NETFLOW AND WIRELESS PACKET CAPTURE ANALYSIS

Introduction

The new age of technology has led to the complexity of networks in today's world. This has aided the emergence of network monitoring approaches as the need to maintain the health of the network rises. Different approaches have been adopted to serve these purposes and can be classified as active or passive. This paper we delve into one of the basic protocols utilized for flow export of networks called NetFlow. It is vital to understand that a flow is defined as " a set of Internet Protocol packets passing an observation point in the network during a certain time interval, such that all packets belonging to a particular flow have a set of common properties" (Claise, B.Trammell, & P.Aitken, 2013).

NetFlow was developed by Cisco as their flow export technology and patented it back in 1996.This feature has been utilized to capture IP network traffic which can be analyzed based on common attributes such as source and destination addresses, port numbers, packet contents et cetera (Nevil, 2011).

NetFlow, just like any other feature has its cons and pros, though there are more benefits to be gained from using NetFlow. These benefits include easy network bandwidth and traffic monitoring, fast network troubleshooting which aids the improvement of user experience, gaining quick insights from bandwidth reports and finally network security reports that heighten cybersecurity protection. NetFlow shortcomings include the high usage of bandwidth that negatively impacts the device performance, forwarding results to a limited number of recipients which slows network management and troubleshooting and lastly NetFlow does not have the capacity to provide user identities e.g. login information after identifying a device (IBM, n.d.).

Wireless Packet Capture Analysis

This section involves the investigation of a packet capture file provided by Joe (a victim) that we will analysis and interpret to gain insights for any anomalies given the fact that Joe should be the one using his WAP (Wireless Access Point) where the packet file was derived from.

1.BSSID AND SSID

BSSID stands for basic service set identifier and it is the MAC (Media Access Control) physical address of a given access point or wireless router used for wi-fi connection (Atera, 2024). SSID on the other hand stands for service set identifier and this is the name used for a wireless network (Chris & Jordan, 2024).It is vital to note that SSID can be changed anytime unlike BSSID.

The figure below shows the BSSID as 00:23:69:00:d0 and the SSID as ment0rNet.

