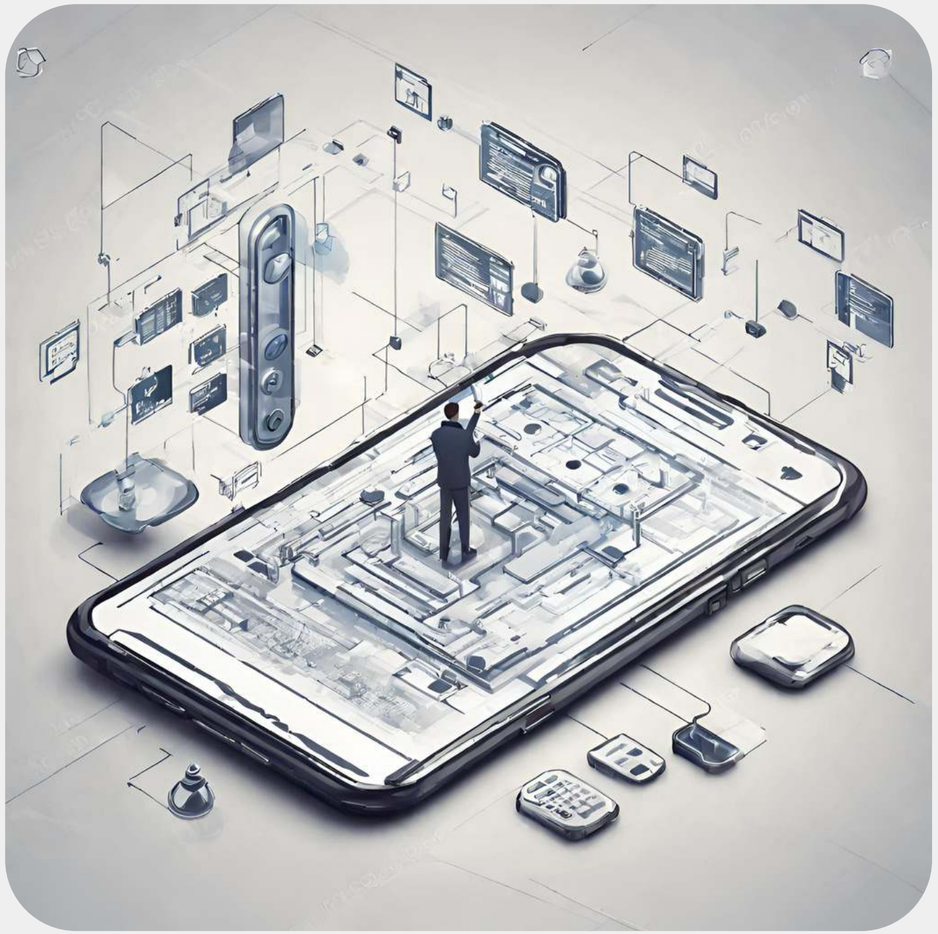
BAKI ALİ NEFT MƏKTƏBİ
BAKU HIGHER OIL SCHOOL

