tcpdump:
network traffic capture

David Morgan

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The Big Daddy of Open Source Capture

- tcpdump is the core Open Source packet sniffer program
- simple, text based program
- many other programs (such as Ethereal) that use the same file-save format can be used to display or interpret tcpdump files

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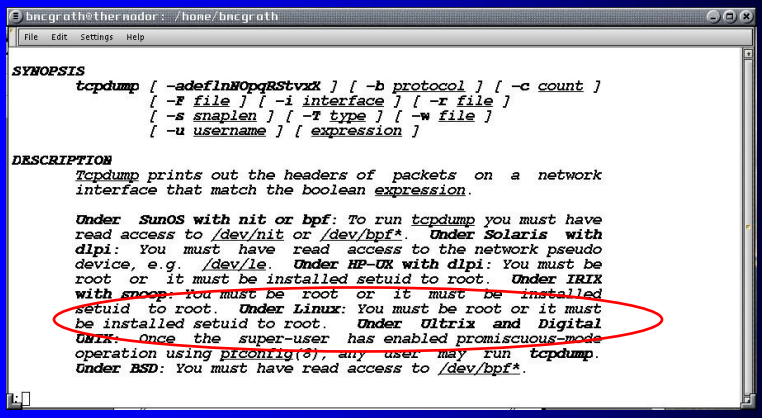
Many options

Must be root to run



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Some of them

Category	Option	Description
what to capture	-c	count of packets to capture
	-p	just mine (alternatively everyone's)
where to capture	-i	interface specification
what to show	-t	omit timestamp
	-q	quiet – minimal output
	-v	verbose
	-vv	loquacious
	-vvv	blabby
	-x	packet content as well as header
how to show	-n	no address-to-name conversion
	-nn	nor port/protocol-to-name conversion
save/restore	-w	write capture to file
	-r	replay previous capture from file

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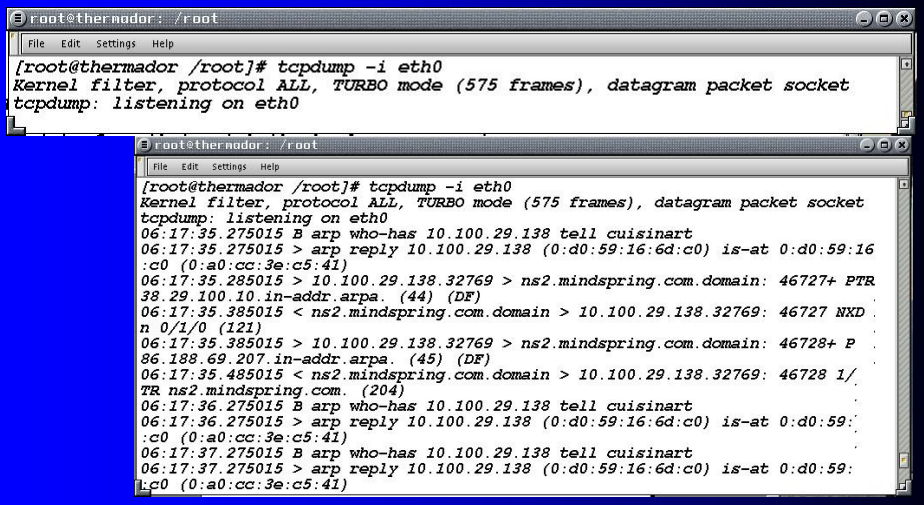
tcpdump -i <interface>



Are we in promiscuous mode here? © David Morgan 2003-14

Capturing a ping

```
[root@rh clientserver]# tcpdump -i eth1
eth1: Setting promiscuous mode.
tcpdump: listening on eth1
14:24:54.265612 vclient > rh: icmp: echo request (DF)
14:24:54.265791 rh > vclient: icmp: echo reply
```

While vclient pinged rh

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Effect of -n

```
[root@rh clientserver]# tcpdump -i eth1
eth1: Setting promiscuous mode.
tcpdump: listening on eth1
14:24:54.265612 vclient > rh: icmp: echo request (DF)
14:24:54.265791 rh > vclient: icmp: echo reply
```

```
[root@rh clientserver]# tcpdump -ni eth1
eth1: Setting promiscuous mode.
tcpdump: listening on eth1
14:36:13.651382 200.2.2.2 > 200.2.2.1: icmp: echo request (DF)
14:36:13.651564 200.2.2.1 > 200.2.2.2: icmp: echo reply
```

