Task 5: Capture and Analyze Network Traffic Using Wireshark

1. Objective

Capture live network packets using Wireshark and identify different protocols to understand basic network communication.

2. Tools Used

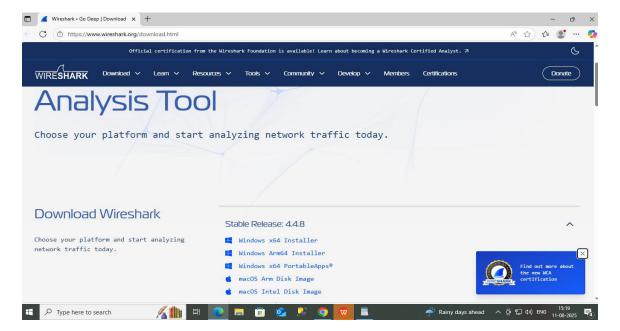
Wireshark (Latest version)

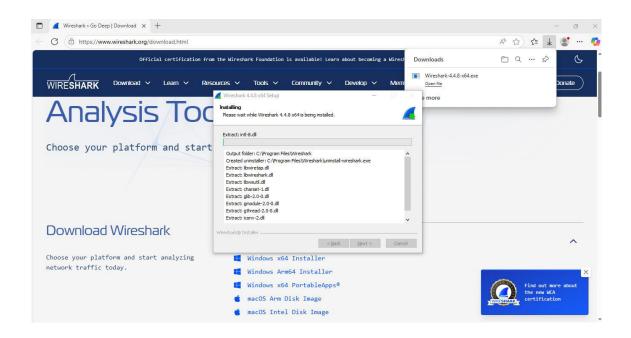
3. Steps Performed

Step 1 – Install Wireshark

Download from https://www.wireshark.org/download.html

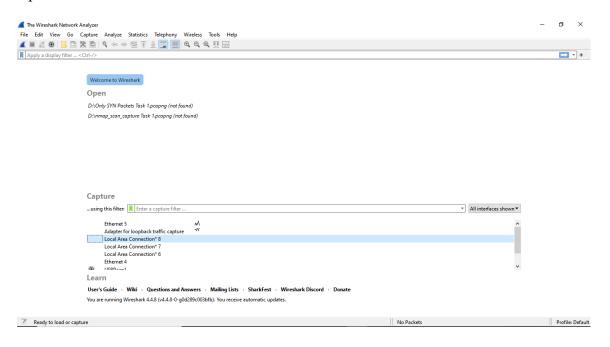
Install with WinPcap/Npcap option enabled.



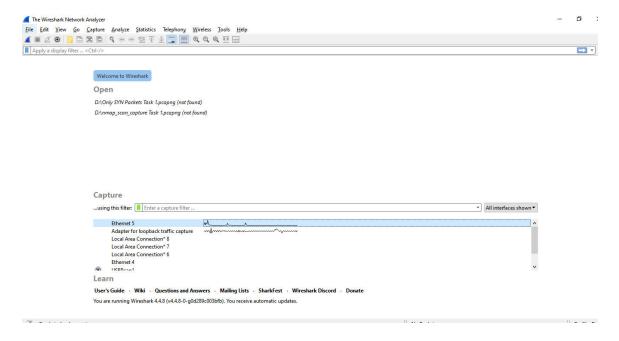


Step 2 – Launch Wireshark & Select Interface

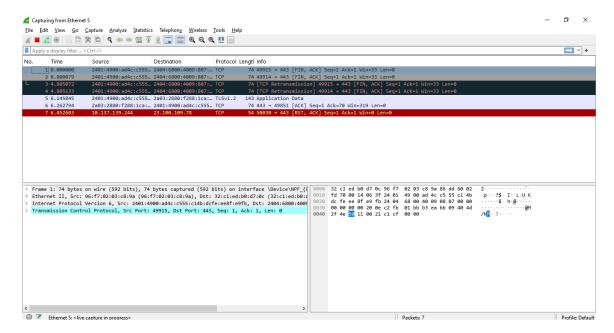
Open Wireshark.



Select your **active network interface** (Ethernet 5)



Click Start Capturing Packets.

