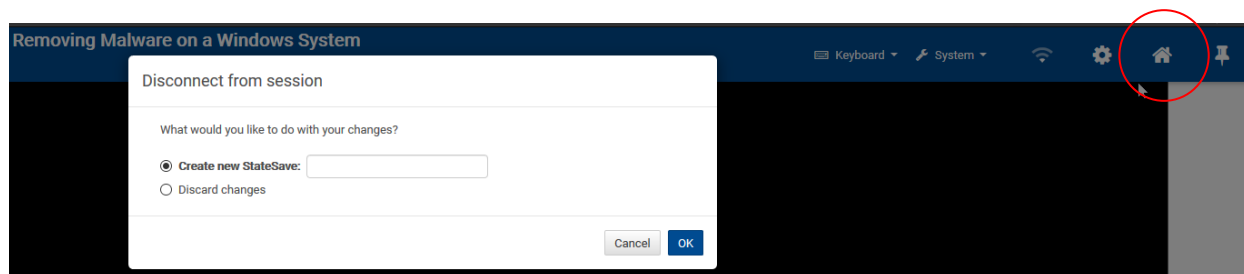


Lab #3 (Required): Using Wireshark and NetWitness Investigator to Analyze Wireless Traffic*

Introduction to Information Security (IST623)
School of Information Studies
Syracuse University

Disclaimer: The contents of this document are solely for educational purpose. Misused knowledge of this lab may result in damage of data, security breach, privacy violation, or other undesirable situations. Therefore, using knowledge of this lab other than for the original purpose is prohibited.

**** Save Your Lab Status!**** You may need to save your lab from time to time as each session allows you to be logged in only for two hours at a time. To save your current status in the lab environment, **click the Home icon button (🏠)** in the top right corner and choose **Create new StateSave** if it's your first time saving or **Overwrite existing StateSave** if you have saved it before.



Learning Objectives

The Wireshark protocol analyzer is multi-faceted. In fact, a person can use Wireshark for many years and not use all of the various capabilities of Wireshark. For instance, Wireshark can be used by a security analyst to find anomalies in network traffic indicative of viruses or exfiltration of information. At the same time, even on the same traffic from the same organization, it can be used to troubleshoot application performance issues or benchmark VoIP latencies.

NetWitness Investigator provides a high-level overview of all the traffic in the packet capture file. While Wireshark looks at every packet, NetWitness categorizes and organizes traffic so that anomalous patterns become more apparent. Using both tools together might be required to show a complete picture for a forensic investigation.

In this lab, we begin by using Wireshark to analyze the specifics of wireless transmissions and then move on to analyze the network packets using a more security-specific tool, NetWitness

* Customized lab manual by Dr. Joon S. Park at the School of Information Studies for the virtual online labs provided by Jones & Bartlett Learning.

Investigator. It is also noteworthy that Wireshark is available at no charge while NetWitness is a commercial product that is widely utilized and may be encountered in any well-equipped cyber forensics lab or in many field investigations.

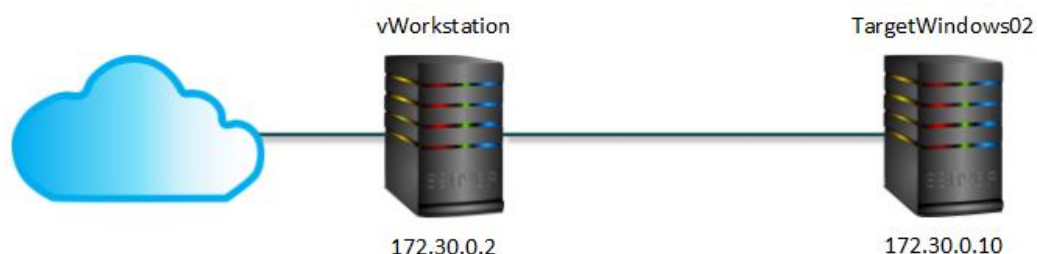
Upon completing this lab, you will be able to:

- Analyze the wireless-specific fields of network traffic packets using Wireshark.
- Identify the fields of network traffic packets that remain the same regardless of whether the packets traverse wires or fly through the air wirelessly.
- Use features of the NetWitness Investigator tool to analyze traffic with wireless content.
- Determine which tool, Wireshark or NetWitness Investigator, is the preferred tool for a given task.
- Utilize both Wireshark and NetWitness Investigator together to provide a complete picture of the interactions being investigated.
- Be able to generalize your new knowledge of Wi-Fi traffic to other types of wireless traffic analyzed by using the Wireshark analyzer.
- Differentiate between the more generalized capabilities of Wireshark and the more specialized cybersecurity analysis-focused uses of NetWitness Investigator.

Lab Structure

This lab has the following parts that should be completed in the order specified.

1. In the first part of the lab, you will use an existing capture file to view the wireless aspects of networks and some of the aspects of network traffic that remain the same regardless of the physical transport, be it wired or wireless.
2. In the second part of the lab, you will utilize the same capture file but with a more security-focused tool, NetWitness Investigator.
3. In the third part of the lab, you will answer a challenge question which will help you understand the limitations of Wireshark.



Tools and Software

The following software and/or utilities are required to complete this lab. You are encouraged to explore the Internet to learn more about the products and tools used in this lab.

- Wireshark
- NetWitness Investigator

Lab Deliverables

- Upon completion of this lab, you are required to provide the following deliverables.
 - One PDF file that includes:
 - Screenshots from Part 1: Steps #10, #12, #14 and #20
 - Screenshots from Part 2: Step #10
 - Your summary from Step #11 of Part 2 (in 200 words)
 - Your summary from Step #13 of Part 2 (in 200 words)
 - Your answer on the Challenge Question from Part 3 (in 200 words)
- Lab Report Submission
 - Please submit your deliverables through the LMS Submission.
 - The screenshots should be readable.
 - Make sure you include all the items required in your report.


Part 1: Analyze Wireless Traffic with Wireshark

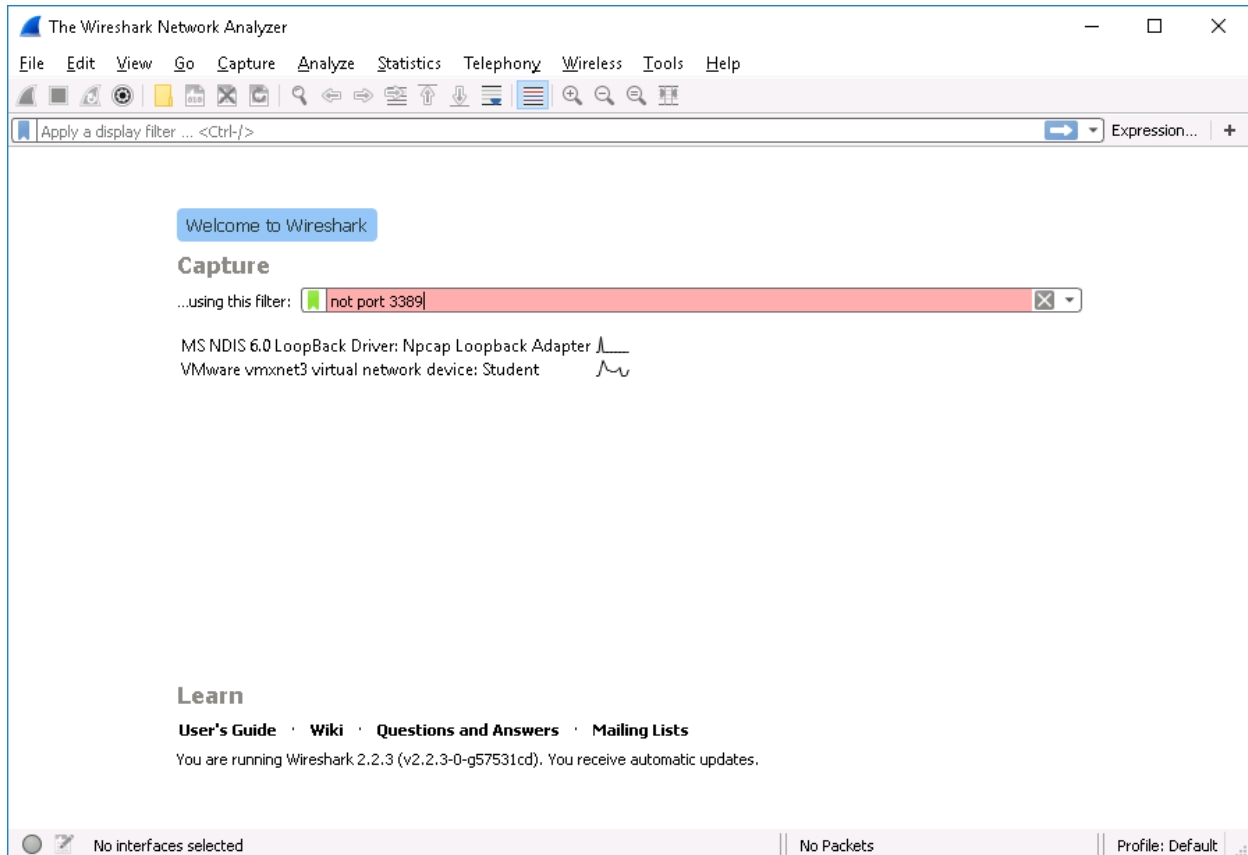
Note: In this part of the lab, you will load a file of traffic that has been previously captured by Wireshark so that all of the packets reviewed in the lab are the same for every student and match the instructions. Throughout this part of the lab, you should spend a few moments looking at the data captured by Wireshark and familiarize yourself with the Wireshark format and the English language descriptions Wireshark uses to explain frame details. You may need this information to answer the questions at the end of the lab.

