Wi-Fi Security: Threats ⟷ Solutions

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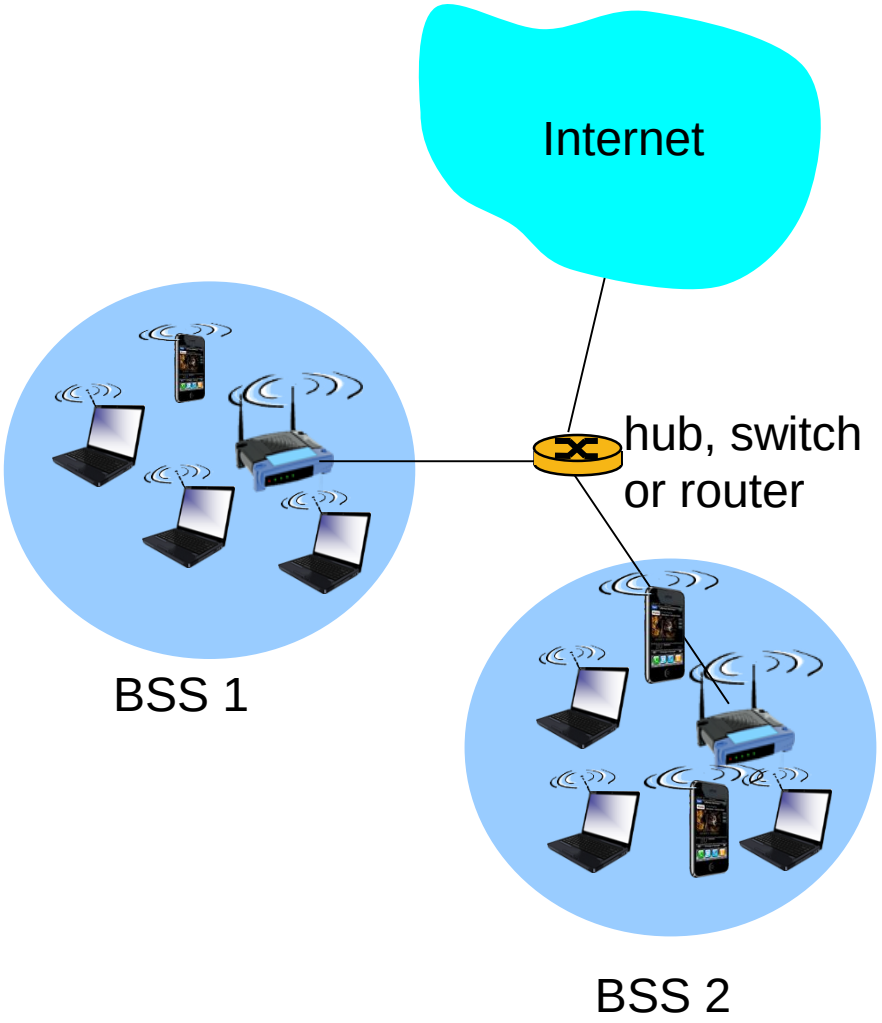
Outline

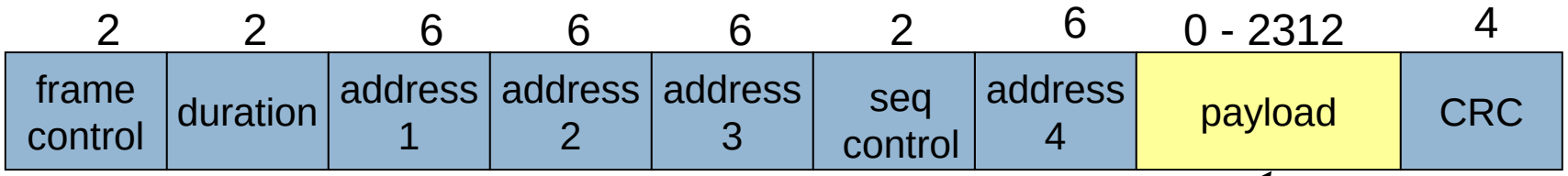
- Wi-Fi Architecture
- Why Wi-Fi Security is important?
- Wi-Fi Security Threats
- Wi-Fi Security Standards
- Security Vulnerabilities of WPA2
- What WPA3 offers?
- Wi-Fi Security: Recommendations

802.11 LAN (Wi-Fi) Architecture



- Basic Service Set (BSS) (aka "cell")
  - Building block of IEEE 802.11 WLAN
  - In infrastructure mode, BSS contains:
    - Wireless clients
    - Access Point (AP)

Legacy 802.11 (Wi-Fi) Data Packet

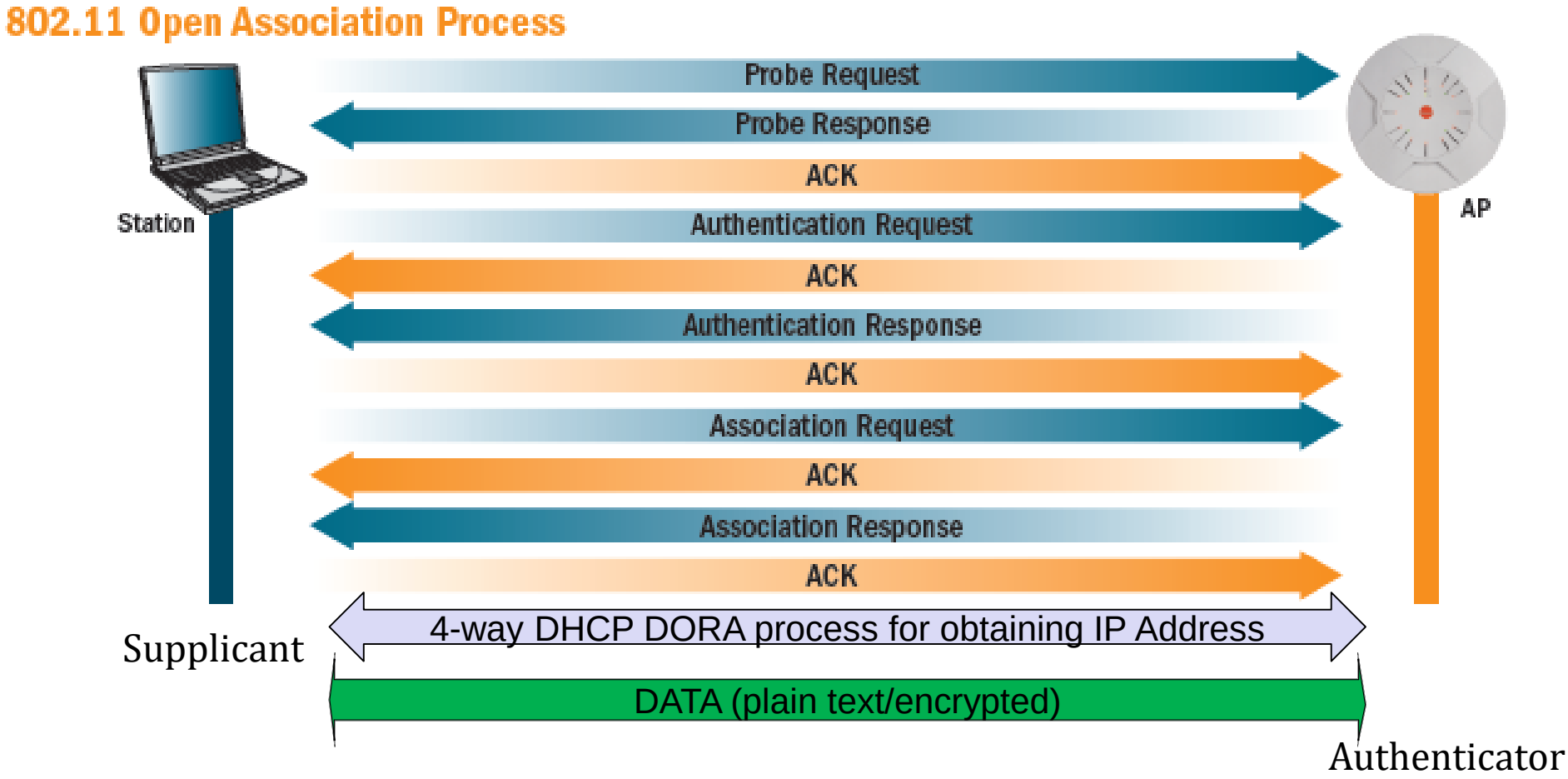


Address 1: MAC address of wireless host or AP to receive this frame

Address 2: MAC address of wireless host or AP transmitting this frame

Payload: carries IP Packet in plain-text or encryption form

How does a STA join Wi-Fi network ?

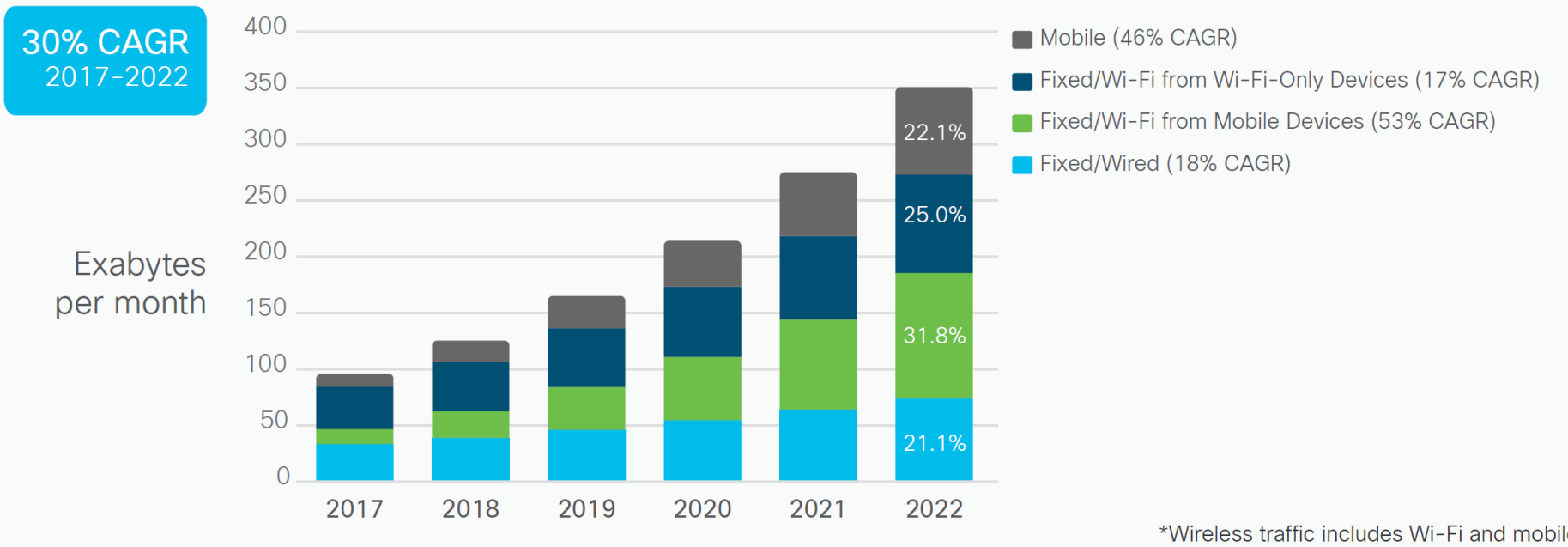


Secure communication requirements

- *confidentiality*: only sender, intended receiver should "understand" message contents
  - sender encrypts message
  - receiver decrypts message
- *authentication:* sender, receiver want to confirm identity of each other
- *message integrity:* sender, receiver want to ensure message not altered (in transit, or afterwards) without detection
- *access and availability*: services must be accessible and available to users

Why Wi-Fi Security is IMP?

