

PES UNIVERSITY
EC CAMPUS BANGALORE

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DATE: 11-02-2021

SUBJECT: Computer Network Laboratory

WEEK: 3

Question: Understand working of HTTP headers Conditional Get: If-Modified-Since HTTP Cookies: Cookie and Set-Cookie Authentication: Auth-Basic Design a web page that has one embedded page (e.g. image) and sets a cookie and enables authentication. You are required to configure the web server (e.g. apache) with authentication mechanism. Show the behavior of conditional get when embedded objects are modified and when it is not (you can just change the create date of the embedded object). Decode the BasicAuth header using Base64 mechanism as per the password setup.

Observation: Show the behavior of browser when is cookie is set and when cookie is removed.

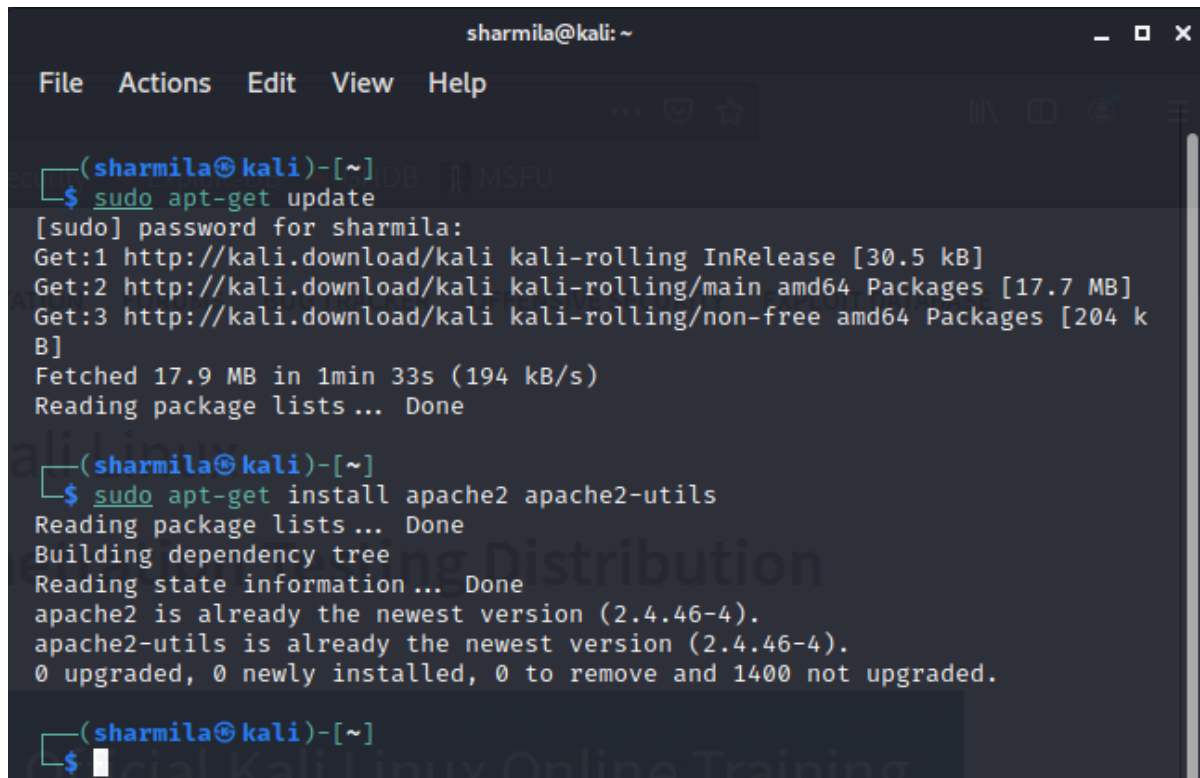
Solution:

1. Password Authentication

1.1 Password Generation

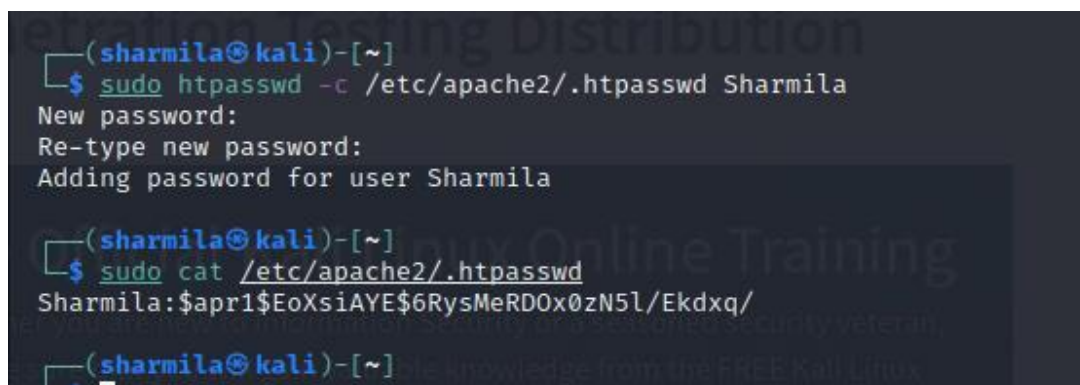
1. Executing the below commands on the terminal.

