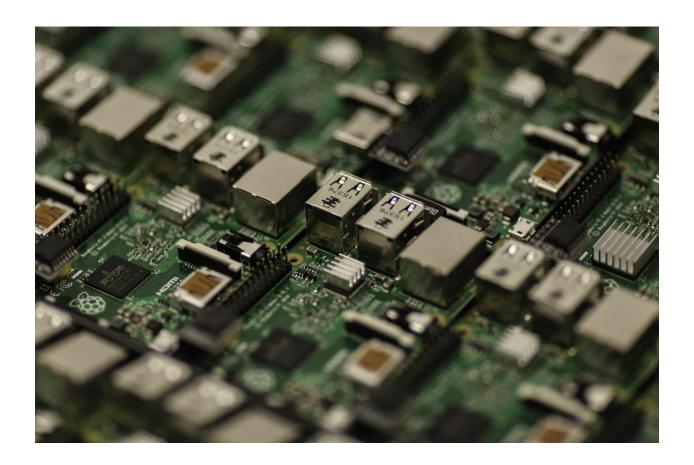
IASP 560 – Final Group Project | Fall 2019

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A GUIDE TO SIGPLOIT

- A Raspberry Pi 4
- A Linux OS
- SigPloit

Introduction

Smartphones have become an integral part of our life. We are so embroiled in its use that we forget to do a thorough risk assessment. We use cell phones for banking, online payments, social media and communication. [1] Contemporary mobile networks contain a treasure of information, be it on the human mobility patterns or on the dynamics of network traffic, as well as high potential for offering users innovative applications. Mining this vast data for the purpose of improvements of the network itself or for offering novel services is a challenge still not adequately addressed by current technology. By tracking a user in the network, we can collect continuous information on subscriber's network footprint (e.g. cell associations), whereas by user localization we can determine the user's current geographical coordinates. [2] With network-based tracking, both active and passive approaches may be used. Active tracking is based on periodic querying of the network about the tracked devices. Conversely, passive tracking uses billing information, generated during out-going call/SMS/data between a mobile phone and the network.

Problem Description

[5] GSM network structure is divided into a Network Switching Subsystem and a Base Station Subsystem. The Network Switching Subsystem (often called core network) is a wired backbone that allows mobile phones to communicate with each other and with mobile devices in other networks. The core network consists of Mobile Switching Centers (MSC) which are primary service delivery nodes responsible for handling voice calls and other services. A special type of MSC is a Short Message Service Centre (SMSC) which supports sending and receiving of text messages – SMS. [3] Establishment and control of voice circuits in the telephone network is provided by signaling protocols, carried out-of-band, in separate

signaling links that use message switching. [4] Signaling protocols used in telecommunication networks worldwide are grouped in the Signaling System Number 7 (SS7) standard. The SS7 protocol stack defines protocols at several layers.

SS7 protocol is not secure and can easily be compromised by hackers. No established security system has been developed in the SS7 network protocol, so a hacker getting access to the SS7 network can listen to your phone calls, read your text messages and even track geographical locations. A hacker can even bypass the two-factor authentication by intercepting the SMS designated to a user. Furthermore, upon intercepting the SMS message, the hacker can gain access to the user's social media platforms, online banking accounts.

If the hacker intercepts your SMS verification messages through SS7 attack, it would be easy for the hacker to access your accounts. This type of attack is considered to be a form of man-in-the-middle attack which puts the cell phone user at great risk.

In this project, our primary focus will be to demonstrate a few attacks in SigPloit, that exploits the inherent vulnerabilities in SS7 technology. We will use the Simulation mode of SigPloit to test these attacks, using a Raspberry Pi running Linux OS. SS7 module has three main exploits – (1) Location tracking (2) SMS and call interception (3) Fraud. Our project will focus on Location Tracking in a simulated environment.

Keywords - SS7, GSM, cellular network, SMS interception, SigPloit

SigPloit

[9] **SigPloit** is a project that aims to help telecom security researchers and telecom pentesters and even operators keen to enhance their posture to be able to test against several infrastructure related vulnerabilities. The aim of the framework is to provide the up-to-date threats of the various signaling protocols used in a mobile network.

SS7 Network Overview

There are several important nodes with unique functions - Home Location Register (HLR), Visitor Location Register (VLR), Mobile Switching Centre (MSC), Short Message Switching Centre (SMSC), Signal Transfer Point (STP).

