

CISCO *Live!*



#CiscoLive



The bridge to possible

Snort 3 with the Cisco Secure Firewall

Brave new pig!

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Cisco Systems
BRKSEC-2484



#CiscoLive

Cisco Webex App

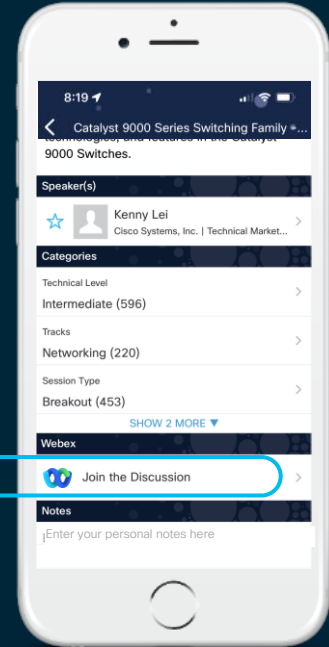
Questions?

Use Cisco Webex App to chat with the speaker after the session

How

- 1 Find this session in the Cisco Live Mobile App
- 2 Click “Join the Discussion”
- 3 Install the Webex App or go directly to the Webex space
- 4 Enter messages/questions in the Webex space

Webex spaces will be moderated by the speaker until June 17, 2022.



<https://ciscolive.ciscoevents.com/ciscolivebot/#BRKSEC-2484>



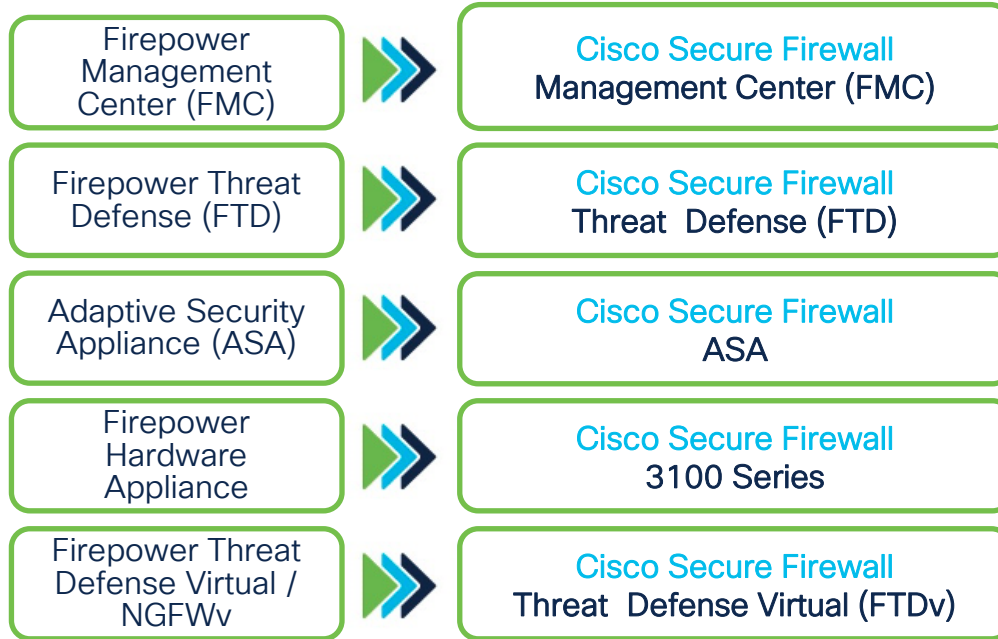
Agenda

- Snort 2 review
- Snort 3 overview
- Intrusion policy quick look
- Rule Groups
- Rule Recommendations
- Snort 3 rule language

Helpful if you have...

- Familiarity with Secure Firewall (Firepower)
- Experience with Snort 2 Intrusion Policy

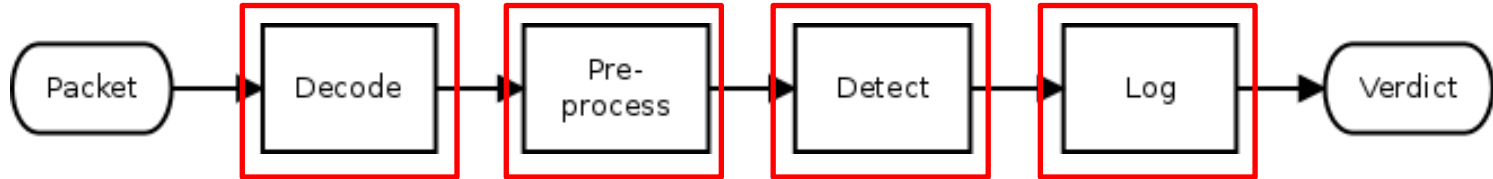
Brand Naming Changes



Snort 2 Review

Snort 2 Basics

- Four primary components:
 - Sniffer <<<<
 - Preprocessors <<<<
 - Detection Engine <<<<
 - Output/Alerting <<<<

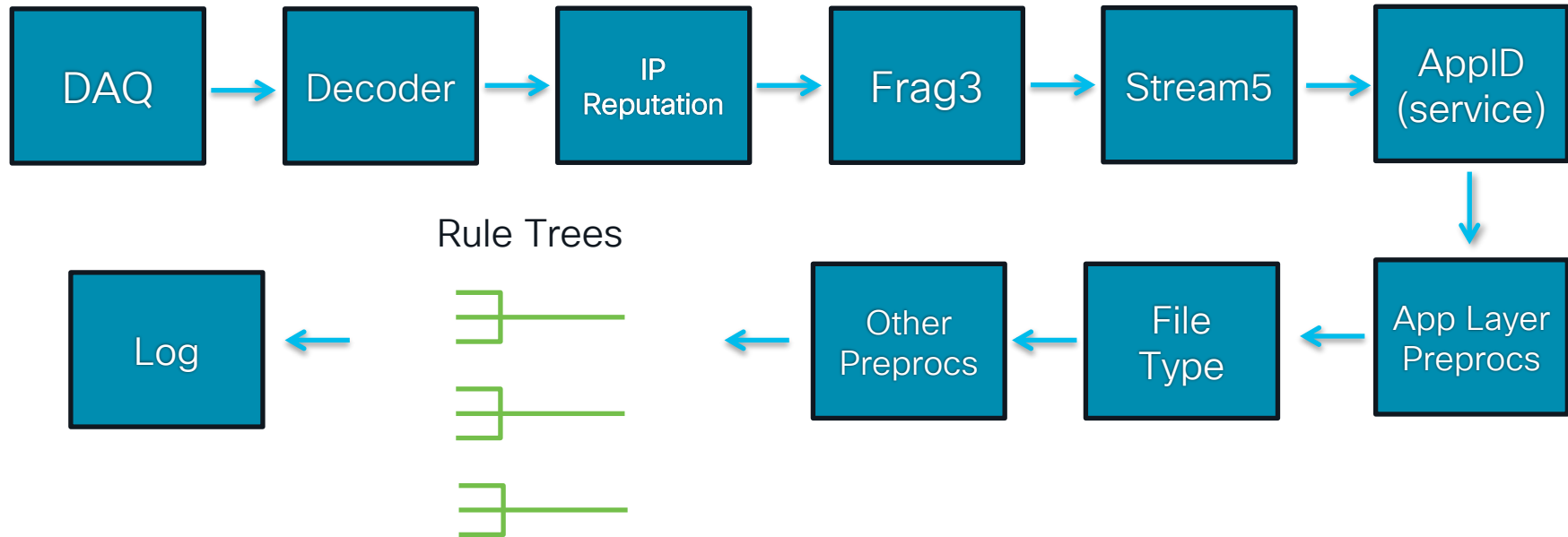


Snort 2 Basics

- Preprocessors
 - Present packet data to detection engine
 - Normalize packet data
 - Examples:
 - Fragment reassembly
 - TCP state table
 - TCP stream reassembly
 - Application aware (HTTP, FTP, Telnet, SSH, SSL, SMB, RPC, etc.)
 - Dynamic, new preprocessors can be loaded at startup

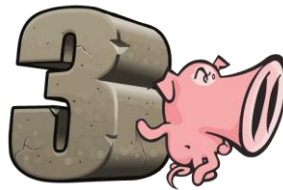


Snort Packet Processing Today



Snort 3

Snort 3 Goals/Features



Efficacy

- Modern architecture for viable handling of Snort 2 evasions
- HTTP/2, IoT, multi-session signatures, etc.
- Intelligent traffic normalization to identify obfuscated threats
- Improved rules language allows Talos to provide better protection

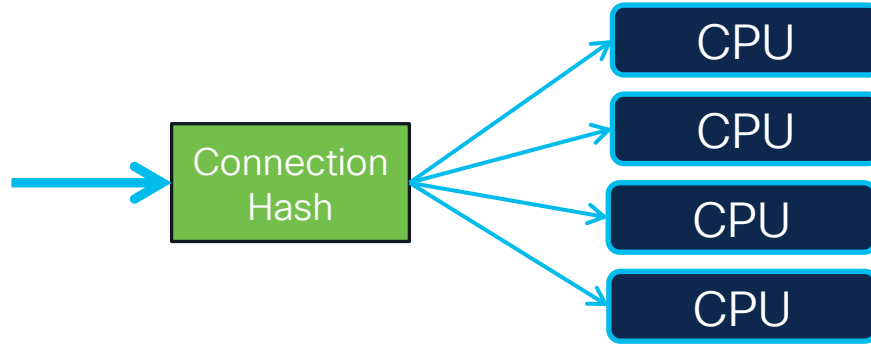
Performance

- Significant performance improvement over Snort 2
- Support for acceleration via Regex offload on next generation platforms
- More efficient memory utilization

