

Packet Filtering and Analysis using Wireshark/Burp Suite

Aim

To capture, filter, and analyze network packets using Wireshark on Kali Linux in VirtualBox.

Tools Required

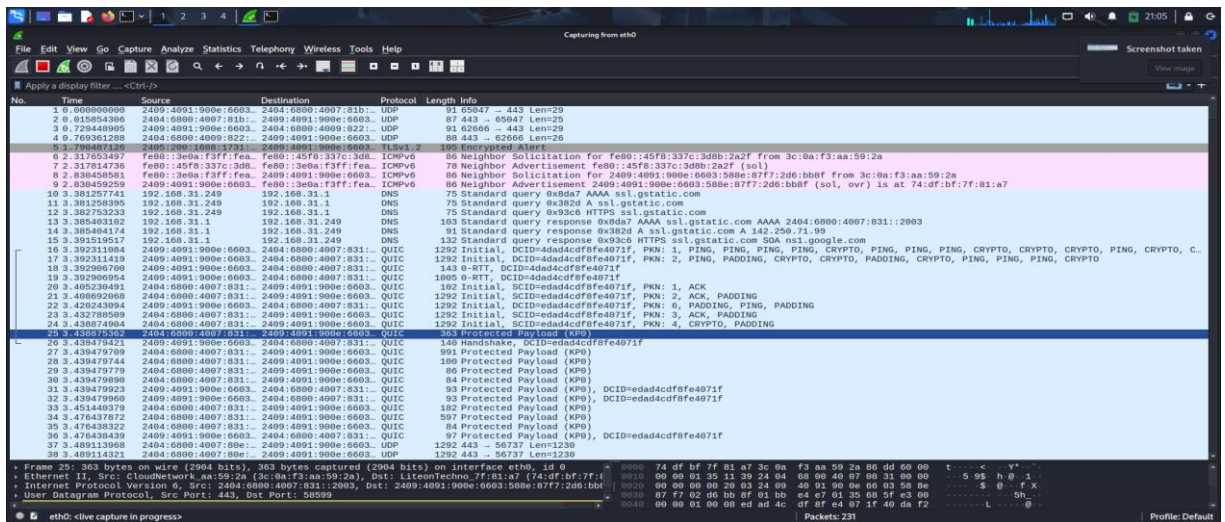
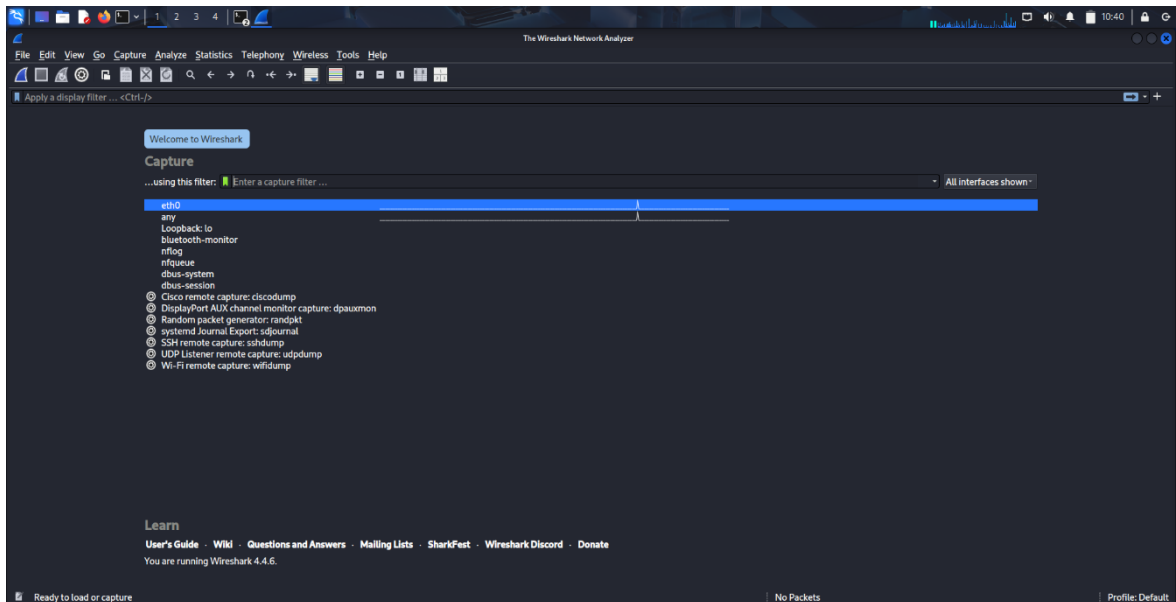
- **Hardware:** Laptop/PC with VirtualBox installed
- **Software:**
 - Kali Linux (running inside VirtualBox)
 - Wireshark Network Analyzer
 - Apache2 web server
 - PHP interpreter
 - Browser

