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FORENSICS CYBER-SECURITY

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Wireshark Tutorial

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Introduction

This guide aims to provide some examples of techniques that you are expected to use when analyzing traffic in Wireshark. For the third assignment of CSF, it is extremely important that you understand and are comfortable with the basic filtering capabilities of Wireshark, so that you can purposefully search for the information you want to find.

It is also very important for you to be able to identify what details might be suspicious in certain protocols, not only so that you can notice them when you see them, but also so that you can purposefully search for them.

1 Setting up the SSL Key log file

To be able to inspect the contents of the SSL/TLS packets in our capture, you must first set up the SSL key log file that was generated during the capture. To do this, you may follow the following steps:

- 1. Open Wireshark.
- 2. On top of the window, go to **Edit**, followed by **Preferences**.
- 3. Expand **Protocols** and search for **TLS** in the list of protocols.
- 4. Finally, find the field (**Pre**)-**Master-Secret log filename** and type there the path to the SSL key log file

2 Time Shift

Wireshark provides users with a tool that may be useful to convert the times shown in the whole capture to different timezones. This tool is called **Time Shift**, and it can be accessed by going to the top of the window to **Edit**, followed by **Time Shift...**

Figure 1 shows the Time Shift window and its options. In this specific example, we are shifting all packets 14 days back in time.

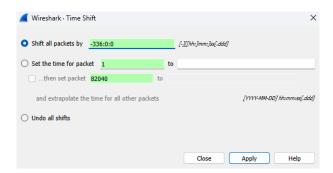


Figure 1: Time Shift Window

After using the Time Shift tool, if you ever want to revert and recover the original times, you may simply go back to the Time Shift window and select **Undo all shifts**.

3 Name Resolution

During your analysis, it might sometimes be useful to search for a specific domain name, such as www.google.com instead of its corresponding address, which is usually not recognizable. For this purpose, Wireshark provides options for name resolution. To access these options, you simply have to go to the top of the window to **View**, followed by **Name Resolution**, as shown in Figure 2.

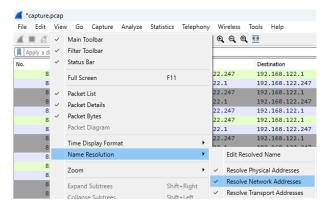


Figure 2: How to access the Name Resolution options

Here you have three options:

- **Resolve Physical Addresses:** Wireshark will attempt to translate MAC addresses to their respective names, for example, by identifying the name of the vendor to which the Organizationally Unique Identifier (OUI) belongs to.
- **Resolve Network Addresses:** Wireshark will use DNS servers to attempt to convert IP addresses to the hostnames associated with them.
- **Resolve Transport Addresses:** Wireshark will convert TCP and UDP ports to their well-known names, if they exist. For example, port 80 will be identified as HTTP.

Furthermore, while performing your analysis, you may have trouble keeping track of who each address belongs to. To help with this, you may right-click on an address you want to give a name to, and select **Edit Resolved Name**. After doing so, a text box will appear at the top of the packet list where you can type your desired name and press **Ok** to apply it. From then on, all instances of that IP address in the packet list will be replaced with your chosen name, making it easier for you to identify the entities involved in the various communications.

4 Find Tool

The find tool is present in various applications and Wireshark is no different. As is common, you can access this tool by pressing the CTRL + F key combination, or by going to **Edit** -> **Find Packet...**

However, before you can start accurately searching for what you desire, you must select where your search will be performed. As you may have noticed, Wireshark is divided into three **Panes**, the Packet List, the Packet Details, and the Packet Bytes. Figure 3 shows each of these panes, together with their names.

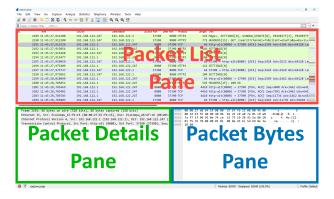


Figure 3: Wireshark panes

When performing a search using the find tool, you must specify in which of the three panes the search should be made. Additionally, you must also specify what type of data you would like to search for: Hex Value, String or Regular Expression. If you are searching for a string, you may also specify whether the search should be case-sensitive or not, and what character encoding(s) to use in the search.