While vclient (200.2.2.2) pinged rh (200.2.2.1)

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Effect of -t

```
[root@rh clientserver]# tcpdump -i eth1
eth1: Setting promiscuous mode.
tcpdump: listening on eth1
14:24:54.265612 vclient > rh: icmp: echo request (DF)
14:24:54.265791 rh > vclient: icmp: echo reply
```

```
[root@rh clientserver]# tcpdump -ti eth1
eth1: Setting promiscuous mode.
tcpdump: listening on eth1
vclient > rh: icmp: echo request (DF)
rh > vclient: icmp: echo reply
```

While vclient pinged rh

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Effect of -v

```
[root@rh clientserver]# tcpdump -i eth1
eth1: Setting promiscuous mode.
tcpdump: listening on eth1
14:24:54.265612 vclient > rh: icmp: echo request (DF)
14:24:54.265791 rh > vclient: icmp: echo reply
```

```
[root@rh clientserver]# tcpdump -vi eth1
eth1: Setting promiscuous mode.
tcpdump: listening on eth1
14:52:58.436857 vclient > rh: icmp: echo request (DF) (ttl 64, id 0, len 84)
14:52:58.437045 rh > vclient: icmp: echo reply (ttl 255, id 6268, len 84)
```

While vclient pinged rh

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Effect of -x

```
[root@rh clientserver]# tcpdump -xi eth1
eth1: Setting promiscuous mode.
tcpdump: listening on eth1
14:55:52.549777 vclient > rh: icmp: echo request (DF)
                        4500 0054 0000 4000 4001 a6a1 c802 0202
                        c802 0201 0800 c97c 4407 0100 2842 cd3e
                        faf7 0e00 0809 0a0b 0c0d 0e0f 1011 1213
                        1415 1617 1819 1a1b 1c1d 1e1f 2021 2223
                        2425 2627 2829 2a2b 2c2d 2e2f 3031 3233
                        3435
14:55:52.549966 rh > vclient: icmp: echo reply
                        4500 0054 187d 0000 ff01 0f24 c802 0201
                        c802 0202 0000 d17c 4407 0100 2842 cd3e
                        faf7 0e00 0809 0a0b 0c0d 0e0f 1011 1213
                        1415 1617 1819 1a1b 1c1d 1e1f 2021 2223
                        2425 2627 2829 2a2b 2c2d 2e2f 3031 3233
                        3435
```

While vclient pinged rh

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What to capture…

Category	Option	Description
what to capture	-c	count of packets to capture
	-p	just mine (alternatively everyone's)

…there's more to it than that.

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Two what-to-capture restrictions

- Voluntary: packet filter expressions
- Involuntary: can't capture what doesn't appear on the interface in the first place

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Packet filter expressions using address primitives

- host 200.2.2.1
- src host 200.2.2.2
- dst host 200.2.2.2
- ‘ip[16]>=224’
- ‘ip[2:2]>512’
- ‘ether[0]&1=1’

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Packet filter expressions using protocol primitives

