



Exploring Radio Frequency Attacks in Outer Space

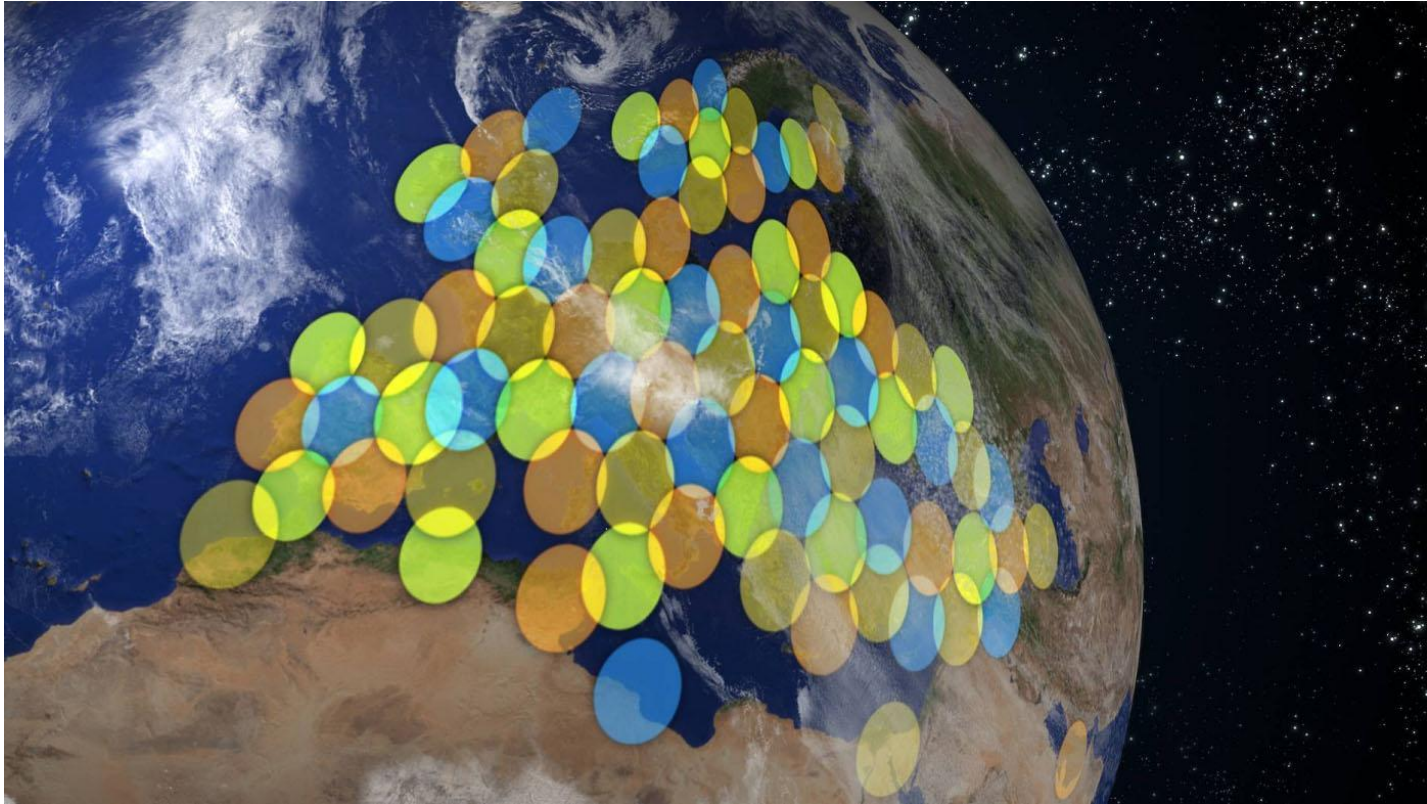
Dr. James Pavur

DOD Chief Digital and AI Office: Directorate for Digital Services*

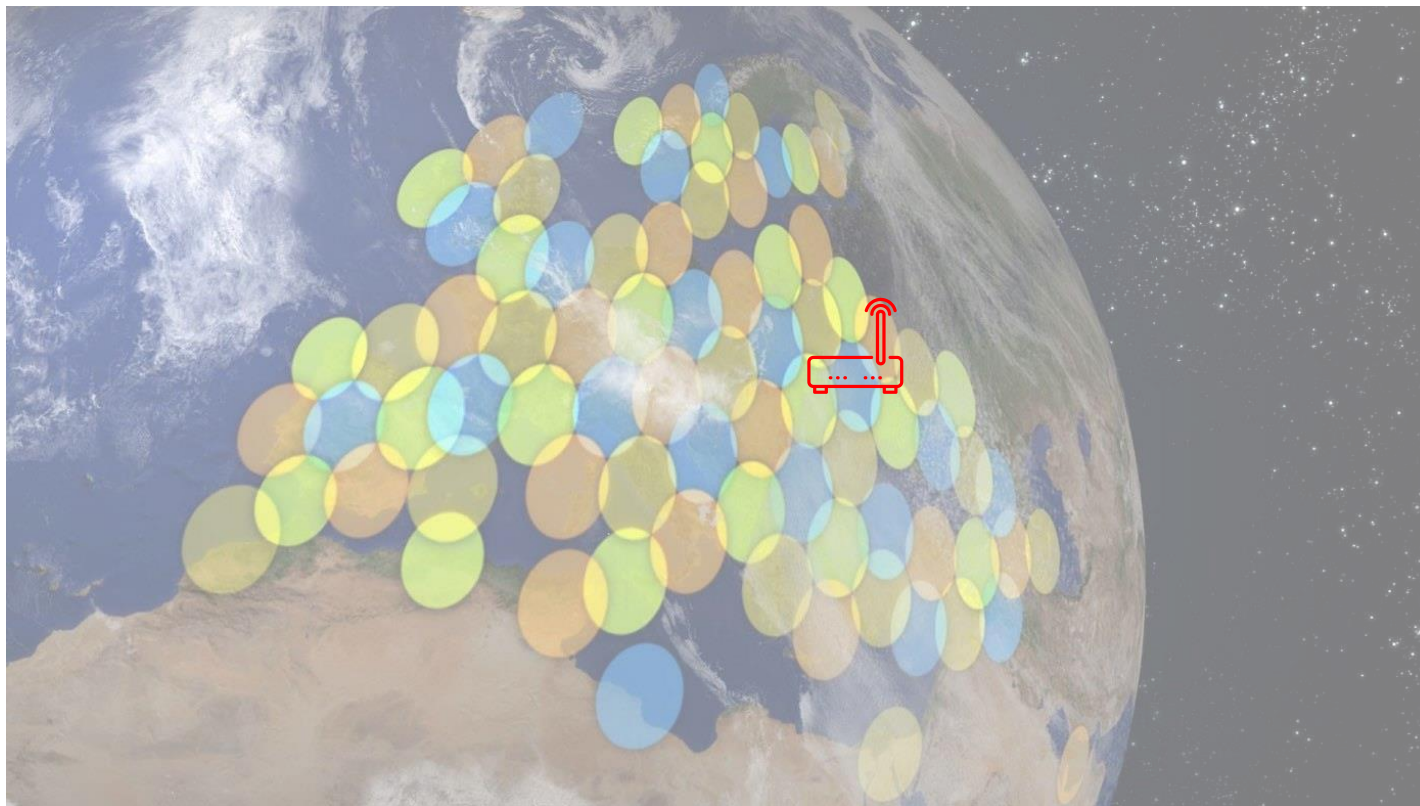
* Opinions expressed are solely my own and do not express the views or opinions of my employer.



