Packet Analysis

INFO-6081 – Monitoring & Incident Response

FANSHAWE

Learning Outcomes

- Packet Analysis
- Tcpdump
- Berkley Packet Filter
- Examining Full Content Data
- Dumpcap
- Tshark
- Wireshark
- Display filters
- Wireshark Statistics

Packet Analysis

- Packet analysis tools read network traffic from an interface or a saved capture (trace) file and present the information to an analyst
- This information is used to interpret what is occurring on the network
- Packet analysis tools are available for either the command line, or graphical interfaces

Tcpdump

- Tcpdump is a command line traffic analyzer that is available on SO
- It is often used to read the data created by netsniff-ng, and stored in **/nsm/sensor_data/*HOSTNAME-INTERFACE*/dailylogs**
- Tcpdump is a protocol analyzer, as it interpret and decode the protocols used at various layers of the OSI model

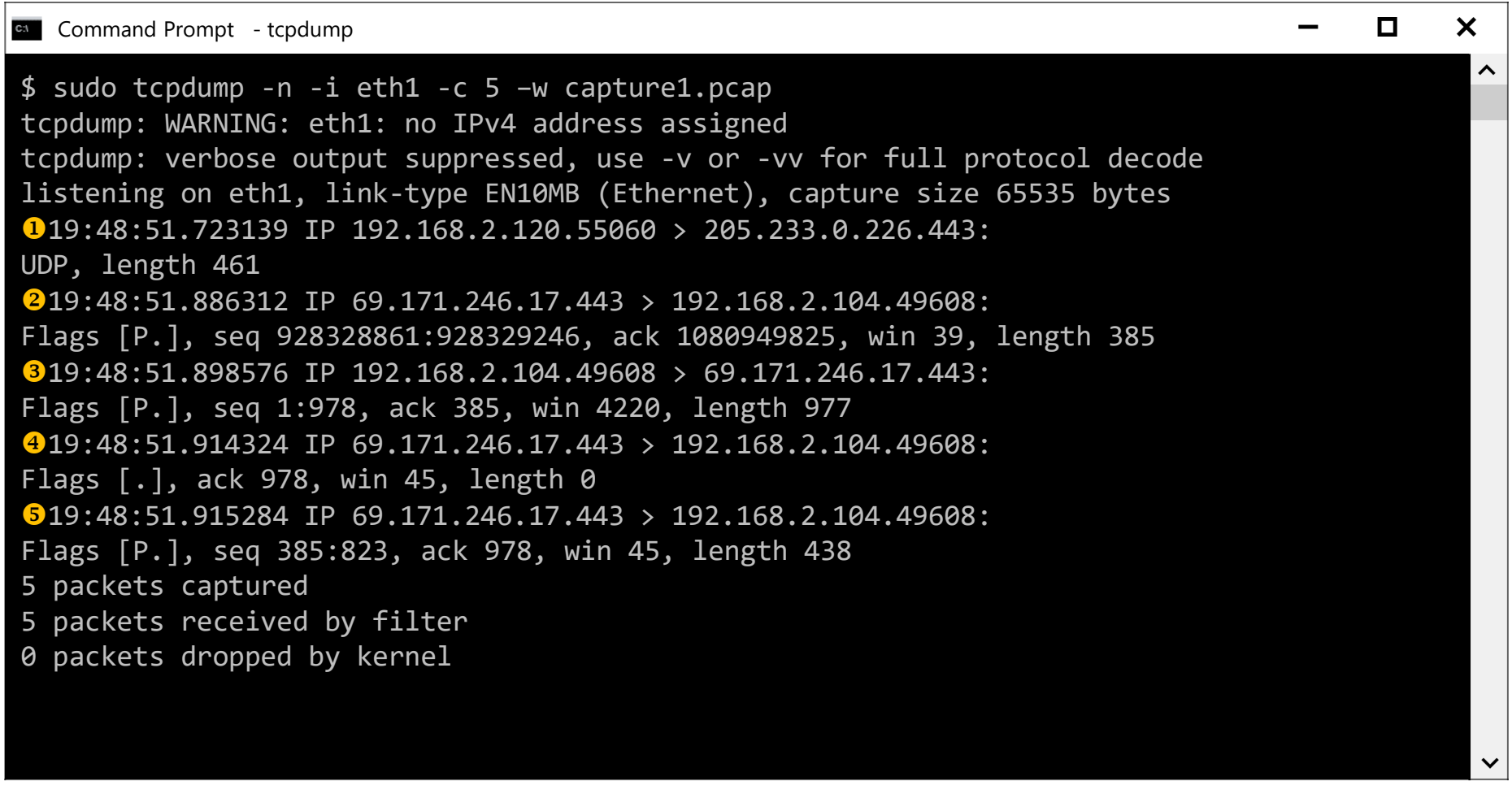
Tcpdump – Operation

- The following command displays live traffic in real time:

  `tcpdump -n -i <interface> -s <snaplen> -c <count> -w <filename>`

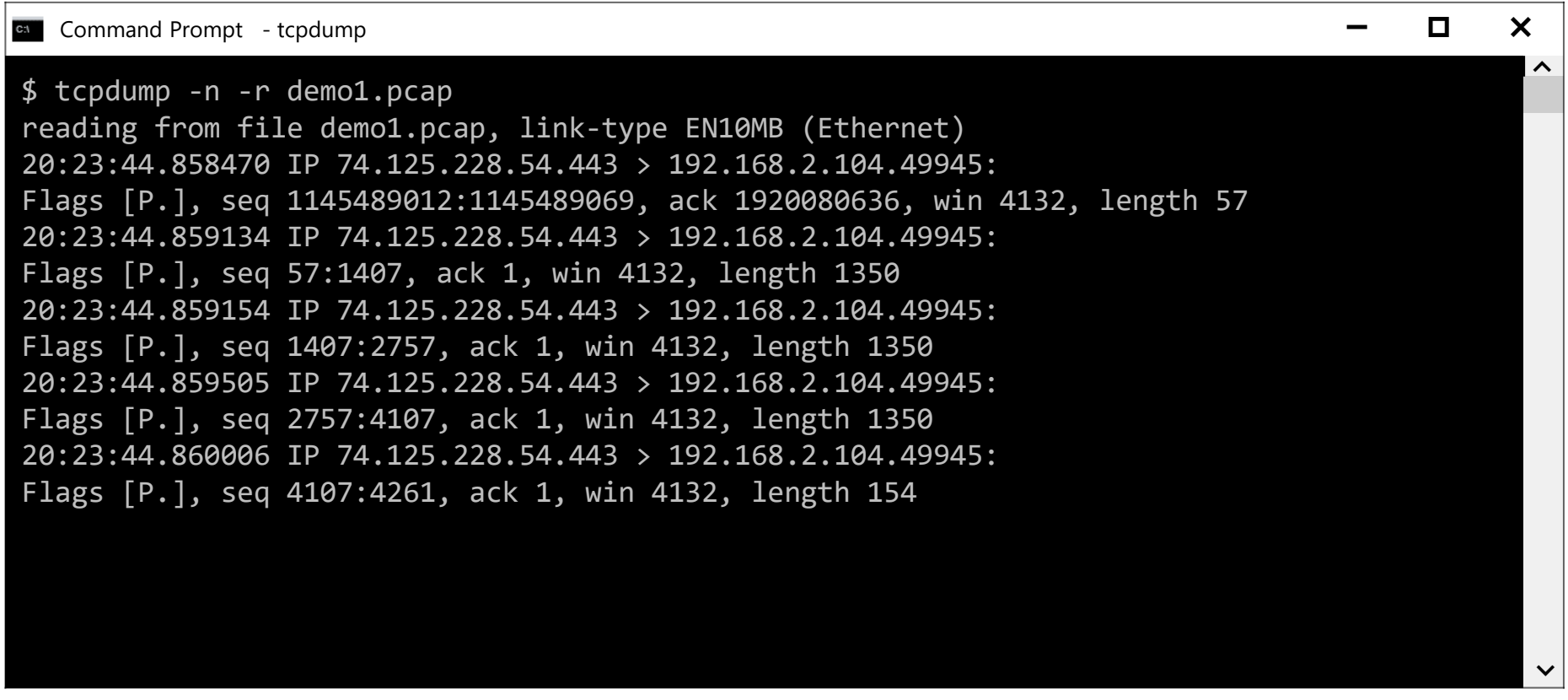
- The command is modified by the options:
  - **-n** – Do not resolve IP addresses to hostnames
  - **-i** – Specify an interface to monitor
  - **-s** – Specify how many bytes to capture from each packet
    - **-s 0 –** captures the entire packet
  - **-c** – Set the number of packets to capture
  - **-w** – Write the captured data to disk

Tcpdump – Example



Tcpdump – Operation

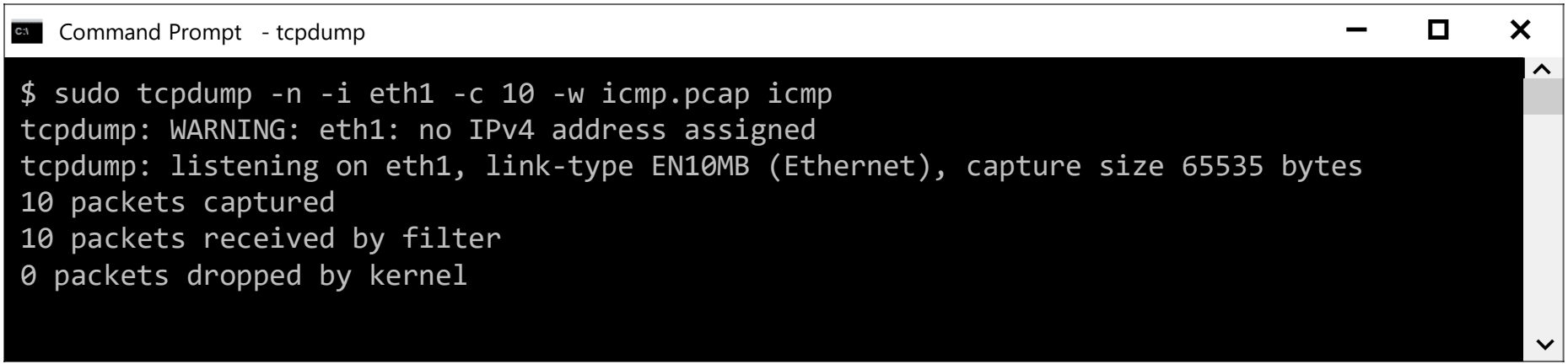
- Tcpdump can also be used to read capture (trace) files:



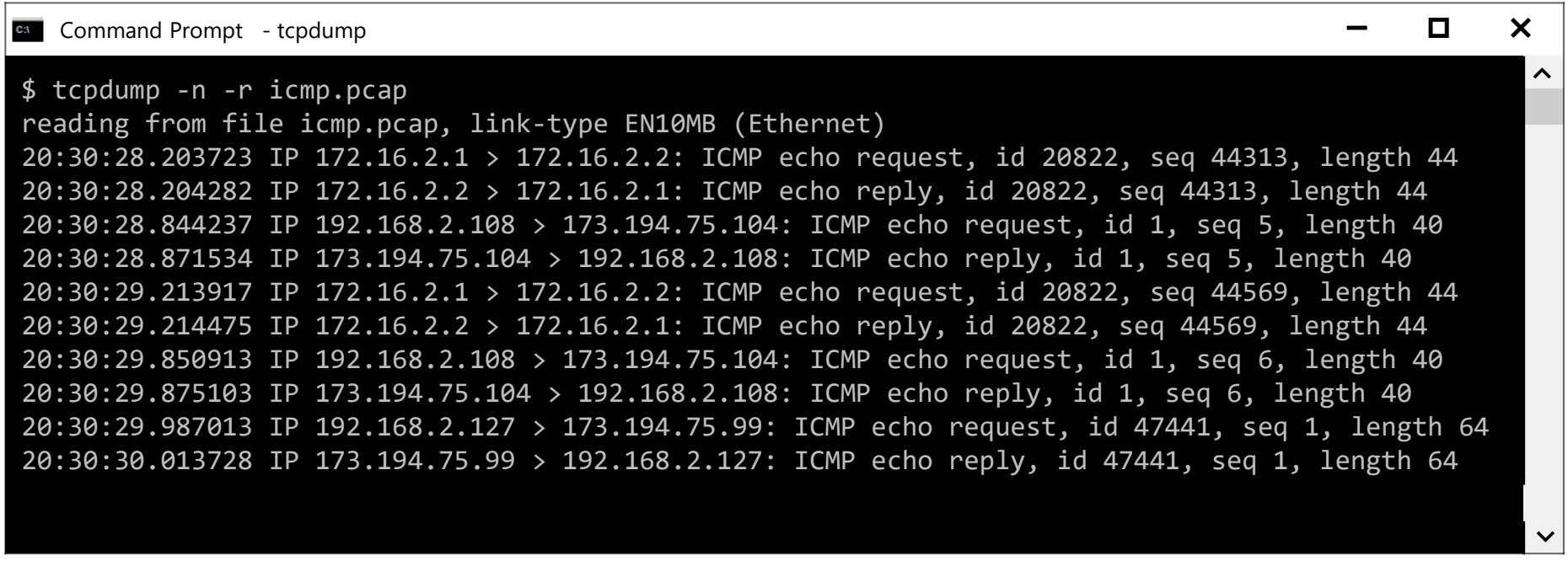
Tcpdump – Operation

- To reduce the amount of data, Tcpdump can apply filters in the Berkley Packet Filter (BPF) format to the command

- BPF filters include protocol, direction, and type
  - To capture only ICMP traffic:



Tcpdump – Example



BPF Options

- host xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx (only traffic involving a single host)
- net xxx.xxx.xxx.xxx (only traffic involving a specific network)
- port xx (only traffic involving TCP/UDP port xx)
- src (only traffic from the source)
- dst (only traffic to the destination)
- ether (only Ethernet protocols)
- tcp (only TCP traffic)
- ip (only IP traffic)
- ip6 (only IPv6 traffic)
- arp (only ARP traffic)

Tcpdump – Example

Command Prompt - tcpdump

```
$ sudo tcpdump -n -i eth1 -s 0 port 53
tcpdump: WARNING: eth1: no IPv4 address assigned
tcpdump: verbose output suppressed, use -v or -vv for full protocol decode
listening on eth1, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet), capture size 65535 bytes
20:53:42.685078 IP 192.168.2.106.33348 > 172.16.2.1.53: 55862+ A? daisy.ubuntu.com. (34)
20:53:42.701421 IP 172.16.2.1.53 > 192.168.2.106.33348: 55862 2/0/0 A 91.189.95.54, A
91.189.95.55 (66)
```

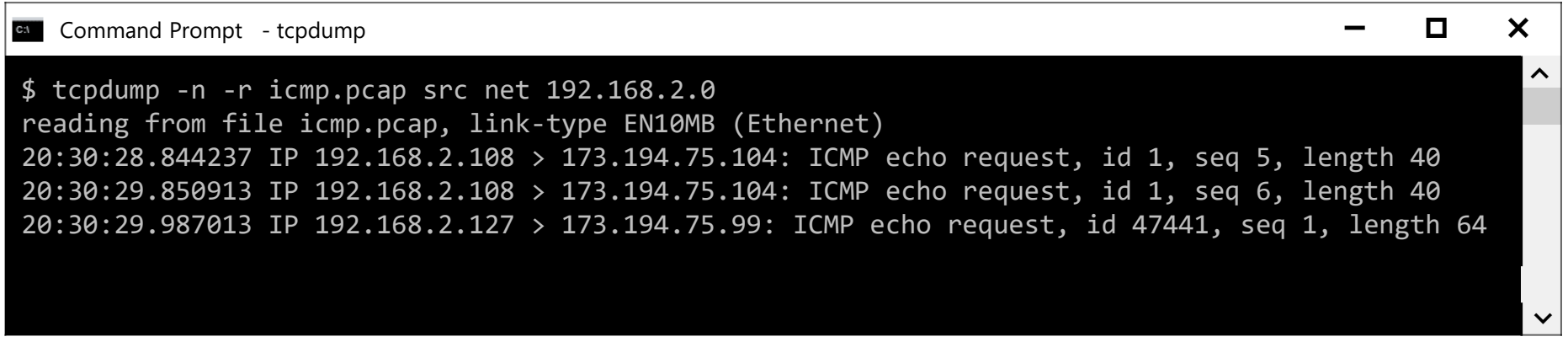
Command Prompt - tcpdump

```
$ tcpdump -n -r icmp.pcap host 192.168.2.127
reading from file icmp.pcap, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet)
20:30:29.987013 IP 192.168.2.127 > 173.194.75.99: ICMP echo request, id 47441, seq 1, length 64
20:30:30.013728 IP 173.194.75.99 > 192.168.2.127: ICMP echo reply, id 47441, seq 1, length 64
```

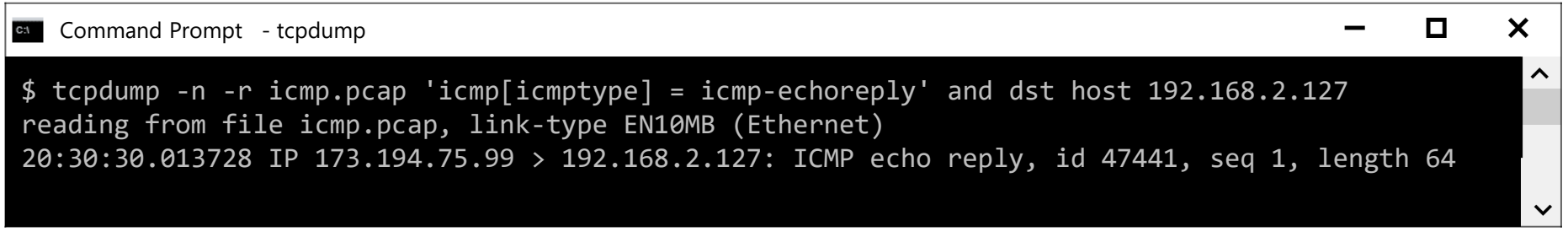
Command Prompt - tcpdump

```
$ tcpdump -n -r icmp.pcap src host 192.168.2.127
reading from file icmp.pcap, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet)
20:30:29.987013 IP 192.168.2.127 > 173.194.75.99: ICMP echo request, id 47441, seq 1, length 64
```

Tcpdump – Example



- Many protocols offer BPF primitives that allow viewing of specific aspects of traffic only



Tcpdump – Details

- In addition to displaying layer 3 headers, Tcpdump can extract and display additional information about captures
  - The following output shows ❶ timestamps as YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM:SS.milliseconds, ❷ layer 2 headers, and ❸ hex and ASCII content

Command Prompt - tcpdump

```
$ tcpdump -n ❶-tttt ❷ -e ❸-XX -r icmp.pcap 'icmp[icmptype] = icmp-echoreply' and dst host
192.168.2.127
reading from file icmp.pcap, link-type EN10MB (Ethernet)
2013-02-16 20:30:30.013728 00:0d:b9:27:f1:48 > 00:13:10:65:2f:ac, ethertype IPv4 (0x0800),
length 98: 173.194.75.99 > 192.168.2.127: ICMP echo reply, id 47441, seq 1, length 64
0x0000: 0013 1065 2fac 000d b927 f148 0800 4500 ...e/....'.H..E.
0x0010: 0054 0000 0000 fb01 035c adc2 4b63 c0a8 .T.......\..Kc..
0x0020: 027f 0000 2092 b951 0001 65ec 1f51 0000 .......Q..e..Q..
0x0030: 0000 d30a 0f00 0000 0000 1011 1213 1415 ................
0x0040: 1617 1819 1a1b 1c1d 1e1f 2021 2223 2425 ...........!"#$%
0x0050: 2627 2829 2a2b 2c2d 2e2f 3031 3233 3435 &'()*+,-./012345
0x0060: 3637                                     67
```

Examining Full Content Data with Tcpdump

- Tcpdump is often used to examine the contents of saved traces
- Combining Tcpdump with common Linux commands and scripting methods, you can search logs for specific traffic patterns and types, using BPF filter to hone your output
- The following output shows:
  1. The first file does not contain any traffic matching the BFP filter
  2. The second file contains matching traffic
  3. The traffic is a TCP SYN request
  4. The third file does not contain any matching traffic

Examining Full Content Data with Tcpdump

Command Prompt - tcpdump

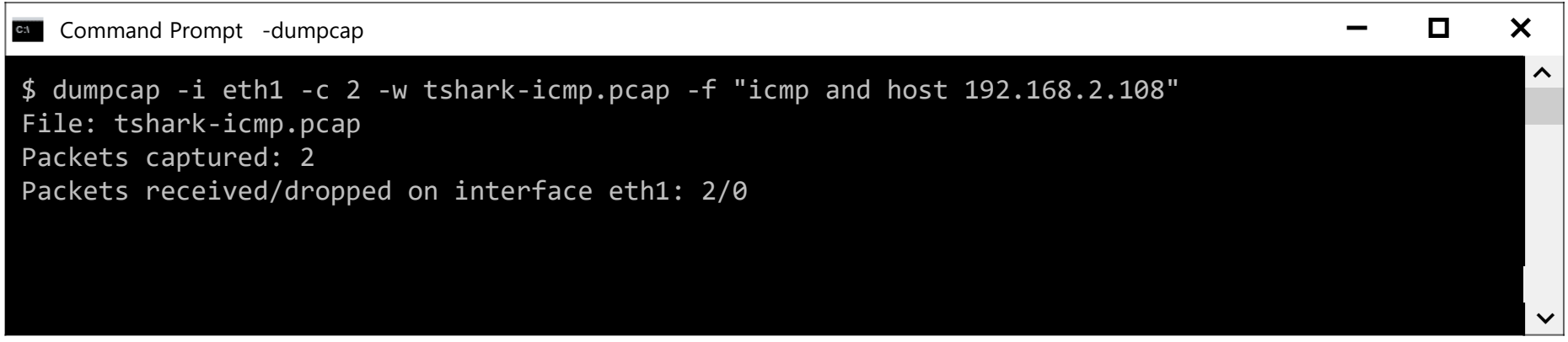
```
$ for i in `find /nsm/sensor_data/sademo-eth1/dailylogs/ -type f`; do tcpdump -n -c 1 -r $i
host 8.8.8.8 and tcp; done
reading from file /nsm/sensor_data/sademo-eth1/dailylogs/2013-02-16/snort.log.1361019690,
linktype
EN10MB (Ethernet) ❶
reading from file /nsm/sensor_data/sademo-eth1/dailylogs/2013-02-16/snort.log.1361045719,
linktype
EN10MB (Ethernet) ❷
21:02:06.430169 IP 192.168.2.126.44334 > 8.8.8.8.53:
Flags [S], seq 1330246822, win 42340, options
[mss 1460,sackOK,TS val 157066547 ecr 0,nop,wscale 11], length 0 ❸
reading from file /nsm/sensor_data/sademo-eth1/dailylogs/2013-02-16/snort.log.1361017706,
linktype
EN10MB (Ethernet) ❹
-- snip --
```

