



## EVALUATION OF FUTURE PERSPECTIVES ON SNORT AND WIRESHARK AS TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR INTRUSION DETECTION SYSTEM

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### ABSTRACT

The increasing reliance on inter-organizational information exchange has raised significant concerns about the security of data and network infrastructures. Network monitoring plays a crucial role in mitigating these concerns, with tools like Wireshark and Snort forming the backbone of Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS). Initially developed as a packet inspection application, Wireshark is widely regarded for its user-friendly interface and intuitive packet-enhancement features, making it effective for classifying various types of network traffic. This research explores the practical application of Wireshark for network investigation, evaluating its role in conjunction with Snort to enhance IDS capabilities. The study examines potential improvements in these tools for heightened network security and their adaptability to emerging cyber threats. An experiment was conducted to assess the effectiveness of intrusion detection through real-time packet analysis, demonstrating the reliability of intrusive packet authentication within network environments. Wireshark was employed for real-time traffic inspection, capturing and analyzing packets, while Snort was used as the primary tool for detecting intrusions. The integration of Syslog and Snort facilitates the exchange of critical intrusion-related data, including packet counts, analysis of IPv4 packet conversations, and expert data on suspicious traffic. This study also focuses on the analysis of RSA-encrypted traffic and the evaluation of Local Area Networks (LAN) for signs of intrusion. Further, Wireshark's capabilities in monitoring and analyzing network activity were used to inspect TCP flags, generate I/O graphs for transmitted packet data, and produce TCP stream flow graphs for detecting intrusions. Additionally, the study includes TLS handshake analysis to identify abnormal or malicious network behavior. The use of ping requests from the attacker's IP address to the victim's IP address is highlighted as a method for detecting ongoing malicious activity. Through packet analysis, network traffic is classified as either malformed or well-formed, aiding in the identification of security breaches. Wireshark's in-depth packet inspection enables the detection of unauthorized access from both secure and insecure devices. This research not only explores Wireshark's utility in network intrusion detection but also evaluates emerging trends and challenges associated with IDS technologies. The findings contribute valuable insights for advancing future IDS research, particularly in adapting to the evolving landscape of network security threats. This technical evaluation highlights the importance of continuous development in tools like Wireshark and Snort to keep pace with the dynamic nature of cyberattacks, ensuring robust defense mechanisms for secure data transmission and network integrity.

### Keywords:

IDS, Wireshark, Snort, Packet Analysis, Protocol Hierarchy, Event Log Analyzer, Malformed Packet.

### 1. Introduction

Wireshark, originally launched by Gerald Combez in 1997 under the name Ethereal, was designed as a comprehensive network packet analysis tool. The first official version, 0.2.0, was released in July 1998. After a decade of ongoing development, Wireshark 1.0 was introduced in 2008, marking its first full release. This release coincided with the inaugural Sharkfest, a conference for Wireshark developers and users. In 2015, Wireshark 2.0 introduced a modernized user interface, improving usability. Wireshark version 2.2.9, released on May 11, 2023, included significant GUI updates and support for Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6). The most recent version before Wireshark 4.4.1 was

4.4.0, launched on August 29, 2024. Wireshark 4.4.1, released on October 9, 2024, is the latest stable version and includes advanced features surpassing prior releases. The rise in internet usage has increased security risks such as unauthorized data access, network integrity compromises, and confidentiality breaches. To mitigate these risks, organizations use firewalls, antivirus software, and Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS). Network-based IDS (NIDS) monitor network traffic for potential threats, while Host-based IDS (HIDS) safeguard individual devices. With the increasing sophistication of cyberattacks, tools like Snort, an open-source IDS, are essential for identifying and mitigating intrusions. Snort performs real-time packet analysis and uses a signature-based detection method to identify known threats. It also generates logs and alerts for suspicious activities. Complementary tools like Wireshark offer in-depth traffic analysis, making them invaluable for detecting vulnerabilities and analyzing attack patterns. As cyber threats evolve, the continuous development of IDS tools is critical to maintaining robust and scalable network defenses, ensuring organizations can proactively prevent potential breaches and secure sensitive data.

Snort-IDS uses predefined rules for data packet traffic and generates alerts when a packet matches these rules. It is effective against various types of attacks, enabling content searching and protocol analysis. Snort functions by sniffing network packets and comparing each packet with its rule set to detect malicious activity. The increased use of mobile devices has intensified the need for research in security, particularly concerning the unauthorized entry of malicious users or dangerous data packets. Data packets, the core units of communication systems, are crucial for network security as they facilitate data flow between devices, including the hardware address and protocols. Packet sniffing identifies suspicious packets by examining their contents, focusing on the data segment, logging the information, and analyzing the data as depicted in Figure 1. A packet analyzer intercepts and decodes data from a network, ensuring its integrity and compliance with security protocols.

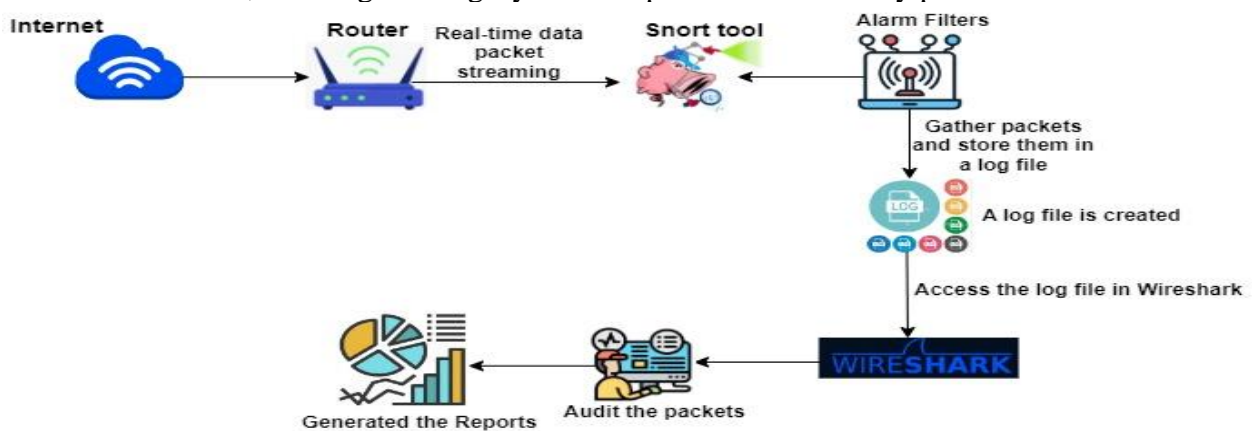


Figure 1: The design of the Snort tool and the Wireshark-based evaluation of the network process  
Figure 1 appears to illustrate the working process of a network monitoring and intrusion detection system utilizing tools like Snort and Wireshark. Here's an outline of the key concepts presented:

- **Internet to Router:** The data flow begins from the internet, where network traffic is streamed in real-time via the router. The router serves as the first checkpoint where data packets pass through.
- **Snort Tool:** After data is routed, the Snort tool captures and analyzes this traffic. Snort is a network intrusion detection system (NIDS) that monitors traffic for suspicious patterns and potential threats.
- **Alarm Filters:** Snort then filters alarms based on predefined rules or patterns. This step is critical for identifying potentially malicious activities from legitimate traffic.
- **Packet Logging:** Once alarms are triggered, relevant packets are gathered and stored in a log file for further inspection. This log file keeps a record of all suspicious or anomalous activity.

➤ **Wireshark Access:** The log file created by Snort is then accessed using Wireshark, which is a tool for deep packet analysis. Wireshark helps to examine the contents of network packets in more detail, aiding in the forensic investigation.

➤ **Audit and Reporting:** After packets are examined, the auditing phase begins, where security experts review the findings. Reports are then generated based on the analysis, providing insights into the network's security and potential vulnerabilities.

This process outlines the systematic approach to monitoring, capturing, analyzing, and reporting network traffic for intrusion detection and cybersecurity.

### 1.1 Intro. for Intrusion Detection System

An Intrusion Detection System (IDS) is a tool designed to monitor network and system traffic for suspicious activity or security breaches. It analyzes data to detect unauthorized access, abnormal behavior, or deviations from expected patterns. When a threat is identified, the IDS generates logs and alerts for administrators to investigate, as depicted in Figure 2. There are two primary types: signature-based IDS, which compares traffic against a database of known threat patterns, and anomaly-based IDS, which identifies deviations from normal behavior to detect unknown threats. While signature-based IDS is effective for known attacks, anomaly-based IDS can detect new threats but may produce more false positives [1].

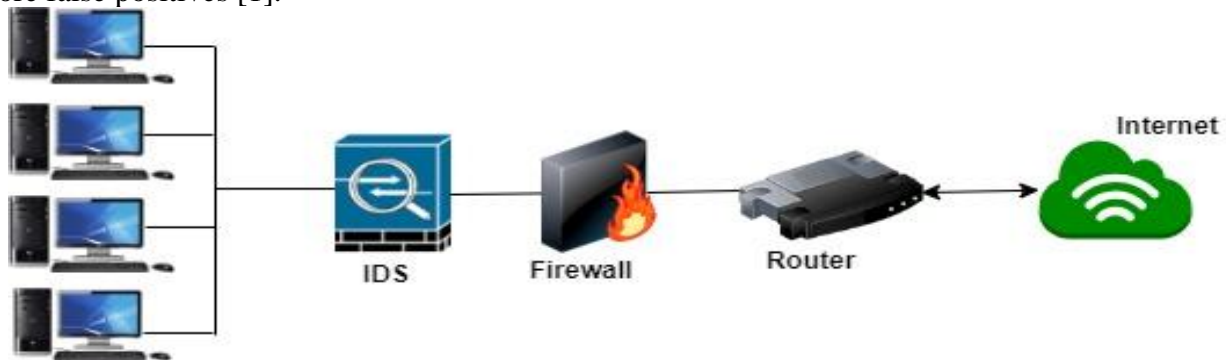


Figure 2: Intrusion Detection System

#### Local Computers (Hosts)

Figure 2, depicts a network architecture focused on intrusion detection and security, showing the interaction between several components of a secure network. Here's an outline of the key concepts presented.

➤ **Local Computers (Hosts):** Multiple computers within a local network are connected to the infrastructure. These endpoints represent the internal devices that send and receive data through the network.

➤ **Intrusion Detection System (IDS):** The traffic from the computers is monitored by the IDS, which scans for malicious activity or violations of security policies. The IDS is responsible for identifying possible security threats by analyzing data packets as they flow through the network.

➤ **Firewall:** After the IDS, traffic passes through a firewall, which acts as a barrier between the internal network and external networks. The firewall enforces security rules by blocking or permitting network traffic based on predefined policies, providing a layer of defense against unauthorized access.

➤ **Router:** The router directs traffic between the internal network and the external internet. It handles the routing of data packets, ensuring that information from internal computers is sent to its appropriate destination on the internet, and vice versa.

➤ **Internet Connection:** The internet represents the external network, where data exchanges take place beyond the organization's boundaries. It is the entry point for potential threats, which the IDS and firewall work to mitigate.

This network layout shows the sequence of security mechanisms—from intrusion detection to firewall enforcement—that protect a local network as data flows between internal computers and the broader

internet. It highlights how an IDS works in tandem with a firewall to monitor and control traffic, ensuring that only legitimate data passes through the network.

## 1.2 Types of IDS

**Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS):** A NIDS is designed to monitor and analyze network traffic for signs of malicious activity. It evaluates both connection-oriented (TCP) and connectionless (UDP) traffic to detect unauthorized access or suspicious behavior across the network. By examining packets flowing through the network in real-time, NIDS can identify potential threats and alert administrators to any anomalies or security breaches. This proactive monitoring helps organizations respond quickly to emerging threats and maintain the integrity of their network environments.

**Host-Based Intrusion Detection System (HIDS):** A HIDS operates by monitoring specific host machines. It tracks activities such as file changes, system logs, and other key indicators of potential breaches on individual devices. This system provides protection by focusing on anomalies and unauthorized actions occurring on a single host.



Figure 3: A general Overview of NIDS and HIDS

Figure 3 represents a network security architecture that combines both Network Intrusion Detection Systems (NIDS) and Host-Based Intrusion Detection Systems (HIDS) to secure different layers of the network. Here's an outline of the key concepts presented.

- **Internet to Firewall:** Data from the internet enters the network, passing first through the firewall, which is configured to block or allow traffic based on predefined security rules. The firewall acts as the first line of defense against unauthorized access.
- **NIDS (Network Intrusion Detection System):** Positioned after the firewall, the NIDS monitors all incoming and outgoing network traffic. It scans packets for suspicious behavior, allowing early detection of potential threats before they reach internal servers. NIDS primarily focuses on detecting anomalies across the network as a whole, making it suitable for broader network-level monitoring.
- **Router:** After the traffic is filtered by the firewall and analyzed by the NIDS, it reaches the router. The router is responsible for directing network traffic to the correct destination within the local network.
- **Servers with HIDS (Host-Based Intrusion Detection System):**
  - Each server in the internal network (Server 1, Server 2, Server 3) is equipped with a HIDS.
  - HIDS works at the host level, monitoring activities like file system modifications, process behavior, and logs for any signs of malicious activity. HIDS provides more granular control by focusing on potential intrusions specific to the host it is installed on.
  - This host-based protection layer complements the broader network-level protection offered by the NIDS.

