INTRODUCTION TO NETWORK TRAFFICANALYSIS

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Hack The Box module

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Introduction

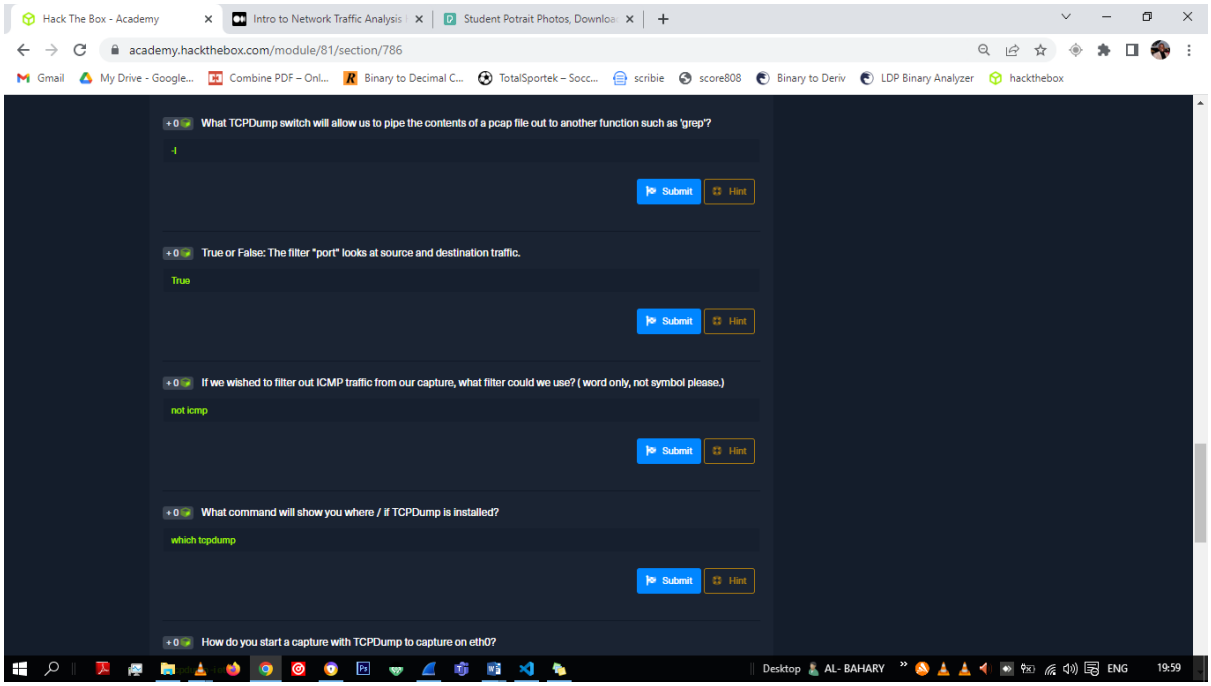
Network Traffic Analysis (NTA) can be described as the act of examining network traffic to characterize common ports and protocols utilized, establish a baseline for our environment, monitor and respond to threats, and ensure the greatest possible insight into our organization's network. This process 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.

