

# POLITECNICO DI TORINO

01NWDBH - Mobile and Sensor Networks

## Lab 02

### Advanced WI-FI scanning and trace analysis



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**05**

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# 1 Capturing Wi-Fi Frames

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ ping 192.168.1.109
PING 192.168.1.109 (192.168.1.109) 56(84) bytes of data.
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=1 ttl=64 time=283 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=2 ttl=64 time=300 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=3 ttl=64 time=220 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=4 ttl=64 time=141 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=5 ttl=64 time=163 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=6 ttl=64 time=185 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=7 ttl=64 time=104 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=8 ttl=64 time=127 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=9 ttl=64 time=14.7 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=10 ttl=64 time=170 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=11 ttl=64 time=90.4 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=12 ttl=64 time=423 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=13 ttl=64 time=135 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=14 ttl=64 time=158 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=15 ttl=64 time=181 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=16 ttl=64 time=203 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=17 ttl=64 time=17.2 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=18 ttl=64 time=145 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=19 ttl=64 time=270 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=20 ttl=64 time=190 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=21 ttl=64 time=213 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=22 ttl=64 time=132 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=23 ttl=64 time=155 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=24 ttl=64 time=131 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=25 ttl=64 time=199 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=26 ttl=64 time=119 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=27 ttl=64 time=15.0 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=28 ttl=64 time=164 ms
64 bytes from 192.168.1.109: icmp_seq=29 ttl=64 time=83.9 ms
^C
--- 192.168.1.109 ping statistics ---
29 packets transmitted, 29 received, 0% packet loss, time 28047ms
rtt min/avg/max/mdev = 14.704/163.208/422.734/85.019 ms
```

Figure 1: Ping command

To generate traffic between the two devices, we executed `ping 192.168.1.109` from the PC and let it run for approximately 28 seconds. The terminal reported:

- 29 packets transmitted,
- 29 packets received,
- 0% packet loss.

This confirms that all sent packets were successfully received with no loss.

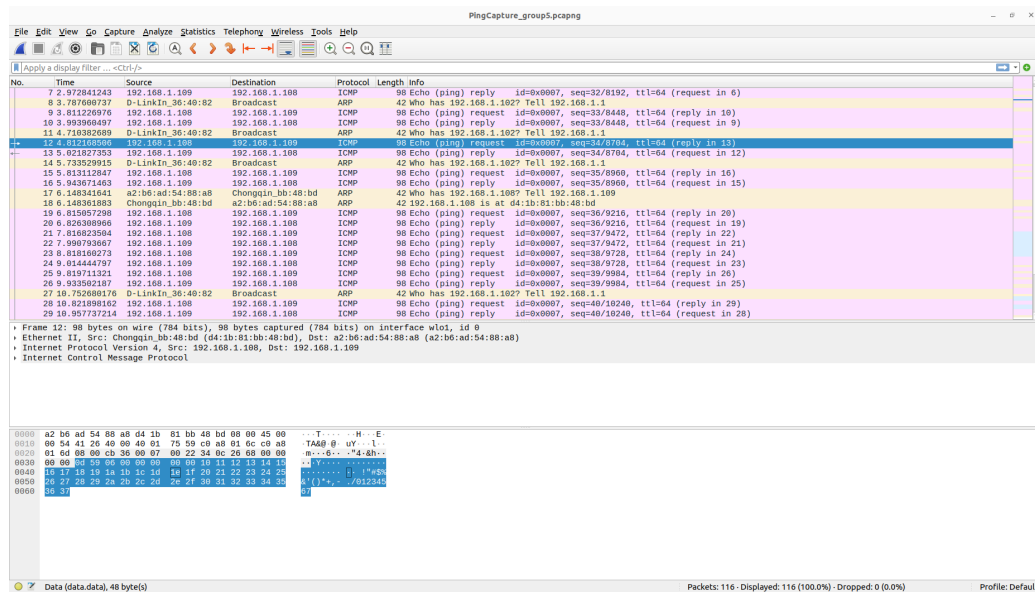


Figure 2: Ping capture using Wireshark

During the ping capture performed without enabling monitor mode, we observed that the packets are ICMP messages encapsulated in Ethernet frames. Since the wireless interface was not set to monitor mode, Wireshark captured traffic only at the data link layer as seen by the operating system—hence, the frames are not IEEE 802.11 frames but standard Ethernet frames. As a result, no Wi-Fi management or control frames are visible in the trace. This limits the level of detail we can observe regarding the wireless protocol itself, as we only see the traffic that was processed by the network stack after being translated by the Wi-Fi interface.

To enable monitor mode and capture raw IEEE 802.11 frames, we used a series of terminal commands on our Linux machine. Once in monitor mode, we initiated ICMP traffic by sending a continuous ping

from a smartphone to the local D-Link router. This setup allowed us to capture wireless frames directly from the air, including management and control frames, using Wireshark or `tshark`. A screenshot of the commands used and the capture environment is shown below.

