

Wireshark

Wireshark is a network packet analyzer, which can be downloaded for use at home from <https://www.wireshark.org/#download>. A network packet analyzer will try to capture network packets and tries to display that packet data as detailed as possible.

You could think of a network packet analyzer as a measuring device used to examine what is going on inside a network cable, just like a voltmeter is used by an electrician to examine what is going on inside an electric cable (but at a higher level, of course).

In the past, such tools were either very expensive, proprietary, or both. However, with the advent of Wireshark, all that has changed. Wireshark is perhaps one of the best open source packet analyzers available today. Here are some examples people use Wireshark for:

- Network administrators use it to troubleshoot network problems
- Network security engineers use it to examine security problems
- QA engineers use it to verify network applications
- Developers use it to debug protocol implementations
- People use it to learn network protocol internals

Beside these examples Wireshark can be helpful in many other situations too. The following are some of the many features Wireshark provides:

- Available for UNIX and Windows.
- Capture live packet data from a network interface.
- Open files containing packet data captured with tcpdump/WinDump, Wireshark, and a number of other packet capture programs.
- Import packets from text files containing hex dumps of packet data.
- Display packets with very detailed protocol information.
- Save packet data captured.
- Export some or all packets in a number of capture file formats.
- Filter packets on many criteria.
- Search for packets on many criteria.
- Colorize packet display based on filters.
- Create various statistics.

However, to really appreciate its power you have to start using it.

Figure 1 shows Wireshark having captured some packets and waiting for you to examine them.

