# Frame Relay Analysis and Emulation



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- Multilink Frame Relay Emulation (GUI)
- Multilink Frame Relay Emulation (CLI)



# FrameRelay Analysis and Emulation over T1 E1



#### Why use Frame Relay?

- Reduced Overhead
  - Much faster
  - ➤ Lower delays
  - > Requires reliable links
- Outband signaling
- Good for bursty and variable traffic
- Cost effective multiplexed communications interface
- Congestion control



#### **Protocol Features**

- Connection –oriented WAN technology based on packet (frame) switching
- Frames of variable length (up to 4096 bytes, typically 1600 bytes)
- High data rates at user-network interfaces (2Mbps, ultimately up to 45 Mbps)
- Bandwidth on demand
- No flow control mechanisms (nearly)
- No error control (but FCS) or retransmission mechanisms
- All protocol functions implemented at 2nd level (data link) of OSI model
- No standards for physical interface: can be X.21, V.35, G.703, G.704
- Option to create multiple aggregate column groups and prioritize the groups as per the requirement to display the summary results efficiently
- Allows the user to create search/filter criteria automatically from the current screen selection



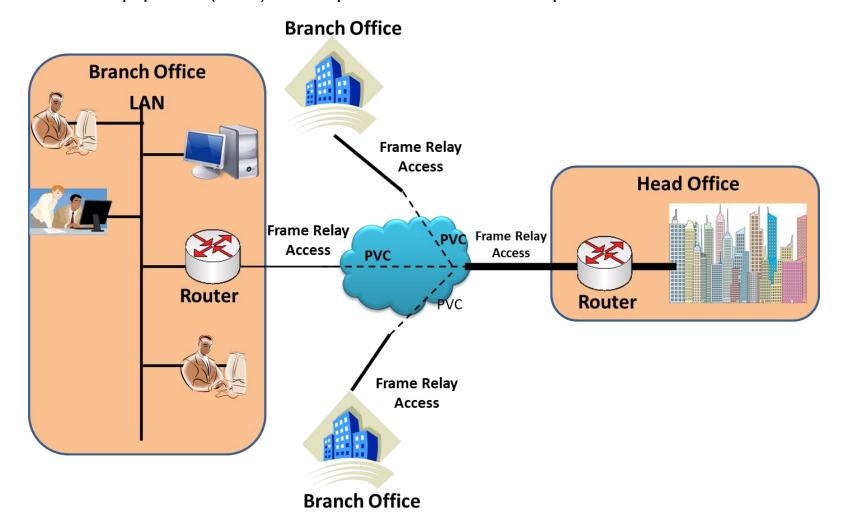
# Frame Relay in OSI Layer

**OSI Model Application** Presentation Session Transport Network Data Link Frame Relay **Physical** 



#### Frame Relay Network

- Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) User device and the logical frame relay end-system
- Data Communication Equipment (DCE) Comprises of modems and packet switches

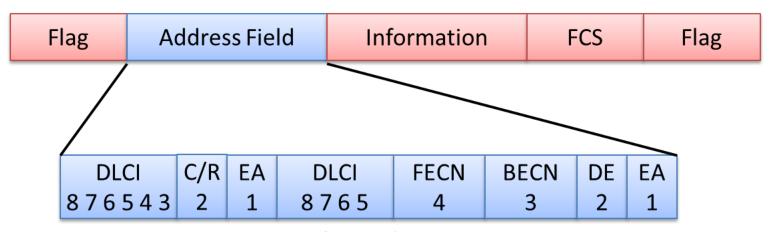




#### Frame Relay Structure

- Frame Relay structure is based on the LAPD protocol
- Frame Relay header consists of DLCI, C/R, EA, FECN, BECN, and DE

#### Frame Relay Header



**Frame Relay Header Structure** 

**DLCI – Datalink Connection Identifier** 

C/R – Command/Response

EA – Extended Address field

**FECN – Forward Explicit Congestion Notification** 

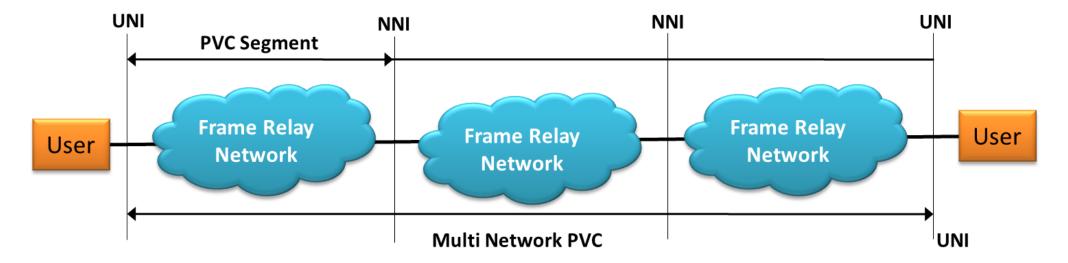
**BECN – Backward Explicit Congestion Notification** 

**DE – Discard Eligibility** 



#### Frame Relay Interface Types

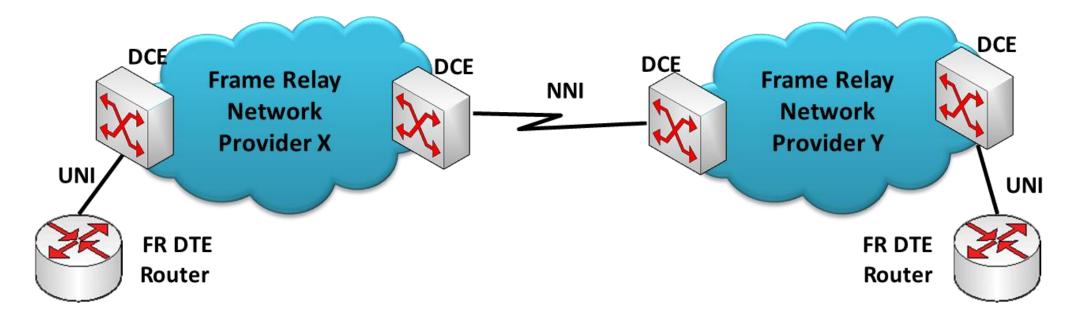
- User–to–Network Interface (UNI)
  - ➤ The DTE and DCE interfaces act as fragmentation and reassembly peers; UNI (DTE-DCE) fragmentation is used in order to allow real-time and data frames to share the same UNI interface between a DTE and the Frame Relay Network
- Network-to-Network Interface (NNI)
  - ➤ NNI connects different Frame Relay networks together
  - > NNI interface standardizes DCE to DCE communication





#### **Fragmentation**

- Fragmentation allows to fragment long data frames into a sequence of shorter frames that are then reassembled into the original frame by the receiving peer DTE or DCE
- FRF.12 supports three fragmentation applications:
- Locally across a Frame Relay UNI interface between the DTE/DCE peers
- Locally across a Frame Relay NNI interface between DCE peers
- End-to-End between two Frame Relay DTEs interconnected by one or more Frame Relay networks



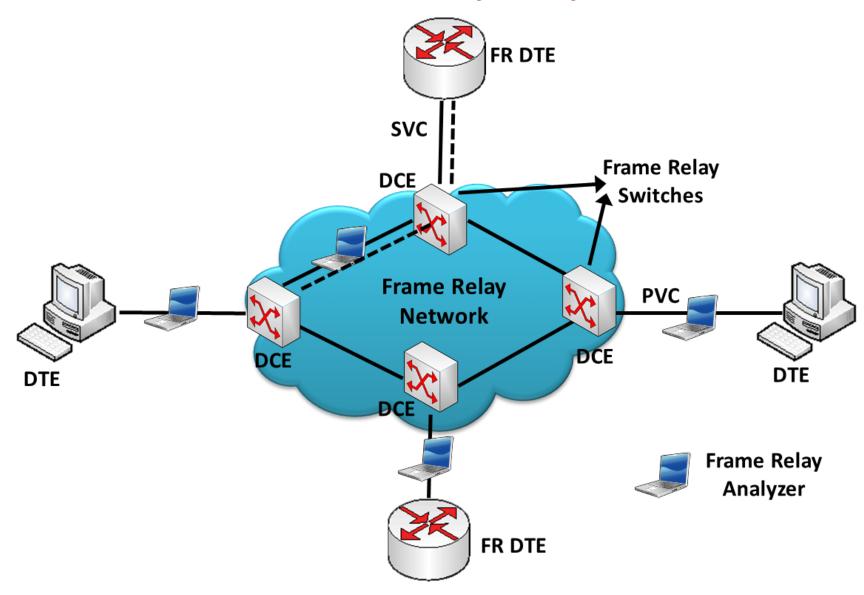


#### **Advantages**

- Multiple virtual circuits can exist simultaneously across a given transmission line since virtual circuits consume bandwidth only when they transport data
- Each device can use more of the bandwidth as necessary, and thus operate at higher speeds
- Discard erroneous frames and eliminate time-consuming error-handling processing



# **GL's Frame Relay Analyzer**





# **Supported Platforms**



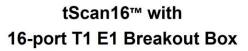
tProbe™ - Portable USB based T1 E1 VF FXO FXS and Serial Datacom Analyzer



