

Hackerman's Hacking Tutorials

The knowledge of anything, since all things have causes, is not acquired or complete unless it is known by its causes. - Avicenna

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I was trying to solve a challenge where the "hidden data" were in ICMP echo payloads. I decided to do it in Go but there were some hiccups on the way. Here are my notes in case

Who am I?

I am Parsia, a security engineer at [Electronic Arts](#).

I write about application security, reverse engineering, Go, cryptography, and (obviously) videogames.

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in

Collections

(most likely) future me or someone else needs to do the same.

Code is in my clone at:

- <https://github.com/parsiya/Go-Security/tree/master/pcap-tutorial>

gopacket

[gopacket](#) is the official Go library for packet manipulation. It also supports reading and writing pcap files through `gopacket/pcap`.

I started following [this tutorial from dev dungeon](#) (skipped the capturing part because I have a pcap file in hand). We need to `go get` both `gopacket` and `gopacket/pcap`.

`go get github.com/google/gopacket/pcap` won't work on Windows. I searched around and found an [answer on Stack Overflow](#). I got it to work with some modification.

go get pcap on Windows

1. Install `go_amd64` (add go binaries to your PATH). I assume you have a Go environment ready to go.
2. Install [MinGW x64 via Win-Builds](#) like I have written about before.
3. Add `C:\mingw\x64\bin` to PATH.
4. Install [npcap](#).
5. Download [Winpcap developer's pack](#) and extract it to `C:\`. So you will have `C:\WpdPack`.
6. Find `wpcap.dll` and `packet.dll` in `C:\Windows\System32` and copy them somewhere.
7. Run `gendef` (from `MinGW`) on both files.
8. Generate static library files:

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- `dlltool --as-flags=-64 -m i386:x86-64 -k --output-lib libwpcap.a --input-def wpcap.def`
- `dlltool --as-flags=-64 -m i386:x86-64 -k --output-lib libpacket.a --input-def packet.def`

9. Copy `libwpcap.a` and `libpacket.a` to `c:\WpdPack\Lib\x64`.

10. Finally `go get github.com/google/gopacket/pcap`.

Reading pcaps

Following the tutorial I started making code snippets to do what I wanted. Most code is based on the tutorial.

Gopacket godoc and source are also your friends:

- <https://godoc.org/github.com/google/gopacket>
- <https://github.com/google/gopacket>

Opening a pcap File

This one shows how to open a pcap file and print the packets.

Opening pcap files - pcap-1.go

```
1 // Simple go application that opens a pcap file and print the packets
2
3 package main
4
5 import (
6     "fmt"
7     "log"
8 )
```

```

 9  "github.com/google/gopacket"
10  "github.com/google/gopacket/pcap"
11 )
12
13 var (
14     pcapFile string = "capt.pcap"
15     handle   *pcap.Handle
16     err      error
17 )
18
19 func main() {
20     // Open file instead of device
21     handle, err = pcap.OpenOffline(pcapFile)
22     if err != nil {
23         log.Fatal(err)
24     }
25     defer handle.Close()
26
27     // Loop through packets in file
28     packetSource := gopacket.NewPacketSource(handle, handle.LinkType())
29     for packet := range packetSource.Packets() {
30         fmt.Println(packet)
31     }
32 }

```

But I got the following error:

```

$ go run go-pcap-test1.go
2017/12/02 15:48:46 bad dump file format
exit status 1

```

Seems like the original file was in `pcapng` format which is not supported by `gopacket`.
 Converting the file to `pcap` worked. The new file is named `conv.pcap`.

Setting Filters

Reading everything in the pcap file is good but not what we want. We want to set a filter and only read certain packets. This can be done with `handle.SetBPFFilter(filter)` in which

`filter` is a string containing a filter in [BPF syntax](#). We just pass the filter `icmp`:

Setting filters - pcap-2.go

```
1 // How to set a filter and only read certain packets from the pcap file
2
3 package main
4
5 import (
6     "fmt"
7     "log"
8
9     "github.com/google/gopacket"
10    "github.com/google/gopacket/pcap"
11 )
12
13 var (
14     pcapFile string = "conv.pcap"
15     handle   *pcap.Handle
16     err      error
17 )
18
19 func main() {
20     // Open file instead of device
21     handle, err = pcap.OpenOffline(pcapFile)
22     if err != nil {
23         log.Fatal(err)
24     }
25     defer handle.Close()
```

```

26
27 // Set filter
28 var filter string = "icmp"
29 err = handle.SetBPFFilter(filter)
30 if err != nil {
31     log.Fatal(err)
32 }
33 fmt.Println("Filter set to ICMP.")
34
35 packetSource := gopacket.NewPacketSource(handle, handle.LinkType())
36
37 for packet := range packetSource.Packets() {
38     // Do something with a packet here.
39     fmt.Println(packet)
40 }
41 }

```

This code only reads packets of type `icmp`.

Layers

`gopacket` is based on layers. You can get each layer from raw packet data (either from the pcap file or just bytes). Layers are in github.com/google/gopacket/layers. We are interested in IPv4 pings so I used `ipLayer := packet.Layer(layers.LayerTypeIPv4)`.

