Lab - Determine the MAC Address of a Host

# Addressing Table

| Device | Interface | IP Address | Subnet Mask |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| PC | VLAN 1 | 192.168.1.2 | 255.255.255.0 |

# Objectives

* Determine the MAC address of a Windows computer on an Ethernet network using the **ipconfig /all** command.
* Analyze a MAC address to determine the manufacturer.

# Background / Scenario

Every computer on an Ethernet local network has a Media Access Control (MAC) address that is burned into the Network Interface Card (NIC). Computer MAC addresses are usually displayed as 6 sets of two hexadecimal numbers separated by dashes or colons (example: 15-EF-A3-45-9B-57). The **ipconfig /all** command displays the computer MAC address. You may work individually or in teams.

# Required Resources

* PC running Windows 10 with at least one Ethernet network interface card (NIC)
* Connectivity to the Internet

# Instructions

## Locating the MAC Address on a Computer

In this part of the lab, you will determine the MAC address of a computer using the Windows **ipconfig** command.

### Display information for the command *ipconfig / all*

* + - 1. Right-click on the **Start** button and select **Command Prompt**.
      2. Enter the **ipconfig /all** command at the command prompt.

### Locate the MAC (physical) address(es) in the output from the *ipconfig /all* command

Use the table below to fill in the description of the Ethernet adapter and the Physical (MAC) Address:

| Description | Physical Address |
| --- | --- |
| blank | blank |
| blank | blank |
| blank | blank |

#### Question:

How many MAC addresses did you discover in your PC?

Type your answers here.

## Analyzing the Parts of a MAC Address

Every Ethernet network interface has a physical address assigned to it when it is manufactured. These addresses are 48 bit (6 bytes) long and are written in hexadecimal notation. MAC addresses are made up of two parts. One part of the MAC address, the first 3 bytes, represents the vendor who manufactured the network interface. This part of the MAC is called the OUI (Organizationally Unique Identifier). Each vendor who wants to make and sell Ethernet network interfaces must register with the IEEE in order to be assigned an OUI.

The second part of the address, the remaining 3 bytes are the unique ID for the interface. All MAC addresses that begin with the same OUI must have unique values in the last 3 bytes.

In this example, the physical MAC address for the Ethernet LAN interface is D4-BE-D9-13-63-00.

| Manufacturer OUI | Unique Identifier for the Interface | Vendor Name |
| --- | --- | --- |
| D4-BE-D9 | 13-63-00 | Dell Incorporated |

### List MAC addresses discovered by you and your classmates in previous part.

List the 3-byte Manufacturer OUI and the 3-byte unique interface identifier. You will fill in the Vendor name in the table below.

| Manufacturer OUI | Unique Identifier for the Interface | Vendor Name |
| --- | --- | --- |
| D4-BE-D9 | 13-63-00 | Dell Incorporated |
| blank | blank | blank |
| blank | blank | blank |

### Lookup the vendors who are the registered owners of the OUI that you listed in the table.

* + - 1. Wireshark.org provides an easy to use lookup tool at <https://www.wireshark.org/tools/oui-lookup.html>. Use this tool or use the internet to search for other ways to identify an OUI.
      2. Use the information that you found to update the vendor column in the chart in Step 1.

#### Question:

How many different vendors did you discover?

Type your answers here.

# Reflection

* 1. Why might a computer have more than one MAC address?

Type your answers here.

* 1. The sample output from the **ipconfig /all** command shown previously had only one MAC address. Suppose the output was from a computer that also had wireless Ethernet capability. How might the output change?

Type your answers here.

* 1. Try connecting and disconnecting the network cable(s) to your network adapter(s) and use the **ipconfig /all** again. What changes do you see? Does the MAC address still display? Will the MAC address ever change?

Type your answers here.

* 1. What are other names for the MAC address?

Type your answers here.

# Answer Key

## Locating the MAC Address on a Computer

### Display information for the command *ipconfig / all*

### Locate the MAC (physical) address(es) in the output from the *ipconfig /all* command

| Description | Physical Address |
| --- | --- |
| Example Answer:  Intel(R) Ethernet Connection I219-LM | Example Answer:  54-EE-75-C3-2B-33 |

#### Question:

How many MAC addresses did you discover in your PC?

Answers will vary depending on the setup of the PC.

## Analyzing the Parts of a MAC Address

### List MAC addresses discovered by you and your classmates in previous part.

List the 3-byte Manufacturer OUI and the 3-byte unique interface identifier. You will fill in the Vendor name in the table below.

| Manufacturer OUI | Unique Identifier for the Interface | Vendor Name |
| --- | --- | --- |
| D4-BE-D9 | 13-63-00 | Dell Incorporated |

### Lookup the vendors who are the registered owners of the OUI that you listed in the table.

#### Question:

How many different vendors did you discover?

Answers will vary depending on the setup of the PC.

# Reflection

* 1. Why might a computer have more than one MAC address?

A computer can have multiple NICs including two or more Ethernet NICs and wireless NICs.

* 1. The sample output from the **ipconfig /all** command shown previously had only one MAC address. Suppose the output was from a computer that also had wireless Ethernet capability. How might the output change?

The screen would list information for all NICs enabled on the computer.

* 1. Try connecting and disconnecting the network cable(s) to your network adapter(s) and use the **ipconfig /all** again. What changes do you see? Does the MAC address still display? Will the MAC address ever change?

Although the IP addresses may change the MAC addresses always stay the same.

* 1. What are other names for the MAC address?

A MAC address is also referred to as a hardware address, Ethernet address, or a burned-in address (BIA).

End of document