Project 1 - HTTP, DNS, and TCP

Due on 03-3-2024 Midnight
Submit your answers in a PDF file
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Course: 5299

Suggested Resources:

https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2616.txt

https://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1035.txt

https://linux.die.net/man/

http://www.tcpipguide.com/free/

HTTP Questions

1. [7 pts] Choose 5 HTTP status codes and describe each one.

Answer: 200 - success code

If you make a request to a web page and the server handles the request and sends a successful response, then it is a 200 Status code.

301 - Moved Permanently

It indicates that the requested page has been permanently moved to a new URL provided by the location header in response. Clients are expected to update their links to the new URL.

404 - Page not found.

It means the requested resource is not found. The page doesn't exists, returned by server.

500 -- Internal Server Error

An error message indicating that the server encountered an unexpected condition that prevented it from fulfilling the request.

503 - Service Unavailable

It indicates that the server is not ready to handle the request, usually because it is overloaded or down for maintenance.

2. [7 pts] List the 8 HTTP 1.1 methods and explain what they do.

Answer: wget and **traceroute** are two commonly known command line tools for testing and debugging. Answer the following questions by using your Mininet VM's terminal or the Unix timeshare.

3. [7 pts] Use *wget* on *example.com* to view the last modified date of the webpage. What was the HTTP return status given and what command was used to do this? (The command should not download the file! Hint: Look into the wget man page.) *Answer:* We receive a response with status code of 200 when we use `wget`.

4. [7 pts] Run traceroute -I google.com, show your screenshot and illustrate the meaning of this command.

Answer:

```
sanju@XPS-13:~$ traceroute -I google.com
traceroute to google.com (142.251.40.206), 30 hops max, 60 byte packets
1 XPS-13.mshome.net (192.168.112.1) 0.4844 ms 0.542 ms 0.546 ms
2 10.8.0.1 (10.8.0.1) 13.770 ms 13.766 ms 13.762 ms
3 69.64.211.25.nyc.electricfiber.net (69.64.211.25) 13.756 ms 13.752 ms 13.748 ms
4 144.121.109.85.lightower.net (144.121.109.85) 20.153 ms 20.148 ms 20.144 ms
5 ae2-nycmny83jp1.lightower.net (144.121.35.31) 20.427 ms 20.390 ms 20.381 ms
6 ae11-nycmnyzrj93.lightower.net (144.121.35.39) 19.835 ms 17.055 ms 17.583 ms
7 et-0-0-22.edge2.newyork6.level3.net (4.30.181.125) 18.707 ms 26.391 ms 26.360 ms
8 google-level3-newyorkcity6.level3.net (4.68.68.146) 18.247 ms 18.983 ms 18.979 ms
9 108.170.229.93 (108.170.229.93) 26.234 ms 13.067 ms 13.040 ms
10 216.239.40.167 (216.239.40.167) 45.353 ms 45.351 ms 45.349 ms
11 lga34s38-in-f14.1e100.net (142.251.40.206) 15.815 ms 15.812 ms 15.809 ms
```

Traceroute is used for tracing the URL's end to end connection. We can see the intermediate servers for finding the final web server which sends the response for google.com. This command displays the no. of hops for finding the end server(google.com). For all the intermediatory servers/systems, we can see the IP address, time taken to process the request to the next server and so on.

DNS Questions

5. [7 pts] In your own words describe what a DNS resource record (RR) is. Now using the command line tool *nslookup* find the *MX* resource record of *uconn.edu*. What does this resource record mean?

Answer: A DNS Resource Record is an entry in a DNS database – a sort of directory for the internet – that specifies information about a domain name. Each record contains details about the domain, and different types of records for different purposes.

DNS Resource Record Format:

(name, value, type, ttl)

name is hostname, **value** is the IP address, **type** is the record type such as mail server and **ttl** is time to live.

Some Examples for DNS records:

- type=A: maps a domain name to its corresponding Ipv4 address.
- type=CNAME: Points a domain name to another domain name (like aliasing)
- type=MX: Directs email to mail servers for the domain.
- type=NS: Specifies the servers that are authoritative for a domain zone.

