

Analyze your first packet with Wireshark



Summary:

The "Analyze Your First Packet with Wireshark" project provided foundational experience in network traffic analysis, offering insights into packet structure and data transmission within networks. Through this activity, I gained hands-on practice using Wireshark to capture, inspect, and interpret network packets—a critical skill for identifying and mitigating potential security threats. This project marks the beginning of my journey into network analysis, and I plan to expand my expertise further by pursuing additional classes and certifications to solidify my proficiency with this essential cybersecurity tool.

Activity Review:

As a security analyst, analyzing network traffic is a crucial skill for understanding the type of data being sent to and from systems within the networks you'll work with. This activity involved using Wireshark to inspect packet data and applying filters to efficiently sort through packet information. It emphasized practical techniques for examining network traffic to uncover meaningful insights for threat detection and resolution.

Scenario:

In this scenario, you are a security analyst investigating website traffic. Your task is to analyze a network packet capture file containing traffic data related to a user's connection to an internet site. Filtering network traffic using packet sniffers like Wireshark to gather relevant information is an essential skill for a security analyst.

Your goals for this scenario include:

- Identifying the source and destination IP addresses involved in the web browsing session.
- Examining the protocols used when the user connects to the website.
- Analyzing data packets to identify the type of information sent and received during the network session.

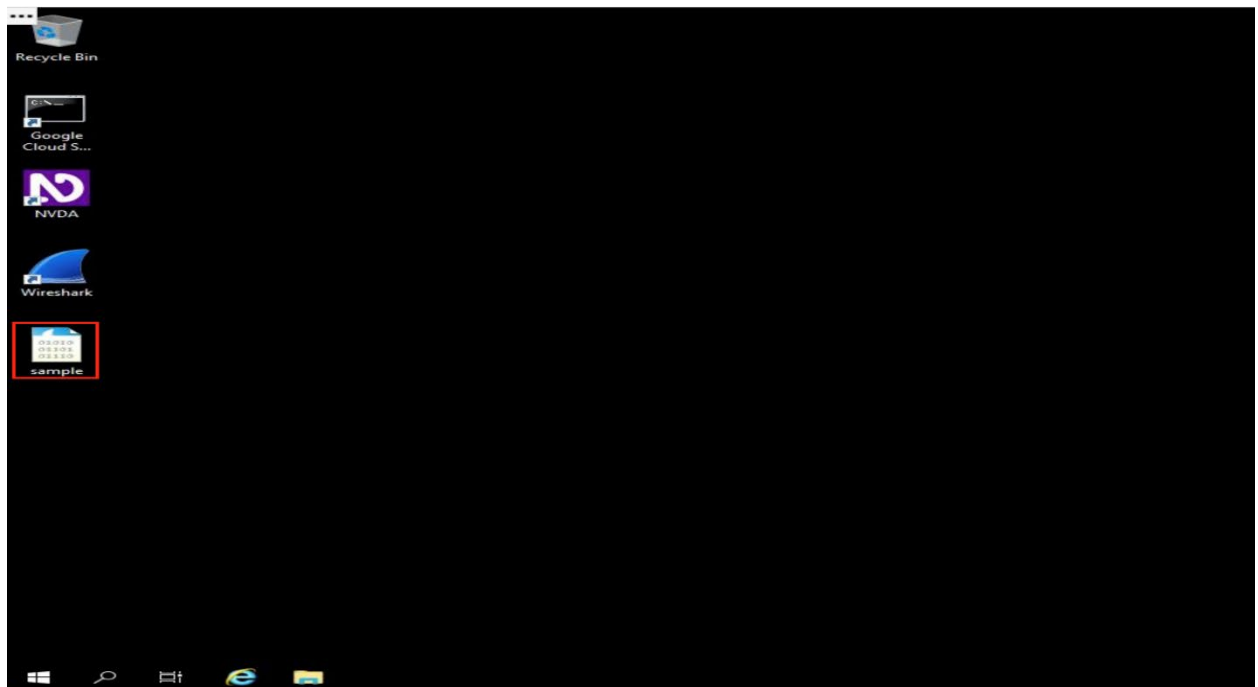
Steps to Achieve This:

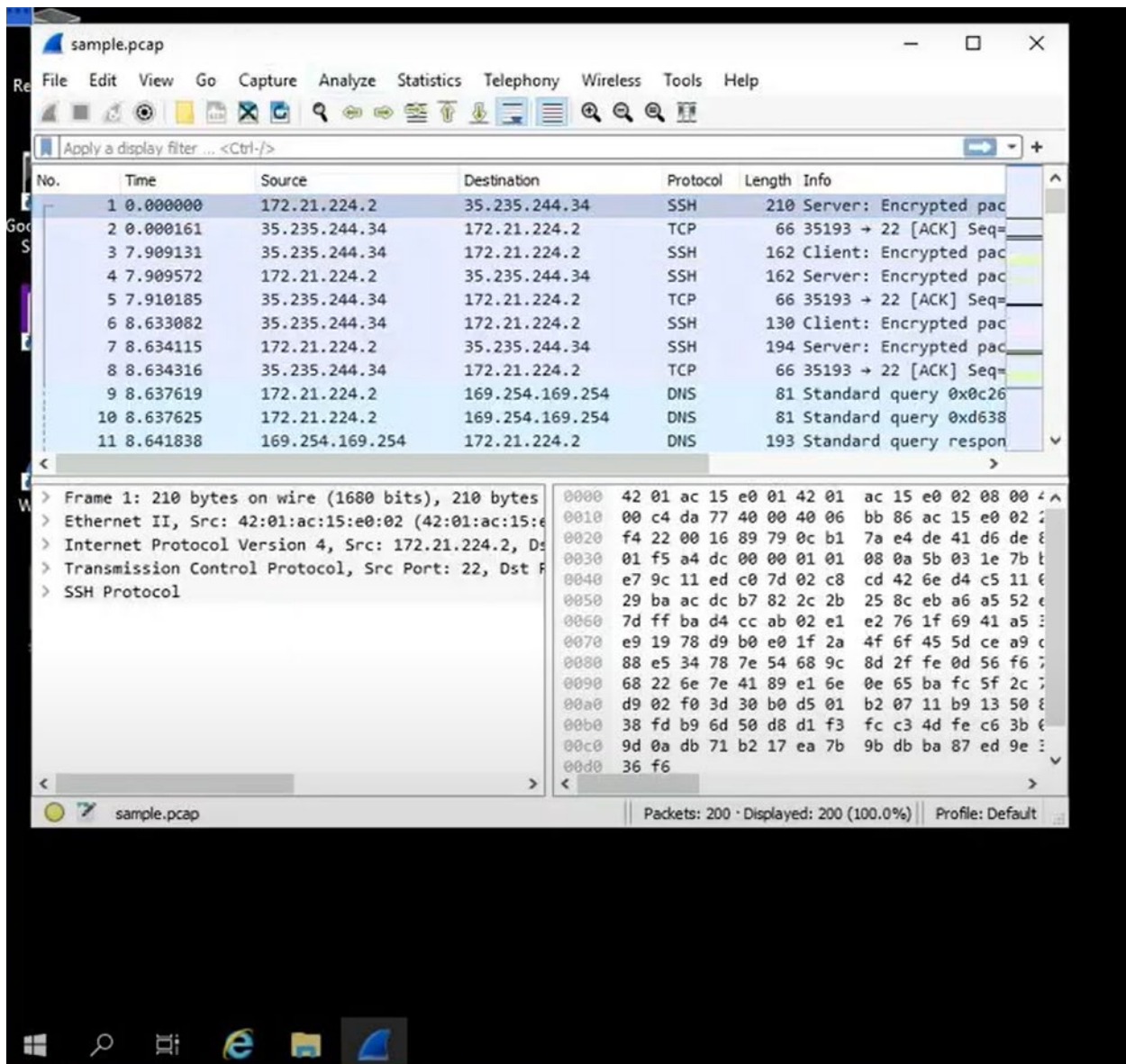
1. Open the packet capture file and explore the Wireshark graphical user interface.
2. Open a detailed view of a single packet to examine the various protocols and data layers inside a network packet.
3. Apply filters to select and inspect packets based on specific criteria.
4. Filter and inspect UDP DNS traffic to examine protocol data.
5. Apply filters to TCP packet data to search for specific payload text data.