Dumpcap and Tshark

- Dumpcap and Tshark are tools shipped with Wireshark
  - Dumpcap is a traffic collection tool
  - Tshark is a protocol analyzer that can understand hundreds of protocols and apply filters using human friendly syntax
- Dumpcap uses the same BPF syntax as Tcpdump
- The power of Tshark (and Wireshark) are thanks to the protocol dissectors that translate the actions of protocols into easy to read headers

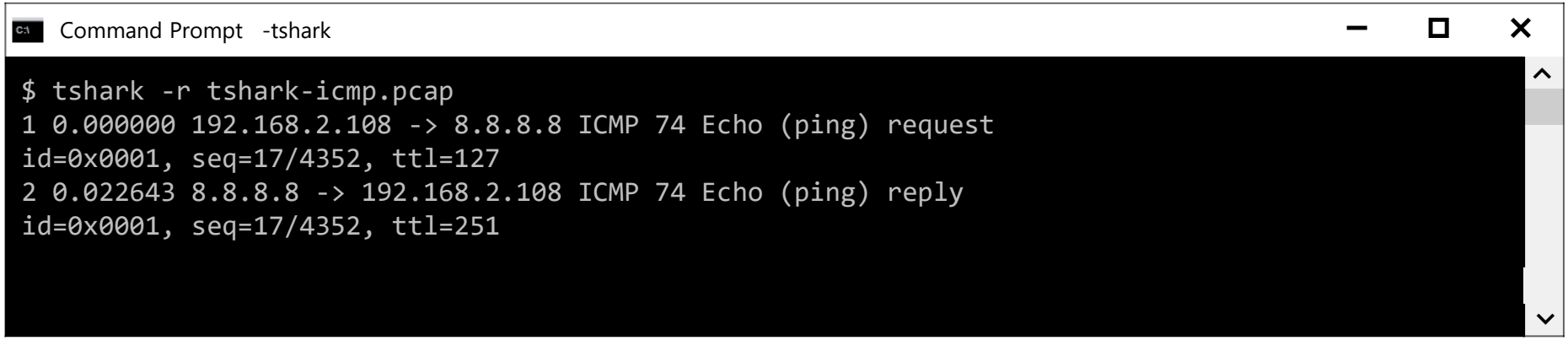
Dumpcap Example

- The following output shows a dumpcap capture:
  - **-i** – Listening on the interface **eth1**
  - **-c** – Limiting the capture to **two** packets
  - **-w** – Saving to the file **tshark-icmp.pcap**
  - **-f** – Applying the BPF filter "**icmp and host 192.168.2.108**" to the data stream
    - Notice that the **-s** option to specify a maximum packet length is not required



Tshark Example

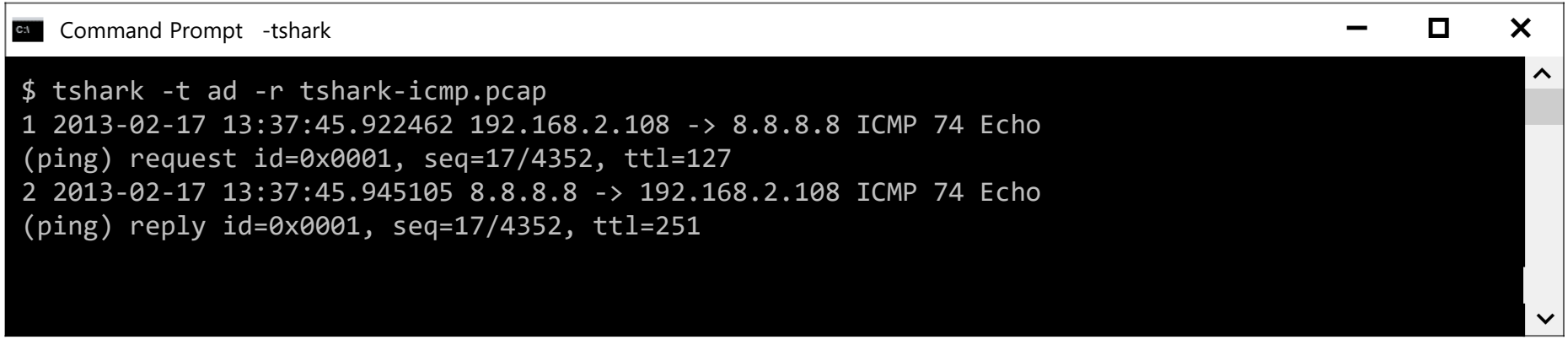
- Once the trace file has been created in dumpcap, you can analyze it with Tshark:



- The output is dissimilar to Tcpdump, but should be familiar from Wireshark

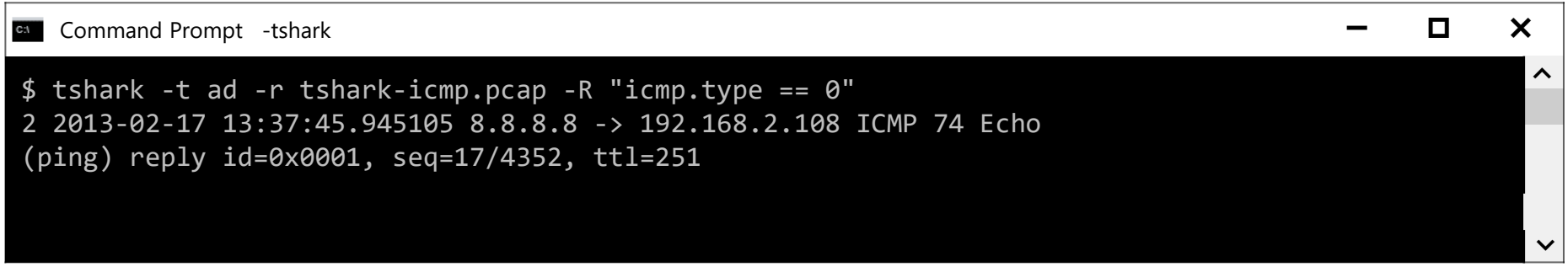
Tshark Example

- By default, Tshark displays the time relative to the start of the capture
- To modify the display, use the -t (time) option, with the ad (absolute, date) parameters to display time that is easier to correlate with other actions



Tshark – Display Filters

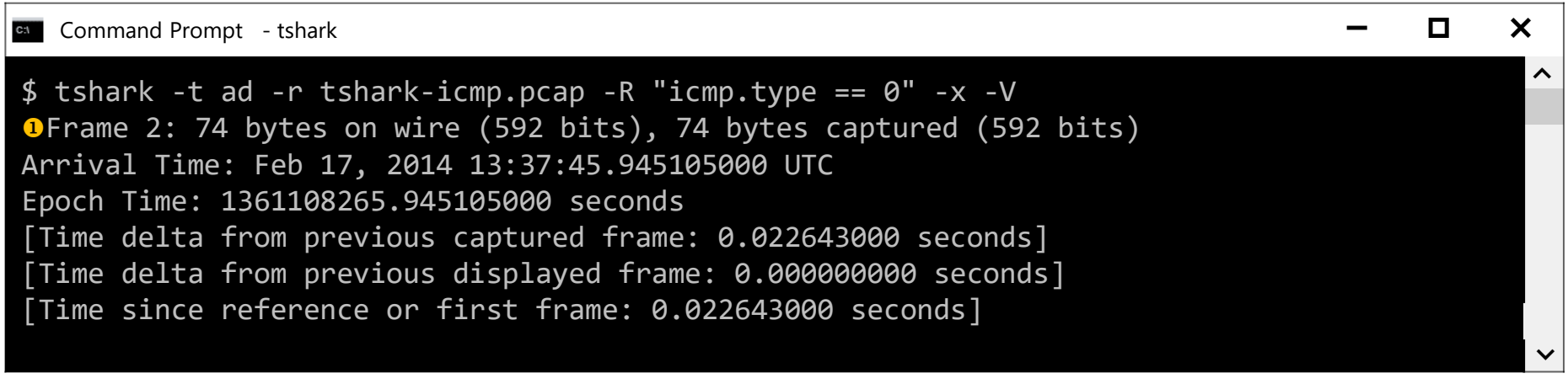
- Tshark can use display filters to limit the amount of information displayed on the screen, without affecting the capture
- The following example limits the view to show only ICMP echo replies



- There are thousands of display filter options available for Tshark, a repository of available filters can be found at: https://www.wireshark.org/docs/dfref/

Tshark Example

- Tshark reveals its depth of knowledge when the **-v** option is used
- Additionally, adding **-x** adds hex and ASCII output to the display

