SharkFest '16 Europe

Troubleshooting WLANs (Part 1)

Layer 1 & 2 Analysis using WiSpy & AirPcap
19. October 2016

Welcome!

Rolf Leutert
Leutert NetServices
Switzerland
www.netsniffing.ch

#sf16eu

Rolf Leutert, El. Ing. HTL
Leutert NetServices
Zürich-Airport, Switzerland

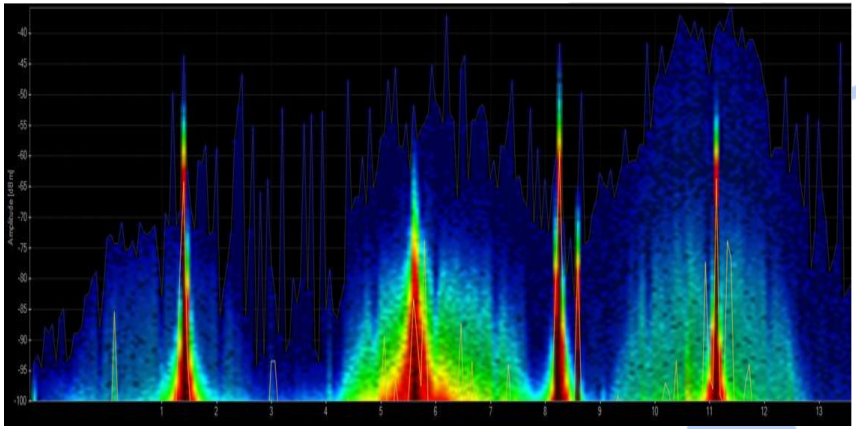
- Network Analysis & Troubleshooting
- Protocol Trainings TCP/IP, WLAN, VoIP, IPv6
- Wireshark® Certified Network Analyst 2010
- Wireshark® Instructor since 2006
- Sniffer® certified Instructor since 1990

leutert@netsniffing.ch
www.netsniffing.ch

- Learn what you can see on WLAN layer 1 and layer 2
- Learn which tools can help you finding WLAN problems
- Learn how to use WiSpy to isolate layer 1 issues
- Learn how to use Radiotap and PPI header information
- Learn how to customize Wireshark to show you specific WLAN information

Troubleshooting wireless networks is a demanding task and requires detailed understanding of important functions on layer 1 and 2 !

Troubleshooting WLANs comprises Layer 1 and Layer 2

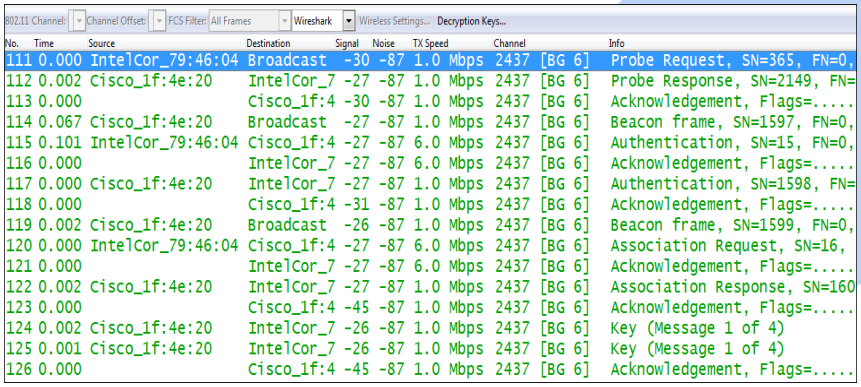


Layer 1 - Physical Access

FH, DSSS, OFDM, coding, modulation, bands, channels, frequencies, noise, signal strength, interferences etc.

Clients: WiFi and non-WiFi devices like surveillance cameras, remote control, microwave, health gadgets etc.

Tools: Spectrum Analyser (e.g. Wi-Spy)



No.	Time	Source	Destination	Signal	Noise	TX Speed	Channel	Info
111	0.000	IntelCor_79:46:04	Broadcast	-30	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Probe Request, SN=365, FN=0,
112	0.002	Cisco_1f:4e:20	IntelCor_7	-27	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Probe Response, SN=2149, FN=
113	0.000		Cisco_1f:4	-30	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Acknowledgement, Flags=.....
114	0.067	Cisco_1f:4e:20	Broadcast	-27	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Beacon frame, SN=1597, FN=0,
115	0.101	IntelCor_79:46:04	Cisco_1f:4	-27	-87	6.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Authentication, SN=15, FN=0,
116	0.000		IntelCor_7	-27	-87	6.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Acknowledgement, Flags=.....
117	0.000	Cisco_1f:4e:20	IntelCor_7	-27	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Authentication, SN=1598, FN=
118	0.000		Cisco_1f:4	-31	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Acknowledgement, Flags=.....
119	0.002	Cisco_1f:4e:20	Broadcast	-26	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Beacon frame, SN=1599, FN=0,
120	0.000	IntelCor_79:46:04	Cisco_1f:4	-27	-87	6.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Association Request, SN=16,
121	0.000		IntelCor_7	-27	-87	6.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Acknowledgement, Flags=.....
122	0.002	Cisco_1f:4e:20	IntelCor_7	-27	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Association Response, SN=160
123	0.000		Cisco_1f:4	-45	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Acknowledgement, Flags=.....
124	0.002	Cisco_1f:4e:20	IntelCor_7	-26	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Key (Message 1 of 4)
125	0.001	Cisco_1f:4e:20	IntelCor_7	-26	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Key (Message 1 of 4)
126	0.000		Cisco_1f:4	-45	-87	1.0 Mbps	2437 [BG 6]	Acknowledgement, Flags=.....

Layer 2 - Data Link Control

WiFi Standards 802.11 a/b/g/n/ac framing, management, access control, security, encryption etc.

Clients: WiFi compatible devices only

Tools: Wireshark, AirPcap, Scanners

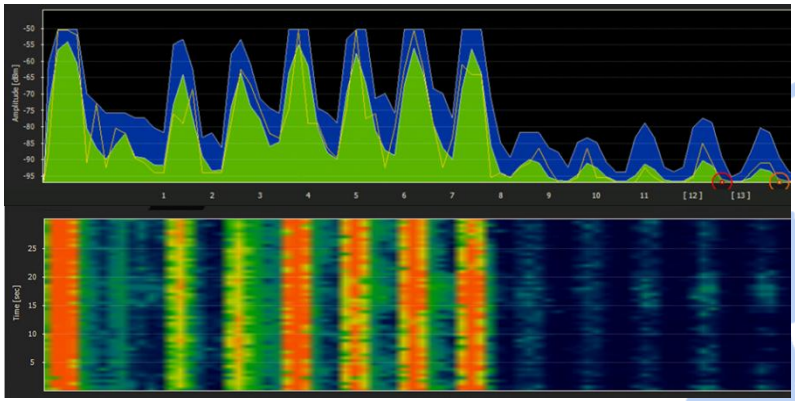
- WLAN (WiFi) devices are working in the 2.4 GHz ISM* and 5 GHz UNII** bands
- But both bands are free for any use, WiFi as well as non-WiFi devices
- Especially the 2.4 GHz band is often crowded with non-WiFi devices
- The only limitation is max. radiated power according to country regulations
- Non-WiFi clients use any kind of modulation and may interfere with WiFi
- Layer 2 tools like Wireshark can not detect non-WiFi devices
- Spectrum analyzers scan the bands and show shape and strength of all signals

Wi-Spy® DBx spectrum scanner and Chanalizer® software displays and records all layer 1 signals in both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands.