**Dual T1 E1 Express (PCIe) Board** 



Quad / Octal T1 E1 PCle Card

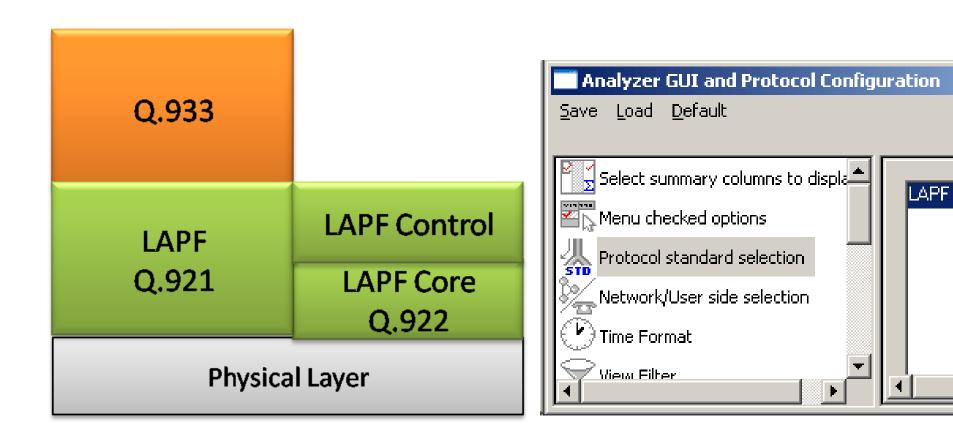






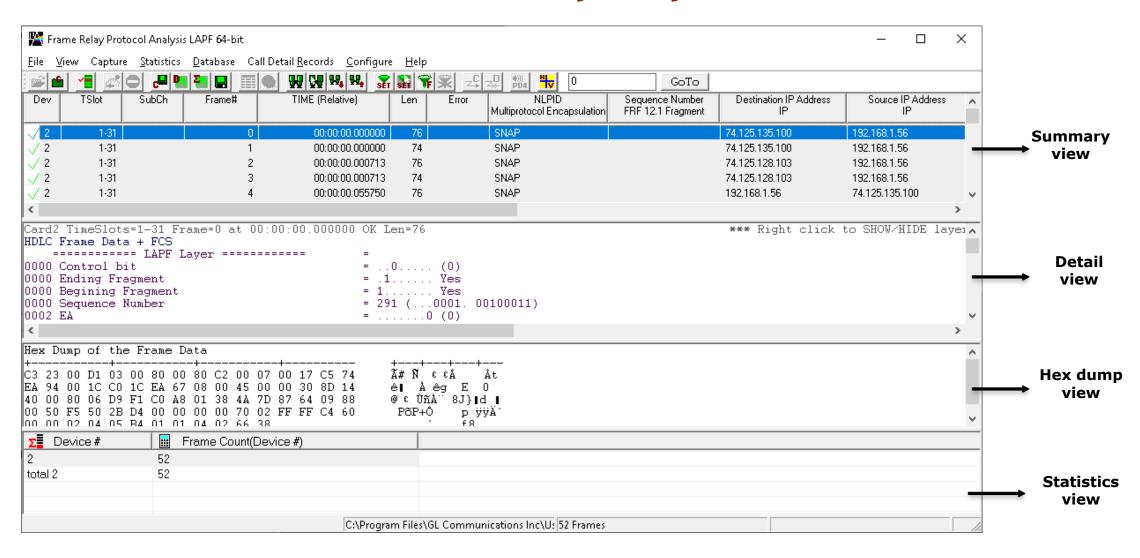
#### **Supported Protocols**

 LAPF – Enhanced version of LAPD (Q.921) and decodes Layer 2 as Link Access Procedure/Protocol (LAPF) as defined in the ITU Q.922





#### Frame Relay Analysis



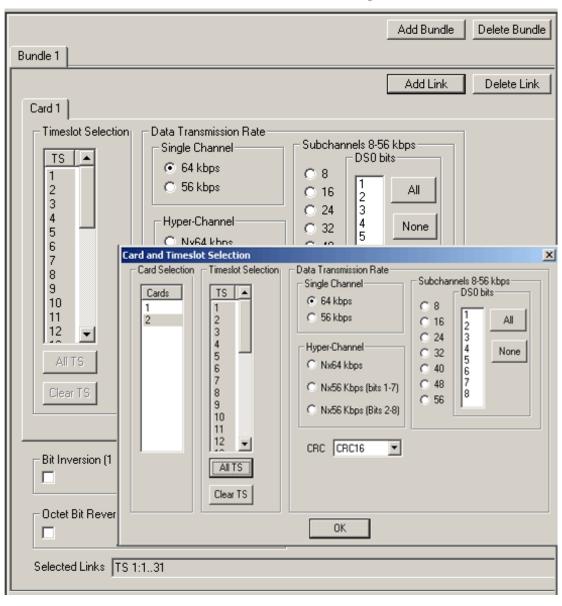


#### **Different Views**

- Summary View: This pane displays the columns that contain Card Number, Timeslots, Frame Number, Time,
  Frame Error Status, Command/Response, Length, Error, C/R, SAPI, CTL, P/F, FUNC, and more in a tabular format
- Detail View: This pane displays in detail about a frame in order to analyze and decode by selecting it in the summary view
- Hex Dump View: This pane displays the frame information in HEX and ASCII format
- Statistics View: This pane displays the Statistics that are calculated based on the protocol fields



#### **Real-time Analysis**





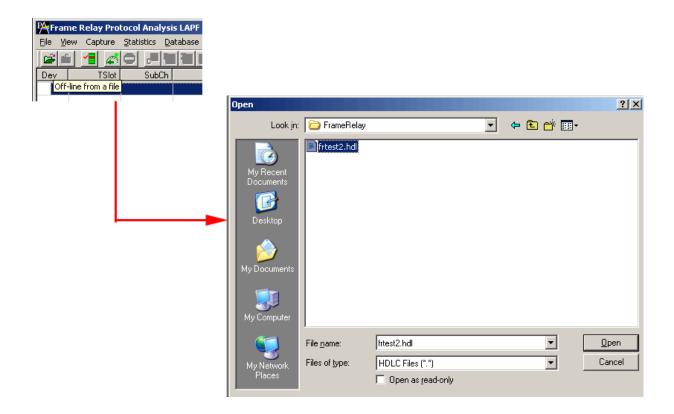
#### **Real-time Analysis**

- Streams can be captured on the selected time slots (contiguous or non-contiguous), sub-channels (fractional DS0 to DS1) or full bandwidth
- Frames may also be contained in either one, n x 64 kbps, or n x 56 kbps data channels
- Capture frames based on Frame Relay options such as fragments and maximum differential delay
- Frames may also be captured based on their FCS (16 bits, 32 bits, none), bit inversion, octet bit reversion, user/network side options
- Recorded trace file can then be analyzed offline, exported to ASCII file, or printed



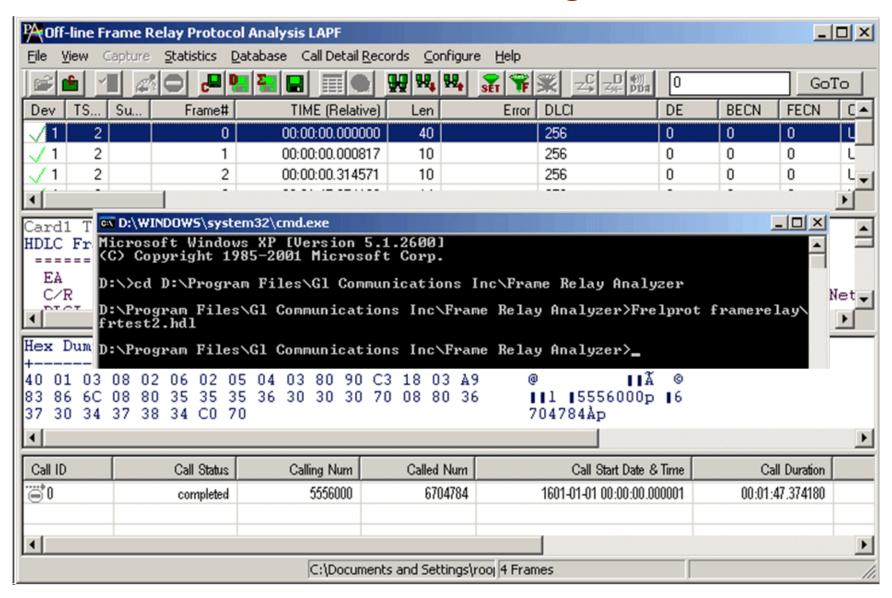
#### Offline Analysis

- Off-line analysis is equivalent to capturing a file in pre-defined timeslots
- Captured frames or only the filtered frames can be exported to \*.HDL file for the further off-line analysis
- Trace file for offline analysis can be loaded either through analyzer GUI or through simple command-line arguments





#### Offline Analysis using CLI





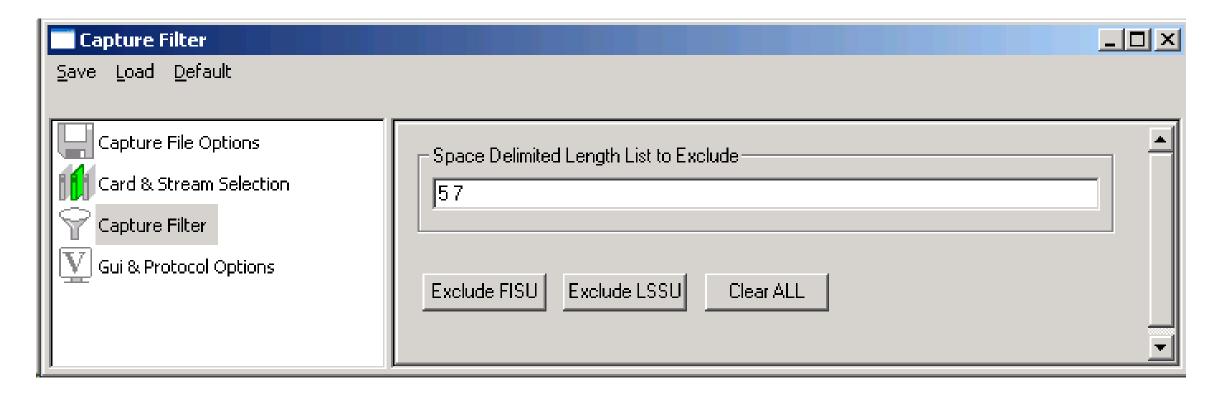
#### Other Features

- Call trace defining important call specific parameters such as call ID, status (active or completed), duration, calling number, called number, release complete cause etc. are displayed
- Filter Frames (Real-time): Isolate certain specific frames from all frames in real-time as well as offline
- Filter Frames (Offline): The frames can be filtered after completion of capture based on BECN, FECN, DLCI, DE,
  NLPID, IP source and destination address, TCP & UDP source and destination port.
- Search features helps users to search for a particular frame based on specific search criteria
- Capability to export summary view details to comma separated values (CSV) format for subsequent import into a database or spreadsheet
- Capability to export detail decode information to an ASCII file



