

~~WPA 2~~ TOO!

“Hole196”

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**A lot of speculations about “Hole196” !**



Where did we find  
this "Hole196" ?



# Buried inside the IEEE 802.11 standard for the last six years

## 8.5.1 Key hierarchy

RSNA defines two key hierarchies:

- a) Pairwise key hierarchy, to protect unicast traffic
- b) GTK, a hierarchy consisting of a single key to protect multicast and broadcast traffic

NOTE—Pairwise key support with TKIP or CCMP allows a receiving STA to detect MAC address spoofing and data forgery. The RSNA architecture binds the transmit and receive addresses to the pairwise key. If an attacker creates an MPDU with the spoofed TA, then the decapsulation procedure at the receiver will generate an error. GTKs do not have this property.

196

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It's right here!

Hole 196!!!

# The Talk is

## NOT about:

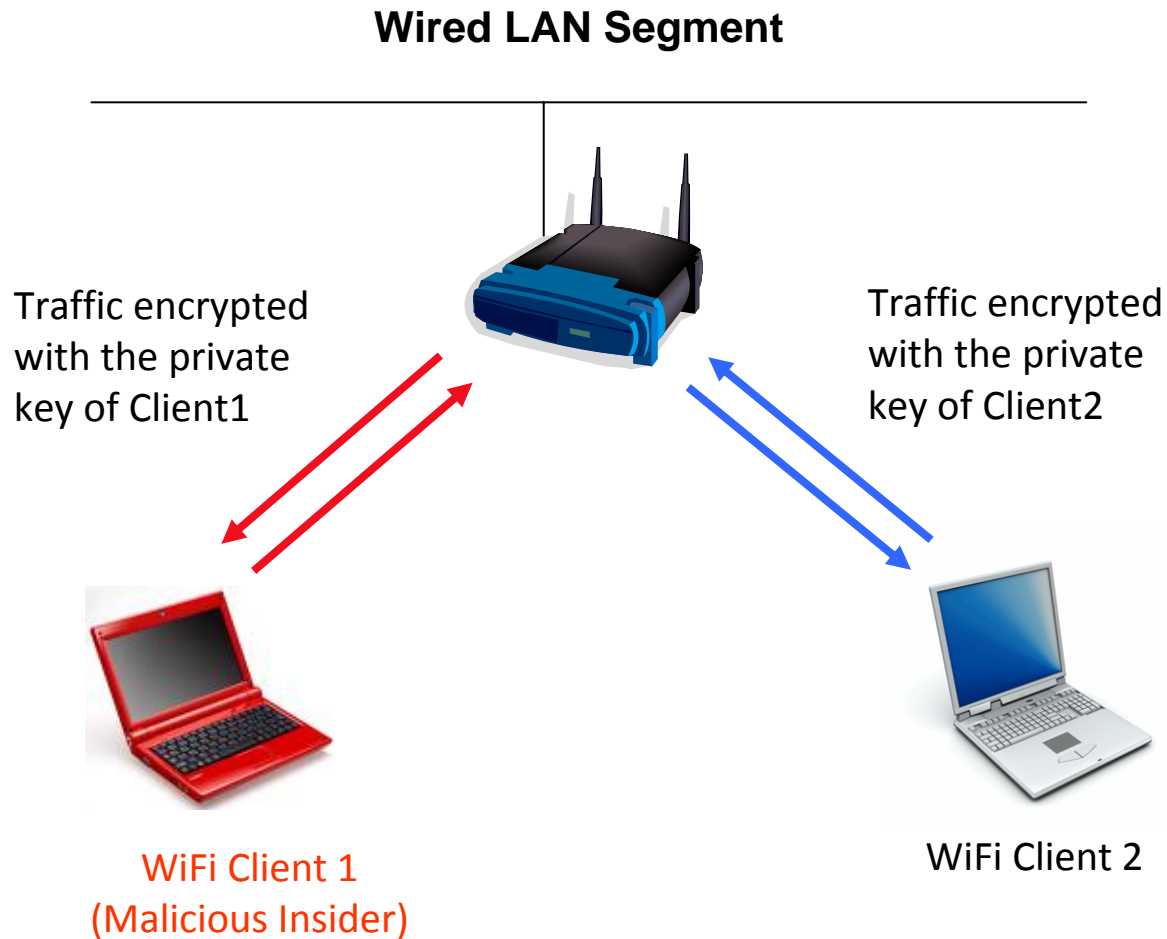
**Unauthorized user gaining access to WPA2 secured network, or**

**Cracking private key of a WPA2 user**

## About:

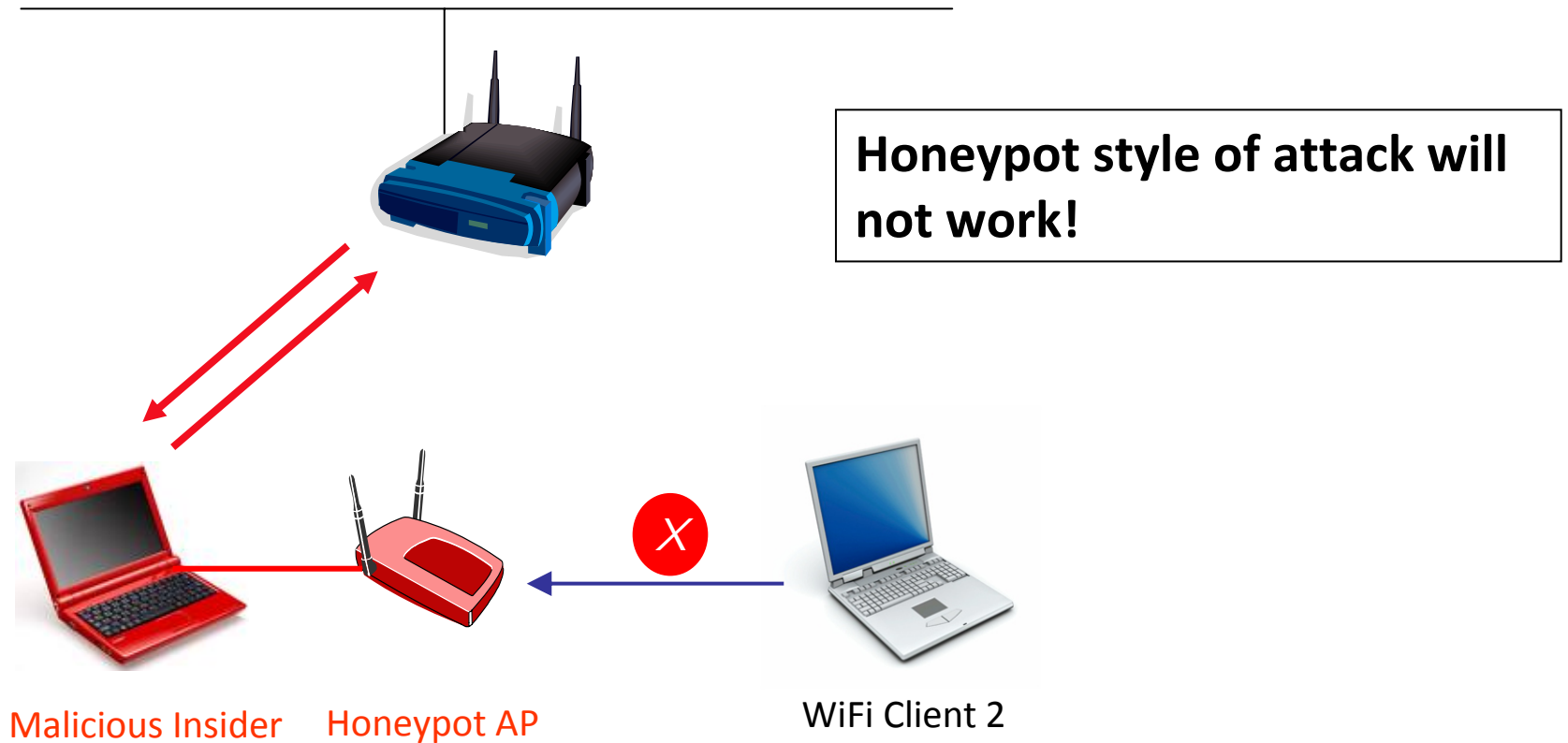
**An insider attack, which can be carried out by a malicious user present inside the network**

