

Activity 1

Network traffic analysis

The goal of this activity is to analyze the traffic generated by a smartphone app. In order to do this, the traffic generated by the application *MyUnits* has been analyzed.

Setup

- *Windows* 10 laptop
- *Android* 10 smartphone
- Home wifi
- *Wireshark* version 3.6.3
- *mitmproxy* version 8.0.0

Description

A PC was connected to home wifi and was configured to operate as a hotspot. A smartphone was connected to the hotspot network and the *Wireshark* application was started on the PC to record the traffic. The *MyUnits* application was started on the smartphone, in order to generate traffic that can be analyzed.

By inspecting the traffic, it is possible to derive the following:

DNS

Two DNS requests were sent by the smartphone to the DNS server in order to retrieve the IP addresses that are associated with the domains

“apilocator.appstudenti.cineca.it” and “units-prod.appstudenti.units.it”.

Both the responses provide a CNAME type RR and an additional A type record (figure 1,2).

In both cases, the CNAME type RR points to “osroute-prod-1.cineca.it” and the A type RR provides the IP address “130.186.6.97”.

TCP

After each DNS request, the TCP three-way-handshake is recorded (figure 3) and the smartphone establishes a TCP connection with the server at the address 130.186.6.97, on port 443, which means that the HTTPS protocol is adopted.

TLS

Thereafter, the TLS Handshake is recorded. In both cases, the server sends a certificate chain which is composed of three certificates (figure 4), as illustrated in the following table.

Subject	Issuer
USERTrust RSA Certification Authority	AAA Certificate Services
Sectigo RSA Organization Validation Secure Ser	USERTrust RSA Certification Authority
* .appstudenti.cineca.it	Sectigo RSA Organization Validation Secure Ser

"AAA Certificate Services" is the trust anchor of the certificate chain and it is possible to verify that the certificate is present in the TrustSet of the smartphone (figure 5).

Following the above analysis, an analysis of the HTTP requests was conducted. The *mitmproxy* application was started on the PC and the smartphone was connected to the home wifi through a proxy. The smartphone proxy settings were configured by providing the IP address of the PC and the port on which *mitmproxy* was running (figure 6,7,8). The *mitmproxy* CA certificate was installed on the smartphone.

By this analysis, it is possible to derive the following:

API & Authentication

The application receives data from the API with the base url "units-prod.appstudenti.cineca.it" and the authentication protocol is Basic Authentication over HTTPS (figure 9).

Certificate Pinning

Some applications employ Certificate Pinning to prevent man-in-the-middle attacks. This means that *mitmproxy*'s certificate will not be accepted by these applications. In the current study, the application was working properly and therefore it follows that Certificate Pinning is not adopted.

Other considerations:

MFA

The application does not support MFA.

Activity 2

MITM demo

The goal of this activity is to demonstrate a form of Man-In-The-Middle attack against a smartphone browser.

Setup

- *Windows* 10 laptop
- *Android* 10 smartphone
- Home wifi
- *Wireshark* version 3.6.3
- *Technitium* DNS Server version 8.1
- *Abyss* Web Server X1 version 2.16.1.9
- *Firefox* browser version 100.1.1

Description

- A PC is connected to the home wifi and acts as a hotspot
- A Web Server and a DNS Server are installed on the PC
- A smartphone is connected to the hotspot network
- The smartphone browser sends an HTTP or an HTTPS request to the website "www.unive.it"
- The DNS Server installed on the PC intercepts the request and redirects the browser to the Web Server installed on the PC
- A simple HTML template that differs from the original site is displayed on the browser
- *Wireshark* is used to analyze traffic

PC Configuration

- I installed *Technitium* Dns Server on the PC
- I installed *Abyss* Web Server on the PC
- I modified Network Connection settings so that the DNS server is not detected automatically but is inserted statically. Then, I inserted the IP address of the computer in the hotspot network, i.e. 192.168.137.1 (figure 10)

