CS 456 - Assignment 2

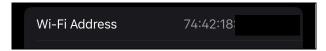
1. For each wifi-capable device provide a screenshot showing Wi-Fi version, Mac address and Wi-Fi card vendor

iPhone 16 Pro

Wi-Fi version (using AIDA64 app)

	•	_	• • •
Capabilities			802.11 a/b/g/n/ac/ax/be

Mac address



Wi-Fi card vendor (using https://maclookup.app)

Apple, Inc.					
Vendor	Details				
MAC address prefix 74:42:18 is registered to Apple, Inc. , located at 1 Infinite LoopCupertino CA 95014US.					
This registration is classified as MA-L (Mac Address Block Large) containing approximately 16 million MAC addresses					
The prefix was registered on 14 June 2024 , and no subsequent updates have been recorded.					
■ OUI: 74:42:18 <i>𝚱</i>					
₩ Vendor name: Apple, Inc. Ø					

HP Laptop 15-bs0xx

Wi-Fi version

```
C:\Users\lenin>netsh wlan show drivers
Interface name: Wi-Fi
   Driver
                             : Realtek RTL8723BE 802.11 bgn Wi-Fi Adapter
   Vendor
                             : Realtek Semiconductor Corp.
                             : Realtek Semiconductor Corp.
   Provider
   Date
                             : 5/26/2019
   Version
                             : 2024.0.4.208
   INF file
                             : oem3.inf
                             : Native Wi-Fi Driver
                             : 802.11n 802.11g 802.11b
   Radio types supported
```

Mac address

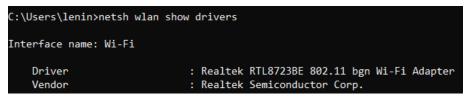
```
Wireless LAN adapter Wi-Fi:

Connection-specific DNS Suffix .: hsd1.il.comcast.net

Description . . . . . . . : Realtek RTL8723BE 802.11 bgn Wi-Fi Adapter

Physical Address . . . . . . : 3C-95-09
```

Wifi card vendor



(using https://maclookup.app)



2. Identify and document at least 2 free tools that analyze wifi networks for your device. Document the tools by summarizing the capabilities. Provide a url for each tool. Which of the tools is the best? Why?

iPhone 16 Pro

1. AirPort Utility

URL: https://apps.apple.com/us/app/airport-utility/id427276530

Capabilities:

- Displays all nearby Wi-Fi networks with SSID (network name).
- Shows channel usage to help identify interference.
- Provides signal strength (RSSI) readings.
- Works natively on iPhones.
- 2. nOversight WiFi Analyzer

URL: https://www.numerousnetworks.co.uk/noversight

Capabilities:

- Displays a live view that shows the details for the current Wi-Fi connection.
- Helps identify poor coverage areas.
- Also shows recent hour history of Wi-Fi connections and performance.
- Creates a custom report for a section of your overall test.

HP Laptop 15-bs0xx

1. NetSpot

URL: https://www.netspotapp.com/

Capabilities:

- Displays all Wi-Fi networks, channels, and bandwidth usage.
- Measures signal strength and noise levels.
- Shows Signal-to-Noise Ratio to assess Wi-Fi quality.
- Provides an interactive heatmap for Wi-Fi coverage. (paid version)
- 2. Acrylic Wi-Fi Analyzer

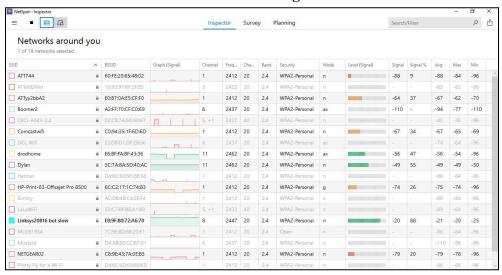
URL: https://www.acrylicwifi.com/en/wifi-analyzer/

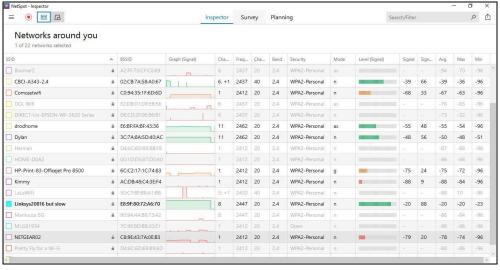
Capabilities:

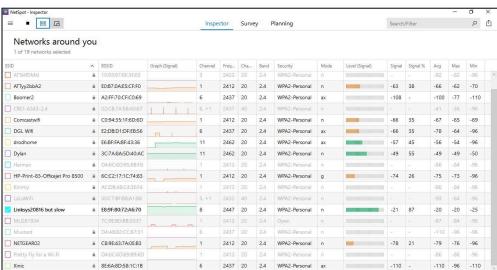
- Displays all Wi-Fi networks, SSID, signal strength, and channels.
- Helps identify the best channel to reduce interference.
- Provides signal graphs to track performance over time.
- Can analyze SNR with the integration of Acrylic Wi-Fi Sniffer.

