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WIRESHARK
SHARKS ON THE WIRE

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PLUS

LEARN MORE ABOUT WIRESHARK!
PEDRO MORENO SANCHEZ AND ROGELIO MARTINEZ PEREZ SHOWS HOW TO USE COOJA SIMULATOR TOGETHER

Using Wireshark

and Other Tools to as an Aid in Cyberwarfare and Cybercrime

Attempting to Solve the "Attribution Problem" – Using Wireshark and Other Tools to as an Aid in Cyberwarfare and Cybercrime for Analyzing the Nature and Characteristics of a Tactical or Strategic Offensive Cyberweapon and Hacking Attacks.

One of the main disadvantages of the hyper-connected world of the 21st century is the very real danger that countries, organizations, and people who use networks computer resources connected to the Internet face because they are at risk of cyberattacks that could result in anything ranging from denial service, to espionage, theft of confidential data, destruction of data, and/or destruction of systems and services. As a recognition of these dangers, the national leaders and military of most modern countries have now recognized that the potential and likely eventuality of cyberwar is very real and many are preparing to counter the threats of cyberwar with modern technological tools using strategies and tactics under a framework of cyberdeterrence, with which they can deter the potential attacks associated with cyberwarfare.

What is Cyberwarfare?

During my studies prior to and as a student in this DET 630 – Cyberwarfare and Cyberdeterrence course at Bellevue University, it occurred to me that considering the rapid evolution of the potentially destructive capabilities of cyberweapons and the complex nature of cyberdeterrence in the 21st century, it is now a critical priority to integrate the cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence plans into the CONOPS plan. Indeed, if the strategic battleground of the 21st century has now expanded to include cyberspace, and the U.S. has in the last five years ramped up major military commands, training, personnel, and capabilities to support cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence capabilities, the inclusion of these capabilities should now be a critical priority of the Obama administration if has not already happened.

How large a problem is this for the United States?

Without the integration of cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence technologies, strategies, and tactics into the CONOPS Plan, the national command authorities run a grave risk of conducting a poorly planned offensive cyberwarfare operation that could precipitate a global crisis, impair relationships with its allies, and potentially unleash a whole host of unintended negative and potentially catastrophic consequences. In non-military terms, at least four notable cyberspace events caused widespread damages via the Internet because of the rapid speed of their propagation, and their apparently ruthless and indiscriminant selection of vulnerable targets. They are 1) the Robert Morris worm (U.S. origin, 1988); 2) the ILOVEYOU worm (Philippines origin, 2000); the Code Red worm (U.S. origin, 2001); and the SQL Slammer worm (U.S. origin, 2003). If not executed with great care and forethought, a cyberweapons could potentially unleash even greater damage on intended targets and possible on unintended targets that were connected via the Internet.

Other Not So Obvious Challenges for Cyberweapons and Cyberdeterrence

The cyberspace threat and vulnerability landscape is notable in that it is continually dynamic and shifting. Those who are responsible

for protecting assets in cyberspace have many more challenges on their hands than their military counterparts who utilize weapons like guns, explosives, artillery, missiles, etc. For example, there are by some estimates over 350 new types of malware that are manufactured each month. There are also monthly patch updates to most Microsoft software and operating systems, and phenomena such as evil hackers and zero-day exploits are apparently never ending. Therefore, the inclusion of cyberweapons and cyberdeterrence capabilities into the CONOPS Plan would require more frequent, rigorous, complex, and integrated testing to ensure that it was always effective and up to date. In the dynamic world of cyberspace with it's constantly shifting landscape of new capabilities, threats and vulnerabilities, the coordination of the constant refresh and testing of a CONOPS Plan that integrated these cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence capabilities would be no small feat. In addition, constant intelligence gathering and reconnaissance would need to be performed on suspected enemies to ensure that our cyberweapons and cyberdeterrence capabilities would be in constant state of being able to deliver the intended effects for which they were designed.

