

Wireless Security – Principles & Tools

Network Startup Resource Center
www.nsrc.org



These materials are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International license
(<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>)

Topics Covered

- Network and information security in general
- Wireless security aspects
- Tools for security auditing

General Security: “CIA”

- Preservation of confidentiality, integrity and availability of information.
- Note: In addition, other properties, such as authenticity, accountability, non-repudiation and reliability can also be involved." (ISO/IEC 27000:2009)

ISO/IEC 27000:2009 (E). (2009). Information technology - Security techniques - Information security management systems - Overview and vocabulary. ISO/IEC.

General Security: “CIA”

"The protection of information and information systems from unauthorized access, use, disclosure, disruption, modification, or destruction in order to provide confidentiality, integrity, and availability." (CNSS, 2010)

Committee on National Security Systems: National Information Assurance (IA) Glossary, CNSS Instruction No. 4009, 26 April 2010.

General Security: “CIA”

Ensures that only authorized users (confidentiality) have access to accurate and complete information (integrity) when required (availability)." (ISACA, 2008)

[3] ISACA. (2008). Glossary of terms, 2008.

General Security “CIA”

- Access
 - that you can get to it
- Integrity
 - that information can be trusted to stay unchanged
- Authenticity
 - that it is really what it says it is
 - that it comes from where it says its from
- Availability
 - that information is available

Security Often Means Conflict

Some aspects can be in conflict with one another:

- User Security Problem (Confidentiality)
 - Other people can see & read my traffic
- Network Manager Problem (Availability)
 - I can't see & read my users' traffic

Security Often Means Compromise

- No security is 100%. There are trade-offs.
- Security is connected to usability
- Users will defeat systems that are difficult
 - Complicated passwords get written on post-it notes
 - Frequent password changes lead to weak passwords

More Security Ideas

- Most security problems can not be addressed on network level, but by services and servers.
- According to a 2014 study (source), most attacks come from the inside of networks and organizations.[1]
- Google suggests to no longer make a difference between inner and outer network.[2]

[1] “IBM 2015 Cyber Security Intelligence Index” and the “IBM X-Force Threat Intelligence Quarterly – 2Q 2015.”
cited by: <https://securityintelligence.com/the-threat-is-coming-from-inside-the-network/>

[2] Google BeyondCorp - static.googleusercontent.com/media/research.google.com/en/us/pubs/archive/43231.pdf

Security Issues on Campus

- Phishing
- Virus/Malware
 - leading to spam or broadcast storm activity
- Uncontrolled improper use of networks
 - file sharing, videos, torrents
- BYOD
 - uncontrolled quality of network clients
- Operating systems spying

Security Issues on Campus

- Non-availability of (wireless) networks
- Physical security – theft and vandalism
- State intrusion / espionage / surveillance
 - as revealed by Snowden and others

Physical security

Don't forget physical security – for example

- Cables - Hidden and fastened
- Switches, Routers - in locked cabinets
- Power -locked in cabinets
- Water protection - equipment at least 30cm above ground
- Outdoor equipment on secured masts

Physical Security



In this case, physical security interferes with the correct operation of the wireless AP.

Wireless Security

- Main difference between wired and wireless?
 - Wireless is not bound to a physical location
- Securing Ethernet jacks is easy (a lock will do!)
- Authentication is rarely implemented on wired
 - 802.1x does exist for this function
- Securing radio signals is hard (they travel!)

Wireless Security Analogy

- The network is our streets and roads.
- Many people and vehicles travel on these roads.
- Streets and roads are open, or mostly open.
 - We don't lock people into their houses.
- We don't use passenger cars to transport gold.
 - We use an armored vehicle (“end-to-end security”)
- We try to keep unwanted drivers off the road.
 - We will never have perfect road safety.

