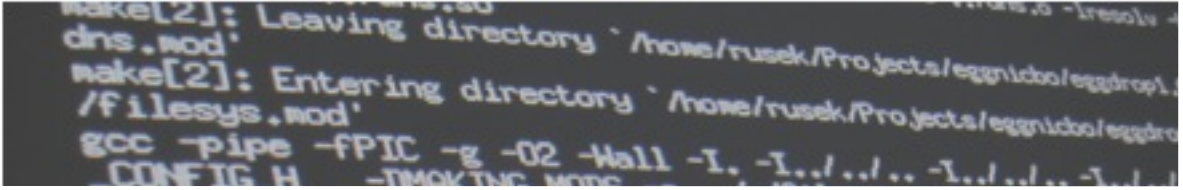

Active 802.11 fingerprinting

Sergey Bratus
Cory Cornelius, Daniel Peebles,
Axel Hansen

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http://www.ISTS.dartmouth.edu

Motivation

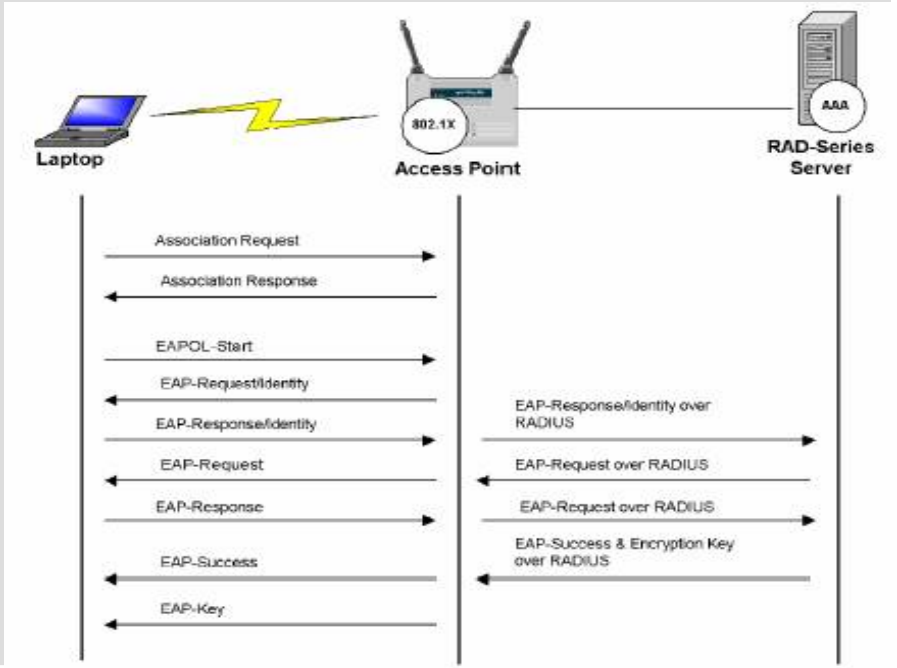
Can a client station trust an AP?

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

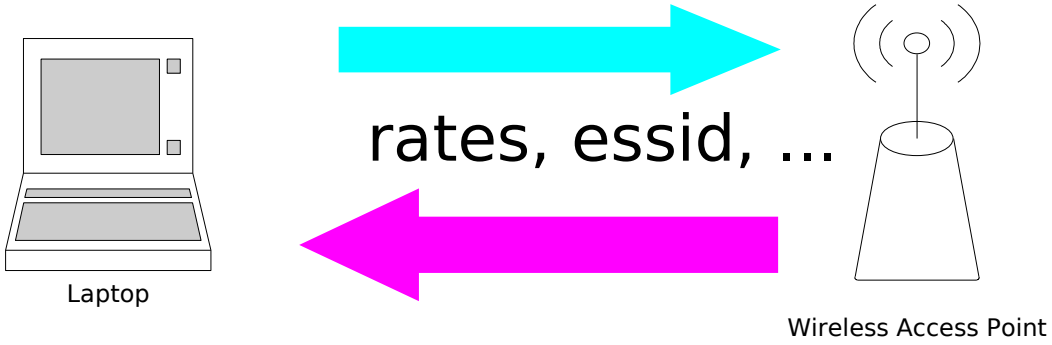
Initially, an AP is just a MAC address
(and other easily faked info)
That's all we know.

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

Probe Request -- Probe Response



Say it ain't so

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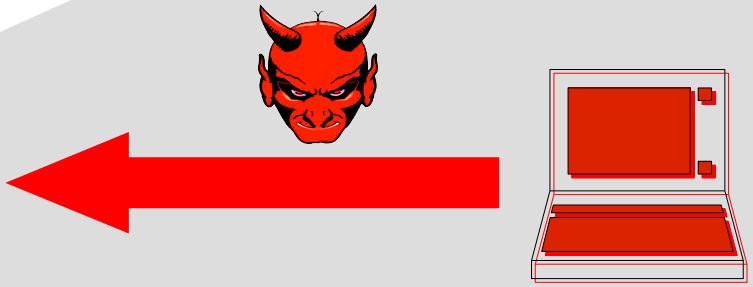
Probe Request -- Probe Response



