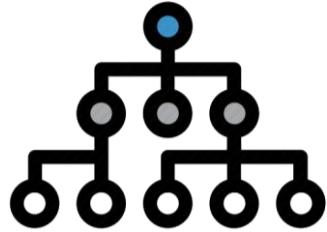


# Symbolic Execution of Security Protocol Impl.: Handling Cryptographic Primitives

Mathy Vanhoef — @vanhoefm

USENIX WOOT, Baltimore, US, 14 August 2018

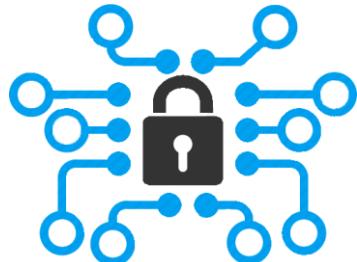
# Overview



Symbolic Execution



4-way handshake

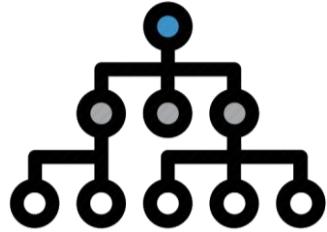


Handling Crypto



Results

# Overview



**Symbolic Execution**



4-way handshake



Handling Crypto



Results

# Symbolic Execution

```
void recv(data, len) {  
    if (data[0] != 1) ← Mark data as symbolic  
        return  
    if (data[1] != len)  
        return  
  
    int num = len/data[2]  
    ...  
}
```

Mark data as symbolic

Symbolic branch

# Symbolic Execution

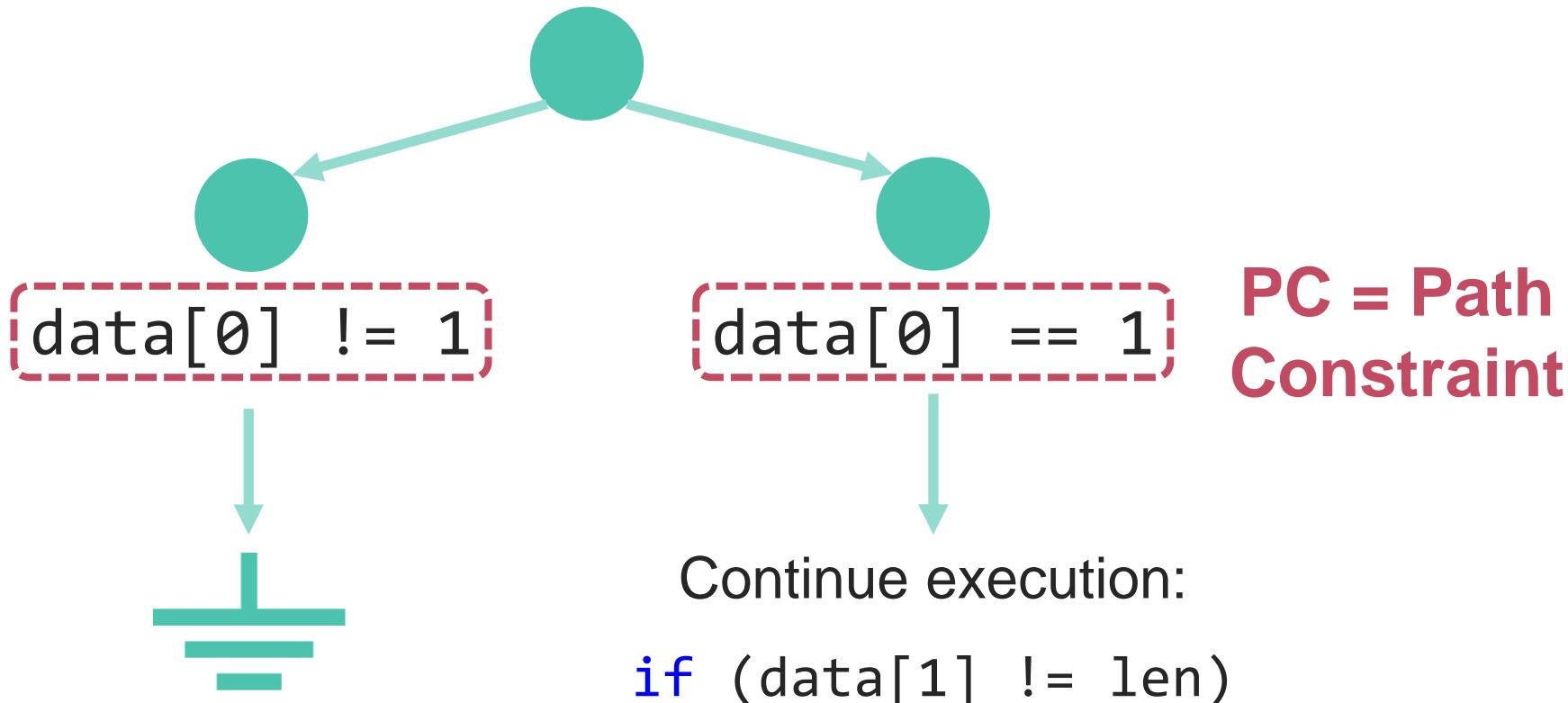
**data[0] != 1**

```
void recv(data, len) {  
    if (data[0] != 1)  
        return  
    if (data[1] != len)  
        return  
  
    int num = len/data[2]  
    ...  
}
```

