## Malicious Activity Recognition on SCADA Network IEC 60870-5-104 Protocol

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lst M. Agus Syamsul Arifin
Faculty of Computer Universitas Bina
Insan/Faculty of Engeenering Universitas
Sriwijaya
Lubuklinggau, Indonesia
mas.arifin@univbinainsan.ac.id

4th Dwi Prasetya

Manager of Operation Facility PLN, UP2D

S2JB

Palembang, Indonesia
dwi.prasetya@pln.co.id

11 2nd Deris Stiawan\*
Faculty of Computer Science Universitas
Sriwijaya
Palembang, Indonesia
deris@unsri.ac.id

5th N7 hd. Yazid Idris
faculty of Computer Science and
Information System, Universiti Teknologi
Malaysia
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
yazid@cs.utm.my

3rd Susanto
Faculty of Computer Universitas Bina
Insan/Faculty of Engeenering Universitas
Sriwijaya
Lubuklinggau, Indonesia
susanto@univbinainsan.ac.id
2
6th Rahmat Budiarto
College of Computer Science and IT,
AlBaha University

Albaha, Saudi Arabia

rahmat@bu.edu.sa

Abstract— As SCADA (Supervisory Control Acquisition Data) has extended to a heterogeneous network, makes it opens to any types of internet attack/malicious activity. Malicious activities in the SCADA network may disrupt the control and monitoring process of industrial equipment. These activities can be in the form of Unauthorized Access, Port Scanning, and Syn flood. Each Malicious Activity has features that can be a way to identify it. This paper attempts to investigate the malicious activities in the SCADA network running the IEC 60870-5-104 protocol. Raw traffic data from the SCADA network were recorded in peap format. Next, by using Snort and Suricata software the characteristics of malicious activities are identified, and then observed using Wireshark software. The observation will produce attacks characteristics/features. Knowing these features will help to classify or to identify the attacks. In 70 rn, the recognized features of the SCADA traffic network can be used to develop a machine learning model as a classifier engine in an intrusion detection system (IDS).

Keywords— Features Recognition, Malicious Activity, SCADA, IEC 60870-5-104

#### I. INTRODUCTION

In modern SCADA, the SCADA system is connected to one or more other industrial protocols [1] thus opening many gaps to the threat of cyber attacks in the SCADA system [1],[2]. Cyber attacks on SCADA networks show an increasir 19 end with diverse and sophisticated techniques [3]. Because SCADA has an important role in communication on industrial devices so that all industrial system communication networks from field equipment to connecting network controllers and field devices such as PLC (Programmable Logic Controller) must be protected [4]. The vulnerability of the SCADA network/system pointed out by [5], finding more than 500,000 SCADA devices from various vendors can be accessed through the Shodan search engine if a SCADA device is connected to the heterogeneous network or the Internet

Research work in [6] compares the IE 18 0870-104 (IEC 104) protocol with other four protocols: Modbus, TASE.2, DNP3 and IEC-60870-5-101 protocols and states that of the four Authentication, Authorization, Integrity and Confidentiality features, the IEC 104 protocol only has

Integrity features using Checksum, but more neither of the four protocols have these four complete features.

As the protocol that used in this work is IEC-60870-5-104, which in practice will be encapsulated into TCP protocol before being sent, the treatment in recognizing attack patterns in this protocol is not much different from recognizing traditional network attack patterns on TCP/IP protocol [7],[8]. The dataset used in experimenting with the malicious activity features is the dataset that resulted from a testbed network introduced by Maynard et al [9] which is still in the form of a pcap file. This file will be read by using Wireshark software. This dataset contains traffic data of SCADA that running IEC-60870-5-104 communication protocol, and with performing a deeper analysis malicious activities such as Port Scanning, Syn Flood, and Unauthorized Access will be found.

In this study, the authors will show the characteristics of the malicious activity patterns in the SCADA network/system by displaying the payloads of these features using Wireshark from the results of the detection of Snort and Suricata software. Though the IEC 104 protocol has weaknesses, however, this protocol is widely used in industry [1],[10], especially the power plant industry. One of the reasons for the popularity of the IEC 104 protocol in the electrical industry is 22 ause the IEC 104 protocol supports Automation Generation Control (AGC) which is an algorithm that can regulate the balance of electrical energy in a large geographic area [1]. Thus, it is important to recognize early patterns of malicious activity which are usef 7 for minimizing the threat of attack on the SCADA network/system.

