Wi-Fi Security: Threats & Solutions

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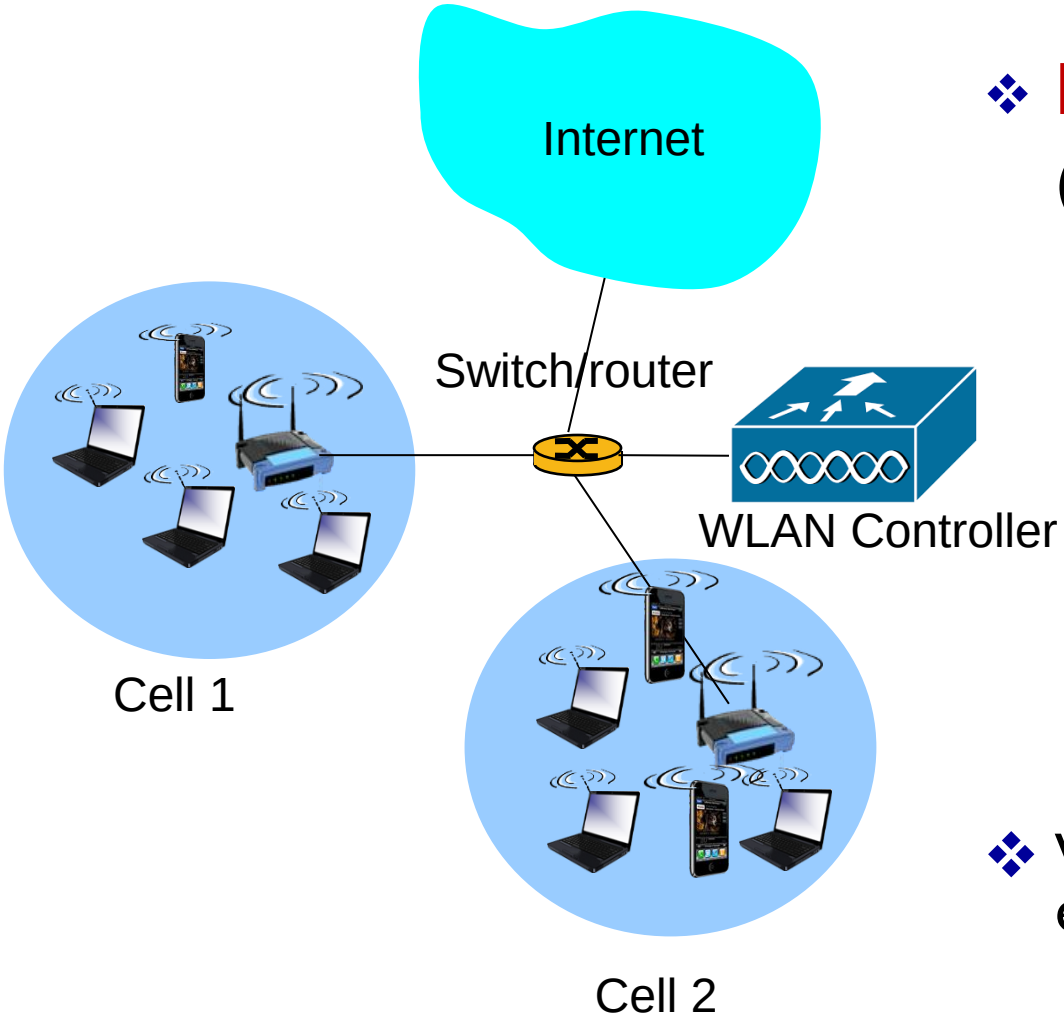
Credits: *Some slides and pics in this presentation are adapted from William Stallings textbook on Wireless Security, Kurose and Ross textbook on Computer Networking, slides of Mathy Vanhoef, a host of others and Internet sources*

Outline

- Wi-Fi Architecture
- Why Wi-Fi Security is important?
- Wi-Fi Security Threats
- Wi-Fi Security Standards
- Vulnerabilities in Wi-Fi Security Stds
- What WPA3 offers?
- Wi-Fi Security: Best Practices to mitigate

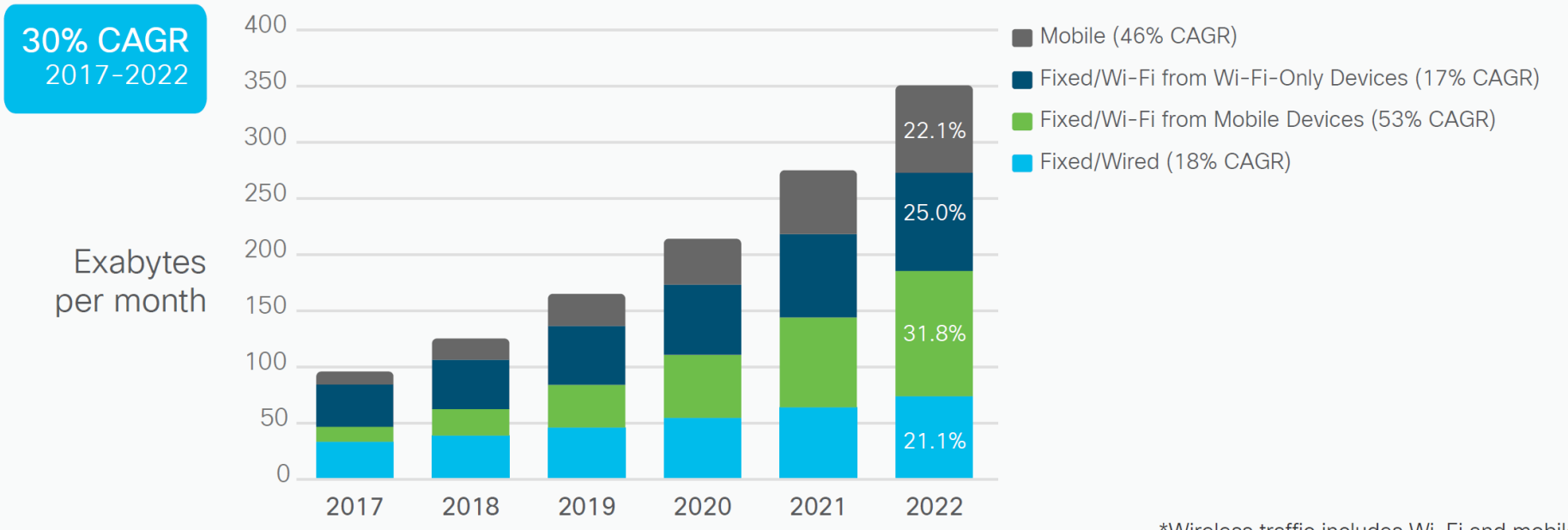
802.11 WLAN (Wi-Fi) Architecture



- Basic Service Set (BSS) (aka "cell")
  - Building block of IEEE 802.11 WLAN
  - In infrastructure mode, a cell contains:
    - Wireless clients/stations
    - Access Point (AP)
- WLAN controller in enterprise deployments

Why Wi-Fi Security is IMP?

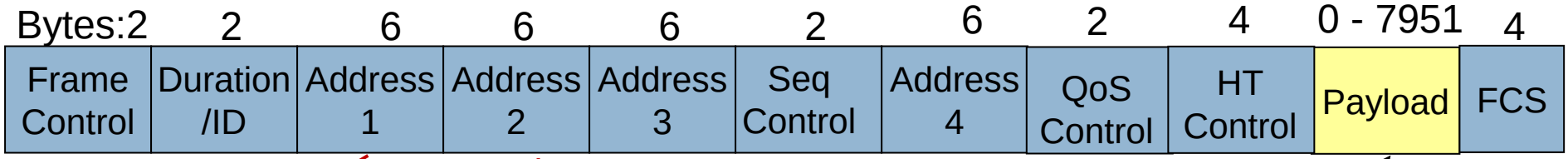
- More than half of world's data is carried by Wi-Fi!



*Wireless traffic includes Wi-Fi and mobile

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

802.11 (Wi-Fi) Packet Format

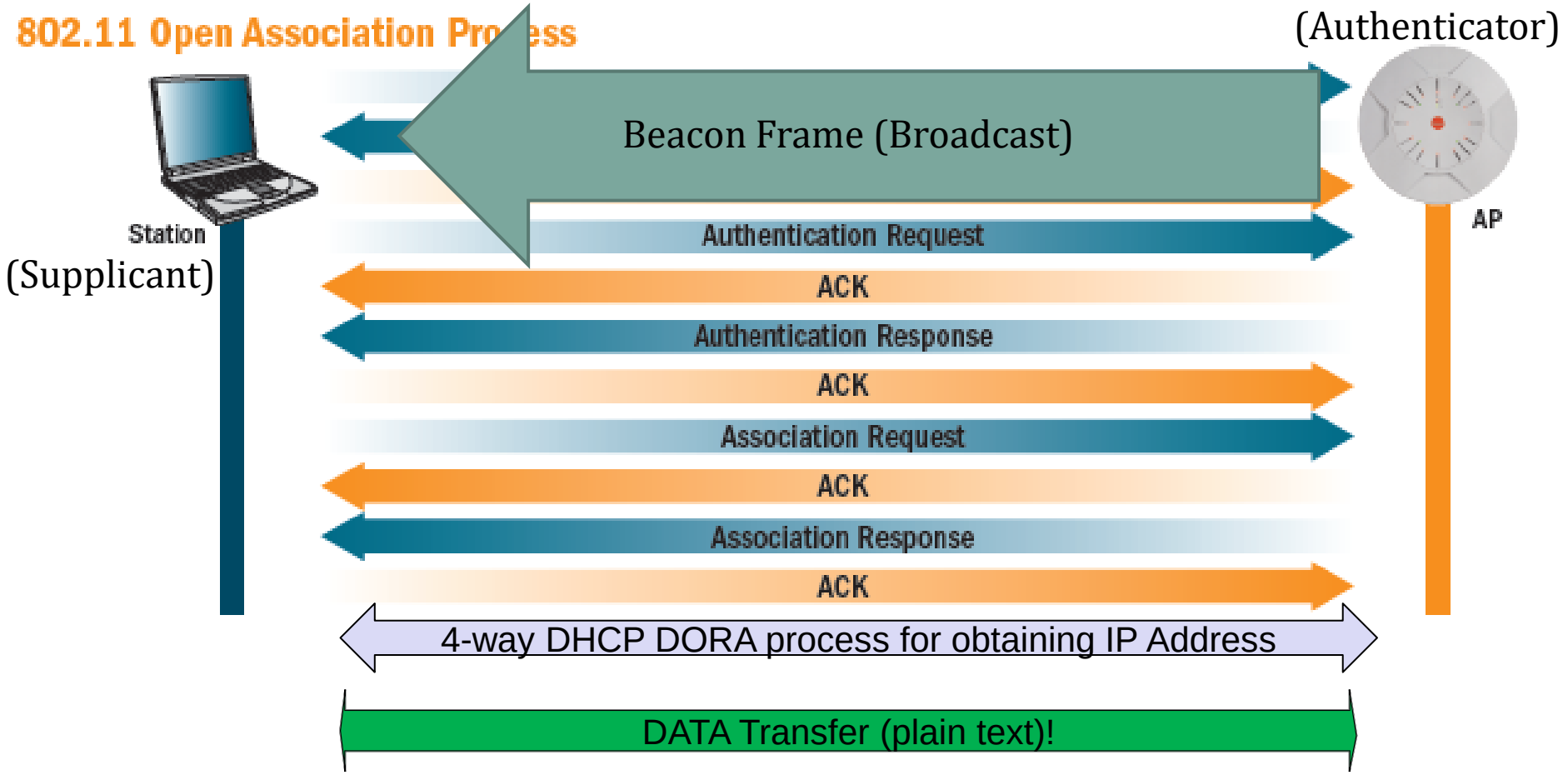


Address 1: MAC address of wireless host or AP to receive this frame

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

Payload carries an IP Packet in plain-text or cipher-text form after encryption at the link level

How does a STA join Wi-Fi network ?



