NETWORK TRAFFIC PACKET ANALYSIS USING WIRESHARK

Group 5:

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1. Introduction

In this assignment, we are tasked with investigating a potential security incident on a company web server. The SOC team detected unusual activity within the intranet and captured network traffic for further analysis. This captured pcap file that likely contained evidence of malicious behavior, including credential theft and service disruption.

Our goal was to analyze the provided pcap file to uncover critical details of the attack, such as compromised credentials, the server involved, and the specific attack methods used. By answering the questions posed, we gained deeper insight into the attacker's actions and this will help prevent future incidents.

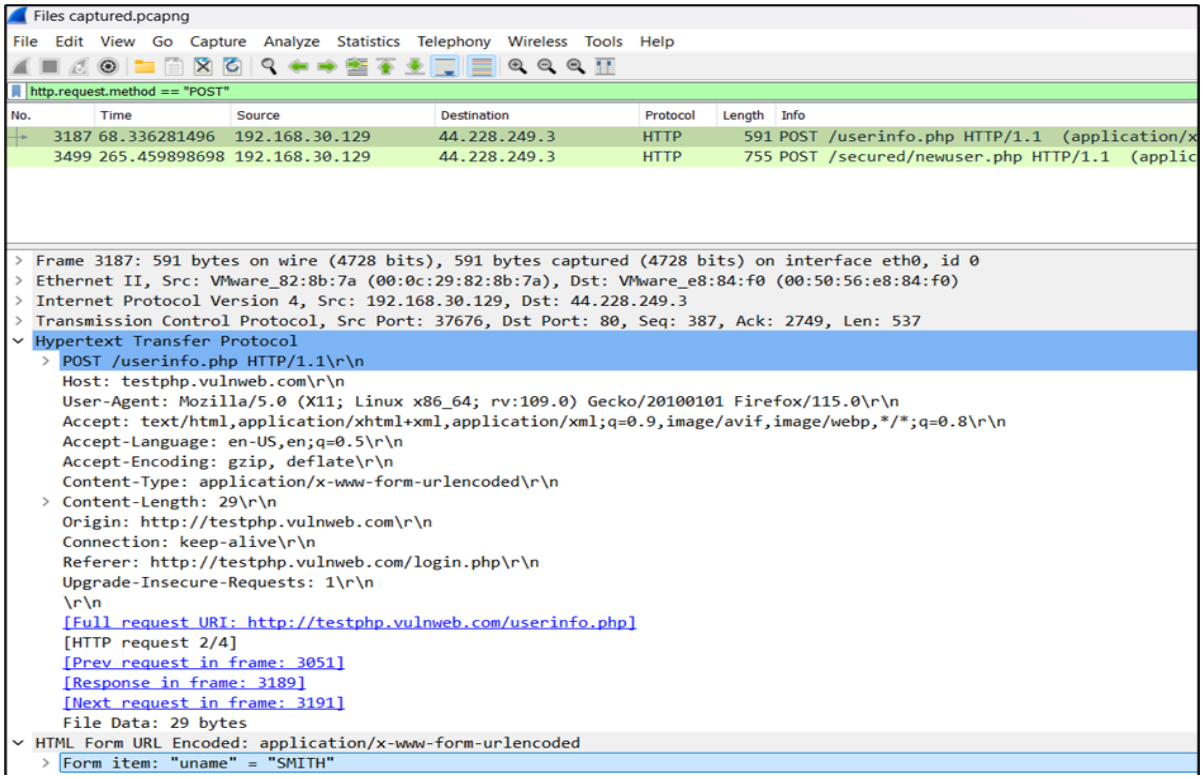
2. The Lab setup

For this assignment we dealt with a pcap file which is a data file used to store network packet data. This data is important as it can allow network administrators to analyze network traffic, troubleshoot network issues, and monitor network issues.In order to interact with these types of files there are specialized tools that are used including but not limited to Wireshark. Wireshark is a powerful, open source tool for Network traffic analysis that comes bundled with the Kali Linux operating system. Its wide range of filtering options for packet analysis and the ease of use are the reasons the group chose it for this challenge.