#### Filter Frames (Real-time)

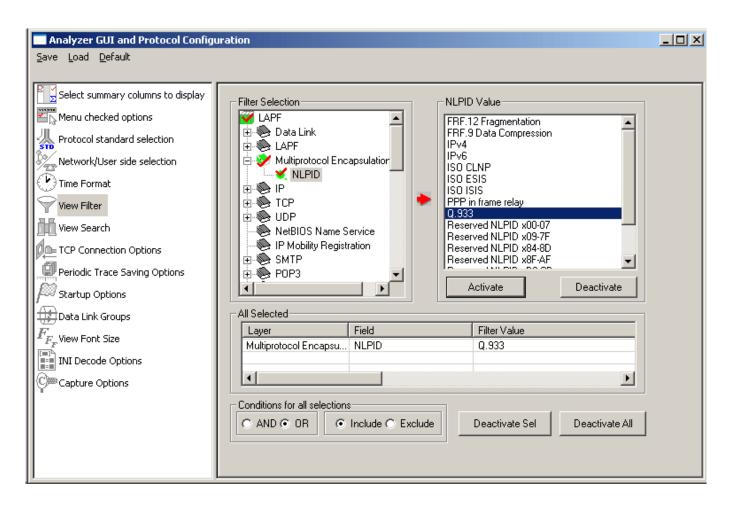
- · Isolate certain specific frames from all frames in real-time as well as offline
- Real-time Filter applies to the frames being captured and is based on the frame length





#### Filter Frames (Offline)

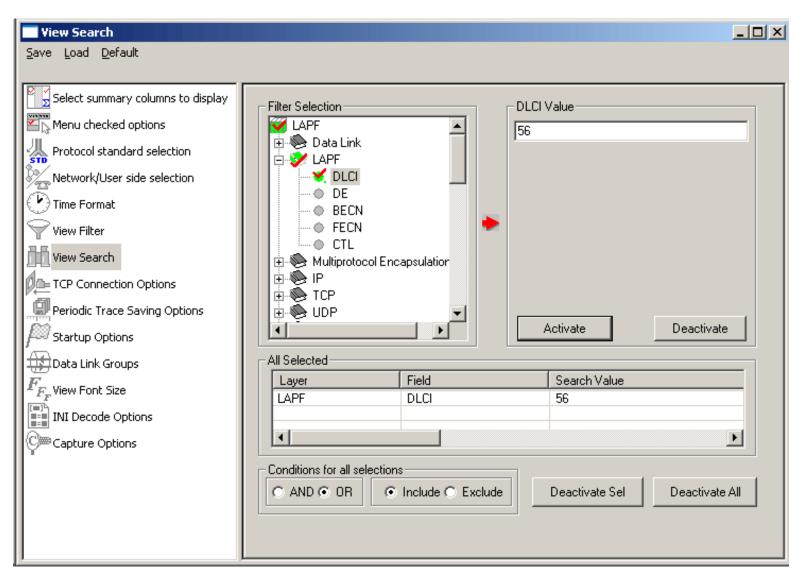
- Isolates required frames from all frames in real-time, as well as offline
- The frames can be filtered after completion of capture based on BECN, FECN, DLCI, DE, NLPID, IP source and destination address, TCP & UDP source and destination





#### **Search Frames**

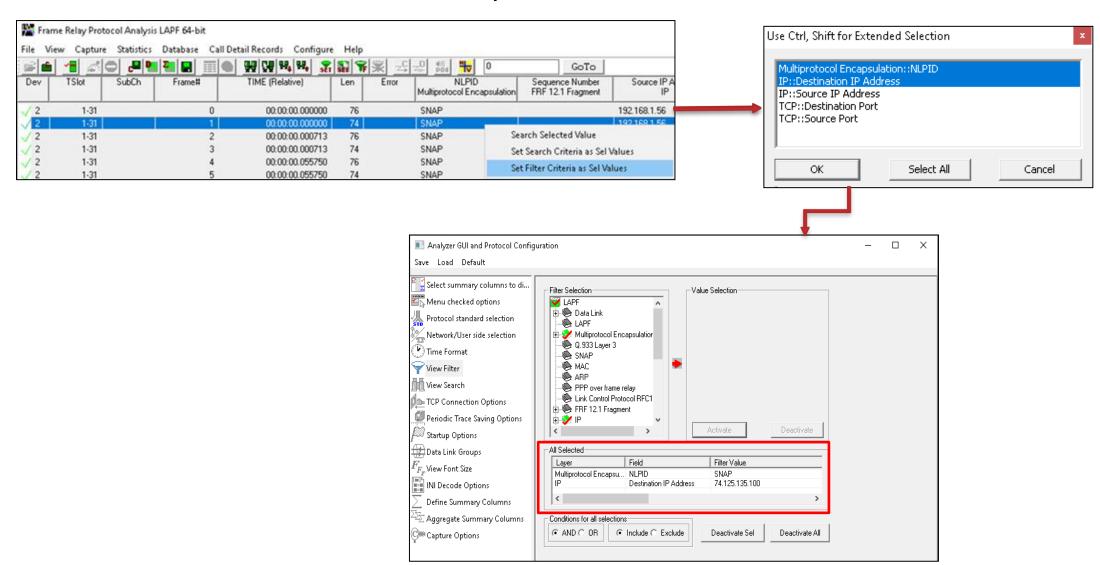
Search features helps users to search for a particular frame based on specific search criteria





#### Filtering Criteria From Screen Selection

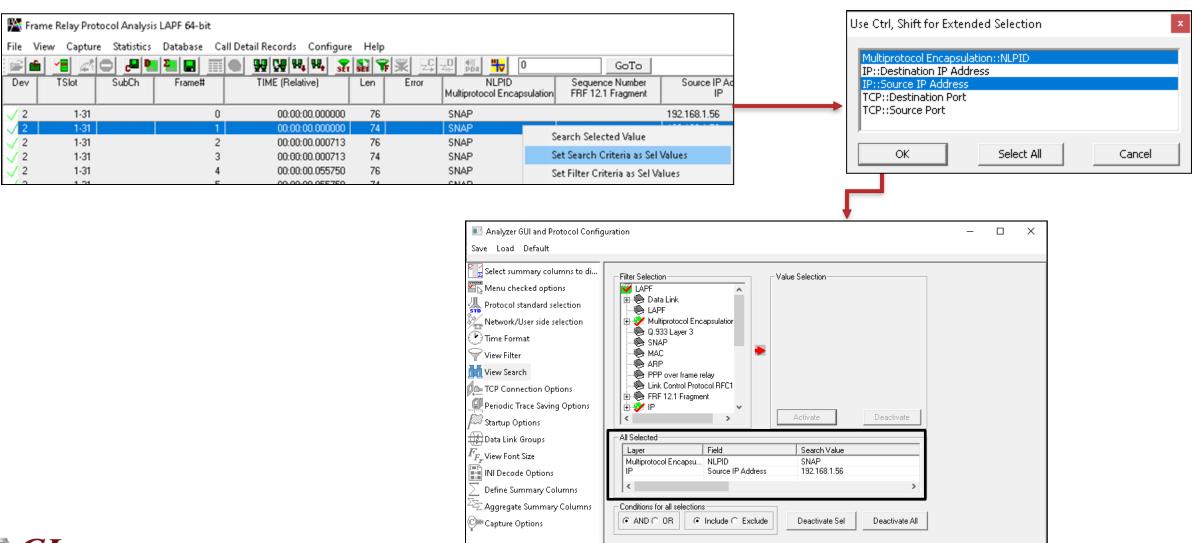
Allows the user to create filter criteria automatically from the current screen selection





#### **Search Criteria From Screen Selection**

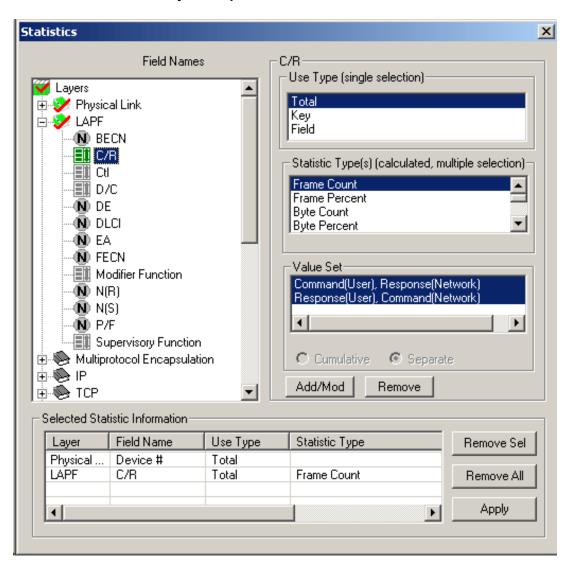
Allows the user to create search criteria automatically from the current screen selection





#### **Statistics**

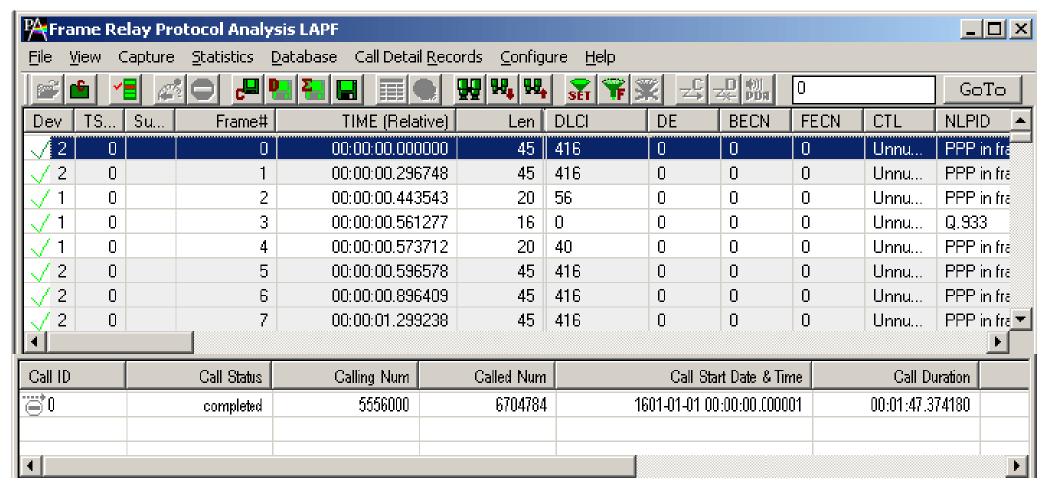
Numerous statistics can be obtained to study the performance and trend in the network





