

# WiFuzz: Detecting and Exploiting Logical Flaws in the Wi-Fi Cryptographic Handshake

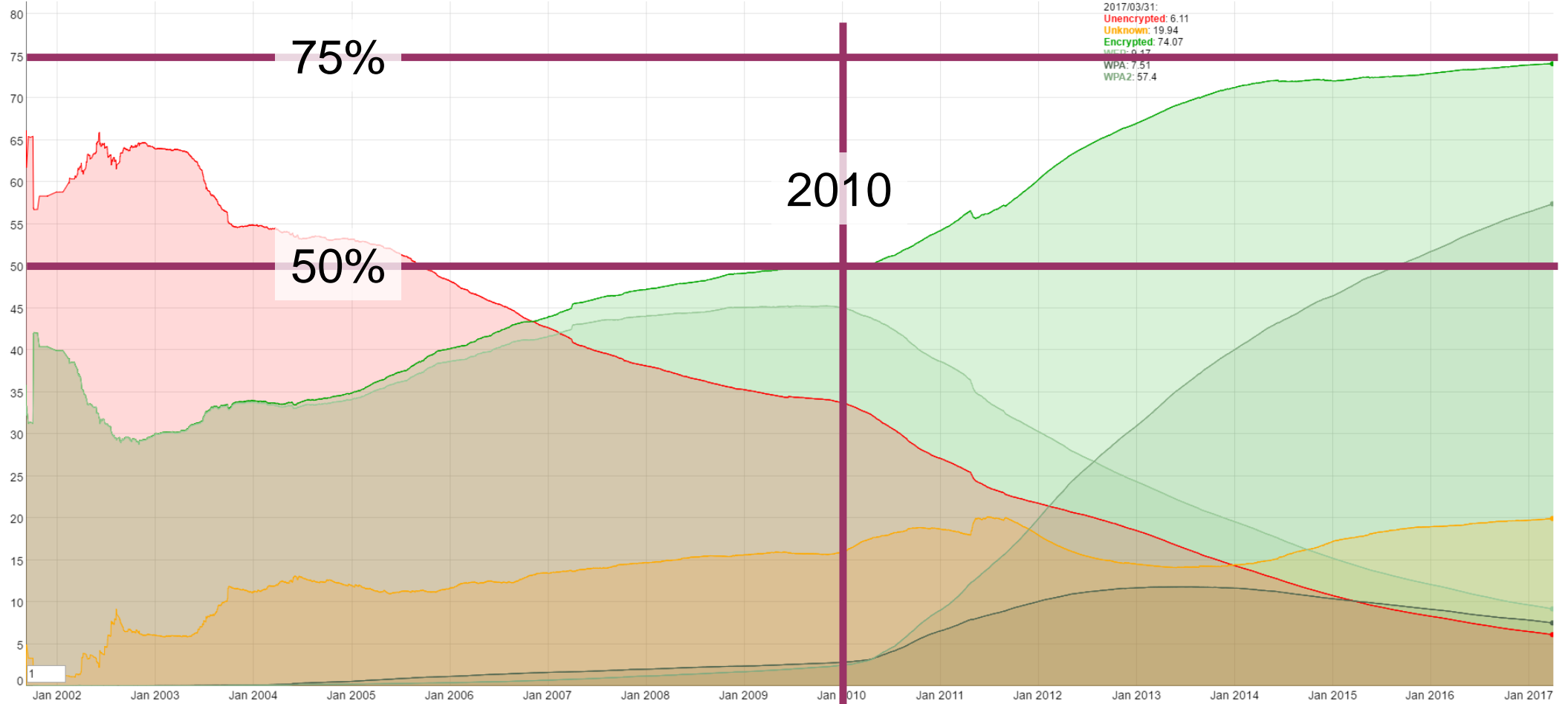
Mathy Vanhoef - @vanhoefm

Black Hat, 27 July 2017

In collaboration with Domien Schepers and Frank Piessens

# Introduction

More and more Wi-Fi network use encryption:



Most rely on the Wi-Fi handshake to generate session keys

# How secure is the Wi-Fi handshake?

Design: formally analyzed and proven secure<sup>1</sup>

Security of implementations?

- Some works fuzz network discovery stage<sup>2</sup>
- Many stages are not tested, e.g. 4-way handshake.
- But do not tests for **logical** implementation bugs

→ Objective: test implementations of the full Wi-Fi handshake for logical vulnerabilities

<sup>1</sup> C. He, M. Sundararajan, A. Datta, A Derek, and J. Mitchell. A modular correctness proof of IEEE 802.11i and TLS.

<sup>2</sup> L. Butti and J. Tinnes. Discovering and exploiting 802.11 wireless driver vulnerabilities.