3. Packet Analysis

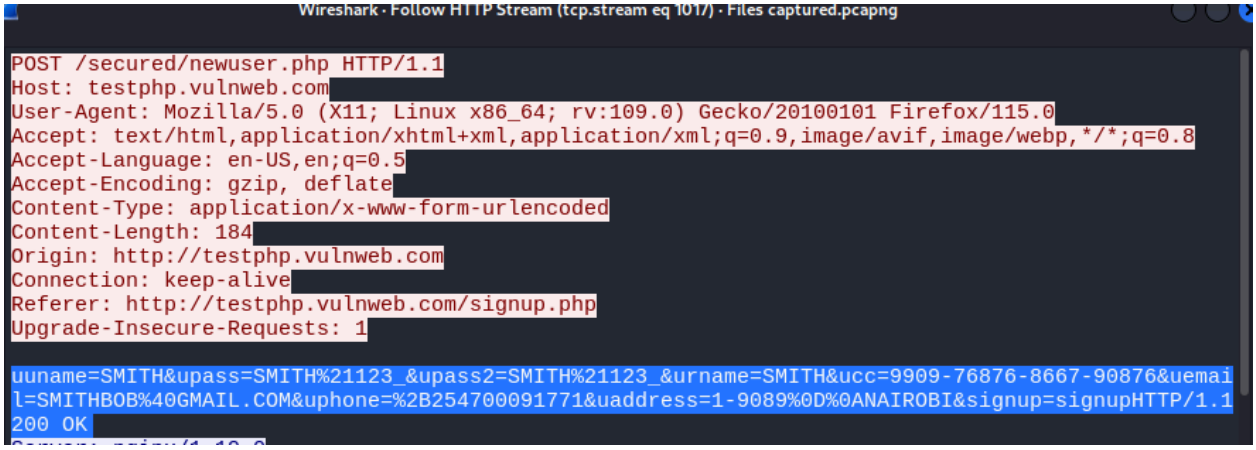
3.1 Username of the Victim

This information was found by inspecting the traffic, likely in a HTTP unencrypted protocol. The group filtered for authentication requests using: ***http.request.method == "POST".*** The packet details interface in the HTTP packet the details of the form reveal the username as ***"SMITH".***



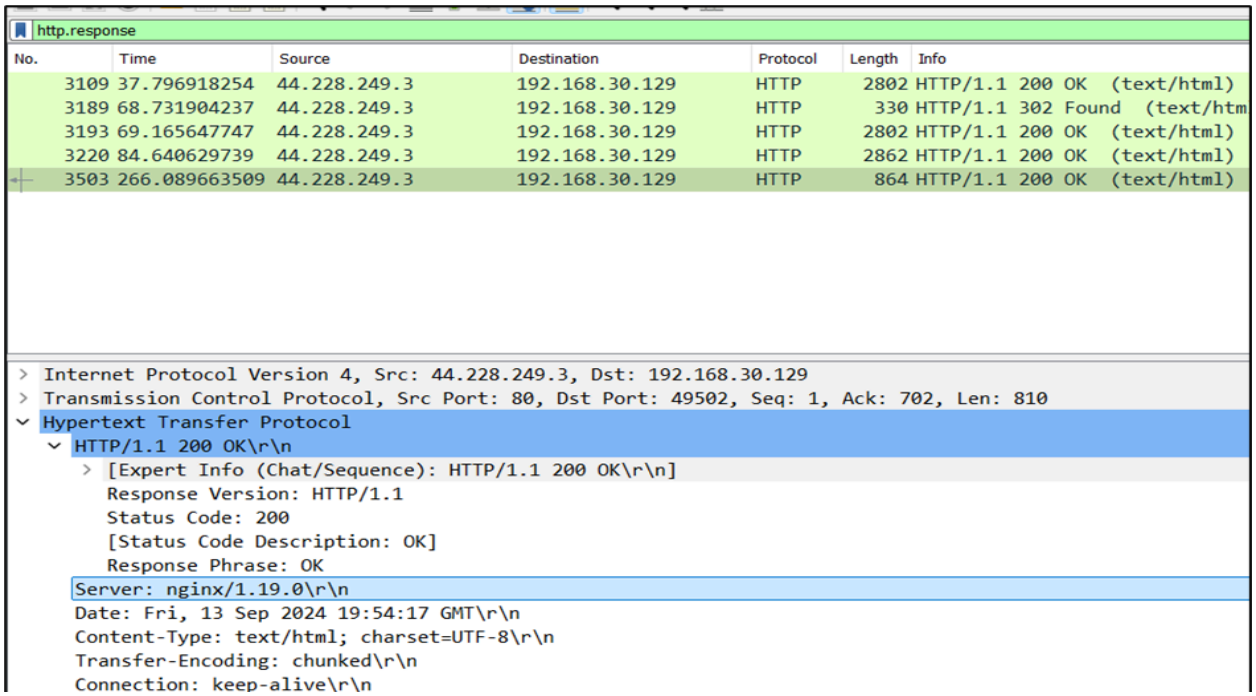
3.2 Password of the Victim:

The password was identified in the payload of HTTP POST requests. We used the filter ***http.request.method == "POST"*** and ***http.response.*** Following the HTTP stream the password is passed with one character encoded, and visible in the packet payload. **“SMITH!123”**