Task 1. Explore data with Wireshark

In this task, you must open a network packet capture file that contains data captured from a system that made web requests to a site. You need to open this data with Wireshark to get an overview of how the data is presented in the application.

1. To open the packet capture file, double-click the **sample** file on the Windows desktop. This will start Wireshark.





The packet capture file icon is a Wireshark shark's fin swimming above three rows of binary digits. The file has a **.pcap** extension that is hidden by default in Windows Explorer and on the desktop view.

2. Double-click the Wireshark title bar next to the **sample.pcap** filename to maximize the Wireshark application window.

A lot of network packet traffic is listed, which is why you'll apply filters to find the information needed in an upcoming step.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
7	8.634115	172.21.224.2	35.235.244.34	SSH	194	Server: Encrypted pa
8	8.634316	35.235.244.34	172.21.224.2	TCP	66	35193 → 22 [ACK] Seq
9	8.637619	172.21.224.2	169.254.169.254	DNS	81	Standard query 0xc2
10	8.637625	172.21.224.2	169.254.169.254	DNS	81	Standard query 0xd63
11	8.641838	169.254.169.254	172.21.224.2	DNS	193	Standard query respo
12	8.641978	169.254.169.254	172.21.224.2	DNS	177	Standard query respo
13	8.642416	172.21.224.2	35.235.244.34	SSH	194	Server: Encrypted pa
14	8.642560	172.21.224.2	35.235.244.34	SSH	130	Server: Encrypted pa
15	8.642598	35.235.244.34	172.21.224.2	TCP	66	35193 → 22 [ACK] Seq
16	8.642690	172.21.224.2	142.250.1.139	ICMP	98	Echo (ping) request
17	8.642755	35.235.244.34	172.21.224.2	TCP	66	35193 → 22 [ACK] Seq

For now, here is an overview of the key property columns listed for each packet:

- **No.** : The index number of the packet in this packet capture file
- **Time**: The timestamp of the packet
- **Source**: The source IP address
- **Destination**: The destination IP address
- **Protocol**: The protocol contained in the packet
- **Length**: The total length of the packet
- **Info**: Some information about the data in the packet (the payload) as interpreted by Wireshark

Not all the data packets are the same color. Coloring rules are used to provide high-level visual cues to help you quickly classify the different types of data. Since network packet capture files can contain large amounts of data, you can use coloring rules to identify the data that is relevant to you quickly. The example packet lists a group of light blue packets that all contain DNS traffic, followed by green packets that contain a mixture of TCP and HTTP protocol traffic.

3. Scroll down the packet list until you find a packet whose info column starts with the words 'Echo (ping) request'.

What is the protocol of the first packet in the list where the info column starts with the words 'Echo (ping) request'?

- ☐ TCP
- ☐ HTTP
- ☐ SSH
- ☒ ICMP

Task 2. Apply a basic Wireshark filter and inspect a packet

In this task, you'll open a packet in Wireshark for more detailed exploration and filter the data to inspect the network layers and protocols contained in the packet.

1. Enter the following filter for traffic associated with a specific IP address. Enter this into the **Apply a display filter...** text box immediately above the list of packets:

ip.addr == 192.168.0.27

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
36081	1903.816476	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	54	50038 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=41581 Ack=41581 Win=511
36082	1903.970038	Espressif_e1:18:08	Broadcast	ARP	42	ARP Announcement for 192.168.0.20
36083	1904.174932	Google_cd:52:fe	Broadcast	ARP	42	Gratuitous ARP for 192.168.0.21 (Reply)
36084	1904.390011	fe80::5f1d:20b0:9fa...	ff02::fb	MDNS	145	Standard query 0x0000 PTR _googlezone._tcp.local
36085	1904.390011	192.168.0.15	224.0.0.251	MDNS	125	Standard query 0x0000 PTR _googlezone._tcp.local
36086	1904.539874	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	164	50233 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=41581 Ack=41581 Win=
36087	1904.544223	192.168.0.16	192.168.0.27	TCP	54	8009 → 50233 [ACK] Seq=41581 Ack=41691 Win=4095
36088	1904.546316	192.168.0.16	192.168.0.27	TCP	164	8009 → 50233 [PSH, ACK] Seq=41581 Ack=41691 Win=
36089	1904.585014	192.168.0.16	224.0.0.251	MDNS	522	Standard query response 0x0000 PTR a142d670-6245
36090	1904.586102	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	54	50233 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=41691 Ack=41691 Win=510

2. Press **ENTER** or click the **Apply display filter** icon in the filter text box.

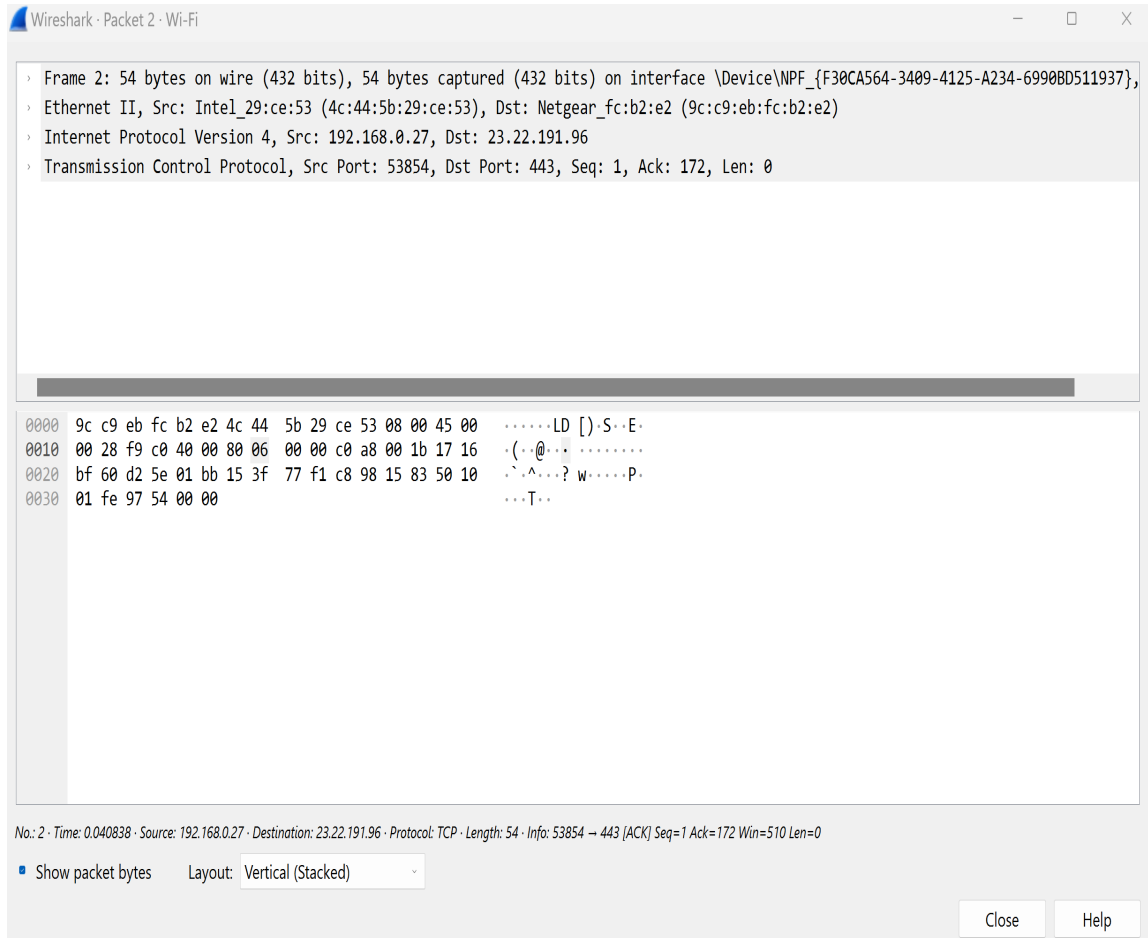
The image shows the Wireshark interface with a packet list and a packet details pane. The packet list is filtered to show only packets from 172.21.224.2 to 142.250.1.139. The packet details pane shows the structure of a TCP packet (Frame 64) with fields like Ethernet II, Internet Protocol Version 4, and Transmission Control Protocol.

