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LabSheet3 - Understand how DNS works using the Wireshark

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1. nslookup

In this lab, we'll make extensive use of the *nslookup* tool, which is available in most Linux/Unix and Microsoft platforms today. To run *nslookup* in Linux/Unix, you just type the *nslookup* command on the command line. To run it in Windows, open the Command Prompt and run *nslookup* on the command line.

- In it is most basic operation, *nslookup* tool allows the host running the tool to query any specified DNS server for a DNS record.
- The queried DNS server can be a root DNS server, a top-level-domain DNS server, an authoritative DNS server, or an intermediate DNS server (see the textbook for definitions of these terms).
- To accomplish this task, *nslookup* sends a DNS query to the specified DNS server, receives a DNS reply from that same DNS server, and displays the result.

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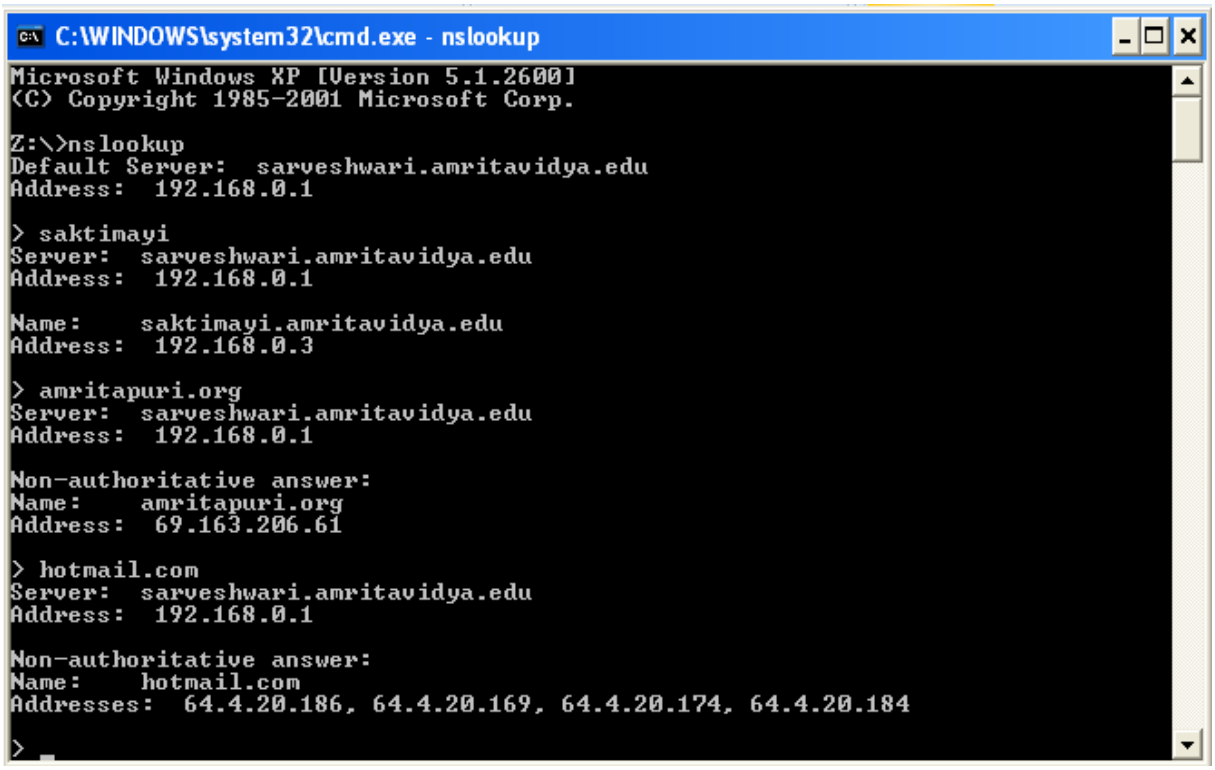


```
C:\Users\vinay> nslookup
Default Server:  UnKnown
Address:  192.168.0.250
```

2. ipconfig

ipconfig (for Windows) and ifconfig (for Linux/Unix) are among the most useful little utilities in your host, especially for debugging network issues.
Here we'll only describe ipconfig, although the Linux/Unix ifconfig is very similar.

