Task 5: Capture and Analyze Network Traffic Using Wireshark

Objective

Capture live network packets on the host system, identify at least 3 basic protocols and traffic types, and summarize findings with supporting packet screenshots.

Tools Used

• Wireshark (free, open-source network protocol analyzer) on Kali Linux.

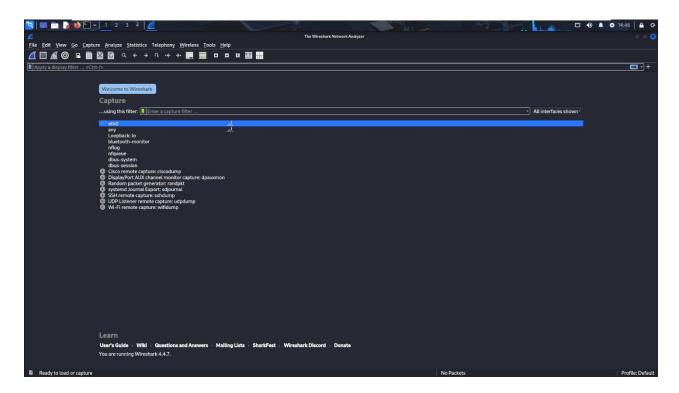
Steps Perform

1. Installing and Launching Wireshark

Wireshark was launched in the Kali Linux VMware environment. The active Ethernet interface (eth0) was selected for capturing.

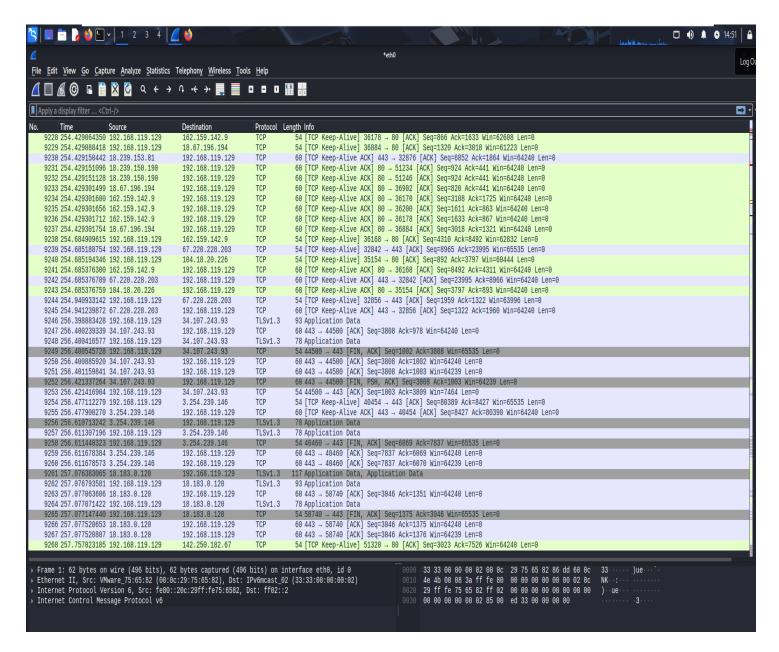
2. Starting the Packet Capture

The capture commenced on the selected interface, eth0. During capturing, various online activities were performed (web browsing, DNS resolutions, etc.) to generate traffic.



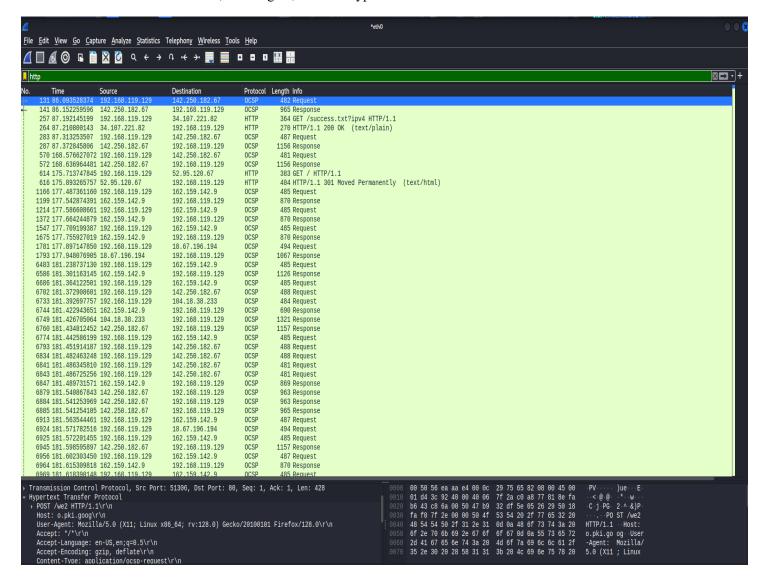
3. Filtering Captured Packets by Protocol