NetSpot on my PC is the best tool among those listed because it provides a comprehensive set of features and allows access to most features free of cost. NetSpot excels in analyzing Wi-Fi networks by displaying all detected networks, their SSIDs, channels, and bandwidth usage. It also measures signal strength and noise levels, allowing users to assess Wi-Fi quality effectively.

- 3. Take measurements using one of the tools you have identified. Note that the ability of a tool to save and download collected measurements is very helpful.
- a) Take measurements at the same location at 5 different times. The times should be at least 5 minutes apart. Organize and provide the data you collected. What do you notice about the data? How do the measurements change?





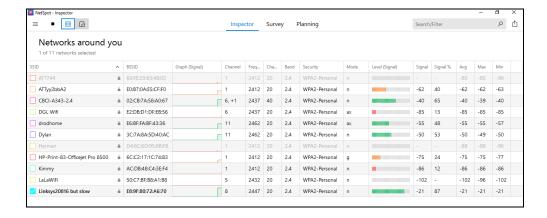




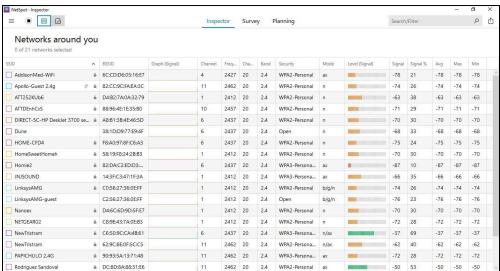
When taking Wi-Fi measurements at the same location over five different times, we can see some fluctuations in the data due to various environmental and technical factors. We can see that Signal strength (RSSI) and Noise levels varied slightly. This could be caused by other electronic devices, such as microwaves or Bluetooth connections. Wi-Fi channel congestion could also contribute to performance changes if other networks in the vicinity begin operating on the same channel during the test.

b) Take measurements at 5 different locations. The locations should be significantly different. Organize and provide the data you collected. What do you notice about the data? What can you say about the data?

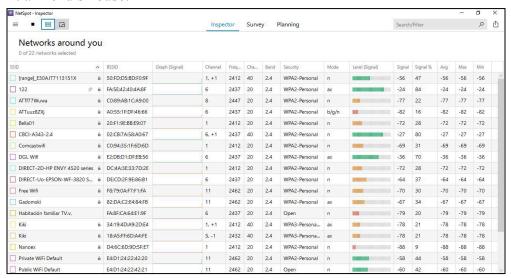
At my Apartment:



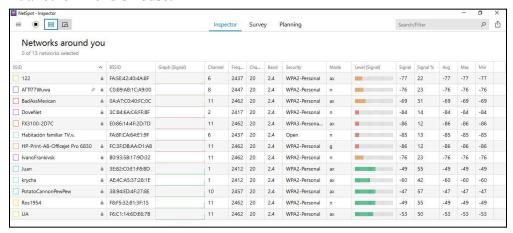
Outside my Apartment:



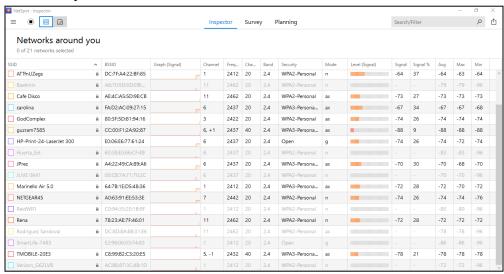
At a friend's house:



At another friend's house:



At a subway:



When I took Wi-Fi measurements at five different locations, there were a lot of variations in signal strength (RSSI), noise levels, and Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR) as expected due to differences in distance from the router, physical obstructions, and environmental interference. I got better results when I was closer to the router and in contrast when I was farther away obstructed by walls, furniture, or other objects. This caused me to experience weaker signals and increased noise, leading to a lower SNR. Measurements at and around my apartment with multiple overlapping Wi-Fi networks showed more interference, leading to increased fluctuations in connection quality.

The data reflects that Wi-Fi performance is highly dependent on location, with closer, unobstructed areas providing the best connection and more distant or interference-heavy areas experiencing signal degradation.