

PERFORMANCE THRESHOLD TESTING

OBJECTIVE:

Determine the maximum packet processing and data processing threshold of the project before stdout buffer blocking causes packet drops.

1. PROBLEM STATEMENT & TESTING RATIONALE

Understanding the Bottleneck:

When tshark writes to stdout, it uses a 64KB pipe buffer. The processing pipeline works as follows:

tshark captures → 64KB stdout buffer → Python reads → Parse packet → Calculate metrics → Store data

Critical Issue:

- If parsing + metrics calculation takes too long, Python can't read from the buffer fast enough
- The 64KB stdout buffer fills up
- tshark's write() call BLOCKS (pauses)
- Result: PACKET DROPS occur

Wireshark as Benchmark:

- Wireshark is highly optimized for continuous capture
- It efficiently writes to disk without blocking
- No packet drops under normal conditions
- Therefore: Wireshark packet count = Ground Truth

Testing Goal:

1. Find the maximum packets per second our backend can handle before synchronous processing causes packet drops.
2. Find the maximum bytes our backend can handle before synchronous processing causes packet drops.

2. TEST DESIGN

Test 1: HIGH PACKET RATE (Small Packets)

Objective: Find maximum packets-per-second threshold and check packet processing threshold in case of high packet rate

Method: Open multiple browser tabs simultaneously to generate high packet rate

Traffic Generation:

- Open 10-15 browser tabs simultaneously
- Load high-traffic websites (YouTube, news sites, social media)
- Autoplay videos in multiple tabs
- Continuous scrolling and interaction

Success Criteria:

- Total packet count approximately matches Wireshark

Failure Indicators:

- Backend captures fewer packets than Wireshark
- Backend becomes unresponsive

Test 2: LARGE PACKET SIZE (High Throughput)

Objective: Test large packet handling efficiency and packet processing threshold in this case.

Method: Download large files to generate sustained high-throughput traffic

Traffic Generation:

- Download multiple large files (500MB-1GB each)

Success Criteria:

- All packets captured without drops
- Throughput measurement matches expected download speed. Can cross check with your internet throughput limit(from ISP)
- Backend remains responsive during sustained traffic

Failure Indicators:

- Packet loss during sustained high throughput
- Buffer overflow indicators
- Processing delays accumulate over time

3. TEST ENVIRONMENT SETUP**Hardware:**

- CPU: 11th Gen Intel® Core™ i5-1135G7 @ 2.40GHz, 4 cores
- RAM: 16 GB at 2400 MT/s
- Network: Wi-Fi
- Disk: SSD 512 GB

Software:

- OS: Windows 11
- Python: Python 3.13.5
- Wireshark/tshark: TShark (Wireshark) 4.4.7 (v4.4.7-0-g7980339b1630).
- Network Interface: Wi-Fi

Python Backend Configuration:

- Metrics calculation: Every 1 second

4. TESTING PROCEDURE**Pre-Test Preparation:**

1. Close all unnecessary applications
2. Disable background updates and services
3. Verify network interface is active
4. Clear system caches
5. Document baseline system resource usage

Test Execution Steps:**STEP 1: Start Wireshark (Baseline)**

- Open Wireshark
- Select network interface
- Start capture
- Note start time

STEP 2: Start Backend Simultaneously

- Run: python main.py
- Start capture on same interface
- Synchronize start time (± 0.5 second)

STEP 3: Generate Test Traffic

For Test #1 (High Packet Rate):

- Open 20 Youtube tabs
- Open 2 google meet
- Continue browsing

For Test #2 (Large Packets):

- Start 10 simultaneous downloads (1GB to 10GB)
- Monitor for 5-10 minutes
- Observe backend behavior under sustained load

STEP 4: Stop Capture

- Stop backend capture
- Stop Wireshark capture simultaneously
- Save Wireshark capture file
- Document end time

STEP 5: Collect Data

- Backend terminal output (packet statistics)
- Wireshark Statistics → Capture File Properties
- System resource logs

5. DATA COLLECTION

Test #1

Test type: High Packet Rate

WIRESHARK RESULTS:

Metric	Value
Total Pakets Captured	1663858
Capture Duration	10 mins 50 seconds
Packets Dropped	15680(0.9%)

BACKEND RESULTS:

Metric	Value
Total Pakets Captured	1663111
Capture Duration	10 mins 49 seconds
Maximum Packets captured per second	13633

COMPARISON:

Metric	Backend Value	Wireshark Value	Difference
Total Pakets Captured	1663111	1663858	747
Capture Duration	10 mins 49 seconds	10 mins 50 seconds	1 second

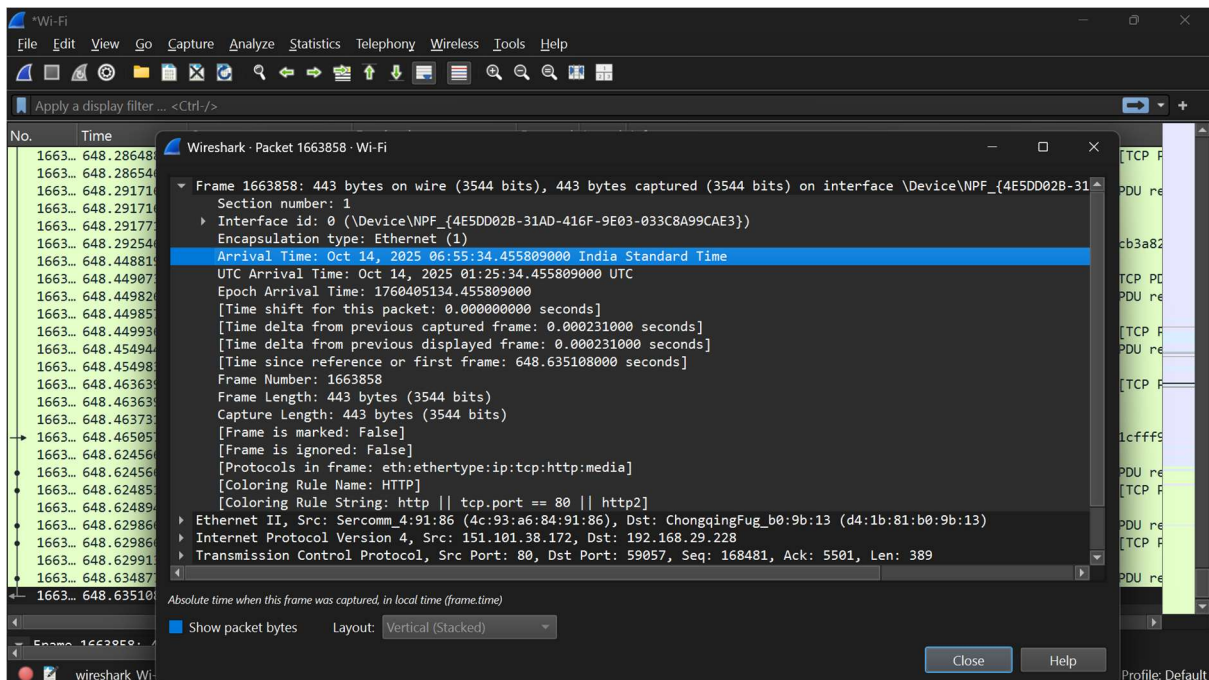
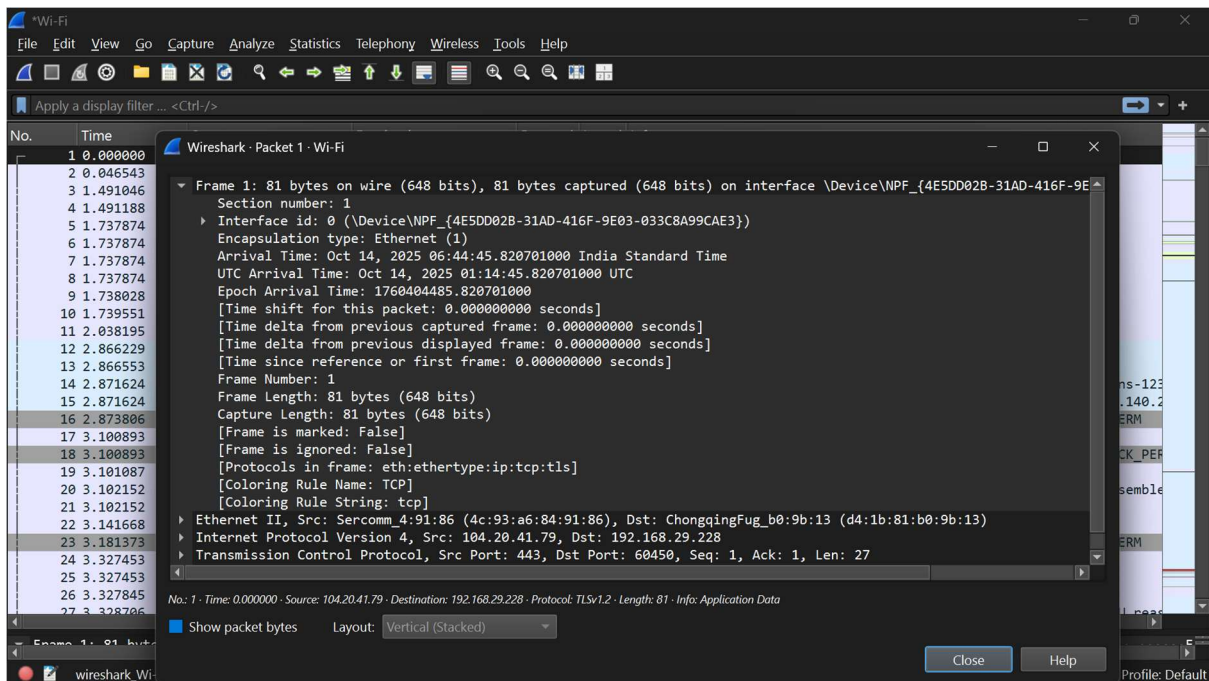
Backend Logs -

```
Received shutdown signal. Cleaning up...
Stopping tshark...
Metrics calculation took: 0.12ms
Curr packets = 58.0
total packets = 1663111
Max per second = 13633.0
Tshark terminated gracefully
Tshark stopped and state reset
PS C:\Users\madhu\Music\Backend\Backend> |
```

