

ECE F343: Communication Networks

Assignment 1

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1 Question 1

1.1 Introduction

This program was written for Assignment 1, Question 1. The goal is to show how message encapsulation works in the OSI model by simulating the downward flow of data from Layer 7 (Application) to Layer 1 (Physical).

The user enters a message of up to 80 characters. The program passes it through seven functions, one per layer. Each function sticks its own header onto the front of whatever it received, prints the result, and then calls the function for the layer below it.

1.2 OSI Reference Model Overview

The OSI model splits network communication into seven layers, each with a specific job. Table 1 lists each layer, the name for its unit of data (PDU), and the header string used in this program.

Table 1: OSI Layers, PDU names, and simulated headers

Layer	Name	PDU	Simulated Header
7	Application	Message	[APP: HTTP GET /index.html]
6	Presentation	Message	[PRES: ENC=UTF-8 FORMAT=ASCII COMPRESS=NONE]
5	Session	Message	[SESS: ID=A1B2C3 SEQ=001 TYPE=DATA]
4	Transport	Segment	[TRAN: TCP SRC=1234 DST=80 SEQ=100 ACK=0]
3	Network	Packet	[NET: SRC=192.168.1.1 DST=10.0.0.1 TTL=64]
2	Data Link	Frame	[DL: SRC=AA:BB:CC DST=11:22:33 TYPE=IPv4]
1	Physical	Bits	[PHY: ENC=NRZ SIGNAL=DIGITAL]

1.3 Program Design

1.4 Design Decisions

- A helper function `prepend_header()` takes care of copying the header and message into a new buffer, so the layer functions themselves stay short and readable.
- Buffers are fixed-size arrays on the stack (`MAX_BUF = 1024` bytes). This is more than enough for seven headers plus an 80-char message, and the helper exits if that ever overflows.
- All headers are kept under 64 characters as required by the spec.
- Each layer function just calls the one below it directly, keeping the call chain simple and easy to follow.

1.5 Constants and Macros

```
1 #define MAX_APP_MSG 80
2 #define MAX_HEADER 64
3 #define MAX_BUF 1024
4
5 #define HDR_APP "[APP: HTTP GET /index.html]"
6 #define HDR PRES "[PRES: ENC=UTF-8 FORMAT=ASCII COMPRESS=NONE]"
7 #define HDR_SESS "[SESS: ID=A1B2C3 SEQ=001 TYPE=DATA]"
8 #define HDR_TRAN "[TRAN: TCP SRC=1234 DST=80 SEQ=100 ACK=0]"
9 #define HDR_NET "[NET: SRC=192.168.1.1 DST=10.0.0.1 TTL=64]"
10 #define HDR_DL "[DL: SRC=AA:BB:CC DST=11:22:33 TYPE=IPv4]"
11 #define HDR_PHY "[PHY: ENC=NRZ SIGNAL=DIGITAL]"
```

Listing 1: Buffer and header constants

1.6 Helper: prepend_header()

```
1 static int prepend_header(const char *header, const char *msg,
2   int msg_size, char *out_buf, int out_buf_size){
3   int hdr_len = (int)strlen(header);
4   int new_size = hdr_len + msg_size;
5
6   if (new_size >= out_buf_size) {
7     fprintf(stderr, "Buffer overflow prevented.\n");
8     exit(1);
9   }
10
11   memcpy(out_buf, header, hdr_len);
12   memcpy(out_buf + hdr_len, msg, msg_size);
13   out_buf[new_size] = '\0';
14
15   return new_size;
16 }
```

Listing 2: Header prepending helper

1.7 Layer Functions

All seven layer functions work the same way:

1. Allocate a local buffer (`MAX_BUF` bytes).
2. Call `prepend_header()` to build the new PDU.
3. Print it.
4. Call the next layer down (the Physical layer skips this last step).

```

1 void application_layer(char *msg, int size)
2 {
3     char buf[MAX_BUF];
4     int new_size = prepend_header(HDR_APP, msg, size, buf,
5     MAX_BUF);
6     printf("[Layer 7 - Application] PDU: %s\n\n", buf);
7     presentation_layer(buf, new_size);
8 }

```

Listing 3: Application Layer (representative example)

1.8 Message Flow Flowchart

Figure 1 shows the message moving down through the layers. The PDU gets longer at each step as another header is added to the front.