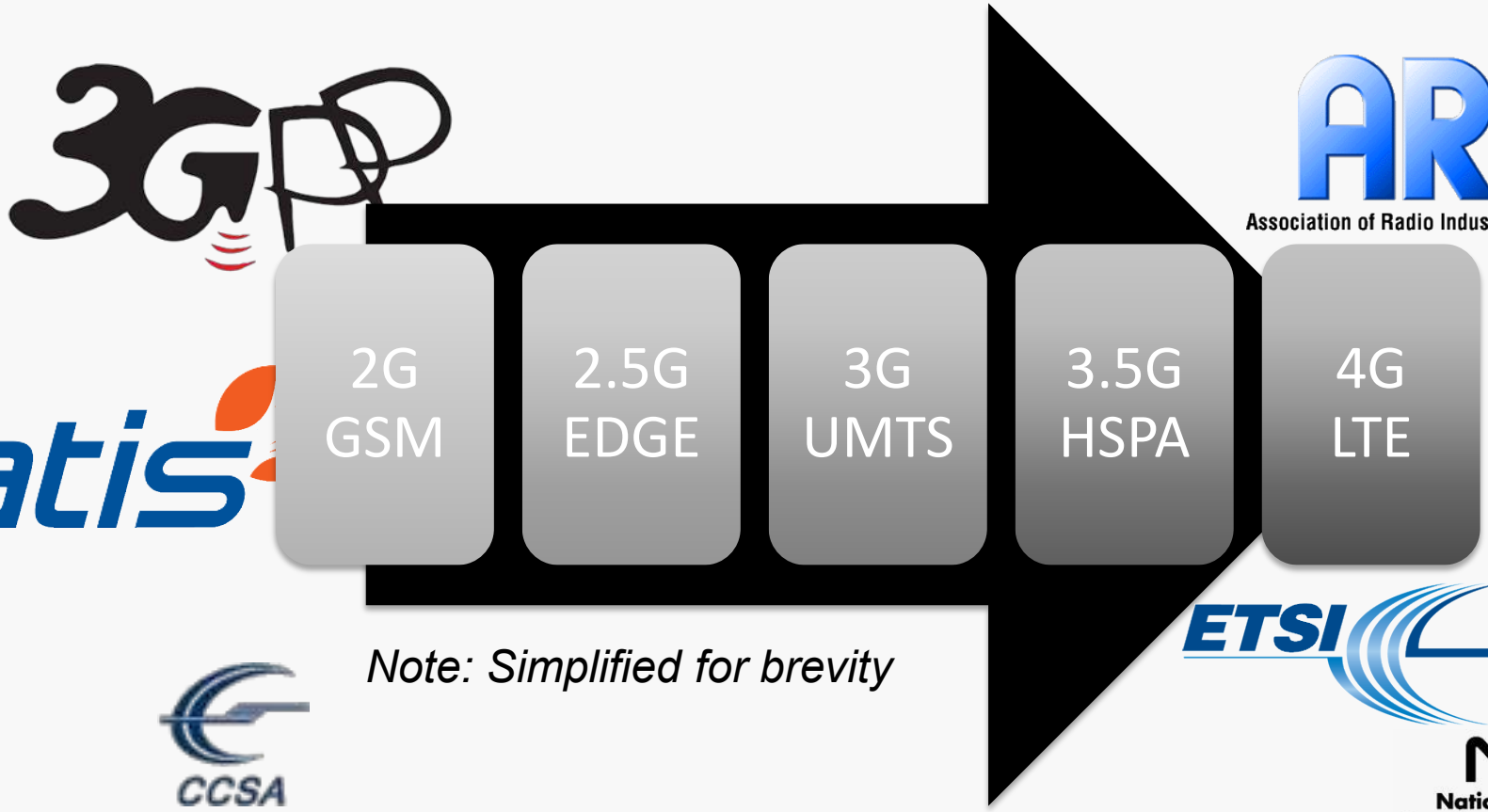
Mobile development and security

Session 14



Karim Karimov
Lecturer

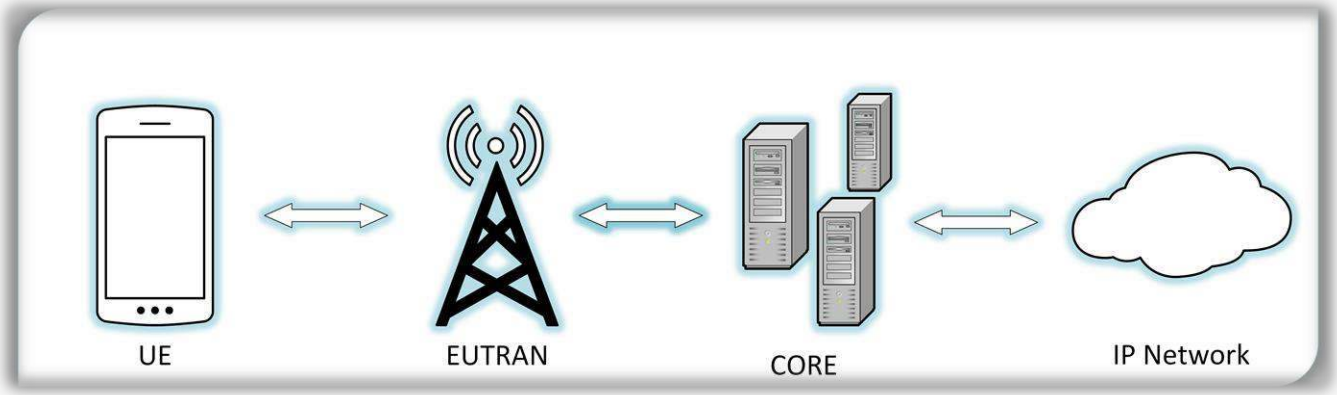
3GPP Standards & Evolution



Note: Simplified for brevity

The Basics

- A device (UE) connects to a network of base stations (E-UTRAN)
- The E-UTRAN connects to a core network (Core)
- The Core connects to the internet (IP network).

