Recent Wi-Fi attacks & defenses: general lessons learned & open problems

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Presentation Outline

Recent attacks:

- > Key reinstallation attacks in WPA2 (= KRACK)
- > Side-channel leaks in WPA3 (= Dragonblood)
- > Fragmentation issues in WPA* (= <u>FragAttacks</u>)

New defenses:

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- > SAE-PK to protect hotspots (Wi-Fi Alliance)

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2017

Key reinstallation attacks (KRACK)



- > Flaw in various Wi-Fi handshake \rightarrow all devices affected
- > We will focus on the 4-way handshake
- 4-way handshake is to connect to any protected Wi-Fi network
 - > Provides mutual authentication
 - Negotiates fresh Pairwise Transient Key (PTK) = session key

4-way handshake (simplified)

 \leftarrow - - - - - optional 802.1x authentication - - - - - \rightarrow







 Once we have a PTK (= session key) all messages are protected using a Message Integrity Code (MIC) = MAC







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→ This high-level construction is used in all WPA versions





= Adversary establishes a Multi-Channel Machine-in-the-Middle position

Reinstallation Attack

 $\in --$

























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General impact



Transmit packet number reset

Decrypt frames sent by victim

Receive replay counter reset

Replay frames towards victim

Root cause

> 4-way handshake proven secure
> Encryption protocol proven secure

Combined in a state machine





State machine was not proven secure!

What about key reinstallations in other protocols?

- What does reinstallation mean?
 - > Wi-Fi *installs* keys, then *enables* Rx and/or Tx for that key. Few protocols use this terminology or separation.

The *attack technique* does apply to other protocols:

- Narrow definition: replaying, or causing the retransmission of, a handshake message to trigger key/nonce reuse.
- > Broader but more vague definition: manipulating the handshake to cause key/nonce reuse.

 \rightarrow Similar flaws appear unlikely in other protocol standards

Key reinstallations in protocol implementations?

Key/nonce reuse in implementations is more common:



Key reinstallation against Wi-Fi access points in IWD^[CCS22] and MediaTek^[OPCDE18]



Keystream reuse in VoLTE[RKHP20]



Nonce reuse in buggy TLS libraries[BZDSJ16]

→ When fuzzing/auditing libraries, check for key/nonce reuse (that is possibly triggered by handshake manipulation)

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After KRACK we got a new handshake ③

Late 2018: release of Wi-Fi Protected Access 3 (WPA3)

- > Uses a Password Authenticated Key Exchange (PAKE)
- > Simultaneous Authentication of Equals (SAE)



Provides mutual authentication





Forward secrecy & prevents offline dictionary attacks



Protects against server compromise

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After KRACK we got a new handshake ③

Late 2018: release of Wi-Fi Protected Access 3 (WPA3)

- > Uses a Password Authenticated Key Exchange (PAKE)
- > Simultaneous Authentication of Equals (SAE)

Also called the "Dragonfly" handshake

- > Originally for mesh networks (2008 / 2011)
- > Made part of WPA3 without academic feedback

> Vulnerable to **Dragonblood** side-channels

Dragonfly



Dragonfly



Dragonfly



What are MODP groups?



Operations performed on integers x where:

- > x < p with p a prime
- > $x^q \mod p = 1 \mod b$
- > q = #elements in the group

→ All operations are MODulo the Prime (= MODP)

Convert password to MODP element

for (counter = 1; counter < 256; counter++)</pre>

value = hash(pw, counter, addr1, addr2)

if value >= p: continue

 $\mathsf{P} = value^{(p-1)/q}$

Convert value to a MODP element

Convert password to MODP element

for (counter = 1; counter < 256; counter++)</pre>

value = hash(pw, counter, addr1, addr2)
if value >= n: continue

$$\mathsf{P} = value^{(p-1)/q}$$

retu Problem for groups 22-24: high chance that value >= p
Convert password to MODP element

for (counter = 1; counter < 256; counter++)</pre>

- value = hash(pw, counter, addr1, addr2)
- if value >= p: ???
- $P = value^{(p-1)/q}$

return P

Convert password to MODP element

for (counter = 1; counter < 256; counter++)
value = hash(pw, counter, addr1, addr2)
if value >= p: continue
P = value^{(p-1)/q}
return P

Convert password to MODP element

for (counter = 1; counter < 256; counter++)</pre>

- value = hash(pw counter, addr1, addr2)
- if val #iterations depends on password
 P = value

No timing leak countermeasures, despite warnings by IETF & CFRG!

