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Assignment 5 - Secure Sockets Layer(SSL)

Section 1: Goals of the experiment

The main goal in this experiment is to understand how SSL provides security at the application layer and observe the differences. For this assignment, we have chosen to create a web server to exchange information between the server and client. In choosing this option, some of our sub goals are to learn how to locally host a web server and utilize Wireshark to read unencrypted HTML packets.

Section 2: Experimental Setup

To build a fast and simple website, we utilized Flask which is a Python based micro website application framework. The plan is to set up a locally hosted website where the client will exchange data with the server both unsecured and secured with SSL.

First, we programmed the back-end in python which would set up the site to be locally hosted and accept data from the front-end. On the front-end, the interface prompted users to enter their age and display their data after submitting the answer. Appendix A contains the back-end of the site and Appendix B and C contain the html of the site. Due to the location of the program, the files had to be stored within the program files in order to use the “pip” and “py” commands. The whole project was stored in a folder and within that folder a “templates” folder contained the html files.

The to start locally hosting, we ran the python code on the server computer using command line as seen in Figure 1 below.

```
C:\Users\sarah\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python37-32\Assignments - Copy>py app.py
 * Serving Flask app "app" (lazy loading)
 * Environment: production
   WARNING: Do not use the development server in a production environment.
   Use a production WSGI server instead.
 * Debug mode: on
 * Restarting with stat
 * Debugger is active!
 * Debugger PIN: 951-006-426
 * Running on http://0.0.0.0:5000/ (Press CTRL+C to quit)
127.0.0.1 - - [07/Apr/2019 14:54:35] "GET / HTTP/1.1" 200 -
127.0.0.1 - - [07/Apr/2019 14:54:36] "GET /favicon.ico HTTP/1.1" 404 -
```

Figure 1:Starting web server on local host

Both the server and client are on the same network(aalto open). The client was able to access the website by typing in the server’s IPv4 address and port. Figures 2a and 2b show the IPv4 addresses of the server and client.

```
Wireless LAN adapter Wi-Fi:

   Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :
   IPv6 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 2001:708:150:10::2998
   Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::6dca:20bc:46e:ea06%20
   IPv4 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 10.100.2.213
   Subnet Mask . . . . . . . . . . . : 255.255.192.0
   Default Gateway . . . . . . . . . : fe80::32f7:dff:fefa:4000%20
                                       10.100.0.1

C:\Users\sarah\AppData\Local\Programs\Python\Python37-32\Assignments>
```

Figure 2a: Server ip address

```
Wireless LAN adapter Wi-Fi:

   Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :
   IPv6 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 2001:708:150:10::1d36
   Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::81d0:4d87:9e76:a58d%13
   IPv4 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 10.100.18.66
   Subnet Mask . . . . . . . . . . . : 255.255.192.0
   Default Gateway . . . . . . . . . : fe80::32f7:dff:fefa:4000%13
                                       10.100.0.1
```

Figure 2b: Client ip address

Figures 3a and 3b show a successful connection from the client side and the elements of the website.

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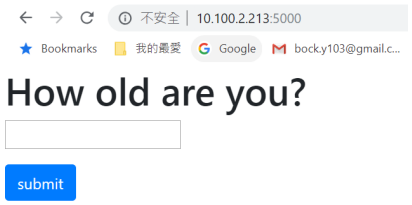

Figure 3a: Index.html

Figure 3b: age.html

Section 2b: Experimental setup with SSL

(Python+flask: Configuring https website with ssl security certification)

In order to implement SSL, a security certificate and key were creating using OpenSSL following these steps.

1. Install pyOpenSSL
   ```
   pip install pyOpenSSL
   ```
2. Generate a private key and follow the prompts to fill in the content.
   ```
   openssl genrsa -des3 -out server.key 1024
   ```
3. Generate a csr file and follow the prompts to fill in the content.
   ```
   openssl req -new -key server.key -out server.csr
   ```
4. Step4: Generate crt file, valid for 1 year
   ```
   openssl x509 -req -days 365 -in server.csr -signkey server.key -out server.crt
   ```

Once the command above is executed, the server.crt and server.key files will be generated in the folder.

