

CNSL Assignment 10

Facebook Packet Analysis

Aim

Capture packets using Wireshark, write the exact packet capture filter expressions to accomplish the following and save the output in file:

1. Capture all TCP traffic to/from Facebook, during the time when you log in to your Facebook account
2. Capture all HTTP traffic to/from Facebook, when you log in to your Facebook account
3. Write a DISPLAY filter expression to count all TCP packets (captured under item #1) that have the flags SYN, PSH, and RST set. Show the fraction of packets that had each flag set.
4. Count how many TCP packets you received from / sent to Face book, and how many of each were also HTTP packets.

Software / Hardware Requirements

Software: Wireshark (latest version)

Hardware: Computer with active internet connection

Operating System: Windows/Linux/macOS

Theory

Wireshark is a widely used network protocol analyzer that captures and inspects packets in real time. It allows users to apply capture filters (to restrict packets being recorded) and display filters (to analyze specific traffic after capture).

Key concepts:

Capture Filter: Applied before capturing packets, based on Berkeley Packet Filter (BPF) syntax.

Display Filter: Applied after capturing, using Wireshark's own syntax.

TCP Flags: Control flags in TCP header such as SYN (synchronize), PSH (push), RST (reset).

Steps with sample output

1. Capture all TCP traffic to/from Facebook, during the time when you log in to your Facebook account:

Open Wireshark protocol analyzer in ensn mode.

Login to facebook.com and log out immediately once the home page appears.

Switch back to Wireshark protocol analyzer and press stop. Save the pcapng file.

Now, the analyzation begins. Firstly, apply the filter of Facebook IP address and tcp. The output is shown in below figure.

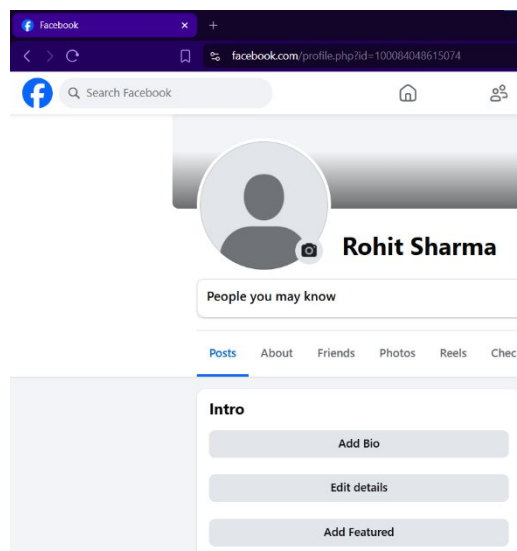


Fig 1: Facebook login page

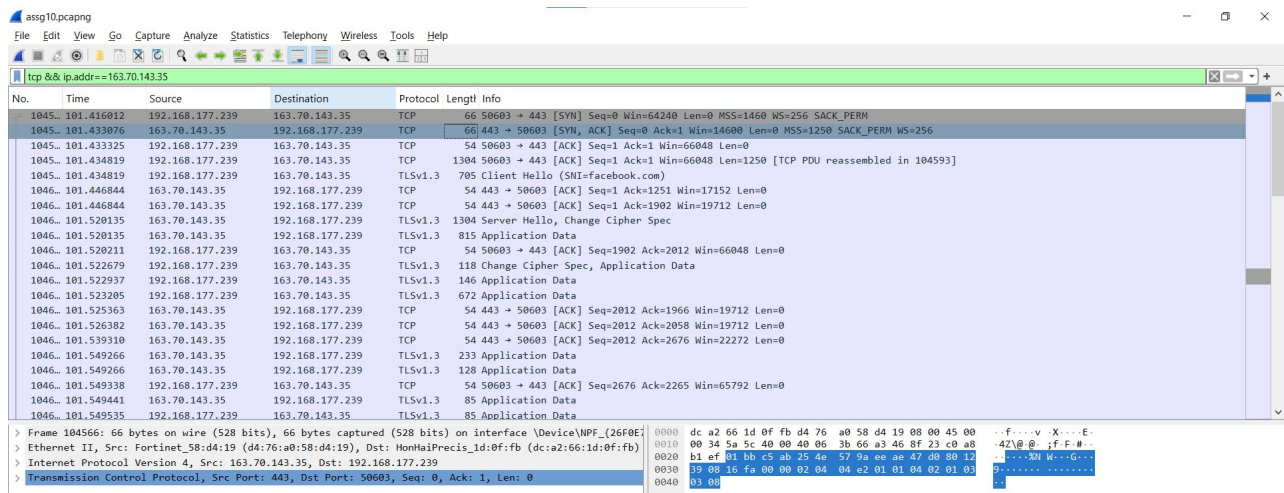


Fig 2: Facebook ip & tcp filter

2. Capture all HTTP/HTTPS traffic to/from Facebook, when you log in to your Facebook account.
Now, apply the Facebook IP and http/https filter. The output of the following is shown below figure.