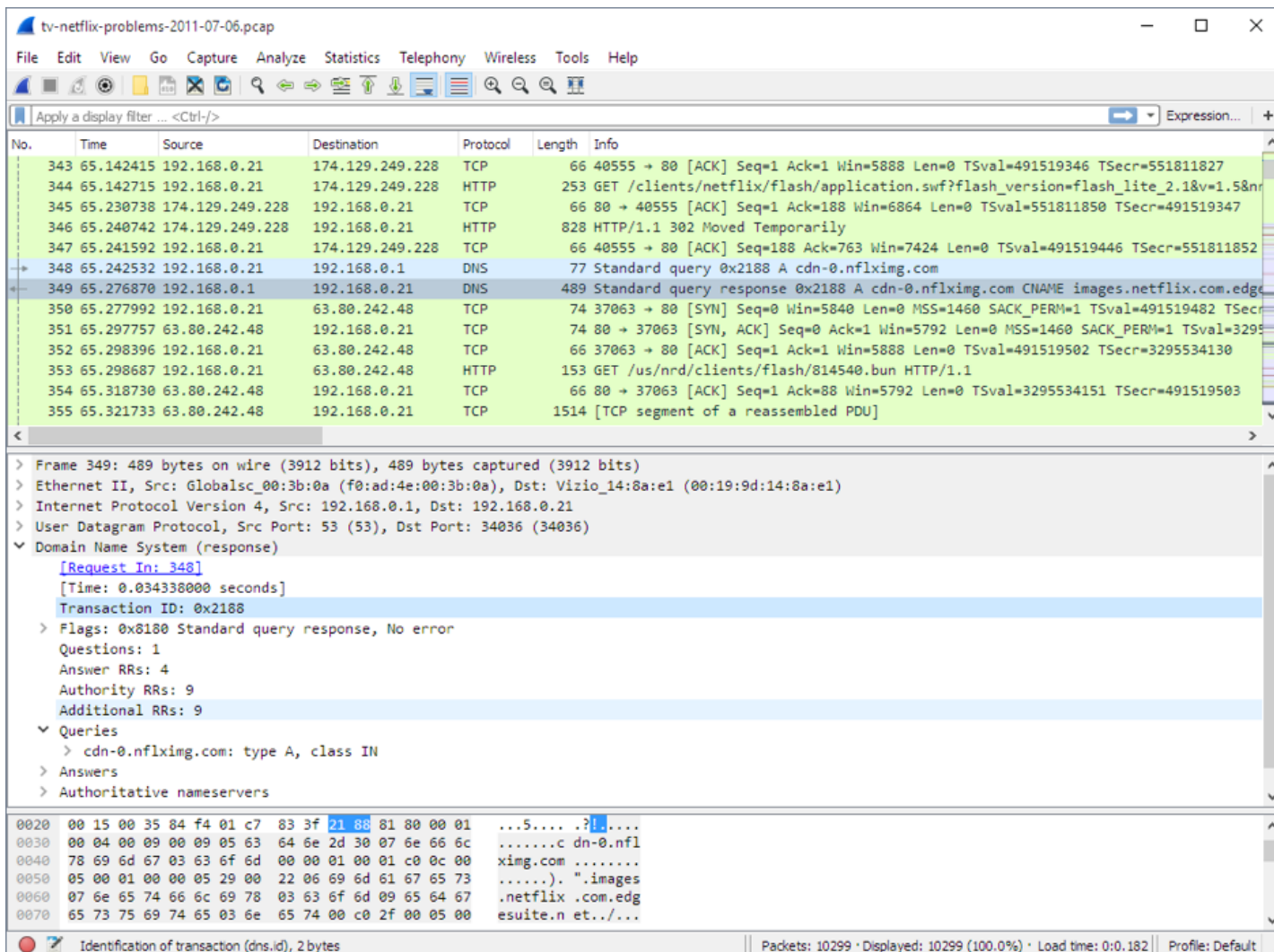


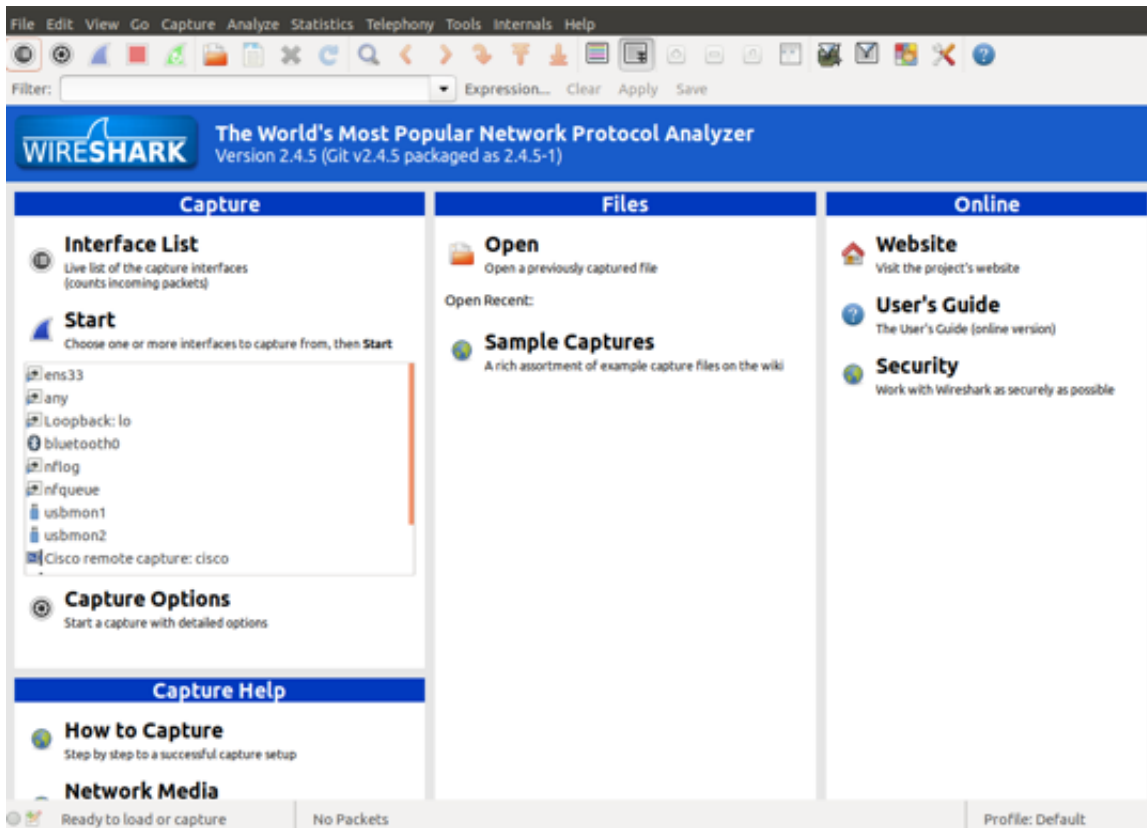
Figure 1 - Wireshark captures packets and lets you examine their contents