Ring 0 exploit

Say it ain't so

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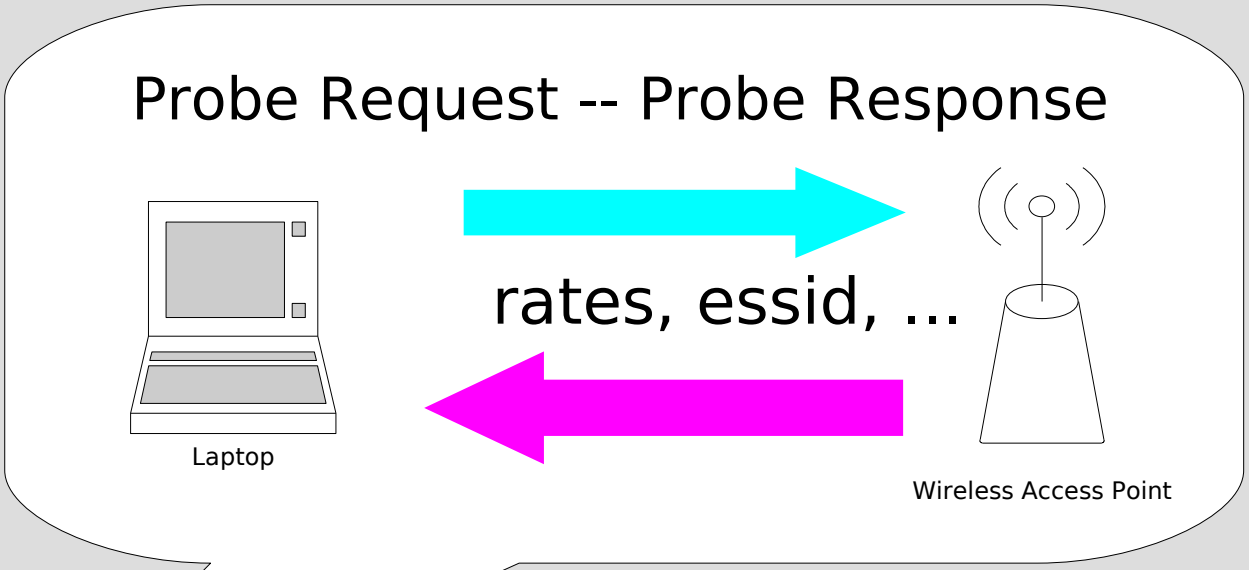

AP vs. clients

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

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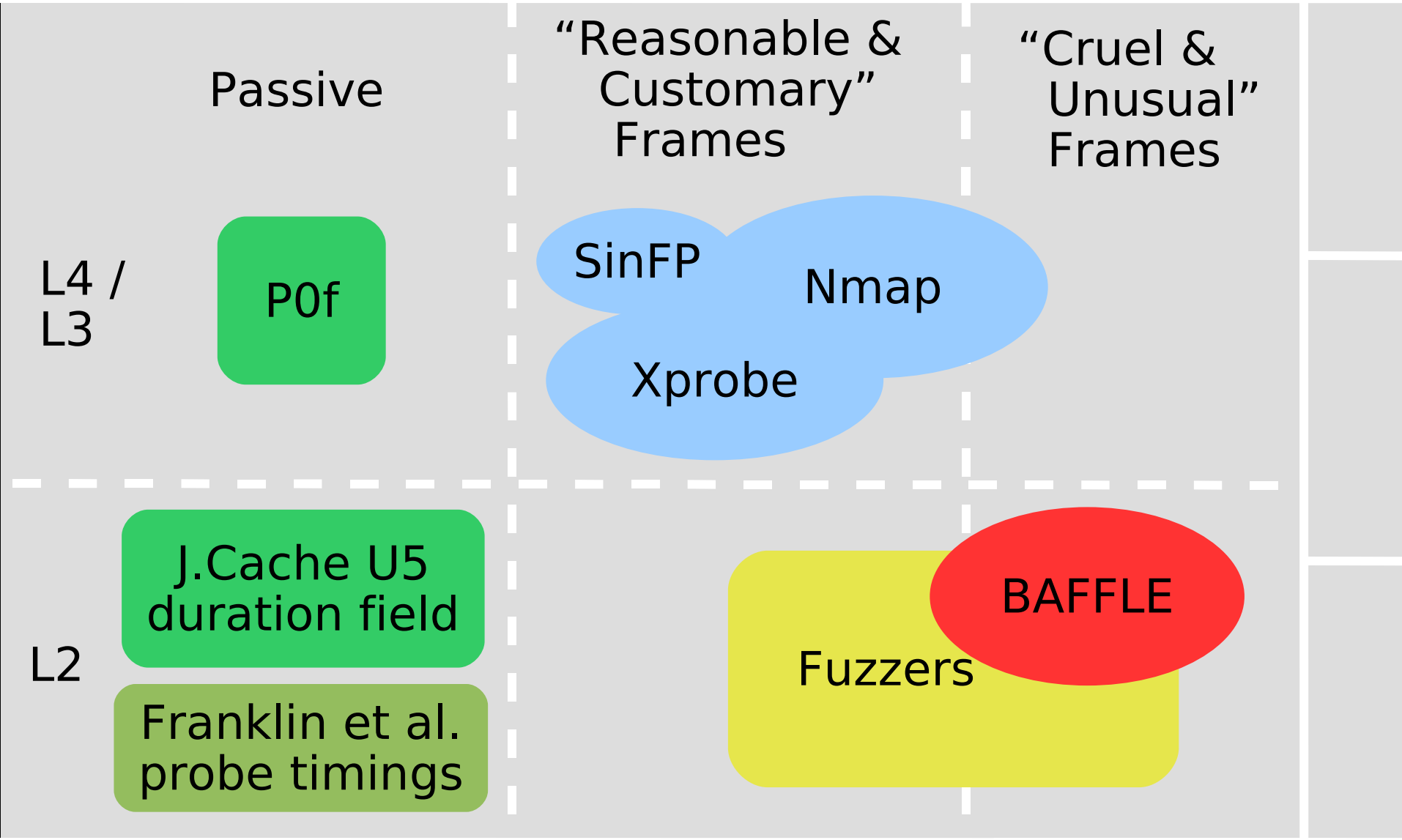


