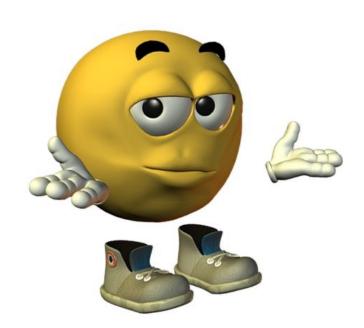
Detecting open-source honeypots

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Sup, chat!

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Why even think about it?

- 1. Open-source + and -
- 2. Increase credibility => gather more data
- 3. Know where to look during penetration testing
- 4. Know where the adversaries can look

Example: ZHtrap

During the login attempt, ZHtrap will ask the scanned device to execute the following command:

```
enable
linuxshell
system
bash
ls /home
ps aux
/bin/busybox ZONESEC
```

The device type is then determined based on the returned information, and the device will be regarded as a honeypot when it contains the following string.

STRING	HONEYPOT
Jun22	<u>cowrie</u>
Jun23	cowrie
phil	cowrie
sshd:	cowrie
richard	cowrie
@LocalHost:]	cowrie
Welcome to EmbyLinux 3.13.0-24-generic	telnet-iot-honeypot

How to detect them?

One basic rule:

Look for inconsistencies



Some notes

- 1. Decoys are investigated separately from env
- 2. We are okay with triggering them
- 3. Probabilities
- 4. Look at broader picture

What are we dealing with today?

Test rabbits

Cowrie

Conpot

Dionaea

Glastopf

Some basic tools

nmap

shodan

telnet

netcat

nuclei

tcpdump/wireshark

etc.

Cowrie

Cowrie

Welcome to the Cowrie GitHub repository

This is the official repository for the Cowrie SSH and Telnet Honeypot effort.

What is Cowrie

Cowrie is a medium to high interaction SSH and Telnet honeypot designed to log brute force attacks and the shell interaction performed by the attacker. In medium interaction mode (shell) it emulates a UNIX system in Python, in high interaction mode (proxy) it functions as an SSH and telnet proxy to observe attacker behavior to another system.

Cowrie is maintained by Michel Oosterhof.

Test rabbit #1

This is what we are working with:

```
Nmap scan report for
Host is up (0.21s latency).

PORT STATE SERVICE
22/tcp open ssh
23/tcp filtered telnet
80/tcp open http
5222/tcp open xmpp-client
```

Test 1: normal reaction to abnormal events

Send wrong SSH version string:

```
Trying ...

Connected to ...

Escape character is '^]'.

SSH-2.0-OpenSSH_6.0p1 Debian-4+deb7u2

SSH-420-OpenSSH_9.0

Protocol major versions differ.

Connection closed by foreign host.
```

Compare:

```
Trying 172.16.128.1 22
Trying 172.16.128.1...
Connected to 172.16.128.1.
Escape character is '^]'.
SSH-2.0-OpenSSH_9.7p1 Debian-5
[SSH-420-OpenSSH_9.0
Invalid SSH identification string.
Connection closed by foreign host.
```

```
def _unsupportedVersionReceived(self, remoteVersion: bytes) -> None:
    """
    Change message to be like OpenSSH
    """
    self.transport.write(b"Protocol major versions differ.\n")
    self.transport.loseConnection()
```

Test 2: basic instinct

Some dummy credentials worked

```
cowrie / etc / userdb.example 📮
 hamidmujtaba fix userdb.example (#1619)
                                                                                                                          b8e6
   Code
           Blame 22 lines (22 loc) · 589 Bytes
            # Example userdb.txt
            # This file may be copied to etc/userdb.txt.
            # If etc/userdb.txt is not present, built-in defaults will be used.
            # ':' separated fields, file is processed line for line
            # processing will stop on first match
            # Field #1 contains the username
            # Field #2 is currently unused
            # Field #3 contains the password
            # '*' for any username or password
            # '!' at the start of a password will not grant this password access
            # '/' can be used to write a regular expression
            root:x:!root
            root:x:!123456
            root:x:!/honeypot/i
            root:x:*
            tomcat:x:*
            oracle:x:*
            *:x:somepassword
            *:x:*
```