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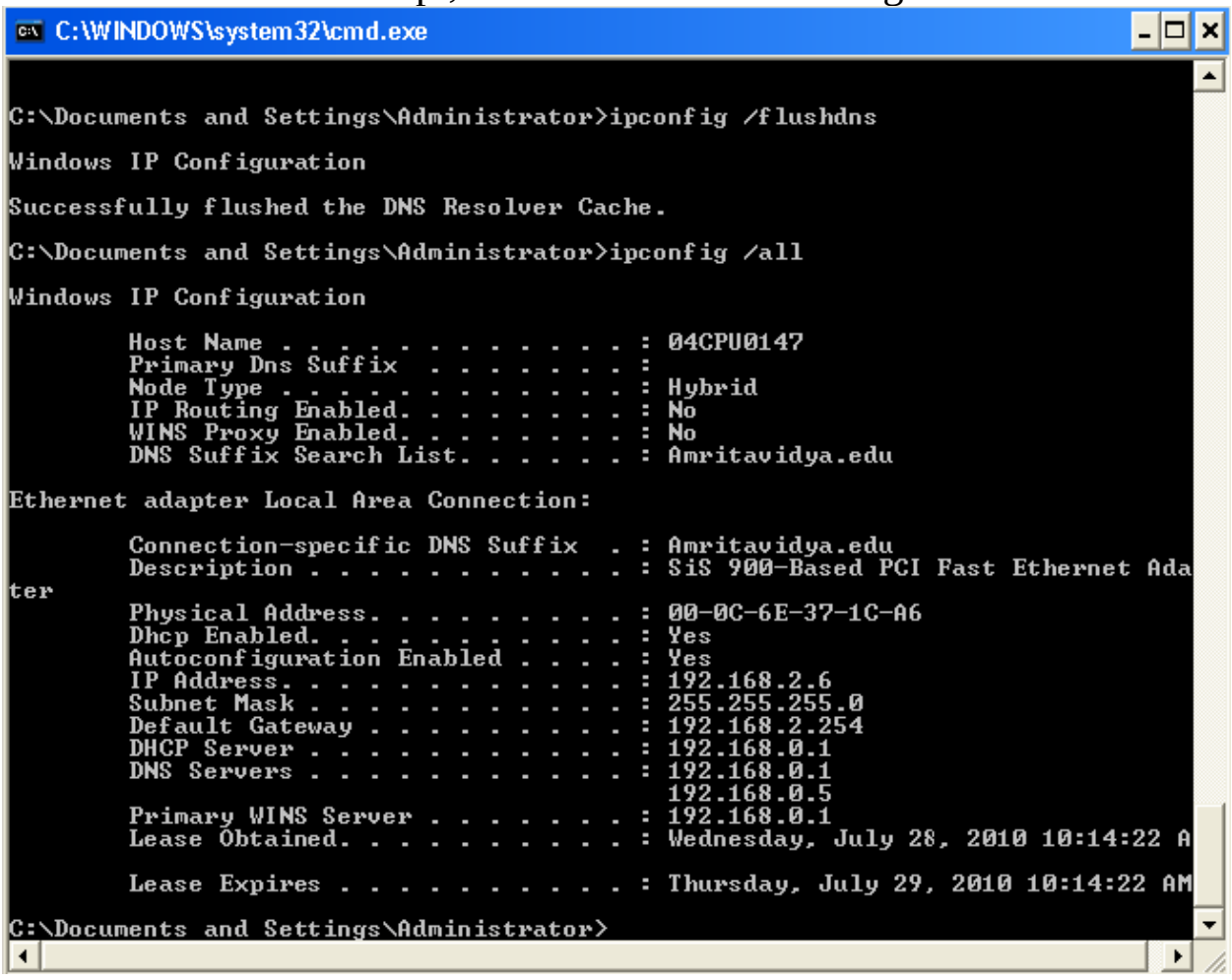
ipconfig can be used to show your current TCP/IP information, including your address, DNS server addresses, adapter type and so on. For example, if you want to see all this information about your host, simply enter:

`ipconfig /all`

into the Command Prompt, as shown in the following screenshot.



