



# Performing a Denial-of-Service Attack from the WAN

ETHICAL HACKING & LAB ASSIGNMENT 3

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# Executive Summary

## Highlights

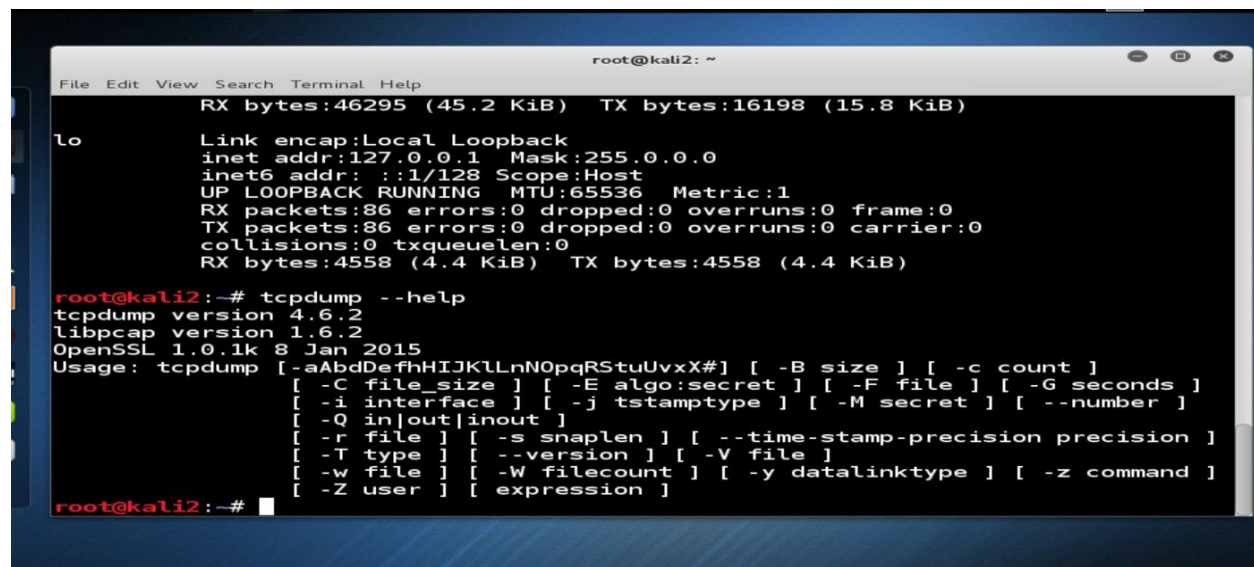
In this lab, I will explore denial-of-service (DoS) attacks to understand how different network protocols can be flooded to overwhelm target systems and disrupt services. I will conduct TCP, UDP, and HTTP flood attacks, starting by configuring the network interface on a Kali sniffer using ifconfig and capturing packets with tcpdump. Using the Low Orbit Ion Cannon (LOIC) on a Windows machine, I will generate extensive traffic and analyze it with capinfos to measure the data volume and impact. This will give me insight into how quickly such attacks can exhaust network resources and compromise service availability.

## Objectives

My objectives in this lab are to understand DoS attack mechanics and their impact on network resources by executing TCP, UDP, and HTTP floods. I will set up the network, capture packets, and analyze traffic using tools like ifconfig, tcpdump, and capinfos on Kali Linux to observe how each attack overwhelms services. By simulating attack conditions with LOIC from an external network, I will learn to identify the unique traffic patterns for each protocol. Observing the high traffic volumes generated will help me understand the strain DoS attacks place on networks, and I'll gain practical experience with sniffer tools for real-world network analysis.

