

Advanced Network Security Lab

Session 2: IEEE 802.15.4 MAC-Layer Security

Dominik Roy George
d.r.george@tue.nl

Savio Sciancalepore
s.sciancalepore@tue.nl

February 28, 2024

1 Introduction

This second lab session provides you with insights into the *MAC-Layer Security* of the reference OS used for lab sessions, namely, *contiki-ng*.

The main objective of this second session is to let you visualize the configurations of the *IEEE 802.15.4 MAC-Layer Security*, how to capture live traffic in a Wireless Sensor Network (WSN), and observe the impact of various MAC-layer security configurations on the network behavior.

For this session, we will be working with three example programs of the *contiki-ng*. We need one simple IoT node, one sniffer node and a border router. The one node will be flashed with the *hello-world* program of the *contiki-ng* and the second node will be flashed with the *sensniff* program, while the border router will build on the example program *rpl-border-router*. This document provides you with the required instructions. We kindly request the students follow the instructions during the lab session.

1.1 Scenario

For the second lab session, you will be working in a **group of three members**. For each group, we will provide three *Sensortags CC2650*. In Fig. 1, we illustrate the scenario you will deploy during the lab session.

One SensorTag will behave as a *simple node* and will be communicating with the border-router. The second SensorTag will act as a *sniffer*. The third SensorTag, connected to a Laptop, will behave as the border-router of the network. At the same time, the simple node and the sniffer can be connected to the laptops of the other group members.

In Tab. 1.1, we provide *group ids* and associated *PAN IDs* and *Channels*. We provide these ids to prevent mutual interferences during the lab sessions. Therefore, we kindly request each group not to configure the devices to non-associated ids.

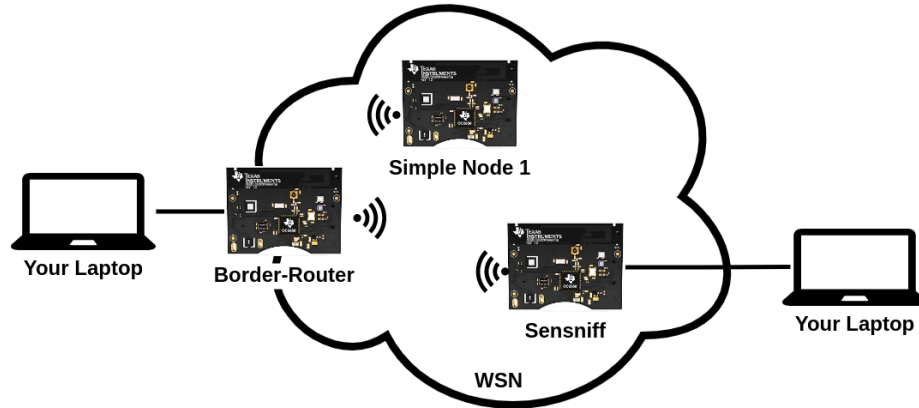


Figure 1: Scenario for Lab Session 2.

To fully enjoy this lab session, we provide instructions in four sections: (i) Security Configuration, (ii) Wireshark Configuration, (iii) Sensniff, and (iv) Deployment.

2 IEEE 802.15.4 Security Configuration

You need to apply the following steps for all the *Sensortags CC2650* which act as *simple node* and as *border-router* in your network.

2.1 Step 1: Configuration

Open the file *project-conf.h* with any editor of your choice. Next, copy the following code inside:

Listing 1: project-conf.h

```
#ifndef PROJECT_CONF_H_
#define PROJECT_CONF_H_
//COPY FROM HERE AND ADD THE CODE in the existing project-conf.h
//LOGGING
#define LOG_CONF_LEVEL_RPL LOG_LEVEL_DBG
#define LOG_CONF_LEVEL_TCPIP LOG_LEVEL_WARN
#define LOG_CONF_LEVEL_IPV6 LOG_LEVEL_WARN
#define LOG_CONF_LEVEL_6LOWPAN LOG_LEVEL_DBG
#define LOG_CONF_LEVEL_MAC LOG_LEVEL_DBG
#define LOG_CONF_LEVEL_FRAMER LOG_LEVEL_INFO
#define TSCH_LOG_CONF_PER_SLOT 0

#undef IEEE802154_CONF_DEFAULT_CHANNEL
```