TCP/IP fingerprinting

L3, need an L2 connection

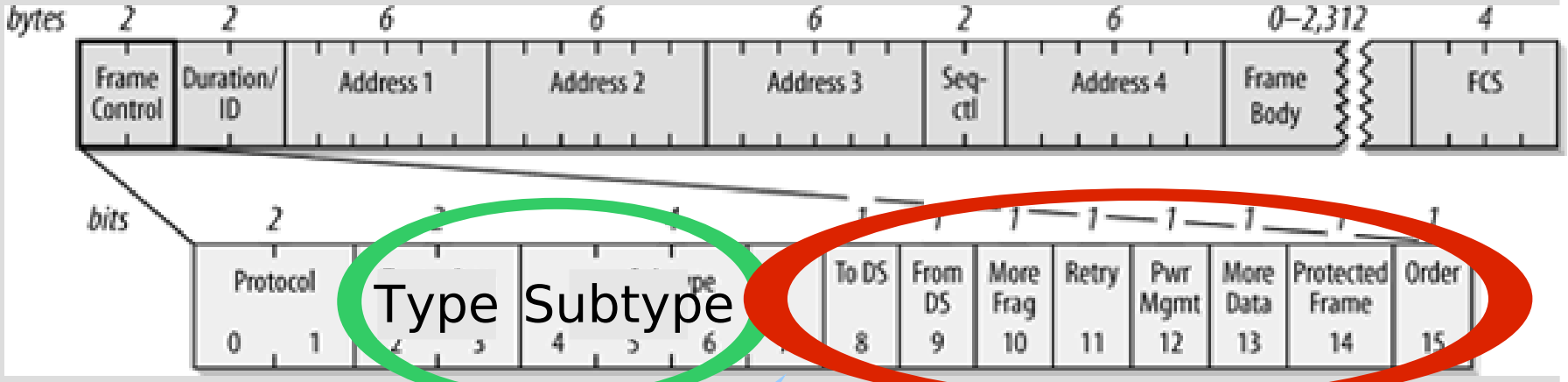
- **Nmap** (1998-2006, ...)
- **Xprobe** (2001, 2005, ...)
- **P0f** (2000, 2006)
- **SinFP** (2005)
- Timing-related: *Ping RTT* (2003), *Clock Skew* (2005)

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

BAFFLE

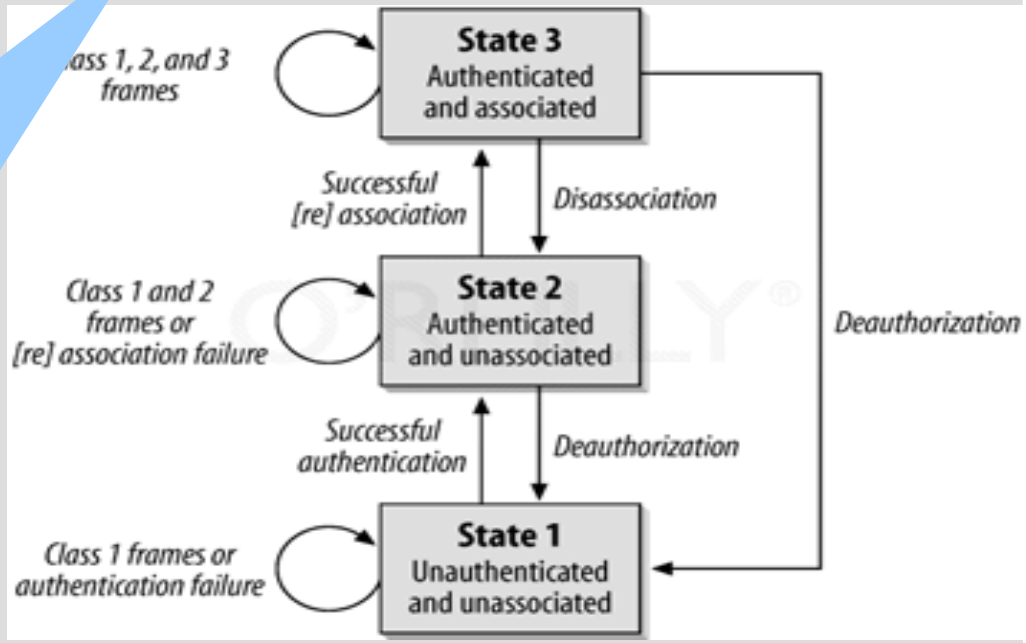
- Written in Ruby 1.8.2
- Ruby LORCON bindings from Metasploit
- Builds Pcap/BPF filters for 802.11 frames from Ruby objects
- Domain-specific language for tests, probes, and for matching responses

