

CSE351 Computer Networks

Fall, 2025, Homework #2

Due: November 25th, 2025 (Tue), 23:59 KST

Instructor: Taesik Gong (taesik.gong@unist.ac.kr), TA: Yeji Park (yejipark@unist.ac.kr)

Submission Instructions. Submit this homework as a single **PDF file** named *HW2_StudentNumber_Name.pdf* (e.g., *HW2_20251234_HongGildong.pdf*) on Blackboard. All screenshots must be from the **original Wireshark interface** and clearly readable. If the file cannot be opened or is unreadable, no points will be given. **Submit only screenshots; do not attach .pcap files.**

Collaboration Policy. You are welcome to discuss the homework with your classmates to understand the concepts, but all answers, explanations, screenshots, and write-ups must be your own. Copying text or figures from others' work, or sharing your own write-up directly, is considered plagiarism and will result in no points for all involved.

Network Guidelines. Capture only **your own traffic** using Wireshark. Do not intercept others' packets, flood, or overload any host. Use normal applications (e.g., Gmail, YouTube, Naver) and generate only light, typical traffic.

1. Homework Overview

The goal of this homework is to observe how different Internet applications generate and exchange packets, and to connect these real traces with the concepts learned in class. Using **Wireshark**, you will capture and analyze network traffic to understand how the application, transport, and network layers interact in real environments. The purpose of this assignment is not only to test correctness but also to help you gain **hands-on experience** in real-world network analysis.

2. Wireshark

Wireshark is a free and open-source network protocol analyzer used to capture and inspect packets exchanged across a network in real time. It allows you to visualize traffic at every layer of the protocol stack, from the physical and link layers up to the application layer, and to understand how real data flows between clients and servers. By observing these packets, you can see how protocols such as TCP, UDP, IP, HTTP, and TLS operate in real environments.

In this homework, Wireshark will be used to record and analyze the actual network traffic generated by various Internet applications. Through this process, you will learn to recognize protocol behaviors such as TCP handshakes, retransmissions, or persistent HTTP connections, and to relate them to theoretical concepts learned in class.

To use Wireshark, first install it from the official website (<https://www.wireshark.org/download.html>) and launch the program. Choose the network interface currently in use, such as Wi-Fi or Ethernet, and click the Start Capture button to begin recording packets. Perform the desired network activity, for example, browsing a webpage or sending a message and then click Stop to end the capture. You can apply display filters (e.g., http, tcp.port == 443, or ip.addr == 8.8.8.8) to focus on relevant traffic. Saved capture files can be exported in .pcapng format for later analysis.

Using Wireshark will help you connect theory what you've learn in the course with real Internet behavior while also developing valuable practical skills for debugging, security analysis, and performance evaluation.

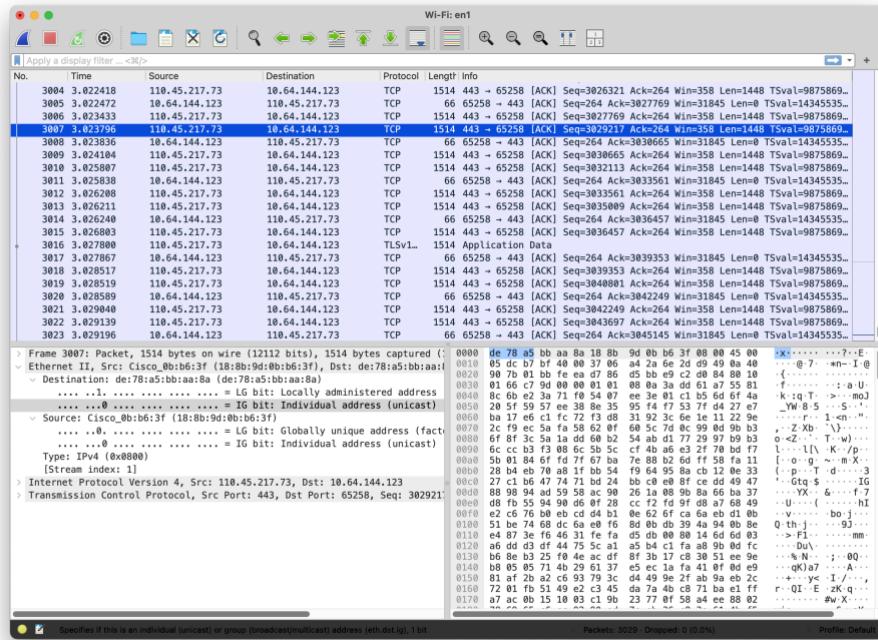


Fig. 1 Wireshark running example

You may refer to the official Wireshark User's Guide and Wireshark Wiki for additional help while completing this homework. The User's Guide provides installation, setup, and filtering instructions in detail, while the Wiki includes sample captures.

