

# WIRESHARK PACKET SNIFFING

Naveen Kumar Jakkula | Soundarya Kasarla | Nikitha Chintala

---

## INTRODUCTION

This study aims to investigate how web phishing might be identified and avoided using Wireshark, a well-known network protocol analyzer tool. We seek to discover trends and behaviors related to web phishing assaults through the capture and analysis of network traffic. Then, using data from the real world, we will assess how well these strategies worked.

A potent network protocol analyzer called Wireshark enables you to record and examine network data in real-time. The capacity to do packet sniffing, which is the act of intercepting and studying the network packets that are carried over a network, is one of the core aspects of Wireshark.

Sniffing packets can be employed for a variety of tasks, such as protocol creation, security research, and network troubleshooting. You may learn more about how your network behaves, spot possible difficulties and bottlenecks, and pinpoint the underlying cause of network issues by collecting and analyzing network packets.

In this article, we'll examine Wireshark packet sniffing in more detail and demonstrate how to utilize this potent tool to record and examine network data. Wireshark packet sniffing is a crucial ability that may help you better understand your network and enhance its efficiency and security, regardless of whether you work as a network administrator, security expert, or software developer. A report comparing HTTP, FTP, Telnet, and SSH will be delivered. Finding the protocol that is secure to use for both professional and personal data without any malicious effort to acquire the data would be the result.

## TERMINOLOGY

**Wireshark Tool:** Wireshark is a well-known network protocol analyzer tool that is employed for real-time network traffic capture and analysis. Users can decode different communication protocols and observe and capture network packets. Network troubleshooting, security analysis, and protocol development may all be done with Wireshark.

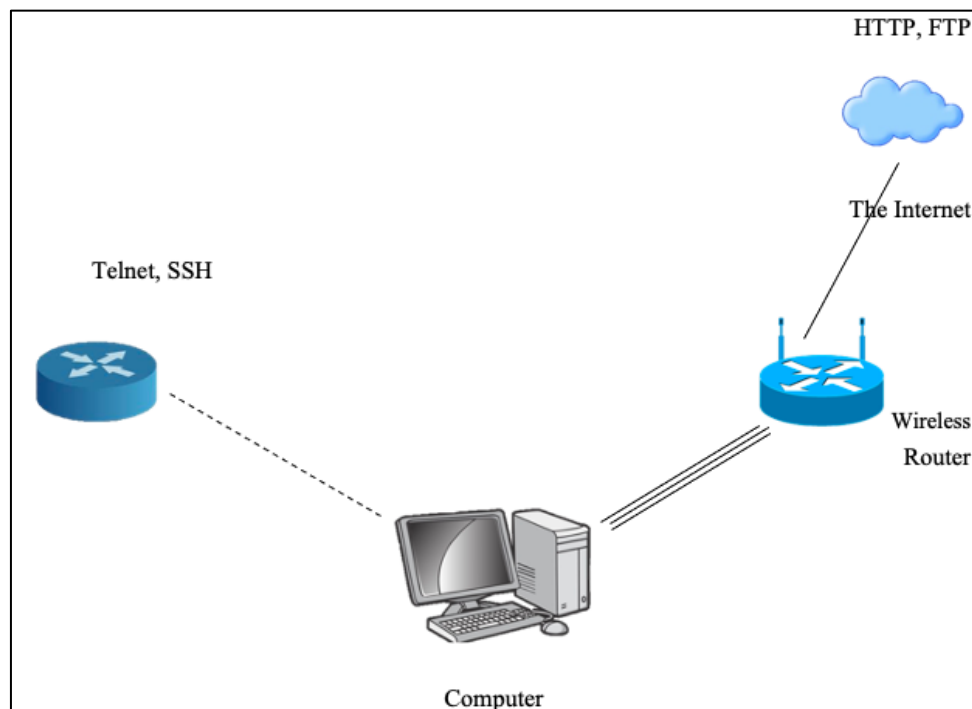
**Web Phishing:** Web phishing is a sort of cyberattack that uses phony websites or emails to persuade people to provide personal data, including usernames, passwords, and credit card numbers. In order to get the user to respond fast and give the desired information, phishing attempts frequently utilize social engineering tactics to instill a sense of urgency or fear.