# Can you sniff private in-flight data of other WiFi users?

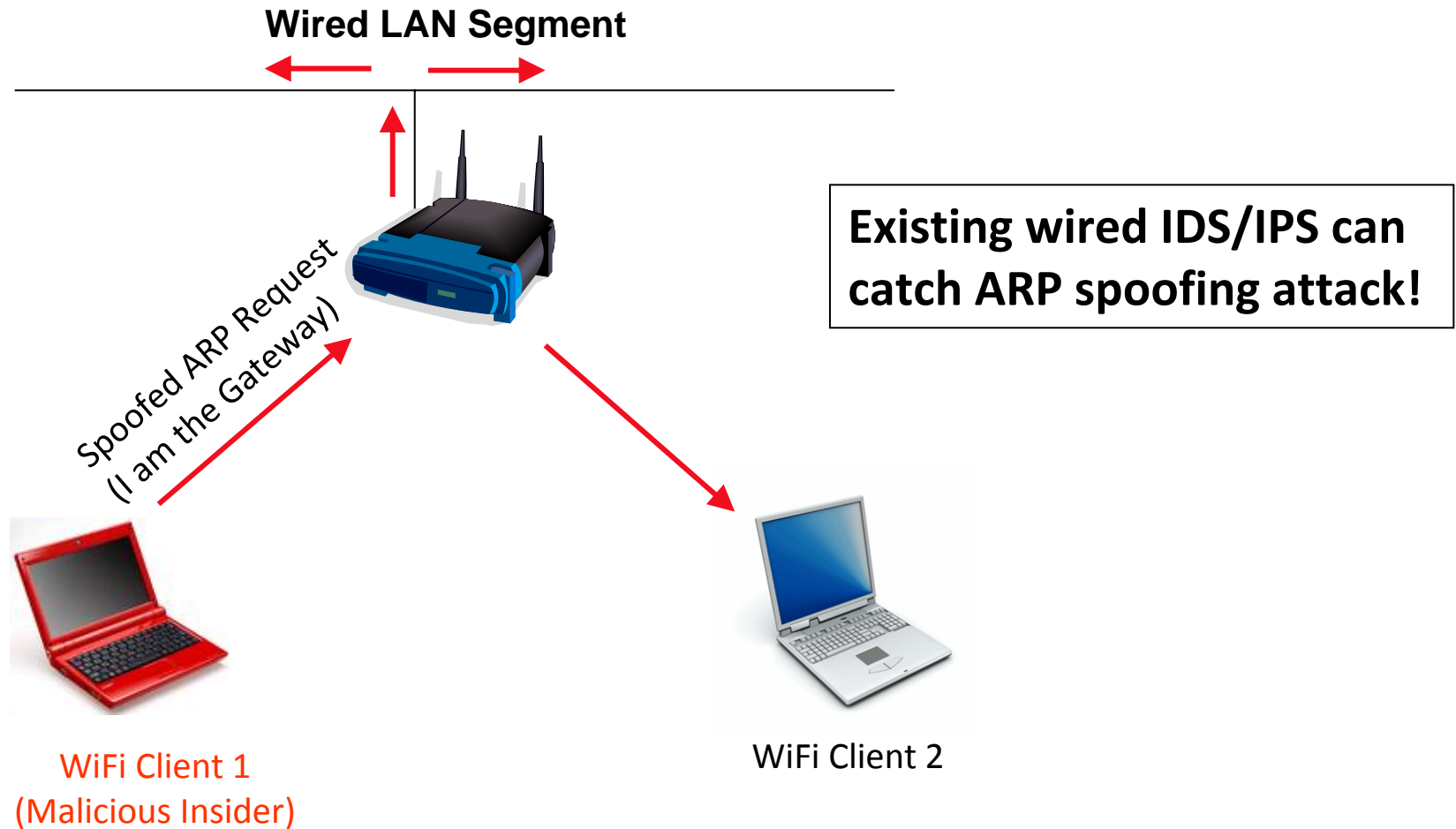


# Can you sniff private in-flight data of other WiFi users?

## Wired LAN Segment



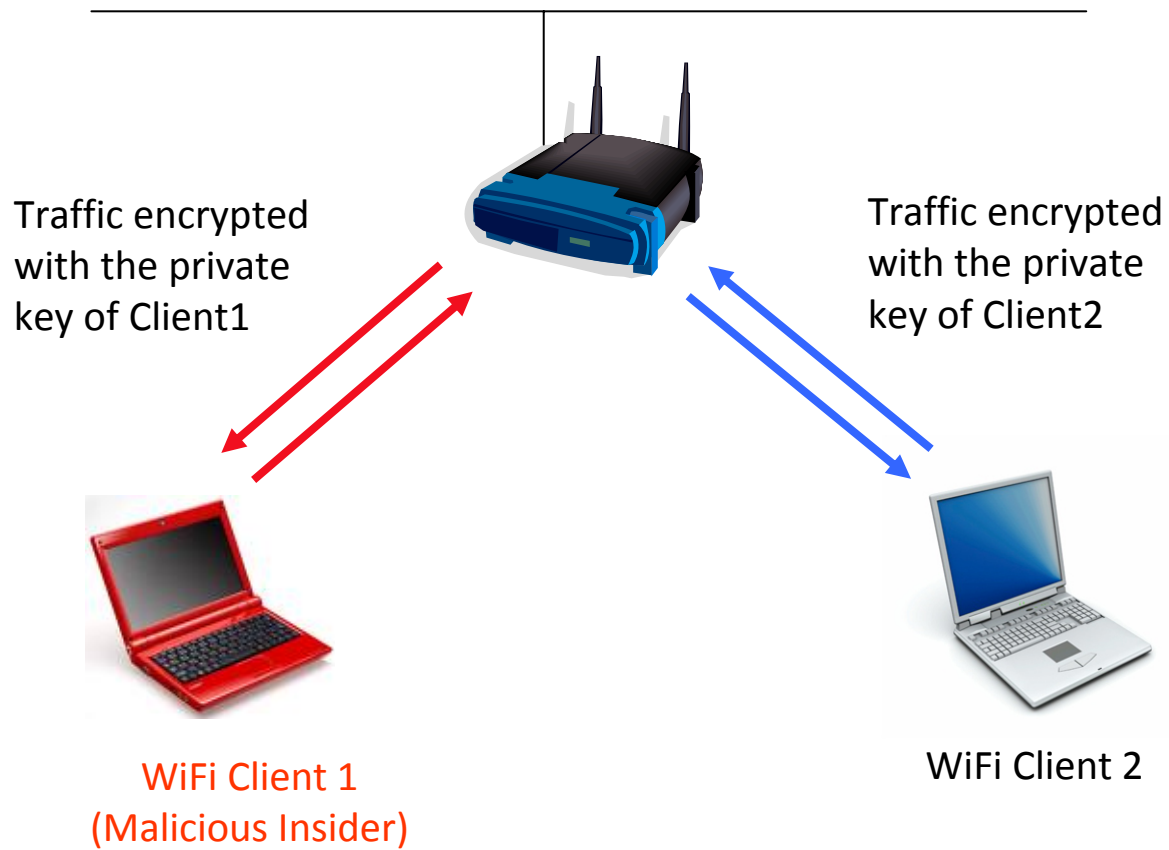
# Can you sniff private in-flight data of other WiFi users?





