



Kepware Technologies

Using Wireshark for Ethernet Diagnostics

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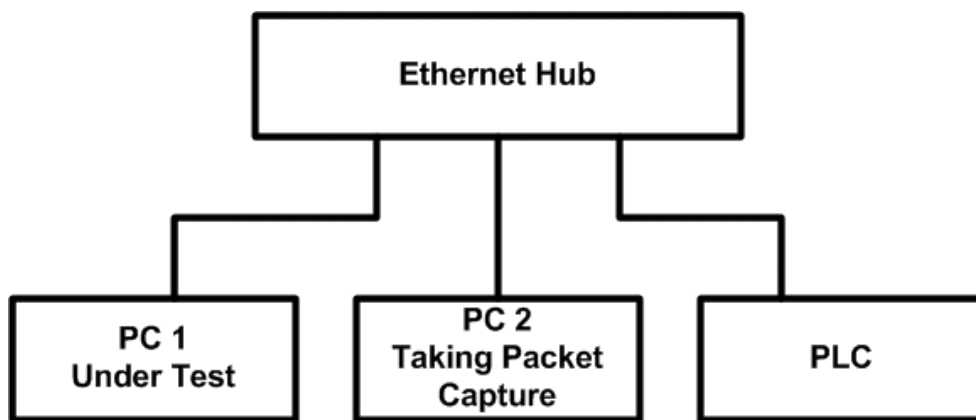
1.Introduction

This document intends to discuss how to get information on the **PC's** Ethernet communications for troubleshooting. It will demonstrate how to use a software utility like Wireshark to capture all packets being sent or received by the **PC's** Ethernet card.

2.Setting up the Software

The following examples use packet-capturing software that can run on the following:

1. A PC that requires troubleshooting (such as a **"PC under test"**).
2. A PC that can receive packets being sent to and from the PCs and devices under test. For example, the diagram below displays how to record communications between a PC and a PLC.



A packet sent to an Ethernet Hub (such as from PC 1) is broadcast to all of the hub's ports (such as to PC 2 and the PLC). This allows the packet-capturing software located on PC 2 to monitor the packets being sent by the other PCs and devices (such as PC 1 and the PLC).

In this example, an Ethernet switch could most likely not be used instead of an Ethernet Hub. A packet sent to a switch (such as from PC 1) is only sent to the PC or device to which the packet is addressed (such as to the PLC). If a switch is used, PC 2 will not be able to monitor the traffic between PC 1 and the PLC. Although some switches allow one port to monitor another port, the hub always allows traffic to be monitored.

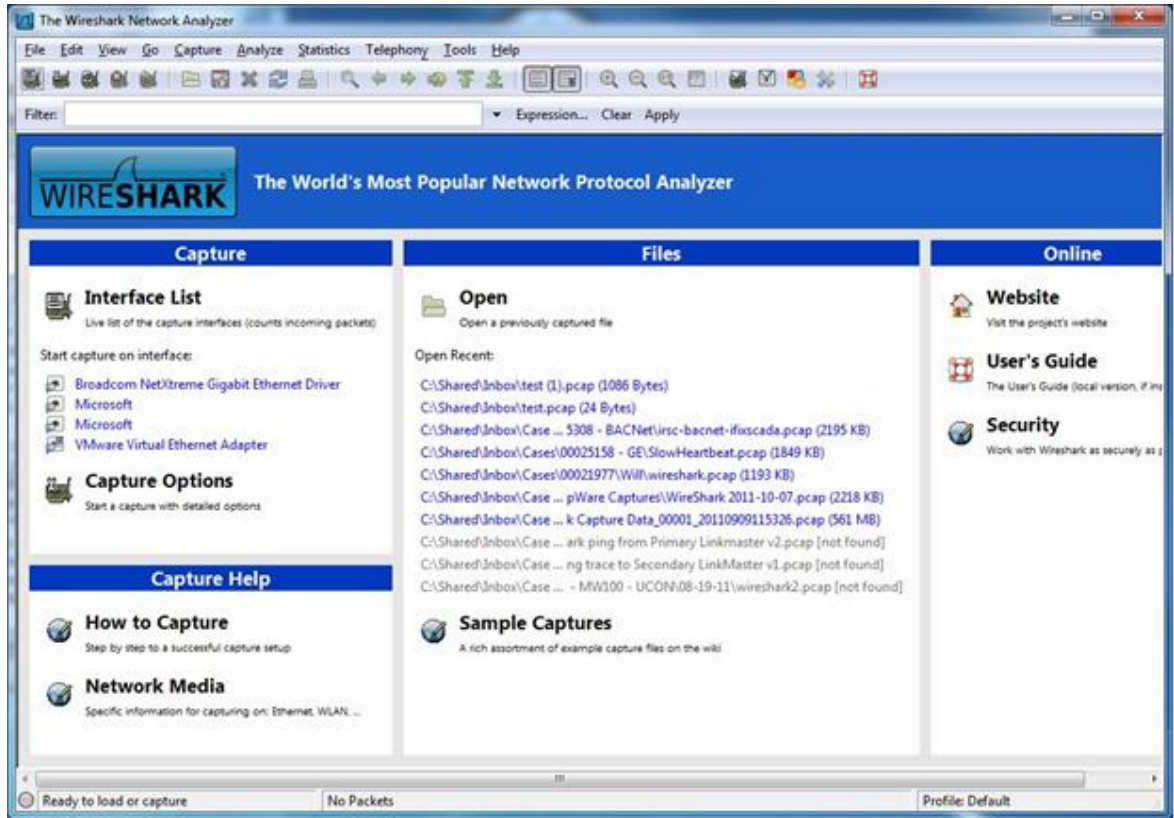
Once users have a PC that can monitor packets being sent to and from the devices under test, a packet-capturing program can be installed on the PC and a capture can be taken.

Note: The following examples use version 1.4.1 of the freeware packet-capture utility Wireshark. This software is available at www.Wireshark.org.

