

# INTRODUCTION TO NETWORK TRAFFIC ANALYSIS

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*Hack The Box module*

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## Introduction

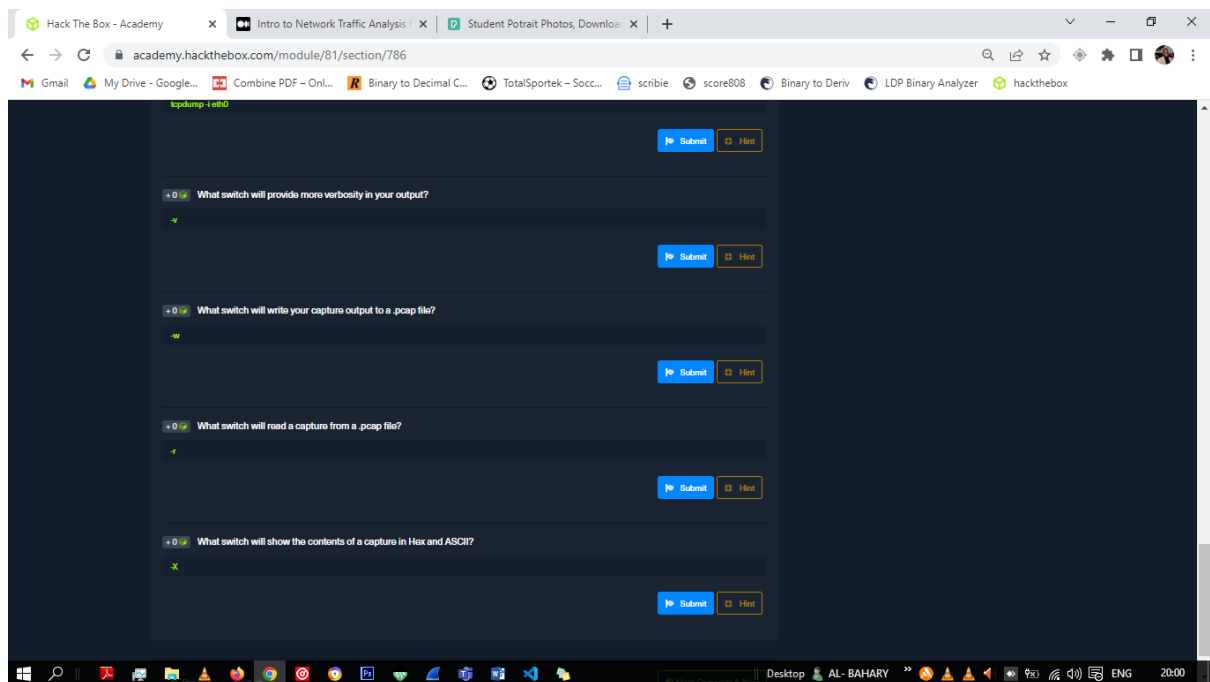
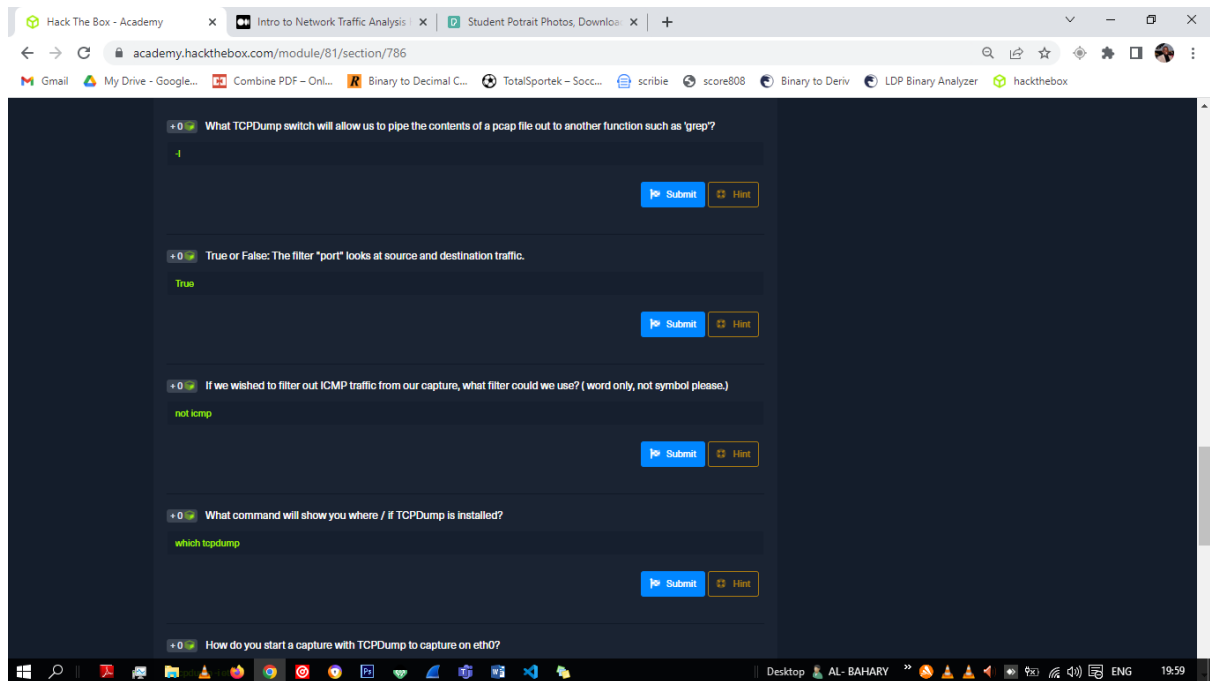
Network Traffic Analysis (NTA) can be described as the act of examining network traffic to characterize common ports and protocols utilized, establish a baseline for our environment, monitor and respond to threats, and ensure the greatest possible insight into our organization's network. This process helps security specialists determine anomalies, including security threats in the network, early and effectively pinpoint threats. Network Traffic Analysis can also facilitate the process of meeting security guidelines. Tools such as Wireshark and tcpdump usage to be able to sniff out sensitive data on a network.