Wi-Fi Security Threats

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

Hacking Wi-Fi Networks

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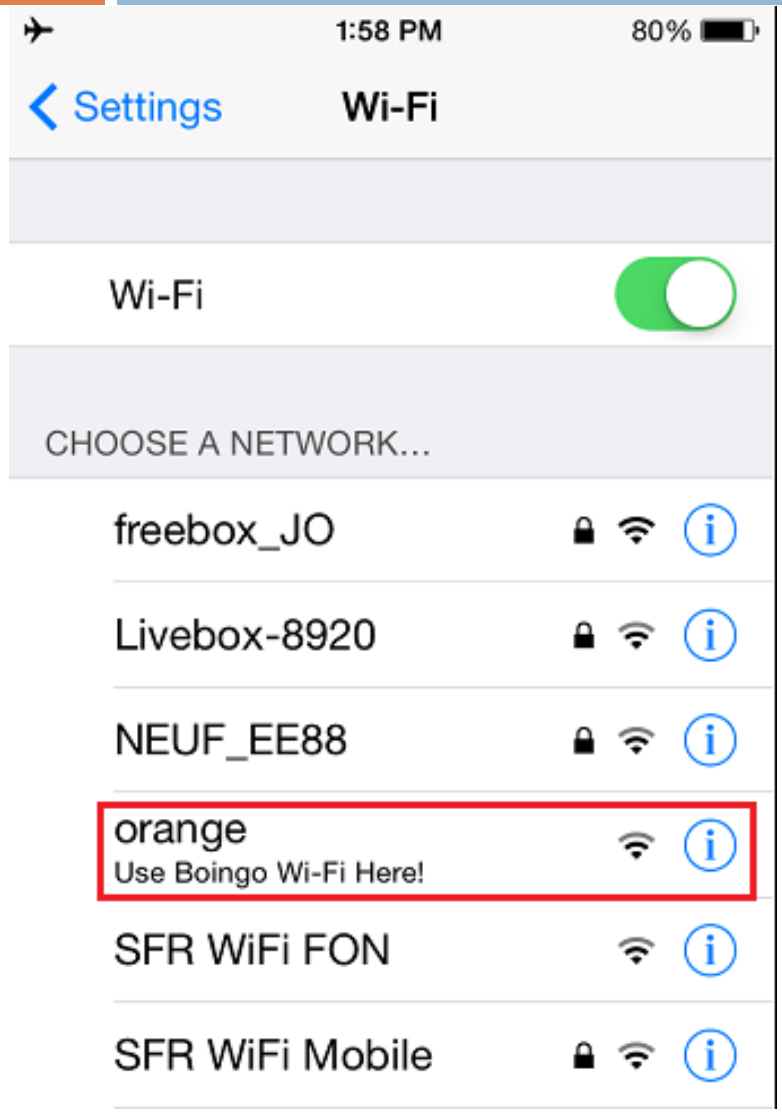
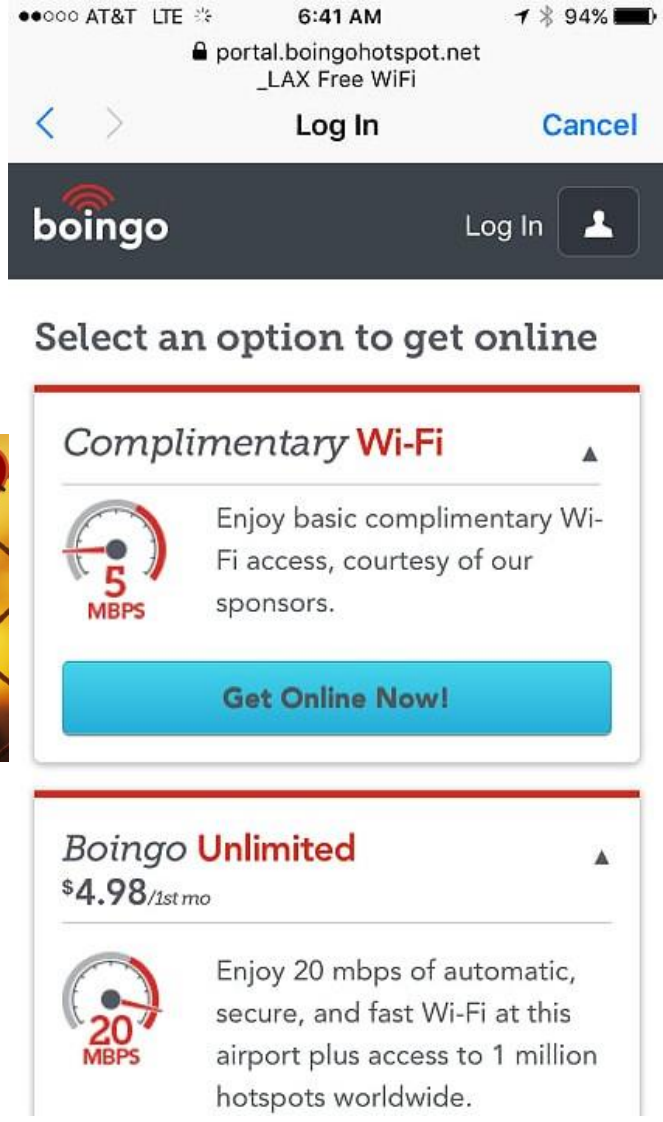
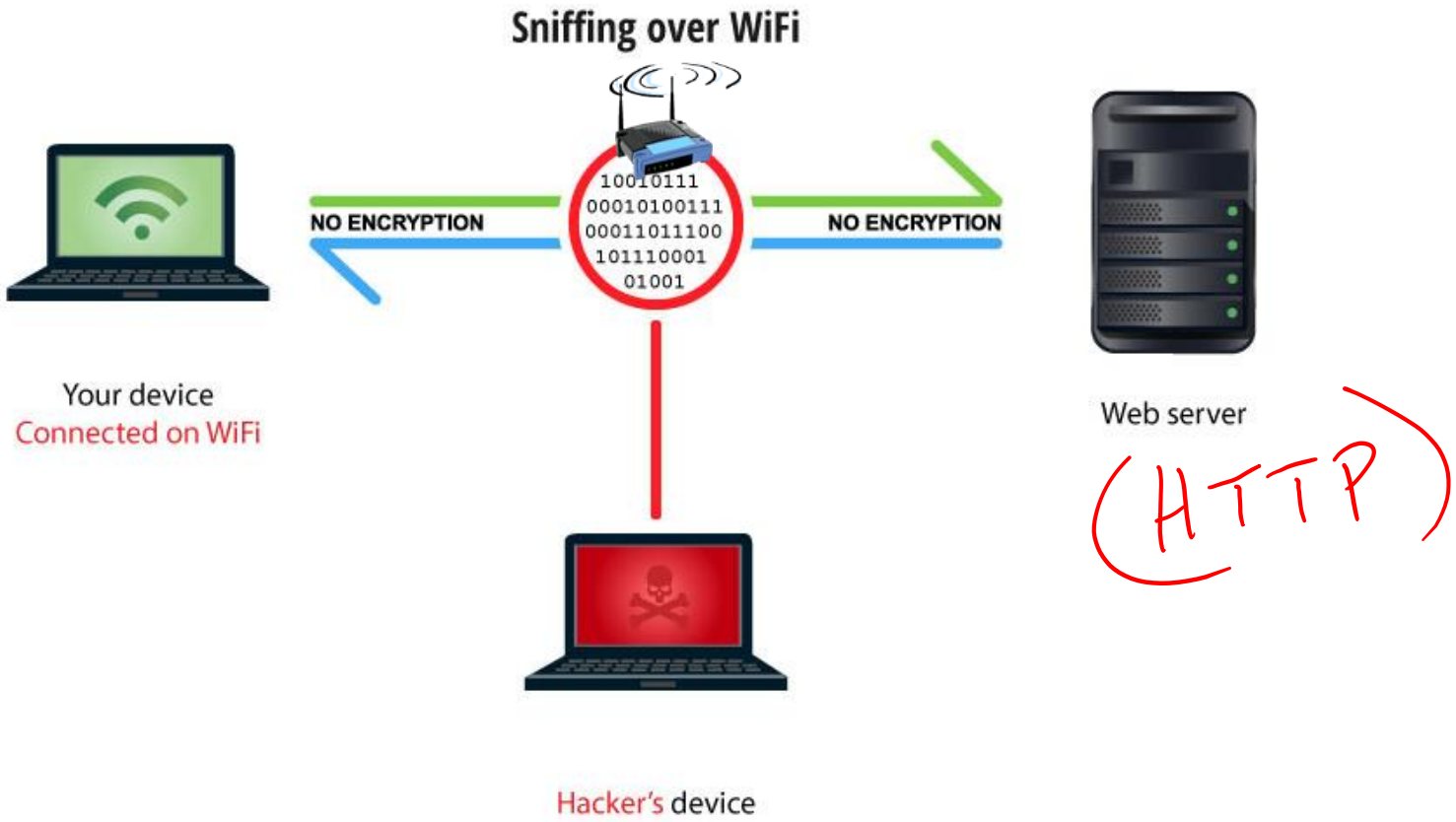
- Tools of the trade
  - Wireshark/Tcpdump
  - AirCrack-NG
  - Kismet
  - WEPCrack/AirSnort
  - CoWPAtty
  - NetStumbler
  - WiFuzz
  - Pyrit, Fern
  - Cain & Able
  - AirXploit
  - so on…

Free/Paid, Public Wi-Fi is Open!





Threat-1: 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

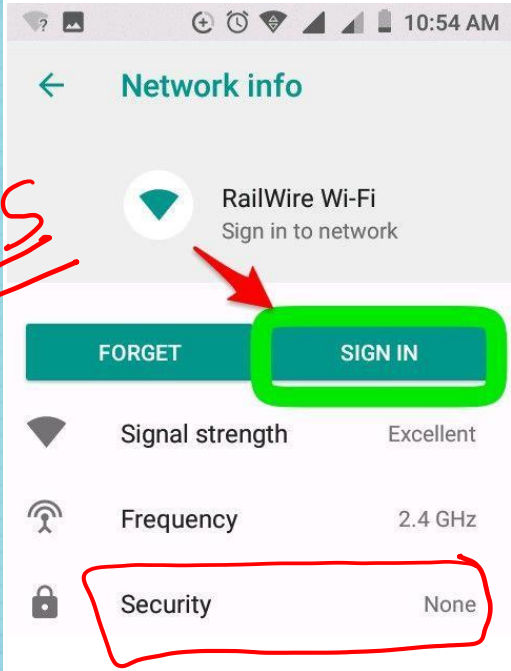
Free Wi-Fi led to spike in Cyber attacks!

fast, free Wi-Fi

made for India by

rail wire | Google

Digital Rail. Digital India.



Threat-2: Denial of Service (DoS) attacks

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

https://aircrack-ng.org/

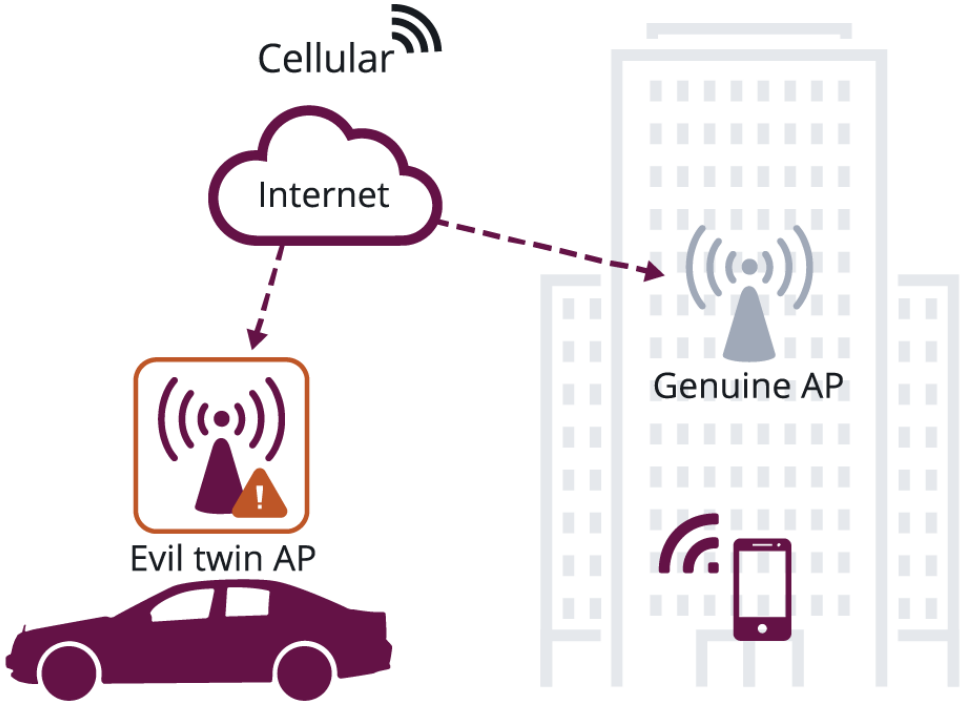
```
# -0 represents that it is DeAuth
# 500 is the number of times the DeAuth message has to be sent.
# mon0 is the interface on which monitor mode is on.

# 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
```

aireplay-ng [Aircrack-ng]

Threat-3a: MITM attacks in Open Wi-Fi

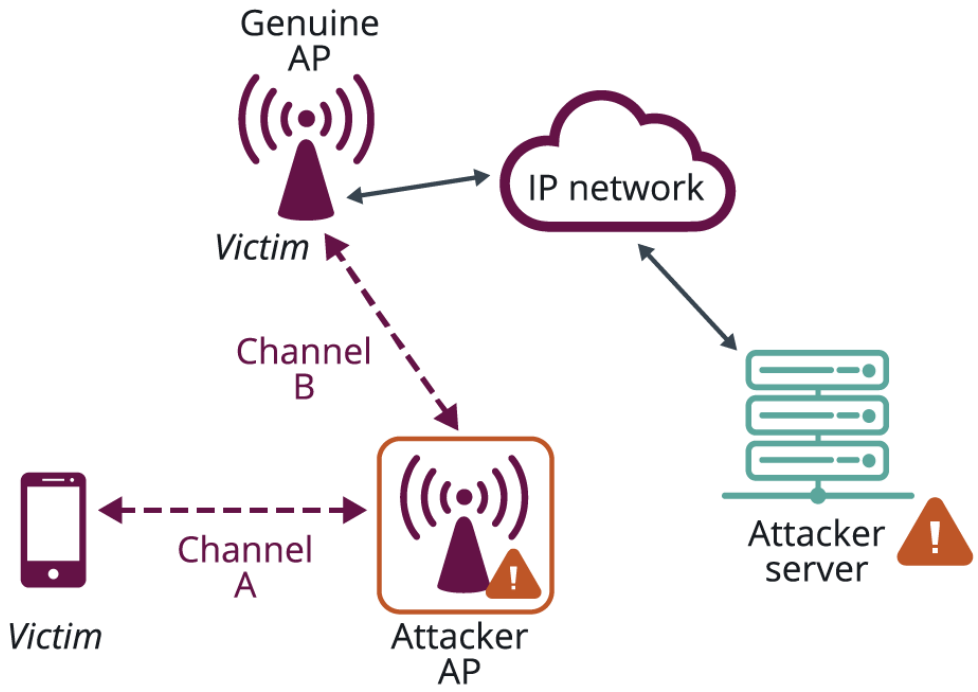
- Malicious Hotspots: Free, open networks that snoop into data sent/received
- Affects confidentiality and integrity of data exchanged

