Snort Enterprise Install

Snort, Apache, SSL, PHP, MySQL, and BASE Install on CentOS 4, RHEL 4 or Fedora Core – with NTOP

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with contributions and editing by Nick Oliver | CNE


BASE – Basic Analysis and Security Engine
**Introduction:**

This is really a deviation from what I have done before. It will start from a minimal install of CentOS 4 or RHEL 4 and will build a Snort sensor/manager. This system will start at the command line and not have X window installed unless you add it during the install. Also you can use Fedora with very little change to this doc.

**Acknowledgments:**

I would like to thank all my friends and the people on the Ntsug-Users list that proofed this for me. My wife Kris, Nick Oliver, He downloaded and used the first document I wrote and volunteered to do test installs and proof the spelling and punctuation for the following documents. He has become quite proficient with Linux and Snort and is a valued member of the ISG team and contributor to this and other documentation. I would also like to thank the people from the snort-users list and ntsug-users list that helped. Also I would like to thank Marty and the Snort team for their great work. Thanks for staying true to open source.

**Comments or Corrections:**

Please e-mail any comments or corrections to mailto:Patrick@internetsecurityguru.com

Nick Oliver has also made himself available for contact if for any reason I may be unavailable or running behind on my large and ever growing inbox. mailto:nwoliver@internetsecurityguru.com

The latest version of this document is located at http://www.internetsecurityguru.com/documents/. Please use the most up to date version I will do my best to keep it updated.

**Info for the install:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IP Address</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subnet Mask</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gateway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNS Servers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostname</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other important reading:**


This is the place to get help AFTER you read the FAQ, ALL the documentation on the Snort website, AND have searched Google).
Also make sure to read the link below before sending questions. It helps to know the rules. 😊

**The Snort drinking game**
http://www.theadamsfamily.net/~erek/snort/drinking_game.txt (Thanks Erek)

**Websites to visit:**
http://www.snort.org
http://secureideas.sourceforge.net/
http://www.mysql.com
http://www.php.net
http://www.centos.org
http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/ (the putty SSH client)
http://www.bastille-linux.org (Hardening scripts for UNIX and Linux)
http://www.internetsecurityguru.com (my website)

If you follow this doc line by line, it will work for you. Over 90% of the e-mails I get are from people who miss a step. However, I always welcome comments and questions and will do my best to help whenever I can.

**Installing CentOS 4:**

This is a minimal install of CentOS 4.X (or you can use RHEL 4.X with no changes or Fedora Core with few changes) this starts with a minimal install, and then uses yum to add the packages needed. It is suitable for a sensor or a manager. Soon I will have a doc to make a manager with this install and attach remote sensors to it making it the station that accepts all the logs. It also installs NTOP because I find it useful on my sensors to have that to watch who is doing what and going where.

You will start at a grub screen that has boot:, hit enter. Then you can either choose to check your cd’s or skip. If you know they are good then skip it otherwise you might want to check them out.

**Welcome:**
Click next

**Language:**
English

**Keyboard:**
U.S. English

**Install Type:**
Choose custom
Disk Partitioning:
Choose to automatically partition the hard drive.
Choose to remove all partitions from this hard drive (I am assuming that this not a dual boot box)
Make sure the review button is checked

When the warning dialog comes up, choose Yes.

Accept the default layout. Most of the disk will be /

Boot Loader:
Go with the default (if this is a dual boot system then go to google and search for info on how to install grub for dual booting)

Network Configuration:
Hit edit, Uncheck “Configure with DHCP”, Leave “Activate on boot”
Set a static IP and subnet mask for your network
Manually set the hostname
Set a gateway and the DNS address(s)

Always try to assign a static IP address here. I think it is best not to run Snort off of a Dynamic IP, however, if you need to, go ahead and do it, just make sure to point your $HOME_NET variable in your Snort.conf to the interface name. You can get more info on that in the Snort FAQ. If this is a dedicated IDS then you do not need to have an IP on the interface that Snort is monitoring (for tips on setting up snort with two NIC’s see the bottom of this doc).

