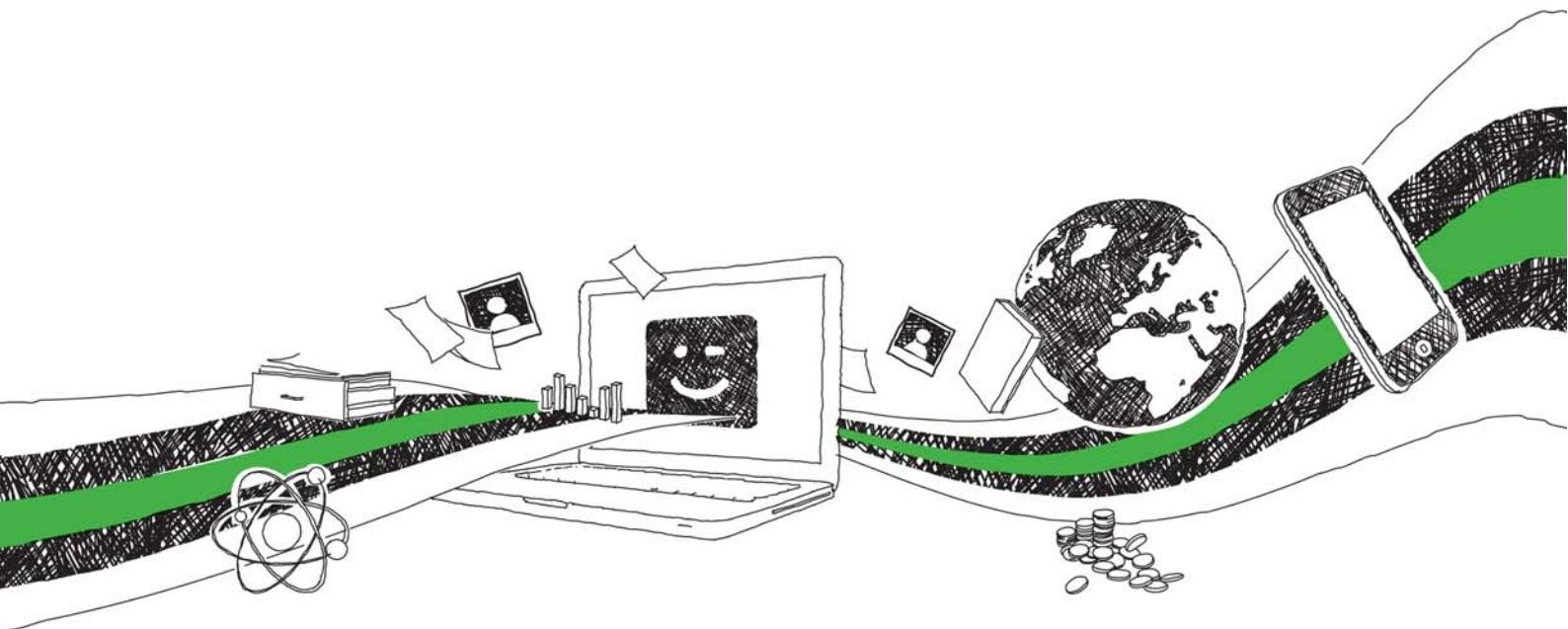


Christian Wimmer

Wireless LAN Security in a SOHO Environment: A Holistic Approach

Bachelor Thesis

YOUR KNOWLEDGE HAS VALUE



- We will publish your bachelor's and master's thesis, essays and papers
- Your own eBook and book - sold worldwide in all relevant shops
- Earn money with each sale

Upload your text at www.GRIN.com
and publish for free

Wireless LAN Security in a SOHO Environment: A Holistic Approach

Christian Manfred Wimmer

A project submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
University of Wales award of B.Sc. (Hons) in Computing &
Information Technology,
School of Computing & Communications Technology
North East Wales Institute, Wrexham

May 2006

I. Acknowledgements

I would like to thank my flatmate *Klaus Schedlbauer* for proof reading this paper and for just being there whenever I needed him. Thanks also go to *Jürgen Pörsch* for helping me to start this project and for the idea to study in Newi and to *Nicole Gebert* for inspiring me.

Special thanks go to my project supervisor *John McGinn* who was always there when I needed him and was always helping me, without him this project would not be what it is. *Günter Zweck*, my stepfather, without his support I would not be where I am now.

Finally I would like to acknowledge *Anton Braun* and *Keshav Srinivasan*, my colleges from overseas, who sacrificed some of their free time to proof-read this paper.

