

# Wi-Fi PNLs

Assessing & Evaluating Risk

# Setting the stage

Explosion in mobile devices as well as  
laptops with wi-fi

User convenience nearly always prioritized  
over security

# Understanding Risk

*"The potential that a given threat will exploit vulnerabilities of an asset or group of assets and thereby cause harm to the organization".*

# Risk

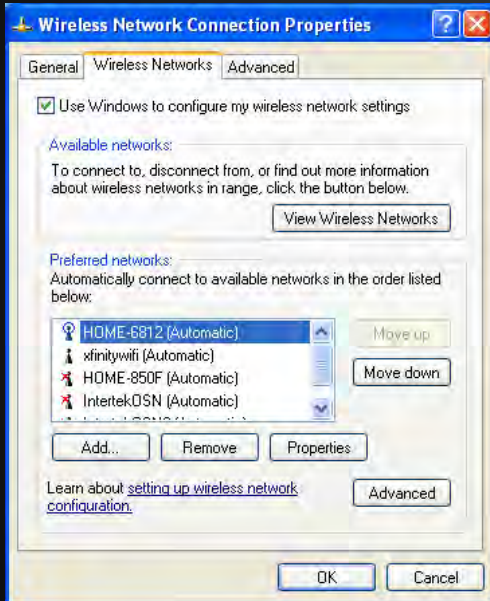
Threats  
+  
Vulnerabilities



# Risk



# What are PNLs?



- List of known wi-fi networks the client has connected to in the past and is willing to connect to again
- Local client repository

# Wi-Fi PNL Behavior

- Wi-fi devices send 802.11 probe requests for networks periodically
- Probe requests search for networks on the devices PNL



# Wi-fi Methods

- **Passive Discovery** : Listen for beacon frames transmitted from the AP
- **Active Discovery**: Send probe requests to AP to gather beacon frame info
- **Monitor Mode Capture**: Capture packets to AP and clients (totally passive!)



# Wi-fi Tools

Alfa Wireless Card (AWUS051NH)

Kali Linux VM, incl:

- Aircrack-ng suite
  - Kismet
- Wireshark

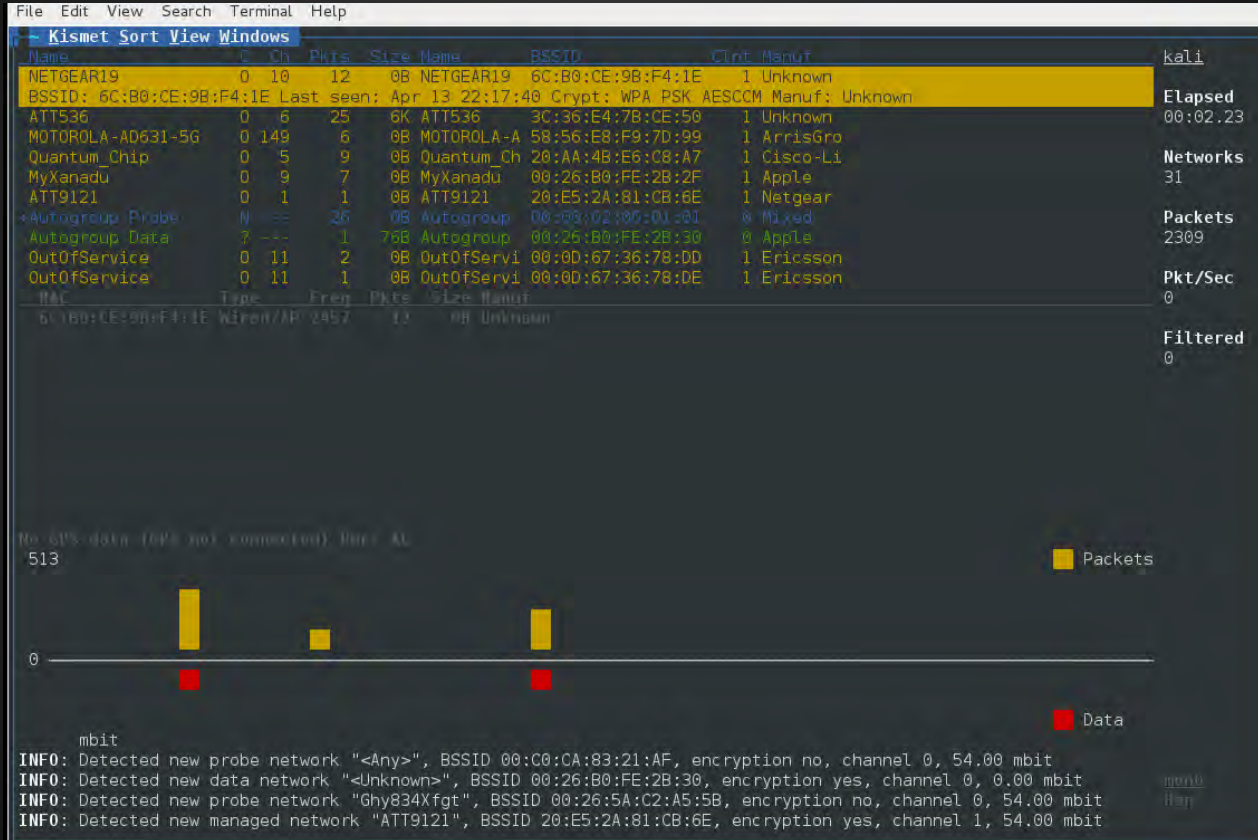
# Wi-Fi Quick Primer

## 802.11 Probe Requests & Responses

Client -----probe request----> AP

Client <-----probe response---- AP

# Kismet



# Kismet (cont.)

```
File Edit View Search Terminal Help
Network View
19
0
Data Packets: 0
Mgmt Packets: 1
Crypt Packets: 0
  Fragments: 0/sec
  Retries: 0/sec
  Data Size: 0B
  Seen By: mon0 (mon0) b6952804-e250-11e4-954a-74049c1e7a01
           Apr 13 22:49:16

  Name: gruezi
  BSSID: 80:E6:50:0D:02:92
  Manuf: Unknown
  First Seen: Apr 13 22:49:36
  Last Seen: Apr 13 22:49:36
  Type: Probe (Client)
  Channel: No channel identifying information seen
  Frequency: 2422 (3) - 1 packets, 100.00%

  SSID: gruezi
  Length: 6
  Type: Request (searching client)
  Encryption: None (Open)

  Signal: -85dBm (max -85dBm)
  Noise: 0dBm (max -256dBm)
  Packets: 1
  Data Packets: 0
  Mgmt Packets: 1
  Crypt Packets: 0
  Fragments: 0/sec
```

# Airodump-ng

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

CH 9 [] Elapsed: 36 s [] [REDACTED]

BSSID	PWR	Beacons	#Data, #/s	CH	MB	ENC	CIPHER	AUTH	ESSID
00:25:00:FF:94:73	-1	0	0 0	-1	-1				<length: 0>
01:1F:A1:36:80:D1	-64	1	0 0	-1	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	chiron
01:D1:80:36:A1:10	-58	1	0 0	-1	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	184E-Guest- [REDACTED]
01:C1:50:D9:28:82	-33	6	3 0	1	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	[REDACTED]
01:E6:25:26:52:89	-50	3	0 0	6	54	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	Damana
01:00:80:36:A1:11	-61	3	0 0	11	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	[REDACTED]
01:01:1F:A1:36:80:D0	-63	3	0 0	11	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	chiron
01:21:4E:7F:1C:2E:DE	-66	1	0 0	6	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	Ghy834Xfgt
01:01:07:7F:74:99:92:58	-68	3	0 0	11	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	Quantum_Chip2
01:03:36:E4:7B:CE:50	-73	3	2 0	6	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	ATT536
01:01:02:26:B0:FE:2B:2F	-78	7	0 0	9	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	MyXanadu
01:01:0D:EB:97:AE:BE:1F	-70	2	0 0	11	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	[REDACTED]
01:01:00:2B:5C:C0:F8	-81	2	0 0	11	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	Seltzer
01:01:05:56:25:A4:39:29	-84	3	0 0	11	54	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	2WIRE175
01:01:01:35:8B:00:10:08	-79	2	0 0	8	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	beer
01:01:01:54:A5:E5:0C:40	-78	6	2 0	1	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	HOME-909F-2.4
01:01:01:54:A5:E5:0C:41	-77	6	0 0	1	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	<length: 0>
01:01:01:56:E8:F9:7D:98	-76	6	0 0	1	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	MOTOROLA-AD631
01:01:01:01:16:19:47:19:F0	-69	4	0 0	7	54e	WPA2	CCMP	PSK	ATT392