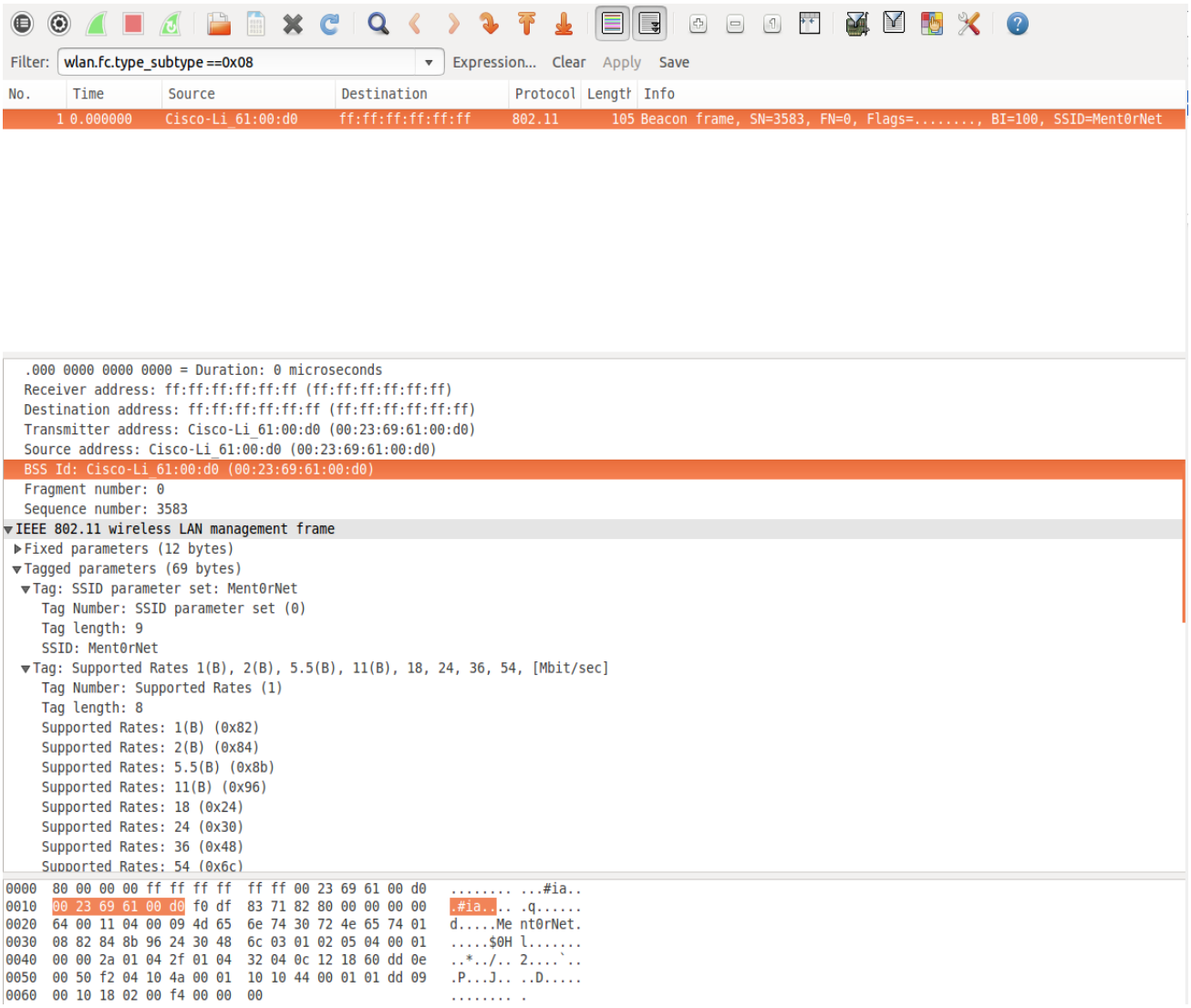

Figure 1/BSSID and SSID

2.WAP

In the section we investigate if the WAP above uses encryption which is evidence that it does have an encryption following the flags that have been shown in the screenshot below. The flag on data protection shows that there is protection, and it is indicated with a 1.

