

WAPH-Web Application Programming and Hack-ing

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Fig 1: Vikhyath's photo

Repository's URL: <https://github.com/Vikhyath-Reddy/waph-bheemrvy>

The lab's overview

The HTTP protocol and web application programming will be covered in Lab 1. Using Wireshark to analyze HTTP traffic and Telnet to establish direct communication with HTTP servers, the first segment, Part I, takes us through the intricacies of these tasks. Comprehending the fundamental elements, techniques, and responses of the HTTP protocol is the main aim. We'll examine web application programming using the Common Gateway Interface in Part II. Here, we build a basic C web application that accepts user input. The lab also covers PHP web application programming, shedding light on the security concerns and the distinctions between HTTP GET and POST requests. The goal of this extensive lab experience is to teach you a realistic understanding of web application development concepts, CGI, and HTTP.

Here is the link to the Github repository <https://github.com/Vikhyath-Reddy/waph-bheemrvy/tree/main/labs/Lab1>.

Part I

Task 1

A robust tool for comprehensive HTTP protocol analysis that gives you a deep understanding of client-server interactions is Wireshark. To get the most of Wireshark, start by choosing the network interface that is going to handle the expected amount of HTTP traffic. Once the capture has begun, select the displayed filter and enter "http" to focus only on packets pertaining to HTTP. Take a detailed look at the headers, methods, and content of the gathered packets in order to fully comprehend the communication dynamics and unravel the intricacies of the request-response cycle.