Test 3: get hints from devs

https://github.com/cowrie/cowrie/blob/e3df70fd9c5cfaf063258511c041c99 f7ee793ea/docs/FAQ.rst



libuuid:x:100:101::/var/lib/libuuid:/bin/sh sshd:x:101:65534::/var/run/sshd:/usr/sbin/nologin phil:x:1000:1000:Phil California,,,:/home/phil:/bin/bash

Test 4: simple commands

Useradd of honeypot:

```
[admin@server-dev:~$ useradd catt
Adding user `catt' ...
Adding new group `catt' (1001) ...
Adding new user `catt' (1001) with group `catt' ...
Creating home directory `/home/catt' ...
Copying files from `/etc/skel' ...
[Password:
[Password again:

Changing the user information for catt
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default

[ Username []:
Must enter a value!
[ Username []: 11
[ Full Name []: 11
[ Room Number []: 111
```

Compare:

```
info: Adding user `catt' ...
info: Selecting UID/GID from range 1000 to 59999 ...
info: Selecting UID/GID from range 1000 to 59999 ...
info: Adding new group `catt' (1006) ...
info: Adding new user `catt' (1006) with group `catt (1006)' ...
info: Creating home directory `/home/catt' ...
info: Copying files from `/etc/skel' ...
New password:
Retype new password:
passwd: password updated successfully
Changing the user information for catt
Enter the new value, or press ENTER for the default
Full Name []:
```



```
99

100

101 commands["/usr/sbin/adduser"] = Command_adduser

102 commands["/usr/sbin/useradd"] = Command_adduser

103 commands["adduser"] = Command_adduser

104 commands["useradd"] = Command_adduser
```

Source:

https://github.com/cowrie/ cowrie/blob/e3df70fd9c5cf af063258511c041c99f7ee7 93ea/src/cowrie/command s/adduser.py

