



## Performing Forensic Analysis on Network to Identify Malicious Traffic

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### ABSTRACT

With the wide range of internet, cybercrime attacks are increased against the networked system and raised the importance of network security. More and more cyber threats are confronting organizations. The malicious threats in an enterprise make use of the network for industrial spying. It is important to examine the data in the context of packets being transmitted across the network to recognize the suspect's behaviors. Network administrators must be able to analyze and examine the networking traffic to understand how the events occur and to execute immediate reactions in case of an unexpected attack. Network forensics is like a camera for monitoring, correlating, checking and investigating network traffic for different objectives such as a gathering of information, forensic evidence, or ids (intrusion detection system). This paper proposes a Network forensics analysis framework to identify malicious threats in network traffic using Wireshark and generate alert using snort. An algorithm is proposed to find the attack intentions. Wireshark is used to diagnosis of the protocols in the network and used to identify network-based attacks such as port scanning, TCP based attacks, and HTTP based attacks. Snort is used to detect network-based attacks using some rules and all activities on network traffic are recorded on Snort are stored in a log file.

**Key words :** Attacks, Framework, Network Forensics, Network traffic.

### 1.INTRODUCTION

Because of pervasive computer networks, network security has now become essential in an online society. Today the majority of them use computers, tablets, and smartphones every day for web-based correspondence, and the use of e-mail servers, network servers, and web servers to access multiple applications. These accesses build sand of information across the web. We've long since gone through the internet to analyze its work and to understand it [16]. Nonetheless, the very fact is that we humans have already built a much more strong and complicated framework, we can understand bits and pieces of it and we can develop broad generalization. A whole new field of study emerged during

this time, i.e. network forensics (usually refers to scientific research on network evidence).

The forensic network may be an area of study outside of any particular legal case and may recognize many technological advances, devices, and techniques developed for the requirements of the criminal investigation. The Forensic Network provides a way to see the evidence behind a crime scene on the Internet. We will figure out how to discover information that is hidden on the Web in every email, website and web server [17]. Through my ongoing study of other network challenges, we analyze the malicious use of the Internet and its key protocols.

Most of the people's perception, network forensics involves the CIA method. CIA stands for Capturing the packets, Identifying date and time of packets and Analyzing both know and unknown packets.

Network forensics handles data that can be found mainly on inbound and outbound traffic across a network connection. Network forensics tries to examine network traffic logged via IDS or firewalls as well as on network devices such as routers and switches.

Forensics in the network can generally be described as a science of finding and retrieving relevant information from a couple of crimes in the networked world and making them appropriate in court. Typically cybercrime investigation includes cases involving Homeland Security Office, spying for companies, pornography, traditional crimes supported by computer equipment and network technology, monitoring of employees or medical records, in which privacy is a crucial issue.

Forensics in the network involves tracking network traffic and assessing whether there's a traffic anomaly and whether it signals an attack. If an attack is observed, the kind of attack also will be calculated next to that. Network forensic methods allow researchers to follow the criminal(s). The primary objective is to provide solid evidence to enable the prosecution of the criminal.

## 2.RELATED WORK

Kanti Singh Sangher and Archana Singh[1] have presented a literature review to distinguish the new IDS and a learning-based method is introduced and includes the peer-to-peer technology framework also use internet automata to monitor and record the crime.

Prabhjot Kaur, Anchit Bijalwan, R.C. Joshi and Amit Awasthi [2] have Compared with the existing network forensic process models and systems, they have introduced a software model. Network forensic analysis assesses network traffic to track flooding and investigate how and why the crime occurred.

Nour Moustafa, Jill Slay [3] mainly focuses on capturing, storing network data and selecting essential features of a network utilizing the chi-square method including investigating unexpected events utilizing the corr-entropy technique was explained with a case study.

Desti Mualfah and Imam Riadi [4] have proposed the detection of flooding attacks on a network by performing forensics on the webserver. Snort can be used to find out attacks by using some rules and all activities on network traffic are recorded in snort as log files that are useful for an investigation to find out the evidence.

Akhyar Lubis and Andysah Putera Utama Siahaan [5] are supported to improve the network forensics process. Network Forensics tools are used to find out a crime on network traffic in common cases.

Jingsha He, Chengyue Chang, Peng He, and Muhammad Salman Pathan [6] have Suggested a piece of compromise evidence as well as an algorithm to recreate attack situations and network traceback packets to find the actual evidence.