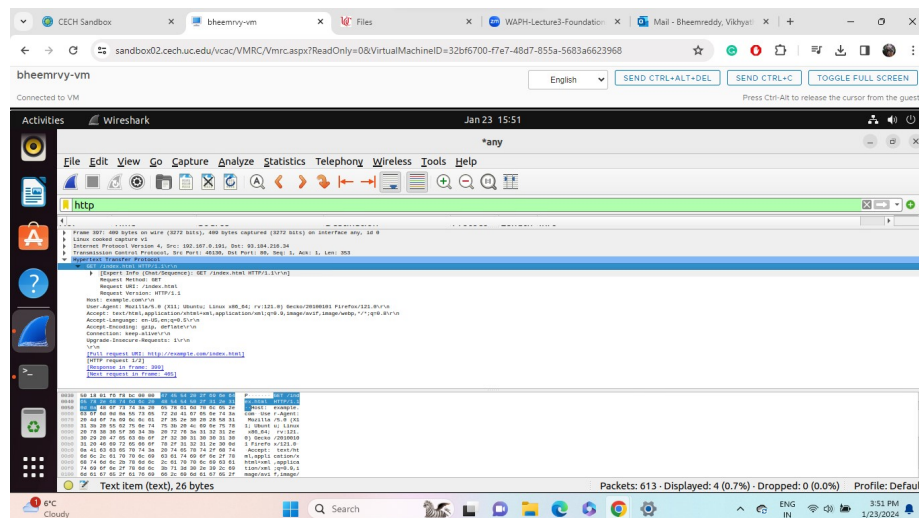


Fig 2: example.com\_Request

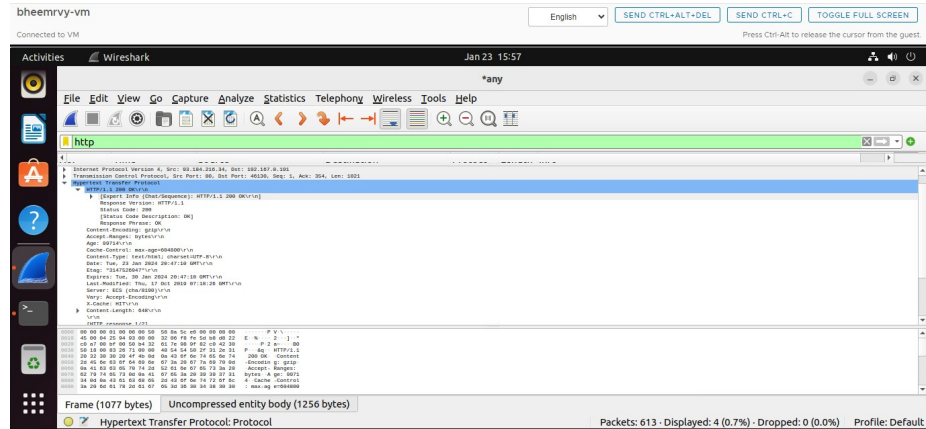


Fig 3: example.com\_Response

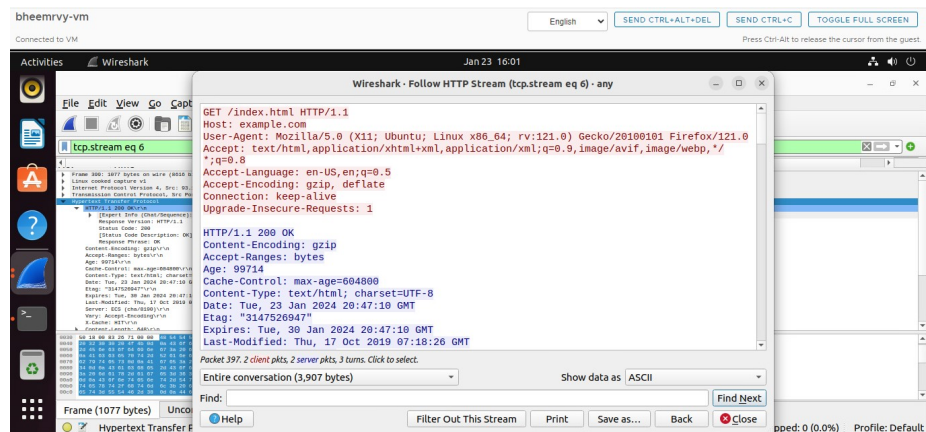


Fig 4: example.com\_HTTP\_Stream

## Task 2 - Understanding HTTP using telnet and Wireshark

To send a basic HTTP request using the telnet software, open a terminal window and connect to the designated server on port 80. After the connection has been made, manually construct a simple HTTP request by providing the required information, such as the resource path, HTTP version, and HTTP method (such as GET). Lastly, to send the request, press the “Enter” key twice. Launch a capture on the relevant network interface in order to use Wireshark to analyze the intricacies of HTTP traffic. Apply a “http” display filter to focus only on HTTP traffic. Next, the details of the submitted HTTP request, including headers and data for additional examination, will be plainly visible in the Wireshark output.

