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Network Analysis Report

12/12/2025

Introduction

The goal of this project is to strengthen my understanding of network protocols by analyzing real traffic with Wireshark. I generated several types of traffic (DNS, ICMP, TCP, HTTP, and HTTPS) and inspected the corresponding packets to observe how each protocol behaves in practice.

After this Wireshark analysis, I plan to create small Python scripts to automate some checks or reproduce parts of the traffic, allowing me to explore network analysis from both a practical and a programmatic perspective.

Environment

OS: Ubuntu 24.04.3 LTS

Wireshark version: 4.2.2

Interface: Wi-Fi

Capture Duration:

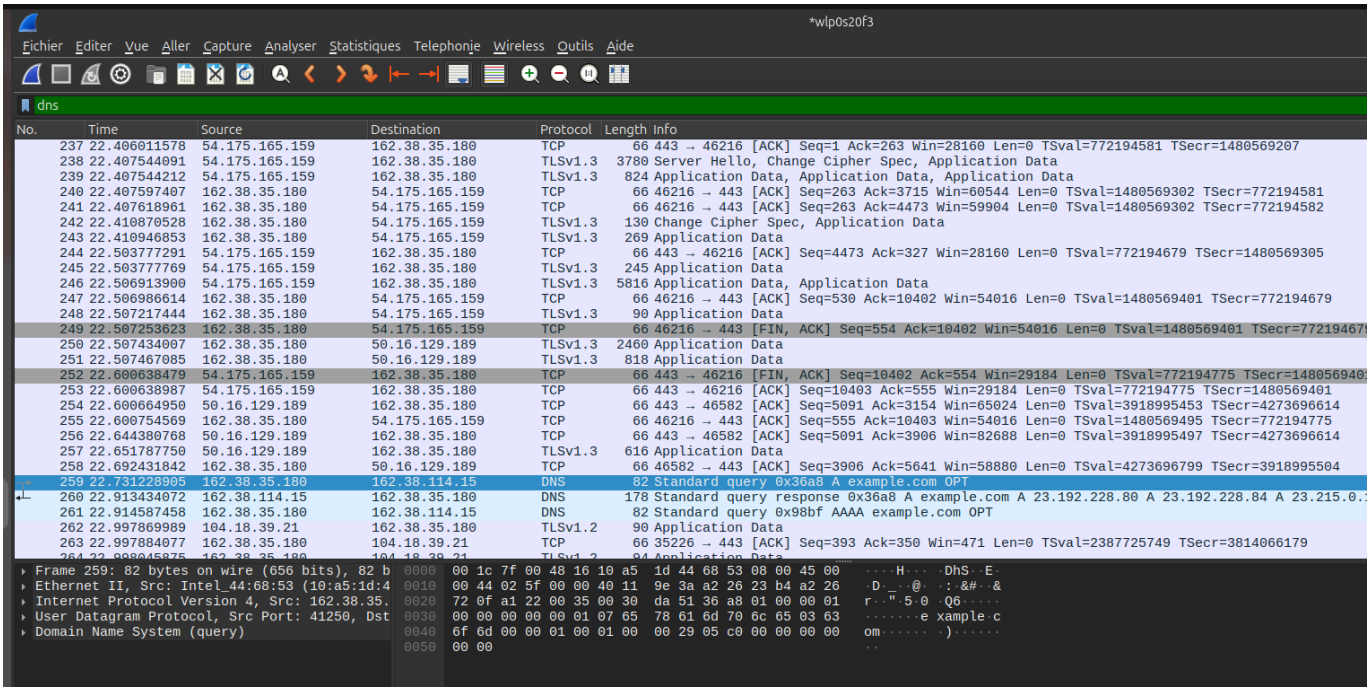
Methodology

1. Start a capture on the Wireshark interface
2. Generate network traDic with:
    a. Commands: ping, nslookup
    b. Browsing: example.com, neverssl.com, google.com, wikipedia.org
3. Sort the captured packets by protocol
4. Analyze each group of packets to identify the behavior of the corresponding protocol

Protocol analysis

DNS Analysis

To generate DNS traffic, you must use commands such as nslookup example.com.

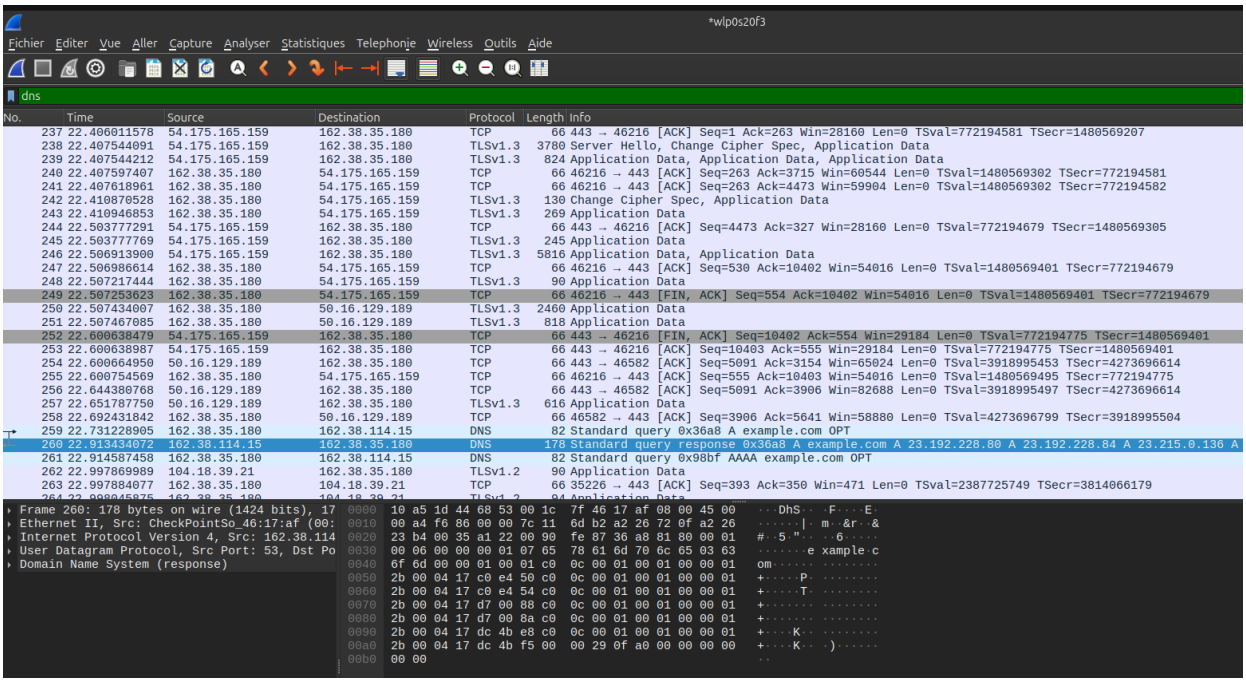


1. DNS Request for example.com

This packet corresponds to the DNS request sent by the client.

