

Identification of Trusted Elements with Malicious Behavior of Public Cloud against DoS Attack

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Abstract: Cloud has been blooming technology due to its numerous characteristics. Distributed nature, open internet, security issues related to cloud service models are some of the security threats that are associated with cloud. With this rise in threats, it is necessary to identify sources that are associated with security attacks. One of the sophisticated attack is Distributed Denial of Service attack whose identification is found to be challenging. Numerous techniques have been proposed. This paper focuses on hybrid technique which is based on rule based detection along with use of snort. The performance of server has been monitored using ganglia which is a scalable distributed monitoring tool.

Keywords: DDoS, Ganglia, Wireshark, Rule Based, TCP SYN.

1. INTRODUCTION

With Advancement in Technology, cloud has been most emerging technology. With its numerous characteristics and advantages, there has been rise in migration of cloud users which leads to raise in security concern. With this rise in security concerns it is necessary to identify the source that leads to Security threats. The Cloud resources that facilitates by providing numerous characteristics are exploited by Intruders. Cloud Security Alliance has reportedly mentioned that DDoS attack is one of top 15 cyber threats in Cloud ¹. There arise need for detection technique for DDoS Attack by identifying its sources of attack. Some of the key characteristics to identify DDoS attack is degradation of performance time with increase in response time. It mainly aims to make services unavailable to intended or legitimate users for some period of time. Varioustypes of DDoS attack have been experimented and analyzed. To detect the type of DDoS attack and its impact on the network is our primary goal in cloud. Detection of attack is very crucial process as it has no specific measures. Performance of Cloud server has been monitored using Ganglia. A distributed Monitoring System named Ganglia is used for monitoring high-performance systems such as Clusters and Grids ². Even hybrid technique is used to detect various attacks thus by helping to prevent this attack in future.

2. VARIOUS ATTACKS AND ITS DETECTION

Various attacks that are carried out by intruders have different motives by making resourcesunavailable to its

legitimate users. Most of the target are CPU cycles, packet cache buffers, network bandwidth and so on. On victim side incoming packets are in huge number than compared to outgoing packets. Packets are generated using packet generating tool such as LOIC, hyenae and so on in cloud. Even the botnet has been created using ufonet in cloud so that varioustraffics can be generated and analyzed. Various ICMP, UDP, TCP/IP and HTTP request are generated from this packet generating tool. The traffic that is generated between the nodes has been recorded using analyzer named tshark and is dumped into a file. The traffic that is dumped into file consists of normal as well as malicious traffic which is then transferred to server with expire in time interval. Some of the important factors that are considered for detection of DoS attack is CPU load, Memory Usage and Network Bandwidth consumption are monitored using some shell scripts as well as ganglia which is large scale monitoring tool. This attack can be detected using Snort and Rule based Detection Technique.

Following all the attack has been monitored using ganglia that has been deployed in cloud.

1. ICMP Attack

Ping and its variation hping command are used to check the services of any particular system. Any packet can be maximum of 65,535 bytes. Communication between systems can be carried using ICMP Ping request and ICMP Ping reply. Attacker floods the system for sending thousands of packets to server using spoofed IP Address. So that replies are sent to spoofed address. By using ping command to flood with excess number of packets the resources are consumed.

Snort rule for detecting ICMP Attack is:

Alert icmp any -> 192.168.1.0/24 any (msg: "ICMP attack detected";sid:1000001;rev:001;)

Packet Size(bytes)	CPU Utilization(%)	RAM(mb)	Network Usage (Mbytes/sec)
10	60	213.5	6
100	68	213.8	10
500	79	450	18
1000	82	520	25

Table 1: ICMP Attacks Performance Matrix

2. SMURF Attack

The ICMP echo request is broadcasted with victim's IP Address. All the Intermediate machines respond with ICMP echo reply. This leads to flooding of network with thousands of reply. By spoofing the source IP Address same as destination IP Address the resources are exhausted. Snort rule for detecting Smurf Attack is:

Alert icmp any any -> 192.168.1.0/24 any (msg: "Smurf attack detected"; itype: 8; Sid: 5000002; rev: 1 ;)

Packet Size(bytes)	CPU Utilization(%)	RAM(mb)	Network Usage (Mbytes/sec)
10	15	680	1
100	36.6	710	1.8
500	48	724	2.8
1000	65	742.8	3.3

Table 2: Smurf Attacks Performance Matrix

3. HTTP DoS

HTTP Flooding is been created by use of Zombies i.e. Ufonet. Valid or Invalid Http request are sent to server by using three way handshake communication. By using zombie such as ufonet to perform HTTP DoS attack on Server by generating valid or invalid HTTP Request.

