

# CSE 362: Computer Networking Lab

## Lab 4: Transport Layer: UDP

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In this lab, we'll take a quick look at the UDP transport protocol. As we saw in lectures, UDP is a streamlined, no-frills protocol. Because UDP is simple and sweet, we'll be able to cover it pretty quickly in this lab.

At this stage, you should be a Wireshark expert. Thus, we are not going to spell out the steps as explicitly as in earlier labs. In particular, we are not going to provide example screenshots for all the steps.

Start capturing packets in Wireshark and then do something that will cause your host to send and receive several UDP packets. It's also likely that just by doing nothing (except capturing packets via Wireshark) that some UDP packets sent by others will appear in your trace. (One way to do this would be to use the `nslookup` command, as we saw in the DNS lab.)

After stopping packet capture, set your packet filter so that Wireshark only displays the UDP packets sent and received at your host. Pick one of these UDP packets and expand the UDP fields in the details window.

**Checkpoint:** Answer the following questions.

1. Select *one* UDP packet from your trace. From this packet, determine how many fields there are in the UDP header. (You shouldn't look in the textbook! Answer these questions directly from what you observe in the packet trace.) Name these fields.
2. By consulting the displayed information in Wireshark's packet content field for this packet, determine the length (in bytes) of each of the UDP header fields.
3. The value in the Length field is the length of what? (You can consult the text for this answer). Verify your claim with your captured UDP packet.
4. What is the maximum number of bytes that can be included in a UDP payload? (Hint: the answer to this question can be determined by your answer to 2. above)
5. What is the largest possible source port number? (Hint: see the hint in 4.)
6. What is the protocol number for UDP? Give your answer in both hexadecimal and decimal notation. To answer this question, you'll need to look into the Protocol field of the IP datagram containing this UDP segment.
7. Examine a pair of UDP packets in which your host sends the first UDP packet and the second UDP packet is a reply to this first UDP packet. (Hint: for a second packet to be sent in response to a first packet, the sender of the first packet should be the destination of the second packet). Describe the relationship between the port numbers in the two packets.