Procedure

1. **Configure VirtualBox Network for Packet Capture**
 - Open VirtualBox → Kali VM → *Settings* → *Network*.
 - Set **Adapter 1**:
 - Attached to: **Bridged Adapter**
 - Promiscuous Mode: **Allow All**
 - Cable Connected: **✓**
 - Save settings.
2. **Start Kali Linux VM**
 - Boot the Kali Linux VM in VirtualBox.
3. **Run Wireshark as Root**

```
sudo wireshark
```

- Select network interface `eth0`
4. **Start Packet Capture**
 - Click on `eth0` to begin capturing packets.
 - Generate some traffic (open websites, ping servers, or run curl commands).



5. Apply Display Filters for Analysis

Examples:

- DNS Packets:

```
dns
```

- HTTPS Packets:

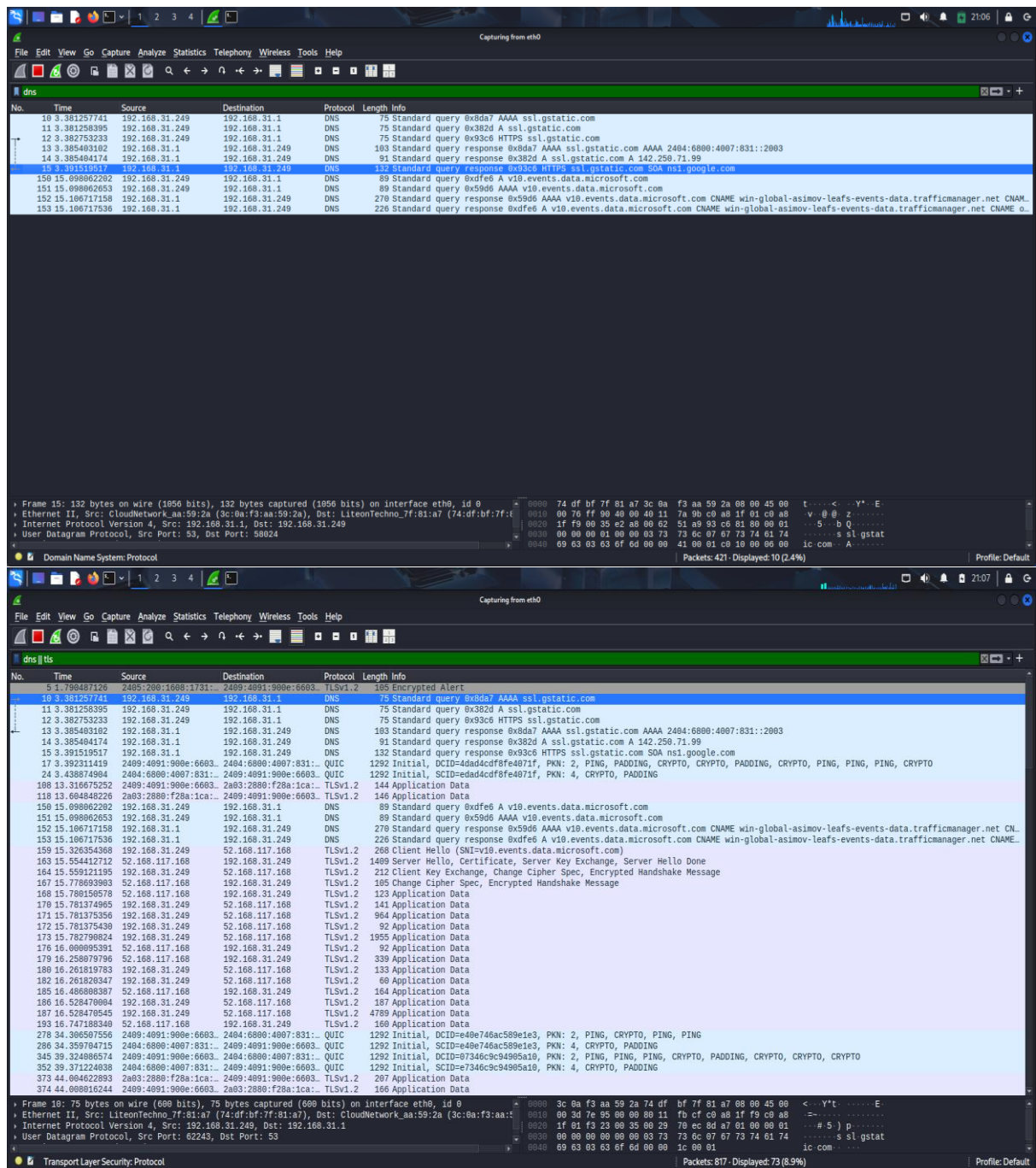
```
tls
```

- Packets from specific IP:

```
ip.addr == 18.161.216.37
```

- TCP Port 443:

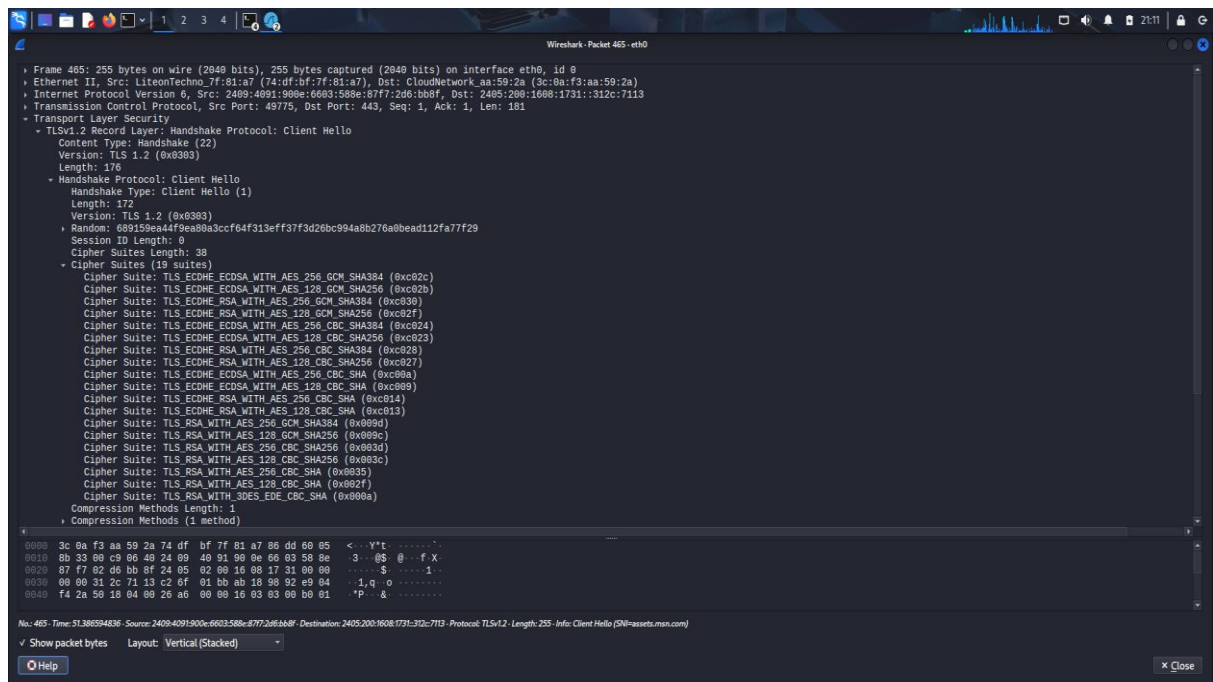
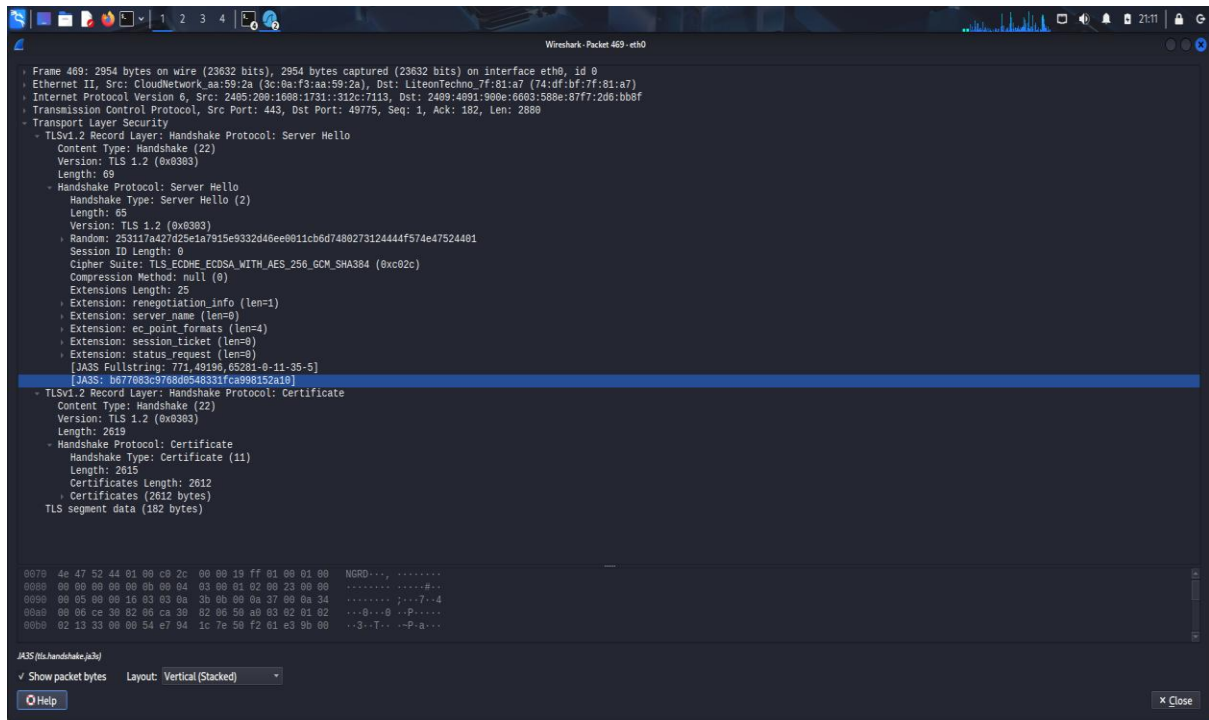
```
tcp.port == 443
```



6. Analyze Captured Packets

- Select any packet and expand:

- **Ethernet Layer:** Source & Destination MAC addresses
- **IP Layer:** Source & Destination IP addresses
- **TCP/UDP Layer:** Port numbers, flags (SYN, ACK)
- **Application Layer:** Protocol details (DNS query, HTTP request, TLS handshake)



7. Stop Capture and Save

- Stop capture (red square button).
- Save capture file in .pcap format for submission.

