

Network Forensics using Snort and Wireshark

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Abstract

The data and network security have been an issue of primary concern for most of the organizations as dependence on the exchange of information has increased exponentially. Network monitoring has now become an essential information protection aspect of defending attacks. Intrusion detection system (IDS) plays a vital role in network monitoring tools such as Wireshark and Snort. Wireshark and Snort can monitor intrusive electronic information graphically on network processes or movements. Network management using IDS and intrusion prevention system (IPS) improves network connectivity, efficiency and security. The Snort-IDS/IPS intrusion detection and prevention system is an open-source network security tool that has been used extensively to protect the organization's network. In this article, we captured network traffic in real-time using Snort, and analyzed those captured packets by Wireshark for a detailed network analysis report. We also examined these packets in real-time.

Keywords: Data packets, Packet analysis, Snort, Wireshark

1. Introduction

Our internet dependency has significantly increased. With that internet usage, various security threats have emerged, which placed organizations and individuals at risk for secrecy, credibility, and access to online data. There are other strategies for combating these attacks, including anti-viruses, firewalls, and IDS. While all techniques could be used at the host level, network intrusion detection systems have been designed to monitor activities and detect risks infesting individual network objectives. Network intrusion detection systems are specialized IDS.

Snort is the open-source IDS framework for intrusion prevention, analyzes traffic and monitor packets on IP networks. For the data packets traffic, the Snort-IDS uses the rules. Snort-IDS generates alert messages if a packet matches those rules. It can analyze protocols, search and fit the content and can be used for a variety of attacks and samples. It sniffs the network packets and matches every received packet with its rule collection to detect any malicious behavior.

The statistical tools of Wireshark are one of the strengths. To create statistics and graphs, the user may use network traffic knowledge. To crack down the authenticated files, users can use the Decryption Techniques of the application. Wireshark has a default three-pane packet explorer that can support the caught packet in any detail. In this job, we define the violation by finding the real network traffic with Snort and examine the captured packet in depth using the Wireshark network monitoring method. We monitor actual traffic from the wired or wireless media and track intrusions on snort. Snort uses the predefined law to track a network state. It can provide a compact packet detail. When the packet just meets the requirement, it is registered, and packets dropped otherwise. For the thorough review of the selected packet, these recorded files have been imported into the Wireshark interface.

2. Literature Review

Author [1] implemented a network intrusion system using an anomaly tool by considering machine learning. This method recorded the live network transmission and used Wireshark and snort for thorough study. Wireshark developed the I/O graph of caught network packets that shows the network dynamics information and an overview of the problems.

In [2] author presented a method that uses Wireshark in the analysis of network protocols. He used analysis to detect conventional network threats, such as port search, hidden FTP and IRC networks, ICMP-based attacks, Bit-Torrent denial services, etc. He has also demonstrated that packet inspection can identify a wide variety of security vulnerabilities and assaults on networked computer networks.

In [3] author proposed a framework to avoid distributed denial of service (DDOS) attacks in cloud computing employing Snort IDS / IPS and Wireshark. Further, author clarified the services available on-demand in cloud storage to allow the consumer to access such services through the internet. Denial of service (DOS) and DDOS are the most significant attacks which take advantage of cloud computing vulnerabilities. The author offered an experimental design to prevent DDOS attacks but factors such as consistency and expense were not considered.

In[4] author showed that the network protocol analysis is a sniffer to collect data for analysis and technical understanding of packets. A comprehensive study of network attacks with protection, network sniffer, and protocol analyzer was presented.

In[5] author proposed method to test the efficiency and identification accuracy of the distributed denial of service attack in terms of TCP flooding. The paper examined significant factors that influence the efficiency and detection abilities of snort and proposed strategies for improving the IDS. The studies have shown that improved equipment can use to strengthen snort's handling efficiency.

3. Snort as NIDS

Snort is a Sourcefire built open-source network intrusion and sensing program (IDS / IPS). Snort is the most widely used IDS / IPS technology in the world and brings together the advantages of signatures, protocols, and specifications based on exceptions. The Snort is an avoidance and identification IDPS (Intrusion Detection and Prevention System) that primarily study concepts related to identification of signature and irregularities [1]. Snort compares network path signatures with preset signatures in the Snorts library or database that can be continually modified while signature-based identification produced. If the pattern is matched with the detected signature, it improves output, but no new attack styles are identified that do not exist in the snort database.