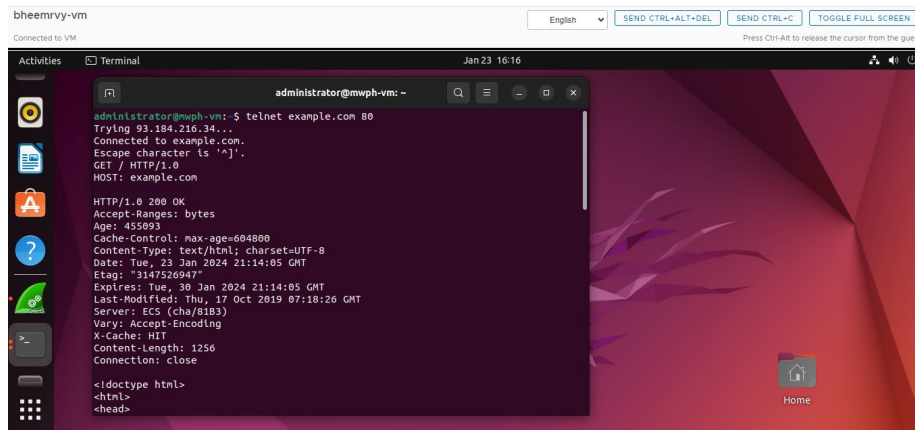


Fig 5: Sending\_Request\_by\_using\_Telnet\_in\_terminal

## Part II

### Task 1

The first step in writing a Hello World CGI application in C is to create a file called “helloworld.c” that contains the required CGI headers. Prior to including the HTML text, include the HTTP text-Type header in this file. The C program should then be built using a C compiler, such as GCC, to produce an executable file named “helloworld.cgi.” After compilation, place the executable in the “/usr/lib/cgi-bin/” CGI directory on the web server. Set the CGI directory in the web server’s settings to permit CGI execution. Open a web browser and go to the appropriate URL (<http://localhost/cgi-bin/helloworld.cgi>, for instance). The CGI application will be run by the web server, and the generated output will be shown in the browser. This streamlined method shows you how to install and compile a fundamental CGI program in