- More than half of world's data is carried by Wi-Fi



*Wireless traffic includes Wi-Fi and mobile

Source: Cisco VNI Global IP Traffic Forecast, 2017-2022

Wi-Fi Security Threats

- Eavesdropping
- Man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks
- Malicious association to rogue (AP) networks
- Denial of Service (DoS) attacks
- AP configuration over HTTP

Hacking Wi-Fi Networks

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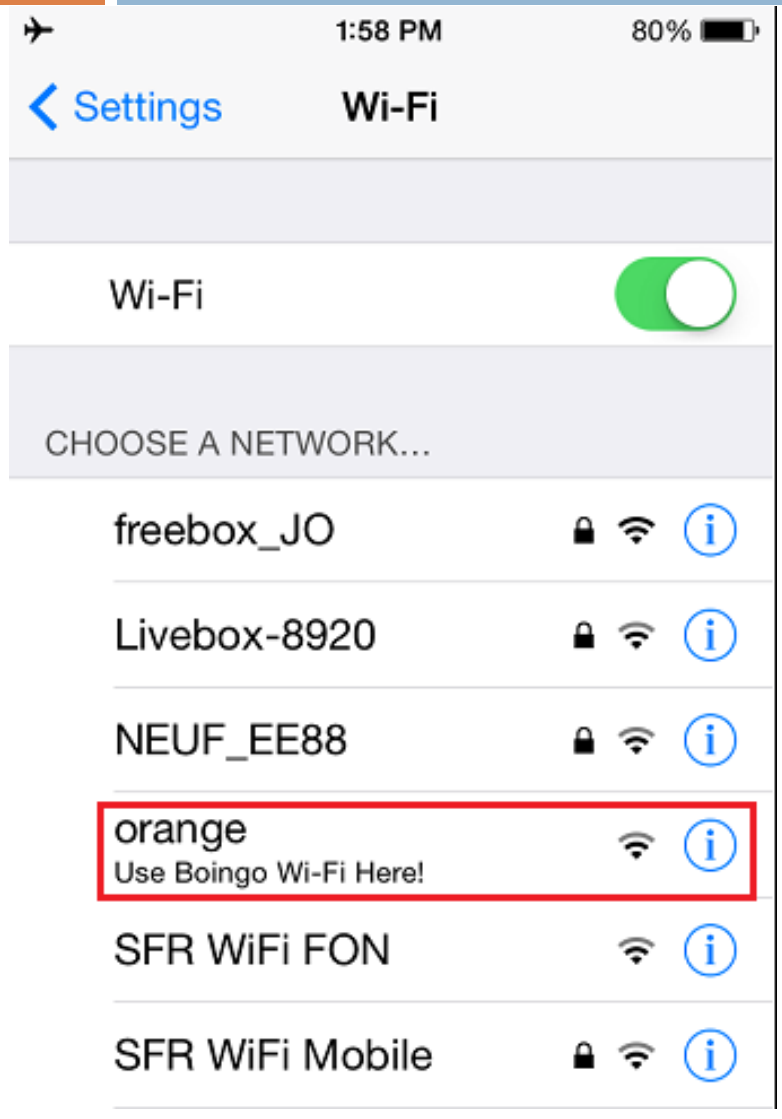
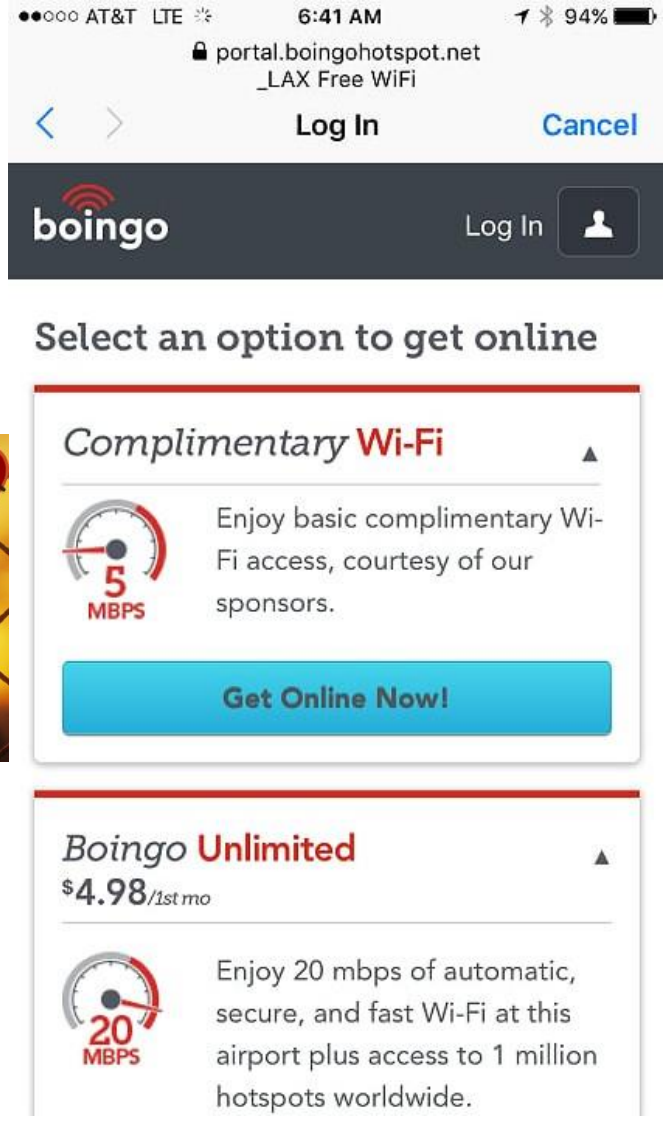
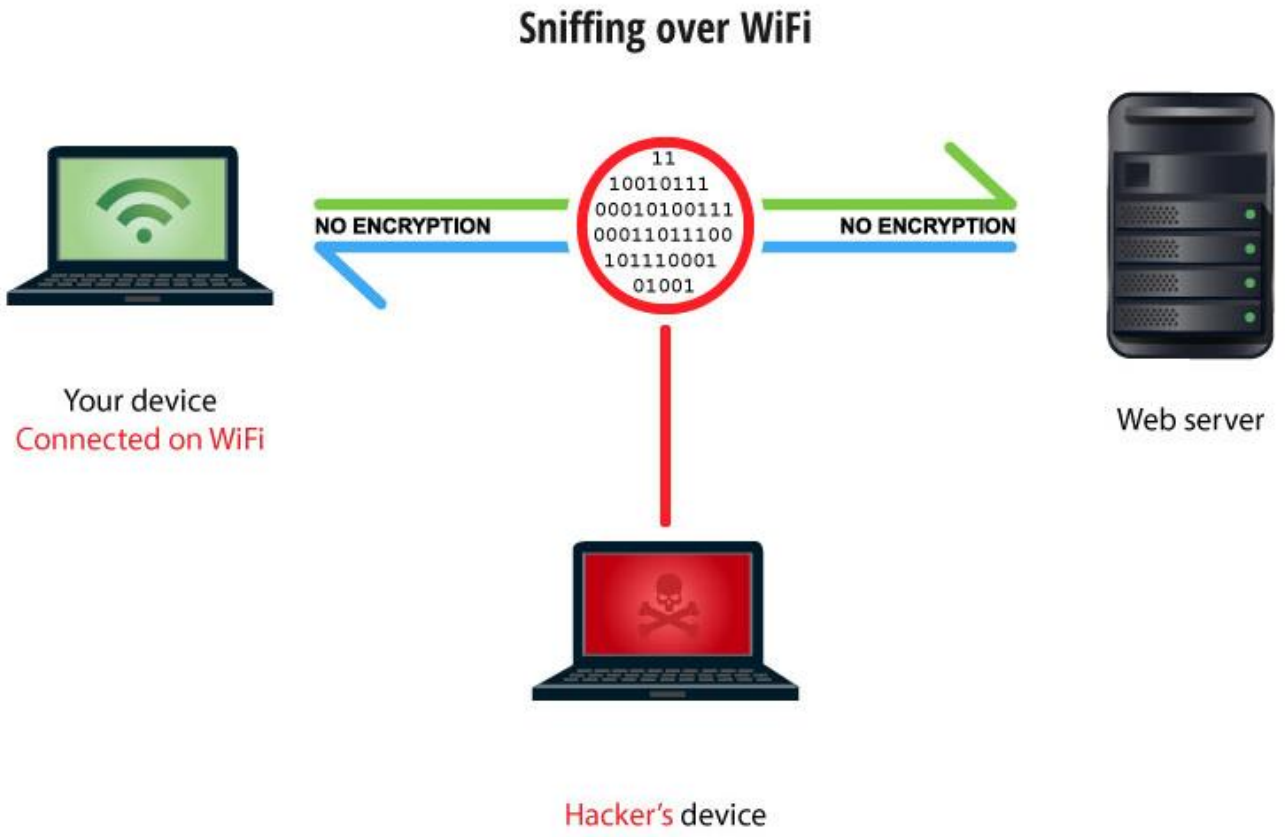
- Tools of the trade
  - Wireshark/Tcpdump
  - Kismet
  - WEPCrack/AirSnort
  - AirCrack-NG
  - CoWPAtty
  - NetStumbler
  - WiFuzz
  - Pyrit, Fern
  - Cain & Able
  - AirXploit
  - so on…

Free/Paid, Public Wi-Fi is Open!





Threat: Eavesdropping on Open Wi-Fi Networks



- Here AP is not malicious, just open (no encryption of link b/w AP and STA)
- Easy to intercept traffic, but almost impossible to detect ☹
- Many tools available: Wireshark/Tcpdump/airdump-ng/...
- Affects Confidentiality of data exchanged

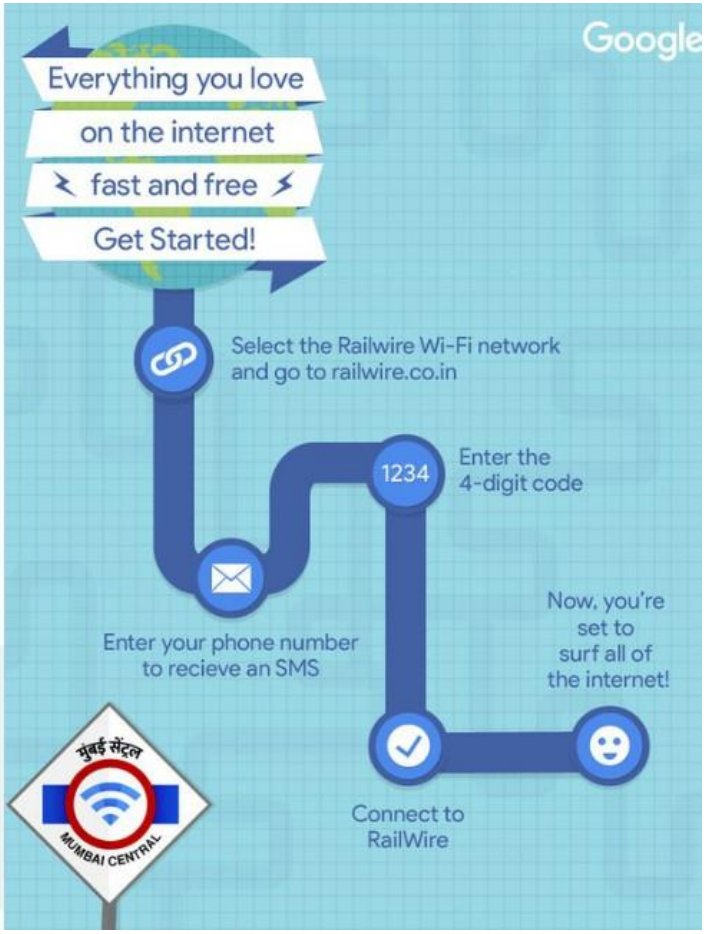
Free Wi-Fi led to spike in Cyber attacks!

