



GLOSSARY

Numerals

3DES Triple Data Encryption Standard. A stronger version of DES, which is the default encryption method for SSH version 1.5. Used when establishing an SSH session with the sensor. It can be used when the sensor is managing a device.

A

- aaa** authentication, authorization, and accounting. The primary and recommended method for access control in Cisco devices.
- AAA** authentication, authorization, and accounting. Pronounced “triple a.”
- ACE** Access Control Entry. An entry in the ACL that describes what action should be taken for a specified address or protocol. The sensor adds/removes ACE to block hosts.
- ACK** acknowledgement. Notification sent from one network device to another to acknowledge that some event occurred (for example, the receipt of a message).
- ACL** Access Control List. A list of ACEs that control the flow of data through a router. There are two ACLs per router interface for inbound data and outbound data. Only one ACL per direction can be active at a time. ACLs are identified by number or by name. ACLs can be standard, enhanced, or extended. You can configure the sensor to manage ACLs.
- action** The sensor’s response to an event. An action only happens if the event is not filtered. Examples include TCP reset, block host, block connection, IP logging, and capturing the alert trigger packet.
- active ACL** The ACL created and maintained by ARC and applied to the router block interfaces.
- AIC engine** Application Inspection and Control engine. Provides deep analysis of web traffic. It provides granular control over HTTP sessions to prevent abuse of the HTTP protocol. It allows administrative control over applications that try to tunnel over specified ports, such as instant messaging, and tunneling applications, such as gotomypc. It can also inspect FTP traffic and control the commands being issued.
- AIP-SSM** Advanced Inspection and Prevention Security Services Module. The IPS plug-in module in the Cisco ASA 5500 series adaptive security appliance. See ASA.
- Alarm Channel** The IPS software module that processes all signature events generated by the inspectors. Its primary function is to generate alerts for each event it receives.
- alert** Specifically, an IPS event type; it is written to the Event Store as an evidsAlert. In general, an alert is an IPS message that indicates a network exploit in progress or a potential security problem occurrence. Also known as an alarm.

Analysis Engine	The IPS software module that handles sensor configuration. It maps the interfaces and also the signature and alarm channel policy to the configured interfaces. It performs packet analysis and alert detection.
API	Application Programming Interface. The means by which an application program talks to communications software. Standardized APIs allow application programs to be developed independently of the underlying method of communication. Computer application programs run a set of standard software interrupts, calls, and data formats to initiate contact with other devices (for example, network services, mainframe communications programs, or other program-to-program communications). Typically, APIs make it easier for software developers to create links that an application needs to communicate with the operating system or with the network.
application	Any program (process) designed to run in the Cisco IPS environment.
application instance	A specific application running on a specific piece of hardware in the IPS environment. An application instance is addressable by its name and the IP address of its host computer.
ARC	Attack Response Controller. Formerly known as Network Access Controller (NAC). A component of the IPS. A software module that provides block and unblock functionality where applicable.
architecture	The overall structure of a computer or communication system. The architecture influences the capabilities and limitations of the system.
ARP	Address Resolution Protocol. Internet protocol used to map an IP address to a MAC address. Defined in RFC 826.
ASA	Adaptive Security Appliance. The ASA combines firewall, VPN concentrator, and intrusion prevention software functionality into one software image. You can configure ASA in single mode or multi-mode.
ASDM	Adaptive Security Device Manager. A web-based application that lets you configure and manage your ASA.
atomic attack	Represents exploits contained within a single packet. For example, the “ping of death” attack is a single, abnormally large ICMP packet.
Atomic engine	There are two Atomic engines: Atomic IP inspects IP protocol packets and associated Layer-4 transport protocols, and Atomic ARP inspects Layer-2 ARP protocol.
attack	An assault on system security that derives from an intelligent threat, that is, an intelligent act that is a deliberate attempt (especially in the sense of method or technique) to evade security services and violate the security policy of a system.
authentication	Process of verifying that a user has permission to use the system, usually by means of a password key or certificate.
AuthenticationApp	A component of the IPS. It verifies that users have the correct permissions to perform CLI, IDM, or RDEP actions.

B

backplane	The physical connection between an interface processor or card and the data buses and the power distribution buses inside a chassis.
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base version	A software release that must be installed before a follow-up release such as a service pack or signature update can be installed. Major and minor version upgrades are base version releases.
benign trigger	A situation in which a signature is fired correctly, but the source of the traffic is nonmalicious.
BIOS	Basic Input/Output System. The program that starts the sensor and communicates between the devices in the sensor and the system.
block	The ability of the sensor to direct a network device to deny entry to all packets from a specified network host or network.
block interface	The interface on the network device that the sensor manages.
BO2K	BackOrifice 2000. A windows back door Trojan that runs over TCP and UDP.
Bpdu	Bridge Protocol Data Unit. Spanning-Tree Protocol hello packet that is sent out at configurable intervals to exchange information among bridges in the network.
bypass mode	Mode that lets packets continue to flow through the sensor even if the sensor fails. Bypass mode is only applicable to inline-paired interfaces.

