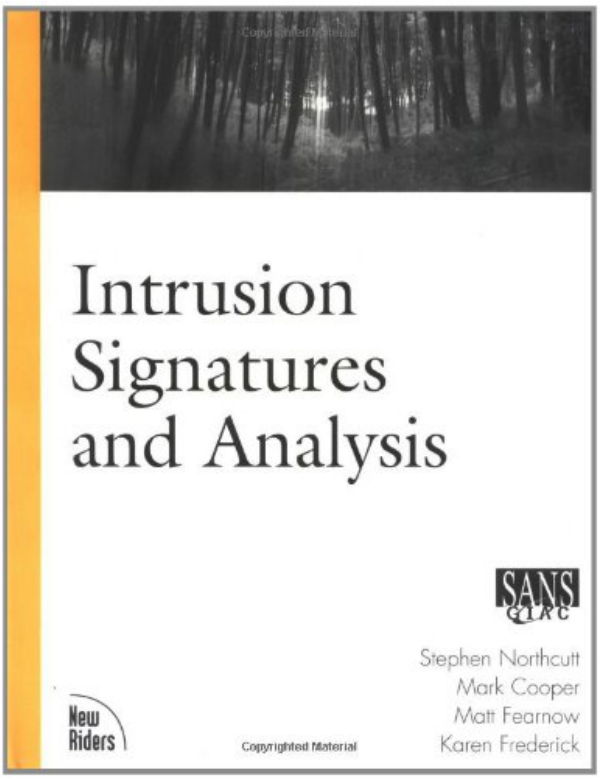
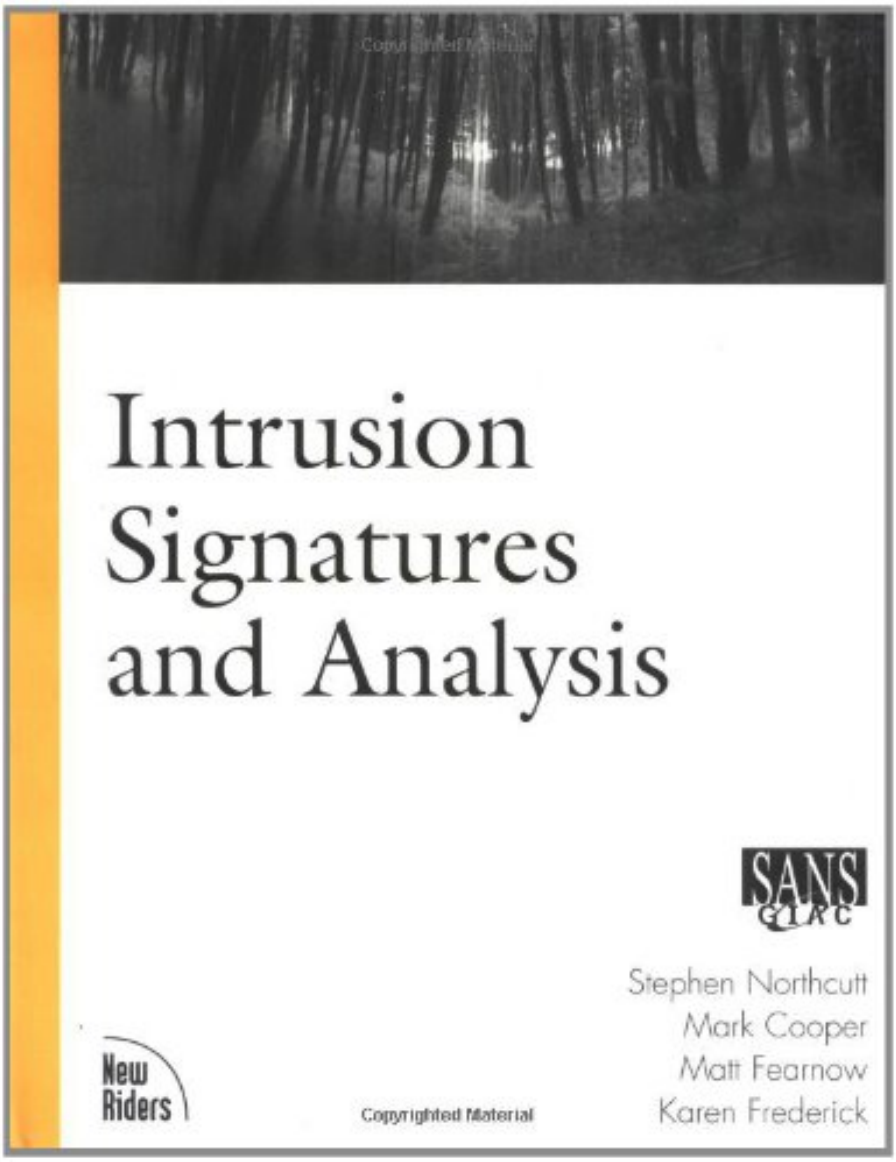
INTRUSION SIGNATURES AND ANALYSIS BY MATT FEARNOW, STEPHEN NORTHCUTT, KAREN FREDERICK, MARK COOPER





