

SLUUG Tutorial, Sep 2025

4 (+1) Android Apps for Network Troubleshooting



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SLUUG Tutorial September 2025; Ken Johnson (contact-point@pobox.com)

Thank you for coming to the September Linux meeting on the second Wednesday.

I will cover four Android apps I have used for network trouble-shooting. Time permitting, I will touch on one more with related application.

About Me

I work as an independent consultant performing system and small network administration, and writing specialized technical documentation.

My cell phone is a Google Pixel 3a, released in 2019. I purchased an unlocked refurb in 2022. If you use a different phone, your mileage may vary.

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I have been doing network trouble-shooting of one kind or another since 1980.

Non-Goals

No demonstrations, but I will show some screenshots.

No comprehensive evaluation of all apps in these categories.

What we will cover

App Name and Author

Summary of capabilities

What I use it for

Screenshot

But first...

TP-Link USB-C to Ethernet adapter.

Connected to my phone, it gives my phone an Ethernet interface.

Useful for network troubleshooting.



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Your experience may be different with a different phone.

Which Apps

Net Analyzer by Jiri Techet

Wifi Analyzer by <unknown>

Network Tools by Hurricane Electric

PCAPdroid by Emanuele Faranda

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The only way I know of to identify Play Store apps is by name and author.

Wifi Analyzer brought me an unpleasant surprise – we will get to that.

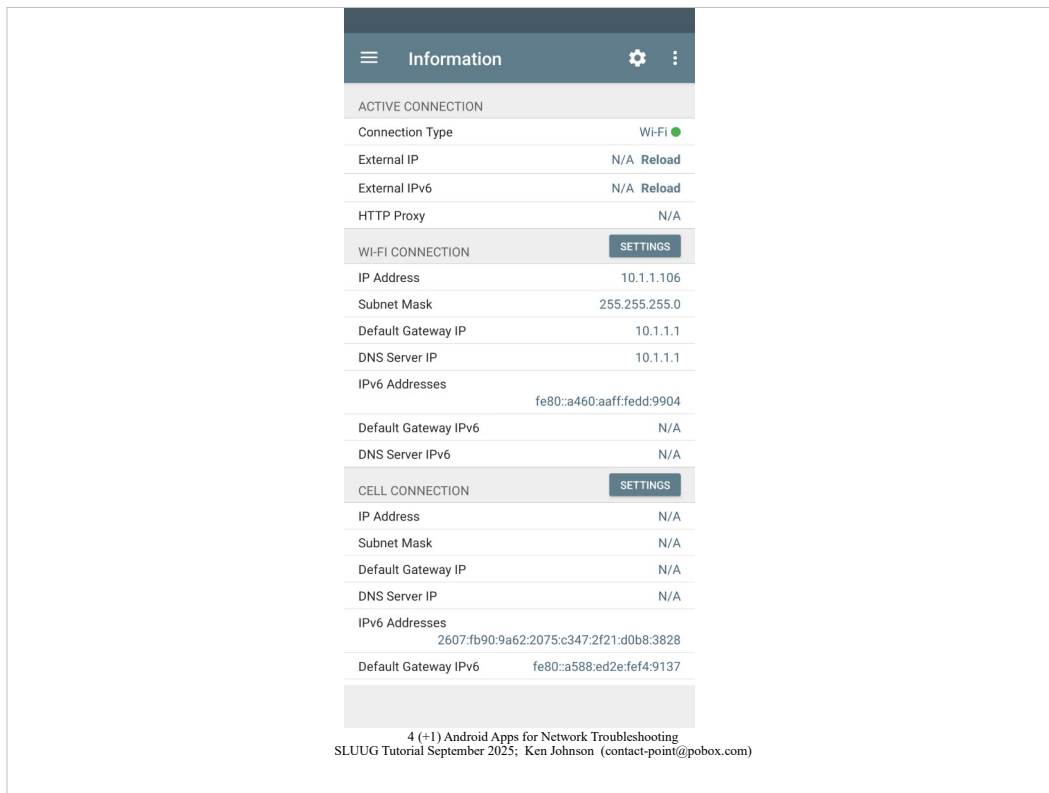
Net Analyzer by Jiri Techet

Network Information ***

Ping**, Traceroute, and DNS lookups

LAN Scan*

Wifi access points



I use this app for testing new or repaired Ethernet wall ports.

