

Project 2

Swiss Army Knife Network Sniffer

Course of study

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science

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Abstract

We describe NSAK as an embedded, modular, open source, scenario-based network sniffing and security framework. We provide an overview of the system design, emphasizing the functionality of a Swiss Army Knife in a networking context. The attack scenario includes drills that configure or target a specific task to observe or open an attack vector in the system. NSAK is based on a core back-end part that manages specific environments, scenarios, and drills. The whole concept is based on containerization, where each container builds or prepares a scenario that can be triggered in a network environment. In the analogy of the Swiss Army Knife, the right knife with the proper drills for the necessary task can be selected. Modularity comes into play when a drill is selected across multiple scenarios.

Keywords Network intrusion detection, Network Monitoring, Red/Blue Team

Rules to apply

One-paragraph summary of the entire study typically no more than 250 words in length (and in many cases it is well shorter than that), the Abstract provides an overview of the study.

Mit Regeln von Abstract gegenchecken und querlesen

Inhalt Abstract Hintergrundinformationen wie Ausgangslage, Relevanz, Forschungskontext in ein bis zwei Sätzen zusammenfassen. Fragestellung und Ziel explizit formulieren. Die wichtigsten Eckpunkte zum methodischen Vorgehen angeben, bei empirischen Studien auch Angaben zu den Daten wie etwa die Charakteristika der Stichprobe. Im Hauptteil des Abstracts die relevanten Ergebnisse und deren Bedeutung mit wichtigen Kennzahlen aufführen (ca. zwei Drittel des Abstracts). Mit wichtigen Schlussfolgerungen oder Anwendungsmöglichkeiten das Abstract abrunden. Das Abstract enthält keine Quellenverweise

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1 First Part Thesis

Introduction

The combination of red team activities and blue team observation techniques is widely adopted within the cybersecurity community. While the red team focuses on emulating adversarial behavior, the primary objective of the blue team is to detect such activities through non-invasive monitoring and analysis of system behavior [?].

Braucht es
mehr quellen?
sind alle
Punkte erfüllt

As the economic and operational costs of launching cyberattacks continue to decrease due to AI automation [?], the need for continuous surveillance and Zero Trust Architecture is rising. One approach to reduce operational security costs is to adopt multiple modular frameworks that can be easily extended, configured, and executed continuously in a controlled manner [?].

The threat emulation frameworks introduced by Zilberman et al. evaluate multiple attack phases, including lateral movement, persistence, and attack execution. The Network Swiss Army Knife focuses on containerized, orchestrated scenarios that execute specific attack drills in a controlled environment. Future extensions will focus on enriching the assessment layer by systematically capturing and evaluating defensive responses of multiple scenarios.

This proof of concept comprises the design and implementation of a modular, isolated open-source security framework that focuses on extensibility and the controlled execution of attack-based scenarios.

The objective of this work is to investigate whether such a framework can provide a flexible, extendable, and safe foundation for modular security testing in a network environment.

2.2 Einleitung Die Einleitung führt einerseits zum Thema hin (Ausgangslage), und informiert andererseits darüber, warum (Fragestellung/Problem) und wozu (Ziel/Zweck) es die Arbeit gibt sowie ggf. wie sie zustande gekommen ist (methodisches Vorgehen). Die Einleitung kann je nach Umfang und Thema mit oder ohne Unterkapitel verfasst werden. Sie umfasst ca. 510 Einen Überblick über die Kapitel der Arbeit gibt es höchstens bei sehr langen Arbeiten (beispielsweise Masterarbeit). Die Ausgangslage beschreiben Relevanz: Warum ist dieses Thema überhaupt bedeutsam? Schon hier gilt es, nicht einfach etwas zu behaupten, sondern Fakten und Aussagen mit Fachliteratur zu belegen. Aktualität: Gibt es einen aktuellen Bezug? Zusammenhang: Wie lässt sich das Thema einordnen? In welchem fachlichen Kontext steht die Arbeit? Forschungsstand: Was ist schon

erforscht? Gibt es bereits Untersuchungen? (Ist-Zustand und Zusammenhang mit dem eigenen Thema.) Je nach Art und Umfang der Arbeit gibt es zum Wissensstand ein separates Kapitel (siehe 2.3). Wenn vorhanden externe Auftraggeber, Auftraggeberinnen: Wer sind die beteiligten Partnerinnen oder Stakeholder? Den Kurs bzw. das Modul, in dem die Arbeit entsteht, erwähnt man auf dem Titelblatt (siehe 4.1). 8 Das Problem und das Ziel darstellen Zweck der Arbeit: Welche Aufgabe, Herausforderung, welches Problem soll gelöst werden? Warum sollte man die Arbeit lesen? Fragestellung: Auf welche konkrete Hauptfrage (evtl. mit konkretisierenden Unterfragen) soll im Schlusskapitel eine fundierte Antwort gegeben werden? Ist die Fragestellung genügend eingegrenzt? Gibt es Hypothesen? Abgrenzung: Wo liegen die Grenzen der Untersuchung (zeitlich, geografisch, thematisch, methodisch, in der Auswahl der Hilfsmittel usw.)? Was wird nicht untersucht? Was kann die Arbeit nicht leisten? Ziel: Was soll die Untersuchung genau bewirken? Was ist die Absicht hinter der Arbeit? Erwartung: Was möchte die Arbeit leisten (Nutzen der Untersuchung, Soll-Zustand)? Für welche konkrete Zielgruppe sind die Ergebnisse der Arbeit von Nutzen? Was ist zu erwarten? Was ist nicht zu erwarten? Das methodische Vorgehen andeuten Wie man methodisch vorgeht, wird ausführlich im Methodenkapitel beschrieben (siehe 2.4). Oft erwähnt man aber in der Einleitung bereits in ein bis zwei Sätzen, mit welcher Methode man arbeitet (Literaturarbeit, Umfrage, Entwickeln eines Prototyps, Variantenstudium usw.).