Bits and states



Not all flags make sense for all types & subtypes

Not all flags make sense for all states



802.11 fiddly bits

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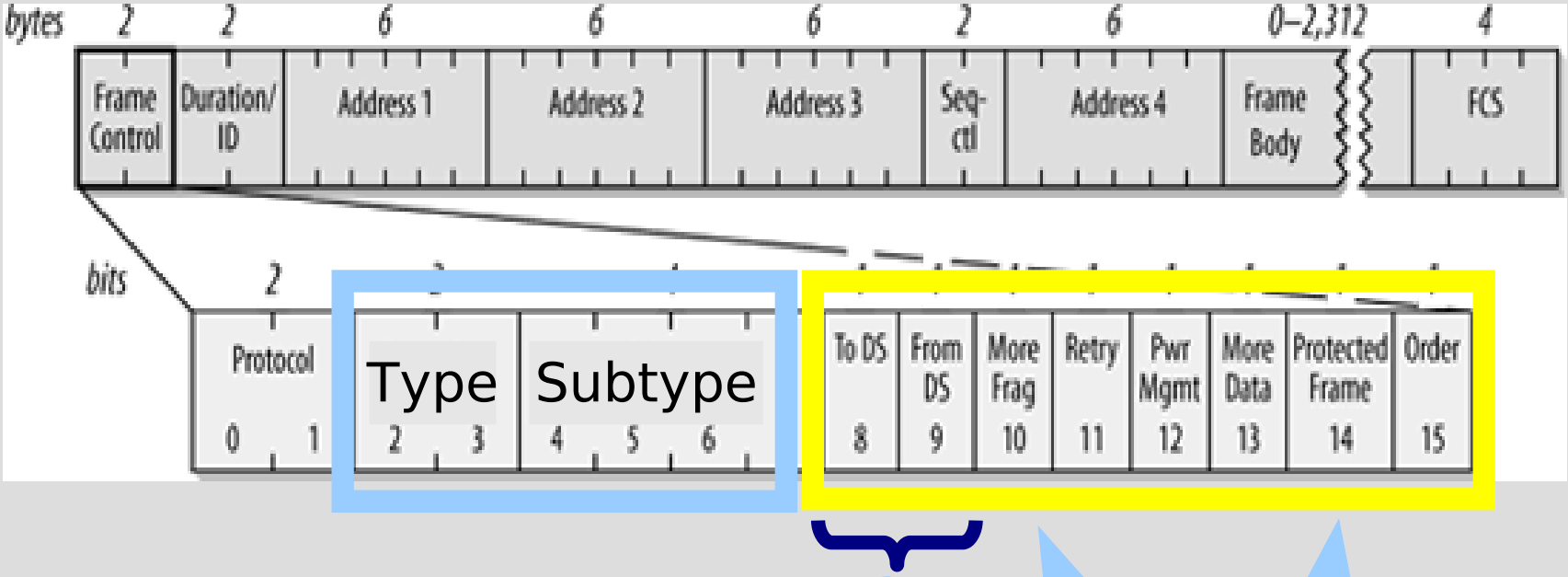

Only 0 makes sense on Mgmt & Ctrl frames

Unusual on Probes

Not for Mgmt frames

So many flags...

