CYBER SECURITY INTERNSHIP

Task 5: Capture and Analyze Network Traffic Using Wireshark

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Objective

The objective of this task is to capture live network packets using Wireshark, identify multiple protocols from the captured traffic, and analyze their purpose and details.

Introduction

Wireshark is a powerful network protocol analyzer that allows for real-time packet capturing and detailed inspection of network traffic. In this task, Wireshark was used to monitor live traffic, apply protocol filters, and study the structure and purpose of different network protocols.

Tools and Environment

Tool Used: Wireshark

OS: Windows 11

Protocols Analyzed: HTTP, DNS, TCP, UDP, ICMPv6

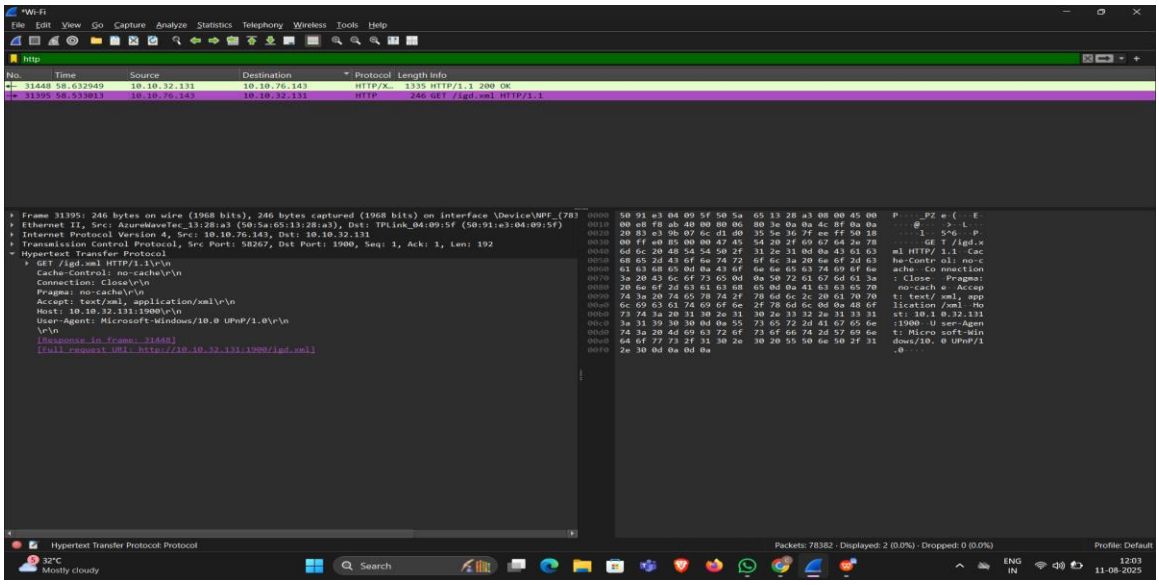
Steps Followed (Clear and Detailed)

1. Step 1: Opened Wireshark and selected the active network interface (Wi-Fi).
2. Step 2: Started capturing live network traffic.
3. Step 3: Generated traffic by browsing websites, triggering DNS lookups, and allowing network services to generate UDP and ICMPv6 packets.
4. Step 4: Stopped capture after ~2 minutes.
5. Step 5: Applied filters in Wireshark for HTTP, DNS, TCP, UDP, and ICMPv6 traffic.
6. Step 6: Analyzed packet details including source/destination IPs, ports, and packet purpose.