The command used for checking the MX record used for uconn.edu is.

...

nslookup -query=MX uconn.edu

• • • •

```
PS C:\Users\sanju> nslookup -query=MX uconn.edu
Server: 2603-6081-23f0-ac80-0000-0000-0000-0001.res6.spectrum.com
Address: 2603:6081:23f0:ac80::1

Non-authoritative answer:
uconn.edu MX preference = 10, mail exchanger = uconn-edu.mail.protection.outlook.com
```

We can observe that the Server is the DNS server the query has sent to, which is likely the internet Service provider (Spectrum).

Address: This is the IPV6 address of the DNS server that responded to the query.

No-authoritative answer:

This indicates that the answer was provided by a server that is not the authoritative source for the DNS zone of `uconn.edu`. It might be from a cached source rather than the domain's primary DNS Server.

MX = preference = 10: This is the priority score for the mail server

Mail exchanger= uconn-edu.mail.protection.outlook.com: Specifies the actual mail server that handles email for **uconn.edu**. The domain listed here is part of Microsoft's email protection service, indicating that `uconn.edu` uses Microsoft's email services like Office 365 for handling its email traffic.

6. [7 pts] What does the command *nslookup -type=ns* . do? Explain its output. (Note: the . is part of the command!)

Answer:

```
sanju@XPS=13: * nslookup -type=ns .
Server: 192.168.112.1
Address: 192.168.112.1
Address: 192.168.112.1#53

Non-authoritative answer:
. nameserver = a.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = g.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = e.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = c.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = c.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = j.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = j.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = b.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = b.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = m.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = f.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = i.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = i.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = d.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = d.root-servers.net.
. nameserver = d.root-servers.net.
```

The *nslookup* command is querying the current namespaces that are known for our local system. We can see that it printed some `Non-authoriative answer`. These are the root nameservers which are used for querying the domains when we hit any URL in the browsers.

TCP Questions

7. [10 pts] How can multiple application services running on a single machine with a single IP address be uniquely identified?

Answer: A single IP address in a machine is enough for running multiple applications since we use **PORT** # to identify each application process uniquely.

- Each application service is identified by a unique port number.
- This enables a machine to communicate b/w multiple services/processes.
- 8. [9 pts] What is the purpose of the window mechanism in TCP?

 **Answer: The window mechanism in TCP serves two main purposes: Flow Control and Congestion Control.

Flow Control:

It prevents the sender from overwhelming the receiver's buffer by limiting the amount of unacked data that can be in transit.

Congestion Control:

It helps to avoid overwhelming the network itself by adjust the rate if data flow based on current state of the network, attempting to prevent package loss due to congestion. This is achieved through various phases like slow start, congestion avoidance, fast retransmit and fast recovery.

9. [9 pts] What is an MTU? What happens when a packet is larger than the MTU? *Answer:* MTU is the Maximum Transmission Unit, which is the largest packet size or frame that can be sent in a packet/frame. MTU is measured in bytes and varies by the physical medium and network layer.

When a packet is larger than the MTU of the network over which it needs to be sent, it must be divided into smaller fragments and this process is known as fragmentation.

NOTE: Fragmentation can occur at the sender side or at an intermediate router.

Fragmented packets are reassembled back into their original size at the destination. But fragmentation can lead to inefficiency and increased latency. So, it is best to discover and use the small MTY along the path to avoid it.

HTTP, DNS, and TCP:

Suggested Resources:

http://packetbomb.com/understanding-the-tcptrace-time-sequence-graph-in-wireshark/https://wiki.linuxfoundation.org/networking/netem

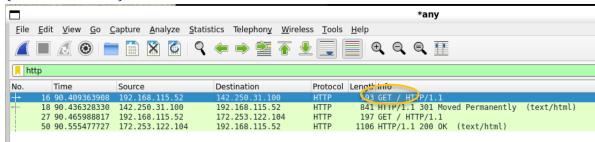
Part 1: HTTP

In this section, we will observe how the HTTP protocol operates. We will do this by using the Mininet VM. Begin by opening Wireshark and listening on the 'any' interface.