Suleman Khan, Abdullah Gani, Ainuddin Wahid Abdul Wahab, Muhammad Shiraz, Iftikhar Ahmad [7] have presented a review on network forensics that can track internal and external threats by concentrating on main network weaknesses and interaction channels. They provide a history and analysis of network forensics strategies and transparent challenges.

Barenaya Bikash Hazarika and Smriti Priya Medhi [8] explains about network forensics and collect the network traffic. It provides different security mechanisms(Firewall, Email Forensics, Intrusion Detection System, Web forensics) for the investigation purpose.

Hariyanto, AndysahPutera Utama Siahaan[9] have built an intrusion detection system to protect the network from threats. Network administrators have to create a new signature when a problem arises and stay updated with new types of attacks.

Joseph MbuguaChahira, Jane KinanuKiruki, Peter KipronoKemei [10] aimed to find out optimum performance on various known and unknown threats resulting in new alerts to improve alert quality and identify different attack strategy.

Vivens Ndatinya, Zhifeng Xiao Vasudeva Rao Manepalli, Ke Meng and Yang Xiao [11] gives a brief overview of Wireshark for capturing and analyzing the network traffic to find out the malicious packets.

Abhishek Srivastav and Irman Ali [12] are focusing on several techniques and tools to perform network forensics, emerging forensics area, and comparison charts.

Manish Kumar, M.Hanumanthappa and T.V.Suresh Kumar[13] are discussing techniques to overcome IP spoofing. The technique is to find out the source IP address of the intruder on the geographical map.

Natarajan Meghanathan, Sumanth Reddy Allam and Loretta A. Moore[14] discuss several techniques and tools to perform network forensics and detect different attacks by using IP trace back mechanisms.

Sarandis Mitropoulos, Dimitrios Patsos, Christos Douligeris[15] have presented an overview of classification schema for all trace back problems.

## 3. Extracting evidence from a pcap file:

The analyst must have sturdy knowledge and awareness about the OSI model and packet examination on each layer to finally leverage PCAP as a forensic mechanism. Packet capture (PCAP) is the systematic reporting of data packets passing through capture devices that are characteristic of the network traffic.

Frame signifies the section of transferring into a second layer protocol also consists of a second layer header continued on a packet. The network in a computer uses a frame through digital information transmission. During the HTTP request a protocol header is appended to the packet in the seventh application layer. Application layer header payload Transport layer header and network layer header are included within a packet. Figure 1 explains the different headers of a protocol.

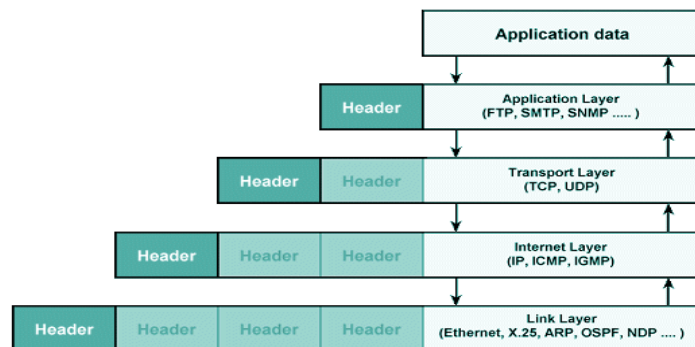


Figure 1: OSI Model

This part presents the investigation of the DNS, HTTP, TLS packets to obtain the evidence. To identify the malicious packets, a framework is proposed based on the packet analysis.

### 3.1 HTTP

In order to download the websites or web pages on the host system, web browsers utilize the HTTP to interact with this remote server. The HTTP is unprotected because it transfers the data without encrypting them in plain text. That increases the attacker's possibilities of data theft. we can use the HTTP

header to analyze the client details and the server details. It is likely to identify the website which the user accesses at the client system. By carrying out the HTTP packet analysis, the forensic investigator will be able to recognize the evidence of the Internet activities carried out. The application layer within the OSI model utilizes the HTTP to interact with these remote servers. The resulting forensic details from the intercepted HTTP packets can be identified.

**a. Features of the client system:**

Through examining the HTTP packets, one can learn about the different client system specifics like the type of web browser being used, the client-side configured operating system and the client device language package. Figure 2 displays the picture of the HTTP packet recorded with the specifics of the client device. While the client device is claimed to give the features thereof to the server of which the data is to be retrieved and this message exists in plain text.

