# Automated Protocol Verification Computer Security and Networks

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The material in this lecture is not relevant for the exam

# The Applied Pi Calculus

Want formal languages to model security protocols so that automatic verification can be done

Here: use Applied Pi-Calculus, a suitable adaptation of process

calculi

Intuition:

Processes correspond to agents (Alice, Bob, Mallory etc.)

Sending messages modelled as communication in process calculus Attacker modelled as arbitrary process which runs in parallel with

processes modelling Alice and Bob

# Applied pi calculus: Grammar

Terms

$$M, N :=$$
 $a, b, c, k, m, n, s, t, r, \dots$  name
 $x, y, z$  variable
 $g(M_1, \dots, M_l)$  function

#### Equational theory

```
adec(aenc(x, pk(y)), y) = xfst((x, y)) = xsnd((x, y)) = y
```

# Applied pi calculus: Grammar

#### **Processes**

```
P, Q, R :=  processes

0 null process

P \mid Q parallel comp.

!P replication

new n.P name restriction

in(u, x).P message input

out(u, M).P message output

if M = N then P else Q cond'nl
```

#### **Proverif**

Several tools available for automated verification Consider a tool called Proverif (Blanchet 2001) Capabilities of ProVerif:

- Reachability properties: Is a certain event reachable (eg leaking secret keys to the attacker)
- Correspondence assertions: If event e has been executed, then event e' has been previously been executed
- Observational equivalences: The attacker cannot identify which one of two processes has been executed Example:

Process 1: Voter A chooses option 1, voter B chooses option 2 Process 2: Voter A chooses option 2, voter B chooses option 1

## Demo

## Privacy in Mobile Telephony Systems

Based on a paper in Network and Distributed Systems Symposium 2014 by Arapinis, Mancini, Ritter and Ryan

# Mobile phone communication

- Mobile phones are carried by large parts of the population most of the time
- Wireless communication always on
- Emitting their identity
- Answer without agreement of their bearers

# Previous work on security of mobile phones

#### Content security, Integrity and Authentication

- Weaknesses in cryptographic algorithms used (Biryutov et al. 2000)
- Eavesdropping on mobile communication (Nohl et al. 2010)
- Weaknesses in the authentication and key agreement protocol (Ahamdian et al. 2009, Arapinis et al. 2012)

#### Privacy

- use paging procedure to locate mobile phone users (Foo Kune et al. 2012)
- IMSI-catchers: force mobile phone to reveal identity (recognised weakness in the standard)

# Mobile phone privacy

Privacy is explicit goal of UMTS standard:

**UMTS specification** [3GPP TS 33.102 V9.3.0 (2010-10)]

An intruder cannot deduce whether different services are delivered to the same user.

# Tracking via mobile phones

- Tracking of mobile phone user done in reality
- Example: Market research companies use signal strength to track customers (eg. Smart Flow)



- anonymous, but linkable.
- No consent of mobile phone owner.



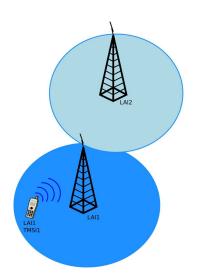
# Mobile phone identifiers

- Every phone has unique identifier (IMSI)
- If IMSI appears in cleartext, identification of mobile phone user would be easily possible
- Problem recognised in the UMTS standard
- temporary identifiers (TMSI) used which should be changed periodically

Talk is about correct usage of TMSIs.

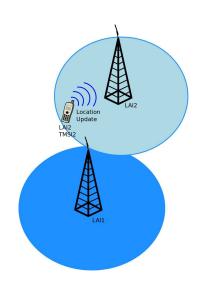
## TMSI reallocation

- Initiated by the MS to update its location
- MS unique identity stored in the SIM card: IMSI
- The network assigns a temporary identity TMSI
- A new TMSI is assigned during the location update



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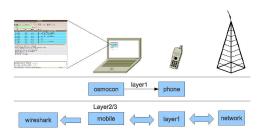
## Problems with TMSI reallocation

- TMSI reallocation rarely executed: Experimentally verified
- Old keys for encrypting traffic are reused after TMSI-reallocation Gives rise to protocol attack

Both issues make it possible to track mobile phone users

## Experimental Setup

- Osmocom-BB project implements GSM mobile station controlled by host
- Radio communication executed via flashed firmware on mobile phone
- Can use wireshark to analyse the communication