1.1 Current State of Research

Der Stand der Forschung beantwortet folgende Fragen:

Was wurde zum Thema der Arbeit bereits erforscht (Forschungsstand)? Auf welche Forschungsarbeiten stützt sich die Arbeit ab? Welche Theorien oder Konzepte sind für die Beantwortung der Fragestellung relevant? Welche Begriffe müssen definiert werden? Welche Normen spielen für die Untersuchung eine Rolle

2 Evaluation

2.1 Hardware Selection

2.1.1 Hardware Requirements

The following requirements were defined for the hardware platform used in this project:

- ▶ At least two native Ethernet interfaces for inline packet sniffing
- ▶ Support for 2.5 GbE or higher
- ▶ Onboard Wi-Fi with access point (AP) and monitor mode support
- ▶ Low power consumption suitable for 24/7 operation
- ▶ Compact form factor for laboratory and prototype setups
- ▶ Strong community and software support
- ▶ Affordable cost (below 150 CHF)

2.1.2 Evaluated Boards

Several boards were considered as potential variants. Their main specifications relevant to the project are listed in Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: Comparison of Board Variants

| Board | SoC / CPU | RAM / Storage | Ethernet Ports | Power (typ.) | Wireless (on-board) |
|-------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Banana Pi R3 Mini | MT7986A, Quad-core ARM Cortex-A53 @ 1.3 GHz | 2 GB DDR4, 8 GB eMMC, microSD | 2 GE 2.5 GbE | 57 W | MT7976C, Wi-Fi 6 (AP/Client/Monitor) |
| Banana Pi R3 | MT7986A, Quad-core ARM Cortex-A53 @ 1.3 GHz | 24 GB DDR4, eMMC, microSD | 1 GE 1 GbE, 2 GE 2.5 GbE, 4 GE 1 GbE | 710 W | MT7976C, Wi-Fi 6 |
| Banana Pi R4 | MT7988A, Quad-core ARM Cortex-A73 | 4 GB DDR4, NVMe option | 4 GE 2.5 GbE, 2 GE 10 GbE (SFP+) | 1015 W | None (M.2 Wi-Fi module required) |
| Banana Pi R5 | MT7988B, Quad-core ARM Cortex-A73 | 4 GB DDR4, NVMe option | 2 GE 10 GbE, 2 GE 2.5 GbE | 1218 W | None (M.2 Wi-Fi module required) |
| Raspberry Pi 4 | BCM2711, Quad-core ARM Cortex-A72 @ 1.5 GHz | 28 GB LPDDR4, microSD | 1 GE 1 GbE (second via USB dongle) | 68 W | Wi-Fi 5 (AP/Client only) |
| Raspberry Pi 5 | BCM2712, Quad-core ARM Cortex-A76 @ 2.4 GHz | 48 GB LPDDR4X, microSD | 1 GE 1 GbE (second via PCIe card) | 812 W | Wi-Fi 5 (AP/Client only) |
| NanoPi R76S | Rockchip RK3588S, Octa-core (4GE Cortex-A76 @ 2.4 GHz + 4GE Cortex-A55 @ 1.8 GHz) | 16 GB LPDDR4X / LPDDR5, NVMe (option via M.2) | 3 GE 2.5 GbE (RJ45) | 1015 W | None (M.2 Wi-Fi 6E module recommended) |

Table 2.2: Requirements Fulfillment by Candidate Boards

| Requirement | R3 Mini | R3 | R4 | R5 | RPi 4 | RPi 5 | NanoPi R76S |
|--------------------------------------|---------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 2 native Ethernet interfaces | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| RAM > 4GB | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ |
| 2.5 GbE support | ✓ (2GE) | ✓ (2GE) | ✓✓ (4GE) | ✓ (2GE) | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |
| Onboard Wi-Fi with AP & Monitor mode | ✓ | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ |
| Low power consumption (<10 W) | ✓ | ✓/▲ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ▲ | ✓ |
| Compact form factor | ✓ | ✗ | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| Strong community & software support | ✓ | ✓ | ▲ | ▲ | ✓ (general) | ✓ (general) | ✓ |
| Suitable for inline packet sniffing | ✓ | ✓ (overkill) | ▲ (overkill) | ▲ (expensive) | ✗ | ✗ | ✓ |

Legend: ✓ = Requirement fulfilled, ✗ = Requirement not fulfilled, ▲ = Partially fulfilled / limited

2.1.3 Decision

Based on the defined requirements and the evaluation of alternatives, the Banana Pi R4 and theNanoPI R76S are the most suitable hardware platforms for this prototype implementation.