**Packet Sniffing:** The act of capturing and examining data packets as they go through a network is known as packet sniffing. The source and destination addresses, the protocols being used, and the data payload may all be examined by using packet sniffers to capture and analyse data packets.

**Ethical Hacking:** Ethical hacking is a sort of security testing that involves attempting to get into a computer or network system in order to find flaws and vulnerabilities that an attacker may use against you. The majority of the time, ethical hacking is carried out by qualified experts who are permitted to carry out such testing.

**Putty:** PuTTY is a network file transfer programme, serial console, and terminal emulator that is free and open source. Such network protocols as SSH, Telnet, rlogin, and raw socket connections are supported. System administrators and developers that need to remotely access servers, network devices, and other systems utilizing secure protocols like SSH frequently choose PuTTY. With its support for several protocols, it is a flexible tool for controlling network infrastructure. It offers a straightforward and lightweight interface for connecting to distant computers and executing instructions.

## METHODOLOGY:



Discussing in this report are Telnet, FTP, SSH and HTTP.

## 1. Telnet:

Telnet is a network protocol used for remote access to network devices. Unlike SSH, Telnet does not encrypt data, making it less secure than SSH. Telnet is commonly used for remote management of network devices such as routers and switches.

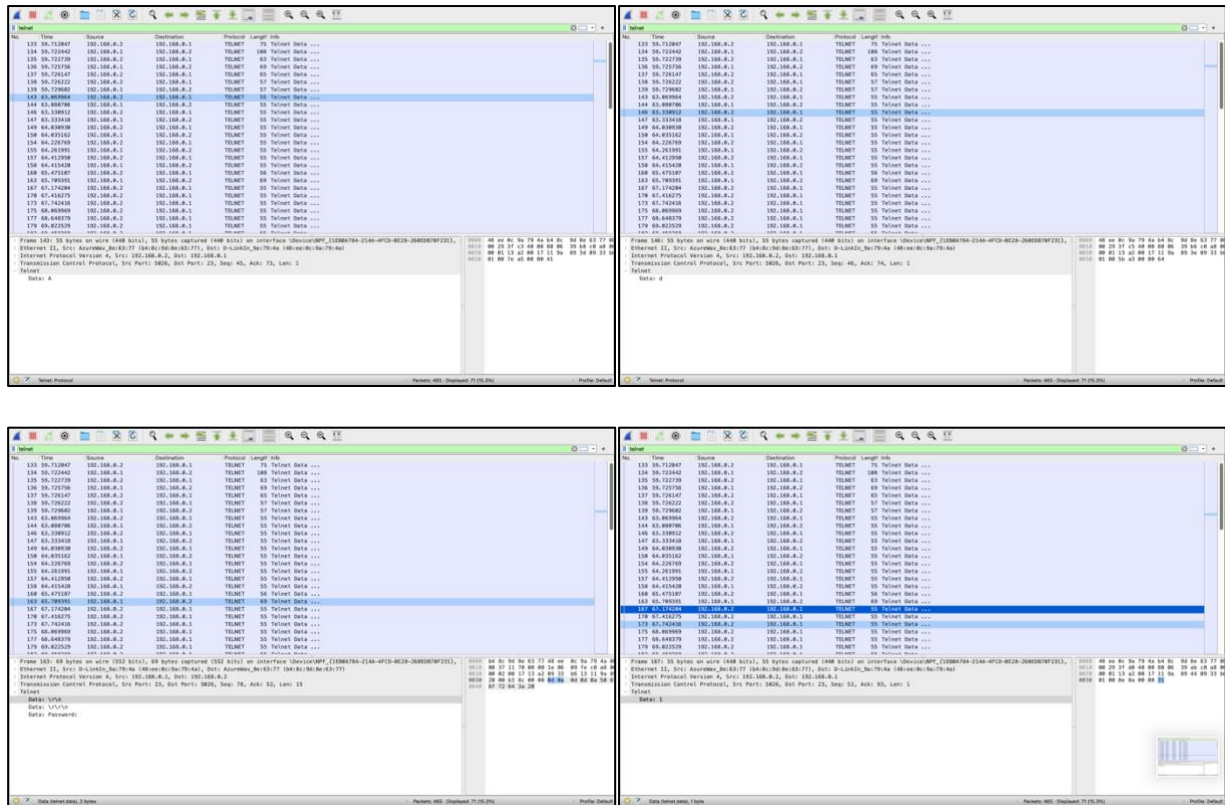
This is the information we used in putty to use telnet. And using Wireshark we sniffed the information. Below are the attached screenshots.