5 Export Packet Bytes

One very useful thing that Wireshark allows you to do is export specific parts of a packet's data to a file. Some specific cases in which this can be helpful are to export plaintext data, HTML data, JSON data, etc.

You can do this by simply right-clicking on what you want to extract in the **Packet details Pane**, followed by **Export Packet Bytes...**

Figure 4 shows how you can export, for example, JSON data from an HTTP request.

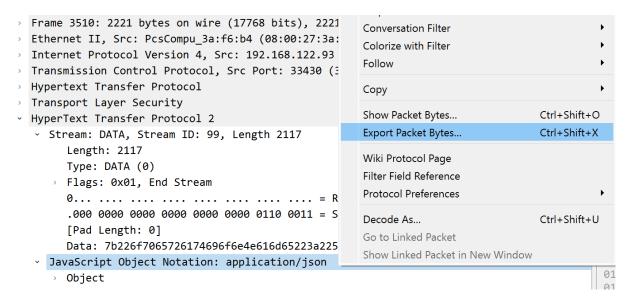


Figure 4: Exporting JSON data from an HTTP response

6 Follow Stream

In some cases, such as with HTTP connections, it might be useful to see the contents of a whole "conversation" that spans multiple packets. To do this, you may use the "Follow _ Stream" tool, which allows you to see the whole conversation to which a packet belongs. There are multiple options of streams to follow: TCP, UDP, TLS, HTTP, HTTP/2, etc.

Figure 5 shows how to access this tool for a certain packet.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Source Port	Dest Port Protocol	Length Info			
-	28196 11:52:10,359370	192.168.122.113	192.168.122.1	34276	8080 HTTP	319 POST /m	ail/client/start;jsessi	onid=59DB114D0	9144F59026DE0A9:
	28197 11:52:10,359376	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	34276 TCP	66 http-a	Mark/Unmark Packet(s)	Ctrl+M	26 Win=59648 L
	28198 11:52:10,359385	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	34276 TCP	66 http-∂	Ignore/Unignore Packet(s)	Ctrl+D	79 Win=59520 L
	28270 11:52:10,885733	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	34276 TLSv1.2	870 [TLS :	Set/Unset Time Reference	Ctrl+T	
	28271 11:52:10,886055	192.168.122.113	192.168.122.1	34276	8080 TCP	66 34276	Time Shift	Ctrl+Shift+T	56 Win=64128 L
-	28272 11:52:10,886067	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	34276 HTTP/XMI	L 295 HTTP/1	Packet Comments	Curronner	
	28273 11:52:10,886341	192.168.122.113	192.168.122.1	34276	8080 TCP	66 34276	Packet Comments		85 Win=64128 L
	28303 11:52:11,413960	192.168.122.113	192.168.122.1	34276	8080 HTTP	5464 GET /r	Edit Resolved Name		4F59026DE0A91D
	28304 11:52:11,413996	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	34276 TCP	66 http-a			77 Win=61568 L
	28328 11:52:11,708662	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	34276 HTTP	716 HTTP/1	Apply as Filter	,	
	28329 11:52:11,709855	192.168.122.113	192.168.122.1	34276	8080 TCP	66 34276	Prepare as Filter	•	35 Win=64128 L
	28330 11:52:11,713478	192.168.122.113	192.168.122.1	34276	8080 TCP	4410 34276	Conversation Filter	•	ck=7335 Win=64
	28331 11:52:11,713495	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	34276 TCP	66 http-≀	Colorize Conversation	→	21 Win=62592 L
	28332 11:52:11,713565	192.168.122.113	192.168.122.1	34276	8080 HTTP	1122 GET /r	SCTP	•	144F59026DE0A9
	28333 11:52:11,713571	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	TCP Stream	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+T	Follow	•	377 Win=61568 L
	28383 11:52:12,347252	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	UDP Stream	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+U	1011011		
	28384 11:52:12,347387	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	DCCP Stream	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+E	Сору	•	k=25377 Win=64
	28385 11:52:12,347397	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080			Protocol Preferences		ck=25377 Win=6
	28386 11:52:12,347727	192.168.122.113	192.168.122.1	34276	TLS Stream	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+S		•	125 Win=58752
	28387 11:52:12,347740	192.168.122.1	192.168.122.113	8080	HTTP Stream	Ctrl+Alt+Shift+H	Decode As		
	28391 11:52:12,389851	192.168.122.113	192.168.122.1	34276	HTTP/2 Stream		Show Packet in New Window	V	389 Win=64128

Figure 5: Following an HTTP Stream

A simple example is an HTTP conversation, which allows you to see the sequence of requests and their respective responses. Figure 6 shows an example of the window that appears when you follow a stream.

