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Doc No.: AN-283

Version: 1.0

Date: 22 August 2012

Subject: Using Wireshark to monitor Ethernet traffic

APPLICATION NOTE

1. Introduction

Ethernet can carry many types of telegram. When connecting a system together, it is often necessary to monitor the telegram traffic and see how the available bandwidth is being used. This is especially true when a real-time automation system is using Ethernet for part of its real-time functionality. Effects such as collisions, re-tries, acknowledge and handshake cycles all have an effect on the overall performance of the network.

This document describes how to set up an Ethernet Monitor using the free-to-download package "WireShark".

2. Equipment

The following equipment is required.

2.1. WireShark

Download Wireshark from <http://www.wireshark.org/>

Install the package on a suitable Windows PC. (The PC must have at least one Ethernet port)

2.2. Semi-managed Ethernet Switch

Modbus TCP uses TCP/IP telegrams which have a defined source and defined destination IP_Address. A standard Ethernet Switch will not pass these telegrams to the other ports on the switch. Therefore a managed or partly managed switch is needed which can set up one port to be a "mirror port" to re-transmit all telegrams received on the other ports.

An example of such a switch is the NetGear ProSafe Plus GS105E. This comes with software which allows the user to set up special features such as mirror ports.

An alternative to a managed switch is to use a plain Hub. A Hub is a dumb device which re-transmits all telegrams to all ports. Unfortunately Hubs are very rare and are not found on the market any more.

3. Set-up the switch

The set up shown here refers to the Netgear GS105E. Other managed and semi-managed switches

will have a similar set up procedure.

3.1. Install the software

Install the switch management software on a PC. In the case of the Netgear GS105E, this is called NETGEAR UM+ Utility.

3.2. Set up the mirror port

Run the management software and follow the procedure in the operation manual for the switch.

In the case of the Netgear GS105E this is:

