

ArgusNet: An Architecture for Collecting Attack Data

Susmit Panjwani (ENTS), Michel Cukier (ME, ISR, CS)

Objective

- To develop a solution to analyze attacks
 - Design an architecture to collect attacks transparent to attackers
 - Restrict attackers to exploit only the target machines
 - Analyze the collected data in order to understand the threat of attacks

Functional Components

- **Access Control :**
Restricts attackers to IsoNet
 - ❖ Reverse firewall: limits number of outgoing connections
 - ❖ Network Intrusion Prevention System: drops outgoing connections based on attack signature
- **Data Collection:**
Collects real time data at network, host and application level
- **Event Logging:**
Collects and stores system, application and security logs
- **Event Alerting:**
Alerts the administrator about any attacker activity and system failure
- **Network Management:**
 - ❖ Monitors the state of all the machines in network
 - ❖ Collects network statistics

Architecture

- **ArgusEyes: Monitoring Network:**
 - ❖ Reverse firewall
 - ❖ Intrusion detection system
 - ❖ Syslog server
 - ❖ Data collection server
 - ❖ Network management system
- **IsoNet: Isolated Target Network:**
 - ❖ Modified OS kernel
 - ❖ Data collection tools
 - ❖ Monitored applications
 - ❖ Simulated users
 - ❖ Simulated application traffic
- **Router:** Separates ArgusEyes from IsoNet

Validation

- **Phase1:**
 - ❖ Develop profile of user and application traffic
 - ❖ Simulate network traffic without launching attacks
- **Phase2:**
 - ❖ Build a database of attacks
 - ❖ Launch attacks without simulated background traffic
- **Phase3:**
 - ❖ Launch attacks with simulated background traffic
 - ❖ Analyze the results to tune parameters of access control and data collection modules