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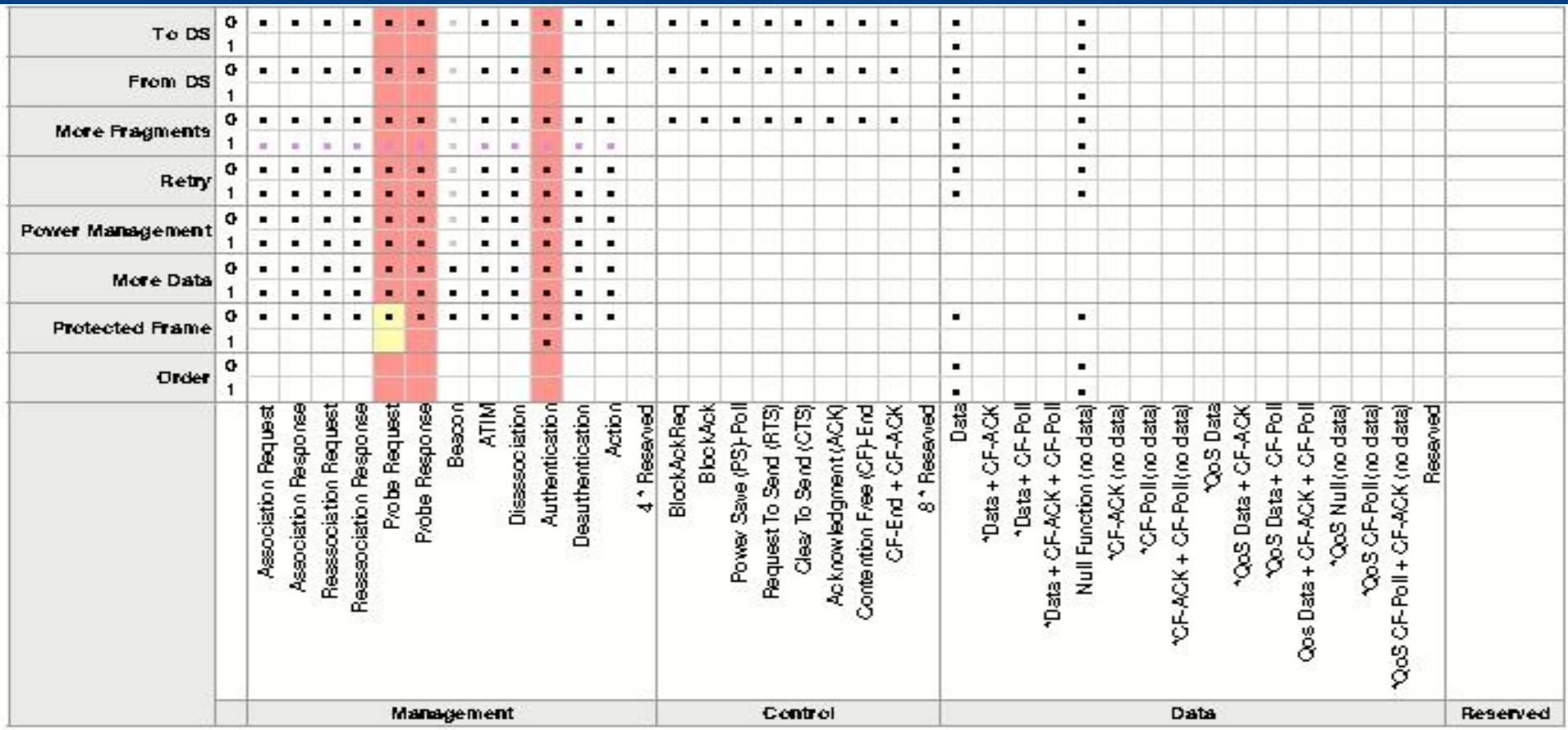

Legend

- 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

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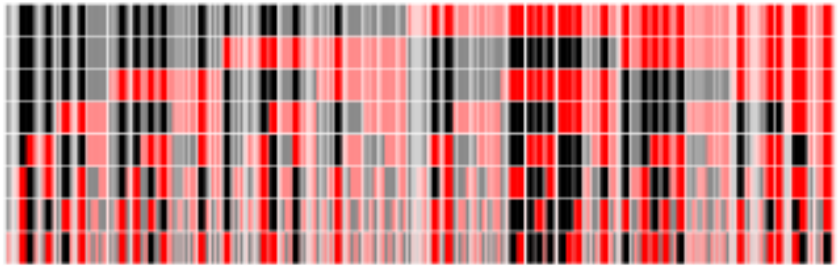
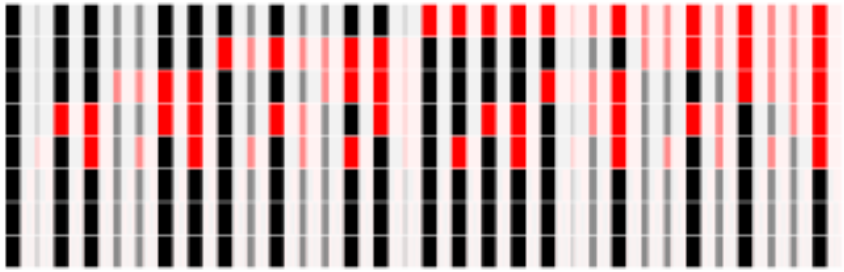
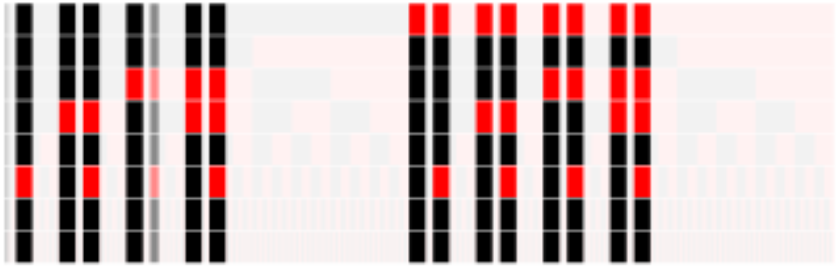