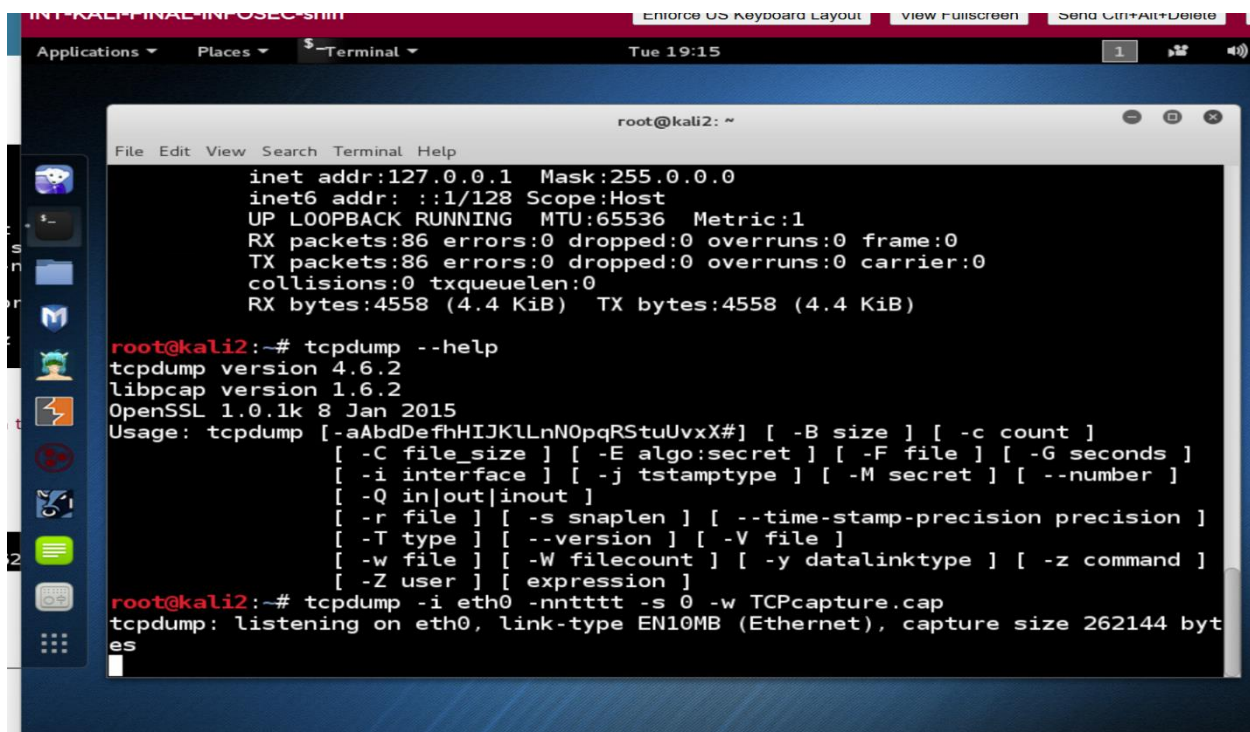
# Lab Description Details

Below command to see all of the available options for tcpdump



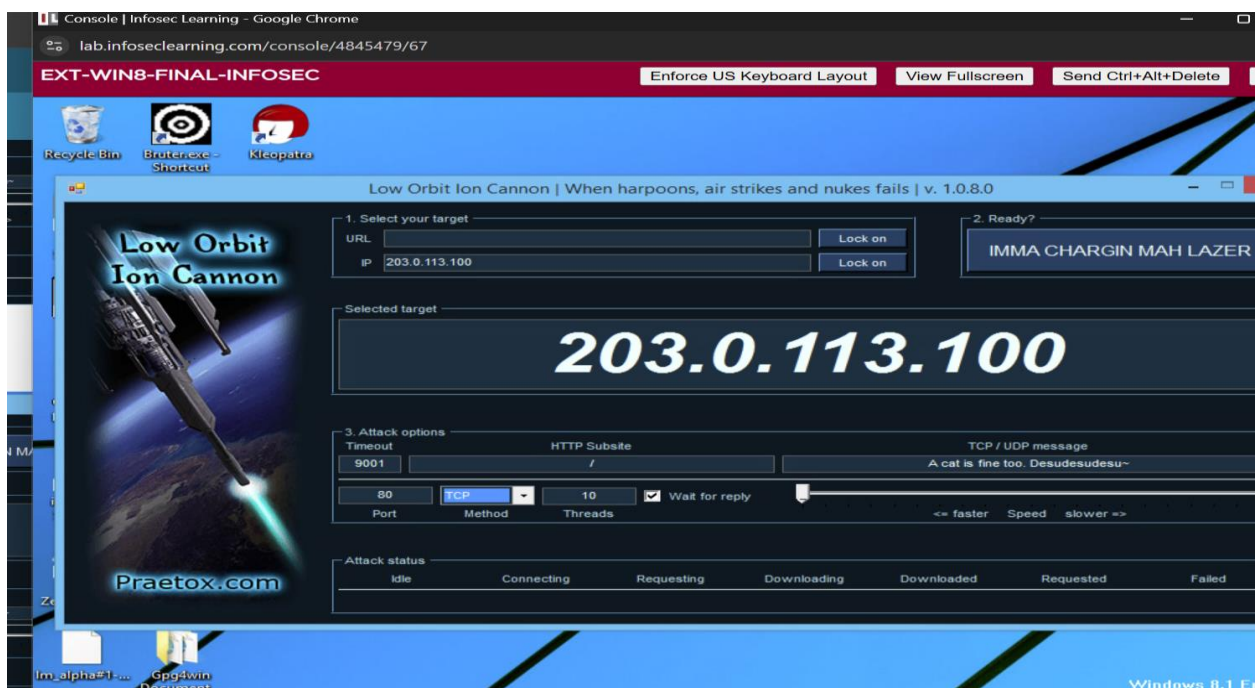
```
root@kali2: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
RX bytes:46295 (45.2 KiB) TX bytes:16198 (15.8 KiB)  
  
lo  
Link encap:Local Loopback  
inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0  
inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host  
UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:65536 Metric:1  
RX packets:86 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0  
TX packets:86 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0  
collisions:0 txqueuelen:0  
RX bytes:4558 (4.4 KiB) TX bytes:4558 (4.4 KiB)  
  
root@kali2:~# tcpdump --help  
tcpdump version 4.6.2  
libpcap version 1.6.2  
OpenSSL 1.0.1k 8 Jan 2015  
Usage: tcpdump [-aAbdDefhHIJKlLnNOpqRStuUvxX#] [-B size] [-c count]  
[ -C file_size ] [ -E algo:secret ] [ -F file ] [ -G seconds ]  
[ -i interface ] [ -j tstamptype ] [ -M secret ] [ --number ]  
[ -Q in|out|inout ]  
[ -r file ] [ -s snaplen ] [ --time-stamp-precision precision ]  
[ -T type ] [ --version ] [ -V file ]  
[ -w file ] [ -W filecount ] [ -y datalinktype ] [ -z command ]  
[ -Z user ] [ expression ]  
  
root@kali2:~#
```

To start tcpdump sniffing on the eth0 interface

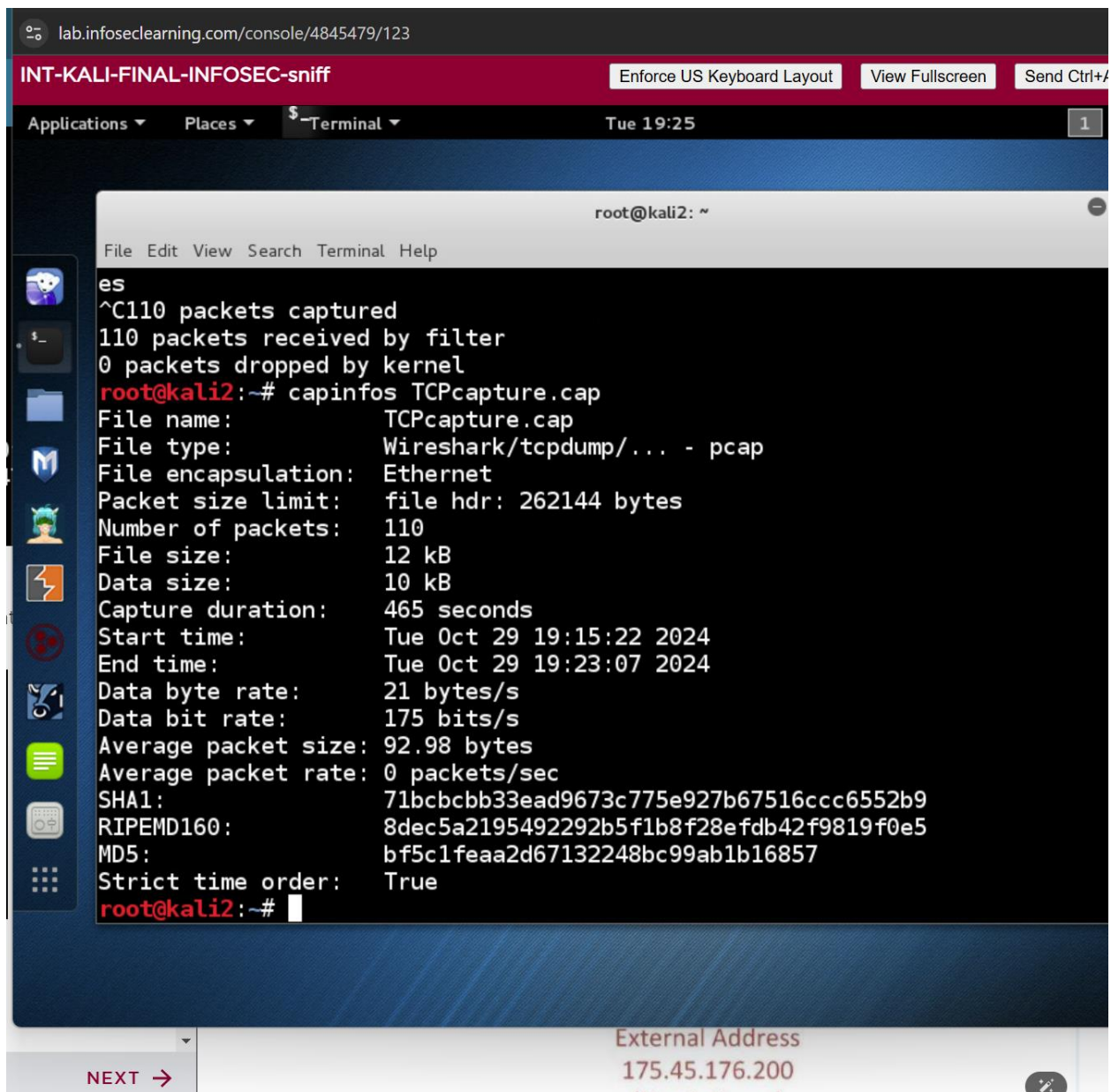


```
root@kali2: ~  
File Edit View Search Terminal Help  
inet addr:127.0.0.1  Mask:255.0.0.0  
inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host  
UP L00PBACK RUNNING  MTU:65536  Metric:1  
RX packets:86 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0  
TX packets:86 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0  
collisions:0 txqueuelen:0  
RX bytes:4558 (4.4 KiB)  TX bytes:4558 (4.4 KiB)  
  
root@kali2:~# tcpdump --help  
tcpdump version 4.6.2  
libpcap version 1.6.2  
OpenSSL 1.0.1k 8 Jan 2015  
Usage: tcpdump [-aAbdDefhHIJKlLnNOpqRStuUvXx#] [-B size] [-c count]  
        [-C file_size] [-E algo:secret] [-F file] [-G seconds]  
        [-i interface] [-j tstamptype] [-M secret] [--number]  
        [-Q in|out|inout]  
        [-r file] [-s snaplen] [--time-stamp-precision precision]  
        [-T type] [--version] [-V file]  
        [-w file] [-W filecount] [-y datalinktype] [-z command]  
        [-Z user] [expression]  
root@kali2:~# tcpdump -i eth0 -nnnttt -s 0 -w TCPcapture.cap  
tcpdump: listening on eth0, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet), capture size 262144 bytes
```