The rest of the paper is structured as follows. In Section 2, the authors present research works related to pattern recognition in SCADA network/system. Section 3 describes the characteristics that can be used to recognize malicious activity in the dataset. In Section 4 the authors discuss the characteristics of the malicious activity and the function of these features as the results from observation. Lastly, Section 5 gives conclusions of this study and the authors plan on malicious activity in the future.

#### II. RELATED WORK

Research conducted by [11] discusses data traffic patterns in the IEC 60870-5-104 protocol in the network by collecting data during the SCADA system operates and then using it to see the characteristics of Non-Polling Data. Data traffic analysis was carried out only on normal data without any attacks data in it. Figure 1 presents the IEC 104 protocol data frame format.

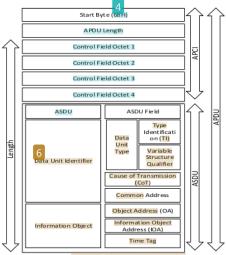


Fig 1. Protocol IEC 60870-5-104 Format

Research conducted by [12] uses a testbed system to simulate SCADA traffic then inserting malicious activities into it to be detected using the Snort and Suricata attack detection applications. This research was conducted to see the performance of the two attack detection applications then compare their performances.

In research work by [13], the authors simulate attacks SCADA IEC 104 network, then measure the consequences of attacks on the SCADA system using Colored Petri Net (CPN). A study that discusses the correlation between the arrival time pattern of data packets and the SCADA Spontaneous Data Traffic to detect anomalies on the SCADA network has been carried out by [14]. This study is based on the results of a previous study by [11], Researchers find out that anomalies that occur in the data traffic of the SCADA system contents with the Information Object Address (IoA) and Cause of Transmission (CoT) time patterns in the IEC 104 protocol, so that anomaly detection systems for SCADA network/system can be built based on this correlation model.

#### III. MALICIOUS ACTIVITY PATTERN

The dataset used in this study is adapted from [9] and created from traffic data capturing of a testbed network hat consists of nine hosts, namely: one Historian 13 rver with an IP address of 10.50.50.151, one HMI device with an IP address of 10.50.50.150, five RTU devices with an IP address between 10.50.50.101 for RTU 1 to 10.50.50.105 for RTU 5, one reconnaissance device with IP address 10.50.50.3 and one Man in the middle Middle (MITM) device with IP address 10.50.50.99. In this study, the authors define a port scanning device as an illegal device on the network.

In the scenario, a MITM node is set up to send an invalid value for Causetx so that this becomes a feature to detect the invalid value using Snort and Suricata. Then several Suricata rules are modified to detect SYN Flood, Port Scan, Unauthorized Access and Invalid Cause of Transmission (CoT).

This study uses Snort software version 3.01 and Suricata software version 5.0.3 running on a Virtual Machine using Ubuntu 20.04 operating system and with a Virtual Machine specification of six CPU cores, 16 GB RAM and 64 GB Storage by detecting files. The two software work on the dataset with the peap extension.

The results of the detection of Malicious Activity on the dataset using Snort and Suricata are Port scan activity, Syn Flood, Unauthorized Access and Invalid CoT and are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1 SNORT AND SURICATA DETECTION RESULT

IDS Application	Alert	Syn Flood	Port Scan	Unauthorized Access	Invalid CoT
Snort	16183	4270	10.598	20	0
Suricata	17408	3596	10.598	50	1195

#### A. Syn Flood

Packets of SCADA communication network running IEC 104 protocol will be encapsulated into packets of TCP protocol before being sent [7][8]. There will be a three-way handshaking mechanism. thus, this 26 chanism is an opening door for an attacker to perform a Syn Flood Attack which allows the attacker to make multiple half-open connections to the target without sending an ACK [15]. Syn flood activity will be dangerous for devices that have low compute resources such as RTU devices on SCADA.