## 2. Literature survey

In [2], the author presented the properties of Snort, a Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS) that detects intrusions using predefined rules and notifies users through alert messages. Snort generates log files that can be exported to Wireshark for further analysis. Wireshark provides detailed information about network packets, Ethernet frames, and protocols, and includes an I/O graph that summarizes packet flow and provides expert insights into network activity.



In [3], the author demonstrated Wireshark's effectiveness as a network sniffing tool, particularly in detecting malicious packets. Through experimentation on a live network, Wireshark was identified as a strong candidate for further development into a reliable intrusion detection system. The paper emphasizes Wireshark's flexibility as an open-source tool, enabling developers to integrate intrusion detection functionalities. Additionally, the authors noted that Wireshark is a powerful instrument for handling and interpreting packet data, primarily utilized for Access Control List (ACL) filtering in this study. Its various filtering options, including substring, packet size, and protocol filtering, further enhance its potential as an intrusion detection tool.

In [4], the author implements live network traffic recording, utilizing Wireshark and Snort for in-depth packet analysis. While Wireshark provides detailed visibility into network traffic, it does not trigger alarms or security measures against unauthorized access. In contrast, Snort actively prevents intrusions and generates alerts for unusual activity. The analysis includes file graphs that offer insights into network dynamics and potential issues, highlighting the complementary roles of both tools in enhancing network security.

In [5], the author implemented Wireshark for network protocol analysis and identified various attacks, including port inspection, ICMP attacks, hidden FTP channels, and BitTorrent services. The study highlighted how Wireshark's packet analysis uncovers multiple security threats present in networked computer systems.

In [6], the author proposed a technique to evaluate the effectiveness and precision of distributed denial of service (DDoS) attacks through TCP flooding. The study examines key factors that influence Snort's detection capabilities and suggests improvements to enhance the Intrusion Detection System (IDS). It demonstrates that upgraded tools can significantly improve Snort's efficiency in handling such attacks.

In [7], the authors conducted a comprehensive network protocol analysis to gather data for technical packet analysis, focusing on security, network sniffing, and protocol analysis to identify network attacks.

In [8], the author explores the significance of intrusion detection systems (IDS) in today's corporate environment, focusing on their lifecycles, domains, attack types, and various tool types. The article emphasizes the necessity for network users to adopt security precautions and outlines the distinct phases in the IDS lifecycle. Additionally, it discusses the application of selective feedback methods in data mining algorithms for recognition and classification systems, aiming to enhance classification accuracy continuously.

This research project [9] simulates a ping flood scenario by executing the ping command on the operating system while simultaneously running Wireshark on the target system. Analyzing acknowledged ping packets over time aids in detecting flooding attacks; however, Wireshark's one-port reception can lead to inaccuracies in handling requests. The paper discusses Wireshark's functionality, drawbacks, and potential improvements. It emphasizes Wireshark's utility for network administrators, particularly in tracing back attacks, as attackers often use zombie machines in denial-of-service attacks. Wireshark employs ICMP to trace packet paths, generates alerts when multiple packets arrive from the same source, and uses a packet marking algorithm based on unique identifiers and receipt times, functioning effectively as an intrusion detection system.

In [10], the signature-based approach is highlighted as an effective method for identifying threats in intrusion detection systems (IDS). The free SNORT program can implement this technique, utilizing rules to detect various types of attacks. The study tested alerting mechanisms using the MIT-DARPA 1999 dataset, which comprises 1,252,412 packets, focusing on DoS attacks and network scanning. The IDS achieved an accuracy of 98.10% with a true positive rate of 100%.

This work [11] aims to enhance Snort IDS efficiency by designing and implementing a real-time intrusion detection system. The system utilizes pre-built and customizable rules to prevent potential attacks on network systems. The article discusses installation, components, features, and products that integrate with Snort. The author tested Snort alert interpretation on Kali Linux, intending to incorporate the proposed design into Snort for improved detection efficiency and reduced false alerts.

This work [12] focuses on network monitoring, identifying network attack types, and utilizing software tools to protect communication networks. Network security is a top priority for companies, which employ firewalls, VPNs, and encryption techniques. Despite these measures, hackers can still breach networks, making network monitoring tools like Wireshark and Snort essential for detecting potential intrusions through graphical analysis of network activity. The network infrastructure is improving security and performance through monitoring with Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) and Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS). Wireshark and Snort are effective tools for intrusion detection, offering features such as color rules, expert information, network monitoring, and firewall Access Control List (ACL) rules. Snort also allows for security policy modifications based on specific requirements.

The authors [13] discuss the use of real-time and offline data mining in Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS), emphasizing the importance of offline data analysis for successful detection tasks. They explore detection rule analysis to transfer logs from remote sites to a centralized system for evaluation. Additionally, they propose innovative methods for network anomaly detection using packet header values in real-time data mining analysis within IDS.

Sourcefire developed Snort, an open-source network intrusion prevention and detection system (IPS/IDS) that combines signature, protocol, and anomaly-based inspection. It is the most widely used IPS/IDS technology globally, primarily relying on these detection methods. Snort compares network traffic signatures with predefined entries in its library, ensuring a secure and efficient network [14]. However, Snort has limitations; while signature-based detection enhances performance by matching patterns, it cannot identify new attack types that are not included in its database.

Intrusions threaten the availability, confidentiality, and integrity of computing or networking resources. An Intrusion Detection System (IDS) detects and reports these intrusions to an administrator, while an Intrusion Prevention System (IPS) not only detects but also prevents intrusions. Both IDS and IPS are designed to address gaps left by firewalls [15], with IDS primarily focused on identifying threats within a network.

According to the authors [16], network process monitoring is increasingly recognized as a crucial tool for enhancing cyber infrastructure security. It utilizes stateful and pattern matching to detect intruders, and IDS techniques should be affordable, workable, and commercially viable. A combination of IDS and IPS provides layered security, reducing risks if the IPS fails to stop an intrusion. IDS technology offers visibility and benefits related to network monitoring, enabling informed decision-making and the creation of security policies based on measurable data, as noted by the author [17]. Effective security combines visibility and control, allowing for data storage for later analysis and real-time monitoring of network activity.

Traditional intrusion detection methods have limitations; however, data mining and network behavior analysis (NBA) can enhance the effectiveness of detecting intrusions, according to the author [18]. Two types of intrusion detection systems (IDS) are misuse detection systems and anomaly detection systems. Misuse detection involves maintaining a database of known intrusion signatures, alerting security analysts when user behavior matches these stored patterns, which informs their response based on the attack's nature. In contrast, anomaly detection identifies unusual intrusions by creating profiles of typical network behavior and flagging patterns that significantly deviate from these profiles.

Wireshark is a widely used network protocol analyzer that provides detailed insights into network activity. Although it is classified as an intrusion detection tool, it is not an actual intrusion detection or prevention system. The expert information noted by the authors [19] serves as a log of the anomalies Wireshark identifies in captured network data.

Expert reports in Wireshark include conversations (grey), remarks (cyan), alerts (yellow), and errors (red), as shown in Figure 20. Intrusion detection is possible in the conversation section by analyzing SYN, SYN+ACK, and ACK messages in TCP connections. To identify the origin IP of a DoS attack, examine the chat section and utilize Firewall ACL rules. The flow graph section illustrates communication between distinct IPs. If a TCP flow graph displays only SYN messages, this indicates a DoS attack. Identifying intrusions also involves analyzing the conversation section in Figure 29,

which shows traffic between specific endpoints, capturing all communication between two IP addresses.

Network monitoring is the most effective way to prevent intrusions. The authors [20] cover various software tools useful for monitoring network activities, including RRDTOOL, Kiwi Syslog, Splunk, Nagios, RANCID, SNORT, NFDUMP/NFSEN, SmokePing, Munin, NetDisco, WhatsUp Gold, ZABBIX, NAV, NetXMS, ZENOSS, AirWave, Cisco WCS, 7Signal Sapphire, Big Sister, Cacti, Cricket, and MRTG. Additionally, open-source intrusion detection tools like SURICATA, Bro, KISMET, OSSEC, Samhain, and Open DLP are also effective for enhancing network security.

### 3. IDS Architecture

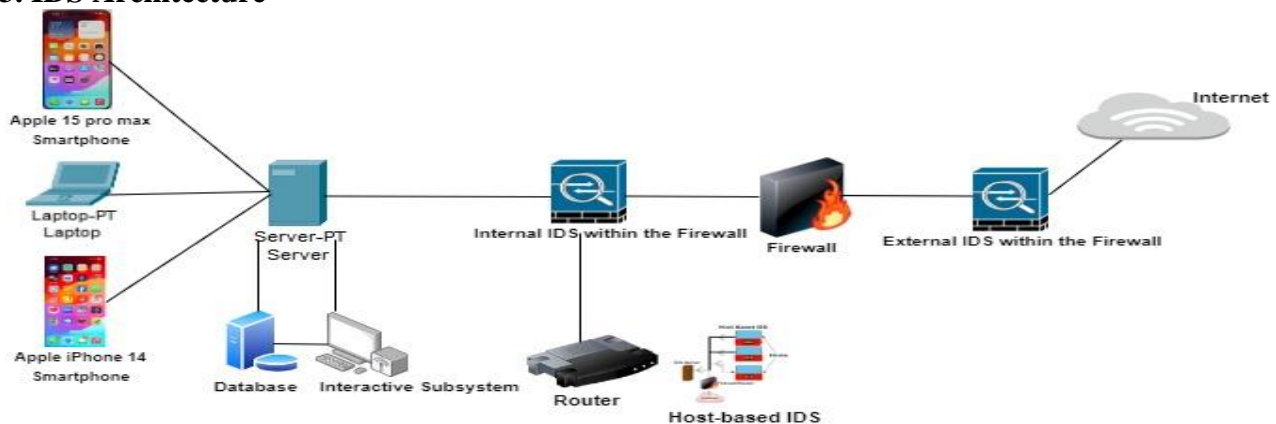


Figure 4: Architecture of an IDS

Figure 4 illustrates a network security architecture featuring various components. Two smartphones (Apple iPhone 15 Pro Max and iPhone 14) and a laptop connect to a server, which is linked to a database and interactive subsystem. The server is connected to internal and external intrusion detection systems (IDS), separated by a firewall. A host-based IDS monitors specific system activities. A router provides a link to the external network. The system is protected by both internal and external IDS to monitor traffic within and outside the firewall, ensuring security.

### 4. Intrusion Detection Utilizing Network Monitoring Tools for Enhanced Security

In this research, we utilize Snort and Wireshark to detect intrusions. A brief overview of each tool is provided below, as shown in Figure 8. Wireshark is a widely used open-source network packet analyzer that captures and examines data packets, making it valuable for network troubleshooting, security analysis, and understanding protocol operations [20]. Snort, a powerful security application, functions as a Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS), packet sniffer, and packet logger. Additionally, Snort supports various add-on tools for log management, rule set maintenance, and alerting, enhancing its capability as a critical component in an organization's security infrastructure [21].

#### 4.1 Practical Approach to Intrusion Detection Using Wireshark

Wireshark is a highly adaptable network protocol analyzer that can be configured to operate as an Intrusion Detection System (IDS). Users can customize various features, including coloring rules, to highlight common packet anomalies such as malformed packets and checksum errors, as illustrated in Figure 20.

This adaptability significantly enhances its effectiveness in detecting potential security threats and network irregularities. In addition to its analysis capabilities, Wireshark provides intrusion detection features, including the ability to permit or block packets to specific IP addresses using its integrated firewall. It also offers detailed insights into malformed packets, assessing the severity of packet errors and providing packet counts. Graph analysis in Wireshark facilitates the identification of communication patterns between IP addresses. This feature allows users to visualize conversations,

displaying the volume of bytes and packets exchanged between systems. A surge in ping requests from a single IP address may signal a Denial of Service (DoS) or Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack.

#### 4.2 An Effective Approach to Intrusion Detection with Snort

To install and configure Snort on a Windows machine, download the software from the designated source and follow the provided installation instructions. The WinPcap software is necessary for packet capture interpretation. Once installation is complete, navigate to the specified folders, as shown in Figure 5. Snort is a lightweight intrusion detection tool that captures and analyzes network packets, comparing them against user-defined rules. When a match is detected, Snort generates alerts. These rules are stored in a text file associated with the snort.conf configuration file, which encompasses all Snort settings. A few command-line instructions are utilized to launch Snort and assess network activity.