Threat-3b: MITM using Evil Twin Hotspot



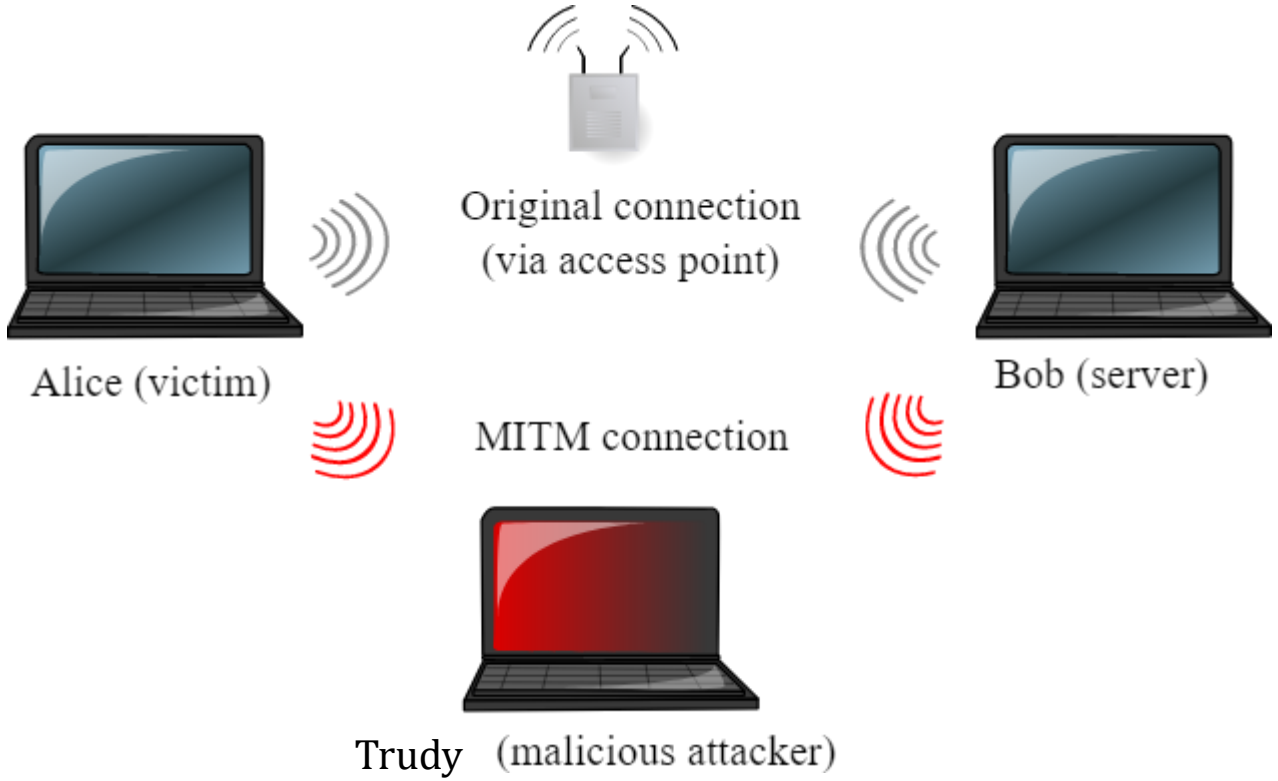
- Rogue APs on legitimate and protected Wi-Fi networks
  - Attacker masquerades as a legitimate (secure) AP to inspect or modify data, or attempt social engineering attacks to obtain personal information

Threat-3c: Multi-Channel MITM Attack



- Attacker /w two Wi-Fi radios (by MAC ID spoofing and using DeAuth/CSA messages) tries to exploit a protocol or implementation weakness by relaying, suppressing, modifying, or injecting messages
  - 2014-acsac-body-raw.pdf (acm.org)
  - Operating Channel Validation: Preventing Multi-Channel Man-in-the-Middle Attacks Against Protected Wi-Fi Networks (mathyvanhoef.com)

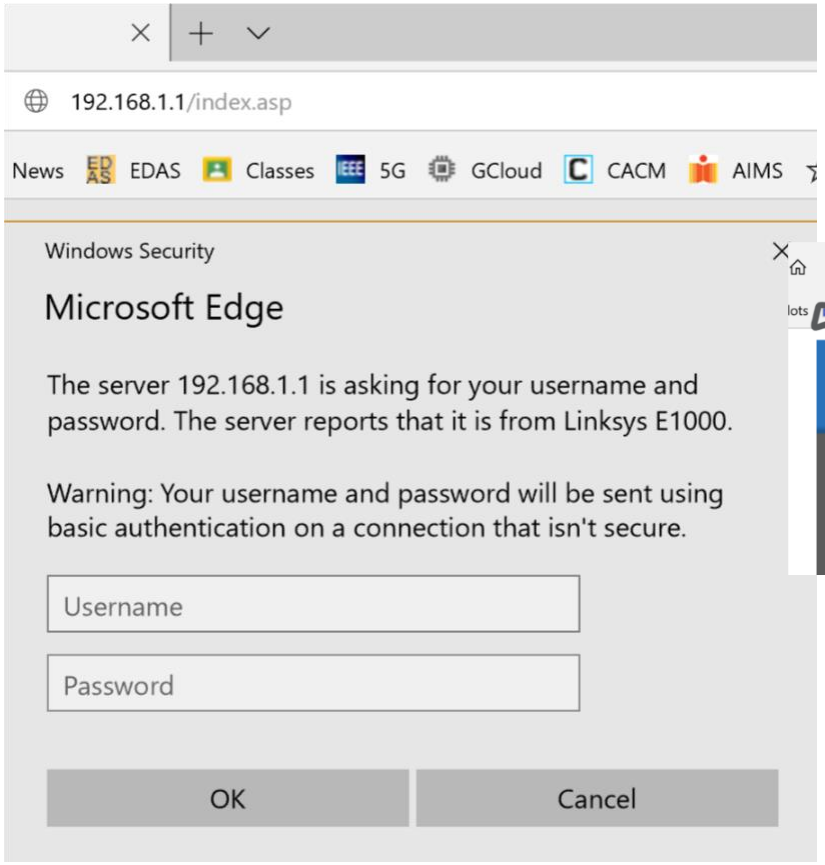
Threat-3d: MITM using ARP Poisoning

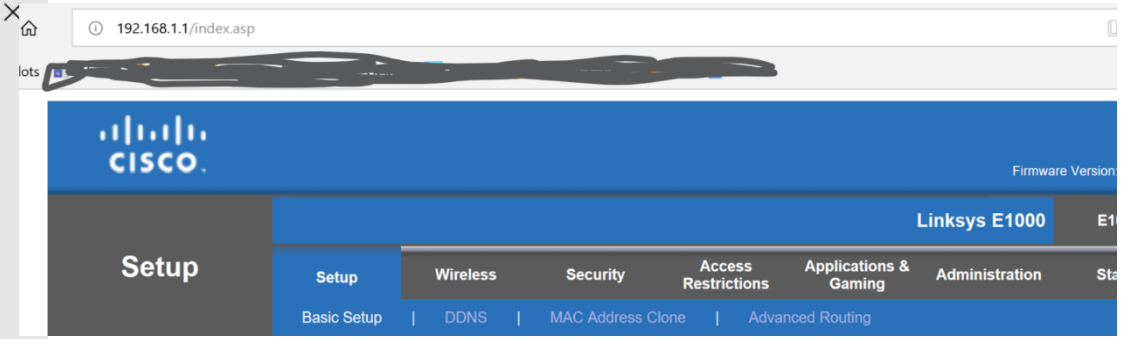


- Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) requests are used to get MAC address associated with IP address of a device
- Trudy send gratuitous ARP messages to Alice giving her MAC address as that of Bob and vice versa☹
  - Run a Man-in-the-Middle attack on a WiFi hotspot (poly.edu) & arp-request reinjection [Aircrack-ng]

Demo of MITM Attack

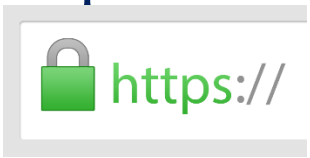
Threat-4: Open AP configuration over HTTP





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 

- 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 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
  - Click unexpected links, attachments, or pop-ups
  - Access websites that hold your sensitive information, such as bank or healthcare accounts and e-commerce sites

References

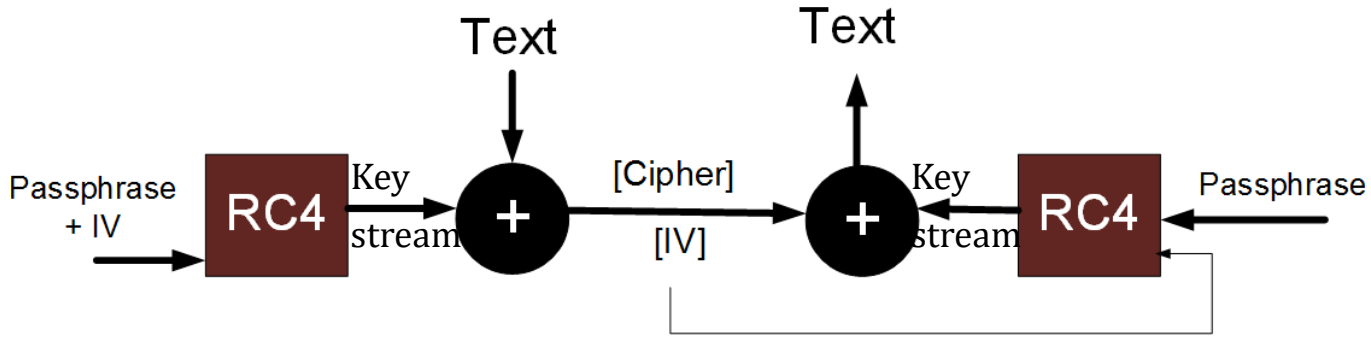
- IEEE 802.11 Std: https://doi.org/10.1109/IEEESTD.2022.9930960
- https://code.google.com/archive/p/wifuzz/wikis/WiFuzz.wiki
- http://www.secdev.org/projects/scapy/
- https://www.eetimes.com/document.asp?doc_id=1206324
- https://thebestvpn.uk/unsecured-wifi-network/
- https://witestlab.poly.edu/blog/conduct-a-simple-man-in-the-middle-attack-on-a-wifi-hotspot/
- https://wirelesslywired.com/2017/07/05/following-the-802-1x-aaa-process-with-packet-captures/
- https://whisperlab.org/introduction-to-hacking/lectures/wifi-exploitation

Wi-Fi Security Standards

- 1997→Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP)
- 2003→Wireless Protected Access (WPA)
- 2004→WPA2 (IEEE 802.11i)
- 2019→WPA3 (Wi-Fi 6/6E devices 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)



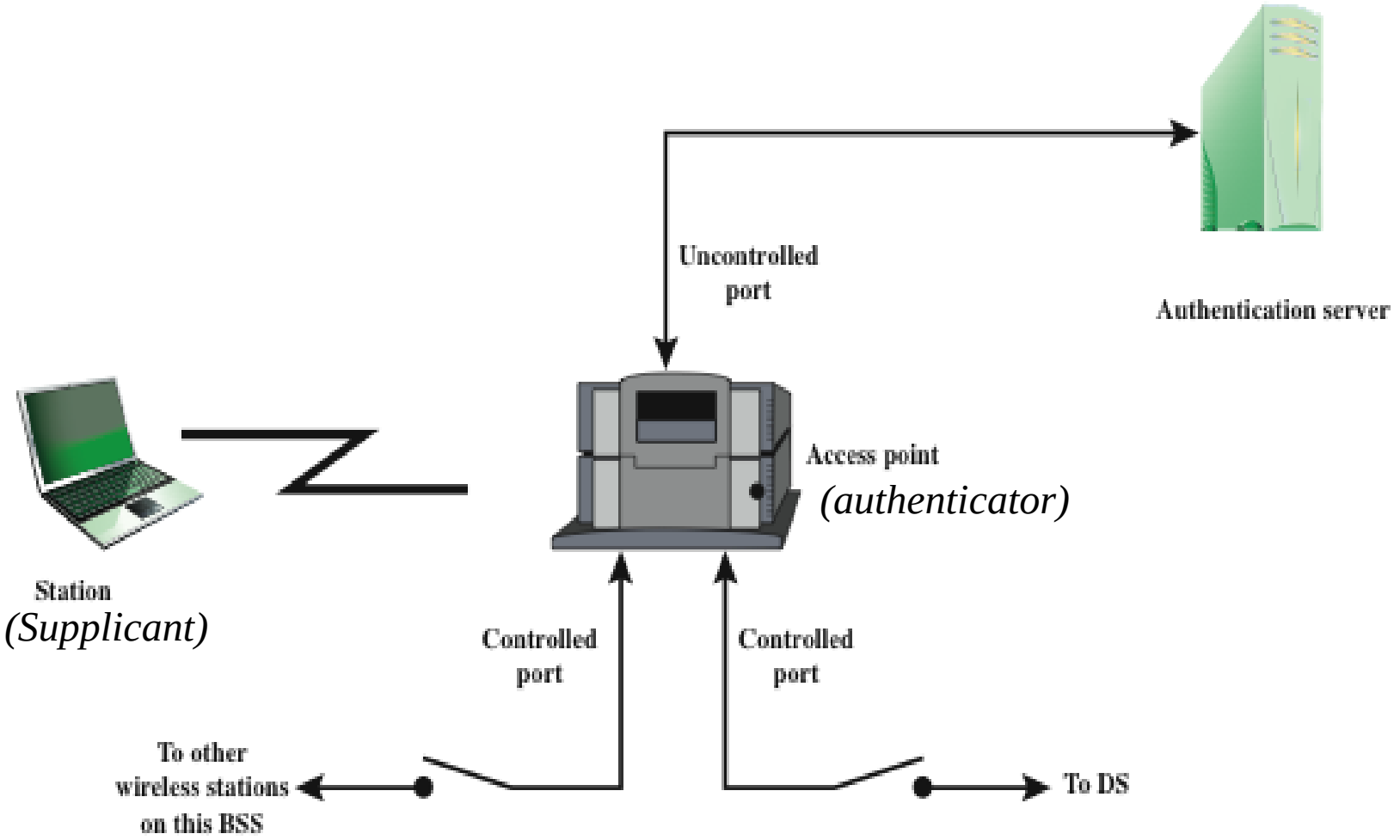
- Flawed design, easily broken
  - There's no key management
  - All users always share the same WEP key
    - Used for both authentication and encryption ☹
  - IV is too small, sent in clear text and its reuse caused problems
  - Tools to break WEP are widely available (e.g., AirCrack-ng)

https://asecuritysite.com/encryption/rc4_wep
Using the Fluhrer, Mantin, and Shamir Attack to Break WEP – NDSS Symposium (ndss-symposium.org)

