Digital Forensics (IFS4102) Lab 7: Network and Internet Forensics

Lab Objectives

In this lab, you will perform several **network** and **Internet forensics tasks** on a target machine. More specifically, given an acquired file system and captured network-traffic logs of the target machine, you want:

1. To find out some **network configuration settings** of the machine.
2. *(Optional)* To analyze captured **network-traffic logs** using **Wireshark**.
3. To extract and analyze **objects** from network-traffic logs using two **Network Forensic Analysis Tools (NFATs)**:
    a. **NetworkMiner**;
    b. *(Optional)* **Xplico**.
4. To analyze the **web cache** and **history** of Chrome and Firefox browsers.

Task 1 (Win-FWS): Finding out Network Configuration Settings of a Target Windows Machine

Notes:

- We want to perform an **offline registry analysis** to find out some ***network configuration settings*** of a target machine. For this purpose, we will use a registry analysis tool called **MiTeC Windows Registry Recovery (WRR)**.
- Please download a set of sample registry files, which were previously also used in your Lab 5 (Windows forensics), from: https://drive.google.com/file/d/133bLl7TYqDyCG9eSfuDcIKhbwqiKxJil/view?usp=sharing. Its MD5 value is b527b6a8a4a395aac8afb6c59cf4b15e.

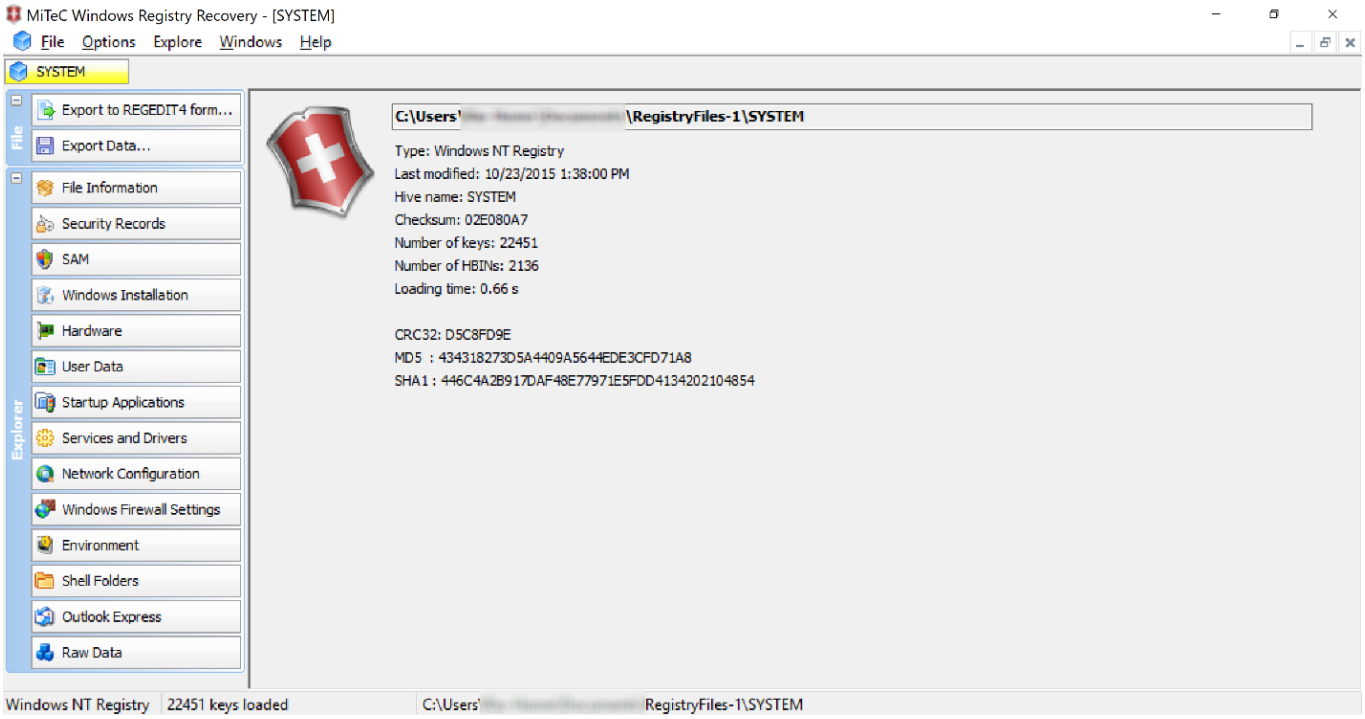
Steps:

1. Download **Windows Registry Recovery (WRR)** from http://www.mitec.cz/wrr.html, and extract its zip file.

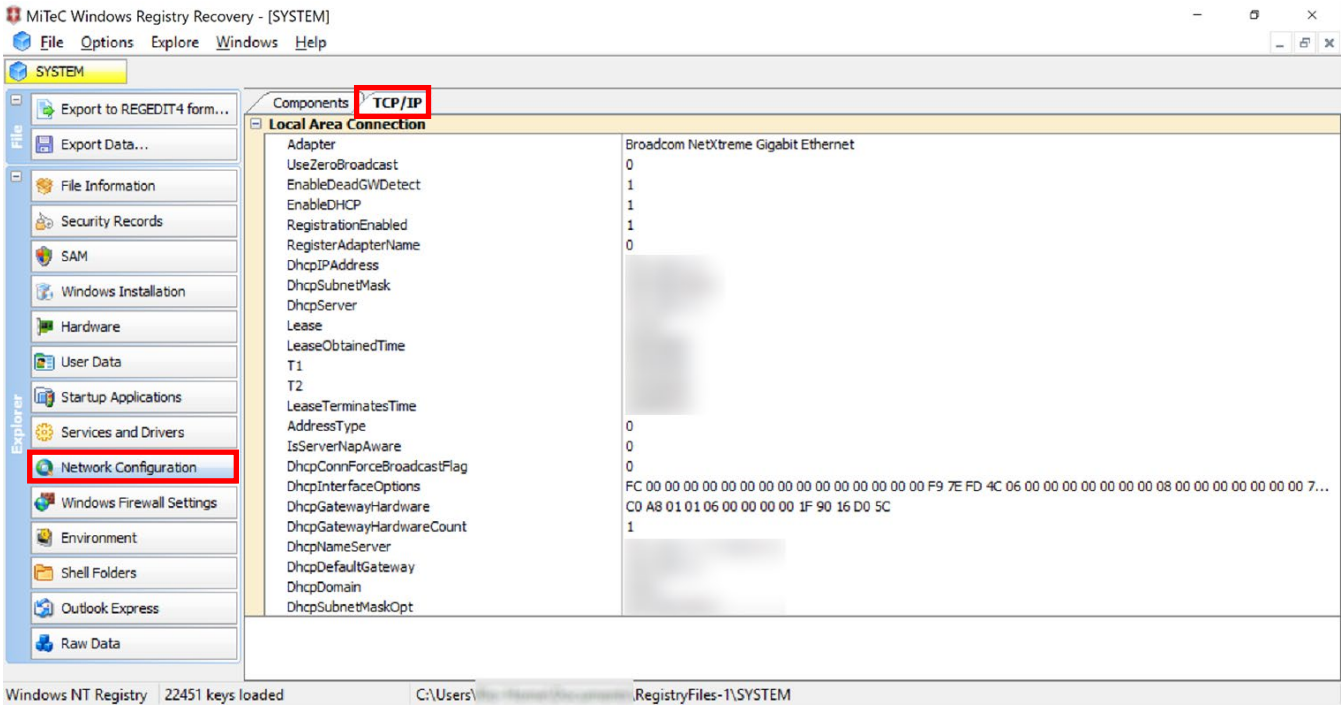
2. Launch WRR.

3. From the main menu, select "File" and then "Open". After that, choose the `SYSTEM` registry file from the downloaded registry file set.

   WRR will show the information of the registry hive file as shown below.



4. Now, on the menu list on the left pane of the window, click the "**Network Configuration**" button as highlighted below. Then, on the right pane, click the "**TCP/IP**" tab. Some network information from the registry will be shown as below.



5. Inspect the shown information. Answer the following questions:

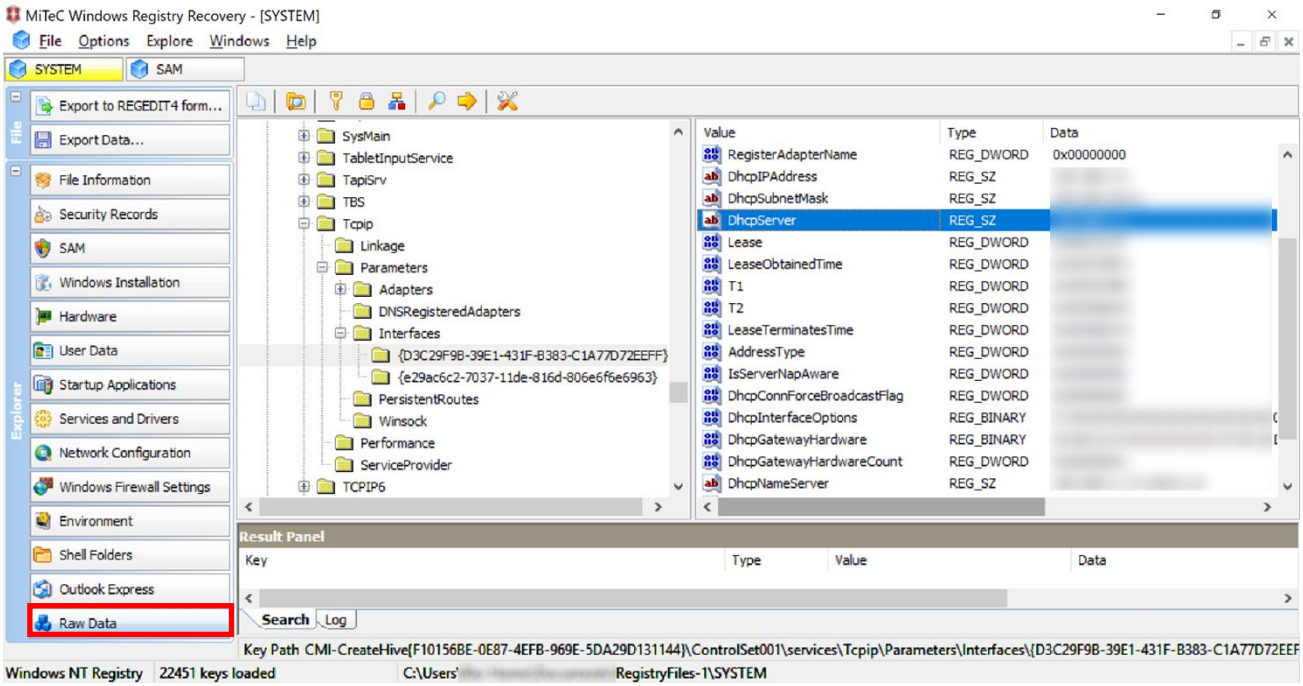
   a. What was the IP address of the machine, which was assigned via DHCP, together with its netmask?

   b. When was the IP address lease obtained by the machine (in human-readable time format)?