Is it a problem for other countries?
The careful planning and integration of cyberweapons and cyberdeterrence is likely a challenge for every country with these capabilities. For example, much is already known about our potential adversaries, such as Russia, China and North Korea, but what is perhaps less understood is the degree to which they have been successful in integrating cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence capabilities into their own national war plans. Nevertheless, due to the previous extensive experience of Russia and the U.S. with strategic war planning, it is more likely that each of these countries stand the greatest chance of making integrating cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence capabilities into their respective war plans. Yet, as far back as June 2009, it was clear that the U.S. and Russia were unable to agree on a treaty that would create the terms under which cyberwarfare operations could and would be conducted (Markoff, J. and Kramer, A. E., 2009).

Is it problematic for these countries in the same ways or is there variation? What kind?
Every country that is modern enough to have organizations, people, and assets that are connected to computers and the Internet faces similar challenges of planning and managing cyberweapons and cyberdeterrence, and the poorer the country, the more significant the challenges. For example, when a small group of hackers from Manila in the Philippines unleashed the ILOVEYOU worm on the Internet in 2000, it caused over $2 billion in damages to computer data throughout the world. Agents from the FBI went to Manila to track down these people and investigate how and why the ILOVEYOU worm catastrophe occurred. To their surprise, they learned that each of these hackers who were involved could successfully escape prosecution because there were no laws in the Philippines with which to prosecute them. So actually most countries lack the technological and legal frameworks with which to successfully build a coordinated effort to manage the weapons and strategies of cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence, despite the fact that most now embrace cyberspace with all the positive economic benefits it offers for commerce and communications.

What are the consequences to the U.S. and others if this threat is left unchecked?
As stated earlier, without the careful integration of cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence technologies, strategies, and tactics into the CONOPS Plan, the national command authorities run a grave risk of launching a poorly planned offensive cyberwarfare operation that could precipitate a global crisis, impair relationships with its allies, and potentially unleash a whole host of unintended negative and potentially catastrophic consequences.

What consequences has the threat already produced on American/global society?
I believe that yes, the absence of well-defined cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence strategies and tactics in the CONOPS Plan has already produced some situations that have either damaged America's image abroad, or that could imperil its image and have far more negative consequences. For example, operates such as Stuxnet, Flame, Duque, etc., might have either been better planned or possibly not executed at all if cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence strategies and tactics were defined in the CONOPS Plan. Also, the news media indicated during the revolution in Libya that resulted in the fall of Qaddafi, cyberwarfare operations were considered by the Obama administration. The negative reactions and repercussions on the world stage might have far outweighed any short term advantages that could have resulted from a successful set of cyberattacks against Libyan infrastructure assets that were attached to computer

networks. Again, a comprehensive CONOPS Plan that included well-defined cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence strategies and tactics could have prevented such possible cyberattacks from even being considered, and it could have prevented the news of the possible consideration being publicized in the press (Schmitt, E. and Shanker, T., 2011). Without such restraint and well-planned deliberate actions, the U.S. runs the risk of appearing like the well-equipped cyber bully on the world stage, and an adversary who is willing to unleash weapons that can and will do crippling damage to an opponent, using technologies that are rapid, decisive, and not well-understood by those for whom they are intended. A similar effect and world reaction might be if U.S. Army infantry troops were equipped with laser rifles that emitted deadly laser blasts with pinpoint precision across several hundred yards.

Has this threat evolved or changed over time or is it relatively constant? If it has evolved or changed, exactly how has that change happened and what political consequences have emerged from them?

The threat has certainly rapidly evolved over time. Since Stuxnet was released in 2010, countries and the general public are now aware of some of the offensive, strategic and destructive capabilities and potential of cyberweapons (Gelton, T., 2011).

The changes that produced Stuxnet and other recent, more modern cyberweapons were a national resolve to excel in the cyberwarfare area, coupled with excellent reconnaissance on desired targets, and partnering with computer scientists in Israel. The political consequences are not well understood yet, except to say that the U.S. and Israel are probably less trusted and suspected of even greater future capabilities, as well as having