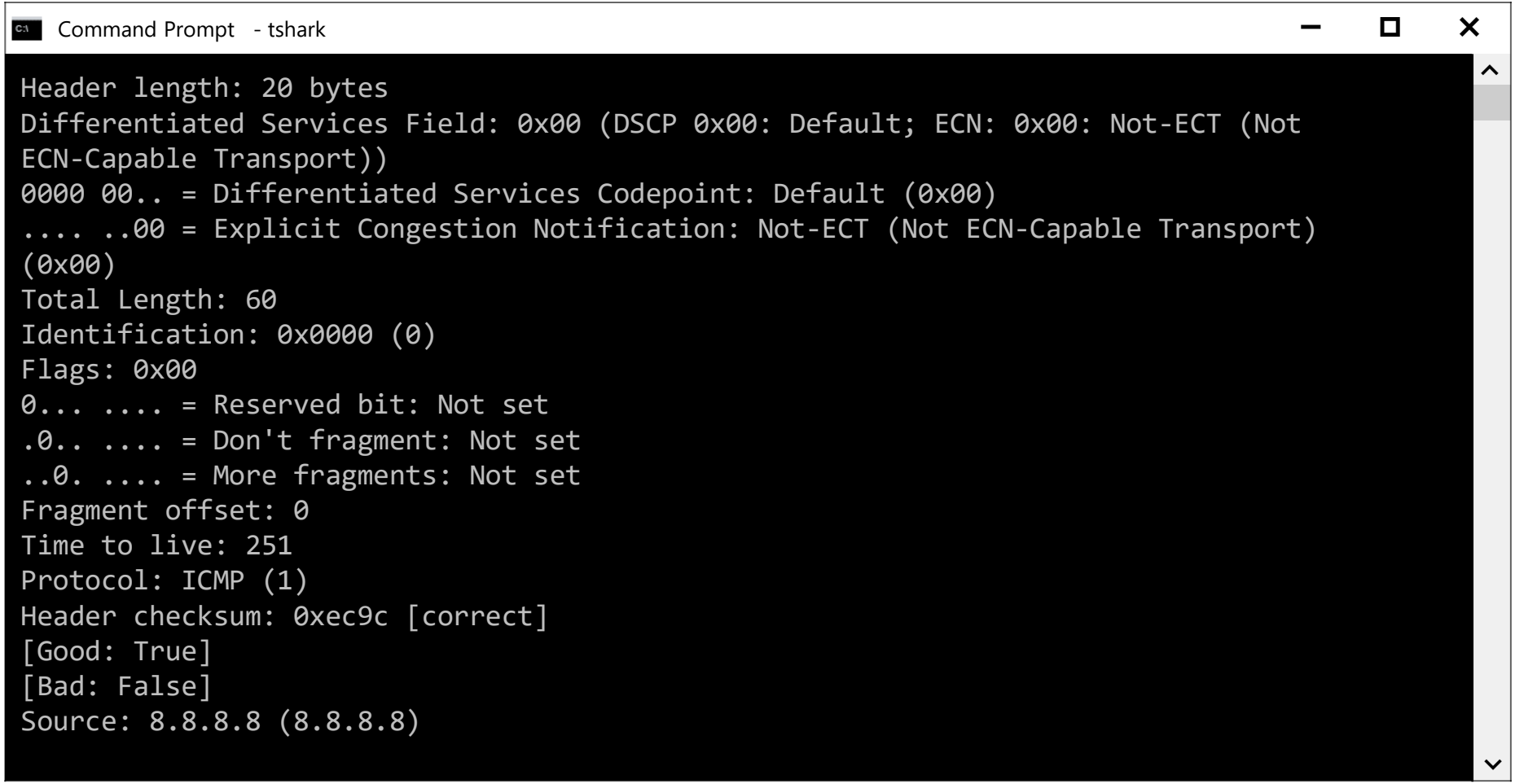


Tshark Example

Command Prompt - tshark

```
Frame Number: 2
Frame Length: 74 bytes (592 bits)
Capture Length: 74 bytes (592 bits)
[Frame is marked: False]
[Frame is ignored: False]
[Protocols in frame: eth:ip:icmp:data]
❷Ethernet II, Src: PcEngine_27:f1:48 (00:0d:b9:27:f1:48), Dst: Cisco-Li_65:2f:ac
(00:13:10:65:2f:ac)
Destination: Cisco-Li_65:2f:ac (00:13:10:65:2f:ac)
Address: Cisco-Li_65:2f:ac (00:13:10:65:2f:ac)
.... ...0 .... .... .... .... = IG bit: Individual address (unicast)
.... ..0. .... .... .... .... = LG bit: Globally unique address (factory default)
Source: PcEngine_27:f1:48 (00:0d:b9:27:f1:48)
Address: PcEngine_27:f1:48 (00:0d:b9:27:f1:48)
.... ...0 .... .... .... .... = IG bit: Individual address (unicast)
.... ..0. .... .... .... .... = LG bit: Globally unique address (factory default)
Type: IP (0x0800)
❸Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 8.8.8.8 (8.8.8.8), Dst: 192.168.2.108 (192.168.2.108)
Version: 4
```

Tshark Example



Tshark Example

Command Prompt - tshark

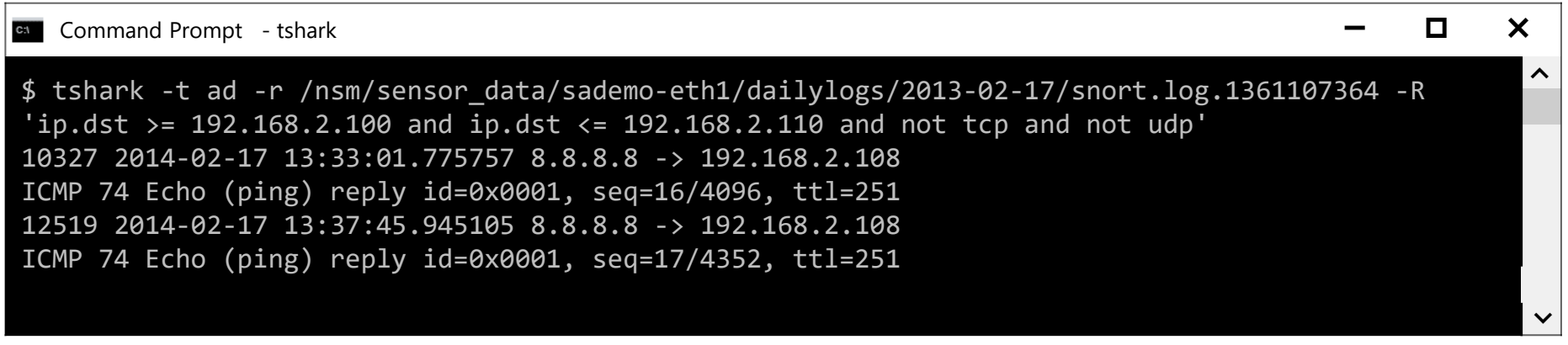
```
Destination: 192.168.2.108 (192.168.2.108)
❹Internet Control Message Protocol
Type: 0 (Echo (ping) reply)
Code: 0
Checksum: 0x554a [correct]
Identifier (BE): 1 (0x0001)
Identifier (LE): 256 (0x0100)
Sequence number (BE): 17 (0x0011)
Sequence number (LE): 4352 (0x1100)
[Response To: 1]
[Response Time: 22.643 ms]
Data (32 bytes)
Data: 61626364656667686 96a6b6c6d6e6f707172737475767761...
[Length: 32]
❺0000 00 13 10 65 2f ac 00 0d b9 27 f1 48 08 00 45 00 ...e/....'.H..E.
0010 00 3c 00 00 00 00 fb 01 ec 9c 08 08 08 08 c0 a8 .<..............
0020 02 6c 00 00 55 4a 00 01 00 11 61 62 63 64 65 66 .l..UJ....abcdef
0030 67 68 69 6a 6b 6c 6d 6e 6f 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 ghijklmnopqrstuv
0040 77 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69                  wabcdefghilll
```

Examining Full Content Data with Tshark

- Similarly to Tcpdump, Tshark can be combined with common Linux commands and scripting to deliver powerful searches through full content data
- One additional advantage of Tshark is the number of available display filters and the flexible configuration options
- To use a loop to search a directory for an HTTP GET request generated by Curl and list the relevant trace file:

Examining Full Content Data with Tshark

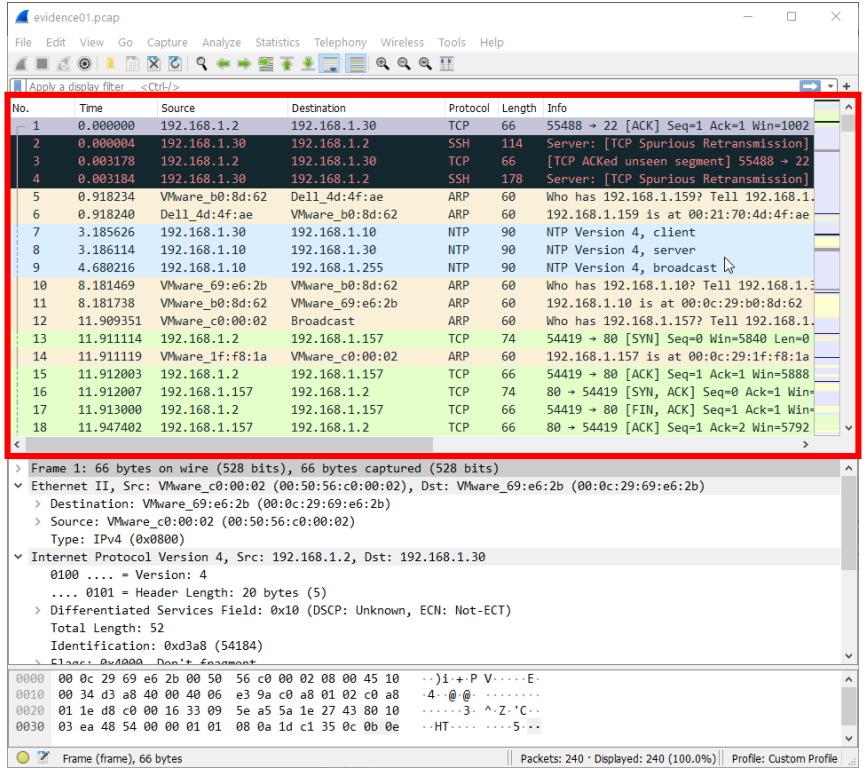
- Tshark can also assist in finding traffic from a range of IP addresses



Wireshark

- Wireshark is the go-to network protocol analyzer for GUI environments
- Like CLI-based tools, Wireskark can display packet headers, content and analyze the details of communications
- Unlike CLI-based tools, Wireshark can also generate reports and graphs that incorporate visual elements to better represent data
- Wireshark is used interactively, with data related to packets updated in real time