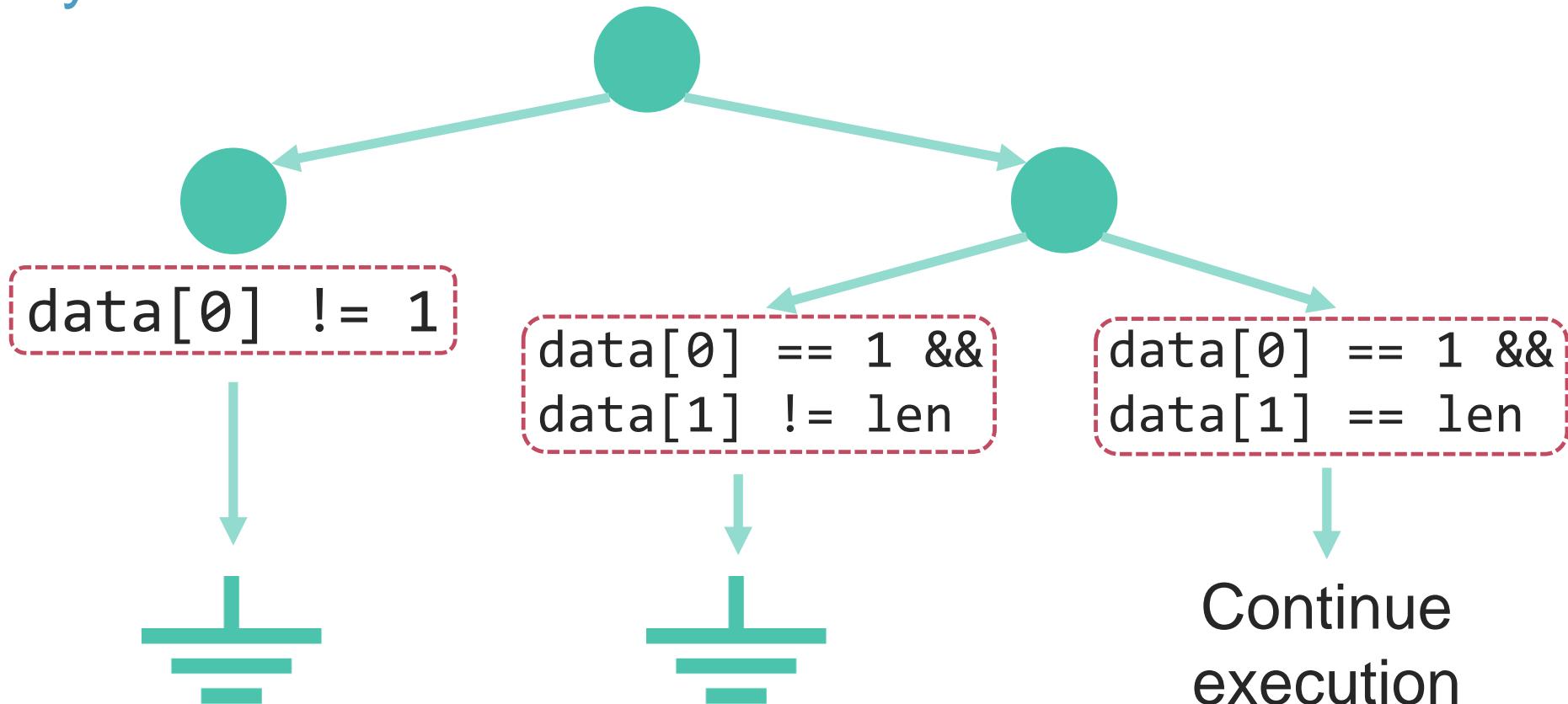
**data[0] == 1**

```
void recv(data, len) {  
    if (data[0] != 1)  
        return  
    if (data[1] != len)  
        return  
  
    int num = len/data[2]  
    ...  
}
```

# Symbolic Execution



# Symbolic Execution



# Symbolic Execution

```
data[0] == 1 &&  
data[1] == len
```

```
void recv(data, len) {  
    if (data[0] != 1)  
        return  
    if (data[1] != len)  
        return  
  
    int num = len/data[2] ←  
    ...
```

Can data[2] equal zero under the current PC?

# Symbolic Execution

```
data[0] == 1 &&
data[1] == len

void recv(data, len) {
    if (data[0] != 1)
        return
    if (data[1] != len)
        return

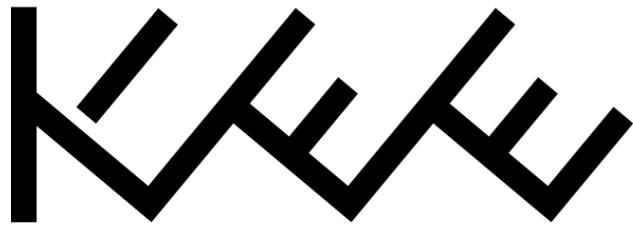
    int num = len/data[2] ←
    ...
}
```

Yes! Bug detected!



Can data[2] equal zero  
under the current PC?

# Implementations



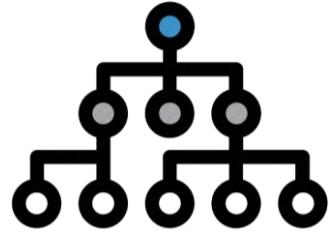
We build upon KLEE

- › Works on LLVM bytecode
- › Actively maintained

Practical limitations:

- ›  $|paths| = 2^{|if-statements|}$
- › Infinite-length paths
- › SMT query complexity

# Overview



Symbolic Execution



4-way handshake



Handling Crypto



Results

# Motivating Example

```
void recv(data, len) {  
    plain = decrypt(data, len)  
    if (plain == NULL) return  
  
    if (plain[0] == COMMAND)  
        process_command(plain)  
    else  
        ...  
}
```

Mark data as symbolic

# Motivating Example

```
void recv(data, len) {  
    plain = decrypt(data, len) ← Summarize crypto algo.  
    if (plain == NULL) return  
  
    if (plain[0] == COMMAND) ← Analyze crypto algo.  
        process_command(plain)  
    else  
        ...  
}
```

Mark data as symbolic

(time consuming)

Won't reach this code!