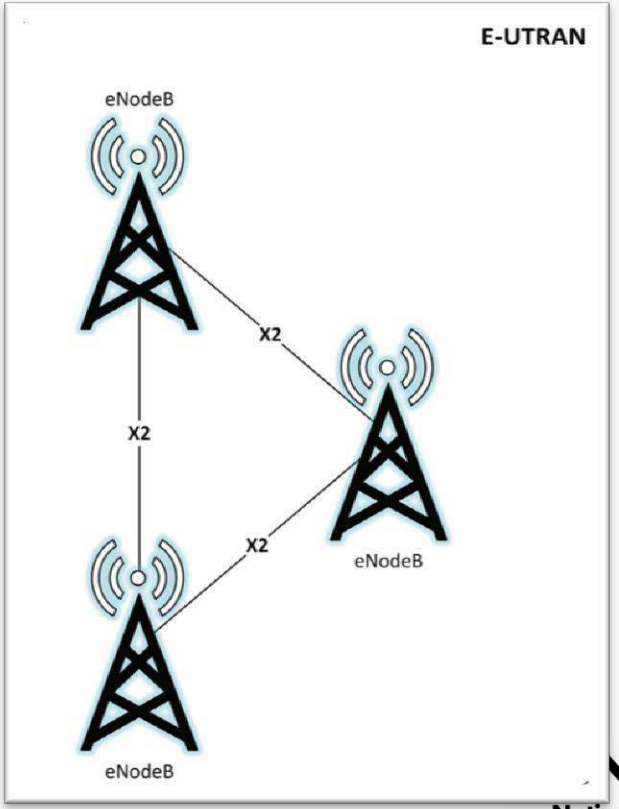


Mobile Device

- **User equipment (UE):** Cellular device containing the following
  - **Mobile equipment (ME):** The physical cellular device
  - **UICC:** Known as SIM card
    - Responsible for running the SIM and USIM Applications
    - Can store personal info (e.g., contacts) & even play video games!
  - **IMEI:** Equipment Identifier
  - **IMSI:** Subscriber Identifier

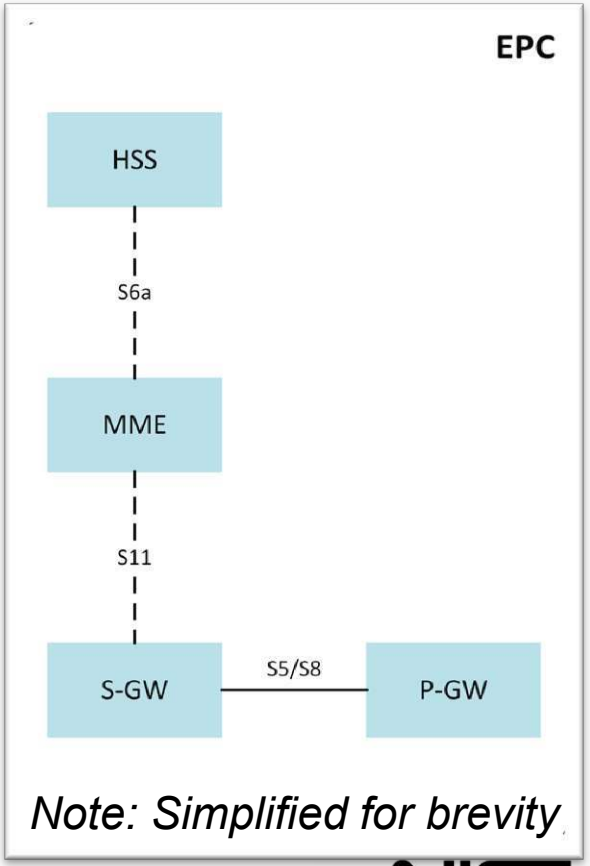
The Evolved Universal Terrestrial Radio Access Network (E-UTRAN)

- **eNodeB:** Radio component of LTE network
  - De-modulates RF signals & transmits IP packets to core network
  - Modulates IP packets & transmits RF signals to UE
- **E-UTRAN:** mesh network of eNodeBs
- **X2 Interface:** connection between eNodeBs

