TOOLS & RESOURCES

Learn Wireshark From Laura Chappell

By **Keith Parsons, CWNE #3** · 2026-06-13 · originally on LinkedIn

If you want to actually understand what your packets are telling you, go learn Wireshark from Laura Chappell. She is the person I point people to, and I have for years.

Most of us got our packet-analysis chops the hard way, staring at captures until the patterns finally made sense. Laura built the on-ramp the rest of us wish we'd had. She founded Chappell University, she helped start SharkFest, and she has spent decades teaching engineers how to read a trace instead of just collecting one. That is a body of work, not a weekend course.

Packet analysis is one of those skills that pays you back every single time you troubleshoot. When the survey looks clean and the client still complains, the capture has the answer. Roaming gaps, retries, retransmissions, the handshake that never completes, it is all in there if you know how to look. Laura teaches you how to look.

I have sent more junior engineers to her work than I can count, and not one has come back disappointed. If you are leveling up toward CWNE and packet analysis is the gap, this is where you close it. Start at chappellu.com, pick up her books, and stay with one capture until you understand every frame in it. When was the last time a packet capture changed your diagnosis after the survey said everything was fine?

#Wireshark #WiFi

By Keith Parsons, CWNE #3, Wireless LAN Professionals. Free to read and share. Facts