Query Type: A (IPv4 address request)
Source IP: 162.38.35.180
Destination IP: 162.38.114.15
Transaction ID: 0x36a8
→ Used to match the request with its corresponding response

Flags: Standard query, no errors
Requested Domain: example.com
→ This packet represents the initial DNS query created by the client to resolve the IPv4 address of example.com.



2. DNS Response for example.com

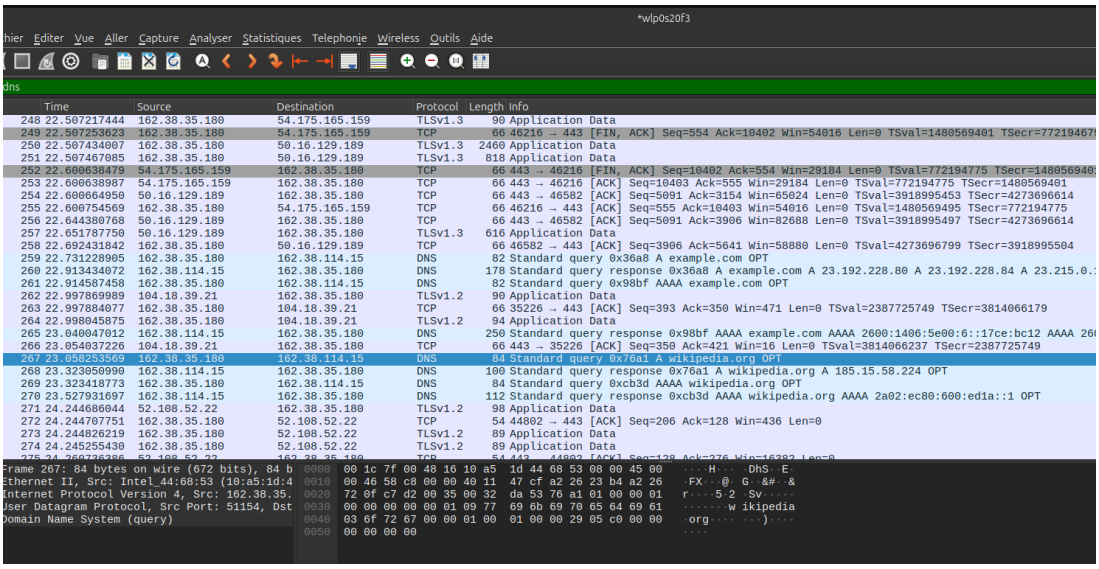
This packet is the DNS server's answer to the previous query.

Response Type: Standard query response (No error)
Source IP: 162.38.114.15 (DNS server)
Destination IP: 162.38.35.180 (local machine)
Transaction ID: 0x36a8 → Matches the request, confirming this response corresponds to the earlier query

Answer (A Records):

- 23.192.228.80
- 23.192.228.84
- 23.215.0.138
- 23.215.0.136
- 23.220.75.x (truncated but visible)

→ The DNS server returns multiple IPv4 addresses for example.com, as it is hosted behind a load-balancing infrastructure.

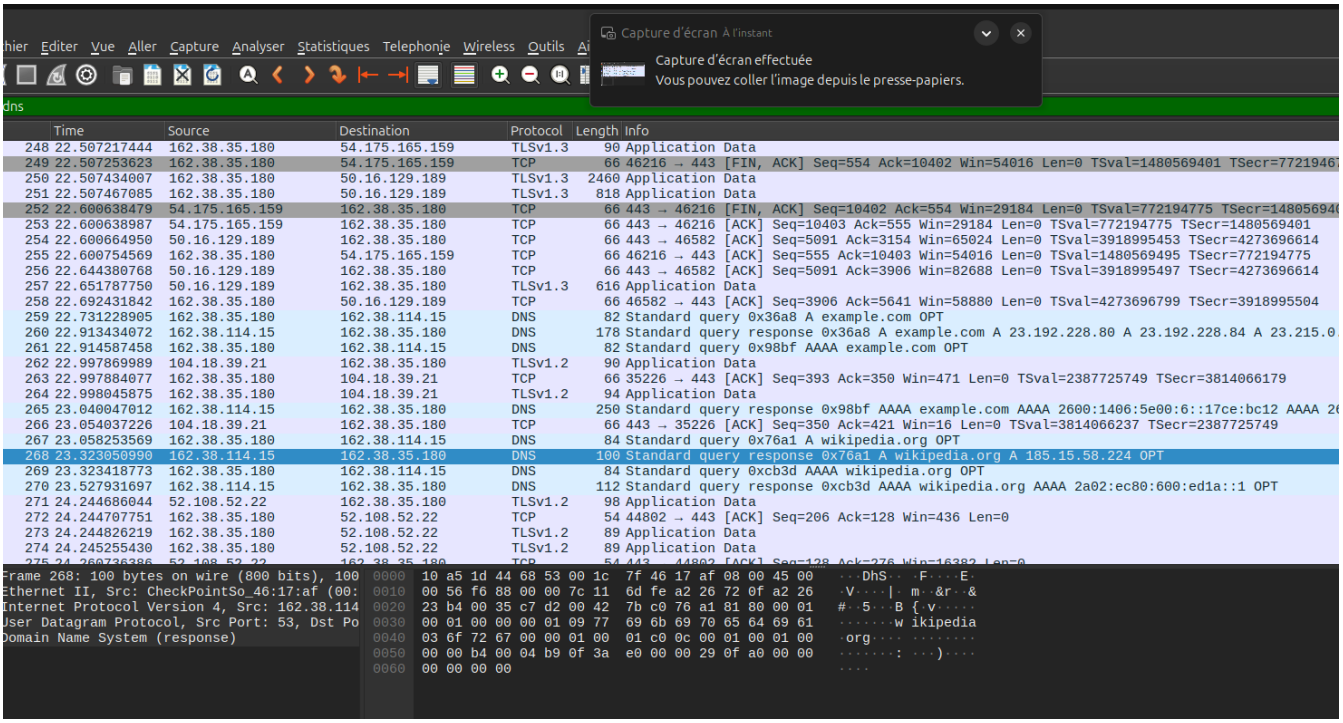


3. DNS Request for wikipedia.org

This packet corresponds to the DNS request sent by the client.