Protocols Identified

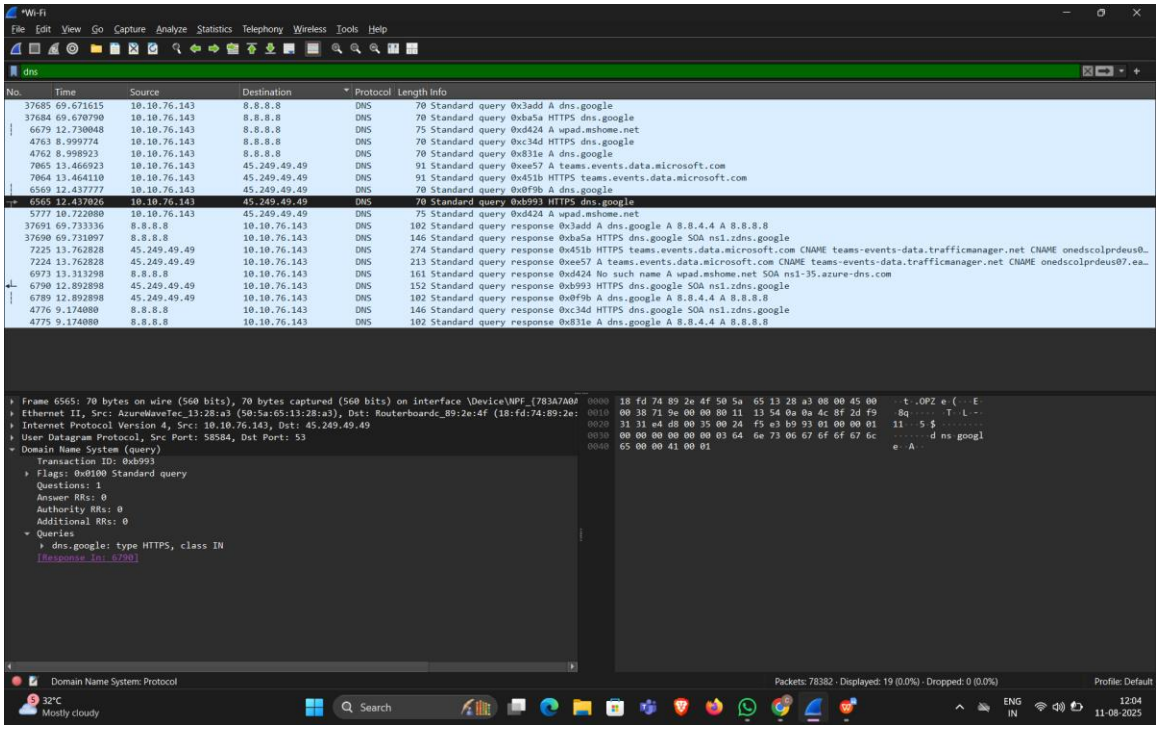
HTTP

Used for transferring web content between clients and servers. Example: HTTP GET request for /igd.xml.



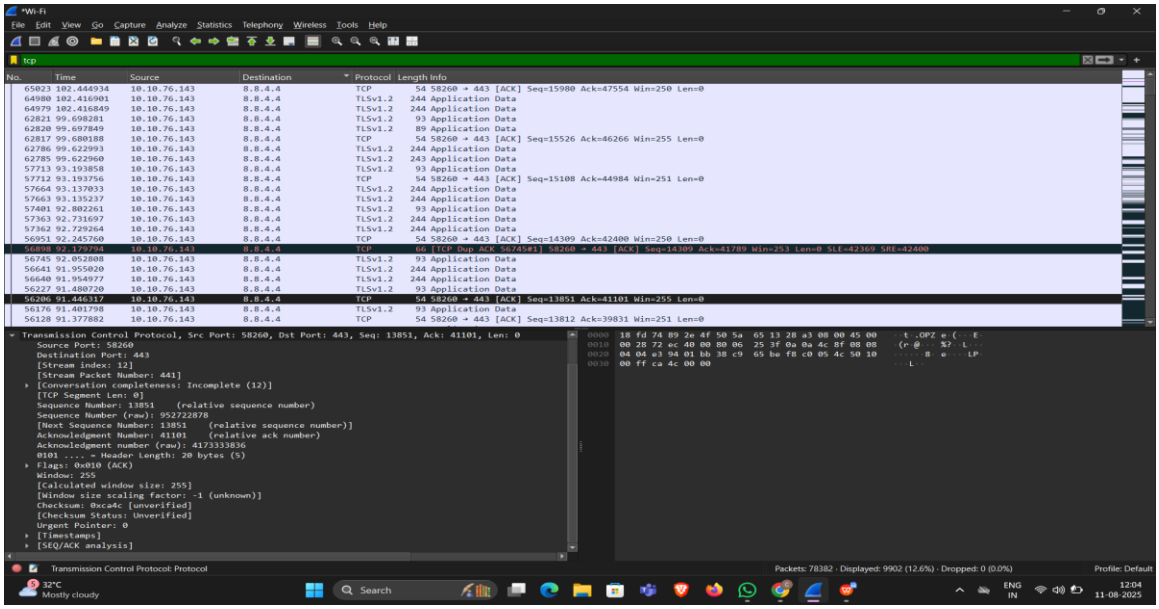
DNS

Resolves domain names into IP addresses. Example: Query to dns.google (8.8.8.8).