## Capturing with Tcpdump

The purpose of this lab is to expose us to tcpdump and give us time to familiarize ourselves with the terminal and utilizing tools within it. We will practice various tcpdump basics such as reading from and writing to files, utilizing basic switches, and locating files in the terminal. While completing these labs, we can explore and practice using different switches and functionality within tcpdump. When comfortable, take some time and try to determine if we can make out any traffic visible to us on the network.

1. What TCPDump switch will allow us to pipe the contents of a pcap file out to another function such as 'grep'?-**I**
2. True or False: The filter "port" looks at source and destination traffic **True**
3. If we wished to filter out ICMP traffic from our capture, what filter could we use? (Word only, not symbol please.)**not icmp**
4. What command will show you where / if TCPDump is installed? Which **tcpdump**
5. How do you start a capture with TCPDump to capture on eth0? **tcpdump -i eth0**
6. What switch will provide more verbosity in your output? -**V**

7. What switch will write your capture output to a .pcap file? -W
8. What switch will read a capture from a .pcap file? -r
9. What switch will show the contents of a capture in Hex and ASCII? -x



```
question-1.PNG - Photos
tcpdump -nnr HTTP.cap
reading from file HTTP.cap, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet), snapshot length 65535
15:45:13.268821 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [S], seq 2387613953, win 5840, options [msg 1460,sackOK,TS val 2216538 ecr 0,nop,wscale 7], length 0
15:45:13.313726 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [S.], seq 3344088264, ack 2387613954, win 5792, options [msg 1460,sackOK,TS val 835172936 ecr 2216538,nop,wscale 6], length 0
15:45:13.313777 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 1, win 46, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216543 ecr 835172936], length 0
15:45:13.313889 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [P.], seq 1:135, ack 1, win 46, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216543 ecr 835172936], length 134: HTTP: GET /images/layout/logo.png HTTP/1.0
15:45:13.361869 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172948 ecr 2216543], length 0
15:45:13.363494 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 1:1449, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172948 ecr 2216543], length 1448: HTTP: HTTP/1.1 200 OK
15:45:13.363523 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 1449, win 69, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216548 ecr 835172948], length 0
15:45:13.363606 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 1449:2897, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172948 ecr 2216543], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.363610 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 2897, win 91, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216548 ecr 835172948], length 0
15:45:13.366822 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 2897:4345, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172948 ecr 2216543], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.366844 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 4345, win 114, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216548 ecr 835172948], length 0
15:45:13.411858 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 4345:5793, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172961 ecr 2216548], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.411884 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 5793, win 137, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216553 ecr 835172961], length 0
15:45:13.413884 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 5793:7241, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172961 ecr 2216548], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.413893 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 7241, win 159, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216553 ecr 835172961], length 0
15:45:13.414005 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 7241:8689, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172961 ecr 2216548], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.414813 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 8689, win 182, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216553 ecr 835172961], length 0
15:45:13.416381 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 8689:10137, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172961 ecr 2216548], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.416389 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 10137, win 204, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216553 ecr 835172961], length 0
15:45:13.416424 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 10137:11585, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172961 ecr 2216548], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.416432 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 11585, win 227, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216553 ecr 835172961], length 0
15:45:13.416547 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 11585:13033, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172961 ecr 2216548], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.416556 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 13033, win 250, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216553 ecr 835172961], length 0
15:45:13.458467 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 13033:14481, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172973 ecr 2216553], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.458479 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 14481, win 272, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216557 ecr 835172973], length 0
15:45:13.461293 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [P.], seq 14481:15929, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172973 ecr 2216553], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.461302 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 15929, win 295, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216558 ecr 835172973], length 0
15:45:13.463422 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 15929:17377, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172973 ecr 2216553], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.463430 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 17377, win 318, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216558 ecr 835172973], length 0
15:45:13.463544 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 17377:18825, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172973 ecr 2216553], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.463552 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 18825, win 340, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216558 ecr 835172973], length 0
15:45:13.464163 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 18825:20273, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172973 ecr 2216553], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.464171 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 20273, win 363, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216558 ecr 835172974], length 0
15:45:13.466749 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [.], seq 20273:21721, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172973 ecr 2216553], length 1448: HTTP
15:45:13.466757 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 21721, win 385, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216558 ecr 835172973], length 0
15:45:13.466771 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [F.], seq 21721:22046, ack 135, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172974 ecr 2216553], length 325: HTTP
15:45:13.466776 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 22046, win 408, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216558 ecr 835172974], length 0
15:45:13.467401 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [F.], seq 135, ack 22046, win 408, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216558 ecr 835172974], length 0
15:45:13.513631 IP 174.143.213.184.80 > 192.168.1.140.57678: Flags [F.], seq 22046, ack 136, win 108, options [nop,nop,TS val 835172986 ecr 2216558], length 0
15:45:13.513650 IP 192.168.1.140.57678 > 174.143.213.184.80: Flags [.], ack 22047, win 408, options [nop,nop,TS val 2216563 ecr 835172986], length 0
```

## Tcpdump Packet Filtering

Tcpdump provides a robust and efficient way to parse the data included in our captures via packet filters. This section will examine those filters and get a glimpse at how it modifies the output from our capture.