Snort will undertake traffic analysis and packet logging in real-time on Internet Protocol (IP) networks. Snort analyzes, checks, and matches for protocols. The software may also identify samples or threats, but not just fingerprinting attempts, symbolic URL assaults, buffer overflows, application message chain tests, covert port scans [3].

4. Analysis Capabilities of Wireshark

Wireshark is a packet analyzer for the network. A network packet analyzer tends to be accurate with captured packet details. In real-time, this program analyzes network traffic. Wireshark has the I/O graph that sums up the packet's transit. Drilling I/O Graphs show the total traffic, generally measured in bytes or packets per second, on the capture file [6]. The network communication is the link between two different endpoints. The communication window consists of addresses, packet and byte counters, beginning time and duration of conversation along with bits/sec in each direction. There are specialist details on the malformed packet and the extent of the packet and packet number in Wireshark. The identification in which IP to connect may be performed in a precise manner, for example, graphical analysis [7].

5. Methodology

The methodology defines the process used to get the final analysis report of the captured live data packets. A snort from the internet will achieve live data packets. A snort is an open-source tool that matches predefined signatures with the captured packets and sends alert messages to the user if any match found. In our methodology, we used Ethernet cable to get access to the internet so that

we can get an accurate flow of data packets. After initializing the capturing process, Snort creates a log file in its directory in which it stores all the captured packets. The log file consists of all the data packets with their alert messages. A log file is created by Snort that stores all the captured packets with their alert messages. The log file is exported to Wireshark to analyze the captured network packets. Wireshark generates every single detail about the packets of the log file.

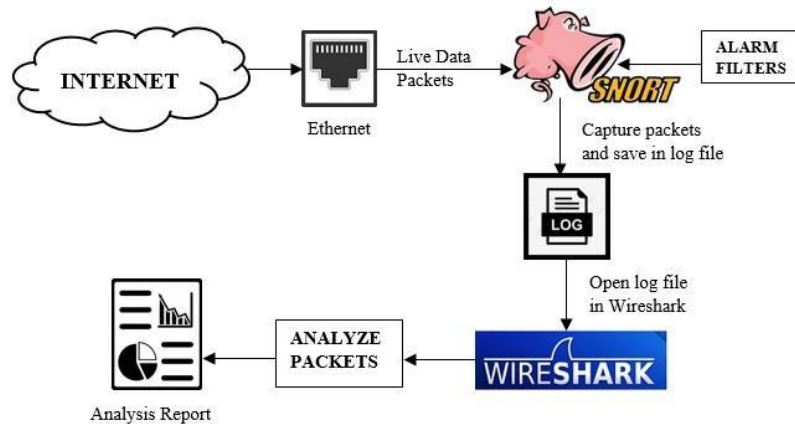


Figure 1. Architecture of network analysis process using Snort and Wireshark

6. Experiment

6.1 Snort Configuration

We first visit < <http://www.snort.org/> > to configure Snort and only get to use Snort and the guidelines. Snort Configuration: We need Winpcap tools to store packages to run snort on Windows. By using C:\Snort etc, get the snort.conf file and open this WordPad file, we took all the measures needed to create our custom configurations.

Table1. Snort Configuration

Set Network Variables	Network Address	HOME_NET 192.168.1.0/24
	External Network Address	EXTERNAL_NET !\$HOME_NET
	The path for Snort Rules	c:\Snort\rules
	Path for Preproc Rules	c:\Snort\preproc_rules
Configure the Decoder	Config logdir	c:\Snort\log
Configure Dynamic loaded Libraries	Path to dynamic preprocessor libraries	c:\Snort\lib\snort_dynamicpreprocesso\
	Path to base preprocessor engine	c:\Snort\lib\snort_dynamicengine\sfe_engine.dll
Configure Preprocessor	Reputation preprocessor	\$WHITE_LIST_PATH\White.list \$BLACK_LIST_PATH\Black.list
Classification	-	c:\Snort\etc\snort.conf
Local Rules	Local.rules	alert HTTP any any -> any any (msg: "Testing HTTP alert"; sid: 1000001;) alert UDP any any -> any any (msg: "Testing UDP alert"; sid: 1000002;) alert SSDP any any -> any any (msg: "Testing SSDP alert"; sid: 1000003;)

For configurations in the configuration file, we have to snort the snort.conf file address.

snort -v -c \etc\snort\snort.conf

The following command used to collect data packets from the network:

Snort -i 6 -c c:\snort\etc\snort.conf -A console

```
Command Prompt
C:\1900
04/23-22:02:39.284759 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} 192.168.1.2:52799 -> 239.255.255.250:1900
04/23-22:02:42.085553 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:02:45.086220 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:02:49.087178 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:02:50.942756 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} 192.168.1.3:5353 -> 224.0.0.251:5353
04/23-22:02:51.675685 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing TCP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {TCP} 103.10.124.165:27026 -> 192.168.1.2:7986
04/23-22:02:51.716163 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing TCP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {TCP} 192.168.1.2:7986 -> 103.10.124.165:27026
04/23-22:02:52.087088 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:02:55.087450 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:02:58.251675 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing ICMP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {IPv6-ICMP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:a693:3fff:fec4:51ce -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:02:58.804458 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing TCP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {TCP} 192.168.1.2:7986 -> 103.10.124.165:27026
04/23-22:02:58.939739 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing TCP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {TCP} 103.10.124.165:27026 -> 192.168.1.2:7986
04/23-22:02:59.118985 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:00.749437 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing ICMP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {IPv6-ICMP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:ea8c:9aff:feff:d174 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:02.090579 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:05.092078 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:09.090550 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:10.957141 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} 192.168.1.3:5353 -> 224.0.0.251:5353
04/23-22:03:11.919358 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing TCP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {TCP} 192.168.1.2:8072 -> 74.125.200.188:5228
04/23-22:03:11.951784 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing TCP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {TCP} 74.125.200.188:5228 -> 192.168.1.2:8072
04/23-22:03:12.090490 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:15.090369 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing UDP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {UDP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2:64235 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:17.057848 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing ICMP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {IPv6-ICMP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:e6be:edff:fe02:aba1 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:17.062543 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing ICMP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {IPv6-ICMP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:17.071448 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing ICMP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {IPv6-ICMP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:a693:3fff:fec4:51ce -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
C:\1900
04/23-22:03:17.147584 [**] [1:1000000:0] Testing ICMP alert [**] [Priority: 0] {IPv6-ICMP} fe80:0000:0000:0000:745c:5c8b:cd7e:4ec2 -> ff02:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:0000
```

Figure 2. Live data packets captured by Snort with their alert messages

Ctrl+C stops the packet capturing process, and provides a summary.

```
Command Prompt
Action Stats:
Alerts:      2369 ( 96.418%)
Logged:      2369 ( 96.418%)
Passed:       0 (  0.000%)
Limits:
Match:       0
Queue:       0
Log:         0
Event:       0
Alert:       185
Verdicts:
Allow:       2005 ( 81.604%)
Block:       0 (  0.000%)
Replace:     0 (  0.000%)
Whitelist:   451 ( 18.356%)
Blacklist:   0 (  0.000%)
Ignore:      0 (  0.000%)
(null):      0 (  0.000%)
=====
Frag3 statistics:
Total Fragments: 0
Frag Reassembled: 0
Discards: 0
Memory Faults: 0
Timeouts: 0
Overlaps: 0
Anomalies: 0
Alerts: 0
Drops: 0
FragTrackers Added: 0
FragTrackers Dumped: 0
FragTrackers Auto Freed: 0
Frag Nodes Inserted: 0
Frag Nodes Deleted: 0
=====
Stream statistics:
Total sessions: 276
TCP sessions: 47
UDP sessions: 229
ICMP sessions: 0
IP sessions: 0
TCP Prunes: 0
```

Figure 3. Summary of captured data packets by Snort- NIDS mode - I

```
Command Prompt
HTTP inspect_ encodings (Note: stream-reassembled packets included):
POST methods: 25
GET methods: 1
HTTP Request Headers extracted: 29
HTTP Request cookies extracted: 0
Post parameters extracted: 29
HTTP Response Headers extracted: 29
HTTP Response cookies extracted: 0
Unicode: 0
Double unicode: 0
Non-ASCII representable: 0
Directory traversals: 0
Extra slashes ("//"): 0
Self-referencing paths ("./"): 0
HTTP Response Gzip packets extracted: 0
Gzip Compressed Data Processed: n/a
Gzip Decompressed Data Processed: n/a
Http/2 Rebuilt Packets: 0
Total packets processed: 165
=====
SMTP Preprocessor Statistics
Total sessions: 0
Max concurrent sessions: 0
=====
ncrpt2 Preprocessor Statistics
Total sessions: 0
=====
SSL Preprocessor:
SSL packets decoded: 336
Client Hello: 53
Server Hello: 52
Certificate: 40
Server Done: 127
Client Key Exchange: 40
Server Key Exchange: 24
Change Cipher: 103
Finished: 0
Client Application: 39
Server Application: 45
Alert: 0
Unrecognized records: 99
Completed handshakes: 0
Bad handshakes: 0
```

