# COMMONTOOLS TO BREAK AND FIX WIRELESS PROTOCOLS

Why WEP and WPA is bad and why you should use WPA2 (for now)



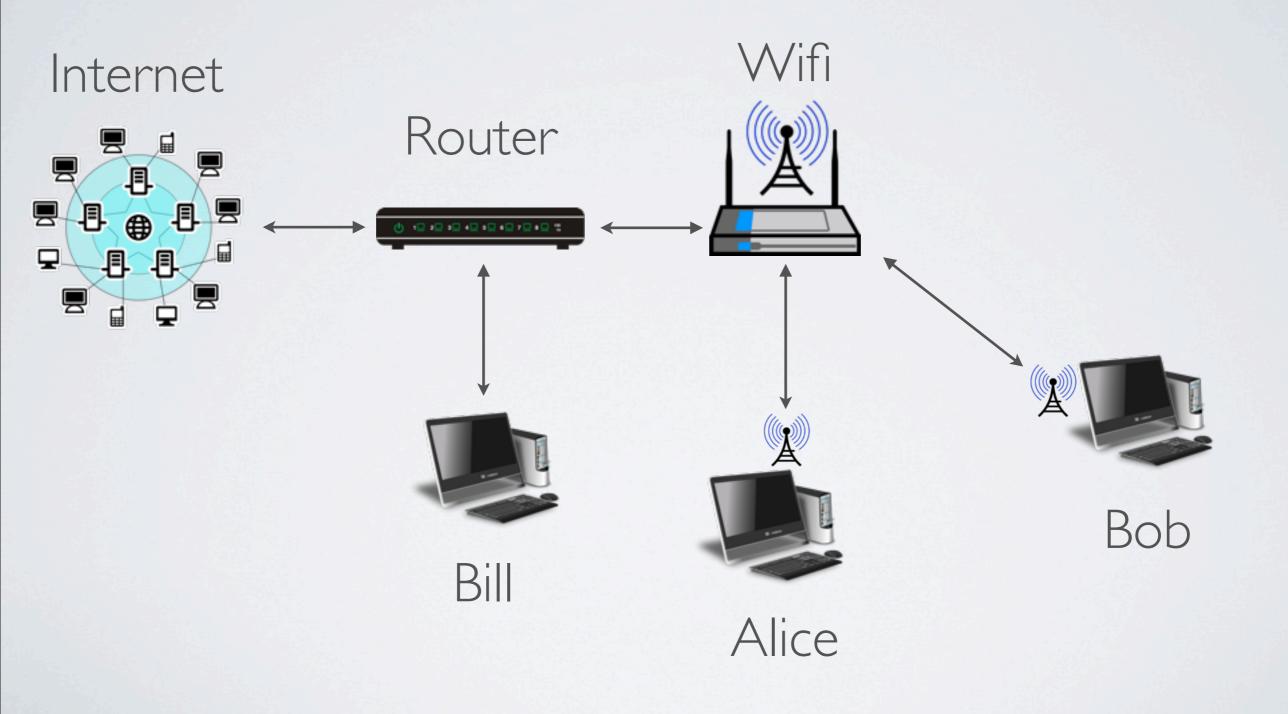
#### INTRODUCTION

I.E. Why should I care?