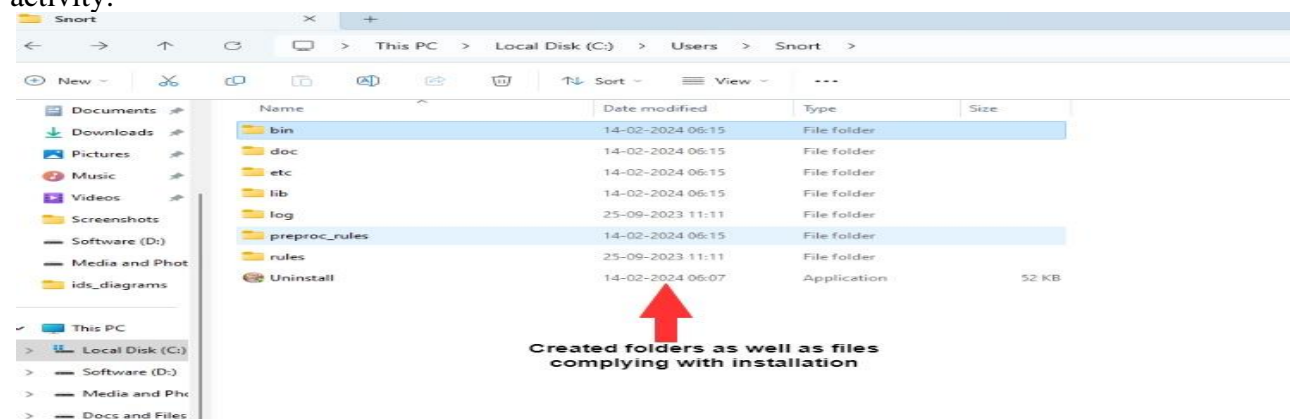


Figure 5: An Effective Method for Detecting Intrusions Using Snort

### 5. Methodology and experimental analysis

This section details the necessary hardware and software configurations for conducting experiments and evaluates the reports generated by the Wireshark tool in the context of intrusion detection. The experiments are performed on a Kali Linux environment, utilizing VMware Workstation in conjunction with a Windows 11 host system. Additionally, the draw.io application is employed to create visual representations and tactical diagrams for the evaluation procedures related to the detection mechanism. A typical Intrusion Detection System (IDS) is classified as a Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS). NIDS operates across all layers of the OSI model, analyzing network traffic to ascertain its intended purpose and identifying anomalous behavior. These systems are designed for easy deployment throughout networks, allowing them to process and monitor traffic from multiple devices concurrently, as outlined in the functionality of the proposed system.

I. The client initiates a service request to the server, as illustrated in Figure 6-9. In response, the server processes the request and delivers the corresponding service to the client.

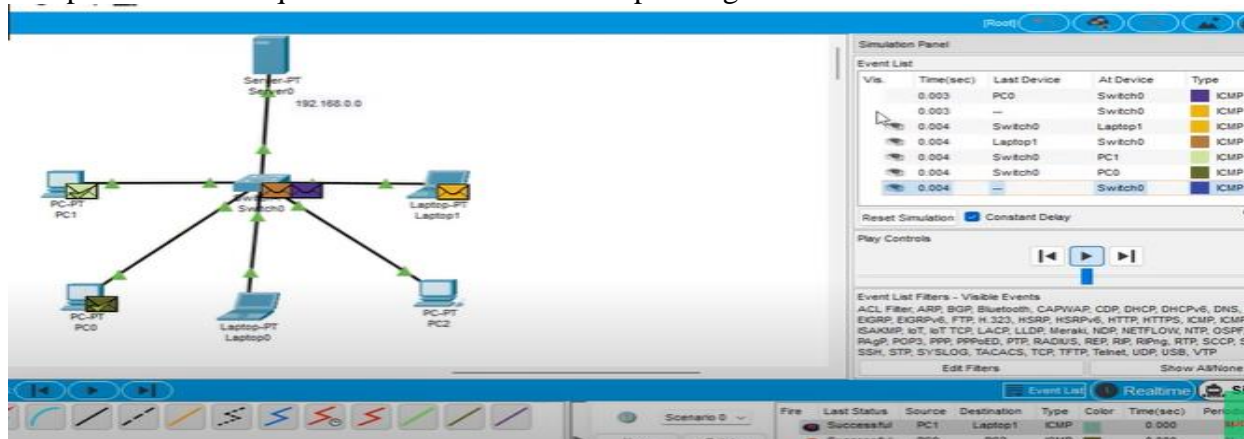


Figure 6: Configuration setup for packet transmission in response to a user service request from the UGC CARE Group-1



server.

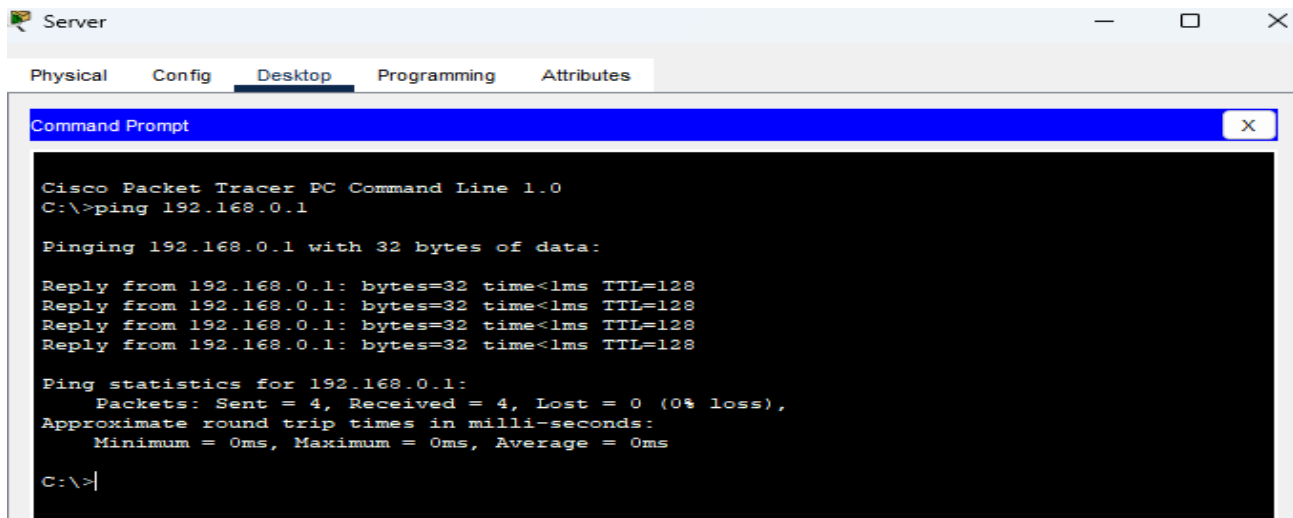


Figure 7: Checking the ping connection on the server

Figure 7 shows the verification of the server's connectivity through a ping test. This process involves sending Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) echo request packets from the client to the server and measuring the round-trip time for responses. A successful ping indicates that the server is reachable and operational, providing an essential diagnostic tool for assessing network connectivity and performance.

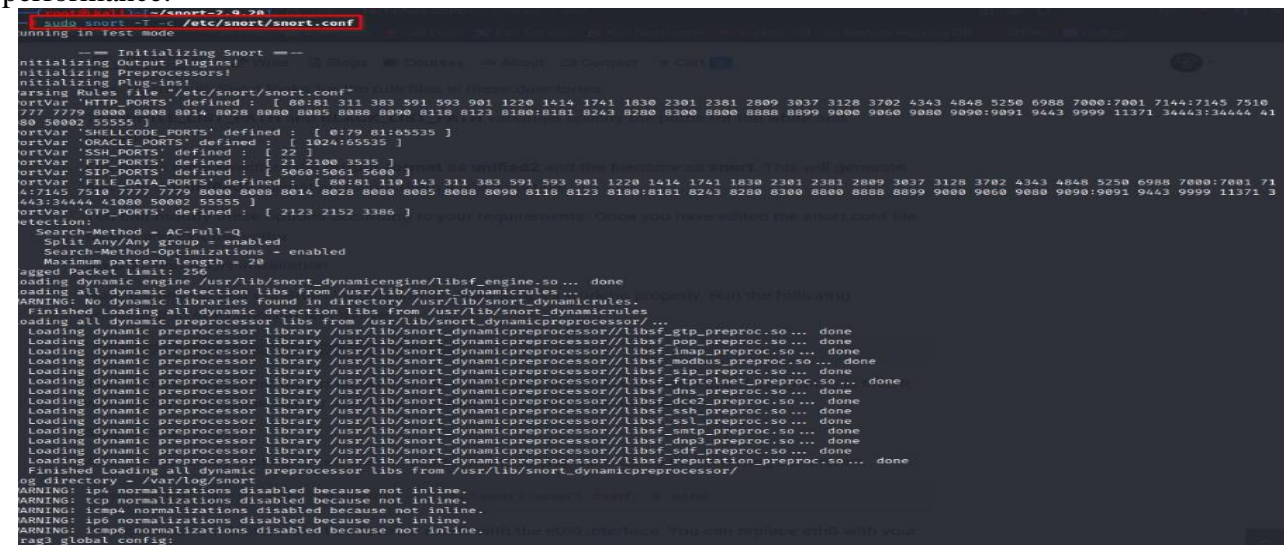


Figure 8: The computer program used for the intrusion detection systems using the command line

Figure 8 displays the Command-line interface (CLI) application employed for the configuration and management of intrusion detection systems (IDS). This program serves as a powerful tool for network administrators and security professionals, allowing them to monitor and analyze network traffic effectively. Through the CLI, users can execute various commands and scripts to configure the IDS settings, initiate real-time traffic analysis, and receive alerts on potential intrusions. Additionally, the CLI provides options for fine-tuning detection parameters, reviewing logs, and generating reports, facilitating a comprehensive approach to network security and anomaly detection.

```

C:\Windows\system32>cd ..
C:\Windows>cd snort
C:\snort>cd bin
C:\snort\bin>dir
Volume in drive C has no label.
Volume Serial Number is 2EED-708E

Directory of C:\snort\bin

25-06-2022  11:11    <DIR>
25-06-2022  11:11    <DIR>
20-04-2022  10:45      54,784  npptools.dll
20-04-2022  10:45     274,488  ntweb11b.dll
20-04-2022  10:45      36,948  Packet.dll
20-04-2022  10:45      94,288  pcap.dll
24-05-2022  10:21     1,559,552  snort.exe
20-04-2022  10:45      53,328  WanPacket.dll
20-04-2022  10:45     208,974  wpcap.dll
20-04-2022  10:45      79,728  zlib.dll
      s File(s)          2,356,000 bytes free
      2 Dir(s)          123,983,503,472 bytes free

C:\snort\bin>snort.exe

---== Initializing Snort ===
Initializing Output Plugins!
Pcap DAQ configured to passive.
The DAQ version does not support reload.
Acquiring network traffic from "\Device\NPF_{E5A662D7-AA38-4787-A549-B67BAACF3DF9}:".
Decoding Ethernet

---== Initialization Complete ---

--> Snort! <--
Version 2.9.15.1-WIN32 GRE (Build 15104)
By Martin Roesch & The Snort Team: http://www.snort.org/contact#team
Copyright (C) 2014-2019 Cisco and/or its affiliates. All rights reserved.
Copyright (C) 1998-2013 Sourcefire, Inc., et al.
Using PCRE version: 8.10 2010-06-25
Using ZLIB version: 1.2.3

Commencing packet processing (pid=4220)
  
```

Figure 9: Applying snort as a tool for intrusion

Figure 9 outlines Snort is a high-performance, open-source NIDS that inspects network packets in real-time. It uses rule-based signatures to detect anomalies, including buffer overflows, port scans, and protocol-based attacks. Snort operates in sniffing, logging, or intrusion detection modes, providing real-time alerts and comprehensive network security analysis.

II. Figure 10-11 Configuring the Event Log Forwarder Dashboard involves forwarding critical system logs for in-depth analysis. Logs are collected from endpoints, firewalls, or intrusion detection systems (like Snort), then forwarded to a centralized dashboard. By integrating Wireshark for packet capture and analysis, the system enables comprehensive monitoring of network activity, allowing for rapid identification and mitigation of potential intrusions.