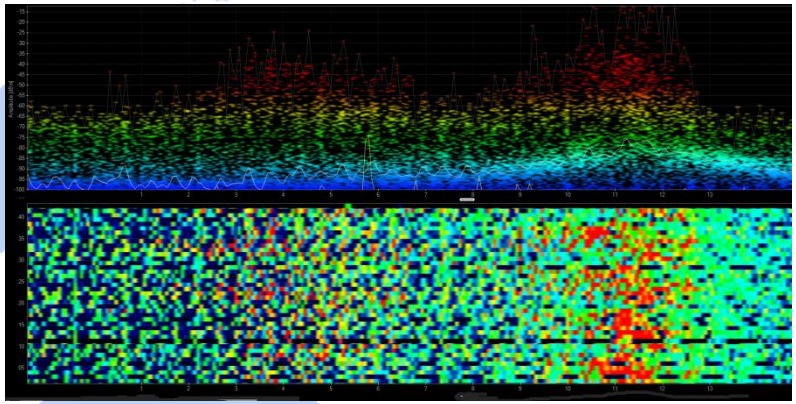
www.metageek.com

* ISM Industrial, Scientific and Medical
**UNII Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure

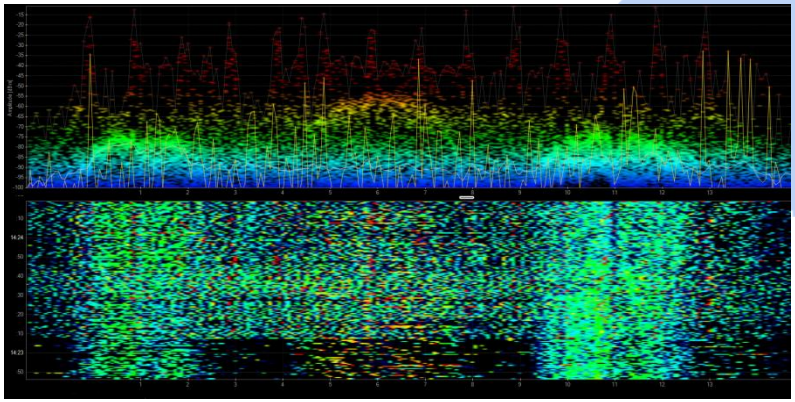
Non-WiFi Devices' Signatures



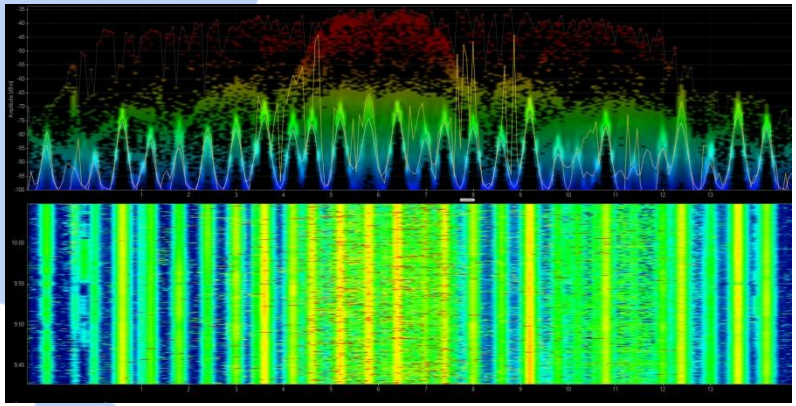
Home trainers in a fitness center



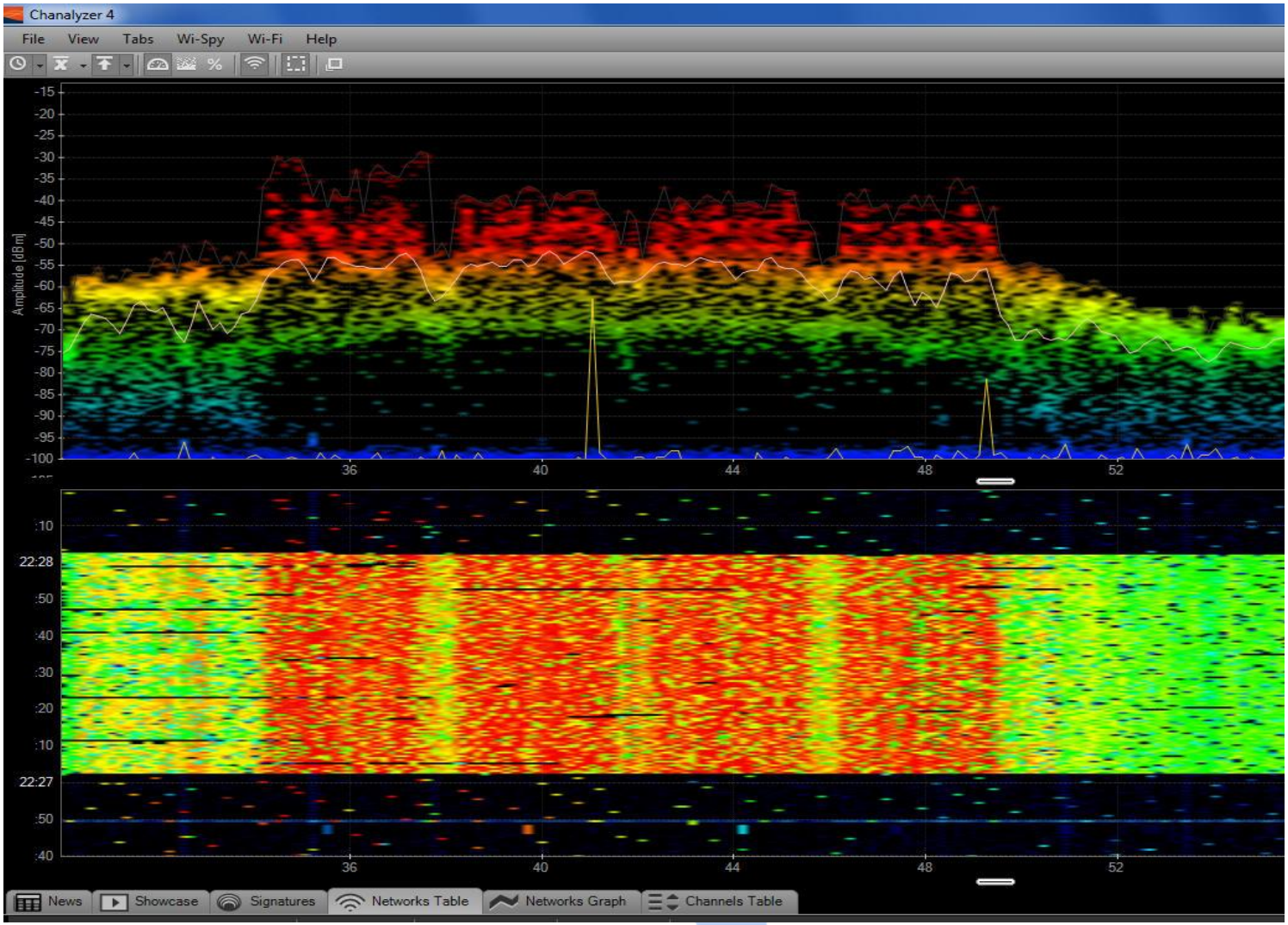
Microwave oven



Remote control of model airplanes



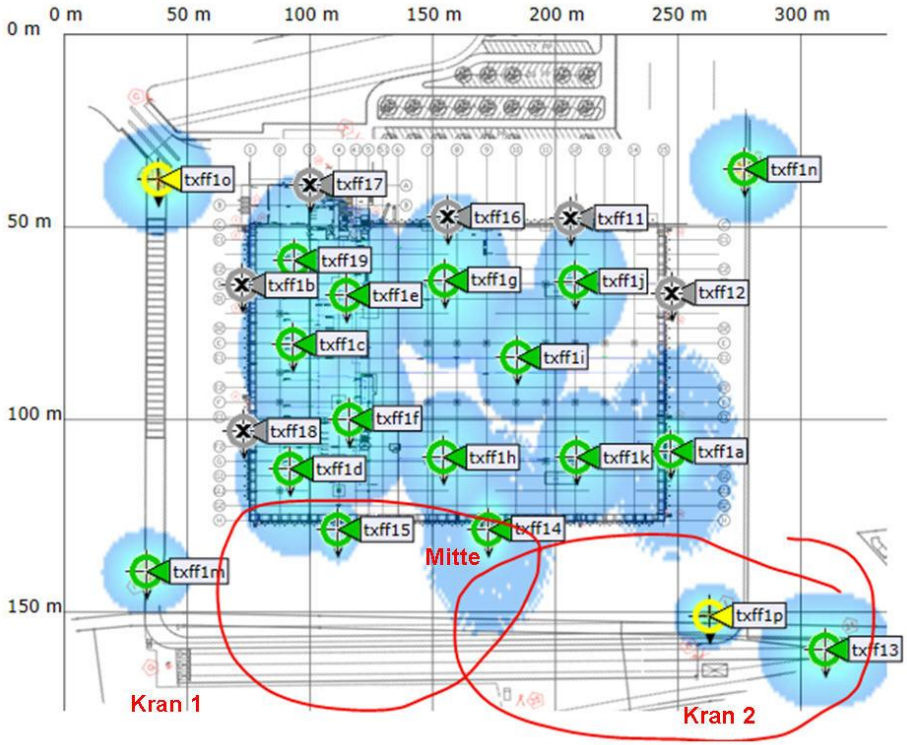
Wireless guitar

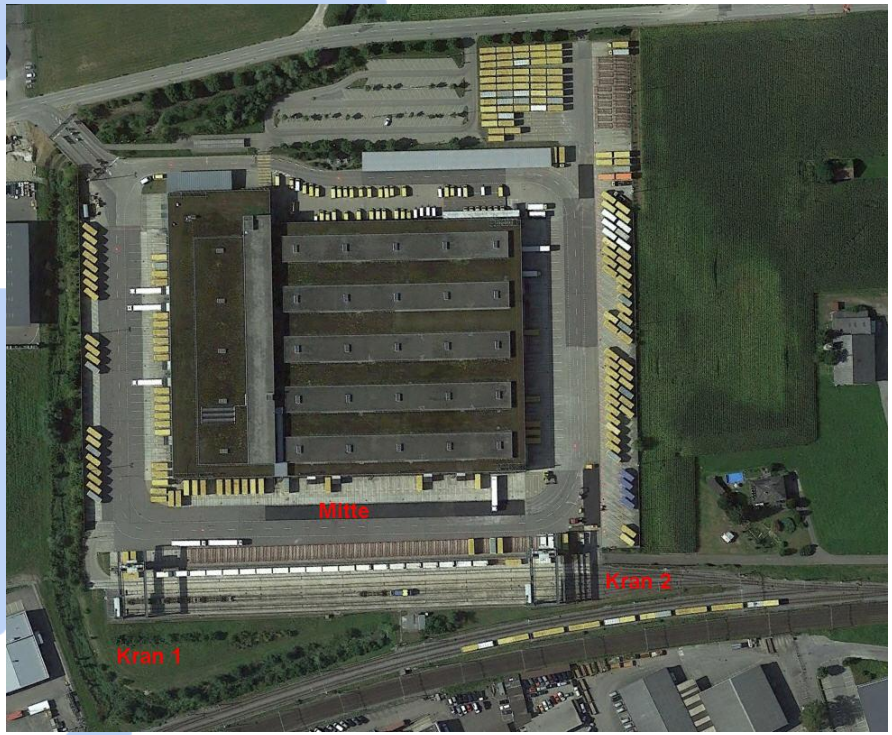


WiFi 802.11ac with four bonded channels