Wireless Network Authentication

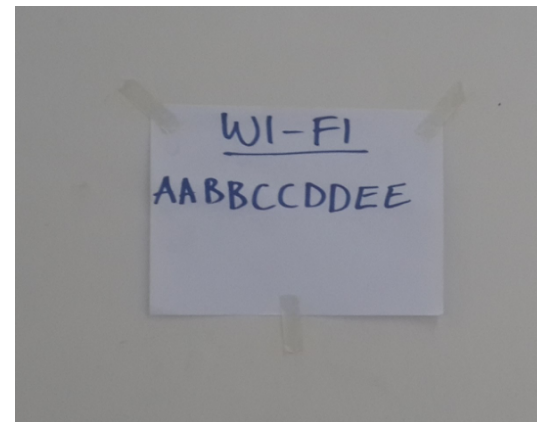
- Authentication can happen in many ways
- MAC Address Restrictions
- Pre-Shared Key based Authentication
 - WPA-PSK – insecure, not scalable
- Captive Portal Authentication
 - Better than a pre-shared key, but not the ideal
- 802.1x based Authentication = Ideal!
 - Performed on centralized servers in the core

MAC Address Restriction

- MAC addresses identify machines, not people
- MAC addresses are easily spoofed
- Adds a lot of work for the helpdesk
 - Move/add/change for end user devices
- MAC restriction ok for infrastructure links & IoT
- Not suitable for user access control

Pre-Shared Keys

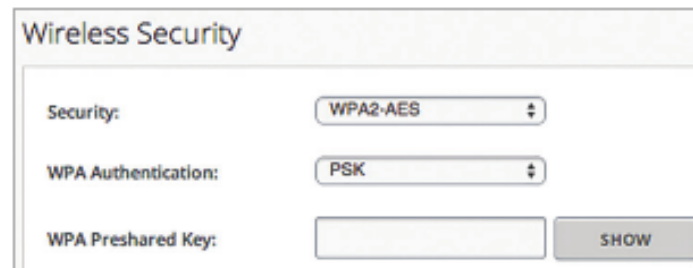
- Useful for some tasks
 - Non-critical Sensor devices with no Internet Access
 - Temporary Workshops
- Not recommended for General Use
 - Unless coupled with Portal-based authentication
- Keys will be shared!



802.1x/WPA2 Enterprise Authentication

WPA2-AES

To secure your wireless network, select **WPA2-AES**, which is WPA2 (Wi-Fi Protected Access 2) security mode with AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) support only. AES is also known as CCMP (Counter Mode with Cipher Block Chaining Message Authentication Code Protocol), which uses the AES algorithm.



The image shows a 'Wireless Security' configuration window. It has three main sections: 'Security:' with a dropdown menu set to 'WPA2-AES', 'WPA Authentication:' with a dropdown menu set to 'PSK', and 'WPA Preshared Key:' with an empty text input field and a 'SHOW' button to its right.

WPA2-AES is the only recommended security mode.
WPA1 and WEP are no longer secure.

Source: AirOs7 User Guide / Ubiquiti - <http://ubnt.com>

802.1x/WPA2 Enterprise Authentication

The important setting is

the address of your
RADIUS server

We will discuss details of this
in the unit on
Authentication

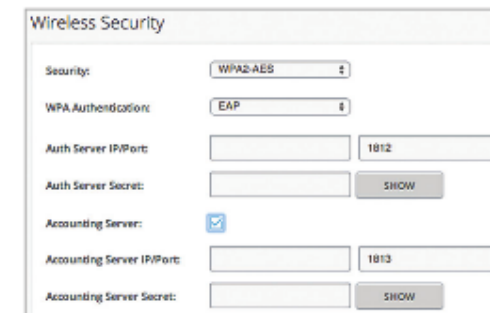
Source: AirOs7 User Guide / Ubiquiti - <http://ubnt.com>

EAP

Available options depend on the wireless mode, as follows:

EAP - Access Point PTP or Access Point PTMP Mode

The options below apply in *Access Point PTP* or *Access Point PTMP* mode only.