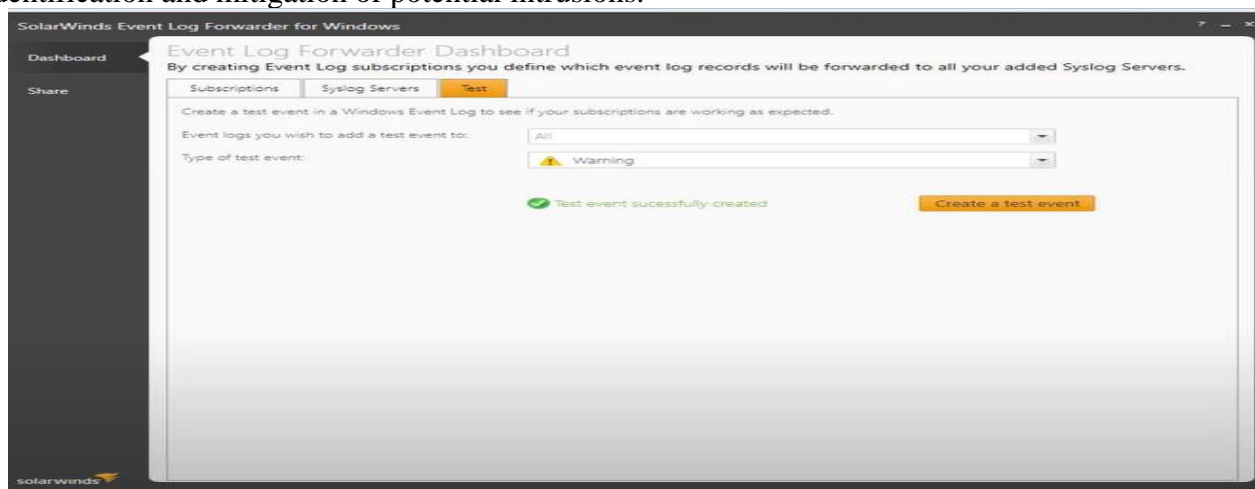
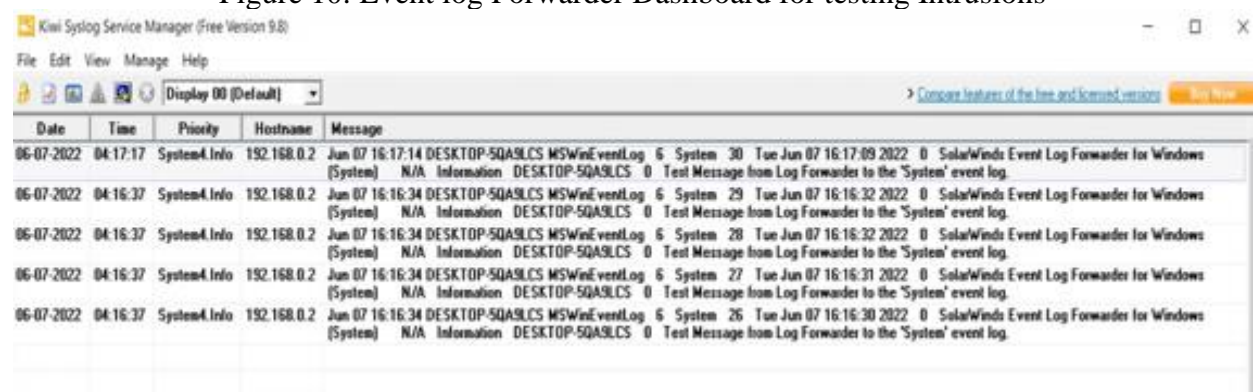


Figure 10: Event log Forwarder Dashboard for testing Intrusions



Date	Time	Priority	Hostname	Message
06-07-2022	04:17:17	System4 Info	192.168.0.2	Jun 07 16:17:14 DESKTOP-SQASLCS MSWinEventLog (System) N/A Information DESKTOP-SQASLCS 0 Test Message from Log Forwarder to the 'System' event log.
06-07-2022	04:16:37	System4 Info	192.168.0.2	Jun 07 16:16:34 DESKTOP-SQASLCS MSWinEventLog (System) N/A Information DESKTOP-SQASLCS 0 Test Message from Log Forwarder to the 'System' event log.
06-07-2022	04:16:37	System4 Info	192.168.0.2	Jun 07 16:16:34 DESKTOP-SQASLCS MSWinEventLog (System) N/A Information DESKTOP-SQASLCS 0 Test Message from Log Forwarder to the 'System' event log.
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06-07-2022	04:16:37	System4 Info	192.168.0.2	Jun 07 16:16:34 DESKTOP-SQASLCS MSWinEventLog (System) N/A Information DESKTOP-SQASLCS 0 Test Message from Log Forwarder to the 'System' event log.

Figure 11: The Syslog Server is utilizing Snort to exchange information about intrusions

In this setup, the Syslog server collects and processes intrusion data from Snort, a network intrusion detection system. Snort monitors network traffic and identifies potential threats, sending alerts to the Syslog server as depicted in Figure 11. The server consolidates these alerts with other system logs, allowing centralized monitoring, real-time analysis, and threat correlation for better network defense. The table 1 provides a detailed overview of the compatibility of various physical network interfaces across multiple operating systems, such as Linux, Windows, macOS, and Unix-based systems like FreeBSD, OpenBSD, and Solaris. Ethernet, a universally supported interface, is available on all platforms, reflecting its dominance in network communications. ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) support is mainly seen in Linux and Solaris, crucial for high-speed data transfer in broadband applications. CiscoHDLC, used for point-to-point WAN connections, shows broad support on Linux and BSD systems, while Frame Relay, designed for cost-efficient data transmission, has limited OS support. Technologies such as FDDI (Fiber Distributed Data Interface) and Token Ring, though legacy, maintain compatibility with Linux and certain Unix systems. PPP (Point-to-Point Protocol), critical for dial-up connections, is widely supported across Linux, macOS, and Windows. WLAN interfaces are well-integrated across most platforms, while Bluetooth and IrDA (Infrared Data Association) show narrower support, mainly within Linux-based systems. VLAN tagging, essential for virtual network segmentation, is consistently supported across most OS platforms.

Wireshark is a powerful tool that can efficiently capture and analyze network traffic from various platforms and network types in Table 1:

Physical Interface	AI X	FreeBS D	HP-U X	Iri x	Linu x	macO S	NetBS D	OpenBS D	Solari s	Tru6 4 UNI X	Windows
ATM	?	?	?	?	✓	✗	?	?	✓	?	?
Bluetooth	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
CiscoHDLC	?	✓	?	?	✓	?	✓	✓	?	?	?
Ethernet	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FDDI (Fiber Distributed Data Interface)	?	?	?	?	✓	✗	?	?	✓	?	?
Frame Relay	?	?	✗	✗	✓	✗	?	?	✗	✗	✗
IrDA (Infrared Data Association)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
PPP	?	?	?	?	✓	✓	?	?	✗	?	✓
TokenRing	✓	✓	?	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	?	✓
USB	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
WLAN	?	✓	?	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	?	?	✓
Loopback (virtual )	?	✓	✗	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	N/A (Not Applicable)
VLAN Tags (virtual)	✓	✓	✓	?	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Network different kinds that Wireshark endorses through multiple platforms in Table 1.

In the table, the symbols likely represent the following meanings:

- ✓ (Checkmark): The feature or physical interface is supported by the operating system.
- ✗ (Cross): The feature or physical interface is not supported by the operating system.

- **? (Question Mark):** Uncertainty or limited information on whether the feature or interface is supported by the operating system.
- **N/A (Not Applicable):** The feature or interface is not relevant or applicable to that operating system.

These symbols help quickly identify the compatibility of different network interfaces with various operating systems.

III. An Intrusion Detection System (IDS) monitors and analyzes network packets to identify suspicious activity and potential security breaches, as illustrated in Figures 12-15. By examining traffic patterns and detecting anomalies, the IDS plays a crucial role in enhancing network security, enabling timely alerts and responses to potential threats, thereby safeguarding the integrity of the network environment.

During the monitoring period, a notable event was observed where the IP address 192.168.128.27 (identified as the attacker) was sending an excessive volume of ICMP Echo Request packets (ping requests) to the target IP address 208.67.222.222 (the victim) as depicted in the Figure 13. This behavior suggests a potential Denial of Service (DoS) or Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack. Such a high frequency of requests can significantly impair the performance and responsiveness of the victim's system, as discussed in the subsequent sections.

```

PING 192.168.128.27 (192.168.128.27) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 192.168.128.27: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=1.22 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.128.27: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=1.18 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.128.27: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=1.10 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.128.27: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=1.15 ms

--- 192.168.128.27 ping statistics ---
4 packets transmitted, 4 received, 0% packet loss, time 3003ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 1.101/1.163/1.220/0.047 ms
  
```

Figure 12: Ping statistics for attacker and victim IP addresses

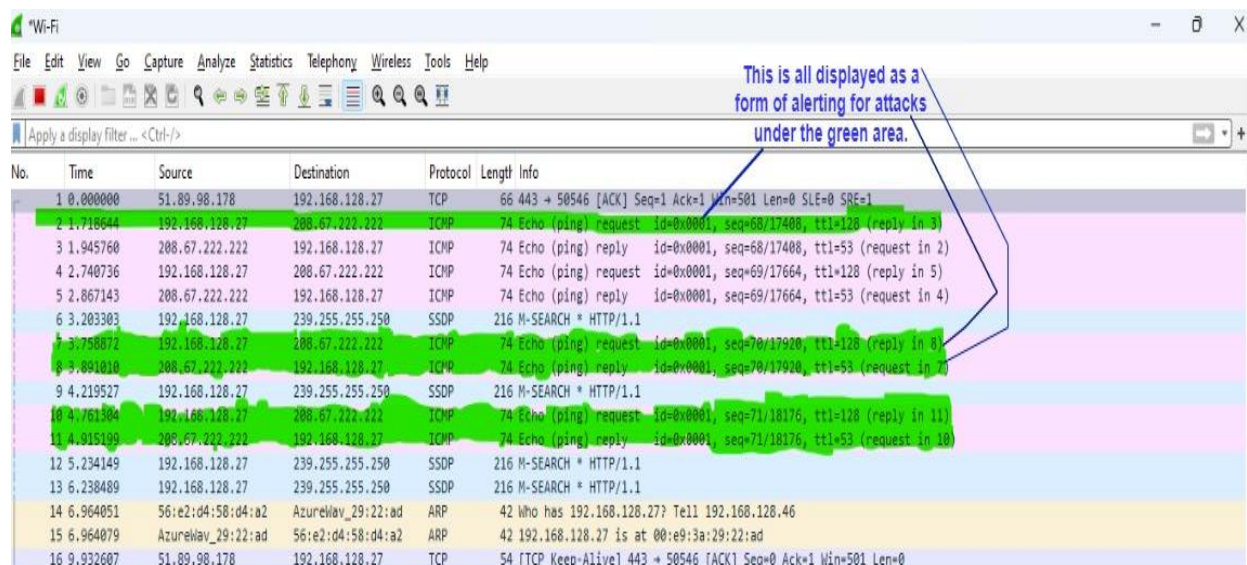




Figure 13: Ping requests are frequently sent to the victim's IP address 208.67.222.222 from the attacker's IP address 192.168.128.27

Figure 13 displays packet capture data showing network activity, highlighting a significant number of ICMP Echo Requests (ping requests) from the attacker (192.168.128.27) to the victim (208.67.222.222), indicative of a potential DoS or DDoS attack. The highlighted area signifies alerts for anomalous traffic patterns, allowing for rapid identification and response. Various protocols, including TCP and SSDP (Simple Service Discovery Protocol), are depicted, providing insights into the nature of the traffic and aiding in incident response efforts.

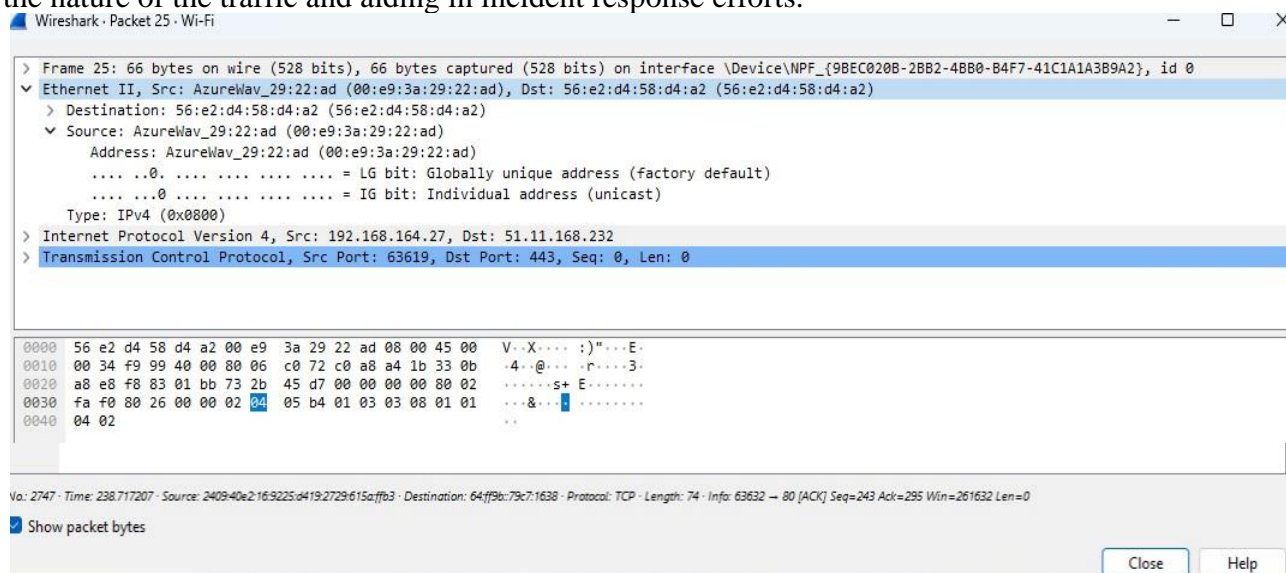


Figure 14: Evaluation of data transmitted and received over a computer network

Figure 14 shows the process or analysis of network data flow, focusing on the transmission and reception of data packets. Typically, such a figure would represent key metrics, such as the volume of data transmitted and received, packet types, protocols used (like TCP/UDP), and other performance indicators. This Wireshark capture shows a TCP packet with Ethernet II details. The source MAC is Azurewav\_29:22, and the destination MAC is 56:62:d4:58:d4:82. The IPv4 layer specifies source IP 192.168.164.27 and destination IP 51.11.168.232. The TCP layer reveals source port 65819 and destination port 443, indicating HTTPS communication.

