

Wireshark Laboratory

Introduction and HTTP

Introduzione alla sicurezza informatica



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Introduction and setup



What is Wireshark?

Wireshark is a free and open-source network protocol analyzer or **packet sniffer**.

Packet sniffer

A packet sniffer captures ("sniffs") messages being sent and received from/by a computer, it works **passively** without sending messages directly.

It is used for multiple purposes such as troubleshooting, analysis, education and so on.



Packet sniffer structure

It consists of two parts:

- **packet capture library**: receives a copy of every link-layer frame that is sent from or received by your computer over a given interface
- **packet analyzer**: displays the contents of all fields within a protocol message.



Packet sniffer structure

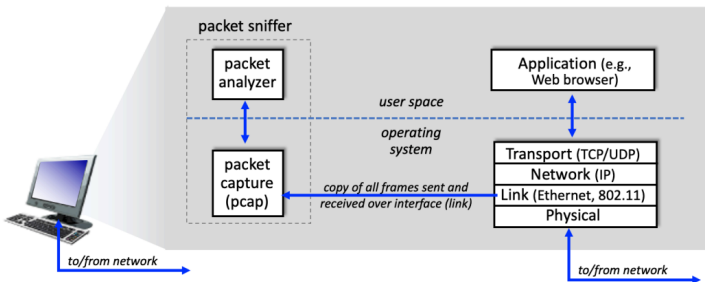


Figure 1: packet sniffer structure



Wireshark window

If you run Wireshark and start capturing you should see a window like this.

The screenshot displays the Wireshark network protocol analyzer interface. The top menu bar includes Apple logo, Wireshark, File, Edit, View, Go, Capture, Analyze, Statistics, Telephony, Wireless, Tools, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations, capture control, and analysis. The main window is divided into three panes:

- Packet List Pane:** Displays a table of captured packets. The columns are No., Time, Source, Destination, Protocol, Length, and Info. The first few packets are TCP and HTTP. A filter bar at the top of this pane shows "Apply a display filter ... <3k/>".
- Packet Details Pane:** Shows the hierarchical structure of the selected packet (No. 57). It includes Ethernet II, Internet Protocol Version 4, and Hypertext Transfer Protocol sections.
- Packet Bytes Pane:** Displays the raw data of the selected packet in hexadecimal and ASCII.

Annotations on the left side of the image point to specific features:

- command menus** points to the top menu bar.
- display filter specification** points to the filter bar in the packet list pane.
- listing of captured packets** points to the packet list pane.
- Details of selected packet** points to the packet details pane.
- packet content (in hexadecimal and ASCII)** points to the packet bytes pane.

At the bottom of the interface, a status bar shows "Time to live (p. 00), 1 byte" and "Packets: 90 - Displayed: 90 (100.0%) - Dropped: 0 (0.0%) - Profile: Default".

- **Windows and Mac:**

`https://www.wireshark.org/download.html`

- **Linux (Debian based):** `apt install wireshark` or
`sudo apt install wireshark`

- **Linux (Red Hat Based):** `dnf install wireshark`



HTTP Lab



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Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Network connection required version

If you are able to run Wireshark on a live network connection do the following steps:

- 1 Start up your web browser
- 2 Start up the Wireshark packet sniffer and enter **http** in the display-filter-specification window
- 3 Wait more than a minute and then begin to capture packets
- 4 Enter the following URL in your browser:
`http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/
HTTP-wireshark-file1.html`
- 5 Stop Wireshark packet capture



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

No-connection version

You can also download a packet trace created with the same steps of the previous slide

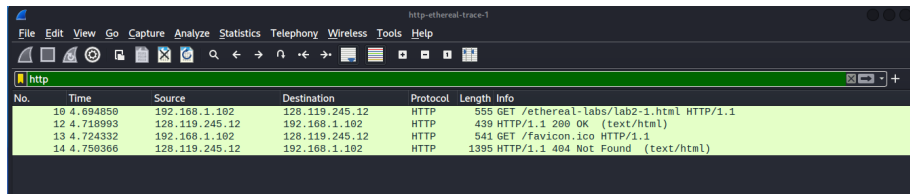
- 1 Download the zip file and extract it
http:
`//gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/wireshark-traces.zip`
- 2 You can load into Wireshark and view the trace selecting *File* → *Open* → *http-ethereal-trace-1*

In both cases the resulting display should look similar to 1 .



