Comments and Understanding:

ApateDNS allows us to manipulate DNS responses. If there is malware on a computer which is then called a victim computer, the malware can send requests to the server. With ApateDNS, we can manipulate the response coming from the server that can confuse malware and it will behave in different ways.

Remnux Linux is acting as a DNS server. Through INetSim it can be used to simulate responses such as DNS, HTTP, FTP and many other network services. So when a query is sent from Windows XP, the INetSim provides a fake or controlled response. This can help analyze malware response.

The Remnux server actually intercepts the request and sends back a simulated response. So in this case the response on every http request is a static fake page (apparently) but actually Windows XP thinks of it as the request being served and the server has responded to the query. So If an image file is requested a fake image file is returned as response.

The NXDomain(domain does not exist) values 0,1,2,3 are actually used to trick the malware. When it gets a non-existent domain response, it might try a new domain/url whereas ApateDNS keeps recording the domains requested. This can help identify all the domains that are associated with a malware.

With IP settings, we have set up a controlled environment to analyze malware.

Activities

On opening the browser after running ApateDNS on Windows XP VM, I see this in internet explorer.

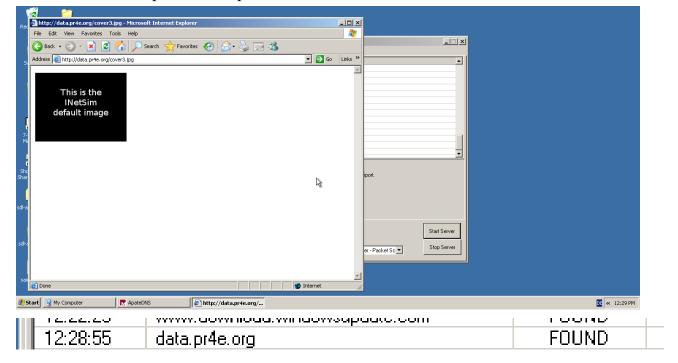
This is the default HTML page for INetSim HTTP server fake mode.

This file is an HTML document

1. Open a browser on the XP machine. Send a request for an image file from a hypothetical (or real) HTTP server. What happens when you do this?

I sent a request to http://data.pr4e.org/cover3.jpg

One record was captured in ApateDNS and dns returned: found.



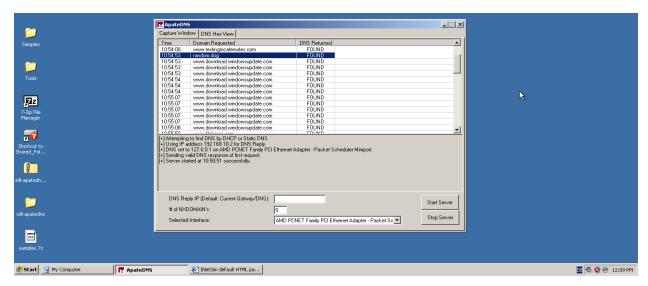
2. Send another request for a web page through HTTPS. What do you notice?

I sent a request to https://random.dog

It was captured in ApateDNS and dns returned: found.

These two popups appeared first.





On visiting this website random.dog(https request), 12 further requests can be observed.

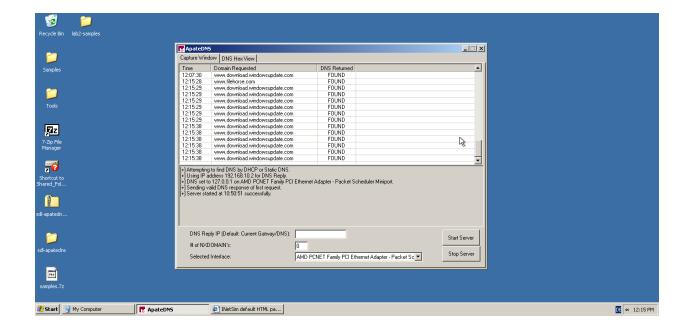
3. Try downloading an executable (either .com or .exe file) from any website. What happens when you make this request?

I sent a request to

https://www.filehorse.com/download-123-photo-viewer/download/

It was captured in ApateDNS as www.filehorse.com and dns returned: found.





A response similar to the https request made earlier can be observed, that is, afterwards 12 further requests were made for www.download.windowsupdate.com.

