

Review: Nose Around With Snort

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Created 02/09/2005 - 2:26pm

Submitted by srlinuxx on Friday 2nd of September 2005 02:26:24 PM Filed under [Software](#) [1] [Reviews](#) [2]

The name Snort may conjure images of a specially trained swine sniffing out truffles. But Snort isn't an animal--it's an IDS (intrusion-detection system) with a rich language for matching patterns in network traffic. Snort provides a slimmed down, customized signature set to detect defined policy violations. It can determine, for instance, whether specific protocols are in violation of a security policy.

Let's face it, unless you're actively policing security-policy compliance, just having words in a document won't make you secure--you have to find policy violations and enforce your policies. Some of the products that prevent policy violations are pricey, but free and open-source Snort may be the only tool you need.

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