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Wireshark window



The image shows a Wireshark window titled 'http-ethereal-trace-1'. The interface includes a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Go, Capture, Analyze, Statistics, Telephony, Wireless, Tools, Help), a toolbar with various icons, and a packet list table. The table has columns for No., Time, Source, Destination, Protocol, and Length. The selected packet is packet 10, which is an HTTP GET request for '/ethereal-labs/lab2-1.html' from 192.168.1.102 to 128.119.245.12. The packet details pane on the right shows the request structure.

| No. | Time | Source | Destination | Protocol | Length | Info |
|-----|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------------------|
| 10 | 4.694850 | 192.168.1.102 | 128.119.245.12 | HTTP | 555 | GET /ethereal-labs/lab2-1.html HTTP/1.1 |
| 12 | 4.718993 | 128.119.245.12 | 192.168.1.102 | HTTP | 439 | HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html) |
| 13 | 4.724332 | 192.168.1.102 | 128.119.245.12 | HTTP | 541 | GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1 |
| 14 | 4.750366 | 128.119.245.12 | 192.168.1.102 | HTTP | 1395 | HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found (text/html) |

Figure: Wireshark window after capture.

Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.1

Is your browser running HTTP version 1.0 or 1.1? What version of HTTP is the server running?



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.1

Is your browser running HTTP version 1.0 or 1.1? What version of HTTP is the server running?

The browser is running HTTP version 1.1

```
Transmission Control Protocol/HTTP/1.1\r\n
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  GET /ethereal-labs/lab2-1.html HTTP/1.1\r\n
  Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu\r\n
```



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.1

Is your browser running HTTP version 1.0 or 1.1? What version of HTTP is the server running?

The browser is running HTTP version 1.1

```
Transmission Control Protocol/HTTP/1.1\r\n
  ▾ Hypertext Transfer Protocol
    ▸ GET /ethereal-labs/lab2-1.html HTTP/1.1\r\n
      Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu\r\n
```

The server is running HTTP version 1.1

```
  ▾ Hypertext Transfer Protocol
    ▸ HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\n
      Date: Tue, 23 Sep 2003 05:29:50 GMT\r\n
```



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.2

What languages (if any) does your browser indicate that it can accept to the server?



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.2

What languages (if any) does your browser indicate that it can accept to the server?

The browser accepts the following languages

```
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 5.1; en-US; rv:1.0.2) G  
Accept: text/xml,application/xml,application/xhtml+xml,text/html;q=0.9,  
Accept-Language: en-us, en;q=0.50\r\n  
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate, compress;q=0.9\r\n
```

Accept-Language advertises which languages the client is able to understand, and which locale variant is preferred. There can be multiple languages, each with an optional weight or 'quality' value.



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.3

What is the IP address of your computer? Of the gaia.cs.umass.edu server?



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.3

What is the IP address of your computer? Of the gaia.cs.umass.edu server?

The IP address of my device is **192.168.1.102** while gaia.cs.umass.edu server IP is **128.119.245.12**

```
▶ Ethernet II, Src: Dell_4f:36:23 (00:08:74:4f:36:23), Dst: LinksysG_da:af:73 (00:0c:29:af:73:00)
▼ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.1.102, Dst: 128.119.245.12
    0100 .... = Version: 4
    0101 = Header Length: 20 bytes (5)
```

| No. | Time | Source | Destination | Protocol | Length | Info |
|-----|----------|----------------|----------------|----------|--------|-----------------------------------------|
| 10 | 4.694850 | 192.168.1.102 | 128.119.245.12 | HTTP | 555 | GET /ethereal-labs/lab2-1.html HTTP/1.1 |
| 12 | 4.718993 | 128.119.245.12 | 192.168.1.102 | HTTP | 439 | HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html) |



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.4

What is the status code returned from the server to your browser?



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.4

What is the status code returned from the server to your browser?

The status code from the server is **200 OK** as we can see in Figure 14, this means that the request from the browser has succeeded.