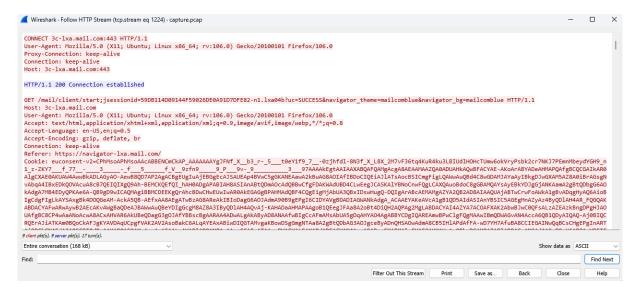


Figure 6: Example of an HTTP conversation seen when following an HTTP stream

On the bottom of the follow stream window, you are provided with some useful options, such as the direction specifier, which allows you to specify whether to show the whole conversation or just the packets going in one direction, and the data presentation mode, which allows you to specify how the data should be shown, for example, as **Raw** data, as an **Hex Dump**, decoded as **ASCII**, etc.

Finally, you can also export the currently shown contents of this window to a file by using the **Save as...** button. Pay attention to the fact that the data is exported based on your current presentation mode, so, for example, if you have selected the data to be shown as a Hex Dump, the exported file will be formatted as a Hex Dump.

7 Export Objects

Another way to export files found in a capture is the Export Objects Tool. To use it, you simply have to go to the top of the window to **File**, followed by **Export Objects** and choose the protocol for which you want to search for and extract objects. Figure 7 shows an example of a list of HTTP objects found by Wireshark through this tool.

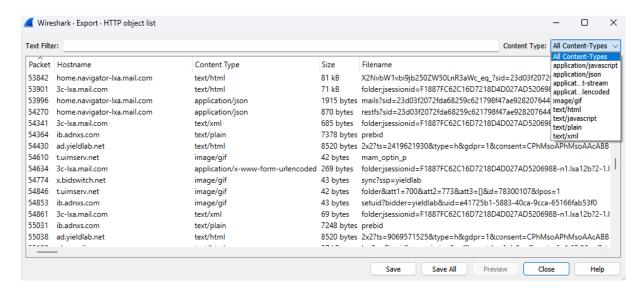


Figure 7: Example of a list of HTTP objects

From this list, you can either export just specific objects or export all objects shown. Additionally, you can also filter only certain types of objects and export those.

8 Statistics

Wireshark offers various statistical views that aid in the detection of unusual patterns within network traffic. These views analyze packet flow rates, protocol distribution, and conversation patterns, providing insights on network behavior and potential issues in the captured data.

8.1 Number of packets per unit time

You can create a graph that plots the number of packets per unit of time by clicking on **Statistics** - **I/O Graphs**. You can then identify the periods with highest activity in terms of number of packets sent/received, and click directly on the peaks to get a closer look at what is causing that unusual behavior.

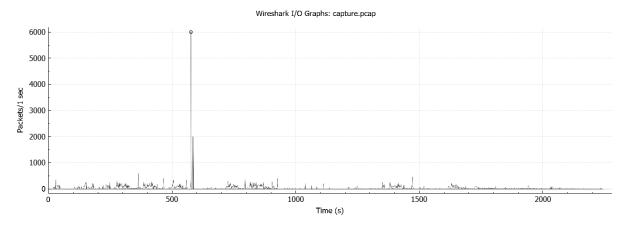


Figure 8: Example of an I/O Graph with a suspicious peak

8.2 Statistics on endpoints

Wireshark also provides a range of statistics on the amount of data (packets, bytes) sent/received by the different endpoints present on the capture. You can access this by clicking on **Statistics -> Endpoints**. This allows you to get a better idea of which hosts are more active in the capture (Figure 9), and which ports were used the most to transfer the largest amount of data (Figure 10). This can provide useful information if there are unusual ports gathering large volumes of data. Knowing this information can help narrow the search by applying the specific host and port as filters.