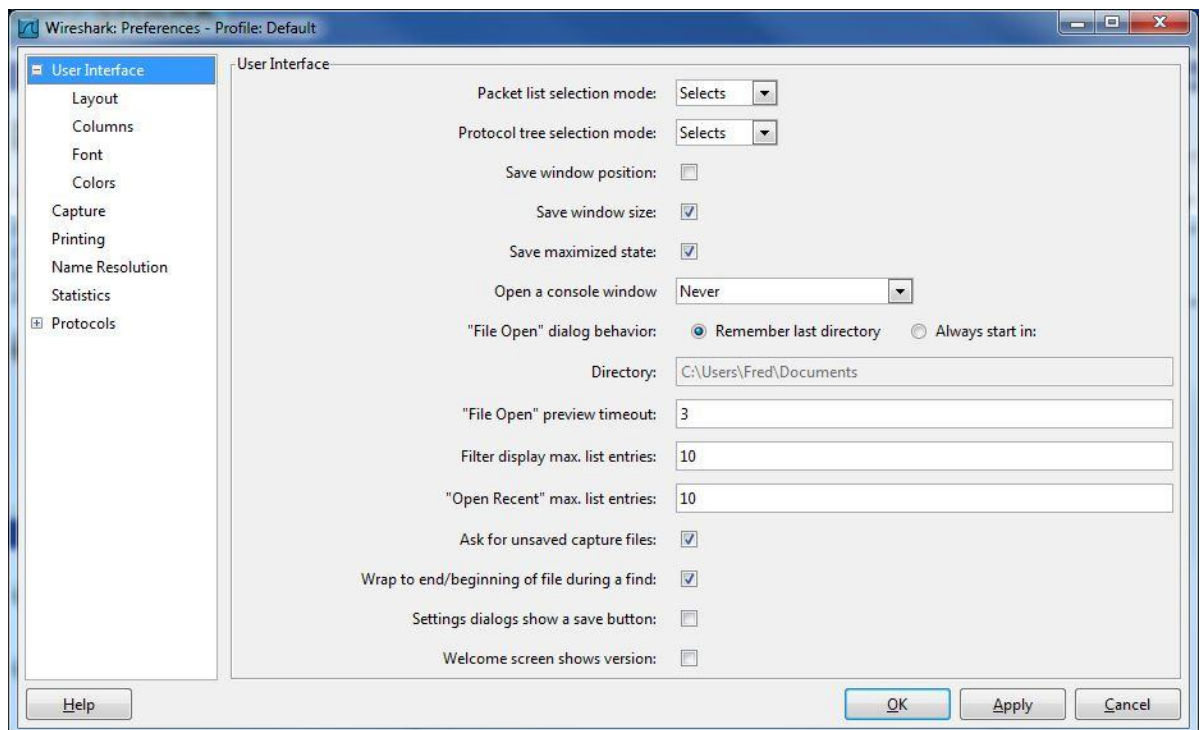
3.Using Wireshark

For information on using the packet-capturing program Wireshark, refer to the instructions below.

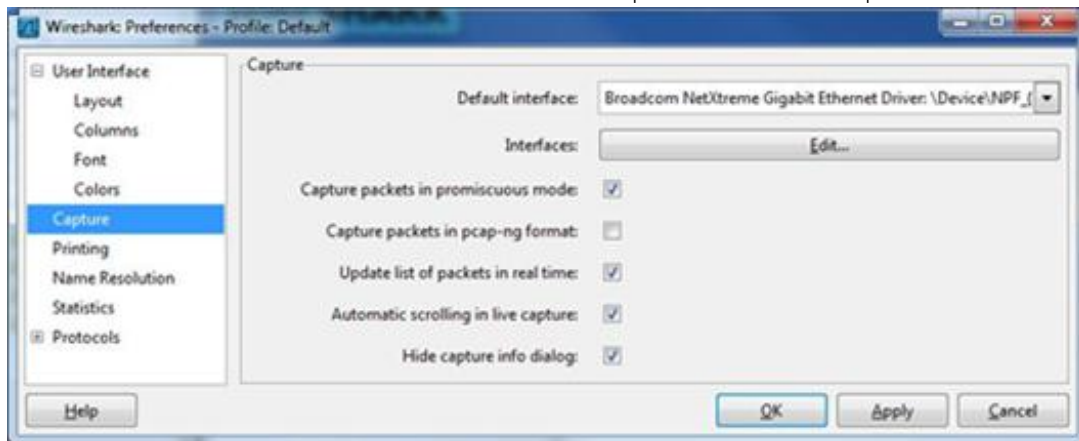
1. To start, open **Wireshark**. If this is the first time it is being opened, click **Edit | Preferences**.



2. In the left-hand pane, select **Capture**.



3. In **Default Interface**, select the Ethernet adapter from the drop-down menu.



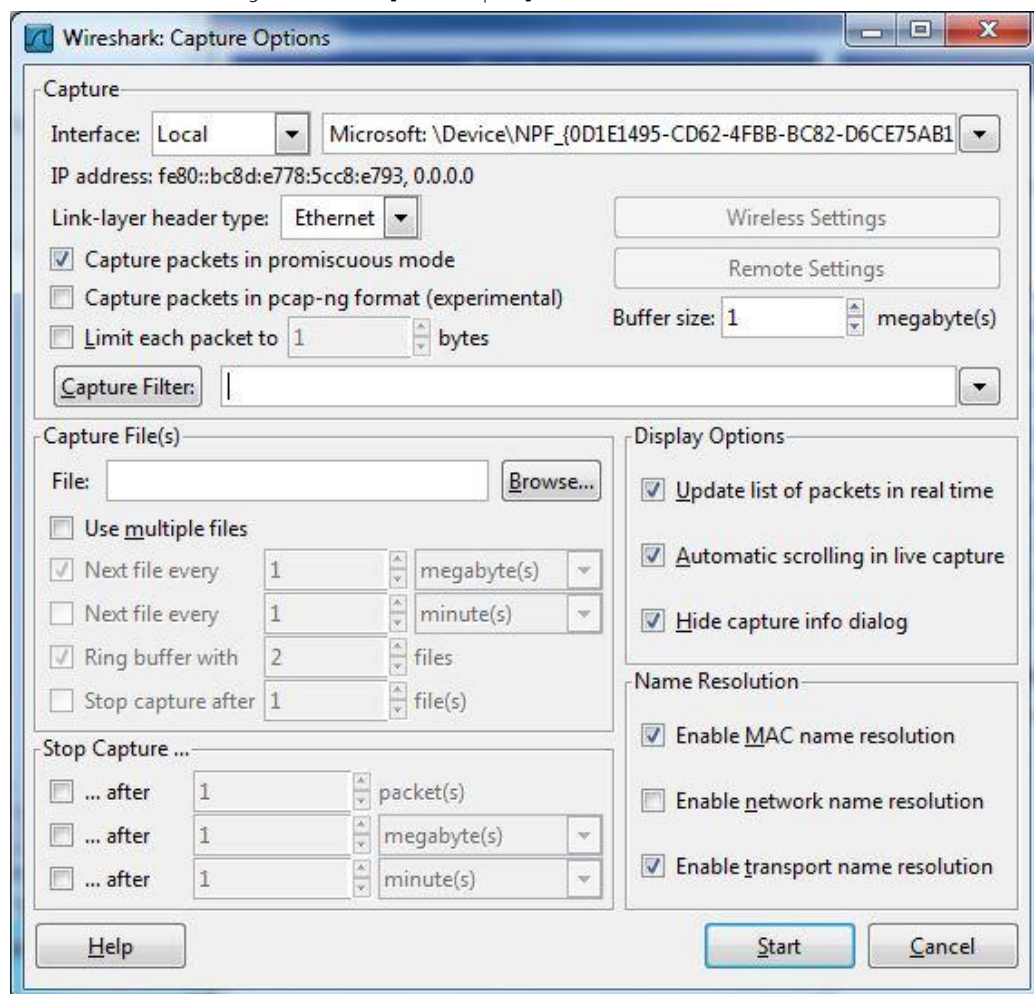
Note: Users must select an adapter the first time that Wireshark is used, regardless of whether there is only one available in the packet-capturing PC.