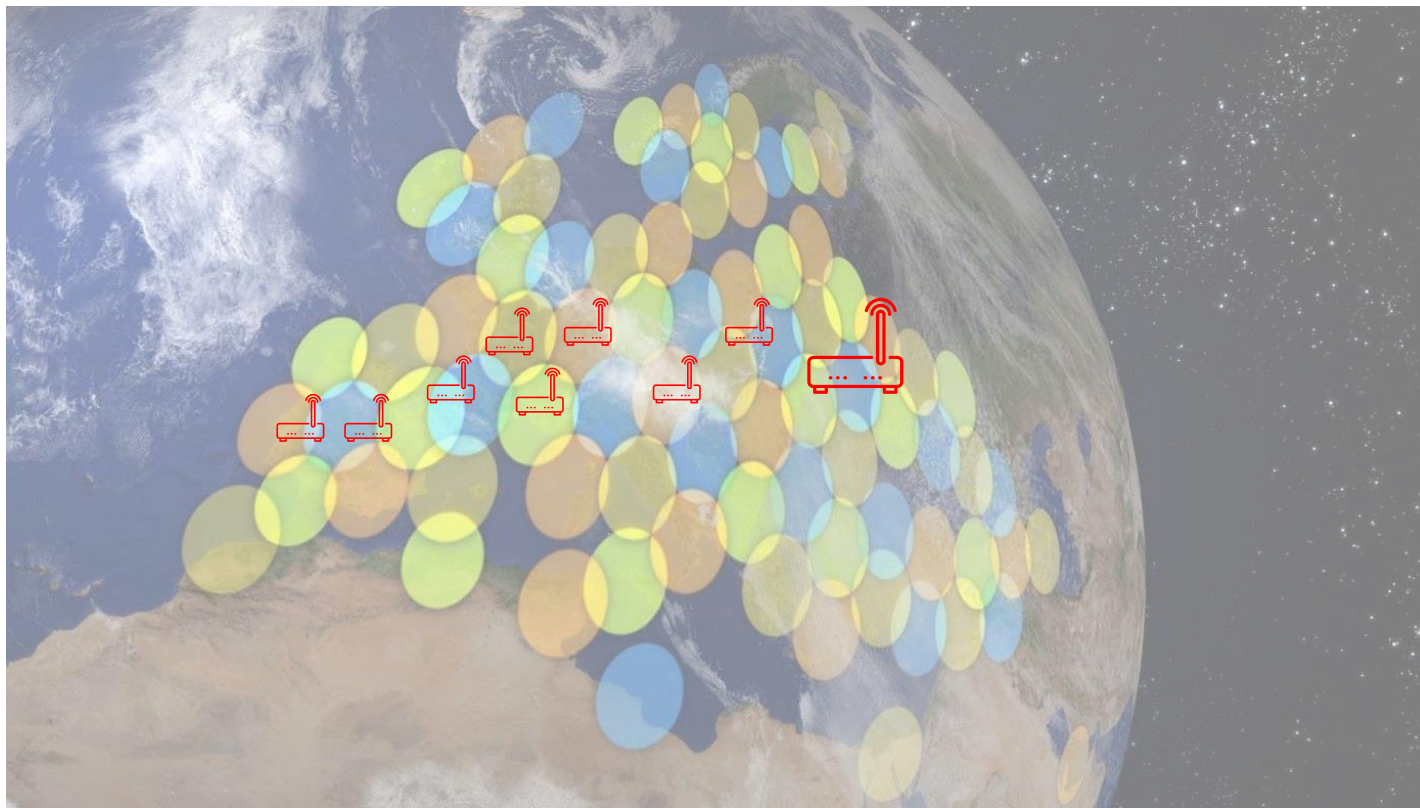
KA-SAT Coverage: European Spot Beams



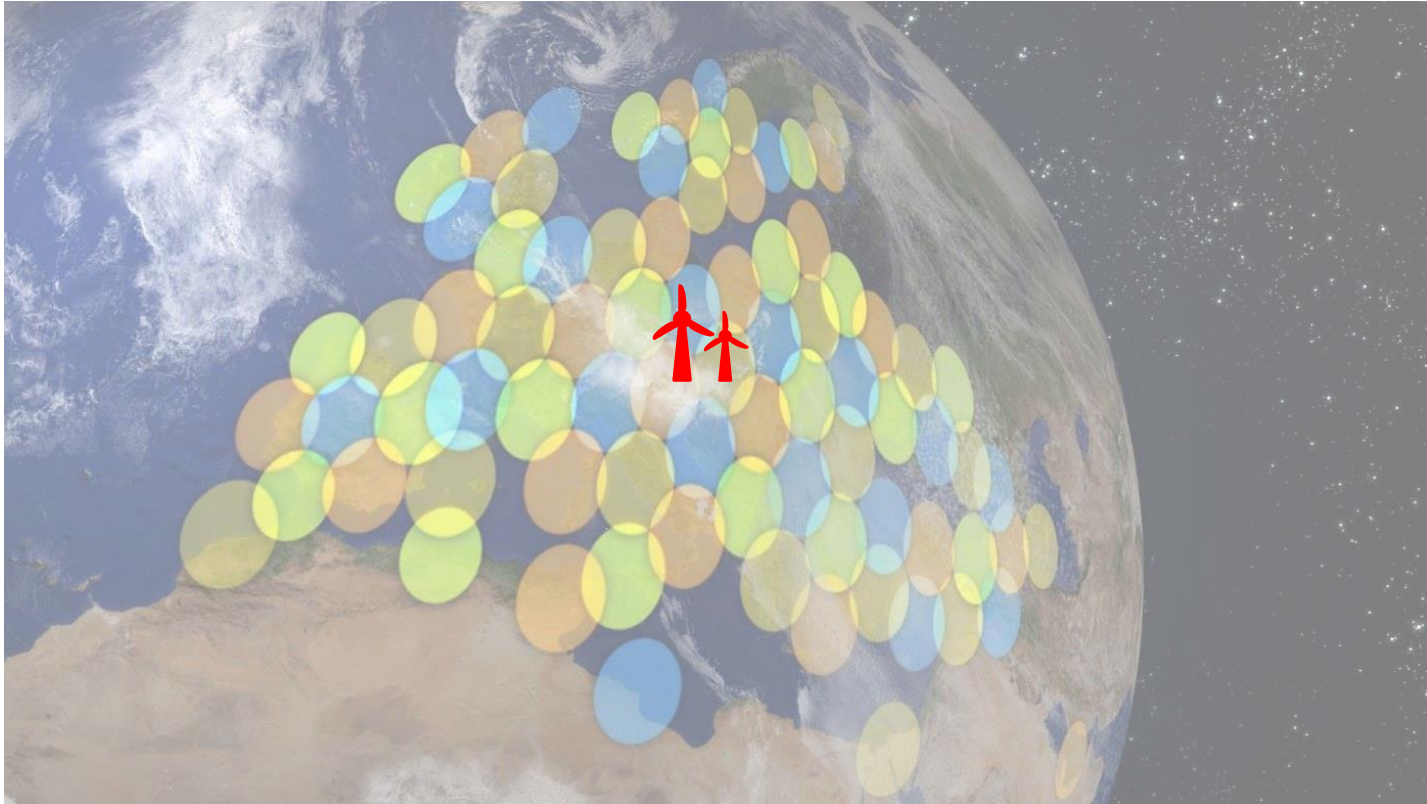
February 24, 2022 - 3:02 am UTC



February 24, 2022 - 4:15 am UTC



February 24, 2022 - 5:00 am UTC



Space Cyber's Escalatory Future...



Civil Infrastructure
as Wartime Target

Space Cyber's Escalatory Future...



Collateral /
Spillover Damage



Civil Infrastructure
as Wartime Target

Space Cyber's Escalatory Future...



Cross-Border
Disruption



Collateral /
Spillover Damage



Civil Infrastructure
as Wartime Target

60 Years of Satellite Exploitation

1980s 1990s 2000s 2010s

Figure: Pavur & Martinovic, Building a launchpad for satellite cyber-security research: lessons from 60 years of spaceflight, *Journal of Cybersecurity*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cybsec/tyac008>

Signal Exploitation: >2/3 of Historical Satellite Attacks

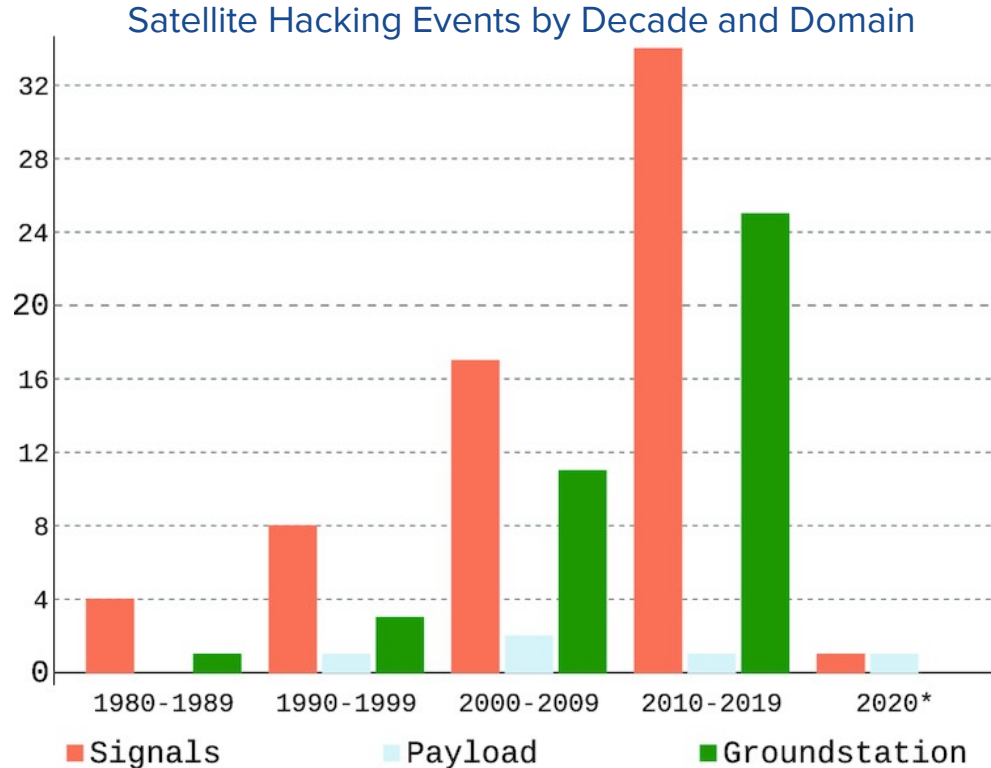


Figure: Pavur & Martinovic, Building a launchpad for satellite cyber-security research: lessons from 60 years of spaceflight, *Journal of Cybersecurity*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/cybsec/tyac008>

1972: The Right to Jam

Soviet Asks U.N. to Bar Intrusion by Satellite TV

By HEDRICK SMITH

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, Aug. 10—The Soviet Union today proposed an international convention to prevent nations from directing television broadcasts from satellites to private homes in other countries without the countries' express consent.

The Soviet press agency,

banned. In case of violations, the Soviet proposal would grant the aggrieved nation the right of unspecified counter-measures.

The Soviet proposal was seen as an effort to head off future use by such ideological rivals as the United States or China

“One article appeared to give countries the right to jam electronically satellite relay transmissions - which would be relatively easy to do” - NYT; Aug 11, 1972

April 27, 1986: Captain Midnight Incident



18 USC 1367.

SEC. 303. INTERFERENCE WITH THE OPERATION OF A SATELLITE.

(a) OFFENSE.—Chapter 65 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

"§ 1367. Interference with the operation of a satellite

"(a) Whoever, without the authority of the satellite operator, intentionally or maliciously interferes with the authorized operation of a communications or weather satellite or obstructs or hinders any satellite transmission shall be fined in accordance with this title or imprisoned not more than ten years or both.

"(b) This section does not prohibit any lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence activity of a law enforcement agency or of an intelligence agency of the United States."

October 21, 1986



Captain Midnight Attack

Early instance of satellite signal hijacking by an individual hacker.



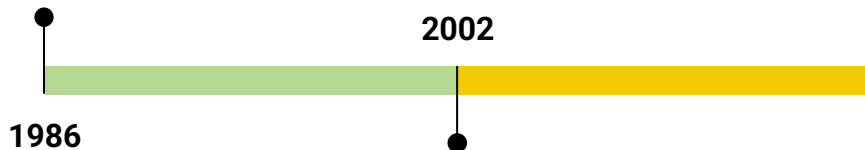
1986

And so it begins...



Captain Midnight Attack

Early instance of satellite signal hijacking by an individual hacker.



Falun Gong Piracy Incidents

Early example of non-state actor engaged in satellite signal piracy.

