

# **RUCKUS 802.11 PACKET ANALYSIS**

Technote (English translation)

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# 1 Introduction

This document describes how to use your Ruckus Wireless access point to capture 802.11 WLAN packages. You can use these captures to analyse Wi-Fi issues, to better understand why issues occur.

The purpose of this document is therefore to explain in a simple way how you can make packet captures using the Ruckus access points.

To capture packets using your Ruckus wireless access points, at least you need the following equipment:

- Ruckus access point
- Ruckus ZoneDirector (optional, not required)
- Device running Wireshark

Basic knowledge of the ZoneDirector is required to configure this option on ZoneDirector. Knowing the difference between the different tabs and where the different configuration options are located. In addition, it is good to be comfortable with the CLI of a Ruckus access point. Some knowledge about the use of Wireshark is also good to have.

The instructions given in this document are based on an English-language web interface from the ZoneDirector. If you have set the web interface to another language, the steps will be the same, but the names of the menus will differ.

The instructions given in this document are based on firmware version 9.7.0.0.220. If you have a lower firmware, then you have the chance that some functionalities are not yet available. If you have a higher firmware version, then the steps will be almost the same.

## 2 Configuration

The chapters below explain the steps that must be followed to set up a "packet" capture via a Ruckus access point. There are two ways to set up a "packet capture". You can configure this via the ZoneDirector's web interface, or you can configure this via the CLI of the Ruckus access point. If you want to do a "packet capture" quickly, we recommend you do this via the ZoneDirector. If you would like to configure more options, we recommend that you configure the "packet capture" via the CLI.

### 2.1 SSH

With the help of a terminal program such as Putty you can set up an SSH session with the Ruckus access point. It is important that you have the correct IP address and that you have the correct login details.

After successful login using SSH there are two option to capture packets using your Ruckus Wireless access point. You can choose between "**stream mode**" or "**save mode**".

**Stream mode:** using this option the access point sends the collected packages directly to Wireshark.

**Save mode:** using this option the access point stores the collected packages locally. The packages can then be sent using TFTP.

Before you can collect packages via the access point you must first know which interface of the access point you can use for this. Some access points have multiple interfaces. With the command below you can get an overview of the interfaces that are present at the access point:

```
rkscli: get wlanlist
```

Only interfaces indicated as type "**MON**" can be used for capturing packets. As you can see on the screenshot below, for the used type of access point only two interfaces can be used to capture packets. One interface for 2,4GHz and one interface for 5GHz.

```
rkscli: get wlanlist
name      status  type   wlanID  radioID
-----
wlan0     up      AP     wlan0   0
wlan100   down    MON    wlan100 0
wlan32    up      AP     wlan32   1
wlan101   down    MON    wlan101 1
OK
```

Figure 1: WLAN List

You now have an overview of the interfaces that you can use to collect packages. Now we can start configuring the interface so that it will be in "streaming mode". To start the "packet capture" in "streaming mode", execute the following command:

```
rkscli: set capture <interface> stream
```

```
rkscli: set capture wlan100 stream
Capturing in 20 MHz channel BW
OK
```

Figure 2: Set Capture

Now the interface is configured in streaming mode. As we indicated earlier, it is possible to provide extra options via the CLI. You can use these options to immediately exclude certain information that is not needed in a "packet capture". Via the options below you can determine yourself what you do and do not want to see:

- -nob : This option will hide beacon information.
- -noc : This option will hide control data.

You can set the option described when setting the interface to capture packets using command below:

```
rkscli: set capture <interface> stream <option>
```

If you would like to use more option you can set it as described below,

```
rkscli: set capture <interface> stream -nobc
```

when using this command, both beacons and control data will be excluded from the packet capture.

Using options is not mandatory and mostly used when saving to disk and would like to save disk space used. Further on in the document it is explained how you can make filters in Wireshark.