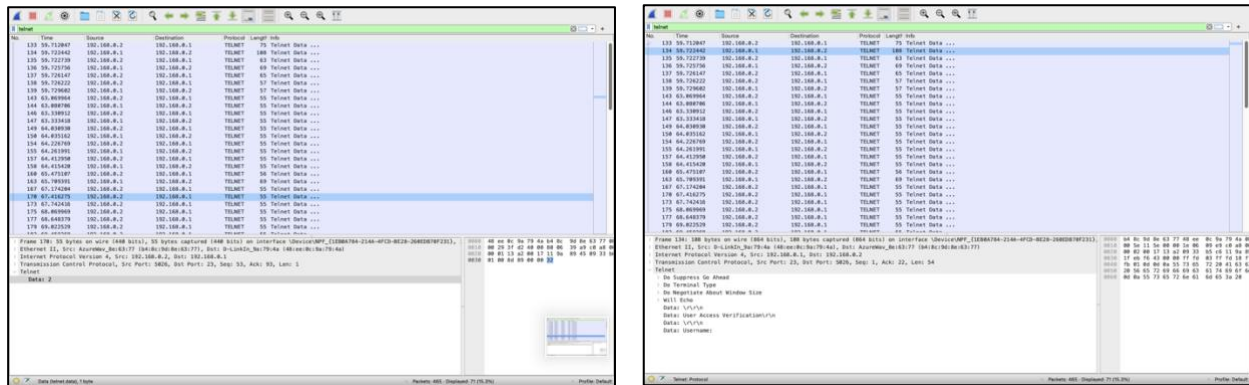
### User Access Verification

Username: ....P.....'.....XTERM....\$..\$AAddmmiinn

Password: 12345678

### Screenshots from Wireshark:





If you can observe data is clearly visible in the Wireshark bit by bit. So, it's an unsafe environment to use.

### Drawbacks:

- ⇒ **Security Issues:** Telnet does not encrypt data, making it less secure than other remote access protocols such as SSH. This means that data transmitted over Telnet can be intercepted and read by unauthorized users.
- ⇒ **Authentication Issues:** Telnet does not provide strong authentication mechanisms, making it vulnerable to password-based attacks such as brute-force attacks and password sniffing.
- ⇒ **Limited Functionality:** Telnet has limited functionality compared to other remote access protocols. For example, Telnet does not support file transfer, which makes it less useful for certain applications.
- ⇒ **Limited Flexibility:** Telnet is not well-suited for complex network configurations or environments where multiple users need to access the same network device simultaneously.

Telnet and SSH are the wired protocols, therefore as we learned about telnet now let's see SSH.

