Sniffing overview

• Capturing data packets on a network using a program or a device.

Networking concepts

Network adapter

- Can enable Wi-Fi (wireless, WLAN) and Ethernet (wired, LAN) connection.
- Can be a **NIC** (Network interface card)
 - Physical card that connects to an expansion slot in a computer
- Modern systems has usually an integrated network adapter (e.g. on motherboard).
- As default it discards messages that's not destined to it
 - See <u>promiscuous mode</u> for the opposite behavior.

Promiscuous mode

- Allows sniffing the packets after connecting to an access point
- 📝 Network interface controller pass all traffic it receives, rather than only destined ones.
- Works on both wired and wireless connections
- See also libpcap | Sniffing tools Turning on promiscuous mode | Wireshark

Monitor mode

- Allows sniffing the packets in the air without connecting (associating) with any access point.
- | Wireless connection only

Sniffing types

Passive sniffing

- Does not require any packets to be sent
- Monitors and captures incoming packets
- Used in networks which use hubs i.e. shared ethernets
 - A **hub** forwards every frame to all ports but the sources filters

Active sniffing

- Require a packet to have a source and destination addresses in order to be sent to its destination
- Used in networks which use switches i.e. switched ethernets
 - A **switch** maps MAC addresses into ports, based on source addresses
 - A switch operates at data link layer (2) to forward data to MAC addresses
 - Some switches can run on network layer (3) with additional routing functionality.
 - Also known as layer-3 switches, or multilayer switches.
- E.g.
 - Port mirroring where each packet is also sent to a port that attacker listens to

• Lawful interception where electronic surveillance on a target is authorized by a judicial or administrative order.

Port mirroring

- Used on a network switch
- Sends copy of network packets seen on one switch port (or an entire VLAN) to another port
- Often used in <u>Intrusion Detection Systems</u>.
- Also known as span port
 - In Cisco system, it's commonly referred as Switched Port Analyzer (SPAN)
- See also <u>STP attack</u> for an exploitation

Sniffer

- Packet sniffing programs
- Designed to capture packets that contain information such as passwords, router configuration, traffic.
- 📝 Works at data link layer (2) of the OSI model where MAC addresses work
 - It may then translate frames to higher level packets.
- Allows attackers to access the network traffic from a single point.
- Turns the network adapter into promiscuous mode or monitor mode

Wiretapping

- Also known as telephone tapping or wire tapping
- Monitoring of telephone and Internet-based conversations by a third party.
- Legal wiretapping by a government agency is also called lawful interception (LI)
- **Active wiretapping**: Alters communication by e.g. interjecting something.
- Passive wiretapping: Only monitors or records the traffic.
- SA wiretaps Internet going through using out-of-band signaling with their tool called PRISM
- Out-of-band vs In-band signaling
 - In-Band signaling: Method where signalling is sent over the voice/data circuit.
 - **Out-of-band signaling**: Data transmission through different channels (or frequencies) than normal ones.

Sniffing countermeasures

- Restrict the physical access to the network media
- 📝 Encryption is, by far, the best option.
 - E.g. <u>SSH</u> instead of Telnet <u>Secure Copy (SCP)</u> instead of FTP <u>SSL</u> for email connection
 HTTPS instead of HTTP <u>SFTP</u> instead of FTP <u>WPA2</u> or <u>WPA3</u> for wireless traffic
 - See also encrypting communication
- Use <u>Access Control Lists (ACLs)</u> on router/firewall to only allow authorized devices/IP ranges.
- Permanently add the MAC address of the gateway to the ARP cache.
- Use static IP addresses and static ARP tables

- Use switch instead of hub as switch delivers data only to the intended recipient.
- Use <u>PGP</u> and S/MIPE VPN <u>IPSec</u> <u>SSL/TLS</u> <u>Secure Shell (SSH)</u> <u>One-time passwords (OTP)</u>.
- Retrieve MAC directly from NIC instead of OS to prevent MAC address spoofing.
- Use tools to determine if any NICs are running in the promiscuous mode.

