FORESCOUT

SYNACKTIV
DIGITAL SECURITY

LIVE:
SECURITY PEN TEST

Exploring the Limitations of 802.1x and Beyond

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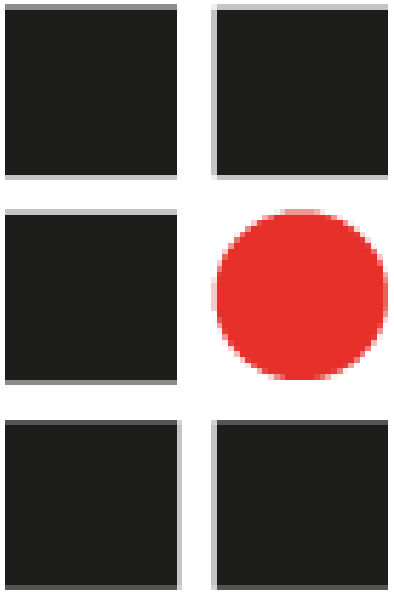
Infosecurity Europe, 4th June 2019

About Synacktiv



- Consulting company in offensive security
  - French and independent
  - Specializing in performing penetration tests and security audits
  - 54 employees including 50 security experts
- Came across Forescout during penetration testing

Physical and Logical Penetration Testing

Key steps of a physical and logical penetration test:

1. Physical intrusion on companies' premises often simple
2. Connection of a miniature implant

3. Establishing a communication channel (HTTPS, DNS, Wi-Fi hotspot, 3G/4G, SMS, etc.)
4. Intrusion of the internal network

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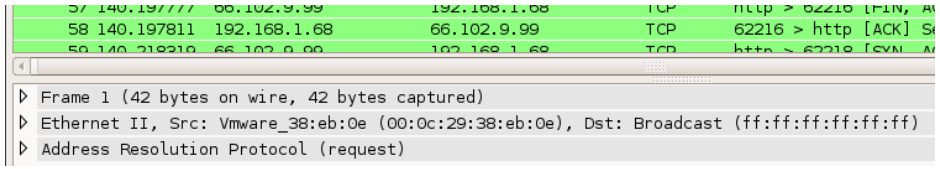
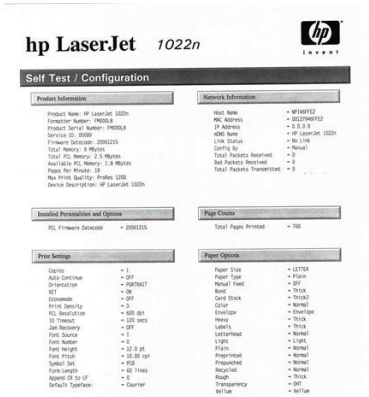
MAC Address Filtering

- MAC (Media Access Control) address: unique identifier of the network card

- Bypass
  - Discovery via network sniffing… or just reading the label!





  - Edition simple on the attacker device

```
$ ip link set eth0 address 00:16:A5:CB:88:57
```

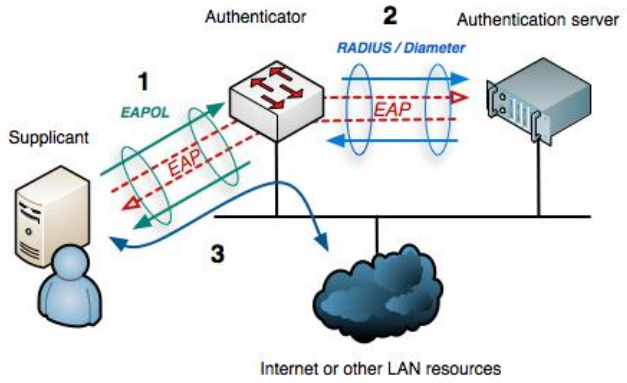
- Filtering often used because simple to deploy and sometimes, the only supported solution

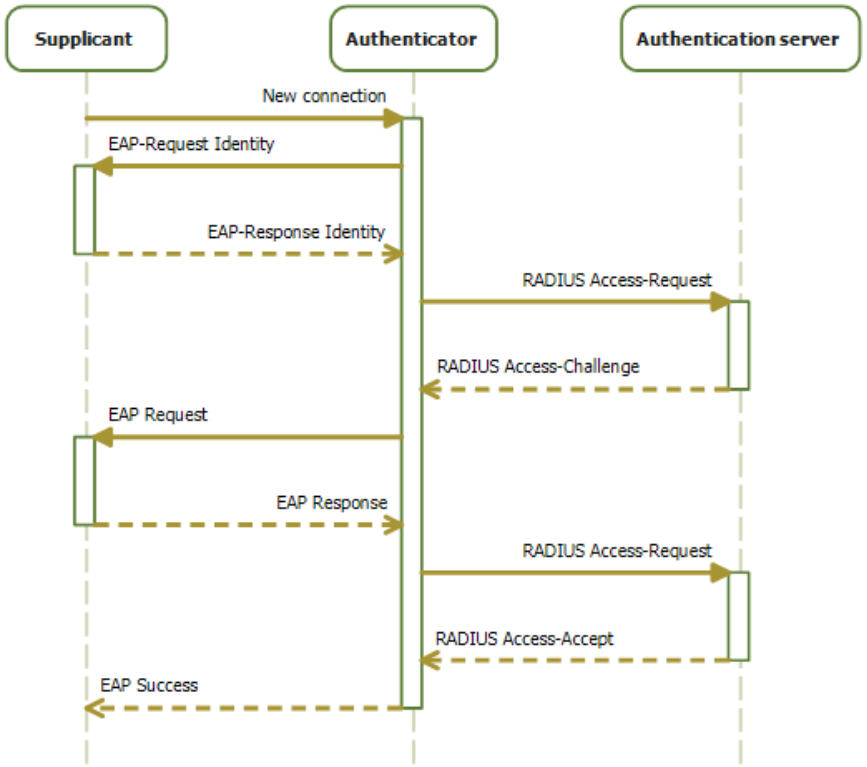
- Inoperable in large scale infrastructure and difficult to maintain