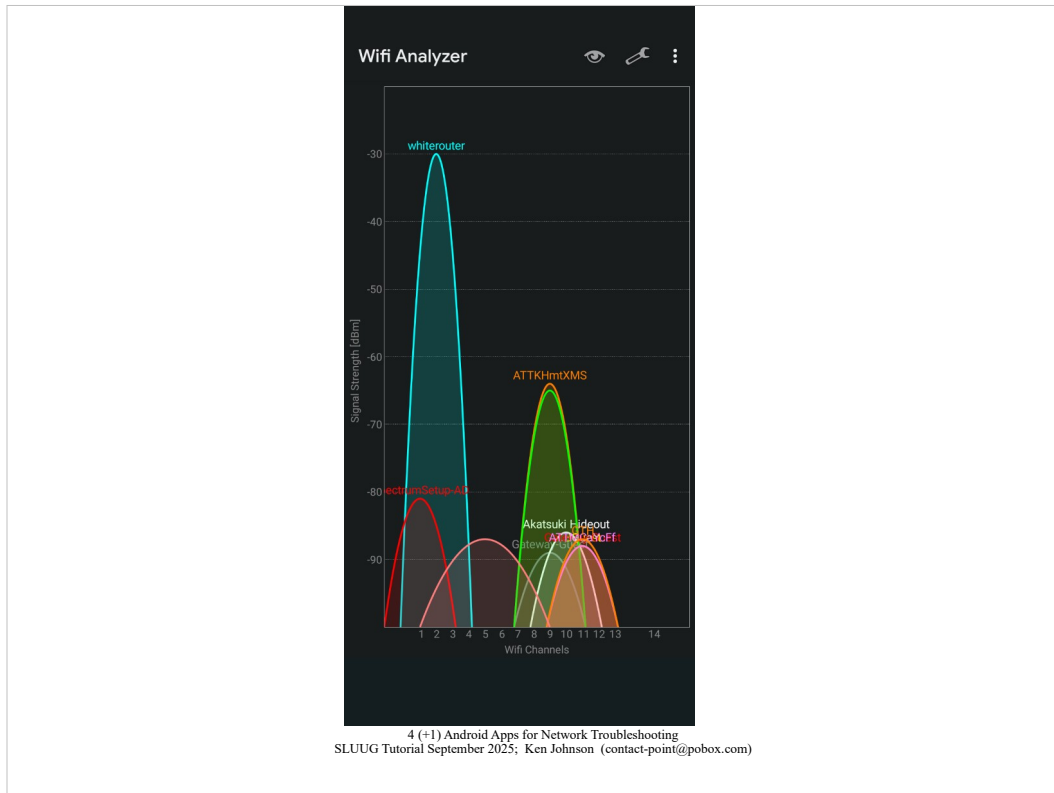
Network Information shows the configuration received from the DHCP server on the network.

This confirms (or not) that the port is connected to the correct network.

Wifi Analyzer

My favorite is no longer in the Play Store. It was called 'Wifi Analyzer'. Screenshot on next slide.

:-)



I use this to evaluate the strength and amount of competition for Wifi network channels.

The one on the left is my home Wifi. Some years back, the router providing the Wifi access point had a white plastic case...

WiFiAnalyzer by VREM Software Development

Access Points

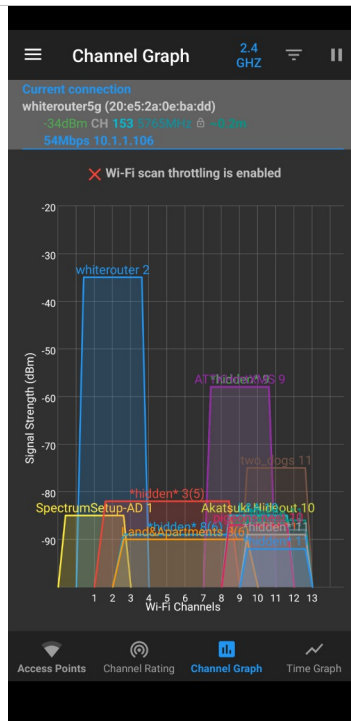
Channel Rating

Channel Graph*

Time Graph

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This looks similar, but I have not actually used it to solve problems or make decisions.