# Background: the Wi-Fi handshake

Main purposes:

- Network discovery
- Mutual authentication & negotiation of pairwise session keys
- Securely select cipher to encrypt data frames

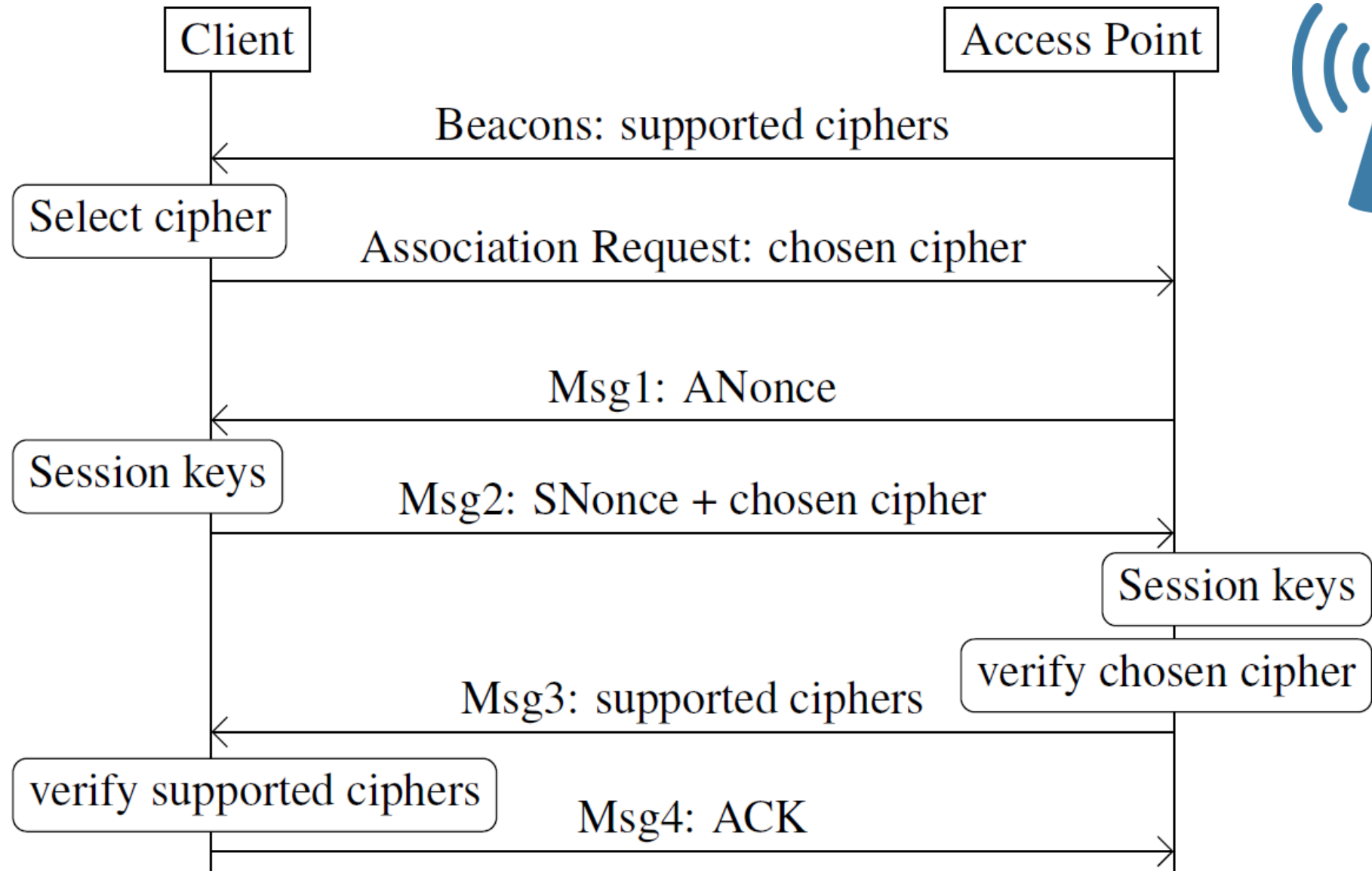
**WPA-TKIP**

Short-term solution: reduced security  
so it could run on old hardware