- ip
- tcp
- udp
- icmp

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Booleans

- and
- or
- not

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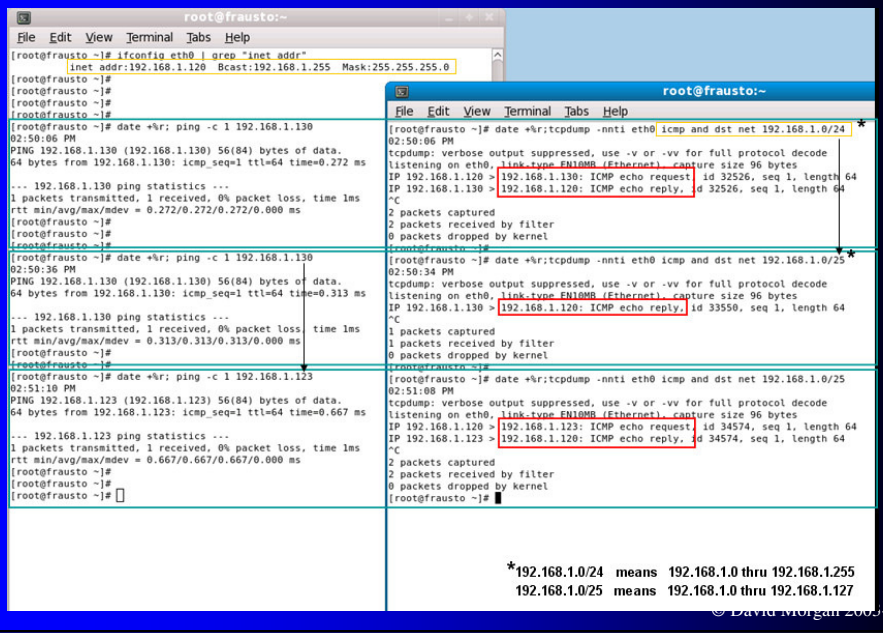
Filter example



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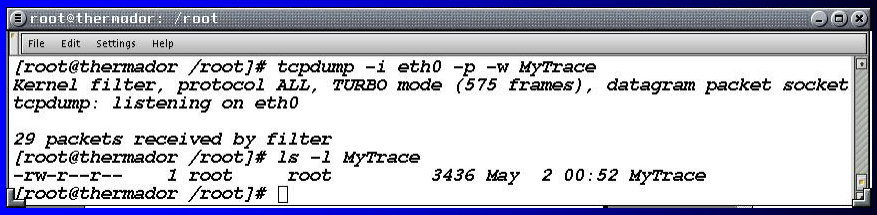
Write to File

-w <file name> will redirect output to a file



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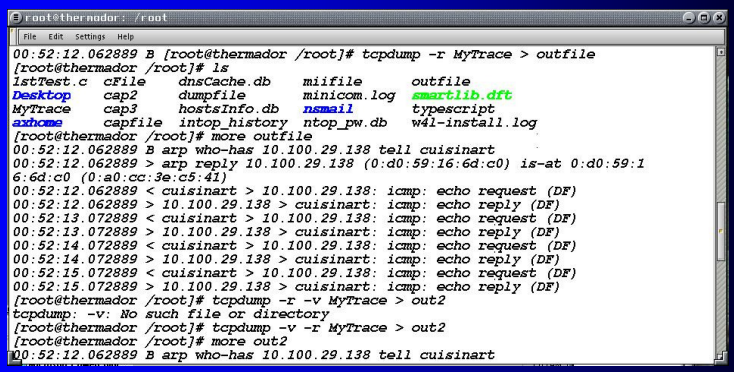
Replay with -r option

tcpdump -r <rawfile> <text file>



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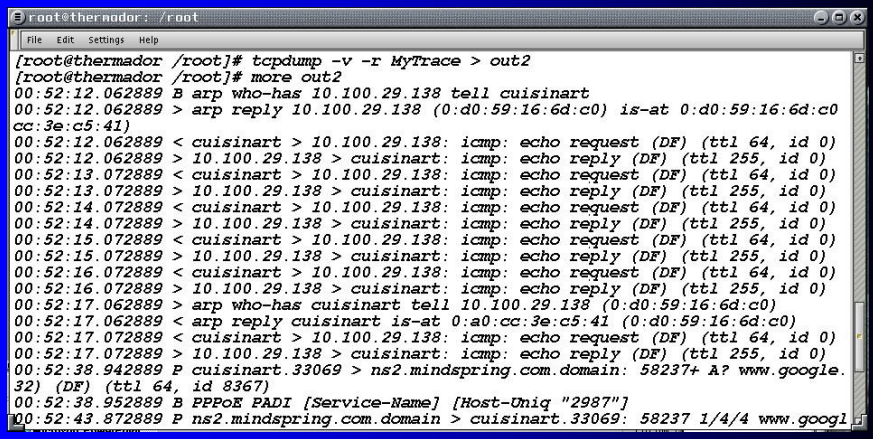
-v works on playback too



