

```
make[2]: Leaving directory ` /home/rusek/Projects/eggnidool/eggdrops  
dns.mod'  
make[2]: Entering directory ` /home/rusek/Projects/eggnidool/eggdrops  
/filesys.mod'  
gcc -pipe -fPIC -g -O2 -Wall -I. -I../.. -I../.. -I../.. -I../..  
CONFIG_H -DMODING MODE
```

# Active 802.11 fingerprinting

Sergey Bratus  
Cory Cornelius, Daniel Peebles,  
Axel Hansen



Dartmouth College  
**INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY  
TECHNOLOGY STUDIES**  
Cyber Security and Trust Research & Development  
<http://www.ISTS.dartmouth.edu>

# Motivation

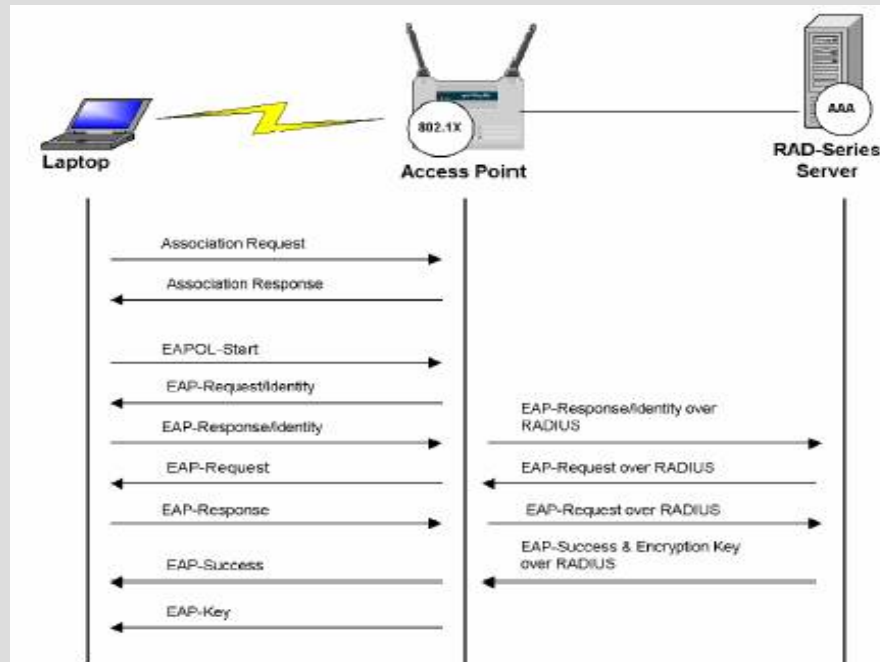
Can a client station trust an AP?

Is this AP one of a trusted group, or evil faker?

*Why yes, just exchange some crypto with it, and verify the AP knows the right secrets.*

*Problem solved, right?*

Not exactly: are all these exchanges **bug-free**?



# The problem

Initially, an AP is just a MAC address  
(and other easily faked info)  
That's all we know.



Trust me!

- To perform crypto authentication of AP, driver must parse complex data structures
- Complex data from untrusted source?
  - *Is this such a good idea?*



# Say it ain't so

7. Application

6. Presentation

5. Session

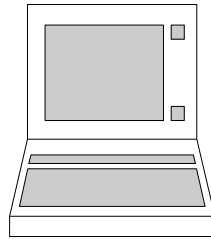
4. Transport

3. Network

2. Data link

1. Physical

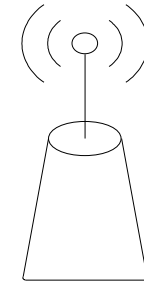
## Probe Request -- Probe Response



Laptop



rates, essid, ...

