

Experiment 3

AIM: To learn the usage of Packet Tracer.

THEORY:

What is Packet Tracer?

Packet Tracer is a cross-platform visual simulation tool designed by Cisco Systems that allows users to create network topologies and imitate modern computer networks. The software allows users to simulate the configuration of Cisco routers and switches using a simulated command line interface. Packet Tracer makes use of a drag and drop user interface, allowing users to add and remove simulated network devices as they see fit. The software is mainly focused towards Certified Cisco Network Associate Academy students as an educational tool for helping them learn fundamental CCNA concepts. Previously students enrolled in a CCNA Academy program could freely download and use the tool free of charge for educational use.

How is Packet Tracer useful for education?

Packet Tracer allows students to design complex and large networks, which is often not feasible with physical hardware, due to costs. Packet Tracer is commonly used by CCNA Academy students, since it is available to them for free. However, due to functional limitations, it is intended by CISCO to be used only as a learning aid, not a replacement for Cisco routers and switches. The application itself only has a small number of features found within the actual hardware running a current Cisco IOS version. Thus, Packet Tracer is unsuitable for modelling production networks. It has a limited command set, meaning it is not possible to practice all of the IOS commands that might be required. Packet Tracer can be useful for understanding abstract networking concepts, such as the Enhanced Interior Gateway Routing Protocol by animating these elements in a visual form. Packet Tracer is also useful in education by providing additional components, including an authoring system, network protocol simulation and improving knowledge an assessment system.

EXERCISE ON PACKET TRACER:

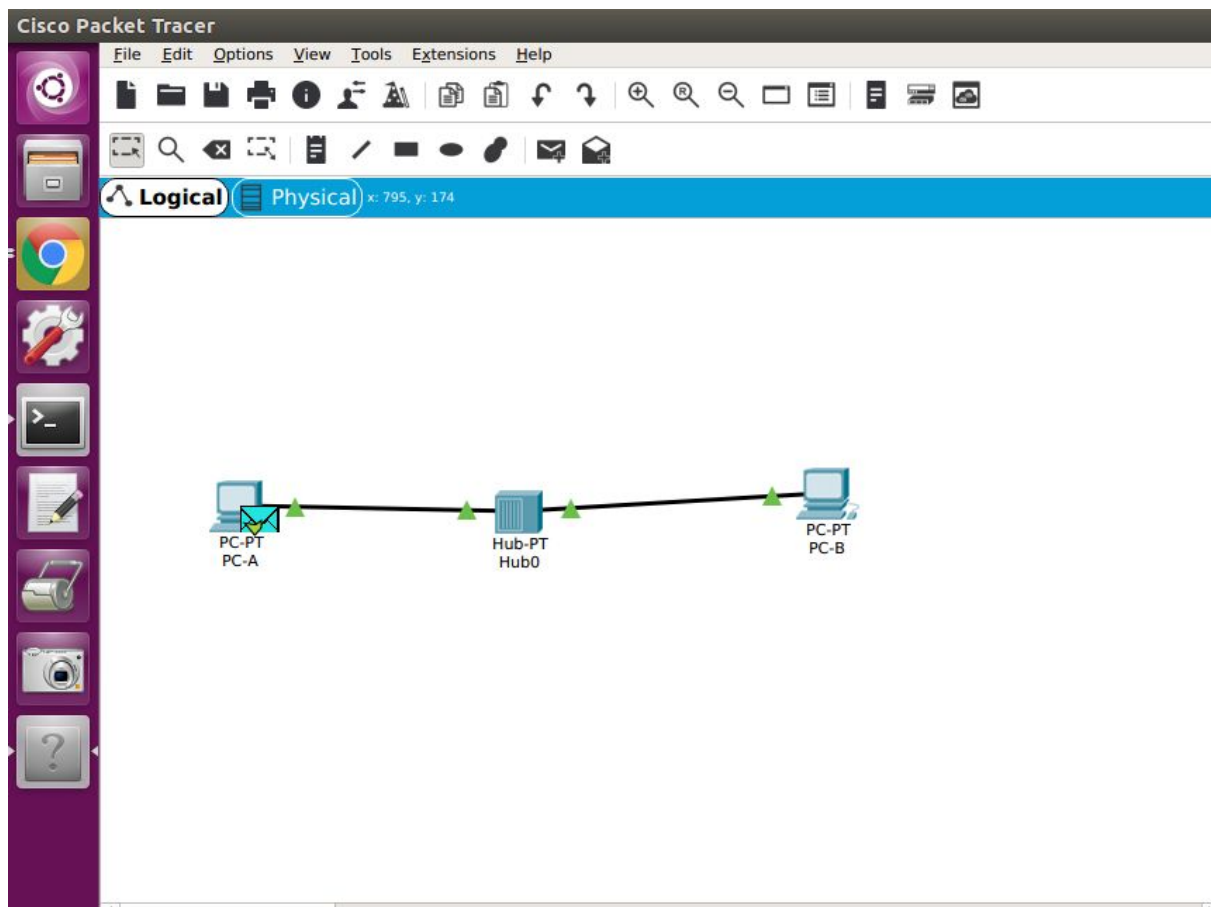
Step 1: Create a logical network diagram with two PCs and a hub

The bottom left-hand corner of the Packet Tracer screen displays eight icons that represent device categories or groups, such as Routers, Switches, or End Devices.