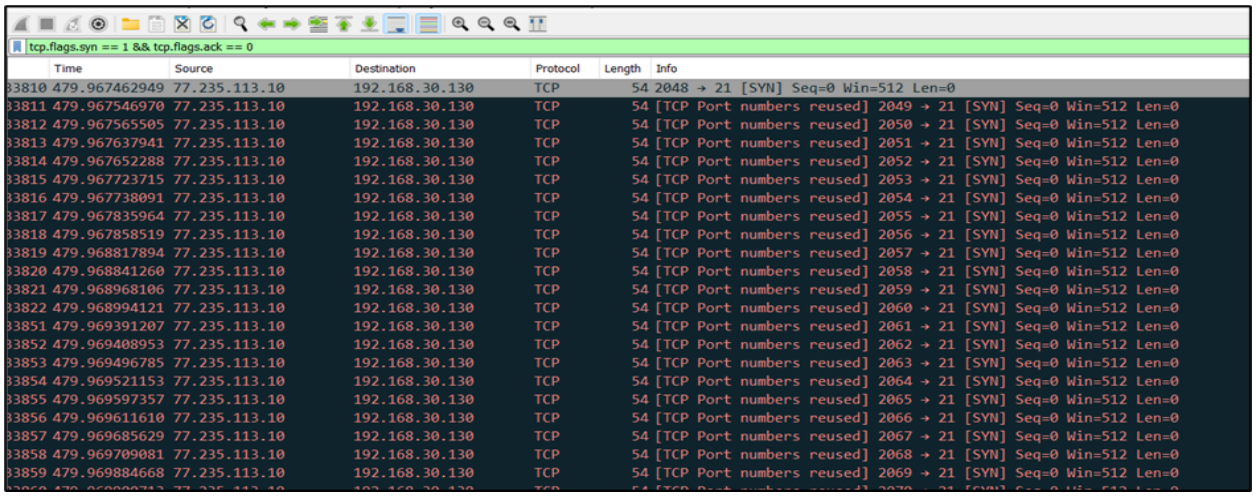
3.3 Server and Version Identification

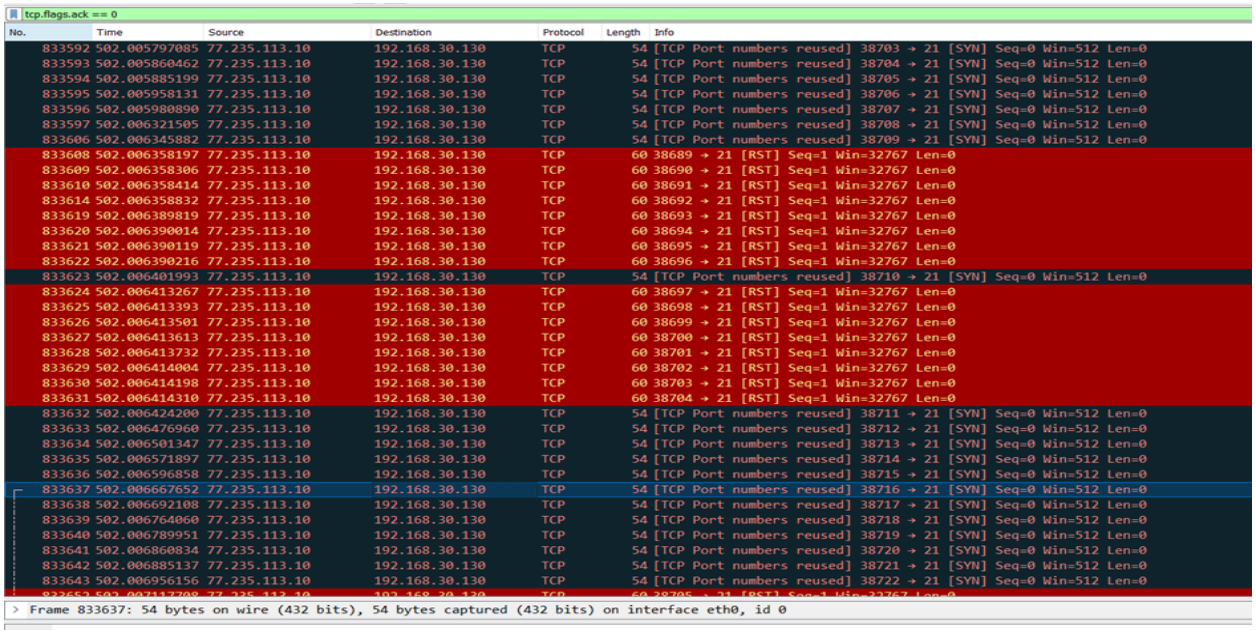
The group Looked at the response headers of the HTTP traffic. HTTP headers often contain server details. We filtered using **http.response** and identified the server to be **nginx/1.19.0**



3.4 Attack carried out

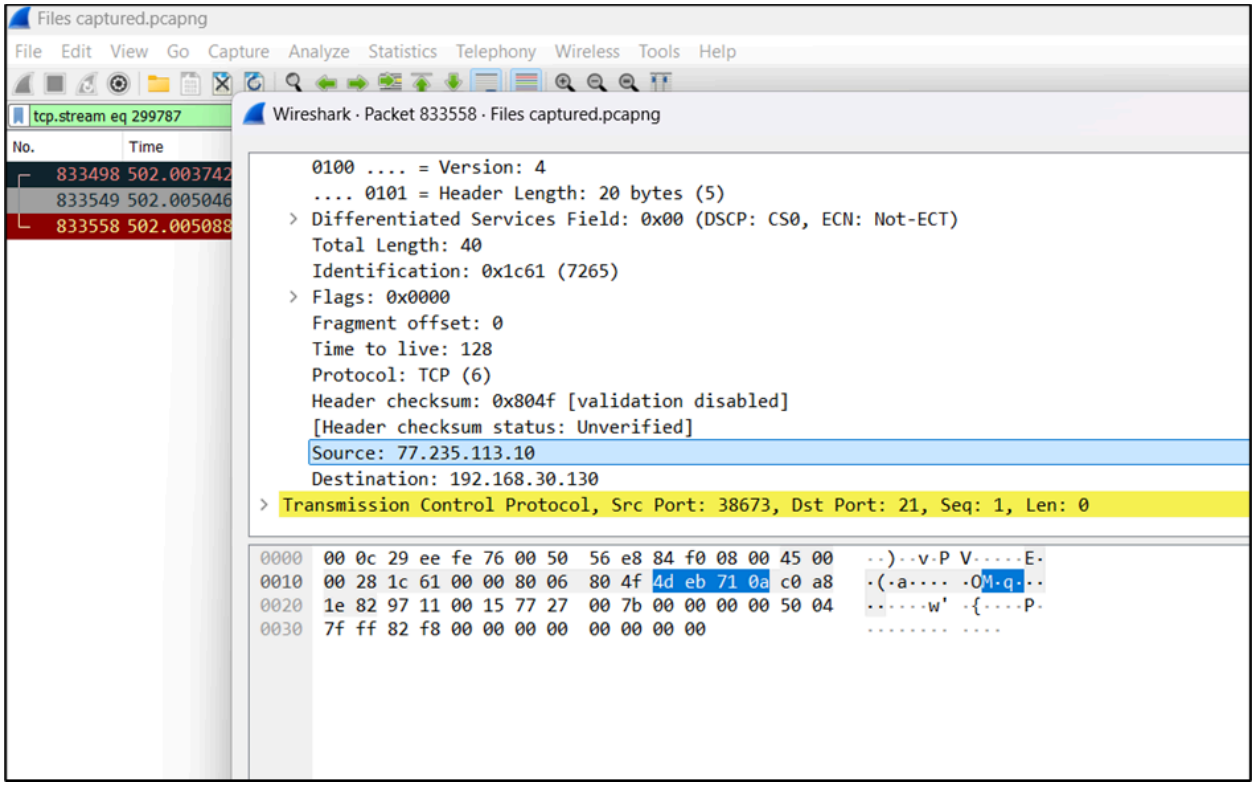
To identify the type of attack carried out by the attacker, the group looked for signs of abnormal traffic. We used the filters **tcp.flags.syn == 1 and tcp.flags ack == 0** to see if there's a large number of SYN requests without responses**.** These filters specifically targetted where the SYN flag was activated. We identified numerous SYN packets being sent within seconds of each other from two source ips **77.235.113.10** to a possible FTP server **192.168.30.130** using port **21** to overwhelm the server suggesting a **Denial of Service attack** using **: SYN Flooding .**