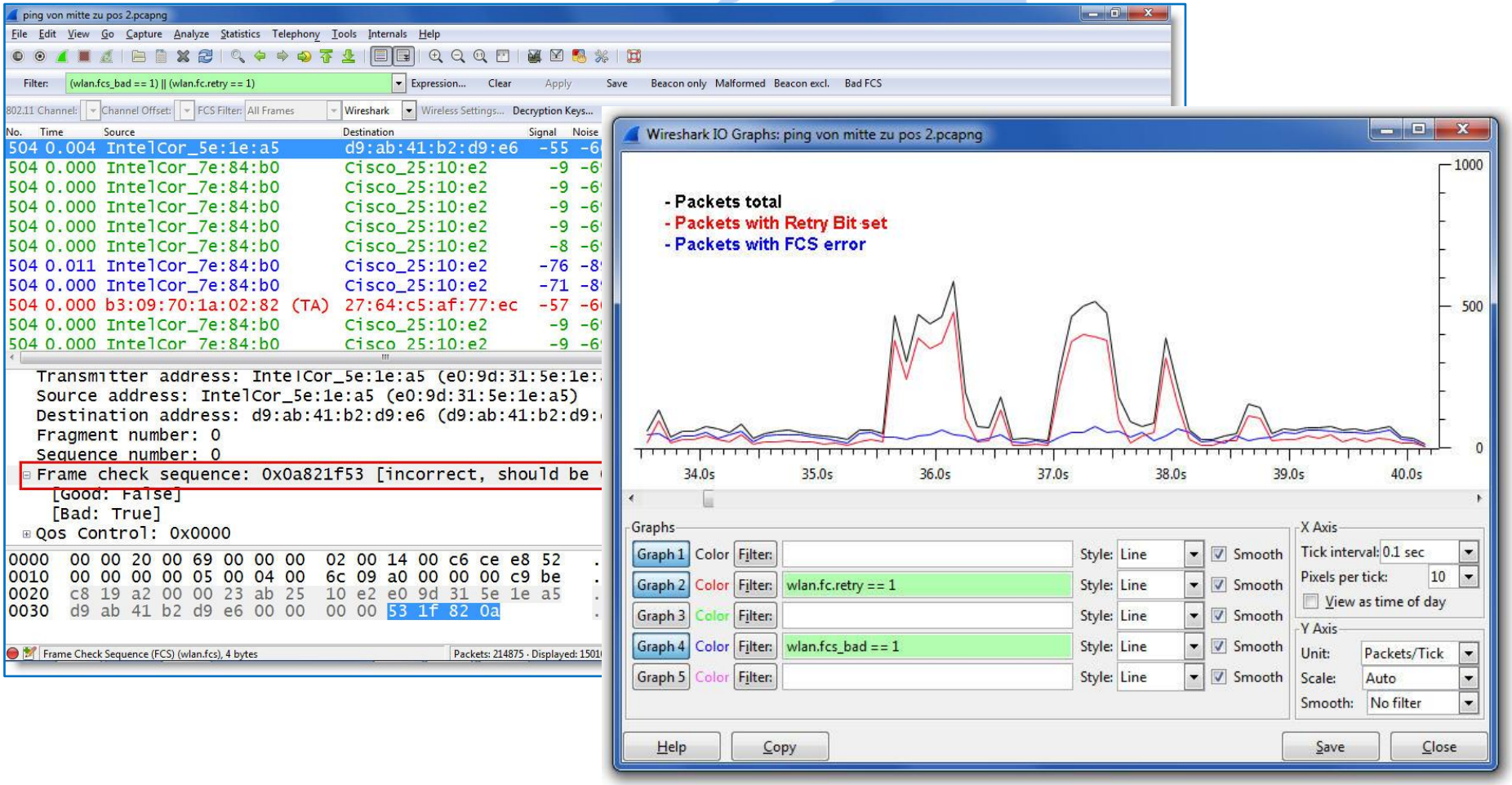
- Large logistic enterprise, depending on WLAN for day-to-day operations
- Two container cranes to load/unload trains require WLAN connections

- User complain about log-in timeouts and disconnections during operations
- Crane #2 is hardly usable due to unreliable WLAN connection
- Tech-Support has already changed WiFi channels and added additional AP



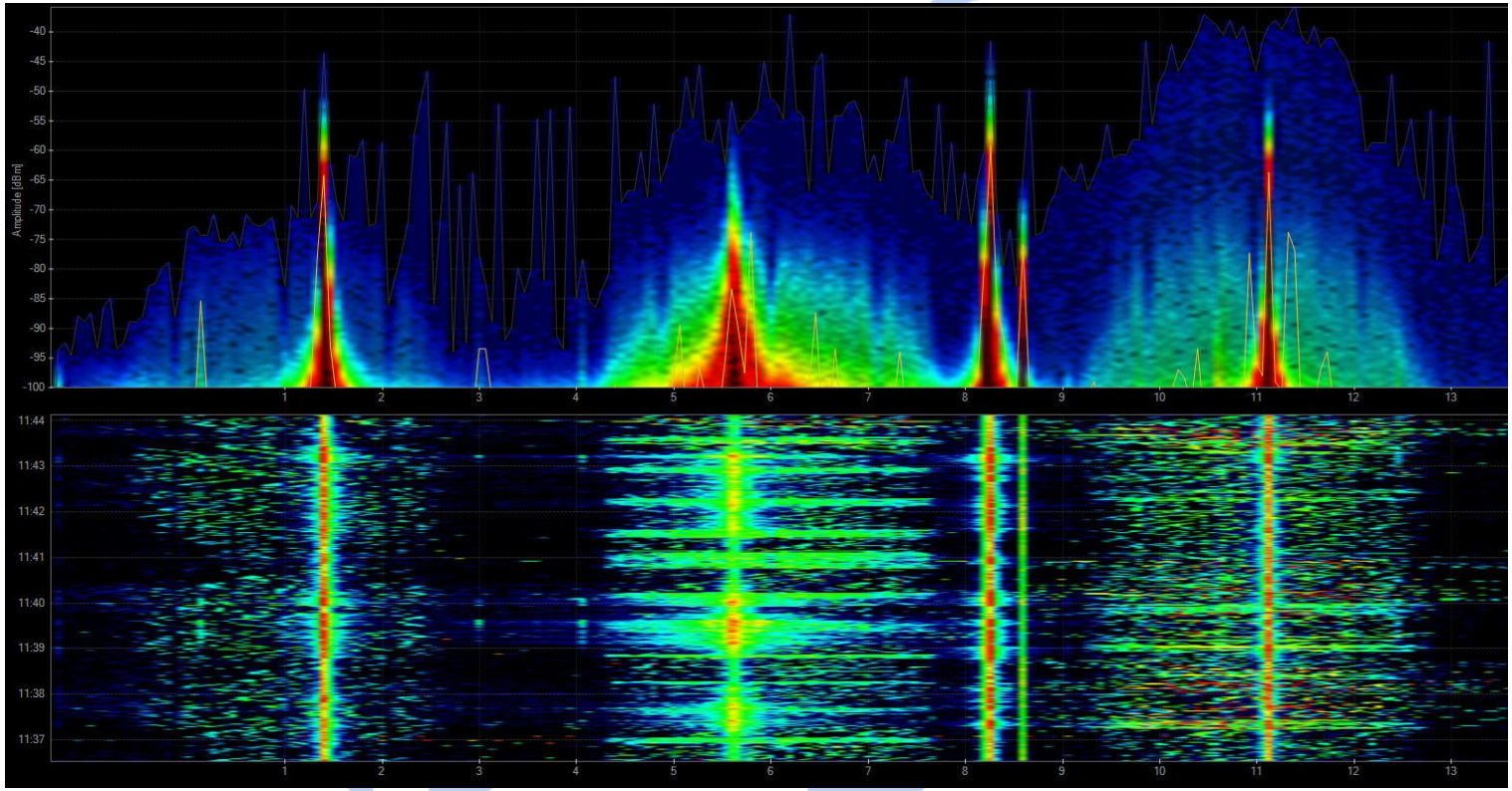


- Starting with layer 2 analysis near crane #2 in channels 1, 6, and 11
- Wireshark shows up to 70% of frames with bad FCS or the Retry Flag set