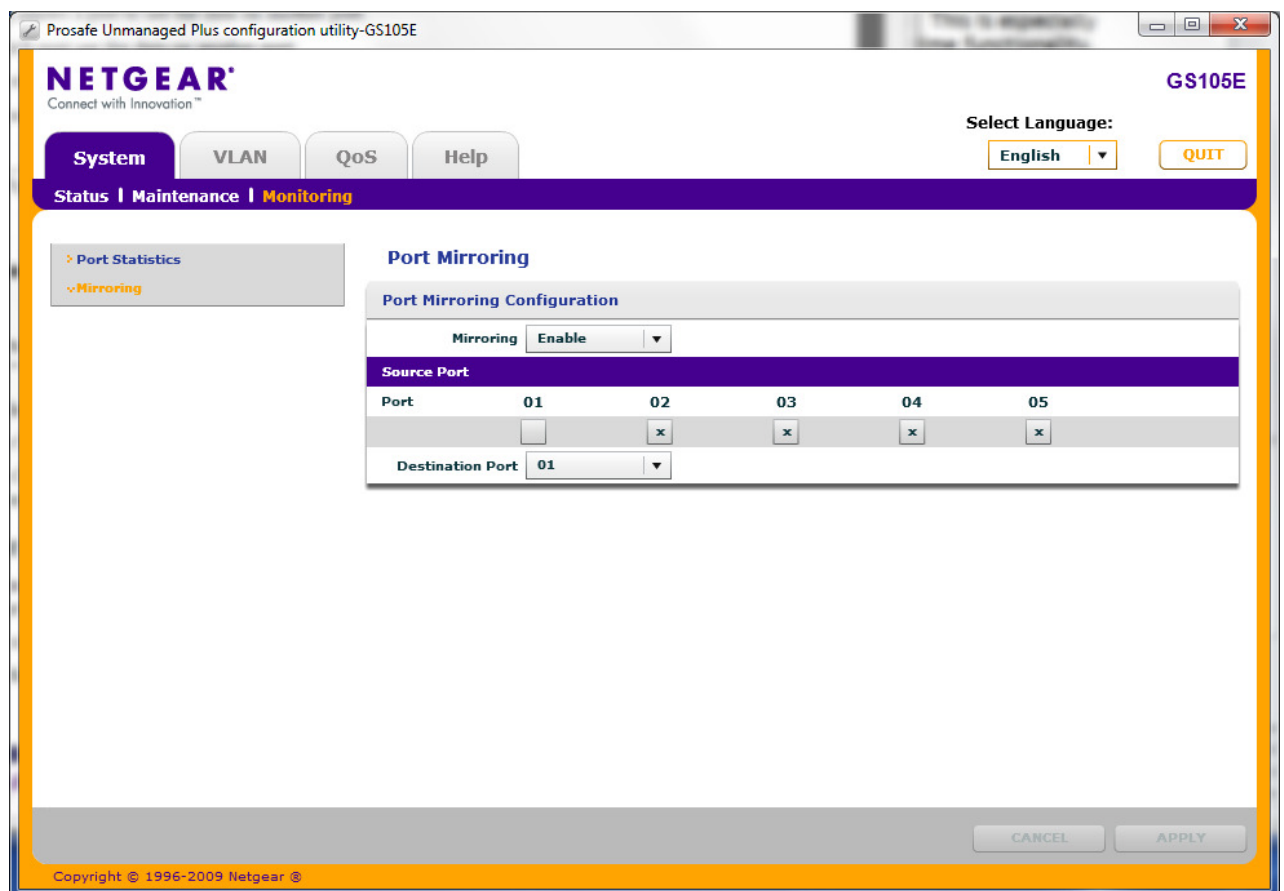
3.2.1. Port Mirroring

Port mirroring allows a port to see the data on another port.

To have a switch port see the data on another port:

1. Select System > Status, and select the switch.
2. Select Monitoring > Mirroring. The Mirroring page will display
3. Enable Mirroring.
4. Select the Source Port or ports.
5. Select the Destination Port from the pull down list and click Apply. Data on the source port will now also be routed to the destination port.

3.2.2. Screenshot



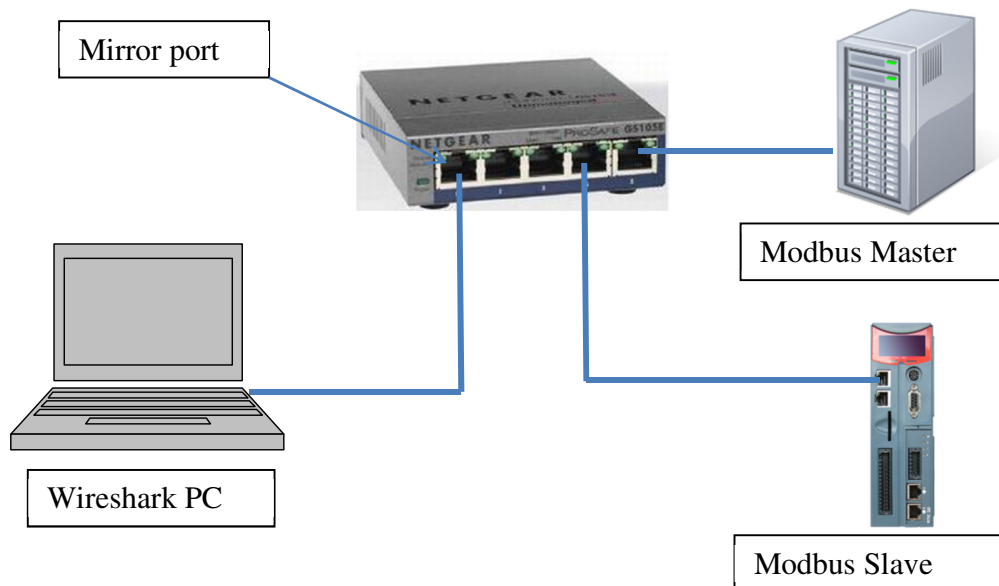
4. Run Wireshark

4.1. Connections

Connect the mirror port of the Switch to the PC which will run Wireshark.

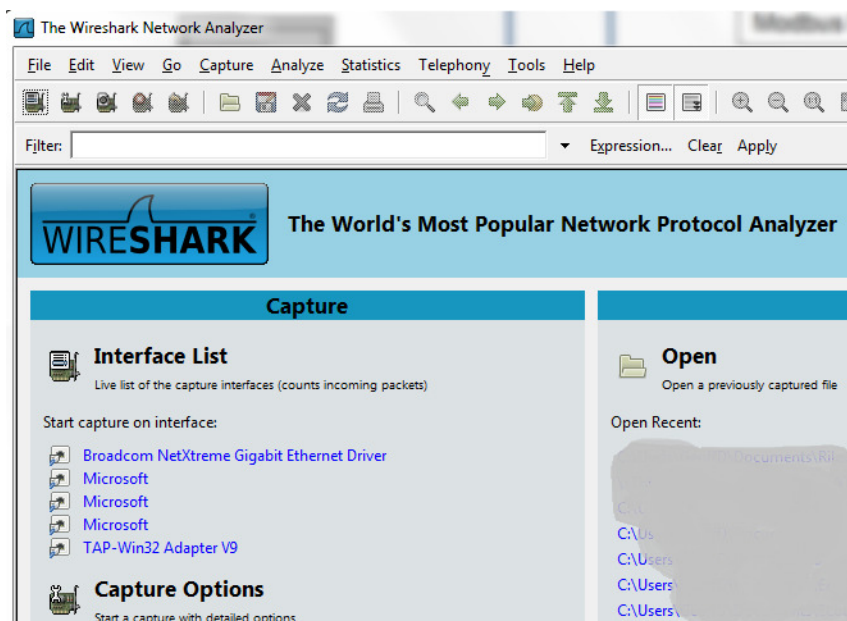
Connect one of the other ports to the Modbus master.