Wireshark Interface – Packet List Pane

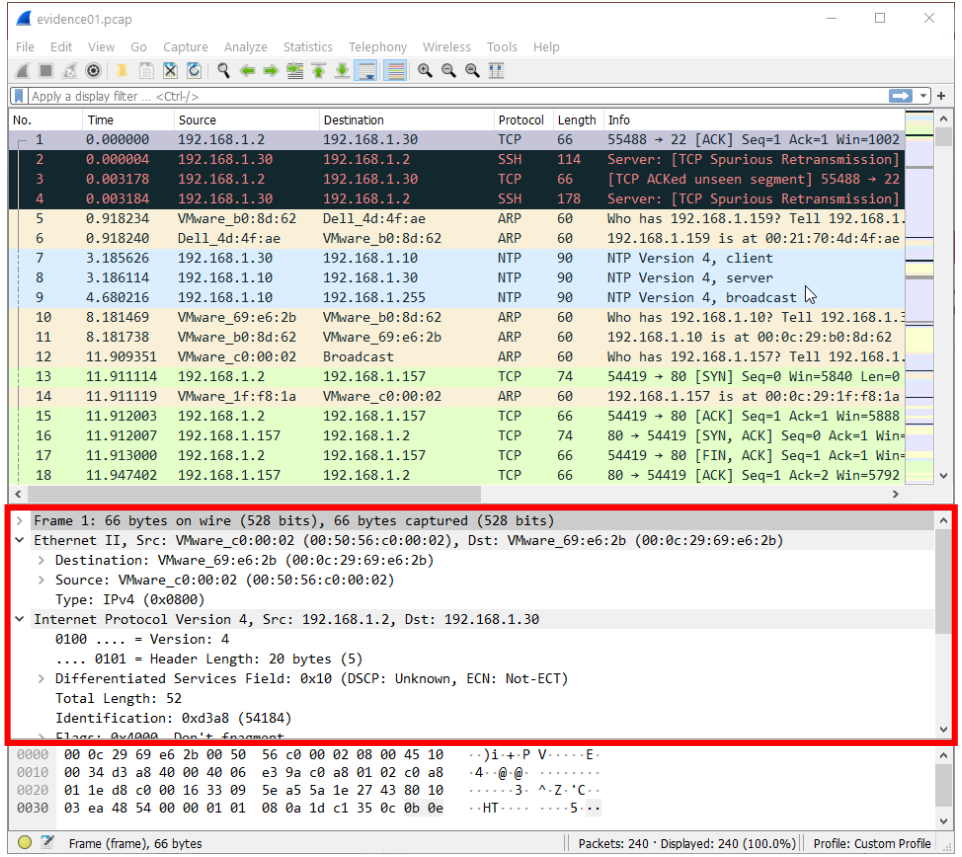


Symbol	Description
	First packet in a conversation.
	Part of the selected conversation.
	Not part of the selected conversation.
	Last packet in a conversation.
	Request
	Response
	The selected packet acknowledges this packet.
	The selected packet is a duplicate acknowledgement of this packet.
	The selected packet is related to this packet in some other way, e.g. as part of reassembly.

Lists all the packets captured including:

- The timestamp of the packet
- Source and destination IP addresses
- Protocol
- Packet length
- Packet info summary

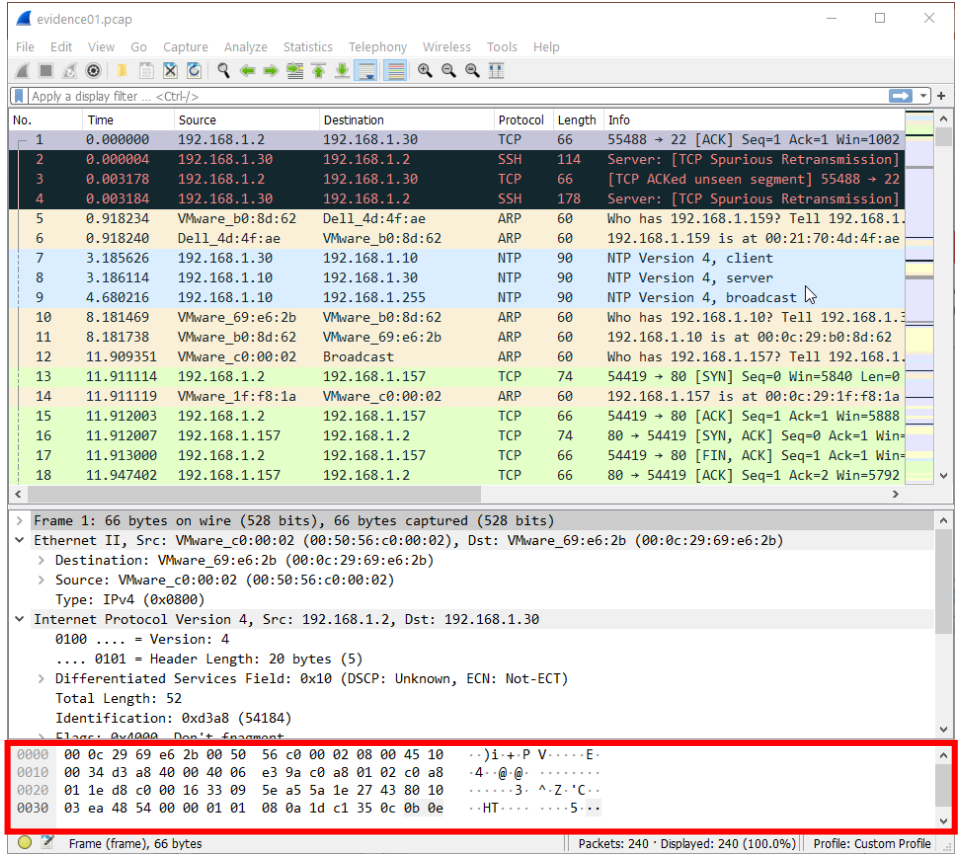
Wireshark Interface – Packet Details Pane



Lists all the packets captured including:

- Time difference between packets received
- Source and destination IP addresses
- Protocol
- Packet length
- Protocol fields

Wireshark Interface – Packet Bytes Pane



Lists information inside the selected packet including:

- Incremental count or offset from the start of the selected packet
- Packet displayed in hexadecimal
- Packet displayed in ASCII

Wireshark – Display filters

- Syntax is based on expressions returning true or false
- Using with Boolean logic operators to create expressions

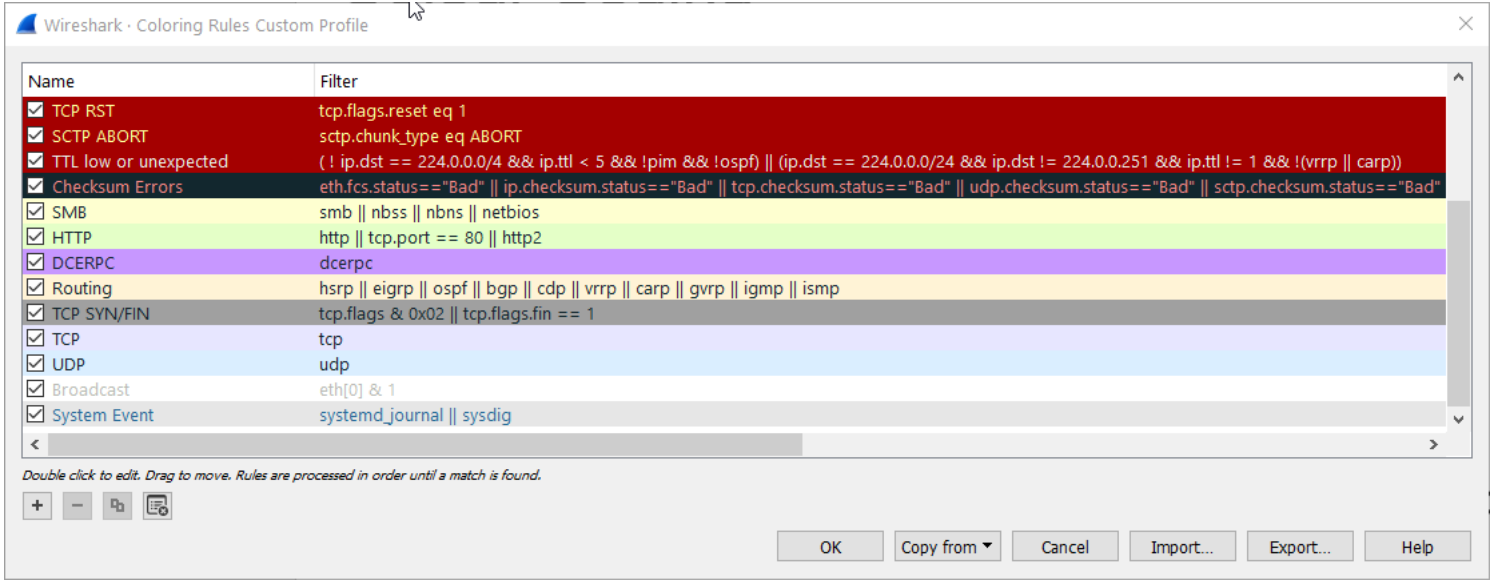
English	C-like	Description and Example
eq	==	Equal `ip.src eq 10.0.0.5`
ne	!=	Not equal `ip.dst != 10.0.0.20`
gt	>	Greater than `frame.len ge 10`
lt	<	Less than `frame.len < 128`
ge	>=	Greater than or equal to `frame.len ge 0x100`
le	<=	Less than or equal to `frame.len <= 0x20`
contains		Protocol, field or slice contains a value `sip.To contains "a1762"`
matches	~	Protocol or text field match Pearl regular expression `http.host matches "acme\.(org|com|net)"`
bitwise_and	&	Compare bit field value `tcp.flags & 0x02`

Wireshark – Display filters – Operators

- Using display filters requires matching operators against variables in the packet
- Expressions are combined using logical operators

English	C-like	Description and Example
and	&&	Logical AND - Returns true if both expressions are true
or	||	Logical OR – Returns true if one or both expressions are true
xor	^^	Exclusive OR – Returns true if only one of both expressions is true
not	!	Logical NOT – Negates the following expression
	[…]	Slice operator – With this operator a slice (substring) of the string can be accessed. dns.resp.name[1..4] accesses the first four characters of the DNS responses name
	( )	Groups expressions together