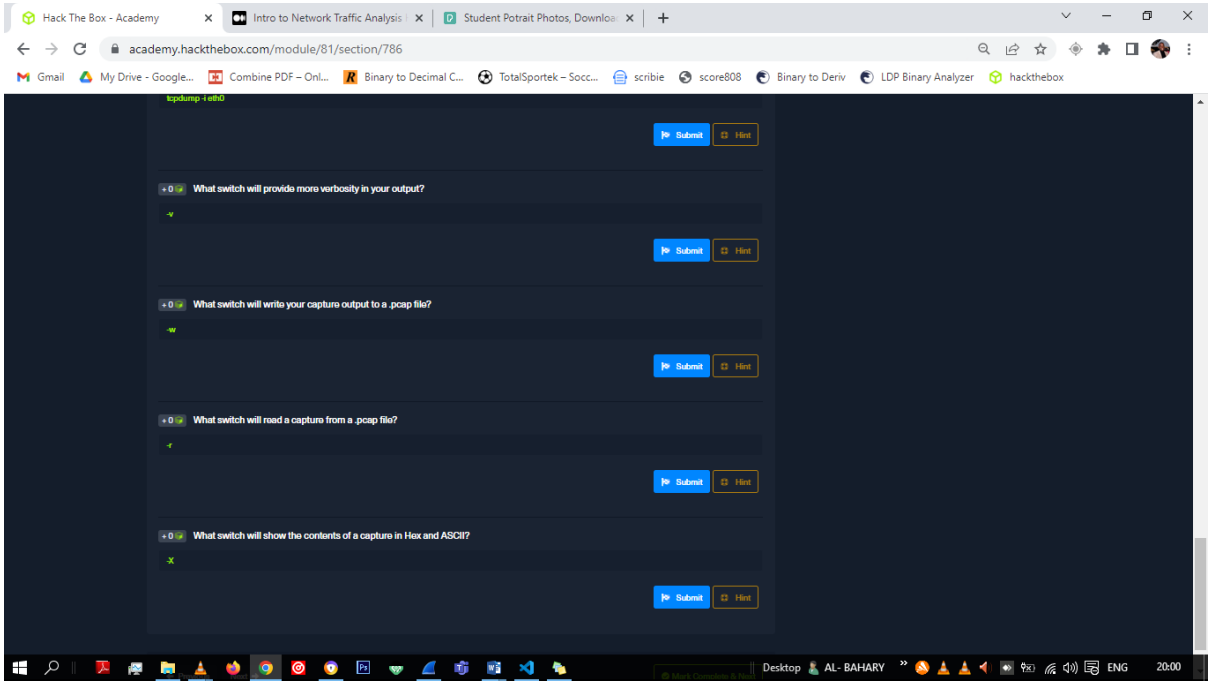
Capturing with Tcpdump

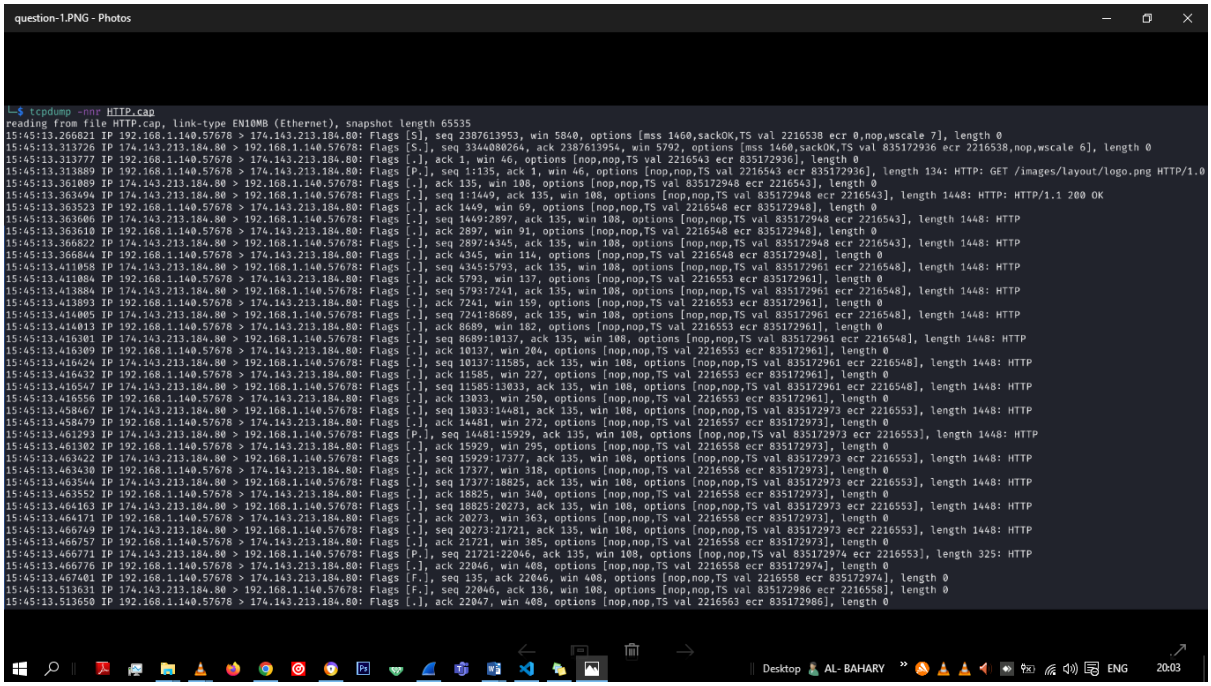
The purpose of this lab is to expose us to tcpdump and give us time to familiarize ourselves with the terminal and utilizing tools within it. We will practice various tcpdump basics such as reading from and writing to files, utilizing basic switches, and locating files in the terminal. While completing 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 tcmpdump
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







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.

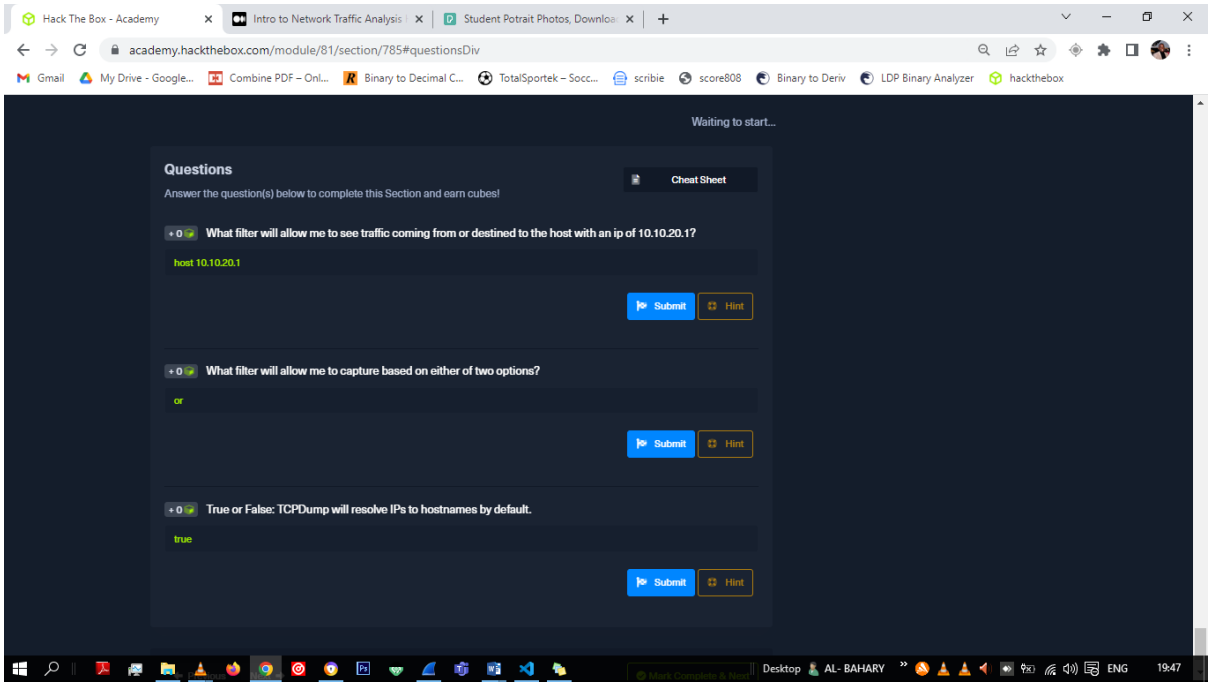
1. What filter will allow me to see traffic coming from or destined to the host with an ip of 10.10.20.1? host 10.10.20.1