3. Notes: The list of displayed packets has been significantly reduced and now contains only packets where either the source or the destination IP address matches the address you entered. Wireshark uses only two packet colors: light pink for ICMP protocol packets and light green for TCP (and HTTP, which is a subset of TCP) packets. Double-click the first packet that lists **TCP** as the protocol.

This opens a packet details pane window:

The upper section of this window contains subtrees where Wireshark will provide you with an analysis of the various parts of the network packet. The lower section of the window contains the raw packet data displayed in hexadecimal and ASCII text. There is also placeholder text for fields where the character data does not apply, as indicated by the dot (“.”).

4. Double-click the first subtree in the upper section. This starts with the word **Frame**.



The starts with word Frame provides you with details about the overall network packet or frame, including the frame length and the packet's arrival time. At this level, you're viewing information about the entire packet of data.

5. Double-click **Frame** again to collapse the subtree and then double-click the **Ethernet II** subtree.

```

Section number: 1
> Interface id: 0 (\Device\NPF_{F30CA564-3409-4125-A234-6990B0511937})
Encapsulation type: Ethernet (1)
Arrival Time: Nov  4, 2024 07:44:32.722611000 Pacific Standard Time
UTC Arrival Time: Nov  4, 2024 15:44:32.722611000 UTC
Epoch Arrival Time: 1730735072.722611000
[Time shift for this packet: 0.000000000 seconds]
[Time delta from previous captured frame: 0.040838000 seconds]
[Time delta from previous displayed frame: 0.040838000 seconds]
[Time since reference or first frame: 0.040838000 seconds]
Frame Number: 2
Frame Length: 54 bytes (432 bits)
Capture Length: 54 bytes (432 bits)
[Frame is marked: False]
[Frame is ignored: False]
[Protocols in frame: eth:ethertype:ip:tcp]
[Coloring Rule Name: TCP]
[Coloring Rule String: tcp]
Ethernet II, Src: Intel_29:ce:53 (4c:44:5b:29:ce:53), Dst: Netgear_fc:b2:e2 (9c:c9:eb:fc:b2:e2)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.0.27, Dst: 23.22.191.96
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 53854, Dst Port: 443, Seq: 1, Ack: 172, Len: 0

```

This item contains details about the Ethernet packet, including the source and destination MAC addresses and the type of internal protocol it contains.

6. Double-click **Ethernet II** again to collapse that subtree, and then double-click the **Internet Protocol Version 4** subtree.

```

> Ethernet II, Src: Intel_29:ce:53 (4c:44:5b:29:ce:53), Dst: Netgear_fc:b2:e2 (9c:c9:eb:fc:b2:e2)
▼ Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.0.27, Dst: 23.22.191.96
    0100 .... = Version: 4
    .... 0101 = Header Length: 20 bytes (5)
    > Differentiated Services Field: 0x00 (DSCP: CS0, ECN: Not-ECT)
        Total Length: 40
        Identification: 0xf9c0 (63936)
    > 010. .... = Flags: 0x2, Don't fragment
        ...0 0000 0000 0000 = Fragment Offset: 0
        Time to Live: 128
        Protocol: TCP (6)
        Header Checksum: 0x0000 [validation disabled]
        [Header checksum status: Unverified]
        Source Address: 192.168.0.27
        Destination Address: 23.22.191.96
        [Stream index: 0]
> Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 53854, Dst Port: 443, Seq: 1, Ack: 172, Len: 0