Group ID	PAN ID	CHANNEL
1	0xABCD	11
2	0xABCE	12
3	0xABCF	13
4	0xABD0	14
5	0xABD1	15
6	0xABD2	16
7	0xABD3	17
8	0xABD4	18
9	0xABD5	19
10	0xABD6	20
11	0xABD7	21
12	0xABD8	22
13	0xABD9	23
14	0xABDA	24
15	0xABDB	25
16	0xABDC	11
17	0xABDD	12
18	0xABDE	13
19	0xABDF	14
20	0xABE0	15
21	0xABE1	16
22	0xABE2	17
23	0xABE3	18

```

#define IEEE802154_CONF_DEFAULT_CHANNEL YOUR_CHANNEL
#undef IEEE802154_CONF_PANID
#define IEEE802154_CONF_PANID YOUR_PANID

//SECURITY
#define LLSEC802154_CONF_ENABLED 1
#define CSMA_CONF_LLSEC_SECURITY_LEVEL 5
#define CSMA_CONF_LLSEC_KEY_ID_MODE 2
//COPY END
#endif

```

☞ We remind you to change the variable *IEEE802154_CONF_DEFAULT_CHANNEL* and *IEEE802154_CONF_PANID* according to your *group id* in Tab. 1.1.

2.2 Steps 2 and 3

After updating the *project-conf.h*, you need to execute the following command to compile the program, generating an executable file for the *Sensortag CC2650*:

Listing 2: Compile

```
$ sudo make TARGET=cc26x0-cc13x0 BOARD=sensortag/cc2650 clean
$ sudo make TARGET=cc26x0-cc13x0 BOARD=sensortag/cc2650
```

Steps 2 and 3 are equivalent, as presented in the first lab session. For flashing the executable with UNIFLASH, select the executables in the base folder of the individual project folders, such as *hello-world.cc26x0-cc13x0*, *border-router.cc26x0-cc13x0*.

3 Wireshark Configuration

In this lab session, we use Wireshark as a tool for capturing live traffic of WSN. First, you need to define preferences in Wireshark. Therefore, open Wireshark's preferences and select '*TI CC24xx FCS format*' under Protocols of *IEEE 802.15.4*. To allow you to verify correct configuration, we provide a Wireshark screenshot, shown in Fig. 2.

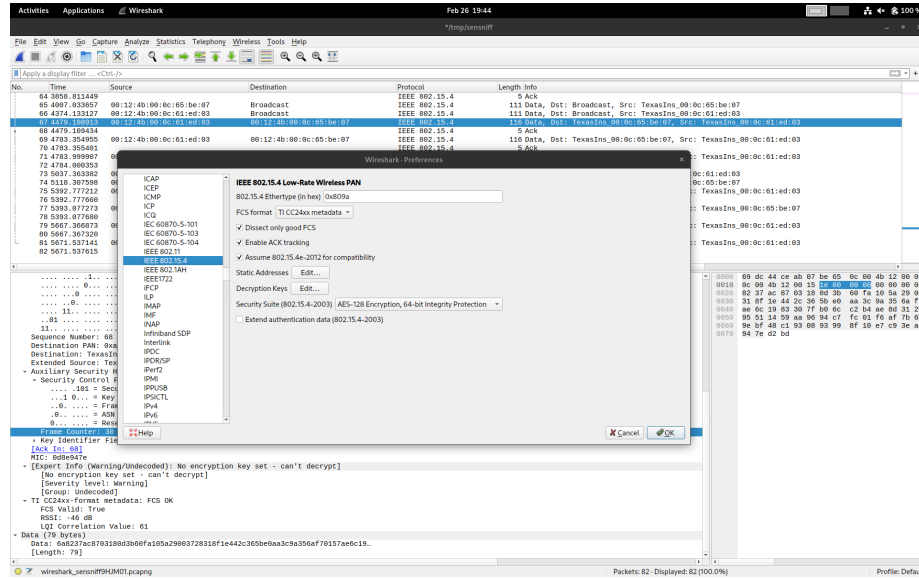


Figure 2: Wireshark Configuration.

