

Cloud and Network Security-C1-2026

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Week 1: Assignment 2

Class Exercise: Use of Wireshark to View and Analyze Network Traffic

1 ABSTRACT

This laboratory exercise investigated the use of Wireshark as a network protocol analyzer to capture and analyze Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) traffic on both local and remote networks. The experiment focused on identifying IP and MAC addressing behavior, protocol encapsulation, and the role of network devices in packet delivery. Through controlled ping operations and packet inspection, the study demonstrated how data is structured at different OSI layers and highlighted the differences between local and remote network communication.

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2 INTRODUCTION

Modern computer networks rely on layered communication models to transmit data efficiently and reliably. Tools such as Wireshark enable network engineers and students to visualize real packet exchanges, making theoretical concepts easier to understand. ICMP, commonly used by the ping utility, provides an ideal protocol for studying packet flow, addressing, and encapsulation.

This lab aimed to analyze ICMP packets generated from both local and remote hosts using Wireshark, with emphasis on Ethernet frame MAC addresses and IP packet addressing.

3 OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this experiment were:

1. To capture and analyze local ICMP traffic using Wireshark.
2. To capture and analyze remote ICMP traffic using Wireshark.
3. To compare MAC and IP addressing behavior between local and remote communication.
4. To understand packet encapsulation in Ethernet and IP layers.

4 NETWORK TOPOLOGY

- ✓ Internet
- ✓ Default Gateway Router
- ✓ Router
- ✓ LAN

A Windows PC was connected to a local-area network through a router that provided access to the internet.

5 RESOURCES

- ❖ One Windows PC with internet access
- ❖ Additional PCs on the LAN
- ❖ Wireshark software

6 METHODOLOGY

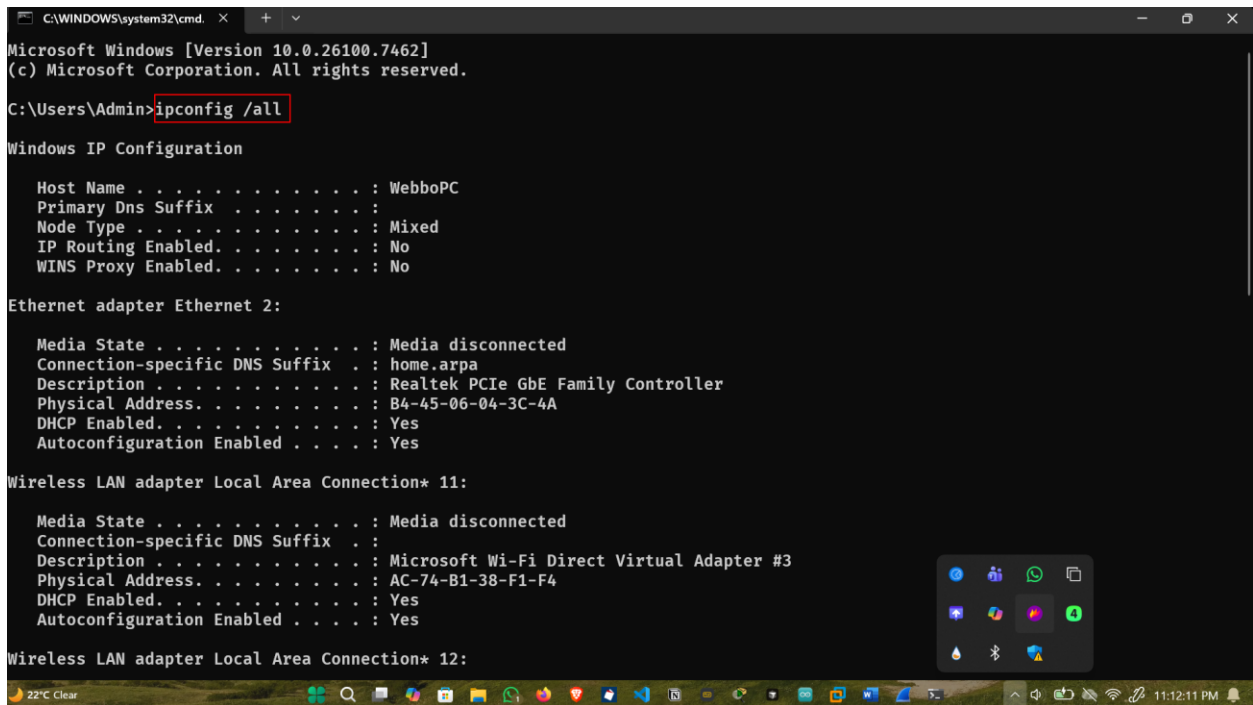
6.1 Part 1: Capture and Analyze Local ICMP Data