Sniffing tools

- Also known as sniffer packet analyzer protocol analyzer network analyzer
- ullet Not only used for hacking but also for troubleshooting by e.g. system administrators

Cain and Abel

- Also known as Cain & Abel or Cain
- Recovery of various kind of passwords by sniffing the network
- 📝 Can also do
 - ARP poisoning
 - sniffing
 - recording VoIP conversations
 - o password cracking with e.g. dictionary attacks, brute-force etc.
- See also <u>Cain and Abel | Wireless threats and attacks</u> <u>Cain and Abel | Web server threats and attacks</u> <u>ARP poisoning attack steps | ARP poisoning</u>

libpcap

- 📓 Layer 2 Packet capture library for Linux/macOS
 - See <u>Turning on promiscuous mode</u> for Windows alternatives
- Used by most sniffers including <u>Wireshark</u> <u>Snort</u> <u>tcpdump</u> <u>TCPflow</u> <u>Cain and Abel</u>
 <u>Kismet</u> <u>Nmap</u>
- Maintained and developed by <u>tcpdump</u>

TCPflow

- Open-source TCP/IP packet demultiplexer.
- Stores data in a way that makes it convenient for debugging and analysis
- Like <u>tcpdump</u> however, separate files for each direction are created, making things easier to read.
- Uses libpcap

tcpdump

- Tommand-line tool to show all TCP traffic from all interfaces live.
- Built-in for all Unix systems, has a Windows clone called WinDump
- Developed and maintains <a>1ibpcap
- See man page | tcpdump.org

Wireshark

- 📝 Also known as **Ethereal** (old name)
- 📝 Captures and visualize traffic.
- **Transport** tshark: Terminal-based Wireshark like tcpdump
- Can be started from Window managers or command line

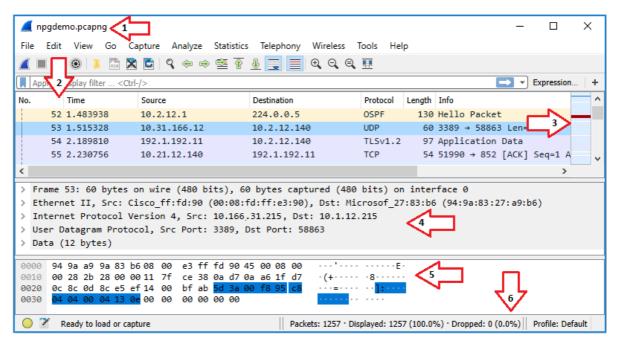
Turning on promiscuous mode

- Allows capturing all traffic, see Promiscuous mode | Sniffing
- On Linux/macOS it's done through <a>1ibpcap
- 📝 On Windows a driver is required:
 - o npcap: Driver from Nmap developers
 - winPcap: Discontinued driver
 - AirPcap: Obsolete, propriety USB dongle used when there was no open-source Windows driver

Wireshark non-root installation

- Running wireshark as root is not safest
 - You're receiving traffic from an unknown location
 - o If anything goes wrong, people can gain root access
- Install wireshark by e.g. apt-get install wireshark-gtk (varies by OS)
- usermod -a -G wireshark <user-name> to install it as non-root user
 - Adds wireshark to user account.

Wireshark UI



1. Title Bar

- Shows the name of the interface you're capturing until you save your capture
- Then it shows the name of the capture dump

2. Packet List Pane

- You can add/remove/reorder columns
- Selecting a packet will show more details in the Packet Details Pane and Packet Bytes
 Pane

3. Intelligent Scrollbar

- Mini-map of packets
- Depends on the height of the list and your physical display's specifications.

4. Packet Details Pane

o Displays protocol fields

Generated Fields

- Enclosed in brackets ([])
- Contains info such as TCP analysis, response time, checksum validation, and IP geolocation.

o Links

- Wireshark will generate a link if it detects relationships between packets.
- Formatted blue with an underline.
- Double-clicking on the link will jump you to the related packet.

