CNSL Assignment 12

Secure Socket Layer

Aim

To study the **SSL protocol** by capturing the packets using **Wireshark** tool while visiting any SSL secure website (banking, e-commerce etc.).

Motivation

With the rise of online banking, e-commerce, and digital communication, protecting sensitive data has become essential. **SSL/TLS protocols** secure internet communication by providing encryption, authentication, and integrity. Studying SSL with Wireshark helps learners visualize how secure connections are established in real time, bridging theory with practical cybersecurity skills.

Learning Outcome

Students will be able to capture and analyze the **SSL handshake process** using Wireshark and understand how SSL ensures secure communication over the internet.

Software and Hardware Requirements Hardware:

- Computer/Laptop with Internet access
- Minimum 4GB RAM, 20GB free disk space
- Operating System: Windows/Linux/Mac
- · Wireshark (latest version)
- Web browser (**Chrome/Firefox/Edge**)
- Access to an SSL secured website (e.g., https://www.amazon.com or https://www.hdfcbank.com)

Theory

SSL Protocol

SSL (Secure Socket Layer) and its successor TLS (Transport Layer Security) are cryptographic protocols designed to provide secure communication over the Internet. SSL works on top of the TCP layer and below the Application layer (HTTP/SMTP/FTP etc.).

It ensures:

- Authentication (server/client identity verification)
- Confidentiality (data encryption)
- Integrity (message integrity using MACs)

SSL Handshake Phases

- Client Hello: Client sends supported cipher suites and a random number.
- 2. Server Hello: Server selects cipher suite, sends certificate and random number.

- 3. **Key Exchange**: Pre-master secret exchange (RSA/Diffie-Hellman).
- 4. Session Key Generation: Both parties generate session keys.
- 5. **Finished Messages**: Communication encrypted with symmetric keys begins.

Procedure

- 1. Open Wireshark.
- 2. Select an active network interface (Wi-Fi or Ethernet).
- 3. In the filter bar, type: ssl || tls (to capture only SSL/TLS packets).
- 4. Open a web browser and visit any **SSL-secured site** (e.g., https://www.amazon.com).
- 5. Observe packets being captured in Wireshark.
- 6. Identify the following packets in the capture:
 - o Client Hello
 - o Server Hello
 - Certificate
 - Key Exchange
 - Finished messages
- 7. Stop the capture after sufficient packets are collected.
- 8. Analyze the details of SSL handshake messages.
 - Expand each packet in Wireshark to study fields such as cipher suite, certificates, key exchange, etc.
- 9. Save the capture for report/reference (.pcap file).

Expected Output with Steps

- 1) To study the SSL protocol by capturing the packets using Wireshark tool while visiting any SSL secured website (banking, e-commerce etc.)
 - Open Wireshark with required interface to capture packets and start capture.
 - Open browser and search "amazon.in".
 - Login to your account and then log out.
 - Close browser and stop the Wireshark capture.

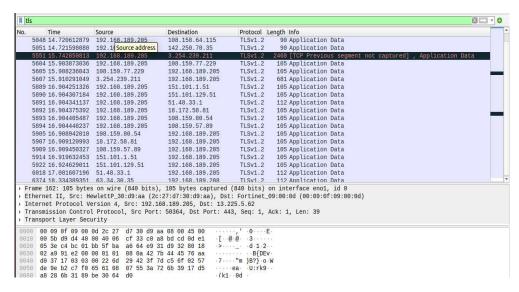
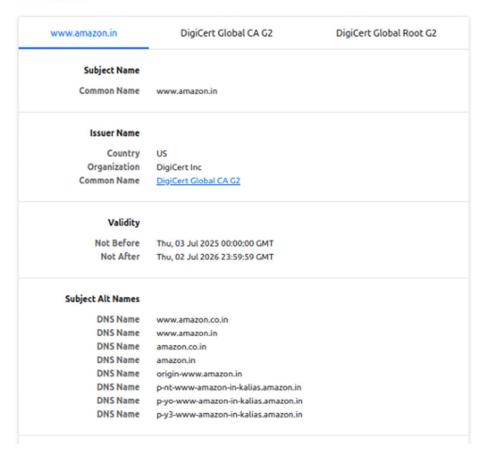


Fig 1: Wireshark packets of Amazon login.

2) SSL Certificate To see the SSL certificate:

- Click on the lock icon displayed on the Address bar.
- Click on the "connection is secure" option.
- Now click on the "certificate" icon to enter the certificate viewer page.