Banned Falun Gong Movement Jammed Chinese Satellite Signal

By PHILIP P. PAN
Washington Post Foreign Service

BEIJING, July 8—The banned Falun Gong spiritual movement jammed one of China's main television satellites for eight days and briefly beamed a video into millions of homes during last month's World Cup soccer finals, the government said today.

ends, replaced by a blank screen again.

Chinese officials declined to say how many people were affected, but Sinosat-1 is central to a project launched in 1998 to expand TV access to the nation's most remote regions. More than 70 million people in 100,000 villages rely on it, according to the government.

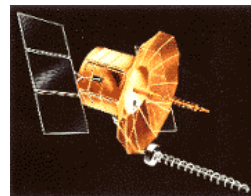
The government said frequent interference with its broadcasts continued until June 30, but

And so it begins...



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“Bolinha” Piracy Incident

Brazil cracks down on truckers hijacking US military FLTSAT-8 transponders for long-range comms.



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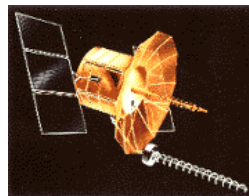
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And so it begins...



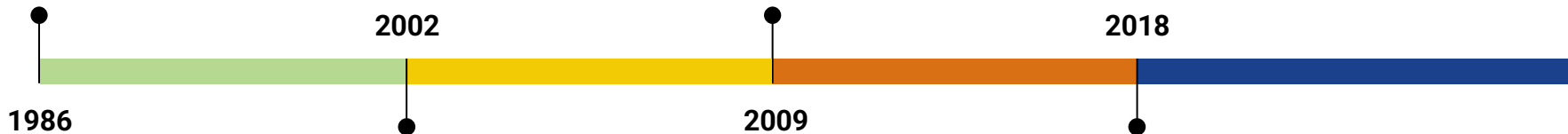
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Trident Juncture GPS Interference

Norway and Finland accuse Russia of emitting GPS jamming signals from Kola Peninsula during joint military exercises.



And so it begins...

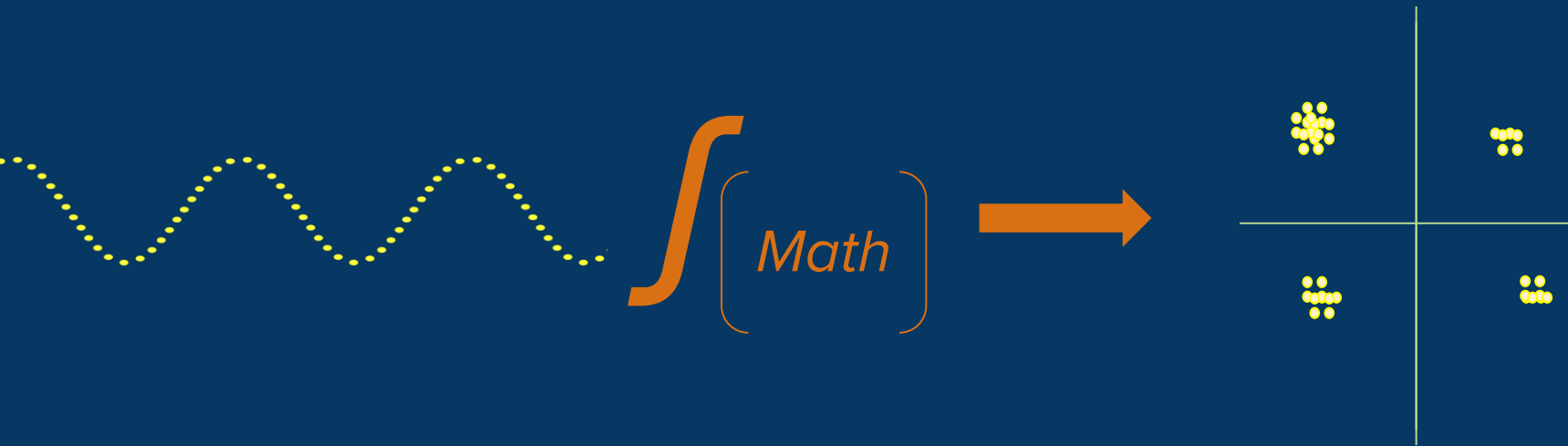
How?

A Very Short Introduction to Radio Interference



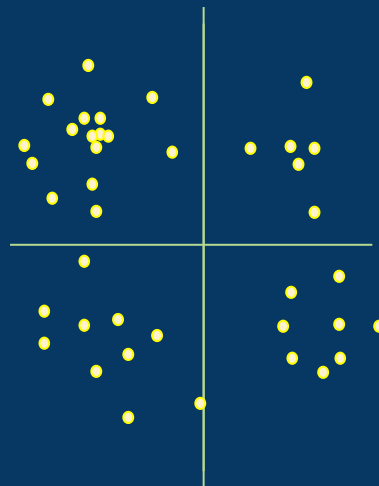


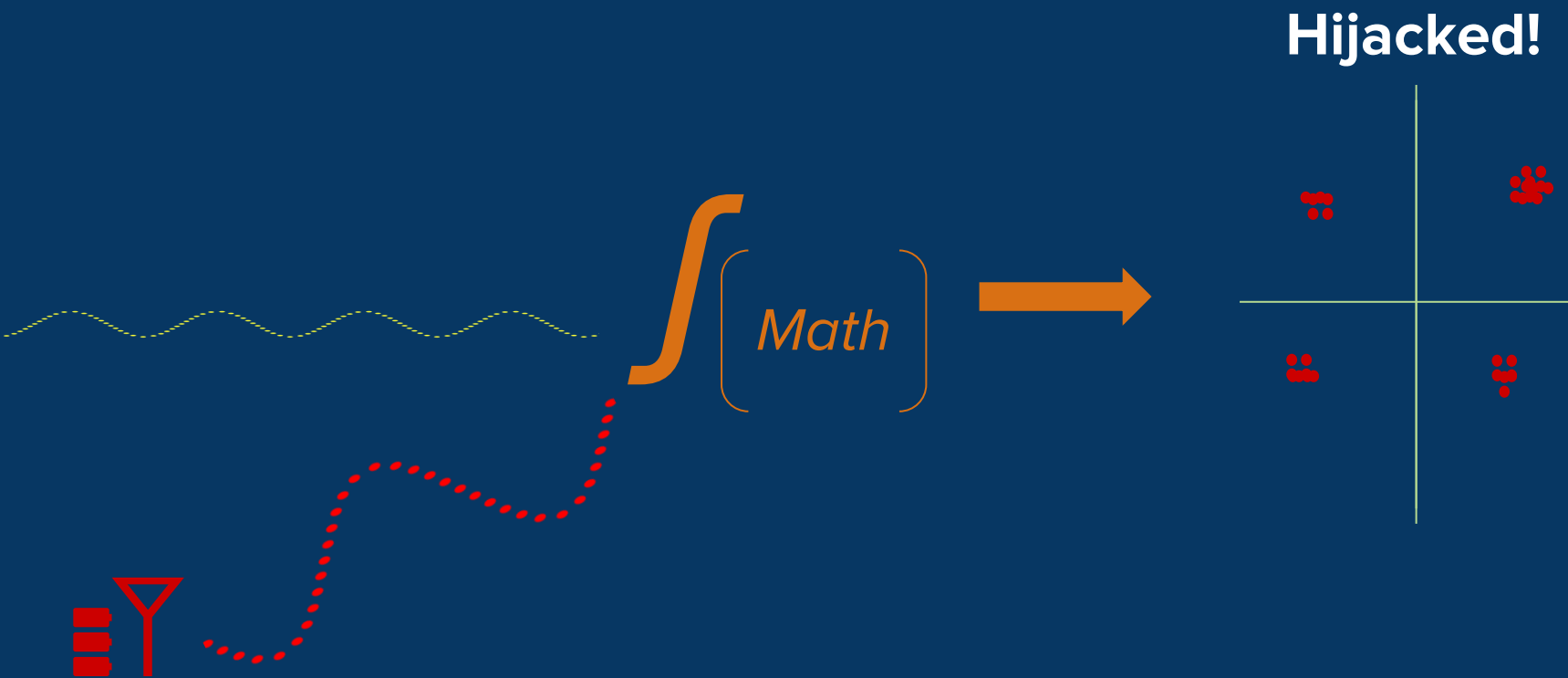






Jammed!





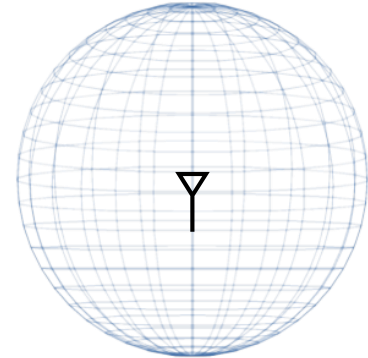
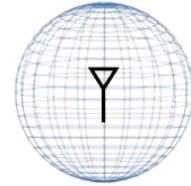
What's Special About Satellites?

Free Space Path Loss

$$\left(\frac{4 * \pi * distance}{wavelength} \right)^2$$

Free Space Path Loss

$$\left(\frac{4 * \pi * \text{distance}}{\text{wavelength}} \right)^2$$



How is this possible?


ERNW **INSINUATOR**
bold statements.

ABOUT

July 15, 2016 by Stefan Kiese

Gotta Catch 'Em All! – WORLDWIDE! (or how to spoof GPS to cheat at Pokémon GO)

The moment, when your team leader asks you to cheat at Pokémon GO...everyone knows it, right? No? Well, I do 😊



GPS Spoofing Setup

As I'm not a gamer, the technical part was of much more interest – that's the real gaming for me.