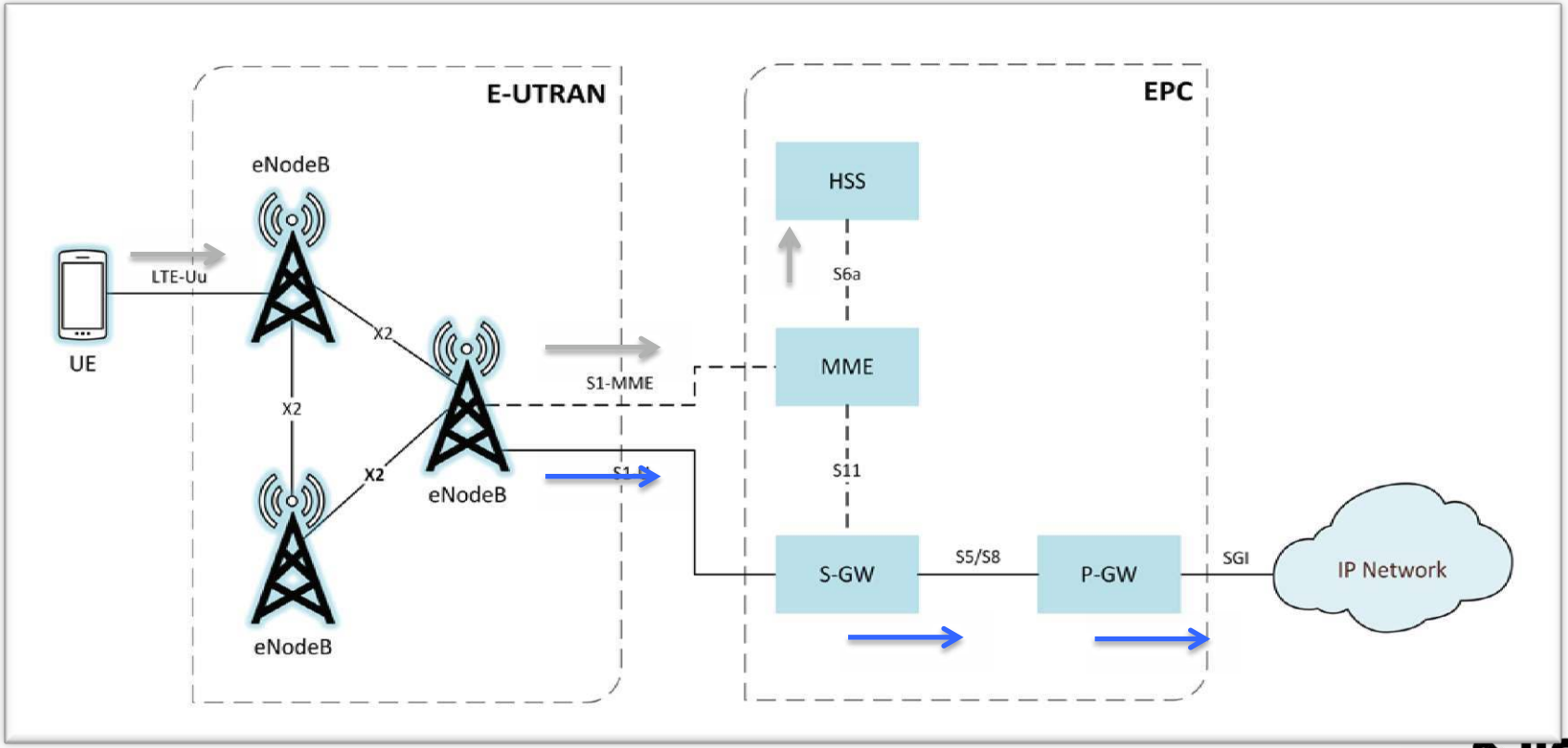


Evolved Packet Core (EPC)

- **Mobility Management Entity (MME)**
  - Primary signaling node - does not interact with user traffic
  - Functions include managing & storing UE contexts, creating temporary IDs, sending pages, controlling authentication functions, & selecting the S-GW and P-GWs
- **Serving Gateway (S-GW)**
  - Router of information between the P-GW and the E-UTRAN
  - Carries user plane data, anchors UEs for intra-eNodeB handoffs
- **Packet Data Gateway (P-GW)**
  - Allocates IP addresses and routes packets
  - Interconnects with non 3GPP networks
- **Home Subscriber Server (HSS)**
  - Houses subscriber identifiers and critical security information