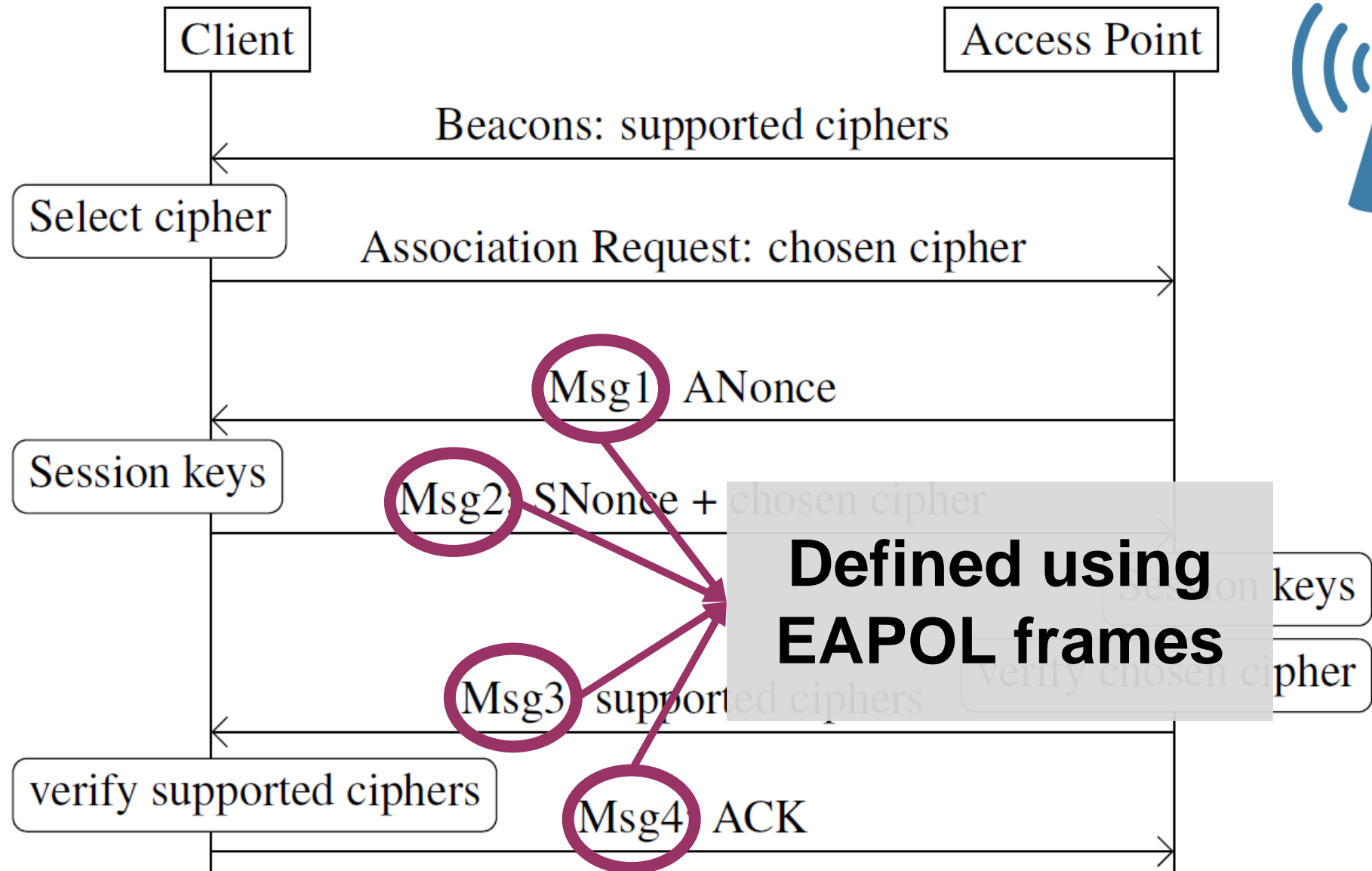
**AES-CCMP**

Long-term solution based on  
modern cryptographic primitives

# Wi-Fi handshake (simplified)

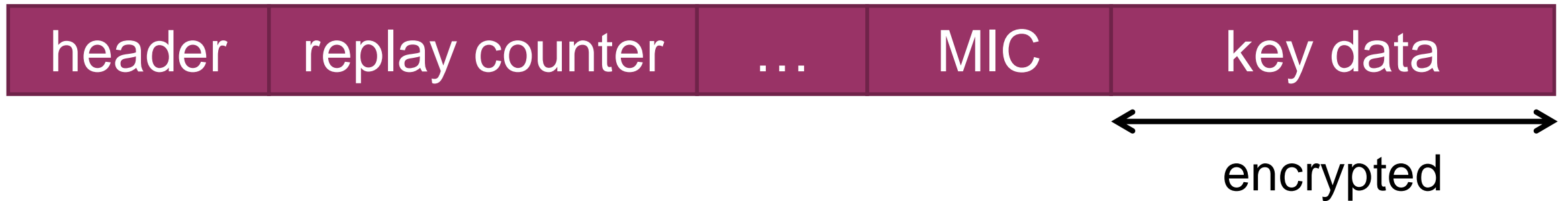


# Wi-Fi handshake (simplified)

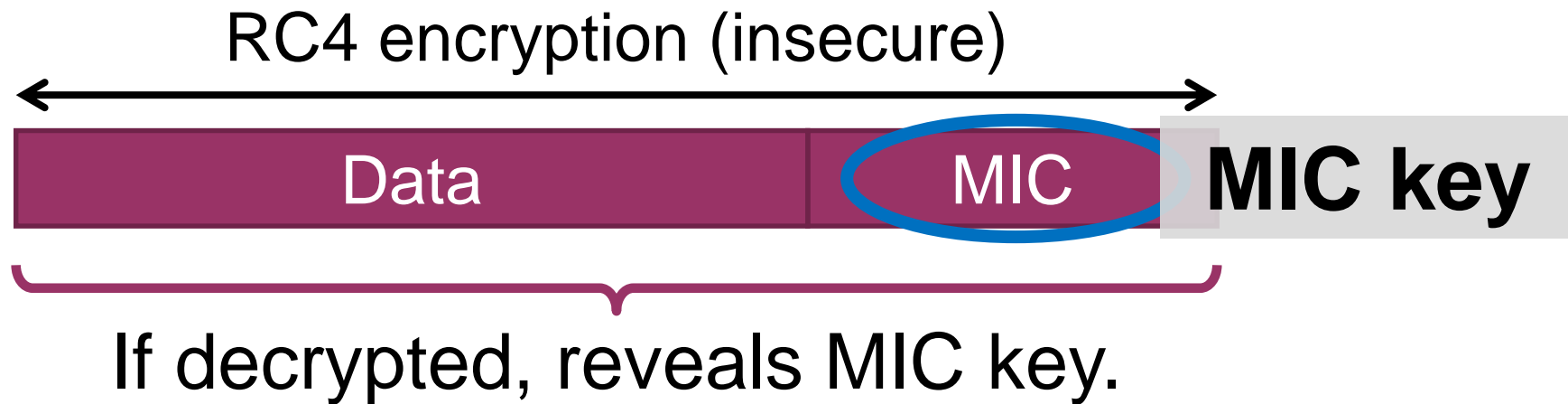


# Frame Layouts

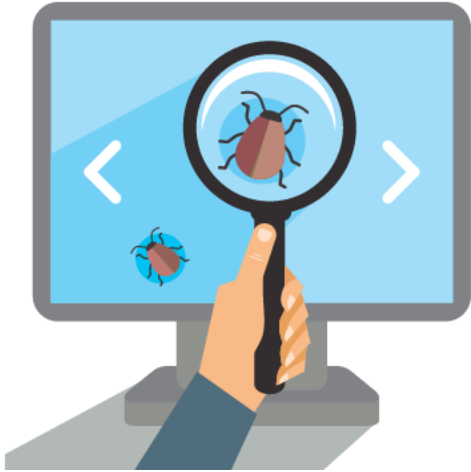
- EAPOL frame:



- WPA-TKIP frame:



# How to test implementations?



## Model-based testing!

- Test if program behaves according to some abstract model
- Proved successful against TLS
  - Apply model-based approach on the Wi-Fi handshake



# Model-based testing: our approach

Model: normal  
handshake

Test generation rules:  
(in)correct modifications

Set of test  
cases

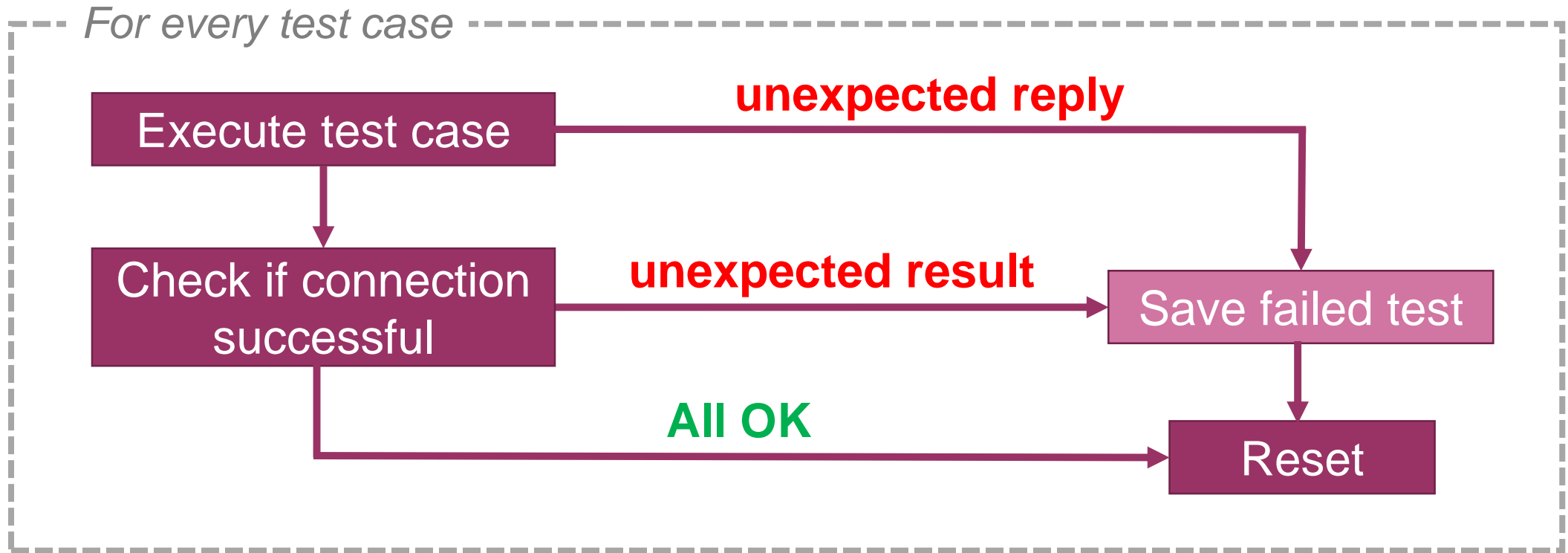
Test generation rules:

- Test various edge cases, allows some creativity
- Are assumed to be independent (avoid state explosion)

A test case defines:

1. Messages to send & expected replies
2. Results in successful connection?

# Executing test cases



Afterwards Inspect failed test cases

- Experts determines impact and exploitability

# Test generation rules

Test generation rules manipulating messages as a whole:

1. Drop a message
2. Inject/repeat a message

Test generation rules that modify fields in messages:

1. Bad EAPOL replay counter
2. Bad EAPOL header (e.g. message ID)
3. Bad EAPOL Message Integrity Check (MIC)
4. Mismatch in selected cipher suite
5. ...

# Evaluation

We tested 12 access points:

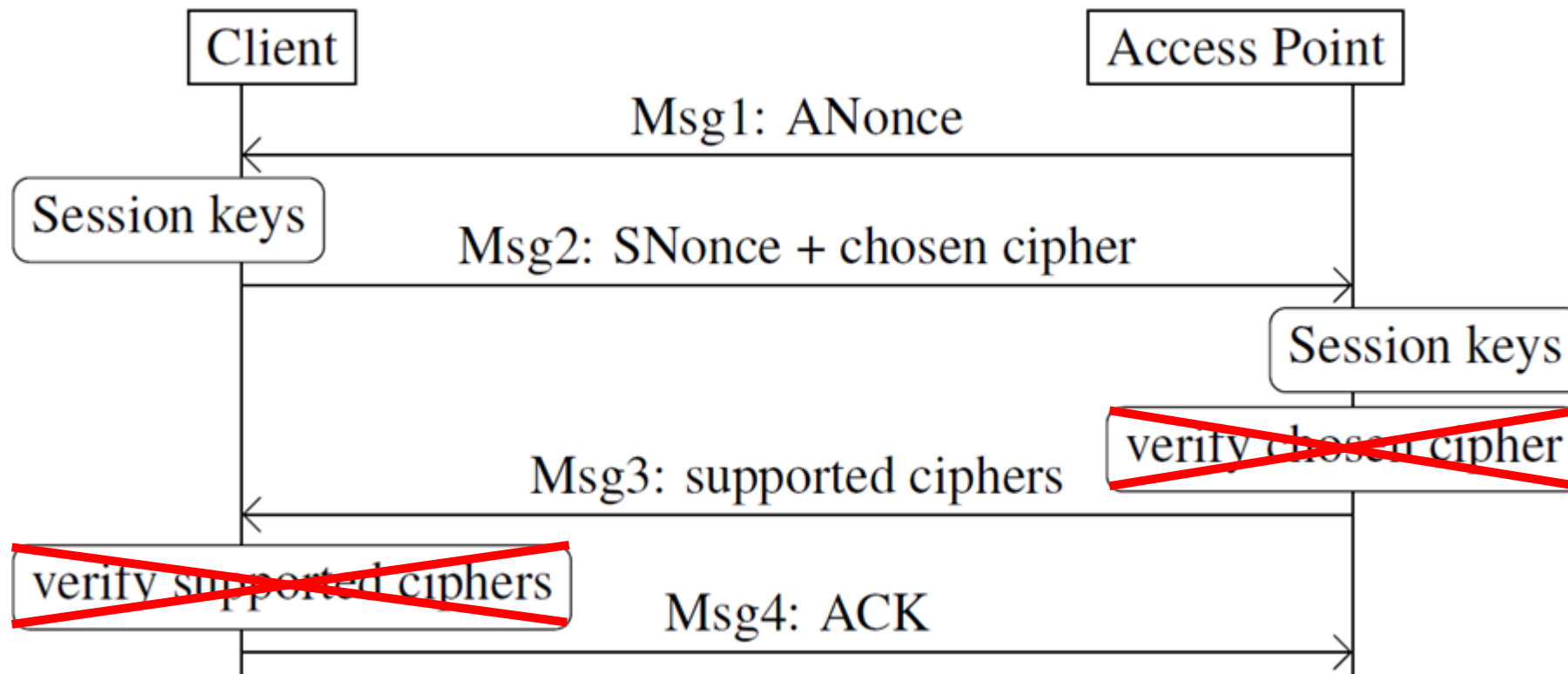
- Open source: OpenBSD, Linux's Hostapd
- Leaked source: Broadcom, MediaTek (home routers)
- Closed source: Windows, Apple, ...
- Professional equipment: Aerohive, Aironet



Discovered several issues!

