

ECE 443 - Homework #6

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1 Observations

1.1 GET Method

Wireshark shows the TCP packet sent with a new light setting. You can see in the **Full request URI** part of the HTTP message that the name and value pair are appended to the address. In this case, it is **lights=on**.

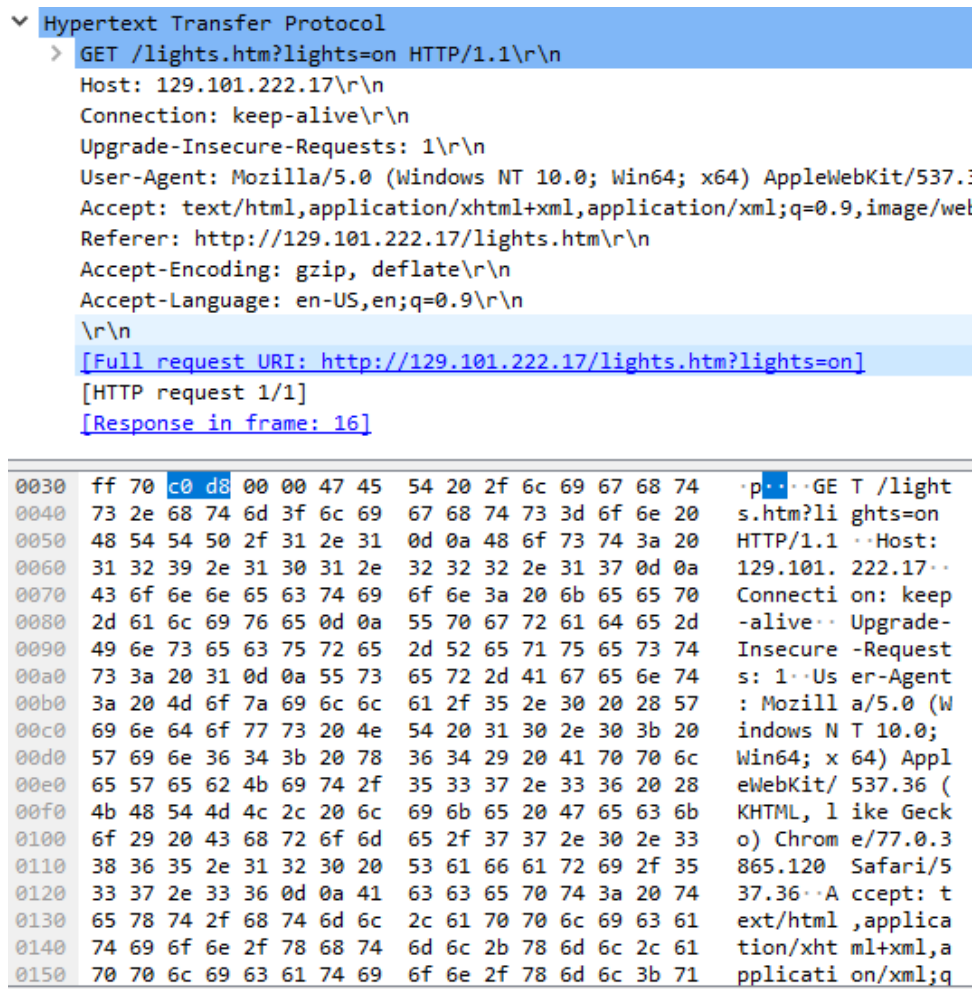


Figure 1: Wireshark screenshot of the HTTP portion of the TCP packet.

Inside the `HTTPExecuteGet()` function, the pointer `ptr` parses this TCP packet to get *just* the value of the light setting, and so the pointer specifically points to the first character in the string “on”.

