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An NCC Group Publication

Fuzzing the easy way, using Zulu

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1 Introduction

There are many fuzzers and fuzzing frameworks available to test everything from files, to network protocols, to interface technologies. None of them are perfect, but they all offer a range of different capabilities to different user bases. The motivations behind the Zulu fuzzer lie in the rapid prototyping that normally happens on a client engagement where something needs to be fuzzed within tight timescales. Many of us will have created bespoke fuzzing scripts time and time again on client sites, maybe tweaking and changing these scripts as requirements change from job to job. There are various fuzzing frameworks available that provide potential solutions to this problem, but they often have quite a steep learning curve associated with them and therefore, are not always best suited to getting a fuzzer up and running quickly and easily. Also, the ability to see and manipulate the data graphically is attractive to many users, as purely command line-based tools can be intimidating to some.

Zulu is an interactive GUI-based fuzzer. It is as much as possible, input and output-agnostic so once you are happy with using the fuzzing engine that's driven by the GUI you are only limited by the input and output modules that have been developed for it. It is written purely in Python and has been released under AGPL on the NCC Group Github page:

https://github.com/nccgroup/zulu

This paper serves as an introduction to using Zulu and includes a number of tutorials explaining how to use the different features within the tool. The tutorials have been written with minimal duplication and therefore they are intended to be read in order.

2 Tutorial One: Zulu basics

Before we discuss the details of specific fuzzing sessions its worth spending some time looking at the GUI and all its elements, in addition to understanding the general workflow of the tool.

The GUI is split into a number of areas:

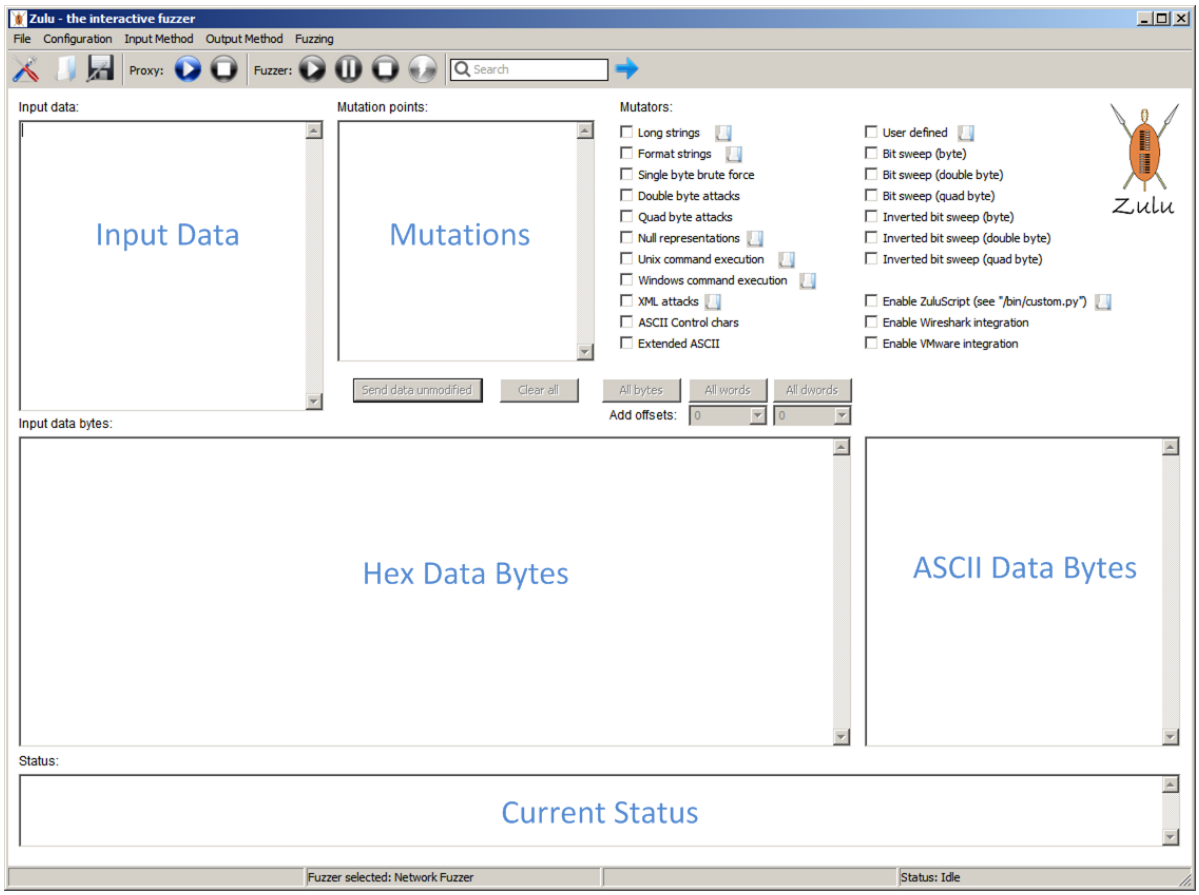

Figure 1: The Zulu GUI layout

- **Input Data** - This is where separate packets (both input and output) from a network capture are displayed. If the input is a single file then this will be displayed as a single entry.
- **Mutations** - In this section details of fuzzpoints, length fields and packets to be sent unmodified are displayed
- **Hex data bytes** - The hex data associated with the currently selected Input Data entry is displayed
- **ASCII data bytes** - The ASCII data associated with the currently selected Input Data entry is displayed
- **Current Status** - General status updates as to what Zulu is currently doing

Below is a screenshot to demonstrate the type of information likely to be present in each section of the GUI:

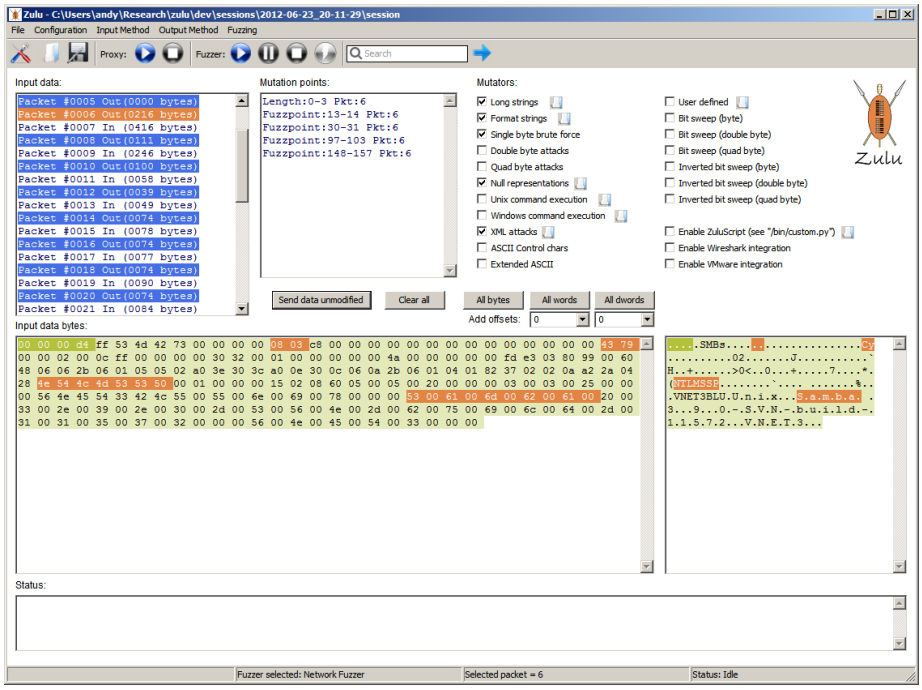

Figure 2: The Zulu GUI, populated with data

The majority of the large-volume output is displayed in the command-line console (and also logged to a file):

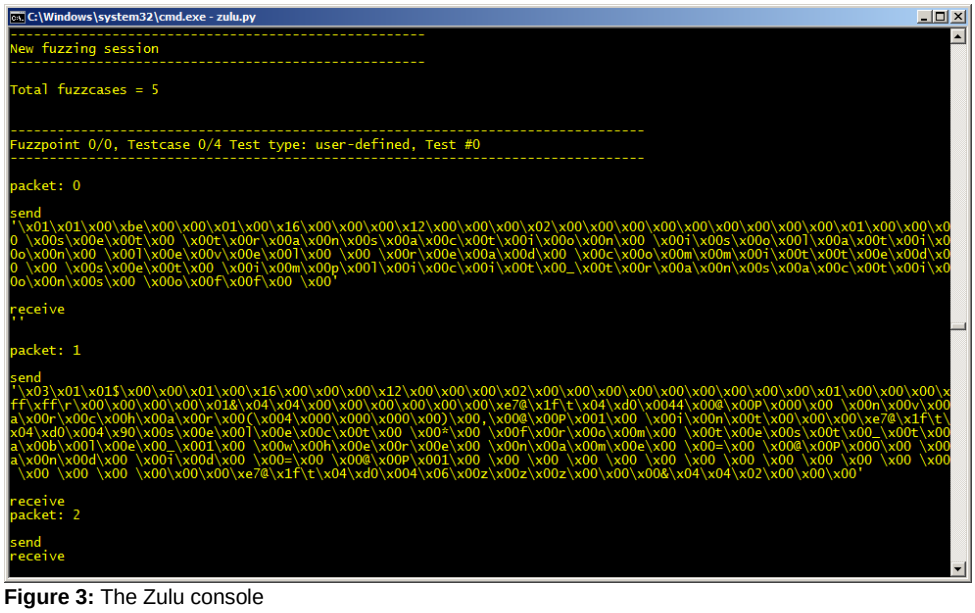

Figure 3: The Zulu console

The following illustrates the Zulu file structure:

- **/bin** - Zulu binaries and custom.py (ZuluScript Python)
- **/crashfiles** - When file fuzzing, files that have caused the target to crash are placed in here
- **/fuzzdb** - the fuzzer testcase files (these can all be modified, but there is a user-defined.txt file which should ideally be used for custom testcases
- **/images** - images used by the GUI
- **/logs** - log files
- **/pcap** - when Wireshark integration is enabled, auto-generated PCAP files are placed in here
- **/PoC** - when a crash occurs and a PoC is auto-generated, it is placed in here (and emailed to the user if the email settings have been configured)
- **/sessions** - all the configuration options and captured packets can be saved in a session file
- **/tempfiles** - when file fuzzing, manipulated files are temporarily placed in this directory
- **/templates** - the template used to generate the PoC files is in here

3 Tutorial Two: Proxy-based network fuzzing

In this tutorial we will capture packets from a Windows Remote Desktop session via a proxy and then start fuzzing some of the data. First, you need to set the proxy settings, which can be found in the **Configuration** menu:

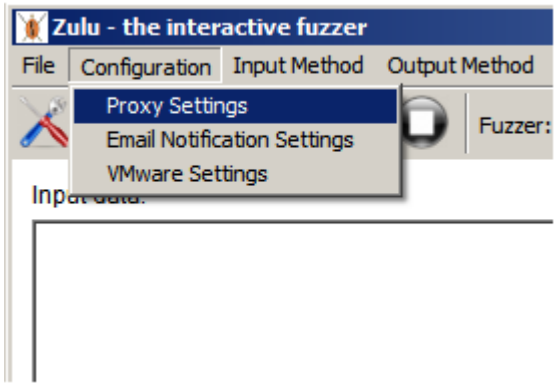

Figure 4: Selecting proxy settings

This will bring up the **Proxy configuration window**:

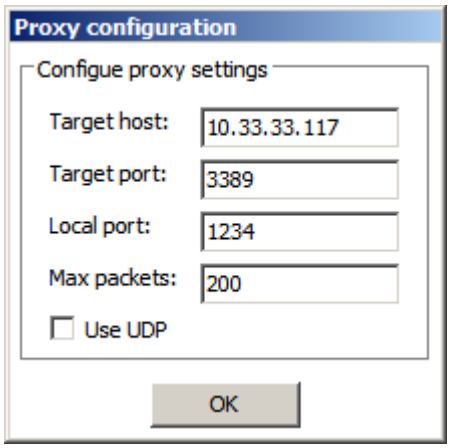

Figure 5: The proxy configuration window

- **Target host** - the target host on which the network service is listening
- **Target port** - the port associated with the target service
- **Local port** - the local port used for the proxy
- **Max packets** - the maximum number of packets to capture
- **Use UDP** - if the network service uses UDP instead of TCP, select this checkbox

Next, select **Input Method > Start Network Capture**:

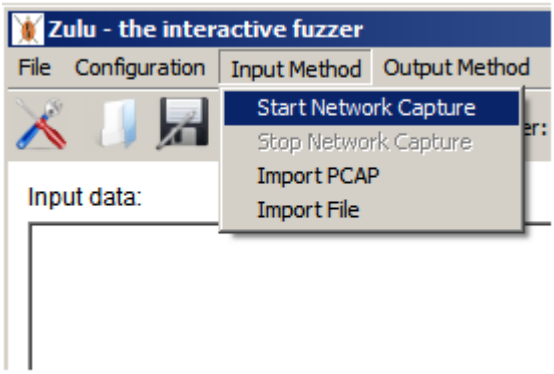

Figure 6: Starting the network capture

The status is now updated to show that the proxy is running:

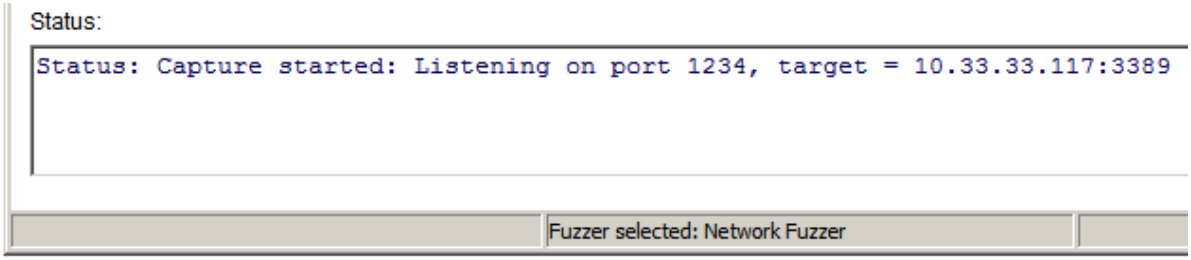

Figure 7: Network capture status

Now configure your client to connect to the service, via the proxy:

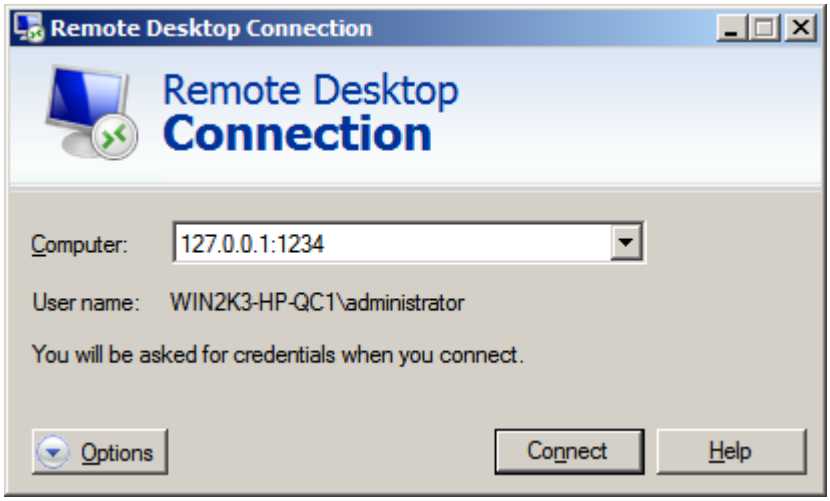

Figure 8: Configuring the network client software

The packets are displayed as they are captured and the "output" packets (which are the ones sent to the target and can therefore be fuzzed) are highlighted in blue. When you are ready to end the capture select **Input Method > Stop Network Capture**:

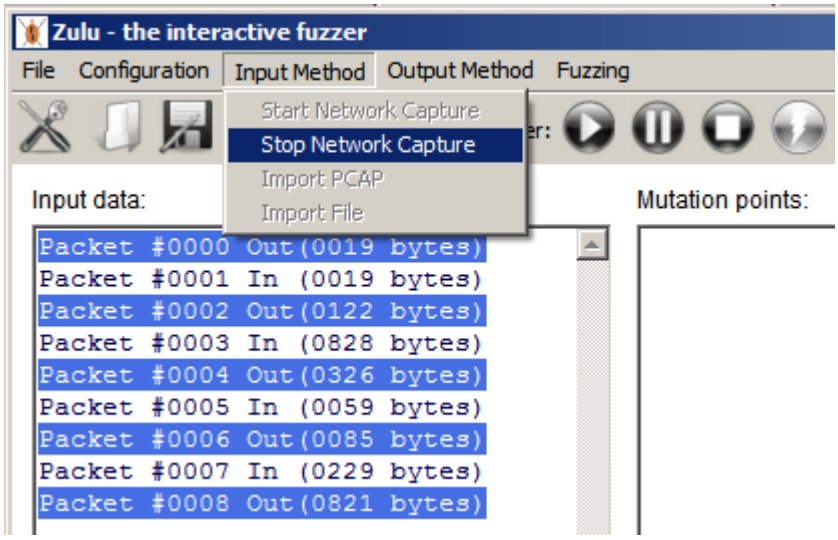

Figure 9: The displayed captured data

The currently selected packet is highlighted in dark blue and the data within the packet is displayed in the Hex and ASCII areas. For this fuzzing session we will send the first packet unmodified so with the first packet selected, click on the **Send data unmodified** button:

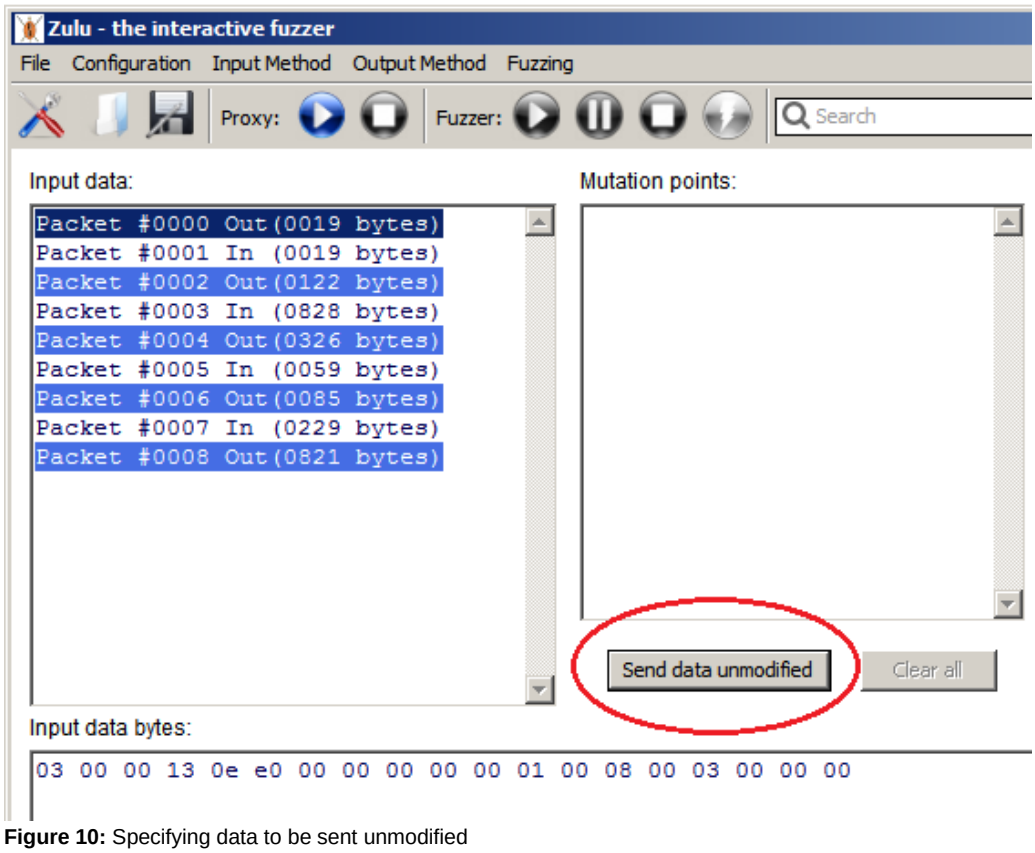

Figure 10: Specifying data to be sent unmodified

You can see that the first packet has changed colour to green to indicate that this will be sent unmodified. Next select some bytes in packet #2 to be a fuzzpoint (all the bytes you select to be a fuzzpoint will be replaced with each testcase when the fuzzer runs). Right click and select **Add Fuzzpoint**.

Note: If you want to select a series of consecutive bytes as individual fuzzpoints you can use *Add Fuzz Range*.

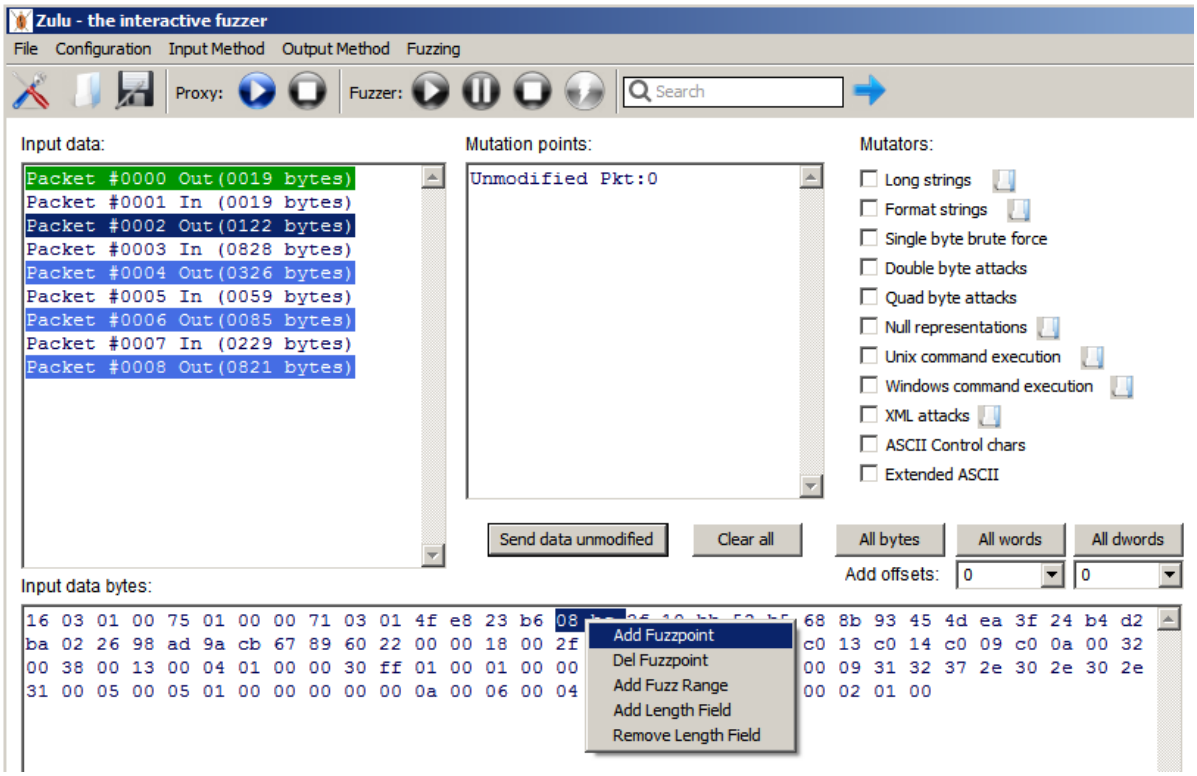

Figure 11: Adding a fuzzpoint

Next, select the Mutators that you wish to use for the fuzzing session (to see the actual mutator testcases click on the small light blue button next to each name and the information will be displayed in notepad):

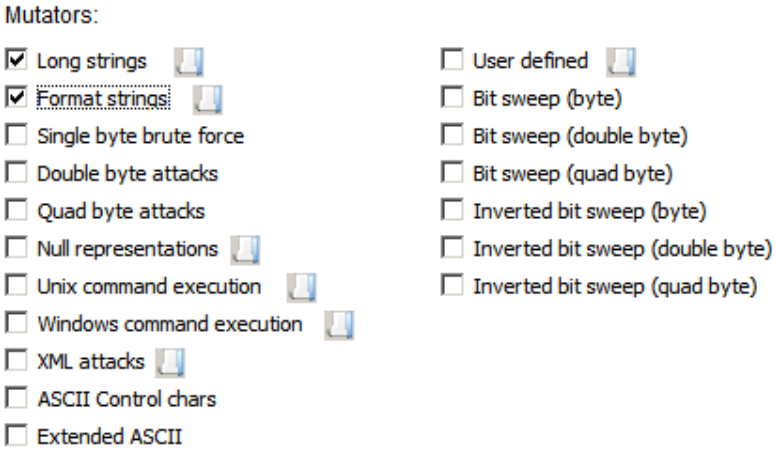

Figure 12: Selectable mutators

As you can see, the Fuzzpoint bytes have changed colour to orange and the Fuzzpoint information has been added to the Mutations area. Next, select **Output Method > Network Fuzzer**:

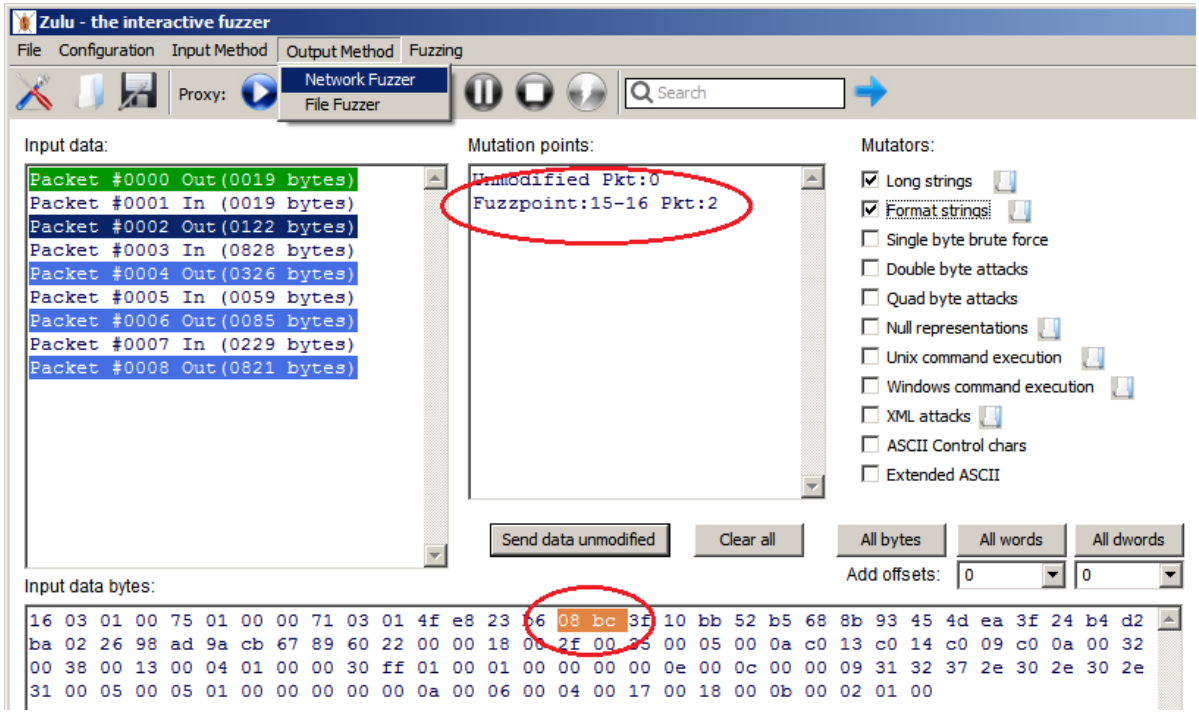

Figure 13: Selecting the network fuzzer

This will bring up the **Network fuzzer configuration** window:

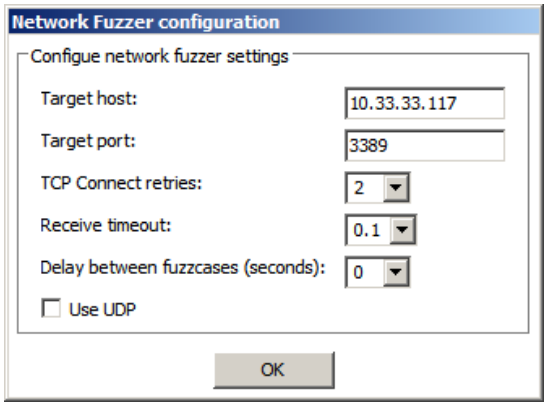

Figure 14: The network fuzzer settings

- **Target host** - this is by default the target that was used in the proxy capture, but you can change it to a different target if you wish
- **Target port** - again, this is by default the target port that was used in the proxy capture, but you can change this too
- **TCP connect retries** - Zulu detects if the service has crashed if a TCP connect fails (currently there is no detection for UDP). This is the number of times to try connecting before deciding a crash has occurred
- **Receive timeout** - the time to wait for the target to respond to a fuzz packet sent to it
- **Delay between fuzzcases** - self explanatory
- **Use UDP** - if the service is UDP-based, select this checkbox

Now, we can start fuzzing - select **Fuzzing > Start Fuzzing**:

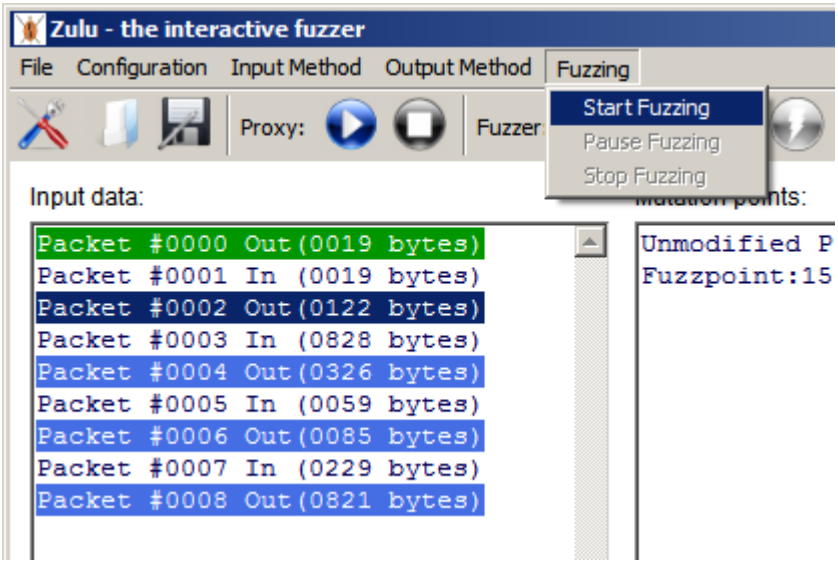

Figure 15: Starting the network fuzzer

If the target crashes (as has been demonstrated here), an orange warning triangle is displayed and a PoC (Proof-of-Concept) exploit is automatically generated based on the last fuzzcase that was sent to the target (Zulu makes the assumption that it is likely, although not guaranteed, that the last fuzzcase sent was the one that caused the crash). Also, if email settings have been configured (**Configuration > Email Notifcation Settings**) it will also send the PoC as an attachment to an email to inform you of the crash. If a PoC has been generated the **Launch Latest PoC** button is highlighted in orange and can be used to send the PoC to the target as many times as you like, just by pressing the button.