The Banana Pi R4 offers two native 2.5 GbE interfaces for inline sniffing the board is compact, affordable, and supported by a strong community. In Addition, the two 10 GbE SFP+ ports provide flexibility for extensions as fiber-based packet capturing. A drawback of the R4 is the weaker CPU and a larger size compared to the NanoPI R76S

The NanoPi R76S is more compact and provides up to 16GB of RAM, which is advantageous for memory-intensive processing and buffering tasks. While it lacks built-in Wi-fi, it can be expanded via the M.2 Wi-Fi 6E module. It cannot host both a Wi-Fi card and NVMe SSD simultaneously. Consequently, data storage must be provided via microSD card or external USB SSD

Alternative boards such as the Banana Pi R3 Mini, R3 are limited overall performance. Raspberry PI 4 or 5 offer higher single core performance but were ultimately discarded because they provide only a single native Ethernet interface, requiring external adapters that reduce performance for inline sniffing scenarios.

2.1.4 Hardware Specification

Each environment represents a practical setup in which the NSAK device can be deployed. For traffic analysis, performance testing or security evaluation.

Category I — Inline:

Diagram: Laptop ↔ NSAK device ↔ Router

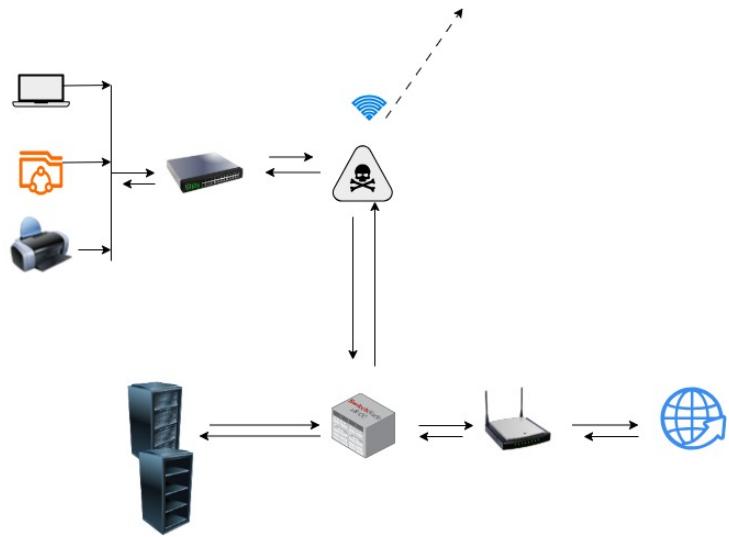


Figure 2.1

Description: Direct inline bridge between a client or switch and router. Used for basic LAN capturing, latency, and throughput testing.

Category II — Wireless:

Diagram: Laptop, Smart Devices, Printer ↔ NSA device (inline) ↔ Router

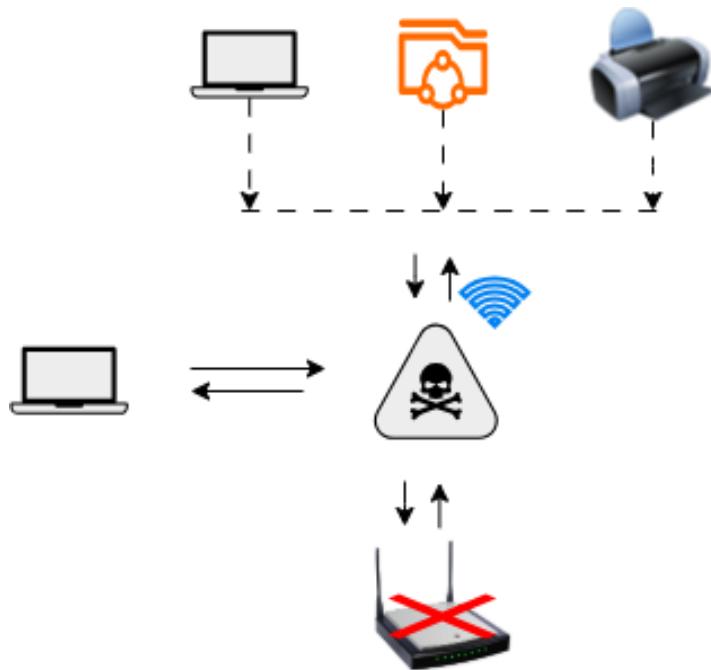


Figure 2.2

Description: The NSAK device is inline and lets traffic pass but intercepts as Rouge AP and capture data

2.2 Software Selection

2.2.1 Framework Technology Stack

Core / CLI

Programming language: Python
Dependency manager: uv
Virtual environment manager: uv
Package build tool: uv
Linter: ruff
Formatter: ruff
Type checker: mypy
Testing framework: pytest

Dependencies: click: Library for building CLIs
pyyaml: Library for loading, validating and reading yaml files
scapy: Library for red team operations
pre-commit: Package to enforce code quality tools for each commit

Describe why we choose this technology, maybe we find references which underline the ease of use and advantages for modularity which are comming with python

2.2.2 System Dependencies

Write this section nicer and explain what the advantages are of such a design is, especially in relation to modularity

As we leverage the abstraction of OCI containers to run scenarios in an encapsulated environment, we have only a minimal set of system dependencies. All system dependencies that are required for running a drill or a scenario are installed into the scenario image, during the build process.