If your access point is configured in standalone mode, you can also set the radio to a specific channel. You can configure the channel using the command below:

```
rkscli: set channel <interface> <kanaal>
```

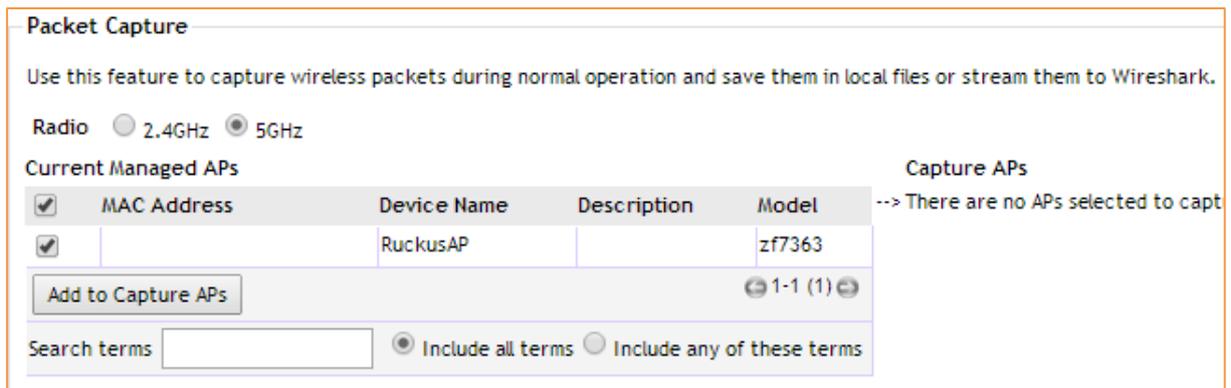
You can request the current used channel using the command below:

```
rkscli: get channel <interface>
```

## 2.2 ZD Web interface

This chapter explains how to make a "**packet capture**" using the ZoneDirector's web interface. To make a "**packet capture**", navigate to **Administer -> Diagnostics**. On this page you navigate to the Packet Capture category.

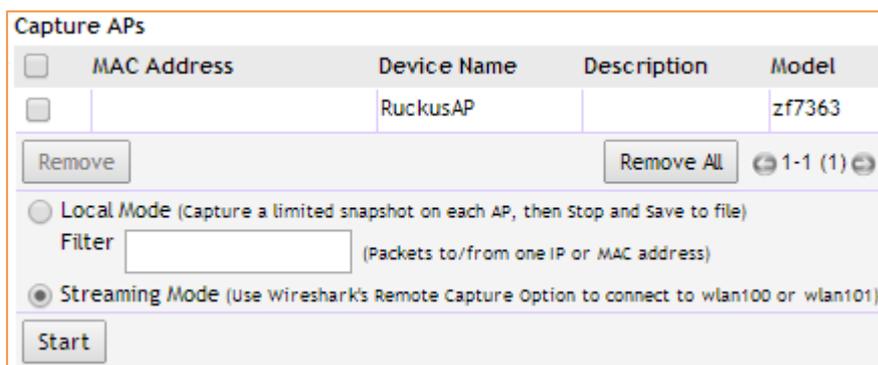
In this category you select on which frequency you want to collect packages. You have a choice between 2.4 GHz and 5 GHz. Then select the access point that you want to use for collecting the packages. If you have selected the correct access point, click **Add to Capture APs**. Now the selected access point will be displayed in the list of access points that will capture packets.



The screenshot shows the "Packet Capture" configuration page. At the top, there is a heading "Packet Capture" and a description: "Use this feature to capture wireless packets during normal operation and save them in local files or stream them to Wireshark." Below this, there are radio buttons for "Radio" selection, with "2.4GHz" and "5GHz" options. The "5GHz" option is selected. Underneath, there are two tables. The first table, "Current Managed APs", has columns for "MAC Address", "Device Name", "Description", and "Model". It contains one entry: "RuckusAP" with model "zf7363". The second table, "Capture APs", is currently empty and has a message: "--> There are no APs selected to capt". Below the tables, there is a button "Add to Capture APs" and a count "1-1 (1)". At the bottom, there is a search box and two radio buttons for "Include all terms" (selected) and "Include any of these terms".