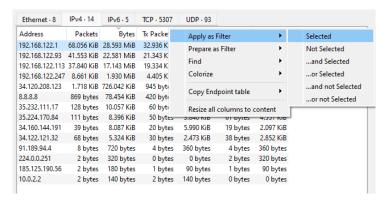


Figure 9: Example of statistics per host

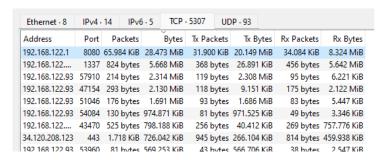


Figure 10: Example of statistics per host and port

9 Filter Examples

Finally, the most versatile tool and the main method for finding information in a network capture is the **Display Filters**. To help you understand what types of things you may be able to find using this tool, this section provides you with some examples of filters and their resulting packet lists, as well as some questions related to those results.

Most of these examples focus on a user whose computer has the MAC address 08:00:27:12:c8:21 and the IP address 192.168.122.113.

Try to answer the questions related to each example to the best of your ability so that you can understand the purpose of each filter. Remember to use Google to search for any concept you may not fully understand.

9.1 ARP Example

Figure 11 shows the result of using the following filter(s):

- arp, which shows only packets corresponding to the Address Resolution Protocol (ARP).
- eth.src == 08:00:27:12:c8:21 which shows only packets where the source MAC address is the specified one.

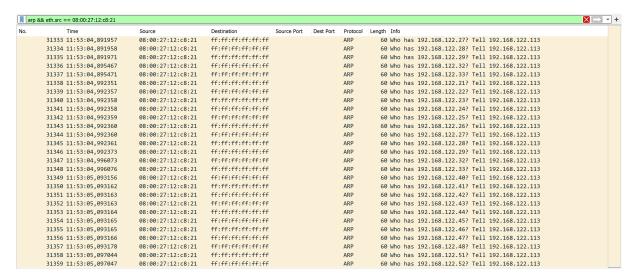


Figure 11: ARP Example

- 1. Is the resulting list of packets normal, or do you find anything suspicious about it?
- 2. What kinds of user actions may such a filter be used to identify?

9.2 Another ARP Example

Figure 12 shows the result of using the same filters as the previous example, but in a different capture:

- arp, which shows only packets corresponding to the Address Resolution Protocol (ARP).
- eth.src == 08:00:27:12:c8:21 which shows only packets where the source MAC address is the specified one.

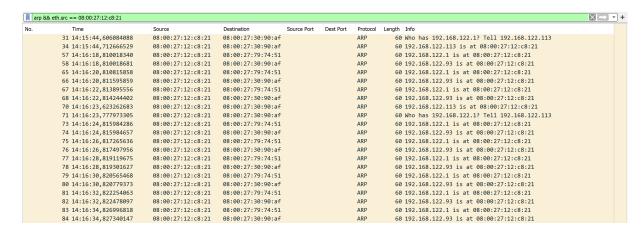


Figure 12: Another ARP Example

- 1. Is the resulting list of packets normal, or do you find anything suspicious about it?
- 2. Can you identify what type of attack may have been performed during this capture? If so, who performed it and what might be the objective of the attack?

9.3 SSH Example

Figure 13 shows the result of using the following filter(s):

• ssh, which shows only packets corresponding to the Secure Shell (SSH) protocol.

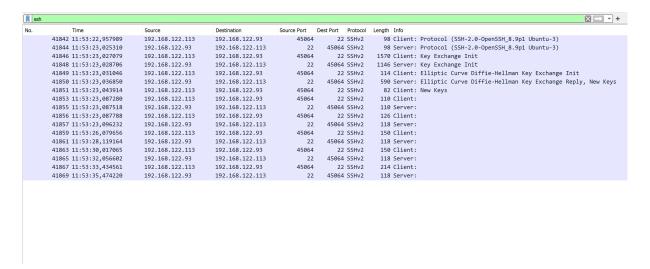


Figure 13: SSH Example

- 1. Is it usual to see SSH traffic in a capture? Could it have been generated automatically by a device?
- 2. Can you obtain any information just from this capture, even though it is encrypted?
- 3. Do you have any hypotheses related to what may have been done by the user? What method could you use to confirm your hypotheses?

