National College of Ireland

Configuration Manual

MSc Research Project
Cyber Security

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MSc Project Submission Sheet

School of Computing

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Configuration Manual

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1 Introduction

This project manual includes information about the software, hardware, and other tools used to deploy this research setup. This research employing honeypot, custom IDS for detecting unknown threats relies on the configuration manual for deployment. This contains the overall configuration and commands for performing this operation.

2 Deployment Requirements

The project has been deployed on an Amazon EC2 instance as the deployment is easy compared to a host machine. It also comes with a variety of operating systems as per the requirement. As it has a public IP, it is easier to capture attacks.

Operating System: Ubuntu 22.04
Storage: 8GB

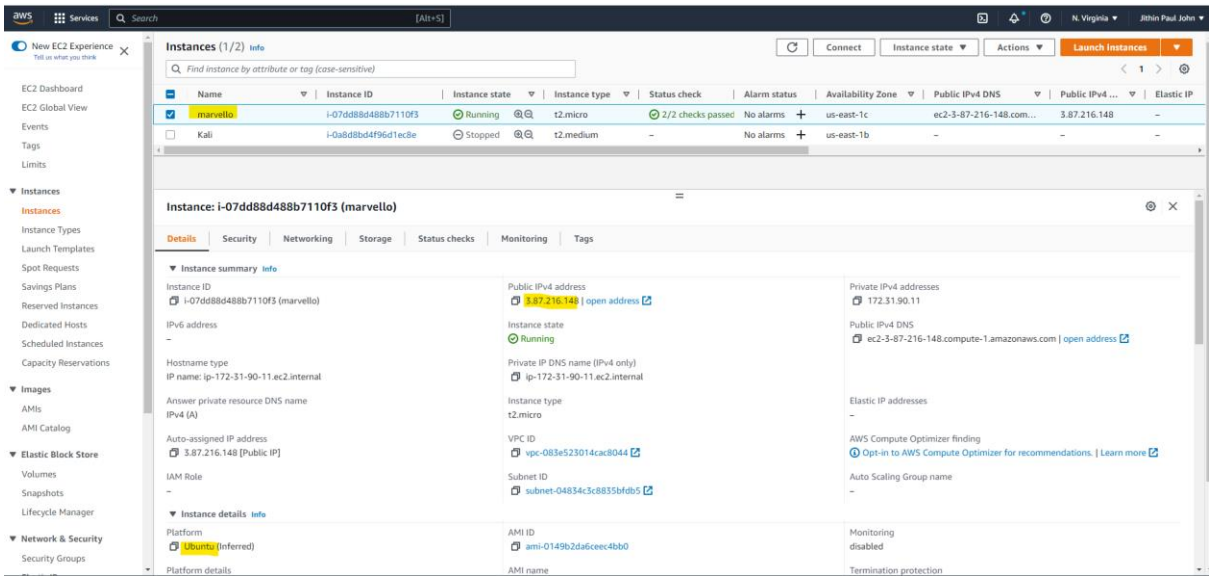

Figure 1 EC2 Instance details

```
root@ip-172-31-90-11:/home/ubuntu# lsb_release -a
No LSB modules are available.
Distributor ID: Ubuntu
Description:    Ubuntu 20.04.5 LTS
Release:        20.04
Codename:       focal
root@ip-172-31-90-11:/home/ubuntu#
```

Figure 2 OS details

3 Tools Used

Below listed are the tools used in the research for capturing unknown threats.

Python: Version 2.6, 2.7, or 3.x is required
Honeypot: Dionaea
IDS: Custom IDS (Python Programming)
Packet analyser: Pcapy-ng
Database: SQLite
Dashboard: Web application

3.1 Python

Python is a common programming language that is frequently used to create operating system scripts. It is suitable to be used in both web development and app creation. Python is one of the dependencies for custom IDS that is written in Python. Hence, python version 2.6, 2.7, or 3.x is required for better performance.