Wireshark Status -

Packets: 1663858 · Dropped: 15680 (0.9%)

Wireshark(First and Last Packet) -



Test #2

Test type: LARGE PACKET SIZE (High Throughput)

WIRESHARK RESULTS:

Metric	Value
Total Pakets Captured	799979

Capture Duration	6 mins 11 seconds
Packets Dropped	0

BACKEND RESULTS:

Metric	Value
Total Pakets Captured	801997
Capture Duration	6 mins 13 seconds
Maximum Packets captured per second	4098
Maximum Throughput	37.14 Mbps

COMPARISON:

Metric	Backend Value	Wireshark Value	Difference
Total Pakets Captured	801997	799979	2018
Capture Duration	6 mins 13 seconds	6 mins 11 seconds	2 seconds

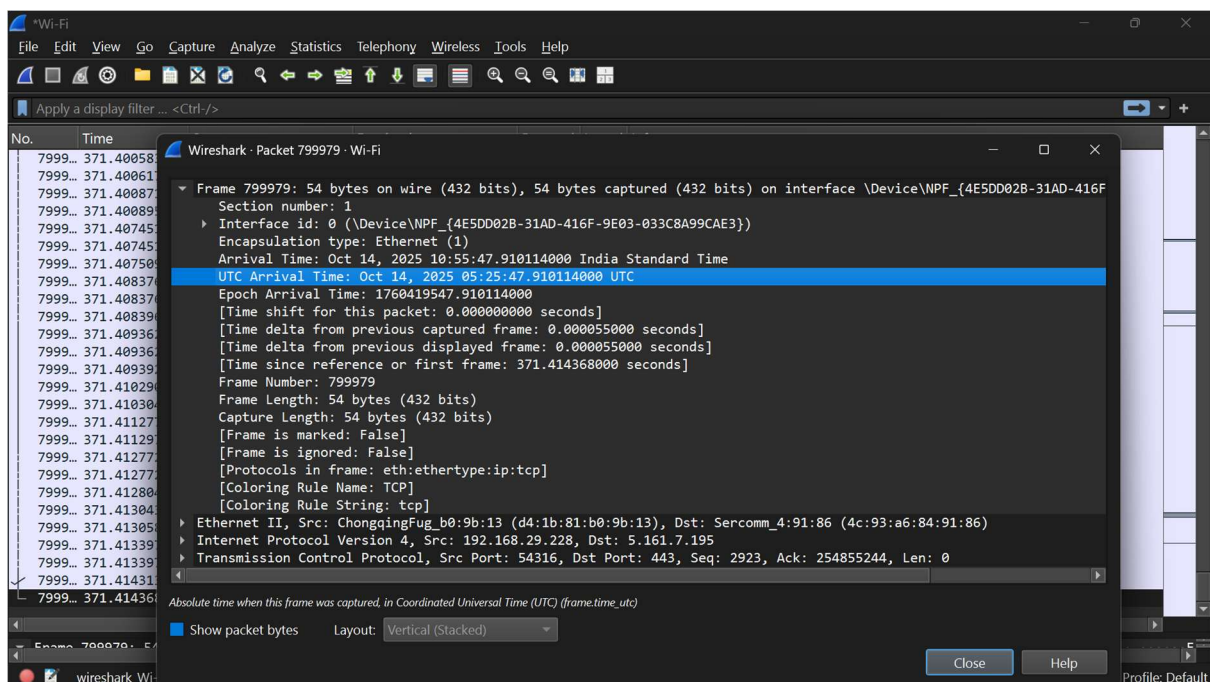
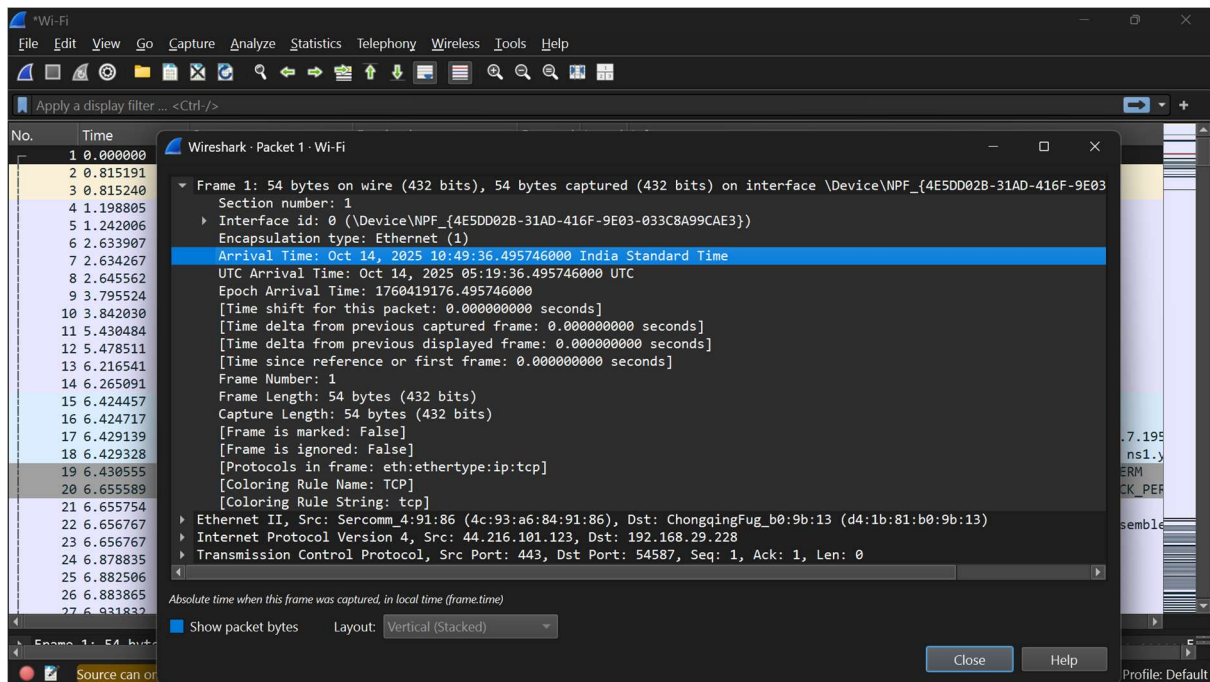
Backend Logs -

```

Received shutdown signal. Cleaning up...
Curr packets = 1720.0
Maximum packets per second = 4098.0
Total Packets = 801997
Current throughput = 19.593432
Maximum throughput = 37.1484728382457
Total throughput = 9478.875580979964
Stopping tshark...
Tshark terminated gracefully
Tshark stopped and state reset
PS C:\Users\madhu\Music\Backend\Backend>