Here are some things Wireshark does not provide:

- Wireshark is not an intrusion detection system. It will not warn you when someone does strange things on your network that he/she is not allowed to do. However, if strange things happen, Wireshark might help you figure out what is really going on.
- Wireshark will not manipulate things on the network, it will only "measure" things from it. Wireshark does not send packets on the network or do other active things (except for name resolutions, but even that can be disabled).

The interface

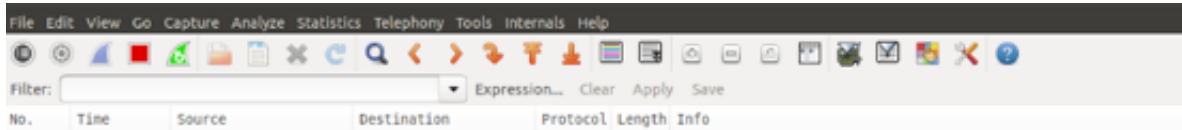
When you start wireshark you should see an interface like the one shown in Figure 2.



*Figure 2 - Default

start up screen for Wireshark *

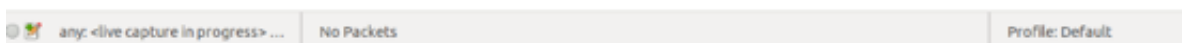
A blank screen is shown below.