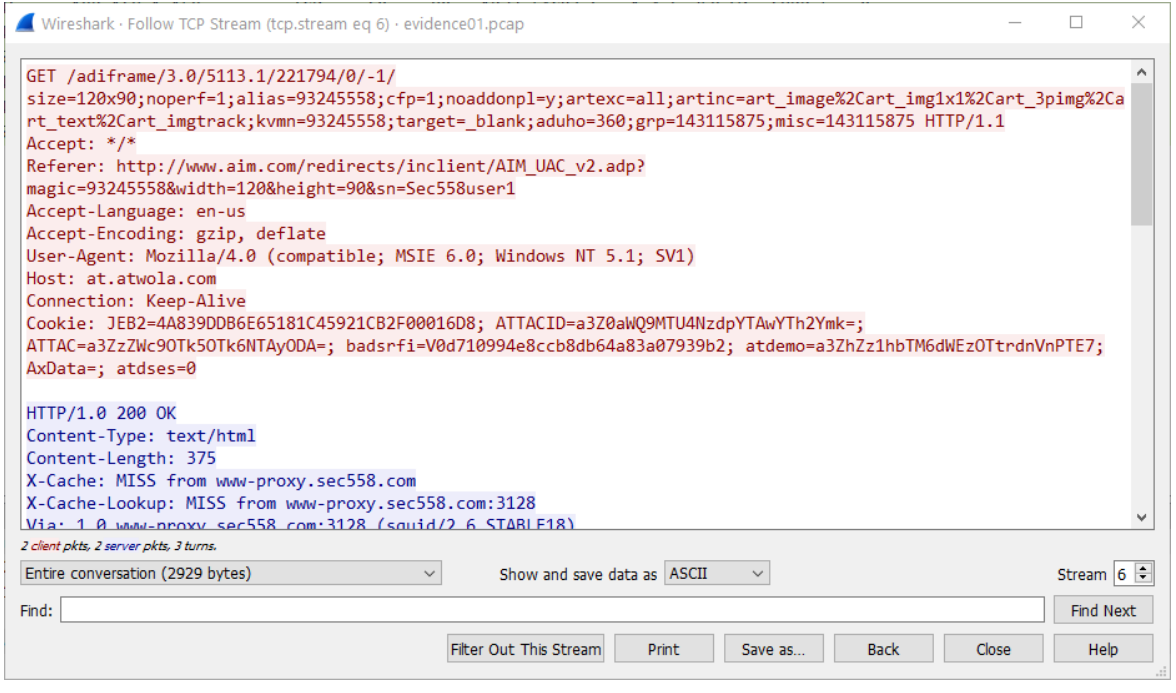
Wireshark – Colour Coding



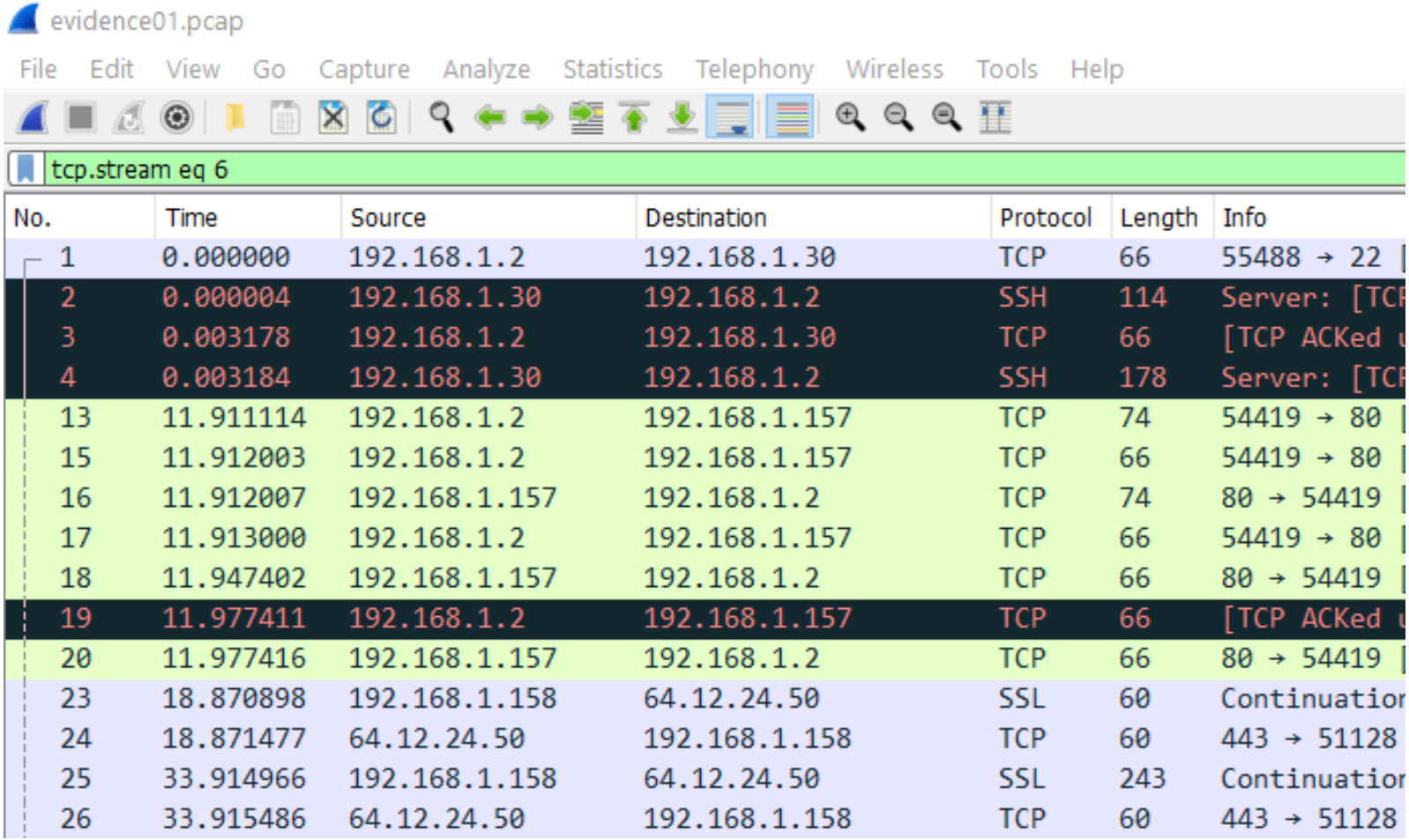
- The packet list pane uses colours to differentiate traffic types. By default,
  - light purple is TCP traffic
  - light blue is UDP traffic
  - black identifies packets with errors

Wireshark – Viewing Streams

- To view the full conversation by protocol between the source and destination, right-click a packet and select Follow > TCP Stream.
- Closing the TCP stream window will highlight conversation in the Packet List Pane