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

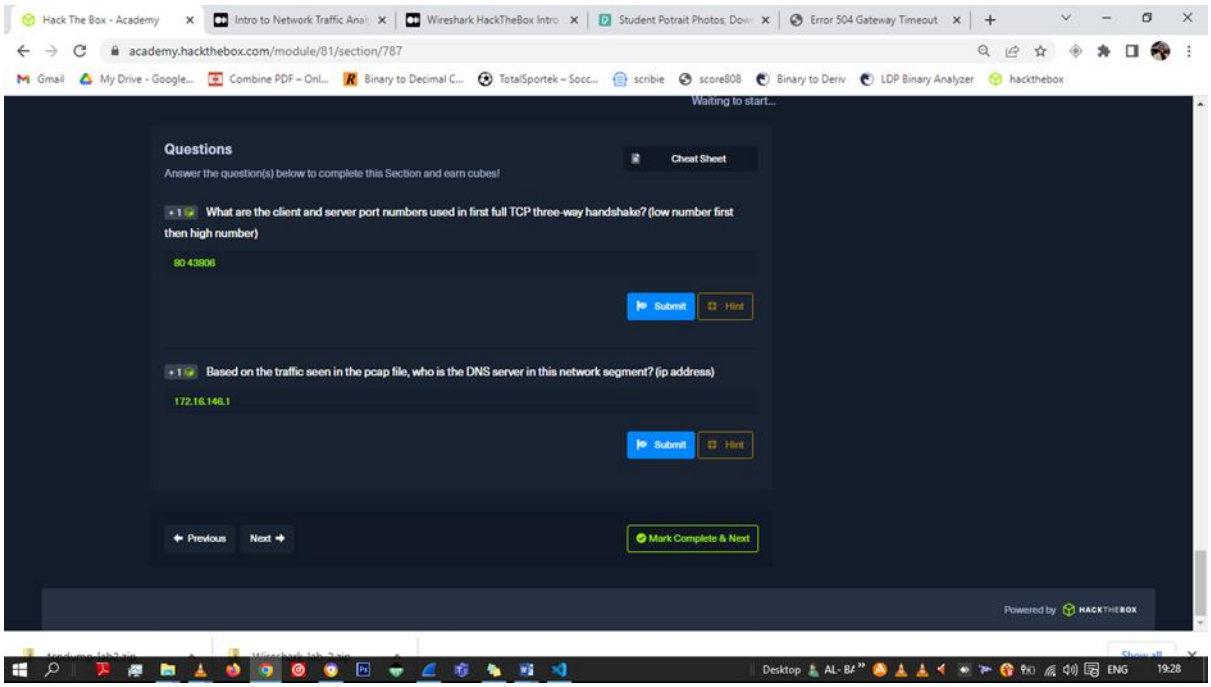
Or allows for a match on either of two conditions. It does not have to meet both. It can be tricky.