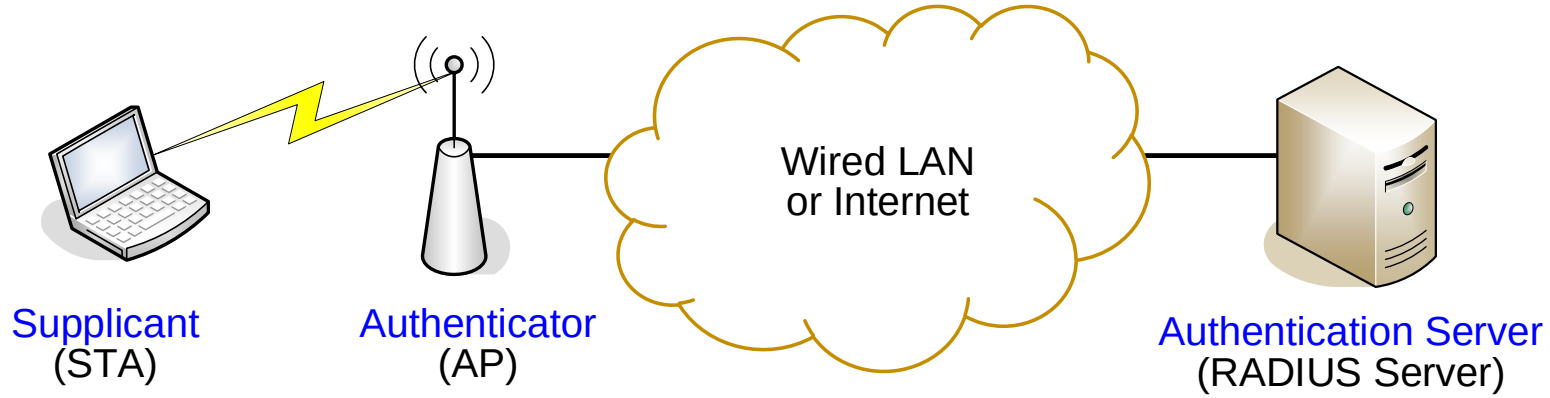
WPA2 and WAP3

- Wireless Protected Access 2 (WPA2)
  - WPA2 is Wi-Fi alliance name for 802.11i amendment
  - Two variants: WPA2-Enterprise and WPA2-Personal
  - WPA2-Enterprise 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
- WPA3
  - WPA3-Personal, WPA3-Enterprise and Enhanced Open
  - Support for protected management frames and an optional enhanced crypto mode

802.1X Access Control in WPA2-Enterprise



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

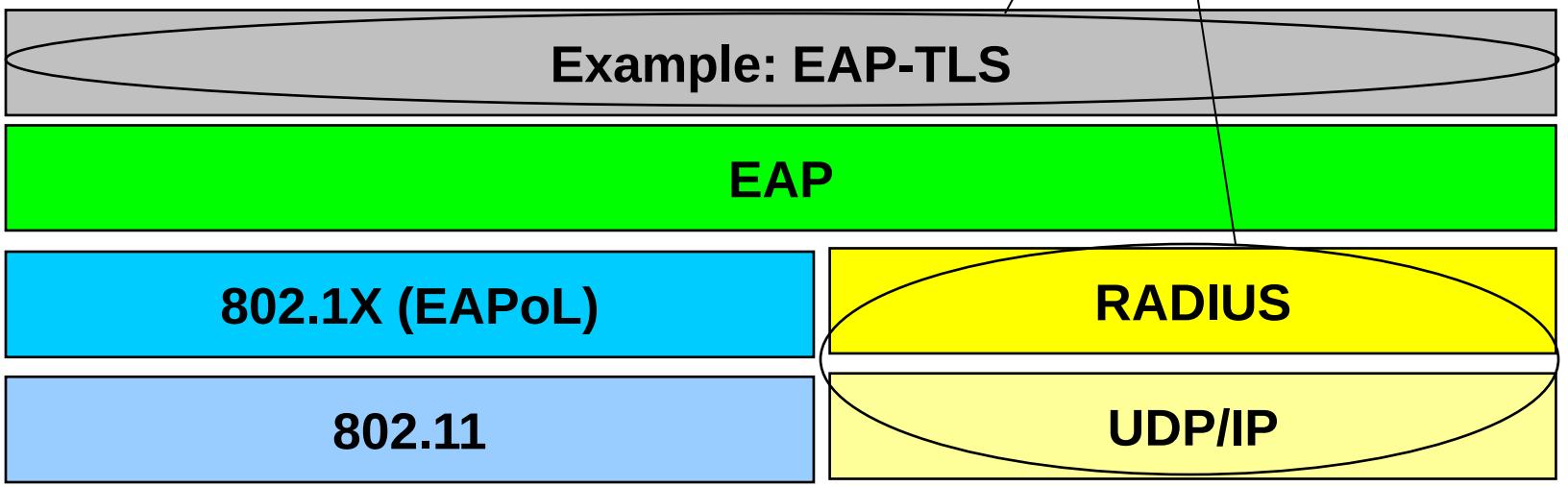
WPA2: Authentication and Key Management Architecture

Wireless Station

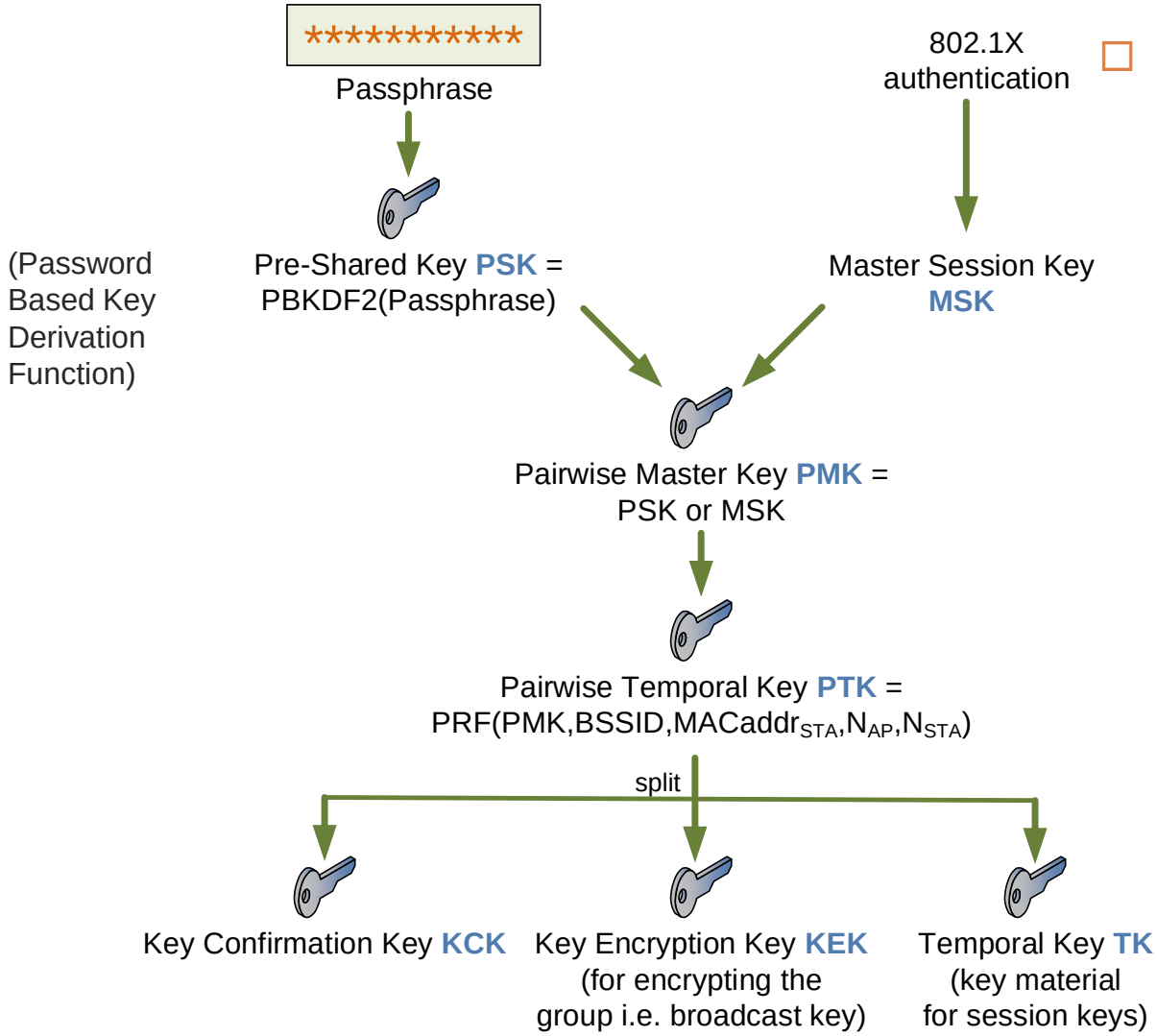
Access Point

Out of scope of 802.11i standard

Authentication Server

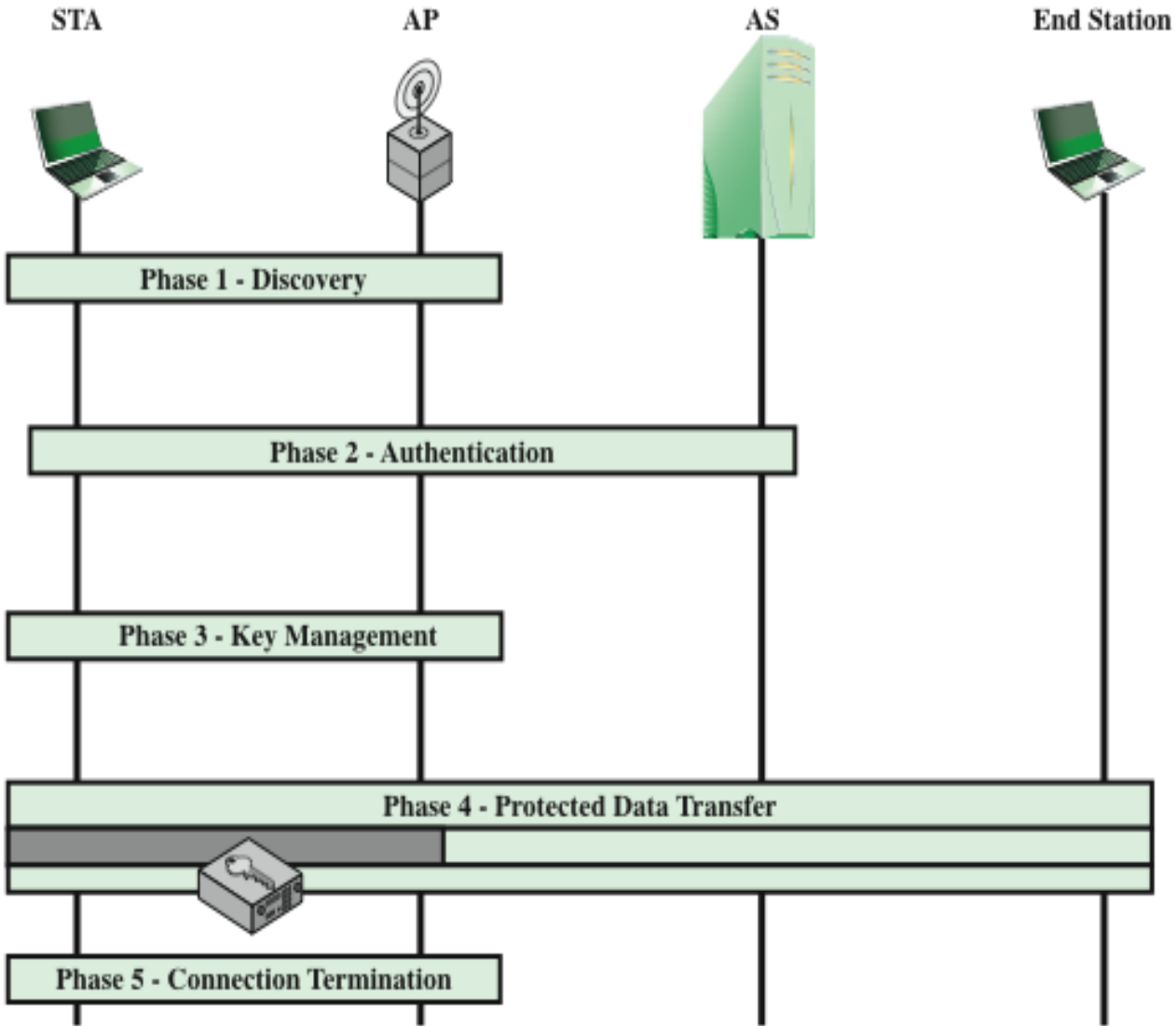


WPA2: Key Hierarchy

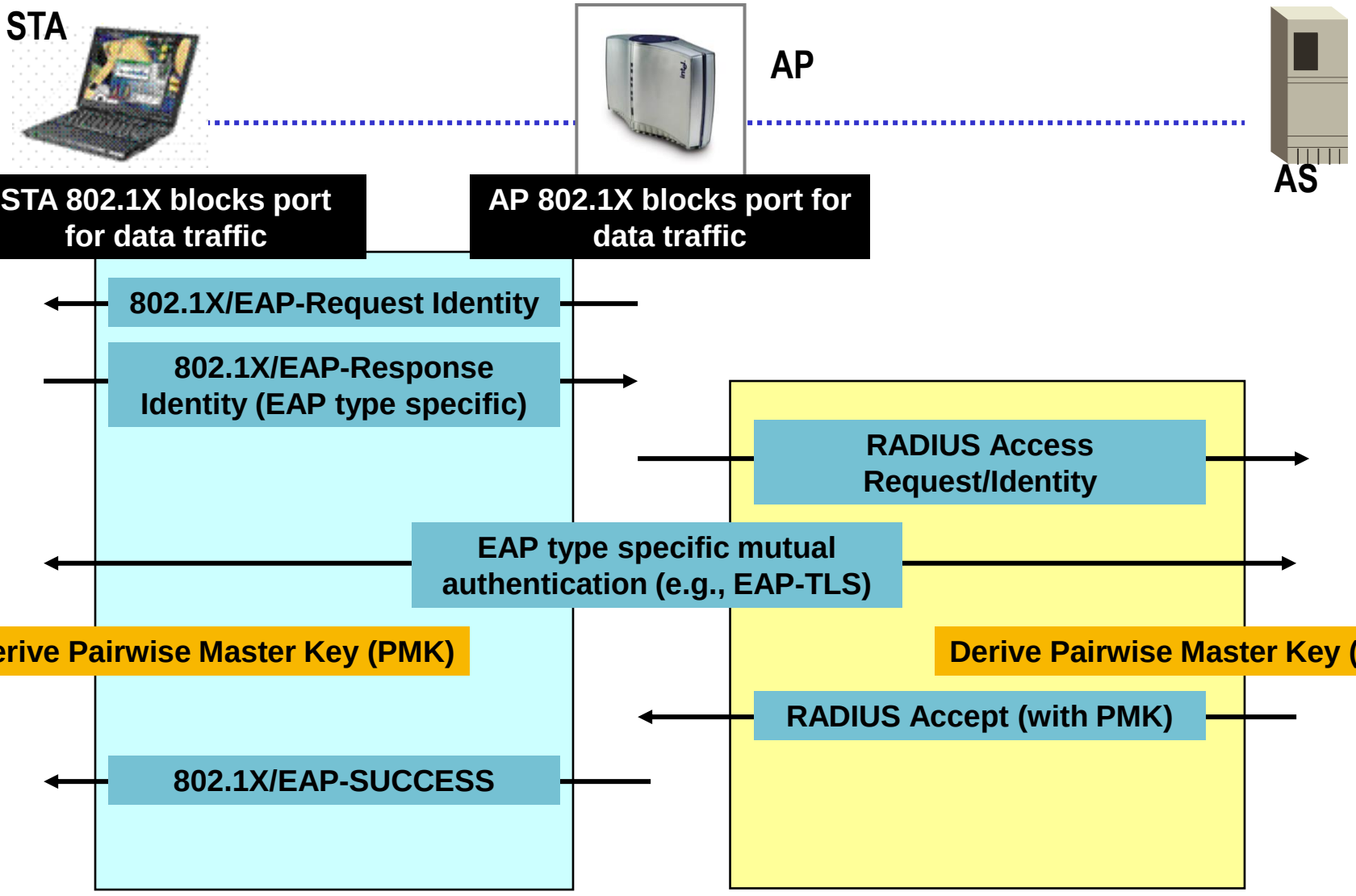


- Two alternative ways to obtain keys:
  I. 802.1X authentication= WPA2-EAP = WPA2-Enterprise
     - Mutual auth of STA/AP
  II. Preshared key (PSK) authentication = WPA2-PSK = WPA2-Personal
     - Home/small business
     - No AS in network
     - Only STA auth by AP