Helpful resources:

1. Wireshark User's Guide: https://www.wireshark.org/docs/wsug_html_chunked/
2. Wireshark Wiki (Sample Captures): <https://wiki.wireshark.org/SampleCaptures>
3. Wireshark Tutorial for Beginners (Video): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTaOZrDnMzQ>
4. Packet Analysis Guide: <https://medium.com/@cyberengage.org/master-wireshark-tool-like-a-pro-the-ultimate-packet-analysis-guide-for-real-world-analysts-981fb9024e7d>

3. Application Traffic Experiment

In this Homework, you will perform experiments on **five different application categories**, capturing traffic from one example in each category. The categories are as follows:

1. **E-mail:** Use a client or web service such as *Gmail*, *Outlook*, or *Thunderbird* to send and receive e-mails while capturing the related packets.
2. **Web Browsing:** Use a browser such as *Chrome*, *Edge*, or *Safari* to visit any website of your choice.
3. **Instant Messaging:** Use a messaging application such as *KakaoTalk*, *Discord*, *Slack*, *WhatsApp*, or *Telegram*.
4. **Video Streaming:** Play a short video (at least 30 seconds) using services such as *YouTube*, *Netflix*, *Twitch*, or *Naver TV*.
5. **Online or Web Game:** Choose any online or browser-based game that you enjoy and play for a short time.

For each category, generate typical user actions (such as sending a message, loading a webpage, or streaming a short video) and capture the corresponding packets. Then analyze the data to identify protocol behavior, performance characteristics, and key observations such as congestion control, encryption, or caching.

1. **Traffic Capturing Experiment:** For each application category, plan how to generate representative traffic, determine appropriate capture conditions, and design an analysis strategy to extract meaningful patterns. The experiment should be reproducible and systematic, connecting real packet behavior with theoretical network concepts learned in class.
2. **Analyze the result:** For every application, describe how the traffic was generated, include representative screenshots showing packet exchanges or flows, and provide detailed analysis of the observed behavior. Connect your findings to the concepts learned in lectures, including topics such as TCP handshakes, retransmissions, congestion control, error recovery, or persistent connections. Discuss what kinds of data are exchanged, how the protocols interact across layers, and how the design of each system balances reliability, latency, and throughput.
3. **Discussion:** Summarize and compare your observations. Highlight similarities and differences in how each category structures its communication, manages timing and reliability, and utilizes transport-layer mechanisms. Discuss what these findings reveal about protocol design and performance trade-offs in modern Internet services. Through this experiment, you will gain a deeper appreciation of how real-world network traffic reflects the principles of Internet architecture and how theoretical models manifest in practical communication systems.

4. Report Guide

*** First, all required report elements are listed in the uploaded report template. Read it carefully and write your report following the instructions. ***

*** Also, please read carefully the guide below. ***

Please upload your **report in PDF format only** and do not include the raw .pcapng file in your submission. The main body of the report **should not exceed five pages**. Additional screenshots, tables, or supporting materials may be included in the Appendix (no page limit). **However, all required elements and key analysis results must appear in the main body, not only in the appendix**. If essential information is missing from the main content, points may be deducted. Use figures, screenshots, and tables effectively to support your explanations. Whenever you include supplementary material in the appendix, clearly reference it in the text (e.g., “see Appendix A”). **Any materials not referenced in the main text will be considered unnecessary and may not be reviewed by the TA**.

Each section of your report must clearly include all required components. Screenshots and analysis results should be well-organized and easy to read. Concise, clear explanations are preferred over lengthy paragraphs. For detailed formatting requirements, refer to the uploaded report template.

5. Evaluation Criteria (Total 100 points)

- (1) Completeness of five application analyses (60 points)
- (2) Connection with class concepts (30 points)
- (3) Summary and insights (10 points)