# No key cracking! No brute force!

## Wired LAN Segment



# Encryption Keys

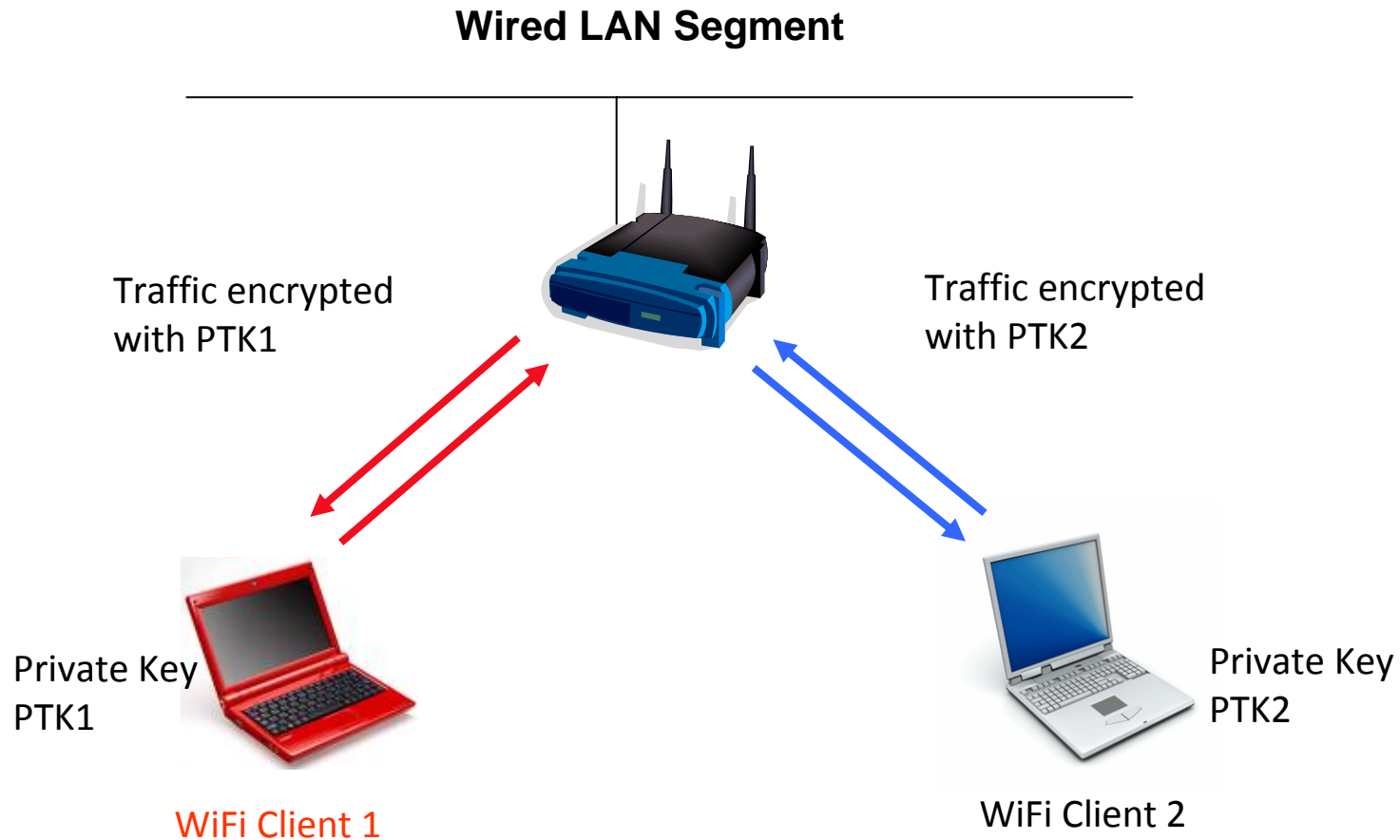
## Two types of keys for data encryption

1. Pairwise Transient Key (PTK)
2. Group Temporal Key (GTK)

While PTK is used to protect unicast data frames , GTK is used to protect group addressed data frames e.g. broadcast ARP request frames.



# PTK is unique, derived per session



# GTK is shared among all associated clients



## Three connected clients

# WPA2 standard defines GTK as a one-way key



**GTK should be used as an encryption key by an AP  
and as a decryption key by a wireless client**

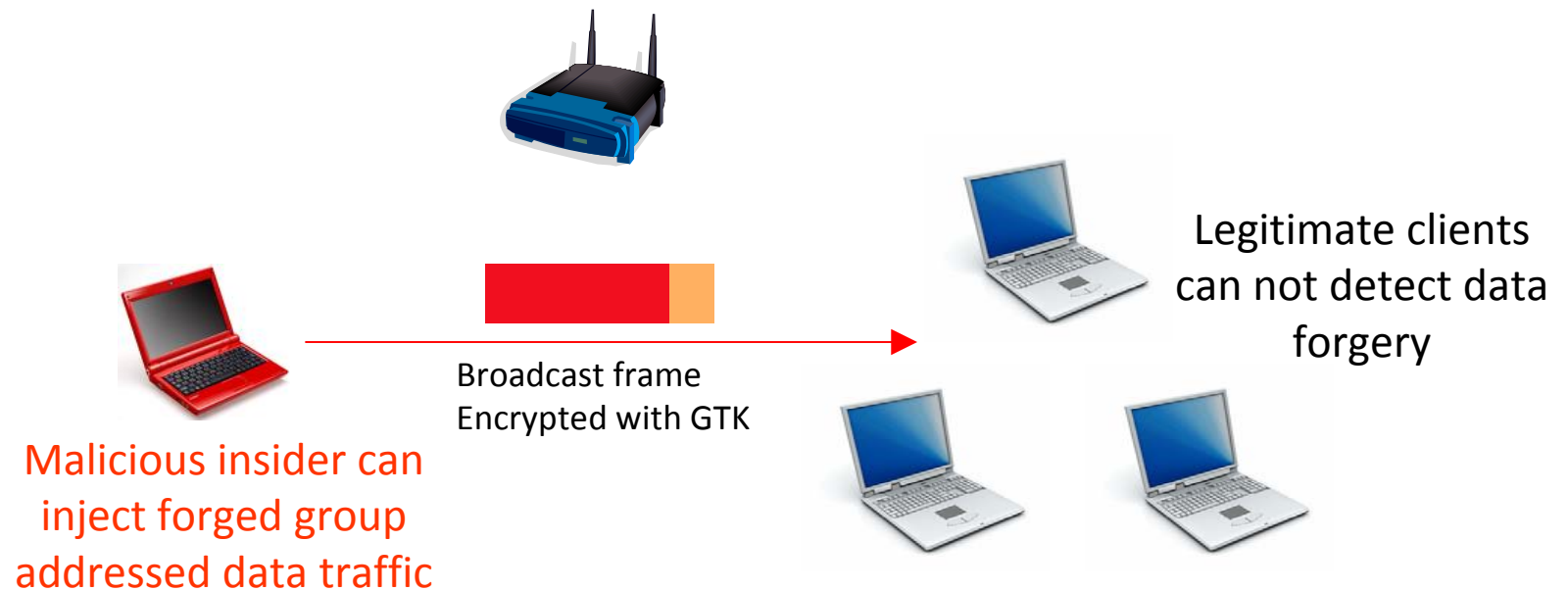
# A WiFi client always keeps a copy of GTK

```
EAPOL: External notification - portValid=1
State: 4WAY_HANDSHAKE -> GROUP_HANDSHAKE
RSN: received GTK in pairwise handshake - hexdump(len=18): [REMOVED]
WPA: Group Key - hexdump(len=16): [REMOVED]
MSA: GTK key: 7b:41:d1:bb:2e:65:b6:b4:99:3c:56:32:dd:78:51:7b
WPA: Installing GTK to the driver (keyidx=1 tx=0 len=16).
WPA: RSC - hexdump(len=6): 00 00 00 00 00 00
nl_set_encr: ifindex=6 alg=3 addr=0x808fcad key_idx=1 set_tx=0 seq_len=6
WPA: Key negotiation completed with 00:1b:11:50:3b:1e [PTK=CCMP GTK=CCMP]
Cancelling authentication timeout
State: GROUP_HANDSHAKE -> COMPLETED
```