3.1.1 Prerequisites

- A system running with Ubuntu 20.04
- A user account with sudo privileges
- Access to the command line

3.1.2 Installation

Python3 is pre-installed in Debian Linux versions such as Ubuntu 20.04 and others. To ensure that the version of python is recent, we will update the local package index.

$ sudo apt update

Upgrading the packages will help in getting the latest version.

$ sudo apt -y upgrade

When the procedure is finished, we can use the following command to see what version of Python 3 is already installed on the system:

$ python3 --version

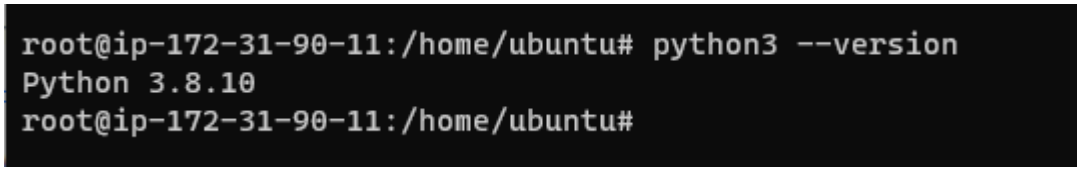

Figure 3 Python version

We can see the version we have is Python 3.8.10.

3.2 Honeypot

We use Dionaea as the honey pot. It intends to capture malware that makes use of the flows revealed by services provided through a network to eventually get a copy of the malware or virus. It offers several services to attract adversaries like SMB, HTTP, FTP, TFTP, VoIP, MSSQL, etc.

3.2.1 Prerequisites

- Ubuntu server 18.04 or 22.04
- Recommended to host on a public VPS

3.2.2 Installation

Dionaea needs to be compiled as it doesn't come in that way. We start the installation by downloading the source code from GitHub.

$ cd ~
$ git clone https://github.com/DinoTools/dionaea.git
$ cd dionaea

Ubuntu 22.04 doesn't come with the libemu-dev package. Hence install the package before the installing dependencies. If not the dependencies won't get installed completely.

$ sudo apt-get install -y libemu-dev

Install all the compiler's dependencies in the next step.

$ sudo apt-get install \
build-essential \
cmake \
check \
cython3 \
libcurl4-openssl-dev \
libemu-dev \
libev-dev \
libglib2.0-dev \
libloudmouth1-dev \
libnetfilter-queue-dev \
libnl-3-dev \
libpcap-dev \
libssl-dev \
libtool \
libudns-dev \
python3 \
python3-dev \
python3-bson \
python3-yaml \
python3-boto3 \
fonts-liberation

We will establish a build directory and use CMake to configure the build process after all the dependencies are in place.

$ sudo mkdir build
$ cd build
$ sudo cmake -DCMAKE_INSTALL_PREFIX:PATH=/opt/dionaea ..

To compile it now, we'll use make, and to install it on our present system, we'll use make install.

$ sudo make
$ sudo make install

Dionaea will be installed now under /opt/dionaea

3.2.3 Configuration

There are mainly 4 directories that need to be considered while configuring Dionaea under */opt/dionaea/etc/dionaea/*. They are.

- ihandlers-available
- ihandlers-enabled
- services-available
- services-enabled

ihandlers are used to handle the traffic when a copy of the malware is sent to the honeypot. While ihandler-enabled provides a series of symbolic links pointing to configuration files in the "ihandlers-available," ihandler-available refers to the many plugins we may activate for dionaea.

The services directory refers to the actual protocols mimicked by Dionaea. To make the honeypot more realistic, very few services have been exposed. The unwanted protocols are removed by deleting the symbolic links in the services-enabled folder or else by commenting out each line in the yaml file for each service.