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```
C:\Users\vinay> ipconfig/all

Windows IP Configuration

   Host Name . . . . . . . . . . . . : LAPTOP-VT1VV8T
   Primary Dns Suffix  . . . . . . . :
   Node Type . . . . . . . . . . . . : Hybrid
   IP Routing Enabled. . . . . . . . : No
   WINS Proxy Enabled. . . . . . . . : No
   DNS Suffix Search List. . . . . . : am.students.amrita.edu

Unknown adapter Local Area Connection:

   Media State . . . . . . . . . . . : Media disconnected
   Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :
   Description . . . . . . . . . . . : Kaspersky VPN
   Physical Address. . . . . . . . . :
   DHCP Enabled. . . . . . . . . . . : No
   Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes

Ethernet adapter Ethernet 2:

   Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :
   Description . . . . . . . . . . . : VirtualBox Host-Only Ethernet Adapter
   Physical Address. . . . . . . . . : 0A-00-27-00-00-06
   DHCP Enabled. . . . . . . . . . . : No
   Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes
   Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::3139:fb0d:ddb8:9cc%6(Preferred)
```

- *ipconfig* is also very useful for managing the DNS information stored in your host.
- We have learned that a host can cache DNS records it recently obtained.
- To see these cached records, after the prompt provide the following command: **ipconfig /displaydns**

Each entry shows the remaining Time to Live (TTL) in seconds. To clear the cache, enter

ipconfig /flushdns

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Flushing the DNS cache clears all entries and reloads the entries from the hosts file.

3. Tracing DNS with Wireshark

Now that we are familiar with nslookup and ipconfig, we're ready to get down to some serious business. Let's first capture the DNS packets that are generated by ordinary Web surfing activity.

• Use ipconfig to empty the DNS cache in your host.

• Open your browser and empty your browser cache. (With Internet Explorer, go to Tools menu and select Internet Options; then in the General tab select Delete Files.)

• Open Wireshark and enter "ip.addr == your_IP_address" into the filter, where you obtain your_IP_address (the IP address for the computer on which you are running Wireshark) with ipconfig. This filter removes all packets that neither originate nor are destined to your host.

• With your browser, visit Web pages in internet.
• Stop packet capture.

1. Explain the working of the DNS protocol[DNS Request Query and DNS Response message] briefly with typed answers and answer highlighted screenshots for the above capture

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DNS is a protocol used for translating domain names into IP addresses.

Working Explained in the following steps:

a. A client sends a DNS query to the local DNS resolver.
b. The local DNS resolver checks its cache to see if it has the requested information. If the information is present, it returns the IP address to the client.
c. If the information is not present in the cache, the resolver forwards the query to the root DNS server.
d. The root DNS server responds with the IP address of the top-level domain server responsible for the requested domain.
e. The resolver then sends a query to the top-level domain server.
f. The top-level domain server responds with the IP address of the authoritative name server responsible for the requested domain.

a. Locate the DNS query and response messages. Are they sent over UDP or TCP?

270	-99.412390	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	87	Standard query 0xcecb A wpad.am.students.amrita.edu
271	-99.386531	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	142	Standard query response 0xcecb No such name A wpad.am.students.amrita.edu SOA stu-dc1.am.students.amri
2040	-66.453557	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	87	Standard query 0xe1fb A roaming.officeapps.live.com
2041	-66.448605	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	169	Standard query response 0xe1fb A roaming.officeapps.live.com CNAME prod.roaming1.live.com.akadns.net C
8388	39.083134	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	73	Standard query 0xa0c6 A fp.msedge.net
8392	39.085928	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	205	Standard query response 0xa0c6 A fp.msedge.net CNAME 1.perf.msedge.net CNAME a-0019.a-msedge.net CNAME
8394	39.113051	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	81	Standard query 0x692f A odinvzc.azureedge.net
8395	39.118525	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	150	Standard query response 0x692f A odinvzc.azureedge.net CNAME odinvzc.ec.azureedge.net CNAME cs9.wpc.v0
9003	43.411016	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	70	Standard query 0xe8af A r.bing.com
9019	43.430701	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	218	Standard query response 0xe8af A r.bing.com CNAME p-static.bing.trafficmanager.net CNAME r.bing.com.edg
9136	43.847835	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	73	Standard query 0xf8fb A www2.bing.com
9140	43.851530	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	218	Standard query response 0xf8fb A www2.bing.com CNAME www2-www2.bing.com.trafficmanager.net CNAME www-b
10273	51.013750	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	87	Standard query 0xcbbf A wpad.am.students.amrita.edu
10275	51.029210	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	142	Standard query response 0xcbbf No such name A wpad.am.students.amrita.edu SOA stu-dc1.am.students.amri
10276	51.033405	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	89	Standard query 0x5e22 A clientservices.googleapis.com
10277	51.033780	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	89	Standard query 0x4efc HTTPS clientservices.googleapis.com
10278	51.044279	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	105	Standard query response 0x5e22 A clientservices.googleapis.com A 142.250.196.163
10279	51.044279	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	146	Standard query response 0x4efc HTTPS clientservices.googleapis.com SOA ns1.google.com
10285	51.078367	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	78	Standard query 0x5783 A www.googleapis.com
10286	51.078841	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	78	Standard query 0xac66 HTTPS www.googleapis.com

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UDP Sent