```

Wireshark(First and Last Packet) –



Test #3

Test type: High Packet Rate

WIRESHARK RESULTS:

Metric	Value
Total Pakets Captured	1160821
Capture Duration	8 mins 15 second
Packets Dropped	568

BACKEND RESULTS:

Metric	Value
Total Pakets Captured	1660861
Capture Duration	8 mins 16 seconds
Maximum Packets captured per second	14877

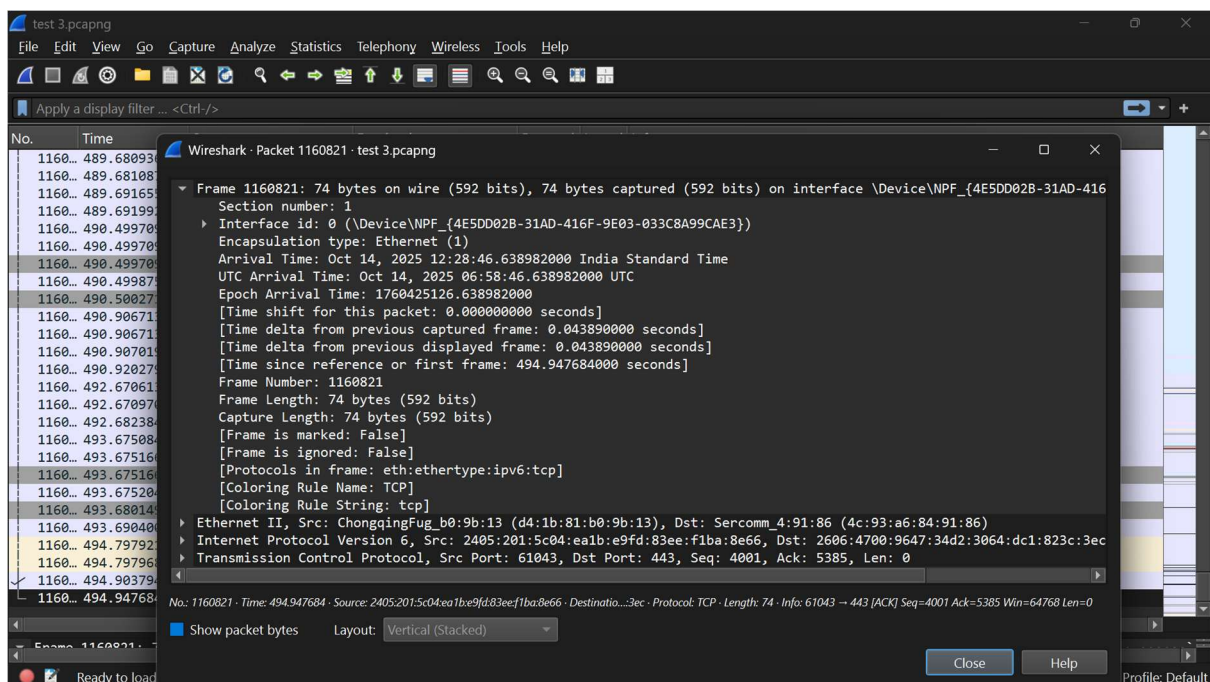
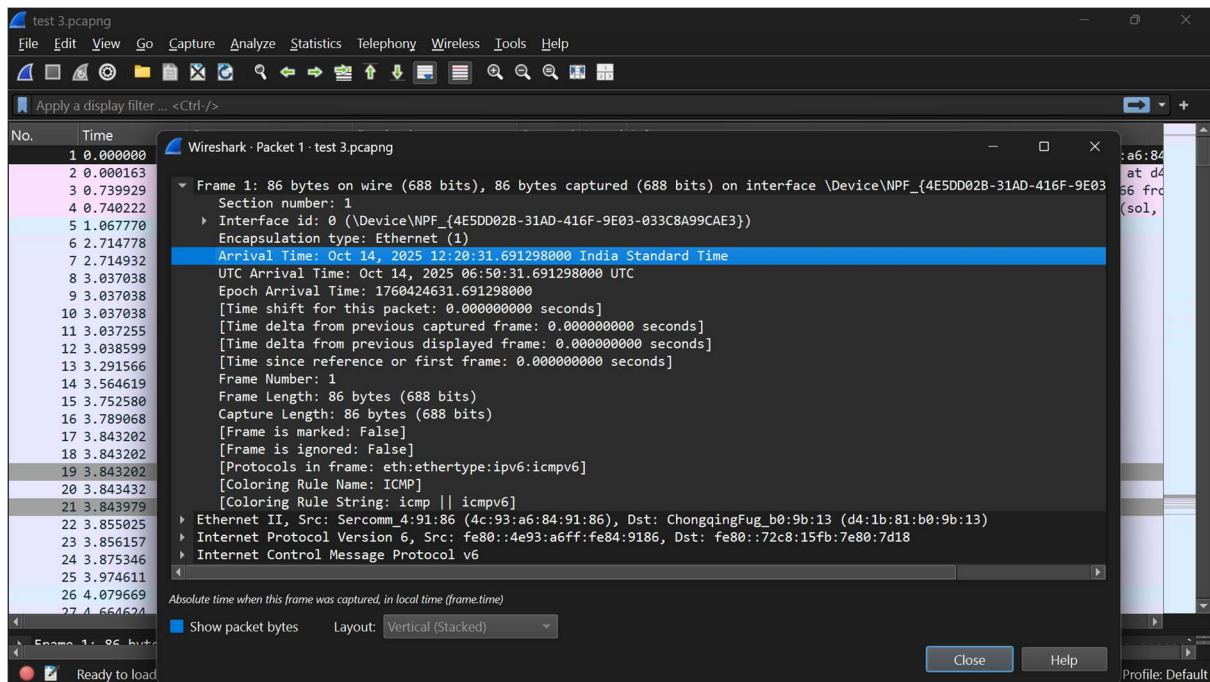
COMPARISON:

Metric	Backend Value	Wireshark Value	Difference
Total Pakets Captured	1660861	1160821	40
Capture Duration	8 mins 16 second	8 mins 15 second	1 second

Backend Logs –

```
Received shutdown signal. Cleaning up...
Stopping tshark...
Curr packets = 3.0
Maximum packets per second = 14877.0
Total Packets = 1160861
Tshark terminated gracefully
Tshark stopped and state reset
PS C:\Users\madhu\Music\Backend\Backend>
```

Wireshark(First and Last Packet) –



Test #4

Test type: LARGE PACKET SIZE (High Throughput)

WIRESHARK RESULTS:

Metric	Value
Total Pakets Captured	786706
Capture Duration	6 mins 10 seconds
Packets Dropped	0

BACKEND RESULTS:

Metric	Value
Total Pakets Captured	786697
Capture Duration	6 mins 9 seconds
Maximum Packets captured per second	3695
Maximum Throughput	35.4 Mbps

COMPARISON:

Metric	Backend Value	Wireshark Value	Difference
Total Pakets Captured	786697	786706	9
Capture Duration	6 mins 10 seconds	6 mins 9 seconds	1 second

Backend Logs –

```

Curr packets = 2.0
Maximum packets per second = 3695.0
Total Packets = 786697
Current throughput = 0.001088
Maximum throughput = 35.46791748465016

Received shutdown signal. Cleaning up...
Stopping tshark...
Tshark terminated gracefully
Tshark stopped and state reset
PS C:\Users\madhu\Music\Backend\Backend> |

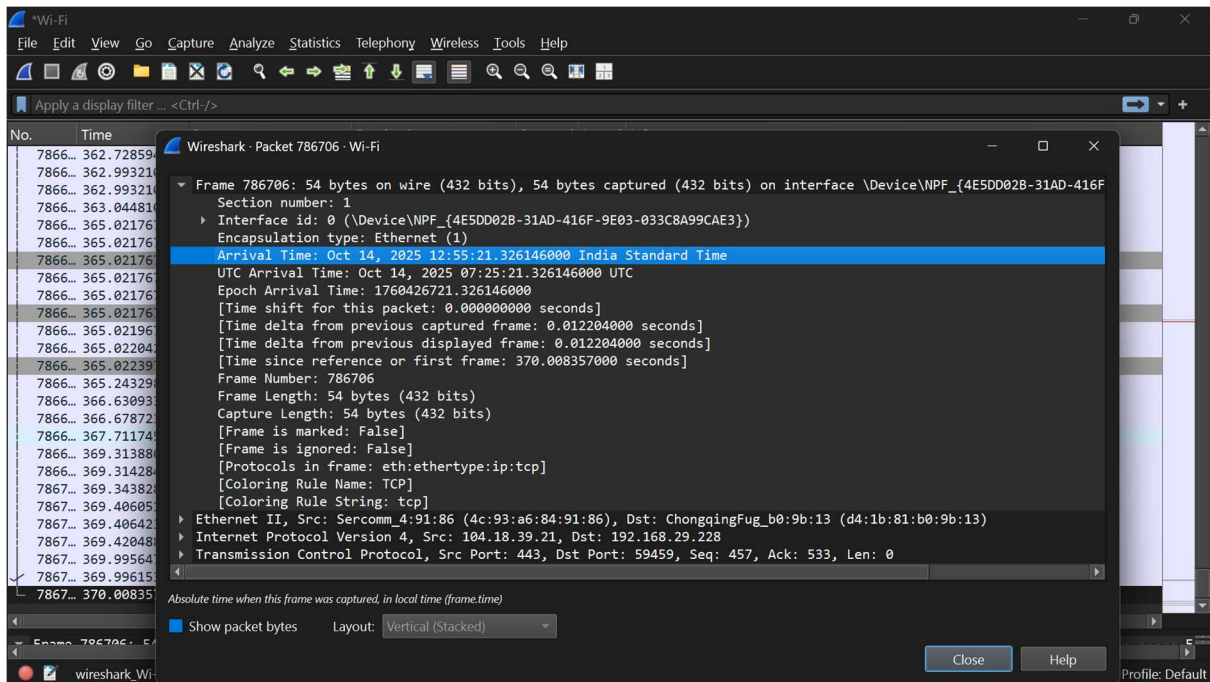
```

