

IBM Software Group

TCP Packet Tracing – Part 1

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Agenda

- Main Focus TCP Packet Tracing
 - What is TCP general description
 - ▶ When to capture common *technical problems*
 - Where to capture depends on network topology
 - ▶ **How** to capture available *operating system* tools
 - Using wireshark to analyze a TCP Packet Trace
 - General overview wireshark gui and packet panes
 - Filter a TCP connection
 - Basic breakdown of TCP/IP communication flow





What is TCP?

- TCP (Transmission Control Protocol) is a set of rules used along with the Internet Protocol (IP) to send data in the form of message units between computers over the Internet. While IP takes care of handling the actual delivery of the data, TCP takes care of keeping track of the packets that a message is divided into for efficient routing through the Internet.
- A packet is a unit of data that is routed between an origin and a destination on the Internet
- When you send or receive data (for example, a Web page), the message gets divided into these individual units of data. Each of these packets contains both the sender's Internet address and the receiver's address.
- Each of these packets is separately numbered.





TCP Packet Tracing!

When to Capture?

Where to Capture?

How to Capture?





When to Capture - common technical problems

- HTTP Header problems
 - Validation of HTTP Header information provided in client requests and server responses over TCP connections
 - Confirmation of proper end of headers (0d 0a 0d 0a) by both client and server
- Large file downloads or POST upload problems
 - body data "bytes" transmission verification (content-length)
 - premature connection closure or time-outs during data transmission
- General problems
 - TCP connect failures, premature connection closures and packet delays from client side or server side
- SSL handshake problems
 - Client Hello and Server Hello verification
 - Cipher selection and key exchange verification





Where to Capture - depends on network topology

- debugging communication between client & web server
 - a) If direct connection exists (client<----->web server)
 - Capture on web server machine
 - b) If middle devices exist firewall, proxy, load-balancer, etc (client<----|---->web server)
 - Capture on web server machine
 - Capture on client machine
 - Capture on device (if possible)
- debugging communication between Plug-in & WebSphere Application Server
 - a) If direct connection exists (plug-in<---->WebSphere)
 - Capture on web server machine
 - b) If middle devices exist firewall, proxy, load-balancer, etc (plug-in<----|---->WebSphere)
 - Capture on web server machine
 - Capture on WebSphere machine
 - Capture on device (if possible)





How to Capture - available operating system tools

AIX - iptrace

 Manpage -http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/aix/v6r1/index.jsp? topic=/com.ibm.aix.cmds/doc/aixcmds3/iptrace.htm

Linux® - tcpdump

Manpage - http://www.tcpdump.org/tcpdump_man.html

Solaris - snoop

Manpage - http://docs.sun.com/app/docs/doc/819-2240/snoop-1m?a=view

Microsoft® Windows® - netmon and wireshark

- Download (netmon) http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/en/details.aspx?FamilyID=983b941d-06cb-4658-b7f6-3088333d062f&displaylang=en%20
- Download (wireshark) http://www.wireshark.org/download.html





How to Capture - iptrace examples

- run iptrace on interface en1 to capture port 80 traffic from a single client IP to a server IP listening on port 80
 - iptrace -a -i en1 -s clientip -b -d serverip -p 80 trace.out
- to record packets coming in and going out to any host on every interface
 - iptrace -a trace.out
- to record packets coming in and going out from a server IP on any port for interface en0
 - iptrace -a -i en0 -d serverip -b trace.out





How to Capture - tcpdump examples

- A simple way to capture all packets on all interfaces to a binary file which is readable in wireshark
 - tcpdump -s 2000 -w trace.out
- To capture all packets on eth1 interface
 - tcpdump -s 2000 -w trace.out -i eth1
- To capture all packets on port 80 for a particular server IP
 - tcpdump -s 2000 -w trace.out dst serverip and tcp port 80