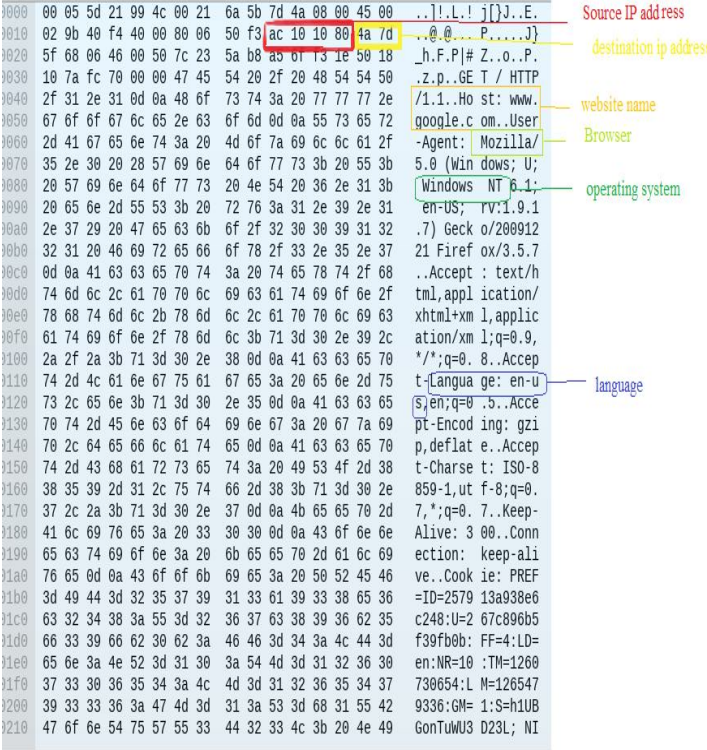


Figure 2: HTTP GET request

**b. About Port**

During the information is transmitted across the system the transport layer joins its header being displayed in fig 1. The transport layer header is made up of the sender port number and the recipient. Through understanding the port number of the packet and a forensic investigator may determine the kind of services that the server offers in communication. The server's source port number equals 80 which means the web service of HTTP.

**c. Examining the Web Site**

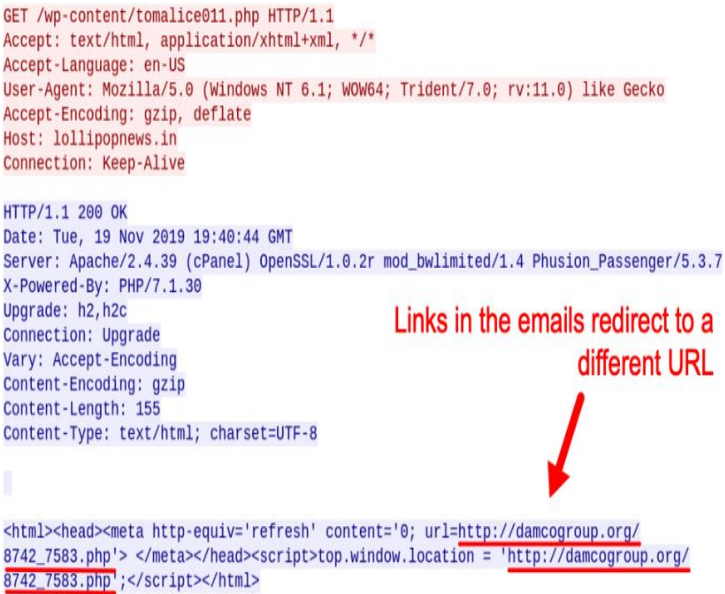
The host websites can be detected by analyzing the header of HTTP protocol in a LAN. To access a specific website of the server the client utilizes the HTTP protocol GET request form. Using the HTTP protocol POST form the server replies to the client's web page. HTTP is the headline of the website concerned. Figure 2 displays the HTTP GET request method.

**d. IP address**

As presented in figure 1 the Bottom layer of the OSI model is effective adding the IPheader to every layer and the information moved off to the top layer. This IPheader provides source and destination information. The forensic investigator will find the devices that are section of the interaction by knowing certain addresses.