$ cd /opt/dionaea/etc/dionaea/services-enabled
$ sudo rm blackhole.yaml epmap.yaml ftp.yaml memcache.yaml mirror.yaml mongo.yaml mqtt.yaml mssql.yaml pptp.yaml sip.yaml tftp.yaml upnp.yaml printer.yaml

3.2.4 Configuring Dionaea as a service

To manage Dionaea and to make the process easier, using systemd, is made as a service in the background by creating a new file */etc/systemd/system*.

$ sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/dionaea.service

Paste the below details into the file and save.

[Unit]

Description = making network connection up
After = network.target
[Service]
ExecStart = /opt/dionaea/bin/dionaea
[Install]
WantedBy = multi-user.targetI

Now start Dionaea by using the systemctl command.

$ systemctl start Dionaea

```
root@ip-172-31-90-11:/# sudo systemctl status dionaea
● dionaea.service - making network connection up
     Loaded: loaded (/etc/systemd/system/dionaea.service; disabled; vendor preset: enabled)
     Active: active (running) since Tue 2022-12-13 23:35:31 UTC; 1min 1s ago
   Main PID: 4521 (dionaea)
      Tasks: 4 (limit: 1143)
     Memory: 44.0M
     CGroup: /system.slice/dionaea.service
             ├─4521 /opt/dionaea/bin/dionaea
             └─4522 /opt/dionaea/bin/dionaea

Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]: [13122022 23:35:31] connection /dionaea/src/connection.c:199: Could not bind 127.0.0.1:80 (Address already in use)
Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]: [13122022 23:35:31] pchild /dionaea/src/pchild.c:194: bind failed (Address already in use)
Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]: [13122022 23:35:31] connection /dionaea/src/connection.c:199: Could not bind ::1:80 (Address already in use)
Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]: Exception in thread Thread-1:
Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]: Traceback (most recent call last):
Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]:   File "/usr/lib/python3.8/threading.py", line 932, in _bootstrap_inner
Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]:     self.run()
Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]:   File "/opt/dionaea/lib/dionaea/python/dionaea/__init__.py", line 87, in run
Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]:     self.function(*self.args, **self.kwargs)
Dec 13 23:35:33 ip-172-31-90-11 dionaea[4521]: TypeError: __handle_backlog_timeout() missing 2 required positional arguments: 'watcher' and 'event'
root@ip-172-31-90-11:/#
```

Figure 4 Dionaea status

3.2.5 Additional configuration

Automatically submitting captured binaries to Virus Total allows us to assist the community while also receiving an automated virus scan of the binaries captured. For that, we need a virus total account and API key provided by Virus Total. Create virustotal.yaml file inside ihandlers-available directory and update the API Key.

$ sudo nano /opt/dionaea/etc/dionaea/ihandlers-available/virustotal.yaml

```
apikey: "........"
```

The above ihandler can be enabled by creating a symbolic link

$ cd /opt/dionaea/etc/dionaea/ihandlers-available/
$ sudo ln -s ../ihandlers-available/virustotal.yaml ../ihandlers-enabled/virustotal.yaml

```
root@ip-172-31-90-11:/# cd /opt/dionaea/etc/dionaea/ihandlers-available/
root@ip-172-31-90-11:/opt/dionaea/etc/dionaea/ihandlers-available# ls
cmdshell.yaml     fail2ban.yaml  log_db_sql.yaml    log_sqlite.yaml  s3.yaml           submit_http_post.yaml
emu_scripts.yaml  ftp.yaml       log_incident.yaml  nfq.yaml         store.yaml        tftp_download.yaml
emuprofile.yaml   hpfeeds.yaml   log_json.yaml      p0f.yaml         submit_http.yaml  virustotal.yaml
root@ip-172-31-90-11:/opt/dionaea/etc/dionaea/ihandlers-available#
```

Figure 5 Additional configuration file for Virus Total

Restart Dionaea for better performance.

$ sudo systemctl restart Dionaea

Below are the services mimicked by Dionaea.