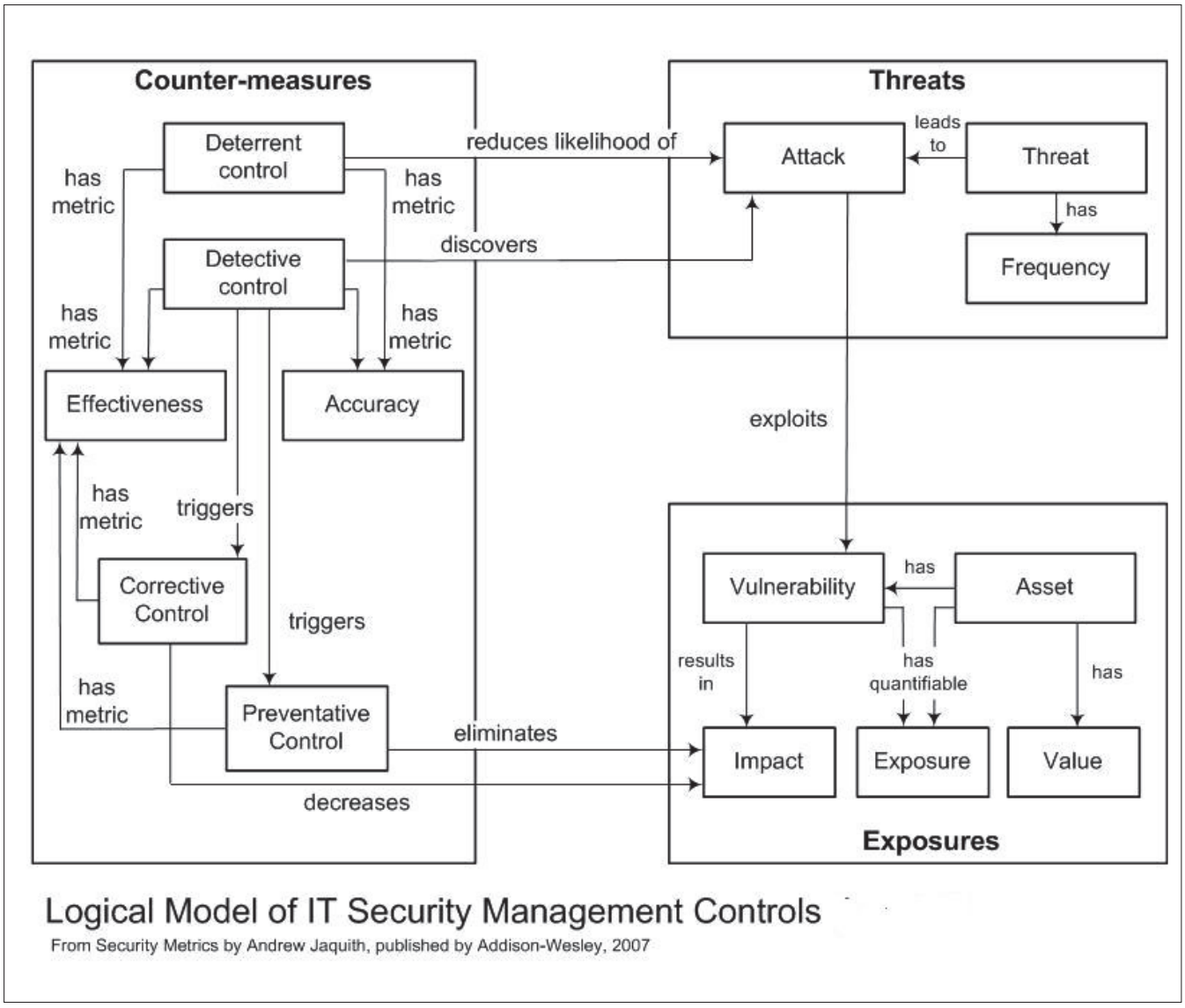

Figure 1. *Logical Model of IT Security Management Controls (Jacquith, 2007)*

the will to use them. Again, having well-planned cyberwarfare and cyberdeterrence strategies and tactics defined in the CONOPS Plan might indeed, restrain such possibly reckless decisions as to unleash cyberweapon attacks without what the world might consider the correct provocation.

Final Thoughts about Cyberwarfare Operations

In the words of Deb Radcliff, in an article published in SC Magazine in September 2012, "we are already in a cyberwar" (Radcliff, D., 2012). But as I was performing my research, it occurred to me that a country like the U.S., might in the future unleash such a devastating cyberattack that it could cripple the enemy's ability to communicate surrender. I think that the moral implications of such circumstances need to be justly considered as a matter of the laws of war, because if a country continues to attack an enemy that has indicated that they are defeated and want to surrender, this shifts the moral ground from which the U.S. may have it was conducting its cyberwarfare operations. This is one other unintended consequence of cyberwarfare and one that needs to be carefully considered.