Summary panel

Packet details panel

Packet bytes panel

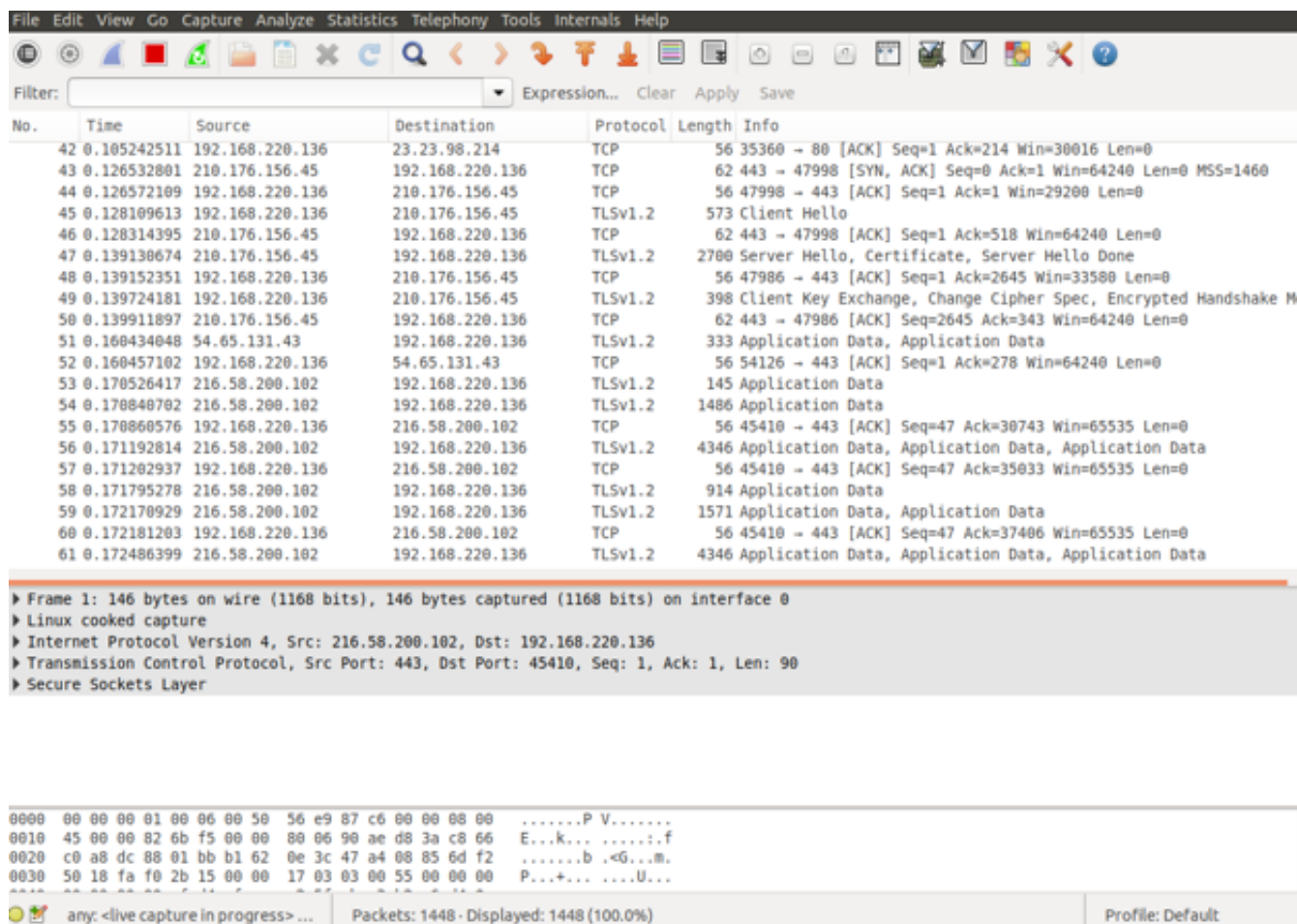


This screen has three main parts: 1. The summary panel shows the list of packets seen by wireshark; 2.

The packet details displays the packet selected in the summary panel in more details; and 3. The packet bytes pane displays the data from the packet selected in the packet list pane and highlights the field selected in the packet details pane.

You can load precaptured network traces into Wireshark for analysis, we can't actually capture live traffic on our systems because of security restrictions.

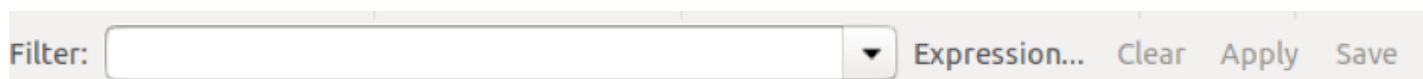
Below you see traffic captured earlier by visiting this site: <http://bbc.co.uk>



This is showing a stream of packet captured that relate to the web browsing you just did, you should see some of the protocol names discussed in lectures such as TCP, DNS, HTTP etc.

Filtering traffic

Wireshark will capture a lot of network traffic, on a busy network it will capture more traffic than you can analyse. What if you are only interested in specific traffic, this is where the filter box comes in handy.



This allow you to filter using an expression that can use terms such as the protocol, destination IP address, source IP address and more.

Say that we are interested in looking for DNS lookup traffic. An example would be an infected machine might be trying to contact a command and control centre and we are interested in associated DNS lookups.

