CS161 Fall 2025

Introduction to Computer Security

Discussion 9

Q1 DHCP and ARP (6 points)

Recall that DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) is responsible for setting up configurations when a computer first joins a local network.

Assume that Alice wants to connect to the network, but she's missing a configuration. You want to supply a forged configuration to Alice, causing packets that she intends to send to the network to be sent to you instead.

For this part, assume that your computer has IP address 10.10.10.66 and the network's router and DHCP server have IP address 10.10.10.5. There are no other machines on the network and there are no reserved or private IP addresses.

Q1.1 (1 point) Alice broadcasts a request for a configuration to everyone.

you instead?	
	the correct router's IP address in your forged configurations exist in the DHCP protocol that would still allow you to be
a man in the initial attacker:	

Now recall that ARP, the Address Resolution Protocol, translates Layer 3 IP addresses into Layer 2 MAC addresses.

For this part, imagine that Alice has successfully obtained a configuration from the network's router and now she wants to communicate with Bob, whose computer is on the same LAN network.

Alice knows Bob's IP address but wants to learn his MAC address. You want to convince Alice that your MAC address (and not Bob's) corresponds to Bob's IP address, causing messages intended for Bob to be sent to you instead. You, Alice, and Bob are part of the same LAN network and, apart from the router, there are no other machines on the network.

(Question 1 continued)
Assume that:
Your computer has I
• Alice's IP address is

- Your computer has IP address 10.10.10.66 and your MAC address is 66:66:66:66:66:66
- Alice's IP address is 10.10.10.77 and her MAC address is 77:77:77:77:77
- Bob's IP address is 10.10.10.88 and his MAC address is 88:88:88:88:88
- The network router's IP address is 10.10.10.5 and its MAC address is 99:99:99:99:99:99

Q1.3	(1 point) Alice broadcasts to everyone else on the LAN: "What is the MAC address of 10.10.10.88?" Recall that 10.10.10.88 corresponds to Bob's IP address.		
	What values for the IP and MAC address could you include in your response to Alice to cause her messages intended for Bob to be sent to you instead?		
Q1.4	(1 point) How would your spoofed response to Alice change if Bob was outside the LAN that you and Alice are both part of?		
Q1.5	(1 point) Which defenses exist against such an ARP-spoofing attack?		
Q1.6	(1 point) You decide to use a network switch to prevent further ARP spoof attacks.		
	Explain how a network switch prevents such attacks in the following two cases: (1) the switch knows Bob's IP to MAC address mapping and (2) the switch does not know Bob's IP to MAC address mapping.		

Q2 WPA2-PSK (6 points)

Recall that WPA2-PSK (Wi-Fi Protected Access: Pre-Shared Key) is a protocol that enables secure communications over a Wi-Fi network by encrypting messages with cryptography.

For each of the following questions, assume that Mallory is trying to attack a Wi-Fi network secured with the standard WPA2-PSK protocol.

Q2.1	(1 point) How do the access point and the client derive the PSK (Pre-Shared Key)?				
Q2.2	(1 point) Assume that Mallory can observe the unencrypted data sent as part of the 4-way WPA handshakes between the clients and the access point. Which values does Mallory need to observe to perform a brute-force search for the Wi-Fi password? Select all that apply.				
	ANonce	☐ Network SSID			
	SNonce	MICs			
	☐ The access point's MAC address	☐ GTK			
	☐ The client's MAC address	☐ ACK			
Q2.3		o masquerade as the access point in order to launch a is trying to join the Wi-Fi network. How can Mallory point?			
Q2.4	(1 point) What can Mallory do after successful apply.	lly brute-forcing the Wi-Fi password? Select all that			
	Perform on-path network attacks agains	t victims in the same Wi-Fi network.			
	☐ Decrypt network traffic encrypted with	the PTK of a user who joins the network after you.			
	☐ Decrypt network traffic encrypted with	the GTK.			
	☐ Decrypt TLS network traffic.				
	O None of the above				

(Question 2 continued)
Q2.5 (1 point) Assume that Mallory can brute-force the Wi-Fi password in roughly an hour. Which defenses would stop this attack? Select all that apply.
☐ Changing the Wi-Fi password every day.
☐ Using WPA2-Enterprise.
☐ A modern NIDS (network-based intrusion detection system).
☐ None of the above.
Q2.6 (1 point) Does WPA-Enterprise offer forward secrecy? If it does, explain how forward secrecy is achieved. If it does not, explain how Mallory can recover the shared PTK (Pairwise Transport Key after the handshake is complete.