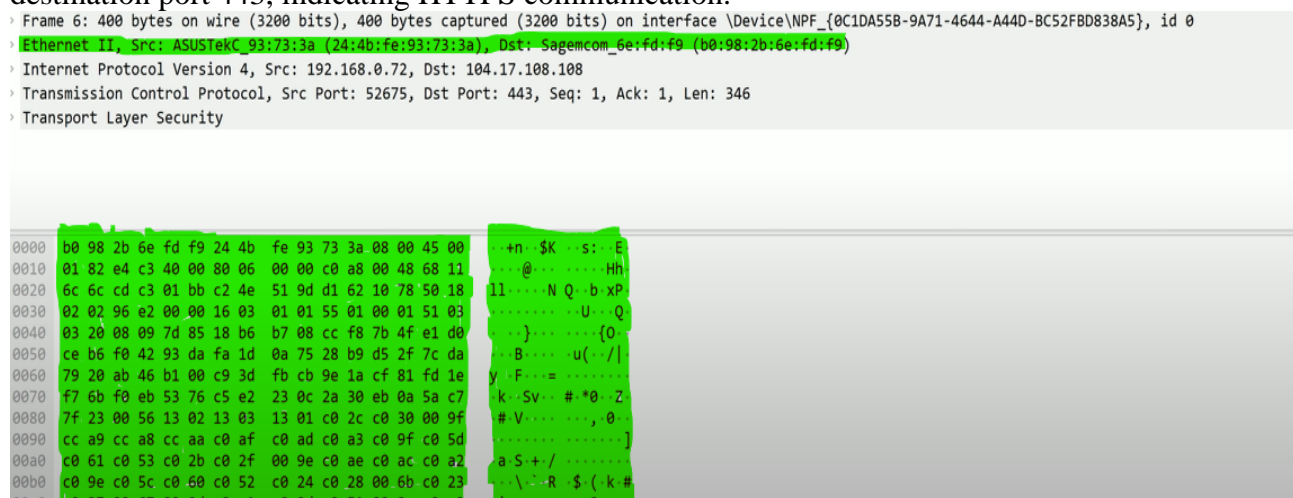


Figure 15: The Evaluation of a LAN network intrusion

Figure 15 presents an analysis of a Local Area Network (LAN) for potential intrusions. It showcases various traffic patterns, highlighting anomalies indicative of unauthorized access attempts or malicious activities. The evaluation includes metrics such as packet counts, connection attempts, and alert

triggers, providing insights into the network's security posture. By monitoring these parameters, network administrators can effectively identify vulnerabilities and respond to threats, enhancing the overall security and integrity of the LAN environment.

System operators receive alerts regarding suspicious events or attacks through an Intrusion Detection System (IDS), as illustrated in Figures 16-18. This system continuously monitors network traffic and analyzes data patterns to identify potential threats, enabling timely notification and response to incidents, thereby enhancing overall network security and integrity.

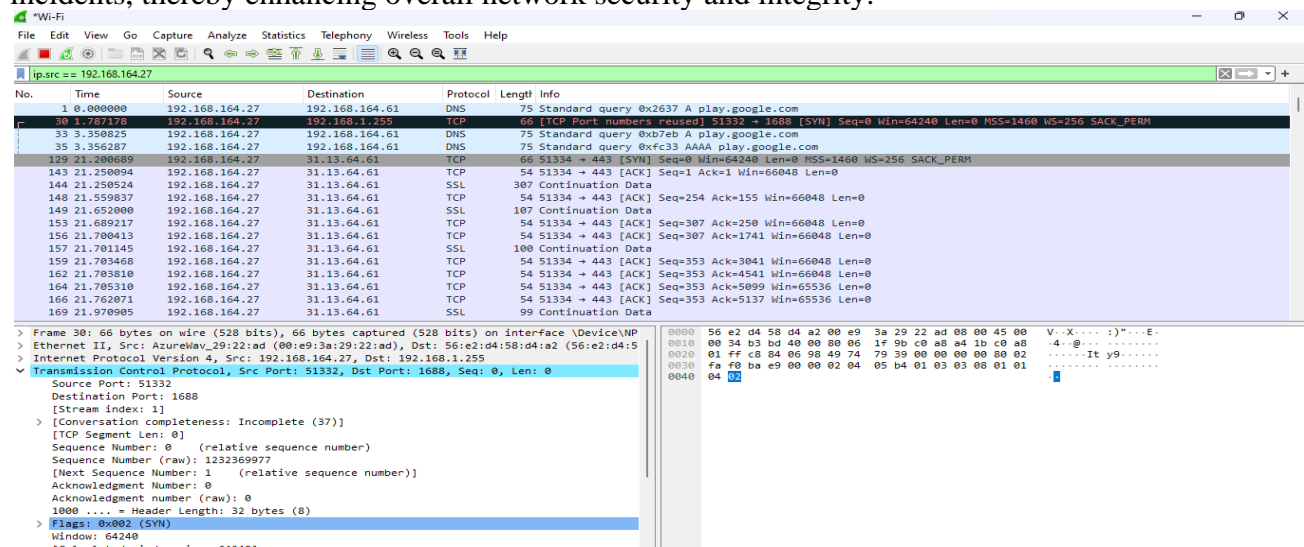


Figure 16: An overview of linked networks coupled with specific information regarding each protocol

Figure 16 provides a detailed overview of interconnected networks, highlighting the specific protocols employed across each link. It includes data on protocols such as TCP/IP, UDP, and HTTP, detailing their roles in data transmission, reliability, and session management. Additionally, the figure illustrates network topologies and the flow of information between nodes, offering insights into network architecture and communication efficiency. Understanding these protocols is crucial for optimizing performance and enhancing security measures within the network infrastructure.

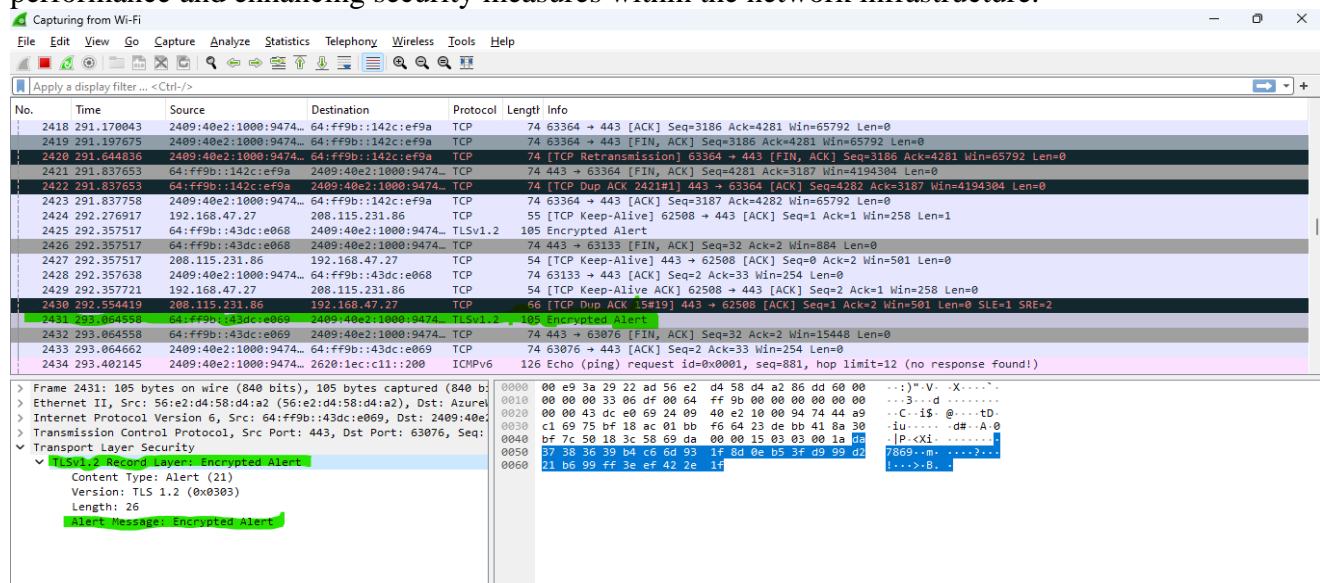


Figure 17: Monitoring data for Intrusion

Figure 17 showcases captured network traffic, highlighting interactions between various IP addresses and alerts for potential anomalies. Notably, Transport Layer Security (TLS) alerts indicate encrypted communications designed to safeguard data confidentiality. The displayed TCP protocol details

include flags that reveal connection states, while the hex view at the bottom provides a raw data representation of packet payloads, essential for in-depth analysis. This information is crucial for identifying suspicious activities and enhancing network security.

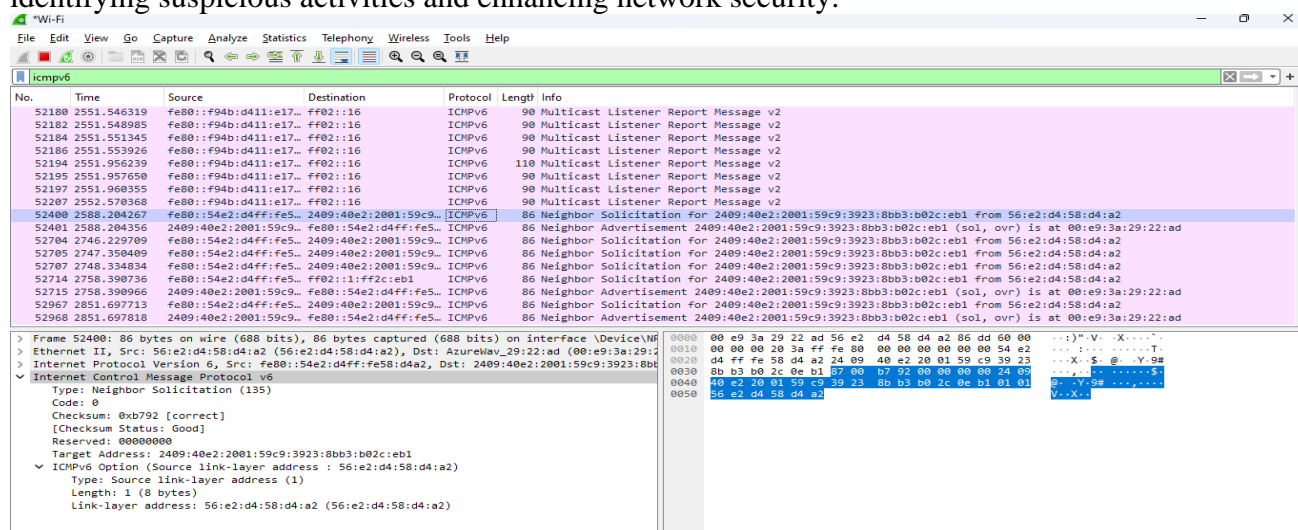


Figure 18: Evaluating network activity using Wireshark

Figure 18 illustrates the analysis of network activity captured by Wireshark, showcasing various protocols and traffic patterns. It highlights key metrics such as packet counts, response times, and connection statuses, providing detailed insights into network performance. This visual representation helps identify anomalies, potential bottlenecks, and security threats. By examining this data, network administrators can improve troubleshooting efforts, optimize performance, and strengthen overall network security to ensure robust communication.

