# NWEN302

# Lab 3

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# **REPORT**

# Introduction

In this investigation we will be utilizing a tool known as Software-Defined Networking (SDN) where its prime functionality is using software-based controllers or API's to ensure a more efficient network performance. The use of SDN resembles cloud commuting as it enables dynamic configuration and monitoring duties unlike a traditional way of network management.



# Design

We will be utilizing Python and implementing network simulation through CORE gui. In this investigation we will be learning the concepts behind SDN networks (Software-Defined Networking) and its available operations such as Ryu and OpenFlow. The Ryu will be acting as a controller to the CORE network simulation. Ryu will be extending the use of OpenFlow as a means to implement the Python code to orchestrate the network simulation.

We will be adding to the provided simple\_switch13.py code to complete task1;

- Block traffic between host 2 and host 3

Due to the source and destination mac addresses being provided I just need to do a simple if statement that checks if the source and/or destination is host2 and/or host 3 and blocks the communications.

```
nwen302_lab3.py X

C: > Users > OEM > Documents > Uni > NWEN302 > Lab3 >  nwen302_lab3.py

1  # Simple Switch 13 Psuedo Code - Task 1

2  # The goal is to block traffic between host2 and host3 via python code on the

3  # running network simulation.

4

5  # The provided python code includes the source and destination MAC address -

6  # and the ability to route traffic between hosts. Before the communication -

7  # takes places in the python code I need to include a couple if statements -

8  # to check the host details and drop the communications.

9  if [source == "host 2 mac address" and destination == "host 3 mac address"]

10  if [source "host 3 mac address" and destination == "host 2 mac address"]

11  # Print to terminal

12  print "Blocked communications"

13  # empty return statement to exit loop

14  return
```

### To complete task 2;

Count all traffic communicating with host 1

The first block follows similar to task 1 where the second block of code is after making changes when I encountered some errors/issues (I go into detail later on)

```
26 int num = 0
    Global num
30 ∨ if [source == "host 1 mac address" OR destination == "host 1 mac address"]
       num += 1
       print "Blocked communications"
40 vithin the def __init__() function
       add a int counter, int initnum and boolean init variable for later use
44 def _state_change_handler()
45 def _monitor()
    def _request_stats()
def _port_stats_reply_handler()
48 vusing the provided sorted(body, key=attrgetter('port_no')) set to variable stats for use
         if the self.init (true)
           set the first element of the stats dictionary of the rx_packets and tx_packets to the initnum variable
             print the number to the terminal screen for testing
             set the init to false
         set the count variable to equal the first elements (host 1) to equal the traffic - the initnum variable
         (we have to do this to count because the way the ryu is set up it holds the traffic history so the count is inacurrate)
         print the count to the terminal
```

### To complete task 3;

 Count traffic communications from each host and once the number has hit a MAX\_COUNT to block communications from that host for 60 seconds.

This task we will be combining task 1 and task 2 by implementing a blocking algorithm after a given host's communications count has hit a maximum amount. The below 2 images are for my first iteration of my attempt for task 3.

```
if the source from where the traffic is originating from is in the <code>self.mac_addresses</code>
add the element at the source addresses position in the Counter dictionary to add 1

loop through the key and value pairs in the Blocking dictionary
Check if the key is equal to the source and the value is assigned as True
# Block the communication
return

Finally, check that the Count dictionary element at the source addresses position is equal
to the MAX_COUNT, int 10 variable
if so, <code>set</code> the Blocking dictionarys element at the source address position to true

execute the thread which will continue until 60 seconds and once complete, call the timerChecking
method to unblock
```