5. Packet Bytes Pane

- Hexdump style with each line displaying the data offset
 - 16 hexadecimal bytes, and 16 ASCII bytes

6. The Statusbar

Informational messages

Wireshark filtering

• <u>Capture filters</u> (like tcp port 80) are not to be confused with <u>display filters</u> (like tcp.port == 80)

Display filters

- · Control which packets are displayed
- Uses search and match operators such as contains and matches
 - E.g. http contains hello: TCP packets containing string "hello"
- Uses search comparisons
 - Such as
 - Equal: eq | ==
 - Not equal: ne | !=
 - Greater than: gt | >
 - Less than: 1t | <
 - Greater than or equal to: ge | >=
 - Less than or equal to: 1e | <=</p>
 - ∘ 📝 E.g.
 - tcp.port eq 21 or ssh: show only FTP (port 21) or SSH traffic.
 - ip.addr == 192.168.1.1: examine all traffic from and to 192.168.1.1s

Capture filters

- Also known as PCAP filters
- Same syntax as tcpdump or any other application using libpcap
- Much more limited than <u>display filters</u>
- Reduce the size of a raw packet capture, set before capturing
- E.g.
 - o Only from traffic to / from specific host: host 172.18.5.4
 - Only from a range of IP addresses: src net 192.168.0.0/24

Kismet

- <u>Kismet</u> is an <u>open-source</u> wireless network and device detector, passive network sniffer, wardriving tool, and <u>WIDS (Wireless Intrusion Detection system)</u> framework.
- Can export in a compatible format for
 - cracking with <u>aircrack-ng</u> for deep packet analysis with a tool like Wireshark / tshark.
- Kismet can discover wireless networks that are not sending beacon frames.
 - Even if the security admin turns beaconing off (so no one can supposedly search for the SSIDs)

Kismet vs Wireshark

- Both looks at the contents of the packets and decodes them but presents them differently
 - Wireshark is packet oriented: digs into specifics of each packet
 - Kismet is device oriented: more device details, association with client.
- Both are passive-monitoring tools i.e. works without sending any loggable packets.
- Kismet is Wi-Fi only while Wireshark can also sniff on wired networks.

Mobile tools

- <u>Wi.cap. Network Sniffer Pro</u> for Android
- FaceNiff for Android (rooted only)
- PacketCapture for android

Sniffing attacks overview

- Spoofing attacks
- ARP posioning

MAC flooding

MAC

- MAC address is a unique identifier of a network node.
- E.g. 52:54:00:e5:83:bb
 - First three sets (52:54:00): Manufacturers signature
 - Last three sets is set in different ways depending on manufacturers
- Embedded in the device (firmware or some read-only part of the device)
- In a network, each device has its own MAC address
 - Associates the device with a physical port
- - Difficult to trace it if it was paid by cash.
- 🖓 😭 You may have free WiFi forever if you can change your MAC address.
 - Usually checked in public places e.g. in an airport when they give you free WiFi.

Content Addressable Memory (CAM) table

- Used by switches
- Stores all available MAC addresses and their virtual LAN parameters for each port.
- Possible to sniff by flooding it.

MAC flooding attack

- Flooding the switch with thousands of MAC address mappings such that it cannot keep up.
 - When the table can't keep up it starts sending every message out to every port.
 - I.e. switch is forced to behave as a hub.
- Allowed by the fixed size of the CAM table.
- Steps:
 - 1. Send large number of fake MAC addresses to the switch until CAM table becomes full
 - 2. Switch enters fail-open mode
 - where it broadcasts the incoming traffic to all ports on the network
 - 3. Attacker (with promiscuous mode) starts sniffing the traffic passing through the network.
- Can be followed up using <u>ARP spoofing</u> to retain access to data after switches recover.
- See also MAC spoofing

