



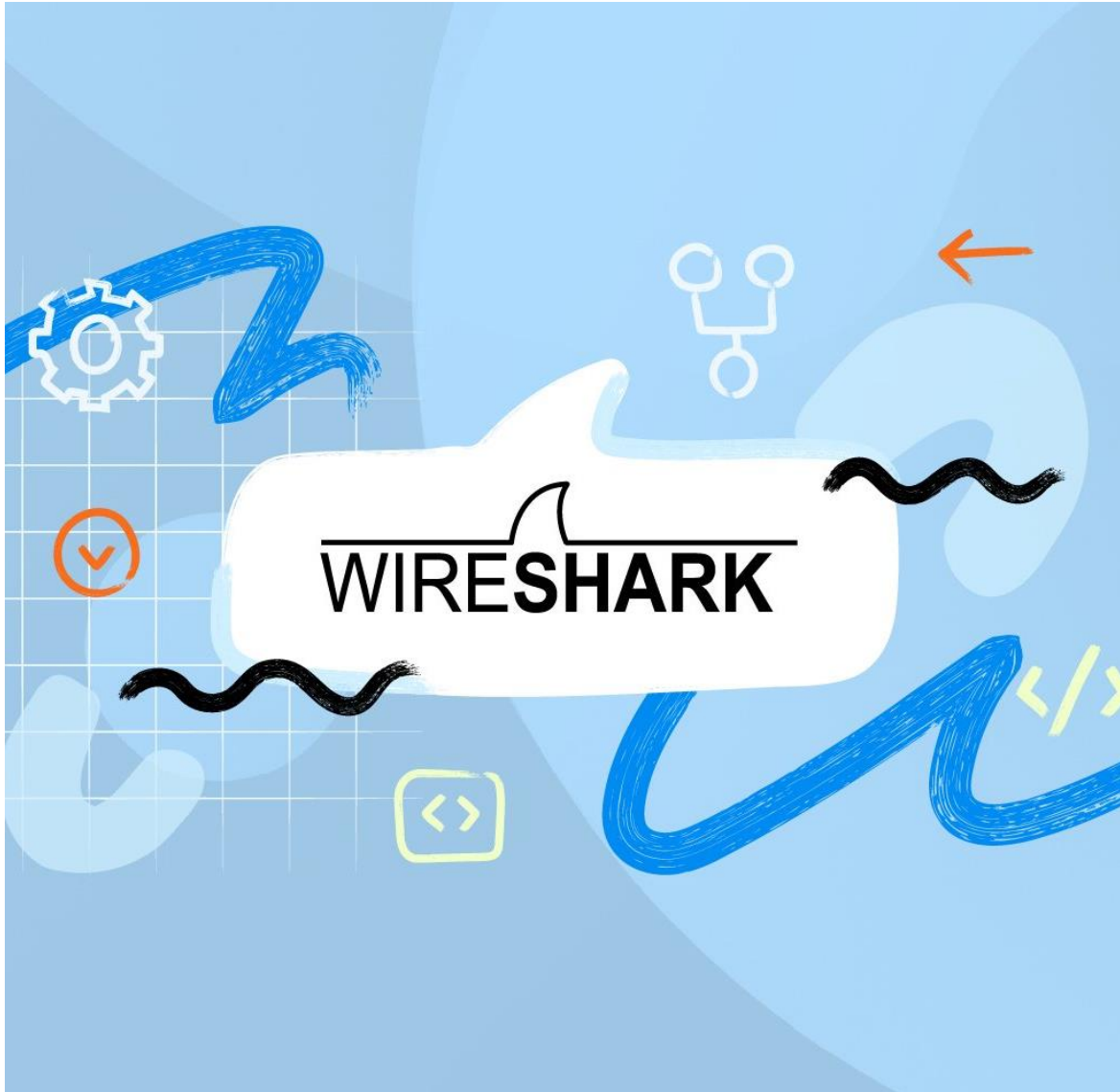
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TRAFFIC ANALYSIS USING WIRESHARK

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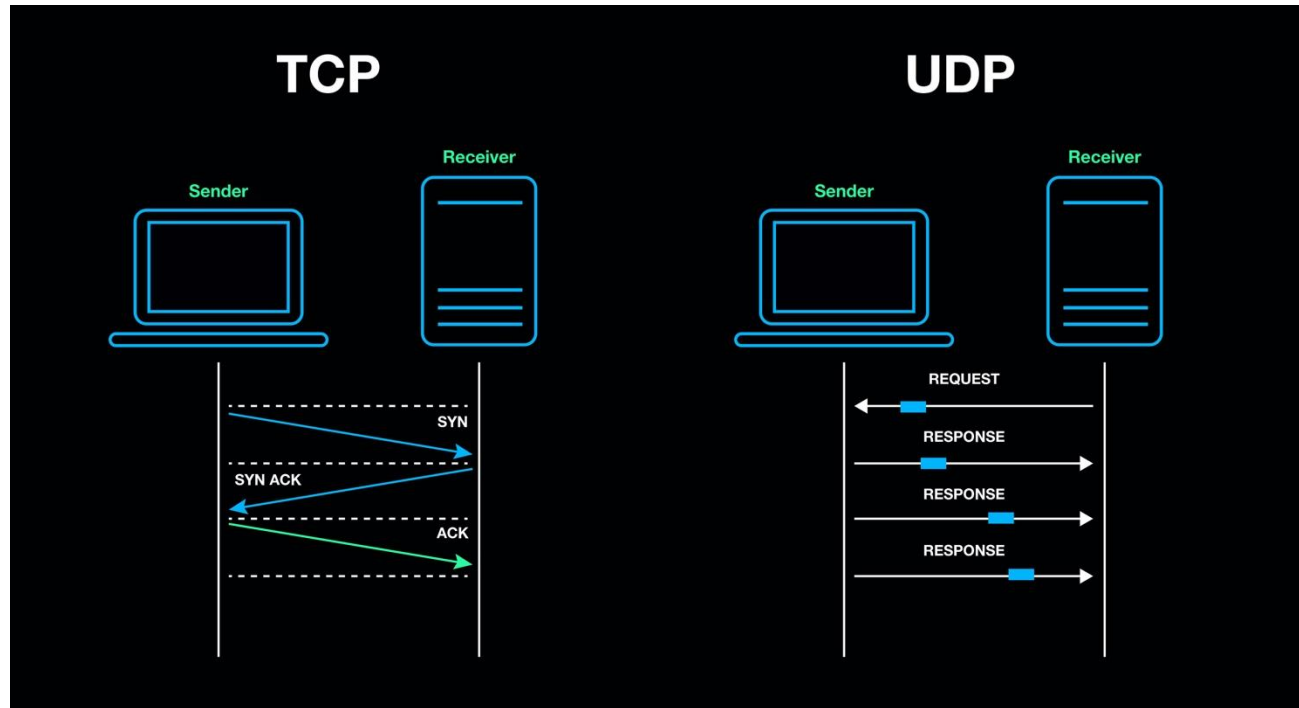