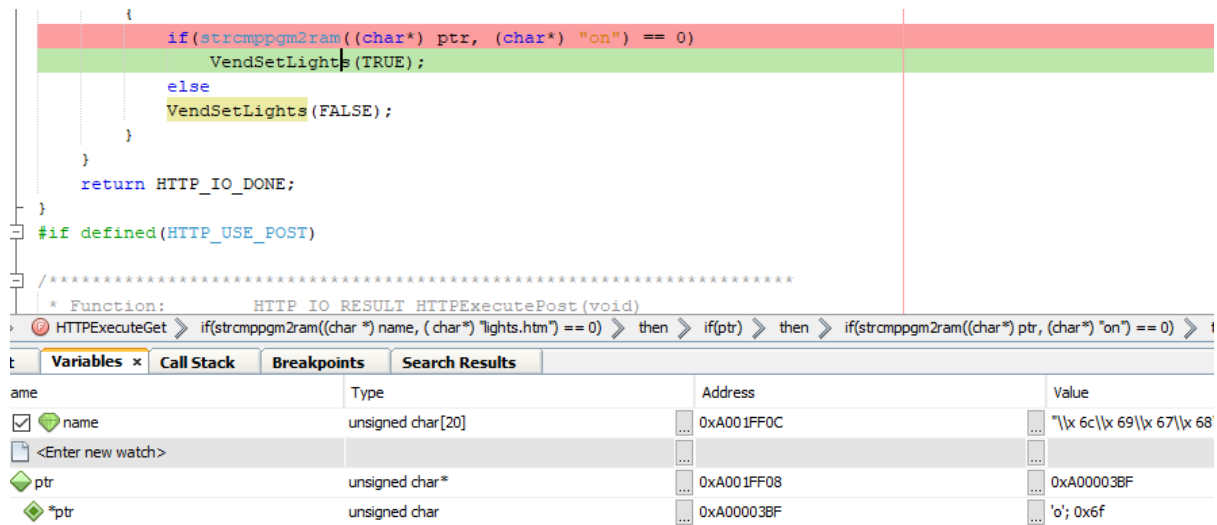


Figure 2: MPLab Variable Window showing the value of the pointer for the name / value pair.

This pointer itself is stored at `0xA001FF08`, while it points to the memory address `0xA00003BF`. Looking at that memory location in the MPLAB Memory View shows the rest of that string. It also shows (in space) the ignored name of the TCP pair (lights). This is in **Figure 3**.

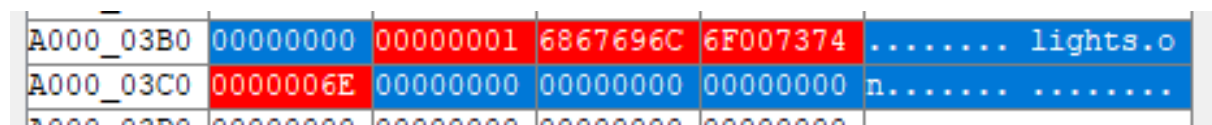


Figure 3: MPLab Memory View of the location to which `ptr` points to – the value of the name sent through the TCP packet.

1.2 POST Method

The POST method sends a lot more data in its TCP packet. Part of this data is shown below, however given there is no real limit to the data-length, not all of it is shown.

File Data: 286 bytes	
✓ HTML Form URL Encoded: application/x-www-form-urlencoded	
> Form item: "name[0]" = "Cola"	
> Form item: "price[0]" = "\$1.00"	
> Form item: "name[1]" = "Diet Cola"	
> Form item: "price[1]" = "\$1.00"	
> Form item: "name[2]" = "Root Beer"	
> Form item: "price[2]" = "\$1.00"	
> Form item: "name[3]" = "Orange"	
> Form item: "price[3]" = "\$1.00"	
> Form item: "name[4]" = "Lemonade"	
> Form item: "price[4]" = "\$1.25"	
> Form item: "name[5]" = "Iced Tea"	
> Form item: "price[5]" = "\$1.75"	
> Form item: "name[6]" = "Water"	
> Form item: "price[6]" = "\$2.00"	

0290	61 6d 65 25 35 42 30 25 35 44 3d 43 6f 6c 61 26	ame%5B0% 5D=Cola&
02a0	70 72 69 63 65 25 35 42 30 25 35 44 3d 25 32 34	price%5B 0%5D=%24
02b0	31 2e 30 30 26 6e 61 6d 65 25 35 42 31 25 35 44	1.00&name%5B1%5D
02c0	3d 44 69 65 74 2b 43 6f 6c 61 26 70 72 69 63 65	=Diet+Cola&price
02d0	25 35 42 31 25 35 44 3d 25 32 34 31 2e 30 30 26	%5B1%5D= %241.00&
02e0	6e 61 6d 65 25 35 42 32 25 35 44 3d 52 6f 6f 74	name%5B2 %5D=Root
02f0	2b 42 65 65 72 26 70 72 69 63 65 25 35 42 32 25	+Beer&price%5B2%
0300	35 44 3d 25 32 34 31 2e 30 30 26 6e 61 6d 65 25	5D=%241. 00&name%
0310	35 42 33 25 35 44 3d 4f 72 61 6e 67 65 26 70 72	5B3%5D=Orange&pr
0320	69 63 65 25 35 42 33 25 35 44 3d 25 32 34 31 2e	ice%5B3% 5D=%241.
0330	30 30 26 6e 61 6d 65 25 35 42 34 25 35 44 3d 4c	00&name% 5B4%5D=L
0340	65 6d 6f 6e 61 64 65 26 70 72 69 63 65 25 35 42	emonade& price%5B
0350	34 25 35 44 3d 25 32 34 31 2e 32 35 26 6e 61 6d	4%5D=%24 1.25&nam
0360	65 25 35 42 35 25 35 44 3d 49 63 65 64 2b 54 65	e%5B5%5D =Iced+Te
0370	61 26 70 72 69 63 65 25 35 42 35 25 35 44 3d 25	a&price% 5B5%5D=%
0380	32 34 31 2e 37 35 26 6e 61 6d 65 25 35 42 36 25	241.75&name%5B6%
0390	35 44 3d 57 61 74 65 72 26 70 72 69 63 65 25 35	5D=Water &price%5
03a0	42 36 25 35 44 3d 25 32 34 32 2e 30 30	B6%5D=%2 42.00