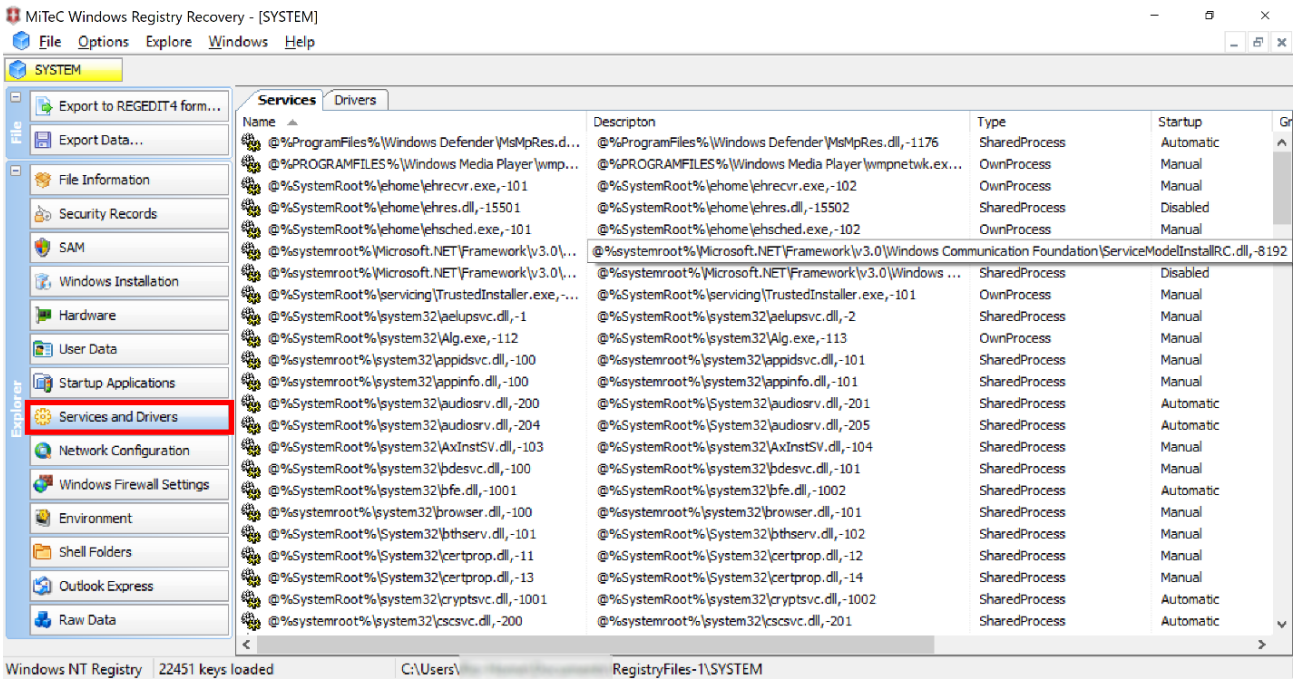
   c. *When would the IP address lease expire/terminate (in human-readable time format)?

   d. *What were the IP addresses of the DHCP server and default gateway?

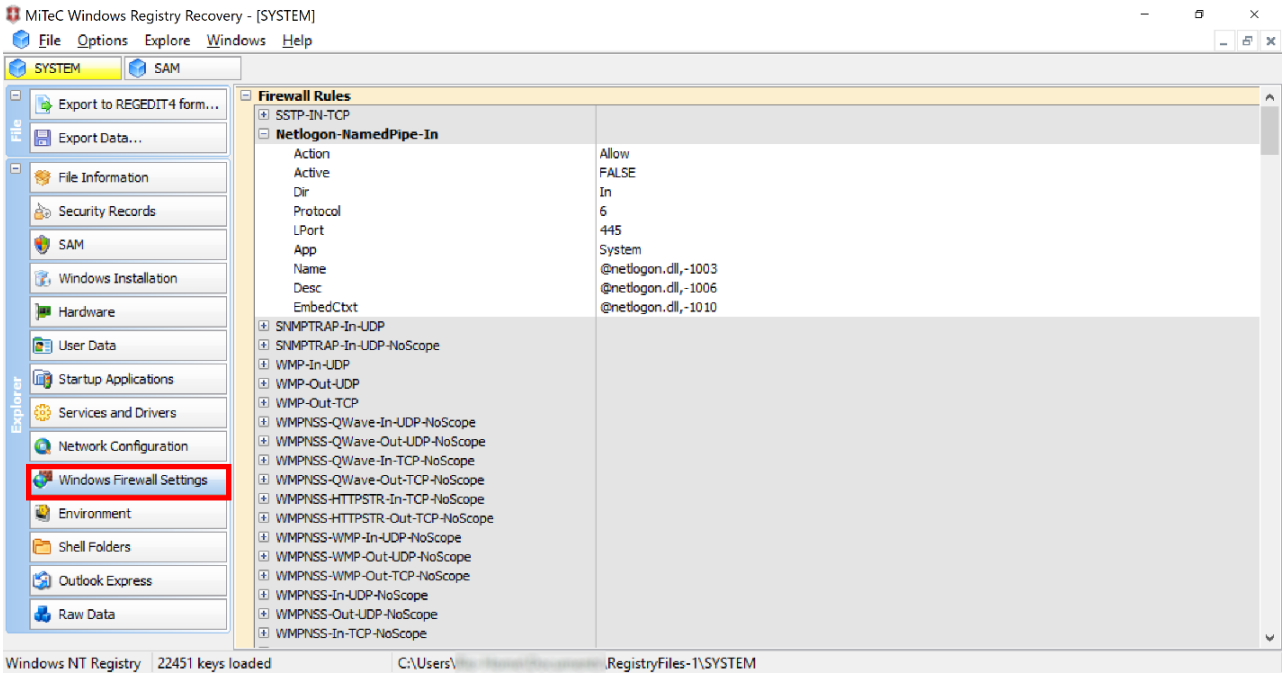
6. As an alternative method, you can also access raw registry values that store the setting information. On the menu list on the left pane of the window, click the "**Raw Data**" button. Then, navigate to `SYSTEM\ControlSet001\Services\Tcpip\Parameters\Interfaces`.
   Check the data of some relevant registry values there as shown below.



7. Now, on the menu list on the left pane of the window, click the "**Services and Drivers**" button to inspect the **list of services**. Have a look on the listed entries like the ones shown below.

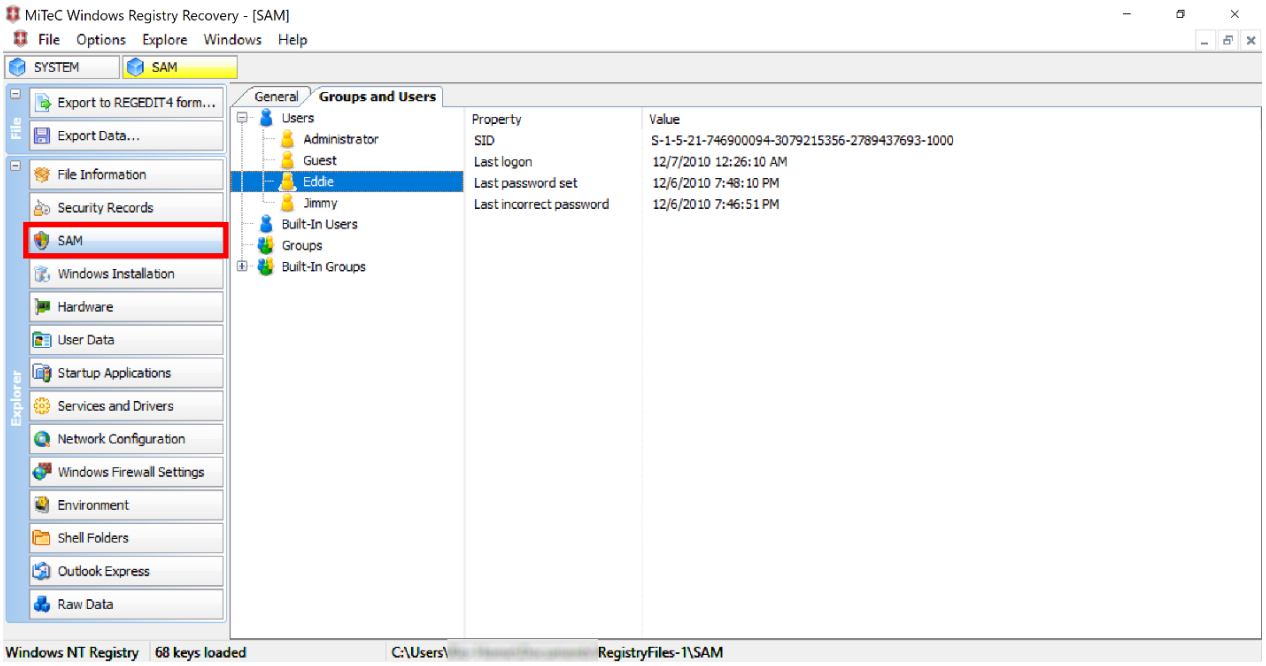


8. Lastly, on the menu list on the left pane of the window, click the "**Windows Firewall Settings**" button. Have a look on the listed **host firewall settings**.



9. Using WRR, you can additionally check other pieces of information on the target machine, such as its **SAM users and groups**. For this, from the main menu, select "File" then "Open", and choose the downloaded `SAM` file.

10. On the menu list on the left pane of the window, click the "SAM" button. Then, on the right pane, click the "**Groups and Users**" tab as shown below. Inspect the shown information related to the machine's users.



[Optional] Task 2 (Win-FWS/Lin-FWS): Analyzing Captured Network Traffic Logs using WireShark

Notes:

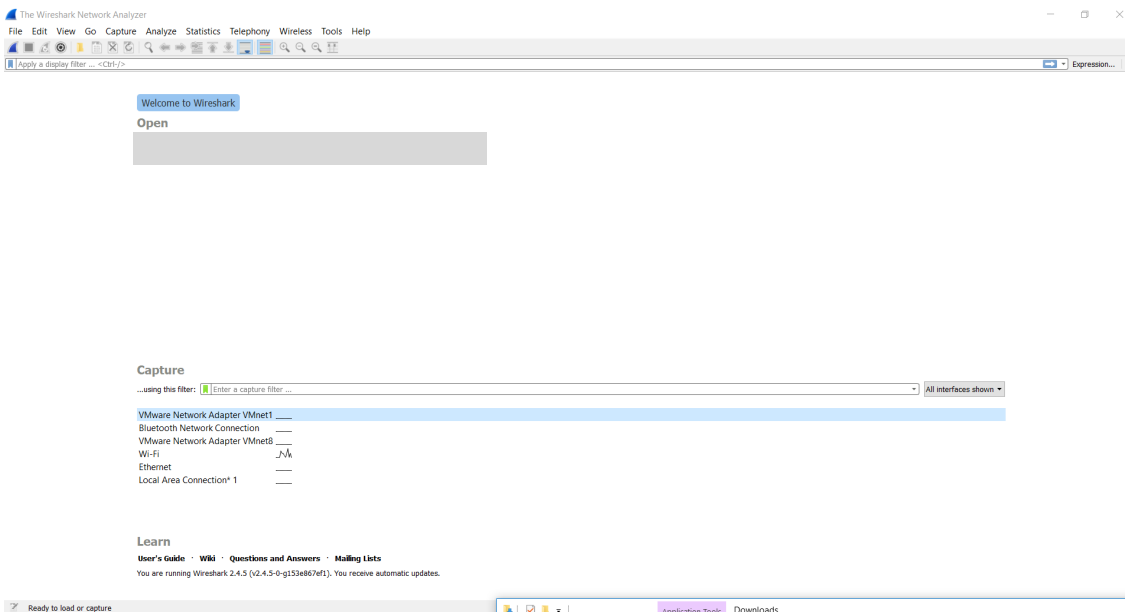
- **If it's still necessary for you to practise**, you can try analyzing **captured network-traffic logs** of a target machine. You can use a widely used **Wireshark** to analyse its PCAP files and analyze the network traffic.
- Please download three sample `.pcapng` files from: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1f2rD8FoiEAQYBtrryd583HfgWGjW9oDw/view?usp=sharing.