INTRODUCTION

In today's digital world, network security is critical to maintaining the integrity and availability of systems. With increasing cyber-attacks targeting various network components, it is vital to understand the behaviour of these attacks and how to defend against them.

This presentation explains the TCP/IP protocol suite, including TCP and UDP protocols, their differences, and the distinction between TCP and IP. It also covers the TCP 3-Way Handshake, the definitions and differences between DoS and DDoS attacks, and an analysis of SYN Flood, HTTP Flood, and Fragmentation attacks using Wireshark, a network protocol analyser. Additionally, it explores mitigation strategies to protect against these types of threats.

TCP (TRANSMISSION CONTROL PROTOCOL) AND UDP (USER DATAGRAM PROTOCOL)

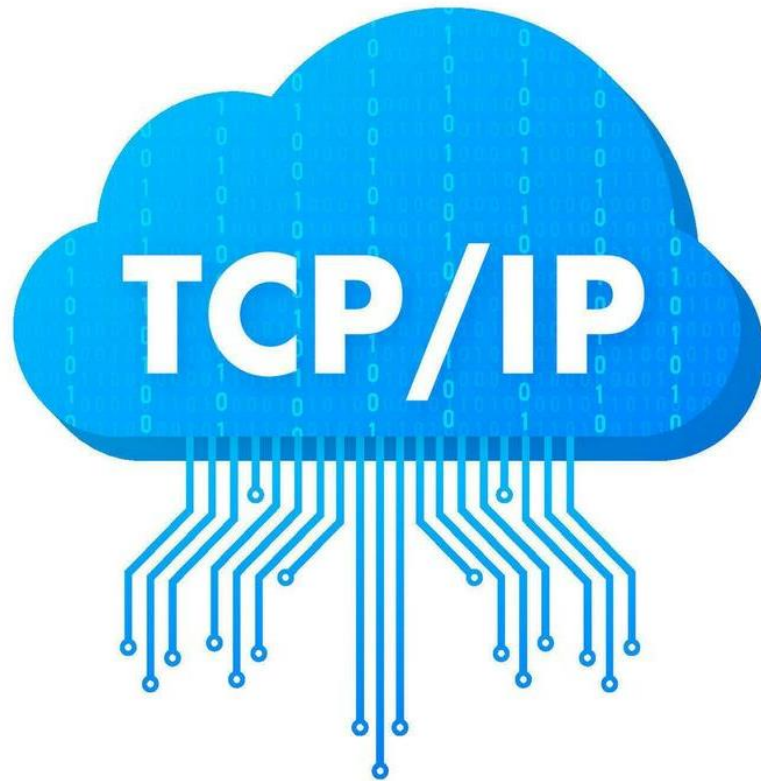


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- **TCP (Transmission Control Protocol):** A connection-oriented protocol that ensures reliable data transmission with error checking and retransmission. Suitable for applications like web browsing and email.
- **UDP (User Datagram Protocol):** A connectionless protocol offering faster transmission without error checking or retransmission, making it ideal for streaming and online gaming.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO PROTOCOLS

TCP	UDP
TCP is connection oriented	UDP is connectionless
It uses acknowledgement to prevent and correct errors.	It cannot correct errors.
TCP data packets have a sequencing number in the header to maintain the order of transmission.	UDP data packets arrive in no fixed order, and incorrect sequencing cannot be detected or corrected.
It has a longer latency time and consumes more resources.	It starts the connection faster, delivers data at lower latency, and consumes fewer resources.
TCP's most significant advantage is that it is highly reliable.	Its architecture is designed in a manner that makes it inherently unreliable.
It is suitable for use cases where data integrity, including images, web pages, data files, etc. matters more than transmission speed.	It is ideal for live data transmission (e.g., media), where transmission is so fast that a few dropped packets do not matter.