```

Double-clicking Ethernet II and Internet Protocol Version 4 provides packet data about the Internet Protocol (IP) data contained in the Ethernet packet. This data includes information such as the source and destination IP addresses, and the Internal Protocol (for example, TCP or UDP) carried inside the IP packet. Double-click **Internet Protocol Version 4** again to collapse that subtree and then double-click the **Transmission Control Protocol** subtree.


```
Ethernet II, Src: Intel_29:ce:53 (4c:44:5b:29:ce:53), Dst: Netgear_fc:b2:e2 (9c:c9:eb:fc:b2:e2)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.0.27, Dst: 23.22.191.96
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 53854, Dst Port: 443, Seq: 1, Ack: 172, Len: 0
```

```
Source Port: 53854
Destination Port: 443
[Stream index: 0]
[Stream Packet Number: 2]
> [Conversation completeness: Incomplete (60)]
[TCP Segment Len: 0]
Sequence Number: 1 (relative sequence number)
Sequence Number (raw): 356481009
[Next Sequence Number: 1 (relative sequence number)]
Acknowledgment Number: 172 (relative ack number)
Acknowledgment number (raw): 3365410179
0101 .... = Header Length: 20 bytes (5)
> Flags: 0x010 (ACK)
Window: 510
[Calculated window size: 510]
[Window size scaling factor: -1 (unknown)]
Checksum: 0x9754 [unverified]
[Checksum Status: Unverified]
Urgent Pointer: 0
```

Transmission Control Protocol (tcp), 20 bytes

This provides detailed information about the TCP packet, including the source and destination TCP ports, the TCP sequence numbers, and the TCP flags.

The source port and destination port listed here match the source and destination ports in the info column of the summary display for this packet in the list of all of the packets in the main Wireshark window.

What is the TCP destination port of this TCP packet?

- ☐ 53
- ☐ 200
- ☒ 443
- ☐ 66

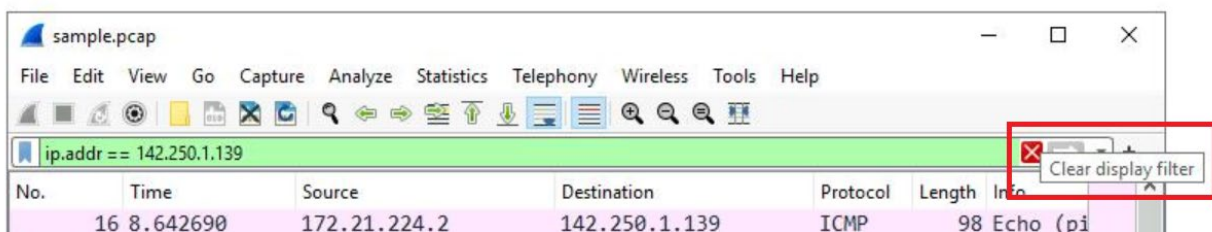
8. In the **Transmission Control Protocol** subtree, scroll down and double-click **Flags**.

This provides a detailed view of the TCP flags set in this packet.



9. Click the **X** icon to close the detailed packet inspection window.

10. Click the **X Clear display filter** icon in the Wireshark filter bar to clear the IP address filter.



All the packets have returned to the display.

If you ever accidentally close the Wireshark application, you can reopen it by double-clicking the **sample** file on the desktop.

Task 3. Use filters to select packets

In this task, you'll use filters to analyze specific network packets based on where the packets came from or where they were sent to. You'll explore how to select packets using either their physical Ethernet Media Access Control (MAC) address or their Internet Protocol (IP) address.

1. Enter the following filter to select traffic for a specific source IP address only. Enter this into the **Apply a display filter...** text box immediately above the list of packets:

ip.src == 192.168.0.27

2. Press **ENTER** or click the **Apply display filter** icon in the filter text box.
A filtered list is returned with fewer entries than before. It contains only packets that came from **192.168.0.27**.

