

NETFLOW AND WIRELESS PACKET CAPTURE ANALYSIS

Introduction

The new age of technology has led to the complexity of networks in today's world. This has aided the emergence of network monitoring approaches as the need to maintain the health of the network rises. Different approaches have been adopted to serve these purposes and can be classified as active or passive. This paper we delve into one of the basic protocols utilized for flow export of networks called NetFlow. It is vital to understand that a flow is defined as “a set of Internet Protocol packets passing an observation point in the network during a certain time interval, such that all packets belonging to a particular flow have a set of common properties” (Claise, B. Trammell, & P. Aitken, 2013).

NetFlow was developed by Cisco as their flow export technology and patented it back in 1996. This feature has been utilized to capture IP network traffic which can be analyzed based on common attributes such as source and destination addresses, port numbers, packet contents et cetera (Nevil, 2011).

NetFlow, just like any other feature has its cons and pros, though there are more benefits to be gained from using NetFlow. These benefits include easy network bandwidth and traffic monitoring, fast network troubleshooting which aids the improvement of user experience, gaining quick insights from bandwidth reports and finally network security reports that heighten cybersecurity protection. NetFlow shortcomings include the high usage of bandwidth that negatively impacts the device performance, forwarding results to a limited number of recipients which slows network management and troubleshooting and lastly NetFlow does not have the capacity to provide user identities e.g. login information after identifying a device (IBM, n.d.).

Wireless Packet Capture Analysis

This section involves the investigation of a packet capture file provided by Joe (a victim) that we will analysis and interpret to gain insights for any anomalies given the fact that Joe should be the one using his WAP (Wireless Access Point) where the packet file was derived from.

1.BSSID AND SSID

BSSID stands for basic service set identifier and it is the MAC (Media Access Control) physical address of a given access point or wireless router used for wi-fi connection (Atera, 2024). SSID on the other hand stands for service set identifier and this is the name used for a wireless network (Chris & Jordan, 2024).It is vital to note that SSID can be changed anytime unlike BSSID.

The figure below shows the BSSID as 00:23:69:00:d0 and the SSID as ment0rNet.