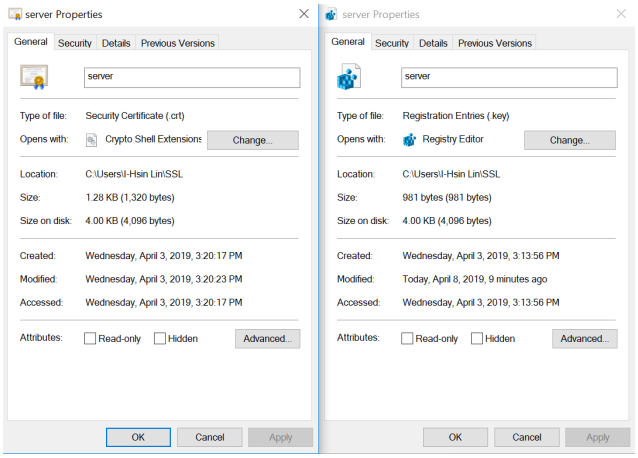

Figure 4: Security certificate and key

After inserting the security key and certificate into the code (last line of code in Appendix D) and accessing the website again, the browser said that the certification had to be trusted by root.

This is because the generated certificate is not issued by a trusted certificate authority so it is required to configure the trust settings on the client side.

5. Open Microsoft Management Control and import the certification to root

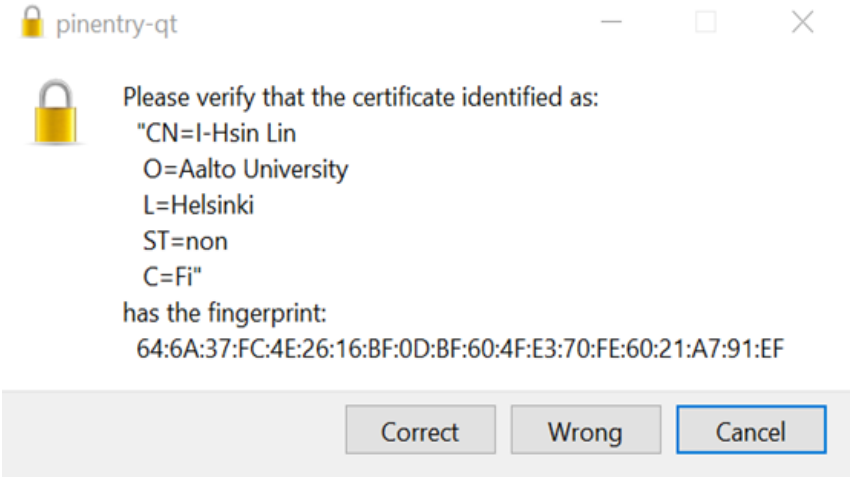

Figure 5a: Trusting the certificate on client side

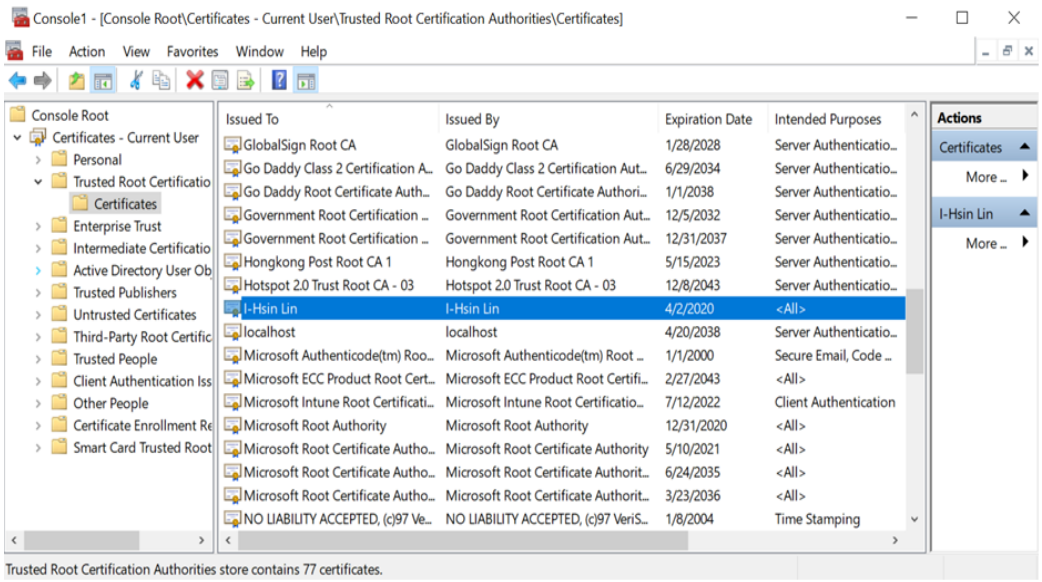

Figure 5b: Trusting the certificate on client side, Microsoft Management Console

6. Once the certificate is added to the root, access the website again and the certification would be trusted. The site is still classified as “not secured” status but it now considered “ok” since we have manually added the trust settings.