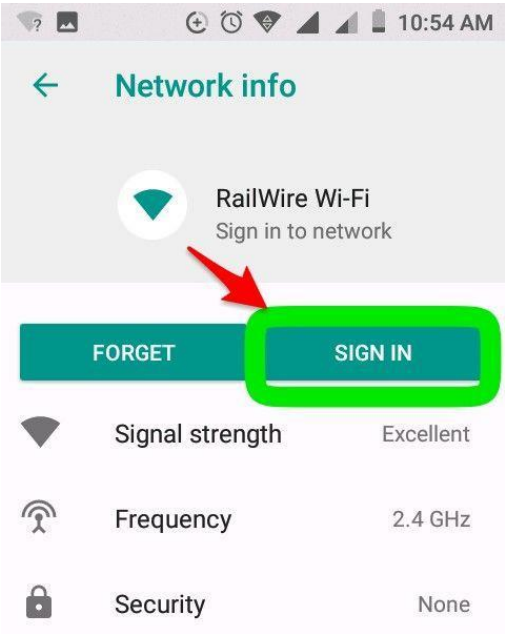
fast, free Wi-Fi

made for India by

rail wire | Google

Digital Rail. Digital India.





Threat: MITM attacks in Wi-Fi

- Rogue APs with SSID of legitimate Wi-Fi networks
- Malicious Hotspots: Free, open networks that snoop into data sent/received
- Affects confidentiality and integrity of data exchanged

Demo of MITM Attack

How to stay safe on public Wi-Fi?

√ DO:

- Try VPN (Virtual Private Network) to make your public Wi-Fi connection private
- Only visit sites using https://
- Turn OFF file sharing

How to stay safe on public Wi-Fi?

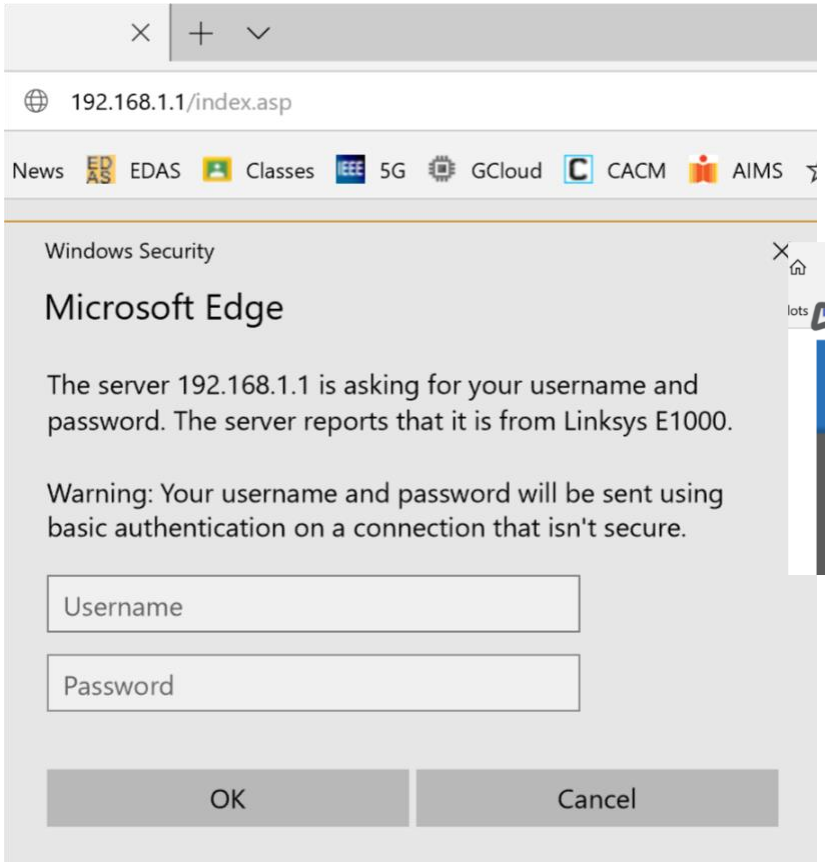
- Don't:
  - Allow your Wi-Fi to auto-connect to open networks
  - Log into any account via an App that contains sensitive info. Go to the website instead to verify it uses HTTPS before logging in
  - Leave your Wi-Fi radio on if you are not using it
  - Access websites that hold your sensitive information, such as bank or healthcare accounts

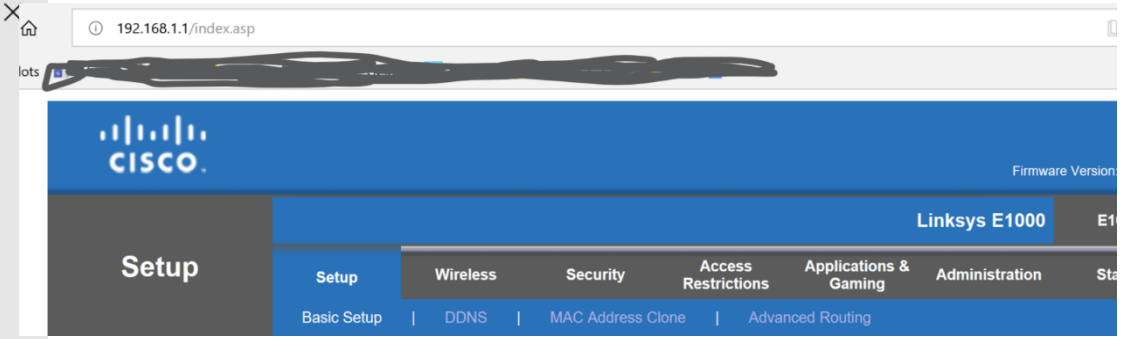
Threat: Denial of Service (DoS) attacks

- Frequency jamming
  - Not very technical, but works very well
- Spoofed Deauthentication / Disassociation messages
  - MAC Control/Mgmt frames are not protected in 802.11i std
  - Can target one specific user or all connectd to AP
- Evil Twin: Rogue APs on legitimate WLAN system
  - Only client side authentication
- Black hole evil twin
- Battery exhaustion

```
# -0 represents that it is DeAuth
# 500 is the number of times the DeAuth message has to be sent.
# mon0 is the interface on which monitor mode is on.

# Broadcast DeAuth with known SSID
$ sudo aireplay-ng -0 500 -e Victim mon0

# DeAuth particular client (E4:F8:9C:22:DB:39 here).
$ sudo aireplay-ng -0 500 -e Victim -c E4:F8:9C:22:DB:39 mon0

# Broadcast DeAuth with known AP MAC address (34:DE:1A:27:04:70
here).
$ sudo aireplay-ng -0 500 -a 34:DE:1A:27:04:70 mon0

# DeAuth particular client (E4:F8:9C:22:DB:39 here).
$ sudo aireplay-ng -0 500 -a 34:DE:1A:27:04:70 -c E4:F8:9C:22:DB
mon0
```

Open AP configuration over HTTP



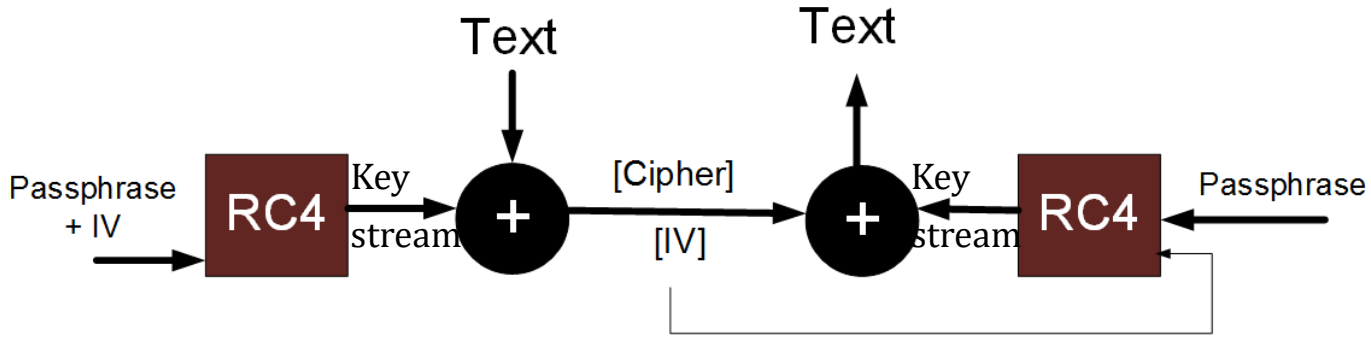


Wi-Fi Security Standards

- 1997→Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP)
- 2003→Wireless Protected Access (WPA)
- 2004→WPA2 (IEEE 802.11i)
- 2019→WPA3 (Some products having Wi-Fi 6 radios support it)

Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP)

- Original solution offered by IEEE 802.11 std
- Uses RC4 encryption algo (stream cipher) with pre-shared keys (40-bit or 104-bit) and 24-bit Initialization Vectors (IV)



- Flawed design, easily broken
  - There's no key management
  - All users always share the same WEP key
    - Used for both authentication and encryption ☹
  - IV is too small, sent in clear text and its reuse caused problems
  - Tools to break WEP are widely available (e.g., AirCrack-ng)

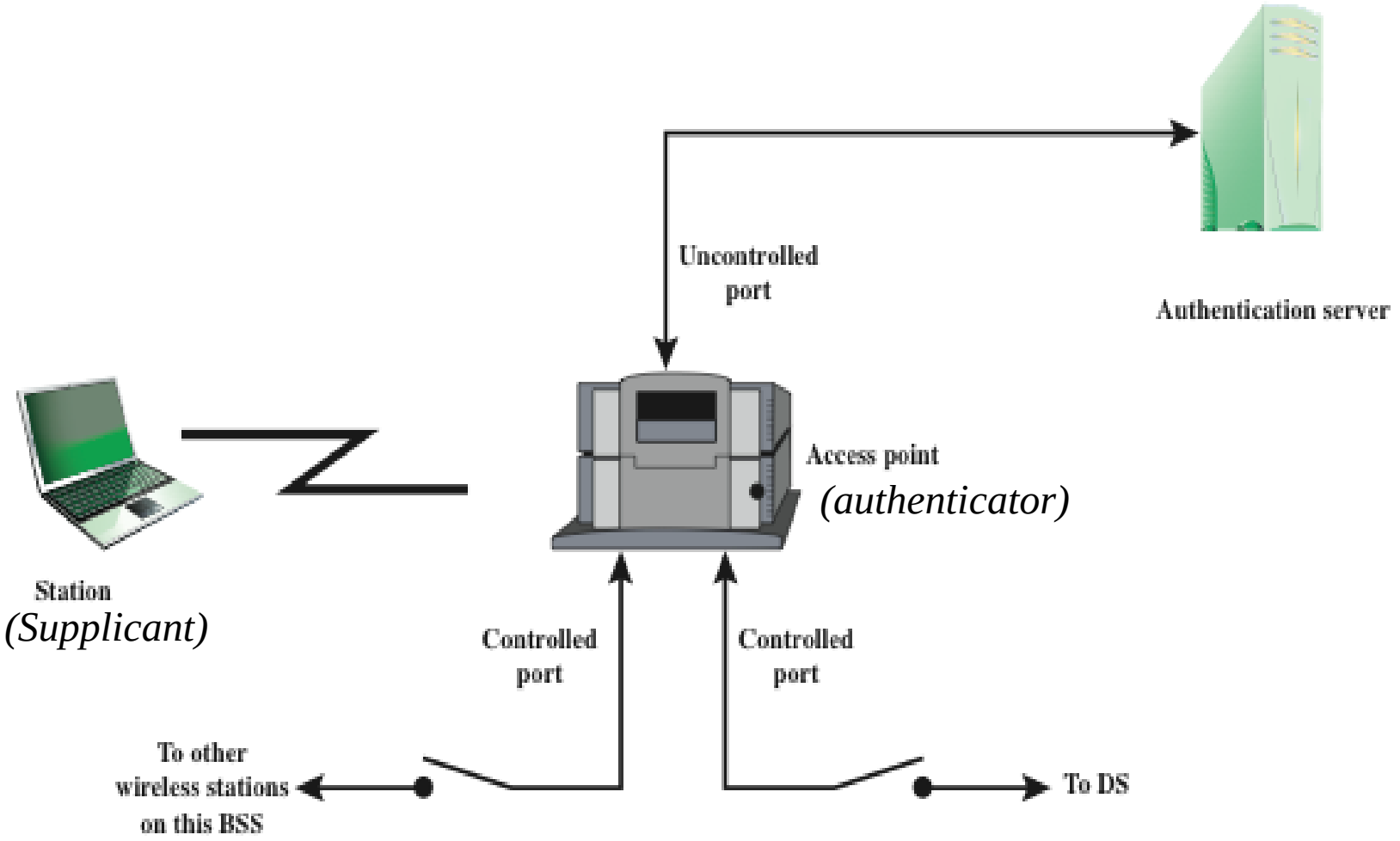
http://www.dartmouth.edu/~madory/RC4/wepexp.txt
https://asecuritysite.com/encryption/rc4_wep

