Contents

List of I	igures	vi
List of	Tables	vii
List of A	Abbreviations	i
1 Int	roduction	
1.1	Intrusion Detection Systems	
1.2	Evaluations of Intrusion Detection Systems	2
1.3	The Objectives and Benefits of Evaluating Intrusion Detection Systems	
1.4	Research Objectives and Contributions	3
1.5	Research Methodology	4
1.6	Research Scope	5
1.7	Dissertation Organisation	6
2 Bac	ckground	8
2.1	Computer Security	8
2.1		8
2.1		
2.1		
2.1		
2.1	.5 Computer Security and Software Engineering	19
2.2	Unix	
2.2		
2.2	2 An Overview of the Unix Operating System	
2.3	Security in Unix	25
2.3.		27
2.3.	2 Enhancing Unix Security	31
2.3.	3 Similarities and Differences Between Windows NT and Unix	36
2.4	Intrusion Detection	
2.4.	1 What is Intrusion Detection?	38
2.4.		
2.4.	3 The Evolution of Intrusion Detection: An Overview	39
2.4.	4 Technology Overview of Intrusion Detection Systems	42
2.4.		45
2.4.		
2.4.	7 Intrusion Detection Architecture	53
2.5	Intrusion Detection in Unix	58
2.5.	1 Monitor Log Files	58
2.5.	2 Use Commands that Run at a Specified Times to Your Benefit	59
2.5.	3 Examine the Filesystem	60
2.6	Summary	62
3 Eva	luating Intrusion Detection Systems	
3.1	Previous Evaluations of IDSs	
3.1.	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
3.1.	= Ernari EE Eraaanon [Eppmani Eooo]	
3.1.	The 1999 DARPA-LL Evaluations [Lippmann 2000a]	65

3.2 S	Selection of IDS tool for the evaluation	66
3.2.1	Why Snort?	
3.2.2	What is Snort?	
3.2.3	Snort Architecture	68
3.3 T	Test Objective	69
3.4 T	est Scope	70
3.5 T	est Requirements	71
3.5.1		
3.5.2	Software Requirements	
3.6 S	lummary	73
Test D	Design	74
4.1 C	Overview of Tests	74
4.2 T	est Data	75
4.2.1	Attack Descriptions for the Test Data Sets	76
4.2.2	The Test Data Sets	84
4.3 S	teps to Testing	
4.3.1	Construction of Suitable Test Environment	
4.3.2	Implementation of Tests	
4.3.3	Gathering of Results	
4.3.4	Evaluation of Results	
4.4 S	ummary	
	nplementation	
	Onfiguring Snort	
5.1.1	Specifying the Snort Rulesets	
	esulting Configurations	
	esting the 4 Configurations of Snort	
	xample of a Test Run	
	ummary	
	esults	
	est Data Set 1 (1998 Learning Data Week 6)	
6.1.1	Summary of Results from Test Data Set 1	
	est Data Set 2 (1998 Learning Data Week 7)	
6.2.1	Summary of Results from Test Data Set 2	
	est Data Set 3 (1999 Test Data Week 1)	
6.3.1	Summary of Results from Test Data Set 3	
	est Data Set 4 (1999 Test Data Week 2)	
6.4.1	Summary of Results from Test Data Set 4	114
	verall Test Result Summary	
	ummary	
	valuation	
	OS Performance	
7.1.1	Snort 1.7 Custom	
7.1.1	Snort 1.7 Custom	
7.1.2	Snort 1.7 Full Snort 1.8.3 Full	
7.1.3	Snort 1.8.3 Full Snort 1.8.3 Custom	
	Short 1.8.3 Custom	119
1.2 Pe	ertormance ranking	119

7.3 Limitations of Previous Research	120
7.3.1 Limitations of the NSS Group 2001 Evaluation	120
7.3.2 Limitations of the 1998 DARPA-LL Evaluation	120
7.3.3 Limitations of the 1999 DARPA-LL Evaluation	121
7.4 Summary	122
8 Summary and Conclusion	123
References	126
Appendix A: Attacks in Test Data Set 1	133
Appendix B: Attacks in Test Data Set 2	134
Appendix C: Attacks in Test Data Set 3	135
Appendix D: Attacks in Test Data Set 4	143
Appendix E: Snort Rulesets	155
Appendix F: Result Form for Test Data Set 1	158
Appendix G: Result Form for Test Data Set 2	160
Appendix H: Result Form for Test Data set 3	161
Appendix I: Result Form for Test Data Set 4	163
Appendix J: Sample Snort Configuration File	166