```
Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.113.11.158, Dst: 192.168.0.250
   0100 .... = Version: 4
   .... 0101 = Header Length: 20 bytes (5)
 > Differentiated Services Field: 0x00 (DSCP: CS0, ECN: Not-ECT)
   Total Length: 73
   Identification: 0x695b (26971)
 > 000. .... = Flags: 0x0
   ...0 0000 0000 0000 = Fragment Offset: 0
   Time to Live: 128
   Protocol: UDP (17)
   Header Checksum: 0xf997 [validation disabled]
   [Header checksum status: Unverified]
   Source Address: 10.113.11.158
   Destination Address: 192.168.0.250
```

b. What is the destination port for the DNS query message? What is the source port of DNS response message?

Source port of DNS response message is 53

```
User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 58475, Dst Port: 53
   Source Port: 58475
   Destination Port: 53
   Length: 53
   Checksum: 0xc441 [unverified]
   [Checksum Status: Unverified]
   [Stream index: 36]
 > [Timestamps]
   UDP payload (45 bytes)
```

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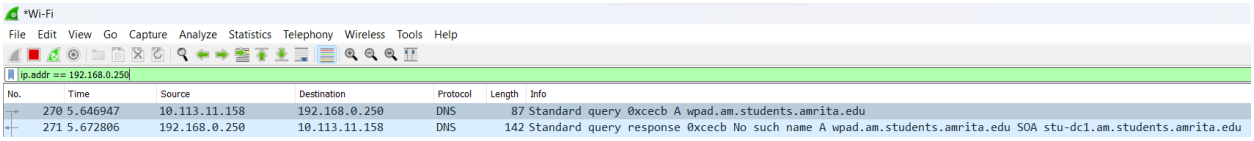
Source port of DNS response message is 53

```
User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 58475, Dst Port: 53
   Source Port: 58475
   Destination Port: 53
   Length: 53
   Checksum: 0xc441 [unverified]
   [Checksum Status: Unverified]
   [Stream index: 36]
 > [Timestamps]
   UDP payload (45 bytes)
```

c. To what IP address is the DNS query message sent? Use ipconfig to determine the IP address of your local DNS server. Are these two IP addresses the same?