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

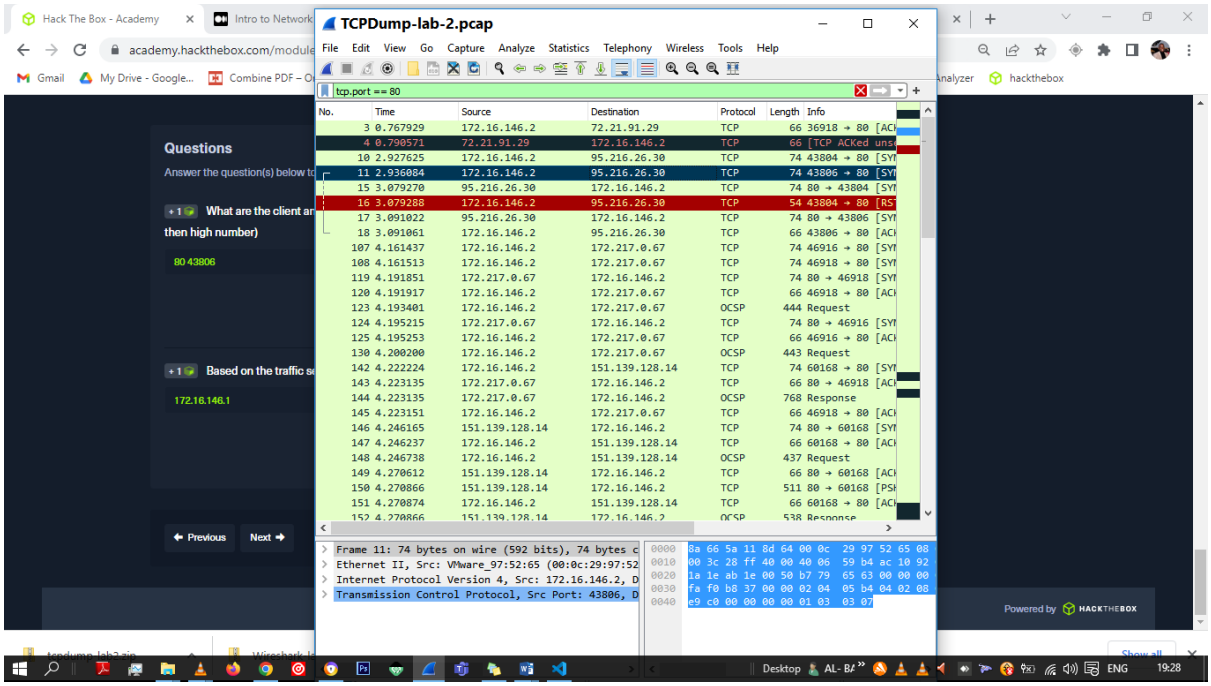


Interrogating Network Traffic with Capture and Display Filters

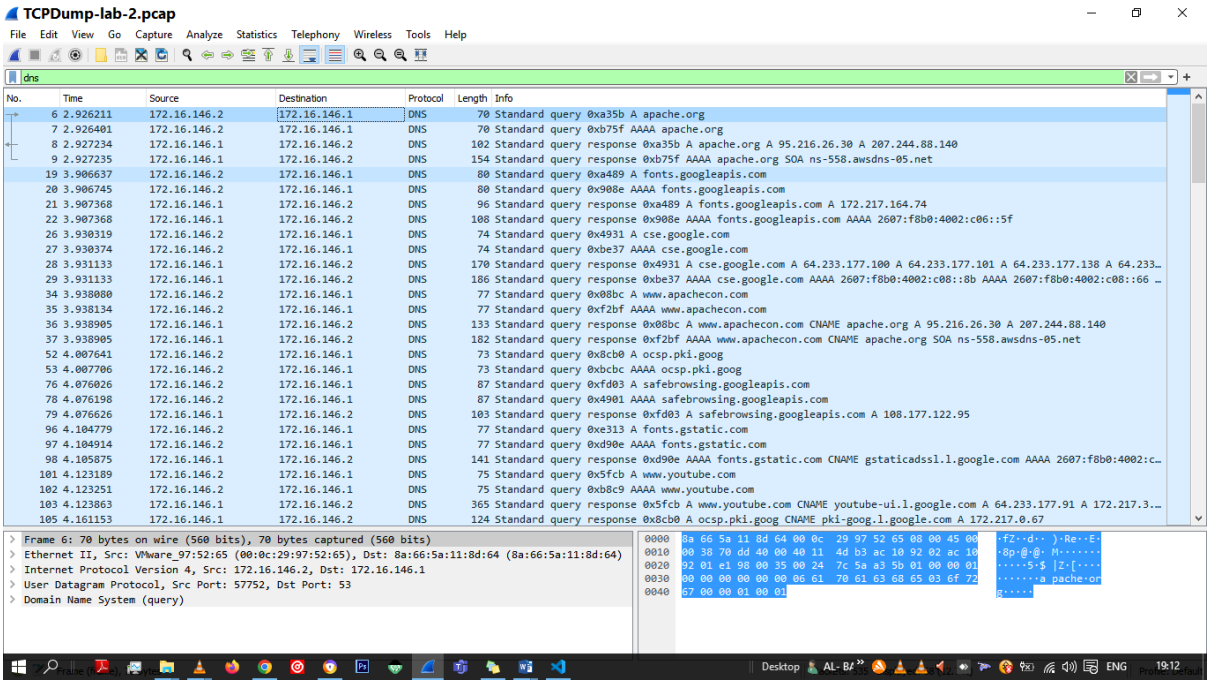
This lab aims to provide some exposure to interrogating network traffic and give everyone some valuable practice implementing packet filters. We will be utilizing filters like host, port, protocol, and more to change our view while digging through a .PCAP file.



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**



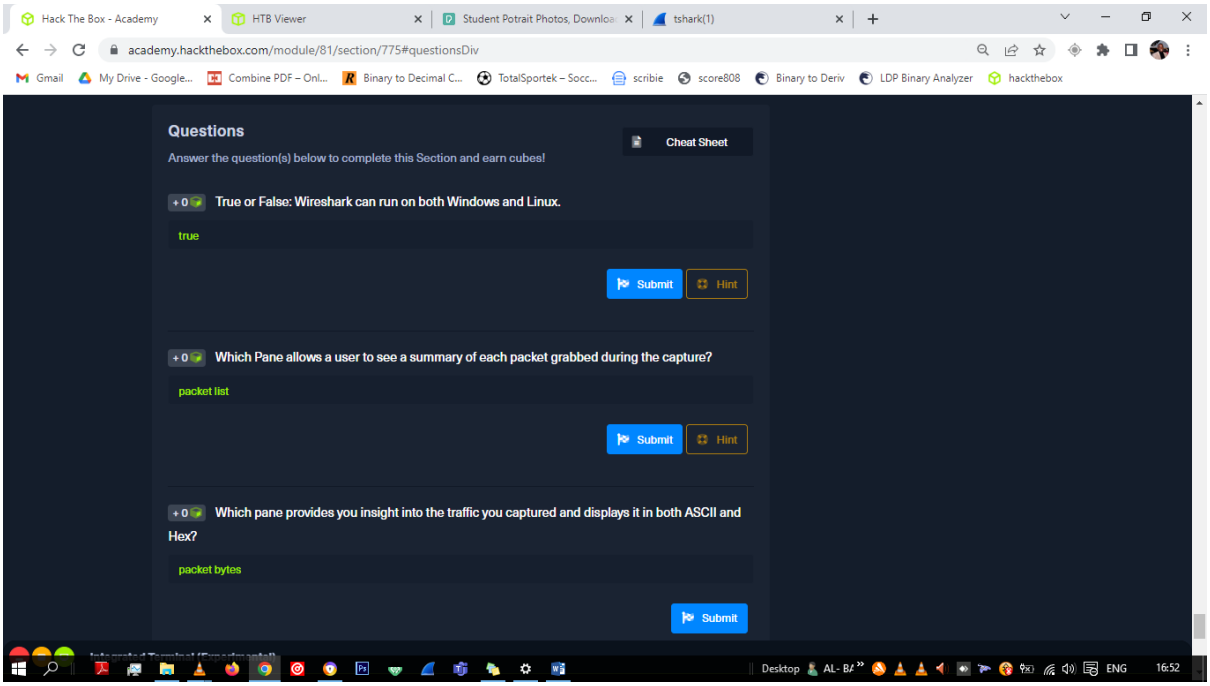
2. **Based on the traffic seen in the pcap file, who is the DNS server in this network segment? (ip address)** 172.16.146.1



