

CSE 707: Wireless Networks Security – Principles and Practices

Shambhu Upadhyaya

Computer Science and Engineering
University at Buffalo

Introduction

August 30, 2023



Acknowledgments

- ❑ DoD Capacity Building Grant
- ❑ NSF Capacity Building Grant
- ❑ Cisco Equipment Grant
- ❑ Anusha Iyer, Pavan Rudravaram, Himabindu Challapalli, Parag Jain, Mohit Virendra, Sunu Mathew, Murtuza Jadliwala, Madhu Chandrasekaran, Chris Crawford, Ameya Sanzgiri, Tamal Biswas (former students)

Seminar Presentations

- General introduction
- Wireless security challenges – Wi-Fi is pervasive!
- 802.11i basics
- Topics description (Module 1, End of Week 1)
- TKIP and AES-CCMP (Module 2)
- Ad hoc networks security and sensor networks security (Module 2, End of Week 2)
- Security Principles (Module 3)
- In-depth look into advanced topics (*may not be covered in the presentation*)
 - Energy-aware computing
 - Smart grid security
 - IoT security (Module 4, End of Week 3)
- Student presentations (Week 4 onwards)

A Typical Wireless Security Course

- **Introduction** to wireless networking (1 week)
- **Introduction** to security issues in wireless networks (2 weeks)
- **Overview of challenges**, threats and hacking methodologies (1 week)
- Wireless technologies and security mechanisms – 802.11, **WEP**, **802.11i**, 802.1X, EAP, Radius, Upper layer authentication (4 weeks)
- Advanced topics – **WPA**, **RSN**, **TKIP**, **AES-CCMP**, **MANETs**, **Sensor networks**, (4 weeks)
- Countermeasures and mitigation (1 week)
- Policy and analysis (1 week)

Seminar Course Grading

- Prerequisites
 - A course on Computer Networks and basic knowledge of computer security
 - Some programming experience is essential
- Course webpage
 - <http://www.cse.buffalo.edu/faculty/shambhu/cse70723/>
- Grading
 - Presentations
 - Research, Projects, any term papers
 - Research round table at the end of the course
 - Attendance mandatory

Lab Projects (Hands-on)

- Setting up wireless networks with hybrid technology (not practical this year)
- Setting up multi-hop networks in the lab (not practical this year)
- Packet Analysis & Spoofing
 - WildPacket's AiroPeek, Ethereal/Wireshark, etc.
- RF Jamming & Data Flooding, DOS attacks
 - Get an idea on AP vulnerabilities, iPhones
- Information Theft
 - Implement a covert channel through a wireless communication path, how easy or difficult?
- Layered Wireless Security
 - Lightweight Extensible Authentication Protocol (LEAP) system of Cisco
- Key Management
 - Authentication, confidentiality
- Network survivability
 - Admission control, graceful migration, etc.

Why Wireless?

- ❑ No way to run the cable, remote areas
- ❑ Convenience of less hardware – e.g., Conferences
- ❑ Temporary setups
- ❑ Costs of Cabling too expensive
- ❑ Scalability and Flexibility - Easy to grow
- ❑ Reduced cost of ownership - initial costs the same as the wired networks
- ❑ Mobility

Mobility and Security

- ❑ Increased mobility has become way of life
- ❑ Wireless is at the first and last miles
- ❑ Presents itself to security problems
- ❑ A new security culture needs to emerge across the entire Internet user community
- ❑ Proper online security habits must be practiced

What Would Constitute a Typical Wireless Security Course

- Components of the course
 - Threat model
 - Security protocol
 - Keys and passwords
 - Key entropy
 - Authentication
 - Authorization
 - Encryption
 - Trust issues
 - Detection models

Security and Privacy

- Wireless infrastructure
 - Less physical assets to protect
 - But there is no locked door on the airways
- Infrastructure protection
 - In Government hands
 - Being public asset, government feels responsible
 - National security
- Military is often the originator of digital security measures
- Regulations are likely to thwart privacy
- FBI's Carnivore program – automated snooping tool, unpopular
 - Similar to wiretapping, but sniff email, designed in 1999, Violated free speech and civil rights?, Program abandoned completely in Jan. 2005
- NSA's Prism Program
 - Clandestine mass electronic surveillance data mining program (2007)
 - Existence was leaked by Edward Snowden in June 2013