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.5

When was the HTML file that you are retrieving last modified at the server?



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.5

When was the HTML file that you are retrieving last modified at the server?

HTML file was modified few minutes before you downloaded the document. This is because the `gaia.cs.umass.edu` server is setting the file's last-modified time to be the current time, and is doing so once per minute.

```
HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\n
Date: Tue, 15 Nov 2022 15:25:22 GMT\r\n
Server: Apache/2.4.6 (CentOS) OpenSSL/1.0.2k-fips PHP/7.4.33\r\n
Last-Modified: Tue, 15 Nov 2022 06:59:02 GMT\r\n
ETag: "80-5ed7ce41b297d"\r\n
Accept-Ranges: bytes\r\n
```



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.6

How many bytes of content are being returned to your browser?



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.6

How many bytes of content are being returned to your browser?

You can see the number of content bytes by clicking on the **Content Length** parameter, in our case we have **128** bytes of content.

```
▼ Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  ▶ HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\n
    Date: Tue, 15 Nov 2022 15:25:22 GMT\r\n
    Server: Apache/2.4.6 (CentOS) OpenSSL/1.0.2k-fips PHP/7.4
    Last-Modified: Tue, 15 Nov 2022 06:59:02 GMT\r\n
    ETag: "80-5ed7ce41b297d"\r\n
    Accept-Ranges: bytes\r\n
    ▼ Content-Length: 128\r\n
      [Content length: 128]
```



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.7

By inspecting the raw data in the packet content window, do you see any headers within the data that are not displayed in the packet-listing window? If so, name one.



Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

1.7

By inspecting the raw data in the packet content window, do you see any headers within the data that are not displayed in the packet-listing window? If so, name one.

There is no header within the data that is not displayed in the packet-listing window.



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HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Setup

The initial steps of all lab exercises are the same, see slides 11 or 12. In this case you need to download **http-ethereal-trace-2** or use the URL <http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html>

For this particular exercise you need to clear browser cache

- Firefox: *History* → *Clear Recent History*
- Explorer: *Tools* → *Internet Options* → *Delete File*

It is very important after entering the URL in the browser to refresh the page in order to make another request to the server.



HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

2.1

Inspect the contents of the first HTTP GET request from your browser to the server. Do you see an “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE” line in the HTTP GET?



HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

2.1

Inspect the contents of the first HTTP GET request from your browser to the server. Do you see an “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE” line in the HTTP GET?

In the first GET request there isn't a “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE” line.

```
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1\r\n
Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu\r\n
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:102.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/102.0\r\n
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8\r\n
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5\r\n
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate\r\n
Connection: keep-alive\r\n
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1\r\n
\r\n
[Full request URI: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html]
[HTTP request 1/1]
[Response in frame: 15]
```



HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

2.2

Inspect the contents of the server response. Did the server explicitly return the contents of the file? How can you tell?



HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

2.2

Inspect the contents of the server response. Did the server explicitly return the contents of the file? How can you tell?

The server response for the first request is positive because the status code is 200 and we can clearly see the content of the page, see Figure below.

```
[HTTP response 172]
[Time since request: 0.206627753 seconds]
[Request in frame: 12]
[Next request in frame: 21]
[Next response in frame: 23]
[Request URI: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html]
File Data: 371 bytes
- Line-based text data: text/html (10 lines)
  \n
  <html>\n
  \n
  Congratulations again! Now you've downloaded the file lab2-2.html. <br>\n
  This file's last modification date will not change. <p>\n
  Thus if you download this multiple times on your browser, a complete copy <br>\n
  will only be sent once by the server due to the inclusion of the IN-MODIFIED-SINCE<br>\n
  field in your browser's HTTP GET request to the server.\n
  \n
  </html>\n
```



HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

2.3

Now inspect the contents of the second HTTP GET request from your browser to the server. Do you see an “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE:” line in the HTTP GET? If so, what information follows the “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE:” header?



HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

2.3

Now inspect the contents of the second HTTP GET request from your browser to the server. Do you see an “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE:” line in the HTTP GET? If so, what information follows the “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE:” header?