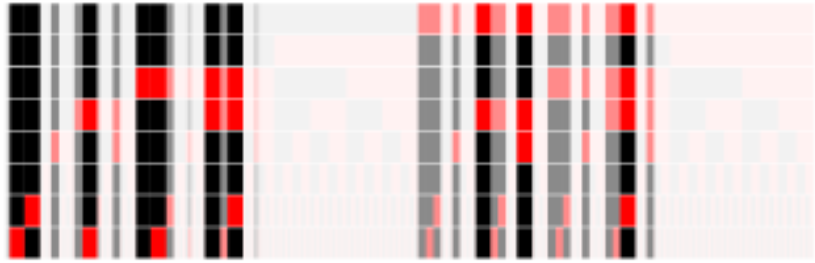
Cisco-Linksys WRT54g *ProbeFCTest*



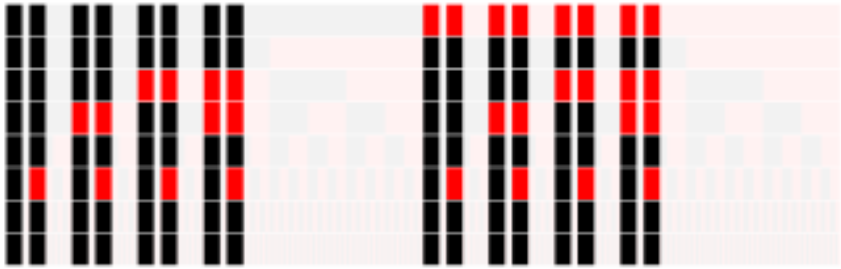
Extrasys WAP-257 *ProbeFCTest*



Madwifi-ng soft AP *ProbeFCTest*



Hostap soft AP *ProbeFCTest*



Aruba OpenWRT *ProbeFCTest*

Auth Request tests

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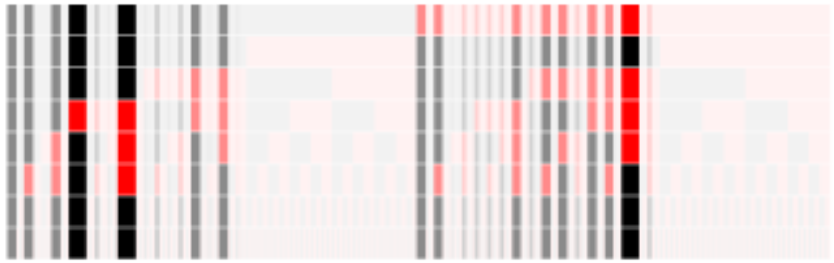
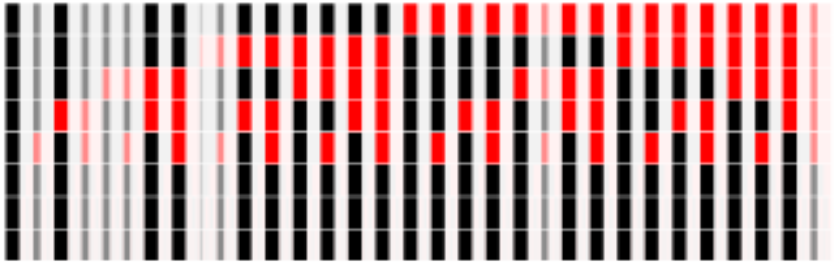
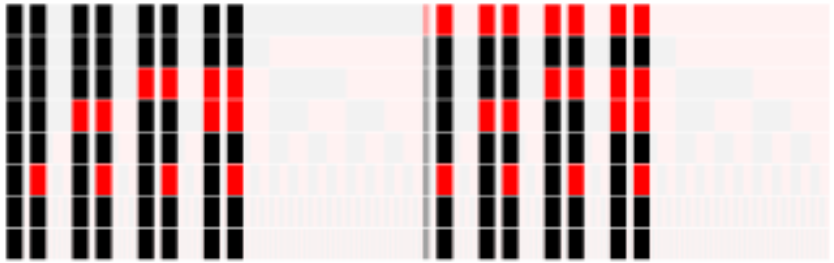