To analyze results, Wireshark display filters (http, tcp, dns) were applied and packets were scrutinized for details and headers.



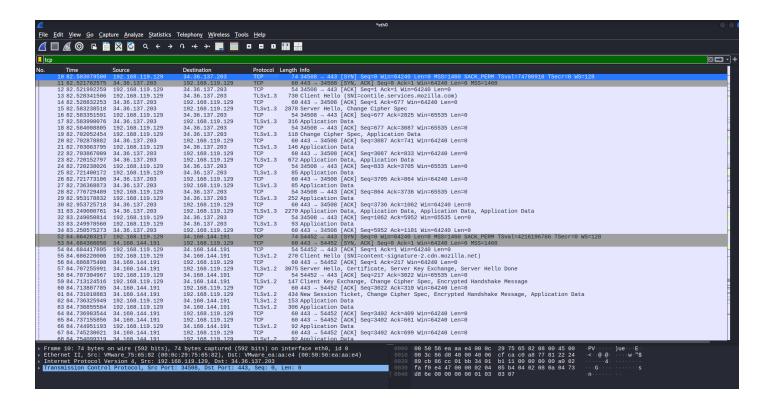
HTTP

- Multiple HTTP packets with request lines (GET, POST) and HTTP response codes.
- Headers such as Host, User-Agent, Content-Type visible in detail.



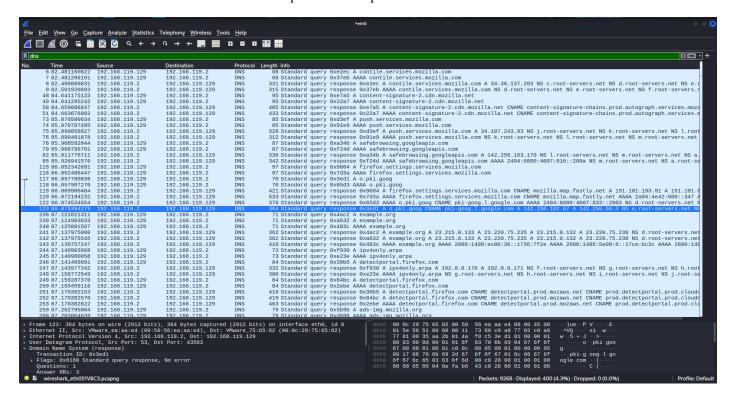
TCP/TLS

- TCP handshake steps observed (SYN, SYN-ACK, ACK), followed by encrypted data (Application Data over TLSv1.3).
- Evident secure communications between local and remote hosts. [4][5]



DNS

- Outgoing DNS queries and incoming responses were observed for multiple domain names.
- Evidence of A and CNAME record queries and responses.



Packet Details

- HTTP: The frame shows HTTP/1.1 headers, including a POST request to a web server and relevant HTTP headers.
- TCP: Shows sequence of TCP handshake with SYN, ACK flags, and subsequent application data over the session.
- DNS: DNS response includes mapping of domain names to IP addresses with relevant transaction IDs.

Conclusion:

Wireshark proved to be an essential tool for capturing and analyzing network traffic at a granular level, offering deep insights into network communications and protocols. By performing this task, hands-on skills were developed in using filters, interpreting protocol-specific packets (HTTP, TCP, and DNS), and identifying key elements within real-time traffic. The exercise built a strong foundation for protocol awareness and network troubleshooting, demonstrating how effective packet analysis can uncover the structure and status of network conversations. This foundational experience with Wireshark enhances both analytical and investigative abilities for any cybersecurity or network management role.