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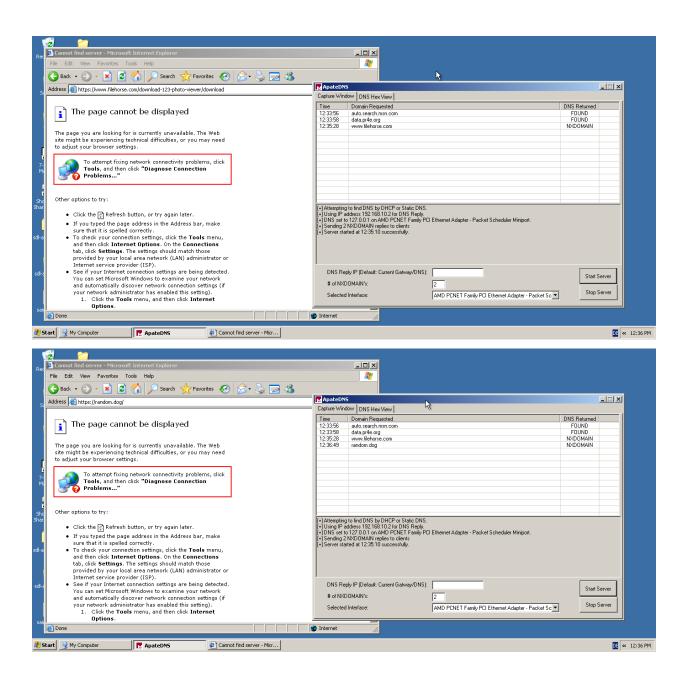
NX Domain Values 0,1,2,3:

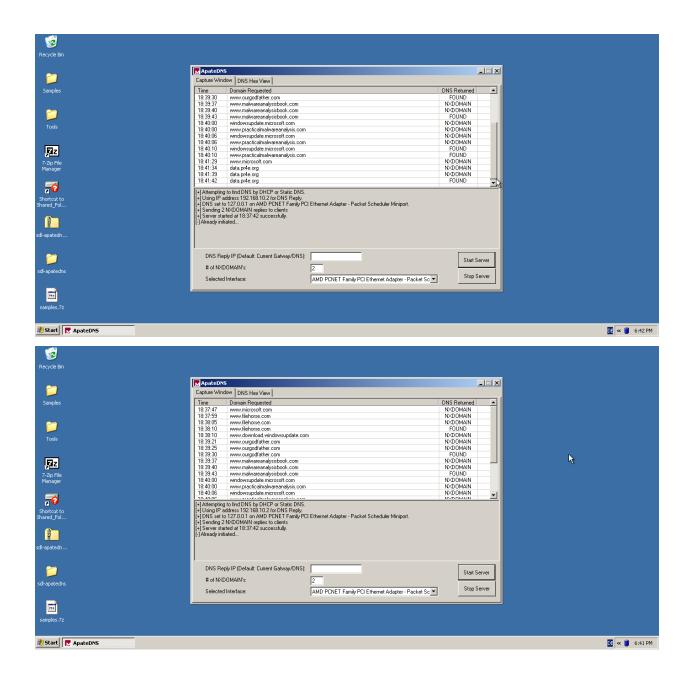
On changing NX Domain values, the web pages were not displayed and problems described here are:

- Internet connection problem
- Security issues
- DNS server error

Actually, by setting the NX domain value we are telling ApateDNS to manipulate the response from the server. So according to the value of NXDomain, the response to the request is that the domain is non-existent.

- If the value is 1, the first time when something is requested, response will be non-existent. Second time there will be a valid response.
- If the value is 2, the first and second time when something is requested, response will be non-existent. Third time there will be a valid response.
- If the value is 3, for the first three requests, the response will be non-existent. Fourth time there will be a valid response.





4. Unzip the file containing the three malware samples (password: infected). Execute each of them and note/record their network behavior as observed by you and/or logged with the tools.

Which domains are the samples trying to contact?

www.ourgodfather.com www.malwareanalysisbook.com windowsupdate.microsoft.com www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com

What http requests (if any) are being made and when do these requests occur?