Source: Vecteezy | Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/yd6fk2cm>

TCP/IP OVERVIEW

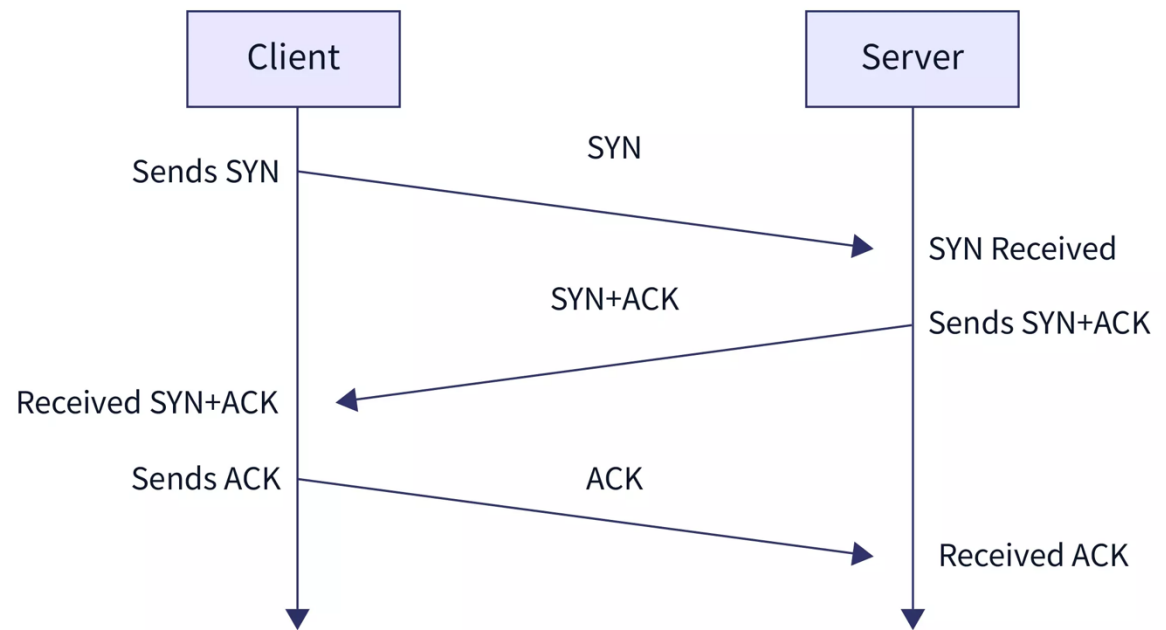
TCP/IP (Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol) is the backbone of internet communication. **TCP** ensures reliable communication by establishing a connection and ensuring data integrity, while **IP** is responsible for routing packets across the network. Understanding these protocols is essential for detecting abnormal traffic patterns that may indicate an attack.

Difference Between TCP and IP:

- **TCP** operates at the **transport layer**, ensuring reliability in data transmission.
- **IP** operates at the **network layer**, handling addressing and routing packets between networks.

TCP 3-WAY HANDSHAKE PROCESS

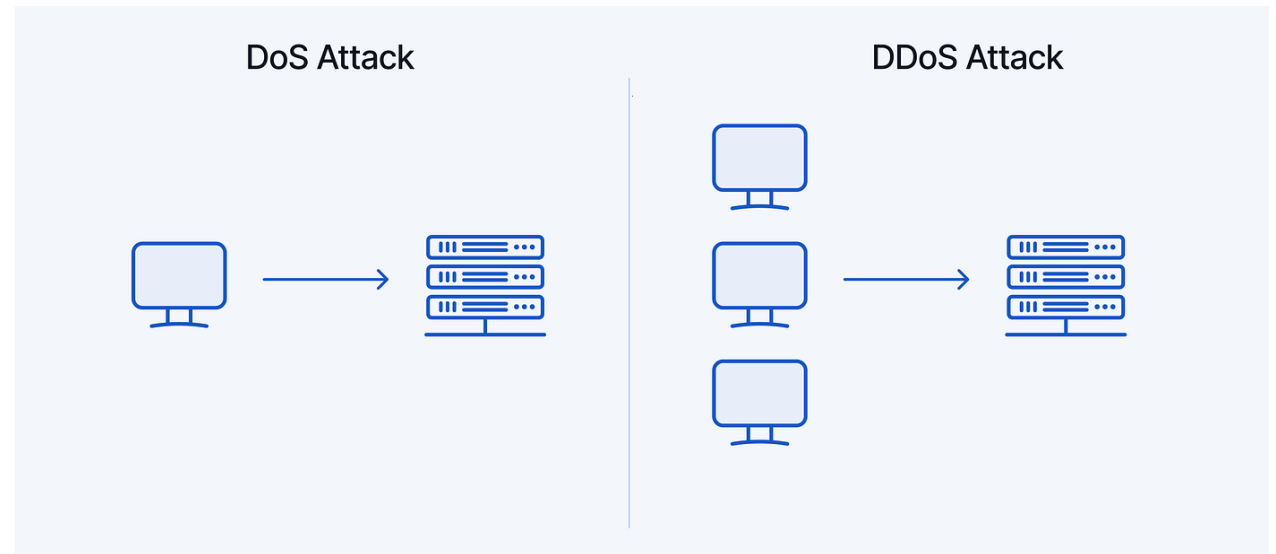
- Step 1: **SYN** – The client sends a synchronisation request to the server.
- Step 2: **SYN-ACK** – The server acknowledges the request.
- Step 3: **ACK** – The client sends an acknowledgment, and the connection is established.



Source: Turkhackteam | Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/mskac9xh>

DENIAL-OF-SERVICE (DOS) AND DISTRIBUTED DENIAL-OF-SERVICE (DDOS) ATTACKS

- **DoS Attack:** A single attacker floods a target system with excessive requests, disrupting service availability.
- **DDoS Attack:** Multiple compromised systems (botnets) overwhelm the target with traffic, making it harder to mitigate.



