

Telnet & SSH Security Analysis

- Initially we setup 2 VMs where we config the IP of the machine (note: it should be different)
- Here we setup 2 machines **is1** & **is2** and check the IP using “\$ ifconfig”
- It is important to execute the following command in the terminal to able to analyse the packet.

\$ su (changes to superuser if your current user is not in sudoers file)

\$ sudo usermod -aG sudo <user-name> (execute this command and restart the system then execute the below commands)

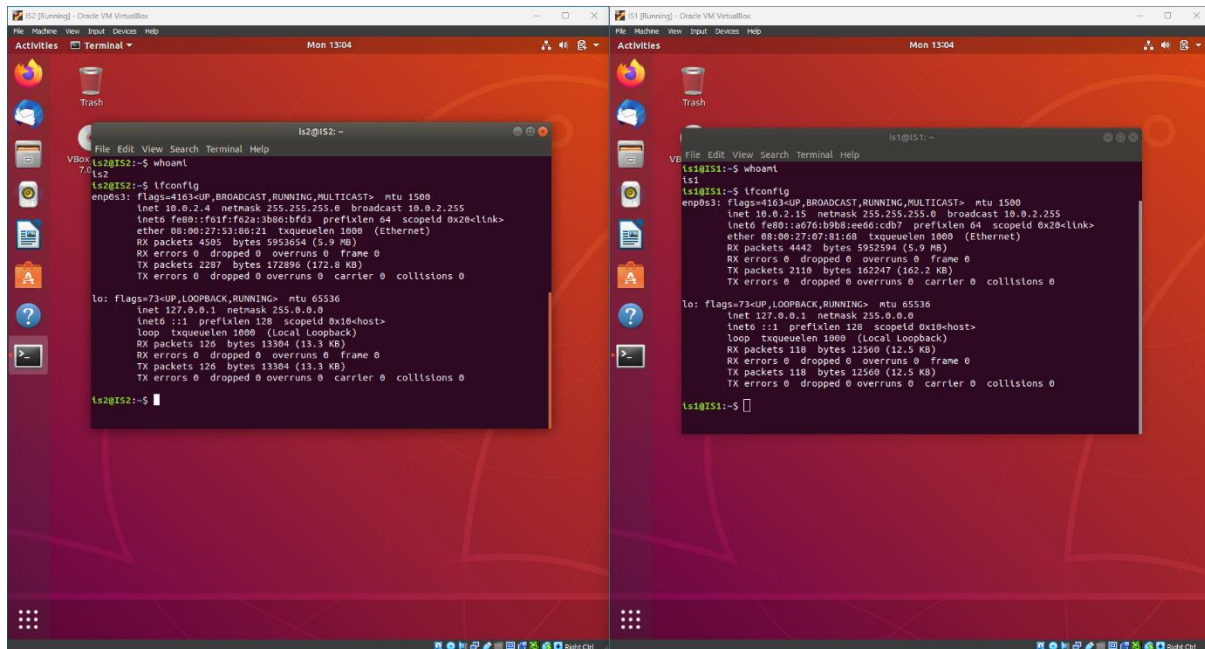
\$ sudo apt install update && sudo apt upgrade

