Home-based Threat Intelligence

written by Mert SARICA | 1 October 2019

Those of you who read my articles will recall that in my post titled "Escape from Imprisonment", I enthusiastically discussed the advantages of using a router packed with security features. As I mentioned in the article, I had started using the dnscrypt-proxy tool to encrypt DNS traffic (Dns over HTTPS – DoH).

In today's world where thermostats are getting smarter, smart TVs are equipped with cameras, and electric water heaters and irons are being turned into spy devices, insecure Internet of Things (IoT) devices connected to our home network pose a great risk to our security and privacy. As I was thinking about how to detect systems in our home network that have been hacked, infected, or contain backdoors, I remembered that thanks to the dnscryptproxy tool, I could also record DNS requests made by all systems, devices, and gadgets connected to the home network.

At the point where I could record DNS requests, I realized I could detect malicious systems in my home network by querying the domain names and IP addresses found in these DNS requests through cyber threat intelligence services like Open Threat Exchange (OTX) and Critical Stack. Without wasting time, I started thinking about the list of requirements to bring this idea to life.

First, I decided to install the syslog-ng package on the Ubuntu operating system running on my Mini-PC, which is always at hand and always comes to my aid in such situations. After installing the package, I configured it to record incoming DNS requests in the date.log file under the /var/log/dns-sys/sender's-ip-address directory and saved this configuration in the /etc/syslog-ng/conf.d/dns-sys.conf file.

```
root@ubuntu:/etc/syslog-ng/conf.d# ls
dns-sys.conf
root@ubuntu:/etc/syslog-ng/conf.d# cat dns-sys.conf
*****************
options {
         create_dirs(yes);
         perm(0640);
         dir_perm(0750);
};
source s_net {
                 tcp(ip(0.0.0.0) port(514));
udp(ip(0.0.0.0) port(514));
};
destination d_host-specific {
    file("/var/log/dns-sys/$HOST/$DAY-$MONTH-$YEAR.log");
};
filter f_cached { match("cached");
filter f_query { match("query");
filter f_reply { match("reply");
                                                                  # Filter regex keyword cached
                                         };
                                                                  # Filter regex keyword query
                                                                  # Filter regex keyword reply
log {
         source(s_net);
filter(f_cached);
destination(d_host-specific);
};
log {
         source(s_net);
filter(f_query);
destination(d_host-specific);
};
log {
         source(s_net);
filter(f_reply);
destination(d_host-specific);
};
```

In the next step, to make the dnscrypt-proxy tool log DNS requests to the router's syslog, I added the line 'log-queries' to the /jffs/configs/dnsmasq.conf.add file. Then, to make the router display these requests on its syslog page, I set the 'Default message log level' and 'Log only messages more urgent than' values to 'debug', and to redirect these messages to the syslog-ng application running on Ubuntu, I defined the 'Remote Log Server' value as the IP address of Ubuntu.

mert@RT-AC1900U-6610:/jffs/configs# cat dnsmasq.conf.add no-resolv log-queries server=127.0.0.1#65053 mert@RT-AC1900U-6610:/jffs/configs#

