

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

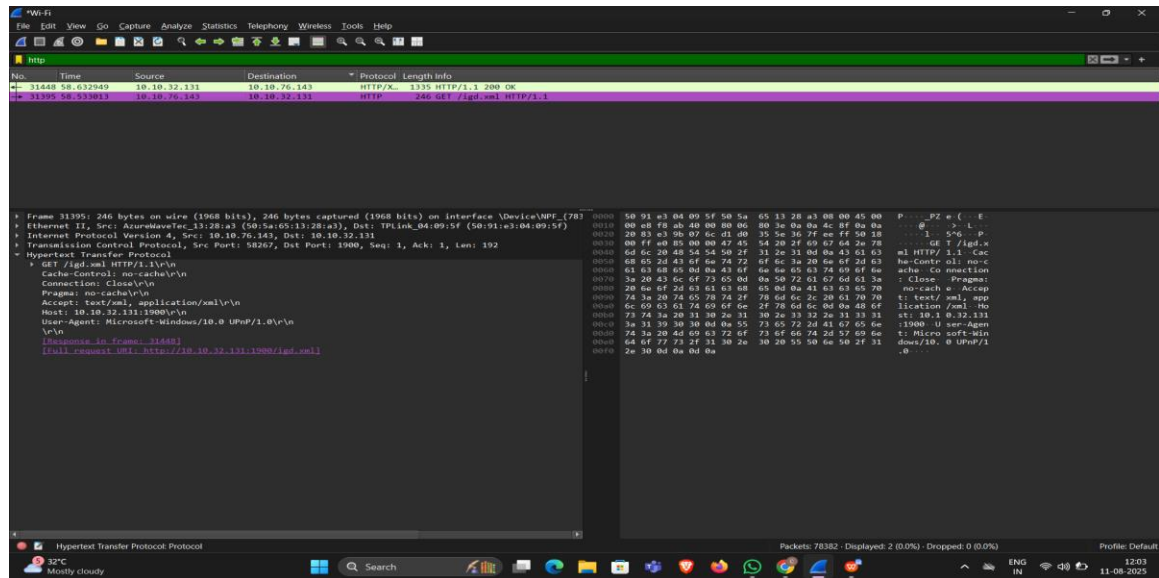
Steps Followed (Clear and Detailed)

