

As part of the task to event tracing with static tracepoints, I decided to investigate on how to trace the events for a simple packet exchange between a tcp server & client.

As part of this task, I wrote simple TCP server(<https://github.com/sbcd90/tcp-hello-world-kernel-trace/blob/master/src/HelloServer.cpp>) & a simple TCP client(<https://github.com/sbcd90/tcp-hello-world-kernel-trace/blob/master/src/HelloClient.cpp>).

The TCP server listens for open connections on a particular port & TCP client connects to it & a simple “Hello World” message is exchanged.

Now, I tried to figure out which could be the relevant tracepoints to trace this communication.

Two events were identified.

- events/net/netif\_receive\_skb
- events/tcp

Captured the traces along with running the tcp server & client. Followed the steps described in this link.

<https://github.com/sbcd90/tcp-hello-world-kernel-trace#execute>

The TCP server running on port 8080 has process id: 2377 as shown in screenshot below.

```
[root@sbcd90 cmake-build-debug]# ./tcp_hello_server 8080
Detecting addresses
(1) IPv4: 0.0.0.0
(2) IPv6: ::
Enter the number of host address to bind with: 1
2377
```

The TCP client has process id: 3209

```
[root@sbcd90 cmake-build-debug]# ./tcp_hello_client 127.0.0.1 8080
3209

Client received: Hello World
[root@sbcd90 cmake-build-debug]#
```

On checking the event tracepoint **events/net/netif\_receive\_skb** ([https://github.com/sbcd90/tcp-hello-world-kernel-trace/blob/master/trace/net\\_receive\\_skb\\_trace.txt](https://github.com/sbcd90/tcp-hello-world-kernel-trace/blob/master/trace/net_receive_skb_trace.txt)) It correctly captures the events of the communication.

Similar trace is also captured for **events/tcp** static tracepoints ([https://github.com/sbcd90/tcp-hello-world-kernel-trace/blob/master/trace/tcp\\_trace.txt](https://github.com/sbcd90/tcp-hello-world-kernel-trace/blob/master/trace/tcp_trace.txt))

Also, captured the function trace by setting **echo function > current\_tracer** to further learn about tcp communication.

Was reading an interesting article on network packet tracing. <https://blog.yadutaf.fr/2017/07/28/tracing-a-packet-journey-using-linux-tracepoints-perf-ebpf/> Will work further on it in my leisure time.