**e. Attached Document**

The malicious threats can send via e-mail and grabs the sensitive documents in an organization, which can be detected by packet analysis. Figure 3 explains the document attached to the mail. The links in the mail are redirected to a different URL





```
GET /8742_7583.php HTTP/1.1
Accept: text/html, application/xhtml+xml, */*
Referer: http://lollipopnews.in/wp-content/tomalice011.php
Accept-Language: en-US
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/7.0; rv:11.0) like Gecko
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Host: damcogroup.org
Connection: Keep-Alive

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: nginx
Date: Tue, 19 Nov 2019 19:40:45 GMT
Content-Type: application/octet-stream
Content-Length: 114089
Connection: keep-alive
X-Powered-By: PHP/5.4.45
Content-Description: File Transfer
Content-Disposition: attachment; filename=W5838593061600434_6828.zip
Content-Transfer-Encoding: binary
Expires: 0
Cache-Control: must-revalidate
Pragma: public
PK.....0.S0n.rA.....WAY_5838593061600434.vbs.....*..V.W..S..
(...miy..)
```

Figure 3:TCP stream

3.2 DNS

The Domain Name System (DNS) is composed of messages including request (query) and response. Through examining request messages, the sites accessed can be identified using the secure (https) protocol. The server's IP address that hosts the website together with the client's IP address that accesses the website is known for the response message.

3.3 TLS

Transport layer security (TLS) observes and secure every interaction between a client and a server. The root and target IP address and using port information is given by the TLS packet. While the TLS packet is carried across the network HTTPS is resolved based upon the port number. TLS is encrypted while the application data is being transferred and data is secure.

4. PROPOSED SYSTEM

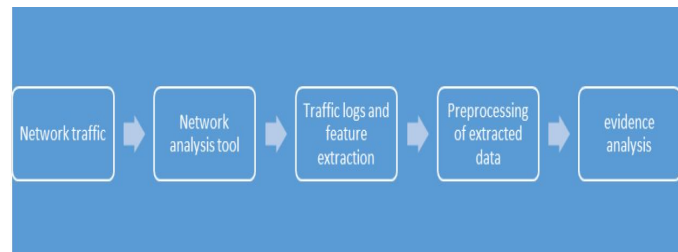


Figure 4: Proposed Framework

During the Initial Stage, examine the network traffic using network analysis tools. The Analysis stage will perform different analyses such as web request analysis, packet analysis, troubleshooting network problems, etc. After completion of the analysis stage, a report is going to generate any kinds of traffic records including many pieces

of the network-based Application Program Interfaces(API) calls which may be suspicious. At the fourth stage, the extracted data are preprocessed as not all data present within the report are going to be suspicious data. During the final stage, investigate the collected evidence to find out the suspicious data. To present an analysis of the network forensics, the tools used three necessary skills: traffic capturing and logging data, identifying data, and examining data.

- Traffic Capturing and Logging Data: This is the ability to capture and store multiple terabytes of data from high throughput networks (including 10G and even 40G networks) without dropping or missing any packets. Every network forensic solution has its limitations, including sustainable throughput, packets per second, data management, search functions, etc. These limitations can and should be determined through practical lab tests, and the results should be repeatable and documented.
- Identifying Data: Once data are recorded on the storage media, the solution should provide a means of filtering particular items of interest, for example, by IP address, application, context, etc. IT engineers rely on discovery tools for sifting through terabytes of data to find specific network conversations or individual packets in a timely fashion.
- Examine Data: To further accelerate discovery and analysis, IT engineers benefit from a forensics solution's built-in assistance for examining the patterns and anomalies found during the discovery process. Automated analysis, including Expert analysis that explains the context of network events, helps IT engineers quickly identify anomalous or otherwise significant network events.

There are various tools employed for network traffic monitoring and analysis such as:

- TCPDUMP
- SNORT
- WIRESHARK

However, we are mainly focused on using a tool called SNORT, an open-source tool for Network Intrusion Detection System.

4.1 SNORT

Different network based attacks cannot be identified by rule matching and they don't either present a signature or a pattern into the payload various payloads can be utilized for every attack so that rule matching method breaks To detect various attacks a different approach must be used The first approach is to write the rule to identify the attack and the next one is to examine the packet headers that may show anomalies providing the evidence regarding a crime or a probe may occur Snort rule consists of the rule header and rule options