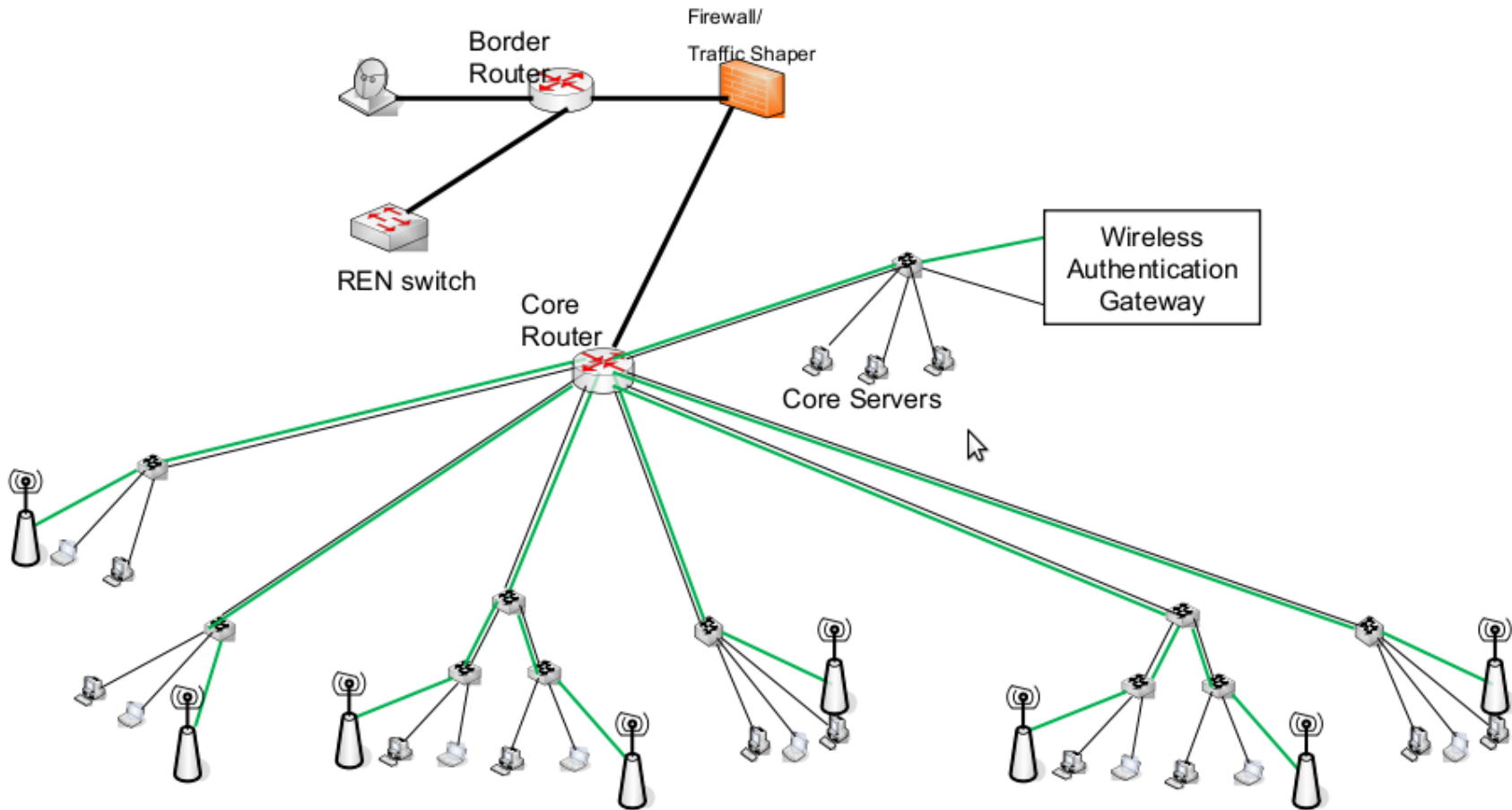
The image shows a 'Wireless Security' configuration window. It has several fields: 'Security' is set to 'WPA2-AES'; 'WPA Authentication' is set to 'EAP'; 'Auth Server IP/Port' has two input fields, the first is empty and the second contains '1812'; 'Auth Server Secret' has an input field and a 'SHOW' button; 'Accounting Server' is checked with a blue checkbox; 'Accounting Server IP/Port' has two input fields, the first is empty and the second contains '1813'; 'Accounting Server Secret' has an input field and a 'SHOW' button.