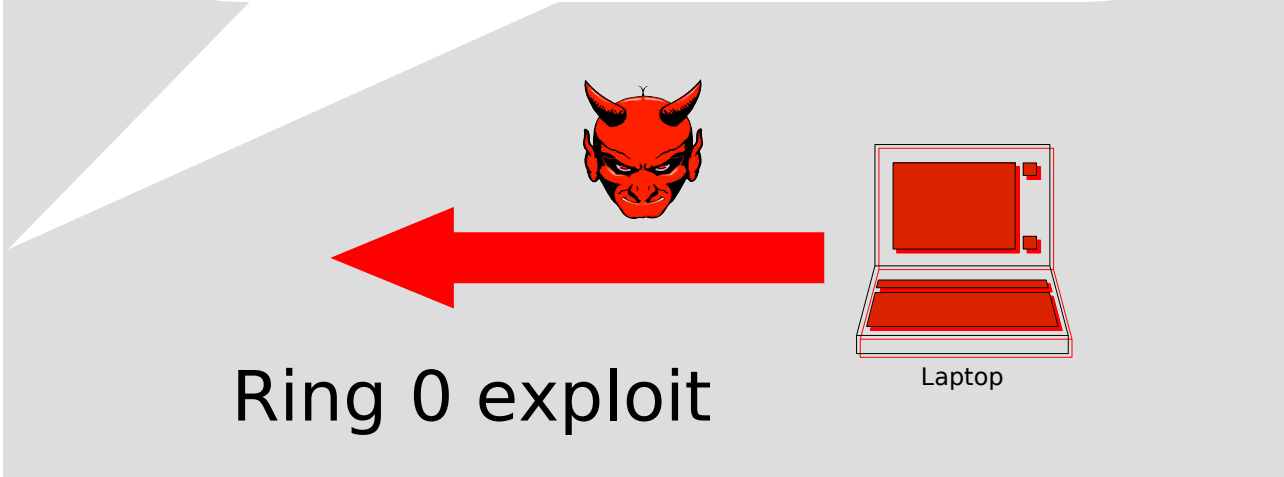
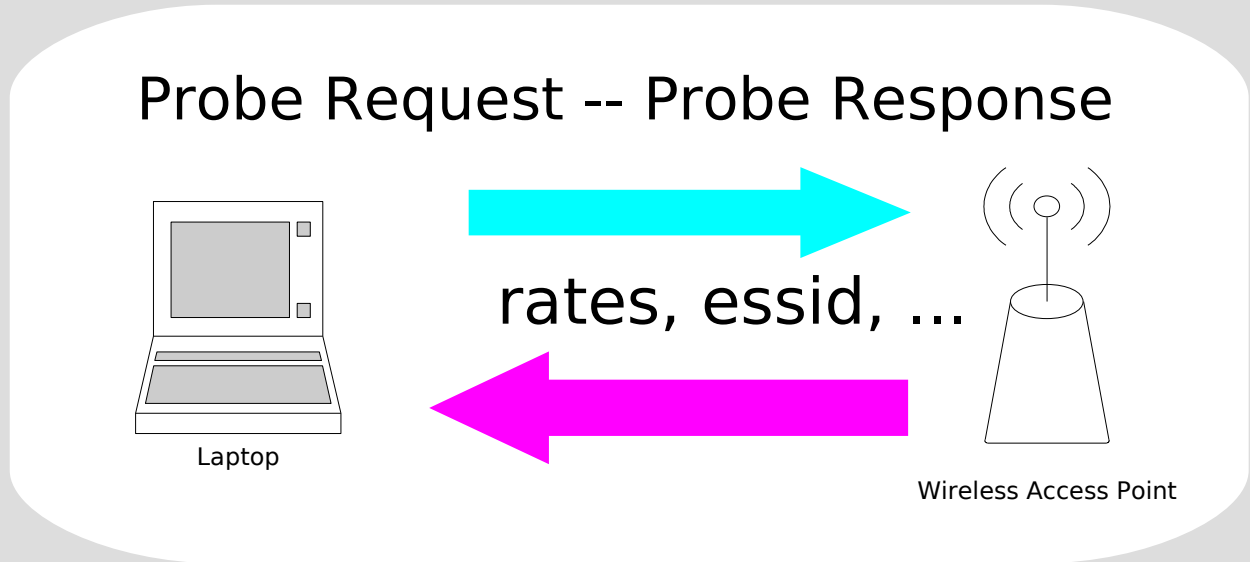


Wireless Access Point



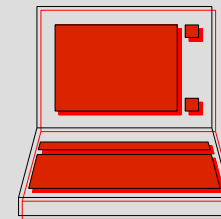
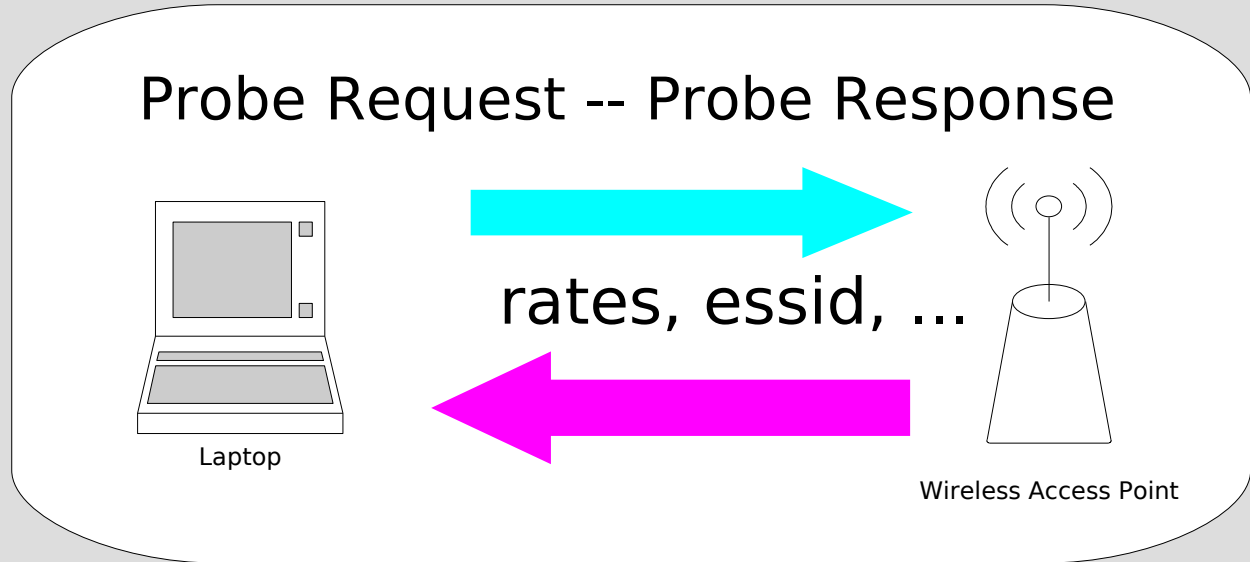
# Say it ain't so

