LTE security and protocol exploits

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About me

- Wireless Security Researcher (aka Security Architect) at Bloomberg LP
 - http://www.bloomberg.com/company/announcements/mobile-security-a-conversation-with-roger-piqueras-jover/
- Formerly (5 years) Principal Member of Technical Staff at AT&T Security Research
 - http://src.att.com/projects/index.html
- Mobile/wireless network security research
 - LTE security and protocol exploits
 - Advanced radio jamming
 - Control plane signaling scalability in mobile networks
 - 5G mobile networks and new mobile core architectures
 - If it communicates wirelessly, I am interested in its security
 - Bluetooth and BLE
 - 802.11
 - Zigbee, Zigwave
 - LoRa, SIgFox...
- More details
- http://www.ee.columbia.edu/~roger/ @rgoestotheshows

Mobile network security

- Often thought at the "app" layer
 - Certificates
 - Encryption
 - SSL
 - Recent examples
 - iOS SSL bug
 - Android malware
 - XcodeGhost iOS infected apps
 - Long etc

- My areas of interest
 - PHY layer
 - "Layer 2" protocols (RRC, NAS, etc)
 - Circuit-switched mobile core architecture for packet-switched traffic → No bueno!
 - Recent examples
 - LTE jamming
 - Low-cost LTE IMSI catchers and protocol exploits
 - IM app causes huge mobile operators outage
 - Mobile operators trouble with "signaling storms"

Mobile network security

The first mobile networks were not designed with a strong security focus (no support for encryption in 1G!!!)

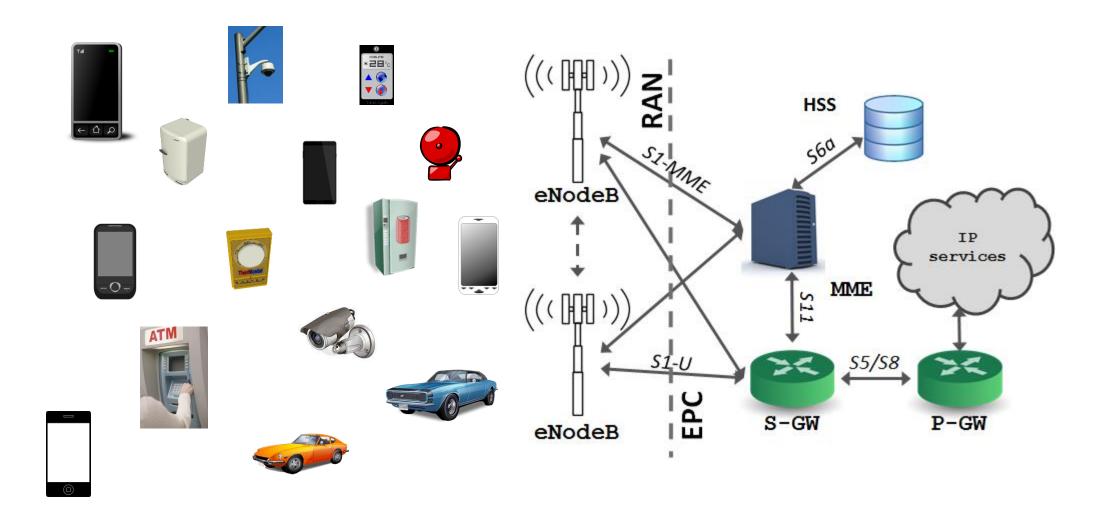


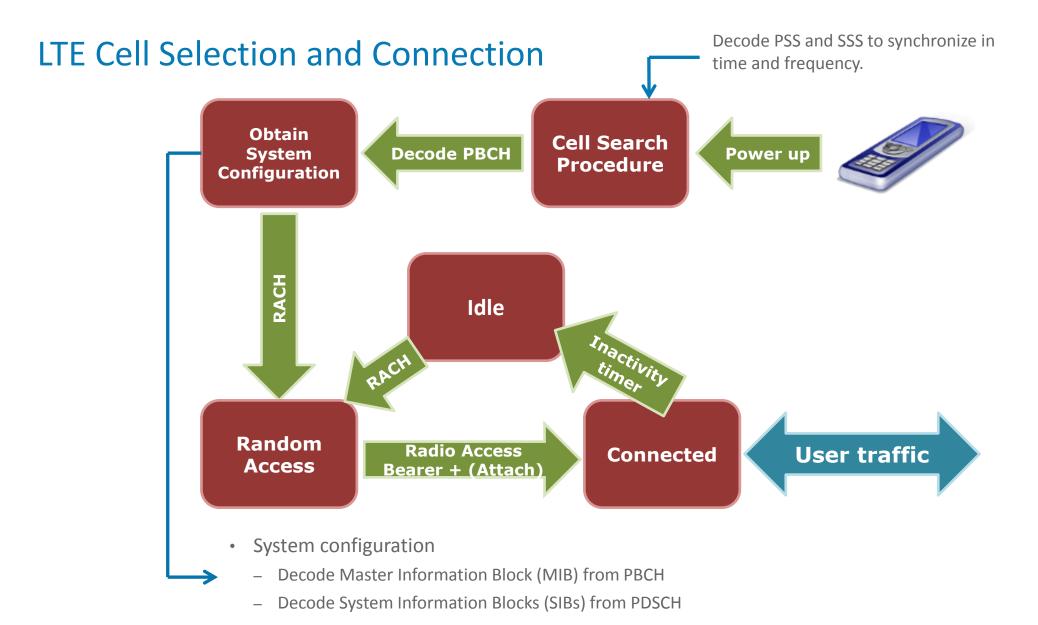
Basic security principles



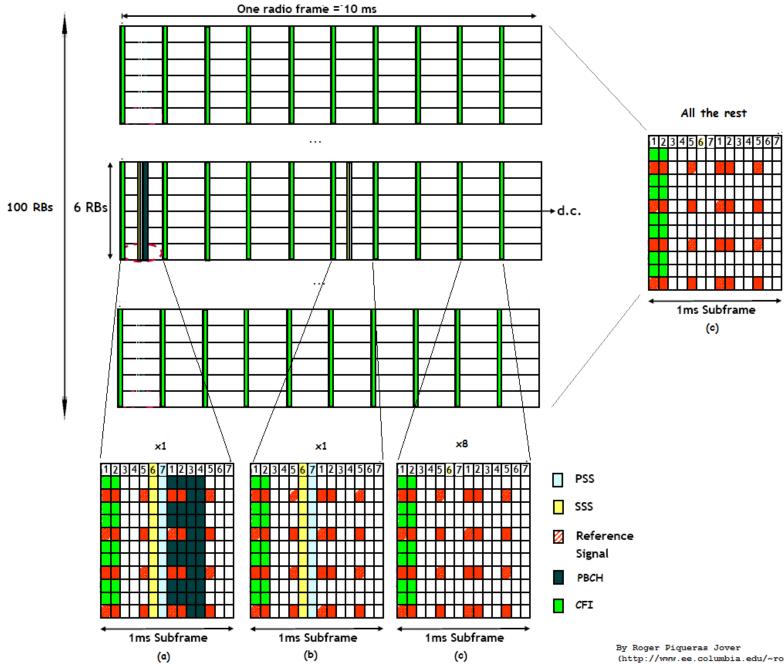
LTE basics...

