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# IPFIX receiver utility

## Introduction

IPFIX receiver is used for receiving an IPFIX (Netflow 10) stream from DPI devices and store the stream to a local file. The stored file can be processed as a text file any unix utilities.

## Installation and upgrade

1. use VAS Experts repository according to p.1 of the [DPI installation instruction](#).
2. install ipfixreceiver:

```
yum install -y ipfixreceiver
```

3. check changes in configuration files for installed version look at part "Important changes in version ..."

## Important changes in version 1.0.3 vs 1.0.2

1. changed configuration file in part of IP address transformation, since 1.0.3 version use decodeipv4, decodeipv6 in Export model to export IP in readable mode. Example:

```
source_ip4, decodeipv4
```

```
destination_ip4, decodeipv4
```

2. saving data now in separate process, important if DPI has more than 25 000 session per second, it can load upto 2 processor cores. In DEBUG logging added check records to controll save processing  
(a)cnt=NNNNN - send NNNNN buffer  
(b)cnt=YYYYY - saved YYYYY buffer.
3. buffer\_size parameter added - size of buffer to interchange between receiver and saver processes, use it in [dump] section, default value - 100000 records (for 20Gbe or 25 000 session per second). If the buffer size is not reached then 30sec timeout is used to push buffer into saver process.

## Supplied files

1. configuration examples:

```
/etc/dpiui/ipfixreceiver.conf - clickstream example (http/https clickstream)  
/etc/dpiui/ipfixreceiverflow.conf - session example (netflow 10/IPFIX full session export)
```

```
/etc/dpiui/ipfixreceiversip.conf - meta information (sip connections)
example
```

2. programm files directory:

```
/usr/local/lib/ipfixreceiver.d/
```

3. additional files:

```
/etc/dpiui/port_proto.txt - for translation protocol number to text
protocol name
```

4. link to executable:

```
/usr/local/bin/ipfixreceiver -> link to
/usr/local/lib/ipfixreceiver.d/ipfixreceiver
```

## Additional OS settings

1. set iptables for receive external data

Ipfixreceiver is required to open ports that will be used to receive IPFIX streams (in configuration see section [connect])

For instance you are using TCP protocol, 1500 port and IP=212.12.11.10

```
[connect]
protocol=tcp
host=212.12.11.10
port=1500
```

For ipfixreceiver working in /etc/sysconfig/iptables you have to insert the next rule:

```
-A INPUT -p tcp -m state --state NEW -m tcp --dport 1500 -j ACCEPT
```

Do not forget that after changes iptables r - restart service is required:

```
service iptables restart
```

2. configure logrotate

Example for logrotate file /var/log/dpiuiflow.log, create in /etc/logrotate.d/ the file "flowlog" with the next content

```
/var/log/dpiui*.log {
    rotate 5
    missingok
    notifempty
    compress
    size 10M
    daily
    copytruncate
}
```

```
    nocreate
    postrotate
    endscript
}
```

Using copytruncate is required, otherwise the log file will be recreated and log write to the file in stopped.

According to ipfixreceiver configuration in section [handler\_ipfixreceiverlogger] is setted the next:

```
args=('/var/log/dpiuiflow.log', 'a+')
```

3. configure remove old files. Example, removing old archive files (more then 31 days) with session records in gzip:

```
15 4 * * * /bin/find /var/dump/dpiui/ -name url_*.dump.gz -cmin +44640
-delete > /dev/null 2>&1
```

Change it to meet you requirements and put into the file /var/spool/cron/root.

## Execution parameters

ipfixreceiver utility has next parameters:

```
usage: ipfixreceiver start|stop|restart|status|-v [-f <config file>]
где
start    - start as service
stop     - stop service
state    - get state of service
restart  - restart service
-v       - version info
-f <config file> - config file name (required)
```

Example:

```
ipfixreceiver start -f /etc/dpiui/ipfixreceiverflow.conf
```

## Configuration

By default config file /etc/dpiui/ipfixreceiver.conf is used .

More information about config parameter you can find by link [Logging](#)

## Logging sections

1. loggers - define logging identifiers

2. handlers - define used logging workers
3. formatters - define used logging formats

## **logger\_root**

1. level - log level

Values:

```
CRITICAL - critical errors only, minimum log level
ERROR    - errors included
WARNING  - warnings included
INFO     - information included
DEBUG    - debug messages included
NOTSET   - all, maximum log level
```

Example:

```
level=DEBUG
```

2. handlers - used message handlers

Example:

```
handlers=ipfixreceiverlogger
```

## **handler\_ipfixreceiverlogger**

1. class - class of the message handler

Example:

```
class=FileHandler
```

2. level - log level

```
level=DEBUG
```

3. formatter - name of formatter that is used

```
formatter=ipfixreceiverlogger
```

4. args - handlers' parameters

```
args=('/var/log/dpiuiflow.log', 'a+')
```

## **formatter\_ipfixreceiverlogger**

1. format - log message format description

Example:

```
format=%(asctime)s - %(name)s - %(levelname)s - %(message)s
here:
%(name)s          - logger name
%(levelname)s     - level ('DEBUG', 'INFO', 'WARNING', 'ERROR',
'CRITICAL').
%(asctime)s      - daye, default - "2003-07-08 16:49:45,896" (with
milliseconds after comma).
%(message)s      - message
```

2. datefmt - date format

Example:

```
datefmt='%m-%d %H:%M'
```

## connect

1. protocol - protocol(tcp or udp).

```
protocol=udp
```

2. host - IP or server name or 0.0.0.0 (to receive from all devices).

```
host=localhost
```

3. port - port number.

```
port=9996
```

## dump

1. rotate\_minutes - rotation period in minuties, after it temp file will be moved to dumpfiledir/<port>.url.dump and new tempfile will be created.

```
rotate_minutes=10
```

2. processcmd - command that will be executed to process new data file after rotation, parameter is full file name.

```
processcmd=gzip %s
```

3. dumpfiledir - directory where received data files will be stored.

```
dumpfiledir=/var/dump/dpiui/ipfixflow/
```

4. buffer\_size - size of buffer to interchange between receiver and saver processes, use it in [dump] section, default value - 100000 records (for 20Gbe or 25 000 seesion per second). If the buffer size is not reached then 30sec timeout is used to push buffer into saver process.