Version control: git
Network tooling: iptables (we should switch to nf_tables)
OCI container manager: podman
OCI container orchestrator: podman-compose
Programming languages: python3, python3-pip, uv
Utilities: curl, sudo

3 Architecture and Design

3.0.1 Framework Concepts

This section describes the high-level concepts which can be managed with the NSAK framework.

Overview:

- ▶ Devices
- ▶ Environments
- ▶ Drills
- ▶ Scenarios

I did not think of a specific order, add a short excerpt in the overview list, add a diagram which shows the relation of the concepts

Devices

Environments

Drills

Scenarios

3.1 Use-Cases

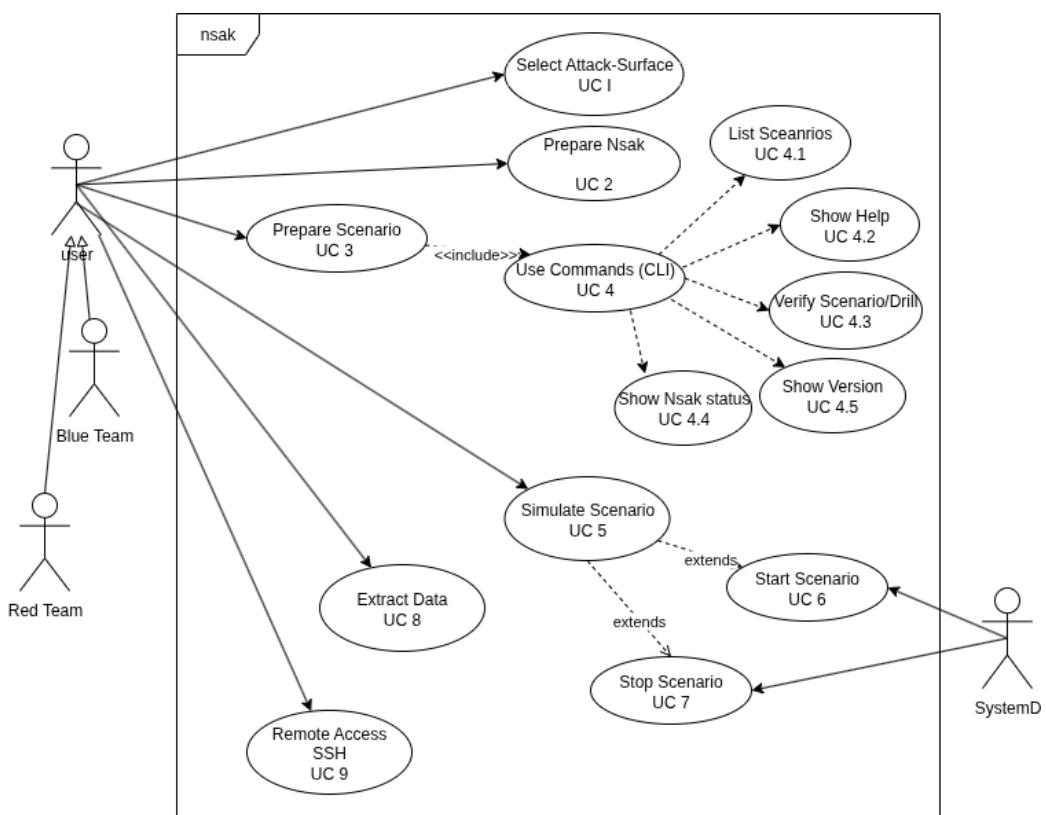


Figure 3.1

Table 3.1: Use Cases Specification (NSAK)

| NR | Details |
|-------|--|
| UC-02 | <p>Use-Case: Select Scenario</p> <p>Description: From the chosen environment, the user selects which scenarios (and related drills) shall be executed and orders them by mission priority / noise level.</p> <p>Actor: User</p> <p>Trigger: User wants to define a mission plan.</p> <p>Preconditions: Environment selected (UC-0001); scenario list available.</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. User requests a list of scenarios. 2. System displays available scenarios with metadata (impact, noise). 3. User selects one or more scenarios and sets the execution order. 4. System validates selection and stores it. <p>Alternative Scenarios: No scenarios available inform user.</p> <p>Error Scenarios: Conflicting resources between scenarios</p> <p>Result: Selected scenarios recorded.</p> <p>Postconditions: Mission plan saved; ready for preparation (UC-03).</p> |
| UC-03 | <p>Use-Case: Prepare Scenario</p> <p>Description: Load, validate and prepare the selected scenarios: collect drills, resolve dependencies, build container.</p> <p>Actor: User</p> <p><code>nsak scenario build <scenario-name></code>.</p> <p>Preconditions: Environment + scenario selection available (UC-01/02).</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System fetches referenced drills and their <code>drill.yaml</code>. 2. System validates configuration (includes UC-04.3 Verify). 3. System aggregates APT/Pip dependencies and resolves conflicts. 4. System builds container image / prepares runtime. 5. System marks the scenario as prepared and logs results. <p>Alternative Scenarios: CI pipeline performs the same steps.</p> <p>Error Scenarios: Validation or dependency failure preparation aborted with diagnostics.</p> <p>Result: Prepared scenario image / runtime available.</p> <p>Postconditions: Scenario state = prepared.</p> |