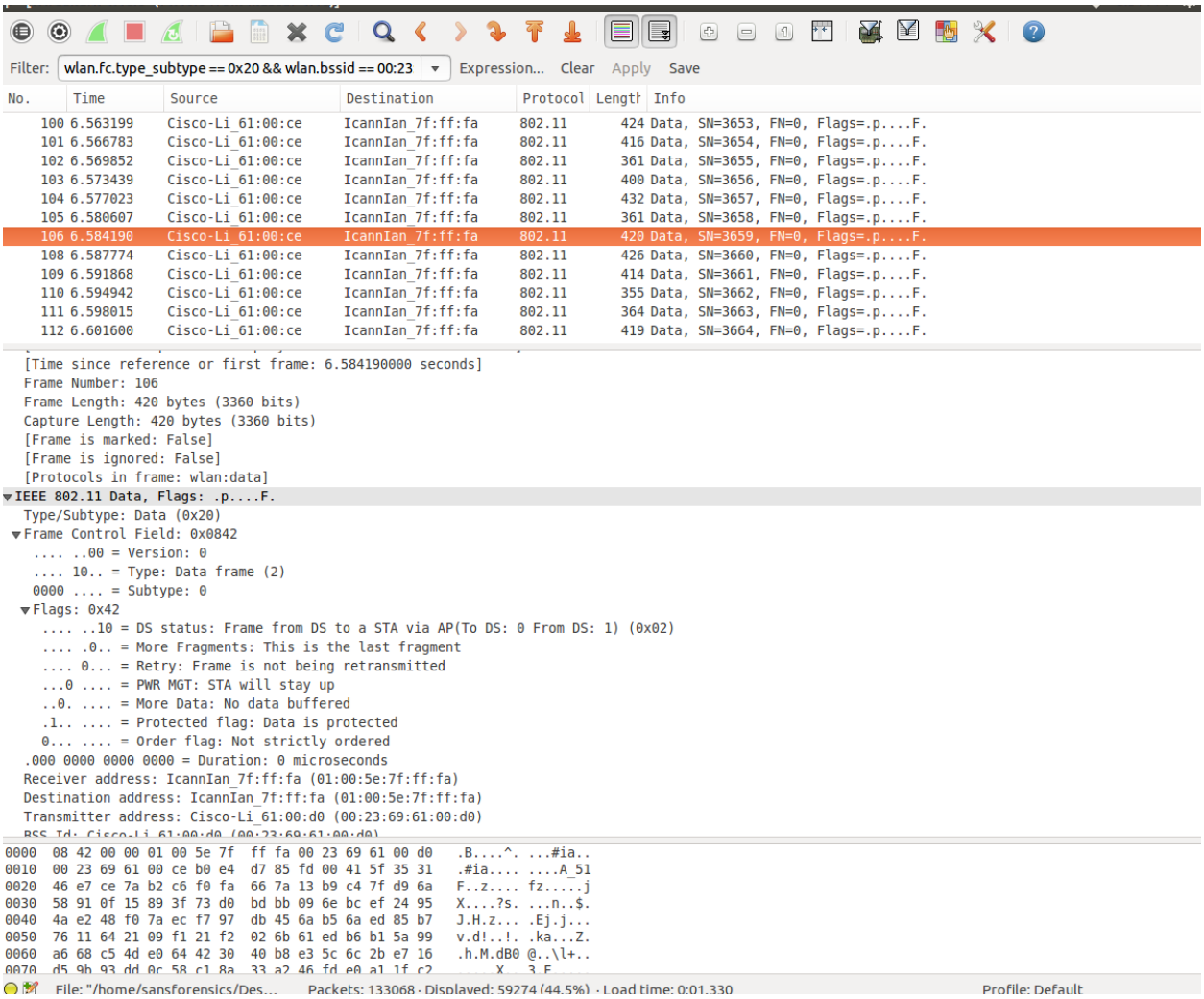

Figure 2/Wap encryption

3.Stations

The stations which can be termed as the devices that were associated with our WAP above were listed in the screenshot below as we filtered for only the endpoints that had connected to the access point. The screenshot below shows also the number of packets that were sent and received.