DHCP attacks

DHCP introduction

- DHCP: Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol
- Client/server protocol
- Used by routers as they start a DHCP server
- Server provides following to DHCP-enabled clients:
 - IP addresses
 - Configuration information
 - Time period of the lease offer
- A possible way to drop connection of others in network is to brute-force DHCP server with "returning lease" messages.
 - o It'll force everybody to lose connection and request IP addresses again

DHCP snooping

- Layer 2 security feature
- Built into operating system of a capable network switches
- Filters, rate-limits suspicious DHCP traffic
- Builds and maintains the DHCP snooping binding database
 - Also known as **DHCP snooping binding table**
 - Stores MAC + assigned IP + VLAN and switch ports
 - Uses to validate subsequent requests from untrusted hosts.
- Dynamic ARP Inspection (DAI)
 - Defense against too many incoming ARP broadcasts.
 - Each port on VLAN is untrusted by default
 - Each IP to MAC conversion is validated using DHCP snooping binding database.

DHCP starvation

- Exhaust all available addresses from the server
- Exploits that DHCP has a limited number of ip addresses to lease.
- A type of Denial of Service attack
- Flow
 - 1. Starve it, and no new clients will be able to connect
 - 1. Attacker broadcasts large number of DHCP REQUEST messages with spoofed source MAC addresses.
 - 2. Available IP addresses in the DHCP server scope becomes depleted.
 - 3. DHCP server becomes unable to allocate configurations to new clients and issue any IP addresses
 - 2. Set-up rogue (fake server) to respond to the discovery requests
 - 1. Attacker sets up a rogue DHCP server to respond to DHCP discovery requests.
 - 2. If a client accepts the rogue server as its DHCP server, then the attacker can listen to all traffic going from or to the client.

Tools

- o <u>yersinia</u>
 - Start UI using yersinia -G then click on "Start attack"
- o **DHCPstarv**

DHCP starvation countermeasures

- Authentication
- Configure DHCP snooping
- Trusted sources
 - [Vulnerable to mimicing them

Port security

- Allows traffic from a specific MAC address to enter to a port
- Only allowing one MAC through a port
- Only one IP at a time can be requested
- | Vulnerable to spoofing MAC addresses

DNS poisoning

DNS introduction

- Domain Name Server
- Protocol that resolves domain names into IP addresses using default port 53.
- Stores domain name and IP address pairs in a **DNS table**.

DNS poisoning attack

- 📝 Also known as **DNS cache poisoning** and **DNS spoofing**
- 📝 Manipulating the DNS table by replacing a legitimate IP address with a malicious one
 - E.g. redirecting cloudarchitecture.io to attackers IP address.
- 😭 Used for internet censorship in many countries.
- Flow
 - 1. Attacker makes DNS request to target
 - 2. DNS server asks the root name server for the entry
 - 3. Attacker floods the DNS server with a fake response for the targeted domain until legitimate response from root server is ignored
 - 4. The poisoned entry remains in cache for hours and even days
- Can be used after <u>ARP poisoning</u> through **DNS spoof** plugin of <u>Ettercap</u>.
- Can be followed up with e.g. man-in-the-middle attacks website defacement attacks

DNS poisoning countermeasures

- Active monitoring
 - Monitor DNS data for new patterns such as new host
 - E.g. by using intrusion detection system (IDS)
- Keep DNS servers up-to-date
 - Updated versions have port randomization and cryptographically secure transaction IDs against attackers.
- Randomize source and destination IP, query IDs, during name requests
 - Makes harder for attackers to send spoofed responses as it'd be harder to guess the address and query ID.
- Use HTTPS and/or TLS for securing the traffic

- Also known as DNS over HTTPS (DoH) and DNS over TLS (DoT)
- SSL and TLS use certificates to verify the identity of the other party.
- So although they do not protect against cache poisoning itself, the certificates help to protect against the results

DNSSEC (Domain Name System Security Extension)