As we can see from the image below, in the second GET request there is a line “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE:” and it indicates a certain date.

```
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1\r\n
Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu\r\n
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:102.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/102.0\r\n
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8\r\n
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5\r\n
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate\r\n
Connection: keep-alive\r\n
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1\r\n
If-Modified-Since: Wed, 16 Nov 2022 06:59:01 GMT\r\n
If-None-Match: "173-5ed9101e841c6"\r\n
\r\n
[Full request URI: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html]
[HTTP request 2/2]
```



HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

2.4

What is the HTTP status code and phrase returned from the server in response to this second HTTP GET? Did the server explicitly return the contents of the file? Explain.



HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

2.4

What is the HTTP status code and phrase returned from the server in response to this second HTTP GET? Did the server explicitly return the contents of the file? Explain.

The status code in this case is "304 Not Modified" and the server didn't explicitly return the content of the file.

```
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified\r\n
    Date: Wed, 16 Nov 2022 09:28:44 GMT\r\n
    Server: Apache/2.4.6 (CentOS) OpenSSL/1.0.2k-fips PHP/7.4.30 mod_perl/2.0.11 Perl/v5.16.3\r\n
    Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n
    Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=99\r\n
    ETag: "173-5ed9101e841c6"\r\n
    \r\n
    [HTTP response 2/2]
    [Time since request: 0.145352194 seconds]
    [Prev request in frame: 12]
    [Prev response in frame: 15]
    [Request in frame: 21]
    [Request URI: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html]
```



HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Question/Answer

If-Modified-Since

The reason why the server didn't send the content of the file is because "**If-Modified-Since**" request HTTP header makes the request conditional. So this means the server sends back the requested resource, with a 200 status, only if it has been last modified after the given date. If the resource has not been modified since, the response is a 304 without any body.



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Retrieving Long Documents

Setup

In this case you need to download **http-ethereal-trace-3** or use the URL `http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file3.html`

In the packet-listing window, you should see your HTTP GET message, followed by a multiple-packet TCP response to your HTTP GET request.



Retrieving Long Documents

Question/Answer

3.1

How many HTTP GET request messages did your browser send? Which packet number in the trace contains the GET message for the Bill of Rights?



Retrieving Long Documents

Question/Answer

3.1

How many HTTP GET request messages did your browser send? Which packet number in the trace contains the GET message for the Bill of Rights?

The number of GET request messages send by the browser is just one and the packet number is 9.

| No. | Time | Source | Destination | Protocol | Length | Info |
|-----|-------------|----------------|----------------|----------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 9 | 0.283463880 | 10.0.2.15 | 128.119.245.12 | HTTP | 435 | GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file3.html HTTP/1.1 |
| 15 | 0.411412068 | 128.119.245.12 | 10.0.2.15 | HTTP | 1995 | HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html) |



Retrieving Long Documents

Question/Answer

3.2

Which packet number in the trace contains the status code and phrase associated with the response to the HTTP GET request?



3.2

Which packet number in the trace contains the status code and phrase associated with the response to the HTTP GET request?

The packet number with the server response is 15, as you can see in Figure 30.



Retrieving Long Documents

Question/Answer

3.3

What is the status code and phrase in the response?



Retrieving Long Documents

Question/Answer

3.3

What is the status code and phrase in the response?

The status code is 200 with associated phrase "ok".

```
[Reassembled TCP Data: 485454502f312e3120323030204f4b0d0a4461746553a205765642c203136204e6f762032...]
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\n
    [Expert Info (Chat/Sequence): HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\n]
    Response Version: HTTP/1.1
    Status Code: 200
    [Status Code Description: OK]
    Response Phrase: OK
    Date: Wed, 16 Nov 2022 10:38:13 GMT\r\n
```



Retrieving Long Documents

Question/Answer

3.4

How many data-containing TCP segments were needed to carry the single HTTP response and the text of the Bill of Rights?



Retrieving Long Documents

Question/Answer

3.4

How many data-containing TCP segments were needed to carry the single HTTP response and the text of the Bill of Rights?

