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Subject: Computer Networks

Topic: Experiment 1

Experiment 1: Explore Your Network

Objective

The objective of this experiment is to understand and use various networking commands to explore and diagnose a system's network configuration.

1. ipconfig / ifconfig

Command used:

On Windows: ipconfig

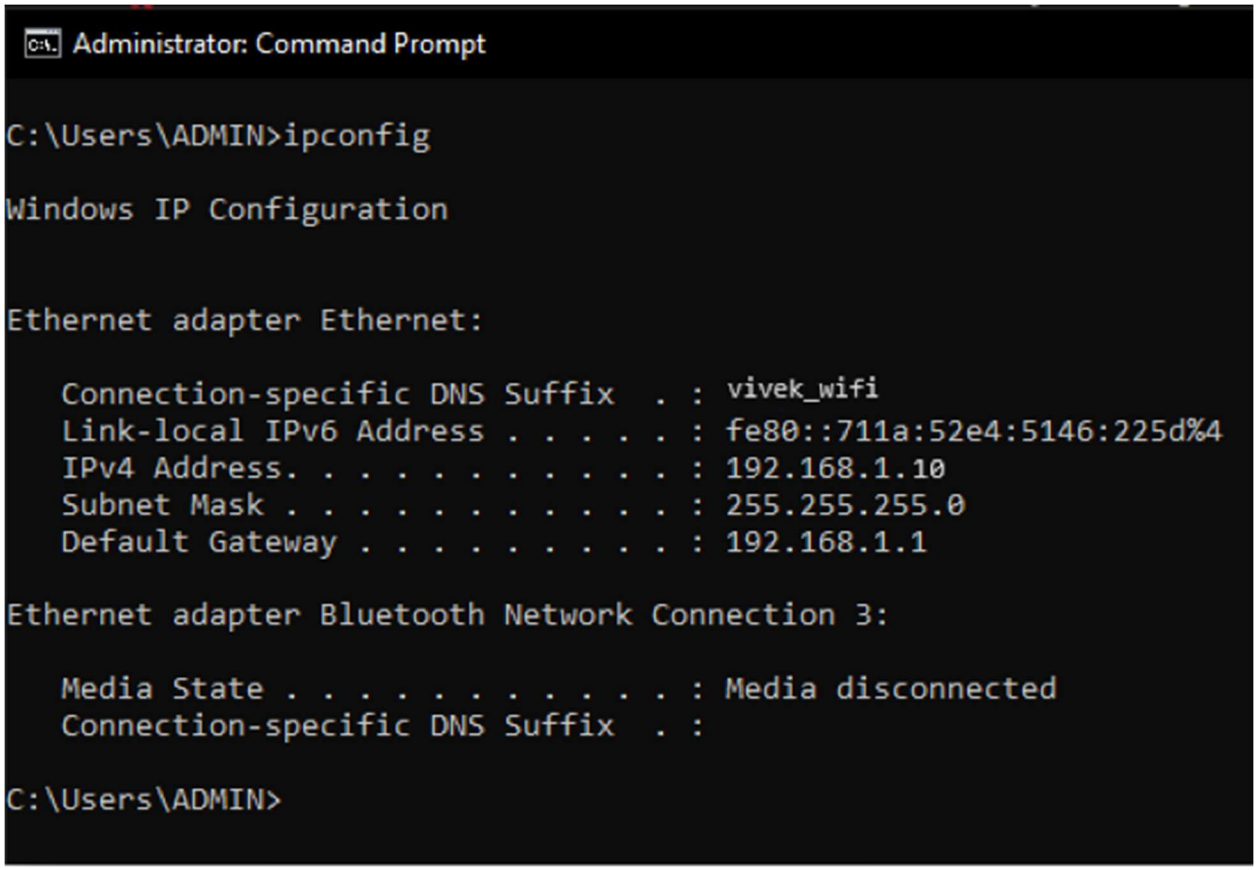
On Linux/Mac: ifconfig

Description:

ipconfig (Windows) and ifconfig (Linux/Mac) are used to display the current network configuration of the system.

They show details like IP address, subnet mask, default gateway, and active network adapters.

Output (Screenshot here):



Explanation of Output:

IPv4 Address: Identifies your system on the network.

Subnet Mask: Defines the range of IPs in your local network.