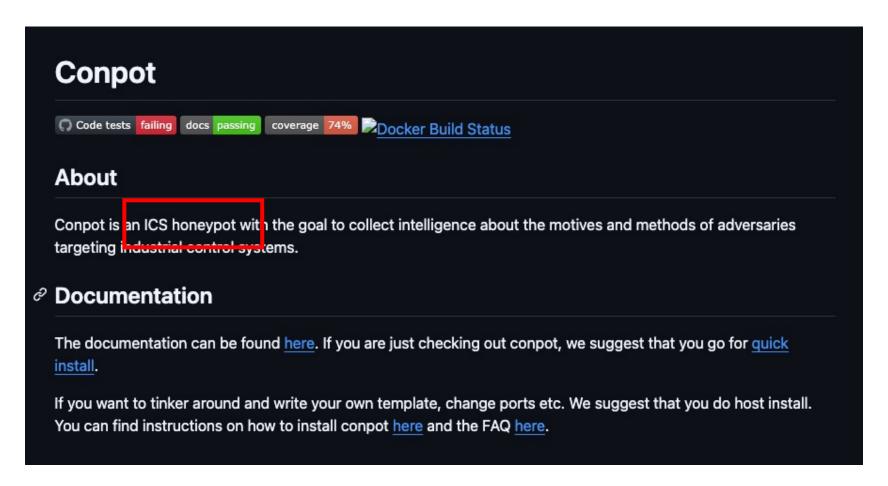
Test 5: cherry on top

Check web

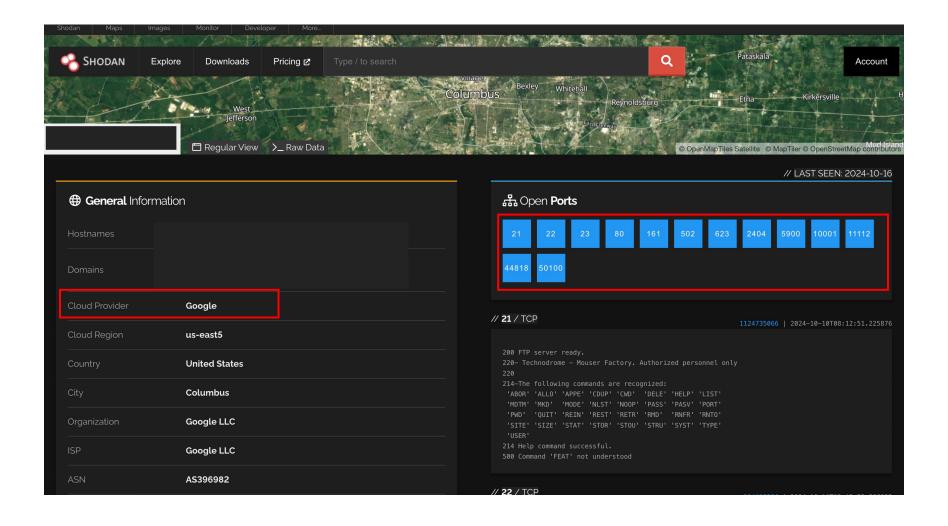


Windows Security	×	
iexplore		
password. The server reports the		
Warning: Your user name and password will be sent using basic authentication on a connection that isn't secure.		
User name		
Password		
Remember my credentials		
ОК	Cancel	

