



PacketReporter

Wireshark Network Analysis Plugin

Windows Installation Manual

Step-by-Step Quick Start Guide

Version: 0.2.5 (Public Beta)

Platform: Windows 10/11

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This software is provided as-is without warranty. For more information, visit: <https://github.com/netwho/PacketReporter>

Quick Start Guide

This manual provides step-by-step instructions for installing PacketReporter on Windows systems. Follow each step carefully to ensure proper installation and functionality.

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System Requirements

Required: Wireshark 4.0 or later

Recommended RAM: 4 GB

Optional: Administrator access (for PATH modifications)

Installation Time

Expected duration: 10-15 minutes. Allow extra time if downloading large files on slow connections.

Step 1: Install rsvg-convert

What is rsvg-convert? This tool converts SVG (Scalable Vector Graphics) files to PDF format. PacketReporter generates SVG charts and graphs that need to be converted to PDF for your reports. rsvg-convert is the fastest and most reliable converter for this purpose.

1.1 Download rsvg-convert

Visit the download page and get the latest version:

```
https://github.com/miyako/console-rsvg-convert/releases/download/2.1.3/rsvg-convert.x86_64.zip
```

This downloads a ZIP file containing the `rsvg-convert.exe` executable.

1.2 Extract the Archive

1. Right-click the downloaded `rsvg-convert.x86_64.zip` file
2. Select **"Extract All..."** from the context menu
3. Choose a location (e.g., Downloads folder)
4. Click **"Extract"** to unzip the file
5. You should now see `rsvg-convert.exe` in the extracted folder

1.3 Add to System PATH (Option A - Recommended)

Copy to Windows System Directory:

1. Press **Windows Key + R** to open Run dialog
2. Type: `C:\Windows\System32` and press Enter
3. A File Explorer window opens showing the System32 folder
4. Copy `rsvg-convert.exe` into this directory
5. ✓ **Done!** The tool is now accessible from anywhere

1.4 Add to System PATH (Option B - Advanced)

Create custom directory and add to PATH:

1. Create a new folder: C:\ConvertTools
2. Copy rsvg-convert.exe into this folder
3. Right-click **This PC** → **Properties**
4. Click "**Advanced system settings**"
5. Click "**Environment Variables**" button
6. Under "System variables", find and select "**Path**"
7. Click "**Edit**" → "**New**"
8. Add: C:\ConvertTools and click OK
9. Click OK to close all dialogs

IMPORTANT: Log Off and Log Back In

After modifying the PATH environment variable, you MUST log off and log back in for the changes to take effect. Otherwise, the system and PowerShell will not recognize the new PATH entry.

How to log off:

1. Press **Ctrl + Alt + Delete**
2. Click "**Sign out**" (bottom right)
3. Wait for the logoff to complete
4. Log back in with your credentials

After logging back in, proceed to Step 3.

Step 2: Install PDFtk

What is PDFtk? PDFtk combines multiple PDF pages into a single document. Since PacketReporter can generate multi-page reports, this tool merges all pages together. It's a simple installer that automatically adds itself to your system PATH.

2.1 Download PDFtk Installer

Download the Windows installer (version 2.02 Free):

https://www.pdflabs.com/tools/pdftk-the-pdf-toolkit/pdftk_free-2.02-win-setup.exe

2.2 Run the Installer

1. Double-click `pdftk_free-2.02-win-setup.exe`
2. Click **"Next >"** on the welcome screen
3. Accept the license agreement by clicking **"I Agree"**
4. Click **"Next >"** to accept the default installation location
5. Click **"Install"** to begin installation
6. Wait for the installation to complete (1-2 minutes)
7. Click **"Finish"** when done

⚠ **CRITICAL: Log Off and Log Back In**

IMPORTANT: After installing PDFtk, you **MUST** log off from Windows and log back in to refresh your system PATH. The prerequisite check script will not find PDFtk until you do this.

How to log off:

1. Press **Ctrl + Alt + Delete**
2. Click **"Sign out"** (bottom right)
3. Wait for the logoff to complete
4. Log back in with your credentials

After logging back in, proceed to Step 3.