WPA2-Enterprise: Operational Phases



Authentication Overview



Example: EAP-TLS (1/2)

802.1X/EAP-Request Identity

802.1X/EAP-Response Identity (My ID)

RADIUS Access Request/EAP-Response Identity

RADIUS Access Challenge/EAP-Request

802.1X/EAP-Request(TLS)

802.1X/EAP-Response(TLS ClientHello(random$_1$))

RADIUS Access Request/EAP-Response TLS ClientHello

RADIUS Access Challenge/EAP-Request

802.1X/EAP-Request(TLS ServerHello(random$_2$) || TLS Certificate || TLS CertificateRequest || TLS server_key_exchange || TLS server_done)

EAP-TLS is a certificate-based authentication protocol

Example: EAP-TLS (2/2)

MasterKey = TLS-PRF(PreMasterKey, "master secret" || random$_1$ || random$_2$)

802.1X/EAP-Response(TLS client_key_exchange || TLS || TLS certificate || TLS certificateVerify || TLS change_cipher_suite || TLS finished)

RADIUS Access Request/EAP-Response

802.1X/EAP-Request(TLS change_cipher_suite || TLS finished)

RADIUS Access Challenge/EAP-Request

802.1X/EAP-Response

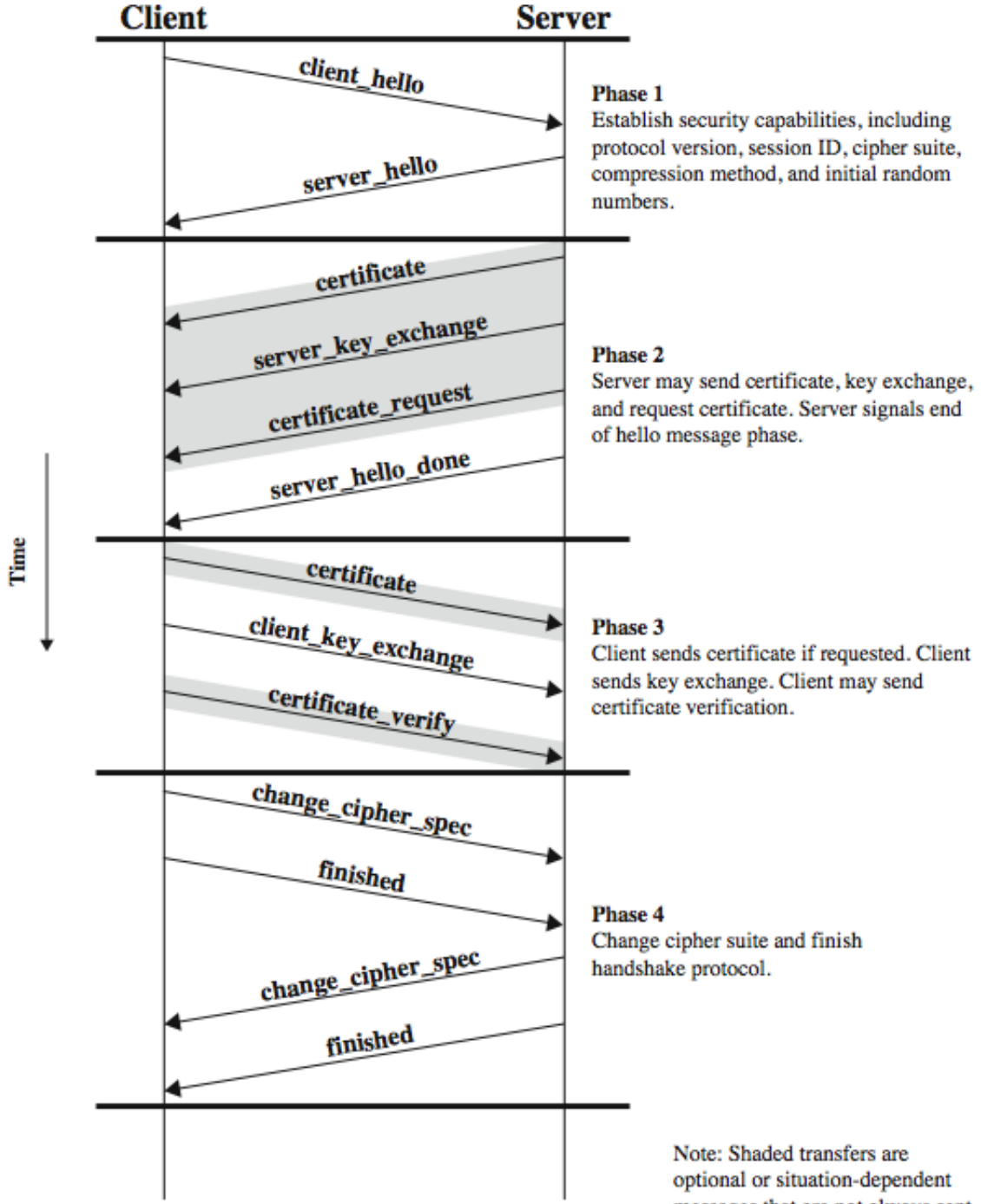
RADIUS Access Request/EAP-Response Identity

PMK = TLS-PRF(MasterKey, "client EAP encryption" || random$_1$ || random$_2$)