Task 2-1: Analyzing DNS Traffic Logs

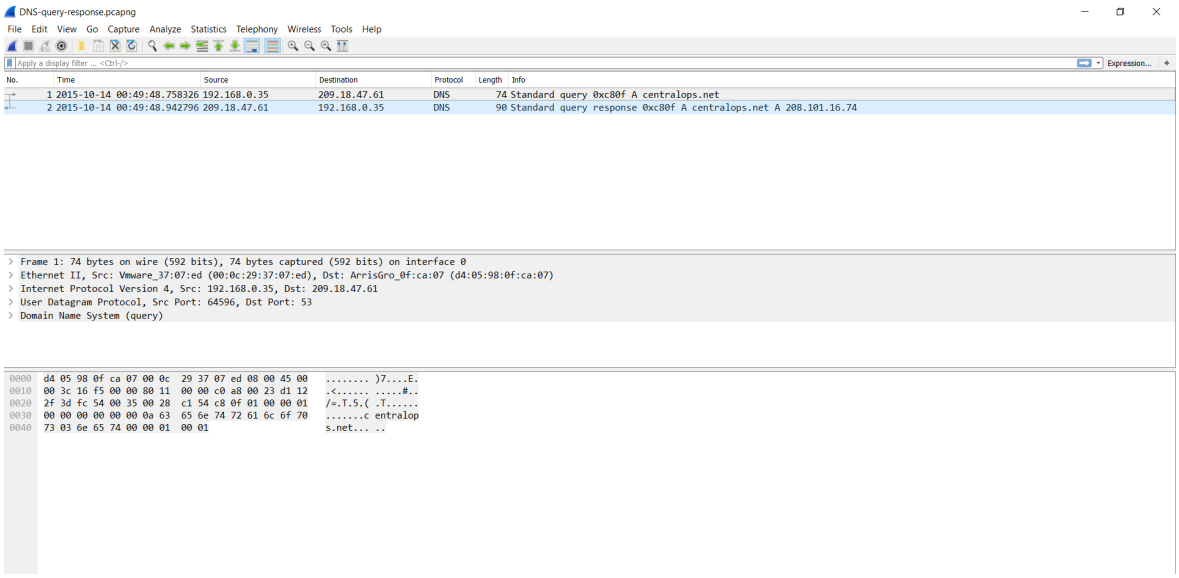
Steps:

1. Download and install Wireshark (and its dependencies) from https://www.wireshark.org/
2. Launch Wireshark.

   You will see a main window similar to the one shown below.

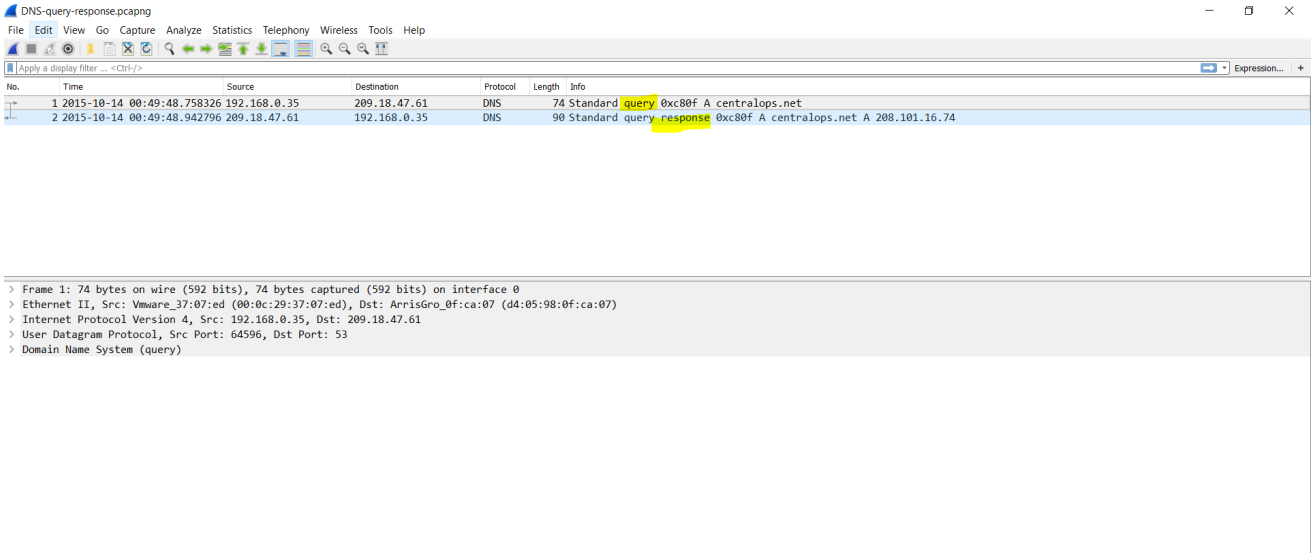


3. From the main menu, select " File → Open", and then open the file named `DNS-query-response.pcapng` which you have downloaded from the shared folder. The captured packets will be opened and displayed as shown below. Clicking on a packet in the "Packet List" pane will display the details of that packet in both the "Packet Details" pane and "Packet Bytes" pane.

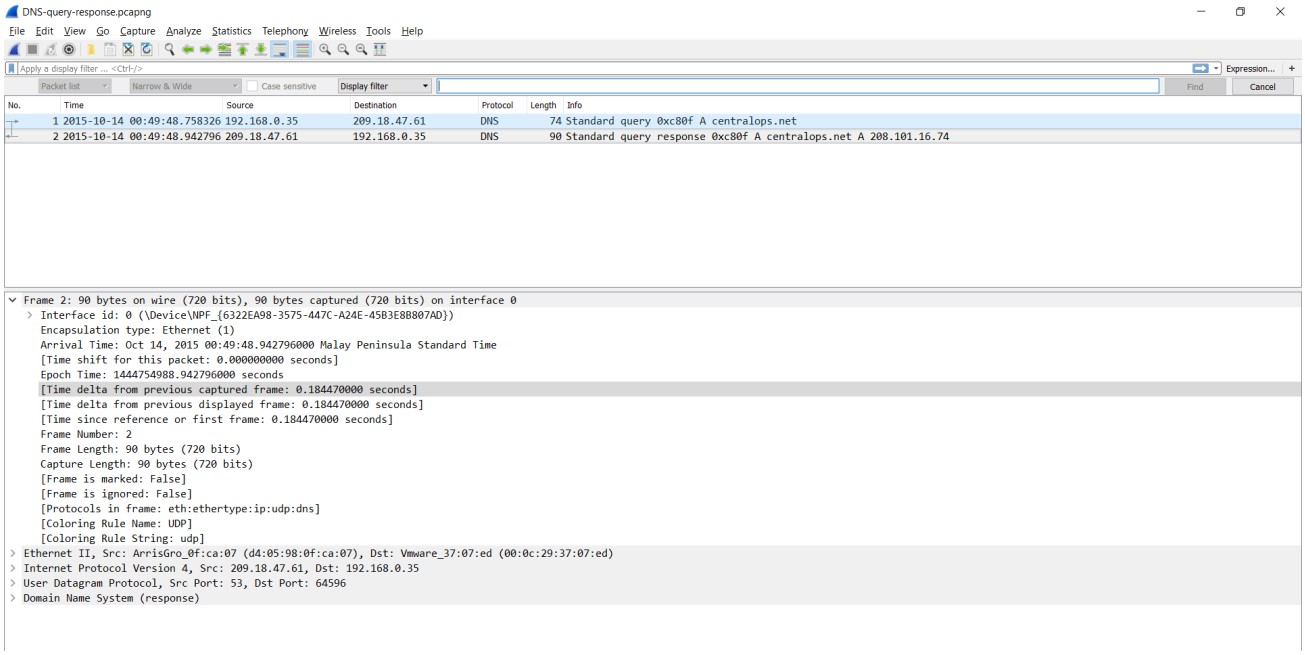


4. Analyse the details of the packet in the "Packet List" plane by clicking on Frame 1, Ethernet II, Internet Protocol Version 4, User Datagram Protocol, and Domain Name System. Answer the queries below.

5. How many packets are involved in the DNS query?



6. How long did it take to get a response for the DNS query?



7. What is the IP address of the host which submitted DNS query?

8. What is the IP address of the DNS server?

9. Based on the information contained in the packet details,
   what protocol is used for DNS query and what is the destination port?

10. What domain name was sought to be resolved by the query?

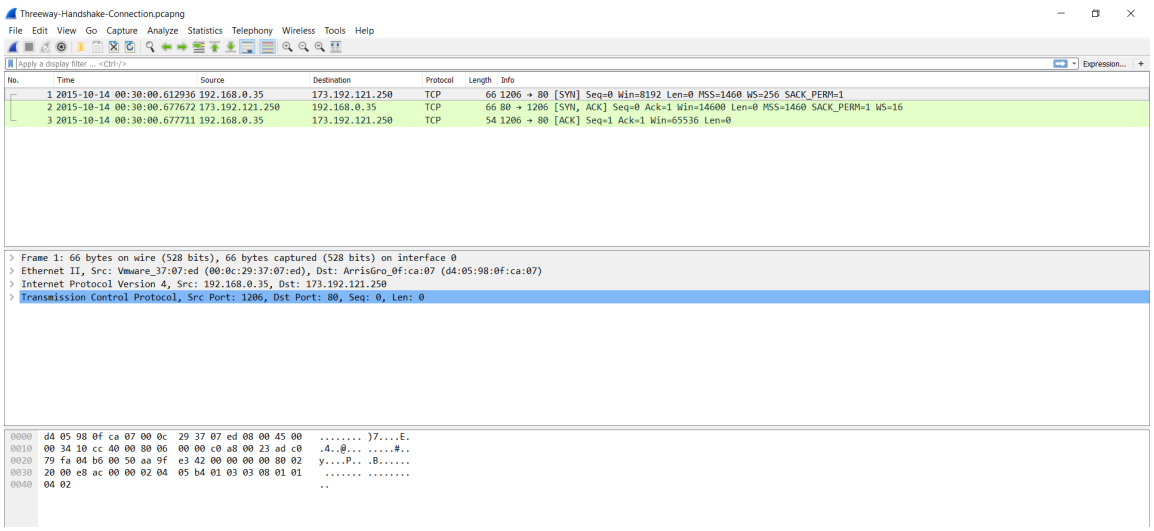
11. To what IP address did the domain name resolved to?