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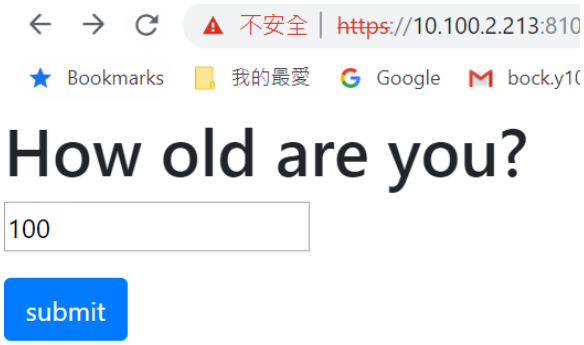

Figure 6a: Accessing website again

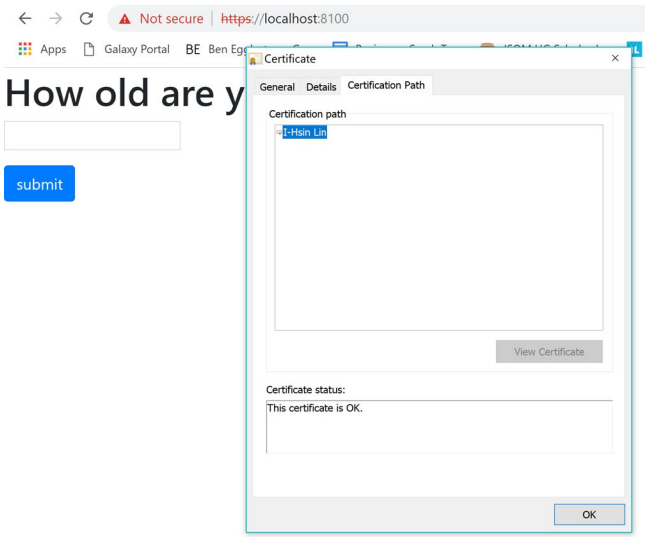

Figure 6b: Certificate status is "ok"

Section 3a: Results without TLS

When the client is accessing the unsecured website, Wireshark (running on server side) captured HTTP packets that show the html of the webpage and also the user submitted data all in plaintext.

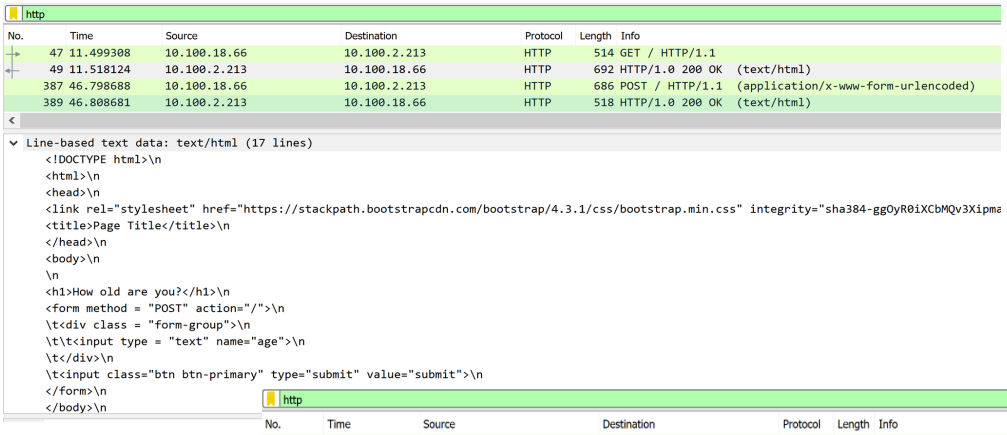

Figure 7a: unencrypted HTTP packet with HTML inside

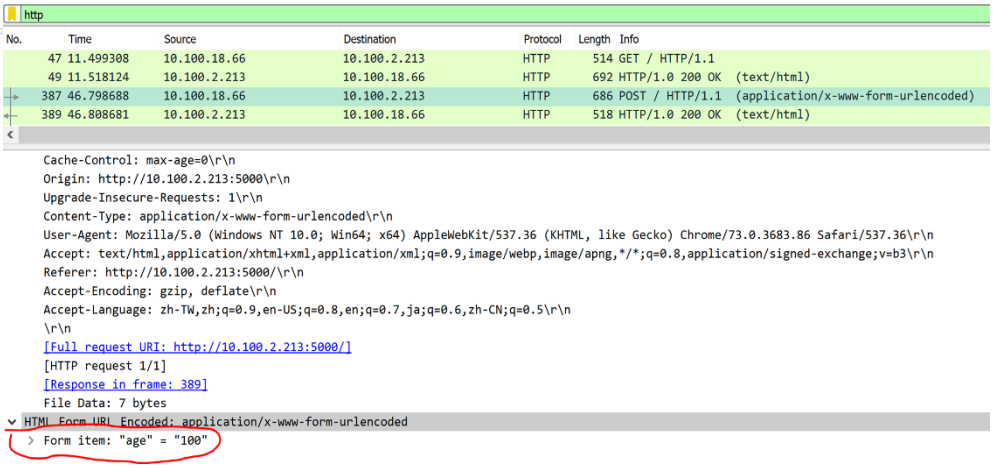

Figure7b: unencrypted HTTP packet with user submitted data.