- 7. Application
- 6. Presentation
- 5. Session
- 4. Transport
- 3. Network
- 2. Data link
- 1. Physical



# Say it ain't so

- 7. Application
- 6. Presentation
- 5. Session
- 4. Transport
- 3. Network
- 2. Data link
- 1. Physical



Ring 0 exploit

Laptop

# AP vs. clients

Early 802.11: **AP = castle**,  
must fight off barbarians  
(unauthorized clients)

Reality: **can peasants = clients**  
**find the right castle?**

- *Dai Zovi, Macaulay*: Karma
- *Shmoo*: “Badass tackle...”
- *Simple Nomad*: “Friendly skies...”
- *Cache & Maynor*: “Hijackng a MacBook in 60 seconds”
- Month of kernel bugs (Nov '06)





# Fingerprint it!

**Fingerprint** the AP **before** trying to authenticate and associate with it:  
limit the kinds of accepted data

Must be simple & cheap (no RF spectrum analysis, Fourier transforms, etc. )

Follow IP stack fingerprinting ideas:  
unusual and non-standard header field combinations – but in link layer (L2)



# Where we fit in

Passive

L4 /  
L3

P0f

“Reasonable &  
Customary”  
Frames

SinFP

Nmap

Xprobe

“Cruel &  
Unusual”  
Frames

L2

J.Cache U5  
duration field

Franklin et al.  
probe timings

Fuzzers

BAFFLE

# TCP/IP fingerprinting

L3, need an L2 connection

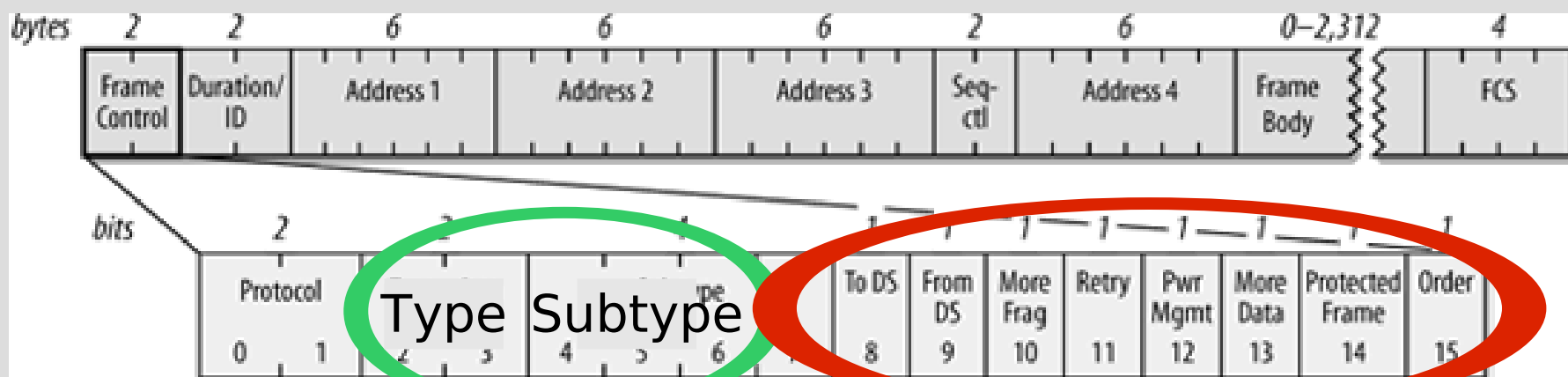
- **Nmap** (1998-2006, ...)
- **Xprobe** (2001, 2005, ...)
- **P0f** (2000, 2006)
- **SinFP** (2005)
- Timing-related: *Ping RTT* (2003),  
*Clock Skew* (2005)

- Scrubbers: **Norm, Bro** (2000-01)
- **Honeyd, Morph** (2004-)
- ... ?