Moving the cursor over the device categories will show the name of the category in the box. To select a device, first select the device category. Once the device category is selected, the options within that category appear in the box next to the category listings. Select the device option that is required.

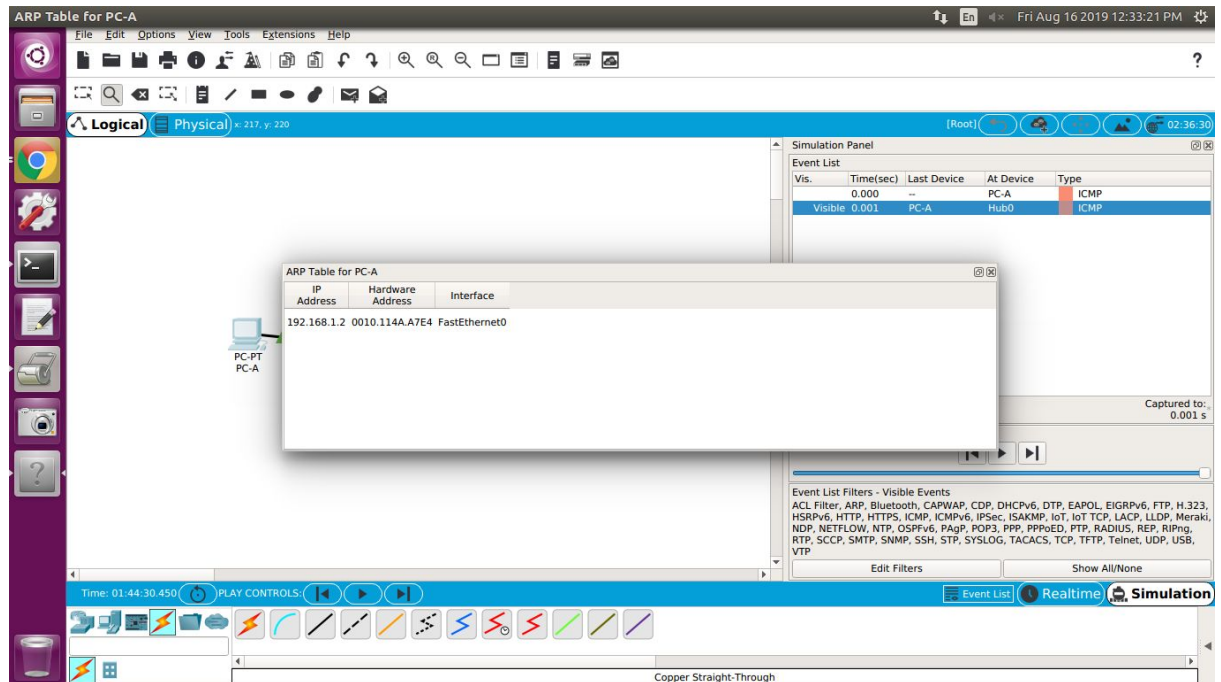
- Select End Devices from the options in the bottom left-hand corner. Drag and drop two generic PCs onto your design area.
- Select Hubs from the options in the bottom left-hand corner. Add a hub to the prototype network by dragging and dropping a generic hub onto the design area.
- Select Connections from the bottom left-hand corner. Choose a Copper Straight-through cable type. Click the first host, PC0, and assign the cable to the FastEthernet connector. Click the hub, Hub0, and select a connection port, Port 0, to connect to PC0.
- Repeat Step c for the second PC, PC1, to connect the PC to Port 1 on the hub.

