

Performing aggregation attack (CVE-2020-24588) in practice

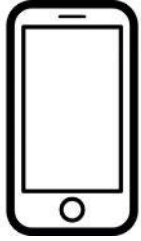
Mathy Vanhoef

20 January 2021

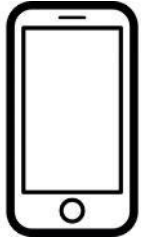


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Aggr. Attack

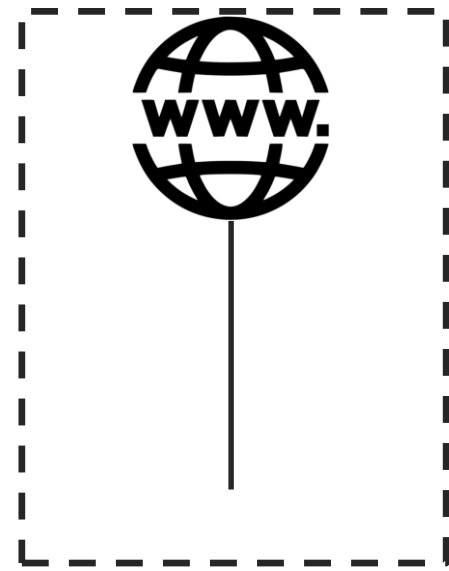
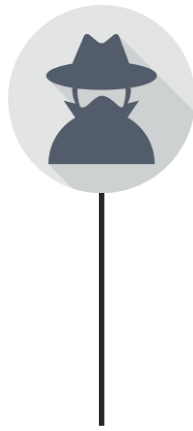
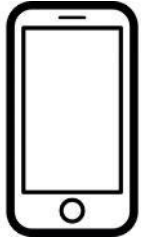


Aggr. Attack



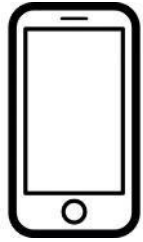
This is the Wi-Fi network we are targeting.

Aggr. Attack



This is a server on the internet under control of the attacker. For example, a website owned by the attacker.

Aggr. Attack



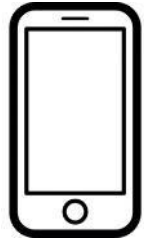
Visit website
of attacker



Step 1: victim is tricked into connect to the attacker's server, for instance by visiting their website. This causes the victim to create a TCP connection with the attacker's server.

Note: this doesn't require code execution on the victim.

Aggr. Attack



Visit website
of attacker



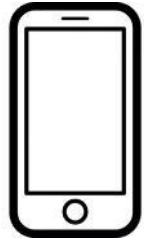
Send special
IPv4 packet



Step 2: the attacker's server sends a special IPv4 packet to the client over this TCP connection.

This special IPv4 packet contains the “create_msdu_subframe(..., last=True)” payload that is also sent in the “amsdu-inject[-bad]” test.

Aggr. Attack



Visit website
of attacker



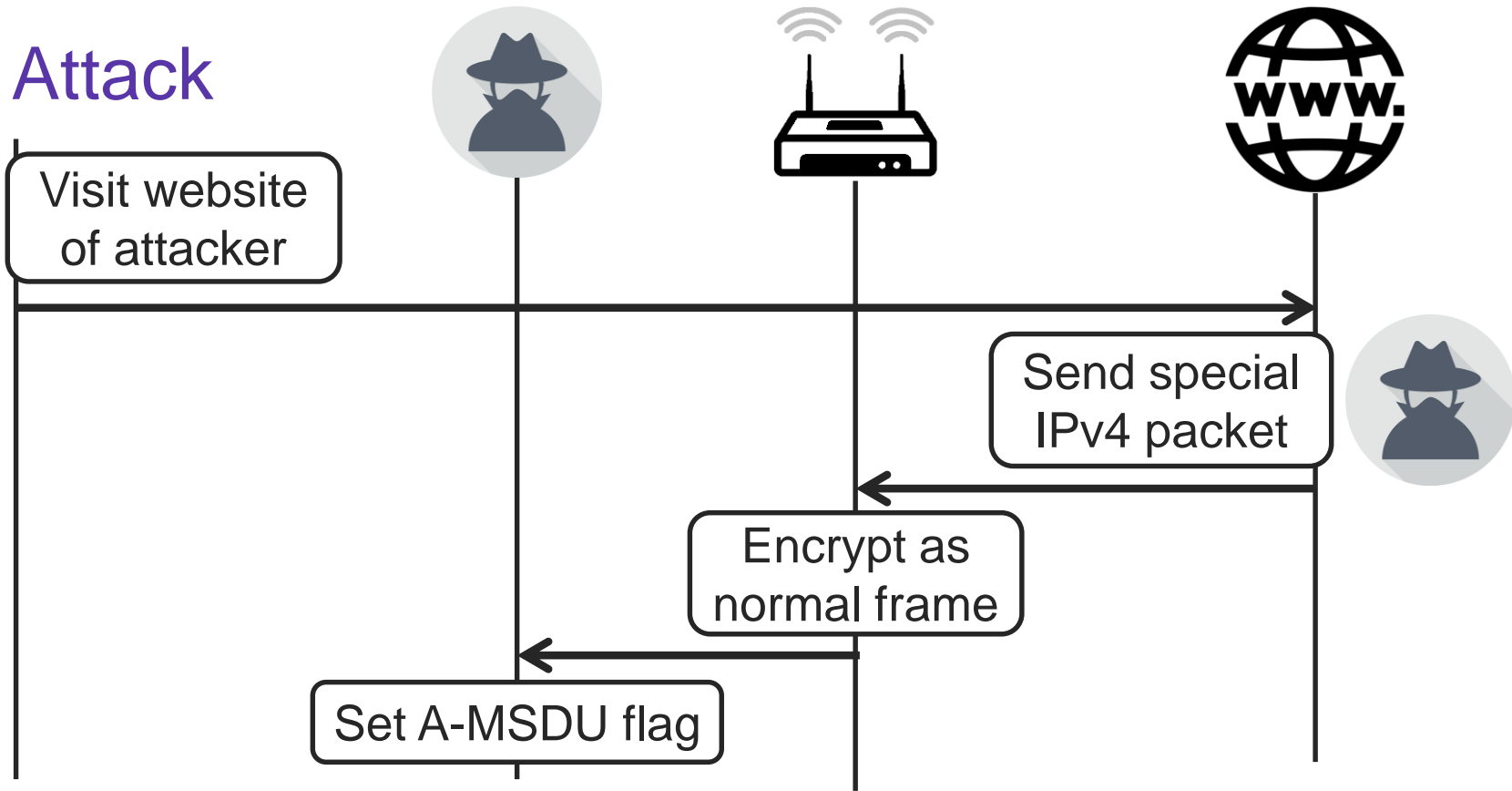
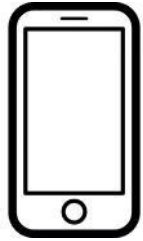
Send special
IPv4 packet