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.

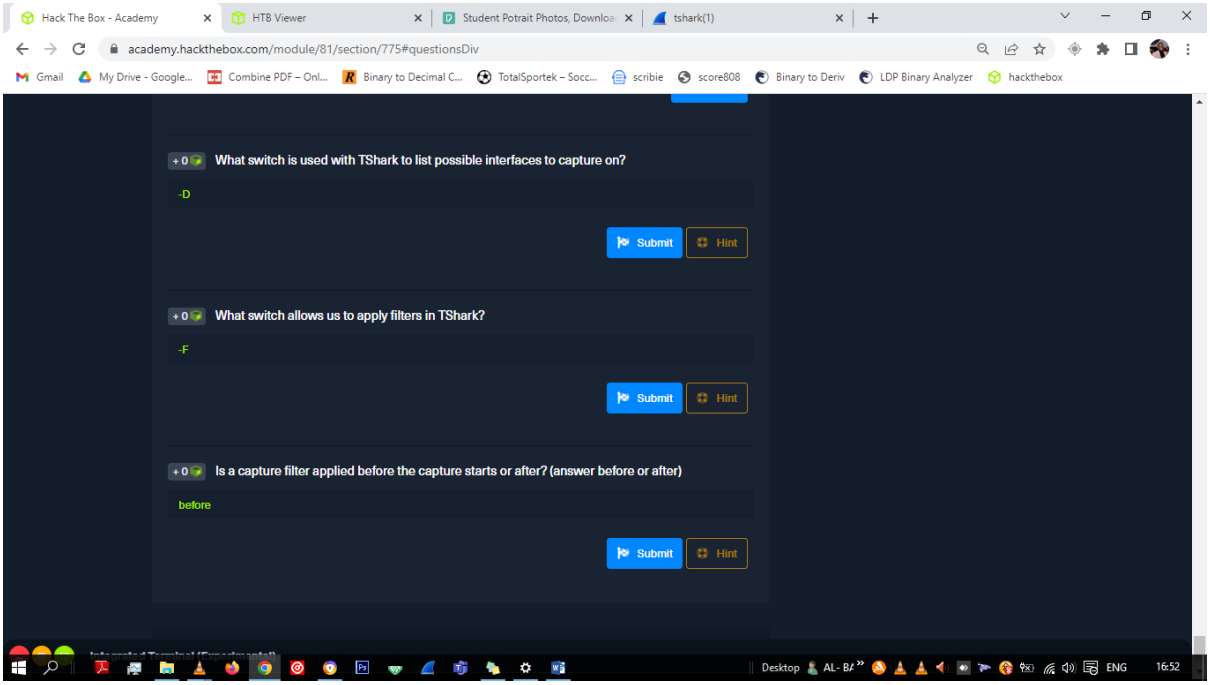
The Packet Details: **blue** window allows us to drill down into the packet to inspect the protocols with greater detail. It will break it down into chunks that we would expect following the typical OSI Model reference

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.

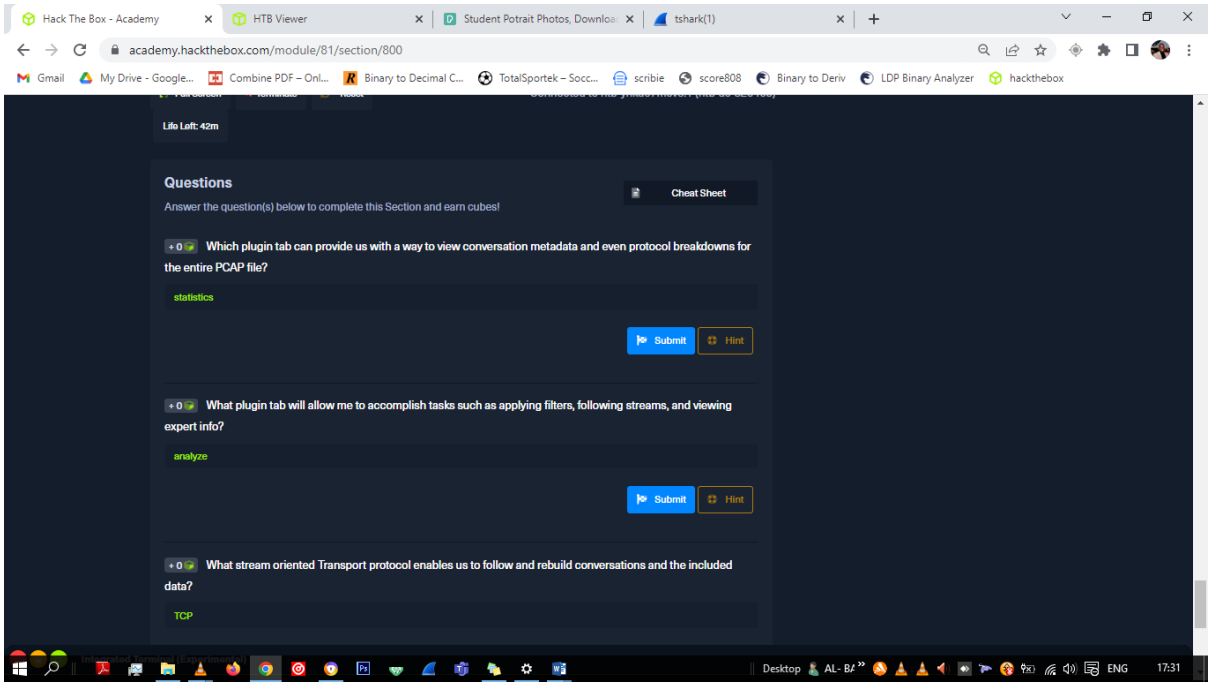
6. **Is a capture filter applied before the capture starts or after? (Answer before or after)** Capture Filters- are entered before the capture is started.