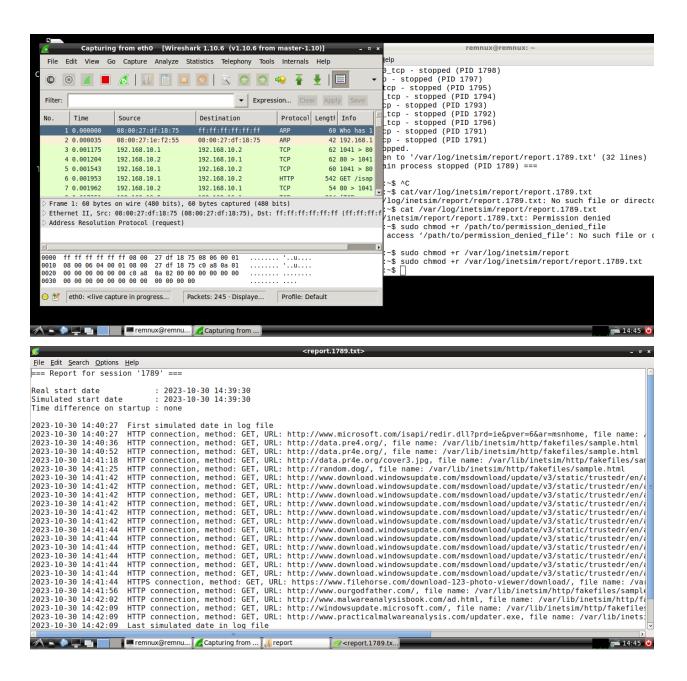
http://www.ourgodfather.com/

http://www.malwareanalysisbook.com/ad.html

http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com/

All are http requests. Last one also displays a pop up saying "This is the INetSim default binary"





2nd part: Network services with FakeNet

Initial State

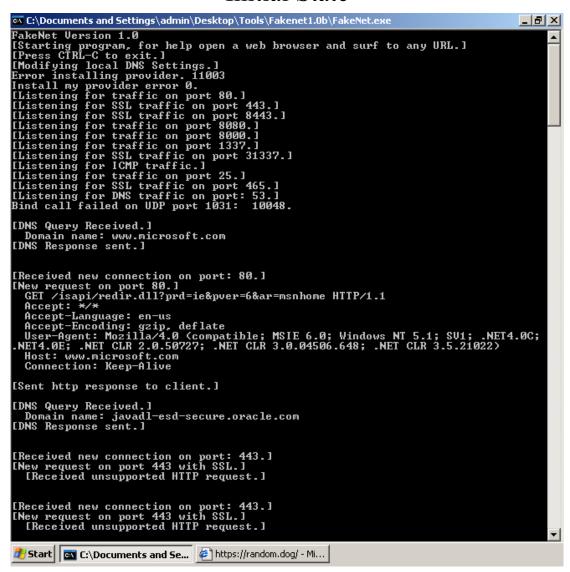


Image Request(http) and Download File request(https)

```
ERceived new connection on port: 443.1

[Received new connection on port: 443.1

[Received unsupported HITP request.]

[DNS Query Received.]

Domain name: data.pr4e.org

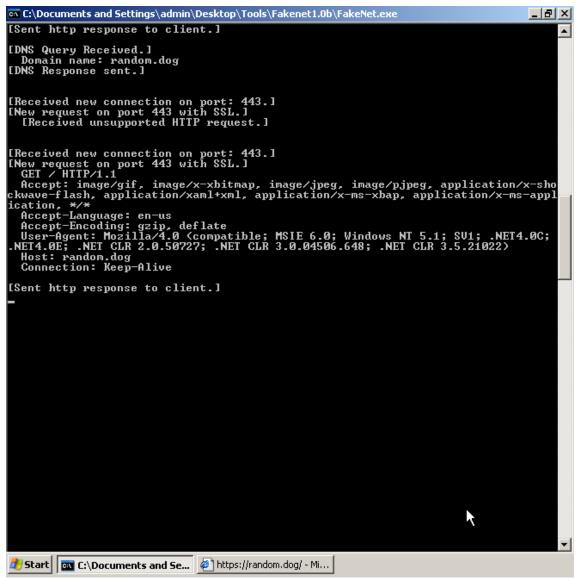
[DNS Response sent.1

[Received new connection on port: 80.1

[Received new connection on port: 443.1

[Received new connection
```