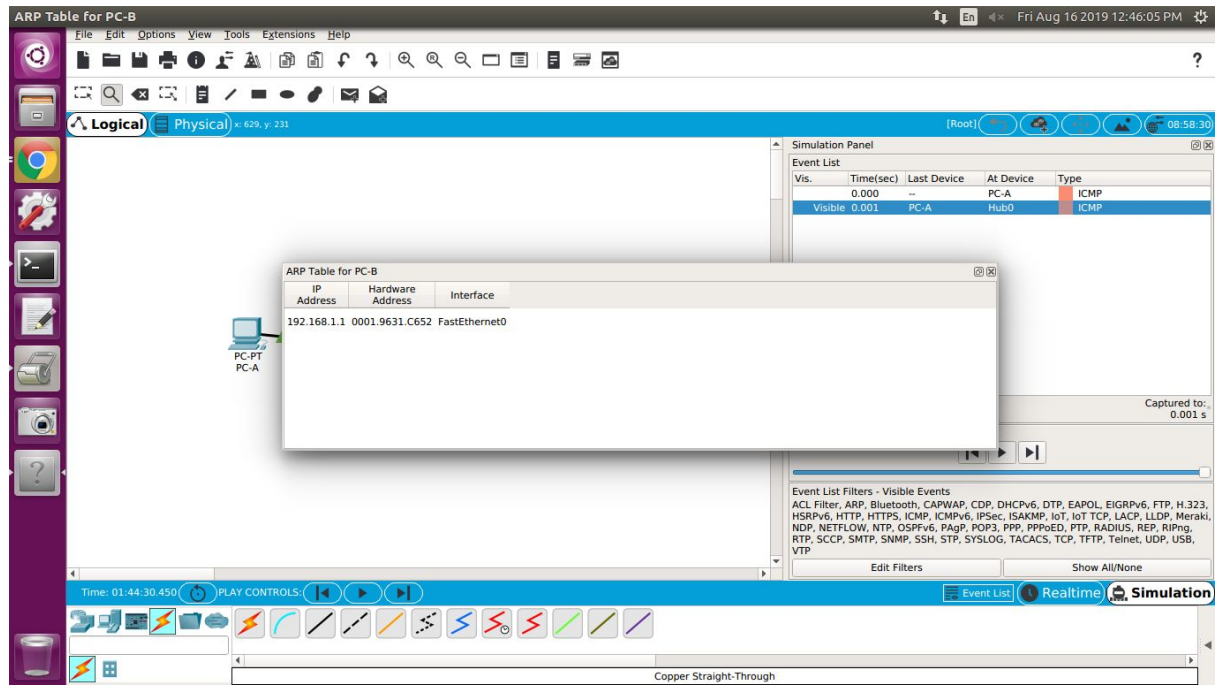
*There should be green dots at both ends of each cable connection. If not, check the cable type selected.



Step 2: Configure host names and IP addresses on the PCs

- Click PC0. A PC0 window will appear.
- From the PC0 window, select the Config tab. Change the PC Display Name to PC-A. (An error message window will appear warning that changing the device name may affect scoring of the activity. Ignore this error message.) Select the FastEthernet tab on the left and add the IP address of 192.168.1.1 and subnet mask of 255.255.255.0. Close the PC-A configuration window by selecting the x in the upper righthand corner.
- Click PC1.
- Select the Config tab. Change the PC Display Name to PC-B. Select the FastEthernet tab on the left and add the IP address of 192.168.1.2 and subnet mask of 255.255.255.0. Close the PC-B configuration window.