LTE mobile network architecture

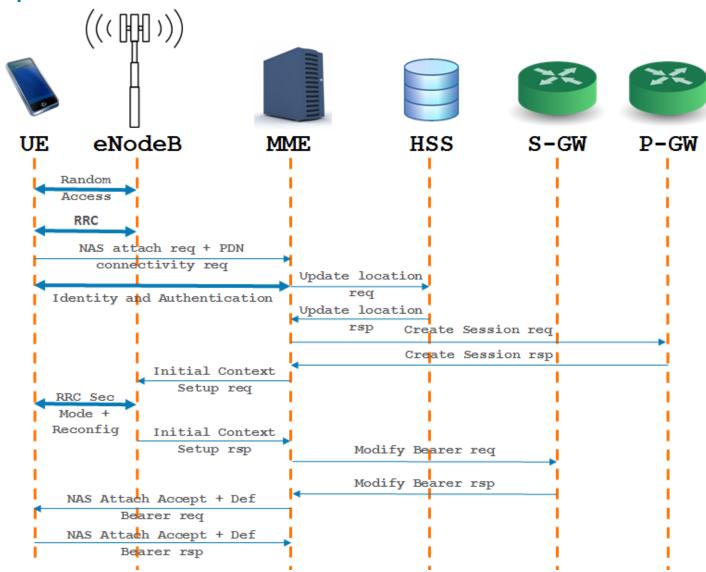




LTE frame



LTE NAS Attach procedure



Mobile network user/device identifiers



IMEI – "Serial number" of the device



IMSI – secret id of the SIM that should never be disclosed TMSI – temporary id used by the network once it knows who you are



MSISDN – Your phone number.

LTE security and protocol exploits...

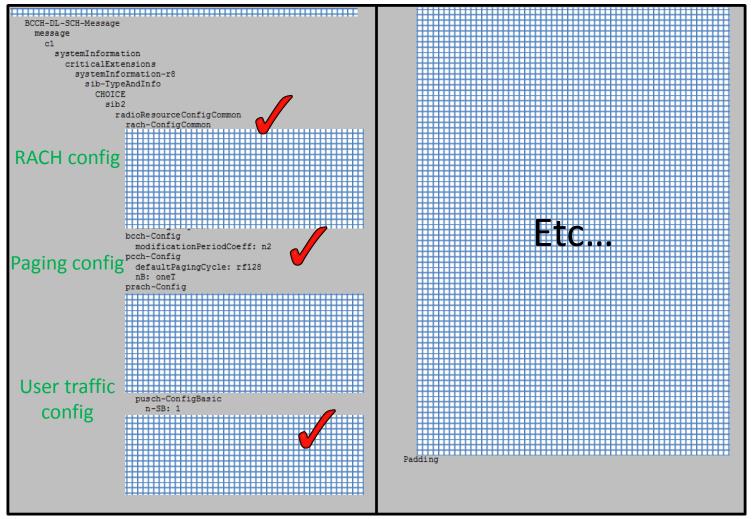
LTE security and protocol exploits

- Sniffing base station and network configuration broadcast messages
- LTE security
- LTE IMSI catchers
- Mapping of {phone number, TMSI, IMSI}
- Bricking/blocking devices and SIMs
- LTE location leaks and tracking target devices

```
Subframe: 0
  BCCH-BCH-Message
    message
      dl-Bandwidth: n50
      phich-Config
        phich-Duration: normal
        phich-Resource: one
      systemFrameNumber: {8
bits | 0x17}
      spare: {10 bits|0x0000|Right
Aligned}
```

LTE PBCH MIB packet

```
BCCH-DL-SCH-Message
 message
     systemInformationBlockType1
       cellAccessRelatedInfo
         plmn-IdentityList
           PLMN-IdentityInfo
             plmn-Identity
                 MCC-MNC-Digit: 3
                 MCC-MNC-Digit: 1
                                             Mobile operator
                 MCC-MNC-Digit: 0
             cellReservedForOperatorUse: reserved
         trackingAreaCode: {16 bits|
         cellIdentity: {28 bits| Right Aligned}
          cellBarred: notBarred
         intraFreqReselection: allowed
         csg-Indication: false
        cellSelectionInfo
       q-RxLevMin: freqBandIndicator:
                                       RX power to select
                                             that cell
       schedulingInfoList
         SchedulingInfo
           si-Periodicity: rf8
           sib-MappingInfo
             SIB-Type: sibType3
       si-WindowLength: ms10
       systemInfoValueTag: 11
  Padding
```



- MIB/SIB messages are necessary for the operation of the network
 - Some things must be sent in the clear (i.e. a device connecting for the first time)
 - But perhaps not everything
- Things an attacker can learn from MIB and SIB messages
 - Optimal tx power for a rogue base station (no need to set up your USRP to its max tx power)
 - High priority frequencies to force priority cell reselection
 - Mobile operator who owns that tower
 - Tracking Area of the legitimate cell (use a different one in your rogue eNodeB to force TAU update messages)
 - Mapping of signaling channels
 - Paging channel mapping and paging configuration
 - Etc

LTE security

Name	Start time	DI/UI	Cell	Cell ID	Frame	Subf	RCE		_	Errs	Retrans	Decr	Valid	Sf RSSI	SINR	٦	RACH handshake
RACH	01:32:03.954999	U			440	1	-16.64	-57.98							16.64	ŀ	between UE and eNB
MAC Random Access Response	01:32:03.958999	D			440	5	-16.41	-45.73		OK				-39.20	16.41	ξ.	Setween 62 and end
RRCConnectionRequest	01:32:03.964999	U			441	1	-23.85	-51.14	6	OK					23.85		RRC handshake between
RRCConnectionSetup	01:32:03.979999	D			442	6	-15.11	-42.21	26	OK				-38.72	15.11		UE and eNB
RRCConnectionSetupComplete	01:32:04.013999	U		******	446	0			56	OK						٦	OE allu einb
Attach Request	01:32:04.013999	U			446	0	-25.25	-49.36	53	OK					25.25		
PDN Connectivity Request	01:32:04.013999	U			446	0	-25.25	-49.36	36	OK					25.25		
DLInformationTransfer	01:32:04.088999	D			453	5			39	OK							
Authentication Request	01:32:04.088999	D			453	5	-15.00	-41.33	36	OK				-38.44	15.00		
ULInformationTransfer	01:32:04.225999	U			467	2			22	OK							
Authentication Response	01:32:04.225999	U			467	2	-20.80	-53.66	19	OK					20.80		
DLInformationTransfer	01:32:04.267999	D			471	4			17	OK							Connection setup
Security Protected NAS Message	01:32:04.267999	D			471	4	-15.52	-44.04	14	OK		Not	No	-39.22	15.52		Connection setup
Security Mode Command	01:32:04.267999	D			471	4	-15.52	-44.04	8	OK				-39.22	15.52	Ļ	(authentication, set-up of
ULInformationTransfer	01:32:04.285999	U			473	2			22	OK							encryption, tunnel set-up,
Security Protected NAS Message	01:32:04.285999	U			473	2	-22.49	-52.16	19	OK		No	No		22.49		etc)
Unknown NAS	01:32:04.285999	U			473	2	-22.49	-52.16	13	OK					22.49		•
DLInformationTransfer	01:32:04.327999	D			477	4			12	OK							
Security Protected NAS Message	01:32:04.327999	U ł	+++++	++++++++	H477	4	-14.73	-45.68	9	OK		No	No	-39.27	14.73		
Unknown NAS	01:32:04.327999	D			477	4	-14.73	-45.68	3	OK				-39.27	14.73		
ULInformationTransfer	01:32:04.345999	U			479	2			24	OK							
Security Protected NAS Message	01:32:04.345999	U			479	2	-21.36	-53.39	21	OK		No	No		21.36		
Unknown NAS	01:32:04.345999	U			479	2	-21.36	-53.39	15	OK					21.36	J	
SecurityModeCommand	01:32:04.472999	D			491	9			3	OK						٦	
Ciphered RRC	01:32:04.495999	U			494	2			2	OK		No	No				
Ciphered RRC	01:32:04.501999	D			494	8			3	OK		No	No				
Ciphered RRC	01:32:04.515999	U			∓ 496	2			18	OK		No	No				
Ciphered RRC	01:32:04.536999	D			498	3			165	OK		No	No				
Ciphered RRC	01:32:04.575999	U			502	2			2	OK		No	No			. }	Encrypted traffic
Ciphered RRC	01:32:04.575999	U			∐ 502	2			16	OK		No	No				7,1
Ciphered RRC	01:32:04.604999	D			505	1			30	ОК		No	No				
Ciphered data	01:32:14.426997	U			463	3			96	OK		No					
Ciphered data	01:32:14.475997	U			468	2			40	ОК		No					
Ciphered data	01:32:14.513997	U	шШ		472	0			96	OK		No				J	