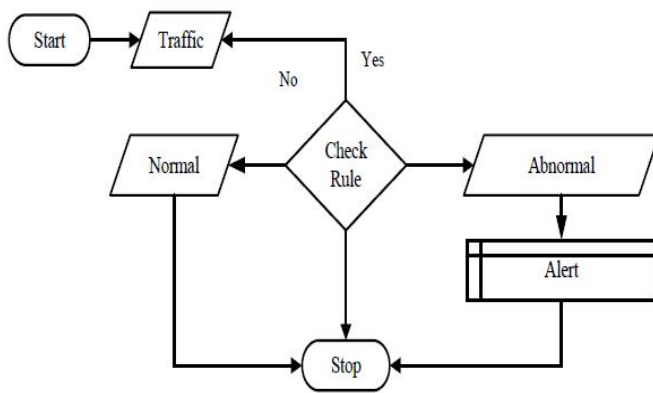


Figure 5:Snort

#### 4.1.1 Rule Header

alert – Rule action. Snort will generate an alert when the set condition is met.

any – Source IP. Snort will look at all sources.

any – Source port. Snort will look at all ports.

-> – Direction. From source to destination.

\$HOME\_NET – Destination IP. We are using the HOME\_NET value from the snort.conf file.

any – Destination port. Snort will look at all ports on the protected network.

#### 4.1.2 Rule Options

msg: "ICMP test" – Snort will include this message with the alert.

sid:1000001 – Snort rule ID. Remember all numbers < 1,000,000 are reserved, this is why we are starting with 1000001 (you may use any number, as long as it's greater than 1,000,000).

rev:1 – Revision number. This option allows for easier rule maintenance.

class type: Icmp-event – Categorizes the rule as an "ICMP-event", one of the predefined Snort categories. This option helps with the rule organization.

To know the attack intentions, an **algorithm** is proposed.

Input: Attacks with their evidence and potential intentions.

Output: Estimation of attack intention probability.

Begin

Let A a set of conditional independence attacks {a1,a2,a3...an} each one has a state between [0,1]

Define Ak where  $A_k \in A$ , with a state of accurate ratio.

Let EV a set of conditional dependence attack evidences {ev1,ev2,ev3...evn}

Define EVs for Ak where  $EVs \in EV$ ,  $A_k \in A$ , and Ak has one or more EVs

Let I a set of all possible of conditional dependence intentions {i1,i2,i3...in}

For each  $EVs \in EV$  related to  $A_k \in A$  do

Define Ip for each EVs where  $Ip \in I$

End For

Let C be a causal network to present an attack intention, where Ak is an apparent node connected with their EVs and Ip connected with EVs

Let H is a set of hypothesis {h1,h2,h3...hn} that related to the attack detection accuracy and collection of evidence

For each  $A_k \in A$  that has EVs  $\in EV$  do

For each EVs do

Compute  $P(EVs | Ip)$  and its complement

Compute  $P(EVs)$

End For

For each  $Ip \in I$  do

Select EVs  $\in EV$

Compute  $P(Ip | EVs)$

Assign HX for each Ip where  $HX \in H$

Compute  $BPA(Ip)$  for Ip where  $\sum BPA(Ip) = 1$

Compute  $Be(Ip)$

Compute  $Pl(Ip)$

Select ix as an attack intention where  $ix \in Ip$  and ix is the highest degree of  $Be(Ip)$

End For

End For

End

## 5. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

This is the point where malware attempts to enter the victim's system. This could be done by clicking a link in an e-mail, which could result in a browser hijack that directs the victim to where the attacker wants them to go. The moment the victim connects to a malicious website, the site directs the victim seamlessly to a Traffic Distribution Server (TDS). This determines the victim's OS and browser. A TDS can be quite sophisticated and can filter out connection requests based on the browser type, OS, IP addresses, and other criteria. The TDS can be set to drop or redirect requests to decoy sites from known IP addresses of security researchers, antivirus, or malware firms. These IP addresses that meet the preset criteria are directed to the exploit. The attacker's objectives are to gain undetected access to the victim's computer. Based on the data gleaned about the victim's environment, the exploit kit will identify a vulnerability in the browser or browser plugins and direct the victim to a server running the specific exploit required to compromise their machine and gain a foothold in the system. The malicious payload is downloaded to the victim's computer and the system is infected. The insider tends to take advantage of the compromised or exploited system. During this stage, the malware may call home and establish a connection to exfiltrate sensitive data or act as part of a botnet. It may even encrypt a victim's data and attempt to extort money to decrypt it.