1. On the vWorkstation desktop, **double-click** the **Connections** folder.
2. In the Connections folder, **double-click** the **TargetWindows02 RDP** shortcut to open a remote connection to the **TargetWindows02** machine. If prompted, **type** the following credentials and **click OK**. The remote desktop opens with the IP address of TargetWindows02 (172.30.0.10) in the title bar at the top of the window.

Username: **Administrator**

Password: **P@ssw0rd!**

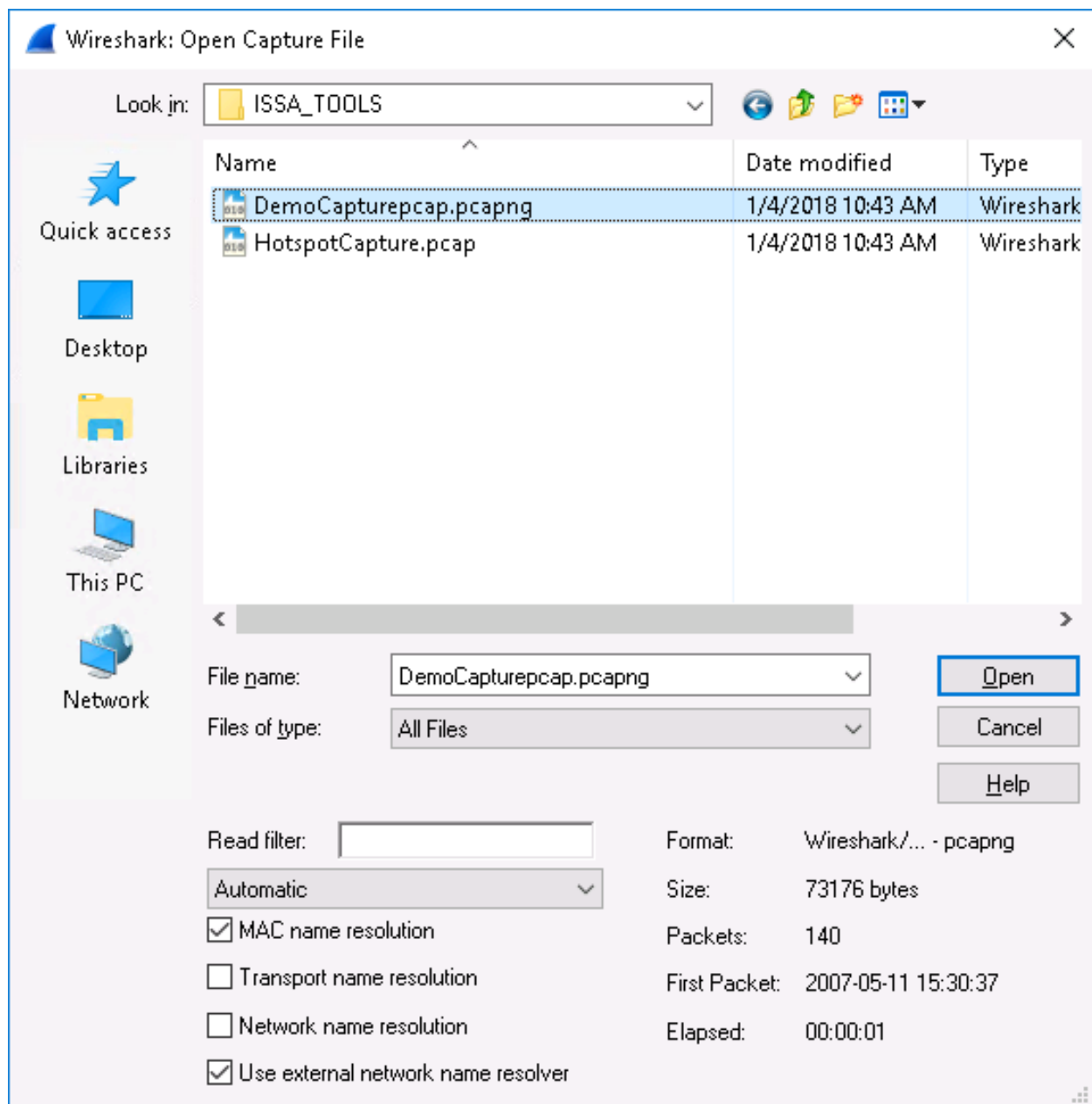
3. On the TargetWindows02 taskbar, **click** the **Wireshark icon** (a blue shark fin, ) to launch the Wireshark application. Your welcome screen may not match the figure below.



[Figure 1 Wireshark Screen](#)

4. From the Wireshark menu bar, **click File** and **select Open** to open the Open Capture File dialog box.
5. In the dialog box, **navigate** to the **ISSA_TOOLS** folder (**This PC > Local Disk (C:) > ISSA_TOOLS**) and **double-click** the **DemoCapturepcap** file to open it.

Note: Wireshark capture files, like the DemoCapturepcap file found in this lab, have a “.pcapng” extension, which stands for packet capture, next generation.



[Figure 2 Wireshark: Open Capture File](#)

The Wireshark output is shown in the three panes: Frame Summary, Frame Details, and Byte Data.

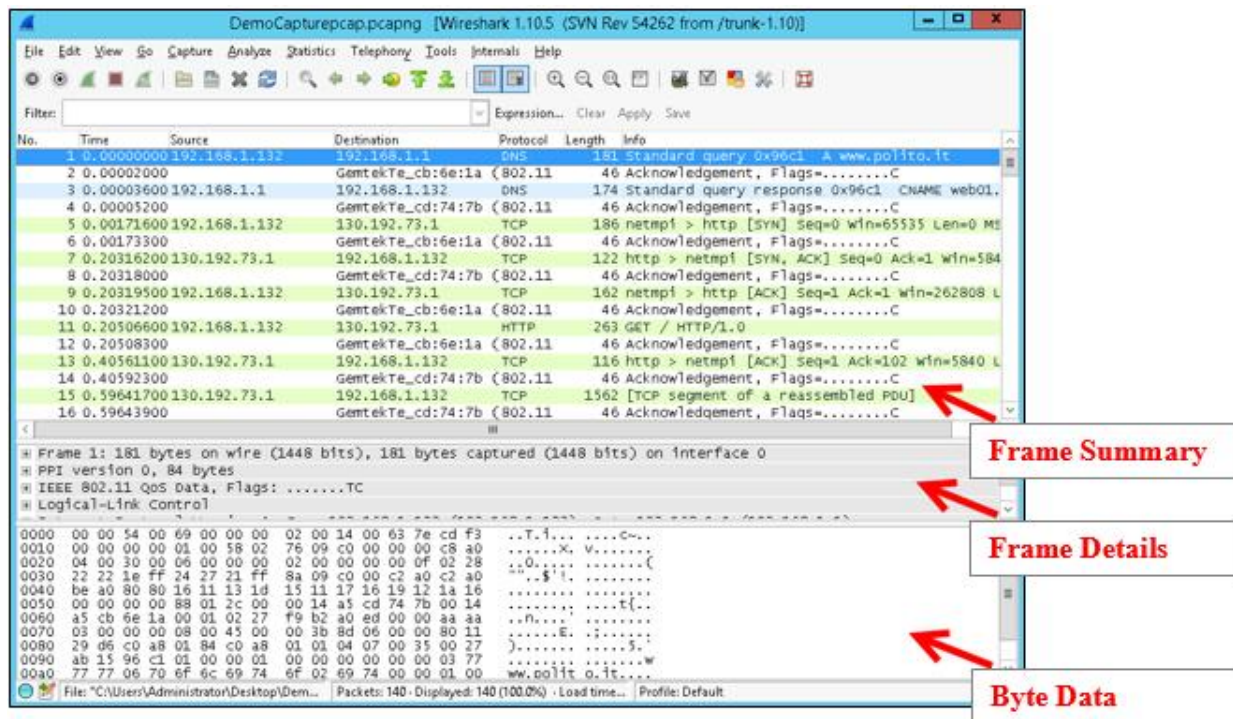


Figure 3 Wireshark Output Panes

The bottom pane of the Wireshark window displays the Byte Data. All the information in the packet is displayed in hexadecimal on the left and in decimal (in characters when possible) on the right. This can be a useful feature, especially if passwords you are looking for are unencrypted.