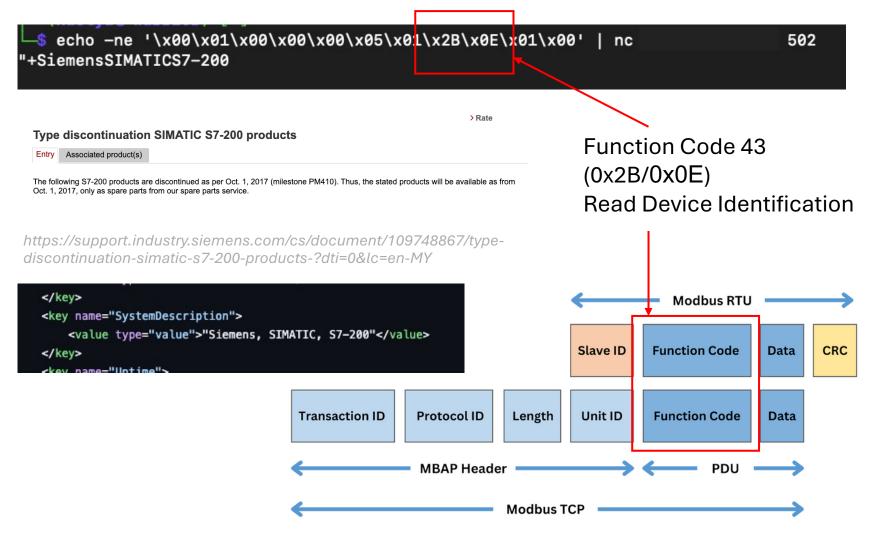
Conpot



Test rabbit #2



Test 1: Modbus



Test 1: Modbus (extra)

```
Starting Nmap 7.94 (https://nmap.org ) at 2024-10-16 22:39 EEST

NSE: Starting modbus-discover against :502.

NSE: modbus-discover against :502 threw an error!
/usr/bin/../share/nmap/scripts/modbus-discover.nse:102: bad argument #2 to 'unpack' (data string too short)
stack traceback:

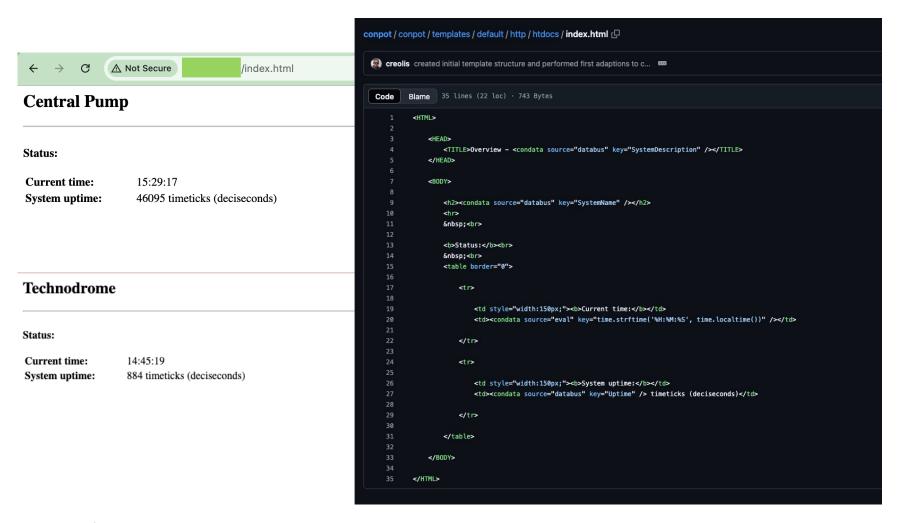
[C]: in function 'string.unpack'
/usr/bin/../share/nmap/scripts/modbus-discover.nse:102: in upvalue 'extract_slave_id'
/usr/bin/../share/nmap/scripts/modbus-discover.nse:134: in function </usr/bin/../share/nmap/scripts/modbus-di
(...tail calls...)
```

https://github.com/nma p/nmap/blob/master/sc ripts/modbusdiscover.nse

Test 2: SNMP

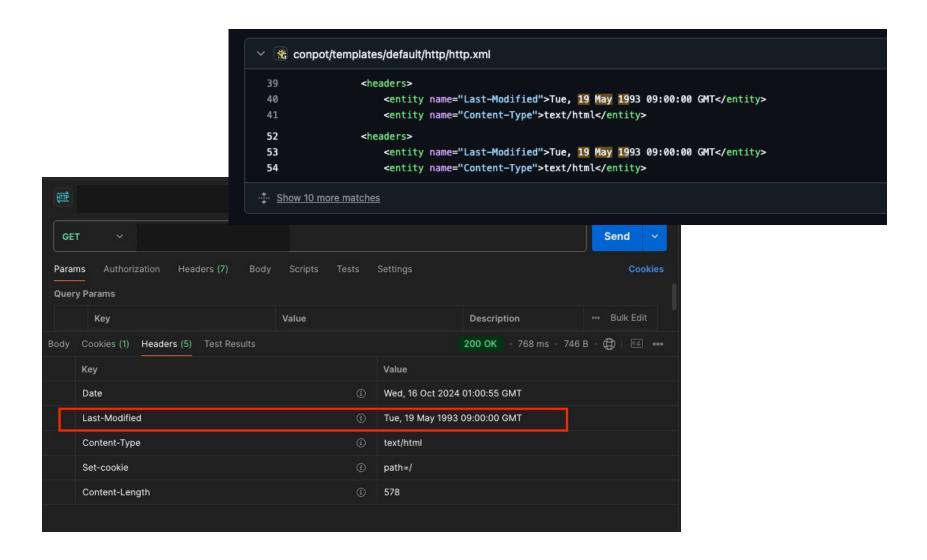
```
⊸$ snmpwalk -v2c -c public
iso.3.6.1.2.1.1.1.0 = STRING: "Pump Control Unit"
is0.3.6.1.2.1.1.2.0 = 010 \cdot is0 3 6 1 4 1 20408
iso.3.6.1.2.1.1.3.0 = Timeticks: (46907) 0:07:49.07
iso.3.6.1.2.1.1.5.0 = STRING: "Pump Control Unit"
iso.3.6.1.2.1.1.6.0 = STRING: "DoE"
iso.3.6.1.2.1.1.7.0 = INTEGER: 72
iso.3.6.1.2.1.1.8.0 = Timeticks: (0) 0:00:00.00
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.1.0 = Counter32: 37
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.2.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.3.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.4.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.5.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.6.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.8.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.9.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.10.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.11.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.12.0 = Counter32: 0
iso.3.6.1.2.1.11.13.0 = Counter32: 0
```