In Low Orbit Ion Cannon we locked 203.0.113.100 as our targeted IP address. And selected TCP as protocol, by clicking “IMMA CHARGIN MAH LAZER” and after 30 secs stopping the flooding button will give the packets captured and packets received by filters.



To view the total of packet in the TCPcapture file

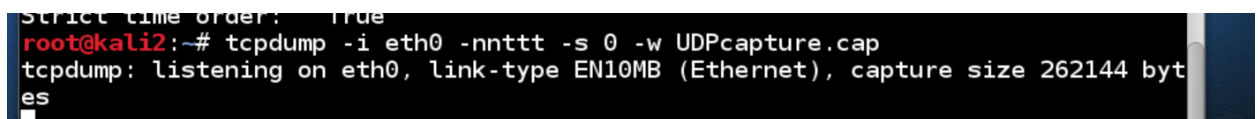


```
lab.infoseclearning.com/console/4845479/123
INT-KALI-FINAL-INFOSEC-sniff Enforce US Keyboard Layout View Fullscreen Send Ctrl+/
Applications Places Terminal Tue 19:25 1
root@kali2: ~
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
es
^C110 packets captured
110 packets received by filter
0 packets dropped by kernel
root@kali2:~# capinfos TCPcapture.cap
File name: TCPcapture.cap
File type: Wireshark/tcpdump/... - pcap
File encapsulation: Ethernet
Packet size limit: file hdr: 262144 bytes
Number of packets: 110
File size: 12 kB
Data size: 10 kB
Capture duration: 465 seconds
Start time: Tue Oct 29 19:15:22 2024
End time: Tue Oct 29 19:23:07 2024
Data byte rate: 21 bytes/s
Data bit rate: 175 bits/s
Average packet size: 92.98 bytes
Average packet rate: 0 packets/sec
SHA1: 71bcbcb33ead9673c775e927b67516ccc6552b9
RIPEMD160: 8dec5a2195492292b5f1b8f28efdb42f9819f0e5
MD5: bf5c1feaa2d67132248bc99ab1b16857
Strict time order: True
root@kali2:~#
```

NEXT → External Address 175.45.176.200

*The picture shows the total number of packets captured in the number of packets data*

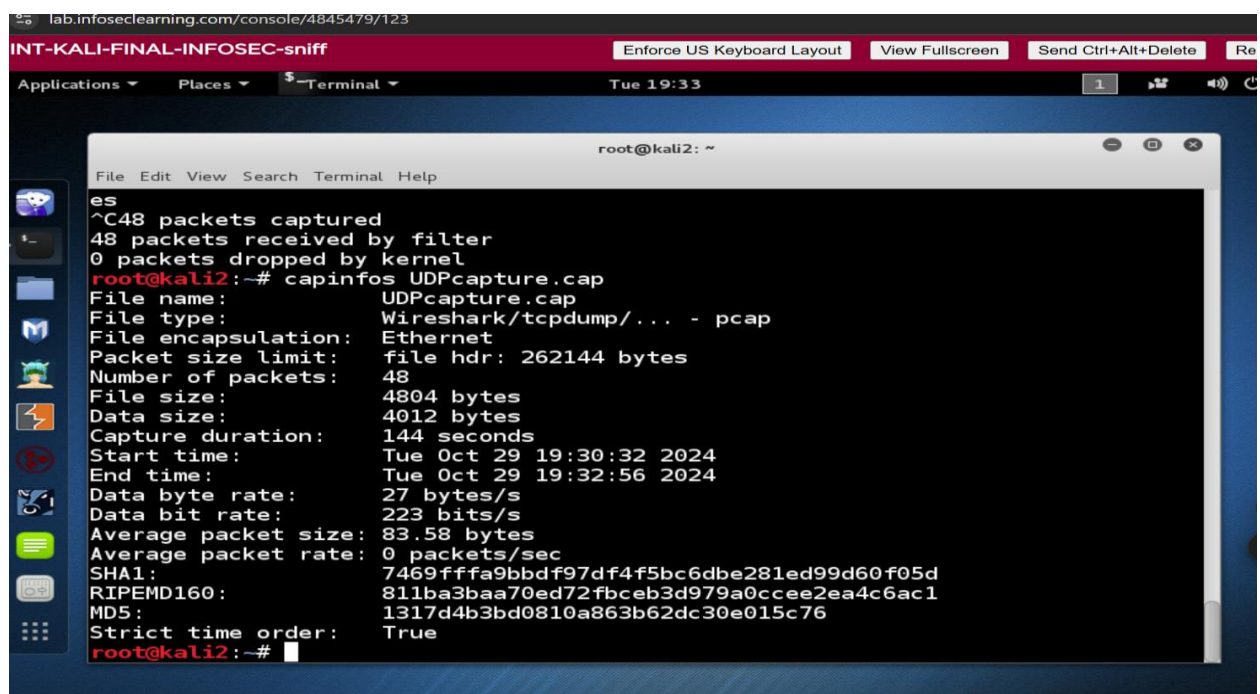
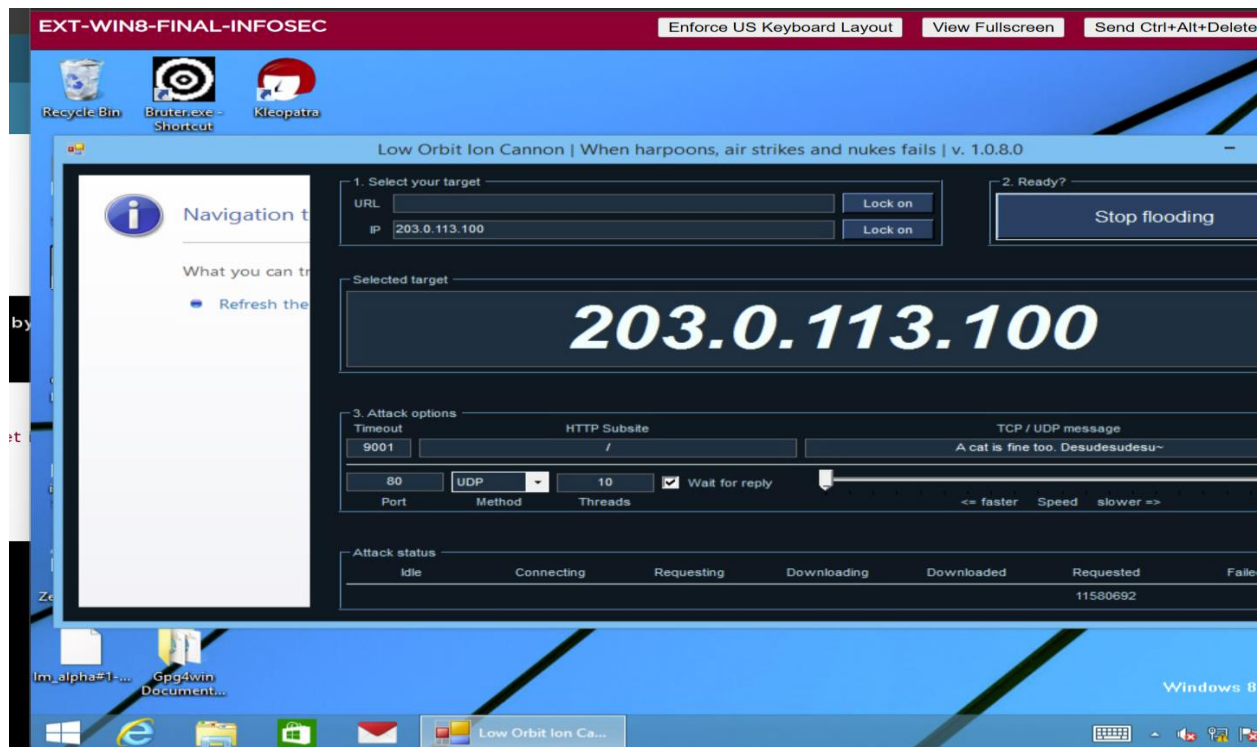
To start tcpdump sniffing on the eth0 interface for UDP



```
Strict time order: True
root@kali2:~# tcpdump -i eth0 -nnttt -s 0 -w UDPcapture.cap
tcpdump: listening on eth0, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet), capture size 262144 bytes
es
```