Snort and Suricata can detect Syn Flood warning packets in a total of 4270 warnings and 3596 warnings, respectively (see Table 1). In determining Syn Flood warnings the authors add a command for every 150 SYN data that arrives within 5 seconds it will be detected as Syn Flood attacks and will trigger alerts on Snorts and Suricata. Figure 2 shows the payload of one of the Syn Flood alerts detected in Suricata and Snort.



Fig 2. Syn flood Payload

All warnings that appear on Snort and Suricata are TCP Syn data packets sent to each RTU by the port scanning device.

#### B. Port Scan

Research works in [16] and [17] that discuss network defence system against port scanning has revealed that port scanning is the prefix of a cyber attack so it is important to detect it as early as possible. Similar to the two works, this study reveals the thing that triggers a port scanning warning on Snort and Suricata is the SYN packet from the original device then followed by the ACK and RST packets from the destination device. Figure 3 and Figure 4 displays the payload on the wireshark of the scanner and receiver devices, respectively.

Fig 3. Syn Packet from port scanner device

```
| Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.50.50.104, Dst: 10.50.50.3 |
| Variansission Control Protocol, Src Port: 80, Dst Port: 45524, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 0 |
| Source Port: 80 | Destination Port: 45524 |
| Stream Index: 77] |
| TTP Segment Len: 0| Sequence number: 1 (relative sequence number) |
| Sequence number: 1 (relative sequence number) |
| Sequence number: 1 (relative sequence number) |
| Acknowledgment number: 1 (relative ack number) |
| Acknowledgment number: 1 (relative ack number) |
| Acknowledgment number: 20 bytes (5) |
| Flags: 0x014 (RST, ACK) |
| Stags: 0x014 (RST, ACK) |
| Stags: 0x014 (RST, ACK) |
| Stags: 0x015 (SST, ACK) |
| Stags: 0x016 (SST, ACK) |
| Stags: 0x017 (SST, ACK) |
| Stags: 0x017 (SST, ACK) |
| Stags: 0x018 (SST, ACK
```

Fig 4. Reply RST and ACK from RTU

In the dataset, the port scanning device sends a SYN packet to each RTU to see the open ports, and the RTU replies with ACK and RST.

#### C. Unauthorized Access

The nature of the industry that uses SCADA protocols are reluctant to upgrade the system, and this matter will increase the vulnerability of cyber-attacks [13],[18]. Consequently, in addition to the weaknesses of the TCP/IP protocol, the weaknesses of the IEC 104 protocol also increase the vulnerability of the SCADA network. The weaknesses of the IEC 104 protocol include that the packets of the Application Data Layer are transmitted without an integrated encryption mechanism so that it allows attackers to perform analysis on the traffic data [6] and even to replace it. In this study, the authors apply the Application Protocol Control Information (APCI) with Utype TESTFR and STARTDT on Snort and Suricata to detect the features of Unauthorized Access, with the results of Snort successfully detecting 20 warnings and Suricata 50 warnings. These two packets are used as features, assuming the attacker will perform a control frame test to ensure the frame can be received by the RTU and then start the data transfer control. The TESTFR sent by the port scanning device and received by the RTU are shown in Figure 5 and Figure 6, respectively.

Fig 5. TESTFR act payload from Scanner Device

Fig 6. TESTFR con payload reply from RTU

The TESTFR act payload has  $Utype\ ID\ 0x03$  with a value of 0x10 and the reply from RTU TESTFR con has  $Utype\ ID\ 0x03$  with a value of 0x20. The STARTDT payload sent by the port scanning device and received by the RTU is shown in Figure 7 and Figure 8, respectively.

Fig 7. STARTDT act Payload form Scanning Device

Fig 8. STARTDT con Payload reply from RTU

At payload STARTDT act has particularly  $Utype\ ID\ 0x01$  and 0x03 to the value of RTU TESTFR con reply has  $Utype\ ID\ 0x03$  to  $0x02\ value$ .

#### D. Invalid Cause of Transmission

Cause of Transmission (CoT) is one of the attributes in the Application Service Data Unit (ASDU) that contains events or commands to the RTU. In the scenario in the dataset, the Cause of Transmission value is replaced with the Invalid Value [9] that occurred as a result of the MITM attack. In this study, the authors enter the value of Invalid CoT as a Malicious Activity because in general, the attacker would change the CoT value when he was able to enter the SCADA network system. Of the rules applied to Snort and Suricata, only Suricata displays warnings with a total of 1195 warnings. The payload of the warning is shown in Figure 9.

