

Open_pcap: The function `open_pcap` is used to open a live capture on a network interface using the libpcap library.

Working:

- It initializes a variable `on` to 1. This variable is used later to set the `BIOCIMMEDIATE` option if the operating system supports it.
- If the debug option is enabled (checked by `opt_debug`), it prints a debug message showing the parameters that will be passed to `pcap_open_live`.
- It calls `pcap_open_live` to open a live capture on the network interface specified by `ifname`. The parameters to `pcap_open_live` specify a snapshot length of 99999 bytes, promiscuous mode off (0), a read timeout of 1 millisecond, and a pointer to an error buffer.

```
char errbuf[PCAP_ERRBUF_SIZE];
pcap_t *pcap_open_live(const char *device, int snaplen, int promisc, int to_ms, char *errbuf);
```

where `snaplen`: snapshot length -> length in bytes to be captured.

`promisc`: non-zero will make it run in [promiscuous mode](#).

`to_ms`: packet buffer timeout: [read more](#):

`errbuf`: If NULL is returned by the call, `errbuf` is filled in with an appropriate error message. `errbuf` may also be set to warning text when `pcap_open_live()` succeeds; we can display the warning/error message using this.

`ifname`, `errbuf` are global variables.

-If `pcap_open_live` fails (returns NULL), it prints an error message and returns -1.

-If the operating system is not Linux or Solaris (checked by `#if (!defined OSTYPE_LINUX) && (!defined __sun__)`), it sets the `BIOCIMMEDIATE` option on the pcap descriptor. If this `ioctl` call fails, it prints an error message.

Pcap descriptor using -> `pcap_fileno`

`BIOCIMMEDIATE`: Enables or disables "immediate mode", based on the truth value of the third argument. When immediate mode is enabled, reads return immediately upon packet reception. Otherwise, a read will block until either the kernel buffer becomes full or a timeout occurs.

For this the third argument of the `ioctl` must be of type `u_int`. And we choose a `int on = 1` for this and pass its address.

`close_pcap`: uses `pcap_close` call to close the pcap file.

`pcap_recv`: This function reads a packet from the pcap capture into the buffer specified by packet. It specifies a char pointer `p` to hold the packet data and runs a while loop until `p` is not null. It uses the libpcap function `pcap_next` to get the next packet from the capture.

- If the packet is smaller than the size of the buffer, it adjusts the size to match the packet size. It then copies the packet data into the packet char pointer `(packet)[buffer]` and returns the size of

the packet.

```
const u_char *pcap_next(pcap_t *pcapfp, struct pcap_pkthdr *hdr);
```

- both pcapfp and hdr are globally defined.