

PcapXray Design Specification

Goal:

- Given a Pcap File, plot a network diagram displaying hosts in the network, network traffic, highlight important traffic and Tor traffic as well as potential malicious traffic including data involved in the communication.

Problem:

- Investigation of a Pcap file takes a long time given initial glitch to start the investigation
 - Faced by every forensics investigator and anyone who is analyzing the network

Location: <https://github.com/Srinivas11789/PcapXray>

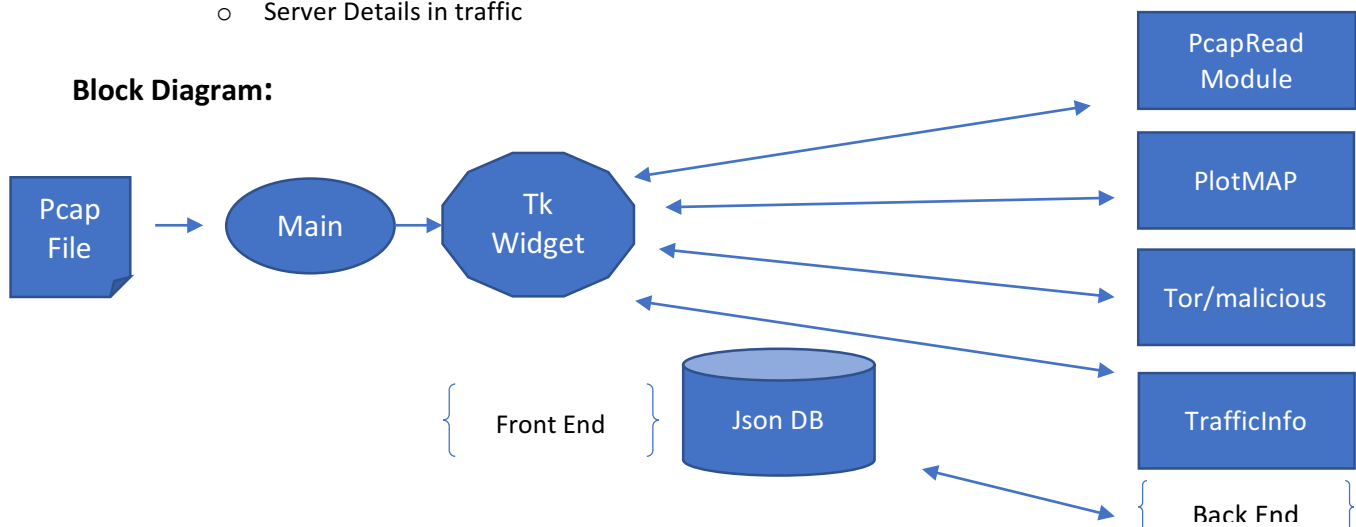
Solution: *Speed up the investigation process*

- Make a network diagram with the following features from a Pcap file
 - Tool Highlights:**
 - Network Diagram – Summary Network Diagram of full network
 - Information:
 - Traffic with Server Details
 - Tor Traffic
 - Possible Malicious traffic
 - Data Obtained from Packet in Report – Device/Traffic/Payloads
 - Device Details

Components:

- Mandatory:**
 - Network Diagram
 - Device/Traffic Details and Analysis
 - Malicious Traffic Identification
 - Tor Traffic
 - GUI – a gui with options to upload pcap file and display the network diagram
- Optional but Useful:**
 - Files Exchanged
 - Server Details in traffic

Block Diagram:



Method or Process Description:

- **Module1 – main.py - Main (Driver):**
 - Main program driver
 - Drives the whole Application by spawning a TK widget interface
- **Module2 – userInterface.py – GUI:**
 - Used **Tk** and **Ttk** Widget for the Graphical User Interface
 - Designed a UI with three frames,
 - First frame, **accepting input file** from the user and **Button action**, an added gimmick of **progress bar** showing progressing scenario
 - Second frame, providing **options to select** from a list to display different graphs in the third frame
 - Third frame initially contains a label displaying the tool information
 - Based on the option setting at second frame, it **displays different graphs** in the third frame
 - Button action calls packet read to initially **perform pcap reading** and update the **json database or dictionary**
 - Option action or option **variable trace** observes change in the option value and triggers function call to **plotLan or draw graph** and display
- **Module3 – pcapReader.py – Pcap Reading:**
 - Reads the given packet capture file and populates a dictionary of various information of the packets
 - First Key of the Dictionary is DB[ip] – **collects the private Ips**
 - Second Key of the Dictionary is **TCP or UDP** – Basis of communication
 - Third Key of the Dictionary is **HTTP, HTTPS, Ports Connected** information
 - Few other keys collecting the **HTTP Servers, Payload** also are segregated
 - Json DB Structure:
 - **DB[Privatelp]**
 - **TCP**
 - **HTTP**
 - **Server**
 - **Payload**
 - **HTTPS**
 - **PortsConnected**
 - **UDP**
 - **PortsConnected**
 - **Ethernet**
- **Module4 – plotLanNetwork.py – Network Graph Drawing:**
 - Uses graphviz module to plot network graph
 - Classifies **all the private IP** in the network from the packetDB into **nodes**
 - **Traces all the traffic** based on the category under consideration and **draws edges**
 - **Style** added to differentiate different traffic
- **Module 5 – torTrafficHandle.py – Tor Traffic Detection:**
 - Obtains **consensus data** from **the tor authority nodes** using **the stem library** and matches all the destination address of packets to view any match
 - Classifies destination of such an address as a potential Tor traffic displayed with a **white edge**

- **Module 6 – maliciousTrafficIdentifier.py – Malicious Traffic Detection:**
 - Obtains the **Non-resolved IP address** (by reverse DNS lookup) or connection to any **unknown ports or not well-known ports** are assumed to be a malicious connection
 - Well known ports database is kept small as of now with the most well-known ports such as 53, 80, 443. It should be updated with a proper db of well-known ports to compare against.
- **Module 7 – communicationDetailsFetch.py – Traffic Details Fetch**
 - **Ipwhois:**
 - Ipwhois details are fetched with the ipwhois library
 - Every ip is resolved for the whois information and the report is updated
 - This feature already exists but is kept disabled to achieve performance and speed (Ex: scenario to solve: Some pcap files contain over 100 hosts)
 - **Reverse dns lookup:**
 - Reverse dns lookup is performed with the socket library which is default and domain name is obtained from gethostbyaddr function
- **Module 8 – deviceDetailsFetch.py – Device Details Fetch**
 - Device details are obtained from the Ethernet key of the packet DB
 - For each private IP the mac OUI is compared with the OUI database and information is fetched
- **Module 9 – reportGen.py – Report Generator**
 - Report generator module generates report at a given path,
 - *Device details*
 - *Communication details*
 - *HTTPPayload details*
 - Copies all the Json database contents into the files based on the category

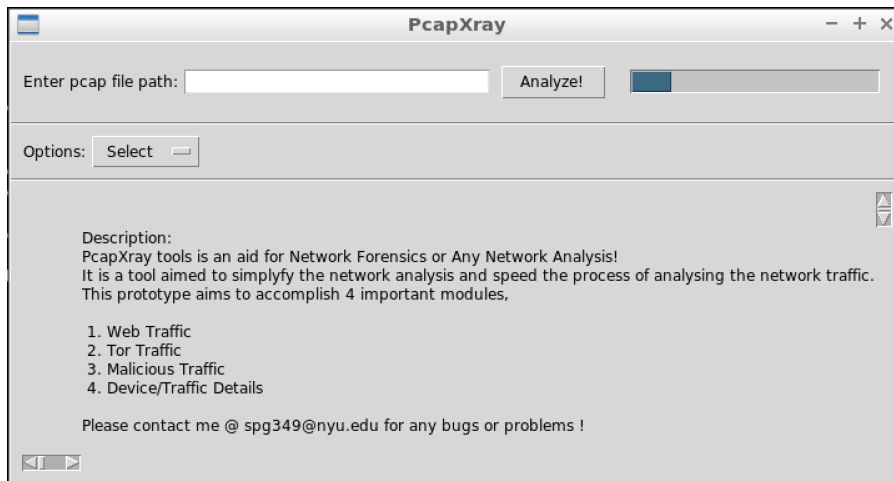
Output:

- Provides network graph of all the different traffic – Tor, Malicious, All, HTTP and HTTPS
- Create a Report Folder to dump all the “PNG” files of different graphs
 - Generates files with information from the database

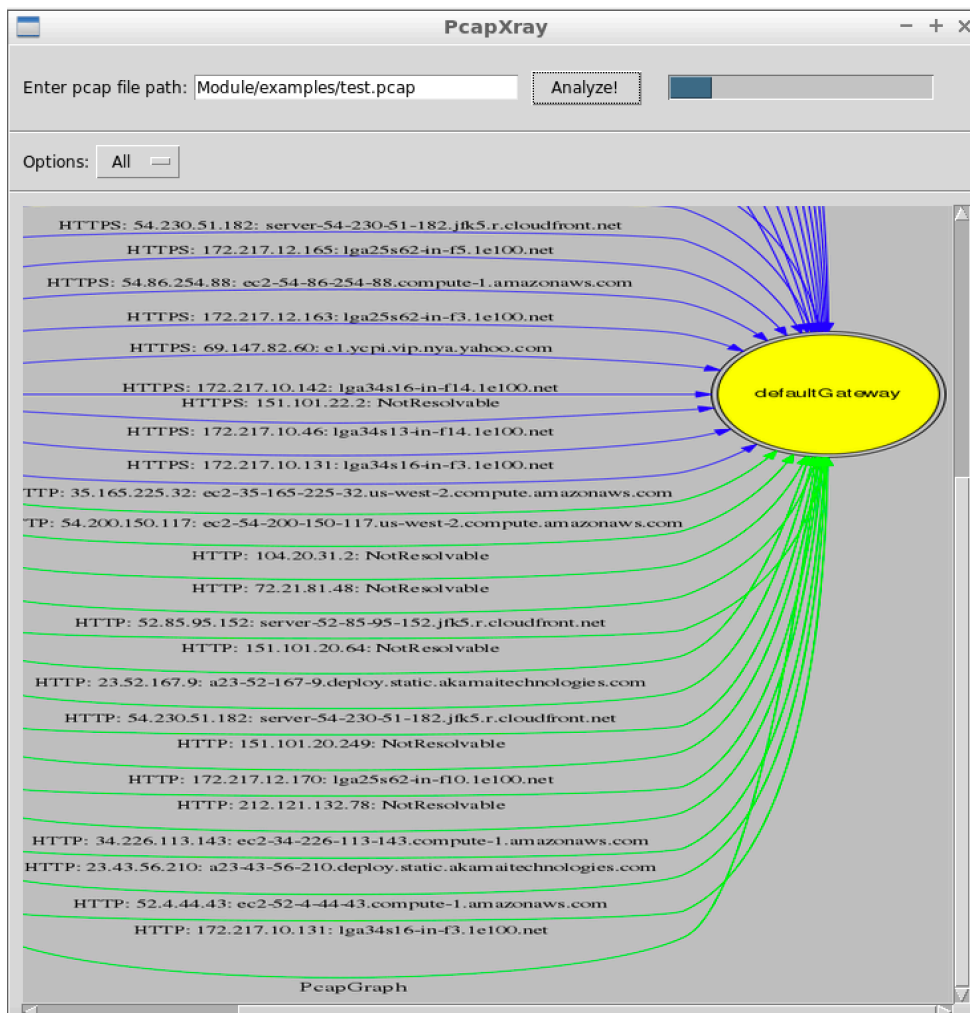
Python Libraries Used: - All these libraries are required for functionality

- Tkinter and TTK – Install from pip or apt-get – Ensure Tkinter and graphviz is installed (Most Linux contain by default)
 - **apt install python-tk**
 - **apt install graphviz**
- **All these are included in the requirements.txt file**
 - Scapy – rdpcap to read the packets from the pcap file
 - Ipwhois – to obtain whois information from ip
 - Netaddr – to check ip information type
 - Pillow – image processing library
 - Stem – tor consensus data fetch library
 - pyGraphviz – plot graph
 - Networkx – plot graph
 - Matplotlib – plot graph

Demo: Screen shots: Initial Screen



Result Screen:



Challenges:

- **Unstability of the TK GUI:**
 - Decision on the GUI between Django and TK, settled upon tk for a simple local interface, but the unstability of the tk gui caused a number of problems
- **Graph Plotting:**
 - Plotting a proper network graph which is readable from the data obtained was quite an effort, used different libraries to arrive at one.
- **Performance and Timing:**
 - The performance and timing of the total application was a big challenge with different data gathering and output generation

Known Bugs:

- **Memory Hogging**
 - Sometimes memory hogging occurs when lower RAM is present in the system as the data stored in the memory from the pcap file is huge
 - Should be Fixed by moving data into a database than the memory itself
- **Race Condition**
 - Due to mainloop of the TK gui, other threads could undergo a race condition
 - Should be fixed by moving to a better structured TK implementation or Web GUI
- **Tk GUI Unstability:**
 - Same reason as above
- Current Fix in rare occasions: If any of the above issue occurs the progress bar keeps running and no output is generated, a restart of the app would be required.

Future:

- Change the database from JSON to sqlite or prominent database, due to memory hogging
- Change frontend to web based such as Django
- Make the application more stable

References:

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