

NMAP PACKET CAPTURE LAB

Introduction

Nmap is used widely across the world by both white hat and black hat hackers. See exactly what Nmap does at packet level using Wireshark. In that way I will know how to spot if someone is scanning our network.

Ubuntu is widely used by companies to host their servers. So that is why I chose Ubuntu as well to simulate real world scenarios. I will be performing 6 tests.

1. SYN Scan (Half scan)
2. Full TCP connection scan
3. Scan single port
4. UDP scan
5. Capture using tcpdump
6. See Firewall Behavior

Methodology

Lab Setup:

- Attacker = Kali
- Target = Ubuntu
- Network = Internal Network

I will be putting the Wireshark capture on the target machine, as it will show me, how the OS will receive packets

Since I am doing this under an internal network, there will not be DHCP in this case, therefore I had to configure static IP addresses for both machines.

This is how I set it for Kali:

```
sudo ip addr add 192.168.100.20/24 dev eth0  
sudo ip link set eth0 up
```

Then, this is how I set it up for Ubuntu:

```
nmcli connection show  
sudo nmcli connection delete "Wired connection 1"
```

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```
sudo nmcli connection add type ethernet ifname enp0s3 con-name lab-static ip4  
192.168.100.10/24  
sudo nmcli connection modify lab-static ipv4.method manual  
sudo nmcli connection up lab-static
```

But for the best project scenario, I will open 2 ports, an OpenSSH server (port 22) and Metasploit (port 4444) by using netcat.

The setup for both is like these:

OpenSSH

```
sudo apt install openssh-server -y  
sudo systemctl start ssh  
sudo systemctl enable ssh
```

```
rafael@ubuntu:~$ sudo systemctl status ssh  
[sudo] password for rafael:  
● ssh.service - OpenBSD Secure Shell server  
  Loaded: loaded (/lib/systemd/system/ssh.service; enabled; vendor preset: enabled)  
  Active: active (running) since Tue 2026-02-24 18:30:16 +07; 26min ago  
    Docs: man:sshd(8)  
          man:sshd_config(5)  
  Process: 753 ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/sshd -t (code=exited, status=0/SUCCESS)  
 Main PID: 785 (sshd)  
    Tasks: 1 (limit: 11554)  
   Memory: 3.7M  
     CPU: 900ms  
    CGroup: /system.slice/ssh.service  
           └─785 "sshd: /usr/sbin/sshd -D [listener] 0 of 10-100 startups"  
  
Feb 24 18:30:13 ubuntu systemd[1]: Starting OpenBSD Secure Shell server...  
Feb 24 18:30:16 ubuntu sshd[785]: Server listening on 0.0.0.0 port 22.  
Feb 24 18:30:16 ubuntu systemd[1]: Started OpenBSD Secure Shell server.  
Feb 24 18:30:16 ubuntu sshd[785]: Server listening on :: port 22.
```

Metasploit

```
sudo apt install netcat -y  
nc -lvp 4444
```

```
rafael@ubuntu:~$ nc -lvp 4444  
Listening on 0.0.0.0 4444
```

Results

First I have to install Wireshark to Ubuntu. And add the user to the Wireshark group to enable network packet capturing. This will be done by using the following 3 commands:

```
sudo apt update  
sudo apt install wireshark -y  
sudo usermod -aG wireshark $USER (for enabling to capture network packets)
```

Then make sure the Kali Linux VM and Ubuntu VM are connected through an Internal Network, and for my case the IPs are as follows:

- Kali Linux - 192.168.100.20
- Ubuntu - 192.168.100.10

On Wireshark on the Ubuntu Desktop VM, I will capture from the enp0s3 adapter, since Ubuntu will be receiving from that.

Experiment 1 — SYN Scan (-sS)

First I will do the SYN Scan by using the nmap -sS flag, like the command shown below:

```
nmap -sS 192.168.100.10
```

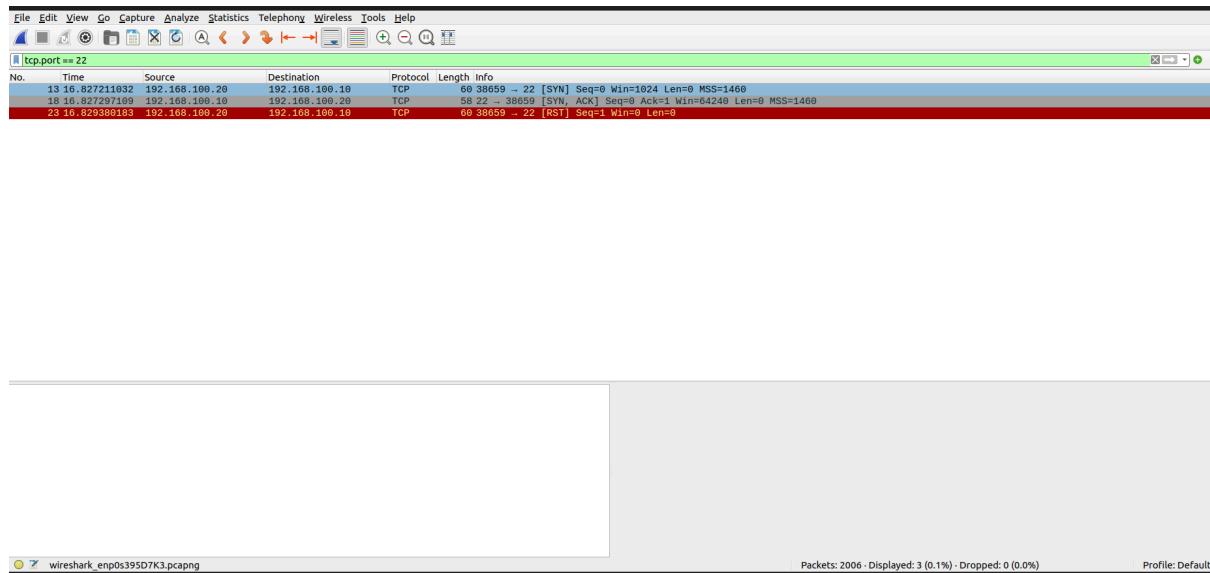
From the screenshot below, we can see that 2 ports are open.

```
└─(rafael@raf)─[~]  
$ nmap -sS 192.168.100.10  
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2026-02-22 11:49 +08  
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.10  
Host is up (0.022s latency).  
Not shown: 998 closed tcp ports (reset)  
PORT      STATE SERVICE  
22/tcp    open  ssh  
4444/tcp  open  krb524  
MAC Address: 08:00:27:5B:97:AE (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)  
  
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 18.67 seconds
```