- The recommendation is to implement 802.1x

802.1x Protocol

- IEEE standard requesting an authentication to allow accessing the switch ports



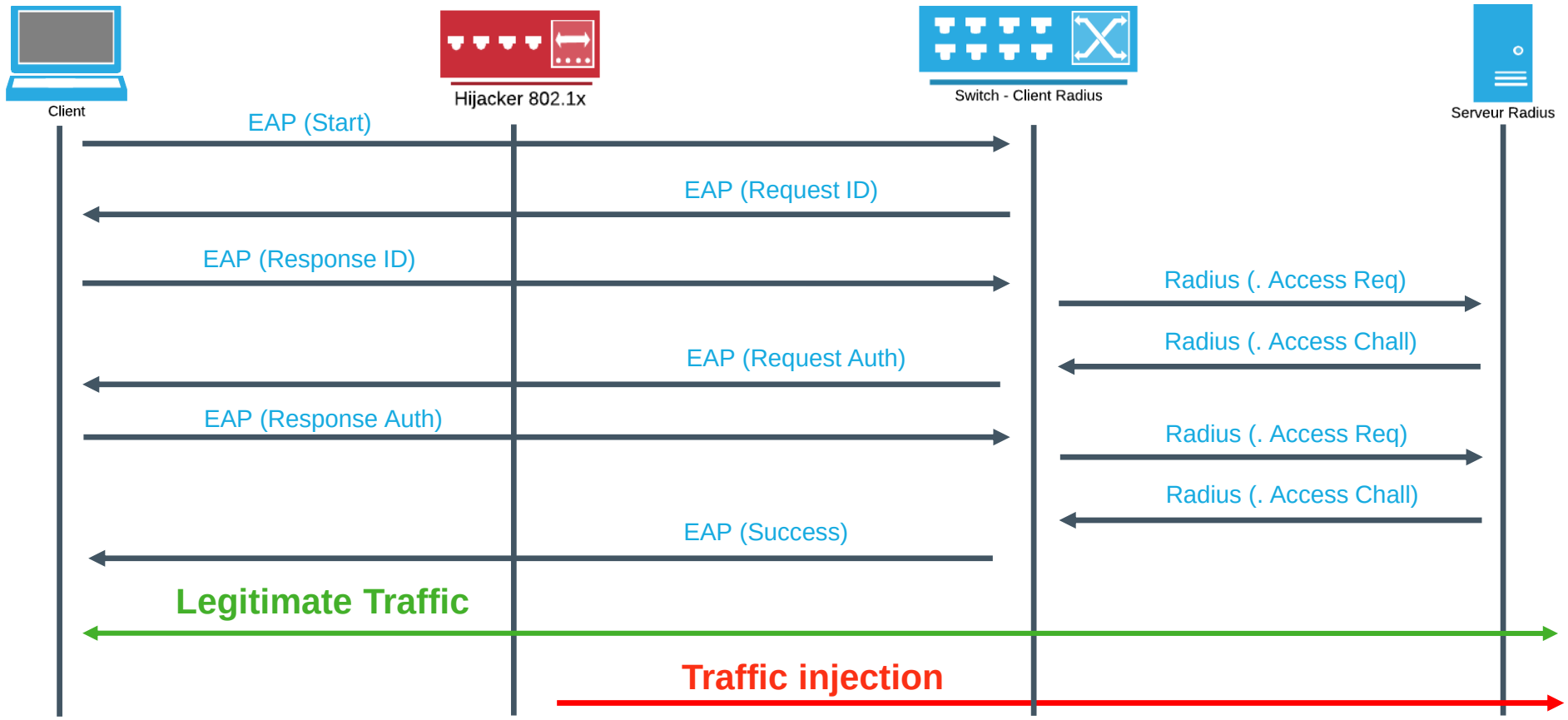


- Not supported by every device
  - IoT, printers, card readers, IP cameras, etc.
- Robust?
- Improved by 802.1AE (MACsec)
  - But not widely supported

Man In The Middle on 802.1x

- Man In The Middle attack
  - Connection between the legitimate client and the switch
    - Frames are transparently forwarded
    - Especially the 802.1x authentication frames
- Injection of malicious packets within the legitimate traffic
  - By pretending to be the client
  - Possible due to the absence of packets authentication
- Recommendation to regularly request the authentication is useless

Man In The Middle on 802.1x



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Live Demo