6. In the **Frame Summary** pane, click the **first frame** and review the **Frame Details** pane.
7. **Drag the top border** of the frame detail pane up until only the summaries of frames 1-3 are shown and the rest of the frame summary pane is covered by the frame detail pane, as shown in Figure 4.

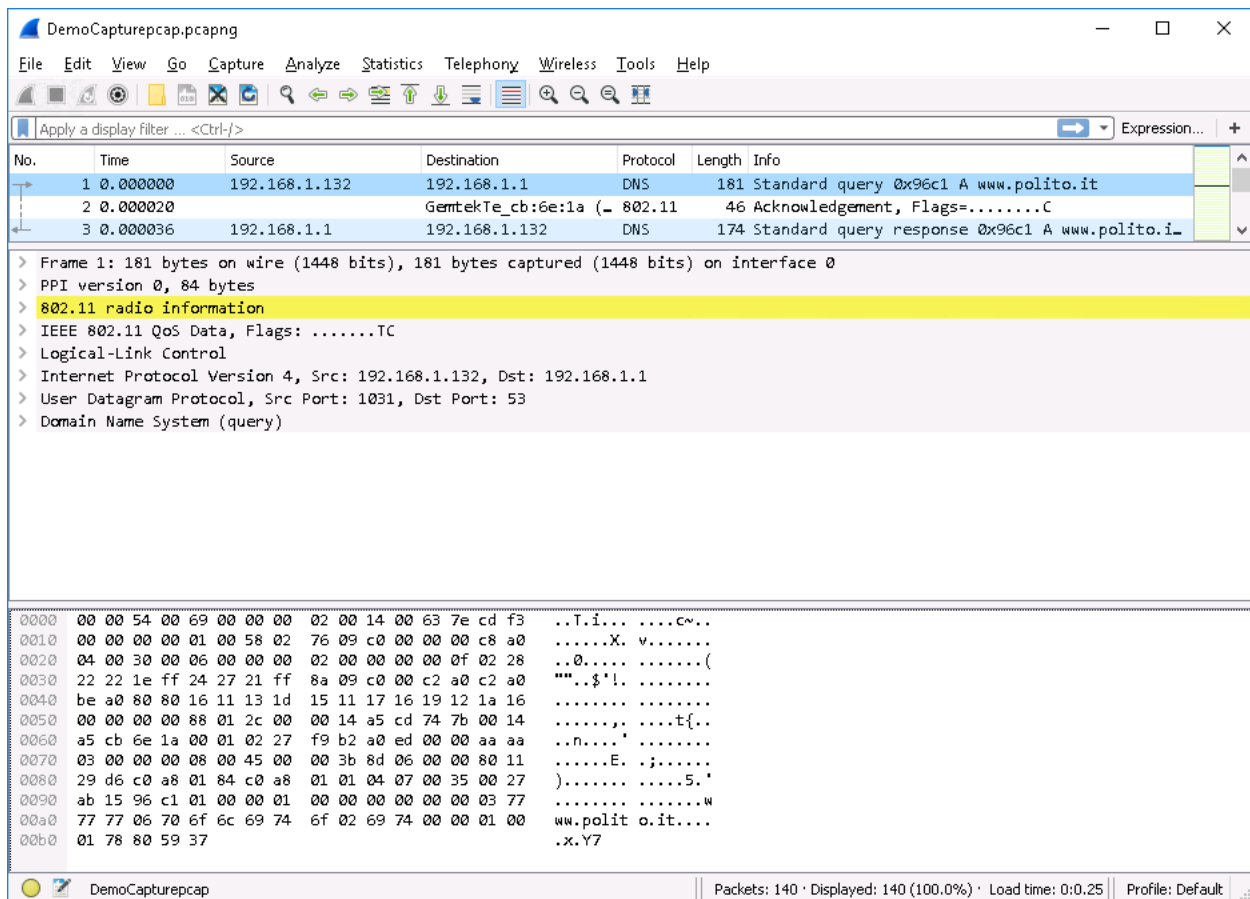


Figure 4 Frame Details for the First Frame

You can drag the frame borders to change the view of your data at any time. You can also **expand** each line in the frame details pane by clicking the arrow or **collapse** the details by clicking the down arrow at the beginning of each line.

8. In the **Frame Details** pane, **click** the right (greater-than) arrow at the beginning of the **Frame 1** line to expand the Frame Header detail.

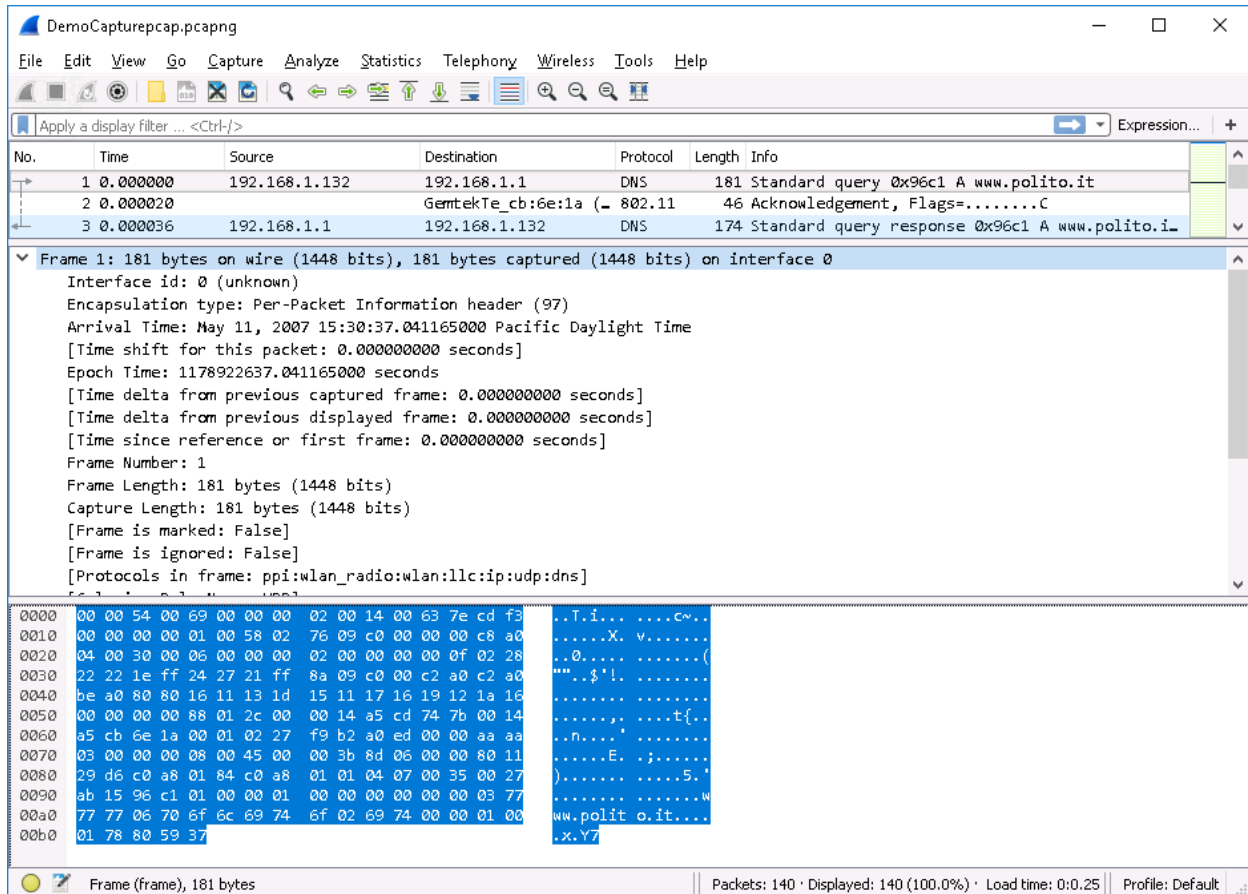


Figure 5 Wireless Packet

Notice the fields related to time. This part of the display will be the same for wired or wireless traffic. The **Encapsulation type: Per-Packet Information header**, a field unique to wireless traffic, however, confirms that this is a wireless packet.

Note: Many people believe that it is necessary to enable the Wireless Toolbar (View > Wireless Toolbar) any time they are looking at wireless traffic. However, even if you were to enable the Wireless Toolbar at this point, the options would remain "greyed out" because the toolbar is used only when capturing live traffic, and then only if the AirPcap interface is enabled. In this virtual lab, you will use a pre-captured file and are not capturing live traffic, so it is not necessary to turn on the Wireless Toolbar.

- In the frame detail pane, **expand** the **PPI version 0** line to display the **Per-Packet Information** encapsulation.
- In the **Frame Details** pane, **expand** the **Flags** line **AND** the **802.11-Common** line to display the details of them. **Make a screen capture showing those expanded fields.** Paste the screen capture into your lab report.

A **Data Link Type (DLT)** of 105 indicates that data is transferred over an 802.11n wireless network. **Rate:300.0 Mbps** indicates the maximum rate of transmission.