Fig 9. Invalid CoT payload from RTU

The CoT sent to the RTU with ASDU M\_ME\_NB\_1 with a value of 42 is a value or code that is prepared for special instructions where its function is different in each industry, in testing the value of 42 has not been defined so that the recorded one has an unknown message (42). As for normal data in this dataset, ASDU M\_ME\_NB\_1 will contain inrogen (20) as shown in Figure 10.

Fig 10. Valid CoT payload from RTU.

#### IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

From data observation, in detecting the Invalid value of CoT Snort cannot detect it even though the features entered for these conditions are the same as Suricata, of course with a little modification because the format of writing Snort and Suricata rules is slightly different. Figures 11 and Figure 12 show the rules for Suricata and the warnings that appear in Suricata.

```
| alert tep any 2404 -> any any (msg:"Protocol IEC 104 Cot 4 issing/Invalid Value"; flow:established; content:"[68]", depth 1; pere:"[\Ss][5](?![\x2D-x33][\x33-\x40][\x64-\x67][\x69]\x6B[\x6E-\x71]\/iAR"; flags: A; content:"[06]", offset 8, depth 1; classtype:bad-
```

Fig 11. Snort Rules for Detect Invalid CoT

```
04/10/2018-21:12:20.946480 [**] [1:6666611:1] Protocol IEC 104 CoT
Missing/Invalid Value [**] [Classification: Potentially Bad Traffic] [Priority: 3]
{TCP} 10.50.50.101:2404 ~ 10.50.50.150:36482
```

Fig 12. Alert for Invalid CoT on Suricata

Likewise, when detecting Syn Flood attack and Unauthorized Access, Snort and Suricata get different results. Even though using the same rules the results of the detection of these two IDSs display different results, where Snort displays more warnings than Suricata, for detection of Unauthorized Access and Suricata displays more Unauthorized Access warnings than Snort. When performing Unauthorized Access detection, the author key in the APCI TESTFR and STARTDT conditions as conditions that trigger warnings on Snort and Suricata. Figure 13 displays the Rules for detecting Unauthorized Access conditions.

```
Snort Rule:

alert tep any [1024:]  

any 2404 ( msg: "PROTOCOL-SCADA IEC 104

STARIDT ACT"; flow:established; content: "[68]", depth 1; content: "[07]", within 1, distance 1; classtype:protocol-comman 1 lecode; sid:41047; rev:4;)

alert tep any [1024:]  

any 2404 ( msg: "PROTOCOL-SCADA IEC 104

STARIDT CON"; flow:established; content: "[68]", depth 1; content: "[08]", within 1, distance 1; classtype:protocol-comman 1 lecode; sid:41048; rev:4;)

alert tep any [1024:]  

any 2404 ( msg: "PROTOCOL-SCADA IEC 104 TESTFR ACT"; flow:established; content: "[68]", depth 1; content: "[43]", within 1, distance 1; classtype:protocol-command-decode; sid:41052; rev:4;)

alert tep any [1024:]  

any 2404 ( msg: "PROTOCOL-SCADA IEC 104 TESTFR CON"; flow:established; content: "[68]", depth 1; content: "[67]"; within: 1; distance: 1; classtype:protocol-command-decode; sid:41047; rev:4;)

SURICATA RULE:

alert tep any [1024:]  

any 2404 ( msg: "PROTOCOL-SCADA IEC 104

STARIDT CON"; flow:established; content: "[68]", depth: 1; content: "[07]"; within: 1; distance: 1; classtype:protocol-command-decode; sid:41047; rev:4;)

alert tep any [1024:]  

any 2404 ( msg: "PROTOCOL-SCADA IEC 104

STARIDT CON"; flow:established; content: "[68]", depth: 1; content: "[08]"; within: 1; distance: 1; classtype:protocol-command-decode; sid:41047; rev:4;)

alert tep any [1024:]  

any 2404 ( msg: "PROTOCOL-SCADA IEC 104 TESTFR ACT"; flow:established; content: "[68]", depth: 1; content: "[93]", within: 1; distance: 1; classtype:protocol-command-decode; sid:41048; rev:4;)

alert tep any [1024:]  

any 2404 ( msg: "PROTOCOL-SCADA IEC 104 TESTFR ACT"; flow:established; content: "[68]", depth: 1; content: "[93]", within: 1; distance: 1; classtype:protocol-command-decode; sid:41047; rev:4;)

alert tep any [1024:]  

any 2404 ( msg: "PROTOCOL-SCADA IEC 104 TESTFR ACT"; flow:established; content: "[68]", depth: 1; content: "[93]", within: 1; distance: 1; classtype:protocol-command-decode; sid:41042; rev:4;)
```