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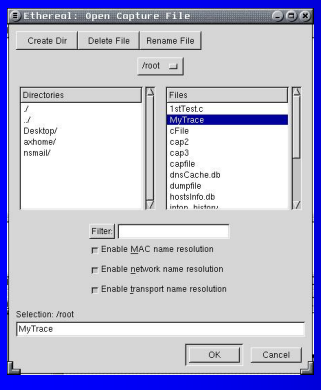
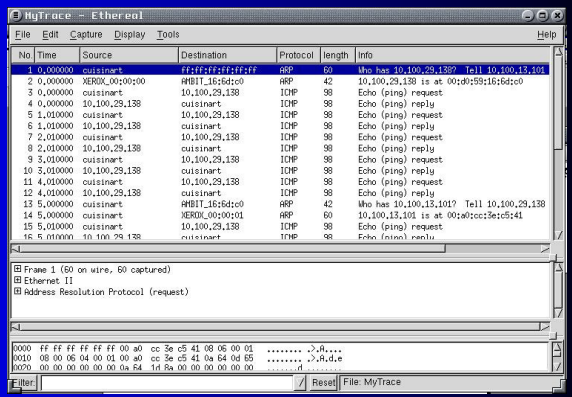
View file with Wireshark too





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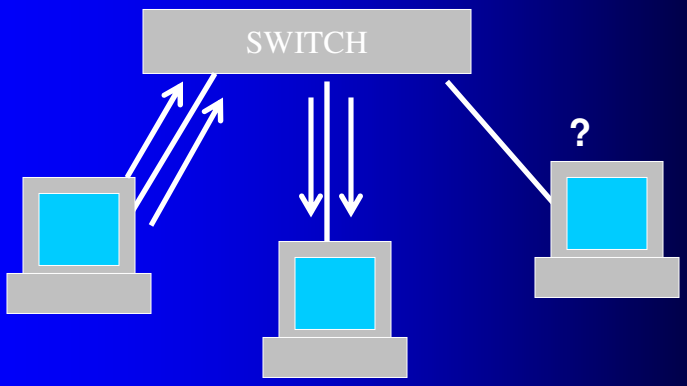
Can't sniff across a switch?



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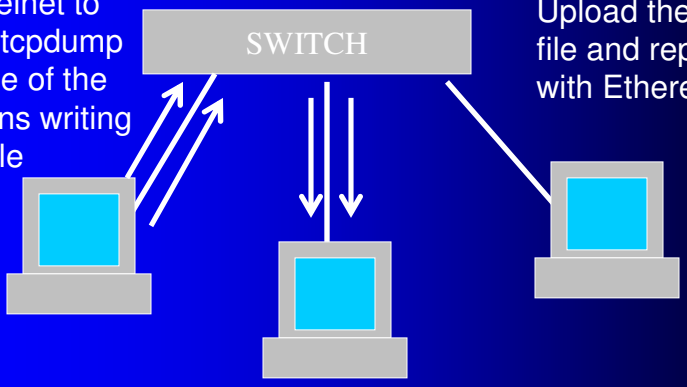
telnet and tcpdump

Use telnet to start tcpdump on one of the stations writing to a file



Upload the trace file and replay with Ethereal

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Analysis tools for dump files

- sanitize
- tcpdpriv
- tcpflow
- tcp-reduce
- tcpshow
- tcpslice
- trafshow

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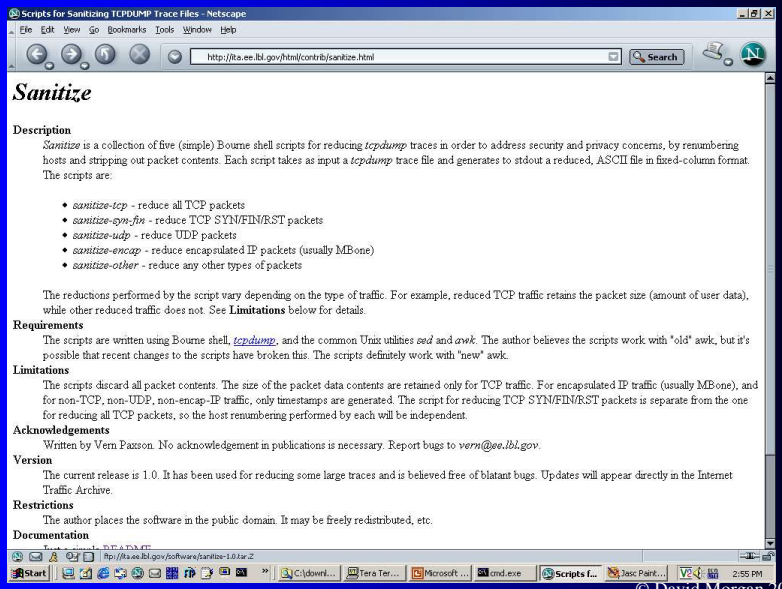
sanitize



