

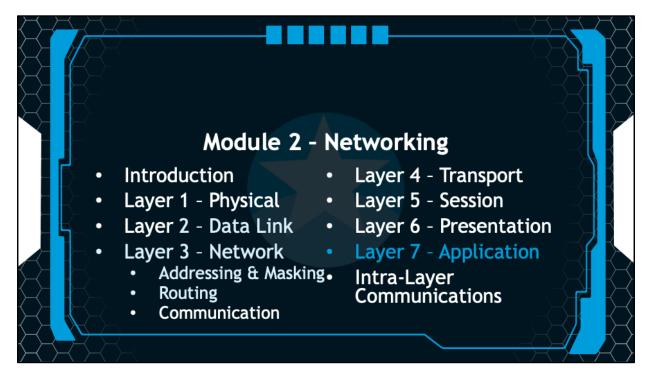
Welcome to Cyber Aces, Module 2! A firm understanding of network fundamentals is essential to being able to secure a network or attack one. This section provides a broad overview of networking, covering the fundamental concepts needed to understand computer attacks and defenses from a network perspective.

1. Introduction to	01. Linux
Operating Systems	02. Windows
2. Networking	
	01. Bash
3. System Administration	02. PowerShell 03. Python

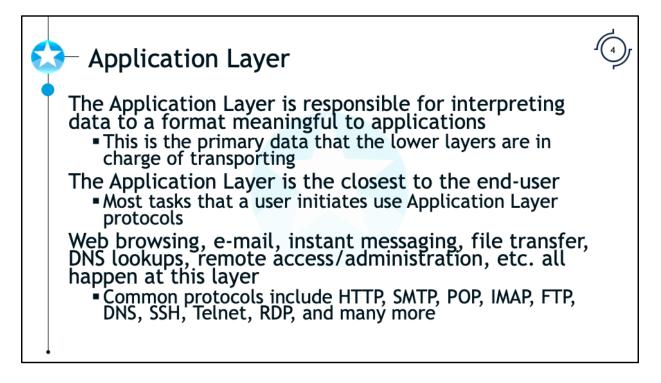
This training material was originally developed to help students, teachers, and mentors prepare for the Cyber Aces Online Competition. This module focuses on the basics of networking. This session is part of Module 2, Networking.

The three modules of Cyber Aces Online are Operating Systems, Networking, and System Administration.

For more information about the Cyber Aces program, please visit the Cyber Aces website at https://CyberAces.org/.

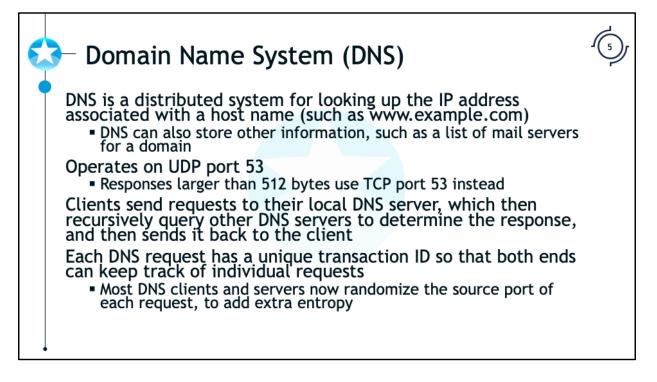


In this section, you'll learn about the Application Layer. We'll cover two important protocols operating at this layer, DNS and HTTP, which are both essential to the World Wide Web.



The Application Layer is responsible for interpreting data to a format that is meaningful to applications. Being the highest layer, this layer contains the data that the lower layers are in charge of transporting. The Application Layer is the closest to the end-user, and most tasks that a user initiates use Application Layer protocols. The Application Layer is the home of familiar protocols such as HTTP (Web), SSH (Secure Shell), SMTP (sending mail), POP3 and IMAP (receiving email), DNS (Domain Name Services) and many others.

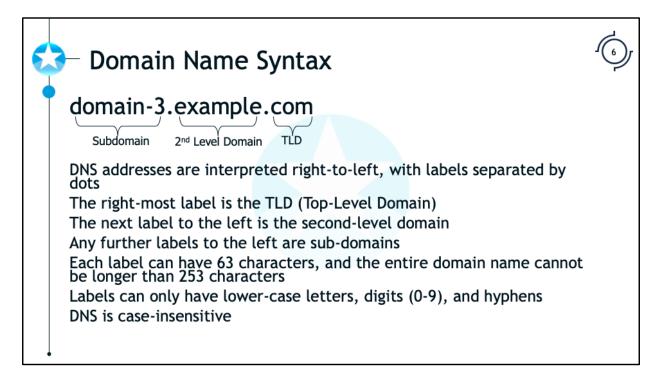
This is where important functions such as retrieving web pages and resolving host names are implemented. Let's look at two important Application Layer protocols called HTTP and DNS. First, let's look at DNS.



