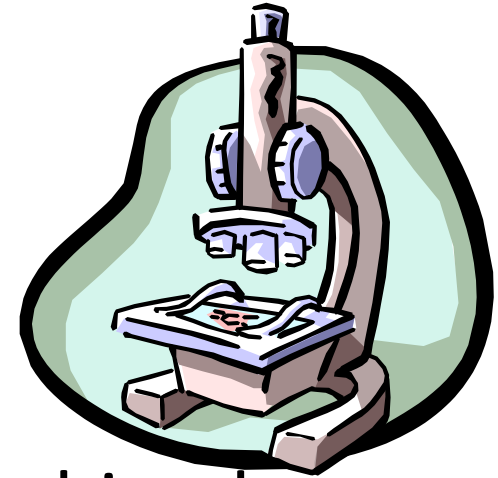


Snort Design



- Packet sniffing “lightweight” network intrusion detection system
- Libpcap-based sniffing interface
- Rules-based detection engine
- Plug-in system allows endless flexibility

Detection Engine



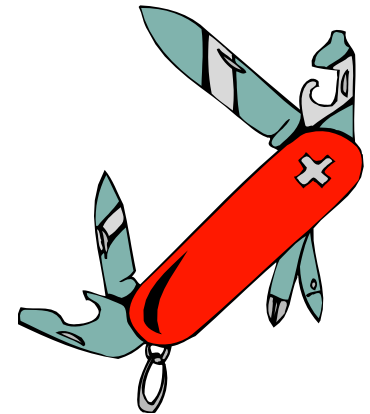
- Rules form “signatures”
- Modular detection elements are combined to form these signatures
- Wide range of detection capabilities
 - Stealth scans, OS fingerprinting, buffer overflows, back doors, CGI exploits, etc.
- Rules system is very flexible, and creation of new rules is relatively simple

Plug-Ins



- Preprocessor
 - Packets are examined/manipulated before being handed to the detection engine
- Detection
 - Perform single, simple tests on a single aspect/field of the packet
- Output
 - Report results from the other plug-ins

Using Snort



- Three main operational modes
 - Sniffer Mode
 - Packet Logger Mode
 - NIDS Mode
 - (Forensic Data Analysis Mode)
- Operational modes are configured via command line switches
 - Snort automatically tries to go into NIDS mode if no command line switches are given, looks for snort.conf configuration file in /etc

Using Snort – Sniffer Mode

- Works much like tcpdump
- Decodes packets and dumps them to stdout
- BPF filtering interface available to shape displayed network traffic



Packet Logger Mode



- Gee, it sure would be nice if I could save those packets to disk...
- Multi-mode packet logging options available
 - Flat ASCII, tcpdump, XML, database, etc available
- Log all data and post-process to look for anomalous activity

NIDS Mode



- Wide variety of rules available for signature engine (~1300 as of June 2001, grow to ~2900 at May 2005, now ~6000 rules)
- Multiple detection modes available via rules and plug-ins
 - Rules/signature
 - Statistical anomaly
 - Protocol verification

Snort Rules

Snort Rules

- Snort rules are extremely flexible and are easy to modify
- Sample rule to detect SubSeven trojan:

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET 27374 -> $HOME_NET any (msg:"BACKDOOR
subseven 22"; flags: A+; content: "|0d0a5b52504c5d3030320d0a|";
reference:arachnids,485; reference:url,www.hackfix.org/subseven/;
sid:103; classtype:misc-activity; rev:4;)
```

- Elements before parentheses comprise 'rule header'
- Elements in parentheses are 'rule options'

Snort Rules

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET 27374 -> $HOME_NET any (msg:"BACKDOOR
subseven 22"; flags: A+; content:
"|0d0a5b52504c5d3030320d0a|"; reference:arachnids,485;
reference:url,www.hackfix.org/subseven/; sid:103;
classtype:misc-activity; rev:4;)
```

- **alert** action to take; also **log**, **pass**, **activate**, **dynamic**
- **tcp** protocol; also **udp**, **icmp**, **ip**
- **\$EXTERNAL_NET** source address; this is a variable – specific IP is ok
- **27374** source port; also **any**, negation (**!21**), range (**1:1024**)
- **->** direction; best not to change this, although **<>** is allowed
- **\$HOME_NET** destination address; this is also a variable here
- **any** destination port

