

HW2 DNS

Basic knowledge: nslookup

Let's start our investigation of the DNS by examining the nslookup command, which will invoke the underlying DNS services to implement its functionality. The nslookup command is available in most Microsoft, Apple IOS, and Linux operating systems. To run nslookup you just type the nslookup command on the command line in a DOS window, Mac IOS terminal window, or Linux shell.

In its most basic operation, nslookup allows the host running nslookup to query any specified DNS server for a DNS record. The queried DNS server can be a root DNS server, a top-level-domain (TLD) DNS server, an authoritative DNS server, or an intermediate DNS server (see the textbook for definitions of these terms). For example, nslookup can be used to retrieve a "Type=A" DNS record that maps a hostname (e.g., www.nyu.edu) to its IP address. To accomplish this task, nslookup sends a DNS query to the specified DNS server (or the default local DNS server for the host on which nslookup is run, if no specific DNS server is specified), receives a DNS response from that DNS server, and displays the result.

Let's take nslookup out for a spin! We'll first run nslookup on the Linux command line on the newworld.cs.umass.edu host located in the CS Department at the University of Massachusetts (UMass) campus, where the local name server is named primo.cs.umass.edu (which has an IP address 128.119.240.1). Let's try nslookup in its simplest form:

```
[newworld.cs.umass.edu> nslookup www.nyu.edu
Server:      128.119.240.1
Address:     128.119.240.1#53

Non-authoritative answer:
www.nyu.edu  canonical name = WEB.GSLB.nyu.edu.
Name:   WEB.GSLB.nyu.edu
Address: 216.165.47.12
Name:   WEB.GSLB.nyu.edu
Address: 2607:f600:1002:6113::100
```

Figure 1: the basic nslookup command

In this example the nslookup command is given one argument, a hostname (www.nyu.edu). In words, this command is saying "please send me the IP address for the host www.nyu.edu." As shown in the screenshot, the response from this command

provides two pieces of information: (1) the name and IP address of the DNS server that provides the answer – in this case the local DNS server at UMass; and (2) the answer itself, which is the canonical host name and IP address of www.nyu.edu. You may have noticed that there are two name/address pairs provided for www.nyu.edu. The first (216.165.47.12) is an IPv4 address in the familiar-looking dotted decimal notation; the second (2607:f600:1002:6113::100) is a longer and more complicated looking IPv6 address. We’ll learn about IPv4 and IPv6 and their two different addressing schemes later in Chapter 4. For now, let’s just focus on our more comfortable (and common) IPv4 world¹.

Although the response came from the local DNS server (with IP address 128.119.240.1) at UMass, it is quite possible that this local DNS server iteratively contacted several other DNS servers to get the answer, as described in Section 2.4 of the textbook.

In addition to using `nslookup` to query for a DNS “Type=A” record, we can also use `nslookup` to query for a “TYPE=NS” record, which returns the hostname (and its IP address) of an authoritative DNS server that knows how to obtain the IP addresses for hosts in the authoritative server’s domain.

```
newworld.cs.umass.edu> nslookup -type=NS nyu.edu
Server:      128.119.240.1
Address:     128.119.240.1#53
[
Non-authoritative answer:
nyu.edu nameserver = ns2.nyu.org.
nyu.edu nameserver = ns4.nyu.edu.
nyu.edu nameserver = ns1.nyu.net.

Authoritative answers can be found from:
ns2.nyu.org      internet address = 128.122.0.76
ns1.nyu.net      internet address = 128.122.0.8
ns4.nyu.edu      internet address = 216.165.87.102
ns4.nyu.edu      has AAAA address 2607:f600:2001:6100::135
```

Figure 2: using `nslookup` to find the authoritative name servers for the `nyu.edu` domain

In the example in Figure 2, we’ve invoked `nslookup` with the option “-type=NS” and the domain “nyu.edu”. This causes `nslookup` to send a query for a type-NS record to the default local DNS server. In words, the query is saying, “please send me the host names of the authoritative DNS for nyu.edu”. (When the `-type` option is not used, *nslookup* uses the default, which is to query for type A records.) The answer, displayed in the above screenshot, first indicates the DNS server that is providing the answer (which is the default local UMass DNS server with address 128.119.240.1) along with three NYU DNS name servers. Each of these servers is indeed an authoritative DNS

¹

server for the hosts on the NYU campus. However, `nslookup` also indicates that the answer is “non-authoritative,” meaning that this answer came from the cache of some server rather than from an authoritative NYU DNS server. Finally, the answer also includes the IP addresses of the authoritative DNS servers at NYU. (Even though the type-NS query generated by `nslookup` did not explicitly ask for the IP addresses, the local DNS server returned these “for free” and *nslookup* displays the result.)