Source: LinkedIn | Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/bde8uaw9>

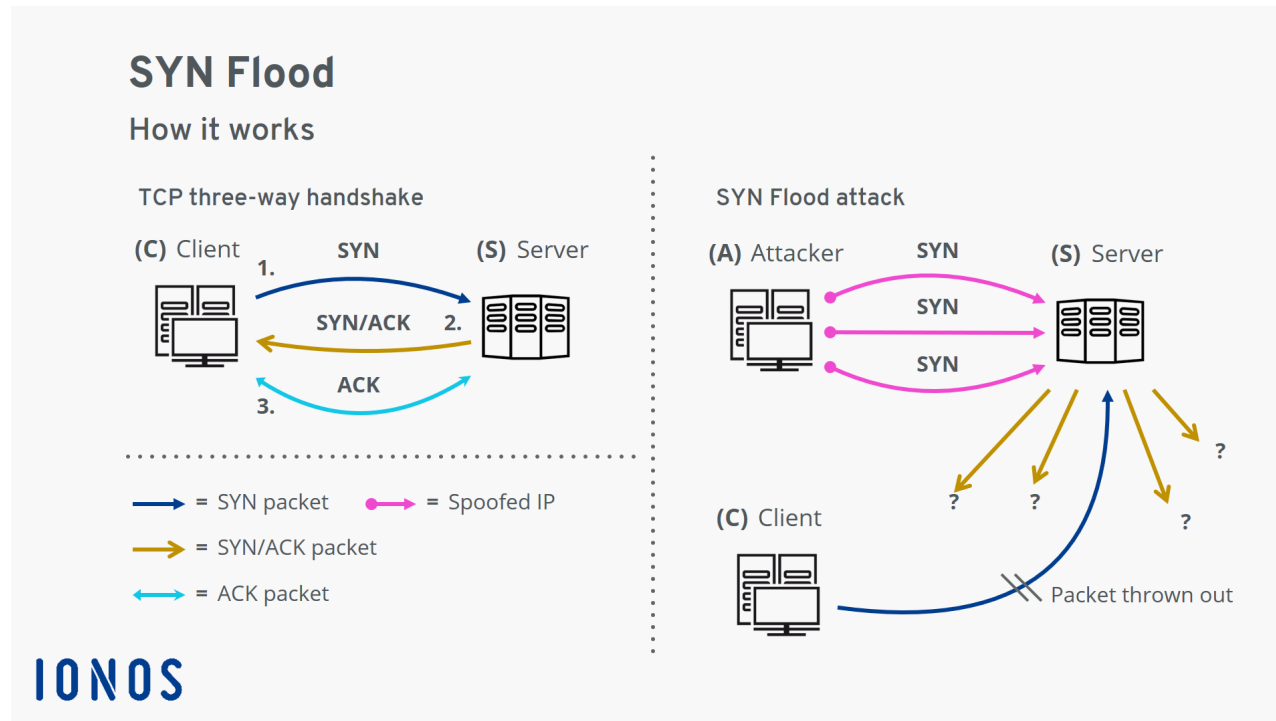
DENIAL-OF-SERVICE (DOS) VS. DISTRIBUTED DENIAL-OF-SERVICE (DDOS) ATTACKS

DoS	DDoS
A DoS attack is an attempt to make an online service unavailable by overwhelming it with traffic from a single source	A DDoS attack is an attempt to make an online service unavailable by overwhelming it with traffic from multiple sources
Single source, usually one machine or IP	Multiple sources, coordinated botnets, or compromised IPs
Relatively simple and easy to execute	More complex, requires coordination and larger resources
Lower volume of traffic	Significantly higher volume of traffic
Easier to detect and mitigate as traffic comes from a single source	Harder to detect and mitigate due to traffic coming from many different sources