\$ sudo apt install telnetd -y

\$ sudo apt install openssh-server -y

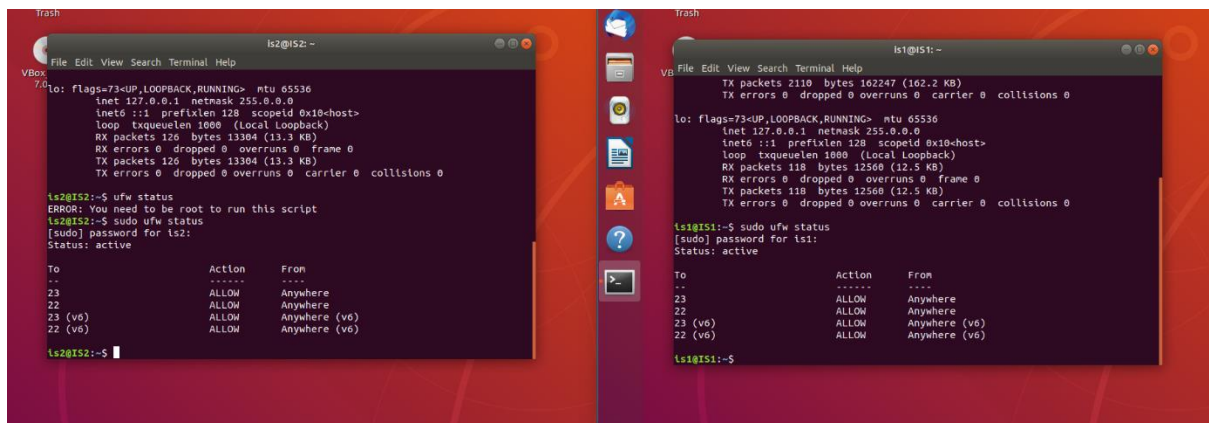
\$ sudo apt install net-tools

\$ sudo apt install wireshark

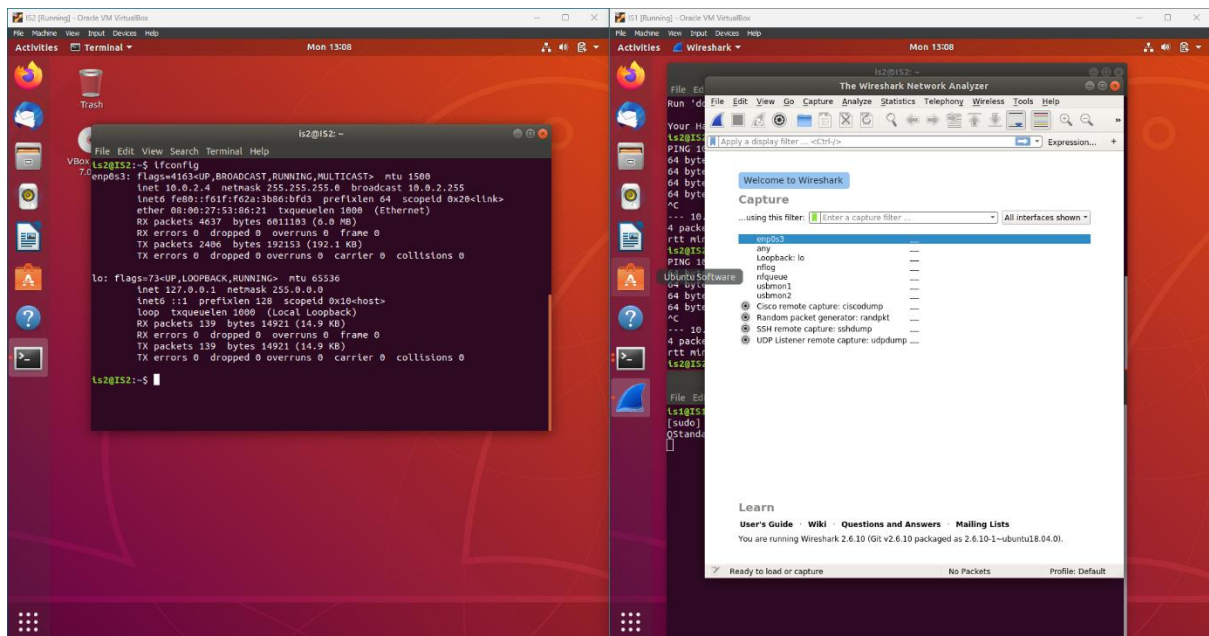


- Now using firewall allow port 23 and port 22 for telnet & ssh connection simultaneously using the following commands:
 - \$ sudo ufw status (checks status of the firewall that which rules are allowed or added)
 - \$ sudo ufw enable (enables if disabled)
 - \$ sudo ufw allow 22 (open port 22 for connection)
 - \$ sudo ufw allow 23
 - \$ sudo ufw reject 22 (close the port after using as it is a good practice)