Query Type: A (IPv4 address request)
Source IP: 162.38.35.180
Destination IP: 162.38.114.15
Transaction ID: 0x67a1
→ Used to match the request with its corresponding response

Flags: Standard query, no errors
Requested Domain: wikipedia.org
→ This packet shows the client initiating DNS resolution for wikipedia.org.



4. DNS Response for wikipedia.org

This packet is the DNS server's answer to the previous query.

Response Type: Standard query response (No error)
Source IP: 162.38.114.15 (DNS server)
Destination IP: 162.38.35.180 (local machine)
Transaction ID: 0x67a1
→ Matches the request, confirming the correspondence

Answer (A Record): 185.15.58.224
→ The DNS server successfully resolves wikipedia.org and returns the corresponding IPv4 address.

The DNS captures show the complete resolution process for the domains example.com and wikipedia.org.

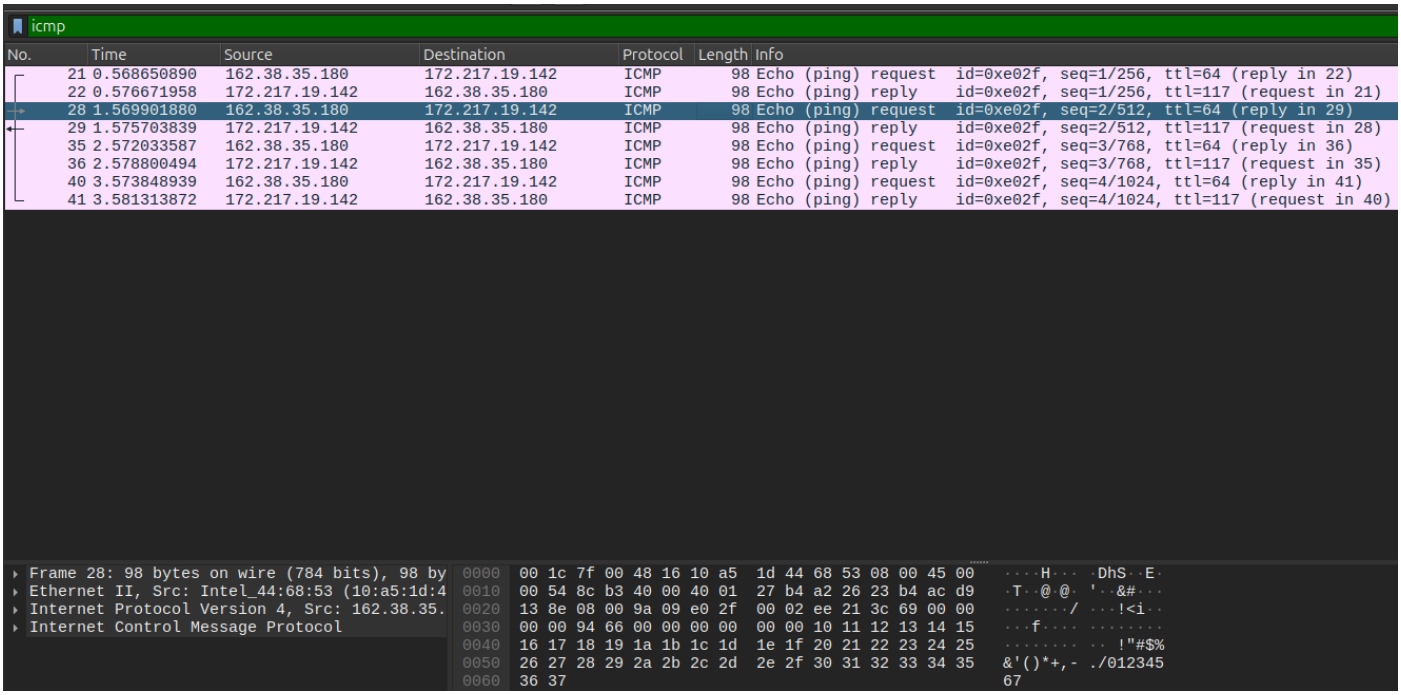
For each domain, the client sends a standard A-type query to the DNS server, and the server responds with the corresponding IPv4 address.

The matching Transaction IDs confirm the link between each request and response, and the flags indicate that all queries were processed without errors.

Overall, the DNS traffic behaves as expected and clearly illustrates how domain names are translated into IP addresses before any communication with remote servers can begin.

ICMP Analysis

To generate ICMP traTic, the command ping -c 4 google.com was executed. This command is used to test whether the remote machine (here google.com) is accessible. It generate 4 Echo requests and 4 Echo replies.



