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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:

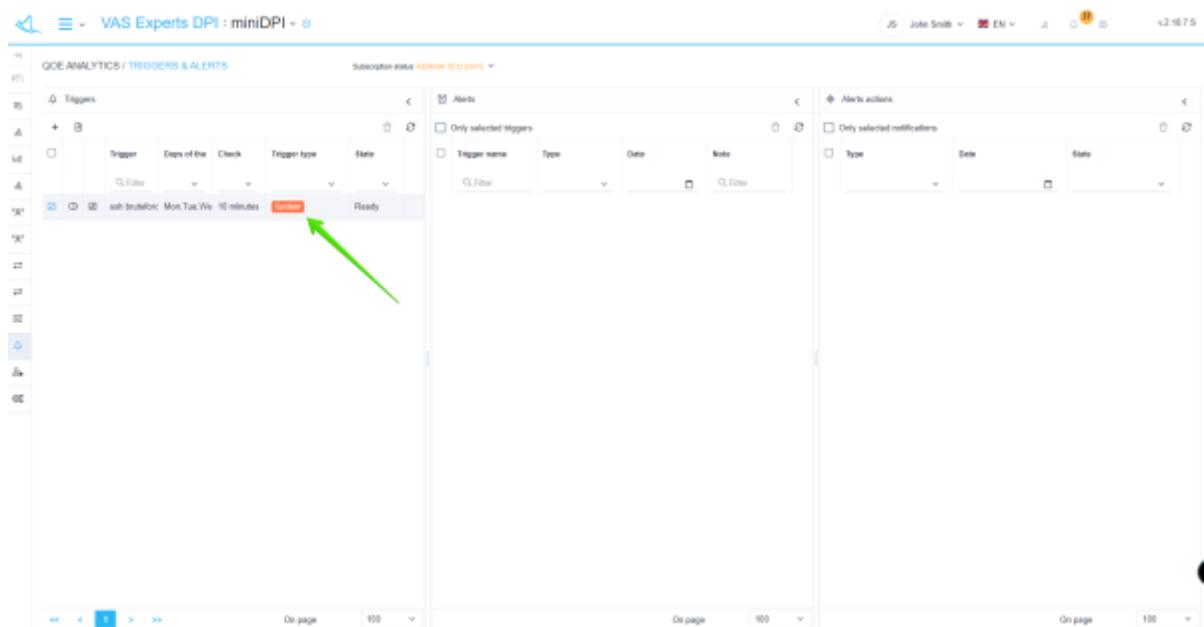
- Statistics gathering and analysis on protocols and directions
- Subscriber notifications

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" → "Triggers and notifications" (disabled by default).



The screenshot shows the 'QoE ANALYTICS / TRIGGERS & ALERTS' page. The 'Triggers' section displays a table with one row. The row for the 'ssh-bruteforce' trigger has a status cell containing the word 'System' with a red background and white text. A green arrow points to this cell. The 'Alerts' and 'Alerts actions' sections are also visible but are empty.

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 minutes
- Period to: now - 20 minutes

Conditions



- Add two "+" fields
- Link – AND
- Function – avg
- Series in field 1 – session lifetime to subscriber \leq 20 (ms)
- Series in field 2 – number of sessions per subscriber \geq 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

The screenshot shows two tables side-by-side. The left table is titled 'Alerts' and the right table is titled 'Alerts actions'. Both tables have a header row with columns for 'Trigger name', 'Type', 'Date', and 'Note'. The 'Alerts' table has 12 rows, each showing a trigger named 'ssh bruteforce' with a status of 'OK'. The 'Alerts actions' table has 1 row, showing a notification with a status of 'Complete'.

Alerts			
Only selected triggers			
Trigger name	Type	Date	Note
ssh bruteforce	⚠ Alerting	20.05.2021 14:45:24	count(sess_subscrib)
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:31:43	
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:13:24	count(sess_subscrib)
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:12:03	count(sess_subscrib)
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:10:42	count(sess_subscrib)
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:09:24	count(sess_subscrib)
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:08:03	count(sess_subscrib)
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:06:42	count(sess_subscrib)
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:05:23	count(sess_subscrib)
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:04:04	count(sess_subscrib)
ssh bruteforce	OK	20.05.2021 14:02:43	count(sess_subscrib)

Alerts actions			
Only selected notifications			
Type	Date	State	
notification	20.05.2021 14:45:44	Complete	

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

Notifications

Triggers 20.05.2021 02:45
ssh bruteforce (1)

Id: 1 Details

Subscribers synchronization Mark as read

Hardware: miniDPI Delete

Success >

Subscribers synchronization 20.05.2021 02:44

Hardware: centos8 >

Subscribers synchronization 20.05.2021 02:42

Hardware: miniDPI >

Subscribers synchronization 20.05.2021 02:42

Hardware: centos8 >

Subscribers synchronization 20.05.2021 02:40

Hardware: miniDPI >

Subscribers synchronization 20.05.2021 02:40

Hardware: centos8 >

<< < 1 2 3 4 5 > >>

Select the notification Choose — "Details"

Notifications

Triggers

Status	New
Notification date	20.05.2021 02:45
Notify type	⚠ Warning

Notification content

ssh bruteforce (1)

Id: 1

Trigger: ssh bruteforce

Status: firing

Severity: hight

Queries:

A: QoETableFullnetflowRawSshBruteForceWidget

Reasons for the occurrence of notification:

count(sess_subscribers) > 0 is true in query A

Links to reports:

A: https://localhost/#QoEAnyReport/report_id=896Fj5ZLpG8WenE

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.