To select DNS traffic you would enter DNS into the filter bar and select Apply. You would see something like this.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
20	0.885703731	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.53	DNS	80	Standard query 0x47d6 A sync.crowdctrl.net
21	0.886109988	192.168.220.136	192.168.220.2	DNS	91	Standard query 0xb2ac A sync.crowdctrl.net OPT
22	0.886465410	127.0.0.1	127.0.0.53	DNS	80	Standard query 0x39de AAAA sync.crowdctrl.net
23	0.886872655	192.168.220.136	192.168.220.2	DNS	91	Standard query 0x74d0 AAAA sync.crowdctrl.net OPT
24	1.078151085	192.168.220.136	210.176.156.45	TCP	56	48370 → 443 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=45260 Len=0
25	1.078298545	210.176.156.45	192.168.220.136	TCP	62	[TCP ACKed unseen segment] 443 → 48370 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=2 Win=64
26	1.146461871	192.168.220.2	192.168.220.136	DNS	262	Standard query response 0x74d0 AAAA sync.crowdctrl.net CNAME to
27	1.146807244	192.168.220.2	192.168.220.136	DNS	308	Standard query response 0xb2ac A sync.crowdctrl.net CNAME to
28	1.146905558	192.168.220.136	192.168.220.2	DNS	131	Standard query 0x333e AAAA nginx-bcp-stackA-21488747.ap-southea

This shows DNS queries for `sync.crowdcontrol.net` sent from my computer `192.168.220.136` to a DNS server (in this case I am running in a virtual machine so its sending it to my host computer). You will probably see something different.

You could now filter out the HTTP traffic by following the same approach used for DNS traffic. You would see something like this.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
73	2.857530276	192.168.220.136	182.50.136.239	OCSP	487	Request
86	3.115320798	192.168.220.136	182.50.136.239	OCSP	487	Request
96	3.378715904	182.50.136.239	192.168.220.136	OCSP	2323	Response
104	3.634408147	182.50.136.239	192.168.220.136	OCSP	2323	Response
183	6.294234658	192.168.220.136	50.19.125.22	HTTP	774	GET /ping?h=bbc.co.uk&p=%2F%3Faustralia&u=DItI3KD77789Boh2Jj&d-
196	6.705684109	50.19.125.22	192.168.220.136	HTTP	269	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
423	21.296103599	192.168.220.136	50.19.125.22	HTTP	775	GET /ping?h=bbc.co.uk&p=%2F%3Faustralia&u=DItI3KD77789Boh2Jj&d-
435	21.697779896	50.19.125.22	192.168.220.136	HTTP	269	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
628	36.326225991	192.168.220.136	50.19.125.22	HTTP	772	GET /ping?h=bbc.co.uk&p=%2F%3Faustralia&u=DItI3KD77789Boh2Jj&d-
634	36.733515175	50.19.125.22	192.168.220.136	HTTP	269	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
873	66.308369477	192.168.220.136	50.19.125.22	HTTP	774	GET /ping?h=bbc.co.uk&p=%2F%3Faustralia&u=DItI3KD77789Boh2Jj&d-
875	66.726020492	50.19.125.22	192.168.220.136	HTTP	269	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
1045	86.184526025	192.168.220.136	104.197.3.80	HTTP	143	GET / HTTP/1.1
1061	86.601280996	104.197.3.80	192.168.220.136	HTTP	204	HTTP/1.1 204 No Content
1214	111.31032666	192.168.220.136	50.19.125.22	HTTP	775	GET /ping?h=bbc.co.uk&p=%2F%3Faustralia&u=DItI3KD77789Boh2Jj&d-
1222	111.66365549	50.19.125.22	192.168.220.136	HTTP	269	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
1370	186.35237176	192.168.220.136	50.19.125.22	HTTP	775	GET /ping?h=bbc.co.uk&p=%2F%3Faustralia&u=DItI3KD77789Boh2Jj&d-
1378	186.76585649	50.19.125.22	192.168.220.136	HTTP	269	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)

Following a stream

Many of our protocols have requests and responses that are spread across many packets. What we want to do when analysing traffic is to put these back together to make it easier to see what is being sent and retrieved.