Modularity

- Faster time to market with support for new use-cases
- Talos can address 0-day issues with new rule options/inspectors
- Deployable as a cloud service
- Improved maintainability and telemetry

Parallel Processing – Snort 2



Each runs a complete Snort 2 process:

- DAQ
- Configuration
- Preprocessors
- Rule trees



Linear scalability



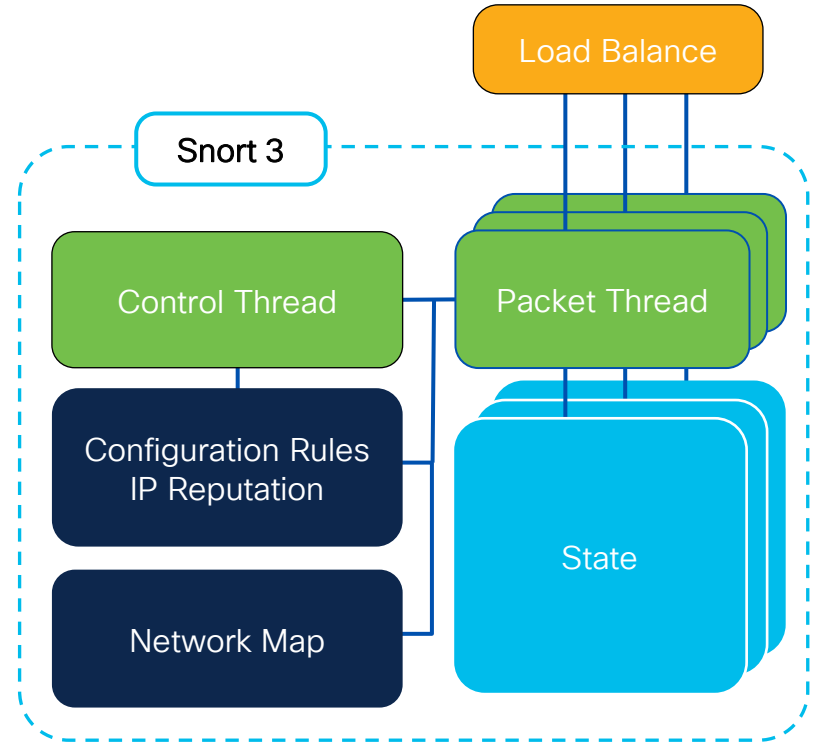
Duplicated memory structures

Parallel Processing – Snort 2

```
root@ftdv2:/home/admin# ps -ef | grep snort
sfsnort  3024 2989  0 Apr09 ?        00:00:21 /ngfw/usr/local/sf/bin/bltd --pid-file=/var/sf/run/bltd.pid
root     7300 2989 54 18:17 ?          00:00:09 /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/snort
--daq-dir /ngfw/usr/local/sf/lib/daq -M -Q -G 0 -i SNORT Inspect:Data Plane --daq pdts_sftls --daq-var instance=71 --pid
-path /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-1 --cs-dir /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engi
nes/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-1 -c /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df175499
7/snort.conf -Z /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-1/now -z /ngfw/var/sf/detect
ion_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-1/preproc_stats.csv --no-interface-pidfile -l /ngfw/var/sf/dete
ction_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-1 -P 1518
root     7301 2989 55 18:17 ?          00:00:09 /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/snort
--daq-dir /ngfw/usr/local/sf/lib/daq -M -Q -G 1 -i SNORT Inspect:Data Plane --daq pdts_sftls --daq-var instance=72 --pid
-path /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-2 --cs-dir /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engi
nes/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-2 -c /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df175499
7/snort.conf -Z /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-2/now -z /ngfw/var/sf/detect
ion_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-2/preproc_stats.csv --no-interface-pidfile -l /ngfw/var/sf/dete
ction_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-2 -P 1518 --suppress-config-log
root     7302 2989 55 18:17 ?          00:00:09 /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/snort
--daq-dir /ngfw/usr/local/sf/lib/daq -M -Q -G 2 -i SNORT Inspect:Data Plane --daq pdts_sftls --daq-var instance=73 --pid
-path /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-3 --cs-dir /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engi
nes/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-3 -c /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df175499
7/snort.conf -Z /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-3/now -z /ngfw/var/sf/detect
ion_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-3/preproc_stats.csv --no-interface-pidfile -l /ngfw/var/sf/dete
ction_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/instance-3 -P 1518 --suppress-config-log
root     7484 3613  0 18:17 pts/0      00:00:00 grep snort
root@ftdv2:/home/admin#
```

Snort 3 Architecture

- Threaded to use multiple cores:
 - 1 control thread (main)
 - N packet threads per process
 - Reloads faster (1 vs N)
- One copy of config and network map:
 - Uses less memory
 - Supports more IPS rules and larger netmap



Inspection Threads – Snort 3

```
root@ftdv2:/home/admin# ps -ef | grep snort
sfsnort  3024  2989  0 Apr09 ?        00:00:21 /ngfw/usr/local/sf/bin/bltd --pid-file=/var/sf/run/bltd.pid
root     3406  2989  1 Apr09 ?        01:14:46 /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/snort
3 --plugin-path /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/plugins:/ngfw/var/sf/lsp/active-so_ru
les --daq-dir /ngfw/usr/local/sf/lib/daq3 -M -Q -v -c /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997
/snort3.lua -l /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997 --id-offset 1 --id-subdir --id-zero --
run-prefix instance- --control-socket /ngfw/var/sf/detection_engines/fb6e9c44-8812-11eb-889e-2b4df1754997/snort3.sock --c
reate-pidfile -s 1518 -z 3
root     3469  3406  0 Apr09 ?        00:00:00 /ngfw/usr/local/sf/bin/snort3_crash_handler 5 6 /ngfw/var/common
root     3844  3613  0 18:11 pts/0    00:00:00 grep snort
root@ftdv2:/home/admin#
```

- Single Snort 3 process
- Three inspection threads (-z or --max-packet-threads)

Snort 3 Plugins and Inspectors

- “Inspectors” are comparable to and replace “preprocessors”
- Each plugin type has a defined purpose and accomplishes most of the processing objectives:
 - **Codec** – to decode and encode packets
 - **Inspector** – like Snort 2 preprocessors, for normalization, etc.
 - **IpsOption** – for detection in Snort rules
 - **IpsAction** – for custom actions
 - **Logger** – for handling events
 - **Multi Pattern Search Engine (MPSE)** – for fast pattern matching
 - **Shared Object (So)** – for dynamic rules



Snort 3 Packet Processing

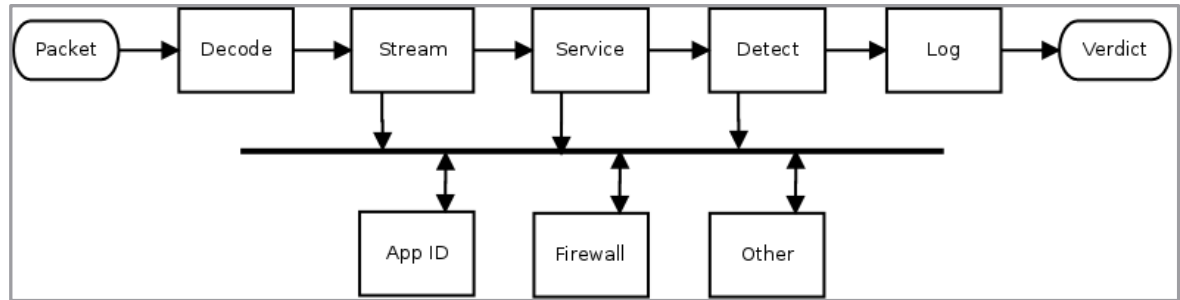
- Snort 2:



- Preprocessors use callback functions
- A later preprocessor (like HTTP) may extract and normalize data that is not used
- Preprocessors (like AppID) may repeatedly check for available data

- Snort 3 – Parallel Resource Utilization:

- Uses publish-subscribe model
- Plugin communication is event driven
- Subscribers access raw or normalized data as needed
- JIT buffers



New HTTP Inspector

- HTTP inspection completely new
- Adds HTTP/2 support
- Fully stateful
- JIT buffers
- New rule options
- Flow-based for better evasion resistance
- HTTP Evader
 - 3.0 = 99%



HTTP/2 – Feature and Functional Support

- Previously, HTTP/2 sessions were downgraded to HTTP/1 to support inspection
- Requires SSL Decryption
- Supported in IPS, AppID, Firewall, and File Type Detection
- IPS support:
 - HTTP-based IPS rules trigger for HTTP/1.1 as well as HTTP/2 traffic
 - HTTP/2 Inspector also monitors for specific protocol anomalies, which generate built-in inspector alerts (if enabled)