WLAN Layer 1 Analysis (Case one)

- Continuing with layer 1 analysis near crane #2 in 2.4 GHz band
- Strong interference with non-WiFi signals on all three channels detected



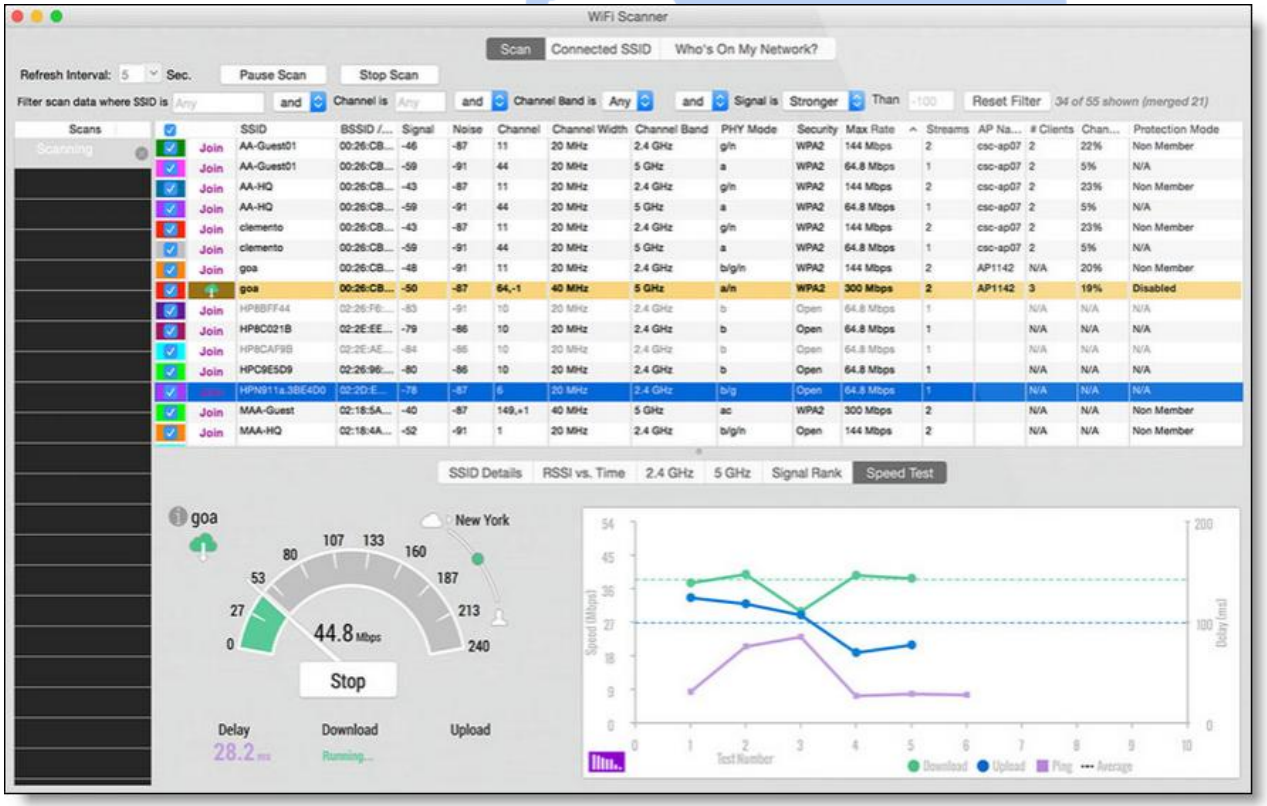
- Signal source is outside of customers campus' → Swiss radio authority informed
- If this transmitting power is within legal limits → Change to 5 GHz band required

- Swiss radio authority (BAKOM) scanned the 2.4 GHz band with their own tool
- They detected a strongly interfering signal caused by a railway induction loop

BAKOM scan result

Traffic monitoring induction loop

- WiFi scanners show you available access points with lots of information like SSID, channel no, channel width, max. rate, security mode etc.
- Some tools are able to perform throughput simulations
- No adapter required, WiFi scanners are using internal WLAN cards



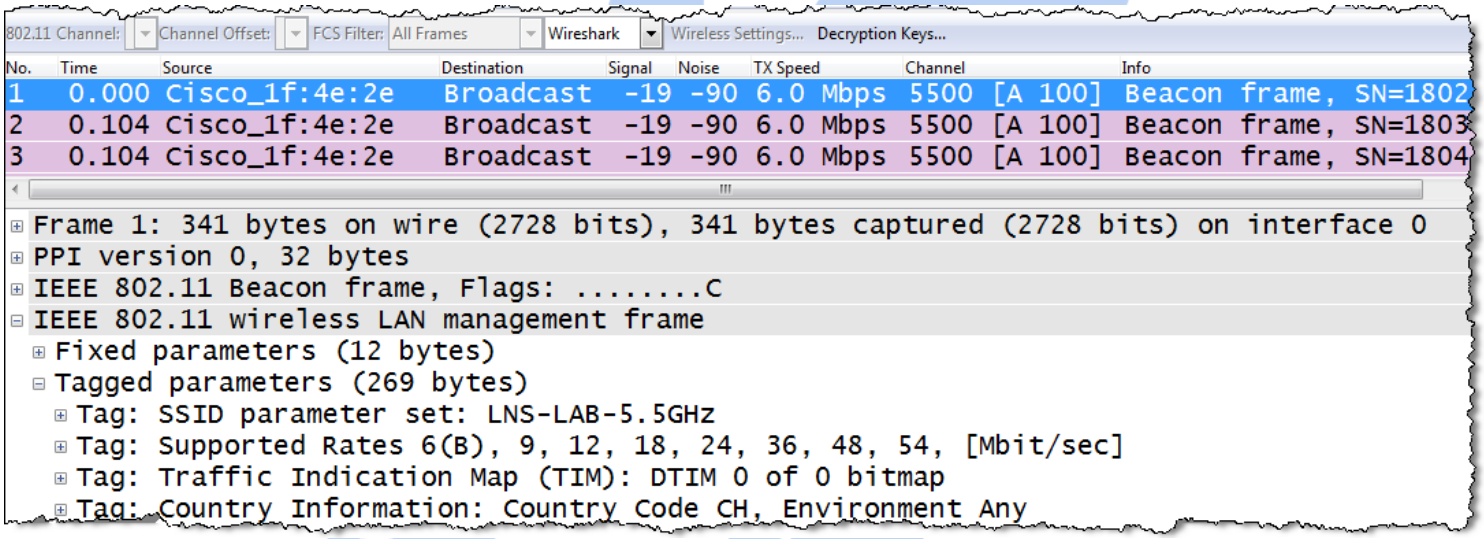
WiFi Scanners (just a few popular ones)

Acrylic WiFi scanner	www.acrylicwifi.com
Ekahau HeatMapper	www.ekahau.com
inSSIDer	www.metageek.com
NetStumbler	www.netstumbler.com
Wifi Analyzer (Android)	play.google.com
WifiInfoView	www.nirsoft.net
WifiScanner	wifiscanner.sourceforge.net
Wifi Scanner	www.apple.com/osx/apps/app-store