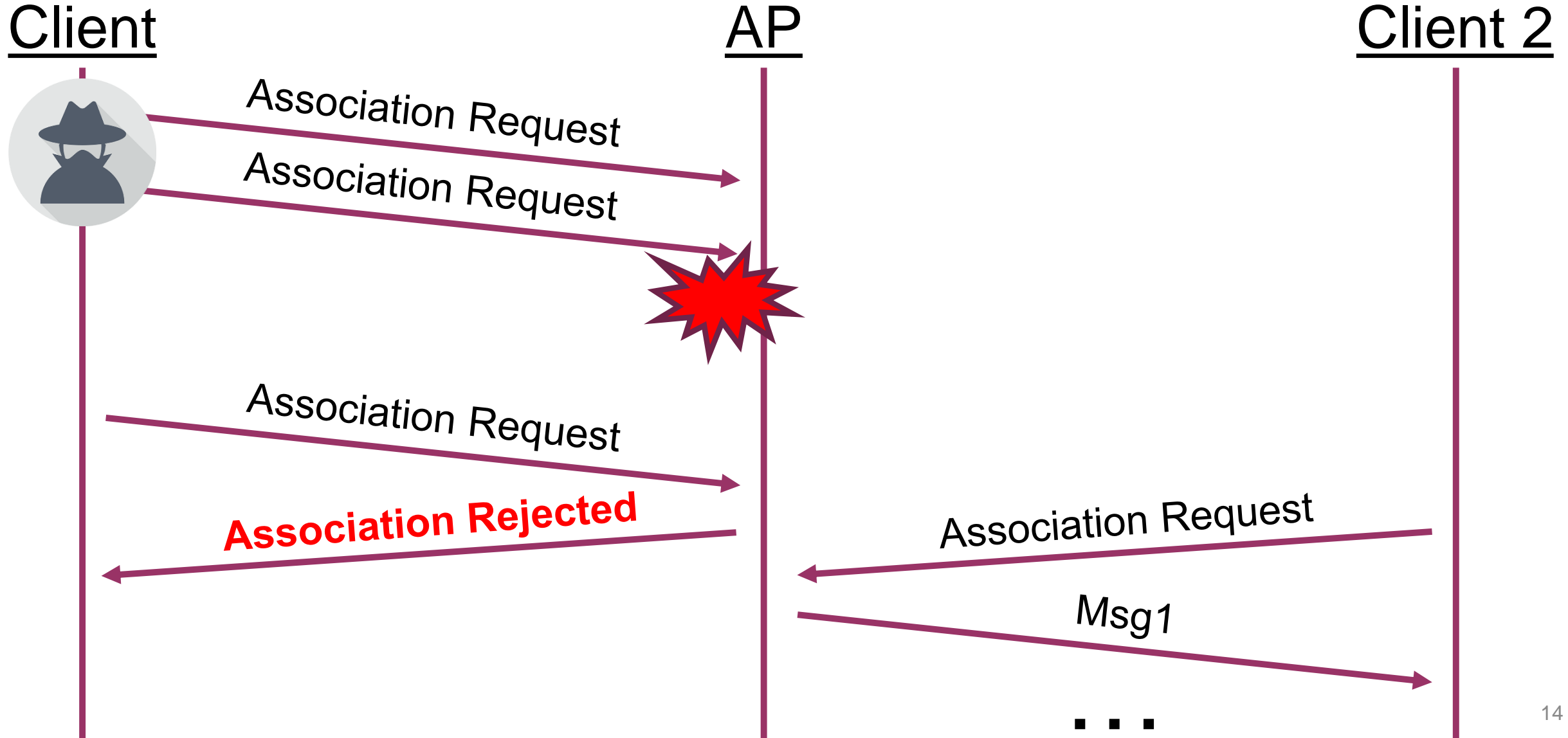
# Missing downgrade checks

1. MediaTek & Telenet don't verify selected cipher in message 2
2. MediaTek also ignores supported ciphers in message 3



→ Trivial downgrade attack against MediaTek clients

# Windows 7 targeted DoS



# Windows 7 targeted DoS

Client

AP

Client 2

**PoC & Demo**

[github.com/vanhoefm/blackhat17-pocs](https://github.com/vanhoefm/blackhat17-pocs)

Msg1

...

# Broadcom downgrade

Broadcom cannot distinguish message 2 and 4

- Can be abused to downgrade the AP to TKIP



Hence message 4 is essential in preventing downgrade attacks

- This highlights incorrect claims in the 802.11 standard:

“**While Message 4 serves no cryptographic purpose**, it serves as an acknowledgment to Message 3. **It is required to ensure reliability** and to inform the Authenticator that the Supplicant has installed the PTK and GTK and hence can receive encrypted frames.”



# OpenBSD: DoS against AP

Two bugs in OpenBSD:

1. TKIP countermeasures are never stopped
  - Recall: it uses a weak Message Integrity Check (MIC)



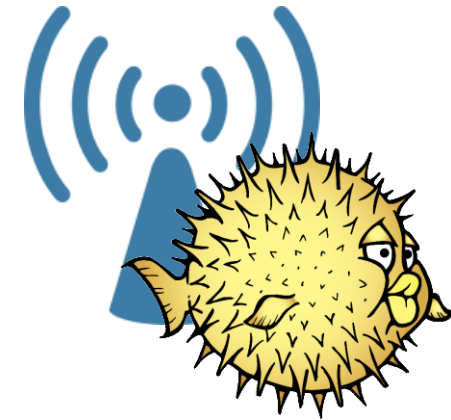
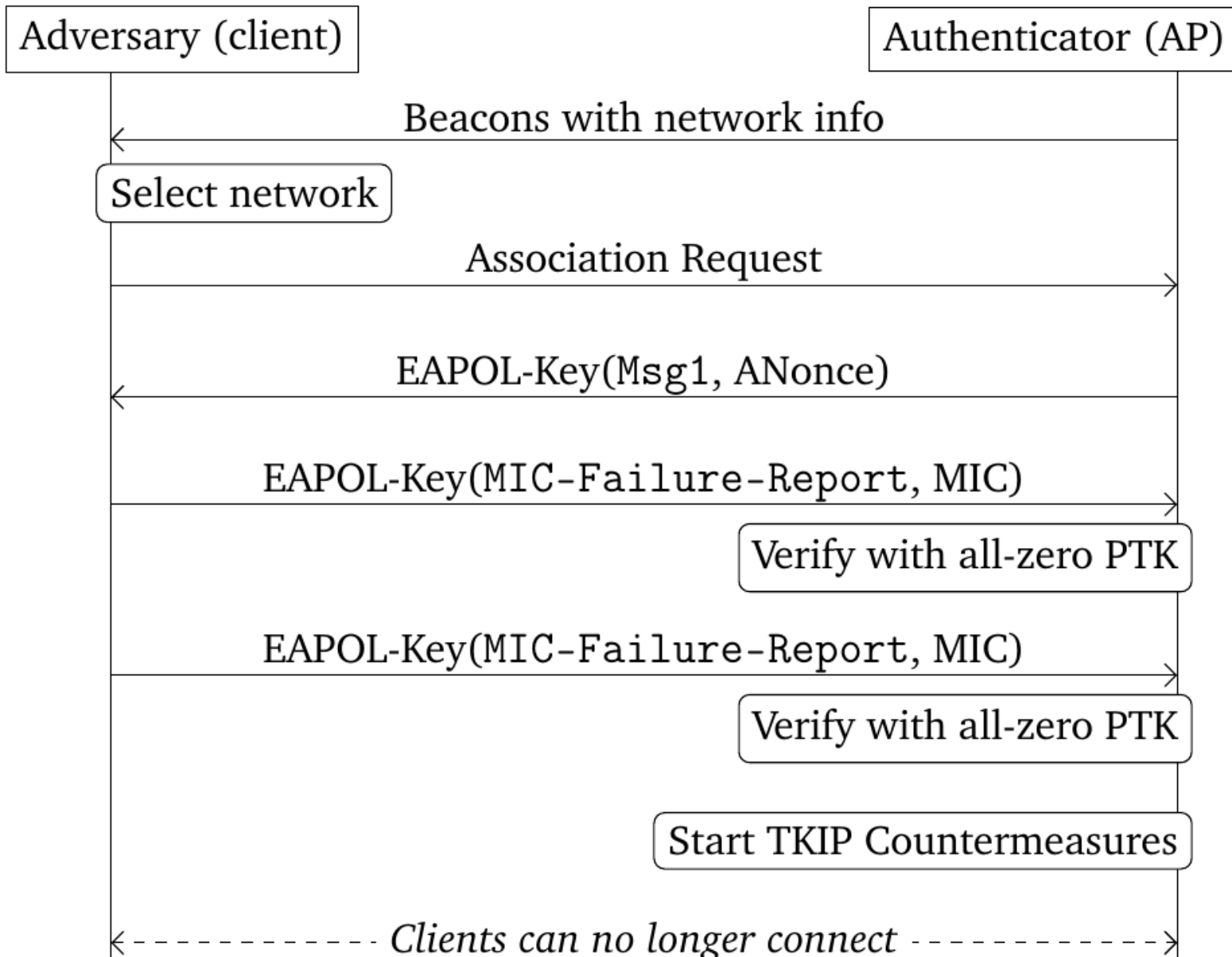
If ( two **MIC failures** within a minute)  
halt all traffic ~~for 1 minute~~  
forever