Web Server Configuration

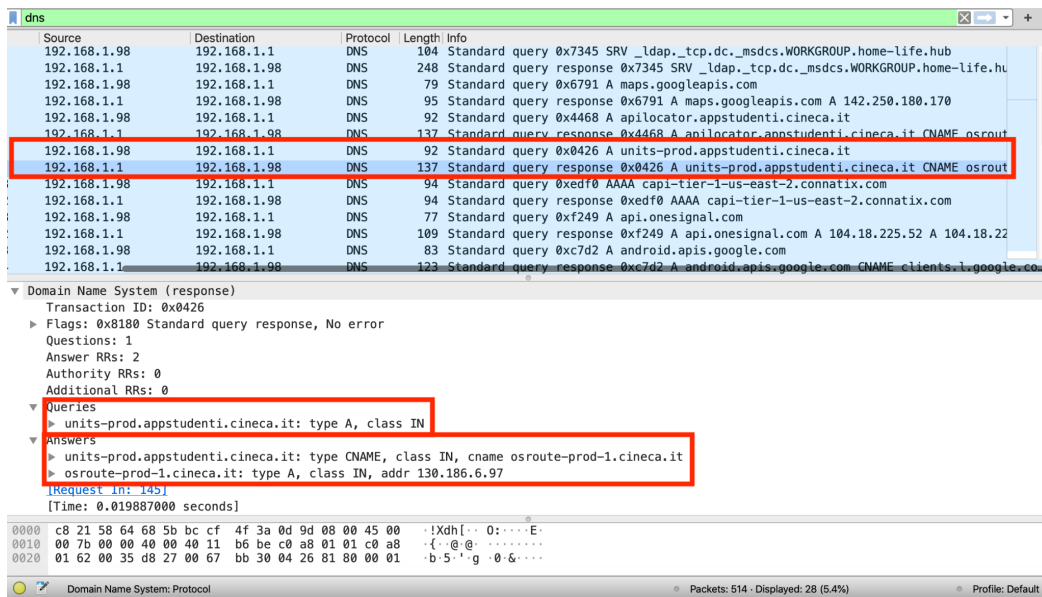
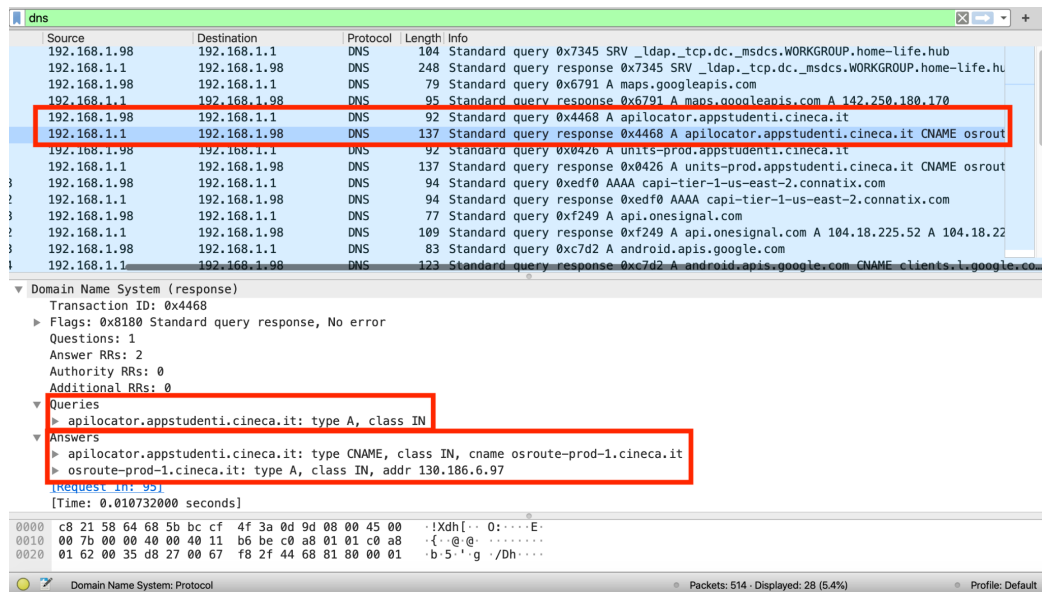
- I put the HTML file of the web page, named index.html, in the appropriate directory, i.e. *htdocs*
- I generated a private key and a self-signed certificate through the *Abyss* console (figure 11)