Note: The detailed information that Wireshark provides about the antennae, signal strengths, and other aspects of the wireless communications environment can be useful for installation, antenna placement, and troubleshooting. It can also be valuable in terms of computer forensics because it can be used to map who is able to communicate with whom, the measured strength of signals, what frequencies are used, and other data. In addition to forensics on standard Wi-Fi and other forms of traditional wireless communications, this information can also be useful for jamming certain frequencies, for determining which devices were likely used to set off remote bombs and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and a spectrum of other things.

11. Collapse all the lines. In the **Frame Details** pane, **expand** the **IEEE 802.11 QoS Data, Flags** line.

In this group of fields, Wireshark displays information about the transmitters and receivers of the data, which enable the network administrator to determine which Media Access Control (MAC) addresses match each transmitter and receiver.

Note: Remember, Wireshark displays transmitter/receiver addresses in both full hexadecimal (00:14:a5:cd:74:7b) and a kind of shorthand, in this case, GemtekTe_cd:74:7b. That shorthand code is Wireshark's translation of the first part of the receiver address (00:14:a5) into the manufacturer's name or alphanumeric designation (GemtekTe_). The IEEE has compiled a list of company names that correspond to the first six characters of the MAC ID, which can be accessed on its Web site at <http://standards.ieee.org/develop/regauth/oui/public.html>). Search for Gemtek or 3Com.

Although Wireshark's translation is most likely correct, it is also possible that some manufacturers, especially those that have acquired other companies, will have more than one numeric designation that resolves to their name or alphanumeric designation. It is therefore better to refer to the entire hexadecimal representation of the address rather than the shorthand.

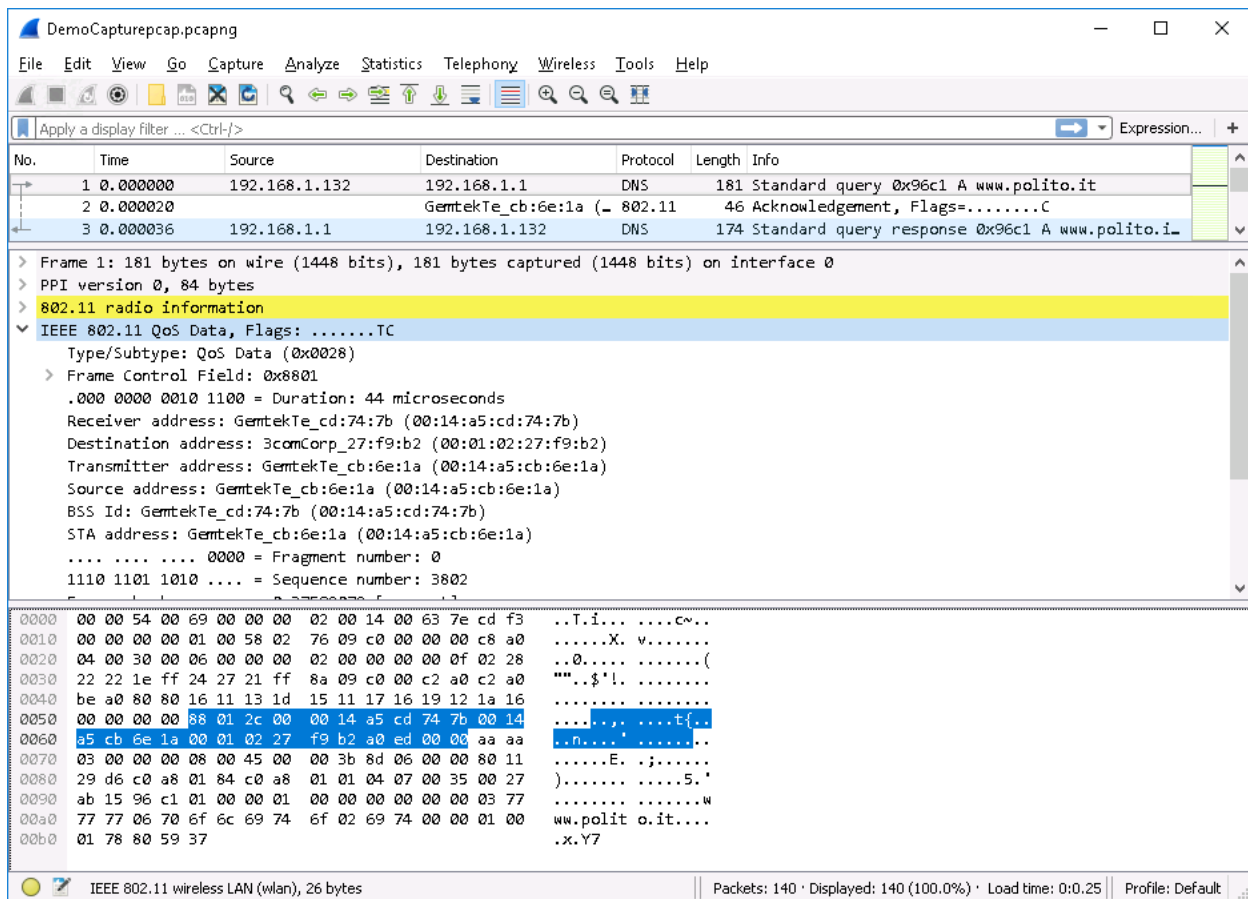


Figure 6 Frame Address Information

12. Locate the “**Destination address: 3Com_27:f9:b2 (00:01:02:27:f9:b2)**” line in the Frame Details field and select it. You should be able to see the corresponding byte data highlighted in the bottom pane. **Make a screen capture showing your entire Wireshark window.** Paste the screen capture into your lab report.

Note: There are literally hundreds of fields of data available, depending on the wireless communications protocols that are present and those that are captured, and there are a thousand different ways to interpret them.

The fields that have been examined thus far are unique to wireless networking. There are important aspects to know about capturing wireless data with Wireshark.

Wireshark is regularly installed with a packet capture library called WinPcap. Based on the wireless interfaces and how the capture is set up, Wireshark will display the fields it can capture. However, it is possible that in some cases, there will be wireless information that Wireshark cannot capture, or when it can capture only the essence of the command and control information, but not the information itself.

For this reason, packet capture add-ons, such as AirPcap, are frequently installed with Wireshark. These add-ons enable you to capture more wireless information. Most network

analysts feel that AirPcap is absolutely required for capturing wireless traffic between devices or between other devices and, say, a wireless access point, depending on your goals and the objectives of the capture. From this point of the lab forward, all the data captured will be common to both wired and wireless networking and would have been captured with Wireshark using AirPcap or WinPcap.

13. Collapse all the lines. In the frame details pane, **expand** the **Domain Name System (query)** line to view the fields related to an Internet query.
14. In the **Frame Details** pane, **expand** the **Flags** line and familiarize yourself with the data available. **Expand** the **Queries** line. Notice that the data indicates that someone tried to access the **www.polito.it** website. **Make a screen capture showing your entire Wireshark window.** Paste the screen capture into your lab report.
15. Explore the other lines, including **Logical-Link Control**, **Internet Protocol Version 4**, and **User Datagram Protocol (UDP)**, by extending or collapsing the details, using the scrollbar as necessary to view more information about the packets captured. Familiarize yourself with the data available.