To further understand the relationship of threats, counter-measures, and exposures in cyberspace, I have included this diagram by Jaquith, shown Figure 1.

The Attribution Problem

One of the most perplexing issues of cyberwarfare and cybercrime is the fact that attackers can and very often will use software and other servers from which to launch their attacks. Because of the way the Internet was designed its end-to-end nature of IP communications using other computers to launch attacks is not that difficult. In fact, the computers that actually perform the attacks are called "zombies" as they are configured with remote control programs that are manipulated by the attackers. The recipients can do forensic analysis and determine which "zombie" computers sent the attacks, however, it is practically impossible to collect the data about who the person or persons that originated the attacks. Thus, it is very difficult to attribute the original cause of the attack, hence the name the "attribution problem." In cyberwarfare, this is particularly difficult, because the National Command Authorities would want to understand to whom and where they should employee the cyberwarfare capable units of the U.S. Military to launch a punishing retaliatory cyberattack.

The most common type of attack for "zombie" computers is known as the distributed denial of service attack or DDoS attack. In February 2000, the first sensational wave of DDoS attacks were launched from "zombie" computers that were physically located at major universities in California. The following figures provide some of the details about those attacks and which companies were the targets (Figure 2-4).

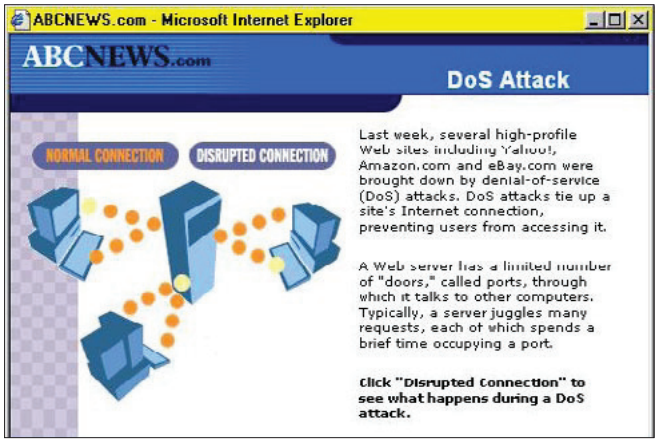

Figure 2. *Denial of Service Attack diagram from ABC news in February 2000*

Figure 3. *Denial of Service Attack Victims diagram from ABC news in February 2000*

Figure 4. *Denial of Service Attack Zombies diagram from ABC news in February 2000*

Recent Cyber Attacks

As recently as September 23, 2012 – September 30, 2012, cyber attacks in the form of distributed *denial of service* (DDOS) attacks from the Middle East against several major U.S. banks based have publicly demonstrated the ire of the attackers and also the vulnerabilities of banks with a customer presence in cyberspace (Strohm and Engleman, 2012).

How do you know?

It's not always intuitively obvious, but if your network is slowing down or computers or other devices attached to your network are acting strangely, you could be under attack. But it's best to use analysis tools to understand what is really going on.

Free Tools You Can Use

This section covers three free tools that you can use to understand network activity on your network in greater detail.

Wireshark

Wireshark is a free, open source packet analysis tool that evolved from its predecessor, Ethereal.

Table 1. *Wireshark Documentation – Packet Analysis Capabilities for Captured Packets*
The menu items of the "Packet List" pop-up menu

