



Analysis of Packet to Detect Malware Files

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Abstract:

The article covers the procedure of detecting malicious files from a packet which was responsible to make the system infected, this paper will highlight all the key elements that plays a pivotal role in detecting those files. The primary motivation behind this work is to provide information about those malware files and the detection of those files. This article also describes the use of perfect packet analysis software as well as its key features which can make our analysis simpler. Moreover, this article concludes with the author's perspective regarding the malware analysis.

Keywords: Malware files, Packet analysis software, Malware analysis, Detection

1. Introduction

Malware is the most common attack acting in the Cyber Security field. Most of the attackers use different malware techniques to gain benefit, it can be in terms of money or can be anything else. Malware can cause a huge damage to the user without his consent. In today's world, it is becoming the most damage-able attack. It can affect your system, hardware, data loss and mostly data theft, your network and many other. So, to survive in this world, to control the number of attacks and to investigate malware cases, malware analyst showed their existence. They provide many of the detection procedures or techniques of malware which we can be used to investigate

these cases and to protect our system. Some questions that are being asked in this field are:

- a) What behavioral changes a malware can cause?
- b) How to detect the malware?
- c) What are the procedures of malware analysis?
- d) How to capture packets?
- e) What tool should we use to do the analysis?

The word malware is derived from words **MALicious softWARE**. Whereas the word software means the program that targets the safety and integrity of the system is called malware. So, the Malware Analysis is the field

of inspecting malware tests to attempt to extricate important data about their starting point, conduct, and effect. There are many techniques that are used by malware analysts, a person who perform these activities, like Static Analysis and Dynamic Analysis [1]. Static Analysis include analysis of the malicious code without running it i.e., the File Headers, Strings, Hashes whereas the Dynamic Analysis include the analysis of the malicious code in a sandbox or safe environment.

2. IOC's:

IOC's stands for **Indication of Compromise**. These are the forensics evidence of a potential intrusion on a system network. These clues allow security professionals to determine the tactic of an occurred or impending attack IOCs are not always easy to detect, they can be as simple as metadata elements or incredibly complex malicious code and content samples. There are several IOC's which are listed below:

A. IP ADDRESS:

The word IP stands for "Internet Protocol", which can be regard as the set of rules governing the form of data sent via the internet or local network [3]. IP addresses are the unique addresses which can be used to identify the device.

B. DOMAIN NAME:

A domain name is a part of a URL. It is a string of text that maps to a numeric IP address, used to access a website from client servers [4].

C. USER AGENT:

The User-Agent request header is a characteristic string that let servers and network peers

identify the application, operating system, vendor, and version of requesting user-agent [5]. The syntax of use-agent is **User-Agent: <product> / <product-version> <comment>**.

D. HOSTNAME:

A hostname is a label that is assigned to a device connected to a computer network and that is used to identify the device in the various forms of electronic communication such as World Wide Web [4].

E. FILE HASHES:

File hashing is also used for file verification.

3. Tools For Analysis:



There are many tools that we can use to do analysis on the malware like PeStudio, Process Hacker, Process Monitor (ProcMon), ProcDot, Autoruns, Fiddler, IDA PRO, Ghidra. Wireshark is mainly used for the analysis because of its simplicity.

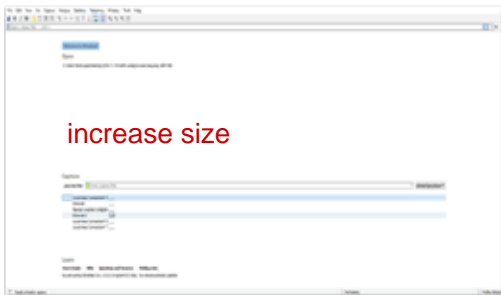
4. Wireshark:

Wireshark is a free and open-source packet analyzer. Wireshark is a tool used for capturing and analyzing PCAPs files. It is used for **network troubleshooting, analysis, software and communication, protocol development and education**. The working of Wireshark is like tcpdump but has a graphical front and integrated sorting and filtering options. All the packet traffic is visible on the interface including uni-cast traffic. Wireshark is a data capturing program that understand the structure of different network protocol and it uses PCAPs to capture packets so it can only capture packets on the type of network that PCAP support. It can also color packets based on

rules that match fields in packets to help the user identify the type of traffic at a glance. Users can change the interface according to their choice [2].