To carry the HTTP response it needed 3 TCP segments of length respectively 1460 bytes and 1941 bytes.

```
▼ [3 Reassembled TCP Segments (4861 bytes): #11(1460), #13(1460), #15(1941)]  
[Frame: 11, payload: 0-1459 (1460 bytes)]  
[Frame: 13, payload: 1460-2919 (1460 bytes)]  
[Frame: 15, payload: 2920-4860 (1941 bytes)]  
[Segment count: 3]  
[Reassembled TCP length: 4861]  
[Reassembled TCP Data: 485454502f312e3120323030204f4b0d0a4461746553a205765642c203136204e6f762032...]
```



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HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Setup

In this case you need to download **http-ethereal-trace-4** or use the URL
`http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/
HTTP-wireshark-file4.html`

You should see a file with embedded objects, i.e., a file that includes other objects (in this example, image files) that are stored on another server(s).



HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Question/Answer

4.1

How many HTTP GET request messages did your browser send? To which Internet addresses were these GET requests sent?



HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Question/Answer

4.1

How many HTTP GET request messages did your browser send? To which Internet addresses were these GET requests sent?

The browser send 3 request messages (packet number 10,17,20) to the IP address 128.119.245.12, 165.193.123.218 and 134.241.6.82.

| No. | Time | Source | Destination | Protocol | Length | Info |
|-----|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|--------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | 7.236929 | 192.168.1.102 | 128.119.245.12 | HTTP | 555 | GET /ethereal-labs/lab2-4.html HTTP/1.1 |
| 12 | 7.260813 | 128.119.245.12 | 192.168.1.102 | HTTP | 1057 | HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html) |
| 17 | 7.305485 | 192.168.1.102 | 165.193.123.218 | HTTP | 625 | GET /catalog/images/pearson-logo-footer.gif HTTP/1.1 |
| 20 | 7.308803 | 192.168.1.102 | 134.241.6.82 | HTTP | 609 | GET /~kurose/cover.jpg HTTP/1.1 |
| 25 | 7.333054 | 165.193.123.218 | 192.168.1.102 | HTTP | 912 | HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a) |
| 54 | 7.589877 | 134.241.6.82 | 192.168.1.102 | HTTP | 1096 | HTTP/1.0 200 Document follows (JPEG JFIF image) |



HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Question/Answer

4.2

Can you tell whether your browser downloaded the two images serially, or whether they were downloaded from the two web sites in parallel? Explain.



HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Question/Answer

4.2

Can you tell whether your browser downloaded the two images serially, or whether they were downloaded from the two web sites in parallel? Explain.

The two images were downloaded in parallel from the two web sites because we can see from the image below that 2 GET request were send one after the other to the two servers (packet number 12 e 17) and then they responded (packet number 25 and 54).



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HTTP Authentication

Setup

In this case you need to download **http-ethereal-trace-5** or use the URL http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/protected_pages/HTTP-wireshark-file5.html

You are going to visit a web site that is password-protected and examine the sequence of HTTP message exchanged for such a site.

- username: wireshark-students
- password: network



HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Question/Answer

5.1

What is the server's response (status code and phrase) in response to the initial HTTP GET message from your browser?



HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Question/Answer

5.1

What is the server's response (status code and phrase) in response to the initial HTTP GET message from your browser?

We have 2 different GET request and 2 response, for the first server response the status code is 401 and the phrase is "Unauthorized".

```
▶ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 80, Dst Port: 42120, Seq: 1, A
▼ Hypertext Transfer Protocol
  ▼ HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized\r\n
    ▶ [Expert Info (Chat/Sequence): HTTP/1.1 401 Unauthorized\r\n]
      Response Version: HTTP/1.1
      Status Code: 401
      [Status Code Description: Unauthorized]
      Response Phrase: Unauthorized
```



HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Question/Answer

5.2

When your browser's sends the HTTP GET message for the second time, what new field is included in the HTTP GET message?



HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Question/Answer

5.2

When your browser's sends the HTTP GET message for the second time, what new field is included in the HTTP GET message?