Step 3: Verify Prerequisites

What does this step do? The prerequisite check script verifies that all required and optional tools are correctly installed and accessible. This helps identify any issues before proceeding with the main installation.

3.1 Open PowerShell

1. Press **Windows Key** and type PowerShell
2. Right-click "**Windows PowerShell**"
3. Select "**Run as administrator**"
4. Click "**Yes**" when prompted for admin rights

3.2 Navigate to Installation Directory

In PowerShell, navigate to the PacketReporter installer directory. Replace the path with your actual location:

```
cd "C:\Users\YourUsername\Downloads\PacketReporter\installers\windows"
```

Replace YourUsername with your actual Windows username and adjust the path if you extracted to a different location.

3.3 Run the Prerequisites Check Script

Copy and paste this command into PowerShell:

```
powershell -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File check-prereqs.ps1
```

Press **Enter** to run the script.

3.4 Interpret the Results

The script will display:

- **[OK]** in green = Tool found and working
- **[WARNING]** in yellow = Optional tool missing (PDF export may not work)
- **[ERROR]** in red = Required tool missing (must install before proceeding)

Next step: If you see warnings about rsvg-convert or Pdftk, review Steps 1-2 above. If all tools show [OK], proceed to Step 4.

Step 4: Run PacketReporter Installer

What does the installer do? The installer copies the PacketReporter Lua plugin to Wireshark's plugin directory, making it available in the Tools menu. It also creates a configuration directory for custom logos and settings.

4.1 Run the Main Installer

In the same PowerShell window (or open a new admin PowerShell), run:

```
powershell -ExecutionPolicy Bypass -File install.ps1
```

Press **Enter** and follow the prompts.

4.2 What Gets Installed

Plugin File:

- `packet_reporter.lua` → `%APPDATA%\Wireshark\plugins\`
- This is the main PacketReporter plugin (~2,580 lines of Lua code)

Configuration Directory:

- Created: `%USERPROFILE%\packet_reporter\`
- Purpose: Store custom logo and report descriptions

4.3 Configuration Files (Optional)

You can customize your reports by creating files in `.packet_reporter` folder:

Logo customization:

`%USERPROFILE%\packet_reporter\Logo.png`

Place your company/organization logo here. If not found, defaults to text branding.

Report description:

`%USERPROFILE%\packet_reporter\packet_reporter.txt`

Create this file with 3 lines maximum. Example:

```
Customer: Acme Corporation Segment: Production Network Notes: Q1 2026 Security Audit
```

4.4 Restart Wireshark

1. Close Wireshark completely (if running)
2. Reopen Wireshark
3. Go to **Tools** menu
4. You should now see **PacketReporter** submenu with report options

✓ **Installation Complete!**

Reports are automatically saved to: %USERPROFILE%\Documents\PacketReporter
Reports\

Step 5: First Use & Troubleshooting

5.1 Generate Your First Report

1. Open a PCAP file in Wireshark (or capture live traffic)
2. Apply a display filter if desired (e.g., `tcp.port == 443`)
3. Click **Tools** → **PacketReporter**
4. Select report type:
 - **Summary Report:** Quick 1-2 page overview
 - **Detailed Report (A4):** Full analysis, standard paper size
 - **Detailed Report (Legal):** Full analysis, US legal size
5. Report generation may take 10-30 seconds (depending on packet count)
6. Click "**Export PDF**" button
7. PDF opens automatically in your default viewer

5.2 Common Issues & Solutions

PDF export fails with "converter not found"

- Run `check-prereqs.ps1` again to verify installation
- Ensure you logged off/on after installing PDFtk
- Try copying `rsvg-convert.exe` to System32 folder (Step 1.3)

Plugin doesn't appear in Tools menu

- Fully close and reopen Wireshark
- Check that Wireshark 4.0+ is installed
- Verify plugin file exists: `%APPDATA%\Wireshark\plugins\packet_reporter.lua`

Reports show truncated IP addresses

- Make sure you have version 0.2.5 or later
- Reinstall the plugin (re-run `install.ps1`)

5.3 Getting Help

- **Documentation:** Check `PLATFORM_PREREQUISITES.md` in the installer folder
- **Repository:** <https://github.com/netwho/PacketReporter>
- **Issues:** Report bugs on GitHub Issues page