C

CA	certification authority. Entity that issues digital certificates (especially X.509 certificates) and vouches for the binding between the data items in a certificate. Sensors use self-signed certificates.
CA certificate	Certificate for one CA issued by another CA.
certificate	Digital representation of user or device attributes, including a public key, that is signed with an authoritative private key.
cidDump	A script that captures a large amount of information including the IPS processes list, log files, OS information, directory listings, package information, and configuration files.
CIDEE	Cisco Intrusion Detection Event Exchange. Specifies the extensions to SDEE that are used by Cisco IPS systems. The CIDEE standard specifies all possible extensions that may be supported by Cisco IPS systems.
CIDS header	The header that is attached to each packet in the IPS system. It contains packet classification, packet length, checksum results, timestamp, and the receive interface.
cipher key	The secret binary data used to convert between clear text and cipher text. When the same cipher key is used for both encryption and decryption, it is called symmetric. When it is used for either encryption or decryption (but not both), it is called asymmetric.
Cisco IOS	Cisco system software that provides common functionality, scalability, and security for all products under the CiscoFusion architecture. Cisco IOS allows centralized, integrated, and automated installation and management of internetworks while supporting a wide variety of protocols, media, services, and platforms.
CLI	command-line interface. A shell provided with the sensor used for configuring and controlling the sensor applications.

command and control interface	The interface on the sensor that communicates with the IPS manager and other network devices. This interface has an assigned IP address.
community	In SNMP, a logical group of managed devices and NMSs in the same administrative domain.
composite attack	Spans multiple packets in a single session. Examples include most conversation attacks such as FTP, Telnet, and most Regex-based attacks.
connection block	ARC blocks traffic from a given source IP address to a given destination IP address and destination port.
console	A terminal or laptop computer used to monitor and control the sensor.
console port	An RJ45 or DB9 serial port on the sensor that is used to connect to a console device.
control interface	When ARC opens a Telnet or SSH session with a network device, it uses one of the device's routing interfaces as the remote IP address. This is the control interface.
control transaction	An IPS message containing a command addressed to a specific application instance. Example control transactions include <i>start</i> , <i>stop</i> , <i>getConfig</i> .
cookie	A piece of information sent by a web server to a web browser that the browser is expected to save and send back to the web server whenever the browser makes additional requests of the web server.

D

Database Processor	See DBP.
datagram	Logical grouping of information sent as a network layer unit over a transmission medium without prior establishment of a virtual circuit. IP datagrams are the primary information units in the Internet. The terms cell, frame, message, packet, and segment also are used to describe logical information groupings at various layers of the OSI reference model and in various technology circles.
DBP	Database Processor. Maintains the signature state and flow databases.
DCE	data circuit-terminating equipment (ITU-T expansion). Devices and connections of a communications network that comprise the network end of the user-to-network interface. The DCE provides a physical connection to the network, forwards traffic, and provides a clocking signal used to synchronize data transmission between DCE and DTE devices. Modems and interface cards are examples of DCE.
DDoS	Distributed Denial of Service. An attack in which a multitude of compromised systems attack a single target, thereby causing denial of service for users of the targeted system. The flood of incoming messages to the target system essentially forces it to shut down, thereby denying service to the system to legitimate users.
Deny Filters Processor	See DFP.
DES	Data Encryption Standard. A strong encryption method where the strength lies in a 56-bit key rather than an algorithm.
destination address	Address of a network device that is receiving data.

DFP	Deny Filters Processor. Handles the deny attacker functions. It maintains a list of denied source IP addresses.
DIMM	Dual In-line Memory Modules.
DMZ	demilitarized zone. A separate network located in the neutral zone between a private (inside) network and a public (outside) network.
DNS	Domain Name System. An Internet-wide hostname to IP address mapping. DNS enables you to convert human-readable names into the IP addresses needed for network packets.
DoS	Denial of Service. An attack whose goal is just to disrupt the operation of a specific system or network.
DRAM	dynamic random-access memory. RAM that stores information in capacitors that must be refreshed periodically. Delays can occur because DRAMs are inaccessible to the processor when refreshing their contents. However, DRAMs are less complex and have greater capacity than SRAMs.
DTE	Data Terminal Equipment. Refers to the role of a device on an RS-232C connection. A DTE writes data to the transmit line and reads data from the receive line.