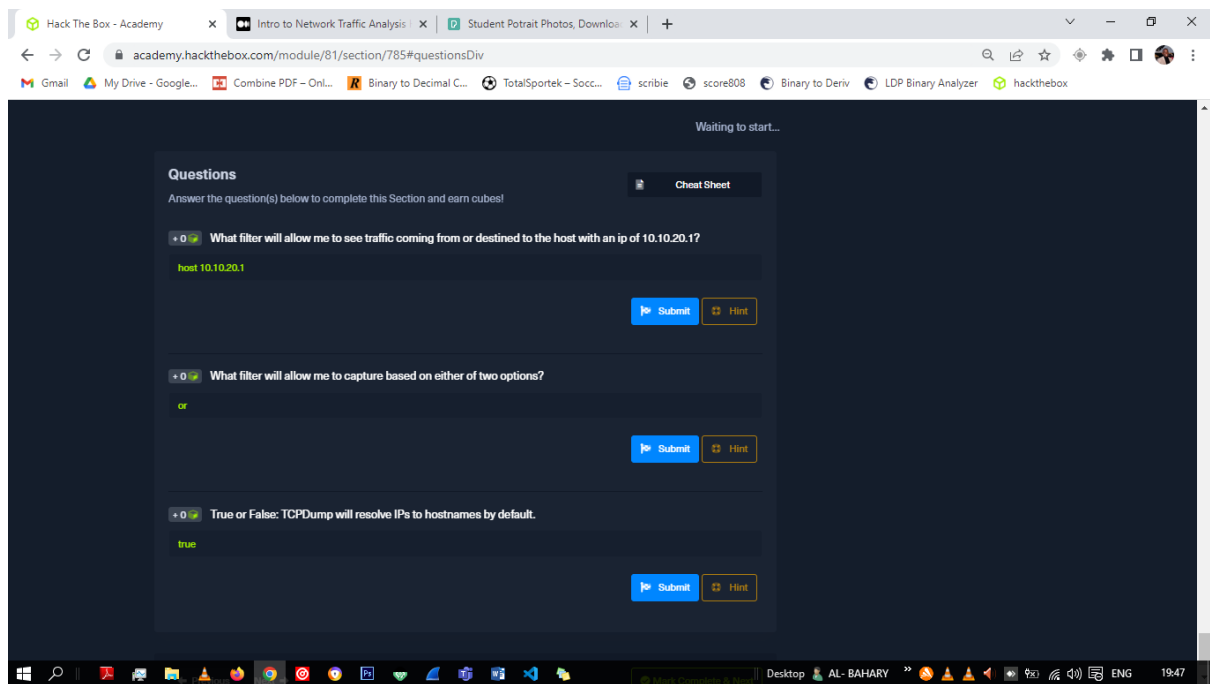
1. What filter will allow me to see traffic coming from or destined to the host with an ip of 10.10.20.1? **host 10.10.20.1**

***Host will filter visible traffic to show anything involving the designated host. Bi-directional.***

2. What filter will allow me to capture based on either of two options? **Or**

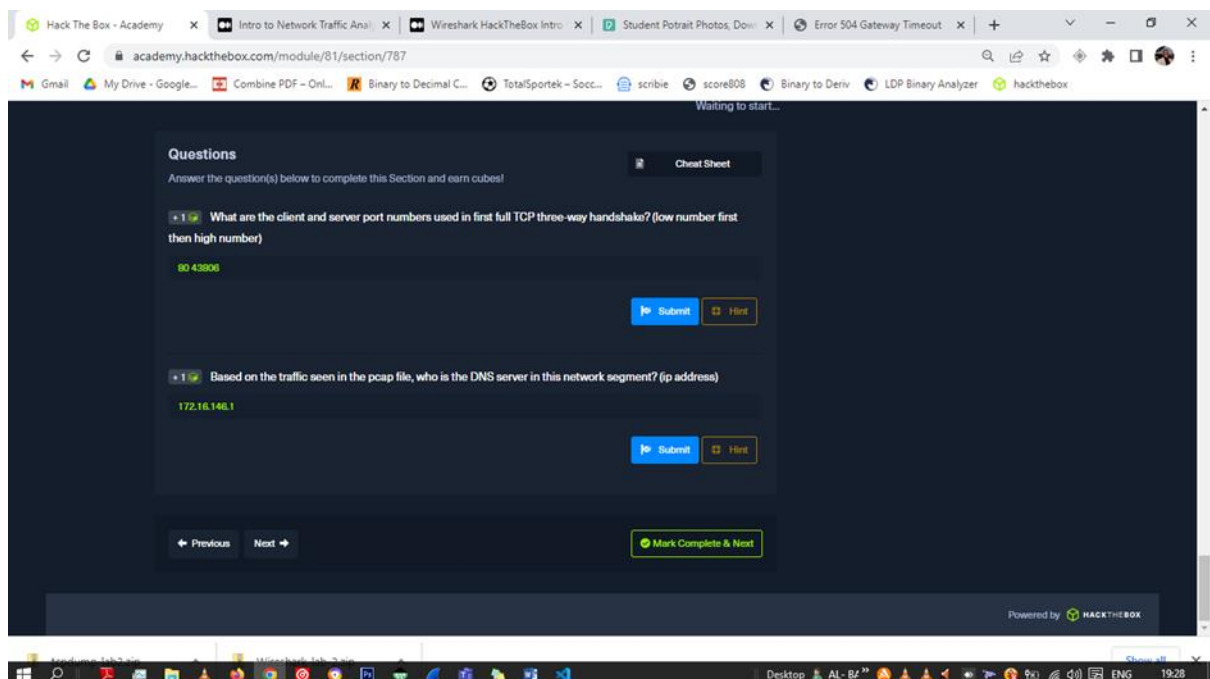
***Or allows for a match on either of two conditions. It does not have to meet both. It can be tricky.***