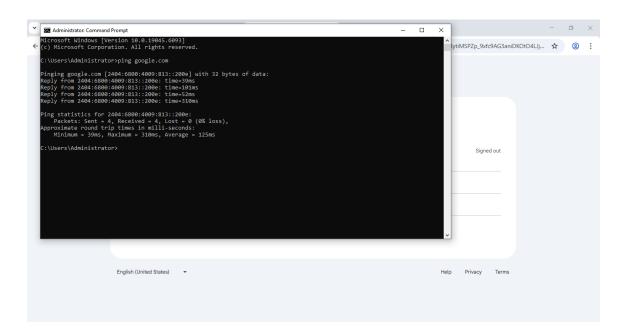


Step 3 – Generating Network Traffic

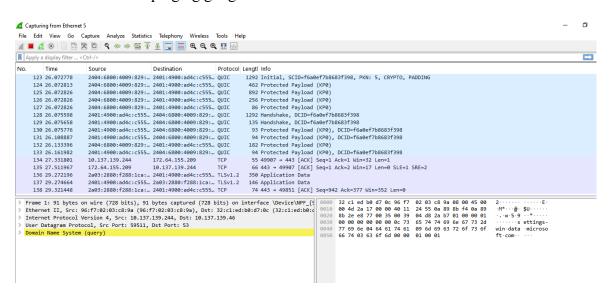
Open a browser and visit websites like: www.google.com

Run a ping command:

ping google.com



Network traffic after pinging google.com

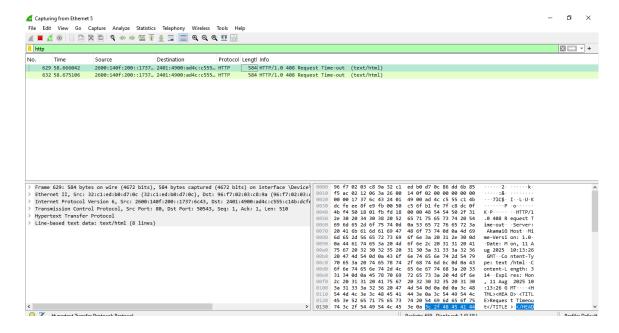


Step 4

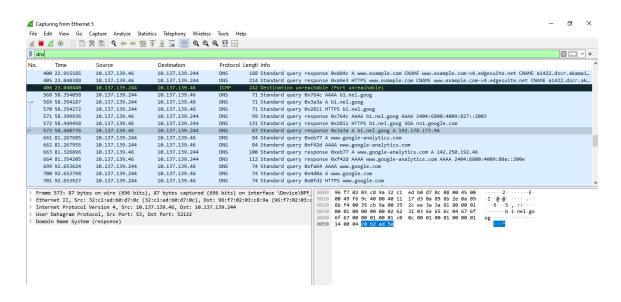
After 1-2 minutes, I have stopped the packet capturing.

Step 5 – Applying Protocol Filters

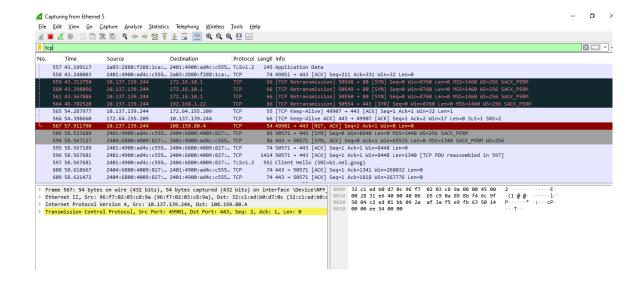
http – for web traffic



dns - for domain name lookups



tcp - for Transmission Control Protocol packets



1. DNS (Domain Name System)

Layer: Application layer (OSI Layer 7)

Purpose: Translates human-readable domain names (e.g., google.com) into IP addresses (e.g., 142.250.193.78).

Wireshark Filter: dns

Example Packet:

Frame Info: 74 bytes on wire

Source IP: 192.168.1.5 (client)

Destination IP: 8.8.8.8 (Google DNS server)

Query Name: www.google.com

Observation:

When I typed a website into the browser, a DNS Query packet was sent to the DNS server, followed by a DNS Response containing the IP address.

2. HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol)

Layer: Application layer (OSI Layer 7)

Purpose: Transmits hypertext data between client (browser) and server.

Wireshark Filter: http

Example Packet:

Method: GET

Host: www.example.com

User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 10.0; Win64; x64)

Status Code: 200 OK

Observation:

HTTP packets showed the exact URL paths requested, headers sent, and HTML content returned by the server. Since HTTP is not encrypted, the request and response data were fully visible in the capture.

3. TCP (Transmission Control Protocol)

Layer: Transport layer (OSI Layer 4)

Purpose: Provides reliable, ordered, and error-checked delivery of data between

applications.

Wireshark Filter: tcp

Example Packet:

Flags: SYN, SYN-ACK, ACK (TCP 3-way handshake)

Source Port: 56782

Destination Port: 443 (HTTPS)

Sequence Number: $0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2$ (example)

Observation:

Capturing TCP traffic allowed me to see the connection establishment process and data transmission segments. For HTTPS traffic (port 443), the payload was encrypted, but the TCP handshake details were still visible.

Step 7 – Export Capture as .pcap

Go to File \rightarrow Save As \rightarrow .pcap format.

Named it network_capture.pcap.