E

egress	Traffic leaving the network.
encryption	Application of a specific algorithm to data to alter the appearance of the data making it incomprehensible to those who are not authorized to see the information.
engine	A component of the sensor designed to support many signatures in a certain category. Each engine has parameters that can be used to create signatures or tune existing signatures.
enterprise network	Large and diverse network connecting most major points in a company or other organization. Differs from a WAN in that it is privately owned and maintained.
escaped expression	Used in regular expression. A character can be represented as its hexadecimal value, for example, \x61 equals 'a,' so \x61 is an escaped expression representing the character 'a.'
ESD	electrostatic discharge. Electrostatic discharge is the rapid movement of a charge from one object to another object, which produces several thousand volts of electrical charge that can cause severe damage to electronic components or entire circuit card assemblies.
event	An IPS message that contains an alert, a block request, a status message, or an error message.
Event Server	One of the components of the IPS.
Event Store	One of the components of the IPS. A fixed-size, indexed store used to store IPS events.
evldsAlert	The XML entity written to the Event Store that represents an alert.

F

fail closed	Blocks traffic on the device after a hardware failure.
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fail open	Lets traffic pass through the device after a hardware failure.
false negative	A signature is not fired when offending traffic is detected.
false positive	Normal traffic or a benign action causes a signature to fire.
Fast Ethernet	Any of a number of 100-Mbps Ethernet specifications. Fast Ethernet offers a speed increase 10 times that of the 10BaseT Ethernet specification while preserving such qualities as frame format, MAC mechanisms, and MTU. Such similarities allow the use of existing 10BaseT applications and network management tools on Fast Ethernet networks. Based on an extension to the IEEE 802.3 specification.
firewall	Router or access server, or several routers or access servers, designated as a buffer between any connected public networks and a private network. A firewall router uses access lists and other methods to ensure the security of the private network.
Flood engine	Detects ICMP and UDP floods directed at hosts and networks.
flooding	Traffic passing technique used by switches and bridges in which traffic received on an interface is sent out all the interfaces of that device except the interface on which the information was received originally.
fragment	Piece of a larger packet that has been broken down to smaller units.
fragmentation	Process of breaking a packet into smaller units when transmitting over a network medium that cannot support the original size of the packet.
Fragment Reassembly Processor	See FRP.
FRP	Fragment Reassembly Processor. Reassembles fragmented IP datagrams. It is also responsible for normalization of IP fragments when the sensor is in inline mode.
FTP	File Transfer Protocol. Application protocol, part of the TCP/IP protocol stack, used for transferring files between network nodes. FTP is defined in RFC 959.
FTP server	File Transfer Protocol server. A server that uses the FTP protocol for transferring files between network nodes.
full duplex	Capability for simultaneous data transmission between a sending station and a receiving station.
FWSM	Firewall Security Module. A module that can be installed in a Catalyst 6500 series switch. It uses the shun command to block. You can configure the FWSM in either single mode or multi-mode.

G

Gigabit Ethernet	Standard for a high-speed Ethernet, approved by the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) 802.3z standards committee in 1996.
GMT	Greenwich Mean Time. Time zone at zero degrees longitude. Now called Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

H

H.225.0	An ITU standard that governs H.225.0 session establishment and packetization. H.225.0 actually describes several different protocols: RAS, use of Q.931, and use of RTP.
H.245	An ITU standard that governs H.245 endpoint control.
H.323	Allows dissimilar communication devices to communicate with each other by using a standardized communication protocol. H.323 defines a common set of CODECs, call setup and negotiating procedures, and basic data transport methods.
half duplex	Capability for data transmission in only one direction at a time between a sending station and a receiving station. BSC is an example of a half-duplex protocol.
handshake	Sequence of messages exchanged between two or more network devices to ensure transmission synchronization.
hardware bypass	Passes traffic at the network interface, does not pass it to the IPS system.
host block	ARC blocks all traffic from a given IP address.
HTTP	Hypertext Transfer Protocol. The stateless request/response media transfer protocol used in the IPS architecture for remote data exchange.
HTTPS	An extension to the standard HTTP protocol that provides confidentiality by encrypting the traffic from the website. By default this protocol uses TCP port 443.

I

ICMP	Internet Control Message Protocol. Network layer Internet protocol that reports errors and provides other information relevant to IP packet processing. Documented in RFC 792.
ICMP flood	Denial of Service attack that sends a host more ICMP echo request (“ping”) packets than the protocol implementation can handle.
IDAPI	Intrusion Detection Application Programming Interface. Provides a simple interface between IPS architecture applications. IDAPI reads and writes event data and provides a mechanism for control transactions.
IDCONF	Intrusion Detection Configuration. A data format standard that defines operational messages that are used to configure intrusion detection and prevention systems.
IDIOM	Intrusion Detection Interchange and Operations Messages. A data format standard that defines the event messages that are reported by intrusion detection systems and the operational messages that are used to configure and control intrusion detection systems.
IDM	IPS Device Manager. A web-based application that lets you configure and manage your sensor. The web server for IDM resides on the sensor. You can access it through Netscape or Internet Explorer web browsers.
IDMEF	Intrusion Detection Message Exchange Format. The IETF Intrusion Detection Working Group draft standard.