# Efficiently handling decryption?

**Decrypted output**

=

**fresh symbolic variable**

## Example

```
void recv(data, len) {  
    plain = decrypt(data, len) ← create fresh  
    if (plain == NULL) return symbolic variable  
  
    if (plain[0] == COMMAND) } Normal analysis  
    process_command(plain)  
else  
    ... → Can now analyze code  
} that parses decrypted data
```

# Other Applications

## Handling hash functions

- › Output = fresh symbolic variable
- › Also works for HMACs (Message Authentication Codes)



Tracking use of crypto primitives?

- › Recording relationship between input & output
- › Treating fresh variable as information flow taint

# Detecting Crypto Misuse



## Timing side-channels

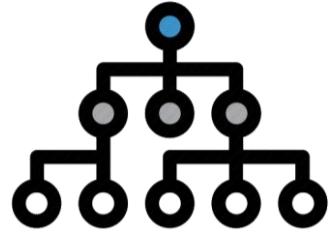
- ›  $\forall(paths)$ : all bytes of MAC in path constraint?
- › If not: comparison exits on first difference



## Decryption oracles

- › Behavior depends on unauth. decrypted data
- › Decrypt data is in path constraint, but not in MAC

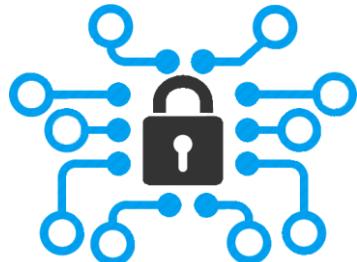
# Overview



Symbolic Execution



4-way handshake



Handling Crypto



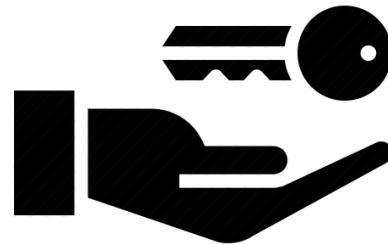
Results

# The 4-way handshake

Used to connect to any protected Wi-Fi network

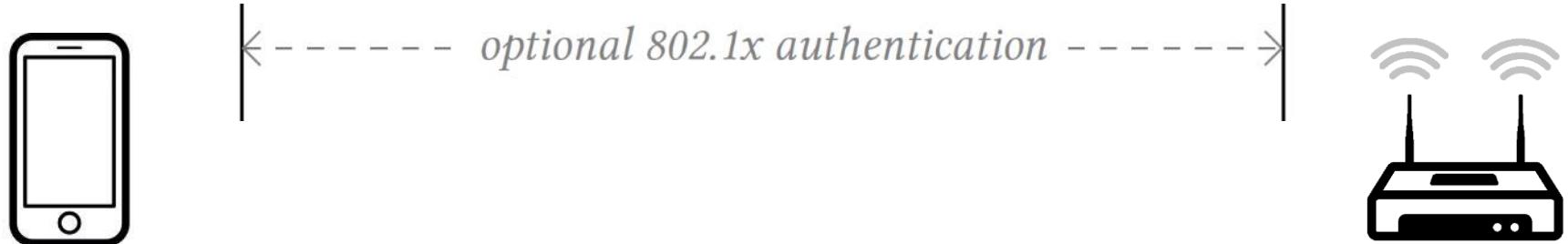


Mutual authentication

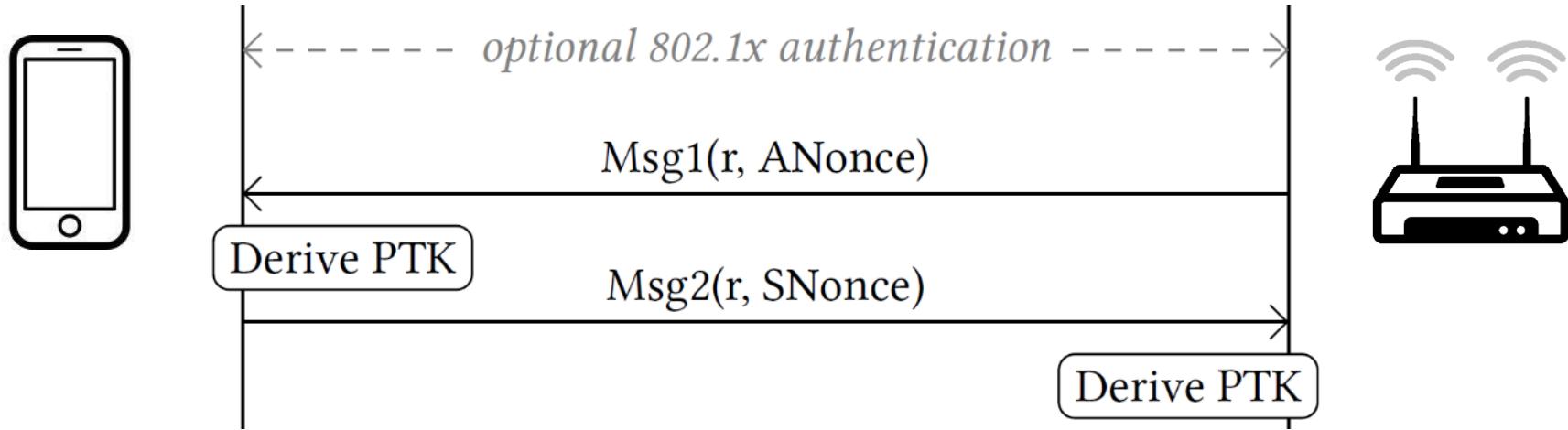


Negotiates fresh PTK:  
pairwise transient key

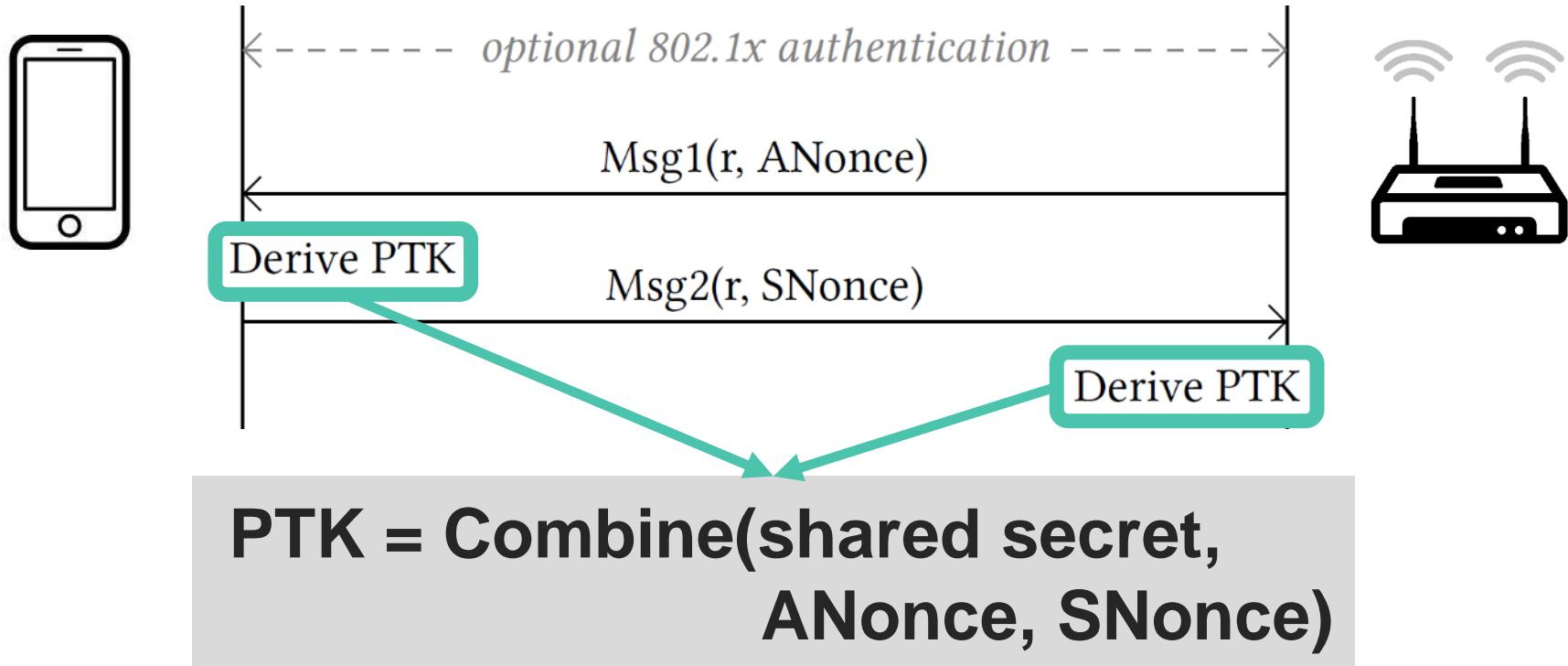
# 4-way handshake (simplified)



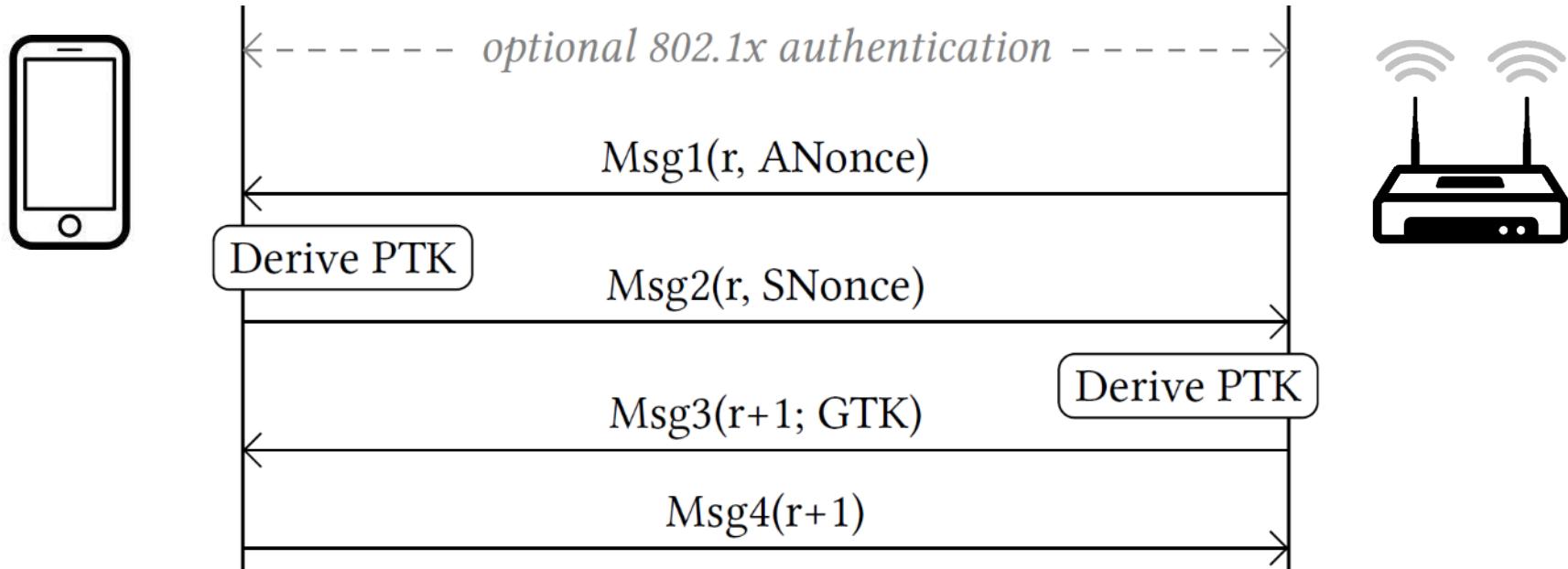
# 4-way handshake (simplified)



