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Department of Computer Science and Engineering

M.Sc in Computer Science and Engineering

Assignment 2

Packet Sniffing using Wireshark

submitted to

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by

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1. Introduction:

This report presents an analysis of packet sniffing activities conducted using Wireshark, a widely used network protocol analyzer. The objective of this assignment was to gain practical experience in packet sniffing techniques and to understand the implications of unauthorized network traffic interception.

2. Methodology:

The packet sniffing activity was conducted using Wireshark, installed on a Windows operating system. Wireshark was configured to capture network traffic on the local network interface. The following steps were followed:

1. Installation: Wireshark was downloaded and installed on the Windows system from the official website (<https://www.wireshark.org/>).

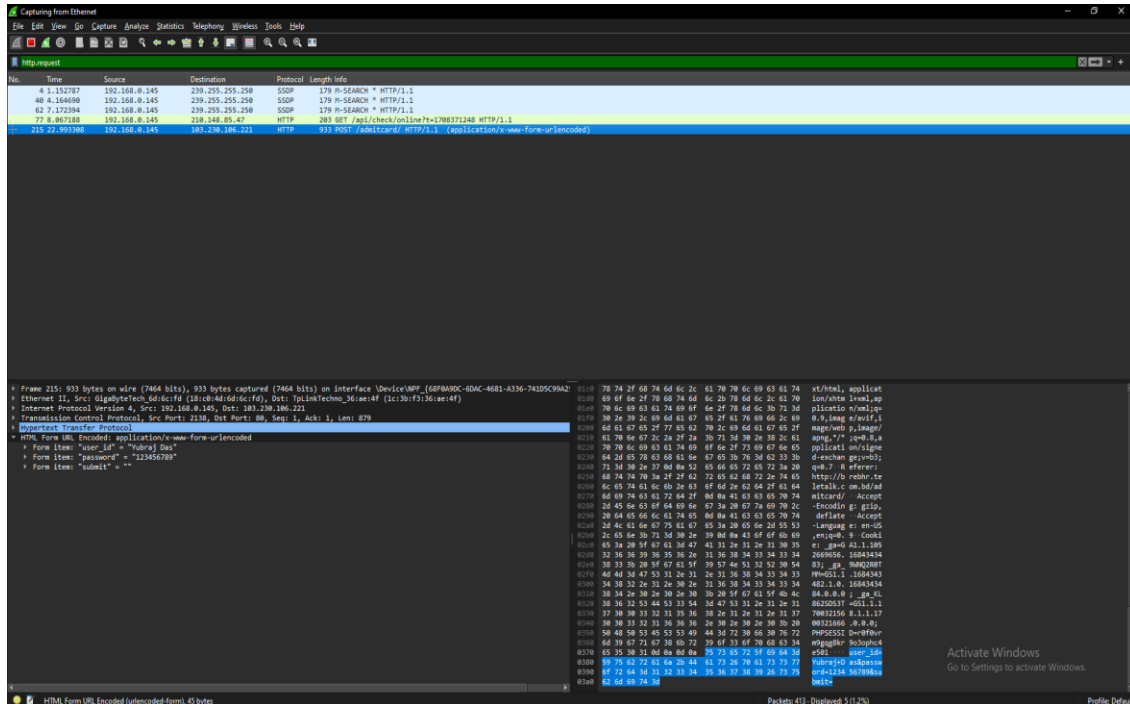
2. Capture Setup: The network interface to be monitored was selected within Wireshark's interface. In this case, the Ethernet adapter connected to the local network was chosen.

3. Capture Filtering: Filters were applied within Wireshark to focus on specific types of network traffic, such as HTTP, HTTPS, or DNS, depending on the objectives of the analysis.

4. Packet Capture: Network traffic was captured by initiating a packet capture session within Wireshark. The capture session was allowed to run for a specific duration to collect sufficient data for analysis.

5. Analysis: Captured packets were analyzed to identify various network protocols, source and destination IP addresses, ports, and any sensitive information transmitted in plaintext.

3. Practical:



4. Findings:

The packet sniffing activity revealed the following findings:

Network Traffic Analysis: Wireshark captured various types of network traffic, including HTTP, HTTPS, DNS, FTP, and SMTP, among others.

Plaintext Data Transmission: Some network protocols, such as HTTP, transmitted data in plaintext, making sensitive information vulnerable to interception. For example, login credentials, session tokens, and website content were observed in plaintext within HTTP traffic.

Encrypted Data Transmission: Encrypted protocols like HTTPS and SSH appeared as encrypted data streams within Wireshark, indicating secure communication channels that protect data confidentiality.

5. Recommendations:

Based on the findings, the following recommendations are proposed to mitigate the risks associated with packet sniffing:

Encryption Implementation: Employ strong encryption protocols (e.g., TLS/SSL) for securing sensitive data transmission over the network to prevent interception of plaintext data.

Network Segmentation: Implement network segmentation to isolate sensitive data traffic from non-sensitive traffic, limiting the exposure of sensitive information to potential packet sniffing attacks.

Traffic Monitoring: Continuously monitor network traffic using intrusion detection systems (IDS) and intrusion prevention systems (IPS) to detect and mitigate unauthorized packet sniffing activities in real-time.

6. Conclusion:

In conclusion, the packet sniffing activity using Wireshark provided valuable insights into network traffic patterns and vulnerabilities associated with plaintext data transmission. By understanding the risks and implementing appropriate security measures, organizations can enhance the confidentiality and integrity of their network communications.