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

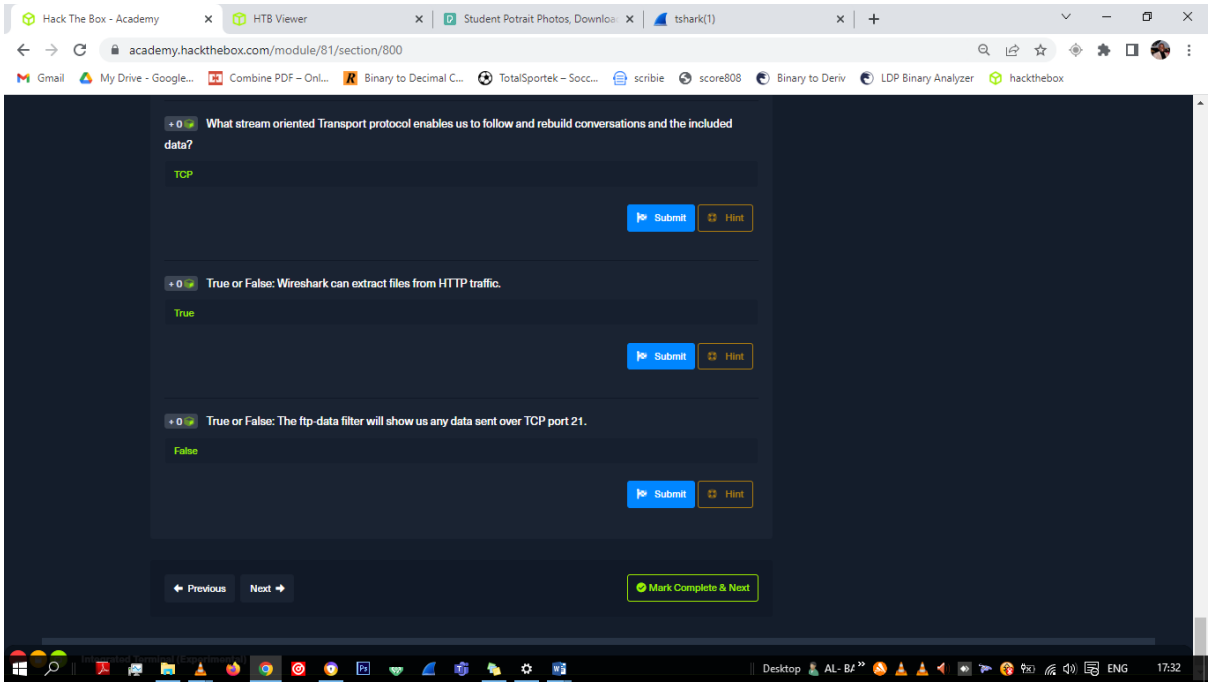
Wireshark can stitch TCP packets back together to recreate the entire stream in a readable format. This ability also allows us to pull data (images, files, etc.) out of the capture. This works for almost any protocol that utilizes TCP as a transport mechanism.