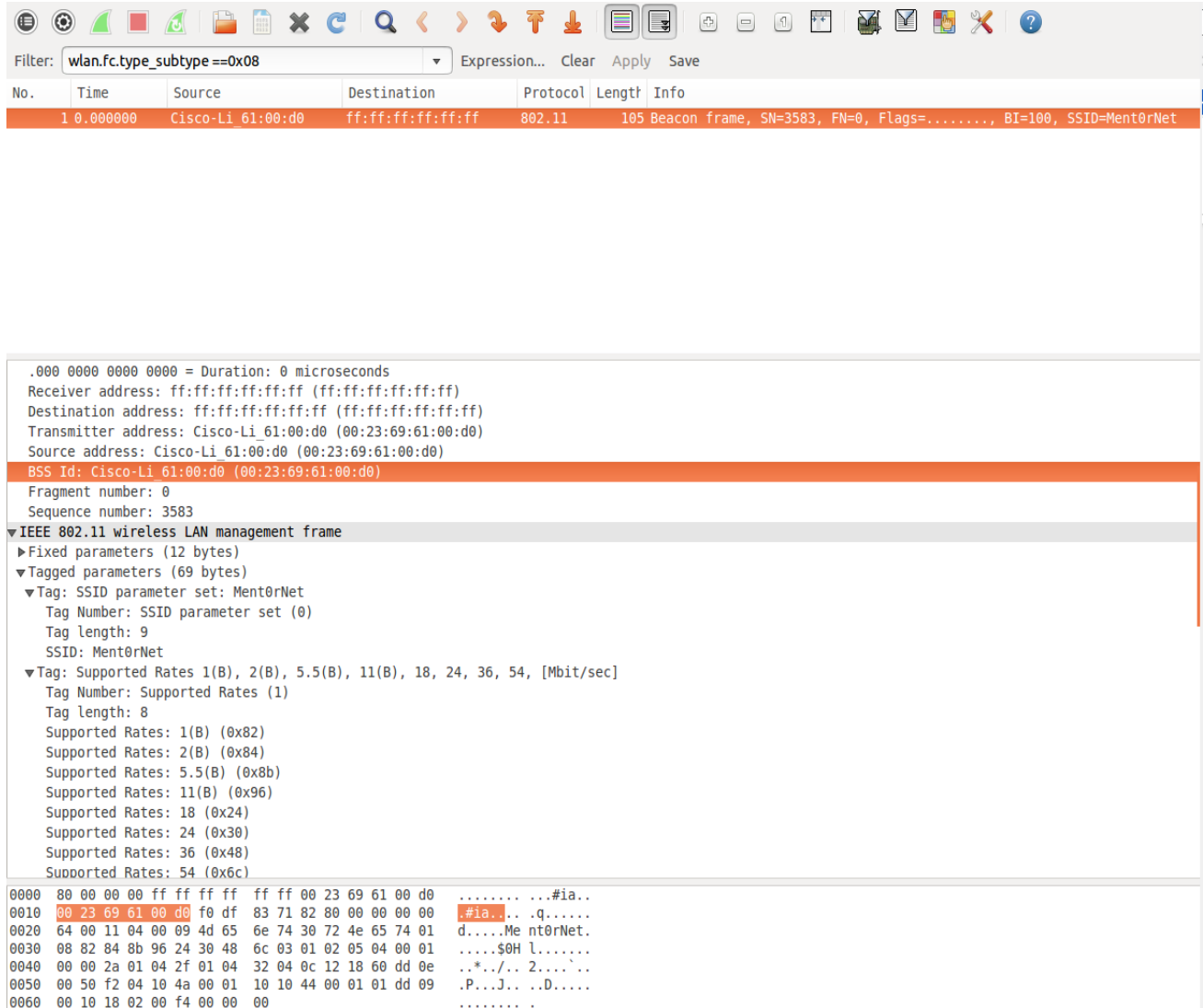


Figure 1/BSSID and SSID

2.WAP

In the section we investigate if the WAP above uses encryption which is evidence that it does have an encryption following the flags that have been shown in the screenshot below. The flag on data protection shows that there is protection, and it is indicated with a 1.

Filter: `wlan.fc.type_subtype == 0x20 && wlan.bssid == 00:23` Expression... Clear Apply Save

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
100	6.563199	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	424	Data, SN=3653, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
101	6.566783	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	416	Data, SN=3654, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
102	6.569852	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	361	Data, SN=3655, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
103	6.573439	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	400	Data, SN=3656, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
104	6.577023	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	432	Data, SN=3657, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
105	6.580607	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	361	Data, SN=3658, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
106	6.584190	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	420	Data, SN=3659, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
108	6.587774	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	426	Data, SN=3660, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
109	6.591868	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	414	Data, SN=3661, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
110	6.594942	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	355	Data, SN=3662, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
111	6.598015	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	364	Data, SN=3663, FN=0, Flags=p...F.
112	6.601600	Cisco-Li_61:00:ce	IcannIa_7f:ff:fa	802.11	419	Data, SN=3664, FN=0, Flags=p...F.

[Time since reference or first frame: 6.584190000 seconds]
 Frame Number: 106
 Frame Length: 420 bytes (3360 bits)
 Capture Length: 420 bytes (3360 bits)
 [Frame is marked: False]
 [Frame is ignored: False]
 [Protocols in frame: wlan:data]

▼ IEEE 802.11 Data, Flags: .p...F.
 Type/Subtype: Data (0x20)
 ▼ Frame Control Field: 0x0842
 00 = Version: 0
 ... 10.. = Type: Data frame (2)
 0000 = Subtype: 0
 ▼ Flags: 0x42
 10 = DS status: Frame from DS to a STA via AP (To DS: 0 From DS: 1) (0x02)
 0.. = More Fragments: This is the last fragment
 0... = Retry: Frame is not being retransmitted
 0.... = PWR MGT: STA will stay up
 ..0. = More Data: No data buffered
 .1.. = Protected flag: Data is protected
 0... = Order flag: Not strictly ordered
 .000 0000 0000 0000 = Duration: 0 microseconds
 Receiver address: IcannIa_7f:ff:fa (01:00:5e:7f:ff:fa)
 Destination address: IcannIa_7f:ff:fa (01:00:5e:7f:ff:fa)
 Transmitter address: Cisco-Li_61:00:d0 (00:23:60:61:00:d0)
 BSS Id: Cisco-Li_61:00:d0 (00:23:60:61:00:d0)