- I configured the host to be accessible with HTTP and HTTPS (figure 12)
- I configured the host name as “www.unive.it” in the Web Server General settings (figure 12)
- I configured the server to run TLS v1.2 in order to be sure to observe the certificate while inspecting the network traffic

DNS Server Configuration

- I created a new zone called “unive.it” (figure 13)
- I inserted a new record: www A 192.168.137.1 (figure 14)

Appendix Figures



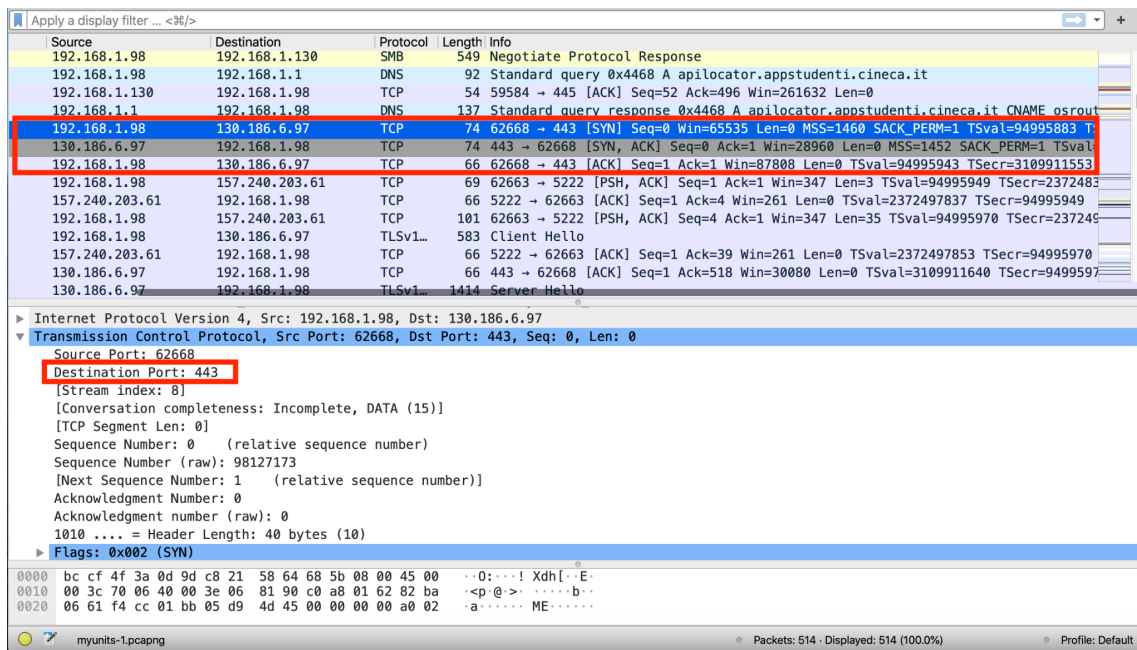


Figure 3: TCP Handshake

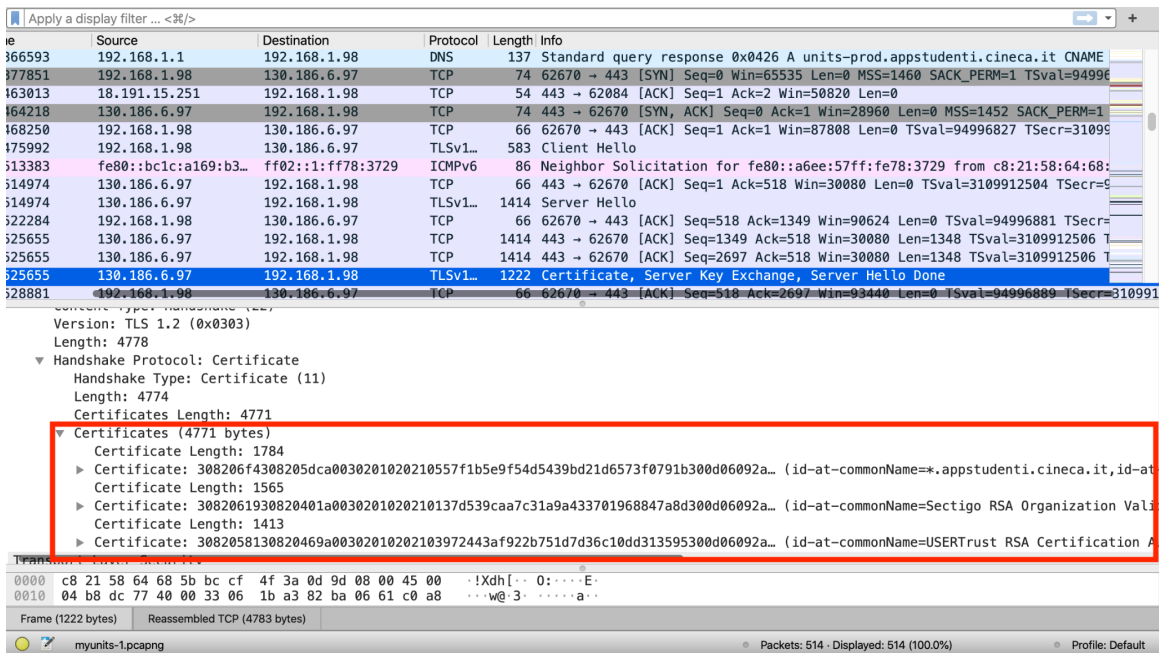


Figure 4: TLS Handshake and Certificates



Figure 5: smartphone TrustSet

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Windows PowerShell
PS C:\Users\utente> ipconfig

Configurazione IP di Windows

Scheda Ethernet Ethernet 2:

    Stato supporto. . . . . : Supporto disconnesso
    Suffisso DNS specifico per connessione:

Scheda Ethernet Ethernet:

    Stato supporto. . . . . : Supporto disconnesso
    Suffisso DNS specifico per connessione:

Scheda Ethernet Ethernet 3:

    Stato supporto. . . . . : Supporto disconnesso
    Suffisso DNS specifico per connessione:

Scheda LAN wireless Connessione alla rete locale (LAN)* 2:

    Stato supporto. . . . . : Supporto disconnesso
    Suffisso DNS specifico per connessione:

Scheda LAN wireless Connessione alla rete locale (LAN)* 5:

    Stato supporto. . . . . : Supporto disconnesso
    Suffisso DNS specifico per connessione:

Scheda LAN wireless Wi-Fi:

    Suffisso DNS specifico per connessione: home-life.hub
    Indirizzo IPv6 locale rispetto al collegamento : fe80::bclc:a169:b36c:aba0%18
    Indirizzo IPv4. . . . . : 192.168.1.98
    Subnet mask . . . . . : 255.255.255.0
    Gateway predefinito . . . . . : 192.168.1.1
  
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Figure 6: IP address of the PC



