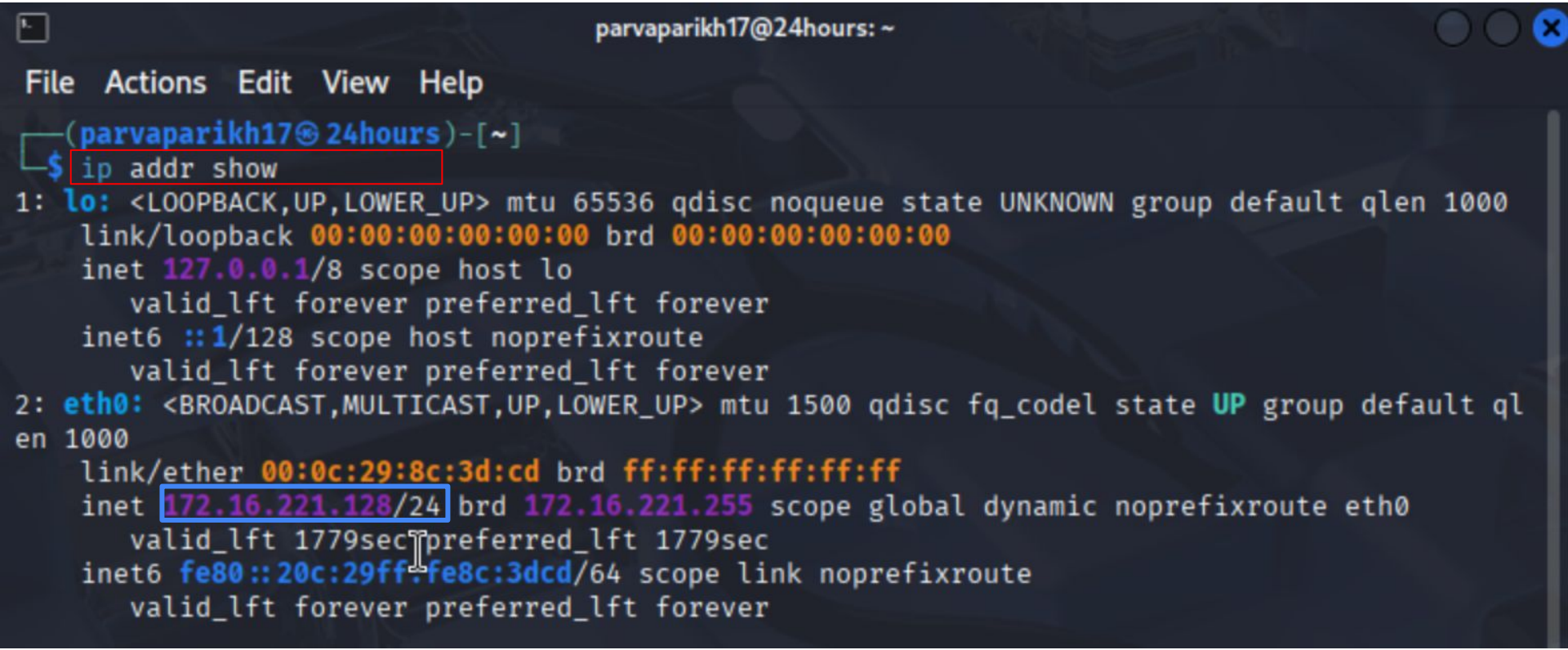
Integrated Network Reconnaissance and Traffic Analysis Toolkit

A multi-phase cybersecurity project combining automated scanning, host enumeration, and packet-level monitoring using Metasploit, Nmap, Bash scripting, and Wireshark.