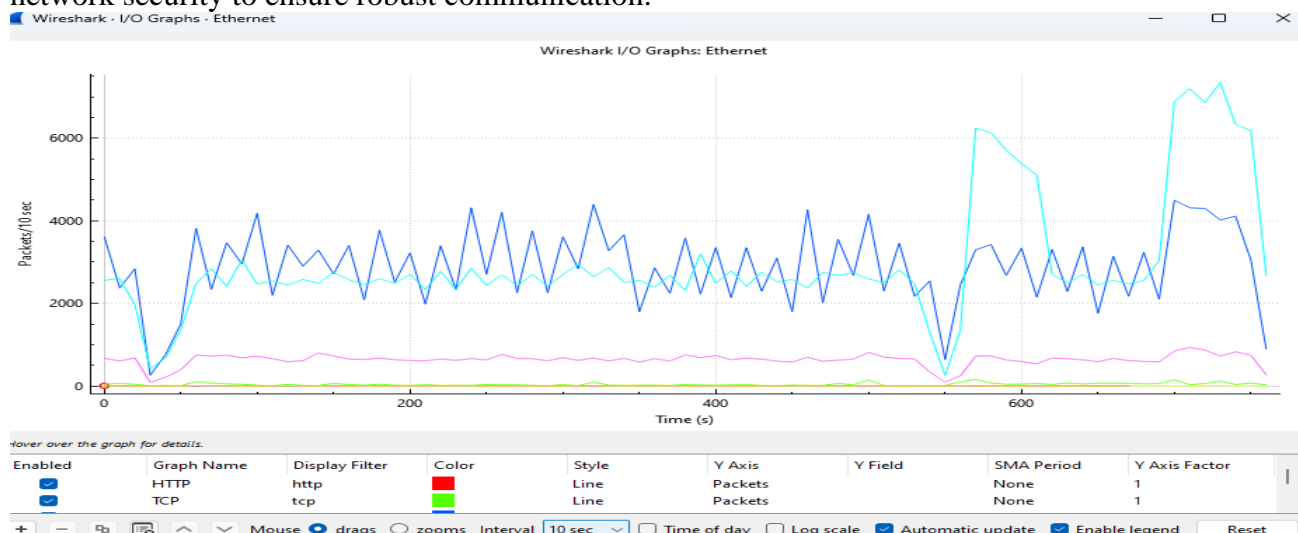


Figure 19: I/O graph of transmitted data packets that were captured

Figure 19 shows a Wireshark I/O Graph depicting network traffic over time, specifically for Ethernet traffic. It includes separate lines for different protocols like HTTP (in red), TCP (in green), and other unidentified protocols in blue. The Y-axis represents the packet rate (packets/sec), and the X-axis shows time in seconds. The graph tracks the packet volume over a set interval of 10 seconds. The visible spikes and dips indicate fluctuations in network activity, which may suggest moments of high traffic or potential network issues being analyzed.



Severity	Summary	Group	Protocol	Count
Error	Bad checksum	Checksum	HIP	
Error	Bad tag length	Malformed	IEEE 802.11	
Error	Invalid EHT Action field value	Protocol	IEEE 802.11	
Error	Malformed Packet (Exception occurred)	Malformed	CAPWAP-CON...	
Error	Malformed Packet (Exception occurred)	Malformed	IEEE 802.11	
Warning	Duplicate IP address configured	Sequence	ARP/RARP	
Warning	DNS query retransmission	Protocol	DNS	
Warning	This frame is a (suspected) out-of-order segment	Sequence	TCP	
Warning	Failed to decrypt handshake	Decryption	QUIC	
Warning	Unsupported address type	Malformed	Elasticsearch	
Warning	Connection reset (RST)	Sequence	TCP	
Warning	TLV has been deprecated	Protocol	LLDP	
Warning	Previous segment(s) not captured (common at capture start)	Sequence	TCP	
Warning	ACKed segment that wasn't captured (common at capture start)	Sequence	TCP	
Warning	WARNING: TLDs are rarely resolvable	Comment	DHCPv6	
Warning	DNS response retransmission	Protocol	mDNS	3
Warning	DNS query retransmission	Protocol	LLMNR	1
Warning	D-SACK Sequence	Sequence	TCP	
Warning	DNS query retransmission	Protocol	mDNS	11
Note	Extraneous data	Undecoded	mDNS	
Note	A new tcp session is started with the same ports as an earlier session in th...	Sequence	TCP	
Note	Time To Live	Sequence	IPv4	
Note	This frame is a (suspected) fast retransmission	Sequence	TCP	
Note	This QUIC frame has a reused stream offset (retransmission?)	Sequence	QUIC	
Note	ACK to a TCP keep-alive segment	Sequence	TCP	
Note	TCP keep-alive segment	Sequence	TCP	
Note	This frame undergoes the connection closing	Sequence	TCP	
Note	Seconds elapsed appears to be encoded as little-endian	Protocol	DHCP/BOOTP	
Note	Dissector for 802.11 IE Tag code not implemented, Contact Wireshark dev...	Undecoded	IEEE 802.11	
Note	This frame initiates the connection closing	Sequence	TCP	
Note	Retransmission (retr=)	Sequence	IEEE 802.11	

Figure 20: Expert information on captured data packets

Wireshark enhances the identification and troubleshooting of abnormal network behaviors by analyzing packet lists. It highlights suspicious packets, such as malformed ones, in red to indicate potential issues. Errors, including bad TCP packets, are flagged based on predefined coloring rules, improving visibility of protocol violations and assisting both novice and expert users in efficiently resolving network problems, as illustrated in Figure 20.

Wireshark is a network protocol analyzer designed to capture and inspect data packets traversing a network. While it cannot decrypt encrypted traffic natively, it can decrypt SSL/TLS traffic using RSA encryption if the server's private key is available. Although RSA is computationally intensive and not suitable for bulk data encryption, it is commonly used in digital signatures and key exchange mechanisms. Wireshark leverages this capability to analyze encrypted sessions, such as SSL/TLS, as shown in Figure 21.

The capture displays SSL/TLS traffic, highlighting TCP segments and handshake processes. Key details include the protocol, source, destination, and packet length. The lower window features an OCSP (Online Certificate Status Protocol) response, showing digital signature verification, responder ID, and key algorithms like SHA256WithRSAEncryption. This information indicates encrypted communication and the verification of certificate integrity during a secure session.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1358.	7987.298764	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	64:ff9b::2295:64d1	TCP	74	56612 → 443 [ACK] Seq=799 Ack=4140 Win=65024 Len=0
1358.	7987.298791	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	64:ff9b::2295:64d1	TLSv1.2	120	Application Data
1358.	7987.299111	64:ff9b::2278:d07b	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	TLSv1.3	1374	Server Hello, Change Cipher Spec
1358.	7987.300527	64:ff9b::2278:d07b	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	TCP	1374	443 → 56613 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1301 Ack=679 Win=67872 Len=1300 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
1358.	7987.300527	64:ff9b::2278:d07b	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	TLSv1.3	986	Application Data
1358.	7987.300609	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	64:ff9b::2278:d07b	TCP	74	56613 → 443 [ACK] Seq=679 Ack=3513 Win=66048 Len=0
1358.	7987.374709	64:ff9b::2295:64d1	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	TCP	74	443 → 56612 [ACK] Seq=4140 Ack=845 Win=68864 Len=0
1358.	7987.378512	64:ff9b::1983:264c	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	OCSP	811	Response
1358.	7987.432678	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	64:ff9b::1983:264c	TCP	74	56613 → 80 [ACK] Seq=853 Ack=1475 Win=66048 Len=0
1358.	7987.461585	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	64:ff9b::2278:d07b	TLSv1.3	138	Change Cipher Spec, Application Data
1358.	7987.462296	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	64:ff9b::2278:d07b	TLSv1.3	244	Application Data
1358.	7987.462356	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	64:ff9b::2278:d07b	TLSv1.3	488	Application Data
1358.	7987.462410	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	64:ff9b::2278:d07b	TLSv1.3	919	Application Data
1358.	7987.515553	64:ff9b::142a:415d	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	TCP	74	443 → 56604 [ACK] Seq=5258 Ack=17208 Win=4195072 Len=0
1358.	7987.519358	64:ff9b::142a:415d	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	TCP	74	443 → 56604 [ACK] Seq=5258 Ack=19808 Win=4195072 Len=0
1358.	7987.519358	64:ff9b::2278:d07b	2409:40e2:16:75ac:a...	TLSv1.3	660	Application Data, Application Data

Figure 21: Analyzing RSA-Encrypted Traffic with Wireshark Capture

The Wireshark protocol hierarchy statistics display an analysis of various network protocols, including Ethernet, IPv6, UDP, TCP, and application-layer protocols like TLS and OCSP. It provides insights



into the percentage of packets, bytes, and bit rates handled by each protocol, helping to analyze network traffic composition. This detailed view assists in identifying the distribution and significance of protocols in the captured network data.

Wireshark's Protocol Hierarchy window provides a structured, hierarchical breakdown of network protocols observed in captured packets. It allows for an in-depth analysis of the traffic composition by detailing the relationships and dependencies between different protocol layers. This view aids in understanding how protocols interact within network flows, as illustrated in Figure 22, offering a comprehensive overview of traffic distribution across various protocol layers.

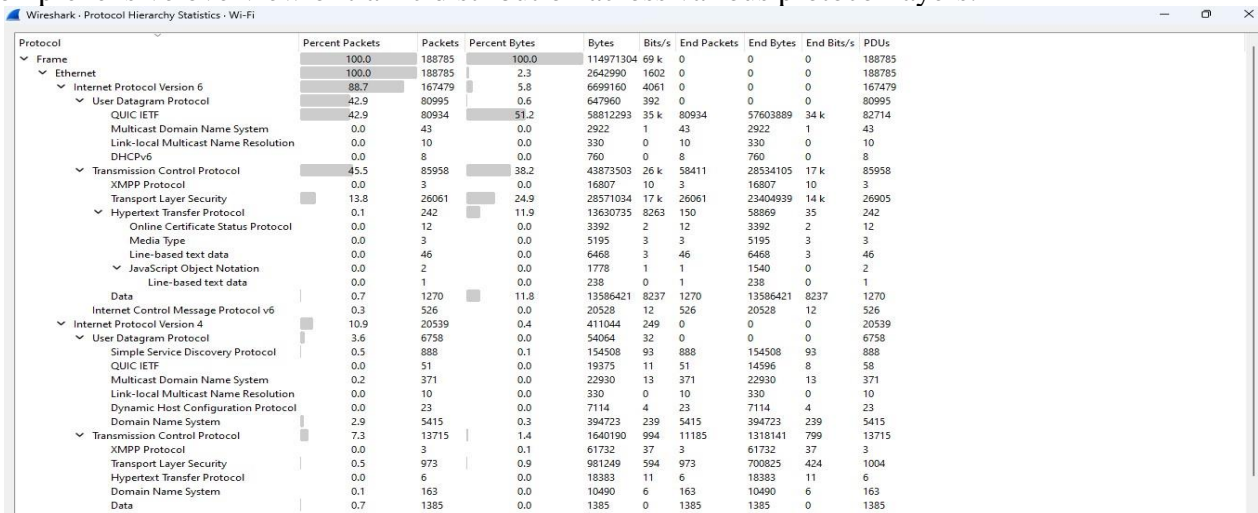


Figure 22: Protocol Hierarchy Analysis: Wireshark Capture Overview

Figure 23 shows a Wireshark capture of a TCP stream with detailed packet information, including sequence and acknowledgment numbers, window size, and options like No-Operation (NOP). Highlighted packets indicate TCP retransmissions, signalling potential issues such as packet loss or network latency. TCP flags—such as SYN, ACK, and FIN—are visible, reflecting the connection establishment, data transfer, and termination processes. Additionally, the hex dump provides packet payload data for in-depth analysis of each frame. TCP flags are prominently displayed in the packet details pane of Wireshark, offering crucial insights into the status and operation of TCP connection protocols.

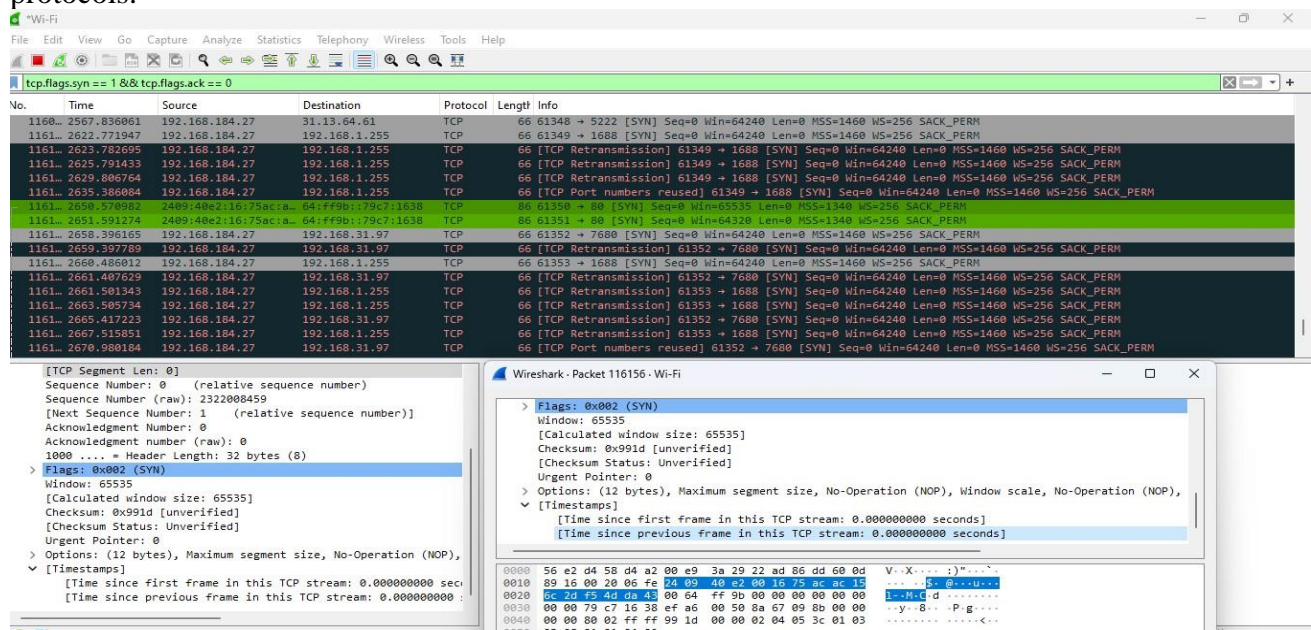


Figure 23: Understanding TCP flags: Wireshark Packet Details Perspective

Wireshark allows users to analyze TLS handshake packets, particularly the "Client Hello" and "Server Hello" messages that initiate secure communication by negotiating encryption protocols and cipher suites. These handshake details can be inspected through the packet list and details panes, with filters to focus on the TLS handshake exchange.