- To update and integrate the existing softwares ***sudo apt-get update***
- To install the apache utility ***sudo apt-get install apache2 apache2-utils***



```
sharmila@kali: ~  
File Actions Edit View Help  
  
(sharmila@kali)-[~]  
$ sudo apt-get update  
[sudo] password for sharmila:  
Get:1 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling InRelease [30.5 kB]  
Get:2 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/main amd64 Packages [17.7 MB]  
Get:3 http://kali.download/kali kali-rolling/non-free amd64 Packages [204 kB]  
Fetched 17.9 MB in 1min 33s (194 kB/s)  
Reading package lists... Done  
  
(sharmila@kali)-[~]  
$ sudo apt-get install apache2 apache2-utils  
Reading package lists... Done  
Building dependency tree  
Reading state information... Done  
apache2 is already the newest version (2.4.46-4).  
apache2-utils is already the newest version (2.4.46-4).  
0 upgraded, 0 newly installed, 0 to remove and 1400 not upgraded.  
  
(sharmila@kali)-[~]  
$
```

- Provide username and password to set authentication ***sudo htpasswd -c /etc/apache2/.htpasswd ANY_USERNAME***
- View the authentication ***sudo cat /etc/apache2/.htpasswd***



```
(sharmila@kali)-[~]  
$ sudo htpasswd -c /etc/apache2/.htpasswd Sharmila  
New password:  
Re-type new password:  
Adding password for user Sharmila  
  
(sharmila@kali)-[~]  
$ sudo cat /etc/apache2/.htpasswd  
Sharmila:$apr1$EoXsiAYE$6RysMeRD0x0zN5l/Ekdxq/  
  
(sharmila@kali)-[~]  
$
```

1.2 Apache Server Authentication

To setup the authentication phase, execute the following commands. Configuring Access control within the Virtual Host Definition.

- Opening the file for setting authentication ***sudo nano /etc/apache2/sites-available/000-default.conf***

```
File Actions Edit View Help
GNU nano 5.3 /etc/apache2/sites-ava

ServerAdmin webmaster@localhost
DocumentRoot /var/www/html

# Available loglevels: trace8, ..., trace1, debug, info, notice, warn,
# error, crit, alert, emerg.
# It is also possible to configure the loglevel for particular
# modules, e.g.
#LogLevel info ssl:warn

ErrorLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/error.log
CustomLog ${APACHE_LOG_DIR}/access.log combined

# For most configuration files from conf-available/, which are
# enabled or disabled at a global level, it is possible to
# include a line for only one particular virtual host. For example the
# following line enables the CGI configuration for this host only
# after it has been globally disabled with "a2disconf".
#Include conf-available/serve-cgi-bin.conf

<Directory "/var/www/html">
    AuthType Basic
    AuthName "RESTRICTED"
    AuthUserFile /etc/apache2/.htpasswd
    Require valid-user >
</Directory>
</VirtualHost>

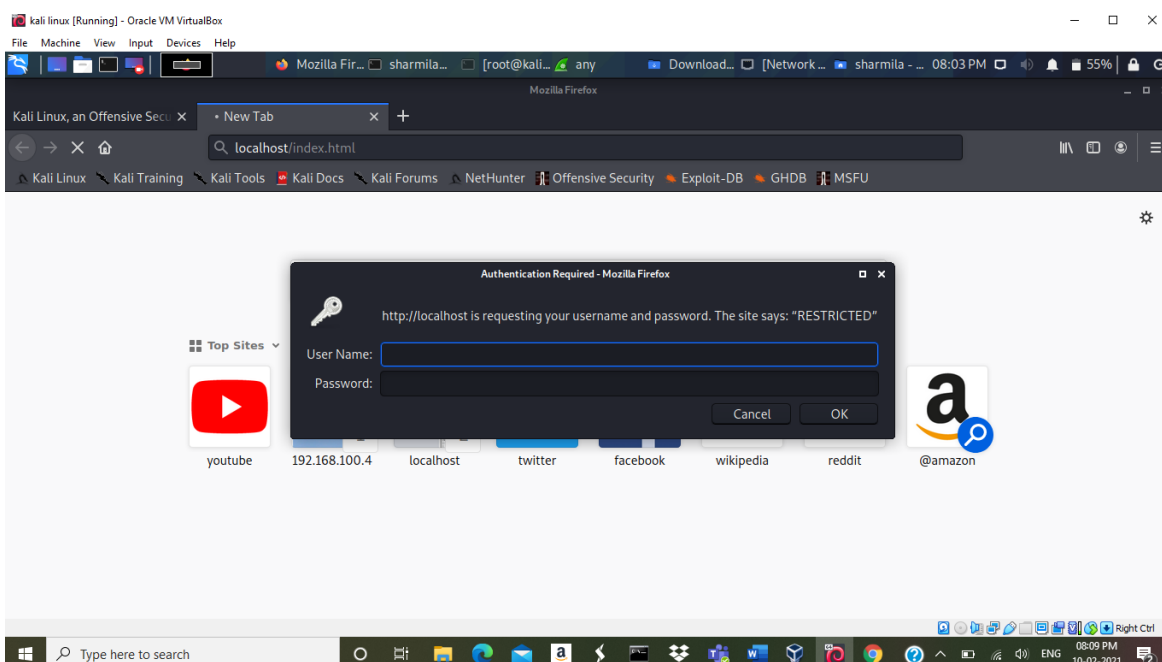
# vim: syntax=apache ts=4 sw=4 sts=4 sr noet
```