| /SUS RT-AC1900 | U Powered by Asuswrt-Merlin | Logout Reboot English | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Quick Internet Setup | Operation Mode: <u>Wireless router</u> Firm | vare Version: <u>384.9</u> SSID: 🛜 🐣 🔁 🔶 | | |
| General | General Log Wireless Log DHCP leas | es IPv6 Routing Table Port Forwarding Connections | | |
| Network Map | System Log - General Log | | | |
| Guest Network | This page shows the detailed system's activities. | | | |
| AiProtection | System Time | Wed, Mar 27 21:07:46 2019 | | |
| | Uptime | 17 days 9 hours 34 minute(s) 20 seconds | | |
| Adaptive QoS | Remote Log Server | 192.168.1. Port 514 | | |
| 🕼. Traffic Analyzer | Default message log level | debug 🔻 | | |
| 👸 USB Application | Log only messages more urgent than | debug 🔹 | | |
| AiCloud 2.0 | Auto refresh | Apply | | |
| 🎤 Tools | Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[29860]: reply w Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[29860]: reply e Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[29860]: dnssec- | ildcard-ru.asustek.com.akadns.net is <cname> 11960.dscel5.akamaiedge.net is 104.101.244.165 pnervIDS1 trafficmanger.net to 127.0.0.1</cname> | | |
| Advanced Settings | Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[22450]: dnssec- Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[22450]: reply c Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[22450]: reply c | puery[DNSKEY] ca to 127.0.0.1 a is DNSKEY keytag 48662, algo 8 a is DNSKEY keytag 2134, algo 8 | | |
| i Wireless | Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[22450]: reply c Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[22450]: reply c Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[22450]: reply 1 Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[22450]: reply 1 | a is DNSKEY keytag 43854, algo 8 a is DNSKEY keytag 35433, algo 8 sstrealm.ca is DS keytag 2371, algo 13, digest 2 ion recult is SFCIDE | | |
| | Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[22450]: validat Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[22960]: reply t Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[29860]: validat Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[29860]: validat | suswrt.lostrealm.ca is 174.142.221.134 rafficmanager.net is no DS ion result is INSECURE recompt access com in CONNES | | |
| () WAN | Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[29860]: reply a Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[29860]: reply a Mar 27 21:07:40 dnsmasq[29860]: reply s Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: query[A Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: query[A | susaccount:radficmanager.net is <cname> soap.japanwest.cloudapp.azure.com is 138.91.27.92 AAAJ google.com from 127.0.0.1 roogle.com from 127.0.811.200e</cname> | | |
| Ф 1Рv6 | Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: dached Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: dached Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: dached Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: dached Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: dached | google.com from 127.0.0.1 google.com is 172.217.0.78 [R] e.0.0.2.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.0.1.1.8.0.2.0.0.4.0.b.8.f.7.0.6.2.ip6 | | |
| VPN | Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: cached Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: query[P Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: cached Mar 27 21:07:44 dnsmasq[29860]: cached | <pre>Rev. rep. 4002.511.1200e is at126514 in R06.16100.net 172.217.0.78 is at126516-in-f14.1e100.net 172.217.0.78 is nuq04s19-in-f14.1e100.net</pre> | | |
| Firewall | • | ▼ } | | |
| Administration | | Clear Save | | |
| | | | | |

I started examining the syslog-ng records one by one and looking into which types of records I needed to focus on for threat intelligence. After learning that I could use the query[A], cached, and reply information in the records, I thought I could send these records to Security Onion, which integrates with OTX. After installing and running Security Onion's 16.04.5.6 operating system, I noticed that the logstash service (so-logstash) wasn't working at all. Despite my struggle, I was unsuccessful and started researching alternative methods.



When I shared a message on Twitter about needing to install ELK, I received messages suggesting that I could use cloud and ready-made ELK systems. As I was considering whether to install ELK on Ubuntu or use a cloud system, I learned that Logstash, which has Grok filter and Translate filter plugins, was tailor-made for this job.



I started modifying the securityonion-otx script file, which was developed for Security Onion – OTX integration, according to my needs. I set the brootx file to save threat intelligence information from OTX to the /etc/logstash/ls-otx/otx.dat file every hour. I also configured the OTX.py file to extract only domain name information from the malicious URL and DOMAIN entries in the otx.dat file and save it as the

