Port Scanning

Goals for today

- What is port scanning?
- How is it done?
- How do we prevent it?
- Breakout room questions:
  - How can you detect & defend against a port scan?
  - What are some ethical reasons to use port scans?

Setup for today

- Please open Vagrant
- SSH into two shells
- Install nmap

```
vagrant@cos461:/vagrant$ sudo apt install nmap
```

- Do not run it yet

Before we go any further…

- Don’t use pen test tools like nmap without permission
  - In 2017, students got a COS 432 server banned when using nmap
  - It’s illegal if you don’t have permission
    - Up to 20 years imprisonment, per 18 U.S.C § 1030

What is port scanning?

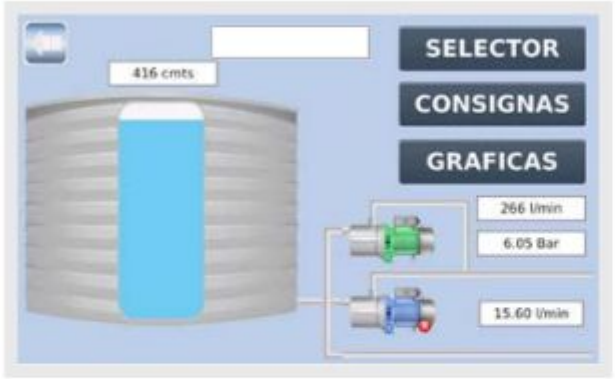
- Goal: identify open ports
- Why would we want to do this?
- How can we do this?

Why port scan?

- Search for unprotected services
  - Open remote access controls
  - Hidden, unsecured, secret data
    - Open cameras
    - File servers
- Search for vulnerable services
- Check open services against known vulnerabilities

Open services are everywhere

- Critical infrastructure is left open
- Outdated software is used
- Vulnerability fixes can be slow