- Password policy implementation is done by restarting the server as: ***sudo service apache2 restart***

```
(sharmila@kali)-[~]
$ sudo service apache2 restart
[sudo] password for sharmila:
(sharmila@kali)-[~]
$
```

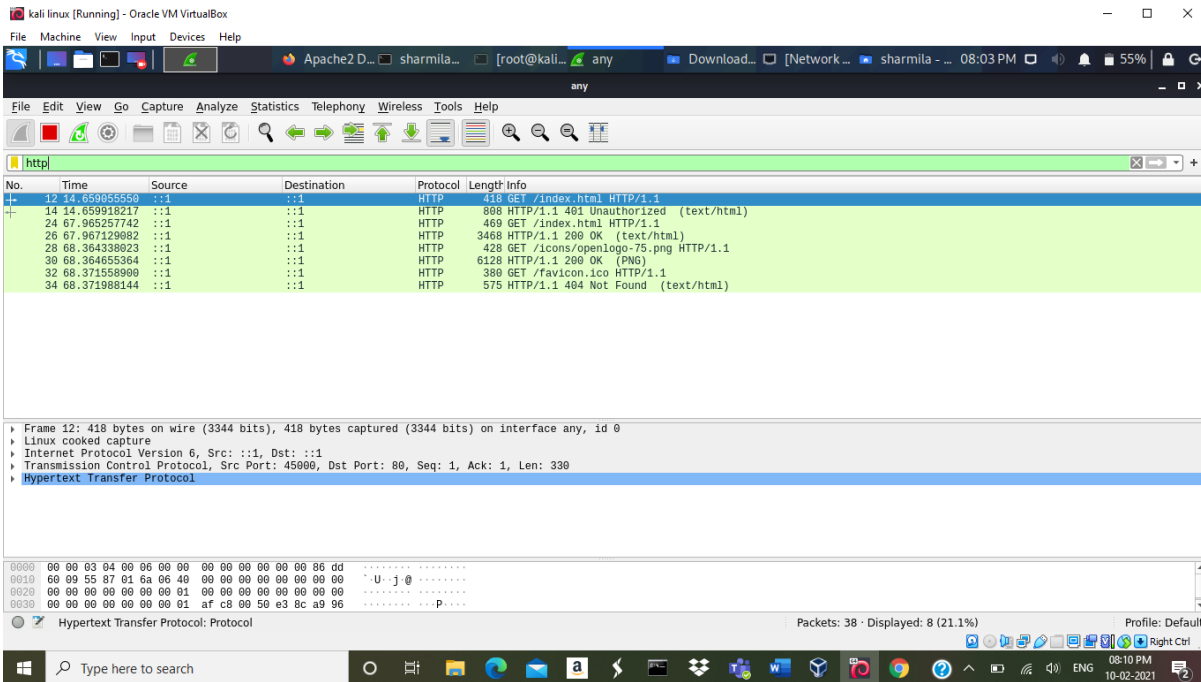
1.3 Accessing Localhost

- The localhost is then accessed using the Firefox browser requiring a username and a password set during the authentication phase