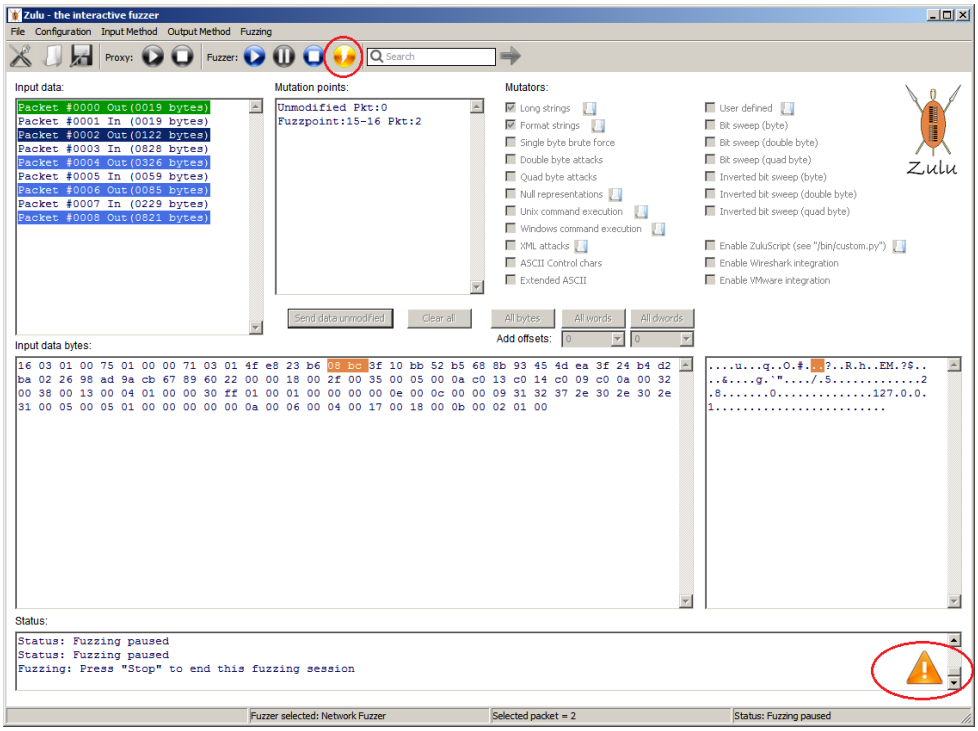

Figure 16: Indicators that the target has crashed

The console output can be seen below (the "Email send failure" message indicates that in this instance email settings have not been configured):

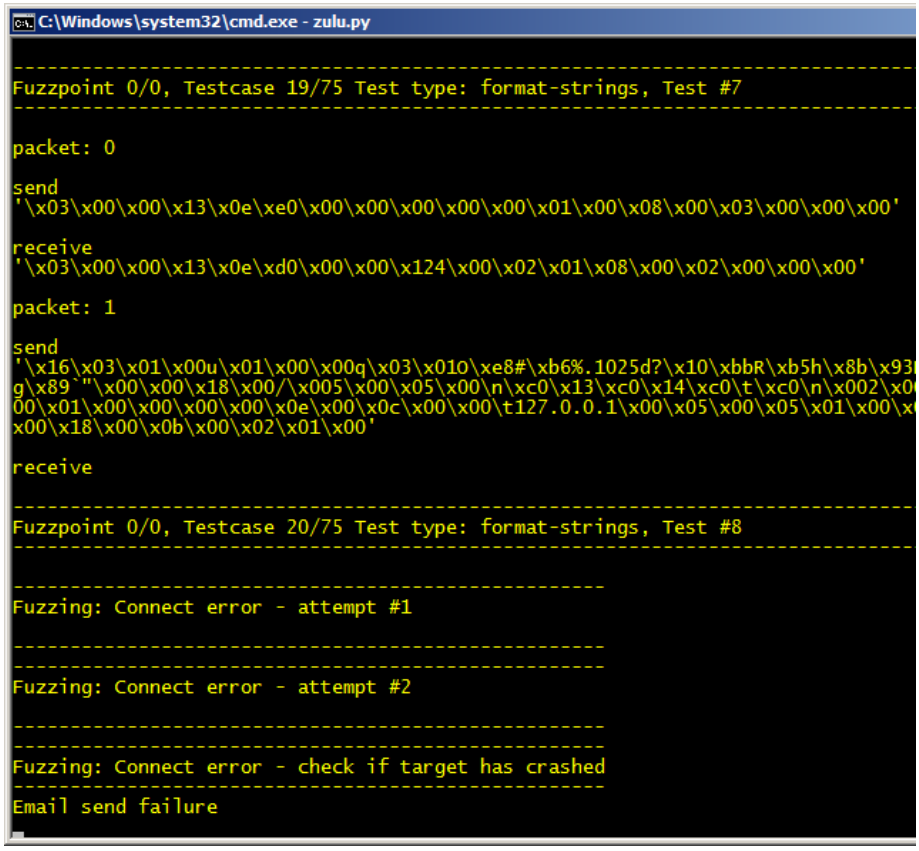

Figure 17: Console output when the target has crashed

When a Zulu thinks that a crash has occurred it pauses the fuzzing session, so if it turns out to be a false-positive you can just restart the fuzzing by selecting **Fuzzing > Start Fuzzing** again or stop the session by selecting **Fuzzing > Stop Fuzzing**:

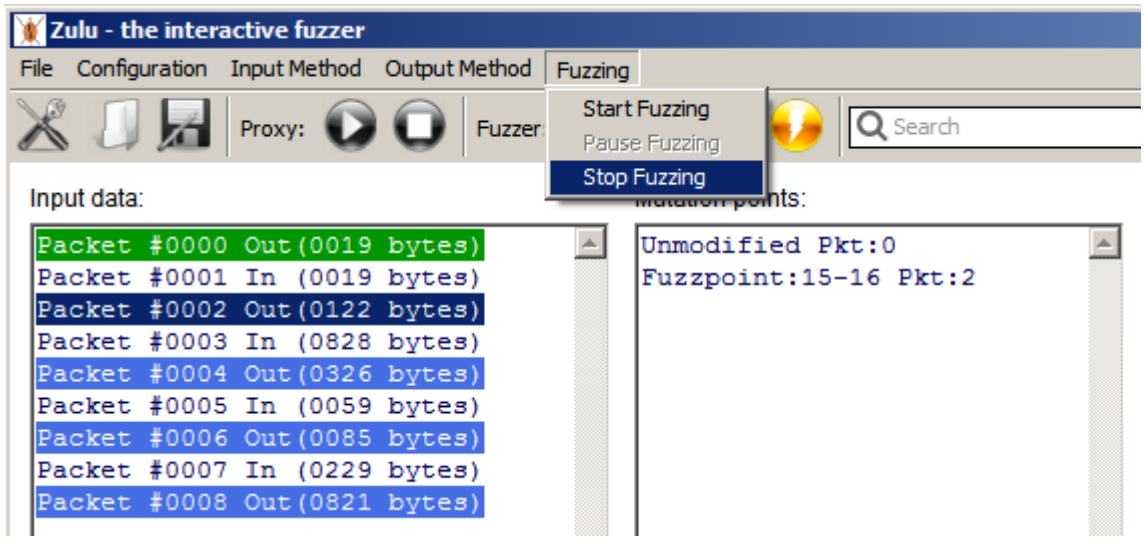

Figure 18: Stopping the fuzzer

4 Tutorial Three: Providing input using a PCAP file

In this tutorial we will provide input data to Zulu via a PCAP file generated by Wireshark .

Note: Please ensure that you have captured the data on a specific interface when capturing on Linux, rather than using the *Any* interface, which results in the Link layer not being *Ethernet II*, but instead *Linux Cooked Capture* - a pseudo-protocol used by libpcap on Linux.

First, capture your data in Wireshark, select a packet from the stream of data you wish to fuzz and **Follow TCP Stream**:

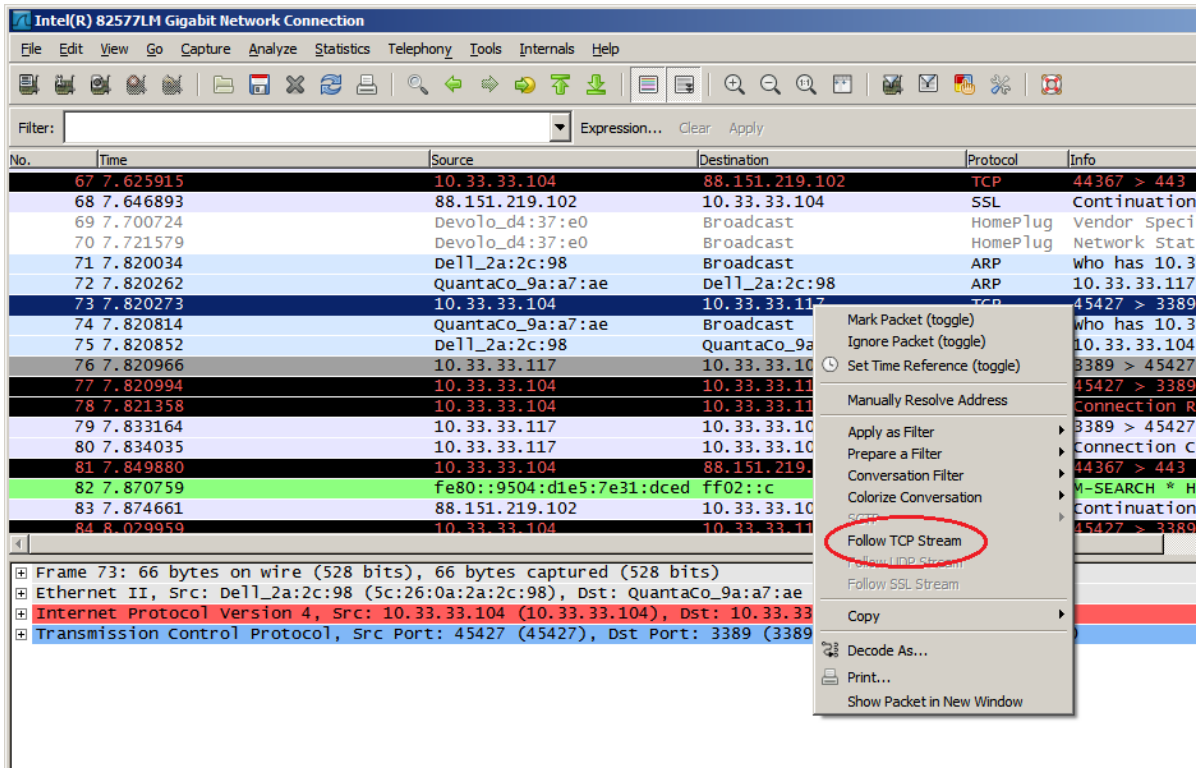

Figure 18: Filtering out data stream using Wireshark

Then save the capture

Note: ensure that you have selected to save the packets *Displayed* rather than all packets *Captured*

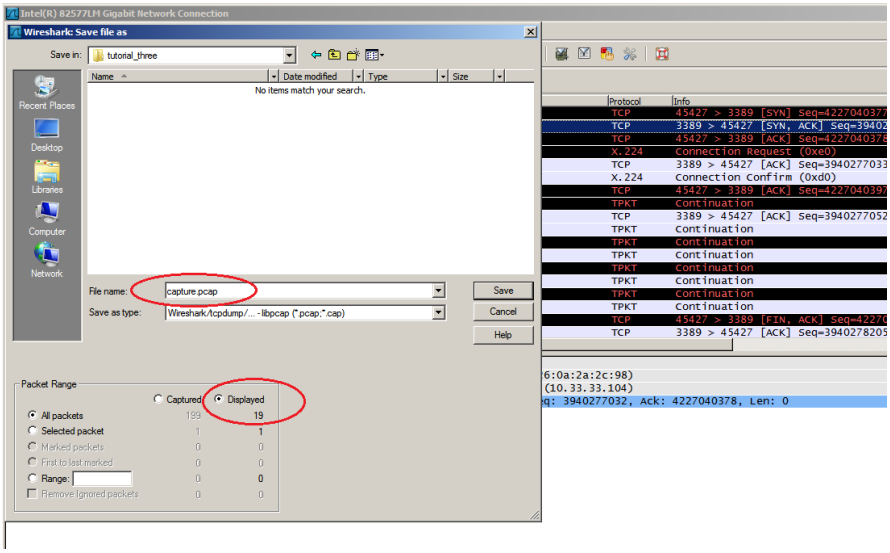

Figure 19: Saving the captured data stream

In Zulu, select **Input Method > Import PCAP**:

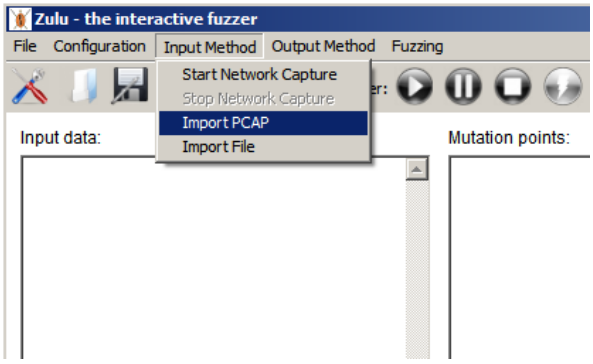

Figure 20: Importing a PCAP file into Zulu

Select the PCAP file and click **Open**:

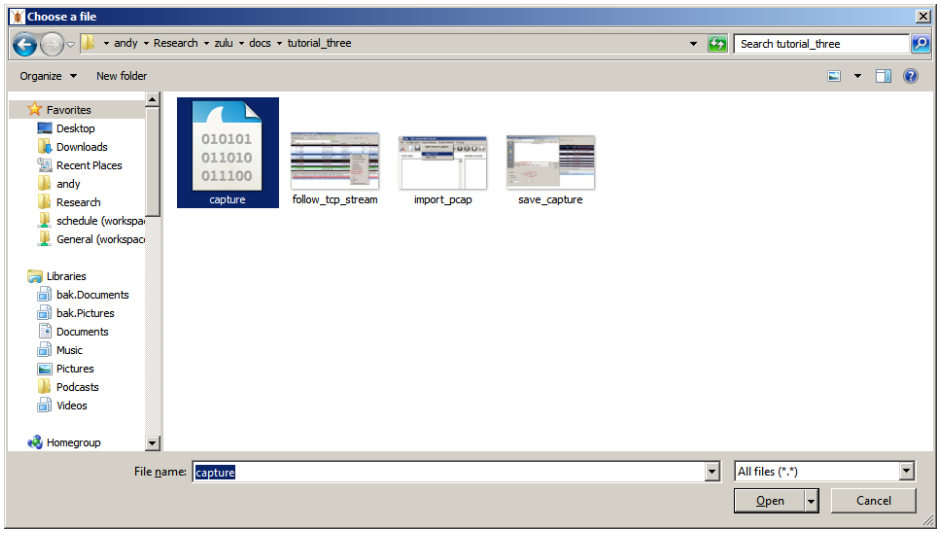

Figure 20: Selecting the PCAP file

The data is then displayed, as in Tutorial two, but with one difference - TCP control packets are also shown e.g. SYN, ACK etc. These can be ignored from a fuzzing perspective as they will automatically be regenerated where required by Zulu:

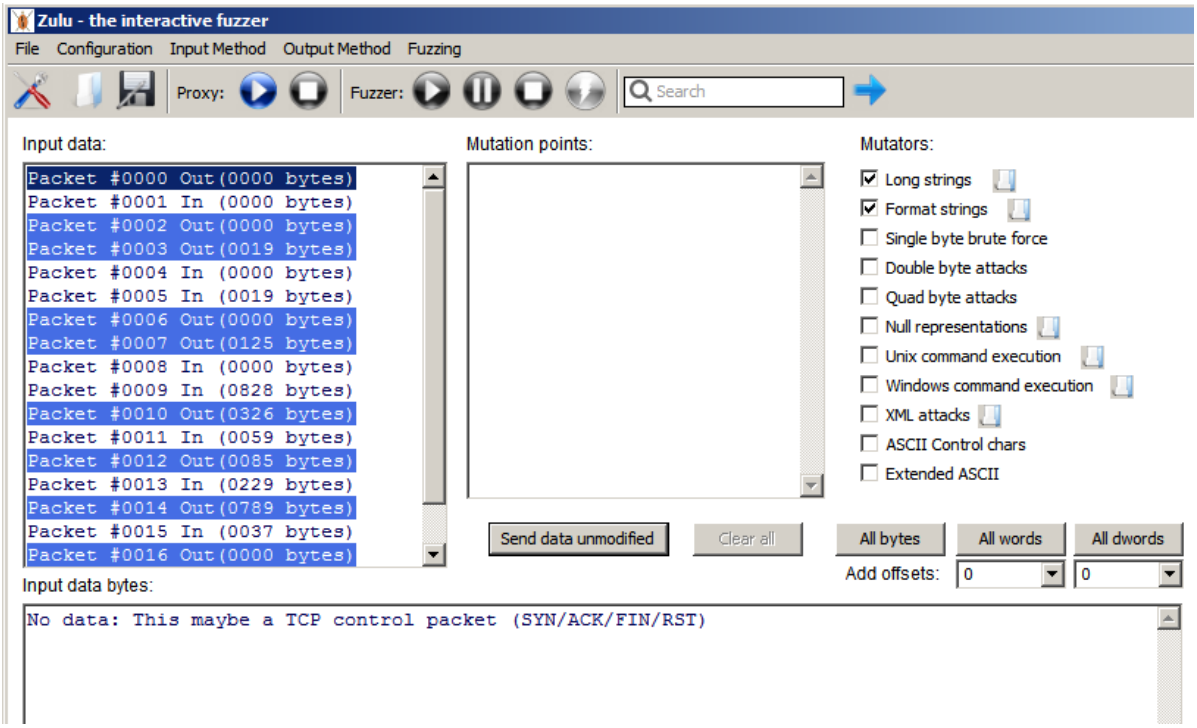

Figure 21: The imported PCAP file in Zulu

Note: If the PCAP file was generated on another network and involves a target with a different IP address or even a different port, this information can be changed in **Output Method > Network Fuzzer** otherwise it will just be inherited from the PCAP file.

5 Tutorial Four: File fuzzing

In this tutorial we will use Zulu to fuzz a target process which opens a file.
First we select **Input Method > import** File to select a file to use as the fuzzing template:

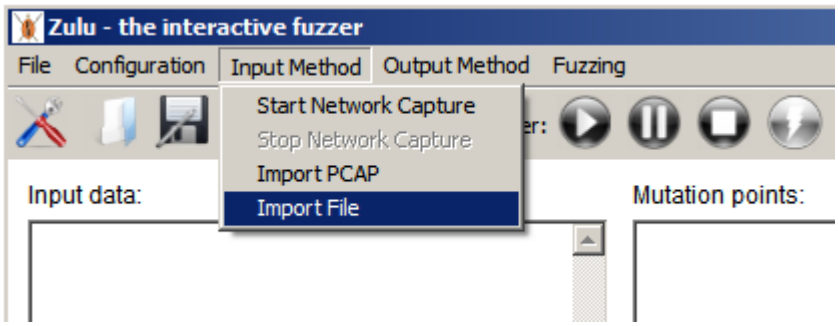

Figure 22: Importing a file to fuzz

Select a file then click **Open**:

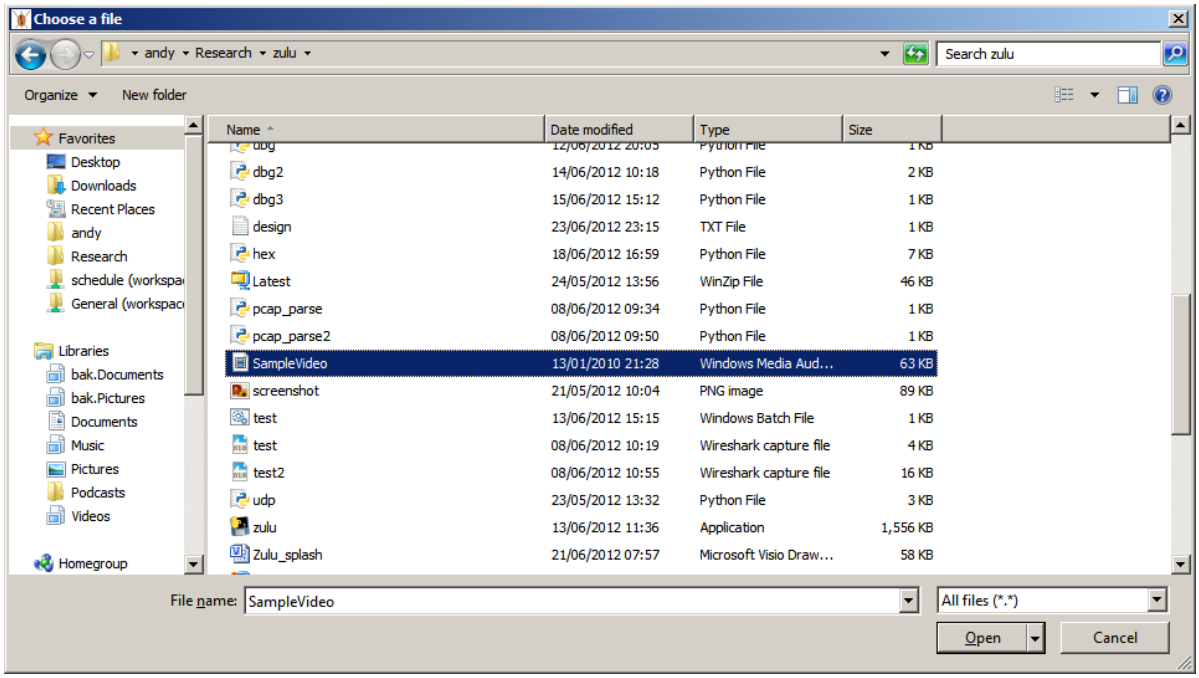

Figure 23: Selecting the source file

Then select the file fuzzer module with **Output Method > File Fuzzer**:

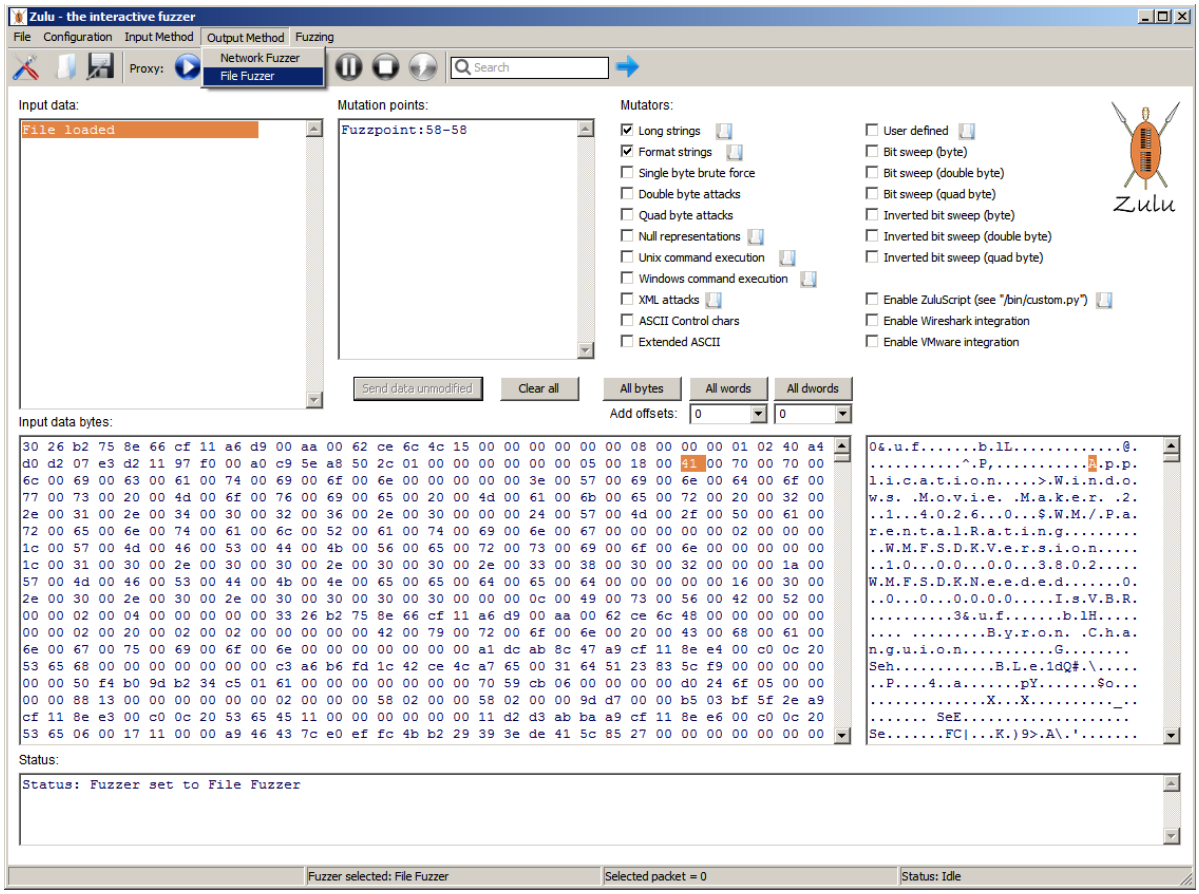

Figure 24: Selecting the file fuzzer module

The **File fuzzer configuration** window is displayed:

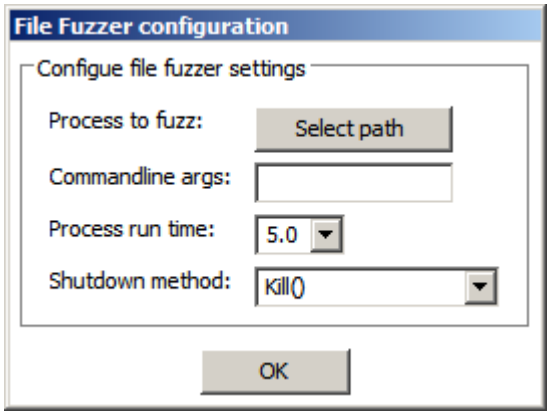

Figure 25: The file fuzzer configuration

- **Process to fuzz** - the target process that will be automatically spawned and provided with each fuzzcase
- **Command line args** - self explanatory
- **process run time** - the length of time the process will run for before it is killed
- **Shutdown method** - either *kill()* or *terminate()* (*terminate()* uses the win32 API)

Select the process to fuzz:

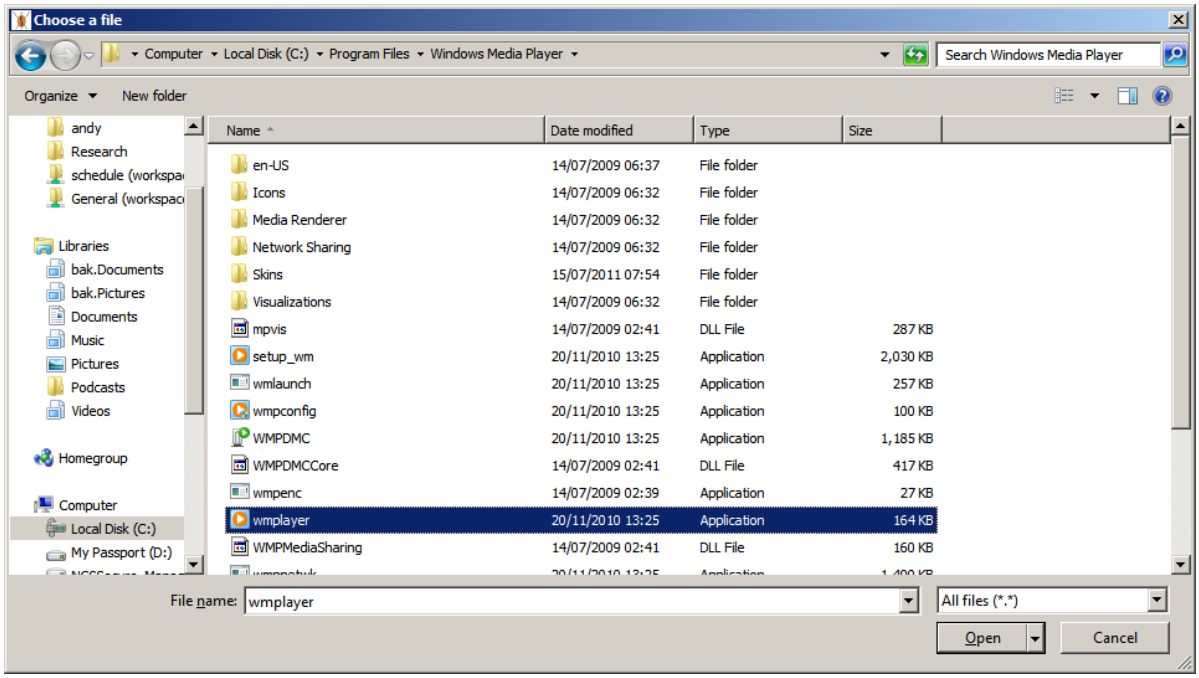

Figure 26: Selecting the process to fuzz

Then select **Fuzzing > Start Fuzzing**. If the process dies as a result of opening the fuzzcase, the in-built debugger will trap the crash, display EIP at the time of the crash and copy the fuzzfile responsible for the crash to the **/crashfiles** directory:

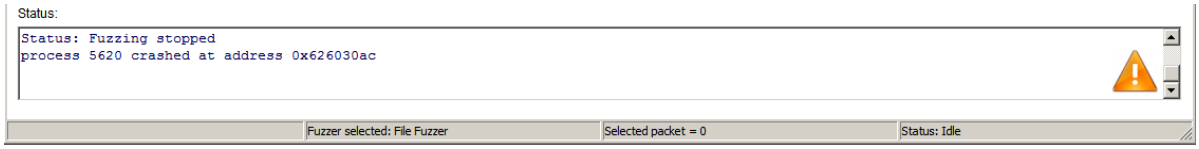

Figure 27: The debugger indicating the address where the process crashed

6 Tutorial Five: Using the USB fuzzer module

In this tutorial we will perform some USB fuzzing by integrating with external hardware - the Packet-Master USB500 AG from MQP Electronics (NCC Group has no affiliation with MQP Electronics): http://www.mqp.com/usb500.htm

We start by capturing some USB traffic using GraphicUSB (the GUI application shipped with the USB500):