Https request



```
FakeNet Version 1.0

IStarting program, for help open a web browser and surf to any URL.1
IPress CTRI-C to exit.1
IModifying local DNS Settings.1
Scanning Installed Providers
Installing Layered Providers
Preparing To Reoder Installed Chains
Reodering Installed Chains
Saving New Protocol Order
[Listening for traffic on port 80.1
LListening for SSL traffic on port 443.1
IListening for SSL traffic on port 8080.1
IListening for traffic on port 8080.1
IListening for traffic on port 3337.1
IListening for traffic on port 31337.1
IListening for traffic on port 25.1
IListening for traffic on port 465.1
IListening for ICMP traffic.1
IListening for DNS traffic on port: 53.1
Bind call failed on UDP port 1038: 10048.
    C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Desktop\Tools\Fakenet1.0b\FakeNet.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       _ B ×
   [DNS Query Received.]
Domain name: www.ourgodfather.com
[DNS Response sent.]
  [Received new connection on port: 80.]
[New request on port 80.]
GET / HTTP/1.1
Accept: */*
Accept-Language: en-us
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SU1; .NET4.0C;
.NET4.0E; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.04506.648; .NET CLR 3.5.21022)
Host: www.ourgodfather.com
Connection: Keep-Alive
    [Sent http response to client.]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         DE 🕙 🦁 8:06 AM
```

```
FakeNet Version 1.0

[Starting program, for help open a web browser and surf to any URL.]

[Press CTRL-C to exit.]

[Modifying local DNS Settings.]

Scanning Installed Providers

Installing Layered Providers

Preparing To Reoder Installed Chains

Reodering Installed Chains

Saving New Protocol Order

[Listening for traffic on port 80.]

[Listening for SSL traffic on port 443.]

[Listening for SSL traffic on port 8080.]

[Listening for traffic on port 8080.]

[Listening for traffic on port 3337.]

[Listening for SSL traffic on port 31337.]

[Listening for SSL traffic on port 31337.]

[Listening for traffic on port 25.]

[Listening for SSL traffic on port 35.]

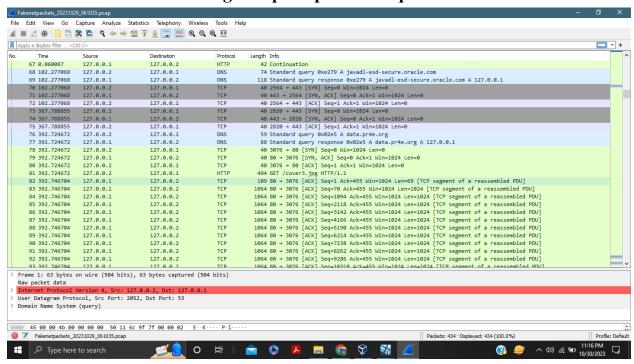
[Listening for SSL traffic on port 55.]

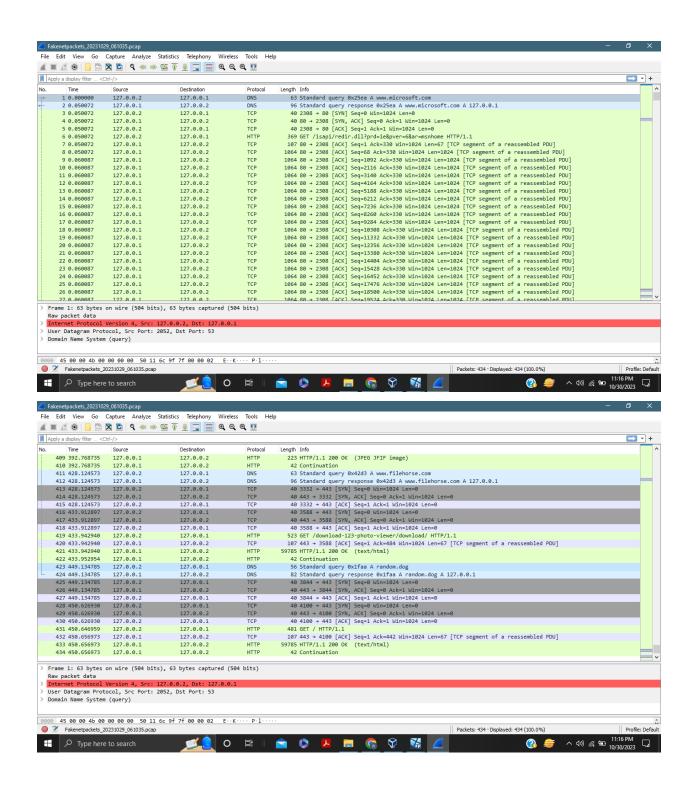
[Listening for DNS traffic on port: 53.]

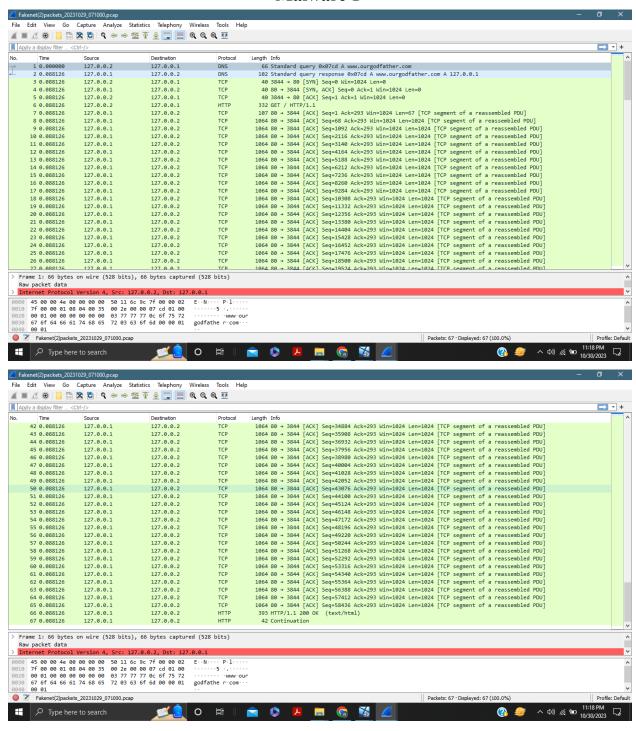
Bind call failed on UDP port 1040: 10048.
  C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Desktop\Tools\Fakenet1.0b\FakeNet.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               _ B ×