4. Once finished, click **OK**.

3.1 Selecting Capture Options

The Capture Options specify what network packets will be collected and how the capture files will be handled.

1. To set the default capture options, select **Capture Options** from the main form. Alternatively, click **Capture | Options**.

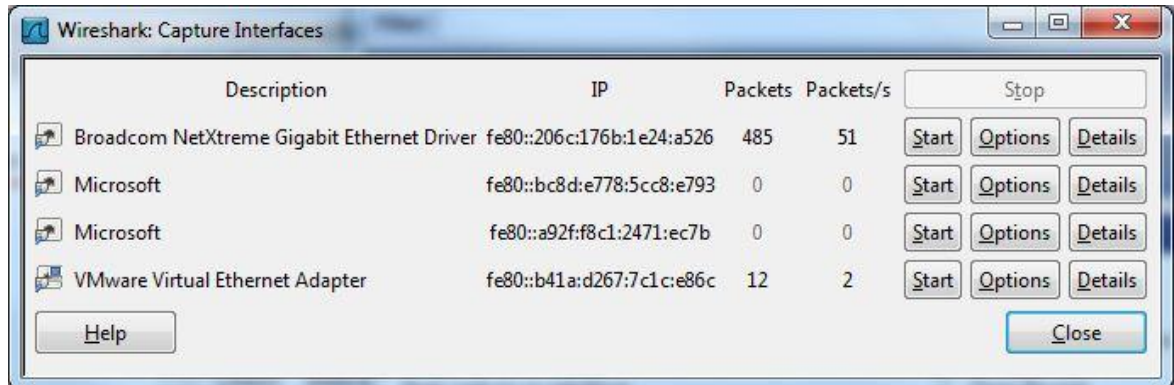


2. In **Capture Filter**, define whether specific traffic should be captured. For more information, click **Help**.

Note: A capture filter can reduce the size of the capture file and can also be useful on high-traffic networks or for long-term capturing. The drawback to using capture filters is that other network traffic is not captured (which could be used to explain problems).

3.2 Starting the Capture

1. The capture can be started in several ways:
 - a. In the startup window, click **Interface List**. Then, click the **Start** button for the interface that will be used.



- b. In the main menu, click **Capture | Start**.
- c. Then, click the **Start a new live capture** toolbar icon.



Note: Options b and c will start collecting from the default interface that was specified in Capture Options.

2. Once the test devices have communicated, stop the capture by clicking **Capture | Stop** in the main menu. Alternatively, click the **Stop the running live capture** toolbar icon.



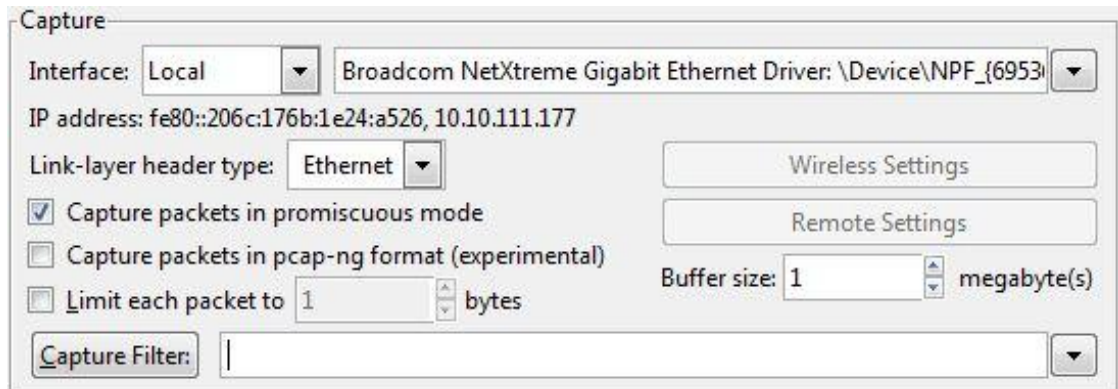
Note: The packets should be displayed in the main window, and can be saved to disk.

3.3 Additional Capture Options

A packet capture should include everything because the TCP layer packets sometimes display the issue with the device instead of with the protocol-specific packets. Because captures can get very large on busy networks, users can specify additional capture options for managing the capture content.

3.3.1 Capture Filters

Capture Filters refine the capture, and may be entered by hand or through the Wireshark Filter Expression Builder.

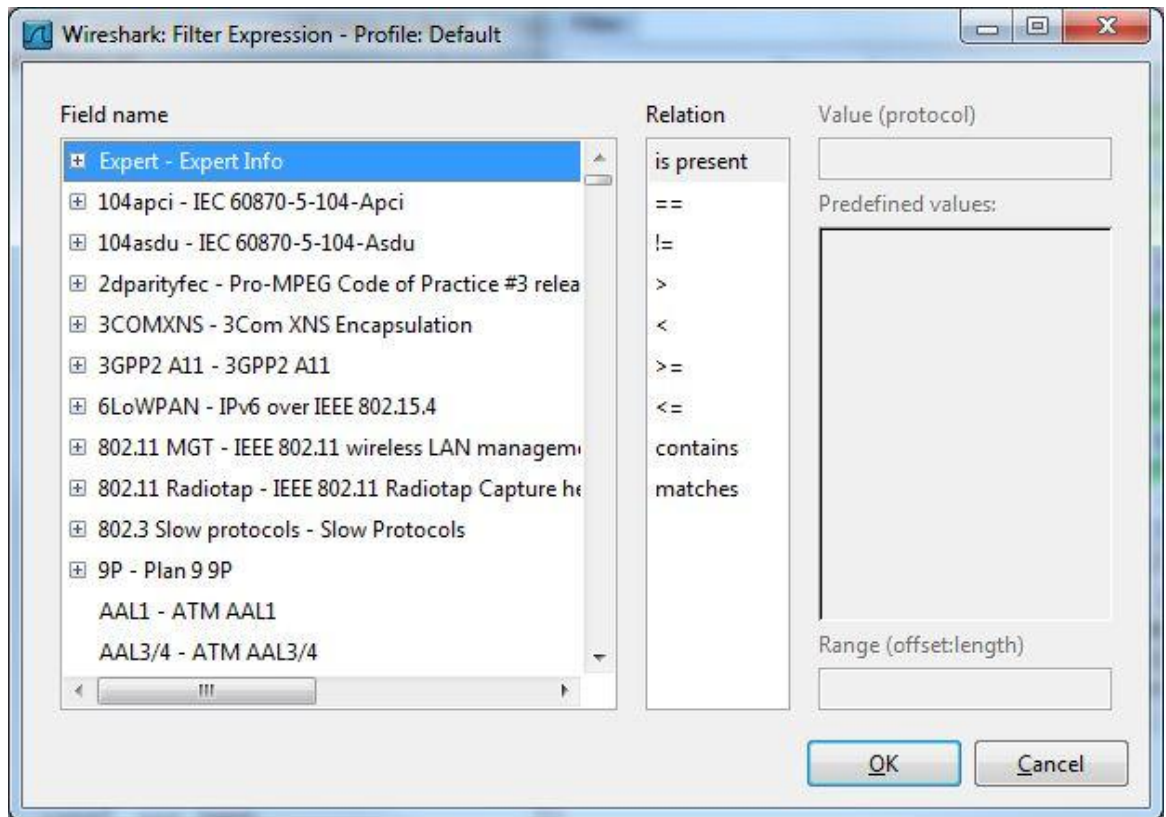


The Capture dialog box in Wireshark shows the following settings:

- Interface: Local (dropdown), Broadcom NetXtreme Gigabit Ethernet Driver: \Device\NPF_{6953} (dropdown)
- IP address: fe80::206c:176b:1e24:a526, 10.10.111.177
- Link-layer header type: Ethernet (dropdown)
- Buttons: Wireless Settings, Remote Settings
- ☒ Capture packets in promiscuous mode
- ☐ Capture packets in pcap-ng format (experimental)
- ☐ Limit each packet to 1 (spin box) bytes
- Buffer size: 1 (spin box) megabyte(s)
- Capture Filter: (empty text box)

A typical capture filter may be "ip.addr == 10.20.20.132". This filter would only perform a capture of those packets with a destination or source IP Address of "10.20.20.132".

To use the Wireshark Filter Expression Builder, click **Capture Filter**.



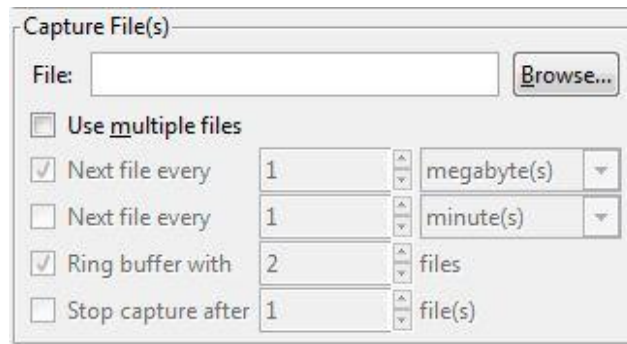
The Filter Expression Builder dialog box shows the following components:

- Field name list (scrollable):
 - Expert - Expert Info
 - 104apci - IEC 60870-5-104-Apci
 - 104asdu - IEC 60870-5-104-Asdu
 - 2dparityfec - Pro-MPEG Code of Practice #3 relea
 - 3COMXNS - 3Com XNS Encapsulation
 - 3GPP2 A11 - 3GPP2 A11
 - 6LoWPAN - IPv6 over IEEE 802.15.4
 - 802.11 MGT - IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN managem
 - 802.11 Radiotap - IEEE 802.11 Radiotap Capture h
 - 802.3 Slow protocols - Slow Protocols
 - 9P - Plan 9 9P
 - AAL1 - ATM AAL1
 - AAL3/4 - ATM AAL3/4
- Relation list (scrollable):
 - is present
 - ==
 - !=
 - >
 - <
 - >=
 - <=
 - contains
 - matches
- Value (protocol) text box
- Predefined values: (empty list box)
- Range (offset:length) text box
- Buttons: OK, Cancel

Note: For information on building filters with the Filter Expression Builder, refer to the Wireshark help documentation.

3.3.2 Capture Files

Users can specify the capture file name and location, and may also break it up into more manageable pieces. Creating files of a smaller size or duration makes it easier to send them as attachments.



Descriptions of the parameters are as follows:

- **File:** This parameter specifies the capture's file name. It is blank by default. If left blank, the capture data will be stored in a temporary file.
- **Use Multiple Files:** When checked, Wireshark will automatically switch to a new file when a specific trigger condition is reached.
- **Next file every n megabyte(s):** This parameter will switch to the next file after the specified number of bytes, kilobytes, megabytes, or gigabytes have been captured. It is only available when Use Multiple Files is enabled. The default setting is 1 megabyte.
- **Next file every n minute(s):** This parameter will switch to the next file after the specified number of seconds, minutes, hours, or days have elapsed. It is only available when Use Multiple Files is enabled. The default setting is 1 minute.
- **Ring buffer with n files:** This parameter will form a ring buffer of the capture files using the specified number of files. It is only available when Use Multiple Files is enabled. The default setting is 2 files.
- **Stop capture after n file(s):** This parameter will stop capturing once it has switched to the next file the specified number of times. It is only available when Use Multiple Files is enabled. The default setting is 1 file.

3.3.3 Stop Capture

Users can also specify when to stop captures. When running an unmonitored capture, it is important to specify a limit as to not overload system memory.



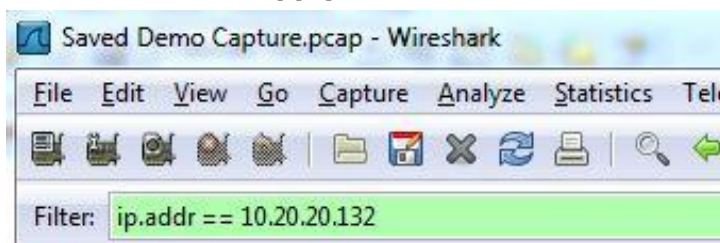
Descriptions of the parameters are as follows:

- **After n packet(s):** When checked, this option will stop capturing after the specified number of packets have been captured.

- **After *n* megabytes(s):** When checked, this option will stop capturing after the specified number of bytes, kilobytes, megabytes, or gigabytes have been captured. This option is disabled when Use Multiple Files is selected.
- **After *n* minute(s):** When checked, this option will stop capturing after the specified number of seconds, minutes, hours, or days have elapsed.

