Security Monitoring and Investigation

Paul Haskell-Dowland
School of Science
Edith Cowan University

Overview

- Awareness of assets
- Introduction to monitoring
- SNMP
- Netflow
- Intrusion detection
- Investigation

WHAT ARE YOU PROTECTING?

Defining a perimeter…

- It was once possible to draw a line around your network to define your borders…
  - Servers
  - Desktop computers
  - Possibly laptops
- Plus (often overlooked)
  - Network infrastructure

What is an end-point?

- But with advances in IT and in particular the increased use of personal/companion devices, that border is no longer as clearly defined:
  - Smartphones
  - Table devices
  - USB keys
  - Portable hard drives
  - Social media/cloud-based services

What is an end-point?

- There is also a plethora of network connected devices that are often overlooked:
  - Network attached storage (NAS)
  - IP cameras (CCTV)
  - Building Management Systems (BMS)
  - Projectors
  - Printers/copiers/Multi Function Devices
  - Even domestic WiFi routers/switches introduced by employees into an organisation

Think it won't happen?

- Protocol vulnerabilities
  - Just think about SSL!
- Botnet attack
  - Webcams, DVRs
- Amplification/reflection attack
  - DNS, NTP

- Don't forget users!

INTRODUCTION TO MONITORING

What do we mean by monitoring

- Can use various tools to measure/evaluate:
  - Performance
    - Most users mean speed/reliability
    - Reality = complex combination of theoretical and actual bandwidth; latency; packet loss; utilisation; configuration; device load and many others
  - Security
    - Users often mean Firewall and AV
    - Reality = IDS, IPS, proxies, logs, access control, SEIM (more on these later)

Purpose of monitoring

- Monitor for indicators
  - Discovery of devices
  - Uptime of devices
  - Rule based alerts
  - Behaviour of devices
    - Top talkers and/or listeners
  - Utilisation of devices/links
    - Unusual patterns
    - Changes of utilisation (CPU, memory, ports)

How do we monitor?

- Active or passive monitoring
  - i.e. intrusive or non-intrusive

- We can monitor in an active manner, but this may introduce consequences/side-effects or may be visible to others
- Can monitor the network in a purely passive manner (not interfering with the network) but may miss traffic

Active monitoring

- Active monitoring involves
  - Sending/receiving packets into the network to elicit responses
  - Processing the received packets
  - Calculating metrics/reporting
  - Logging

Passive monitoring

- Usually conducted at a aggregation point
  - Often at the internet/uplink connection
    - aggregation vs distribution
  - Frequently implemented using span/mirror ports
  - Can combine with IDS/IPS
- See ‘all’ traffic passing through monitor point
  - Difficulty with encrypted protocols (may need to combine passive and active approaches)

Monitoring considerations

- Infrastructure
  - Topology, technology
- Traffic level at monitor point
- Application protocols
  - E.g. DNS, Web, P2P
  - What about hidden/tunnelled protocols
- How can we define *typical* behaviour / characteristics / activity?

Challenges

- Capture and log all data
  - There is just too much; if we filter, what do we lose?
  - Data storage (store and then access) – how much, how long?
  - Privacy concerns
  - Analysis time

Simple solution

- Capture traffic using Linux host
  - tcpdump etc.
  - Store to pcap files etc.
  - Parse, search, extract useful data
- Reporting
  - Visualisations (e.g. gnuplot)
  - RRD visualisations
  - Log to database

Packet sniffers

- Interface configured in ‘promiscuous’ mode
- Can be implemented in
  - hardware devices (e.g. router)
  - software computer (physical or virtual)
- Often described as sniffers or analysers at the network, packet or protocol level

Connection analysis

- Extract network/application parameters
  - Packets are correlated into connections
- Can be run in passive host, but more effective using netflow (and others) embedded in high level routers etc.
- Discussion on netflow later

SOME EXAMPLES

Wireshark

- Best known example of a packet sniffer/protocol analyser/network tool
- Supports thousands of protocols from frame up to application level
- Supports filtering of captured traffic as well as de-encapsulation, decoding, conversion and export of data