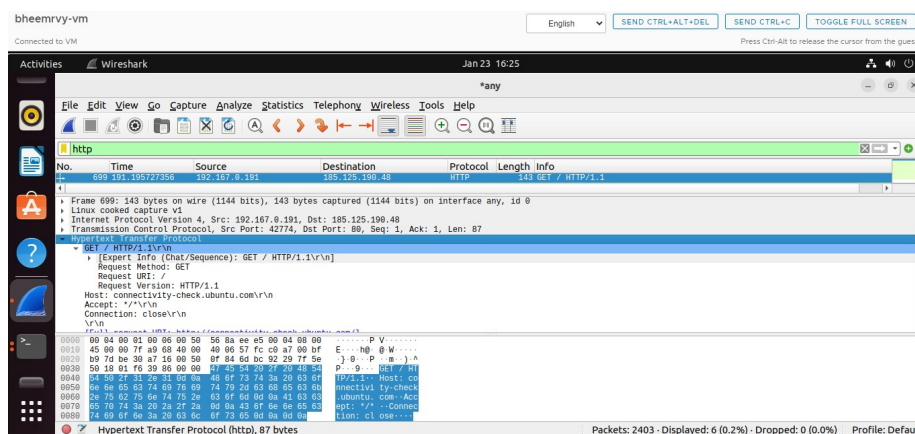


Fig 6: Telnet\_Request\_in\_Wireshark

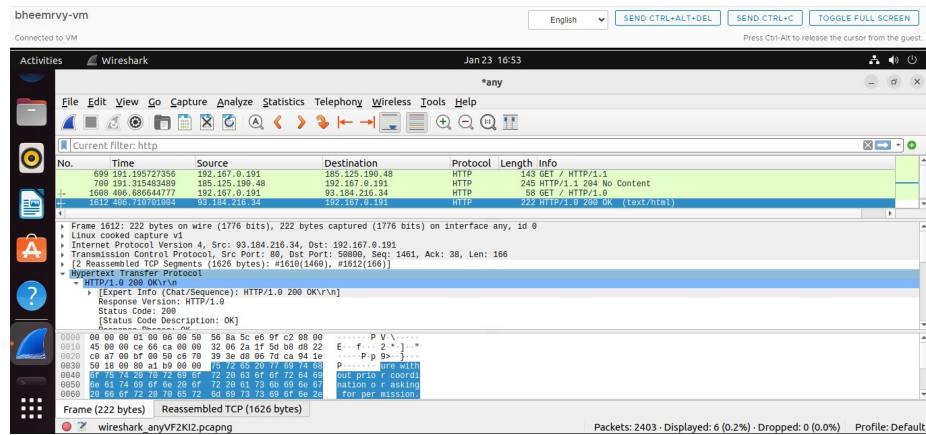


Fig 7: Telnet\_Response\_in\_Wireshark

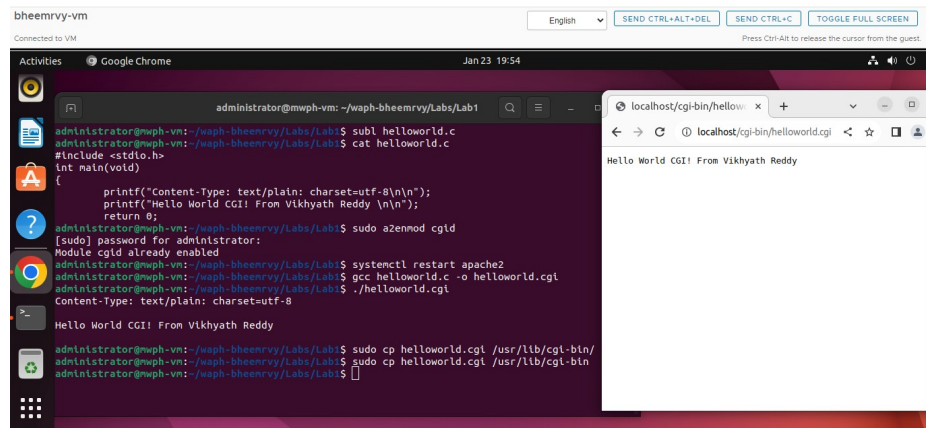


Fig 8: Helloworld.c\_CGI\_Program

1. To show that they were proficient in creating CGI applications, they created a "index.c" file by adhering to a basic HTML design that had the appropriate header, title, and paragraph elements.



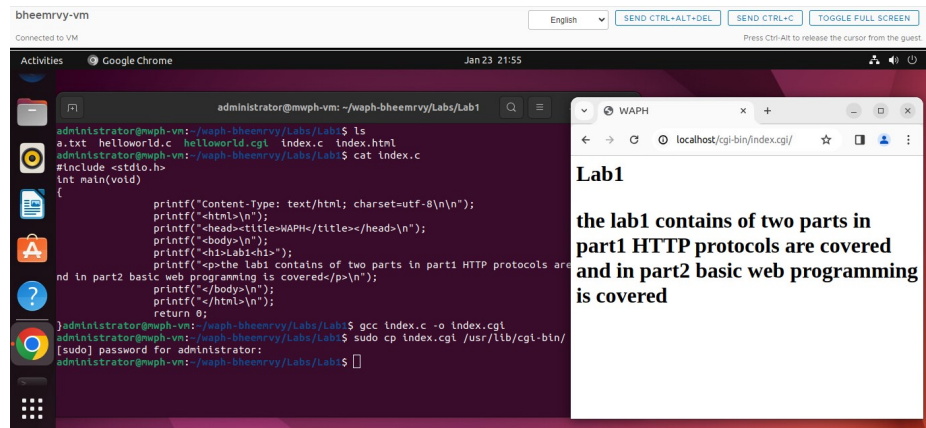


Fig 9: Index.c\_CGI\_Program

Task 2 1. Make a “helloworld” PHP script and save it with the “.php” suffix. Move the PHP script to the page root directory of the web server, typically found at `/var/www/html`. Open a web browser and use the server’s URL, such as `http://localhost/helloworld.php`, to access the PHP script. The PHP script will be run by the server when you access this URL, and the results will be rendered and shown by the browser.

2) For the “echo.php” application:

Make an application by creating a “echo.php” script. To run the PHP script, navigate to the appropriate URL on the web server. The browser will show the output from the “echo.php” application after the script processes the request.

File echo.php is included: `PHP $_REQUEST["data"]`; Risks to Security:

- User input entered into the “data” parameter without proper validation or sanitization leaves it open to XSS (Cross-Site Scripting) attacks. In these situations, there is a significant security risk since attackers could introduce dangerous scripts that launch when other users visit the page.
- Data can originate from a number of sources when `$_REQUEST` is used, including user input through URL parameters. However, this approach leaves room for data tampering if the input lacks sufficient validation or sanitization procedures. This highlights how important it is to have robust security measures in place to lessen the possibility of unauthorized data alteration.