| NR | Details |
|---------|---|
| UC-04 | <p>Use-Case: Use Commands (CLI)</p> <p>Description: Unified CLI to manage scenarios (list, prepare, start, stop, verify, status, help, version).</p> <p>Actor: User</p> <p>Trigger: User runs <code>nsak <subcommand></code>.</p> <p>Preconditions: NSAK installed</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CLI parses args and dispatches to a subsystem. 2. Command executes and writes logs. 3. CLI prints structured output and exit code. <p>Alternative Scenarios: Machine-readable output via <code>-json</code>.</p> <p>Error Scenarios: Invalid args help; subsystem error non-zero exit.</p> <p>Result: Requested action performed or error reported.</p> <p>Postconditions: State updated accordingly.</p> |
| UC-04.1 | <p>Use-Case: List Scenario</p> <p>Description: Show available scenarios for an environment with key metadata.</p> <p>Actor: User</p> <p>Trigger: <code>nsak scenario list</code>.</p> <p>Preconditions: Environment known or provided.</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System reads scenario specifications/manifests. 2. System prints table/list (name, desc, noise). <p>Alternative Scenarios:</p> <p>Error Scenarios:</p> <p>Result: Scenarios visible to the user.</p> <p>Postconditions: User can select scenarios (UC-02).</p> |
| UC-04.2 | <p>Use-Case: Show Help</p> <p>Description: Provide manual information and examples for CLI/subcommands.</p> <p>Actor: User</p> <p>Trigger: <code>nsak help</code></p> <p>Preconditions: CLI available.</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System displays cmd in ordered form. <p>Alternative Scenarios:</p> <p>Error Scenarios:</p> <p>Result: List of all cmds</p> <p>Postconditions:</p> |

| NR | Details |
|-------------------------------|--|
| UC-04.3 | <p>Use-Case: Verify Scenario / Drill</p> <p>Description: Validate <code>scenario.yaml/drill.yaml</code> structure and declared dependencies (syntax and semantics).</p> <p>Actor: User</p> <p>Trigger: <code>nsak verify <scenario drill></code>.</p> <p>Preconditions: Files present and accessible.</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System parses YAML and required keys. 2. System checks referenced drills and dependencies. 3. System reports validation results and diagnostics. <p>Alternative Scenarios: Verification in CI on PRs.</p> <p>Error Scenarios: Missing files / invalid YAML error with line/col.</p> <p>Result: OK or detailed error.</p> <p>Postconditions: Decision basis for preparation.</p> |
| UC-04.4 needs to be discussed | <p>Use-Case: Show Nsak Status</p> <p>Description: Present runtime status: prepared/running/stopped scenarios, container ids, last errors.</p> <p>Actor: User</p> <p>Trigger: <code>nsak status [<scenario>]</code></p> <p>Preconditions: State file prepared ????????</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System reads a state file and inspects container runtime. 2. System prints summary and optional details. <p>Alternative Scenarios: <code>-json</code> for monitoring.</p> <p>Error Scenarios: Corrupt state warning and fallback inspection.</p> <p>Result: User sees current state.</p> <p>Postconditions:</p> |

| NR | Details |
|---------|---|
| UC-04.5 | <p>Use-Case: Show Version Description: Display nsak CLI/image version, build meta (commit, build time) and core component versions. Actor: User Trigger: <code>nsak version</code>. Preconditions: CLI installed. Main Scenario: 1. System prints CLI version, git commit/tag. 2. System prints base image and key tools versions. Alternative Scenarios: Error Scenarios: Return a report. Result: Version info available for troubleshooting/reporting. Postconditions:</p> <p>Use-Case: Simulate Scenario Description: Run a prepared scenario, monitor runtime and record outputs. Actor: User Trigger: <code>nsak simulate <scenario></code>. Preconditions: Scenario prepared. Main Scenario: 1. System starts containers and services. 2. User monitors progress. 3. System stores logs and results. Alternative Scenarios: Dry-run with test data. Error Scenarios: Container startup failure. Result: Simulation finished. Postconditions: Results stored</p> |
| UC-05 | <p>Use-Case: Start Scenario Description: Start a prepared scenario manually or automatically (SystemD). Actor: User, SystemD Trigger: <code>nsak start</code>. Preconditions: Scenario prepared. Main Scenario: 1. System reads configuration. 2. Launches containers and logs IDs. 3. Marks scenario as running. Alternative Scenarios: Auto-start at boot. Error Scenarios: Start failure or missing dependency. Result: Scenario running. Postconditions: State = running.</p> |

| NR | Details |
|-------|--|
| UC-07 | <p>Use-Case: Stop Scenario</p> <p>Description: Stop a running scenario and persist results.</p> <p>Actor: User, SystemD</p> <p>Trigger: <code>nsak stop</code>.</p> <p>Preconditions: Scenario running.</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System sends stop signal. 2. Saves results and logs. 3. Marks scenario as stopped. <p>Alternative Scenarios: Forced stop on timeout.</p> <p>Error Scenarios: Process hang.</p> <p>Result: Scenario stopped safely.</p> <p>Postconditions: Logs persisted, state updated.</p> |
| UC-08 | <p>Use-Case: Extract Data</p> <p>Description: Export logs, pcap files and reports from completed simulations.</p> <p>Actor: User</p> <p>Trigger: <code>nsak extract</code>.</p> <p>Preconditions: Simulation / mission finished.</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. System locates and verifies artifacts. 2. Exports data to a chosen directory or archive. 3. Reports export result. <p>Alternative Scenarios: Filtered export by time or type.</p> <p>Error Scenarios: Missing artifacts</p> <p>Result: Data exported.</p> <p>Postconditions: Export Files created.</p> |