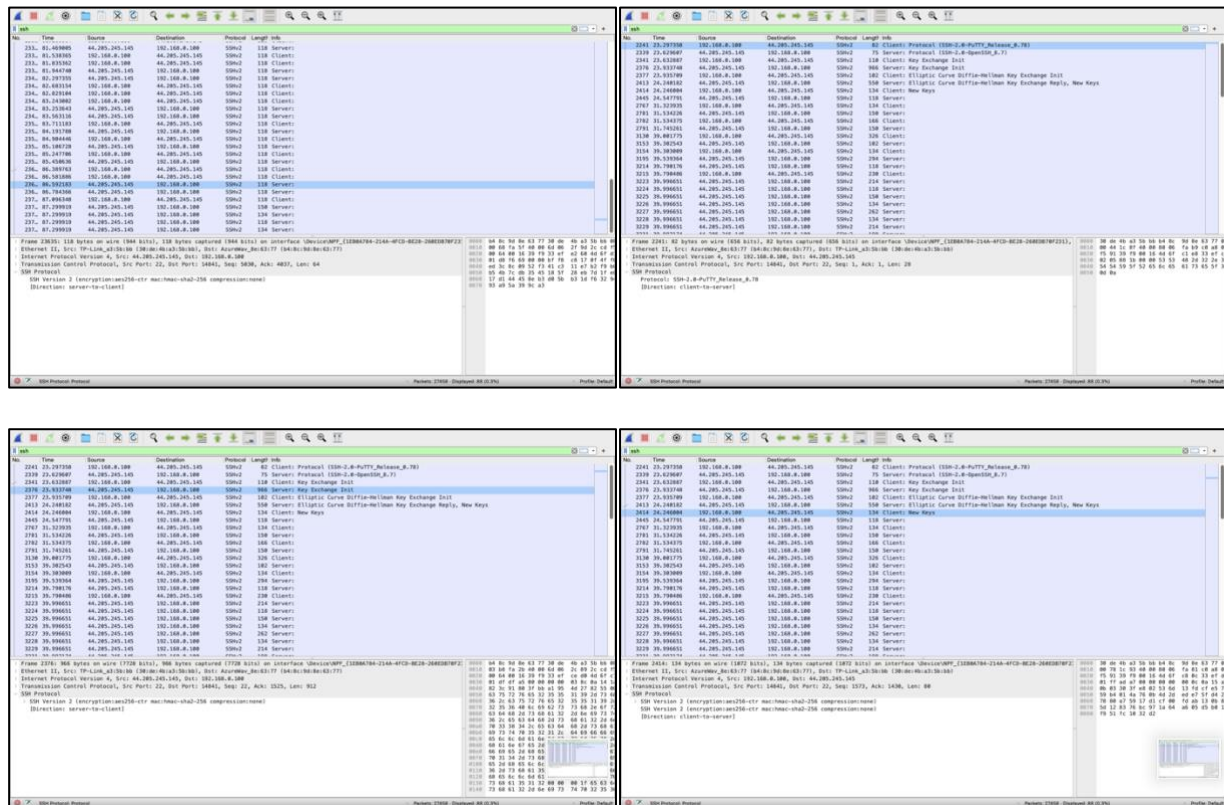
## 2. **SSH:**

SSH (Secure Shell) is a network protocol used for secure remote access to network devices. SSH encrypts all data transmitted between the client and server, providing a high level of security.

This is how the information is available on SSH. Let us try find the information using Wireshark.

```
..E..?D"IT/N.b.....uh..K.<.1y..MA..k=...q
r.v.|.d,...].O[;s.U...#..<.....6.|...}S..z.q.....~.K6.X../X]....
...Q...0?...Sm...v$.Y..Jv.M-..._#R2.x..Y.....].v...d...../...Q..2...VM=..+.%X.....>.
j...rJ..1-f.$Q
..4P.....;.....O).. '6k{I..rFH!...y.G4..".Ss8..l....
..J'k...#...3D.....<..t%...p.K.c*.I8^...^|..
```

## Screenshots from Wireshark:



If you can observe from the screenshots from the Wireshark, you can see no leak of information, i.e., no packets sniffed contains of usernames and passwords. Therefore, can be said it's a safe protocol.

## Advantages:

- ⇒ **Security**: SSH encrypts all data transmitted between the client and server, providing a high level of security. This makes it a more secure choice compared to other remote access protocols such as Telnet, which do not encrypt data.
- ⇒ **Authentication**: SSH provides strong authentication mechanisms, including public-key authentication, which makes it more resistant to password-based attacks such as brute-force attacks and password sniffing.
- ⇒ **Portability**: SSH is widely supported and available on most operating systems, making it a portable choice for remote access to network devices.
- ⇒ **User and Host Verification**: SSH verifies both the user and host before allowing a connection, which ensures that only authorized users can access network devices.

Overall, SSH is a secure and flexible protocol that provides strong authentication mechanisms and a wide range of functionality, making it a popular choice for remote access to network devices and other applications.

We can now see that SSH is stronger than Telnet. Let's now check other protocols.