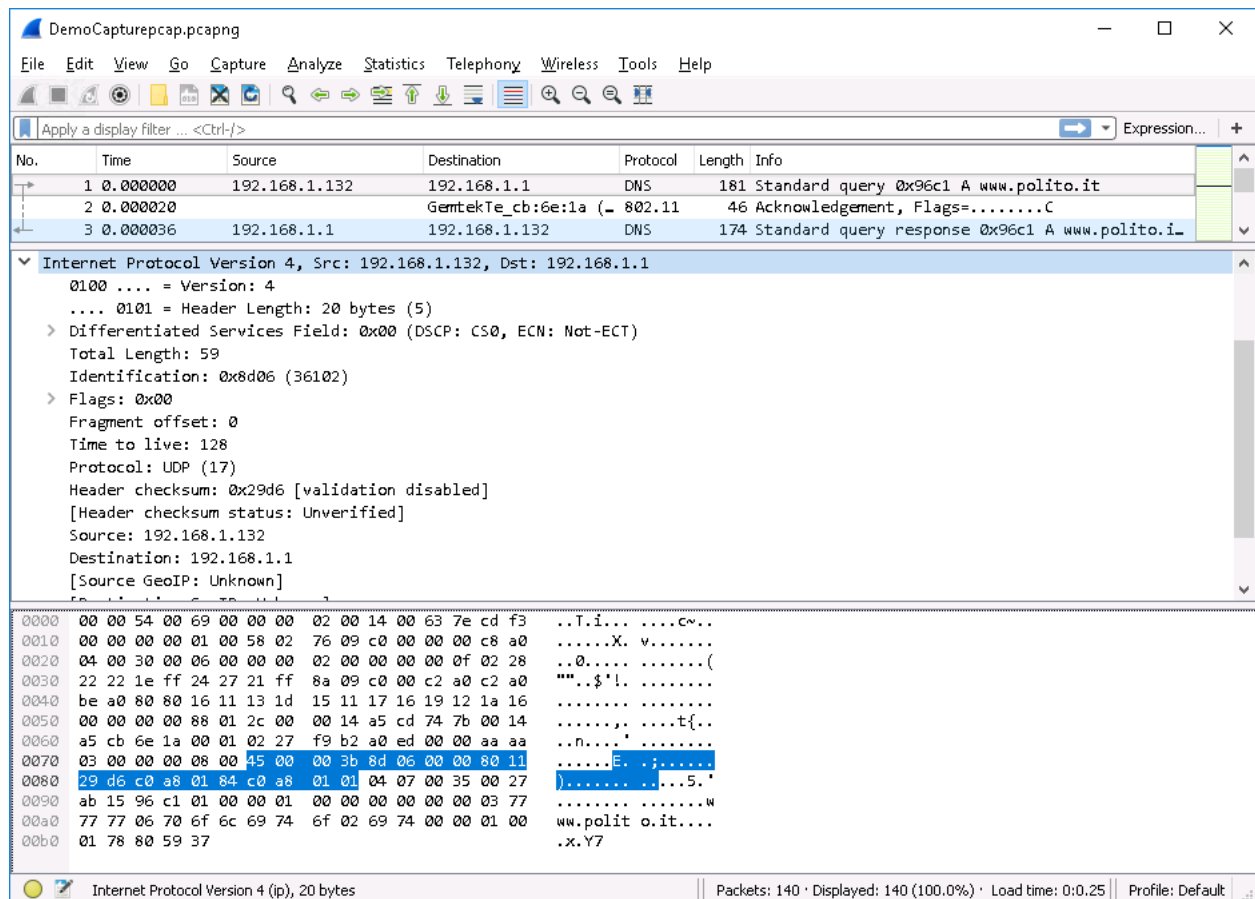


Figure 7 Internet Protocol Data

Investigating Wireless Traffic: The ultimate payload, regardless of whether the packet is sent through the air or on a wire, is a Domain Name System query. In this case, the DNS information is being requested for `www.polito.it`. Any DNS request, regardless of whether the packet is sent wirelessly or via wire, includes the same fields in a Wireshark packet capture, but the wireless portion of the frame information requires special consideration in a forensic investigation.

Suppose that a forensic investigator needed to monitor all Web traffic within a coffee shop to determine which Web sites were accessed by the subject of an investigation, then the fact that the Web query was conducted wirelessly is unimportant to the investigation except perhaps that the investigation was aided by getting easy access to unencrypted airborne packets. An investigator might choose to set a filter on the resulting capture file that shows only DNS requests. In this way, the investigator can determine which Web sites the subject *wished* to visit, and then is able to visit those Web sites himself later to determine the nature of the Web sites.

It is also possible to set a filter that displays both the DNS requests and their resulting DNS responses to determine which Web sites existed at the time the capture file was made, as opposed to which Web sites still existed when subsequent research was done. Consider, for example, a drug or human trafficking case. The owner of an illegal Web site might shut down the Web site after a subject is taken into custody, but before the research is completed. This type of filter will allow investigators to determine that while they were unable to access the Web site, the subject was able to complete the transaction. Packet capture files can also display the results of the Web page requests, such as any audio and video content, and they can provide further analysis using NetWitness Investigator.

On the other hand, a key part of another investigation might be to determine what information was gathered by the subject of an investigation, or to determine by whom certain information was gathered. The investigator might use information in a packet capture, either by linking the Layer 2 Media Access Control address and/or the Layer 3 IP address to specific wireless information. In this case, the wireless information that is captured becomes the central point of the investigation. As has happened many times, forensic investigators (often law enforcement) track illegal content, such as child pornography, to a quiet residential neighbourhood, obtain legal search warrants based on probable cause, and execute a search of the premises only to find that there is no illegal pornographic content or other content covered by the warrant present. At this point, the investigators could give up, or they could do further research on the wireless portion of captured traffic to determine that none of the devices owned by the residents of the home or their guests' mobile wireless devices were responsible for the traffic. What could have happened? Criminals sitting in a car outside the home-or a nearby coffee shop, hotel, or other location-could have used the wireless access point to transmit and receive illegal information and then departed the scene. Investigative tools such as video surveillance, stakeouts, sting operations, and similar law enforcement tools could be brought into play to further the investigation, but the wireless part of the captured traffic is a critical part of guiding the investigation and possibly of ultimately prosecuting the suspects.

Note: In the next steps, you will explore the information in Frames 2 and 3. **Frame 2** is a wireless command and control packet acknowledging receipt of **Frame 1**.

16. In the **Frame Summary** pane, click **Frame 2** to display the related data in the **Frame Detail** pane.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1	0.00000000	192.168.1.132	192.168.1.1	DNS	181	Standard query 0x96c1 A www.polito.it
2	0.00002000		GemtekTe_cb:6e:1a (802.11)	(802.11)	46	Acknowledgement, Flags=.....C
3	0.00003600	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.132	DNS	174	Standard query response 0x96c1 CNAME web01.polito.it A 130.1

Frame 2: 46 bytes on wire (368 bits), 46 bytes captured (368 bits) on interface 0

PPI version 0, 32 bytes

IEEE 802.11 Acknowledgement, Flags:C

[Figure 8 Frame 2 in Frame Summary Pane](#)

17. In the **Frame Details** pane, expand the **IEEE 802.11 Acknowledgement, Flags** lines to view the details in those fields.

Notice that the receiver address for **Frame 2** (00:14:a5:cb:6e:1a) is the same as the transmitter address in **Frame 1**.

Frame 2: 46 bytes on wire (368 bits), 46 bytes captured (368 bits) on interface 0
PPI version 0, 32 bytes
IEEE 802.11 Acknowledgement, Flags:C
Type/subtype: Acknowledgement (0x1d)
Frame Control Field: 0xd400
.000 0000 0000 0000 = Duration: 0 microseconds
Receiver address: GemtekTe_cb:6e:1a (00:14:a5:cb:6e:1a)
Frame check sequence: 0xc14359c2 [correct]
[Good: True]
[Bad: False]

[Figure 9 802.11 Acknowledgement in Frame Detail](#)

18. In the **Frame Summary** pane, click **Frame 3** to display the related data in the **Frame Detail** pane.

19. In the **Frame Details** pane, expand the **Domain Name System (response), Answers** lines to view the details in those fields. Use the scrollbar as necessary to locate this header line.