Item	Identical to main menu's item:	Description
Mark Packet (toggle)	Edit	Marklunmark a packet.
Ignore Packet (toggle)	Edit	Ignore or inspect this packet while dissecting the capture file.
Set Time Reference (toggle)	Edit	Set/reset a time reference.
Manually Resolve Address		Allows you to enter a name to resolve for the selected address.
Apply as Filter	Analyze	Prepare and apply a display filter based on the currently selected
item.		
Prepare a Filter	Analyze	Prepare a display filter based on the currently selected item.
Conversation Filler	-	This menu item applies a display filter with the address nformationflonitly selected packet. E.g. the IP mein enttywill eta filter to show the trafficbetweenthe two IP addresses of the current packet. XXX - add a new section describing this better.
Cobrize Conversation	-	This menu item uses adisplayfilterwiththe address infounaticei from the selected packet to build a new colorizing rule.
SCTP	-	Allows ycii to analyze and prepare a filter for this SCTP associafion.
Follow TCP Stream	Analyze	Allows you to view all the data on a TCP streambetw een a pair of noles.
Follow UDP Stream	Analyze	Allows you to view all the data on a UDP datazrain stnain b etw een a pair of nodes.
Follow SSL Stream	Analyze	Same as "Follow TCP Sbeanz" but for SSL. XXX - add a new ection descnbing this better.

Copy/ Summary (Text)	-	Copy the surtunny fields as displayed to the clipboard, as tab-separated text.
Copy/ Summary (CSV)	-	Copy the summary fields as displayed to the clipboard, as conuna-separated text.
Copy/ As Filter	-	Prepare a display filterbased on the currently selected item aid copy that filter to tle clipboard.
Copy/ Byter (Offset Hex)	-	Copy the packet bytes to the clipboard in hexdump-like format, butwitlrut the text partion.
Copy/ Byter (Pantable Text Only>)	-	Copy the packet bytes to the clipboard as ASCII text, excludin; non-pzintab le characters.
Copy/ Wier (Hex Stream)	-	Copy the packet bytes to the clipboard as an unpuirtuated list of hex digits.
Copy/ Byter (Binary Stream)	-	Copy the packet bytes to the clipboard as raw binary. The data is stored intly clipboard as MIME-tyre "application/octet-stteam".

Decode As...	Analyze	Change or apply a new relationbetween two dissectors.
Print…	File	Print packets.
Show Packet in New Window	View	Display the selected packet ma new window.

Wireshark is notable for its ability to quickly, capture and display traffic in a real time sequential way, and allow this traffic to be displayed, broken down at the packet level by each level of the OSI model, from the physical layer up through the application layer. The traffic can also shows the senders and the receivers of each packet, and can be easily summarized with the selection of a few menu choices. The first figure below is from a table in the Wireshark documentation, and the figures that follow are from an actual Wireshark session where about 500,000 packets were collected for summarization and analysis. All this data can also be saved for later analysis.

Wireshark will run on both Windows-based platforms and Mac OS X platforms. This is the website location where you can find Wireshark: *http://www.wireshark.org/download.html* (Table 1 and Figure 5-8).

Ostinato

Ostinato is a free, open source-based packet generator that can be used to conduct network experiments, particularly for packet analysis in conjunction with a tool such as Wireshark. It is easy to install, configure and use. Figure 8 shows a screenshot from Ostinato.

Ostinato will run on Windows-based platforms and several other platforms. This is the website location where you can find Ostinato: *http://code.google.com/p/ostinato/* (Figure 9).

TCPView

TCPView is an excellent analysis program that shows what is happening on your computer at layer four of the OSI networking model. If you remember, this is where TCP and UDP activities take place. TCPView allows the user to view and sort data by process, PID, protocol (TCP or UDP), local address, remote address, port number, TCP state, sent packets, sent bytes, received packets, and received bytes. The data can also be saved for later analysis.

TCPView was originally written by Mark Russinovich and Bryce Cogswell and was published and distributed for free by their company, Sysinternals. In 2006, Microsoft acquired Sysinternals and TCPView and many other tools that were created by Sysinternals continue to be updated and distributed

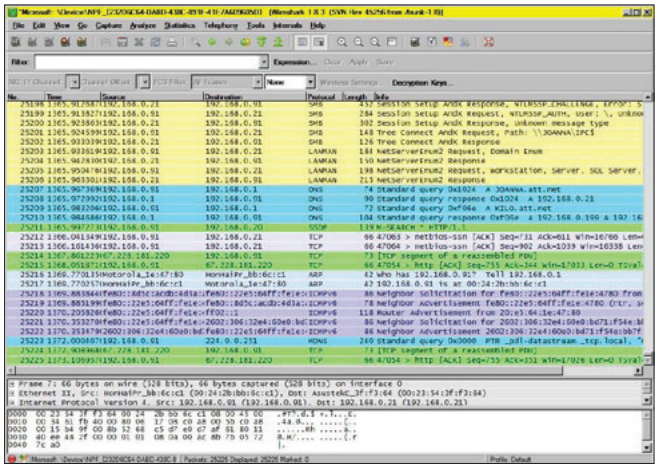

Figure 5. *Wireshark Opening Screenshot after a Network Interface Has Been Selected for Packet Capture*