Human beings remember names easier than we remember long strings of numbers. For example, most people can remember www.google.com but struggle to remember 74.125.159.147. DNS (Domain Name Services) maps human friendly domain names into computer friendly IP addresses. When we type a human friendly DNS name into a web browser, command prompt, or some other tool, our computer first asks a DNS server to translate that into an IP address. DNS is decentralized, meaning that there are multiple servers that can be queried for the same information (there is no single point of failure). It uses UDP port 53 to communicate, except for responses that are larger than 512 bytes (such as zone transfers), which use TCP port 53. Clients send requests to their local DNS server, which then recursively query other DNS servers to determine the response, and then the local server sends it back to the client.

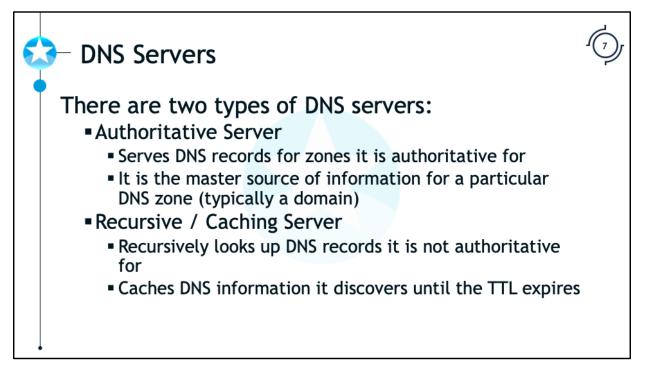
Each DNS request has a unique transaction ID, allowing both ends to keep track of unique requests (since UDP is a stateless protocol). Since the transaction ID is only 2¹⁶ bits (0-65535), there is not a lot of entropy to help prevent against attacks. Most DNS clients and servers now randomize the source port of each DNS request and keep track of that too, in order to add more entropy and mitigate against transaction ID guessing (or brute forcing).

Reference Dan Kaminsky DNS Vulnerability: https://redsiege.com/ca/dns-attack



DNS has a certain syntax for domain names that must be follow. DNS addresses are interpreted right-to-left, with each "label" (component) of the address separated by dots. DNS is hierarchical, meaning the right-most labels are authoritative over the left-most ones, whereas the left-most labels are the most specific identifier. The right-most label is called the Top-Level Domain (TLD). ICANN defines a number of generic top-level domains (gTLD's), such as .com, .org, and .edu, as well as country code TLD's (ccTLD's), such as .us and .uk. The next label to the left is the second-level domain, which normally defines a specific entity on the Internet (such as "sans.org" for SANS). Note that in some TLD's, second-level domains are used as gTLD's, such as ".co.uk" (the UK equivlant of ".com"), meaning the third-level domain serves as the second-level domain. Any further labels to the left (such as the third-level domain) are sub-domains of the label to their right.

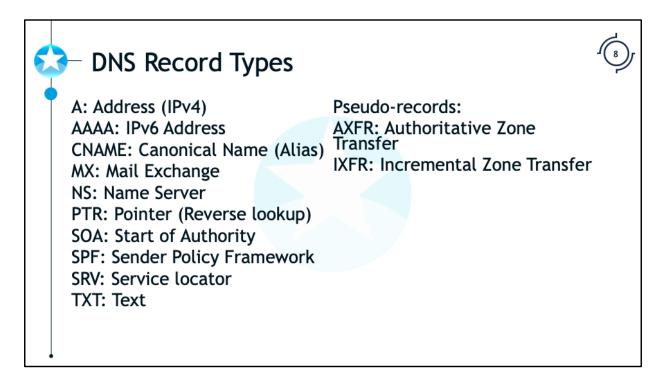
Each label can have a maximum of 63 characters, and the entire domain name cannot be longer than 253 characters. Labels can only contain lower-case letters, digits (0-9), and hyphens (though a label cannot start or end with a hyphen). DNS is caseinsensitive, meaning that the domains "example.com" and "ExAmPlE.cOm" are the same.



There are two types of DNS servers: Authoritative and Recursive/Caching.