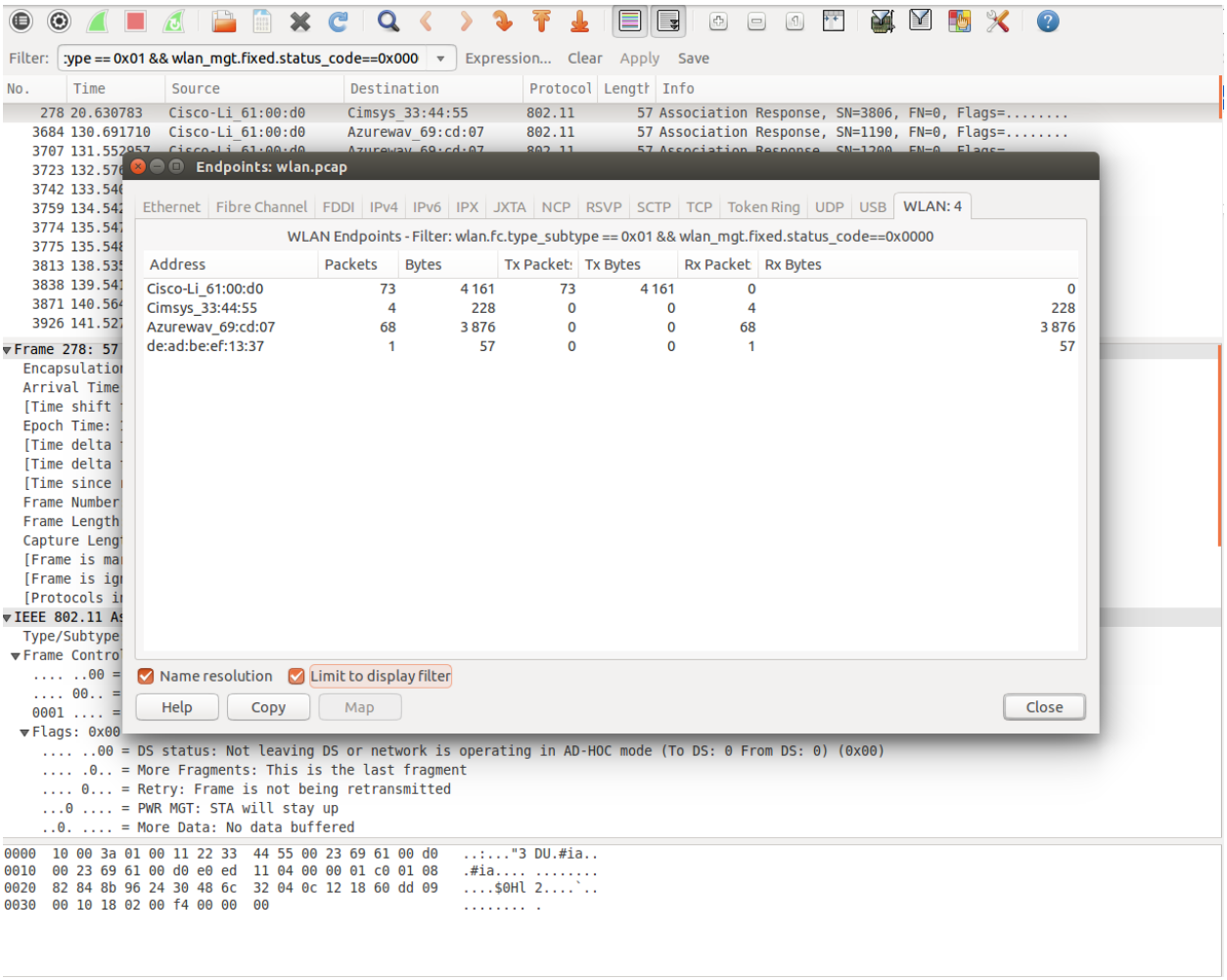

Figure 3/Stations

4.Patterns

The patterns that seemed to be anomalous simply mean that some endpoints generated suspicious traffic unlike the expected traffic from Joe. The screenshot below shows that there was abnormal traffic from one of the stations that was flagged.