The new field included is the "Authorization" one were you can see credentials inserted by the user both base-64
"d2lyZXNoYXJrLXN0dWRIbnRzOm5ldHdvcms=" and plain text
"wireshark-students:network".

```
Connection: keep-alive\r\n
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1\r\n
Authorization: Basic d2lyZXNoYXJrLXN0dWRIbnRzOm5ldHdvcms=\r\n
Credentials: wireshark-students:network
\r\n
[Full request URI: http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/wireshark-labs/protected_pages/HTTP-wireshark-file5.html]
[HTTP request 1/1]
[Response in frame: 26]
```



HTTPS



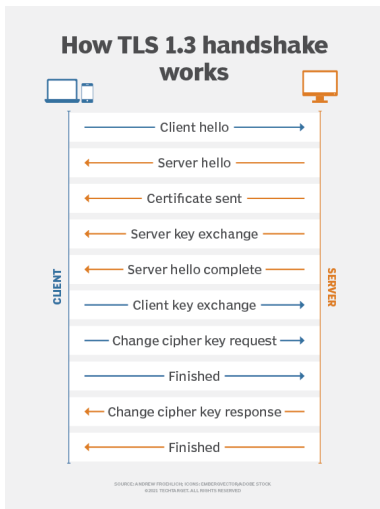
HTTPS

Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS)[Wik22] is an extension of the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP). It is used for secure communication over a computer network, and is widely used on the Internet. In HTTPS, the communication protocol is encrypted using **Transport Layer Security (TLS)** or, formerly, **Secure Sockets Layer (SSL)**.

The principal motivations for HTTPS are authentication of the accessed website, and protection of the privacy and integrity of the exchanged data while in transit.



Transport Layer Security



- 1 The browser is packed with Socket connection to the server
- 2 The server responds by sending the browser the public key and the certificate
- 3 The Browser checks the certificate info and generates the session key
- 4 The symmetric key is sent to the server and the session is established

Figure: TLS handshake works [And21].



Difference from HTTP

- **Port numbers and URL:** HTTPS URLs begin with "https://" and use port 443 by default, whereas, HTTP URLs begin with "http://" and use port 80 by default.
- **Security:** The HTTP protocol is not secure protocol as it does not contain SSL (Secure Sockets Layer), which means that the data can be stolen when the data is transmitted from the client to the server.
- **Layers:** The HTTP protocol works on the application layer while the HTTPS protocol works on the transport layer.



Resume table

| HTTP | HTTPS |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| The full form of HTTP is the Hypertext Transfer Protocol. | The full form of HTTPS is Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure. |
| It is written in the address bar as http://. | It is written in the address bar as https://. |
| The HTTP transmits the data over port number 80. | The HTTPS transmits the data over port number 443. |
| It is unsecured as the plain text is sent, which can be accessible by the hackers. | It is secure as it sends the encrypted data which hackers cannot understand. |
| It is mainly used for those websites that provide information like blog writing. | It is a secure protocol, so it is used for those websites that require to transmit the bank account details or credit card numbers. |
| It is an application layer protocol. | It is a transport layer protocol. |
| It does not use SSL. | It uses SSL that provides the encryption of the data. |
| Google does not give the preference to the HTTP websites. | Google gives preferences to the HTTPS as HTTPS websites are secure websites. |
| The page loading speed is fast. | The page loading speed is slow as compared to HTTP because of the additional feature that it supports, i.e., security. |

Figure: HTTP and HTTPS differences table [Jav].



HTTP request vs HTTPS request

HTTP request

```
GET /hello.txt HTTP/1.1
User-Agent: curl/7.63.0
libcurl/7.63.0 OpenSSL/1.1.1
zlib/1.2.11 Host:
www.example.com
Accept-Language: en
```

HTTPS request

```
t8Fw6T8UV81pQfyhDkhebbz7
+oiwldr1j2gHBB3L3RFTRsQC
paSnSBZ78Vme+DpDVJPvZdZ
UZHpzbbcqmSW1+3xXGsERHg
9YDmpYk0VVDiRvw1H5miNie
JeJ/FNUjgH0BmVRWII6+T4M
nDwmCMZUI/orxP3HGwYCSlvy
zS3MpmmmSe4iaWKCOHQ==
```



HTTPS packet analyze

Capture `https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pagina_principale` packets with Wireshark.