The following rule detects a pattern "GET" in the data part of all TCP packets that are leaving 192.168.1.0 network and going to an address that is not part of that network. The GET keyword is used in many HTTP related attacks; however, this rule is only using it to help you understand how the content keyword works.

Alert tcp 192.168.1.0/24 any -> ![192.168.1.0/24] any (content: "GET"; msg: "GET matched");

The following rule does the same thing but the pattern is listed in hexadecimal.

alert tcp 192.168.1.0/24 any -> ![192.168.1.0/24] any (content: "|47 45 54|"; msg: "GET matched");

Packet Size(bytes)	CPU Utilization(%)	RAM(mb)	Network Usage (Mbytes/sec)
10	30	600	2.1
100	45	630	2.8
500	65	685	3.5
1000	75	700	4

Table 3: HTTP DoS Performance Matrix

4. TCP SYN

The Basic step of three way handshaking is exploited. For communication purpose between servers TCP SYN and TCP ACK messages are exchanged. Attacker spoofs the IP Address so the SYN ACK packets are sent to victims (spoofed) Address which completely fill ups maximum limit of SYN ACK Packets. Since packets waits for ACK until it times out and get dropped, victims machine is flooded with illegitimate request and would not be able to serve legitimate request. By exploiting the basic three way handshake the attack has been performed and has been monitored using ganglia.

Snort rule for detecting TCP SYN Attack is :

Alert tcp any any -> any any (msg: "TCP SYN Flood attack detected";flags:S; threshold: type threshold, track by_dst,count 20,seconds 60 ;sid:5000001;rev:1;)

Packet Size(bytes)	CPU Utilization(%)	RAM(mb)	Network Usage (Mbytes/sec)
10	55	700	5
100	70	680	5.2
500	79	747	4.9
1000	85	790.5	5.78

Table 4: TCP SYN Flood Performance Matrix

4. UDP SYN

Since UDP is connectionless protocol, the attacker generates enough UDP Packets to a random port in Victims Server. On the Victim Side, it will check for application that will be waiting for that particular packet unless it realize there is no application waiting for it. So ICMP with destination unreachable is generated to source address. If enough number of Packets are received at the victim end, the system would be flood and would be down. The ports that are open in victim side is targeted. Enough UDP Packets that can flood the victim's server are generated which would exhaust all the available resources such as CPU, bandwidth and memory.

Snort rule for detecting UDP SYN Attack is:

Alert udp any any -> 192.168.1.0/24 any (msg: "Land attack detected";flags:S; threshold: type threshold, track by_dst,count 20,seconds 60;sid:5000003;rev:1;)

Packet Size(bytes)	CPU Utilization(%)	RAM(mb)	Network Usage (Mbytes/sec)
10	60	420	2.5
100	65	432	4
500	75	450	6.5
1000	62	480	7.9

Table 5:UDP SYN Flood Performance Matrix

5. LAND Attack

The source IP is spoofed as of Destination IP. So the machine send huge request to itself and this conflict cannot be resolved at last victim gets crashed or rebooted. Spoofed

IP Address that is same as Victim is used by attacker so that request is send to itself and all the resources gets consumed.