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.**

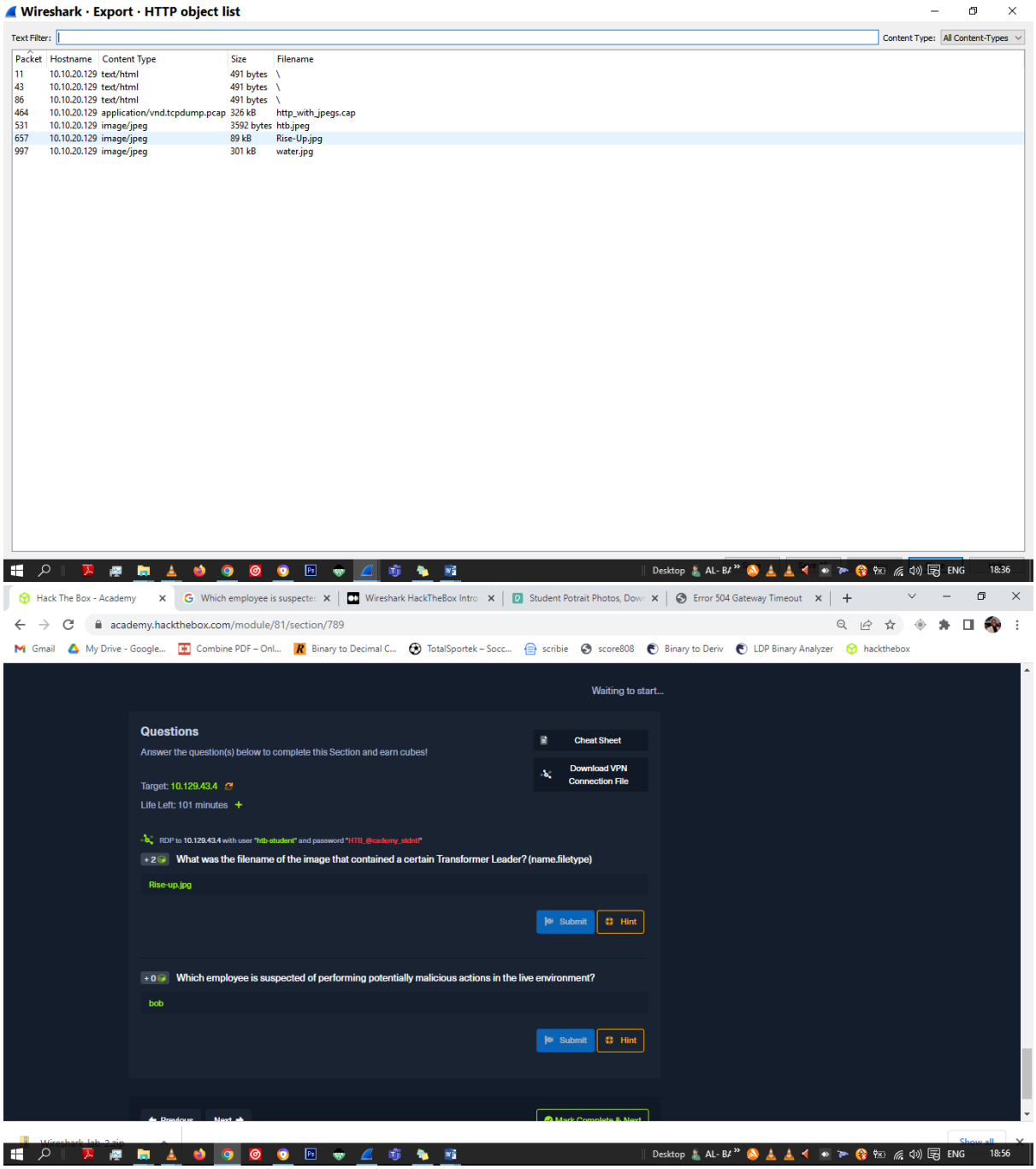
   False



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.

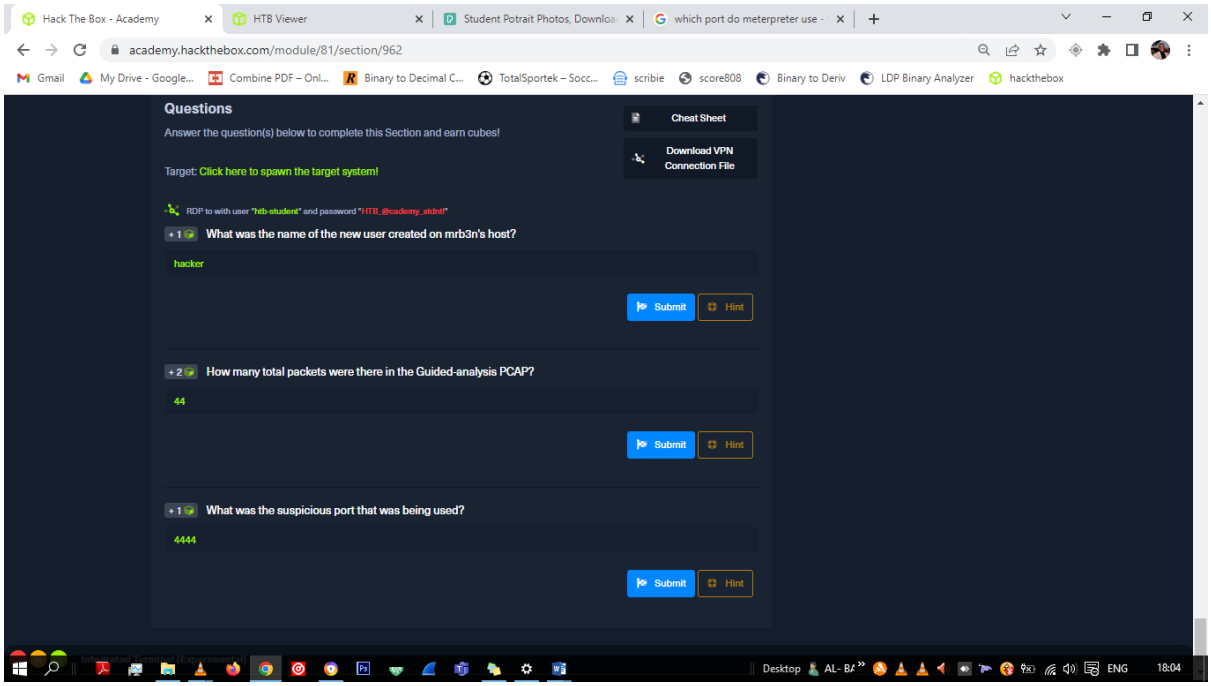
1. **What was the filename of the image that contained a certain Transformer Leader? (name.filetype)** **rise-up.jpg**
2. **Which employee is suspected of performing potentially malicious actions in the live environment?** **Bob**