| No. | Time | Source | Destination | Protocol | Length | Info |
|-----|-------------|---------------|---------------|----------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | 0.000000000 | 10.0.2.15 | 192.168.1.1 | DNS | 76 | Standard query 0x571e A it.wikipedia.org |
| 2 | 0.006499288 | 192.168.1.1 | 10.0.2.15 | DNS | 124 | Standard query response 0x571e A it.wikipedia.org CNAME dyna.wikimedia.org A 185.15.58.224 |
| 3 | 0.007118589 | 10.0.2.15 | 185.15.58.224 | TCP | 74 | 41094 → 443 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 TSval=3452679738 TSecr=0 WS=128 |
| 4 | 0.055523016 | 185.15.58.224 | 10.0.2.15 | TCP | 60 | 443 → 41094 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 |
| 5 | 0.055555542 | 10.0.2.15 | 185.15.58.224 | TCP | 54 | 41094 → 443 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=64240 Len=0 |
| 6 | 0.057650363 | 10.0.2.15 | 185.15.58.224 | TLShv1.3 | 716 | Client Hello |
| 7 | 0.057849265 | 185.15.58.224 | 10.0.2.15 | TCP | 60 | 443 → 41094 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=663 Win=65535 Len=0 |
| 8 | 0.103549774 | 185.15.58.224 | 10.0.2.15 | TLShv1.3 | 308 | Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec, Application Data, Application Data |
| 9 | 0.103565771 | 10.0.2.15 | 185.15.58.224 | TCP | 54 | 41094 → 443 [ACK] Seq=663 Ack=255 Win=63986 Len=0 |
| 10 | 0.104278434 | 10.0.2.15 | 185.15.58.224 | TLShv1.3 | 134 | Change Cipher Spec, Application Data |

If you use "http" as display filter there will be no packet, this is because HTTPS work on transport layer thus there are multiple TCP messages.



HTTPS packet analyze

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What is the IP address of wikipedia server? Which port does it use?



HTTPS packet analyze

1

What is the IP address of wikipedia server? Which port does it use?

The IP address of wikipedia server is 185.12.58.224 and the port is 443.

```
▶ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.0.2.15, Dst: 185.15.58.224  
▶ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 41094, Dst Port: 443, Seq: 0, Len: 0
```



Now let's look at "Client Hello" (no.6) and "Server Hello" (no.8) packets.

- **Client Hello** → the client presents a list of supported cipher suites (ciphers and hash functions)
- **Server Hello** → from this list, the server picks a cipher and hash function that it also supports and notifies the client of the decision



1

How many encryption methods does the client support?



Client/Server Hello

1

How many encryption methods does the client support?

The client supports 17 encryption methods.

```
Cipher Suites Length: 34
- Cipher Suites (17 suites)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 (0x1301)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_CHACHA20_POLY1305_SHA256 (0x1303)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 (0x1302)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 (0xc02b)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 (0xc02f)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_CHACHA20_POLY1305_SHA256 (0xcca9)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_CHACHA20_POLY1305_SHA256 (0xcca8)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 (0xc02c)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 (0xc030)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA (0xc00a)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA (0xc009)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA (0xc013)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA (0xc014)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 (0x009c)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 (0x009d)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA (0x002f)
  Cipher Suite: TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA (0x0035)
```



1

What encryption method did the server choose?



Client/Server Hello

1




What encryption method did the server choose?

The server uses AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) - GCM (Galois Counter Mode) with SHA384 as hash function.

```
▼ Handshake Protocol: Server Hello
  Handshake Type: Server Hello (2)
  Length: 124
  Version: TLS 1.2 (0x0303)
  Random: 175a00fe8c69a71ea58e0e519be983be5c09ff1206fc57f548b1cbff15a637c0
  Session ID Length: 32
  Session ID: 9c75bcc04ff355ba1742d683b469abda8654a8765cabbad9ac14c53941f36d84
  Cipher Suite: TLS_AES_256_GCM_SHA384 (0x1302)
  Compression Method: null (0)
  Extensions Length: 52
  ▶ Extension: supported_versions (len=2)
```



References I

-  Andrew Froehlich, Kevin Beaver, Michael Cobb, *Transport layer security (tls)*, <https://www.techtarget.com/searchsecurity/definition/Transport-Layer-Security-TLS>, 2021.
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-  Wikipedia contributors, *Https — Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*, <https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=HTTPS&oldid=1121853442>, 2022.