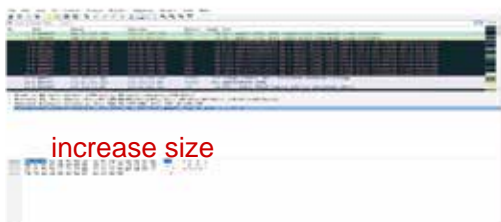
4.1 Wireshark Default View

When you open the Wireshark, you will see this interface. To open a packet, just go to the file in the menu bar. Click open and select your file. From Wireshark, you can also analyze the packets of your machine. All you need to do is choose the Local Area Connection. Another way to capture the local packets is to choose the Start Capturing Packets option with a symbol  on the top left side of the page. And to stop the capturing, click on the option named as Stop Capturing Packets with the  symbol.



4.2 Starting With Wireshark:

Now have a look on Wireshark user interface. The main window shows Wireshark as you would usually see it after some packets are captured or loaded.



4.3 Wireshark Display Parts

The Wireshark Display has 4 parts as shown in the figure. These parts are also described below [7]:

- Filter Box (1): It is used to filter the packets displayed.
- Packet Listing (2): It shows all packets that satisfied the display filter.
- Packet Detail Windows (3): Display the contents of the currently selected packet.
- Hex Window (4): It displays the hex content of the current packet. The hex window is linked with the packets detail window and with highlight any field selected.

4.4 Changing The Default View:

The Default view of Wireshark is not very friendly to every user, so Wireshark gives a functionality to the user to customize the interface of the Wireshark according to their choice or need. The default column in the Wireshark is not ideal in every case. Here comes the need to modify the columns. The default columns are:

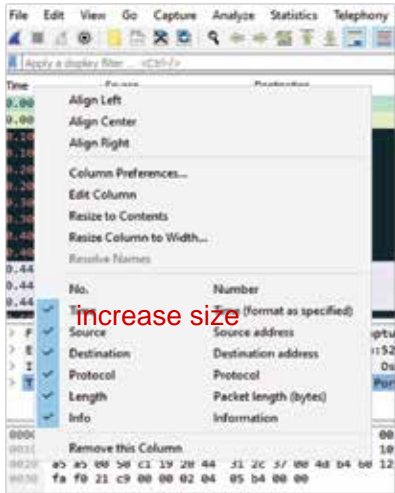
- No: It is the frame number from the beginning of the PCAP.
- Time: Seconds are broken down into Nanoseconds.
- Source: Source address.
- Destination: Destination address.
- Protocol: Used in Ethernet Frame, IP Packet, or TCP segment.
- Length: Length of Frame in Bytes.

So, following are the ways to customize the columns in the interface:

a. Hiding Columns:

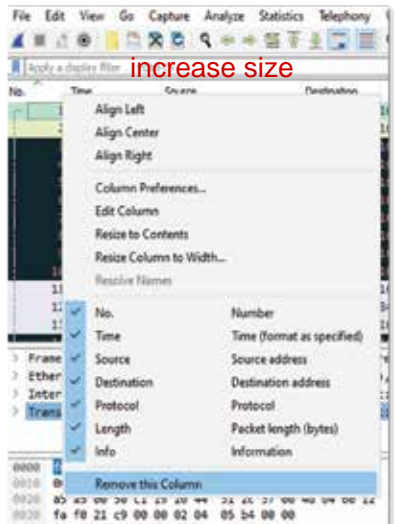
We can easily hide the columns in the interface, we can also unhide the columns when there is a need to use the columns. First

Right-Click on the Column which you want to hide and then uncheck the column name. And to unhide the column, you just need to check the column name again. Following Figures shows the way how to hide the columns:



b. Removing Columns:

There are some of the columns in the interface which are not required for the analysis like the **NO** column and the **Length** column. We can also remove these columns. For this we just need to Right Click on that column and then Select **Remove this Column** option from the drop-down menu.