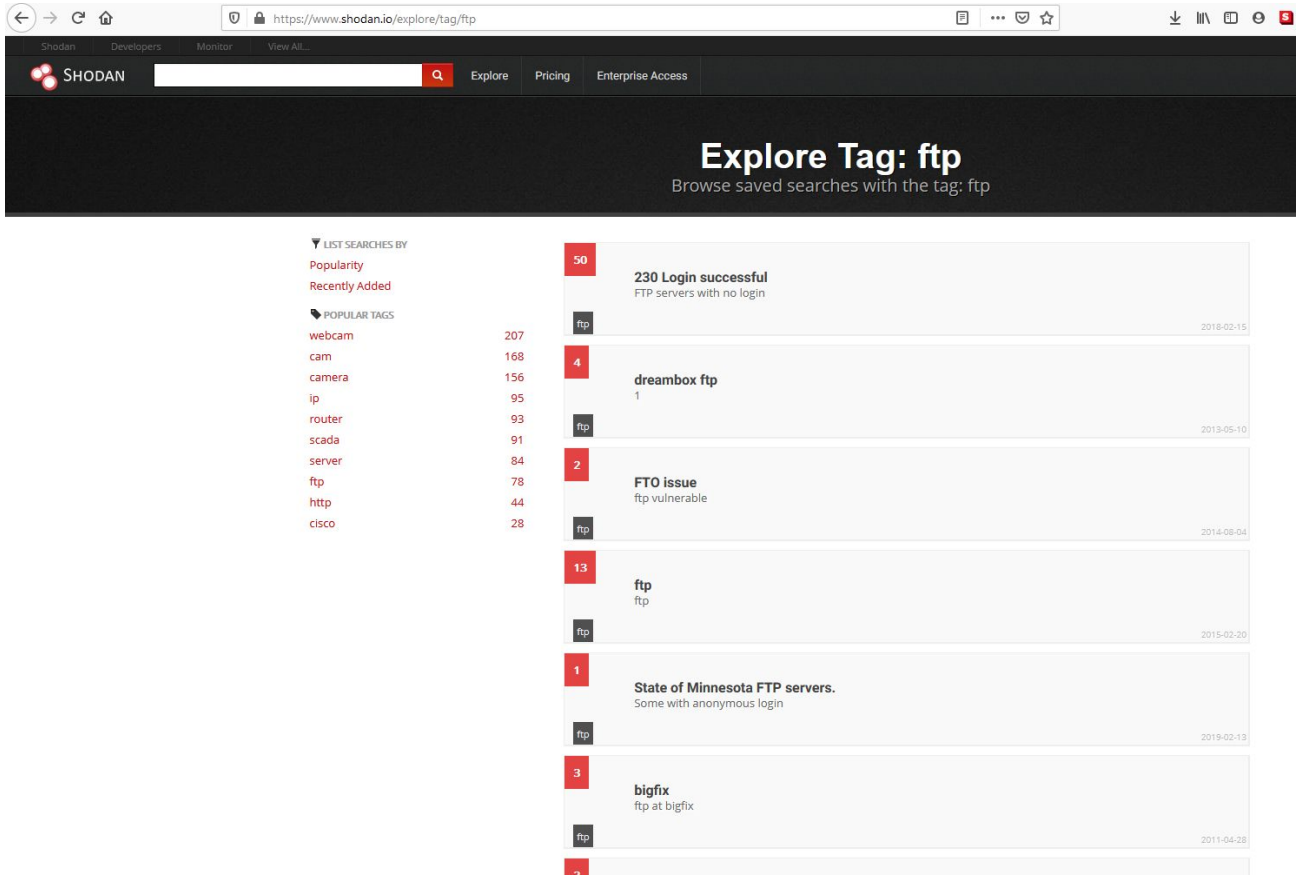


A monitor for a water pumping system. Top-level menu displays the available submenus: Selector, Readings, and Graph. This page shows one of the pumps is pumping water at 266 L/min, while the second pump is mostly inactive and pumps at 15.6L/min.

Another overview page shows both pumps are currently deactivated.

Open services are everywhere

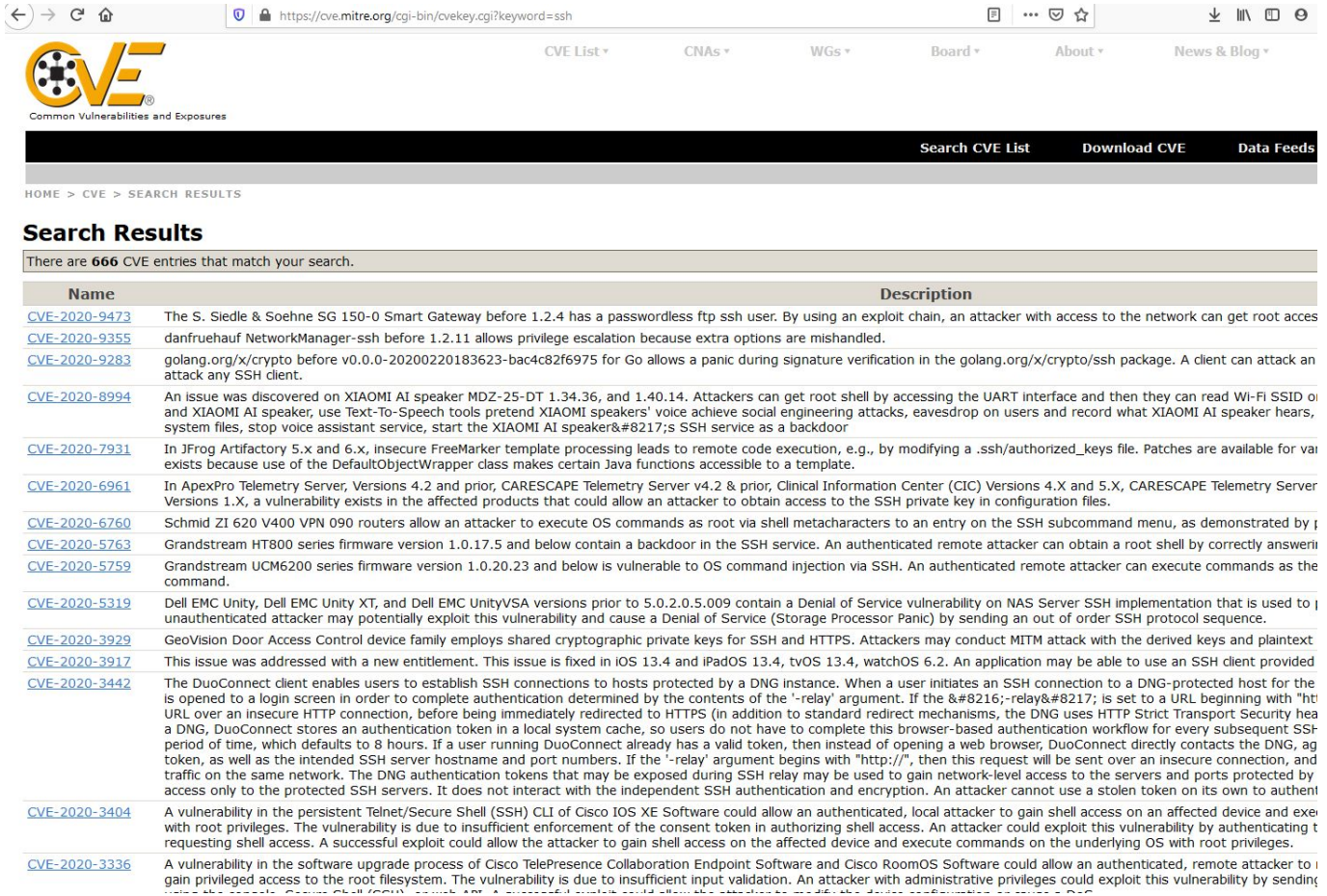
- Shodan.io
  - Global port scan service
- Freely available