Firewall:
Choose “enable firewall”
Select remote login (SSH) and Web Server (HHTP, HTTPS)

For SELinux, move to warn.

Additional Language:
Choose only US English

Time Setup:
Choose the closest city within your time zone (for central choose Chicago)

Root Password:
Set a strong root password here (a strong password has at least 8 characters with a combination of upper case, lower case, numbers and symbols. It should also not be, or resemble, anything that might be found in a dictionary of any language)

Next go to the bottom and choose minimal install and hit next
**After the packages install:**

Reboot – hit the reboot button

**After the reboot:**

You are now in run level 3 – command line only

Login as root and setup a user account for yourself

**User Account:**
Add a user account for yourself here; make sure to give it a strong password
The root account should not be used for everyday use, if you need access to root functions then you can “su -“ or “sudo” for root access. (For help with sudo visit google.com)

`groupadd <groupname>`
`useradd –g <groupname> <username>`

Associate a password with this new username

`passwd <username>`
You will then be asked to enter and then confirm a password. You can now login as a normal user and, if necessary, if you want root privileges, use su – .

**Disable unneeded services:**
Disable apmd, cups, isdn, netfs, nfslock, pcmcia (unless you are using a laptop), portmap by typing (as root):
`chkconfig <service> off`
You will do this for each service to be terminated.

**Update your system**

Type this to import the GPG key that the RPM’s are signed with for yum:
`rpm --import http://mirror.centos.org/centos/RPM-GPG-KEY-CentOS-4`

Type “yum -y update” and it will check what needs updated and install it.

(Type “chkconfig yum on” and “service yum start” to turn on nightly updates, this is a suggested step)

**Preparing for the install:**

You are now ready to start installing Snort and all of the software it needs. You can either
do this from the command line, or SSH into the server from another box. Either will
work fine. For the novice it might be easier to do this from SSH so they can cut and
paste the commands from this document into the session, instead of typing some of the long strings.

(You can cut and paste from the PDF by using the text select tool in Adobe Acrobat)

If you want to use a Windows box and need an SSH client, then you can go to the PuTTY http://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sgtatham/putty/ home page and download a free one. This is for windows machines to SSH to Linux/UNIX box’s OR http://ftp.ssh.com/pub/ssh/SSHSecureShellClient-3.2.9.exe for a client that can both SSH and start an SCP connection to the box you have SSH’d to from within the session. This is free for non-commercial use and pretty nice.

The Install:

Again, if you are not logged in as root, then you will need to su to root ("su -" will load the environmental variables of root. Use that when you su.).

Use the following line to install all the components from the CentOS yum repository:
yum –y install mysql mysql-bench mysql-server mysql-devel mysqlclient10 php-mysql httpd gcc pcre-devel php-gd gd mod_ssl glib2-devel gcc-c++

Securing SSH
In the /etc/ssh/sshd_config file change the following lines (if it is commented out remove the #):
Protocol 2
PermitRootLogin no
PermitEmptyPasswords no

Save the file and type “service sshd restart”. SSH will restart, enacting these changes. (You will need to SSH into the box with the user account you created from this point on, as root will no longer be accepted. Just “su –“ to the root account)

Turn on and set to start the services you will need

chkconfig httpd on
chkconfig mysqld on
service httpd start
service mysqld start

Testing Apache
From /var/www/html type “wget http://www.internetsecurityguru.com/index.php.txt”. Move the file to one called index.php, it will look like the following: This will also tell you if PHP is working correctly (originally from http://www.shat.net/php/nqt/)

Network Query Tool

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host Information</th>
<th>Host Connectivity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resolve/Reverse Lookup</td>
<td>Check port: 80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get DNS Records</td>
<td>Ping host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whois (Web)</td>
<td>Traceroute to host</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whois (IP owner)</td>
<td>Do it all</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Enter host or IP  Do it

**Download all the needed files:**
You can always check where you are currently by typing “pwd” at the command line.
Note: If you are not logged in as root, then you will need to execute “su –” (“su” gives you the super user or root account rights, the “–” loads the environmental variables of the root account for you) and then enter the root password.