Auth Server IP/Port In the first field, enter the IP address of the RADIUS authentication server. RADIUS is a networking protocol providing centralized Authentication, Authorization, and Accounting (AAA) management for computers to connect to and use a network service.

In the second field, enter the UDP port of the RADIUS authentication server. The most commonly used port is 1812, but this may vary depending on the RADIUS server you are using.

Auth Server Secret Enter the password. A shared secret is a case-sensitive text string used to validate communication between two RADIUS devices.

Authentication on wireless networks



802.1x Security Problems

- 802.1x or WPA2/EAP is the recommended authentication option, but has security problems
- Outer tunnels rely on TTLS/SSL certificates
 - These are vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks – if the client device does not properly check the certificate, then it will give its credentials to ANY AP, e.g. rogue APs
- Inner tunnel authentication is MSCHAP2
 - MSCHAP2 is known to be compromised

802.1x Security Problems

- Client devices that do not check certificates...
 - Will give their credentials to any AP, even a rogue one!
 - Are vulnerable to man-in-the-middle attacks.
- Nothing can protect clients that don't check...
 - CN (Common Name) or CA (Certificate Authority)
- However we can protect our networks
 - We can enforce the best possible client configuration, for example using the eduroam CAT tool. <https://cat.eduroam.org>
 - See also security recommendations on <https://wiki.geant.org/>