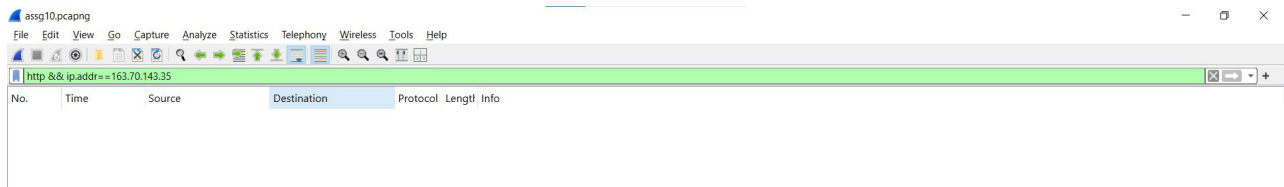


Fig 3: packets with http filter.

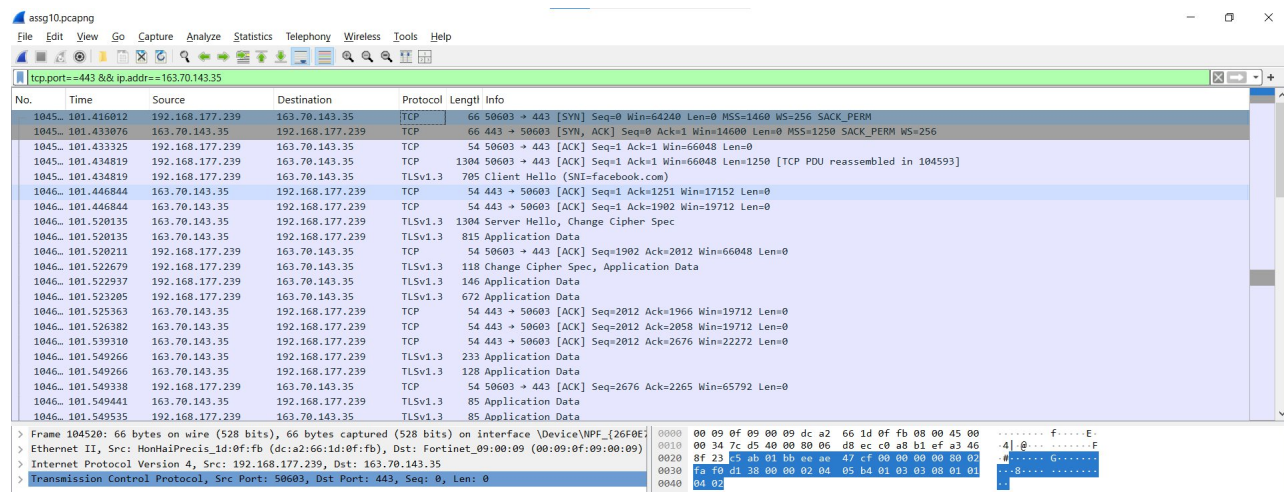


Fig 4: packets with https filter.

3. Write a DISPLAY filter expression to count all TCP packets that have the flags SYN, PSH, and RST set. Show the fraction of packets that had each flag set.

Now, apply the filter of Facebook IP and tcp.flag.syn == 1. The output is shown in the following figure.

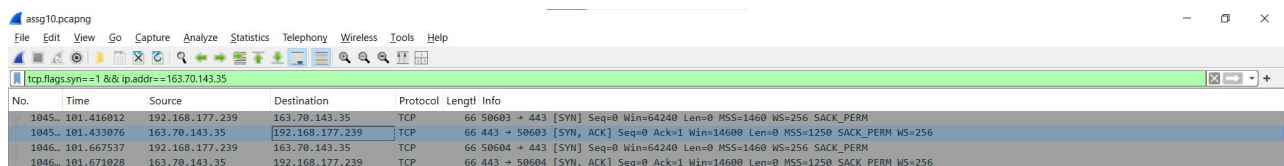


Fig 5: packets with SYN flag filter.

Now, on the header menu, click the statistics options and select the option saying protocol hierarchy. This will result in the stats about the protocol. The output is shown in the below figure.