**!!!DO THE FOLLOWING AS ROOT!!!**

Place all the downloaded files into a single directory for easy access and consolidation. This directory will not be needed when you are finished with the installation and may be deleted at that time. Create a directory under /root called snortinstall. From the command line type:

cd /root
mkdir snortinstall

Use wget from the command line or an SSH terminal window from inside the /root/snortinstall directory so all your install files are in one place unless otherwise directed to.

**Setting up Snort and the Snort rules:**

wget http://www.snort.org/dl/current/snort-2.6.0.tar.gz

tar -xvzf snort-2.6.0.tar.gz
cd snort-2.6.0
./configure --with-mysql --enable-dynamicplugin
make
make install

groupadd snort
useradd -g snort snort –s /sbin/nologin

Then:
mkdir /etc/snort
mkdir /etc/snort/rules
mkdir /var/log/snort

cd /etc/ (make not this is not /etc. it is the etc dir under the snort source code)
cp * /etc/snort

From your /root/snortinstall dir (cd /root/snortinstall use pwd to check where you are):
wget http://www.snort.org/pub-bin/downloads.cgi/Download/vrt_pr/snortrules-pr-2.4.tar.gz

Then tar –xvzf snortrules-pr-2.4.tar.gz

cd to the rules dir and do the following command

cp * /etc/snort/rules

Modify your snort.conf file

The snort.conf file is located in /etc/snort, make the following changes.

var HOME_NET 10.0.0.0/24 (make this what ever your internal network is, use CIDR.
If you do not know CIDR then go to http://www.oav.net/mirrors/cidr.html)

var EXTERNAL_NET !$HOME_NET (this means everything that is not your home net
is external to your network)

change “var RULE_PATH ../rules” to “var RULE_PATH /etc/snort/rules”

After the line that says “preprocessor stream4_reassemble” add a line that looks like

“preprocessor stream4_reassemble: both,ports 21 23 25 53 80 110 111 139 143 445 513
1433” (without the quotes)

Now tell snort to log to MySQL

Go down to the output section and uncomment the following line. Change it to be like
the following except the password. Remember what you make it because you will need it
later when you set up the snort user in mysql.

output database: log, mysql, user=snort password=<the password you gave it>
dbnname=snort host=localhost

Making Snort start with the system

Change directory to /etc/init.d and type:
wget http://internetsecurityguru.com/snortinit/snort
chmod 755 snort
chkconfig snort on.

Setting up the database in MySQL:
I will put a line with a > in front of it so you will see what the output should be. (Note: In MySQL, a semi-colon ”;“ character is mandatory at the end of each input line) (‘password’ is whatever password you want to give it, just remember what you assign. For the snort user use what you put in the output section of the snort.conf in the section above)

mysql
mysql>  SET PASSWORD FOR root@localhost=PASSWORD('password');
>Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.25 sec)
mysql>  create database snort;
>Query OK, 1 row affected (0.01 sec)
mysql>  grant INSERT,SELECT on root.* to snort@localhost;
>Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.02 sec)
mysql>  SET PASSWORD FOR snort@localhost=PASSWORD('password_from_snort.conf');
>Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.25 sec)
mysql>  grant CREATE, INSERT, SELECT, DELETE, UPDATE on snort.* to snort@localhost;
>Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.02 sec)
mysql>  grant CREATE, INSERT, SELECT, DELETE, UPDATE on snort.* to snort;
>Query OK, 0 rows affected (0.02 sec)
mysql>  exit
>Bye

Execute the following commands to create the tables

mysql -u root -p  <  ~/snortinstall/snort-2.6.0/schemas/create_mysql snort
Enter password: the mysql root password