Certificate



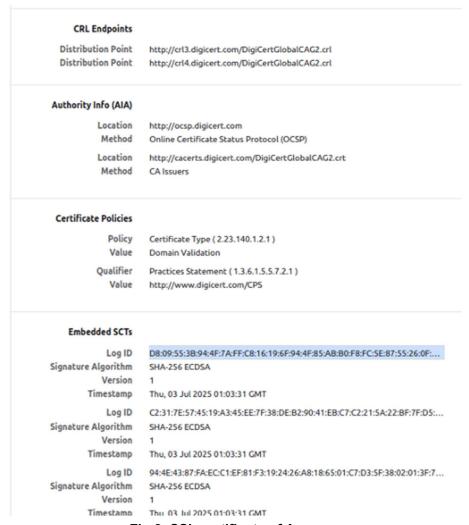


Fig 2: SSL certificate of Amazon.

3) Web page showing secure connection (padlock) The padlock icon means that the website has an SSL/TLS certificate, which encrypts the data being transmitted between your browser and the server.

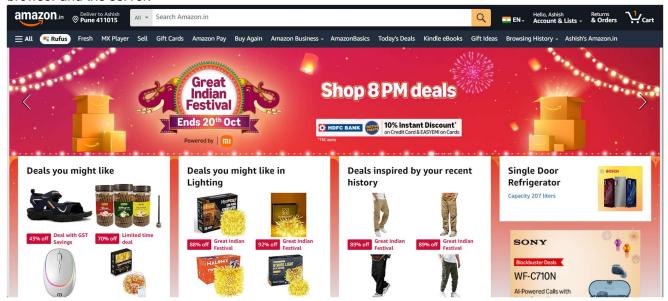


Fig 3: Amazon webpage.

4) Packets description

- Right click on the "Client Hello" packet → Follow → TLS stream.
- This will automatically prepopulate the display filter with the required filter.

Now add SSL condition in that prepopulated filter and press "Enter". Now see the
descriptions of the various data packets of the SSL stream. Our login credentials will be
shown in the "Application data" packet and will be in encrypted format.

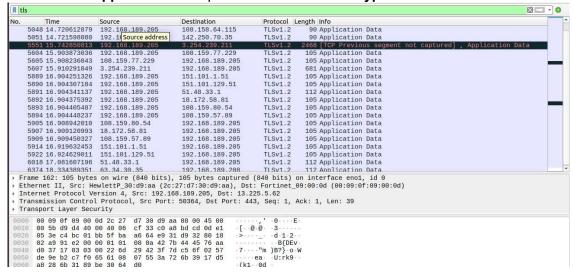


Fig 4: Client hello packet description.

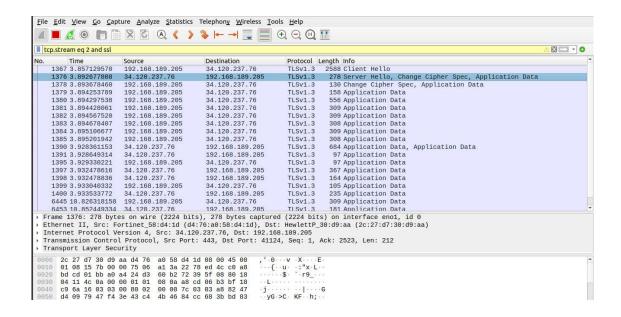


Fig 5: Server hello packet description.

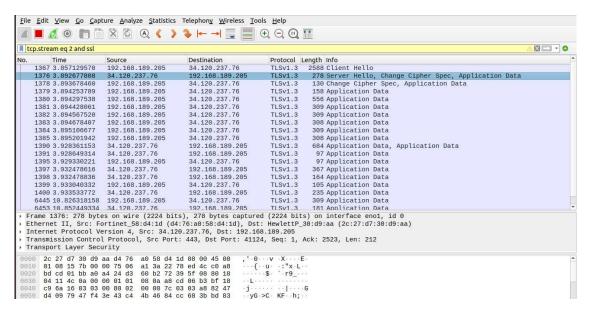


Fig 6: Cipher sec packet description.

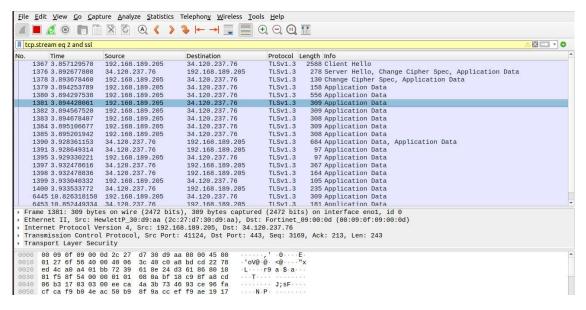


Fig 7: Application Data packet description.