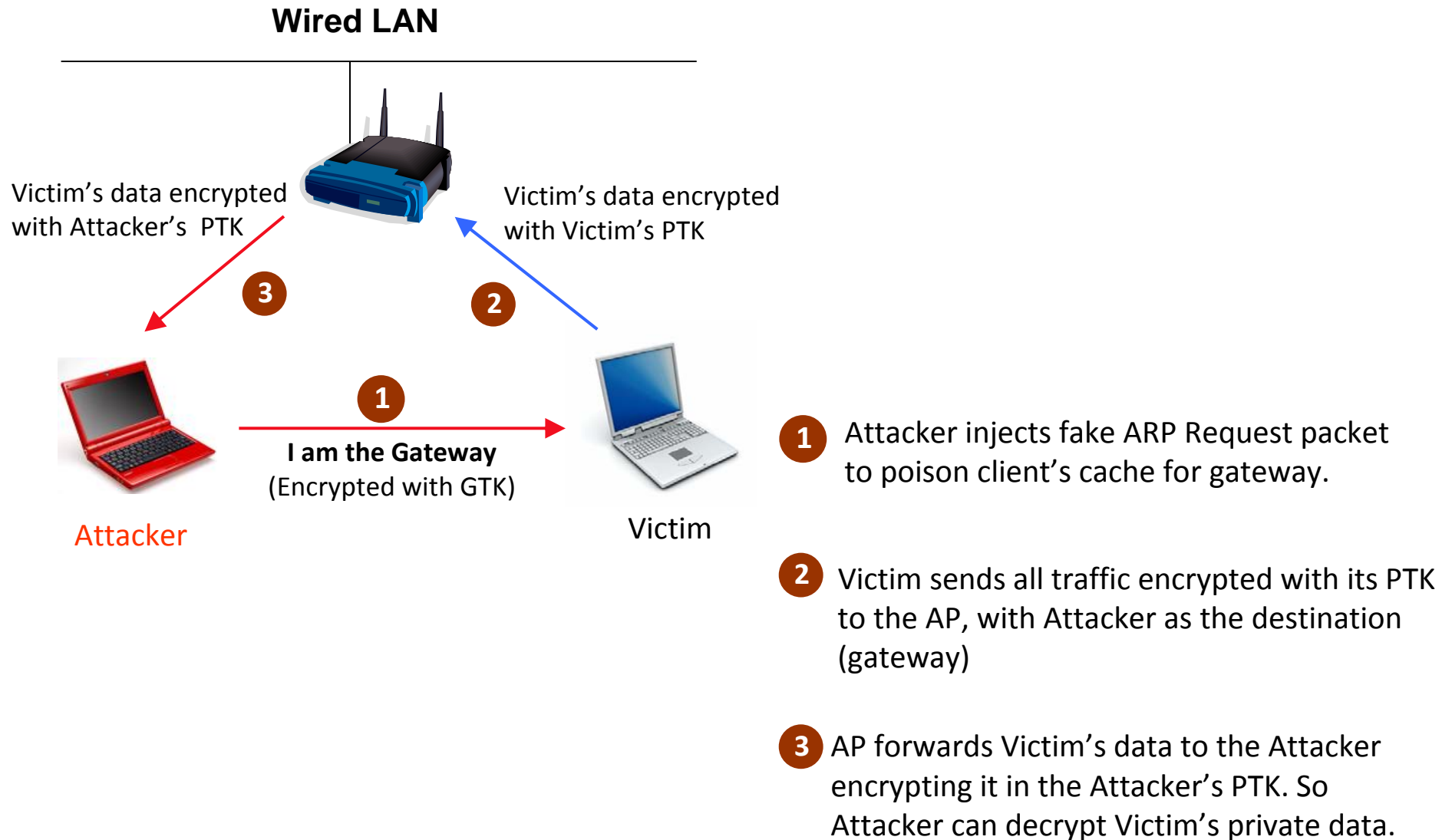
*wpa\_supplicant* software is used on WiFi client devices.

The log of *wpa\_supplicant* software shows that GTK is always known to a WiFi client device