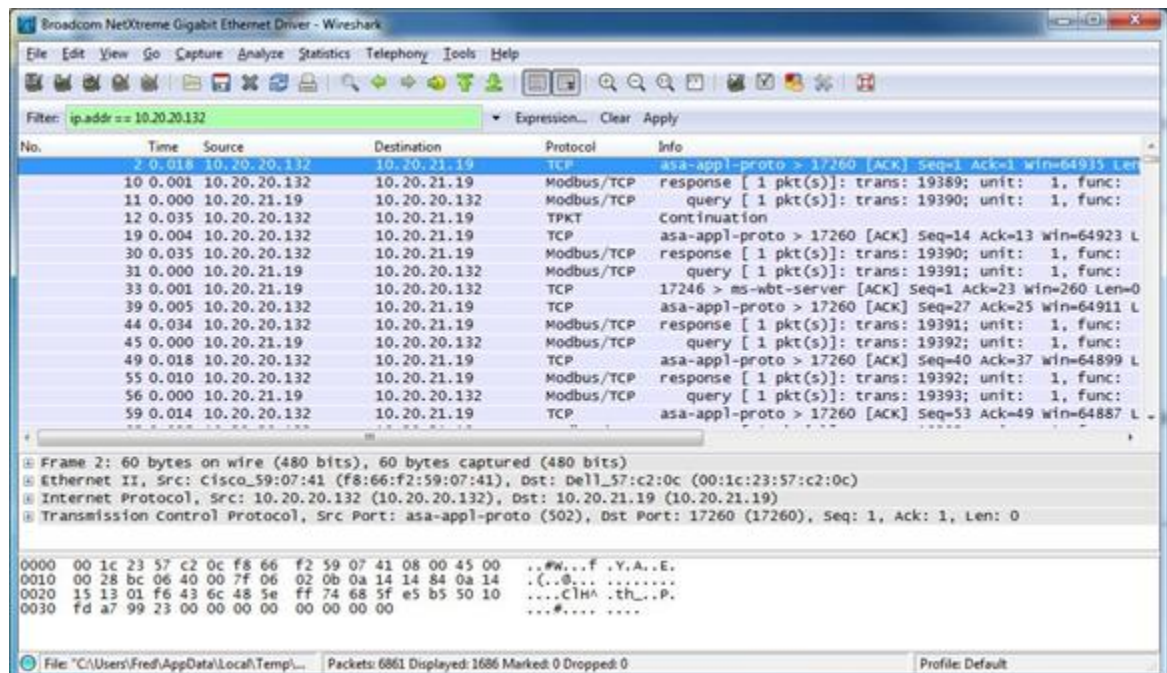
4.Verification and Analysis

1. To start, examine the capture and verify that the communications were captured.
2. If extraneous packets from other devices or software were captured, use a display filter to locate the communications that were under test. For example, if a device's IP address is "10.20.20.132," enter "ip.addr == 10.20.20.132" into **Filter**. Then, click **Apply**.



Note: If the display does not show any packets, there may be a problem with the capture setup.