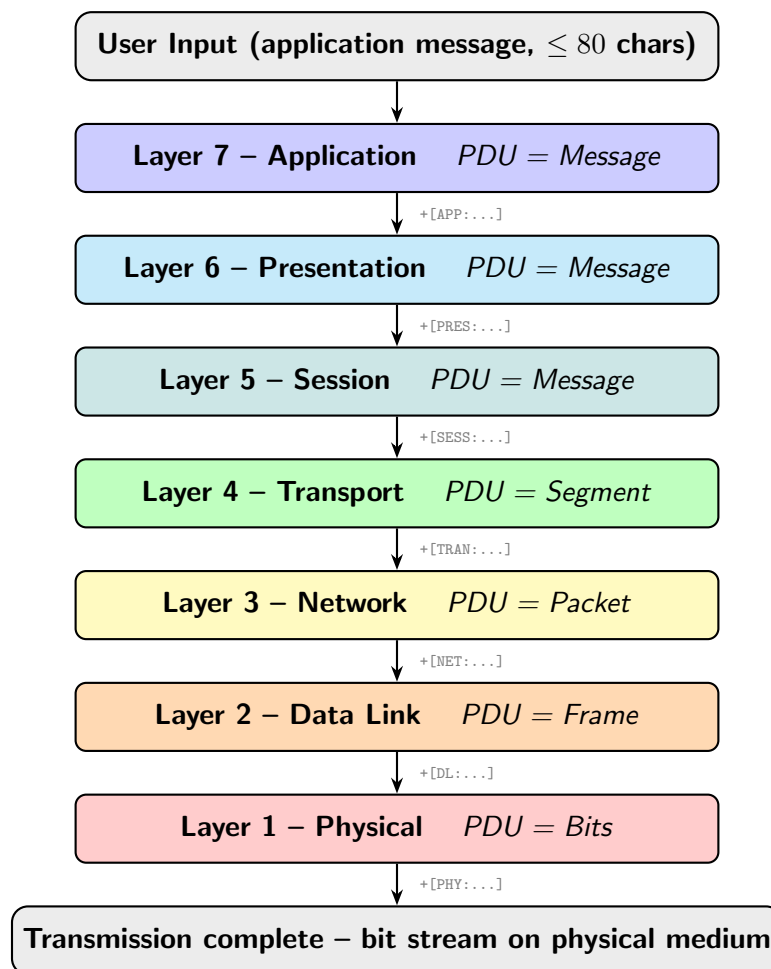


Figure 1: Message flow and encapsulation across the OSI 7 layers.

1.9 Sample Output

Running the program with the input "Hello, Network!" gives:

```

1 Enter application message (up to 80 characters):
2 > Hello, Network!
3
4 === OSI Encapsulation ===
5
6 [Layer 7 - Application] PDU: [APP: HTTP GET /index.html]Hello,
   Network!
7
8 [Layer 6 - Presentation] PDU: [PRES: ENC=UTF-8 FORMAT=ASCII
   COMPRESS=NONE][APP: HTTP GET /index.html]Hello, Network!
9
10 [Layer 5 - Session] PDU: [SESS: ID=A1B2C3 SEQ=001 TYPE=DATA
   ][PRES: ...]...[APP: ...]Hello, Network!
11
12 [Layer 4 - Transport] Segment: [TRAN: TCP SRC=1234 DST=80 SEQ
   =100 ACK=0][SESS: ...]...[APP: ...]Hello, Network!
13
14 [Layer 3 - Network] Packet: [NET: SRC=192.168.1.1 DST
   =10.0.0.1 TTL=64][TRAN: ...]...Hello, Network!
15
16 [Layer 2 - Data Link] Frame: [DL: SRC=AA:BB:CC DST=11:22:33
   TYPE=IPv4][NET: ...]...Hello, Network!
17
18 [Layer 1 - Physical] Bits: [PHY: ENC=NRZ SIGNAL=DIGITAL][DL:
   ...]...Hello, Network!
19
20 === Transmission complete: 271 bytes on the wire ===

```

Listing 4: Sample program output

1.10 Build and Run

The project uses a simple Makefile:

```

1 CC      = gcc
2 CFLAGS  = -Wall -Wextra -std=c11
3 TARGET  = osi_model
4 SRC     = osi_model.c
5
6 all: $(TARGET)
7
8 $(TARGET): $(SRC)
9     $(CC) $(CFLAGS) -o $(TARGET) $(SRC)
10
11 clean:
12     rm -f $(TARGET)

```

Listing 5: Makefile

Compile and run with:

```
1 make
2 ./osi_model
```

1.11 Summary

This program gives a rough idea of how encapsulation works going down the OSI stack. Each layer adds its own header before passing the data on, so by the time it reaches Layer 1 the original message is buried inside several headers. The headers here are simplified — they do not carry real protocol data — but the structure matches what each layer is actually responsible for: application requests at Layer 7, encoding info at Layer 6, session tracking at Layer 5, port and sequence numbers at Layer 4, IP addresses at Layer 3, MAC addresses at Layer 2, and signalling info at Layer 1.