Wireless Networks

- Cellular Networks (CDMA, OFDMA, GSM)
 - 1G, 2G, 3G, 4G, 5G, ...
 - Main function is to send voice (make calls), but data over voice applications (WAP, GPRS) have been developed to enable web surfing from cell phones
- Data Networks – 802.11, 802.15 (Bluetooth), 802.16 (Broadband Wireless Access), 802.20 (Mobile Broadband Wireless Access)
 - Main function is to send data, but voice over data applications have also been developed (e.g., VOIP)
- Emphasis of the course is on Data Networks
 - 802.11: WLANs, MANETs, Sensor Networks
 - 802.11 is a **STANDARD** with different implementations
 - 802.11 only tells about how to access the channel, how to back-off to prevent collisions, how to send a packet over the air

Wireless Network Types

- Fixed networks
 - Point-to-point network
- Nomadic networks
 - Point-to-multipoint network
 - Computing devices are somewhat mobile
 - 802.11b, 802.11g, 802.11a support this
 - Becoming quite commonplace – coffee shop
- Mobile networks
 - Must support high velocity mobility, 802.16e, 802.20 and CDMA 2000 standards

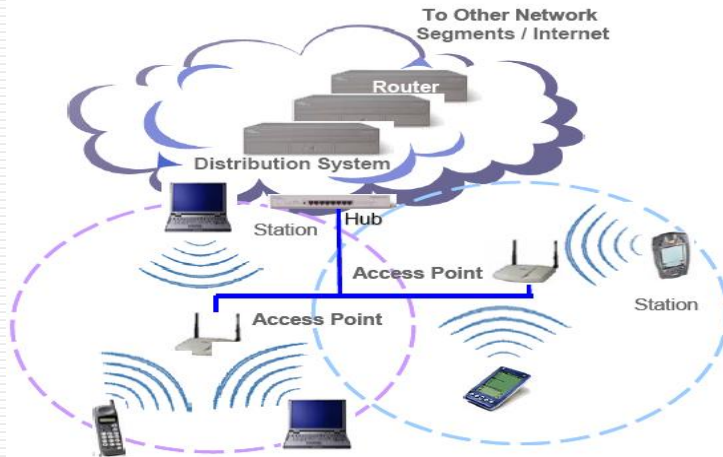
802.11 Variants

Variation	Operating Frequency	Bandwidth	Disadvantages
802.11	2.4GHz	2 Mbps	Less Bandwidth
802.11b	2.4 GHz	11 Mbps	Lack of QoS and multimedia support
802.11g	2.4 GHz	20 Mbps	Same as 802.11b
802.11a	5 GHz	54 Mbps	More Expensive and less range
802.11h	5 GHz	54 Mbps	Same as 802.11a
802.11n	2.4 GHz or 5 GHz	200 Mbps	Expensive
802.11e	QoS Support to 802.11 LAN		
802.11f	access point communications among multiple vendors		
802.11i	Enhance security and authentication mechanism for 802.11 mac		

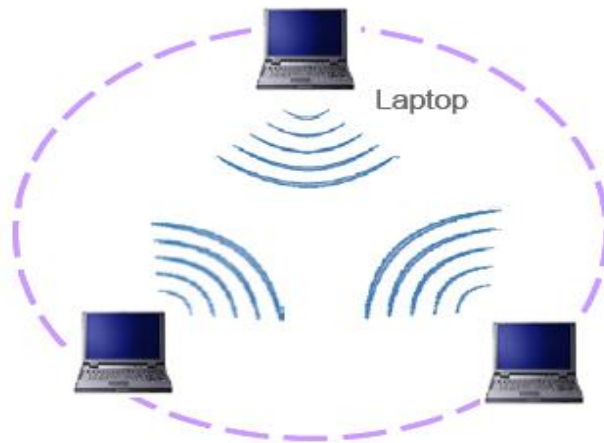
Wireless Networks Deployment Strategies

- ❑ Two modes of operation of 802.11 devices
 - Infrastructure mode
 - Ad hoc mode
- ❑ An Ad hoc network between two or more wireless devices without Access point (AP)
- ❑ Infrastructure mode – AP bridging wireless media to wired media
- ❑ AP handles station authentication and association to the wireless network

Infrastructure Mode Architecture



Ad-hoc Mode Architecture





Wireless Security Challenges

- What are the major challenges?