- Developed by The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
 - Open standards organization, which develops and promotes voluntary Internet standards
- Help verifying the true originator of DNS messaging
- Provides secure DNS data authentication by using digital signatures and encryption.
 - Adds cryptographic signatures to existing DNS records, stored in DNS name servers.
- Widely considered one of the greatest cache poisoning prevention tool as a defense
- Allows verifying that a requested DNS record comes from its authoritative name server and wasn't altered, opposed to a fake record injected in a man-in-the-middle attack.
- **Chain of trust**: E.g. cloudarchitecture.io's signature is verified by .io signature that is verified by root certificate (signed by IANA)
 - **IANA**: Centrally coordinates Internet for DNS Root, IP addressing, and other Internet protocol resources.

VLAN hopping

VLAN

- 📝 Allows multiple separate LANs/networks on same switch through logical grouping
- Provides network separation
 - Hosts one one VLAN does not see hosts on other one
- Port-based VLAN
 - 1. Designate set of ports on the switch
 - account department VLAN, shipping department VLAN..
 - 2. Connect devices to right ports each group is a VLAN
- Tag-based VLAN aka IEEE 802.1q VLANs
 - Basically a tags frames with which VLAN it belongs to
 - Frame = Primitive packet on layer 2
 - Tagged frame = IEEE 802.1q frame
 - Can tag/assign based on e.g. 802.1x
- **Trunk** (=802.1q link)
 - Allows sharing VLANs (VLAN IDs) between switches

VLAN hopping attack

- Attacking host on a VLAN to gain access to traffic on other VLANs
- E.g. using Frogger
- Switch spoofing
 - Attacking host imitates a trunking switch
- Double tagging

- o Attacker prepends two VLAN tags to frames
- Second tag is the target host
- First switch removes first innocent VLAN tag and sends packet to second switch.
- Allows bypassing security mechanisms and reaching the target hosts.
- o Replies are not forwarded to the attacker host

OSPF attacks

- Forms a trusted relationship with the adjacent router
- Usually these attacks go undetected
- Remote attacks: caused by misconfigurations

OSPF: Open Shortest Path First

- Most popular routing protocol for IP networks
- Dynamically discovers neighbors like RIPv2 and BPG (Border Gateway Protocol)
- Used by e.g. internet service providers (ISP) and cloud providers for hybrid communication

Compromised router attacks

- Placing a rogue router in target network e.g. remote branch/headquarters
- Allows attacker to inject routes to redirect traffic for MITM attacks or DoS attacks.
- Attacker learns about that entire routing domain such network types, links etc

OSPF attacks countermeasures

- 📝 Configure OSPF to authenticate every OSPF message
 - o Routers must pass the authentication process before becoming OSPF neighbors.
- Monitor OSPF neighbors for eavesdropping through e.g. a SIEM

Spoofing attacks

- Entails changing a computer's identity
- Allow the bypassing of access control lists on servers or routers
- Allows hiding a device on network by impersonating another network device / system.

IP address spoofing

- Used most commonly in DDoS attacks.
- Helps with overcoming authentication based on IP addresses
 - Usually in corporate networks where trust between devices exists
 - E.g. accessing intranet without any password.
- I The response is sent to the spoofed IP address instead of the spoofer.

IP address spoofing countermeasures

- Packet filtering by a gateway
 - Ingress: block packets from outside of the network having an IP address within the network
 - Egress: block outgoing packets from inside with a source address that is not inside
- Posign network protocols and services so that they do not rely on the source IP address for authentication.
- Sequence number
 - Used by upper layer TCP
 - Negotiated to ensure that arriving packets are part of an established connection.
 - 📝 Must be guessed in order to hijack the connection

MAC spoofing

- Response is received to spoofing party as opposed to IP address spoofing
- See also MAC | MAC flooding | Sniffing attacks

MAC spoofing use-cases

- New hardware for existing Internet Service Providers (ISP) where ISP charges per device.
- Fulfilling software requirements where one software can only be installed on a single device.
- Identity masking for pushing responsibility for other users.
- MAC address randomization: Implemented in Android, Linux, iOS, and Windows to prevent third parties from using the MAC address to track devices