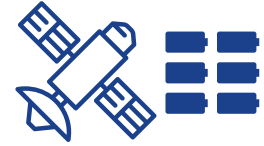
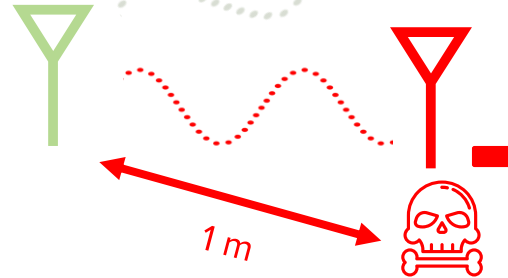
<https://insinuator.net/2016/07/gotta-catch-em-all-worldwide-or-how-to-spoof-gps-to-cheat-at-pokemon-go/>

FSPL -> Weak GPS Signals

$$26.5 - 10 \cdot \log_{10} \left(\left(\frac{4 \cdot \pi \cdot 19000}{0.19} \right)^2 \right) - 30$$

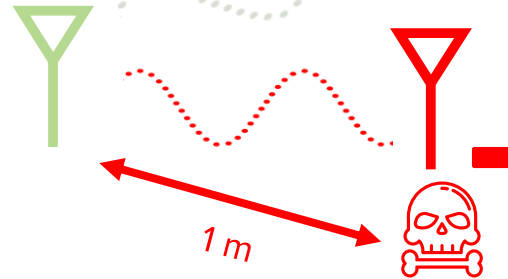
GPS Satellite
Power in dBW

Legit GPS Power at
Receiver: **-125.48 dBm**



Use That Distance Advantage!

Legit GPS Power at
Receiver: **-125.48 dBm**

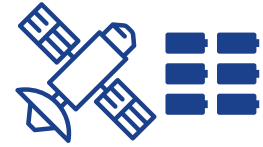


Spoofed GPS Power at
Receiver: **-26.41 dBm**

$$-20 - 10 \cdot \log_{10} \left(\left(\frac{4 \cdot \pi \cdot 0.001}{0.19} \right)^2 \right) - 30$$

HackRF
Power in dBW

Attacker
Distance (km)

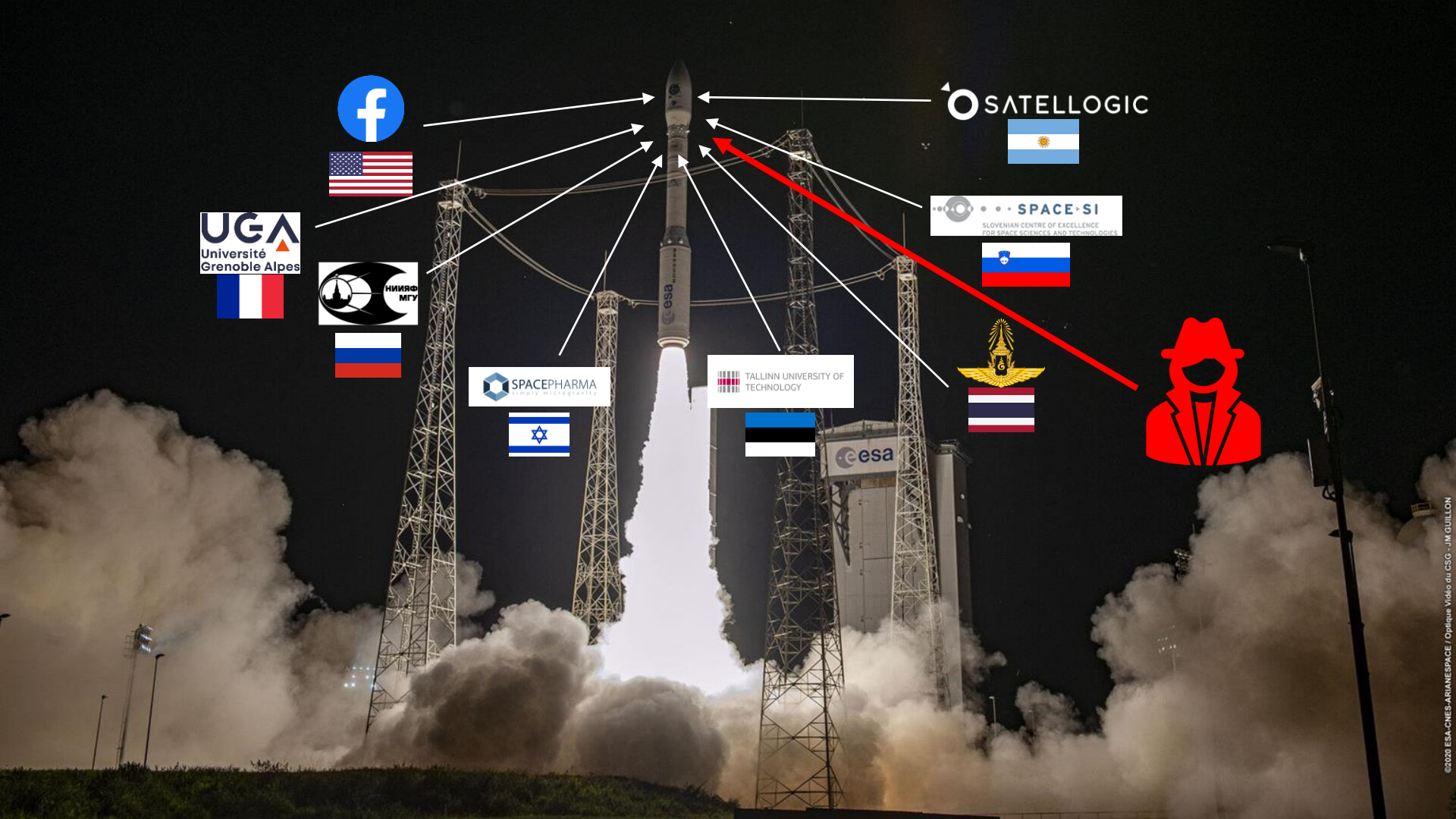
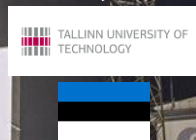
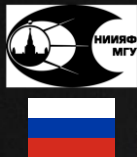


Example: GPS Interference

Example: GPS Interference







Surely There are Rules?

CubeSat Design Specification Rev. 13
The CubeSat Program, Cal Poly SLO

Document Classification	
X	Public Domain
	ITAR Controlled
	Internal Only

CubeSat Design Specification

(CDS)
REV 13



CubeSat Design
Specification (CDS)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMANDER
AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND



AIR FORCE SPACE COMMAND
MANUAL 91-710, VOLUME 3

15 MAY 2019

Safety

RANGE SAFETY USER
REQUIREMENTS MANUAL VOLUME 3
– LAUNCH VEHICLES, PAYLOADS,
AND GROUND SUPPORT SYSTEMS
REQUIREMENTS

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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RELEASABILITY: There are no releasability restrictions on this publication.

OPR: HQ AFSPC/SEK

Certified by: HQ AFSPC/SEK
(Lt Col Daniel J. Wheeler)

Supersedes: AFSPCMAN91-710V3,
1 JULY 2004

Pages: 240

This manual implements Department of Defense Directive (DoDD) 3100.10, *Space Policy*, DoDD 3200.11, *Major Range and Test Facility Base*, DoDD 3230.3, *DoD Support for Commercial Space Launch Activities*, Air Force Policy Directive (AFPD) 91-1, *Nuclear Weapons and Systems Surety*, AFPD 91-2, *Safety Programs*, AFI 91-202, *The US Air Force Mishap Prevention Program* and the *Memorandum of Agreement between the Department of the Air Force and the Federal Aviation Administration on Safety for Space Transportation and Range Activities*. This volume contains information previously found in Eastern and Western Range 127-1, Chapter 3, *Launch Vehicle, Payload, and Ground Support Equipment Documentation, Design, and Test Requirements*. It establishes the system safety program requirements, minimum design, test, inspection, hazard analyses, and data requirements for hazardous and safety critical launch vehicles, payloads, and ground support equipment, systems,

AFSPCMAN 91-710 V3

Safety Controls

Safety Control	Primary Reference
Deployment switches prevent power-on in deployer	CDS 3.3
Software timers prevent RF transmission for 45 minutes	CDS 3.4
Battery power limitation	CDS 3.1
Software Safety Guidance	AFSPCMAN A2.2.4.14
RF Emission Compatibility	AFSPCMAN A2.2.4.10.2, Launch Vehicle User's Guide

Safety Controls

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Let's Break Some Rules...

Safety Control	Primary Reference	Responsible for Verification
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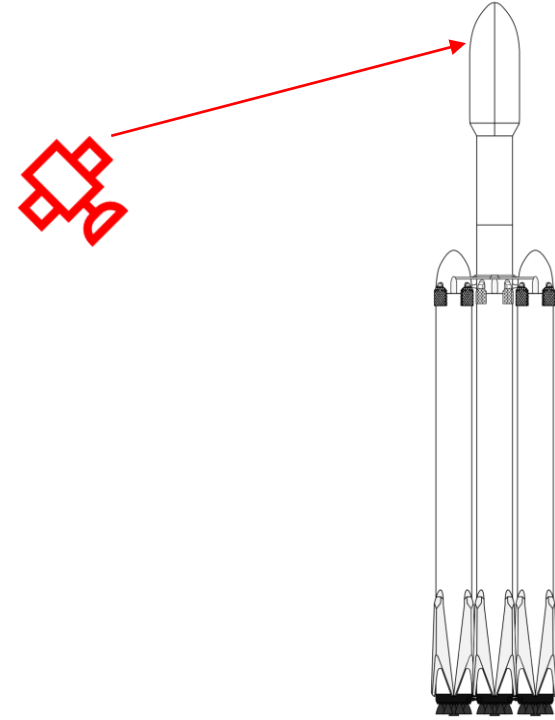


Attack Simulation

- 1 Integrate Malicious CubeSat On To Target Mission

BadSat Requirements

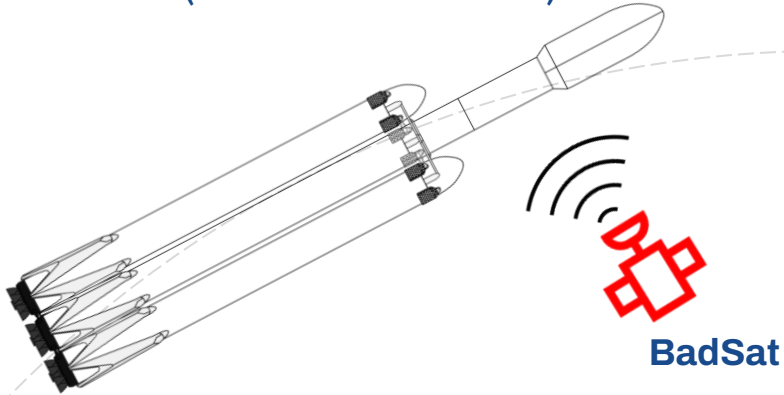
Size & Weight	Relevant RF Range	Attacker RF Tx Power
3U, 4kg	1.1–1.6 GHz (SDR)	1 – 10 W