Fig 13. Snort and Suricata rules to detect Unauthorized Access Condition.

Then from the observation of the results, besides the port scanning device, the registered devices such as HMI are also included in the warnings generated by Snort and Suricata, because HMI will indeed send APCI STARTDT to each RTU to perform Monitoring and Controlling functions, however, TESTFR only displays warnings from port scanning devices. This situation will be a problem if the preventive feature of these two IDS applications is activated because it will interfe12 with the communication between the HMI and the RTU. Figure 14 shows the results of the detection of TESTFR from Snort and Suricata and Figure 15 shows the results of STARTDT detection from Snort and Suricata.

```
| Snort Alert | Carolin | Snort Alert | Carolin | Carol
```

Fig 14. TESTFR alert from Snort and Suricata

Fig 15. STARTDT alert from Snort and Suricata

The rules for detecting Syn Flood Attack on Suricata and Snort are shown in Figure 16, there is no difference in the format of the rules for both and Figure 17 for the detection results on Snort and Suricata.

Fig 16. Snort and Suricata rules for detecting Syn Flood

```
alert tcp any any -> any any (flags:S; msg:"TCP SYN detected-Potential SYN Flood Attack"; classtype:bad-unknown; detection_filter:track by_dst, count 150, seconds 5;sid: 9000003; rev:1;)
```

Fig 17. Alert for Syn Flood attack on Snort and Suricata

In detecting Port Scan, Snort and Suricata display the same detection results using the same rule without needing to be modified. In other words, the rule to detect Port Scan on Suricata can run on Snort. Figure 18 shows the rules used to detect Port Scan and Figure 19 shows the detection results of Snort and Suricata.

```
alert tep at 8 my -> any any (flags:S; ttl:64; msg: "TCP SYN detected-Potential Portscan"; classtype:bad-unknown; sid: 9000001; rev:1;) alert tep any any -> any any (flags:AR; msg: "Ack and RST detected-Potential Portscan"; classtype:bad-unknown; sid:9000002; rev:1;)
```

Fig 18. Snort and Suricata rule to detect Scanning Port

```
Snort Alert:

[**] [1:9000001:1] "TCP SYN detected-Potential Portscan" [**]

[Cassification: Potentially Bad Traffic] [Priority: 2]

5 10-19-48:22.94226 | 0.5.05.03:57532 → 10.50.50.101:443

TCP TTL:64 TOS:0x0 ID:4751 |pt.en:20 DgmLen:60 DF

*******S** Seq: 0x335CF622 | Ack: 0x0 Win: 0x7210 TcpLen: 40

TCP Options (5) ⇒ MSS: 1460 SackOK TS: 16770221 0 NOP WS: 7

[**] [1:9000002:1] "Ack and RST detected-Potential Portscan" [**]

[Cassification: Potentially Bad Traffic] [Priority: 2]

9 10-19-48:22.942496 10.50.50.101:80 → 10.50.50.3:45260

TCP TTL:64 TOS:0x0 ID:54985 |pt.en:20 DgmLen:40 DF

**A*R*** Seq: 0x0 | Ack: 0x3D4B2A2A | Win: 0x0 | TcpLen: 20

Suricata Alert:

04/10/2018: 19-48:22.9422 20

**] [1:9000003:1] TCP SYN detected-Potential SYN Flood | Attack [**] [Classification: Potentially Bad Traffic] [Priority: 2]

[TCP] 10.50.50.3:57532 | 15 [**] [1:9000002:1] | Ack and RST | detected-Potential Portscan [**] [Classification: Potentially Bad Traffic] [Priority: 2]

[TCP] 10.50.50.101:443 → 10.50.50.3:57532
```