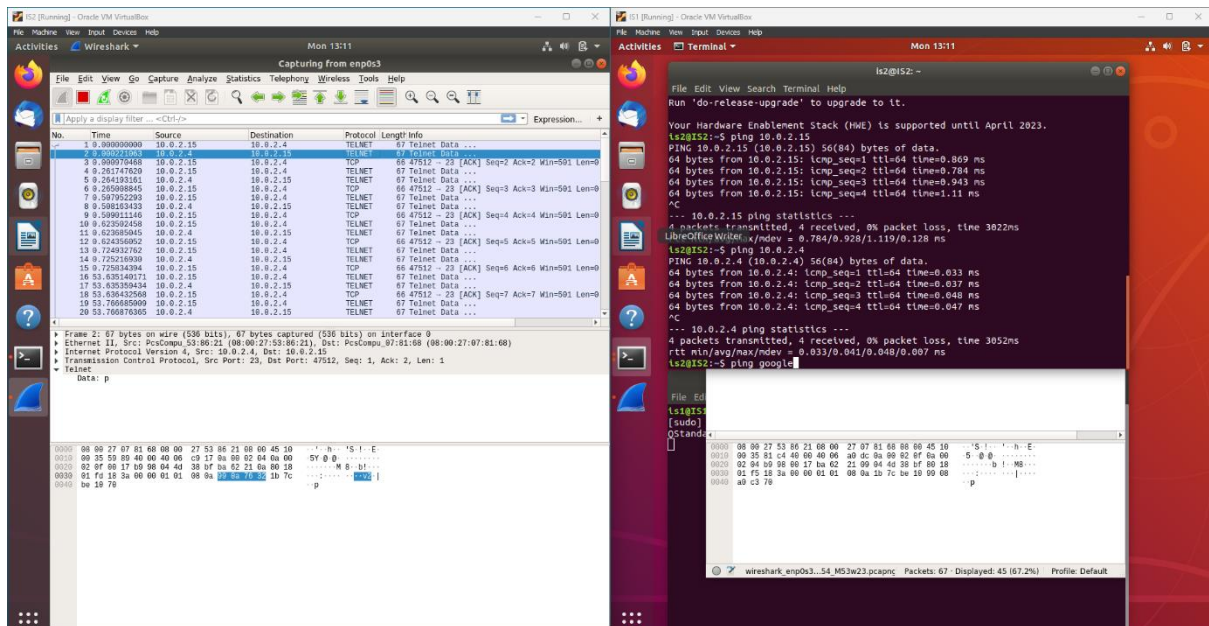
Note: execute these commands on the server machine.



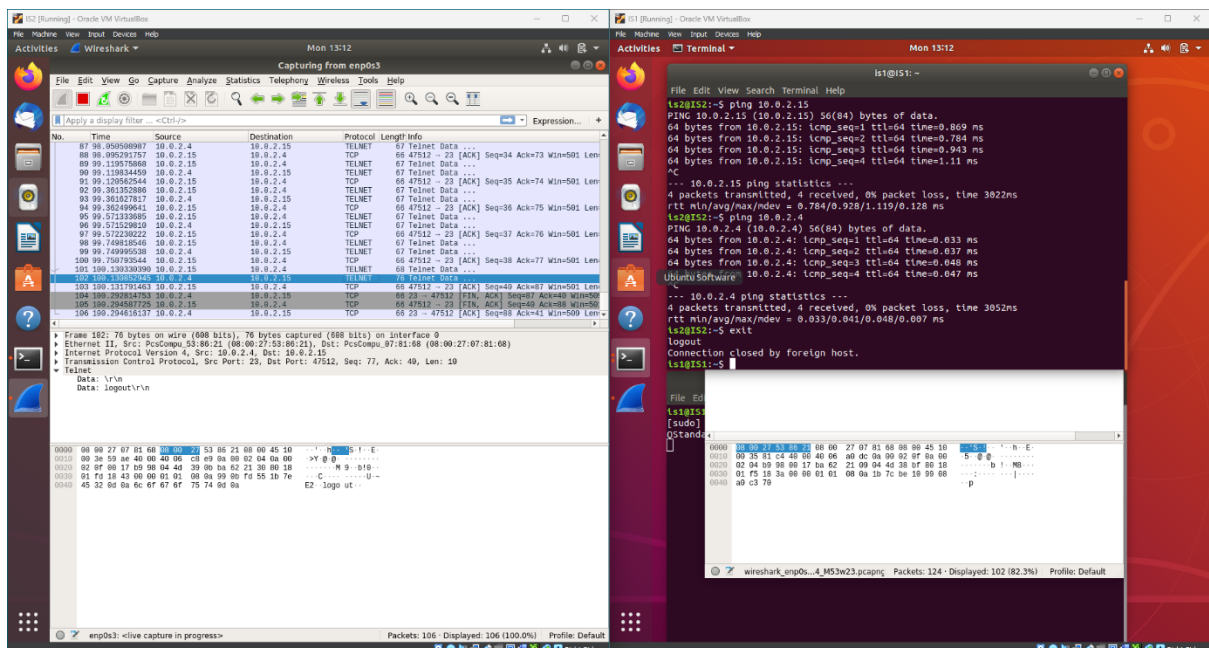
- Use “\$ sudo wireshark” in the server side to open wireshark and analyse the packets on behalf of client side