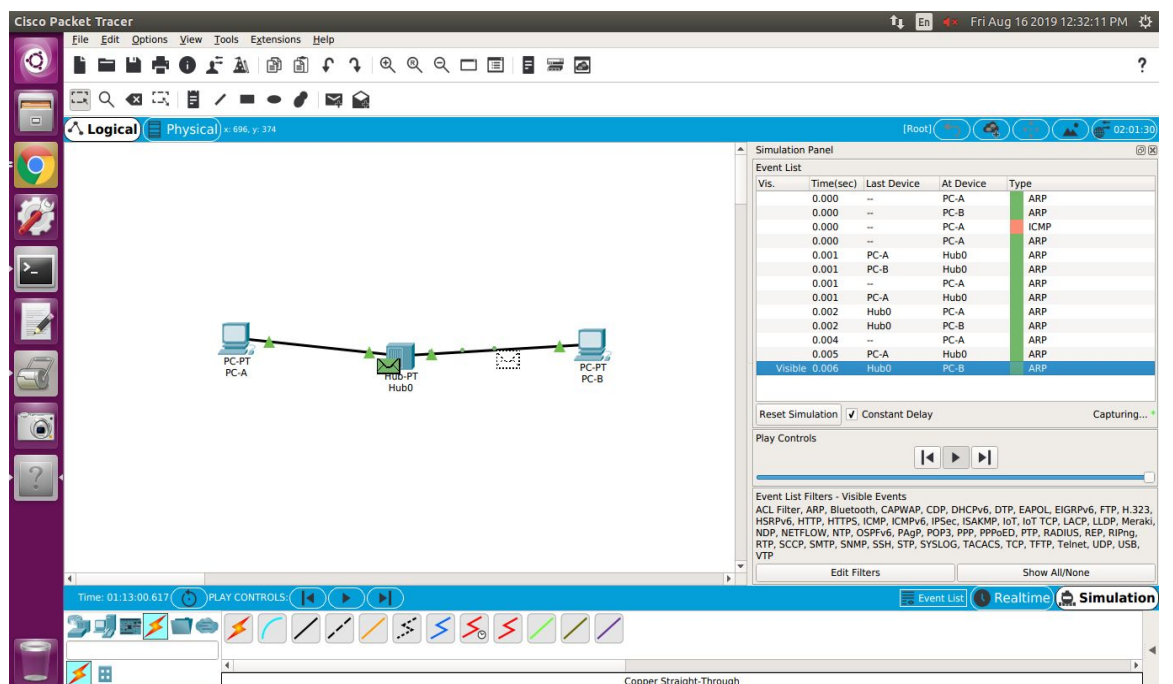
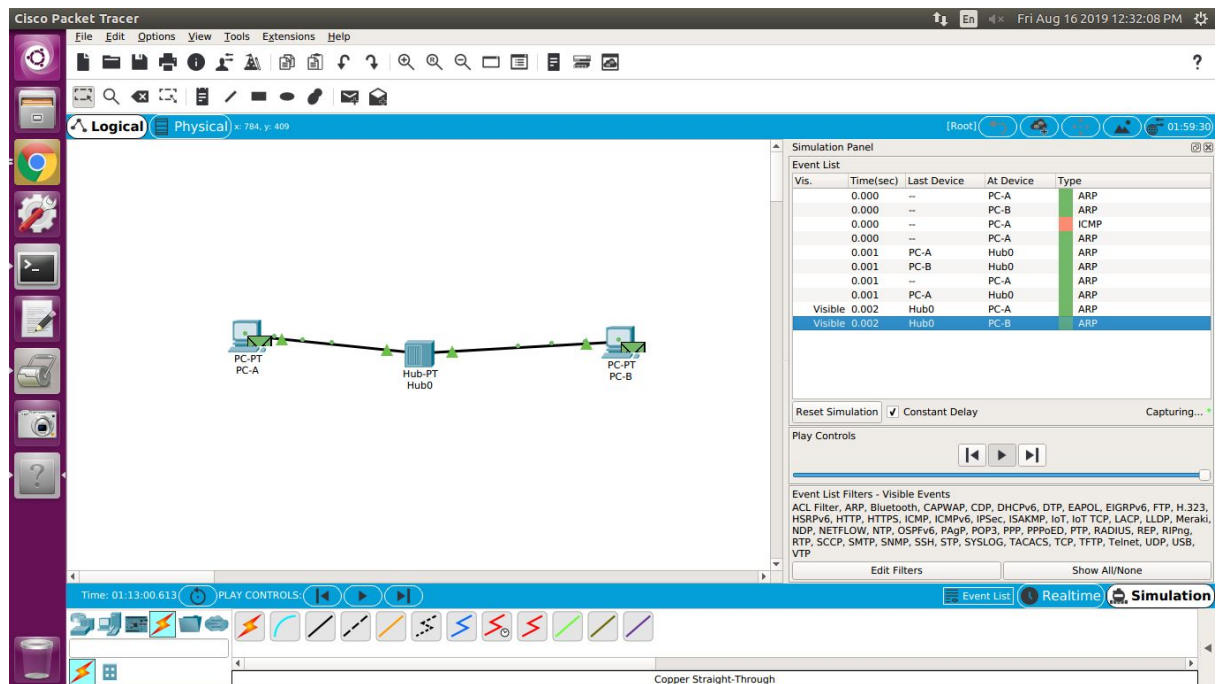
Step 3: Observe the flow of data from PC-A to PC-B by creating network traffic