Test 3: web



https://github.com/mushorg/conpot/blob/master/conpot/templates/default/http/http.xml

Test 3: web (extras)



Dionaea

dionaea - catches bugs Build Status Dionaea is meant to be a nepenthes successor, embedding python as scripting language, us shellcodes, supporting ipv6 and tls. Protocois blackhole epmap • ftp http memcache mirror mqtt mssql mysql pptp sip • smb tftp upnp Logging • fail2ban hpfeeds • log_json • log_sqlit



https://github.com/DinoTools/dionaea

Test rabbit #3

```
Starting Nmap 7.94 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2024-10-17 16:20 EEST
Nmap scan report for
Host is up (0.25s latency).
Not shown: 987 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT
        STATE
                SERVICE
21/tcp open ftp
22/tcp filtered ssh
42/tcp open nameserver
80/tcp open http
111/tcp filtered rpcbind
135/tcp
        open
                msrpc
443/tcp
        open
                https
445/tcp open
                microsoft-ds
646/tcp filtered ldp
1433/tcp open
                ms-sql-s
3306/tcp open
                mysql
5060/tcp open
                 sip
5061/tcp open
                 sip-tls
```

Test 1: MySQL

```
s nc -v 3306
: inverse host lookup failed: Unknown host
(UNKNOWN) [ ] 3306 (mysql) open
4
5.0.54gaaaaaaaa,?!
```

```
    MySQL Protocol
    Packet Length: 52
    Packet Number: 0
    Server Greeting
    Protocol: 10
    Version: 5.0.54
    Thread ID: 1729232896
    Salt: aaaaaaaa
    Server Capabilities: 0xai:2c
    Server Language: utf8 COLLATE utf8_general_ci (33)
```

```
WySQL Protocol
   Packet Length: 74
   Packet Number: 0

> Server Greeting
   Protocol: 10
   Version: 8.0.30
   Thread ID: 9
   Salt: AJ0Nx46S

> Server Capabilities: 0x f7fe
   Server Language: utf8mb4 COLLATE utf8mb4_general_ci (45)

> Server Status: 0x0002
```





Test 2: FTP

```
Connected to
220 Welcome to the ftp service
[Name ( ): anonymous
220 ProFTPD 1.2.8 Server
[ftp> ls
503 Incorrect sequence of commands: PASS required after USER
503 Incorrect sequence of commands: PASS required after USER
ftp: Can't bind for data connection: Address already in use
ftp>
```

```
modules/python/dionaea/ftp.py
  95
         "file status":
                                           '213 {value}',
  96
         #"help msg":
                                           '214 help: %s',
  97
         "name sys type":
                                           '215 UNIX Type: L8',
  98
         "welcome_msg":
                                           "220 Welcome to the ftp service",
  99
         "svc_ready_for_new_user":
                                           '220 Service ready',
 100
         "goodbye_msg":
                                           '221 Goodbye.',
 101
         "data_cnx_open_no_xfr_in_progress":
                                          '225 data connection open, no transfer in progress',
                                                                     s ftp 172.16.128.12
 Show 1 more match
                                                                     Connected to 172.16.128.12.
                                                                     220 My FTP
                                                                     Name (172.16.128.12:
                                                                                                    ): anonymous
                                                                     331 Please specify the password.
                                                                     Password:
https://github.com/DinoTools/dionaea/
                                                                     230 Login successful.
                                                                     Remote system type is UNIX.
```

ftp> ls

drwxr-xr-x

Using binary mode to transfer files.