Task 2-2: Analyzing Three-Way Handshake Traffic Logs

Steps:

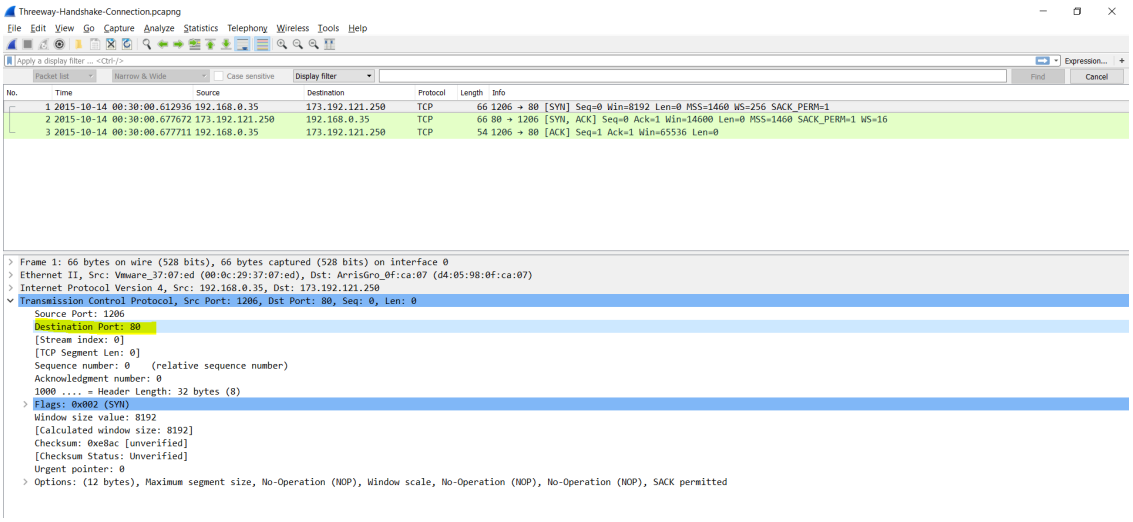
1. Launch Wireshark (if still needed).
2. Open the file `Threeway-handshake-connection.pcapng`.

   The captured logs will appear as shown below.

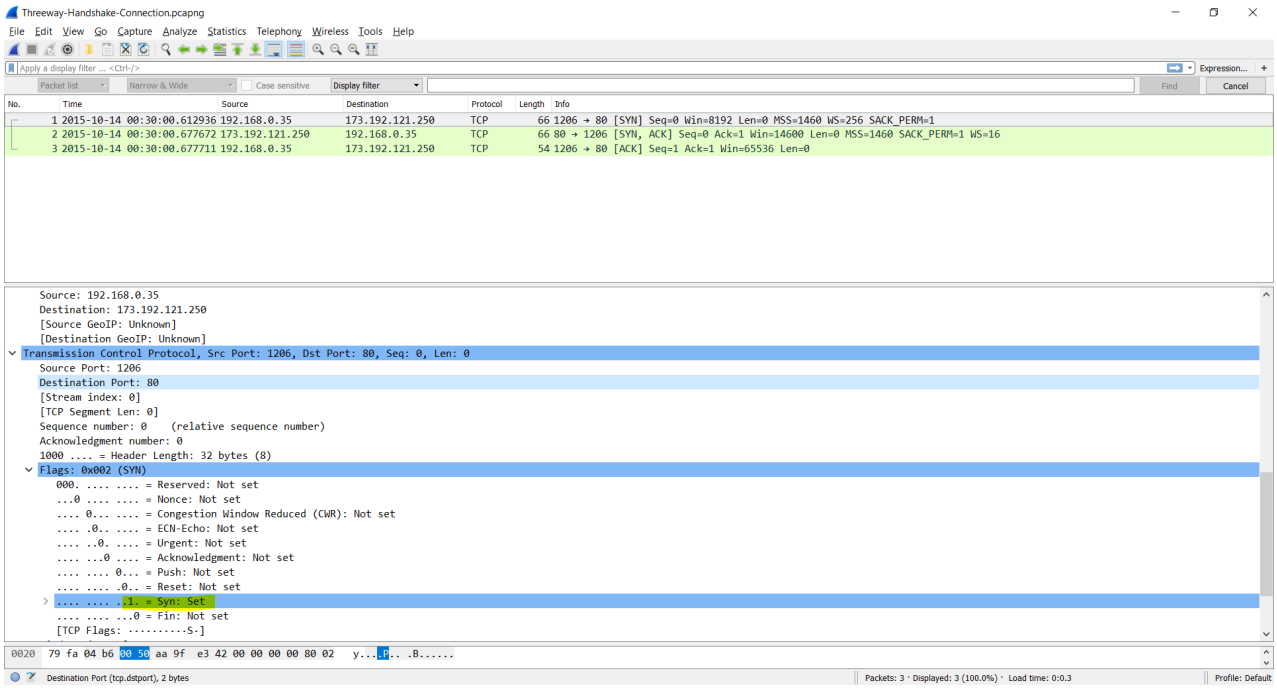


3. Inspect the packets to answer the following questions.
4. What is the IP address of the host initiating the TCP handshake,

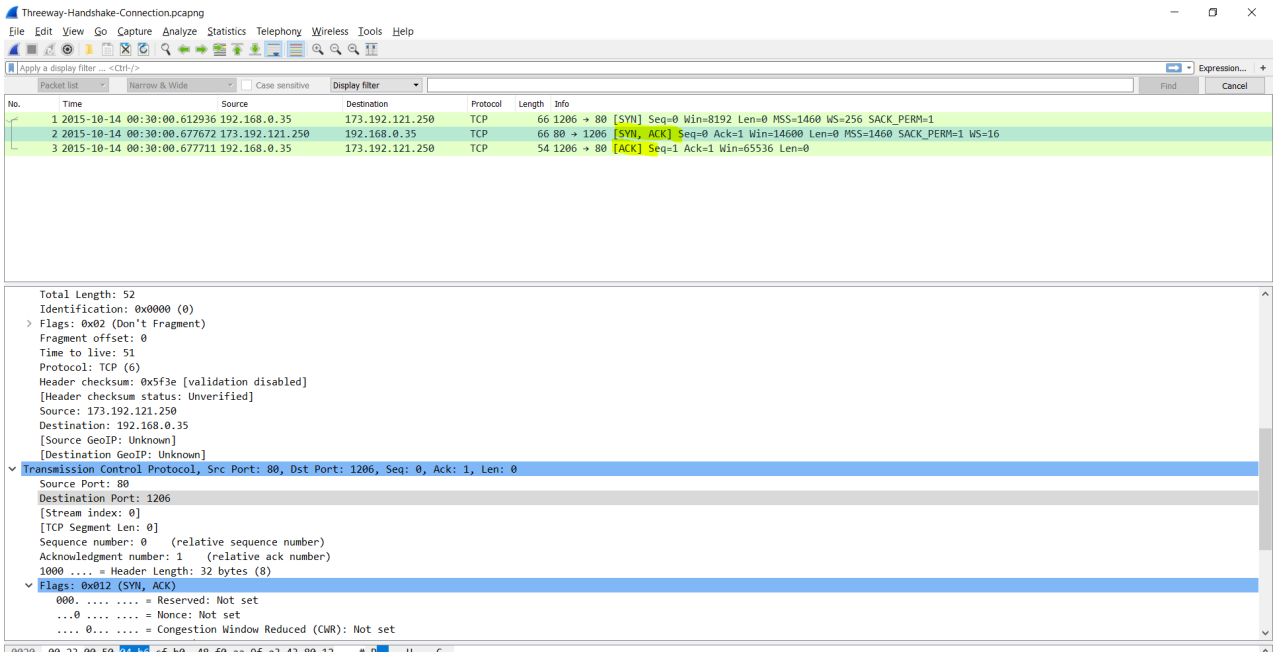
   and what is the IP address of the host that responds to the initial request.
5. What possible type was the server to which the connection being established?



6. Based on the information in the packet details pane, which flag is set on the first packet of the conducted TCP three-way handshake?



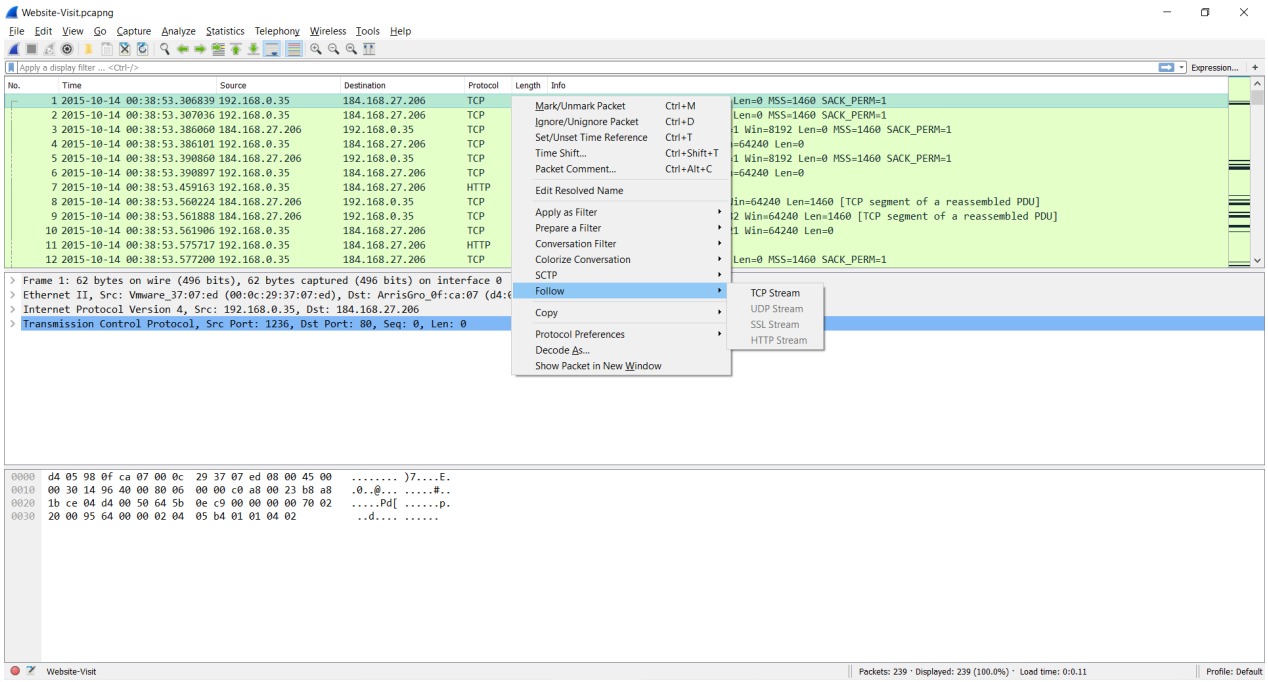
7. Based on the information in the packet list plane, which are the flags for the second and third packets of the conducted TCP three-way handshake?