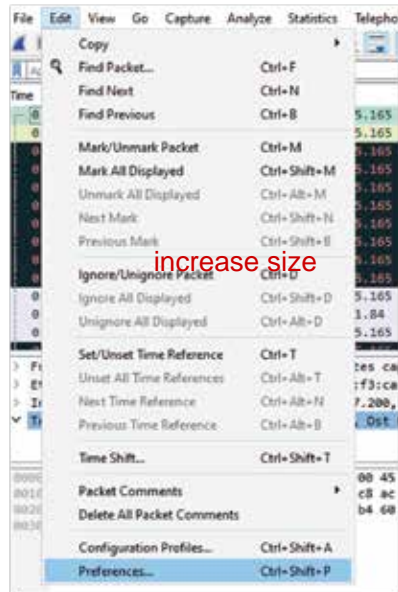


c. Adding Columns:

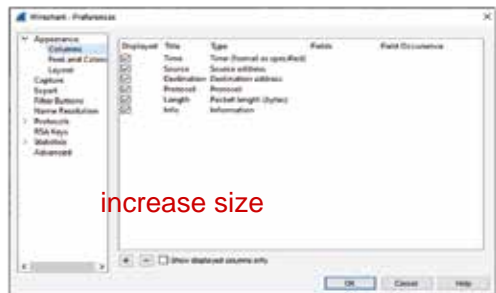
Wireshark also provide us with the feature which allows us to add the column of our own choice. For Adding the column, you must go through from the number of steps listed below:

STEP 01:

Go to the **Edit** on the menu and then select **Column Preference** option from the drop-down menu.



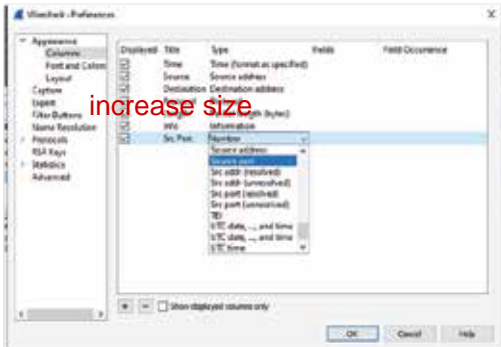
The Column Preference Menu List all columns, viewed or hidden at the bottom of the menu there are two buttons **plus (+)** and **minus (-)** which are used to add or remove the column respectively.



STEP 02:

If you want to add a column, you just need to

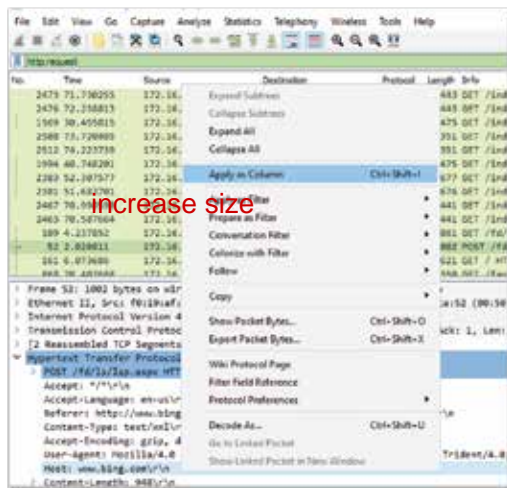
click on the plus sign, a new row will appear and then rename the Column and select the type of your column.



Same case goes with the removing column. After setting up this click on **OK**. Now, you have successfully changed the columns of the Wireshark interface.

d. Apply As Column:

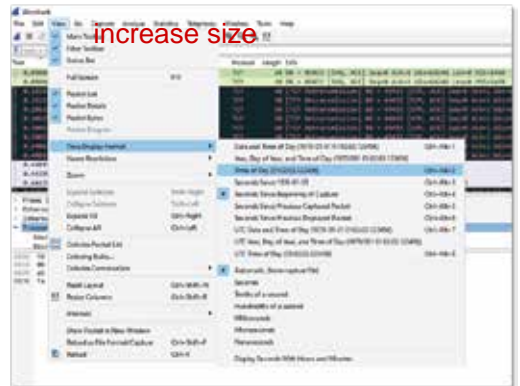
If you want to apply any field from the Packet Window Detail as a column, you need to Right-Click on that field. Choose Apply as Column option and then it will be displayed as column.



e. Time Display:

We can also change the format of the displayed time. The default syntax of the time is seconds broken down into Nanoseconds which in real

is like 0.101536. You can also change this syntax into readable syntax. First Go to the **View** from the **Menu** and then choose **Time Display Format**, now choose the format of your own choice.