Next, we define in Wireshark a *pipe*, which appears as an interface to capture the live traffic. Go to the tab *Capture* and select *options*, then a window will pop up, as shown in Fig. 3.

Further, click on the button *Manage Interfaces...* in the window. Afterwards, a window opens, where you can select the *Pipe* tab to add a new pipe as an interface, as shown in Fig. 4.

Click now on the plus button to create a new pipe, type */tmp/sensniff* and save it. For more details, we refer to [1].

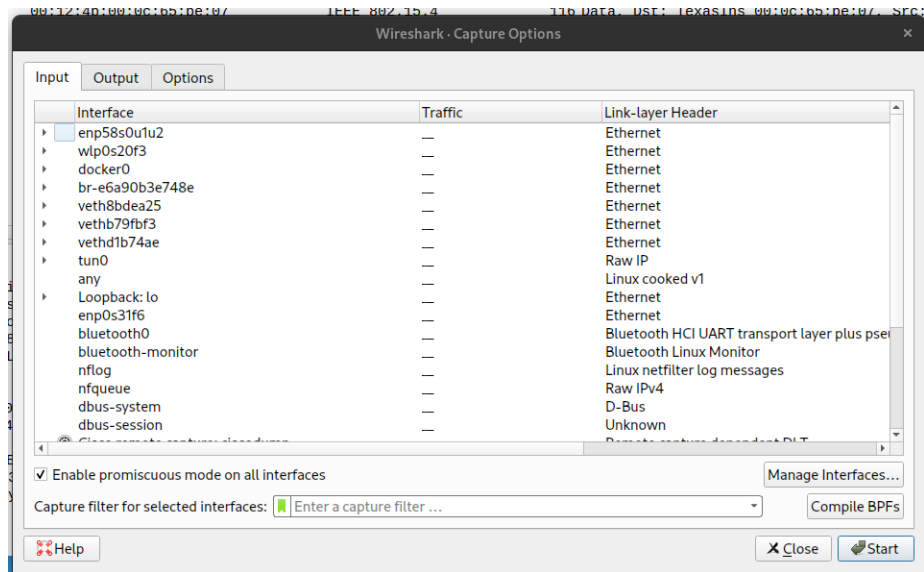


Figure 3: Wireshark Capture Options.