0000 08 42 00 00 01 00 5e 7f ff fa 00 23 69 61 00 d0 .B....^...#ia..
 0010 00 23 69 61 00 ce b0 e4 d7 85 fd 00 41 5f 35 31 .#ia....A 51
 0020 46 e7 ce 7a b2 c6 f0 fa 66 7a 13 b9 c4 7f d9 6a F..Z....fz....j
 0030 58 91 0f 15 89 3f 73 d0 bd bb 09 6e bc ef 24 95 X...?s...n...\$.
 0040 4a e2 48 f0 7a ec f7 97 db 45 6a b5 6a ed 85 b7 J.H.Z...Ej.j...
 0050 76 11 64 21 09 f1 21 f2 02 6b 61 ed b6 b1 5a 99 v.d!...!.ka...Z.
 0060 a6 68 c5 4d e0 64 42 30 40 b8 e3 5c 6c 2b e7 16 .h.M.dB0 @...l+..
 0070 d5 0b 93 fd 0c 58 c1 8a 33 a2 46 fd e0 a1 1f c2 ...X 3 F

File: "/home/sansforensics/Des... Packets: 133068 · Disallowed: 59274 (44.5%) · Load time: 0:01.330 Profile: Default

Figure 2/Wap encryption

3.Stations

The stations which can be termed as the devices that were associated with our WAP above were listed in the screenshot below as we filtered for only the endpoints that had connected to the access point. The screenshot below shows also the number of packets that were sent and received.