II. Contents

I.	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	2
II.	CONTENTS	3
III.	LIST OF FIGURES	6
IV.	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	7
V.	ABSTRACT	9
1.	INTRODUCTION	10
2.	LITERATURE REVIEW	11
3.	METHODOLOGY	16
3.1.	TIMETABLE AND LOG-KEEPING	17
3.2.	THE ARTEFACT	17
3.3.	METHODOLOGY REFLECTION	18
4.	WLAN BASICS	19
4.1.	THE IEEE STANDARDS	19
4.2.	RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE WI-FI ALLIANCE AND THE IEEE	21
4.3.	WLAN ARCHITECTURE	22
4.3.1.	<i>Independent / Ad-Hoc</i>	23
4.3.2.	<i>Infrastructure</i>	23
5.	SECURITY	24
5.1.	SECURITY OBJECTIVES	24
5.2.	WLAN SECURITY	25
5.3.	WEP ARCHITECTURE	27
5.3.1.	<i>How WEP works</i>	27
5.3.2.	<i>WEP – why it doesn't work</i>	30
5.3.3.	<i>WEP Summary</i>	31
5.4.	NEW SECURITY: 802.11i AND WPA	32
5.4.1.	<i>Temporal Key Integrity Protocol (TKIP)</i>	32
5.4.2.	<i>What is WPA?</i>	33
5.4.3.	<i>Counter Mode with CBC-MAC and Robust Secure Networks</i>	34
5.4.4.	<i>Mixed Mode – Transitional Security Network (TSN)</i>	35
5.4.5.	<i>802.11i Summary</i>	35
5.5.	INTERIM AND EXTRA SECURITY SOLUTIONS	36
5.5.1.	<i>VPN and IPsec</i>	36
5.5.2.	<i>SSL and SSH</i>	36

5.5.3. <i>Other alternatives</i>	37
5.6. A BAD SECURITY EXAMPLE: NINTENDO DS	38
6. WIRELESS LAN PENETRATION TEST – AN EXPERIMENT	40
6.1. ASSEMBLING THE GEAR	40
6.2. GATHERING BASIC INFORMATION	41
6.3. ATTACKING WEP	41
6.4. GETTING PAST THE MAC FILTER	43
6.5. GETTING NETWORK SETTINGS.....	43
6.6. CONCLUSION	43
7. PHYSICAL LAYER SECURITY	45
7.1. FREQUENCIES AND THEIR USE.....	45
7.1.1. <i>2.4 GHz WLAN technology</i>	45
7.1.2. <i>5GHz WLAN technology</i>	46
7.1.3. <i>Advantages and Disadvantages of the frequencies</i>	46
7.2. HOW WLAN SIGNAL STRENGTH IS MEASURED	47
7.3. HOW THE SIGNAL IS AFFECTED	48
7.3.1. <i>Straight-Line Losses</i>	48
7.3.2. <i>Interference</i>	49
7.3.3. <i>Practical Test: Microwave ovens versus WLANs</i>	51
7.4. ANTENNAS AND THEIR IRRADIATION PATTERNS	51
7.4.1. <i>Dipole Antennas</i>	51
7.4.2. <i>Directional Antennas</i>	52
7.4.3. <i>Antenna size matters</i>	53
8. EXPERIMENTS.....	54
8.1. GENERAL ISSUES	54
8.1.1. <i>Hardware and Software Configuration</i>	54
8.1.2. <i>Measuring the WLAN signal strength</i>	54
8.1.3. <i>Windows and Netstumbler</i>	54
8.1.4. <i>Linux and Wavemon</i>	55
8.2. AVOIDING INTERFERENCE.....	56
8.3. MAKING THE TEST RESULTS COMPARABLE	56
8.4. EXPERIMENTS AND RESULTS.....	57
8.4.1. <i>Signal loss for obstacles</i>	57
8.4.2. <i>Using a home-made reflector</i>	57
8.4.3. <i>Other means to shield the Access Point</i>	59
8.5. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PLACING THE ACCESS POINT TO INCREASE SECURITY	60
9. CRITICAL EVALUATION	61
9.1. EVALUATING THE OBJECTIVES.....	61