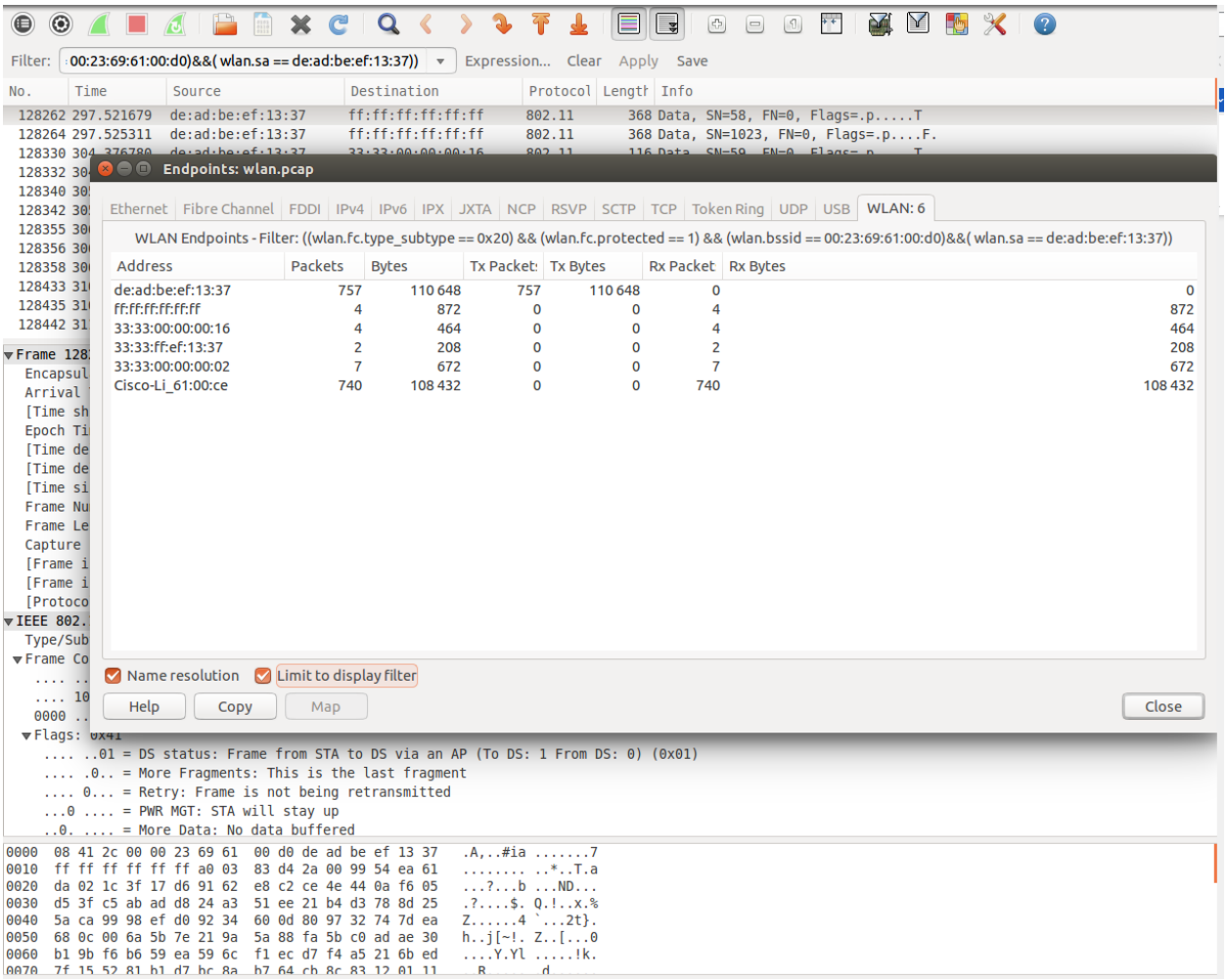

Figure 4/Patterns

5.Anomality

The stations identified to have anomalous traffic above can be categorized under the types of attacks described below:

5.1 WEP cracking attack

This is an attack that is used to exploit the vulnerabilities of the wired equivalent privacy protocol. This was successful since WEP was an early encryption method used for wireless networks security where over the years methods have been invented to crack it (NordVPN, n.d.).

5.2 ARP replay attack

This attack occurs when a hacker listens to network traffic to intercept an ARP request, then inserts a spoofed ARP reply before the legitimate device can respond. The reply contains the hackers MAC address instead of the intended device's MAC address. Then the hacker can obtain data belonging to the legitimate user (s3CloudHub, 2024).

5.3 Denial of Service

This "attack occurs when legitimate users are unable to access information systems, devices, or other network resources due to the actions of a malicious cyber threat actor" (CISA, 2021).This is achieved by flooding the targeted host with traffic to a point that the device cannot handle the request and therefore crashes causing services to be inaccessible.

In conclusion the three attacks explained all took part in this investigation since the WAP had a WEP encryption which was possibly cracked and then ARP replies were transmitted using the Cimsys hence the denial of service where the traffic was overwhelmed and Joe was not able to reach his Wi-Fi services.