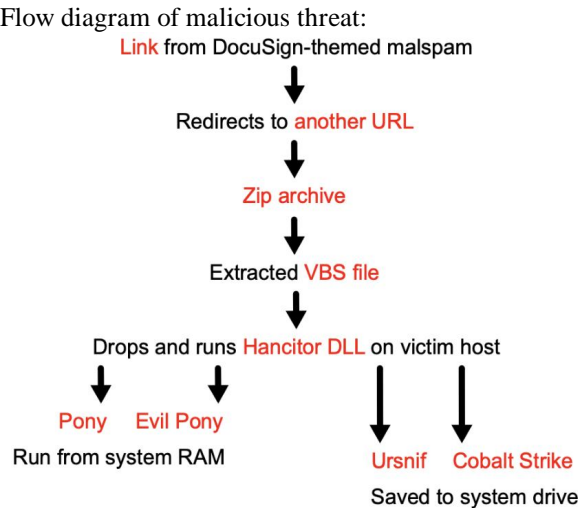


Figure 6:Flow chart

5.1 Indicators of Compromise

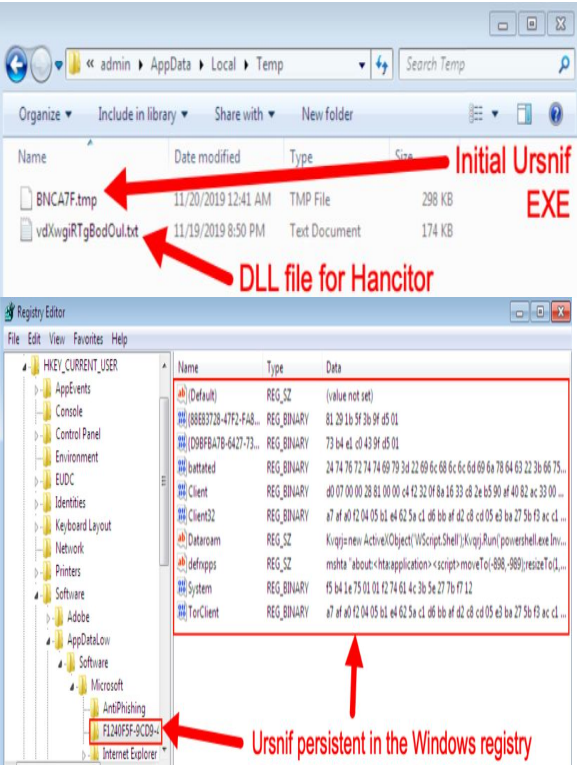
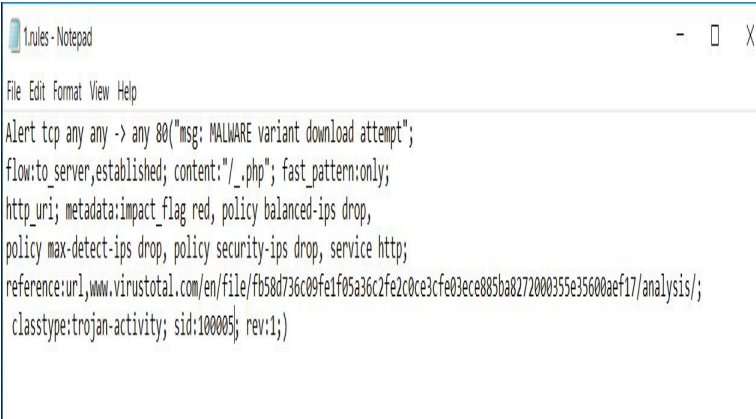


Fig 7: IOC

5.2 Rule for hancitor malware



To generate alerts, following command is used.



Fig 8: Snort command

Before and after the rule writing, alert counts.