3. True or False: TCPDump will resolve IPs to hostnames by default. **True**

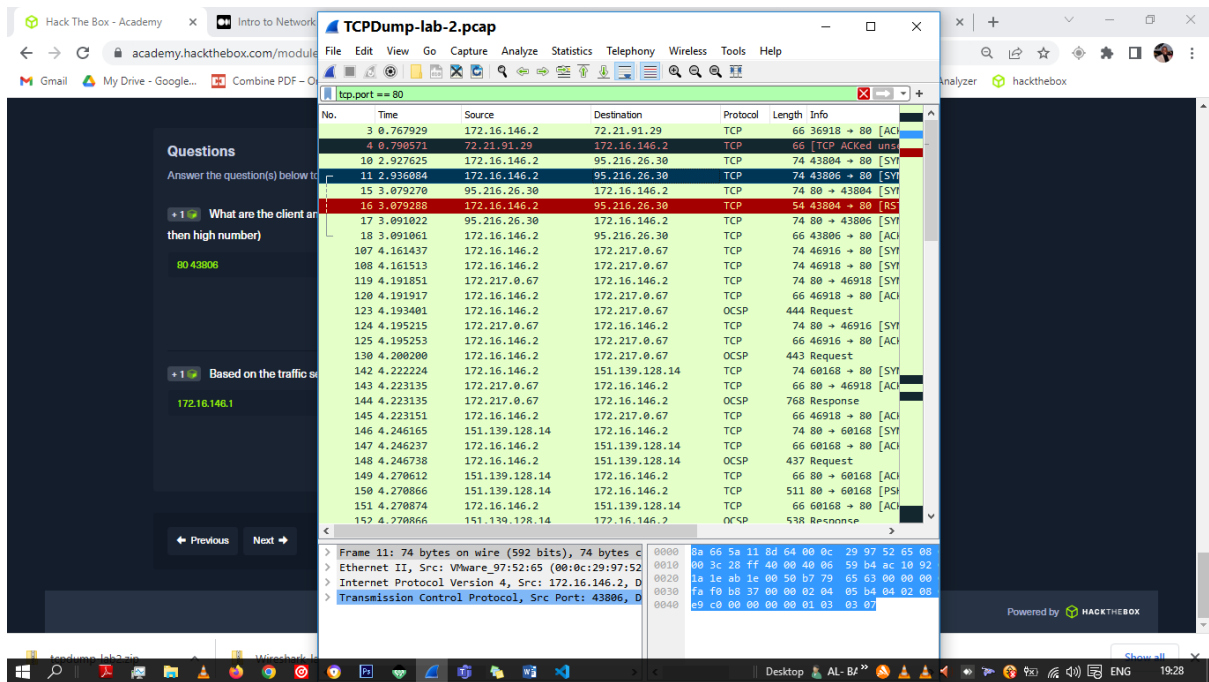


## Interrogating Network Traffic with Capture and Display Filters

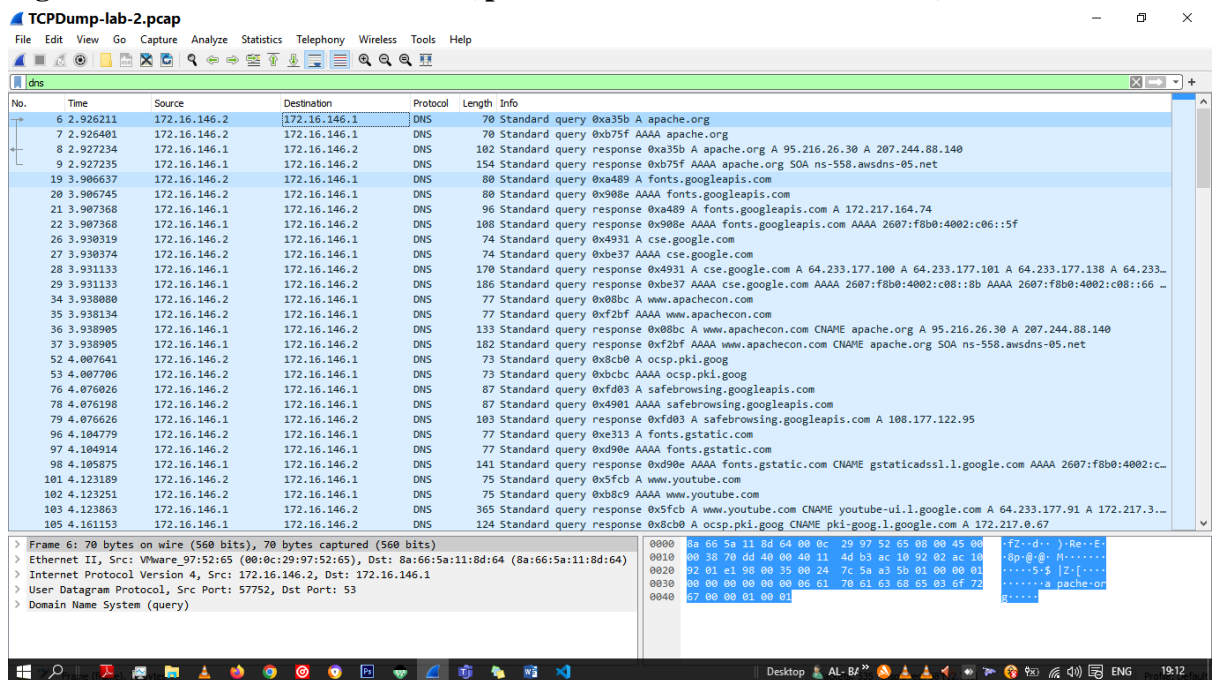
This lab aims to provide some exposure to interrogating network traffic and give everyone some valuable practice implementing packet filters. We will be utilizing filters like host, port, protocol, and more to change our view while digging through a .PCAP file.



1. What are the client and server port numbers used in first full TCP three-way handshake? (low number first then high number) **80 43806**