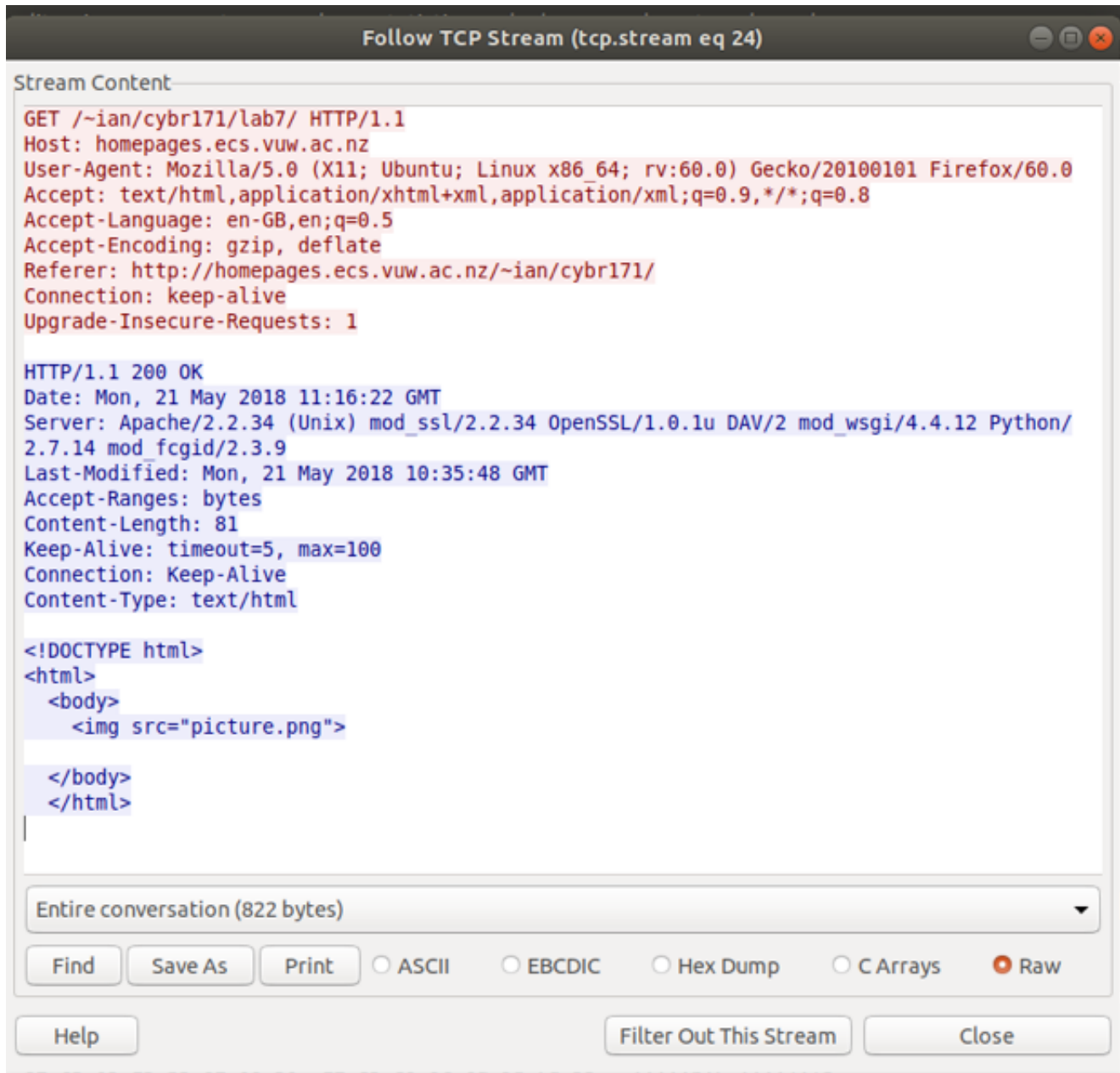
For example, to look at a request for a HTTP page and the reply.

First you would use filtering to find all of the HTTP packets, and then locate a packet for interest. For example:

614	60.272538009	192.168.220.136	130.195.5.21	HTTP	460	GET /-ian/cybr171/lab7/ HTTP/1.1
-----	--------------	-----------------	--------------	------	-----	----------------------------------

Assuming that we want to follow HTTP packets sent to a web server at `130.195.5.21` we would find a packet with this source address.