Part 1: Environment Preparation and Active Network Scanning

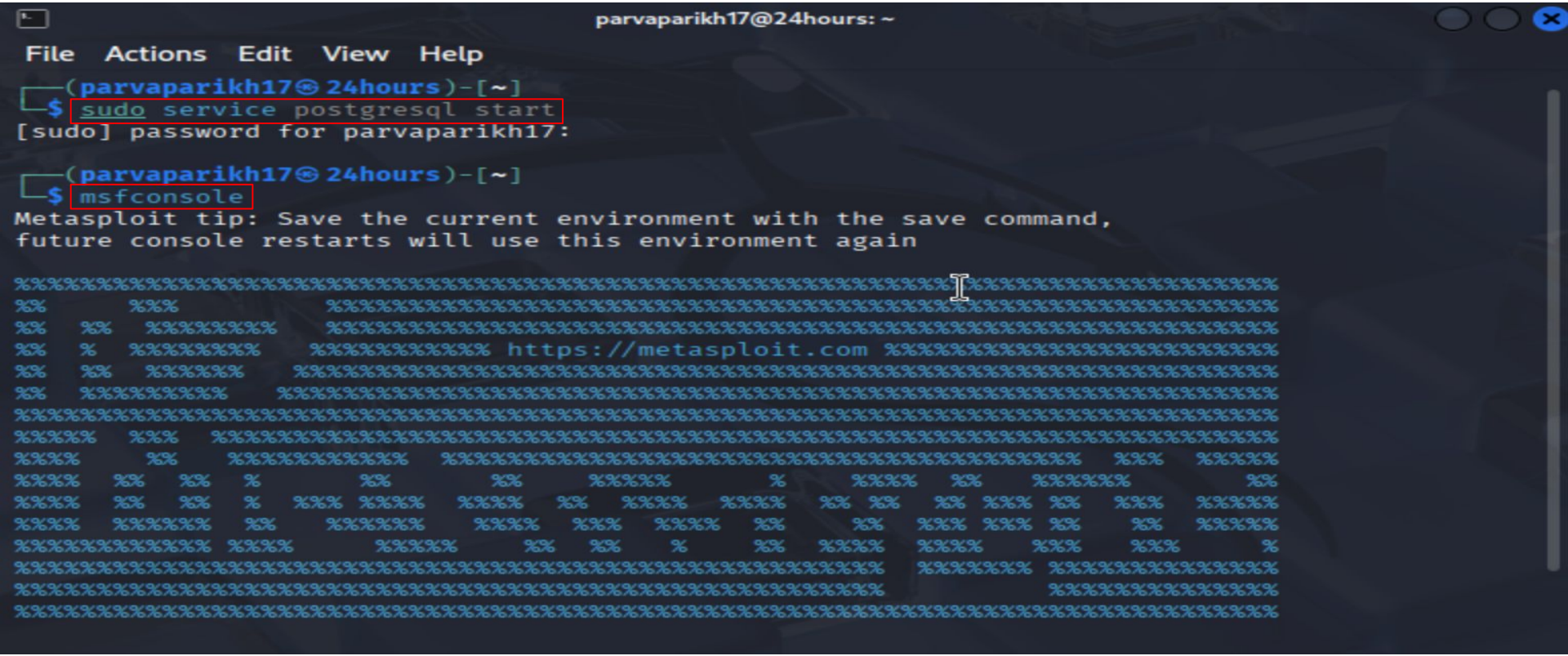
This phase covers IP address validation, initializing the Metasploit environment, launching a full TCP SYN scan, and enumerating discovered hosts and services.

Kali VM IP Address Configuration



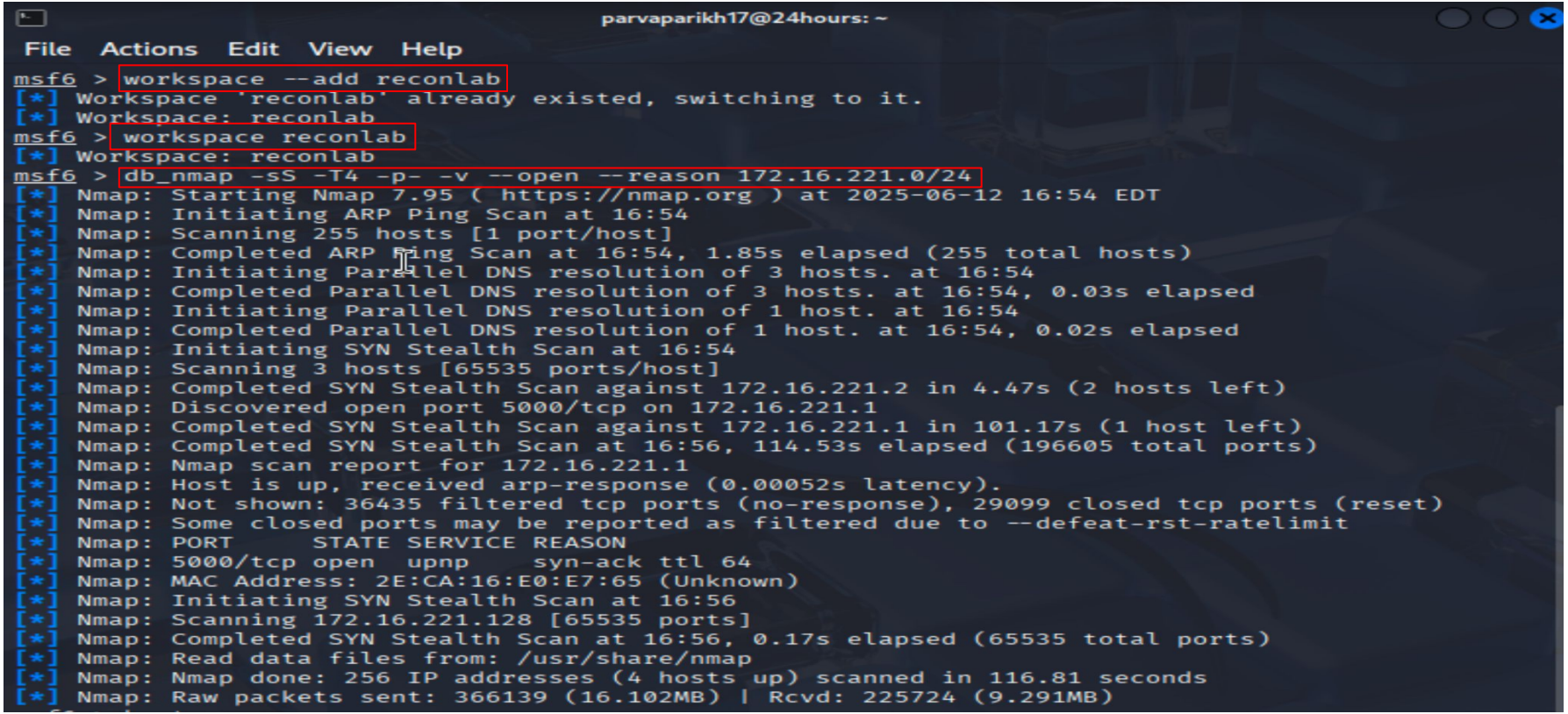
Displays the Kali Linux VM's assigned IP address `172.16.221.128`, confirming its position in the `172.16.221.0/24` subnet used for internal scanning.