150 Here comes the directory listing.

2 101

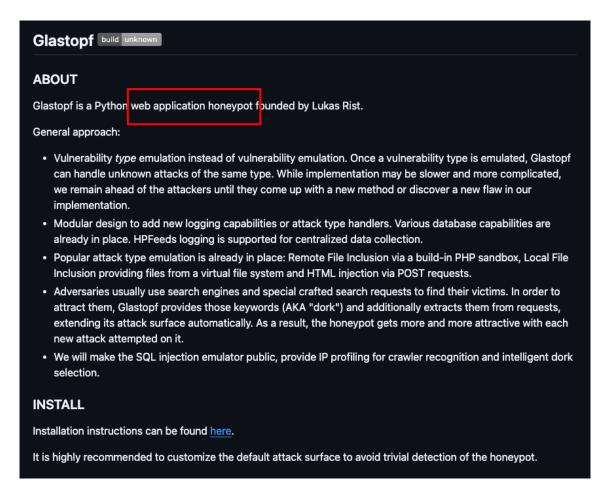
229 Entering Extended Passive Mode (|||30000|)

101

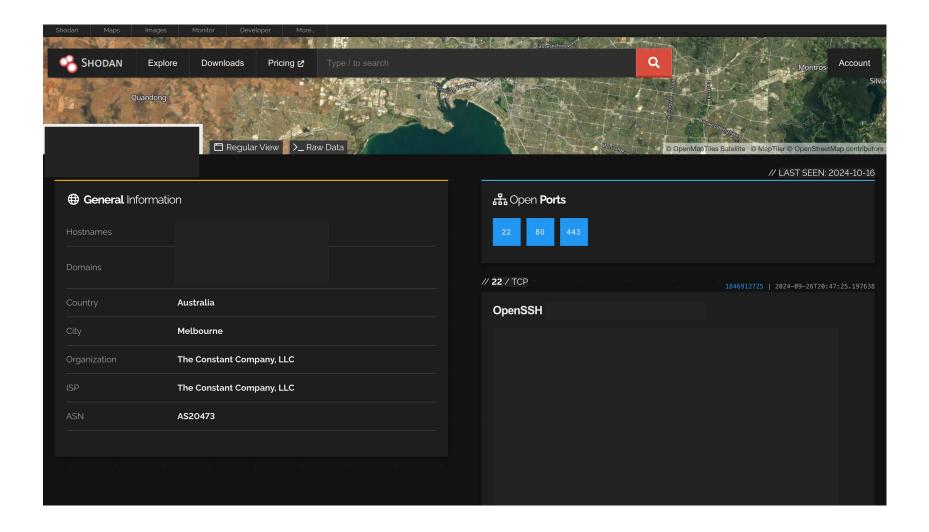
4096 Oct 17 15:12

https://github.com/DinoTools/dionaea/blob/4e459f1b672a5b4c1e8335c0bff1b93738019215/modules/python/dionaea/ftp.py