| NR | Details |
|-------|---|
| UC-09 | <p>Use-Case: Remote Access SSH</p> <p>Description: Allow secure SSH access to the NSAK device for diagnostics.</p> <p>Actor: Admin / Red Team</p> <p>Trigger: SSH login attempt.</p> <p>Preconditions: Authorized key configured; network reachable.</p> <p>Main Scenario:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. User connects via SSH. 2. System verifies public key. 3. Access granted to restricted shell. <p>Alternative Scenarios: Jump host or port forwarding enabled.</p> <p>Error Scenarios: Authentication failure / blocked key.</p> <p>Result: Secure shell established or denied.</p> <p>Postconditions: Access logged; keys remain intact.</p> |

3.2 Component-diagram

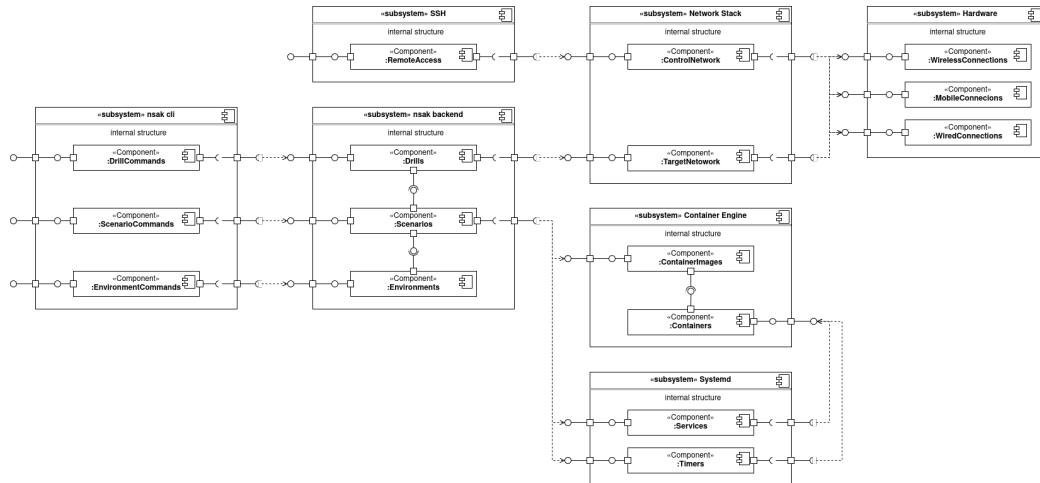


Figure 3.2

4 Second Part Thesis: Method

2.4 Methoden Im Methodenkapitel wird aufgezeigt, was (Material, Daten) wie (Methode) untersucht wurde, um die Fragestellung zu beantworten. Das Ziel des Kapitels ist dabei, die Nachvollziehbarkeit und Überprüfbarkeit der Untersuchung für spätere oder weiterführende Arbeiten zu gewährleisten. Dafür muss das methodische Vorgehen wiederholbar festgehalten werden. Das Methodenkapitel hat dabei einen ebenso hohen Stellenwert wie das Ergebniskapitel, denn nur nachvollziehbar erhobene Ergebnisse sind verlässliche Ergebnisse. Was genau im Methodenkapitel festgehalten wird, hängt stark von der methodischen Ausrichtung der Arbeit ab. Je nach gewählter Methodik sollten folgende Inhalte festgehalten werden:

Welches Material wurde untersucht? (Proben, Prüfkörper, Objekte, Bauteile, Elemente, Software usw.) Mit welchen Geräten, Vorrichtungen, Werkzeugen usw. wurde gearbeitet? Welcher Probenumfang wurde untersucht? (Stichprobe, Gewährspersonen usw.) Wie wurden die Daten erhoben? Wie wurden die Daten ausgewertet? (statistische Testverfahren, Software usw.) Wo und wie wurde Literatur gesucht, welche wichtigen Quellen wurden verwendet, wie und warum wurden sie ausgewählt?

4.1 Implementation

4.2 Network Environments

Each environment represents a practical setup in which the NSAK device can be deployed for traffic analysis, performance testing, or security evaluation.

4.2.1 Category I: Basic / Local

E 1: Point-to-Point

Diagram: Laptop ↔ nsak ↔ Router



Figure 4.1

Description: Direct inline bridge between client and router. Used for basic LAN capturing, latency, and throughput testing.