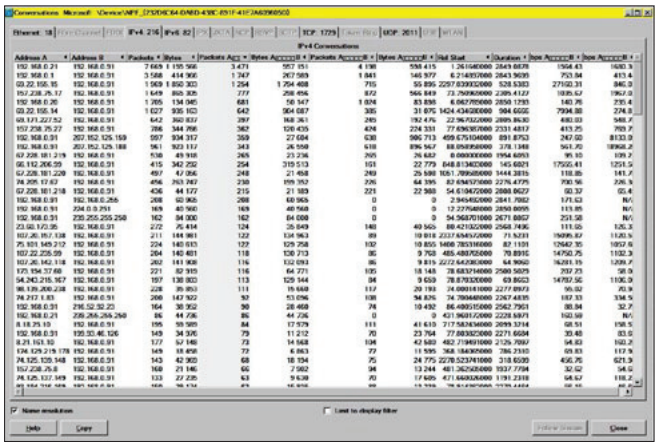

Figure 6. *Wireshark Conversation Analysis Screen*

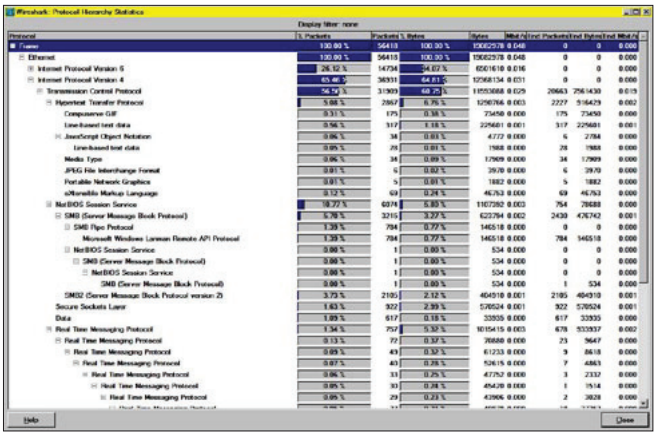

Figure 7. *Wireshark Protocol Analysis Screen*

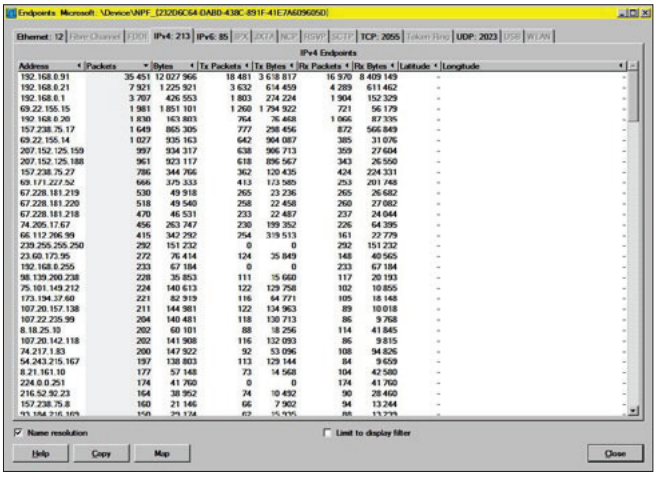

Figure 8. *Wireshark Endpoint Analysis Screen*

by Microsoft for free. TCPView will only run on Windows-based platforms and this is the website location where you can find TCPView and many other great Sysinternals tools: *http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals* (Figure 10).

Traffic to Watch

By far the most interesting and dangerous external traffic to watch on most networks is ICMP traffic. ICMP is the Internet Control Messaging Protocol, and there are eight types of ICMP messages. Hackers can easily use ICMP (PING) messages to create DDOS attacked. A tool like Simple Nomad's "icmpenum" can issue ICMP messages such as ICMP_TIMESTAMP_REQUEST and ICMP_INFO and make it possible to map a network inside of a firewall (K, 2011).

