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## Exercise 2

snr-ssi-130911.pdf

**EXERCISE NO. 2** **#MARKS: 10**

The figure shows an identification protocol that allows a mobile station (MS) to identify itself w.r.t. an access point (AP) where  $c$  is a 128-bit random challenge,  $r$  is the corresponding response, and  $v$  is 24-bit random initialization vector.

M1	MS → AP:	REQ
M2	AP → MS:	$c$
M3	MS → AP:	$v, r$
M4	AP → MS:	YES NO

Upon receiving message M2 carrying a challenge  $c$  from AP, MS generates an initialization vector  $v$  at random, computes the response  $r$  by encrypting  $c, r = \text{SPRG}(k \| v)_{128} \oplus c$ , where  $\text{SPRG}(k \| v)_{128}$  is a 128-bit sequence generated by a secure pseudo-random generator SPRG. The generator is seeded by  $k \| v$ , where  $k$  is a long-term cryptographic key secretly shared by AP and MS.

Upon receiving the response  $r$  from MS in message M3, AP computes  $r' = \text{SPRG}(k \| v)_{128} \oplus c$ , and returns  $r' == r$  to the user.

A. Does this protocol guarantee identification? Can a passive adversary impersonate a mobile station?

Let us suppose now that AP sends MS the initialization vector  $v$  together with the challenge  $c$  in message M2 which becomes  $\langle c, v \rangle$  ( $v$  in M3 is not necessary anymore)

B. Define a dictionary attack against this variant of the protocol and evaluate the size in bytes of the dictionary.<sup>1</sup>

September  
14th, 2013

- A. This protocol guarantee identification because the challenge is encrypted by XORing it with a random number seeded with  $k$ , that is a long-term shared secret key between the AP and the MS. Only the MS knows  $k$ , so only that MS can generate such a random number.
- If an adversary wants to impersonate the MS, it has to guess the  $k$  shared key in order to reply to the challenge correctly.
- The adversary cannot reply M3 because the AP changes its challenge  $c$  at every protocol iteration (the probability of re-using the same  $c$  key value is very low).
- $v$  though is relatively slow.
- The only weakness is on the shared secret key  $k$ .
- $z = \text{SPRG}(k \| v)$  is called **keystream**.

$$r = z \oplus c$$

- a. Eavesdropping
  - i. All of them are public quantities, not related to each other.
  - ii.  $z$  can be calculated by doing  $z = r \oplus c$
- b. The adversary can start a new protocol instance

This can be done because  $v$  is always the same: it doesn't need to discover  $k$ , it just uses  $z$ .

- i. It receives  $c'$  as a challenge
- ii. It can send  $v$  and  $r' = z \oplus c'$ , with a previously spoofed  $z$ .

This protocol was used by WEP.

- B. The adversary can still calculate  $z$ , but the AP could use another initialization vector  $v$ , so the previous attack could not be performed anymore.
- The adversary could build a dictionary of  $(v, z)$  pairs.
- If the AP re-uses a  $v$ , the adversary would have a corresponding  $z$ .

$v$  are on 24-bits, so they're not so much: the dictionary would be  $2^{24}$  entries  $\cdot \frac{128 \text{ bits for each keystream}}{8 \frac{\text{bits}}{\text{Byte}}} = 2^{24} \cdot 2^4 = 2^{28} = 256 \text{ MB}$

If  $v$  is generated by means of a counter, everytime the AP is rebooted, the  $v$  is generated from 0, and so on.

Otherwise,  $2^{24}$  IVs is not a large number of them.