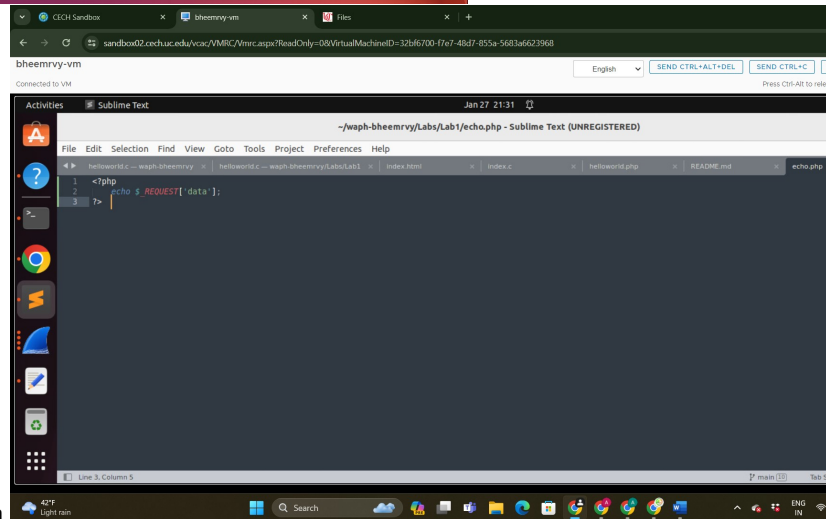
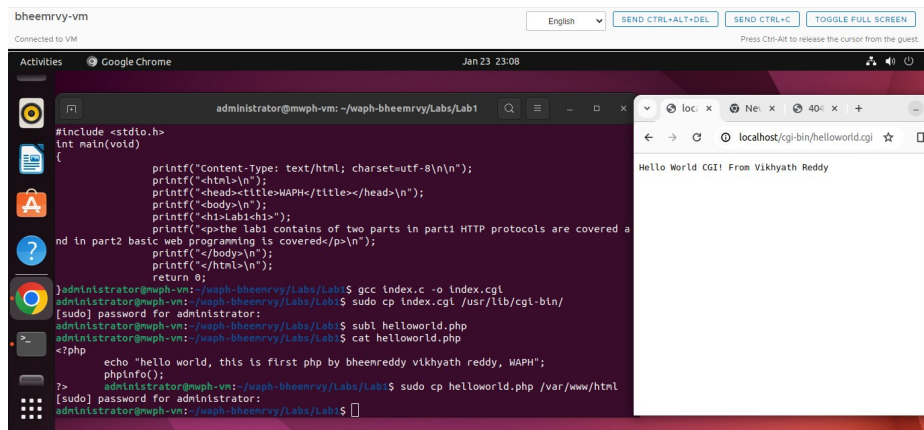


Figure 10: Hello\_world\_PHP\_program

Figure 11: Echo\_PHP\_Program Task 3 1. First, choose the network interface that is anticipated to carry HTTP traffic. In my instance, I chose any to record the HTTP traffic. Launch the web browser and use the server's URL, <http://localhost/echo.php?data=Hello>, this is vikhyath Reddy from Bheen Reddy PHP%20echo.php%20file, to access the PHP script. After starting the capture, select the display filter and type "http" to exclude packets pertaining to HTTP. The images below show the echo.php script's request and response.