2 Question 2

2.1 Wireshark Protocols

Question: What protocols are listed in the Wireshark “protocol” column in your trace file? Make a list of such protocols, identify the layer to which they belong, and briefly explain (in 1-2 lines) the function of each protocol.

Answer: The protocols listed under the ”protocol” column are as follows:

1. **ARP - Layer 2/3 (Network Interface / Network)** - Maps an IPv4 address to a MAC address on a local network.
2. **mDNS - Layer 7 (Application)** - Resolves hostnames locally using multicast without a DNS server.
3. **IGMPv2 - Layer 3 (Network)** - Manages IPv4 multicast group membership.
4. **ICMPv6 - Layer 3 (Network)** - Provides IPv6 error reporting and neighbor discovery.
5. **TCP - Layer 4 (Transport)** - Provides reliable, connection-oriented data transmission.
6. **SSDP - Layer 7 (Application)** - Discovers devices and services on a local network.
7. **LLC - Layer 2 (Data Link)** - Identifies upper-layer protocols within Ethernet frames.
8. **VRRP - Layer 3 (Network)** - Provides gateway redundancy using a virtual IP address.
9. **DHCP - Layer 7 (Application)** - Automatically assigns IP configuration to clients.
10. **TLSv1.2 - Layer 6/7 (Presentation/Application)** - Encrypts and secures application data.
11. **DNS - Layer 7 (Application)** - Translates domain names into IP addresses.
12. **UDP - Layer 4 (Transport)** - Provides fast, connectionless data transmission.
13. **IGMPv3 - Layer 3 (Network)** - Supports source-specific IPv4 multicast membership.
14. **NBNS - Layer 7 (Application)** - Resolves NetBIOS names to IP addresses.
15. **TLSv1.3 - Layer 6/7 (Presentation/Application)** - Provides faster and more secure encryption than TLS 1.2.
16. **HTTP - Layer 7 (Application)** - Transfers web content using a request-response model.
17. **BROWSER - Layer 7 (Application)** - Maintains shared resource lists in Windows networks.

2.2 HTTP Protocol Stats

Question: Read about HTTP protocol and its working (Reference: Section 2.1, 8.1 in Garcia). Now in your experiment, determine how long did it take from when the HTTP GET message was sent until the HTTP OK reply was received? (By default, the value of the Time column in the packet-listing window is the amount of time, in seconds, since Wireshark tracing began. (If you want to display the Time field in time-of-day format, select the Wireshark View pull down menu, then select Time Display Format, then select Time-of-day.)

Answer: The HTTPS GET packet was triggered at $t = 19.08404851$ and the OK packet was recieved at $t = 19.830304061$, meaning it took 0.746255551000001 seconds for this communicaiton.

Note: I used another HTTP website (this one) to test HTTP, as I couldn't get the gaia website working even after turning of HTTPS3.

2.3 Internet Address of Gaia

Question What is the Internet address of the gaia.cs.umass.edu (also known as www-net.cs.umass.edu)? What is the Internet address of the computer that sent the HTTP GET message (i.e., your computer)?

Answer: Since the website is a https secured website, we use the dns filter, rather than the http filter on the wireshark protocols list. The source and destination can be found in 2 and are as follows