Launching PostgreSQL and Metasploit Console



PostgreSQL is started to support Metasploit's database-backed workspace. Metasploit is then launched to begin the reconnaissance workflow.

Full TCP SYN Scan in Metasploit Workspace



Created a new reconlab workspace and ran a full TCP SYN scan on 172.16.221.0/24, capturing host, port, and service data for all devices in the subnet.

Discovered Hosts and Open Services

Used hosts and services commands in Metasploit to confirm that 172.16.221.1 is live and has port 5000/tcp open running a UPNP service.

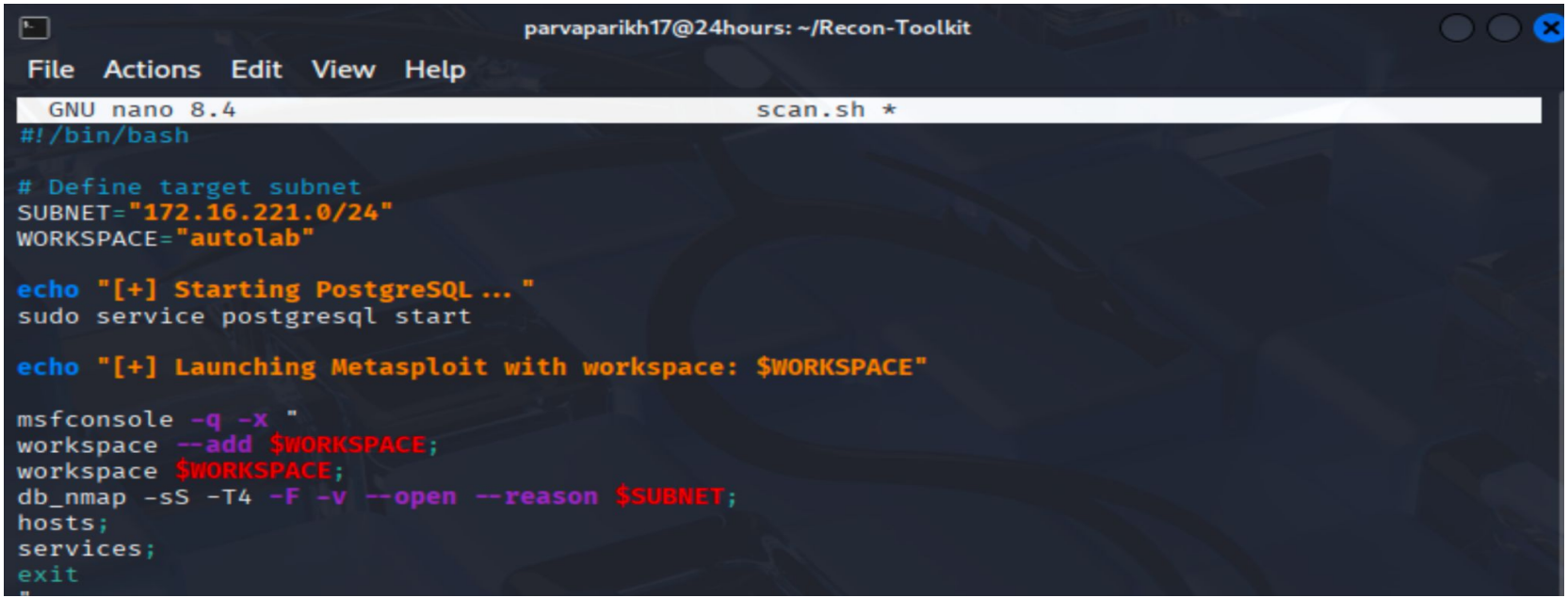
Part 2: Recon Automation and Scripted Execution