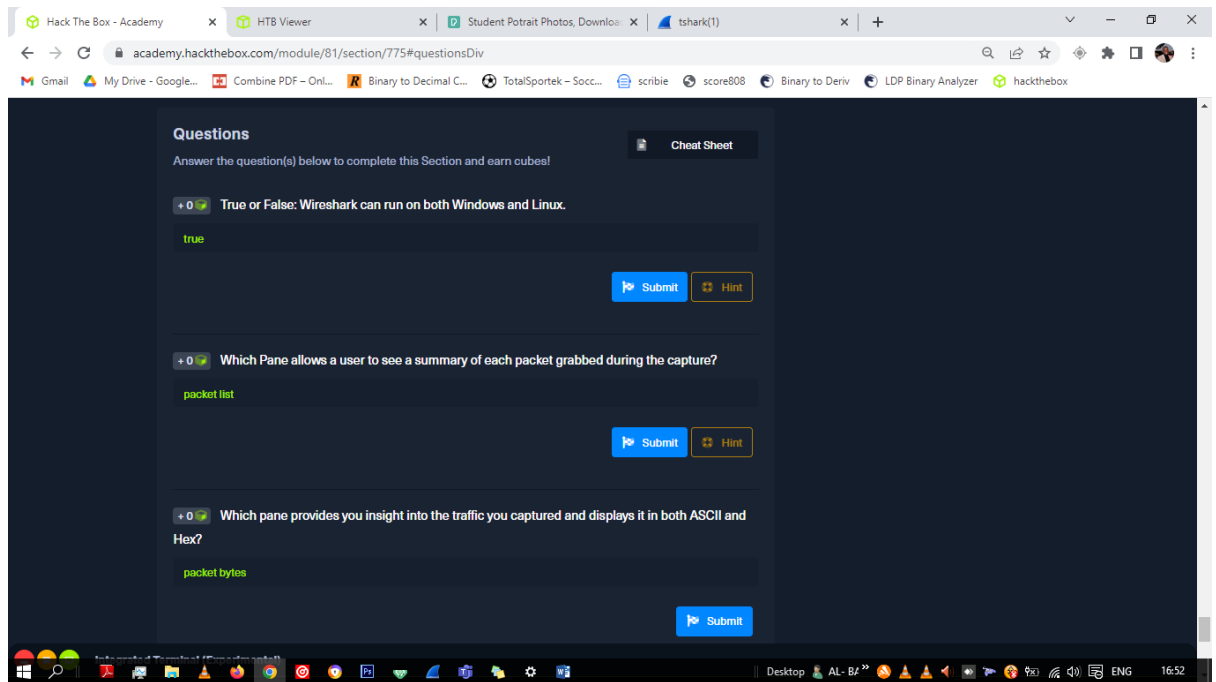
## 2. Based on the traffic seen in the pcap file, who is the DNS server in this network segment? (ip address) **172.16.146.1**



### Analysis with Wireshark

#### 1. True or False: Wireshark can run on both Windows and Linux.

Wireshark is a free and open-source network traffic analyser much like tcpdump but with a graphical interface. Wireshark is multi-platform and capable of capturing live data off many different interface types (to include Wi-Fi, USB, and Bluetooth) and saving the traffic to several different formats.



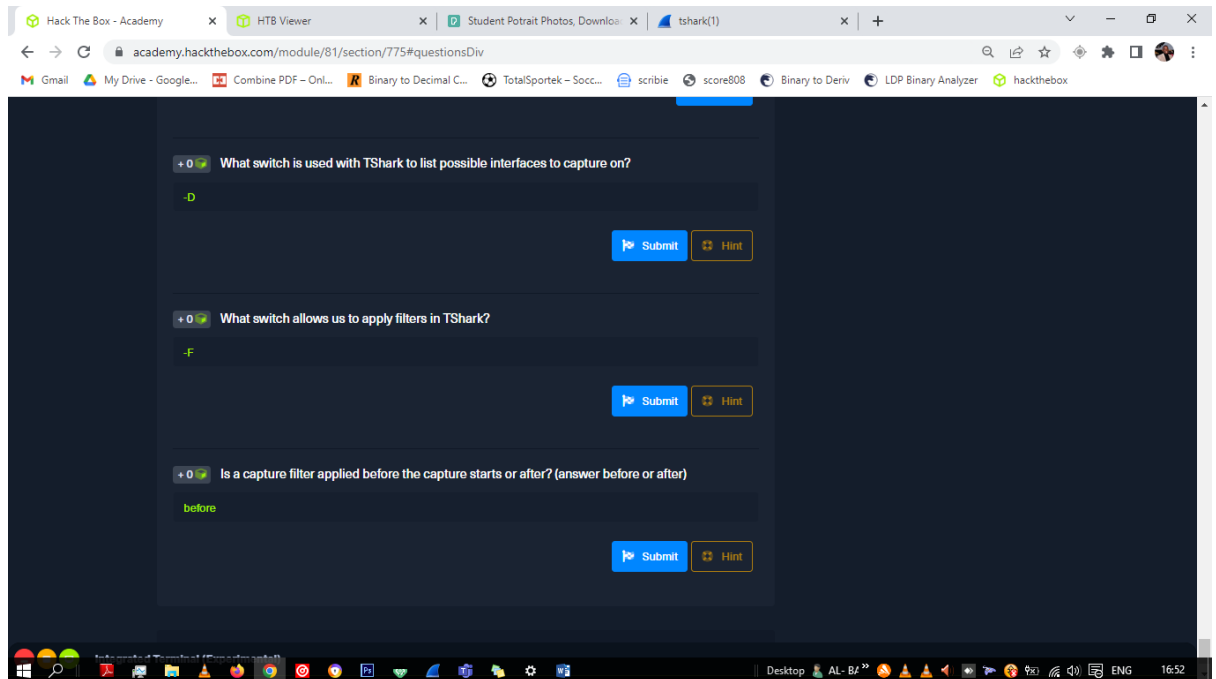
2. Which Pane allows a user to see a summary of each packet grabbed during the capture? Packet list :orange
3. Which pane provides you insight into the traffic you captured and displays it in both ASCII and Hex? Packet byte : green

**Packet list: orange** in this window, we see a summary line of each packet that includes the fields listed below by default. We can add or remove columns to change what information is presented.

