Course: Software & System Integration IT440

Running Head: Clam Anti-Virus (ClamAV)

Omnyah Amin Abdullah

Information security is one of the major problems facing information system users in the globe. While numerous challenges face information security initiatives, the cost of applications software that offers security and their efficiency tops the list. The open source community has come in handy to solving such problems as it allows free use of the security tools and enables constant updates of the tools from its wide community of experts in the field. Clam Antivirus (ClamAV) is an open source, cross platform antivirus software that is majorly used on mail servers in scanning emails on the server side. The tool kit has massive abilities in detecting a broad range of malicious software that include worms, virus and Trojans. UNIX developed the application with the inclusion of third party versions available for all Windows OS, AIX and OS X among many other platforms (Clamav.net, 2015).

ClamAV encompasses a number of utilities that enhance its performance in undertaking system protection tasks. Some of the most predominant utilities include command line scanner, scalable multi-threaded daemon and an automatic database updater that runs across the software's engine from a common shard library. ClamAV has a Milter interface that allows users to send mails or demand for scanning. The advantage with it is abilities is that it supports a wide range of files; Zip, RAR, OLE2, BinHex, SIS, Gzip, Tar, Bzip2, CHM and a wide range of other mail formats. Owing to its open source nature the antivirus is updated after every four hours. For instance, as at 2014 there were 3.7 million virus signatures uploaded to the databases.

In order to ensure its efficiency the software is tested on a daily basis by the large number of experts on the community on comparative tests against the other existing antivirus products in the servers. The server in this case is the shadow server that has been able to test over 25 million samples against ClamAV as at 2011. From the tests ClamAV scored highly (76.60%) ranking it at number 12 out of 19, ClamAV competes with such software as BitDefender, Avira, and Avast an AhnLab. ClamAV can be used to detect a number of files at a go; the software is able to detect phishing emails. The software's unofficial signatures can also be used by administrators to filter email messages in a bid to stay safe and avoid attacks. The major demerit of ClamAV is the fact that it does not come with its graphical user interface, as does other antivirus software like Avast. This because it runs on a command lines, however, some developers have established their graphical user interfaces that can be accessed freely.

ClamAV does not offer real time virus scanner abilities, however it can be used in conjunction with other applications that include ClamFS and DazukoFS to provide real time checks on files. The latest version of ClamAV related to windows operating system known as ClamWin has a number of enhanced features that seek to ensure that windows users stay save at no cost at all (Clamav.net, 2015). The version has an enhanced detection rates for both viruses and spyware, scanning scheduler, automatic downloads for updated definitions, standalone virus scanner that ensures that users can be able to scan a single file at a time and an add-in to Microsoft outlook which can be used to remove infected attachments automatically.

References

Clamav.net,. (2015). *ClamavNet*. Retrieved 5 November 2015, from http://www.clamav.net/