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Detecting SSH bruteforce attacks using triggers in QoE

Triggers are used to search data in QoE Stor by specified parameters. When a trigger fires, one of the following actions can occur:

- notification in GUI
- HTTP action
- · email delivery

Required SSG DPI options:

- Statistics gathering and analysis on protocols and directions
- Subscriber notifications

Required additional modules:

- DPIUI2 (GUI Graphical User Interface)
- Implementation and administration

System trigger for detecting SSH bruteforce attacks

The trigger for detecting SSH bruteforce attacks (name — "ssh bruteforce") is a system trigger and is available in "QoE analytics" \rightarrow "Triggers and notifications" (disabled by default).



General trigger information



- Trigger name: "ssh bruteforce";
- Days of week all;
- Check frequency 10 minutes;
- Trigger activation frequency 0;
- Start/end dates and times can be set if needed.



Every day, a check will be performed every 10 minutes according to the conditions described below.

Queries



For this trigger a non-editable query is preset with the following parameters:

• Table to scan: Raw full netflow → Tables → Attacks detection → Ssh bruteforce;

Period from: now - 30 minutesPeriod to: now - 20 minutes

Conditions



- Add two "+" fields
- Link AND
- Function avg
- Series in field 1 session lifetime to subscriber <= 20 (ms)
- Series in field 2 number of sessions per subscriber >= 1500



We set the trigger conditions: average duration of SSH sessions to a subscriber is less than 20 ms and the number of SSH sessions for the subscriber is greater than 1500 for the analyzed period.

Error handling



- In "If no errors" no data
- In "If error or timeout" save last state



With this configuration, if there are no errors, no data is saved; if errors occur, information about suspicious activity is saved.

Actions

E-mail action



- Click the "</>" icon to auto-fill the form
- In the "To" field specify the email address
- With this setup, when the trigger fires an email with the notification details (ID, trigger name, status, link to the report saved state) will be sent to the specified address

Notification

×

- Click "</>" to auto-fill the form
- Select notification type "Warning"
- This will create a notification in the SSG system

×

You can get a link to the report via the notifications menu

×

Select the notification Choose — "Details"

×

Follow the report link — the report will open in a new browser window.

HTTP action

×

Click "</>" to auto-fill the form. Choose the method most suitable for your ticket system and enter the URL.



Keep in mind — the numeric thresholds for sessions, incoming packets, etc., are given as averaged examples. Fine-tune thresholds based on your network specifics.