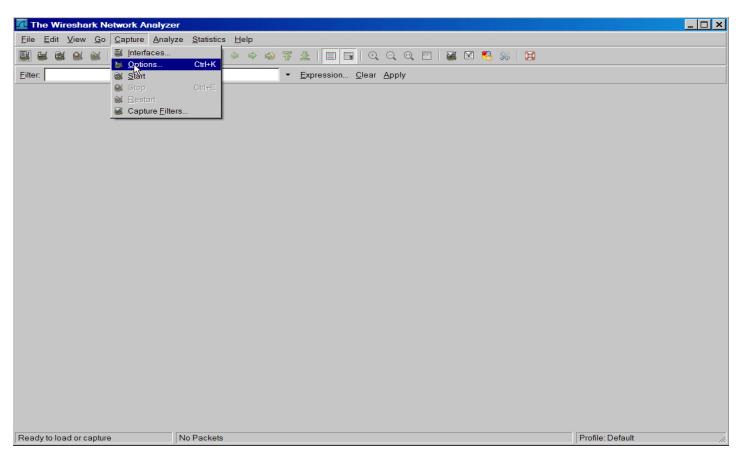
How to Capture - snoop examples

- To capture all packets on all interfaces in binary mode to a file
 - snoop -o snoop.out
- To capture all packets on interface hme0 in binary mode to a file
 - snoop hme0 -o snoop.out
- To capture all packets for a particular server IP in binary mode to a file
 - snoop -o snoop.out serverip





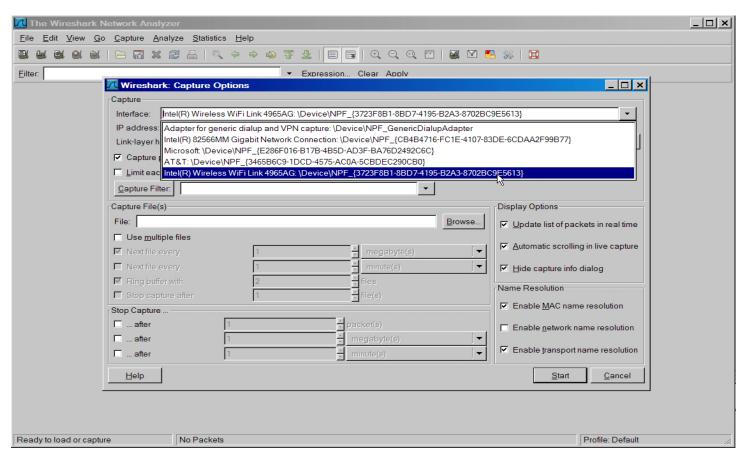
To begin capturing, select Capture -> Options







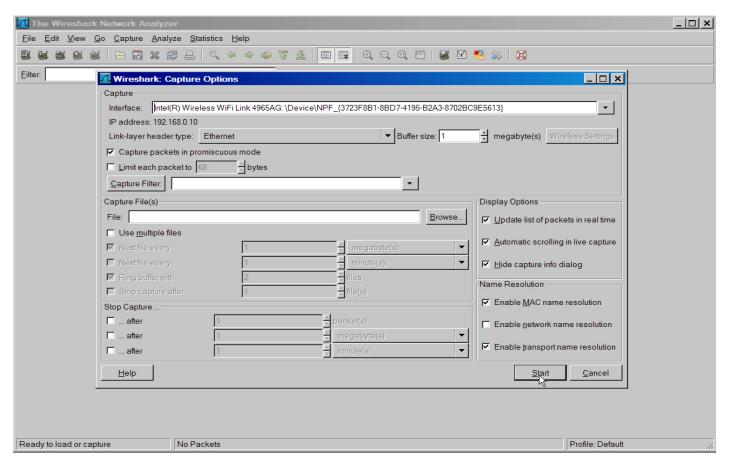
Then select the interface you wish to capture traffic on







