



Department of Electrical Engineering

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Section: D

EE-357 Computer and Communication Networks
Experiment - 8

Wireshark – ICMP (Internet Control Message Protocol)

Name	Reg. No	PLO5/ CLO3		PLO5/ CLO3	PLO5/ CLO3	PLO5/ CLO3
		Viva / Quiz / Lab Performance 5 Marks	Analysis of data in Lab Report 5 Marks	Modern Tool Usage 5 Marks	Ethics and Safety 5 Marks	Individual and Team Work 5 Marks
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EXPERIMENT NO 8

Wireshark – ICMP (Internet Control Message Protocol)

1.0 Objective of this lab:

In this lab, we'll explore several aspects of the ICMP protocol. We will specifically study ICMP messages that are used by the Ping and Traceroute programs. We will also study the general format of ICMP messages.

2.0 Instructions:

- Read carefully before starting the lab.
- These exercises are to be done individually.
- You are supposed to provide the answers to the questions listed at the end of this document, paste the screenshots of your working and upload the completed report to your course's LMS site.
- Avoid plagiarism by copying from the Internet or from your peers. You may refer to source/ text but you must paraphrase the original work.

3.0 Background:

3.1 Internet protocol:

The Internet Protocol (IP) takes the stage when the datagram service between the hosts is required in an interconnected network. These internetworks are connected using the devices called Gateways. In some occasions where the gateway or the destination host needs to communicate with the source host and these situations arise when there is an error in datagram processing. These situations occur occasionally and in these situations, the ICMP (Internet Control Message Protocol) is used.

Some of the situations where the ICMP messages are sent are

1. The datagram is not transmitted to the destination host because of no routing entry.
2. When the gateway identifies a shorter route that the host can take to send the datagrams to a destination.



3.2 ICMP Message Types:

Based on the type field, the message types are categorized into different groups. Each of these messages carries different fields with respect to ICMP over the network. The summary of these messages and the type is tabularized below.

Type	Message Category
0	Echo Reply
3	Destination Unreachable
4	Source Quench
5	Redirect
8	Echo Request
11	Time Exceeded
12	Parameter Problem
13	Time Stamp
14	Time Stamp Reply
15	Information Request
16	Information Reply

3.3 ICMP and Ping:

Let's begin our ICMP adventure by capturing the packets generated by the Ping program. You may recall that the Ping program is simple tool that allows anyone (for example, a network administrator) to verify if a host is live or not. The Ping program in the source host sends a packet to the target IP address; if the target is live, the Ping program in the target host responds by sending a packet back to the source host. As you might have guessed (given that this lab is about ICMP), both of these Ping packets are ICMP packets.