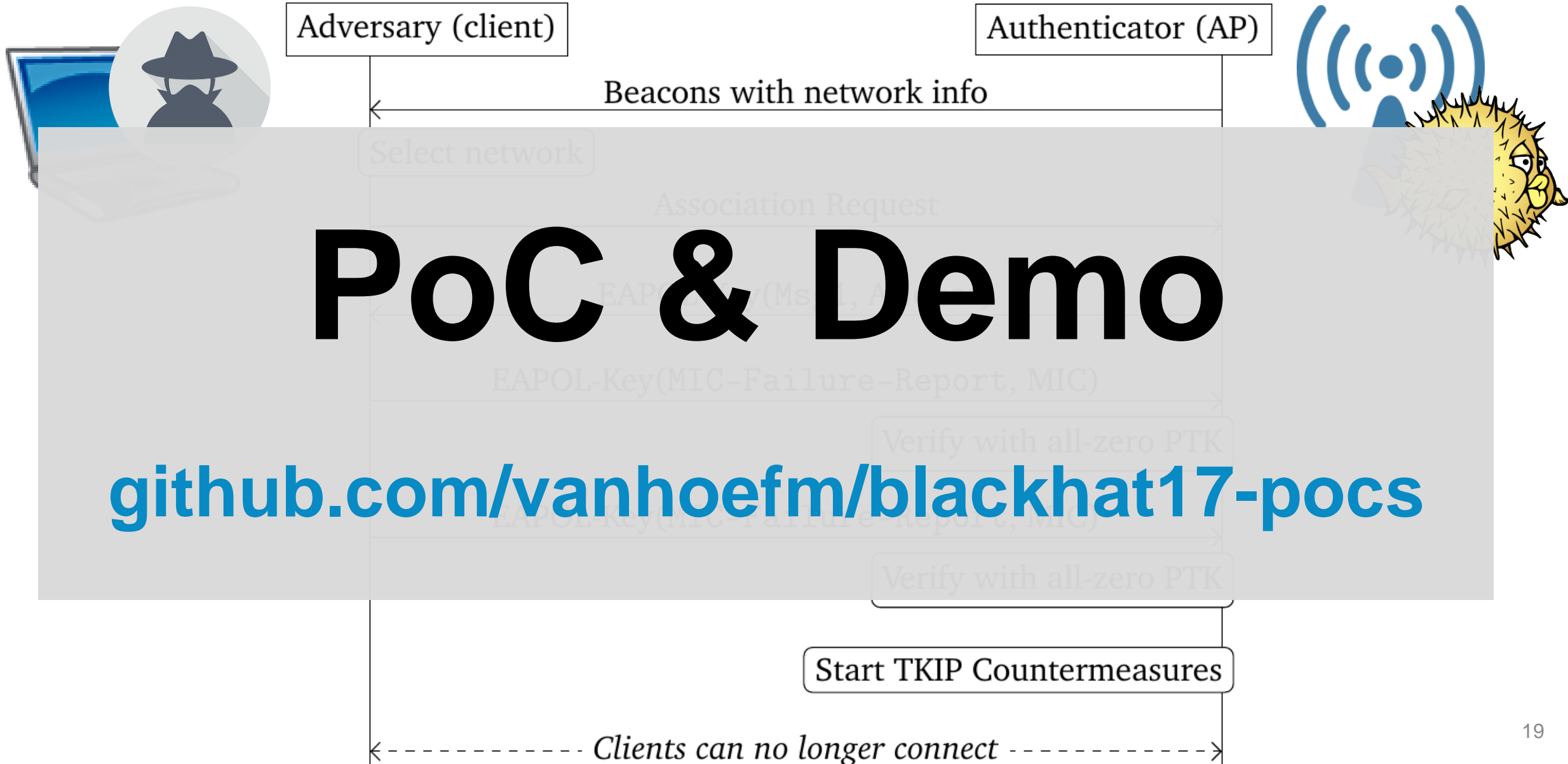
2. MIC failure report accepted before 4-way handshake