In Low Orbit Ion Cannon we locked 203.0.113.100 as our targeted IP address. And selected UDP as protocol, by clicking “IMMA CHARGIN MAH LAZER” and after 30 secs stopping the flooding button will give the packets captured and packets received by filters.

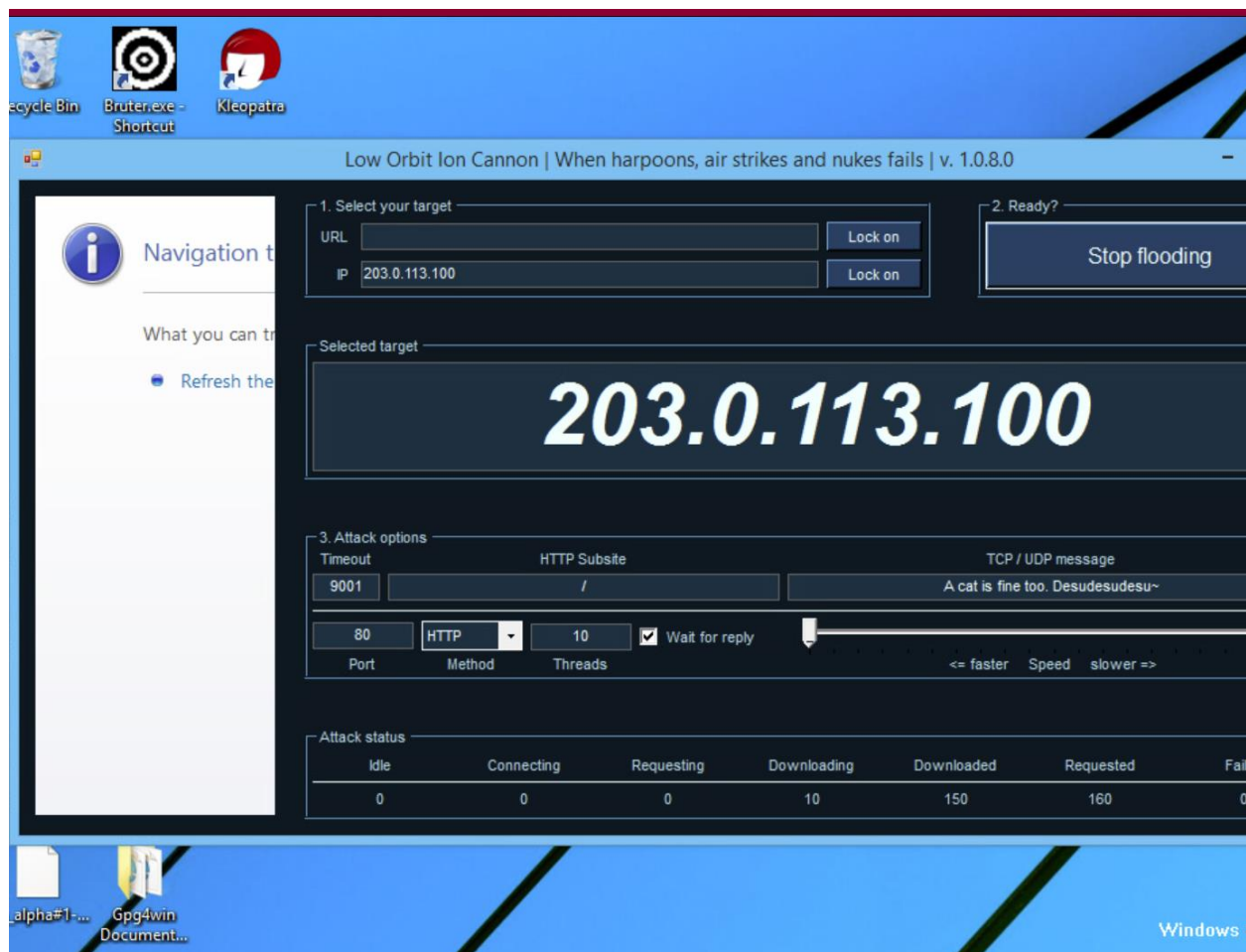


The picture shows the total number of packets captured in the number of packets data