  [DNS Query Received.]
  Domain name: www.malwareanalysisbook.com
LDNS Response sent.l
   [Received new connection on port: 80.]
[New request on port 80.]
GET /ad.html HTTP/1.1
     GEI /AG.html HIP/1.1
Accept: */*
Accept-Language: en-us
Accept-Encoding: gzip. deflate
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1; .NET4.0C;
.NET4.0E; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.04506.648; .NET CLR 3.5.21022)
Host: www.malwareanalysisbook.com
Connection: Keep-Alive
    [Sent http response to client.]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    DE 🥝 🦁 🥳 8:10 AM
```

```
C:\Documents and Settings\admin\Desktop\Tools\Fakenet1.0b\FakeNet.exe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 _ B ×
Reodering Installed Chains
Saving New Protocol Order
IListening for traffic on port 80.1
IListening for SSL traffic on port 8443.1
IListening for SSL traffic on port 8443.1
IListening for traffic on port 8443.1
IListening for traffic on port 8080.1
IListening for traffic on port 8000.1
IListening for traffic on port 8000.1
IListening for traffic on port 3337.1
IListening for sSL traffic on port 31337.1
IListening for sSL traffic on port 365.1
IListening for traffic on port 465.1
IListening for ICMP traffic.1
IListening for DNS traffic on port: 53.1
Bind call failed on UDP port 1040: 10048.
 [DNS Query Received.]
Domain name: windowsupdate.microsoft.com
Bind call failed on UDP port 1041: 10048.
[DNS Response sent.]
  [DNS Query Received.]
Domain name: www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com
[DNS Response sent.]
  [Received new connection on port: 80.]
[New request on port 80.]
GET / HTTP/1.1
Accept: */*
Accept-Language: en-us
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SU1; .NET4.0C;
.NET4.0E; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.04506.648; .NET CLR 3.5.21022)
Host: windowsupdate.microsoft.com
  [Received new connection on port: 80.]
Connection: Keep-Alive
  [Sent http response to client.]
[New request on port 80.]
GET /updater.exe HTTP/1.1
Accept: */*
Accept-Encoding: gzip. deflate
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1; .NET4.0C;
.NET4.0E; .NET CLR 2.0.50727; .NET CLR 3.0.04506.648; .NET CLR 3.5.21022)
Host: www.practicalmalwareanalysis.com
Connection: Keep-Alive
     [Sent http response to client.]
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          DE 🥝 🦁 😘 8:11 AM
```