On Ubuntu's Wireshark filter will be like below, since port 22 is one of the ports open:

```
tcp.port == 22
```

So here is the PCAP capture below, we can see that the Kali is sending SYN requests, but Ubuntu will SYN, ACK it back. But the Kali will give RST, terminating the 3 way handshake.



So the key takeaway is that, if there are a lot of uncompleted TCP handshakes, which could mean SYN > SYN/ACK > RST, like this example. If there were to be a port closed it is going to be SYN > RST.

Experiment 2 — Full TCP Connect Scan (-sT)

I will do the full TCP connection scan this time with the -sT flag, so it will go like this.

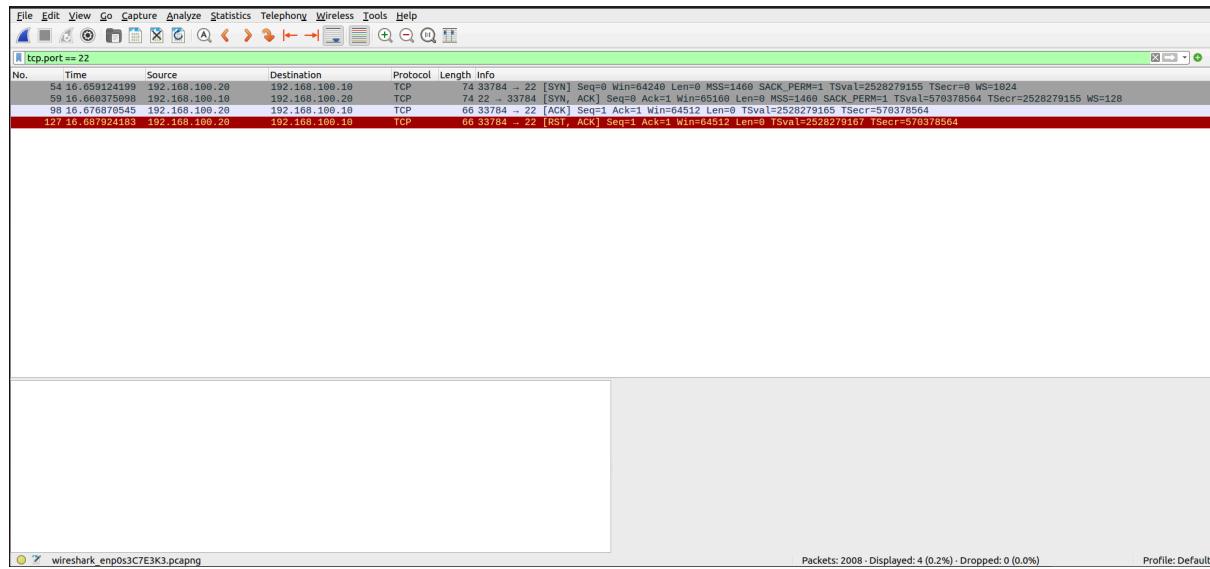
```
nmap -sT 192.168.100.10
```