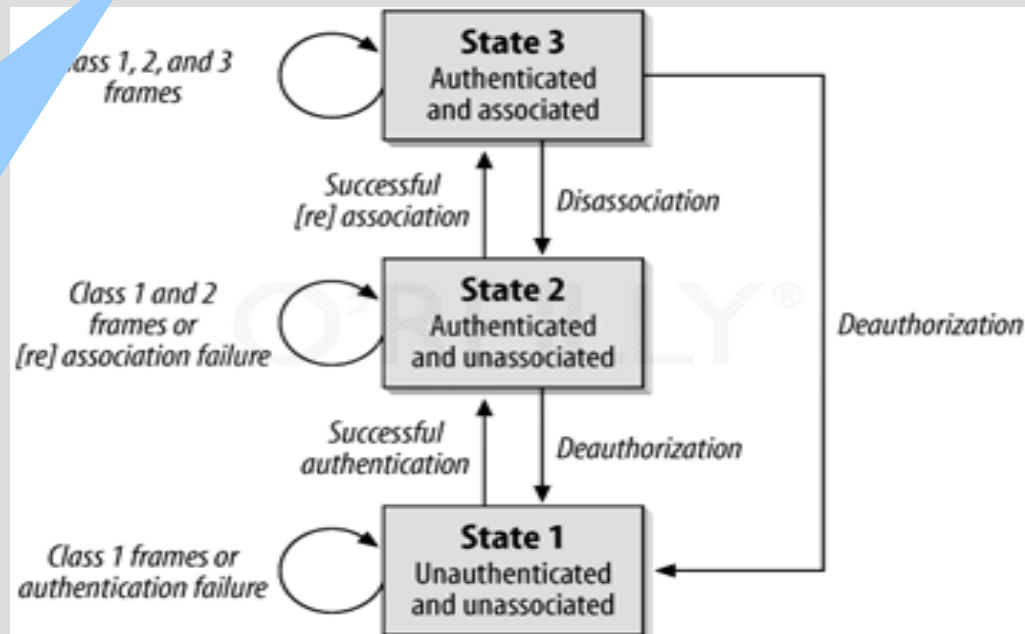
- Written in Ruby 1.8.2
- Ruby LORCON bindings from Metasploit
- Builds Pcap/BPF filters for 802.11 frames from Ruby objects
- Domain-specific language for tests, probes, and for matching responses