**The Packet Details: blue** window allows us to drill down into the packet to inspect the protocols with greater detail. It will break it down into chunks that we would expect following the typical OSI Model reference

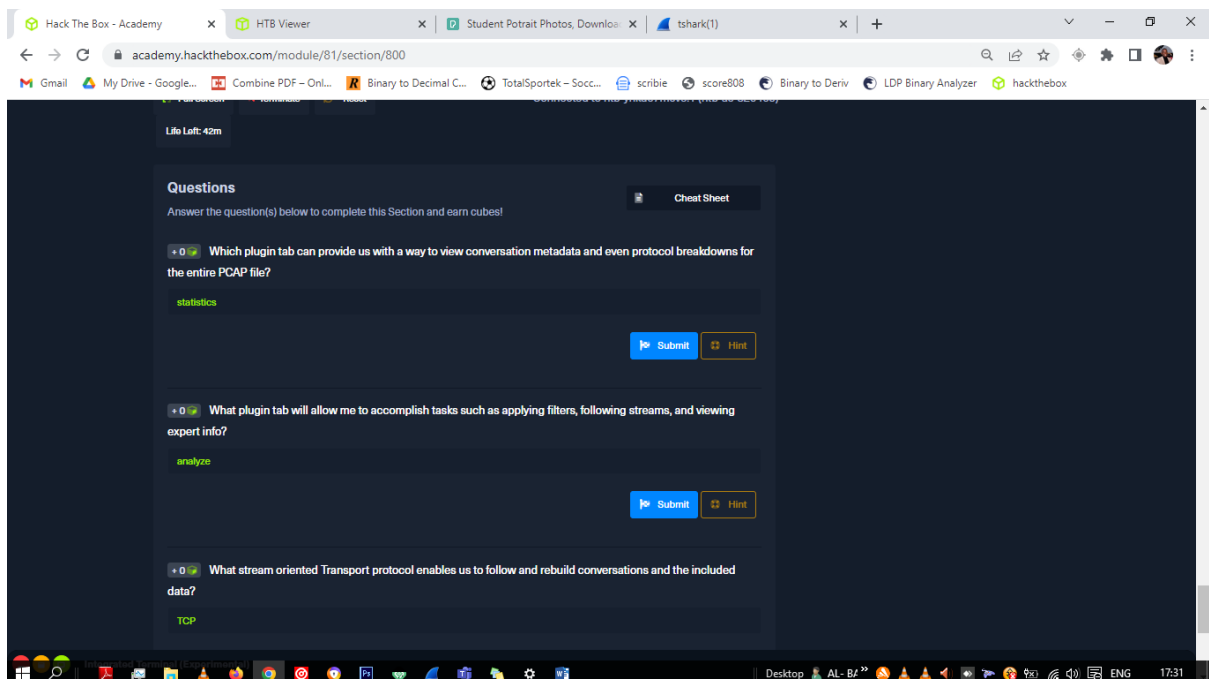
**The Packet Bytes: green** window allows us to look at the packet contents in ASCII or hex output. As we select a field from the windows above, it will be highlighted in the Packet Bytes window and show us where that bit or byte falls within the overall packet.

4. What switch is used with TShark to list possible interfaces to capture on? -D
5. What switch allows us to apply filters in TShark? -F
  - D** Will display any interfaces available to capture from and then exit out.
  - L** Will list the Link-layer mediums you can capture from and then exit out. (Ethernet as an example)
  - i** choose an interface to capture from. (-i eth0)
  - f** packet filter in libpcap syntax. Used during capture.
6. Is a capture filter applied before the capture starts or after? (Answer before or after) Capture Filters- are entered before the capture is started.



## Wireshark Advanced Usage

1. Which plugin tab can provide us with a way to view conversation metadata and even protocol breakdowns for the entire PCAP file? **Statistics tab**
2. What plugin tab will allow me to accomplish tasks such as applying filters, following streams, and viewing expert info? **Analyse tab**





## Analyze tab

We can utilize plugins that allow us to do things such as following TCP streams, filter on conversation types, prepare new packet filters and examine the expert info Wireshark generates about the traffic.

## Statistics tab

The Statistics and Analyze tabs can provide us with great insight into the data we are examining.

### 1. What stream oriented Transport protocol enables us to follow and rebuild conversations and the included data? TCP

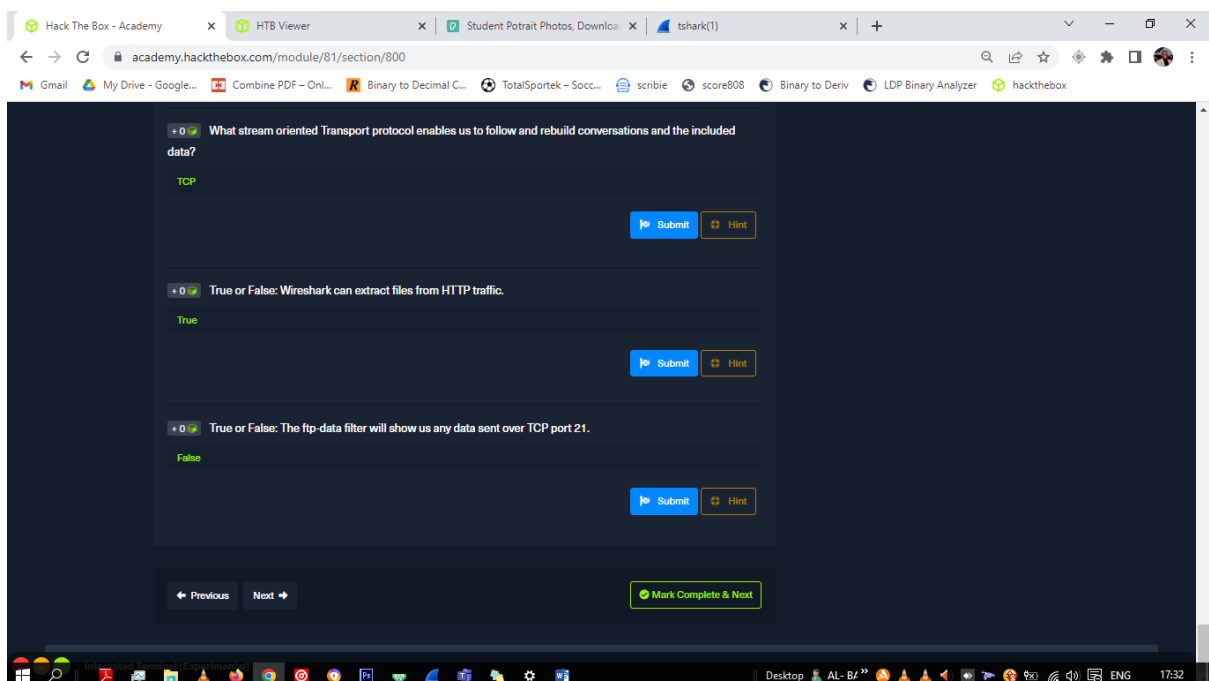
Wireshark can stitch TCP packets back together to recreate the entire stream in a readable format. This ability also allows us to pull data (images, files, etc.) out of the capture. This works for almost any protocol that utilizes TCP as a transport mechanism.