Lastly, we sometimes might be interested in discovering the name of the host associated with a given IP address, i.e., the reverse of the lookup shown in Figure 1 (where the host’s name was known/specified and the host’s IP address was returned). `nslookup` can also be used to perform this so-called “reverse DNS lookup.” In Figure 3, for example, we specify an IP address as the `nslookup` argument (128.119.245.12 in this example) and `nslookup` returns the host name with that address (gaia.cs.umass.edu in this example)

```
[kurose@MacBook-Pro-6 ~ % nslookup 128.119.245.12
Server:      75.75.75.75
Address:     75.75.75.75#53

Non-authoritative answer:
12.245.119.128.in-addr.arpa      name = gaia.cs.umass.edu.

Authoritative answers can be found from:
```

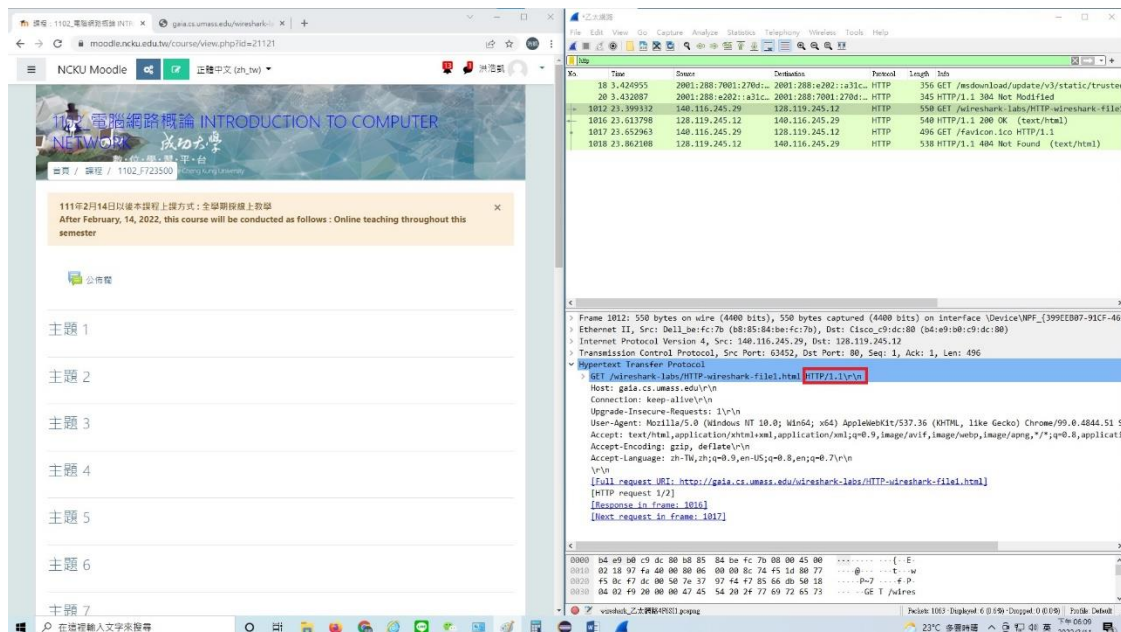
Figure 3: using `nslookup` to perform a “reverse DNS lookup”

HW rules:

(Please take a screenshot to show your moodle and wireshark then highlight the answer or you will get no score.)

***Discussion is encouraged, but DO NOT share your homework to your classmate. If plagiarism is found, both students will get 0 score in this assignment.**