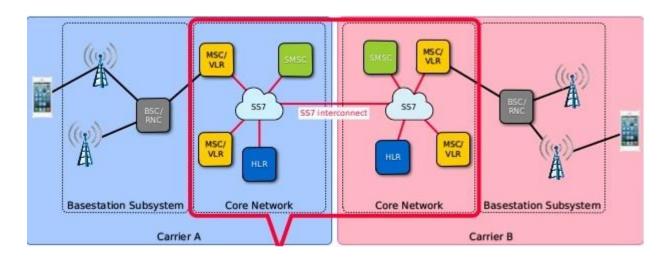


Fig. 1. Network Overview Diagram [8]

Home Location Register (HLR): Each operator has one or more HLR depending on its capacity. HLR operator's database each subscriber's profile/info is stored in only one HLR. The HLR hold the below critical info:

- IMSI
- IMEI
- MSISDN
- Authentication keys of subscriber
- Subscriber latest location
- subscription profile
- Services allowed (call forwarding, barring)

Visitor Location Register (VLR): Each VLR is responsible for a specific region. Every subscriber roaming in a specific region is attached/connected to the VLR responsible for this region. The VLR acts as a temp database for the period of the roaming subscriber. It has the same info as the home network HLR.

Mobile Switching Centre (MSC): Each group of cells/BTS/towers are connected to an MSC. The MSC is responsible to route and switch calls, SMS and data from and to the subscribers attached to it.

Short Message Switching Centre (SMSC): Responsible for sending and delivering short messages (SMS) to subscribers.

Signal Transfer Point (STP): It acts as the gateway (router) of the operators, which is responsible for all the routing, path determination and relaying of the SS7 messages.

SigPloit provides two modes for testing an attack- Live mode & Simulation mode

Live Mode

In the Live mode you can use the parameters that was provided by your provider. The following parameters are required to run an attack;

- [11] The Global Title (GT): Each node in the core of the operator have their own address (i.e public
 IP) in a format of an international number ,example: +441234567890. This is the address used for routing traffic to and from and the nodes between the operators
- 2. **Point Code (PC):** Communication in SS7 network is done on a hop by hop basis in order to reach the final destination (GT). PC is a 4-5 digits that determines the next peer hop that packets should go through (STP) in order to reach the destination. When you get an SS7 access your SS7 provider is your peer, and the peer PC should be set to their.
- 3. International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI): Is the most important target parameter. It is the subscriber ID that used in all operations withing the home operator or for roaming operations between operators. This is the first subscriber info that should be gathered as all critical and important attacks (i.e interception, fraud) is done with IMSI.
- 4. **Mobile Station International Subscriber Directory Number (MSISDN):** The mobile phone number.
- 5. International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI): is a unique number for each mobile hardware.

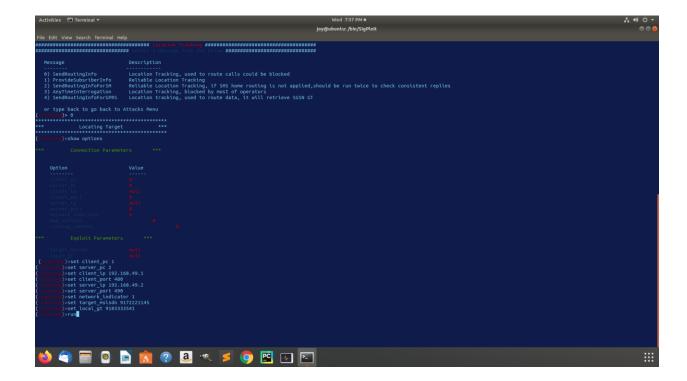
 The IMEI number is used by a GSM network to identify valid devices and therefore can be used for stopping a stolen phone from accessing that network. For example, if a mobile phone is stolen, the owner can call their network provider and instruct them to blacklist the phone using its IMEI number. The importance of this info is that some extension of IMEI (IMEISV) provides the

software version as well of the handset, allowing to initiated a more targeted client side attack..

let's move to what you have been looking for:

6. The IP address of the providers peer SCTP associations and the used port (Peer IP, Peer Port)

All you need now is the static public IP assigned to the sever/machine having the code and the provider will grant the access for you to reach all the operators this provider is connected to.