Figure 3: Packet Capture Configuration

Once you have added the access point you can set in which mode you want to capture packets. You can choose between **Local Mode** and **Streaming Mode** here. In this technote we used the Streaming mode option.



The screenshot shows the "Capture APs" configuration page. It features a table with columns "MAC Address", "Device Name", "Description", and "Model". The table contains one entry: "RuckusAP" with model "zf7363". Below the table, there are buttons for "Remove" and "Remove All", along with a count "1-1 (1)". There are two radio buttons for mode selection: "Local Mode (Capture a limited snapshot on each AP, then Stop and Save to file)" and "Streaming Mode (Use Wireshark's Remote Capture Option to connect to wlan100 or wlan101)". The "Streaming Mode" option is selected. Below the mode selection, there is a "Filter" input field with a placeholder "(Packets to/from one IP or MAC address)". At the bottom, there is a "Start" button.

Figure 4: Local/Streaming Mode

After setting the correct option and mode you can start the "packet capture" using the **start** button.

### 3 Wireshark

Once the access point is set to capture packets in streaming mode, the stream can be opened using Wireshark. In this chapter we will describe how to configure Wireshark to receive packets from the access point.

After starting Wireshark click "**Capture Options**" or use the key combination **Ctrl-K** to open "Capture Options".

After starting "**Capture Options**" click on "**Manage Interfaces**". In this screen navigate to "**Remote Interfaces**". Here you can add a remote interface by clicking "**Add**".

In the screen opened you must enter the IP address of the access point. All other displayed settings can be as default. After setting the IP address you must click "**OK**".

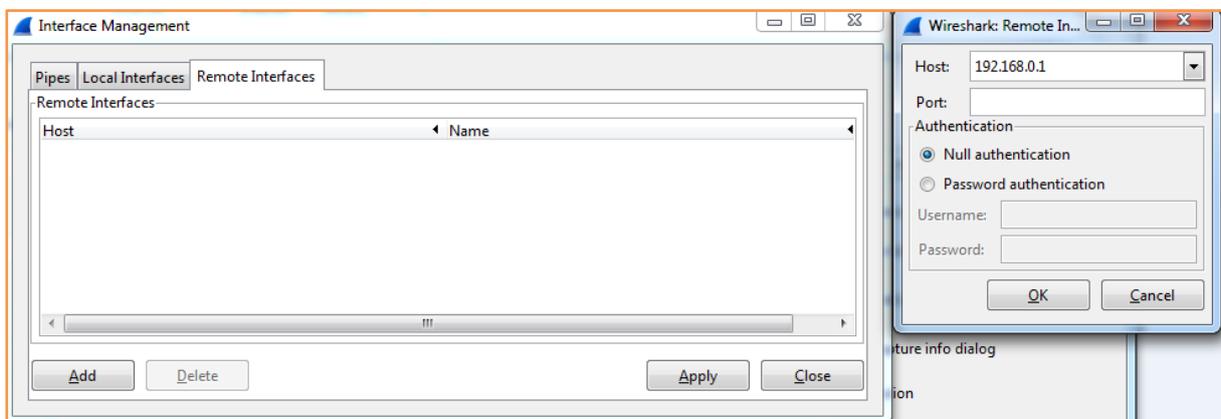


Figure 5: Remote Interface

Wireshark will now connect to the access point and display the list of available interfaces. Behind each interface you enable the "hide" check mark except for the "MON" interface. In most cases, these interfaces have the following name: WLAN100 or WLAN101 (depending on the selected frequency).

After selecting the interface, you must click "**Apply**" and then "**Close**".

After you closed the screen you will return to the first screen named "Capture Options". In this screen you will find the remote interface by "<IP>/WLAN100" or "<IP>/WLAN101". You can start the capture by clicking "**Start**".