Connect one of the other ports to the Modbus slave.



4.2. Launch Wireshark

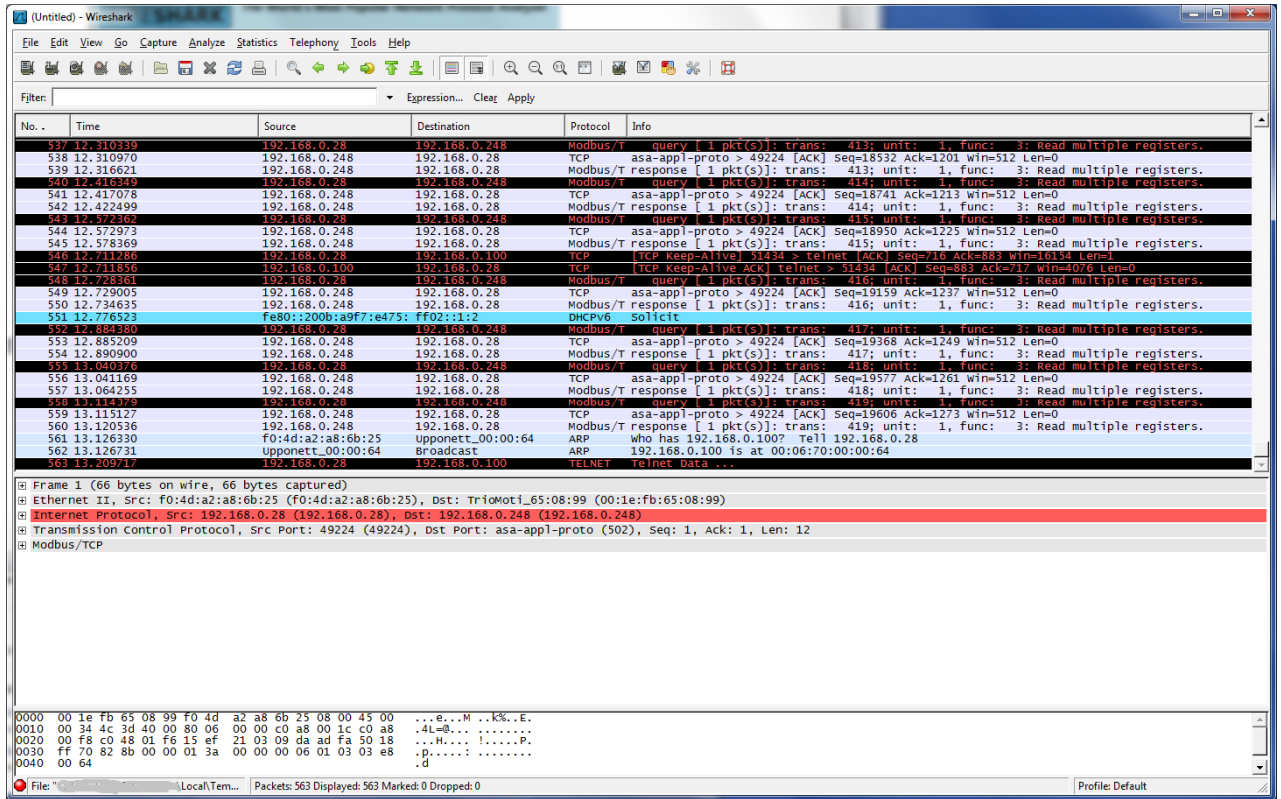
Launch Wireshark and select the Ethernet Port on the PC which is connected to the Switch.



In the above example, Broadcom NetXtreme is connected to the switch.

4.3. Start monitoring

As soon as the Ethernet port is selected, the Wireshark will begin to monitor the Ethernet data.



The monitoring can be paused or stopped with the buttons at the top of the window.

4.4. Save captured data

When enough data has been captured, stop the monitor and save the log to a Wireshark capture file.

This file can be sent to Trio for analysis if requested.

5. Loading previously saved files

A file saved from a previous monitoring session can be loaded into Wireshark for analysis.

