

Wireshark 101

Its all about packets

Robert Hess – GoTo Dresden

robert.hess@goto.com

Material download & instructions:

<https://github.com/rohess/ws-training>

We need to talk about Wireshark !

- Learn & understand network protocols
- Analyse network problems
- Find out what happens in your network

Wireshark can help you with this – and it's fun to use

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In depth insight into details – if you are like me you need to see things to understand

What is Wireshark

- Tool to capture and analyze network packets (all kinds of)
- OpenSource – you can build it yourself
- Highly customizable
- On MacOS, Linux, Windows (based on QT5)
- ARM version for Windows and Mac
- 1.5 Mio downloads per month
- 3100 protocols, 269k fields (last year 3000/250k)
- 2400 authors (last year 2300)
- Two yearly conferences

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Also Wireless, USB etc. And meanwhile also Linux sys calls - StratoShark

History

- First iteration started by Gerald Combs in 1997 as Ethereal
- Since 2006 called Wireshark
- 2008 V1.0 & first Sharkfest
- 2023 V4.0 & Wireshark Foundation

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I attended 3 Sharkfests so far
WebRTC Masterclass

Today

- → Install instructions & Sample file download:
<https://github.com/rohess/ws-training>

- Install Wireshark
- Look at the UI
- Filter packets
- Go through a sample capture
- Demo the most common features
- Have a short look at how to capture

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Who knows about

Installation

- Recent version of Wireshark, at least 4.0 – current is 4.6.2 (stable)
4.7 (dev)
- On MacOS and Windows – just download the installer and install
→ <https://www.wireshark.org/download.html>
- Linux – check installation steps on Github link
Repo versions tend to be outdated – built it from source ;-)

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The capture file

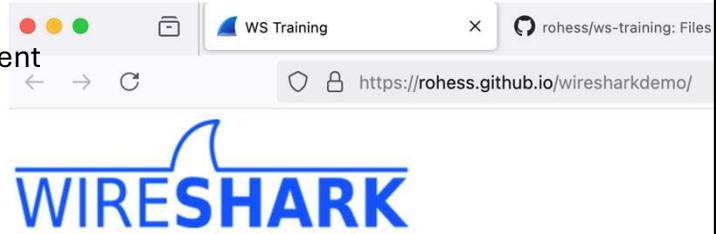
- .pcap format – industry standard for all kind of packet capture software (tcpdump, dumbcap etc.)
 - .pcapng format – adds meta data to pcap (file notes, packet notes, custom DNS names + timestamps with microseconds)
 - contains interesting traffic & noise -> remove the noise
-
- -> open the sample capture file from
<https://github.com/rohess/ws-training>

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What's in it:

Download of a single webpage via Chrome

- DNS requests
- TCP Connection establishment
- TLS negotiation
- HTTP traffic downloading
 - HTML Code
 - Picture
 - favicon
- Connection tear down



Demo Site for Wireshark Training

This is a site to create a nice capture file with [Wireshark](#).

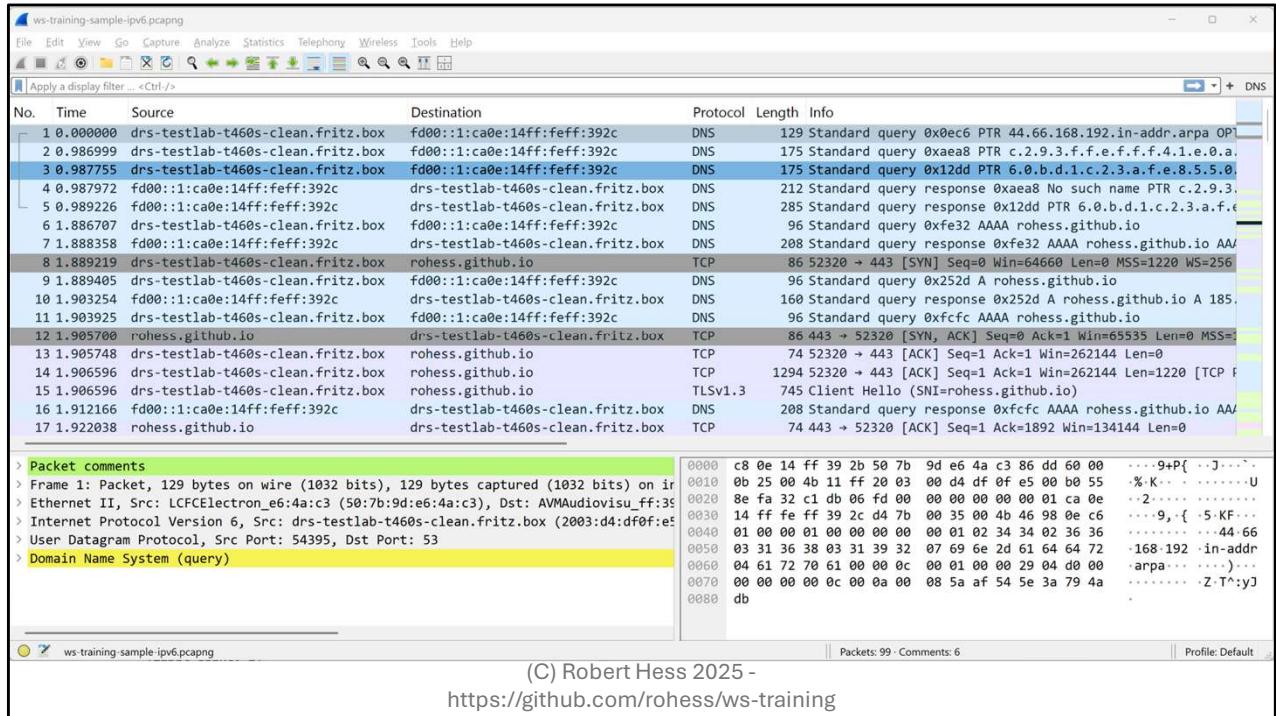
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The Wireshark UI