HTTP/2

Pig vs Pig



Snort 2	Snort 3
Single packet thread	Multiple packet threads
Run to completion	Multiple packets per thread
More monolithic	More plugins
Procedural	Procedural + Event driven
Just-in-Case	Just-in-Time
Text Config	Lua Config
Tricky buffers	Sticky buffers
Intel® CPM	Hyperscan
Packets	PDUs
Deep packet inspection	Deep flow inspection
Ports	Services
<=2 IP layers	<=N IP layers


Snort 3 with Firewall Threat Defense

- Supported on FMC with 7.0 release (6.7 on FDM)
- 7.1 short-term release brought Firepower Recommendations
- 7.2 long-term is latest release
- Both Snort 2 and Snort 3 engines supported on 7.x devices

Intrusion Policy



Policy UI Overview

 **Firewall Management Center**
Policies / Access Control / Intrusion / [Intrusion Policies](#)

OverviewAnalysisPoliciesDevicesObjectsIntegrationDeploy


Intrusion PoliciesNetwork Analysis Policies

Hide Snort 3 Sync status ⓘ


All IPS RulesIPS Mapping ⓘCompare PoliciesCreate Policy

Intrusion Policy	Description	Base Policy	Usage Information
Balanced Intrusion ➔ Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2. 2022	Balanced policy, prevention mode	Balanced Security and Connectivity	No Access Control Policy No Device Snort 2 VersionSnort 3 Version✎📄📁🗑
IDS Passive SoC ➔ Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2	Security Over Conn passive devices	Security Over Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 2 Devices Snort 2 VersionSnort 3 Version✎📄📁🗑
Secure IPS ➡ Snort 3 is out of sync with Snort 2. 2	Extra security, prevention mode	Security Over Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 2 Devices Snort 2 VersionSnort 3 Version✎📄📁🗑

One Policy, Two Snort Versions

 **Firewall Management Center**
Policies / Access Control / Intrusion / [Intrusion Policies](#)

OverviewAnalysisPoliciesDevicesObjectsIntegrationDeploy

alex ▾

Intrusion PoliciesNetwork Analysis Policies

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Secure IPS ➔ Snort 3 is out of sync with Snort 2. 2	Extra security, prevention mode	Security Over Connectivity	1 Access Control Policy 2 Devices	Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version

One Policy, Two Snort Versions

Edit Intrusion Policy

Name*
IDS Passive SoC

Description
Security Over Conn passive devices

Inspection Mode
☒ Detection ☐ Prevention

Intrusion rules generate alerts only. A connection that matches a drop rule will generate alert messages, but the connection will not be blocked.

Base Policy
Security Over Connectivity

Cancel Save

Firewall Management Center
Policies / Access Control / Intrusion / Intrusion Policies

Intrusion Policies Network Analysis Policies

Hide Snort 3 Sync status ⓘ Search by Intrusion Policy

Intrusion Policy	Description
Balanced Intrusion ➔ Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2. 2022	Balanced policy, prevention
IDS Passive SoC ➔ Snort 3 is in sync with Snort 2	Security Over Conn passive devices
Secure IPS ➔ Snort 3 is out of sync with Snort 2. 2	Extra security, prevention

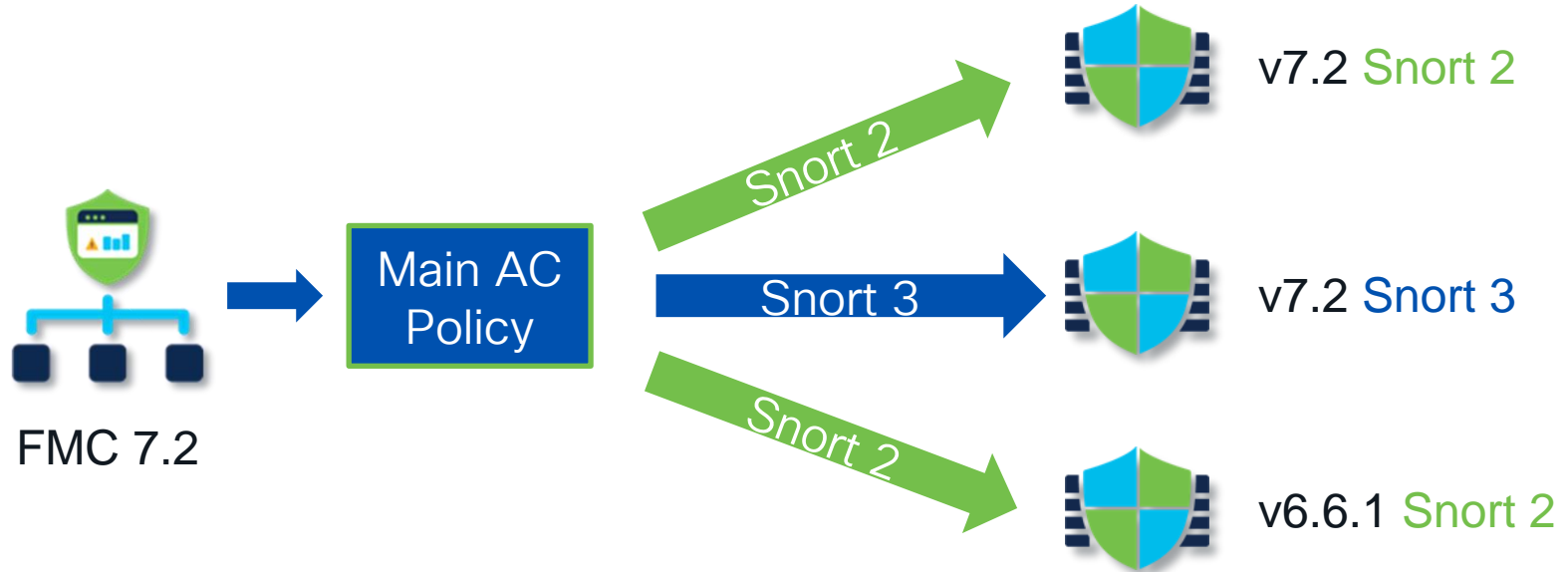
Deploy 🔍 3 ⚙️ ⓘ alex ▼ CISCO SECURE

PS Mapping ⓘ Compare Policies Create Policy

Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version	⚙️	📄	📁	🗑️
Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version				
Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version				
Snort 2 Version	Snort 3 Version				

Hybrid Policy Deployment Example

Ensure Snort 2/3 policies provide the same protection



Rule Group Security Levels

Snort 3 Rule Groups

What are they?

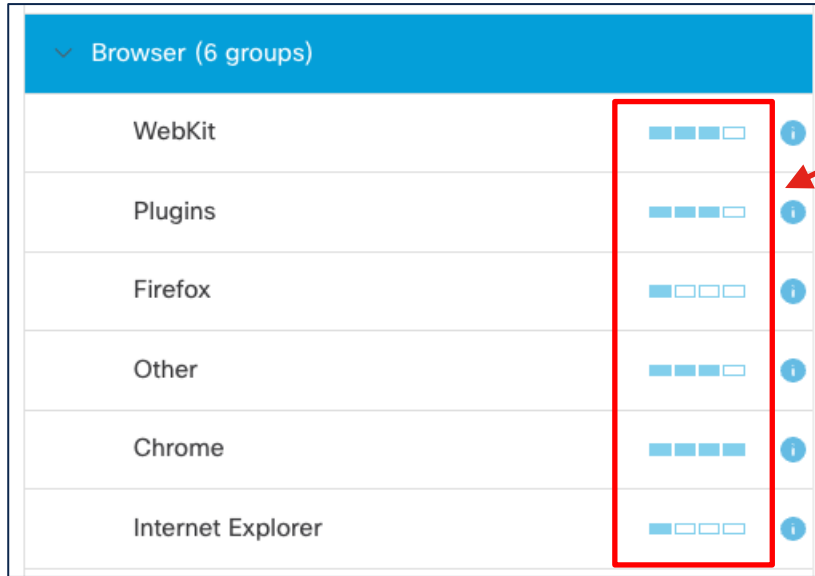
New rule groupings in Snort 3

> Browser (6 groups)	Browser (6 groups)
> Server (9 groups)	WebKit
> Policy (2 groups)	Plugins
> Indicator (4 groups)	Firefox
> Potentially Unwanted Applica	Other
> File (9 groups)	Chrome
> Malware (5 groups)	Internet Explorer
> Operating Systems (5 groups)	
> Protocol (17 groups)	

”Big Deal” you say...

Snort 3 Rule Groups

What do they offer?



