

Assignment no : 8

Title: Configure and Demonstrate use of vulnerability assessment tool like Wireshark

- **Introduction to Wireshark**

Wireshark is a software tool used to monitor the network traffic through a network interface. It is the most widely used network monitoring tool today. Wireshark is loved equally by system administrators, network engineers, network enthusiasts, network security professionals and black hat hackers.

The extent of its popularity is such, that experience with Wireshark is considered as a valuable/essential trait in a computer networking-related professional.

There are many reasons why Wireshark is so popular:

1. It has a great GUI as well as a conventional CLI(T Shark).
2. It offers network monitoring on almost all types of network standards (ethernet, wlan, Bluetooth etc)
3. It is open-source with a large community of backers and developers.
4. All the necessary components for monitoring, analysing and documenting the network traffic are present. It is free to use.

The basic features of Wireshark are:

Packet Monitor: This segment visually shows the packets flowing inside the network. There are color codes for each type of packet. The packets are shown with the following information:

1. Source address
2. Destination address
3. Packet type
4. Hex dump of the packet
5. Contents of the packet in text
6. Source port(if applicable)
7. Destination port(if applicable)

Wireshark installation:

Windows:

- You can do a proper installation or run Wireshark as a portable app on your windows system. To download the installation executable or the portable app go to [Wireshark Downloads](#)
- Run the executable and follow on-screen instructions to complete the installation.

What is Sniffing?

Sniffing is a process of monitoring and capturing all data packets passing through given network. Sniffers are used by network/system administrator to monitor and troubleshoot network traffic. Attackers use sniffers to capture data packets containing sensitive information such as password, account information etc. Sniffers can be hardware or software installed in the system. By placing a packet sniffer on a network in promiscuous mode, a malicious intruder can capture and analyze all of the network traffic.

There are two types:

Active Sniffing:

Sniffing in the switch is active sniffing. A switch is a point to point network device. The switch regulates the flow of data between its ports by actively monitoring the MAC address on each port, which helps it pass data only to its intended target. In order to capture the traffic between target sniffers has to actively inject traffic into the LAN to enable sniffing of the traffic. This can be done in various ways.

Passive Sniffing:

This is the process of sniffing through the hub. Any traffic that is passing through the non-switched or unbridged network segment can be seen by all machines on that segment. Sniffers operate at the data link layer of the network. Any data sent across the LAN is actually sent to each and every machine connected to the LAN. This is called passive since sniffers placed by the attackers passively wait for the data to be sent and capture them.

Steps:

1. Install Wireshark

1. Download Wireshark from <https://www.wireshark.org/download.html>.
2. Install the software along with **Npcap** (Windows) or the required capture libraries for Linux/Mac.
3. Launch Wireshark from your Start Menu or Applications folder.

2. Select a Network Interface

1. On the Wireshark home screen, you will see a list of network interfaces (e.g., Wi-Fi, Ethernet).
2. Choose the interface you want to monitor (usually the one with active traffic).
3. Double-click the interface name to start capturing packets.

3. Start Capturing Packets

1. Once the capture starts, Wireshark will display packets in real-time.
2. Each packet is shown with:
 - **Time**
 - **Source and Destination IP addresses**
 - **Protocol**

- **Packet Info**

4. Apply Display Filters

To focus on specific types of traffic, enter filters in the **Display Filter** bar:

- http → Show only HTTP traffic.
- tcp.port == 443 → Show HTTPS traffic.
- ip.addr == 192.168.1.1 → Show traffic for a specific IP.

5. Analyze Packet Details

1. Click on any packet to see details in the **Packet Details** pane.
2. Expand sections to view protocol layers (Ethernet, IP, TCP/UDP, HTTP, etc.).
3. Identify important fields like HTTP requests, DNS queries, and TCP handshake steps.

6. Stop and Save Capture

1. Click the **red square Stop button** in the toolbar to stop capturing.
2. Go to **File → Save As**.
3. Save the file with a .pcapng extension for later analysis.

7. Optional: Export Specific Packets

- Use **File → Export Specified Packets** to save only selected traffic.
- Useful for sharing examples without giving away sensitive information.