Snort rule for detecting Land Attack is:

Alert tcp any any -> any any (msg: "Land attack detected"; flags: S; sameip; sid: 5000000; rev: 1 ;)

Packet Size(bytes)	CPU Utilization(%)	RAM(mb)	Network Usage (Mbytes/sec)
10	65	350	2.9
100	71	368	3.1
500	73	371	3.5
1000	75	380	3.7

Table 6: LAND Attack Performance Matrix

3. RELATED WORK

Various methods have been proposed for detection of TCP SYN Attack in which some of them are explained below:

S.H.C Haris et al. suggest that IP Header and TCP header payload are used for detection of TCP SYN Flood. Port, flag, IP address, Protocol behavior and so on are some of the key features used for attack detection. The focus of this paper is limited to detect attack in the local area network in File Transfer Protocol and has lower detection rate. The packet captured using tcpdump are filtered using packet filtering algorithm and thus would raise alarm based on deviation from normal behavior ¹.

Y.Ohsita et al.suggest to consider arrival time variations. This proposal is limited to detect normal TCP SYN Packets as lower rate traffic cannot be detected as it follows normal distribution model.By normal model distribution, the mechanism can detect attack accurately ².

H. Wang et.al suggest that the detection system should be kept at the edge of routers or firewalls or proxy at the front end. It analyze the TCP SYN FIN pairs and the change in the sequences. Various alerts are generated based on the events and source of flooding can be identified. Thus the limitation of it is that system is more prone to flooding attacks but it does remove the overhead. Along with detecting attacks by generating alarms even the source location can be found using this technique ³.

M.Durairaj et al. proposed ThreV algorithm for detecting MAC spoof DoS attack as MAC address can easily be spoofed. The paper focuses on existing Infrastructure. Hybrid Mechanism is proposed which is amalgamation of four algorithms such as ThreV, Alternative NumberingMechanism, Traffic Pattern Filtering and Letter envelop protocol. The Basic Identity Check tables is compared with MAC address of all users in WLAN and based on that Intruders can be checked. The benefit of this technique is that it is deployed with minimum packet loss, reduced control overhead with reduced in packet drop and delay ⁴.

Maciej Korczynski et.al suggest that scheme that relies on sampling rate. To validate connection, TCP Packets are examined to check for ACK Segments coming from server. This method is effective when the rate of incoming packets is been controlled and then further compared with other detection methods. The ACK flag is mainly examined with set on means that connection is legitimate. Although this method is very effective by decreasing false positive rate but some information is lost while sampling data ⁵.

D.M.Divakaran et.al suggest to use exponential back off property of TCP segments to determine high intensity of attack. Linear Predictive analyze network traffic and various other types of DoS attack. Even the intensity of network can be detected using LP Detection Method. The low and high intensity SYN flooding attacks can be detected. There will be detection delay in source identification of TCP SYN flood ⁶.

S.H.C Haris et al. suggest that use of payload and unusable area in Hyper Text Transfer Protocol. ToS, IP Header, Unusable area are considered for detecting TCP SYN. To detect the TCP SYN attack it is necessary to recognize normal payload characters else would be time consuming. The need arises to make detection faster and effective ⁷.

Parasa Harika et al. suggest to count and record SYN packets whose three way handshake is completed. Even all packets that are opposite to SYN packets are recorded. The Proposed Technique is combination of packet filtering and syn flood monitoring ⁸.

D.D.Rani et al. suggest to check open ports and its active connections in Server. Using Wireshark and IP table rule DoS attack is analyzed. Once DoS attack is detected its prevention can be done using shell scripts to block such network traffic. The experiment for detection is limited to client server program ⁹.

D.S.Rana et al used Wireshark to detect TCP SYN flood attack. The attack has been generated by Shell Script using random number function so that the request comes from Random IP address. Use of Inbuilt functions in Linux such as netstat is done. Around 2000 to 7000 packets are captured at network interface ¹⁰.

V.A.Siris et.al evaluated adaptive threshold algorithm and cumulative sum algorithm for change point detection. Adaptive threshold algorithm checks for network traffic and compares SYN packets with the threshold value. When the number of SYN Packets exceed number of FIN Packets the change has been noted using cusum algorithm. For low intensity attack there is degradation in performance. It is efficient for detecting high intensity attacks without being more complex ¹¹.