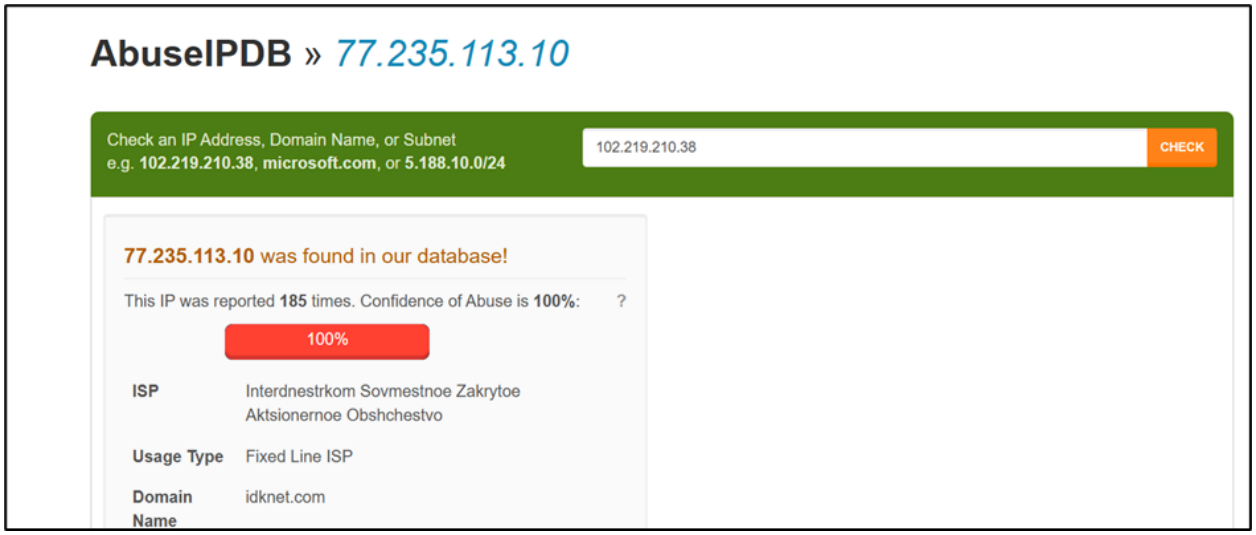


3.5 Source IP of the Attacker

The group identified the ip of the attacker by examining the source IP address of the malicious traffic involved in the DoS attack.Following the tcp stream we identified the ip to be **77.235.113.10**



Further analysis using **IPABUSE DB,** an ip blacklisting site used to report and find IP addresses that have been associated with malicious activity online.The IP **77.235.113.10** confidence of abuse is 100% having been reported 186 times.



3.6 Country of the Attacker

The group used MaxMind GeoLite2 database for geolocation in wireshark and VirusTotal, an online service that analyzes suspicious files, domains, IPs and URLs to detect malware and other breaches, and automatically share them with the security community.

Setting up Maxmind GeoIP

To use Maxmind Geoip databases in Wireshark we performed the following steps.

1.Download the MaxMind GeoIP Database

We created accounts on Maxmind and signed up for a free account to download the GeoLite2 database.
We downloaded the **GeoLite2 Country,**,**GeoLite2 City** and **GeoLite2 ASN** (Autonomous System Number) databases in `.mmdb` format.

2. Extract the Database Files

- After downloading the `.tar.gz` file for each database, we extracted it using an extraction tool to a preferred directory

3. Configure Wireshark to Use the GeoIP Database

- Open **Wireshark**.
- Go to **Edit** > **Preferences**.