Encrypt as
normal frame

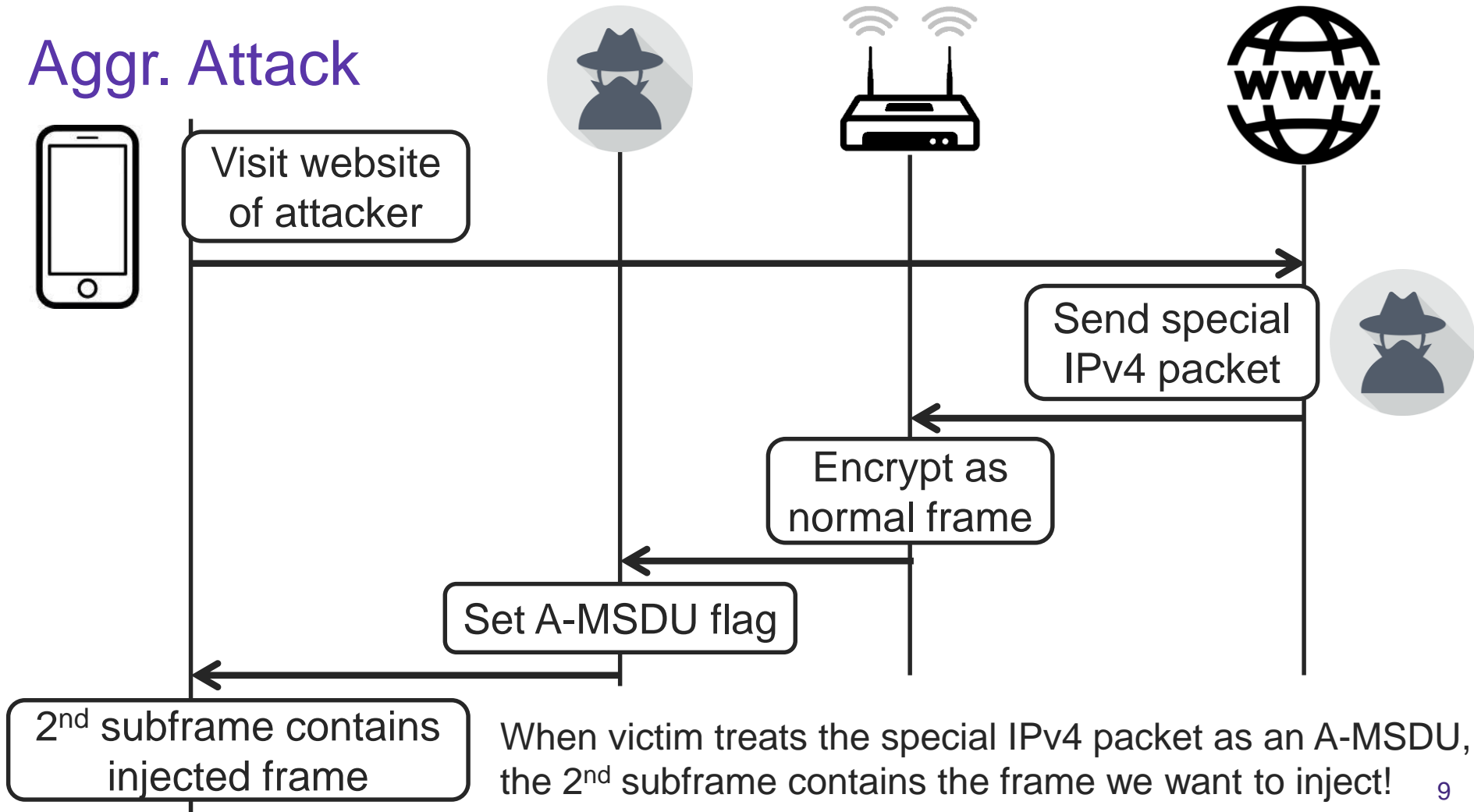
The AP will encrypt the special IPv4 packet and sent it to the client... but the attacker will intercept it first!

Aggr. Attack



Step 3: attacker sets the A-MSDU flag and then forwards the encrypted Wi-Fi frame.

Aggr. Attack



Conclusion

We **can inject arbitrary network packets**, such as DHCP and ICMPv6 RA packets!

Not a trivial threat model:

- › Need to trick victim into connecting to attacker's server
- › Simultaneously need to be within radio range of the victim

But most devices are affected: even if non-trivial, **somewhere this attack is feasible**... Patch now before attacks get better.