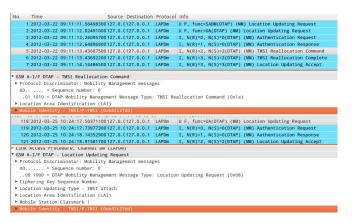


# Experimental Setup, continued



## Experimental results

TMSI reallocation procedure rarely executed: Same TMSI allocated for hours and even days Observed for major operators in UK, France, Italy and Greece

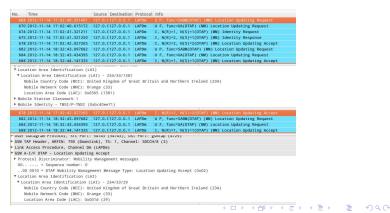


## Experimental results, continued

Change of location area does not imply a change of TMSI Example: couch journey between different cities in the UK

- First new TMSI assigned after about 45 min (53km)
- Second new TMSI assigned after about 60 min (70km)

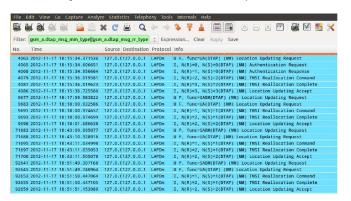
However: location update procedure performed every 5 min (3km)



## Reuse of previous ciphering keys

Previously established keys are used for the TMSI reallocation procedure

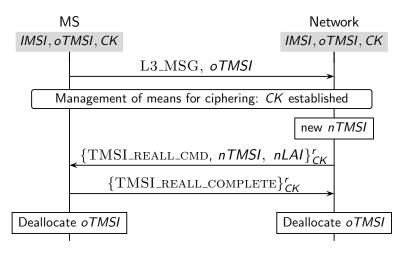
Observed for major UK and Italian network operators



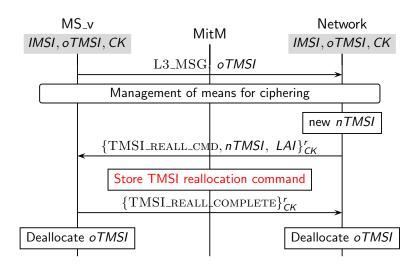
Gives rise to replay attack

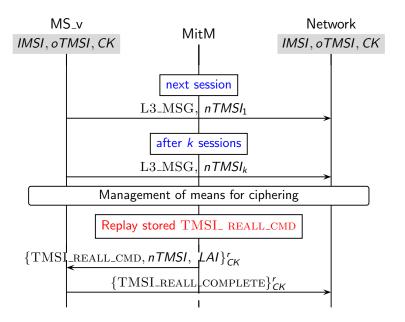


## TMSI reallocation protocol

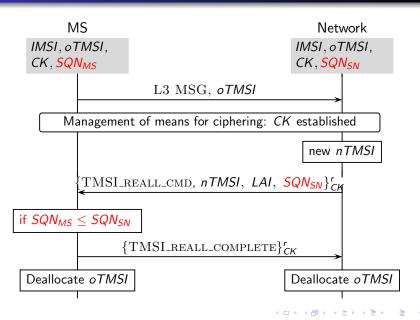


# Replay Attack





## Fix for replay attack

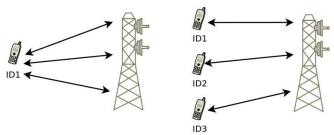


## Privacy properties of fix

Have formally specified and verified privacy properties of fix Applied  $\pi$ -calculus used for formalisation

- Agents modelled as processes
- communication between agents modelled as messages on channels
- have terms and reduction rules corresponding to cryptographic primitives
- nonces and private keys modelled by scope restriction of identifiers

Desired privacy property formalised as unlinkability: Attacker cannot distinguish two scenarios



Formally:

$$\nu$$
dck.(!(Init|MS)|!SN)  $\approx \nu$ dck.(!(Init|!MS)|!SN)

Have automated tool (Proverif) to verify such equivalences

# Modelling TMSI

Issue: How to handle TMSI (stored in phone memory)?

- Instance of global mutable state
- ullet Encoding of state in applied  $\pi$ -calculus leads to large amount of false positives in Proverif

Solution: add mutalbe global state as primitive Leads to StatVerif

Have shown following theorem

#### Theorem

 $\nu dck.(!(Init|MS)|!SN) \approx \nu dck.(!(Init|!MS)|!SN)$ 

Proof works by constructing suitable bisimulation Key point: multiple sessions of same mobile phone can be simulated by multiple phones executing one session each

#### Conclusions

Temporary identifiers used by mobile phones are used incorrectly

- changed rarely
- old ciphering keys are reused

Weaknesses make it possible to track mobile phone users Second problem can be fixed by not reusing keys