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sanitize

- Collection of shell scripts
  - sanitize-tcp
  - sanitize-syn-fin
  - sanitize-udp
  - sanitize-encap
  - sanitize-other
- Each filters out all packets except…
- Rewrites remaining packets
  - less info
  - renumbered (not actual) addresses

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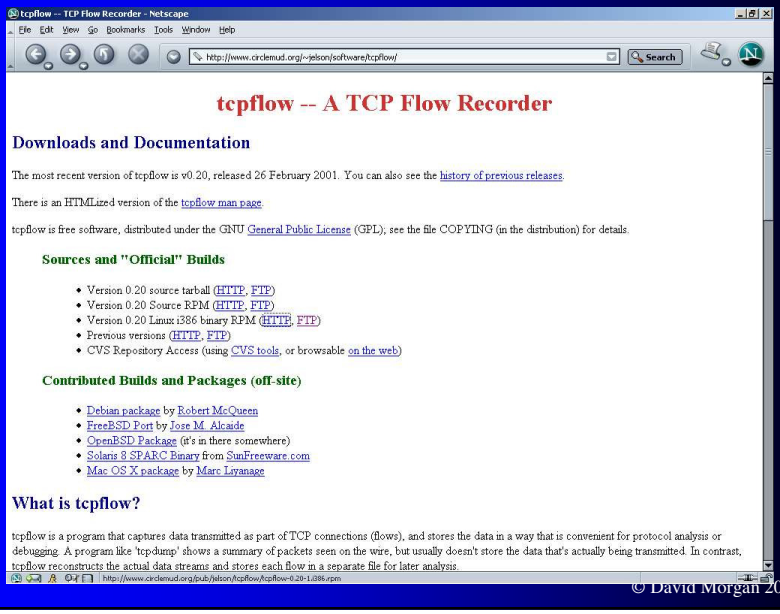
tcpflow



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tcpflow

- apply to tcpdump-style capture file
- segregates traffic by TCP connection
  - uniquely identified by quartet of 2 IP addresses and 2 ports
- extracts data only, from each connection
- stores it in separate files whose names reflect the connection

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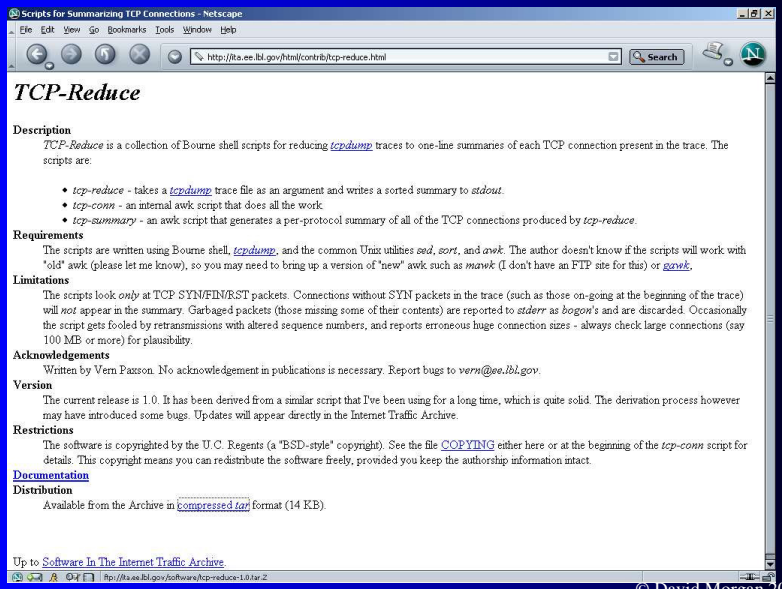
tcp-reduce