IDS M-2	Intrusion Detection System Module. A switching module that performs intrusion detection in the Catalyst 6500 series switch.
IDS MC	Management Center for IDS Sensors. A web-based IDS manager that can manage configurations for up to 300 sensors.
inline mode	All packets entering or leaving the network must pass through the sensor.
inline interface	A pair of physical interfaces configured so that the sensor forwards all traffic received on one interface out to the other interface in the pair.
interface group	Refers to the logical grouping of sensing interfaces. Multiple sensing interfaces can be assigned to a logical interface group. Signature parameters are tuned on a per-logical interface group basis.
intrusion detection system	A security service that monitors and analyzes system events to find and provide real-time or near real-time warning of attempts to access system resources in an unauthorized manner.
IP address	32-bit address assigned to hosts using TCP/IP. An IP address belongs to one of five classes (A, B, C, D, or E) and is written as 4 octets separated by periods (dotted decimal format). Each address consists of a network number, an optional subnetwork number, and a host number. The network and subnetwork numbers together are used for routing, and the host number is used to address an individual host within the network or subnetwork. A subnet mask is used to extract network and subnetwork information from the IP address.
IPS	Intrusion Prevention System. A system that alerts the user to the presence of an intrusion on the network through network traffic analysis techniques.
IPS data or message	Describes the messages transferred over the command and control interface between IPS applications.
iplog	A log of the binary packets to and from a designated address. Iplogs are created when the log Event Action is selected for a signature. Iplogs are stored in a libpcap format, which can be read by WireShark and TCPDUMP.
IP spoofing	IP spoofing attack occurs when an attacker outside your network pretends to be a trusted user either by using an IP address that is within the range of IP addresses for your network or by using an authorized external IP address that you trust and to which you want to provide access to specified resources on your network. Should an attacker get access to your IPSec security parameters, that attacker can masquerade as the remote user authorized to connect to the corporate network.
IPv6	IP version 6. Replacement for the current version of IP (version 4). IPv6 includes support for flow ID in the packet header, which can be used to identify flows. Formerly called IPng (next generation).

L

L2P	Layer 2 Processor. Processes layer 2-related events. It also identifies malformed packets and removes them from the processing path.
LAN	Local Area Network. Refers to the Layer 2 network domain local to a given host. Packets exchanged between two hosts on the same LAN do not require Layer 3 routing.
Layer 2 Processor	See L2P.

Logger	A component of the IPS.
logging	Gathers actions that have occurred in a log file. Logging of security information is performed on two levels: logging of events (such as IPS commands, errors, and alerts), and logging of individual IP session information.
LOKI	Remote access, back door Trojan, ICMP tunneling software. When the computer is infected, the malicious code creates an ICMP tunnel that can be used to send small payload ICMP replies
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M	
MainApp	The main application in the IPS. The first application to start on the sensor after the operating system has booted.
maintenance partition image	A full IPS image used to reimage the maintenance partition of the IDSM-2.
major update	A base version that contains major new functionality or a major architectural change in the product.
manufacturing image	Full IPS system image used by manufacturing to image sensors.
master blocking sensor	A remote sensor that controls one or more devices. Blocking forwarding sensors send blocking requests to the master blocking sensor and the master blocking sensor executes the blocking requests.
MD5	Message Digest 5. A one-way hashing algorithm that produces a 128-bit hash. Both MD5 and Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA) are variations on MD4 and strengthen the security of the MD4 hashing algorithm. Cisco uses hashes for authentication within the IPSec framework. Also used for message authentication in SNMP v.2. MD5 verifies the integrity of the communication, authenticates the origin, and checks for timeliness.
MEG	Mega Event Generator. Signature based on the Meta engine. The Meta engine takes alerts as input rather than packets.
Meta engine	Defines events that occur in a related manner within a sliding time interval. This engine processes events rather than packets.
MIB	Management Information Base. Database of network management information that is used and maintained by a network management protocol, such as SNMP or CMIP. The value of a MIB object can be changed or retrieved using SNMP or CMIP commands, usually through a GUI network management system. MIB objects are organized in a tree structure that includes public (standard) and private (proprietary) branches.
MIME	Multipurpose Internet Mail Extension. Standard for transmitting nontext data (or data that cannot be represented in plain ASCII code) in Internet mail, such as binary, foreign language text (such as Russian or Chinese), audio, or video data. MIME is defined in RFC 2045.
minor update	A minor version that contains minor enhancements to the product line. Minor updates are incremental to the major version, and are also base versions for service packs.
module	A removable card in a switch, router, or security appliance chassis. AIP SSM, IDSM-2, and NM-CIDS are IPS modules.

monitoring interface	See sensing interface.
MSFC, MSFC2	Multilayer Switch Feature Card. An optional card on a Catalyst 6000 supervisor engine that performs L3 routing for the switch.
MSRPC	Microsoft Remote Procedure Call.

