



# Intrusion Detection System

An intrusion detection system (IDS) is a software application that monitors a network or systems for malicious activity or policy violations. An IDS specifically does not aim to prevent malicious actions but instead to monitor and log every event, and in cases where a rule has been defined, take a predefined action.\* As of Tiki 18, Exposé is available as a package to provide website threat identification for Tiki.

\*From <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHPIDS>

# Introduction

*"An IDS system should not be relied upon for sole protection in your environment! It should only be used in the first level of threat identification. Please read up on Defense in Depth for more information on a layered security approach (from <https://github.com/enygma/expose> ).*

"Here's a quick list (of features):

- A queue system that lets you do offline processing (store on request, cron to check or something similar)
- Notifications of results (just email right now)
- Setting thresholds for notifications


Since it was based on the PHPIDS system, it also has features in common with it:


- Setting exceptions
- Setting restrictions ("only look at...")
- Uses the same filter definitions

I tried to make it so that anyone that's used PHPIDS will feel pretty at home using Expose."

From [https://www.reddit.com/r/PHP/comments/1iydsm/expose\\_a\\_php\\_ids/cb9a6z4/](https://www.reddit.com/r/PHP/comments/1iydsm/expose_a_php_ids/cb9a6z4/)

# Installation

Exposé isn't bundled with Tiki as an external library by default. Instead, it can be installed "on demand" via the  Packages feature.

**Packages** 

External packages installation and management

[Packages Installed](#) [Install Other Packages](#) [Packages Bundled](#) [Diagnose](#) No Tabs

**Composer Packages** These packages have been identified as required by one or more features.

Package Name	Version	Licence	Required by	Install
jerome-breton/casperjs-installer	dev-master	MIT	wikiplugin_casperjs	<a href="#">Install Package</a>
enygma/expose	^3.0	MIT	ids_enabled	<a href="#">Install Package</a>
mpdf/mpdf	^6.1	GPL	Tiki Print	<a href="#">Install Package</a>
onelogin/php-saml	^2.10	MIT	saml_auth_enabled	<a href="#">Install Package</a>

There appear to be some optional packages that can be installed

In the list above, there are optional packages that may be installed in order to use the Tiki features that require the package.

**Install packages from the administrator interface**

Composer was not detected. Please follow the manual instructions.

**Install packages manually**

**Make sure `composer` is installed.**

Composer can be installed manually, in the host machine, by following the instructions from the [Composer](#) website.

The script `setup.sh` that is included in the Tiki distribution can be run to make sure composer is installed. In this case, composer will be installed as `temp/composer.phar`. Below is an example of how to do this in a Linux-like operating system:

```
bash ./setup.sh composer
```

**Make sure there is a `composer.json` file in the root of the website.**

If there is not already a `composer.json` file, then create one. The sample `composer.json.dist` that comes with Tiki can be used as a starting point. Below is an example of how to do this in a Linux-like operating system:

```
cp composer.json.dist composer.json
```

**Install the package.**

After all the steps above (that only need to be performed once), packages can be installed by issuing a command `composer require package:version` for each package that is to be installed. Below is an example of how to do this in a Linux-like operating system:

```
php temp/composer.phar require --update-no-dev --prefer-dist psr/log:^1.0
```

Please follow the standard instructions for package installation. Note: in some edge cases, there may be a problem with the package installation GUI. For example, currently (pre-Tiki 17 release) in a Windows WAMP localhost server, there's an error that Composer can't be found. In this case, Exposé may be successfully fetched and installed via the command line:

```
php temp/composer.phar require enygma/expose
```

# Configuration and use

After the Exposé package is installed, go to Site Access tab on the Security Admin page (tiki-admin.php?page=security#content\_admin1-4).

Apply

General Security

Spam Protection

Search results

Site Access

Tokens

OpenPGP

No Tabs

Close site

☐

i

Close site when server load is above the threshold

☐

i

Enable intrusion detection system

☐

i

Apply

When the feature is activated, relevant options are displayed.