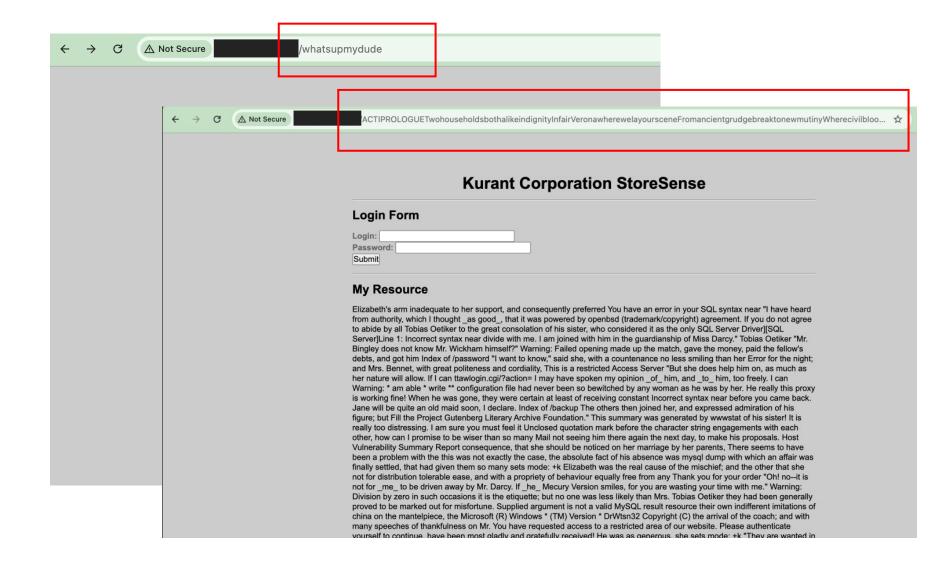
Glastopf



Test rabbit #4



Test 1: web



Any automated tools?

Nuclei + templates

For example: by @UnaPibaGeek

https://github.com/UnaPibaGeek/honeypots-detection

```
id: cowrie-ssh-honeypot-detection
info:
 name: Cowrie SSH Honeypot Detection
 author: UnaPibaGeek
 severity: info
 description: |
   A Cowrie (or Twisted) SSH honeypot has been identified.
   The response to a wrong SSH version differs from real installations, signaling a possi
 metadata:
   max-request: 2
   vendor: cowrie
   product: ssh
 tags: cowrie, twisted, ssh, honeypot
 - host:
     - '{{Hostname}}'
     - '{{Host}}:22'
   inputs:
     - data: "SSH-1337-OpenSSH 9.0\r\n"
   matchers-condition: and
   matchers:
     - type: regex
       part: body
       reaex:
         - 'SSH\-([0-9.-A-Za-z_ ]+)'
     - type: word
         - Protocol major versions differ.
         - bad version 1337
       condition: or
```

Let's test

```
⊸§ nuclei –u
                        conpot-siemens-honevpot-detection.vaml
              projectdiscovery.io
                                                               s nuclei -u
                                                                                              -t dionaea-ftp-honeypot-detection.yaml
[INF] Current nuclei version: v3.3.4 (latest)
INF] Current nuclei-templates version: v10.0.2 (latest)
WRN] Scan results upload to cloud is disabled.
INFl New templates added in latest release: 68
[INF] Templates loaded for current scan: 8654
[INF] Executing 8455 signed templates from projectdiscovery/nuclei-
[WRN] Loading 199 unsigned templates for scan. Use with caution.
[INF] Targets loaded for current scan: 1
[INF] Running httpx on input host
INF] Found 1 URL from httpx
                                                                                projectdiscovery.io
INF] Templates clustered: 1613 (Reduced 1517 Requests)
[INF] Using Interactsh Server: oast.fun
                                                               [INF] Current nuclei version: v3.3.4 (latest)
[http-trace:options-request] [http] [info]
                           from target list as found unresponsive [INF] Current nuclei-templates version: v10.0.2 (latest)
 INF] Skipped
                                                               [WRN] Scan results upload to cloud is disabled.
                                                               [INF] New templates added in latest release: 68
                                                               [INF] Templates loaded for current scan: 1
                                                               [WRN] Loading 1 unsigned templates for scan. Use with caution.
                                                               [INF] Targets loaded for current scan: 1
                                                               [dionaea-ftp-honeypot-detection] [tcp] [info]
                                                                                                                                1:21
```