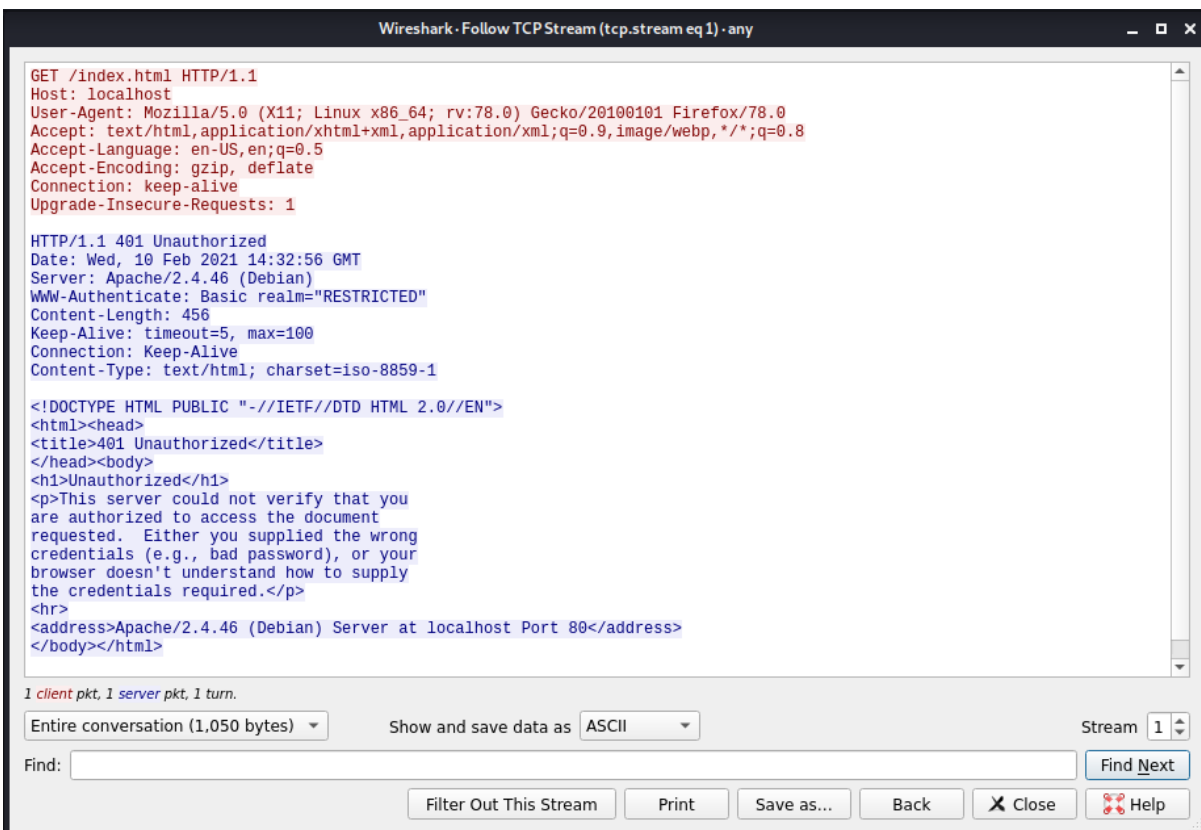


1.4 Wireshark Packet Capture

- *Wireshark is used to capture the packets sent upon the network.*



- *Using the “follow TCP stream” on the HTTP message segment the password was retrieved which was encrypted by the base64 algorithm and decryption could be done with same algorithm.*