9.4 TCP Reset Flag Example

Figure 14 shows the result of using the following filter(s):

- tcp.flags.reset == 1, which shows only packets with the TCP reset flag set.
- ip.dst == 192.168.122.113 which shows only packets where the destination IP address is the specified one.

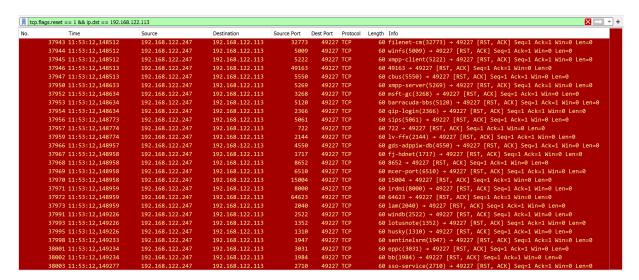


Figure 14: TCP Reset Example

- 1. What do you think is the objective of such a filter? Explain in simple terms what you think the filter is looking for.
- 2. Is the resulting packet list normal or do you find anything suspicious about it?

9.5 HTTP Path Example

Figure 15 shows the result of using the following filter(s):

• http2.headers.path contains "search", which shows only packets whose HTTP/2 path contains the string "search".

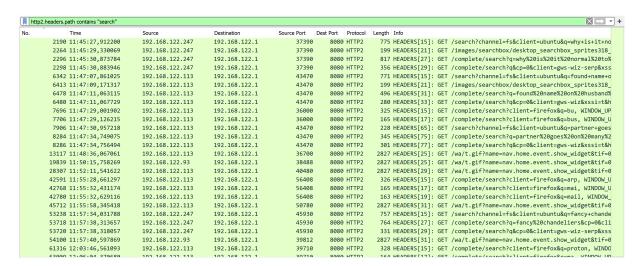


Figure 15: HTTP Path Example

- 1. What do you think is the objective of such a filter? Explain what you think the filter is looking for.
- 2. From what you can see in this list, can you give an example of a piece of information that you can learn?

9.6 HTTP File Data Example

Figure 16 shows the result of using the following filter(s):

• http.file_data contains "mail", which shows only packets that contain the string "mail" in the data of a file transported by the HTTP protocol.

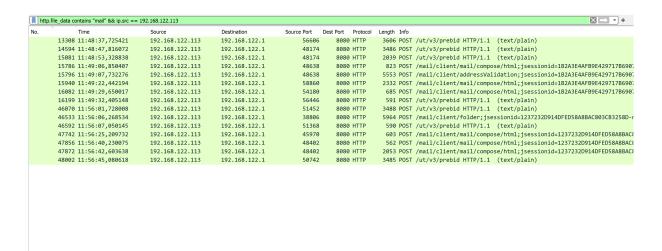


Figure 16: HTTP File Data Example

- 1. What do you think is the objective of such a filter? Explain what you think the filter is looking for.
- 2. How can you modify the filter to perform a more targeted search?

9.7 TCP Syn Flag Example

Figure 17 shows the result of using the following filter(s):

- tcp.flags.syn == 1, which shows only packets with the TCP syn flag set.
- tcp.flags.ack == 0, which shows only packets with the TCP ack flag unset.
- ip.dst == 192.168.122.113, which shows only packets where the destination IP address is the specified one.

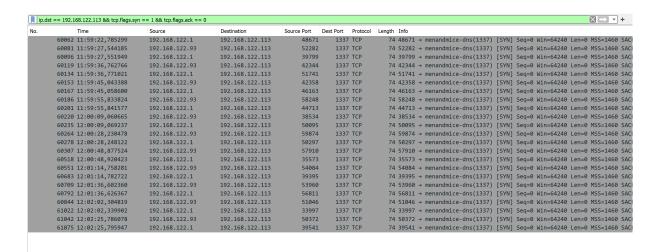


Figure 17: TCP Syn Flag Example

- 1. Is the resulting list of packets normal, or do you find anything suspicious about it?
- 2. What kind of packet does the combination tcp.flags.syn == 1 && tcp.flags.ack == 0 filter for? Explain in simple terms.
- 3. Why would it be relevant to perform such a search with the user's computer as destination?