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How to Install and Use Wireshark on Ubuntu Linux?

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Wireshark is an open-source network protocol analyzer that helps us to see what is happening inside a network when we try to communicate with other networks. Currently, Wireshark is the most famous application to analyze networks. To know more about Wireshark please refer to the article Introduction to Wireshark.
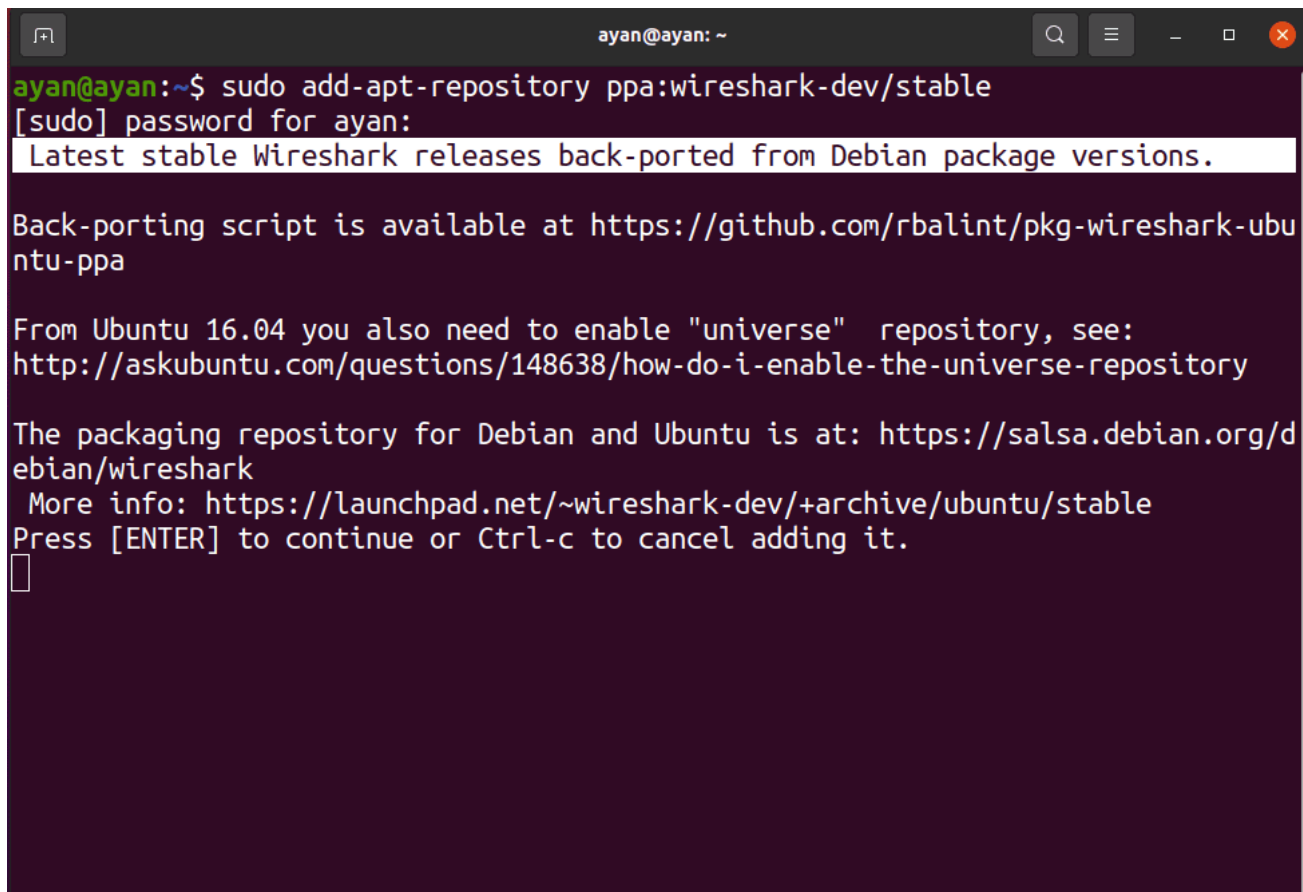
Steps to Install Wireshark on Ubuntu Linux:

To install the latest version of Wireshark on Ubuntu we have to follow certain steps:

Step 1: Go to the terminal by simply pressing Ctrl + Alt + t or right-click + Open in Terminal

Step 2: Add a repository by running this command,

```
sudo add-apt-repository ppa:wireshark-dev/stable
```

Step 3: Update the repository

```
sudo apt update
```

```
Hit:1 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal InRelease
Hit:2 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates InRelease
Hit:3 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-backports InRelease
Hit:4 http://packages.microsoft.com/repos/code stable InRelease
Hit:5 https://dl.google.com/linux/chrome/deb stable InRelease
Hit:6 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security InRelease
Hit:7 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal InRelease
Hit:8 http://ppa.launchpad.net/wireshark-dev/stable/ubuntu focal InRelease
Reading package lists... Done
ayan@ayan:~$ sudo apt update
Hit:1 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal InRelease
Hit:2 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-updates InRelease
Hit:3 http://in.archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-backports InRelease
Hit:4 http://packages.microsoft.com/repos/code stable InRelease
Hit:5 https://dl.google.com/linux/chrome/deb stable InRelease
Hit:6 http://ppa.launchpad.net/wireshark-dev/stable/ubuntu focal InRelease
Hit:7 http://archive.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal InRelease
Hit:8 http://security.ubuntu.com/ubuntu focal-security InRelease
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
132 packages can be upgraded. Run 'apt list --upgradable' to see them.
ayan@ayan:~$ 
```