Filename	MD5	SHA1	CRC32	SHA-256	SHA-512	SHA-384
%3region=IN8sys_t...	865510e57f5732d2c6e73d7b73ef	30af39ebc3753c5ee3b35d03c7286019eac...	3361d90b	55f7d999b8e2d4de019b20275501e6d9c1e...	73bbf699842132b5fd60ab59926fdedc9055f...	652b3a2caaf61
%3region=IN8sys_t...	865510e57f5732d2c6e73d7b73ef	30af39ebc3753c5ee3b35d03c7286019eac...	3361d90b	55f7d999b8e2d4de019b20275501e6d9c1e...	73bbf699842132b5fd60ab59926fdedc9055f...	652b3a2caaf61
%3region=IN8sys_t...	865510e57f5732d2c6e73d7b73ef	30af39ebc3753c5ee3b35d03c7286019eac...	3361d90b	55f7d999b8e2d4de019b20275501e6d9c1e...	73bbf699842132b5fd60ab59926fdedc9055f...	652b3a2caaf61
%3region=IN8sys_t...	865510e57f5732d2c6e73d7b73ef	30af39ebc3753c5ee3b35d03c7286019eac...	3361d90b	55f7d999b8e2d4de019b20275501e6d9c1e...	73bbf699842132b5fd60ab59926fdedc9055f...	652b3a2caaf61
%5c	4b43ad78ac8525746f018994d73ef	88ff4511992347bf47aae346b196861815702...	73c8c6de	21e96a5c3d07711ea78e2a119a0c53415561...	44844e6457d10a96945973430a6e8191fa...	41e6097f5094a
%5c(1)	434160225bae40d7b27893daeb3c1	0705060789c910203b1912328400974a47d45	d49f969e	6846191c4127803404193b20275501e6d9c1e...	58081fe3643f8bac40a262d592030a1aae...	b4d44a5b144
%5c(2)	019b0cf08649210e0607f11a8c6760634	9754551055105550807047950e9b985...	91e2811b	79e44f1dd1e6d7532545c3983bf472737351d...	07756684cd21315eb6ba7b746b16a0e9...	716183198677
%5c(3)	361e04151a16bb7734d152f55b3b7b266	00f0dbdcca45884db15e9204040e47f91282...	83911f92	6bd02a1e19ba3c26b640bf43026234242...	3c5c32daf1c5b6c43a33ae5d2ec8b5e5f9a...	2ce26be75741a
%5c(4)	599e4d27a52b7573d197f00302b197	33573d421e588444b011910ad0a6e586...	930aa0ac	434820a1e6781643b13e149c8d4136fa1fa...	9432736e1c98d4c34503b9c3eeabbef71d...	01c189d5549d
%5c(5)	c689c77c2dd5994525cedc4ab7	19e6f4a7d784066b7c676330459a4e2cb8...	23ca3c2f	93f3966fa7350d6f919a5003d426059d1...	b45898966cf07f490421ec33814741d1...	7b954d7f8abc1
chat	22828735e5b8a9b9c5e10e0ed3de7	428492d101353b299901c13977203c3c40...	8674b797	92048c3c02648473509b9f935b326414a5...	265969666f73b3f6d60ab59926fdedc9055f...	88119f0c4ad5
chat(1)	29903b5b47036047e15d8b0e726c	905f6e14901dbb7c555550807047950e9b985...	91e2811b	ad1e0556774da0c8c92356738a4ca338...	53c3524798c4645f26b2a5f6b39334065...	cb2bf05778439
chat(2)	3b2242eefc476489502a1578da98a6	0dbf1ec3001251a5f540d00704950e9b985...	a92811b	79e44f1dd1e6d7532545c3983bf472737351d...	319c50525708951501ba2d24a19181253e1...	c2cd3b04880
chat(3)	7d4850e0c3a30255349495e5290939	eeb372f49c36302b690b04581b663f0d6...	7b3eaffd	621faee4ebd983e232b76285a8f8f802b6...	7c35997495659935ba179e37b450893101...	4d228ba9c4cd
connect.txt	04c3f4a88588e4d7333d069204c10	c49d3ab3631e2c7a67e393464d4902e9...	8143b14f	5e947996f4d47b105959741337487608348...	114c22e284cd1eef1ff3a21b6e41d100f71...	d19255904d4d
device-desc(1).xml	c25828735e5b8a9b9c5e10e0ed3de7	a929243667795d947e784daeb7f79fbf3a492f	1220b56e	592f049168480d44828f5ca0c18b4dc041d9...	300e07d63a4781ebbf43c904f7d6a82731d8...	08d60a53ac56e
device-desc.xml	c25828735e5b8a9b9c5e10e0ed3de7	a929243667795d947e784daeb7f79fbf3a492f	1220b56e	592f049168480d44828f5ca0c18b4dc041d9...	300e07d63a4781ebbf43c904f7d6a82731d8...	08d60a53ac56e
nservice	ef6f51733dd07296f91a4e61f15c8bf8	37880302c26895474892204de9a15c9116d...	70002f39	d97f40bed845f7ac28c2b47d194d4366a8...	2b153dfe1f482b29929c2f094d5f7637534f...	af5cbdb709bb6
nservice(1)	ef6f51733dd07296f91a4e61f15c8bf8	37880302c26895474892204de9a15c9116d...	70002f39	d97f40bed845f7ac28c2b47d194d4366a8...	2b153dfe1f482b29929c2f094d5f7637534f...	af5cbdb709bb6
nservice(2)	53e29b7e72e61da66f9d394b7ab763	d945159486310ddc49d4c9fa54dfe05abc...	e28d0405	30539c076a5b6a513220767f33bdc02435...	9511a1d51dc6e5955453f37ad01c937b9a9a...	6a9c0690aff87
nservice(3)	53e29b7e72e61da66f9d394b7ab763	d945159486310ddc49d4c9fa54dfe05abc...	e28d0405	30539c076a5b6a513220767f33bdc02435...	9511a1d51dc6e5955453f37ad01c937b9a9a...	6a9c0690aff87
object1251265	99704203b6c315eb5c258e7c40					



Figure 25: Comprehensive File Integrity and Hash Comparison Using HashMyFiles: A Methodology for Analyzing and Identifying Security Risks Using Wireshark.

Wireshark is employed to analyze malware traffic by identifying and examining network communications associated with malicious software files that initially went undetected or had zero detection by security tools. In this case, the file was not flagged as malicious by any sandboxes or security vendors, as illustrated in Figure 26. Wireshark's capabilities allow for in-depth inspection of such undetected threats.

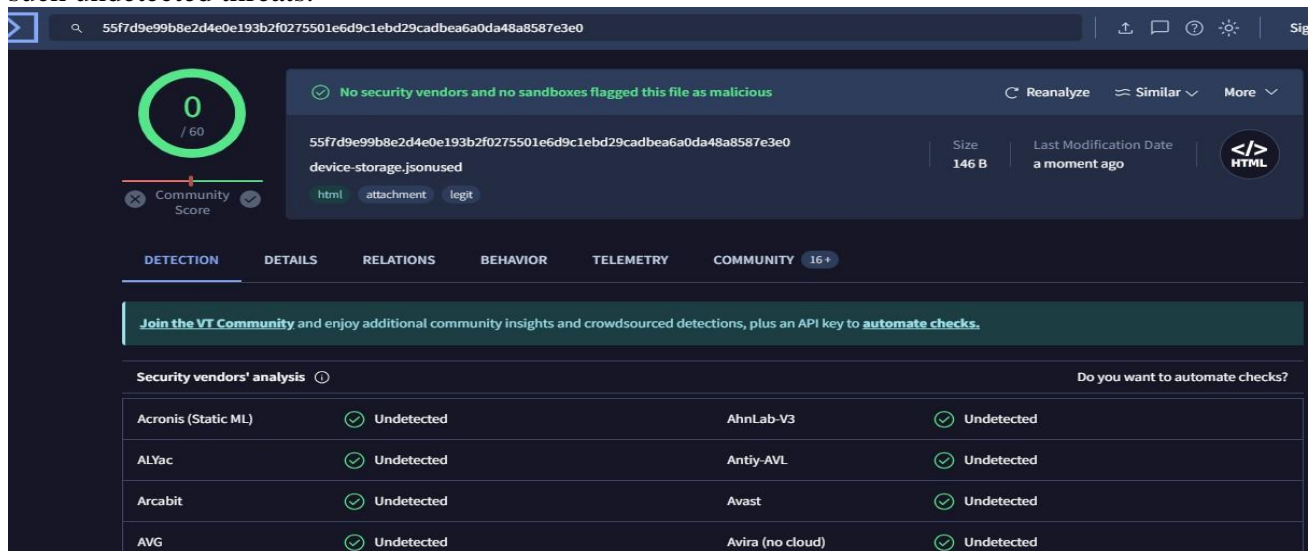


Figure 26: Zero Detection: Sandboxes and Security Vendor Results for Non-Malicious File

In this instance, the file was flagged as malicious by various sandboxes and security vendors, as shown in Figure 27. This indicates that the security tools successfully identified the threat, highlighting their effectiveness in detecting potential risks. The detection highlights the importance of using multiple security solutions to enhance the overall protection against malware and other cyber threats. An evaluation of malicious detection results from various sandboxes and security vendors. This assessment demonstrates the effectiveness of these security tools in identifying the threat associated with the analyzed file. The findings highlight the importance of utilizing multiple security solutions to enhance detection capabilities and improve overall protection against malware and other cyber threats in network environments.

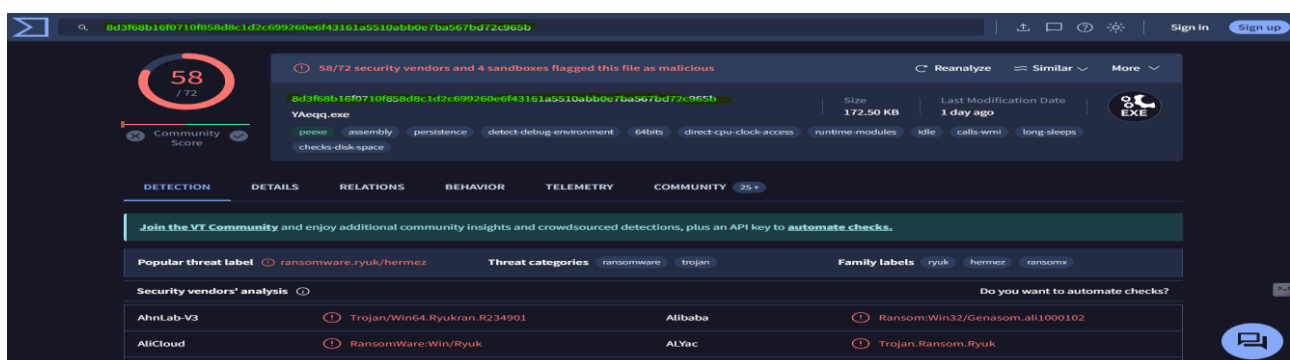


Figure 27: Malicious Detection Evaluation: Sandboxes and Security Vendors' Assessment

The Flow Graph window in Wireshark is a robust tool for analyzing network traffic, especially in the context of intrusion detection. It provides a visual representation of packet flow between hosts and IP addresses, facilitating the identification of trends and potential security risks, as illustrated in Figure 28. This graphical view enhances the ability to monitor and assess network activity effectively.

