WEAKNESSES IN SATELLITE TELEVISION PROTECTION SCHEMES

OR

“How I Learned to Love the Dish”

A PRESENTATION BY

DEFCON 12

JULY 30, 2004

LAS VEGAS
LEGAL WARNING!

• MANY TOPICS COVERED MAY BE ILLEGAL!

• "EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED IN THIS CHAPTER ANY PERSON WHO - INTENTIONALLY INTERCEPTS, ENDEAVORS TO INTERCEPT, OR PROCURES ANY OTHER PERSON TO INTERCEPT OR ENDEAVOR TO INTERCEPT, ANY WIRE, ORAL, OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION." 18 U.S.C. 2511(1)(A). - HTTP://WWW4.LAW.CORNELL.EDU/USCODE/18/2511.HTML

• "NO PERSON SHALL INTERCEPT OR RECEIVE OR ASSIST IN INTERCEPTING OR RECEIVING ANY COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE OFFERED OVER A CABLE SYSTEM, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED TO DO SO BY A CABLE OPERATOR OR AS MAY OTHERWISE BE SPECIFICALLY AUTHORIZED BY LAW." 47 U.S.C. 553 (A)(1) - HTTP://WWW4.LAW.CORNELL.EDU/USCODE/47/553.HTML

• "DOING THINGS THAT BIG CORPORATIONS DON’T WANT YOU TO DO IS ILLEGAL AND IMMORAL." A’S TAKE ON THE DMCA

• CHECK OUT “DMCA, THEN AND NOW” BY DARIO D. DIAZ, SUNDAY AT 11:00AM FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE DMCA
How do Comm Satellites Work?

- Convert the frequency of incoming signals from Earth to the output frequency and point the signal back at Earth.
SATELLITE VIDEO TECHNOLOGY
QUAZI LAYERED APPROACH

• PHYSICAL - RADIO LEVEL
  - FREQUENCY
    • C-BAND
    • KU-BAND
    • KA-BAND
  - ORBITAL LOCATION
  - FOOTPRINT
The two major frequency bands are the C-band with a downlink of ~4GHz and Ku-band with a downlink of ~11GHz.
THE CLARKE BELT

35,786KM UP FROM THE EQUATOR

http://science.nasa.gov/Realtime/jtrack/3d/JTrack3d.html
The footprint, or coverage area, could be as large as a hemisphere or as small as a city.
SATELLITE VIDEO TECHNOLOGY
QUAZI LAYERED APPROACH

• ENCODING
  - ANALOGUE
    • NTSC
    • PAL
  - DIGITAL
    • BPSK
    • QPSK
    • 8PSK
    • 16QAM
SATELLITE VIDEO TECHNOLOGY
QUAZI LAYERED APPROACH

- TRANSPORT SYSTEM - ALL MPEG BASED
  - DCII
    - OWNED BY MOTOROLA
    - CLOSED STANDARD
  - DSS
    - ONLY USED IN NORTH AMERICA
  - DVB
    - OPEN STANDARD
    - MOST USED
  - ISDB
    - ONLY USED IN JAPAN
SATELLITE VIDEO TECHNOLOGY
QUAZI LAYERED APPROACH

• PROTECTION SYSTEMS
  - DCII
    • MEDIACIPHER
      - UNBROKEN
  - DSS
    • VIDEOGAURD
      • HAS BEEN DEFEATED MANY TIMES
        http://www.dssdirect.tv/history_of_dss_testing_23_ctg.htm
  - DVB
    • OPEN STANDARD SO MANY DIFFERENT SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN USED
SATELLITE VIDEO TECHNOLOGY
QUAZI LAYERED APPROACH

- POPULAR DVB PROTECTION SYSTEMS
  - NAGRAVISION 1 - DEFEATED
  - ALADIN (NAGRAVISION2) PARTIAL DEFEAT
  - POWERVU - ?
  - IRDETO 1 - DEFEATED
  - IRDETO 2 - PARTIAL DEFEAT
  - SECA 1 - DEFEATED
  - SECA 2 - DEFEATED
  - VIAACCESS - DEFEATED
  - CONAX - PARTIAL DEFEAT
SATELLITE VIDEO TECHNOLOGY
QUAZI LAYERED APPROACH

• CONTENT LAYER
  - AUDIO
    • MUSICAM (MP2)
    • AC3
  - VIDEO
    • MPEG2 - MANY VARIABLES
      - RESOLUTION
      - BITRATE
      - ASPECT RATIO
      - SAMPLING RATES
        • 4:2:0
        • 4:2:2
  - DATA
    • TIMECODE
    • PROGRAM GUIDE
PROGRAMING OPTIONS

• LEGAL
  - DISH NETWORK (WITH SUBSCRIPTION)
  - DIRECTV (WITH SUBSCRIPTION)
  - PROGRAMING FROM AROUND THE WORLD
  - PBS ON AMC3
  - MUSIC ON DISH NETWORK AND BEV
  - LOCAL STATIONS THAT ARE FTA
  - WILDFEEDS
  - BACKHAULS

• ILLEGAL
  - DISH NETWORK (WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION)
  - DIRECTV (WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION)
APPLIED USE
WHERE ARE THE WEAKNESSES?

- DSS - DIRECTV
  - HISTORY OF WEAK PROTECTION
  - RECENTLY TURNED OFF THE HU STREAM
  - P4 RUMORED TO BE DEFEATED
  - ONE STRENGTH IS THAT THEY HAVE CONTROL OVER THE HARDWARE THAT IS COMPATABLE WITH THE DSS SYSTEM
  - OUTSIDE OF THE SCOPE OF THIS TALK.
  - A LOT OF INFORMATION ON THE WEB.
Where are the weaknesses?

