

**NAME**

`pcap_create` - create a live capture handle

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <pcap/pcap.h>
```

```
char errbuf[PCAP_ERRBUF_SIZE];
```

```
pcap_t *pcap_create(const char *source, char *errbuf);
```

**DESCRIPTION**

`pcap_create()` is used to create a packet capture handle to look at packets on the network. *source* is a string that specifies the network device to open; on Linux systems with 2.2 or later kernels, a *source* argument of "any" or **NULL** can be used to capture packets from all interfaces. *errbuf* is a buffer large enough to hold at least **PCAP\_ERRBUF\_SIZE** chars.

The returned handle must be activated with `pcap_activate(3)` before packets can be captured with it; options for the capture, such as promiscuous mode, can be set on the handle before activating it.

**RETURN VALUE**

`pcap_create()` returns a `pcap_t *` on success and **NULL** on failure. If **NULL** is returned, *errbuf* is filled in with an appropriate error message.

**SEE ALSO**

`pcap(3)`