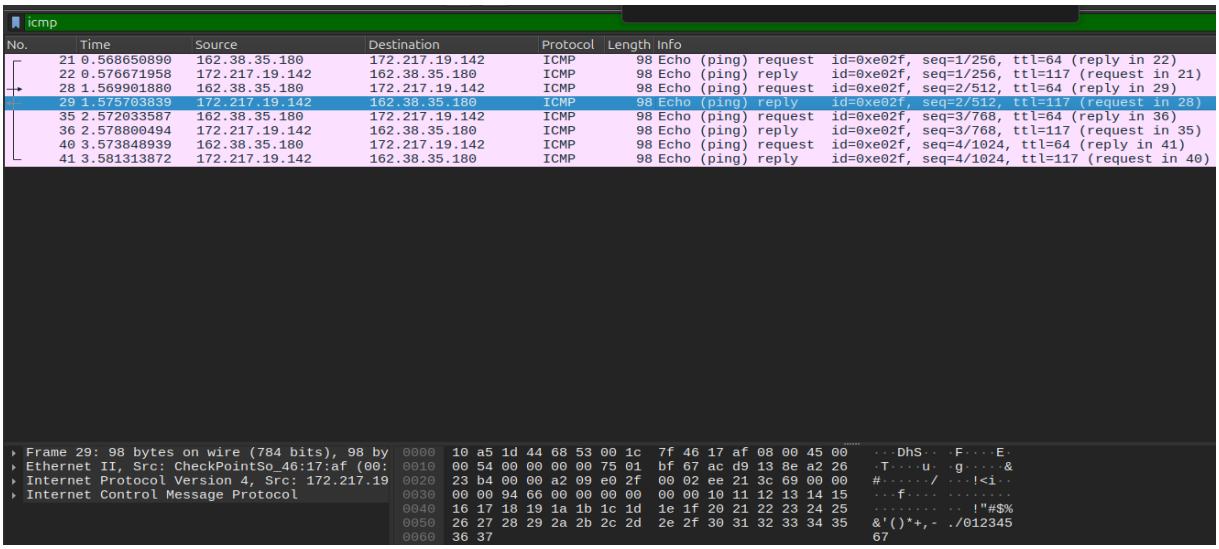
1. ICMP Echo Request (Packet 28)

This packet represents the ICMP Echo Request sent by the client as part of the ping command.

Type: 8 (Echo Request)
Source IP: 162.38.35.180 (local machine)
Destination IP: 172.217.19.142 (Google server)
Identifier: 0xe02f

Sequence Number: 2
→ Allows matching the request with the corresponding reply
TTL: 64
→ Typical for packets originating from a local host

Payload: Incremental byte pattern used to verify data integrity
→ This packet shows the client attempting to reach the remote host by sending an ICMP Echo Request.



2. ICMP Echo Reply (Packet 29)

This packet represents the reply sent by the remote host in response to the previous request.

Type: 0 (Echo Reply)
Source IP: 172.217.19.142 (Google server)
Destination IP: 162.38.35.180 (local machine)
Identifier: 0xe02f
→ Matches the identifier from the request

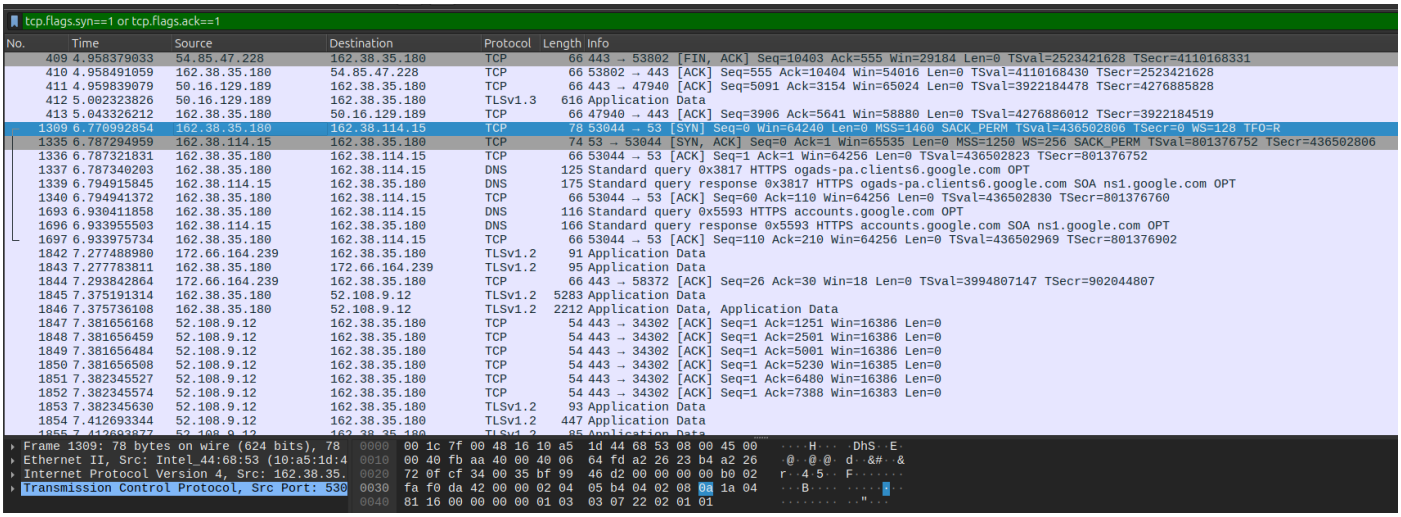
Sequence Number: 2
→ Same as the request, confirming the correspondence
TTL: 117
→ Indicates the packet traveled across an external network (Internet)

Round-Trip Time: Visible in the ping output, corresponds to the time between request and reply
→ This packet confirms that the remote host is reachable and responded successfully to the ICMP Echo Request.

The ICMP captures show a normal ping exchange between the client and Google's server.
Each Echo Request from the local machine receives a corresponding Echo Reply, confirmed by matching identifiers and sequence numbers.
The TTL values reflect the path differences between outgoing and incoming packets, and the successful replies demonstrate proper network connectivity.

TCP analysis : 3-way handshake

To generate TCP traffic, several websites were visited using an Internet browser. This action creates multiple TCP connections, each beginning with the standard three-way handshake (SYN, SYN-ACK, ACK) between the client and the web server.