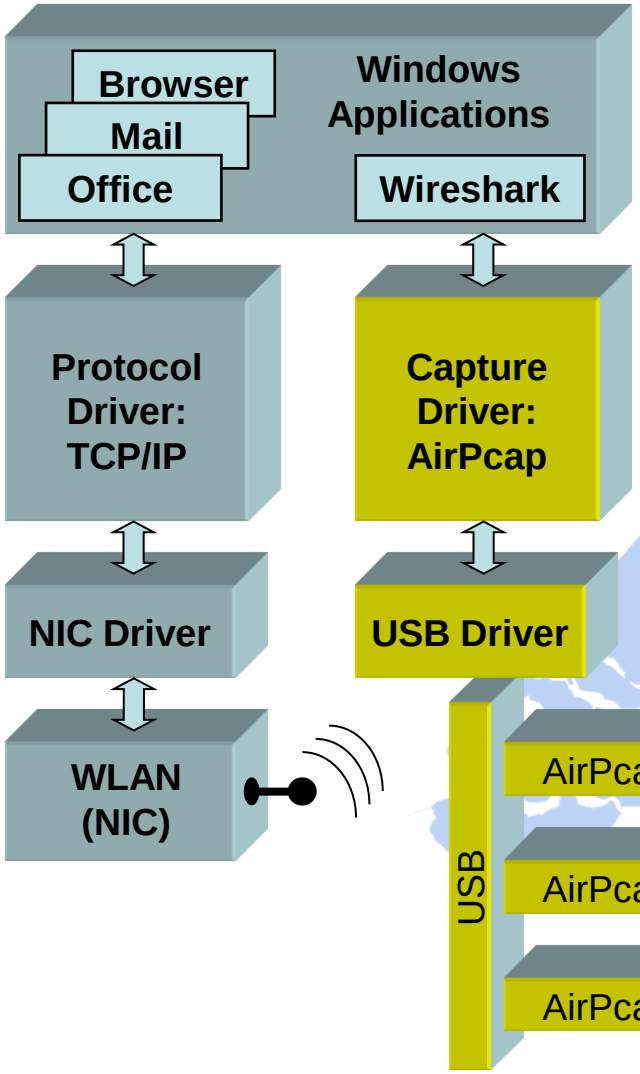
BTW: For iPhone/iPad, IOS Apple has locked direct access to the WiFi card for stability and other unknown reasons. Jailbreak is required to install and run WiFi Scanner apps on these devices.

All these tools have the following limitations in common:

- Scanning on layer 2, therefore only WiFi devices can be detected.
- Non-802.11 sources like surveillance cameras etc. are invisible.
- WiFi scanners read data from Beacon and other management frames



WiFi Scanners will not provide any information if Beacon frames interfere with non 802.11 devices on layer 1!

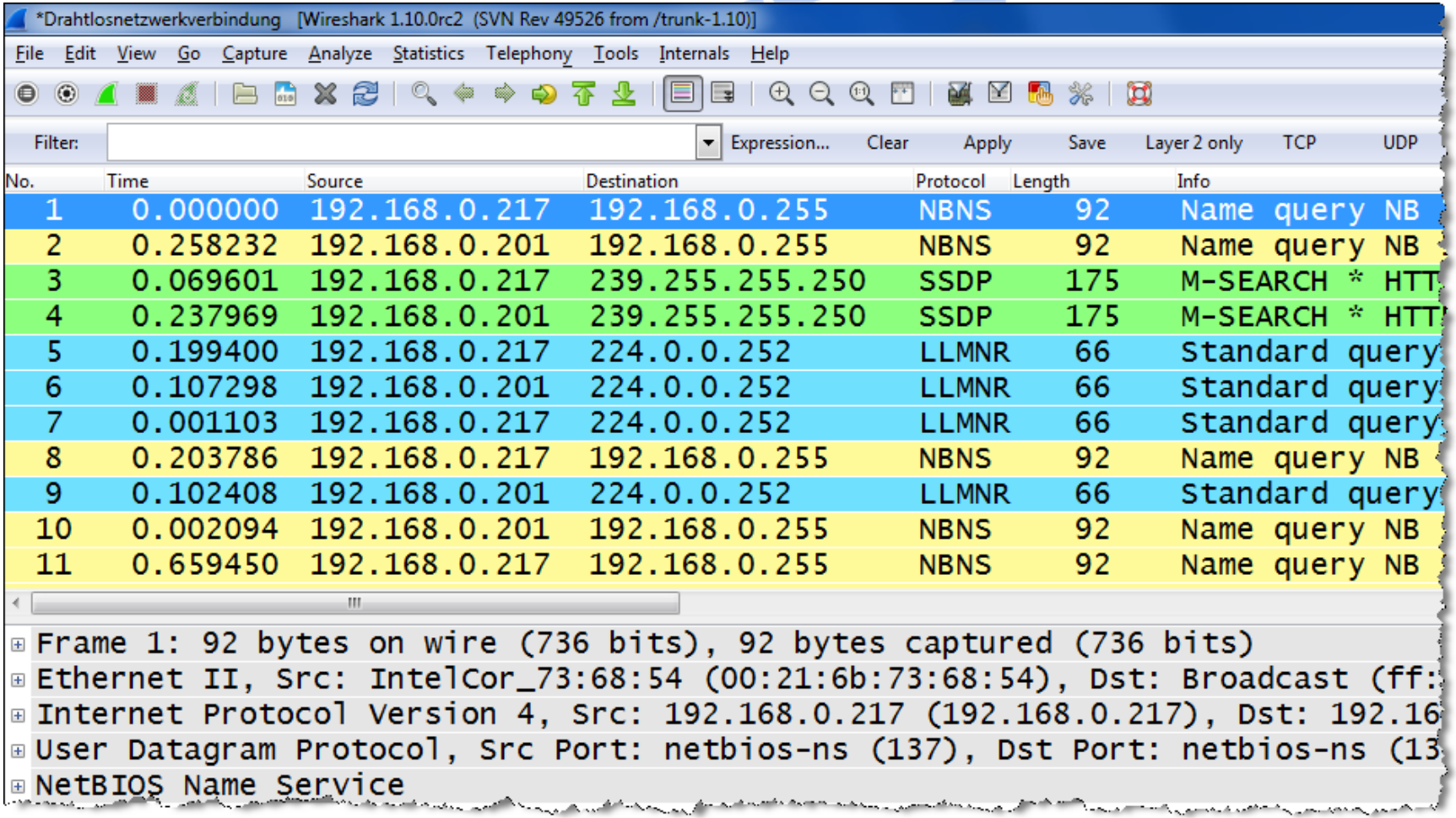


Frequently Asked Questions:

- Can I use my built-in WLAN NIC with Wireshark?
  → Only your own traffic and no management and control frames will be captured
- Why would I need multiple AirPcaps?
  → To capture roaming processes
- Can I use AirPcaps to join a WLAN?
  → No, AirPcaps are monitoring devices only.
- Can I decrypt data with AirPcap adapter?
  → Yes, if shared keys are used, key is available and key negotiation is captured

MAC OS X and some Linux Drivers also support WLAN monitoring:
http://linuxwireless.org/en/users/Drivers

- Capturing with the built-in WLAN NIC may display faked Ethernet frames only
- Only Data frames and no Radio or WLAN header will be seen



Key features:

- Radio cells use one or multiple 20 MHz channels (n/ac) to increase throughput
- Each radio cell is a shared media and is controlled by an Access Point (AP)
- A mobile client can be associated with only one AP at the time
- Radio cell access is controlled by managements and control frames
- Wireshark with AirPcap can capture and analyze these frames
- Understanding of these frames is crucial for WLAN troubleshooting

AirPcap Nx 802.11a/b/g/n USB - adapter works with Wireshark and captures WiFi packets in both 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz bands.

www.riverbed.com/products/

AirPcap Nx Driver Support:

Version 4.1.1:
(Unless otherwise noted, both 32 and 64 bit are supported.)