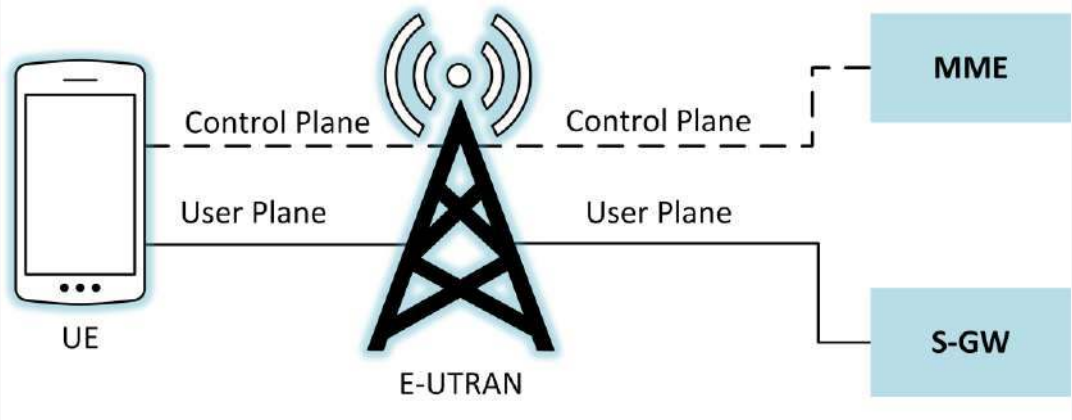


LTE Network



Communications Planes

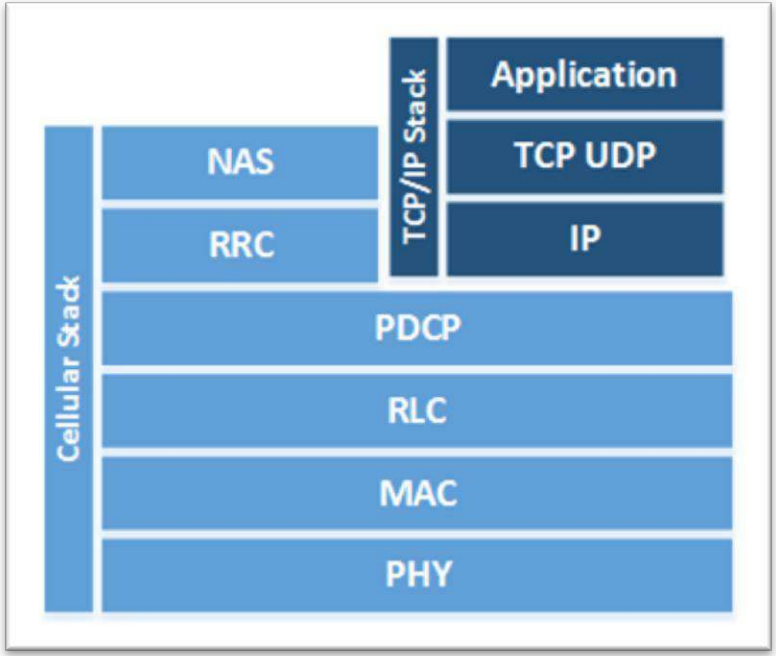
- LTE uses multiple planes of communication
- Different logical planes are multiplexed into same RF signal
- Routed to different end points



LTE Protocols

TCP/IP sits on top of the cellular protocol stack:

- **Radio Resource Control (RRC):** Transfers NAS messages, AS information may be included, signaling, and ECM
- **Packet Data Convergence Protocol (PDCP):** header compression, radio encryption
- **Radio Link Control (RLC):** Readies packets to be transferred over the air interface
- **Medium Access Control (MAC)**: Multiplexing, QoS



LTE Security Architecture

NIST
National Institute of Standards and Technology
U.S. Department of Commerce

Air Interface Protection

- The connection between the UE and the eNodeB is referred to as the air interface
- 3 algorithms exist to protect the LTE air interface:
  - SNOW 3G = stream cipher designed by Lund University (Sweden)
  - AES = Block cipher standardized by NIST (USA)
  - ZUC = stream cipher designed by the Chinese Academy of Sciences (China)
- Each algorithm can be used for confidentiality protection, integrity protection, or to protect both.

```
▼UE security capability - Replayed UE security capabilities
  Length: 2
  1... .... = EEA0: Supported
  .1.. .... = 128-EEA1: Supported
  ..1. .... = 128-EEA2: Supported
  ...0 .... = 128-EEA3: Not Supported
  .... 0... = EEA4: Not Supported
  .... .0.. = EEA5: Not Supported
  .... ..0. = EEA6: Not Supported
  .... ...0 = EEA7: Not Supported
  1... .... = EIA0: Supported
  .1.. .... = 128-EIA1: Supported
  ..1. .... = 128-EIA2: Supported
  ...0 .... = 128-EIA3: Not Supported
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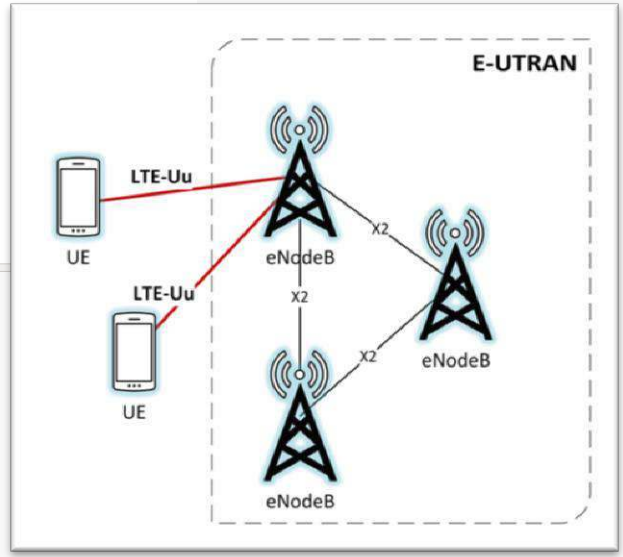
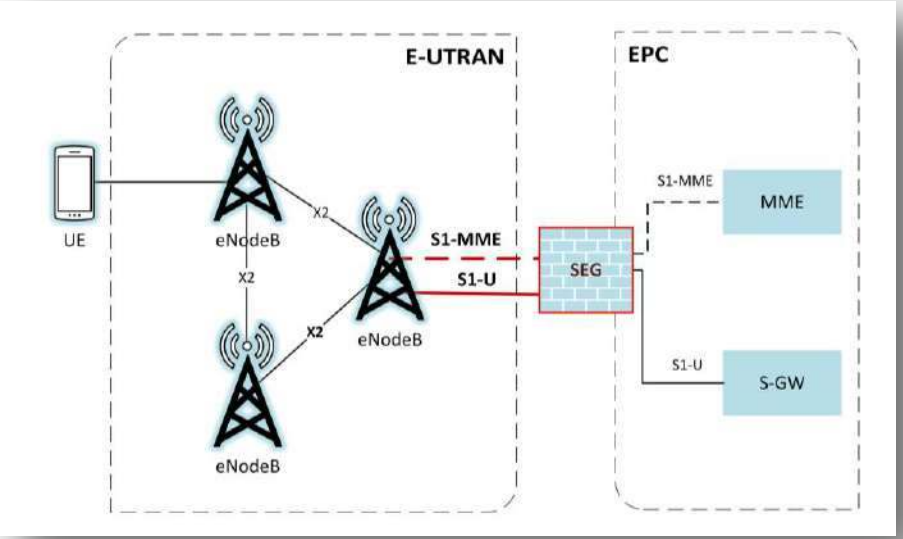


3GPP 33.401- 5.1.3.1: User plane confidentiality protection shall be done at PDCP layer and is an operator option.

Backhaul Protection

- Confidentiality protection of traffic running over S1 Interface (Backhaul)
- Hardware security appliances are used to implement this standard
- Security Gateways (SEG)
- IPSEC tunnel created between eNodeB and SEG



3GPP TS 33.401 - 13: NOTE: In case the S1 management plane interfaces are trusted (e.g. physically protected), the use of protection based on IPsec/IKEv2 or equivalent mechanisms is not needed.

Threats to LTE Networks

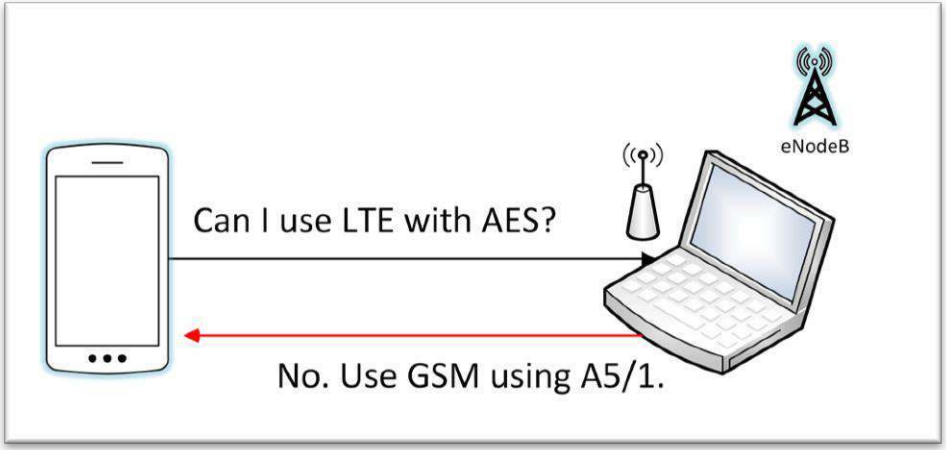
General Computer Security Threats

- **Threat:** LTE infrastructure runs off of commodity hardware & software.
  - With great commodity, comes great responsibility.
  - Susceptible to software and hardware flaws pervasive in any general purpose operating system or application
- **Mitigation:** Security engineering and a secure system development lifecycle.

NIST National Institute of Standards and Technology U.S. Department of Commerce

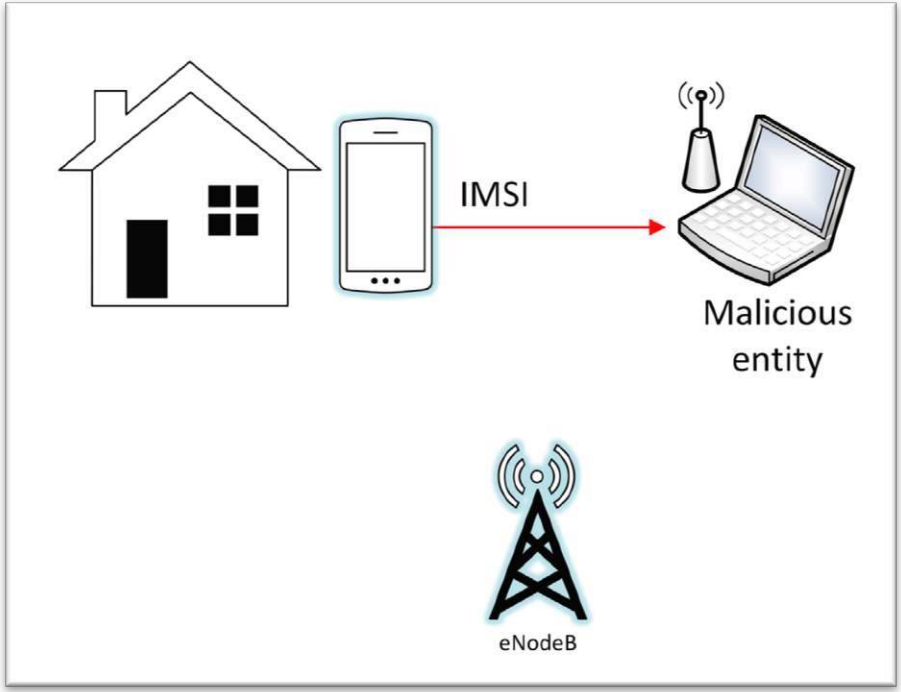
Renegotiation Attacks

- **Threat:** Rogue base stations can force a user to downgrade to GSM or UMTS.
  - Significant weaknesses exist in GSM cryptographic algorithms.
- **Mitigation:**
  - Ensure LTE network connection. Most current mobile devices do not provide the ability to ensure a user's mobile device is connected to an LTE network.
  - A ‘Use LTE only’ option is available to the user
  - Use a rogue base station detector



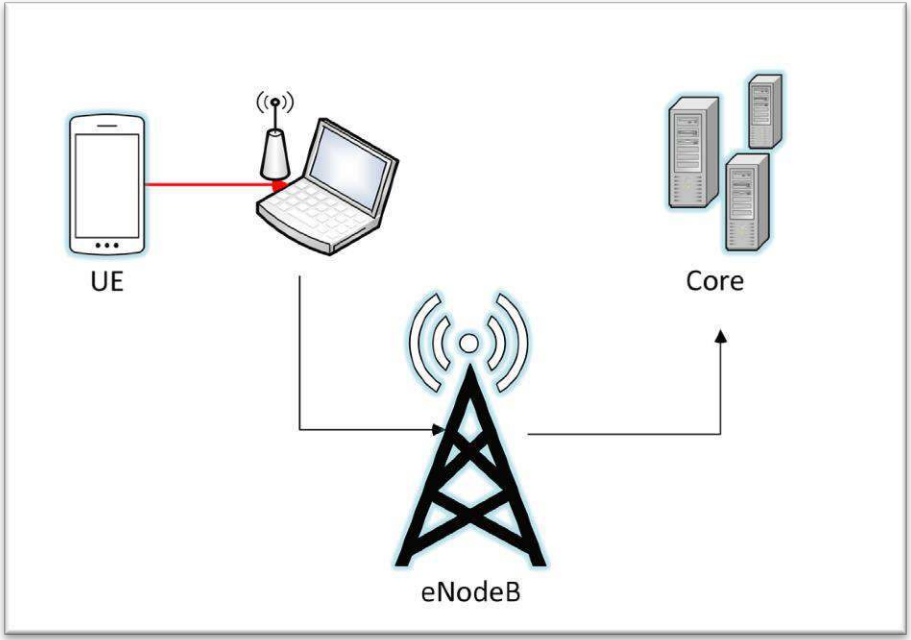
Device & Identity Tracking

- **Threat:** The IMEI and IMSI can be intercepted and used to track a phone and/or user.
  - Rogue base stations can perform a MiM attack by forcing UEs to connect to it by transmitting at a high power level
  - The phone may transmit its IMEI or IMSI while attaching or authenticating.
- **Mitigation:**
  - UEs should use temporary identities and not transmit them in over unencrypted connections.
  - IMSI-catcher-catcher



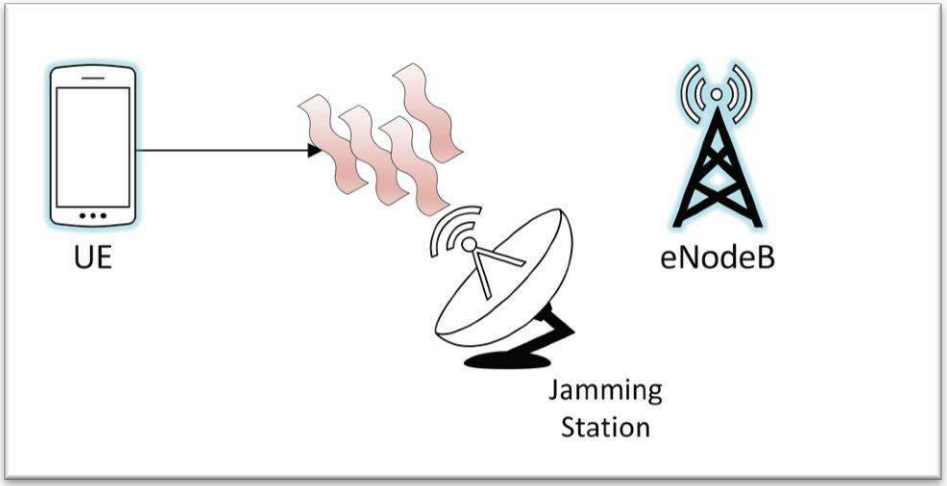
Call Interception

- **Threat:** Renegotiation attacks may also allow MitM attacks to establish an unencrypted connection to a device making a phone call
  - Attacker may be able to listen to the phone call
- **Mitigation:** The ciphering indicator feature discussed in 3GPP TS 22.101 would alert the user if calls are made over an unencrypted connection



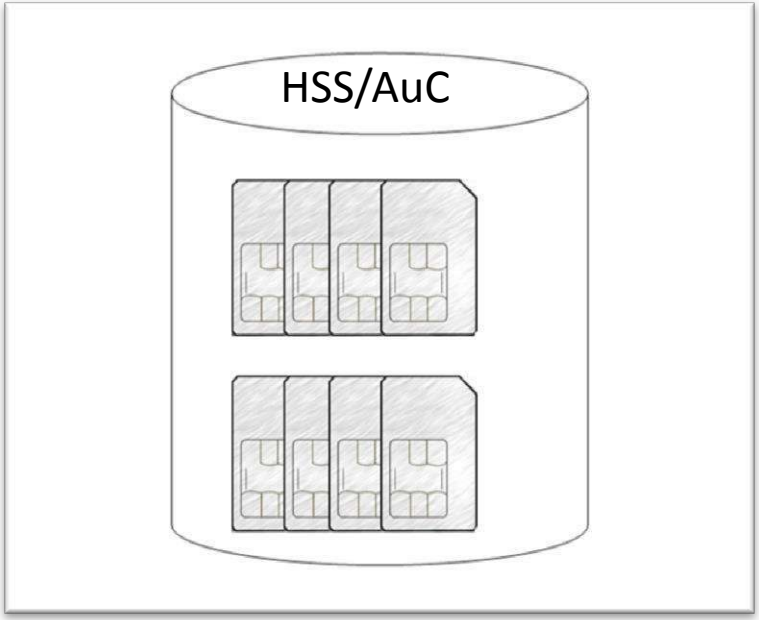
Jamming UE Radio Interface

- **Threat:** Jamming the LTE radio prevents the phone from successfully transmitting information.
  - Jamming decreases the signal to noise ratio by transmitting static and/or noise at high power levels across a given frequency band.
  - Research suggests that, due to the small amount of control signaling in LTE, this attack is possible.
  - Prevents emergency calls
- **Mitigation:** Unclear. Further research is required and may require changes to 3GPP standards to mitigate this attack.



Attacks Against the Secret Key (K)

- **Threat:** Attackers may be able to steal K from the carrier's HSS/AuC or obtain it from the UICC manufacturer:
  - Card manufacturers may keep a database of these keys within their internal network
- **Mitigation(s):**
  - Physical security measures from UICC manufacturer
  - Network security measures from carrier

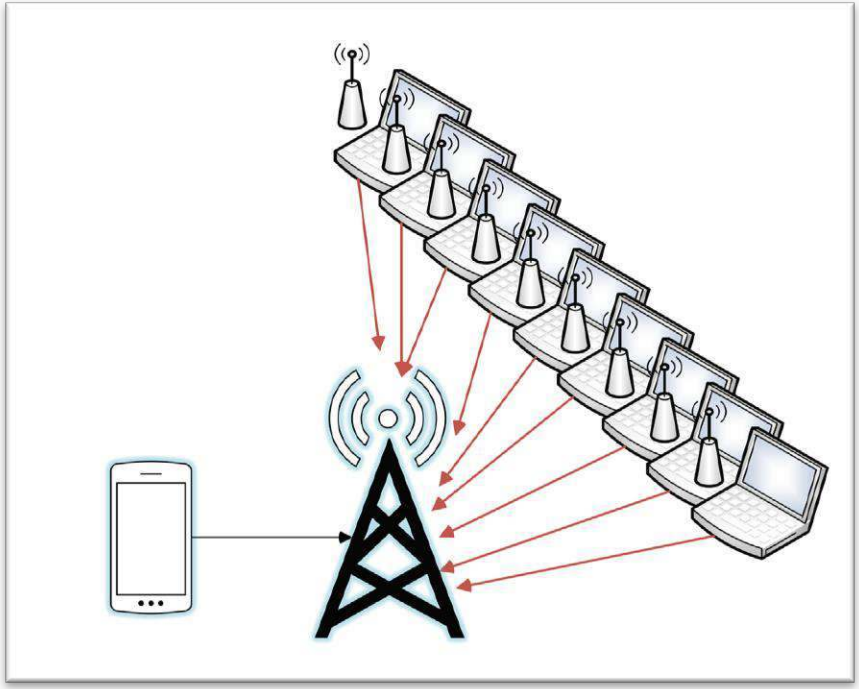


Physical Base Station Attacks

- **Threat:** The radio equipment and other electronics required to operate a base station may be physically destroyed
- **Mitigation:** Provide adequate physical security measures such as video surveillance, gates, and various tamper detection mechanisms

Availability Attacks on eNodeB & Core

- **Threat:** A large number of simultaneous requests may prevent eNodeBs and core network components (e.g., HSS) from functioning properly.
  - Simulating large numbers of fake handsets
- **Mitigation:** Unclear



End of the session