### 2. True or False: Wireshark can extract files from HTTP traffic. True

Wireshark can recover many different types of data from streams. It requires you to have captured the entire conversation.

### 1. True or False: The ftp-data filter will show us any data sent over TCP port 21.

False



## Packet Inception, Dissecting Network Traffic with Wireshark

The purpose of this lab is to provide experience with dissecting traffic in Wireshark. We will have the chance to pull objects out of previously captured network traffic along with pulling data from live traffic.

1. What was the filename of the image that contained a certain Transformer Leader? (name.filetype) **rise-up.jpg**
2. Which employee is suspected of performing potentially malicious actions in the live environment? **Bob**

The image shows a screenshot of a computer screen with two windows. The top window is Wireshark's 'Export - HTTP object list' dialog. It displays a table of HTTP objects with columns for Packet, Hostname, Content Type, Size, and Filename.

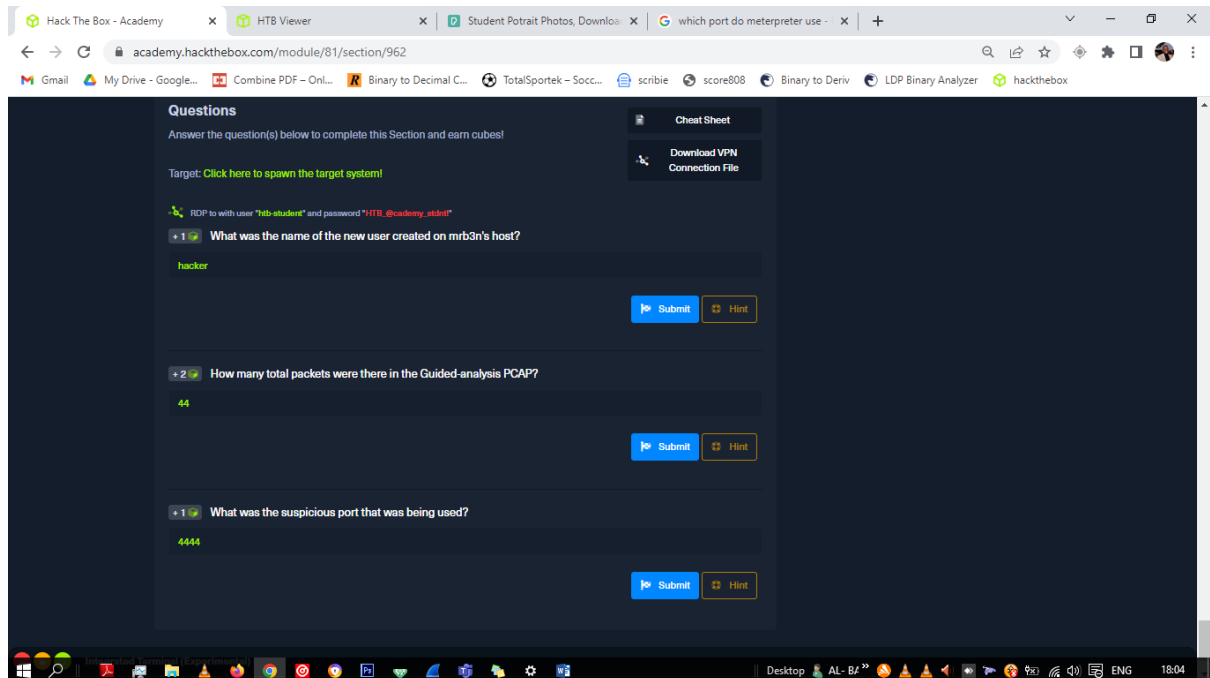
Packet	Hostname	Content Type	Size	Filename
11	10.10.20.129	text/html	491 bytes	\
43	10.10.20.129	text/html	491 bytes	\
86	10.10.20.129	text/html	491 bytes	\
464	10.10.20.129	application/vnd.tcpdump.pcap	326 kB	http_with_jpegs.cap
531	10.10.20.129	image/jpeg	3592 bytes	htb-jpeg
657	10.10.20.129	image/jpeg	89 kB	Rise-Up.jpg
997	10.10.20.129	image/jpeg	301 kB	water.jpg

The bottom window is a web browser showing a Hack The Box challenge page. The page title is 'Waiting to start...'. It contains a 'Questions' section with the following text: 'Answer the question(s) below to complete this Section and earn cubes!'. The target is '10.129.43.4' and the life left is '101 minutes'. The question is: 'What was the filename of the image that contained a certain Transformer Leader? (name.filetype)'. The answer 'Rise-up.jpg' is entered in the input field. Below the question, there is a 'Submit' button and a 'Hint' button. The next question is: 'Which employee is suspected of performing potentially malicious actions in the live environment?'. The answer 'bob' is entered in the input field. Below the question, there is a 'Submit' button and a 'Hint' button. The page also has a 'Cheat Sheet' button and a 'Download VPN Connection File' button.

## Guided Lab: Traffic Analysis Workflow

1. What was the name of the new user created on mrb3n's host? **hacker**
2. How many total packets were there in the Guided-analysis PCAP? **44**
3. What was the suspicious port that was being used?