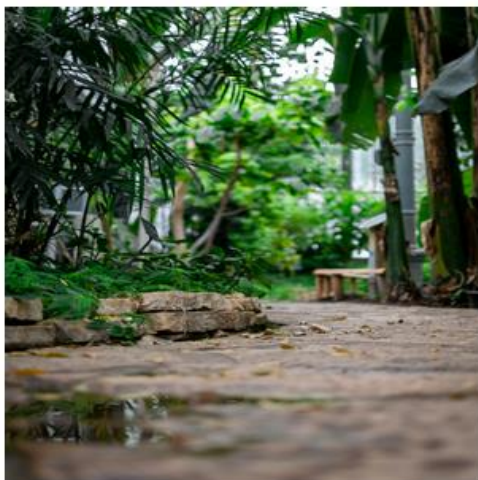
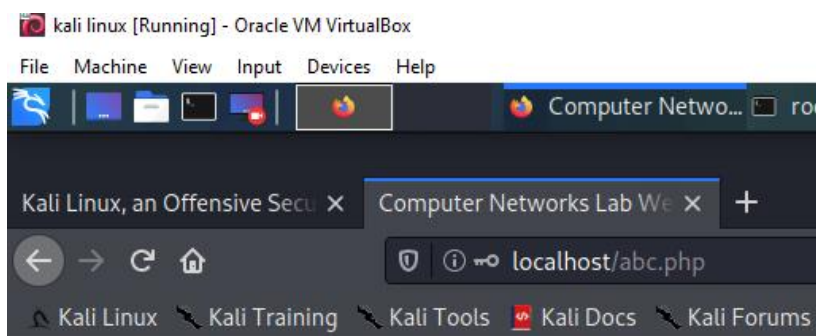
2. Setting Cookies

2.1 Steps of Execution (Cookie Setting)

A PHP file to set the cookie is created which also contains an image in it (placed under the HTML directory) to be accessed once the cookie is set.

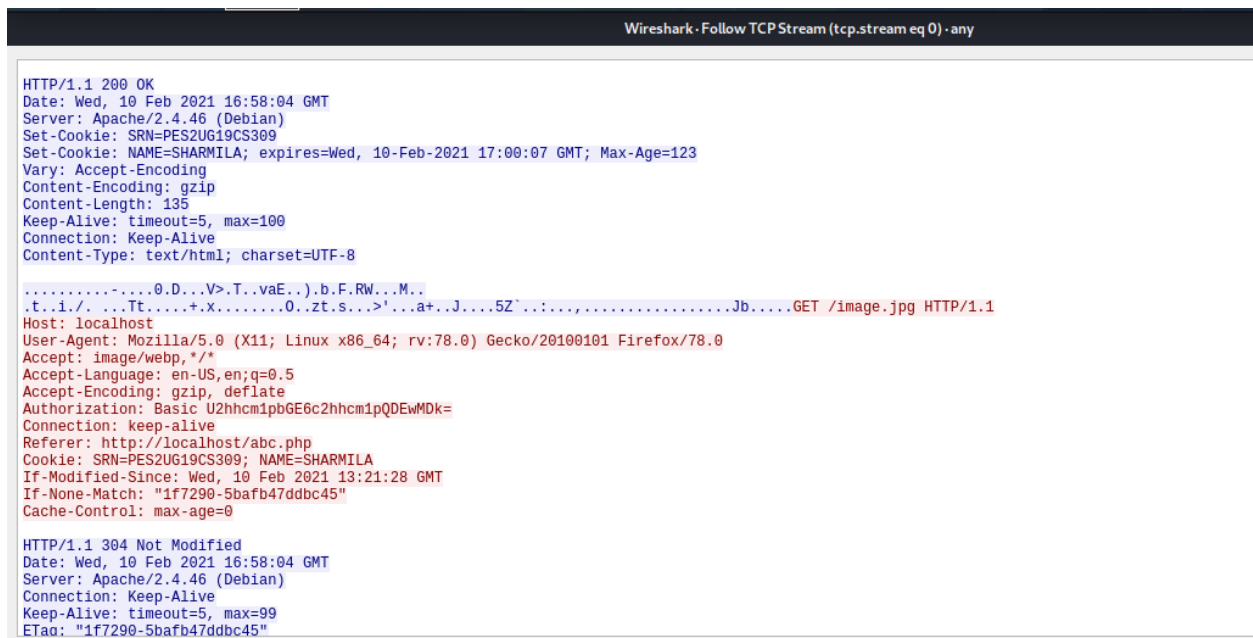
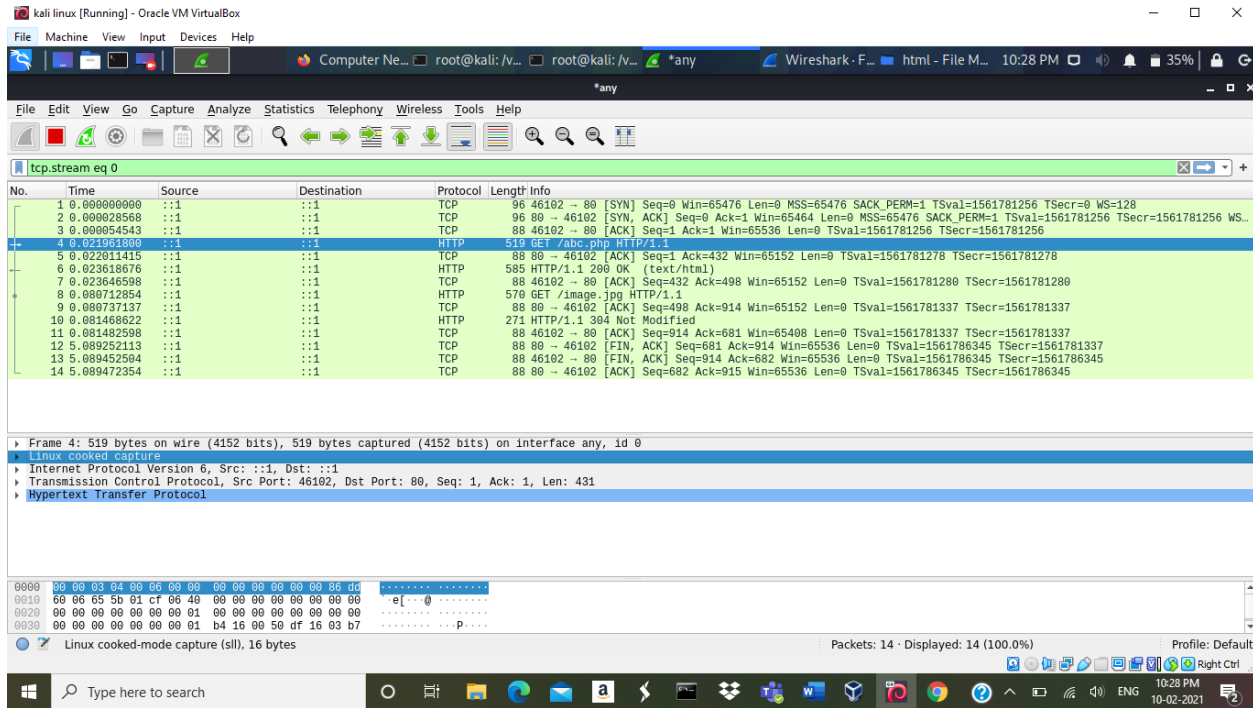
```
abc.php (/var/www/html) - VIM
File Edit Tools Syntax Buffers Window Help
~ ~ ~
<html>
  <?php
    setcookie("SRN","PES2UG19CS309");
    setcookie("NAME","SHARMILA",time()+123);
  ?>
  <head>
    <title>Computer Networks Lab Week 3</title>
    <body>
      
    </body>
  </head>
</html>
```