```
Wireless LAN adapter Wi-Fi:

   Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . : am.students.amrita.edu
   Description . . . . . . . . . . . : MediaTek Wi-Fi 6 MT7921 Wireless LAN Card
   Physical Address. . . . . . . . . : EC-2E-98-FA-26-B1
   DHCP Enabled. . . . . . . . . . . : Yes
   Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes
   Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::bf95:7a72:2ca3:b467%21(Preferred)
   IPv4 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 10.113.11.158(Preferred)
   Subnet Mask . . . . . . . . . . . : 255.255.0.0
```

Both IP addresses are same.

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d. Examine the DNS query message. What "Type" of DNS query is it? Does the query message contain any "answers"?

```
Domain Name System (query)
   Transaction ID: 0xd7b2
 > Flags: 0x0100 Standard query
   Questions: 1
   Answer RRs: 0
   Authority RRs: 0
   Additional RRs: 0
 v Queries
   > fp-afd.azureedge.net: type A, class IN
   [Response In: 2656]
```

"Type" of DNS query is A.
NO. query message does not contain any "answers"

e. Examine the DNS response message. How many "answers" are provided? What does each of these answers contain?

```
Domain Name System (response)
   Transaction ID: 0xd7b2
 > Flags: 0x8180 Standard query response, No error
   Questions: 1
   Answer RRs: 6
   Authority RRs: 0
   Additional RRs: 0
 v Queries
   > fp-afd.azureedge.net: type A, class IN
 > Answers
   [Request In: 2649]
   [Time: 0.057932000 seconds]
```

6 Answers

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```
Answers
 > fp-afd.azureedge.net: type CNAME, class IN, cname fp-afd.afd.azureedge.net
 > fp-afd.afd.azureedge.net: type CNAME, class IN, cname firstparty-azurefd-prod-first.trafficmana
 > firstparty-azurefd-prod-first.trafficmanager.net: type CNAME, class IN, cname shed.dual-low.par
 > shed.dual-low.part-0030.t-0009.t-msedge.net: type CNAME, class IN, cname part-0030.t-0009.t-mse
 > part-0030.t-0009.t-msedge.net: type A, class IN, addr 13.107.246.58
 > part-0030.t-0009.t-msedge.net: type A, class IN, addr 13.107.213.58
[Request In: 2649]
[Time: 0.057932000 seconds]
```

f. Before retrieving each image/object in your web page, does your host issue new DNS queries?

When a user visits a web page, their browser typically caches the DNS responses for a period of time therefore subsequent requests for resources from the same domain, including images and other objects, will not require a new DNS query as long as the cached record is still valid.

2. Now let's play with nslookup.
   - Start packet capture.
   - Do an nslookup on amritapuri.org, google.com etc.
   - Stop packet capture.

You should get a trace that looks something like the following:

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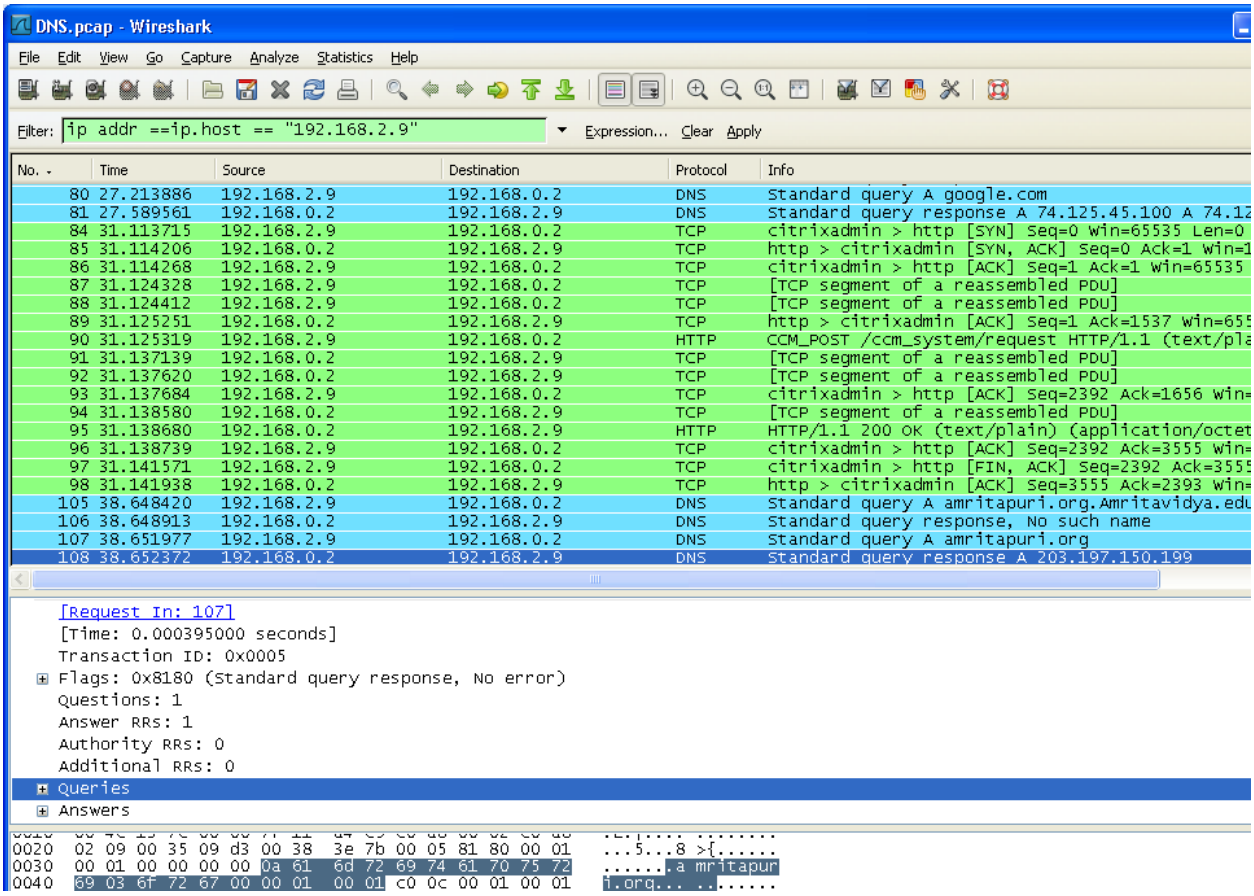

We see from the above screenshot that *nslookup* actually sent two/three DNS queries and received two/three DNS responses.

For the purpose of this assignment, in answering the following questions ignore the first one/two sets of queries/responses, as they are specific to *nslookup* and are not normally generated by standard Internet applications.

You should instead focus on the last query and response messages. Again, answer the following questions for this capture of frames.