6.1.1 Step 1: Retrieving Interface Information

- * In a command prompt window, enter `ipconfig /all` to retrieve the IP address of your PC interface, its description, and its MAC (physical) address.

The command **ipconfig /all** was executed in the command prompt to obtain:

- IPv4 address
- Subnet mask
- Default gateway
- MAC (physical) address



```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd. X + -
Microsoft Windows [Version 10.0.26100.7462]
(c) Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved.

C:\Users\Admin>ipconfig /all

Windows IP Configuration

Host Name . . . . . : WebboPC
Primary Dns Suffix . . . . . :
Node Type . . . . . : Mixed
IP Routing Enabled. . . . . : No
WINS Proxy Enabled. . . . . : No

Ethernet adapter Ethernet 2:

Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . : home.arpa
Description . . . . . : Realtek PCIe GbE Family Controller
Physical Address. . . . . : B4-45-06-04-3C-4A
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : Yes
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes

Wireless LAN adapter Local Area Connection* 11:

Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
Description . . . . . : Microsoft Wi-Fi Direct Virtual Adapter #3
Physical Address. . . . . : AC-74-B1-38-F1-F4
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : Yes
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes

Wireless LAN adapter Local Area Connection* 12:

Media State . . . . . : Media disconnected
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
Description . . . . . : Microsoft Wi-Fi Direct Virtual Adapter #3
Physical Address. . . . . : AC-74-B1-38-F1-F4
DHCP Enabled. . . . . : Yes
Autoconfiguration Enabled . . . . : Yes
```

