## **Activity Overview**

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In this activity, you will take on the role of a cybersecurity analyst working for a company that hosts the cooking website, yummyrecipesforme.com. Visitors to the website experience a security issue when loading the main webpage. Your job is to investigate, identify, document, and recommend a solution to the security problem.

When investigating the security event, you will review a tcpdump log. You will need to identify the network protocols used to establish the connection between the user and the website. Network protocols are the communication rules and standards networked devices use to transmit data. Unfortunately, malicious actors can also use network protocols to invade and attack private networks. Knowing how to identify the protocols commonly used in attacks will help you protect your organization’s network against these types of security events.

To complete the assignment, you will also need to document what occurred during the security incident. Then, you will recommend one security measure to implement to prevent similar security problems in the future.

Be sure to complete this activity before moving on. The next course item will provide you with a completed exemplar to compare to your own work.

## **Scenario**

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Review the scenario below. Then complete the step-by-step instructions.

You are a cybersecurity analyst for yummyrecipesforme.com, a website that sells recipes and cookbooks. A former employee has decided to lure users to a fake website with malware.

The former employee/ hacker executed a brute force attack to gain access to the web host. They repeatedly entered several known default passwords for the administrative account until they correctly guessed the right one. After they obtained the login credentials, they were able to access the admin panel and change the website’s source code. They embedded a javascript function in the source code that prompted visitors to download and run a file upon visiting the website. After embedding the malware, the hacker changed the password to the administrative account. When customers download the file, they are redirected to a fake version of the website that contains the malware.

Several hours after the attack, multiple customers emailed yummyrecipesforme’s helpdesk. They complained that the company’s website had prompted them to download a file to access free recipes. The customers claimed that, after running the file, the address of the website changed and their personal computers began running more slowly.

In response to this incident, the website owner tries to log in to the admin panel but is unable to, so they reach out to the website hosting provider. You and other cybersecurity analysts are tasked with investigating this security event.

To address the incident, you create a sandbox environment to observe the suspicious website behavior. You run the network protocol analyzer tcpdump, then type in the URL for the website, yummyrecipesforme.com. As soon as the website loads, you are prompted to download an executable file to update your browser. You accept the download and allow the file to run. You then observe that your browser redirects you to a different URL, greatrecipesforme.com, which contains the malware.

The logs show the following process:

1. The browser initiates a DNS request: It requests the IP address of the yummyrecipesforme.com URL from the DNS server.
2. The DNS replies with the correct IP address.
3. The browser initiates an HTTP request: It requests the yummyrecipesforme.com webpage using the IP address sent by the DNS server.
4. The browser initiates the download of the malware.
5. The browser initiates a DNS request for greatrecipesforme.com.
6. The DNS server responds with the IP address for greatrecipesforme.com.
7. The browser initiates an HTTP request to the IP address for greatrecipesforme.com.

A senior analyst confirms that the website was compromised. The analyst checks the source code for the website. They notice that javascript code had been added to prompt website visitors to download an executable file. Analysis of the downloaded file found a script that redirects the visitors’ browsers from yummyrecipesforme.com to greatrecipesforme.com.

The cybersecurity team reports that the web server was impacted by a brute force attack. The disgruntled hacker was able to guess the password easily because the admin password was still set to the default password. Additionally, there were no controls in place to prevent a brute force attack.

Your job is to document the incident in detail, including identifying the network protocols used to establish the connection between the user and the website. You should also recommend a security action to take to prevent brute force attacks in the future.

\**Step-By-Step Instructions**

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Follow the instructions and answer the question below to complete the activity. Then, go to the next course item to compare your work to a completed exemplar.

## **Step 1: Access the template**

## **Step 2: Access supporting materials**

## **Step 3: Identify the network protocol involved in the incident**

As one of the cybersecurity analysts in this scenario, you are tasked with writing an incident report for this security event. Using the tcpdump log file, determine which network protocol is identified in the packet captures during the investigation. You will use what you learned about the four layers of the TCP/IP model and which protocols happen at each layer. If needed, you can review [the video](https://www.coursera.org/learn/networks-and-network-security/lecture/V23ho/the-four-layers-of-the-tcp-ip-model) and [reading about the TCP/IP model](https://www.coursera.org/learn/networks-and-network-security/supplement/SXl0z/learn-more-about-the-tcp-ip-model) to use as guides for your response. Then review the tcpdump traffic log and record which protocol you identified in the first section of the security incident report template.

## **Step 4: Document the incident**

Summarize the incident in the second section of the report. Provide as many details and facts as possible in your documentation. When writing the documentation, be sure to:

* Avoid using strong emotional language (good, terrible, awful, etc.).
* Include as many facts about the issue as you can, including where the incident occurred, how it happened, whether anyone witnessed it, how it was discovered, etc.
* Indicate your sources for information and evidence.

Writing accurate and detailed documentation for cybersecurity incidents can serve as a reference point for other cybersecurity analysts. Additionally, quality documentation can be used to educate other employees about cybersecurity measures taken within the company when incidents occur and can help businesses comply with various security audits.

## **Step 5: Recommend one remediation for brute force attacks**

After documenting the incident, write one recommendation to help your organization prevent brute force attacks in the future.

Some of the common security methods used to prevent brute force attacks include:

* Requiring strong passwords
* Enforcing two-factor authentication (2FA)
* Monitoring login attempts
* Requiring more frequent password changes
* Disallowing previous passwords from being used
* Limiting the number of login attempts

Select one security measure, and explain why it is effective in section three of the security incident report template.

The more safety measures that are in place, the less likely a malicious actor will be able to access sensitive information.

## **What to Include in Your Response**

**Decorative multicolor line**

Be sure to address the following criteria in your completed activity:

* Name one network protocol identified during the investigation
* Document the incident
* Recommend one security measure