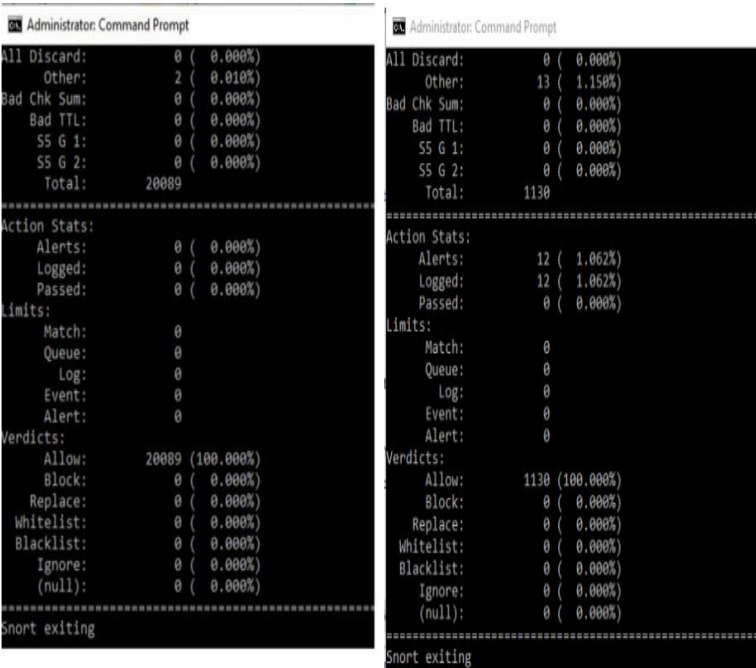


Figure 9: alert count



A alert message is generated in .txt format.

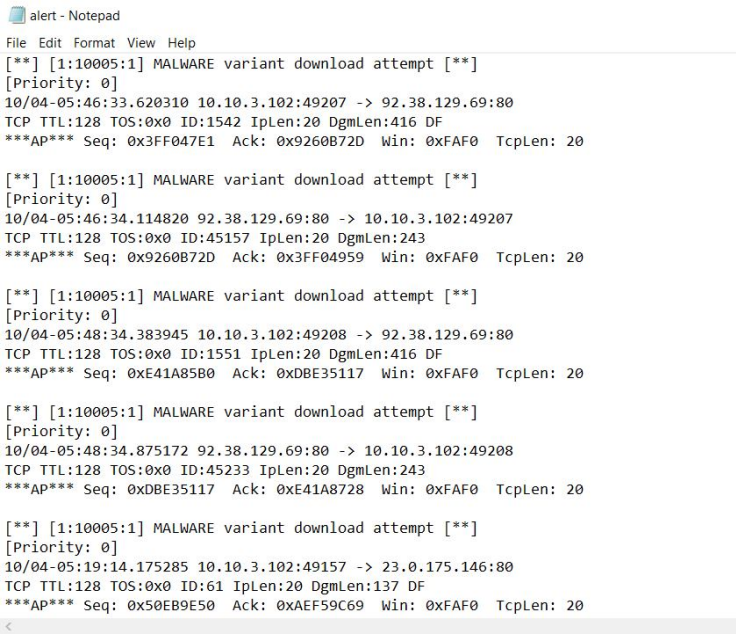


Figure 10: Alert msg

The results of Snort log file is viewed to obtain evidence. After the Snort log files are recorded, the log file will be taken and analyzed using Wireshark to have this forensic evidence. When detected, the Snort rules will give a warning message in the alerts as shown in figure.

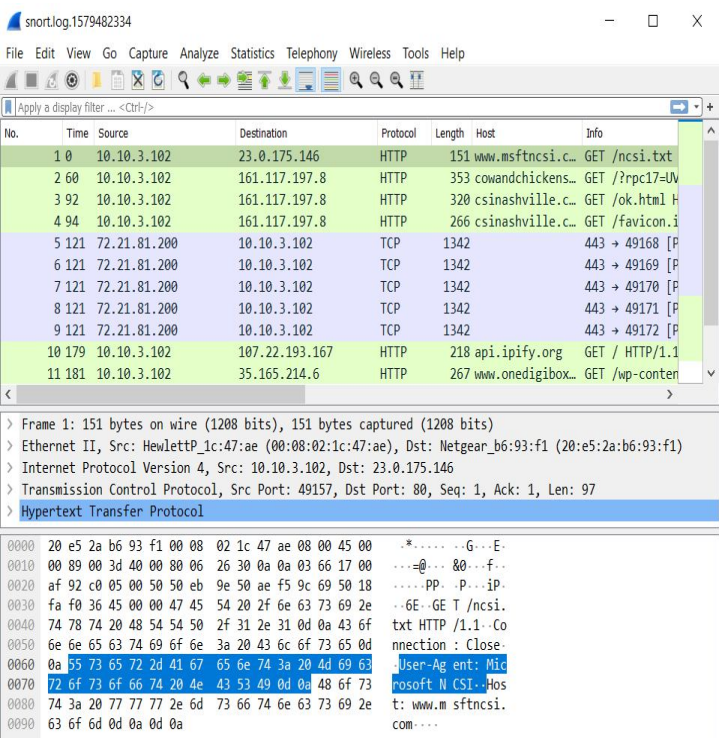


Figure 11:Snort.log

The graph shows the snort.log file overview.