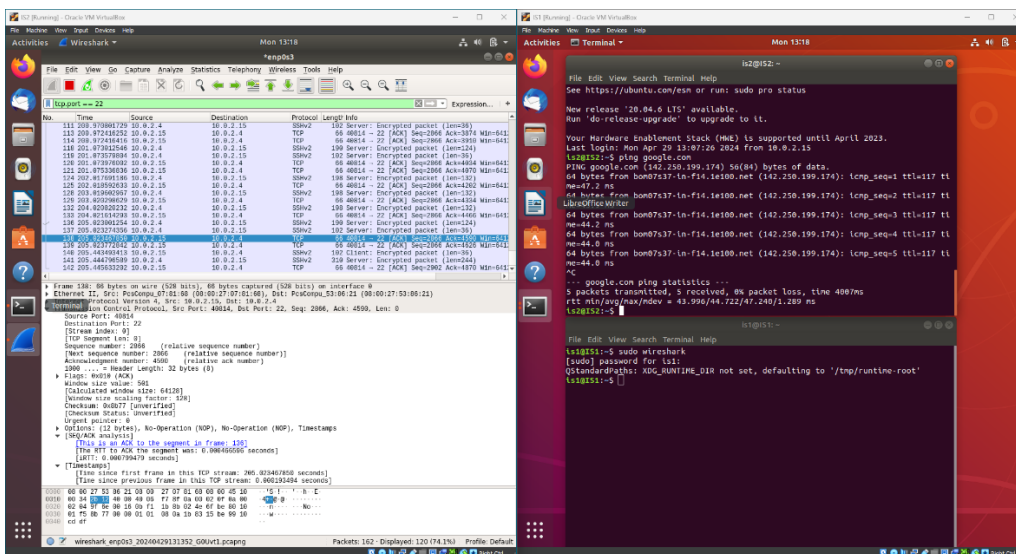
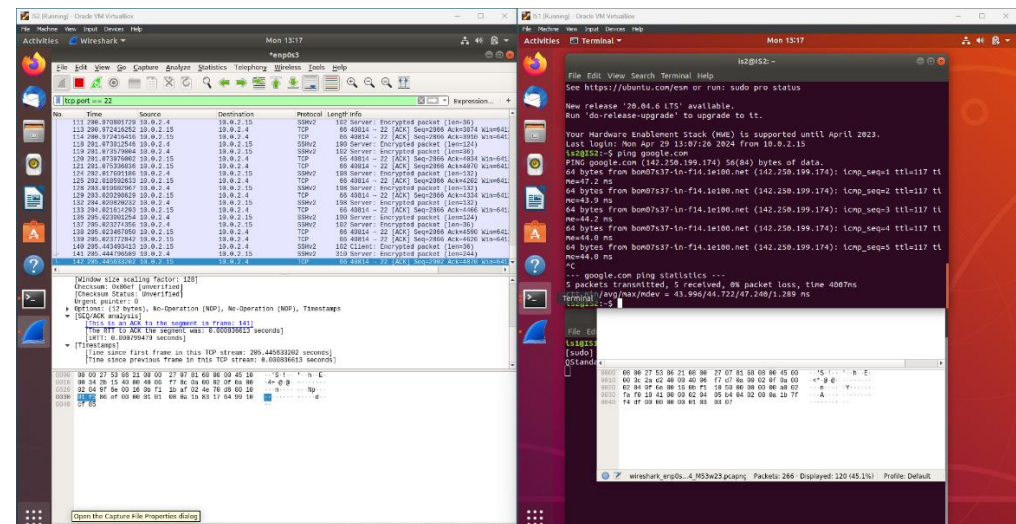
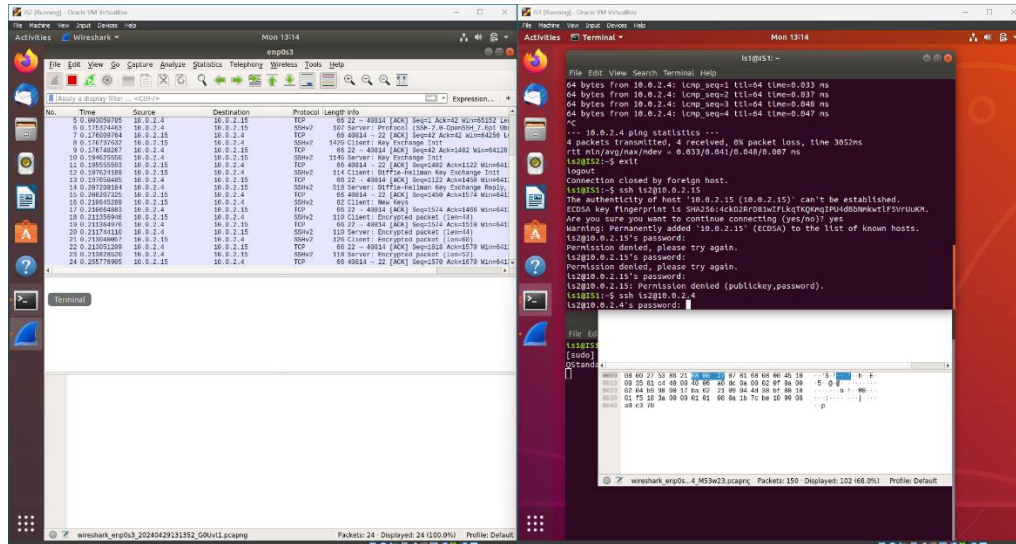
- Use “\$ telnet <ip_address of other machine or server machine>” and login using the name & password of other machine to establish telnet connection to the server.
- In case of SSH use “\$ ssh <username_of_other_machine_or_server>@<ip_address_of_server_or_other_machine>” and login using the password of the machine.