fig 6.1 ipconfig result

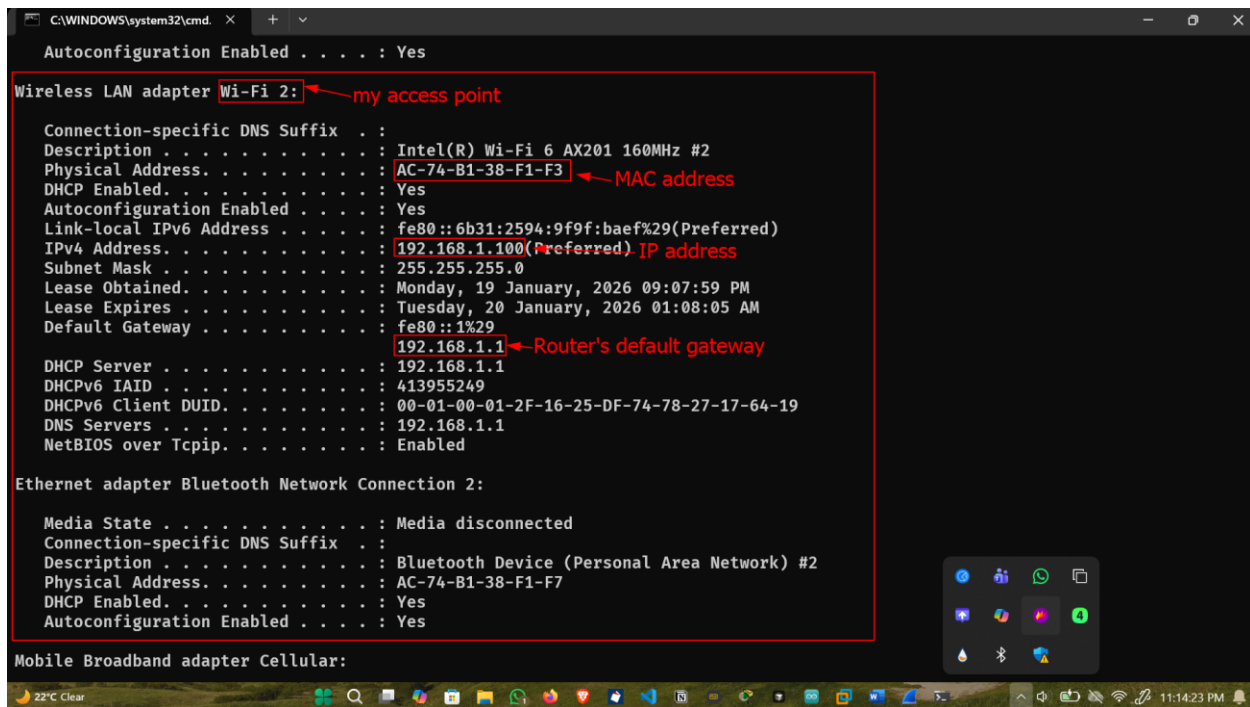


fig 6.2 ipconfig

6.1.2 Step 2: Starting Wireshark Capture

- * Navigate to Wireshark. Double-click the desired interface to start the packet capture. Make sure the desired interface has traffic.
- * Information will start scrolling down the top section in Wireshark. The data lines will appear in different colors based on protocol. A filter was apply to make it easier to view and work with the data that is being captured by Wireshark.
- * This filter causes all data in the top window to disappear, but you are still capturing traffic on the interface. Navigate to a command prompt window and ping the IP address that you received from your team member. (here, router's default gateway IP)
- * Stop capturing data by clicking the **Stop Capture** icon.

Wireshark was launched and the active network interface was selected. Packet capture began immediately, displaying multiple protocol frames in different colors.

To focus only on ICMP traffic, a filter was applied:


```
C:\WINDOWS\system32\cmd. x + v

C:\Users\Admin>ping 192.168.1.1 Router's default gateway IP

Pinging 192.168.1.1 with 32 bytes of data:
Reply from 192.168.1.1: bytes=32 time=2ms TTL=64
Reply from 192.168.1.1: bytes=32 time=1ms TTL=64
Reply from 192.168.1.1: bytes=32 time=2ms TTL=64
Reply from 192.168.1.1: bytes=32 time=5ms TTL=64

Ping statistics for 192.168.1.1:
    Packets: Sent = 4, Received = 4, Lost = 0 (0% loss),
    Approximate round trip times in milli-seconds:
        Minimum = 1ms, Maximum = 5ms, Average = 2ms

C:\Users\Admin>
```

fig 6.5

The image shows a Wireshark packet capture window titled "Capturing from Wi-Fi 2". The filter is set to "icmp". The packet list shows several ICMP Echo (ping) requests and replies. The source IP is 192.168.1.100 and the destination IP is 192.168.1.1. The packet details pane shows the structure of an ICMP Echo request, including the Ethernet II header, Internet Protocol Version 4 header, and Internet Control Message Protocol header. The packet bytes pane shows the raw data in hexadecimal and ASCII.

No.	Time	Source IP	Destination IP	Protocol	Length	Info
3378	218.390982	192.168.1.100	192.168.1.1	ICMP	74	Echo (ping) request id=0x0001, seq=1/256, ttl=128 (reply in 3379)
3379	218.393597	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.100	ICMP	74	Echo (ping) reply id=0x0001, seq=1/256, ttl=64 (request in 3378)
3398	219.400484	192.168.1.100	192.168.1.1	ICMP	74	Echo (ping) request id=0x0001, seq=2/512, ttl=128 (reply in 3399)
3399	219.401998	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.100	ICMP	74	Echo (ping) reply id=0x0001, seq=2/512, ttl=64 (request in 3398)
3400	220.417899	192.168.1.100	192.168.1.1	ICMP	74	Echo (ping) request id=0x0001, seq=3/768, ttl=128 (reply in 3401)
3401	220.420415	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.100	ICMP	74	Echo (ping) reply id=0x0001, seq=3/768, ttl=64 (request in 3400)
3414	221.435949	192.168.1.100	192.168.1.1	ICMP	74	Echo (ping) request id=0x0001, seq=4/1024, ttl=128 (reply in 3415)
3415	221.441568	192.168.1.1	192.168.1.100	ICMP	74	Echo (ping) reply id=0x0001, seq=4/1024, ttl=64 (request in 3414)