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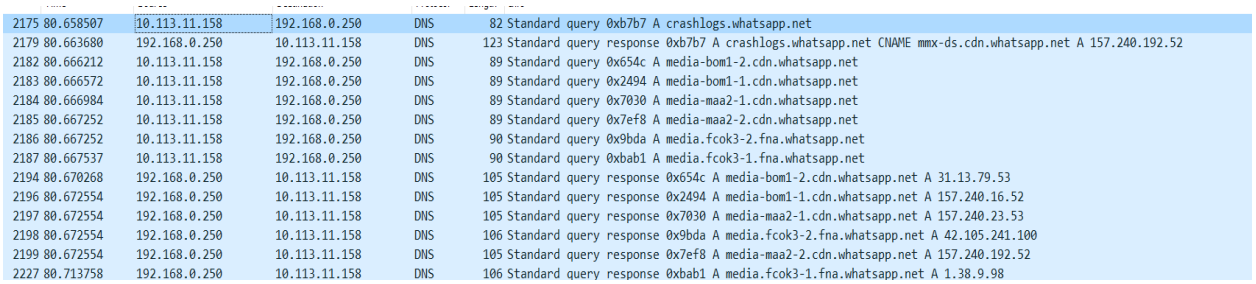
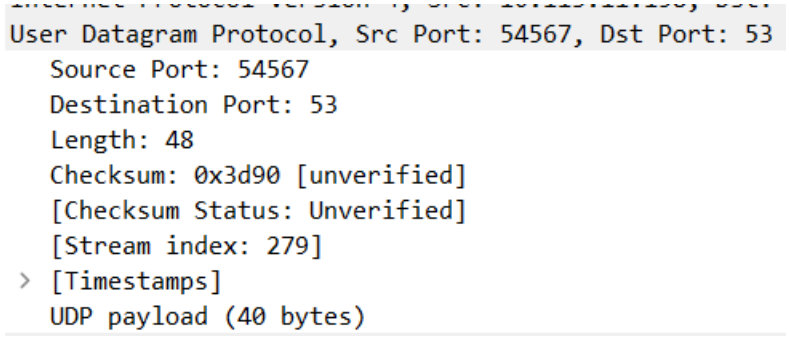
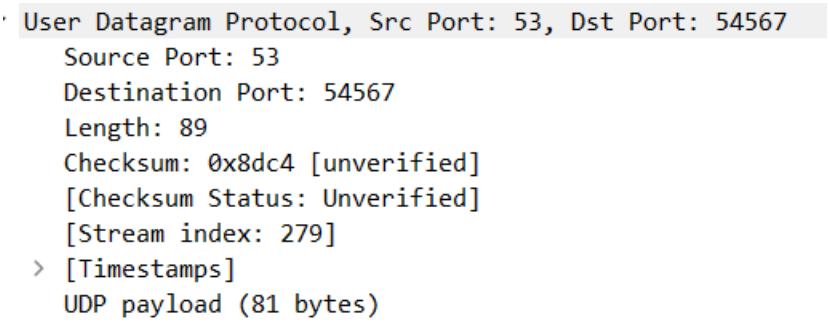


2175	80.658507	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	82	Standard query 0xb7b7 A crashlogs.whatsapp.net
2179	80.663680	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	123	Standard query response 0xb7b7 A crashlogs.whatsapp.net CNAME mmx-ds.cdn.whatsapp.net A 157.240.192.52
2182	80.666212	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	89	Standard query 0x654c A media-bom1-2.cdn.whatsapp.net
2183	80.666572	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	89	Standard query 0x2494 A media-bom1-1.cdn.whatsapp.net
2184	80.666984	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	89	Standard query 0x7030 A media-maa2-1.cdn.whatsapp.net
2185	80.667252	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	89	Standard query 0x7ef8 A media-maa2-2.cdn.whatsapp.net
2186	80.667252	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	90	Standard query 0x9bda A media.fcok3-2.fna.whatsapp.net
2187	80.667537	10.113.11.158	192.168.0.250	DNS	90	Standard query 0xbab1 A media.fcok3-1.fna.whatsapp.net
2194	80.670268	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	105	Standard query response 0x654c A media-bom1-2.cdn.whatsapp.net A 31.13.79.53
2196	80.672554	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	105	Standard query response 0x2494 A media-bom1-1.cdn.whatsapp.net A 157.240.16.52
2197	80.672554	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	105	Standard query response 0x7030 A media-maa2-1.cdn.whatsapp.net A 157.240.23.53
2198	80.672554	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	106	Standard query response 0x9bda A media.fcok3-2.fna.whatsapp.net A 42.105.241.100
2199	80.672554	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	105	Standard query response 0x7ef8 A media-maa2-2.cdn.whatsapp.net A 157.240.192.52
2227	80.713758	192.168.0.250	10.113.11.158	DNS	106	Standard query response 0xbab1 A media.fcok3-1.fna.whatsapp.net A 1.38.9.98

a. What is the destination port for the DNS query message? What is the source port of DNS response message?



```
User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 54567, Dst Port: 53
   Source Port: 54567
   Destination Port: 53
   Length: 48
   Checksum: 0x3d90 [unverified]
   [Checksum Status: Unverified]
   [Stream index: 279]
 > [Timestamps]
   UDP payload (40 bytes)
```



```
User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 53, Dst Port: 54567
   Source Port: 53
   Destination Port: 54567
   Length: 89
   Checksum: 0x8dc4 [unverified]
   [Checksum Status: Unverified]
   [Stream index: 279]
 > [Timestamps]
   UDP payload (81 bytes)
```