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tcp-reduce

- single-line summary, each TCP connection
- information fields
  - time and duration
  - protocol
  - bytes sent, each side
  - TCP state at termination

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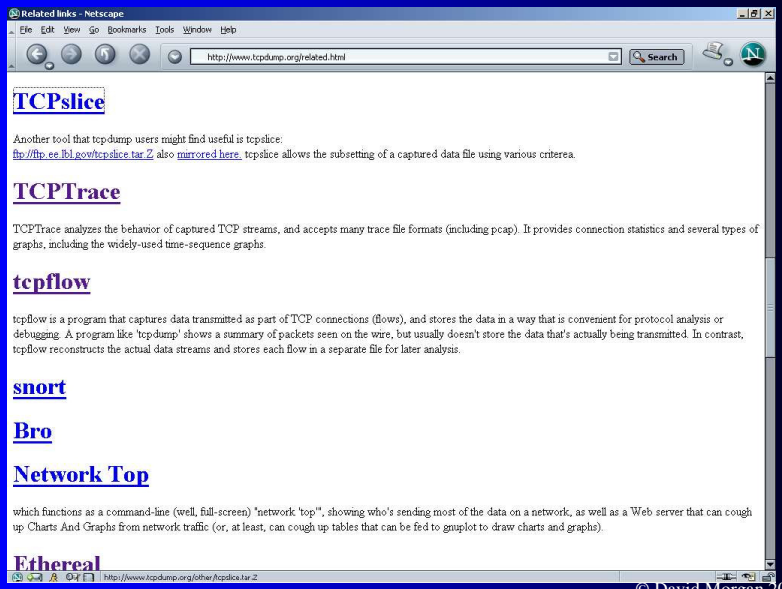
tcpslice



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tcpslice

- extract dump file parcels by timestamp interval
- glue them together

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browseclassweb: a sample capture file

- contains session of browsing homepage.smc.edu/morgan_david
- entails 2 TCP conversations
  - primary fetch html file for the page
  - secondary fetch of enigma.jpg, referenced within the page

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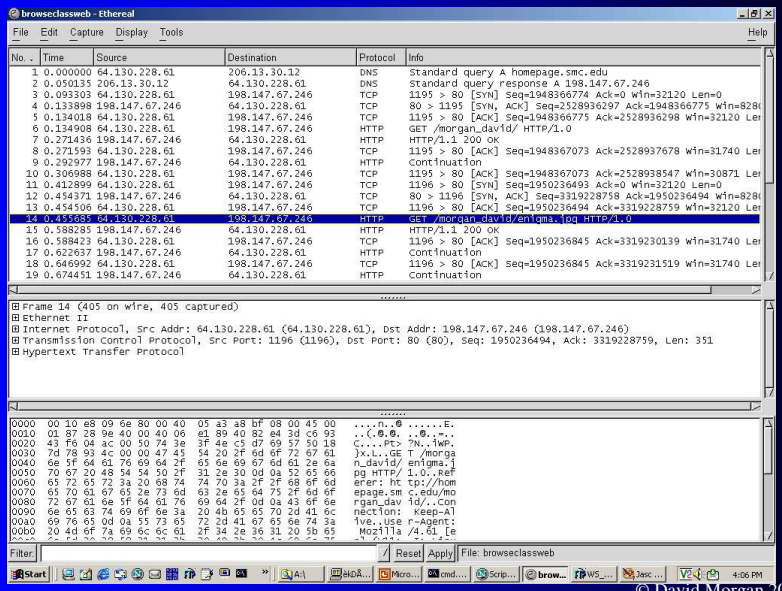
browseclassweb