LTE security

ntelliJudg Count	Name	Start time	DI/UI	Cell ID	Frame	RNTI	RCE	Power	Errs
L	RACH	00:04:42.942818	U		651		-6.42	-64.65	
!	MAC Random Access Response	00:04:42.946818	D		651		-8.50	-45.23	ОК
}	RRCConnectionRequest	00:04:42.952818	U		652		-19.19	-56.46	OK
1	RRCConnectionSetup	00:04:42.967818	D		653		-9.07	-43.18	ОК
5	RRCConnectionSetupComplete	00:04:43.001818	U		657				OK
6	Attach Request	00:04:43.001818	U		657				ОК
7	PDN Connectivity Request	00:04:43.001818	U		657		-17.59	-60.11	ОК
8	DLInformationTransfer	00:04:43.080818	D		664				ОК
9	Authentication Request	00:04:43.080818	D		664		-8.86	-42.27	ОК
10	ULInformationTransfer	00:04:43.213818	U		678				OK
11	Authentication Response	00:04:43.213818	U		678		-12.51	-65.43	ОК
12	DLInformationTransfer	00:04:43.258818	D		682				ОК
13	Security Protected NAS Message	00:04:43.258818	D _		682		-8.90	-44.51	ОΚ
14	Security Mode Command	00:04:43.258818	D		682		-8.90	-44.51	ОК
15	ULInformationTransfer	00:04:43.273818	U		684				OK
16	Security Protected NAS Message	00:04:43.273818	U		684		-11.14	-64.93	OK
17	Unknown NAS	00:04:43.273818	U		684		-11.14	-64.93	OK
18	DLInformationTransfer	00:04:43.318818	D		688				OK
19	Security Protected NAS Message	00:04:43.318818	D		688		-8.88	-45.69	OK
20	Unknown NAS	00:04:43.318818	D		688		-8.88	-45.69	OK
21	ULInformationTransfer	00:04:43.333818	U		690				OK
22	Security Protected NAS Message	00:04:43.333818	U		690		-11.82	-63.66	OK
23	Unknown NAS	00:04:43.333818	U		690		-11.82	-63.66	OK
24	SecurityModeCommand	00:04:43.451818	D		702				OK
25	Ciphered RRC	00:04:43.479818	D		704				OK
26	Ciphered RRC	00:04:43.503818	U		707				OK
27	Ciphered RRC	00:04:43.524818	D		709				OK
28	Ciphered RRC	00:04:43.563818	U		713				OK
29	Ciphered RRC	00:04:43.563818	U		713				OK
30	Ciphered RRC	00:04:43.594818	D		716	\blacksquare			OK
31	Ciphered data	00:04:52.021817	D		535	####			OK
32	Ciphered data	00:04:52.021817	D		535				OK
33	Ciphered data	00:04:52.113817	U		544				OK
34	Ciphered data	00:04:52.153817	U		548				OK

Unencrypted and unprotected. I can sniff these messages and I can transmit them pretending to be a legitimate base station.

Other things sent in the clear:

- Measurement reports
- Measurement report requests
- (Sometimes) GPS coordinates
- HO related messages
- Paging messages
- Etc

LTE security

Regardless of mutual authentication and strong encryption, a mobile device engages in a substantial exchange of unprotected messages with *any* LTE base station (malicious or not) that advertises itself with the right broadcast information.

LTE open source implementations

- There are a few somewhat fully functional LTE open source implementations
 - OpenLTE End to end implementation: RAN and "EPC".
 - http://sourceforge.net/projects/openIte/
 - gr-LTE Based on gnuradio-companion. Great for people new to software radio.
 - https://github.com/kit-cel/gr-lte
 - OpenAirInterface Industry/Academia consortium.
 - http://www.openairinterface.org/
 - srsLTE Almost complete implementation. Includes srsUE, device open source implementation.
 - https://github.com/srsLTE
- Hardware setup
 - USRP B210 for active rogue base station
 - BUDGET: USRP B210 (\$1100) + GPSDO (\$625) + LTE Antenna (2x\$30) = \$1785
 - Machine running Ubunutu
 - US dongles (hackRF, etc) for passive sniffing.

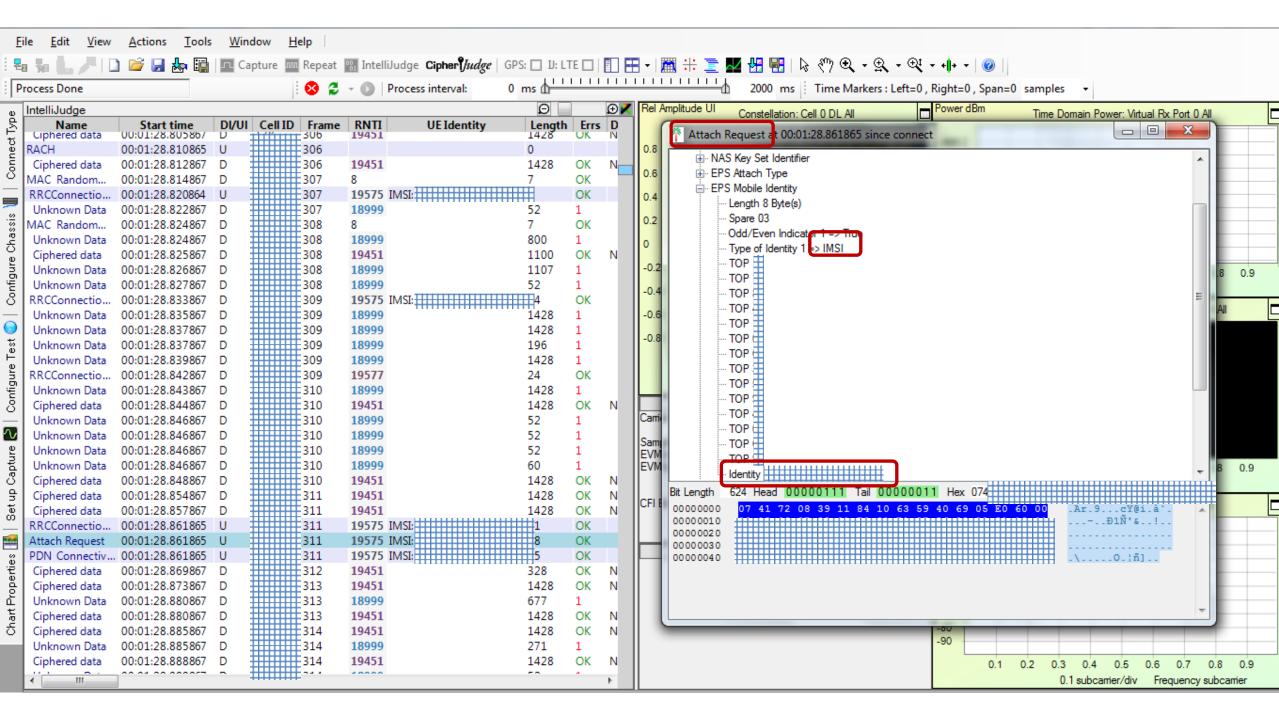
All LTE active radio experiments MUST be performed inside a faraday cage.