ip.src == 192.168.0.27						
Filter Buttons Preferences...		Label: Enter a description for the filter button			Filter: ip.src == 192.168.0.27	
Comment: Enter a comment for the filter button						
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
4972	324.461953	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	54	50357 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=508 Len=0
4973	324.669154	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	164	49855 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7041 Ack=7041 Win=509 Len=110
4976	324.713448	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	54	49855 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=509 Len=0
4978	324.923345	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	164	50038 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7041 Ack=7041 Win=511 Len=110
4981	324.970154	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	54	50038 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=510 Len=0
4982	325.148015	192.168.0.27	20.42.144.52	TCP	55	[TCP Keep-Alive] 50221 → 443 [ACK] Seq=133 Ack=119 Win=515 Len=1
4984	325.710990	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	164	49979 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7041 Ack=7041 Win=511 Len=110
4987	325.763096	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	54	49979 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=511 Len=0
4988	327.783420	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	164	50346 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=513 Len=110
4991	327.829223	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	54	50346 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7261 Ack=7261 Win=512 Len=0
4994	328.274246	192.168.0.27	162.125.40.1	TLSv1.2	135	Application Data
4996	328.396513	192.168.0.27	162.125.40.1	TLSv1.2	919	Application Data
5002	329.252857	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	164	50233 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=510 Len=110
5005	329.305991	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	54	50233 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7261 Ack=7261 Win=509 Len=0
5006	329.422752	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	164	50357 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=508 Len=110
5010	329.468507	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	54	50357 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7261 Ack=7261 Win=508 Len=0
5011	329.674972	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	164	49855 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=509 Len=110
5014	329.722310	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	54	49855 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7261 Ack=7261 Win=508 Len=0
5015	329.783697	192.168.0.27	162.125.40.2	TLSv1.2	148	Application Data
5016	329.783768	192.168.0.27	162.125.40.2	TLSv1.2	10188	Application Data
5019	329.891963	192.168.0.27	162.125.40.2	TCP	54	55776 → 443 [ACK] Seq=61239 Ack=7219 Win=517 Len=0
5020	329.931679	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	164	50038 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=510 Len=110
5023	329.986899	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.15	TCP	54	50038 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7261 Ack=7261 Win=510 Len=0
5026	330.724447	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	164	49979 → 8009 [PSH, ACK] Seq=7151 Ack=7151 Win=511 Len=110
5029	330.776341	192.168.0.27	192.168.0.16	TCP	54	49979 → 8009 [ACK] Seq=7261 Ack=7261 Win=510 Len=0

3. Click the **X Clear display filter** icon in the Wireshark filter bar to clear the IP address filter.
4. Enter the following filter to select traffic for a specific destination IP address only:

ip.dst == 192.168.0.27

5. Press **ENTER** or click the **Apply display filter** icon in the filter text box.

A filtered list is returned that contains only packets that were sent to **192.168.0.27**.

6. Click the **X Clear display filter** icon in the Wireshark filter bar to clear the IP address filter.
7. Enter the following filter to select traffic to or from a specific Ethernet MAC address. This filters traffic related to one MAC address, regardless of the other protocols involved:

```
eth.addr == 42:01:ac:15:e0:02
```

8. Press **ENTER** or click the **Apply display filter** icon in the filter text box.
9. Double-click the first packet in the list. You may need to scroll back to display the first packet in the filtered list.
10. Double-click the **Ethernet II** subtree if it is not already open.

The MAC address you specified in the filter is listed as either the source or destination address in the expanded Ethernet II subtree.

11. Double-click the **Ethernet II** subtree to close it.
12. Double-click the **Internet Protocol Version 4** subtree to expand it and scroll down until the **Time to Live** and **Protocol** fields appear.

The **Protocol** field in the **Internet Protocol Version 4** subtree indicates which IP internal protocol is contained in the packet.

What protocol is contained in the Internet Protocol Version 4 subtree from the first packet related to MAC address 42:01:ac:15:e0:02?

- ☒ TCP
- ☐ ICMP
- ☐ ESP
- ☐ UDP

13. Click the **X** icon to close the detailed packet inspection window.
14. Click the **X Clear display filter** icon in the Wireshark filter bar to clear the MAC address filter.