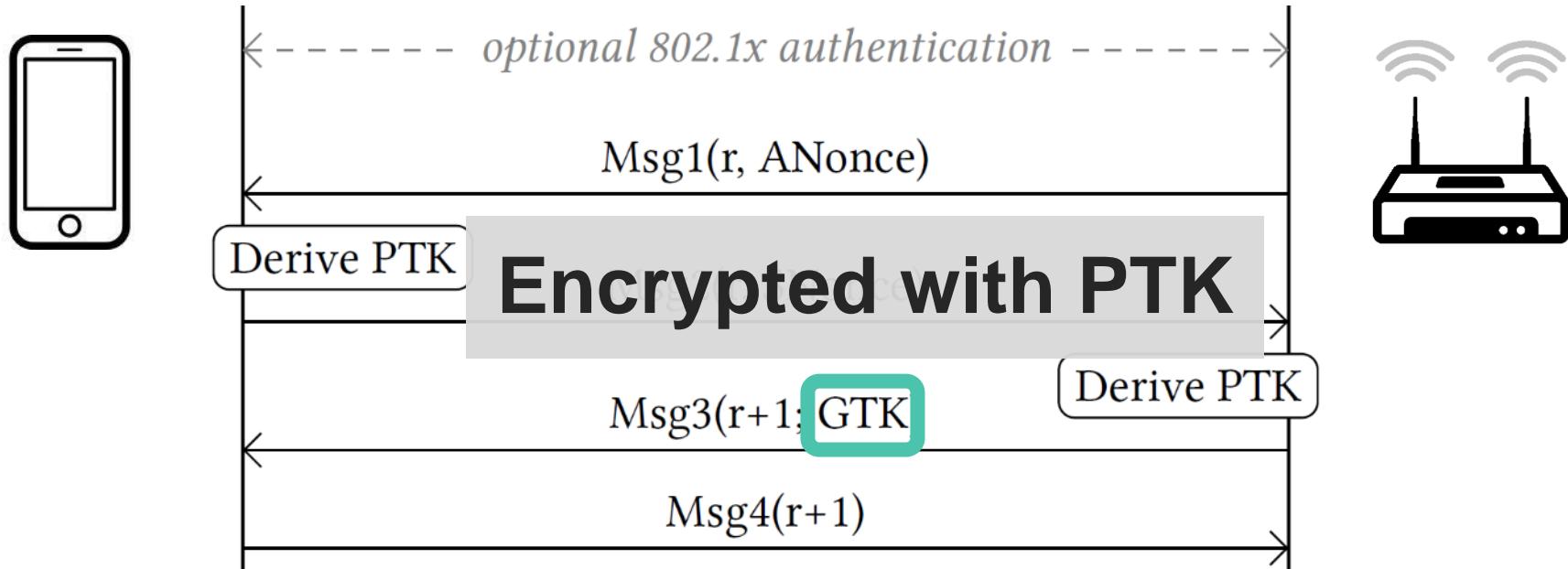
# 4-way handshake (simplified)