- **Source:** 172.17.61.200
- **Destination:** 172.24.2.76

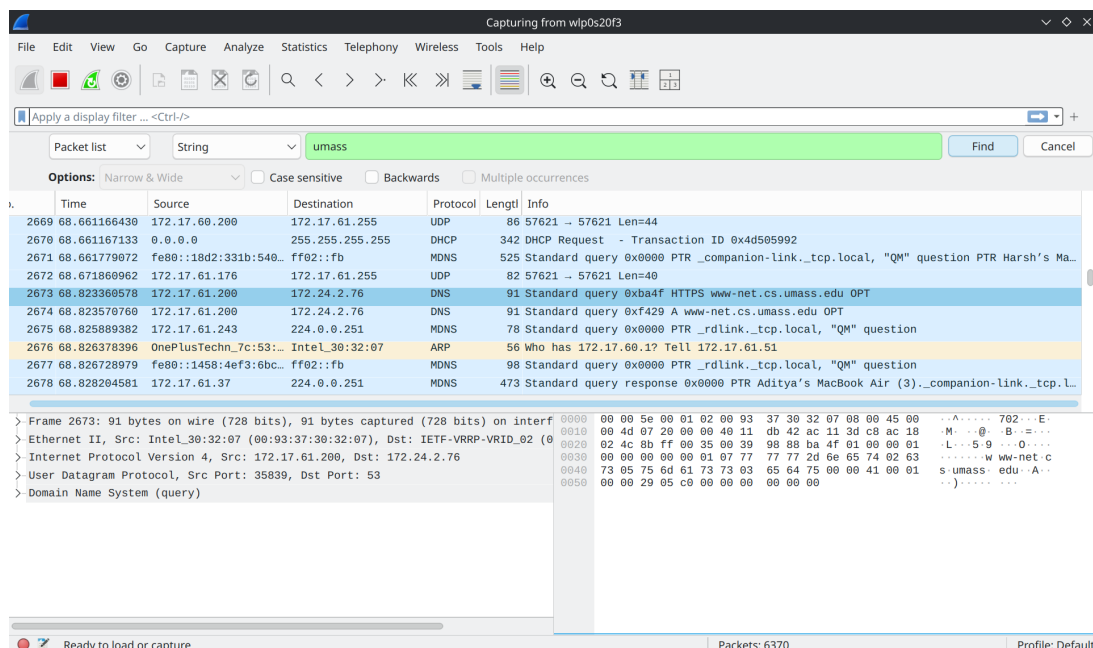


Figure 2: Screen Capture from Wireshark for the Website DNS Request

2.5 TCP Stats

Question: Expand the information on the Transmission Control Protocol (TCP is a transport layer protocol, reference: Section 8.5 in Garcia) for this packet in the Wireshark “Details of selected packet” window so you can see the fields in the TCP segment carrying the HTTP message. What is the destination port number (the number following “Dest Port:” for the TCP segment containing the HTTP request) to which this HTTP request is being sent?

Answer: The destination port, as can be seen in Figure 4 is 80, and it’s source port is 45675.