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IETF mailing list in 2010



"[..] susceptible to side channel (timing) attacks and may leak the shared password."



"not so sure how important that is [..] doesn't leak the shared password [..] not a trivial attack."









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What information is leaked?

for (counter = 1; counter < 256; counter++)
value = hash(pw, counter, addr1, addr2)
if value >= p: continue
P = value^{(p-1)/q}

What information is leaked?

for (counter = 1; counter < 256; counter++)</pre>

value = hash(pw, counter, addr1, addr2)

if va Spoof client address to obtain P = 1 different execution & leak new data



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Raspberry Pi 1 B+: differences are measurable



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What about elliptic curves?



Similar algorithm to **convert password to point (x,y)**:

- > EAP-PWD: vulnerable to the same timing attack.
- > WPA3: always does 40 loops. But variance of the execution time may still leak info & cache attacks are possible.

Fixing the root cause



Improve password conversion algorithm
 Use hash-to-element conversion instead
 » Simplified Shallue-Woestijne-Ulas (S-SWU)
 > Easier to implement in constant time

Newly certified devices must implement hash-to-element

- > Still called WPA3 \rightarrow not easy to tell what a device supports
- > WPA3 > WPA2 so you should always switch to WPA3!

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FRAG



Large frames have a high chance of being corrupted:



Avoid by **fragmenting** & only retransmitting lost fragments:





Large frames have a high chance of being corrupted:



Avoid by **fragmenting** & only retransmitting lost fragments:



→ Protected header info defines place in original frame

Mixed key design flaw

Fragments decrypted with **different keys are reassembled**:



→ Can mix fragments of different frames

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Root cause: bad managing of security contexts



- Receiver doesn't securely handle security context changes.
- Can sometimes also mix plaintext with encrypted frames

We also discovered various implementation flaws:

- > Can sometimes mix plaintext with encrypted fragments
- > Devices accept specially-constructed plaintext frames
 - » For instance, fragmented plaintext frames, ...



How does a transmitter handle security contexts?

Kr00k attack discovered by ESET during KRACK tests

> Send disassociation to make station delete security context



Queued frames still get transmitted. Two variants:

- 1. Frames get encrypted using an all-zero key^[RSA20]
- 2. Frames have security header but plaintext data^[BH20]

→ Need to securely manage security context changes throughout the whole network stack.

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Security for open networks?

Problem: open networks don't use encryption.

Goal: prevent passive attacks. Inspired by:

- > RFC 7258: "Pervasive Monitoring Is an Attack"
- » RFC 7434: "Opportunistic Security: Some Protection Most of the Time"



→ Wi-Fi Alliance solution: Diffie-Hellman to negotiate keys without authentication of the network.

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Opportunistic Wireless Encryption (OWE)

Based on RFC 8110 by D. Harkins & W. Kumari:

- Perform a Diffie-Hellman key exchange to negotiate pairwise master key (PMK). Use this in 4-way handshake.
- Clients can reconnect using previous PMK if the AP still remembers the PMK of the client (likely easy to DoS).
- Mandates usage of Management Frame Protection (MFP), which prevents common disconnection attacks.

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Analysis of OWE

Reasons to use:

- > Clients are harder to disconnect due to usage of MFP
- > Requires active attacks to intercept traffic
- Is it worth the effort?
- It's unknown who is passively monitoring Wi-Fi. How do we know they won't move to active attacks?