Simulation Mode

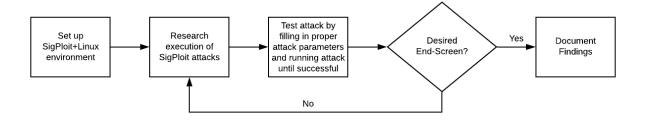
If you have no access to the SS7 network and you need to get the sense of attacks, you can go to the simulation mode. Sigploit provides the server side code of each and every attack and simulates the corresponding nodes responsible for the requests. The server-side .jar files can be found under "SigPloit/Testing/Server/Attacks/". Each server-side attack has the hard-coded values that you need to use on the client to simulate the attack.

Intercepting SMS

```
Intercepting
*]Set Client PC: 1
*|Set Client IP: 192.168.56.101
*|Set Client Port: 2905
*|Set Peer IP: 192.168.56.102
*|Set Peer Port: 2906
*|Set Target's IMSI: 602027891234567
*|Set Target's IMSI in GT Format [ mcc+mnc+msin --> cc+ndc+msin ]: 20107891234567
*|Set your GT: 96512345678
*]Forward the intercepted SMS to target?(y/n): n
*]Stack components are set...
*]Initializing the Stack...
og4j:WARN No appenders could be found for logger (org.mobicents.protocols.sctp.ManagementImpl).
.og4j:WARN Please initialize the log4j system properly.
*]Initializing M3UA Stack ....
+]Initialized M3UA Stack ....
*]Initializing SCCP Stack ....
  Initialized SCCP Stack ....
*]Initializing TCAP Stack ....
*]Initializing MAP Stack ....
+]Initialized MAP Stack ....
*]Updating Location for Target's IMSI 602027891234567 is processing..
*]InsertSubscriber Data response sent
*]Receiving SMS..
+]Intercepted SMS: SmsSignalInfo [M0 case: SMS-DELIVER-REPORT tpdu [TP-Parameter-Indicator [ TP
ISG [TP-User-Data [1, -121, 25, 50, 84, -10, 0, 0, 97, 64, 48, 81, 21, -127, 32, 12, -56, 50, -10]
IT case: SMS-DELIVER tpdu [dataCodingScheme [TP-Data-Coding-Scheme [Code=0, DataCodingGroup=Gener
PlanIdentification=ISDNTelephoneNumberingPlan, addressValue=2010789123456]], TP-Protocol-Identifi
|SG [TP-User-Data [Msg:[Hello World!]]]]
```

<u>Fig - Intercepting SMS in Simulation Mode[12]</u>

Our Approach



For the purpose of this project we will exploring the Simulation Mode in SigPloit since we have no access to the SS7 network. Our mission is to get the sense of these attacks, by using the **Simulation mode**. Sigploit provides the server-side code of each and every attack and it simulates the corresponding nodes responsible for the requests. These attacks can be located in the "SigPloit/Testing/Server/Attacks/". Our live demo would include setting up SigPloit and running the Location Tracking attacks of SS7 in a Simulation environment.

[13] The location tracking attack in SigPloit is based on the Mobile Application Part (MAP) [14] protocol from the standard SS7 protocol suite [15]. This determines the main features of the SS7 Location Tracking Attack. It is non-intrusive to the existing signaling network equipment and does not demand any software or hardware changes neither in the network core elements nor in the localized mobile phones. The platform can localize any subscriber of the GSM network, no matter if the mobile phone is equipped with GPS or if its passive. It provides real-time localization with minimal delay.

SigPloit Installation

Requirements

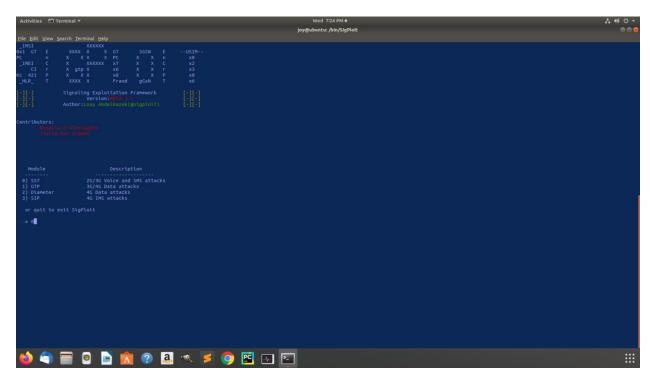
- 1. Pyton 2.7
- 2. Java version 1.7+
- 3. Sudo apt-get install lksctp-tools
- 4. Linux machine

To Run SigPloit

- 1) cd/opt/SigPloit
- 2) python sigploit.py

Exploring the Modules in SigPloit

There are 4 Modules in Sigploit.



