



MQ Telemetry Transport (MQTT) is a lightweight protocol that is widely used by IoT devices to communicate with their brokers/servers situated on remote locations and clouds. The protocol is simple and consumes much less bandwidth and power than its peers, making it best for devices where network bandwidth and power are constrained. It is a two-way communication protocol. MQTT works in a subscribe-publish model. Brokers or servers play middleman for the publishers (producers e.g. sensors) and subscribers (consumers e.g. central monitoring system).

In this section, we will learn the basics of MQTT protocol, how to interact with MQTT brokers, perform enumeration and launch dictionary attacks, exploit known DoS vulnerabilities, and interact with a dummy ICS setup.

#### What will you learn?

- How to fingerprint and interact with an MQTT server
- Launch enumeration and dictionary attacks on MQTT servers
- Interact and manipulate MQTT messages to disrupt systems

#### References:

1. MQTT (<https://mqtt.org/>)
2. Mosquitto server (<https://mosquitto.org/>)
3. RabbitMQ (<https://www.rabbitmq.com/>)
4. Node-RED (<https://nodered.org/>)

#### Labs:

- [Broker Recon and Fingerprinting](#)  
Scan, fingerprint and interact with an open MQTT server/broker service provided by Mosquitto.
- [Access Control List \(ACL\)](#)  
Interact with an MQTT broker with a username-based ACL implemented on it. Also, figure out a user's permissions on various topics present on the servers.
- [ACL and Authentication](#)  
Interact with an MQTT broker protected with user credentials. Also, launch a dictionary attack on it to figure out the correct password for a valid username.
- [Broker-Bridge Configuration](#)  
Interact and launch dictionary attacks on two MQTT brokers that are configured in a broker-bridge configuration.
- [Controller-Broker-Sensor Setup](#)  
Analyze and interact with a dummy ICS (Industrial Control System) with multiple components (e.g. MQTT broker, sensor, monitoring dashboard). Then, launch a manipulation attack on the system to trigger false alarm/alert.
- [Exploring Node-RED with MQTT](#)  
Interact and configure a Node-RED system. A sample flow is provided along with a MQTT sensor (to act as input).
- [CVE-2017-7651](#)  
Exploit the RAM overflow vulnerability to crash an MQTT broker.
- [CVE-2018-12543](#)  
Exploit an assert overflow vulnerability to crash an MQTT broker.

Scan, fingerprint and interact with an open MQTT server/broker service running on RabbitMQ server.

- [RabbitMQ: Controller-Broker-Sensor Setup](#)  
Analyze and interact with a dummy ICS (Industrial Control System) with multiple components (e.g. RabbitMQ MQTT broker, sensor, monitoring dashboard). Then, launch a manipulation attack on the system to trigger false alarm/alert.
- [RabbitMQ: MQTT Dictionary Attack](#)  
Perform a dictionary attack on an MQTT server/broker service running on a RabbitMQ server.



Broker Recon and Fingerprinting

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Access Control List (ACL)

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ACL and Authentication

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Broker-Bridge Configuration

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Controller-Broker-Sensor Setup

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Exploring Node Red with MQTT

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CVE-2017-7651

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CVE-2018-12543

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RabbitMQ: MQTT Basics

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