N

NAC	Network Access Controller. See ARC.
NAT	Native Address Translation. A network device can present an IP address to the outside networks that is different from the actual IP address of a host.
NBD	Next Business Day. The arrival of replacement hardware according to Cisco service contracts.
network device	A device that controls IP traffic on a network and can block an attacking host. An example of a network device is a Cisco router or PIX Firewall.
never block address	Hosts and networks you have identified that should never be blocked.
never shun address	See never block address.
NIC	Network Interface Card. Board that provides network communication capabilities to and from a computer system.
NM-CIDS	A network module that integrates IPS functionality into the branch office router.
NMS	network management system. System responsible for managing at least part of a network. An NMS is generally a reasonably powerful and well-equipped computer, such as an engineering workstation. NMSs communicate with agents to help keep track of network statistics and resources.
node	A physical communicating element on the command and control network. For example, an appliance, an IDSM-2, or a router.
Normalizer engine	Configures how the IP and TCP normalizer functions and provides configuration for signature events related to the IP and TCP normalizer.
NTP	Network Timing Protocol. Protocol built on top of TCP that ensures accurate local time-keeping with reference to radio and atomic clocks located on the Internet. This protocol is capable of synchronizing distributed clocks within milliseconds over long time periods.
NTP server	Network Timing Protocol server. A server that uses NTP. NTP is a protocol built on top of TCP that ensures accurate local time-keeping with reference to radio and atomic clocks located on the Internet. This protocol is capable of synchronizing distributed clocks within milliseconds over long time periods.
NVRAM	Non-Volatile Read/Write Memory. RAM that retains its contents when a unit is powered off.

O

OIR online insertion and removal. Feature that permits you to add, replace, or remove cards without interrupting the system power, entering console commands, or causing other software or interfaces to shutdown.

P

packet Logical grouping of information that includes a header containing control information and (usually) user data. Packets most often are used to refer to network layer units of data. The terms datagram, frame, message, and segment also are used to describe logical information groupings at various layers of the OSI reference model and in various technology circles.

PASC Port Spoof An attempt to open connections through a firewall to a protected FTP server to a non-FTP port. This happens when the firewall incorrectly interprets an FTP 227 (Entering Passive Mode) command by opening an unauthorized connection.

passive fingerprinting Act of determining the OS or services available on a system from passive observation of network interactions.

PAT Port Address Translation. A more restricted translation scheme than NAT in which a single IP address and different ports are used to represent the hosts of a network.

PCI Peripheral Component Interface. The most common peripheral expansion bus used on Intel-based computers.

PDU protocol data unit. OSI term for packet. See also BPDU and packet.

PEP Cisco Product Evolution Program. PEP is the UDI information that consists of the PID, the VID, and the SN of your sensor. PEP provides hardware version and serial number visibility through electronic query, product labels, and shipping items.

PER packed encoding rules. Instead of using a generic style of encoding that encodes all types in a uniform way, PER specializes the encoding based on the date type to generate much more compact representations.

PFC Policy Feature Card. An optional card on a Catalyst 6000 supervisor engine that supports VACL packet filtering.

PID Product Identifier. The orderable product identifier that is one of the three parts of the UDI. The UDI is part of the PEP policy.

ping packet internet groper. ICMP echo message and its reply. Often used in IP networks to test the reachability of a network device.

PIX Firewall Private Internet Exchange Firewall. A Cisco network security device that can be programmed to block/enable addresses and ports between networks.

PKI Public Key Infrastructure. Authentication of HTTP clients using the clients' X.509 certificates.

POST Power-On Self Test. Set of hardware diagnostics that runs on a hardware device when that device is powered up.

Post-ACL	Designates an ACL from which ARC should read the ACL entries, and where it places entries after all deny entries for the addresses being blocked.
Pre-ACL	Designates an ACL from which ARC should read the ACL entries, and where it places entries before any deny entries for the addresses being blocked.
promiscuous mode	A passive interface for monitoring packets of the network segment. The sensing interface does not have an IP address assigned to it and is therefore invisible to attackers.

Q

Q.931	ITU-T specification for signaling to establish, maintain, and clear ISDN network connections.
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R

rack mounting	Refers to mounting a sensor in an equipment rack.
RAM	random-access memory. Volatile memory that can be read and written by a microprocessor.
RAS	Registration, Admission, and Status Protocol. Protocol that is used between endpoints and the gatekeeper to perform management functions. RAS signalling function performs registration, admissions, bandwidth changes, status, and disengage procedures between the VoIP gateway and the gatekeeper.
RDEP2	Remote Data Exchange Protocol version 2. The published specification for remote data exchange over the command and control network using HTTP and TLS.
reassembly	The putting back together of an IP datagram at the destination after it has been fragmented either at the source or at an intermediate node.
recovery partition image	An IPS image file that includes the full application image and installer used for recovery on sensors.
regex	See regular expression.
regular expression	A mechanism by which you can define how to search for a specified sequence of characters in a data stream or file. Regular expressions are a powerful and flexible notation almost like a mini-programming language that allow you to describe text. In the context of pattern matching, regular expressions allow a succinct description of any arbitrary pattern.
ROMMON	Read-Only-Memory Monitor. ROMMON lets you TFTP system images onto the sensor for recovery purposes.
round-trip time	See RTT.
RPC	remote-procedure call. Technological foundation of client/server computing. RPCs are procedure calls that are built or specified by clients and are executed on servers, with the results returned over the network to the clients.