- Tool bar
 - Capture section
- Initial layout – 3 panes
 - Packet list
 - Packet Details
 - Packet Bytes -> much cooler: Packet Diagram
- Filter bar
 - Filter string
 - Filter buttons
- Packet list
 - Columns – configurable

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Packet list

- Time – highly configurable via *View/Time Display Format*
- Source – IP or DNS
- Destination – IP or DNS
- Protocol – TCP/UDP/DNS ...
- Length – Packet length on wire
- Info – lots of useful stuff that Wireshark found out via its dissectors

Tools – column width, stop scroll, colorize on/off

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Switch on

How does it work

- Wireshark reads pcap/pcapng file and builds the packet tree.
- Each packet is run through applicable list of dissectors and classified accordingly. Results are shown in the various windows
- If keys are available encrypted payloads are decrypted
- When filters are applied the packet tree is rescanned
 - This is single-threaded and takes time
 - Keep capture files small (10-100Mbytes) – up to 1 GB works

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A better packet list

- Switch time display format to time of the day in UTC Time of the Day
- Add columns for Source and Destination Port
- Use Payload length instead of length
- Show Stream index

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Investigation – prep steps

1. Reduce size of capture file by removing unnecessary data
2. Pick out the relevant packets based on characteristics (target systems, ports, number of packets)
3. Create the right views to inspect these packets
4. Form a hypothesis in your head how the packet streams should look like
5. Look at the packets and find the delta to your expectations and ask AI for explanations

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Statistics/Conversations

Conversation Settings																					
Address A			Port A		Address B		Port B		Packets		Bytes	Stream ID	Packets A → B		Bytes A → B		Packets B → A		Bytes B → A		Rel Star
									Packets v	Bytes				Bytes	A → B	Bytes	B → A	Bytes	B → A	Bytes	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Name resolution	local	50410	duckduckgo.com	443	533	497 kB	0	199	15 kB	334	482 kB	5.720679									
<input type="checkbox"/> Absolute start time	local	50414	rohess.github.io	443	41	19 kB	4	17	4 kB	24	15 kB	11.748678									
<input type="checkbox"/> Limit to display filter	local	50413	update.googleapis.com	443	34	22 kB	3	14	12 kB	20	10 kB	10.664313									
	local	50412	content-autofill.googleapis.com	443	31	11 kB	2	14	3 kB	17	8 kB	6.286517									
	local	50415	android.l.google.com	443	29	8 kB	6	14	4 kB	15	4 kB	15.086685									
	local	50411	duckduckgo.com	443	20	9 kB	1	10	3 kB	10	6 kB	5.720876									
	local	50397	wf-in-f188.1e100.net	5228	3	168 bytes	7	2	108 bytes	1	60 bytes	18.237099									
	local	50409	content-autofill.googleapis.com	443	3	168 bytes	8	2	108 bytes	1	60 bytes	18.255986									
	local	50408	wk-in-f84.1e100.net	443	3	168 bytes	9	2	108 bytes	1	60 bytes	18.256120									
	local	50407	content-autofill.googleapis.com	443	3	168 bytes	10	2	108 bytes	1	60 bytes	18.258293									
	local	50406	android.l.google.com	443	3	168 bytes	11	2	108 bytes	1	60 bytes	18.258407									
	local	49852	40.115.3.253	443	2	121 bytes	5	1	55 bytes	1	66 bytes	13.293682									