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?**

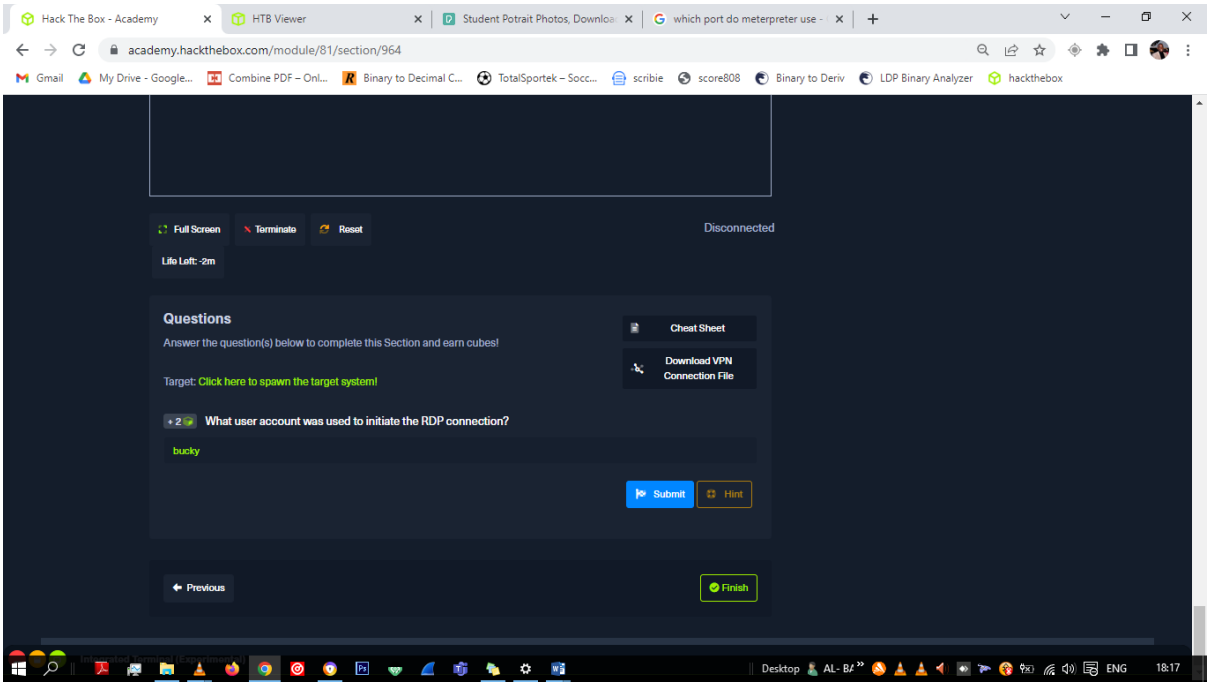
   Port 4444



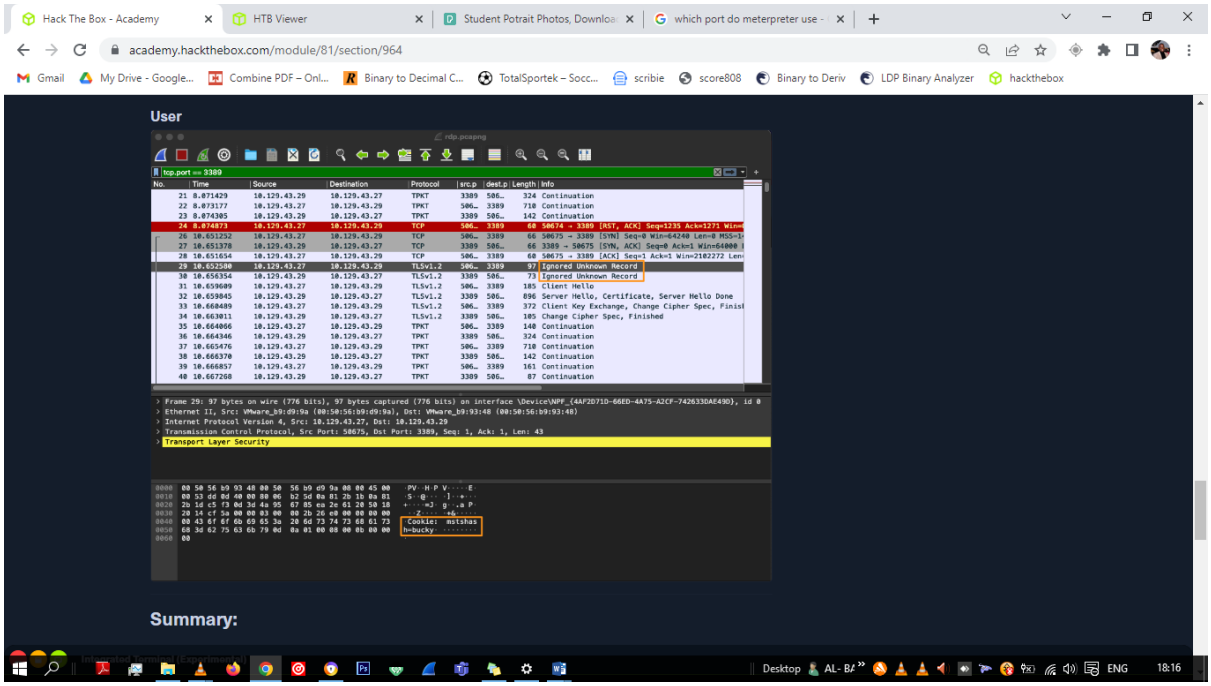
Decrypting RDP connections

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

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.