Next, click "start" to begin capturing all traffic on the interface selected







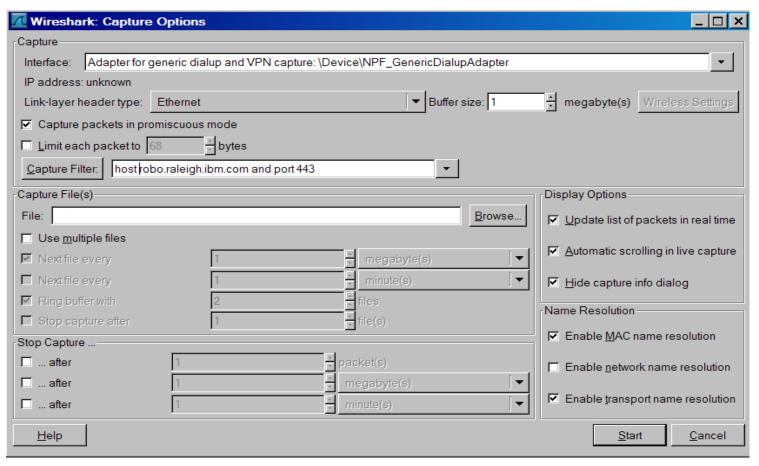
If traffic is occuring on the interface, you will see TCP packets in the display window

Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Help								
■ ●								
r: <u>Expression Clear Apply</u>								
. Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info				
227 2011-05-11 16:31:17.751117 228 2011-05-11 16:31:17.753315		192.168.0.14 72.14.204.100	SSLv3 SSLv3	Server Hello, Change Cipher Change Cipher Spec, Encrypt				
229 2011-05-11 16:31:17.753341 230 2011-05-11 16:31:17.753957	192.168.0.14	72.14.204.100 192.168.0.14	SSLV3	[TCP Out-Of-Order] Change C https > nssalertmgr [ACK] S				
231 2011-05-11 16:31:17.754099	72.14.204.113	192.168.0.14	SSLv3	Server Hello, Change Cipher				
232 2011-05-11 16:31:17.754628 233 2011-05-11 16:31:17.754649	192.168.0.14	72.14.204.113 72.14.204.113	SSLv3	Change Cipher Spec, Encrypt [TCP Out-Of-Order] Change C				
234 2011-05-11 16:31:17.757874 235 2011-05-11 16:31:17.757904		72.14.204.113 72.14.204.113	SSLv3	Application Data [TCP Out-Of-Order] Applicat				
236 2011-05-11 16:31:17.759979 237 2011-05-11 16:31:17.761759		192.168.0.14 72.14.204.100	TCP SSLv3	https > camp [ACK] Seq=158 Application Data				
238 2011-05-11 16:31:17.761787 239 2011-05-11 16:31:17.763820		72.14.204.100 192.168.0.14	SSLv3	ITCP Out-Of-Order Applicat Application Data, Applicati				
240 2011-05-11 16:31:17.779484 241 2011-05-11 16:31:17.779560	72.14.204.138	192.168.0.14 72.14.204.138	TCP TCP	http > nssagentmgr [SYN, AC nssagentmgr > http [ACK] Se				
242 2011-05-11 16:31:17.779584	192.168.0.14	72.14.204.138	TCP	[TCP Dup ACK 241#1] nssagen				
243 2011-05-11 16:31:17.779893 244 2011-05-11 16:31:17.779917	192.168.0.14	72.14.204.138 72.14.204.138	HTTP HTTP	GET /tbproxy/getaccountinfo [TCP Out-Of-Order] GET /tbp				
245 2011-05-11 16:31:17.790600 246 2011-05-11 16:31:17.799358	72.14.204.100	192.168.0.14 192.168.0.14	TCP TCP	https > nssalertmgr [ACK] S https > ctiprogramload [ACK				
247 2011-05-11 16:31:17.813652 248 2011-05-11 16:31:17.819228		192.168.0.14 192.168.0.14	SSLv3 TCP	Application Data, Applicati http > nssagentmgr [ACK] Se				
249 2011-05-11 16:31:17.835488 250 2011-05-11 16:31:17.846229		192.168.0.14 192.168.0.14	HTTP SSLv3	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html Application Data, Applicati				
251 2011-05-11 16:31:17.891680 252 2011-05-11 16:31:17.906081	192.168.0.14	72.14.204.100 192.168.0.14	TCP SSLv3	prchat-user > http [SYN] Se Application Data, Applicati				
253 2011-05-11 16:31:17.927039	192.168.0.14	72.14.204.100	TCP	prchat-user > http [SYN] Se				
254 2011-05-11 16:31:17.929836 255 2011-05-11 16:31:17.929865	192.168.0.14	72.14.204.138 72.14.204.138	TCP TCP	privatewire > https [ACK] S [TCP Dup ACK 254#1] private				
256 2011-05-11 16:31:17.930012	192.168.0.14	72.14.204.138	TCP	camp > https [ACK] Seq=1010				