fig 6.6

6.1.3 Step 3: Examine the captured data.

1. The top section displays the list of PDU frames captured with a summary of the IP packet information listed;
2. The middle section lists PDU information for the frame selected in the top part of the screen and separates a captured PDU frame by its protocol layers;
3. The bottom section displays the raw data of each layer. The raw data is displayed in both hexadecimal and decimal form.
 - * Click the first ICMP request PDU frames in the top section of Wireshark. Notice that the **Source** column has your PC IP address, and the **Destination** column contains the IP address of the teammate PC that you pinged.
 - * With this PDU frame still selected in the top section, navigate to the middle section. Click the plus sign to the left of the Ethernet II row to view the destination and source MAC addresses.

The captured packets were analyzed using the three Wireshark panes:

1. Frame list
2. Packet details
3. Raw packet data

Observations

Answers to the questions

- The source MAC matched the local interface MAC.
- The destination MAC matched the Router MAC.
- The MAC address of the destination PC was obtained using the Address Resolution Protocol (ARP), confirming that ARP was responsible for mapping IP addresses to MAC addresses on the LAN.

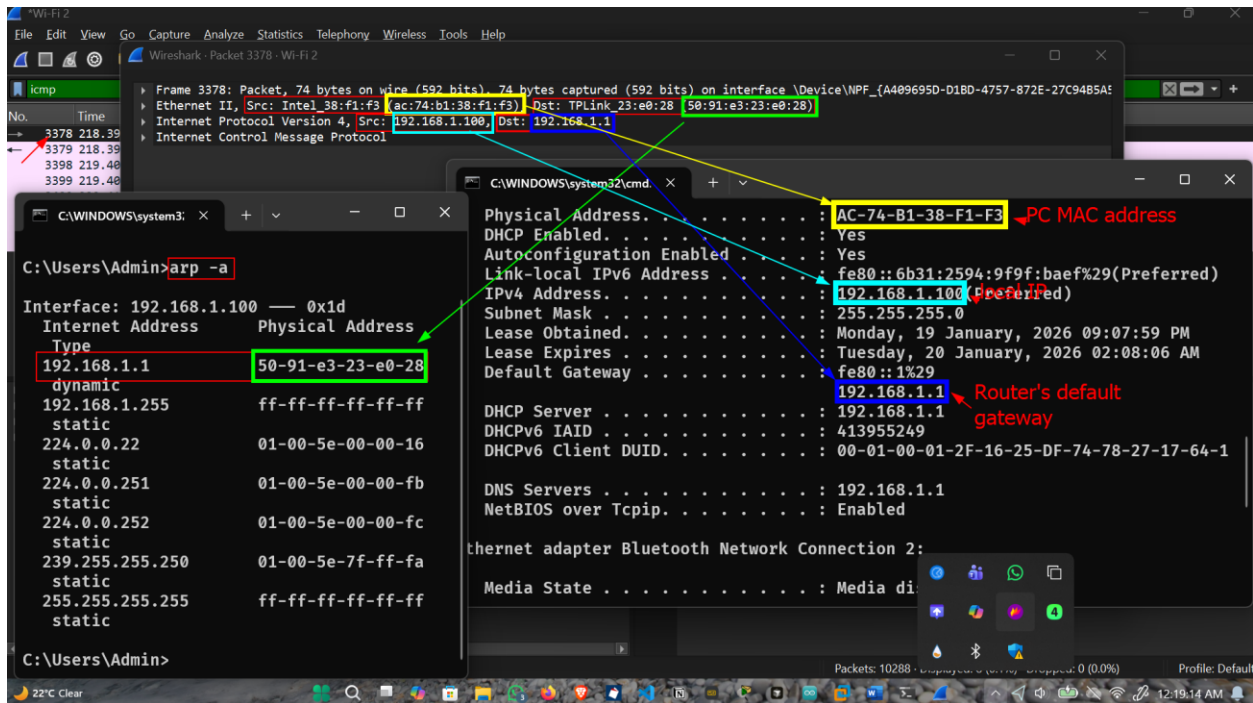


fig 6.7

6.2 Part 2: Capture and Analyze Remote ICMP Data in Wireshark

A ping was performed on remote hosts (hosts not on the LAN) and examined the generated data from those pings.

6.2.1 Step 1: Start capturing data on the interface.

- ❖ Start the data capture again.
- ❖ A window prompts you to save the previously captured data before starting another capture. It is not necessary to save this data. Click **Continue without Saving**.
- ❖ With the capture active, ping the following three website URLs from a Windows command prompt:
 - www.yahoo.com
 - www.cisco.com
 - www.google.com
- ❖ You can stop capturing data by clicking the **Stop Capture** icon.