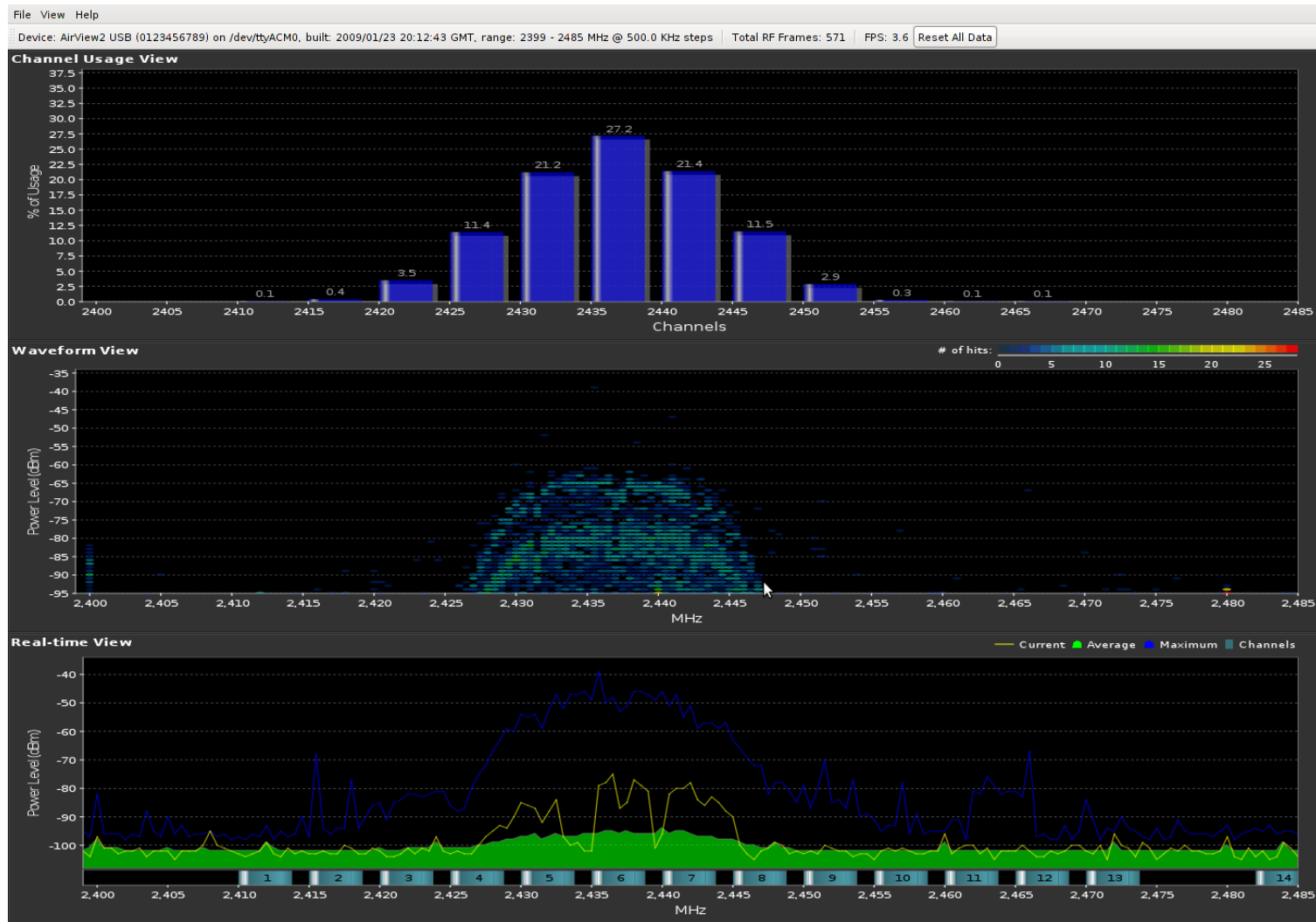
Tools for Wireless Security

- Enterprise Wireless Systems
 - Rogue detection, traffic analysis, logging
- Physical layer:
 - Spectrum analyzers: airview, wispy
 - Wireless Packet sniffers: kismet – Netstumbler (windows)
- General networking tools:
 - etherape, mtr, mrtg, nmap, ntop, rrdtool, wireshark
- Tool collections: backtrack