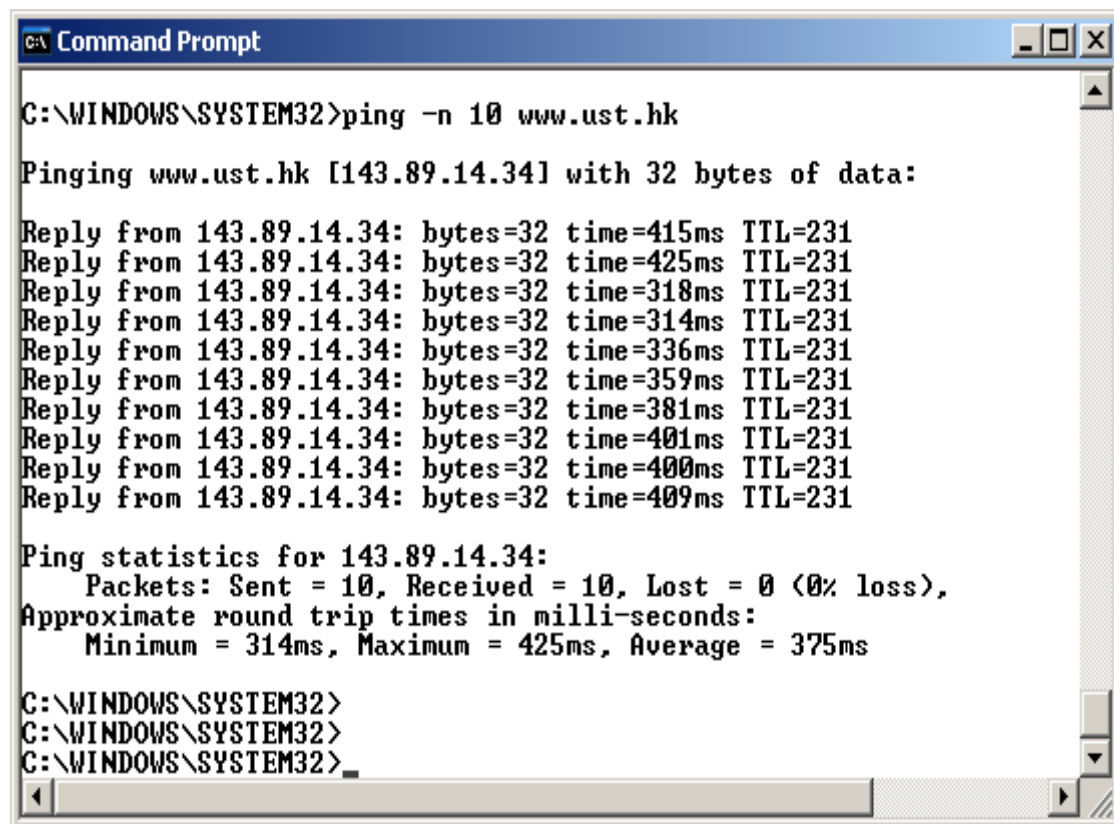
Do the following:

- Let's begin this adventure by opening the Windows Command Prompt application (which can be found in your Accessories folder).
- Start up the Wireshark packet sniffer, and begin Wireshark packet capture.
- The *ping* command is in `c:\windows\system32`, so type either "*ping -n 10 hostname*" or "*c:\windows\system32\ping -n 10 hostname*" in the MS-DOS command line (without quotation marks), where *hostname* is a host on another continent. If you're outside of Asia, you may want to enter `www.ust.hk` for the Web server at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. The argument "*-n 10*" indicates that 10 ping messages should be sent. Then run the Ping program by typing return.
- When the Ping program terminates, stop the packet capture in Wireshark.

At the end of the experiment, your Command Prompt Window should look something like Figure 1. In this example, the source ping program is in Massachusetts and the destination Ping program is in Hong Kong. From this window we see that the source ping program sent 10 query packets and received 10 responses. Note also that for each response, the source



calculates the round-trip time (RTT), which for the 10 packets is on average 375 msec.



```
C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32>ping -n 10 www.ust.hk

Pinging www.ust.hk [143.89.14.34] with 32 bytes of data:

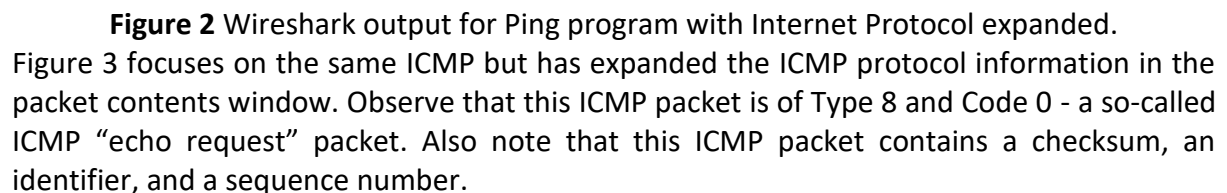
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=415ms TTL=231
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=425ms TTL=231
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=318ms TTL=231
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=314ms TTL=231
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=336ms TTL=231
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=359ms TTL=231
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=381ms TTL=231
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=401ms TTL=231
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=400ms TTL=231
Reply from 143.89.14.34: bytes=32 time=409ms TTL=231

Ping statistics for 143.89.14.34:
    Packets: Sent = 10, Received = 10, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 314ms, Maximum = 425ms, Average = 375ms

C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32>
C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32>
C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32>
```

Figure 1 Command Prompt window after entering Ping command.