LTE traffic captures

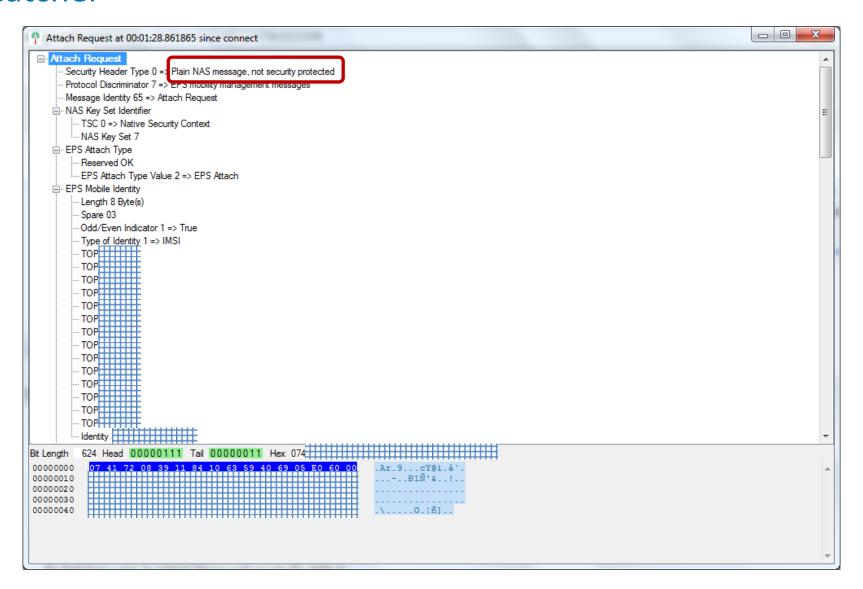
- Sanjole WaveJudge 5000 with IntelliJudge traffic processor
 - Reception and sniffing from multiple eNBs simultaneously
 - Decoding of messages at very low SNR regime
 - Retransmission of captures
 - Thanks to Sanjole for helping out and providing all the captures shown in this presentation!
 - http://www.sanjole.com/our-products/lte-analyzer/
- Other options
 - openLTE pcap traffic dump
 - WireShark LTE RRC library
 - hackRF
 - Other LTE open source implementations

LTE IMSI catcher (Stingray)

- Despite common assumptions, in LTE the IMSI is always transmitted in the clear at least once
 - If the network has never seen that UE, it must use the IMSI to claim its identity
 - A UE will trust *any* eNodeB that claims it has never seen that device (pre-authentication messages)
 - IMSI can also be transmitted in the clear in error recovery situations (very rare)
- Implementation
 - USRP B210 + Ubuntu 14.10 + gnuradio 3.7.2
 - LTE base station OpenLTE's LTE_fdd_eNodeB (slightly modified)
 - Added feature to record IMSI from Attach Request messages
 - Send attach reject after IMSI collection
- Stingrays also possible in LTE without need to downgrade connection to GSM

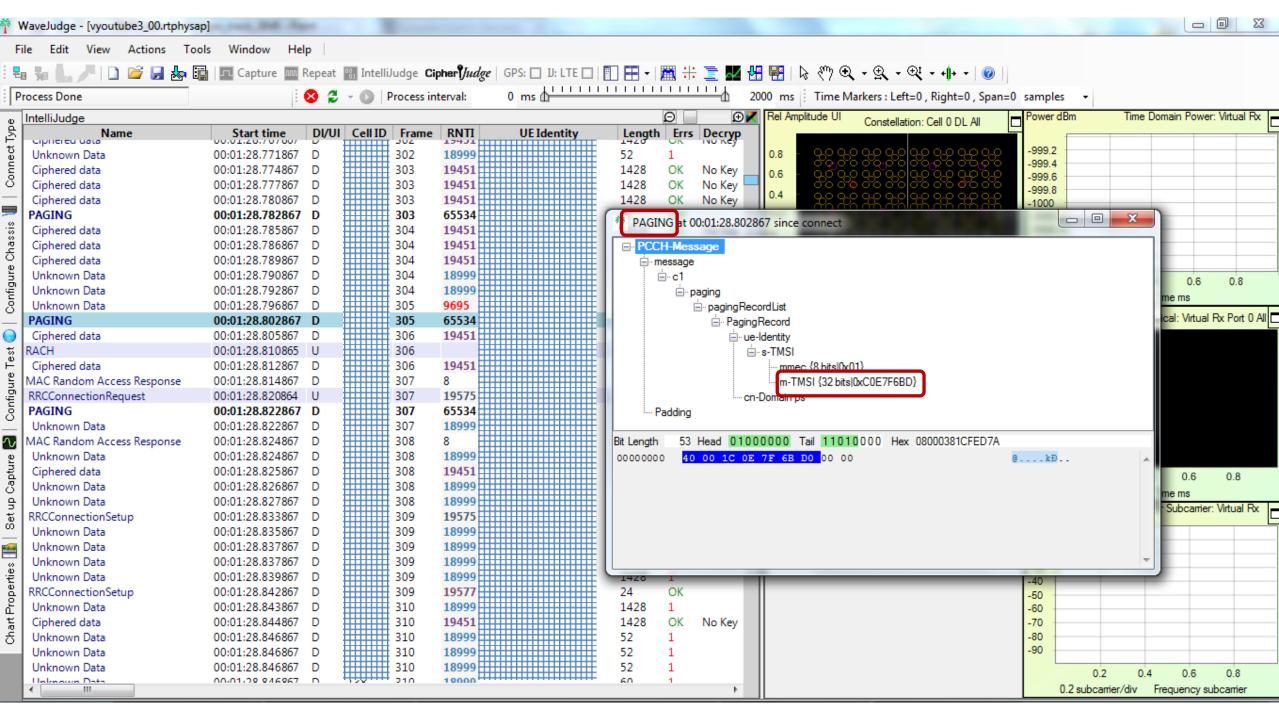


LTE IMSI catcher



Mapping {phone number, TMSI, IMSI}

- Given a phone number
 - Paging messages broadcasted in the clear and addressed to the TMSI
 - Silent text messages to target device
- Setting up a rogue base station
 - UE will attempt first with TMSI
 - Then intercept IMSI
- Cool new tricks in a paper I will discuss shortly...



(Intermission) - Some excellent related work

- A team at TU Berlin, University of Helsinki and Aalto University doing excellent work in the same area
 - More results on SIM/device bricking with Attach/TAU reject messages
 - LTE location leaks
 - Detailed implementation and results
 - Paper to be presented at NDSS: http://arxiv.org/abs/1510.07563
- Prof. Seifert's team at TU Berlin responsible for other previous VERY COOL projects
 - Respond to phone calls and receive text messages that are intended for somebody else (USENIX 2013)
 - Preventing signaling-based attacks coming from smartphones (IEEE DSN 2012)
 - SMS baseband fuzzing (USENIX 2011)
 - Mobile botnets (MALWARE 2010)
- The authors have submitted their Wireshark LTE dissectors and are being merged into the application
 - Really looking forward to this...

Device and SIM temporary block

- Attach reject and TAU (Tracking Area Update) reject messages not encrypted/integrity-protected
- Spoofing this messages one can trick a device to
 - Believe it is not allowed to connect to the network (blocked)
 - Believe it is supposed to downgrade to or only allowed to connect to GSM
- Attack set-up
 - USRP + openLTE LTE_fdd_eNodeB (slightly modified)
 - Devices attempt to attach (Attach Request, TAU request, etc)
 - Always reply to Request with Reject message
 - Experiment with "EMM Reject causes" defined by 3GPP

These are not the droids we are looking for. I am not allowed to connect to my provider anymore, I won't try again.



REQUEST

REJECT

These are not the droids you are looking for... And you are not allowed to connect anymore to this network.