To start the tcpdump sniffing on the eth0 interface for HTTPS

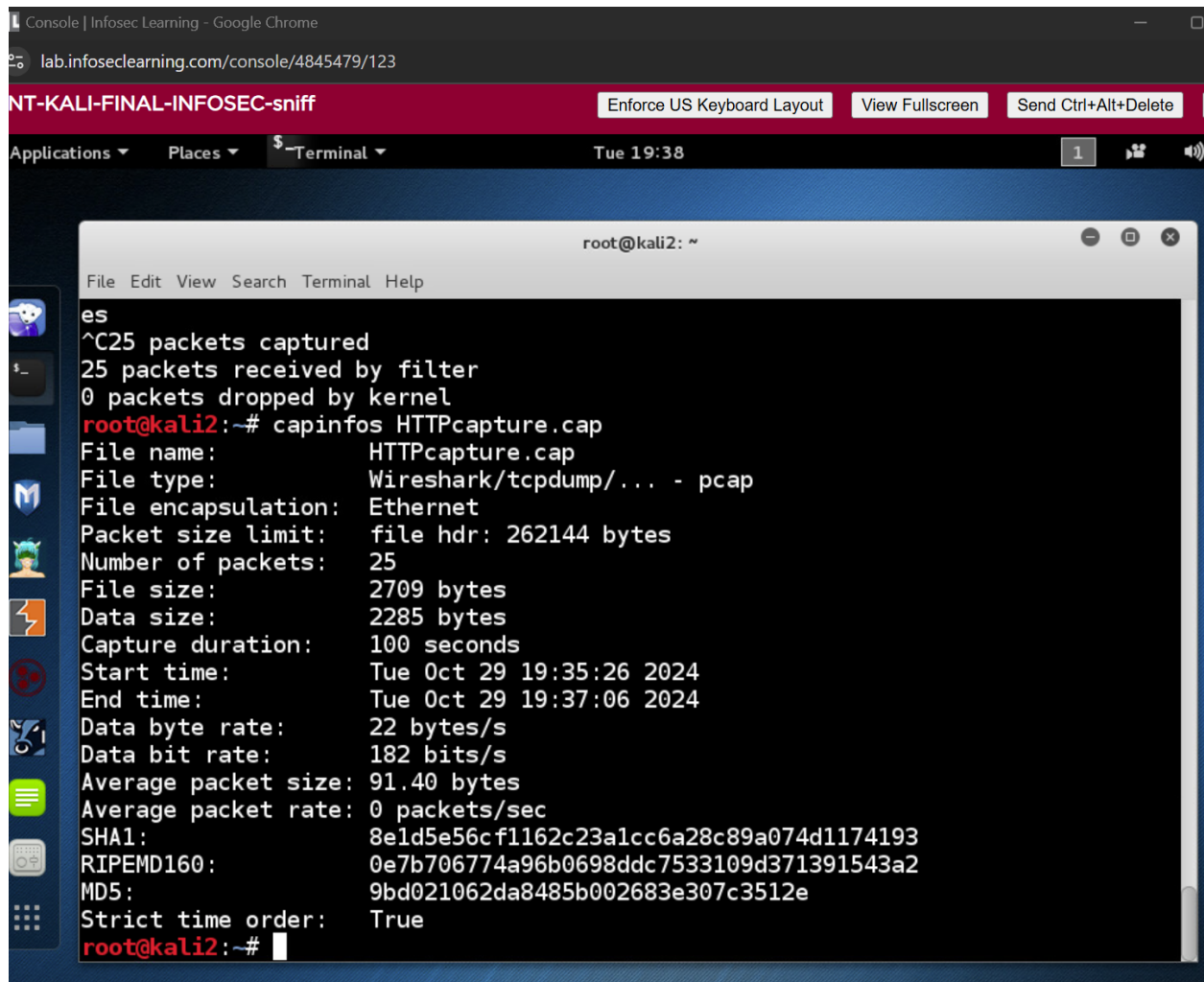
```
Strict time order: True
root@kali2:~# tcpdump -i eth0 -nnttt -s 0 -w HTTPcapture.cap
tcpdump: listening on eth0, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet), capture size 262144 bytes
```

In Low Orbit Ion Cannon we locked 203.0.113.100 as our targeted IP address. And selected HTTP as protocol, by clicking “IMMA CHARGIN MAH LAZER” and after 30 secs stopping the flooding button will give the packets captured and packets received by filters.



*Image shows the LOW ORBIT ION CANNON interface*

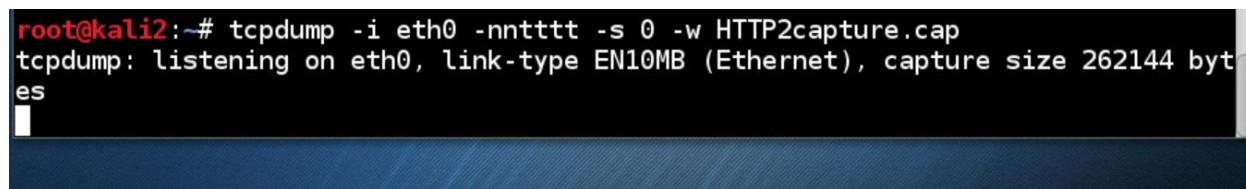
To view the total number of packets in HTTPcapture.cap file



```
es
^C25 packets captured
25 packets received by filter
0 packets dropped by kernel
root@kali2:~# capinfos HTTPcapture.cap
File name: HTTPcapture.cap
File type: Wireshark/tcpdump/... - pcap
File encapsulation: Ethernet
Packet size limit: file hdr: 262144 bytes
Number of packets: 25
File size: 2709 bytes
Data size: 2285 bytes
Capture duration: 100 seconds
Start time: Tue Oct 29 19:35:26 2024
End time: Tue Oct 29 19:37:06 2024
Data byte rate: 22 bytes/s
Data bit rate: 182 bits/s
Average packet size: 91.40 bytes
Average packet rate: 0 packets/sec
SHA1: 8e1d5e56cf1162c23a1cc6a28c89a074d1174193
RIPEMD160: 0e7b706774a96b0698ddc7533109d371391543a2
MD5: 9bd021062da8485b002683e307c3512e
Strict time order: True
root@kali2:~#
```