```
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ iw dev phy#0
Interface wlo1
    ifindex 5
    wdev 0x3
    addr d4:1b:81:bb:48:bd
    ssid D-Link-364082
    type managed
    channel 52 (5260 MHz), width: 80 MHz, center1: 5290 MHz
    txpower 20.00 dBm
    multicast TXQ:
        qsz-byt qsz-pkt flows drops marks overlmt hashcol tx-bytes tx-packets
        0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo airmon-ng check kill
Killing these processes:
    PID Name
    4713 wpa_supplicant
    5254 avahi-daemon
    5258 avahi-daemon
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo airmon-ng start wlo1 52
Found 2 processes that could cause trouble.
Kill them using 'airmon-ng check kill' before putting
the card in monitor mode, they will interfere by changing channels
and sometimes putting the interface back in managed mode
    PID Name
    5270 avahi-daemon
    5272 avahi-daemon
PHY Interface Driver Chipset
phy0 wlo1 rtlw_8822ce Realtek Semiconductor Co., Ltd. RTL8822CE 802.11ac PCIe Wireless Network Adapter
(mac80211 monitor mode vif enabled for [phy0]wlo1 on [phy0]wlo1mon)
(mac80211 station mode vif disabled for [phy0]wlo1)
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ iw dev phy#0
Interface wlo1mon
    ifindex 6
    wdev 0x4
    addr d4:1b:81:bb:48:bd
    type monitor
    channel 52 (5260 MHz), width: 20 MHz (no HT), center1: 5260 MHz
    txpower 20.00 dBm
```

Figure 3: Procedure monitor mode

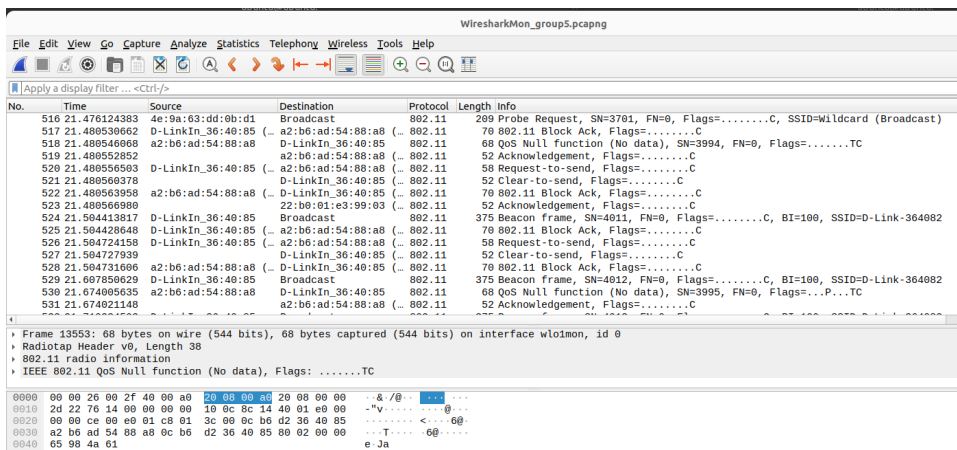


Figure 4: Wireshark capture using monitor mode

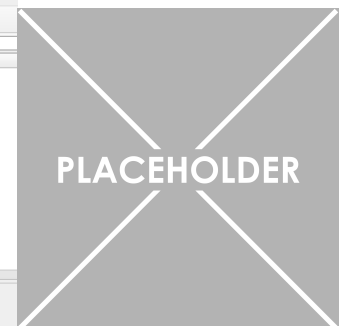


Figure 5: Screenshot phone's MAC address