General Threats to WLANs

- Threats in wireless networks can be configured into the following categories:
 - Errors and omissions
 - Fraud and theft committed by authorized or unauthorized users of the system
 - Employee sabotage
 - Loss of physical and infrastructure support
 - Malicious hackers
 - Industrial espionage
 - Malicious code
 - Threats to personal privacy

Vulnerabilities in Wireless Networks

- Vulnerabilities in wireless networks include:
 - Existing vulnerabilities of wired networks apply to wireless networks as well
 - Sensitive information that is not encrypted (or is encrypted with poor cryptographic techniques) and that is transmitted between two wireless devices may be intercepted and disclosed
 - Denial of service (DoS) attacks may be directed at wireless connections or devices
 - Sensitive data may be corrupted during improper synchronization

Vulnerabilities, Contd..

- Malicious entities may be able to violate the privacy of legitimate users and be able to track their actual movements
- Handheld devices are easily stolen and can reveal sensitive information
- Interlopers, from inside or out, may be able to gain connectivity to network management controls and thereby disable or disrupt operations

Wi-Fi Evil Twins

- Evil twins are a significant menace to threaten the security of Internet users
- Anyone with suitable equipment can locate a hotspot and take its place, substituting their own “evil twin”
- There are no good solutions against it
- Strong authentication and encryption could be good defenses

WLAN - Security Problems

Attacks in WLANs can be classified as:

- Passive Attacks
 - An attack in which an unauthorized party simply gains access to an asset and does not modify its content
 - Eavesdropping
 - Traffic Analysis
- Active Attacks
 - An attack whereby an unauthorized party makes modifications to a message, data stream, or file
 - Masquerading
 - Replay
 - Message Modification
 - Denial of Service (DoS)

WLAN Security Goals

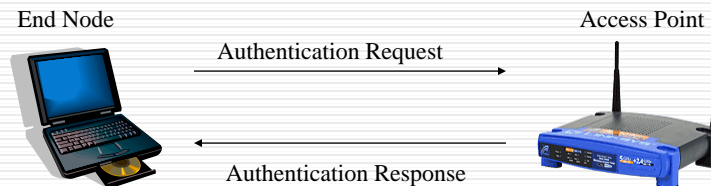
- There are four goals one should aim for when installing a wireless network
 - **Access control** - Only authorized users should be allowed to use the wireless network
 - **Data integrity** - The network traffic should be secure against tampering
 - **Confidentiality** - The user should be protected against a third party listening to the conversation
 - **Availability of service** - The service should be secured against Denial of Service (DoS) attacks

Basic WLAN Security Mechanisms

- Security Problems - 802.11 family faces the same problems
 - Sniffing and War driving
- Following security mechanisms exist
 - Service Set Identifier (SSID)
 - MAC Address filtering
 - Open System Authentication
 - Shared Key Authentication
 - Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) protocol
- 802.11 products are shipped by the vendors with all security mechanisms disabled !!
 - Allows any wireless node (NIC) to access the network
 - Walk around and gain access to the network

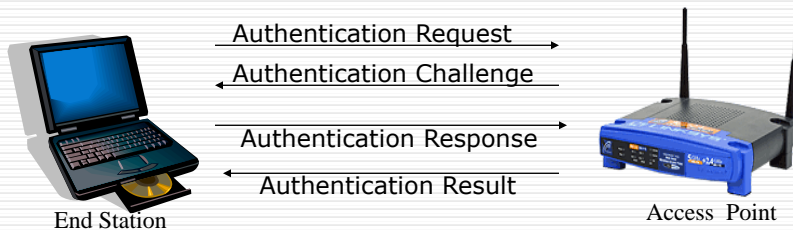
Open System Authentication

- The default authentication protocol for 802.11
- Authenticates anyone who requests authentication (null authentication)



Shared Key Authentication

- This assumes that each station has received a secret shared key through a secure channel independent from the 802.11 network
- Stations authenticate through shared knowledge of the secret key
- Use of shared key authentication requires implementation of the 'Wired Equivalent Privacy' algorithm