4. Set GeoIP Database Paths

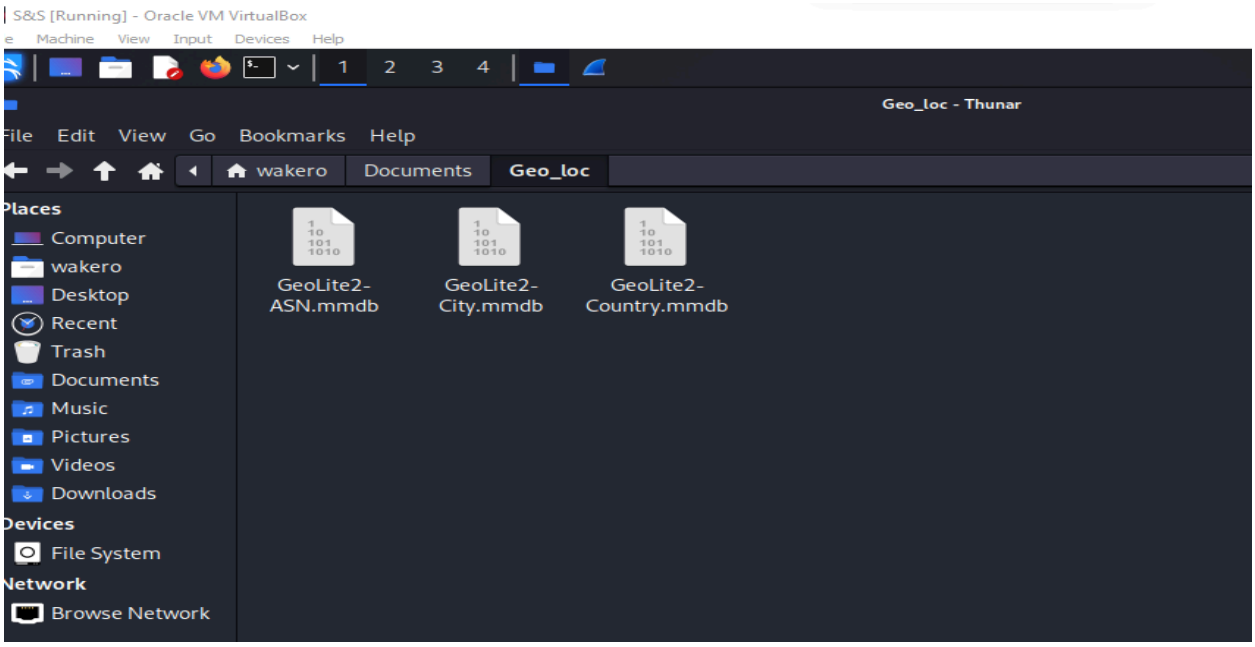
- In the Preferences window, expand the **Name Resolution** section from the left-side menu.
- Click on **GeoIP database directories**.
- Add the path to the folder where the extracted `.mmdb` files are located.

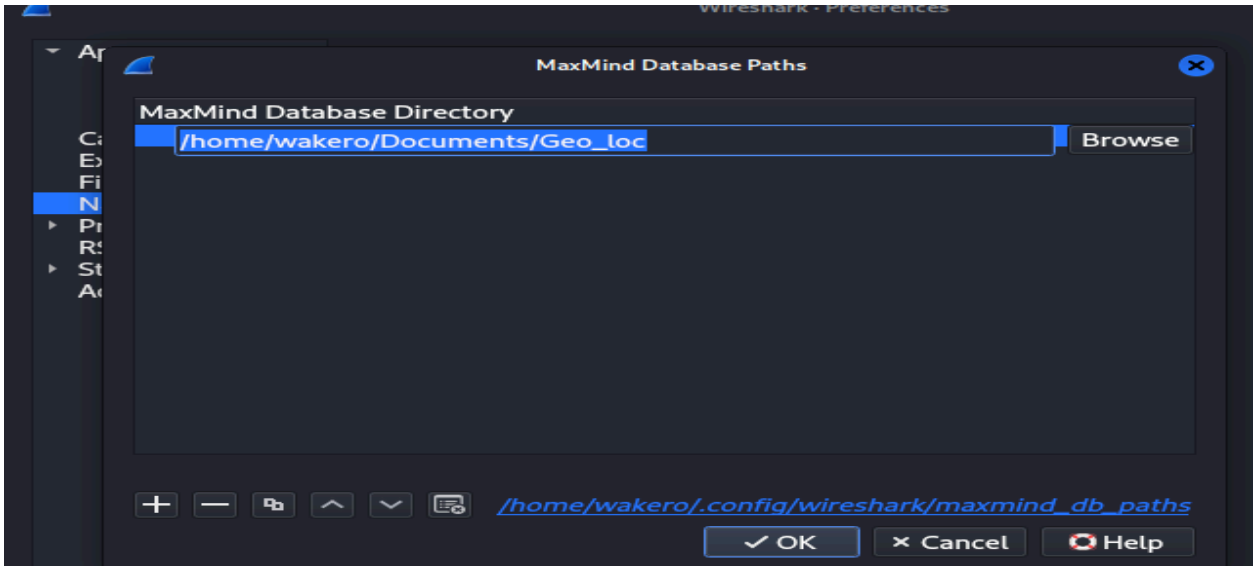
5. Enable Name Resolution

- Still within the **Preferences** window, ensure the following options are enabled under **Name Resolution**:
    - **Resolve IP addresses** (this will enable Wireshark to use the GeoIP database to resolve IPs to locations).
    - **Use GeoIP Lookup** -this is necessary to display geographic data.