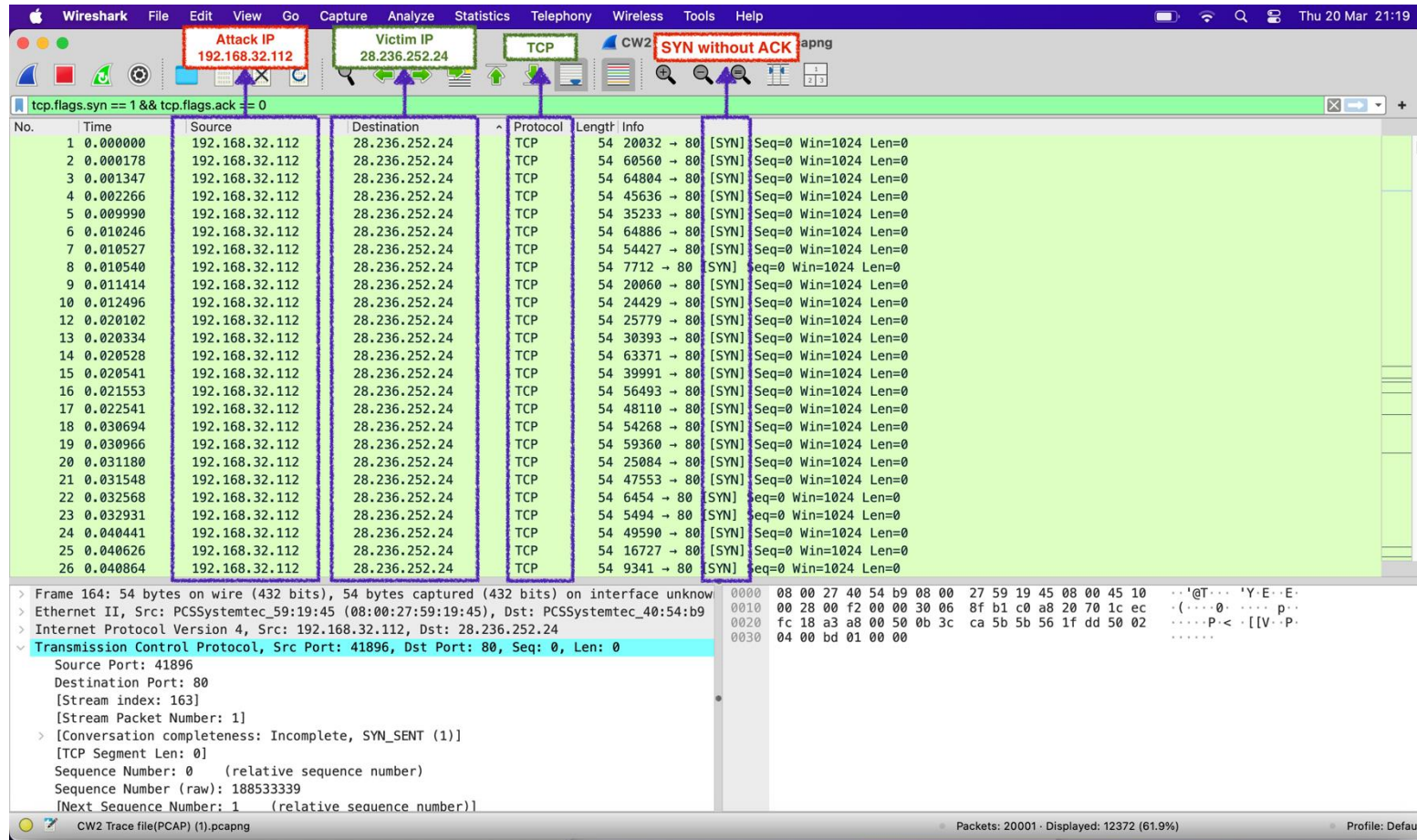
OVERVIEW: SYN FLOOD ATTACK

A SYN Flood attack is a type of Denial-of-Service (DoS) attack that targets the TCP handshake process. In this attack, an attacker sends a flood of SYN packets to a target system without completing the handshake, exhausting the target's resources and preventing legitimate users from establishing connections.

The main goal of a SYN Flood is to overwhelm the target system, leading to denial of service.



WIRESHARK TRAFFIC ANALYSIS: SYN FLOOD ATTACK



In this attack, I observed a high number of SYN packets. The screenshot from Wireshark shows the filtered traffic where SYN flags are set but without the corresponding ACK responses. These half-open connections tie up resources on the target system.

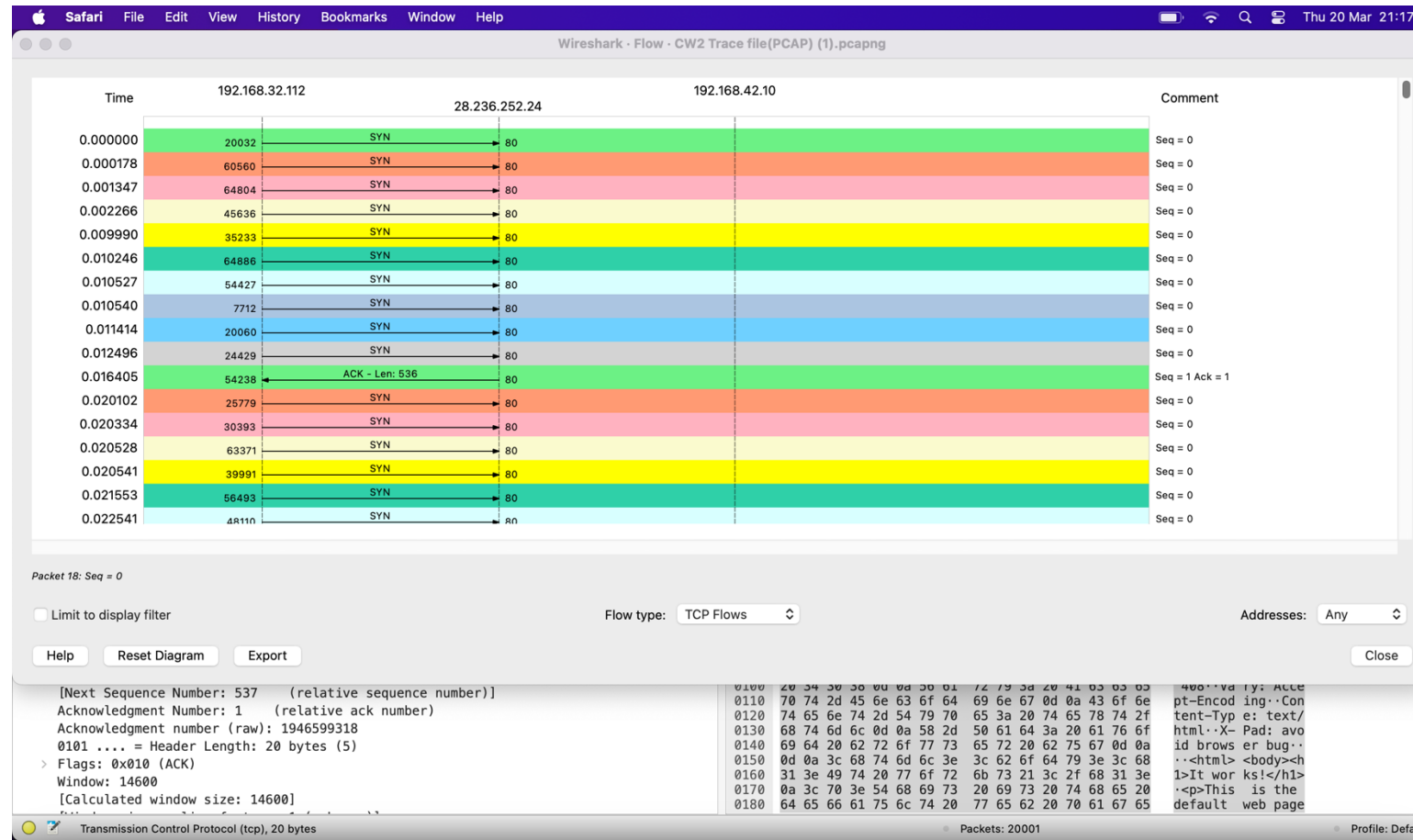
Filter: `(tcp.flags.syn == 1 && tcp.flags.ack == 0)`