An authoritative server serves DNS records for zones it is the authoritative server for. (A *DNS zone* is a portion of DNS namespace that has had its administrative responsibility delegated to a specific entity.) An authoritative server serves as the master source of records for a particular zone, which is typically a particular second-level domain, though it could be more specific (or even broader). For example, a particular server could be authoritative for all of example.com (including all sub-domains), but particular sub-domains could also have their own authoritative servers. In fact, each TLD (managed by ICANN-accredited domain *registrars*) also has authoritative servers that contain records for the second-level domain servers, and there are 13 root name servers that contain records pointing to all of the TLD name servers. All domains generally have at least two authoritative name servers for redundancy.

A recursive server recursively looks up DNS records that it is NOT authoritative for. They are generally used by clients to perform DNS lookups, rather than every client in the world needing to manually query every authoritative server. A recursive server caches the DNS responses that it receives in order to speed up subsequent requests and reduce the amount of network traffic being generated. All DNS records specify a "TTL" (Time To Live) indicating how long the record should be kept in DNS caches before being purged. DNS changes can take a long time to propagate across the entire Internet, because the TTL has to expire on the record in every cache the record is stored in.



While most people think of DNS as simply being a phone book mapping names to IP addresses, DNS supports many types of resource records. Here are some of the most important ones to know:

A: Stores an IPv4 address that is associated with a given name. For example, asking for the A record for "example.com" returns "192.0.43.10".

AAAA: Stores an IPv6 address that is associated with a given name. For example, asking for the AAAA record for "example.com" returns "2001:500:88:200::10".

CNAME: Stores an alias, pointing one name to another name. The client should then look up the address of the new name. For example, if asking for

"name.example.com" returns a CNAME record pointing to "realname.example.com", then these records share the same address record.

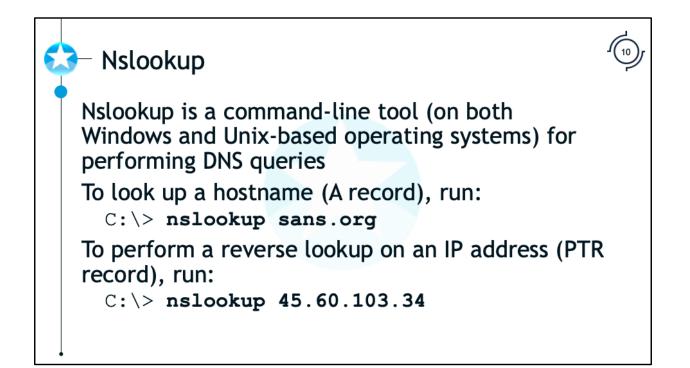
MX: Stores the names of mail servers for this domain, allowing e-mail to be routed to the correct place. There can be multiple MX records for a given domain, and they can specify a priority in which mail servers should be connected to.

NS: Stores the names of the authoritative name servers for the domain.

PTR: Stores the name associated with a given IP address. This is the reverse of an A (or AAAA) record, since it maps IP addresses to names.

SOA: Stores authoritative information about the domain, such as the primary name server, administrative contact, and how often records should be refreshed.

SPF: Stores Sender Policy Framework records. Sender Policy Framework is a means of defining mail servers that are authorized to send mail on behalf of the domain, which is used to help detect spam e-mail (which is generally sent from compromised systems or open mail relays).



Nslookup is a command-line tool (on both Windows and Unix-based operating systems) for performing DNS queries. It is a great tool to use for diagnosing DNS problems, or for getting more information about a domain or IP address.

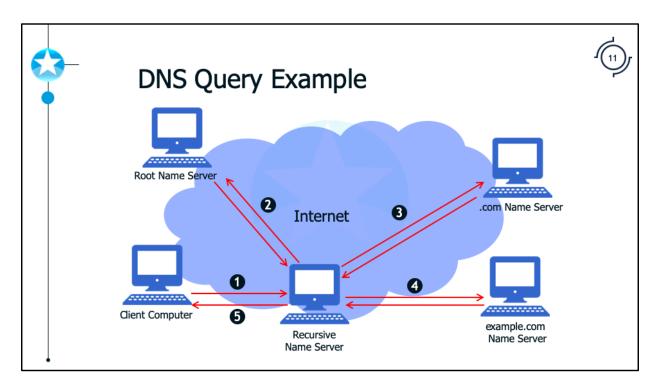
To look up a hostname (A record), run:

C: \> nslookup sans.org

To perform a reverse lookup on an IP address (PTR record), run:

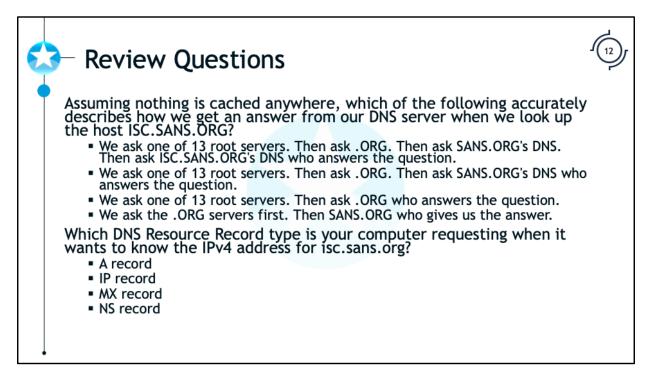
C:\> nslookup 45.60.103.34

Nslookup can also look up other types of DNS records, and can query any arbitrary name server (it queries your default name server by default).



Here is an example of a complete DNS transaction, in which none of the servers have anything cached. In Step 1, the client computer sends a DNS request to its local recursive name server asking for the A record for "example.com". In Step 2, the recursive name server asks one of the root name servers for the address of the ".com" name server, and it receives a response. In Step 3, the recursive name server asks the ".com" name server for the address of the "example.com" name server, and it receives a response. In Step 4, the recursive name server asks the "example.com" name server for the address of "example.com", and it receives a response. Finally, in Step 5, the recursive name server sends a response to the client computer containing the address of "example.com".

Of course, chances are that the recursive server would have had the address of the ".com" name server cached, and may have had the address for "example.com" and/or the address of its name server cached, greatly simplifying this process. Also, in reality, there are multiple authoritative servers for ".com", and for "example.com".

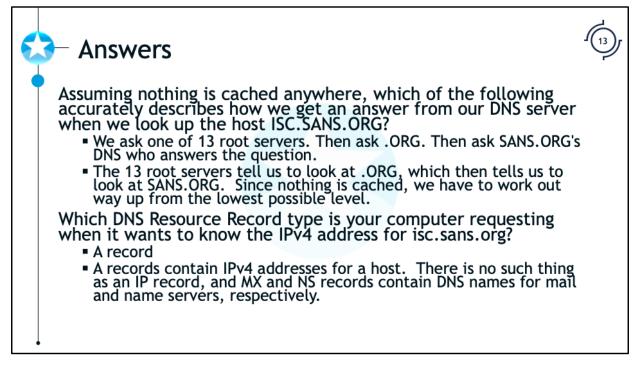


Assuming nothing is cached anywhere, which of the following accurately describes how we get an answer from our DNS server when we look up the host ISC.SANS.ORG?

- We ask one of 13 root servers. Then ask .ORG. Then ask SANS.ORG's DNS. Then ask ISC.SANS.ORG's DNS who answers the question.
- We ask one of 13 root servers. Then ask .ORG. Then ask SANS.ORG's DNS who answers the question.
- We ask one of 13 root servers. Then ask .ORG who answers the question.
- We ask the .ORG servers first. Then SANS.ORG who gives us the answer.

Which DNS Resource Record type is your computer requesting when it wants to know the IPv4 address for isc.sans.org?

- A record
- IP record
- MX record
- NS record

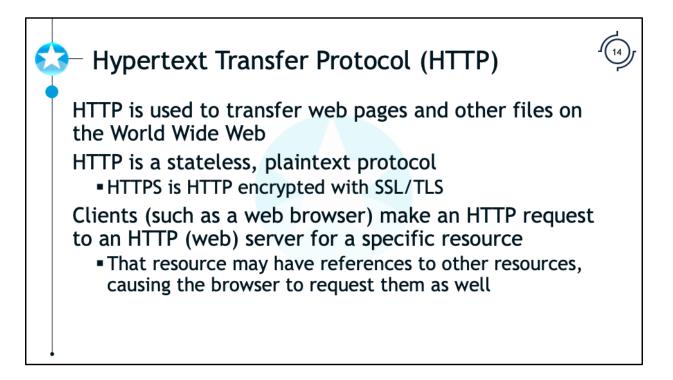


Assuming nothing is cached anywhere, which of the following accurately describes how we get an answer from our DNS server when we look up the host ISC.SANS.ORG?

- We ask one of 13 root servers. Then ask .ORG. Then ask SANS.ORG's DNS who answers the question.
- The 13 root servers tell us to look at .ORG, which then tells us to look at SANS.ORG. Since nothing is cached, we have to work out way up from the lowest possible level.

Which DNS Resource Record type is your computer requesting when it wants to know the IPv4 address for isc.sans.org?

- A record
- A records contain IPv4 addresses for a host. There is no such thing as an IP record, and MX and NS records contain DNS names for mail and name servers, respectively.



HTTP, the Hypertext Transfer Protocol, is used to transfer web pages and other files on the World Wide Web. It was originally designed to connect from a web browser to a web server and retrieve an HTML file, though its use and functionality has been greatly extended. HTTP is a stateless protocol, meaning that the client and server have no built-in way to maintain a session; each request stands on its own. HTTP is also a plaintext, almost human-readable protocol, making it unsuitable for sensitive data. HTTPS is the HTTP protocol encrypted using SSL/TLS encryption, which is used for secure transactions such as online banking.

Client software, such as a web browser, uses HTTP to make an HTTP request to an HTTP (web) server, asking for a specific resource (such as a particular file). The server then responds (with an HTTP response) with that resource. That resource (such as an HTML file) may have references to other resources (such as images, scripts, or stylesheets), which the client will then make further requests for.

- HTTP Methods		15
•HTTP methods (sometimes called "verbs") are used as the first line of an HTTP request to specify what action to take on the server •Methods are categorized as "Safe" or "Unsafe":		
"Safe" methods: GET HEAD OPTIONS TRACE	"Unsafe" methods: POST PUT DELETE	

HTTP methods, sometimes called "verbs", make up the first line of an HTTP request. They specify what action to take on a specified resource on the server. For example, "GET /file.html HTTP/1.1" tells the server to GET the file at "/file.html" using HTTP version 1.1.

Methods can be categorized as either "safe" or "unsafe", based on whether or not they would change anything on the server (such as changing a file). Safe methods are not supposed to change any state on the server, making them "safe" to call without accidentally performing actions (such as making a purchase or deleting a record). Unsafe methods are meant to be used in cases that would change the server's state, such as submitting a form. Below is an overview of a few of the most important methods:

Safe methods:

GET: Requests a copy of the specified resource. This is the most commonly used method, which simply downloads a file (typically a web page). Any data that is passed along to the resource is included as part of the URL, such as: http://www.example.com/page.html?data=value

HEAD: Requests a copy of the HTTP headers that would be sent if a GET request was issued for this particular resource. This is used to obtain information about a resource (such as when it was last modified) without actually downloading the resource itself.

OPTIONS: Returns the HTTP methods that the server supports for the specified URL, or that the server itself supports if "*" is requested.

TRACE: Echoes back the request, which can be used to debug connection problems between the client and the server. Trace should generally be disabled on web servers

to mitigate a potential XSS attack vector.

HTTP Request Headers

Headers comprise the first part of HTTP requests and responses, defining parameters of the transaction They are colon-separated name-value pairs, such as "Name: value" (one per line), and are separated from the request or response body by a blank line Important Request Headers: Authorization, Connection, Cookie, DNT, Host, If-Modified-Since, Referer, User-Agent

HTTP Headers comprise the first part of HTTP requests and responses, and are used to define additional parameters of the transaction (beyond the initial method or status code). They are colon-separated name-value pairs, such as "Name: value", one per line. They are separated from the request or response body by a blank line. While headers are considered optional (except for the "Host" header), they often contain important and useful information. Let's review a small sampling of important headers used as part of HTTP requests:

Request Headers:

Authorization: Contains the credentials to authenticate a user agent to the server. Often used in APIs when combined with a bearer token.

Connection: Specifies whether the client would prefer for the server to close the connection when it is done or keep it open (which can be useful for requesting multiple resources concurrently).

Cookie: Contains any existing cookies previously set by the server. If the client is sending two cookies, one called "name1" with a value of "value1" and one called "name2" with a value of "value2", the header would look like: "Cookie: name1=value1; name2=value2;"

DNT: Specifies that the client wishes to opt-out of being tracked by the web application. This is a new specification that has not yet been widely adopted.

Host: Specifies the domain name of the server to request the resource from. As of HTTP 1.1, this header is required for all requests. The use of this header allows for a single server to serve pages for multiple domains, which is called "virtual hosting".

HTTP Response Headers

HTTP responses also contain headers They follow the same format as Request headers Important Response Headers: Content-Length, Content-Disposition, Content-Type, Last-Modified, Location, Server, Set-Cookie, Strict-Transport-Security

HTTP responses also contain headers, which follow the same format as Request headers. Let's review a small sampling of important headers used as part of HTTP responses:

Content-Length: The length (or size) of the response specified in bytes.

Content-Disposition: Specifies that a file should be downloaded instead of displayed inline, and also specifies what file name should be used when downloading the file.

Content-Type: Specifies the MIME type of the resource being sent. Most types of files have an associated MIME type, such as "text/plain" for a plain text file, "text/html" for an HTML document, and "image/jpeg" for a JPEG image. The MIME type "application/octet-stream" is used for generic binary (non-text) files.

Last-Modified: Specifies the date the resource being requested was last modified.

Location: When redirecting a request to another location, this header specifies the location the client should be sent to.

Server: Contains information about the server software sending the response, such as the name version of the server being used.

Set-Cookie: Sets an HTTP cookie in the client's browser.

Strict-Transport-Security: Specifies that the client should only connect to this server using HTTPS, never with an unencrypted HTTP connection. This is a new standard designed to help prevent certain types of attacks against secure websites. Most browsers support it now, but not many servers use it yet.

😒 – HTTP Status Codes		
Status codes are sent as the first line of an HTTP response to indicate the whether the request was successful, and if not, what the problem was		
Important Status Codes:		
200: OK	400: Bad Request	
206: Partial Content	401: Unauthorized	
301: Moved Permanently	403: Forbidden	
302: Found (Temporary	404: Not Found	
Redirect)	405: Method Not Allowed	
304: Not Modified	500: Internal Server Error	
_ ▲		

HTTP status codes are sent as the first line of an HTTP response. They are used to indicate to the client whether the request was successful, and if not, what the problem was. Status codes are split into groups based on whether they indicate success (2XX), redirection (3XX), a client error (4XX), or a server error (5XX). While there are many status codes defined, only a small useful are commonly seen during most transactions. Let's review a few of the most important ones:

: The request was successful, and the server is sending the requested resource as part of the response.

: The server is only delivering the part of the resource that the client requested. This is used for clients to be able to resume interrupted downloads.

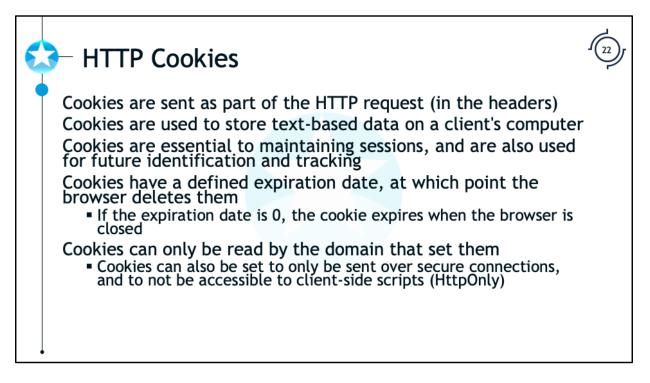
: This redirects the client to a different URL, and indicates that the new URL should always be used in the future.

: This redirects the client to a different URL, and indicates that the redirect is not permanent (meaning the old URL should still be used). Status codes 303 and 307 are better suited for this purpose, but most implementations use 302.

: The resource has not been modified since the client last requested it (typically sent in response to an "If-Modified-Since" header).

: The client's request was malformed, and the server could not understand it.

: The client needs to supply authentication credentials, most likely a username and password. There are two types of authentication supported. Basic authentication simply encodes the username and password using base64 encoding, which can easily be decoded by an attacker. Digest authentication uses an MD5-based challenge- response. Note that most popular web applications use their own authentication methods using web forms and cookies, not this mechanism.



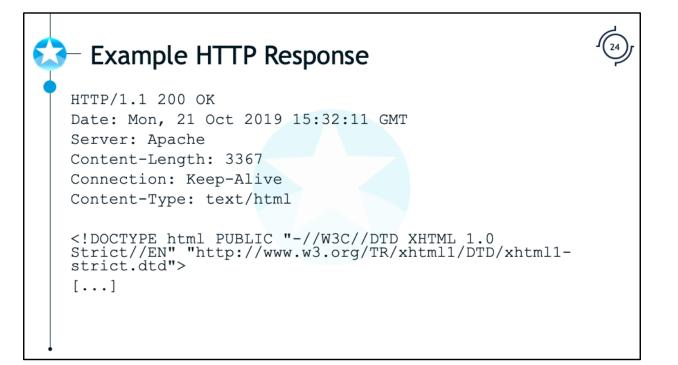
Cookies are used to store data on a client's computer, and are included in the HTTP headers of each request sent to the same server. Since HTTP is a stateless protocol, cookies are essential to maintaining session state between a client and the server. They are also used to identify particular clients on future visits, and to track particular clients across one or more web sites. For this reason, there are privacy concerns surrounding cookies, and most browsers provide an easy way to clear stored cookies. Cookies can only store plain text, not executable code.

Cookies have a defined expiration date (which could be far in the future), at which the point the browser deletes them. If the expiration date is 0, the cookie expires when the browser is closed (this is called a "session cookie"). Cookies are subject to the "same-origin policy", meaning they can only be read by the domain that set them. Modern browsers support a flag indicating that a particular cookie can only be sent over an SSL-encrypted connection (the "secure" flag), and most browsers also support a new flag that blocks cookies from being read by client-side scripting languages (the "HttpOnly" flag).

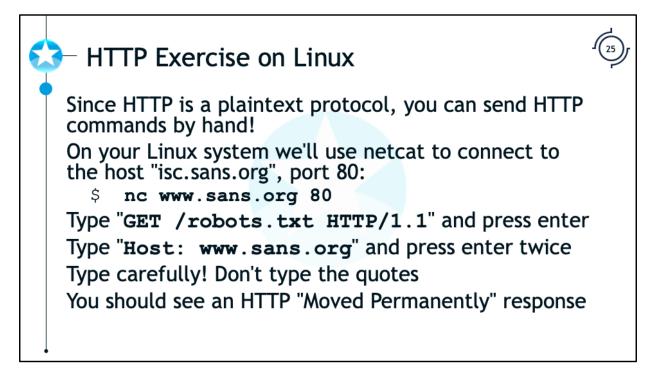
- Example HTTP Request

```
GET /aboutus.php HTTP/1.1
Host: target.securitytreasurehunt.com
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Macintosh;
Intel Mac OS X 10.10; rv:57.0)
Gecko/20100101 Firefox/57.0
DNT: 1
Connection: keep-alive
```

Above is an example HTTP request made by the Firefox browser. Note that we've removed a few of the unimportant headers for brevity. The URL being requested is "http://target.securitytreasurehunt.com/aboutus.php". The first line contains the request method ("GET") followed by a space, then the path to the resource being requested ("/aboutus.php"), another space, and the protocol and version ("HTTP/1.1"). The next line contains the "Host" header, indication the name of the host ("target.securitytreasurehunt.com"). The third line contains the "User-Agent" header, which contains the client's browser's user agent string (above, the client is running Firefox 7.0 on Mac OS X 10.6). Finally, we have the "DNT" header (telling the server not to track the client's activities), and the "Connection" header (telling the server to keep the connection open). The request ends with a blank line, telling the server that the request is complete.



Here is the HTTP response associated with the request on the previous page. Again, a few unimportant headers have been removed for brevity. The first line contains the protocol and version (HTTP/1.1), followed by a space, the numerical status code, another space, then the description of the status code. The "Date" header indicates the date that the server is fulfilling the request. The third line contains the server header, which in this case simply shows "Apache" (the most commonly used web server on the Internet). Note that while the "Server" header often contains full version information, it can be configured to reveal much less detail for security purposes, as is the case above. The "Content-Length" header indicates the size of the response in bytes, so the browser knows how much data to expect (this is particularly useful for file downloads, to allow for a status bar). The "Connection" header confirms the server's intention to keep the current TCP connection open for subsequent connections. The "Content-Type" header specifies the MIME type of the response, allowing the browser to decide how to handle it. There is then a blank line, indicating the headers are over, and the rest of the data received is the resource that was requested.



While your Web Browser typically issues these commands for you, you can type HTTP commands in the terminal on your Linux system. Try this:

Open a "Terminal" in Linux

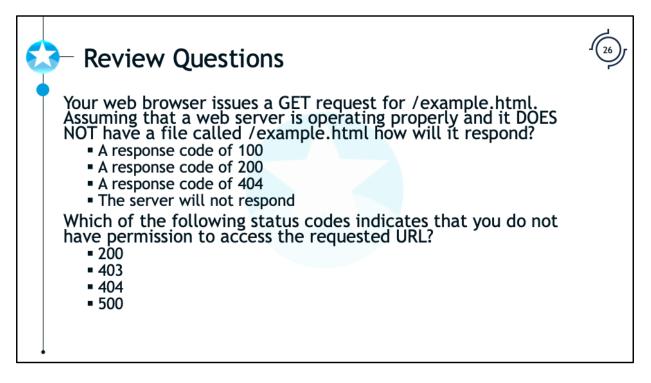
Type "nc www.sans.org 80" and press enter

Type "GET /robots.txt HTTP/1.1" and press ENTER (Note: Case is Important!)

Type "Host: www.sans.org" and press enter

Press Enter Again.

Using netcat, your computer will attempt to download the robots.txt file from http://www.sans.org. You should receive an "HTTP/1/1 301 Moved Permanently" response pointing to https://www.sans.org/robots.txt, indicating the resource is only available over HTTPS.

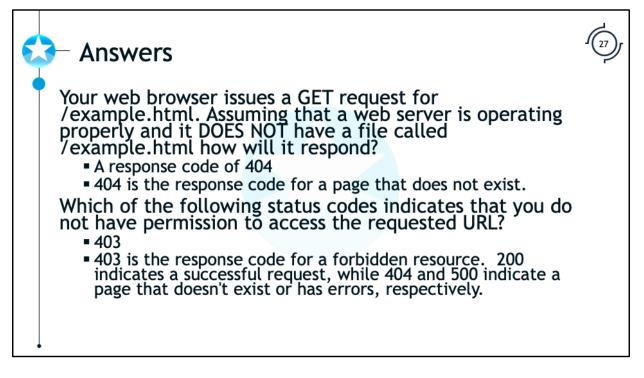


Your web browser issues a GET request for /example.html. Assuming that a web server is operating properly and it DOES NOT have a file called /example.html how will it respond?

- A response code of 100
- A response code of 200
- A response code of 404
- The server will not respond

Which of the following status codes indicates that you do not have permission to access the requested URL?

- 200
- 403
- 404
- 500

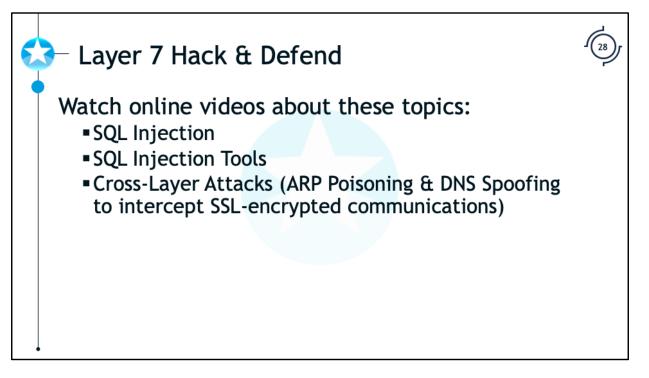


Your web browser issues a GET request for /example.html. Assuming that a web server is operating properly and it DOES NOT have a file called /example.html how will it respond?

- A response code of 404
- 404 is the response code for a page that does not exist.

Which of the following status codes indicates that you do not have permission to access the requested URL?

- 403
- 403 is the response code for a forbidden resource. 200 indicates a successful request, while 404 and 500 indicate a page that doesn't exist or has errors, respectively.



Watch online videos about these topics:

SQL Injection:

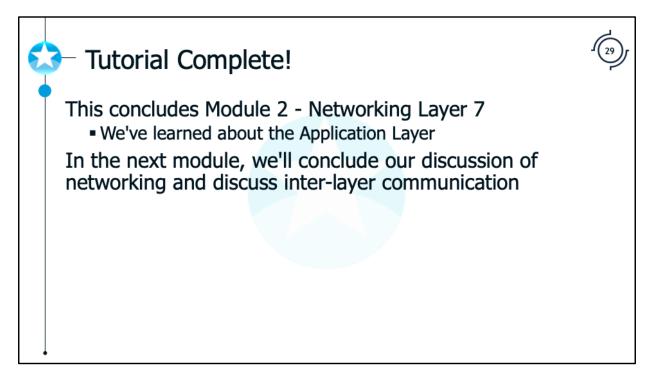
- https://redsiege.com/ca/sqli-demo1
- https://redsiege.com/ca/sqli-demo2

SQL Injection Tools:

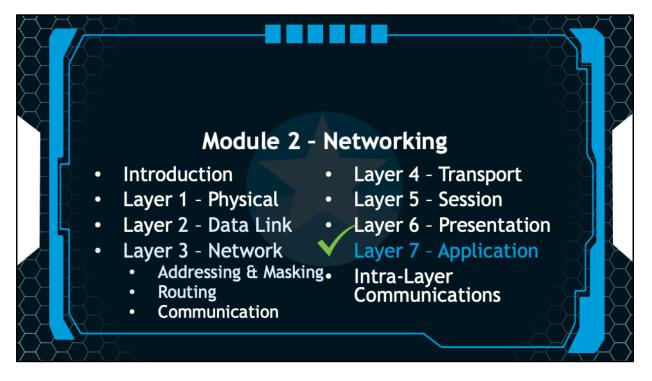
- Sqlmap https://www.redsiege.com/ca/sqlmap
- Havij https://www.redsiege.com/ca/havij

Cross-Layer Attacks (ARP Poisoning & DNS Spoofing to intercept SSL-encrypted communications):

https://www.redsiege.com/ca/ssl-strip



This concludes the discussion about Layer 7, the Application Layer. In the next tutorial we'll conclude our discussion of networking and discuss inter-layer communication



This concludes our discussion of 7 layers of the OSI model. In the next session, we'll discuss intra-layer communications.