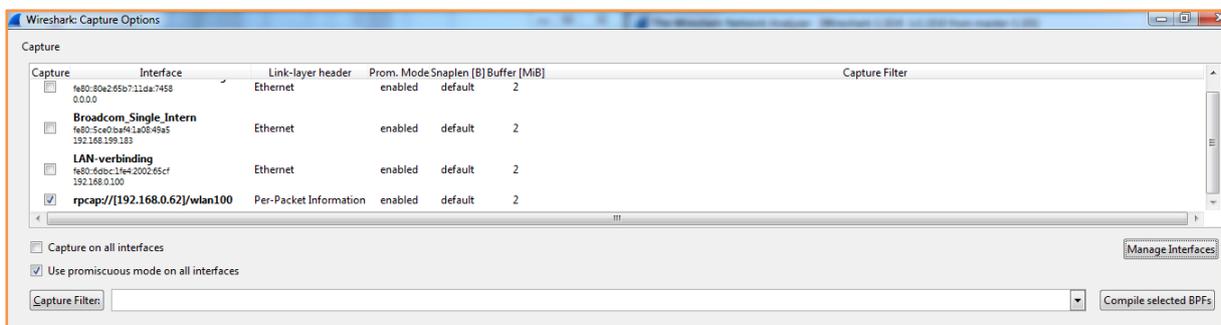


Figure 6: Capture Options

After correctly completing the steps described in the chapters “configuration” and “Wireshark” you will see packets in the main capture window, and you are ready to analyse the packets.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
2229	51.3105530	SenaNet_02:e0:a2	Broadcast	802.11	300	Beacon frame, SN=342, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=EnGenius EnShare
2230	51.3629370	Ruckuswi_32:74:98	Broadcast	802.11	291	Beacon frame, SN=1961, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=zoneflexR_2.4
2231	51.3678600	Technico_96:31:4b	Broadcast	802.11	305	Beacon frame, SN=1714, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=TNCAP96314B
2232	51.4037420	Ruckuswi_0b:a7:b8	Broadcast	802.11	278	Beacon frame, SN=1575, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=SCG_22
2233	51.4129440	SenaNet_06:e0:a2	Broadcast	802.11	366	Beacon frame, SN=543, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=EnGenius EnShare
2234	51.4653350	Ruckuswi_32:74:98	Broadcast	802.11	291	Beacon frame, SN=1962, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=zoneflexR_2.4
2235	51.4702740	Technico_96:31:4b	Broadcast	802.11	305	Beacon frame, SN=1715, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=TNCAP96314B
2236	51.5061390	Ruckuswi_0b:a7:b8	Broadcast	802.11	278	Beacon frame, SN=1576, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=SCG_22
2237	51.5153480	SenaNet_06:e0:a2	Broadcast	802.11	366	Beacon frame, SN=544, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=EnGenius EnShare
2238	51.5677470	Ruckuswi_32:74:98	Broadcast	802.11	291	Beacon frame, SN=1963, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=zoneflexR_2.4
2239	51.5726560	Technico_96:31:4b	Broadcast	802.11	305	Beacon frame, SN=1716, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=TNCAP96314B
2240	51.6094890	Ruckuswi_4b:a7:b8	Broadcast	802.11	268	Beacon frame, SN=2793, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=...
2241	51.6177570	SenaNet_06:e0:a2	Broadcast	802.11	366	Beacon frame, SN=545, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=EnGenius EnShare
2242	51.6701360	Ruckuswi_32:74:98	Broadcast	802.11	291	Beacon frame, SN=1964, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=zoneflexR_2.4
2243	51.7118890	Ruckuswi_4b:a7:b8	Broadcast	802.11	268	Beacon frame, SN=2794, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=...
2244	51.7201440	SenaNet_06:e0:a2	Broadcast	802.11	366	Beacon frame, SN=546, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=EnGenius EnShare
2245	51.7725440	Ruckuswi_32:74:98	Broadcast	802.11	291	Beacon frame, SN=1965, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=zoneflexR_2.4
2246	51.7774440	Technico_96:31:4b	Broadcast	802.11	305	Beacon frame, SN=1718, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=TNCAP96314B
2247	51.8133350	Ruckuswi_0b:a7:b8	Broadcast	802.11	278	Beacon frame, SN=1579, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=SCG_22
2248	51.8225420	SenaNet_06:e0:a2	Broadcast	802.11	366	Beacon frame, SN=547, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=EnGenius EnShare