WPA2

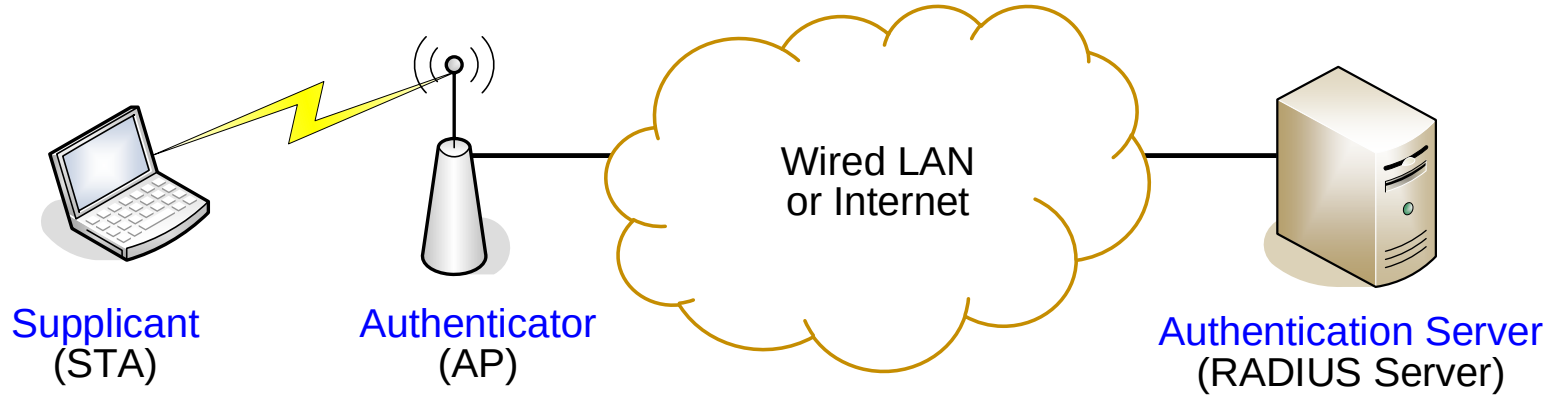
- Wireless Protected Access 2 (WPA2)
  - WPA2 is Wi-Fi alliance name for 802.11i amendment
  - Uses 802.1X for access control
  - Uses Extensible Authentication Protocol (EAP) for authentication and key exchange, e.g., EAP-TLS, EAP-PEAP
  - Confidentiality and integrity protocol: AES-CCMP

- Historical: WPA
  - Used in the transition period before the 11i standard was finalized and before AES support in NIC hardware
  - TKIP encryption = RC4 with frequently changing keys and other enhancements
  - Security of TKIP and WPA is now considered broken; always disable them in your (old) AP!

802.1X Access Control in WPA2



WPA2/802.1X architecture



- Supplicant wants to access the wired network via the AP, so it sends Authentication credentials to Authentication Server (AS) with 802.1X (EAP)
- AS authenticates the supplicant and ”tells” the AP whether access to controlled ports should be allowed or not
  - So, AP is simply a pass-through device during authentication process
- Authenticator (AP) then enables network access for the supplicant after successful authentication
- E.g., Enterprise Wi-Fi and Eduroam services

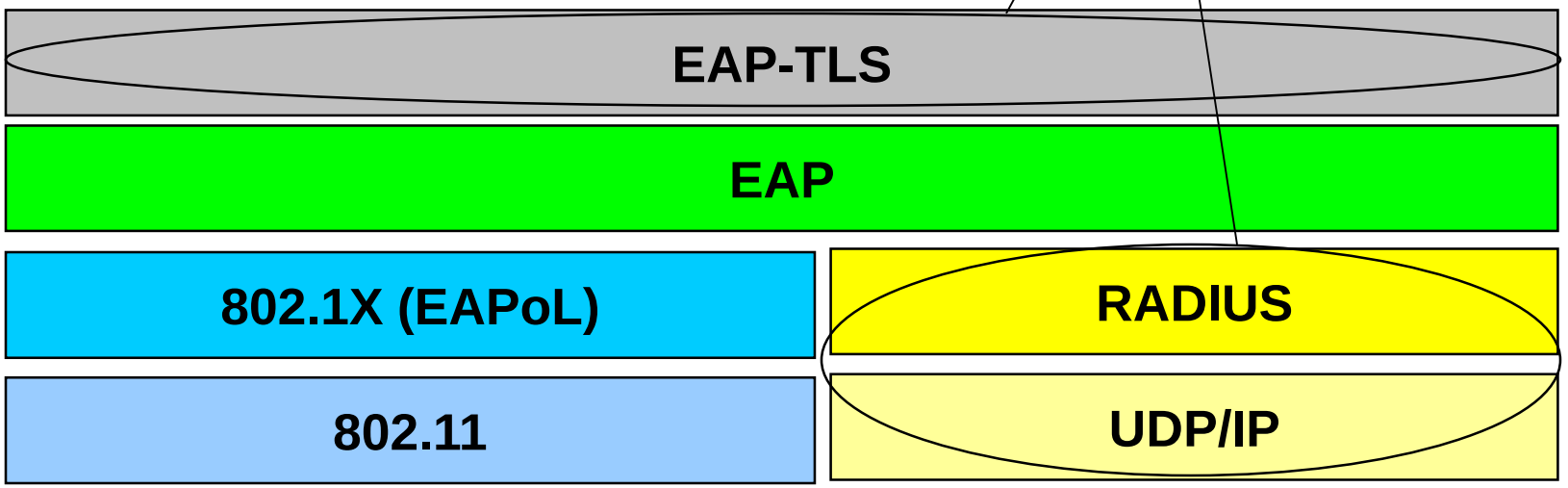
WPA2: Authentication and Key Management Architecture

Wireless Station

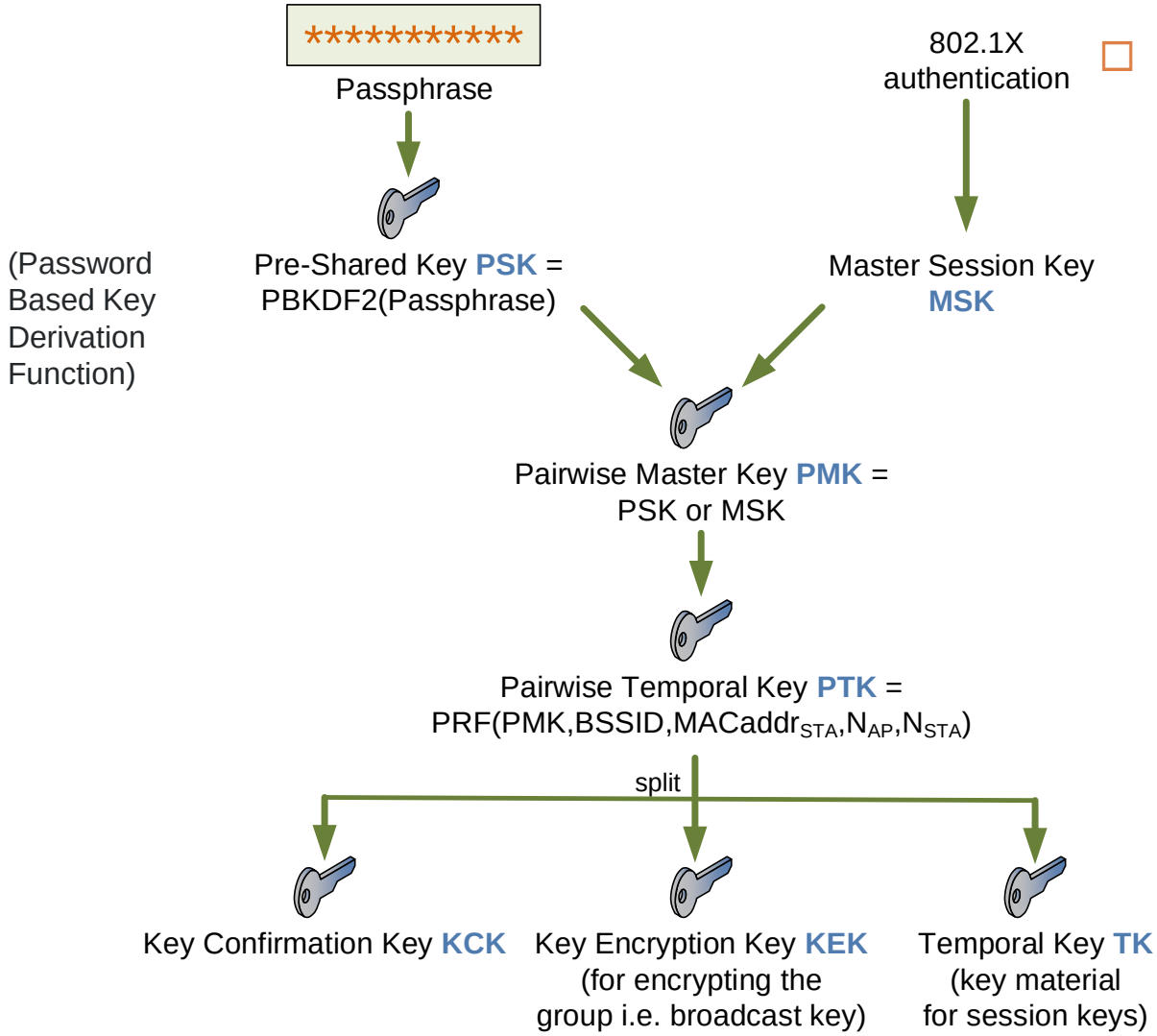
Access Point

Out of scope of 802.11i standard

Authentication Server



WPA2: Key Hierarchy



- Two alternative ways to obtain keys:
  I. 802.1X authentication= WPA2-EAP = WPA2-Enterprise
     - Mutual auth of STA/AP
  II. Preshared key (PSK) authentication = WPA2-PSK = WPA2-Personal
     - Home/small business
     - No AS in network
     - Only STA auth by AP