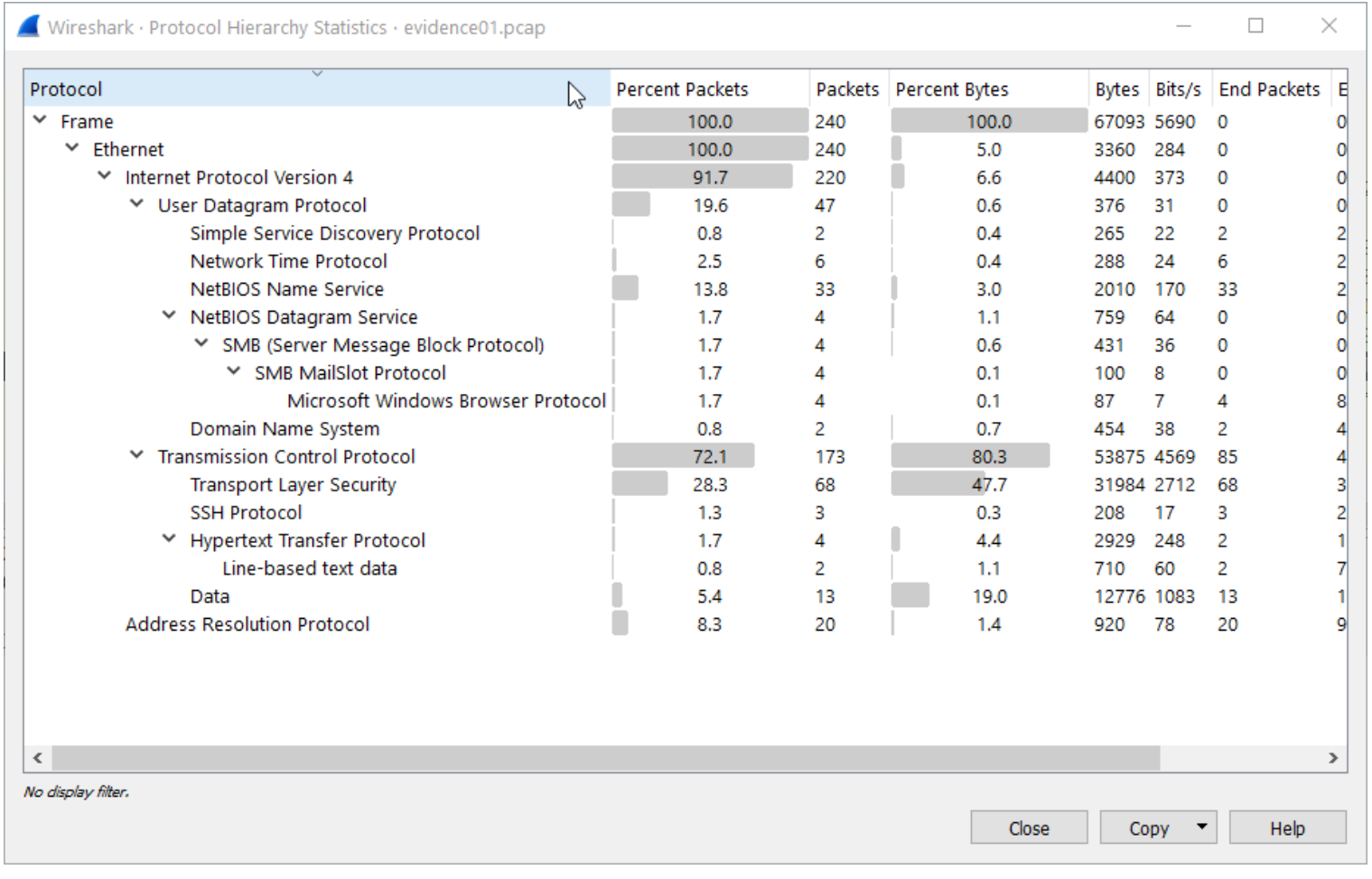


Wireshark – Viewing Streams



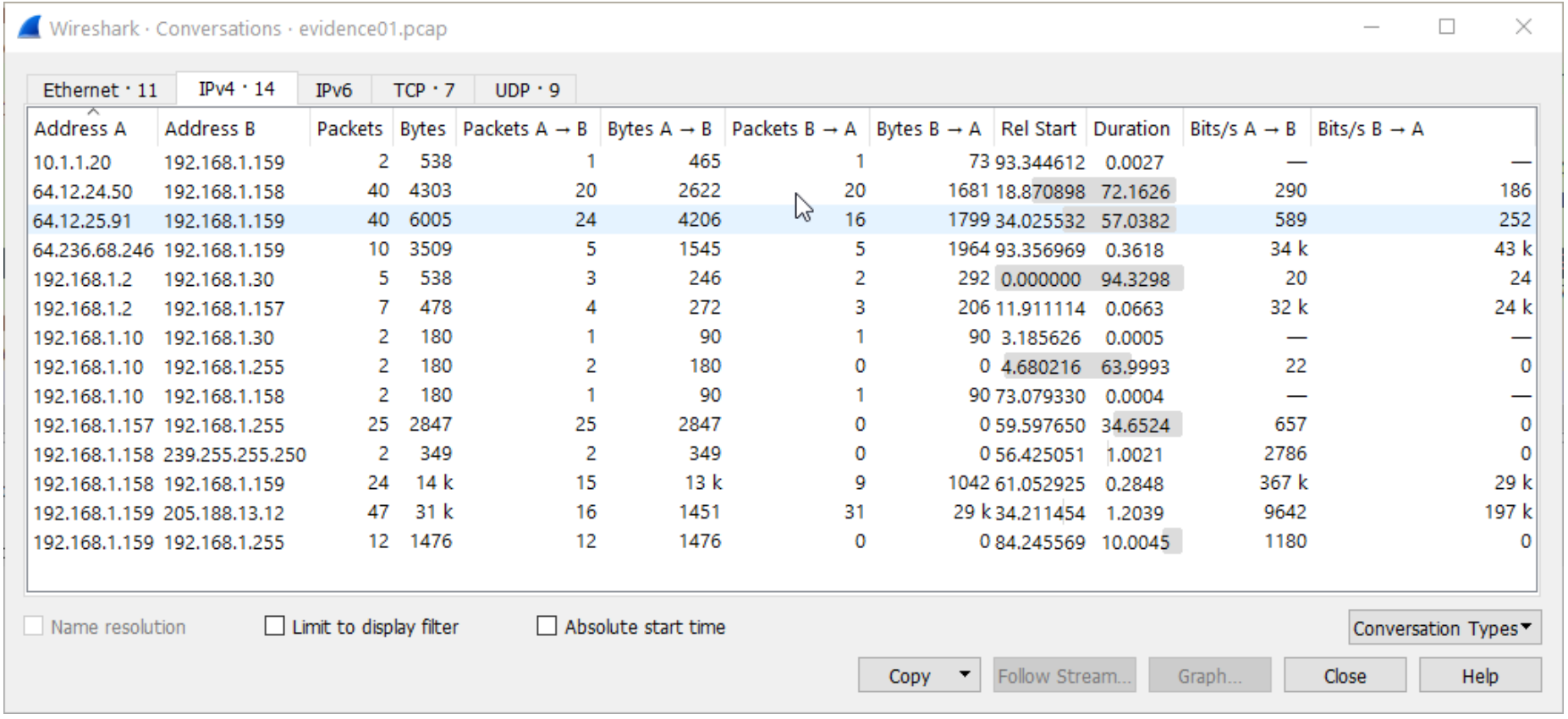
No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1	0.000000	192.168.1.2	192.168.1.30	TCP	66	55488 → 22
2	0.000004	192.168.1.30	192.168.1.2	SSH	114	Server: [TCP
3	0.003178	192.168.1.2	192.168.1.30	TCP	66	[TCP ACKed u
4	0.003184	192.168.1.30	192.168.1.2	SSH	178	Server: [TCP
13	11.911114	192.168.1.2	192.168.1.157	TCP	74	54419 → 80
15	11.912003	192.168.1.2	192.168.1.157	TCP	66	54419 → 80
16	11.912007	192.168.1.157	192.168.1.2	TCP	74	80 → 54419
17	11.913000	192.168.1.2	192.168.1.157	TCP	66	54419 → 80
18	11.947402	192.168.1.157	192.168.1.2	TCP	66	80 → 54419
19	11.977411	192.168.1.2	192.168.1.157	TCP	66	[TCP ACKed u
20	11.977416	192.168.1.157	192.168.1.2	TCP	66	80 → 54419
23	18.870898	192.168.1.158	64.12.24.50	SSL	60	Continuation
24	18.871477	64.12.24.50	192.168.1.158	TCP	60	443 → 51128
25	33.914966	192.168.1.158	64.12.24.50	SSL	243	Continuation
26	33.915486	64.12.24.50	192.168.1.158	TCP	60	443 → 51128

Wireshark Statistics – Protocol Hierarchy



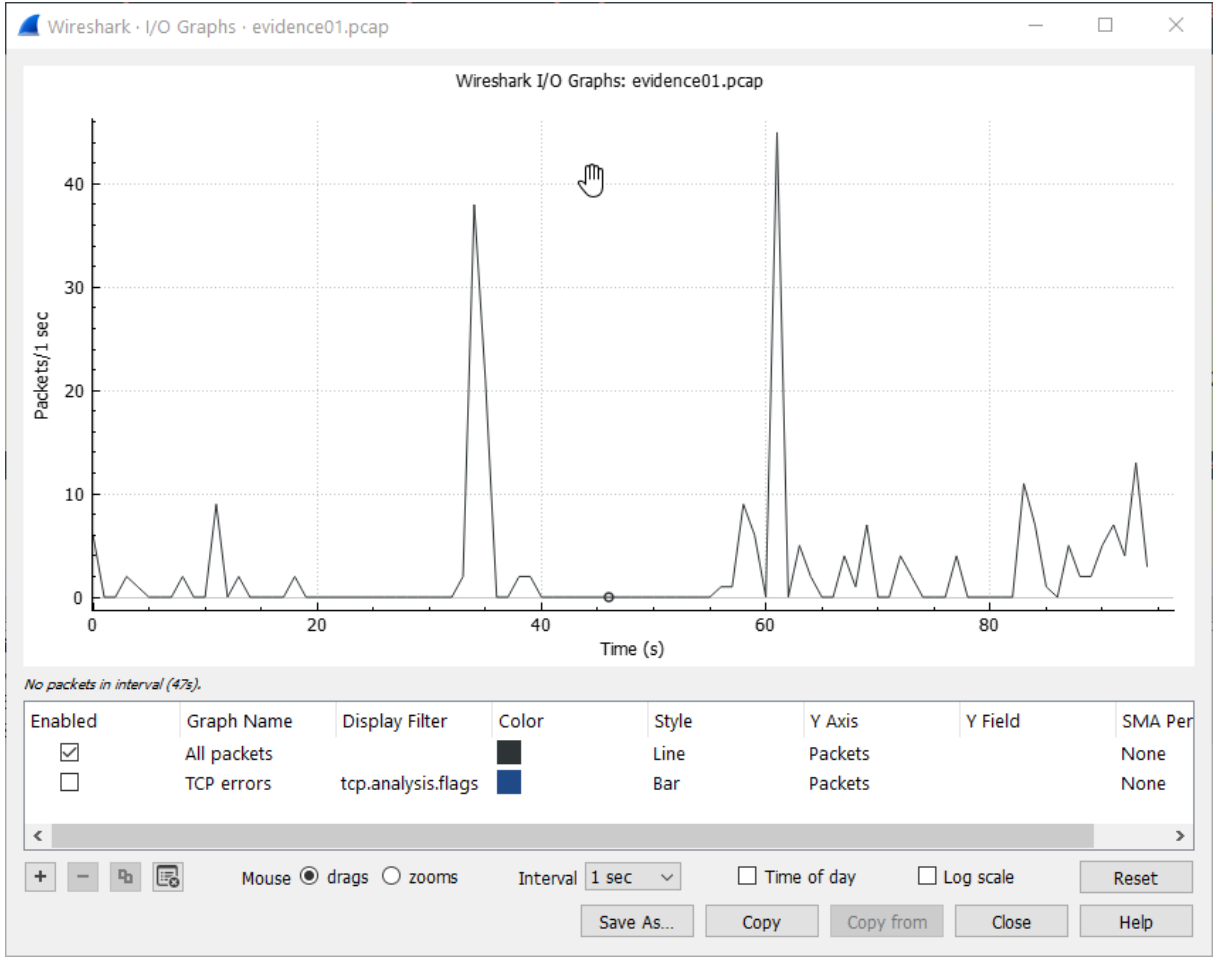
Protocol	Percent Packets	Packets	Percent Bytes	Bytes	Bits/s	End Packets	E
Frame	100.0	240	100.0	67093	5690	0	0
Ethernet	100.0	240	5.0	3360	284	0	0
Internet Protocol Version 4	91.7	220	6.6	4400	373	0	0
User Datagram Protocol	19.6	47	0.6	376	31	0	0
Simple Service Discovery Protocol	0.8	2	0.4	265	22	2	2
Network Time Protocol	2.5	6	0.4	288	24	6	2
NetBIOS Name Service	13.8	33	3.0	2010	170	33	2
NetBIOS Datagram Service	1.7	4	1.1	759	64	0	0
SMB (Server Message Block Protocol)	1.7	4	0.6	431	36	0	0
SMB MailSlot Protocol	1.7	4	0.1	100	8	0	0
Microsoft Windows Browser Protocol	1.7	4	0.1	87	7	4	8
Domain Name System	0.8	2	0.7	454	38	2	4
Transmission Control Protocol	72.1	173	80.3	53875	4569	85	4
Transport Layer Security	28.3	68	47.7	31984	2712	68	3
SSH Protocol	1.3	3	0.3	208	17	3	2
Hypertext Transfer Protocol	1.7	4	4.4	2929	248	2	1
Line-based text data	0.8	2	1.1	710	60	2	7
Data	5.4	13	19.0	12776	1083	13	1
Address Resolution Protocol	8.3	20	1.4	920	78	20	9