Task 2-3: Analyzing Website-Visit Traffic Logs

Steps:

1. Launch Wireshark (if still needed).
2. Open the file `Website-visit.pcapng`.
3. In the Packet List pane, right-click on the first packet, and then select "Follow TCP stream" from the pull-down menu as shown below.



4. Inspect the results, and answer the following questions.
    a. What is the name of the website that was visited?
    b. Was the connection to the website successful from the server's point of view?
    c. What kind of web platform is being used to host the server?
    d. When was this webpage last updated by web author/provider?
    e. When was this particular webpage accessed?

Task 3: Extracting and Analyzing Objects from Network-Traffic Logs using Network Forensic Analysis Tools

Notes:

- In the next two sub-tasks, you want to extract and analyze objects/artefacts from captured network-traffic logs using two popular **Network Forensic Analysis Tools** (NFATs): **NetworkMiner** and **Xplico**.

Task 3-1 (Win/Lin-FWS): Extracting and Analyzing Objects from Network-Traffic Logs using NetworkMiner

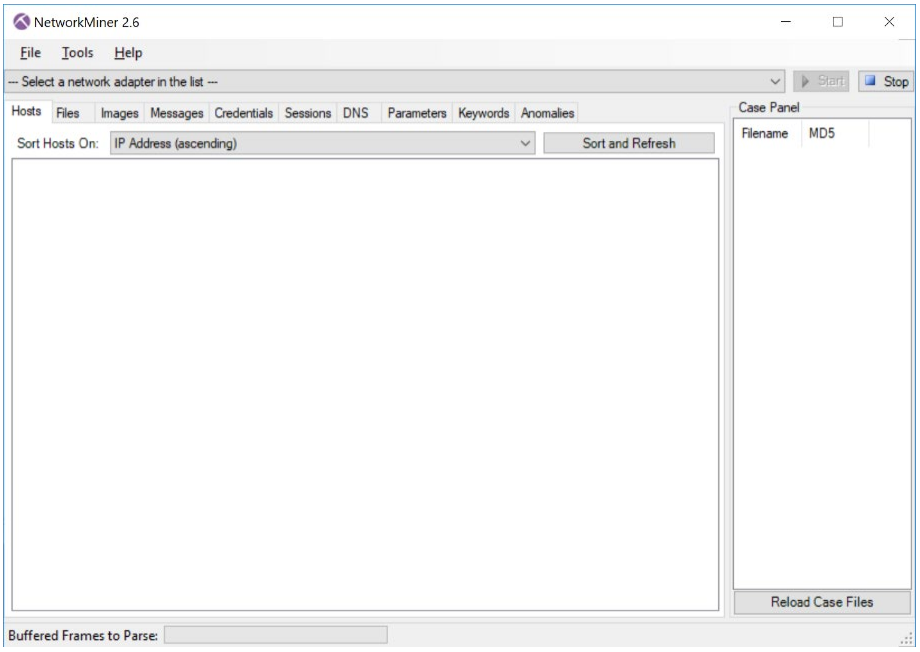
Notes:

- ***NetworkMiner*** runs on several Operating Systems. Hence, you can use either your Windows or Linux forensics workstation. The steps below, however, show how NetworkMiner runs in **Windows**.
- You can reuse the sample `.pcapng` files from Task 2. However, NetworkMiner Free Edition can't parse **PcapNG** files. Nevertheless, it can parse **PCAP** files. Hence, you can utilize a tool, e.g. Wireshark, that can convert the sample file into a PCAP file format.

Steps:

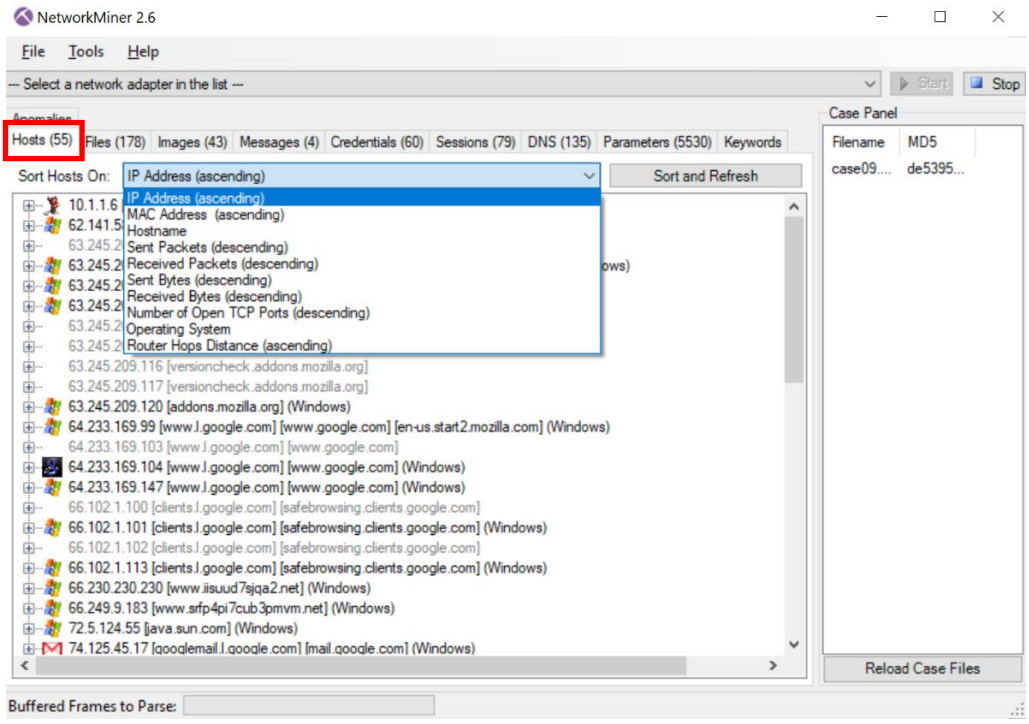
1. **Download** NetworkMiner from: https://www.netresec.com/?page=networkminer and extract its zip file. (***Note***: To install NetworkMiner on your Linux machine, you can follow the steps mentioned in https://www.netresec.com/?page=Blog&month=2014-02&post=HowTo-install-NetworkMiner-in-Ubuntu-Fedora-and-Arch-Linux).

2. Run NetworkMiner by clicking its executable until you can see its window:

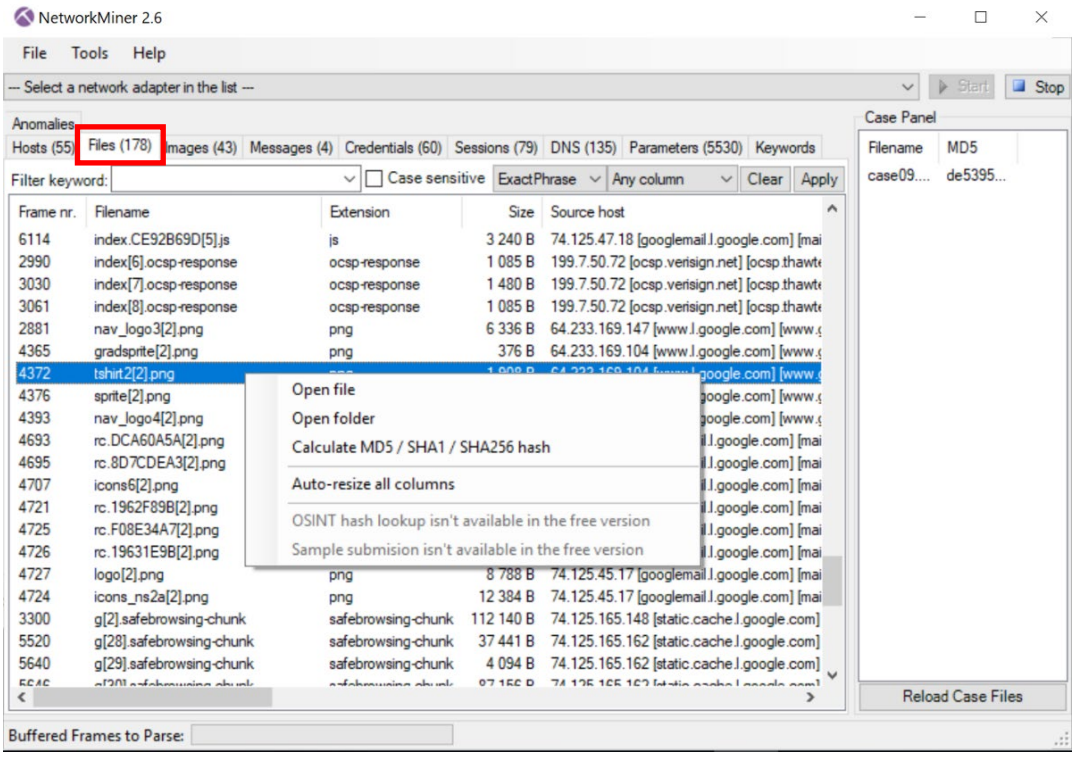


3. Select File and then open your PCAP file. NetworkMiner will process the file and, upon completion, show the mining results in its several tabs.