Part B: Capturing Login Credentials over HTTP

Step 1 – Setup Apache Web Server

```
sudo service apache2 start
sudo mkdir -p /var/www/html/testlogin
cd /var/www/html/testlogin
```

Step 2 – Create Login HTML Page

```
sudo nano login.html

html
CopyEdit
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
    <title>Test Login Page</title>
</head>
<body>
    <h2>Login Form</h2>
    <form action="login.php" method="post">
        Username: <input type="text" name="username"><br><br>
        Password: <input type="password" name="password"><br><br>
        <input type="submit" value="Login">
    </form>
</body>
</html>
```

Save (Ctrl + O → Enter → Ctrl + X).

Step 3 – Create PHP Script

```
sudo nano login.php

php
CopyEdit
<?php
$username = $_POST['username'];
$password = $_POST['password'];

echo "<h2>Login Attempt</h2>";
echo "Username: " . $username . "<br>";
echo "Password: " . $password . "<br>";
?>
```

Step 4 – Start/Enable Apache

```
sudo service apache2 status
sudo service apache2 start
```

Step 5 – Test Page

Browser:

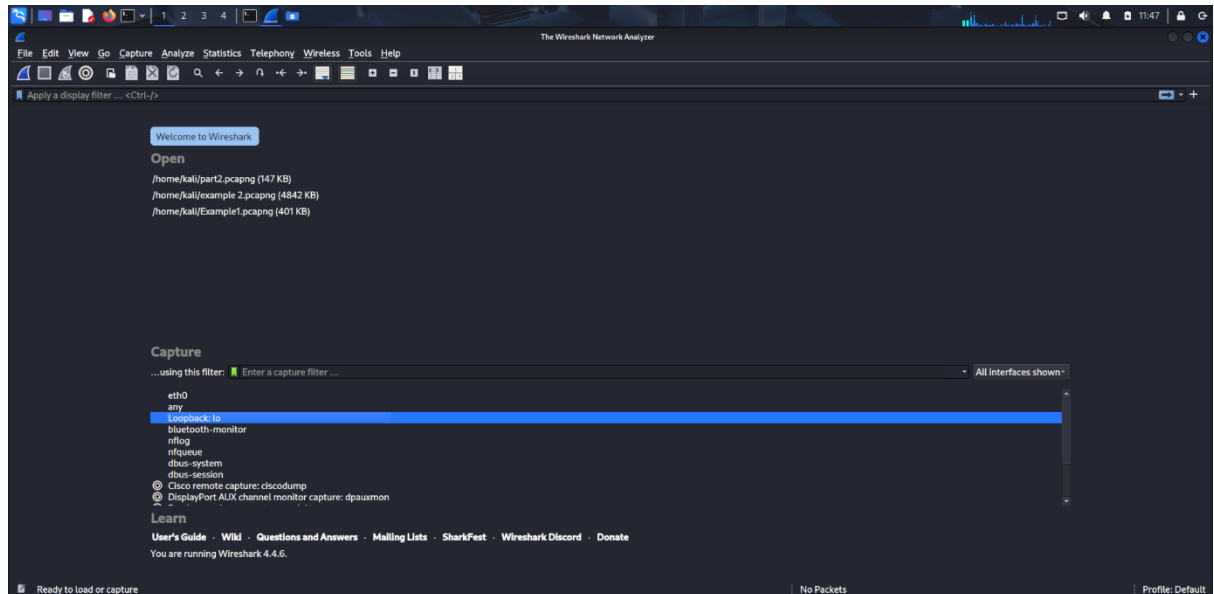
<http://127.0.0.1/testlogin/login.html>

Or: Type in bash

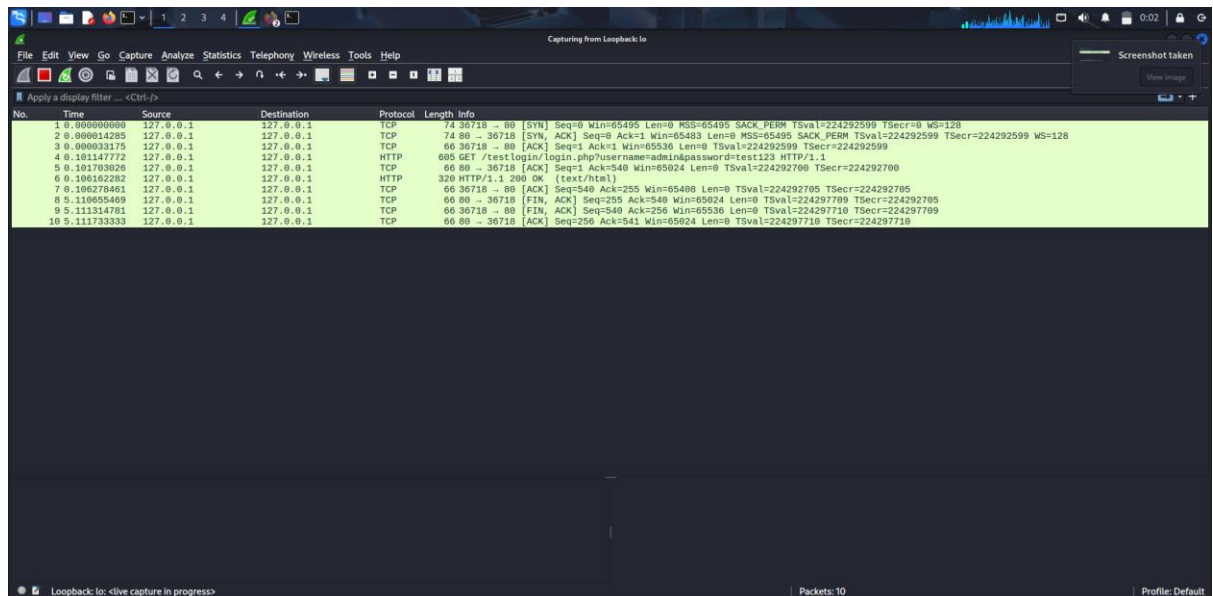
```
curl http://127.0.0.1/testlogin/login.html
```

Step 6 – Capture with Wireshark

- Open Wireshark → select `lo` (loopback) interface.

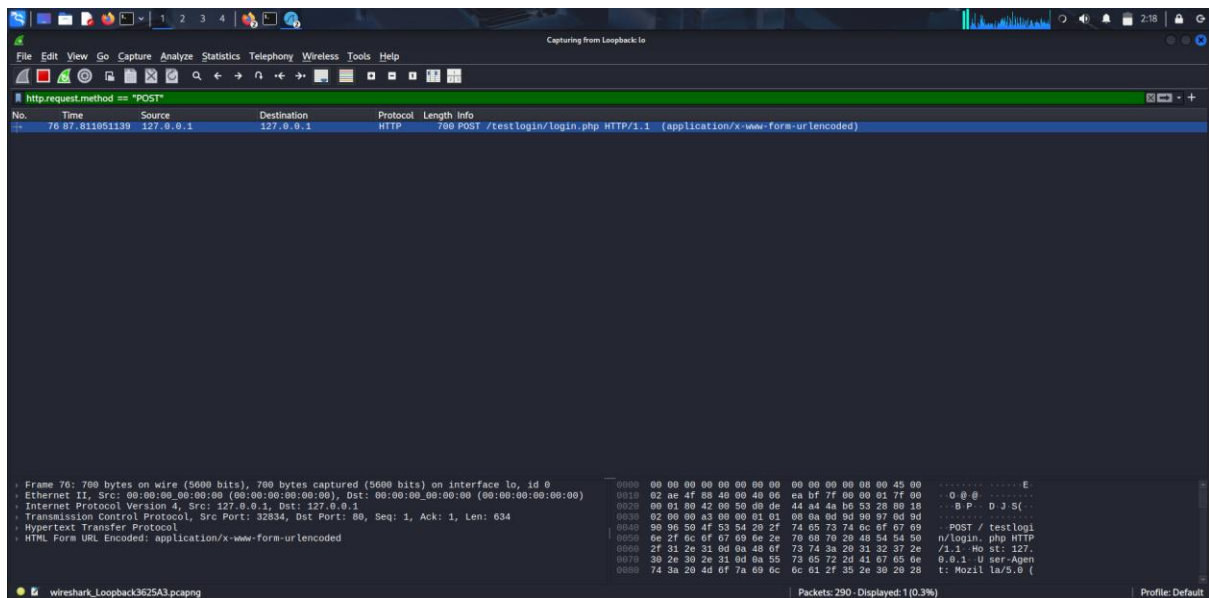


- Start capture.