Figure 2 provides a screenshot of the Wireshark output, after “icmp” has been entered into the filter display window. Note that the packet listing shows 20 packets: the 10 Ping queries sent by the source and the 10 Ping responses received by the source. Also note that the source’s IP address is a private address; the destination’s IP address is that of the Web server at HKUST. Now let’s zoom in on the first packet (sent by the client); in the figure below, the packet contents area provides information about this packet. We see that the IP datagram within this packet has protocol number 01, which is the protocol number for ICMP. This means that the payload of the IP datagram is an ICMP packet.





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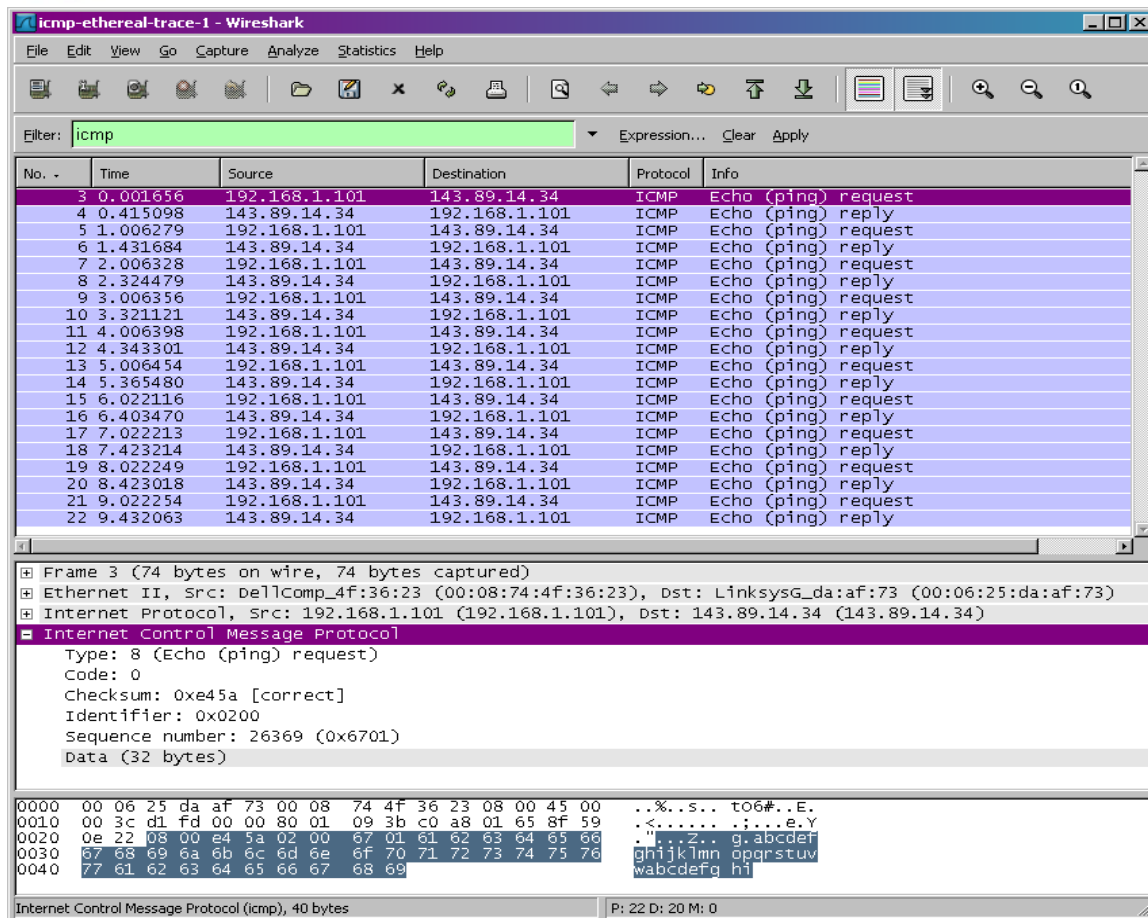


Figure 3: Wireshark capture of ping packet with ICMP packet expanded.