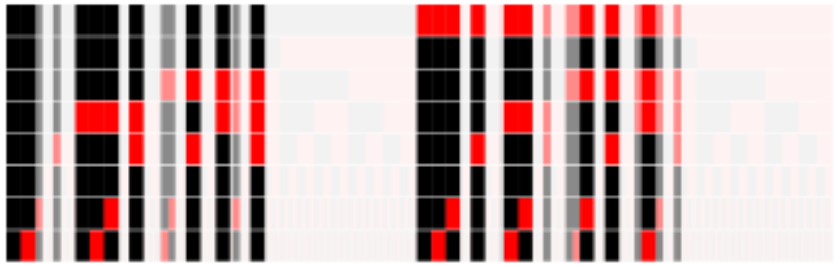
Cisco-Linksys WRT54g *AuthFCTest*



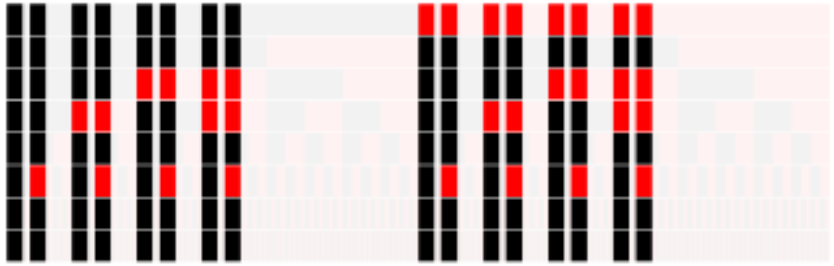
Extrasys WAP-257 *AuthFCTest*



Madwifi-ng soft AP *AuthFCTest*



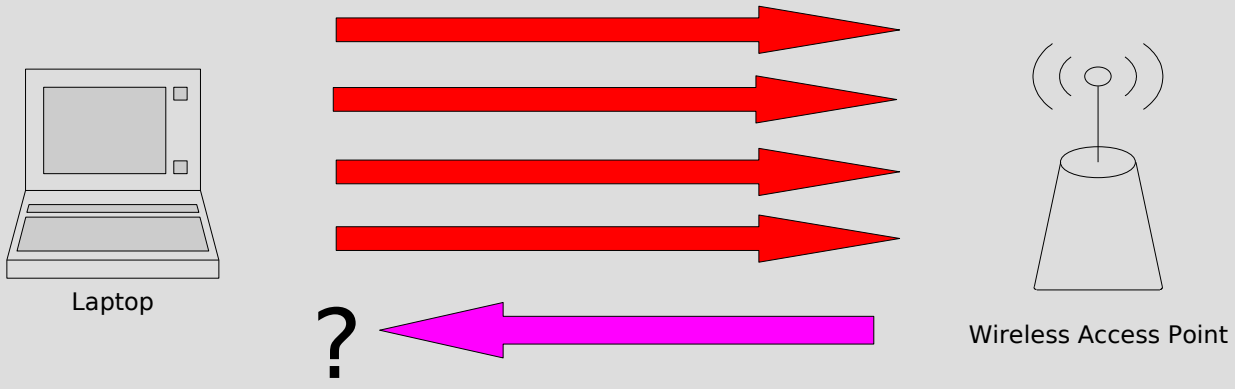
Hostap soft AP *AuthFCTest*



Aruba OpenWRT *AuthFCTest*

“Secret handshake”

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



Timing

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

AP beacon clock skew

- 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

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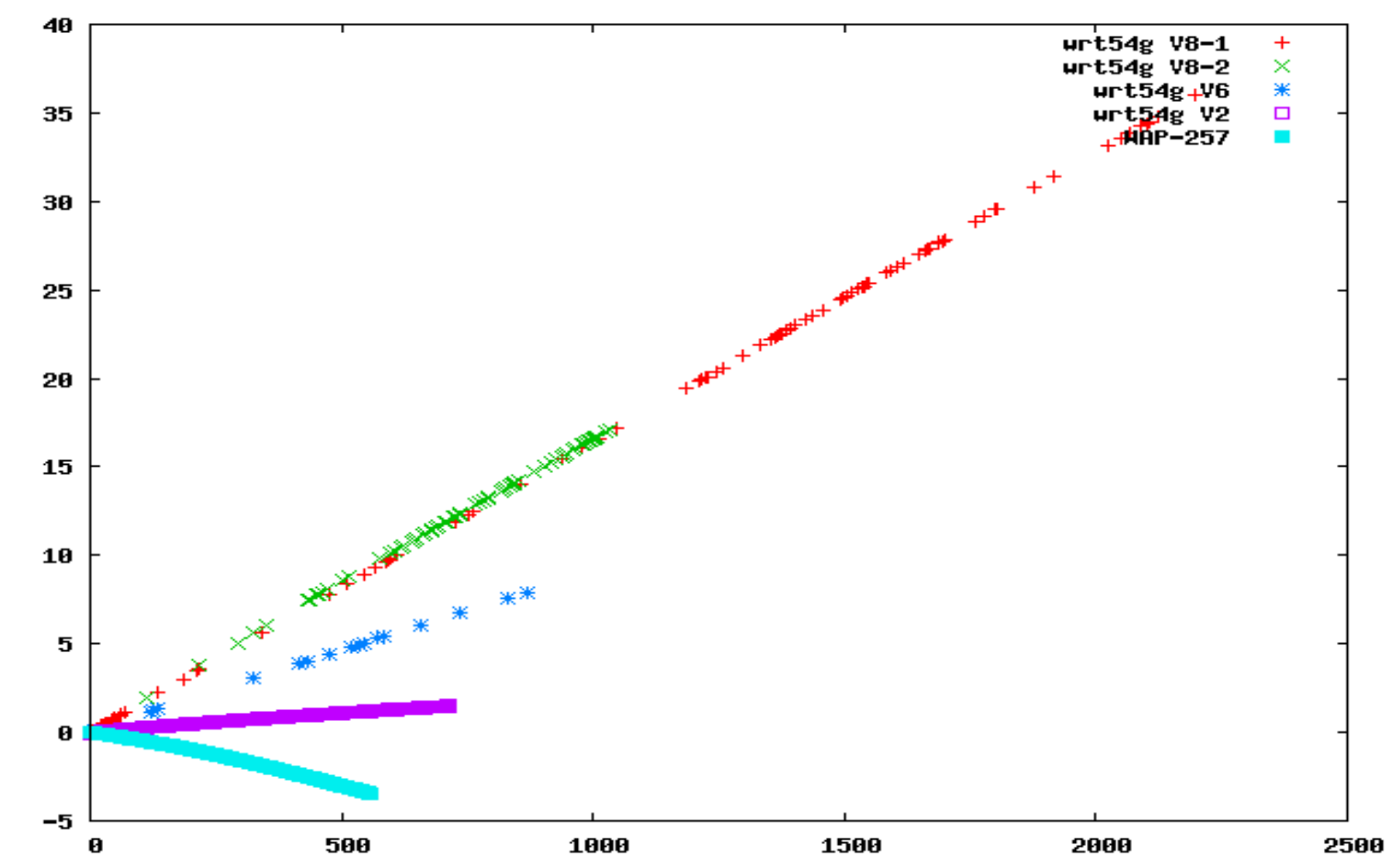
AP Time