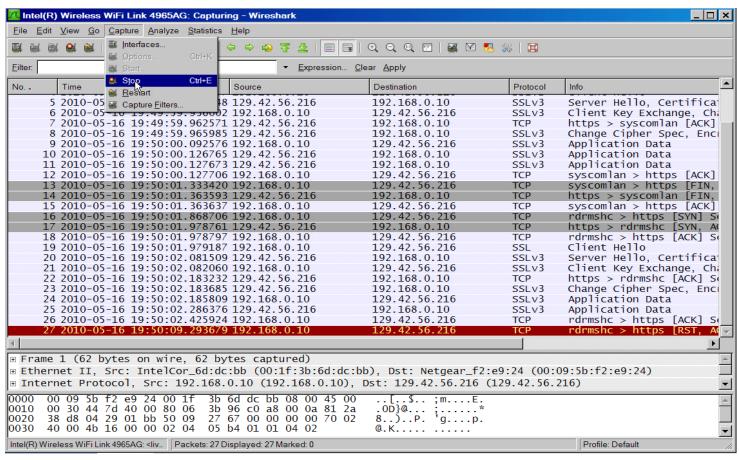
To limit the capture to a particular host and port, use the **host** and **port** capture filter







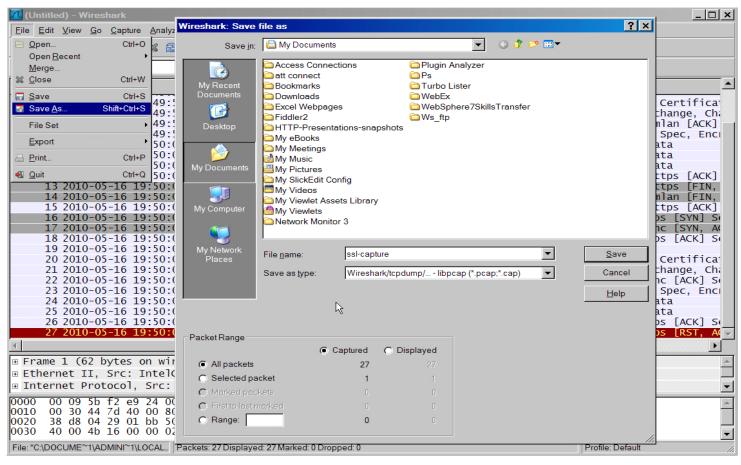
To stop the packet capture, select Capture -> Stop







To save the packet capture, select File -> Save As







Using Wireshark to analyze a TCP Packet Trace "capture" file



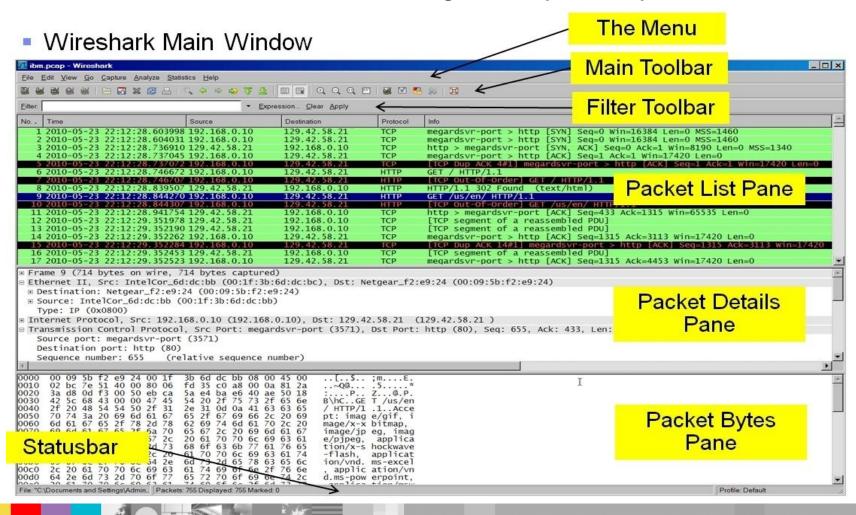


Before we begin..