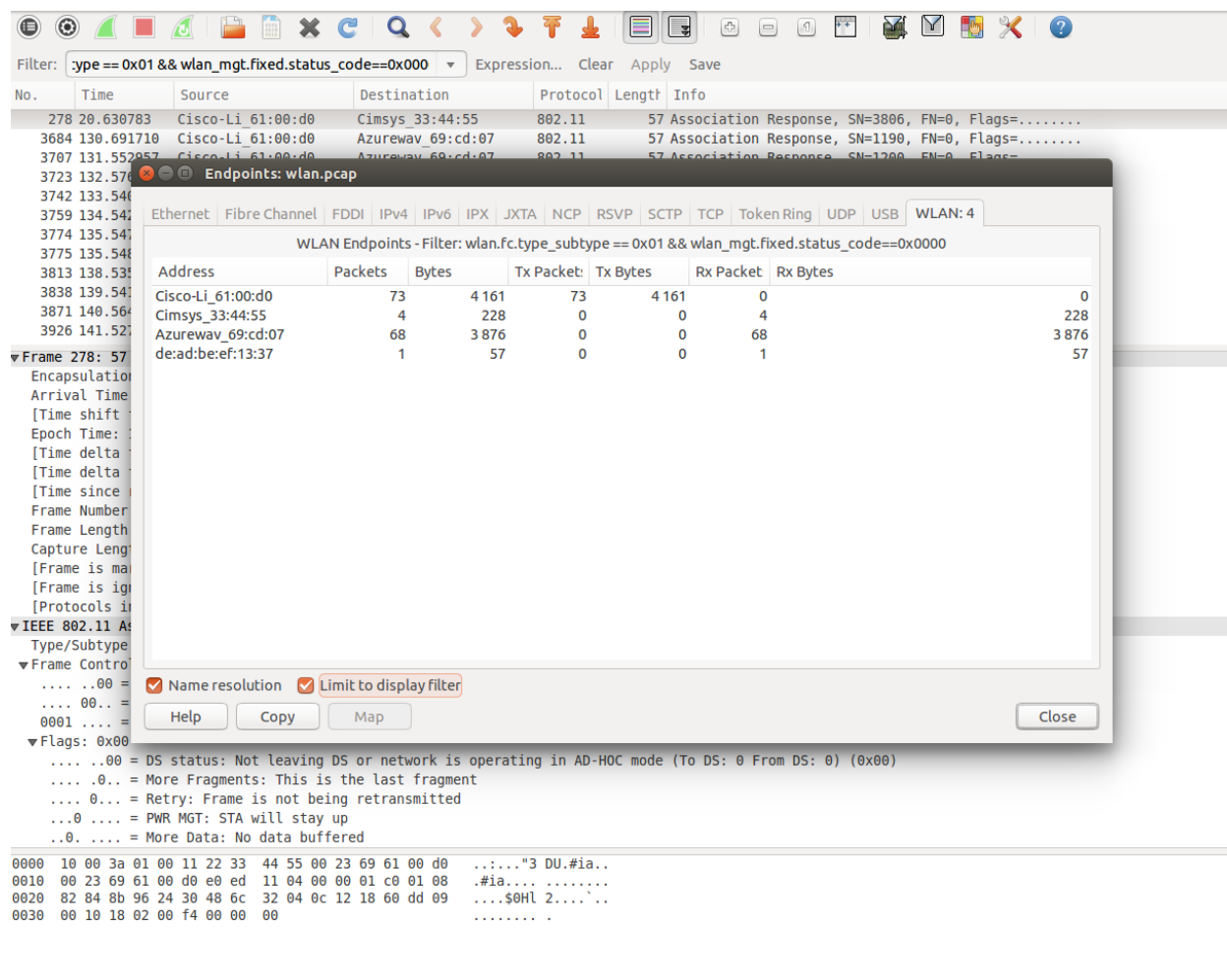


Figure 3/Stations

4.Patterns

The patterns that seemed to be anomalous simply mean that some endpoints generated suspicious traffic unlike the expected traffic from Joe. The screenshot below shows that there was abnormal traffic from one of the stations that was flagged.

The image shows a Wireshark packet capture analysis. The main window displays a list of packets with a filter applied: `00:23:69:61:00:d0 && (wlan.sa == de:ad:be:ef:13:37)`. The selected packet is a WLAN frame from source `de:ad:be:ef:13:37` to destination `ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff`. The packet details pane shows the frame structure, including the MAC header, frame body, and frame control field. The packet bytes pane shows the raw data in hexadecimal and ASCII.

The packet list shows the following packets:

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
128262	297.521679	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	802.11	368	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128264	297.525311	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	802.11	368	Data, SN=1023, FN=0, Flags=p....F.
128330	304.376780	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	33:33:00:00:00:16	802.11	116	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128332	304.376780	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	33:33:00:00:00:16	802.11	116	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128340	304.376780	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	33:33:00:00:00:16	802.11	116	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128342	304.376780	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	33:33:00:00:00:16	802.11	116	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128355	304.376780	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	33:33:00:00:00:16	802.11	116	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128356	304.376780	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	33:33:00:00:00:16	802.11	116	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128358	304.376780	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	33:33:00:00:00:16	802.11	116	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128433	311.000000	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	802.11	368	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128435	311.000000	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	802.11	368	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T
128442	311.000000	de:ad:be:ef:13:37	ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff	802.11	368	Data, SN=58, FN=0, Flags=p....T

The packet details pane shows the following information:

- WLAN Endpoints - Filter: `((wlan.fc.type_subtype == 0x20) && (wlan.fc.protected == 1) && (wlan.bssid == 00:23:69:61:00:d0) && (wlan.sa == de:ad:be:ef:13:37))`
- Address: de:ad:be:ef:13:37, Packets: 757, Bytes: 110 648, Tx Packet: 757, Tx Bytes: 110 648, Rx Packet: 0, Rx Bytes: 0
- ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff, Packets: 4, Bytes: 872, Tx Packet: 0, Tx Bytes: 0, Rx Packet: 4, Rx Bytes: 872
- 33:33:00:00:00:16, Packets: 4, Bytes: 464, Tx Packet: 0, Tx Bytes: 0, Rx Packet: 4, Rx Bytes: 464
- 33:33:ff:ef:13:37, Packets: 2, Bytes: 208, Tx Packet: 0, Tx Bytes: 0, Rx Packet: 2, Rx Bytes: 208
- 33:33:00:00:00:02, Packets: 7, Bytes: 672, Tx Packet: 0, Tx Bytes: 0, Rx Packet: 7, Rx Bytes: 672
- Cisco-Li_61:00:ce, Packets: 740, Bytes: 108 432, Tx Packet: 0, Tx Bytes: 0, Rx Packet: 740, Rx Bytes: 108 432

The packet bytes pane shows the raw data in hexadecimal and ASCII:

```

0000 08 41 2c 00 00 23 69 61 00 d0 de ad be ef 13 37 .A,..#ia .....7
0010 ff ff ff ff ff ff ff a0 03 83 d4 2a 00 99 54 ea 61 .....*.T.a
0020 da 02 1c 3f 17 d6 91 62 e8 c2 ce 4e 44 0a f6 05 ...?...b...ND...
0030 d5 3f c5 ab ad d8 24 a3 51 ee 21 b4 d3 78 8d 25 .?...$.Q!..x.%
0040 5a ca 99 98 ef d0 92 34 60 0d 80 97 32 74 7d ea Z.....4`...2t}.
0050 68 0c 00 6a 5b 7e 21 9a 5a 88 fa 5b c0 ad ae 30 h..j[~!.Z.[...0
0060 b1 9b f6 b6 59 ea 59 6c f1 ec d7 f4 a5 21 6b ed ....Y.Yl.....!k.
0070 7f 15 52 81 b1 d7 bc 8a h7 64 ch 8c 83 12 01 11 R.....d

```

Figure 4/Patterns

5.Anomaly

The stations identified to have anomalous traffic above can be categorized under the types of attacks described below:

5.1 WEP cracking attack

This is an attack that is used to exploit the vulnerabilities of the wired equivalent privacy protocol. This was successful since WEP was an early encryption method used for wireless networks security where over the years methods have been invented to crack it (NordVPN, n.d.).

5.2 ARP replay attack

This attack occurs when a hacker listens to network traffic to intercept an ARP request, then inserts a spoofed ARP reply before the legitimate device can respond. The reply contains the hackers MAC address instead of the intended device's MAC address. Then the hacker can obtain data belonging to the legitimate user (s3CloudHub, 2024).

5.3 Denial of Service

This “attack occurs when legitimate users are unable to access information systems, devices, or other network resources due to the actions of a malicious cyber threat actor” (CISA, 2021). This is achieved by flooding the targeted host with traffic to a point that the device cannot handle the request and therefore crashes causing services to be inaccessible.

In conclusion the three attacks explained all took part in this investigation since the WAP had a WEP encryption which was possibly cracked and then ARP replies were transmitted using the Cimsys hence the denial of service where the traffic was overwhelmed and Joe was not able to reach his Wi-Fi services.

6.Stations

The stations that have displayed consistent anomalies and are suspicious are shown on the screenshot below.

```
Cimsys_33:44:55
de:ad:be:ef:13:37
```

Figure 5/Stations

7.Unknown

We cracked the WEP key using Aircrack-ng where we obtained the key that we used to discover the WEP key as shown in the figure below.

```
Aircrack-ng 1.1

[00:00:03] Tested 938 keys (got 26805 IVs)

depth  byte(vote)
3/  4  D0(33536) 1F(33024) 27(33024) BC(33024) 2F(31744)
0/  1  E5(38656) 82(33024) 0C(32256) 3C(32000) EB(31744)
0/  6  9E(34048) 27(33792) 7A(32768) E9(32512) 8B(31744)
0/  4  B9(35328) D4(35072) 2E(34048) B9(33024) 00(32768)
8/ 10  6D(31488) 10(31232) B9(31232) 7A(30976) 95(30976)

KEY FOUND! [ D0:E5:9E:B9:04 ]
Decrypted correctly: 100%

ensics@siftworkstation:~$
```

