Wireshark

tcpdump

Similarities

- GUI-based tool with graphical visualization and detailed packet breakdown.
- Wireshark provides deep protocol analysis, flow diagrams, and follows TCP streams visually — making it better for beginners or in-depth manual investigation.
- Both tools capture packets in real time from network interfaces.
 They can save the captured data into .pcap files for later analysis.
- Both support powerful BPF (Berkeley Packet Filter) syntax for filtering packets during capture. Filters can be applied to focus on specific protocols, IPs, ports, etc.
- Security analysts use both tools for packet analysis, troubleshooting, and intrusion detection. They are used in penetration testing, incident response, and network forensics.

- Command-line based tool.
- tcpdump is lightweight and suitable for remote servers or scripting in headless environments.