1: SS7 (2G/3G Voice & SMS attacks)

SS7 vulnerabilities used to test the below attacking scenarios

- a) Location Tracking
- b) Call and SMS Interception
- c) Fraud.

2: GTP (3G/4G Data Attacks)

Focus is on data roaming attacks.

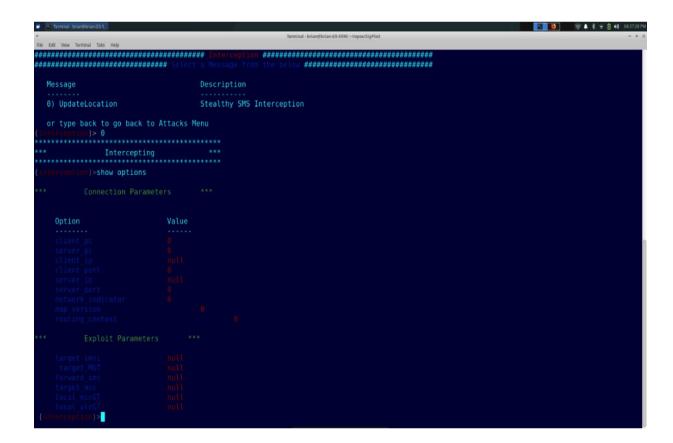
3: Diameter (4G Data Attacks)

Focuses on the attacks on the LTE roaming interconnects. Diameter is used as the signaling

protocol.

4: SIP (4G IMS Attacks)

Focuses on SIP - the signaling protocol used for voice over LTE(VoLTE) and IMS infrastructure. SIP will be used to take advantage of SIP-T protocol, a protocol extension that provides interoperability between VoIP and SS7 networks.

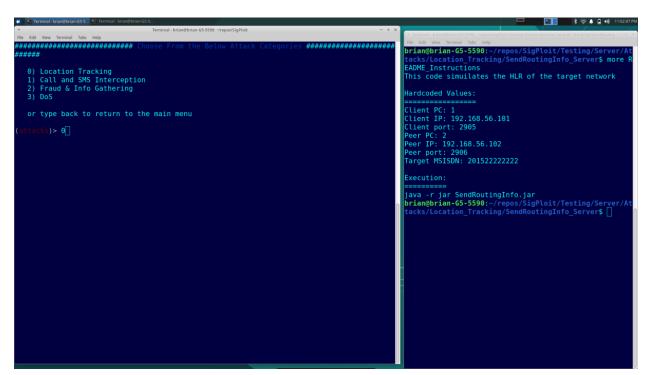


DEMO - An SS7 Attack for Location Tracking

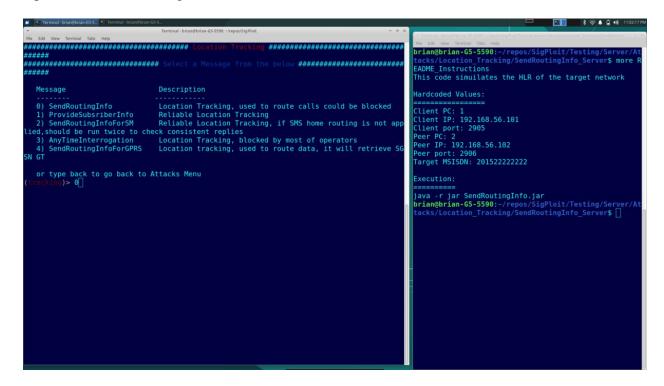
Choose option 0 - (SS7)

```
XXX
X GT
X PC
XXXX x7
x6
x8
Fraud
                                 orian@brian-G5-5590:-/repos/SigPloit/Testing/Server/
tacks/Location_Tracking/SendRoutingInfo_Server$ more
                                                                                                                              x0
x2
x3
x8
x6
                                                                                                                                                                                                          tacks/Location_Trac
EADME Instructions
                                                                                                                                                                                                           This code simuilates the HLR of the target network
 CI
421
HLR
                                 X gtp X
X X X
XXXX X
                                                                                          gGsN
                                                                                                                                                                                                         Client PC: 1
Client PC: 1
Client PP: 192.168.56.101
Client port: 2905
Peer PC: 2
Peer IP: 192.168.56.102
Peer port: 2906
Target MSISDN: 201522222222
                               Signaling Exploitation Framework
Version: BETA 1.1
Author:Loay AbdelRazek(@sigploit)
                                                                                                                                                                                                          Execution:
                                                                                                                                                                                                          java -r jar SendRoutingInfo.jar
brian@brian-G5-5590:-/repos/SigPloit/Testing/Server/A
tacks/Location_Tracking/SendRoutingInfo_Server$ []
    Module
                                              2G/3G Voice and SMS attacks
3G/4G Data attacks
4G Data attacks
4G IMS attacks
0) SS7
1) GTP
2) Diameter
3) SIP
 .g> 0
```