**Combined: unauthenticated permanent DoS**

# OpenBSD: DoS against AP



# OpenBSD: DoS against AP



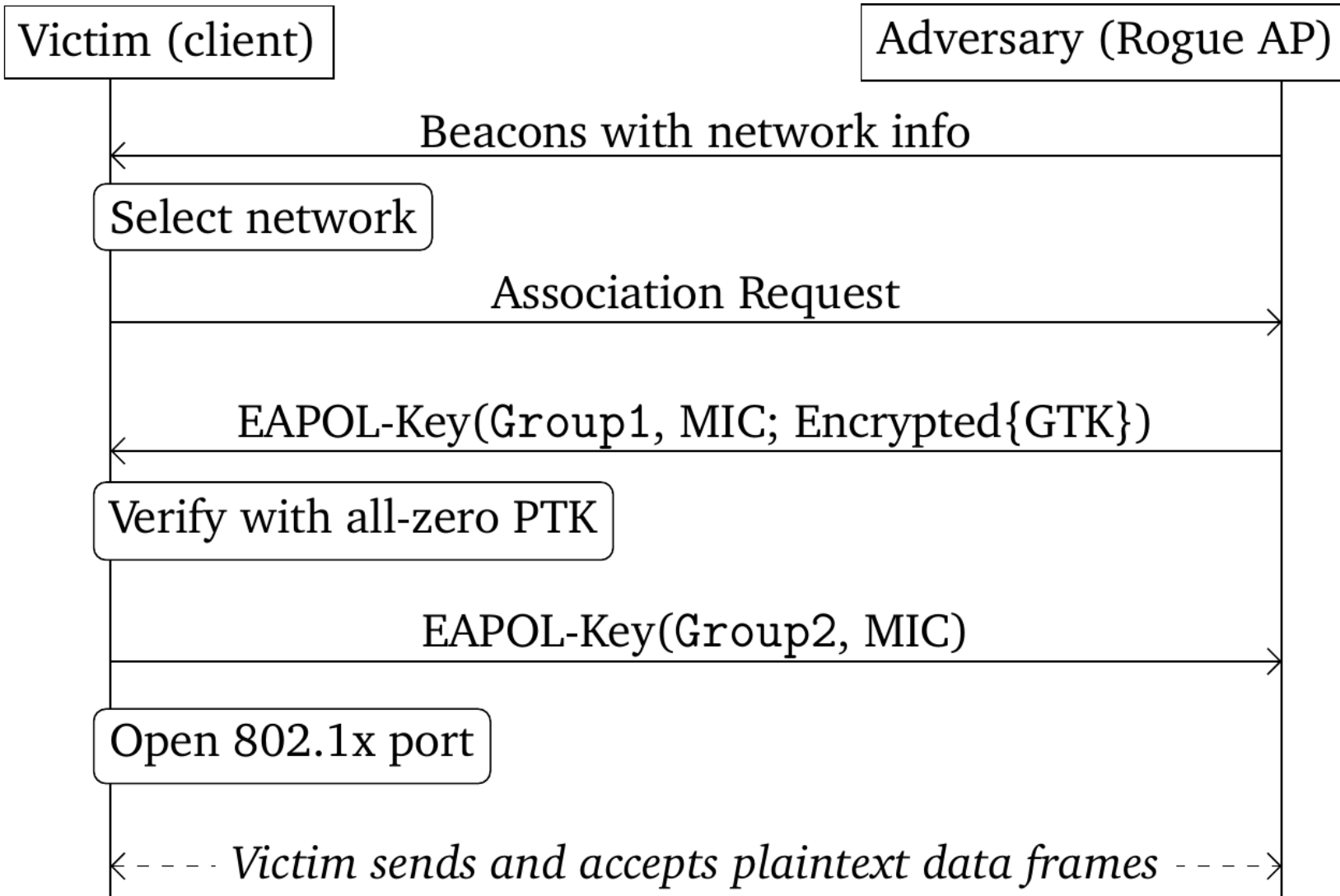
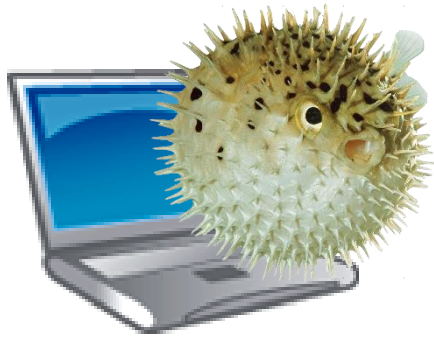
# OpenBSD: client man-in-the-middle

Manual inspection of OpenBSD client:  
**State machine missing!**



→ Man-in-the-middle against client

# OpenBSD: client man-in-the-middle



# OpenBSD: client man-in-the-middle



Victim (client)

Adversary (Rogue AP)



Beacons with network info

## PoC & Demo

[github.com/vanhoefm/blackhat17-pocs](https://github.com/vanhoefm/blackhat17-pocs)

← --- Victim sends and accepts plaintext data frames --- →



# More results



## See [Black Hat & AsiaCCS paper<sup>1</sup>](#):

- Benign irregularities → fingerprint
- Permanent DoS attack against Broadcom
- DoS attack against Windows 10, Broadcom, Aerohive
- Inconsistent parsing of supported cipher suite list
- ...

# Future work!

## Current limitations:

- Amount of code coverage is unknown
- Only used well-formed (albeit invalid) packets
- Test generation rules applied independently
- Only tested Access Points (not clients)

## But already a promising technique

- ✓ Black-box testing mechanism: no source code needed
- ✓ Fairly simple handshake, but still several **logical** bugs!



# Conclusion

Wi-Fi code less secure than expected

- New attacks (will) keep appearing



Need better tools to detect logical flaws

- Current testing framework is basic
- Complex bugs remain undetected

Ongoing results: contact me if your product uses

- Client-side version of WPA1/2
- Other Wi-Fi handshakes: 802.11r, PeerKey, ...



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## Questions?



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