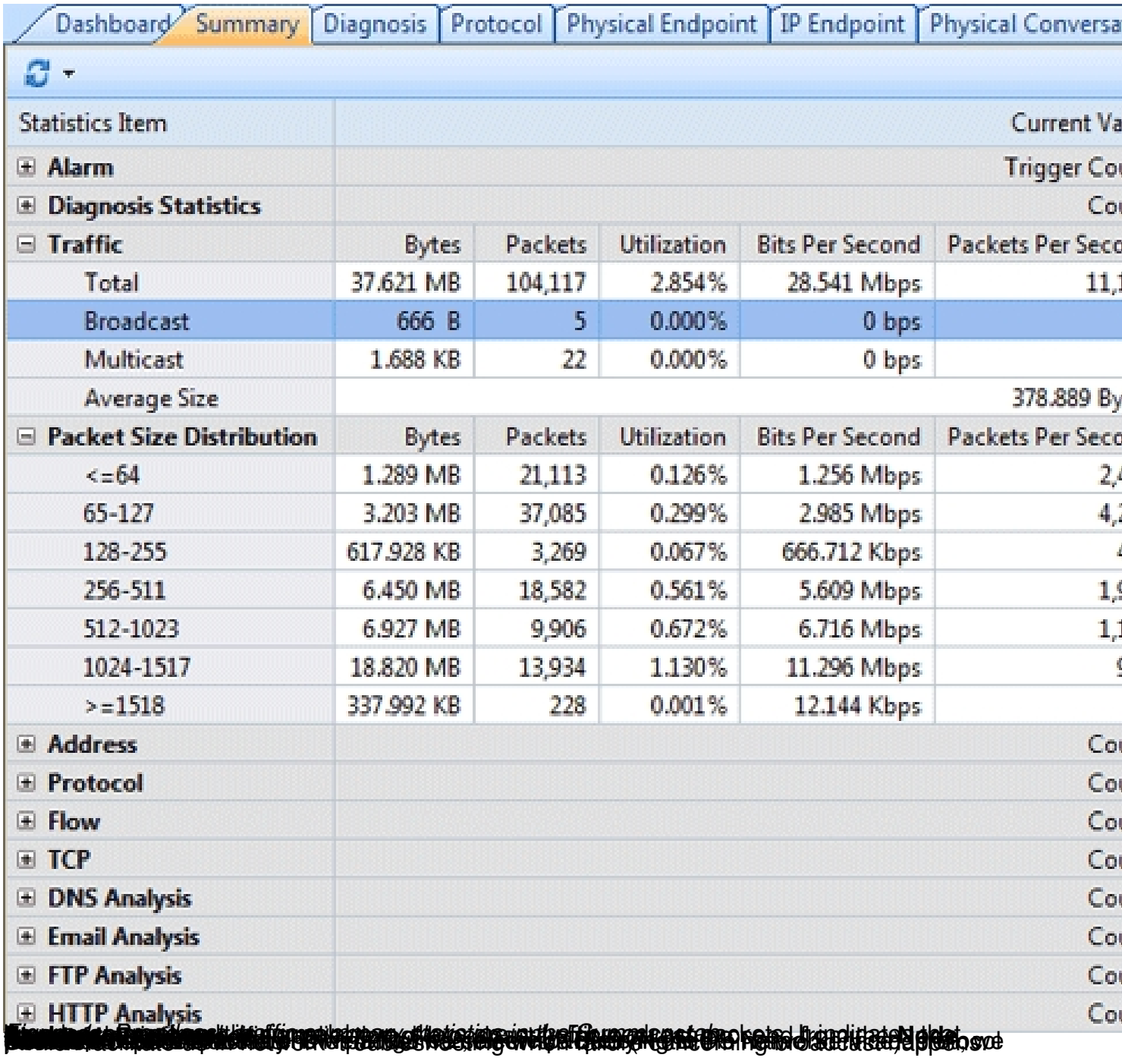
What's broadcast traffic?