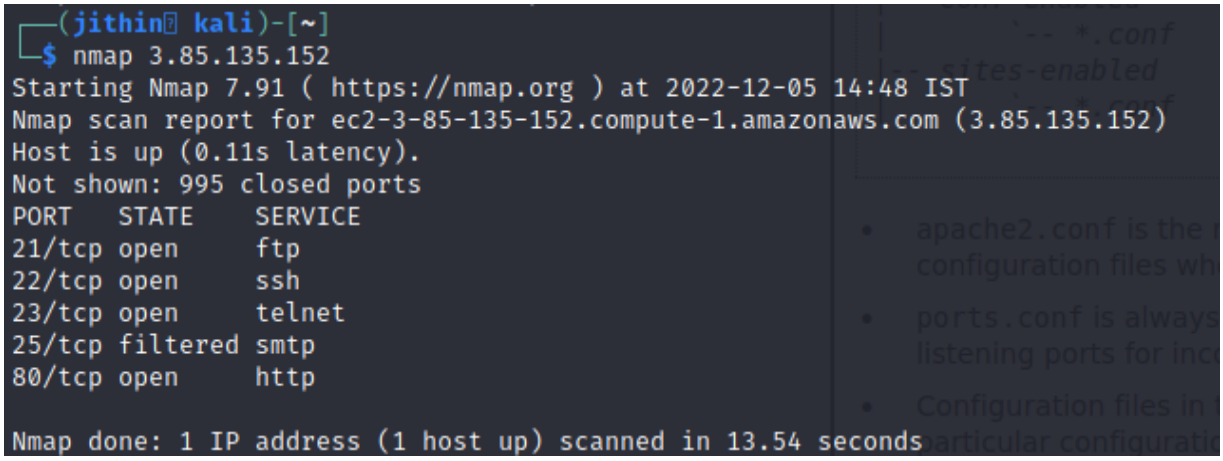

Figure 6 Open ports/services mimicked by Dionaea honeypot

3.3 Custom IDS & Dashboard Installation

Custom IDS is a python program that segregates the captured packets based on signature-based and heuristic-based detection methods. The basic script has been taken from GitHub and developed by adding more features like the TOR browser concept, and DNS sinkhole, by updating and adding more entry files for suspicious, malicious, and malware-related packet capturing. The modified script is uploaded to GitHub and cloned from there.

Start the implementation by downloading the code.

$ git clone https://github.com/Jithinpj9/HDS.git

The system has been named HoneyDS by combining Honeypot and IDS. Hence created a directory honeyds and moved the files to it.

$ mv HDS honeyds
$ cd honeyds
$ bash deploy_server.sh
$ cd ..
$ cp -r honeyds /tmp
$ cd /tmp/
$ cd honeyds/
$ bash deploy_server.sh

Now, pcapy must be installed for analyzing the captured packets.

$ sudo apt install python3-pcapy

After that we need to deploy server.py (dashboard) and sensor.py (custom IDS)

$ bash deploy_server.sh
$ bash deploy_sensor.sh

Now custom IDS and the dashboard has been implemented. We need to turn on the capturing mode for IDS and the dashboard using the below commands.

