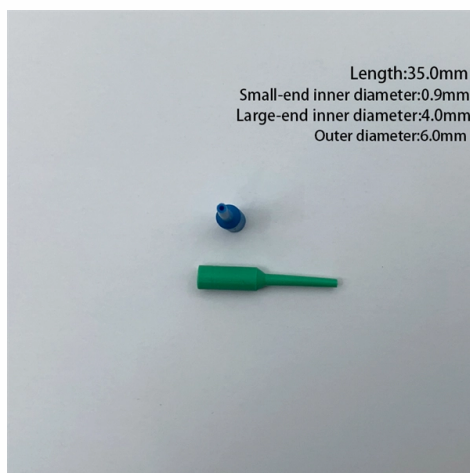


Security monitoring and network security equipment



Overview

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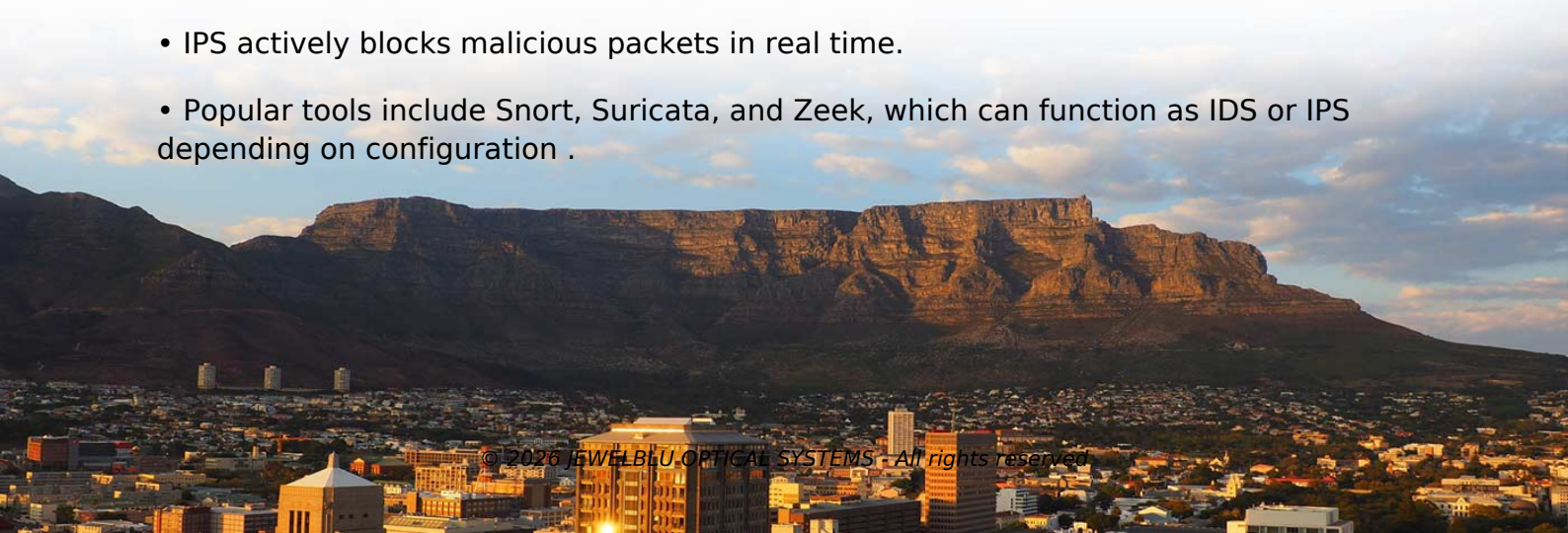
Key Takeaways

Effective network security monitoring requires continuous observation of devices, traffic, and endpoints using tools like SIEM, IDS/IPS, EDR, and NDR to detect and respond to threats in real time. Key Concepts

Network security monitoring is the ongoing process of analyzing network activity to identify suspicious behavior, prevent breaches, and maintain business continuity. It differs from general network performance monitoring by focusing specifically on security threats rather than device performance or bandwidth usage .

Core Monitoring Tools

- Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDS/IPS)
- IDS passively monitors traffic for anomalies or policy violations without blocking traffic.
- IPS actively blocks malicious packets in real time.
- Popular tools include Snort, Suricata, and Zeek, which can function as IDS or IPS depending on configuration .



- Security Information and Event Management (SIEM)
 - Collects and analyzes logs from multiple sources to provide a centralized view of security events.
 - Enables real-time alerts, compliance reporting, and threat intelligence integration.
 - Example: ManageEngine Log360, which also performs file integrity monitoring and integrates with service desk tools for automated incident response .
- Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR)
 - Monitors endpoints (workstations, servers, and mobile devices) for malicious activity.
 - Provides real-time insights into network health and can isolate compromised devices to prevent lateral movement .
- Network Detection and Response (NDR)
 - Focuses on monitoring network traffic for anomalies using AI-based analysis.
 - Detects threats that bypass traditional firewalls and signature-based systems .
- Firewalls and VPN/Edge Services
 - Firewalls filter traffic at the network boundary, blocking unauthorized access.
 - VPNs and edge services secure remote connections and encrypt data transmissions .

Best Practices

- Continuous Monitoring: Security monitoring should be 24/7 to detect threats promptly .
- Multi-Layered Approach: Combine monitoring at endpoints, network boundaries, and internal traffic to cover all attack vectors .
- Automated Alerts and Reporting: Use SNMP traps, SIEM alerts, and dashboards to quickly identify and respond to anomalies .
- Integration with IT Operations: Correlate network, server, and application data to distinguish between performance issues and security incidents .
- Regular Updates: Keep IDS/IPS rulesets, SIEM threat feeds, and endpoint signatures current to address evolving threats .

Implementation Tips

- Deploy agents on devices to collect logs and metrics.
- Use topology mapping to visualize network connections and identify critical assets.
- Prioritize high-risk areas such as servers storing sensitive data or internet-facing devices.

- Leverage AI and anomaly detection to identify unusual patterns that traditional signature-based tools may miss . By combining these tools and practices, organizations can maintain a robust, proactive security posture, detect threats early, and respond effectively to minimize risk.

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