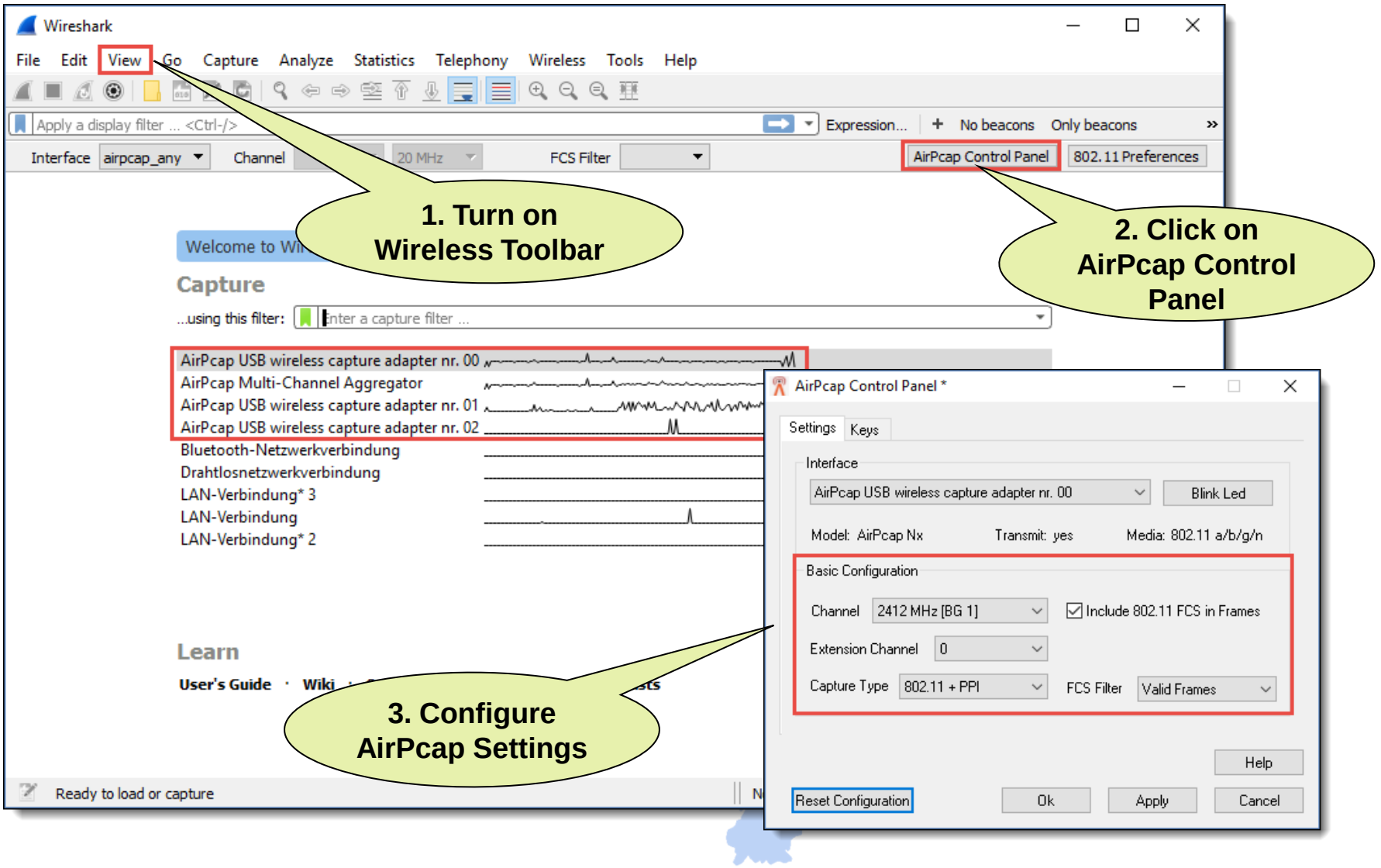
- Windows 2000 (32-bit only)
- Windows XP
- Windows Vista
- Windows 2000 Server (32-bit only)
- Windows Server 2003
- Windows Server 2008

Version 4.1.3:
(Unless otherwise noted, both 32 and 64 bit are supported.)

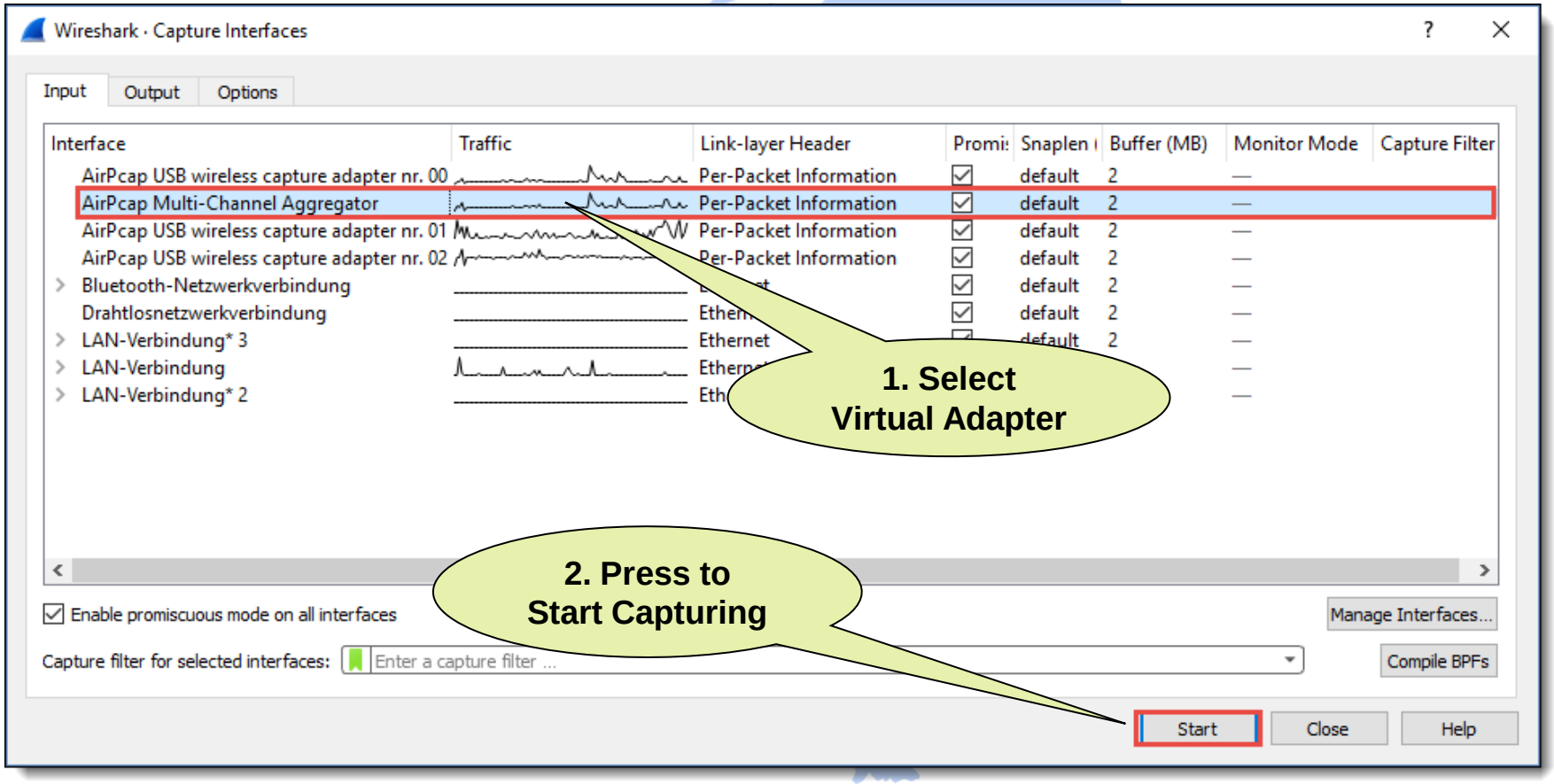
- Windows 7 Note 1
- Windows 8
- Windows 8.1
- Windows Server 2008 R2
- Windows Server 2012
- Windows Server 2012 R2

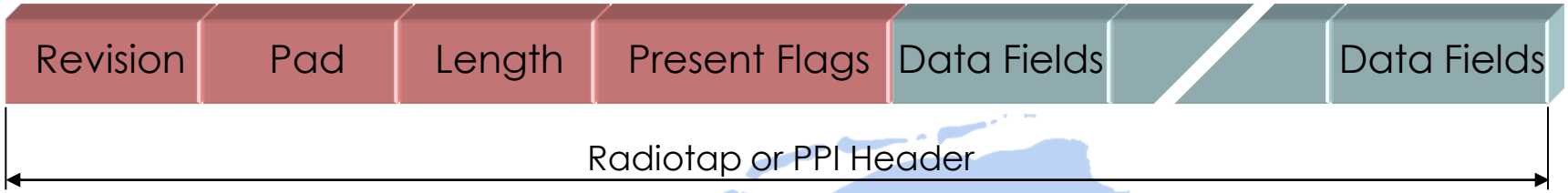
Chart notes:
[1] Windows 7 does not officially support USB 3.0, so inserting an AirPcap adapter into some USB 3.0 interfaces may crash a system. When an AirPcap Nx adapter is inserted into a USB 3.0 port of Intel Series 7 or 8 chipset, Windows 7 will crash. Some third-party USB 3.0 controllers, for example, Fresco Logic xHCI (USB3) Controller FL1100 Series or VIA USB eXtensible Host Controller, works fine.