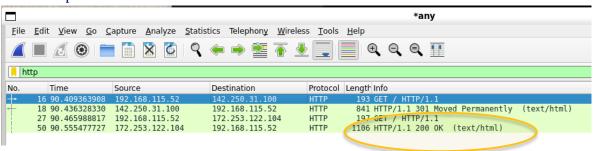
Open Chromium and navigate to http://httpbin.org.

1. [10 pts] Find the HTTP packet that corresponds to the initial request that your computer made. Take a screenshot of this packet. What HTTP method did your computer use to make this request?

Answer: My computer is using HTTP protocol of version 1.1. The info describes that I'm using a **GET** method for requesting the base HTML page at destination (142.250.31.100).



2. [10 pts] Find the HTTP packet that corresponds to the initial response the server made to your request. Take a screenshot of this packet. What HTTP status code did the server return? What is the content type of the response the server is sending back? Answer: The Server has sent a response code of 200 OK which means it is a success for the previous query received from my computer. The content sent by the server to the response is an HTML file.

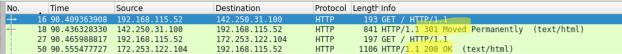


Using Chromium and navigate to http://uconn.edu.

3. [10 pts] Find the HTTP packets that correspond to the initial request and response that your computer made. Take a screenshot of these packets. What's different? Explain.

Answer:

- The initial *request* made on my computer (192.168.115.52) when I do a google.com search is a GET method which is requesting a base HTML page.
- I have received a *response* of 301 from 142.259.21.100 where the site does not exist and has been redirected to a different server.
- So, my next *request* is a GET method again which has request for the base html to 172.253.122.104.
- Finally, I got a response of 200 status code from 172.253.122.104 with the html page.



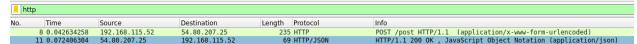
Using Chromium (or any other Linux utility you are comfortable with), find a way to make a HTTP packet with a method other than GET.

4. [10 pts] Take a screenshot of your packet and explain what you did to create it. *Answer:* I am using *curl,* a command line utility for Linux for querying the URL. It supports all the HTTP methods such as GET, POST, PUT, DELETE, etc.

```
sanju@XPS-13:-$ curl -X POST -d "name=saikiran" http://postman-echo.com/post
{
   "args": {},
   "data": "",
   "files": {},
   "form": {
        "name": "saikiran"
   },
   "headers": {
        "x-forwarded-proto": "http",
        "x-forwarded-port": "80",
        "host": "postman-echo.com",
        "x-amzn-trace-id": "Root=1-65ee38ad-6e1dfdbf274a5a4b7d4d11ce",
        "content-Length": "13",
        "user-agent": "curl/7.81.0",
        "accept": "*/*",
        "content-type": "application/x-www-form-urlencoded"
   },
   "json": {
        "name": "saikiran"
   },
   "url": "http://postman-echo.com/post"
}sanju@XPS-13:-$
```

In the screenshot, I'm using the POST method for submitting my name to postmanecho.com. By running the command, I get an output as the form I mentioned with a JSON object of my details (name=saikiran). It includes the headers, Json, and URL used.

Wireshark:



We can see the Protocol used it HTTP and the info says we used POST method for /post route.

Detailed information of the packet is here.

```
Frame 8: 235 bytes on wire (1880 bits), 235 bytes captured (1880 bits) on interface any, id 0
 Linux cooked capture v1
▶ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.115.52, Dst: 54.80.207.25
 Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 42180, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 167

    Hypertext Transfer Protocol

    POST /post HTTP/1.1\r\n
     | [Expert Info (Chat/Sequence): POST /post HTTP/1.1\r\n]
       Request Method: POST
       Request URI: /post
       Request Version: HTTP/1.1
    Host: postman-echo.com\r\n
    User-Agent: curl/7.81.0\r\n
     Accept: */*\r\n
  ▶ Content-Length: 13\r\n
     Content-Type: application/x-www-form-urlencoded\r\n
     [Full request URI: http://postman-echo.com/post]
     [HTTP request 1/1]
     [Response in frame: 11]
     File Data: 13 bytes
▼ HTML Form URL Encoded: application/x-www-form-urlencoded
    Form item: "name" = "saikiran"
       Key: name
```

The form has key of name and value of saikiran.