Wireshark

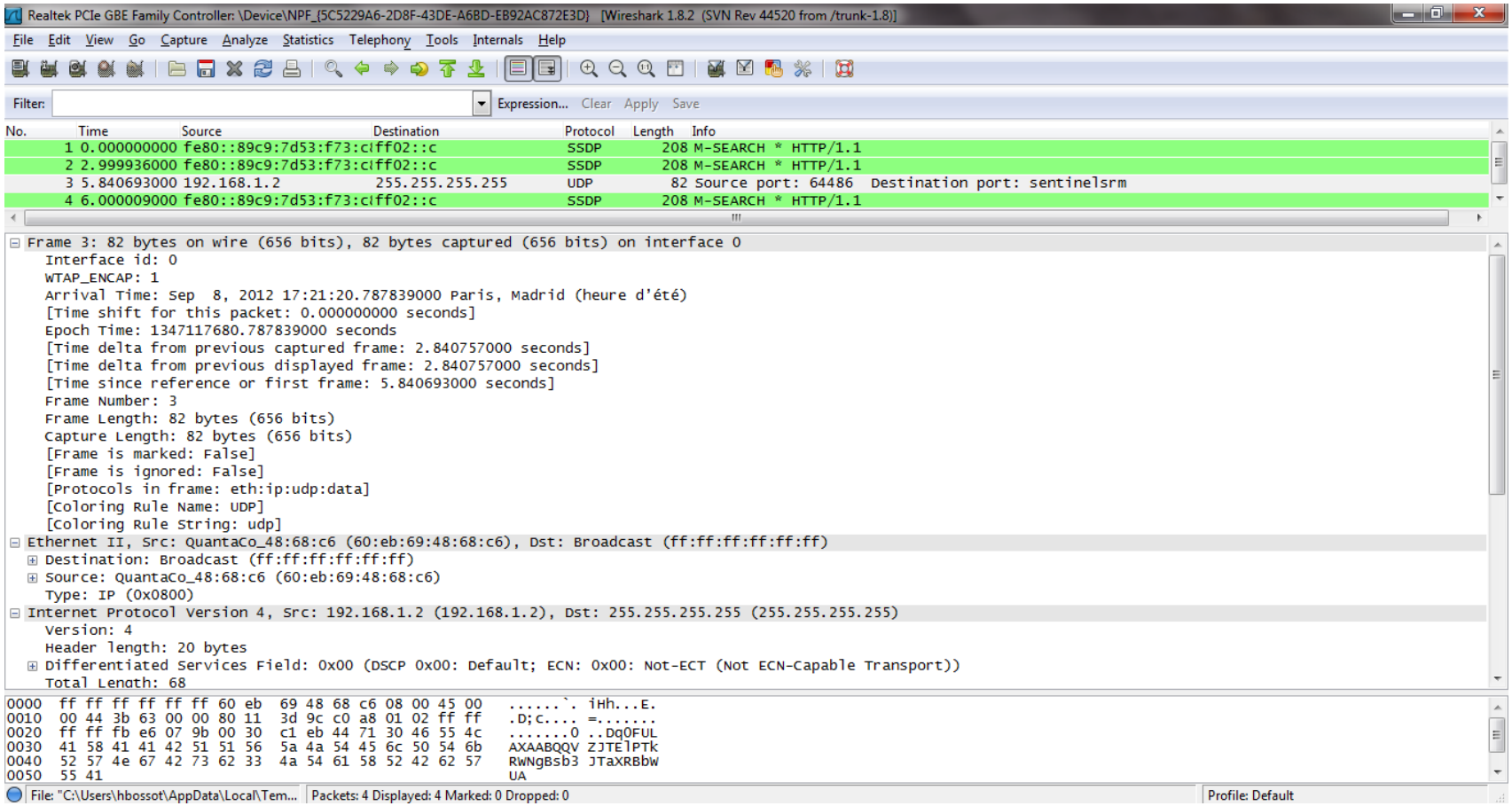
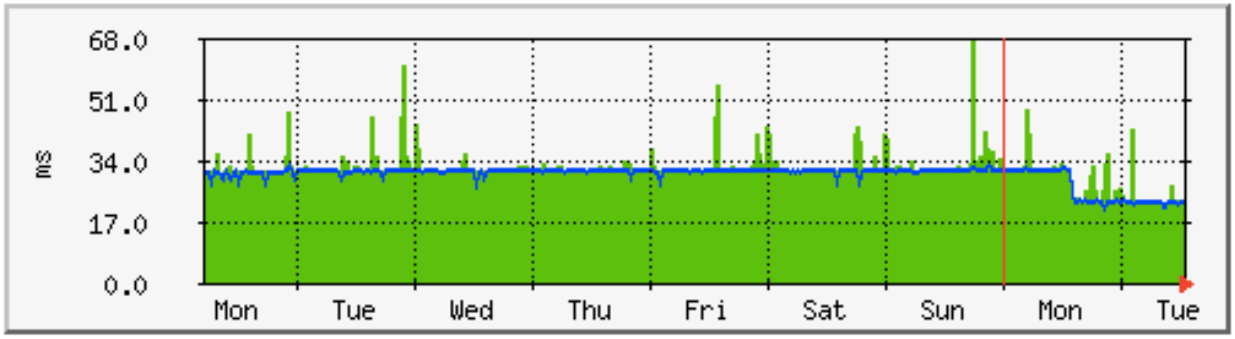


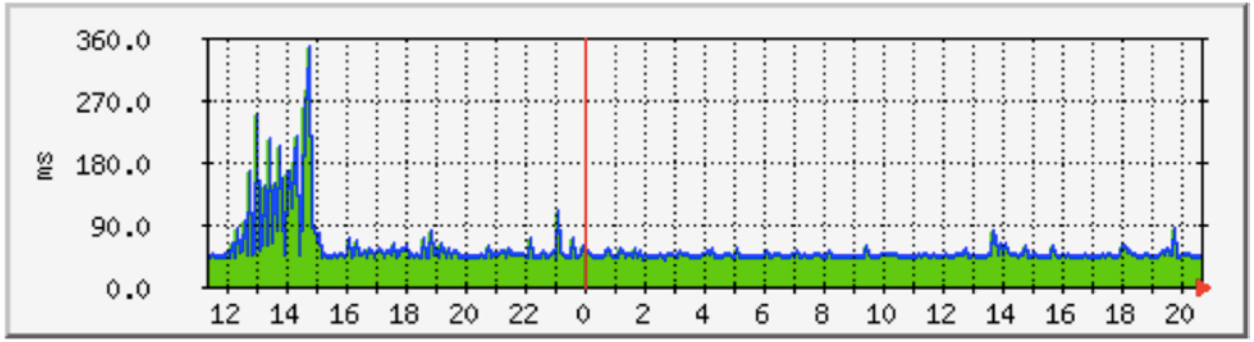
Image from: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Wireshark_-_UDP.png

IPv6 example: http://packetpushers.net/ipv6-and-the-importance-of-the-icmpv6-packet-too-big-message/