Now you need to check and make sure that the Snort DB was created correctly

mysql -p
>Enter password:
mysql>  SHOW DATABASES;
(You should see the following)
+-----------+
| Database   |
+-----------+
| mysql     |
| Snort     |
| test      |
+-----------+
3 rows in set (0.00 sec)

mysql>  use snort
>Database changed
mysql>  SHOW TABLES;
+------------------+
| Tables_in_snort  |
+------------------+
BASE Install

Go to your snort download directory (cd /root/snortinstall)

Then for proper graphing enter:

```
pear install Image_Graph-alpha Image_Canvas-alpha Image_Color Numbers_Roman
```

Download ADODB
wget http://easynews.dl.sourceforge.net/sourceforge/adodb/adodb480.tgz

Download BASE
wget http://easynews.dl.sourceforge.net/sourceforge/secureideas/base-1.2.6.tar.gz

Hand configure your firewall:
cd /etc/sysconfig/
edit the iptables file

- add the line “-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state NEW -m tcp -p tcp --dport 443 -j ACCEPT” (without the quotes and right below the statement for port 22)

And delete the lines:
- A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p 50 -j ACCEPT
- A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p 51 -j ACCEPT
- A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p udp --dport 5353 -d 224.0.0.251 -j ACCEPT
- A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p udp -m udp --dport 631 -j ACCEPT
- A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state NEW -m tcp -p tcp --dport 80 -j ACCEPT
Then change the line:
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p icmp --icmp-type any -j ACCEPT
To:
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -p icmp --icmp-type any -j DROP
(You will not be able to ping the system after this)
Then you will only be able to get to the site with HTTPS:// the reason you want to do this
is so you do not trigger more alerts from you reading alerts, and if something is able to be
encrypted then I usually do.

Then execute the command “service iptables restart” and you will see something like tee following:

```
[root@snort conf]# service iptables restart
Flushing firewall rules: [ OK ]
Setting chains to policy ACCEPT: filter [ OK ]
Unloading iptables modules: [ OK ]
Applying iptables firewall rules: [ OK ]
```

Then it will look like this when you do an “iptables –L”

```
[root@snort ~]# iptables -L
Chain INPUT (policy ACCEPT)
 target prot opt source               destination
 RH-Firewall-1-INPUT all -- anywhere             anywhere

Chain FORWARD (policy ACCEPT)
 target prot opt source               destination
 RH-Firewall-1-INPUT all -- anywhere             anywhere

Chain OUTPUT (policy ACCEPT)
 target prot opt source               destination

Chain RH-Firewall-1-INPUT (2 references)
 target prot opt source               destination
 ACCEPT all -- anywhere anywhere
 REJECT icmp -- anywhere anywhere icmp any reject-with icmp-port-unreachable
 ACCEPT all -- anywhere anywhere state RELATED,ESTABLISHED
 ACCEPT tcp -- anywhere anywhere state NEW tcp dpt:ssh
 ACCEPT tcp -- anywhere anywhere state NEW tcp dpt:https
 REJECT all -- anywhere anywhere reject-with icmp-host-prohibited
```

**Installing ADODB:**

cd /var/www/
tar -xvzf /root/snortinstall/adodb480.tgz

**Installing and configuring BASE:**

cd /var/www/html
tar –xvzf /root/snortinstall/base-1.2.6.tar.gz
mv base-1.2.6/ base/ (this renames the base-1.2.5 directory to just “base”)

Copy the base_conf.php.dist to base_conf.php

Edit the “base_conf.php” file and insert the following perimeters

$BASE_urlpath = "/base";
$DBlib_path = "/var/www/adodb/ ";
$DBtype = "mysql";
$alert_dbname = "snort";
$alert_host = "localhost";
$alert_port = "";
$alert_user = "snort";
$alert_password = "password_from_snort_conf";

/* Archive DB connection parameters */
$archive_exists = 0; # Set this to 1 if you have an archive DB

Now, go to a browser and access your sensor. https://ip_address/base and answer the questions.