Default Gateway: The router's IP, used to access external networks.

Adapter Info: Shows wired/wireless network details.

Example Usage:

Checking if your device received a proper IP from the router (e.g., DHCP assignment).

2. ping

Command used:

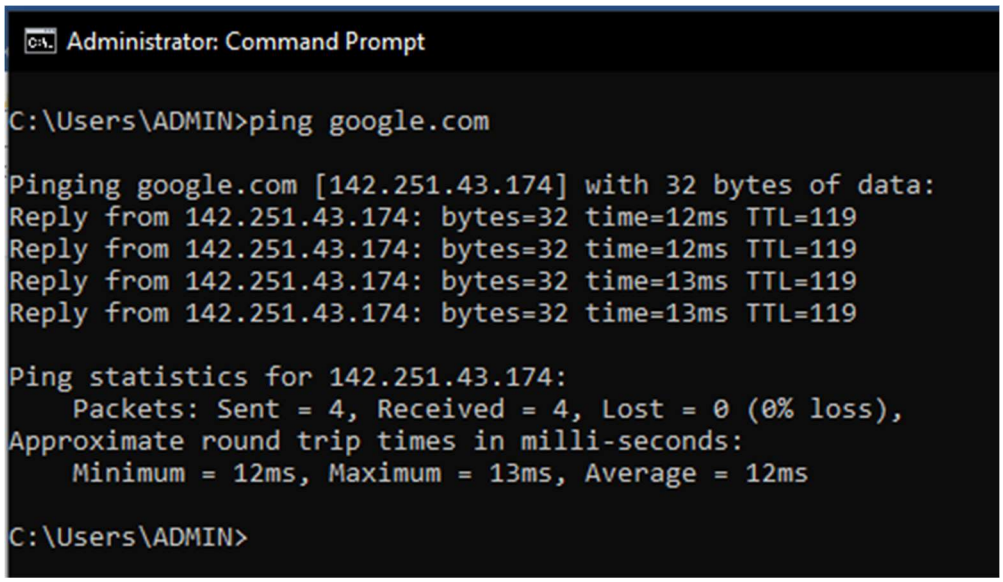
ping <domain or IP>

Description:

The ping command tests connectivity between your system and another host.

It measures round-trip time (RTT) and packet loss.

Output (Screenshot here):



Explanation of Output:

Reply from... → Indicates successful communication.

Time=<ms> → Shows latency.

Packets Sent/Received/Lost: Helps detect connectivity issues.

Example Usage:

ping google.com → To check if your internet connection is working.

3. tracert / traceroute

Command used:

On Windows: tracert <domain>

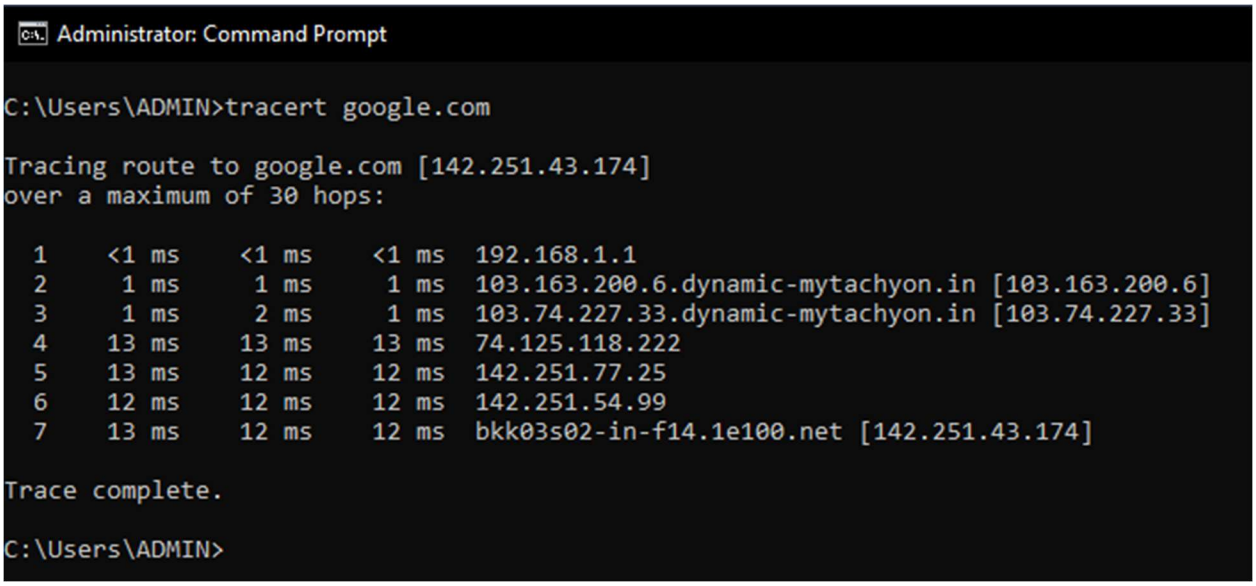
On Linux/Mac: traceroute <domain>

Description:

This command shows the path your packets take to reach a destination.

Displays each hop (router) between your system and the destination server.

Output (Screenshot here):



Explanation of Output:

Each line = one hop (router/switch).

Shows IP address and response time of each hop.

Helps identify delays or where a connection breaks.

Example Usage:

tracert google.com → To identify the network path and diagnose where latency occurs.

4. netstat

Command used:

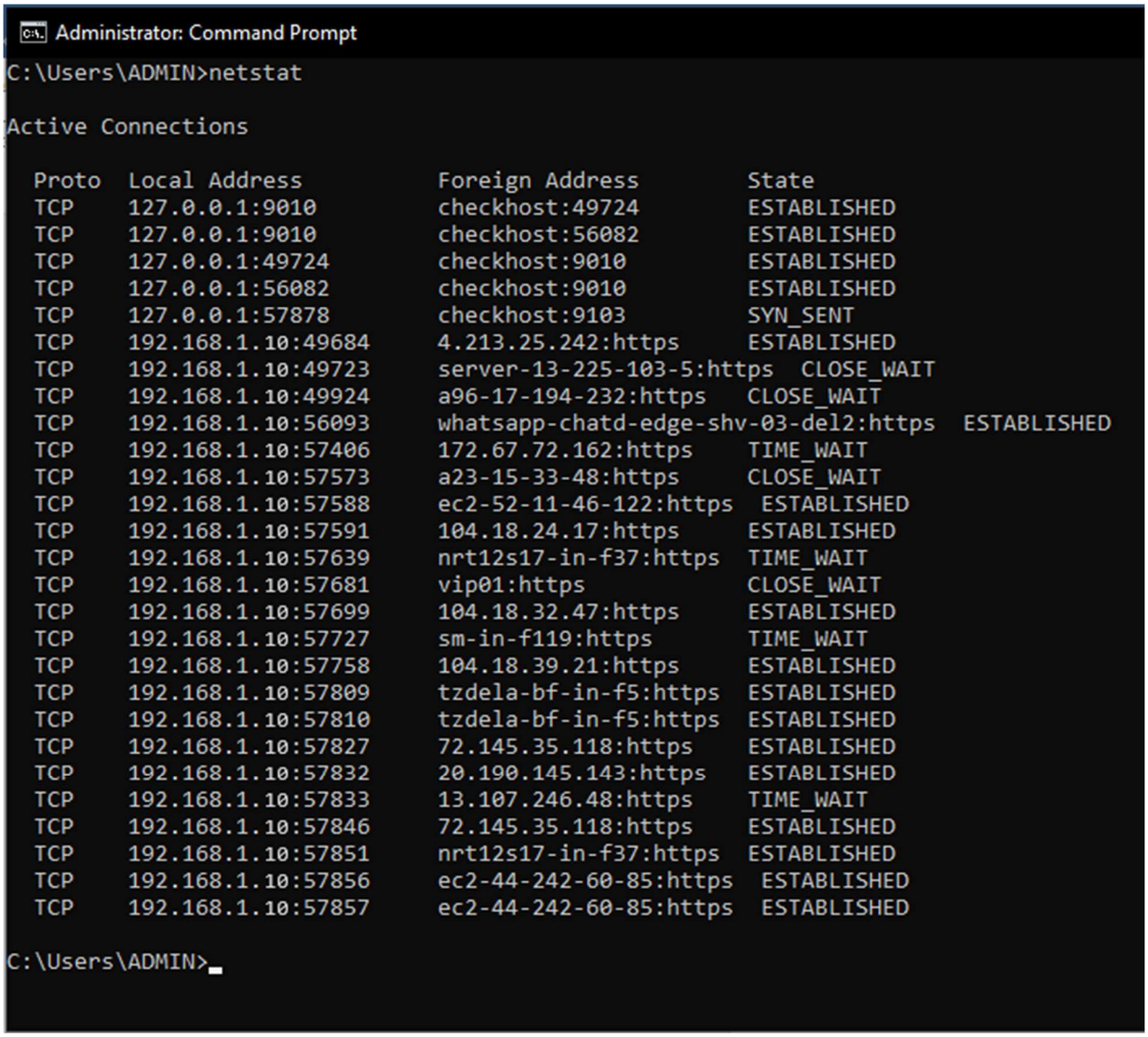
netstat

Description:

Displays active network connections, listening ports, and routing tables.

Useful to check which applications are using the network.

Output (Screenshot here):



Explanation of Output:

Proto (TCP/UDP): Shows type of connection.

Local Address: Your system’s IP/port.

Foreign Address: Remote system’s IP/port.

State: Connection status (e.g., ESTABLISHED, LISTENING).

Example Usage:

Checking if a suspicious process is using an unknown port.

5. nslookup

Command used:

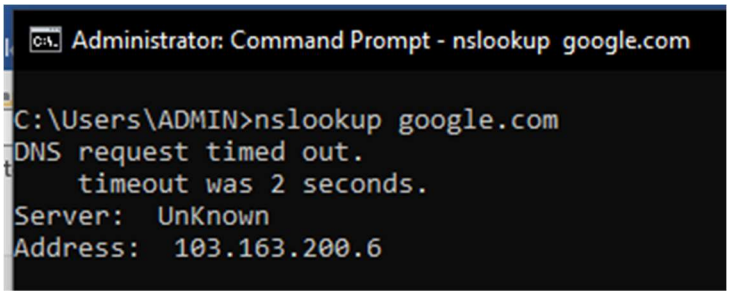
nslookup <domain>

Description:

Used to query DNS servers and find the IP address of a domain.

Can also display mail servers and other DNS records.

Output (Screenshot here):



Explanation of Output:

Server: DNS server used.

Address: IP address of the domain queried.

Example Usage:

nslookup openai.com → To get the IP address of OpenAI's server.

6. arp

Command used:

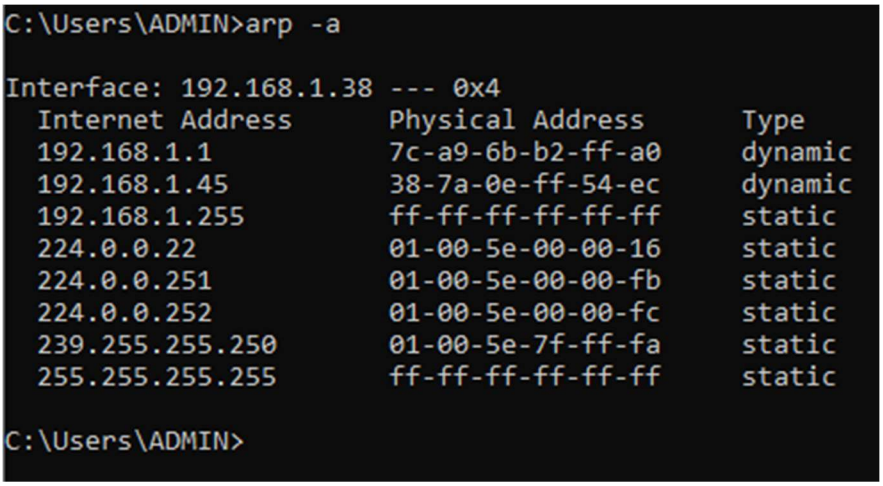
arp -a

Description:

Displays the ARP (Address Resolution Protocol) table.

Maps IP addresses to physical MAC addresses in the local network.

Output (Screenshot here):



Explanation of Output:

Internet Address: IP of local devices.

Physical Address: MAC address of the devices.

Type: Dynamic (assigned by ARP) or Static (manually set).

Example Usage:

Checking connected devices in your LAN (e.g., detecting unauthorized devices).