Step 4: Install Wireshark

```
sudo apt install wireshark
```

```
ayan@ayan:~$ sudo apt install wireshark
Reading package lists... Done
Building dependency tree
Reading state information... Done
The following additional packages will be installed:
  libc-ares2 libdouble-conversion3 liblua5.2-0 libminizip1 libpcre2-16-0
  libqt5core5a libqt5dbus5 libqt5gui5 libqt5multimedia5
  libqt5multimedia5-plugins libqt5multimediagsttools5 libqt5multimediawidgets5
  libqt5network5 libqt5opengl5 libqt5printsupport5 libqt5svg5 libqt5widgets5
  libsmi2ldbl libspandsp2 libwireshark-data libwireshark15 libwiretap12
  libwsutil13 libxcb-xinerama0 libxcb-xinput0 qt5-gtk-platformtheme
  qttranslations5-l10n wireshark-common wireshark-qt
Suggested packages:
  qt5-image-formats-plugins qtwayland5 snmp-mibs-downloader geoipupdate
  geoip-database geoip-database-extra libjs-leaflet
  libjs-leaflet.markercluster wireshark-doc
The following NEW packages will be installed:
  libc-ares2 libdouble-conversion3 liblua5.2-0 libminizip1 libpcre2-16-0
  libqt5core5a libqt5dbus5 libqt5gui5 libqt5multimedia5
  libqt5multimedia5-plugins libqt5multimediagsttools5 libqt5multimediawidgets5
  libqt5network5 libqt5opengl5 libqt5printsupport5 libqt5svg5 libqt5widgets5
  libsmi2ldbl libspandsp2 libwireshark-data libwireshark15 libwiretap12
  libwsutil13 libxcb-xinerama0 libxcb-xinput0 qt5-gtk-platformtheme
  qttranslations5-l10n wireshark wireshark-common wireshark-qt
```
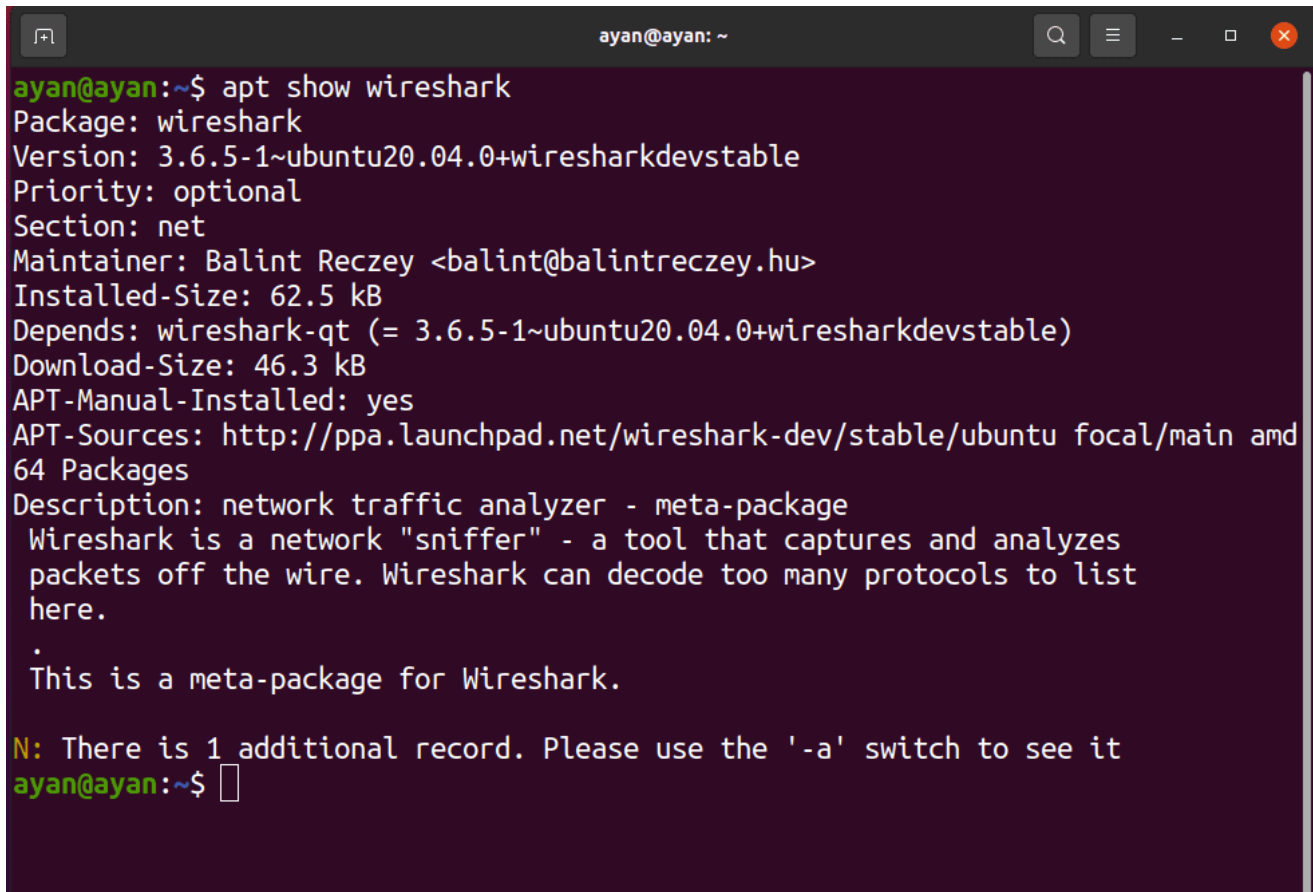
Step 5: Wireshark is installed, you can run in the terminal to do so run this command

```
sudo wireshark
```

or just simply go to show applications and run Wireshark.

You can check the version of your installed Wireshark by running the following command

```
apt show wireshark
```

If you face any error during installation or running Wireshark like **Wireshark xdg_runtime_dir not set** then open the terminal and run this command and click **YES** to the message box

```
sudo dpkg-reconfigure wireshark-common
```

After opening Wireshark if you can see wavy lines beside **enp0s3** then congratulations, you are all set and good to go.