Security Level

- Can be set on a per group basis
- Equates to Talos policy
- Snort 2 offers this only in the base policy

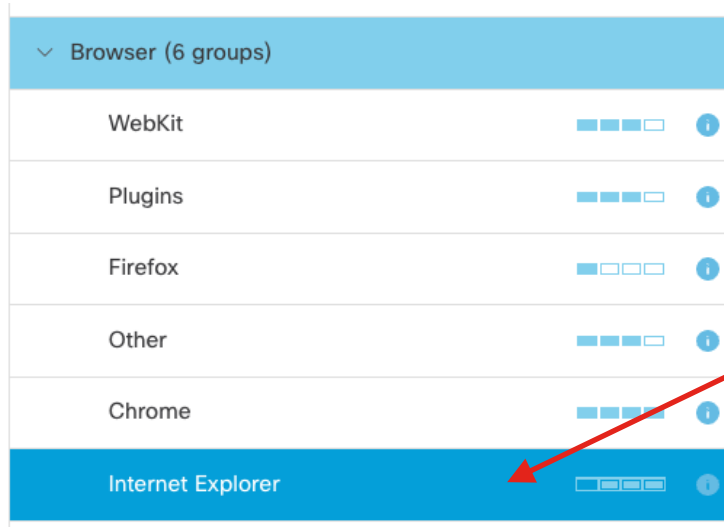
Snort 3 Rule Groups

- Security Level equates to policy
 - **Level 1** - Connectivity Over Security
 - **Level 2** - Balanced Security and Connectivity
 - **Level 3** - Security Over Connectivity
 - **Level 4** - Maximum Detection

Snort 3 Rule Groups

How do I use them?

1. Select a Group



"Click"

Snort 3 Rule Groups

How do I use them?

2. Edit the Security Level

Browser (6 groups)		
WebKit	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	i
Plugins	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	i
Firefox	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	i
Other	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	i
Chrome	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	i
Internet Explorer	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	i

Browser / Internet Explorer

Security Level[Edit](#)

Description Rules for detecting exploits against the Internet Explorer Web browser

Rule Action [v](#) [Search by CVE, SID, Reference Info, or Rule Mess](#)

2,713 rules [Preset Filters: 0 Alert rules | 4 Block rules | 2,709 Disabl](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	GID:SID	Info
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:35867 v	BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer XMLDOM double free
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:35866 v	BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer XMLDOM double free
> <input type="checkbox"/>	3:38672 v	BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt
> <input type="checkbox"/>	3:38671 v	BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:40134 v	BROWSER-IE Microsoft Edge HTML normalize caption memory

“Click”

Snort 3 Rule Groups

How do I use them?

2. Edit the Security Level

Select Level

Browser | Internet Explorer

Security Level ☒ ☐ ☐ ☐ Edit

detecting exploits against the Internet Explorer Web browser

Search by CVE, SID, Reference Info, or Rule Message

Preset Filters: 0 Alert rules | 4 Block rules | 2,709 Disabled

Info

BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer XMLDOM double free

BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer XMLDOM double free

BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt

BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt

BROWSER-IE Microsoft Edge HTML normalize caption memory

Browser (6 groups)

WebKit

Plugins

Firefox

Other

Chrome

Internet Explorer

Edit Security Level

Use the least aggressive enforcement on these rules, so that connectivity is preferred over security

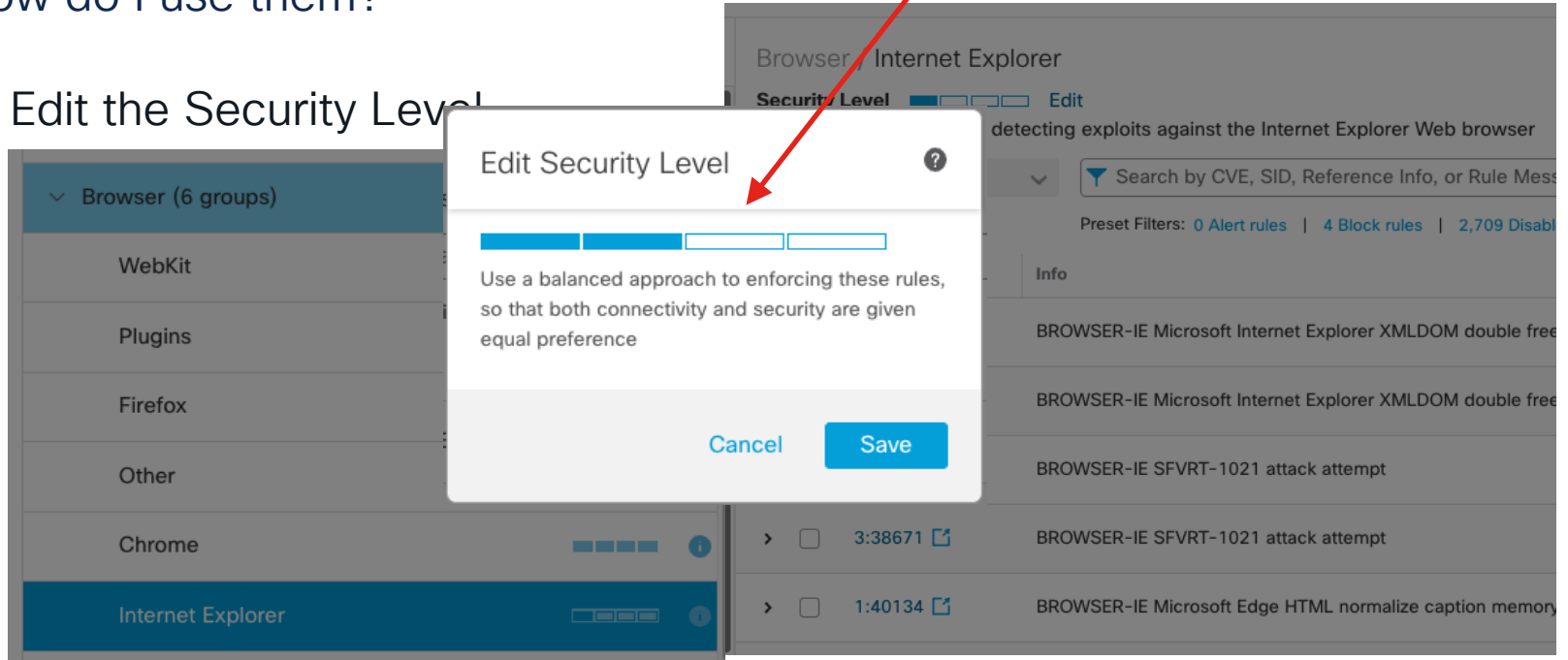
Cancel Save

Snort 3 Rule Groups

How do I use them?

2. Edit the Security Level

Select Level



Snort 3 Rule Groups

How do I use them?

2. Edit the Security Level

Select Level

The screenshot displays the Snort 3 web interface. On the left, a sidebar lists browser groups: WebKit, Plugins, Firefox, Other, Chrome, and Internet Explorer (selected). The main panel shows the 'Internet Explorer' rule group with a 'Security Level' section. A modal dialog titled 'Edit Security Level' is open, featuring a progress bar with four segments (three filled, one empty) and the text: 'Use an aggressive approach to enforcing these rules, so that security is preferred over connectivity'. The dialog has 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons. A red arrow points from the 'Select Level' text to the 'Save' button. The background shows a list of rules, including 'BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer XMLDOM double free' and 'BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt'.

Snort 3 Rule Groups

How do I use them?

2. Edit the Security Level

Select Level

The screenshot displays the Snort 3 web interface. On the left, a sidebar lists browser groups: WebKit, Plugins, Firefox, Other, Chrome, and Internet Explorer (selected). The main panel shows the 'Internet Explorer' rule group with a 'Security Level' bar. A modal dialog titled 'Edit Security Level' is open, featuring a bar with four segments (the first is blue) and the text: 'Use the most aggressive enforcement on these rules, to provide the maximum security in preference to connectivity'. The dialog has 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons. A red arrow points from the 'Select Level' text to the 'Edit Security Level' dialog. The background shows a list of rules, including 'BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer XMLDOM double free' and 'BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt'.

Snort 3 Rule Groups

How do I use them?

2. Edit the Security Level

The screenshot displays the Snort 3 web interface. On the left, a sidebar lists rule groups under 'Browser (6 groups)': WebKit, Plugins, Firefox, Other, Chrome, and Internet Explorer (selected). The main panel shows the 'Internet Explorer' rule group with a 'Security Level' bar (4 segments, 3 filled) and an 'Edit' button. A modal dialog titled 'Edit Security Level' is open, featuring a 4-segment bar (3 filled), the text 'Use an aggressive approach to enforcing these rules, so that security is preferred over connectivity', and 'Cancel' and 'Save' buttons. A red arrow points from the text 'Select Level' to the 'Edit' button. The background shows a list of rules, including 'BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer XMLDOM double free' and 'BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt'.

Select Level

Browser / Internet Explorer

Security Level ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Edit

detecting exploits against the Internet Explorer Web browser

Search by CVE, SID, Reference Info, or Rule Message

Preset Filters: 0 Alert rules | 4 Block rules | 2,709 Disabled rules

Info

BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer XMLDOM double free

BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer XMLDOM double free

BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt

BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt

BROWSER-IE SFVRT-1021 attack attempt

BROWSER-IE Microsoft Edge HTML normalize caption memory

WebKit

Plugins

Firefox

Other

Chrome

Internet Explorer

Edit Security Level

Use an aggressive approach to enforcing these rules, so that security is preferred over connectivity

Cancel Save

Snort 3 Rule Groups

How do I use them?