/etc/logstash/translate/OTX.yaml file to be read by the Translate filter at the 5th minute of every hour.



```
root@ubuntu:/etc/logstash/ls-otx# cat OTX.py
#!/usr/bin/env python
# -*- coding: utf-8 -*
# OTX to Logstash Dictionary Script
# Author: Mert SARICA
# E-mail: mert [ . ] sarica [ @ ] gmail [ . ] com
# URL: https://www.mertsarica.com
# Credit: https://raw.githubusercontent.com/TravisFSmith/MyBroElk/master/maliciousIP.py
import re
debug = 0
def writeYAML():
    fname = "/etc/logstash/ls-otx/otx.dat"
    yamlFile = open('/etc/logstash/translate/OTX.yaml','w')
    with open(fname) as html:
        cti = []
        for line in html.readlines():
            line = re.sub('\\r|\\n','',line)
            if line.find("Intel::DOMAIN") >= 0:
            try:
            line split("\t")
                                                           line = line.split("\t")[0]
                                                           if line not in cti:
                                                                       cti.append(line)
                                                                       if debug:
                                                                      print line.split("\t")[0]
yamlFile.write("\"" + line + "\": \"YES\"" + "\n")
                                               except:
                                                           continue
                                   if line.find("Intel::URL") >= 0:
                                               try:
                                                           line = line.split("\t")[0]
line = line.split("/")[0]
                                               except:
                                                           line = line.split("\t")[0]
                                               try:
                                                           line = line.split(":")[0]
if line not in cti:
                                                                       cti.append(line)
                                                                       if debug:
                                                                       print line
yamlFile.write("\"" + line + "\": \"YES\"" + "\n")
                                               except:
                                                           if line not in cti:
                                                                       cti.append(line)
if debug:
                                                                       print line
yamlFile.write("\"" + line + "\": \"YES\"" + "\n")
                       yamlFile.close()
                =="
if ___name_
                       main ":
writeYAML()
root@ubuntu:/etc/logstash/ls-otx#
root@ubuntu:/etc/logstash/translate# ls
OTX.yaml
root@ubuntu:/etc/logstash/translate# head -n 10 OTX.yaml
"www.aucsellers.com": "YES"
"www.lunwe.com": "YES"
  patane.myonlineportal.org": "YES"
"isozaki.sakura.ne.jp": "YES
"www.wco-kyousai.com": "YES"
"www.51cs.net": "YES"
                                             "YES"
 "www6.intarnetservice.com": "YES"
 "www.webmailerservices.com": "YES"
"go-trust.webmailerservices.com":
"www.adobeservice.net": "YES"
                                                               "YES"
root@ubuntu:/etc/logstash/translate#
```

In the configuration file of Logstash (logstash.conf), I defined the rules to read DNS records logged by syslog-ng with the Grok filter and to send an alert via email if any of the IP addresses or domain names in these records match with those in the OTX.yaml file using the Translate filter. Then I restarted Logstash and made an nslookup for the address www[.]aucsellers[.]com listed in the OTX.yaml file. With this, the alert was successfully generated and sent to me by email, and I had successfully implemented the home-based threat intelligence service. :)