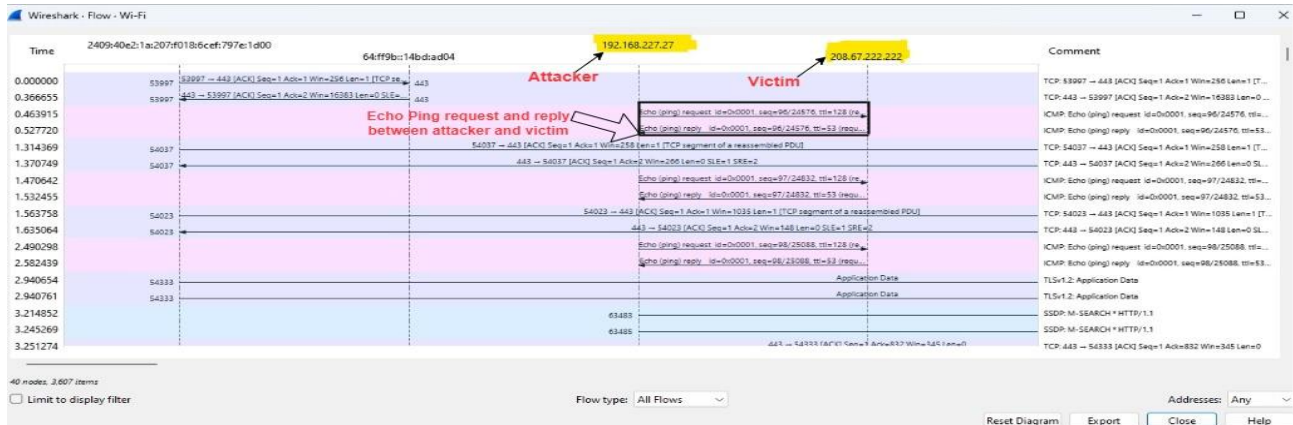


Figure 28: The Flow Graph window for Intrusion Detection

Figure 29 illustrates the Conversation section in Wireshark, which shows the entities involved in the network communication. It provides detailed information about the number of packets and bytes exchanged between the communicating parties. This feature helps in identifying traffic patterns, monitoring data flow, and detecting any irregularities or potential security threats within the network.

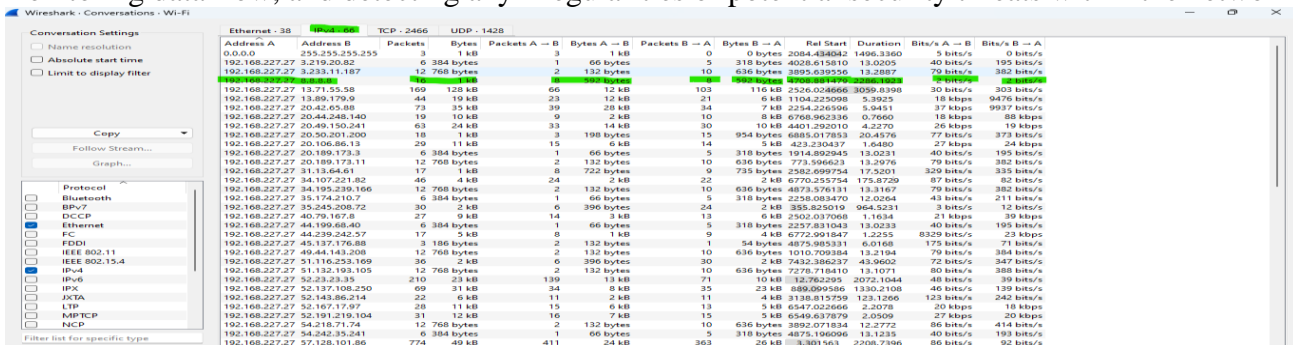


Figure 29: The conversation section of IPV4 packets for byte exchange

Figure 30 depicts the TCP Stream Throughput graph, which visualizes the throughput of a single TCP stream in one direction, calculated from the selected packet. This graph provides critical insights into the data transfer rate over time, helping to assess network performance, detect congestion, and identify any abnormalities in the TCP stream's behavior, essential for optimizing traffic analysis and troubleshooting.

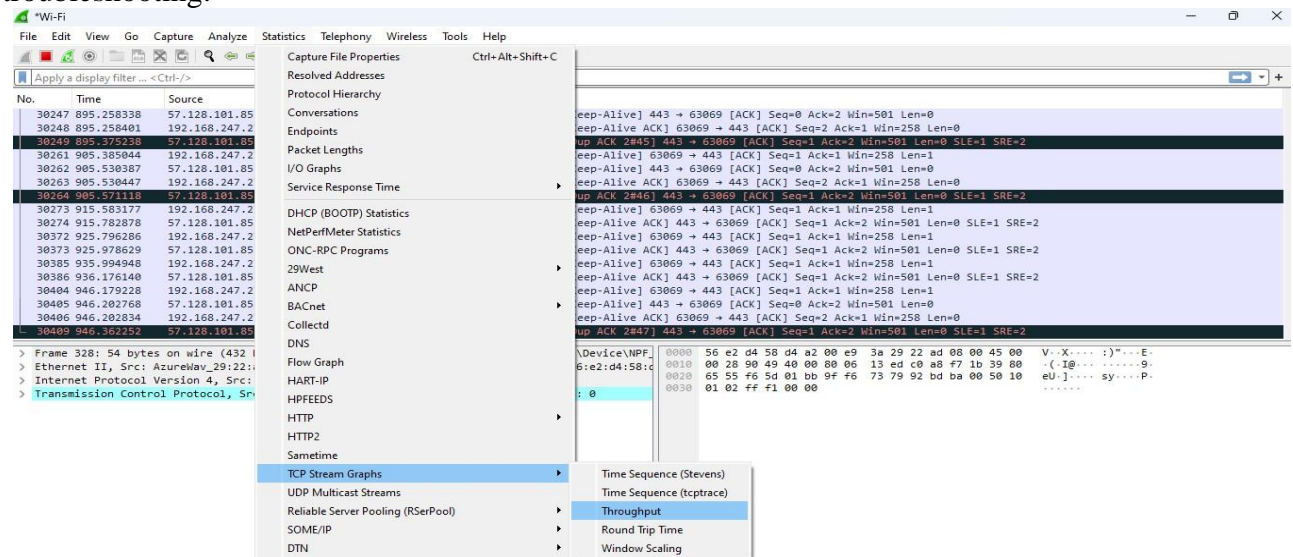


Figure 30: TCP Stream Graph and Throughput Window for Intrusion Detection

Figure 31 illustrates Wireshark's TCP Stream Graph and Throughput Graph, tools that provide detailed visual analysis of TCP communication and network performance. These graphs enable users to



evaluate data transmission efficiency, monitor packet flow, detect bottlenecks, and identify retransmissions or delays. Such insights are critical for diagnosing network issues and optimizing TCP connections in real-time. The TCP Stream Graph shows the progression of packets between sender and receiver, revealing delays or retransmissions. The Throughput Graph highlights data transfer rate fluctuations, aiding in diagnosing congestion and performance drops. Wireshark offers network engineers real-time tools to assess traffic, optimize bandwidth, and improve overall performance through detailed packet analysis.

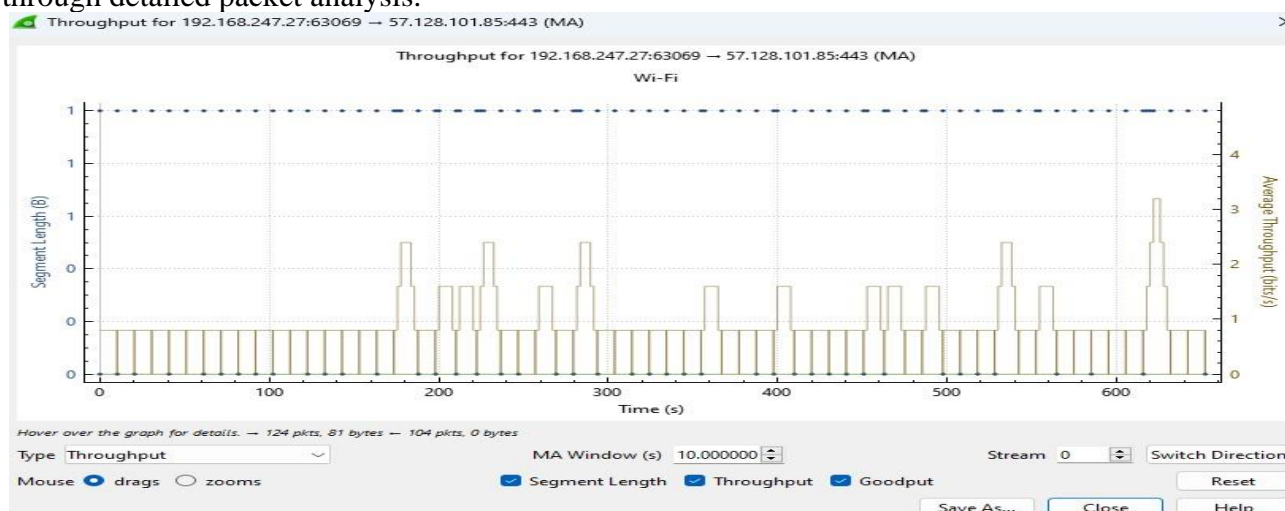


Figure 31: TCP StreamGraph and Throughput Graph

## 6. Results and Discussion

Wireshark captures real-time data packets from the network, storing them in .pcap files for detailed analysis. Along with Snort, an open-source intrusion detection system compatible with both Windows and Linux, Wireshark is widely used for developing intrusion detection systems. It provides a comprehensive visual representation of network elements, including IP addresses, protocols, timestamps, header lengths, and service categories, with payload data in hexadecimal format and header data in decimal format. The I/O graph in Wireshark plots the number of packets captured per second on the y-axis against time on the x-axis. For example, ping requests are sent to the victim's IP address (208.67.222.222) from the attacker's IP address (192.168.128.27), as shown in Fig. 13. The flow graph visually represents network traffic, including IP addresses, port numbers, and protocols, aiding in network troubleshooting and traffic analysis. Wireshark's expert information flags issues like malformed packets, marked in red according to its coloring rules (e.g., bad TCP packets in Fig. 20), which raises suspicions. Additionally, Wireshark helps analyze malware traffic by identifying network communications linked to malicious software, even when undetected by sandboxes or security vendors, as shown in Figs. 26 and 27. Wireshark also supports network file integrity analysis through external hashing tools, as depicted in Fig. 25. For connection stability, the Throughput Graph window of the TCP stream graphs helps evaluate throughput, as shown in Fig. 31.

Our evaluation reveals that SNORT and WIRESHARK are effective intrusion detection tools in modern network environments, but continuous improvements and integrations are crucial for maintaining their efficacy in protecting critical assets and data. Enterprises can enhance their network monitoring and defense against online threats by adopting these tools.

## 7. Conclusion and Future Scope

Wireshark is a powerful tool for detecting network intrusions, offering advanced features such as display filters, I/O graphs, color-coded packet identification, and detailed traffic analysis. In today's digital landscape, network security is critical, and proactive monitoring is essential for identifying and preventing cyber threats. Integrating Wireshark with Snort, a leading Intrusion Detection System



(IDS), allows for efficient traffic analysis and enhanced network protection. This paper examines Snort's IDS, which uses a rule-based detection engine to identify malicious traffic patterns through tools like the flow graph window. Snort logs suspicious data packets and alert messages, which are then exported to Wireshark for in-depth packet-level analysis. This integration enables effective correlation of events and detection of security breaches. Our evaluation highlights the effectiveness of Snort and Wireshark as IDS tools, emphasizing their combined ability to detect both known vulnerabilities and emerging threats. By leveraging Snort's signature-based detection with Wireshark's packet inspection capabilities, these tools provide comprehensive defense mechanisms to safeguard network infrastructures against cyberattacks.

Wireshark, when utilized alongside Snort, Syslog, and other intrusion detection mechanisms, cannot independently manage network intrusions. This research focuses on capturing real-time network traffic and analyzing packets using Wireshark and Snort. While Wireshark excels in traffic analysis, it lacks the capability to alert users or take corrective actions against unauthorized access attempts. Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS) are critical for identifying suspicious activities and mitigating potential risks. Current signature-based IDS solutions often face performance limitations, such as slow processing speeds and high memory usage. In my forthcoming research, we will compare various traffic analysis tools, emphasizing Wireshark's advantages as a network protocol analyzer across multiple domains. We propose enhancing its functionality by integrating additional utilities into the source code to improve alert generation and heuristic detection. Evaluating Snort and Wireshark as IDS tools provides a solid foundation for advancing network security. While both tools are vital for analyzing network traffic and identifying cyber threats, their effectiveness hinges on continuous innovation to address evolving attack vectors. The future of Snort and Wireshark as IDS solutions depends on their ability to enhance real-time detection capabilities and deliver comprehensive network traffic visibility, all while tackling challenges related to scalability and usability. Ongoing research and development are essential to ensure these tools remain effective in safeguarding network infrastructures against malicious activities.

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### **Conflict of Interest**

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

### **Competing Interests**

The authors have no competing interests to declare that are relevant to the content of this article.

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