Release notes:
https://support.riverbed.com/content/support/software/steelcentral-npm/airpcap.html


Wireshark
File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help
Apply a display filter ... <Ctrl-/>
Expression... + No beacons Only beacons
Interface airpcap_any Channel 20 MHz FCS Filter
AirPcap Control Panel
802.11 Preferences
1. Turn on Wireless Toolbar
2. Click on AirPcap Control Panel
Capture
...using this filter: Enter a capture filter ...
AirPcap USB wireless capture adapter nr. 00
AirPcap Multi-Channel Aggregator
AirPcap USB wireless capture adapter nr. 01
AirPcap USB wireless capture adapter nr. 02
Bluetooth-Netzwerkverbindung
Drahtlosnetzwerkverbindung
LAN-Verbindung* 3
LAN-Verbindung
LAN-Verbindung* 2
Learn
User's Guide · Wiki
3. Configure AirPcap Settings
Ready to load or capture
AirPcap Control Panel *
Settings Keys
Interface
AirPcap USB wireless capture adapter nr. 00
Blink Led
Model: AirPcap Nx
Transmit: yes
Media: 802.11 a/b/g/n
Basic Configuration
Channel 2412 MHz [BG 1]
Include 802.11 FCS in Frames
Extension Channel 0
Capture Type 802.11 + PPI
FCS Filter Valid Frames
Help
Reset Configuration
Ok
Apply
Cancel

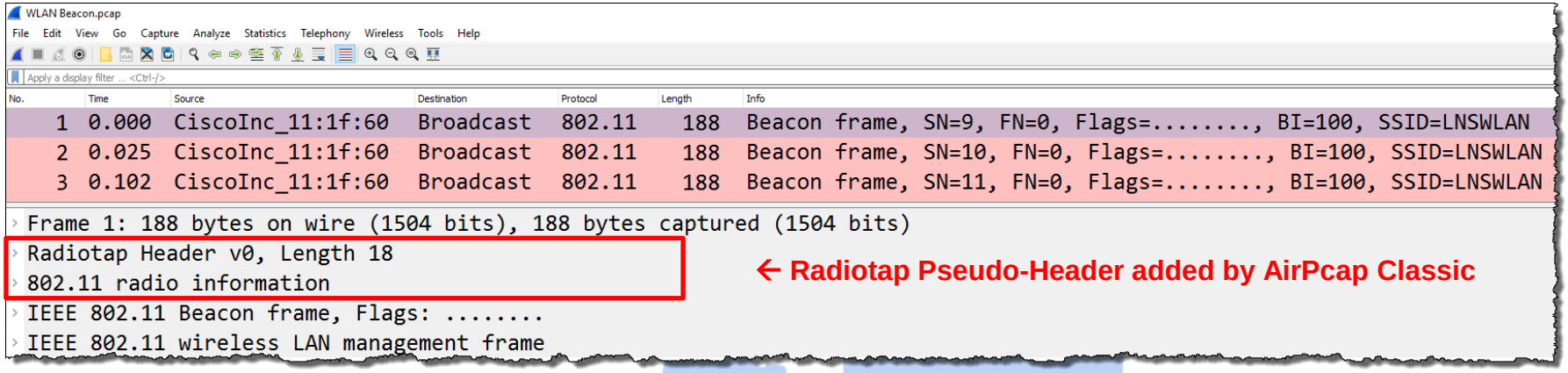
- You may have to start Wireshark in Admin Mode to see the AirPcap I/Fs
- Verify the settings on the Capture Interfaces pane

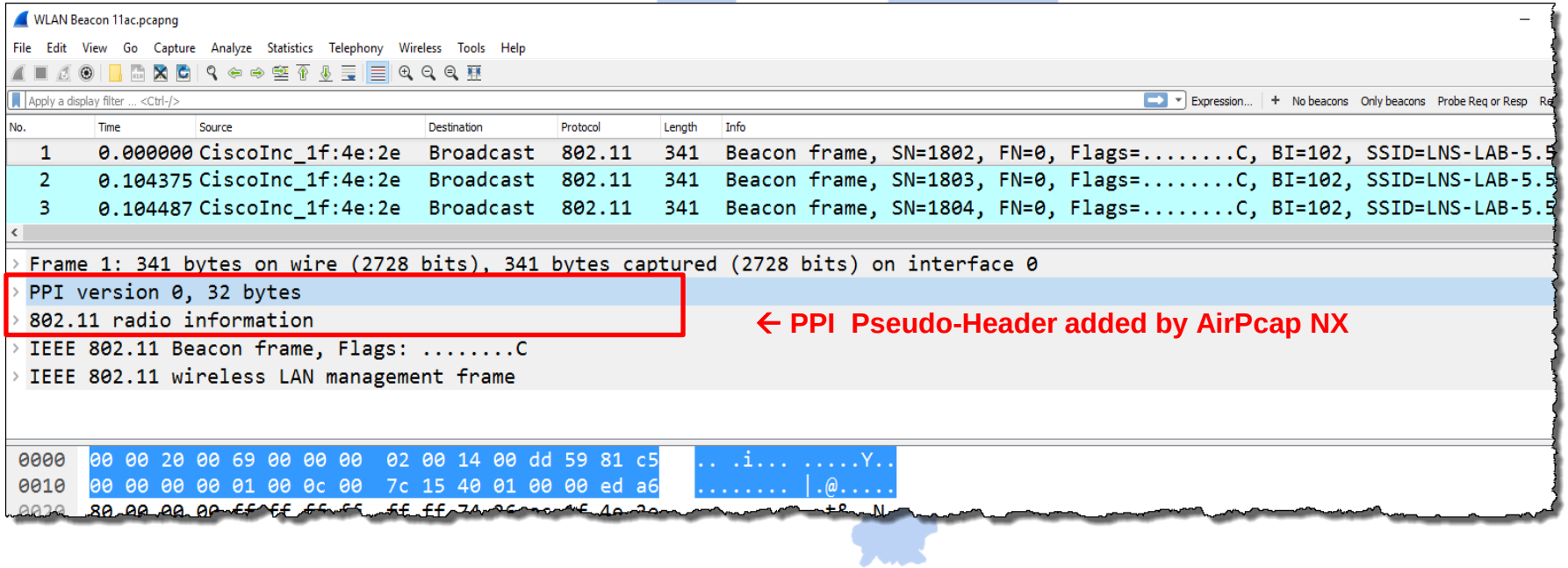




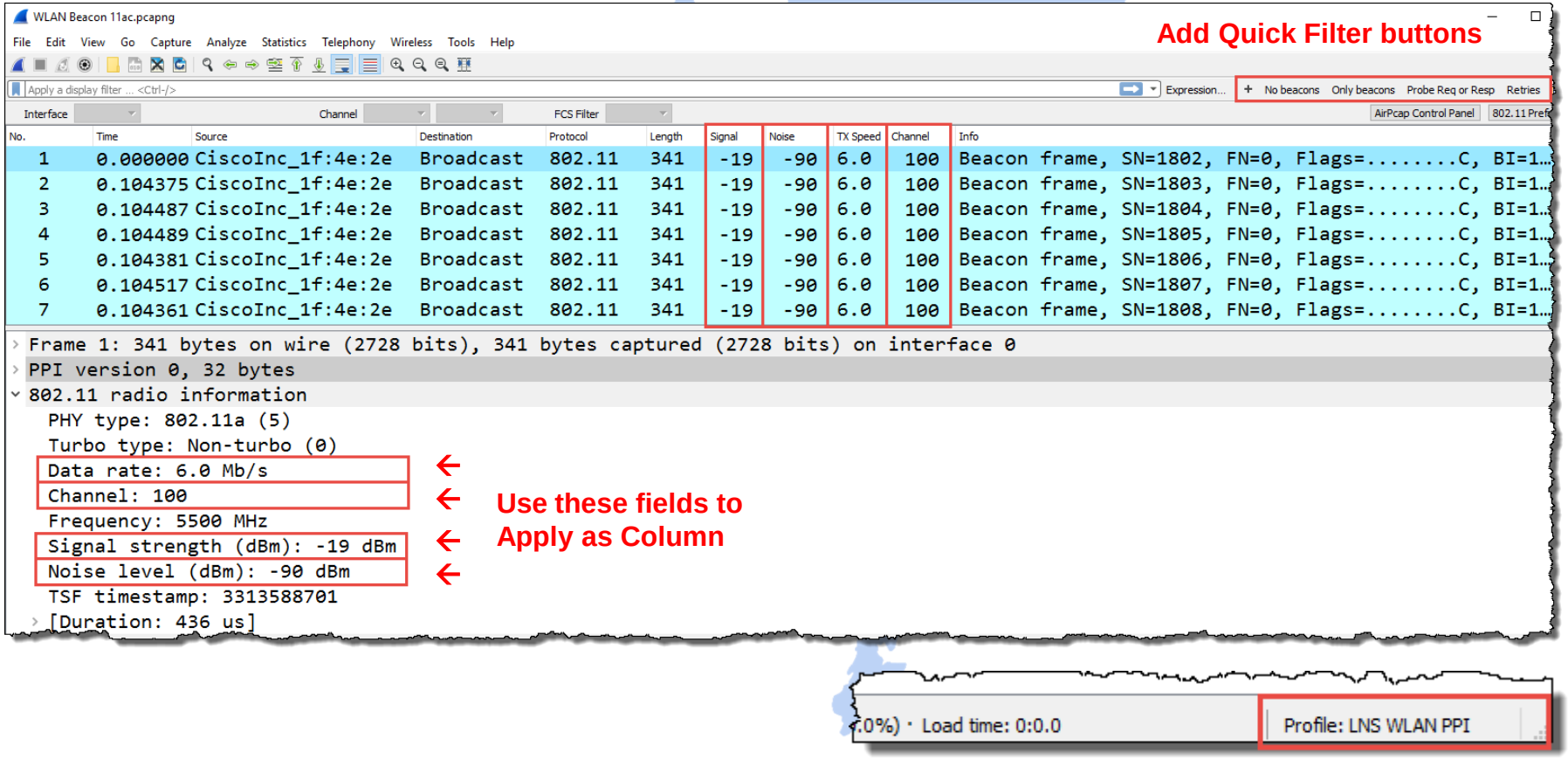
- Radiotap or the newer PPI (Per Packet Information) are so called *pseudo-headers* because they are not transmitted with the frame.
- They are added by the driver during reception and contain additional radio information about the frame.
- Receive signal strength, bit rate, channel number and other fields are added
- These fields can be added as columns in Wireshark and support troubleshooting
- Some other driver (i.e. MAC OS X) may also add these headers