#### **Call Detail Records View**

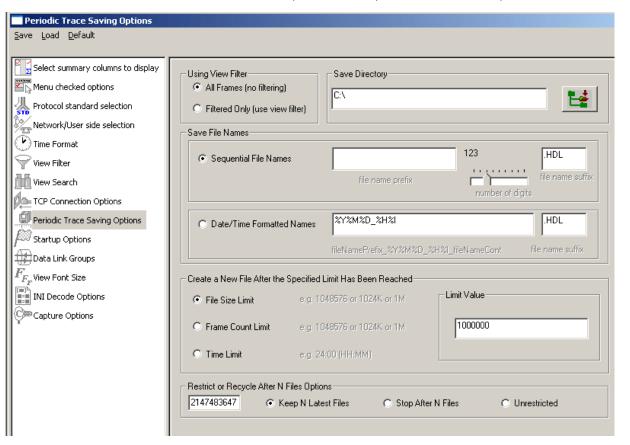
 Call trace defining important call specific parameters such as call ID, status (active or completed), duration, calling number, called number, release complete cause etc. are displayed





# Saving a File

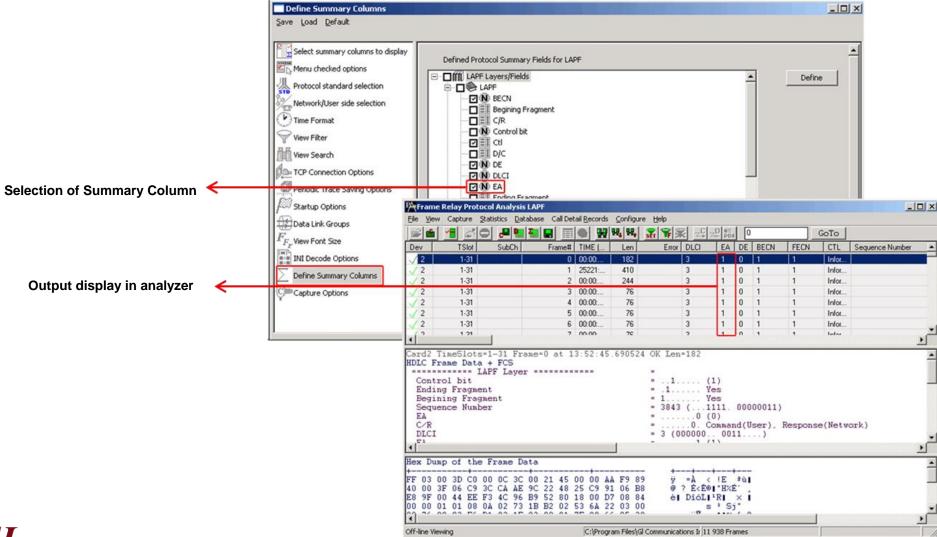
- Captured trace files can be controlled by saving the trace using different conventions such as
  - Trace files with user-defined prefixes
  - Trace file with date-time prefixes
  - Slider control to indicate the total number of files, file size, frame count, or time limit





#### **Define Summary Columns**

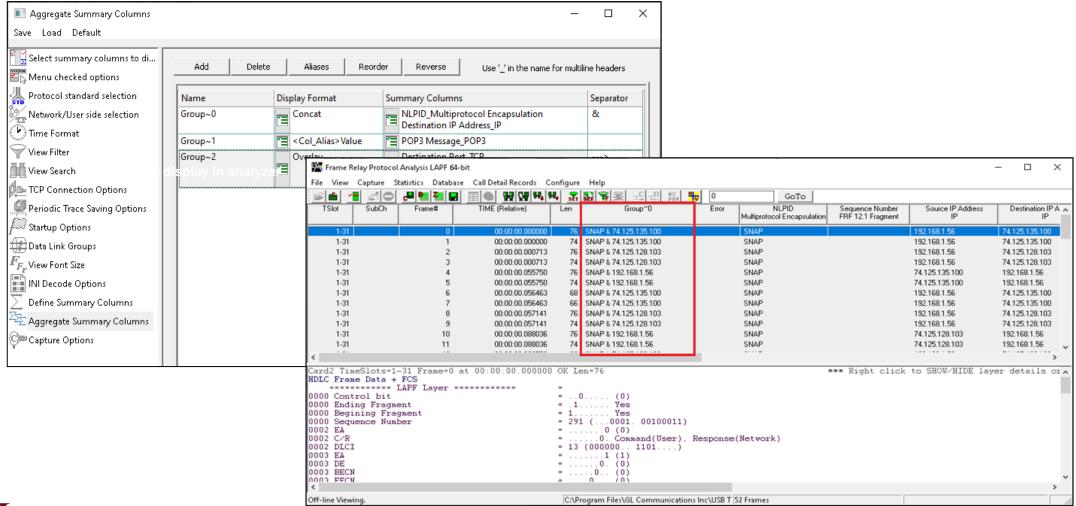
Add or remove any protocol fields through Define Summary Column option





#### Aggregate Group Column

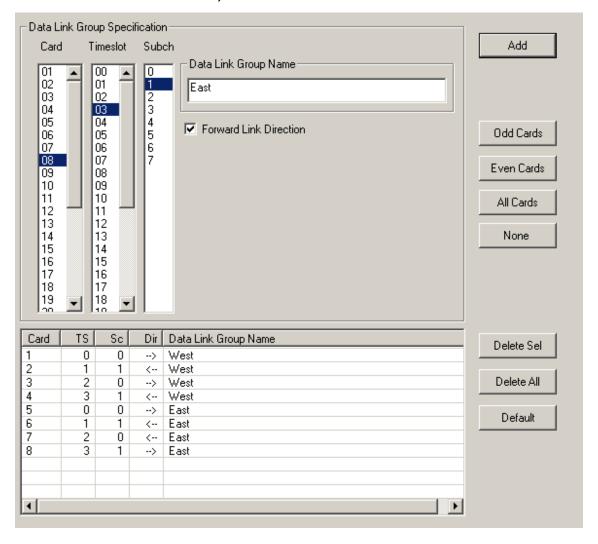
• The user can create multiple aggregate column groups and prioritize the groups as per the requirement to display the summary results efficiently





#### Data Link Group

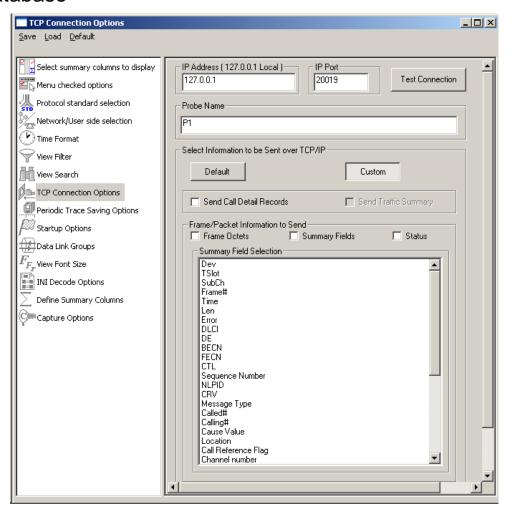
• Data link groups that help in defining the direction of the calls in each network and form logical groups comprised of unidirectional (either 'Forward' or 'Backward') data links





#### TCP Connection Options

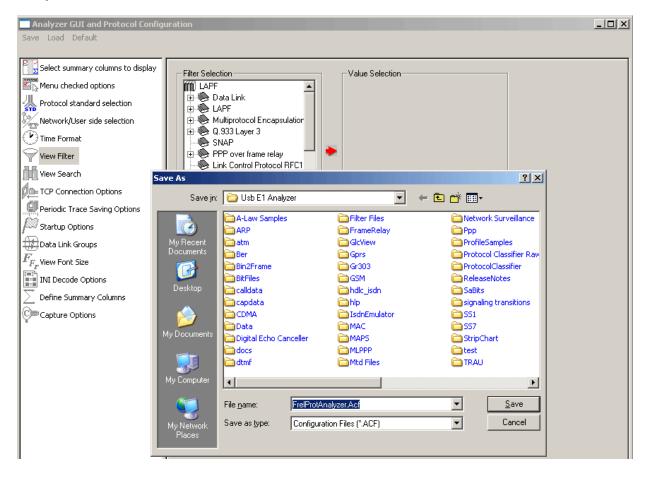
- Used for Network Surveillance and Monitoring
- Designed to send protocol summary information and binary frame data via TCP- IP connection to a Database
  Loader to load data into a database





# Save/Load All Configuration Settings

- Protocol Configuration window provides a consolidated interface for all the settings required in the analyzer such as protocol selection, filter criteria, search criteria, and so on
- Configuration settings can be saved to a file, loaded from a configuration file, or user may just revert to the default values using the default option





#### **Applications**

- Can be used as independent standalone units as "probes" integrated in a network surveillance systems
- Triggering, collecting, and filtering for unique subscriber information and relaying such information to a back-end processor
- Collecting Call Detail Records (CDR) information for billing
- Numerous statistics can be obtained to study the performance and trend in the network