Snort Rules

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET 27374 -> $HOME_NET any (msg:"BACKDOOR
subseven 22"; flags: A+; content:
"|0d0a5b52504c5d3030320d0a|"; reference:arachnids,485;
reference:url,www.hackfix.org/subseven/; sid:103;
classtype:misc-activity; rev:4;)
```

- **msg:"BACKDOOR seven 22"**; message to appear in logs
- **flags: A+**; tcp flags; many options, like SA, SA+, !R
- **content: "|0d0...0a|"**; binary data to check in packet; content without | (pipe) characters do simple content matches
- **reference...**; where to go to look for background on this rule
- **sid:103**; rule identifier
- **classtype: misc-activity**; rule type; many others
- **rev:4**; rule revision number
- other rule options possible, like **offset**, **depth**, **nocase**

Snort Rules

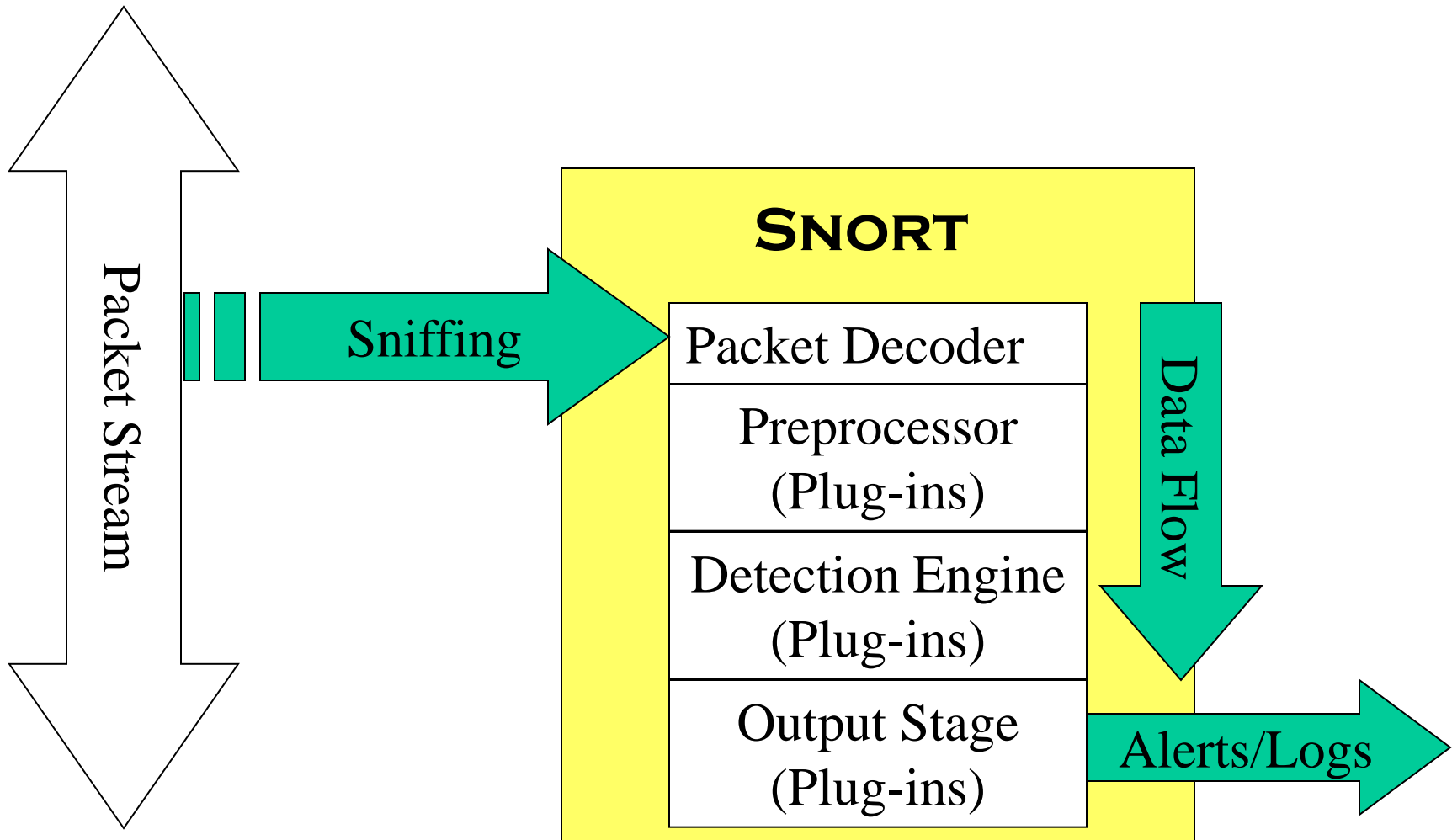
- bad-traffic.rules
- exploit.rules
- scan.rules
- finger.rules
- ftp.rules
- telnet.rules
- smtp.rules
- rpc.rules
- rservices.rules
- dos.rules
- ddos.rules
- dns.rules
- tftp.rules
- web-cgi.rules
- web-coldfusion.rules
- web-frontpage.rules
- web-iis.rules
- web-misc.rules
- web-attacks.rules
- sql.rules
- x11.rules
- icmp.rules
- netbios.rules
- misc.rules
- backdoor.rules
- shellcode.rules
- policy.rules
- porn.rules
- info.rules
- icmp-info.rules
- virus.rules
- local.rules
- attack-responses.rules

Snort Rules

- Rules which actually caught intrusions
 - `alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $SQL_SERVERS 1433 (msg:"MS-SQL xp_cmdshell - program execution"; content:"x|00|p|00|_|00|c|00|m|00|d|00|s|00|h|00|e|00|l|00|l|00|"; nocase; flags:A+; classtype:attempted-user; sid:687; rev:3;) caught compromise of Microsoft SQL Server`