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|---|--|--|--|
| ← → C 介 ① Not secure arokconstructor. | appspot.com/do/match#result | | Q 🕁 🔿 🛅 🖳 🔄 🗃 🏟 🏈 |
| Hack 4 Career Infor | serts M Johov - mert carica | | |
| | | Į. J | |
| | Some log lines you want to match. It Mar 27 20:15:31 192 168 1.1 dosmas | s helps much to use several lines, and to choose lines that are as diverse as possible. (29860): renk unu samsungelectronics com is 54.83.144.140 | |
| | mar 27 20, 10, 01 102, 100, 1, 1 010 man | Esonoli repli apriantiantigoraziones con la secoli en la | |
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| | The (unquoted!) pattern that should | match all logfile lines.(Please keep in mind that the whole log line / message is searched for this pattern; if you want this | |
| | to match the whole line, enclose it in %/SYSI OGTIMESTAMP system time: | ^ s or \A Z. This speeds up the search - especially if the pattern is not found.) tampl %/SYSI OGHOST system bestname! %/DATA system program/2/9%/POSINT system pidth? (reply/cached) % | |
| | (GREEDYDATA syslog_iporhost) (is) | 6(GREEDYDATA:syslog iporhost2) | |
| | | | |
| | | k | |
| | Please mark the libraries of grok Pat | terns from logstash v.2.4.0 which you want to use. You probably want to use grok-patterns if you use any of the others, | |
| | since they rely on the basic patterns | since mey rery on the basic patterns defined there. | |
| | firewalls aws bro exim is http://www.awie.com/awi | Intervalis & avs & bro & exim & bind & haproxy & linux-syslog & squid & mcollective-patterns & bacula & postgresql & java & maves & grok-patterns & bird & more available to make the property of the system of t | |
| | nupu a reus a nagios a rais a no | intipu # reus # nagios # nais # intigoui # ruy # inconective # juitos | |
| | You can also provide a library of son space and the pattern. For example: | You can also provide a library of some additional grok patterns in the same format as the pattern files linked above. On each line you give a pattern name, a snace and the pattern. For example: WORD bitwi-bit | |
| | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · | operor and and period in the period of the p | |
| | | | |
| | | <i>H</i> | |
| | If you want to use logstash's multilin | If you want to use logstash's multiline filter please specify the used pattern (can include grok Patterns): | |
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| | negate the multiline regex | | |
| | | | |
| | Mar 27 20:15:31 102 168 1 1 dosmase | (20860): renty unu samsungelectronics com is 54 83 144 140 | |
| | MATCHED | hooodi rehy uhusunbungereen oneoron is onooraarrao | |
| | syslog_program | dnsmasg[29860] | |
| | syslog_iporhost2 | 54.83.144.140 | |
| | syslog_iporhost | upu.samsungelectronics.com | |
| | syslog_timestamp | Mar 27 20:15:31 | |
| <pre>} } filter { grok { matchpoffort51} matchpoffort51} matchpoffort51} matchpoffort51 matc</pre> | MESTAMP:syslog_timestamp} %{SYSLOGHOST MESTAMP:syslog_timestamp} %{SYSLOGHOST ranslate/OTX.yaml' | :syslog_hostname} %{DATA:syslog_program}(?:\[%{POSINT:syslog_pid}\])?: (replylcach :syslog_hostname} %{DATA:syslog_program}(?:\[%{POSINT:syslog_pid}\])?: (query\[A\]] | ed) %{GREEDYDATA:syslog_iporhost} (is) %{GREEDYDATA) %{GREEDYDATA:syslog_iporhost} (from) %{GREEDYDATA |
| <pre>destination => sysiog_pornosize destination => 'malificus' dictionary_path => '/etc/logstash/tr ad_tag => 'malificus' } mutate {</pre> | ranslate/OTX.yaml' | | |
| <pre>remove_tag => ["_grokparsefailure"] } if "dnsmasq" not in [tags] { drop { } }</pre> | | | |
| 3 | | | |
| } output { | | | |
| } output { stdout { codec => rubydebug | | | |
| <pre>} output { stdout { codec => rubydebug } if fmalicious1 == "YES" and [syslog ip</pre> | porhost2] { | | |
| <pre>} output { stdout { codec => rubydebug if [mail(sious] == "YES" and [syslog_ip email { ideress => "172.0.0.1" </pre> | porhost2] { | | |
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| <pre>}' output { stdout { codec => rubydebug } f[malicious] == "YES" and [syslog_fp email { doress => "127.0.0.1" from => all fewretsarica.com" threadody => "Malicious traffic h threadody => "Malicious traffic" to => "mert.sarica@malil.com" use_tls => false }else if fmalicious == "YES" and [sy email { adfess => "127.0.0.1" from => "alleflowertsarica.com" htmlbody => "Malicious traffic h to down traffic" to down traffi</pre> | <pre>porhost2] { has been detected! br/>>styslog_iporhost>dpr/> c/bs{syslog_iporhost2 essage} yslog_queryfrom] { has been detected! cyslog_queryfrom]-dpr/> foumain: c/bs%[syslog_iporhost] essage]' </pre> | | |



alert@mertsarica.com <u>via</u> sandbox.mgsend.net to me •

Malicious traffic has been detected!

Destination Domain: <u>www.aucsellers.com</u> Destination IP: 173.194.219.138 Raw Log: Mar 31 19:17:49 192.168.1.1 dnsmasq[29860]: reply <u>www.aucsellers.com</u> is 173.194.219.138

Reply Forward a) 1

Hope to see you in the following articles.