Figure 4. Summary of captured data packets by Snort- NIDS mode - II

The collected data is stored for each IP address in packet logging mode in a directory hierarchy of subdirectories. The file structure for collected information is now used by regular snort tcpdump (pcap) so that all data gathered go into one server. Utilizing the "-K ASCII" method, the client uses the remote or localhost address to build subdirectory and log packets [8].

Snort logs the packets from the host to host that flow from both. Snort uses the remote address of the device as the directory where packets are stored and uses localhost address when defining a basic -l-option. In conjunction with the home network, we must inform Snort which network is the house (local end) network and should use the "h net/mask" option to log into remote folders with all traffic captured:

```
snort -de -K ASCII -l \tmp\snort-log \
-h 192.168.1.0/24 -c \etc\snort\snort.conf
```

6.2 Export to Wireshark

For a detailed analysis of the captured packet, the produced log file is exported to Wireshark. Here the study of the different protocols is performed. If the file is accessed, all the data gathered can be viewed. It displays the packet source and target address, the protocol, and the packet information. The figure below indicates the network traffic reported and imported from the Wireshark interface by the snort. Through picking a package, one can see the specifics of each package.

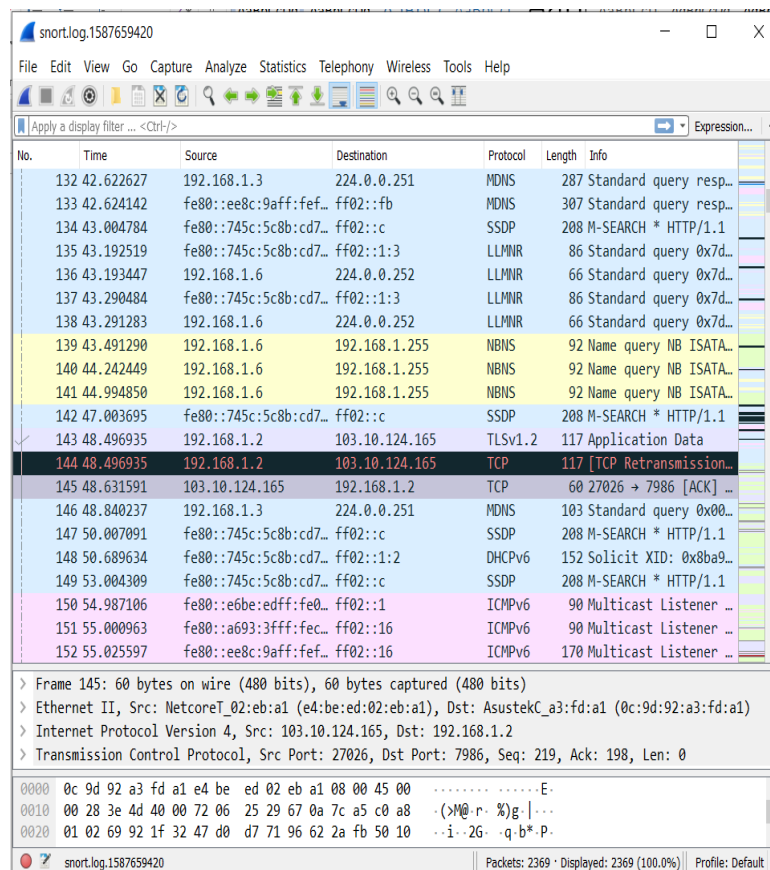


Figure 5. Data packet analysis by Wireshark

7. Result

Wireshark is a flexible network packet analyzer method for collecting and reliably detailed packets streaming through the online network. It displays every aspect of the packet graphically as shown in Fig 5. The Header component consists of IP address, protocol, live field date, variant of the protocol, header duration, and specific categories of services. The header data is displayed in the decimal format, while payload data presented in the hexadecimal form.