# Bits and states

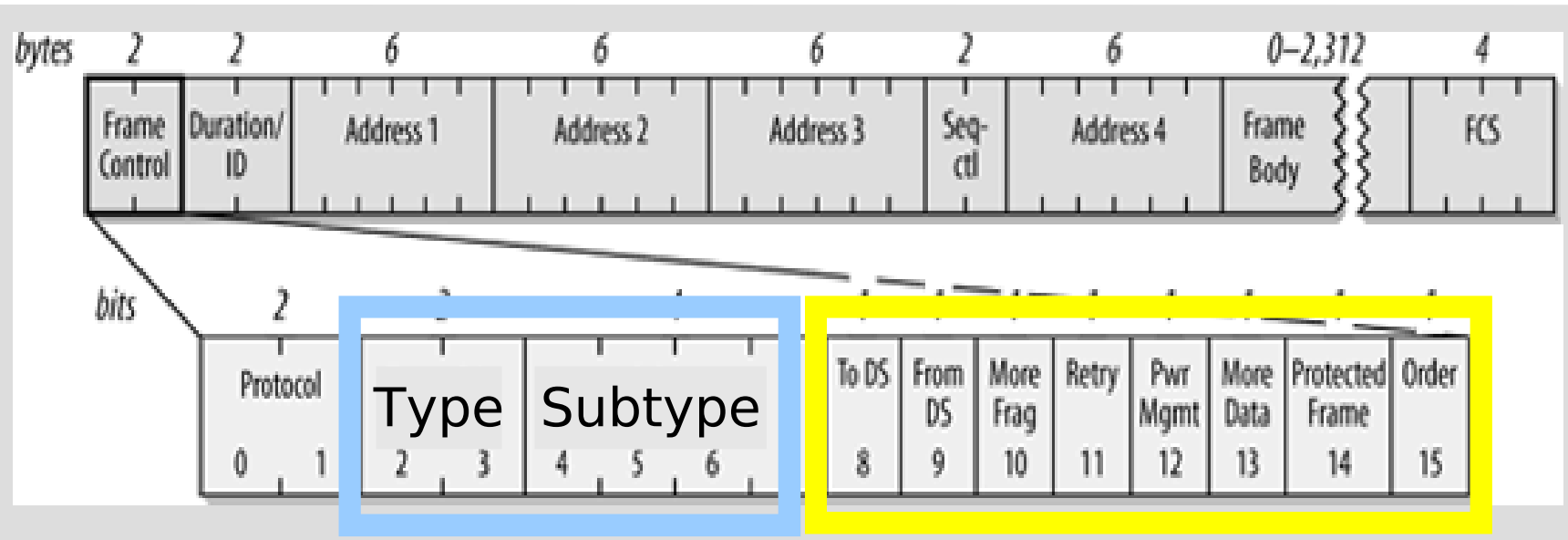


Not all flags  
make sense for all  
types & subtypes

Not all flags  
make sense for all  
states



# 802.11 fiddly bits



Only 0 makes sense on Mgmt & Ctrl frames

Unusual on Probes

Not for Mgmt frames

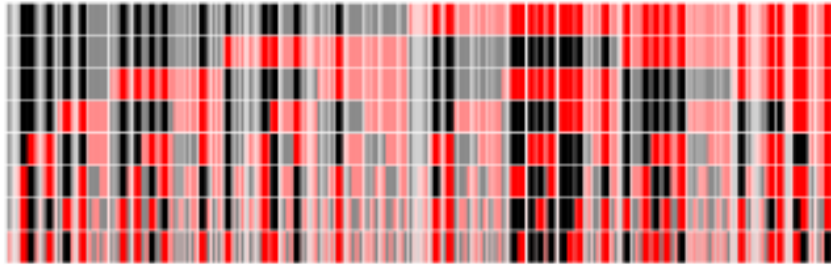
# So many flags...

	To DS	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
To DS	0	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
From DS	0	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
More Fragments	0	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Retry	0	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Power Management	0	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
More Data	0	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Protected Frame	0	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
Order	0	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■						
	1																																						
		Association Request	Association Response	Reassociation Request	Reassociation Response	Probe Request	Probe Response	Beacon	ATIM	Disassociation	Authentication	Deauthentication	Action	4 * Reserved	BlockAckReq	BlockAck	Power Save (PS)-Poll	Request To Send (RTS)	Clear To Send (CTS)	Acknowledgment (ACK)	Contention Free (CF)-End	CF-End + CF-ACK	8 * Reserved	Data	*Data + CF-ACK	*Data + CF-Poll	*Data + CF-ACK + CF-Poll	Null Function (no data)	*CF-ACK (no data)	*CF-Poll (no data)	*CF-ACK + CF-Poll (no data)	*QoS Data	*QoS Data + CF-ACK	*QoS Data + CF-Poll	QoS Data + CF-ACK + CF-Poll	*QoS Null (no data)	*QoS CF-Poll (no data)	*QoS CF-Poll + CF-ACK (no data)	Reserved
		Management													Control										Data										Reserved				

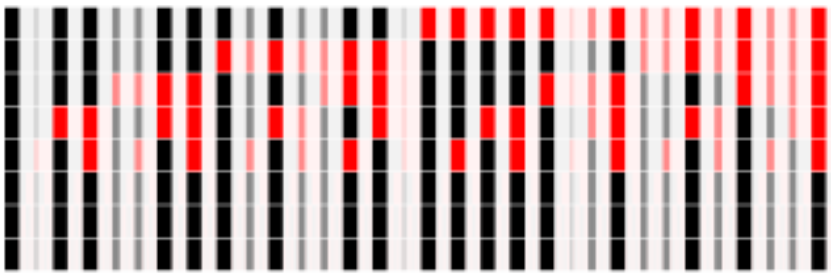
**Legend**

- Defined by IEEE 802.11 Specification
- ◐ In IEEE 802.11 Specification but purpose seems undefined
- ◑ In IEEE 802.11 Specification but unlikely
- Tested by BAFFLE
- ◐ Tested by BAFFLE but of limited utility
- Not defined in IEEE 802.11 Specification
- \* In IEEE 802.11 Specification but mostly unimplemented