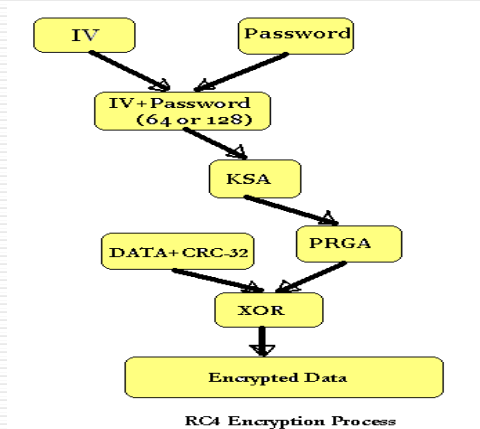
Wired Equivalence Privacy (WEP)

- Designed to provide confidentiality to a wireless network similar to that of standard LANs
- WEP is essentially the RC4 symmetric key cryptographic algorithm (same key for encrypting and decrypting)
- Transmitting station concatenates 40 bit key with a 24 bit Initialization Vector (IV) to produce pseudorandom key stream
- Plaintext is XORed with the pseudorandom key stream to produce ciphertext

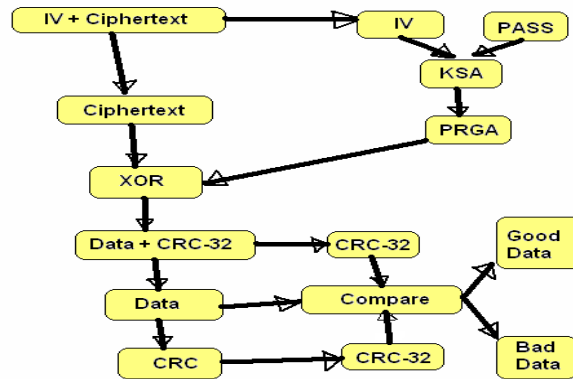
Wired Equivalence Privacy (WEP)

- ❑ Ciphertext is concatenated with IV and transmitted over the wireless medium
- ❑ Receiving station reads the IV, concatenates it with the secret key to produce local copy of the pseudorandom key stream
- ❑ Received ciphertext is XORed with the key stream generated to get back the plaintext

WEP Encryption Algorithm



WEP Decrypting Algorithm



RC4 Decryption Process

WEP Problems

- ❑ There is no key management provision in the WEP protocol
- ❑ WEP has been broken! Walker (Oct 2000), Borisov et al. (Jan 2001), Fluhrer-Mantin -Shamir (Aug 2001)
- ❑ Unsafe at any key size: Testing reveals WEP encapsulation remains insecure whether its key length is 1 bit or 1000 or any other size
- ❑ More about this at:
- ❑ https://www.mattblaze.org/papers/others/rc4_ksaproc.pdf

802.11i Basics

- The wireless security standards

802.11i – The New Security Standard

- New generation of Security Standards
- Standard was ratified in June, 2004 and incorporated into 802.11-2007 standard
- Defines a security mechanism that operates between the Media Access Control (MAC) sublayer and the Network layer
- Introduced a new type of wireless network called RSN
- RSN - Robust Security Networks
 - Based on AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) along with 802.1X and EAP (Extensible Authentication Protocol)
 - Needs RSN compatible hardware to operate

802.11i Contd...

- ❑ To ensure a smooth transition from current networks to 802.11i, TSN (Transitional Security Networks) were defined where both RSN and WEP can operate in parallel
- ❑ Due to the requirements of RSN for a different hardware, Wi-Fi Alliance defined WPA
- ❑ WPA - Wi-Fi Protected Access → subset of RSN
 - Can be applied to current WEP enabled devices as a software update
 - Focuses on TKIP (Temporal Key Integrity Protocol)
- ❑ RSN and WPA share single security architecture
- ❑ Architecture covers
 - Upper level authentication procedures
 - Secret key distribution and key renewal

802.11i Contd...

- ❑ Differences between WPA and RSN
 - WPA defines a particular implementation of the network whereas RSN gives more flexibility
 - RSN supports TKIP and AES whereas WPA has support only for TKIP
 - WPA – applied to infrastructure mode only
 - RSN – Applied to ad-hoc mode also
- ❑ Security Context
 - Keys – Security relies heavily on secret keys
 - RSN – Key hierarchy
 - ❑ Temporal or session keys
 - ❑ Master key

802.11i Contd...