# A malicious client can inject encrypted group addressed data frames to other clients

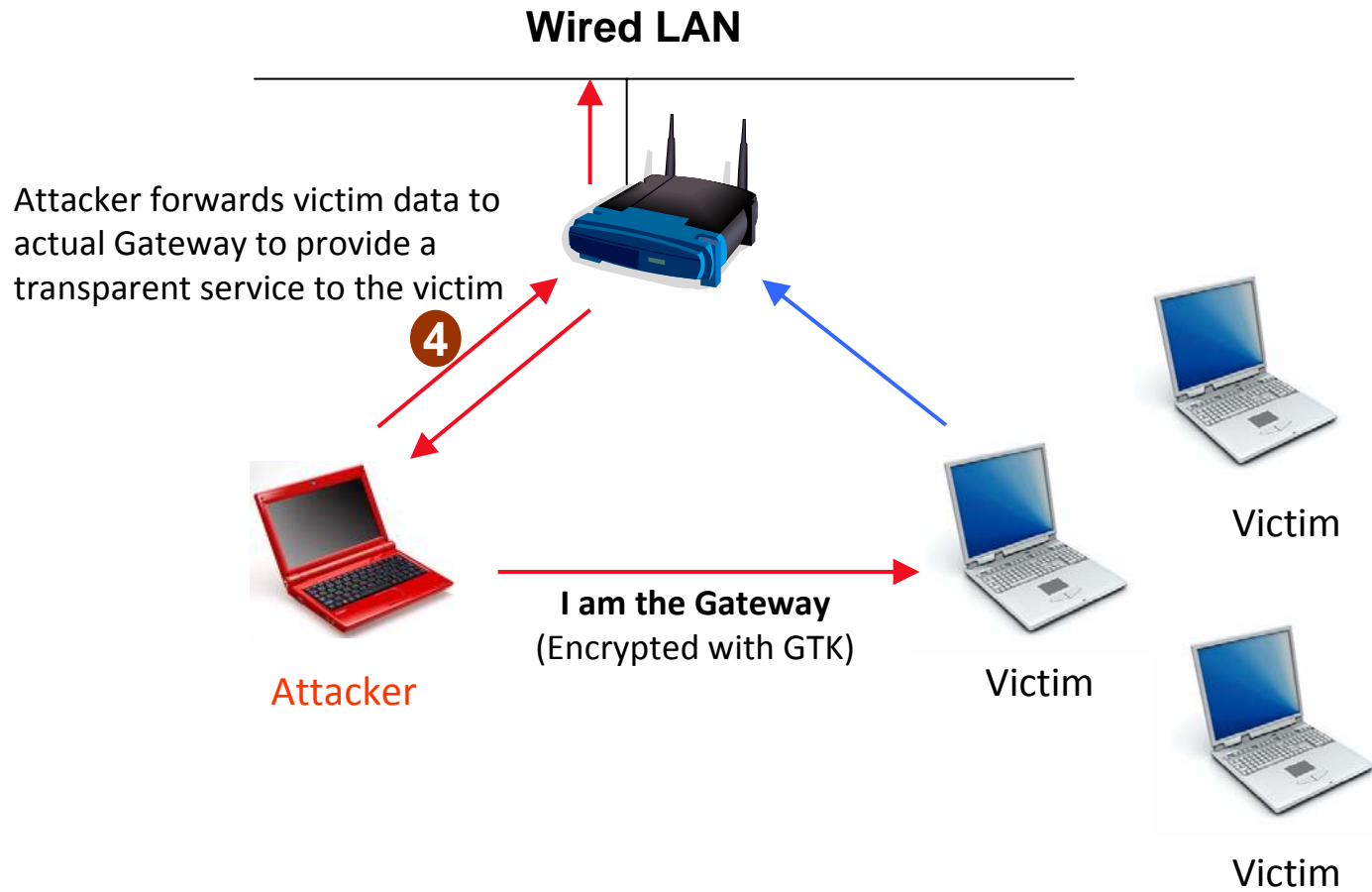


# Exploit #1: Stealth ARP Poisoning



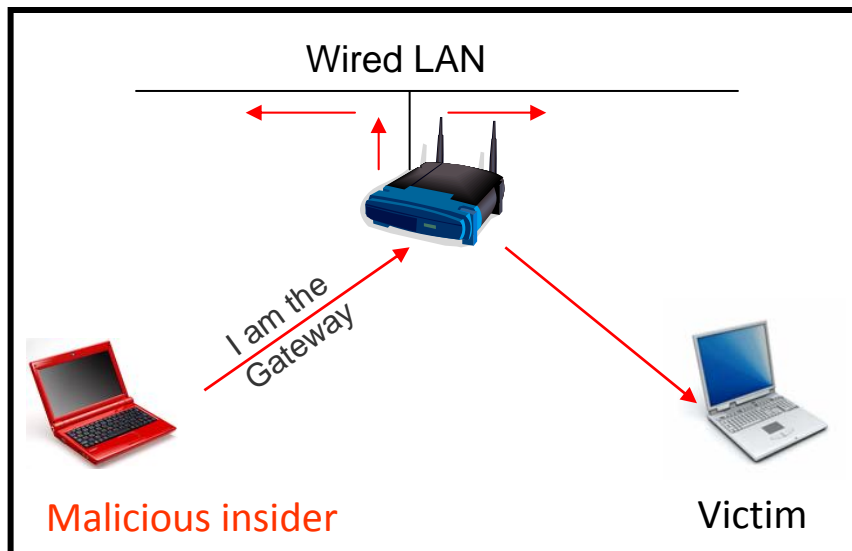


# Man-in-the-middle (MITM) Attack



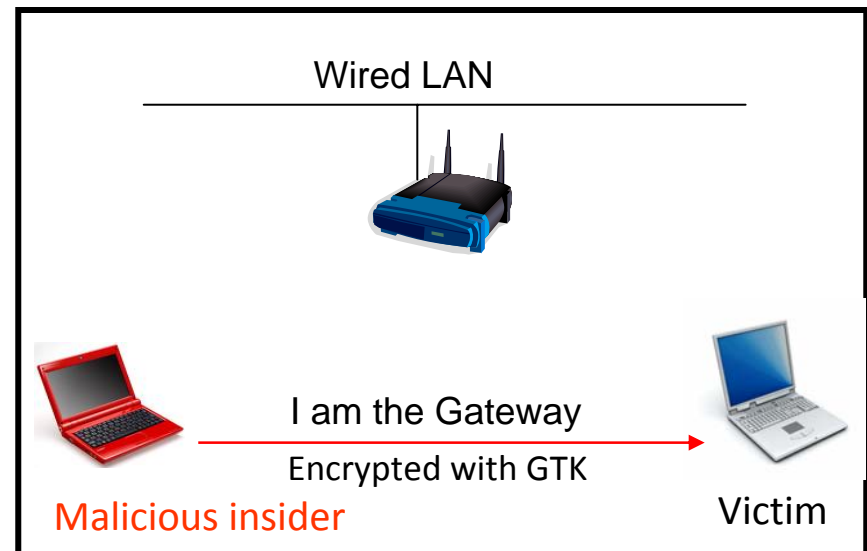
# ARP Poisoning: Detectable vs Stealth

## Detectable (Old style)



Spoofed ARP Request frames are sent on the wire and wireless medium by an AP. The attack **can be detected by wired IDS/IPS**.

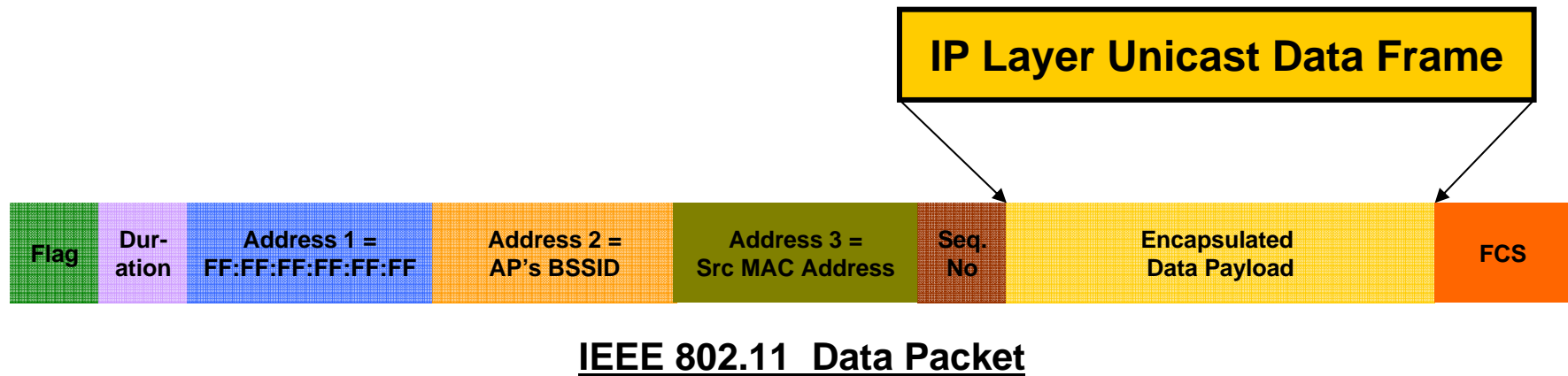
## Stealth (Hole196)