WPA2: Operational Phases

Station

Access Point

Authentication Server

Security capabilities discovery

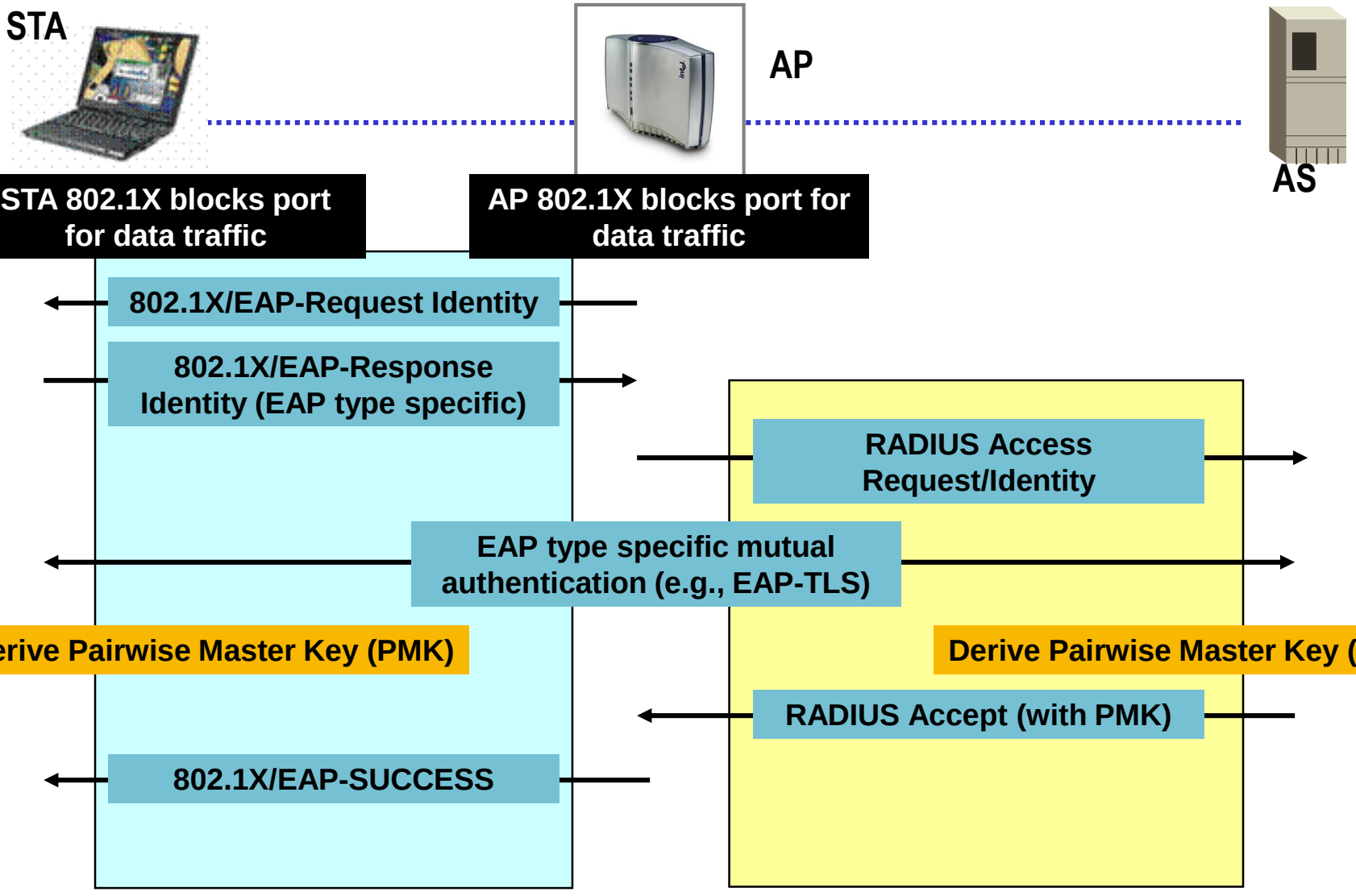
802.1X authentication

802.1X key management

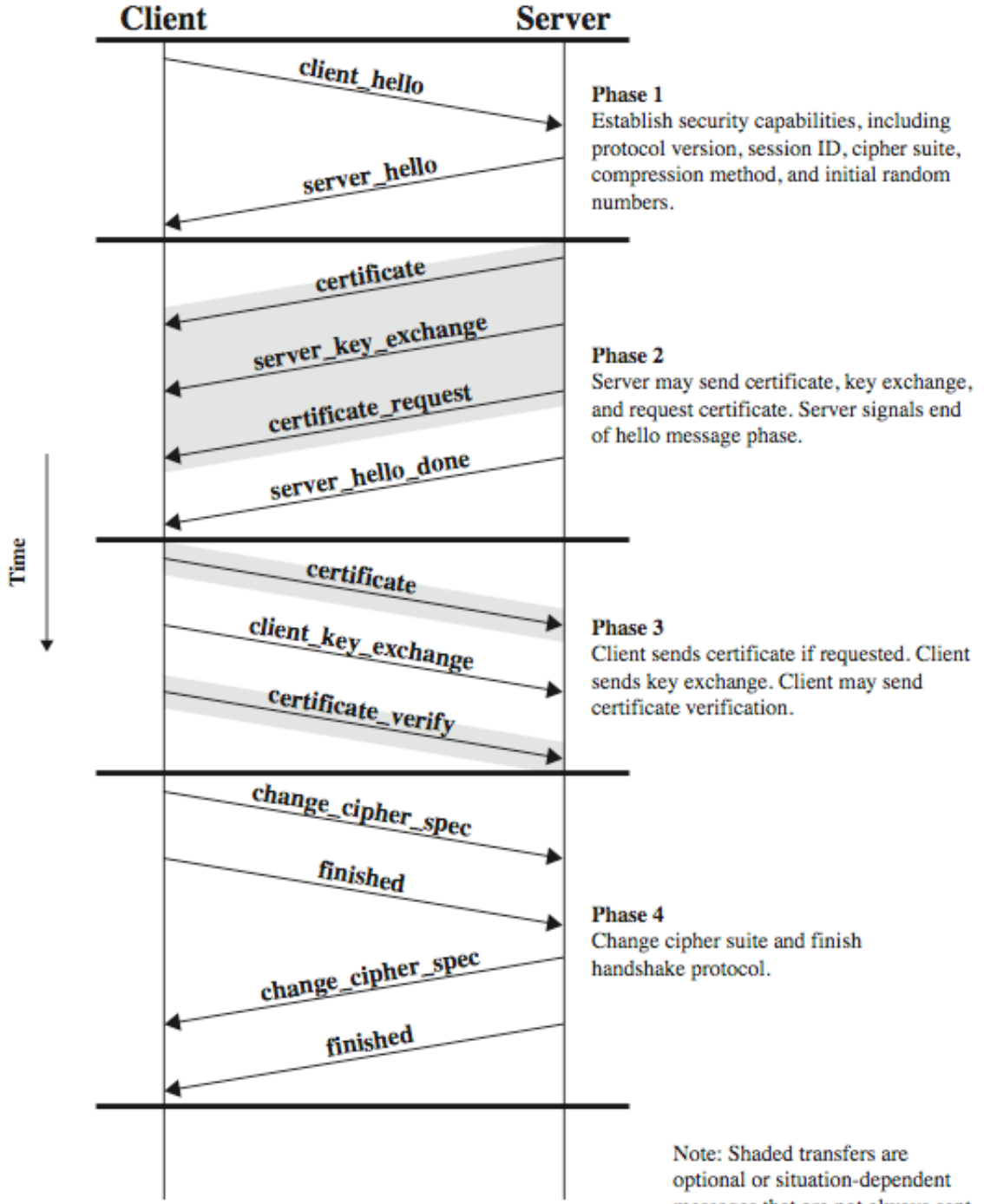
RADIUS-based key distribution

Protected Data Transfer

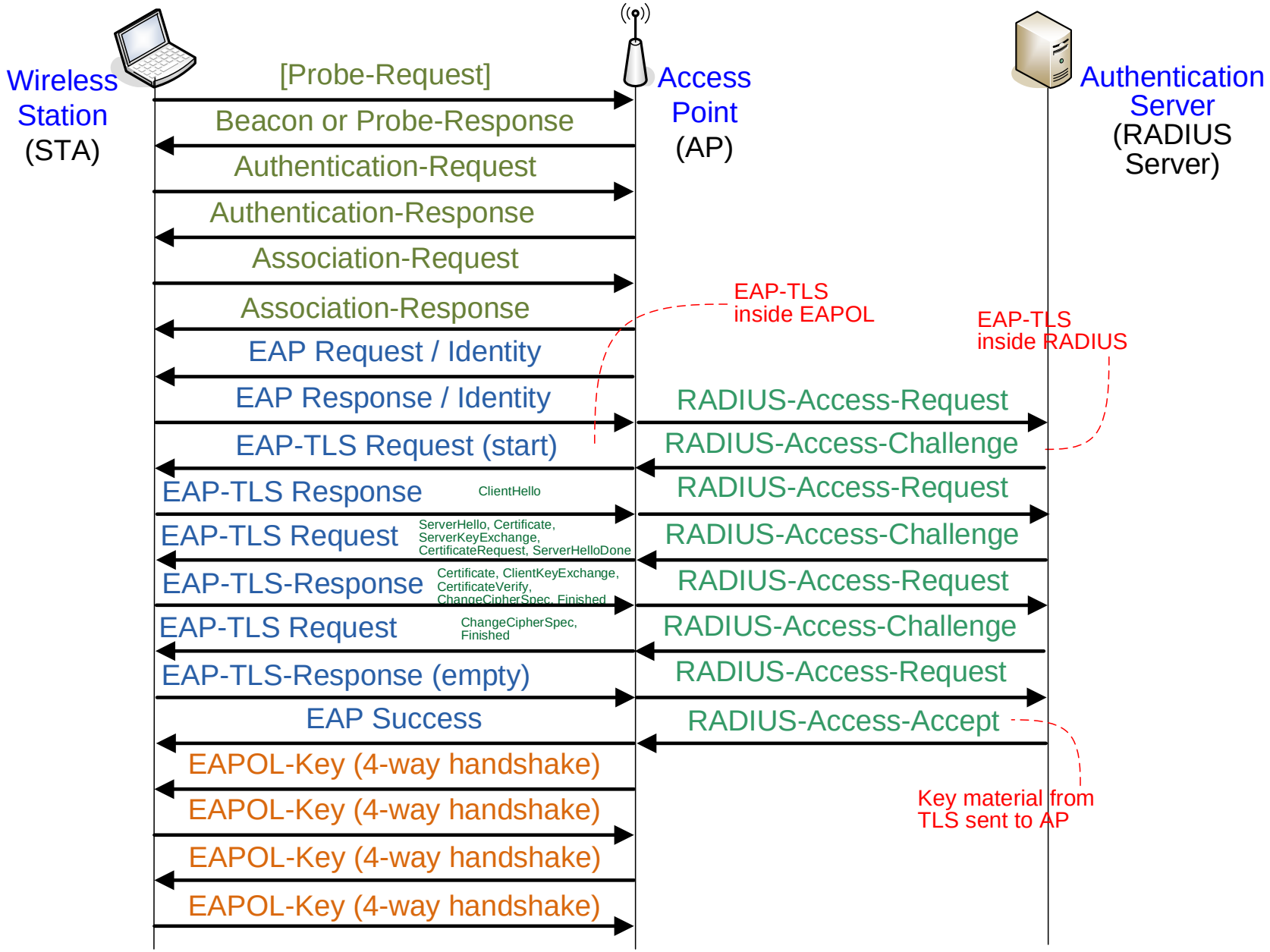
Authentication Overview



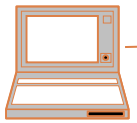
Two-Way TLS/SSL Handshaking



Full WPA2 Authentication (EAP-TLS) & Key Exchange



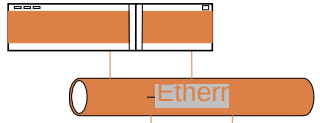
WPA2-PSK/EAP: 4-Way Handshake



Laptop computer

Wireless Channel

Access Point



PMK Known,
Last Seen < r

PMK Known,
Counter = r

{AA, ANonce, r, msg1}