- Before attempting to analyze a TCP Packet Trace, it is essential to understand the BASICS behind a TCP connection
 - A TCP connection consists of...
 - communication between two network devices, which have unique MAC addresses. A MAC address represents the physical address of a network device.
 - communication between two IP addresses, a source IP address and a destination IP address. The IP address represents the logical address on the Internet Protocol network.
 - communication between two **Ports**, a randomly assigned port of the device that initiates the connection and a designated listening port (e.g. 80, 443, 9080) of the device that accepts the connection.









- The packet list pane displays a summary of each packet captured. By clicking on packets in this pane you control what is displayed in the packet details pane and packet bytes pane.
 - No. The number of the packet in the capture file. This number won't change even
 if a display filter is used.
 - Time The timestamp of the packet.
 - Source The address where this packet is coming from.
 - Destination The address where this packet is going to.
 - Protocol The protocol name in a short abbreviated version.
 - Info Additional information about the packet content.

No	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
4717	2011-05-05 17:28:26.284149	9.37.235.185	9.42.135.23	TCP	scol > 9081 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460
4718	2011-05-05 17:28:26.284181	9.37.235.185	9.42.135.23	TCP	scol > 9081 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460
4719	2011-05-05 17:28:26.284920	9.42.135.23	9.37.235.185	TCP	9081 > scol [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=146
4720	2011-05-05 17:28:26.284967	9.37.235.185	9.42.135.23	TCP	scol > 9081 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=65535 Len=0
4721	2011-05-05 17:28:26.284984	9.37.235.185	9.42.135.23	TCP	[TCP Dup ACK 4720#1] scol > 9081 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=655
4722	2011-05-05 17:28:26.285898	9.37.235.185	9.42.135.23	TCP	scol > 9081 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=65535 Len=1323
4723	2011-05-05 17:28:26.285926	9.37.235.185	9.42.135.23	TCP	[TCP Out-Of-Order] scol > 9081 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=
4724	2011-05-05 17:28:26.300659	9.42.135.23	9.37.235.185	TCP	9081 > scol [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1324 Win=65535 Len=0
4725	2011-05-05 17:28:26.321678	9.42.135.23	9.37.235.185	TCP	9081 > scol [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1324 Win=65535 Len=1460
4726	2011-05-05 17:28:26.321705	9.42.135.23	9.37.235.185	TCP	9081 > scol [ACK] Seq=1461 Ack=1324 Win=65535 Len=1460
4727	2011-05-05 17:28:26.321740	9.37.235.185	9.42.135.23	TCP	scol > 9081 [ACK] Seq=1324 Ack=2921 Win=65535 Len=0
4728	2011-05-05 17:28:26.321758	9.37.235.185	9.42.135.23	TCP	[TCP Dup ACK 4727#1] scol > 9081 [ACK] Seq=1324 Ack=2921 v
4729	2011-05-05 17:28:26.322041	9.42.135.23	9.37.235.185	TCP	9081 > scol [ACK] Seq=2921 Ack=1324 Win=65535 Len=1460
4730	2011-05-05 17:28:26.322060	9.42.135.23	9.37.235.185	TCP	9081 > scol [ACK] Seq=4381 Ack=1324 Win=65535 Len=1460
4731	2011-05-05 17:28:26.322102	9.37.235.185	9.42.135.23	TCP	scol > 9081 [ACK] Seq=1324 Ack=5841 Win=65535 Len=0





The packet details pane - displays the packet selected in the packet list pane in more detail. This pane shows the protocols and protocol fields of the packet. The protocols and fields of the packet are displayed using a tree, which can be expanded and collapsed.

```
Frame 4723 (1377 bytes on wire, 1377 bytes captured)

Ethernet II, Src: Usi_ce:08:8c (00:1e:37:ce:08:8c), Dst: All-HSRP-routers_01 (00:00:0c:07:ac:01)

Internet Protocol, Src: 9.37.235.185 (9.37.235.185), Dst: 9.42.135.23 (9.42.135.23)

Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: scol (1200), Dst Port: 9081 (9081), Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 1323

Source port: scol (1200)

Destination port: 9081 (9081)

Sequence number: 1 (relative sequence number)

[Next sequence number: 1324 (relative sequence number)]

Acknowledgement number: 1 (relative ack number)

Header length: 20 bytes

Flags: 0x18 (PSH, ACK)

Window size: 65535

Window size: 65535

### Control Protocol

### Control P
```