More detailed information:
Radiotap: http://www.radiotap.org/Radiotap
PPI manual: http://www.cacetech.com/documents/PPI_Header_format_1.0.1.pdf

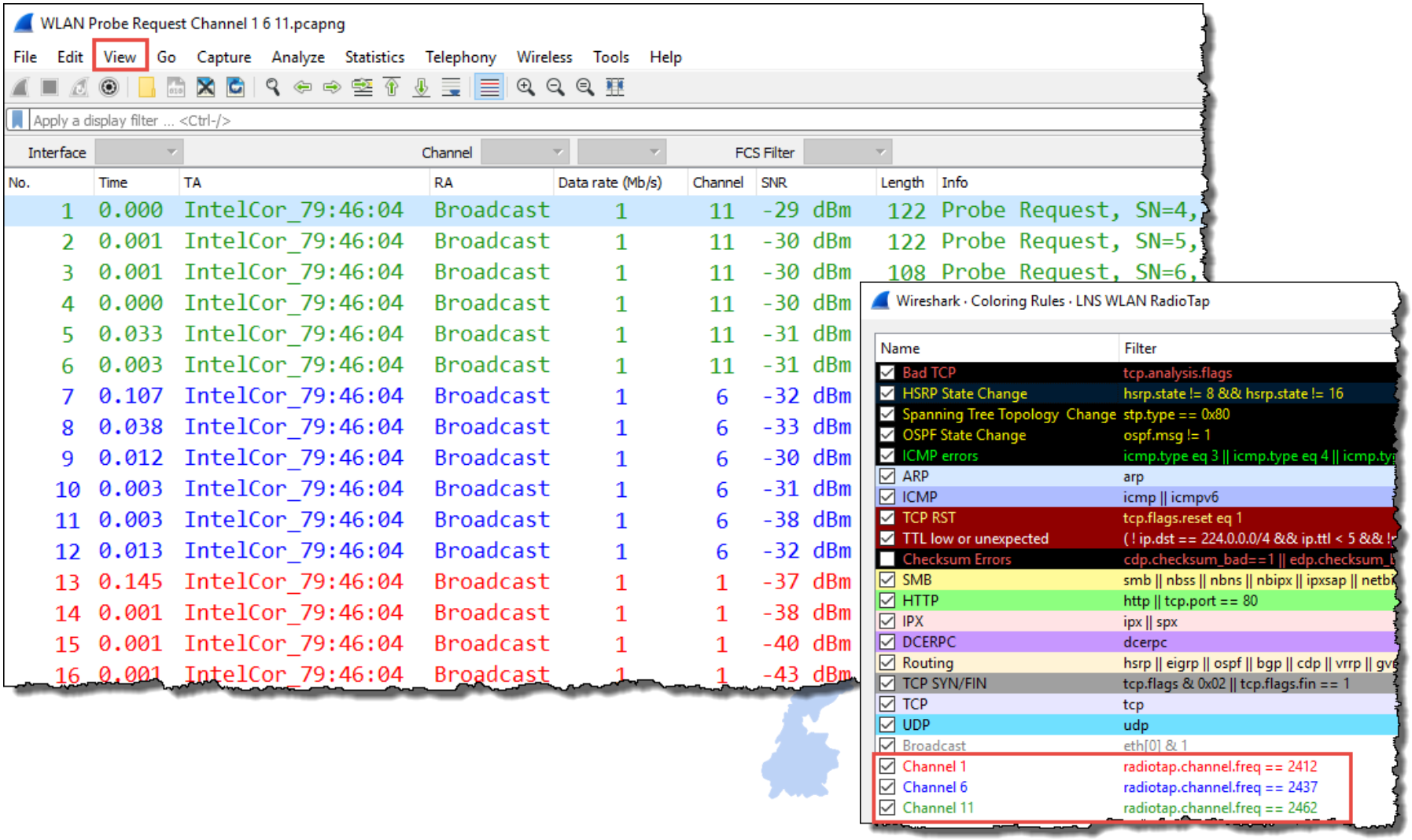

WLAN Beacon.pcap
File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help
Apply a display filter ... <Ctrl-/>
No. Time Source Destination Protocol Length Info
1 0.000 CiscoInc_11:1f:60 Broadcast 802.11 188 Beacon frame, SN=9, FN=0, Flags=........, BI=100, SSID=LNSWLAN
2 0.025 CiscoInc_11:1f:60 Broadcast 802.11 188 Beacon frame, SN=10, FN=0, Flags=........, BI=100, SSID=LNSWLAN
3 0.102 CiscoInc_11:1f:60 Broadcast 802.11 188 Beacon frame, SN=11, FN=0, Flags=........, BI=100, SSID=LNSWLAN
Frame 1: 188 bytes on wire (1504 bits), 188 bytes captured (1504 bits)
Radiotap Header v0, Length 18
802.11 radio information
IEEE 802.11 Beacon frame, Flags: ....
IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN management frame
← Radiotap Pseudo-Header added by AirPcap Classic


WLAN Beacon 11ac.pcapng
File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Wireless Tools Help
Apply a display filter ... <Ctrl-/>
Expression... + No beacons Only beacons Probe Req or Resp
No. Time Source Destination Protocol Length Info
1 0.000000 CiscoInc_1f:4e:2e Broadcast 802.11 341 Beacon frame, SN=1802, FN=0, Flags=........C, BI=102, SSID=LNS-LAB-5.5
2 0.104375 CiscoInc_1f:4e:2e Broadcast 802.11 341 Beacon frame, SN=1803, FN=0, Flags=........C, BI=102, SSID=LNS-LAB-5.5
3 0.104487 CiscoInc_1f:4e:2e Broadcast 802.11 341 Beacon frame, SN=1804, FN=0, Flags=........C, BI=102, SSID=LNS-LAB-5.5
Frame 1: 341 bytes on wire (2728 bits), 341 bytes captured (2728 bits) on interface 0
PPI version 0, 32 bytes
802.11 radio information
IEEE 802.11 Beacon frame, Flags: C
IEEE 802.11 wireless LAN management frame
0000 00 00 20 00 69 00 00 00 02 00 14 00 dd 59 81 c5 .. .i... .....Y..
0010 00 00 00 00 01 00 0c 00 7c 15 40 01 00 00 ed a6 .... |.@.....
← PPI Pseudo-Header added by AirPcap NX

- Create a Wireshark profile for WLAN settings
- Add columns with radio information values from the PPI header
- Add specific Quick Filter buttons with management & control frames



To add different channel colors select → View → Coloring Rules…



802.11Frame Types Overview

Management Frames:

- Beacon
- Probe Request & Response
- Authentication & Deauthentication
- Association & Disassociation
- Reassociation Request & Response
- Action

Control Frames:

- Request to Send (RTS)
- Clear to Send (CTS)
- Acknowledge / Block Acknowledge Request / Block Acknowledge
- Power Save Poll

Data Frames:

- Data
- Null Function

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That's it for part 1 !
Let's have a break and
hope to see you back for:

Troubleshooting WLANs (Part 2)

Troubleshooting WLANs using 802.11 Management & Control Frames
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Rolf Leutert
Leutert NetServices
Switzerland
www.netsniffing.ch

#sf16eu