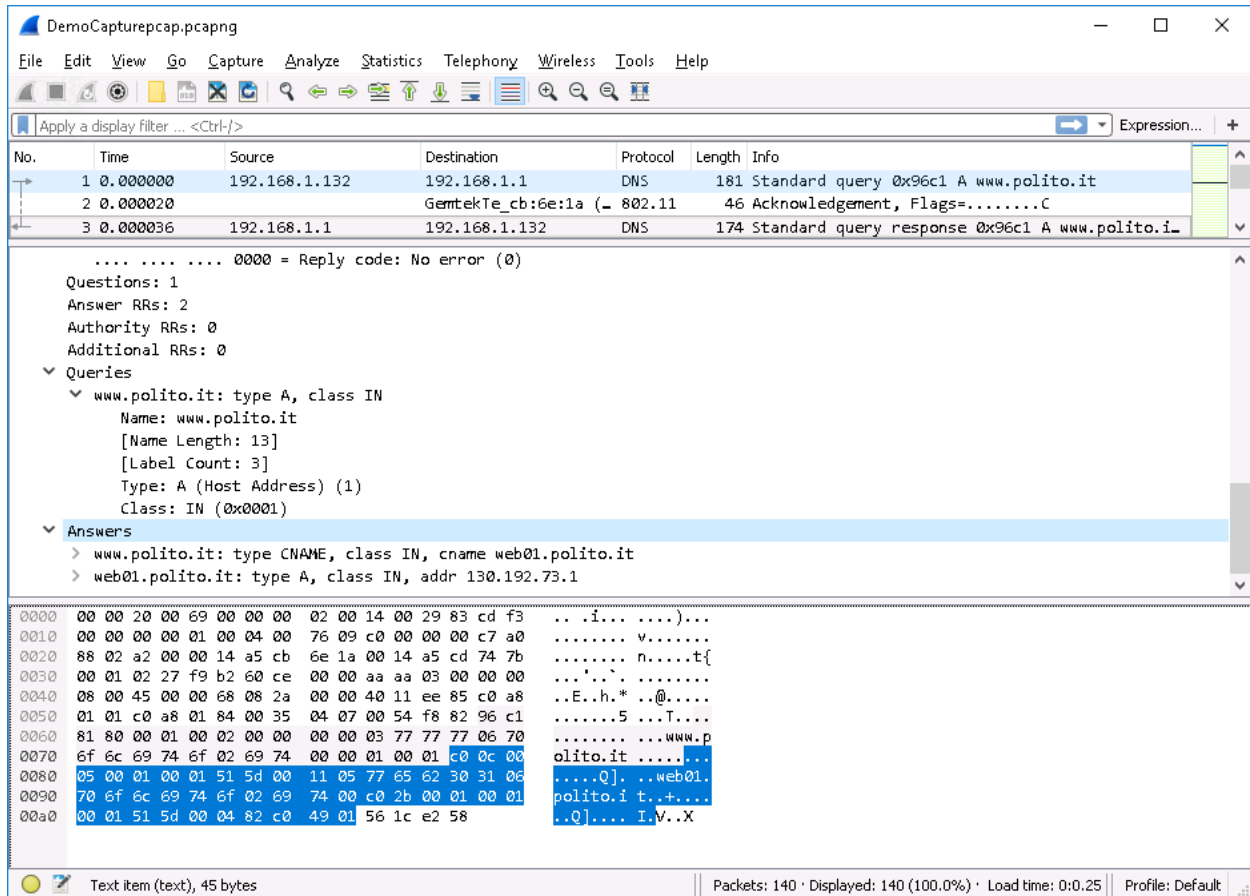
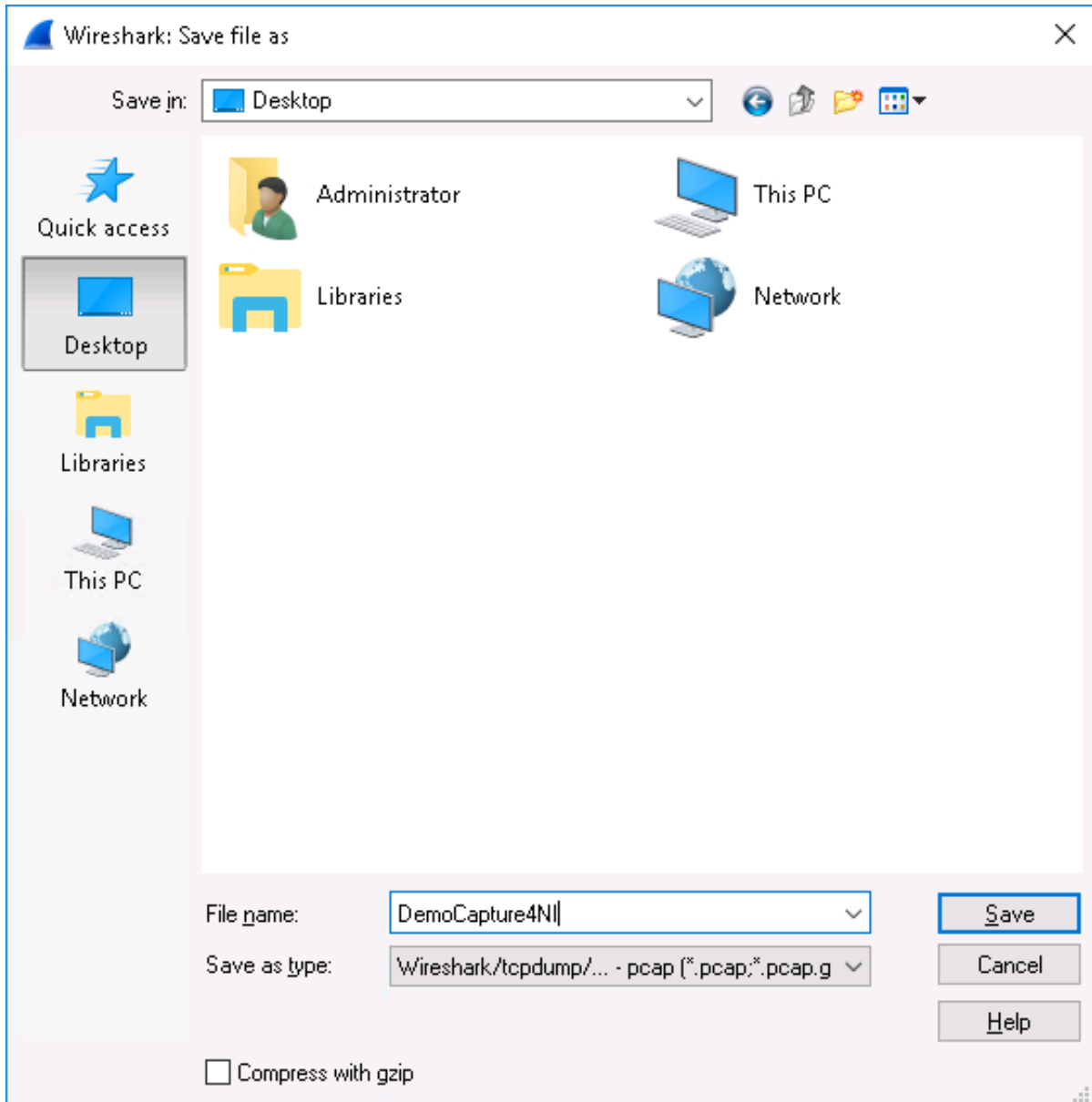


Figure 10 DNS Response for www.polito.it

20. In the **Frame Details** pane, **expand all the headings in the Answers** section. These fields detail the response to the DNS query. Data shown in these fields includes the IP address for polito.it (130.192.73.1) and other DNS information, such as a DNS *time to live* (or, the time before the DNS cache for this entry must be refreshed) of 23 hours, 59 minutes, 25 seconds. **Make a screen capture showing the details of Answers in those fields.** Paste the screen capture into your lab report.

Note: In Part 2 of this lab, you will analyze these same packets using NetWitness Investigator. It is important to realize that NetWitness can also be used to capture and save network traffic without ever using Wireshark, but if you are using Wireshark for packet capture and a cursory analysis as you did in Part 1 of this lab, you will need to save the captured frames in a format that NetWitness can interpret. The current release of NetWitness Investigator does not support the pcapng file format, so you must first save the DemoCapturepcap.pcapng file in the older *.pcap format.

21. Click **“File > Save As”** from the Wireshark menu. Click the **Desktop** icon, select **“Wireshark/tcpdump/... - pcap”** from the drop-down option in the **Save as type** box, and type **“DemoCapture4NI”** in the **File name** box.




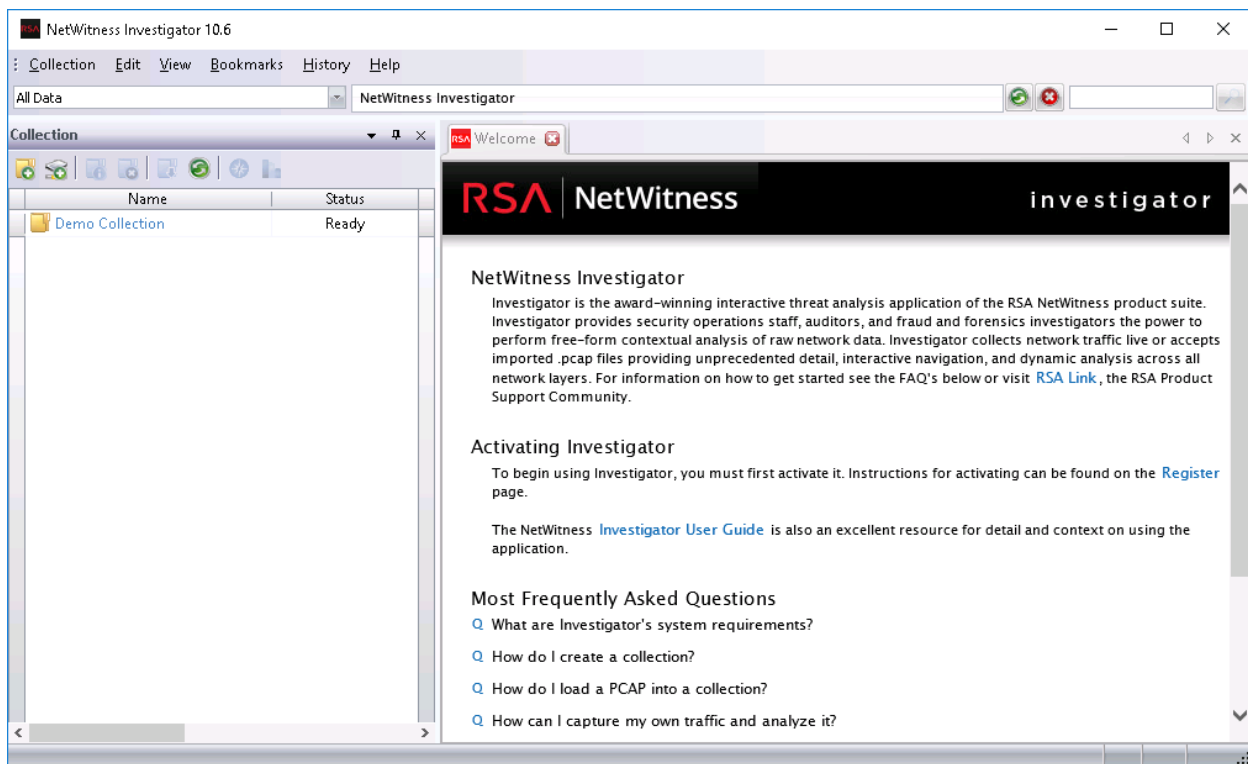
[Figure 11 Wireshark Save As Dialog Box](#)

22. Click “Save” to save the new **DemoCapture4NI** file in the preferred format for NetWitness Investigator.
23. From the Wireshark menu bar, click “File > Quit” to close Wireshark.