E 2: Home Network

Diagram: Laptop, Smart Devices, Printer ↔ nsak (inline) ↔ Router

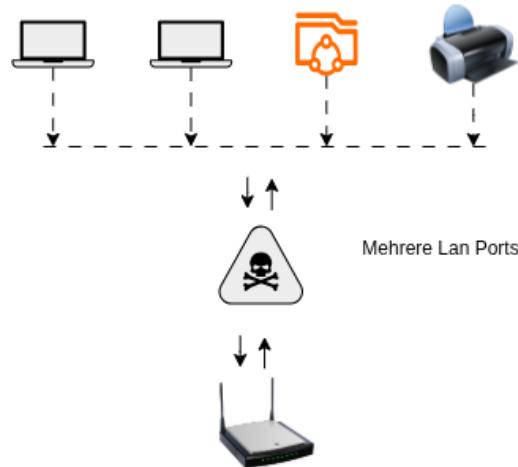


Figure 4.2

Description: Captures typical home traffic. The WLAN interface is required for Wi-Fi analysis. Useful for IoT discovery and local broadcast observation.

E 3: Business Network

Diagram: Devices ↔ Switch ↔ nsak (inline) ↔ Server / Router

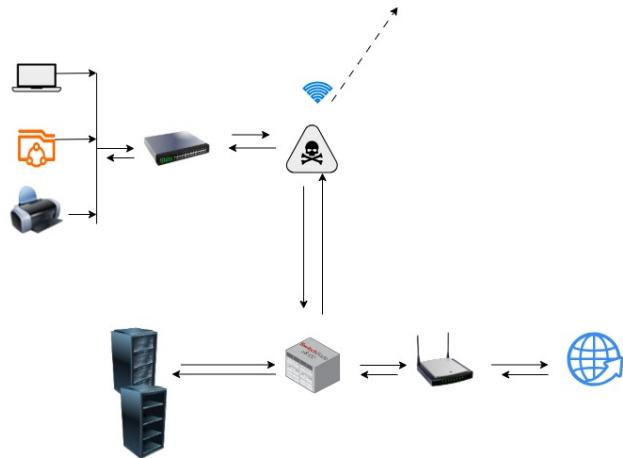


Figure 4.3

Description: Represents a small office LAN. nsak placed at uplink or server edge to monitor internal traffic, VLANs, and broadcast domains.

4.2.2 Category II: Mobile / Wireless

E 4: Access Point Mode

Diagram: Wi-Fi Device ↔ AP-nsak ↔ Internet

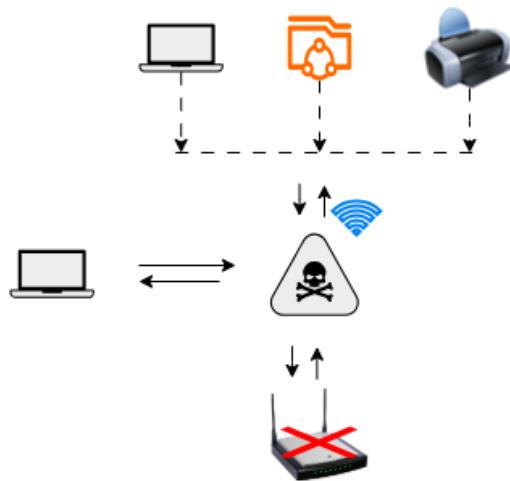


Figure 4.4

Description: nsak acts as Wi-Fi AP, providing connectivity and packet capture.

Captures management and data frames for WLAN analysis.

E 5: Mobile Hotspot

Diagram: Smartphone ↔ nsak ↔ LTE/5G

Description: Mobile tethering or hotspot scenario. Focus on NAT behavior, encryption overhead, and power constraints.

4.2.3 Category III: Secure / Advanced

E 6: Data Center / Server Rack

Diagram: Servers ↔ Switch ↔ Firewall ↔ nsak

Description: High-performance setup for 2.5G–10G traffic capture. Focus on throughput, buffering, and VLAN-tagged traffic.

E 7: VPN Gateway

Diagram: Router ↔ nsak (VPN Endpoint) ↔ Remote Peer

Description: nsak configured as WireGuard gateway. Measures encrypted vs. unencrypted traffic, tunnel stability, and CPU load.

4.2.4 Category IV: IoT / Special Purpose

E 8: VLAN-Segmented Enterprise Network

Diagram: Switch + Router + Multiple VLANs ↔ nsak

Description: Used to verify VLAN isolation and detect inter-segment leaks or misconfigurations.

E 9: IoT Sensor Network

Diagram: IoT Devices ↔ Local Gateway (Broadcast) ↔ nsak

Description: Passive capture of local IoT or broadcast-based communication. Identifies timing, protocol use, and unsecured traffic.

4.2.5 Category V: Virtual / Simulation

E 10: Attack Simulation Network

Diagram: Virtual Attacker \leftrightarrow Target VM \leftrightarrow nsak
 Description: Virtual lab for testing detection systems, malware traffic, and replay scenarios.

E 11: Remote Management Environment

Diagram: Admin \leftrightarrow VPN/SSH \leftrightarrow nsak (headless)
 Description: Remote-controlled nsak for automated capture and monitoring in unattended operation.

E 12: Dual-Sniffer Setup

Diagram: nsak-A \parallel nsak-B (same link)
 Description: Two synchronized devices capture the same traffic path. Used for timestamp comparison and hardware validation.

4.3 Software Modules

We define a software module as a sequence of actions with a predefined goal. Actions can be but are not limited to the execution of scripts, cli tools or steps in a program, but also human interaction. Such an action may appear in multiple software modules, with different configurations and in interplay with other actions.

