

Edition 2024

SL DPI



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Extension Mechanism

Extension mechanism is an important technical advantage of DC Engine framework. That feature provides the opportunity for users/developers extend DC Engine functionality without modifying the core code base. Extension is a code snippet which takes Packet, Flow context and Global entities and does code execution. In the most cases, it addes new fields to Global object and they can be used in the future for classification, logging and any other purposes.

The extension mechanism was implemented for:

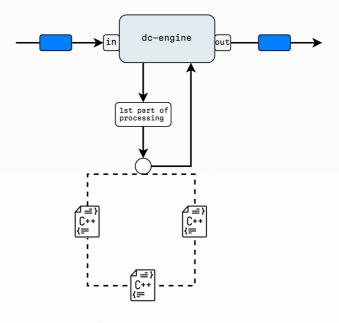
- Implement logic which is not fully related to protocol dissection, flow updating, session control, etc.
- Allow user/developer to extend the base DC Engine functionality on their own

Types:

- In-built extensions
- User extensions

To demonstrate what extension can do, let's consider **DNS Response Name in-buit** extension. **DNS** protocol uses compression of response names. The one part of the name can be presented as an **ASCII** string, another part can be presented as an offset to another **ASCII** string, etc. It means, after protocol dissection a user/developer cannot easily get all response names, because they are allocated as not a continuous char buffer.

DNS Response Name extension analyzes **DNS** layers and decompresses (concat labels which are located in different places of protocol layer) response names, to provide the opportunity to easily use values for classification, logging, and other purposes.



Users/developers are not limited by **in-built** extensions and can add own code snippets using **DC Engine API**.



In-built extensions

> HTTP METADATA

The extension analyzes **HTTP** message(s) to define Request/Response

property and detect Pipeline messages.

Name	Туре	Length	Mask	Multiple	Description
is_pipeline	uint8	1	######################################	false	Multiple http requests to be sent over a single tcp connection.
is_request	uint8	1	######################################	false	Is set when http meessage is request.

> HOST NAME

The extension implements simple logic – it extracts the values from protocol fields that store host names, e.g., the value of the HTTP1/.

* Host header or server_name value of TLS/ DTLS protocols, etc.

Name	Туре	Length	Mask	Multiple	Description
host	ascii- string	0	нинниннин	true	Extracted field value from TLS/ DTLS SNI, HTTP/SSDP Host header, TLS Certificate Common Name, HTTP/2 authority header value.

> DNS RESPONSE NAME

The extension decompress (concat labels which are located in different places of

protocol layer) response names of **DNS** message.

Name	Туре	Length	Mask	Multiple	Description
response_ name	ascii- string	0	######################################	true	Processed dns response name – concatenated labels, resolving offsets, etc.

> TLS CERTIFICATE

At this moment, **TLS Certificate** dissection is not supported, but **common_name** and **general_dns_name** fields play significant role

in classification. The extension extracts that fields from $\mbox{TLS Certificate}(s)$.

Name	Туре	Length	Mask	Multiple	Description
general_d ns_name	ascii- string	0	######################################	true	The dNSName certificate field. Belongs to extension section.
common_n ame	ascii- string	0	######################################	true	The CommonName certificate field.

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> DNS CACHE

DNS Cache is one of the most usable classification method. The extension stores dns response names and related IP addresses to table and allow user/

developer to check IP address of new flowaccording to the table. It also controls TTL of each response name to remove expired records.

Name	Туре	Length	Mask	Multiple	Description
ipv4_response _name	ascii- string	0	######################################	true	Cached dns response name for destination ipv4 address.

> PROTOCOL TREE

Protocol Tree is a simple extension that goes through all layers and concatenates protocol names, e.g., ethernet.ipv4.tcp.http.

The proto_tree is not multiple field - if the packet has more than one frame, the protocol names are concatenated within the single string.

Name	Туре	Length	Mask	Multiple	Description
proto_tree	ascii- string	0	######################################	false	The protocol tree string.

> DATA STRUCTURE

Data Structure extension implements the logic of checking the payload data structure, e.g. when some first 1/2/4 bytes have a value that specifies

the length of the payload. It might be useful to classify services that do not use public protocol.

Name	Туре	Length	Mask	Multiple	Description
first_byte_payl oad_length	uint64	8	***************************************	false	The flag field. It is set when the first byte in the payload data specifies the length of the rest payload data.
first_2byte_pa yload_length	uint64	8	***************************************	false	The flag field. It is set when the first 2 bytes in the payload data specifies the length of the rest payload data. (Little–Endian order)

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> HTTP/2 FIELD BLOCK

HTTP/2 Field Block extension decodes (HPACK) HTTP/2 field blocks and extract HTTP/2 headers.

Name	Туре	Length	Mask	Multiple	Description
header_field	ascii- string	0	######################################	true	The http/2 protocol header block field: name:value.
push_promise_ field	ascii- string	0	######################################	true	The http/2 protocol push- promise block field: name:value.
continuation_fi eld	ascii- string	0	######################################	true	The http/2 protocol continuation block field: name:value.