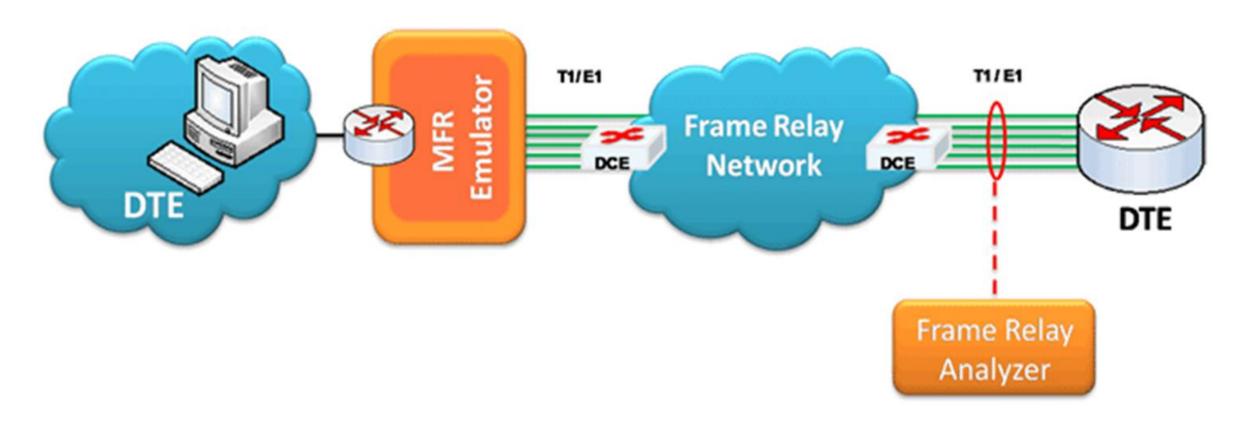


# Multi-Link Frame Relay Emulation using Client-Server



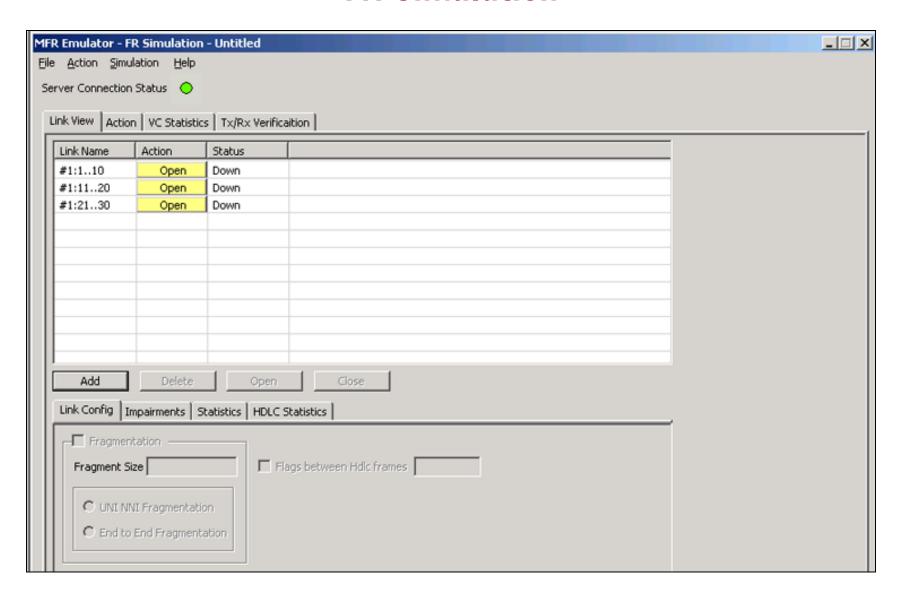
#### **MFR Emulator**

- GUI based WCS client, which simulates Multi-Link Frame Relay Emulation
- Capable of generating and receiving MFR/FR traffic (with or without impairments)
- Traffic source can be sequence number, HDL files (containing packets/frames), flat binary file, user-defined frames (ASCII HEX file), and Ethernet data



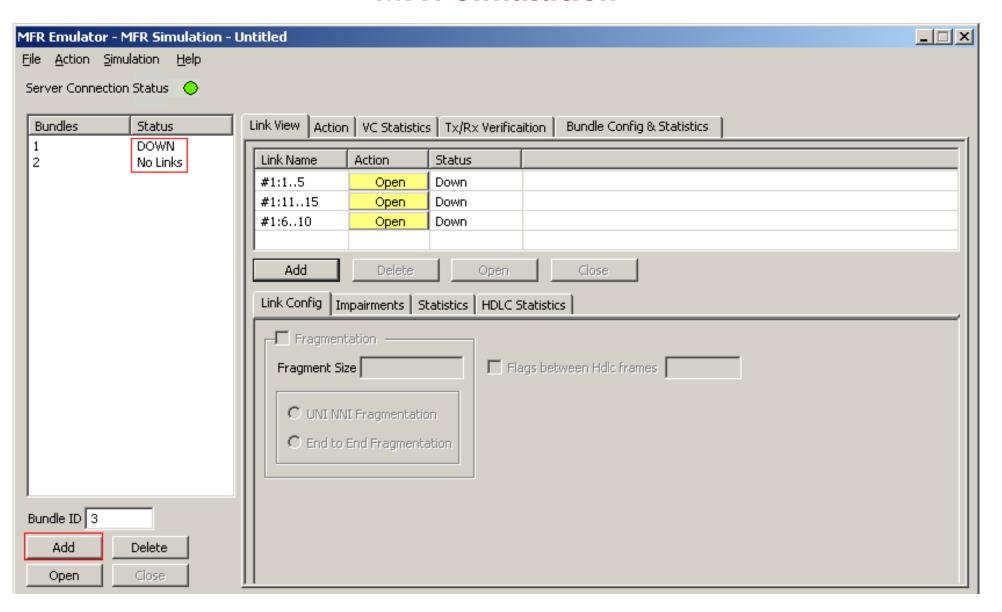


### **FR Simulation**





#### **MFR Simulation**





# **Supported Standards**

• FRF12 – This supports Frame Relay Fragmentation Implementation Agreement



### **Features**

- Performs MFR as well as FR simulation on up to 16 T1 E1 lines; Group FR links to create a MFR bundle with each bundle/link configured with multiple virtual channels for traffic Tx/Rx
- FR links can be created on Full or Fractional Timeslots
- Supports hyper channels with discontinuous (sparse) timeslots
- Dynamically add/remove (open/close) of Frame Relay links without loss in data
- Multiple MFR Bundles/FR links can be created
- Generate and verify end to end traffic on each Virtual Channel
- User configurable FR/MFR packet and fragment size, bandwidth using flags, and maximum link differential delay
- Payload traffic generation and verification using Sequence number, pre-captured HDL files (containing packets/frames), Flat Binary file, and User defined frame (ASCII HEX file) for each Virtual Channel independently



#### **Features**

- Supports both Interface (UNI and NNI) and End-to-End fragmentation
- Transmit and receive Ethernet traffic over T1 E1 links by operating either in bridge or router mode
- Supports various Byte level, Frame level, CRC error, and Frame error impairments at link level
- Supports various Byte level and Frame level impairments at Fragment/Packet level for each Virtual Channel
- Provides detailed statistics for each bundle and virtual channels associated with a bundle
- Provides end to end traffic verification statistics
- Ideal solution for automated testing using command line scripts



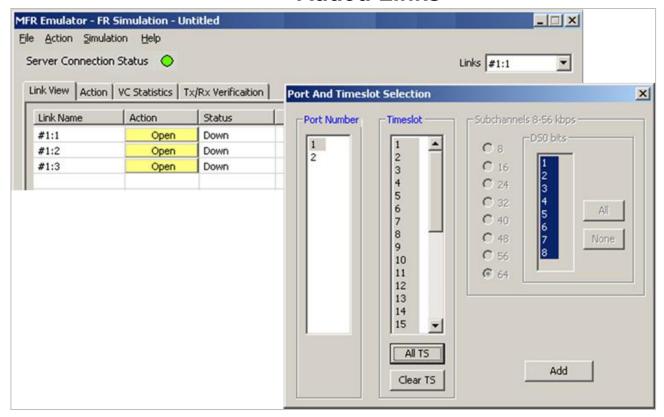
# **FR Simulation**



## **Adding Links**

- Supports up to 16 T1 E1 links
- Timeslot of 64 Kbps or a Hyper Channels of n\*64
  Kbps or sub channels can also be used
- Supports hyper channels with continuous or discontinuous timeslots
- Each link is independent and can be configured with the selected 'Link Config' options

#### **Added Links**

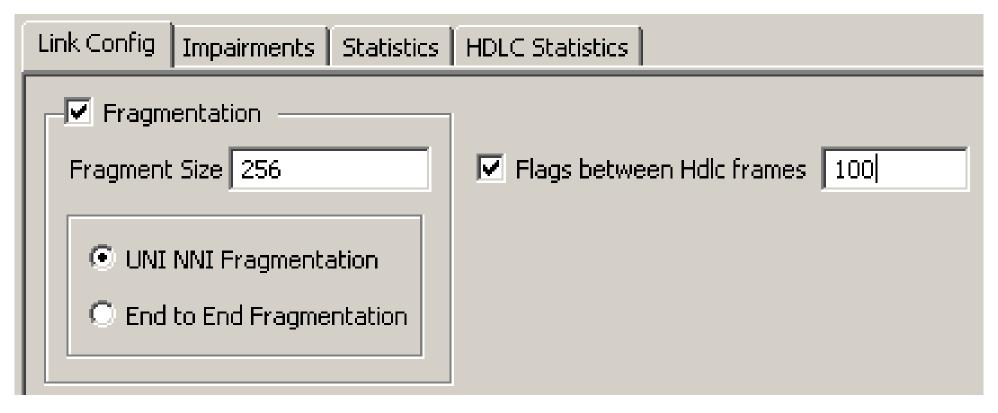




## **Link Configuration**

Link configuration is an optional feature, and the following values are negotiated when enabled

- Fragmentation Size: By default, the fragment size is 256. User can specify Fragment Size as required
- UNI NNI Fragmentation
- End to End Fragmentation
- Flags between Hdlc frames: This defines the number of flags to be inserted between HDLC frames the default value is 100



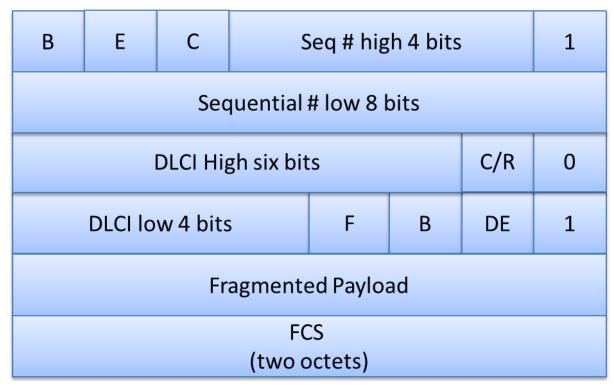


## **UNI NNI Fragmentation**

 UNI NNI Fragmentation: In UNI and NNI fragmentation, the frame starts with the fragmentation header, followed by the Frame Relay header