Figure 7: proxy settings

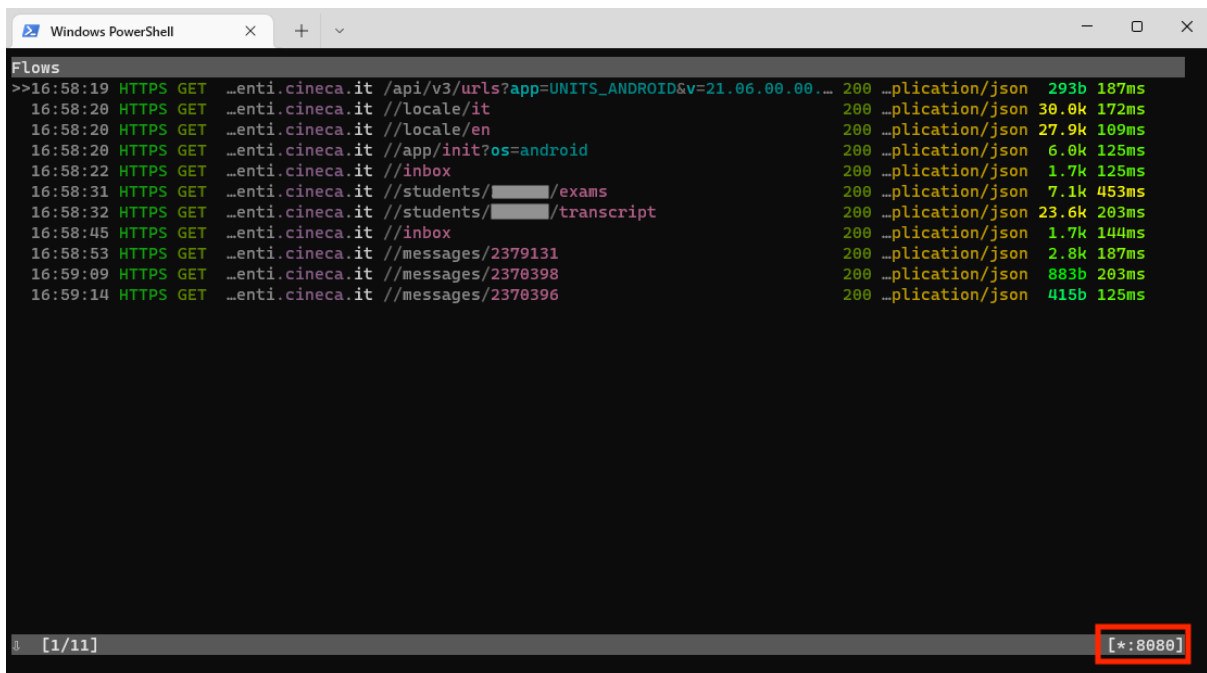


Figure 8: mitmproxy records

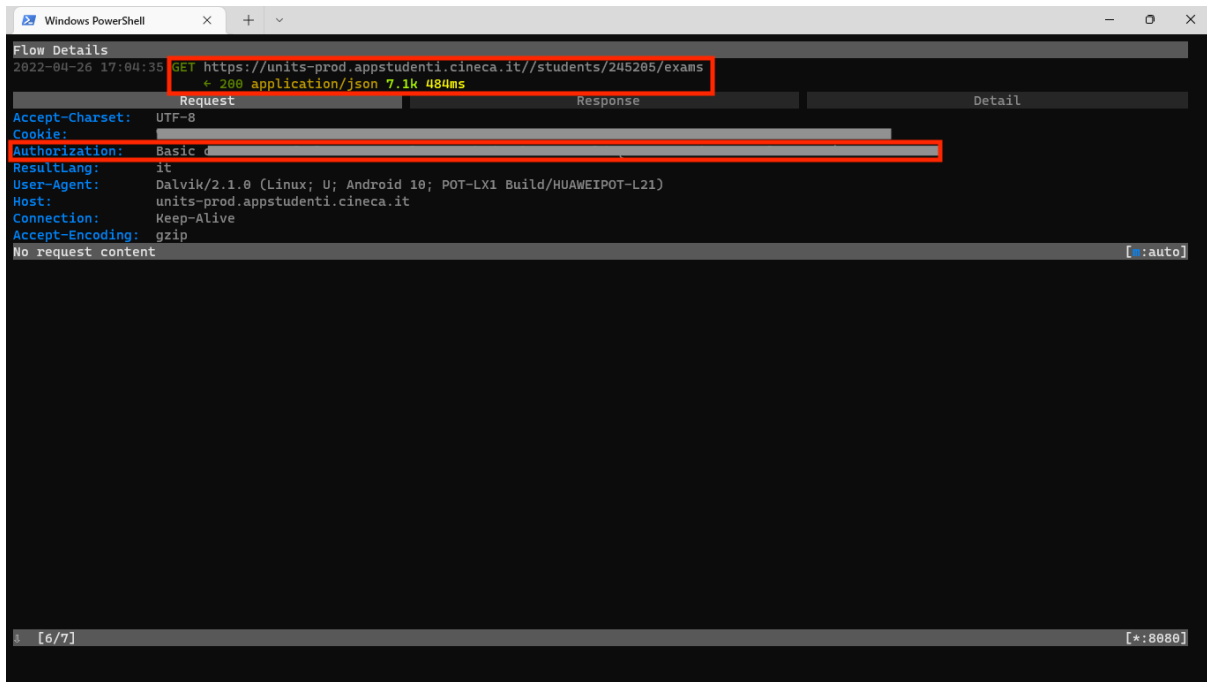


Figure 9: mitmproxy - HTTP GET request

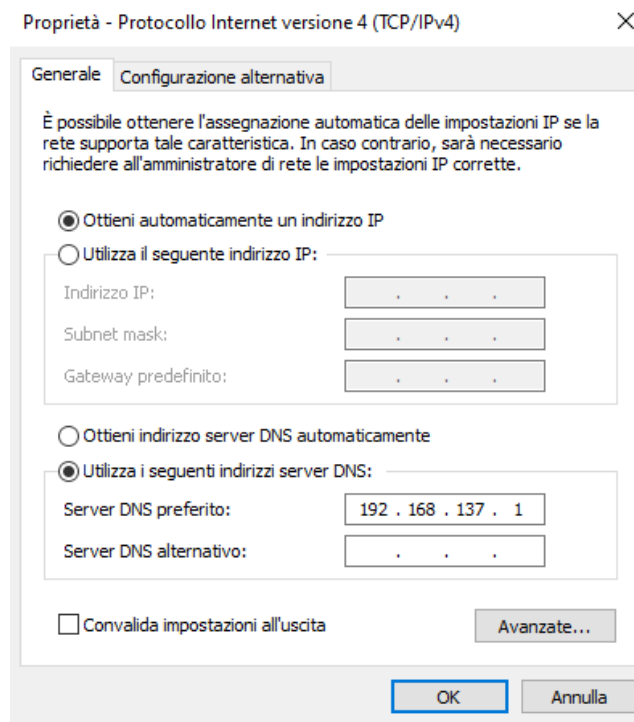


Figure 10: Network settings