```
(rafael@raf)-[~]
$ nmap -sT 192.168.100.10
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2026-02-22 12:44 +08
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.10
Host is up (0.14s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed tcp ports (conn-refused)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
4444/tcp  open  krb524
MAC Address: 08:00:27:5B:97:AE (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)

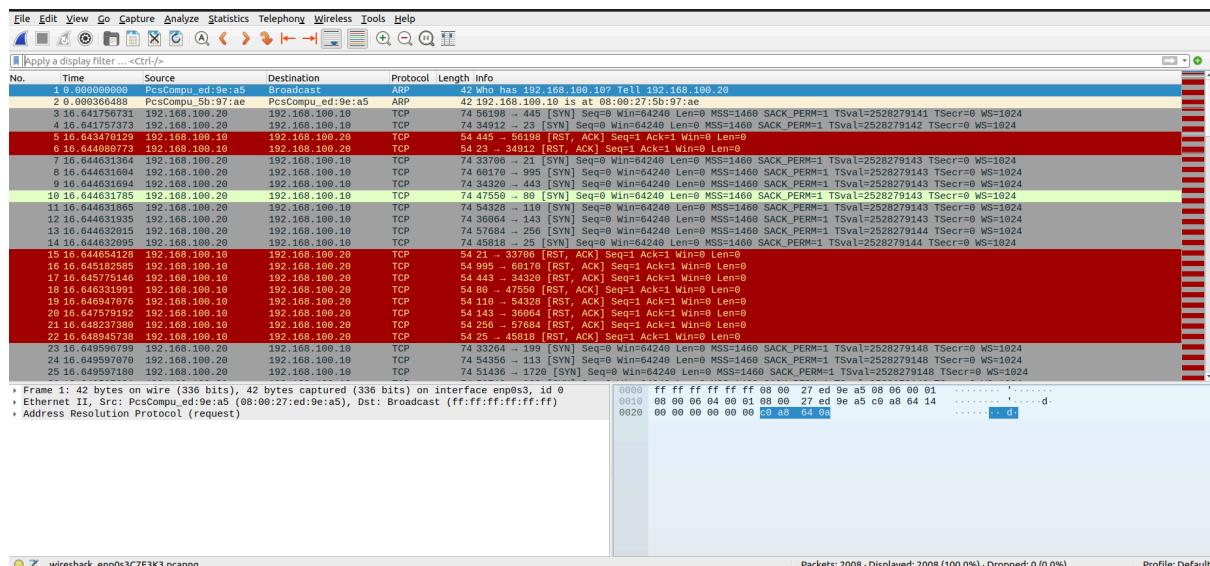
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 18.02 seconds
```

On the Ubuntu machine, I will just filter with `tcp.port==22` again. So here, we can see a fully completed 3 way handshake (SYN > SYN ACK > SYN). However, after that we can see Kali giving RST, which means after completing the 3 way handshake, it will reset the connection.

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For the rest of the ports, which are closed, they just give SYN > RST ACK connections, like shown in the picture below.



Experiment 3 – Scan Single Port

I will perform a one port scan only, since some attackers do just scan one port, popular ones such as port 22 (ssh), port 80 (http), port 3389 (RDP). This time since one of the ports is port 22, I will use it again. The command is as follows:

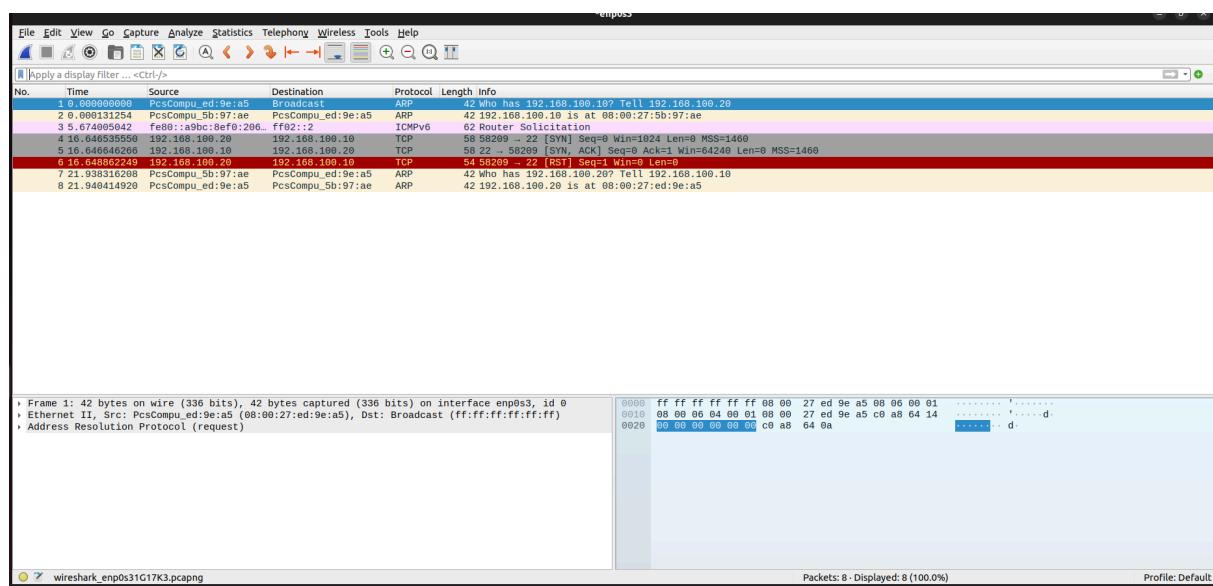
```
nmap -sS -p 22 192.168.100.10
```

```
(rafael@raf)-[~]
$ nmap -sS -p 22 192.168.100.10
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2026-02-22 12:58 +08
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.10
Host is up (0.0026s latency).

PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
MAC Address: 08:00:27:5B:97:AE (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 16.76 seconds
```

In the Ubuntu machine, specifically the Wireshark, this time we do not have to provide any filters, since I only scanned 1 port. And in total I only got 8 packets. We can see though now more clearly. It begins with an ARP request, and then Kali will give a SYN and then Ubuntu responds with SYN ACK, and as expected since I also used the -sS flag here, Kali RST (resetted) the connection. The picture is given below.

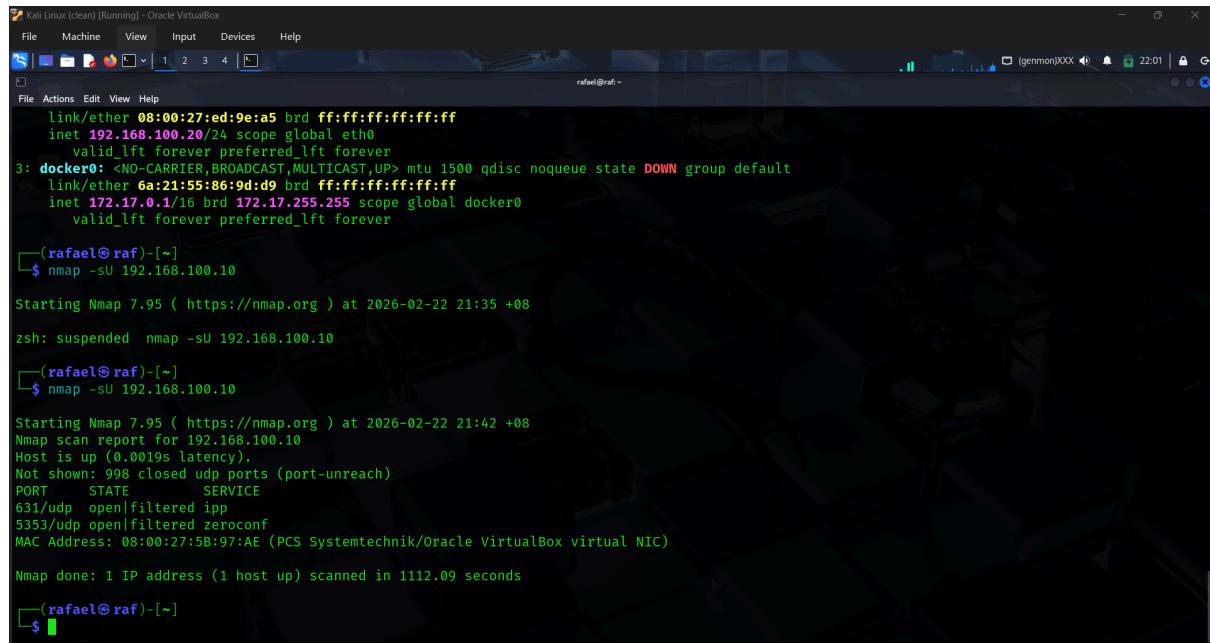


Experiment 4 – UDP Scan (-sU)

On my Kali machine I will do the UDP nmap scan by using the -sU flag. The command will be shown like follows:

```
nmap -sU 192.168.100.10
```

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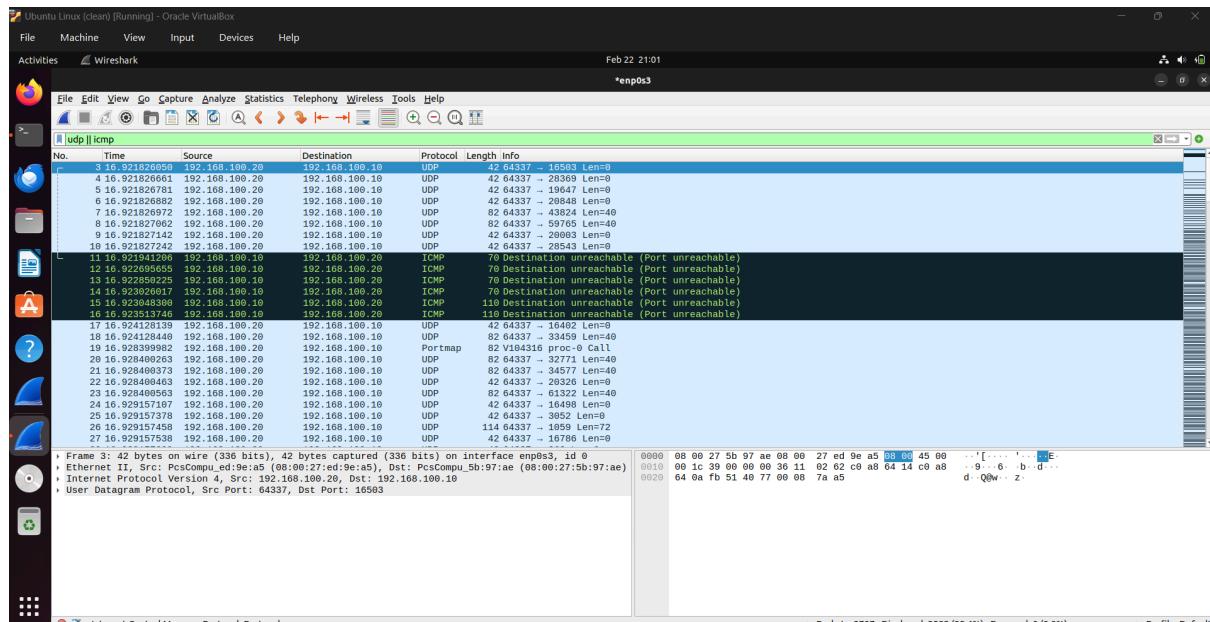