### 3. FTP:

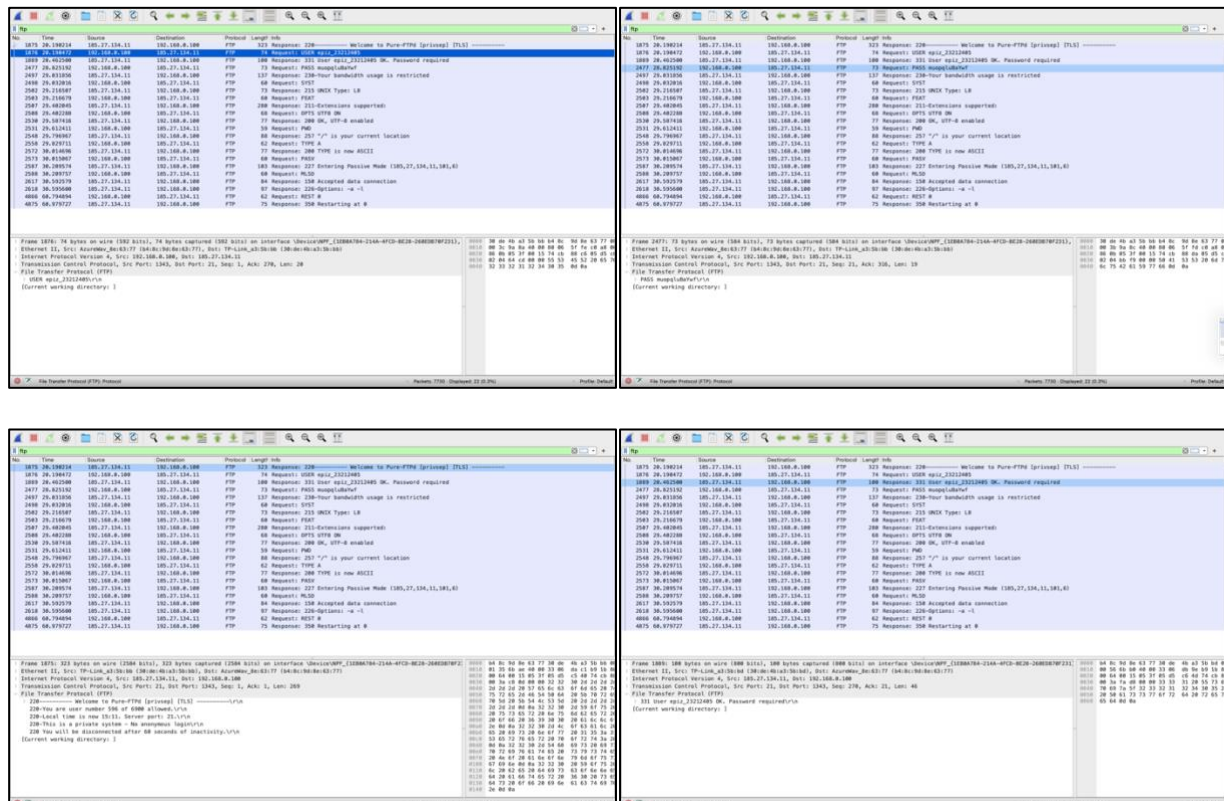
FTP (File Transfer Protocol) is a protocol used for transferring files over a network. FTP is commonly used for transferring large files and is often used in web development to upload and download files to a web server.

If you can observe in FTP, the username and password are clearly visible in a single line, whereas in Telnet when we sniffed the packets data was visible showing single letter at a time. These proves FTP can be more vulnerable than Telnet to use.

```
220----- Welcome to Pure-FTPd [privsep] [TLS] -----
220-You are user number 596 of 6900 allowed.
220-Local time is now 15:11. Server port: 21.
220-This is a private system - No anonymous login
220 You will be disconnected after 60 seconds of inactivity.
      USER epiz_23212405
331 User epiz_23212405 OK. Password required
      PASS muopqluBaYwf
230-Your bandwidth usage is restricted
230 OK. Current restricted directory is /
      SYST
```

Let us now see the proof with the screenshots from the Wireshark tool.

### Screenshots from Wireshark:





### Drawbacks:

- ⇒ Security Issues: FTP is not a secure protocol, as it transmits data in plain text, making it vulnerable to interception and unauthorized access. FTPS (FTP over SSL) and SFTP (Secure File Transfer Protocol) are more secure alternatives.
- ⇒ Firewall Configuration: FTP uses multiple ports, which can make it difficult to configure firewalls and network security.
- ⇒ Limited Error Recovery: FTP does not provide a reliable mechanism for recovering from transmission errors, which can result in data corruption or loss.
- ⇒ Limited Logging: FTP has limited logging and audit capabilities, which can make it difficult to track and monitor file transfer activity.