Part 2: Compare with NetWitness Investigator

Note: In this part of the lab, you will use NetWitness Investigator to analyze the same packet capture file you reviewed in Part 1 of this lab. Because Wireshark is available for free, it is often used for packet capture and for initial analysis. NetWitness Investigator, on the other hand, requires the purchase of a license for use, so it is often used only by more senior, more skilled, and better trained security analysts for specific types of analysis. Often, investigators, or even clients, with little training can capture needed information with the no-cost Wireshark while a more in-depth security-focused analysis is later done with NetWitness Investigator.

1. On the TargetWindows02 taskbar, **click** the **RSA** icon () to launch the NetWitness application.



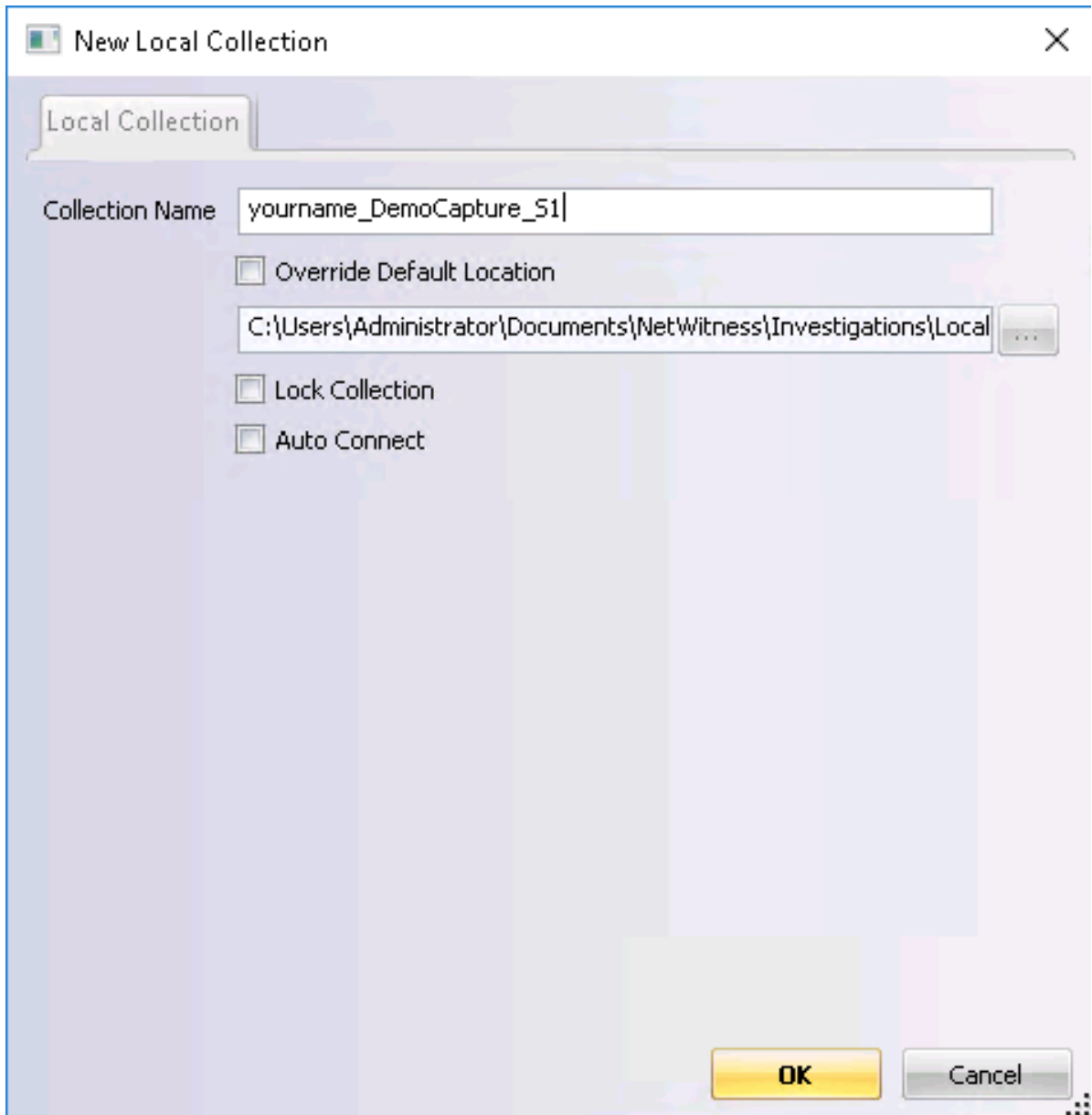
[Figure 12 NetWitness Investigator Application](#)

Note: The welcome screen in NetWitness Investigator displays a list of frequently asked questions and links to NetWitness Community, User Guide, and Customer Portal. You are encouraged, though not required, to review this material from your own computer. Remember, the virtual lab does not have access to the Internet by design, so the Internet links will not work in this lab environment.

2. On the **NetWitness Investigator** menu, select **“Collection > New Local Collection”** to open the **New Local Collection** dialog box.

3. In the **Collection Name** box, type *yourname_DemoCapture_S1*, replacing *yourname* with your own name, and **click OK** to name the new collection.

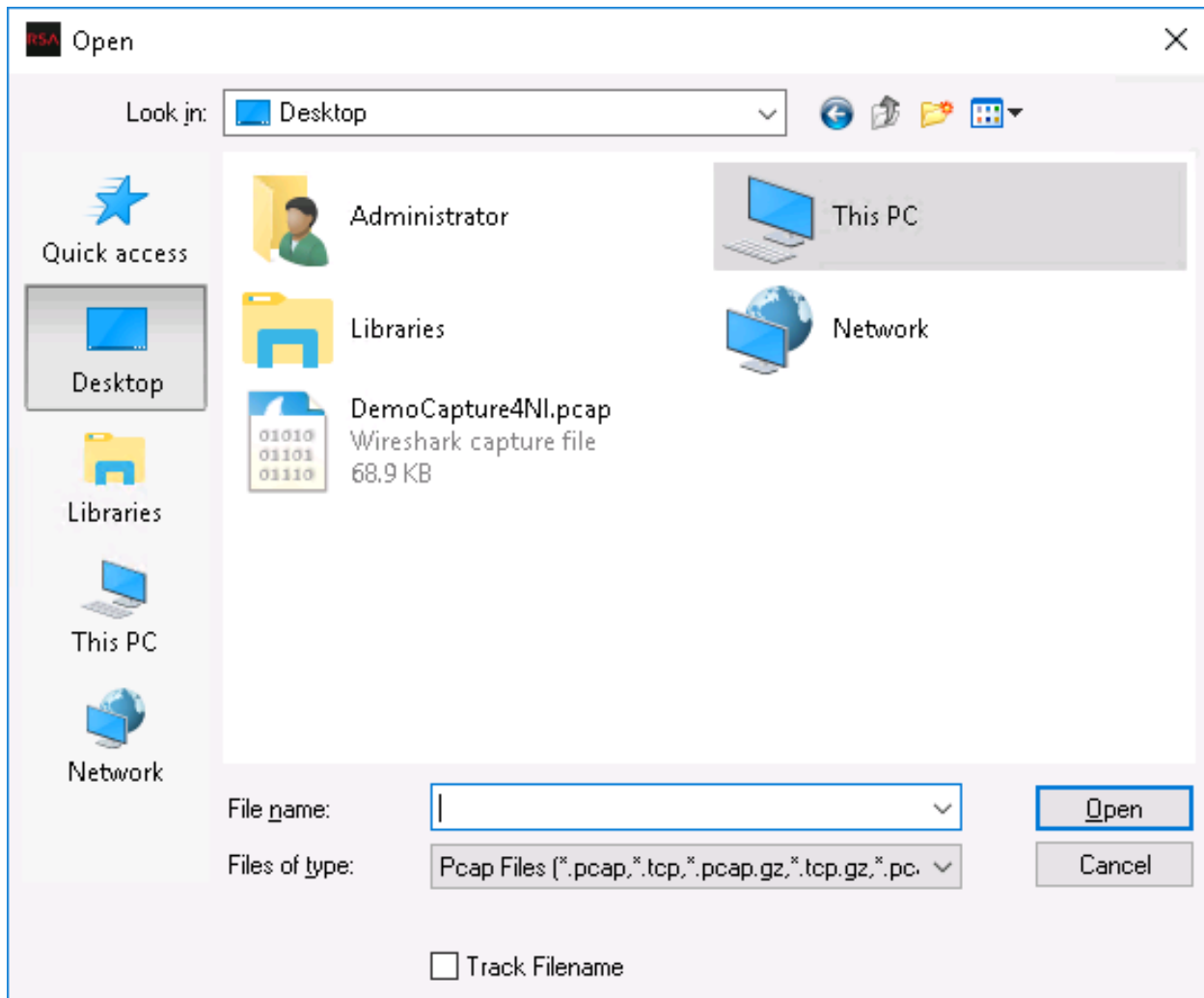
Similar to creating a new file folder, creating a new local collection within NetWitness Investigator provides a place to put the packets from the DemoCapture file. This collection, DemoCapture, will appear in the left pane, the Collection pane of NetWitness Investigator.