3. Once the packets have been verified, users can start analysis.

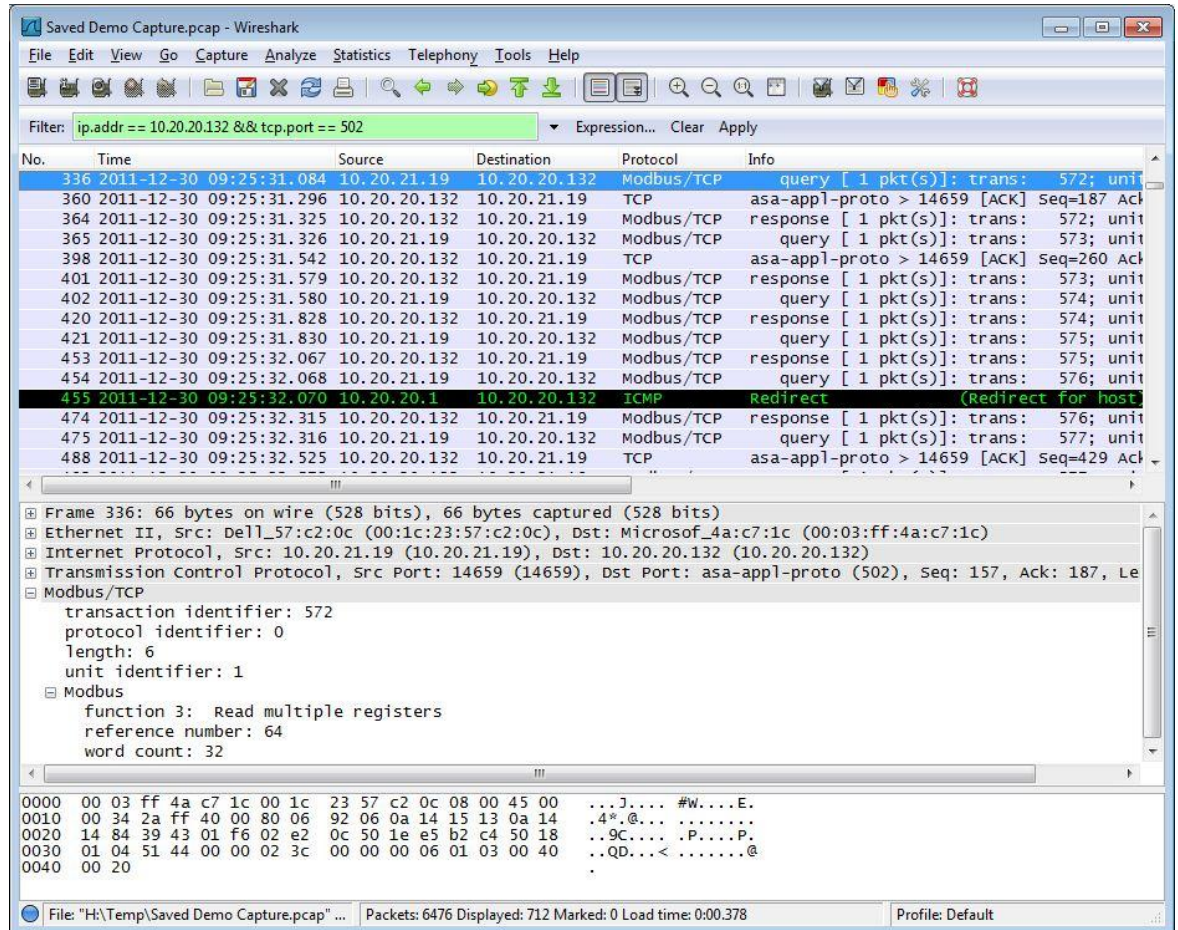


4.1 Additional Display Options

4.1.1 Compound Display Filters

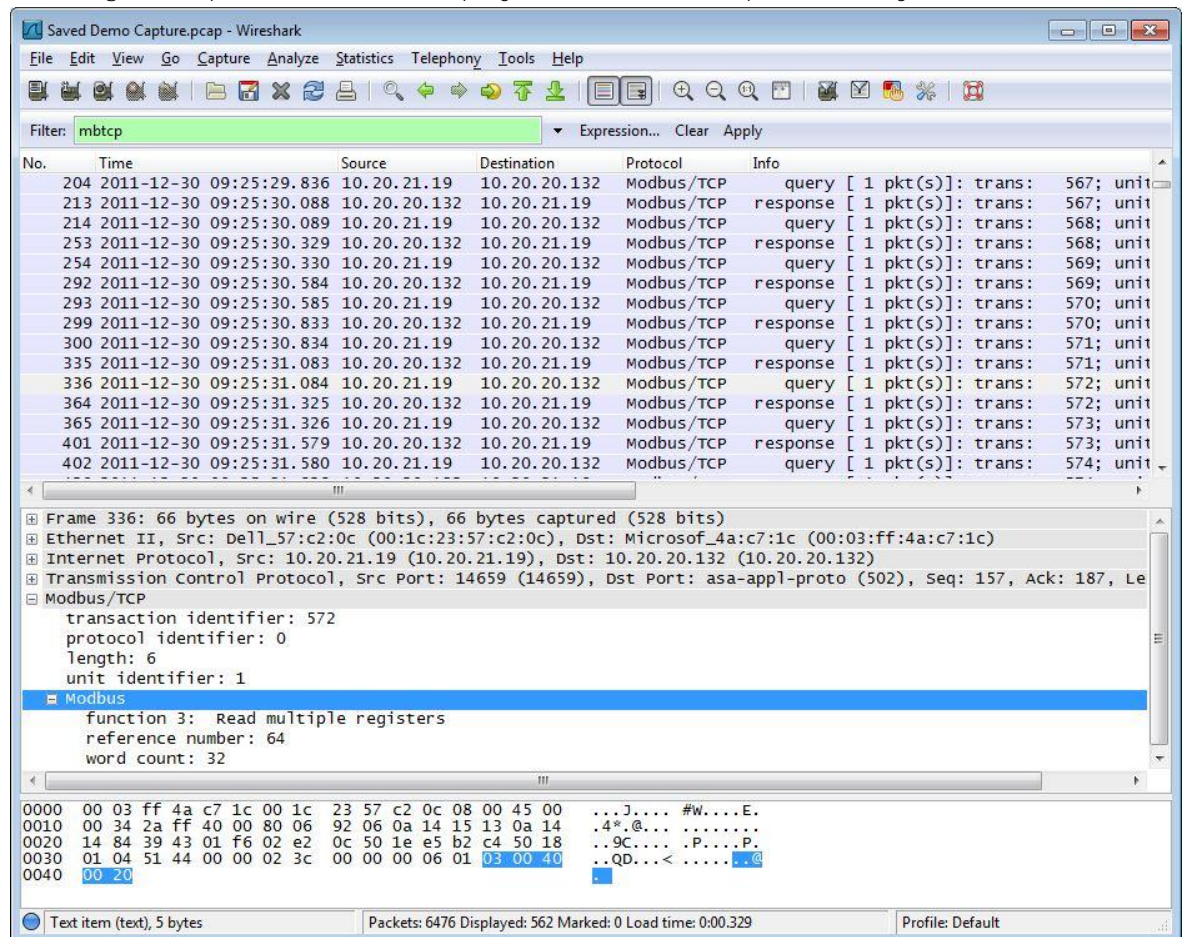
One common display filter for analysis is "ip.addr == 10.20.20.132 && tcp.port == 502". This will only show traffic to or from TCP port 502 for the specified address.

Note: TCP port 502 is the standard port for Modbus/TCP Ethernet devices.



4.1.2 Protocol Filter

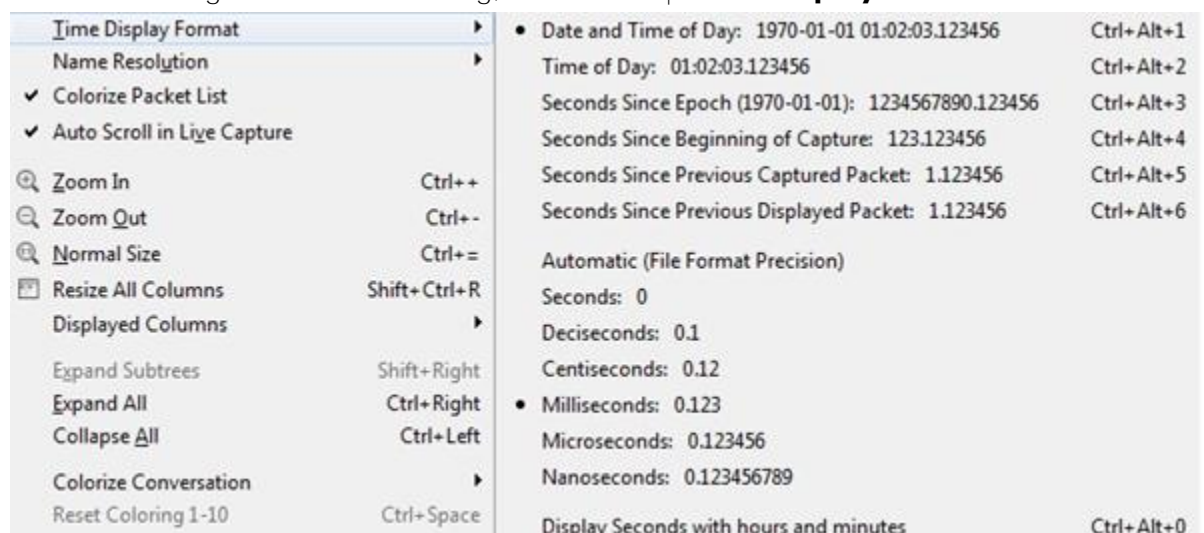
In cases where the protocol used to communicate with a device is known by Wireshark, the protocol name can be entered into the filter. For example, entering “mbtcp” will filter the display for Modbus TCP packets only.



4.1.3 Time Formats

The Time Display Format can be used to view when packets were captured by Wireshark. The default format is **Date and Time of Day**.

Note: To change the default setting, click **View | Time Display Format**.



The image below displays a Wireshark capture using Date and Time of Day Format.

Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
13 2011-12-30 09:25:27.851	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 558; unit: ...
14 2011-12-30 09:25:27.853	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 559; unit: ...
40 2011-12-30 09:25:28.094	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 559; unit: ...
41 2011-12-30 09:25:28.095	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 560; unit: ...
44 2011-12-30 09:25:28.102	10.20.20.1	10.20.20.132	ICMP	Redirect (Redirect for host)
51 2011-12-30 09:25:28.221	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	TCP	asa-appl-proto > 14659 [ACK] Seq=27 Ack=25 w
59 2011-12-30 09:25:28.344	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 560; unit: ...
60 2011-12-30 09:25:28.346	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 561; unit: ...
77 2011-12-30 09:25:28.589	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 561; unit: ...
78 2011-12-30 09:25:28.590	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 562; unit: ...
119 2011-12-30 09:25:28.836	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	TCP	asa-appl-proto > 14659 [ACK] Seq=53 Ack=49 w
120 2011-12-30 09:25:28.842	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 562; unit: ...
121 2011-12-30 09:25:28.843	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 563; unit: ...
140 2011-12-30 09:25:29.095	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 563; unit: ...
141 2011-12-30 09:25:29.096	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 564; unit: ...

Note: The Wireshark capture is often used to investigate possible issues with the timing of communications. In those situations, users can change the display format. Options are as follows:

- **Seconds Since Beginning of Capture:** This option shows the seconds and milliseconds of each packet since the capture started.
- **Seconds Since Previous Displayed Packet:** This option shows the time in seconds and milliseconds since the previous packet. This is very useful when used with a display filter to isolate communications to a single device.