 - `alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HTTP_SERVERS 80 (msg:"WEB-IIS cmd.exe access"; flags: A+; content:"cmd.exe"; nocase; classtype:web-application-attack; sid:1002; rev:2;) caught Code Red infection`
 - `alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $HOME_NET 21 (msg:"INFO FTP \"MKD / \" possible warez site"; flags: A+; content:"MKD / "; nocase; depth: 6; classtype:misc-activity; sid:554; rev:3;) caught anonymous ftp server`

Snort Architecture

Data Flow



Detection Engine: Rules

Rule Header

Rule Options

Alert tcp 1.1.1.1 any -> 2.2.2.2 any

(flags: SF; msg: "SYN-FIN Scan";)

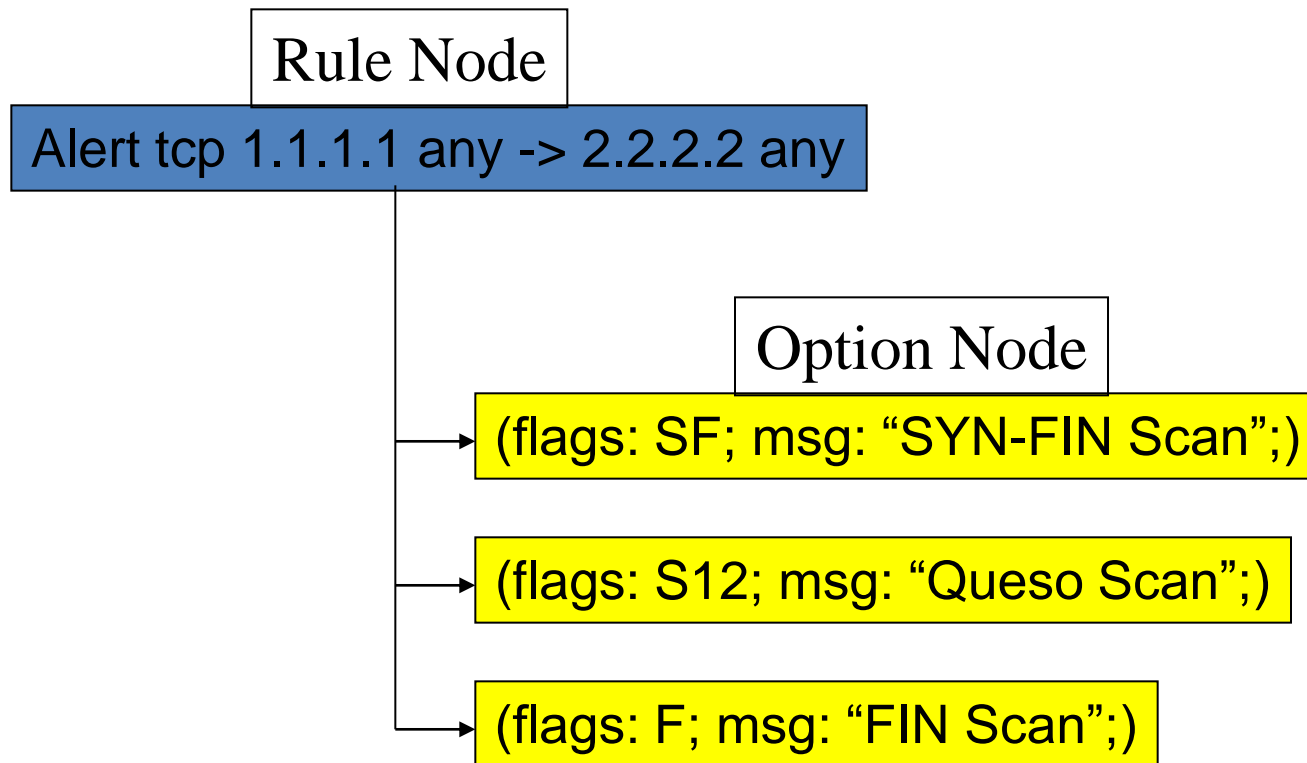
Alert tcp 1.1.1.1 any -> 2.2.2.2 any

(flags: S12; msg: "Queso Scan";)

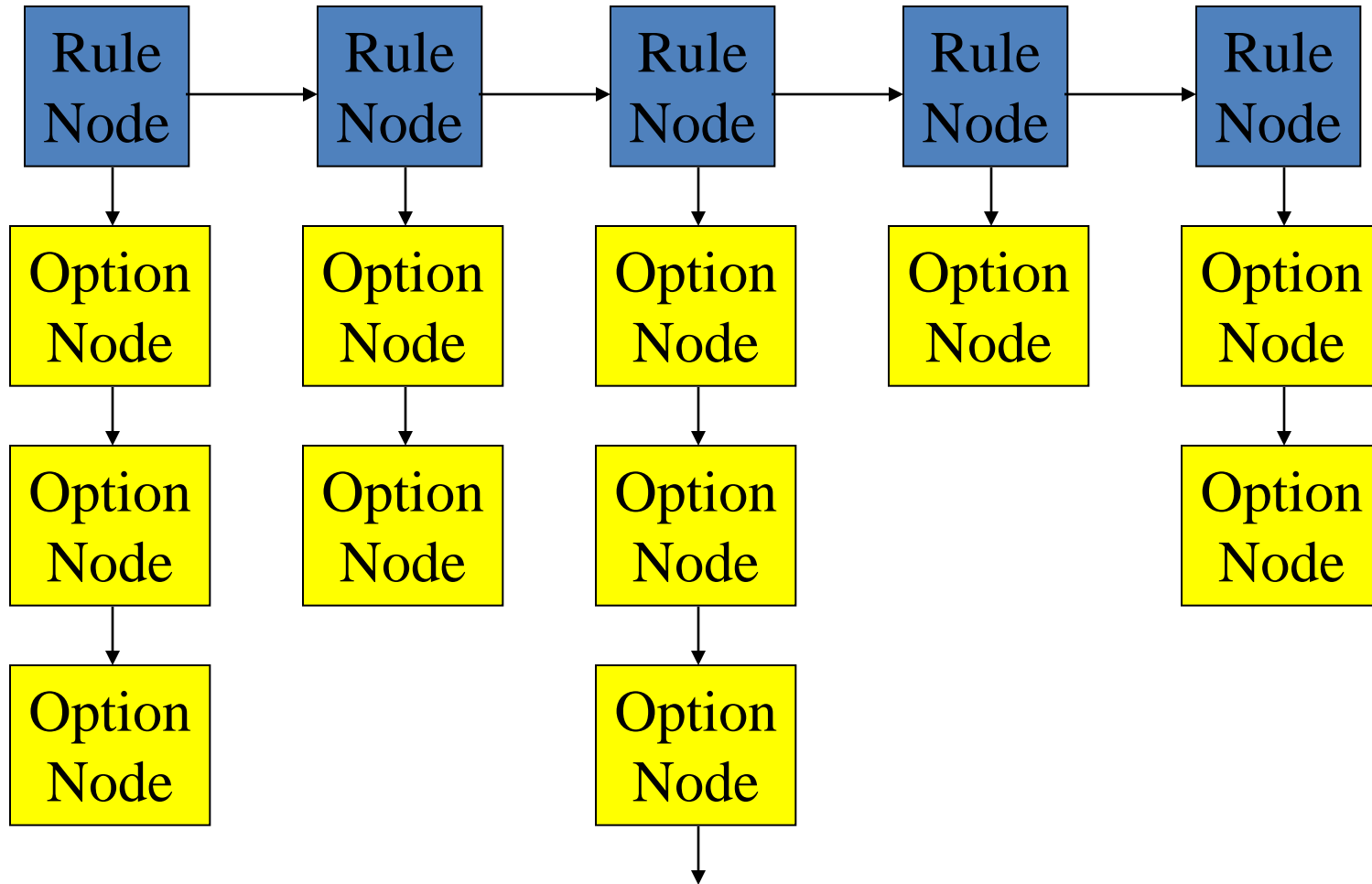
Alert tcp 1.1.1.1 any -> 2.2.2.2 any

(flags: F; msg: "FIN Scan";)

Detection Engine: Internal Representation



Detection Engine: Fully Populated



Third-Party Enhancements

SnortSnarf

- http://www.snort.org/dl/contrib/data_analysis/snortsnarf/
- SnortSnarf is a Perl program to take files of alerts from the Snort to produce HTML reports
- Output intended for diagnostic inspection
- Used to have commercial support from SiliconDefense

Snortsnarf: Snort signatures in snort.alert.040100 et al - Mozilla (Build ID: 2002020511)

File Edit View Search Go Bookmarks Tasks Help Debug QA

http://www.silicondefense.com/software/snortsnarf/example/index.htm Search

Home Bookmarks