3. Save the Security Level

Browser (6 groups)		
WebKit	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	
Plugins	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	
Firefox	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	
Other	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	
Chrome	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	
Internet Explorer	<div><div></div><div></div><div></div><div></div></div>	

Browser / Internet Explorer

Security Level[Edit](#)

Description Rules for detecting exploits against the Internet Explorer Web browser

Rule Action ▼

2,713 rules Preset Filters: [3 Alert rules](#) | [1,876 Block rules](#) | [834 Disabled rules](#)

<input type="checkbox"/>	GID:SID	Info
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:38768	BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer CreateColorSpace vul
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:29676	BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer CRootElement Object
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:29677	BROWSER-IE Microsoft Internet Explorer CRootElement Object
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:40134	BROWSER-IE Microsoft Edge HTML normalize caption memory

Customized security level

Snort 3 Rule Groups

What problem does this solve?

- No need to set individual rule states
- Rules maintained by Talos
- New updates (LSP) will leverage your customized Group Security Level
- No need to constantly “tweak” your rule set

Recommended Rules (f.k.a. Firepower Recommendations)




Rule Recommendations

What are they?

- Self-tuning rule set
- Snort rules enabled/disabled based on host data in the network map
- Network Discovery maintains host database based on passive traffic analysis
- Hosts have various attributes:
 - Operating System
 - Services
 - Applications (client)
 - Listening ports
 - Vulnerabilities
- Recommendations maps Snort rules to host vulnerabilities

Various Snort rules written
for these



Rule Recommendations

Changes from Snort 2

- No rule overhead
- Security Level based on Talos base policies
- Recommended rule action derived from Security Level

Snort 3 Rule Recommendations

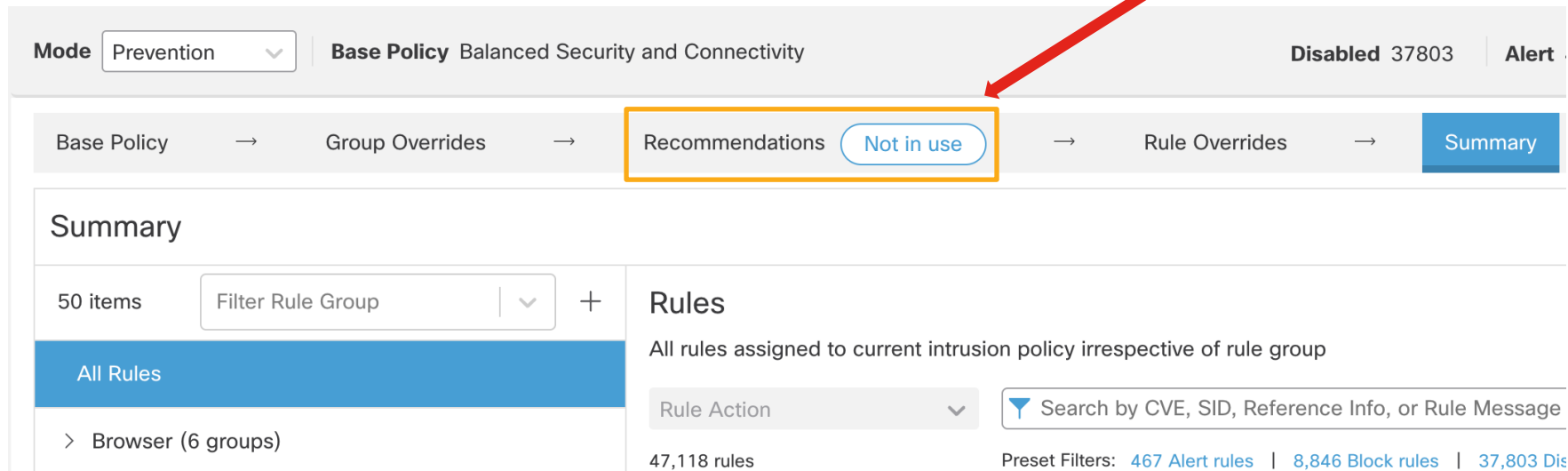
7.1 Release

The screenshot displays the Snort 3 Rule Groups management interface. On the left, under 'Rule Groups', there are 65 items. A search bar is present, and tabs for 'Excluded', 'Included', and 'Overridden' are visible. The 'All Rules' tab is selected, and the 'Recommendations' sub-tab is highlighted with a yellow border and a red arrow pointing to it. The main panel shows 'All Rules' assigned to the current intrusion policy, with 45,468 rules. A search bar for rules is provided, along with preset filters for Alert, Block, Disabled, Overridden, Rewrite, Pass, Drop, and Reject rules. A table of rules is shown with columns for checkboxes, GID:SID, Info, and Rule Action. The first four rules listed are:

	GID:SID	Info	Rule Action
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:23616	APP-DETECT Amazon Kindle 3.0 User-Agent string requested	Alert (Default)
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:13898	APP-DETECT Apple iTunes client request for server info	Alert (Default)
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:50870	APP-DETECT Quagga password challenge detected	Alert (Default)
> <input type="checkbox"/>	1:15468	BROWSER-IE Apple Safari-Internet Explorer SearchPath blende...	Alert (Default)

Snort 3 Rule Recommendations

7.2 Release



Mode Prevention ▾ | **Base Policy** Balanced Security and Connectivity | **Disabled** 37803 | **Alert**

Base Policy → Group Overrides → **Recommendations** (Not in use) → Rule Overrides → **Summary**

Summary

50 items | Filter Rule Group ▾ +

All Rules

> Browser (6 groups)

Rules

All rules assigned to current intrusion policy irrespective of rule group

Rule Action ▾ | Search by CVE, SID, Reference Info, or Rule Message

47,118 rules | Preset Filters: 467 Alert rules | 8,846 Block rules | 37,803 Dis

Recommendations Security Level

Secure Firewall Rule Recommendations

Security Level (Click tiles to select size)

☐ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules

No Impact– No new rules will be enabled and no existing rules will be disabled. To increase protections, please select a higher Security Level.

Protected Networks

Cancel

Generate

Generate and Apply

Security Level

Recommendations Security Level

Consider enabled rules from:


- **Level 1** - Connectivity Over Security
- **Level 2** - Balanced Security and Connectivity
- **Level 3** - Security Over Connectivity
- **Level 4** - Maximum Detection

Snort 2 vs. Snort 3

Firepower Recommended Rules Configuration

Recommendation Threshold(By Rule Overhead)

None Low Medium High




☒ Accept Recommendations to Disable Rules

Snort 2

=

Secure Firewall Rule Recommendations

Security Level (Click tiles to select size)



☒ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules ⓘ

Higher Efficiency - Keeps existing rules that match potential vulnerabilities on discovered hosts and disables rules for vulnerabilities not found on the network.

Protected Networks ⓘ

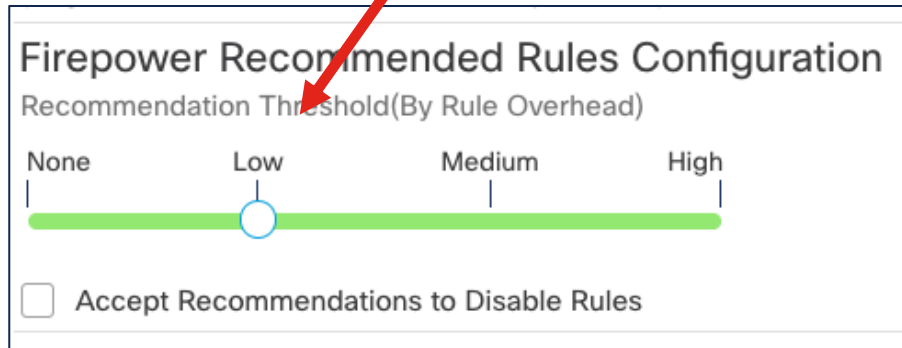
▼ Add +

Cancel Generate Generate and Apply

Snort 3

Snort 2 vs. Snort 3

Connectivity (Security Level 1)



Firepower Recommended Rules Configuration

Recommendation Threshold(By Rule Overhead)

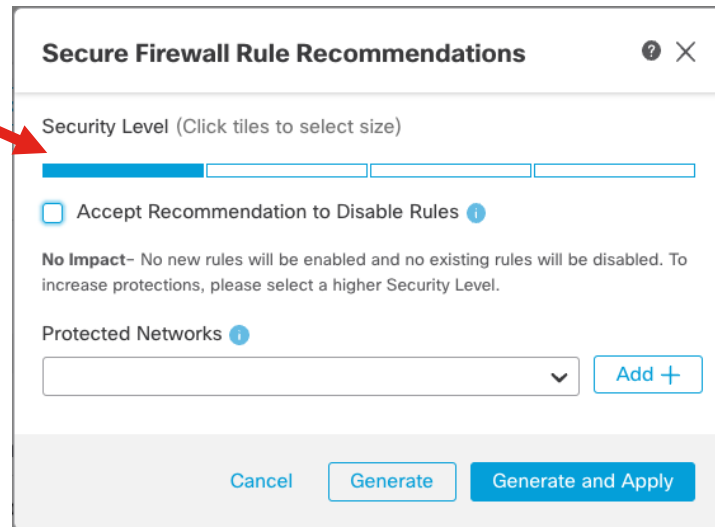
None Low Medium High

☐ Accept Recommendations to Disable Rules

A horizontal green slider bar is shown with a blue circle marker positioned at the 'Low' level. A red arrow points from the 'Connectivity (Security Level 1)' text to this slider.