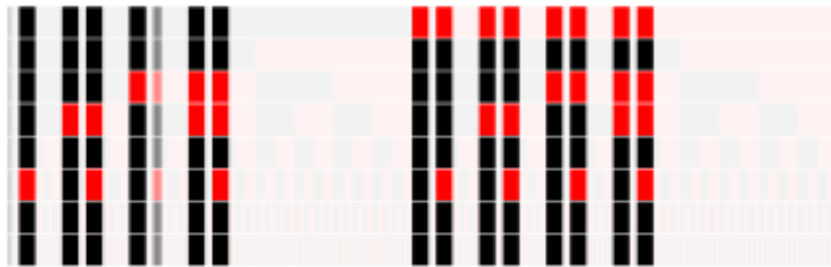
# Probe Request tests



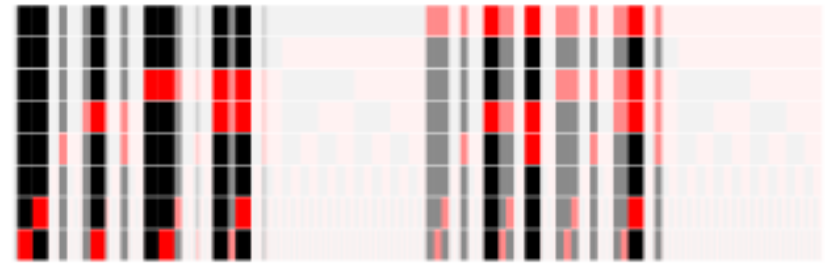
Cisco-Linksys WRT54g *ProbeFC*Test



Extrasys WAP-257 *ProbeFC*Test



Madwifi-ng soft AP *ProbeFC*Test



Hostap soft AP *ProbeFC*Test



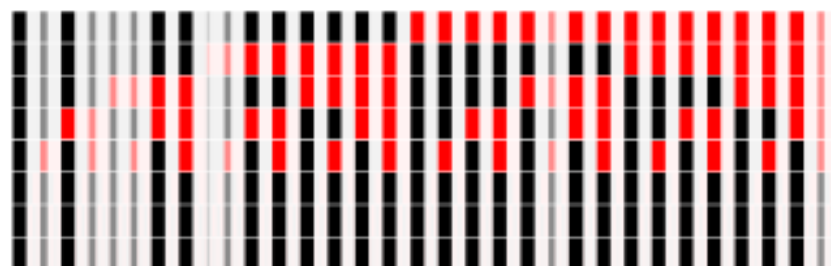
Aruba OpenWRT *ProbeFC*Test



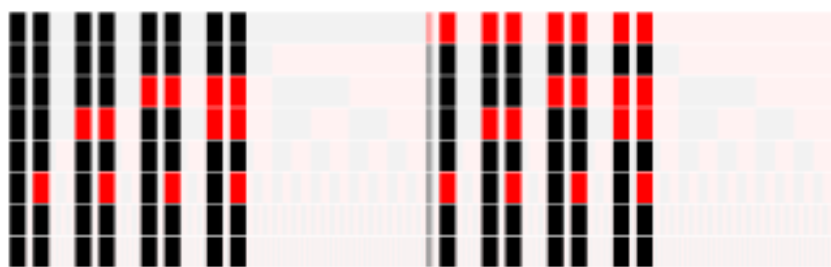
# Auth Request tests



Cisco-Linksys WRT54g *AuthFC*Test



Extrasys WAP-257 *AuthFC*Test



Madwifi-ng soft AP *AuthFC*Test



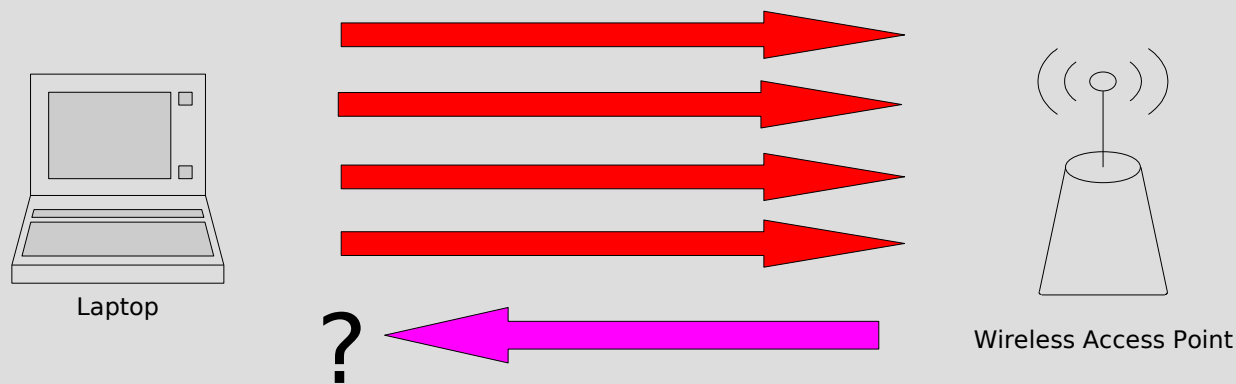
Hostap soft AP *AuthFC*Test



Aruba OpenWRT *AuthFC*Test

# “Secret handshake”

- Send “gibberish” flag combinations in ProbeReq and AuthReq frames
- Watch for reactions (varying MACs helps):
- FromDS, ToDS, MoreFrag, MoreData on STA -> AP frames are all non-standard