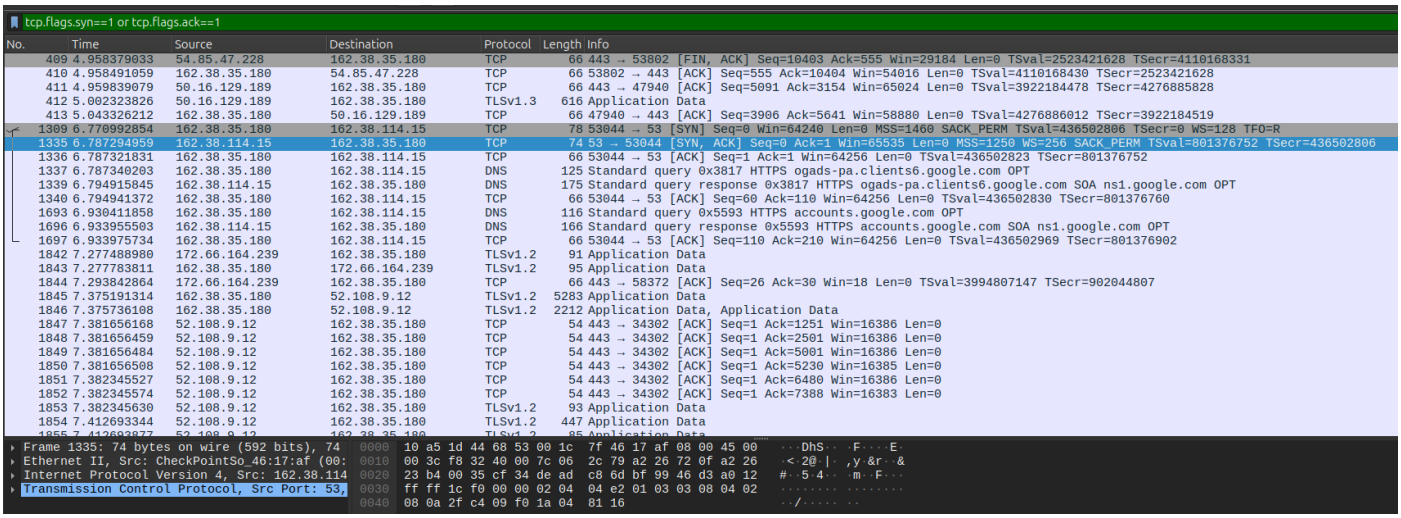
1. TCP SYN (Client → Server)

This packet is the TCP SYN sent by the client to initiate a connection with the server.

Source Port: 53044 (client)
Destination Port: 53 (server)
Flags: SYN
→ Indicates the beginning of a TCP connection.
Sequence Number: 0
→ First sequence number sent by the client.

Window Size: 64240
→ Advertised receive window of the client.

Options: MSS = 1460
→ This packet represents the client's attempt to establish a TCP session.



2. TCP SYN-ACK (Server → Client)

This packet is the SYN-ACK response sent by the server as part of the handshake.

Source Port: 53 (server)

Destination Port: 53044 (client)

Flags: SYN, ACK

→ Confirms that the server received the client's SYN and agrees to establish the connection.

Sequence Number: 0

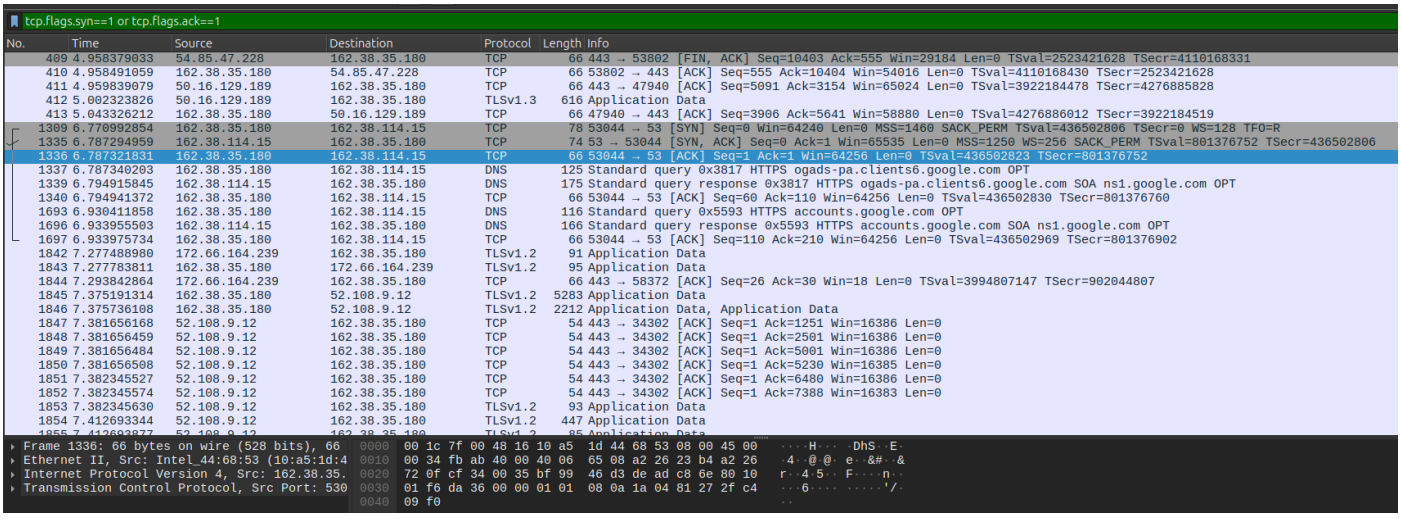
→ First sequence number sent by the server.

Acknowledgment Number: 1

→ Acknowledges the client's SYN (Seq=0 → Ack=1).

Window Size: 65535

→ This packet completes the second step of the TCP 3-way handshake.



3. TCP ACK (Client → Server)

This packet is the final ACK completing the handshake.

Source Port: 53044 (client)
Destination Port: 53 (server)
Flags: ACK
→ Final step confirming connection establishment.