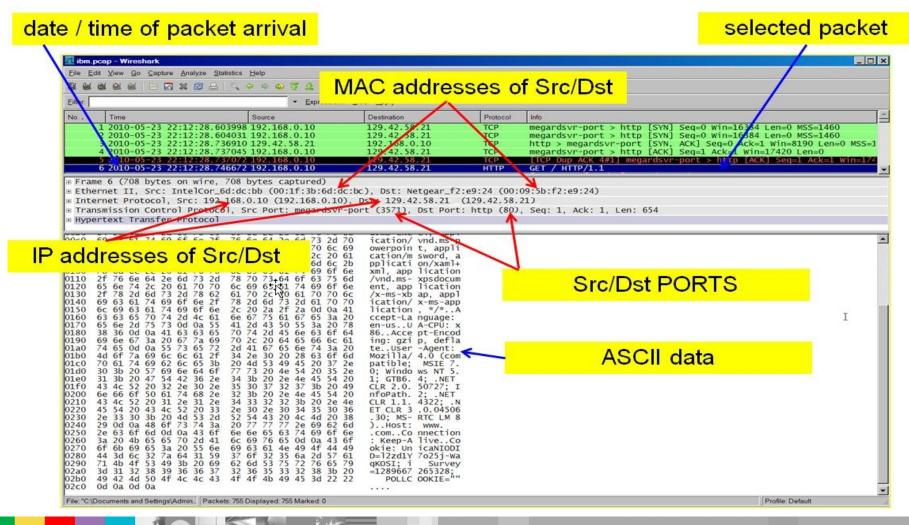


The packet bytes pane - displays the data from the packet selected in the packet list pane, and highlights the field selected in the packet details pane. As usual for a hexdump, the left side shows the offset in the packet data, in the middle the packet data is shown in a hexadecimal representation and on the right the corresponding ASCII characters are displayed.

```
00 00 0c 07 ac 01 00 1e 37 ce 08 8c 08 00 45 00
                                                        .S.V@.... *
0010
    05 53 ab 56 40 00 80 06 c5 2e 09 25 eb b9 09 2a
     87 17 04 b0 23 79 8a 74 98 58 d5 f4 17 ea 50 18
                                                        ....#y.t .X....P.
     ff ff 56 cd 00 00 47 45 54 20 2f 73 6e 6f 6f 70
0030
                                                        ..V...GE T /snoop
     2f 20 48 54 54 50 2f 31 2e 31 0d 0a 41 63 63 65
                                                        / HTTP/1 .1..Acce
0040
     70 74 3a 20 69 6d 61 67 65 2f 67 69 66 2c 20 69
0050
                                                        pt: imag e/gif, i
     6d 61 67 65 2f 6a 70 65 67 2c 20 69 6d 61 67 65
0060
                                                        mage/jpe g, image
0070
     2f 70 6a 70 65 67 2c 20 69 6d 61 67 65 2f 70 6a
                                                        /pipeg, image/pi
0080
     70 65 67 2c 20 61 70 70 6c 69 63 61 74 69 6f 6e
                                                        peg, app lication
0090
     2f 78 2d 73 68 6f 63 6b 77 61 76 65 2d 66 6c 61
                                                        /x-shock wave-fla
     73 68 2c 20 61 70 70 6c 69 63 61 74 69 6f 6e 2f
00a0
                                                        sh, appl ication/
                                                        vnd.ms-e xcel, ap
    76 6e 64 2e 6d 73 2d 65 78 63 65 6c 2c 20 61 70
00b0
00c0
     70 6c 69 63 61 74 69 6f 6e 2f 76 6e 64 2e 6d 73
                                                        plicatio n/vnd.ms
     2d 70 6f 77 65 72 70 6f 69 6e 74 2c 20 61 70 70
                                                        -powerpo int, app
```







