

Re: false portscan alarm

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Source: <http://www.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.security.firewalls/2006-10/msg00374.html>

- *From:* "Spack" <news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Wed, 18 Oct 2006 15:58:51 +0100
-

GEO wrote on Wed, 18 Oct 2006 13:47:10 GMT:

On Wed, 18 Oct 2006 08:41:04 +0100, "Spack" <news@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Tue, 17 Oct 2006 13:23:40 +0200, mikahan wrote:

I receive regular notification from my personal firewall about port scanning made by www.microsoft.com. This is the information from my log

2006-09-12 09:20 port scan from
207.46.18.30 TCP (1700, 1730, 1734,
1733, 1168, 1165)

207.46.18.30 is www.baytest5.microsoft.com

Which is just one of a large cluster of servers running www.microsoft.com.

Does it mean that Microsoft try to hack me ?
:-)
What is the reason of that traffic ?

Looking up those ports at http://isc.sans.org/port_details.php?port=1730 (example) would seem to indicate www.baytest5.microsoft.com has

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some malware
hunting for more exploitable systems.

Or those packets are simply responses to connections initiated from the user end and closed prematurely. For instance, the user opened a browser to www.microsoft.com, and it took a while for the MS server to respond, and the browser and/or the "personal firewall" had decided to close those ports prematurely. Each of those "port scans" could be a response to a request for various files used by a web page – images, scripts, etc – which each have a local source port above 1024 opened outgoing to port 80 on the web server, so the response data will come back to those source ports.

This is just the usual sort of completely harmless and normal activity that these so called "personal firewalls" like to warn people about when there is absolutely no reason to. It breeds fear in the computer illiterate, encouraging them to spend money on more "personal security" products, which is probably one of the reasons that these "personal firewalls" spew this rubbish.

I would disagree with your explanation since I have no firewall, and don't connect to MS, and yesterday I was receiving UDP packets from the same range of addresses (207.46.18.xx). Today I have received UDP packets from 204.16.208.74.

You have nothing connecting to MS at all? No windows machine with automatic updates enabled? No MSN messenger? Windows Messenger? Looks like some recent UDP packets from that IP have been MSN/Windows messenger spam (which is possible as normal chat messages are sent via the MS Messenger proxy servers, which this IP could also be a member of), but without more information (like packet traces for instance) everything is just speculation.

Dan

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