Vulnerabilities are common

- Legally available:
  - CVE database
  - Zerodium
- Purchased on the black market

zerodium



How do you port scan?

- General idea: brute force
  - For each computer:
    - For each port:
      - Test if the port is open

TCP Scans

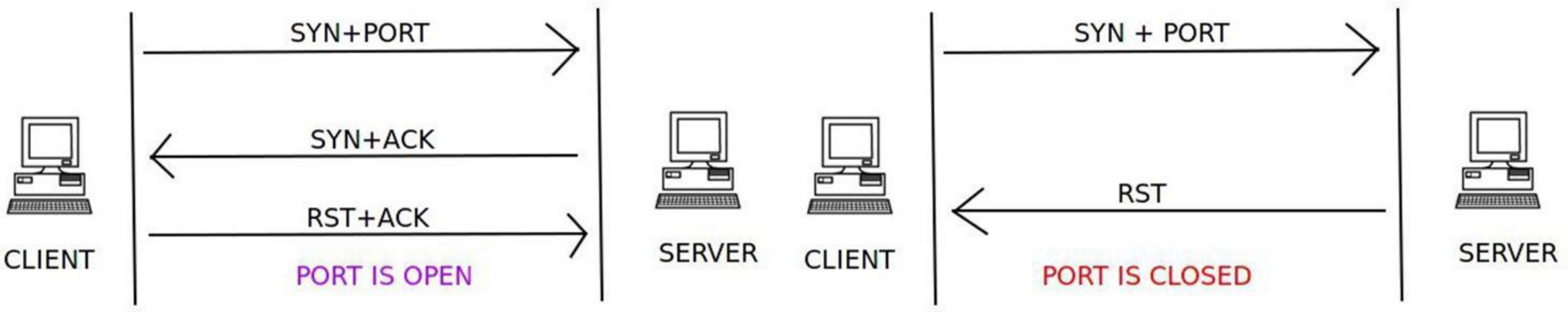
- TCP connect scan:
  - Complete a three-way handshake.
- **TCP SYN scan**: (This is on your assignment)
  - **Half-open scanning.**
    - **A SYN packet is sent.**
    - **A listening target respond with a SYN+ACK.**
    - **A non-listening target respond with a RST.**
- TCP FIN scan:
  - Scanner sends a FIN packet.
    - Closed ports reply with a RST.
    - Open ports ignore the packet entirely.

From Yiqian Zhang's slides

UDP Scanning

- In order to find UDP ports, the attacker generally sends empty UDP datagrams. If
  - The port is listening, the service should send back an error message or ignore the incoming datagram.
  - The port is closed, then most operating systems send back an "ICMP Port Unreachable" message. Thus determine which ports are open.
  - Neither UDP packets nor the ICMP errors are guaranteed to arrive, so UDP scanners must also implement retransmission of packets that appear to be lost.