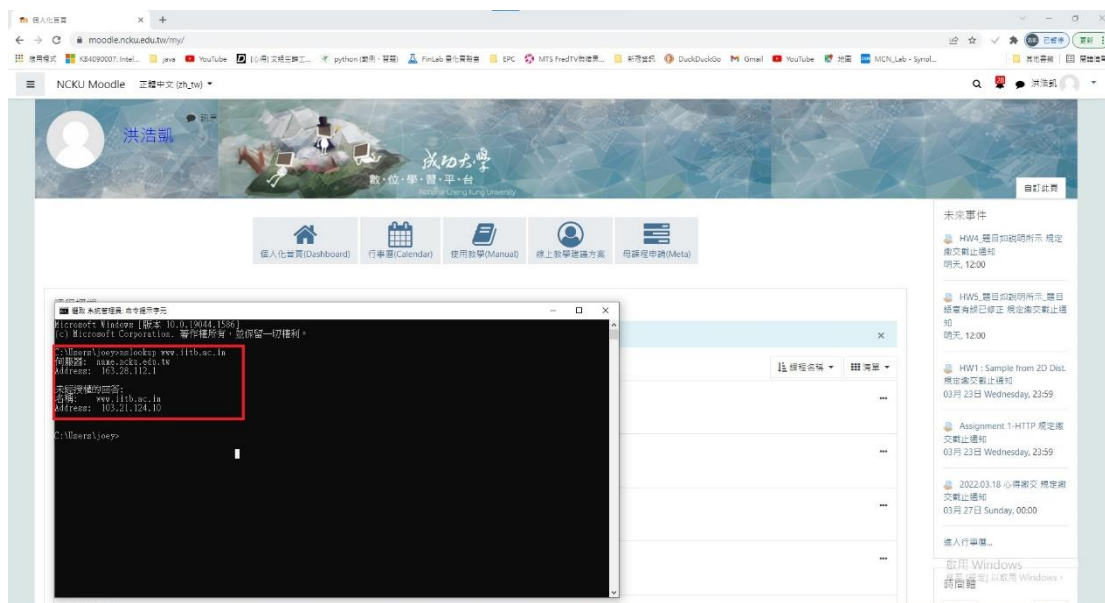
Example Question: Is your browser running HTTP version 1.0, 1.1, or 2? What version of HTTP is the server running? Example
ANS:



Part I. nslookup operations (40%)

Descriptions:

Now that we've provided an overview of nslookup, it's time for you to test drive it yourself. Do the following (You may find out the answer of question 1-1, 1-2 in selected region).



Question 1-1: Run nslookup to obtain the IP address of the web server for the Indian Institute of Technology in Bombay, India: www.iitb.ac.in. What is the IP address of www.iitb.ac.in. (15%)

Question 1-2: What is the IP address of the DNS server that provided the answer to your nslookup command in question 1 above? (15%)

Question 1-3: Did the answer to your nslookup command in question 1 above come from an authoritative or non-authoritative server?

(Hint: You can use nslookup -type=NS to check and answer authoritative or non-authoritative server 10%)

Part II. Tracing DNS with Wireshark (60%)

Now that we are familiar with nslookup and clearing the DNS resolver cache, we're ready to get down to some serious business. Let's first capture the DNS messages that are generated by ordinary Web-surfing activity.

You can also explicitly clear the records in your DNS cache. There's no harm in doing so – it will just mean that your computer will need to invoke the distributed DNS service next time it needs to use the DNS name resolution service, since it will find no records in the cache.

On a Mac computer, you can enter the following command into a terminal window to clear your DNS resolver cache:

```
sudo killall -HUP mDNSResponder
```

On Windows computer you can enter the following command at the command prompt:

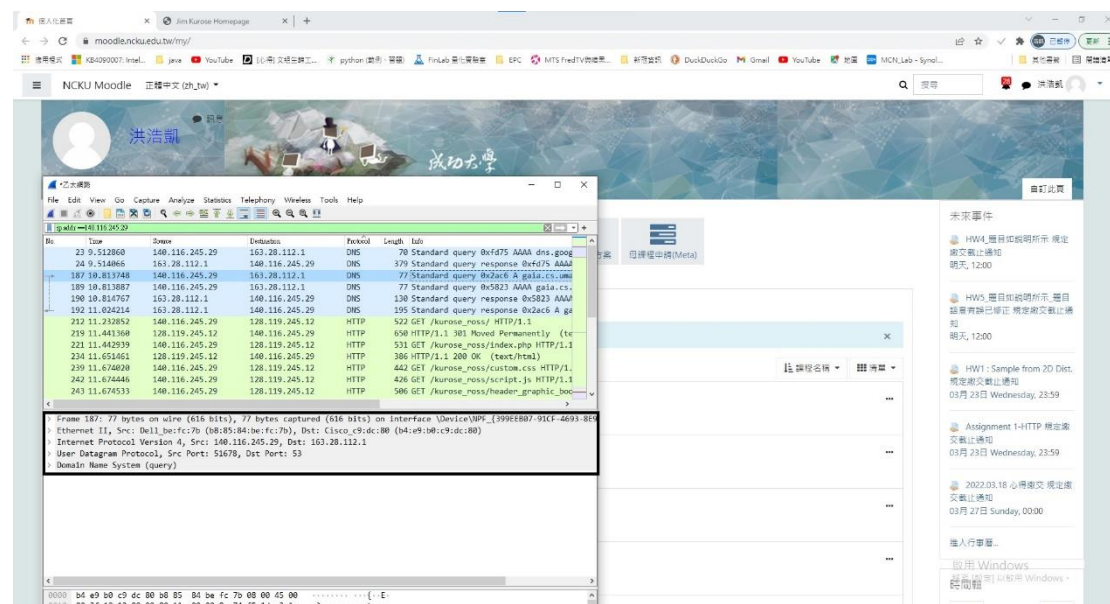
```
ipconfig /flushdns
```

and on a Linux computer, enter:

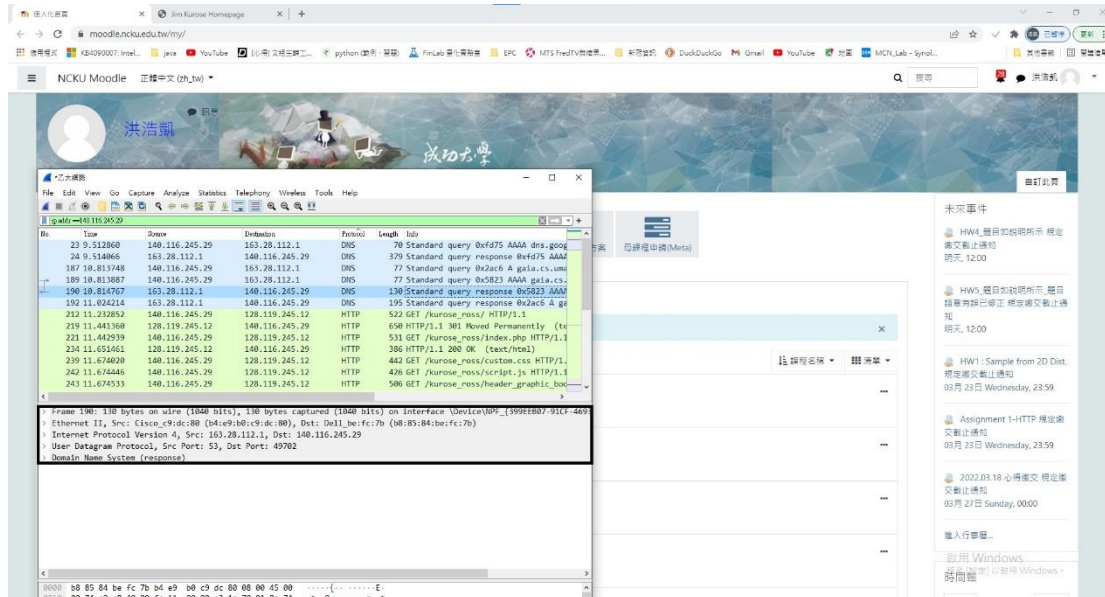
```
sudo systemd-resolve --flush-caches
```

- Clear the DNS cache in your host, as described above.
- Open your Web browser and clear your browser cache.
- Open Wireshark and enter `ip.addr == <your_IP_address>` into the display filter, where `<your_IP_address>` is the IPv4 address of your computer . With this filter, Wireshark will only display packets that either originate from, or are destined to, your host.
- Start packet capture in Wireshark.
- With your browser, visit the Web page: `http://gaia.cs.umass.edu/kurose_ross/`
- Stop packet capture.