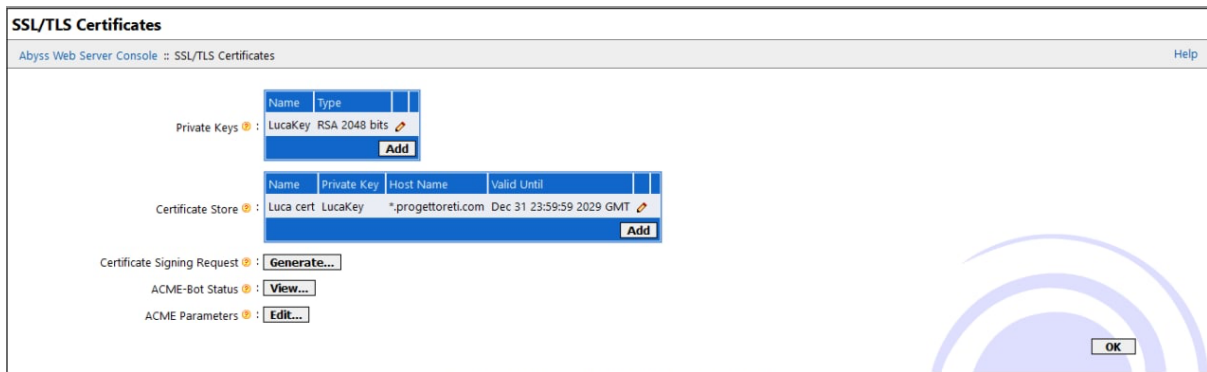


Figure 11: SSL/TLS certificates on the *Abyss* console

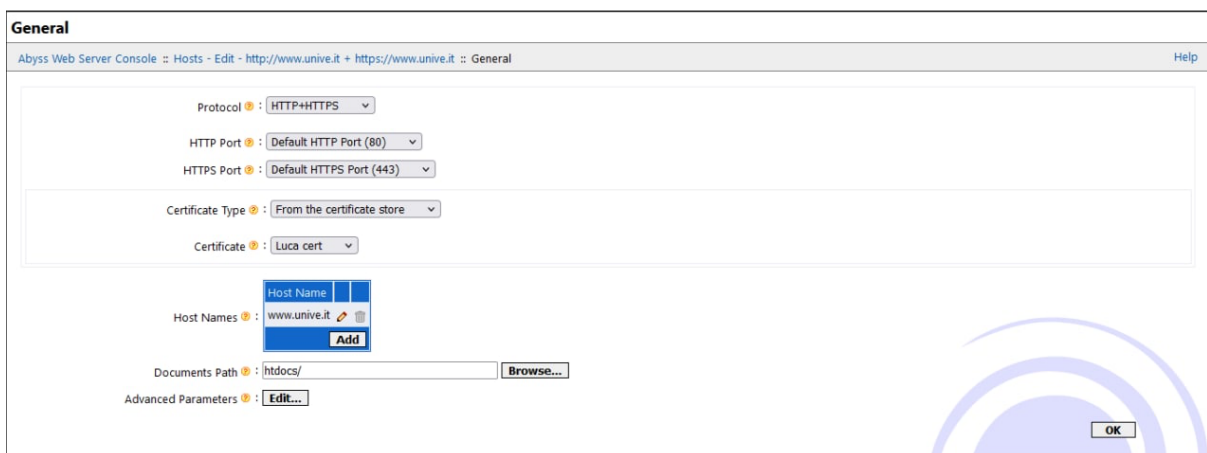


Figure 12: *Abyss* General settings

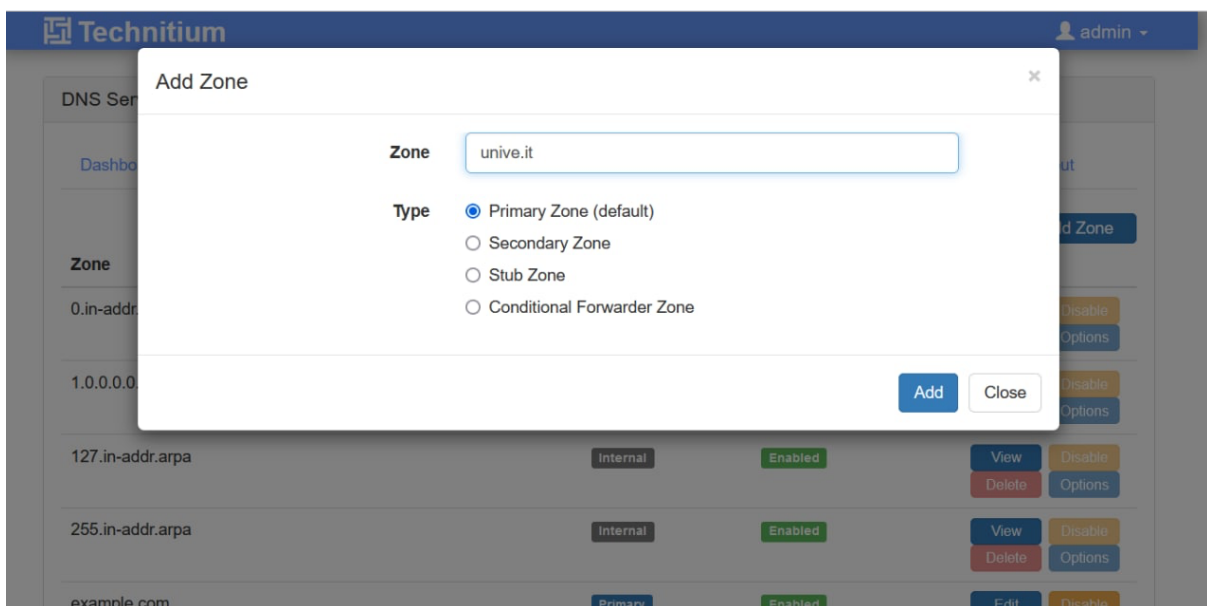


Figure 13: *Technitium* - Zone definition

Edit Record

Name

www

.unive.it

Type

A

▼

TTL

3600

▲▼

IPv4 Address

192.168.137.1

☐ Update reverse (PTR) record

☐ Create reverse zone for PTR record

Comments

Figure 14: *Technitium* - Record definition