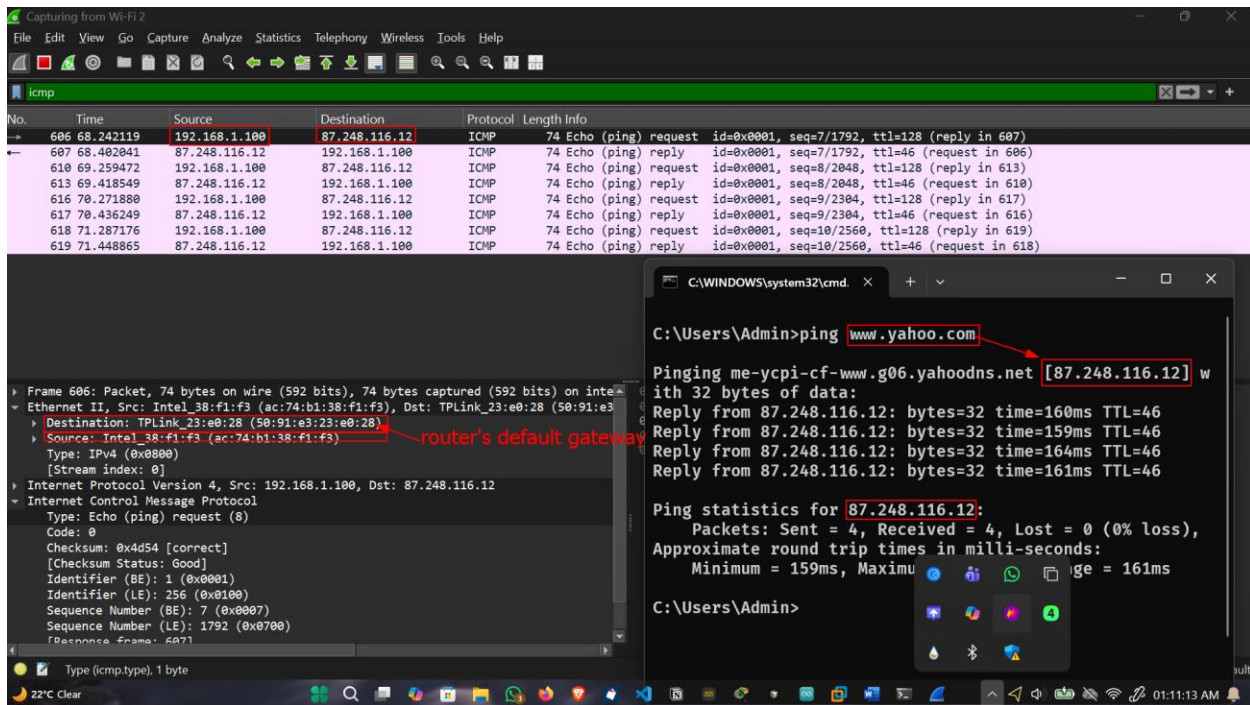


fig 6.8

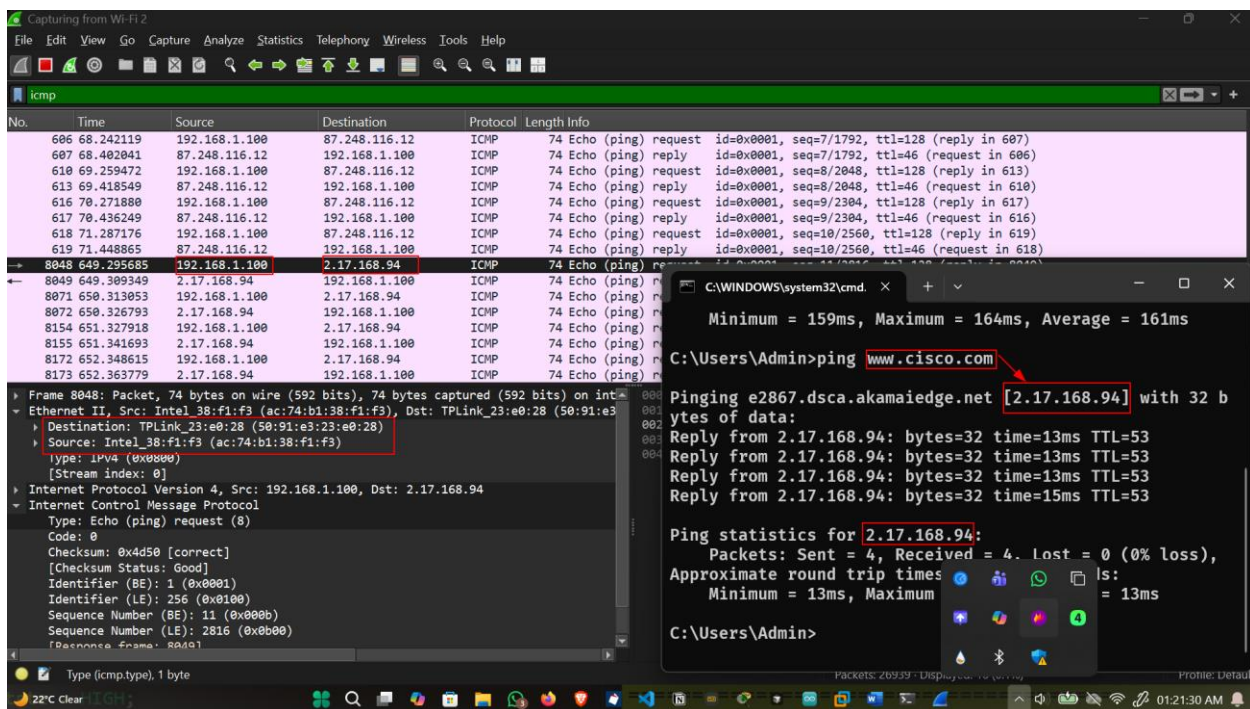


fig 6.9

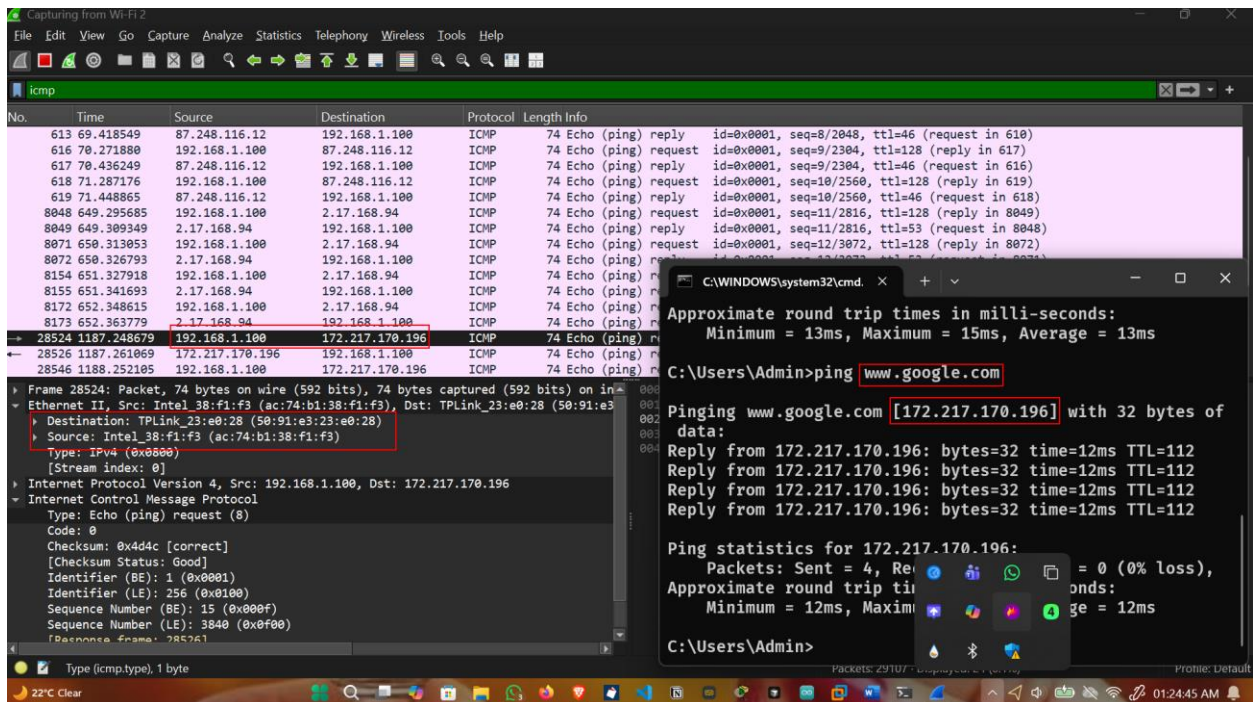


fig 6.10

6.2.2 Step 2: Examining and analyzing the data from the remote hosts.

The ICMP packets were analyzed and the following were observed.

Table 6.1

Website	Destination IP	Destination MAC
Yahoo	87.248.116.12	Router Default gateway MAC (50-91-e3-23-e0-28)
Cisco	2.17.168.94	Router Default gateway MAC (50-91-e3-23-e0-28)
Google	172.217.170.196	Router Default gateway MAC (50-91-e3-23-e0-28)

6.3 The significant of this information

The significant observation was that although the destination IP addresses corresponded to the remote servers (Yahoo, Cisco, and Google), the destination MAC address in all captured frames belonged to the local default gateway router. This demonstrated that Ethernet communication only occurs within the local network segment, and packets destined for remote networks are always forwarded first to the router, which then handles further delivery across the internet.