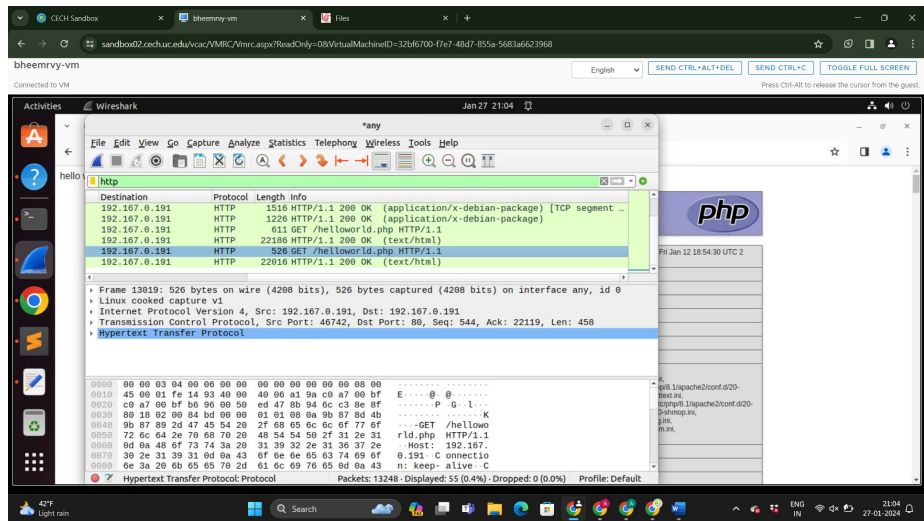


Fig 12: Echo\_PHP\_Wireshark\_Request

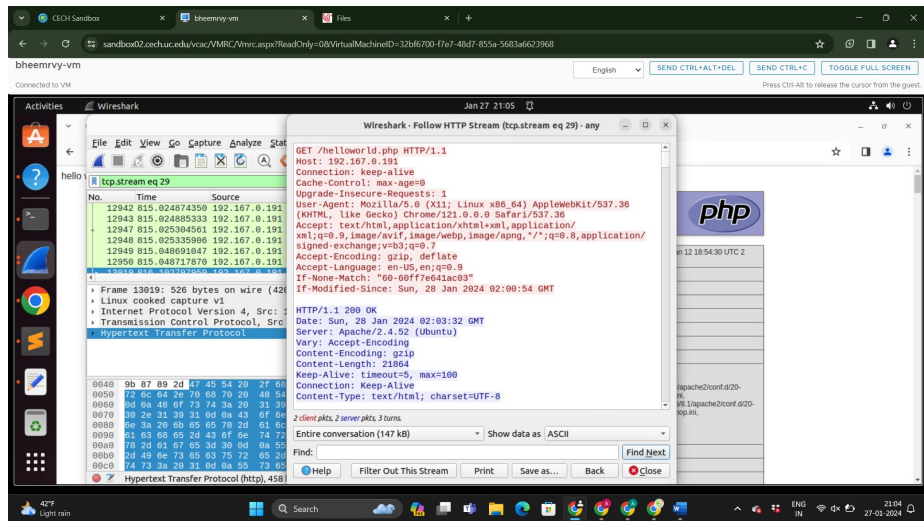
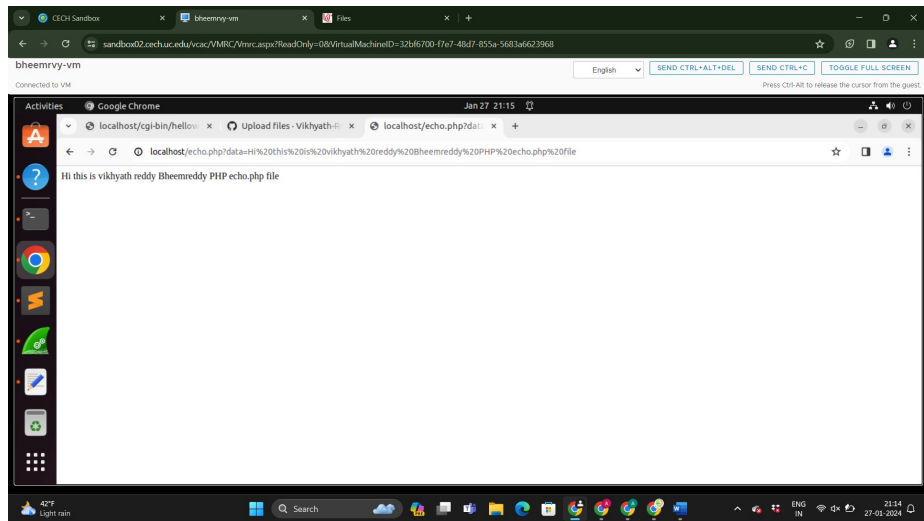