RRD graphs

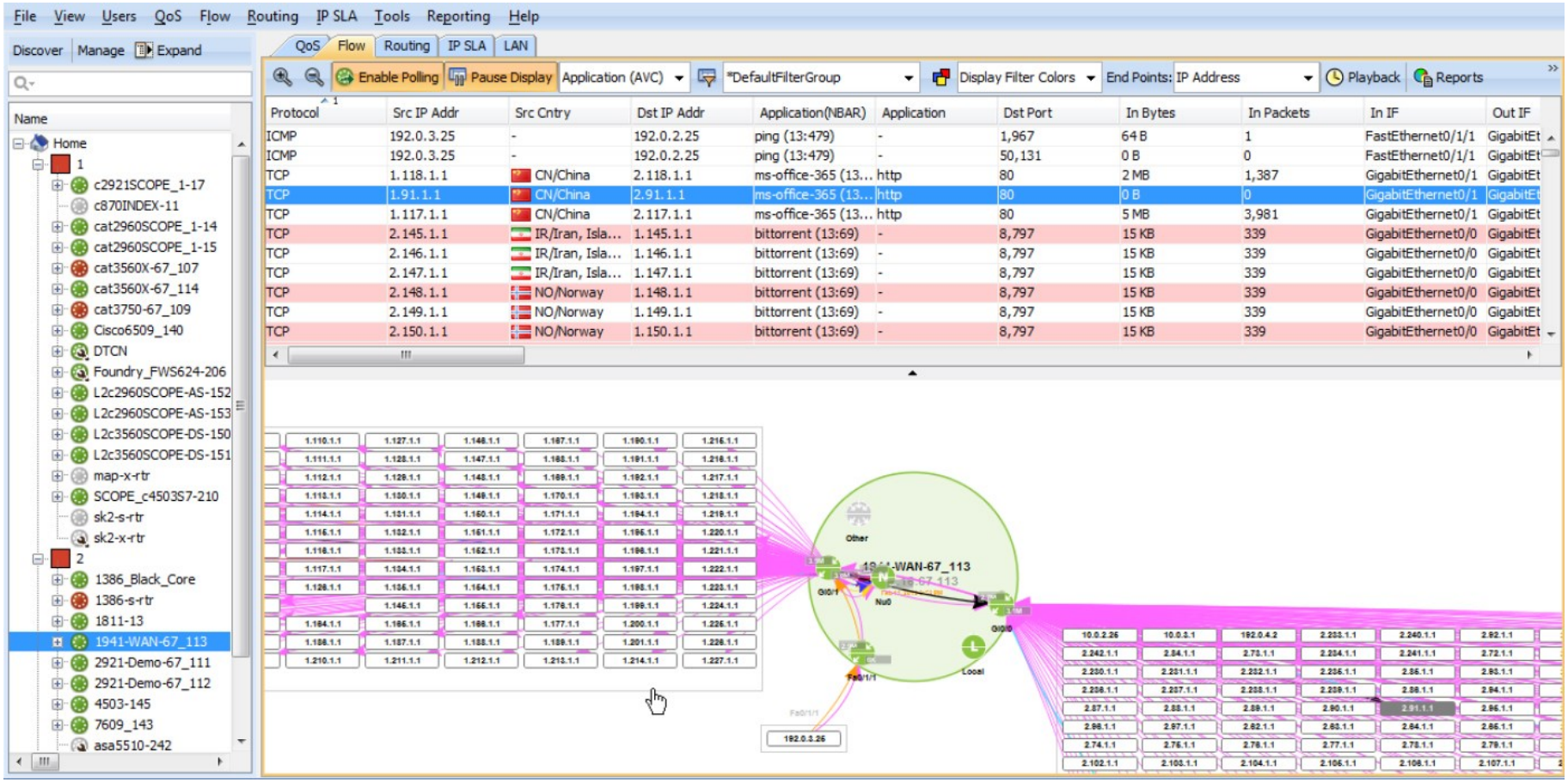


	Max	Average	Current
RTTavg	67.0 ms (0.7%)	31.0 ms (0.3%)	22.0 ms (0.2%)
RTTmin	32.0 ms (0.3%)	30.0 ms (0.3%)	22.0 ms (0.2%)



	Max	Average	Current
Ping in ms	344.0 ms (3.4%)	52.0 ms (0.5%)	41.0 ms (0.4%)

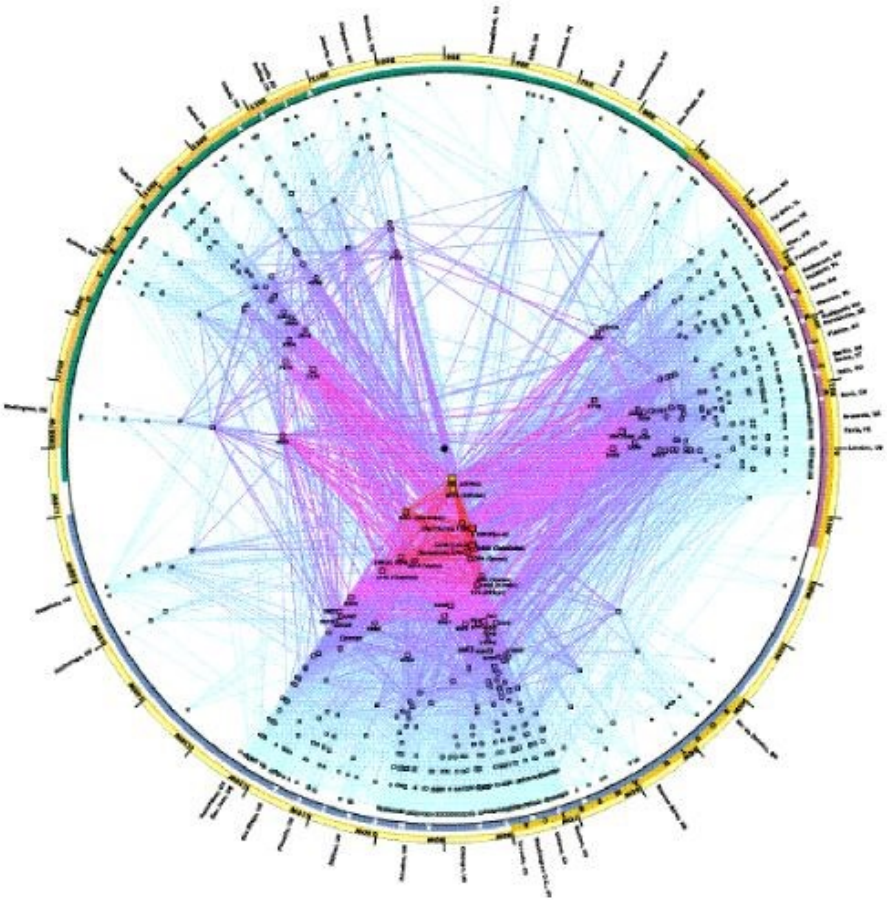
Liveaction



http://www.liveaction.com/solutions/cybersecurity/

Caida tools

- Anonymisation
  - Helps with preserving privacy
- Geographic
  - Link traffic patterns/behaviour with geographical location
- Performance
  - Speed and responsiveness
- Topology
  - Visualising infrastructure
  - AS, IPv4 and v6