Sensor Time

AP beacon clock skew

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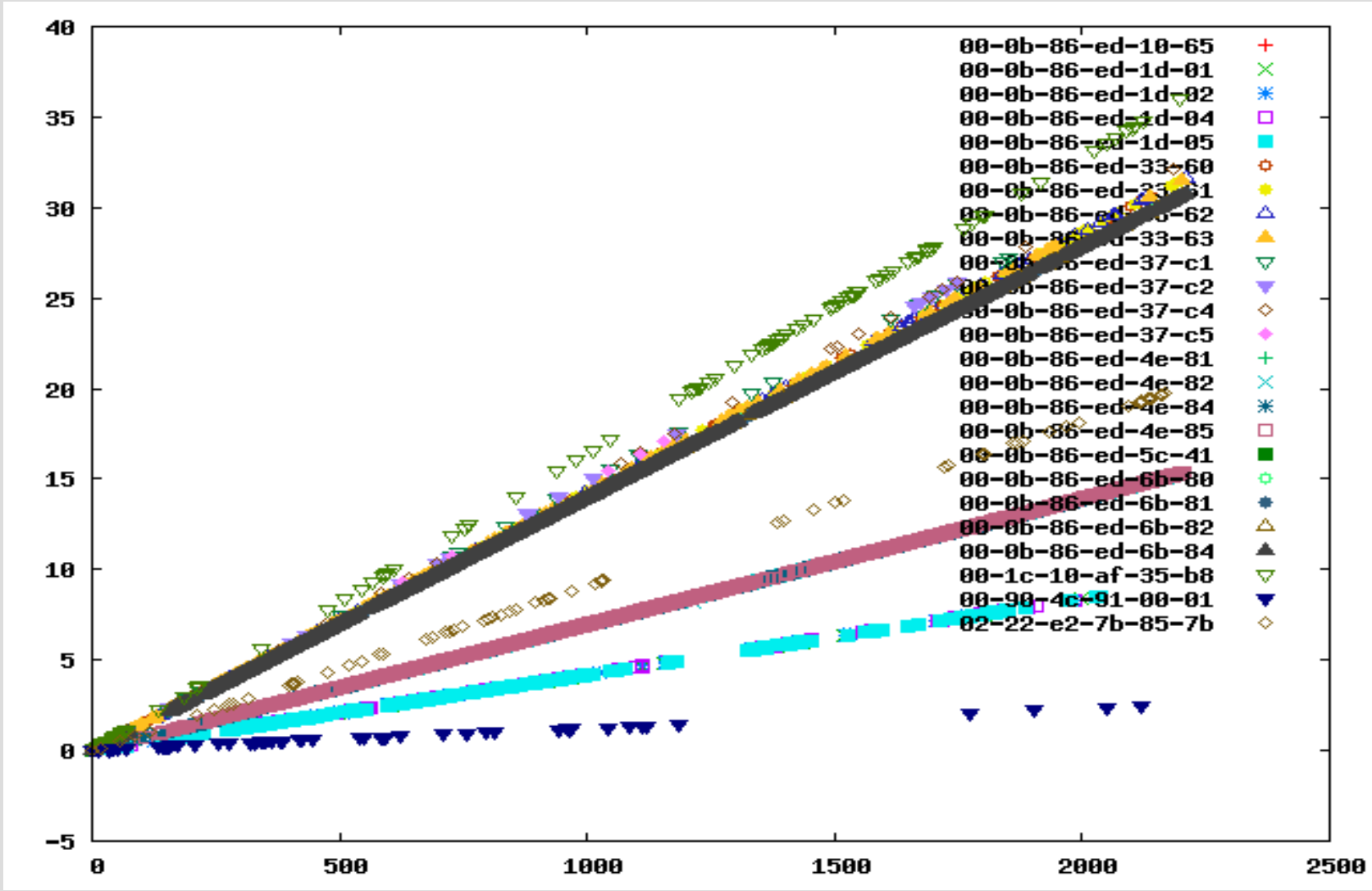

Source & Thanks

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)

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