PTK=PRF{PMK,AA||SA||Anonce||Snonce}

{SA, SNonce, r, msg2, MIC_{PTK}(SNonce, r, msg2)}

Derive PTK, Counter = r+1

{AA, ANonce, r+1, msg3, MIC_{PTK}(ANonce, r+1, msg3)}

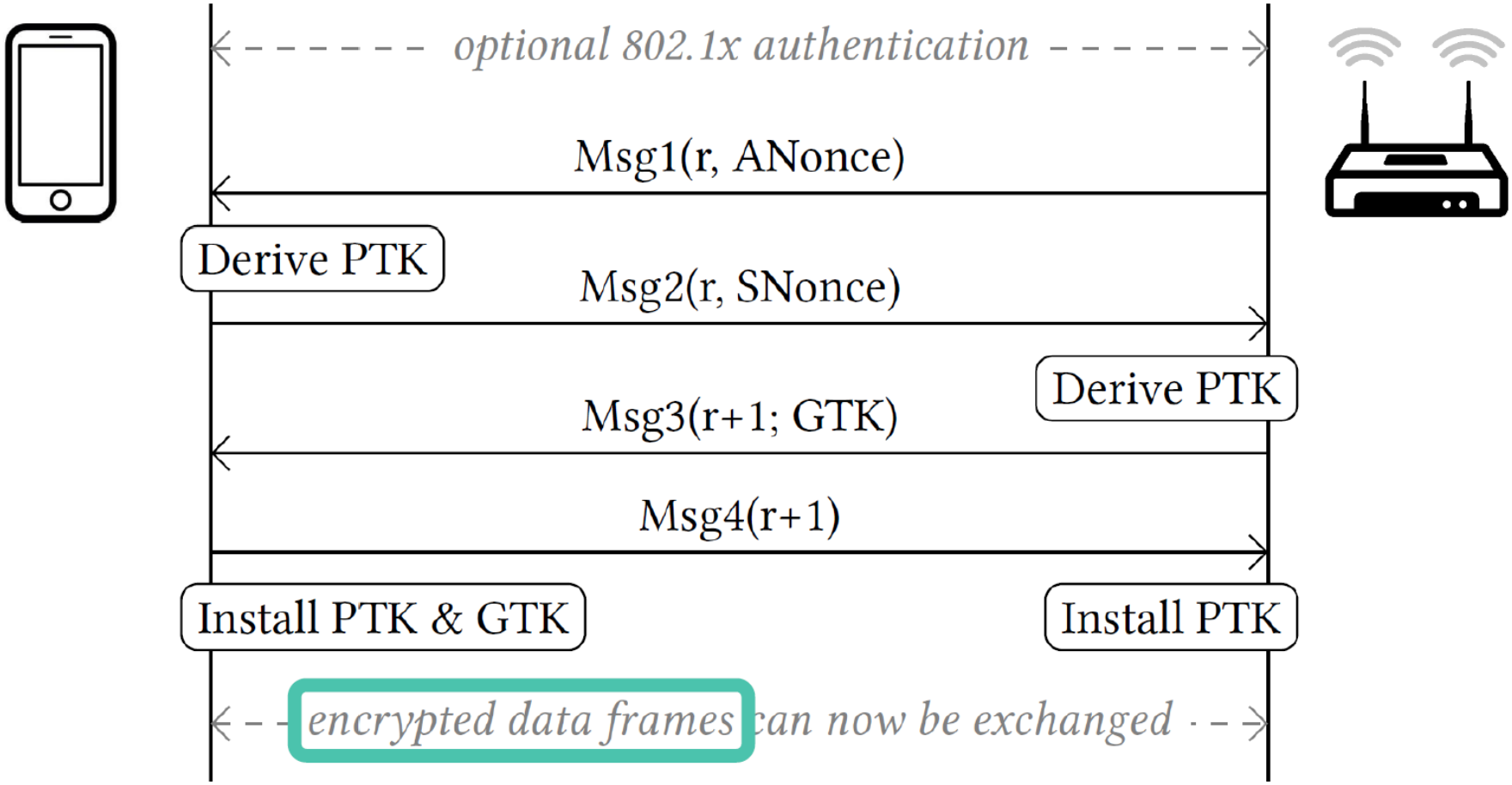
Install PTK,
Last Seen = r+1

{SA, r+1, msg4, MIC_{PTK}(r+1, msg4)}

Install PTK,
Counter = r+2

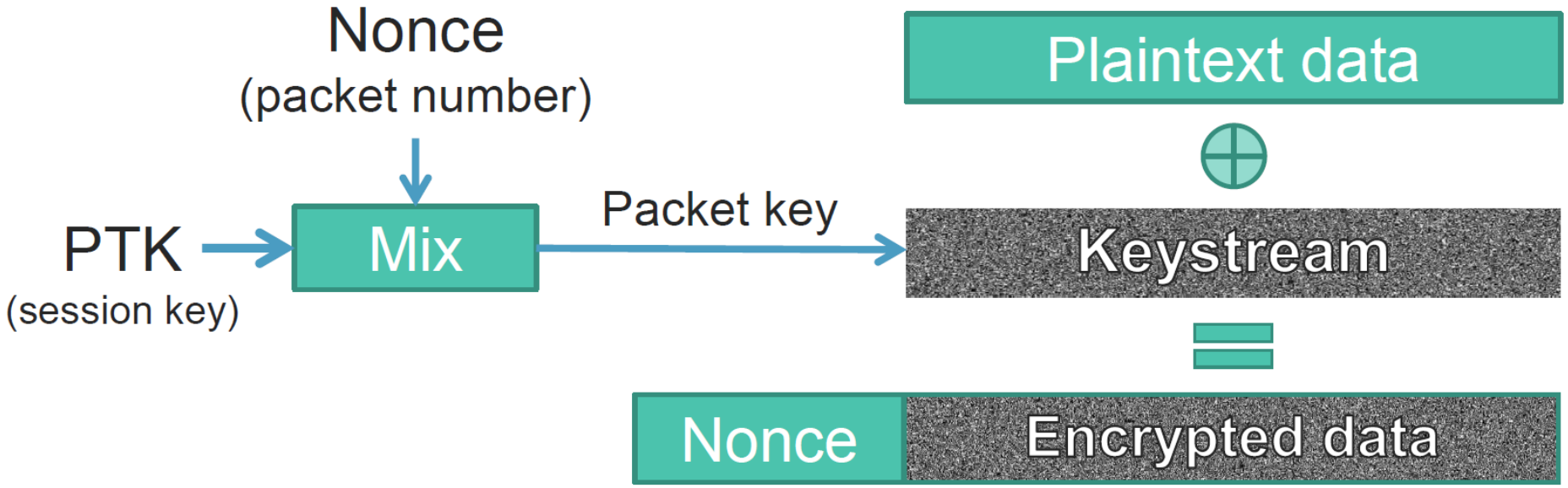
The MIC is calculated using HMAC_MD5, which takes its input from KCK Key within PTK.

WPA2-PSK/EAP: 4-Way Handshake



Both WPA2-PSK & EAP make use of AES-CCMP to encrypt data

Encryption of 802.11 MAC Payloads



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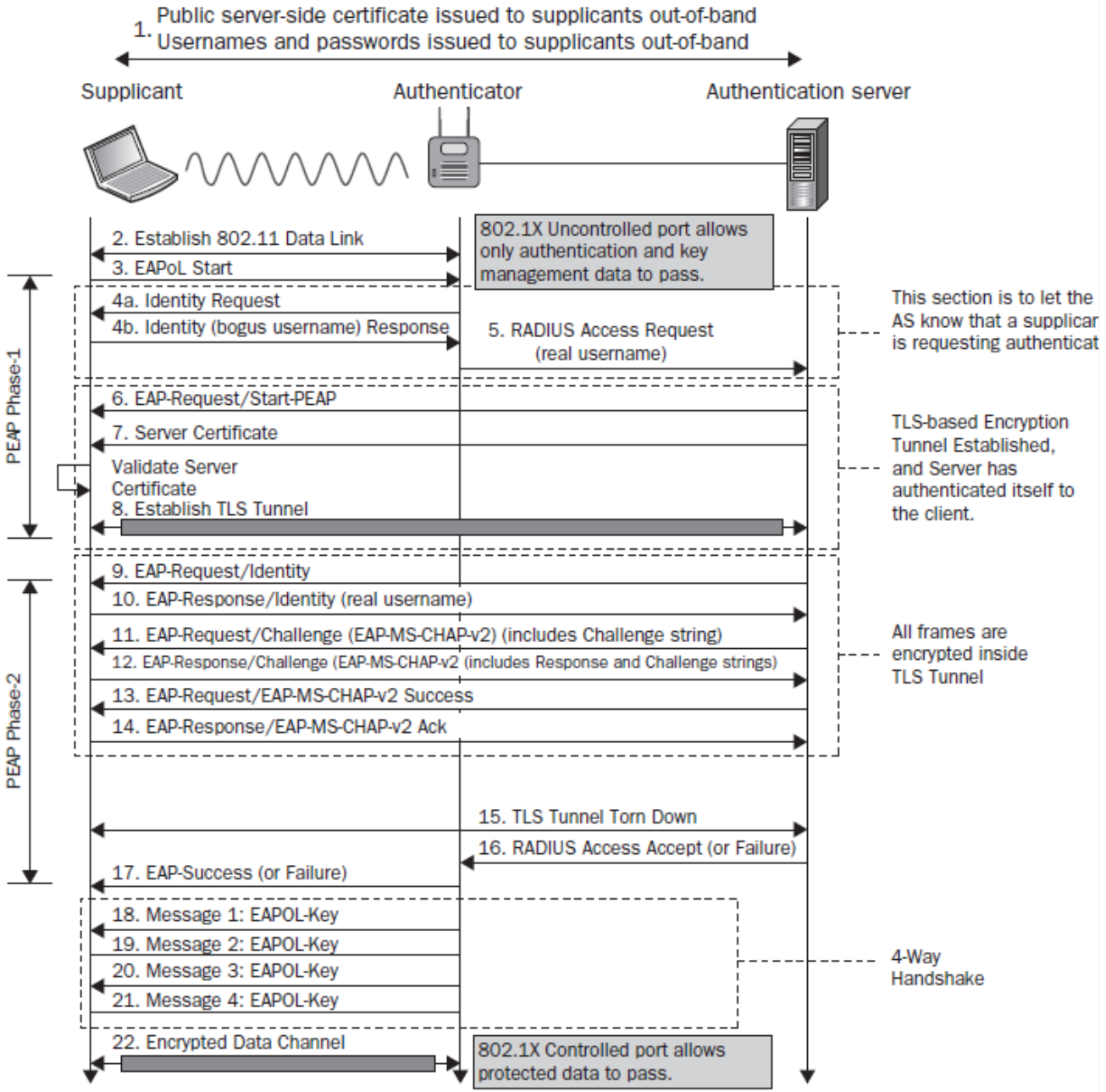
Full WPA2 Authentication (PEAP) & Key Exchange