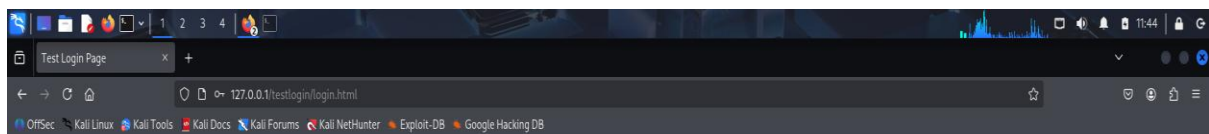
- Apply filter:

```
http.request.method == "POST"
```

Step 7 – Perform Login Attempt

- Username: admin
- Password: test123
- Submit form.



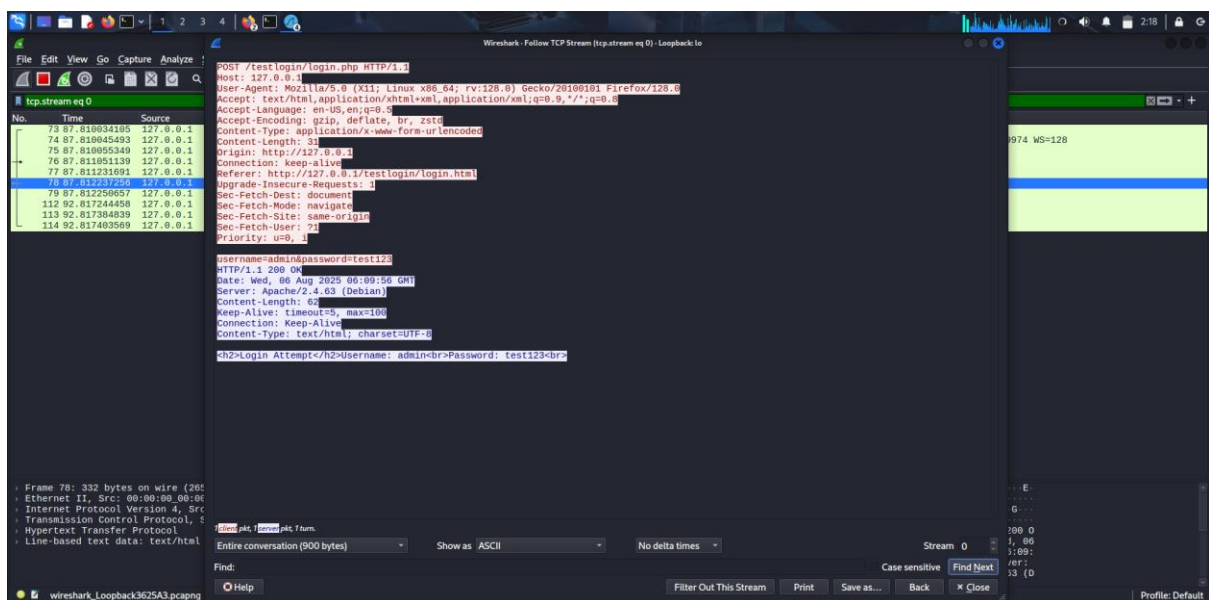
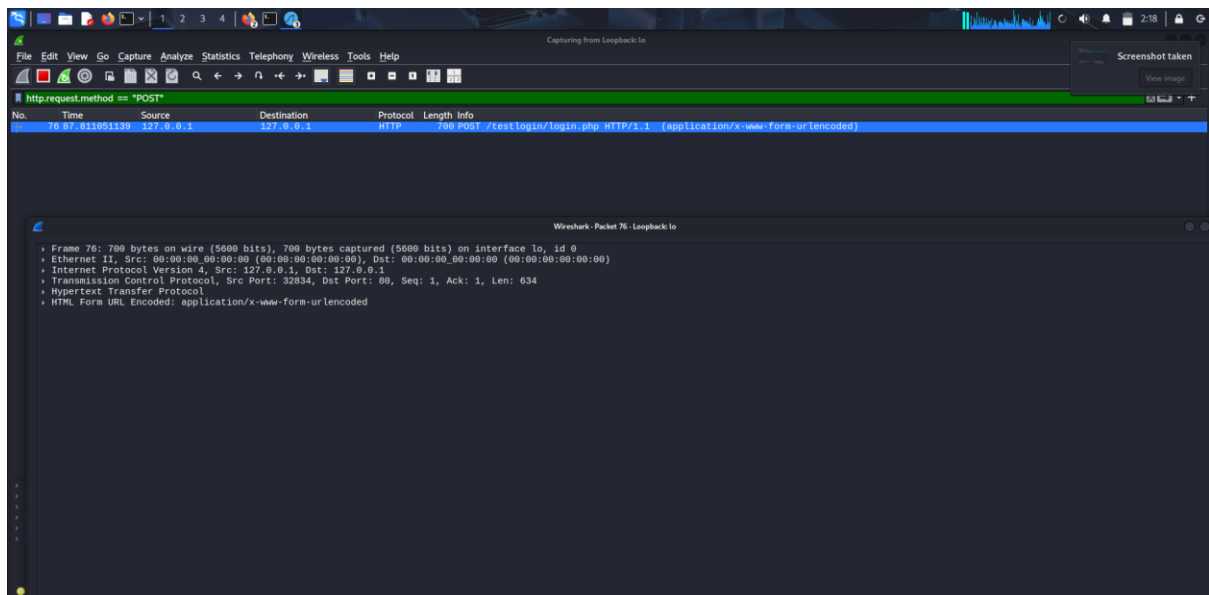
Login Form

