

Application Layer Protocols (HTTP,SMTP/POP)

Examination Lab

Objectives:

Capture traffic and observe the PDUS for HTTP, SMTP, POP.

Task 1: Observe HTTP traffic exchange between a client and server.

Step 1 – Run the simulation and capture the traffic.

- Enter **Simulation** mode.
- Click on the PC1. Open the **Web Browser** from the **Desktop**.
- Enter **www.bracu.ac.bd** into the browser. Clicking on **Go** will initiate a web server request. Minimize the Web Client configuration window.
- Two packets appear in the **Event List**, a DNS request needed to resolve the URL to the IP address of the web server and an ARP request needed to resolve the IP address of the server to its hardware MAC address.
- Click the **Auto Capture / Play** button to run the simulation and capture events.
- Sit tight and observe the packets flowing through the network.



- When the above message appears Click “View Previous Events”.
- Click on PC1. The web browser displays a web page appears.

Step 2 – Examine the following captured traffic.

Our objective in this lab is only to observe HTTP traffic.

	Last Device	At Device	Type
1.	PC1	Switch 0	HTTP
2..	Local Web Server	Switch 1	HTTP

- Find the following packets given in the table above in the **Event List**, and click on the colored square in the **Info** column.



- When you click on the Info square for a packet in the event list the **PDU Information** window opens. If you click on these layers, the algorithm used by the device (in this case, the PC) is displayed. View what is going on at each layer.

- Examine the PDU information for the remaining events in the exchange.

For packet 1::

What kind of HTTP packet is packet no. 1?

Packet no. 1 is an HTTP Solicitation parcel, as this is requesting the items in the site to the Nearby Web Server

Click onto “Inbound PDU details” tab. Scroll down at the end, what do you see?

I see that there is an HTTP Request field which tells us what language the host PC is going to accept. For example, English (US).

For packet 2:

Click onto “Inbound PDU details” tab. Scroll down at the end, what do you see? What kind of HTTP packet is this?

I see that now, there is an HTTP Reaction field. HTTPS Response packet by the Nearby Web Server and this is sending back every one of the items in the mentioned site (www.bracu.ac.bd) where the substance length of the entire page is of 151 bytes, similar to, HTTP Data:Connection: close content Length: 151.

Task 2: Observe email traffic exchange between a client and email server using SMTP and POP3.

Step 1 – Run the simulation and capture the traffic.

- On the Event List window click “Reset Simulation” button. All previous packets will disappear.
- At the bottom of the Event List window, there is a filter which filters the protocols that we want to see. Click Edit filters. Another window appears showing different protocols, unclick HTTP and click SMTP and POP3.



- Click a space anywhere outside the popup window, then it will disappear.
- Your Event List Filter should be as shown below:

Event List Filters

Visible Events: ARP, DNS, POP3, SMTP

Edit Filters Show All

- Now click on the PC1. Close the web browser window. Open the **Email** from the **Desktop**. A mail browser window will open. Click “compose”, another window appears.

Compose Mail

Send To: sakib@bracu.ac.bd Subject: Hello

- Fill the window as shown and press send.
- Minimize the client window .
- Click the **Auto Capture / Play** button to run the simulation and capture events.
- Sit tight and observe the packets flowing through the network.
- This interaction is between the sender client and its email server.

Step 2 – Examine the following captured traffic.

Our objective in this lab is only to observe SMTP traffic.

	Last Device	At Device	Type
3.	PC1	Switch 0	DNS
4.	PC1	Switch 0	SMTP
5.	Bracu Email Server	Switch 1	SMTP

- Find the following packets given in the table above in the **Event List**, and click on the colored square in the **Info** column.
- Examine the PDU information.

For packet 4::

What is the purpose of this DNS packet?

The purpose of this DNS packet is to get corresponding IP Address of the name "bracu.ac.bd" which is basically the Bracu Email server.

For packet 5& 6::

Explain why SMTP packet was sent to the email server and the server replied with an SMTP packet?

SMTP packet is used to transfer a mail from the user agent to the Email server .

So, when PC1 typed an email and pressed send , the SMTP packet sent it to the BRACU Email server and the reply was sent back to let the user agent know about the success of the email being sent.

Step 3 – Run the simulation and capture the traffic for POP.

- On the Event List window click “Reset Simulation” button. All previous packets will disappear.
- Now click on the PC0. Open the **Email** from the **Desktop**. A mail browser window will open. Click “**receive**”, minimize the window.
- Click the **Auto Capture / Play** button to run the simulation and capture events.
- Sit tight and observe the packets flowing through the network.
- This interaction is between the sender client and its email server.

Step 2 – Examine the following captured traffic.

Our objective in this lab is only to observe POP traffic.

	Last Device	At Device	Type
6.	PC1	Switch 0	DNS
7.	PC1	Switch 0	POP3
8.	Bracu Email Server	Switch 1	POP3

- Find the following packets given in the table above in the **Event List**, and click on the colored square in the **Info** column.
- Examine the PDU information.

For packet 6::

What is the purpose of this DNS packet?

The purpose of this DNS packet is to acquire the IP address of the BRACU email server since the received emails are in the mailbox of that server.

For packet 7&8::

Explain why POP packet was sent to the email server and the server replied with a POP packet?

~~A POP3 packet was sent to the email server for pulling out the received email was stored~~
in the mailbox of the email server . Hence , the reply of the server contains the actual email which was sent by PC1

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