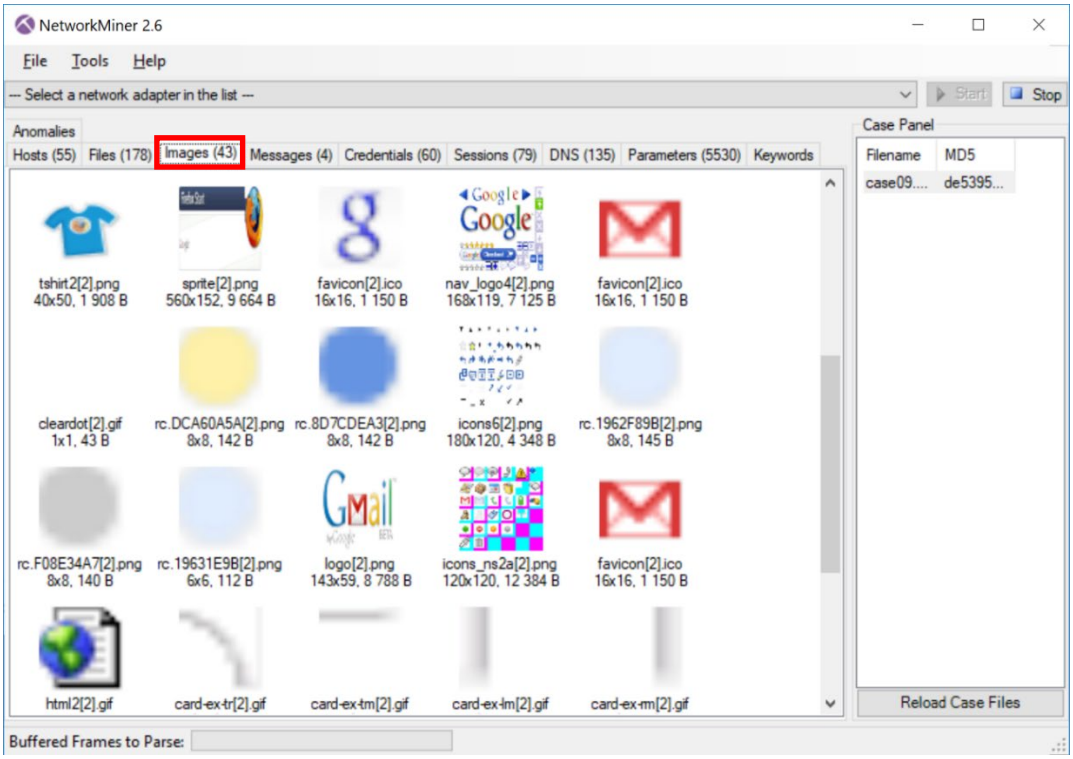
4. Inspect its ***Hosts* tab** as shown below. You can **sort** all the identified hosts based on various possible criteria as shown below.



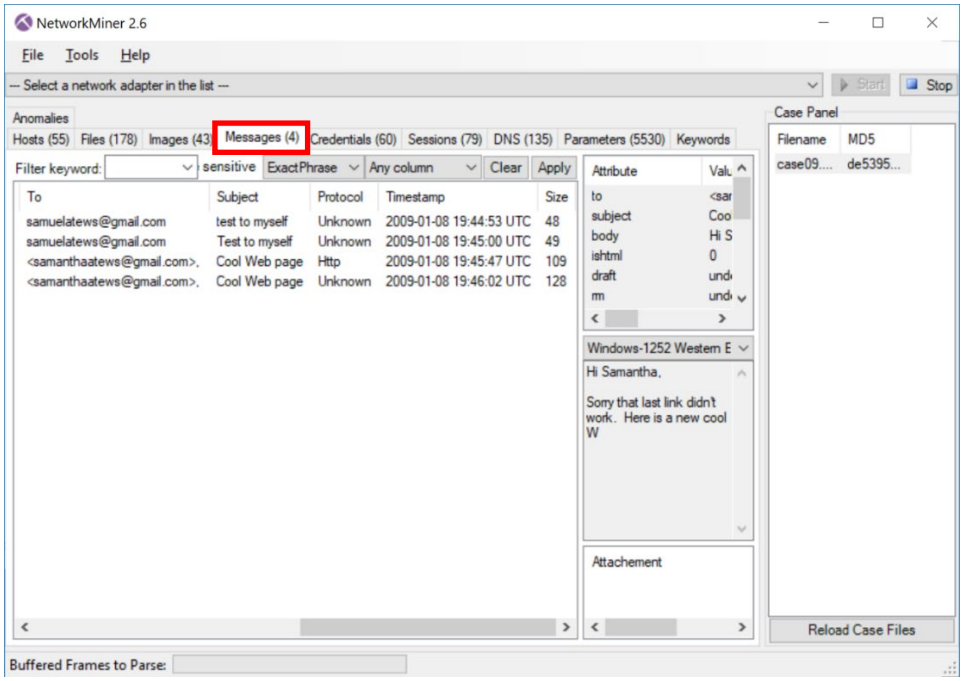
5. Now, inspect its ***Files* tab** as shown below. You can right-click on a listed file to open it (*be careful when opening an executable!*) or calculate its hash values.



6. Inspect its ***Images* tab** to see all identified image files.

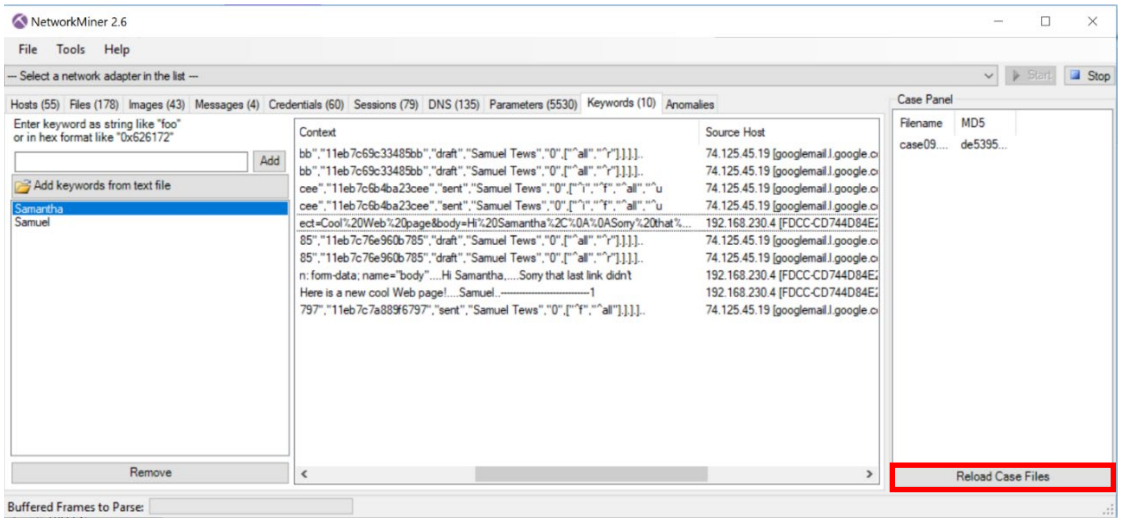


7. Inspect its ***Messages*** **tab** to see all mined messages.



8. Do inspect all ***other tabs*** for other mined object types, including **credentials**.

9. Lastly, let us perform a ***keyword matching*** on all the mined objects. Open its ***Keywords*** **tab**, and then add some keywords into the list of keywords to search. In the example below, two keywords "`Samantha`" and "`Samuel`" are added. (***Note***: After entering your keywords, you will need to click the "Reload Case Files" button at the bottom right of your NetworkMiner's window).
Do check the results shown to see if you can find any interesting findings.



[Optional] Task 3-2 (Lin-FWS): Extracting and Analyzing Captured Network Traffic Logs using Xplico

Notes:

- You can use an **Ubuntu** (or any Debian-based) **machine** as your forensic workstation, and follow Step 1 below to install Xplico. Alternatively, you can create a VM by importing an OVA file as described in Step 2.
- You can reuse the three sample `.pcapng` files from Task 3. However, note that Xplico does **not** seem to accept a filename containing "-" characters. Hence, do rename the files by removing all "-" characters in the filenames. Alternatively, other sample `.pcap` files are available, such as one from https://web.archive.org/web/20160604152628/http://www.taosecurity.com/tws2_blog_sample_28feb09a.zip.

Steps:

1. **Install Xplico** using the following series of commands (see also: https://www.xplico.org/download):

```
sudo bash -c 'echo "deb http://repo.xplico.org/ $(lsb_release -s -c) main" >> /etc/apt/sources.list'
sudo apt-key adv --keyserver keyserver.ubuntu.com --recv-keys 791C25CE
sudo apt-get update
sudo apt-get install xplico
```

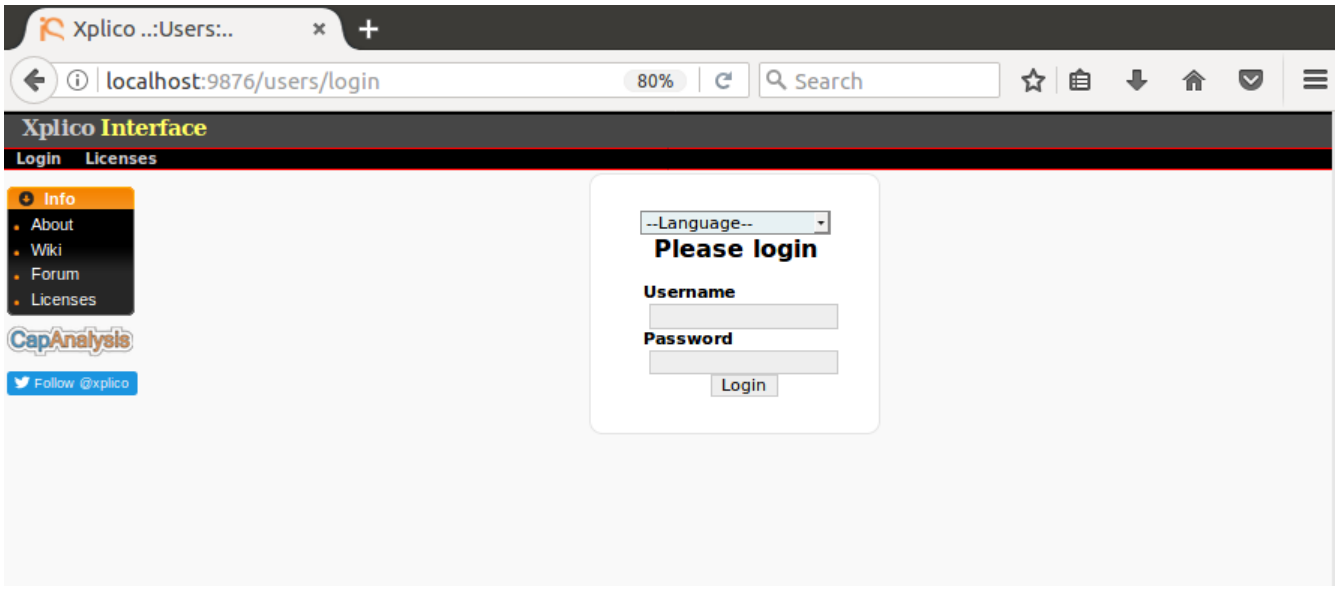
2. Alternatively, you can **download** an OVA file from: https://sourceforge.net/projects/xplico/files/VirtualBox%20images/.
   The OVA file has also been cached for our module students at: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1yCtT0ZBoQDvNzC2eomROoyz6iCoNMjai/view?usp=sharing.

Using VirtualBox, do **import** the OVA file into a VM,
and then run the VM. Use the following credential to **access** the Linux host:
username="`ubuntu`" and password="`reverse`".