What to Hand In:

You should hand in a screen shot of the Command Prompt window similar to Figure 1 above. Whenever possible, when answering a question below, you should hand in a printout of the packet(s) within the trace that you used to answer the question asked.

You should answer the following questions:



```
C:\Users\Hp>ping -n 10 8.8.8.8

Pinging 8.8.8.8 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=293ms TTL=105
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=286ms TTL=105
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=376ms TTL=105
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=372ms TTL=105
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=375ms TTL=105
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=374ms TTL=105
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=268ms TTL=105
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=265ms TTL=105
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=268ms TTL=105
Reply from 8.8.8.8: bytes=32 time=267ms TTL=105

Ping statistics for 8.8.8.8:
    Packets: Sent = 10, Received = 10, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 265ms, Maximum = 376ms, Average = 314ms

C:\Users\Hp>
```

1. What is the IP address of your host? What is the IP address of the destination host?

Answer:

909	11.998319	10.7.26.110	8.8.8.8	ICMP	74 Echo (ping) request
936	12.291345	8.8.8.8	10.7.26.110	ICMP	74 Echo (ping) reply

Host; 10.7.26.110

Destination; 8.8.8.8

2. Why is it that an ICMP packet does not have source and destination port numbers?

Answer:

The ICMP packet does not have source and destination port numbers because it was designed to communicate network-layer information between hosts and routers, not between application layer processes. Each ICMP packet has a "Type" and a "Code". The Type/Code combination identifies the specific message being received.

3. Examine one of the ping request packets sent by your host. What are the ICMP type and code numbers? What other fields does this ICMP packet have? How many bytes are the checksum, sequence number and identifier fields?

```
> Frame 909: 74 bytes on wire (592 bits), 74 bytes captured (592 bits) on interface \Device\NPF_{94A7B1C8-642...}
> Ethernet II, Src: IntelCor_2e:b6:e3 (f4:96:34:2e:b6:e3), Dst: HuaweiTe_40:6f:98 (28:a6:db:40:6f:98)
> Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.7.26.110, Dst: 8.8.8.8
> Internet Control Message Protocol
```

Type: 8 (Echo (ping) request)

Code: 0

Checksum: 0x4d32 [correct]

[Checksum Status: Good]

Identifier (BE): 1 (0x0001)

Identifier (LE): 256 (0x0100)

Sequence Number (BE): 41 (0x0029)

Sequence Number (LE): 10496 (0x2900)

[\[Response frame: 936\]](#)

4. > Data (32 bytes)

Examine the corresponding ping reply packet. What are the ICMP type and code numbers? What other fields does this ICMP packet have? How many bytes are the checksum, sequence number and identifier fields?



```
Internet Control Message Protocol
Type: 0 (Echo (ping) reply)
Code: 0
Checksum: 0x5532 [correct]
[Checksum Status: Good]
Identifier (BE): 1 (0x0001)
Identifier (LE): 256 (0x0100)
Sequence Number (BE): 41 (0x0029)
Sequence Number (LE): 10496 (0x2900)
[Request frame: 909]
[Response time: 293.026 ms]
```

2. ICMP and Traceroute:

Let's now continue our ICMP adventure by capturing the packets generated by the Traceroute program. You may recall that the Traceroute program can be used to figure out the path a packet takes from source to destination.

Traceroute is implemented in different ways in Unix/Linux/macOS and in Windows. In Unix/Linux, the source sends a series of UDP packets to the target destination using an unlikely destination port number; in Windows, the source sends a series of ICMP packets to the target destination. For both operating systems, the program sends the first packet with TTL=1, the second packet with TTL=2, and so on. Recall that a router will decrement a packet's TTL value as the packet passes through the router. When a packet arrives at a router with TTL=1, the router sends an ICMP error packet back to the source. In the following, we'll use the native Windows *tracert* program.