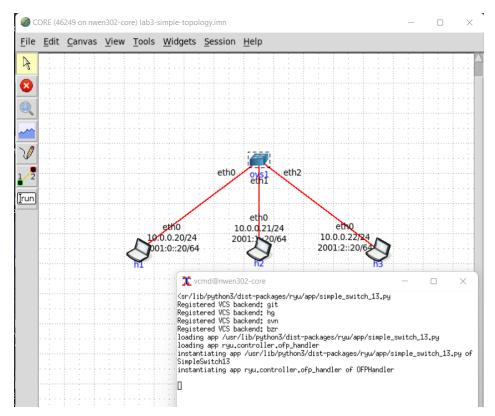
My second attempt at task 3 after making some changes; (I discuss why later on)

```
within the def __init__() function
        add the following for later use:
        int initnumhost1,
        int initnumhost2,
        int initnumhost3,
        int initnum
        bool init
        addrCount dictionary which contains each hosts mac address with an assigned int value
        addrTimer dictionary which contains each hosts mac address with an assigned boolean value
95 def _state_change_handler()
96 def _monitor()
97 def _request_stats()
    def _port_stats_reply_handler()
if self.initnumhost1 (true)
           set the first[0] element of the stats dictionary of the rx_packets and tx_packets to the initnum variable
           print the number to the terminal screen for testing
           set the init to false
        if self.initnumhost2 (true)
           set the second[1] element of the stats dictionary of the rx_packets and tx_packets to the initnum variable
           print the number to the terminal screen for testing
           set the init to false
        if self.initnumhost3 (true)
           set the third[2] element of the stats dictionary of the rx_packets and tx_packets to the initnum variable
            print the number to the terminal screen for testing
           set the init to false
        set the count variable to equal the first elements (host 1) to equal the traffic - the hosts initnum variable
        (we have to do this to count because the way the ryu is set up it holds the traffic history so the count is inacurrate)
        print the count to the terminal
        do the above 3 lines again but for hosts 2 and 3
```

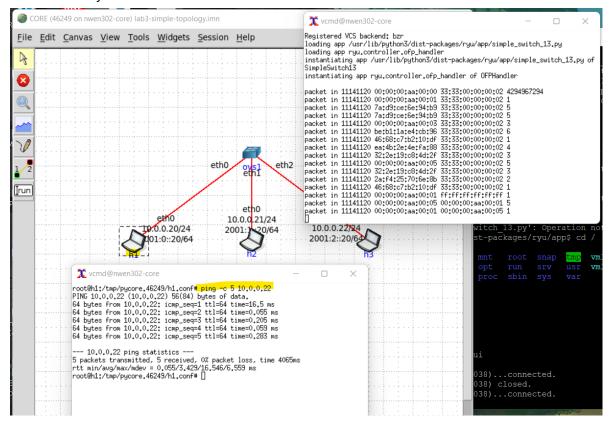
#### **Procedures**

I created a simple network topology which consists of 3 hosts connected to a switch router. The switch is not like a regular layer 2 device but a layer 3 Open vSwitch which will allow for more capabilities such as the use of OpenFlow controller.

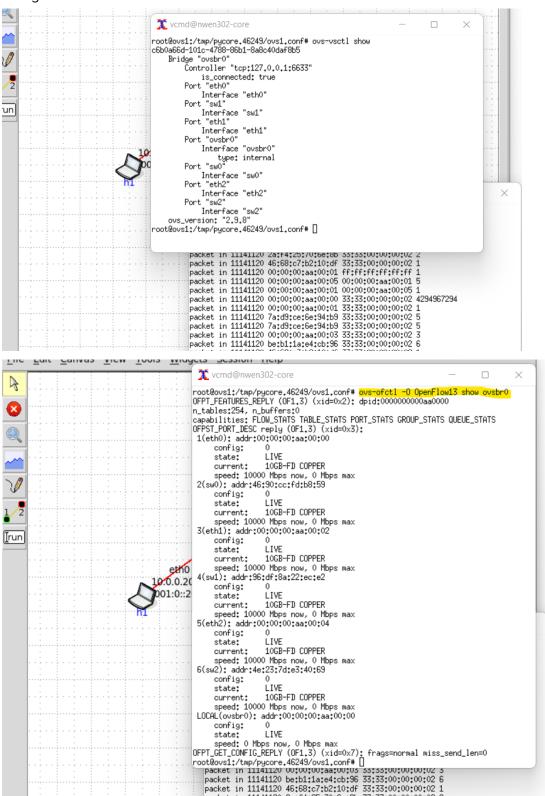
Before making any adjustments to the provided python code I have run it through the switches terminal and executed a few commands to test preemptively. Below is a screenshot showing the code running through the switches terminal.