Wireshark · Protocol Hierarchy Statistics · assg10.pcapng

Protocol	Percent Packets	Packets	Percent Bytes	Bytes	Bits/s	End Packets	End Bytes	End Bits/s	PDU's
▼ Frame	100.0	4	100.0	264	8281	0	0	0	4
▼ Ethernet	100.0	4	21.2	56	1756	0	0	0	4
▼ Internet Protocol Version 4	100.0	4	30.3	80	2509	0	0	0	4
Transmission Control Protocol	100.0	4	48.5	128	4015	4	128	4015	4

Fig 6: SYN flag protocol hierarchy.

Now, apply the filter of Facebook IP with push flag `tcp.flags.psh == 1`. The output of the following is shown in the following figure.

assg10.pcapng

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

tcp.flags.psh==1 && ip.addr==163.70.143.35

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1045...	101.434819	192.168.177.239	163.70.143.35	TLSv1.3	705	Client Hello (SNI=facebook.com)
1046...	101.520135	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TLSv1.3	815	Application Data
1046...	101.522679	192.168.177.239	163.70.143.35	TLSv1.3	118	Change Cipher Spec, Application Data
1046...	101.522937	192.168.177.239	163.70.143.35	TLSv1.3	146	Application Data
1046...	101.523205	192.168.177.239	163.70.143.35	TLSv1.3	672	Application Data
1046...	101.549266	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TLSv1.3	233	Application Data
1046...	101.549266	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TLSv1.3	128	Application Data
1046...	101.549441	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TLSv1.3	85	Application Data
1046...	101.549535	192.168.177.239	163.70.143.35	TLSv1.3	85	Application Data
1046...	101.563566	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TLSv1.3	89	Application Data
1046...	101.671942	192.168.177.239	163.70.143.35	TLSv1.3	737	Client Hello (SNI=facebook.com)
1046...	101.696738	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TCP	184	443 → 50604 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1251 Ack=1934 Win=19712 Len=130 [TCP PDU reassembled in 104691]
1046...	101.697655	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TLSv1.3	685	Application Data
1046...	101.697978	192.168.177.239	163.70.143.35	TLSv1.3	118	Change Cipher Spec, Application Data
1046...	101.706341	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TLSv1.3	233	Application Data
1046...	101.706341	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TLSv1.3	128	Application Data
1046...	101.804043	163.70.143.35	192.168.177.239	TLSv1.3	1147	Application Data, Application Data

Fig 7: PUSH flag filter.

Now, generate the protocol hierarchy of the same.

Wireshark · Protocol Hierarchy Statistics · assg10.pcapng

Protocol	Percent Packets	Packets	Percent Bytes	Bytes	Bits/s	End Packets	End Bytes	End Bits/s	PDU's
▼ Frame	100.0	17	100.0	6308	136 k	0	0	0	17
▼ Ethernet	100.0	17	3.8	238	5156	0	0	0	17
▼ Internet Protocol Version 4	100.0	17	5.4	340	7366	0	0	0	17
▼ Transmission Control Protocol	100.0	17	5.4	340	7366	1	20	433	17
Transport Layer Security	94.1	16	165.4	10436	226 k	16	6920	149 k	17

Fig 8: PUSH flag protocol hierarchy.

Repeat the above steps with reset flag filter also. The output is shown in the following figure.

assg10.pcapng

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tcp.flags.reset==1 && ip.addr==163.70.143.35

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
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Fig 9: Reset flag filter.

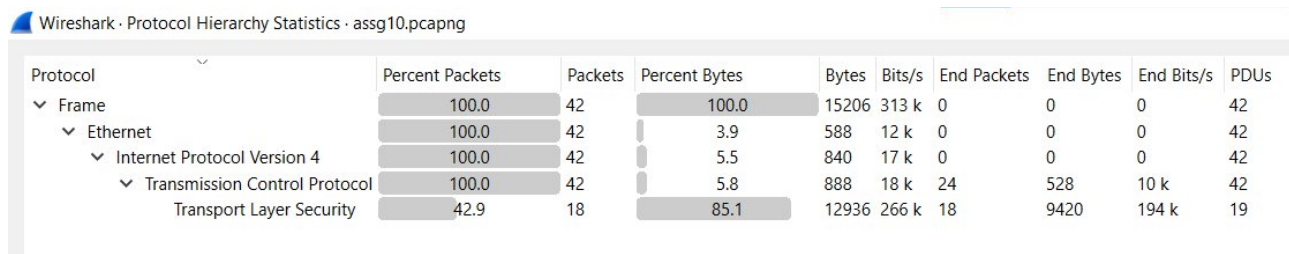
Wireshark · Protocol Hierarchy Statistics · assg10.pcapng

Protocol	Percent Packets	Packets	Percent Bytes	Bytes	Bits/s	End Packets	End Bytes	End Bits/s	PDU's
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Fig 10: RESET flag protocol hierarchy.

