3.3.   Filter Properly on HTTP Traffic

Being able to properly filter on browsing sessions is important when you are troubleshooting your own web browsing session or helping determine why the company web site loads slowly. Don't make the most common mistake of all – using an application name in your filter.

There are two methods used to filter on HTTP traffic.

```
http
tcp.port==xx (where xx denotes the HTTP port in use)
```

The second filter method is more effective. Let's examine why by comparing the use of each filter on a trace file of a web browsing session.

Test an Application Filter Based on a TCP Port Number

First let's open *http-wiresharkdownload101.pcapng*. This trace file contains a connection to *www.wireshark.org* and a request to download a copy of Wireshark. We applied the `tcp.port==80` display filter and find that, indeed, all of the packets match our filter, as shown in Figure 65. That's good because that's all we have in the trace file.
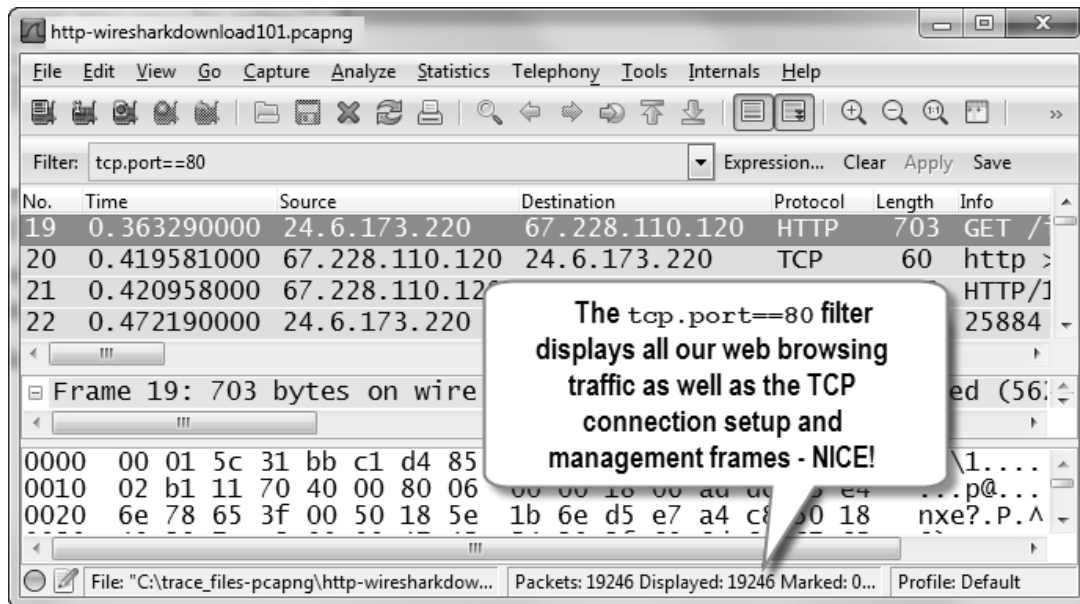

Figure 65. Our port number-based filter displays all the packets in this wireshark.org browsing session. [http-wiresharkdownload101.pcapng]