V.L.L.Thing et.al proposed use for bloomed filter. The outgoing SYN packets values must be equal to incoming SYN & ACK values. The technique is more reliable in detecting SYN-SYN & ACK detection mechanism rather than SYN-FIN/RST detection mechanism. SYN-FIN/RST fails to detect Bot Buddy attack ¹².

4. TCP SYN FLOOD ATTACK

TCP is Connection oriented protocol. TCP is The Server sends request to another server in form of SYN packets. The Server Responds with SYN ACK packet by reserving connection resources. Client sends an ACK to the server and thus connection is established. Attacker generates numerous SYN requests but never responds to ACK to complete connection. The new incoming SYN request are dropped as victim's server backlog queue is exhausted. The problem in detecting TCP SYN flood attack is that server cannot distinguish normal TCP traffic and SYN Flood Packets.

The Reason behind TCP SYN Flood Attack are:

1. TCP Threeway handshake protocol which allows attacker to access resources as well as server.
2. Server has no control on the incoming SYN packets and exhaust the system resources.

The Attack can be detected by half open connection using netstat. This half open connection are described as SYN_RECV or SYN_RECEIVED.

```
#netstat -n -p TCP
```

For further description of TCP statistics, following command can be used.

```
#netstat -n -p TCP | grep SYN_RECV | grep : 23| wc
```

SYN Flood does not affect ingoing connection but denies new connection. There are several ways to detect TCP SYN Flood attack as follows:

1. **Anomaly Detection System:** In this technique, IP Header and TCP Header are checked. Normal Packets and infected Packets are categorized based on TCP Header. Authorized IP Address are maintained in database and is used for comparison for further analysis. Once Infected IP's are detected alerts are generated and ip address is further added into blacklist.
2. **Efficient Packet Marking:** In this technique, routers write IP address in header field so that network information path can be obtained. Since the space is limited in marking field, routers probabilistic decides to mark the routing information which contains partial routing information. The approach in which All received packets and marking information will lead to network path is called Probabilistic Packet marking.

5. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

The Experiment has used six host machines deployed in cloud. Host A, B, C, D are attackers with OS Ubuntu 12.04.5 LTS. Host E is IDS which consists of Snort and Rule base detection techniques with OS Kali 2.0 Sana. Host F is client with OS Ubuntu 12.04.5 LTS deployed with ganglia to monitor the performance. Some of the tools used are Snort 2.9.7.6, DAQ 2.0.6, barnyard2 2-1.13, base 1.4.5, LOIC 1.0.8, hyenae 0-1.1, ufonet 0.6, Airmon-ng, Airodump-ng, Driftnet.

The attack is performed on Host F through use of different attack scripts, tools such LOIC, ufonet, hyeane. All the incoming request of Host F is been analyzed and monitored by Host E. Different Rules are configured based on Various Attacks. Both Host E and F are configured with ganglia so that performance can be analyzed.

6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

It is found that TCP SYN attack has maximum CPU Utilization as described in (1). Even the RAM usage and Network usage has been founded maximum among other flooding attacks as described in (2). Comparative Study of CPU Utilization , RAM and Network Usage has been depicted in (3).It Can be concluded from the above analysis that TCP SYN Flood is more severe than any other flooding attacks followed by ICMP Attack. TCP SYN Attack is detected using base, snort, Wireshark and rule based detection (4).

MITIGATION TECHNIQUES FOR TCP-SYN

1. TCP Probing

An additional craft message is appended with SYN+ACK+Craft message which is replied by the Server. So, Craft message is to change in TCP Window size. This reply is checks the specification given by server to change the window size.

2. SYN Cookies

Server receives SYN Packet and calculates SYN Cookies. This Cookie is then send back to client in form of SYN+ACK and there is no allocation of resources for request send by the client. Once ACK Packets are received by server check for the valid cookies and based on that resource is been allocated so that resources cannot be exhausted.

3. Rise in Backlog queue of Server

Increase in Tcp_max_syn_backlog parameter value so that half open connections can be easily maintained.

5. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have focused on identifying sources that facilitated with numerous characteristics but were exploited by Intruder. Since DDoS is major threat to cloud its detection is very challenging. An Hybrid Technique which is combination of Rule based Detection and Snort has been used for identifying the attacks. After Performance Comparison of Various types of DDoS attacks, it is concluded that TCP SYN Attack is more severe compared to other attacks (3). A hybrid technique is used for detection of attacks. The Rule based detection techniques works efficiently in cloud. With the several comparisons it is found that TCP SYN is more severe compared to various other DDoS attacks.

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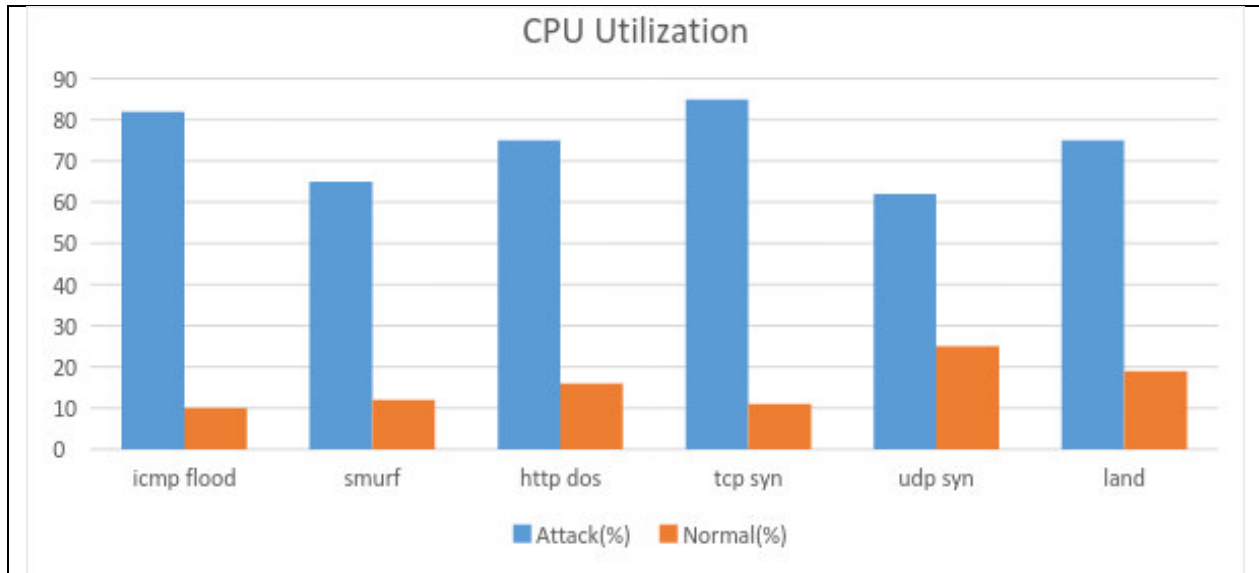