4.1.3.1 Seconds Since Beginning of Capture

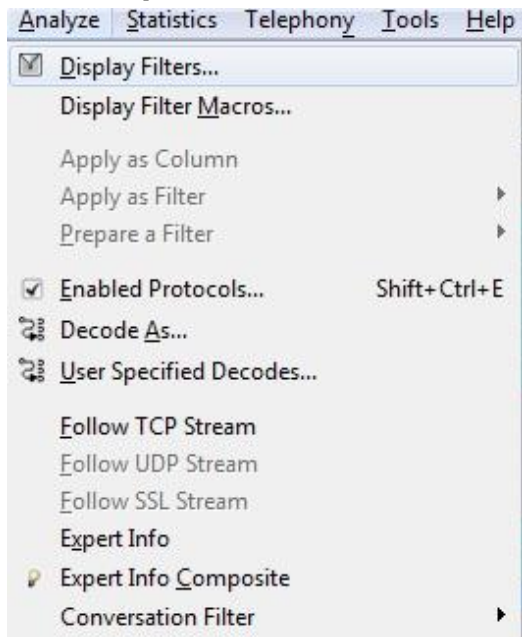
Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
13 0.122	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 558; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
14 0.123	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 559; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
40 0.364	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 559; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
41 0.365	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 560; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
44 0.373	10.20.20.1	10.20.20.132	ICMP	Redirect (Redirect for host)
51 0.491	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	TCP	asa-appl-proto > 14659 [ACK] Seq=27 Ack=25 win=65115 Len=0
59 0.615	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 560; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
60 0.616	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 561; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
77 0.860	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 561; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
78 0.860	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 562; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
119 1.106	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	TCP	asa-appl-proto > 14659 [ACK] Seq=53 Ack=49 win=65091 Len=0
120 1.113	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 562; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
121 1.114	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 563; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
140 1.366	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 563; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea
141 1.367	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 564; unit: 1, func: 1: Rea

4.1.3.1 Seconds from Previous Displayed Packet

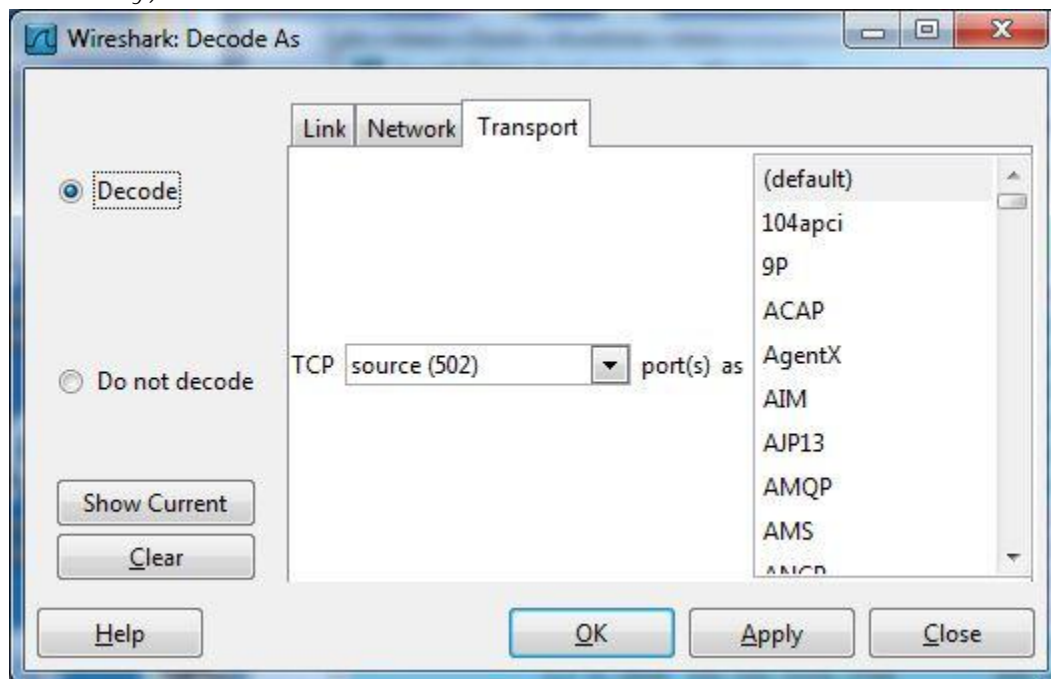
Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
13 0.000	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 558; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
14 0.001	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 559; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
40 0.240	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 559; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
41 0.001	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 560; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
44 0.007	10.20.20.1	10.20.20.132	ICMP	Redirect (Redirect for host)
51 0.118	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	TCP	asa-appl-proto > 14659 [ACK] Seq=27 Ack=25 win=65115 Len=0
59 0.123	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 560; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
60 0.001	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 561; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
77 0.243	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 561; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
78 0.000	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 562; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
119 0.246	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	TCP	asa-appl-proto > 14659 [ACK] Seq=53 Ack=49 win=65091 Len=0
120 0.006	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 562; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
121 0.001	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 563; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
140 0.251	10.20.20.132	10.20.21.19	Modbus/TCP	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 563; unit: 1, func: 1: Read
141 0.001	10.20.21.19	10.20.20.132	Modbus/TCP	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 564; unit: 1, func: 1: Read

4.2 Using the Decode As Wizard

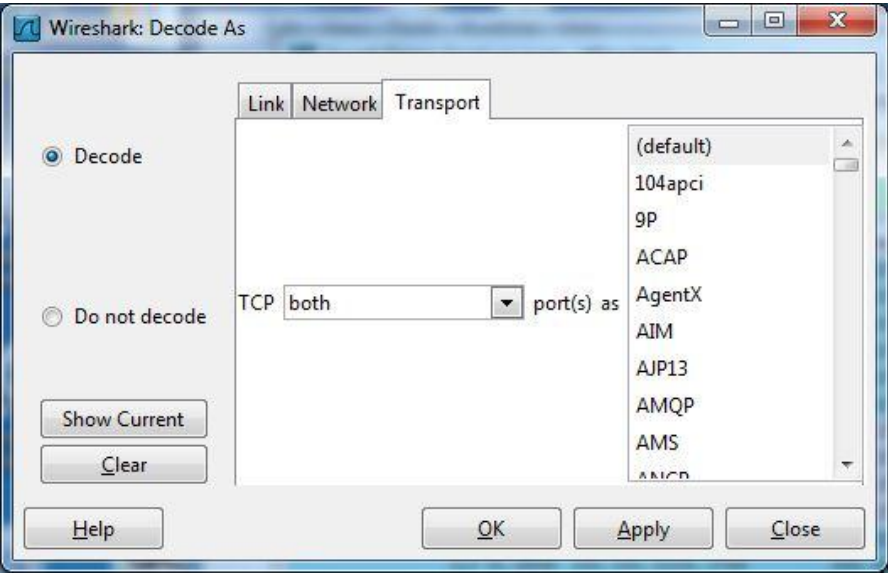
Wireshark provides developers with a method of decoding packets. To access it, click **Analyze** and then select **Decode As**.