```
rafael@raf:~$ nmap -sU 192.168.100.10
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2026-02-22 21:35 +08
zsh: suspended  nmap -sU 192.168.100.10
[rafael@raf:~]$ nmap -sU 192.168.100.10
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2026-02-22 21:42 +08
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.10
Host is up (0.0019s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed udp ports (port-unreach)
PORT      STATE      SERVICE
631/udp  open|filtered ipp
5353/udp open|filtered zeroconf
MAC Address: 08:00:27:5B:97:AE (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 1112.09 seconds
[rafael@raf:~]$
```

On the other hand, in the Ubuntu machine, this time since it is a UDP scan I cannot do tcp filter instead I will filter for UDP or ICMP packets like shown below:

udp || icmp



From the screenshot above, we can conclude that there are a lot of ICMP Destination unreachable or port unreachable. So from this we get the insight that, if there are a high ICMP port unreachable response, it is possible to be a UDP scan.

Experiment 5 – Capture with tcpdump (CLI Monitoring)

On Kali, I will just do a SYN scan, like the command shown below:

```
nmap -sS 192.168.100.10
```

```
└──(rafael@raf)@[~]
$ nmap -sS 192.168.100.10

Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2026-02-24 19:37 +08
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.10
Host is up (0.018s latency).
Not shown: 998 closed tcp ports (reset)
PORT      STATE SERVICE
22/tcp    open  ssh
4444/tcp  open  krb524
MAC Address: 08:00:27:5B:97:AE (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 19.25 seconds
```

This time, instead of GUI applications like Wireshark, this time we will use tcpdump, a CLI tool also used to collect packets.

```
sudo tcpdump -i enp0s3 host 192.168.100.20
```

```
18:38:14.722015 IP ubuntu.2800 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.722172 IP ubuntu.9001 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.725072 IP ubuntu.1092 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.725217 IP ubuntu.44501 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.727744 IP ubuntu.4321 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.728883 IP ubuntu.1057 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.730495 IP ubuntu.8085 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.731943 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.4444: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.731946 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.gris: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.731948 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.6792: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.731949 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.9999: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.731950 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.7200: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.731951 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.5678: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.731952 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.668: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.731953 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.1131: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.731996 IP ubuntu.4444 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [S.], seq 4132511323, ack 37112861, win 64240, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.732161 IP ubuntu.gris > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.733227 IP ubuntu.6792 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.734356 IP ubuntu.9999 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.735239 IP ubuntu.7200 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.736255 IP ubuntu.5678 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.737796 IP ubuntu.668 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.737930 IP ubuntu.1131 > 192.168.100.20.34732: Flags [R.], seq 0, ack 37112861, win 0, length 0
18:38:14.737951 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.32773: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.737953 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.6692: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.737954 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.6668: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.737955 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.2968: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.737956 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.65129: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.737957 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.spamd: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
18:38:14.737958 IP 192.168.100.20.34732 > ubuntu.27352: Flags [S], seq 37112860, win 1024, options [mss 1460], length 0
```

From what we can see if the ports are closed, after the SYN requests (the [S]), directly it will reset the connection (the [R]). However, we see that there is one line ubuntu.4444, where port 4444 is open in this case, it returns a "S." response, which is a SYN-ACK response, signifying that this is an open port.

EXPERIMENT 6 — Firewall Behavior (UFW)

This time I will experiment a bit differently, since I will be using Firewalls this time UFW, which stands for uncomplicated firewall accessible through the Firewall. So I am going to test this on port 22. Therefore I will specifically only scan for port 22.

```
sudo nmap -sS -p 22 192.168.100.10
```

```
(rafael@raf)-[~]
$ sudo nmap -sS -p 22 192.168.100.10
Starting Nmap 7.95 ( https://nmap.org ) at 2026-02-24 19:57 +08
Nmap scan report for 192.168.100.10
Host is up (0.0015s latency).