Network Tools by Hurricane Electric

DNS, many different name types

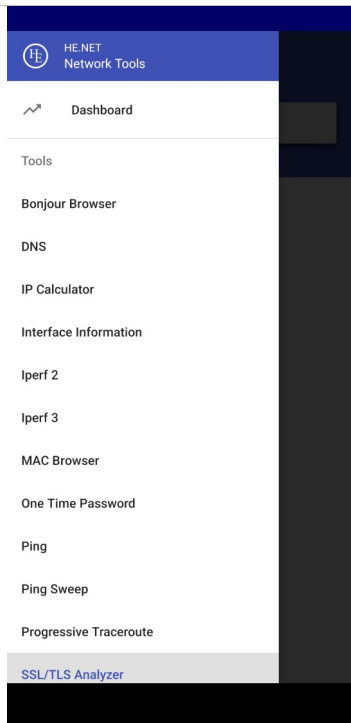
Ping

Traceroute

SSL/TLS test

I have used this one less often than Network A.

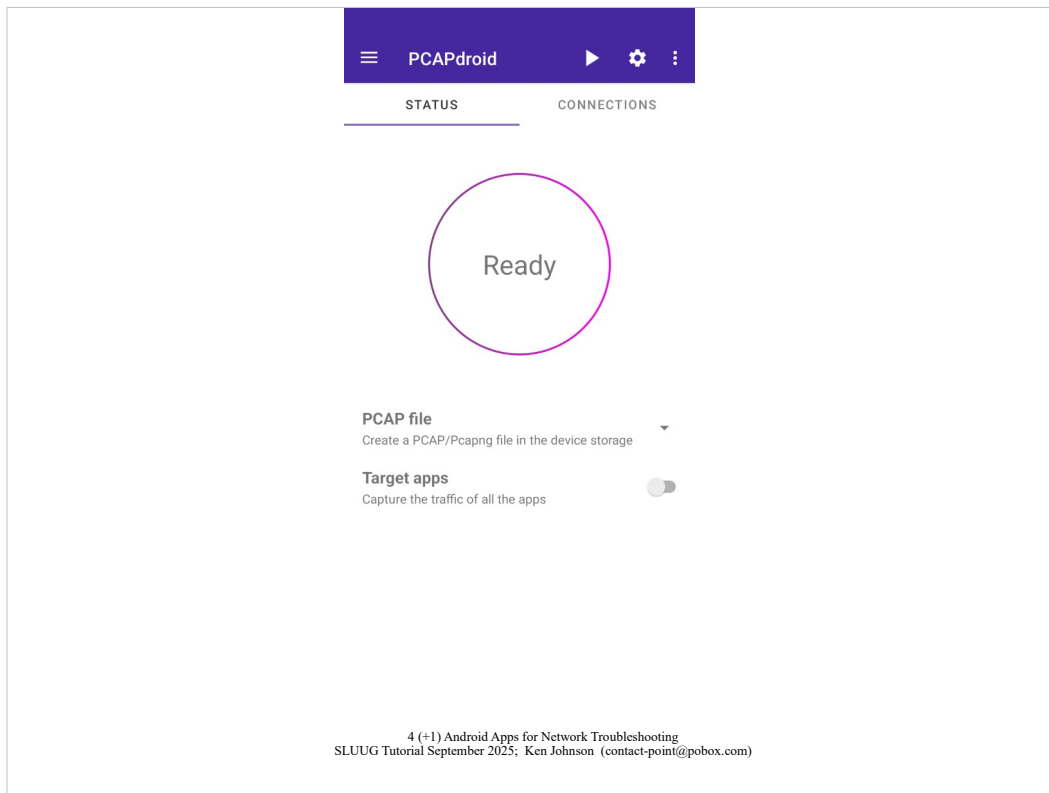
I have used this less often than 'Network Analyzer'.



PCAPdroid by Emanuele Faranda

Sets up an internal VPN to allow you to capture the network traffic from a particular App and store it in a .PCAP file.

Move that file to a system with Wireshark – Voila!



The CEO of a customer company was unable to configure an email client on his new cell phone.

I installed this on my cell phone to test it out, and it captured the IMAP transaction I needed to see.

Bonus: JRPN 16C by Jovial Software

A programmer's calculator patterned after the HP 16C.

I no longer write or debug kernel-mode software, so I do not use this as often as I once would have.



A programmer's calculator – hex, octal, decimal, binary.

Summary – Questions?

USB adapter

Net Analyzer by Jiri Techet

Wifi Analyzer by <unknown>

Network Tools by Hurricane Electric

PCAPdroid by Emanuele Faranda

JRPN 16C

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We considered an alternative to my old favorite Wifi Analyzer.

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