http://www.caida.org/tools/

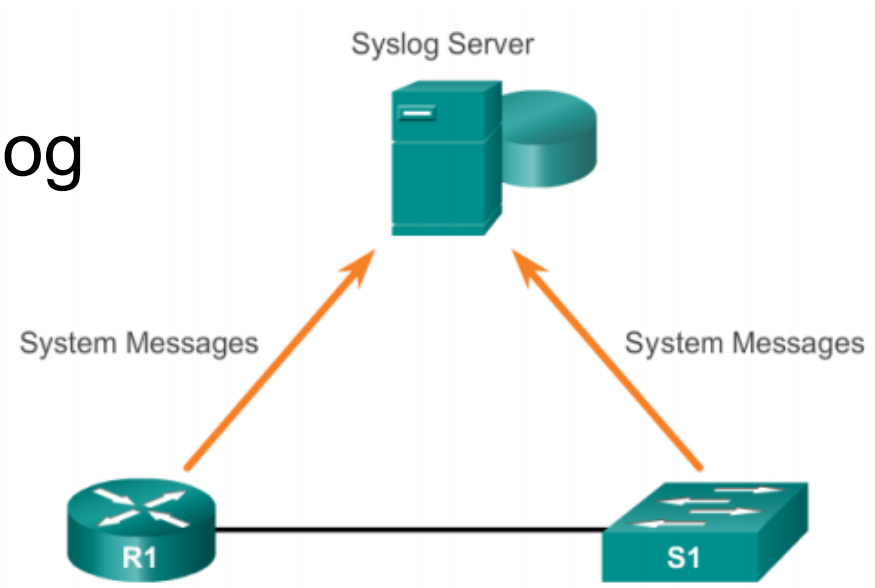
Image from http://www.sdsc.edu/pub/envision/v16.3/caida.html

NTP

- Don’t forget that to make all your data ‘sync’ you need to maintain a common time standard
- Make sure you have a sync’d time server (or use specific external)
  - GPS is an option
- NTP could become yet another vulnerability to your organisation
- Don’t forget to use a common time zone

Syslog

- The commonest form of centralised logging
- UDP port 514
- Simple communication of log data to central repository
- Can collect logging from almost everything
- Don’t forget to actually do something with the logs!



https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e1/Syslog.png

SIMPLE NETWORK MONITORING PROTOCOL (SNMP)

What is SNMP?

- Simple Network Monitoring Protocol (SNMP)
  - Industry standard v3=3411-8
  - Collecting and organising (modifying) information about managed devices
- Describing three issues:
  - What/how to monitor
  - What information is exchanged
  - How the information is exchanged

SNMP

- Simple protocol (TCP/IP) for monitoring status
  - SNMP manager
    - Responsible for requesting and receiving SNMP data
  - Managed devices
    - Devices run the SNMP service and either respond to requests, or, poll the manager with data
  - Management Information Base (MIB)
    - Categorises the devices and their data

What/how to monitor

- What to monitor – almost any device
  - Network components
  - Servers
  - Printers and other devices (remember vulnerable devices earlier!)
- How to monitor
  - Run a service on the monitored device which
    - Can access status and performance of the device – from CPU/memory levels/temperature even service sensors (e.g. out of paper on a printer)
    - Can communicate with another remote entity – either to transmit ‘unsolicited’ information or to respond to queries

Typical queries

- Network traffic levels (bytes/flows/errors)
- CPU load (device and hosts)
- Temperature
- Disk space
- Running processes
- Software versions
- Uptime (but can be inferred)

SNMP commands

- GET (query an agent for a value)
- GET-NEXT (next value in a list)
- GET-RESPONSE (returning value to a manager)
- SET (set a parameter/value)
- TRAP (require agent to notify manager when conditions are met)
- Among others…

What SNMP is not

- Intrusive monitoring – but may be possible to use for resource discovery
- Non-intrusive monitoring – no traffic is captured/interpreted

- SNMP was initially designed to observe and control devices, not to monitor traffic or identify attacks

A note on SNMP security

- SNMP v1,v2 – no/poor security
  - Two “communities”, each using a password sent in clear text
  - v2 still the most commonly used
- Situation improved for SNMP v3
  - Encrypted authentication
  - Many devices do not support v3