MAC spoofing attack

- Flow
 - 1. Attacker sniffs the network for MAC addresses of legitimate users
 - 2. Spoofs one of those addresses
 - 3. The attacker receives the traffic intended for that user
- Effective against MAC filtering
- E.g. using ifconfig

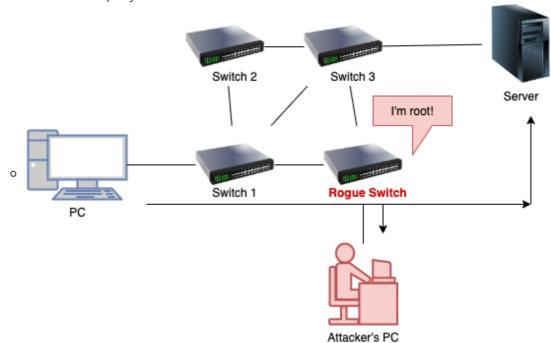
- 1. if config to get name of network interface e.g. eth0
- 2. ifconfig eth0 down to deactivate it to be able to change it (will lose connection)
- 3. ifconfig eth0 hw ether 88:88:88:88:88 to change the MAC address
- 4. ifconfig eth0 up to change the MAC address
- E.g. using macchanger
 - -r to get a random MAC address e.g. macchanger -r eth0
 - -m set specify MAC address manually to pretend to be someone else

STP spoofing

- STP: Spanning tree protocol
 - Layer 2 link management protocol
 - Provides path redundancy while preventing loops in the network
- Allows intercepting traffic when attacker emulates a device with a (lower) root switch identifier

STP spoofing attack

- Also known as *STP manipulation attack*, *STP attack* or *STP root role attack*.
- Flow
 - 1. Attacker introduces a rogue switch
 - 2. Switch advertises superior BPDUs to force a STP recalculation
 - BPDU = Bridge Protocol Data Units (BPDUs)
 - Frames that contain information about STP that's between exchanged switches
 - 3. Rouge router becomes elected as root switch
 - All the traffic will cross this switch giving the attacker possibility to sniff all traffic in the company



- Allows for
 - o DoS attacks
 - Recalculation of STP have interruption on the system as the root bridge changes
 - Just sending BPDU messages would be enough as becoming root is not needed.

o MITM attacks

- Also known as dual-homing (dual-homed)
- Attacker uses two interfaces, one to win the root other to send data to the attacker.
- Attacker can configure one of the switch ports as a <u>SPAN port</u> to receive copy of the traffic.
- Mitigations
 - Enable **Root Guard** to not forward traffic to port with superior BPDUs
 - Enable **BPDU Guard** to enforce the STP domain borders

IRDP spoofing

- IRDP: ICMP Router Discovery Protocol
 - Protocol for computer hosts to discover routers on their IPv4 local area network.
 - ICMP router discovery messages are called "Router Advertisements" or "Router Solicitations"
- Vulnerable as it does not have any validation
- Attacker needs to be in the same network as the victim.
- Attacker adds bad route entries into a victim's routing table redirecting victim traffic to malicious address.
- Allows
 - Passive sniffing through rerouting victim machine to attacker machine
 - Man-in-the-middle where attacker acts as proxy
 - DoS by flooding wrong entries

• Countermeasures

- Disable IRDP
- Use digital signatures
- Block all type 9 and type 10 ICMP packets.