- The combined file saved with a .php extension is placed under /var/www/html for accessing.



2.2 Wireshark Capture

- Wireshark can be used to capture the packets sent on the network. The first GET request corresponding to the PHP file is analysed and its TCP Stream is expanded and examined.
- The Cookie name, value and the associated parameters can be viewed under the HTTP header Set-Cookie.
- We can observe the name, value, and the expiry time of the set cookie, if the cookie has not already expired

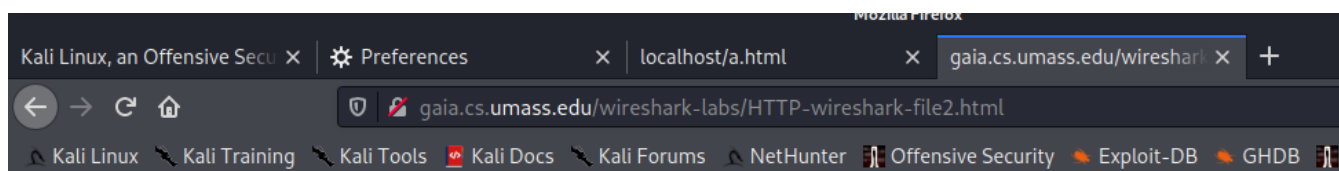


3. Conditional GET

- A conditional HTTP response is one that carries the resource only if it had been modified since the last GET request by the client.
- The HTTP header *If-Modified-Since* is one way to implement Conditional GET
- The server checks the *If-Modified-Since* header value and resends the resource only if it has been modified since the timestamp in the header
- If it has not been modified, a 304 Not Modified status code is sent back.

3.1 Repeat Requests for HTML Page

- An HTML page is requested by the client and the HTML file is obtained along with a 200 OK response status
- Immediately, the request is made again either by refreshing or accessing it via a browser tab
- The second response from the server is obtained as 304 Not Modified since the resource has not been modified since the last GET.



Congratulations again! Now you've downloaded the file lab2-2.html.
This file's last modification date will not change.