Figure 6/WEP key

Then we applied to decrypt the pcap file which displayed the unknown endpoint Icanlan_7f:ff:fa (01:00:5e:7f:ff:fa) that was used to retransmit and authentication.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
100	6.563199	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	424	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
101	6.566783	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	416	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
102	6.569852	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	361	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
103	6.573439	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	400	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
104	6.577023	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	432	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
105	6.580607	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	361	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
106	6.584190	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	420	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
107	6.584125		SenaoInt 33:a9:55 (RA) 802.11		10	Acknowledgement, Flags=.....
108	6.587774	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	426	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
109	6.591868	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	414	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
110	6.594942	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	355	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
111	6.598015	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	364	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
112	6.601600	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	419	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1
113	6.605695	192.168.1.1	239.255.255.250	SSDP	429	NOTIFY * HTTP/1.1

Encapsulation type: IEEE 802.11 Wireless LAN (20)
Arrival Time: Sep 17, 2010 15:56:47.673584000 UTC
[Time shift for this packet: 0.00000000 seconds]
Epoch Time: 1284739007.673584000 seconds
[Time delta from previous captured frame: 0.003649000 seconds]
[Time delta from previous displayed frame: 0.003649000 seconds]
[Time since reference or first frame: 6.587774000 seconds]
Frame Number: 108
Frame Length: 426 bytes (3408 bits)
Capture Length: 426 bytes (3408 bits)
[Frame is marked: False]
[Frame is ignored: False]
[Protocols in frame: wlan:llc:ip:udp:data]
[Coloring Rule Name: UDP]
[Coloring Rule String: udp]

▼ IEEE 802.11 Data, Flags: .p....F.
Type/Subtype: Data (0x20)
► Frame Control Field: 0x0842
.000 0000 0000 0000 = Duration: 0 microseconds
Receiver address: IcannIa 7f:ff:fa (01:00:5e:7f:ff:fa)
Destination address: IcannIa 7f:ff:fa (01:00:5e:7f:ff:fa)
Transmitter address: Cisco-Li 61:00:d0 (00:23:69:61:00:d0)
BSS Id: Cisco-Li 61:00:d0 (00:23:69:61:00:d0)

0000	08 42 00 00 01 00 5e 7f ff fa 00 23 69 61 00 d0	.B...^...#ia..
0010	00 23 69 61 00 ce c0 e4 d8 85 fd 00 29 9e 78 5a	.#ia....).xZ
0020	a8 98 5b 0a 89 14 64 5d 47 b4 c4 d1 a2 c6 fc 21	..[...d] G.....!
0030	78 6e 64 36 99 ca 4e 61 1a 73 fc 8a 84 94 c9 de	xnd6..Na .S.....
0040	30 9e c4 d1 b8 a8 6b 8f 93 4d 0f 0f 2b 99 c0 9d	0....k..M..+...
0050	05 a7 56 09 d4 45 1b 95 a0 30 ab 03 ac a7 91 27	..V..E...0.....!

Figure 7/unknown

8. Conclusion

Joe's wireless access point issues started when a WEP key was cracked, and the attacker used a transmitter to disrupt the ARP replies that were directed to the attacker's device that were intended to be Joe's. This is when Joe realized that he was getting dropped since his device wasn't receiving any replies from his WAP. The attacker was able to pick up an IP address and could authenticate the devices since Joe was completely locked out after the transmission was successful.

Glossary

ARP – Stands for Address Resolution Protocol which connects an ever-changing internet protocol address to a specific Media Access Control (MAC) address in a local area network (LAN) (Fortinet, 2024).

WAP – Stands for Wireless Access Point which is a networking hardware device that allows other WIFI devices to connect to a wired network (Chris, 2016).

WLAN – stands for wireless local area network which is a group of computers or network devices that are collocated and form a network based on radio transmissions rather than wired connections (Bradley, 2024).

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