3. **Run Xplico** by invoking the following (if still needed):

```
sudo /etc/init.d/xplico start
sudo /opt/xplico/script/sqlite_demo.sh
```

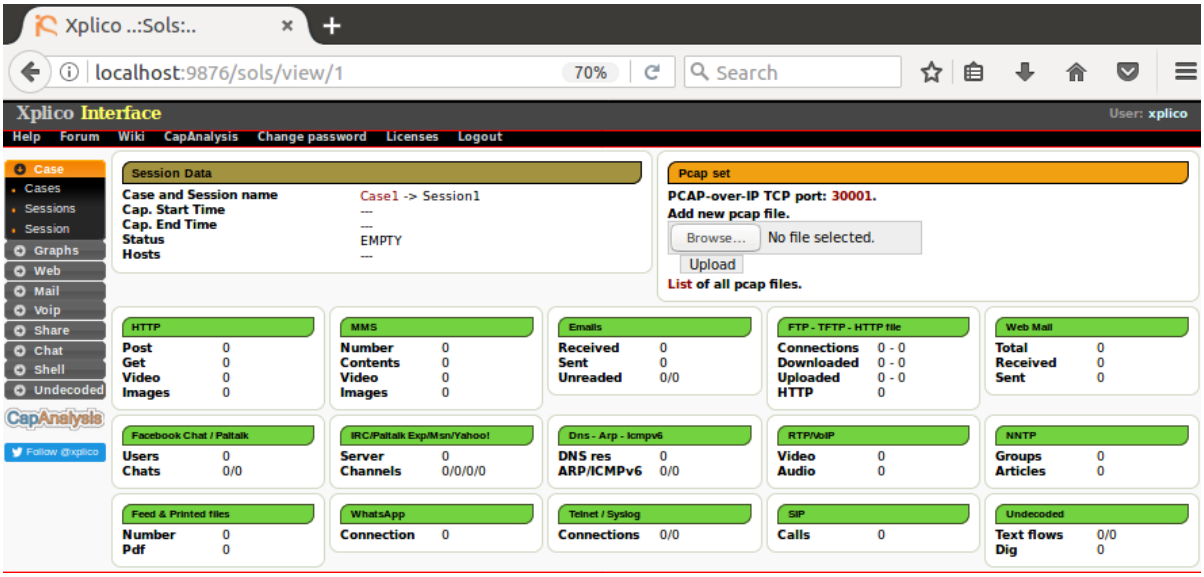
4. Launch your **browser**, and visit the following URL: localhost:9876.
   You should see the Xplico login page as shown below.



5. Login with the default username "`xplico`" and password "`xplico`".

6. Create a new **case** by clicking "Case: New Case", and then name your case.
   For the new case, you also have an option on whether you want to perform a live acquisition or upload **previously captured PCAP file(s).**

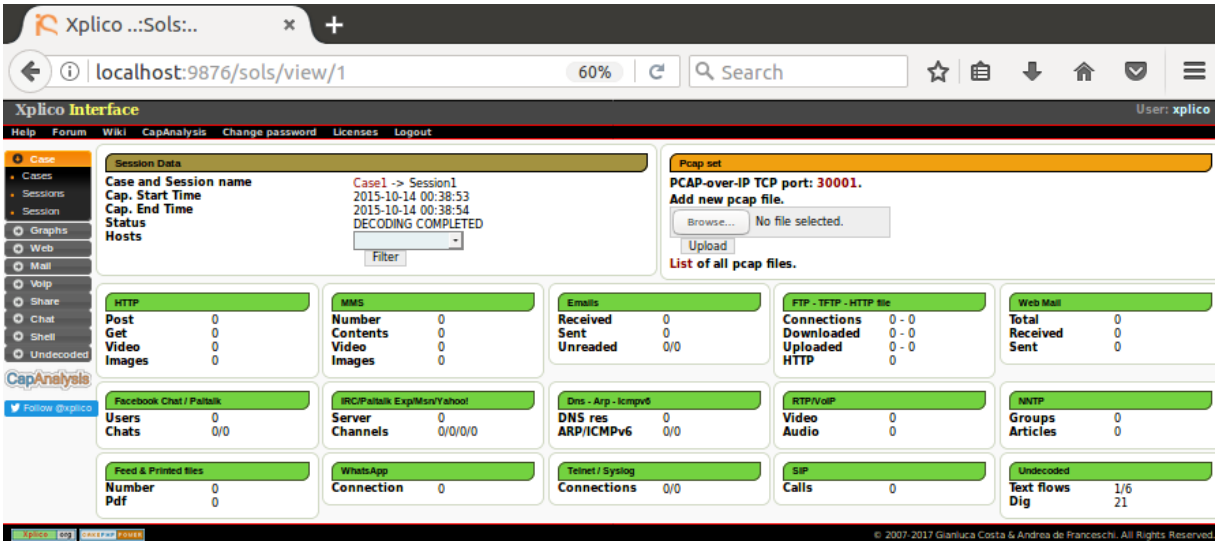
7. Within the case, create a new **session** by clicking "Case: New Session".
   You should then see the session's interface like the one shown below:



8. Now, add/upload a new PCAP file.

9. Upon file uploading, Xplico will perform its decoding process on the file. Wait until the decoding process *fully completes* as indicated by Xplico.

10. Now, do check all different reported **network & web artefacts** by accessing the respective menu items, e.g. Graphs, Web & Mail, in the Case pane:



Task 4 (Win-FWS): Analyzing Web Cache and History

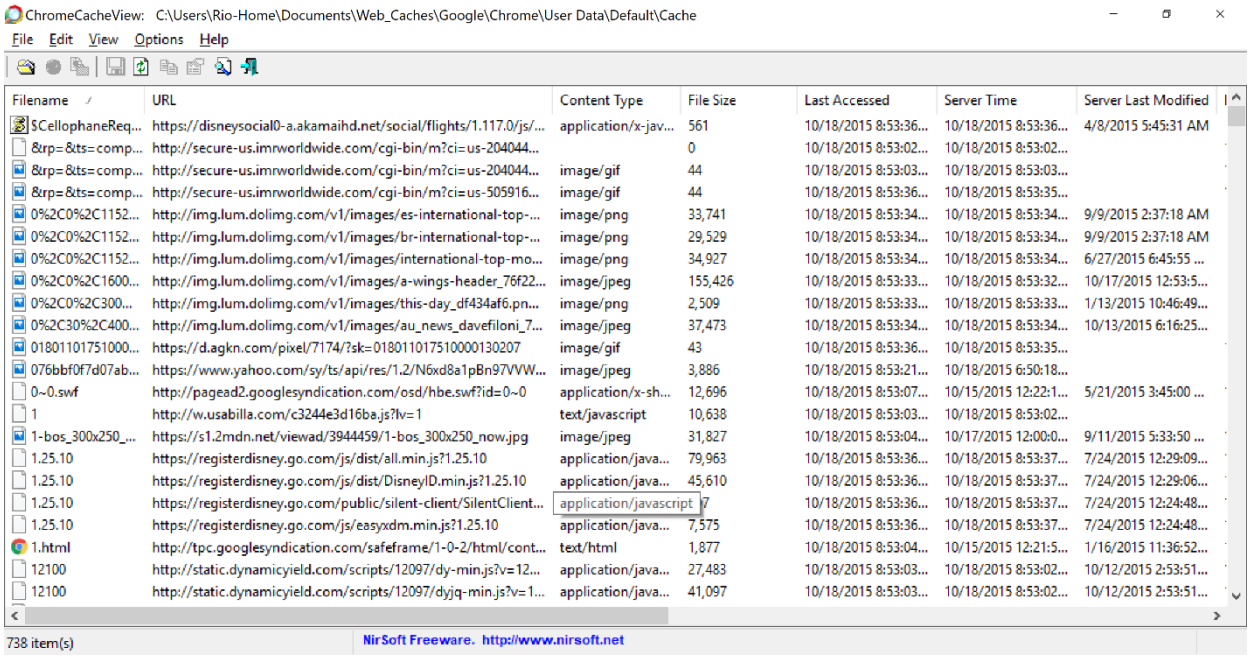
Notes:

- Please download sample web cache and history files from: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Mo8w7qpO4d3G5YoJRmMgJZu-oLlT4Cbv/view?usp=sharing.

Task 4-1: Extracting and Analyzing Chrome's Cache

Steps:

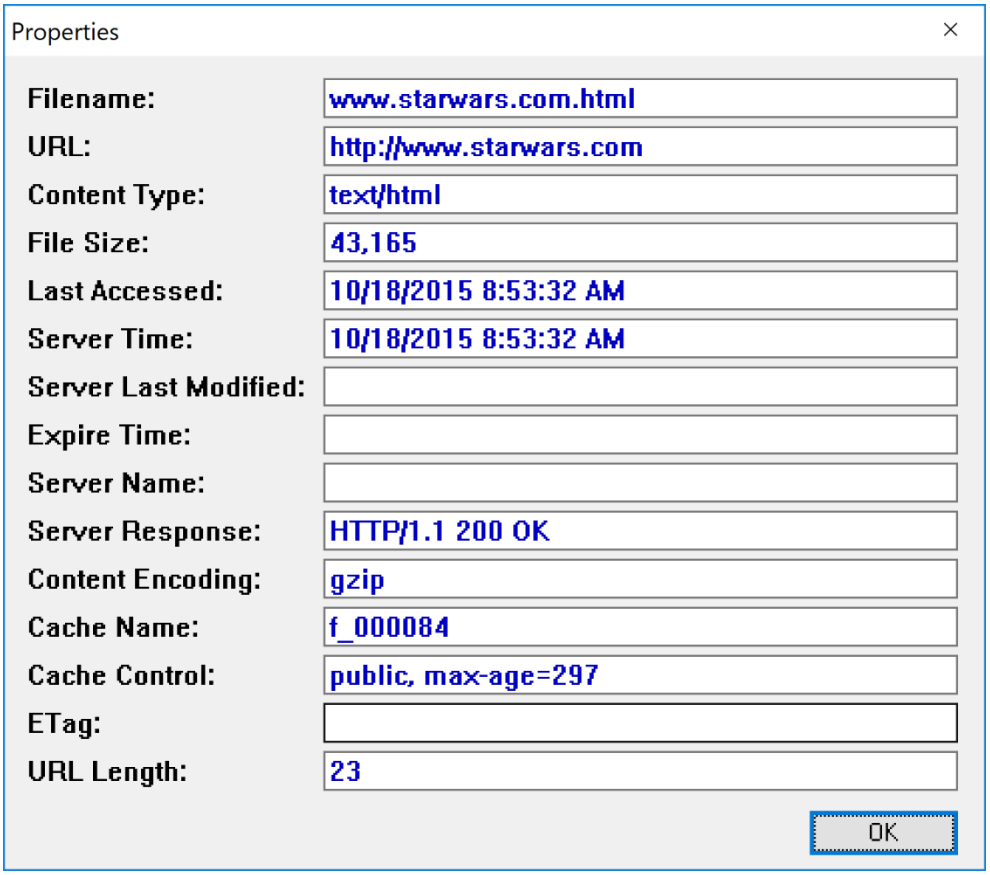
1. Download **NirSoft's ChromeCacheView (CCV)** from https://www.nirsoft.net/utils/chrome_cache_view.html, and extract the zip file.
2. Launch CCV.
3. By default, it will point to the cache stored by the current user on the local machine: `C:\Users\<user-name>\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\Cache`.
4. To read an ***offline cache***, from the main menu, select "File", then "Select Cache Folder", and then browse to the following location of your downloaded cache file: `Web_Caches\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\Cache`. CCV will show a window like the one below.