Attacker IP: 192.168.32.122

Victim IP: 28.236.252.24

Figure 01: Wireshark screenshot

IMPACT ON TARGET SYSTEM: SYN FLOOD ATTACK



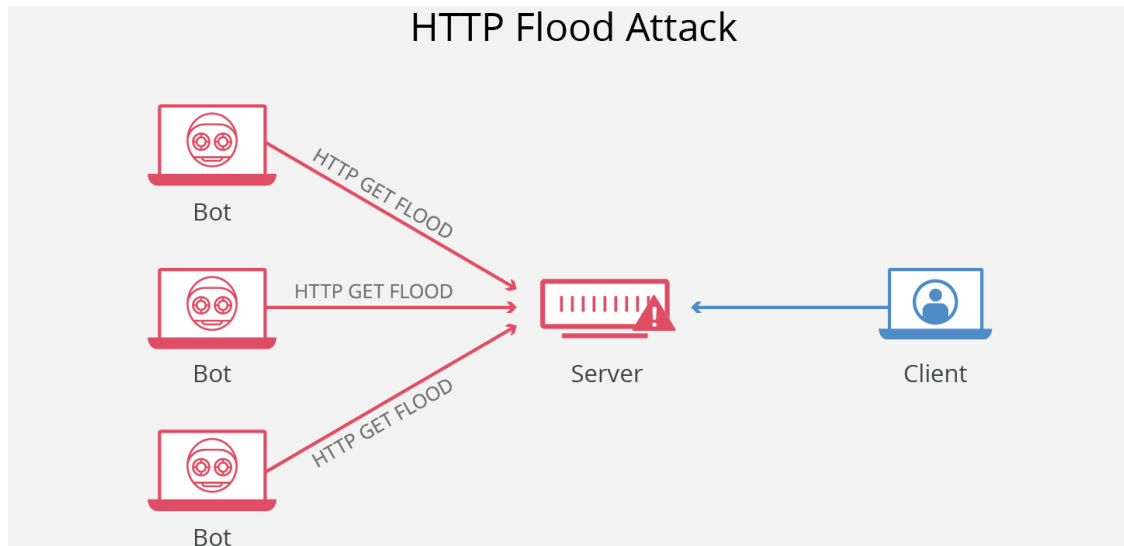
The target system is forced to allocate resources to manage incomplete connections (half-open connections). This leads to resource depletion, causing the system to be unable to process new, legitimate requests. The system may either slow down or crash, resulting in denial of service.

Figure 02: Wireshark Flow (TCP)

OVERVIEW: HTTP FLOOD ATTACK

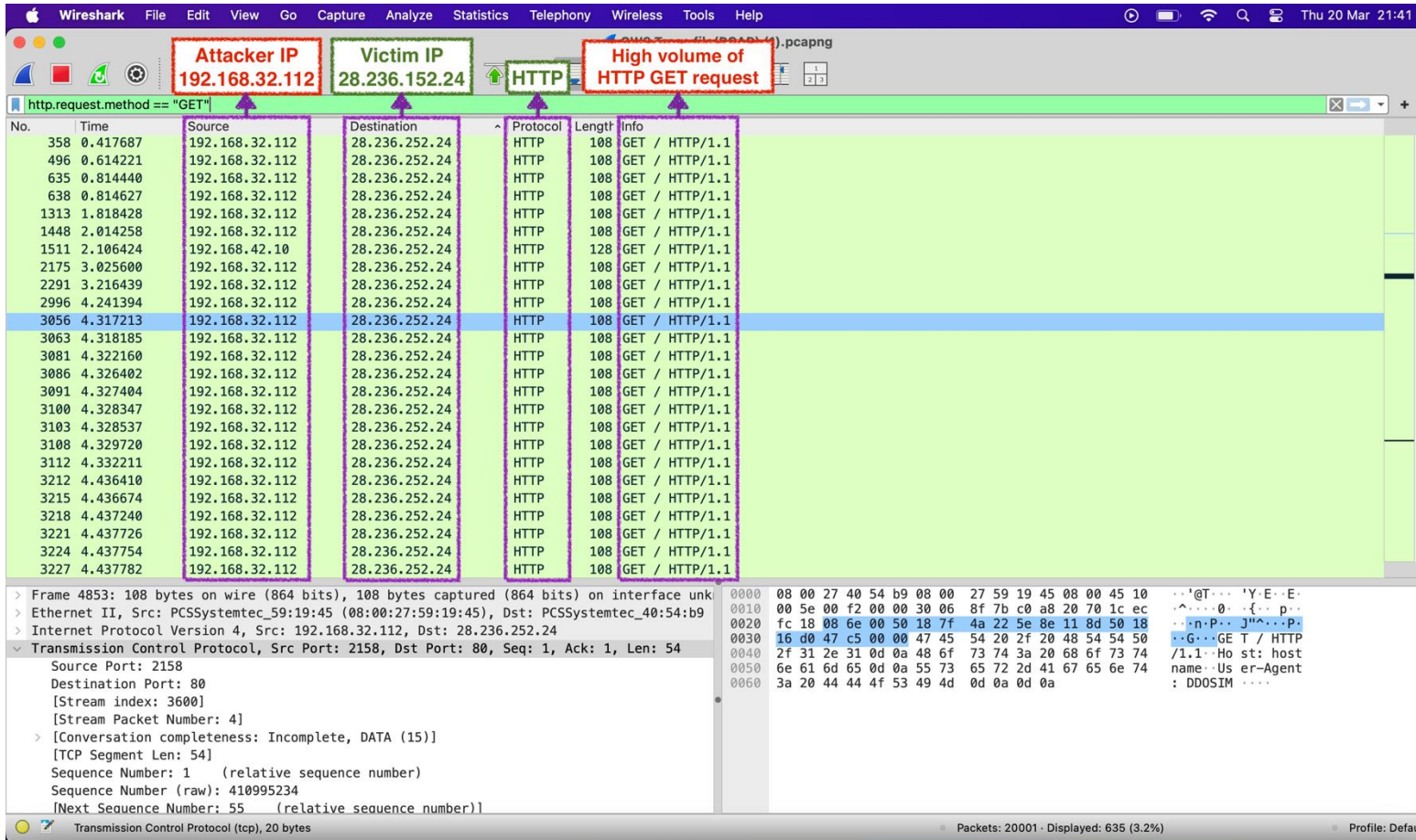
An HTTP Flood attack is a type of Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack that targets a web server by overwhelming it with excessive HTTP GET or POST requests. These requests consume server resources (CPU, memory), making the server unable to process legitimate requests.