Conducted automation of Metasploit scan process and the integration of traffic capture through Wireshark

Opening Recon Toolkit Directory

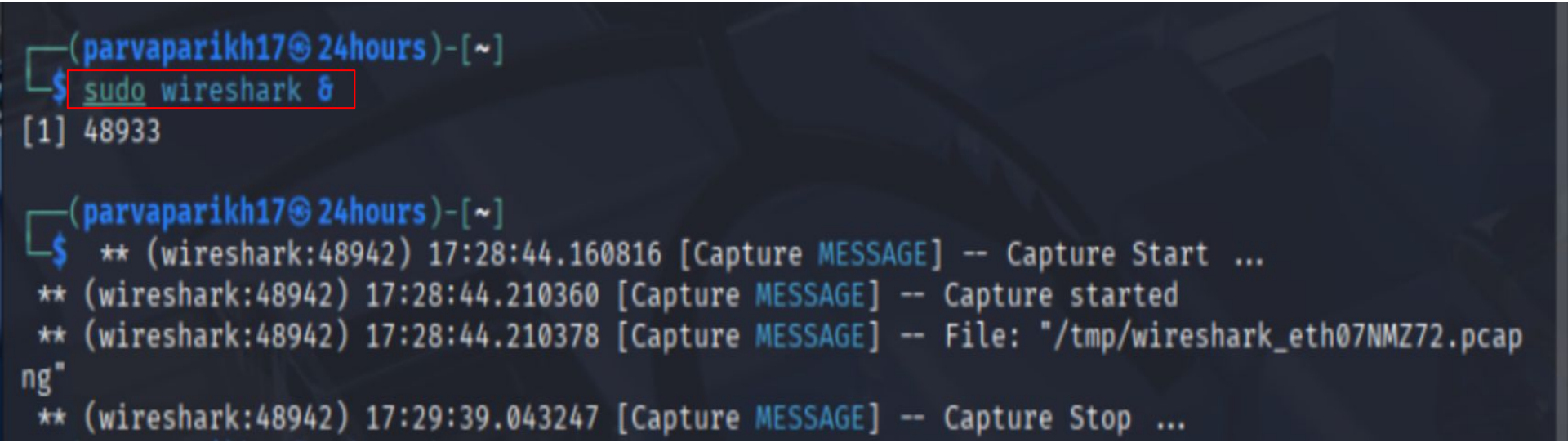
Navigated to the custom Recon Toolkit directory and prepared to edit the scan automation file.