- Here in telnet, we can see the data in the packets as when we analyse a telnet packet when we gave input in the terminal of the connected machine. Here in above screenshot, we can see under Telnet where data is “P” and in the terminal of the other screen I have given input as “ping google.com” which show packets are generated for each character and two packets can be seen in Wireshark showing one packet as incoming call and other one for the acknowledgment, hence we can analyse the packet and data residing in the packet net connection like this. To filter out only those packets with port 23 connection we will write “tcp.port==23” in the above URL space.
- After analysing the packet enter “\$ exit” to logout from client side.



- Now connect via SSH using the command mentioned above and analyse the packets in the same way as we did for telnet connection but remember while filtering out use port 22 to filter out ssh connection's packet.



- While analysing the ssh packets you will note you aren't able to see the data in it and in place it you are able to see message which is started by "encrypted..." which show ssh uses encryption to establish the connection and data is transferred in encrypted manner.
- After analysing the packets logout from the client side and reject or close the port which you have opened to establish the connection as it a good practice and will keep your system less vulnerable to attacks.

The image displays four terminal windows arranged in a 2x2 grid, showing the configuration and status of a firewall on two hosts, ls2 and ls1.

Top Left (ls2@ls2): Shows the initial configuration of UFW rules. The user runs `sudo ufw status`, which shows the firewall is active. Then, they run `sudo ufw reject 22` and `sudo ufw reject 23`, which updates the rules to reject connections on ports 22 and 23.

Top Right (ls1@ls1): Shows the status of the firewall on ls1. The user runs `sudo ufw status`, which shows the firewall is active. Then, they run `exit` to logout.

Bottom Left (ls2@ls2): Shows the user disabling the firewall on ls2. The user runs `sudo ufw disable`, which stops and disables the firewall on system startup.

Bottom Right (ls1@ls1): Shows the user disabling the firewall on ls1. The user runs `sudo ufw disable`, which stops and disables the firewall on system startup.

So, we can say that telnet is not secure way of establishing TCP connection or to access a server as it is not encrypted and vulnerable to get hijacked or attacked as the hacker can easily analyse the packet and snoop the data and can cause harm to you so in place of it use SSH connection as it is encrypted way of connection and data is encrypted while transferring data.