RR	Risk Rating. An RR is a value between 0 and 100 that represents a numerical quantification of the risk associated with a particular event on the network.
RSM	Router Switch Module. A router module that is installed in a Catalyst 5000 switch. It functions exactly like a standalone router.
RTP	Real-Time Transport Protocol. Commonly used with IP networks. RTP is designed to provide end-to-end network transport functions for applications transmitting real-time data, such as audio, video, or simulation data, over multicast or unicast network services. RTP provides such services as payload type identification, sequence numbering, timestamping, and delivery monitoring to real-time applications.
RTT	round-trip time. A measure of the time delay imposed by a network on a host from the sending of a packet until acknowledgement of the receipt.
RU	rack unit. A rack is measured in rack units. An RU is equal to 44 mm or 1.75 inches.

S

SAP	Signature Analysis Processor. Dispatches packets to the inspectors that are not stream-based and that are configured for interest in the packet in process.
SCEP	Simple Certificate Enrollment Protocol. The Cisco Systems PKI communication protocol that leverages existing technology by using PKCS#7 and PKCS#10. SCEP is the evolution of the enrollment protocol.
SDEE	Security Device Event Exchange. A product-independent standard for communicating security device events. It is an enhancement to RDEP. It adds extensibility features that are needed for communicating events generated by various types of security devices.
SDP	Slave Dispatch Processor.
SEAF	signature event action filter. Subtracts actions based on the signature event's signature ID, addresses, and RR. The input to the SEAF is the signature event with actions possibly added by the SEAO.
SEAH	signature event action handler. Performs the requested actions. The output from SEAH is the actions being performed and possibly an <evIdsAlert> written to the Event Store.
SEAO	signature event action override. Adds actions based on the RR value. SEAO applies to all signatures that fall into the range of the configured RR threshold. Each SEAO is independent and has a separate configuration value for each action type.
SEAP	Signature Event Action Processor. Processes event actions. Event actions can be associated with an event risk rating (RR) threshold that must be surpassed for the actions to take place.
Secure Shell Protocol	Protocol that provides a secure remote connection to a router through a Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) application.
Security Monitor	Monitoring Center for Security. Provides event collection, viewing, and reporting capability for network devices. Used with the IDS MC.

sensing interface	The interface on the sensor that monitors the desired network segment. The sensing interface is in promiscuous mode; it has no IP address and is not visible on the monitored segment.
sensor	The sensor is the intrusion detection engine. It analyzes network traffic searching for signs of unauthorized activity.
SensorApp	A component of the IPS. Performs packet capture and analysis. SensorApp analyzes network traffic for malicious content. Packets flow through a pipeline of processors fed by a producer designed to collect packets from the network interfaces on the sensor. Sensorapp is the standalone executable that runs Analysis Engine.
Service engine	Deals with specific protocols, such as DNS, FTP, H255, HTTP, IDENT, MS RPC, MS SL, NTP, RPC, SMB, SNMP, and SSH.
service pack	Used for the release of bug fixes with no new enhancements. Service packs are cumulative following a base version release (minor or major).
session command	Command used on routers and switches to provide either Telnet or console access to a module in the router or switch.
shun command	Enables a dynamic response to an attacking host by preventing new connections and disallowing packets from any existing connection. It is used by ARC when blocking with a PIX Firewall.
Signature Analysis Processor	See SAP.
signature	A signature distills network information and compares it against a rule set that indicates typical intrusion activity.
signature engine	A component of the sensor that supports many signatures in a certain category. An engine is composed of a parser and an inspector. Each engine has a set of legal parameters that have allowable ranges or sets of values.
signature event action filter	See SEAF.
signature event action handler	See SEAH.
signature event action override	See SEAO.
signature event action processor	See SEAP.
signature update	Executable image that updates the IPS signature analysis engine (SensorApp) and the NSDB. Applying an IPS signature update is like updating virus definitions on a virus scanning program. Signature updates are released independently and have their own versioning scheme.
Slave Dispatch Processor	See SDP.
SMB	Server Message Block. File-system protocol used in LAN manager and similar NOSs to package data and exchange information with other systems.