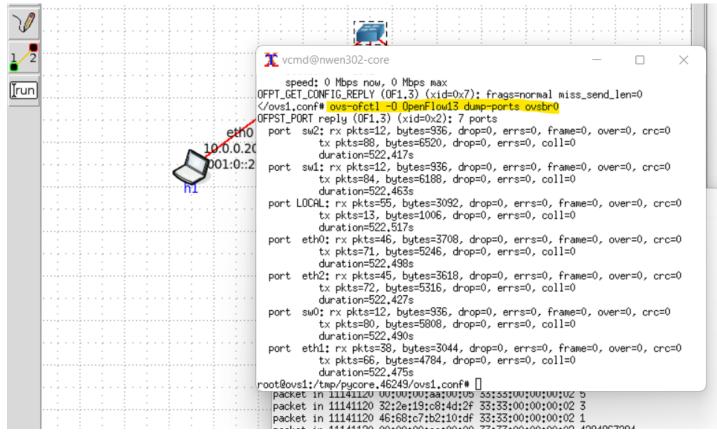
When pinging from host 1 to host 3 the switches terminal appears as below; showing that it foresees every communication/traffic between hosts.



The command 'ovs-vsctl show' prints an overview of the switch database configuration while 'ovs-ofctl -O OpenFlow13 show ovsbr0' shows an overview of the switches OpenFlow configuration.



The command 'ovs-ofctl -O OpenFlow13 dump-ports ovsbr0' prints the br0 OpenFlow ports statistics and shows detailed information about all the interfaces connected to this bridge, including the speed, state and peer information.



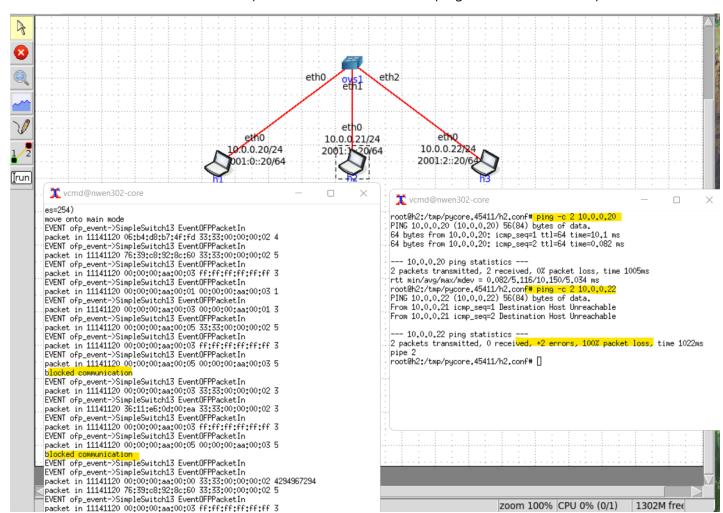
Now that I feel I understand Open vSwitches design and uses I will now be implementing the above pseudo code from the design section into program python code for the switch to run with to complete the given tasks.

# **KEY TASKS**

#### Task 1

Modify simple\_switch\_13.py to include logic to **block** traffic between host h2 and host h3. Save the modified file as lab3\_task1.py. Explain code and test procedures.

