

EXP:14

Write a code using RAW sockets to implement packet sniffing

Aim

To write a program using **RAW sockets** to implement a basic **packet sniffer** and capture network traffic.

Algorithm / Procedure

1. **Understand** the concept of raw sockets, which allow access to the data link layer or network layer headers.
2. **Create** a raw socket that can capture all incoming packets on a specified interface.
3. **Implement** a loop to continuously receive packets from the raw socket.
4. **Parse** the captured raw data to extract and display key information from the Ethernet, IP, and TCP/UDP headers (e.g., Source/Destination MAC, Source/Destination IP, Source/Destination Port).
5. **Test** the sniffer by generating traffic (e.g., browsing, pinging) and observing the captured packet details.

Code:

```
import socket
import struct
import textwrap
import time
import sys
import ctypes

# Windows-only constants
SIO_RCVALL = 0x98000001
RCVALL_ON = 1
RCVALL_OFF = 0

def mac_addr(bytes_addr):
    return ':'.join('{:02x}'.format(b) for b in bytes_addr)

def ipv4(addr_bytes):
    return '.'.join(map(str, addr_bytes))

def hexdump(src, length=16): results
    = []
    digits = 2
    for i in range(0, len(src), length):
        chunk = src[i:i+length]
        hexa = ''.join(f'{b:02x}' for b in chunk)
        text = ''.join((chr(b) if 32 <= b < 127 else '.') for b in chunk)
        results.append(f'{i:04x} {hexa} {text}
```

```
results.append(f'{i:04x} {hexa:<{length*(digits+1)}} {text}')
return '\n'.join(results)

def parse_ip_header(data):
    # Unpack first 20 bytes of IP header
    iph = struct.unpack('!BBHHBBH4s4s', data[:20])
    version_ihl = iph[0]
    version = version_ihl >> 4
    ihl = (version_ihl & 0xF) * 4
    tos = iph[1]
    total_length = iph[2]
    identification = iph[3]
    flags_offset = iph[4]
    ttl = iph[5]
    protocol = iph[6]
    checksum = iph[7]
    src = ipv4(iph[8])
    dst = ipv4(iph[9])
    return {
        'version': version,
        'ihl': ihl,
        'tos': tos,
        'total_length': total_length,
        'id': identification,
        'flags_offset': flags_offset,
        'ttl': ttl,
        'protocol': protocol,
        'checksum': checksum,
        'src': src,
        'dst': dst,
        'payload': data[ihl:total_length]
    }

def protocol_name(p):
    return {1: 'ICMP', 6: 'TCP', 17: 'UDP'}.get(p, str(p))

def main(listen_addr='0.0.0.0'):
    print(f'*] Starting sniffer. Listening on {listen_addr}. Press Ctrl+C to stop.')
    try:
        # Create RAW socket
        s = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_RAW, socket.IPPROTO_IP)
    except PermissionError:
        print('ERROR: Must run as Administrator to create raw socket.')
        sys.exit(1)

    # Bind to interface
    s.bind((listen_addr, 0))

    # Include IP header in captured packets
    s.setsockopt(socket.IPPROTO_IP, socket.IP_HDRINCL, 1)
```

```
# Enable promiscuous mode (Windows-specific) #
Use ioctls via socket.ioctl
try:
    s.ioctl(SIO_RCVALL, RCVALL_ON)
except Exception as e:
    print('WARNING: Could not enable RCVALL (promiscuous). Error:', e)
    print('You may still receive packets addressed to this host.')

try:
    while True:
        raw_data, addr = s.recvfrom(65535)
        ts = time.strftime('%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S', time.localtime())
        ip = parse_ip_header(raw_data)
        print('*80')
        print(f'{ts} {ip["src"]} -> {ip["dst"]}')
        Proto = protocol_name(ip["protocol"])
        TTL = ip["ttl"]
        Len = ip["total_length"]
        # Show first 64 bytes of payload as hex dump
        header_len = ip['ihl']
        print(f'IP Header Len: {header_len} bytes')
        print('--- IP header (first 20 bytes) ---')
        print(hexdump(raw_data[:header_len], length=16))
        # Determine protocol and print simple port info for TCP/UDP if
        ip['protocol'] == 6 and len(ip['payload']) >= 4: # TCP
            src_port, dst_port = struct.unpack('!HH', ip['payload'][:4])
            print(f'Protocol: TCP SrcPort: {src_port} DstPort: {dst_port}')
        elif ip['protocol'] == 17 and len(ip['payload']) >= 4: # UDP src_port,
            dst_port = struct.unpack('!HH', ip['payload'][:4])
            print(f'Protocol: UDP SrcPort: {src_port} DstPort: {dst_port}')
        else:
            print(f'Protocol: {protocol_name(ip["protocol"])}')

        # Show payload (first 128 bytes)
        payload = ip['payload'][128:]
        if payload:
            print('--- Payload (first 128 bytes) ---')
            print(hexdump(payload, length=16))
        else:
            print('No payload (or payload skipped).')
    except KeyboardInterrupt:
        print('\n[*] Stopping sniffer.')
        finally:
            # Turn off promiscuous
            try:
                s.ioctl(SIO_RCVALL, RCVALL_OFF)
            except Exception:
                pass
            s.close()
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
    # If you want to listen on a specific local IP, pass it here; default is 0.0.0.0
    main()
```