→ Cost/benefit seems open to discussion

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Background: beacons

> Wi-Fi networks use beacons to announce their presence
> They are sent every ~100 ms by an Access Point



Contains properties of the network:

- » Name of the network
- » Supported bitrates (e.g. 11n or 11ac)
- » Regulatory constraints (e.g. transmission power)
- **>>**

Beacons are not protected

• Tag: SSID parameter set: cisco [,] Tag: Supported Rates 1(B), 2(B), 5.5(B), 11(B), 6, 9, 12, 18, [Mbit/sec] Tag: DS Parameter set: Current Channel: 1 Tag: Traffic Indication Map (TIM): DTIM 0 of 0 bitmap Taq: Country Information: Country Code GB, Environment Unknown (0x04) Tag: Power Constraint: 3 Tag: ERP Information Tag: Extended Supported Rates 24, 36, 48, 54, [Mbit/sec] Tag: QBSS Load Element 802.11e CCA Version Tag: RM Enabled Capabilities (5 octets) Tag: HT Capabilities (802.11n D1.10) Tag: RSN Information Tag: Mobility Domain Tag: HT Information (802.11n D1.10) • Tag: Extended Capabilities (10 octets) Ext Tag: HE Capabilities (IEEE Std 802.11ax/D3.0) Ext Tag: HE Operation (IEEE Std 802.11ax/D3.0) · Ext Tag: Spatial Reuse Parameter Set

> WPA version & channel: verified when connecting
> All other fields can be spoofed by an adversary

Defense: authenticate beacons [WiSec'20]

Rely on symmetric encryption

- > Reuse existing crypto primitives of Wi-Fi
- > Makes it easiers for vendors to adopt the defense



We defend against outsider attacks

- > Adversary doesn't possess network credentials
- > Similar to protection of broadcast Wi-Fi traffic

Beacon protection: new element

We add a **new type-length-value element** to beacons:

Element ID	Length	Key ID	Nonce	MIC
------------	--------	--------	-------	-----

- > Clients that do not recognize this element will ignore it
- > Nonce: incremental number to prevent replay attacks
- > Message Integrity Check: CMAC or GMAC over the beacon
 - >> Existing crypto primitive of management frame protection
 - » All WPA3-capable devices already support it

Key management

Key used to generate/verify the authenticity tag?

- > AP generates a fresh **beacon protection key** when booting
- > AP always sends the beacon key when a client connects
 - » Older clients will ignore this key
 - » New clients will enable beacon protection

→ Adversary can't manipulate handshake that transports the beacon key, preventing downgrade attacks.

Pre-authentication behavior



Pre-authentication behavior



Reporting forged beacons

- > Clients can report forged beacons to the AP
- > Can now detect far away rouge APs


Specification

- Collaborated with industry to standardize our defense (Intel, Broadcom, Qualcomm and Huawei)
- > Now part of the 2020 update to the IEEE 802.11 standard

March 2019	doc.: IEEE 802.11-19/0314r2
	IEEE P802.11
	Wireless LANs
	802.11
Beacon Protection - for CID 2116 and CID 2673	
Dat	te: 2019-03-11

Specification

- Collaborated with industry to standardize our defense (Intel, Broadcom, Qualcomm and Huawei)
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- Optional feature of WPA3
- > Wi-Fi 7 **APs must support** beacon protection



Implementation & demo

Has been independently (!) implemented by Linux

- > Beacon signature calculated in hardware
- Requires firmware updates of Wi-Fi radios: beacons are usually generated in hardware.



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root@mathy-msi:/home/mathy/research/wi... ×

h/wi... × root@mathy-msi:/home/mathy/research/wi... ×

root@mathy-msi:/home/mathy/research/wi... × roo

root@mathy-msi:/home/mathy/research/wi... ×

mathy@mathy-msi:~/research/wifi/fragatt... ×

[root@mathy-msi hostapd]# uname -a

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Recent attacks use multi-channel MitM

- > Network is cloned on different channel
- > Allows adversary to reliably **block**, **delay**, or **modify** packets
- > Used as the basis for advanced crypto attacks:



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Attacks used special multi-channel MitM

AP is cloned on different channel



Preventing multi-channel MitM [WiSec'18]

Verify operating channel when connecting to a network

Also need to handle some edge cases

- > After the clients wakes up from sleep mode
- > When the network switches channel due to radar detection

→ Implemented on Linux in wpa_supplicant and hostapd

Specification

- Collaborated with industry to standardize defense (with Broadcom and Intel)
- > Now part of the 2020 update to the IEEE 802.11 standard

March 2018	doc.: IEEE 802.11-17/1807r12
	IEEE P802.11
	Wireless LANs
Defense against mult	i-channel MITM attacks via Operating
Channel Validation	
]	Date: 2017-11-14

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Specification

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Recognized as an optional feature of WPA3

 Good initial step, hopefully becomes mandatory in future

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How to prevent a **repeater MitM** when devices are out of range?