Figure 7: Packet Capture

### 3.1 Wireshark Filters

As indicated earlier, it is also possible to make different display filters in Wireshark. In this way you can easily filter on the packages that you want to see or do not want to see. Below we will make a table with several filter options.

Frame Type	Filter Commando
Management Frames	wlan.fc.type eq 0
Control Frames	wlan.fc.type eq 1
Data Frames	wlan.fc.type eq 2
Association Request	wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 0
Association Response	wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 1
Probe Request	wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 4
Probe Response	wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 5
Beacon	wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 8
Authentication	wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 11
Deauthentication	wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 12

Enter the filter in the section marked red below:



Figure 8: Filter Command Options

Below some examples of some filters used in Wireshark and their results.

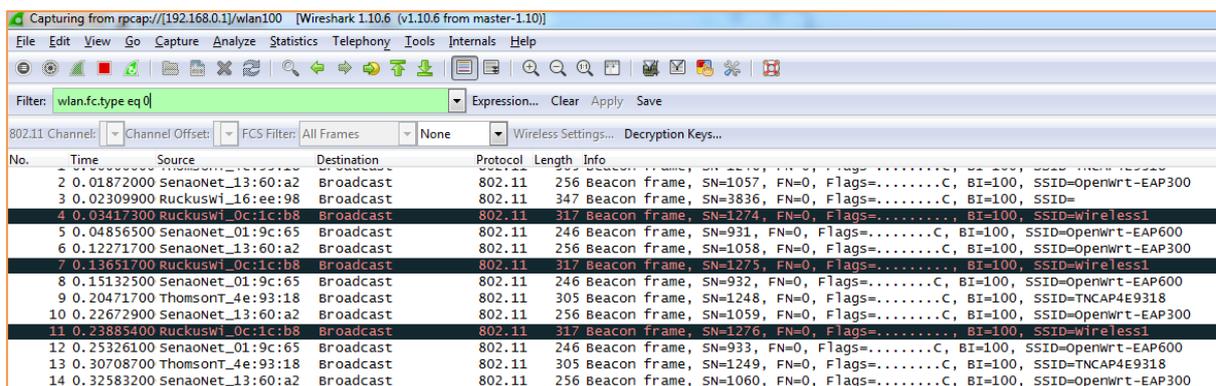


Figure 9: only display management frames

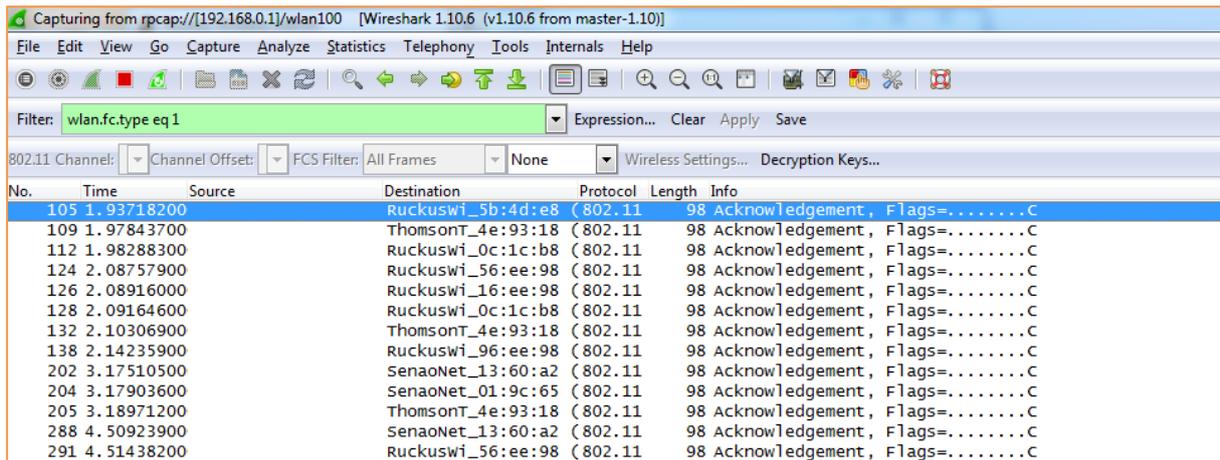


Figure 10: Only display control frames

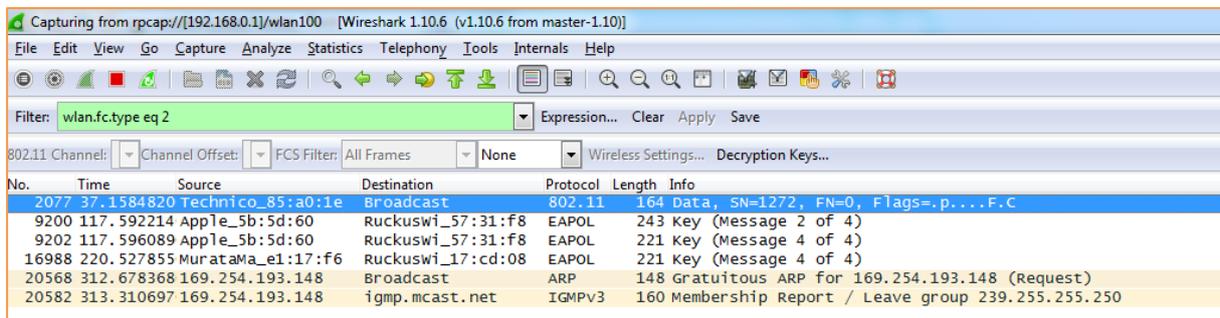


Figure 11: only display Data frames

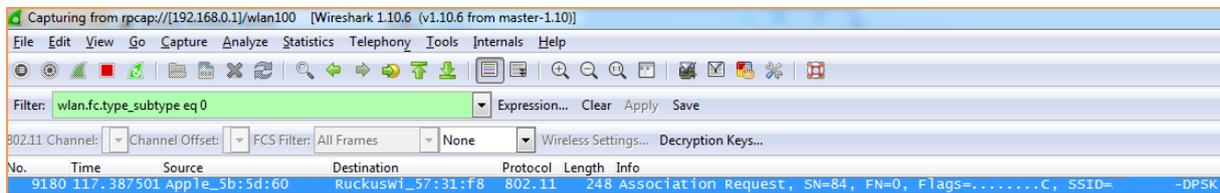


Figure 12: only display Association Request frames

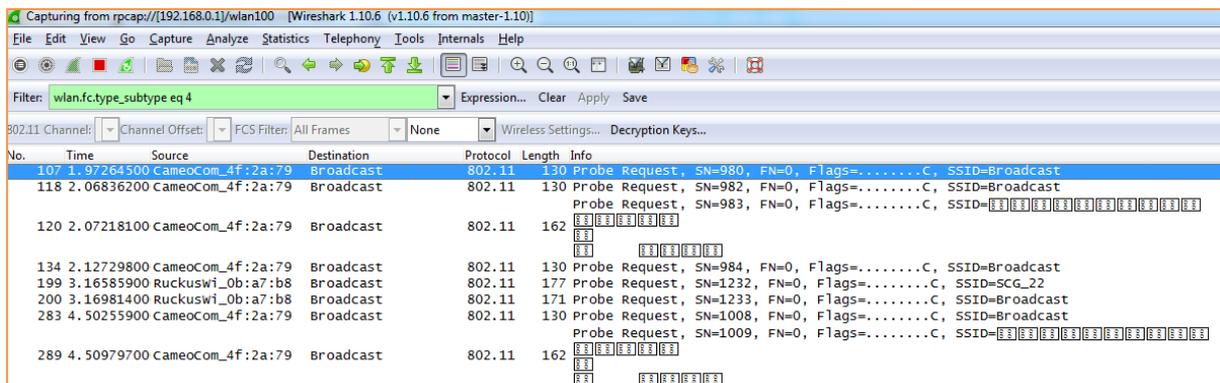


Figure 13: Only display Probe Request frames

Figure 14 shows a Wireshark capture of network traffic filtered by the expression `wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 5`. The capture is from the interface `rpcap://[192.168.0.1]/wlan100` using Wireshark 1.10.6. The filter successfully isolates 18 probe response frames (802.11 type 4, subtype 5) from various sources including SenaoNet, CameoCom, Ruckuswi, and ThomsonT. The frames are all sent to the destination `CameoCom_4f:2a:79`. The information field of these frames includes details such as SN, FN, Flags, BI, and SSID.