Outbound traffic is just as important as inbound traffic if not more so (Geers, 2011). It is not uncommon for programs like botnets to take up residence and open up secure channels to transmit data to remote servers in places like China, Russia, Eastern Europe and even North Korea.

Programs that are unrecognizable should be suspected as possible malware and should be quickly researched to determine if they are hostile. If they cannot be easily identified, that is a bad sign and they should probably be uninstalled.

A Caution to those Who Understand Network Attacks

Title 10 of the U.S. Code forbids U.S. Citizens from taking offensive action against network attackers. Nevertheless, monitoring the evidence and results of unwanted traffic could help you understand it and also help you decide how to improve upon your network defenses (firewall settings for inbound traffic, desktop firewalls, etc.) and even provide evidence to law enforcement authorities.

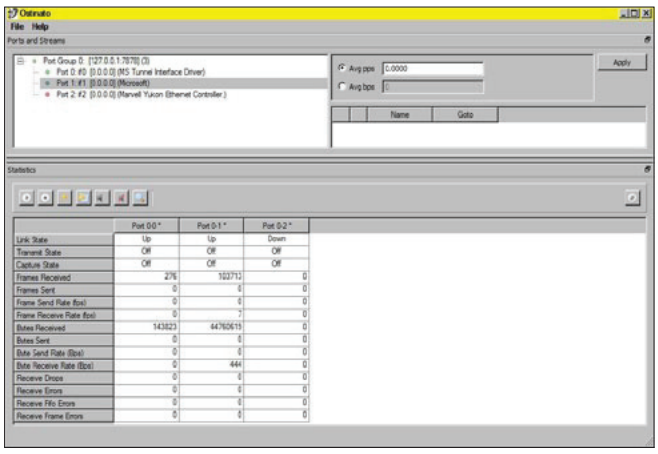

Figure 9. *Ostinato Packet Generator Screen*

The Future

Without trying to present a gloomy picture of the cyberspace environment that is composed of the Internet and all the computers, smart phones and other devices attached to it, it appears that for the time being, the bad guys far outnumber the good guys and it appears that they are winning. But it is also apparent that that now more free information and free tools are available than ever before. For the foreseeable future, every person who uses the Internet should seek to educate themselves about the dangers in cyberspace and the ways to protect themselves from these dangers.

Conclusion

This article has briefly reviewed the topic of cyberwarfare and presented some information about free network analysis tools that can help you better understand your network traffic.

The good news is that President Obama and his Administration have an acute awareness of the importance of the cyberspace to the American economy and the American military. The bad news is that because we are already in some form of cyberwarfare that appears to be rapidly escalating, it remains to be seen what effects these cyberattacks and the expected forthcoming Executive Orders that address cybersecurity will have on the American people and our way of life. I believe it will be necessary to act prudently, carefully balancing our freedoms with our need for security, and also considering the importance of enabling and protecting the prosperity of the now electronically connected, free enterprise economy that makes the U.S. the envy of and the model for the rest of the world.

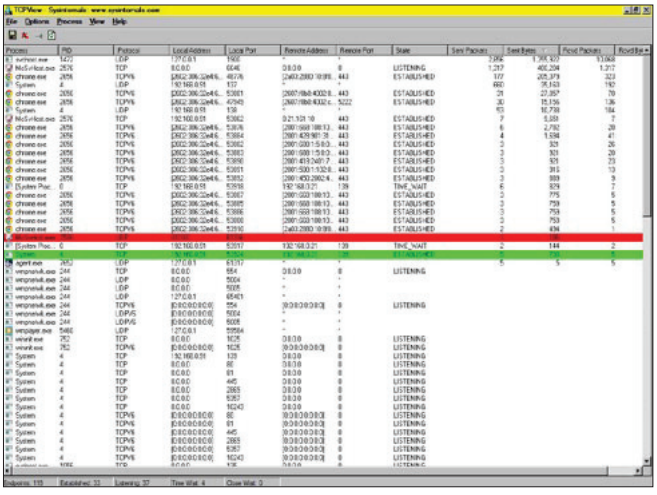

Figure 10. *TCPView in operation, with records sorted by sent packets, in descending order*

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