Defense based on channel randomness & reciprocity?

> Could verify the "channel signature" between both devices

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WPA3 For Hotspots: SAE-PK

The Wi-Fi Alliance released SAE-PK in late 2020

- > Extension of the SAE "Dragonfly" handshake
- > Goal is to secure hotspots using a password...
- > ...but that password should not allow someone to create a rogue clone of the network!

Background: design history

They first requested comments from the community!

<u>https://www.wi-fi.org/security-development</u> on July 2020:

In addition, Wi-Fi Alliance has identified the following potential security protocol updates and will review all comments received:

15. Hash-to-element password generation, Client Privacy Mechanisms, Operation Channel Validation, and Beacon protection

Background: design history

They first requested comments from the community!

- https://www.wi-fi.org/security-development on July 2020
- > This is an excellent step forward!

On the other hand, who knew about this?

- > Getting the word out is still difficult
- > Want to inspect drafts? Configure an e-mail warning when this page changes. Or follow me on Twitter @vanhoef ©

High-level overview of SAE-PK

Based on public key crypto:

- 1. The Access Point (AP) generates a public/private key pair
- 2. The Wi-Fi password is derived from the public key
- 3. The public key is sent to the client when connecting
- 4. Clients use the password to verify the public key of the AP
- 5. AP proves possession of the corresponding private key

→ The password forms a signature of the public key

The SAE-PK password

The SAE-PK password is the truncated output of:

Hash(SSID || Modifier M || public key)

- > SSID (Service Set Identifier): name of the Wi-Fi network
- Modifier M: starts from a random value and is incremented until the output starts with 3 or 5 zero bytes.
 - » Number of required zero bytes is controlled by a security parameter
- > Public key: point on an elliptic curve

The SAE-PK password

The SAE-PK password is the truncated output of:

Hash(SSID || Modifier M || public key)

Output is converted into a human-readable form

- > Example password: **2udb-s1xf-3ijn**-dbu3
- > Password length is variable and decided by administrator
- Shortest allowed password length encodes 52 bits of the hash output (excluding the leading 3 or 5 zero bytes)

Attack: creating a rogue clone of the network?

Find a modifier M & public key that result in the same password

Hash(SSID || Modifier M || public key)

What is the complexity of this in the best case?

- > Hash output must start with at least 3 zero bytes $\rightarrow 2^{24}$
- > Remaining output must equal the password $\rightarrow 2^{52}$

Total time complexity of 2⁷⁶ to perform a naïve attack

Time-memory trade-off attack

An attacker is essentially inverting the hash function:

- > We can construct **rainbow tables** to optimize the attack.
- > The SSID is part of the hash input, so every table only will work against a specific network name.
- > On verge of practicality based on theoretical estimates.
 - » E.g., a table of ~6TB can break a password in ~2 weeks on AWS.
 - » More research is needed, these are very rough estimates.
 - → Mitigate attacks using a long password or by making the truncated output start with at least 5 zero bytes.

Is SAE-PK secure?

When not using the weakest security configuration:

- > There are no known practical attacks...
- > ...on the other hand, there is no formal analysis/proof.



Open questions:

- > Is some kind of security proof feasible?
- > Are other attacks possible?
- > Are there risks when implementing SAE-PK?

Major remaining issues & problems

The biggest issue: how to make Wi-Fi less complex?

- > There are so many edge cases you will forget something...
- > Backwards-compatibility at the price of security?

Complexity has further consequences:

- > How to secure the network stack as a whole? User space, kernel, driver, firmware, hardware,... must interact securely.
- > Modelling of protocols is inherently limited. But still useful!

How to access standards?

- > 802.11 spec: https://standards.ieee.org/ieee/802.11/7028/
- > Wi-Fi Alliance: https://www.wi-fi.org/security-development
- > Draft IEEE docs: <u>https://mentor.ieee.org/802.11/documents</u>
 - » Searchable using Google, use "search keywords site:mentor.ieee.org"

Other advice:

- > Send an e-mail to ask for access to draft standards?
- > Hostap implements many protocols: <u>https://w1.fi/cvs.html</u>
- > Use mac80211_hwsim on Linux for virtual Wi-Fi interfaces

Thank you! Questions?

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