What information is exchanged

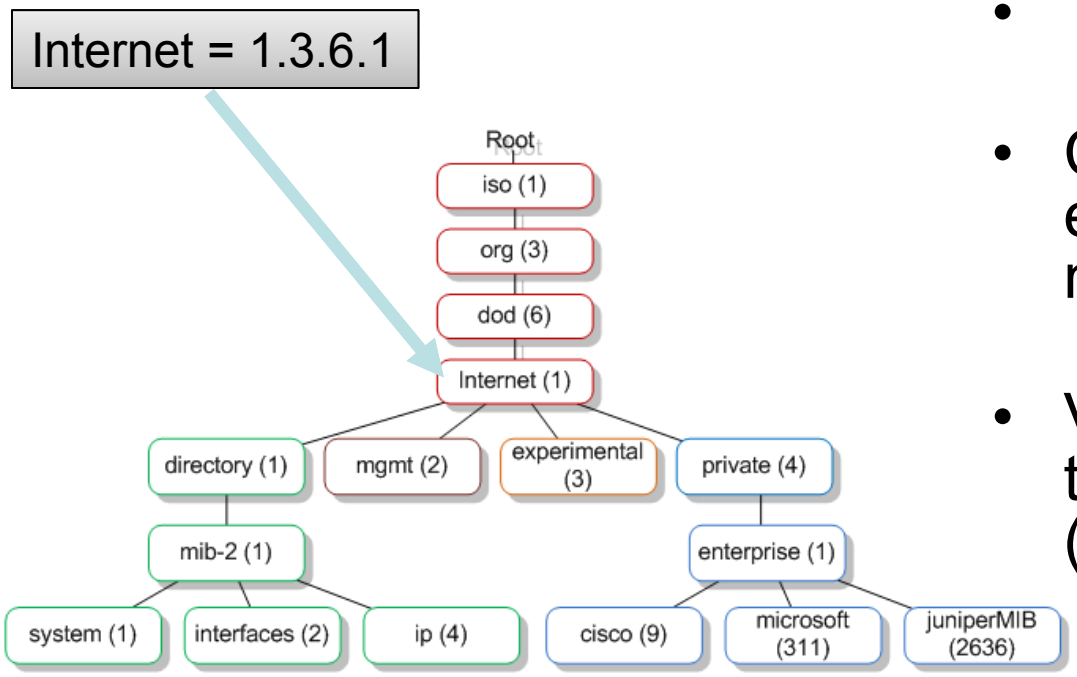
- Each managed device consists of one or more managed objects
  - E.g. managed device – computer; managed objects – CPU, memory, NIC, HDD, etc.
- For each managed object there is a corresponding Management Information Base entry
  - SNMP exchanges information organised in a tree structure – MIB
  - MIB - a database of objects that can be monitored by a network management system

OIDs and MIBs

- An Object IDentifier (OID) is a unique key where a piece of information is stored
- Numerical sequence indicating position in a hierarchical tree

- E.g. Interface statistics
- OID=1.3.6.1.2.1.2.2.1
- The typical MIB used for basic interface statistics
  - Interface status
  - In/out octets
  - Errors
  - Queue length
  - Etc.

MIB tree



- Tree structure
  - Similar to DNS tree
- Can be used for all environments, not only networking
  - E.g. machinery, telephony
- Vendors may introduce their own branches (objects)
  - Each object includes only relevant attributes
- Provides a standardised description of each object

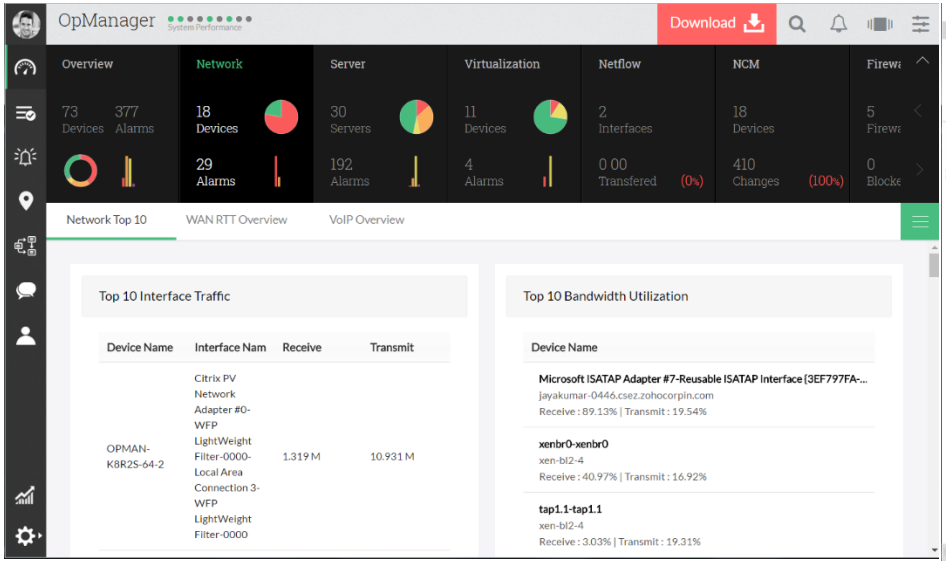
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:SNMP_OID_MIB_Tree.png

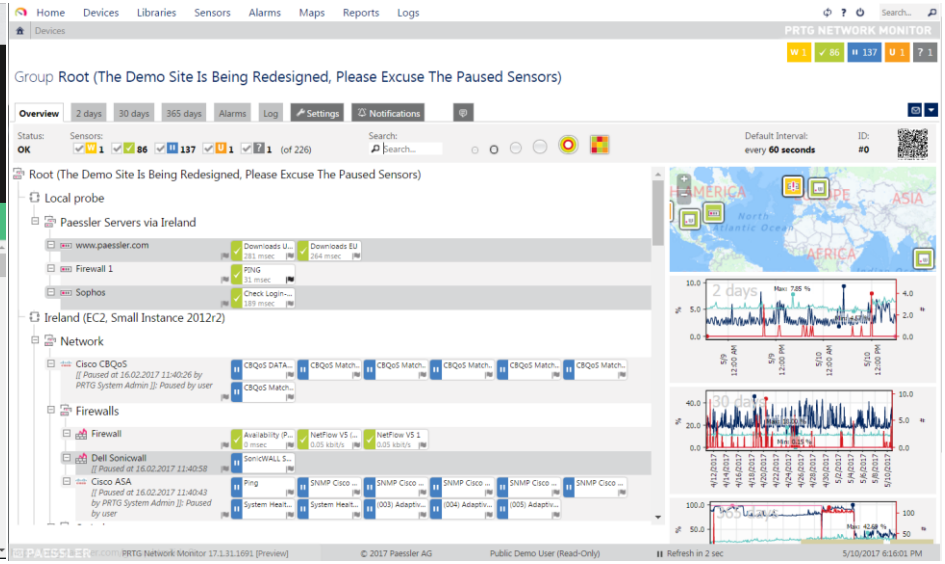
Messages

- Three types of messages govern SNMP
  - Read – read values from the managed device
  - Write – store values on the managed device
  - Trap – allows managed device to issue (asynchronous) alarms to management station
- SNMP runs on UDP
  - Network friendly, no overheads
  - Port 161 for read/write
  - Port 162 for traps