Part 2: DNS

In this section, we will observe how the DNS protocol operates. We will do this by using the Mininet VM. Begin by opening Wireshark and listening on the 'any' interface.

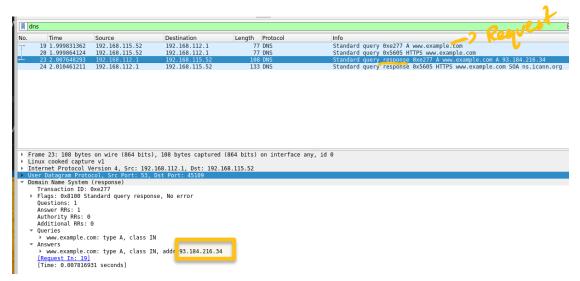
Open Chromium and navigate to www.example.com.

5. [10 pts] Were any steps taken by your computer before the web page was loaded? If so, using your captured packets in Wireshark, find the packets that allowed your computer to successfully load http://www.example.com. Take a screenshot of these packets and explain why you think these are the correct packets. What's the IP address of www.example.com?

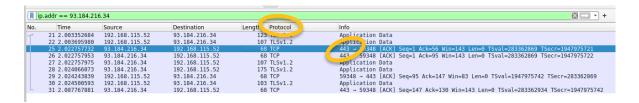
Answer: While navigating to <u>www.example.com</u>, we can find the packets for loading the URL.

Using Chromium & Wireshark:

• Firstly, we can use the filter 'dns' for querying the URL which returns the IP address(93.184.216.34) for the URL.

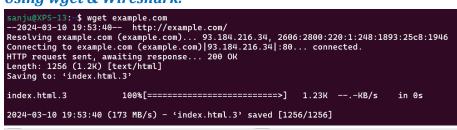


• Once we have the IP address from DNS response, we can use Wireshark output to show only the traffic to and from this IP address using the filter 'ip.addr == 93.184.216.34'.



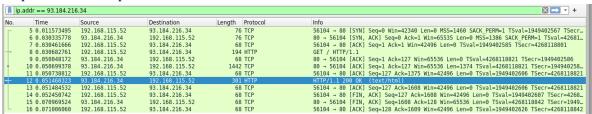
- We can observe that we use TCP protocol for the IP address for loading/querying data from this URL.
- To identify the packets related to HTTP, we can use filter as http or tcp.port == 80 which shows the HTTP traffic for the URL.
- We can also notice that we are using HTTPS (port: 443) instead of HTTP(port 80) we can query with **tcp.port==443**
- Since we are using a TCP response, we can also observe the handshake happening b/w my system and the server before loading the response.

Using wget & Wireshark:



[
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Length	Protocol	Info
	1 0.000000000	192.168.115.52	192.168.112.1		DNS	Standard query 0x5780 A example.com
	2 0.000008684	192.168.115.52	192.168.112.1	73	DNS	Standard query 0x7286 AAAA example.com
-	3 0.000972719	192.168.112.1	192.168.115.52	100	DNS	Standard query response 0x5780 A example.com A 93.184.216.34
L	4 0.001337701	192.168.112.1	192.168.115.52	112	DNS	Standard query response 0x7286 AAAA example.com AAAA 2606:2800:220:1:248:1893:25c8

- Type **dns** in the filter to see the DNS response and we get the IP address 93.184.216.34
- Next, we can use `ip.addr==93.184.216.34` in filter to see packets making request for example.com URL.



Now we can see the GET method used for HTTP by querying with `ip.addr == 93.184.216.34 && http`



- We can see we got a response of status code 200 which means it's a success of page load.
- 6. [10 pts] Open a terminal window. Execute the command to flush your DNS cache: sudo /etc/init.d/networking restart
 Using wget, download the same content of www.example.com with its IP address you discovered in question 5, without sending DNS requests.

