

## Application Layer Protocols (HTTP, SMTP, POP)

### Examination Lab

#### **Objectives:**

Capture traffic and observe the PDUS for HTTP, SMTP, POP.

#### **Task 1: Observe HTTP traffic exchange between a client and server.**

##### **Step 1 – Run the simulation and capture the traffic.**

- Enter **Simulation** mode.
- Click on the PC1. Open the **Web Browser** from the **Desktop**.
- Enter **www.bracu.ac.bd** into the browser. Clicking on **Go** will initiate a web server request. Minimize the Web Client configuration window.
- Two packets appear in the **Event List**, a DNS request needed to resolve the URL to the IP address of the web server and an ARP request needed to resolve the IP address of the server to its hardware MAC address.
- Click the **Auto Capture / Play** button to run the simulation and capture events.
- Sit tight and observe the packets flowing through the network.



- When the above message appears Click "View Previous Events".
- Click on PC1. The web browser displays a web page appears.

##### **Step 2 – Examine the following captured traffic.**

Our objective in this lab is only to observe HTTP traffic.

	Last Device	At Device	Type
1.	PC1	Switch 0	HTTP
2..	Local Web Server	Switch 1	HTTP

- Find the following packets given in the table above in the **Event List**, and click on the colored square in the **Info** column.

(sec)	Last Device	At Device	Type	Info
--	PC1	DNS		
--	PC1	ARP		
PC1	Switch0	ARP		
Switch0	PC0	ARP		
Switch0	Switch1	ARP		

- When you click on the Info square for a packet in the event list the **PDU Information** window opens. If you click on these layers, the algorithm used by the device (in this case, the PC) is displayed. View what is going on at each layer.
- Examine the PDU information for the remaining events in the exchange.

**For packet 1::**

What kind of HTTP packet is packet no. 1?

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It is a HTTP request packet.

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Click onto “Inbound PDU details” tab. Scroll down at the end, what do you see?

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HTTP Data:Accept-Language: en-us  
Accept: \*/\*  
Connection: close  
Host: www.bracu.ac.bd

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**For packet 2:**

Click onto “Inbound PDU details” tab. Scroll down at the end, what do you see? What kind of HTTP packet is this?

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I can see the following:  
HTTP Data:Connection: close  
Content-Length: 151  
Content-Type: text/html  
Server: PT-Server/5.2

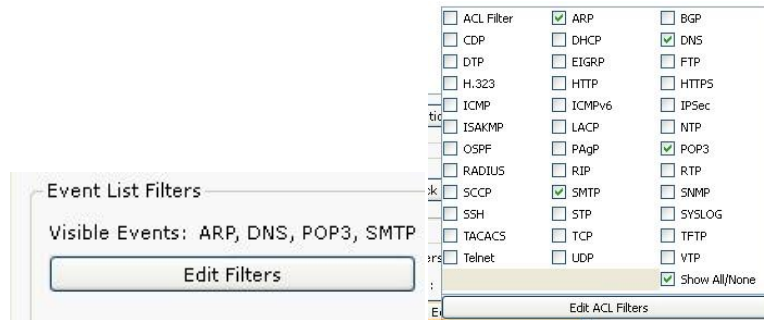
It is a HTTP response packet

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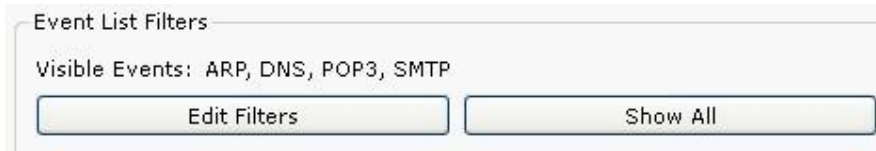
**Task 2: Observe email traffic exchange between a client and email server using SMTP and POP3.**

**Step 1 – Run the simulation and capture the traffic.**

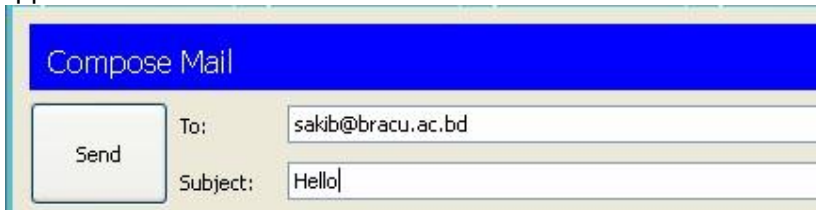
- On the Event List window click “Reset Simulation” button. All previous packets will disappear.
- At the bottom of the Event List window, there is a filter which filters the protocols that we want to see. Click Edit filters. Another window appears showing different protocols, unclick HTTP and click SMTP and POP3.



- Click a space anywhere outside the popup window, then it will disappear.
- Your Event List Filter should be as shown below:



- Now click on the PC1. Close the web browser window. Open the **Email** from the **Desktop**. A mail browser window will open. Click “compose”, another window appears.



- Fill the window as shown and press send.
- Minimize the client window .
- Click the **Auto Capture / Play** button to run the simulation and capture events.
- Sit tight and observe the packets flowing through the network.
- This interaction is between the sender client and its email server.

## Step 2 – Examine the following captured traffic.

Our objective in this lab is only to observe SMTP traffic.

	Last Device	At Device	Type
3.	PC1	Switch 0	DNS
4.	PC1	Switch 0	SMTP
5.	Bracu Email Server	Switch 1	SMTP

- Find the following packets given in the table above in the **Event List**, and click on the colored square in the **Info** column.
- Examine the PDU information.

### For packet 3::

What is the purpose of this DNS packet?

Finding out the IP address mapping for mail.bracu.ac.bd for sending it to the proper mail server.

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**For packet 4& 5::**

Explain why SMTP packet was sent to the email server and the server replied with an SMTP packet?

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A source client sends a mail to mail-server using SMTP. The mail-servers also use SMTP to transfer mail among those. POP3 or IMAP is used to retrieve the mail from that mailbox. This is the reason the packets were sent using SMTP.  
Also, it should be a reliable transfer. As SMTP uses TCP, it provides reliable data flow.

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**Step 3 – Run the simulation and capture the traffic for POP.**

- On the Event List window click “Reset Simulation” button. All previous packets will disappear.
- Now click on the PC0. Open the **Email** from the **Desktop**. A mail browser window will open. Click “**receive**”, minimize the window.
- Click the **Auto Capture / Play** button to run the simulation and capture events.
- Sit tight and observe the packets flowing through the network.
- This interaction is between the sender client and its email server.

**Step 2 – Examine the following captured traffic.**

Our objective in this lab is only to observe POP traffic.

	Last Device	At Device	Type
6.	PC1	Switch 0	DNS
7.	PC1	Switch 0	POP3
8.	Bracu Email Server	Switch 1	POP3

- Find the following packets given in the table above in the **Event List**, and click on the colored square in the **Info** column.
- Examine the PDU information.

**For packet 6::**

What is the purpose of this DNS packet?

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Finding out the IP address mapping for mail.bracu.ac.bd, because it is the mail service the receiver client is using.

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**For packet 7&8::**

Explain why POP packet was sent to the email server and the server replied with a POP packet?

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When sending the mail, we use SMTP. However, when receiving the email, POP3 or IMAP is used. SMTP can not receive any mail, it can only send.  
As the email is sent here, POP packet is used.

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