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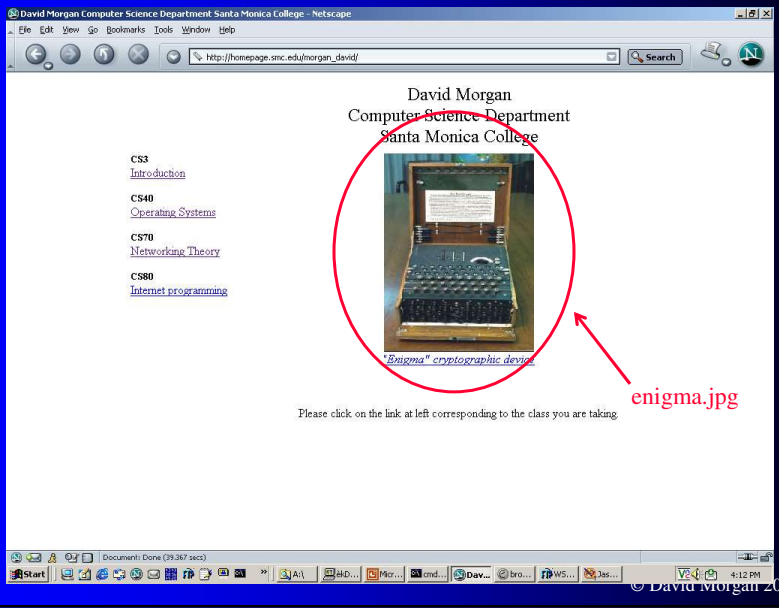
Target page



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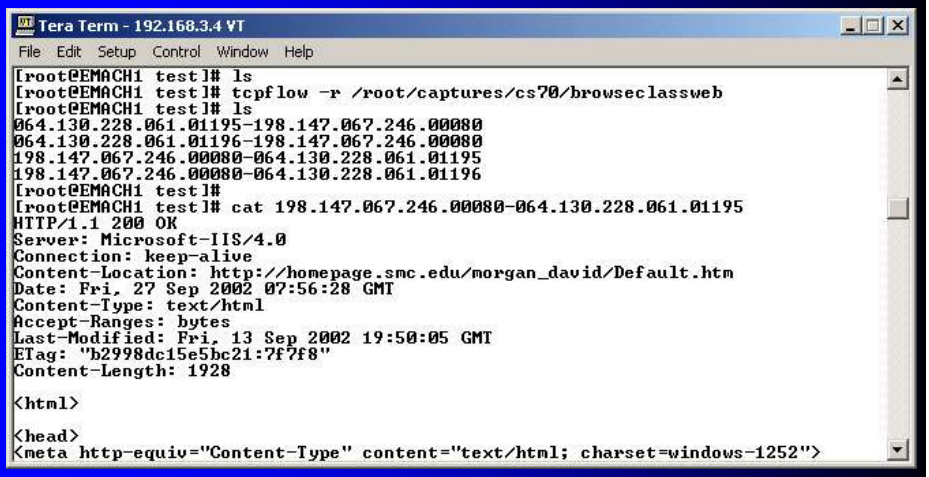
tcpflow


Tera Term - 192.168.3.4 VT
File Edit Setup Control Window Help
[root@EMACH1 test]# ls
[root@EMACH1 test]# tcpflow -r /root/captures/cs70/browseclassweb
[root@EMACH1 test]# ls
064.130.228.061.01195-198.147.067.246.00080
064.130.228.061.01196-198.147.067.246.00080
198.147.067.246.00080-064.130.228.061.01195
198.147.067.246.00080-064.130.228.061.01196
[root@EMACH1 test]#
[root@EMACH1 test]# cat 198.147.067.246.00080-064.130.228.061.01195
HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Server: Microsoft-IIS/4.0
Connection: keep-alive
Content-Location: http://homepage.smc.edu/morgan_david/Default.htm
Date: Fri, 27 Sep 2002 07:56:28 GMT
Content-Type: text/html
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Last-Modified: Fri, 13 Sep 2002 19:50:05 GMT
ETag: "b2998dc15e5bc21:7f7f8"
Content-Length: 1928
<html>
<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=windows-1252">
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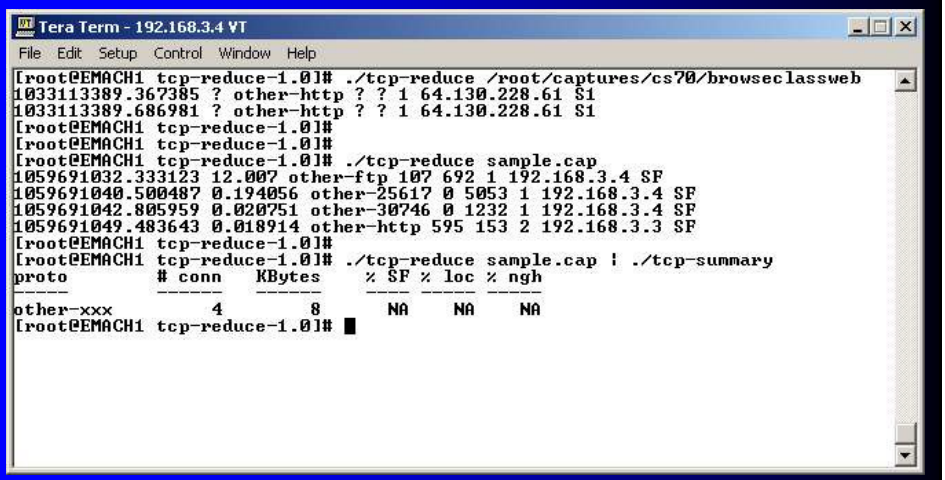
tcp-reduce