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Section 3b: Results with SSL

When the client is accessing the site with the certificate, Wireshark (running on the server side) is capturing TLS packets and the data is encrypted.

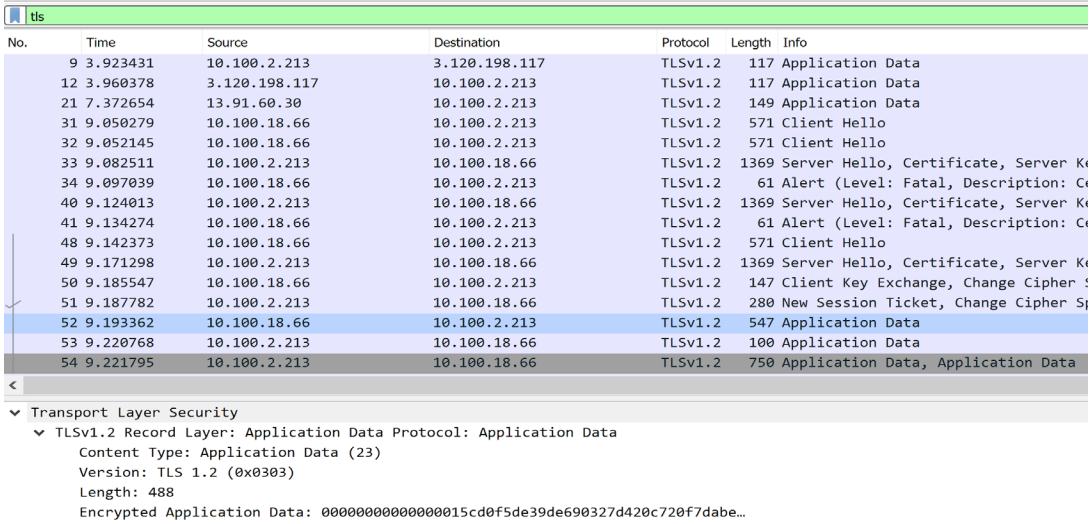

Figure 8: Encrypted data within packet

Section 3c: Conclusions

Through this experiment, we were able to observe how an SSL certificate and key can encrypt data. As seen in the Figures 7a, 7b and 8, having an SSL certificate encrypts data and ensures safety for the client accessing the website in the application layer.

Section 4: Appendices

Appendix A - Unsecure Backend Python Code (app.py)

```
from flask import Flask, render_template, request
app = Flask(__name__)

@app.route("/", methods=['GET','POST'])
def send():
    if request.method == 'POST':
        age = request.form['age']

        return render_template('age.html', age=age)

    return render_template('index.html')

if __name__ == "__main__":
    app.run(debug=True, host='0.0.0.0')
```

Appendix B - Index.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<link rel="stylesheet"
href="https://stackpath.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/4.3.1/css/bootstrap
.min.css" integrity="sha384-
```

```
ggOyR0iXCbMQv3Xipma34MD+dH/1fQ784/j6cY/iJTQUOhcWr7x9JvoRxT2MZw1T"
crossorigin="anonymous">
<title>Page Title</title>
</head>
<body>

<h1>How old are you?</h1>
<form method = "POST" action="/">
      <div class = "form-group">
            <input type = "text" name="age">
      </div>
      <input class="btn btn-primary" type="submit" value="submit">
</form>
</body>
</html>
```

Appendix C - age.html

```
<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
<head>
<link rel="stylesheet"
href="https://stackpath.bootstrapcdn.com/bootstrap/4.3.1/css/bootstrap
.min.css" integrity="sha384-
ggOyR0iXCbMQv3Xipma34MD+dH/1fQ784/j6cY/iJTQUOhcWr7x9JvoRxT2MZw1T"
crossorigin="anonymous">
<title>Page Title</title>
</head>
<body>

      <h1> Your age is {{ age }}</h1>
</body>
</html>
```

Appendix D - Secured app.py

```
from flask import Flask, render_template, request
app = Flask(__name__)

@app.route("/", methods=['GET','POST'])
def send():
    if request.method == 'POST':
        age = request.form['age']

        return render_template('age.html', age=age)

    return render_template('index.html')

if __name__ == "__main__":
```

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```
    app.run(debug=True, host='0.0.0.0', port=8100,
ssl_context=('server.crt', 'server.key'))
```