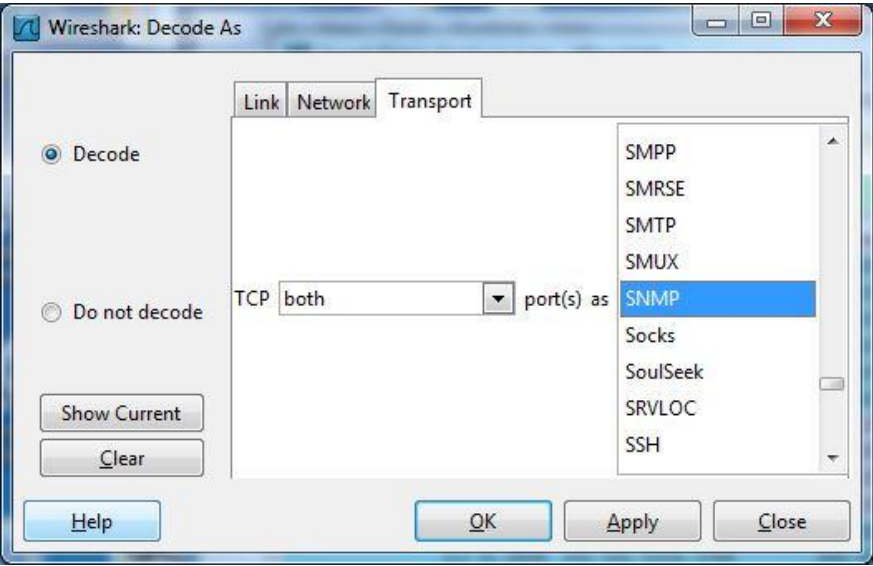
This wizard lets users specify how to decode packets (if Wireshark has not done so already).



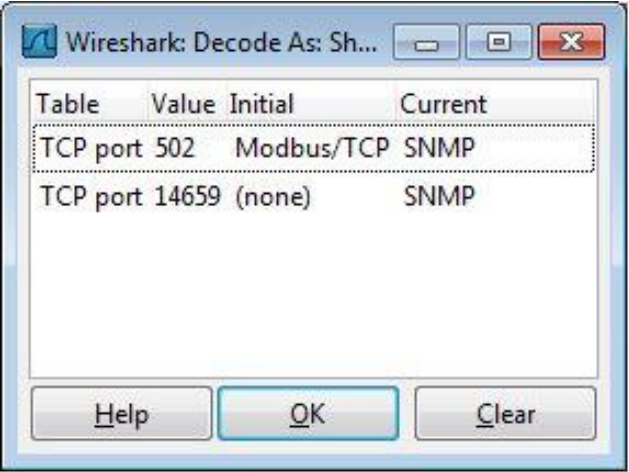
For example, changing the Transport setting gets both source and destination ports.



In this example, the SNMP protocol was selected.



To view or clear the decodes, click **Analyze | User Specified Decodes**.

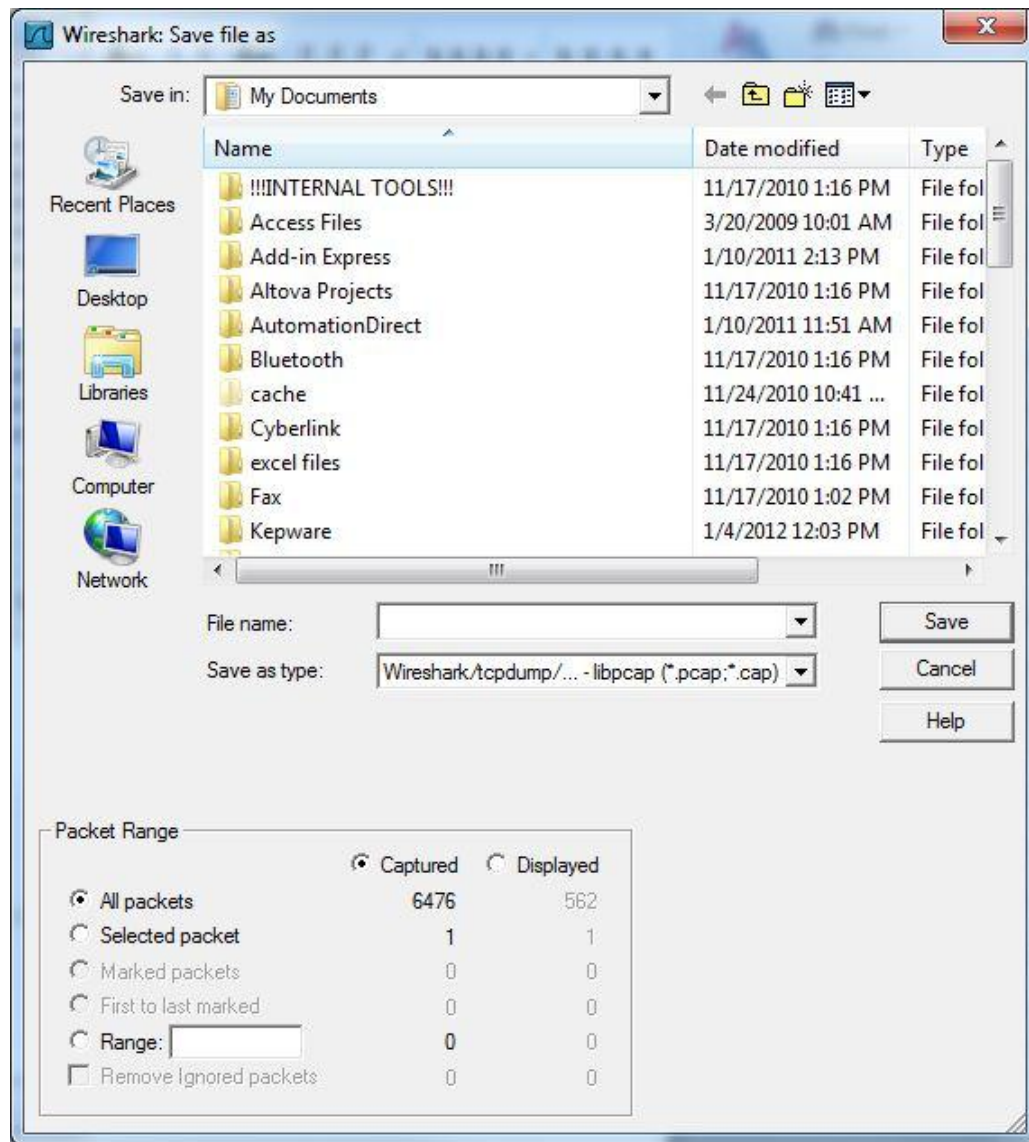


5. Saving the Capture

Once the capture has been completed, users have several options in saving it. Keware normally prefers to receive the raw capture file; however, there may be security issues that require the file to be filtered to prevent confidential information from being sent. For more information, refer to the instructions below.

Note: Users that utilized the Capture Multiple Files option can send the captured files to the Technical Support Case Contact. Users that utilized a single file (or who filtered a previous capture with a filter) should follow the instructions below.

1. To start, click **File** | **Save** or **File** | **Save As**.



2. Select **Captured** to save all the captured packets.
3. Select **Displayed** to save the packets displayed with the Display Filter.
4. Then, specify the other options as desired and click **Save**.

6.Summary

At this point, users should have a better understanding of using a software utility like Wireshark to capture packets being sent or received by the PC's Ethernet card.