In Ethernet, all communications are based on broadcast. By default, every host must process all broadcast packets in the network. The traffic that broadcast packets occupy is called broadcast traffic. Excessive broadcast traffic may lead to network performance depreciation, or even cause network failures such as slow network and intermittence.

The network will be less influenced if broadcast traffic is small. However, the influence of broadcast packets to the network cannot be eliminated. In Ethernet, there are a lot of protocols such as ARP, RARP, NETBEUI, SMB, DHCP, RIP, SAP, and IPX to some extent work in broadcast mode. Normally, broadcast traffic should not exceed 20% of the total traffic. To avoid broadcast storm and other network failures, network administrators should regularly check broadcast traffic in the network.

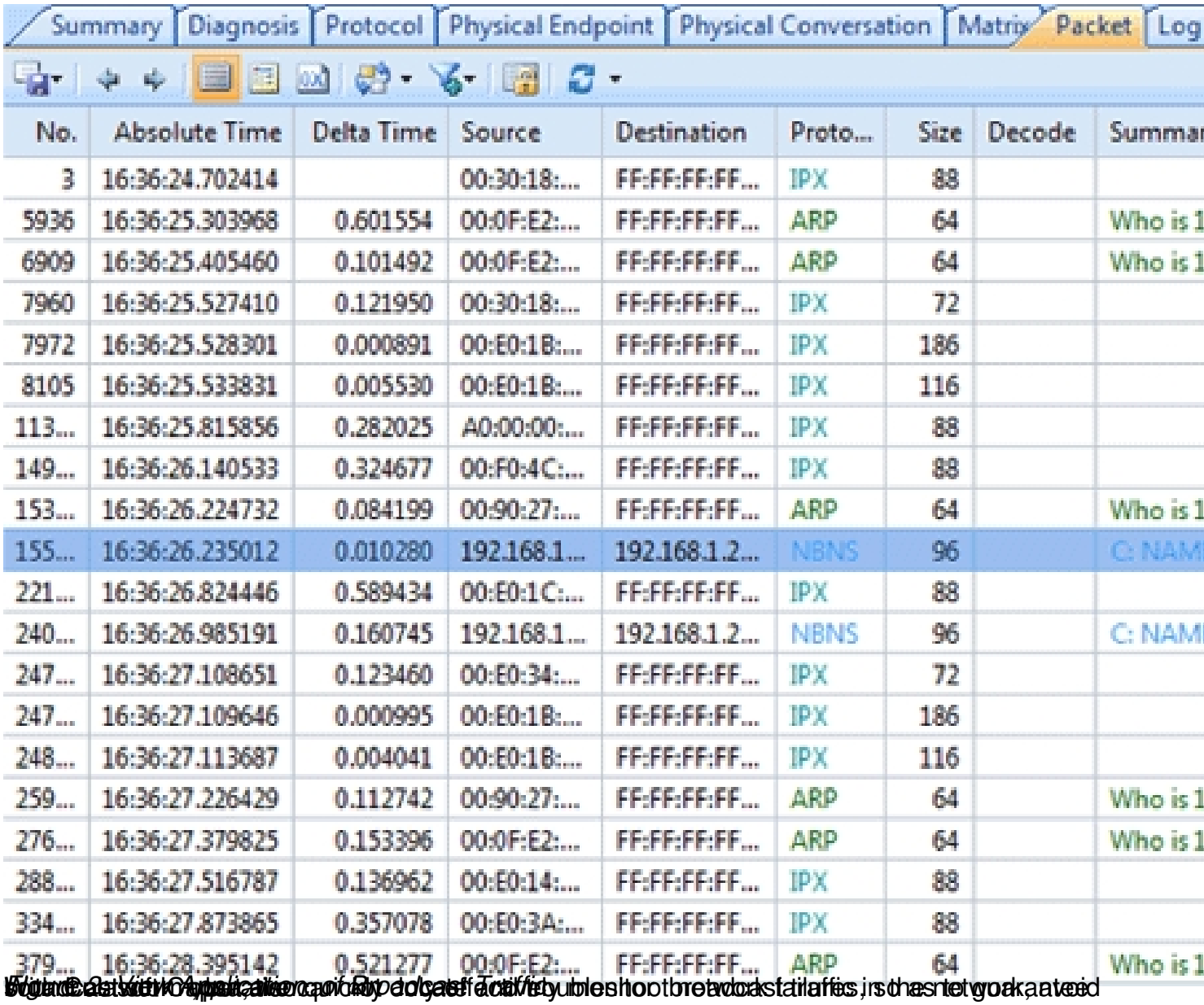
Check broadcast traffic in network

Our network is a 100M Ethernet. We can have a real-time Broadcast Traffic statistics in the **Summary** tab which provides several types of statistics (Figure 1).



Dashboard | Summary | Diagnosis | Protocol | Physical Endpoint | IP Endpoint | Physical Conversa

Statistics Item					Current Va
⊞ **Alarm**					Trigger Co
⊞ **Diagnosis Statistics**					Co
⊟ **Traffic**	Bytes	Packets	Utilization	Bits Per Second	Packets Per Seco
Total	37.621 MB	104,117	2.854%	28.541 Mbps	11,
Broadcast	666 B	5	0.000%	0 bps	
Multicast	1.688 KB	22	0.000%	0 bps	
Average Size					378.889 By
⊟ **Packet Size Distribution**	Bytes	Packets	Utilization	Bits Per Second	Packets Per Seco
<=64	1.289 MB	21,113	0.126%	1.256 Mbps	2,
65-127	3.203 MB	37,085	0.299%	2.985 Mbps	4,
128-255	617.928 KB	3,269	0.067%	666.712 Kbps	
256-511	6.450 MB	18,582	0.561%	5.609 Mbps	1,
512-1023	6.927 MB	9,906	0.672%	6.716 Mbps	1,
1024-1517	18.820 MB	13,934	1.130%	11.296 Mbps	
>=1518	337.992 KB	228	0.001%	12.144 Kbps	
⊞ **Address**					Co
⊞ **Protocol**					Co
⊞ **Flow**					Co
⊞ **TCP**					Co
⊞ **DNS Analysis**					Co
⊞ **Email Analysis**					Co
⊞ **FTP Analysis**					Co
⊞ **HTTP Analysis**					Co