How to use SNMP

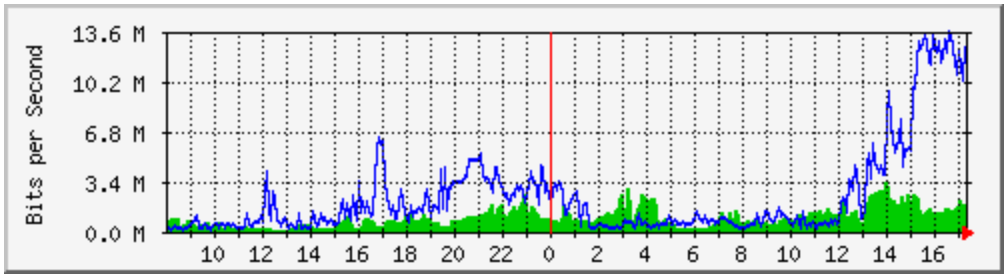
- Plenty of commercial solutions available
  - OpManager from ManageEngine –
    - Demo: http://demo.opmanager.com/DemoLogin.do
  - PRTG - http://www.paessler.com/prtg/
    - Demo: http://prtg.paessler.com

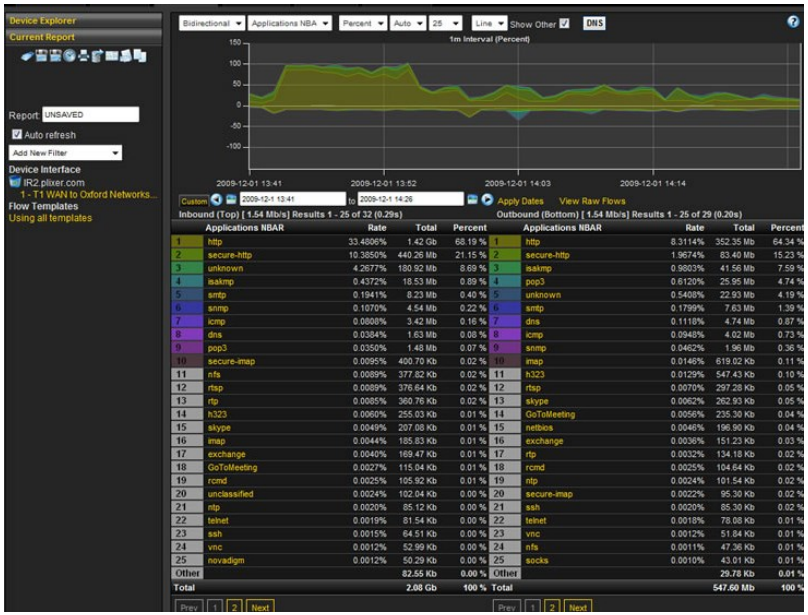




How to use SNMP

- A possible combination for network monitoring: SNMP+RRD=MRTG
  - RRD - Round-Robin Database – maintain time series of data
  - MRTG – Multi Router Traffic Grapher
  - Rapid installation
  - http://oss.oetiker.ch/mrtg/





SNMP+RRD

- SNMP becomes large over time, making data retrieval inefficient
  - Larger files, more data to parse
- Alternative – round robin database
  - Establish a relevant time period (e.g. 1 year)
  - Remove data beyond time period
  - Aggregate older data so it occupies less time
    - 5 minute samples for past 24 hours
    - 1 hours samples for past week
    - 6 hours samples for past month
    - 1 day samples for past year
- Result: constant size for database
- MRTG also includes support for displaying the results

(more) SNMP reporting systems

- Observium
  - http://www.observium.org
  - http://demo.observium.org (demo/demo)
- Cacti
  - http://www.cacti.net/
- Nagios
  - http://sysnetmon.diglinks.com/nagios/ (guest/guest)
- Argus
  - http://argus.tcp4me.com/demo.html

NETFLOW

NETFLOW

- A flow is a set of related packets
- Flow level data can be captured and stored for analysis
  - Netflow (Cisco)
  - jFlow (Juniper)
  - sFlow (industry standard – but sampled)

Purpose

- A flow is expired/exported/stored when the TCP connection finishes, or when preset timers expire
- Information can be parsed to derive
  - Live patterns
  - Anomalies and incidents
- Need to think about where to capture flow data
- DOES NOT record content

Netflow

- Storing flow-data allows for off-line analysis
  - Observing trends and identifying past events
  - Running back through incidents
  - Reverse-tracing attack sequence
  - Rerun of the analysis from a different perspective

What is a flow?

- A TCP connection is formed of two flows, corresponding to the two directions
  - Source/destination IP address
  - Source/destination port for UDP or TCP (type/code for ICMP, 0 for others)
  - IP protocol number
  - Ingress interface (not all devices can distinguish directionality)
  - IP Type of Service (ToS)
  - *NB some tools combine bidirectional flow traffic*