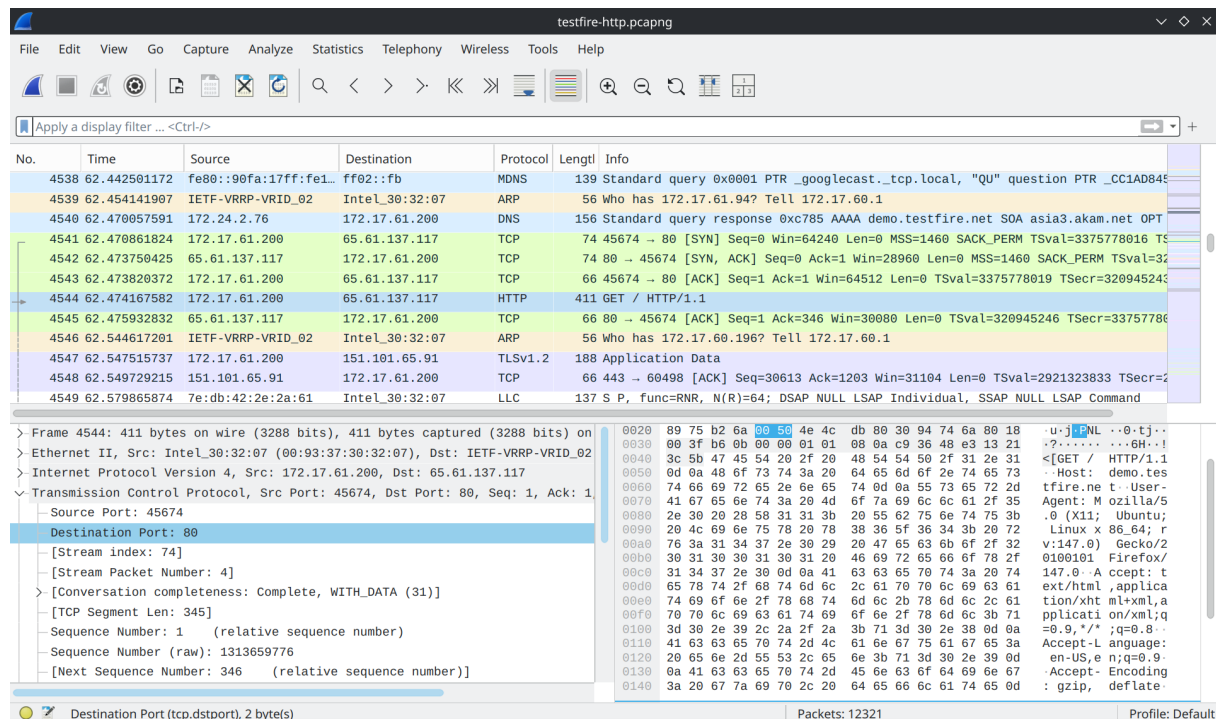


Figure 4: TCP Packet Showing Destination Port

Note that, in the representation of the packet, you see the port number represented as 00 50, but that’s because this value is in hex. In decimal the packet number becomes 80.

2.6 Printing the HTTP Requests

Question: Print the two HTTP messages (GET and OK) referred to in question 2 above. To do so, select Print from the Wireshark File command menu, and select the “Selected Packet Only” and “Print as displayed” radial buttons, and then click OK.

Answer: The details of the HTTP packets have been printed, and the pdf is appended to the next page.

```

No.      Time      Source      Destination      Protocol Length Info
 4751 62.809289961 172.17.61.200 34.107.221.82 HTTP 384 GET /success.txt?ipv4 HTTP/1.1
Frame 4751: 384 bytes on wire (3072 bits), 384 bytes captured (3072 bits) on interface wlp0s20f3, id 0
Ethernet II, Src: Intel_30:32:07 (00:93:37:30:32:07), Dst: IETF-VRRP-VRID_02 (00:00:5e:00:01:02)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 172.17.61.200, Dst: 34.107.221.82
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 36004, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 318
  Source Port: 36004
  Destination Port: 80
  [Stream index: 77]
  [Stream Packet Number: 4]
  [Conversation completeness: Complete, WITH_DATA (31)]
  [TCP Segment Len: 318]
  Sequence Number: 1 (relative sequence number)
  Sequence Number (raw): 3279544848
  [Next Sequence Number: 319 (relative sequence number)]
  Acknowledgment Number: 1 (relative ack number)
  Acknowledgment number (raw): 1653599650
  1000 .... = Header Length: 32 bytes (8)
  Flags: 0x018 (PSH, ACK)
  Window: 63
  [Calculated window size: 64512]
  [Window size scaling factor: 1024]
  Checksum: 0xaeafb [unverified]
  [Checksum Status: Unverified]
  Urgent Pointer: 0
  Options: (12 bytes), No-Operation (NOP), No-Operation (NOP), Timestamps
  [Timestamps]
  [SEQ/ACK analysis]
  TCP payload (318 bytes)
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
No.      Time      Source      Destination      Protocol Length Info
 4848 62.855803736 34.107.221.82 172.17.61.200 HTTP 282 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/plain)
Frame 4848: 282 bytes on wire (2256 bits), 282 bytes captured (2256 bits) on interface wlp0s20f3, id 0
Ethernet II, Src: JuniperNetwo_b6:d7:f0 (7c:e2:ca:b6:d7:f0), Dst: Intel_30:32:07 (00:93:37:30:32:07)
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 34.107.221.82, Dst: 172.17.61.200
Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 80, Dst Port: 36004, Seq: 1, Ack: 319, Len: 216
  Source Port: 80
  Destination Port: 36004
  [Stream index: 77]
  [Stream Packet Number: 6]
  [Conversation completeness: Complete, WITH_DATA (31)]
  [TCP Segment Len: 216]
  Sequence Number: 1 (relative sequence number)
  Sequence Number (raw): 1653599650
  [Next Sequence Number: 217 (relative sequence number)]
  Acknowledgment Number: 319 (relative ack number)
  Acknowledgment number (raw): 3279545166
  1000 .... = Header Length: 32 bytes (8)
  Flags: 0x018 (PSH, ACK)
  Window: 235
  [Calculated window size: 30080]
  [Window size scaling factor: 128]
  Checksum: 0x281a [unverified]
  [Checksum Status: Unverified]
  Urgent Pointer: 0
  Options: (12 bytes), No-Operation (NOP), No-Operation (NOP), Timestamps
  [Timestamps]
  [SEQ/ACK analysis]
  TCP payload (216 bytes)
Hypertext Transfer Protocol
Line-based text data: text/plain (1 lines)

```