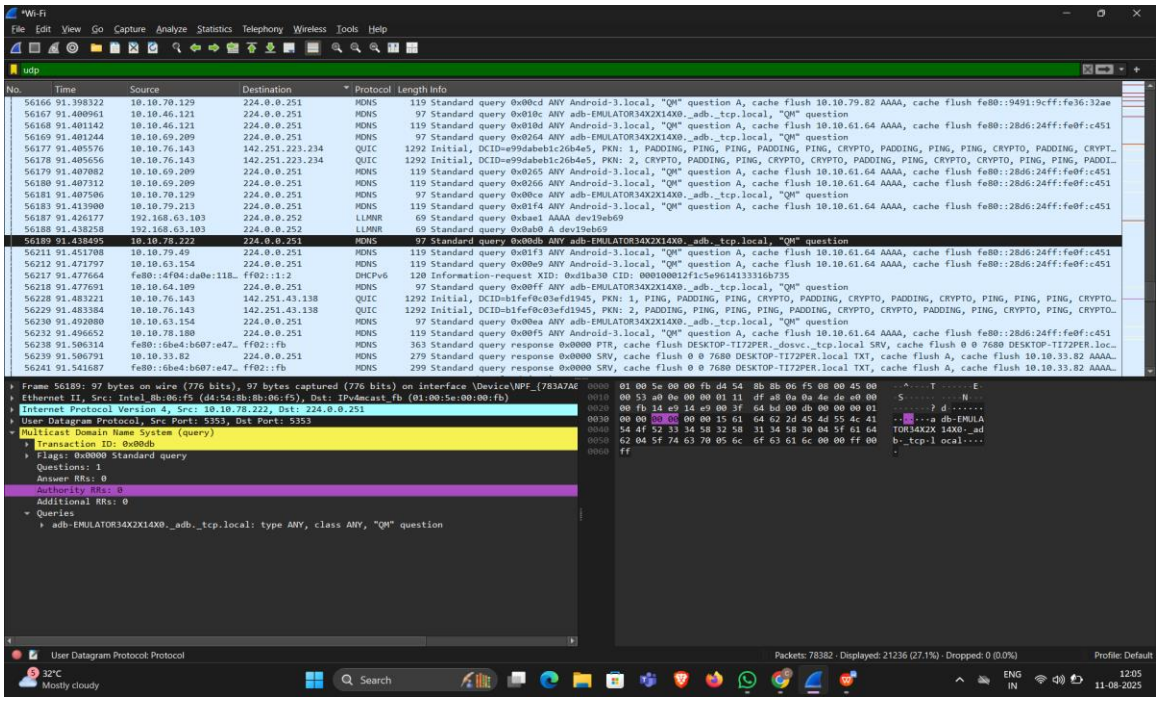
TCP

Ensures reliable data transmission between devices. Example: TCP ACK packet during handshake.



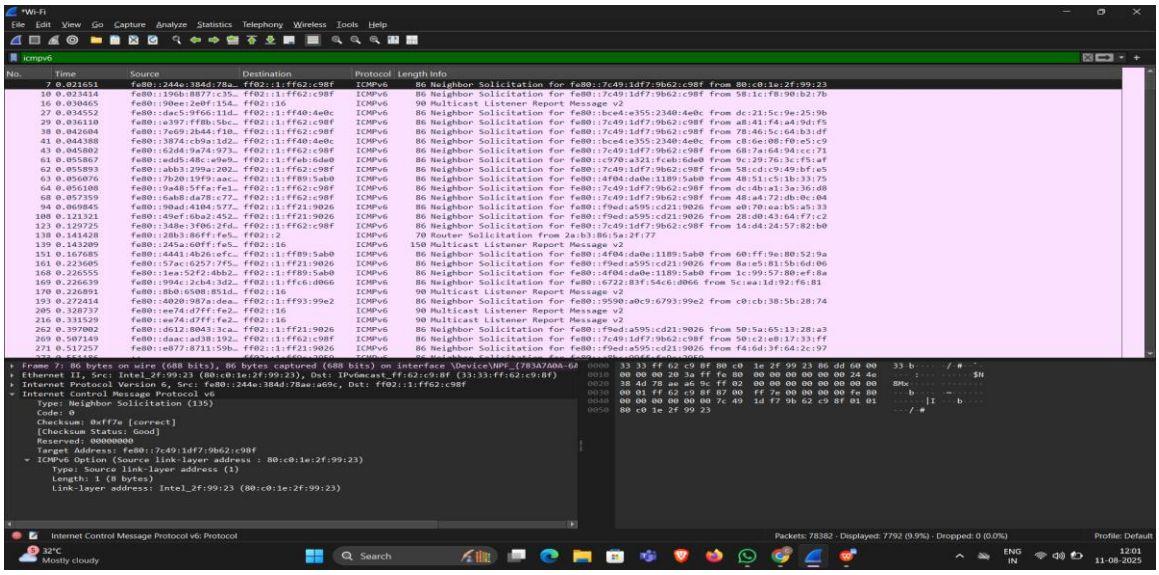
UDP

Connectionless protocol for fast data transfer. Example: mDNS response from a local network device.



ICMPv6

Used in IPv6 networks for diagnostic and neighbor discovery purposes. Example: Neighbor Solicitation.



Learning Outcomes

- Learned how to capture and filter live network traffic using Wireshark.
- Understood the differences between TCP and UDP.
- Gained practical knowledge of DNS resolution, HTTP communication, and ICMPv6 diagnostics.
- Learned how to interpret packet details for network troubleshooting.

Conclusion

This task provided practical experience with network protocol analysis using Wireshark. By capturing, filtering, and studying different protocols, I gained a better understanding of how data flows across networks and the roles of various protocols in communication.