Attack Simulation

2

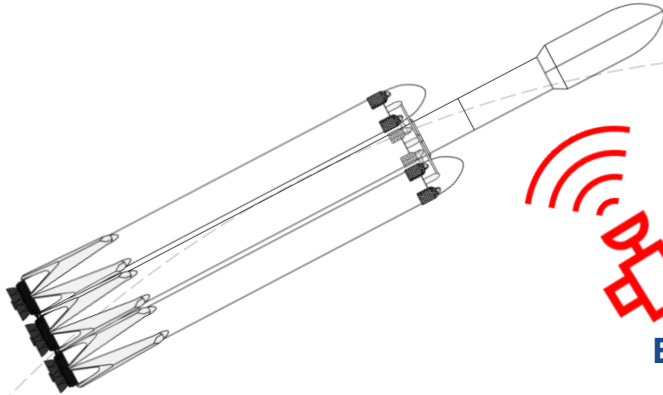
Power On CubeSat Radio
Immediately After Deployment from
LV (Violates CDS 3.4)



Attack Simulation

3

Transmit Interference at 1575.42 MHz
to Jam GPS Reception (Violates
AFSPCMAN A2.2.4.10.2)

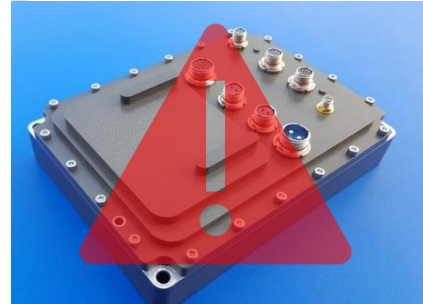
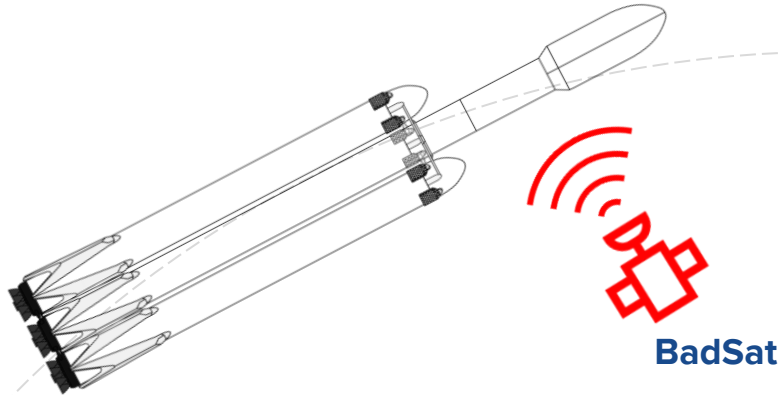


BadSat

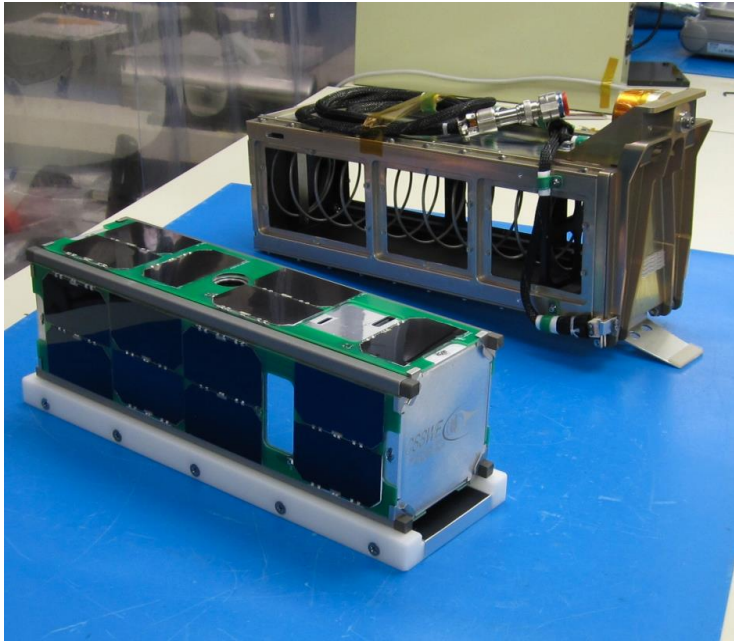
Attack Simulation

4

Profit???



Separation Model



CubeSat Separation over Time

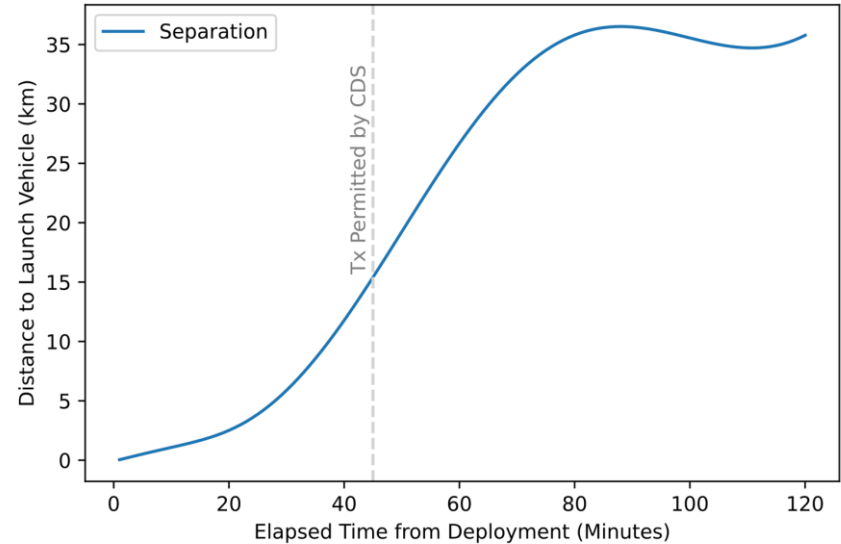
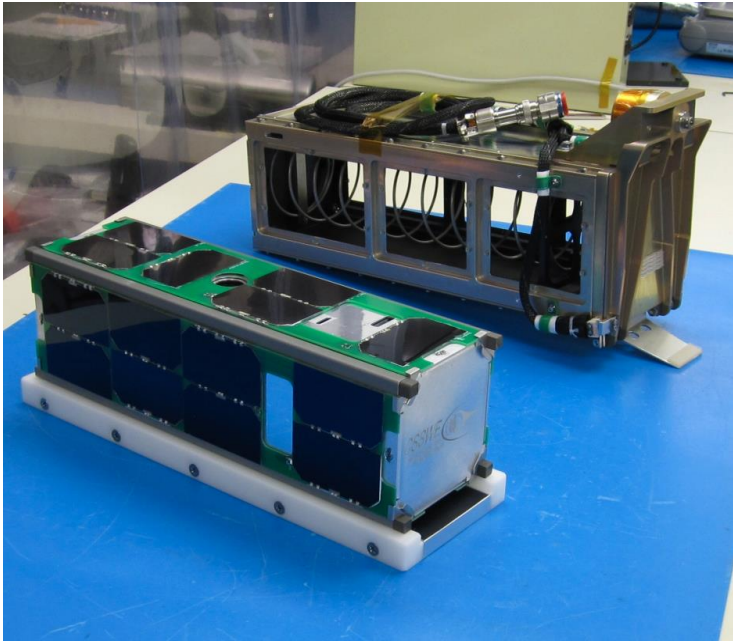


Image: CCSWE, *The CSSWE CubeSat and PPOD just prior to integration*. Wikimedia Commons. CC-BY-SA-3.0