Rogue eNodeB

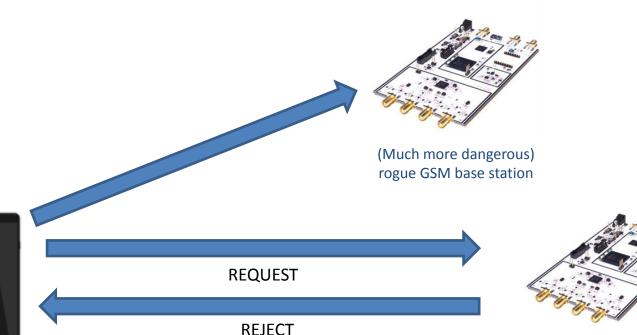
Device and SIM temporary block

- Some results
 - The blocking of the device/SIM is only temporary
 - Device won't connect until rebooted
 - SIM won't connect until reboot
 - SIM/device bricked until timer T3245 expires (24 to 48 hours!)
 - Downgrade device to GSM and get it to connect to a rogue BS
- If the target is an M2M device, it could be a semi-persistent attack
 - Reboot M2M device remotely?
 - Send a technician to reset SIM?
 - Or just wait 48 hours for your M2M device to come back online...

Soft downgrade to GSM

- Use similar techniques to "instruct" the phone to downgrade to GSM
 - Only GSM services allowed OR LTE and 3G not allowed
- Once at GSM, the phone to connects to your rogue base station
 - Bruteforce the encryption
 - Listen to phone calls, read text messages
 - Man in the Middle
 - A long list of other bad things...

I will remove these restraints and leave this cell with the door open... and use only GSM from now on... and I'll drop my weapon.



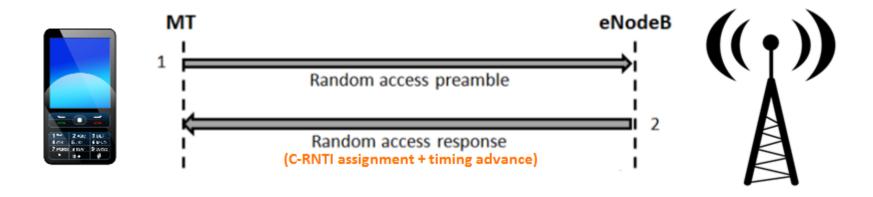
Rogue eNodeB

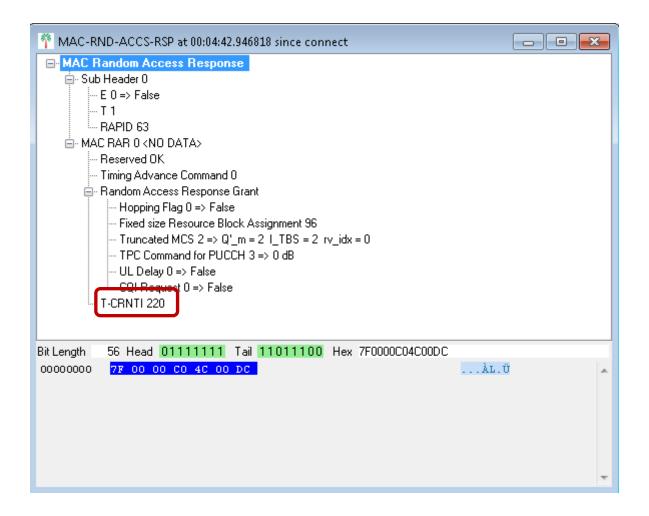
You will remove these restraints and leave this cell with the

door open... and use only GSM from now on.

RNTI

- PHY layer id sent in the clear in EVERY SINGLE packet, both UL and DL
- Identifies uniquely every UE within a cell
- Changes infrequently
 - Based on several captures in the NYC and Honolulu areas
 - · No distinguishable behavior per operator or per base station manufacturer
- Assigned by the network in the MAC RAR response to the RACH preamble