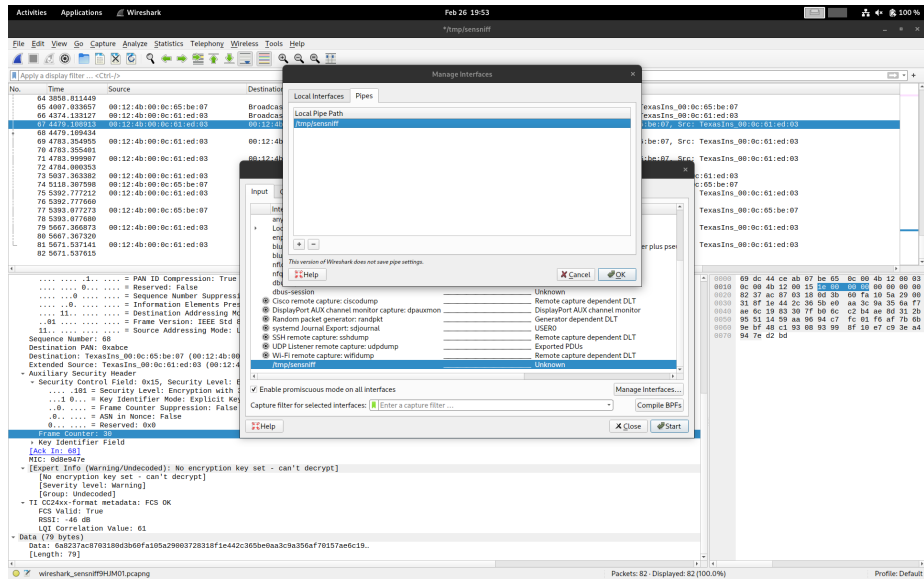


Figure 4: Wireshark Manage Interfaces.

4 Sensniff

Sensniff is a software application, which acts as a sniffer in the WSN to capture the traffic flowing through a given interface. Navigate to the *sensniff* folder:

Listing 3: sensniff.

```
$ cd /your-working-folder/contiki-ng/examples/sensniff
```

To compile and flash the program on the SensorTag, follow steps 2 and 3 of the *simple node configuration* from the first lab session. Flash the executable from the sensniff folder, i.e., *sensniff.cc26x0-cc13x0* on a Sensortag device.

5 Network Deployment

In the previous sections, you prepared the nodes by flashing the executables for the associated roles described in Fig. 1. Here, we assume all the devices are correctly flashed.

First, connect the border-router to the host system and navigate to *tools/serial-io* to execute the following command:

Listing 4: Execute tunslip6.

```
$ sudo ./tunslip6 -s /dev/ttyACM0 fd00::1/64
```

Next, connect/start the *sniffer* by executing the following command in *tools/sensniff* folder, contained into the *contiki-ng* folder:

Listing 5: Sensniff.

```
$ sudo python3 sensniff.py -b 460800 -d /dev/ttyACM0
```

After starting the sniffer, type YOUR CHANNEL number in the interactive terminal of sensniff. Otherwise, the sensniff does not know on which channel it should sniff. Next, connect the *simple node*. Finally, open Wireshark, navigate to *Capture* and options, and select the previously configured interface. It will take some time for the IEEE 802.15.4 packets to appear in Wireshark (wait approx. 2 minutes). If every step was successfully executed, you should start seeing the live traffic from the network, as shown in Fig. 5.

Take some time to familiarize with the content of the logged packets, trying to recognize the protocols and headers discussed in the frontal lectures.

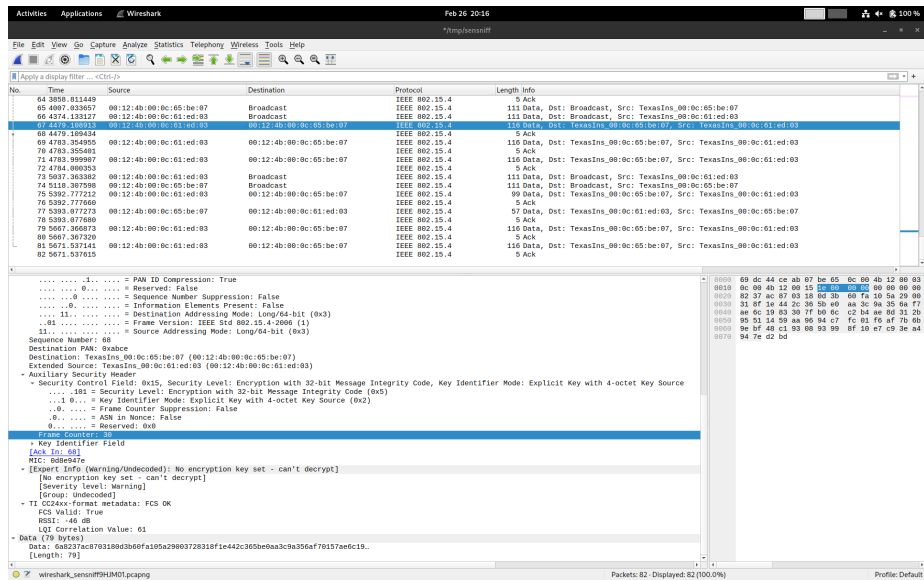


Figure 5: Wireshark IEEE 802.15.4 Traffic.