The goal of this attack is to exhaust the web server's resources, causing downtime or reduced functionality.



Source: Researchgate | Available at: <https://tinyurl.com/h6dphnud>

WIRESHARK TRAFFIC ANALYSIS: HTTP FLOOD ATTACK



In this attack, the network traffic shows a high volume of HTTP GET request (**Filter: `http.request.method == "GET"`**). The attached Wireshark screenshot illustrates the repeated requests coming from similar **Attacker IP: 192.168.32.122**

Figure 03: Wireshark screenshot

IMPACT ON SERVER: HTTP FLOOD ATTACK

When an HTTP Flood attack occurs, the web server's CPU and memory are consumed by handling the malicious requests. As a result, the server becomes slow and unresponsive to legitimate traffic, potentially leading to an outage or degraded service performance.

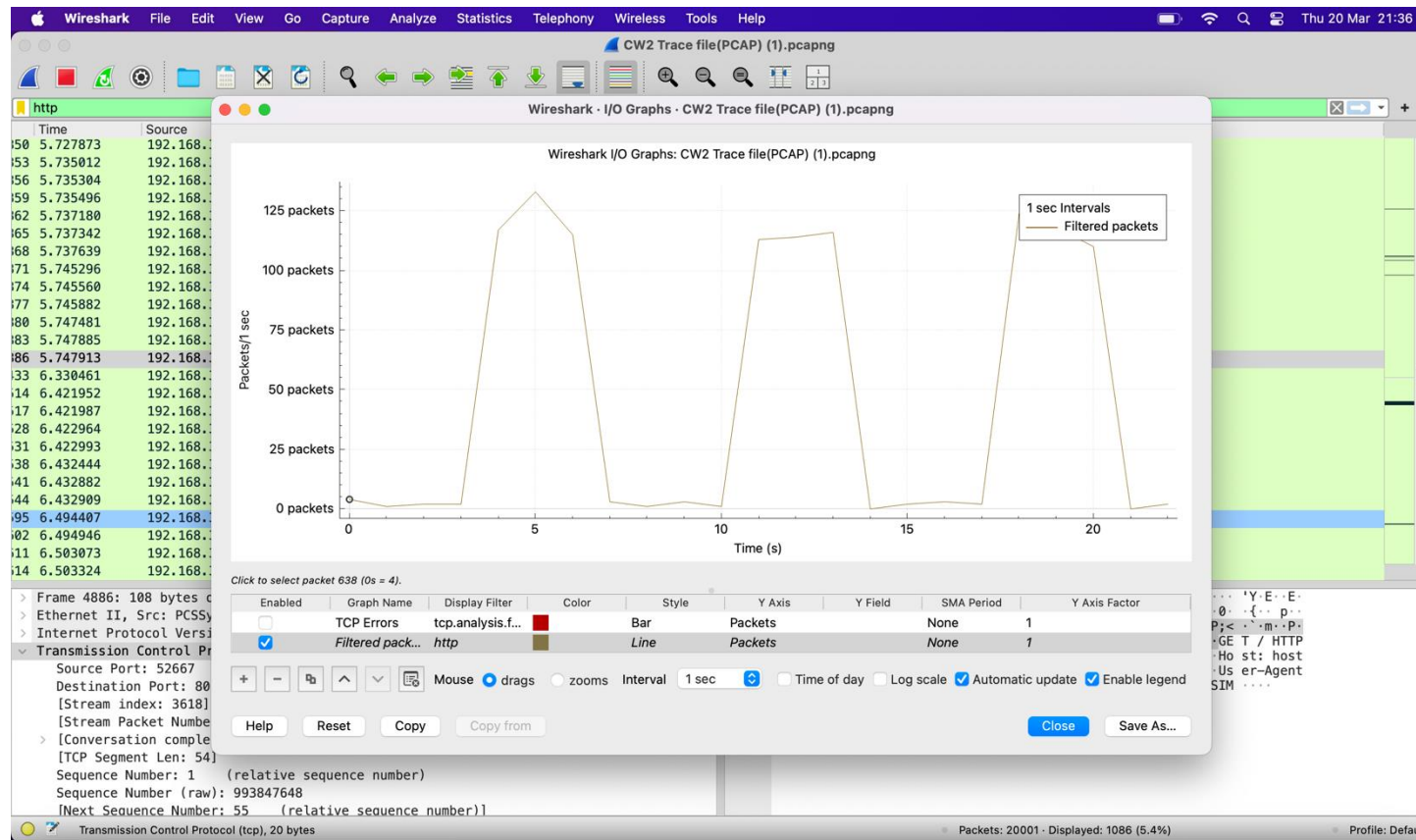
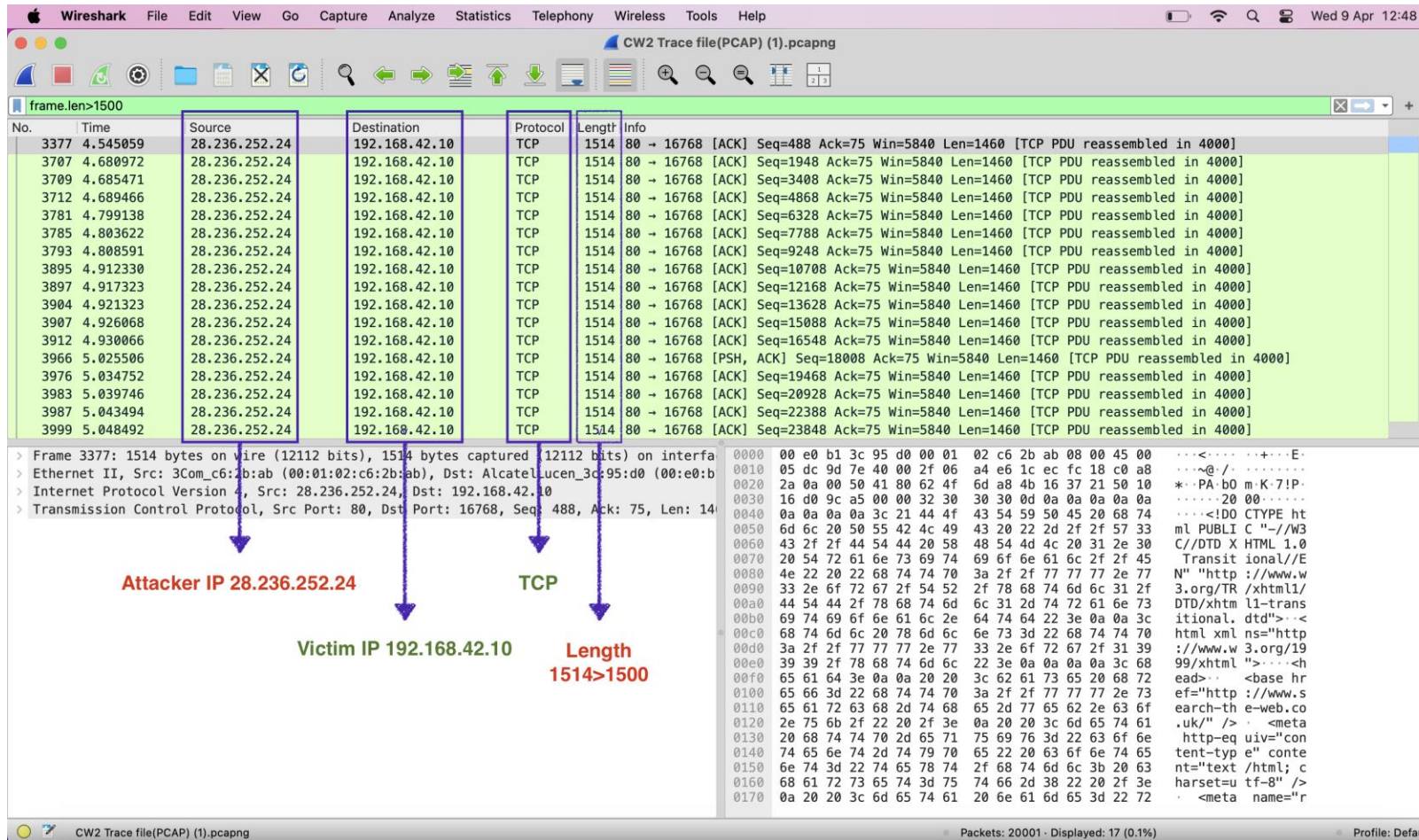