Fig 13: Echo\_PHP\_Wireshark\_Response





## 2. curl create an HTTP Post Request

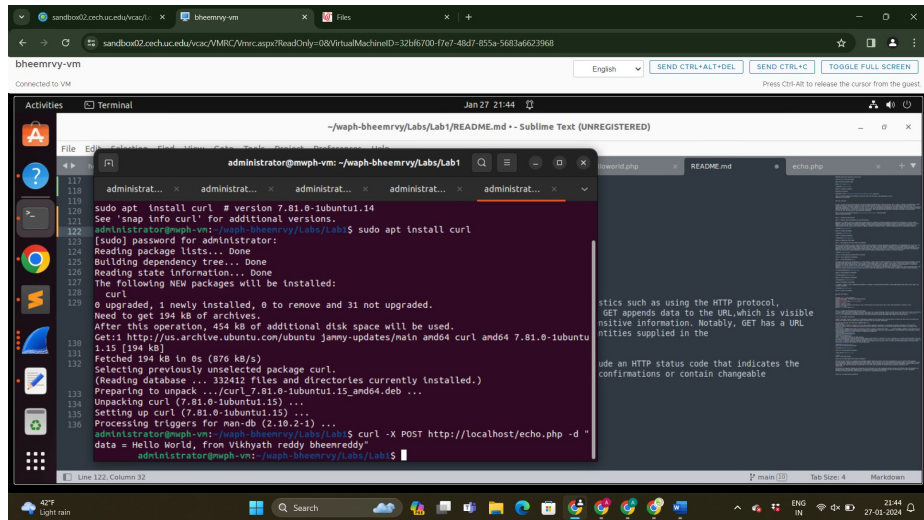


Fig 15: curl

HTTP GET and POST requests are communication techniques between clients and servers that share characteristics such as using the HTTP protocol, including headers, including specifying a Request URI. However, their differences lay in data submission: GET appends data to the URL, which is visible in the address bar, whereas POST transmits data within the request body, providing more protection for sensitive information. Notably, GET has a URL length-based size restriction, making it appropriate for less data, but POST excels at handling bigger quantities supplied in the request body.

GET queries are cacheable, enabling URL bookmarking, but POST answers are rarely cached. Both answers include an HTTP status code that indicates the outcome; however, GET responses frequently offer requested material, whereas POST responses may serve as confirmations or contain changeable information. Understanding these characteristics is critical for creating good online apps.

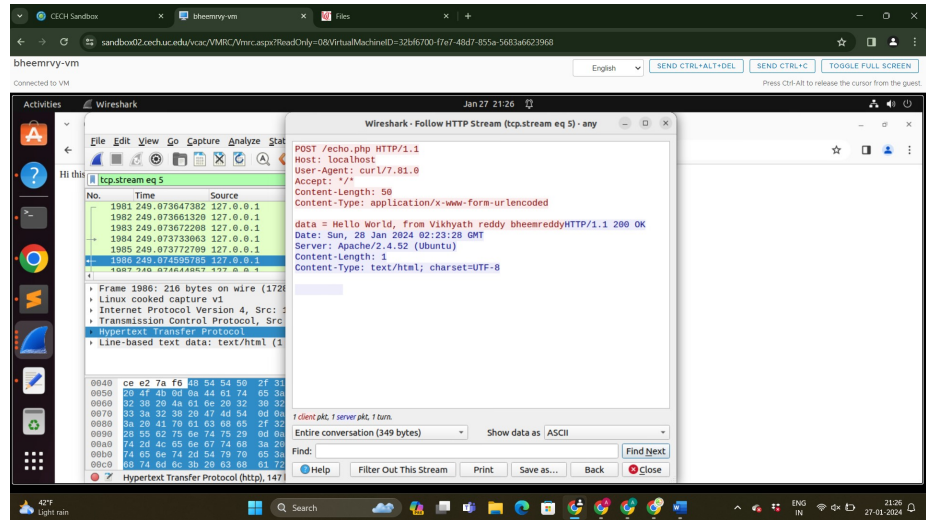


Fig 16: curl\_HTTP\_stream\_in\_Wireshark