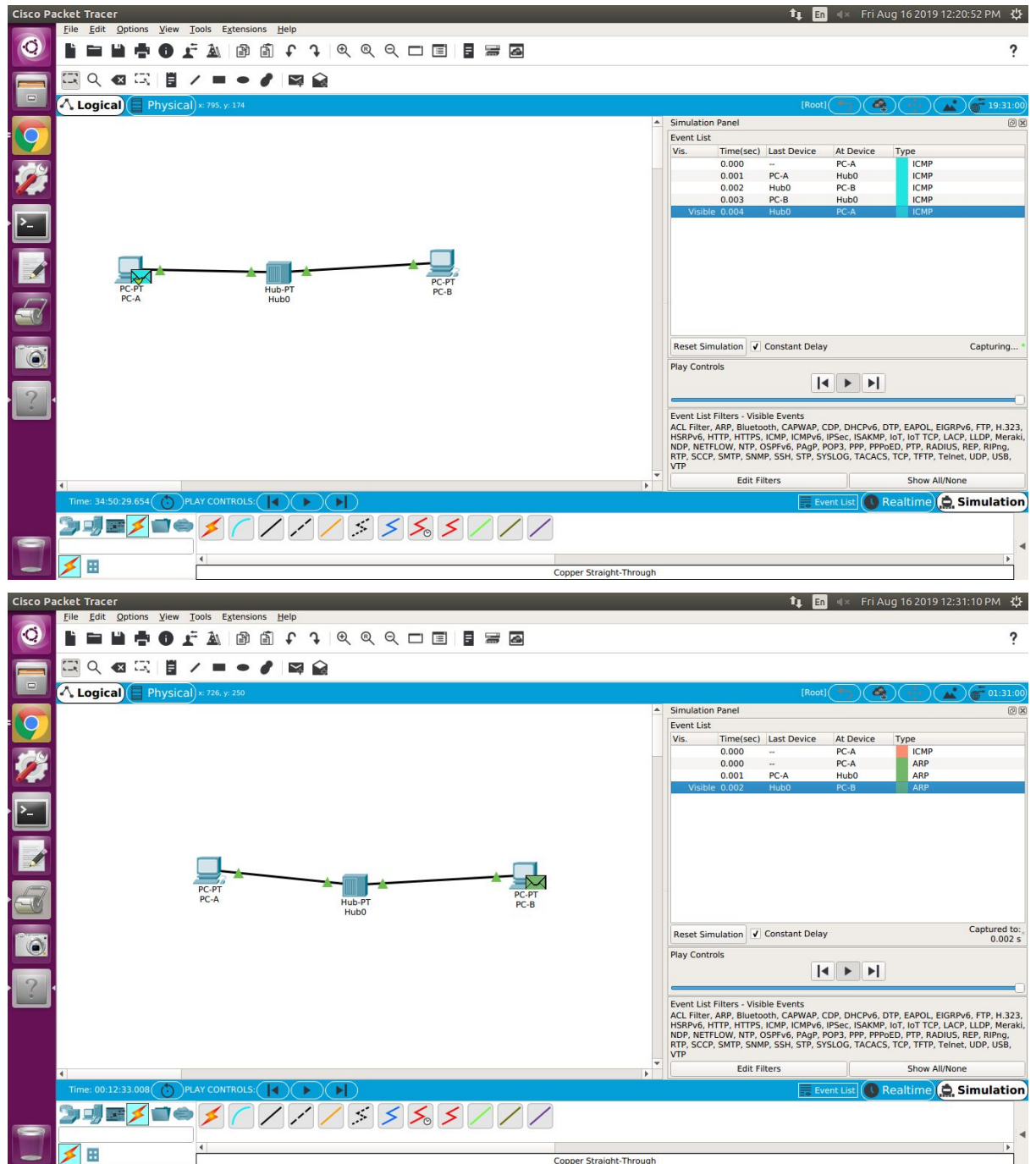
- Switch to Simulation mode by selecting the tab that is partially hidden behind the Realtime tab in the bottom right-hand corner. The tab has the icon of a stopwatch on it.
- Click the Edit Filters button in the Edit List Filters area. Clicking the Edit Filters button will create a pop-up window. In the pop-up window, click the Show All/None box to deselect every filter. Select just the ARP and ICMP filters.
- Select a Simple PDU by clicking the closed envelope on the right vertical toolbar. Move your cursor to the display area of your screen. Click PC-A to establish the source. Move your cursor to PC-B and click to establish the destination.

****Notice that two envelopes are now positioned beside PC-A. One envelope is ICMP, while the other is ARP. The Event List in the Simulation Panel will identify exactly which envelope represents ICMP and which represents ARP.**

- Select Auto Capture / Play from the Play Controls area of the Simulation Panel. Below the Auto Capture / Play button is a horizontal bar, with a vertical button that controls the speed of the simulation. Dragging the button to the right will speed up the simulation, while dragging is to the left will slow down the simulation.
- The animation will run until the message window *No More Events* appears. All requested events have been completed. Select OK to close the message box.
- Choose the Reset Simulation button in the Simulation Panel. Notice that the ARP envelope is no longer present. This has reset the simulation but has not cleared any configuration changes or dynamic table entries, such as ARP table entries. The ARP request is not necessary to complete the ping command because PC-A already has the MAC address in the ARP table.