- **DVB-S**
  - Used by Dish Network and Bell ExpressVu in North America
  - "Plastic Hacking"
    - Reprograming access cards
      - Very little hardware needed
      - Software is available online
  - Emulation
    - Similar to Plastic, but a computer is used to control what data is transferred between the IRD and the access card
- **AVR**
  - Hardware that goes in between the access card and the card slot in an attempt to control what data is transferred between the IRD and the access card
APPLIED USE
WHERE ARE THE WEAKNESSES?

- DVB-S (CONTINUED)
  - DVB-S PC INTERFACE DEVICES
    - PCI OR USB DEVICES THAT ALLOW A PC WITH THE CORRECT SOFTWARE TO VIEW DVB PROGRAMING.
      - SOFTWARE EXISTS THAT EMULATES THE ACCESS CONTROL HARDWARE
  - FIRMWARE HACKING
    - PRACTICE OF ALTERING THE FIRMWARE OF A DVB-S IRD SO THAT IT INCLUDES ACCESS CONTROL HARDWARE EMULATION SOFTWARE
APPLIED USE
WHERE ARE THE WEAKNESSES?

DVB-S PC INTERFACE DEVICES
APPLIED USE
WHERE ARE THE WEAKNESSES?

• VIDEOCIPHER 2
  - ANALOGUE SYSTEM STILL USED FOR CONTENT DELIVERY IN NORTH AMERICA
  - INVOLVES MODIFYING THE DESCRAMBLER MODULE
  - CHECK INTERNET FOR DETAILS
APPLIED USE
WHERE ARE THE WEAKNESSES?

• USING A LEGAL SUBSCRIPTION TO GET DIGITAL COPIES
  - WHILE NOT TECHNICALLY SIGNAL THEFT, IF YOU CIRCUMVENT A COPY PROTECTION DEVICE, YOU ARE BREAKING US LAW
  - PVR DEVICES (LIKE TIVO) STORE PROGRAMMING DIGITALLY ON THEIR STORAGE MEDIA
    • THERE ARE MANY HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE HACKS AVAILABLE FOR THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PVR DEVICES
  - DIGITAL OUTPUTS
    • AUDIO
    • FIREWIRE?

• FIND ANOTHER SOURCE
  - THERE IS A FREE TO AIR STATION FOR EVERY MAJOR NETWORK IN THE USA
  - WILDFEEDS
GETTING STARTED

• USED BUT USEFUL HARDWARE CAN BE OBTAINED FOR LITTLE TO NO COST
  - ASK FRIENDS AND FAMILY
  - LOOK IN YOUR OWN AREA
    • RESIDENTIAL AREAS BUILT IN THE 70S AND 80S ARE A GREAT SOURCE
    • INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL AREAS
      - SWAP MEETS AND FLEE MARKETS
• NO NEED TO BREAK THE LAW AND STEAL HARDWARE; THERE IS PLENTY OUT THERE THAT PEOPLE WILL GIVE YOU.
GETTING STARTED
GETTING STARTED
GETTING STARTED
GETTING STARTED

• USED IRDS ARE OFTEN VERY USEFUL
  - ANALOGUE
    • LIMITED USE
    • CHECK FOR VIDEOMICIPHER 2 MODULE
  - DIGITAL
    • MOST DIGITAL IRDS ARE GOOD
    • CHECK OUT THE TECHNOLOGY THEY ARE USING BY LOOKING FOR LOGOS
    • PRIMESTAR IRDS ARE USELESS BUT THE DISHES ARE GREAT
• DO YOUR HOMEWORK BEFORE YOU SPEND MONEY!
WHERE TO GET MORE INFO

- http://www.directv.com/
- http://www.dishnetwork.com/
- http://www.expressvu.com/
- http://ekb.dbstalk.com/
- http://www.satforums.com/
- http://www.dvb.org/
- http://www.lyngsat.com/
- http://coolstf.com/mpeg/
THANKS

• MY FATHER FOR INTRODUCING ME TO SAT BACK IN THE DAY!

• MY MOTHER FOR SAYING THAT SHE WILL COME BAIL ME OUT OF JAIL IF I GET ARRESTED AT DEFCON, BUT ONLY IF IT IS BECAUSE OF WHAT I SPOKE ON! ;)

• THE GUYS AT DCS01 AND 2600SLC ESP OLDSKOOLS AND ADRENALINE FOR TEACHING ME ABOUT VARIOUS SAT TOPICS!

• GRIFTER FOR GETTING ME THAT GIG LAST WEEK SO THAT I COULD AFFORD TO COME TO VEGAS FOR DEFCON!

• THE EFF FOR KEEPING THE INTERNET FREE, AND IF I DO GET ARRESTED FOR SPEAKING ON THIS, LEGAL ASSISTANCE, I HOPE.

• ALL THE DEFCON STAFF FOR PUTTING ON SUCH A GREAT CONFERENCE YEAR AFTER YEAR!

• THE CURRENT US ADMINISTRATION FOR REMINDING US HOW GREAT THE FREEDOMS WE ONCE HAD WERE.
LEGAL WARNING!

Many topics covered may be illegal!

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"No person shall intercept or receive or assist in intercepting or receiving any communications service offered over a cable system, unless specifically authorized to do so by a cable operator or as may otherwise be specifically authorized by law." 47 U.S.C. 553 (a)(1) - http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/47/553.html

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