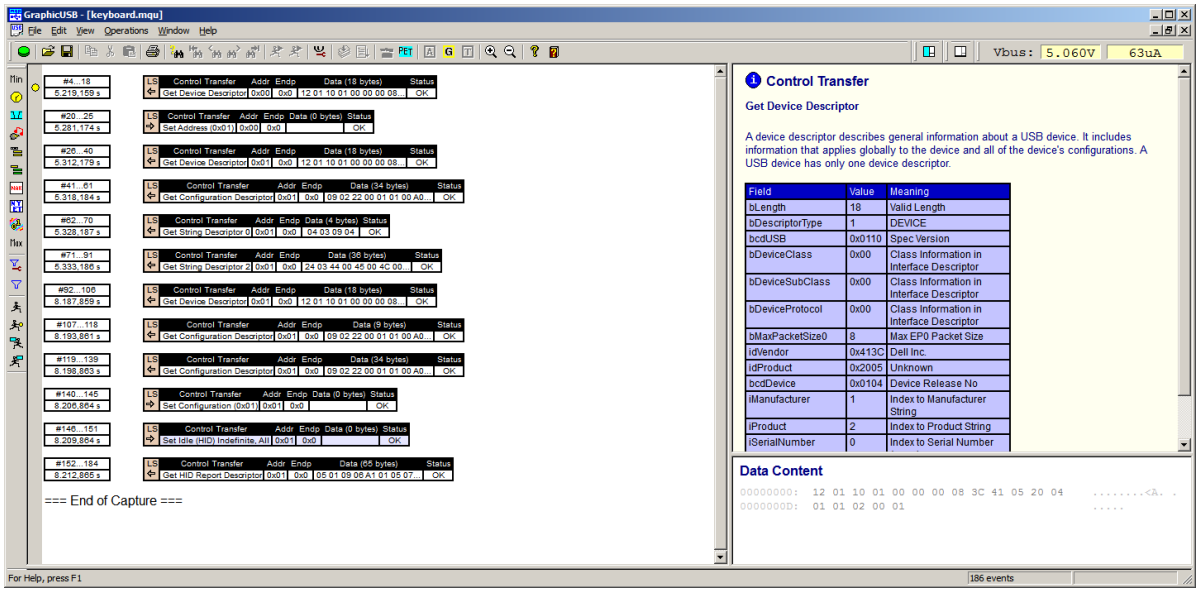

Figure 28: The GraphicUSB packet capture window

Next, you need to create a generator script:

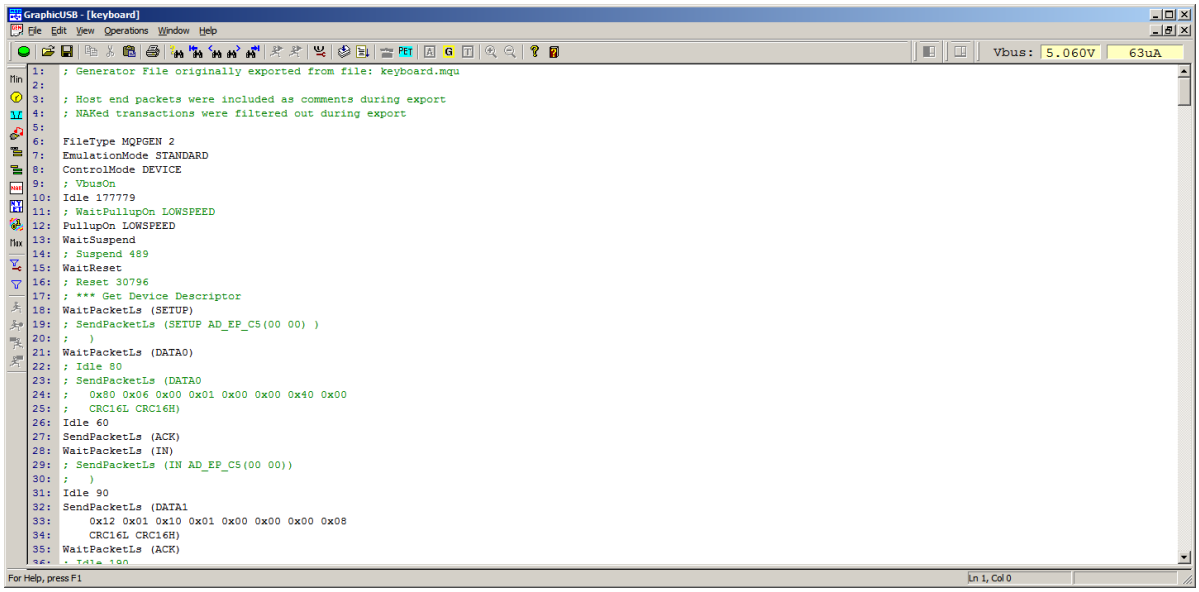

Figure 29: The GraphicUSB generator script window

Launch Zulu and select **Input Method > Import USB Generator Script**:

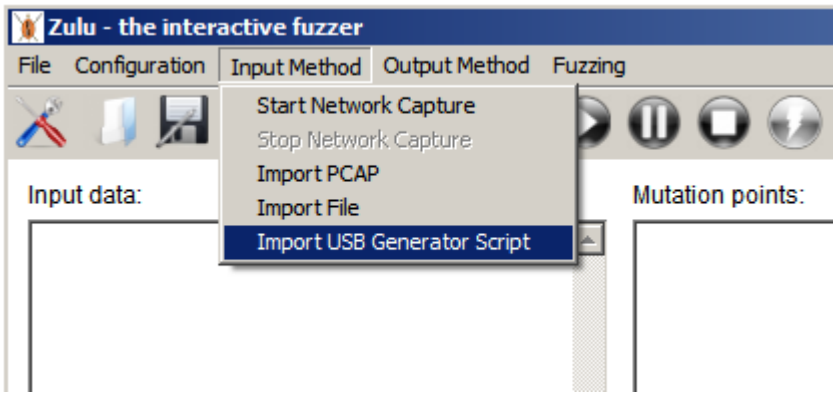

Figure 30: Importing a USB generator script into Zulu

Then select the saved script:

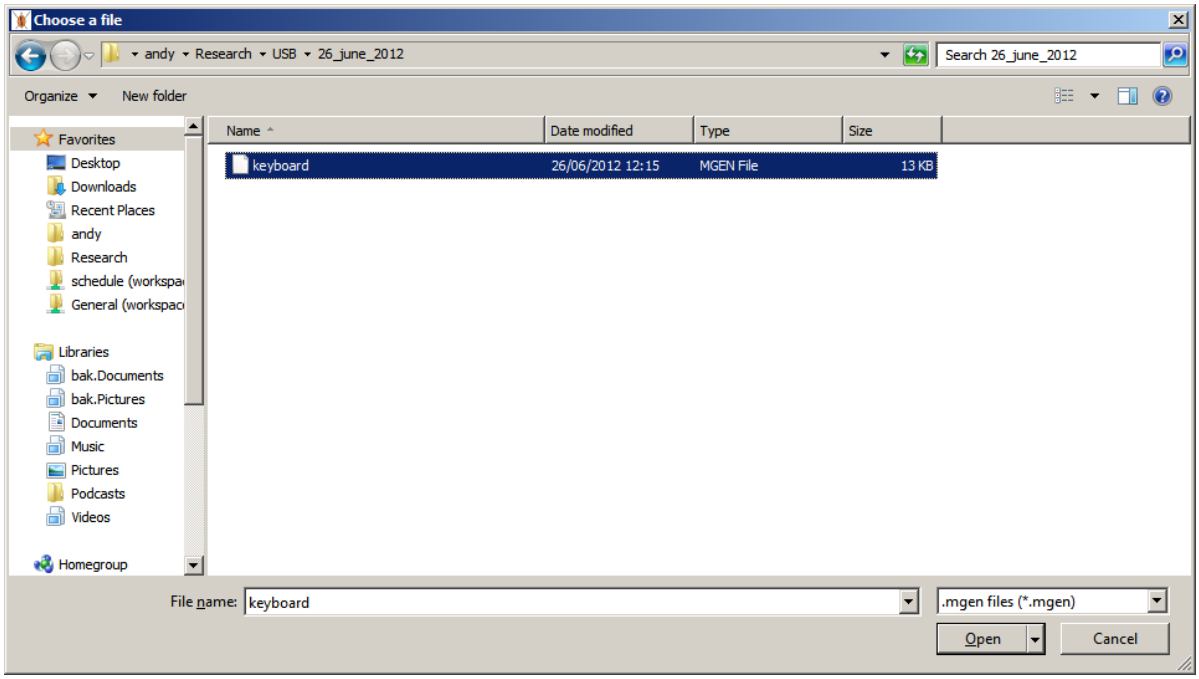

Figure 31: Selecting the generator script

The packets are loaded into Zulu just as if they were network packets:

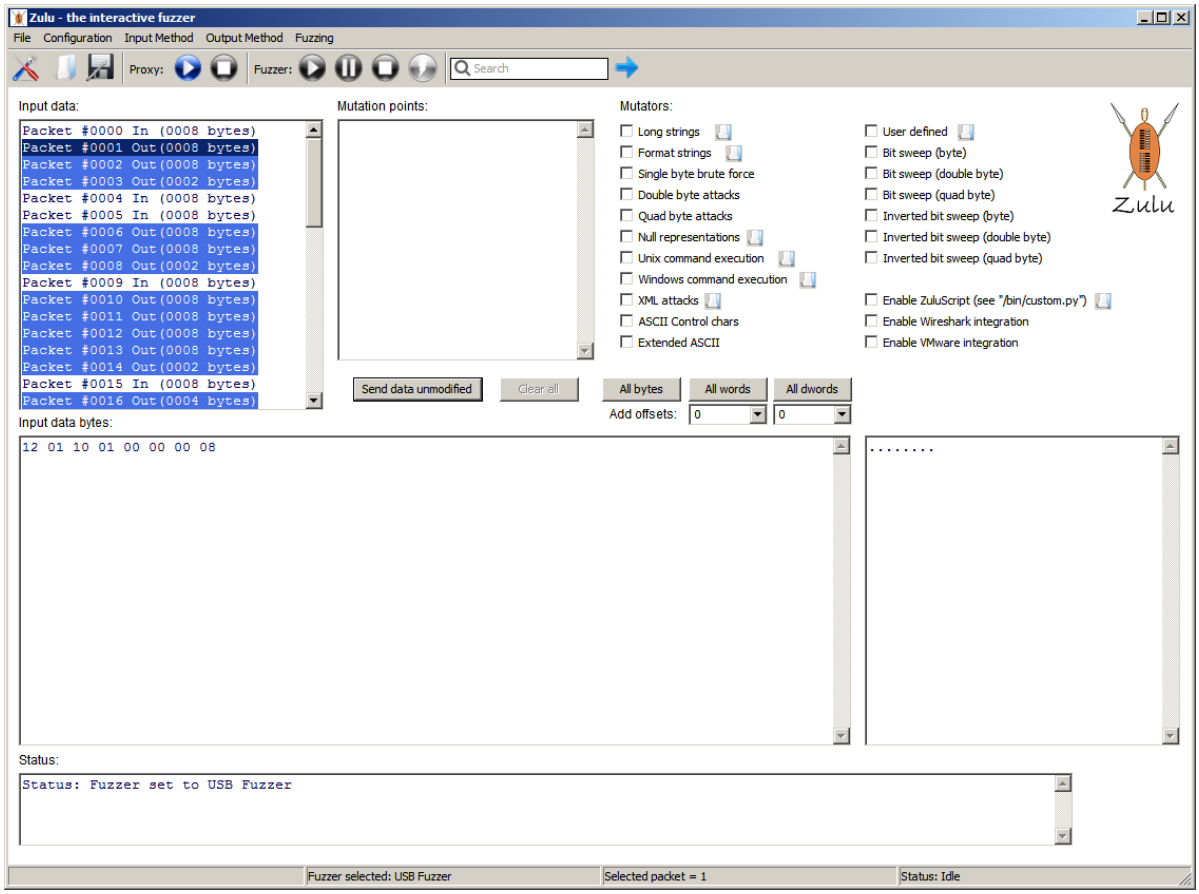

Figure 32: USB generator script imported into Zulu

Add a fuzzpoint and select your Mutators:

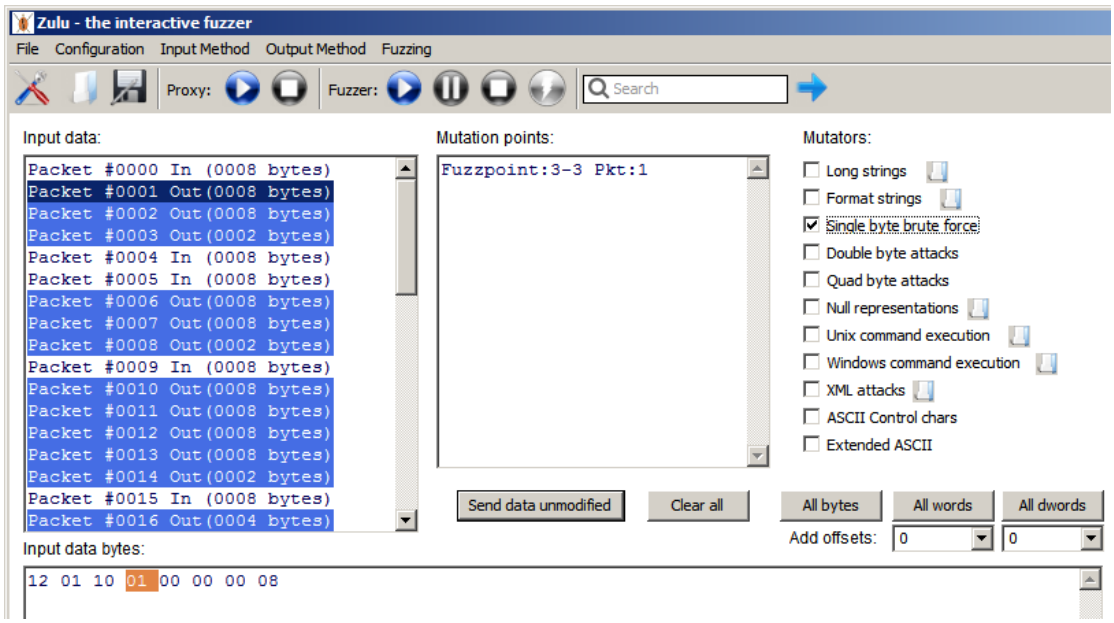

Figure 33: Adding fuzzpoints and mutators to USB data

Select **Output Method > USB Fuzzer**:

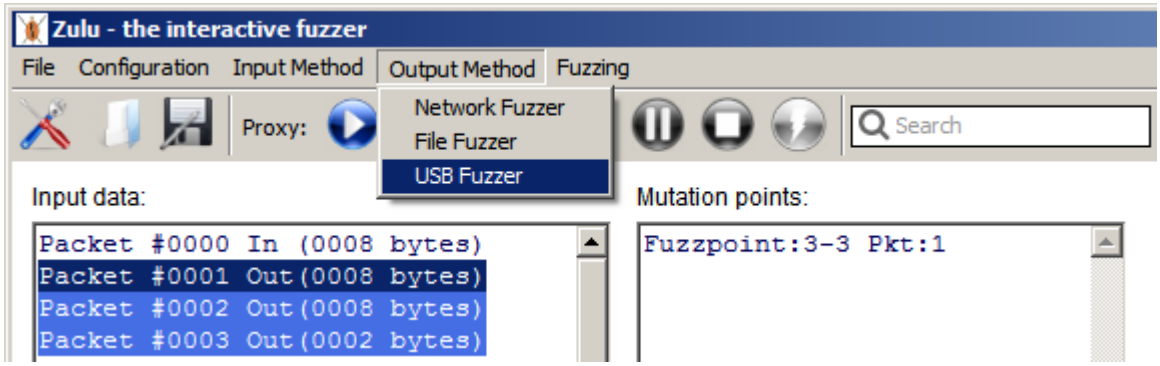

Figure 34: Selecting the USB fuzzer module

The **USB Fuzzer configuration** window will be displayed:

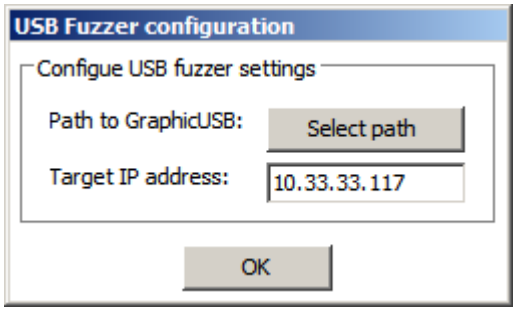

Figure 35: USB fuzzer configuration

- **Path to GraphicUSB** - this is the USB application that will be controlled by Zulu
- **Target IP address** - If the target is connected to a network then ICMP is used for instrumentation, as most USB vulnerabilities result in kernel panics

Finally, start the fuzzer and Zulu will automatically control the GraphicUSB software in order to control the Packet-Master USB analyser hardware:

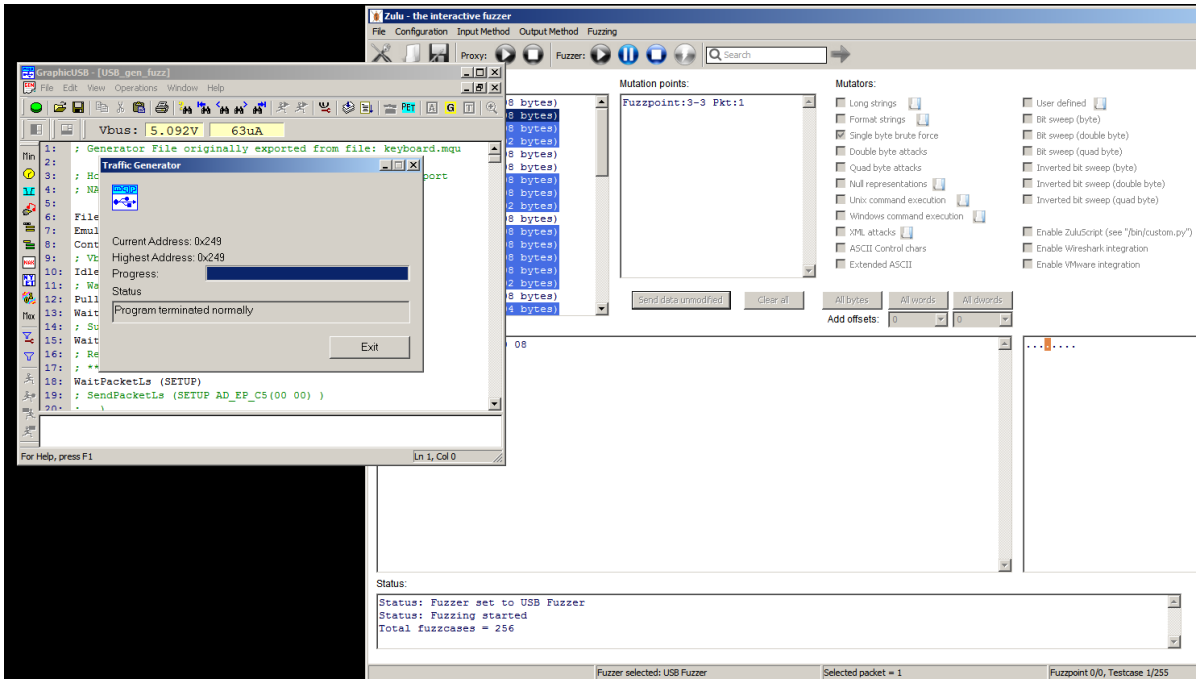

Figure 36: The USB fuzzer running

If a crash is detected, the status will be updated as follows:

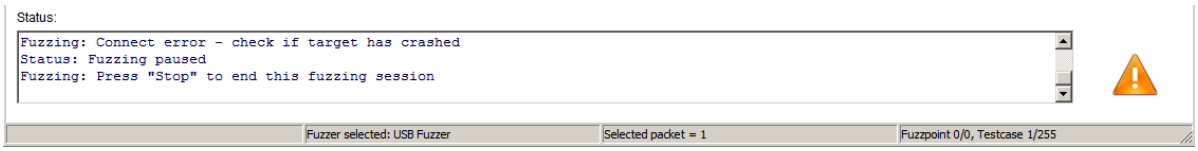

Figure 37: The target USB host crashing

7 Tutorial Six: Using the Serial fuzzer module

In this tutorial we will perform some serial fuzzing of a modem using the Hayes AT command set.

First, select **Input Method > Serial Data Capture**:

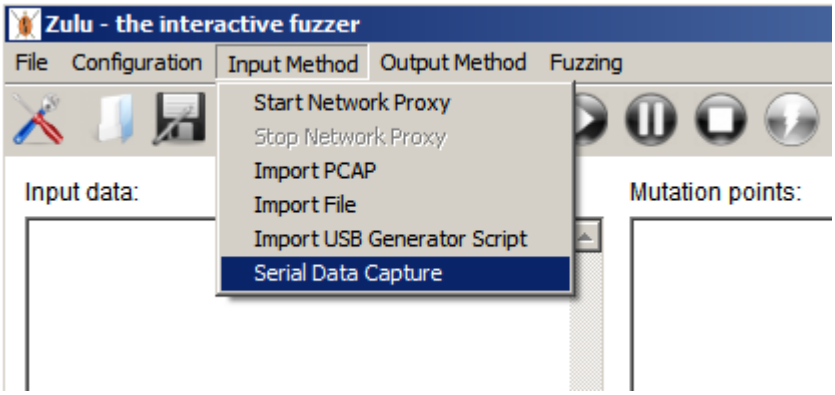

Figure 38: Selecting serial data capture

Click the **Port Settings** button:

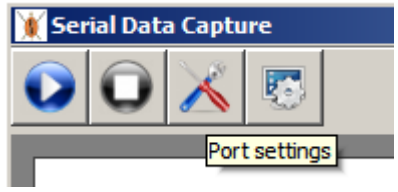

Figure 39: Selecting serial port settings

Select the serial port settings to use and click OK:

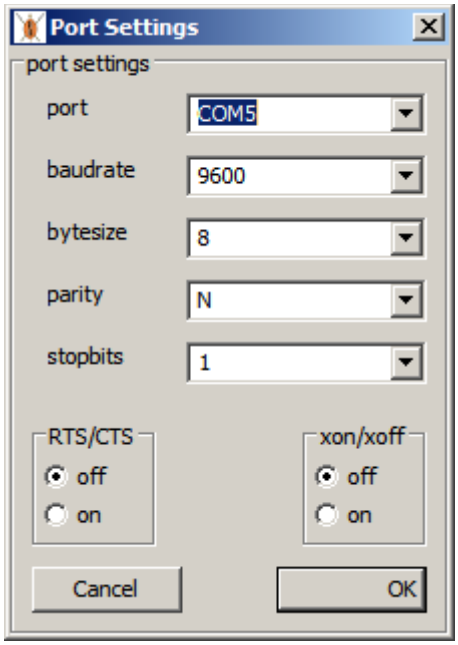

Figure 40: Serial port settings for capture

Click the **Connect to serial port** button:

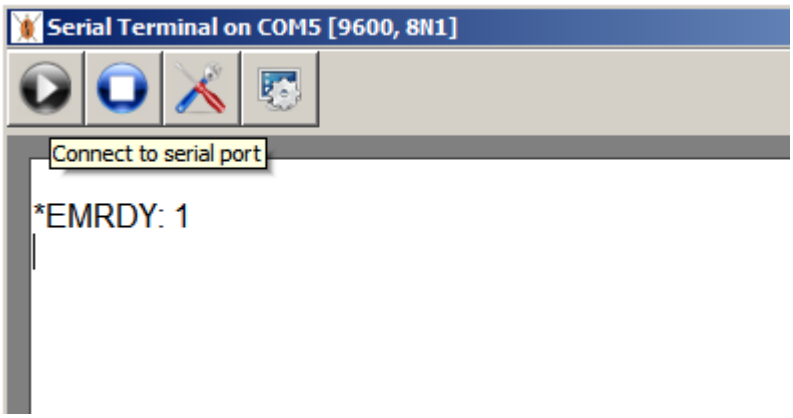

Figure 41: Connecting to the serial port

Enter some serial data - in this instance the AT command *ati1*:

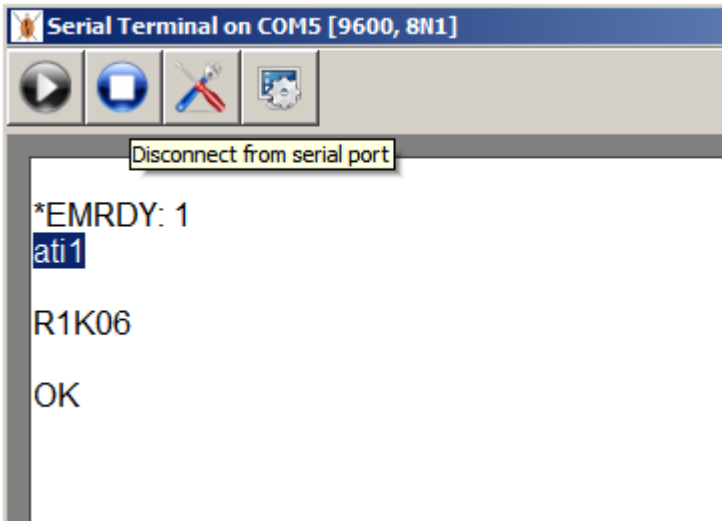

Figure 42: Capturing serial data

When you have finished, click the **Disconnect from serial port** button:

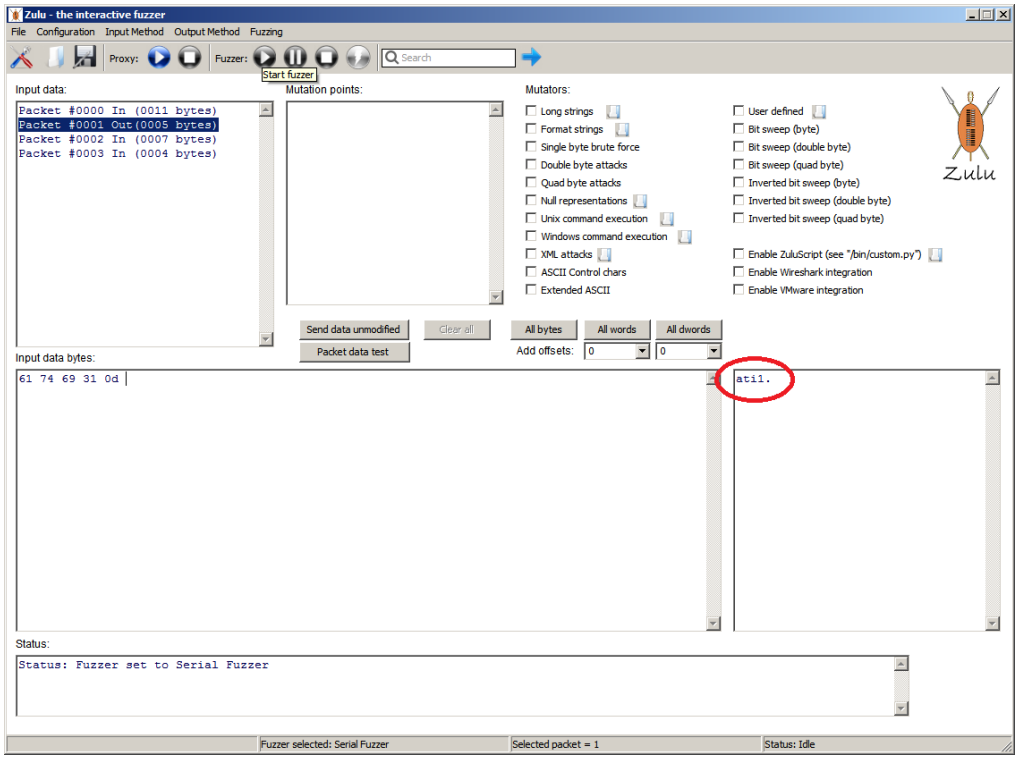

Figure 43: The captured serial data displayed in Zulu

Add any fuzzpoints you wish - here we are fuzzing the number after the *ati* command:

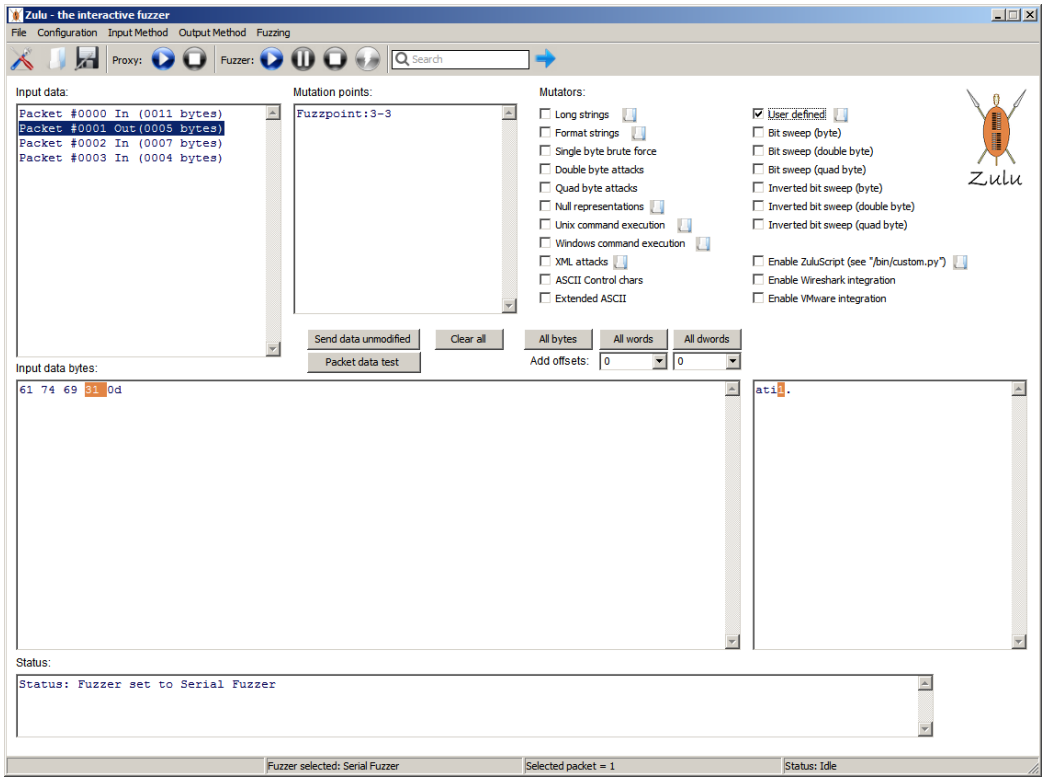

Figure 44: Selecting fuzzpoints in the serial data

Select **Output Method > Serial Fuzzer**:

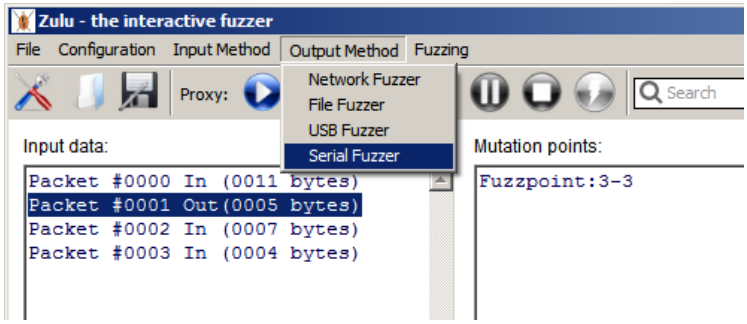

Figure 45: Selecting the serial fuzzer module

Select the serial port settings to use for fuzzing along with an IP address of the device (if appropriate) for instrumentation and click OK:

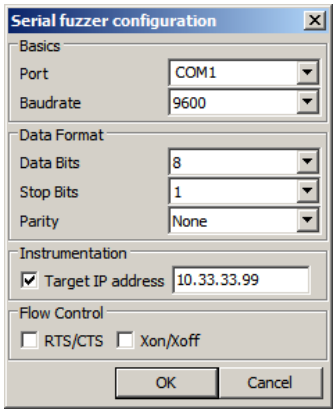

Figure 46: Selecting the target serial settings

Start fuzzing:

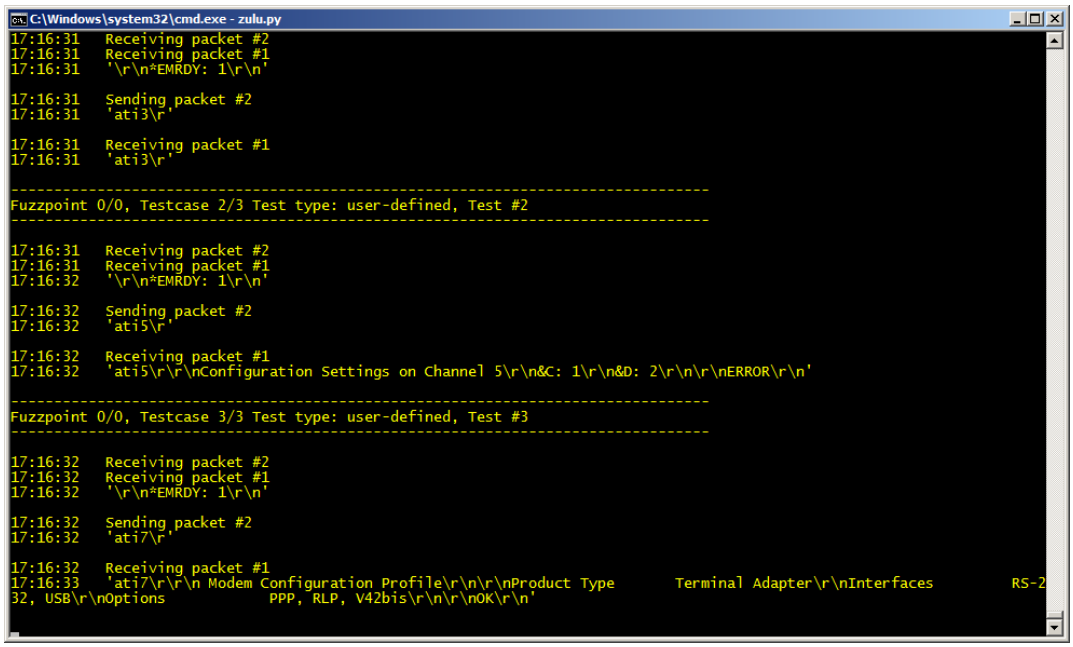

Figure 47: The console output during serial fuzzing

8 Tutorial Seven: Integrating with Wireshark

In this tutorial we will integrate Zulu with Wireshark to take advantage of its dissectors to interpret network protocols. First, configure Zulu to perform a network capture, but before starting the capture select the **Enable Wireshark integration** checkbox:

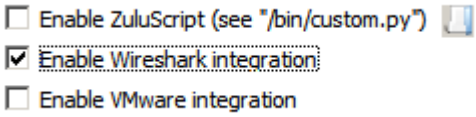

Figure 48: Enabling wireshark integration

Zulu will then ask where the Wireshark executable is located (opening in the default location). Select the executable:

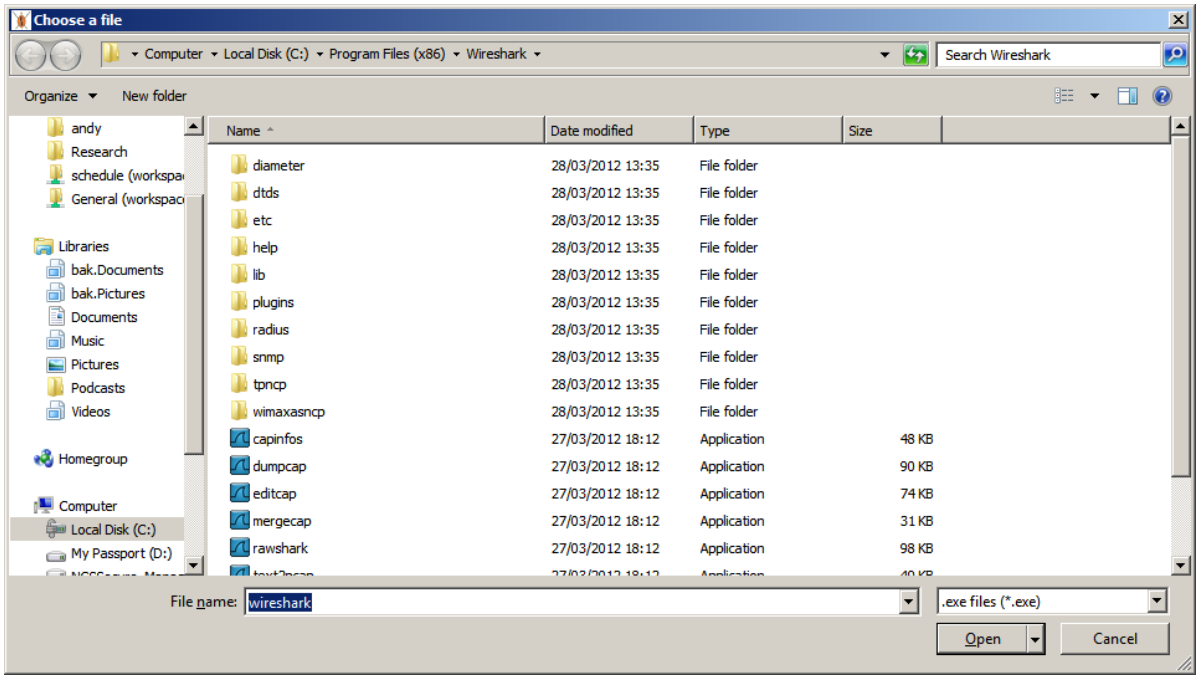

Figure 49: Selecting the Wireshark binary

Next start the network capture (**Input Method > Start Network Capture**). When all the traffic required has been captured and the capture has been stopped (**Input Method > Stop Network Capture**), a PCAP file of the captured traffic is generated and provided to Wireshark which is opened to display the packets captured by Zulu:

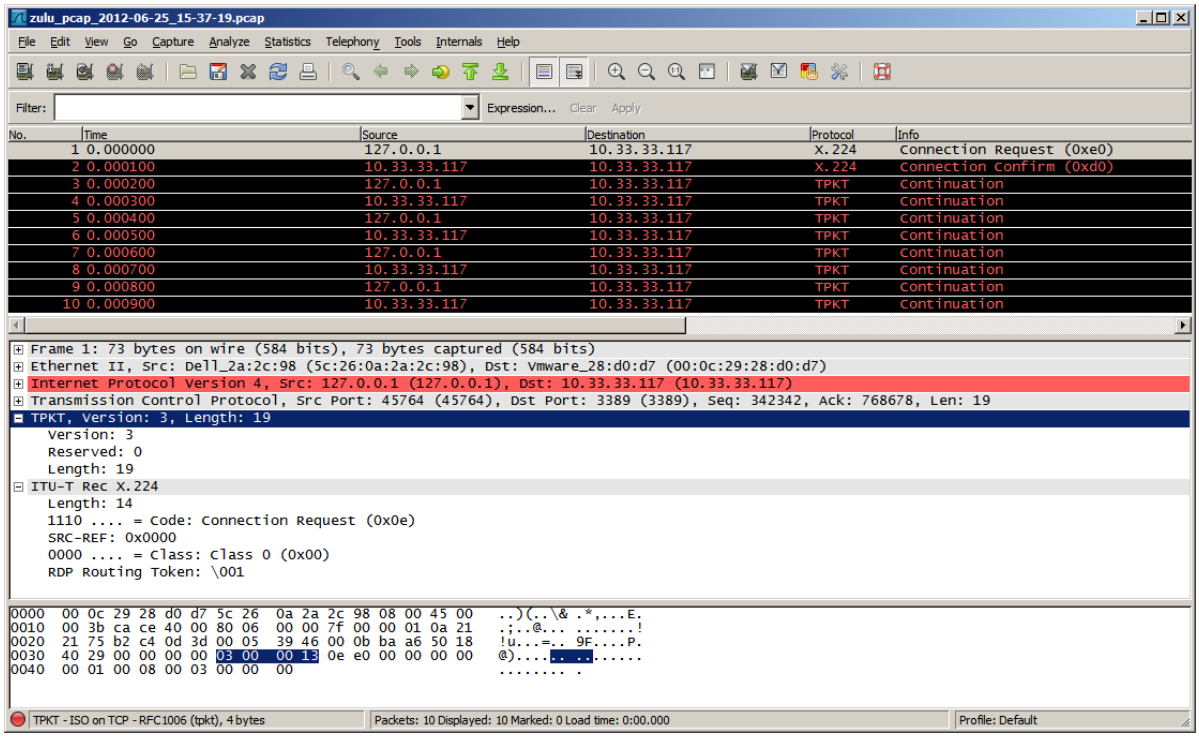

Figure 50: Wireshark displaying the data captured by Zulu

Note: Ignore any Wireshark warnings about packet ordering – the PCAP file is generated from scratch so the TCP sequence numbers and packet timestamps are “invented”

9 Tutorial Eight: Integrating with VMware

In this tutorial we show how VMware can be controlled by Zulu to either restart guest processes or the whole VM.

Before starting any fuzzing perform the steps below, firstly, select **Configuration > VMware settings**:

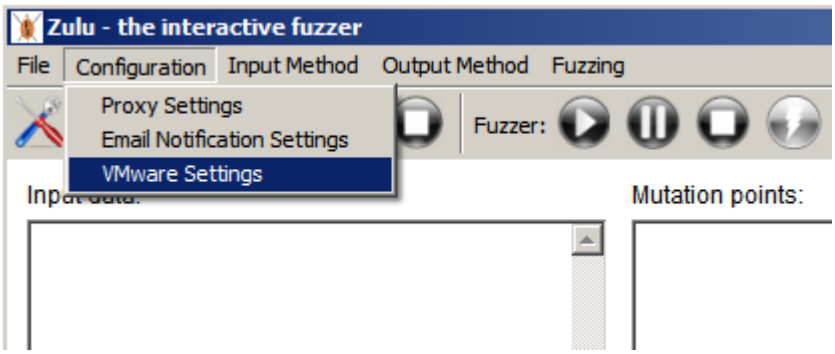

Figure 51: Selecting VMware settings

Depending on whether you want to control a VM guest process of the whole VM, choose either **OS Control** or **Process Control**:

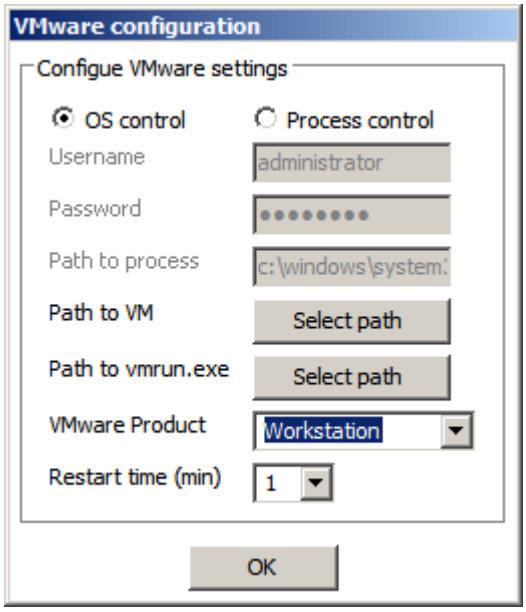

Figure 52: VMware OS control settings

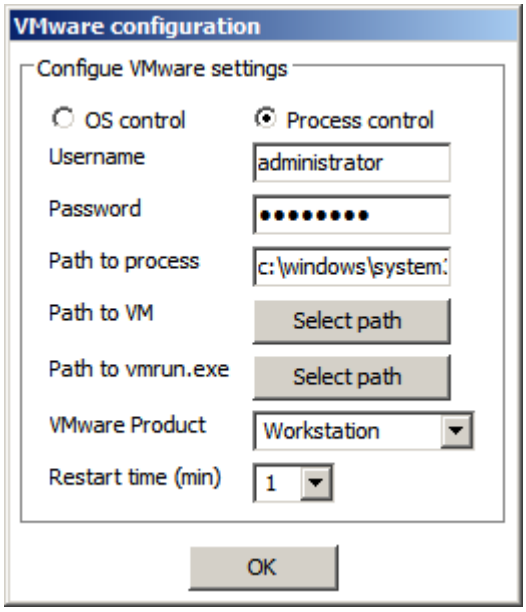

Figure 53: VMware process control settings

- **Username** - the username of a guest OS administrator
- **Password** - the password of the guest OS administrator
- **Path to process** - the full path to the process in the guest OS to control
- **Path to VM** - self explanatory
- **Path to vmrun.exe** - vmrun is the command line tool that Zulu uses to control VMware (it is installed by default)
- **VMware product** - self explanatory
- **Restart time** - the time to wait for the VM to restart (if **OS Control** is selected)

Note: If the Zulu session is saved, the password is currently stored as cleartext in the session file

Before starting fuzzing, select the Enable VMware integration checkbox:

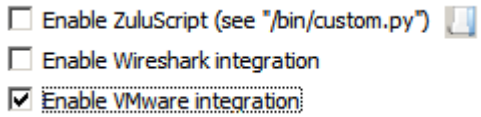

Figure 54: Enabling VMware integration

If during fuzzing the target crashes, Zulu will then control the VM as configured above.

10 Tutorial Nine: Adding length fields

In this tutorial we will add a length field to a network packet. This would be required if the mutator used changes the length of a packet and a length field needs to be updated, based on the new size of each fuzzcase.