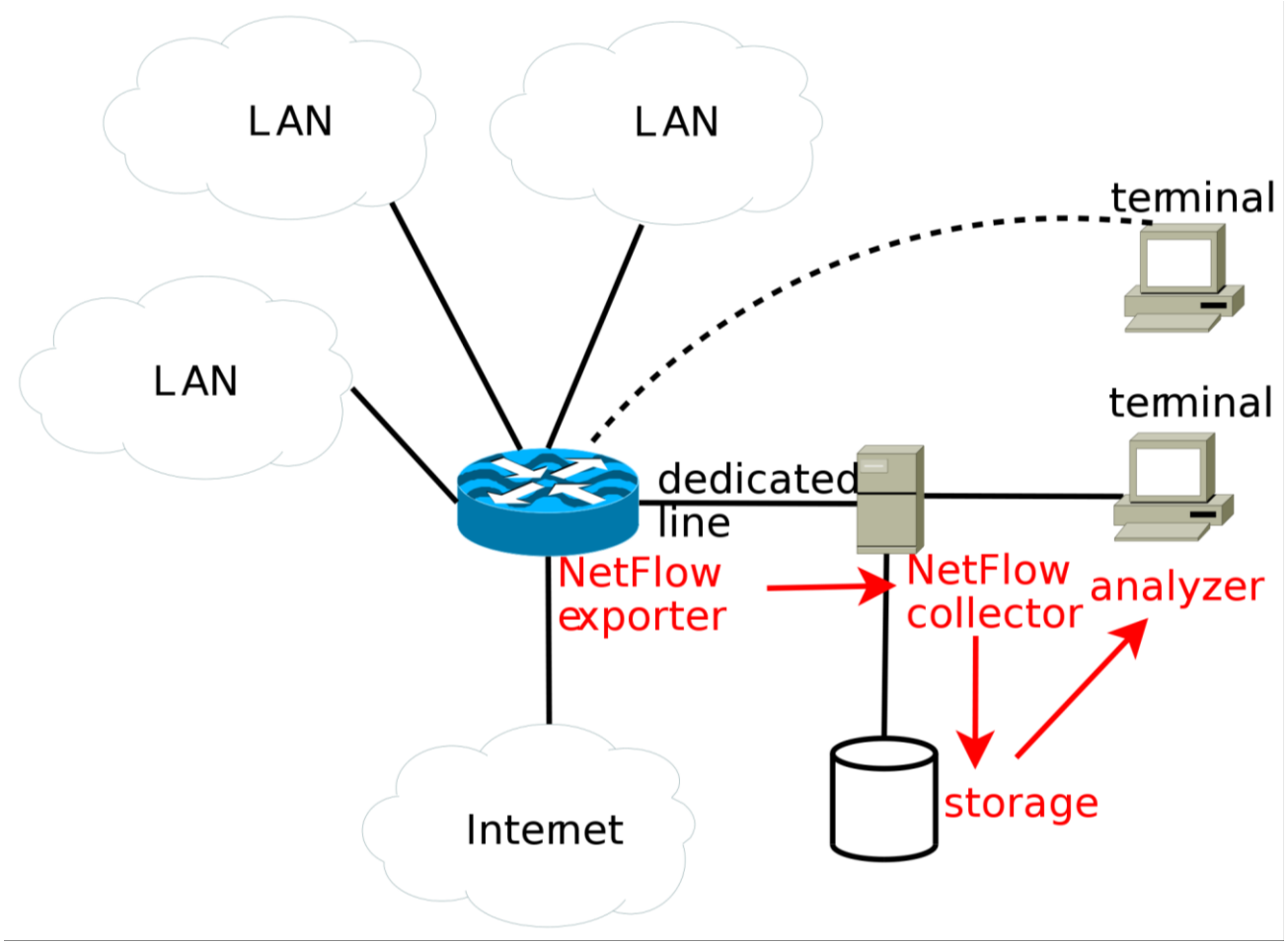
Netflow versions

- v5 – flow/packet/byte accounting
  - BUT does not support IPv6
- v9 – fully flexible, allowing extensions
  - RFC3954
- v10 – the future?
  - RFC5102
- v5 still the most common

Netflow implementation

- Configure device for flow generation
  - Router (e.g. Cisco) - efficient
  - dedicated computer (on span/mirror port)
    - Running flow software (e.g. softflowd, pfflowd, ng_netflow)
- Export flows to a collector
- Collector receives/processes flows
- Management terminal analyses/reports

Example architecture



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Netflow_architecture_en.svg

Example flows

Date flow start	Duration	Proto	Src IP Addr:Port		Dst IP Addr:Port	Packets	Bytes	Flows
2016-02-09 23:53:59.749	0.000	UDP	248.38.135.219:53	->	248.38.135.178:55163	1	202	1
2016-02-09 23:53:59.126	0.000	UDP	248.38.135.219:53	->	248.38.135.61:63824	1	176	1
2016-02-09 23:53:59.770	0.108	TCP	151.37.198.236:80	->	248.38.135.146:52877	3	140	1
2016-02-09 23:53:59.733	0.059	TCP	248.38.135.146:52877	->	151.37.198.236:80	3	436	1
2016-02-09 23:53:59.036	0.000	UDP	248.38.135.219:53	->	248.38.135.61:59035	1	250	1
2016-02-09 23:47:19.988	399.308	ICMP	141.171.183.121:3	->	248.38.135.209:0.1	13	1058	1
2016-02-09 23:47:49.394	369.999	UDP	248.38.135.79:34484	->	141.33.72.159:50162	6	348	1
2016-02-09 23:53:59.110	0.077	TCP	151.37.51.104:80	->	248.38.135.146:49520	3	140	1
2016-02-09 23:53:59.049	0.146	TCP	248.38.135.47:51595	->	149.45.3.154:80	6	1268	1

ROLL-YOUR-OWN

tcpdump

- Well known tool for traffic capture and analysis
  - Extensive packet filtering options
  - Output to text (various forms) and binary content
  - Can do basic processing of traffic
  - High performance (depending on load)
- Not as convenient
  - Large traffic volumes
  - Complex filter/capture options
  - Usually requires post-processing of captured traffic
- http://www.tcpdump.org/tcpdump_man.html

tcpdump output

```
16:03:50.611202 IP (tos 0x0, ttl  60, id 62110, offset
0, flags [none], proto: TCP (6), length: 1362)
192.171.163.3.80 > 70.240.240.174.17410: .
950409921:950411243(1322) ack 4148432645 win 16352
```

```
Timestamp IP (tos tos, ttl ttl, id id, offset offset,
flags [flags], proto proto (ID), length: length)
srcIP.srcport > dstIP.dstport: . startseq:endseq
(datalength) ack ackno win win
```

Timestamp – timestamp of packet capture

tos – type of service value

ttl – time to live value

id - identification number of datagram

offset – offset of datagram in the stream

flags – fragmentation flags

proto / ID – transport protocol type/value

tcpdump alternatives

- windump – windows port
- tshark – text-based version of wireshark

- Plus visual tools
  - Wireshark
  - Take a look at Kali and other ‘hacker’ platforms