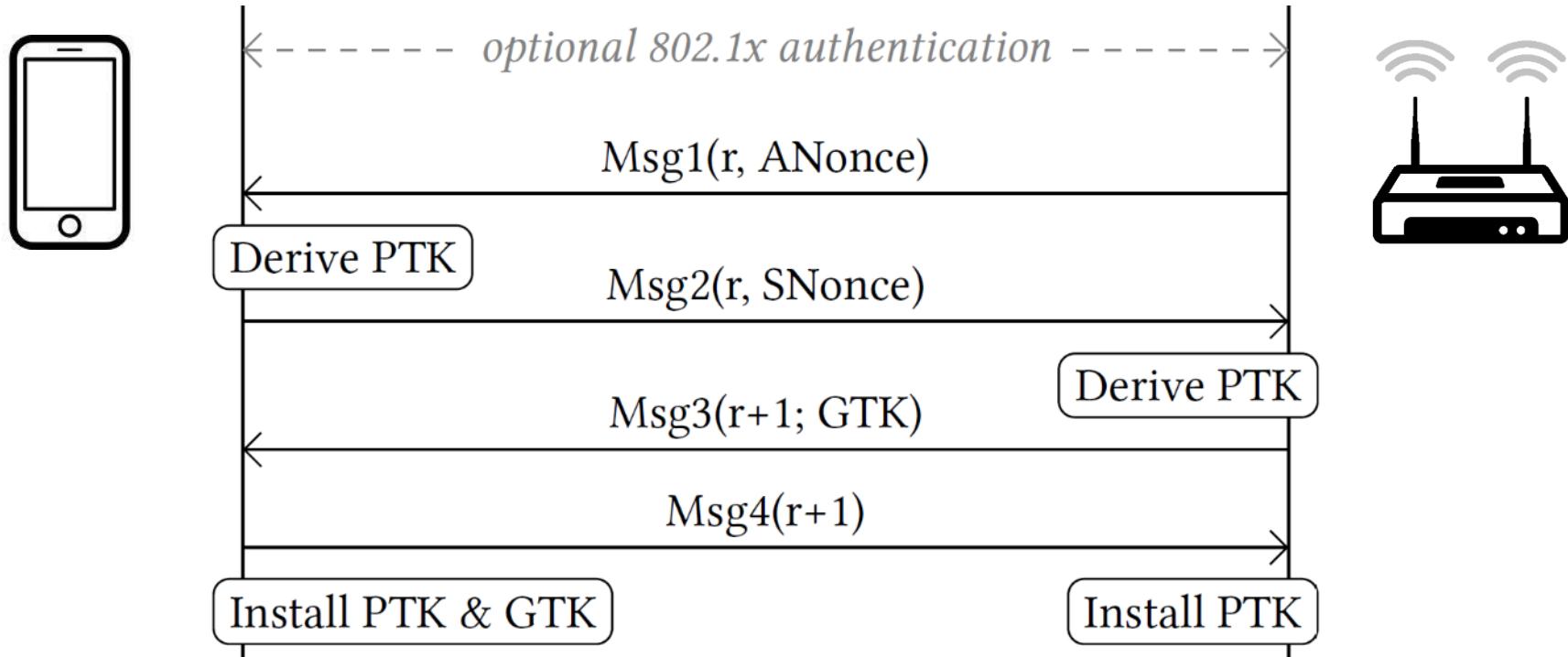
# 4-way handshake (simplified)



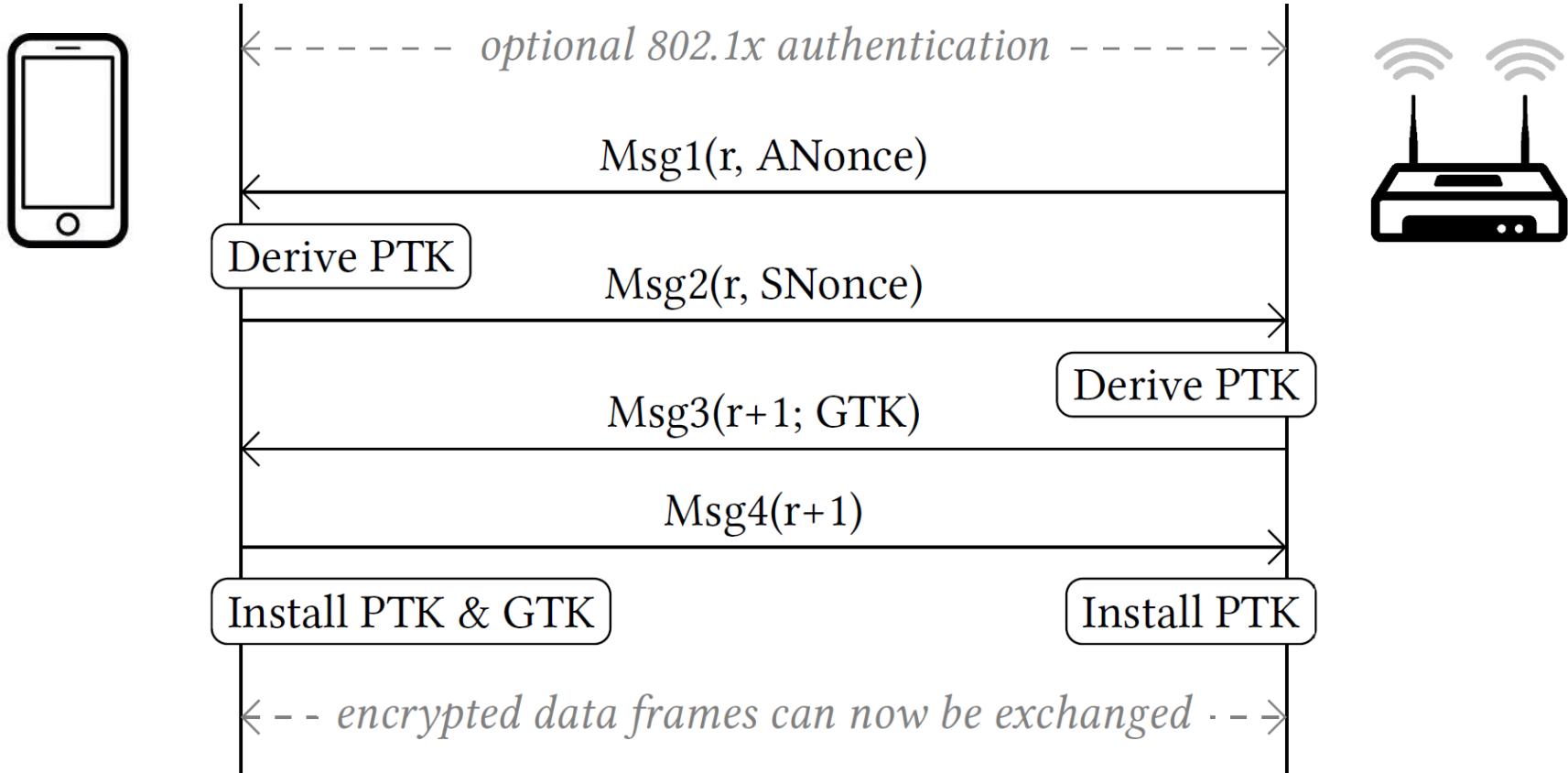
# 4-way handshake (simplified)