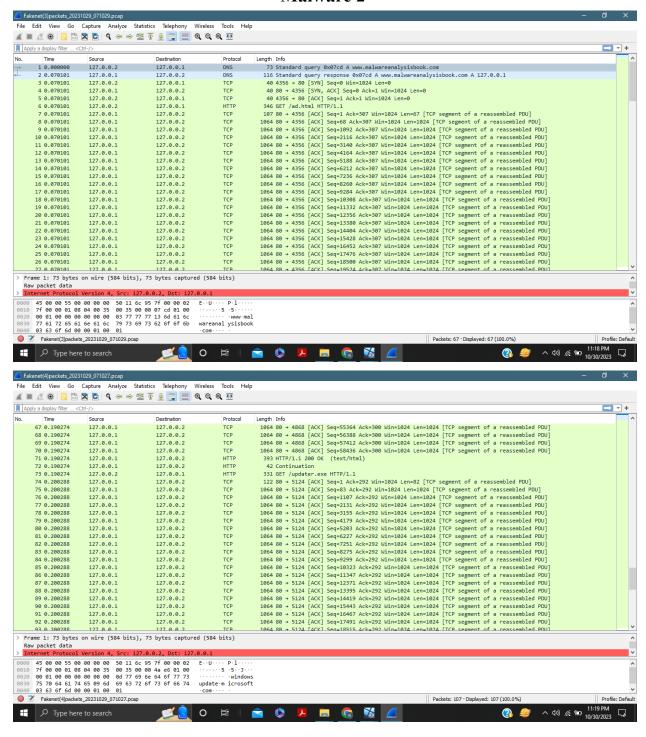
Image Http/Https/Exe Requests

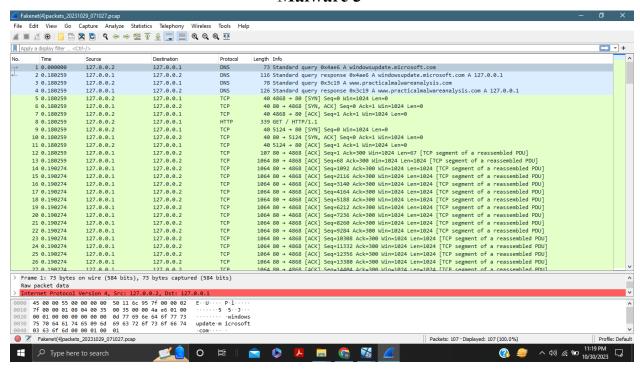


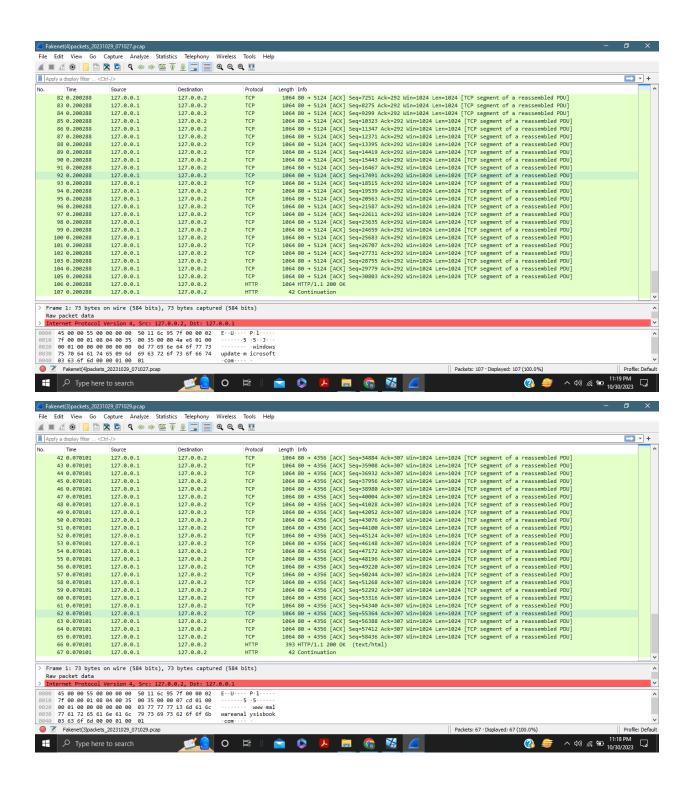




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Analysis of Reports and Tools:

The Sequence of Requests are:

- ARP requests for DNS
- TCP Handshakes
- Then Http request
- Lastly, data transfer over TCP

InetSim with ApateDNS provides a more realistic simulated network environment. It provides more detailed analysis. However, FakeNet is more easy to use and an easy to set up tool. It provides a basic level analysis.

So the differences are in:

- Simulation Type
- Simulation Level
- Details in logs
- Responses

Whereas the comparison of two tools in analyzing malware behavior turns out quite useful.