PORT      STATE      SERVICE
22/tcp    filtered  ssh
MAC Address: 08:00:27:5B:97:AE (PCS Systemtechnik/Oracle VirtualBox virtual NIC)

Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 17.18 seconds
```

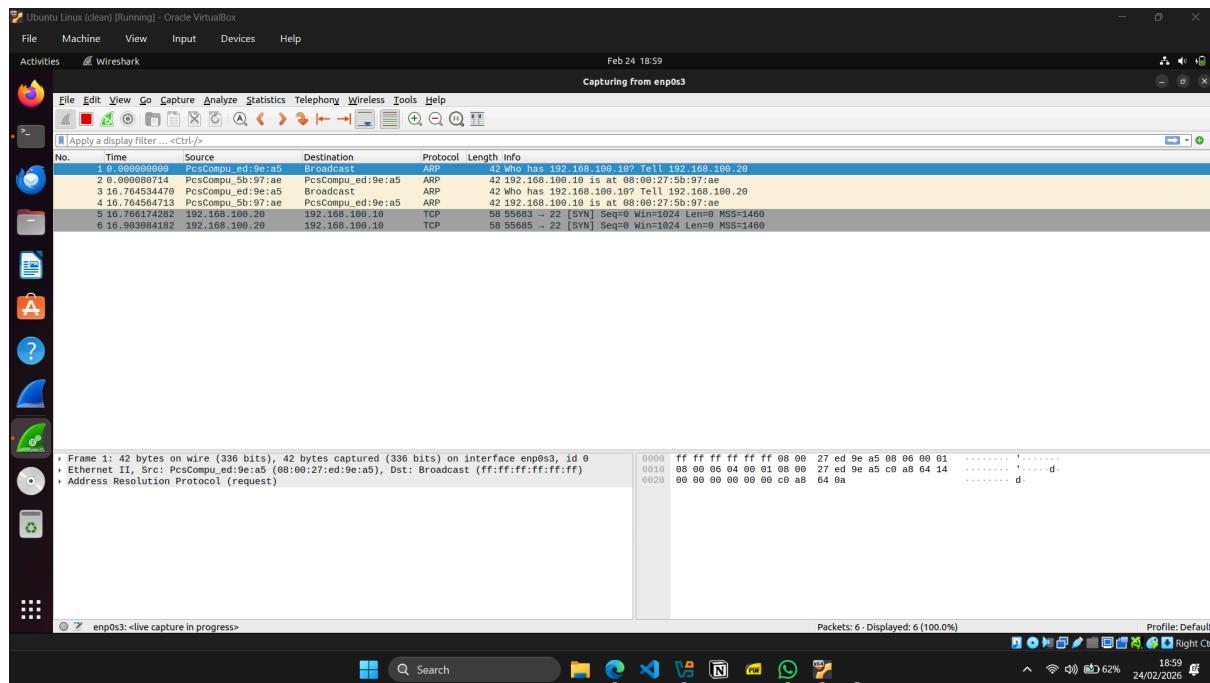
However, as we can see from the results of the nmap scan, the port is filtered due to the firewall.

On Ubuntu we have to enable the UFW and deny any traffic coming to port 22

```
sudo ufw enable
sudo ufw deny 22
```

```
rafael@ubuntu:~$ sudo ufw enable
sudo ufw deny 22
[sudo] password for rafael:
Firewall is active and enabled on system startup
Rule added
Rule added (v6)
rafael@ubuntu:~$ █
```

And here is how it looks on Wireshark:



Kali just sent the SYN packets, but it got detected by the firewall, so firewall will just drop the packets.

Conclusion

Behavior	Packet Pattern
Port is open (-sS)	SYN > SYN-ACK > RST
Port is closed	SYN > RST
Filtered by Firewall	SYN > no response
Full 3 way handshake(-sT)	SYN > SYN-ACK > ACK
UDP port closed (-sU)	ICMP/port unreachable

So therefore putting into statement, here is how to detect if traffic is suspicious:

- Many SYN packets coming to many ports and not getting SYN ACK response
- ICMP/Port unreachable packets