6 Playing with IEEE 802.15.4 Security Parameters

During the lecture on IEEE 802.15.4 Security, we introduced different *security levels* and *key identifier modes* associated with IEEE 802.15.4 packets. We hereby provide two figures where you can recall the configurations regarding the security level (Tab.6) and key mode (Tab.7).

You can now change the *securityLevel* and *keyIdMode* of IEEE 802.15.4 packets delivered by the devices involved in your local IoT network. Then, you can capture the packets via Wireshark and understand the differences between various security configurations.

For changing the security level and the key identifier mode, see the code provided in Sec. 2, and especially the one related to the security part. We encourage you to visualize the effect of the change of the *securityLevel* and/or *keyMode* on the size of the packets exchanged in your network. For instance, you can take note of the size of a packet when *securityLevel*=1, *securityLevel*=2, and *securityLevel*=3, and match them with Tab. 6. Then, you can do the same by setting *keyMode*=1, *keyMode*=2 and *keyMode*=3.

You can also add your own key for both devices by adding in *project-conf.h* of both projects (*rpl-border-router* and *hello-world*) the following code:

Security level	Security level field b2 b1 b0	Security attributes	Data confidentiality	Data authenticity	MIC length (octets)
0	000	None	OFF	NO	0
1	001	MIC-32	OFF	YES	4
2	010	MIC-64	OFF	YES	8
3	011	MIC-128	OFF	YES	16
4	100	Reserved			
5	101	ENC-MIC-32	ON	YES	4
6	110	ENC-MIC-64	ON	YES	8
7	111	ENC-MIC-128	ON	YES	16

Figure 6: Security Level.

Key identifier mode	Key Identifier Mode field b1 b0	Description	Key Identifier field length (octets)
0x00	00	Key is determined implicitly from the originator and recipient(s) of the frame, as indicated in the frame header.	0
0x01	01	Key is determined from the Key Index field.	1
0x02	10	Key is determined explicitly from the 4-octet Key Source field and the Key Index field.	5
0x03	11	Key is determined explicitly from the 8-octet Key Source field and the Key Index field.	9

Figure 7: Key Mode.

Listing 6: Execute tunslip6.

```
#define CSMA_CONF_LLSEC_DEFAULT_KEY0 {0x11, 0x22, 0x33, 0x44, 0x55, 0x66, 0x77, 0x88, 0x99, 0xaa, 0xbb, 0xcc, 0xdd, 0xee, 0xff, 0x00}
```

In addition, you have to add your own defined key in Wireshark, to allow the cited sniffing tool to decrypt the frames. Therefore, open Wireshark's preferences and click on 'Decryption Keys', under Protocols of *IEEE 802.15.4*, as shown in Fig. 8. Moreover, click on the plus button to add your key, as shown in Fig. 9, with the default *key index:0* and *No hash*. Finally, restart all the devices by unplugging and plugging them all again. Afterwards, you should be able to see decrypted packets.

As another interesting attempt, you might change a byte in the key that you load into Wireshark, and verify that you are not able to decrypt the packets correctly, anymore.