Snort 2

=



Secure Firewall Rule Recommendations

Security Level (Click tiles to select size)

☐ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules ⓘ

No Impact– No new rules will be enabled and no existing rules will be disabled. To increase protections, please select a higher Security Level.

Protected Networks ⓘ

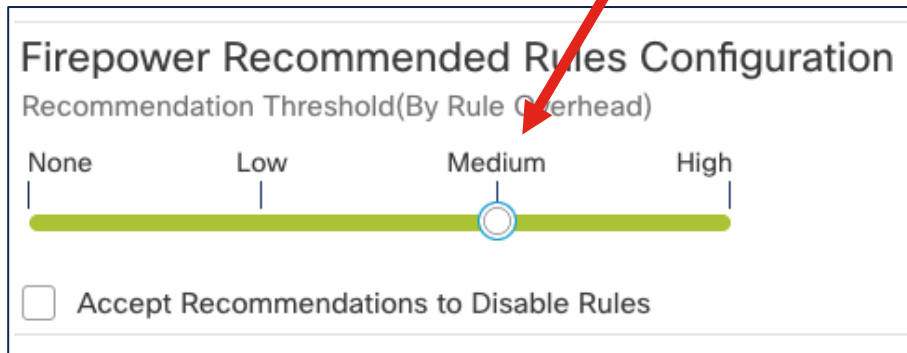
Cancel Generate Generate and Apply

A red arrow points from the 'Connectivity (Security Level 1)' text to the first (smallest) tile in the Security Level selection bar.

Snort 3

Snort 2 vs. Snort 3

Balanced (Security Level 2)



Firepower Recommended Rules Configuration

Recommendation Threshold (By Rule Overhead)

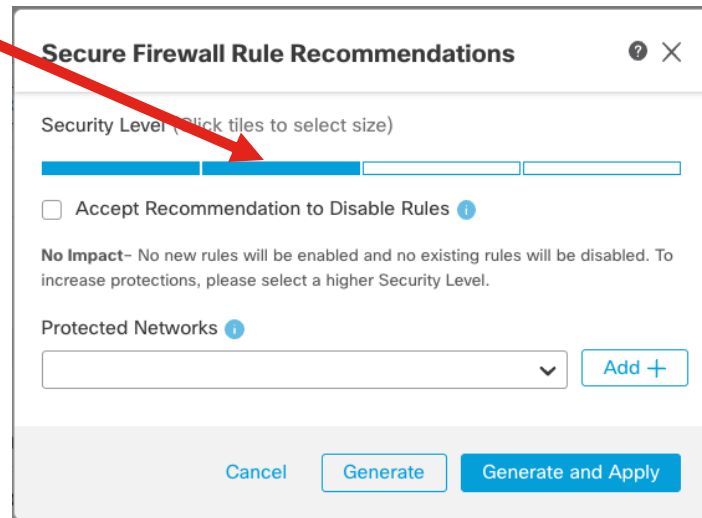
None Low Medium High

☐ Accept Recommendations to Disable Rules

This interface shows a horizontal slider for the 'Recommendation Threshold (By Rule Overhead)'. The slider has four positions: None, Low, Medium, and High. A green bar is positioned below the slider, and a blue circle is currently set at the 'Medium' position. Below the slider is a checkbox labeled 'Accept Recommendations to Disable Rules'.

Snort 2

=



Secure Firewall Rule Recommendations

Security Level (Click tiles to select size)

☐ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules ⓘ

No Impact– No new rules will be enabled and no existing rules will be disabled. To increase protections, please select a higher Security Level.

Protected Networks ⓘ

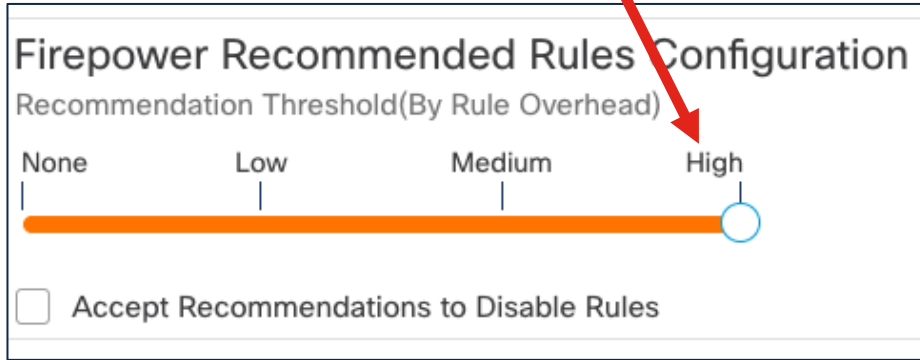
Cancel Generate Generate and Apply

This interface shows a 'Security Level' slider with four tiles. A red arrow points from the 'Medium' position in the Snort 2 interface to the second tile from the left in this slider. Below the slider is a checkbox labeled 'Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules' with an information icon. A message states: 'No Impact– No new rules will be enabled and no existing rules will be disabled. To increase protections, please select a higher Security Level.' Below this is a 'Protected Networks' section with a dropdown menu and an 'Add +' button. At the bottom are three buttons: 'Cancel', 'Generate', and 'Generate and Apply'.

Snort 3

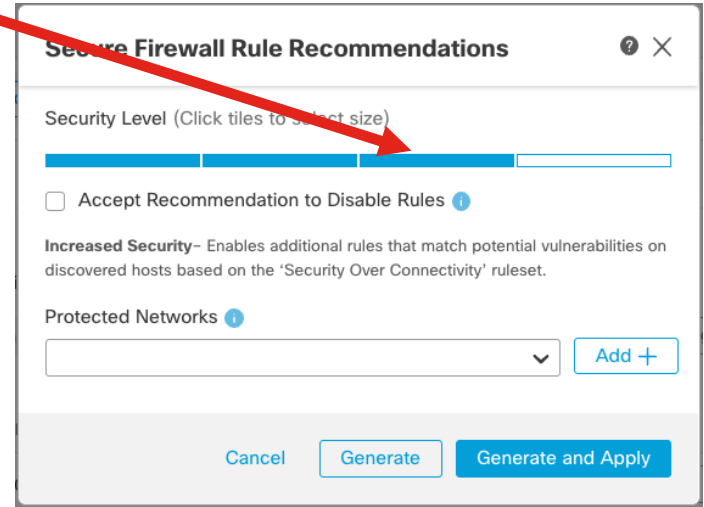
Snort 2 vs. Snort 3

Security Over Connectivity (Security Level 3)



Snort 2

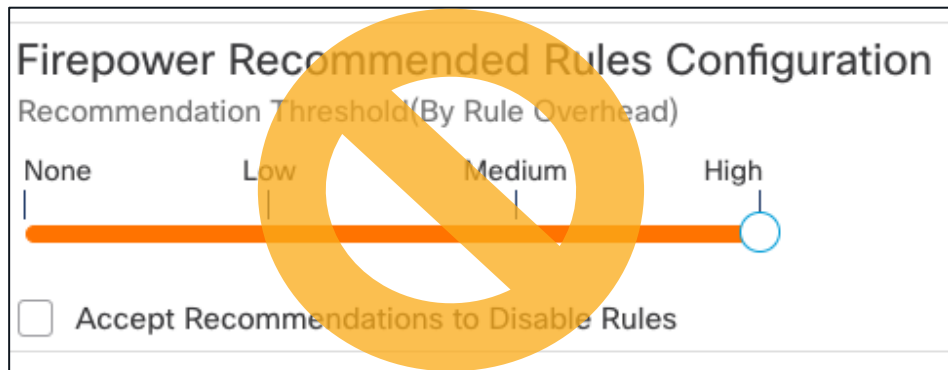
=



Snort 3

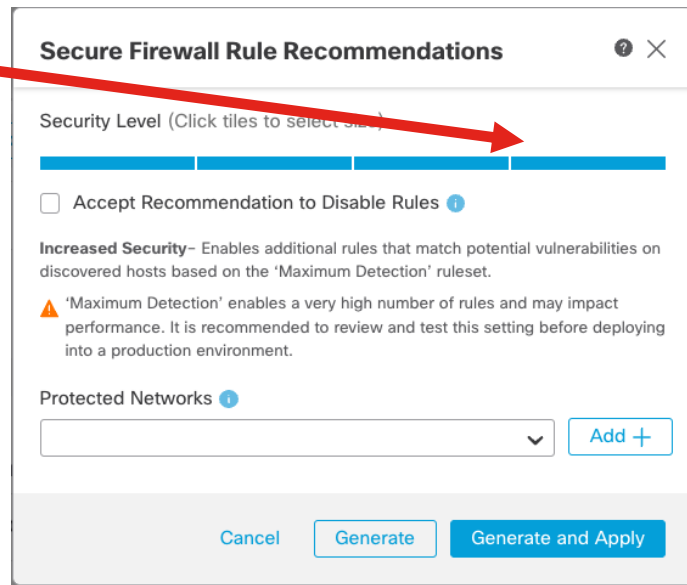
Snort 2 vs. Snort 3

Maximum Detection (Security Level 4)



Snort 2

=



Snort 3

Disable Rules

Secure Firewall Rule Recommendations

Security Level (Click tiles to select size)

☒ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules

Higher Efficiency - Keeps existing rules that match potential vulnerabilities on discovered hosts and disables rules for vulnerabilities not found on the network.

