CNSL Assignment 10

Facebook Packet Analysis

Aim

Capture packets using Wireshark, write the exact packet capture filter expressions to accomplish the following and save the output in file:

- 1. Capture all TCP traffic to/from Facebook, during the time when you log in to your Facebook account
- 2. Capture all HTTP traffic to/from Facebook, when you log in to your Facebook account
- 3. Write a DISPLAY filter expression to count all TCP packets (captured under item #1) that have the flags SYN, PSH, and RST set. Show the fraction of packets that had each flag set.
- 4. Count how many TCP packets you received from / sent to Face book, and how many of each were also HTTP packets.

Software / Hardware Requirements

- Software: Wireshark (latest version)
- Hardware: Computer with active internet connection
- Operating System: Windows/Linux/MacOS

Theory

Wireshark is a widely used network protocol analyzer that captures and inspects packets in real time. It allows users to apply **capture filters** (to restrict packets being recorded) and **display filters** (to analyze specific traffic after capture).

Key concepts:

- Capture Filter: Applied before capturing packets, based on Berkeley Packet Filter (BPF) syntax.
- **Display Filter**: Applied *after* capturing, using Wireshark's own syntax.
- TCP Flags: Control flags in TCP header such as SYN (synchronize), PSH (push), RST (reset).

Steps with sample output

- 1. Capture all TCP traffic to/from Facebook, during the time when you log in to your Facebook account:
 - Open Wireshark protocol analyzer in ensp mode.
 - Login to facebook.com and log out immediately once the home page appears.
 - Switch back to Wireshark protocol analyzer and press stop. Save the pcapng file.
 - Now, the analyzation begins. Firstly, apply the filter of Facebook IP address and tcp. The output is shown in below figure.

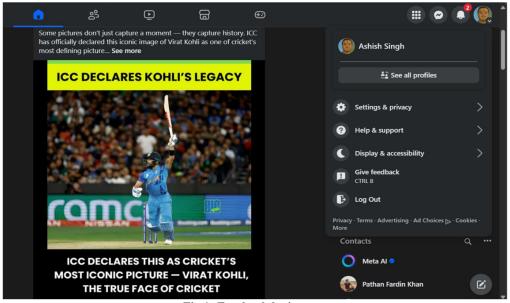


Fig 1: Facebook login page

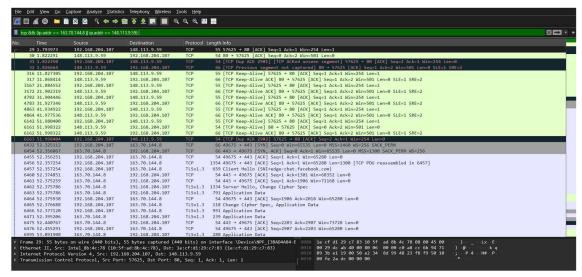


Fig 2: Facebook ip & tcp filter

2. Capture all HTTP/HTTPS traffic to/from Facebook, when you log in to your Facebook account.

Now, apply the Facebook IP and http/https filter. The output of the following is shown below figure.

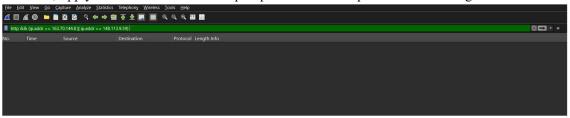


Fig 3: packets with http filter.

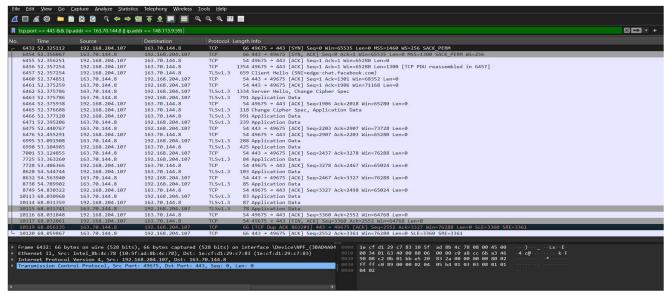


Fig 4: packets with https filter.

3. Write a DISPLAY filter expression to count all TCP packets that have the flags SYN, PSH, and RST set. Show the fraction of packets that had each flag set.

• Now, apply the filter of Facebook IP and tcp.flag.syn == 1. The output is shown in the following figure.



Fig 5: packets with SYN flag filter.

Now, on the header menu, click the statistics options and select the option saying protocol hierarchy. This will result in the stats about the protocol. The output is shown in the below figure.

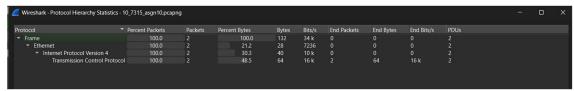


Fig 6: SYN flag protocol hierarchy.

• Now, apply the filter of Facebook IP with push flag tcp.flags.psh == 1. The output of the following is shown in the following figure.

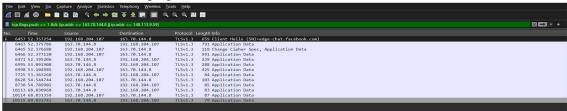


Fig 7: PUSH flag filter.

Now, generate the protocol hierarchy of the same.

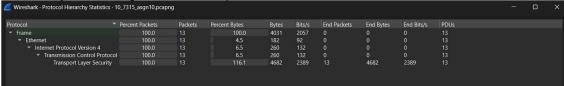


Fig 8: PUSH flag protocol hierarchy.

• Repeat the above steps with reset flag filter also. The output is shown in the following figure.

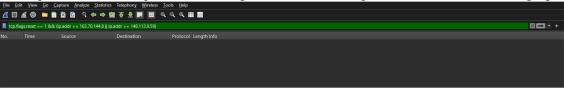


Fig 9: Reset flag filter.



Fig 10: RESET flag protocol hierarchy.

- 4. Count how many TCP packets you received from / sent to Facebook, and how many of each were also HTTP packets.
 - Now, simply apply the Facebook IP and top filter and check the protocol hierarchy status. This will tell the number of packets sent and received from Facebook. The output is shown in the below figure.

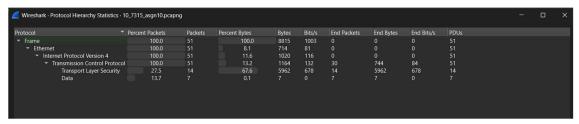


Fig 11: TCP packet count.

For the count of http packets apply the Facebook IP and http filter and check the protocol hierarchy status. This will tell the number of packets sent and received from Facebook. The output is shown in the below figure.



Fig 10: HTTP packet count.

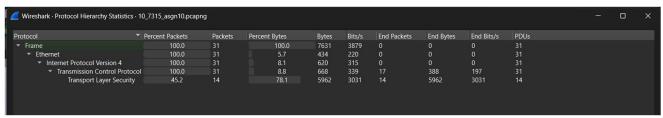


Fig 11: HTTPS packet count.

Conclusion

Wireshark successfully captured and filtered Facebook login traffic. Using filters, we analyzed TCP packets with SYN, PSH, RST flags and compared the number of TCP vs HTTP packets exchanged.