Do the following:

- Let's begin by opening the Windows Command Prompt application (which can be found in your Accessories folder).
- Start up the Wireshark packet sniffer, and begin Wireshark packet capture.
- The *tracert* command is in `c:\windows\system32`, so type either "*tracert hostname*" or "`c:\windows\system32\tracert hostname`" in the MS-DOS command line (without quotation marks), where *hostname* is a host on another continent. (Note that on a Windows machine, the command is "**tracert**" and not "**tracert**".) If you're outside of Europe, you may want to enter `www.inria.fr` for the Web server at INRIA, a computer science research institute in France. Then run the Traceroute program by typing return.
- When the Traceroute program terminates, stop packet capture in Wireshark.

At the end of the experiment, your Command Prompt Window should look something like Figure 4. From this figure we see that for each TTL value, the source program sends three probe packets. Traceroute displays the RTTs for each of the probe packets, as well as the IP address (and possibly the name) of the router that returned the ICMP TTL-exceeded message.



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```
Command Prompt
C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32>
C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32>
C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32>
C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32>tracert www.inria.fr

Tracing route to www.inria.fr [138.96.146.2]
over a maximum of 30 hops:

  1  13 ms  12 ms  13 ms  10.216.228.1
  2  21 ms  14 ms  13 ms  24.218.0.153
  3  12 ms  11 ms  13 ms  bar01-p4-0.wsfidhe1.ma.attbb.net [24.128.190.197]
  4  16 ms  16 ms  15 ms  bar02-p6-0.ndhmhe1.ma.attbb.net [24.128.0.101]
  5  15 ms  15 ms  15 ms  12.125.47.49
  6  17 ms  17 ms  17 ms  12.123.40.218
  7  22 ms  23 ms  22 ms  tbr2-cl1.n54ny.ip.att.net [12.122.10.221]
  8  23 ms  23 ms  23 ms  ggr2-p3120.n54ny.ip.att.net [12.123.3.109]
  9  26 ms  21 ms  25 ms  att-gw.nyc.opentransit.net [192.205.32.138]
 10  98 ms  98 ms  96 ms  P4-0.PASCR1.Pastourelle.opentransit.net [193.251.241.133]
 11  97 ms  98 ms  98 ms  P9-0.AUUCR1.Aubervilliers.opentransit.net [193.251.243.29]
 12  98 ms  98 ms  108 ms  P6-0.BAGCR1.Bagnolet.opentransit.net [193.251.241.93]
 13  104 ms  106 ms  103 ms  193.51.185.30
 14  114 ms  114 ms  117 ms  grenoble-pos1-0.cssi.renater.fr [193.51.179.238]
 15  114 ms  115 ms  114 ms  nice-pos2-0.cssi.renater.fr [193.51.180.34]
 16  129 ms  114 ms  118 ms  inria-nice.cssi.renater.fr [193.51.181.137]
 17  113 ms  114 ms  112 ms  www.inria.fr [138.96.146.2]

