NAME

pcap_open_live - open a device for capturing

SYNOPSIS

#include <pcap/pcap.h>

char errbuf[PCAP_ERRBUF_SIZE];

pcap_t *pcap_open_live(const char *device, int snaplen,
int promisc, int to_ms, char *errbuf);

DESCRIPTION

pcap_open_live() is used to obtain a packet capture handle to look at packets on the network. *device* is a string that specifies the network device to open; on Linux systems with 2.2 or later kernels, a *device* argument of "any" or **NULL** can be used to capture packets from all interfaces.

snaplen specifies the snapshot length to be set on the handle.

promisc specifies whether the interface is to be put into promiscuous mode. If *promisc* is non-zero, promiscuous mode will be set, otherwise it will not be set.

to_ms specifies the packet buffer timeout, as a non-negative value, in milliseconds. (See **pcap**(3) for an explanation of the packet buffer timeout.)

RETURN VALUE

pcap_open_live() returns a *pcap_t* * on success and **NULL** on failure. If **NULL** is returned, *errbuf* is filled in with an appropriate error message. *errbuf* may also be set to warning text when **pcap_open_live**() succeeds; to detect this case the caller should store a zero-length string in *errbuf* before calling **pcap_open_live**() and display the warning to the user if *errbuf* is no longer a zero-length string. *errbuf* is assumed to be able to hold at least **PCAP_ERRBUF_SIZE** chars.

SEE ALSO

pcap_create(3), **pcap_activate**(3)