Destination port for the DNS query message is 53

Source port of DNS response message is 53

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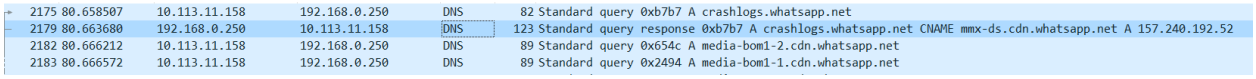
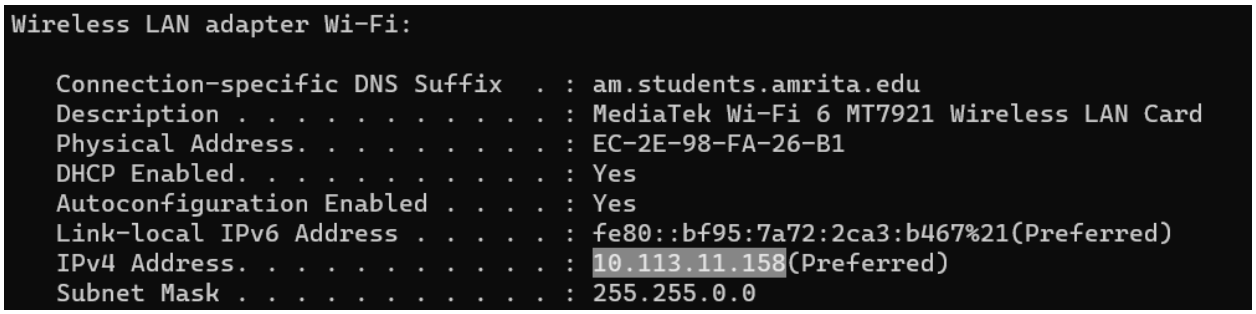
b. To what IP address is the DNS query message sent? Is this the IP address of your default local DNS server?

Yes

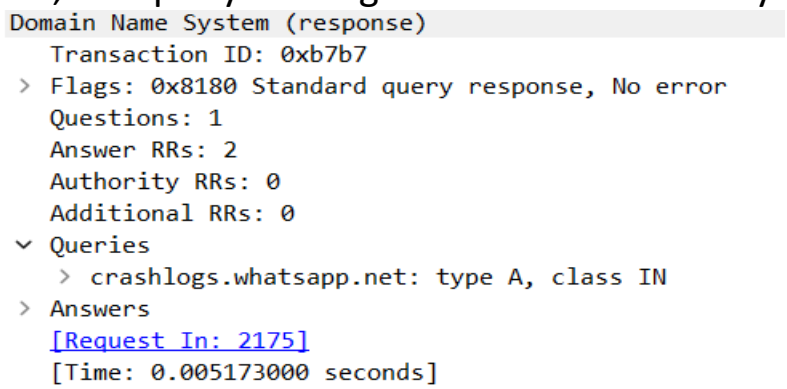




c. Examine the DNS query message. What "Type" of DNS query is it? Does the query message contain any "answers"?

"Type" of DNS query is A.

NO, the query message does not contain any "answers"



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d. Examine the DNS response message. How many "answers" are provided? What does each of these answers contain?

2 "answers" is provided.

```
Domain Name System (response)
    Transaction ID: 0xb7b7
  > Flags: 0x8180 Standard query response, No error
    Questions: 1
    Answer RRs: 2
    Authority RRs: 0
    Additional RRs: 0
  v Queries
    > crashlogs.whatsapp.net: type A, class IN
  v Answers
    > crashlogs.whatsapp.net: type CNAME, class IN, cname mmx-ds.cdn.whatsapp.net
    > mmx-ds.cdn.whatsapp.net: type A, class IN, addr 157.240.192.52
    [Request In: 2175]
    [Time: 0.005173000 seconds]
```