We generally differentiate between two software module types:

- ▶ Active Software Module: Does actively intervene with other devices or alter data. Can be an active attack, but also testing for behavior of another device, depending on the scenario.
- ▶ Passive Software Module: Does not actively intervene in communication and does not alter data. Can be a passive attack, but also monitoring or analysis, depending on the scenario.

To group similar software modules together, we defined the following categories:

1. Network Traffic Collection
2. Network Mapping and Port Mapping
3. ManintheMiddle (MITM)
4. Exploits

5. Brute Force
6. Denial of Service (DoS)
7. Physical (TBD?)

4.3.1 Category 1: Network Traffic Collection

In this category are software modules to collect network traffic with the help of network sniffers like Wireshark/TShark or tcpdump.

Module 1.1: Live Network Traffic Monitoring

The idea of this module is to allow an operator to use Wireshark and connect a remote interface to it, which will then show all packets sent and received on nsack. The operator can then add filters and analyze the traffic in real time. This module requires a live connection from a remote device to nsak, in a real world attack scenario the attacker must be nearby for WI-FI access or could be identified via the cellular connection.

- ▶ Type: Passive
- ▶ Goal: Monitor live network traffic

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Enable remote access via Wi-Fi or cellular connection.
2. nsak: Enable layer 2 bridge between interfaces.
3. nsak: Start tshark, listening on all interfaces, no filters.
4. Remote Device: Start Wireshark and connect to a remote interface.
5. Remote Device: Analyze live network traffic, apply filters

Module 1.2: Network Traffic Collection (Local)

This module requires physical access to nsak to extract the collected network traffic, which might be challenging or dangerous in a real-world attack scenario. The amount of data which can be extracted this way depends heavily on the amount of network traffic, how specific the filters are set, and the disk space available.

- ▶ Type: Passive
- ▶ Goal: Collect network traffic

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Enable layer 2 bridge between interfaces.
2. nsak: Start tshark, listening on all interfaces, set filters, write to a local file.

Module 1.3: Network Traffic Collection (Remote)

This module requires a live connection from a remote device to nsak, in a real world attack scenario the attacker must be nearby for WI-FI access or could be identified via the cellular connection.

- ▶ Type: Passive
- ▶ Goal: Collect http network traffic

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Enable remote access via Wi-Fi or cellular connection.
2. nsak: Enable layer 2 bridge between interfaces.
3. nsak: Start tshark, listening on all interfaces, set filters, write to a remote file.

4.3.2 Category 2: Network Mapping and Port Mapping

This category is concerned about mapping out the environment nsak is currently located in.

Module 2.1: Network Discovery

- ▶ Type: Active
- ▶ Goal: Discover Network Participants

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Run arp-scan, on interface in a specific subnet

Module 2.2: Host Service/Version Detection

- ▶ Type: Active
- ▶ Goal: Detect which OS and/or services are participating in the network

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Run nmap, against a whole subnet or a specific host

4.3.3 Category 3: ManintheMiddle (MITM)

Modules in this category will try to convince other devices or services in the network that nsak is a legitimate participant.

Module 3.1 SSL/TLS MITM

This module tries to intercept SSL/TLS handshakes and convince Alice and Bob that nsak is the respective counterpart.

- ▶ Type: Active
- ▶ Goal: Intercept encrypted traffic

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Execute SSL/TLS MITM attack (TBD)

Module 3.2 IP Spoofing

- ▶ Type: Active
- ▶ Goal: Traffic interception

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Set nsaks IP to the one of another device

Module 3.3: WLAN SSID Spoofing

- ▶ Type: Active
- ▶ Goal: Traffic interception

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Set nsaks WLAN SSID to the one of an actual WI-FI access point.

4.3.4 Category 4: Exploits

This category contains modules which execute known exploits.

Module 4.1: Join Network via WPS

- ▶ Type: Active
- ▶ Goal: Wireless Network Access (intrusion)

Action sequence:

1. nsak: TBD

4.3.5 Category 5: Brute force

With this module we try to gain access to a device or network with brute force.

Module 5.1: SSH Login

- ▶ Type: Active
- ▶ Goal: Server Remote Access

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Load dictionary for the current locale or better data set if available
2. nsak: Brute Force SSH authentication

Module 5.2: WLAN Login

- ▶ Type: Active
- ▶ Goal: Wireless Network Access (intrusion)

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Load dictionary for the current locale or better data set if available
2. nsak: Brute Force WI-FI authentication

4.3.6 Category 6: Denial of Service (DoS)

Module 6.1: Classic Denial of Service

- ▶ Type: Active
- ▶ Goal: DoS

Action sequence:

1. nsak: Send as many requests as possible until the service is not available anymore

4.4 Scenarios

A scenario is described as a combination of an environment, with a defined location of the sniffer and one or multiple software modules.

4.5 Conclusion

Declaration of Authorship

I hereby declare that I have written this thesis independently and have not used any sources or aids other than those acknowledged.

All statements taken from other writings, either literally or in essence, have been marked as such.

I hereby agree that the present work may be reviewed in electronic form using appropriate software.

December 29, 2025

Frank Gauss (gausf1) and Lukas von Allmen (vonal3)

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Listings

Glossary

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.1 First Appendix Chapter

.1.1 Project 2 Proposal