NOW: “chkconfig snort on” to make snort starts with the system then type “service snort start”. It should give you an OK  ps –ef|grep snort.conf will tell you if it is running or not

https://<ip.address>/base

This will bring up the initial BASE startup banner.

Basic Analysis and Security Engine (BASE)

The underlying database snort@localhost appears to be incomplete/invalid.
The database version is valid, but the BASE DB structure (table: addb_pgi) is not present. Use the Setup page to configure and optimize the DB.

Click the “setup page” link, then on the resulting page, click on the setup BASE AG button. Then you will get the following page.
Successfully created 'acid_log'
Successfully created 'acid_wg.Alert'
Successfully created 'acid_log.ealert'
Successfully created 'acid_event_log'
Successfully created 'base_roles'
Successfully INSERTED Admin role
Successfully INSERTED Authenticated User role
Successfully INSERTED Anonymous User role
Successfully INSERTED Alert Group Editor role
Successfully created 'base_users'

Securing the BASE directory:

```bash
mkdir /var/www/passwords
```
/usr/bin/htpasswd -c /var/www/passwords/passwords base

(base will be the username you will use to get into this directory, along with the password you choose)
It will ask you to enter the password you want for this user, this is what you will have to type when you want to view your BASE page

Edit the httpd.conf (*/etc/httpd/conf*). I put it under the section that has:

```
<Directory />
  Options FollowSymLinks
  AllowOverride None
</Directory>
```

These are the lines you must add to password protect the BASE console, add it to the httpd.conf file in */etc/httpd/conf*:

```
<Directory "/var/www/html/base">
  AuthType Basic
  AuthName "SnortIDS"
  AuthUserFile /var/www/passwords/passwords
  Require user base
</Directory>
```

Since you have removed the port 80 entry in the iptables script you will have to go to the console on port 443, using HTTPS:/<ip_address>/base

Save the file and restart Apache by typing “service httpd restart” to make the password changes effective.

**Install NTOP via Yum**

In */etc/yum.repos.d* create a file called dag.repo (touch dag.repo)
Add this text to the file

```
[dag]
name=Dag RPM Repository for Red Hat Enterprise Linux
gpgcheck=1
enabled=1
```

Import their GPG key gpg key
```
rpm --import http://dag.wieers.com/packages/RPM-GPG-KEY.dag.txt
```

To install type “yum install ntop”
Edit the conf file with vi (vi /etc/ntop.conf) and make the following changes:

Set to the NIC you use for sniffing. If you only have one NIC this will be eth0
--interface eth1 (or whatever interface you are using)

Then un-comment the option for port 3001 for SSL
Change #--https-server 3001 to --https-server 3001

Add an entry to iptables for port 3001 and restart iptables. (You do this in
/etc/sysconfig/iptables):
-A RH-Firewall-1-INPUT -m state --state NEW -m tcp -p tcp --dport 3001 -j ACCEPT

Restart iptables with ‘service iptables restart’

Then:
/usr/bin/ntop @/etc/ntop.conf -A

Set your password and repeat when asked

Go back into the ntop.conf file and do the following:
Turn on daemon mode
Change #--daemon to --daemon

Now time to set it to start:
chkconfig ntop on
service ntop start

Hit it on port 3001 with a web browser. https://<ip_address>:3001

You will see the following; have fun playing around with it. As you will see in the conf
file there is more you can play around with. This is a useful tool for me, I hope you find it
to be too.
After you’re done

Login as root and check everything important to see if it is running.

To check you can execute “ps –ef |grep <SERVICE>” where service is snort, httpd, or mysql.

Or use “ps –ef |grep httpd && ps –ef |grep mysql && ps –ef |grep Snort”

Now it’s time to test Snort. I suggest using something free like GFI Languard – a real good program that is cheap (http://www.gfi.com/languard/) or Nessus – a real good program that is free (http://www.nessus.org) if you have it, and running it against your Snort box. Check BASE when you’re done and it should have a bunch or alerts. If you are on DSL or cable then you could already have a bunch in there right after you start it up. When you go to the BASE screen in your browser now you should see alerts (And this is without running any programs against it)

Now you need to tune your IDS for your environment. This is an important step. Look at the Snort list archives and the other links listed above and you will find good tips on how to do that.
There is also a very good book out on Snort for those that want to learn more about it.