## TCP/IP L3

- Tony Capella (DC-11, '03): **Ping RTT**  
“Fashionably late – what your RTT tells ...”
- Kohno, Broido, Claffy ('05): **Clock Skew**  
“Remote physical device fingerprinting”
- Dan Kaminsky ('05): **IP frag time-outs**

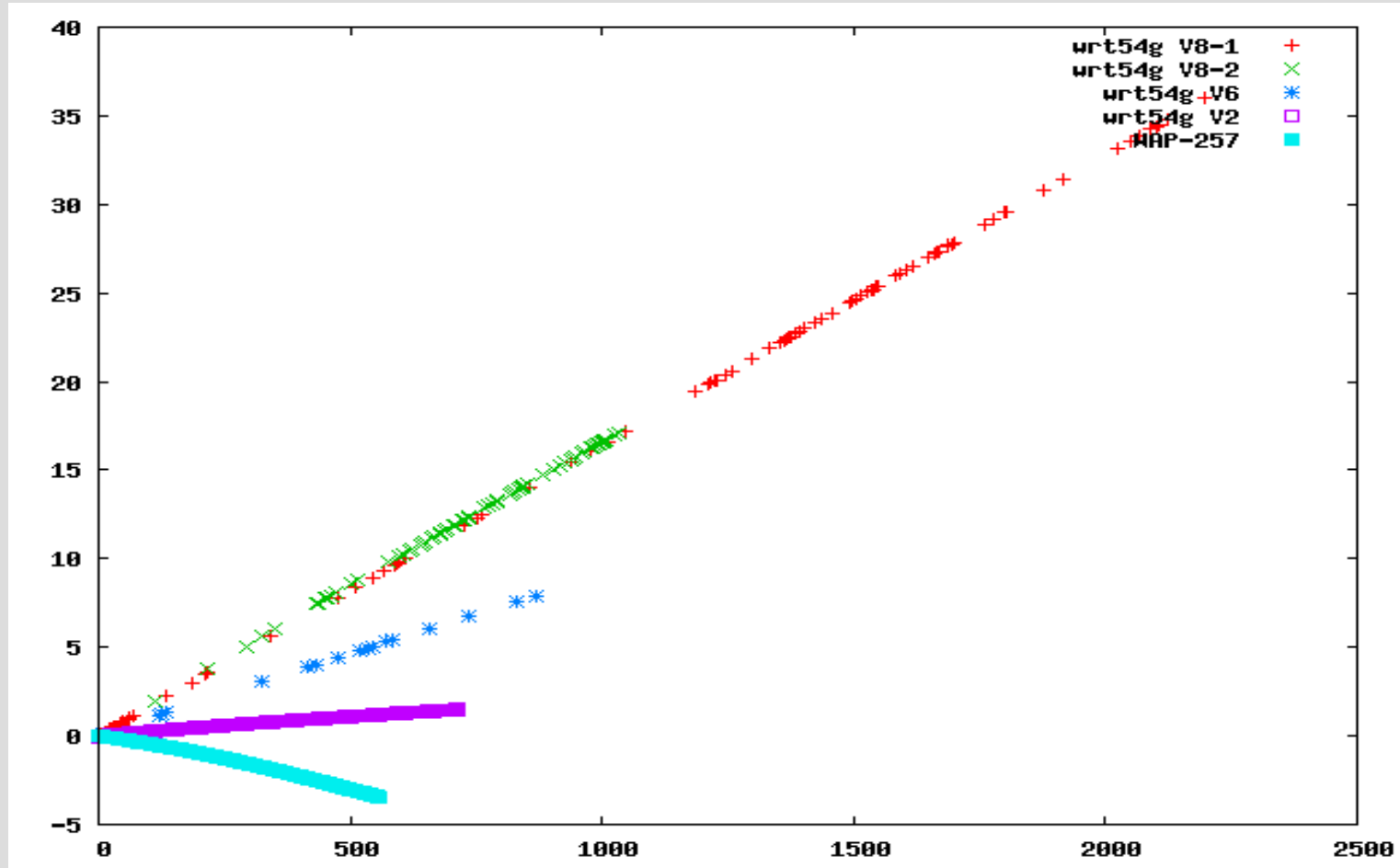
## 802.11 L2

- Johnny Cache (Uninformed.org 5, '06):  
Statistical analysis of the **duration field**
- Franklin et al (USENIX Sec, '06): **Scanning**  
Time intervals between Probe Req frames

- Beacon frames contain AP clock's timestamp
- Each HW clock drift differently; **skew** is the derivative of the clock's offsets against another clock (*cf. Kohno, Broido, Claffy '05*)
- Issues:
  - AP clock's unique skew can be estimated reliably within 1-2 mins
  - Similar AP models have closer skews
  - Faking (e.g., with a laptop + Wi-Fi card in master mode) is hard enough