No.	Absolute Time	Delta Time	Source	Destination	Proto...	Size	Decode	Summar
3	16:36:24.702414		00:30:18:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	88		
5936	16:36:25.303968	0.601554	00:0F:E2:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	ARP	64		Who is 1
6909	16:36:25.405460	0.101492	00:0F:E2:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	ARP	64		Who is 1
7960	16:36:25.527410	0.121950	00:30:18:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	72		
7972	16:36:25.528301	0.000891	00:E0:1B:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	186		
8105	16:36:25.533831	0.005530	00:E0:1B:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	116		
113...	16:36:25.815856	0.282025	A0:00:00:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	88		
149...	16:36:26.140533	0.324677	00:F0:4C:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	88		
153...	16:36:26.224732	0.084199	00:90:27:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	ARP	64		Who is 1
155...	16:36:26.235012	0.010280	192.168.1...	192.168.1.2...	NBNS	96		C: NAM
221...	16:36:26.824446	0.589434	00:E0:1C:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	88		
240...	16:36:26.985191	0.160745	192.168.1...	192.168.1.2...	NBNS	96		C: NAM
247...	16:36:27.108651	0.123460	00:E0:34:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	72		
247...	16:36:27.109646	0.000995	00:E0:1B:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	186		
248...	16:36:27.113687	0.004041	00:E0:1B:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	116		
259...	16:36:27.226429	0.112742	00:90:27:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	ARP	64		Who is 1
276...	16:36:27.379825	0.153396	00:0F:E2:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	ARP	64		Who is 1
288...	16:36:27.516787	0.136962	00:E0:14:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	88		
334...	16:36:27.873865	0.357078	00:E0:3A:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	IPX	88		
379...	16:36:28.395142	0.521277	00:0F:E2:...	FF:FF:FF:FF...	ARP	64		Who is 1