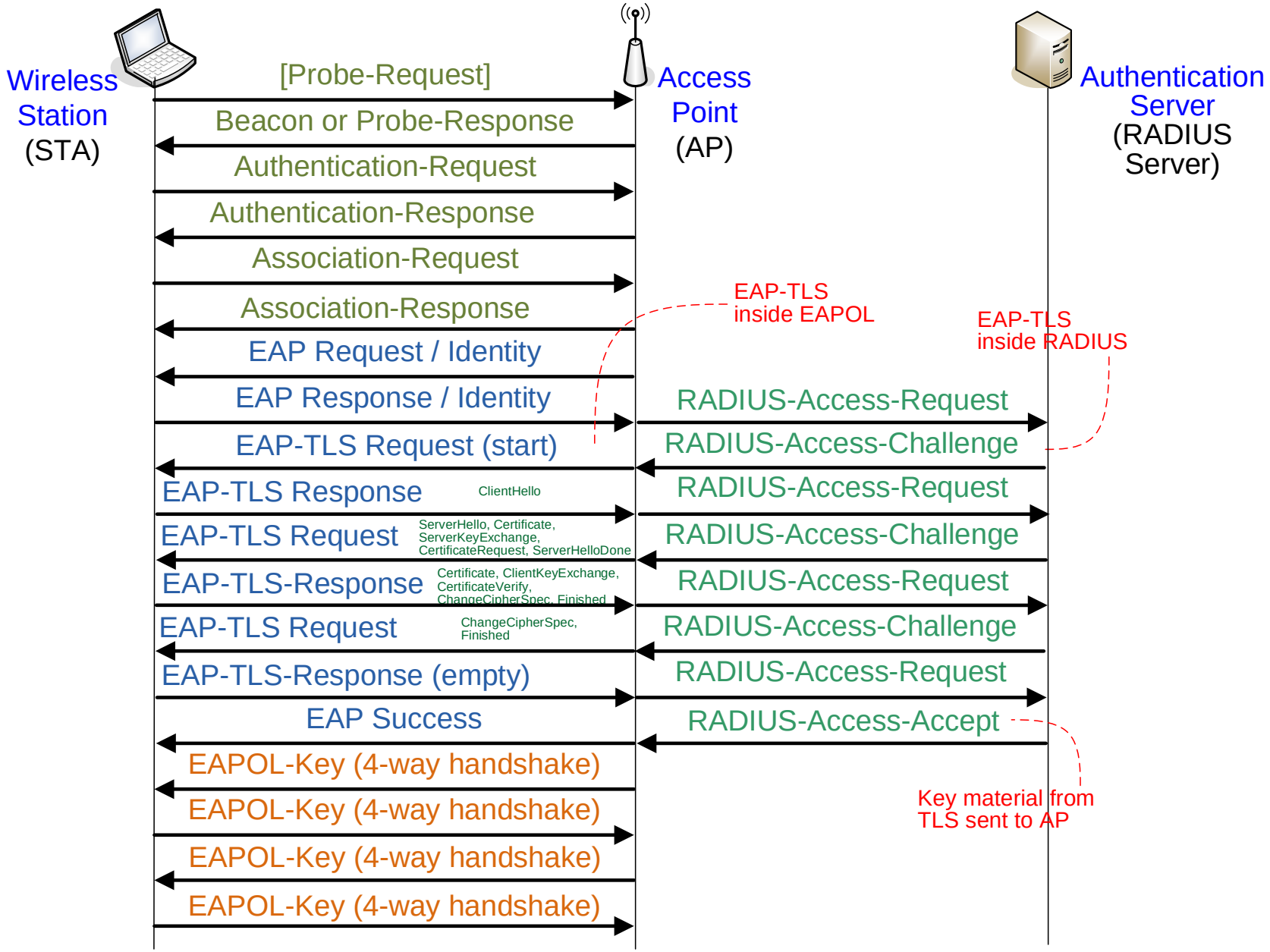
802.1X/EAP-Success

RADIUS Accept/EAP-Success, PMK

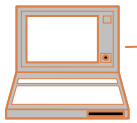
Two-Way TLS/SSL Handshaking



Full WPA2 Authentication (EAP-TLS) & Key Exchange



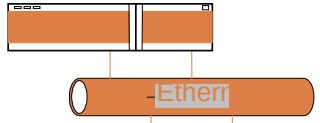
WPA2-PSK/EAP: 4-Way Handshake



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)}

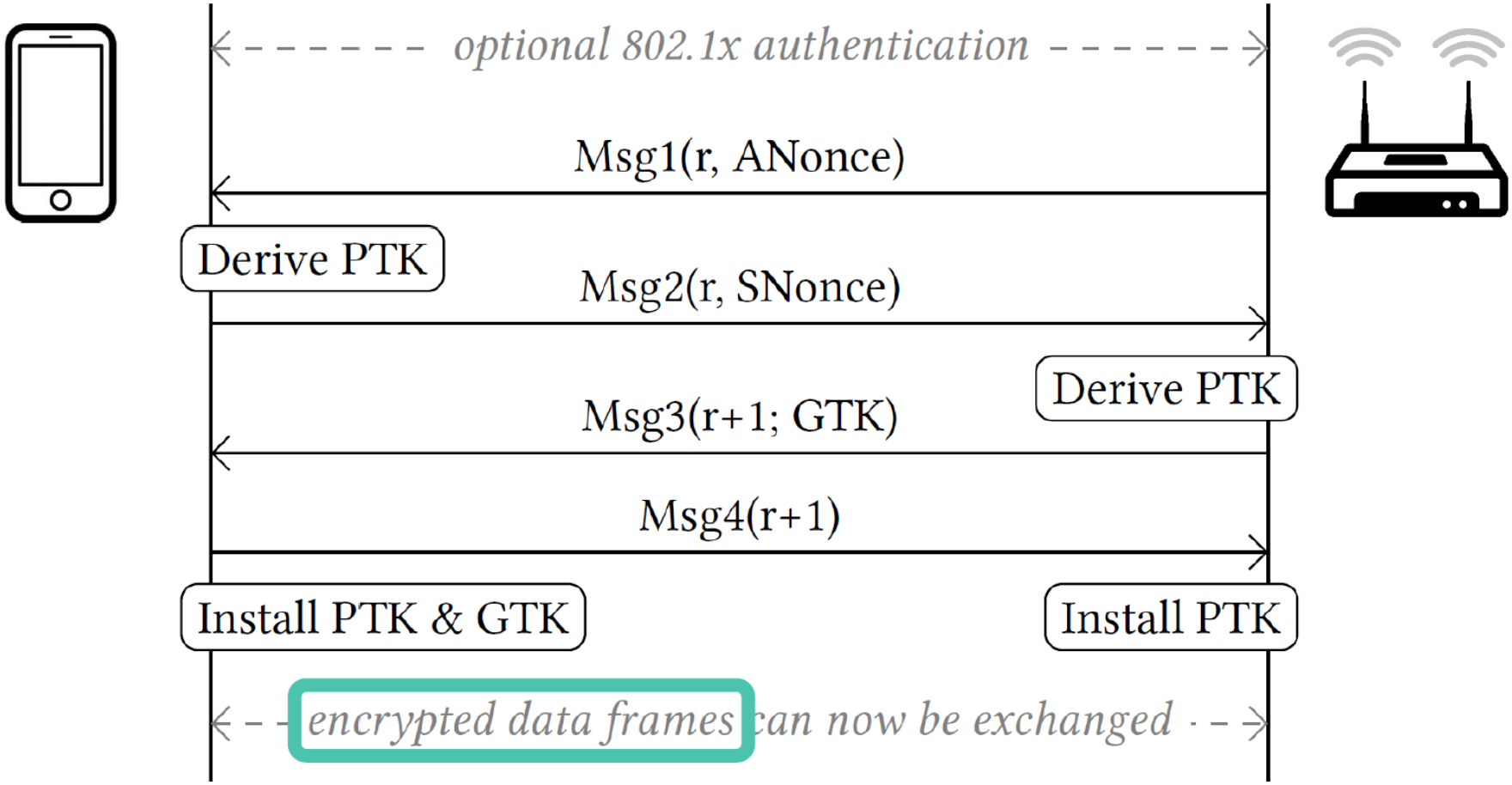
Install PTK,
Last Seen = r+1

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

Install PTK,
Counter = r+2

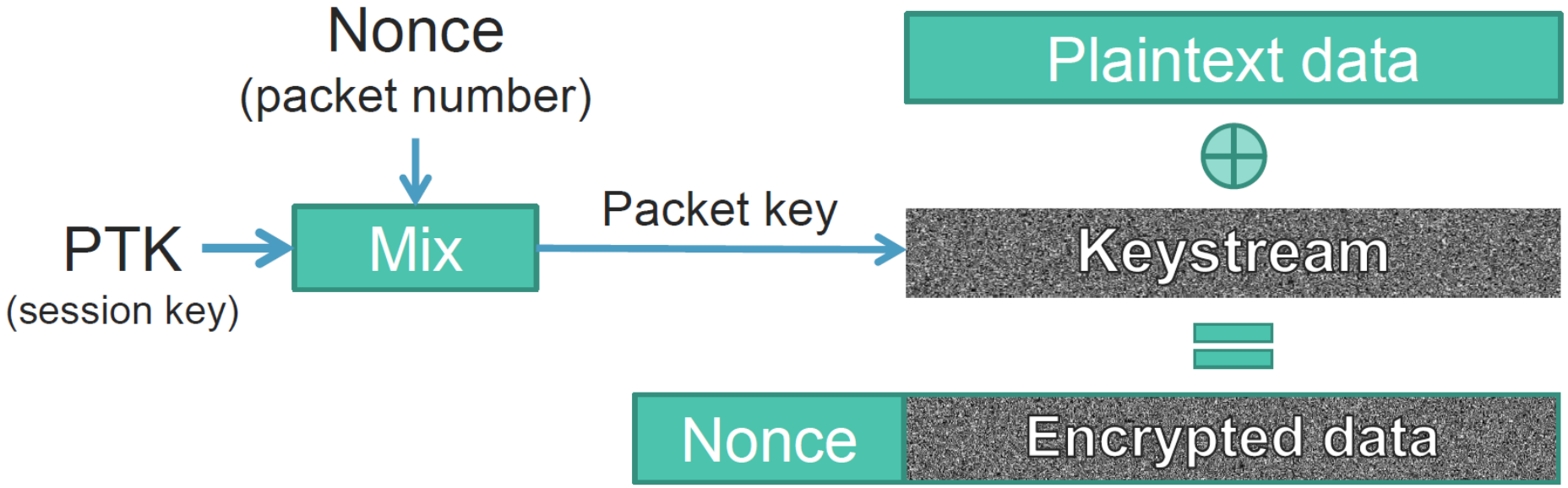
The MIC is calculated using HMAC_MD5, which takes its input from KCK Key within PTK.

WPA2-PSK/EAP: 4-Way Handshake



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

Encryption of 802.11 MAC Payloads



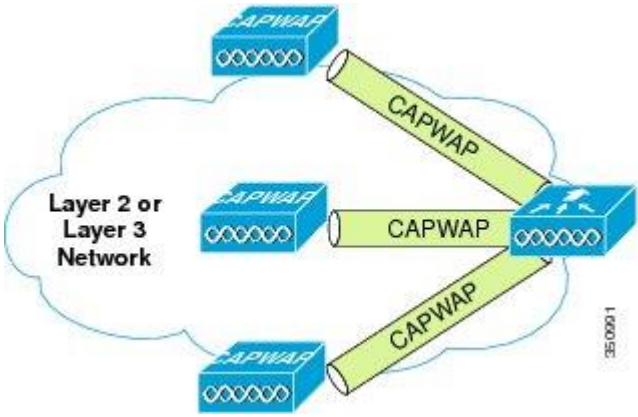
Both WPA2-PSK & EAP make use of AES-CCMP (**C**ounter Mode-**C**ipher Block Chaining **M**essage Authentication Code **P**rotocol) to encrypt data (confidentiality, /w Counter Mode) and to offer integrity protection (/w MAC/MIC)

CWSP – CCMP Encryption Method | mrn-cciew (mrncciew.com)

IITH Wi-Fi

Cisco Aironet 3700 Series Access Points

- Dual-band 2.4 and 5 GHz with 802.11ac Wave 1 (draft std) support
- Servers 11a/b/g/n/ac STAs **/w integrated radios**
- Supports 20-, 40- and 80 MHz channels
- Max Tx Power of 23 dBm (200 mW)
- 4*4 MIMO with 3 spatial streams
- A-MSDU and A-MPDU aggregation, WMM (11e)
- 802.11 Dynamic Frequency Selection (DFS)
- PHY data rates up to 1.3 Gbps (80 MHz on 5 GHz)
- **Data Sheet**

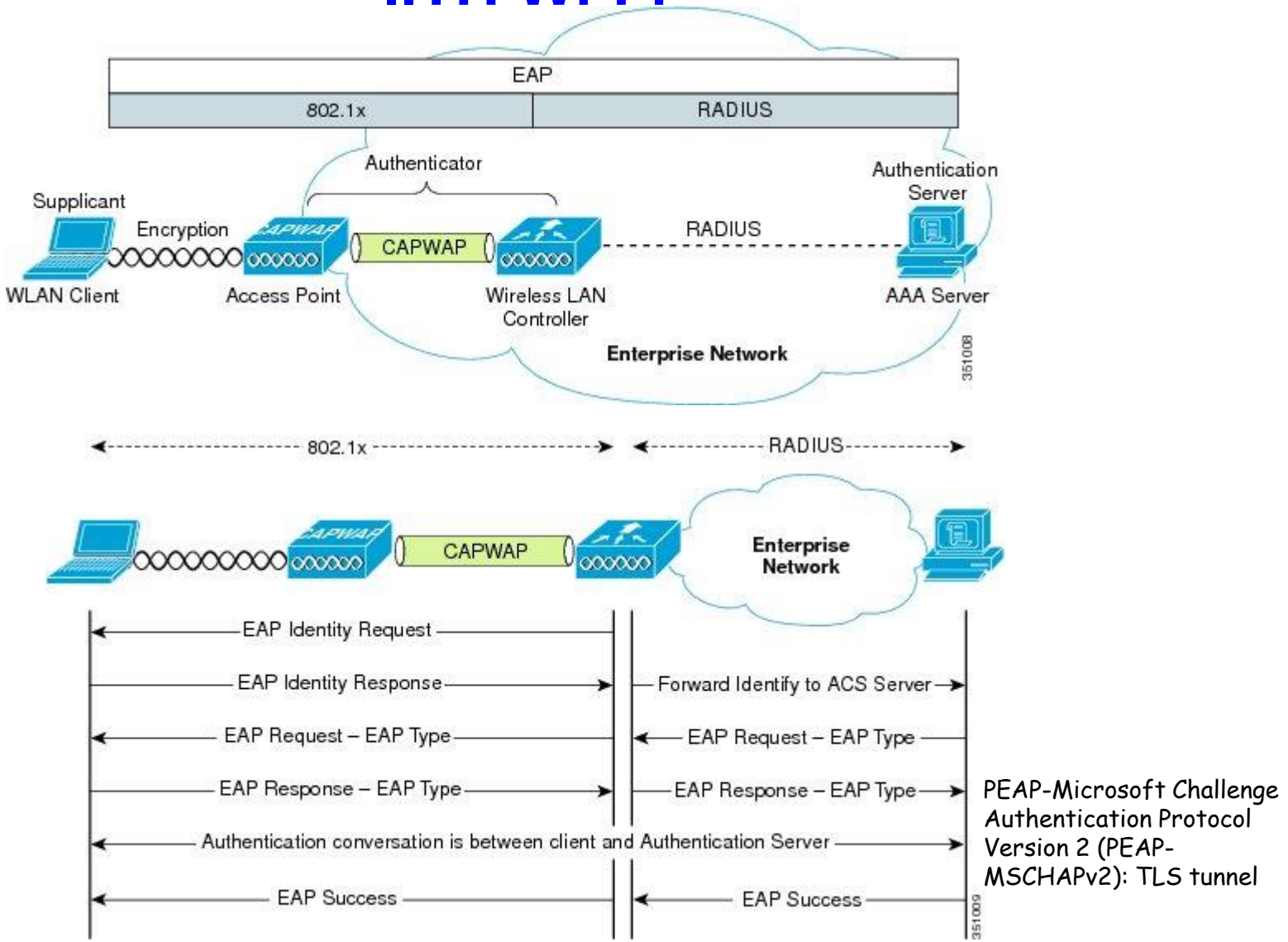


Cisco 5508 WLAN Controller

- CAPWAP Architecture where APs are kept in light-weight (split-MAC) mode
  - CAPWAP: Control and Provisioning of Wireless Access Points, IETF std
  - Timing-dependent operations are generally managed locally on CAPWAP AP, while more complex, less time-dependent operations are managed on the WLC
    - Beacons, control and data frames, encryption by CAPWAP AP, rest by WLC
  - Central configuration, management of APs & two-way (UDP) tunneling of traffic b/w Controller and APs
  - Load-balancing, interference management (DFS), Uninterrupted network access when roaming, QoS, power control, etc
- Supports up to 500 APs and 7000 STAs

Data Sheet

IITH Wi-Fi

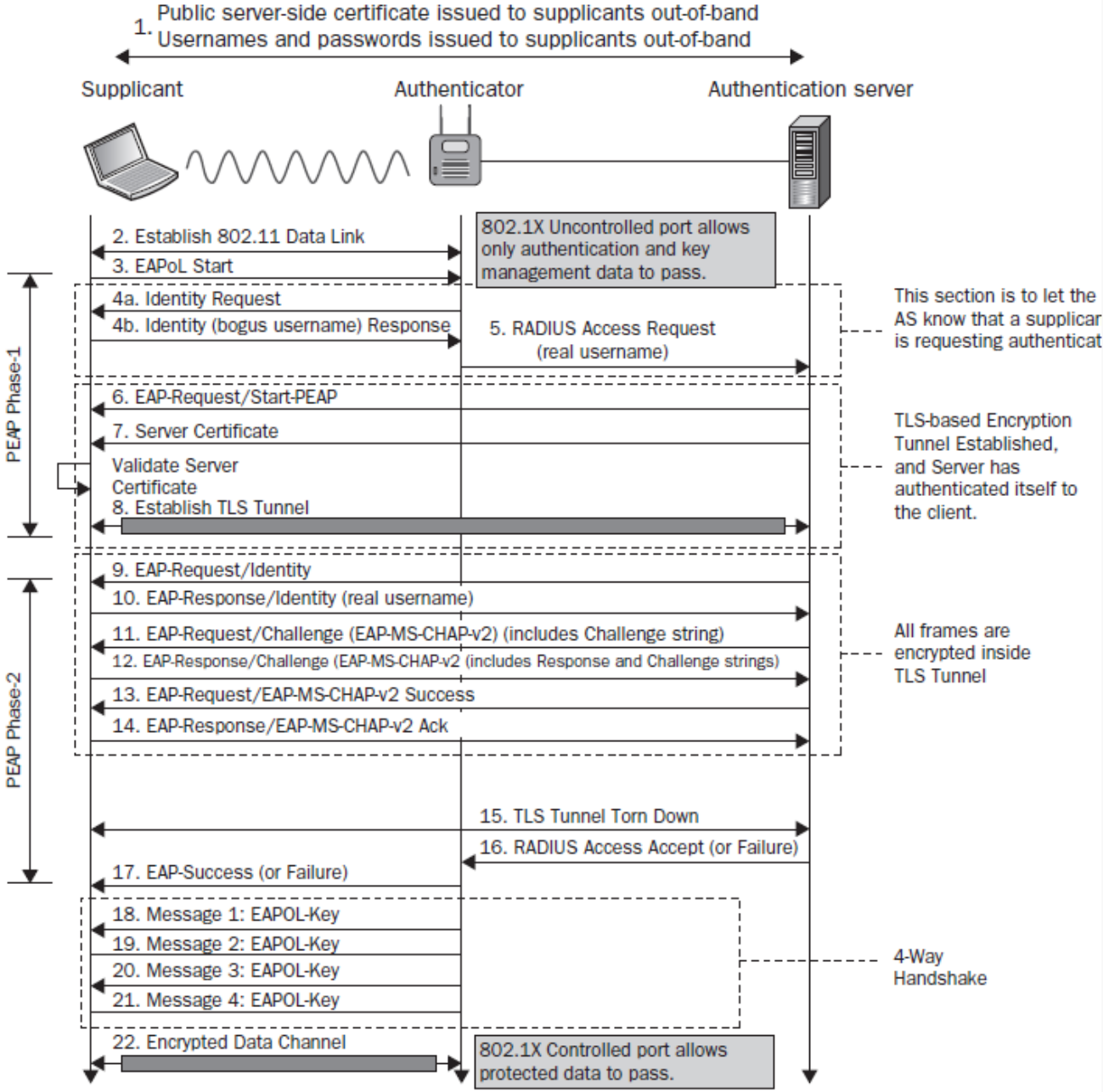


PEAP-Microsoft Challenge Authentication Protocol Version 2 (PEAP-MSCHAPv2): TLS tunnel