Trace complete.
C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM32>
```

Figure 4: Command Prompt window displays the results of the Traceroute program.

Figure 5 displays the Wireshark window for an ICMP packet returned by a router. Note that this ICMP error packet contains many more fields than the Ping ICMP messages.

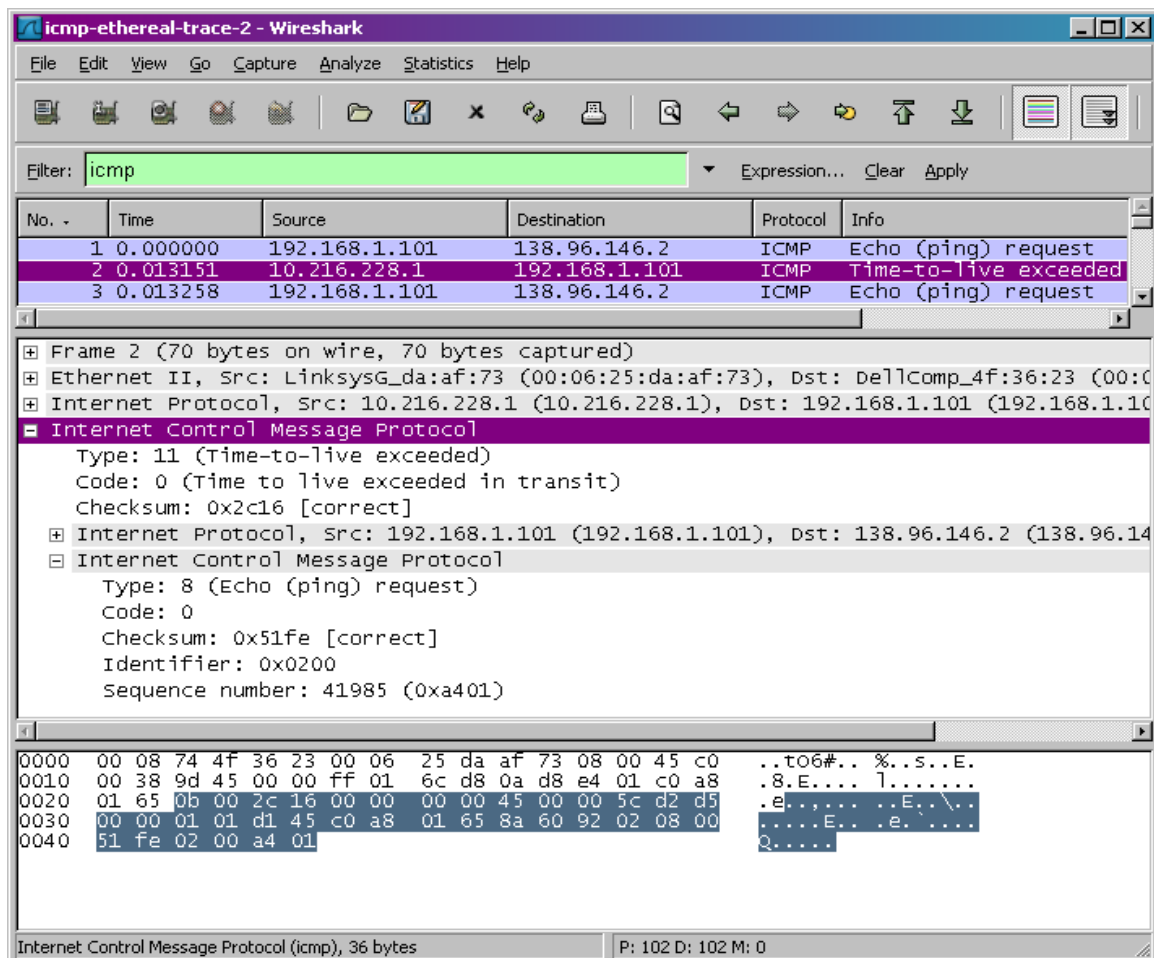


Figure 5: Wireshark window of ICMP fields expanded for one ICMP error packet.



What to Hand In:

For this part of the lab, you should hand in a screen shot of the Command Prompt window. Whenever possible, when answering a question below, you should hand in a printout of the packet(s) within the trace that you used to answer the question asked.

Answer the following questions:

```
C:\Users\Hp>tracert 8.8.8.8

Tracing route to dns.google [8.8.8.8]
over a maximum of 30 hops:

  1    4 ms    3 ms    4 ms    10.7.24.1
  2     *      *      *      Request timed out.
  3    2 ms    2 ms    2 ms    172.32.0.13
  4    5 ms    3 ms    4 ms    172.31.252.25
  5    5 ms    2 ms    3 ms    203.135.4.220
  6    4 ms    3 ms    3 ms    10.253.12.44
  7   24 ms   24 ms   23 ms    10.253.4.38
  8   26 ms   23 ms   23 ms    10.253.4.22
  9  318 ms  303 ms  301 ms    72.14.219.254
 10  314 ms  303 ms  303 ms    172.253.51.205
 11  355 ms  403 ms  304 ms    142.251.50.213
 12  295 ms  300 ms  303 ms    dns.google [8.8.8.8]

Trace complete.