- To implement a blocking function I utilized the functions already provided in the SimpleSwitch13 class to include an if statement (after the code has learnt the src and dst values) that checks if the source or destination mac address is either from/to host 2 or host 3. Within the if statement I have included a print to terminal letting the user know the communication is blocked. If this statement is true after printing it will drop (by implementing an empty return). Lines 96 100.
- I got the source/destination MAC address information by inputting 'ifconfig' on each terminal, host 2 and host 3.
- Below is a screenshot of the code running through the switch and the hosts attempting to communicate with each other. (Shows that host 2 is able to ping host 1 but not host 3)

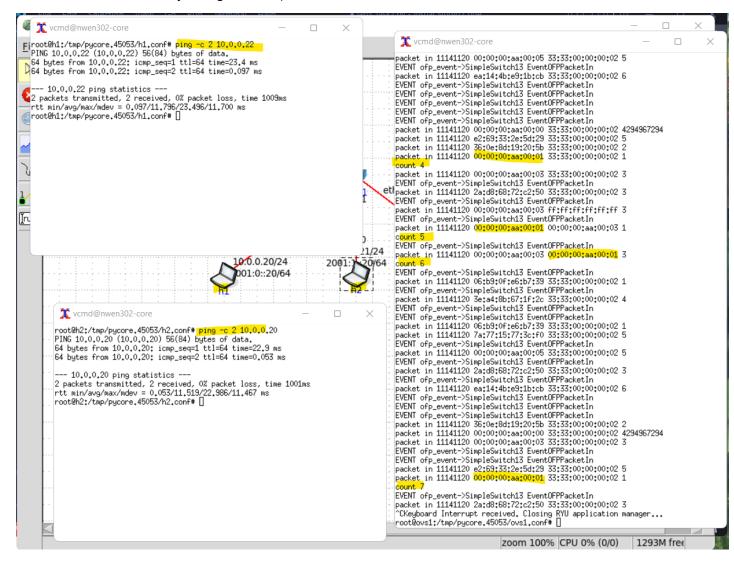


#### Task 2

Modify simple\_switch13.py to count all traffic going to and originating from host h1. Save the modified file as lab3\_task2.py. Explain Code and test procedures.

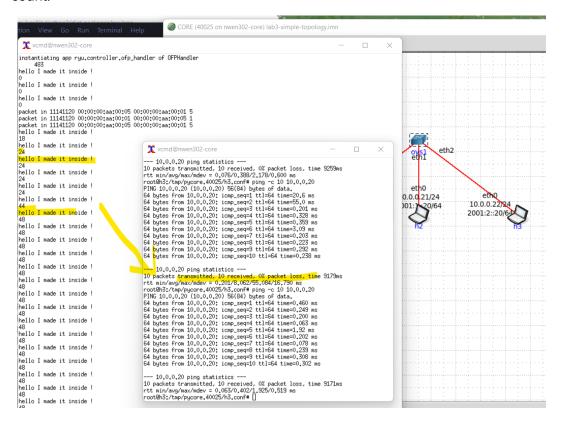
## First implementation:

- To be able to count the traffic from a specified host I created a global num variable to use for keeping track of the traffic and updating it's value.
- To be able to access the num variable I just called it before my following if statement within the class itself.
- Similar to task 1, I implemented the src and dst variables and checked if either of them were from host 1 and if so, update the num variable (num + 1) and print the num value.
- Below is a screenshot of the executed code through the VM: (host 1 pinging host 3, host 2 pinging host 1. The switch terminal with the code execution shows that the traffic from host 1 is sufficiently being counted).



### Second implementation:

- After some debugging I found that the count wasn't correct and had to implement my code another way. Referencing from the traffic\_minotor library (shown within the references section). I had to implement a '\_state\_change\_handler()', '\_monitor()', '\_request\_stats(), and a '\_port\_stats\_reply\_handler'.
- Within the '\_port\_stats\_reply\_handler(); function I implemented a stats variable which is a dictionary that holds each host's traffic information. By accessing the first element of the stats dictionary (host 1) by stats[0].rx\_packets + stats[0].tx\_packets it returns the number value of all traffic that has been through host 1. Since this value holds the history of every single packet sent through host 1 the number is quite large as it doesn't count from our point of beginning the code.
- To debug this I created new variables where one will be counting the total packets and one that will be counting the 'new' packets minus the total packets. This will return only the packets that we initialize. From the screenshot below it shows my code running. The value begins at 0 before we ping host 1 which is good, then when we ping 10 packets to host 1 from host 2 the count value goes to 24. We account for 20 packets and the other 4 packets are the background broadcast that the program runs regardless of our code. When I ping 10 packets again the value goes from 24 to 48 which shows we successfully recorded the 20 send/receive packets communicating with host 1, then similar to the last time the Ryu is sending the background broadcast which adds another 4 packets to the count.