BSSID	STATION	PWR	Rate	Lost	Frames	Probe
00:25:00:FF:94:73	01:01:01:A2:C2:89:02:AB	-66	0 - 6	0	2	
(not associated)	01:01:01:C0:CA:83:21:AF	0	0 - 6	0	13	
(not associated)	01:01:01:01:D1:73:B4:85:C1	-78	0 - 1	0	7	Anchovie
01:03:36:E4:7B:CE:50	01:01:01:01:18:D1:71:72:9B	-1	0e- 0	0	1	
01:03:36:E4:7B:CE:50	01:01:01:01:21:4E:7F:1C:2E:DE	-1	0e- 0	0	1	

# PNLs & Devices

- With PNL behavior across many devices, it is fairly easy to convince a client to connect to rogue or evil twin ap
- Disclosure of full PNL curtailed by vuln disclosures (in some cases)
- Each device/os has different abilities to manage the PNL (Apple ios = nothing)

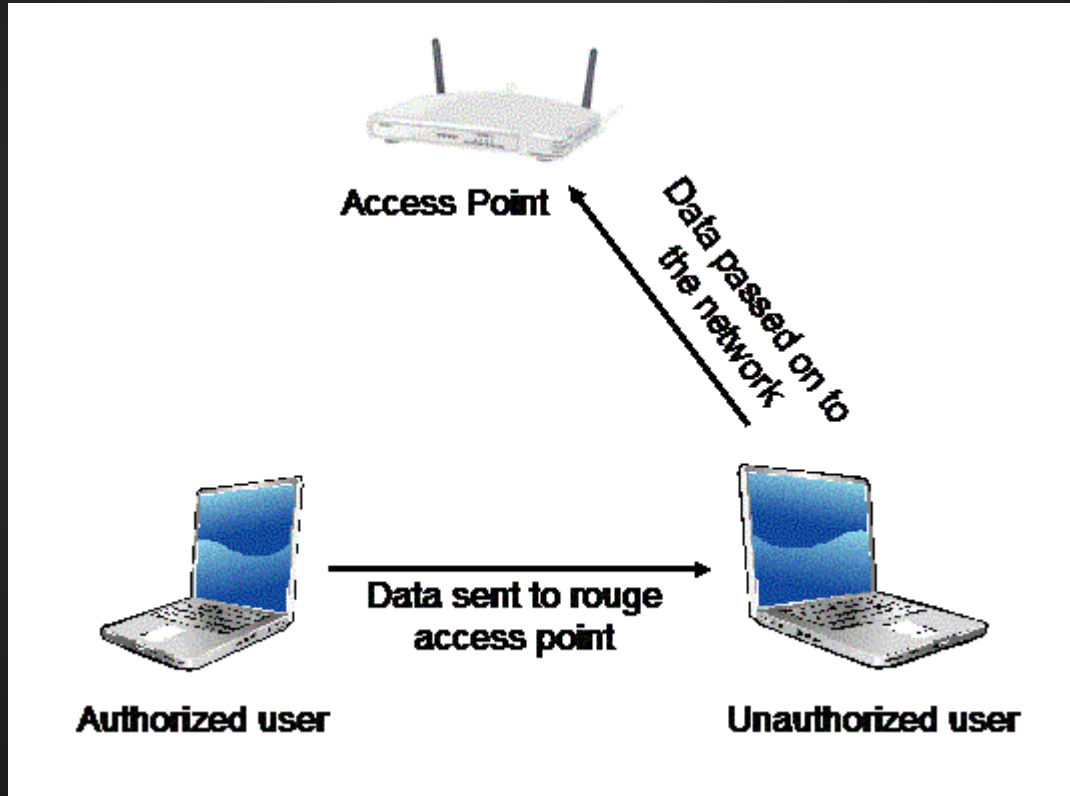
# Exploiting PNLs

Karma - ~2005 published and highly visible to impersonate AP (Evil Twin)

Manna - Intelligent Rogue

Credential Harvesting - Capture enterprise creds to use elsewhere

# MitM





# PNL Rich Environs

Coffee Shops

Airports

On airplanes

Universities

Malls

# Exploiting PNLs

What else can I do with the PNL information?!