Snortsnarf: Snort signatures in snort.alert.040100 et al

417 alerts processed.

Files included:

- snort.alert.040100
- snortportscan.log.040100

Earliest alert at **00:36:18.402320** on 04/01
 Latest alert at **23:55:27.776625** on 04/01

The 200 reports from the [Spade anomaly sensor](#) are in a separate section: [visit it](#)

Signature (click for definition)	# Alerts	# Sources	# Destinations	Detail link
OVERFLOW-NOOP-X86	1	1	1	Summary
CVE-1999-0021 - WEB-count.cgi	1	1	1	Summary
IDS126 - Outgoing Xterm	1	1	1	Summary
WEB-CGI-redirectt	1	1	1	Summary
WEB-prefix-get //	3	1	2	Summary
IDS298 - WEB MISC - http-directory-traversal 2	3	3	2	Summary
VNC Active on Network	4	3	3	Summary
IDS212 - MISC - DNS Zone Transfer	6	1	1	Summary
TCP **S***** scan	24	1	24	Summary
IDS235 - CVE-1999-0148 - CGI-HANDLERprobe!	25	1	2	Summary
TCP **S*F*** scan	30	1	30	Summary
IDS03 - MISC-Traceroute UDP	32	1	1	Summary
IDS159 - PING Microsoft Windows	111	4	3	Summary
IDS246 - MISC - Large ICMP Packet	175	62	20	Summary

Generated by [Snortsnarfv100400.1](#) ([Jim Hoagland](#) and [Stuart Staniford](#))

Document: Done (0.571 secs)

Demarc

- www.demarc.com
- NIDS management console, integrating Snort with the convenience and power of a centralized interface for all network sensors
- Commercialized by *Applied Watch* for **Enterprise Open Source Security Management**
 - Snort® (IDS)
 - Snort-Inline (IPS)
 - Labrea Tarpit (Sticky Honeypot)
 - ClamAV (Antivirus)
 - Nessus (Vulnerability Management)

DEMARC - Version 1.05-Stable - Mozilla (Build ID: 2002020511)

File Edit View Search Go Bookmarks Tasks Help Debug QA