Figure (1). Comparison of CPU Utilization

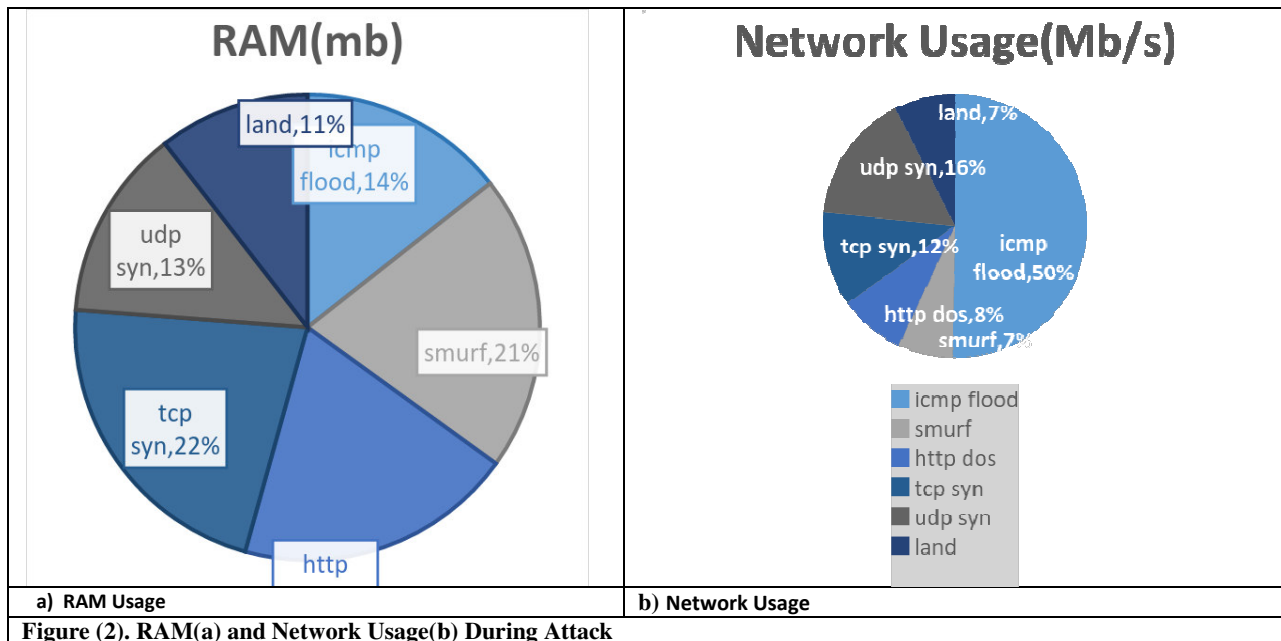


Figure (2). RAM(a) and Network Usage(b) During Attack

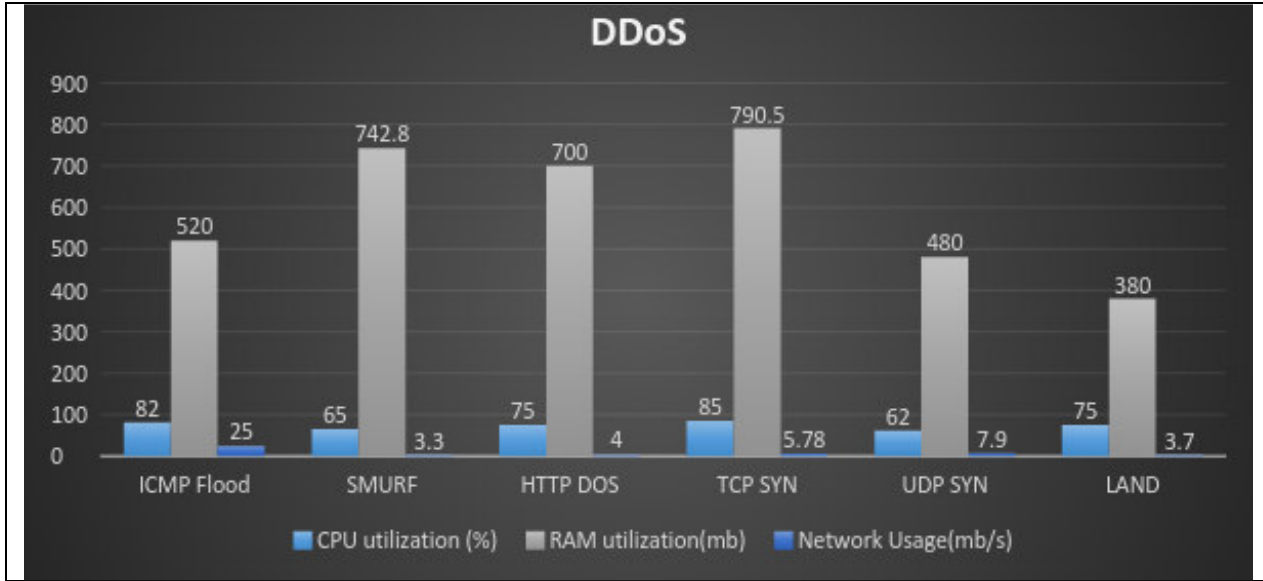
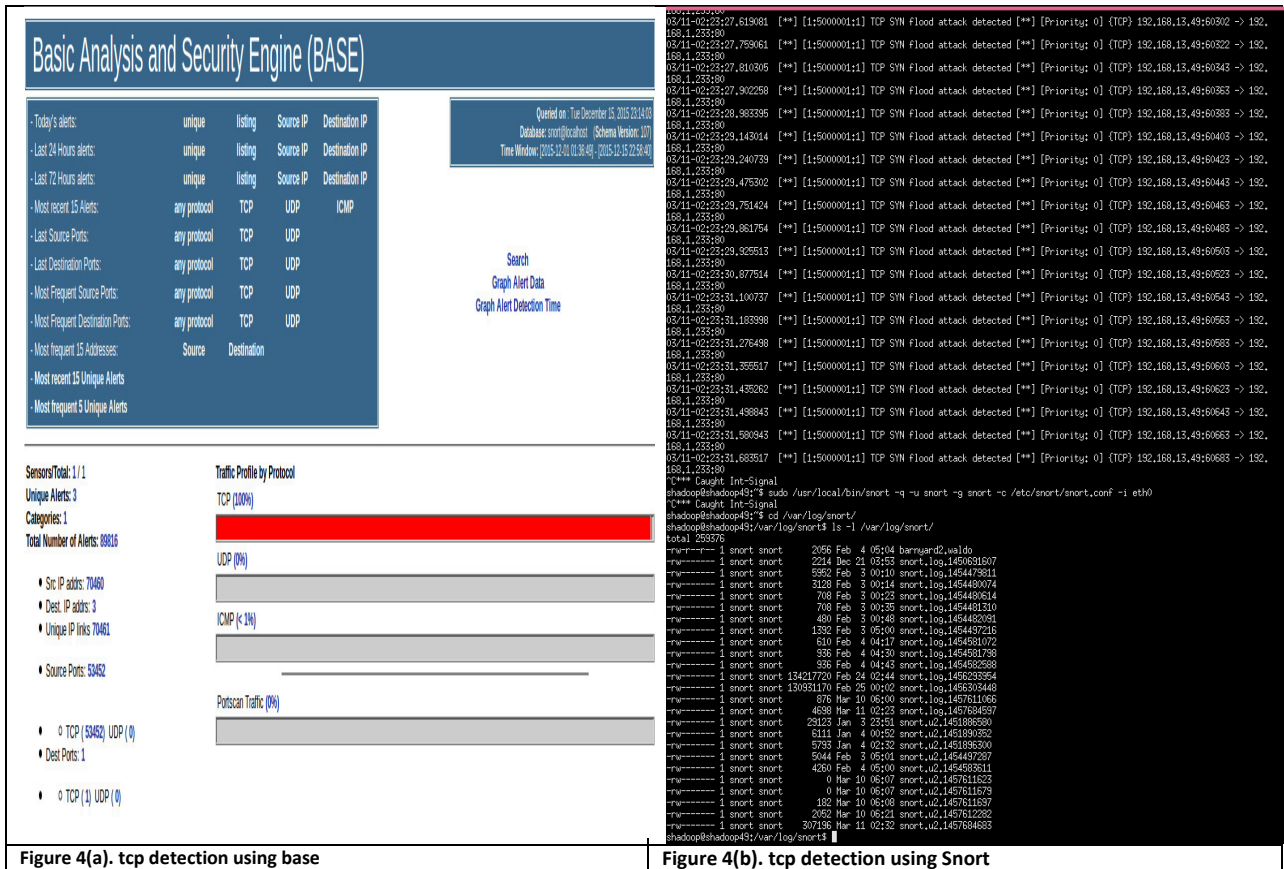


Figure 3. Comparative Study of DDoS based on CPU, RAM, Network Usage.