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Investigation

- Open Statistics/Conversations
- Check TCP & UDP
- Select TCP – look for the stream with the most packets
- Follow TCP Stream – show encrypted stream
- Follow TLS Stream – works only if you have captured the encryption keys
- As it's a http2 stream, you will have sub streams within the connection
- You can check the decrypted content, and you can also download the objects of the web page

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Filtering

- Manual or automatically created from your packets
- There are capture filters and display filters
- Filter for protocols:
`tcp, udp, dns, http`
- Filter for numerical values:
`tcp.stream in {5..8}`
`ip.addr eq 192.168.1.1`
`udp.dstport == 53`
- Filter for string:
`ip.host matches "github.io"`
`tls.handshake.extensions_server_name == "rohess.github.io"`
- **&&, ||, normal parenthesis rules**

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The difference is that capture filters can run at capture time without dissecting the packet, and hence are fast. Display filters work on the dissected packet tree, and offer more complex filtering.

More to see

- Check timing - Set Time Reference
- [Add GeolP resolution](#) – only for IPv4
- I/O Graph
- Filter buttons

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Capturing

- On your system
- Start browser via *Tools/TLS Keylog launcher* (make sure its not already running)
- Capture on the right interface (or just all)
- Disable promiscuous mode
- Clear browser cache, and if DNS is relevant also DNS Cache of the browser (chrome://net-internals/#dns)
- Afterwards Edit/Inject TLS Keys

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Promiscuous mode gives you everything that strands on your interface, namely lots of broadcasts

This is _most_ of the time irrelevant – unless you want to see mdns, IPv6 neighbour solicitation & router advertisements

Advanced stuff

- Build columns with rules in it
- Get capture files via Command Line or via Mirror/Span port capture
- Get Captures from Mobile device
 - On iOS use a Mac connected via USB
 - On Android use the app Pcapdroid - supports decryption

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GeolP uses Maxminds DB -> <https://wiki.wireshark.org/HowToUseGeolP>

If you need different path on different systems you can use a file "maxmind_db_paths" in the top level of the profile directory – this can contain several paths. Make sure to use / (slash) instead of backslash, also on Windows

Mirror/Span ports may re-order your packets, thus confusing wireshark to show dup acks and spurious retransmissions.

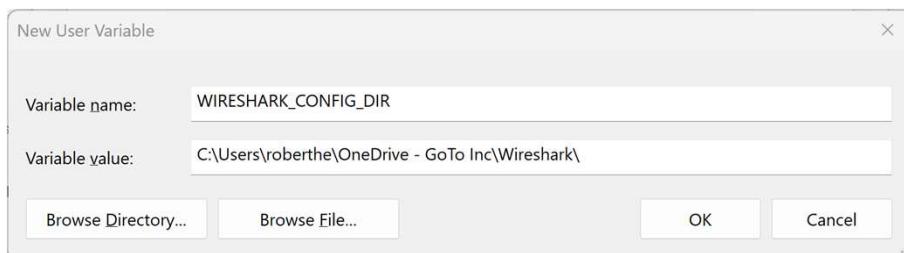
Decryption on Android works only for some apps, (e.g. Chrome) but not for others as they will only use the system cert store and not the user store -> hence no machine in the middle -> no TLS keys

Profiles

Contains: Display Filters, Columns, coloring Rules, Layout, Disabled Protocols, Decode as Rules, I/O Graphs, Recent files

Load from a shared drive to have the same config everywhere

Profile directory is set via env variable



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There may be, of cause merge conflicts, in which case WS creates a new profile by adding the hostname

Legal ramifications

- It's not always legal in Germany:
Vorbereiten des Ausspähens und Abfangens von Daten" (§202c des deutschen StGB) aus dem Jahr 2007
Wikipedia:
https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vorbereiten_des_Aussp%C3%A4hens_und_Abfangens_von_Daten
- Do it in your own network to learn and analyse
- If you capture outside: written customer consent / data is PII

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References

Beware of the AI – it does lie sometimes

- <https://wiki.wireshark.org/>
- [The Ultimate PCAP](#) – 90+ protocols - Johannes Weber – DNS, IPv6 & more
- [Sharkfest Retros](#) – tons of great talks
- [Chris Greer](#) – YouTube tutorials

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Have fun & thanks

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