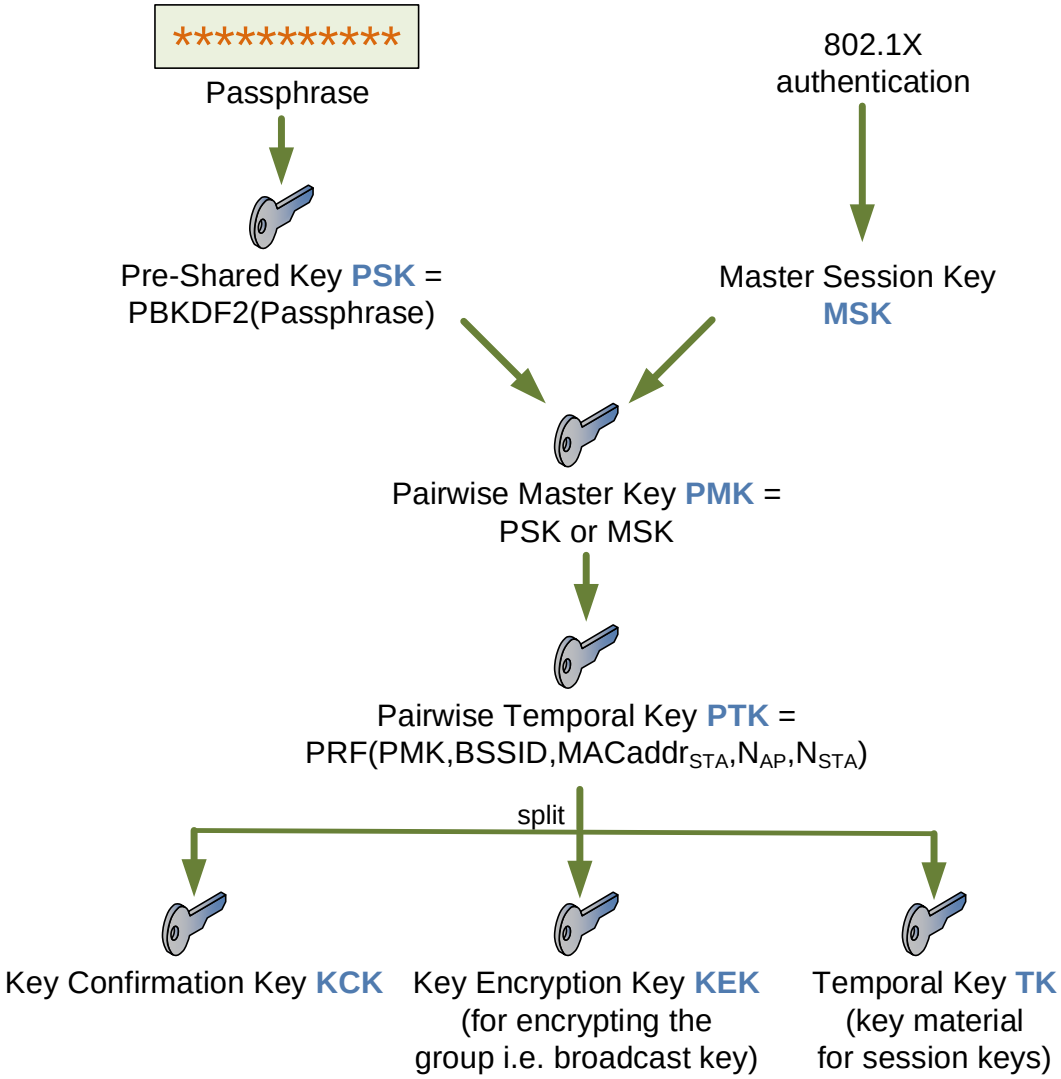
https://mrncciew.com/2014/08/25/cwsp-eap-peap/

Security issues with WPA2

- Sniffing (esp OPEN networks)
- WPA2-PSK:MITM attacks
  - Rogue/malicious AP association
- WAP2-PSK: Offline dictionary attacks
- WPA2-PSK/EAP:- KRACK
- AP configuration over HTTP
- Denial of Service (DoS) attacks

WPA2-PSK OFFLINE DICTIONARY ATTACK

WPA2: Key Hierarchy (recap)



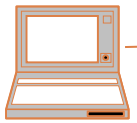
PBKDF2=Password Based Key Derivation Function #2

PSK = PBKDF2(HMAC−SHA1, passphrase, SSID, 4096, 256)

HMAC-SHA1 is a hash based Message Authentication code using SHA1 with passphrase as key and SSID as salt

N_{AP}: Nonce of AP
Nonce: Numbed used once!

WPA2-PSK Offline Dictionary Attack



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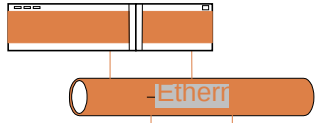

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Install PTK,
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{SA, r+1, msg4, MIC_{PTK}(r+1, msg4)}

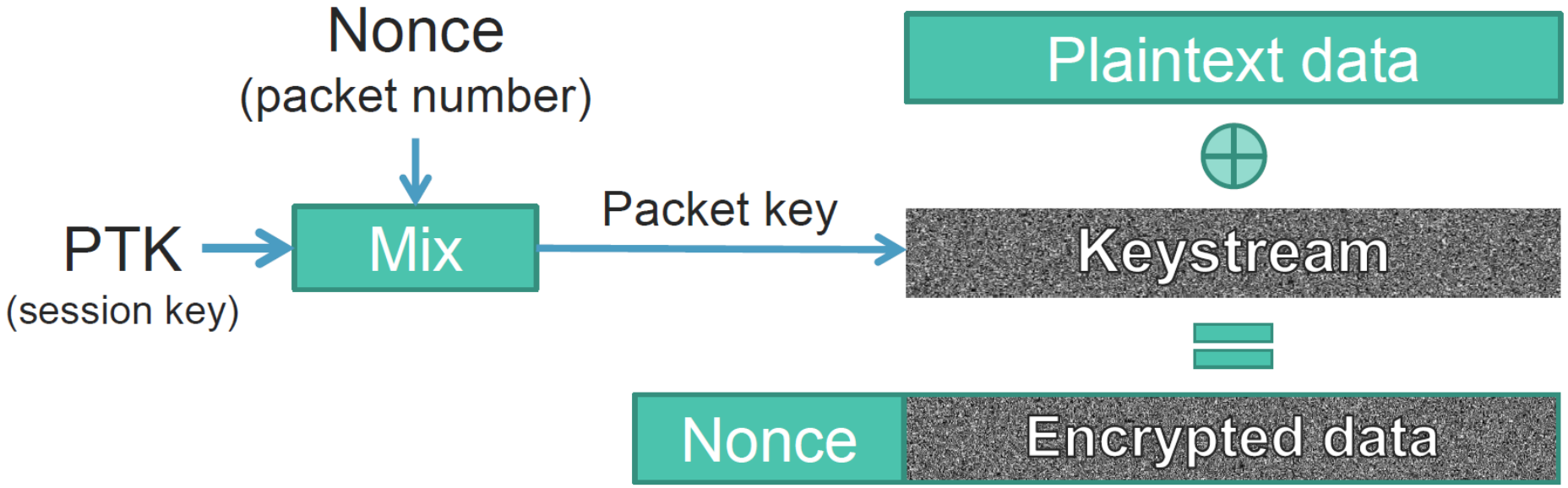
Install PTK,
Counter = r+2

The MIC is calculated using HMAC_MD5, which takes its input from KCK Key within PTK.

KRACK: Key Reinstallation Attacks on WPA2

- Discovered by Mathy Vanhoef, KU Leuven in 2017
- Kind of weakness/ambiguity in .11i std, so effects vary across OS implementations
- So, many devices with Wi-Fi radio were affected
  - Linux and Android 6.0 or higher are highly vulnerable
  - All data from victim can be decrypted
- Main attack is against the 4-way handshake of the WPA2 protocol
  - Both WPA2-Personal and WPA2-Enterprise were vulnerable
- **It does not recover passphrase of Wi-Fi network**
  - Also does not recover (any parts of) the fresh encryption key (PTK) that is negotiated during the 4-way handshake.