What command did you use to accomplish that? Take a screenshot of related packets and explain why you think these are the correct packets.

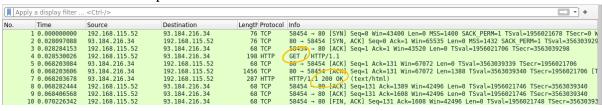
Answer: Since, I couldn't find /etc/init.d/networking file, I ran the following command for flushing the DNS cache.

```
sanju@XPS-13:~$ sudo systemctl restart systemd-resolved.service sanju@XPS-13:~$ ■
```

For downloading the content from www.example.com with its IP address, I used the following command.

wget --header="Host: www.example.com" http://93.184.216.34

In Wireshark, we can see the packets where some of them are using TCP and some are using HTTP protocols. Two HTTP Protocols are used, one for GET method and the second one is a response of status code 200.



Open a terminal window. Using nslookup, find the A records for www.google.com.

7. [10 pts] Take a screenshot of the packets corresponding to your request, and the response from the server. If the request was resolved, what is the IP address you were given for www.google.com?

Answer: I have tried the nslookup command on both Ubuntu VM and Windows PowerShell. The following images are the outputs.

Ubuntu: The response I got is from my windows machine(cache) which has the IP address of 192.168.112.1. S

Note: my ubuntu IP is 192.168.115.52

PowerShell (windows 10):

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> nslookup -type=a www.google.com
Server: 2603-6081-23f0-ac80-0000-0000-0000-0001.res6.spectrum.com
Address: 2603:6081:23f0:ac80::1

Name: www.google.com.lan
Address: 192.168.1.1
```

While querying on windows 10 PowerShell, I get the spectrum server address as mentioned in the image.

8. [10 pts] Did your computer want to complete the request recursively? How do you know? Take a screenshot proving your answer.

Answer: Upon observing the packets for DNS query, my computer wants to do the request recursively. I have observed packet #14 to see the Domain Name System Query Flags. It has Recursion desired set to Do Query Recursively and the flag bit is set to **1.**

Using nslookup, find the A records for uconn.edu.

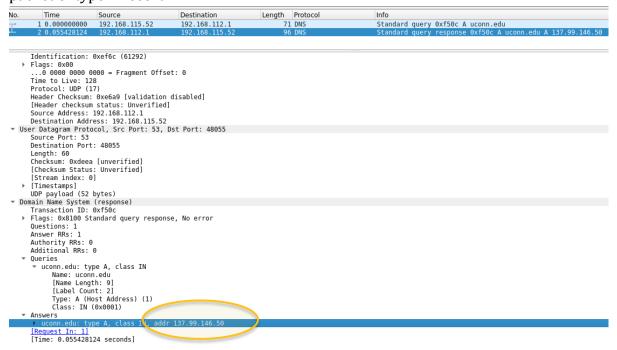
9. [10 pts] Take a screenshot of the packets corresponding to your request, and the response from the server. If the request was resolved, what is the IP address you were given for uconn.edu?

Answer: The final IP address for uconn.edu for type A record is **137.99.146.50**

```
sanju@XPS-13:~$ nslookup -type=a uconn.edu
Server: 192.168.112.1
Address: 192.168.112.1#53

Non-authoritative answer:
Name: uconn.edu
Address: 137.99.146.50
```

Wireshark packets: Here, we can observe the final IP address is matching in the 2^{nd} packet of type A record.



10. [10 pts] What is the authoritative name server for the uconn.edu domain? How do you know? Take a screenshot proving your answer.

Answer: When querying the uconn.edu domain, we get the non-authoritative name servers such as:

hbl-ext.net.uconn.edu., msb-ext.net.uconn.edu., gdc-dr.net.uconn.edu.

The authoriative answer seems to be empty. When querying the same on Windows PowerShell, we get the same name servers.