Wireshark Statistics – Conversation

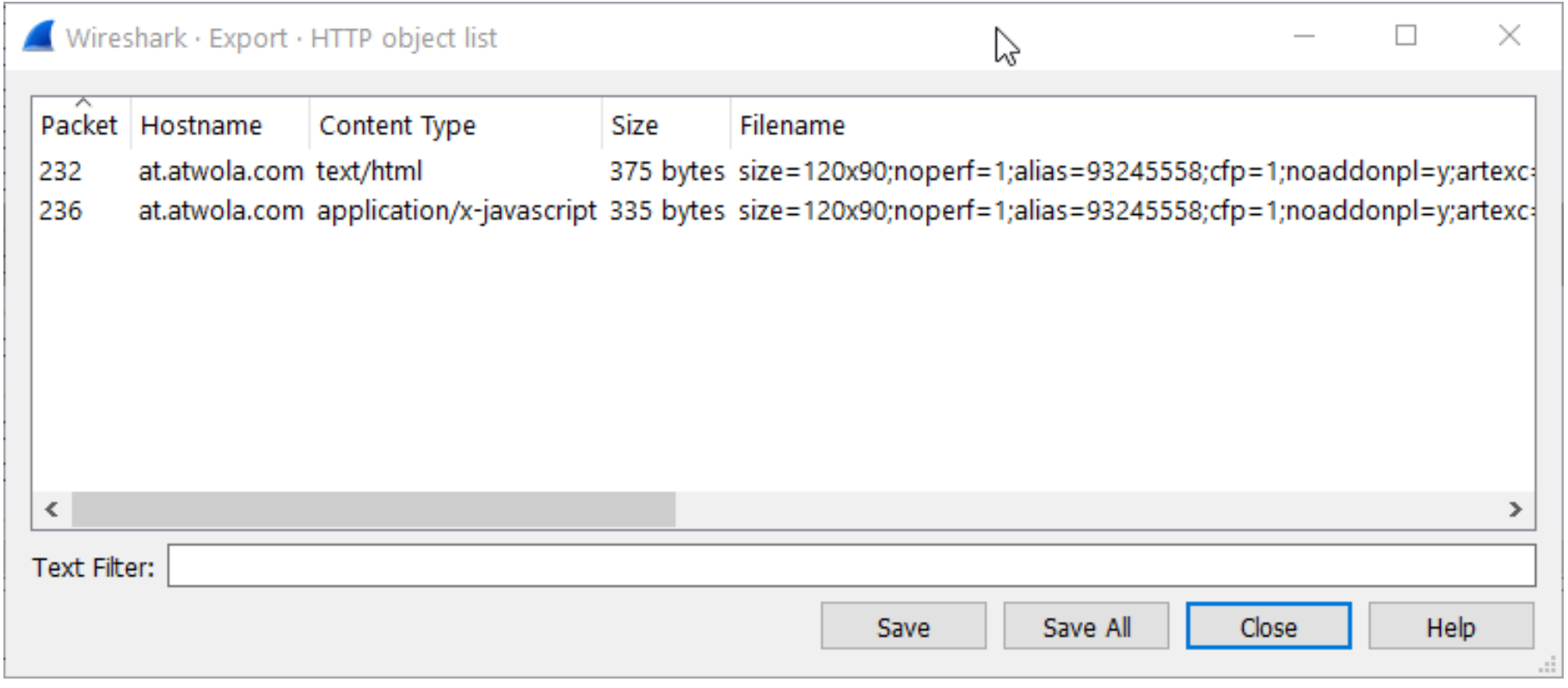


Address A	Address B	Packets	Bytes	Packets A → B	Bytes A → B	Packets B → A	Bytes B → A	Rel Start	Duration	Bits/s A → B	Bits/s B → A
10.1.1.20	192.168.1.159	2	538	1	465	1	73	93.344612	0.0027	—	—
64.12.24.50	192.168.1.158	40	4303	20	2622	20	1681	18.870898	72.1626	290	186
64.12.25.91	192.168.1.159	40	6005	24	4206	16	1799	34.025532	57.0382	589	252
64.236.68.246	192.168.1.159	10	3509	5	1545	5	1964	93.356969	0.3618	34 k	43 k
192.168.1.2	192.168.1.30	5	538	3	246	2	292	0.000000	94.3298	20	24
192.168.1.2	192.168.1.157	7	478	4	272	3	206	11.911114	0.0663	32 k	24 k
192.168.1.10	192.168.1.30	2	180	1	90	1	90	3.185626	0.0005	—	—
192.168.1.10	192.168.1.255	2	180	2	180	0	0	4.680216	63.9993	22	0
192.168.1.10	192.168.1.158	2	180	1	90	1	90	73.079330	0.0004	—	—
192.168.1.157	192.168.1.255	25	2847	25	2847	0	0	59.597650	34.6524	657	0
192.168.1.158	239.255.255.250	2	349	2	349	0	0	56.425051	1.0021	2786	0
192.168.1.158	192.168.1.159	24	14 k	15	13 k	9	1042	61.052925	0.2848	367 k	29 k
192.168.1.159	205.188.13.12	47	31 k	16	1451	31	29 k	34.211454	1.2039	9642	197 k
192.168.1.159	192.168.1.255	12	1476	12	1476	0	0	84.245569	10.0045	1180	0

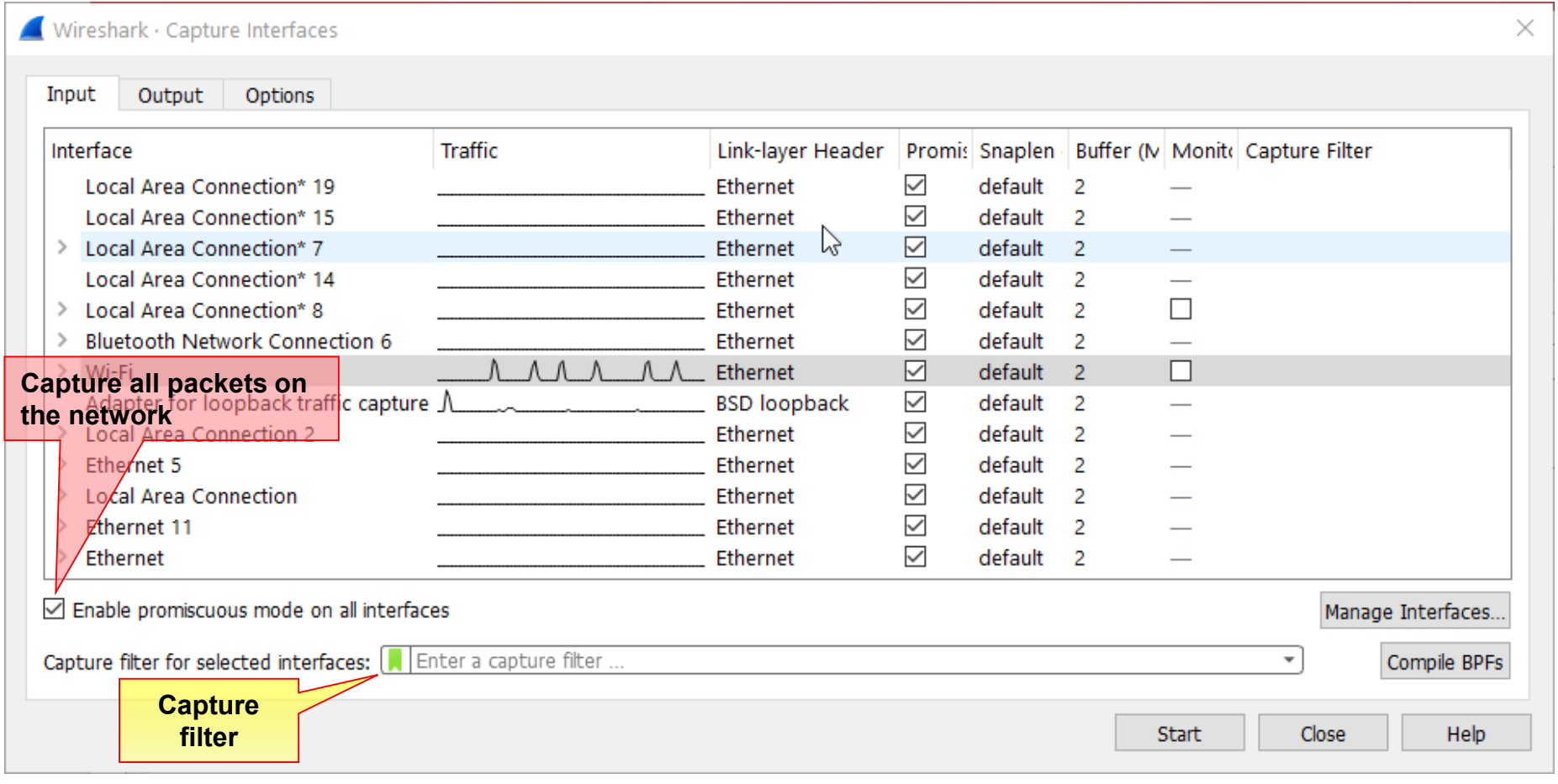
Wireshark Statistics – IO Graph



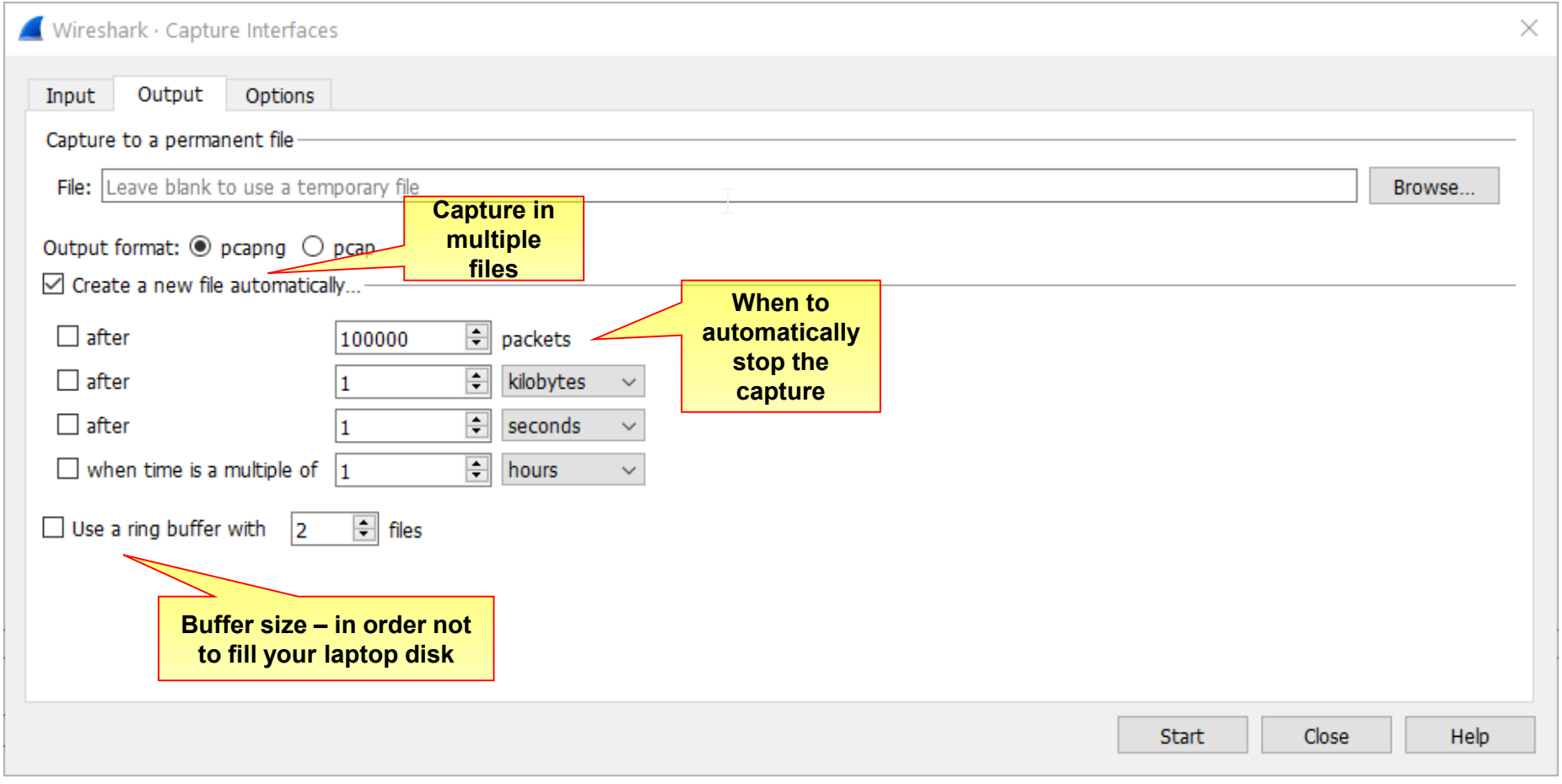
Wireshark – Export Objects



Wireshark – Capture Options



Wireshark – Capture Options



Summary

- Packet analysis tools help analysts to identify traffic patterns present on a network
- Tcpdump can interpret and decode the protocols used at various layers of the OSI model
- Tcpdump and Dumpcap apply filters in the Berkley Packet Filter (BPF) format to reduce the amount of information an analyst must sift through
- Tshark utilizes human-friendly display filters instead of the BPF syntax
- Wireshark is a flexible tool used by analysts to understand network traffic
- Wireshark has access to thousands of display filters
- Wireshark can generate a variety of statistics

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- (n.d.). Wireshark User's Guide. Retrieved March 1, 2020, from https://www.wireshark.org/docs/wsug_html_chunked/