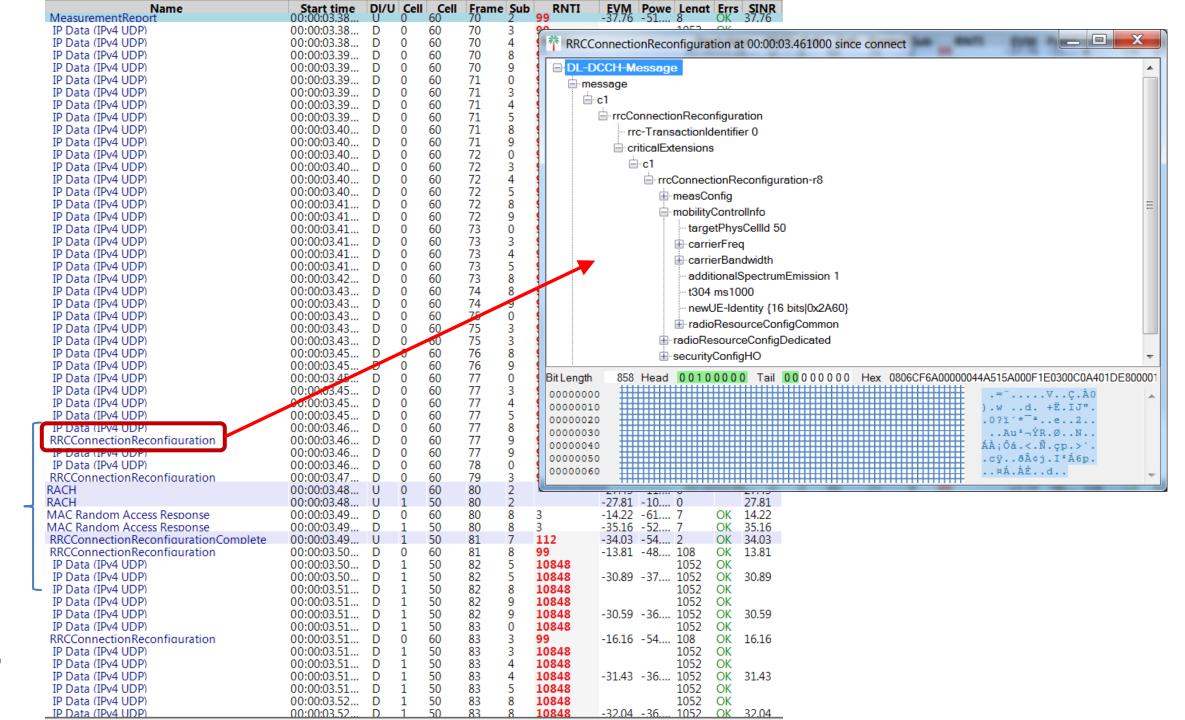


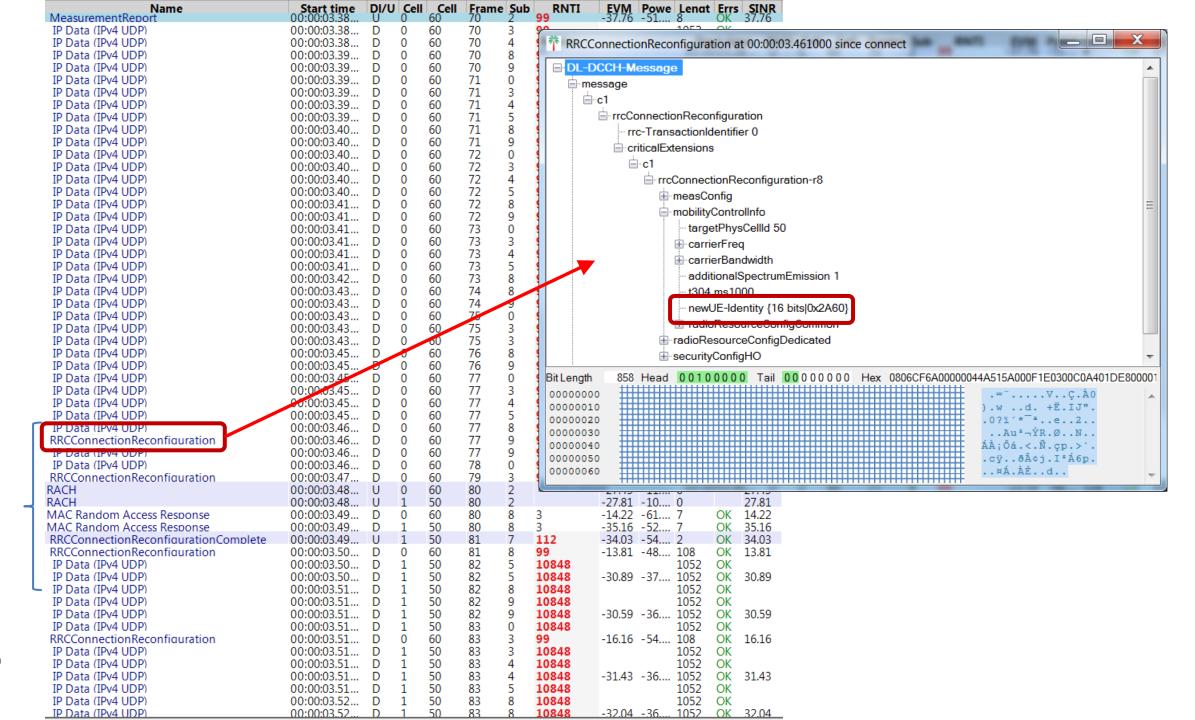
Name	Start time	DI/UI	Cell ID F	rame RNTI	UE Identity	Length	Errs
RACH	00:02:26.830866	U	98	38		o	
MAC Random Access Response	00:02:26.834868	D	98	89 8		7	OK
RRCConnectionRequest	00:02:26.840866	U	98	19841		5	OK
RRCConnectionSetup	00:02:26.853868	D	99	19841		24	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.855868	D	99	19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.856868	D	99	19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.857868	D	99	19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.858868	D	99	19681		1280	OK
Unknown Data	00:02:26.871868	D	99	2 12381		52	1
Unknown Data	00:02:26.871868	D	99			109	1
RRCConnectionSetupComplete	00:02:26.874866	U	:	93 19841		7	OK
Service Request	00:02:26.874866	U	99			4	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.894868	D	99	95 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.895868	D	99	95 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.900868	D	99	95 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.901868	D	99	95 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.902868	D	99	95 19681		1280	OK
SecurityModeCommand	00:02:26.909868	D	99	96 19841		∄	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.931868	D	99	98 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.932868	D	·	98 19681		1280	OK
SecurityModeComplete	00:02:26.932866	U	99	98 19841		2	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.933868	D	99	99 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.934868	D	99	99 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.952868	D	10	000 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.953868	D	10	001 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.954868	D	10	001 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.955868	D	10	001 19681		1280	OK
RRCConnectionReconfiguration	00:02:26.957868	D	10	001 19841		84	OK
RRCConnectionReconfigurationC	00:02:26.972866	U	10	002 19841		2	OK
IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:02:26.972866	U	10	002 19841		70	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.974868	D	10	003 19681		1280	OK
Ciphered data	00:02:26.975868	D	10	003 19581		404	OK
MAC Random Access Response	00:02:26.984868	D	10	004		7	OK
RRCConnectionSetup	00:02:27.003868	D	10	006 1 3		24	OK
Unknown Data	00:02:27.020868	D		007 1 1		1428	1
Ciphered RRC	00:02:27.021868	D	10	007 1 5		b	OK
←							

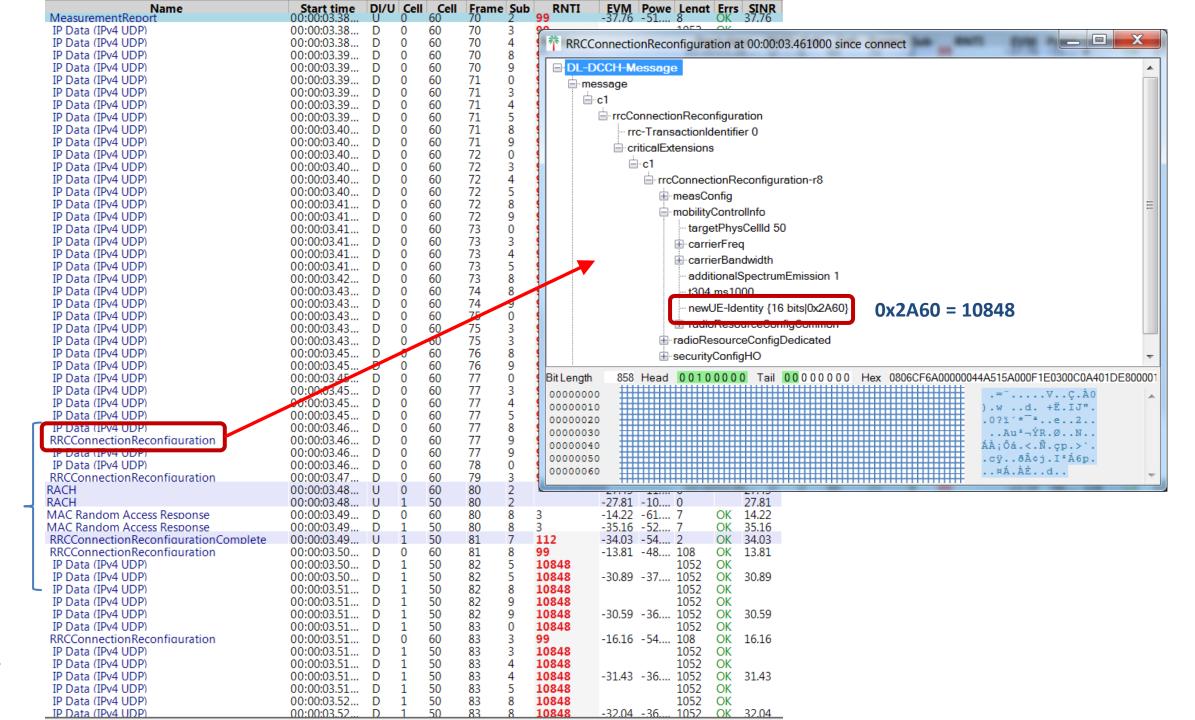
- Potential RNTI tracking use cases
 - Know how long you stay at a given location
 - and meanwhile someone robs your house...
 - Estimate the UL and DL load of a given device
 - Signaling traffic on the air interface << Data traffic on the air interface
 - Potentially identify the hot-spot/access point in an LTE-based ad-hoc network
- Phone # TMSI RNTI mapping is trivial
 - If the passive sniffer is within the same cell/sector as the target