- g) Choose the Capture / Forward button. The ICMP envelope will move from the source to the hub and stop. The Capture / Forward button allows you to run the simulation one step at a time. Continue selecting the Capture / Forward button until you complete the event.
- h) Choose the Power Cycle Devices button on the bottom left, above the device icons.
- i) An error message will appear asking you to confirm reset. Choose Yes. Now both the ICMP and ARP envelopes are present again. The Reset Network button will clear any configuration changes not saved and will clear all dynamic table entries, such as the ARP and MAC table entries.

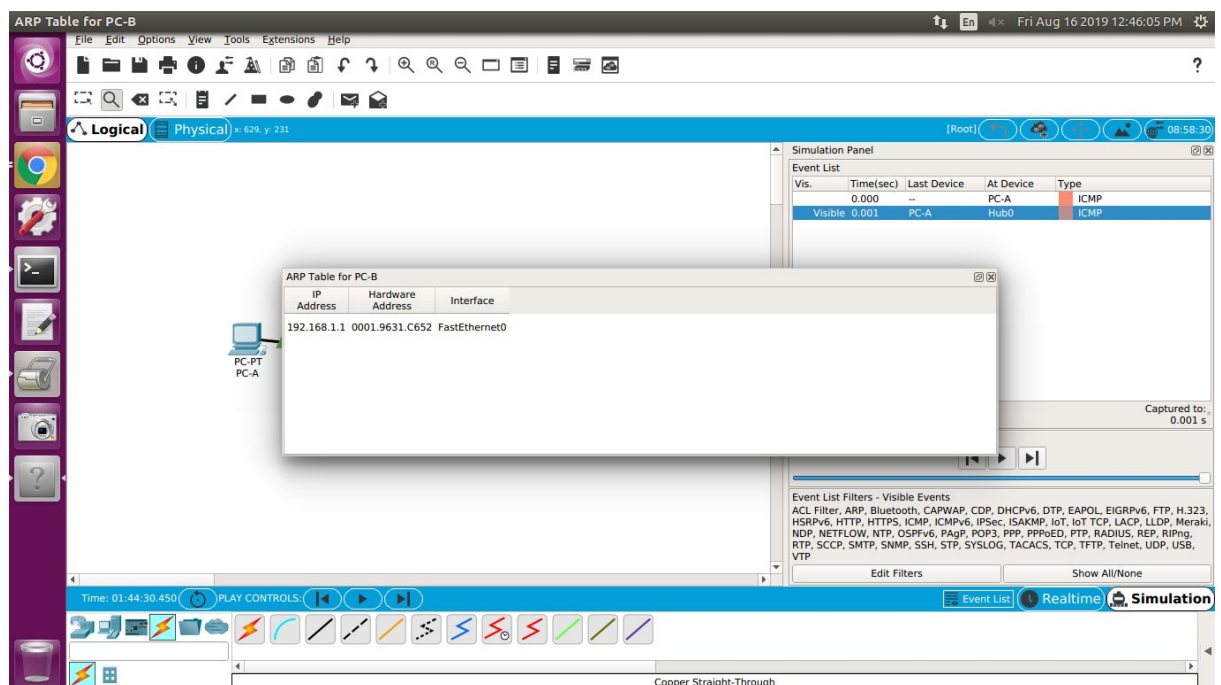




Step 4: View ARP Tables on each PC

- Choose the Auto Capture / Play button to repopulate the ARP table on the PCs. Click OK when the *No More Events* message appears.
- Select the magnifying glass on the right vertical tool bar.
- Click PC-A. The ARP table for PC-A will appear. Notice that PC-A does have an ARP entry for PC-C. View the ARP tables for PC-B and PC-C as well. Close all ARP table windows.

- d) Click the Select Tool on the right vertical tool bar. (This is the first icon present in the toolbar.)
- e) Click PC-A and select the Desktop tab.
- f) Select the Command Prompt and type the command `arp -a` and press *enter* to view the ARP table from the desktop view. Close the PC-A configuration window.
- g) Examine the ARP table for PC-B.
- h) Close the PC-B configuration window.
- i) Click the Check Results button at the bottom of the instruction window to verify that the topology is correct.



ARP Table for PC-A

File Edit Options View Tools Extensions Help

Logical Physical x: 217, y: 220

Simulation Panel

Event List

Vis.	Time(sec)	Last Device	At Device	Type
	0.000		PC-A	ICMP
Visible	0.001	PC-A	Hub0	ICMP