Secure Wireless Topology, EAP Message Flow, Credit: Cisco

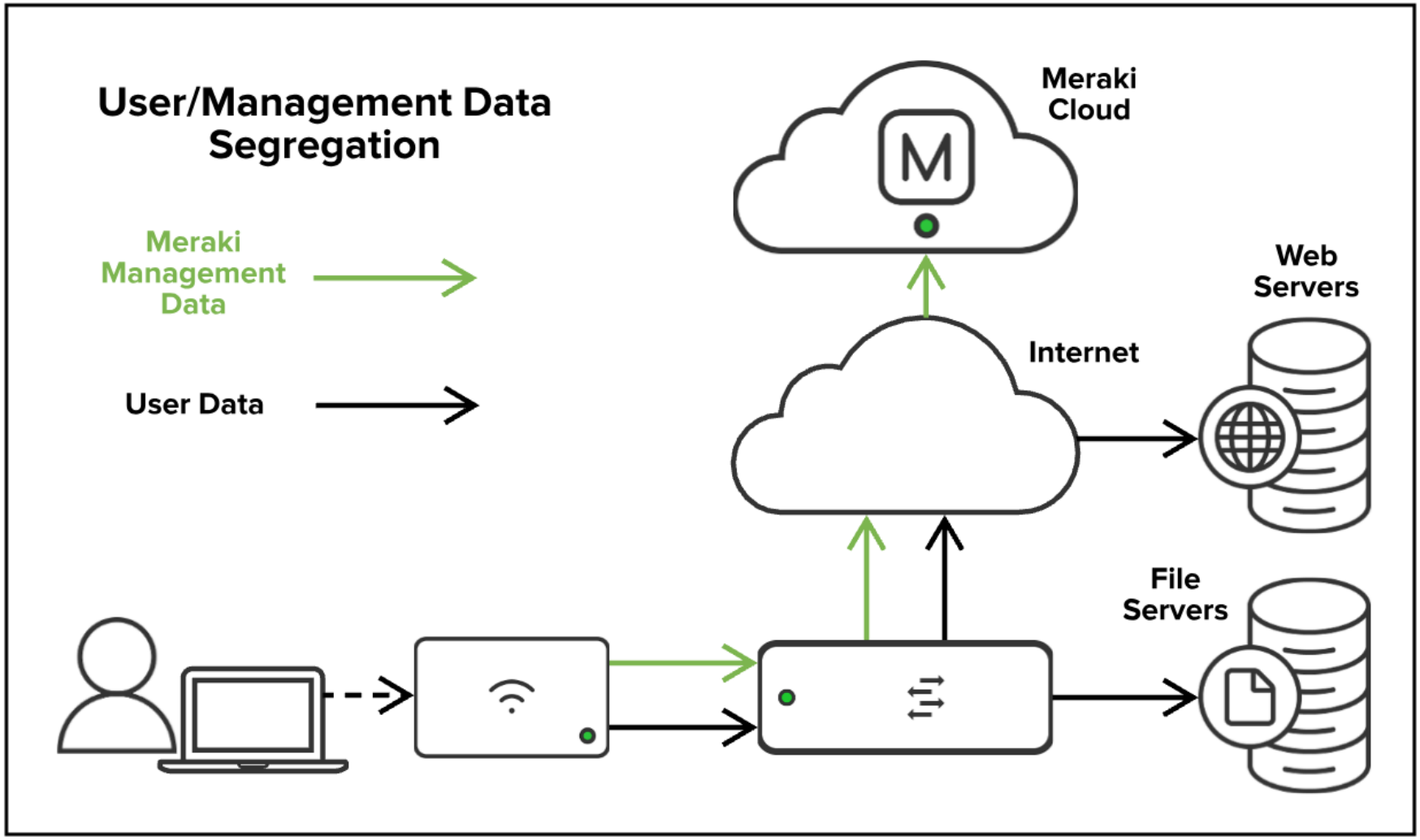
https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/td/docs/solutions/Enterprise/Mobility/emob73dg/emob73/ch4_Secu.html

PEAP



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

Cloud based Wi-Fi Mgmt



Cisco Meraki Best Practice Design - Cisco Meraki

Attacks on WPA2!

- Eavesdropping (esp OPEN networks)
- WPA2-PSK: MITM attacks
  - Association with Evil Twin APs
- WPA2-PSK: Offline dictionary attacks
- WPA2-PSK/EAP: KRACK attacks
- AP configuration over HTTP
- Denial of Service (DoS) attacks

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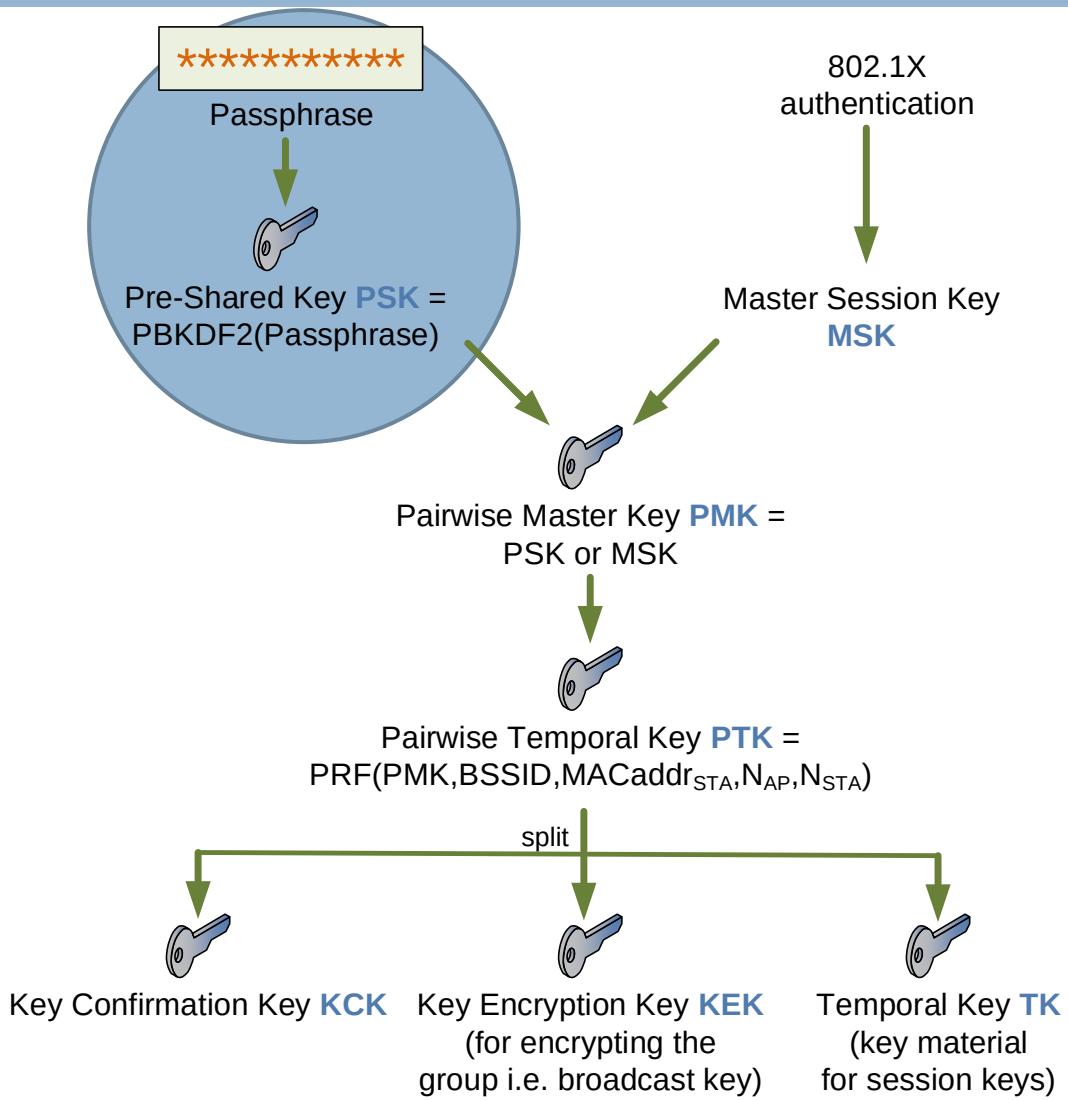
CRACKING WPA2-PSK PASSWORD WITH OFFLINE DICTIONARY ATTACK

Cracking_wpa [Aircrack-ng]

WPA2: Key Hierarchy (recap)



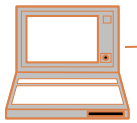
PBKDF2=Password Based Key Derivation Function #2

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!

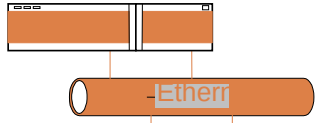
WPA2-PSK Offline Dictionary Attack



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.

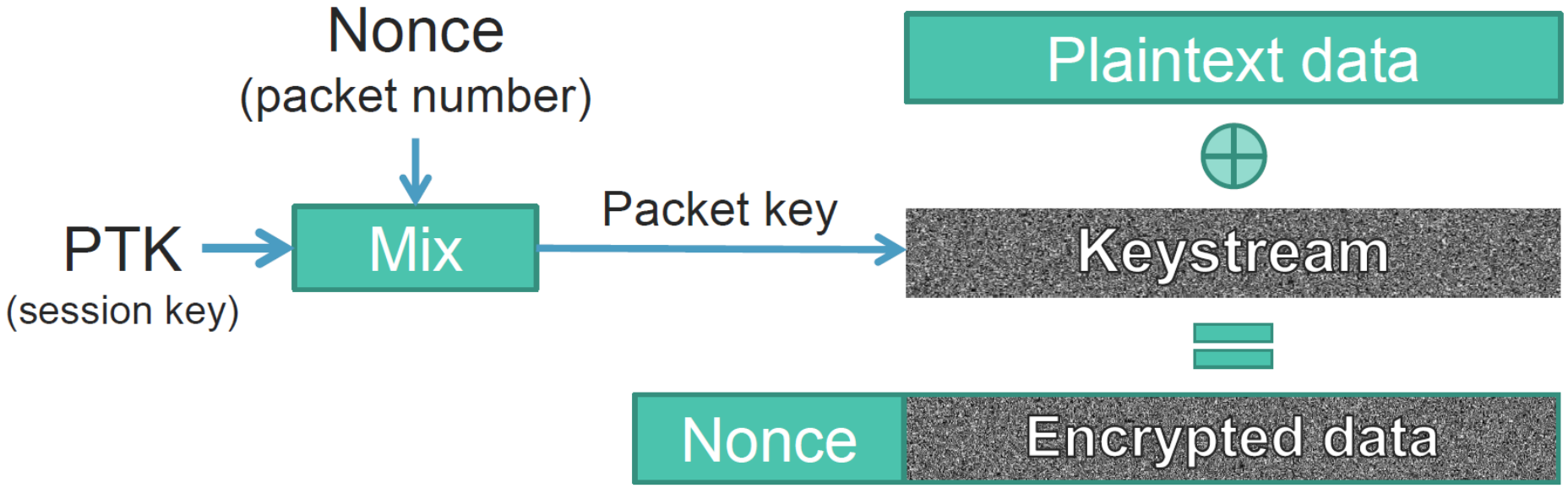
Demo of Cracking WPA2-PSK

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfYxrLaqlN8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Usw0IlGbkC4

KRACK: Key Reinstallation Attacks on WPA2

- Discovered by Mathy Vanhoef, KU Leuven in 2017
- Kind of weakness/ambiguity in .11i std, so effects varied across OS implementations
- So, many devices with Wi-Fi radio were affected
  - Linux and Android 6.0 or higher were highly vulnerable
  - All data from victim could 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.