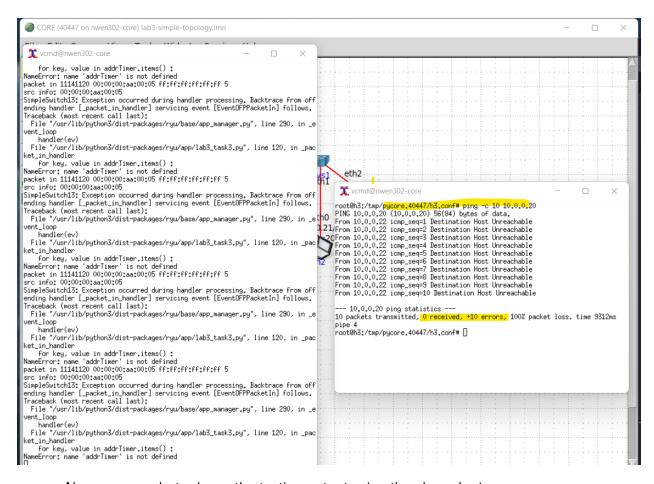


#### Task 3

Extend simple\_switch\_13.py to combine Task 1 and Task 2 functionalities. Keep track of all traffic (count the number of packets) originating from each host. If the counter exceeds a specific number, block all the traffic originating from this host for 1 minute. The maximum packet count number should be configured through the MAX\_COUNT variable. Save the modified file as lab3\_task3.py. Explain Code and test procedures.

### First Implementation:

- Outside the class I created two separate 'dictionaries' (similar functioning to maps/arrays in java) that contain the hosts mac addresses. One map/dictionaries value holds an int value for counting and the other dictionaries value holds a boolean value which will be used for the blocking functionality later on.
- Imported the python threading library for opening the threads for each blocked host (each time a host is blocked it needs to be run on a new separate thread to not affect the program root processes).
- Thread function declaration at the beginning of the SimpleSwitch13 class. A simple method named timerChecks which passes in a mac\_address and resets the mac\_address from the addrTimer dictionary to false (false = unblocked, true = blocked). This gets called when the timer has hit 60 seconds as a means to reset the blocking.
- Added the hosts mac addresses to the \_\_init\_\_ function as a map/dictionary to compare the src info to later on.
- Within the \_packet\_in\_handler method the first thing I did was call the global variables/dictionaries I created and then did a simple if statement which checks the if the source (src) is inside the mac\_address list (referring to the dictionary/map within the \_\_init\_\_ function) and when it recognises it add the values count to '+1' on the specific source addresses element.
- For the timer threading function I created a for loop which goes through the keys and values of each mac address within the addrTimer dictionary and checks if the current element's source value is equal to true. If the value returns true, return, as a means to continue blocking the traffic.
- The last if statement is the counter function which checks if the source addresses value is equal to the MAX\_COUNT variable (10) and if so, change the source addresses addrTimer value to true and open/start the thread which will count up to 60 seconds before running the timerChecks function which will unblock it.
- The way I have gone about testing this is after running the code through the switch terminal I have pinged from each host 10 packets to check if 1, the count sufficiently goes upwards and 2, when it hits 10 the communications are blocked and the terminal notifies us so.