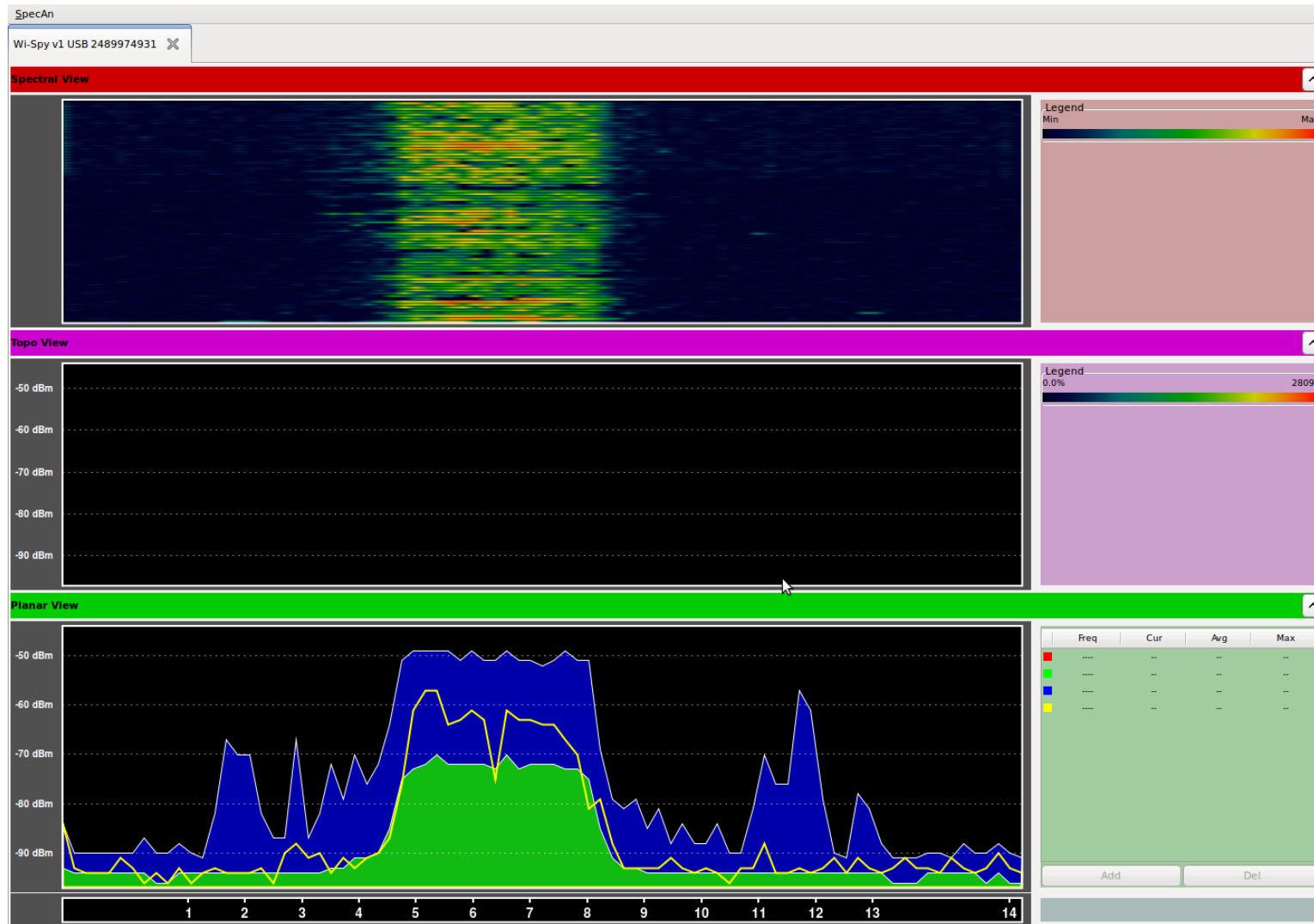
Spectrum Analyzers

- Spectrum Analysers are Layer 1
 - They can represent the physical layer!
 - Can show non-Wi-Fi signals, for example:
 - Microwave ovens, Bluetooth devices, jamming
- Real spectrum analysers are very expensive
- Some equipment includes spectrum analysis
 - For example, Ubiquiti outdoor radios
- USB analysers or RF Explorer can work well
 - e.g. AirView (2.4 GHz), WiSpy (2.4 – 5.8 GHz)