http://www.demarc.com/screenshots/summary.html

demarc

summary events monitor integrity search configure

122162 events currently in database, 83 unique. **joeuser - logout - 6:08:46 AM, Tue Sep 25 2001**

6:08:38 AM, Tue Sep 25 2001

Last NIDS Alert

24 sec ago
P-1-WEB-IIS cmd.exe access

Monitored Hosts

host3.your_domain.com - HTTPS

Monitored Files

192.168.112.69 (3)

Alerts (Last 6 Hrs)

6 AM (12)	
5 AM (572)	
4 AM (238)	
3 AM (303)	
2 AM (180)	
1 AM (309)	

% Alerts/Sensor

192.168.112.69 (91%)	
192.168.112.10 (9%)	
slugger (<1%)	

Protocol Breakdown

TCP (94%)	
UDP (2%)	
ICMP (4%)	

Top 6 Src IPs

192.168.1.13 (22352)
192.168.1.178 (17429)
192.168.1.30 (6416)
192.168.119.57 (4136)
192.168.87.199 (4078)
192.168.241.143 (3050)

Top 6 Dest IPs

Host Monitoring Alerts

your_domain Main Routers	HTTPS	Ping	Telnet
host3.your_domain.com 192.168.112.1	●	●	●

More...

Last 6 Events

Signature	Source	Destination	Sensor	Time/Date
P-1-WEB-IIS cmd.exe access	192.168.41.35	192.168.112.60	192.168.112.69	06:08 09-25
P-1-WEB-IIS cmd.exe access	192.168.41.35	192.168.112.60	192.168.112.69	06:08 09-25
P-1-WEB-IIS cmd.exe access	192.168.41.35	192.168.112.60	192.168.112.69	06:08 09-25
P-1-WEB-IIS cmd.exe access	192.168.41.35	192.168.112.60	192.168.112.69	06:08 09-25
P-1-WEB-IIS cmd.exe access	192.168.41.35	192.168.112.60	192.168.112.69	06:08 09-25
P-1-WEB-IIS cmd.exe access	192.168.41.35	192.168.112.60	192.168.112.69	06:08 09-25

Events in the past: 1 Days #/Page: 60 TCP: UDP: ICMP: Go

More...

Unique Events in the past 1 day

Freq	Signature	Graph	Sensor	First Event	Last Event
