

Assignment 2

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The script is written in Lua and works by exploiting the fact that Tor SNI is recognisable to a certain extent.

The script finds Tor packets using SNI(explained later) and then marks it by showing Tor! In the protocol field. If the steps in the README are followed for coloring rules then the packets will also have a white background with red text for easy identification. Furthermore a protocol subtree is added with the following info-

Tor Traffic Detected

Tor Traffic Detected: True

Detection Type: Known Tor IP

Once a Tor packet is identified from its TLS handshake using SNI then all traffic to and from that **destination IP** is marked as Tor traffic as we have essentially identified the guard node that we have connected to.

Detecting using Tor SNI

The following is a snippet of the source code from Tor which deals with generating the SNI(found in the file tor\src\lib\tls\tortls_nss.c) -

```
if (!is_server) {
    /* Set a random SNI */
    char *fake_hostname = crypto_random_hostname(4,25,
"www.", ".com");
    SSL_SetURL(tls->ssl, fake_hostname);
    tor_free(fake_hostname);
}
SECStatus s = SSL_ResetHandshake(ssl, is_server ?
PR_TRUE : PR_FALSE);
if (s != SECSuccess) {
    tls_log_errors(tls, LOG_WARN, LD_CRYPT, "resetting
handshake state");
}
```

```
crypto_random_hostname(int min_rand_len, int max_rand_len, const char *prefix,
const char *suffix)
{
    char *result, *rand_bytes;
    int randlen, rand_bytes_len;
    size_t resultlen, prefixlen;

    if (max_rand_len > MAX_DNS_LABEL_SIZE)
        max_rand_len = MAX_DNS_LABEL_SIZE;
    if (min_rand_len > max_rand_len)
        min_rand_len = max_rand_len;

    randlen = crypto_rand_int_range(min_rand_len, max_rand_len+1);

    prefixlen = strlen(prefix);
    resultlen = prefixlen + strlen(suffix) + randlen + 16;

    /* (x+(n-1))/n is an idiom for dividing x by n, rounding up to the nearest
    * integer and thus why this construction. */
    rand_bytes_len = ((randlen*5)+7)/8;
    if (rand_bytes_len % 5)
        rand_bytes_len += 5 - (rand_bytes_len%5);
    rand_bytes = tor_malloc(rand_bytes_len);
    crypto_rand(rand_bytes, rand_bytes_len);

    result = tor_malloc(resultlen);
    memcpy(result, prefix, prefixlen);
    base32_encode(result+prefixlen, resultlen-prefixlen,
rand_bytes, rand_bytes_len);
    tor_free(rand_bytes);
    strcpy(result+prefixlen+randlen, suffix, resultlen-(prefixlen+randlen));

    return result;
}
```

From this we can basically infer the following things -

- The SNI is random
- It always has the prefix "www." and ends with ".com"
- It uses base32 encoding to generate the random string
- Tor generates a random sequence of bytes with a length between 4 and 25 bytes

Base32 encoding converts 5 bits of data into 1 character. This means that every byte (8 bits) of random data produces $8/5 = 1.6$ Base32 characters. 4 bytes of random data $\rightarrow (4 \times 8) \div 5 = 6.4 \rightarrow$ rounded up to **7 Base32 characters**. 25 bytes of random data $\rightarrow (25 \times 8) \div 5 = 40$ **Base32 characters**.

Base32 encoding works in blocks of 5 bytes (40 bits), which encode into 8 Base32 characters. However, if the random byte length is not a multiple of 5, the last block will be a partial block. Tor does not use padding in its Base32 encoding, so the length of the Base32 string depends on the number of bits in the last block.

If the random byte length is a multiple of 5 (e.g., 5, 10, 15, 20, 25 bytes), the Base32 string will have a length that is a multiple of 8 (e.g., 8, 16, 24, 32, 40 characters).

If the random byte length is not a multiple of 5, the last block will encode fewer than 8 characters. The valid lengths for the Base32 string depend on how many bits are left in the last block:

1 byte (8 bits): Encodes to 2 Base32 characters.

2 bytes (16 bits): Encodes to 4 Base32 characters.

3 bytes (24 bits): Encodes to 5 Base32 characters.

4 bytes (32 bits): Encodes to 7 Base32 characters.

Combining full and partial blocks, the valid lengths for the Base32 string are: 7, 8, 15, 16, 23, 24, 31, 32, 39, 40 characters.

So using the above info for each packet the script checks if its a potential Tor packet by -

- The dissector calls `sni_field()`, which retrieves the TLS Server Name Indication (SNI) value (if present) from the packet
- The function `is_tor_sni_pattern(sni_str)` is then invoked with the SNI string. This function performs several checks:
 - It verifies that the SNI fits the pattern `www.<domain>.com`
 - It ensures the `<domain>` part (the random Base32-encoded segment) falls within a valid length range (7–40 characters)
 - It iterates through each character of the domain part to guarantee that only valid Base32 characters (letters a–z and digits 2–7) are present.
 - It confirms that the length matches one of the expected values or follows a valid partial block pattern in Base32 encoding.
- If all these conditions are met, it is highly likely that the SNI was generated by Tor, so `is_tor_sni_pattern` returns true.
- The destination IP is marked as a Tor IP

187	17.105357	10.3.32.244	148.251.198.100	TCP	66 12661 → 9001 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM
188	17.105796	148.251.198.100	10.3.32.244	TCP	66 9001 → 12661 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=42340 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM WS=2048
189	17.105898	10.3.32.244	148.251.198.100	TCP	54 12661 → 9001 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=131328 Len=0
190	17.113222	10.3.32.244	46.23.72.81	Tor!	66 [Tor!] 12662 → 443 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM
191	17.113589	46.23.72.81	10.3.32.244	Tor!	66 [Tor!] 443 → 12662 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=42340 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM WS=2048
192	17.113644	10.3.32.244	46.23.72.81	Tor!	54 [Tor!] 12662 → 443 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=131328 Len=0
193	17.159459	10.3.32.244	148.251.198.100	TLSv1.3	571 Client Hello (SNI=www.nclhzuzrg55oqui.com) [Tor!] Client Hello (SNI=www.nclhzuzrg55oqui.com)
194	17.159741	10.3.32.244	46.23.72.81	Tor!	571 Client Hello (SNI=www.nclhzuzrg55oqui.com) [Tor!] Client Hello (SNI=www.nclhzuzrg55oqui.com)
195	17.159869	148.251.198.100	10.3.32.244	TCP	60 9001 → 12662 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=131328 Len=0
196	17.160129	46.23.72.81	10.3.32.244	Tor!	60 [Tor!] 443 → 12662 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=518 Win=43008 Len=0

The client Hello with the random SNI can be seen here