A line pattern of the packets is shown on the I/O graph, as seen in Figure 6. The x-axis is the time interval per second, and the y-axis is the packets captured in every 10 seconds.

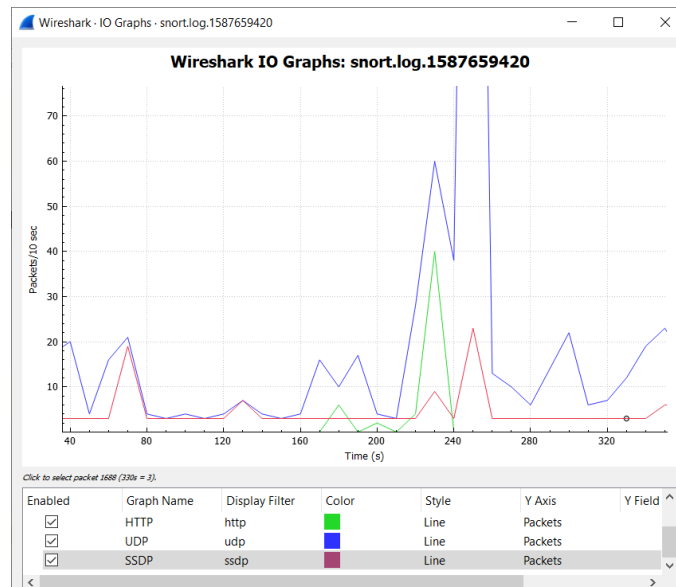


Figure 6. I/O graph of captured data packets

The purpose of expert information is to give you a clearer understanding of unusual and remarkable network activity and to render network problems for novices and experts faster than the manual analysis of the packet list [9].

The figure is a screenshot of the Wireshark Expert Information window. The title bar reads 'Wireshark - Expert Information - snort.log.1587659420'. The window displays a table of expert information. The table has columns: Severity, Summary, Group, Protocol, and Count. The table lists various network events, including errors, warnings, notes, and chat messages, along with their counts.

Severity	Summary	Group	Protocol	Count
Error	New fragment overlaps old data (retransmission?)	Malformed	TCP	1
Warning	Unknown length-delimited protobuf field	Undecoded	Steam IHS Disc...	6
Warning	Connection reset (RST)	Sequence	TCP	22
Warning	DNS response retransmission. Original response in frame ...	Protocol	mDNS	30
Warning	DNS query retransmission. Original request in frame 378	Protocol	mDNS	40
Warning	DNS query retransmission. Original request in frame 3	Protocol	LLMNR	88
Note	This session reuses previously negotiated keys (Session re...	Sequence	TLS	6
Note	The acknowledgment number field is nonzero while the A...	Protocol	TCP	10
Note	Duplicate ACK (#1)	Sequence	TCP	1
Note	This frame is a (suspected) spurious retransmission	Sequence	TCP	1
Note	ACK to a TCP keep-alive segment	Sequence	TCP	14
Note	TCP keep-alive segment	Sequence	TCP	14
Note	This frame is a (suspected) retransmission	Sequence	TCP	15
Chat	Connection finish (FIN)	Sequence	TCP	84
Chat	POST /qhcloudsec/lookup/file/scan HTTP/1.1\r\n	Sequence	HTTP	60
Chat	Connection establish acknowledge (SYN+ACK): server por...	Sequence	TCP	44
Chat	Connection establish request (SYN): server port 80	Sequence	TCP	49
Chat	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1\r\n	Sequence	SSDP	352

Figure 7. Expert information on captured data packets

8. Conclusion

The primary problem that every organization faces in this digital era is network security. Network monitoring has now been an essential information protection aspect of defending attacks. IDS plays a vital role in network monitoring tools, such as Wireshark and Snort. Wireshark and Snort can monitor intrusive electronic information graphically on network processes or movements. IDS and IPS network management improves network connectivity efficiency and security.

In this paper, we have discussed the NIDS properties of Snort used for intrusion detection with the help of predefined rules and alert the user by sending alert messages. A log file is created by Snort that stores all the captured packets with their alert messages. The log file is exported to

Wireshark to analyze the captured network packets. Wireshark generates every single detail about the packets of the log file. It gives details about frames, Ethernet, internet protocols, protocol hierarchy, etc. An I/O graph summarized the flow of the packet. It displayed the total traffic in the capture file, usually measured in bytes or packets per second. Expert information gives details of all the protocols used during network analysis.

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