```

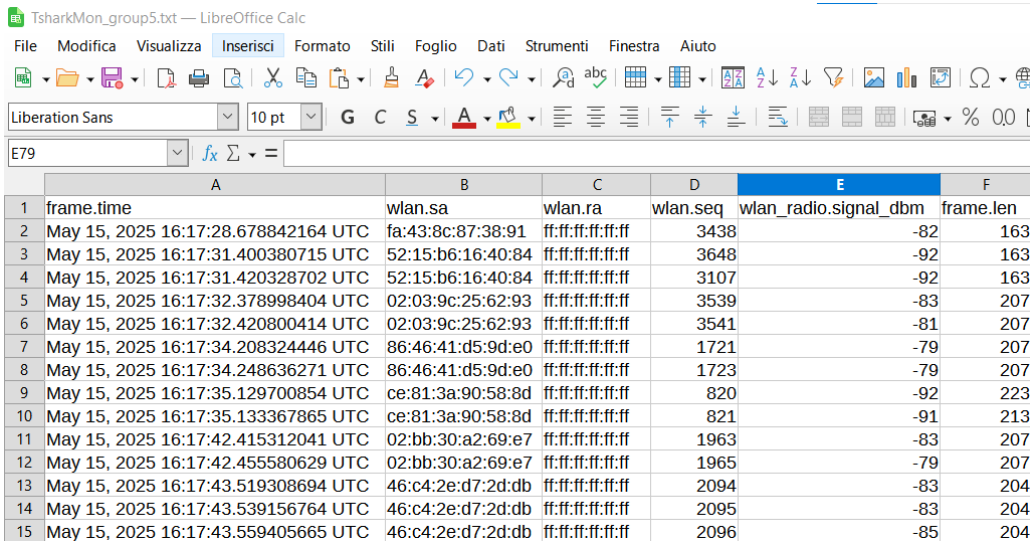
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$ sudo tshark -i wlo1mon -a duration:100 -n -t e -T fields \
-e frame.time -e wlan.sa -e wlan.ra -e wlan.seq \
-e wlan_radio.signal_dbm -e frame.len -E header=y -E separator=";" \
subtype probe-req > ~/TsharkMon_group5.txt
Running as user "root" and group "root". This could be dangerous.
Capturing on 'wlo1mon'
** (tshark:8152) 16:14:14.145276 [Main MESSAGE] -- Capture started.
** (tshark:8152) 16:14:14.145431 [Main MESSAGE] -- File: "/tmp/wireshark_wlo1monCQT162.pcapng"
93
ubuntu@ubuntu:~$

```

Figure 6: Sniffing using Tshark tools

This command captures Wi-Fi traffic for 100 seconds using the selected interface in monitor mode. The `-i` option specifies the interface, `-a duration:100` sets the time limit for the capture, and `-n` disables DNS resolution. The flag `-t e` ensures that timestamps are displayed in epoch format. With `-T fields`, we extract only specific fields, defined by the `-e` options: frame timestamp, source and receiver MAC addresses, sequence number, signal strength in dBm, and frame length. The `-E` parameters configure the output as a CSV-like structure with headers and semicolon delimiters.

We were able to capture several **probe request** frames, which are typically broadcast by devices actively searching for available Wi-Fi access points. The output file was successfully generated during our own capture session using `tshark`, without downloading any sample data from the course portal. The resulting log is clearly structured and suitable for further analysis of wireless activity in the environment.



	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	frame.time	wlan.sa	wlan.ra	wlan.seq	wlan_radio.signal_dbm	frame.len
2	May 15, 2025 16:17:28.678842164 UTC	fa:43:8c:87:38:91	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	3438	-82	163
3	May 15, 2025 16:17:31.400380715 UTC	52:15:b6:16:40:84	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	3648	-92	163
4	May 15, 2025 16:17:31.420328702 UTC	52:15:b6:16:40:84	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	3107	-92	163
5	May 15, 2025 16:17:32.378998404 UTC	02:03:9c:25:62:93	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	3539	-83	207
6	May 15, 2025 16:17:32.420800414 UTC	02:03:9c:25:62:93	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	3541	-81	207
7	May 15, 2025 16:17:34.208324446 UTC	86:46:41:d5:9d:e0	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	1721	-79	207
8	May 15, 2025 16:17:34.248636271 UTC	86:46:41:d5:9d:e0	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	1723	-79	207
9	May 15, 2025 16:17:35.129700854 UTC	ce:81:3a:90:58:8d	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	820	-92	223
10	May 15, 2025 16:17:35.133367865 UTC	ce:81:3a:90:58:8d	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	821	-91	213
11	May 15, 2025 16:17:42.415312041 UTC	02:bb:30:a2:69:e7	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	1963	-83	207