C:\Users\Hp>
```

1. What is the IP address of your host? What is the IP address of the target destination host?

5877	85.721757	10.7.26.110	8.8.8.8	ICMP	106 Echo (ping) request	id=0x0001, seq=84/21504, ttl=12 (reply in 5893)
5893	86.016970	8.8.8.8	10.7.26.110	ICMP	106 Echo (ping) reply	id=0x0001, seq=84/21504, ttl=105 (request in 5877)

2. If ICMP sent UDP packets instead (as in Unix/Linux), would the IP protocol number still be 0x01 for the probe packets? If not, what would it be?

Answer:

It would be 0x11, the assigned protocol number for UDP.

3. Examine the ICMP echo packet in your screenshot. Is this different from the ICMP ping query packets in the first half of this lab? If yes, how so?



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```
> Ethernet II, Src: IntelCor_2e:b6:e3 (f4:96:34:2e:b6:e3), Dst: HuaweiTe_40:6f:98 (28:a6:db:40:6f:98)
> Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.7.26.110, Dst: 8.8.8.8
> Internet Control Message Protocol
  Type: 8 (Echo (ping) request)
  Code: 0
  Checksum: 0xf7aa [correct]
  [Checksum Status: Good]
  Identifier (BE): 1 (0x0001)
  Identifier (LE): 256 (0x0100)
  Sequence Number (BE): 84 (0x0054)
  Sequence Number (LE): 21504 (0x5400)
  [Response frame: 5893]
> Data (64 bytes)
```

```
0000 28 a6 db 40 6f 98 f4 96 34 2e b6 e3 08 00 45 00  (..@o... 4....E-
0010 00 5c 90 00 00 00 0c 01 ea 1c 0a 07 1a 6e 08 08  -\.....n...
0020 08 08 08 00 f7 aa 00 01 00 54 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....T.....
0030 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
0040 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
0050 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
0060 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
```

The ICMP echo packet has the same fields as the ping query packets

4. Examine the ICMP error packet in your screenshot. It has more fields than the ICMP echo packet. What is included in those fields?

```
> Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 142.251.50.213, Dst: 10.7.26.110
> Internet Control Message Protocol
  Type: 11 (Time-to-live exceeded)
  Code: 0 (Time to live exceeded in transit)
  Checksum: 0x0e1d [correct]
  [Checksum Status: Good]
  Unused: 00
  Length: 17
  [Length of original datagram: 68]
  Unused: 0000
> Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.7.26.110, Dst: 8.8.8.8
> Internet Control Message Protocol
  Type: 8 (Echo (ping) request)
```

```
0000 f4 96 34 2e b6 e3 28 a6 db 40 6f 98 08 00 45 80  --4...(- @o...E-
0010 00 60 71 82 00 00 eb 01 77 55 8e fb 32 d5 0a 07  -`q.....wU..2..
0020 1a 6e 0b 00 0e 1d 00 11 00 00 45 60 00 5c 8f fe  -n.....-E`-\..
0030 00 00 01 01 f4 be 0a 07 1a 6e 08 08 08 08 08 00  .....-n.....
0040 de 7d 00 01 00 53 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  -}---S- .....
0050 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
0060 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
```

The ICMP error packet is not the same as the ping query packets. It contains both the IP header and the first 8 bytes of the original ICMP packet that the error is for.

5. Examine the last three ICMP packets received by the source host. How are these packets different from the ICMP error packets? Why are they different?

Answer:

The last three ICMP packets are message type 0 (echo reply) rather than 11 (TTL expired). They are different because the datagrams have made it all the way to the destination host before the TTL expired.

6. Explain how ICMP helps in working of traceroute application?

Answer:

Traceroute uses ICMP's Ping command to find out how many different devices are between the computer initiating the traceroute and the target. This command works



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by manipulating the packets time to live value or TTL.

Some useful tutorials:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gIPuwhMNQ2s&ab_channel=internet-class

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G05y9UKT69s&ab_channel=internet-class

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGUrTwIX7b8&ab_channel=internet-class

<https://searchnetworking.techtarget.com/definition/big-endian-and-little-endian>

Conclusion: