Network Traffic Scanning Using Wireshark

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What is Wireshark?

Wireshark is a free and open-source packet analyzer used for network troubleshooting, analysis, and education.

Key Features:

Captures live traffic from network interfaces

Deep packet inspection (OSI Layer 2–7)

Filters, decodes, and analyzes hundreds of protocols

Setting Up and Capturing Traffic

Steps to Capture Traffic:

Select correct network interface

Apply capture filters (optional)

Stop capture after desired time

Capture Filters vs Display Filters:

Capture Filter: Limits data being collected

Display Filter: Focuses view after capture

Analyzing Captured Packets

Analyzing Captured Packets

Common Protocols to Analyze:

HTTP/HTTPS: Web traffic

DNS: Domain name lookups

TCP/UDP: Transport-layer traffic

ICMP: Ping and diagnostics

Real-World Use

Cases

1

Use Case 1:
Detecting
malicious traffic
(e.g., malware
callbacks)

2

Use Case 2: Troubleshooting slow network performance 3

Use Case 3:
Verifying
encrypted vs
unencrypted data
flow

Conclusion:

Wireshark is a powerful tool for seeing inside your network. Mastering it strengthens both defense and troubleshooting.

Best Practices:

Use filters to reduce noise

Save capture files for analysis

Always capture with legal permission

Mask sensitive info if sharing