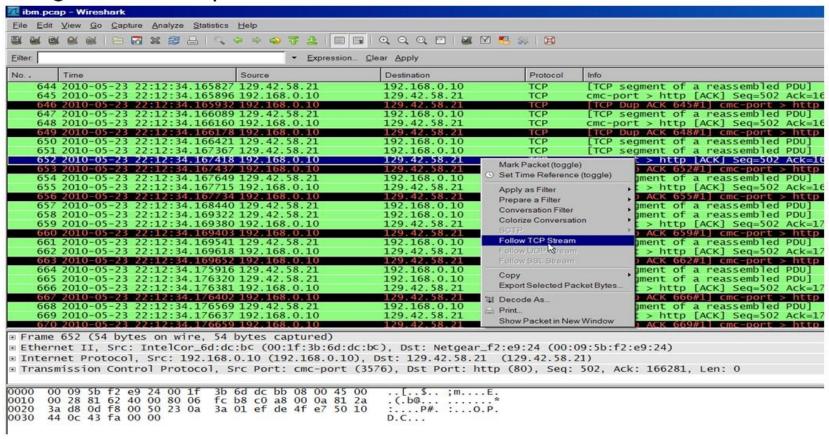


Since TCP packet traces can contain many TCP packets from different *Mac addresses*, *IP addresses* and *ports*, it is important to understand how to *filter a packet trace* when needed *to* see the complete communication for a single client<---->server connection



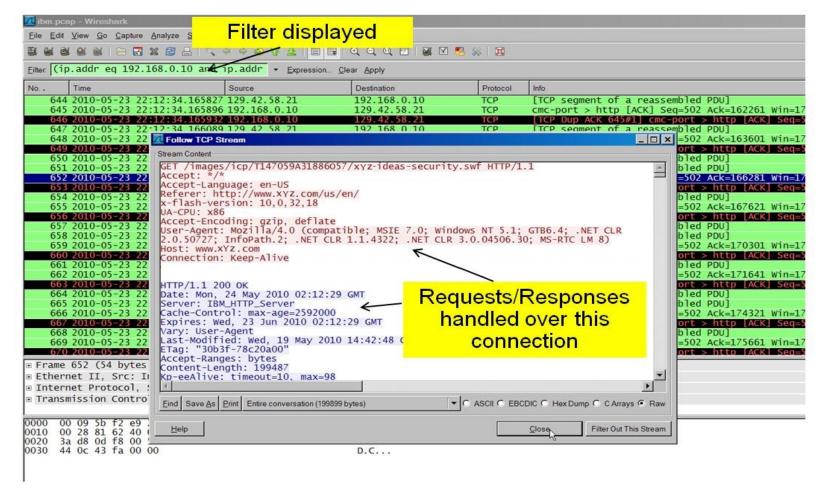


Right-click on a packet of interest and select "follow TCP Stream"





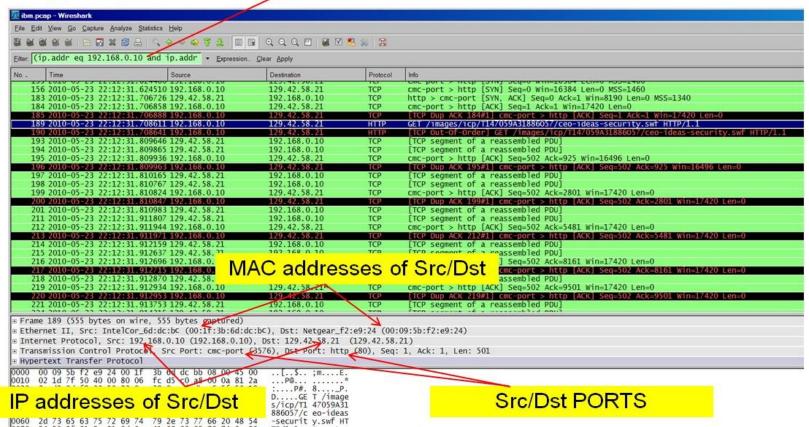








Filter → (ip.addr eq 192.168.0.10 and ip.addr eq 129.42.58.21) and (tcp.port eq 3576 and tcp.port eq 80)