*Image shows the total number of packets captured in the number of packets data*

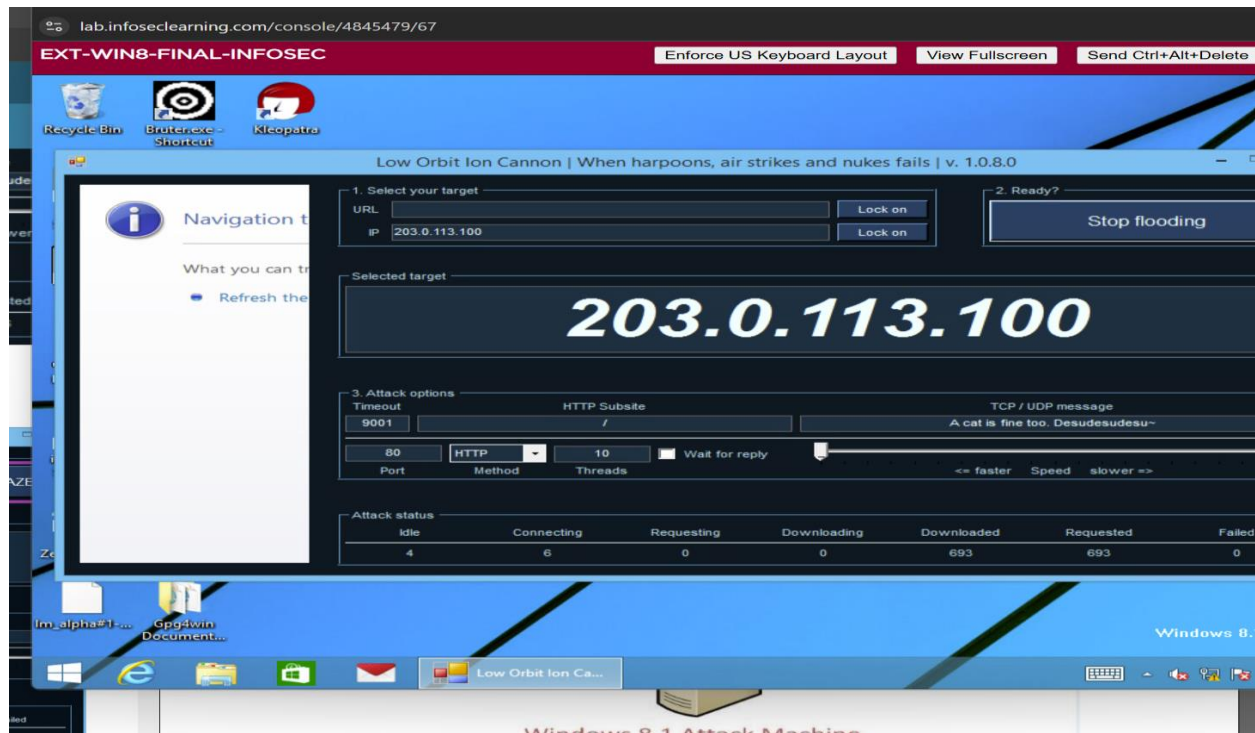
To start tcpdump sniffing on the eth0 interface for HTTP



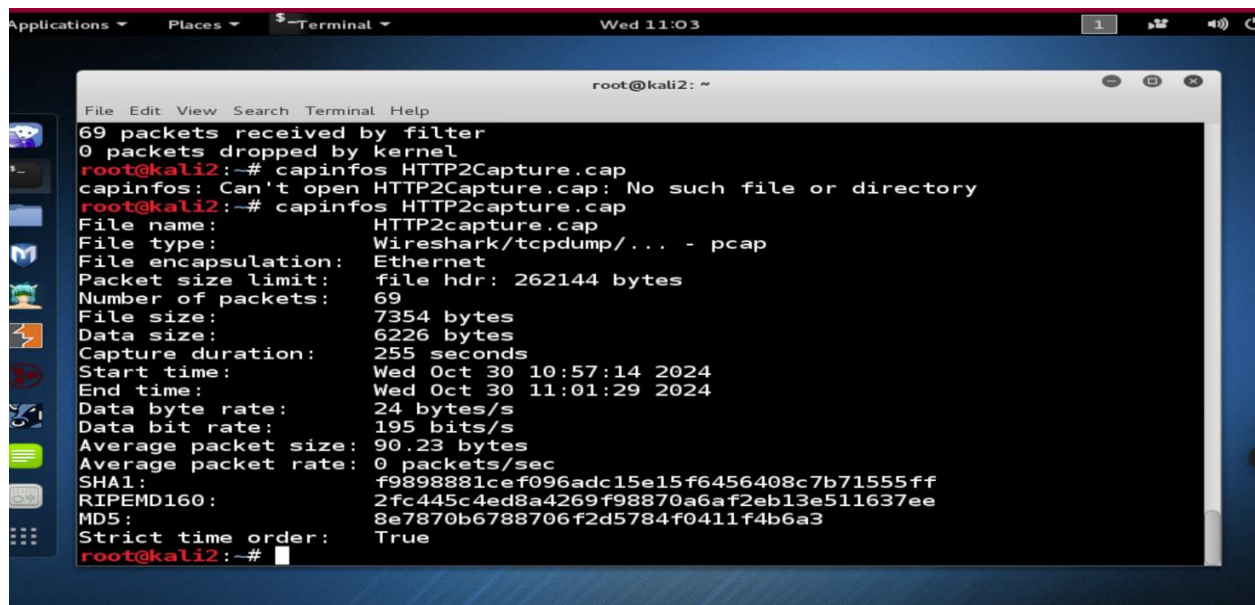
```
root@kali2:~# tcpdump -i eth0 -nntttt -s 0 -w HTTP2capture.cap
tcpdump: listening on eth0, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet), capture size 262144 bytes
es
```



In Low Orbit Ion Cannon we locked 203.0.113.100 as our targeted IP address. And selected HTTP as protocol, and we unchecked the wait for reply button for this. By clicking “IMMA CHARGIN MAH LAZER” and after 30 secs stopping the flooding button will give the packets captured and packets received by filters.



This shows the total number of packets in the HTTP2capture.cap file



*This picture shows the number of packets captured in the number of packet data*



# Supporting Evidence

These are the challenges to complete during the lab

The image displays two screenshots of a lab interface titled "Ethical Hacking and Systems Defense" with the sub-header "Performing a Denial of Service Attack from the WAN".