ARP Table for PC-A

IP Address	Hardware Address	Interface
192.168.1.2	0010.114A.A7E4	FastEthernet0

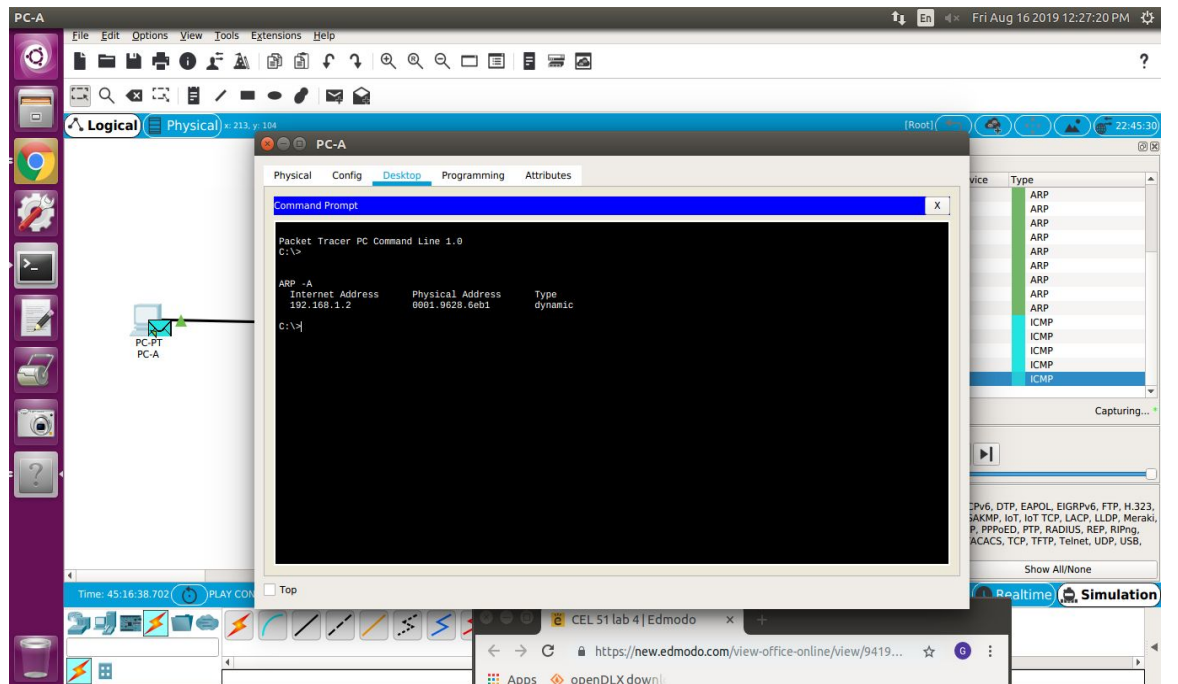
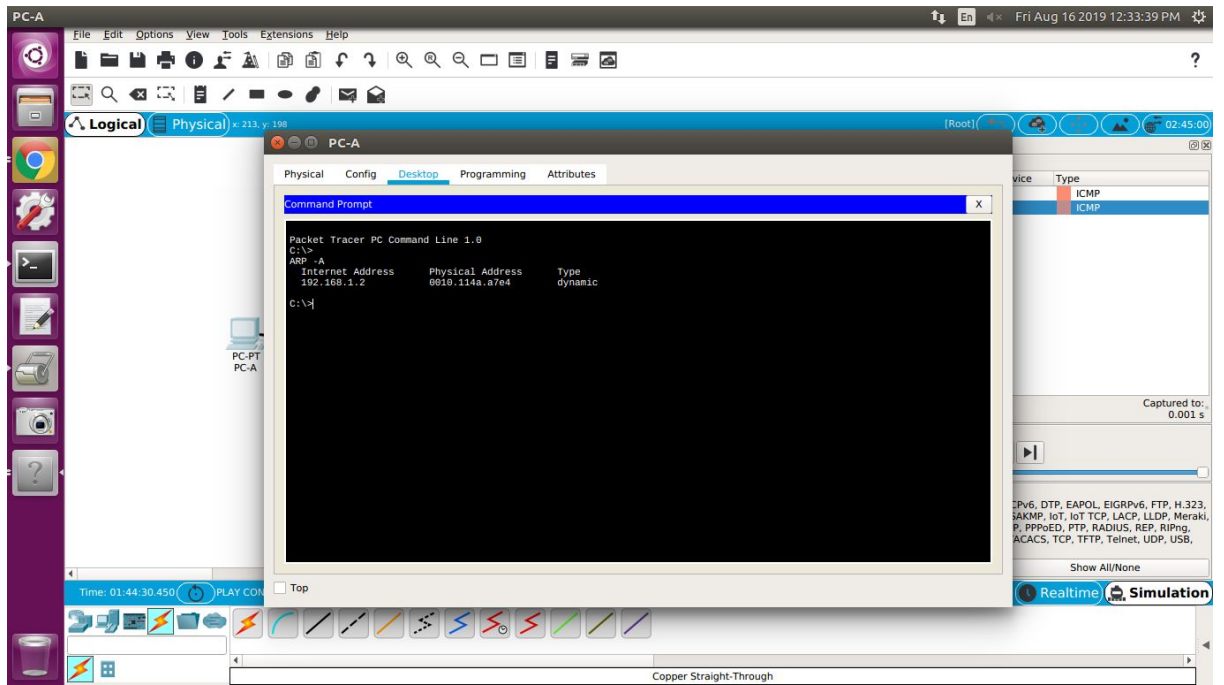
PC-PT
PC-A