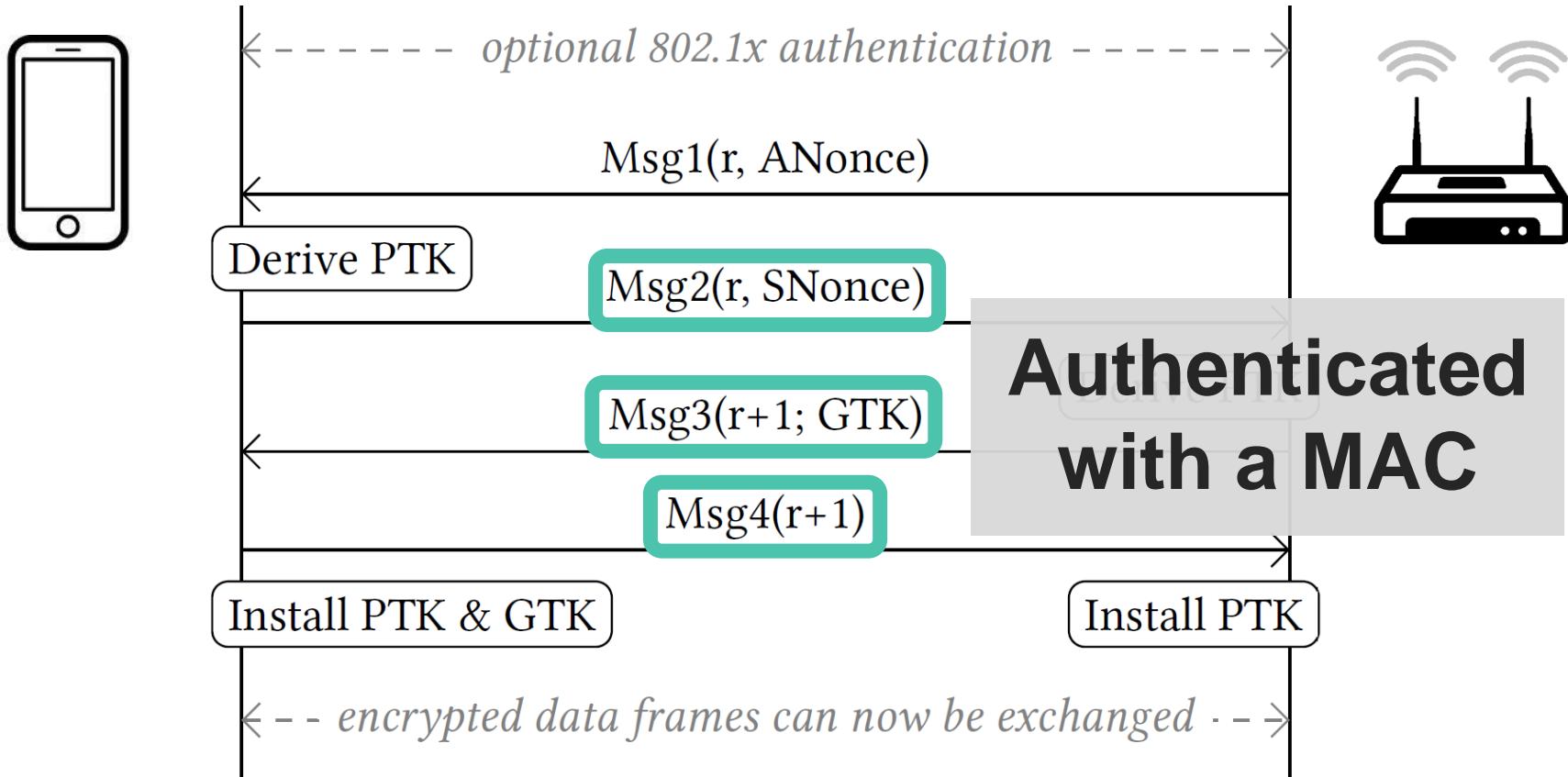
# 4-way handshake (simplified)



# 4-way handshake (simplified)



# 4-way handshake (simplified)



# We focus on the client

Symbolic execution of



Intel's iwd deamon



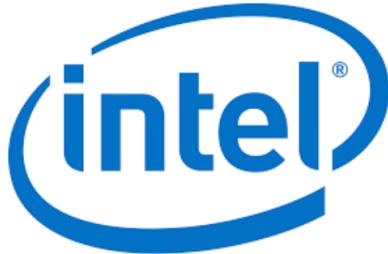
wpa\_supplicant



kernel driver

**How to get these working under KLEE?**

# Intel's iwd



Avoid running full program under KLEE

- › Would need to model Wi-Fi stack symbolically

Our approach

- › iwd contains unit test for the 4-way handshake
- › Reuse initialization code of unit test!
- › Symbolically execute only receive function

# wpa\_supplicant



Unit test uses virtual hardware and runs full AP

- › Still need to simulate Wi-Fi stack...