Task 4. Use filters to explore DNS packets

In this task, you'll use filters to select and examine DNS traffic. Once you've selected sample DNS traffic, you'll drill down into the protocol to examine how the DNS packet data contains both queries (names of internet sites that are being looked up) and answers (IP addresses that are being sent back by a DNS server when a name is successfully resolved).

1. Enter the following filter to select UDP port **53** traffic. DNS traffic uses UDP port **53**, so this will list traffic related to DNS queries and responses only. Enter this into the **Apply a display filter...** text box immediately above the list of packets:

udp.port == 53

2. Press **ENTER** or click the **Apply display filter** icon in the filter text box.
3. Double-click the first packet in the list to open the detailed packet window.
4. Scroll down and double-click the **Domain Name System (query)** subtree to expand it.
5. Scroll down and double-click **Queries**.

You'll notice that the name of the website that was queried is **opensource.google.com**.

6. Click the **X** icon to close the detailed packet inspection window.
7. Double-click the fourth packet in the list to open the detailed packet window.
8. Scroll down and double-click the **Domain Name System (query)** subtree to expand it.
9. Scroll down and double-click **Answers**, which is in the **Domain Name System (query)** subtree.

The Answers data includes the name that was queried (**opensource.google.com**) and the addresses that are associated with that name.

Which of these IP addresses is displayed in the expanded Answers section for the DNS query for **opensource.google.com**?

- ☐ 169.254.169.254
- ☒ 192.168.0.27
- ☐ 172.21.224.1
- ☐ 139.1.250.142

10. Click the **X** icon to close the detailed packet inspection window.

11. Click the **X Clear display filter** icon in the Wireshark filter bar to clear the filter.

Task 5. Use filters to explore TCP packets

In this task, you'll use additional filters to select and examine TCP packets. You'll learn how to search for text that is present in payload data contained inside network packets. This will locate packets based on something, such as a name or some other text that is of interest to you.

1. Enter the following filter to select TCP port **80** traffic. TCP port **80** is the default port that is associated with web traffic:

tcp.port == 80

2. Press **ENTER** or click the **Apply display filter** icon in the filter text box.
Quite a few packets were created when the user accessed the web page <http://opensource.google.com>.

3. Double-click the first packet in the list. The **Destination** IP address of this packet is **169.254.169.254**.

What is the Time to Live value of the packet as specified in the Internet Protocol Version 4 subtree?

- ☒ 64
- ☐ 16
- ☐ 32
- ☐ 128

What is the Frame Length of the packet as specified in the Frame subtree?

- ☐ 74 bytes
- ☒ 54 bytes
- ☐ 60 bytes
- ☐ 40 bytes

What is the Header Length of the packet as specified in the Internet Protocol Version 4 subtree?

- ☒ 20 bytes
- ☐ 60 bytes
- ☐ 74 bytes

- ☐ 54 bytes

What is the Destination Address as specified in the Internet Protocol Version 4 subtree?

- ☐ 172.21.224.2
- ☒ 169.254.169.254
- ☐ 239.1.250.142
- ☐ 142.250.1.139

4. Click the **X** icon to close the detailed packet inspection window.
5. Click the **X Clear display filter** icon in the Wireshark filter bar to clear the filter.
6. Enter the following filter to select TCP packet data that contains specific text data.

tcp contains "curl"

7. Press **ENTER** or click the **Apply display filter** icon in the filter text box.

This filters to packets containing web requests made with the curl command in this sample packet capture file.

Conclusion: Great work! You now have practical experience using Wireshark to:

- Open saved packet capture files
- View high-level packet data
- Use filters to inspect detailed packet data

This is an important milestone on your journey toward understanding how to use network packet analysis tools to examine network traffic!

End of Lab: Before you end the lab, make sure you're satisfied that you've completed all the tasks, and follow these steps:

1. Click End Lab. A pop-up box will appear. Click Submit to confirm that you're done. Ending the lab will remove your access to the Bash shell. You won't be able to access the work you've completed in it again.
2. Another pop-up box will ask you to rate the lab and provide feedback comments. You can complete this if you choose to.
3. Close the browser tab containing the lab to return to your course.
4. Refresh the browser tab for the course to mark the lab as complete.