$ python3 server.py
$ python3 sensor.py

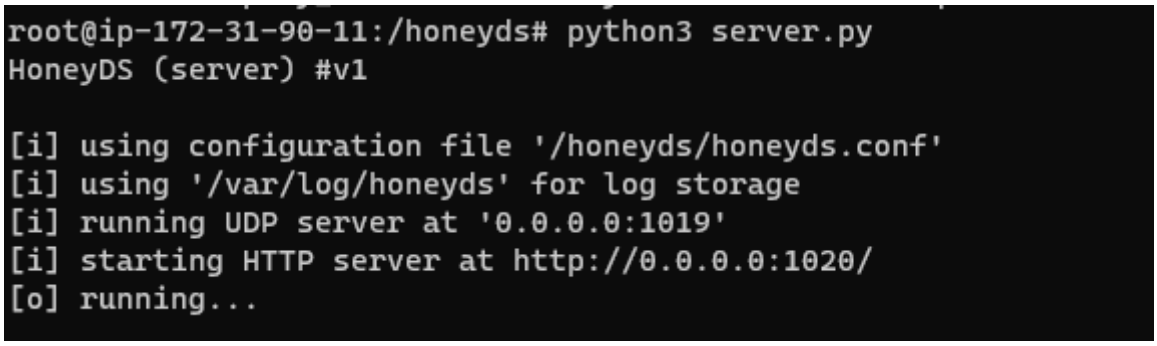

Figure 7 Custom IDS in capturing mode

Now both the sensor and dashboard are up and running.

4 Attack Simulation and Packet Capture

The attacks have been simulated from the Kali machine running on a VirtualBox to test the efficiency of the implemented project. Several attacks and port scanning has been performed using Nmap scan, password attack has been performed using Hydra, Medusa, and Metasploit framework for probing the vulnerable services. Dirbuster is also used to brute force directories and file names through HTTP port.