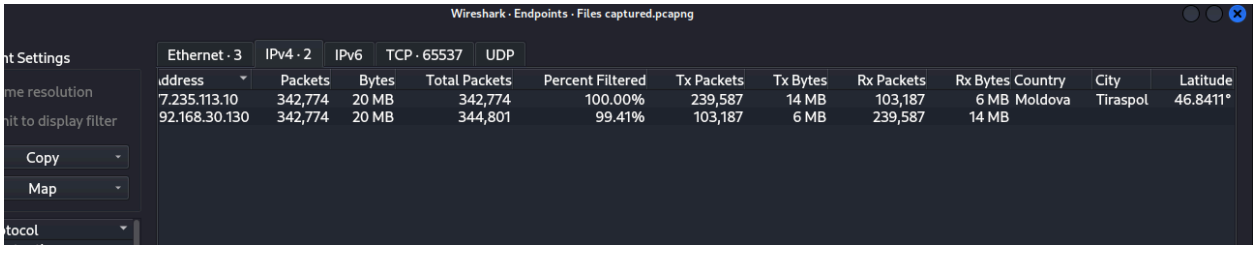
6. Restart Wireshark

- After configuring the database paths and enabling IP resolution, restart Wireshark to
- Apply the changes.

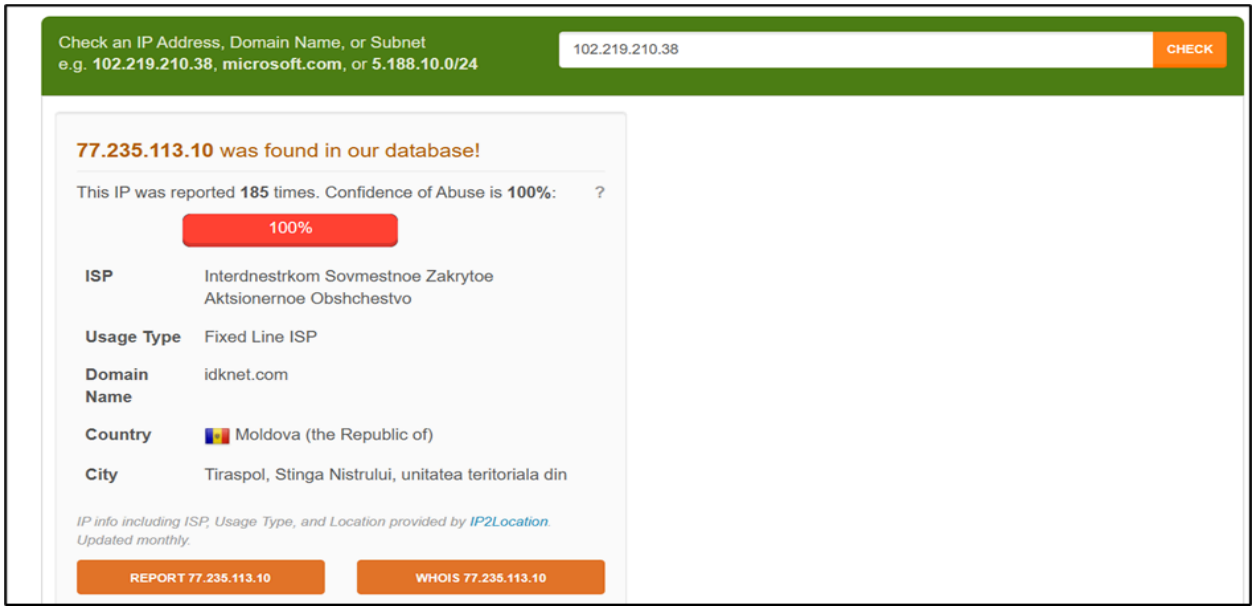


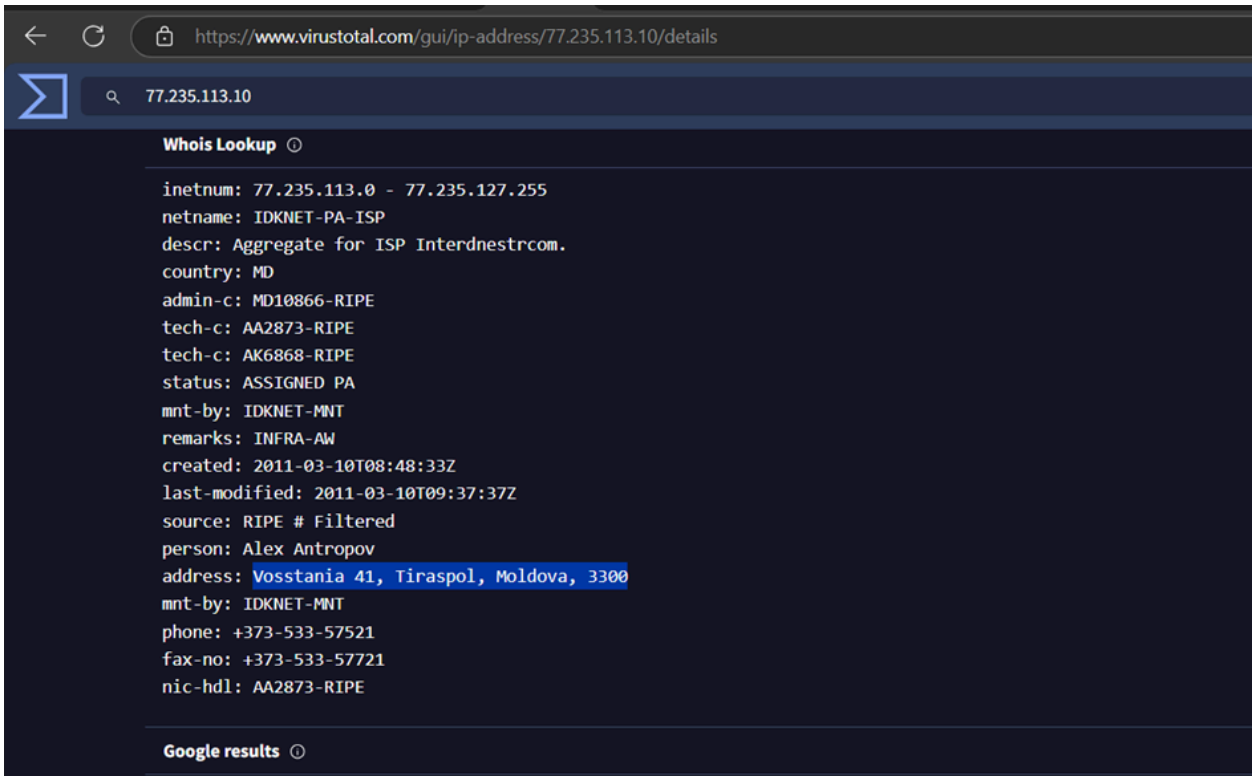


The attacker's IP address **77.235.113.10** country of origin resolves to Moldova



Using **VirusTotal** Whois lookup feature and **AbuseIPDB** the country still resolves to Moldova..

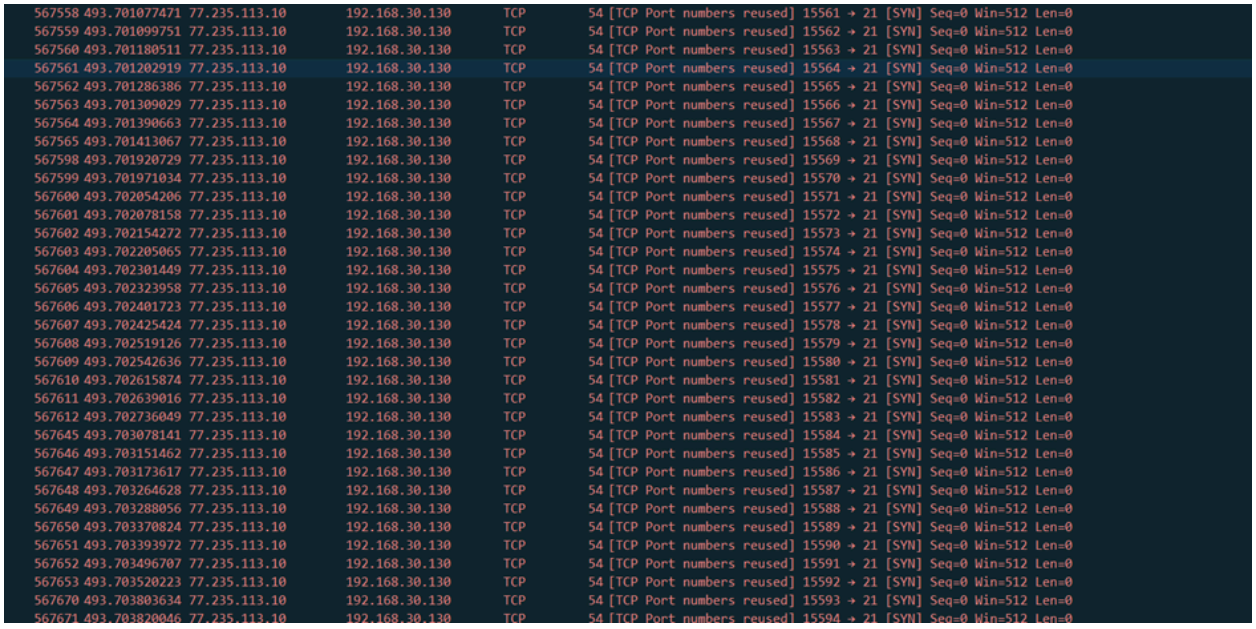

Check an IP Address, Domain Name, or Subnet
e.g. 102.219.210.38, microsoft.com, or 5.188.10.0/24
102.219.210.38
CHECK
77.235.113.10 was found in our database!
This IP was reported 185 times. Confidence of Abuse is 100%:
?
100%
ISP
Interdnestrkom Sovmestnoe Zakrytoe Aktsionernoe Obshchestvo
Usage Type
Fixed Line ISP
Domain Name
idknet.com
Country
Moldova (the Republic of)
City
Tiraspol, Stinga Nistrului, unitatea teritoriala din
IP info including ISP, Usage Type, and Location provided by IP2Location.
Updated monthly.
REPORT 77.235.113.10
WHOIS 77.235.113.10