## InfoModel

the section describes IPFIX receiving template.

1. InfoElements - parameter with description of information model elements for IPFIX template

```
InfoElements =  octetDeltaCount,      0,    1, UINT64, True
                packetDeltaCount,     0,    2, UINT64, True
                protocolIdentifier,    0,    3, UINT8
                session_id,           43823, 2000, UINT64, True
here,
    session_id - field name according to IPFIX description table (see
according sections)
    43823      - enterprise number or general IPFIX protocol number
    1          - unique field name
    UINT64     - field type
    True       - endian (True or empty).
```

Field types:

| Type         | Length | Type IPFIX           |
|--------------|--------|----------------------|
| OCTET_ARRAY  | VARLEN | octetArray           |
| UINT8        | 1      | unsigned8            |
| UINT16       | 2      | unsigned16           |
| UINT32       | 4      | unsigned32           |
| UINT64       | 8      | unsigned64           |
| INT8         | 1      | signed8              |
| INT16        | 2      | signed16             |
| INT32        | 4      | signed32             |
| INT64        | 8      | signed64             |
| FLOAT32      | 4      | float32              |
| FLOAT64      | 8      | float64              |
| BOOL         | 1      | boolean              |
| MAC_ADDR     | 6      | macAddress           |
| STRING       | VARLEN | string               |
| SECONDS      | 4      | dateTimeSeconds      |
| MILLISECONDS | 8      | dateTimeMilliseconds |
| MICROSECONDS | 8      | dateTimeMicroseconds |
| NANOSECONDS  | 8      | dateTimeNanoseconds  |
| IP4ADDR      | 4      | ipv4Address          |
| IP6ADDR      | 16     | ipv6Address          |

Field names and their description:

1. [Flow export template in IPFIX](#)
2. [Meta information export template](#)

additional information:



## ExportModel

defines the export model parameters, reserved for future use.

1. Mode - type used export (File only)

```
Mode = File
```

## ExportModelFile

defines the File export model.

1. Delimiter field delimiter ( \t - TAB, examples - |,;)

```
Delimiter = \t
```

2. ExportElements - fields description that will be saved to file.

```
ExportElements = timestamp, seconds, %%Y-%%m-%%d %%H:%%M:%%S.000+03
                  login
                  source_ip4
                  destination_ip4
                  host, decodehost
                  path, decodepath
                  referral, decodereferer
                  session_id
here:
  name - field name from information model described before [InfoModel]
        (login, session_id и т.п.)
  worker - internal transformation routine
            seconds      - field in seconds, format required
            milliseconds - field in milliseconds, microseconds,
nanoseconds, format required
            decodehost   - decoder from punycode to UTF-8
            decodepath   - decoder from urlencoding to UTF-8
            decodereferer - decoder from (punycode,urlencoding) to
UTF-8
            decodeproto  - decoder from protocol number to protocol
port
            decodeipv4   - decoder from decimal number to IP
address string
  format - format for seconds, milliseconds.
          Example: %%Y-%%m-%%d %%H:%%M:%%S.%%f+0300
          Result: 2016-05-25 13:13:35.621000+0300
```

## Centos7 service for ipfixreceiver

Centos7 service creation step by step, service name **ipfix1**, config file name **/etc/dpiui/ipfixreceiver.conf**, used port **1500**.

Create the file /etc/systemd/system/ipfix1.service with:

```
[Unit]
Description=ipfix test restart
After=network.target
After=syslog.target

[Service]
Type=forking
PIDFile=/tmp/ipfixreceiver.1500.pid
ExecStart=/usr/local/bin/ipfixreceiver start -f
/etc/dpiui/ipfixreceiver.conf
ExecStop=/usr/local/bin/ipfixreceiver stop -f /etc/dpiui/ipfixreceiver.conf
ExecReload=/usr/local/bin/ipfixreceiver restart -f
/etc/dpiui/ipfixreceiver.conf
Restart=always
RestartSec=10s

[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

Execute to register and run service:

```
systemctl enable ipfix1.service
systemctl start ipfix1.service
systemctl daemon-reload
```

Check status:

```
systemctl start ipfix1.service
```

## Troubleshooting

1. how can I get version?

Use:

```
ipfixreceiver -v
```

```
yum info ipfixreceiver
```

2. can I send IPFIX streams from different DPI devices to one port?  
Yes, for UDP. Ipfixreceiver will write it to the same output files.
3. How can I learn that utility is working?
  - a) check port is listening, example 1500:

```
netstat -nlp | grep 1500
```

b) check utility log for errors

c) check that data is writing to temporary file, example for 9996 port (dump directory - /var/dump/dpiui/ipfixurl):

```
tail -f /var/dump/dpiui/ipfixurl/9996.url.dump
```

4. all checked, but no data is received?

a) check iptables rules.

b) check ipfixreceiver configuration for IP server address.

5. DPI sends more than 2 mln session per second, in DEBUG level I see that counter in saver is slower than counter in receiver. How can I tune performance ?

a) remove decoder date to string, it'll lower processing time and reduce file size

b) remove decodeipv4, it'll also a little lower processing

c) check buffer\_size for more 30 000 session per sec

d) upgrade processor for more frequency