Writing scan.sh Script for Automation



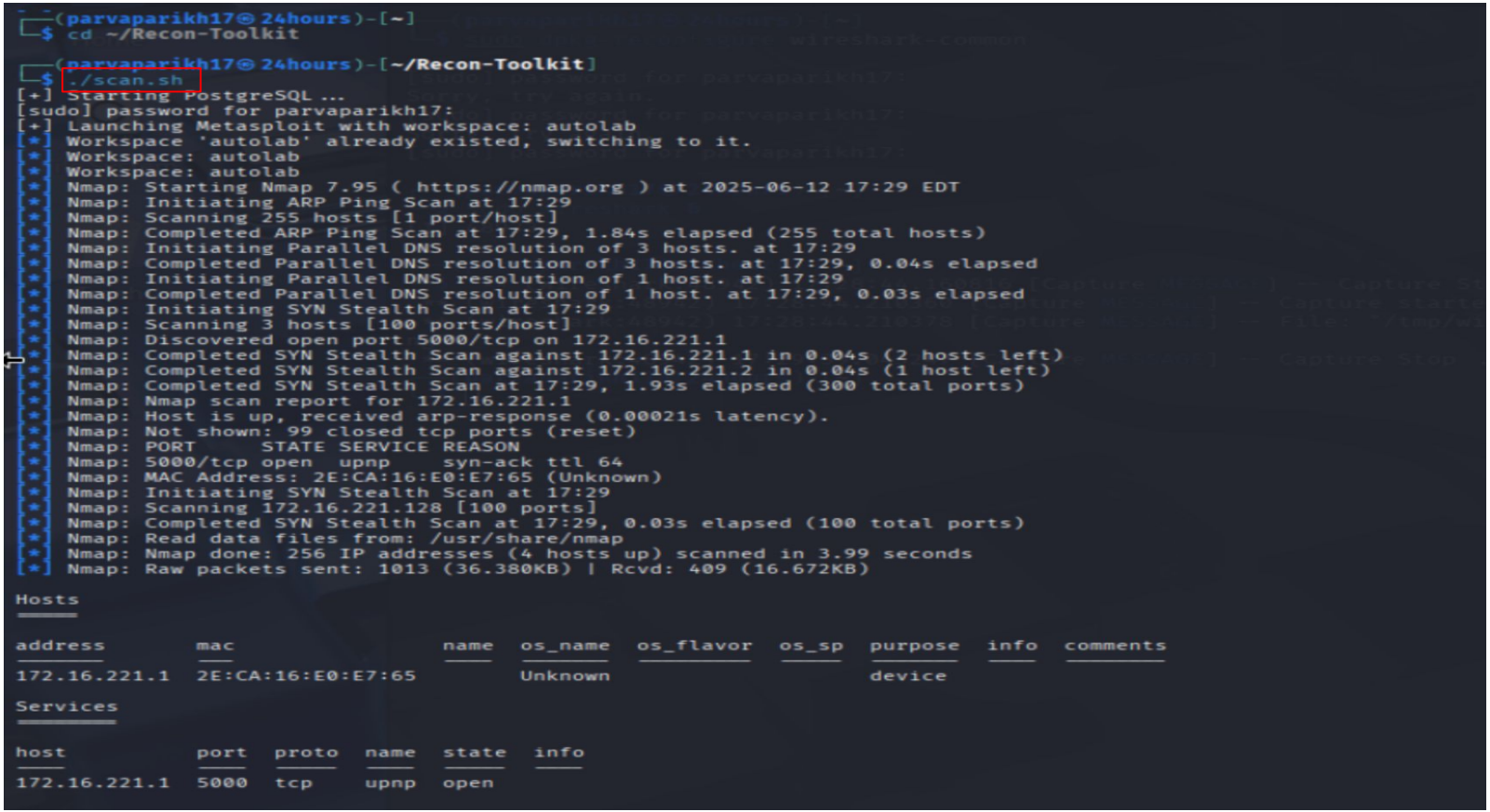
Displays the full script used to automate PostgreSQL startup, workspace creation, and subnet scanning from within Metasploit.

Launching Wireshark for Packet Capture



Wireshark is started with elevated privileges to monitor live traffic during recon scans, saving the capture as a .pcap file.