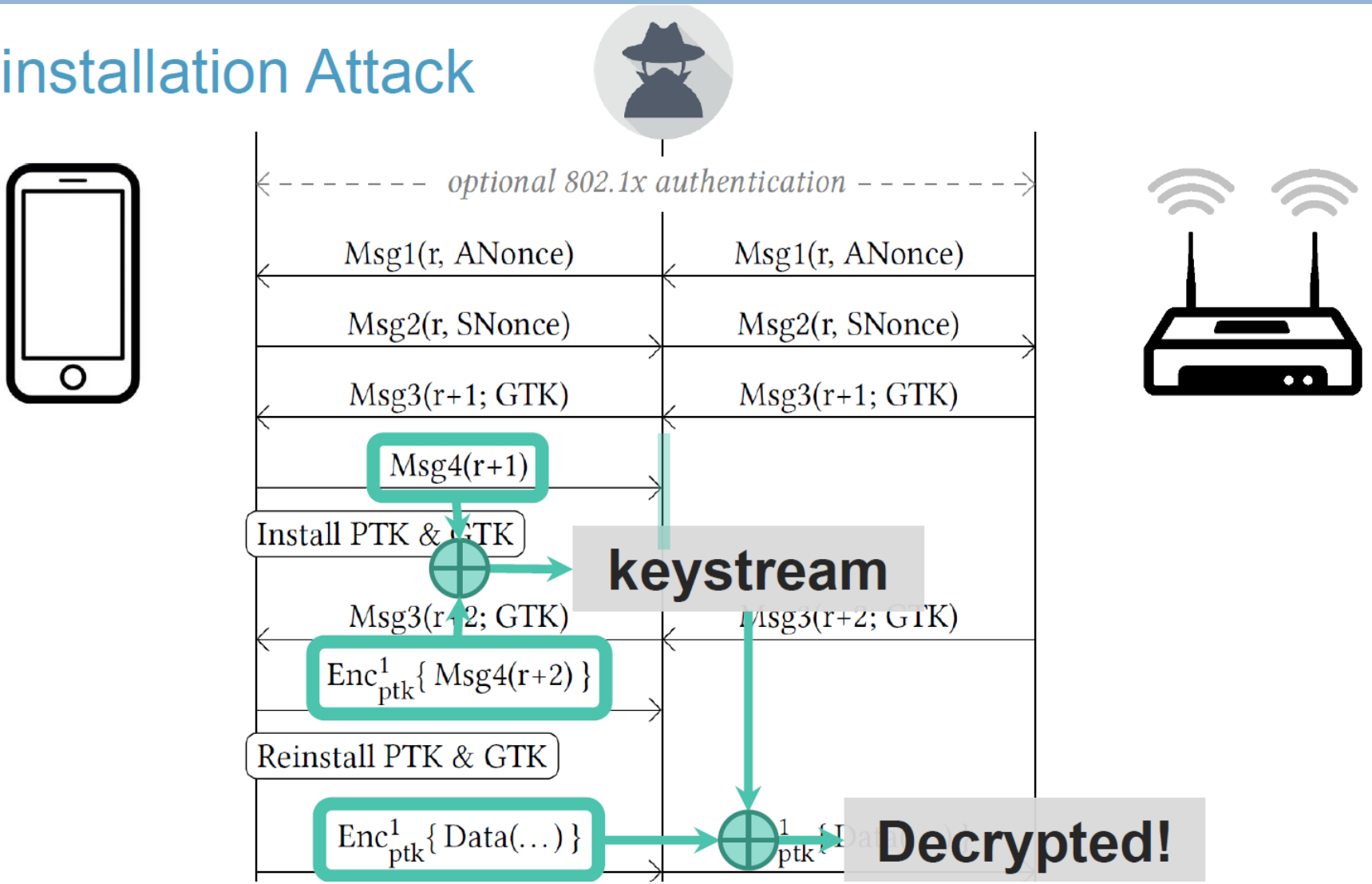
Encryption of 802.11 MAC Payloads



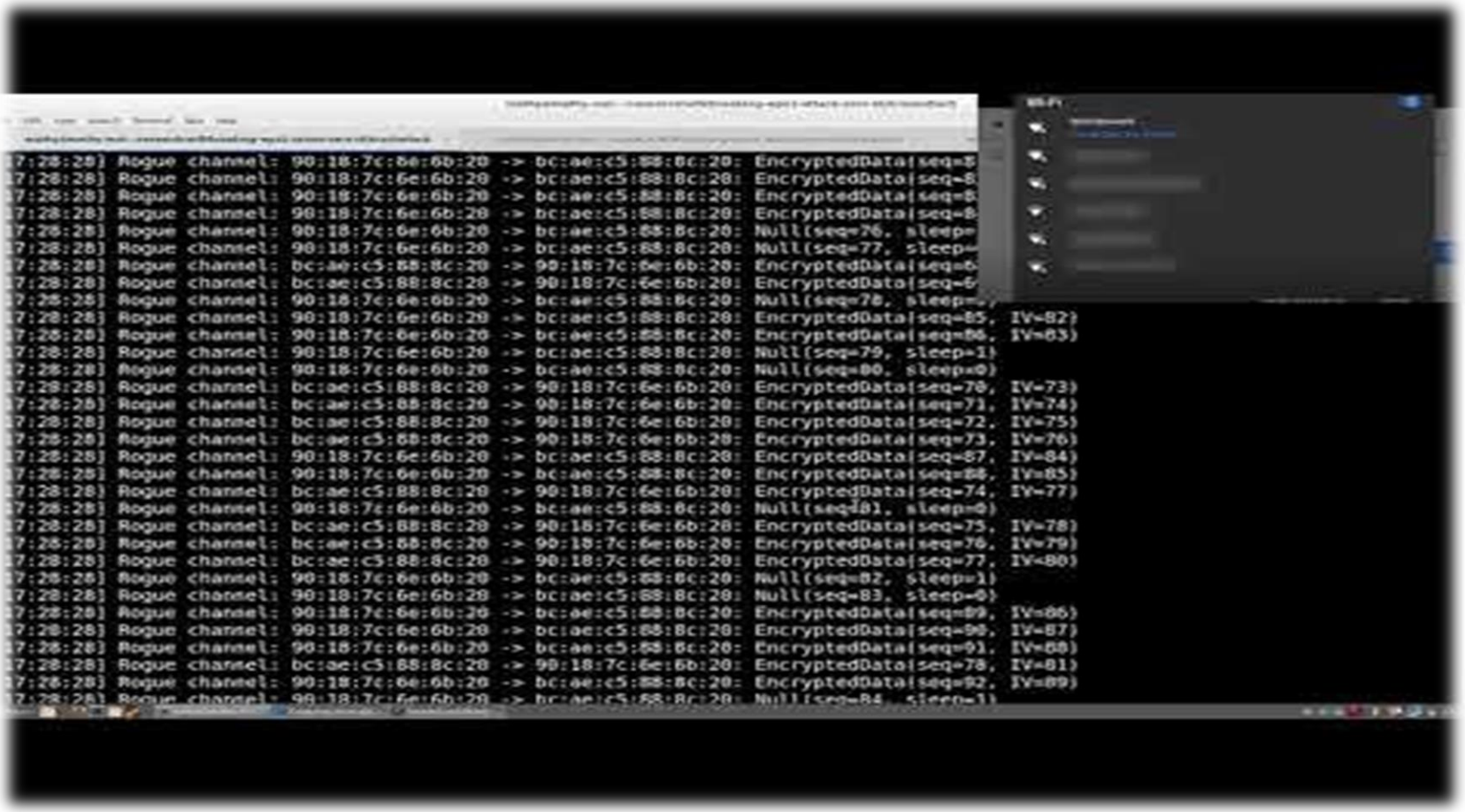
→ Nonce reuse implies keystream reuse (in all WPA2 ciphers)

KRACK: MITM attack on 4-Way H/S

Reinstallation Attack



KRACK Attack: Demo



KRACK - Key Reinstallation Attacks: Forcing Nonce Reuse in WPA2 - YouTube

KRACK Attack: Presentation

Release the Kraken: New KRACKs in the 802.11 Standard - YouTube

How to defend against KRACK?

- 802.11i std was amended as follows:
  - When an already-in-use key is being reinstalled, the standard now states that the associated transmit nonce and receive replay counter should not be reset!
    - But it does not prevent group key reinstallation attacks ☹

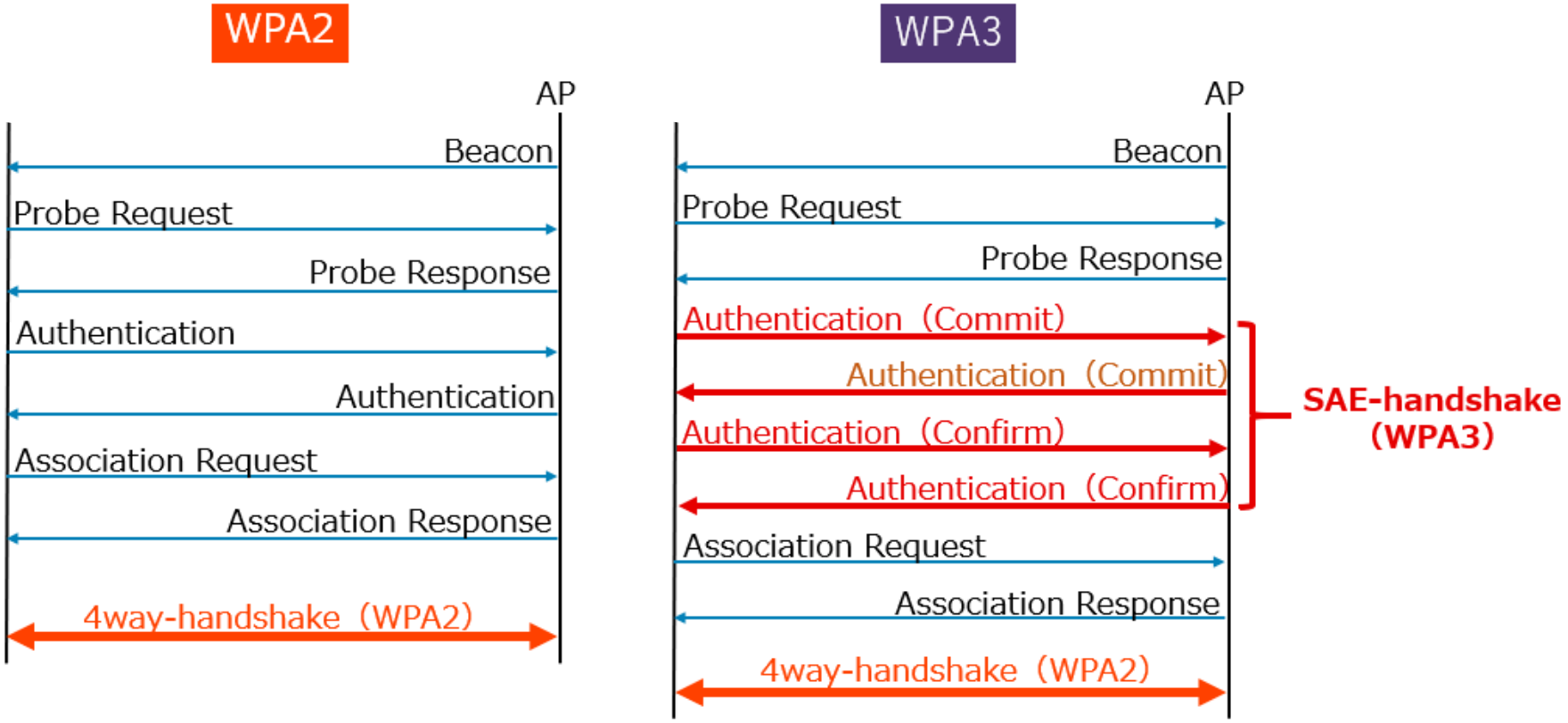
WPA3: Must for Wi-Fi 6 & Beyond

I. WPA3-Enterprise
II. WPA3-Personal leverages Simultaneous Authentication of Equals (SAE) to protect users against offline dictionary attacks
III. Enhanced Open for encryption without authentication in Open networks

WPA3-Enterprise

- Supports Management Frame Protection (MFP)
- Still leverages 802.1X/EAP for authentication like WPA2
- 3 modes of operation
  - WPA3-Enterprise Only
  - WPA3-Enterprise Transition
  - WPA3-Enterprise 192-bit (optional)
    - 256-bit GCMP/AES instead of 128-bit CCMP/AES
    - BIP-GMAC-256 for MFP instead of BIP-CMAC-128
    - EAP-TLS as the authentication protocol

WPA2-Personal vs WPA3-Personal



https://balramdot11b.com/2020/05/17/wpa3-and-dragonfly-sae/

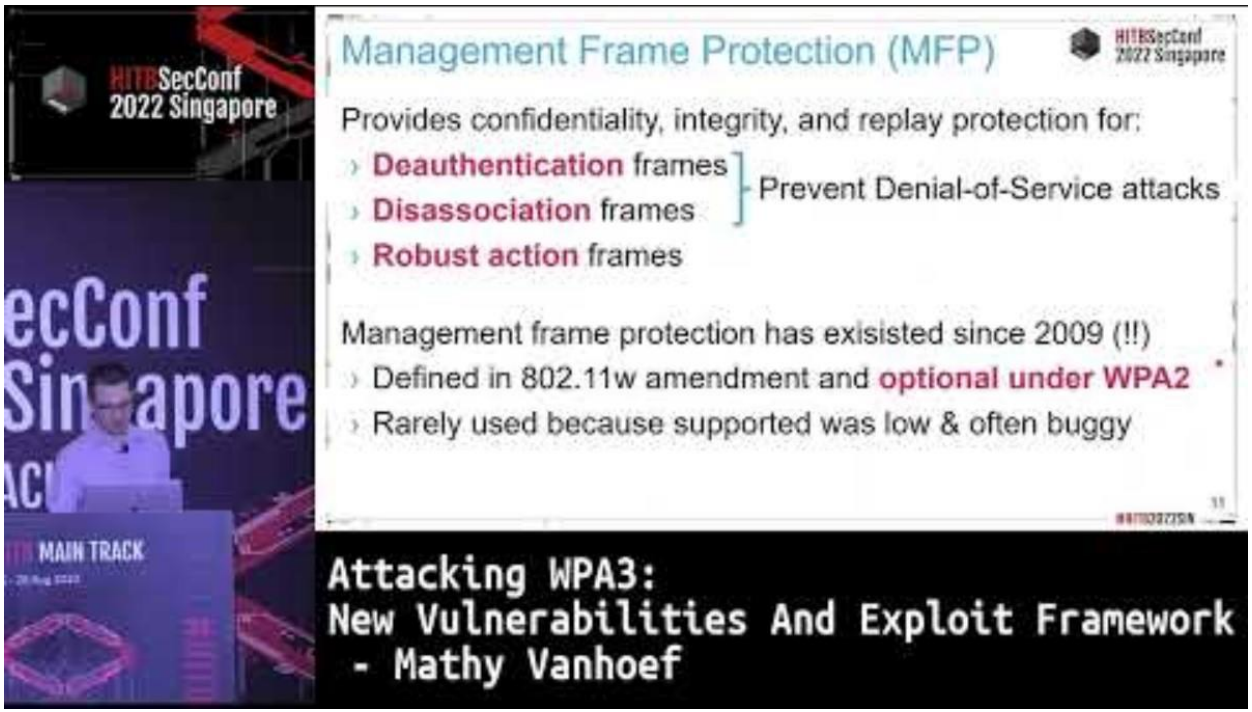
WPA3-Personal: Dragonfly

- **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)
- SAE is a variant of Diffie-Hellman key exchange to facilitate both encryption key generation & mutual AUTH
  - SAE handshake (commit and confirm msgs with password) 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

WPA3: OWE

- **OWE: Opportunistic Wireless Encryption for Open SSIDs**
  - Meant for open/public APs
  - Encryption w/o authentication like securely reading https://www.thehindu.com/ without login
  - Diffie-Hellman key exchange, does not 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)
    - Solution for client-side AUTH: Captive portal
    - No solution for server-side AUTH
      - Rogue APs (Evil Twins) can still be setup

Attacks on WPA3!



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MWaIhYaQuM8
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tRWMp3jXlRg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44I1wfgGT80

Announcements

- Quiz-2 paper distribution
  - April 1st
- Quiz-3
  - April 30th morning session
  - Topics: HTTPS, IPSEC, DNSSEC, Wi-Fi Security
- Secure-chat assignment evaluations
  - April 2nd week
  - Contact TAs for the slot assignment

References

- IEEE 802.11 Stds: http://standards.ieee.org/about/get/802/802.11.html
  - 802.11i and 802.11w
- https://code.google.com/archive/p/wifuzz/wikis/WiFuzz.wiki
- http://www.secdev.org/projects/scapy/
- https://www.eetimes.com/document.asp?doc_id=1206324
- https://www.krackattacks.com/
- https://www.aircrack-ng.org/
- https://thebestvpn.uk/unsecured-wifi-network/
- https://asecuritysite.com/encryption/
- https://networkwizkid.com/2019/11/16/capturing-eapol-and-radius-using-wireshark/
- https://witestlab.poly.edu/blog/conduct-a-simple-man-in-the-middle-attack-on-a-wifi-hotspot/
- https://wirelesslywired.com/2017/07/05/following-the-802-1x-aaa-process-with-packet-captures/
- https://whisperlab.org/introduction-to-hacking/lectures/wifi-exploitation
- https://mrncciew.com/2014/08/19/cwsp-ccmp-encryption-method/

WPA2 & WPA3 Attacks (Videos)

- KRACK (2017)
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oh4WURZoR98
- YouTube Playlist on WPA2 Attacks
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOgJswt7nAc
  - WPA2 Encryption Basics | Part 1 | WPA2 Key Installation KRACK Attacks - YouTube
- FragAttacks (2021)
  - https://www.fragattacks.com/
  - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=88YZ4061tYw&t=11s
- Dragonblood
  - https://wpa3.mathyvanhoef.com/