Overall, FTP is a simple and efficient protocol for transferring files between computers. However, its lack of security and limited error recovery and logging capabilities make it less attractive in certain situations. For more secure file transfer, alternatives such as FTPS and SFTP should be considered.

Finally, let us find out if HTTP is vulnerable or not.

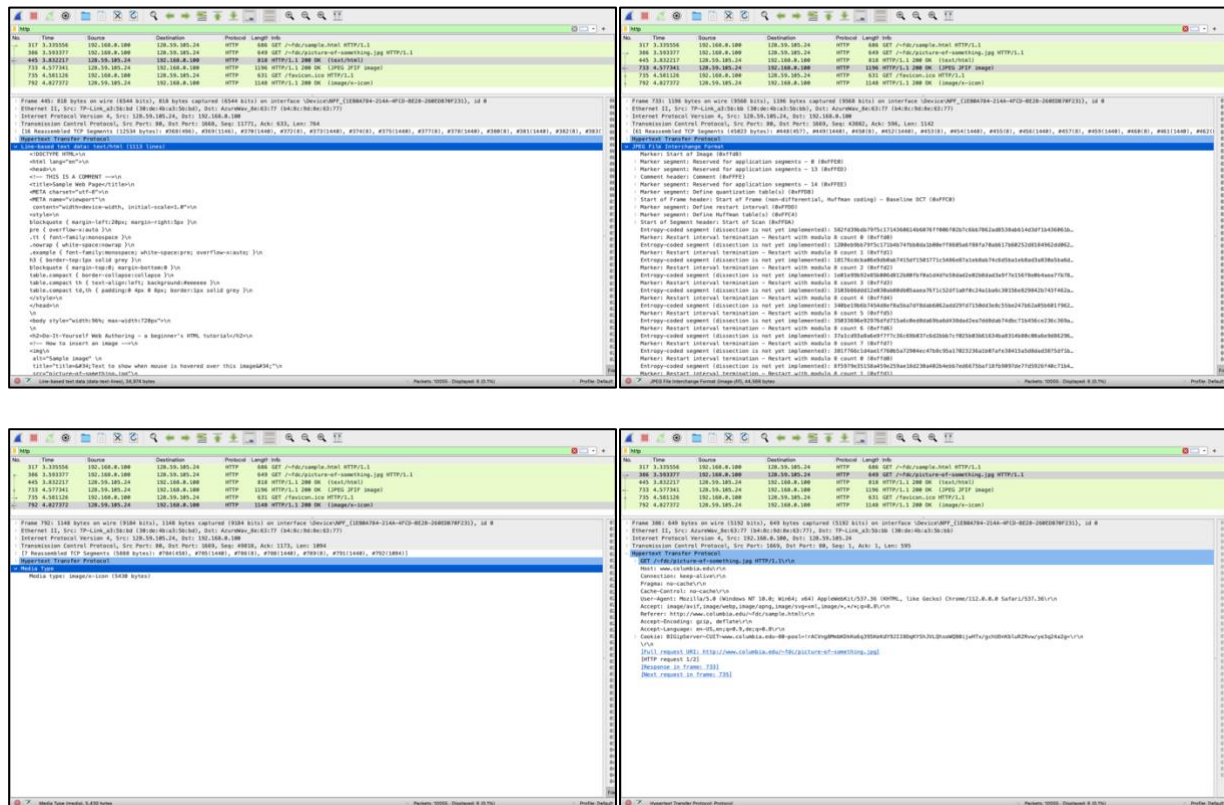
#### 4. **HTTP:**

HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) is the protocol used for transmitting data over the World Wide Web. HTTP is the foundation of the web and is used for transmitting HTML pages, images, and other resources between web servers and clients.



Let us first see the screenshots from the Wireshark tool and then discuss about the image above.

## Screenshots from Wireshark:



The Image mentioned in the Wireshark tool is the image shown above. When opened the website the Wireshark captured the website URL and then all the activities happened on the website. That is where we opened the image and that image got sniffed in the tool.