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Most helpful customer reviews

21 of 23 people found the following review helpful.
When a good book is worth a thousand experiences!
By Marco De Vivo
This is the best book about Intrusion Signatures published yet.
I teach computer security at a local university, and with the only help of this book, I could take care of all the practical aspects of my last course. If you have already a good background on this field, and read and understand thoroughly the book, then you can afford any related security certification test.
Chapters 3 through 17, present several well documented cases, which, in turn, are discussed following the same standard:
- Presentation
- Source of Trace
- Detect Generated by
- Probability the Source Address Was spoofed
- Attack Description
- Attack Mechanism
- Correlations
- Evidence of Active Targeting
- Severity
- Defense Recommendations
- Questions
Chapter 1 introduces the reader to Analysis of Logs (including Snort, Tcpdump, and Syslog), IDS, and Firewalls. Even being a quick review, it is quite useful, though.
Chapter 2 explains the way the cases are studied.
The covered vulnerabilities and attacks include:
- Internet Security Threats
- Routers and Firewalls Attacks
- IP Spoofing
- Networks Mapping and Scanning
- Denial of Service
- Trojans
- Assorted Exploits
- Buffer Overflows
- IP Fragmentation
- False Positives
- Crafted Packets
At the bottom line, this is one of the 5 best computer security books I ever read. Even for non experts, the book can be a valuable tool to improve the understanding on this field.
Try it.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Three Stars
By Kunapureddy Pratyush
needs to be revised from the Author as times have changed.

48 of 48 people found the following review helpful.
A good start, but proceed with caution: uncertain analysis
By Richard Bejtlich
Disclaimer: I withdrew a chapter from this book, and my words appear on p. 25. "Intrusion Signatures" tries to share the collective wisdom of SANS GIAC certification candidates, tempered by more experienced SANS editors. I applaud their intentions, but the uneven analysis and commentary warrants faint praise. New analysts flying solo should not read this book. Analysts with a guru to consult should get his or her input before trusting the book's interpretations.
Examples: (1) Eric Hacker expertly discusses a Windows password problem on pp. 77-85, but a significant trace is missing on p. 81. This causes the following dozen traces to not match their respective explanations. Would a new analyst notice? (2) Several times (p. 87, etc.) the authors fail to realize "public" is a common default SNMP "read" community string, while "private" is the "read/write" counterpart. This mistake is crucial elsewhere in the book. (3) The editors call a clear example of round-trip-time determination a "half-open DNS scan." It's ok for certification students to make judgement errors, but SANS editors should explain why that view isn't correct. (4) A very questionable "SYN flood" trace in ch. 10 doesn't match the "reproduction" of the same trace in the question-and-answer appendix -- that one's missing a crucial packet! (5) A "spoofed FTP request" in ch.11 looks like an active FTP data attempt to me. That concept is explained on p. 329, but the authors don't apply the same reasoning to ch.11's example. Why?
On the positive side, I was impressed by Mark Cooper's work on buffer overflows and ICMP redirects. Some of the student work is also first-rate, but it may be tough for new readers to make the necessary distinctions.
The authors owe it to the target audience (new analysts) to deliver accurate explanations. Different interpretations are expected, but errors like those listed require scrutiny. The work is sincere -- I just can't recommend this book to inexperienced intrusion detectors.

See all 12 customer reviews...

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