Executing scan.sh for Automated Recon

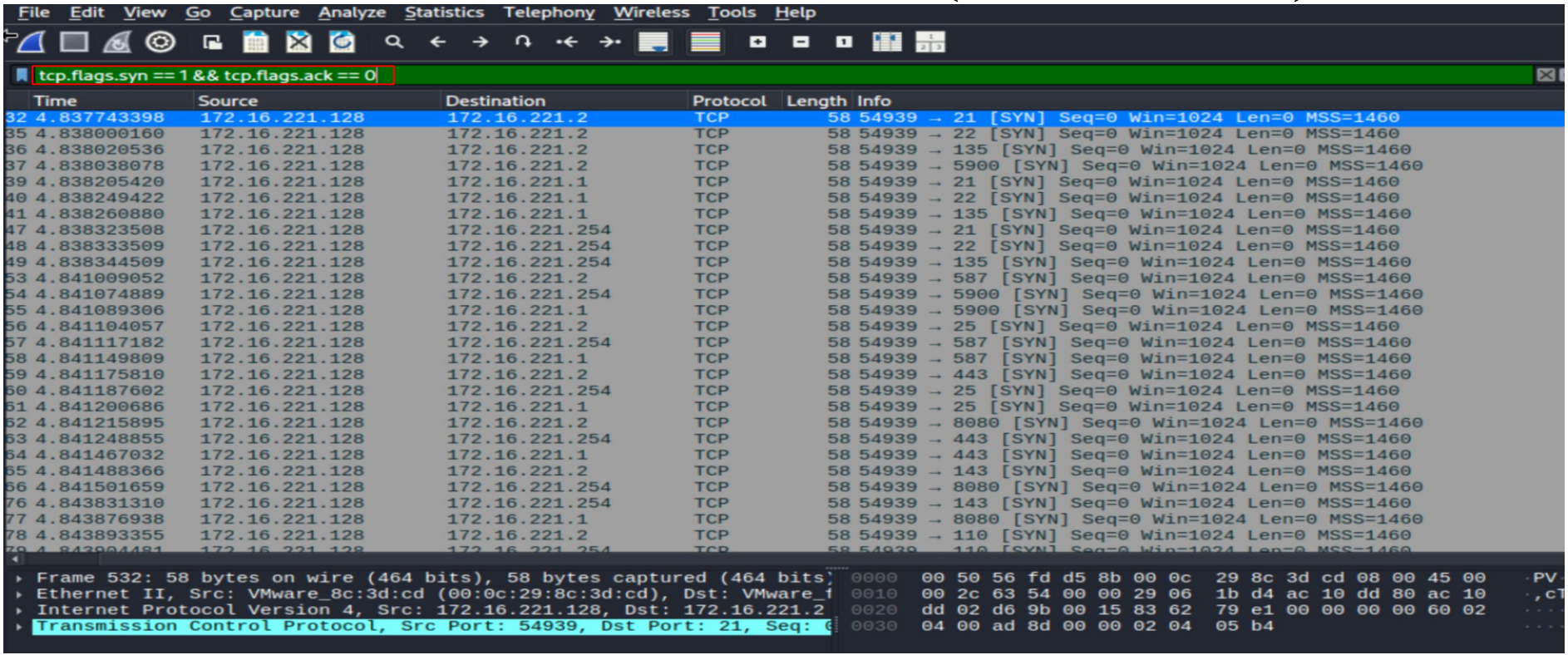


The automation script is executed, launching a full scan and logging host/service output, enabling reproducible recon workflows.

Part 3: Packet-Level Network Visibility with Wireshark

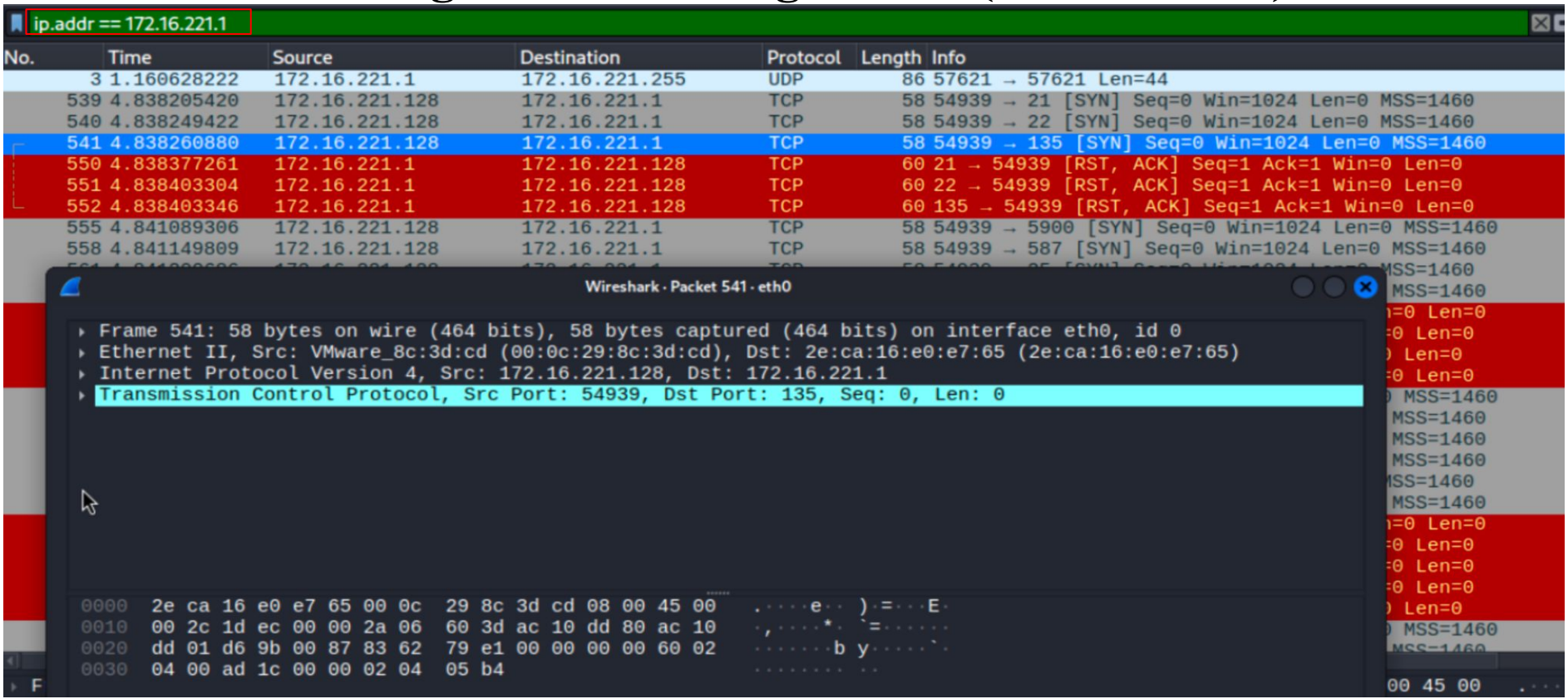
This phase captures and analyzes live network traffic generated by the Nmap scan. Using Wireshark, filters are applied to isolate SYN packets, host-specific communication, closed port responses, and traffic to an open port—providing full visibility into how network reconnaissance appears at the packet level.