Wireshark recognises the telegram types and provides a clear display of the telegram sequence. Any re-transmissions, timeouts and other potential errors are highlighted.

ComunicazionePLC-MC464 - No errore ma risposta dopo 5s:pcap - Wireshark

File Edit View Go Capture Analyze Statistics Telephony Tools Help

Filter: Expression... Clear Apply

No. .	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Info
1	0.000000	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	Modbus/T	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 3: Read Multiple Registers.
2	0.000652	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	TCP	els > asa-appl-PROTO [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=190 win=3914 Len=0
3	0.025735	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	Modbus/T	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 16: write Multiple Registers.
4	0.027186	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	TCP	asa-appl-PROTO > els [ACK] Seq=190 Ack=214 win=512 Len=0
5	0.050586	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	Modbus/T	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 16: write Multiple Registers.
6	0.051239	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	TCP	els > asa-appl-PROTO [ACK] Seq=214 Ack=202 win=4091 Len=0
7	0.085894	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	Modbus/T	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 16: write Multiple Registers.
8	0.087332	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	TCP	asa-appl-PROTO > els [ACK] Seq=202 Ack=427 win=512 Len=0
9	0.111235	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	Modbus/T	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 16: write Multiple Registers.
10	0.111906	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	TCP	els > asa-appl-PROTO [ACK] Seq=427 Ack=214 win=4091 Len=0
11	0.135444	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	Modbus/T	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 3: Read Multiple Registers.
12	0.136125	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	TCP	asa-appl-PROTO > els [ACK] Seq=214 Ack=439 win=512 Len=0
13	0.138974	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	Modbus/T	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 3: Read Multiple Registers.
14	0.139630	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	TCP	els > asa-appl-PROTO [ACK] Seq=439 Ack=403 win=3914 Len=0
15	0.175716	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	Modbus/T	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 16: write Multiple Registers.
16	0.177166	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	TCP	asa-appl-PROTO > els [ACK] Seq=403 Ack=652 win=512 Len=0
17	0.200361	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	Modbus/T	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 16: write Multiple Registers.
18	0.201009	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	TCP	els > asa-appl-PROTO [ACK] Seq=652 Ack=415 win=4091 Len=0
19	0.225740	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	Modbus/T	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 16: write Multiple Registers.
20	0.227271	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	TCP	asa-appl-PROTO > els [ACK] Seq=415 Ack=865 win=512 Len=0
21	0.250455	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	Modbus/T	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 16: write Multiple Registers.
22	0.251563	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	TCP	els > asa-appl-PROTO [ACK] Seq=865 Ack=427 win=4091 Len=0
23	0.285832	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	Modbus/T	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 3: Read Multiple Registers.
24	0.286591	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	TCP	asa-appl-PROTO > els [ACK] Seq=427 Ack=877 win=512 Len=0
25	0.289389	172.16.17.11	172.16.17.1	Modbus/T	response [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 3: Read Multiple Registers.
26	0.290031	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	TCP	els > asa-appl-PROTO [ACK] Seq=877 Ack=616 win=3914 Len=0
27	0.316145	172.16.17.1	172.16.17.11	Modbus/T	query [1 pkt(s)]: trans: 2; unit: 0, func: 16: write Multiple Registers.

Frame 1 (243 bytes on wire, 243 bytes captured)
 # Ethernet II, Src: TrioMOTI_65:01:2b (00:1e:fb:65:01:2b), Dst: Telemeca_02:dc:4a (00:80:f4:02:dc:4a)
 # Internet Protocol, Src: 172.16.17.11 (172.16.17.11), Dst: 172.16.17.1 (172.16.17.1)
 # Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: asa-appl-PROTO (502), Dst Port: els (1315), Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 189
 # Modbus/TCP
 transaction identifier: 2
 protocol identifier: 0
 length: 183
 unit identifier: 0
 # Modbus
 function 3: Read multiple registers
 byte count: 180
 Data

```

0000 00 80 f4 02 dc 4a 00 1e fb 65 01 2b 08 00 45 00  ....J...e+.E.
0010 00 e5 37 d3 00 00 64 06 a4 13 ac 10 11 0b ac 10  ..7...d.....
0020 11 01 f6 05 23 01 07 3a 70 50 22 1a 94 50 18    ....#.pp...P
0030 02 00 c2 df 00 00 00 02 00 00 00 b7 00 03 b4 00  .....
0040 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00  .....
  
```

Text item (0), 180 bytes Packets: 219 Displayed: 219 Marked: 0 Profile: Default

A typical Modbus communication sequence between a PLC and a MC464.