SMTP	Simple Mail Transfer Protocol. Internet protocol providing e-mail services.
SN	Serial Number. Part of the UDI. The SN is the serial number of your Cisco product.
sniffing interface	See sensing interface.
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol. Network management protocol used almost exclusively in TCP/IP networks. SNMP provides a means to monitor and control network devices, and to manage configurations, statistics collection, performance, and security.
SNMP2	SNMP Version 2. Version 2 of the network management protocol. SNMP2 supports centralized and distributed network management strategies, and includes improvements in the SMI, protocol operations, management architecture, and security.
software bypass	Passes traffic through the IPS system without inspection.
source address	Address of a network device that is sending data.
SP	Statistics Processor. Keeps track of system statistics such as packet counts and packet arrival rates.
SPAN	Switched Port Analyzer. Feature of the Catalyst 5000 switch that extends the monitoring abilities of existing network analyzers into a switched Ethernet environment. SPAN mirrors the traffic at one switched segment onto a predefined SPAN port. A network analyzer attached to the SPAN port can monitor traffic from any other Catalyst switched port.
spanning tree	Loop-free subset of a network topology.
SQL	Structured Query Language. International standard language for defining and accessing relational databases.
SRAM	Type of RAM that retains its contents for as long as power is supplied. SRAM does not require constant refreshing, like DRAM
SRP	Stream Reassembly Processor. Reorders TCP streams to ensure the arrival order of the packets at the various stream-based inspectors. It is also responsible for normalization of the TCP stream. The normalizer engine lets you enable or disable alert and deny actions.
SSH	Secure Shell. A utility that uses strong authentication and secure communications to log in to another computer over a network.
SSL	Secure Socket Layer. Encryption technology for the Internet used to provide secure transactions, such as the transmission of credit card numbers for e-commerce.
Stacheldraht	A DDoS tool that relies on the ICMP protocol.
State engine	Stateful searches of HTTP strings.
Statistics Processor	See SP.
Stream Reassembly Processor	See SRP.
String engine	A signature engine that provides regular expression-based pattern inspection and alert functionality for multiple transport protocols, including TCP, UDP, and ICMP.

subsignature	A more granular representation of a general signature. It typically further defines a broad scope signature.
surface mounting	Refers to attaching rubber feet to the bottom of a sensor when it is installed on a flat surface. The rubber feet allow proper airflow around the sensor and they also absorb vibration so that the hard-disk drive is less impacted.
switch	Network device that filters, forwards, and floods frames based on the destination address of each frame. The switch operates at the data link layer of the OSI model.
SYN flood	Denial of Service attack that sends a host more TCP SYN packets (request to synchronize sequence numbers, used when opening a connection) than the protocol implementation can handle.
system image	The full IPS application and recovery image used for reimaging an entire sensor.

T

TAC	A Cisco Technical Assistance Center. There are four TACs worldwide.
TACACS+	Terminal Access Controller Access Control System Plus. Proprietary Cisco enhancement to Terminal Access Controller Access Control System (TACACS). Provides additional support for authentication, authorization, and accounting.
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol. Connection-oriented transport layer protocol that provides reliable full-duplex data transmission. TCP is part of the TCP/IP protocol stack.
tcpdump	The tcpdump utility is a free network protocol analyzer for UNIX and Windows. It lets you examine data from a live network or from a capture file on disk. You can use different options for viewing summary and detail information for each packet. For more information, refer to http://www.tcpdump.org/ .
TCP reset interface	The interface on the IDS-4250-XL and IDSM-2 that can send TCP resets. On most sensors the TCP resets are sent out on the same sensing interface on which the packets are monitored, but on the IDS-4250-XL and IDSM-2 the sensing interfaces cannot be used for sending TCP resets. On the IDS-4250-XL the TCP reset interface is the onboard 10/100/100 TX interface, which is normally used on the IDS-4250-TX appliance when the XL card is not present. On the IDSM-2 the TCP reset interface is designated as port 1 with Catalyst software, and is not visible to the user in Cisco IOS software. The TCP reset action is only appropriate as an action selection on those signatures that are associated with a TCP-based service.
Telnet	Standard terminal emulation protocol in the TCP/IP protocol stack. Telnet is used for remote terminal connection, enabling users to log in to remote systems and use resources as if they were connected to a local system. Telnet is defined in RFC 854.
terminal server	A router with multiple, low speed, asynchronous ports that are connected to other serial devices. Terminal servers can be used to remotely manage network equipment, including sensors.
TFN2K	Tribe Flood Network 2000. A common type of Denial of Service (DoS) attack that can take advantage of forged or rapidly changing source IP addresses to allow attackers to thwart efforts to locate or filter the attacks.

