

**Title:** Security and Key Establishment in IEEE 802.15.4  
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**Problem description:**

Internet of Things (IoT) is a network where devices, sensors, vehicles, buildings, and humans communicate and collaborate, along with collecting and exchanging information. IEEE 802.15.4 specifies the lower layers for low-rate wireless networks, which are widely seen as the foundation for current IoT communications. One of the potential weaknesses of the IEEE 802.15.4 standard is the lack of specification for key establishment and management.

This thesis will focus on key management for device-to-device security in IoT. It will review and compare the proposed protocols, and include both formal and informal security analysis, as well as analysis of both key management requirements and key agreement protocol design for IoT security. Another goal of the thesis will be to suggest improvements and alternatives to the proposed protocols.

**Responsible professor:** Colin Boyd, ITEM  
**Supervisor:** Britta Hale, ITEM



## Abstract

This is my abstract.



## Preface

Hello, here is some text without a meaning. This text should show what a printed text will look like at this place. If you read this text, you will get no information. Really? Is there no information? Is there a difference between this text and some nonsense like “Huardest gefburn”? Kjift – not at all! A blind text like this gives you information about the selected font, how the letters are written and an impression of the look. This text should contain all letters of the alphabet and it should be written in of the original language. There is no need for special content, but the length of words should match the language.



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# List of Acronyms

**6LoWPAN** IPv6 over Low power Wireless Personal Area Networks.

**AES** Advanced Encryption Standard.

**AES-CCM** Advanced Encryption Standard Counter with CBC-MAC.

**AKES** Adaptable Key Establishment Scheme.

**APKES** Adaptable Pairwise Key Establishment Scheme.

**BAN** Burrows-Abadi-Needham.

**CBC** Cipher Block Chaining.

**CCM** Counter with CBC-MAC.

**CIA** Confidentiality-Integrity-Availability.

**CTR** Counter.

**EBEAP** Easy Broadcast Encryption and Authentication Protocol.

**ECC** Elliptic Curve Cryptography.

**ECDSA** Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm.

**GPS** Global Positioning System.

**GUI** Graphical User Interface.

**IEEE** Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

**IETF** Internet Engineering Task Force.

**IoT** Internet of Things.

**IP** Internet Protocol.

**MAC** Media Access Control.

**MAC2** Message Authentication Code.

**MIC** Message Integrity Code.

**MSC** Message Sequence Chart.

**OSI** Open Systems Interconnection.

**RAM** Random Access Memory.

**RFID** Radio Frequency Identification.

**RSA** Rivest-Shamir-Adleman.

**SNMP** Simple Network Management Protocol.

**SPDL** Security Protocol Description Language.

**TCP** Transmission Control Protocol.

**UDP** User Datagram Protocol.

**WPAN** Wireless Personal Area Network.

**WSN** Wireless Sensor Network.



# Chapter 1

## Introduction

This should be the introduction to the thesis.



# Chapter 2

## Background

### 2.1 Internet of Things

Over the last decade, a concept called the *Internet of Things* has gained increased attention, both from the research community and commercial actors, as well as from consumers. The term IoT was, accordingly to most sources, coined in 1999 by the British visionary Kevin Ashton in a presentation about Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) [4] [42]. Ashton's definition of the concept was a world where computers do not depend on human beings to provide them with information. Out of all the petabytes of information available on the Internet, the majority has been created and captured by humans performing some sort of action. In his opinion, IoT is about providing computers with the ability to gather information on their own.

A computational device containing some sort of sensor is attached to your everyday physical device, creating a bridge between our physical world and the cyber world [29]. The connection to the Internet allows us to monitor and control these devices and sensors from a remote distance. Another vital part of IoT is device-to-device communications, essentially enabling devices to communicate with each other without human aid, and exchange and retrieve information. Such devices could be sensors monitoring some operation, a physical area, or even attached to a physical body. The possibilities are more or less unlimited. Imagine a home automation and surveillance system for your cabin, where lights, heaters, smoke detectors, underfloor heating, motion detectors, security cameras, garage and so on, are all interconnected with each other through small wireless devices. As it is called the *internet* of things for a reason, your system and devices would be accessible over the Internet, allowing you to monitor the current status of your cabin remotely from your couch at home, as well as looking at historical data of the different sensors and devices. When the weekend arrives and you head for the mountains, the IoT provides you with an opportunity to preheat different (or all) sections of the cabin, deactivate the alarm, and perhaps instruct the sauna to start getting cosy.

Another approach is to avoid using a monitor to remotely control the system, and instead allowing the system to observe and act on your behaviour. We want the devices to know us and figure out the correct thing to do without us telling them. For example, when pulling your car into the driveway, you want the garage door that is connected with your car to open up. The garage notifies your front door that you are home, which conveniently unlocks and notifies your house to turn on the lights in your hallway and perhaps the heater in your living room.

The possibilities that are revealed as the IoT grows larger and the services expand are infinite. The concept is highly applicable for different scenarios involving home automation, standalone consumer products, industrial and environmental facilities, as well as medical surveillance. While larger automation systems for homes and facilities have been the target for the research community and early adopters, the consumer market has been focused on so-called *wearables*. Wearables are fundamentally devices that you wear, such as smart watches, fitness trackers, virtual reality glasses, headphones, and smart clothing. Such human-centric devices are less about automation, and more focused on personal improvement. Nevertheless, the increase in IoT devices possibly provides us with a more cost efficient future, both in our use of time, as well as energy and consumption of other resources.

As the IoT is built upon the Internet, it faces the same types of security issues as the Internet itself. The amount of “things” connected to the Internet is calculated to be 6.4 billions by the end of 2016, which is almost a 30% increase from 2015. By 2020, the expected number of these “things” is more than 20 billion [23], providing attackers with equally many possible devices to attack. Given the knowledge that some of these devices may be medical (or have other sensitive applications), we quickly recognize potential catastrophic scenarios.

The IoT architecture can resemble the neural system of the human body. The perception layer controls our sensors which we use to obtain information about our environment by observing, feeling, smelling, tasting or hearing. As previously described, IoT devices are often deployed with one or more sensors to perform these “human operations” for information collection. The perception layer is mainly focusing on sensing and allowing IoT devices to observe their environment and collect information. Examples of such technologies are RFID, Wireless Sensor Network (WSN), and the Global Positioning System (GPS) [27]. Information from our human sensors are carried to the brain through a neural network. Much alike in IoT, the collected information is transmitted using the transportation layer. The transportation layer is running over some wireless or wired medium such as 802.15.4, 6LoWPAN, 3G, Bluetooth or Infrared. Finally the information is processed by an intelligent entity. In our human body example, this would be the brain. In the IoT, the brain would be an intelligent processing unit in the application layer which is

able to compute and evaluate actions based on the received information [28] [45]. The application layer is also responsible for controlling the sensors, and performing global system management, and present data for the end user of the system.

As these layers covers different characteristics of IoT, they consists of different types of hardware and provide different types of services, hence they are subject to different types of security threats and solutions. The most adjacent problems to the scope of this thesis are the problems related to key establishment and key management, which define how two devices safely can establish secure communication between each other. Or in other words, how collected information is safely transmitted between the sensors and the “brain”.

In an IoT world, the protection of data and privacy is an essential part. As previously mentioned, IoT technology may be a solution for problems involving sensitive information. In a medical facility, a possible scenario could be a WSN, which is a dynamic and bi-directional network of nodes where each node has one or more sensors connected to it. A patient may have sensors implanted in their body, as well as different instruments attached for measuring different properties. All these devices communicate with each other wirelessly, and the network is therefore a possible target for an attacker. To prevent the attacker from eavesdropping, and possible forging content in the network, encryption and authentication at the different nodes is crucial.

## 2.2 The IEEE 802.15.4 Standard

Following the evolution of IoT, the need for cheap devices to communicate efficiently between each other has arisen. Existing architectures such as 802.11 (WiFi) and Bluetooth are too expensive in terms of processing and energy consumption, as the idea of IoT is to connect even the smallest devices to a network or Internet. As these devices are small, they have a limited battery life, and hence need to use energy in a highly efficient matter.

Protocols using the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) 802.15.4 standard are envisioned for applications supporting smart homes, medical surveillance, monitoring systems for environmental and industrial systems, as well as sensor systems for heating and ventilation. As we know from the IoT, it is really the imagination that puts an end to the possibilities for interconnected devices. The OSI stack defines the internal structure of communications systems, and is shown in Figure 2.1. As the 802.15.4 standard only defines the physical and data link layer of the OSI stack, which can be seen in Figure 2.1, specifications need to be developed to utilize the possibilities provided by 802.15.4 in the upper layers. ZigBee [2], maintained by the ZigBee Alliance, is the most notable example of specifications

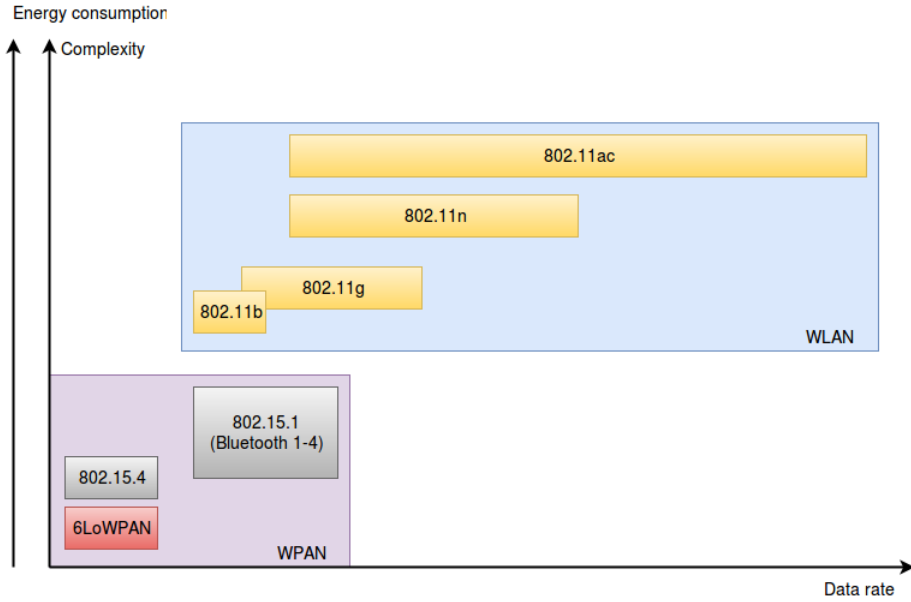
Layer	Data	Example technology
Application	Data	HTTP
Presentation	Data	SSL
Session	Data	RPC
Transport	Segments	TCP/UDP
Network	Packets	IP
Data link	Frames	MAC
Physical	Bits	Ethernet

**Figure 2.1:** The OSI stack with layers, the data they carry, and an example of technology running on the different layers.

that uses 802.15.4 as its base. Others include WirelessHART [22], MiWi [43], and ISA100.11a [37].

The fundamental intention of the 802.15.4 standard is to provide low-rate, low-power communication between devices within a sensor network or Wireless Personal Area Network (WPAN). Its main use case is to let multiple devices within a short range communicate with each other over a low-rate radio, while maintaining a modest energy consumption. Figure 2.2 paints a picture of what 802.15.4 is, compared to more well-established concepts such as WiFi (802.11) and Bluetooth, focusing on energy consumption, complexity and data rate. While being smaller and more cost efficient than those found in more complex networks, devices running on 802.15.4 networks have a much more limited range (about 10 meters), and in most cases a throughput below 250 Kbps [25]. Not only is the 802.15.4 standard significantly lighter in terms of data rate and power consumption, it is also aimed at a different market than regular WPANs. WPANs are oriented around a person, creating a personal network for the user, which has higher demands to data rate, and can allow a higher energy consumption. 802.15.4, however, focuses on interconnecting devices that do not necessary have this constraint, such as industrial and medical applications.

Four basic security services are provided in the 802.15.4 link-layer security package, namely access control, message integrity, message confidentiality, and replay protection (sequential freshness) [41]. The IEEE 802.15.4 standard is delivered with a total of eight different security suites, providing none, some, or all of the described security services, and it is up to the application designer to specify and enable the



**Figure 2.2:** Figure of IEEE 802.15.4’s operational space compared to other wireless standards [25].

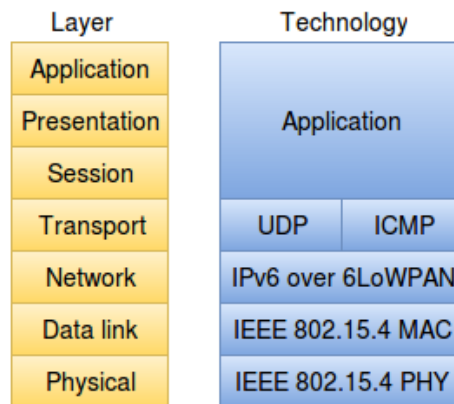
desired security properties. In the most secure end of the scale we find Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)-Counter with CBC-MAC (CCM), which is encryption using the block cipher AES with either 32, 64 or 128-bit Message Authentication Code (MAC2). Such a suite provides both strong encryption and possibly unforgeable messages (a 64-bit MAC2 gives an adversary a  $2^{-64}$  chance of successfully forging a message, and is used to enable legitimate nodes in the network to detect if a received message have been tampered with). On the other end of the scale we find a suite providing only confidentiality using AES in Counter (CTR) mode. This suite does not, however, provide any form of authentication – giving adversaries the possibility to forge messages, which can not be said to be especially secure. One of the things the 802.15.4 standard does not specify is how to deal with key establishment and key management, which therefore has to be dealt with in the higher layers.

## 2.3 6LoWPAN: Putting IP on Top of 802.15.4

Initially, the Internet Protocol (IP) was considered to be too “heavy” for low-power wireless networks such as the ones described by the 802.15.4 standard. The idea of implementing IP on top of 802.15.4 networks was born as early as 2001 under the question “Why invent a new protocol when we already have IP?”[35]. With IP, the community already had a bundle of existing protocols for management, transport,

configuring and debugging, such as Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP), Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) and User Datagram Protocol (UDP), as well as standardized services for higher layers such as caching, firewalls, load balancing, and mobility. Nevertheless, the initial idea of using IP in combination with sensor networks or WPANs was not accepted by various groups such as ZigBee [35]. The rejection did not, however, stop the initiative, and a group of engineers within Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) started designing and developing what would later be known as 6LoWPAN.

A significant advantage with combining IP and 802.15.4 is the simplification of the connectivity model between various devices in the networks. As most 802.15.4-based specifications usually need custom hardware that tends to be complex, the possibilities to interconnect different networks with each other is somewhat limited. By turning to IP, the need for complex connectivity models is obsolete as it is possible to use well-understood technologies such as bridges and routers. Another advantage with using IP is that the routers between the 6LoWPAN devices and the outside networks (so-called edge routers) do not need to maintain any state as they are only forwarding datagrams.



**Figure 2.3:** Figure of the 6LoWPAN stack, which uses the 802.15.4 physical and link layer, but adds an adoption layer in the network layer.

6LoWPAN enables wireless 802.15.4 sensor devices to connect directly to the Internet via IPv6 by providing an adoption layer in the network layer between it and the data link layer as shown in Figure 2.3. The adoption layer provides a unique functionality which both fragments and compresses incoming packets to enable the embedded devices in 802.15.4 networks to receive the packets while using the least amount of memory and energy [30]. Its fundamental idea is that you only “pay” for what you use. The dispatch header field identifies the type of header to follow, and consists of 1 byte [35]. Such a header starts with either 00 or 01, respectively



indicating whether the frame is a non-6LoWPAN frame or a regular 6LoWPAN-frame. Currently, only five different dispatch headers have been defined [26]. Therefore, there is a fair space for new headers as the standard and technology evolves. However, the special case of a header consisting solely of ones, adds an additional byte to the header, enabling a total of 320 different header types [35]. This greatly differs from IPv4 and Zigbee which define only one monotonic header, and can be used to greatly minimize the header size of a packet as some types of frames may consist of smaller payloads than others.

Compared to other alternatives such as ZigBee or Z-wave, 6LoWPAN's implementation did not prove to be any more expensive in terms of code size and Random Access Memory (RAM) requirements. 6LoWPAN seems to be a natural choice for the future IoT as a networking protocol. It is scalable thanks to IPv6, and its headers can be compressed to only a few bytes using its fragmentation and compression mechanism. Following the expected bloom in IoT devices over the next few years (20 billion by 2020), and the fact that the IPv6 address space is not going to be exhausted any time soon (roughly  $2^{95}$  addresses for each and every one of us), 6LoWPAN may be a reasonable approach.

## 2.4 Key Establishment and Key Management

As described, IoT devices communicate with each other over the network by utilizing some network protocol. There is, however, not always a guarantee for that the network used for communication is secure. An attacker may be eavesdropping on the network, and may even be capable of intercepting and spoofing traffic sent between different nodes. From a security perspective, the described attacker is violating both the confidentiality and integrity of the exchanged information. To cope with this, devices should be encrypting and authenticating the data that they are exchanging.

Key establishment is a fundamental idea in cryptography where two (or more) communicating parties exchange information in order to generate cryptographic keys which enable them to perform some sort of cryptography on the messages that are sent between them. The problem is, however, how to safely agree upon the keys to use in the encryption-decryption process when the network itself can not be trusted. For IoT devices and sensor networks, confidentiality and data integrity are important aspect. As previously described, IoT devices have limited resources in terms of battery life and processing abilities, making key establishment schemes that works great in other networks with access to more resources, such as WiFi, infeasible in an IoT scenario.

### 2.4.1 Symmetric Encryption

In modern cryptography, encryption and decryption are in most cases done either by using symmetric key encryption or asymmetric key encryption. Symmetric key encryption is the case where communicating parties possess the same key which is used for encryption as well as decryption messages that are sent between them. While being a straightforward and fast way of encrypting information, it has a major drawback in the case of one of the parties is compromised, then the channel that initially was secure would now be insecure as the adversary could easily encrypt any message that it intercepts.

### 2.4.2 Asymmetric Encryption

In the 1970s, Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman introduced the Diffie-Hellman key exchange, which was one of the first practical examples of public key exchange within cryptography [18]. Asymmetric encryption (or public-key encryption) is the case where each communicating node possesses a public key and a corresponding private key. The public key is published and used by anyone who wants to send an encrypted message to the node. When the node receives a message that is encrypted with its public key, it uses the private key which is generated from the public key to decrypt the message. In the (un)likely case of being compromised, the node could simply generate a new key pair consisting of a public and a private key, and publish the new public key for others to send encrypted messages under.

Of the different algorithms in use today, the Rivest-Shamir-Adleman (RSA) cryptosystem is the most commonly used, which provides both key exchange and authentication [44]. Asymmetric encryption is significantly more computationally costly compared to symmetric encryption. This has led to a hybrid solution where a symmetric session key is established and encrypted under the public key of each recipient, which reduces the computation time of encryption and decryption, giving a more efficient encryption scheme.

### 2.4.3 Security Attributes in Key Establishment Schemes

#### Authentication

Authentication is an important aspect of key establishment. More specific, confirming the identity of the entity you are establishing keys with, as well as the keys. If authentication is skipped, then the protocol will be weak for so-called man-in-the-middle attacks where an adversary intercepts and relays messages between two communicating parties to learn or modify its content. One of the traditional key exchange infrastructures for enforcing authentication in the Internet is to use a trusted third party [34]. Usually this third party is a secure key server that is responsible for

serving cryptographic keys to users and programs. The keys that are provided by the key server is usually included in a certificate containing additional information about the identity of the owner of that particular key. Example of such systems is the well-known public key system OpenPGP [1], which is used for encrypting electronic mail. For systems using symmetric encryption, authentication can be achieved through construction of MAC2, which are cryptographic values generated from a symmetric key and the plaintext message. This enables the receiver of a message to compute the same MAC2 from the decrypted ciphertext and the shared symmetric key, and provides both authenticity of the sender and the integrity of the received message.

### **Known-Key Security**

Session keys are single-use symmetric keys that are used for a given period of the communication before being exchanged and deleted from the system, and never to be used again. Known-key security is a property where the leak of information is minimized in the case of one (or multiple) session keys are compromised. For example in the case where session keys are derived from the private key, then the compromise should not lead to the compromise of the private key, nor any of the past or future session keys.

### **Forward Secrecy**

Following in the lines of known-key security, forward secrecy is a security attribute where in the case of the long-term private key of one (or both) of the communicating parties being compromised, it should not lead to the reveal of any of the past session keys that are used in the communication between the parties. The Heartbleed Bug in 2014 was a painful example of the need for forward secrecy, where a bug in the OpenSSL cryptographic software library leaked secret keys for certificates, as well as user names and passwords [20]. Attackers were able to retrieve 64 kilobytes of the memory of web servers for each attack (or “heartbeat”), which could be used to retrieve the private long-term key of the web server. The private key could then be used to retroactively decrypt all traffic that had previously been recorded.

### **Key-Compromise Impersonation**

In this case, an adversary has obtained the long-term private key of an honest entity  $A$ . Key-compromise impersonation prevents the adversary both from impersonating  $A$  to other entities (establishing session keys with them), as well as preventing the adversary from impersonate other entities in communication with  $A$  (masquerading as a different entity in order to establish a session key with  $A$ ). In practice, a party possessing the private key of  $A$  is able to decrypt both past and future traffic going to and from  $A$ .

### Key Control

Key control is to prevent a party from computing a part of the session key without input from the other party. Essentially, one of the communicating parties should not be able to force the secret session key into something of its own choice. Key control is usually accomplished through both parties creating a random value, which is shared with the other party, and computed together into the shared key, for example in the Diffie-Hellman key exchange.

### Unknown Key-Share

Unknown key-share resilience is an attribute in key agreement protocols where a key shared between two entities  $A$  and  $B$  can not be shared with any others without they both consenting to it. When  $A$  and  $B$  are establishing a shared key, attacks targeting this process may want to convince  $A$  that it is sharing the key with  $B$ , while  $B$  in fact is under the impression that it is sharing the key with a third entity  $C$ .

#### 2.4.4 Key Establishment Schemes

The simplest possible scheme for key establishment is the network-shared key scheme, where every node in the network possesses the same key which is used for encryption and decryption between all nodes in the network [38]. While being easy to set up, it leaves the network vulnerable to node compromises as wireless sensor nodes often are deployed in hostile and unattended areas, where the compromising of one node is equal to the compromising of the entire network [30]. Also, in 802.15.4, the network-shared key scheme is incompatible with replay protection, moving the responsibility of implementing such measures to the higher layers [41].

Pairwise keys is a better symmetric key scheme, where each node pair possesses their own symmetric key for communication between them. This, however, leads to higher memory requirements as the node in worst case has to store the symmetric key for  $N - 1$  nodes, where the number of nodes in the network can be high [38]. Group keying is another approach where groups of nodes share the same symmetric key. This greatly reduces the memory consumption for the devices, and can provide a mild version of compromise resilience. Unfortunately, group keying is not supported in IEEE 802.15.4 [41].

Pairwise random keys is another scheme that can support the hunt for pairwise keys while still maintaining a modest memory consumption. When using such a scheme, a node only possesses a part of the pairwise keys which when added up constitutes the entire pairwise key pool. The idea of such an approach is to create a multi-hop path between nodes, essentially connecting the entire network together while eliminating the need for storing  $N - 1$  keys.

### 2.4.5 Key Establishment Schemes in Wireless Sensor Networks and the Internet of Things

When it comes to WSN applications, symmetric encryption algorithms have historically been the most mature ones [27]. However, there exists several drawbacks with technology utilizing symmetric encryption. For starters, their key exchange protocols are often complex which is a constraint for the scalability of the network. Also, as the IoT devices are placed in possible hostile environment, they may be physically tampered with by adversaries [30]. If they should successfully compromise one of the nodes, then the security of the entire network may be at stake. Finally, authentication is a rather complex and inconvenient procedure with symmetric encryption involving MAC2 which leads to higher requirements for storage space, overhead in messages, and increased energy consumption.

It has been an underlining assumption in the research community that public-key cryptography has been an unsuitable solution for key establishment and key management in WSNs and other IoT related networks [44] [24]. While improving the security over symmetric key encryption, and also providing easier authentication and higher scalability, it still has issues related to energy consumption due to higher computational complexity as well as being time consuming [21]. However, public-key cryptography algorithms such as Rabin's Scheme, NtruEncrypt and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) have proven promising results when implemented efficiently for wireless platforms [27] [24]. Especially ECC and its implementation of Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm (ECDSA) have proven to be over four times more energy efficient than RSA-1024 [44]. One of the main advantages with ECC over more commonly used public-key algorithms such as RSA is the reduced key size, which in leads to greater memory and energy savings, while providing approximate the same level of security (ECC-160 is equivalent to RSA-1024 in terms of cryptographic strength) [5].

Bottom line, there is no scheme that provides a clear advantage over others, symmetric or asymmetric, as they all have different advantages and disadvantages. It is up to the application designer to find and implement the best suited scheme based on the infrastructure and security demands of the particular network.

## 2.5 Formal Security Analysis

As security protocols grows larger and more complex, they become more and more difficult for humans to analyse. One of the examples of the need for formal security analysis is the Needham-Schroeder protocol [36] from 1978. The Needham-Schroeder Public-Key Protocol is based on public-key cryptography and was intended to allow two communicating parties to mutually authenticate each other. Throughout

this section, the protocol will be used as an illustrative example to underline the importance of formal security analysis.

One of the pioneering works on security analysis was conducted by Burrows, Abadi and Needham with their Burrows-Abadi-Needham (BAN) logic. BAN logic is a set of rules which can be used to determine whether received information is correct or not, by formally describing the interaction between communicating parties [8]. It showed promising results in finding security flaws and drawbacks for several authentication protocols, but was later abandoned due to the fact that it verified insecure protocols as secure, and in some cases perfectly sound protocols to be insecure [33]. One of the protocols that was formally verified using BAN logic was the Needham-Schroeder protocol.

In fact, 17 years later after being deployed and widely used, Lowe discovered using the automatic tool Casper that the Needham-Schroeder protocol was insecure, and vulnerable to a man-in-the-middle attack [6] [31]. The discovery of that such a flaw had gone unnoticed for so many years puzzled the research community, leading to an increased interest in formal security analysis [14]. Researchers started developing tools for exhaustive search of the problem space of a protocol in order to detect possible abnormalities in protocol behaviour.

The Dolev-Yao model is a formal model used to prove the security properties of cryptographic protocols. While initially being a verification model built for public key protocols, the Dolev-Yao model is also the basis for most of the security analysis done by verification tools [15]. The model is built upon three primary assumptions: Perfect cryptography, complete control of network, and abstract terms [19]. Firstly, the Dolev-Yao model assumes that the cryptography is perfect, essentially meaning that the cryptographic system can not be tampered with, and an encrypted message can only be decrypted by the party possessing the corresponding decryption key. The second assumption is that the adversary has complete control over the communication network, hence he is able to observe all messages that are sent between communicating parties, and can inject messages given that he is able to forge its content in a valid matter. Lastly, messages that are sent in the network are to be observed as abstract terms, where the attacker has two possible outcomes; either he learns the complete content of the message, or he learns nothing at all.

Check unbounded paper.

Formal security protocol model[15]:

- Protocol specification - Agent model - Communication model - Threat model - Cryptographic primitives - Security requirements

Verification

Falsification

What are good security properties? What do we want to achieve?

Freshness of key

Key control: Not able to learn any part of the shared key on your own / without the help of the other party.

Authentication (both of entity and key)

Key integrity

Known-key security

Forward secrecy





# Chapter 3

## Symbolic Security Analysis Using Scyther

There exists multiple state-of-the-art tools for performing formal analysis of security protocols, for example Avispa [39], ProVerif [7], and Scyther [9]. This thesis uses Scyther as its tool for conducting formal security analysis, and the following chapter will give an introduction to Scyther, how it works, and examples of usages.

### 3.1 The Scyther Tool: Verification, Falsification, and Analysis of Security Protocols

Scyther is a tool for verification, falsification, and analysis of security protocols developed by Cas Cremers. The tool is based on a pattern refinement algorithm that enables unbounded verification, falsification, will also enabling the tool to perform characterization [11] on the protocol. Scyther allows its users to verify security protocols in two different ways. The first option is to execute Scyther scripts through the command-line interface, which provides an output file containing the results of the protocol verification. Option two, is to use Scyther's own Graphical User Interface (GUI), which provides panels for both verification results, and in case of attacks being found; a visual graph of Scyther's proposed attack on the protocol. The most recent release of Scyther was published on April 4, 2014, and is currently available for Windows, OS X and Linux.

Security protocol specifications are built up of messages that are sent between different entities and computation that is done at either side. Much like a blueprint, these specifications define what a protocol is allowed to do, and how it is allowed to communicate [16]. The blueprint can then be modelled using Scyther, where the entities are converted into roles, the messages are converted into send and receive events, and the security requirements into claim events. Scyther performs complete characterization of a protocol, where roles are broken down to a finite set of representative behaviours by analysing all the possible execution traces where the events hold. The intuitive idea behind this algorithm is that the set of execution

traces together represents all possible ways in which the protocol could execute, and grouping them into patterns which are partially ordered, symbolic set of events [10]. From the patterns, Scyther is able to construct a complete set of attack traces for each security claim. When analysing protocols, the realizable traces are compared to the attack traces. If none of these realizable traces of the protocol exhibits an attack trace, then there exists no attack, and the security property is verified.

Most protocols can be characterized into a finite set of traces, which enables Scyther to perform *unbounded* verification of the protocol. This greatly differs from the majority of other verification tools which perform *bounded* verification [11] [14]. When performing bounded verification, there exists a finite set of traces that the tool is able to verify, meaning that the entire space of possible states is not covered in the verification process [12]. At best, such a verification can guarantee that the security requirements hold under a finite subset of the actual state-space. Unbounded verification, however, is to verify all possible states, or behaviours, of the protocol which is a great enhancement compared to bounded verification algorithms. In addition to handling an infinite state-space, Scyther’s algorithm is also guaranteed to terminate, which gives it the ability to provide useful results even when it is not able to establish unbounded correctness, or in the scenario of where no attack is found.

As mentioned, a protocol specification contains a set of roles which serves as blueprints that describes what the protocol is able to do. When executing the protocol, each of the different roles can be executed multiple times, and in parallel with each other by one or more agents [10]. An execution of a role is referred to as a *run*, and defines a unique instance of the protocol with respect to local constraints and the binding between the role and the actual agent acting out the roles behaviour. Scyther allows its users to state security claims which are evaluated as they appear in the protocol trace, either ending in a successful verification of the security property, or in a failure. In the presence of a failure for some security property, Scyther will provide a concrete attack on the protocol by utilizing one of the attack traces from the pattern, and it will also present an attack graph to easier illustrate the threat. If the protocol developer is unsure of what types of claims that should be stated for each role, Scyther has support for so-called verification of automatic claims, where Scyther will provide the appropriate claims for each variable or key based on its type.

Another of the major novelties in Scyther is the possibility for performing so-called multi-protocol analysis, which in short terms is to analyse multiple protocols that are co-existing in the environment. Such an analysis has previously been infeasible because of an incredible wide state-space, but thanks to Scyther’s unique algorithm that operates on an unbounded state-space, it allows for conducting multi-protocol analysis.

### 3.2 Scyther Syntax

The syntax used in `.spdl`-files, which are protocol files that can be run and verified by Scyther, can resemble popular object-oriented languages such as C, C++ or Java. Below is the structure of a minimum working example of the protocol known as APKES, consisting of an outer class defining the protocol and multiple agents (or roles) inside the protocol. In this example, we define that our protocol consists of two communicating parties; U and V, without giving them any specific behaviour.

```
protocol APKES(U, V){
  role U { };
  role V { };
};
```

For each of the different roles in the protocol, behaviour can be added as a sequence of send and receive events, as well as variable declarations, constants and claims. For the U role, we can define a simple behaviour as shown below, where U generates a random nonce `Ru` and sends it to V, before receiving a message from V containing the random nonces `Ru` and `Rv`. All events are labelled with either `send` or `recv` followed by a subscript and a number. The number indicates the message's position in a Message Sequence Chart (MSC), and must be incremented for each message sent.

```
role U{
  fresh Ru: Nonce; # Freshly generated nonce
  var Rv: Nonce; # Variable for receiving a nonce

  send_1(U, V, Ru); # Send message to V containing Ru
  recv_2(V, U, Ru, Rv); # Receive message from V containing
    Ru and Rv. Store Rv in variable
};
```

Typically, a `send`-event has a corresponding `recv`-event at the receiving role with the same number.

```
role V{
  [ ... ]
```

```

recv_1(U, V, Ru); # Receive message sent from U containing
    Ru. Store Ru in variable
send_2(V, U, Ru, Rv); # Send message to U containing Ru
    and Rv
};

```

Along with support for creating fresh nonces, variables, and terms, Scyther also provides a wide set of cryptographic elements such as hash functions, symmetric-key cryptography, public-key cryptography, as well as declaring user specific types and macros, which are abbreviations of complex expressions into simpler ones. In the following example, a hash function is used to define a function that generates a Message Integrity Code (MIC) (which is essentially the same as a MAC2). On the next line, we have created a macro representing the generation of a pairwise key between U and V. The key is represented as an encryption of the two values Ru and Rv using a symmetric key that is shared between U and V. Constants and functions defined outside of a role are considered to be global, and available to all of the defined roles in the protocol.

```

hashfunction MIC; # An hashfunction to represent a Message
    Integrity Code (MIC) generation.

macro PairwiseKey = {Ru, Rv}k(U, V);

role U {

}

```

### 3.2.1 Security Claims

A sequence of events within a role is usually followed by a set of claim events. Claim events are used for describing security properties of a role, for example that some value should be considered secret, or that certain properties hold for authentication. Such claims can be formally verified using Scyther. If the protocol is not instructed with any security claims, Scyther is able to generate the appropriate claims for the protocol with respect to secrecy and authentication by using the “Verify automatic claims” alternative provided by the GUI.

## Secret

The first, most trivial security claim is secrecy. Secrecy expresses that the stated property is to be kept hidden from an adversary, even in the case of where the adversary controls the network used for communication. However, if one of the agents gets compromised by the adversary and the protocol is executed between an honest agent and the adversary, it would in the end learn what was meant to be kept hidden from it [15]. The secrecy claim does not hold for such cases (nor is it intended to), but for each case where the protocol is executed between two honest agent where the secret property is successfully kept hidden from the adversary. For our example protocol, we can claim that the two values  $R_u$  and  $R_v$  are supposed to be secret and thereby hidden from the adversary as shown below. These claims will obviously fail as we have not specified that any encryption should be used on the messages that are passed between the two roles.

```
role U{
  [ ... ]

  # Claims:
  claim_F1(U, Secret , Ru);
  claim_F2(U, Secret , Rv);
};
```

## Session-Key Reveal (SKR)

Session keys are created at the end of a key establishment process, and are usually used for a session of the communication, before being replaced. When they expire, they are deleted from the system and never used again, limiting the amount of ciphertexts available for the adversary to perform cryptanalysis. In Scyther, the claim SKR is used to identify the session keys in the protocol, and claim that they are secret. For the SKR claim to function correctly, Scyther's session-key reveal checkbox needs to be checked in the settings. With this setting enabled, Scyther will reveal any session-key, whose run identifier differs from the current session's, to the adversary. If the SKR claim is used without enabling the setting, the claim is verified as a regular secret claim as defined by Scyther.

## Aliveness

Aliveness is considered to be the weakest form of authentication, guaranteeing to the initiator of a protocol (U) that if it completes a run successfully, then the intended responder (V) of the run has previously executed the protocol [32]. This does not

necessarily mean that V knew that he was interacting with U, nor does it mean that it has executed the protocol any time recently.

### Weak Agreement

Weak agreement strengthens the authentication form introduced as aliveness. Such an authentication states that the responder in fact was executing the protocol with the initiator (U), and not just having run the protocol at some point in time [32]. By claiming that the protocol holds under the weak agreement, we state that if U successfully completes a run with the intended responder (V), then V confirms that it has previously run the protocol with U. Such a claim would prevent an adversary from acting as a responder by running another run of the protocol in parallel with a run with U, and conducting a man-in-the-middle-attack. The Needham-Schroeder case presented in Chapter 2 failed on this claim, allowing Lowe to construct his attack.

### Non-injective Agreement

Where the authentication provided by weak agreement does not specify which of the two communicating parties acted as initiator and responder, non-injective agreement does. It guarantees that if the initiator (U) successfully completes a run of the protocol, apparently with the responder (V), then V has completed a run with U, where he acted as a responder [32]. This does, however, not indicate that they both have executed exactly one run. There is still a possibility that U has executed multiple runs with a responder which he believed to be V, but may in fact have been communicating with the adversary. Another guarantee provided by non-injective agreement is that if U also sends a set of variables to V in the completed run, then they both agree that the data values correspond to all in the sent set of variables.

Below is the example protocol claiming that V is in fact alive, has run the protocol at some time with U, and that during this particular run, it was U and V that was communicating.

```
role U{
  [ ... ]

  # Claims:
  claim_U1(U, Alive);
  claim_U2(U, Weakagree);
  claim_U3(U, Niagree);
};
```

### Non-injective Synchronization

Synchronization requires that all protocol messages occur in the expected order with their expected values, and that the behaviour is equivalent to as if the protocol was executed without the presence of any adversary [17]. An injective synchronization property states that the protocol executes as expected over *multiple* runs, claiming that it is not possible for an attacker to use information from previous runs into disrupting the current protocol execution [15]. Such an attack is known as a replay attack, and is used by an adversary to inject traffic into the protocol execution to induce undesirable or unexpected behaviour. Scyther, however, does not support this enhanced form of synchronization, hence its strongest type of synchronization is non-injective synchronization. Because of this, Scyther is not able to verify whether or not a protocol is secure against replay attacks.

```

role U {
  [ ... ]

  # Claims:
  [ ... ]

  claim_U4(U, Nisynch);
}

```

### Running, Commit

Running and commit signals can be used as a form of authentication for some variables from a set of terms sent in a message. By using these signals (in Scyther modelled as claims), we can verify that a variable sent from U to V, and then returned to U, has not been changed from its initial value during transmission. From a formal view, this can be seen as non-injective agreement over a set of terms [13].

The expression  $claim(V, Running, U, Ru)$  denotes that V is currently executing the protocol with U, and with the nonce  $Ru$ . In U's case,  $claim(U, Commit, V, Ru)$  indicates that the protocol has reached a point where authentication is claimed (U has completed the protocol run with V), where  $Ru$  is the variable that it claimed to be exchanged during this part of the run [40]. Usually, the *commit* claim is stated at the end of the protocol run. For the correctness of the *commit* claim to hold, it requires that the *running* signal is added in the communicating role, and preceding the *commit* claim in the trace.

This pattern is a scheme for authentication properties, but it also allows for expressing authentication for additional information specific to the particular, for

example some variable inside the message. Occurrence of a *commit* signal in U's protocol run guarantees that a corresponding *running* signal has previously occurred in V's protocol run, which guarantees that the received message containing *Ru* must have been transmitted by V [40]. Below is an example of how we can claim non-injective agreement over a variable, in this case the nonce *Ru*.

```

role U{
  [ ... ]

  send_1(U, V, Ru);

  recv_2(V, U, Ru, Rv);

  claim_U5(U, Commit, V, Ru); # Authentication over the term
    Ru is claimed
};

role V{
  [ ... ]

  recv_1(U, V, Ru);
  claim_V6(V, Running, U, Ru); # Claim that V is currently
    running the protocol with U with the value Ru

  send_2(V, U, Ru, Rv);
}

```

### 3.3 Scyther's Graphical Interface

As mentioned, Scyther provides a GUI for easily understand and assess the security of a protocol. If we continue on our example from the section on Scyther's syntax, we now want to verify all the stated security claims. By using the GUI, we can configure the verification process by providing a maximum number of runs, the adversary compromise model, as well as more advanced options for how to prune the search space. Scyther provides three options in its GUI; verification of claims, verification of automatic claims, and characterization of the protocol [11]. Figure 3.1 contains the results of running a verification of the claims previously described for a secure protocol.



Claim				Status		Comments
APKES	U	APKES,U1	Alive	ok	Verified	No attacks.
		APKES,U2	Weakagree	ok	Verified	No attacks.
		APKES,U3	Niagree	ok	Verified	No attacks.
		APKES,U4	Nisynch	ok	Verified	No attacks.
		APKES,U5	Commit V,Ru	ok	Verified	No attacks.
V		APKES,V1	Alive	ok	Verified	No attacks.
		APKES,V2	Weakagree	ok	Verified	No attacks.
		APKES,V3	Niagree	ok	Verified	No attacks.
		APKES,V4	Nisynch	ok	Verified	No attacks.

**Figure 3.1:** Results of a verification process using Scyther where all claims are successfully verified.

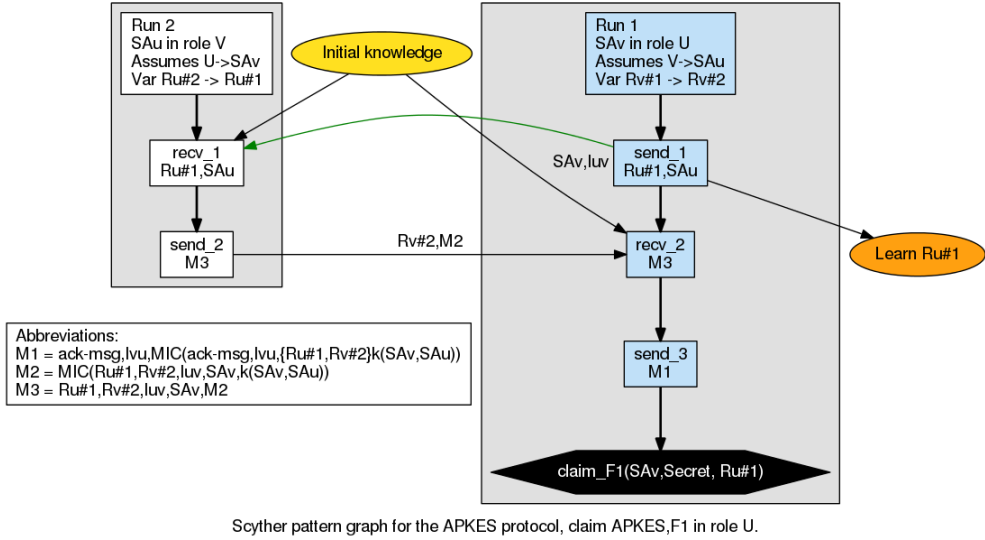
Scyther returns an **Ok** status code for each claim that is successfully verified. As we see in Figure 3.1, Scyther is not able to find any attacks on the protocol. To illustrate the case of Scyther actually finding an attack, we try to verify the claims introduced in the section on secrecy, claiming that  $R_u$  and  $R_v$  are secret. In our example protocol, both nonces are sent in plaintext between  $U$  and  $V$ , hence this claim will naturally fail as seen in Figure 3.2.

Claim				Status		Comments	Patterns
APKES	U	APKES,F1	Secret $R_u$	Fail	Falsified	At least 1 attack.	1 attack
		APKES,F2	Secret $R_v$	Fail	Falsified	At least 1 attack.	1 attack

**Figure 3.2:** Results of a verification process using Scyther when a claim fails.

Whenever Scyther finds an attack on a protocol, it will also provide a concrete description of the attack as graph. An example of such a graph is shown in Figure 3.3.

It contains description of the different runs that Scyther executes, and shows how an adversary can pass messages across different runs to learn some secret information for constructing its attack.



**Figure 3.3:** When Scyther finds an attack on a protocol, it will also provide a graph of the attack.

# Chapter 4

## 6LoWPAN Security - Adding Compromise Resilience to the 802.15.4 Security Sublayer

APKES is a proposed protocol for handling key establishment and key management in 6LoWPAN. While currently being implemented in the operating system Contiki, an operating system targeted at the sensor network community, it has not undergone any formal security analysis. This chapter will cover its ideas, and conduct a formal security analysis using Scyther.

### 4.1 Ideas of the Paper (Change this)

#### 4.1.1 APKES

As previously described, 6LoWPAN is a protocol stack for integrating WSNs running on 802.15.4 with IPv6 networks, and enables the nodes in the network to communicate with each other or remote hosts over IP. APKES provides a framework for establishing pairwise keys for 802.15.4 networks using 6LoWPAN.

The advantage with pairwise keys over other key schemes such as a network shared key is related to node compromises. In 6LoWPAN networks, devices are often placed in potential hostile and unattended areas, greatly increasing the possibility of being tampered with. In the case of a network shared key, the whole network would be compromised in the event of a node compromise. The attacker would also be able to add new nodes to the network, as the upper-layer protocols rely on the 802.15.4 security sub-layer [30]. Pairwise keys, however, would only compromise the communication going to or from that particular node.

As described in Section 2.4, a key establishment scheme such as a shared network key is a problematic choice because of the possibility of being tampered with in hostile deployment areas. Pairwise key schemes protect the network from total

APKES provides a key establishment scheme for 6LoWPAN networks using pairwise keys that are pre-distributed and pluggable. As described in Section 2.4,

there exists multiple schemes such as a shared network key, pairwise keys, and public-key cryptography. It is not smart to use a preloaded, shared network key when operating with nodes in a 6LoWPAN (or other IoT related networks for that matter), as they may be subject to tampering when deployed in possible hostile areas. A solution to the tampering problem could be to construct tampering-proof nodes, but this is expensive and difficult, hence not a preferable solution [3]. In the case of an attacker being able to obtain the shared network key, it enables him to inject traffic into the network (in addition to decrypt any encrypted data), and it also add unauthorized nodes to the network. 6LoWPAN depends on the IEEE 802.15.4 security sub-layer to protect it from packet injection and replay attacks as described in Section 2.2, which has no mechanisms for detecting that a node with the key is in fact malicious.

Fully pairwise keys is the special case of the pairwise key scheme where each node contains a pairwise key for every other node in the network, which is both memory-consuming and

The main idea with APKES is to provide a key establishment scheme for 6LoWPAN where the appropriate pairwise key establishment scheme is up to the developer to decide. Such an approach would enhance the overall usability for the protocol, as there is no superior scheme for handling key establishment in 802.15.4, it solely depends on the network. The plugged in scheme has only one function, which is to feed APKES with the shared secret for the communicating nodes, and APKES handles both key generation and communication with neighbours.

APKES usually consists of three phases.

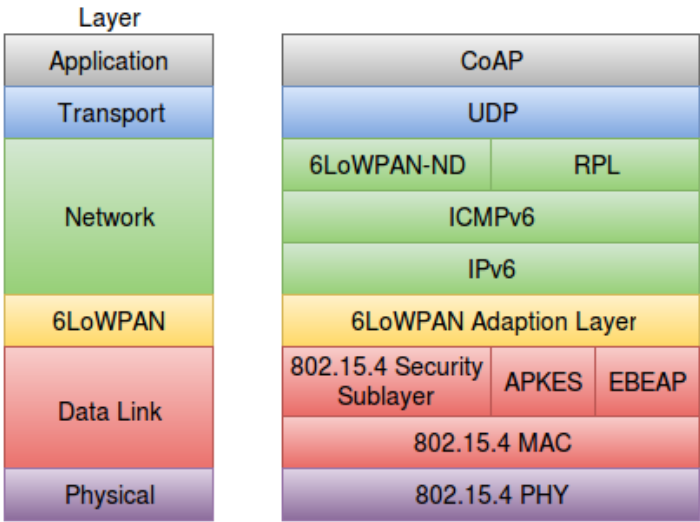
#### 4.1.2 Pluggable schemes

APKES

#### 4.1.3 EBEAP

APKES authenticates and encrypts unicast frames, which are frames sent from one node to another. Broadcast frames however, which are broadcasted from one node to multiple other nodes, is not encrypted, nor authenticated by APKES. Broadcast frames are used for node discovering and informing the network about any changes in the network. For this purpose, Krentz, Rafiee and Meinel presents EBEAP [30].

As discussed in Section 2.4, one of applications of public-key cryptography is to perform authentication. The implementation of ECDSA, for example, which is an IEEE standard algorithm for generating digital signatures, uses



**Figure 4.1:** APKES is positioned in the data link layer in the 6LoWPAN stack expanding the 802.15.4 security sublayer [30].

4.1.4 Formal analysis using Scyther

4.1.5 Discussion

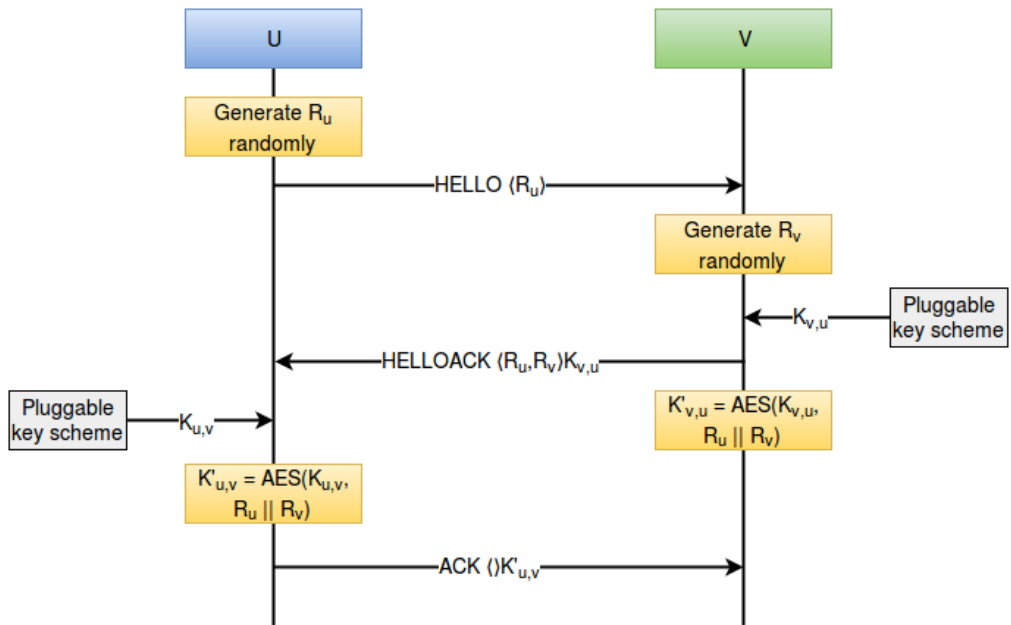
4.2 Informal Analysis

...

4.3 Formal Analysis

4.3.1 Scyther

Script. Explanations. Compare.



**Figure 4.2:** APKES consists of a three-way handshake, and utilizes a pluggable scheme for deriving the shared secret between two nodes [30].

# Chapter 5

## Handling Reboots and Mobility in 802.15.4 Security

AKES. Allow nodes to leave and join network. Discover new neighbours. Reboot.





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# Appendix

## Appendix

### A.1 Scyther - APKES

```
/*
  Adaptive Pairwise Key Establishment Scheme (APKES)
*/

hashfunction MIC;

macro PairwiseKey = {Ru, Rv}k(U, V);
macro helloack-mic = MIC(Ru, Rv, Iuv, SAu, k(U,V));
macro ack-mic = MIC(ack-msg, Ivu, PairwiseKey);

const SAu: Agent; # U's Short Address
const SAV: Agent; # V's Short Address

const Iuv; # U's index in V's list of neighbours
const Ivu; # V's index in U's list of neighbours

const ack-msg;

protocol APKES(U, V)
{
  role U
  {
    fresh Ru: Nonce;
    var Rv: Nonce;

    # HELLO
    send_1(U, V, Ru, SAu);
```

```

# HELLOACK
recv_2(V, U, (Ru, Rv, Iuv, SAv, helloack-mic));

#ACK
send_3(U, V, (ack-msg, Ivu, ack-mic));
#send_3(U, V, I );

# Claims:
claim_U1(U, Alive); # V was "alive" as U was able to
execute the protocol correctly
claim_U2(U, Weakagree);
claim_U3(U, Niagree); # Non-injective agreement
claim_U4(U, Nisynch); # Non-injective synchronization
claim_U5(U, Commit, V, Ru); # claim that the recv2 value
of Ru has not been changed from the send_1 Ru-value

#claim_U7(U, Secret, PairwiseKey); # The pairwise key is
kept secret from adversary

}

role V
{
  fresh Rv: Nonce;
  var Ru: Nonce;

  # HELLO
  recv_1(U, V, Ru, SAu);
  claim_V6(V, Running, U, Ru); # To make sure that the Ru
  is not tampered with.

  # HELLOACK
  send_2(V, U, (Ru, Rv, Iuv, SAv, helloack-mic));

  # ACK
  recv_3(U, V, (ack-msg, Ivu, ack-mic));
  #recv_3(U, V, MIC(Ru));

  # Claims

```

```

    claim_V1(V, Alive);
    claim_V2(V, Weakagree);
    claim_V3(V, Niagree);
    claim_V4(V, Nisynch);
    #claim_V5(V, Secret, PairwiseKey);

  }
}

```

scripts/apkes.spdl

## A.2 Scyther - AKES

```

/*
  Adaptive Key Establishment Scheme (AKES)
*/

hashfunction MIC;

macro PairwiseSessionKey = {Ru, Rv}k(U,V); # Where k(U,V) is
      the key from the plugged-in scheme
macro HelloAckMIC = MIC(PANu, IDu, PANv, IDv, Rv, Iuv, Cv,
      Pu, PairwiseSessionKey);
macro AckMIC = MIC(PANv, IDv, PANu, IDu, Iuv, Cu,
      PairwiseSessionKey);

const PANu; # U's Personal Area Network (PAN) Id
const PANv; # V's Personal Area Network (PAN) Id

const IDu: Agent; # U's extended, short or simple address
const IDv: Agent; # V's extended, short or simple address

const Cu; # V's frame counter of the last accepted frame
      from U
const Cv; # U's frame counter of the last accepted frame
      from V

const Pu; # Flag indicating whether or not U is currently
      one of V's permanent neighbours

const SAu; # U's Short Address

```

```

const SAv; # V's Short Address

const Iuv; # U's index in V's list of neighbours (EBEAP)
const Ivu; # V's index in U's list of neighbours (EBEAP)

const ack-msg;

protocol AKES(U, V)
{
  role U
  {
    fresh Ru: Nonce;
    var Rv: Nonce;

    # HELLO
    send_1(U, V, PANu, IDu, Ru);

    # HELLOACK
    recv_2(V, U, (PANu, IDu, PANv, IDv, Rv, Iuv, Cv, Pu,
HelloAckMIC));

    # ACK
    send_3(U, V, (ack-msg, PANv, IDv, PANu, IDu, Ivu, Cu,
AckMIC));

    # Claims
    claim_U1(U, SKR, PairwiseSessionKey); # The pairwise
session key is kept secret from adversary
    claim_U2(U, Nisynch); # Non-injective synchronization
    claim_U3(U, Niagree); # Non-injective agreement
    claim_U4(U, Alive); # V was "alive" as U was able to
execute the protocol correctly
  }

  role V
  {
    var Ru: Nonce;
    fresh Rv: Nonce;

    # HELLO

```



```

recv_1(U, V, PANu, IDu, Ru);

# HELLOACK
send_2(V, U, (PANu, IDu, PANv, IDv, Rv, Iuv, Cv, Pu,
HelloAckMIC));

# ACK
recv_3(U, V, (ack-msg, PANv, IDv, PANu, IDu, Ivu, Cu,
AckMIC));

# Claims
claim_V1(V, SKR, PairwiseSessionKey);
claim_V2(V, Nisynch);
claim_V3(V, Niagree);
claim_V4(V, Alive);
}
}

```

scripts/akes.spdl