```
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32> nslookup -type=NS uconn.edu 8.8.8.8

Server: dns.google
Address: 8.8.8.8

Non-authoritative answer:
uconn.edu nameserver = msb-ext.net.uconn.edu
uconn.edu nameserver = gdc-dr.net.uconn.edu
uconn.edu nameserver = hbl-ext.net.uconn.edu
PS C:\WINDOWS\system32>
```

Part 3: TCP

In this section, we will observe how the TCP protocol operates. We will do this by using the Mininet VM. Begin by opening Wireshark and listening on the 'any' interface.

Open a terminal window. Using wget, download the file http://ipv4.download.thinkbroadband.com/10MB.zip

11. [10 pts] Find the packets corresponding with the SYN, SYN-ACK, and ACK that initiated the TCP connection for this file transfer. Take a screenshot of these packets. What was the initial window size that your computer advertised to the server? What was the initial window size that the server advertised to you?

Answer:

The packets corresponding to the TCP connection initialization for the file transfer are:

a. SYN: Here, we can see there is SYN with initial windows size of 43400 on my computer.

```
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```

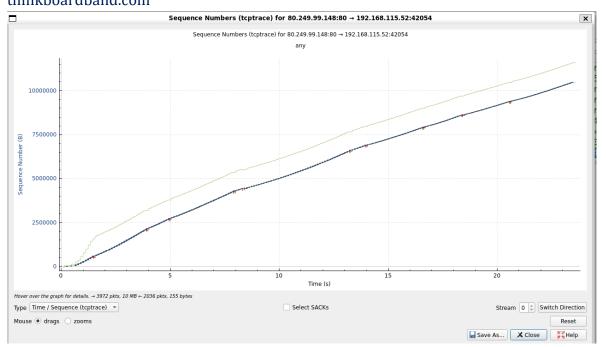
b. SYN-ACK: Here, the SYN-ACK is from Server, the initial window size advertised by server is 65160.

```
5 0.83059_ 192.168.115_ 80.249.99.1_ 76 TCP 37668 - 80 L5787 Seq. 0 Win=43400 Len=0 MSS=1400 SACK PERM=1 TSval=2035478188 Tsecr=0 WS=512
6 1.03561_ 80.249.99.1_ 192.168.115_ 76 TCP 80 - 37668 - 80 L5787 Seq. 0 Win=43400 Len=0 MSS=1400 SACK PERM=1 Tsval=2035478188 Tsecr=0 WS=512
7 1.03593_ 192.168.115_ 80.249.99.1_ 223 HTTP 81.03675_ 192.168.115_ 80.249.99.1_ 223 HTTP GET /10M8.1787 JEC /10M8.1
```

c. ACK: Here, we see the first ACK from my computer to the server with the calculated window size of 43520.

12. [10 pts] Find a packet from the download with a source of the server and a destination of your computer. Create a tcptrace graph with this packet selected. Take a screenshot of the graph and explain what it is showing. Look into the Wireshark documentation if you need assistance making this graph.

Answer: I have created the tcptrace graph with the 10MB downloaded file from thinkboardband.com**



Here, we can observe that the sequence numbers for the packets increase over time. A total of 6014 packets are used with 10MB for 2036 packets. The last Seq # used is 10486045 and we receive an ACK number in the next packet of 10486046.



In the next section, we will be simulating loss, the command *tc qdisc* will be needed. When you first use the command you should use *add dev* for the device you plan on changing. It only needs to be set on the sender's side. After adding the device use *change dev*.

Example:

```
sudo tc qdisc add dev eth0 root netem loss 0% sudo tc qdisc change dev eth0 root netem loss 100%
```

Read through the following paragraph before starting the next step. Open 2 terminals and have the commands typed and ready before you begin. In one terminal, download the

10 MB. zip file again. While the download is in progress, change loss to 100%. After a few seconds, change loss to 0%.

13. [10 pts] Find a packet from the download with the source of the server and a destination of your computer. Create a tcptrace graph with this packet selected. Take a screenshot of the graph and explain what it is showing. Using an image editting program, circle the areas where the 0% loss is shown, as well as where TCP is in slow-start and congestion-avoidance.