□ Security Layers

■ *Wireless LAN layer*

Raw communication, advertising capabilities, encryption, decryption

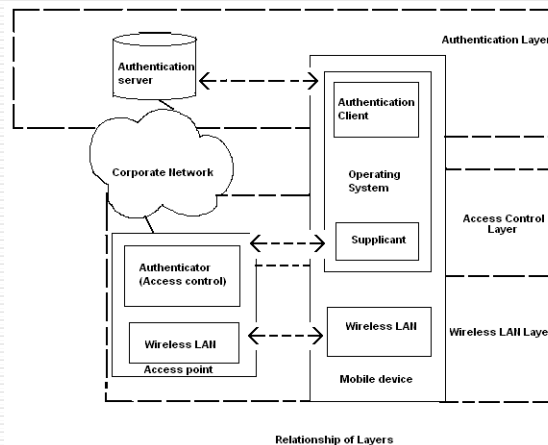
■ *Access control layer*

Middle manager: manages the security context. Talks to the authentication layer to decide the establishment of security context and participates in generation of temporal keys

■ *Authentication layer*

Layer where the policy decisions are made and proof of identity is accepted or rejected

802.11i Contd...



Access Control Methods

- Access Control Mechanism to separate authorized and unauthorized personnel
- Protocols used to implement Access Control in RSN and WPA are:
 - 802.1X
 - EAP
 - RADIUS



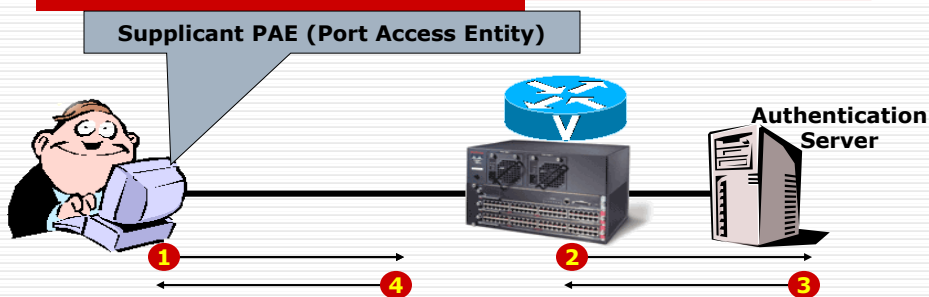
Access Control Methods

- Elements of Access Control:
 - Supplicant
 - Authenticator
 - Authorizer
- Steps in Access Control:
 - Authenticator is alerted by the supplicant
 - Supplicant identifies himself
 - Authenticator requests authorization from authorizer
 - Authorizer indicates Yes or No
 - Authenticator allows or blocks device

802.1X

- Divides the network into three entities:
 - Supplicant
 - Authenticator
 - Authentication Server
- Works between the supplicant (client) and the authenticator (network device)
- Medium independent (Wired, Wireless, Cable/Fiber)
- Uses EAP to support Multiple authentication methods like:
 - EAP-TLS (certificates)
 - PEAP/TTLS (password)

802.1X Components



- 1 User activates link (i.e., connects to the access point)
- 2 Switch requests authentication server if user is authorized to access LAN
- 3 Authentication server responds with authority access
- 4 Switch opens controlled port (if authorized) for user to access LAN

Role of RADIUS in WPA

- Remote **A**uthentication **D**ial-**I**n **U**ser **S**ervice
- De-Facto Standard For Remote Authentication
 - PAP (Password Authentication Protocol)
 - CHAP (Challenge Handshake Authentication Protocol)
- Used for communication between APs and AS
- RADIUS facilitates centralized user administration required for many applications, e.g., ISPs
- Perhaps not used in home installations
- WPA mandates the use of RADIUS authentication
- Optional for RSNs – RSNs use Kerberos

Student Presentation Topics

- Secure Routing in Ad hoc Networks
- Key Management in Ad Hoc and Sensor Networks
- Attacks in Sensor Networks
- Trust Issues in Wireless Networks
- Mesh Networks Security
- Vehicular Networks Security
- Smart Grid Security
- Smartphone Security
- Internet of Things (IoT) Security