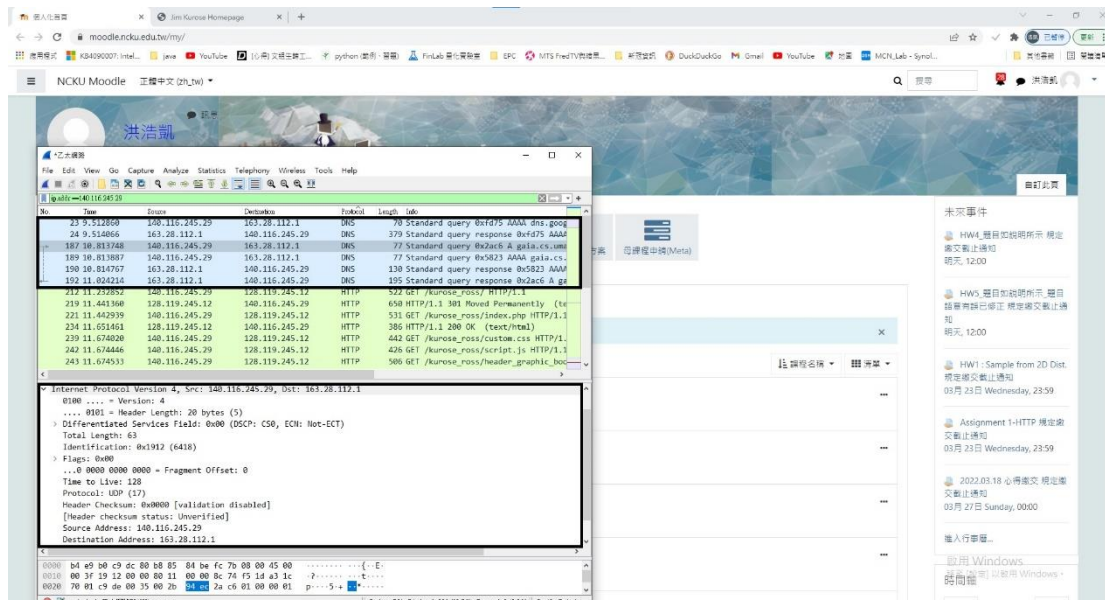
Question 2-1: Locate the first DNS query message resolving the name `gaia.cs.umass.edu`. Is this query message sent over UDP or TCP? (The answer may found in marked region 10%)



Question 2-2: What is the destination port for the **DNS query message**? What is the source port of the **DNS response message**? (The answer may found in marked region 10%)



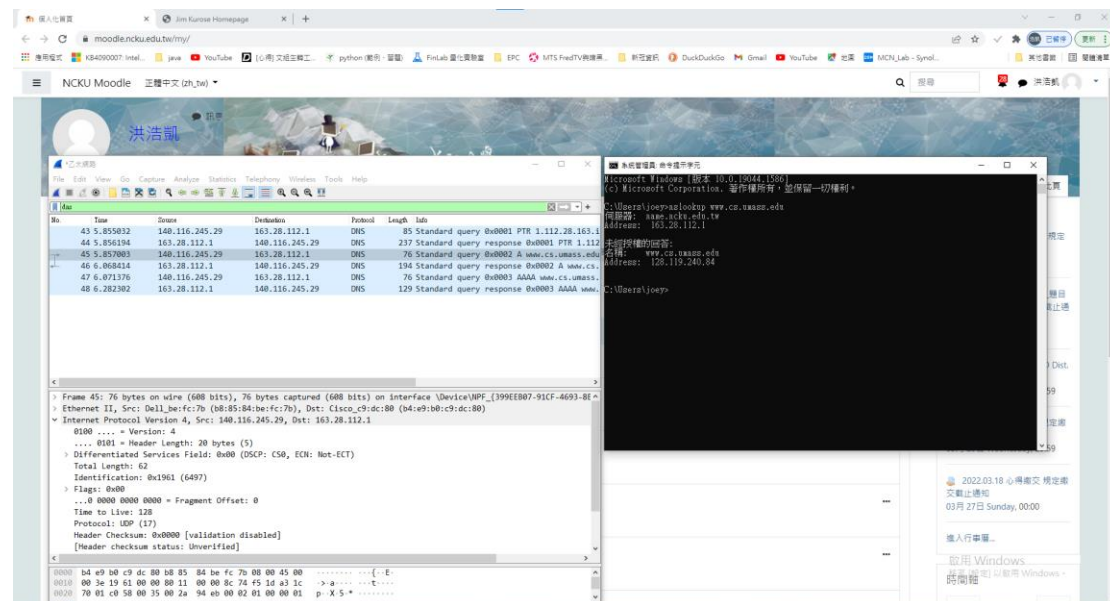
Question 2-3: To what IP address is the DNS query message sent? (The answer may found in marked region 10%)



Now let's play with nslookup.

- Start packet capture.
- Do an nslookup on www.cs.umass.edu
- Stop packet capture.

You should get a trace that looks something like the following in your Wireshark window.



Question 2-4: What is the destination port for the **DNS query message**? What is the source port of the **DNS response message**? (15%)

Question 2-5: To what IP address is the DNS query message sent? Is this the IP address of your default local DNS server? (You need to show the screenshot and answer Yes or No. 15%)