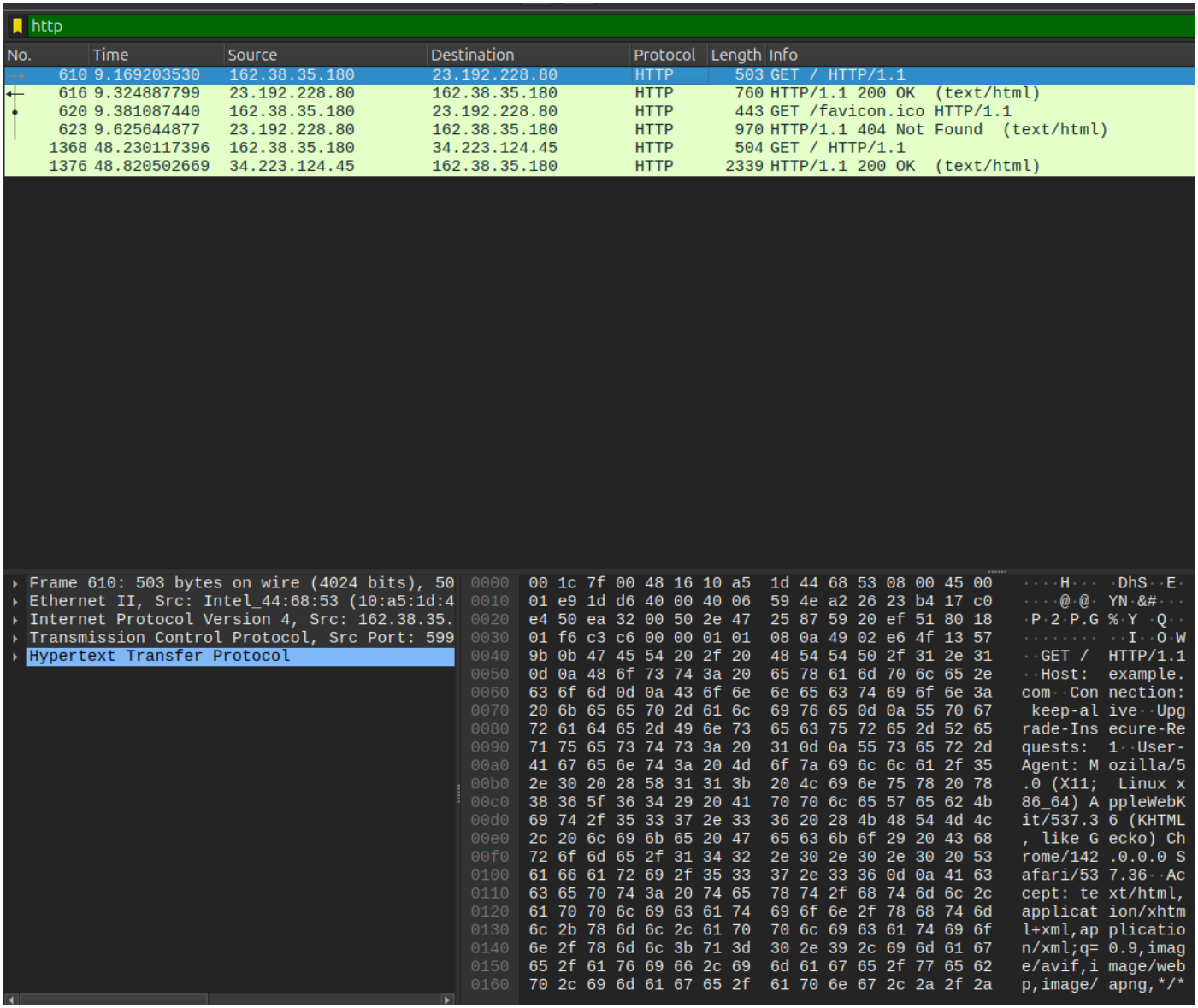
Sequence Number: 1
→ Next byte after the SYN.
Acknowledgment Number: 1
→ Confirms receipt of the server's SYN-ACK.

→ This packet finalizes the TCP handshake and establishes a reliable TCP connection between client and server.

The three packets (SYN → SYN-ACK → ACK) clearly show a complete and valid TCP 3-way handshake. Sequence and acknowledgment numbers match, and both endpoints successfully negotiate the connection parameters.
This confirms that a reliable TCP session was successfully established between the client and the server.

HTTP analysis

To generate HTTP traffic, the browser was used to visit the websites http://example.com and http://neverssl.com. These actions produce HTTP GET requests sent from the client to the web servers, followed by HTTP responses containing the requested webpage content.



1. HTTP GET Request (Packet 610)

This packet is the HTTP GET request sent by the client to retrieve a webpage hosted on the remote server.

Method: GET
Request URI: /

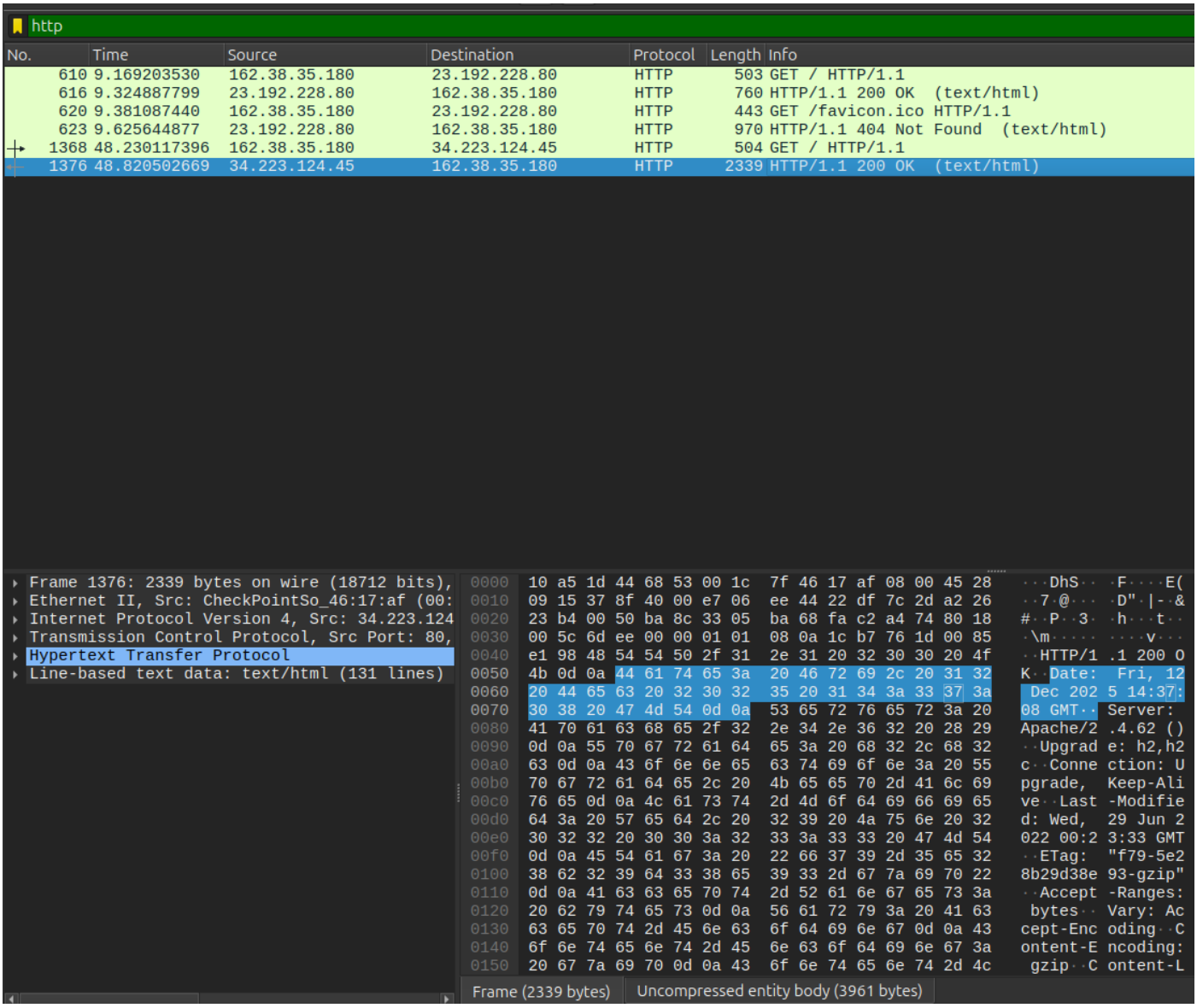
Host: example.com
→ The client requests the main web page from the server.

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64) AppleWebKit/537.36 Chrome/142.0.0.0 Safari/537.36
→ Identifies the browser and operating system.

Source IP: 162.38.35.180 (local machine)
Destination IP: 23.192.228.80 (web server)
Source Port: 599xx

Destination Port: 80 (HTTP)
TCP Info: Seq=47, Ack=45, Len=468

→ This packet represents the browser's initial request for loading the webpage over an unencrypted HTTP connection.



2. HTTP 200 OK Response (Packet 1376)

This packet is the server's response to the previous GET request.

Status: HTTP/1.1 200 OK
→ Indicates that the request was successful.

Content-Type: text/html
Content-Length: 3961 bytes (uncompressed entity body)

Server: Apache/2.4.62
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2025 14:37 GMT

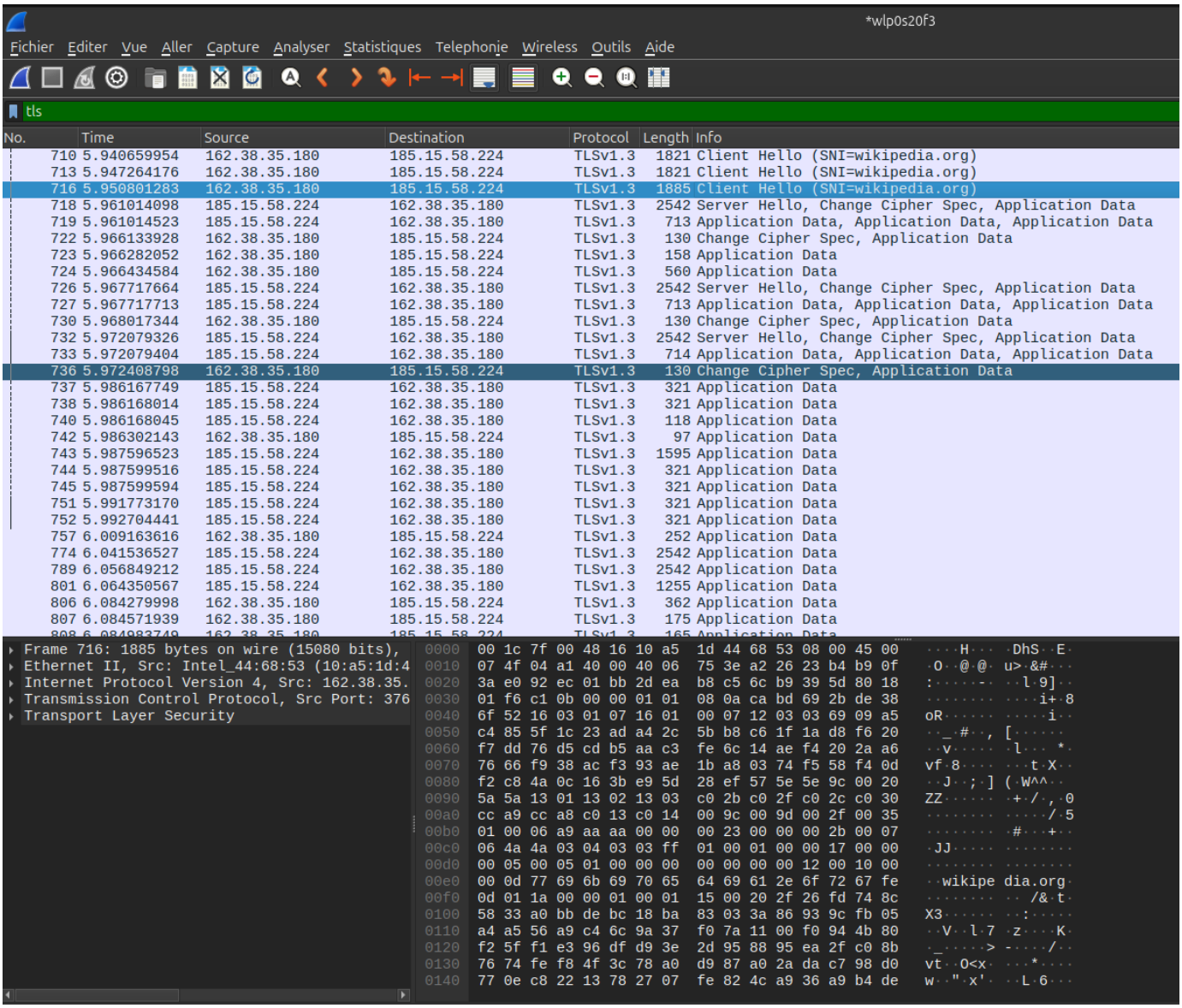
Headers:
Connection: keep-alive
Last-Modified: Wed, 29 Jun 2022
ETag: "f79-5e2bd438e93-gzip"
Accept-Ranges: bytes

In addition, the packet contains the HTML content of the page in clear text, since HTTP does not provide any encryption. The payload section shows readable HTML, making it easy to inspect the structure of the returned webpage.

→ This packet corresponds to the server delivering the requested webpage to the client.

The HTTP exchange clearly shows how unencrypted web traffic operates.
The client sends a GET request, and the server responds with a valid 200 OK message containing the full HTML page. Because HTTP is not encrypted, all headers and the body content are visible in plain text within the packet capture.
This highlights the lack of confidentiality in HTTP communications and explains why HTTPS is preferred for secure browsing.

TLS analysis (HTTPS)



1. Client Hello (Packet ~717)

This packet corresponds to the TLS Client Hello message sent by the client to initiate the TLS 1.3 handshake.

TLS Version: TLS 1.3
Random Value: Client-generated random value used during key derivation
Session ID: Present (indicates support for session resumption)

Cipher Suites:

The client proposes a list of supported cipher suites, typically including modern and secure options such as AES-GCM and ChaCha20-based suites (TLS 1.3 suites do not appear individually in Wireshark but are negotiated internally).

Extensions:

server_name (SNI): wikipedia.org
→ Indicates the domain the client intends to reach
supported_versions: Includes TLS 1.3
key_share: Used during ephemeral Diffie–Hellman key exchange
supported_groups: Lists supported elliptic curve groups
signature_algorithms: Allowed signature algorithms for certificate validation

→ This packet is the first step of the TLS handshake. The client proposes security parameters and announces support for TLS 1.3 while specifying the website it wants to reach through SNI.

2. Server Hello (Packet ~723 / 725)

This packet corresponds to the Server Hello message, sent by the server in response to the Client Hello.

TLS Version: TLS 1.3
Random Value: Server-generated random value
Session ID: Matches the one sent by the client
→ Confirms session establishment

Selected Cipher Suite:

(TLS 1.3 cipher suite negotiated internally, e.g., TLS_AES_128_GCM_SHA256 or TLS_CHACHA20_POLY1305_SHA256)

Extensions:
key_share: Server's contribution to the elliptic-curve key exchange
supported_versions: Confirms TLS 1.3 is chosen
ALPN: May include “h2” (HTTP/2) or “http/1.1”

Following the Server Hello, the server sends:
Change Cipher Spec
Encrypted handshake messages
Certificate (encrypted under TLS 1.3)
→ In TLS 1.3, most handshake messages after Server Hello are encrypted, which is why Wireshark displays them as Application Data rather than clear handshake fields.

The TLS capture shows a complete and modern TLS 1.3 handshake between the client and *wikipedia.org*.
The client sends a Client Hello advertising its supported cipher suites and TLS extensions, including the SNI extension specifying the target domain.
The server responds with a Server Hello selecting TLS 1.3 and negotiating cryptographic parameters.
Because TLS 1.3 encrypts most handshake messages after Server Hello, Wireshark displays the remaining exchange as encrypted application data.

Overall, the TLS traffic demonstrates a secure and up-to-date HTTPS session, ensuring confidentiality and integrity of all subsequent communication between the client and the server.

Summary of Observations

Protocol	Observations
DNS	DNS queries for *example.com* and *wikipedia.org* were successfully resolved. Each query (Transaction IDs 0x36a8 and 0x67a1) matched its corresponding response. The DNS server returned multiple A records for *example.com* and a single IPv4 address for *wikipedia.org*. All exchanges were processed without errors, demonstrating proper DNS resolution.
ICMP	The ICMP ping exchange with 172.217.19.142 (Google) shows normal network behavior. Each Echo Request was matched with an Echo Reply using identical identifiers (0xe02f) and sequence numbers. TTL values differ between outgoing (64) and incoming (117) packets, indicating traversal through external networks. Connectivity was stable with no packet loss.
TCP	A complete TCP 3-way handshake was observed: SYN → SYN-ACK → ACK. The client initiated the connection from port 53044, and the server responded from port 53. Sequence and acknowledgment numbers aligned correctly, and window sizes were properly negotiated. This confirms reliable establishment of a TCP connection.
HTTP	Unencrypted HTTP traffic clearly exposes all protocol details. The client sent a GET request to *example.com*, and the server responded with a 200 OK message containing the full HTML page. All headers, metadata, and content were visible in plaintext, highlighting the lack of confidentiality in HTTP communications.
TLS	The TLS 1.3 handshake with *wikipedia.org* showed secure negotiation of cryptographic parameters. The Client Hello included SNI (wikipedia.org), supported_versions, key_share, and signature_algorithms. The Server Hello confirmed TLS 1.3 and selected a cipher suite. Most handshake messages appeared encrypted, consistent with TLS 1.3 behavior. The exchange ensures confidentiality and integrity of all subsequent traffic.

Conclusion

This network analysis provided a clear and structured view of how fundamental Internet protocols operate in real conditions.
By capturing and examining DNS, ICMP, TCP, HTTP, and TLS traffic, each layer of communication revealed its role and behavior within the network stack.

DNS queries demonstrated how domain names are resolved into IP addresses through request–response exchanges.
ICMP traffic showed reliable host reachability, with each Echo Request receiving a matching Echo Reply.
The TCP 3-way handshake confirmed the proper establishment of reliable connections using sequence and acknowledgment numbers.
HTTP communication highlighted the lack of confidentiality in unencrypted traffic, exposing full requests, responses, and webpage content in plaintext.
Finally, the TLS 1.3 handshake illustrated how modern HTTPS connections negotiate cryptographic parameters to secure data exchanges, ensuring confidentiality and integrity.

Overall, this project reinforced practical understanding of key networking mechanisms and demonstrated how Wireshark can be used to visualize and interpret protocol behavior.
The observations made throughout the analysis reflect real-world interactions between clients and servers and underline the importance of secure communication protocols in today's Internet.