**Top Screenshot:**

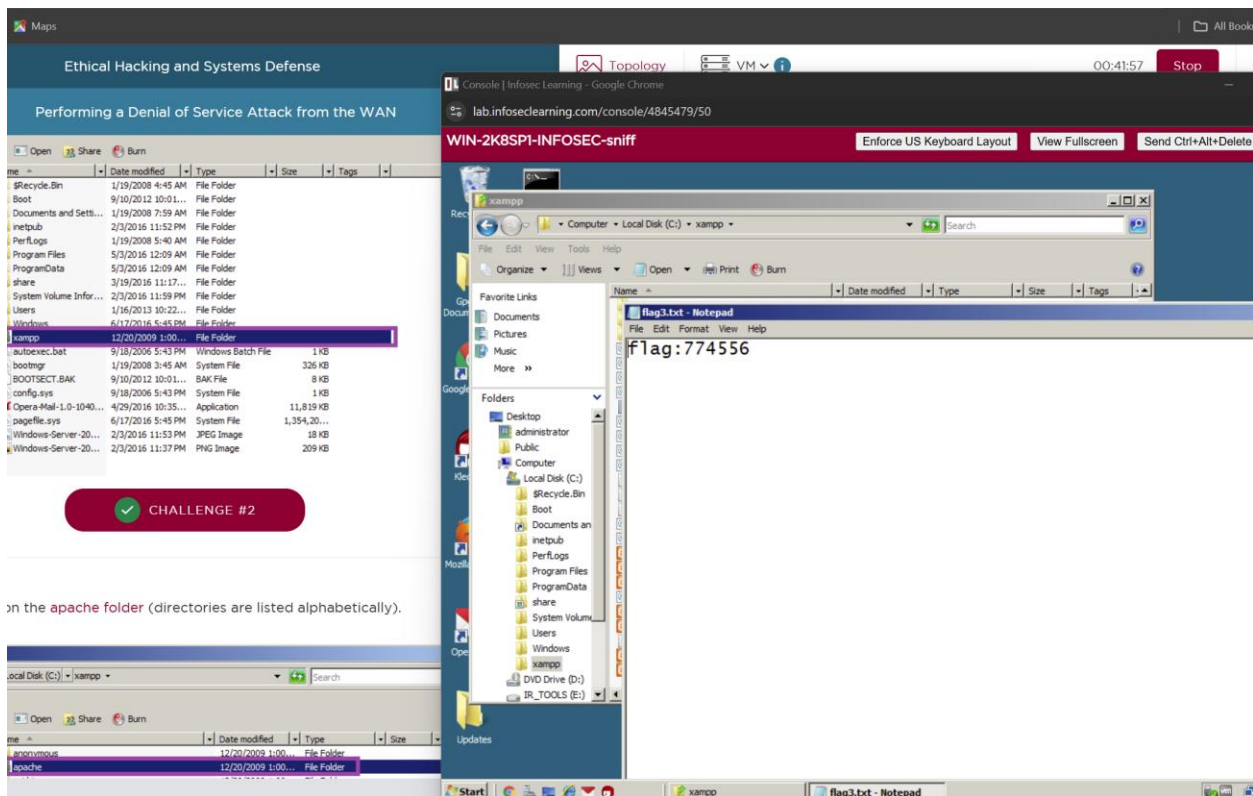
- Challenge 9:** "Notice the sample flag of 999818. Click on the Challenge icon and type the flag number to the answer box. This is just to show you how to capture Challenge Flags you will see throughout this lab." Below the text are two buttons: "SAMPLE CHALLENGE" and "CHALLENGE #1".
- Challenge 10:** "Type the following command and press Enter, so your system will not have an IP address." The command shown is `root@kali2:~# ifconfig eth0 0.0.0.0 up`.
- Terminal Output:** The terminal shows network statistics for `lo` and `eth0`. The `lo` interface has a "sample flag: 999818".

**Bottom Screenshot:**

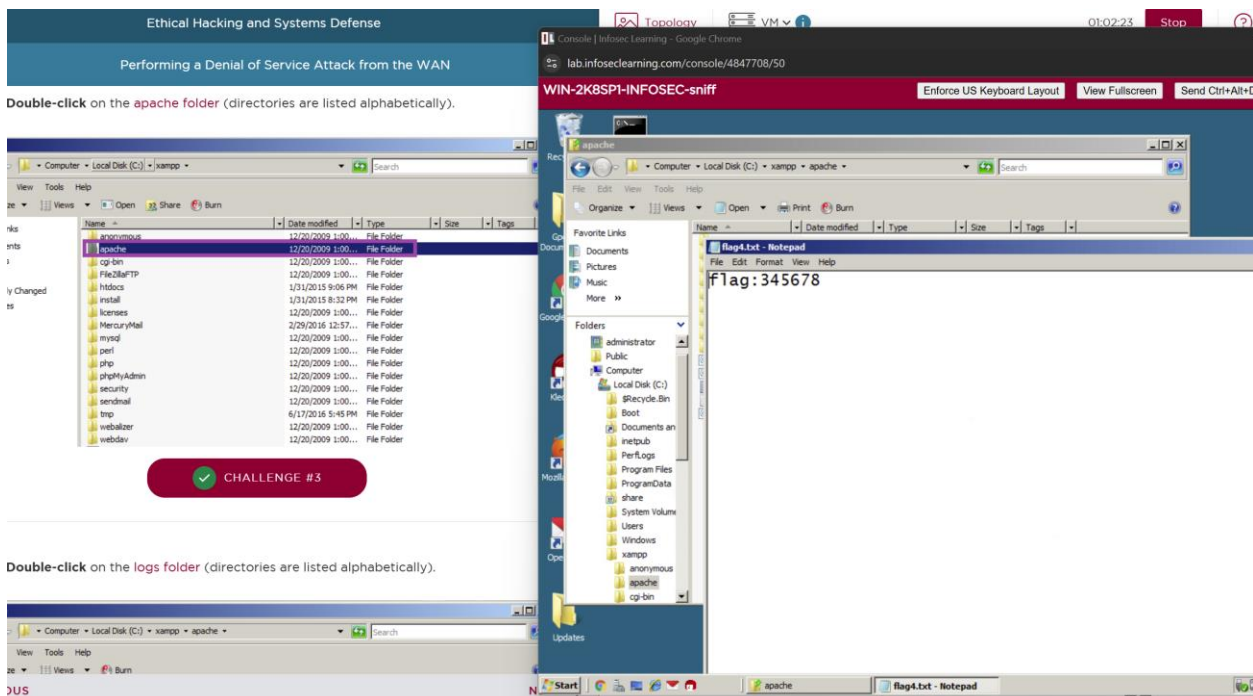
- Challenge 9:** Similar to the top screenshot, but the "CHALLENGE #1" button is now green with a checkmark.
- Challenge 10:** The command `root@kali2:~# ifconfig eth0 0.0.0.0 up` is shown.
- Challenge 11:** "Type the following command and press Enter, to verify that no IPv4 address is listed for eth0." The command shown is `root@kali2:~# ifconfig`.
- Terminal Output:** The terminal shows network statistics for `lo` and `eth0`. The `lo` interface now has a "flag: 123457".