Separation Model



CubeSat Separation over Time

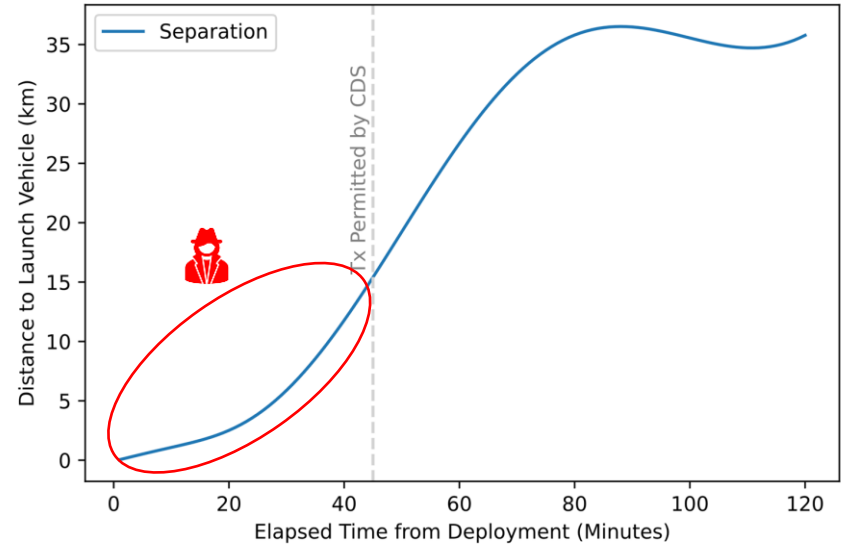
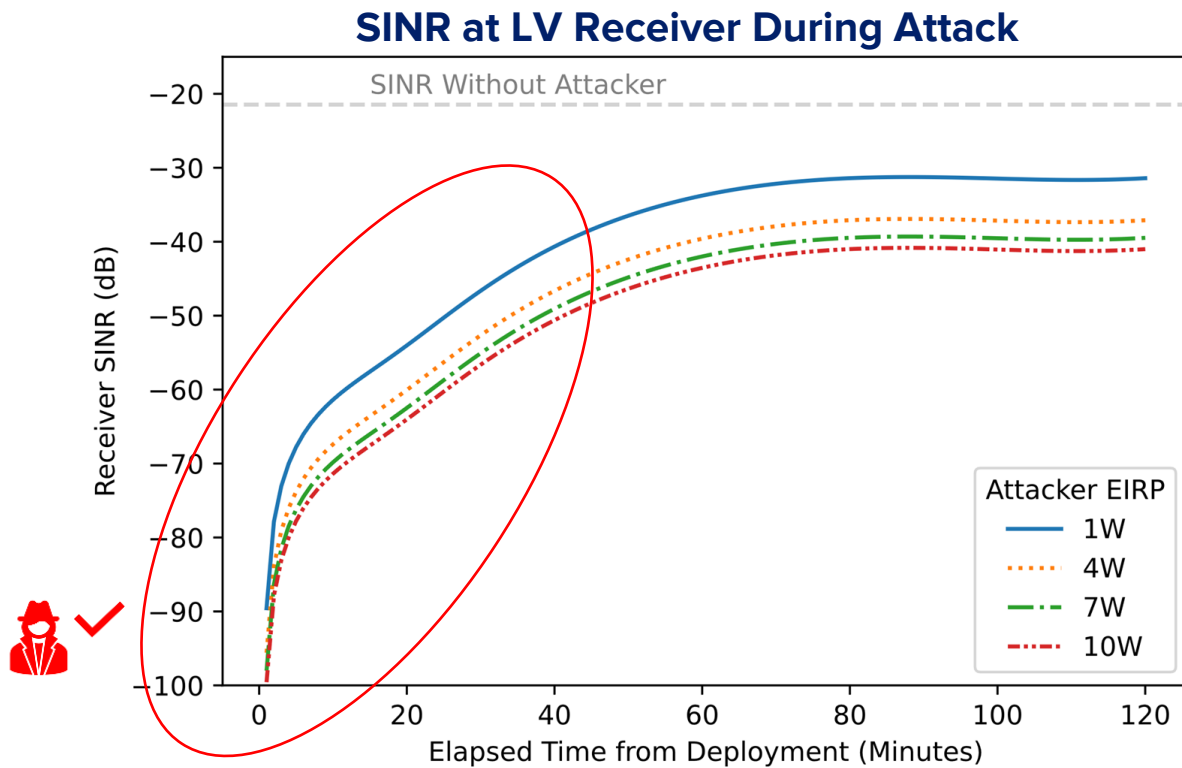
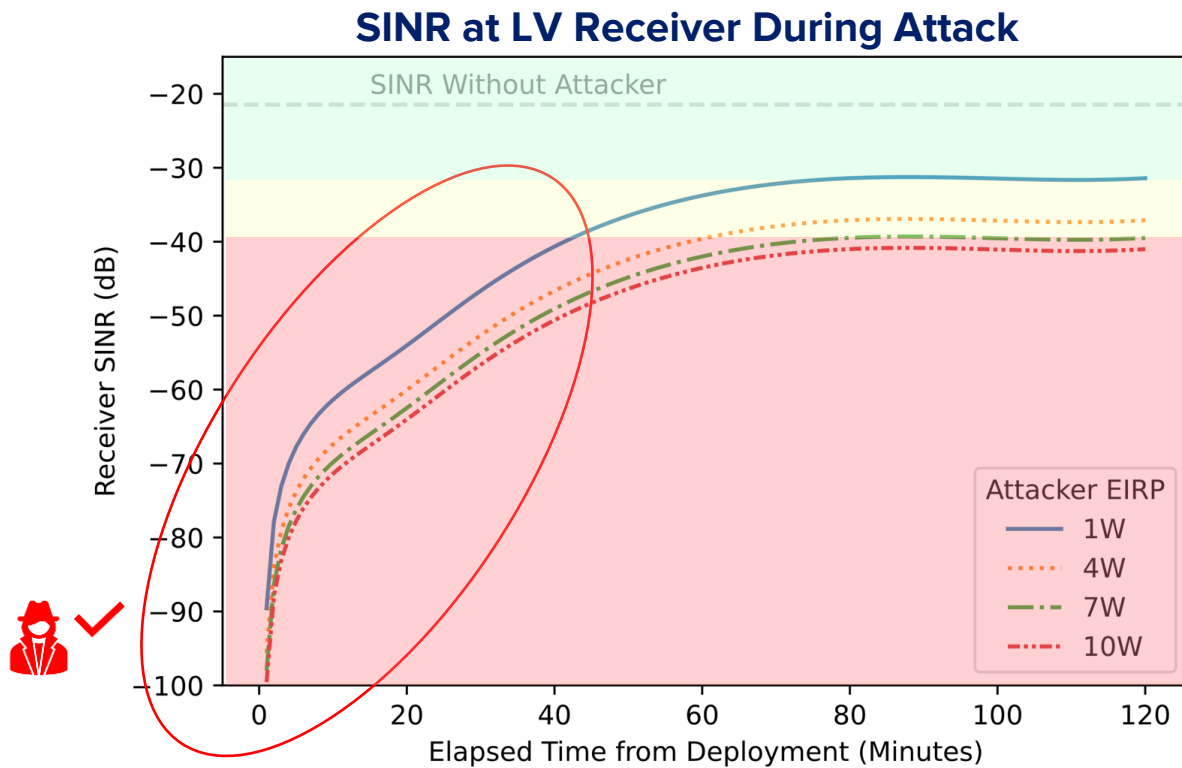


Image: CCSWE, *The CSSWE CubeSat and PPOD just prior to integration*. Wikimedia Commons. CC-BY-SA-3.0