Filtered View of SYN Packets (Scan Initiation)



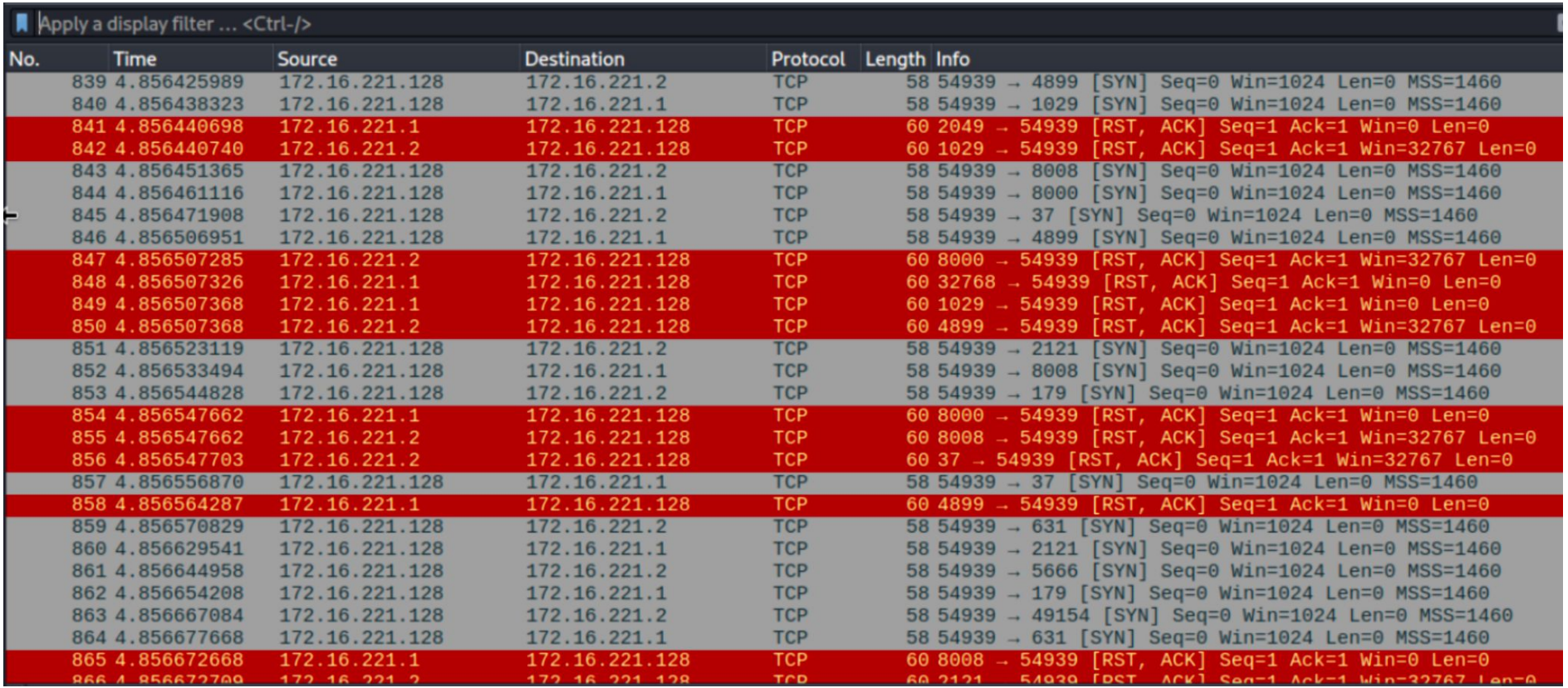
Applied the filter **tcp.flags.syn == 1 && tcp.flags.ack == 0** to isolate TCP SYN packets sent by Nmap, indicating attempted connections to various destination ports.

Isolating Traffic to Target Host (172.16.221.1)



Used **ip.addr == 172.16.221.1** to view all traffic between the attacker and the discovered host. The expanded pane shows a SYN packet to port 135.