5. Detection Of Malware:

Initially, we will check the traffic, if they were sent in continuous packets, then they will be exportable through Wireshark itself or if not then we have to manually analyze the streams and packets. Detection of malware includes number of steps:

- a. Analyze the network traffic present in the packet through protocol hierarchy.
- b. Check the greater percentage of network protocol i.e., HTTP/HTTPs, SMB etc.
- c. Analyze all the packets present in the traffic.
- d. Sort the objects with the Content-Type.
- e. Locate suspicious files and take hashes of those files by using hashmyfile [8].
- f. Cross Check the hashes of suspicious files by putting those hashes in Virus Total [9].

Sometimes malicious traffic can also be detect-

ed through different destination port for example: victim is connecting through port:80 and attacker is connecting through port:143 sounds malicious.

6. Case Study:

Let's consider a case study [10]. Here we have a packet which contains the logs of malicious files. These files are responsible to make the machine infected. Now we must do some investigation in that packet to give the answers to some questions listed below. This section of the document covers that how and where to get the information in in the packet.

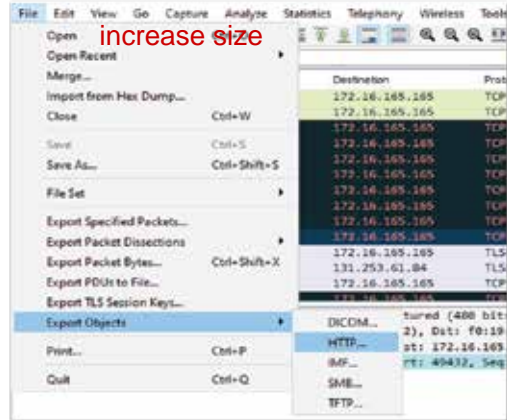
Questions

1. What is the infected file(s) downloaded and their hashes?
2. What is URL/Domain of the infected site?
3. What is the IP address of the infected site?
4. What is the IP address of the infected machine?
5. What is the hostname of the infected machine?
6. What is the mac address of the infected machine?

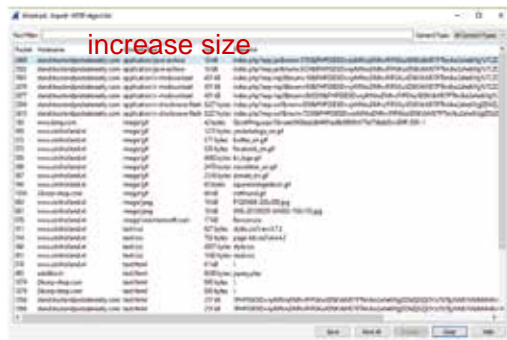
Question No. 01:

STEP 01:

Go to the file drop-down in the menu bar and then choose Export Objects. Then another drop-down will appear which will show some of the options like HTTP. As most of the traffic in the packet logs were of HTTP, so we will choose HTTP option from the menu.



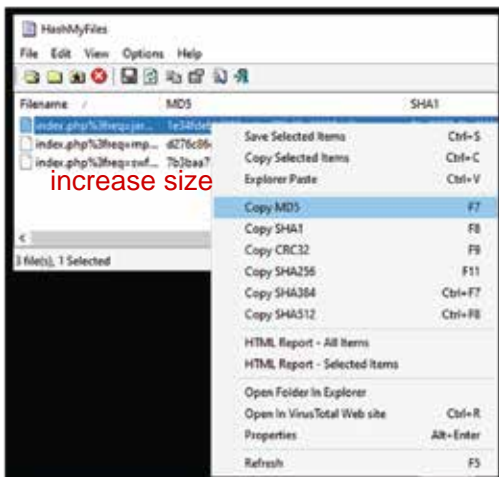
After doing the above step, a window will appear with the name Wireshark – Export – HTTP object list. It will describe the information of every downloadable material. We can sort the Content Type alphabetically just by clicking the Content Type. Now save every file.