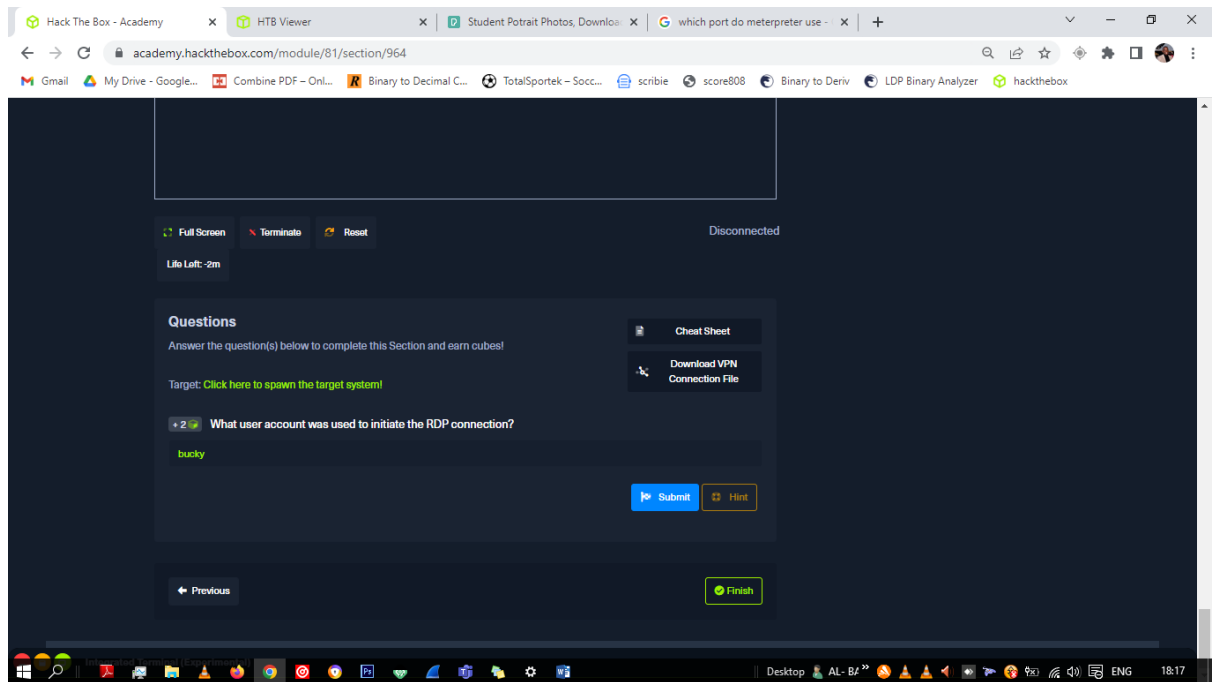
**Port 4444**



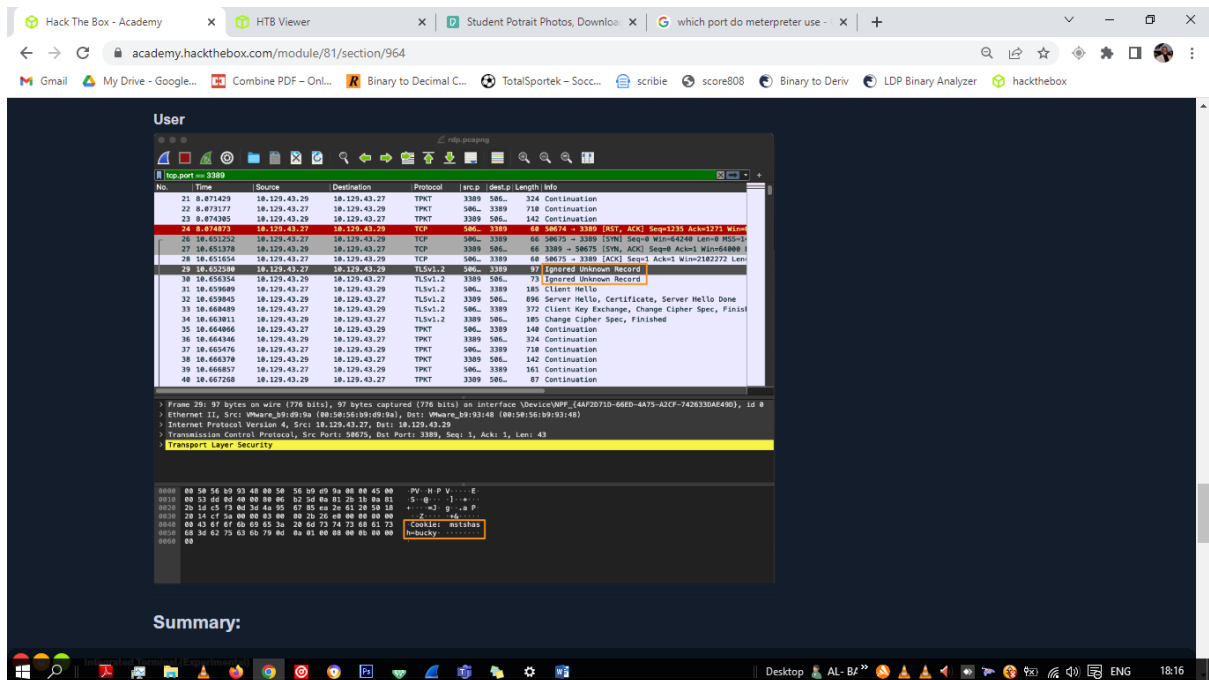
## Decrypting RDP connections

1. What user account was used to initiate the RDP connection?

**Bucky**



When filter on `tcp.port == 3389`, we can see a record labeled Ignored Unknown Record. If we examine the ASCII, it will show us a username.



[Link to module completion](https://academy.hackthebox.com/achievement/820405/81)

<https://academy.hackthebox.com/achievement/820405/81>

## Conclusion

The introduction to network analysis module has introduced me in deeper analysis of network traffic using tools such as Wireshark and tcpdumps. These tools assist in sniffing through the network to view activities and trace packets paths. Is also help in monitoring the network for malicious activities. The module has also introduced me to the Linux command line and switches used in order to perform compact network analysis.