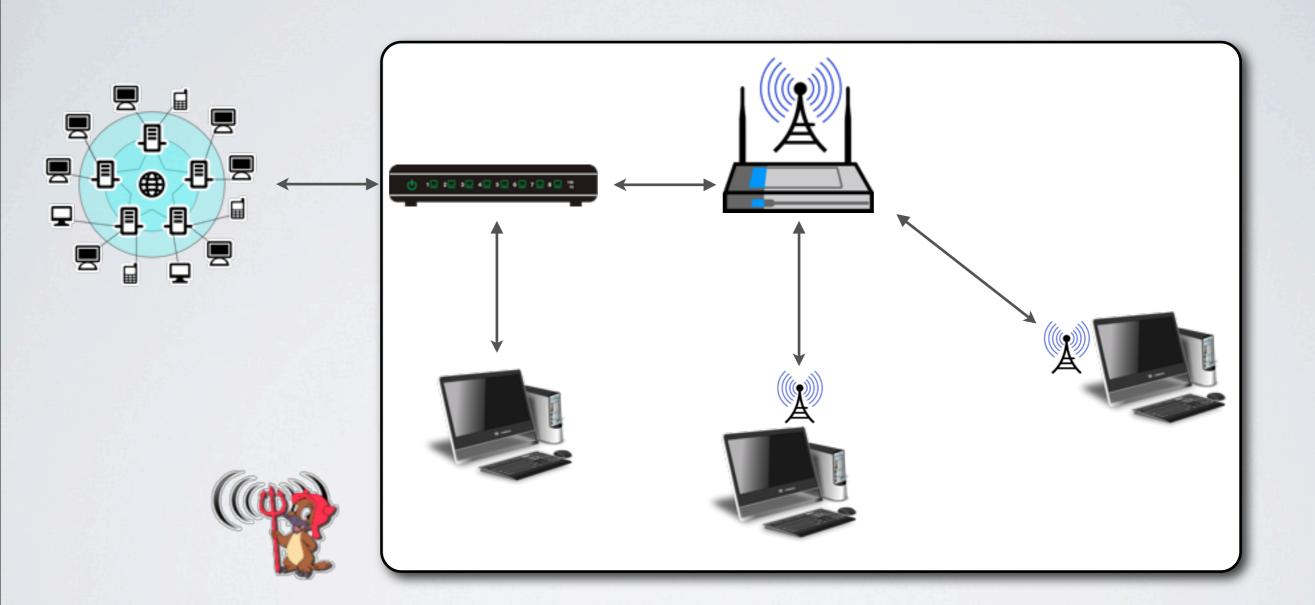
#### INTRODUCTION

- People use wireless protocols and encryption everyday to use laptops, cell phones, and other wireless enabled devices.
- We "broadcast" our information over the air and anyone with special software can intercept this information.
- The network itself may be in danger if the encryption is broken.

### TYPICAL HOME NETWORK TOPOLOGY



If the network security was cracked, what is compromised?



#### WIFI ENCRYPTION

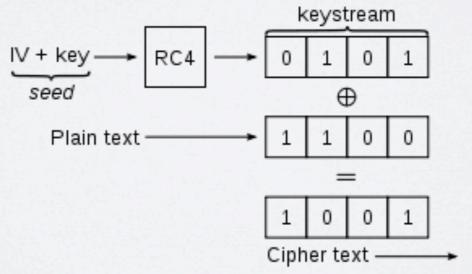
- Encrypting any traffic sent between any wifi device.
- Most common Protocols:
  - WEP Wired Equivalent Privacy
  - WPA Wi-Fi Protected Access
  - WPA2 Wi-Fi Protected Access 2

#### EASY TO CRACK: WEP

- WEP is now susceptible to many attacks.
- Interception of wireless packets. Records all traffic to and from a set of computers that use the WEP protocol.
- The more active the network is, the more susceptible the network.
- Attacker can also use packet injection to stimulate the network.

#### KNOWN VULNERABILITIES TO

- WEP uses a nonce from the RC4 algorithm.
  - IV creates a pseudo random initialization vector of 24 bits for the RC4 Algorithm.
  - Problem: RC4 needs a unique nonce to work properly. WEP does not allocate enough bits for nonce, which means it reuses the nonce.

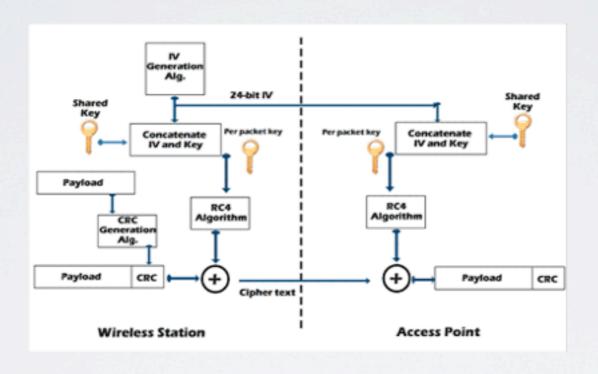


#### SHARED KEY FLAW

• All computers have a shared key. If the key is compromised, traffic from the router to the other computers could be decrypted as well (as long as no other underlining encryption

is occurring).

#### OVERALL PICTURE



#### TOOLS USED TO CRACK WEP





- Backtrack 4 (Linux) Linux distribution that includes tools for wireless security auditing.
- · Aircrack (Windows) Windows toolset for wireless auditing.