INCIDENT DETECTION

Definitions

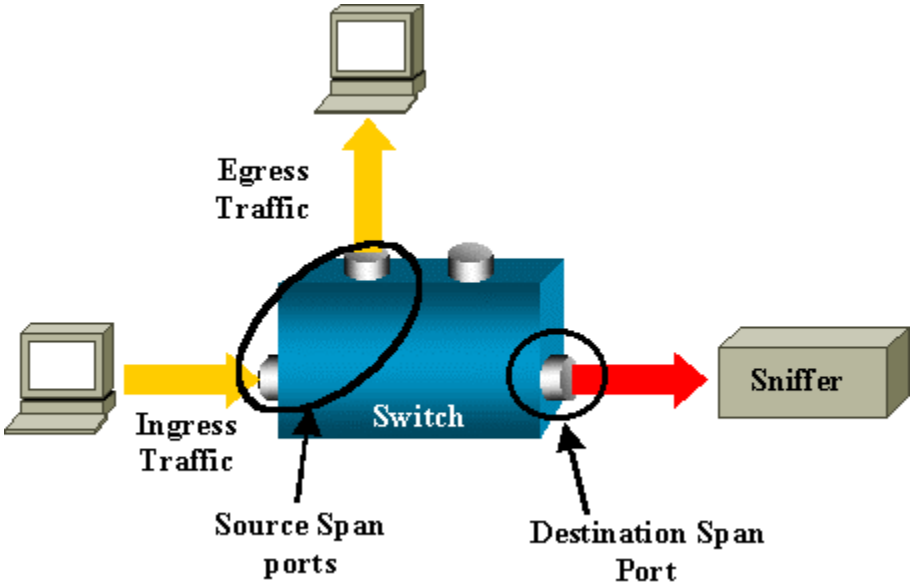
- Intrusion: any attempt (successful or not) to access your infrastructure (devices, hosts, services etc.)
- Intrusion Detection: the mechanism of detecting an intrusion!
- IDS: (Intrusion Detection System) any system that implements the above
- IPS: (Intrusion Prevention System) any system that extends the IDS to actively prevent the attempted intrusion

IDS

- Plenty of commercial offerings
- Most common underlying system is snort
  - Open source IDS
  - Can operate at Gbps speeds
  - Only runs single core, but can have multiple threads (combine multiple instances to achieve high speeds)
  - Can log to database (typically MySQL)
  - Many GUI front-end options
  - Has to be at aggregation point (or distributed)
    - Span/mirror, not in-line

Span/Mirror ports

- Most switches support either span or mirror ports
- Usually have to be specially configured



http://www.cisco.com/c/dam/en/us/support/docs/switches/catalyst-6500-series-switches/10570-41d.gif

Snort rules

- Once implemented, the key element are the snort rules
  - Free (30 day delay)
  - Some community rules
  - Commercial (no delay)

- Rules need to be downloaded
  - Some devices can automate this
  - Or use external tools
  - You need an oinkcode!

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Snort_ids_logo.png

Alerts

- All detection systems will generate some level of false alarms (both positive and negative)
- Up to date rules help, but they need to be applied in the organizational context
- BUT, badly implemented rules can be worse
- Some level of filtering of alerts is needed
  - Do you want to know all 1000 of the port scan alerts from a single external IP?

Resources

- Snort website (including rules downloads)
- Pulled pork (rules updater)
- Emerging threats (community) rules
- SnoGE (Snort unified reporting tool)
- BASE (Basic Analysis and Security Engine)
- And lots more!

INCIDENT RESPONSE/INVESTIGATION

How to Respond: The Incident Respond Process

- Steps
  - Preparation
  - Notification
  - Response
  - Countermeasures
  - Recovery
  - Follow-Up
- Acquire
  - Capture evidence, establish chain or custody, verify evidence
- Analyse
  - Document, repeatable/explainable, independence
- Attest
  - Report findings, evidence-based

Step 1: Preparation

- Plan your response strategy in advance (not while you are under attack
- Response should be planned through risk analysis/assessment and documented as part of your security policy
- Make sure everyone know where the policies and operating procedures can be found

Step 1: Preparation (continued)

- Monitoring service need to be in place (in advance)
- May need dedicated resources, teams, or, even facilities
- A good approach will be proactive and help to minimise risks
- Part of preparedness is testing
  - Internal vs external testing

Step 2: Notification

- How will you receive notifications?
- Who will receive them?
- Contingencies for leave etc.
- This will need more than just someone viewing snort logs – use the tools that are out there
- Is the incident reportable externally?
  - Shareholders
  - Clients/suppliers etc.
  - Banks
  - Police/government

Step 3: Response

- Don’t panic
- Follow the principles established in step 1 (preparing a plan)
- Start to establish impact (refer to risk)
- Think about who needs to be notified
- Be careful not to over-react (or ignore seemingly minor threats)
- What if the system under attack is your main communications method?

Step 4: Countermeasures

- Be prepared to implement countermeasures:
  - Isolating systems, services, subnets, sites etc.
    - Physical/virtual isolation may be preferable to power interruption
  - Think about impact on dependent services
  - What about evidence
    - Legal?
    - Further investigation (i.e. to learn from the incident)
  - Once again, planning

Step 5: Recovery

- Restore services where safe and practical
  - Careful you don't restore from a modified backup!
- Monitor once recovered
- Make sure it doesn't happen again
  - In the short term block services, protocols, IPs etc.
  - In the long term, develop/refine signatures to better detect
  - May need to work with others outside of the organisation

Step 6: Follow-Up

- Document everything
- Follow-up with stakeholders to fully evaluate damage/impact
- Lessons can usually be learnt
  - Improve the investigative process
  - Better protect the infrastructure
  - Quicker detection and prevention
  - Review policies

Preparing evidence

- Oversight (don't work alone)
  - Write everything down
  - Secure the evidence
  - Maintain a chain of custody
  - If you don't know how to handle potential evidence, you should not be doing it!

Security Monitoring and Investigation

Paul Haskell-Dowland
School of Science
Edith Cowan University