6.Stations

The stations that have displayed consistent anomalies and are suspicious are shown on the screenshot below.

Cimsys_33:44:55
de:ad:be:ef:13:37

Figure 5/Stations

7.Unknown

We cracked the WEP key using Aircrack-ng where we obtained the key that we used to discover the WEP key as shown in the figure below.

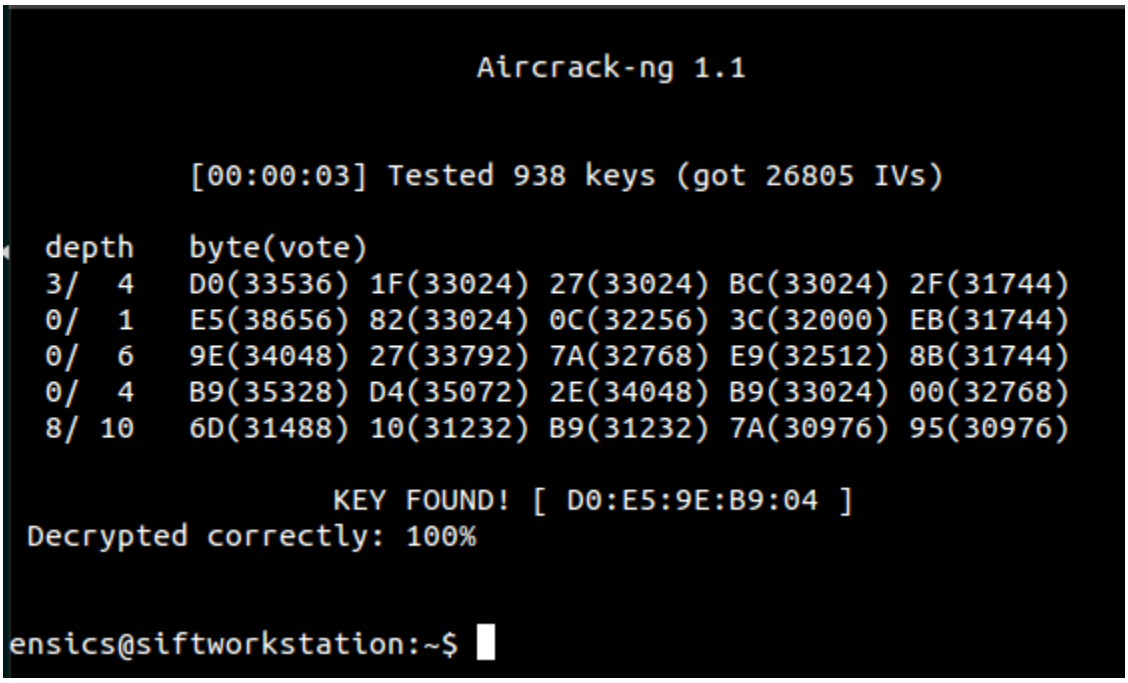

Figure 6/WEP key

Then we applied to decrypt the pcap file which displayed the unknown endpoint IcannIan_7f:ff:fa (01:00:5e:7f:ff:fa) that was used to retransmit and authentication.