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/stores/detail/-/books/1931836744/

And a few others listed at http://www.Snort.org/docs/#Snort_books

**Troubleshooting (the Snort install)**

If you are having trouble type the following

```
snort -c /etc/snort/snort.conf
```

It will give you output that will be helpful. It will tell you if you are having problems with rules or if you have a bad line in your conf file. If you do this and read the output you will be able to fix most of the problems I get e-mailed with.

Next, this is an end-to-end guide. I designed it to take a system from bare metal to functional IDS. If you follow it step by step you will get an IDS working, then you customize it more. I have the Fedora install listed the way I do because there are some parts that are needed.

If you do not have a sensor number, it means that you have not received an alert on that sensor yet. Make sure everything is running without error and check BASE again

If you are getting nothing in BASE you could have a number of problems. Check your /var/log/snort directory and see if you have an alert file. If it has alerts, then Snort is working and you most likely do not have your Snort.conf output lines correct. Check where you setup your database in it first. If you do not have an alert file then make sure Snort is running. If it is, make sure that if you are on a switch, you are on a span (or mirrored) port, or you will not see anything but what is destined for that port. Scan you box with Nessus or CIS before you start getting worried.

The best place to look for other answers is the Snort-users archive, which is indexed by Google. If you are not proficient at searching, I would suggest reading http://www.google.com/help/basics.html. It is a good primer, as is http://www.googleguide.com/

Read what is out there for you. Go to http://www.snort.org and look around. http://www.snort.org/docs/snort_manual/ is also something you should read all the way through, as well as http://www.snort.org/docs/FAQ.txt between them and Google almost all your questions will be answered.
Most of the problems people have had stem from them missing a step, frequently only one step, somewhere. There are a lot of them and it is easy to do.

If you do have problems feel free to e-mail me, Nick, or the Snort-users list.

There is a huge community of people out there using this product that will help you if you are in trouble. Remember, however, that this support is free and done out of love of this product. You certainly should not expect the same response from the Snort community as you would from an IDS vendor (though I have gotten better response time from the Snort-users list than I have from some vendors in the past)

Hope this gets you going. If not, then feel free to e-mail either myself, Nick Oliver, or the Snort-users list. They are a great bunch of people and will do all they can for you (if you have manners). Just remember, however, that it is a volunteer thing, so you will probably not get answers in 10 minutes. **DO NOT** repost your question merely because you have not yet seen an answer, this is free support from the goodness of peoples hearts. They help you out as fast as they can.

Good luck and happy Snorting.

Reboot your system; watch to make sure everything starts. You can check by doing a

```
ps –ef |grep <service>
```

the service can be any running process. i.e. mysql, httpd, Snort, etc.

**Two NIC’s in the Pig**

You may want to have one interface for management and one for sniffing; this is a good thing to do. Here is an example config

```
cd /etc/sysconfig/network-scripts/
```

Here you have a file for each of your interfaces (ifcfg-ethX)

**For your sniffing interface make the file say the following:**

```
DEVICE=eth0
BOOTPROTO=none
ONBOOT=yes
TYPE=Ethernet
```

**For your management make it say this: (with your info of course)**

```
DEVICE=ethX
BOOTPROTO=none
```
HWADDR=00:08:C7:56:E8:87
ONBOOT=yes
TYPE=Ethernet
HOSTNAME=snort.whatever.com
IPADDR=10.10.10.10
NETMASK=255.255.255.0
USERCTL=no
PEERDNS=yes
GATEWAY=10.10.10.1
IPV6INIT=no

OinkMaster

Please see the OinkMaster install doc on my website or on
http://www.snort.org

Coming soon is a barnyard doc and a doc on how to deploy multiple
sensors with one base station and have them all communicate securely.