Demystifying Networking
Department of Computer Science and Engineering
Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay

Lecture – 07
Listening to the Internet chatter

So now, you have seen there is a lot of communication that has over the internet, lot of applications trying to connect to their servers and the servers setting responses. So, your laptop itself has a lot of applications apart from the web browser we choose the internet. Now it would be really interesting to see if we could see this actual communication or as we say the chatter happening over the internet between all these devices. And yes, there is a software that can help us just do that, And that software is Wireshark.

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So, basically Wireshark is a software that allows us to capture live internet traffic. And when we say live internet traffic, we can actually see the layer by layer architecture of the traffic, how each layer has its own information and that information later allows the communication to happen. Now, let us go and look at how Wireshark works.
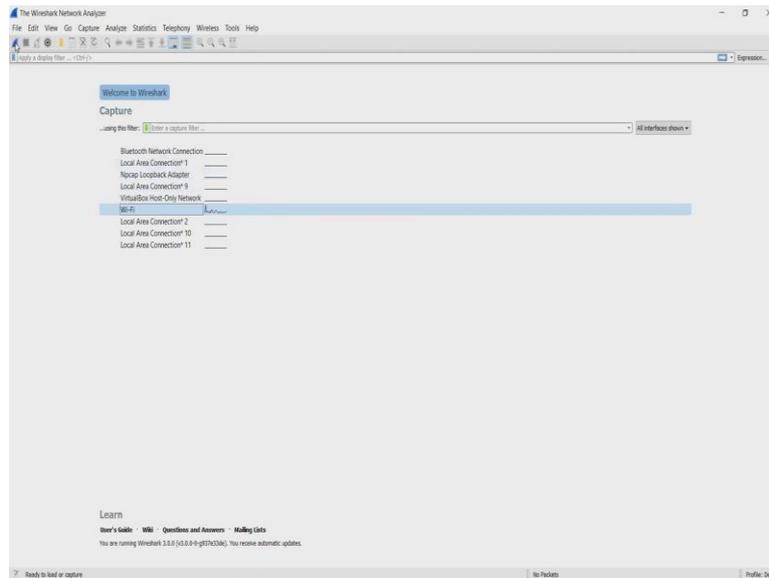
Now, I am going to open Wireshark. Wireshark is a free software you can download it, once you have installed it, just double click and once you double click it will look for the different type of networks that are available on your computer. For example, on this laptop we have a Wi-Fi card. So, I will select my Wi-Fi as the network interface that I want to monitor. And once I have done that, I will click on this blue colored fin to start capturing the communication.
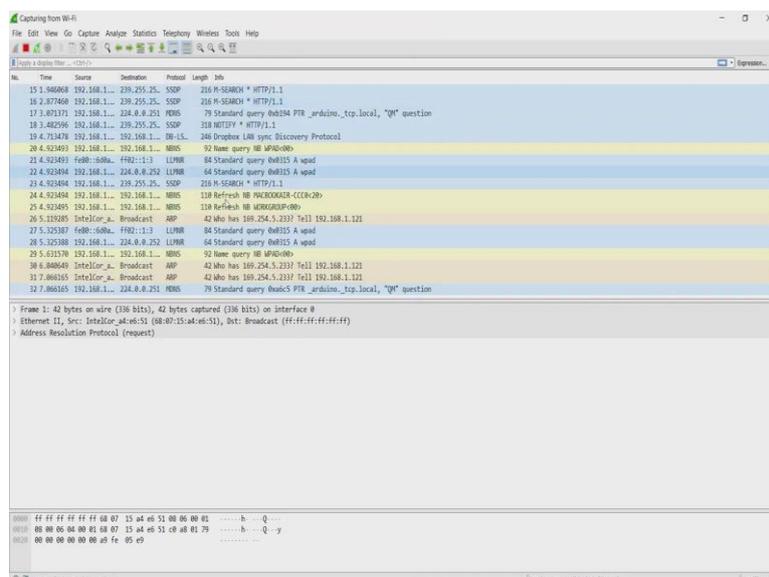
So, as I click here what you see is that a number of packets are being shown, these are basically the communication that is happening from my laptop to different servers.