12	May 15, 2025 16:17:42.455580629 UTC	02:bb:30:a2:69:e7	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	1965	-79	207
13	May 15, 2025 16:17:43.519308694 UTC	46:c4:2e:d7:2d:db	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	2094	-83	204
14	May 15, 2025 16:17:43.539156764 UTC	46:c4:2e:d7:2d:db	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	2095	-83	204
15	May 15, 2025 16:17:43.559405665 UTC	46:c4:2e:d7:2d:db	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	2096	-85	204

Figure 7: TsharkMon\_group5

## 2 Analyzing Wi-Fi Traces

As shown in Figure 2, the ping capture in Wireshark displays ICMP request and reply packets. The Layer 2 headers correspond to Ethernet frames rather than 802.11 frames, since the capture was performed in managed mode. As a result, Wi-Fi management and control frames are not present. This behavior is expected and confirms that monitor mode is necessary to view raw Wi-Fi frames.

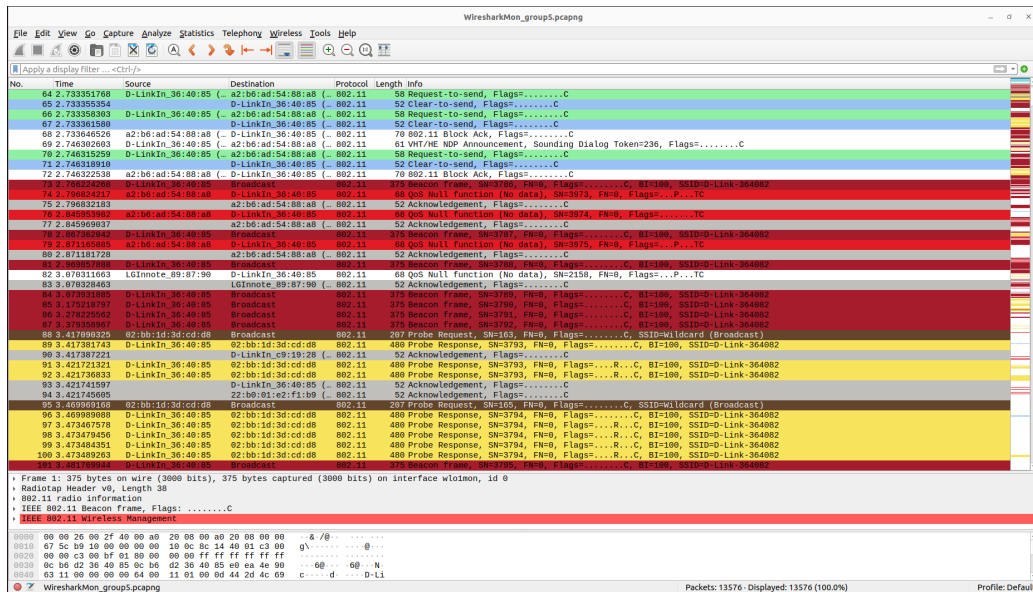


Figure 8: Wireshark in monitor mode

Wireshark - Coloring Rules Default	
Name	Filter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CTS	wlan.fc.type_subtype == 0x1C
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RTS	wlan.fc.type_subtype == 0x1B
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACK	wlan.fc.type_subtype == 0x1D
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Beacon	wlan.fc.type_subtype == 0x0008
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probe Response	wlan.fc.type_subtype == 0x0005
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Probe Request	wlan.fc.type_subtype == 0x0004
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specific Destination Address	wlan.da == a2:b6:ad:54:88:a8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specific Source Address	wlan.sa == a2:b6:ad:54:88:a8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Frames	wlan.fc.type == 2
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICMP Echo Reply	icmp.type == 0
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ICMP Echo Request	icmp.type == 8
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Control Frames	wlan.fc.type == 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Management Frames	wlan.fc.type == 0

Figure 9: Wireshark Coloring Rules

As shown in Figure 8, when analyzing the `WiresharkMon_group5.pcapng` file captured in monitor mode, we were able to see the ping request and reply messages as IEEE 802.11 data frames. Unlike the previous capture, this one includes the complete Layer 2 headers, showing MAC addresses, frame control fields, and sequence numbers. We also observed Wi-Fi management frames (like probe requests and beacons) and control frames (such as ACKs), which were not visible when monitor mode was not enabled.

To better analyze the traffic, we added coloring rules in Wireshark to highlight specific types of packets. This helped us identify different conversations more easily. Figure 9 shows the capture with the coloring rules applied, along with the filters we used.

