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r/HomeNetworking • 2 yr. ago

sky511



little Snitch, But for network?

Advice

Little Snitch is an outgoing firewall for MacOS, i.e. it can tell you when an application tries to connect to some server and lets the user allow or disallow the connection. I want something similar for my whole network, but instead of which application is trying to connect it would tell me which device.

So for example, a web page on my Linux router listing devices on the network, and for each device listing attempted connections (domains and/or IPs) and buttons to allow/disallow the connection.

Is that something that exists, or something that can easily be put together, or would I have to write my own software?



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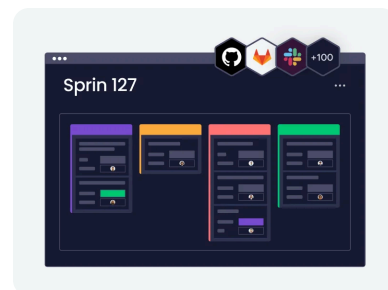
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zwamkat • 2y ago

You are looking for a firewall with the ability to identify application specific traffic on your network. Many enterprise firewall have this functionality. For home use you can take a look at Untangle from Arista. N=1: This is what I settled for. There are other options. They sell home licenses too. You can use Untangle to replace your modem/router if you want. This software is not designed to be installed on your Mac. Mind you, this is a step up from installing Little Snitch. Basic networking knowledge is required.



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their specs. As zwamkat said, any commercial-grade firewall will provide this info. It will not be as simple or as graphical as Little Snitch and it will not interactively ask you and remember. You'll end up making rules and exceptions by hand.

So definitely doable, but a significant investment on your part beyond the simplicity of Little Snitch. (Which I also use.)

Another layer of complication is that you probably have a good idea for most of Little Snitch's questions whether you expect that traffic or not. On a LAN, you probably do not. When is your AppleTV or Android phone going to make connections and are they legitimate? It's easy to break your Amazon Prime streaming, etc. And to fully make decisions about application traffic, you will need to set your firewall to decrypt encrypted traffic, which then requires loading certificates onto all of your devices to work.

Not trying to totally rain on your parade here. I do all of these things, and you can as well. Just saying it's more of a Home Lab kind of thing than a Home network kind of thing.

 2  ...**Odd-Recognition1450** • 2y ago

Check out security onion for network level IDS / logging

 1  ...**b3542** • 2y ago

So basically you want a stateful firewall with flow logs.

 1  ...**VX4_Evaluator** • 2y ago

Great question. The developers of Little Snitch are missing a big opportunity to repurpose their host firewall/IPS software as a network firewall/IPS. Pretty sure Little Snitch uses the iptables in MacOS/BSD so why not move the detection & blocking functionality to a BSD based network firewall but let the graphical interface continue to run on MacOS?

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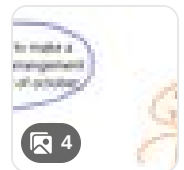
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