Figure 4: Wireshark screenshot of the non-encoded HTML form – contains info on each item on the Product page.

In this case, the name array points to the name of the HTML page making the TCP request. Since the POST method is only used on the **products.htm** page, we expect the first element in this array to be ‘p’.

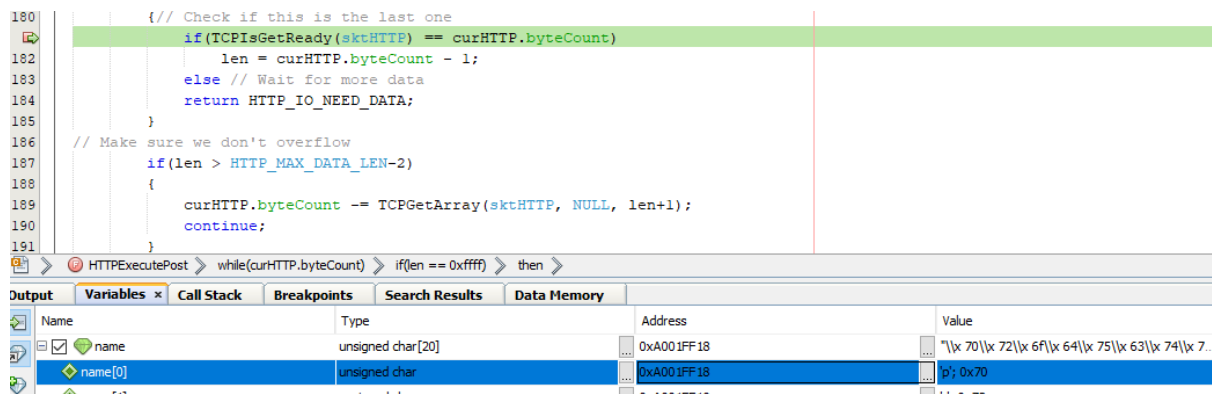


Figure 5: MLab Variable Window showing the contents of the **name** character array that corresponds to which website made the request.

And finally, if I look in memory at that array, the full name of the requesting webpage is found to be **products.htm**. Which is exactly what we expected.

Address	00	04	08	0C	ASCII
A001_FEF0	A001FEF8	9D016478	A0000302	A0000326xd.. &...
A001_FF00	65630000	30420000	00000000	A001FF10	..ce..B0
A001_FF10	A00003C3	0006FFFF	646F7270	73746375 products
A001_FF20	6D74682E	65760000	6E69646E	A00003B9	.htm..ve ndin....
A001_FF30	003C0000	00000000	A001FF40	9D009ED4	..<..... @.....
A001_FF40	A0000302	00000000	00000002	A0010000
A001_FF50	00000000	9D003FE4	00110001	00000003

Figure 6: MPLab Memory View of the website name array.

2 Findings

Overall, I found the Wireshark program to be really helpful. Being able to capture all the traffic going to a specific IP address made looking at the messages really simple. I think it would have been more useful for me to look close at the structure of the TCP packet – especially with regard to the POST method. However, for a simple homework like this, it was useful to just easily look at all the information being sent. If there were multiple webpages being served by the PIC, or perhaps many users at a given time, I could see Wireshark being invaluable.

On the other hand, I did not find the memory view particularly helpful, as it seemed to just add a layer of obfuscation on top of the variable window, which was already really helpful. Related to that, it was nice to see the functionality behind the implementation of those GET and POST servicing functions.