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
93	1.84846500	Senaonet_01:9c:65	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	240	Probe Response, SN=949, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP600
94	1.85151200	Senaonet_13:60:a2	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	250	Probe Response, SN=1075, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP300
101	1.91461800	Senaonet_13:60:a2	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	250	Probe Response, SN=1077, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP300
102	1.91641700	Senaonet_01:9c:65	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	240	Probe Response, SN=951, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP600
103	1.91961900	Ruckuswi_1d:6d:88	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	375	Probe Response, SN=2869, FN=0, Flags=...R...C, BI=100, SSID=Passpoint Demo
104	1.92611100	Ruckuswi_1d:6d:88	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	375	Probe Response, SN=2869, FN=0, Flags=...R...C, BI=100, SSID=Passpoint Demo
108	1.97813000	ThomsonT_4e:93:18	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	431	Probe Response, SN=1266, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=TNCP4E9318
111	1.98283500	Ruckuswi_0c:1c:b8	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	311	Probe Response, SN=117, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Wireless1
119	2.07556000	ThomsonT_4e:93:18	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	431	Probe Response, SN=1268, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=TNCP4E9318
121	2.07528500	ThomsonT_4e:93:18	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	431	Probe Response, SN=1268, FN=0, Flags=...R...C, BI=100, SSID=TNCP4E9318
125	2.08889700	Ruckuswi_16:ee:98	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	341	Probe Response, SN=1437, FN=0, Flags=...R...C, BI=100, SSID=
127	2.09159800	Ruckuswi_0c:1c:b8	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	311	Probe Response, SN=118, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Wireless1
129	2.09484600	ThomsonT_4e:93:18	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	431	Probe Response, SN=1268, FN=0, Flags=...R...C, BI=100, SSID=TNCP4E9318
131	2.10275400	ThomsonT_4e:93:18	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	431	Probe Response, SN=1268, FN=0, Flags=...R...C, BI=100, SSID=TNCP4E9318
133	2.10688700	ThomsonT_4e:93:18	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	431	Probe Response, SN=1268, FN=0, Flags=...R...C, BI=100, SSID=TNCP4E9318
135	2.13041400	ThomsonT_4e:93:18	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	431	Probe Response, SN=1269, FN=0, Flags=...R...C, BI=100, SSID=TNCP4E9318
136	2.13221500	Senaonet_13:60:a2	CameoCom_4f:2a:79	802.11	250	Probe Response, SN=1081, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP300

Figure 14: only display probe response frames

Figure 15 shows a Wireshark capture of network traffic filtered by the expression `wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 8`. The capture is from the interface `rpcap://[192.168.0.1]/wlan100` using Wireshark 1.10.6. The filter successfully isolates 15 beacon frames (802.11 type 0, subtype 8) from various sources including SenaoNet, Ruckuswi, and ThomsonT. The frames are all broadcasted. The information field includes details such as SN, FN, Flags, BI, SSID, and the name of the access point (e.g., Gaster).