Fragmentation Header

Frame Relay Header Structure



**DLCI – Datalink Connection Identifier** 

**C/R – Command/Response** 

**DE – Discard Eligibility** 

**B** – Beginning Fragment Bit

**E – Ending Fragment Bit** 

C – Control Bit



### **End to End Fragmentation**

• End to End Fragmentation: End-to-End fragmentation is used between peer DTEs and is restricted to use on PVCs only. The Network Layer Protocol ID (NLPID) will be set to 0xB1

Frame Relay Header		C/R	0					
Structure	DLCI High 4 bits F B						DE	1
UI (0X03)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
NLPD (0XB1)	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
Fragmentation Header	В	E	С	Seq # high 4 bits 0				0
	Sequential # low 8 bits							
	Fragmented Payload							
	FCS (two octets)							

**DLCI – Datalink Connection Identifier** 

C/R – Command/Response

DE – Discard Eligibility

**B** – Beginning Fragment Bit

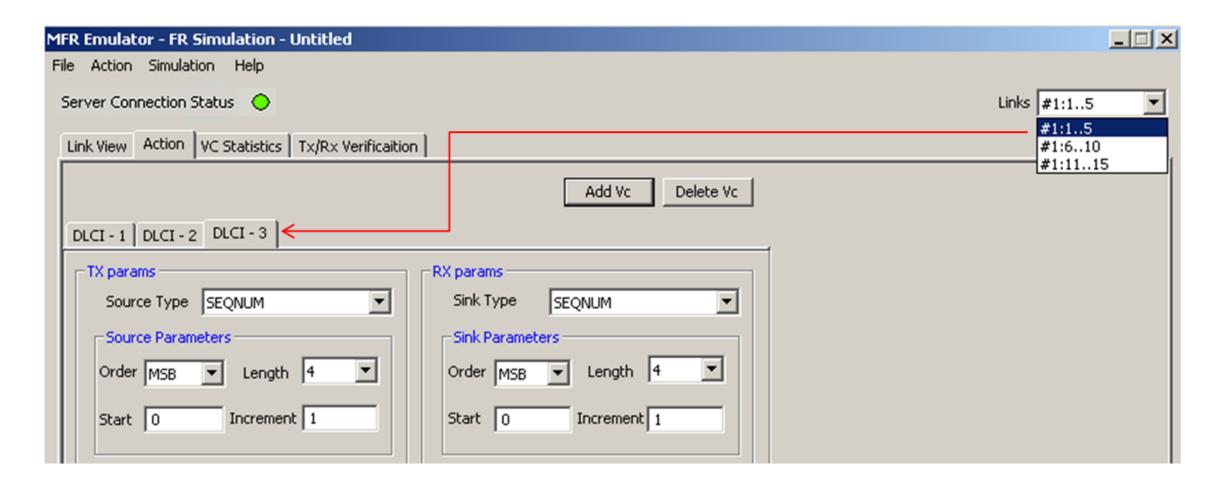
**E – Ending Fragment Bit** 

C – Control Bit



## **Adding VC in FR Simulation**

In FR simulation virtual channels are added on the selected link



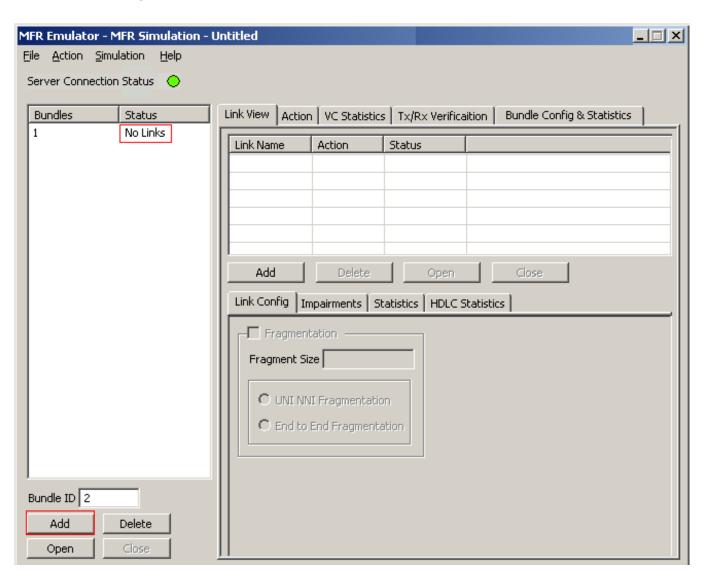


# **MFR Simulation**



## Adding a Bundle

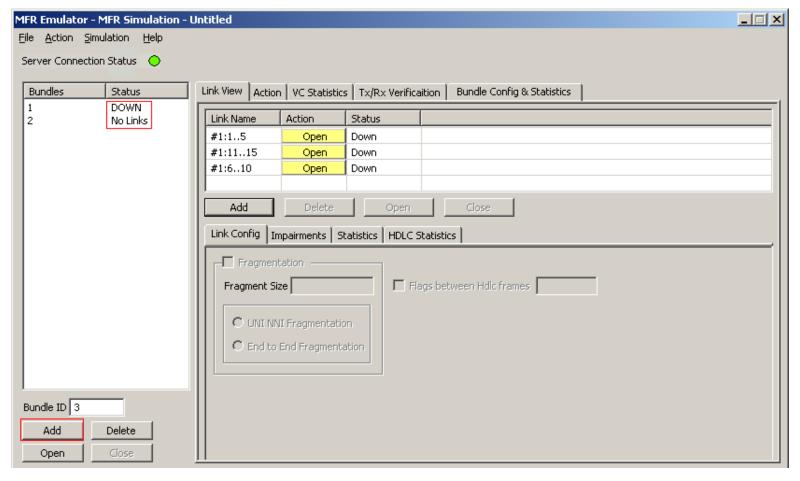
User can add a bundle by Clicking on Add button in the bundle pane, number of links constitute a bundle





## Adding links to form an MFR bundle

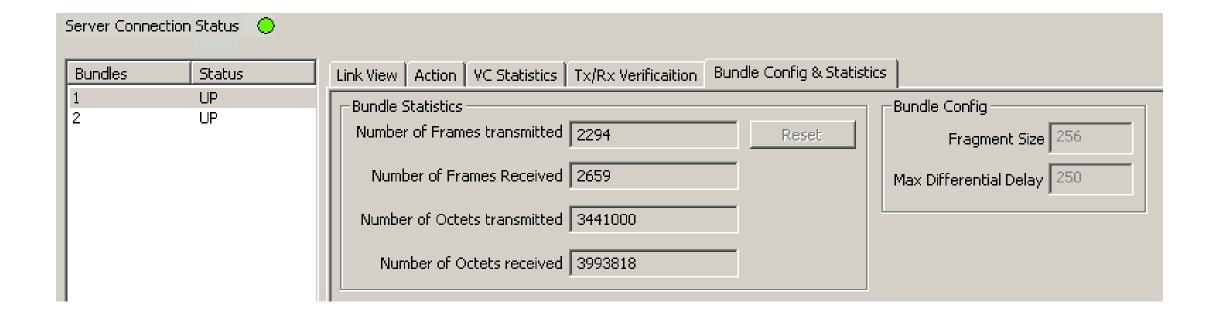
- Various links (of any bandwidth varying from 64Kbps to n\*64Kpbs or sub channels) can be added to form the MFR bundle
- MFR bundles multiple link-layer channels into a single network-layer channel





## **Bundle Config and Statistics**

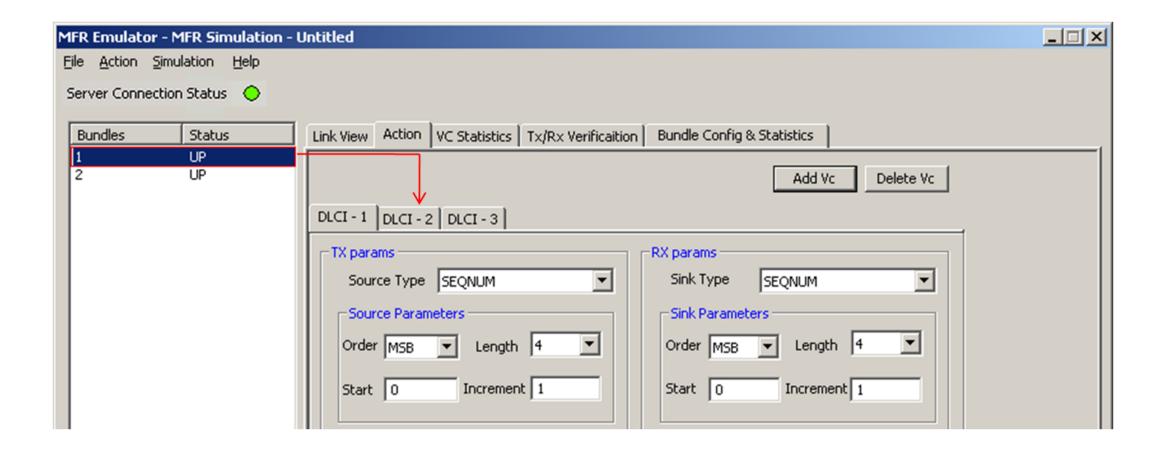
 Bundle Statistics will show statistics of transmitted frames, received frames, transmitted octets, and received octets for a selected bundle





## **Adding VC in MFR Simulation**

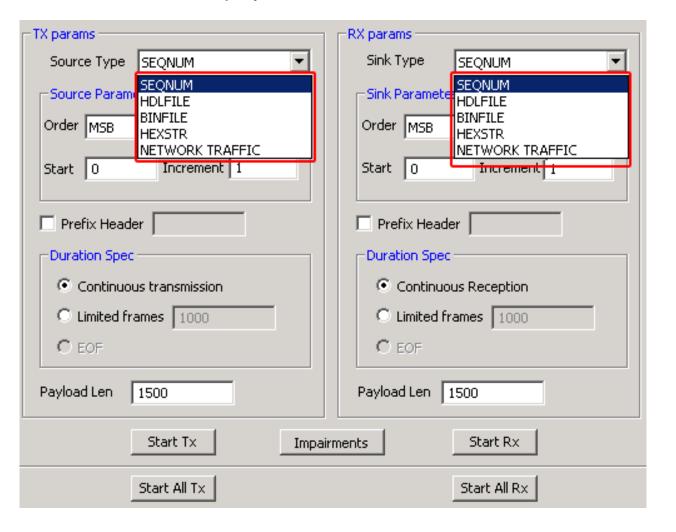
In MFR Simulation virtual channels are added on the selected bundle