- Count how many TCP packets you received from / sent to Facebook, and how many of each were also HTTP packets.

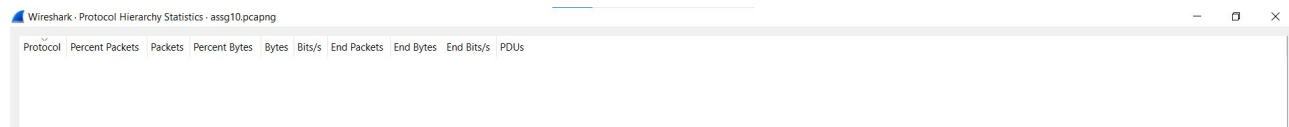
Now, simply apply the Facebook IP and tcp filter and check the protocol hierarchy status. This will tell the number of packets sent and received from Facebook. The output is shown in the below figure.



Protocol	Percent Packets	Packets	Percent Bytes	Bytes	Bits/s	End Packets	End Bytes	End Bits/s	PDUs
▼ Frame	100.0	42	100.0	15206	313 k	0	0	0	42
▼ Ethernet	100.0	42	3.9	588	12 k	0	0	0	42
▼ Internet Protocol Version 4	100.0	42	5.5	840	17 k	0	0	0	42
▼ Transmission Control Protocol	100.0	42	5.8	888	18 k	24	528	10 k	42
Transport Layer Security	42.9	18	85.1	12936	266 k	18	9420	194 k	19

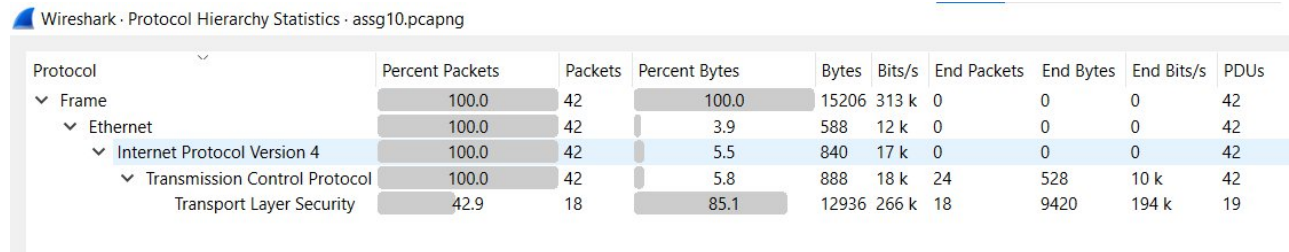
Fig 11 : TCP Packet Count

For the count of http packets apply the Facebook IP and http filter and check the protocol hierarchy status. This will tell the number of packets sent and received from Facebook. The output is shown in the below figure.



Protocol	Percent Packets	Packets	Percent Bytes	Bytes	Bits/s	End Packets	End Bytes	End Bits/s	PDUs
▼ Frame	100.0	42	100.0	15206	313 k	0	0	0	42
▼ Ethernet	100.0	42	3.9	588	12 k	0	0	0	42
▼ Internet Protocol Version 4	100.0	42	5.5	840	17 k	0	0	0	42
▼ Transmission Control Protocol	100.0	42	5.8	888	18 k	24	528	10 k	42
Transport Layer Security	42.9	18	85.1	12936	266 k	18	9420	194 k	19

Fig 12: HTTP packet count.



Protocol	Percent Packets	Packets	Percent Bytes	Bytes	Bits/s	End Packets	End Bytes	End Bits/s	PDUs
▼ Frame	100.0	42	100.0	15206	313 k	0	0	0	42
▼ Ethernet	100.0	42	3.9	588	12 k	0	0	0	42
▼ Internet Protocol Version 4	100.0	42	5.5	840	17 k	0	0	0	42
▼ Transmission Control Protocol	100.0	42	5.8	888	18 k	24	528	10 k	42
Transport Layer Security	42.9	18	85.1	12936	266 k	18	9420	194 k	19

Fig 13: HTTPS packet count.

Conclusion

Wireshark successfully captured and filtered Facebook login traffic. Using filters, we analyzed TCP packets with SYN, PSH, RST flags and compared the number of TCP vs HTTP packets exchanged.