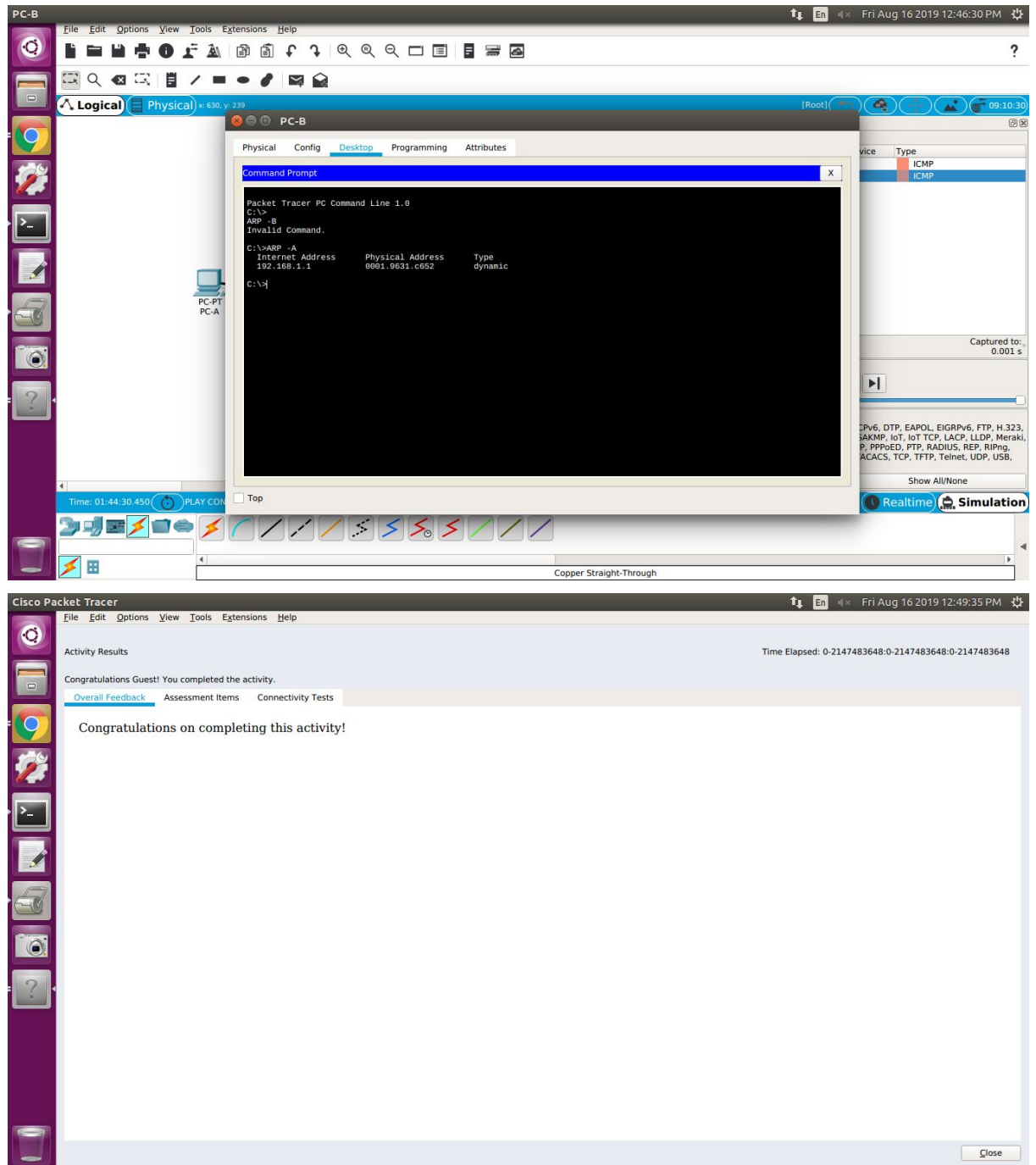
Time: 01:44:30.450

PLAY CONTROLS:

Event List Realtime Simulation

Copper Straight-Through





CONCLUSION:

Packet Tracer was studied in detail for local PC's through copper cables and the packet transmission was studied between two PC's. Some variations with switches and routers were also looked into giving a more elaborate explanation of packet transmission.