Protected Networks

▼

Add +

Cancel

Generate

Generate and Apply

Disable rules designed for vulnerabilities not found in network map

Protected Networks

Secure Firewall Rule Recommendations

Security Level (Click tiles to select size)

☐ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules

No Impact - No new rules will be enabled and no existing rules will be disabled. To increase protections, please select a higher Security Level.

Protected Networks

Cancel

Generate

Generate and Apply

Blank defaults to any-ipv4 and any-ipv6 (all hosts)

Update Policy with Recommendations

Secure Firewall Rule Recommendations

Security Level (Click tiles to select size)

☒ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules

Higher Efficiency - Keeps existing rules that match potential vulnerabilities on discovered hosts and disables rules for vulnerabilities not found on the network.

Protected Networks

Cancel

Generate

Generate and Apply

After configuring, click
Generate or Generate
and Apply

Snort 3 Rule Recommendations – Actions

The screenshot shows the Cisco Firewall Management Center (FMC) interface. The top navigation bar includes links for Overview, Analysis, Policies, Devices, Objects, Integration, Deploy, and a search bar. The main content area is titled 'Policies / Intrusion / Balanced Intrusion'. Below this, there's a 'Mode' dropdown set to 'Prevention' and a 'Base Policy' section. A red arrow points to the 'Recommendations' tab in the navigation bar. The 'Recommendations' section displays a table of recommended rules. A red box highlights the action buttons: 'Accept', 'Refresh', 'Edit', and 'Discard'. The table lists rules with their IDs, descriptions, and assigned groups.

Firewall Management Center
Policies / Access Control / Intrusion / Intrusion Policies

Overview Analysis Policies Devices Objects Integration Deploy 🔍 ⚙️ alex ▾ cisco SECURE

< Policies / Intrusion / Balanced Intrusion ▾

Mode Prevention ▾ Base Policy Balanced Security and Connectivity

Description Balanced policy, prevention mode

Disabled 37773 Alert 470 Block 8846 Overridden 3 Rewrite 0 Pass 0 Drop 0 Reject 0

Base Policy → Group Overrides → Recommendations → Rule Overrides → Summary

Recommendations

Recommended Rules (Not in use)

Recommended Rules

Firepower recommends 13,325 rules state settings for 2 networks. Generated on 2022-04-13 10:11:32 MDT

Rule Action ▾ 🔍 Search by CVE, SID, Reference Info, or Rule Message

13,325 rules Preset Filters: 294 Alert rules | 13,031 Block rules | 0 Disabled rules | 1 Overridden rules | New recommendations

	GID:SID	Info	Rule Action	Assigned Groups
>	1:27766	BROWSER-PLUGINS Oracle Java Security Sil...	Alert	Browser/Plugins
>	1:27110	EXPLOIT-KIT Blackholev2/Cool exploit kit out...	Alert	Malware/Exploit Kit
>	1:30970	EXPLOIT-KIT CritX exploit kit outbound reque...	Alert	Malware/Exploit Kit
>	1:30969	EXPLOIT-KIT CritX exploit kit outbound reque...	Alert	Malware/Exploit Kit
>	1:30972	EXPLOIT-KIT CritX exploit kit outbound reque...	Alert	Malware/Exploit Kit
>	1:30971	EXPLOIT-KIT CritX exploit kit outbound reque...	Alert	Malware/Exploit Kit
>	1:32555	EXPLOIT-KIT Hellspawn exploit kit outbound ...	Alert	Malware/Exploit Kit
>	1:28796	EXPLOIT-KIT IFRAMer successful cnt.php red...	Alert	Malware/Exploit Kit

Snort 3 Rule Recommendations - Actions



- **Accept** - Implements the previously generated recommendations layer*
- **Refresh** - Regenerates and updates the rule recommendations
- **Edit** - Allows the user to change the recommendation configuration
- **Discard** - Removes the recommendations layer

* Does not appear if you selected Generate and Apply

Goals

Why might you use Recommendations?

- **Increased Protection** – Expand my current rule set to address more threats/vulns
- **Focused Protection** – Trim the fat from my rule set while at the same time addressing additional threats
- **High Efficiency** – Performance is my key concern, I need to reduce the enabled rule count in an intelligent manner

Recommended Rules

Messages you might see

Secure Firewall Rule Recommendations

Security Level (Click tiles to select size)

☐ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules

No Impact– No new rules will be enabled and no existing rules will be disabled. To increase protections, please select a higher Security Level.

Protected Networks

Add +

Cancel

Generate

Generate and Apply

Recommended Rules

Messages you might see

☐ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules 

No Impact - No new rules will be enabled and no existing rules will be disabled. To increase protections, please select a higher Security Level.

You would see this if:

- Security level selected is the **same** as your base policy
- Disable is **not** checked

Recommended Rules

Messages you might see

☒ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules ⓘ

Higher Efficiency - Keeps existing rules that match potential vulnerabilities on discovered hosts and disables rules for vulnerabilities not found on the network.

You would see this if:

- Security level selected is the **same** as your base policy
- Disable **is** checked

Recommended Rules

Messages you might see

☐ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules ⓘ

Increased Security Enables additional rules that match potential vulnerabilities on discovered hosts based on the 'Security Over Connectivity' ruleset.

You would see this if:

- Security level selected is **higher** than your base policy
- Disable is **not** checked

Recommended Rules

Messages you might see

☒ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules ⓘ

Focused Security Enables additional rules that match vulnerabilities on discovered hosts based on the 'Security Over Connectivity' ruleset, while disabling existing rules that do not match potential vulnerabilities on discovered hosts.

You would see this if:

- Security level selected is **higher** than your base policy
- Disable **is** checked

Recommended Rules

Messages you might see

☒ Accept Recommendation to Disable Rules ⓘ

Lower Security All rules will be disabled except for rules in the 'Connectivity Over Security' ruleset which match potential vulnerabilities on discovered hosts. It is recommended instead to adjust Base Policy.

You would see this if:

- Security level selected is **lower** than your base policy
- Disable **is** checked

Recommended Rules

Note: Policy delta messages only apply if using a Talos base policy. They might be incorrect if using a custom base policy.

Recommended Rules

Baseline policy rule counts*

Policy - Sec Level	Block	Alert	Total
Conn over Sec - 1	446	110	556
Balanced - 2	8,845	469	9,314
Sec over Conn - 3	19,473	648	20,121
Max Detect - 4	36,408	1,328	37,736

*LSP: 20220412-1306

What to Expect?

Lab network results – your mileage **will** vary

Block	Alert	Total	Setting
8,845	469	9,314	Starting policy*
5,783	233	6,016	Higher Efficiency
16,508	533	17,041	Increased Security
12,999	296	13,295	Focused Security
343	50	393	Lower Security

*Balanced – Security Level 2

Before Taking the Plunge

Important considerations prior to implementing

- Accurate host data is key to the operation of this feature
- You **must** have quality discovery data
- To build an accurate host profile, devices should have visibility to East/West as well as North/South flows

Rules Language

Snort 3 Change Summary

- Snort 3 rules are easier to read, write, and verify
- Consistent use of , and ;
- Use service matching criteria
- Header nets and ports optional
- Additional rule actions
- More sticky buffers
- New buffers and other rule options
- snort2lua converts 2.9 rules to 3.x format to ease adoption



Inconsistent syntax

Comma and Semicolon

Snort 2:

```
flow:to_server, established;
```

```
byte_test:1,,128,,relative;
```

```
content:"evil"; offset:5; depth:4; nocase; http_uri;
```

- Sometimes parameters are comma separated
- Sometimes they use semicolons

Consistent syntax

Comma and Semicolon

Snort 3:

```
flow:to_server, established;  
byte_test:1,&,128,4,relative;  
content:"evil", offset 5, depth 4, nocase;
```

- Comma always used for parameters
- Semicolon always separates keywords
- Colon used only for keyword rather than within parameter

Rule Header

Traditional header still supported

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL NET $HTTP PORTS -> $HOME NET any  
  (msg:"Sport 2 vs. evil"; flow:to_client,established;  
  content:"evil"; nocase; metadata: service http;  
  classtype:attempted-user; sid:1000000;)
```



Protocol

Rule Header

Traditional header still supported

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL NET $HTTP PORTS -> $HOME NET any  
(msg:"Snort 2 vs evil"; flow:to_client established;  
content:"evil"; nocase; metadata: service http;  
classtype:attempted-user; sid:1000000;)
```