Now `ipLayer` is a `*layers.IPv4` (don't worry about it being a pointer) and we can print it with `fmt.Printf("%+v", ipLayer)` to get:

ipLayer contents

```

1 &{BaseLayer:{Contents:[69 0 0 114 185 229 64 0 64 1 29 246 172 16 133 141 172
2                      16 133 1]}
3 Payload:[8 0 157 204 16 68 10 36 36 83 84 65 82 84 36 36 83 71 70 116 73 72 78

```

```

4      111 89 87 53 114 73 72 74 49 98 88 65 115 73 71 53 49 98 71 120 104 73
5      71 53 118 98 105 66 104 98 71 78 104 100 72 74 104 73 72 86 48 73 71 82
6      108 99 50 86 121 100 87 53 48 73 71 49 112 98 109 108 116 73 71 74 118
7      100 87 82 112 10]}
8 Version:4 IHL:5 TOS:0 Length:114 Id:47589 Flags:DF FragOffset:0 TTL:64
9 Protocol:ICMPv4 Checksum:7670 SrcIP:172.16.133.141 DstIP:172.16.133.1
10 Options:[] Padding:[]

```

Remember those are printed in decimal (bytes are just uint8 in go) and not hex. Personally I prefer printing in hex because it's easier for me to read ASCII-Hex.

IPv4 Layer

At this point you would think we could just do `ipLayer.Payload` and read it but we get:

```
ipLayer.Payload undefined (type gopacket.Layer has no field or method Payload)
```

But if we print the type with `%T` we get `*layers.IPv4` and when we print it with `%+v` we can see the `Payload` field.

What we have is an interface and the compiler does not know it's going to be populated by `*layers.IPv4` at runtime. We need to cast the packet to `*layers.IPv4` manually. Then we can access `Payload`:

Casting ipLayer to ip

```

1 ip, _ := ipLayer.(*layers.IPv4)
2
3 fmt.Println(ip.Payload)
4 fmt.Println(len(ip.Payload))
5 fmt.Println(string(ip.Payload))

```

Which results in

Contents of ip

```
1 [8 0 157 204 16 68 1 0 36 36 83 84 65 82 84 36 36 83 71 70 116 73 72 78 111 89
2 87 53 114 73 72 74 49 98 88 65 115 73 71 53 49 98 71 120 104 73 71 53 118 98 105
3 66 104 98 71 78 104 100 72 74 104 73 72 86 48 73 71 82 108 99 50 86 121 100 87
4 53 48 73 71 49 112 98 109 108 116 73 71 74 118 100 87 82 112 10]
5
6 94
7
8 [garbage] $$START$$SGftIHNoYW5rIHJ1bXAsIG51bGxhIG5vbiBhbGNhdHJhIHV0IGRlc2VydW50
9 IG1pbmltIGJvdWRp
```

For more info see section [Pointers to Known Layers](#) in gopacket docs.

So we mostly got everything, the payload is some headers and then base64 encoded data. We could just discard the first 8 (header) + 9 (`$$START$$`) and grab what we want. But let's do things properly.

Creating an ICMP Message in Go

We can create an `icmp` message from the IPv4 layer payload.

First we need `go get golang.org/x/net/icmp` and then:

Creating an icmp message from IP payload

```
1 const (
2     ProtocolICMP      = 1 // Internet Control Message
3     ProtocolIPv6ICMP = 58 // ICMP for IPv6
4 )
5
6 ...
7
8 msg, err := icmp.ParseMessage(ProtocolICMP, ip.Payload)
```


`ProtocolICMP` and `ProtocolIPv6ICMP` are defined in `golang.org/x/net/internal/iana`. It's an internal package and we cannot use it directly. Instead I have copied the constants directly in my code.

The result is [`*icmp.Message`](#):

icmp.Message struct

```
1 type Message struct {
2     Type      Type      // type, either ipv4.ICMPType or ipv6.ICMPType
3     Code      int       // code
4     Checksum  int       // checksum
5     Body      MessageBody // body
6 }
```

We are interested in `Body` of type [`MessageBody`](#) which is again an interface. If we print the value and type we get:

ip.Body

```
1 &{ID:4164 Seq:256
2   Data:[36 36 83 84 65 82 84 36 36 83 71 70 116 73 72 78 111 89 87 53 114 73 72
3         74 49 98 88 65 115 73 71 53 49 98 71 120 104 73 71 53 118 98 105 66 104
4         98 71 78 104 100 72 74 104 73 72 86 48 73 71 82 108 99 50 86 121 100 87
5         53 48 73 71 49 112 98 109 108 116 73 71 74 118 100 87 82 112 10]}
6
7 *icmp.Echo
```

Getting ICMP Payload

But again we need to cast it to `*icmp.Echo` before we can get the `Data` field which contains the payload.

Casting ip.Body to *icmp.Echo

```
1 if body, err := msg.Body.(*icmp.Echo); err {  
2     // Now we can access Body.Data  
3     fmt.Println(string(body.Data))  
4 }
```

Now we have the payload:

```
$$START$$SGFtIHNoYW5rIHJ1bXAsIG51bGxhIG5vbiBhbGNhdHJhIHV0IGRlc2VydW50IG1pbmltIGJvdWRp
```

This is base64 encoded and we can decode it after removing `$$START$$`:

- `Ham shank rump, nulla non alcatra ut deserunt minim boudi`

The rest is easy. Complete code for this section is in `pcap-3.go`.

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