Enable intrusion detection system ☒  

[Admin IDS custom rules](#)

Custom rules file

temp/ids\_custom\_rules.json



Intrusion detection system  
mode

Log only



Intrusion detection system  
threshold

0



Log to file

ids.log



Apply

After activating the feature, you will notice that for every activity done in Tiki on all pages (requests, modifications, openings, etc.), a file named ids.log will be generated. In this file, for each request, the different vulnerability rules are evaluated on the entire content of your page, with an ID number for each rule to differentiate the various vulnerability rules.

Example

Here is an example: After activating the feature, I visited my home page, and the first two lines were generated in the ids.log file. Then, I reloaded the page, and the next two lines were generated, and so on. After a while, I modified my home page, and you can see the in-depth analysis that was done below with the content of the page.



# IDS Rules

Add a new rule

No Tabs

Rule Id

Rule Regex

Description

Tags

Impact

Add

Intrusion detection system mode

The IDS operation mode needs to be defined, and there are two choices here: *Log only* and *Log and block requests*. Log and block requests will block an intrusion whose impact is over a given threshold. "As the impact scores in Expose are numeric (0 through whatever, depending on the rules matched) you can easily set a threshold to prevent low-level annoying notifications being delivered" (<https://expose.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>).

Intrusion detection system threshold

This is to define the IDS threshold as a numerical value, when in the "Log and block requests" mode. "Some applications know for a fact that they'll always be getting a certain amount of traffic that's in the 1-2 impact score range. Getting notifications for every one of these requests would get annoying pretty quickly, so you can set your threshold a bit higher." Setting the threshold to 8 means that Expose will only send notifications when the score is greater than or equal to 8. There's no concept of "high", "medium" or "low" in Expose as the meanings of these terms vary greatly by environment and application. "NOTE: Currently notifications are the only thing that setting a threshold changes. Logging and other processing is unchanged" (ibid).

Log to file

Events are logged to a file the default name of which is "ids.log".

# History of this Tiki feature:

[+]

## PHPIDS (PHP-Intrusion Detection System)

This is somewhat similar to ModSecurity but in PHP, and thus configurable via Tiki.

PHPIDS (PHP-Intrusion Detection System) is a simple to use, well structured, fast and state-of-the-art security layer for your PHP based web application. The IDS neither strips, sanitizes nor filters any malicious input, it simply recognizes when an attacker tries to break your site and reacts in exactly the way you want it to. Based on a set of approved and heavily tested filter rules any attack is given a numerical impact rating which makes it easy to decide what kind of action should follow the hacking attempt. This could range from simple logging to sending out an emergency mail to the development team, displaying a warning message for the attacker or even ending the user's session.

PHPIDS enables you to see who's attacking your site and how and all without the tedious trawling of logfiles or searching hacker forums for your domain. Last but not least it's licensed under the LGPL!"

- <http://phpids.org/>
- <http://www.ohloh.net/p/phpids>
- [http://forum.itratos.de/showthread.php?37550-PHPIDS-now-part-of-Tiki-Wiki-CMS-Groupware-\(tiki.org\)](http://forum.itratos.de/showthread.php?37550-PHPIDS-now-part-of-Tiki-Wiki-CMS-Groupware-(tiki.org))

This improves Security and Performance

To configure, visit [tiki-admin.php?page=security](#) -> PHPIDS



# Related links

- <https://github.com/enygma/expose>
- <https://expose.readthedocs.io/>
- <http://websec.io/2012/10/12/Core-Concepts-Defense-in-Depth.html>
- <https://www.openhub.net/p/expose>
- <https://www.awnage.com/2014/01/06/ids-showdown-phpids-vs-expose/>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PHPIDS>

alias

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- PHPIDS
- Expose
- Exposé
- Intrusion Detection System
- IDS