We then Right click on it and choose **Follow TCP stream**. You should see the full details of the request and response, such as:

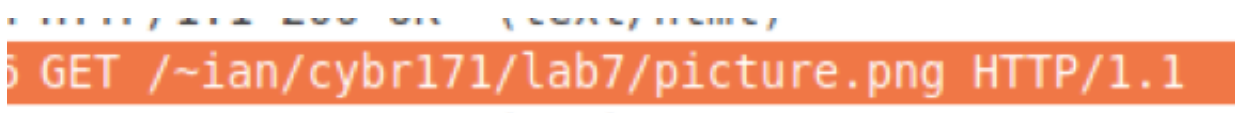


```
Stream Content
GET /~ian/cybr171/lab7/ HTTP/1.1
Host: homepages.ecs.vuw.ac.nz
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux x86_64; rv:60.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/60.0
Accept: text/html,application/xhtml+xml,application/xml;q=0.9,*/*;q=0.8
Accept-Language: en-GB,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Referer: http://homepages.ecs.vuw.ac.nz/~ian/cybr171/
Connection: keep-alive
Upgrade-Insecure-Requests: 1

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Mon, 21 May 2018 11:16:22 GMT
Server: Apache/2.2.34 (Unix) mod_ssl/2.2.34 OpenSSL/1.0.1u DAV/2 mod_wsgi/4.4.12 Python/2.7.14 mod_fcgid/2.3.9
Last-Modified: Mon, 21 May 2018 10:35:48 GMT
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 81
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: text/html

<!DOCTYPE html>
<html>
  <body>
    
  </body>
</html>
```

This shows that we retrieve the page using `GET /~ian/cybr171/lab7/` and the text in blue is the reply including the HTML for the webpage. You can also use the same approach to retrieve the image file `picture.png`. Find the request for the image file:



```
5 GET /~ian/cybr171/lab7/picture.png HTTP/1.1
```

You would then be able to use *Follow TCP stream* to show what is returned, for example:

```
Follow TCP Stream (tcp.stream eq 25)

Stream Content
GET /~ian/cybr171/lab7/picture.png HTTP/1.1
Host: homepages.ecs.vuw.ac.nz
User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (X11; Ubuntu; Linux x86_64; rv:60.0) Gecko/20100101 Firefox/60.0
Accept: */*
Accept-Language: en-GB,en;q=0.5
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
Referer: http://homepages.ecs.vuw.ac.nz/~ian/cybr171/lab7/
Connection: keep-alive

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Date: Mon, 21 May 2018 11:16:22 GMT
Server: Apache/2.2.34 (Unix) mod_ssl/2.2.34 OpenSSL/1.0.1u DAV/2 mod_wsgi/4.4.12 Python/2.7.14 mod_fcgid/2.3.9
Last-Modified: Mon, 21 May 2018 10:28:10 GMT
Accept-Ranges: bytes
Content-Length: 119456
Cache-Control: max-age=864000
Expires: Thu, 31 May 2018 11:16:22 GMT
Keep-Alive: timeout=5, max=100
Connection: Keep-Alive
Content-Type: image/png

.PNG
.
...
IHDR.....y.....gAMA.....a.....sRGB.....PLTE.....
....
....
.....*.....12-...2..!..>..*+$.....8.....DED...(.....
74-.../,$"" ..
.....DC<.....G.....
.....0.
...'#.564' '#...cee.....)
.....NB3
.....KFA...!.....F..=#.!.;.....nY::
5!" ...Q1.....9-...MMK.....;wxr.jM.....kjf...
0 ...ed]tbIUSL.....D/.....gbS.....MKC. <A<5..G.....Q$.qlh.....z...??
```

The binary representation of `picture.png` is shown in blue.

Extracting HTTP objects from a stream

What is we want to analyse what a person has been browsing, in particular extract all of the pictures that they have been viewing (perhaps to look for content violating the organisational policies).