TFTP	Trivial File Transfer Protocol. Simplified version of FTP that lets files be transferred from one computer to another over a network, usually without the use of client authentication (for example, username and password).
three-way handshake	Process whereby two protocol entities synchronize during connection establishment.
threshold	A value, either upper- or lower-bound that defines the maximum/minimum allowable condition before an alarm is sent.
Time Processor	See TP.
TLS	Transport Layer Security. The protocol used over stream transports to negotiate the identity of peers and establish encrypted communications.
topology	Physical arrangement of network nodes and media within an enterprise networking structure.
TP	Time Processor. Processes events stored in a time-slice calendar. Its primary task is to make stale database entries expire and to calculate time-dependent statistics.
TPKT	RFC 1006-defined method of demarking messages in a packet.
traceroute	Program available on many systems that traces the path a packet takes to a destination. It is used mostly to debug routing problems between hosts. A traceroute protocol is also defined in RFC 1393.
traffic analysis	Inference of information from observable characteristics of data flow(s), even when the data is encrypted or otherwise not directly available. Such characteristics include the identities and locations of the source(s) and destination(s), and the presence, amount, frequency, and duration of occurrence.
Traffic ICMP engine	Analyzes traffic from nonstandard protocols, such as TFN2K, LOKI, and DDOS.
Transaction Server	A component of the IPS.
Transaction Source	A component of the IPS.
trap	Message sent by an SNMP agent to an NMS, a console, or a terminal to indicate the occurrence of a significant event, such as a specifically defined condition or a threshold that was reached.
Trojan engine	Analyzes traffic from nonstandard protocols, such as BO2K and TFN2K.
trunk	Physical and logical connection between two switches across which network traffic travels. A backbone is composed of a number of trunks.
trusted certificate	Certificate upon which a certificate user relies as being valid without the need for validation testing; especially a public-key certificate that is used to provide the first public key in a certification path.
trusted key	Public key upon which a user relies; especially a public key that can be used as the first public key in a certification path.
tune	Adjusting signature parameters to modify an existing signature.

U

- UDI** Unique Device Identifier. Provides a unique identity for every Cisco product. The UDI is composed of the PID, VID, and SN. The UDI is stored in the Cisco IPS ID PROM.
- UDP** User Datagram Protocol. Connectionless transport layer protocol in the TCP/IP protocol stack. UDP is a simple protocol that exchanges datagrams without acknowledgments or guaranteed delivery, requiring that error processing and retransmission be handled by other protocols. UDP is defined in RFC 768.
- unblock** To direct a router to remove a previously applied block.
- UPS** Uninterruptible Power Source.
- UTC** Coordinated Universal Time. Time zone at zero degrees longitude. Formerly called Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) and Zulu time.

V

- VACL** VLAN ACL. An ACL that filters all packets (both within a VLAN and between VLANs) that pass through a switch. Also known as security ACLs.
- VID** Version identifier. Part of the UDI.
- virtual sensor** A logical grouping of sensing interfaces and the configuration policy for the signature engines and alarm filters to apply to them. In other words, multiple virtual sensors running on the same appliance, each configured with different signature behavior and traffic feeds. IPS 5.x supports only one virtual sensor.
- virus** Hidden, self-replicating section of computer software, usually malicious logic, that propagates by infecting—that is, inserting a copy of itself into and becoming part of—another program. A virus cannot run by itself; it requires that its host program be run to make the virus active.
- virus update** A signature update specifically addressing viruses.
- VLAN** Virtual Local Area Network. Group of devices on one or more LANs that are configured (using management software) so that they can communicate as if they were attached to the same wire, when in fact they are located on a number of different LAN segments. Because VLANs are based on logical instead of physical connections, they are extremely flexible.
- VMS** CiscoWorks VPN/Security Management Solution. A suite of network security applications that combines web-based tools for configuring, monitoring, and troubleshooting enterprise VPN, firewalls, network intrusion detection systems and host-based intrusion prevention systems.
- VoIP** Voice over IP. The capability to carry normal telephony-style voice over an IP-based internet with POTS-like functionality, reliability, and voice quality. VoIP enables a router to carry voice traffic (for example, telephone calls and faxes) over an IP network. In VoIP, the DSP segments the voice signal into frames, which then are coupled in groups of two and stored in voice packets. These voice packets are transported using IP in compliance with ITU-T specification H.323.

VPN Virtual Private Network(ing). Enables IP traffic to travel securely over a public TCP/IP network by encrypting all traffic from one network to another. A VPN uses “tunneling” to encrypt all information at the IP level.

vulnerability One or more attributes of a computer or a network that permit a subject to initiate patterns of misuse on that computer or network.

W

WAN wide-area network. Data communications network that serves users across a broad geographic area and often uses transmission devices provided by common carriers. Frame Relay, SMDS, and X.25 are examples of WANs.

Web Server A component of the IPS.

Wireshark Wireshark is a free network protocol analyzer for UNIX and Windows. It lets you examine data from a live network or from a capture file on disk. You can interactively browse the capture data, viewing summary and detail information for each packet. Wireshark has several powerful features, including a rich display filter language and the ability to view the reconstructed stream of a TCP session. For more information, refer to <http://www.wireshark.org>.

worm A computer program that can run independently, can propagate a complete working version of itself onto other hosts on a network, and can consume computer resources destructively.

X

X.509 Standard that defines information contained in a certificate.

XML eXtensible Markup Language. Textual file format used for data interchange between heterogeneous hosts.