Alternative approach:

- › Write unit test that isolates 4-way handshake like iwd
- › Then symbolically execute receive function!
- › Need to modify code of wpa\_supplicant (non-trivial)

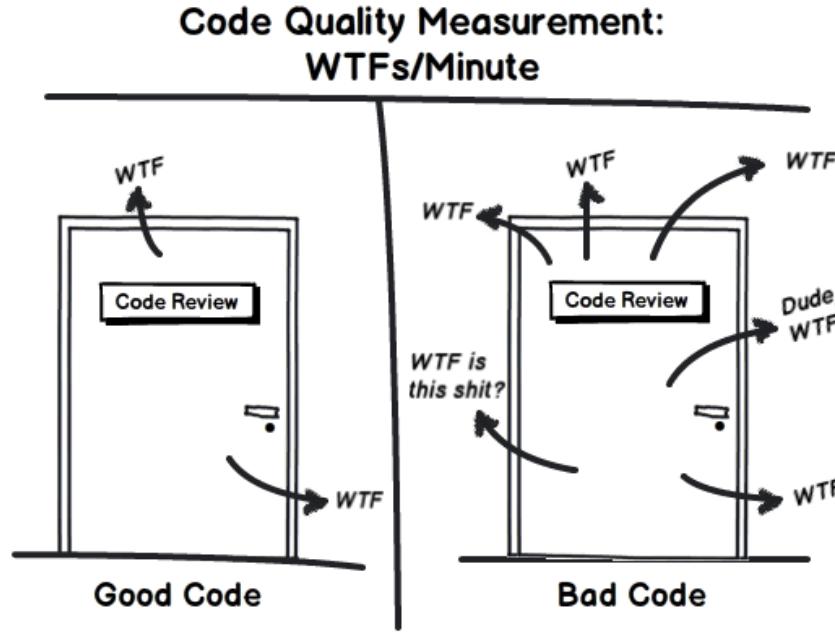
No unit tests & it's a Linux driver

- › Symbolically executing the Linux kernel?!

Inspired by previous cases

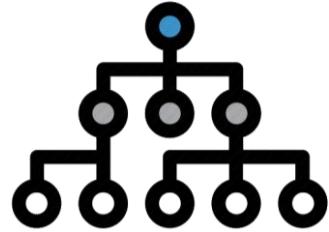
- › Write unit test & simulate used kernel functions in userspace
- › Verify extracted code is correctly simulated in userspace!

# Not all our unit tests are created equally



<https://github.com/vanhoefm/woot2018>

# Overview



Symbolic Execution



4-way handshake



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# Discovered Bugs |



## Timing side-channels

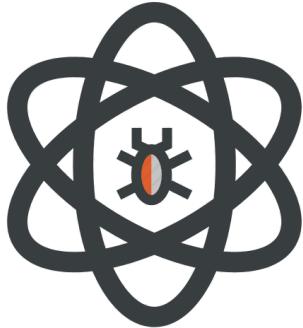
- › Authentication tag not checked in constant time
- › MediaTek and iwd are vulnerable



## Denial-of-service in iwd

- › Caused by integer underflow
- › Leads to huge malloc that fails

# Discovered Bugs II



Buffer overflow in MediaTek kernel driver

- › Occurs when copying the group key
- › May lead to **remote code execution**



Flawed AES unwrap crypto primitive

- › Also in MediaTek's kernel driver
- › **Manually discovered**

# Decryption oracle in wpa\_supplicant



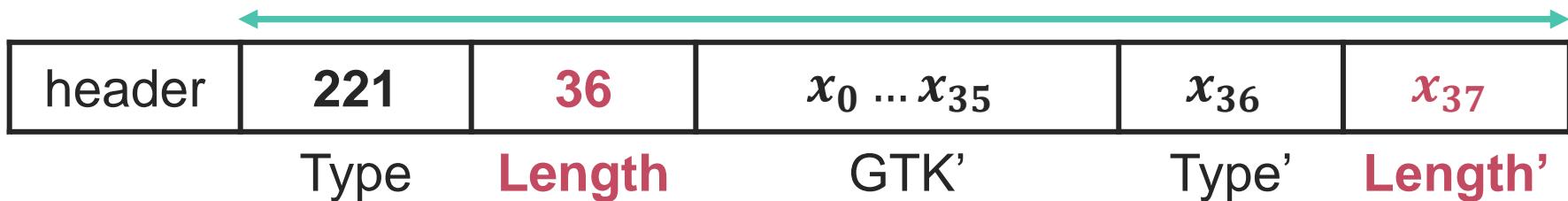
Decryption oracle:

- › Doesn't check authenticity of malformed handshake message
- › But does decrypt and process data

→ Decrypt group key (GTK) in Message 3 (Msg3)

# Decryption oracle in wpa\_supplicant II

Msg3': decrypted using RC4, but not authenticated



→ Parsing only succeeds if  $x_{37}$  is zero

# Future work

## Short-term

- › Efficiently simulate reception of multiple packets
- › If 1<sup>st</sup> packet doesn't affect state, stop exploring this path

## Long-term

- › Extract packet formats and state machine
- › Verify basic properties of protocol

# Conclusion



- › Symbolic execution of protocols
- › Simple simulation of crypto
- › Interesting future work

# As a final note....

I wrote a vulnerability scanner that abstracts all the predicates in a binary, traverses the callgraph and generates phormulaes to run them with a SMT solver.  
I found 1 vuln in 3 days with this tool.



He wrote a dumb ass fuzzer and found 5 vulns in 1 day.

Good thing I'm not a n00b like that guy.



# Thank you!

## Questions?