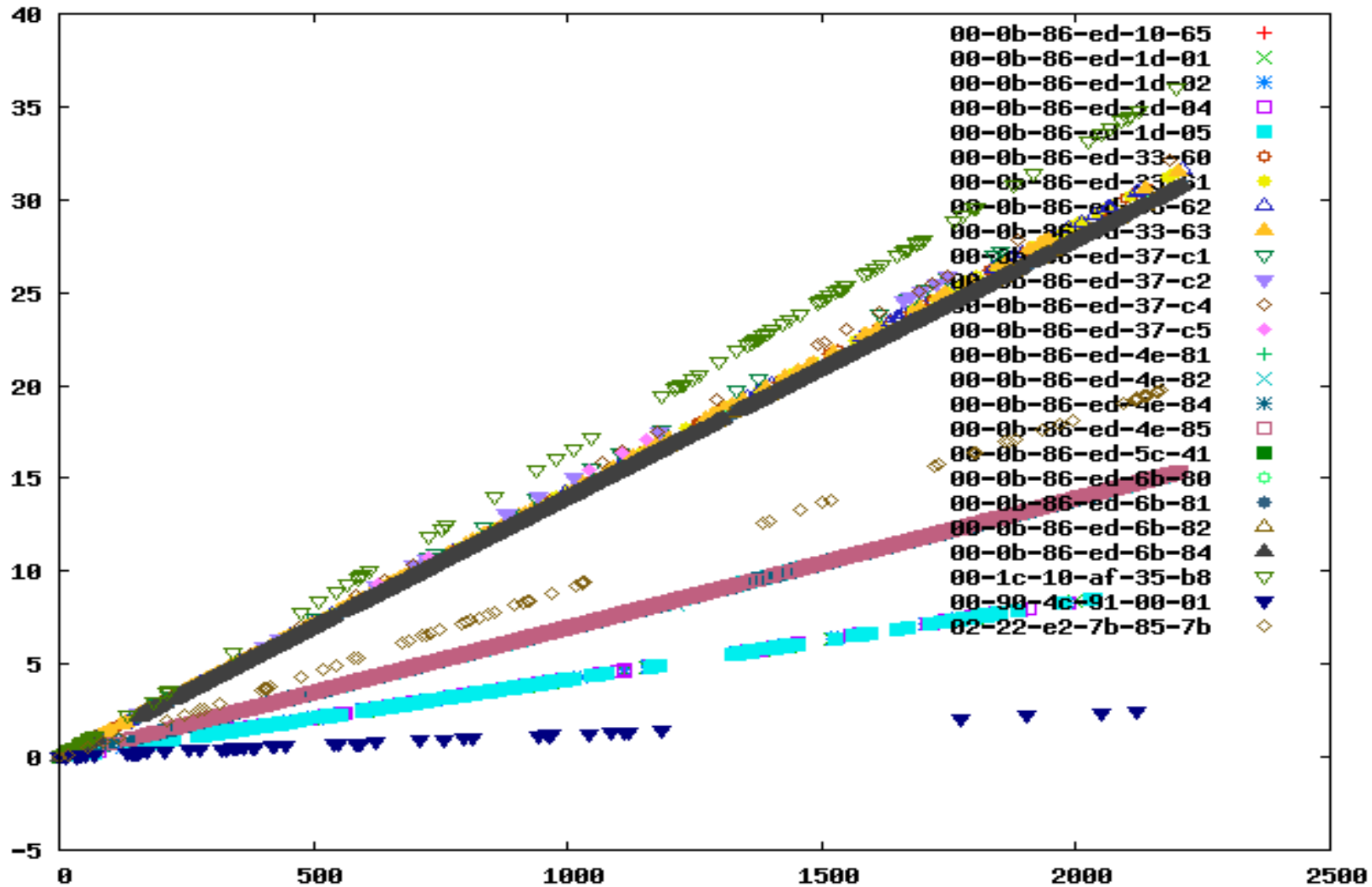
# AP beacon clock skew

AP  
Time



Sensor Time

# AP beacon clock skew



**<http://baffle.cs.dartmouth.edu/>**

- Johnny Cache for many inspirations
- Joshua Wright and Mike Kershaw for LORCON
- ToorCon & Uninformed.org
- Everyone else who helped  
(including authors of madwifi\*, Metasploit,  
Ruby, Lapack and many other great tools)





# Contact Information

Institute for Security Technology  
Studies

Dartmouth College  
6211 Sudikoff Laboratory  
Hanover, NH 03755

-----  
Phone: 603.646.0700

Fax: 603.646.1672

Email: [info@ists.dartmouth.edu](mailto:info@ists.dartmouth.edu)