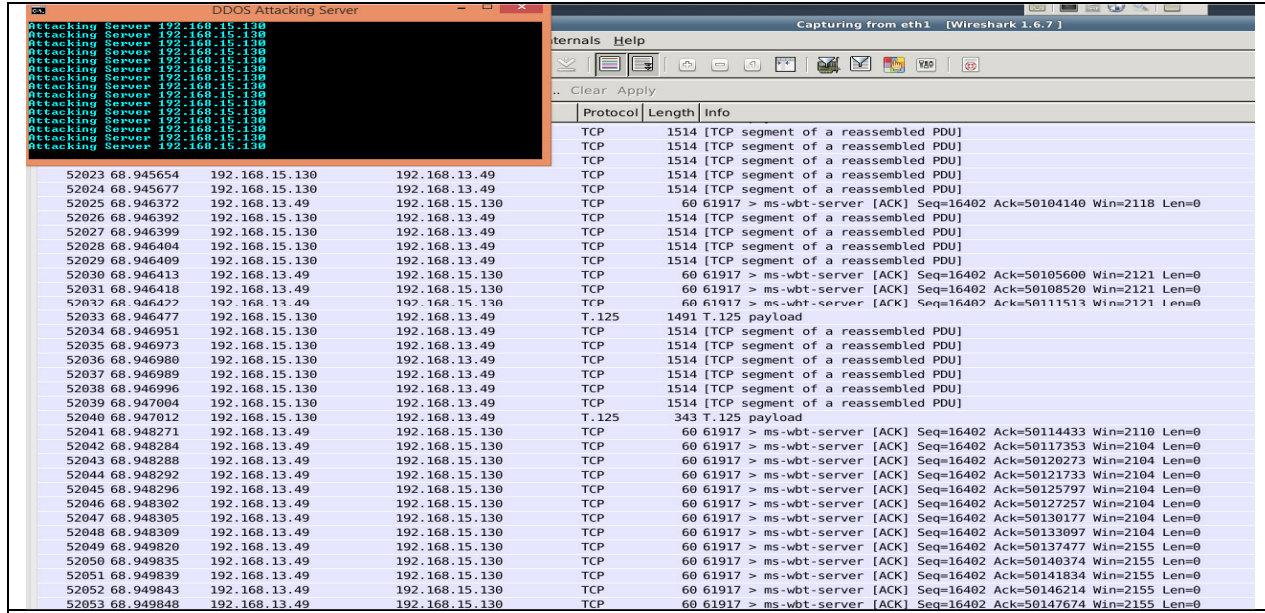


Figure 4(c). tcp detection using Wireshark

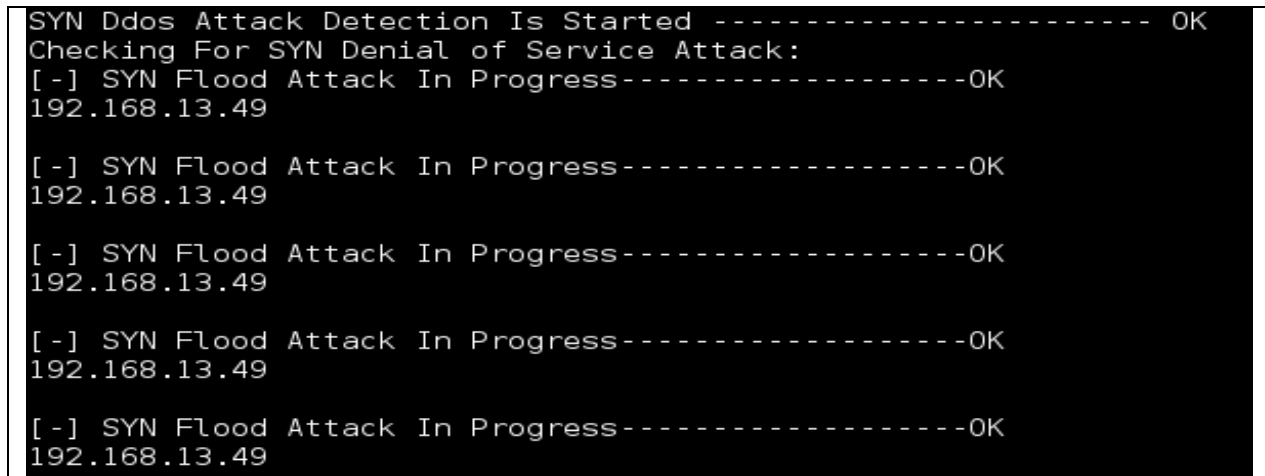


Figure 4(d). tcp detection using rule based detection