## Drawbacks:

- ⇒ **Security Issues:** HTTP transmits data in plain text, making it vulnerable to interception and unauthorized access. HTTPS (HTTP over SSL/TLS) provides a more secure alternative.
- ⇒ **Lack of State:** HTTP is a stateless protocol, which means that each request is treated independently. This can make it difficult to maintain user sessions and other state information.
- ⇒ **Limited Flexibility:** HTTP is a rigid protocol that does not provide a lot of flexibility in terms of data formats and transmission methods.
- ⇒ **Limited Error Recovery:** HTTP does not provide a reliable mechanism for recovering from transmission errors, which can result in data corruption or loss.

Overall, HTTP is a lightweight and easy-to-use protocol that is well-suited for web applications and websites. However, its lack of security and state management, limited flexibility, and limited error recovery capabilities can make it less attractive in certain situations. For more secure and flexible web applications, HTTPS and other alternative protocols should be considered.



# RESULTS:

The order of less vulnerable to hacking for SSH, Telnet, HTTP, and FTP is as follows:

SSH - SSH is the most secure protocol among these four, as it uses encryption to protect data in transit and provides strong authentication mechanisms.

HTTP - Although HTTP is not a secure protocol and transmits data in plain text, modern web applications and websites often use HTTPS, which provides encryption and authentication.

FTP - FTP is vulnerable to interception and unauthorized access as it transmits data in plain text and lacks security features such as encryption and strong authentication.

Telnet - Telnet is the least secure protocol among these four, as it transmits data in plain text and lacks encryption and strong authentication mechanisms, making it vulnerable to interception and unauthorized access.

## Prevention of packet sniffing:

To avoid packet sniffing, consider implementing the following measures:

- ⇒ Use encryption: Use secure protocols that encrypt network traffic, such as HTTPS for web browsing, SSH for remote access, and SFTP for file transfers. Encryption makes it difficult for hackers to read the intercepted traffic.
- ⇒ Use a VPN: A virtual private network (VPN) creates an encrypted tunnel between the user's device and the VPN server, protecting all network traffic from interception and sniffing.
- ⇒ Disable unnecessary network services: Disable any unnecessary network services on your devices, such as file sharing or remote desktop, as these services can create security vulnerabilities that can be exploited by hackers.
- ⇒ Use a firewall: Use a firewall to block unauthorized network traffic and only allow trusted traffic to pass through.
- ⇒ Regularly update software and systems: Regularly update software and systems to ensure that they are patched against known security vulnerabilities that can be exploited by hackers.
- ⇒ Use strong passwords: Use strong and unique passwords for all accounts and consider using a password manager to generate and store complex passwords.
- ⇒ Avoid unsecured public Wi-Fi: Avoid connecting to unsecured public Wi-Fi networks, as these networks can be easily compromised by hackers.
- ⇒ By implementing these measures, users can protect their network traffic from packet sniffing and other forms of cyberattacks.

# CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, the order of less vulnerable to hacking for SSH, Telnet, HTTP, and FTP is

***SSH > HTTP > FTP > Telnet***

While SSH is the most secure protocol among these four, Telnet is the least secure, as it transmits data in plain text and lacks encryption and strong authentication mechanisms. FTP is also vulnerable to interception and unauthorized access, while HTTP is often used with HTTPS to provide encryption and authentication.

It's important to note that for all these protocols, there are secure alternatives available, such as SFTP for FTP, HTTPS for HTTP, and SSH for Telnet. As such, it's recommended to use these secure alternatives whenever possible to minimize the risk of hacking and unauthorized access. By taking the necessary precautions and using secure protocols, organizations can protect their sensitive data and systems from potential cyber threats.

## REFERENCES:

*OpenSSH*: <https://www.openssh.com/features/security.html>

*Difference Between Telnet and SSH*: <https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/difference-between-telnet-and-ssh/>

*FileZilla*: <https://filezilla-project.org/ftp-security.php>

*Securing FTP with SSL/TLS*: <https://www.sans.org/reading-room/whitepapers/protocols/securing-ftp-ssl-tls-149>

*The Telnet Protocol*: <https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc854>

*Telnet Vs SSH*: <https://www.educba.com/telnet-vs-ssh/>