*This picture shows the flag found in cat ip3.txt*

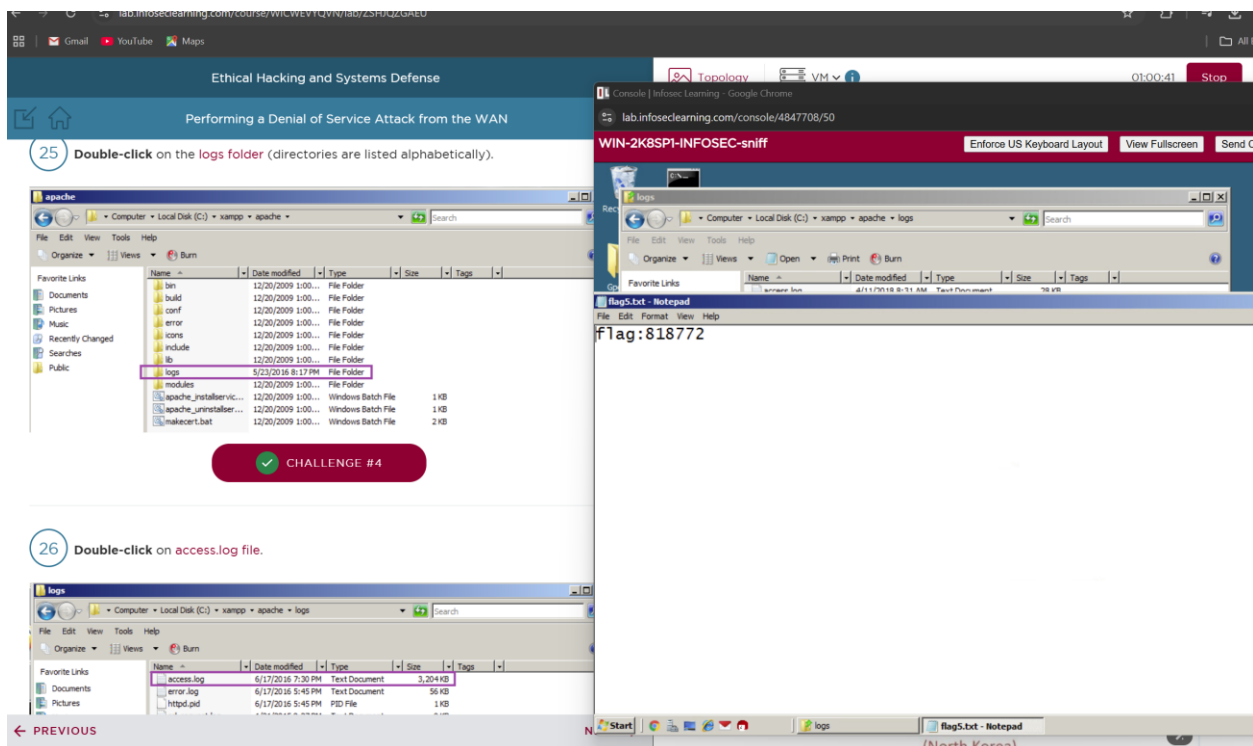




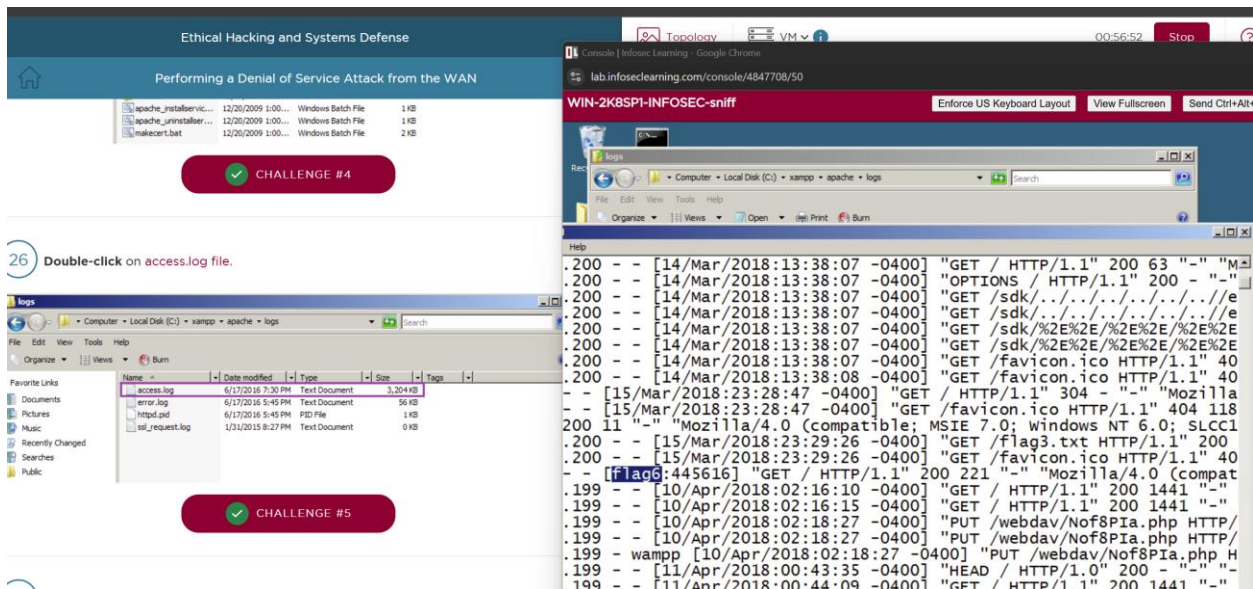
*This screenshot shows the flag found in xampp folder*



*This screenshot shows the flag found in apache folder*



*This screenshot shows the flag found in logs folder*



*This screenshot shows the flag found in access.log folder*



## Conclusion & Wrap-Up

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Summary with:

### Observations

During this lab, I observed how each type of denial-of-service (DoS) flood—TCP, UDP, and HTTP—generated significant traffic on the network, affecting the target's ability to respond to requests. The TCP and UDP floods quickly saturated the network bandwidth, while the HTTP flood created a massive spike in traffic that disrupted web services specifically. Packet analysis with tcpdump and capinfos clearly demonstrated the immense load these attacks placed on the network in a short period, highlighting the resource consumption associated with DoS attacks.

### Identified risks

The primary risk identified was the ease with which an attacker can overwhelm services and exhaust network resources, potentially leading to extended downtime and compromised availability of critical applications. The attacks also showed that, depending on the protocol, various aspects of the network stack are vulnerable. For instance, a TCP flood targets the connection-handling capacity, while HTTP floods exploit web service responsiveness, indicating that comprehensive defense strategies are needed across all layers.

### Suggested recommendations

To mitigate these types of attacks, I would recommend implementing rate limiting, establishing firewall rules to detect and block excessive requests, and using Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDPS) to flag unusual traffic patterns. Implementing a Web Application Firewall (WAF) specifically for HTTP traffic could also reduce the impact of HTTP floods. Network segmentation and using redundant resources may also help maintain service availability during such attacks.

### Your successes & failures

I successfully set up each type of flood attack, capturing and analyzing traffic with tcpdump and capinfos. However, I initially struggled with configuring the network interface for packet capture on the sniffer machine, which delayed the setup. Once resolved, the packet capture and flood attacks went smoothly, though managing and interpreting the high volume of data generated by the attacks required careful handling.

### Challenges

One significant challenge was managing the immense amount of traffic generated during each attack, as the network became quickly congested. This led to some delays in packet capture and analysis, highlighting the potential for real-world attacks to slow down even monitoring systems. Additionally, interpreting the data to quantify the impact on specific services required detailed analysis, especially when discerning differences in impact between TCP, UDP, and HTTP floods.

- This table prioritize remediation steps based on the potential impact of each risk on network and service performance.

| Risk                                      | Description   | Risk Priority | Remediation  |
|---|---|---------------|--|
| Network Bandwidth Exhaustion              | High volume of packets floods the network, consuming all available bandwidth and slowing down services. | High          | Implement rate limiting and configure firewall rules to detect and block abnormal traffic patterns.                    |
| Service Downtime                          | Targeted services (TCP, UDP, HTTP) become unresponsive, affecting application availability.             | High          | Use Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDPS) to identify DoS patterns and dynamically adjust network traffic. |
| Connection Saturation (TCP Flood)         | The TCP flood overloads the target's connection capacity, blocking legitimate connections.              | Medium        | Deploy SYN cookies to manage excessive TCP requests and configure the firewall to limit incoming TCP connections.      |
| Application Layer Exhaustion (HTTP Flood) | Web services have become unresponsive due to the high HTTP traffic volume.                              | Medium        | Utilize a Web Application Firewall (WAF) to manage excessive HTTP requests and restrict HTTP requests based on origin. |
| Resource Exhaustion on Monitoring Systems | High traffic load can overwhelm network monitoring tools, hindering traffic analysis.                   | Low           | Implement resource scaling for monitoring systems and apply filters to capture relevant traffic without saturation.    |