This confirmed the layered operation of networking, where Layer 2 addresses are used only for local delivery, while Layer 3 addresses identify the final destination.

6.4 Differences Between Local and Remote ICMP Ping Information

In Part 1, when pinging a local host, both the destination IP address and destination MAC address belonged to the target PC on the same LAN. The communication occurred directly between the two devices.

In contrast, in Part 2, when pinging remote hosts, the destination IP addresses belonged to remote servers, but the destination MAC addresses always belonged to the default gateway router. This difference highlighted the role of the router as an intermediary device for all off-LAN communication.

6.5 Reflection Question

Wireshark only captured MAC addresses of devices on the local network segment. Remote hosts were not directly reachable at Layer 2, so frames were addressed to the router's MAC address instead. The router then forwarded packets across multiple networks until they reached the remote host.

7 SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS

The lab emphasized that packet sniffing can expose sensitive network data. This reinforced the importance of network security policies and access controls when using packet capture tools.

8 CONCLUSION

The Wireshark laboratory successfully demonstrated how ICMP packets were transmitted and encapsulated across network layers. The differences between local and remote communication were clearly observed through MAC and IP address analysis. The experiment reinforced theoretical concepts of ARP, DNS, routing, and OSI layering while providing practical hands-on experience with real network traffic.

9 References

1. Cisco Networking Academy
2. Wireshark User Documentation