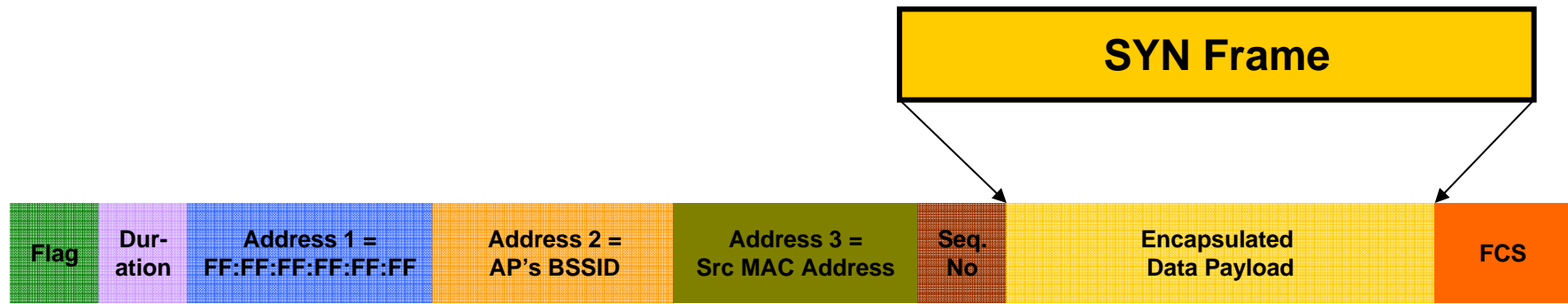
Spoofed ARP Request frames are not sent to AP and never go on wire; hence **cannot be detected by wired IDS/IPS**

# Exploit #2: IP Level Targeted Attack

Any data payload can be encapsulated in the group addressed IEEE 802.11 data frames



# Example: Port Scanning



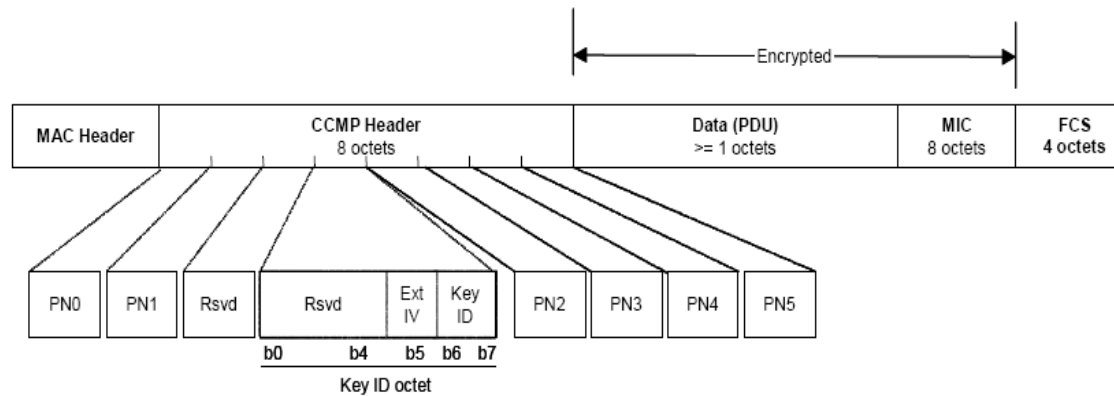
IEEE 802.11 Data Packet

What else is possible ?

- Buffer overflow exploit
- Malware Injection
- ???

# Replay Detection in WPA2

**48 bit Packet Number (PN) is present in all encrypted DATA frames**



## Replay Attack Detection in WPA2

1. All clients learn the PN associated with a GTK at the time of association
2. AP sends a group addressed data frame to all clients with a new PN
3. If **new PN > locally cached PN**, then packet is decrypted and after successful decryption, cached PN is updated with new PN



Access Point

PN=701 →

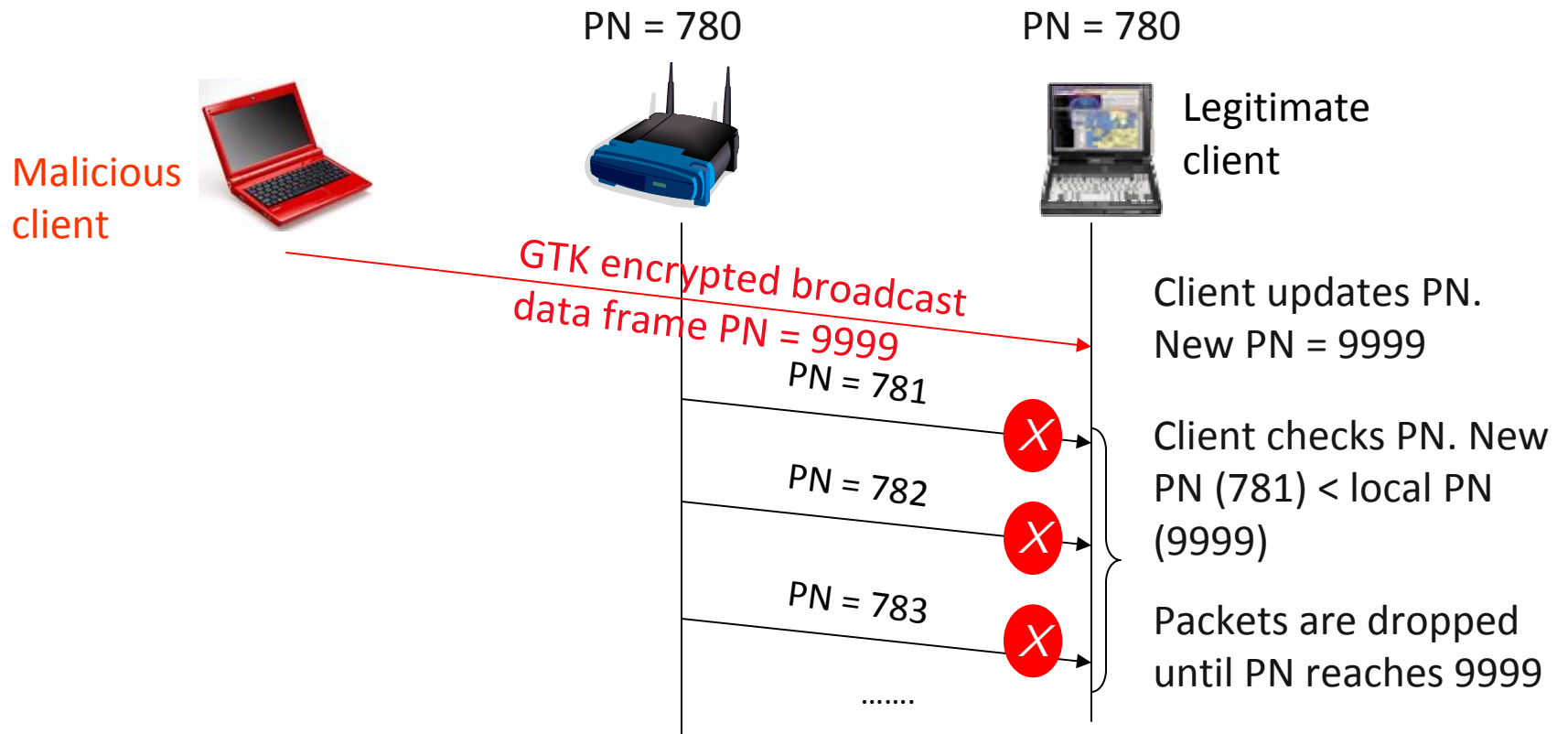


Legitimate client

Expecting  
PN >700

# Exploit #3: WDoS on Broadcast Downlink Traffic

A malicious user can advance the locally cached PN (replay counter) in all peer clients by forging a group addressed data frames with a very large PN