Wireshark comes with a useful features for exporting packet data in different formats. This makes some forms of analysis very easy because Wireshark can extract the data and convert it into useful formats, in this case extract files sent and received via HTTP.

To do this choose File, go to Export Objects and choose HTTP.

The screenshot shows the Wireshark application interface. The 'File' menu is open, and 'Export Objects' is selected. A sub-menu is visible, listing various protocols: DICOM, HTTP, IMF, SMB, and TFTP. The main window displays a list of network objects with columns for Destination, Protocol, and Length. The selected object is highlighted in orange.

Destination	Protocol	Length
13.228.208.170	TCP	76
192.168.220.136	DNS	261
192.168.220.2	DNS	131
192.168.220.136	DNS	182
192.168.220.2	DNS	97
13.228.208.170	TCP	76
54.230.137.132	TCP	56
192.168.220.136	TCP	62
192.168.220.136	DNS	213
127.0.0.1	DNS	168
23.222.106.208	TCP	56
192.168.220.136	TCP	62
DICOM	TCP	62
HTTP	TCP	56
IMF	HTTP	1115
SMB	TCP	62
TFTP	DNS	115
192.168.220.136	TCP	62
13.228.208.170	TCP	56

Frame 706: 76 bytes on wire (608 bits), 76 bytes captured (608 bits) on interface
 Linux cooked capture

You should now see all of the HTTP objects (CSS, javascript, html and image files). You could save all of them off for later analysis but we will choose a single one.

Packet num	Hostname	Content Type	Size	Filename
1232	www.bbc.com	application/javascript	95 kB	jquery.js
1316	s.effectivemeasure.net	application/json	276 bytes	p?pu=http%3A%2F%2Fwww
1329	secure-nz.imrworldwide.com	image/gif	44 bytes	m?rnd=1526902619218&ci=r
1480	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	62 kB	p03zwnhc.jpg
1557	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	54 kB	p03zwsdg.jpg
1559	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	35 kB	p03zwnz9.jpg
1575	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	50 kB	p03zwnq0.jpg
1649	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	65 kB	p03zwrxd.jpg
1675	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/png	160 kB	p03zwpocz.png
1679	www.bbc.com	application/json	2559 bytes	wwearth
1695	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	16 kB	p03qy645.jpg
1701	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	18 kB	p03pdj1f.jpg
1742	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	13 kB	p03nssw2.jpg
1780	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	70 kB	p03zwrsk.jpg
1848	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	51 kB	p067gg13.jpg
1949	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	64 kB	p03zwwq47.jpg
1983	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	95 kB	p03zwpww.jpg
1990	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	70 kB	p03zwwqtz.jpg
2034	bcp.crwdcntrl.net	text/html	495 bytes	rt=ifr
2036	edigitalsurvey.com	text/html	0 bytes	l.php?id=INS-vt29-666188954
2038	ichef.bbc.co.uk	image/jpeg	32 kB	p0671f08.jpg

Buttons: Help, Save As, Save All, Cancel

It is possible to save this to the desktop as picture.jpg and open it using a viewing program such as a browser. For example:



Learning more

We have scratched the surface of Wireshark. You can install this at home and try this on your own computer, see <https://www.wireshark.org/#download>. Furthermore, there are also some excellent video tutorials at <https://www.wireshark.org/docs/>.

This Document's Licence (GPL)

This document is based upon the Wireshark User's Guide which is itself published under a GPL licence. This program is free software; you can redistribute it and/or modify it under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation; either version 2 of the License, or (at your option) any later version.

This program is distributed in the hope that it will be useful, but *WITHOUT ANY WARRANTY*; without even the implied warranty of *MERCHANTABILITY* or *FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE*. See the GNU General Public License for more details.

You should have received a copy of the GNU General Public License along with this program; if not, write to the Free Software Foundation, Inc., 51 Franklin Street, Fifth Floor, Boston, MA 02110-1301 USA