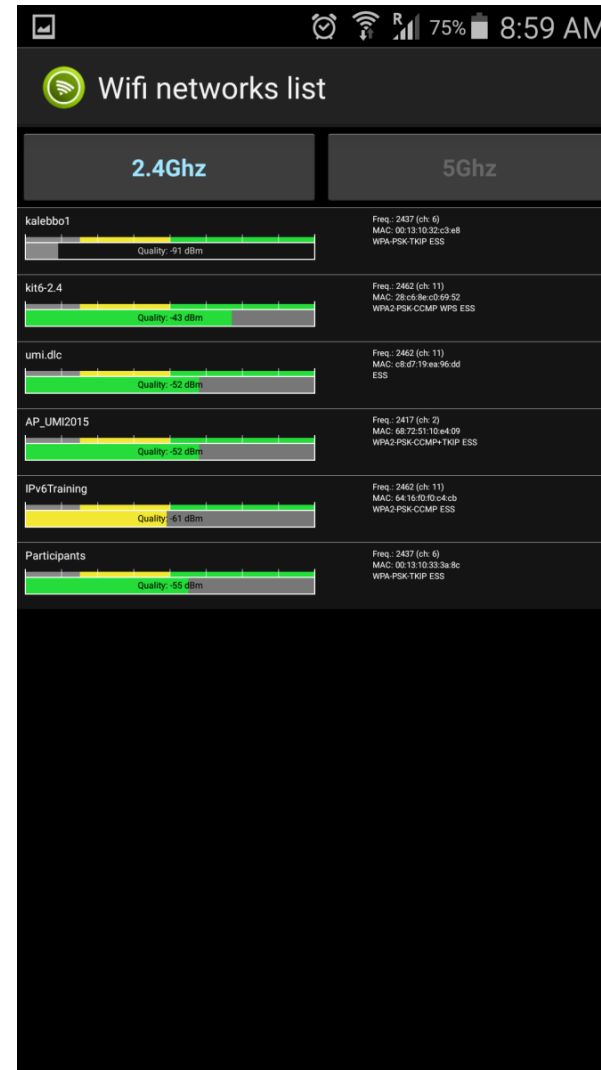
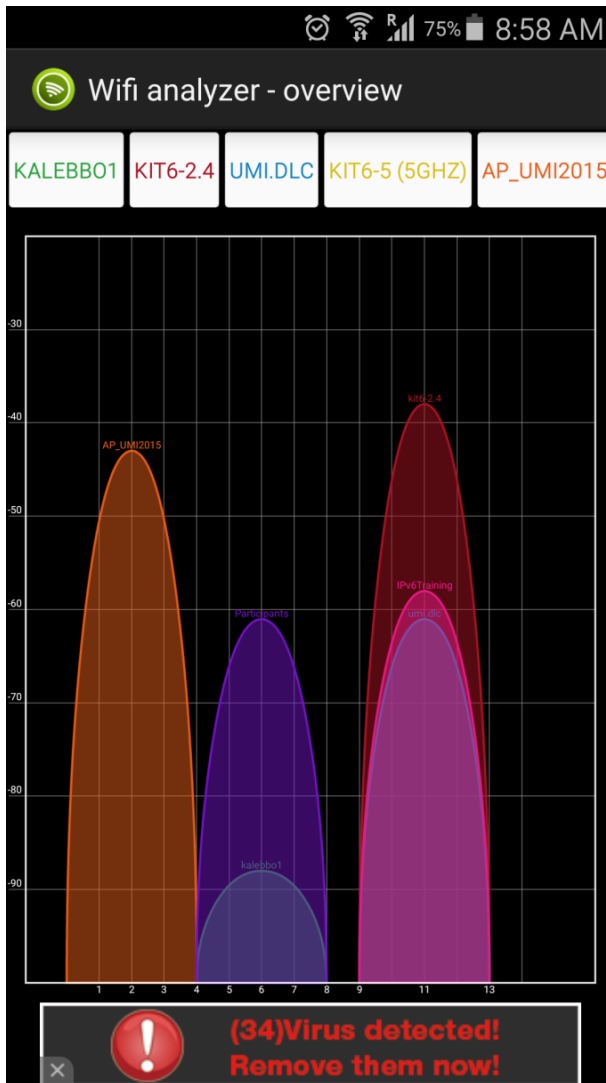
Spectrum analyzers: Airview



Spectrum analyzers: WiSpy



Android WiFi analyzers



Kismet

- Wireless network detector, sniffer, and IDS
- Works in raw monitoring (rfmon) mode
- Can sniff 802.11a,b,g,n traffic
- Passively collects packets
- Detects standard named networks
- Detects hidden & non-beaconing networks
- Combine with tools like wireshark, nmap, etc