ARP poisoning

ARP

- ARP stands for "Address Resolution Protocol"
- 📝 In charge of resolving IP addresses to MAC addresses
- Can be used for obtaining MAC addresses of devices on the network
- Packets are ARP_REQUEST and ARP_REPLY
- Commands
 - o arp -a: displays current ARP cache
 - o arp -d *: clears ARP cache

ARP table

- Used to map MAC addresses to ip addresses
- Every network interface has its own ARP table
- 📝 If no ARP entry exist:
 - 1. Computer A broadcasts an APR request in network asking for the MAC address from a specific IP.
 - 2. Computer B replies its MAC and IP address
 - 3. Computer A inserts it to its ARP table for future use

ARP poisoning attack

- Also known as ARP spoofing ARP spoofing ARP cache poisoning ARP poison routing •
 ARP cache flooding ARP flooding.
- Man in the middle attack between the victim and switch.
- Floods the target machines ARP cache with forged requests and responses.
- Exploits ARP not verifying the device authenticity
- If ARP cache becomes full, different behaviors can be observed depending on the manufacturer/implementation:
 - May <u>force switch to operates in fail-safe mode</u>
 - Behaves as a hub i.e. sends packets to every to all hosts
 - Same behavior is also seen in MAC flooding
 - In <u>Linux</u> it may:
 - Drop the oldest / most stale entry from the table (by garbage collector)
 - Reject new entries

ARP poisoning attack steps

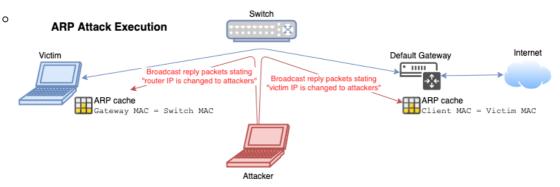
- 1. Gather information
 - 1. Get victim IP address, e.g. 192.168.122.183
 - E.g. through host discovery using nmap e.g. nmap -sn 192.168.0.0/24
 - 2. Get default gateway IP, e.g. 192.168.122.1

- Usually IP of the machine ending with .1
- Usually same for everyone on same network
- Default gateway is the forwarding host (router) to internet when no other specification matches the destination IP address of a packet.

2. Enable forwarding mode to sniff the traffic

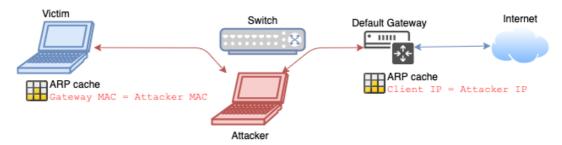
- echo 1 > /proc/sys/net/ipv4/ip_forward in Linux.
- Otherwise no traffic is going through and you're just DOSing.

3. Attack



- Deceive the victim device through flooding ARP reply packets to it.
 - Change gateways MAC address is to the attackers
- 📝 Use an ARP spoofing tool e.g.
 - arpspoof
 - arpspoof -t <victim-machine-ip> <default-gateway-ip>
 - arpspoof -t <default-gateway-ip> <victim-machine-ip>
 - <u>ettercap</u>
 - Also sniffs passwords automatically
 - ettercap -NaC <default-gateway-ip> <victim-machine-ip>
 - N: make it non-interactive
 - a: arp posion
 - c: parse out passwords and usernames.
 - <u>Cain and Abel (Cain & Abel)</u> on Windows

After ARP spoofing



4. Sniff

- Now you sniff the traffic between two devices.
 - If through HTTPS & SSL you can only see basic data such as User Agent and domain names.
- o Can use e.g. wireshark or dsniff

ARP poisoning attack countermeasures

- Configure DHCP snooping
- Add **static** IP-MAC entries to the cache.
 - Then it will not process any ARP Replies received unlike a dynamic ARP cache.
- Use Intrusion Detection Systems (IDS)

ARP poisoning countermeasures

• ARP spoofing detection and prevention

- Relies on some form of certification or cross-checking of ARP responses
- Can be implemented on individual hosts, hypervisors or switches
- E.g. <u>DHCP snooping</u> feature on switch OS can activate **Dynamic ARP Inspection** with an internal database.
- Not possible if any host holds a static IP, and static ARP entries must be used.

• Static ARP entries

- Manually mapping IP addresses to MAC addresses (maintaining ARP entries)
- A lot of administrative overhead
- Provides only basic security

OS security

o Linux ignores unsolicited replies, behavior can often be configured in other OSes