List of Figures

Figure 2.1: Hacker Capabilities [Cisco Systems 2000]	10
Figure 2.2: Example Access Matrix	
Figure 2.3: The Evolution of Intrusion Detection Systems	42
Figure 2.4: High Level Depiction of Audit Trail Processing	45
Figure 2.5: High Level Depiction of On-the-Fly Processing	46
Figure 2.6: Profiling Normal Behaviour	
Figure 2.7: Abnormal Behaviour Signature Method	49
Figure 2.8: Pattern Matching Method of Intrusion Detection	50
Figure 2.9: Intrusion Detection System Components	51
Figure 2.10: Intrusion Detection Architectural Schema	54
Figure 3.1: Snort Architecture	69
Figure 4.1: Test Overview	74
Figure 4.2: Attacks in Test Data Set 1	84
Figure 4.3: Attacks in Test Data Set 2	85
Figure 4.4: Attacks in Test Data Set 3	86
Figure 4.5: Attacks in Test Data Set 4	
Figure 5.1: Snort Pre-Run Screen	
Figure 5.2: Snort Post-Run Screen	100
Figure 5.3: SnortSnarf Output	

List of Tables

Table 2.1: Similarities and Differences Between Windows NT and Unix	3.
Table 2.2: Pros and Cons of Network-Based Intrusion Detection Systems	43
Table 2.3: Pros and Cons of Host-Based Intrusion Detection Systems	42
Table 4.1: Description of the Denial of Service Attacks	76
Table 4.2: Description of the User to Root Attacks	78
Table 4.3: Description of the Remote to Local Attacks	80
Table 4.4: Description of the Probe Attacks	82
Table 4.5: Description of the Data Attack(s)	84
Table 6.1: Results of Testing the Snort Configurations with Test Data Set 1	103
Table 6.2: Summary of Results from Testing Snort with Test Data Set 1	105
Table 6.3: Results of Testing the Snort Configurations with Test Data Set 2	106
Table 6.4: Summary of Results from Testing Snort with Test Data Set 2	106
Table 6.5: Results of Testing the Snort Configurations with Test Data Set 3	107
Table 6.6: Summary of Results from Testing Snort with Test Data Set 3	110
Table 6.7: Results of Testing the Snort Configurations with Test Data Set 4	111
Table 6.8: Summary of Results from Testing Snort with Test Data Set 4	114
Table 6.9: Summary of the Overall Test Results	115

List of Abbreviations

ASIM Full Phrase
Automated Se

Automated Security Management System

BSM Basic Security Module

CAPI Common Application Programming Interface

CGI Common Gateway Interface

CMDS Computer Misuse Detection System

DARPA Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency

DARPA-LL Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory, under

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) sponsorship

DES Data Encryption Standard

DIDS Distributed Intrusion Detection System

DoS Denial of Service
GB Gigabyte

GB Gigabyte GHz Gigahertz

GSS-API Generic Security Services Application Program Interface

HTML Hypertext Markup Language

ICMP Internet Control Message Protocol

ID Intrusion Detection

IDS(s) Intrusion Detection System(s)

IP Internet Protocol
IPSEC Internet Protocol Security

ISS Internet Security Systems
MB Megabyte

Mhz Megabyte
Mbz Megahertz

NIDS(s) Network-based Intrusion Detection System(s)

OS Operating System
PID Process Identification

PPP Point-to-Point Protocol

PPTP Point-to-Point Tunneling Protocol R2L Remote to Local

RAM Random Access Memory

RISC Reduced Instruction Set Computer

RPC Remote Procedure Protocol
SAIC Science Applications International Corporation

SANS SysAdmin, Audit, Network, Security

SLIP Serial Line Internet Protocol
SMB Server Message Block Protocol

SSL Secure Sockets Layer

TCP Transmission Control Protocol

TCP/IP Transmission Control Protocol / Internet Protocol

U2R User to Root

JID User Identification