Figure 04: Wireshark I/O Graph (http)

OVERVIEW AND WIRESHARK TRAFFIC ANALYSIS: FRAGMENTATION ATTACK



Overview: A fragmentation attack involves breaking malicious packets into small fragments to evade detection by firewalls or intrusion detection systems. These fragments are reassembled at the target, allowing the attack to succeed unnoticed. It's often used in evasion and DoS attacks.

The Wireshark capture indicates a potential fragmentation attack. The **attacker IP 28.236.252.24** is sending multiple TCP packets to **victim 192.168.42.10**, each with a **size of 1514 bytes exceeding the typical MTU of 1500**. This suggests an attempt to evade detection or overload the victim's system by using oversized packets, a common tactic in evasion or DoS attacks.

Figure 05: Wireshark screenshot

MITIGATION FOR DOS (HTTP FLOOD, SYN FLOOD, AND FRAGMENTATION ATTACKS) ATTACKS:

To mitigate HTTP Flood, SYN Flood, and Fragmentation Attacks, implement robust defences. For HTTP Floods, use rate-limiting, IP filtering, and Web Application Firewalls (WAFs) to control traffic. For SYN Floods, deploy SYN cookies, delayed binding, and connection limits to manage half-open connections. To prevent Fragmentation Attacks, utilize deep packet inspection, IDS/IPS systems, and firewall rules. A layered security approach with regular updates, anomaly detection, and monitoring is key to preventing these attacks.

HTTP Flood Attacks:

- Use WAFs to filter malicious traffic.
- Apply rate-limiting to prevent overload.
- Implement CAPTCHA to distinguish between users and bots.

SYN Flood Attacks:

- Enable SYN cookies to handle half-open connections.
- Set connection limits and timeouts to prevent resource exhaustion.
- Use IDS/IPS to detect and block SYN flood activity.

Fragmentation Attacks:

- Use firewalls and IDS/IPS for packet inspection and reassembly.
 - Apply deep packet inspection (DPI) to detect malicious fragments.
 - Implement rate-limiting on fragmented packets.
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