[Figure 13 New Local Collection Window](#)

4. In the **Collection** pane, **double-click** the *yourname_DemoCapture_S1* collection you just created to activate it and change the status to **Ready**.

5. In the **Collection** pane, right-click the *yourname_DemoCollection_S1* and select **Import Packets** from the context menu.
6. In the **Open** dialog box, click the **Desktop** button, then **double-click** the **DemoCapture4NI** file that you saved in **Part 1** to begin the import process.



[Figure 14 Open Dialog Box](#)

7. The **Collection** pane will display a progress report while the import progress is underway. When the import is finished, the new collection will again display a status of **Ready**.
8. When the file has finished importing, **double-click** the *yourname_DemoCapture_S1* **collection** to open it in NetWitness Investigator.

The packets from the capture file have been analyzed by NetWitness and all of the reports generated by NetWitness are displayed in the right pane. Use the scrollbar as necessary to view the complete list of reports.

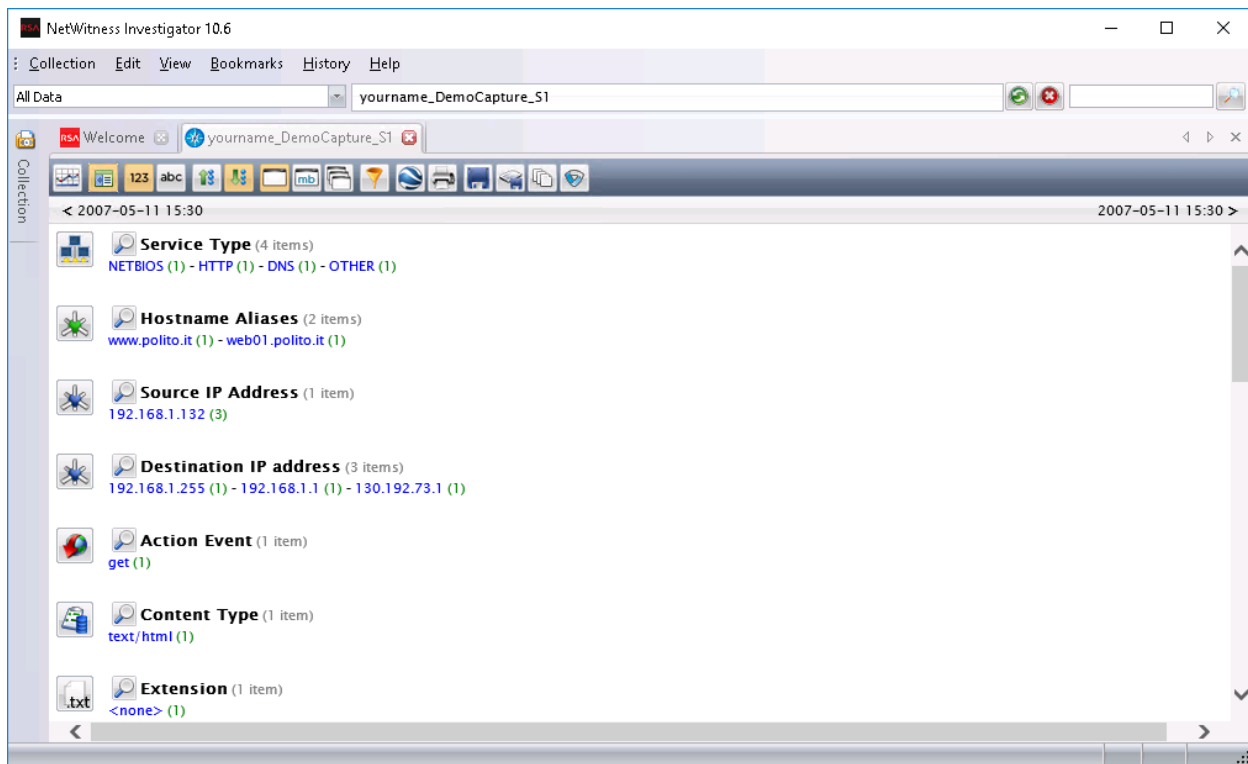


Figure 22 NetWitness Reports from the DemoCapture Collection

The following table describes the categories that NetWitness Investigator recognizes.

NetWitness Investigator Collection Categories	
SECTION TITLE	DESCRIPTION
Service Type	Types of traffic seen on the network.
Source IP Address	Who sent traffic?
Destination IP Address	Who received traffic?
Action Event	Commands seen in the traffic flow.
User Account	User names seen on the network.
Extension	Types of files seen on the network.
Filename	Names of files seen on the network. Click [open] to view.
TCP Destination Port	TCP Ports accessed.
UDP Target Port	UDP Ports accessed.
Password	Clear text passwords seen on the network. Click [open] to view.

Note: While you will not find any of the low-level wireless information, such as command and control, in NetWitness Investigator that you found in Wireshark, you will find that the kind of sophisticated analysis that requires some work to accomplish within Wireshark is automated by NetWitness Investigator. For instance, the Layer 2 MAC addresses, which in this case are Ethernet, and the Layer 3 IP addresses are available in both Wireshark and NetWitness, but you will not find the transmitter and receiver addresses in NetWitness. What you will find, easily, in NetWitness is information about the geographic location of the transmitter and receiver which, when plotted on Google Earth, can aid an investigation.

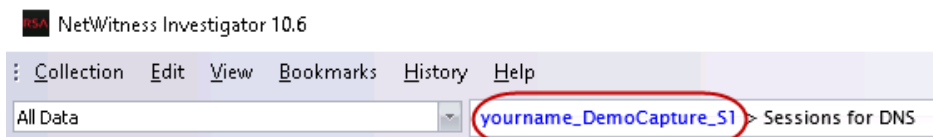
You should also notice that where both tools provide the same information, such as the DNS request, the two tools differ in how that information is displayed.

9. Under the **Service Type** category, **click the green (1) link** next to the **DNS** link to drill down and get further information about the DNS request.



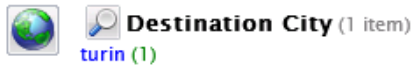
The **(1)** link that follows the DNS label indicates that there is only one DNS request in this packet capture file. In the next steps, you will investigate this DNS request and compare the results against the Wireshark findings.

10. **Make a screen capture** of the DNS query showing the **Hostname Alias, the Source IP Address, and the Destination IP Address** fields and **paste** it into your Lab Report file.
11. **In the Lab Report file, compare in 200 words** the information provided by NetWitness to the screen capture you made with Wireshark (Part 1, Step#20).
12. From the NetWitness Investigator navigation bar, **click the *yourname_DemoCapture_S1* link** to return to the high-level analysis of the entire packet capture file.



13. In the NetWitness Investigator window, use the scrollbar to **locate the Ethernet Source and Ethernet Destination** categories. **Compare in 200 words** the information you can get from these categories with the Frame Control information captured by Wireshark (See Figure 6 in Part 1).
14. From the NetWitness navigation bar, **click the *yourname_DemoCapture_S1* link** to return to the high-level analysis of the entire packet capture file.

15. In the NetWitness Investigator window, use the scrollbar to **locate** the **Destination City** category.
16. Under the **Destination City** category, **click** the **green (1)** link next to the **Turin** link to reveal additional details from this report.



From the data, you can determine that the transaction originated in Turin, Italy, and was an HTTP get request in which a website was retrieved. NetWitness has done a lot of analysis of the higher-level transaction without revealing the lower level frame or packet detail to the user.

Note: Although it is accurate to say that the Top-Level Domain (TLD) “.it” belongs to Italy, there is no assurance that the website is physically located in Italy, only that a domain name is registered with the appropriate registrar for the .it TLD. Only by physically finding the server hosting the website using geolocation technology such as IP-geolocation or triangulation using PINGs is it possible to determine the actual physical location of the server.

17. From the NetWitness Investigator menu bar, **click Collection** and **select Exit** to close the **NetWitness Investigator** window.
18. **Close** the remote **TargetWindows02** connection.
19. **Close** the lab environment.

Note: Having investigated the same capture file with both tools, Wireshark and NetWitness Investigator, you are now better equipped to determine which tool is appropriate for specific tasks. You might also realize that using both tools together might be required to show a complete picture for a forensic investigation.

Also, remember, that in any forensic investigation, special care must be taken to protect the chain of custody for any evidence used in legal proceedings. It is important to realize that capture files are just digital files and can easily be manipulated and edited and should be handled as would any volatile digital evidence. Maintaining chain of custody is particularly important to ensure the recovered evidence is admissible in a court of law.

Part 3: Challenge Question

After research on the Wireshark tool, discuss its current limitation (in 200 words).