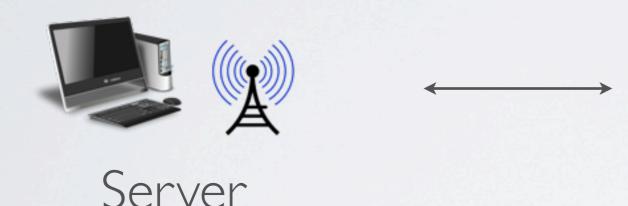
· All three of these tools can be used to crack WEP and WPA.

#### PASSIVE PACKET SNIFFING

- Wireless sniffer A program that will look at all traffic in the area, even hidden Wifi signals. Will also record information such as data packets and management packets.
- Data packets contain unique IV's in the WEP.
- When enough (over 100,000) of these unique IV's are collected, known attacks such as the "Weak Scheduling attack" for 40 and 104 bit WEP encryption can be run.
- · Can take a long time but works with almost any hardware.

#### DEMO WEP CRACKING

• I will be using KisMAC to demonstrate how an attacker might gain control of a system with WEP Wifi encryption.





Client



Attacker/packet sniffing

## WEP CRACKING WITH DATA INJECTION

- By creating own packets and sending with know data, one can deduce the IV's much quicker.
- · Uses special hardware (Wireless USB) to attack a network.
- No additional traffic needed from other computers.



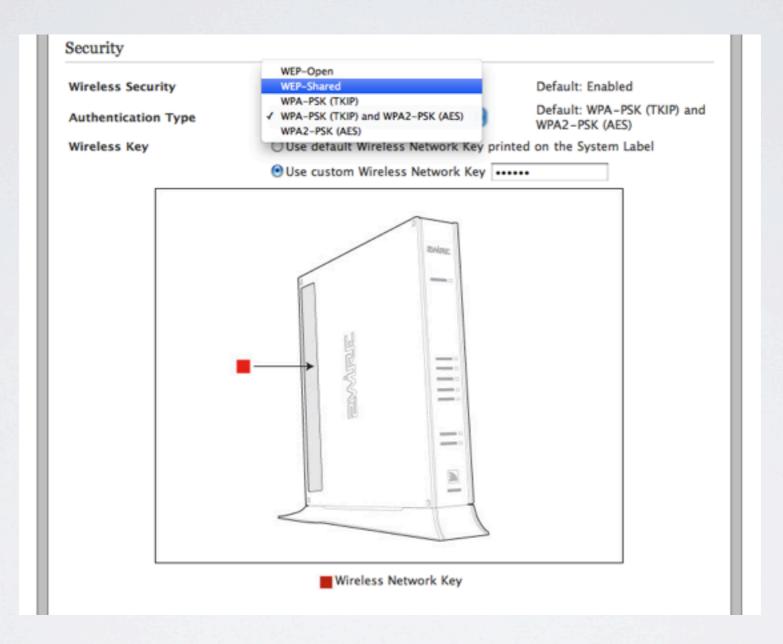
Server

Attacker/packet sniffing

#### HOWTO FIX

- Most routers and ad-hoc networks support WPA and WPA 2.
- The only known attacks on WPA and WPA 2 are brute force algorithms so they take significantly longer.
- Uses Temporal Key Integrity Protocol (TKIP) and AES support to provide extra security.