9.2. EVALUATING OF THE PROCESS AND PERSONAL REFLECTION	63
10. CONCLUSION	65
11. REFERENCES	66
12. BIBLIOGRAPHY	70
13. APPENDICES.....	72
A 1. PROJECT ORGANIZATION RELATED	72
A 1.1 PROJECT PROPOSAL	72
A 1.2 PROJECT SPECIFICATION.....	73
A 1.3 GANT CHART.....	74
A 1.4 BRAINSTORMING LOG	75
A 1.5 UNREALIZED ARTEFACT IDEAS.....	76
A 1.6 PROJECT LOGBOOK (DISCONTINUED)	78
A 2. INFORMATION GATHERING RELATED	82
A 2.1 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT, TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH	82
A 2.2 INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT, ORGINAL VERSION, GERMAN	85
A 2.3 WARWALK THROUGH WREXHAM	88
A 3. PHYSICAL LAYER RELATED	91
A 3.1. 2.4GHZ CHANNELS AND FREQUENCY OVERVIEW.....	91
A 3.2. 5 GHZ CHANNELS AND FREQUENCY OVERVIEW	92
A 3.3. EZ-12 PARABOLIC REFLECTOR TEMPLATE (ERSKINEAPE, 2005)	94

III. List of figures

Figure 4-1: A typical 802.1X setup	21
Figure 4-2: Relationship of Wi-Fi and IEEE 802.11	22
Figure 4-3: Independent and ad-hoc networks, (adapted from Gast, 2005 p 16).....	23
Figure 5-1: The CIA Triad. (adapted from Brunschweiler, 2004, p. 32).....	24
Figure 5-2: Open and WEP Authentication	28
Figure 5-3: Generic stream cipher operation (adapted from Gast 2005, p115)	29
Figure 5-4: The Nintendo DS can connect to WEP networks, but lacks WPA support	39
Figure 6-1: Kismet in action. It gives us all the basic information needed to start the hack ...	41
Figure 6-2: WEP cracking with Aircrack. The 128bit WEP key was found in 4 seconds.....	42
Figure 6-3: MAC address spoofing under Linux is easy	43
Figure 7-1: DSSS Channels in 2.4GHz spectrum (Vladimirov et al., 2004, p. 62)	45
Figure 7-2 Signal-to-noise ratio and the noise floor (Gast, 2005 p 233)	48
Figure 7-3 Multiple paths.....	49
Figure 7-4: Wave combination by superposition. Wave 1 and Wave 2 are almost opposite of each other, the net result is almost nothing. (Adapted from Gast, 2005, p. 237).....	50
Figure 7-5: Inter-Symbol Interference	50
Figure 7-6 Signal loss while a microwave oven is operating near an access point.....	51
Figure 7-7: A typical dipole antenna, found on almost every 802.11 b/g Access Point	52
Figure 7-8: Radiation patterns of omnidirectional and directional antennas	52
Figure 8-1: Netstumbler, the swiss knife of Windows WLAN tools	55
Figure 8-2: Wavemon is a great tool for 802.11 signal measuring	56
Figure 8-3: Home made reflectors in action.....	58

IV. List of abbreviations

AES	Advanced Encryption Standard
AP	Access Point
BSS	Basic Service Set
BSSID	Basic Service Set ID
CCMP	Counter Mode with CBC-MAC Protocol. AES based protocol 802.11i
DHCP	Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol
DoS	Denial of Service
dBm	decibel (db) in relation to 1 milli-watt (mW)
EAP	Extensible Authentication Protocol
ESS	Extended Service Set
FHSS	Frequency Hopping Spread Spectrum
FMS	Fluhrer-Martin-Shamir. Used to reference a key recovery attack against WEP.
HR/DSSS	High-Rate Direct Sequence Spread Spectrum
HTTP	HyperText Transfer Protocol
HTTPS	HTTP Secure
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IP	Internet Protocol
IPsec	IP security. Framework of security protocols, often used for VPN
IR	InfraRed
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISM	Industrial, Scientific, and Medical Bands
IV	Initialization Vector
LAN	Local Area Network
LEAP	Leightweight Extensible Authentication Protocol).
MAC	Medium Access Control
OFDM	Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing
OSI	Open Systems Interconnection, also known as the ISO – OSI modell
PHY	PHysical Layer
PMK	Pairwise Master Key
PSK	PreShared Key
RADIUS	Remote Authentication Dial In User Service
RC4	Rivest Cipher 4, a streaming cipher devloped by Ron Rivest, RSA labs

RSN	Robust Security Network, part of 802.11i
SNR	Signal to Noise Ratio
SSH	Secure Shell
SSID	Service Set IDentifier
SSL	Secure Socket Layer
SOHO	Small Office / Home Office
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
TGi	802.11 Task group i
TK	Temporal Key
TKIP	Temporal Key Integrity Protocol. RC4 based protocol introduced in 802.11i
VPN	Virtual Private Network
WAN	Wide Area Network
WEP	Wired Equivalent Privacy
Wi-Fi	Wireless-Fidelity
WiMAX	Worldwide Interoperability for Microwave Access, also known as IEEE 802.16
WLAN	Wireless LAN
WPA	Wi-Fi Protected Access
WPA2	WPA v2