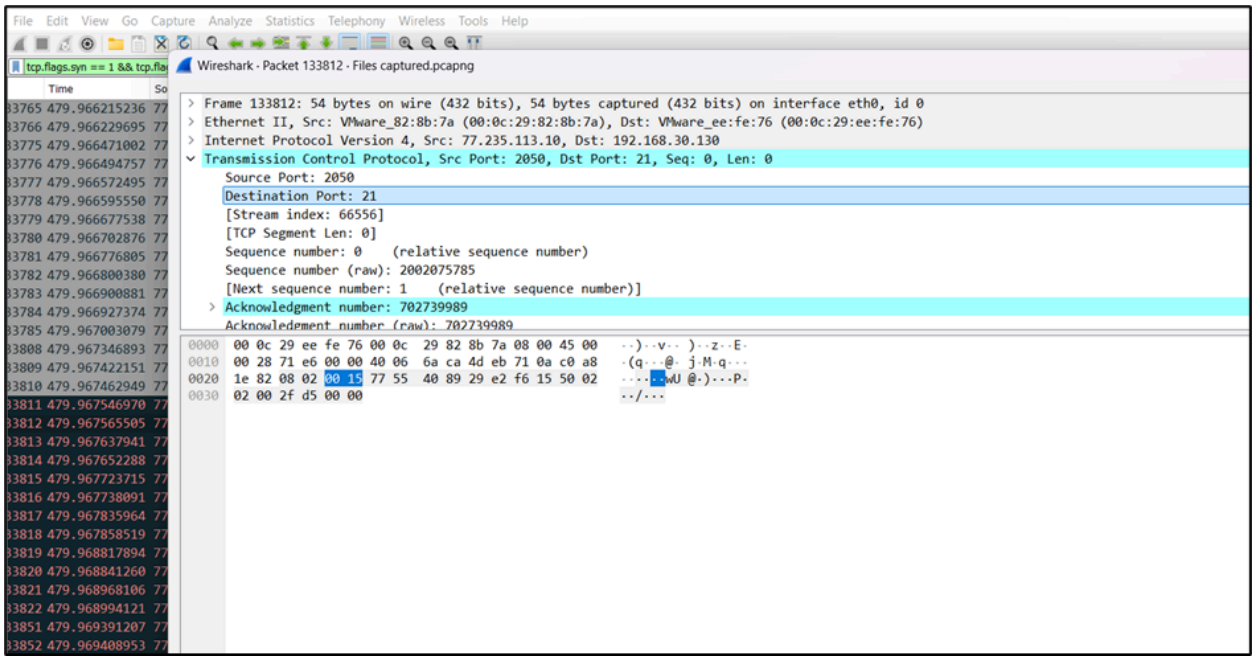

https://www.virustotal.com/gui/ip-address/77.235.113.10/details
77.235.113.10
Whois Lookup
inetnum: 77.235.113.0 - 77.235.127.255
netname: IDKNET-PA-ISP
descr: Aggregate for ISP Interdnestrcom.
country: MD
admin-c: MD10866-RIPE
tech-c: AA2873-RIPE
tech-c: AK6868-RIPE
status: ASSIGNED PA
mnt-by: IDKNET-MNT
remarks: INFRA-AW
created: 2011-03-10T08:48:33Z
last-modified: 2011-03-10T09:37:37Z
source: RIPE # Filtered
person: Alex Antropov
address: Vosstania 41, Tiraspol, Moldova, 3300
mnt-by: IDKNET-MNT
phone: +373-533-57521
fax-no: +373-533-57721
nic-hdl: AA2873-RIPE
Google results

3.7 Service denied to users

After identifying the type of attack to be a denial of service: SYN Flood attack. The group checked for disrupted services by analyzing **port 21** which was target by the attack.The group identified the service being denied to the users to be :

Files Transfer - series of these SYN packets from the same source IP (77.235.113.10) in a short time frame, especially without receiving **SYN-ACK** responses from the server, strongly suggests a SYN flood attack targeting the FTP service on port 21.





Conclusion

In this assignment, we successfully utilized Wireshark to analyze network traffic and investigate a potential security incident on a company web server. Our detailed analysis of the provided pcap file revealed several critical aspects of the attack:

1. Compromised Credentials: We identified the victim's username and password through the use of HTTP POST request analysis.
2. Server Identification: The server involved in the incident was identified as nginx/1.19.0.
3. Attack Method: The attacker employed a Denial of Service (DoS) attack using SYN Flood, overwhelming the server with numerous SYN packets.
4. Attacker's IP Address: The source IP of the attacker was determined to be 77.235.113.10, confirmed to be associated with malicious activity.
5. Geolocation: The attacker's location was traced using the MaxMind GeoLite2 database and VirusTotal.

Recommendations

To prevent similar incidents in the future, we recommend the following measures:

1. Enhanced Security Protocols: Implement stronger authentication mechanisms, such as multi-factor authentication (MFA), to protect user credentials.
2. Regular Monitoring: Continuously monitor network traffic for unusual patterns and potential threats using tools like Wireshark.
3. Firewall and IDS/IPS: Deploy and configure firewalls and Intrusion Detection/Prevention Systems (IDS/IPS) to detect and mitigate DoS attacks.
4. Employee Training: Educate employees on cybersecurity best practices to reduce the risk of credential theft and other social engineering attacks.
5. Regular Updates: Keep all software, including web servers, up to date with the latest security patches to minimize vulnerabilities.

By implementing these recommendations, the organization can enhance its security posture and better protect against future attacks. This assignment has provided valuable insights into the importance of network traffic analysis and the role it plays in maintaining cybersecurity.