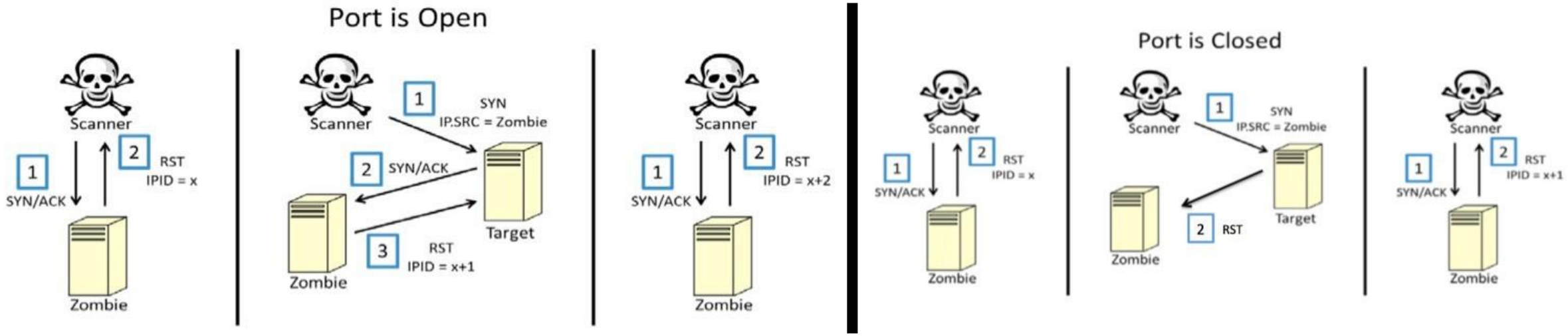
TCP SYN Scan



Images from https://resources.infosecinstitute.com/port-scanning-using-so

Zombie/idle scanning

- Check an idle machine's connection count (Zombie machine)
- Scan the target, spoof the Zombie's IP
- Check if the connection count has incremented by 1 (closed) or 2 (open)



nmap

- Common tool for port scanning
- Try it if you want!
  - (instructions on next slide)

```
pi@raspberrypi ~ $ nmap 192.168.1.1-5

Starting Nmap 6.00 ( http://nmap.org ) at 2013-12-24 10:00 UTC
Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.1
Host is up (0.0055s latency).
Not shown: 995 closed ports
PORT     STATE    SERVICE
21/tcp   open     ftp
22/tcp   filtered ssh
23/tcp   filtered telnet
80/tcp   open     http
8081/tcp filtered blackice-icecap

Nmap scan report for 192.168.1.4
Host is up (0.0033s latency).
Not shown: 999 closed ports
PORT   STATE SERVICE
22/tcp open  ssh

Nmap done: 5 IP addresses (2 hosts up) scanned in 16.81 seconds
pi@raspberrypi ~ $
```

https://www.maketecheasier.com/assets/uploads/2013/12/nmap-range-scan.jpg

Trying nmap

- nmap yourself on localhost
  - Also try against your public IP address (get permission from network owner)
- Try opening an HTTP server
  - python –m SimpleHTTPServer
  - Does the output change?

```
vagrant@cos461:/vagrant$ nmap localhost
Starting Nmap 7.80 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2020-10-20 23:28 UTC
Nmap scan report for localhost (127.0.0.1)
Host is up (0.00014s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed ports
PORT   STATE SERVICE
22/tcp open  ssh
53/tcp open  domain

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 0.12 seconds
vagrant@cos461:/vagrant$
```