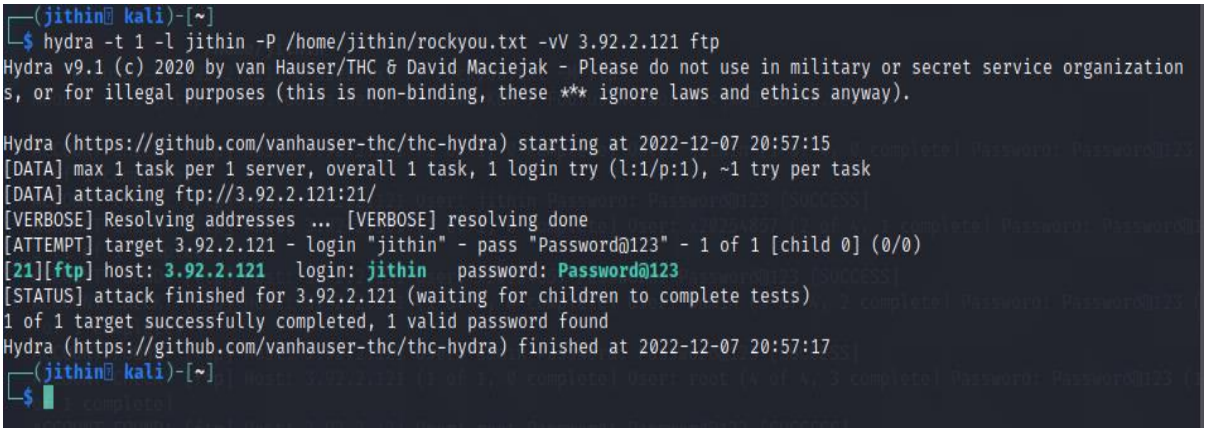

Figure 8 Password brute force attack using hydra on ftp

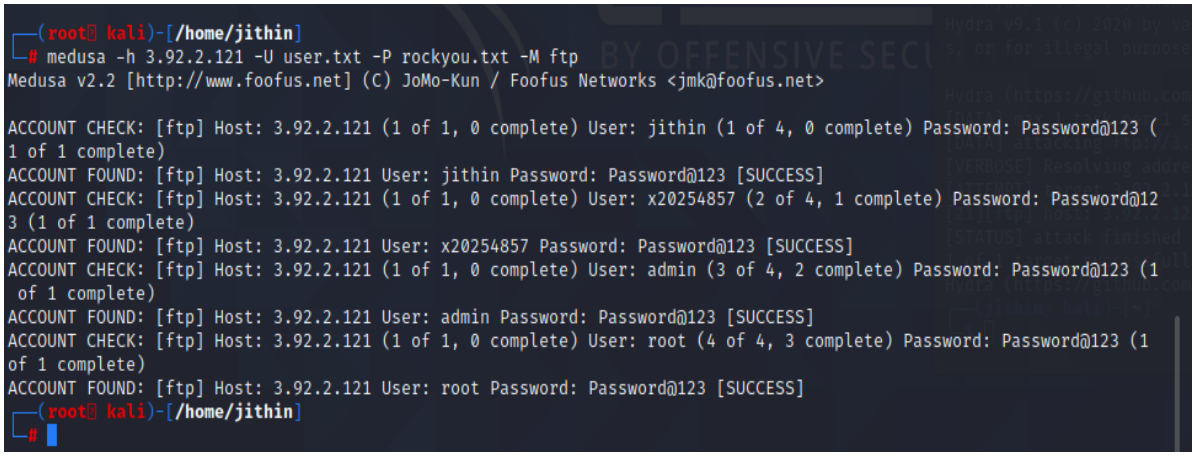

Figure 99 Password brute forcing using medusa on ftp

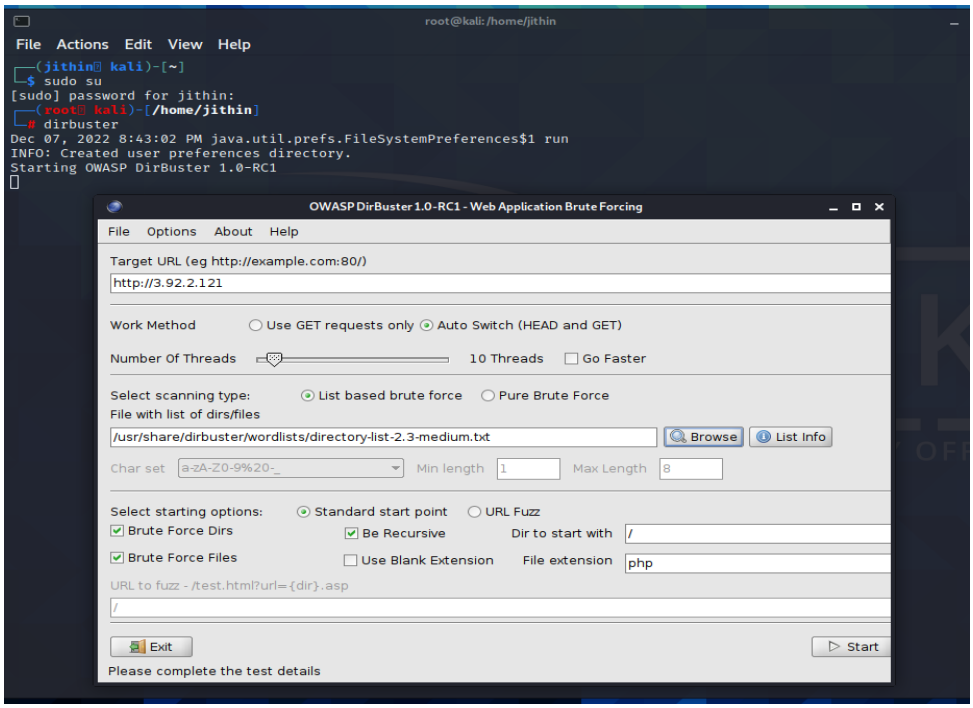

Figure 10 Directory brute forcing using Dirbuster

We can see the IDS has segregated the packets and we can see the details on the dashboard. Dashboad can be access by using the below link

http://public ip of the instance:1020

The default username and password used to access the dashboard is admin.

The dashboard has two windows that can be switched using the button on top named “Home” and “Normal”. The home window shows malicious, suspicious attack details and the normal window shows unknown traffic.

Figure 10 Malicious attacks details on the dashboard

The above diagram shows the Home window where the attacks have been captured. As the project was deployed on public IP, the system was able to capture packets sent by known attackers, and the mass scanning was done using Shodan, and other scanners hosted on a cloud environment. Also, the geo-location of the source IP is represented using the respective national flag.

Figure 11 Unknown attack detail

References

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