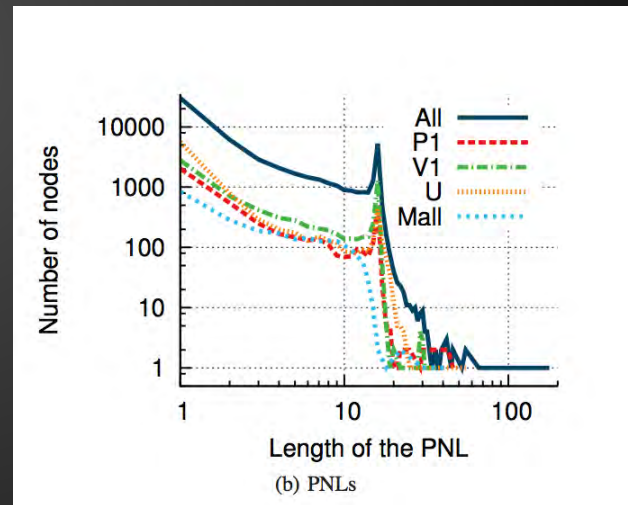
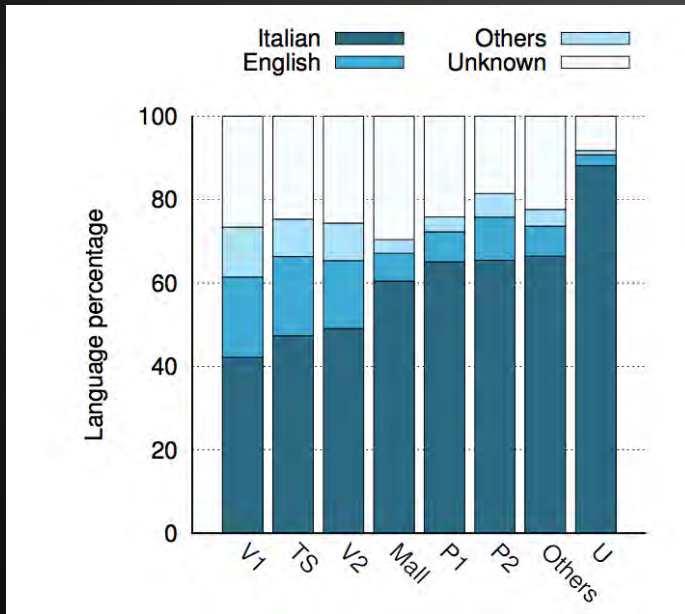


# Other goodies



# Other goodies, cont.

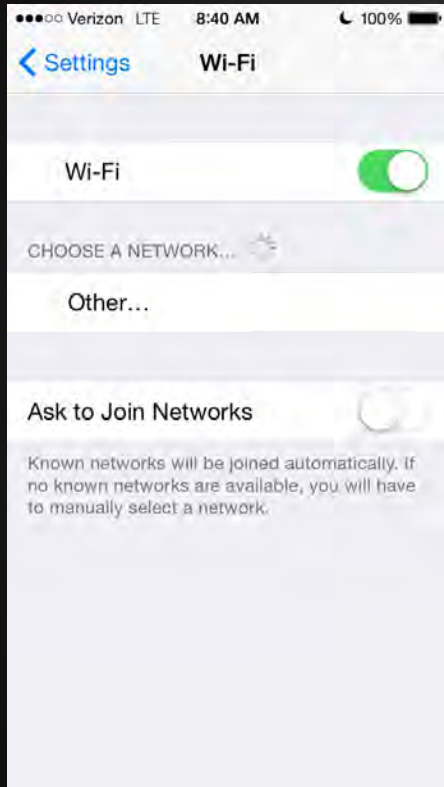
*Signals from the Crowd: Uncovering Social Relationships through Smartphone Probes*



# Risk Options

- AVOID the risk
- MITIGATE the risk
- TRANSFER the risk
- ACCEPT the risk

# Mitigate the risk



- Educate users
  - Avoid open APs
- Always use VPN
- SSL
  - even this has risks
- Disable auto-connect
- Change IEEE 802.11?!

# Risk: Redux

- Importance of providing accurate risk assessment to org leaders
  - Work with facts and objective data
  - Explain risks and clear language
  - Tie to events in the news
  - Evaluate what peer orgs are doing
  - Use metrics & graphs

Q&A  
Discussion



# References & Links+

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<http://forums.imore.com/ios-6/260534-how-clear-wifi-network-preferred-list.html>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=szroUxCD13I>

<https://www.defcon.org/images/defcon-22/dc-22-presentations/White-deVilliers/DEFCON-22-Dominic-White-Ian-de-Villiers-Manna-from-Heaven-Detailed-UPDATED.pdf>

Vivek's SecurityTube Website - "MegaPrimer"

Cyberwire

Bsides

RSA

ISSA [http://www.issaef.org/active\\_scholarship](http://www.issaef.org/active_scholarship)