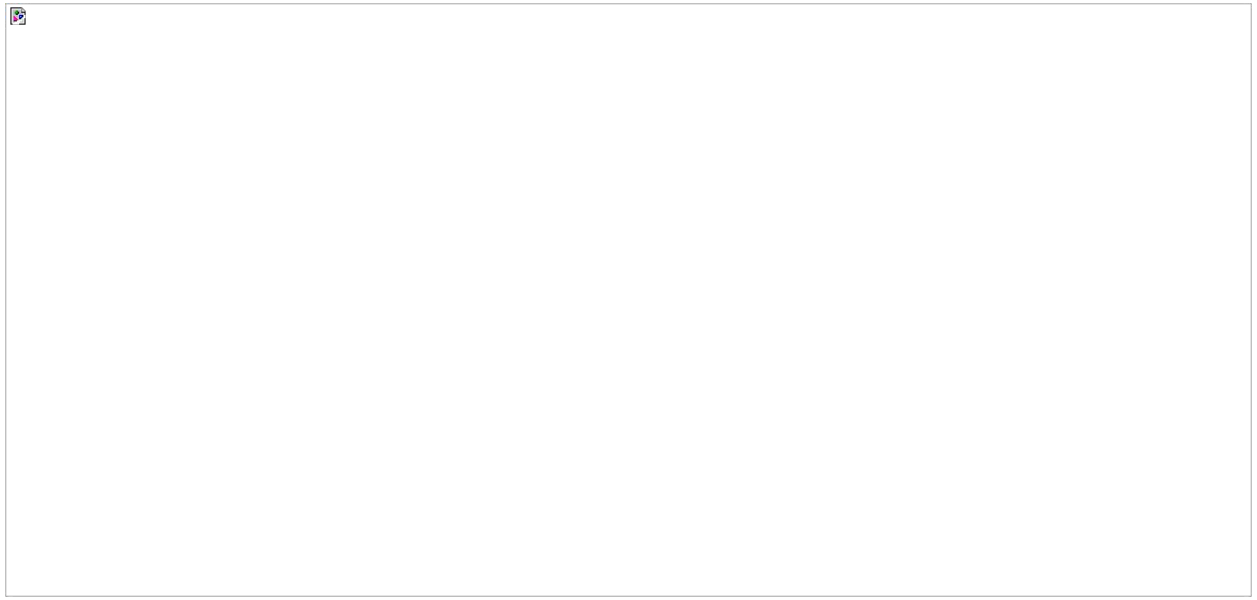
Trying nmap

- Monitor the traffic
  - SSH into vagrant from two shells
  -
```
vagrant@cos461:/vagrant$ sudo tcpdump -i lo
```
  - Run nmap
  - Try to identify one open and one closed port
  - grep might help:

```
vagrant@cos461:/vagrant$ sudo tcpdump -i lo | grep "ssh"
tcpdump: verbose output suppressed, use -v or -vv for ful
listening on lo, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet), capture siz
17:57:07.521100 IP localhost.50774 > localhost.ssh: Flags
cr 0,nop,wscale 7], length 0
17:57:07.521105 IP localhost.ssh > localhost.50774: Flags
```

An ounce of prevention

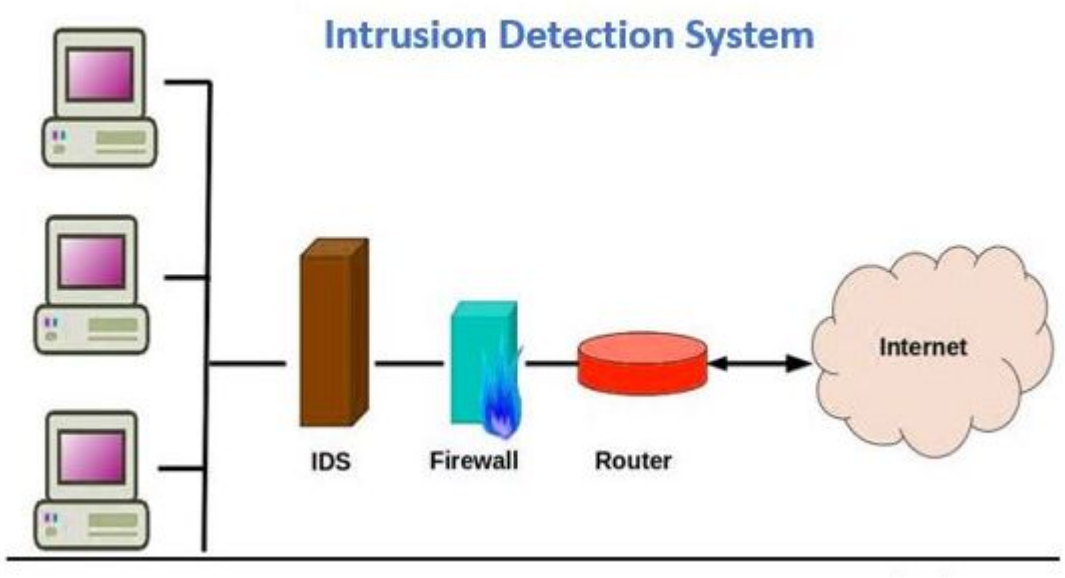
- Firewalls block traffic based on rules
  - Usually blacklists and whitelists
  - Block all traffic on certain ports
  - To or from certain IPs



https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/types-of-firewall-and-possible-attacks/

A pound of cure

- Network Intrusion detection systems
  - Scans for known malicious patterns
  - Identifies anomalous traffic
  - Typically cannot block traffic



Problems with port scanning

- Creates an obvious access pattern
  - Zombie scanning helps
- Can burden the network
  - Solution: target most common ports, esp. more vulnerable ones
    - e.g. Remote Desktop Protocol, SSH, FTP
- Usually requires follow-up work to find vulnerabilities

Breakout room questions

- What features can you use to detect a port scan?
- How can you defend against a port scan?
- What are some ethical reasons to use port scans?

Breakout room questions

- What features can you use to detect a port scan?
  - Packet sequence
  - Frequent, changing access
  - Short connections
  - Bursts of traffic to many local destinations
- How can you defend against a port scan?
- What are some ethical reasons to use port scans?

Breakout room questions

- What features can you use to detect a port scan?
- How can you defend against a port scan?
  - Firewalls block most ports
  - Disconnect attacker from network
  - Filter traffic from attackers
- What are some ethical reasons to use port scans?

Breakout room questions

- What features can you use to detect a port scan?
- How can you defend against a port scan?
- What are some ethical reasons to use port scans?
  - Testing a network, with permission, to check for vulnerabilities
  - For educational purposes, with permission