```

▶ 802.11 Radio Information
▶ IEEE 802.11 Beacon frame, Flags: .....C
  Type/Subtype: Beacon frame (0x0008)
  ▶ Frame Control Field: 0x8000
    .000 0000 0000 0000 = Duration: 0 microseconds
    Receiver address: Broadcast (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)
    Destination address: Broadcast (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff)
    Transmitter address: D-LinkIn_36:40:85 (0c:b6:d2:36:40:85)
    Source address: D-LinkIn_36:40:85 (0c:b6:d2:36:40:85)
    BSS Id: D-LinkIn_36:40:85 (0c:b6:d2:36:40:85)
    .... 0000 = Fragment number: 0
    1110 1010 1110 .... = Sequence number: 3758
    Frame check sequence: 0x596be4ef [unverified]
    [FCS Status: Unverified]
▶ IEEE 802.11 Wireless Management

```

Figure 10: IEEE 802.11 Beacon Frame

Figure 10 shows the detailed view of a beacon frame captured in monitor mode. By expanding the IEEE 802.11 protocol section in Wireshark, it is possible to inspect several fields such as the SSID, supported rates, and capabilities of the access point. This level of detail is only available thanks to the 802.11 headers provided in monitor mode.

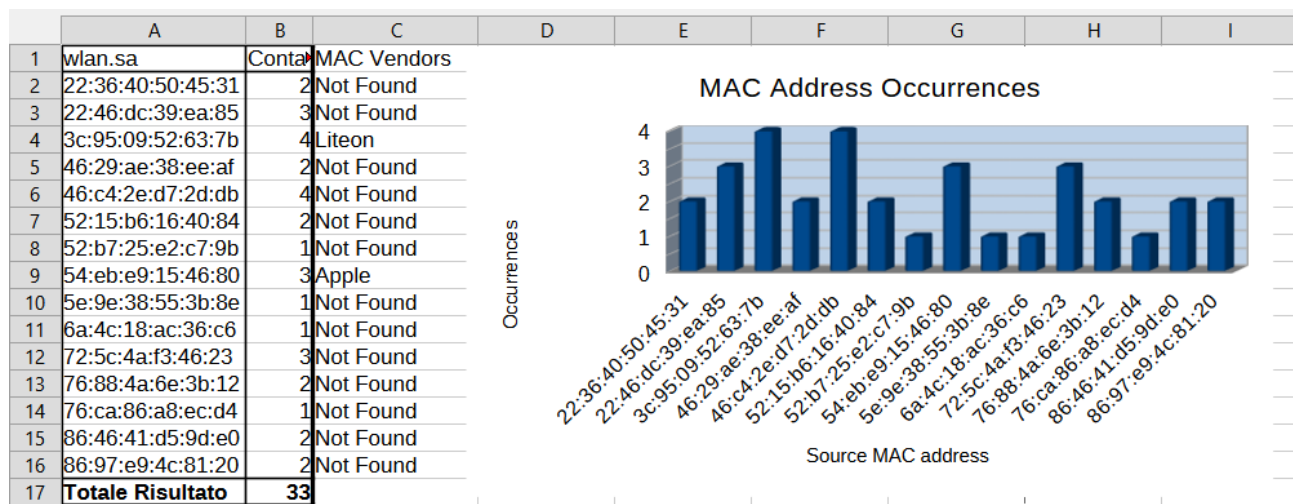


Figure 11: Histogram of the occurrences of the source addresses

After converting the capture file to a readable .txt format, we observed several IEEE 802.11 probe request frames. These packets are sent by wireless devices (e.g., smartphones, laptops) when actively scanning for nearby Wi-Fi networks. They are directed to the broadcast address `ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff`, meaning no specific access point is targeted.

To better understand which devices were most active, we generated a histogram of MAC address occurrences. As part of the analysis, we also verified the manufacturer of some addresses, like the one shown here, which belongs to Apple Inc.

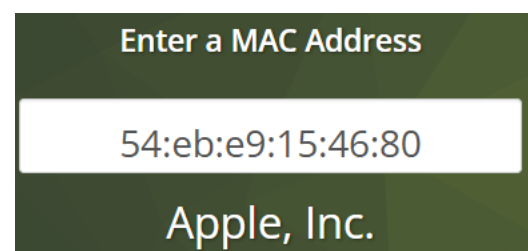


Figure 12: MAC address associated with Apple Inc.