Reception Quality Model



Reception Quality Model



Example: Signal Hijacking

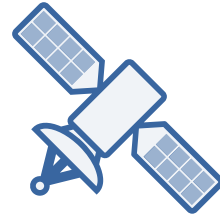


How (*most*) Broadcast Satellites Work

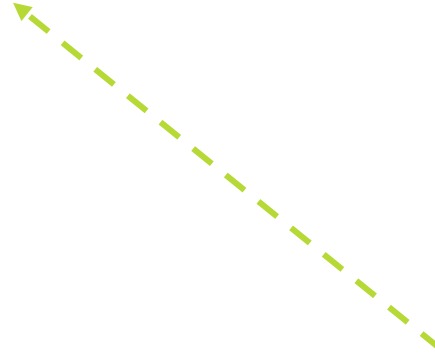


Ground Station

How (*most*) Broadcast Satellites Work

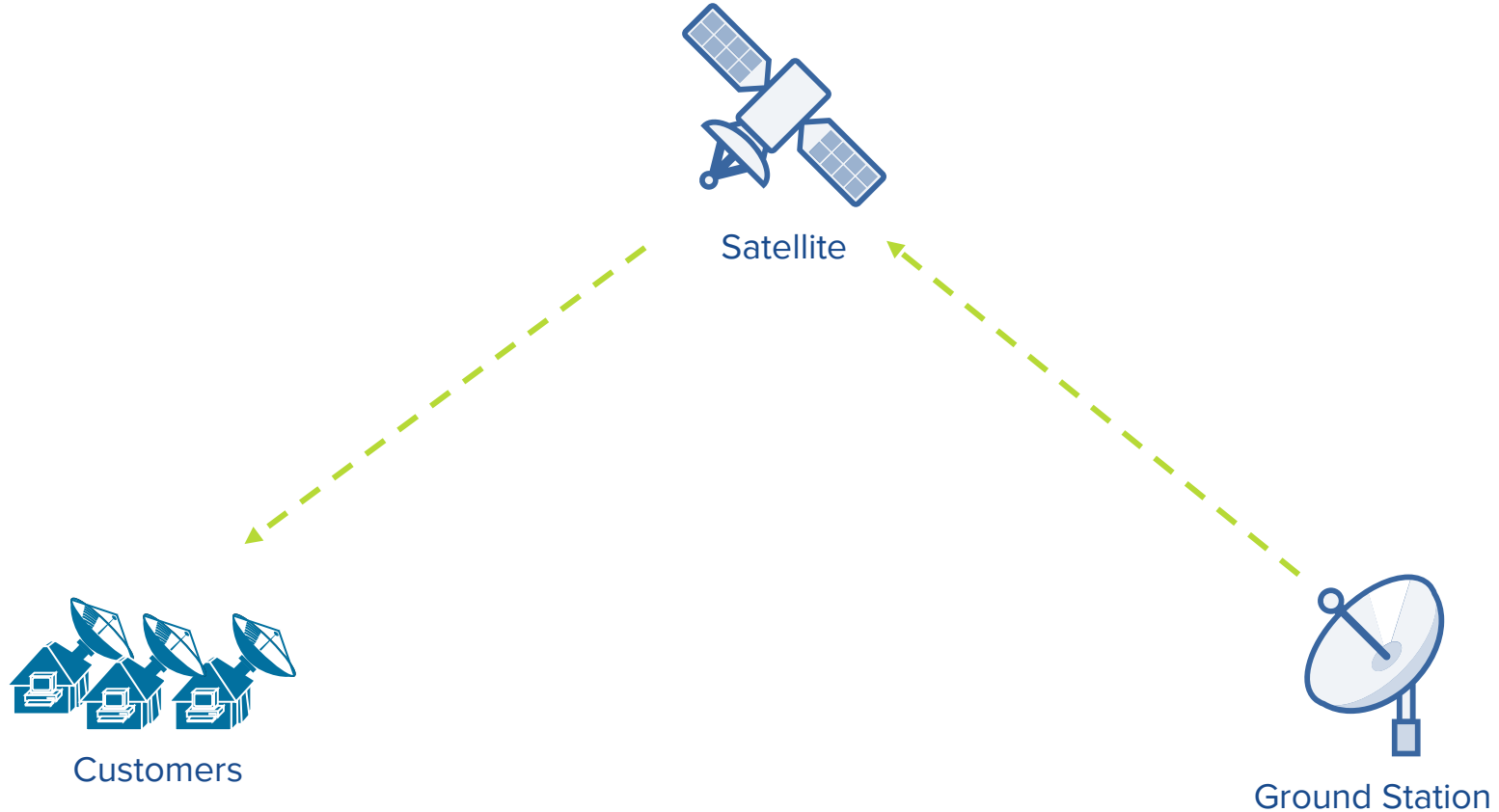


Satellite

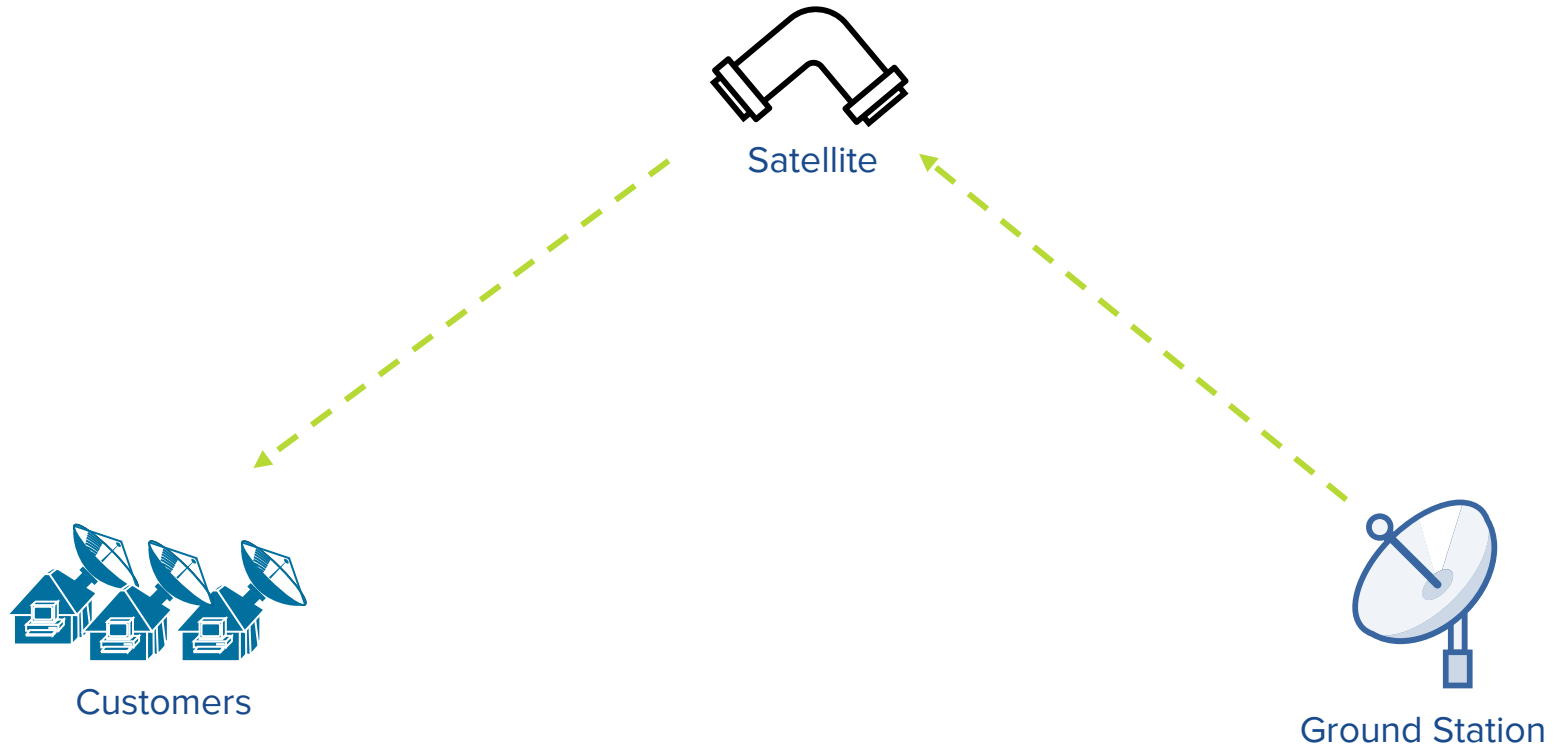


Ground Station

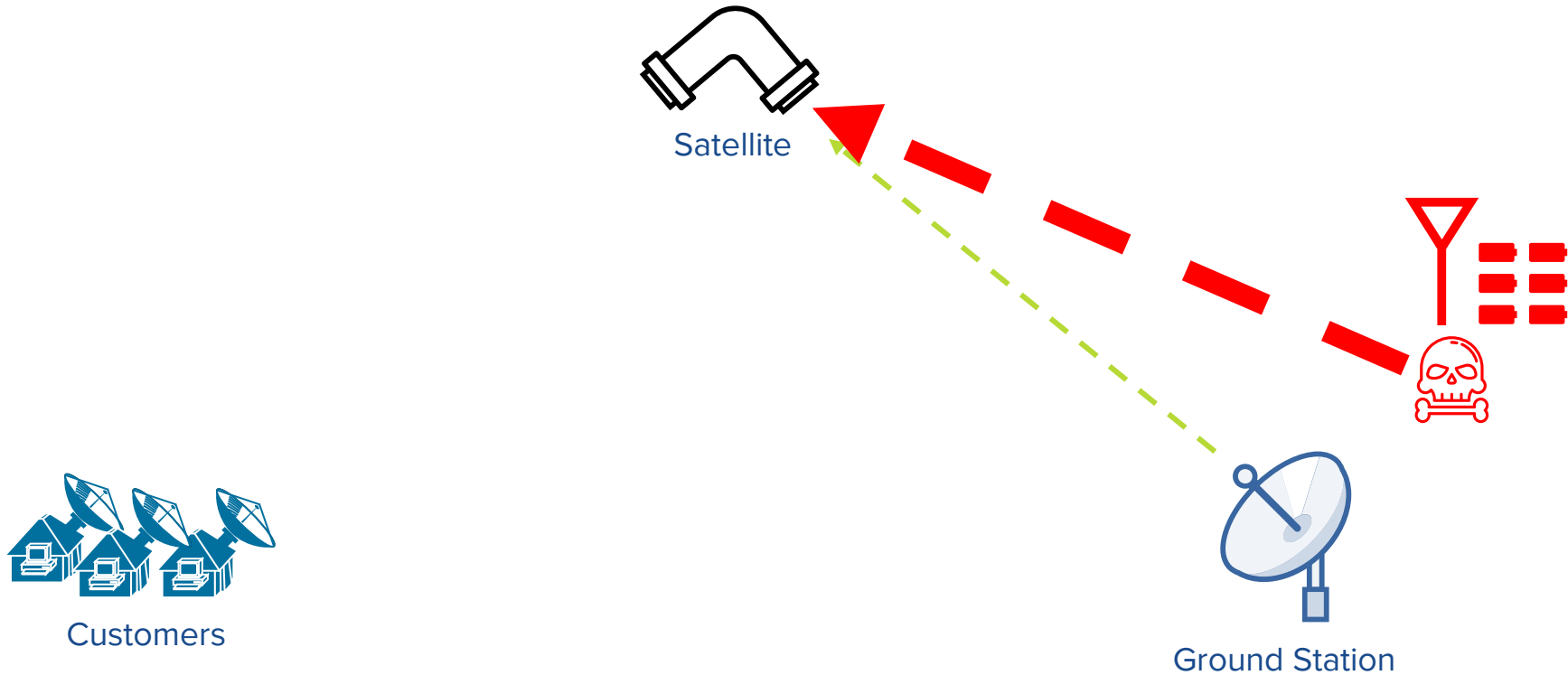
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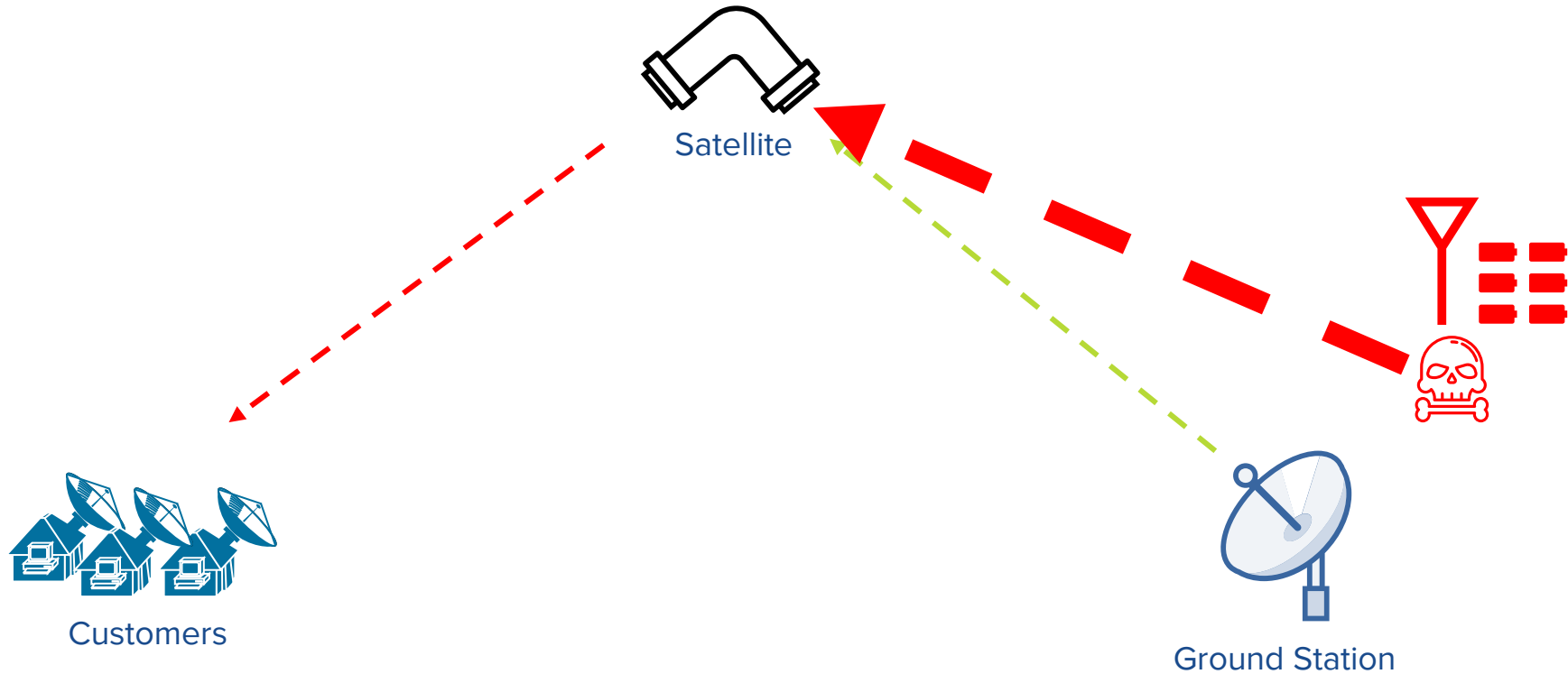
How *(most)* Broadcast Satellites Work



Signal Piracy Attack



Signal Piracy Attack



SATELLITE JAMMING SIMULATOR

Current Target: **STARLINK-61**

Time: 2022-07-07 00:03:10

Simulation Settings

Target Satellite

Search for a Satellite...