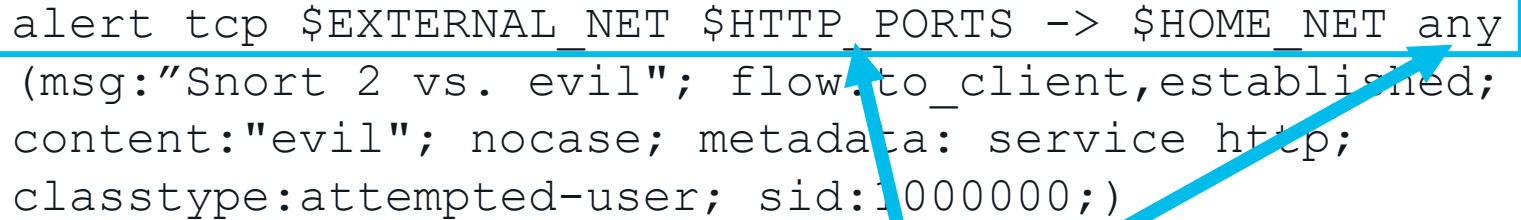
IP address



Rule Header

Traditional header still supported

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET $HTTP_PORTS -> $HOME_NET any  
(msg:"Snort 2 vs. evil"; flow:to_client,established;  
content:"evil"; nocase; metadata: service http;  
classtype:attempted-user; sid:1000000;)
```



Port

Rule Header

Header IP/ports are now optional

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET $HTTP_PORTS -> $HOME_NET any  
  (msg:"Snort 2 vs. evil"; flow:to_client,established;  
  content:"evil"; nocase; metadata: service http;  
  classtype:attempted-user; sid:1000000;)
```

```
alert http  
  (msg:"Snort 3 Evil HTTP";  
  flow:to_client,established;  
  content:"evil",nocase;  
  classtype:attempted-user; sid:1000000;)
```

Rule Actions

- `Pass` – Stop evaluating subsequent rules against packet
- `Alert` – generate event only
- `Block` – drop packet, block remaining session
- `Drop` – drop packet only
- `Rewrite` – required if “replace” option is used
- `Reject` – inject TCP RST or ICMP unreachable
- `React` – send HTML block response page

Sticky Buffers

- `http_uri`
- `http_raw_uri`
- `http_header`
- `http_raw_header`
- `http_trailer`
- `http_raw_trailer`
- `http_cookie`
- `http_raw_cookie`
- `http_true_ip`
- `http_client_body`
- `http_raw_body`
- `http_method`
- `http_stat_code`
- `http_stat_msg`
- `http_version`
- `http2_frame_header`
- `file_data*`
- `script_data`
- `pkt_data*`
- `raw_data`

* Snort 2 sticky keywords

Narrowing the Search

- Some sticky buffers have additional options
- Improves speed and accuracy
- `http_header: field content-language;`
 - Narrows search to the Content-Language field of the header
 - Any header field can be used
- `http_uri: path;`
 - Narrows search to just path portion of the URI

Rem Keyword

Comments within rules

```
alert tcp $EXTERNAL_NET any -> $SMTP_SERVERS 25
( msg:"BROWSER-FIREFOX Mozilla Firefox
Array.prototype.pop type confusion attempt";
flow:to_server,established;
file_data;
content:"={}|3B|";
→ rem:"Put comments in the rule anywhere";
content:".__proto__=[",distance 0;
content:".__proto__=",distance 0;
content:".pop()|3B|";
service:smtp;
classtype:attempted-user; sid:57181; rev:1; )
```


Appids Keyword

Thousands of applications now available in Snort rules

```
alert tcp $HOME_NET any -> $EXTERNAL_NET any  
  ( msg:"Alert on the Googles";  
    → appids:"Google,Google Drive,Google App Engine";  
    sid:1100003;  
    rev: 1;)
```

More Keyword Examples

- Hyperscan enabled pcre:
 - `regex`
- Sensitive Data Filtering:
 - `sd_pattern`
- IEC104 Inspector:
 - `iec104_apci_type`
 - `iec104_asdu_func`

Additional Information

- Secure Firewall YouTube Channel
 - <https://www.youtube.com/cisco-netsec>
- Secure Firewall Essentials Hub
 - <https://secure.cisco.com/secure-firewall>
- Snort.org
 - <https://www.snort.org/>



Cisco Security Beta Programs



Sign-Up Now:

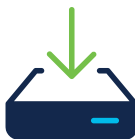
<http://cs.co/clive-security-beta>

"I've been involved in many beta programs...I must say that this one has been the best organized. This beta takes a very active, hands-on approach."

Higher-Ed Beta Customer



**Early Feedback
Programs**



**Beta Software
Access**



**Product
Training**



**Influence
Product Roadmap**

Security Operations

SECURE X (XDR)

Managed Detection and Response Services

Security, Orchestration, Automation and Response

Incident Response and Remediation Services

Threat Visibility & Hunting

Device Insights

Kenna Vuln Mgmt

Secure Cloud Insights

3rd Party Integrations

User/Device Security

ZERO TRUST

Adaptive MFA | Passwordless | Trust

Duo Secure Access Secure E-mail

SASE/REMOTE WORKER

Unified Client | EDR | Cloud Managed



Cisco Secure Client

VPN
Posture
Telemetry
Threat
Query

ThousandEyes (Visibility)

Device Mgmt
 Meraki SM
OS, App Control

Network Security

Cloud Edge

SECURE ACCESS SERVICE EDGE (SASE)

Threat Protection | Secure Access Control | Managed Remote Access

ZERO TRUST

PRIVATE CLOUD EDGE (MSP or CUSTOMER)

Reliable | Scalable | Flexible

Umbrella/Duo

ZTNA
 RaaS

DNS-layer security
 SSL decryption

Secure web gateway
 Remote browser isolation

L7 firewall + IPS
 Data loss prevention

Cloud access security broker/shadow IT
 Cloud malware detection

SDWAN

Cisco Meraki SDWAN

SDWAN by Viptela

Secure Firewall

ThousandEyes

Cloud DDoS, WAF

On-Premises

SASE/SDWAN

Scalable | Flexible | Visibility | Comprehensive Security

Network Edge

Cisco Meraki SDWAN

SDWAN by Viptela

Secure Firewall

ThousandEyes

IoT/OT SECURITY

Secure Critical Infrastructure | Unified IT and OT

Industrial Router

Industrial Firewall

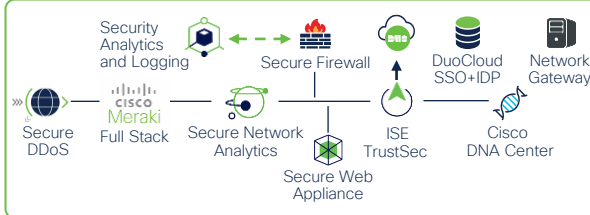
Industrial Switch/AP

Cyber Vision

ISE TrustSec

ZERO TRUST

Segmentation | Identity and Context | Profiling | Containment | Encrypted Visibility



Application Security

ZERO TRUST

Policy | API Security
Application Segmentation
Run-time Application Security

Application Security Stack

Cloud Native Security
 APIC
 Secure Workload
 Secure Application by AppDynamics



App Observability | Detection | Response

Hybrid Private
 Public Cloud
 Secure Cloud Analytics
 Secure Firewall
 ThousandEyes
 Secure DDoS, WAF/Bot

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Network simulation platform for design, testing, and troubleshooting

Cisco Learning Network

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Intensive team & individual automation and technology training programs

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Accelerated curriculum of product, technology, and certification courses



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Cisco Continuing Education Program

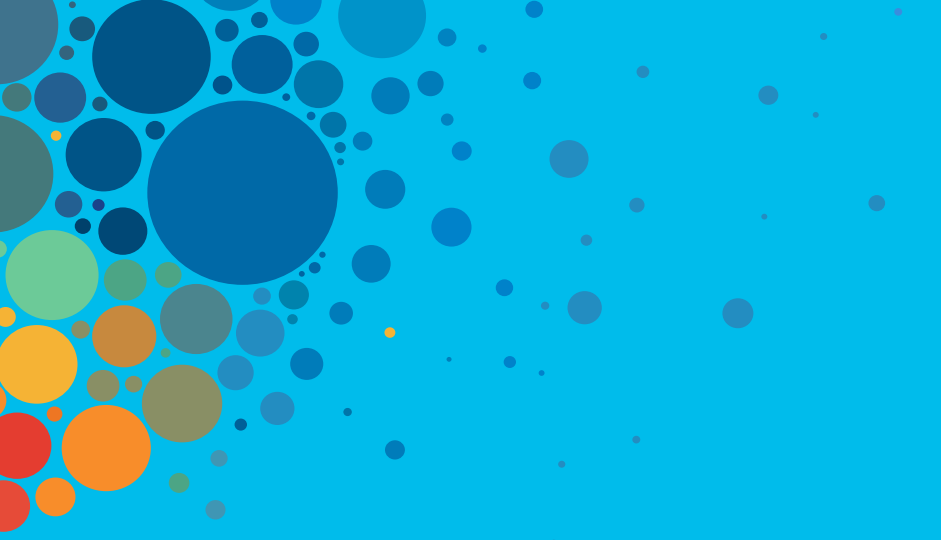
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