

NETWORK LAB

LAB ASSIGNMENT for Week # 2

HTTP

1. The Basic HTTP GET/response interaction

Note: Answer the following questions using the *http-ethereal-trace-1* packet trace to answer the questions below

1. Is your browser running HTTP version 1.0 or 1.1? What version of HTTP is the server running?
2. What languages (if any) does your browser indicate that it can accept to the server?
3. What is the IP address of your computer? Of the gaia.cs.umass.edu server?
4. What is the status code returned from the server to your browser?
5. When was the HTML file that you are retrieving last modified at the server?
6. How many bytes of content are being returned to your browser?
7. By inspecting the raw data in the packet content window, do you see any headers within the data that are not displayed in the packet-listing window? If so, name one.

2. The HTTP CONDITIONAL GET/response interaction

Note: Answer the following questions using the *http-ethereal-trace-2* packet trace to answer the questions below

8. Inspect the contents of the first HTTP GET request from your browser to the server. Do you see an "IF-MODIFIED-SINCE" line in the HTTP GET?
9. Inspect the contents of the server response. Did the server explicitly return the contents of the file? How can you tell?
10. Now inspect the contents of the second HTTP GET request from your browser to the server. Do you see an "IF-MODIFIED-SINCE:" line in the HTTP GET? If so, what information follows the "IF-MODIFIED-SINCE:" header?
11. What is the HTTP status code and phrase returned from the server in response to this second HTTP GET? Did the server explicitly return the contents of the file? Explain.

3. Retrieving Long Documents

Note: Answer the following questions using the *http-ethereal-trace-3* packet trace to answer the questions below

12. How many HTTP GET request messages did your browser send? Which packet number in the trace contains the GET message for the Bill of Rights?
13. Which packet number in the trace contains the status code and phrase associated with the response to the HTTP GET request?
14. What is the status code and phrase in the response?
15. How many data-containing TCP segments were needed to carry the single HTTP response and the text of the Bill of Rights?

4. HTML Documents with Embedded Objects

Note: Answer the following questions using the *http-ethereal-trace-4* packet trace to answer the questions below

16. How many HTTP GET request messages did your browser send? To which Internet addresses were these GET requests sent?
17. Can you tell whether your browser downloaded the two images serially, or whether they were downloaded from the two web sites in parallel? Explain.

5. HTTP Authentications

Note: Answer the following questions using the *http-ethereal-trace-5* packet trace to answer the questions below

18. What is the server's response (status code and phrase) in response to the initial HTTP GET message from your browser?
19. When your browser's sends the HTTP GET message for the second time, what new field is included in the HTTP GET message?

TCP

1. A first look at the captured trace

Note: Answer the following questions using the *tcp-ethereal-trace-1* packet trace to answer the questions below

1. What is the IP address and TCP port number used by the client computer (source) that is transferring the file to gaia.cs.umass.edu? To answer this question, it's probably easiest to select an HTTP message and explore the details of the TCP packet used to carry this HTTP message, using the "details of the selected packet header window".
2. What is the IP address of gaia.cs.umass.edu? On what port number is it sending and receiving TCP segments for this connection?

2. TCP Basics

Note: Answer the following questions using the *tcp-ethereal-trace-1* packet trace to answer the questions below:

3. What is the sequence number of the TCP SYN segment that is used to initiate the TCP connection between the client computer and gaia.cs.umass.edu? What is it in the segment that identifies the segment as a SYN segment?
4. What is the sequence number of the SYNACK segment sent by gaia.cs.umass.edu to the client computer in reply to the SYN? What is the value of the Acknowledgement field in the SYNACK segment? How did gaia.cs.umass.edu determine that value? What is it in the segment that identifies the segment as a SYNACK segment?
5. What is the sequence number of the TCP segment containing the HTTP POST command? Note that in order to find the POST command; you'll need to dig into the packet content field at the bottom of the Wireshark window, looking for a segment with a "POST" within its DATA field.
6. Consider the TCP segment containing the HTTP POST as the first segment in the TCP connection. What are the sequence numbers of the first six segments in the TCP connection (including the segment containing the HTTP POST)? At what time was each segment sent? When was the ACK for each segment received? Given the difference between when each TCP segment was sent, and when its acknowledgement was received, what is the RTT value for each of the six segments?

Note: Wireshark has a nice feature that allows you to plot the RTT for each of the TCP segments sent. Select a TCP segment in the "listing of captured packets" window that is being sent from the client to the gaia.cs.umass.edu server. Then select: *Statistics->TCP Stream Graph->Round Trip Time Graph*.

7. What is the length of each of the first six TCP segments?
8. What is the minimum amount of available buffer space advertised at the receiver for the entire trace? Does the lack of receiver buffer space ever throttle the sender?
9. Are there any retransmitted segments in the trace file? What did you check for (in the trace) in order to answer this question?
10. How much data does the receiver typically acknowledge in an ACK? Can you identify cases where the receiver is ACKing every other received segment?
11. What is the throughput (bytes transferred per unit time) for the TCP connection? Explain how you calculated this value.