First, select the bytes that represent the length field (this can be either one, two or four bytes). Then right click and select **Add Length Field**:

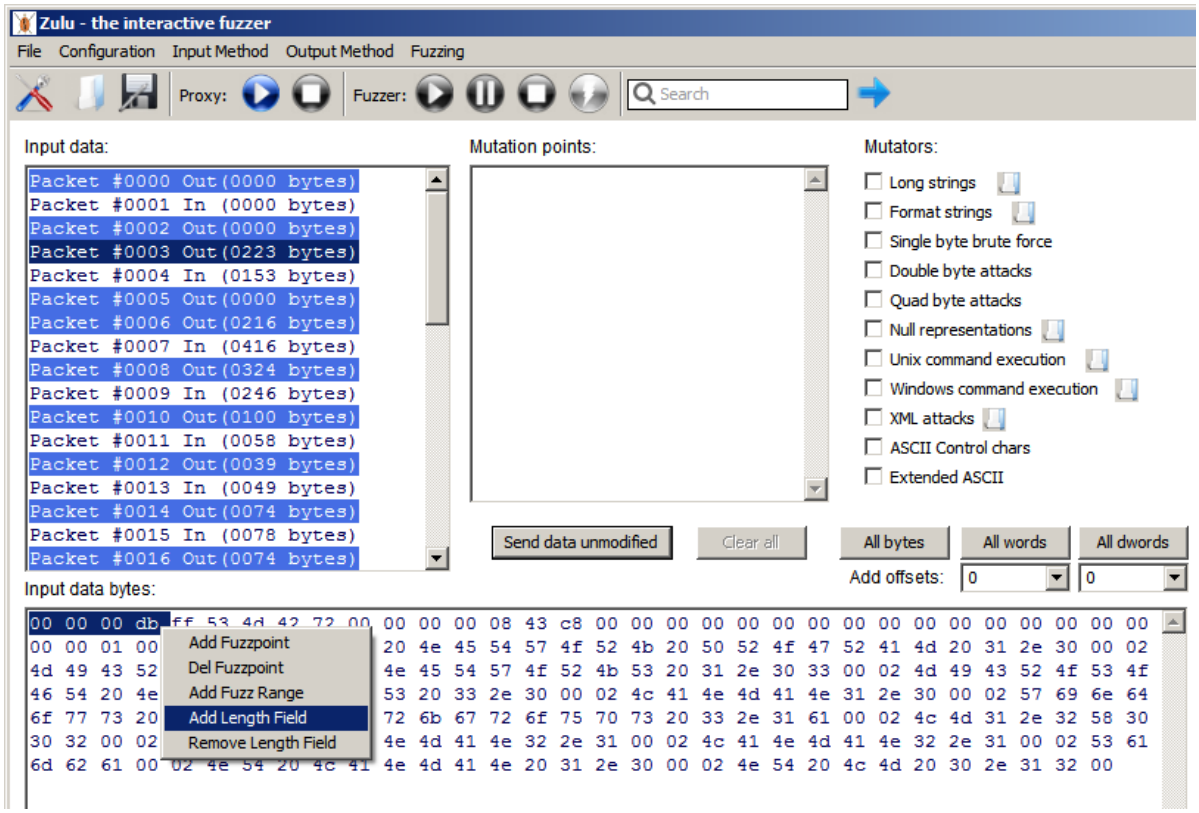

Figure 55: Adding a length field to captured data

A dialogue box is then displayed, which asks you to now select the bytes to be counted (you can also select the byte order of the length field in the combo box). Select the bytes to be counted and click OK.

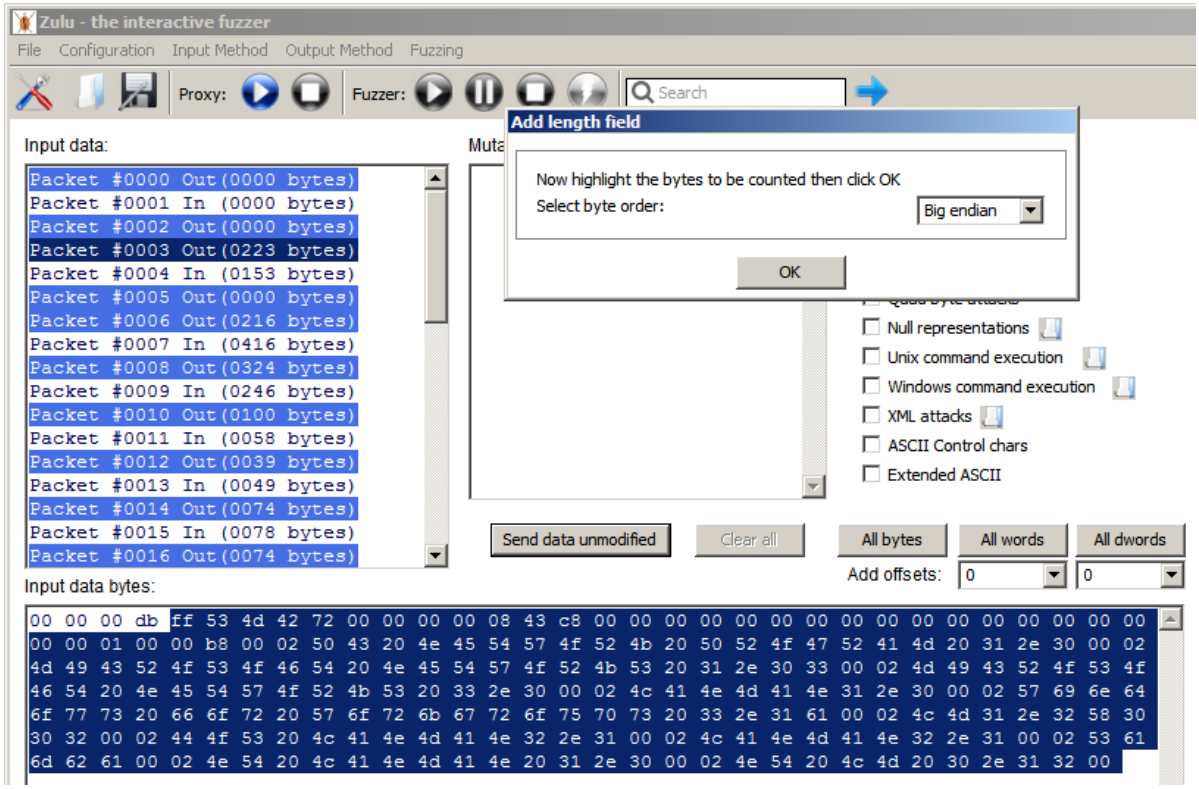

Figure 56: Highlighting the bytes to be counted

If a fuzzpoint is now selected within the configured length field calculation area and any of the mutators selected modify the length of the packet, the configured length field will now automatically be updated during the fuzzing process:

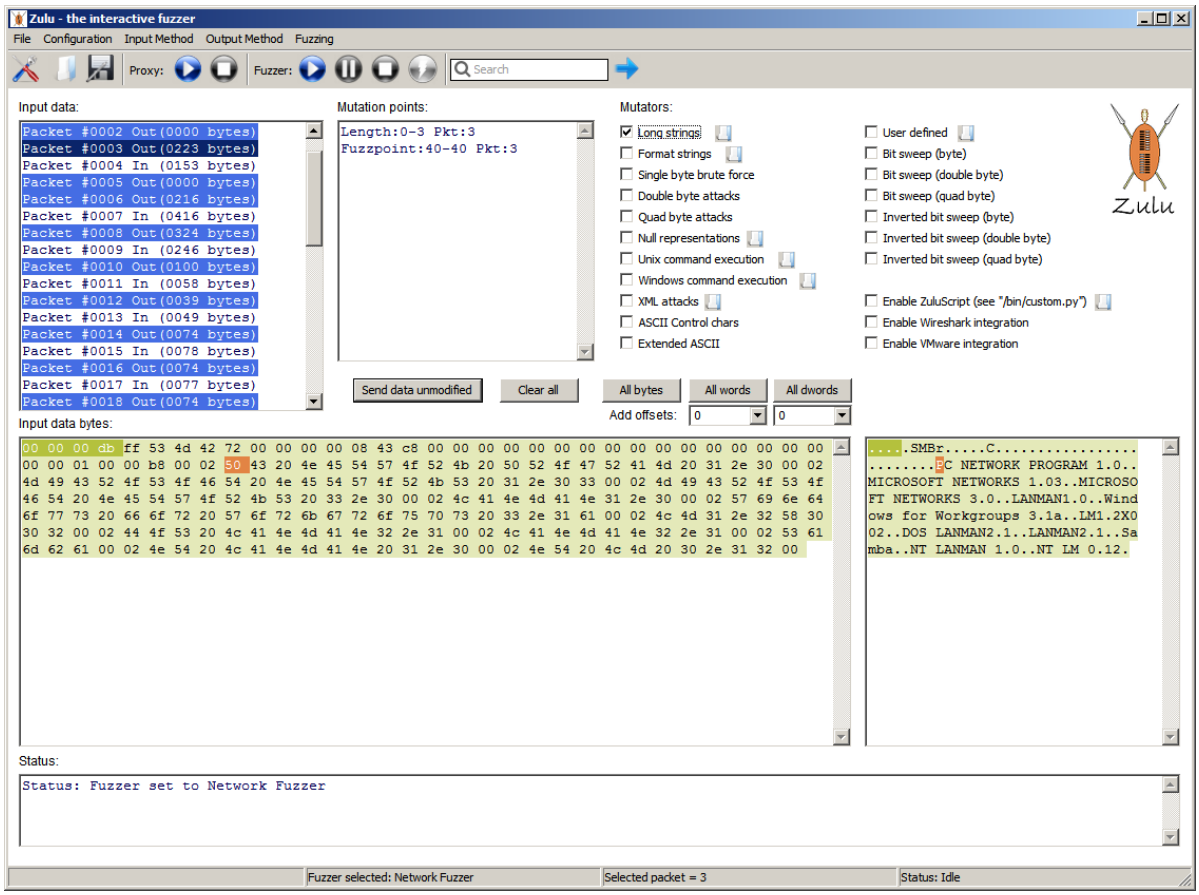

Figure 57: The length field is now inserted

11 Tutorial Ten: Configuring email notification settings

In this tutorial we will configure the email settings so that Zulu can send crash notifications via email. First, select **Configuration > Email notification** settings:

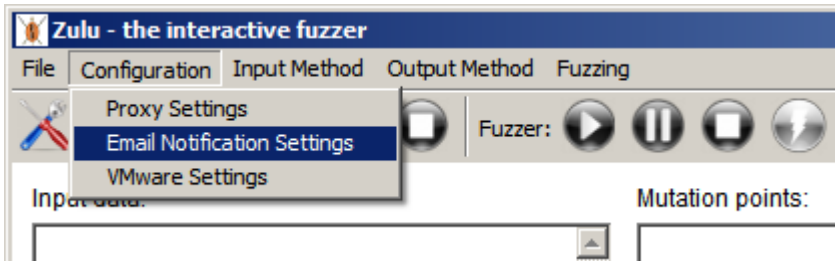

Figure 58: Selecting the email notification settings

This will display the **Email configuration** window:

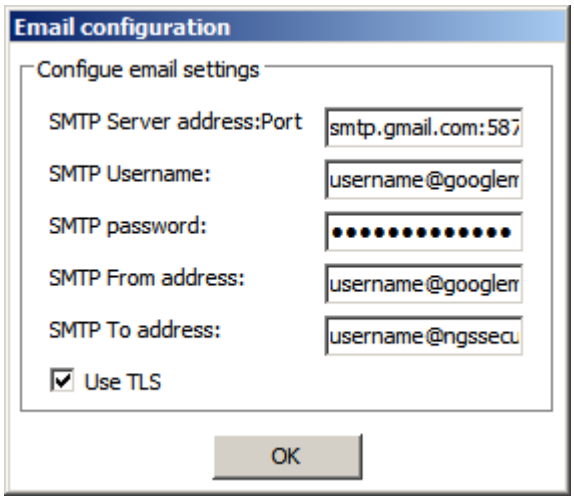

Figure 59: The email notification settings

The example below, in brackets applies to Google Gmail

- **SMTP Server address:port** - the address and port that the SMTP server is listening on (smtp.gmail.com:587)
- **SMTP Username** - your login name (username@googlemail.com)
- **SMTP Password** - your password
- **SMTP From address** - your email address to send from (username@googlemail.com)
- **SMTP To address** - the address to send to (name.surname@nccgroup.com)
- **Use TLS** - select if encryption is used (select checkbox)

Note: If the Zulu session is saved then the SMTP password is currently stored in cleartext within the session file

If during network fuzzing a crash occurs, the auto-generated PoC will be emailed to the configured email account

12 Tutorial Eleven: Writing and using ZuluScript

In this tutorial we will introduce the concept of ZuluScript and look at an example.

There will sometimes be situations where a process needs to be performed on a packet after it has been modified by a mutator, but before it has been processed by the target - this is where ZuluScript can be used.

ZuluScript is just Python script stored in a special file (/bin/custom.py). The default file, which includes a *test()* function and an *UpdateContentLengthField()* function is shown below:

```
################################################################################
# Zulu custom script file - when ZuluScript is enabled, this script will be executed prior to
each packet being sent
#                                (including unmodified packets), but after any fuzz data has
been applied to the packet
#
# Variables that can be referenced:
#
# self.packets selected to send = list of packets selected to send [[packet number,
data],[packet number, data]...]
#
# self.all_packets_captured = list of all packets captured [[[source IP,source port],data],
[[source IP,source port],data]...]
#
# self.modified data = list of all the data in the current packet (after any modification
with fuzzpoint data) [byte1, byte2, byte3...]
#
# self.current_packet_number = the number of the current packet being processed (packet 0 is
the first packet)
#
# Below are two example functions:
#
# test() just proves that ZuluScript is functioning correctly and demonstrates the data that
can be accessed
# UpdateContentLengthField() is an example script to update a Content Length field within an
HTTP packet
#
################################################################################

class ZuluScript:
    """
    Zulu custom scripting interface
    """

    def   __init__(self,zulu):
          print "---ZuluScript started---"
          self.zulu = zulu

          #self.test()

          self.UpdateContentLengthField(0)

          print "---ZuluScript complete---"
          return



    def test(self):
          print "-----------------------------"
          print "ZuluScript test:"
          print
          print "self.packets_selected_to_send"
```

```
        print
        print self.zulu.packets_selected_to_send
        print
        print "self.all_packets_captured"
        print
        print self.zulu.all_packets_captured
        print
        print "self.modified_data"
        print
        print self.zulu.modified_data
        print
        print "self.current_packet_number"
        print
        print self.zulu.current_packet_number
        print
        print "-----------------------------"
        return

    def   UpdateContentLengthField(self, packet_num):

        # UpdateContentLengthField() - Updates an HTTP Content length field within a packet
after fuzz data has been inserted

        # packet_num - the number of the packet containing the length field

        if self.zulu.current_packet_number != packet_num:
                return

        length = 0
        lengthtext = ""
        length_lst = []
        data = ""
        temp_data = ""
        field_pos = 0

        x = 0
        while x < len(self.zulu.modified_data):
                data += self.zulu.modified_data[x]
                x+=1

        field_pos = data.find("Content-Length")
        if field_pos == -1:
                print "No Content-Length header"
                return

        field_pos += 15

        start = data.find("\r\n\r\n")
        if start == -1:
                print "No POST data"
                return

        start += 4

        end = len(self.zulu.modified_data)-1

        length = end - start
        lengthtext = "%d" % length

        x = 0
        while x < field_pos:
                temp_data += self.zulu.modified_data[x]
                x+=1
```



```
        temp_data += " "
        temp_data += lengthtext
        temp_data += "\x0a"

        while self.zulu.modified_data[x] != "\x0a":
                x+=1

        x+=1

        while x < end:

                temp_data += self.zulu.modified_data[x]
                x+=1

        x=0
        self.zulu.modified_data = []
        while x < len(temp_data):
                self.zulu.modified_data.append(temp_data[x])
                x+=1
```

Figure 60: Example ZuluScript

As shown at the top of the file, there are a number of variables that can be referenced:

- **self.packets_selected_to_send** = list of packets selected to send [[packet number, data],[packet number, data]...]
- **self.all_packets_captured** = list of all packets captured [[[source IP,source port],data], [[source IP,source port],data]...]
- **self.modified_data** = list of all the data in the current packet (after any modification with fuzzpoint data) [byte1, byte2, byte3...]
- **self.current_packet_number** = the number of the current packet being processed (packet 0 is the first packet)
-

In the ZuluScript constructor you can see that it prints a message to say that ZuluScript has started, creates a "zulu" object and executes *self.UpdateContentLengthField(0)* which will update the HTTP Content-Length field in packet zero each time a fuzzcase is run. To enable ZuluScript, just select the **Enable ZuluScript** checkbox:

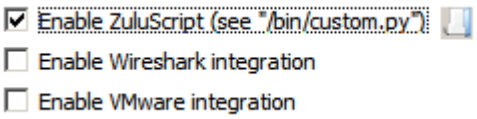

Figure 61: Enabling ZuluScript

If you can write Python then this makes Zulu practically infinitely extendible.