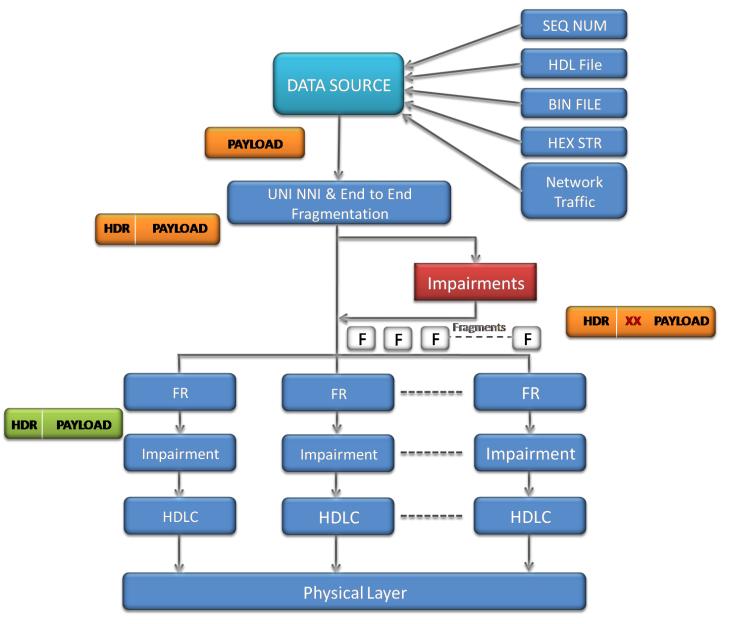
#### Tx and Rx Parameters

• Tx parameters are used to generate the FR traffic and Rx parameters are used as reference to verify the received frames. The results of the verification are displayed in Tx/Rx Verification tab



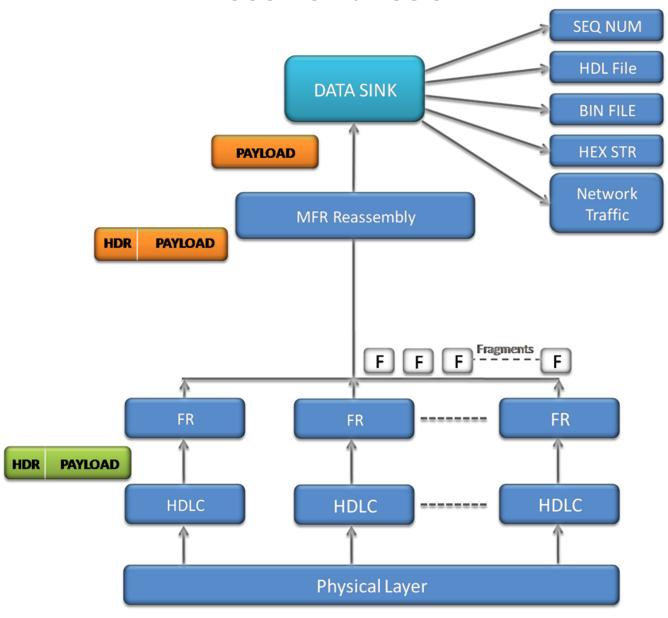


### **Transmit Function**





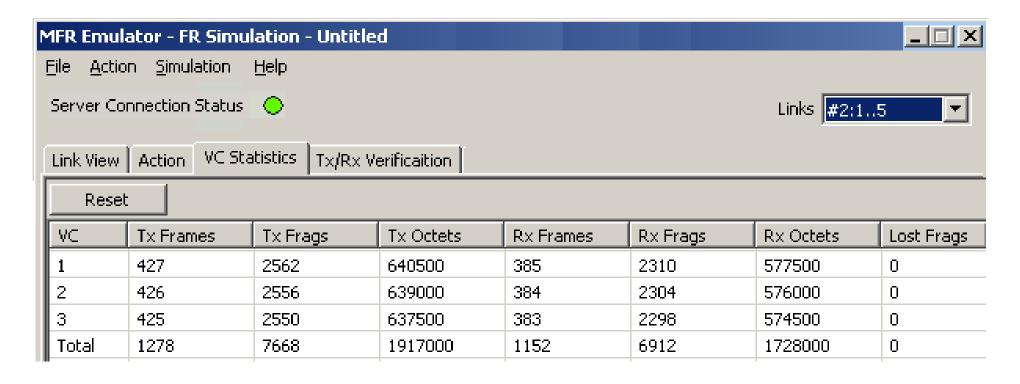
### **Receive Function**





### **VC Statistics**

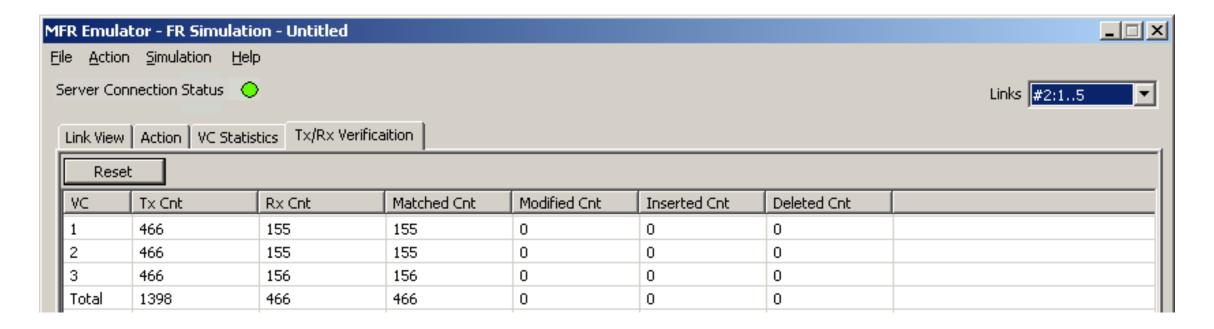
- The Statistics for each of the added VCs are available in VC Statistics tab
- The statistics include number of Transmitted and received frames, Fragments, Octets, and Lost fragments





#### Tx/Rx Verification

- The results of the verification for each of the added VCs are available in Tx/Rx Verification
- The statistics include number of frames Transmitted, Received, Matched, Modified, Inserted and Deleted





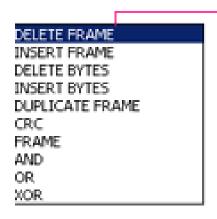
## **Impairments**

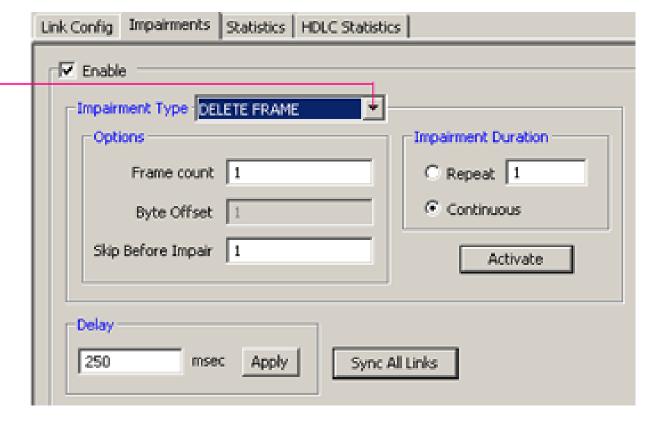
- Supports various Byte level, Frame level, CRC error, and Frame error impairments at link level
- Supports various Byte level and Frame level impairments at Fragment/Packet level for each Virtual Channel
- Impairments that affect an entire frame:
  - Delete Frame
  - > Insert Frame
  - > CRC error
  - > Frame error
  - Duplicate Frame
- Impairments that modify a byte or few bytes in a frame at specified offset :
  - Insert Bytes
  - Delete Bytes
  - Bitwise ANDing octets
  - Bitwise Oring octets
  - Bitwise XORing octets
- Differential link delay insertion during transmission



## **Link Level Impairments**

- Different kinds of impairments are available, namely:
- Impairments that affect an entire FR frame -
  - > DELETE FRAME
  - > INSERT FRAME
  - > CRC
  - > FRAME
  - > DUPLICATE FRAME







# **Link Level Impairments**

#### **Original Frame**

00	11	00	00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00
00	00	00	00	00	00	00	00

#### **Impairment : INS ABCD, OFF 10**

00	11	00	00	00	01	00	00
00	01	AB	CD	00	00	00	01
00	00	00	01	00	00	00	01
00	00	00	01	00	00	00	01
00	00	00	01	00	00	00	01
00	00	00	01	00	00	00	01
00	00						

#### **Original Frame**

00	11	AB	01	DE	87	46	31
68	AB	01	DE	87	46	31	68
AB	01	DE	87	46	31	68	AB
01	DE	87	46	31	68	AB	01
DE	87	46	31	68	AB	01	DE
87	46	31	68	AB	01	DE	87

#### **Impairment : DEL 6, OFF 10**

00	11	AB	01	DE	87	46	31
68	AB	AB	01	DE	87	46	31
68	AB	01	DE	87	46	31	68
AB	01	DE	87	46	31	68	AB
01	DE	87	46	31	68	AB	01
DE	87						