#### HOWTO FIX



Home configuration

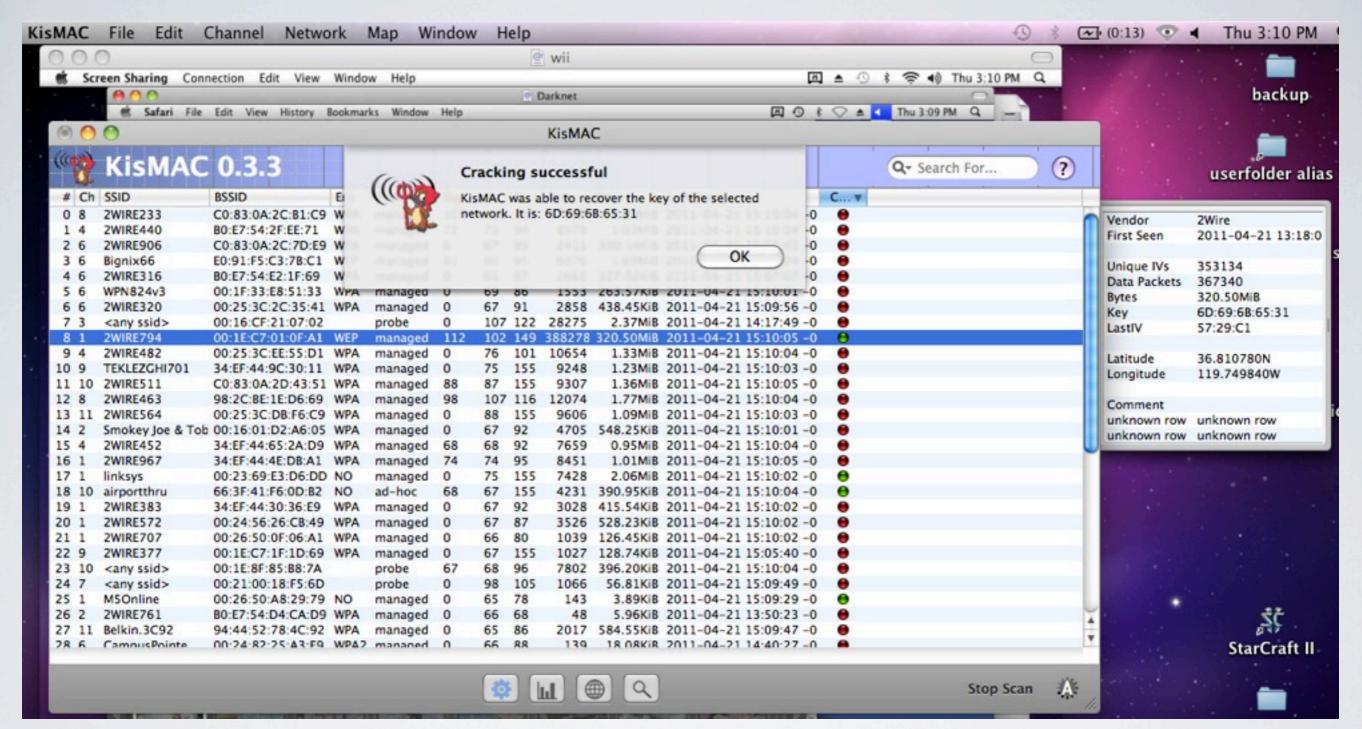
#### ADDITIONAL DETAILS

- TKIP implements a key mixing function that concatenates the IV with the secret key BEFORE sending it to the RC4 algorithm.
- Advanced encryption standard (AES): To solve the repitition problem the AES creates its own finite field (like Finite State machines except with a 4x4 matrix of bytes).

#### MORE INFORMATION

- Sample code to simulate the RC4 algorithm: <a href="http://www.security-freak.net/encryption/encryption-rc4.html">http://www.security-freak.net/encryption/encryption-rc4.html</a>
- WEP tutorial with packet injection (needs special hardware) http://www.aircrack-ng.org/doku.php?id=simple\_wep\_crack

#### END



#### SOURCES

- All artwork is from[2011] <a href="http://www.openclipart.org">http://www.openclipart.org</a>
- WEP algorithm[2011] <a href="http://palisade.plynt.com/issues/2006Dec/wep-encryption/">http://palisade.plynt.com/issues/2006Dec/wep-encryption/</a>
- Cracking WEP in detail[2011] <a href="http://palisade.plynt.com/">http://palisade.plynt.com/</a>
   issues/2007Feb/cracking-wep/
- Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) <a href="http://www.airtightnetworks.com/home/resources/knowledge-center/wep.html">http://www.airtightnetworks.com/home/resources/knowledge-center/wep.html</a>

#### SOURCES PART 2

- ACCESS DENIED[2001] Cathy Cronkhite and Jack McCullough. Pg 117-139. Network Security Weakness
- Cryptography Engineering Design principles and practical applications[2010] Niels Ferguson,
   Bruce Schneier Tadayoshi Kohno. Pg 195-211. RSA
- Fundamentals of Network Security[2001] John E. Canavan. Pg. 178, 64-65, 68. RSA, WEP protocol.
- Crimeware Understanding New Attacks and Defenses[2008]- Markus Jakobsson, Zulfikar Ramzan.
   Pg. 122-123, 111. Airsnort Defeating, encryption options for wireless networking.