# POC: GTK Exploit

**Few lines of code + Off-the-shelf hardware**

# Open Source Software: Madwifi & WPA Supplicant Software

## wpa\_supplicant (0.7.0)

Supplicant software is used to pass updated GTK and PN to be by madwifi driver

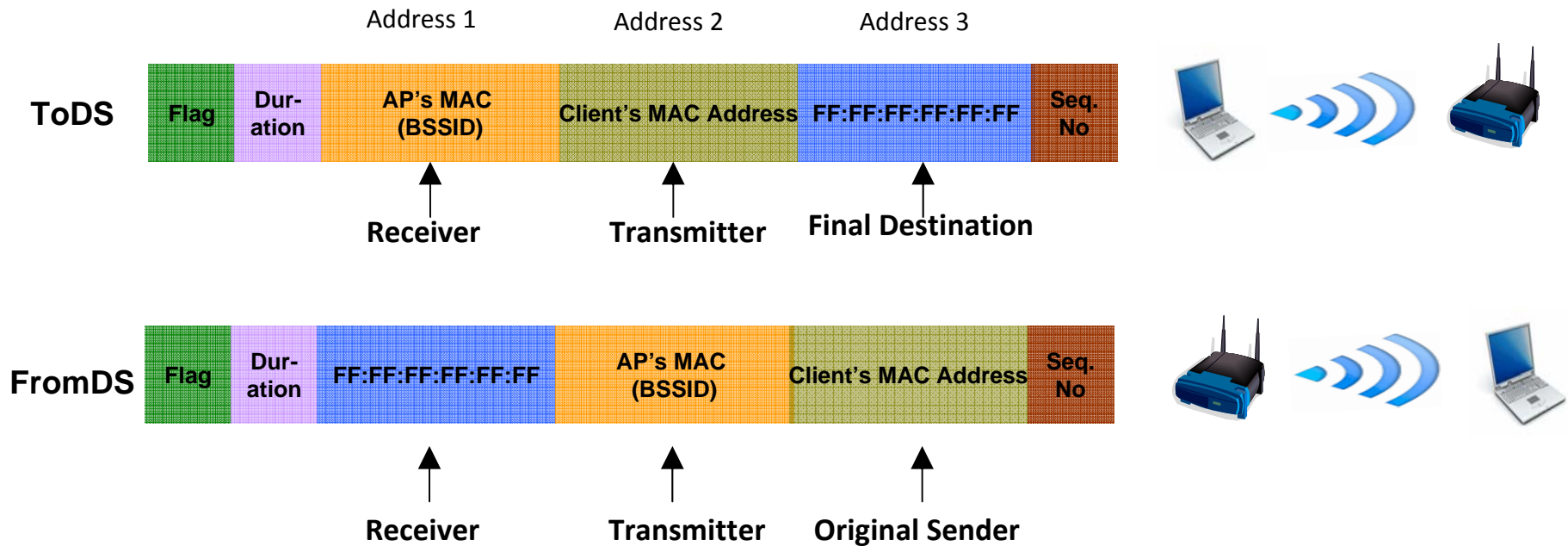
## Madwifi (0.9.4)

Software is modified to create spoofed group addressed data frames with sender as AP address