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

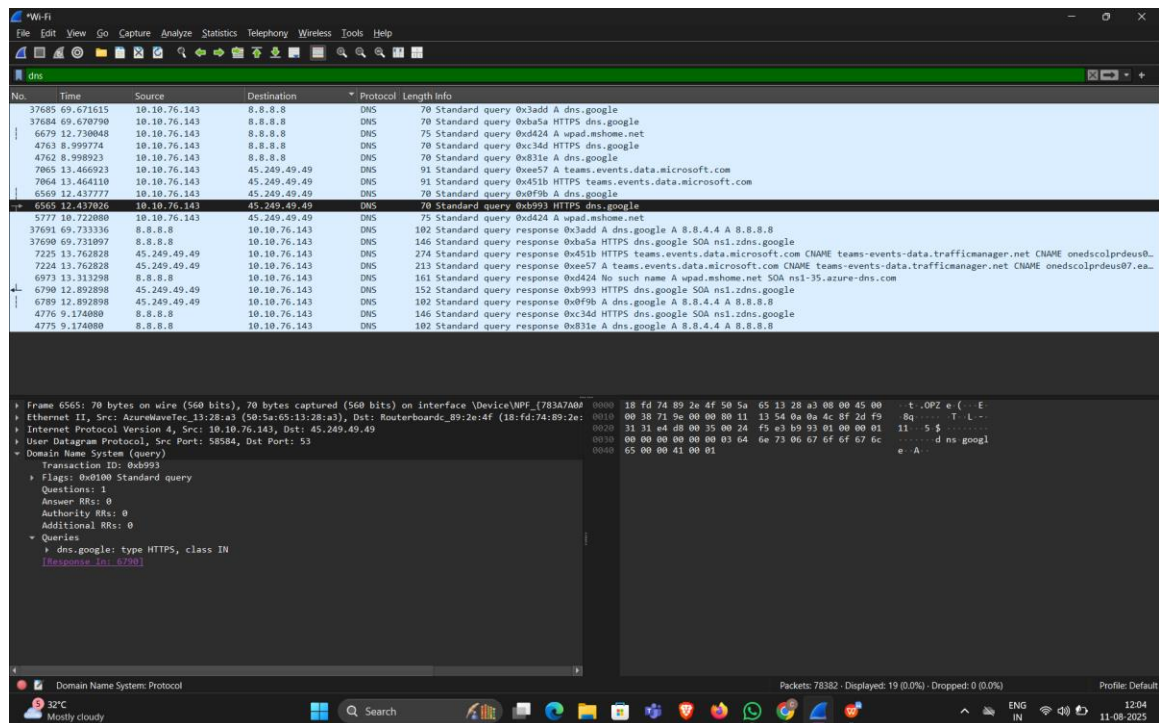
HTTP

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.

The image shows a Wireshark network traffic capture of a TCP ACK packet. The packet list pane displays a series of packets, with the selected packet being a TCP ACK from source 10.10.76.143 to destination 8.8.4.4. The packet details pane shows the following information:

- Source Port: 58266
- Destination Port: 443
- Sequence Number: 13851
- Acknowledgment Number: 41101
- Window: 255
- Flags: 0x010 (ACK)
- Checksum: 0x9c4e (verified)
- Urgent Pointer: 0

The packet bytes pane shows the raw data of the packet, including the TCP header and the application data.

UDP

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

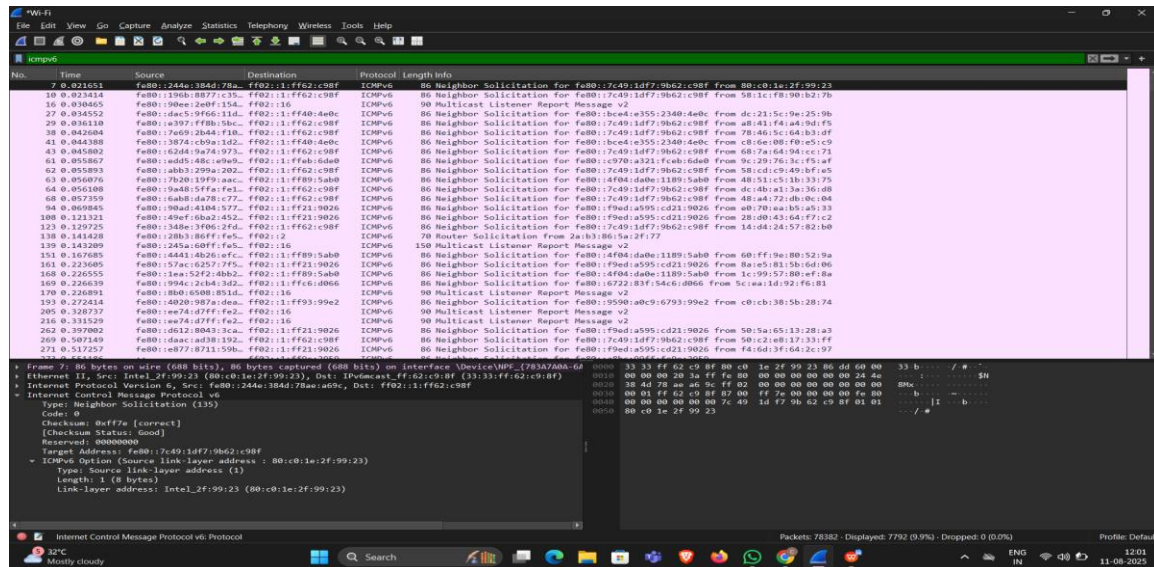
The image shows a Wireshark network traffic capture of a UDP mDNS response packet. The packet list pane displays a series of packets, with the selected packet being a UDP packet from source 10.10.76.143 to destination 224.0.0.251. The packet details pane shows the following information:

- Source Port: 58266
- Destination Port: 5353
- Length: 112
- Checksum: 0x9c4e (verified)

The packet bytes pane shows the raw data of the packet, including the UDP header and the mDNS response data.

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.