Simulation Period

7/7/2022 12:00 AM - 7/8/2022 12:00 AM

Simulation Step Size: 10s

Attacker **Satellite Not Visible**

Jammer Coordinates

30° 00' 00" N 090° 00' 00" W

Attacker EIRP: 0 dBm

Defender **Satellite Not Visible**

Ground Station Coordinates

28° 34' 24" N 080° 39' 03" W

Defender EIRP: 30 dBm



SATELLITE OUT OF RANGE

SINR @ Target: -Infinity dB

SINR (Clear) @ Target: -Infinity dB



QT GUI Range
 ID: jammer_power_qtgui_range
 Label: jammer power
 Default Value: 0
 Start: 0
 Stop: 50
 Step: 100m

ID: esn0_db
 Label: Es/N0 (dB)
 Default Value: 10
 Start: 0
 Stop: 20
 Step: 100m

ID: qtgui_freq_offset
 Label: Frequency Offset (Hz)
 Default Value: 1k
 Start: -250M
 Stop: 250M
 Step: 1k

Parameter
 ID: snr
 Label: starting SNR in dB
 Type: Float
 Value: 10

Parameter
 ID: freq_offset
 Label: simulate...ffset in Hz
 Type: Float
 Value: 1k

Parameter
 ID: in_file
 Label: path to ...GS stream
 Type: String
 Value: /home/ja...f/benign.ts

ID: EsN0_jam
 Value: 10
 Variable
 ID: EsN0
 Value: 10

ID: Es_jam
 Value: 1
 Variable
 ID: Es
 Value: 1

ID: N0_jam
 Value: 100m
 Variable
 ID: N0
 Value: 100m

File Source
 File: in_file
 Repeat: Yes
 Add begin tag: ()
 Offset: 0
 Length: 0

BBheader
 Standard: DVB-S2
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Rolloff factor: 0.20

BBscrambler
 Standard: DVB-S2
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4

BCH Encoder
 Standard: DVB-S2
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4

LDPC Encoder
 Standard: DVB-S2
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Constellation: Other

Interleaver
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Constellation: QPSK

Legitimate Input

Virtual Sink
 Stream ID: phy-channel-in

Throttle
 Sample Rate: 2G

Interpolating FIR Filter
 Interpolation: 1
 Taps: firides.root_raised_c...

Physical Layer Framer
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Constellation: QPSK
 Pilots: On
 Gold Code: 0

DVB-S2X Modulator
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Constellation: QPSK
 2X Interpolation: Off

Stre

File Source
 File: ...spaceStuff/hacked.ts
 Repeat: Yes
 Add begin tag: ()
 Offset: 0
 Length: 0

BBheader
 Standard: DVB-S2
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Rolloff factor: 0.20

BBscrambler
 Standard: DVB-S2
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4

BCH Encoder
 Standard: DVB-S2
 FECFRAME size: Normal
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LDPC Encoder
 Standard: DVB-S2
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Constellation: Other

Interleaver
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Constellation: QPSK

Jammer Input

Virtual Sink
 Stream ID: jam-channel-in

Throttle
 Sample Rate: 2G

Interpolating FIR Filter
 Interpolation: 1
 Taps: firides.root_raised_c...

Physical Layer Framer
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Constellation: QPSK
 Pilots: On
 Gold Code: 0

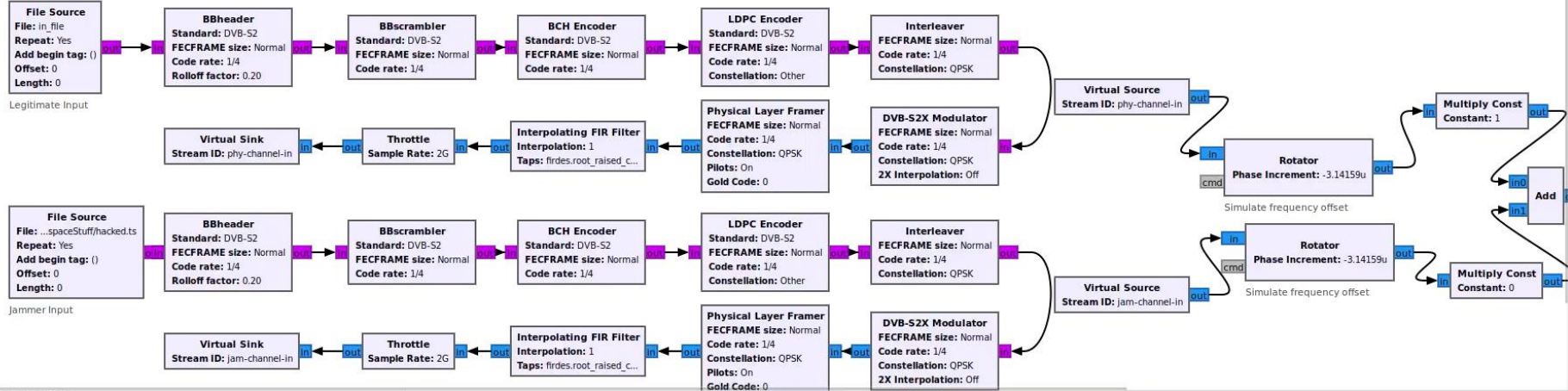
DVB-S2X Modulator
 FECFRAME size: Normal
 Code rate: 1/4
 Constellation: QPSK
 2X Interpolation: Off

Stre



dvbs_jammer_sim x dvbs_medium_jam x dvbs_high_jam x

Options	Parameter	Parameter	Parameter	Parameter	Parameter	Parameter	Parameter	QT GUI Range
Title: DVB-S2 J... Simulation Description: DVB-S... simulator Output Language: Python Generate Options: QT GUI	ID: sym_rate Label: symbol rate in bauds Type: Int Value: 1G Short ID: s	ID: sps Label: oversamp... per symbol Type: Float Value: 2 Short ID: o	ID: frame_size Label: FECFRAME size Type: String Value: normal Short ID: f	ID: rolloff Label: rolloff factor Type: Float Value: 200m Short ID: r	ID: modcod Label: MODCOD Type: String Value: QPSK1/4 Short ID: m	ID: gold_code Label: Gold code Type: Int Value: 0	ID: debug Label: debugging level Type: Int Value: 0 Short ID: d	ID: signal_power_qtgui_range Label: signal power Default Value: 1 Start: 0 Stop: 5 Step: 100m
Import Import: pi, sqrt	ID: rrc_delay Label: RRC flt...bol periods Type: Int Value: 25	ID: rrc_nfits Label: number o... RRC filter Type: Int Value: 12	ID: pl_freq_est_period Label: PL synth...d in frames Type: Int Value: 20	ID: sym_sync_loop_bw Label: symbol s...p bandwidth Type: Float Value: 4.5m	ID: sym_sync_damping Label: symbol s...ping factor Type: Float Value: 1	QT GUI Range ID: qtgui_freq_offset_0 Label: Frequency Offset (Hz) Default Value: 1k Start: -250M Stop: 250M Step: 1k		
QT GUI Tab Widget ID: tabs Num Tabs: 6 Label 0: Simulation Label 1: Frequency Correction Label 2: Symbol Sync Label 3: Frame Recovery Label 4: Phase Recovery Label 5: Jammer	ID: agc_rate Label: AGC update rate Type: Float Value: 10u	ID: agc_gain Label: AGC's gain Type: Float Value: 1	ID: agc_ref Label: AGC's reference value Type: Float Value: 1	Variable ID: constellation Label: Constellation Value: QPSK	Variable ID: code_rate Label: Code rate Value: 1/4	Variable ID: samp_rate Label: Sample rate Value: 2G	Variable ID: n_rrc_taps Label: RRC taps Value: 101	
QT GUI Range ID: esn0_db Label: Es/N0 (dB) Default Value: 10 Start: 0 Stop: 20 Step: 100m	QT GUI Range ID: qtgui_freq_offset Label: Frequency Offset (Hz) Default Value: 1k Start: -250M Stop: 250M Step: 1k	Parameter ID: snr Label: starting SNR in dB Type: Float Value: 10	Variable ID: piframe_len Label: PL frame length Value: 33.282k	Variable ID: pilot_len Label: Pilot length Value: 792	Variable ID: pheader_len Label: PL header length Value: 90	Variable ID: EsNO_jam Label: Es/N0 jam Value: 10	Variable ID: Es_jam Label: Es jam Value: 1	Variable ID: NO_jam Label: N0 jam Value: 100m
			Variable ID: freq_offset Label: simulate...ffset in Hz Type: Float Value: 1k	Variable ID: in_file Label: path to ...G TS stream Type: String Value: /home/ja...fbenign.ts	Variable ID: EsNO Label: Es/N0 Value: 10	Variable ID: Es Label: Es Value: 1	Variable ID: NO Label: N0 Value: 100m	



What's Next?

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Sophisticated
RFI Attacks

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Sophisticated
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RFI Defenses
& Mitigations

What's Next?



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RFI Attacks



RFI Defenses
& Mitigations



Detection &
Monitoring

What's Next?



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RFI Attacks



RFI Defenses
& Mitigations



Detection &
Monitoring



Policy &
Norms

Key Takeaways



Space is Physical

Key Takeaways



Space is Physical



Space Cyber != New

Key Takeaways



Space is Physical



Space Cyber != New



Space Needs YOU

Key Takeaways



Space is Physical



Space Cyber != New



Space Needs YOU

Questions/Ideas?

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Resources & Further Reading

<https://github.com/deptofdefense/dds-at-DEFCON>

Jobs

<https://www.dds.mil/join>

Other DEFCON Stuff to Check Out

Kosher & Green - HACK THE HEMISPHERE
Wouters - Glitched on Earth
Aerospace Village
ICS Village