Fig 19. Alert for Port Scan on Snort and Suricata

The use of Snort and Suricata in detecting malicious activity has a weakness because it is still based on a signature base which depends on the set of rules in the database [19]. The use of Machine Learning techniques for more accurate results will be a good solution for detecting threats on the SCADA network. However, the use of a Signature-based IDS application can be used as a means to perform feature testing in detecting malicious activity but not for further application. Later, these features can be used in machine learning techniques.

From the obtained results, the authors will create a dataset that can be used for machine learning in detecting malicious activity based on the characteristics that exist in the dataset, to overcome the poor performance of Snort and Suricata in detecting malicious activity in this study. The characteristics that are sure for each malicious activity scenario in this study will be used as the basis for developing a machine learning model in future studies.

The SYN attribute can be used as a feature/characteristic to detect a Syn Flood attack as mentioned by [20] that add an unknown IP address feature because data packets on the SCADA network are also encapsulated into TCP protocol packet format, before being sent.

Port scanning can also use the characteristics of the SYN packet but with the addition of a reply from the recipient with ACK and RST packets to improve the accuracy characteristics of an unknown IP address. In this study, Source Port feature as the target host and tcp flags to determine port scan activity originating from source ports in the SCADA network, namely a combination of SYN, ACK (0x12) flags, a combination of RST, ACK (0x14) flags and ACK (0x10) flags. The combination of SYN, ACK which is a response result from the target host, in this case, the RTU which indicates that the port is open [16]. Furthermore, as revealed by research work in [20] port scan can also be a feature for the detection of anomalies that occur due to port scanning activity. The authors characterize the target port where the port is generally widely used for various purposes in computer networks. Table 2 shows the ports used to determine the target port scan activity.

TABLE 2 SNORT AND SURICATA. DETECTION RESULT

Port	Information
2404	Default Port SCADA IEC 60870-5-104
5434	Default Postgre Port
5910	Default VNC Port
1521	Default Oracle Port
1433	Default MS SQL Port
3306	Default MY SQL Port
80	HTTP Port
8443 and 443	HTTPS Port
22	SSH Port

The TESTFR and STARTDT packets are official packages on the SCADA network using the IEC 60870-5-104 protocol but it will be dangerous if sent using an unknown device as in Figure 14 and 15 where STARTDT and TESTFR packets are sent by Reconnaissance devices. Unauthorized Access has APCI TESTFR and STARTDT features in its tracks. However, to avoid detection errors, an IP address-based feature will be added so that IP from official devices will not be detected as warnings in future machine learning models.

Invalid CoT in this study is not a feature of the attack, however, the ASDU value can be used as a feature to detect MITM because in ASDU there is a monitoring or control command that usually targets the target of cyber-attacks if CoT is added with information from the source IP address of the sender, and Information Object Address (IoA) from ASDU it can be used as a feature of a MITM attack..

#### V. CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK

Attacks on SCADA networks, especially those that use the IEC-60870-5-104 protocol, still have the same types of attacks as traditional networks, such as port scanning and syn flood. Attacks on information contained in IEC 104 data frames still possible to be carried out with similar techniques as carrying out the attacks on traditional networks. Generally, with a little modification and knowledge of the IEC 104 protocol, the attacker can penetrate and launch various attacks on the SCADA network system, and it becomes special attention to authors in developing a reliable IDS.

In developing an IDS model with machine learning to detect attacks on a SCADA network, it is necessary to select the right features so that IDS can detect attacks accurately. From the data that has been obtained in this study, the authors recommend using the features of the data that have been tested using Snort and Suricata with the addition of several features such as unknown device and some IEC 104 data frame attributes to improve accuracy.

For future work, the authors think of conducting research on a system that is able to accurately detecting Unauthorized Access on SCADA networks running IEC 104 protocol by leveraging various machine learning algorithms and compare their performances to select the best one. Then extend the research to detect MITM attack detection on the SCADA network.

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