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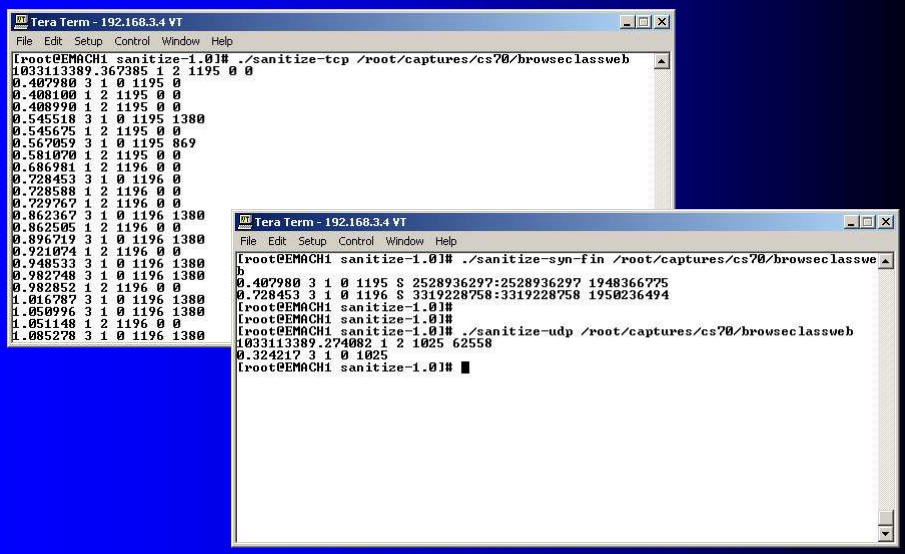
sanitize



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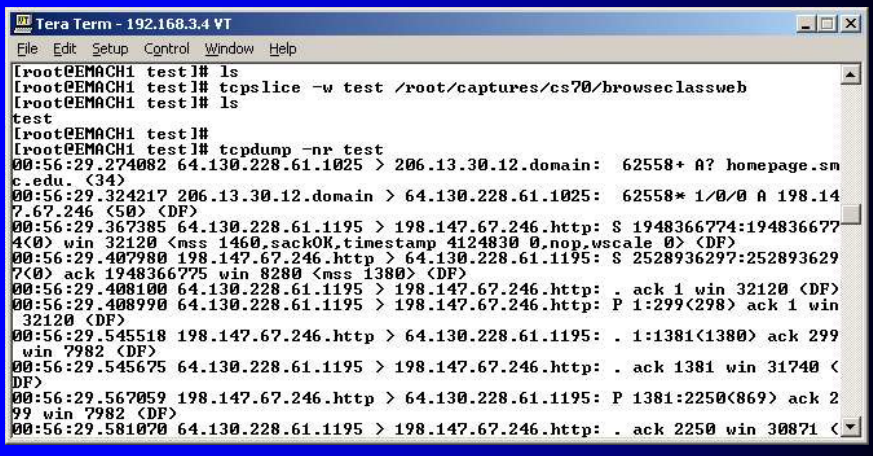
tcpslice



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