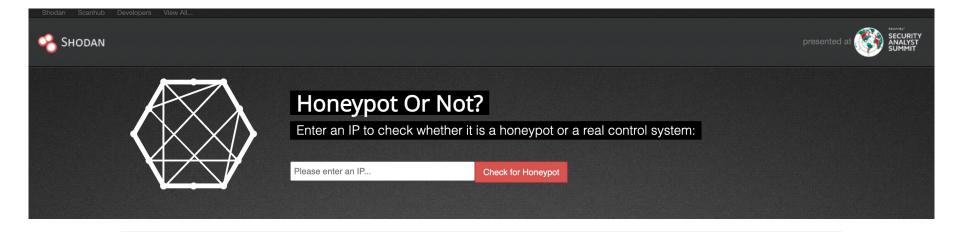
adbhoney-detection-cnxn.yaml adbhoney-detection-shell.yaml cisco-asa-honeypot-detection.yaml citrix-honeypot-detection.yaml

conpot-siemens-honeypot-detection.yaml
cowrie-ssh-honeypot-detection.yaml
dionaea-ftp-honeypot-detection.yaml
dionaea-http-honeypot-detection.yaml

dionaea-mongodb-honeypot-detection.yaml dionaea-mqtt-honeypot-detection.yaml dionaea-mysql-honeypot-detect.yaml dionaea-smb-honeypot-detection.yaml elasticpot-honeypot-detection.yaml
gaspot-honeypot-detection.yaml
mailoney-honeypot-detection.yaml
redis-honeypot-detection.yaml

snare-honeypot-detection.yaml

Honeyscore by Shodan



Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does it work?

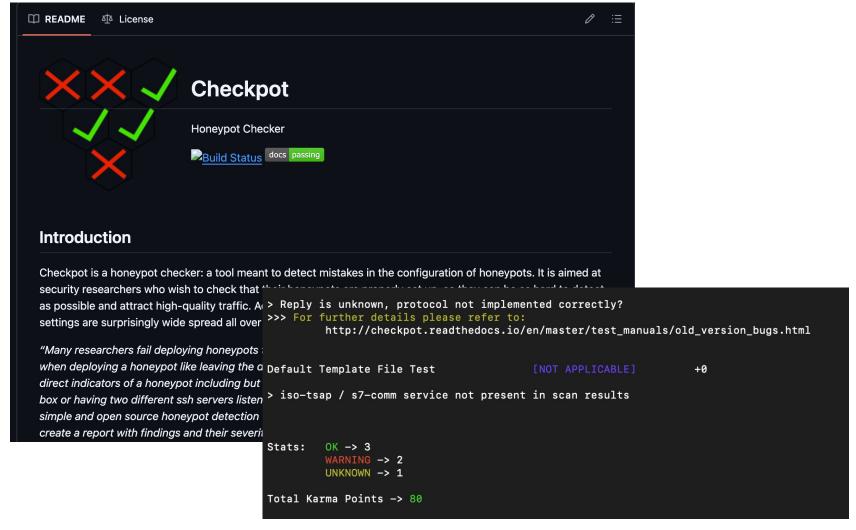
The defining characteristics of known honeypots were extracted and used to create a tool to let you identify honeypots! The probability that an IP is a honeypot is captured in a "Honeyscore" value that can range from 0.0 to 1.0. This is still a prototype/ work-in-progress so if you find some problems please email me at jmath@shodan.io

2. What's the purpose?

Honeypots are a great tool for learning more about the Internet, the latest malware being used and keep track of infections. When trying to catch an intelligent attacker though, many honeypots fall short in creating a realistic environment. Honeyscore was created to raise awareness of the short-comings of honeypots.

3. What technology did you use?

Checkpot by Honeypot Project



https://github.com/honeynet/checkpot

Some resources for more

- Why Credibility is Key: The Truth about Honeypots
- A framework for fingerprinting ICS honeypots
- Detecting Honeypots via 'Flawed Logic' issues
- Gotta Catch 'em All: A Multistage Framework for Honeypot Fingerprinting
- New Threat: ZHtrap botnet implements honeypot to facilitate finding more victims
- Suspicious IP Addresses Avoided by Malware Samples

Thank you for your attention!