Output:

```
C:\Users\Afrah M\AppData\Local\Programs\Microsoft VS Code>:\python313\python.exe "c:/Users/Afrah M/Desktop/cn/sniff-1.py"
[*] Starting sniffer. Listening on 0.0.0.0. Press Ctrl+C to stop.
WARNING: Could not enable RVALL (promiscuous). Error: [winError 10022] An invalid argument was supplied
You may still receive packets addressed to this host.
=====
2025-10-21 10:19:15 172.64.155.209 -> 192.168.0.122 Proto=TCP TTL=57 Len=79
IP Header Len: 20 bytes
--- IP header (first 20 bytes) ---
0000  45 00 00 28 ed 9e 40 00 39 06 4a d7 ac 40 9b d1 E..O..@.9.3..@..
0010  c0 a8 00 7a ...
Protocol: TCP SrcPort: 443 DstPort: 53920
--- Payload (first 128 bytes) ---
0000  01 bb d2 a0 c2 52 20 82 8a c8 6b 5c 50 18 00 13 .....R ...k\P...
0010  ac 78 00 00 17 03 03 00 22 2f cc 5c 4d 5d e0 f5 .x...."/\V\...
0020  7a d7 cd 3e 5e 5f e4 1a d3 ff c3 35 4b 1a e6 dc z..^.....SK...
0030  b0 a9 8d af 74 7b 4f 10 1b 0b 9a .....t{O...
=====
2025-10-21 10:19:15 172.64.155.209 -> 192.168.0.122 Proto=TCP TTL=57 Len=40
IP Header Len: 20 bytes
--- IP header (first 20 bytes) ---
0000  45 00 00 28 ed 9e 40 00 39 06 4a fd ac 40 9b d1 E..(.@.9.3..@..
0010  c0 a8 00 7a ...
Protocol: TCP SrcPort: 443 DstPort: 53920
--- Payload (first 128 bytes) ---
0000  01 bb d2 a0 c2 52 20 a9 8a c8 6b 5c 50 11 00 13 .....R ...k\P...
0010  f9 0f 00 00 ...
=====
2025-10-21 10:19:15 172.64.155.209 -> 192.168.0.122 Proto=TCP TTL=57 Len=40
IP Header Len: 20 bytes
--- IP header (first 20 bytes) ---
0000  45 00 00 28 ed 9f 40 00 39 06 4a fc ac 40 9b d1 E..(.@.9.3..@..
0010  c0 a8 00 7a ...
Protocol: TCP SrcPort: 443 DstPort: 53920
--- Payload (first 128 bytes) ---
0000  01 bb d2 a0 c2 52 20 a9 8a c8 6b 5c 50 11 00 13 .....R ...k\P...
0010  f9 0f 00 00 ...
=====
2025-10-21 10:19:15 172.64.155.209 -> 192.168.0.122 Proto=TCP TTL=57 Len=79
IP Header Len: 20 bytes
--- IP header (first 20 bytes) ---
0000  45 00 00 4f a0 00 39 06 4a d4 ac 40 9b d1 E..O..@.9.3..@.
```

Result

A basic packet sniffer was successfully implemented using raw sockets. The program demonstrated the ability to capture and parse raw network packets, extracting header information from different protocol layers