# **Link Level Impairments**

#### **Original Frame**

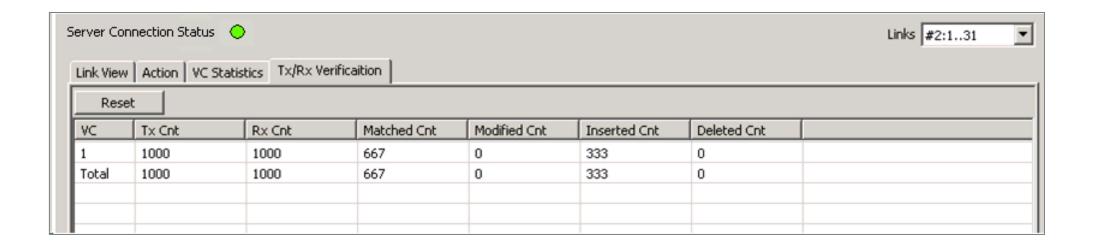
00	11	AB	01	DE	87	46	31
68	AB	01	DE	87	46	31	68
AB	01	DE	87	46	31	68	AB
01	DE	87	46	31	68	AB	01
DE	87	46	31	68	AB	01	DE
87	46	31	68	AB	01	DE	87

#### **Impairment : AND 0x00, OFF 10**

00	11	AB	01	DE	87	46	31
68	AB	00	DE	87	46	31	68
AB	01	DE	87	46	31	68	AB
01	DE	87	46	31	68	AB	01
DE	87	46	31	68	AB	01	DE
87	46	31	68	AB	01	DE	87



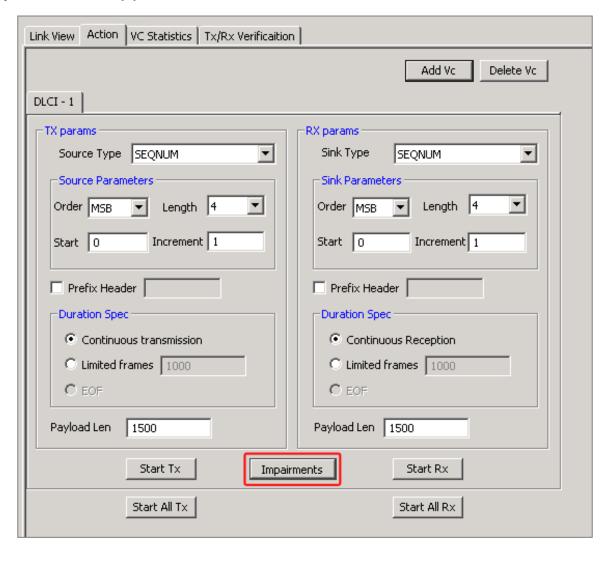
# **Link Level Impairments Verification**





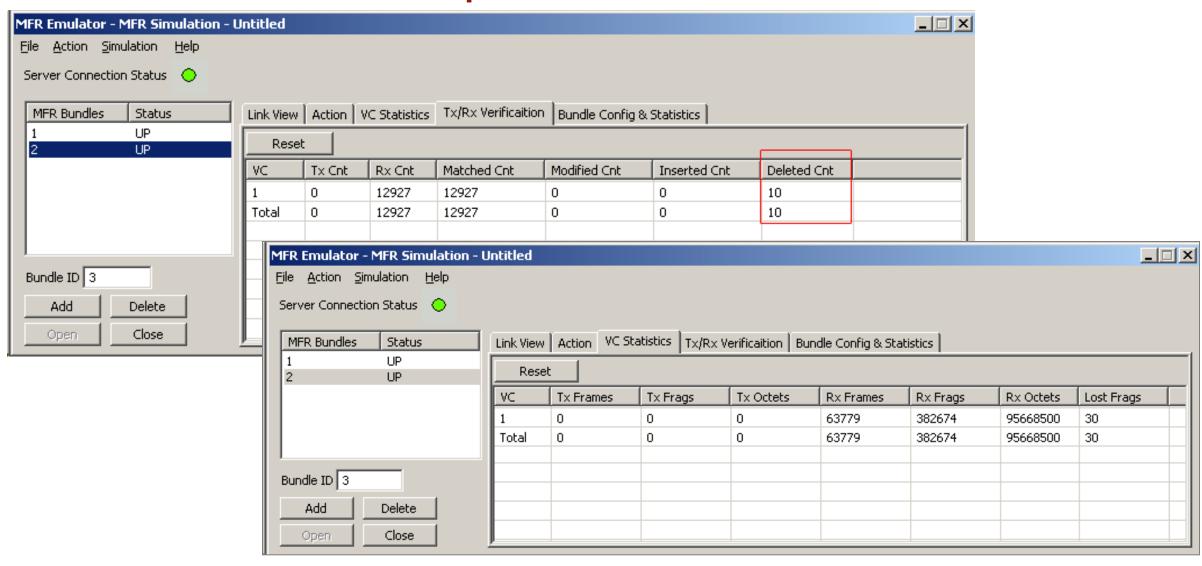
## **VC** Impairments

Impairments in Action layer can be applied for individual VCs





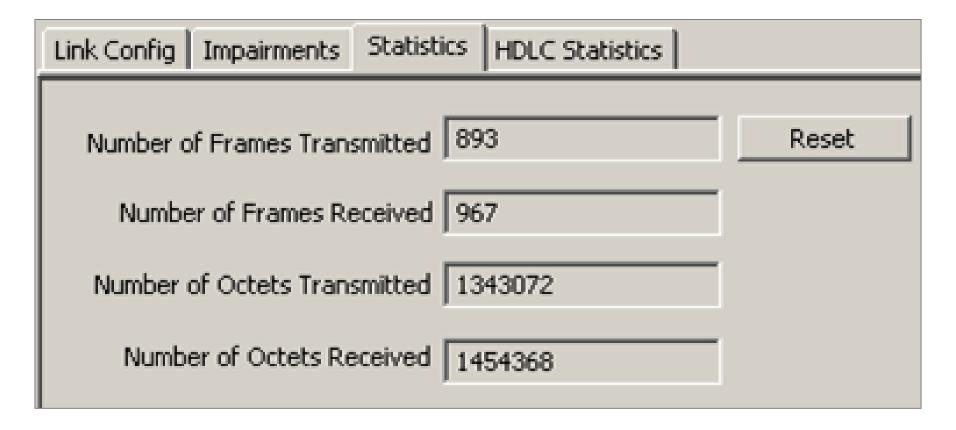
### **VC Impairments Verification**





### **Link Statistics**

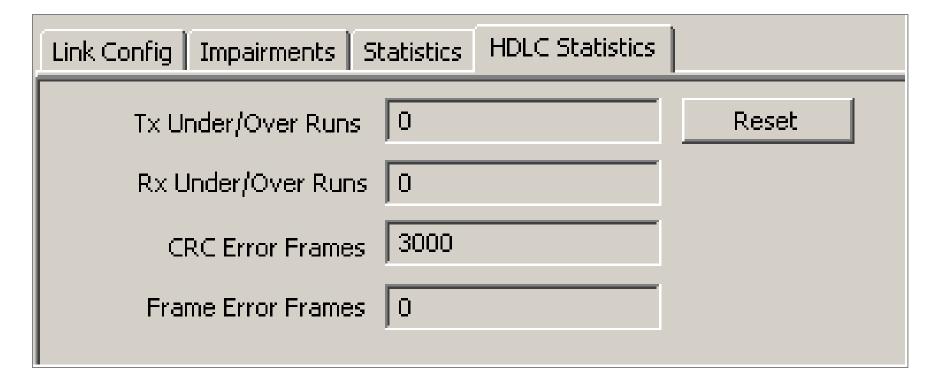
- Provides important statistics information for the selected link, such as
- Number of frames transmitted
- Received frames
- Number of Octets Transmitted
- Number of Octets Received





### **Hdlc Statistics**

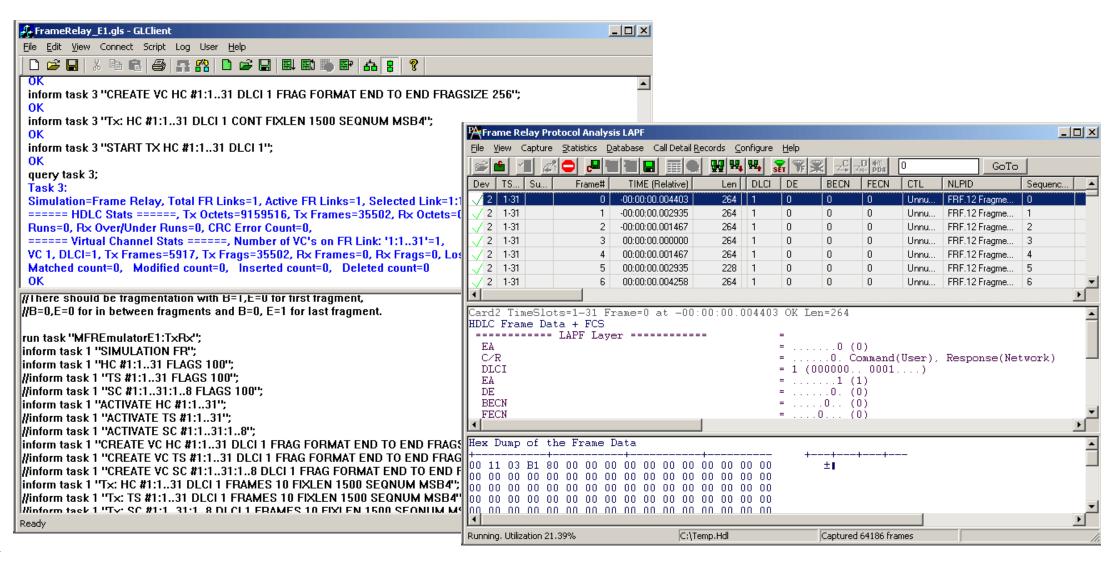
- The following error statistics are shown in Hdlc tab –
- Tx Under/Over Runs
- Rx Under/Over Runs
- Number of FR packets with bad FCS
- Number of packets with Frame Error





#### **Client-Server MFR Emulation**

Sample script for Transmission & Reception of MFR Frames





### **Features**

- WCS Multi-Link Frame Relay is also available as a CLI application. Following functions are supported suing simple commands:
- Activate/deactivate the individual bundle links in the MFR bundle
- Create/delete the virtual channels on the links
- Sends MFR frames with or without impairments
- Receives MFR frames
- Generates & receives traffic using source and sink types
  - Sequence numbers
  - Hex string frame
  - Binary flat files
  - ➤ HDL trace files (GL's proprietary file format)
- Various impairments can be applied on each individual FR links and virtual channels



# Thank You