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
100	1.89070300	Senaonet_01:9c:65	Broadcast	802.11	246	Beacon frame, SN=950, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP600
106	1.96420300	Senaonet_13:60:a2	Broadcast	802.11	256	Beacon frame, SN=1078, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP300
110	1.97864800	Ruckuswi_0c:1c:b8	Broadcast	802.11	317	Beacon frame, SN=1293, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Wireless1
113	1.99305000	Senaonet_01:9c:65	Broadcast	802.11	246	Beacon frame, SN=953, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP600
114	1.99558100	Ruckuswi_56:ee:98	Broadcast	802.11	350	Beacon frame, SN=3854, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=-DPSK
115	1.99678200	ThomsonT_96:ee:98	Broadcast	802.11	330	Beacon frame, SN=3811, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Gaster
116	2.04788000	ThomsonT_4e:93:18	Broadcast	802.11	305	Beacon frame, SN=1267, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=TNCP4E9318
117	2.06679100	Senaonet_13:60:a2	Broadcast	802.11	256	Beacon frame, SN=1080, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP300
122	2.07653900	Ruckuswi_16:ee:98	Broadcast	802.11	347	Beacon frame, SN=3856, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=
123	2.08099300	Ruckuswi_0c:1c:b8	Broadcast	802.11	317	Beacon frame, SN=1294, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Wireless1
130	2.09661900	Senaonet_01:9c:65	Broadcast	802.11	246	Beacon frame, SN=954, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP600
142	2.16902600	Senaonet_13:60:a2	Broadcast	802.11	256	Beacon frame, SN=1082, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Openwrt-EAP300
144	2.17916600	Ruckuswi_56:ee:98	Broadcast	802.11	350	Beacon frame, SN=3856, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=-DPSK
145	2.18041600	Ruckuswi_96:ee:98	Broadcast	802.11	330	Beacon frame, SN=3813, FN=0, Flags=.....C, BI=100, SSID=Gaster

Figure 15: only display Beacon frames

Figure 16 shows a Wireshark capture of network traffic filtered by the expression `wlan.fc.type_subtype eq 11`. The capture is from the interface `rpcap://[192.168.0.1]/wlan100` using Wireshark 1.10.6. The filter successfully isolates 6 authentication frames (802.11 type 1, subtype 11) from various sources including Apple, Ruckuswi, and Murata. The frames are all sent to the destination `Ruckuswi_57:31:f8`. The information field includes details such as SN, FN, Flags, and the name of the access point (e.g., Gaster).

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
9176	117.384984	Apple_5b:5d:60	Ruckuswi_57:31:f8	802.11	129	Authentication, SN=83, FN=0, Flags=.....C
9178	117.385675	Ruckuswi_57:31:f8	Apple_5b:5d:60	802.11	118	Authentication, SN=0, FN=0, Flags=.....C
13227	155.183428	Ruckuswi_57:cd:08	Apple_a8:da:93	802.11	118	Authentication, SN=0, FN=0, Flags=.....C
16557	215.140970	169.254.193.148	Ruckuswi_97:cd:08	802.11	118	Authentication, SN=26, FN=0, Flags=.....C
16985	220.504282	MurataMa_e1:17:f6	Ruckuswi_17:cd:08	802.11	129	Authentication, SN=75, FN=0, Flags=.....C
16986	220.504944	Ruckuswi_17:cd:08	MurataMa_e1:17:f6	802.11	118	Authentication, SN=0, FN=0, Flags=.....C

Figure 16: only display Authentication frames

## 4 Additional Information

Below you will find some information about using Ruckus CLI and Wireshark.

Wireshark Website:

[Wireshark](#)

Wireshark – Display Filters:

[Wireshark Display Filters](#)

Wireshark – Capture Filters:

[Wireshark Capture Filters](#)

Ruckus AP CLI Guide:

[Ruckus AP CLI Guide](#)