Choose option 0 – (Location Tracking)



Option 0 - (SendRoutingInfo)



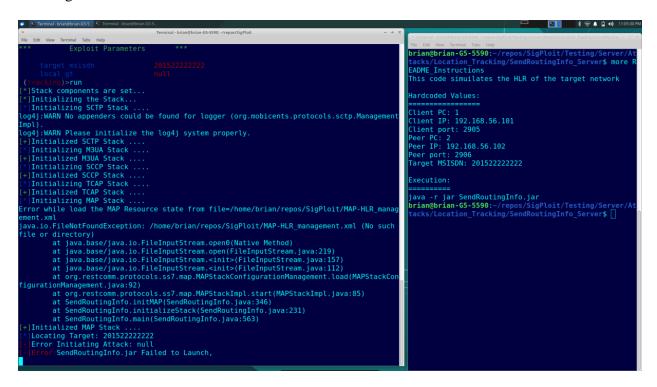
Type show options – (to display the options)

```
Message Description

1) Provides burst bur
```

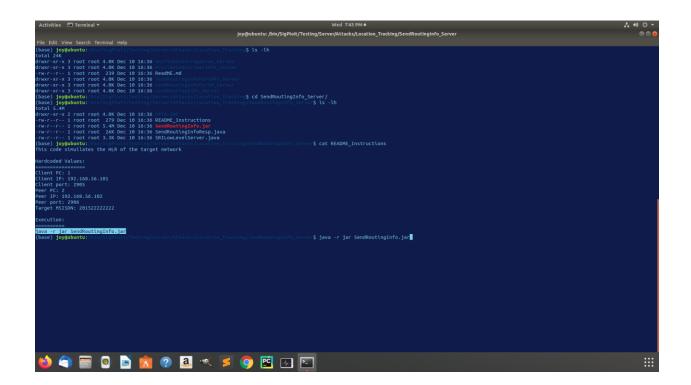
Set the parameters

Running the Attack



In Simulation Mode

The server-side .jar files can be found under "SigPloit/Testing/Server/Attacks/". Each server-side attack has the hard-coded values that you need to use on the client to simulate the attack. In the course of running the simulation mode in SigPloit we encountered difficulties due to the fact that the creators have stopped upgrading the dependencies required to run the simulation mode. Due to this we decided to incorporate the hard-coded values provided by the creators in simulation mode and do a demo in Live mode which is demonstrated in the above section of our report.



```
| Wed Not Meet | Promise | Programme | Pro
```

Conclusion

Our primary purpose was to demonstrate the vulnerabilities in SS7 protocol by using SigPloit. We have presented the architecture of SigPloit and its various modes. However, more research is required to gain access to the SS7 network and perform a Live attack. Our aspiration is to be able intercept cell signal with HackrfOne and eventually intercept an SMS using SigPloit.

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 Presentation: https://berlin.ccc.de/~tobias/31c3-ss7-locate-track-manipulate.pdf,

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[10]	Mobile Network Architecture (Wiki)
	$\underline{https://github.com/SigPloiter/SigPloit/wiki/2Mobile-Network-Architecture}$
[11]	How to use the SS7 module
	https://github.com/SigPloiter/SigPloit/wiki/3How-to-use-the-SS7-module
[12]	Hacking, Practical Protection, IT Security Magazine, Vol.12, NO.14
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