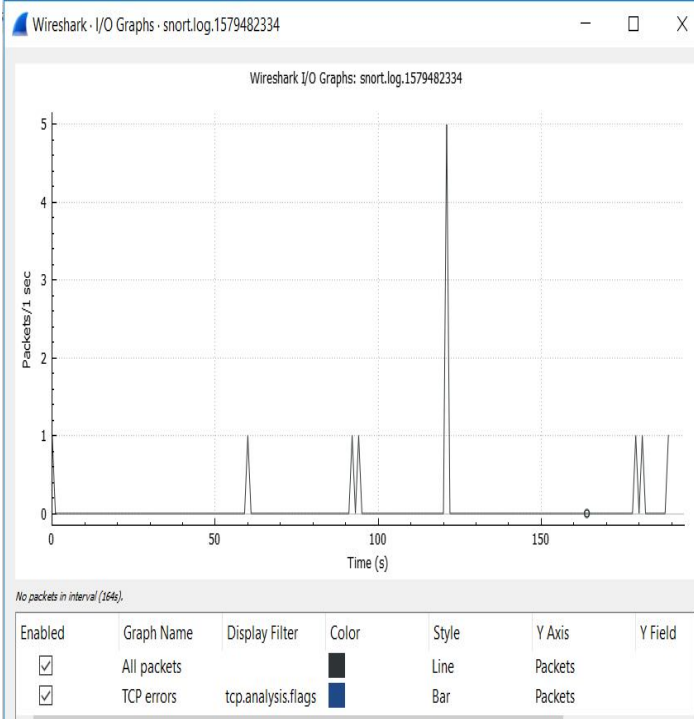


Figure 12: Graph

In addition, the analysis continued with statistics module endpoint in Wireshark used to collect attack packets contained in log files Intrusion Detection System (IDS) Snort during the attack simulation.

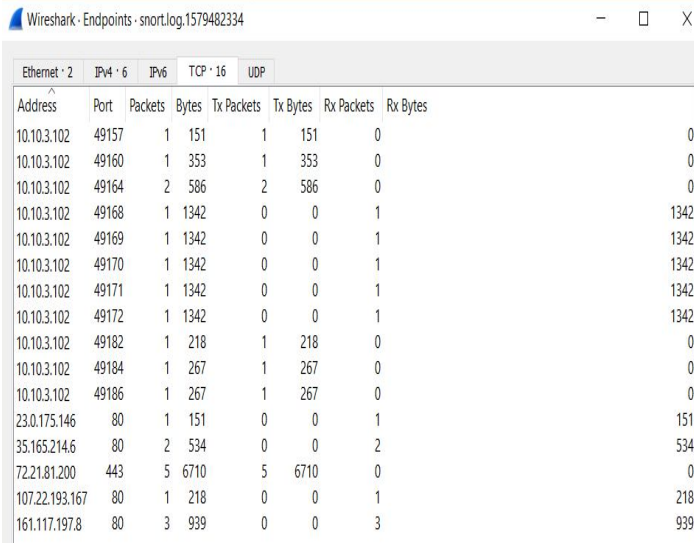


Figure 13: End points

## 6.CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

In this paper, we tried to improve network-based attack detection rates using the new 1.Rules. We had seen that it had the full capacity to recognize all of the attacks, which have a defined rule for the matching signature after the usage of SNORT as an intrusion detection system. Today's hackers are

very creative and they create the new symbol for different attacks so sometimes, but not always, they can be effective because we have a gun like rules and snort. our purpose to detect stubborn TCP, ICMP and UDP malicious packets during snorting. As a result of this, we have found snort to be capable of detecting attacks and of producing warnings based on installation guidelines. Therefore, to detect and generate alerts based on the rule-based intrusion detection method we have to use the latest rules such that we can generate for zero-days based network attacks also.

In the future, we plan to create an automated solution where we can detect those attacks for which there is no rule mentioned in the configuration file. With the help of the machine learning concept, Using the alert generation file as a training data set we will train our platform to detect the zero-days based network attacks. We also plan to integrate various methods of network intrusion detection (i.e. rule-based, Anomaly-based, Behavior-based) on the same data and observe whether the integrated approach performs better than the individual approach or not.

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