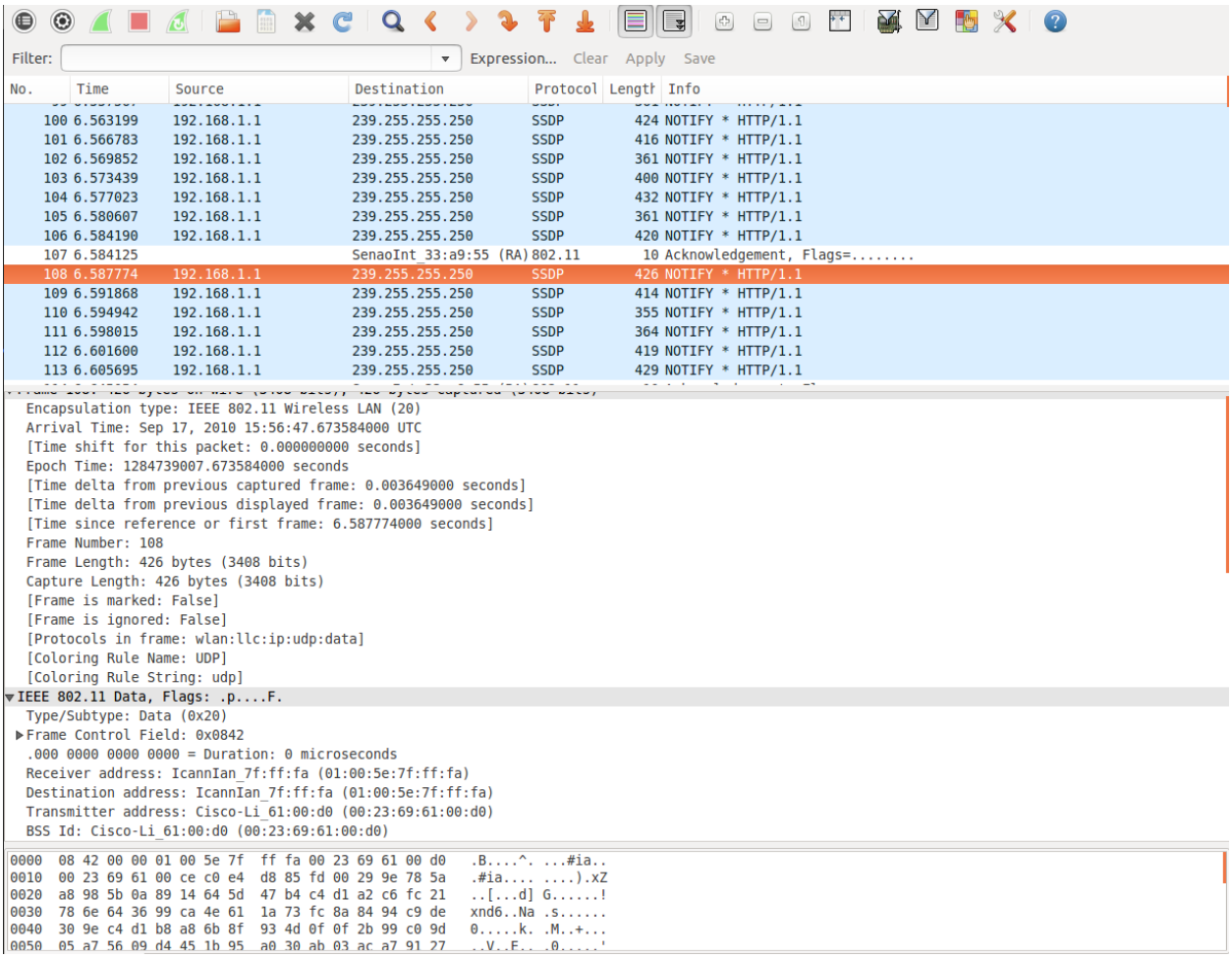

Figure 7/unknown

8.Conclusion

Joe's wireless access point issues started when a WEP key was cracked, and the attacker used a transmitter to disrupt the ARP replies that were directed to the attacker's device that were intended to be Joe's. This is when Joe realized that he was getting dropped since his device wasn't receiving any replies from his WAP. The attacker was able to pick up an IP address and could authenticate the devices since Joe was completely locked out after the transmission was successful.

Glossary

ARP – Stands for Address Resolution Protocol which connects an ever-changing internet protocol address to a specific Media Access Control (MAC) address in a local area network (LAN) (Fortinet, 2024).

WAP – Stands for Wireless Access Point which is a networking hardware device that allows other WIFI devices to connect to a wired network (Chris, 2016).

WLAN – stands for wireless local area network which is a group of computers or network devices that are collocated and form a network based on radio transmissions rather than wired connections (Bradley, 2024).

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