Kismet

```

root@wirelessdefence:~
File Edit View Terminal Tabs Help

Network List (Autofit)
Name           T W Ch  Packts  Flags  IP Range
default        A N 006    9  F    192.168.0.1
! iyonder.net   A N 005   42  U4    10.254.178.254
! iyonder.net   A N 001   22  A3    10.254.178.0
! eurospot      A N 001   19  U4    204.26.5.166
! NETGEAR       A 0 006    5          0.0.0.0
. eurospot      A N 011   14          0.0.0.0
! belkin54g     A Y 011   17          0.0.0.0
! iyonder.net   A N 011   16  A3    10.254.178.0
! tsunami      A Y 007   17          0.0.0.0
! <no ssid>     A 0 003   11          0.0.0.0
Probe Networks  P N ---    3          0.0.0.0
! iyonder.net   A N 008   35          0.0.0.0
. <no ssid>     A Y 011    5          0.0.0.0
NCDT_NET       A Y 006    1          0.0.0.0
<no ssid>      A Y 011    1          0.0.0.0

Info
Ntwrks      16
Pckets     228
Cryptd       4
Weak         0
Noise        0
Discrd       0
Pkts/s       8
Elapsd      00:00:20

Status
Found new probed network "\012\003\031\034\012\013\023\007\027\003\033\033\0
36\011\030\005\023\011\004\022\013\010\027\030\031\001\011\027\003\003\0
bssid 00:0A:8A:A2:C8:7F
Found IP 10.254.178.254 for iyonder.net::00:50:8B:51:17:17 via UDP
Battery: AC 107%
  
```

Kismet

File Edit View Terminal Help

Network List (SSID)

Network Details	Size	Info
Name : mySecure	0.40 80B	Ntwrks 7
SSID : mySecure	0B	Pckets 1550
Server : localhost:2501	0B	Cryptd 58
BSSID : 0A:15:6D:AD:C8:28	0B	Weak 0
Carrier : IEEE 802.11b	8k	Noise 0
Manuf : Unknown	4.36 58k	Discrd 0
Max Rate: 18.0		Pkts/s 27
BSS Time: a94c87181		
Max Seen: 1000 kbps		
First : Wed Mar 3 21:19:19 2010		
Latest : Wed Mar 3 21:21:03 2010		
Clients : 0		
Type : Access Point (infrastructure)		
Info :		
Channel : 5		
Privacy : Yes		
Encrypt : TKIP WPA PSK		my_int
Decryptd: No		Ch: 52
Beacon : 25600 (26.214400 sec)		
Packets : 391		Elapsd
Data : 0		00:01:44
LLC : 391		
Crypt : 0		
Weak : 0		

75% (+) Down

Battery: AC 99%

:BD via UDP
:37 via UDP
:19 via UDP
57 via ARP

Wireshark

- A free and open-source packet analyzer.
- Used for network troubleshooting, analysis, software and communications protocol development, and education.
- Filter for fast identification of protocols, IP numbers, or keywords

Wireshark

The image displays the Wireshark network traffic analysis tool. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Go, Capture, Analyze, Statistics, Telephony, Tools, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations, capture, and analysis. The main window is divided into three panes:

- Filter:** A text box containing the filter "http contains assword" and buttons for "Expression...", "Clear", and "Apply".
- Packets List:** A table showing a list of captured packets. The columns are No., Time, Source, Destination, Protocol, and Info. The selected packet is 6039, which is an HTTP POST request.
- Packets Detail:** A pane showing the details of the selected packet (Frame 6039). It includes the Ethernet II header, Internet Protocol (IP) header, Transmission Control Protocol (TCP) header, and Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) data. The HTTP data shows a POST request to /workshops/2010/garnet-nsrc/login with a form token and a password field.

The bottom pane shows the raw packet data in hexadecimal and ASCII format. The ASCII column contains the text of the HTTP POST request, including the form token and password field.

Frame (216 bytes) | Reassembled TCP (849 bytes)

Frame (frame), 216 bytes | Packets: 14173 Displayed: 13 Marked: 0 | Profile: Default