How to Use Wireshark:

To capture the networking packages using Wireshark follow these steps

Step 1: Go to Wireshark and double click on the first option **enp0s3** to start capturing

Step 2: You can see a window with various source and destination IP addresses, protocols, lengths, etc. This is where you are capturing the protocols. The Protocol is showing currently which network protocol is running on your system and their source and destination IP addresses. You can also apply filters by protocol names to see only the packets you want to see.

Step 3: After capturing all the required packets that you want you can stop by simply clicking the red square button at the top-left. To start capturing again just click the blue

button beside the red stop button.
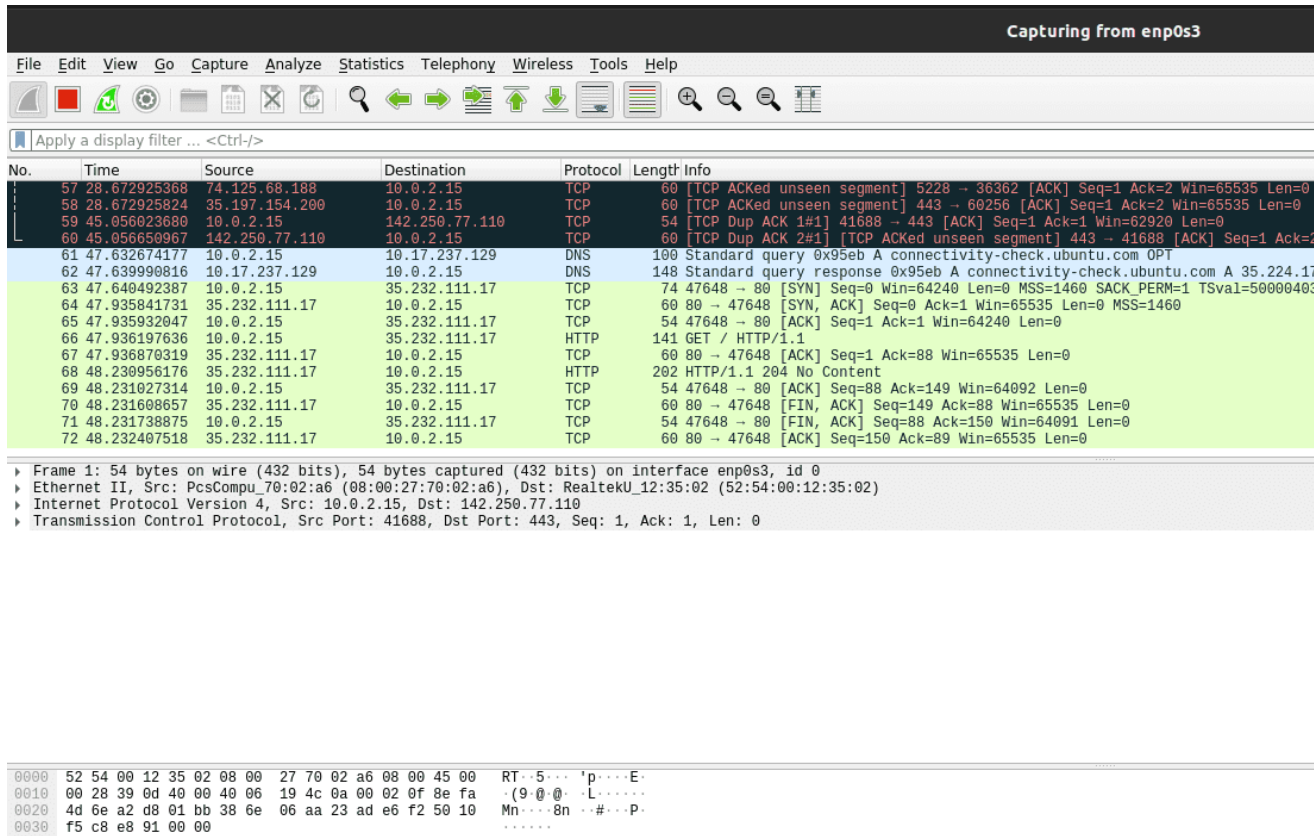
To know more about the usage of Wireshark, you can refer to the article – Packet Capturing and Analyzing.

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