Thus if you download this multiple times on your browser, a complete copy will only be sent once by the server due to the inclusion of the *IN-MODIFIED-SINCE* field in your browser's HTTP GET request to the server.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
8	0.407979988	192.168.100.5	128.119.245.12	HTTP	424	GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1
14	1.580139304	128.119.245.12	192.168.100.5	HTTP	786	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
16	1.848299652	192.168.100.5	128.119.245.12	HTTP	305	GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1
18	2.832628703	128.119.245.12	192.168.100.5	HTTP	541	HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found (text/html)
20	5.846032195	192.168.100.5	128.119.245.12	HTTP	536	GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1
40	13.689825238	192.168.100.5	128.119.245.12	HTTP	536	GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1
42	15.622372396	128.119.245.12	192.168.100.5	HTTP	296	HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified

Wireshark · Follow TCPStream (tcp.stream eq 1) · any

```
GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1
Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:10:07 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.6 (CentOS) OpenSSL/1.0.2k-fips PHP/7.4.14 mod_perl/2.0.11 Perl/v5.16.3
Last-Modified: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 06:59:01 GMT
ETag: "173-5baf5f020475a"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 371
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

<html>

Congratulations again! Now you've downloaded the file lab2-2.html. <br>
This file's last modification date will not change. <p>
Thus if you download this multiple times on your browser, a complete copy <br>
will only be sent once by the server due to the inclusion of the IN-MODIFIED-SINCE<br>
field in your browser's HTTP GET request to the server.

</html>
```

First Request from Server – 200 OK

Wireshark · Follow TCPStream (tcp.stream eq 3) · any

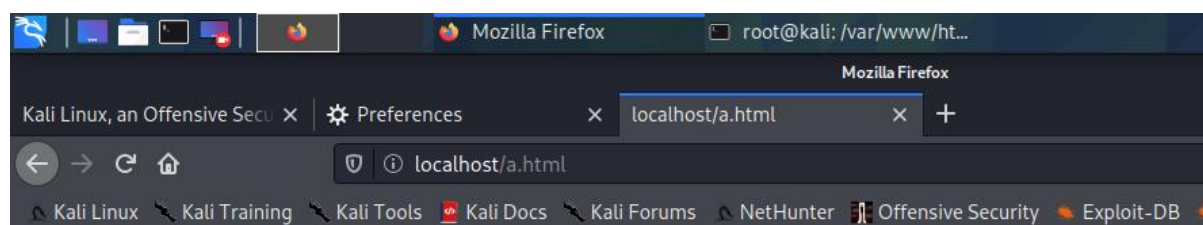
```
GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1
Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
If-Modified-Since: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 06:59:01 GMT
If-None-Match: "173-5baf5f020475a"
Cache-Control: max-age=0

HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
Date: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:10:21 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.6 (CentOS) OpenSSL/1.0.2k-fips PHP/7.4.14 mod_perl/2.0.11 Perl/v5.16.3
Connection: Keep-Alive
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
ETag: "173-5baf5f020475a"
```

Second Request from Server – 304 Not Modified

3.2 Conditional GET on Localhost

- A simple HTML file with 2 images is placed in the localhost home directory.
- From a browser, a request is made for the file, which receives a response of 200 OK with both images being sent by the server.
- When the request is sent again, the 304 Not Modified status code is sent and images are not sent back.



Images

A screenshot of the Wireshark network traffic capture tool. The top bar shows 'http' in the filter field. The main pane displays a list of captured packets with columns for No., Time, Source, Destination, Protocol, Length, and Info. The packets show a sequence of HTTP requests and responses, including a 200 OK response and a 304 Not Modified response.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
21	26.930688103	:::1	:::1	HTTP	492	GET /a.html HTTP/1.1
23	26.932510089	:::1	:::1	HTTP	550	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
25	27.178149726	:::1	:::1	HTTP	439	GET /image.jpg HTTP/1.1
92	27.194475945	:::1	:::1	HTTP	440	GET /image2.jpg HTTP/1.1
143	27.279236745	:::1	:::1	HTTP	407	GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1
145	27.279750583	:::1	:::1	HTTP	575	HTTP/1.1 404 Not Found (text/html)
147	30.184024729	:::1	:::1	HTTP	608	GET /a.html HTTP/1.1
149	30.185469607	:::1	:::1	HTTP	549	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
151	30.211771669	:::1	:::1	HTTP	554	GET /image.jpg HTTP/1.1
153	30.212161434	:::1	:::1	HTTP	271	HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
155	30.213521628	:::1	:::1	HTTP	555	GET /image2.jpg HTTP/1.1
156	30.214381388	:::1	:::1	HTTP	271	HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified

Wireshark · Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 3) · any

```
GET /a.html HTTP/1.1
Host: localhost
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Authorization: Basic U2hhcm1pbGE6c2hhcm1pQDEwMDk=
Connection: keep-alive
Cookie: SRN=PES2UG19CS309
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:47:58 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.46 (Debian)
Last-Modified: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:45:05 GMT
ETag: "c2-5bafe6a0c022-gzip"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Vary: Accept-Encoding
Content-Encoding: gzip
Content-Length: 126
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: text/html

.....Qt.w...pU.(.....P.6I.).@..&...371=..F....d...%.*e....
....SJ|.C%.....ByfJI....E....F....C..t.....GET /image.jpg HTTP/1.1
Host: localhost
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
Accept: image/webp,*/*
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Authorization: Basic U2hhcm1pbGE6c2hhcm1pQDEwMDk=
Connection: keep-alive
```

2 client pkts, 47 server pkts, 3 turns.

Entire conversation (918 kB) Show and save data as ASCII Stream 3

Find: Find Next

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

Wireshark · Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 4) · any

```
GET /image2.jpg HTTP/1.1
Host: localhost
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
Accept: image/webp,*/*
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Authorization: Basic U2hhcm1pbGE6c2hhcm1pQDEwMDk=
Connection: keep-alive
Referer: http://localhost/a.html
Cookie: SRN=PES2UG19CS309

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:47:58 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.46 (Debian)
Last-Modified: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:31:29 GMT
ETag: "36b3ea-5bafec5fbdeb3"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 3585002
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: image/jpeg
```

3.3 OBSERVATIONS

1 : Inspect the contents of the first HTTP GET request from your browser to the server. Do you see an “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE” line in the HTTP GET?

No, in the first request after clearing the cache we don't see in “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE” line in the HTTP GET.

2 : Inspect the contents of the server response. Did the server explicitly return the contents of the file? How can you tell?

Yes, we can see from the screenshot below

```
Wireshark · Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 1) · any

GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1
Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:10:07 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.6 (CentOS) OpenSSL/1.0.2k-fips PHP/7.4.14 mod_perl/2.0.11 Perl/v5.16.3
Last-Modified: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 06:59:01 GMT
ETag: "173-5baf5f020475a"
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 371
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: text/html; charset=UTF-8

<html>
Congratulations again! Now you've downloaded the file lab2-2.html. <br>
This file's last modification date will not change. <p>
Thus if you download this multiple times on your browser, a complete copy <br>
will only be sent once by the server due to the inclusion of the IN-MODIFIED-SINCE<br>
field in your browser's HTTP GET request to the server.

</html>
```

3: Now inspect the contents of the second HTTP GET request from your browser to the server. Do you see an “IF-MODIFIED-SINCE:” line in the HTTP GET? If so, what information follows the “IFMODIFIED-SINCE:” header?

IF-MODIFIED-SINCE: date is mentioned

```
Wireshark · Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 3) · any

GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1
Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
If-Modified-Since: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 06:59:01 GMT
If-None-Match: "173-5baf5f020475a"
Cache-Control: max-age=0

HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
Date: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:10:21 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.6 (CentOS) OpenSSL/1.0.2k-fips PHP/7.4.14 mod_perl/2.0.11 Perl/v5.16.3
Connection: Keep-Alive
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
ETag: "173-5baf5f020475a"
```

4 : What is the HTTP status code and phrase returned from the server in response to this second HTTP GET? Did the server explicitly return the contents of the file? Explain.

The HTTP CODE that was returned from the server in response to the second HTTP GET was 304 Not Modified. No, the server didn't return the contents of the file as it is seen in the screenshot below.

Wireshark · Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 3) · any

```
GET /wireshark-labs/HTTP-wireshark-file2.html HTTP/1.1
Host: gaia.cs.umass.edu
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Linux x86_64; rv:78.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/78.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,image/webp,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-US,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1
If-Modified-Since: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 06:59:01 GMT
If-None-Match: "173-5baf5f020475a"
Cache-Control: max-age=0

HTTP/1.1 304 Not Modified
Date: Wed, 10 Feb 2021 17:10:21 GMT
Server: Apache/2.4.6 (CentOS) OpenSSL/1.0.2k-fips PHP/7.4.14 mod_perl/2.0.11 Perl/v5.16.3
Connection: Keep-Alive
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
ETag: "173-5baf5f020475a"
```