Basic breakdown of TCP/IP communication flow

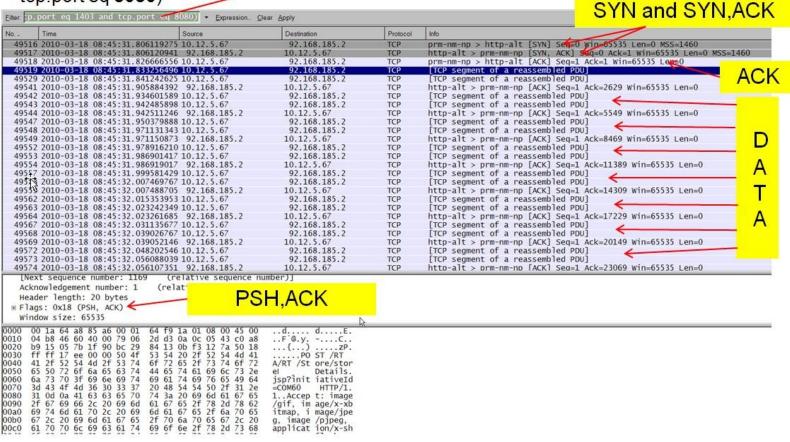
Now that you have seen how to filter a TCP connection, it is also important to have a *general* understanding of the **sequence of events which take place over a connection**. This understanding is vital in "logically" following the conversation between a client and server





Basic breakdown of TCP/IP communication flow

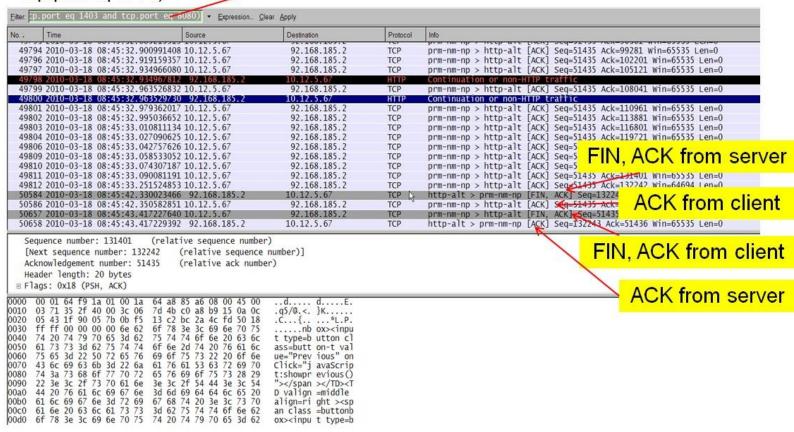
Filter → (ip.addr eq 10.12.5.67 and ip.addr eq 92.168.185.2) and (tcp.port eq 1403 and tcp.port eq 8080)





Basic breakdown of TCP/IP communication flow

Filter → (ip.addr eq 10.12.5.67 and ip.addr eq 92.168.185.2) and (tcp.port eq 1403 and tcp.port eq 8080)







Summary

- Provided a description of TCP
- Listed some common technical problems that would warrant gathering a TCP packet trace to help with debugging. More on debugging will be covered in the TCP Packet Tracing - Part 2 WebSphere Support Technical Exchange
- Made suggestions on where to collect TCP packet tracing depending on the network topology
- Provided examples of the available operating system TCP packet capture tools
- Walked through the wireshark gui and packet panes
- Demonstrated how to Filter a TCP connection
- Finally, TCP/IP communication flow was explained





Additional WebSphere Product Resources

- Learn about upcoming WebSphere Support Technical Exchange webcasts, and access previously recorded presentations at: http://www.ibm.com/software/websphere/support/supp_tech.html
- Discover the latest trends in WebSphere Technology and implementation, participate in technically-focused briefings, webcasts and podcasts at: http://www.ibm.com/developerworks/websphere/community/
- Join the Global WebSphere Community: http://www.websphereusergroup.org
- Access key product show-me demos and tutorials by visiting IBM® Education Assistant: http://www.ibm.com/software/info/education/assistant
- View a webcast replay with step-by-step instructions for using the Service Request (SR) tool for submitting problems electronically: http://www.ibm.com/software/websphere/support/d2w.html
- Sign up to receive weekly technical My Notifications emails: http://www.ibm.com/software/support/einfo.html



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Questions and Answers