1939	WEB-IIS cmd.exe access	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	05:49 09-24	21:32 09-24
1502	spp_unidecode: Invalid Unicode String detected	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	05:49 09-24	05:45 09-25
1296	P-1-WEB-IIS cmd.exe access	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	21:36 09-24	05:45 09-25
1001	spp_unidecode: Unicode Directory Transversal attack detected	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	05:49 09-24	05:45 09-25
998	spp_unidecode: CGI Null Byte attack detected	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	05:49 09-24	05:45 09-25
937	ICMP PING *NIX	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	05:49 09-24	13:33 09-24
935	ICMP Echo Reply	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	05:49 09-24	13:33 09-24
576	ICMP Destination Unreachable (Port Unreachable)	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	05:50 09-24	13:33 09-24
513	WEB-IIS CodeRed v2 root.exe access	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	05:49 09-24	05:45 09-25
320	WEB-FRONTPAGE / _vti_bin/ access	1d 1w 4w	192.168.112.69	05:49 09-24	21:32 09-24

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Conclusion

- Snort is a powerful tool, but maximizing its usefulness requires a trained operator
- Becoming proficient with network intrusion detection takes 12 months; “expert” 24-36?
- Snort is considered a very good NIDS when compared to most commercial systems
- Managed network security providers should collect enough information to make decisions without calling clients to ask what happened