

NETWORK FORENSIC USING PACKET ANALYSIS  
AT PERIMETER SEGMENT TO DETECT AND PREDICT  
DNS AND HTTP BASE SECURITY ATTACK OR INTRUSION

By

WIDODO LAKSONO PUTRO

22051002

MASTER'S DEGREE

in

MASTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SWISS GERMAN UNIVERSITY



SWISS GERMAN UNIVERSITY

The Prominence Tower

Jalan Jalur Sutera Barat No. 15, Alam Sutera

Tangerang, Banten 15143 - Indonesia

June 2021

NETWORK FORENSIC USING PACKET ANALYSIS  
AT PERIMETER SEGMENT TO DETECT AND PREDICT  
DNS AND HTTP BASE SECURITY ATTACK OR INTRUSION

By

WIDODO LAKSONO PUTRO

22051002

MASTER'S DEGREE

in

MASTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

SWISS GERMAN UNIVERSITY



SWISS GERMAN UNIVERSITY

The Prominence Tower

Jalan Jalur Sutera Barat No. 15, Alam Sutera

Tangerang, Banten 15143 - Indonesia

Revision after Thesis Defense on 15 July 2021

### STATEMENT BY THE AUTHOR

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and to the best of my knowledge, it contains no material previously published or written by another person, nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma at any educational institution, except where due acknowledgement is made in the thesis.

WIDODO LAKSONO PUTRO

Student

Date

Approved by:

DR. Charles Lim, B.Sc, M.Sc.

Thesis Advisor

Date

Kalpin E Silaen, S.Si, M.Kom

Thesis Co-Advisor

Date

Dr. Maulahikmah Galinium, S.Kom., M.Sc

Dean

Date

## ABSTRACT

Network Forensic Using Packet Analysis at Perimeter Segment  
to Detect and Predict DNS and HTTP Base Security Attack or Intrusion

By

Widodo Laksono Putro

DR. Charles Lim, B.Sc, M.Sc

Advisor

Kalpin E Silaen, S.Si, M.Kom

Co-Advisor

SWISS GERMAN UNIVERSITY

Today the cyber threat, attack and intrusion growing in term of quantity and complexity along the fast growing of internet services utilization where people in any enterprise establish connection, communication and transaction with digital public resources. These resources mostly available via web access where HTTP(S) and DNS protocol been used. The attacker then use HTTP(S) and DNS protocol evasion to make the action undetected by the traditional security system such as perimeter Firewall, IDS or even legacy antivirus at endpoint side. This research covers the approach to resolve this issue by utilizing network forensic method to detect and predict HTTP(S) and DNS base security attack or intrusion.

This Thesis expands the existing generic network forensic at certain steps mainly in analysis step. The process includes copying the real network traffic by doing packet capture technique in perimeter network area and observe DNS and HTTP(S) traffic. The data which is in the form of pcap file then be extracted to have suspicious indicative features of the protocols to detect malicious indicator and then map to MITTRE ATT&CK framework to get the attack steps have been already executed.

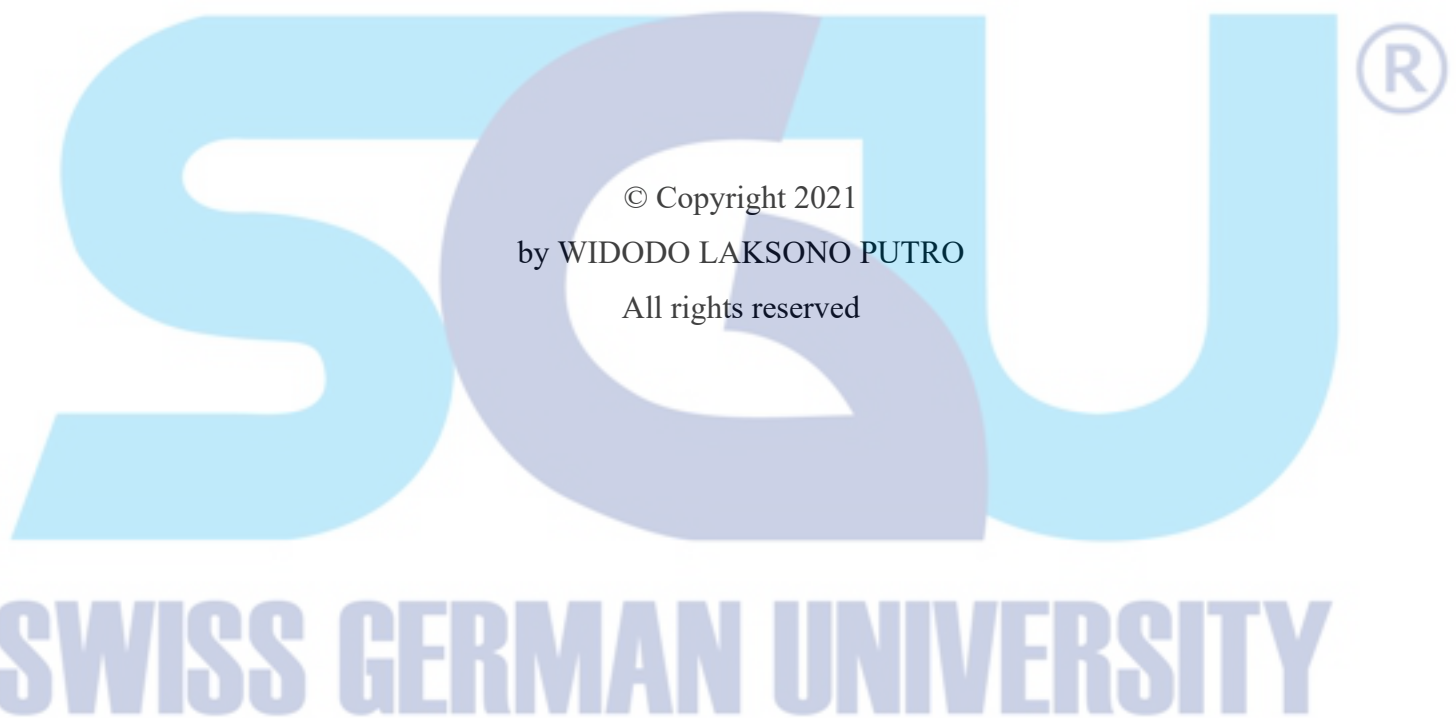
The detection also utilizes two-layer filtering which based on the blacklisting filtering and features base filtering. Some features of malicious HTTP(S) and DNS protocol includes randomized DNS queries, suspicious user-agent, URI and Host value.

The result of detection then will become reference for existing traditional security system enhancement.

In this research with the network forensic approach also has advantage in detecting the malicious indicators related with DNS and HTTP(S) protocols -which the protocols commonly allowed by legacy security system such as common perimeter firewall. The suspicious features in the connection and the indicative infected computer can be investigated.

*Keywords: Network Forensic, packet capture, detection*





## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this thesis work to my beloved family, my wife Rahayu Kusumaningsih who always giving support to my continues study and future achievement. Also, to my son Evan Haryo Widodo who always become motivation and spirit to embrace the future.

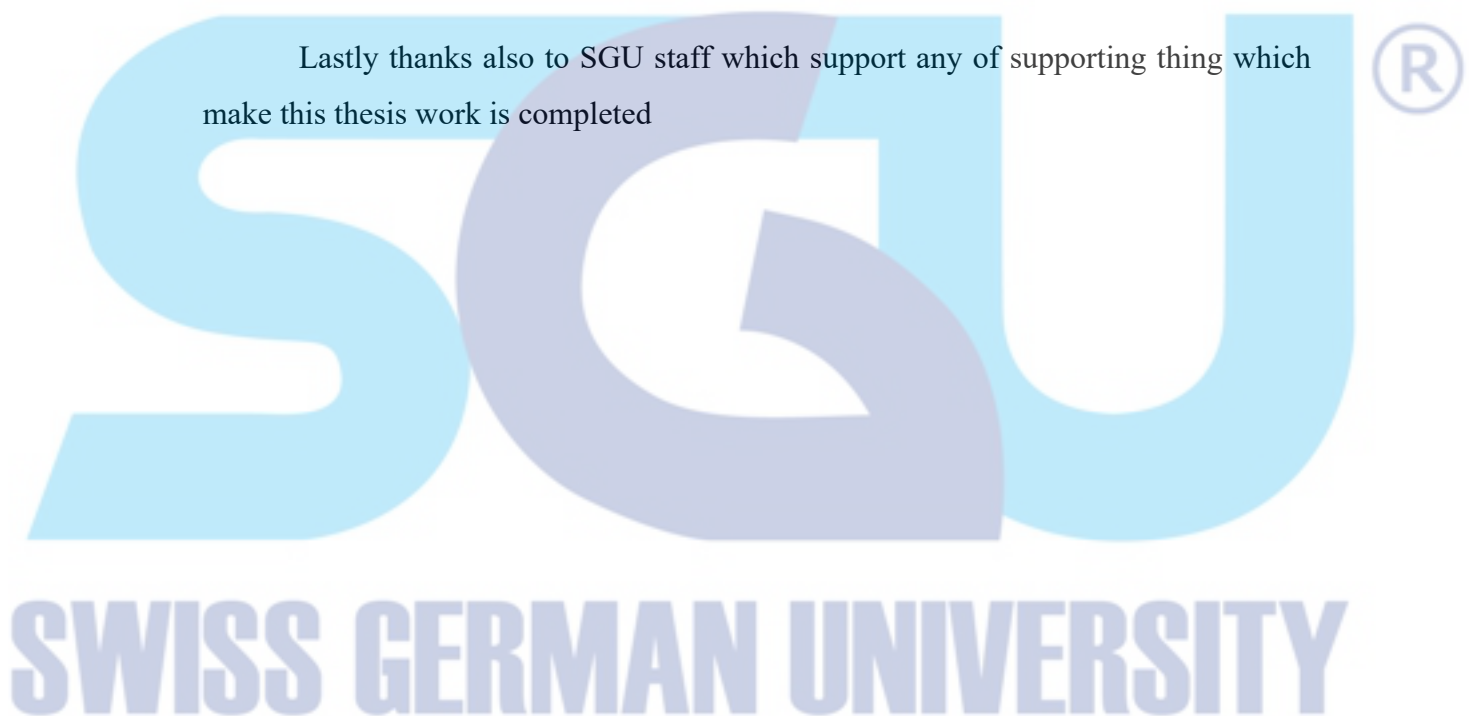


## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express My gratitude to DR. Charles Lim, B.Sc, M.Sc, and Kalpin E Silaen, S.Si, M.Kom, as my thesis advisors for the dedication to giving intensive guidance, advise and motivation throughout this thesis.

I would also like to thank to friends during the study who motivate and learn each other making me always motivated and focus to finish this work.

Lastly thanks also to SGU staff which support any of supporting thing which make this thesis work is completed





## TABLE OF CONTENT

ABSTRACT .....	4
DEDICATION.....	7
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	8
TABLE OF CONTENT.....	9
LIST OF FIGURES .....	11
LIST OF TABLES.....	12
CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION .....	14
1.1 Background .....	14
1.2 Research Problem.....	15
1.3 Research Objective.....	16
1.4 Research Question.....	16
1.5 Scope of Study .....	16
1.6 Significance of the Study .....	17
1.7 Hypothesis.....	17
1.8 Thesis Structure.....	17
CHAPTER 2 - LITERATURE REVIEW .....	19
2.1 Enterprise Internet Technology and Issue.....	19
2.2 Traditional Threat Detection .....	21
2.3 Network Forensic (Framework and Beneficial).....	22
2.4 Benign HTTP(S) and DNS Protocol Behaviour .....	26
2.5 General Malicious Traffic Behaviour .....	34
2.6 HTTP(S) and DNS Base Malicious Traffic Behaviour.....	35
2.7 Malicious Traffic Detection Base on Machine Learning Algorithm Approach.....	37
2.8 Evidence Finding Using Host (Computer) Base Forensic Approach .....	40
2.9 MITTRE ATT&CK.....	41
2. Related Work.....	42
CHAPTER 3 – RESEARCH METHODS .....	47
3.1 General Research Methodology.....	47
3.2 Research Framework.....	47
3.3 Data Sourcing Method .....	50
3.3 Data Analysis and Evaluation .....	51

3.3.1 DNS Traffic Filtering.....	51
3.3.2 HTTP(S) Traffic Classification.....	52
3.4 Validation.....	55
3.4.1. Validation by Host (Computer) Base Forensic.....	55
3.4.2 Validation by MITRE ATT&CK Framework.....	56
CHAPTER 4 – RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS.....	57
4.1 System Experiment Overview.....	57
4.1.1 Experiment Setup (architecture).....	57
4.1.2 Data Collection.....	58
4.2 Analysis and Evaluation.....	64
4.3 Validation.....	74
CHAPTER 5 – CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMENDATIONS.....	84
5.1 Conclusions.....	84
5.2 Recommendation.....	85
5.3 Future Work.....	86
GLOSSARY.....	87
REFERENCES.....	89
APPENDIX.....	94
CURRICULUM VITAE.....	97



SWISS GERMAN UNIVERSITY

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1 Common Protocol To Be Attack (Kumar, 2016).....	14
Figure 2-1 Global Internet Penetration (Hootsuite & We Are Social (2019), 2021) .	19
Figure 2-2 Threat Report by SonicWall(SonicWall, 2021).....	20
Figure 2-3 Statistic of malware connection using TLS (HTTPS)(cisco, 2018) .....	21
Figure 2-4 HTTP Protocol Flow.....	26
Figure 2-5 DNS Hierarchy .....	27
Figure 2-6 DNS Request Response Messaging .....	28
Figure 2-7 TCP to HTTP Connection.....	29
Figure 2-8 Messaging in HTTP .....	30
Figure 2-9 HTTP - HTTPS differences .....	31
Figure 2-10 HTTPS Session Establishment Process .....	32
Figure 2-11 Element in the X509 Public Key Certificate Format.....	33
Figure 2-12 MITTRE ATT&CK Matrix(The MITRE Corporation, 2015).....	42
Figure 3-1 General Research Method.....	47
Figure 3-2 Generic Network Forensic Framework.....	48
Figure 3-3 Expanded Network Forensic Framework .....	49
Figure 3-4 Two Layer Detection Framework.....	49
Figure 3-5 Computer Forensic Steps .....	56
Figure 3-6 MITTRE ATT&CK Workflow.....	56
Figure 4-1 Experiment Set Up.....	57
Figure 4-2 pcap file with higher size .....	59
Figure 4-3 pcap for Case-1 (6 April 2021) .....	59
Figure 4-4 pcap for case 2 (6 april 2021) .....	60
Figure 4-5 pcap of case-3 ( 25 May 2021) .....	61
Figure 4-6 pcap for case-4 (15 – 16 June 2021).....	62
Figure 4-7 pcap for Case-5 (14 april, 26 april and 16 June 2021).....	63
Figure 4-8 pcap for case-6 (18 June 2021) .....	64
Figure 4-9 IP quality score case-1 .....	65
Figure 4-10 IP Reputation Check case-2 .....	66
Figure 4-11 URI value for Case-2 .....	66
Figure 4-12 Hybrid Analysis Output for click.netsuite.com .....	67

Figure 4-13 IP quality score for Case-3.....	67
Figure 4-14 IP quality score for case-4 .....	68
Figure 4-15 user_agent observation .....	68
Figure 4-16 Common user_agent Parameter (whatismybrowser.com, 2021).....	69
Figure 4-17 DNS query classification for suspicious indication.....	69
Figure 4-18 IP quality score for case-6 .....	70
Figure 4-19 Host Value .....	71
Figure 4-20 svchost.exe process list.....	74
Figure 4-21 svchost checker .....	75
Figure 4-22 svchost.exe list in filesystem .....	75
Figure 4-23 svchost.exe malware indicators using PESTudio.....	76
Figure 4-24 string list .....	76
Figure 4-25 Certificate (expired).....	77
Figure 4-26 imported dll. by suspicious svchost.exe file .....	77
Figure 4-27 Process List.....	78
Figure 4-28 dns.exe directories .....	78
Figure 4-29 malicious indicator in first dns.exe file save in c:\windows\system32\...	79
Figure 4-30 string list .....	79
Figure 4-31 another dns.exe file malicious indicator .....	80
Figure 4-32 MITTRE ATT&CK mapping .....	80
Figure 4-33 malicious detection by Hybrid analysis .....	81
Figure 4-34 MITTRE ATT&CK Mapping.....	82
Figure 4-35 Security Software Discovery Technique .....	82

### LIST OF TABLES

Table 2-1 Computer and Network Forensic(Joshi and Pilli, 2016).....	24
Table 2-2 Network Security and Forensic(Joshi and Pilli, 2016).....	24
Table 2-3 Packet Capture and Log Collection.....	25
Table 2-4 HTTP Request Method .....	30
Table 2-5 HTTP Header Parameter .....	31

Table 2-6 C&C Characteristic(Acarali et al., 2016).....	35
Table 2-7 Features for DGA Detection by Ren(Ren et al., 2020).....	38
Table 2-8 Features for DGA Detection by Hwang.....	38
Table 2-9 Features for DGA Detection by Tang(Tang et al., 2020) .....	38
Table 2-10 HTTP Periodicity Features.....	39
Table 2-11 HTTPS Multi Categories Features .....	39
Table 2-12 Process List (from memory capture) with connection information .....	40
Table 2-13 Related Work Evaluation .....	43
Table 3-1 Defined DNS Features .....	52
Table 3-2 HTTP Feature base on periodicity .....	52
Table 3-3 HTTP Request Header Features.....	53
Table 3-4 HTTPS Features .....	54
Table 4-1 Data Collection Summary .....	58
Table 4-2 Analysis and Evaluation Summary .....	71
Table 4-3 malicious indicators .....	82



SWISS GERMAN UNIVERSITY