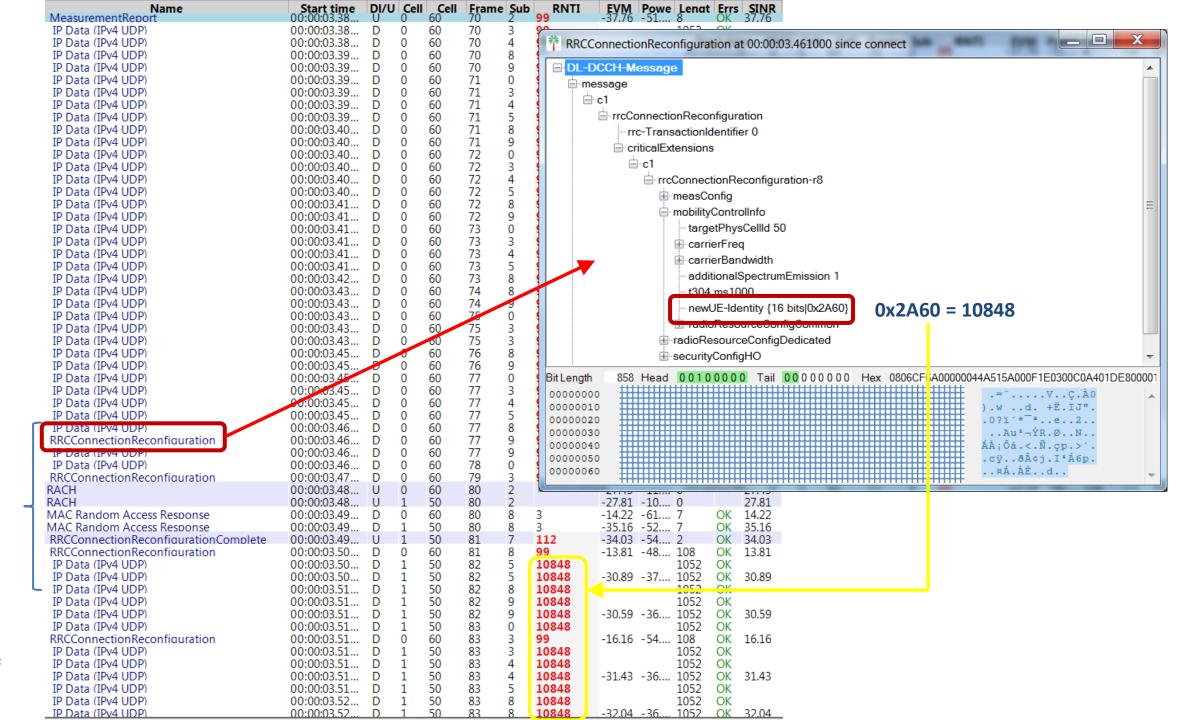
Name MeasurementReport	Start time 00:00:03.38	DI/U Ce	ell Cell	Frame 70	Sub RNTI	EVM Powe Lenat Errs SINR -37.76 -51 8 OK 37.76	
IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.38 00:00:03.38 00:00:03.39 00:00:03.39 00:00:03.39 00:00:03.39 00:00:03.40 00:00:03.40 00:00:03.40 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.41 00:00:03.43 00:00:03.43 00:00:03.43 00:00:03.43 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.45 00:00:03.46 00:00:03.46 00:00:03.46		60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 60 6	70 70 70 70 71 71 71 71 71 72 72 72 72 72 72 73 73 73 73 74 74	99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99 99	1052 OK	Cell ID = 60
RRCConnectionReconfiguration RACH RACH MAC Random Access Response MAC Random Access Response RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete RRCConnectionReconfiguration IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.47 00:00:03.48 00:00:03.48 00:00:03.49 00:00:03.50 00:00:03.50 00:00:03.51 00:00:03.51 00:00:03.51 00:00:03.51 00:00:03.51 00:00:03.51 00:00:03.51 00:00:03.51 00:00:03.51 00:00:03.51	D 1 D 1 D 0 D 1 D 1 D 1	60 60 50 60 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	79 80 80 80 81 81 82 82 82 82 82 83 83 83 83 83 83 83 83	3 99 2 2 8 3 8 3 7 112 8 99 5 10848 5 10848 9 10848 9 10848 9 10848 3 99 3 10848 4 10848 4 10848 5 10848 8 10848	-27.26 -48 108 OK 27.26 -27.49 -11 0 27.81 -14.22 -61 7 OK 14.22 -35.16 -52 7 OK 35.16 -34.03 -54 2 OK 34.03 -13.81 -48 108 OK 13.81 1052 OK -30.89 -37 1052 OK 30.89 1052 OK 1052 OK -30.59 -36 1052 OK 30.59 1052 OK -30.59 -36 1052 OK 16.16 1052 OK -31.43 -36 1052 OK 31.43 1052 OK -31.43 -36 1052 OK 32.04	Cell ID = 50

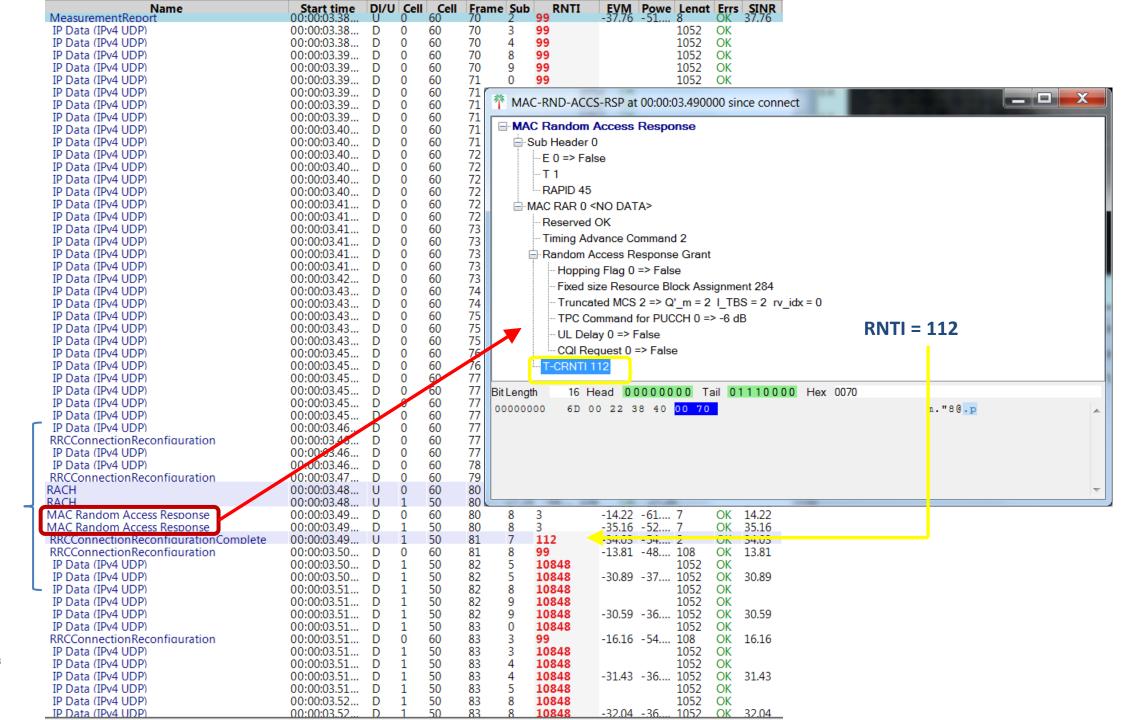
ſ	Nan e Measurement Report	Start time 00:00:03.38	DI/U	Cell C	ell Fra	me Sub	RNTI	T	
U	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.38	D (60	70	3	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.38	D (70	4	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03:39	D (0 60	70	8	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.39	D	60	70	9	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.39	D () 00	71	0	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.39	D (0 60	71	3	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.39	D (71	4	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.39	D (0 60	71	5	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.40	D (71	8	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.40	D (71	9	99	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.40	D (72	0	99	MeasurementReport at 00:00:03.383980 since connect	7
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.40		0 60	72	3	99	MeasurementReport at 00:00:03.383980 since connect	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.40		0 60	72	4	99	⊟-UL-DCCH-Message	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.40	D (72	5	99	□ message	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.41	D (72	8	99	⊟-c1	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.41	D (72	9	99	⊟-measurementReport	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.41	D (73	0	99	- criticalExtensions	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.41	D (73	3	99	□-c1	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.41	D (73	4	99	⊟ measurementReport-r8	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.41	D (73	5	99	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.42		0 60	73	8	99	⊕ measResults	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.43		0 60	74	8	99	measld 1	≡
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP) IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.43 00:00:03.43		0 60 0 60	74 75	9 0	99 99	measResultServCell	
	IP Data (IPV4 UDP)		D (75 75	3	99	rsrpResult 56	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.43 00:00:03.43	D (75 75	3	99	rsrqResult 15	
	IP Data (IPV4 UDP)	00:00:03.45	D (75 76	8	99	☐ measResultNeighCells	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.45	D (76	9	99	□ measResultListEUTRA	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.45	D (77	0	99	⊟-MeasResultEUTRA	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.45		0 60	77	3	99	physCellId 50	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.45		0 60	77	4	99	⊟ measResult	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.45		0 60	77	5	99	rsrpResult 63	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.46	Ď (77	8	99		₩.
	RRCConnectionReconfiguration	00:00:03.46	D (77	9	99	-33,59 -48 BitLength 62 Head 00001000 Tail 01110000 Hex 02040E0F00326FDC	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.46	D (77	9	99	00000000 08 10 38 3C 00 C9 BF 708<.£¿p	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.46	D (78	Ō	99		
	RRCConnectionReconfiguration	00:00:03.47	D (79	3	99	-27.26 -48	
	RACH	00:00:03.48	U (80	2		-27.49 -11	
	RACH	00:00:03.48	U 1	1 50	80	2		-27.81 -10	
	MAC Random Access Response	00:00:03.49	D (0 60	80	8	3	-14.22 -61	_
Ι.	MAC Random Access Response	00:00:03.49	D 1	1 50	80	8	3	-35.16 -52	Ľ
	RRCConnectionReconfigurationComplete	00:00:03.49	U 1	1 50	81	7	112	-34.03 -54 2 OK 34.03	
	RRCConnectionReconfiguration	00:00:03.50	D (0 60	81	8	99	-13.81 -48 108 OK 13.81	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.50	D :		82	5	10848	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.50	D :		82	5	10848	-30.89 -37 1052 OK 30.89	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.51	D :		82	8	10848	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.51		1 50	82	9	10848	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.51	D :	1 50	82	9	10848	-30.59 -36 1052 OK 30.59	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.51	D 1	1 50	83	0	10848	1052 OK	
	RRCConnectionReconfiguration	00:00:03.51		0 60	83	3	99	-16.16 -54 108 OK 16.16	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.51	D :		83	3	10848	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.51		1 50	83	4	10848	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.51	D 1		83	4	10848	-31.43 -36 1052 OK 31.43	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.51	D 1		83	5	10848	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.52			83	8	10848	1052 OK	
	IP Data (IPv4 UDP)	00:00:03.52	<u>D</u> .	<u> 50</u>	83	8	10848	-32.04 -36 1052 OK 32.04	