If all the previous steps are completed successfully, then you finished suc-

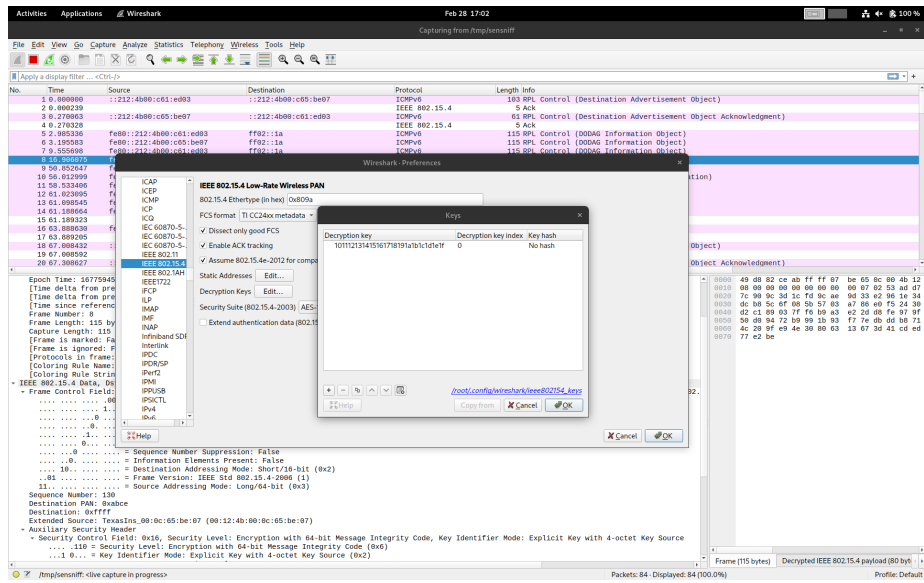


Figure 8: Configuration of the decryption key.

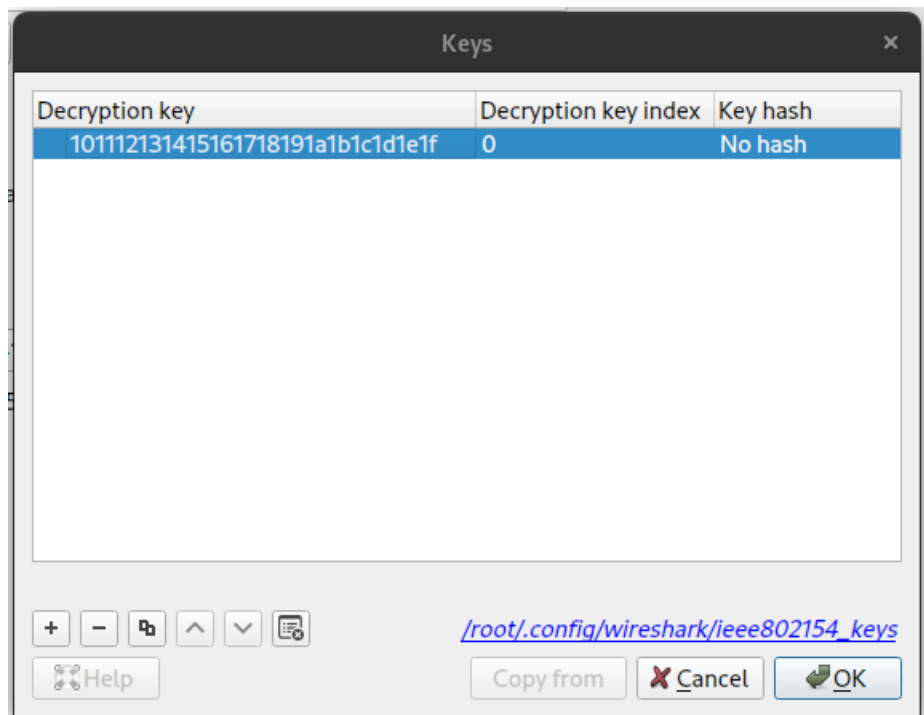


Figure 9: Decryption Key.

cessfully the second lab session.

You can also have a look around in the code of *contiki-ng* to familiarize with the several components of the protocol stack and the available examples.

References

- [1] Contiki-NG, “Contiki wireshark.” [Online]. Available: <https://docs.contiki-ng.org/en/develop/doc/platforms/cc2538dk.html#build-a-sniffer-live-traffic-capture-with-wireshark>