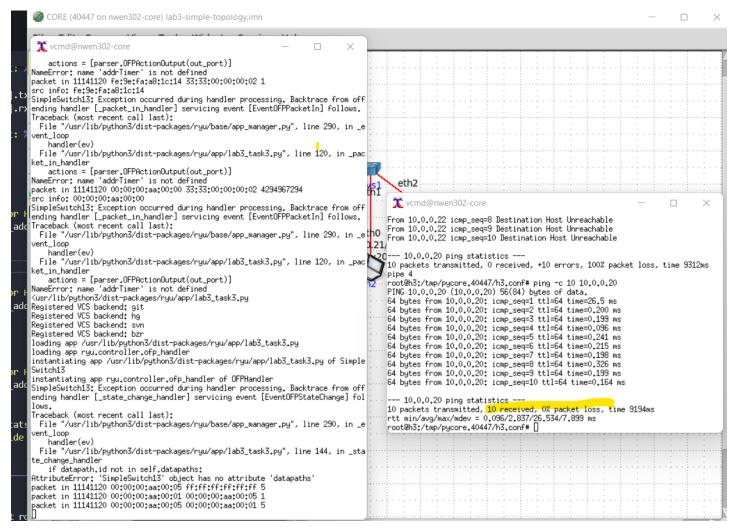
Above screenshots shows the testing output using the above logic

# Second Implementation:

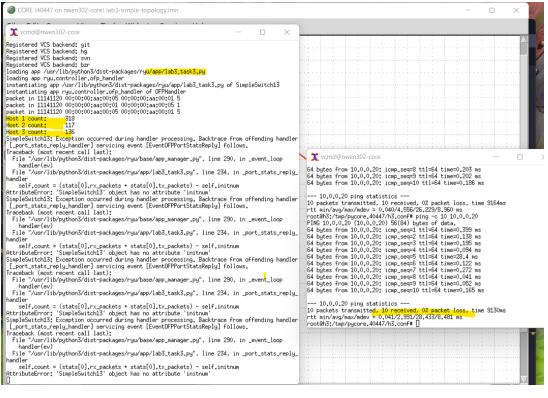
- Similar to the second implementation of task 2 I started with referencing from the traffic\_minotor library and implemented a '\_state\_change\_handler()', '\_monitor()', '\_request\_stats(), and a '\_port\_stats\_reply\_handler'.
- Within the '\_port\_stats\_reply\_handler(); function I implemented a stats variable which is a dictionary that holds each host's traffic information.
- I did the same thing with task 2 where I checked if the stats[0] of rx\_packets and tx\_packets and then added the values to a count variable except I did so for each host with separate variables.
- Then I changed the hosts elements value within the addrCount variable to increment by 1 as a means to count upwards.
- Then I made a loop to go through the keys and values of the addrCount to assess. When the hosts value within the addrCount dictionary reaches the MAX\_COUNT (10) it will then start a timing thread which will block traffic through that host for 60 seconds. After the 60seconds the timerchecks()function will be called which will unblock the traffic.

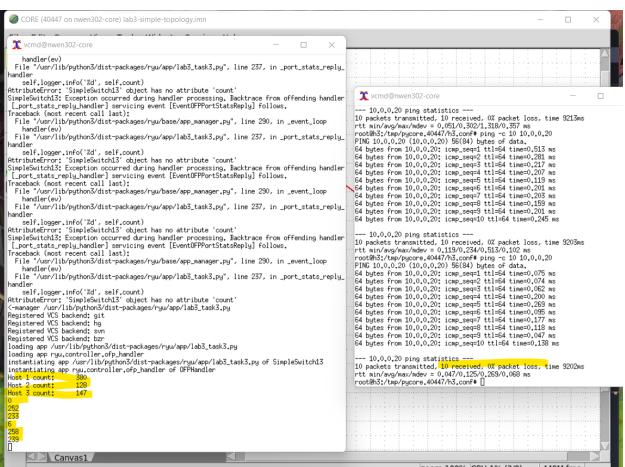
#### Note:

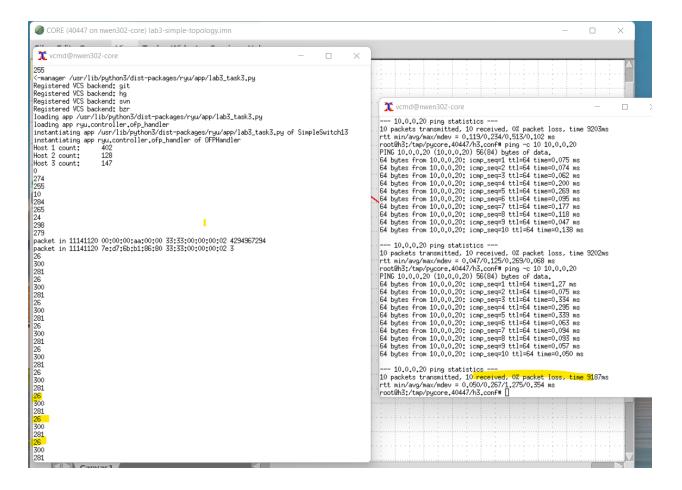
Through testing I believe I was close but unfortunately did not get the results I had hoped for. The screenshots below show the output I was getting, It appears it was somewhat counting (the number 0 to 26 is from host 3 pinging host 1 10 times, so 20 packets went to and from host 1) but unsure if the blocking is successful as I attempted to ping 10 packets more than once. What should have happened was after host 1's count value hit 10 the manual pings from host 3 would no longer be successful.



- The above screenshots show the terminal output from running my updated task3 code using the above implementation. I believe I was almost there but did not quite execute it.







#### Conclusion

Overall I believe I found and were able to sufficiently utilize the OpenFlow Framework in our pursuit in using python code to emulate a SDN, software-defined network simulation. However, it did take some adjusting to get used to the python format and I had to brief myself on the documentation before properly coding as I did struggle at times with remembering the syntax as it is quite different from c++ or java. The testing methodology I took was after running the code through the switch device I would then ping from hosts to the other depending on the goal, for example, when I executed the code from task 1 I tested its ability to block communications by pinging from host 2 to host 3 and pinging from host 3 to host 2. The results showed that the pings were unsuccessful. The other testing methodology I implemented was the use of print statements within my code loops which print to the switches terminal when executed. For example, for task 2 I needed to count the amount of times traffic passes through host 1 and when pinging from or to host 1 the count variable counts upwards each time shown on the switches terminal. However using my second implementation the initial values look guite large due to Ryu saving the hosts previous traffic history and I needed to account for this. For tasks 2 and 3 I implemented a few methods from the Traffic Monitor Github (seen in the references section) which allowed for me to access the hosts traffic memory which I found quite helpful. Although I didn't get my task 3 running as to how I would've liked I believe my attempt with some more configuring could have worked.

### References

Python Tutorial,

- <a href="https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/">https://docs.python.org/3/tutorial/</a>

Ryu Tutorial & Documentation,

- <a href="https://ryu.readthedocs.io/en/latest/writing\_ryu\_app.html">https://ryu.readthedocs.io/en/latest/writing\_ryu\_app.html</a>

Ryu Packet Library,

- https://rvu.readthedocs.io/en/latest/library\_packet.html

Traffic Monitor Code,

- https://osrg.github.io/ryu-book/en/html/traffic monitor.html

# **Appendices**

1. Appendix A - Software

Windows Linux Subsystem, WSL & Ubuntu

https://ubuntu.com/tutorials/install-ubuntu-on-wsl2-on-windows-11-with-gui-support#1-over view

WinSCP 5.21.2, Windows 64bit

https://winscp.net/eng/download.php

PuTTY 0.77, Windows 64bit

https://www.chiark.greenend.org.uk/~sqtatham/putty/latest.html

VirtualBox VM 6.1.38, Windows 64bit

https://www.virtualbox.org/wiki/Downloads

2. Appendix B - Configurations

Ryu SDN Framework

https://ryu-sdn.org/

Open vSwitch

https://www.openvswitch.org/

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Ryu SDN Framework

https://ryu-sdn.org/

Open vSwitch

https://www.openvswitch.org/

# **Acknowledgements**

- Tutor, Zach Kingsford, with coding and development help
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