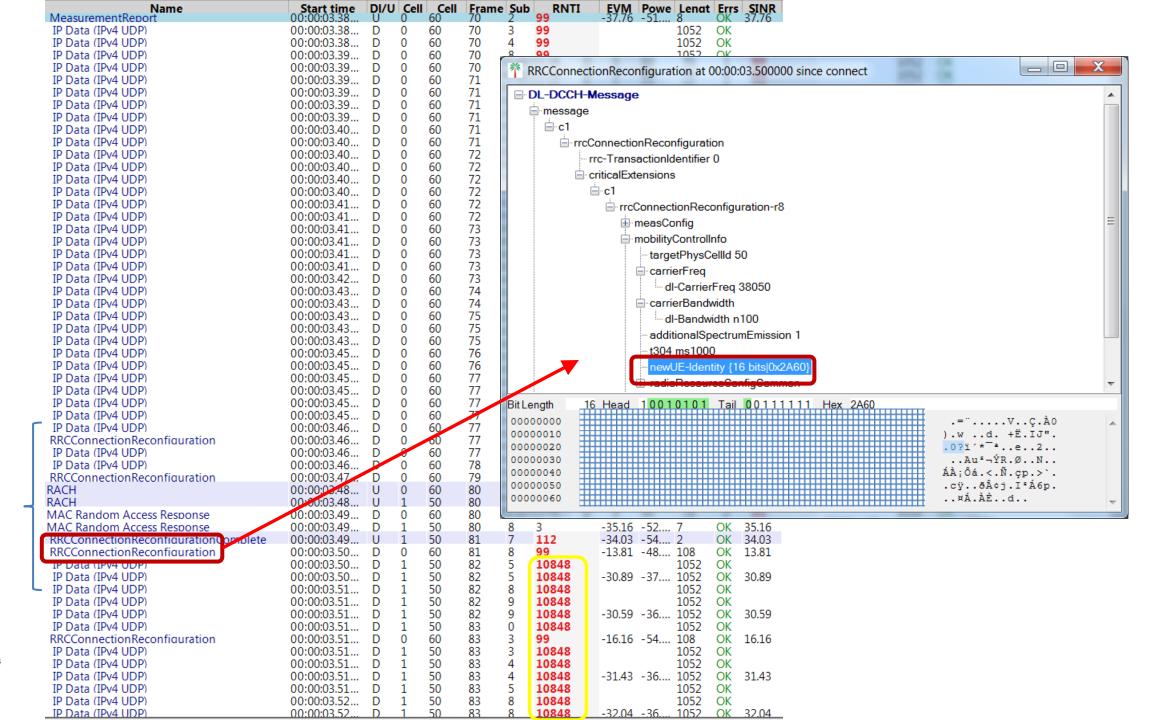












- According to 3GPP TS 36.300, 36.331, 36.211, 36.212, 36.213, 36.321
 - C-RNTI is a unique identification used for identifying RRC Connection and scheduling which is dedicated to a particular UE.
 - After connection establishment or re-establishment the Temporary C-RNTI (as explained above) is promoted to C-RNTI.
 - During Handovers within E-UTRA or from other RAT to E-UTRA, C-RNTI is explicitly provided by the eNB in MobilityControlInfo container with IE newUE-Identity.
- No specific guidelines on how often to refresh the RNTI and how to assign it
 - In my passive analysis I have seen RNTIs unchanged for long periods of time
 - Often RNTI_new_user = RNTI_assigned_last + 1

Challenges and solutions

- Potential solutions
 - Refresh the RNTI each time the UE goes from idle to connected
 - Randomize RNTI
 - Analyze the necessity of explicitly indicating the RNTI in the handover message
- If RNTI is not refreshed rather frequently
 - MIT+Bell Labs work LTE Radio Analytics Made Easy and Accessible (SigComm'14)
 - Track a device and map measurements to it based on RNTI (paper's section 8.7)
 - When RNTI changes, PHY layer measurements still allow to map it to a given UE (SINR, RSSI, etc)
 - MIMO measurements and metrics
- Recent discussion with GSMA
 - The RRC Connection Reconfiguration message should be sent encrypted This would make tracking more difficult
 - But one could monitor traffic from adjacent cells and wait to see new RNTI with similar RF/traffic signature
 - Ongoing discussions to address these potential issues

Some final thoughts...

LTE security and protocol exploits

- Mobile security research very active since ~2009
- Most cool mobile security research exclusively on GSM (until now)
 - GSM location leaks (NDSS'12)
 - Wideband GSM sniffing (Nohl and Munaut 27C3)
 - Hijacking mobile connections (Blackhat Europe'09)
 - Carmen Sandiego project (Blackhat'10)
 - GSM RACH flooding (Spaar DeepSec'09)
 - ...
- Recent availability of open source LTE implementations
 - I expect a surge in LTE-focused security research
 - Very interesting PhD topic
- The more research in the area, the more secure networks will be
- I am actively advocating for specific protocol security focus in 5G and next-gen standards

Thanks!

Q&A

http://www.ee.columbia.edu/~roger/ ---- @rgoestotheshows

Huge THANK YOU to Sanjole for providing the captures used in this presentation.

http://www.sanjole.com/