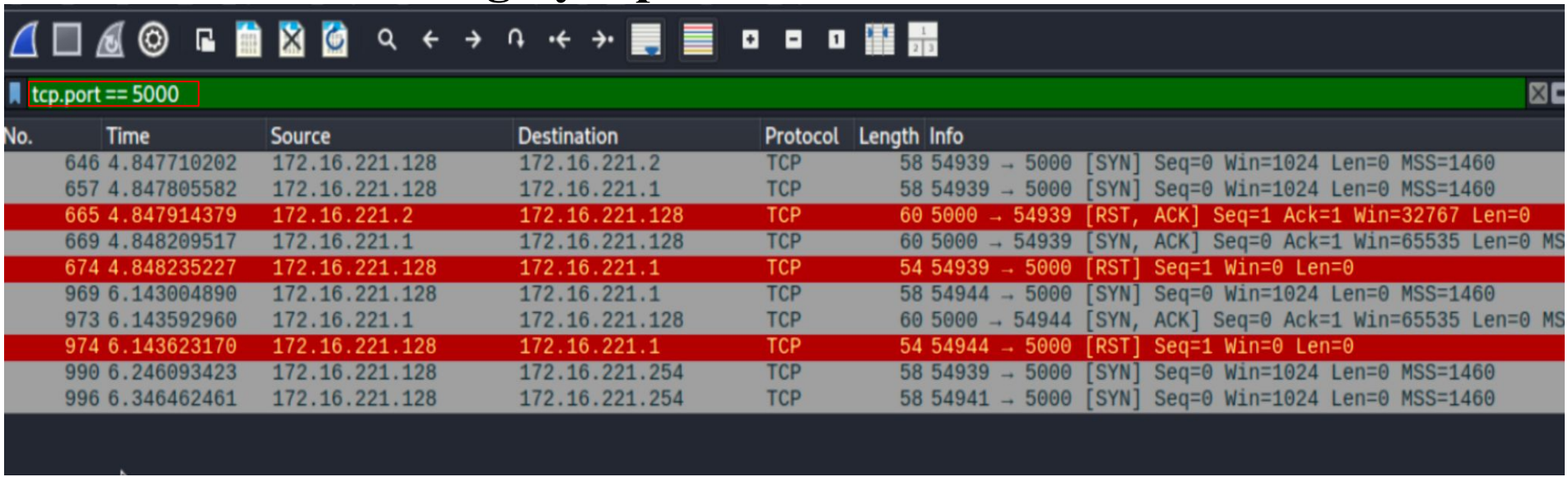
Unfiltered View of Network Scan Traffic


Apply a display filter ... <Ctrl-/>

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
839	4.856425989	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58	54939 → 4899 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
840	4.856438323	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58	54939 → 1029 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
841	4.856440698	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	2049 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0
842	4.856440740	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	1029 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0
843	4.856451365	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58	54939 → 8008 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
844	4.856461116	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58	54939 → 8000 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
845	4.856471908	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58	54939 → 37 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
846	4.856506951	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58	54939 → 4899 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
847	4.856507285	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	8000 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0
848	4.856507326	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	32768 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0
849	4.856507368	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	1029 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0
850	4.856507368	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	4899 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0
851	4.856523119	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58	54939 → 2121 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
852	4.856533494	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58	54939 → 8008 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
853	4.856544828	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58	54939 → 179 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
854	4.856547662	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	8000 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0
855	4.856547662	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	8008 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0
856	4.856547703	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	37 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0
857	4.856556870	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58	54939 → 37 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
858	4.856564287	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	4899 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0
859	4.856570829	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58	54939 → 631 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
860	4.856629541	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58	54939 → 2121 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
861	4.856644958	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58	54939 → 5666 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
862	4.856654208	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58	54939 → 179 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
863	4.856667084	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.2	TCP	58	54939 → 49154 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
864	4.856677668	172.16.221.128	172.16.221.1	TCP	58	54939 → 631 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=1024 Len=0 MSS=1460
865	4.856672668	172.16.221.1	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	8008 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=0 Len=0
866	4.856672709	172.16.221.2	172.16.221.128	TCP	60	2121 → 54939 [RST, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=32767 Len=0

Displays raw, unfiltered TCP traffic during the Nmap scan, capturing SYN, SYN-ACK, and RST-ACK packets to provide a complete timeline of scanning behavior.

Filtering by Open Port 5000 Traffic



Applied the filter tcp.port == 5000 to focus on communication involving the open UPNP service discovered earlier, helping verify valid responses.

This project demonstrates a full-spectrum approach to internal network reconnaissance, combining attacker-side scanning with defender-side traffic analysis. By leveraging Metasploit, Nmap, and Wireshark in a controlled environment, I was able to identify active hosts, enumerate services, and observe scan behavior at the packet level. The addition of automation through scripting further streamlined the process, making it efficient and repeatable. Altogether, this work reflects both a practical understanding of offensive recon techniques and an analytical ability to interpret how those actions appear from a defensive perspective.