5. Click on the "URL" column to alphabetically sort the entries by URL.

6. Can you check whether www.starwars.com was visited before? Find its entry.

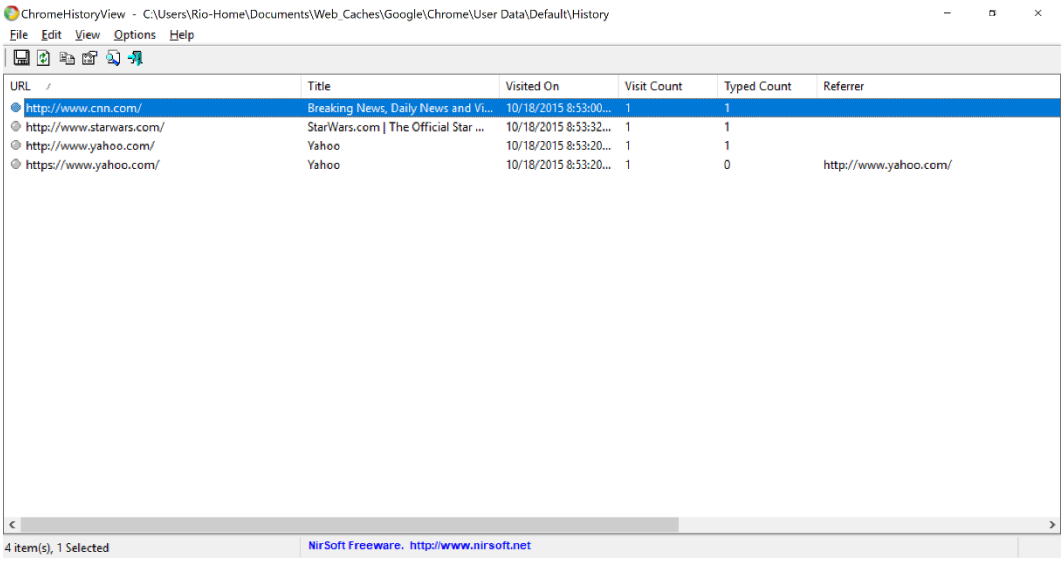
7. Double-click on the entry to find out its details like the one shown below.



Task 4-2: Extracting and Analyzing Chrome's History

Steps:

1. Download **NirSoft's ChromeHistoryView (CHV)** from https://www.nirsoft.net/utils/chrome_history_view.html, and extract the zip file.
2. Launch CHV.
3. By default, it will point to the history file stored by the current user on the local machine: `C:\Users\<user-name>\AppData\Local\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\History`.
4. To read an offline history, from the main menu, select "Options", then "Advanced Options", and then browse to the following location of your downloaded history file: `Web_Caches\Google\Chrome\User Data\Default\History`. CHV will show a window like the one below.



5. Inspect the listed entries.
   *Why are the "Visit Count" and "Typed Count" values of the last entry (https://www.yahoo.com/) different?
6. Can you correlate the visited URLs with the cache entries in Task 4-1 before?

Task 4-3: Extracting and Analyzing Firefox's Cache

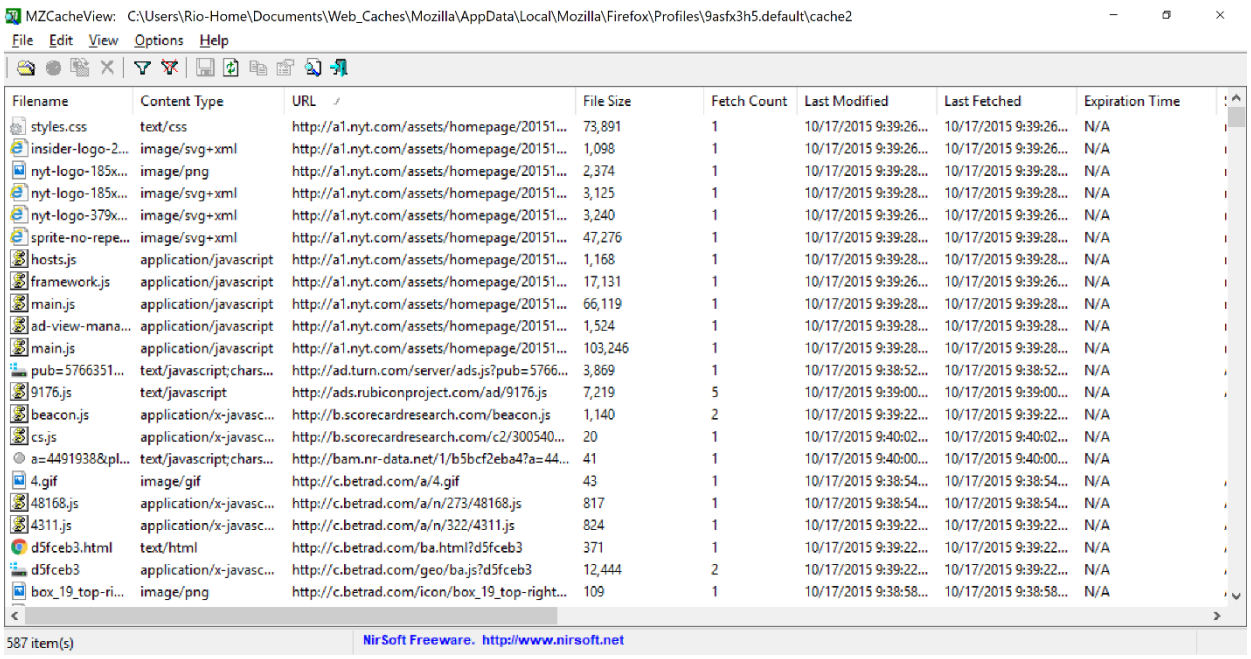
Steps:

1. Download **NirSoft's MozillaCacheView (MCV)** from https://www.nirsoft.net/utils/mozilla_cache_viewer.html, and extract the zip file.

2. Launch MCV.

3. By default, it will point to the cache stored by the current user on the local machine: `C:\Users\<user-name>\AppData\Local\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\profile.default\Cache`.

4. To read an **offline cache**, access the following location of your downloaded Mozilla cache file:
   `Web_Caches\Mozilla\AppData\Local\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\9asfx3h5.default\cache2`.
   MCV will show a window like the one below.

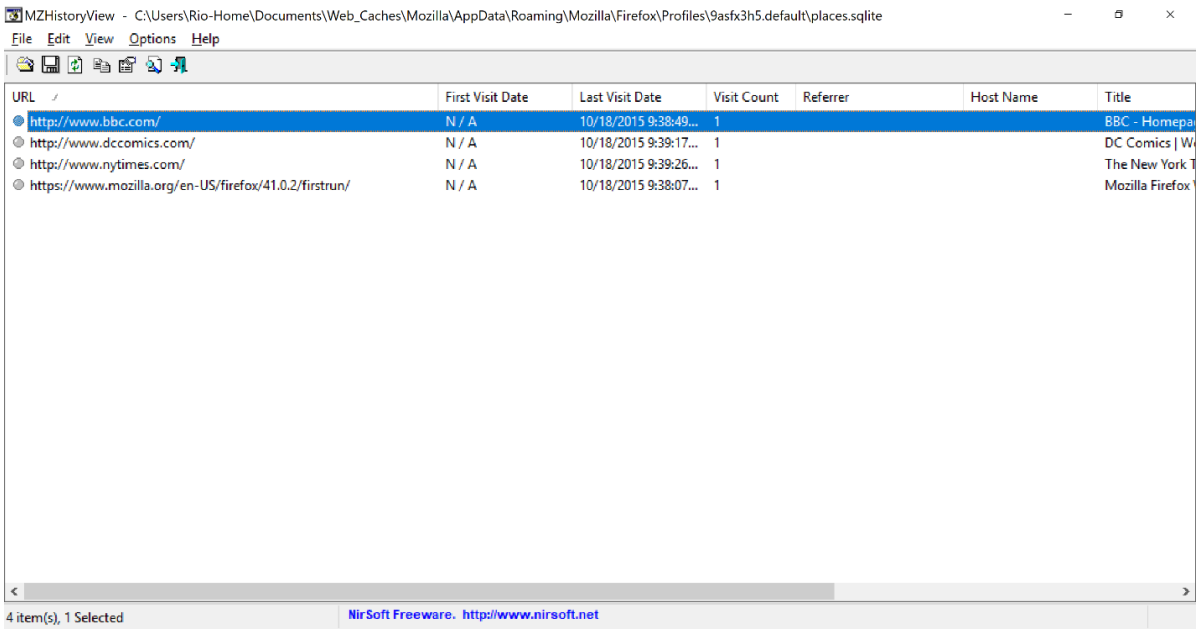


5. Inspect the shown entries.

Task 4-4: Extracting and Analyzing Firefox's History

Steps:

1. Download NirSoft's **MozillaHistoryView (MHV)** from https://www.nirsoft.net/utils/mozilla_history_view.html, and extract the zip file.
2. Launch MHV.
3. By default, it will point to the history file stored by the current user on the local machine: `C:\Users\<user-name>\AppData\Roaming\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\profile.default\places.sqlite`.
4. To read an offline history, access the following location of your downloaded Mozilla history file:
   `Web_Caches\Mozilla\AppData\Roaming\Mozilla\Firefox\Profiles\9asfx3h5.default\places.sqlite`.
   MHV will show a window like the one below.



5. Inspect the listed entries. How many entries were visited by the user? Notice that a newly installed Firefox will automatically visit Mozilla homepage.

Graded Lab Tasks #4 (2 Marks)

From your Lab 7, you will need to submit **your 3 answers** according to the following instructions:

- The selected **3 questions** in this lab are:
  - (0.5 marks) **Task 1, Step 5-c (page 3)**: When would the IP address lease expire/terminate (in human-readable time format)?
  - (0.75 marks) **Task 1, Step 5-d (page 3)**: What were the IP addresses of the DHCP server and default gateway?
  - (0.75 marks) **Task 4-2, Step 5 (page 21)**: Why are the "Visit Count" and "Typed Count" values of the last entry (https://www.yahoo.com/) different?
- From your correct 3 answers, you will earn a total of **2 marks**.
- This graded lab task assignment is an **individual** assignment.
  Hence, you MUST finish the assignment and report **independently**.
- Please prepare your answers in a self-contained **PDF file** by using your name and matric number as part of your file name. For example, Jack Lee with Matric No A001 should submit the filename JackLee-A001-**GLT4**.pdf. Your report should also contain your name, matric number, and email address on its first page.
- Upload your PDF file using **`Graded-Lab-Tasks-4`** Canvas Assignment by **Saturday, 18 March 2023, 23:59 SGT**. Note that this deadline is a ***firm & final*** **deadline**. There will be ***no*** deadline extensions.
  As such, you are advised to submit **well before** the cut-off time so as to avoid any technical issues with Canvas or your uploading!
- *Have fun with your assigned lab tasks!* :)