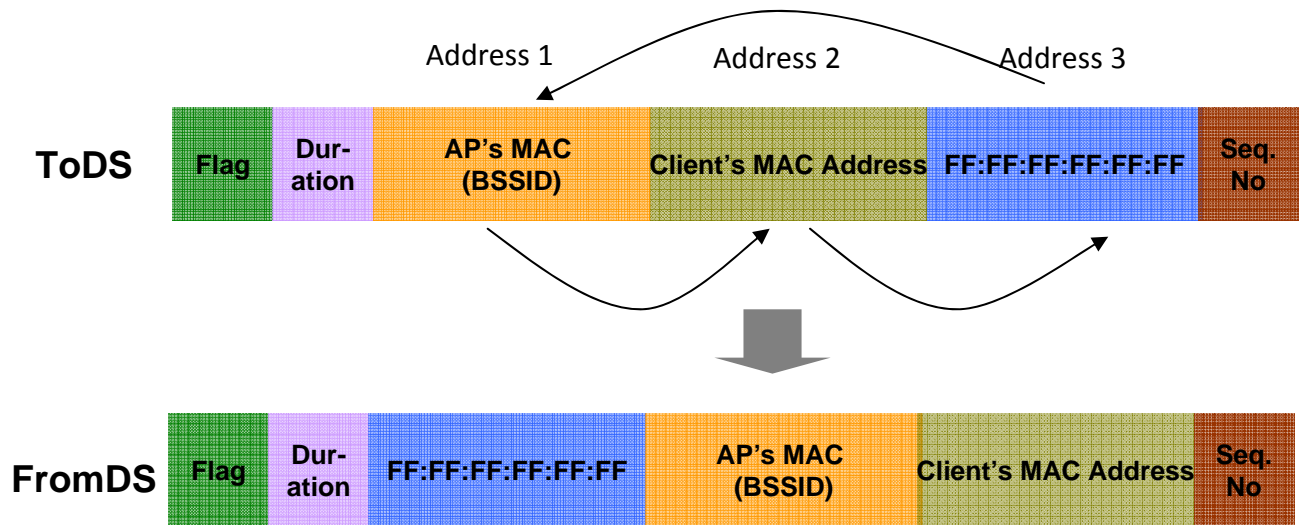
# Modification in the madwifi driver

## Broadcast IEEE 802.11 Frame



# Modification in the madwifi driver

1. Cyclic shift of addresses, convert ToDS flag into FromDS: **4 Lines**



**10 lines of driver code to exploit GTK vulnerability!**

2. Selection of right key for frame encryption: **6 Lines**



# Demo: Stealth mode MITM attack

## The Arsenal of MITM Attack

Cain & Abel

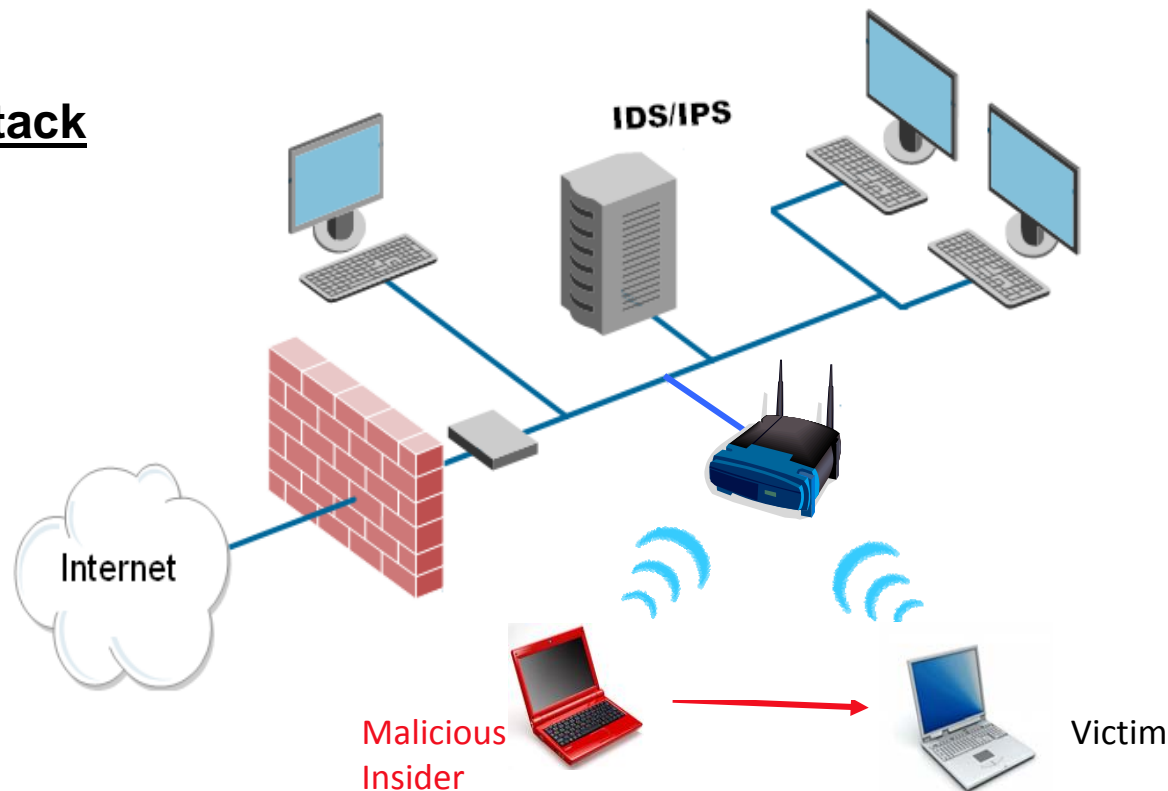
Ettercap

Delegated/DNSSpoof

SSLSniff

SSLSTRIP

...



# Who is vulnerable to “Hole196” ?

## All implementation of WPA and WPA2, regardless of

- Type of encryption used in the network (AES or TKIP)
- Type of authentication used in the network ( PSK or 802.1x/EAP)
- Type of WLAN architectures (Standalone, Locally controlled or Centrally Controlled)

# Countermeasures

# The Real Fix: Protocol Enhancement

- **Deprecate use of GTK and group addressed data traffic**
  1. For *backward compatibility* AP should send randomly generated different GTKs to different clients so that all associated clients have different copy of group key
  2. AP should deliver group addressed data traffic by converting them into unicast traffic

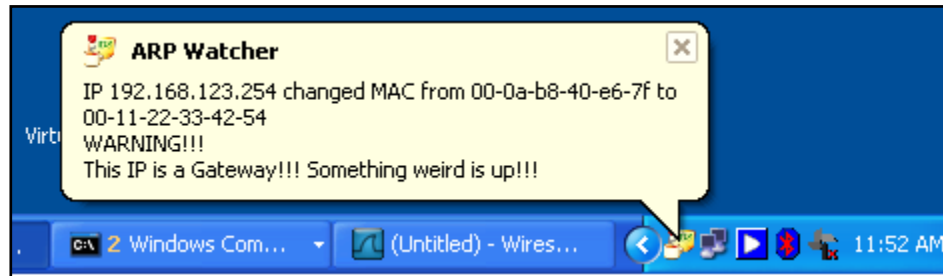
## Disadvantages:

- a. Impact on network throughput
- b. Requires AP software upgrade (Not going to happen overnight !)

**What should we do now?**

# Can we rely on end point security software?

Client software such as DecaffeintID or Snort detects change in the ARP cache.



## Detects ARP Cache Poisoning attack

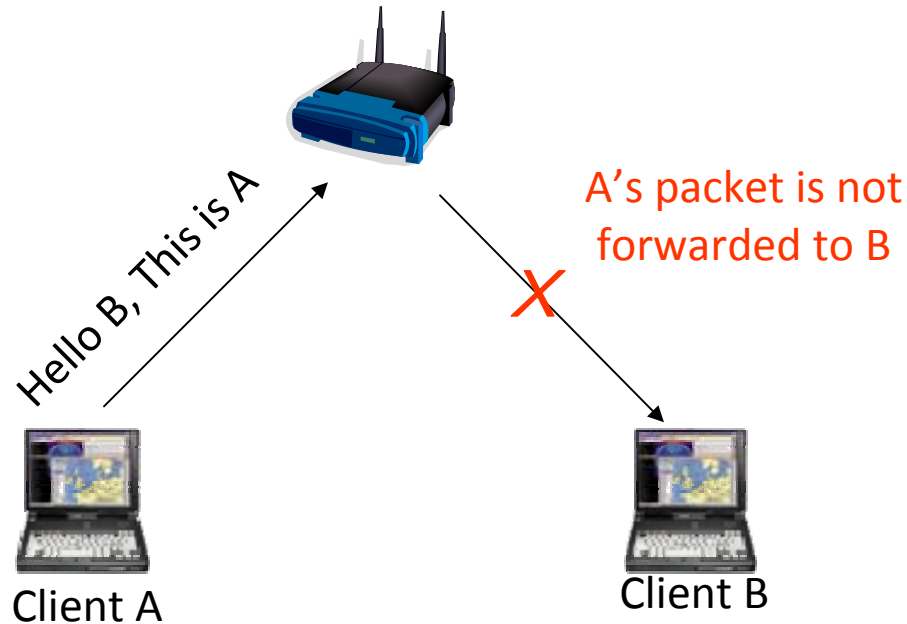
### Limitations:

1. Client software is available only for limited operating systems and hardware platforms
2. Not enterprise grade; Impractical to manually install on large number of endpoints



# Can we rely on WLAN infrastructure ?

## Public Secure Packet Forwarding (PSPF)/peer-to-peer (P2P) or Client Isolation



**Legitimate users might want to download songs/pics from say laptop to smartphone!**

**What's about Voice-over-WiFi deployment ?**

# Can we rely on Wireless Monitoring Systems (WIPS/WIDS) ?



Similar to WEP Cracking, Skyjacking and WPA-TKIP, Hole 196 exploit is carried out entirely over the air

**WIPS can serve as an additional layer of defense in detecting and protecting from such attacks**

# Concluding Remarks

- All WPA2 networks are exposed with the “Hole 196” vulnerability; **Inter user privacy is broken in WPA2**
- The real fix requires enhancement in the WPA2 protocol. In long term, standard can fix the problem but in short term AP vendors should provide a patch (proprietary solution)
- In the mean time, enterprises should consider turning ON Client isolation (PSPF) features on their WLANs and use endpoint security (ARP poisoning detector like Snort or other higher layer security like IPSec)
- A multi-layered security approach should be adopted; A dedicated WIPS monitoring the airspace 24/7 can detect and mitigate zero-day vulnerabilities such as “Hole 196”

**Be Aware, Be Secure !**

**Thank You**

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