Wireshark Status -

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
7866...	362.728594	192.168.29.228	18.97.36.61	TLSv1.2	293	Application Data
7866...	362.993210	18.97.36.61	192.168.29.228	TCP	54	443 → 64349 [ACK] Seq=901 Ack=2284 Win=340 Len=0
7866...	362.993210	18.97.36.61	192.168.29.228	TLSv1.2	172	Application Data
7866...	363.044810	192.168.29.228	18.97.36.61	TCP	54	64349 → 443 [ACK] Seq=2284 Ack=1019 Win=253 Len=0
7866...	365.021767	54.235.253.88	192.168.29.228	TLSv1.2	100	Application Data
7866...	365.021767	54.235.253.88	192.168.29.228	TLSv1.2	85	Encrypted Alert
7866...	365.021767	54.235.253.88	192.168.29.228	TCP	54	443 → 56236 [FIN, ACK] Seq=4877 Ack=13110 Win=86528 Len=0
7866...	365.021767	54.235.253.88	192.168.29.228	TLSv1.2	100	Application Data
7866...	365.021767	54.235.253.88	192.168.29.228	TLSv1.2	85	Encrypted Alert
7866...	365.021767	54.235.253.88	192.168.29.228	TCP	54	443 → 57742 [FIN, ACK] Seq=4665 Ack=2023 Win=30720 Len=0
7866...	365.021967	192.168.29.228	54.235.253.88	TCP	54	56236 → 443 [ACK] Seq=13110 Ack=4878 Win=64768 Len=0
7866...	365.022042	192.168.29.228	54.235.253.88	TCP	54	57742 → 443 [ACK] Seq=2023 Ack=4666 Win=65280 Len=0
7866...	365.022397	192.168.29.228	54.235.253.88	TCP	54	56236 → 443 [FIN, ACK] Seq=13110 Ack=4878 Win=64768 Len=0
7866...	365.243298	54.235.253.88	192.168.29.228	TCP	54	443 → 56236 [ACK] Seq=4878 Ack=13111 Win=86528 Len=0
7866...	366.630993	2606:4700:90c7:34d2...	2405:201:5c04:ea1b:...	TLSv1.3	100	Application Data
7866...	366.678723	2405:201:5c04:ea1b:...	2606:4700:90c7:34d2...	TCP	74	53562 → 443 [ACK] Seq=3857 Ack=2375 Win=64512 Len=0
7866...	367.711745	192.168.29.249	239.255.255.250	SSDP	167	M-SEARCH * HTTP/1.1
7866...	369.313886	2606:4700:9641:d8b7...	2405:201:5c04:ea1b:...	TLSv1.3	98	Application Data
7866...	369.314284	2405:201:5c04:ea1b:...	2606:4700:9641:d8b7...	TLSv1.3	102	Application Data
7867...	369.343828	2606:4700:9641:d8b7...	2405:201:5c04:ea1b:...	TCP	74	443 → 60762 [ACK] Seq=4938 Ack=7899 Win=139264 Len=0
7867...	369.406051	2606:4700:90c1:d8b7...	2405:201:5c04:ea1b:...	TLSv1.2	98	Application Data
7867...	369.406423	2405:201:5c04:ea1b:...	2606:4700:90c1:d8b7...	TLSv1.2	102	Application Data
7867...	369.420488	2606:4700:90c1:d8b7...	2405:201:5c04:ea1b:...	TCP	74	443 → 57392 [ACK] Seq=457 Ack=533 Win=16 Len=0
7867...	369.995647	104.18.39.21	192.168.29.228	TLSv1.2	78	Application Data
7867...	369.996153	192.168.29.228	104.18.39.21	TLSv1.2	82	Application Data
7867...	370.008357	104.18.39.21	192.168.29.228	TCP	54	443 → 59459 [ACK] Seq=457 Ack=533 Win=17 Len=0

Wireshark(First and Last Packet) –

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1	0.000000					
2	0.000147					
3	0.220362					
4	0.220678					
5	0.221322					
6	0.221322					
7	0.221525					
8	0.222809					
9	0.482576					
10	5.216091					
11	6.999186					
12	6.999322					
13	7.216830					
14	7.216830					
15	7.217090					
16	7.217090					
17	7.217167					
18	7.218364					
19	7.478815					
20	9.420692					
21	9.421151					
22	9.432486					
23	9.794071					
24	9.794444					
25	9.832140					
26	9.906172					
27	9.906309					



6. ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY

Packet Drop Detection:

- Compare total packet counts (Backend vs Wireshark)
- Check tshark statistics for kernel drops
- Review timing inconsistencies in capture

7. SUMMARY

Test Type	Max Packets/sec	Max Throughput	Total Packets Difference	Drop Detected
High Packet Rate (Test #1)	13,633	—	0.045%	Yes
High Packet Rate (Test #3)	14,877	—	0.003%	Yes
Large Packet Size (Test #2)	4,098	37.14 Mbps	0.25%	No
Large Packet Size (Test #4)	3,695	35.4 Mbps	0.001%	No

8. REPORTING RESULTS

1. Test Type : High Packet Rate

- Project is able to efficiently parse and calculate metrics values for all the packets that are being captured during that time. The difference in packets captured in wireshark and backend is insignificant.
- Wireshark drops some packet in case of High Packet rate.

2. Test Type : Large Packet Size

- Project is able to efficiently parse and calculate metrics values for all the packets that are being captured during that time. The difference in packets captured in wireshark and backend is insignificant.
- No packet drops noticed.