Take hashes of every file you downloaded from the list with the help of *hashmyfiles* software.



After getting the hashes, copy those hashes of any type one by one and then put those hashes in the virus total that will show if these hashes are infected or not.

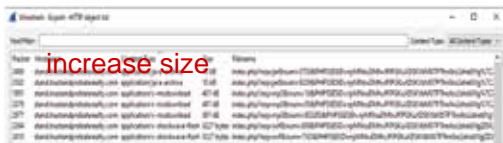


Question No. 02:

Solution of Question no. 01 shows the infected files. Now the question is to get the URL/Domain of the infected site. Again, follow the steps mentioned in the Question No. 01 till the window appear with the name Wireshark – Export – HTTP object list. In this window, there is a column named as hostname. This column will give us the answer of Question No. 02.

Question No. 03:

We have already found the infected site hostname. Now we are going to find the IP address of that infected site. For this, just put the filter *http.request*. It will only show the logs requested by the user. In the Destination Column, we can easily find the IP address of the infected site.



Question No. 04:

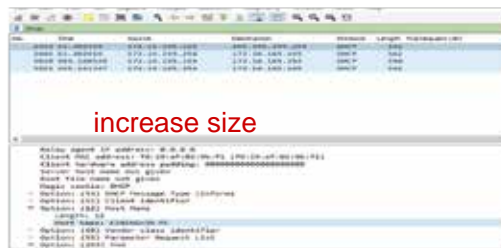
With the same filter, we can find the IP address of the infected machine. The Source Column shows the IP address of the infected machine.

QUESTION NO. 05:

There is more than one way to get the hostname of the infected machine. Some of them are described below:

WAY 01:

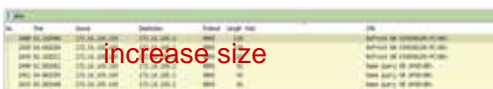
Put the DHCP filter in the filter box. Some of the packets will be shown. Click any of the packet then its information will be shown in the Packet Detail Window. Click on the last option in that window named as Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol. It will give you some further information. From that information, choose the Option: Host name. It will give you the hostname of the infected machine.



WAY 02:

Another way to find the host name of the infected machine is to put the filter of *nbns* in the filter box. Information Column shows the name of the infected machine.

Question No. 06:



To get the mac address of the infected machine, put the *http.request* filter in the filter box. Click any packet and then see the Packet Detail Window. It will show an option of Ethernet. Click this option and then you will see the Source which stores the mac address of the infected machine.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
978	0.262483	172.16.185.100	192.168.149.88	HTTP	497	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
979	11.202796	172.16.185.100	81.194.146.98	HTTP	468	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
980	12.871749	172.16.185.100	74.125.231.90	HTTP	462	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
981	20.463160	172.16.185.100	62.159.149.38	HTTP	358	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
982	28.463160	172.16.185.100	62.159.149.38	HTTP	358	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
983	32.612340	172.16.185.100	168.129.71.140	HTTP	443	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
984	37.654630	172.16.185.100	37.208.99.143	HTTP	476	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
985	37.654630	172.16.185.100	37.208.99.143	HTTP	476	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
986	39.455910	172.16.185.100	37.208.99.143	HTTP	476	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
987	40.746280	172.16.185.100	37.208.99.143	HTTP	476	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
988	51.482780	172.16.185.100	37.208.99.143	HTTP	476	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)
989	61.509980	172.16.185.100	37.208.99.143	HTTP	476	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/css)

7. Conclusion

According to the author and the co-author, detection of malware in a packet is an interesting activity in investigating it. The above-mentioned ways to detect the malware was related to the HTTP traffic. The reader can have a basic understanding of malware analysis in traffic.

8. References:

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