



TIPPINGPOINT 10
PRODUCT TEST



NETWORK INTRUSION PROTECTION SYSTEM (NIPS)
METHODOLOGY VERSION: 5.22
PERFORMANCE: 20-MBPS
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During Q3, 2009 NSS Labs performed the first comprehensive testing of a TippingPoint IPS in 5 years. We acquired a TippingPoint 10 Intrusion Prevention System and had the configuration validated by a TippingPoint systems engineer before evaluating the small office device against our Network Intrusion Prevention Systems (NIPS) testing methodology v5.22. This report is based upon empirically validated evidence gathered by NSS Labs during testing. All results were obtained with the default recommended policies in effect. Note: The full rule set would have been too restrictive and generated inordinate false positive alerts.

The TippingPoint 10 is a 20 Mbps IPS, providing as-advertised performance as well as low latency under all normal traffic conditions. We found the TippingPoint 10 to be stable and reliable, handling our extensive reliability tests without failure. Management is easy to use and suitable for small office environments, where simplicity is a must.

NSS Labs observed throughput of 20 Mbps in our 512 byte UDP test as well as with the larger HTTP response sizes (21KB) and the lower connections per second (5,000 CPS per Gigabit of traffic) found on typical corporate networks. In our most stressful connections per second tests, the TippingPoint 10 was able to achieve 3,500 TCP CPS and 1,950 HTTP CPS, thus enabling us to reach 18 Mbps maximum throughput with our real-world tests.

The security effectiveness of the TippingPoint 10 was subpar, catching only 247 of 622 exploits (39.7%). No false positive alerts were generated by any of our performance test traffic, which comprised a wide variety of protocols including SMB, NetBIOS, FTP, Instant Messaging, and other protocols listed in our real world performance test. The product properly handled our full range of evasion techniques.

The Web UI is well designed and suited to manage and configure small office sensors. Alert handling is simple and easy to understand. We found the user interface to be intuitive for both security engineers and IT Administrators.

In summary, with a protection rating of 39.7%, the TippingPoint 10 is unlikely to stop the majority of attacks, but it does offer stable performance for a small office.

Product:	TippingPoint 10
TOS Version:	2.5.4.7018
Digital Vaccine	2.5.2.7751
Test Date:	August 2009
Methodology:	Network IPS v5.22
Performance:	20 Mbps
Effectiveness:	39.7%



For the full report and other IPS reports see: <http://www.nsslabs.com/IPS>