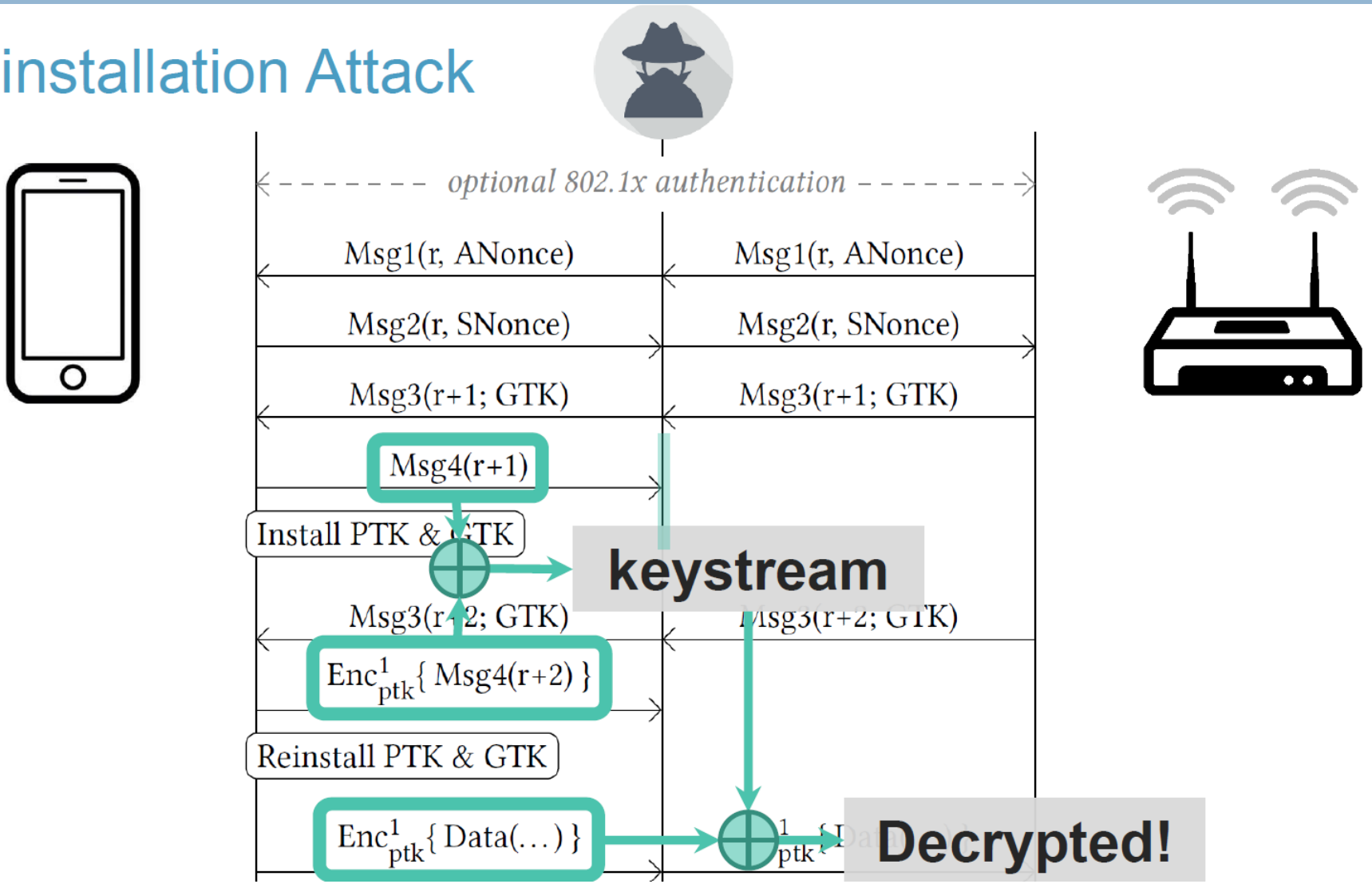
Encryption of 802.11 MAC Payloads



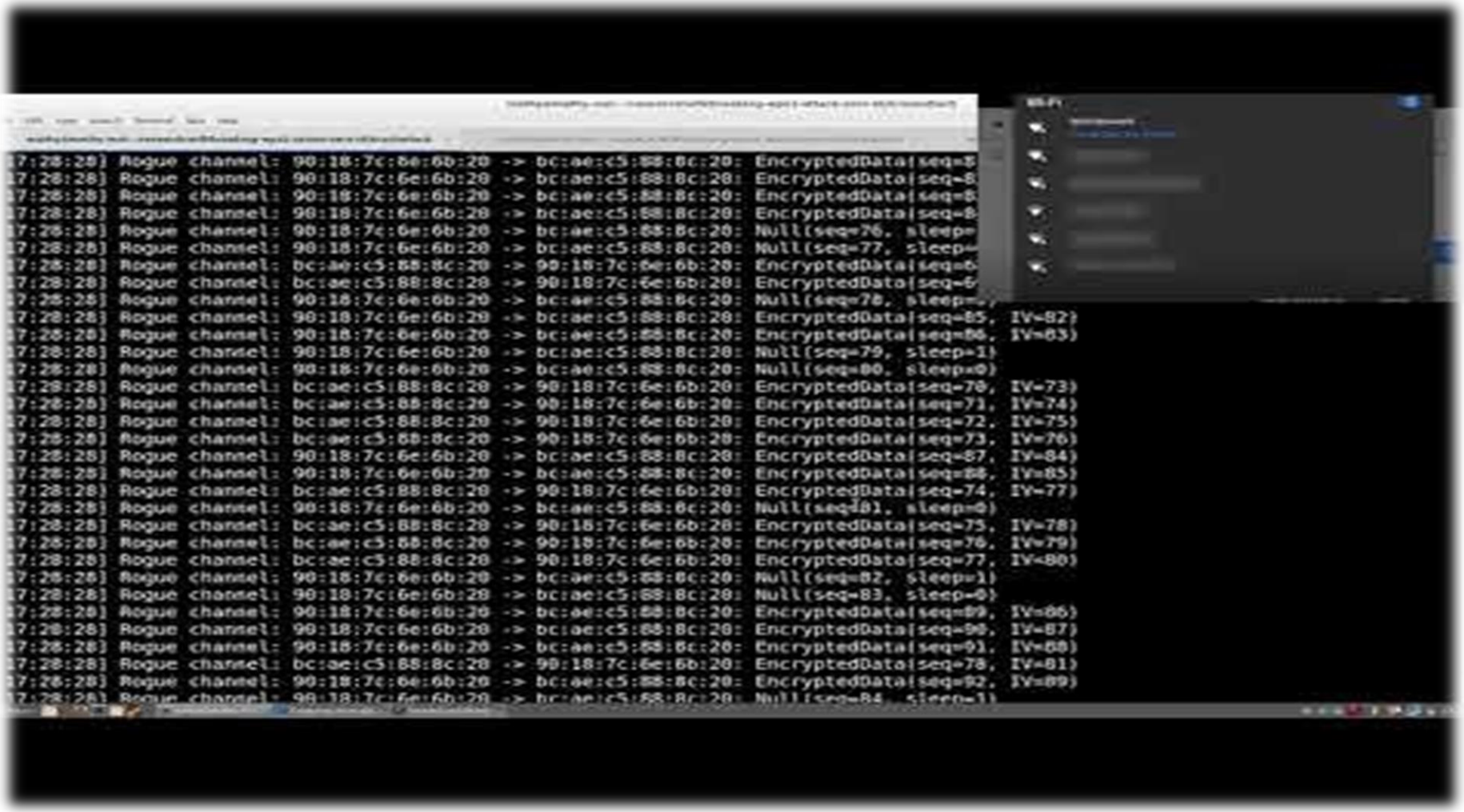
→ Nonce reuse implies keystream reuse (in all WPA2 ciphers)

KRACK: MITM attack on 4-Way H/S

Reinstallation Attack



KRACK: Demo


Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: EncryptedData(seq=85, IV=82)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: EncryptedData(seq=86, IV=83)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: Null(seq=79, sleep=1)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: Null(seq=80, sleep=0)
Rogue channel: bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20 -> 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20: EncryptedData(seq=70, IV=73)
Rogue channel: bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20 -> 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20: EncryptedData(seq=71, IV=74)
Rogue channel: bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20 -> 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20: EncryptedData(seq=72, IV=75)
Rogue channel: bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20 -> 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20: EncryptedData(seq=73, IV=76)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: EncryptedData(seq=87, IV=84)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: EncryptedData(seq=88, IV=85)
Rogue channel: bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20 -> 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20: EncryptedData(seq=74, IV=77)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: Null(seq=81, sleep=0)
Rogue channel: bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20 -> 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20: EncryptedData(seq=75, IV=78)
Rogue channel: bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20 -> 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20: EncryptedData(seq=76, IV=79)
Rogue channel: bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20 -> 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20: EncryptedData(seq=77, IV=80)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: Null(seq=82, sleep=1)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: Null(seq=83, sleep=0)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: EncryptedData(seq=89, IV=86)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: EncryptedData(seq=90, IV=87)
Rogue channel: bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20 -> 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20: EncryptedData(seq=78, IV=81)
Rogue channel: 90:18:7c:6e:6b:20 -> bc:ae:c5:88:8c:20: EncryptedData(seq=92, IV=89)

WPA3: OWE

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Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad

- **OWE: Opportunistic Wireless Encryption for Open SSIDs**
  - IETF RFC 8110
- Encryption w/o authentication like HTTPS browsing
- Meant for open/public APs
- Diffie Hellman key exchange, does n't require any certs
  - OWE handshake using Re(association) REQ/RES negotiates a new PMK b/w STA and AP
- Not a replacement for any of existing auth methods
- Does not offer AUTH (both client-side and AP-side)
  - Sol for client-side AUTH: Captive portal
  - No sol for server-side AUTH
    - Rogue APs (Evil Twins) can still be setup

WPA3: Dragonfly

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- **Dragonfly: Offline Dictionary Attack Resistance for PSK Passwords**
  - Even when users choose weak passwords
  - IETF RFC 7664 and Section 12.4 (SAE) of IEEE 802.11 Std
    - Simultaneous Authentication of Equals (SAE)
- It uses Diffie Hellman key exchange to facilitate both the encryption key generation and mutual AUTH
  - SAE handshake to derive a fresh PMK at STA and AP after mutual AUTH
  - PMK is used to get PTK by doing 4-way handshake as usual
- Forward secrecy: Even if passphrase is leaked at a later point in time, it still cannot be used to decrypt the eavesdropped packets from the past unlike WPA2

Wi-Fi Security Guidelines for Administrators

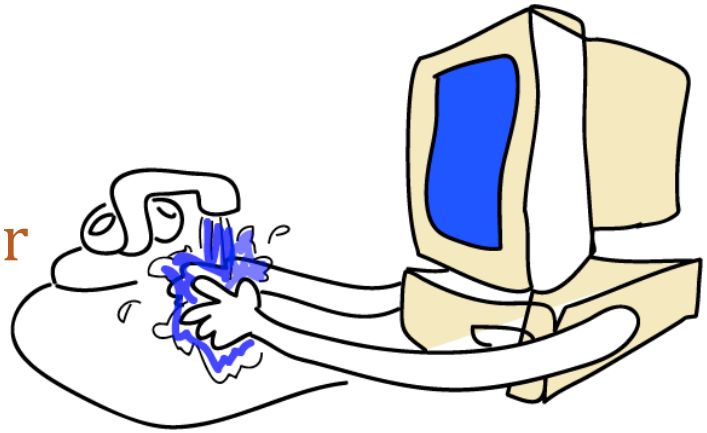
- **Use 802.1x based Auth & Protected Mgmt Frames**
- **Allow only specific devices to access your wireless network**
- **Use WIPS, anti-virus and anti-spyware software and a firewall**
- **Change your router's pre-set password for administration and login over https**
- **Turn off SSID broadcasting, apply patches, deploy WPA3 ASAP**
- **Change the SSID on your router from the default**

A Simple way to convert OPEN AP into Protected AP!

- WPA3 takes a while for penetration into the market
- WPA2-PSK supports *session isolation*
  - Other users on the network can't easily see your traffic.
- So enable WPA2-PSK and publicize the passphrase
  - Big signs on the walls, than to offer OPEN Wi-Fi
  - Another option is to include passphrase in SSID, such as “Guest-WiFi-pwd-is-FREEACCESS“ and “IITH-Guest-PWD-IITH@2020”!

Digital Hygiene

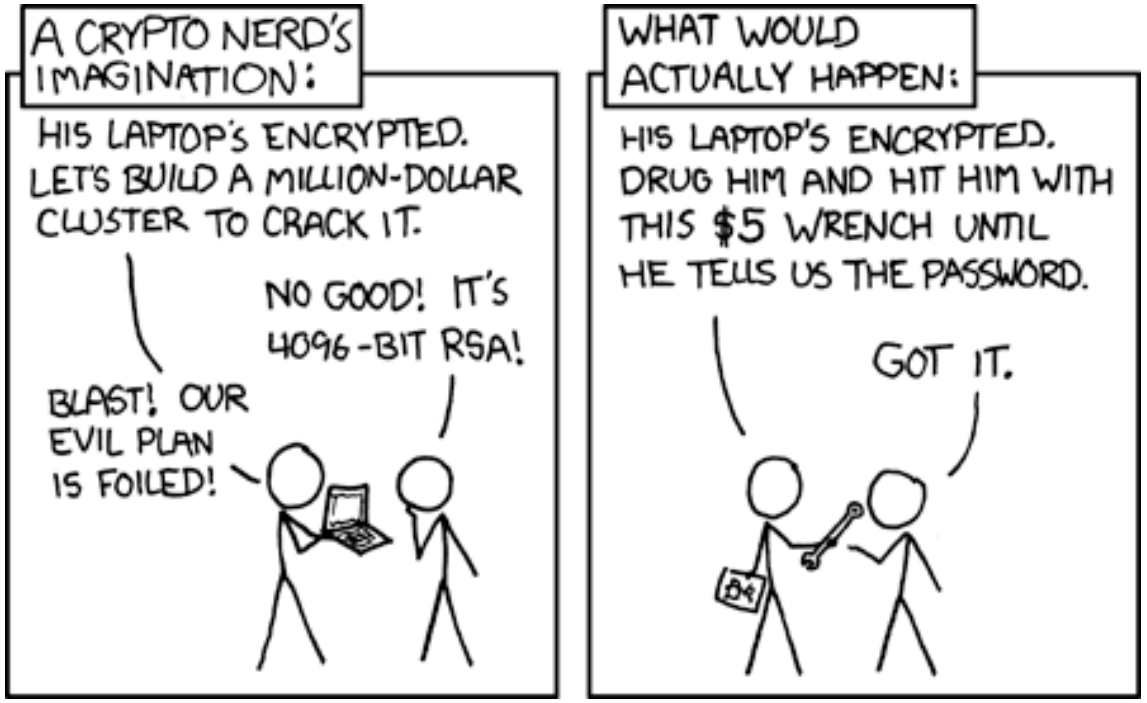
- Keep all programs and OS up-to-date
- **Backup, backup and backup again**
- Change default passwords & create strong, secure passwords (**password managers)**
- Avoid sharing using USB flash drives
- Don't fall prey to social engineering or phishing
- Only browse sites with HTTPS
- Keep Bluetooth & Wi-Fi OFF when not in use esp in public places
- Use security software: Firewalls, Antivirus, etc
- Buy *cyber insurance* policy!



Limitations of Cryptography!

Cryptography works when used correctly !!

… but is not the solution to all security problems



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References & Acknowledegments

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KRACK: WPA2 Attacks (Videos)

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- KRACK
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oh4WURZoR98
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