Username:

Password:

Step 8 – Analyze Packets

- Locate POST packet.
- Right-click → **Follow** → **TCP Stream**.
- Credentials will be visible in plain text.



Observations

- Network traffic from various applications can be captured in real-time.
- Protocol filters help narrow down the traffic of interest.
- Details such as source/destination IP, MAC addresses, ports, and application data can be examined.
- HTTP POST requests transmit data in plaintext.
- Credentials can be directly read in the captured packets when using HTTP.
- Using HTTPS would encrypt this data and prevent such interception.

Post-Lab Discussion

- **Bridged Adapter mode** allows the VM to be part of the physical network, enabling packet sniffing.
- **Promiscuous mode** is essential to capture packets not directly addressed to the capturing machine.

- **HTTPS traffic** is encrypted, so packet payloads are unreadable without decryption keys.
- HTTP lacks encryption, making it vulnerable to credential theft.
- Tools like Wireshark can be used by attackers to sniff sensitive data if encryption is not in place.
- Transitioning to HTTPS mitigates this risk by encrypting data in transit.
- The **loopback interface** captures traffic within the local system (127.0.0.1).

Viva Questions

1. What is the difference between a **display filter** and a **capture filter** in Wireshark?
2. Why do we use **promiscuous mode** in packet capturing?
3. How can you identify a **TCP three-way handshake** in Wireshark?
4. What is the difference between **HTTP** and **HTTPS** in terms of packet analysis?
5. Can Wireshark **decrypt HTTPS traffic**? Under what conditions?
6. Why are credentials visible in **HTTP packet captures** but not in HTTPS?
7. What is the significance of the **loopback interface (lo)** in Wireshark?
8. How can a **POST request** be identified in Wireshark?
9. What is the difference between **GET** and **POST** methods in HTTP?
10. How does HTTPS protect against **packet sniffing attacks**?