



black hat[®]

ASIA 2019

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MARINA BAY SANDS / SINGAPORE

See Like a Bat

Using Echo-Analysis to Detect
Man-in-the-Middle Attacks in LANs

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Prof. Yuval Elovici



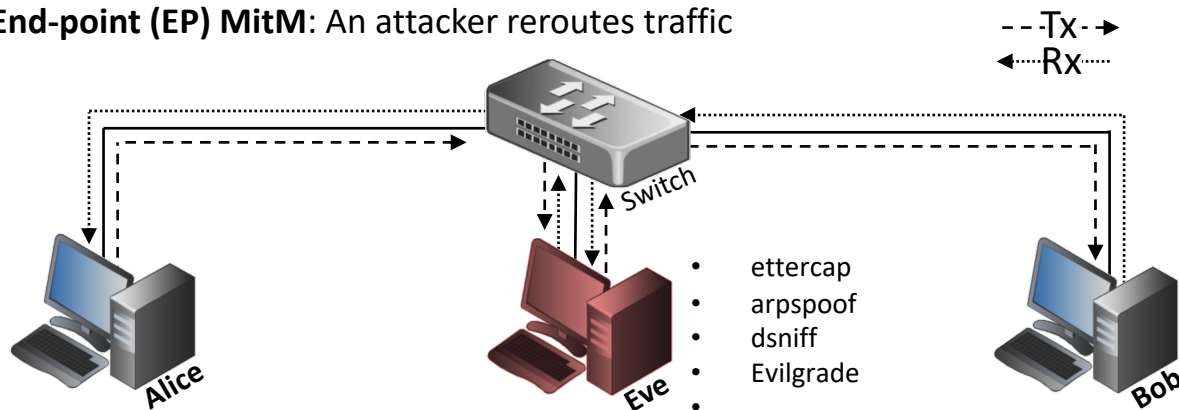
CBG

Cyber@Ben-Gurion
University of the Negev

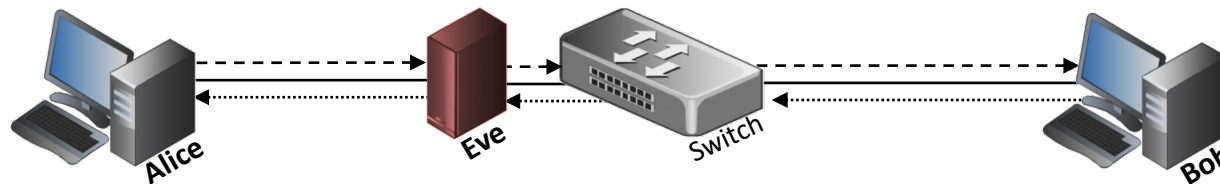


Motivation

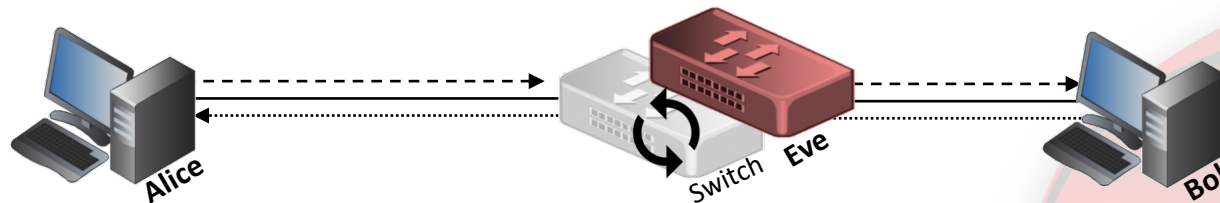
End-point (EP) MitM: An attacker reroutes traffic



In-line (IL) MitM: An attacker physically intercepts traffic



In-Point (IP) MitM: An attacker replaces an existing network switch

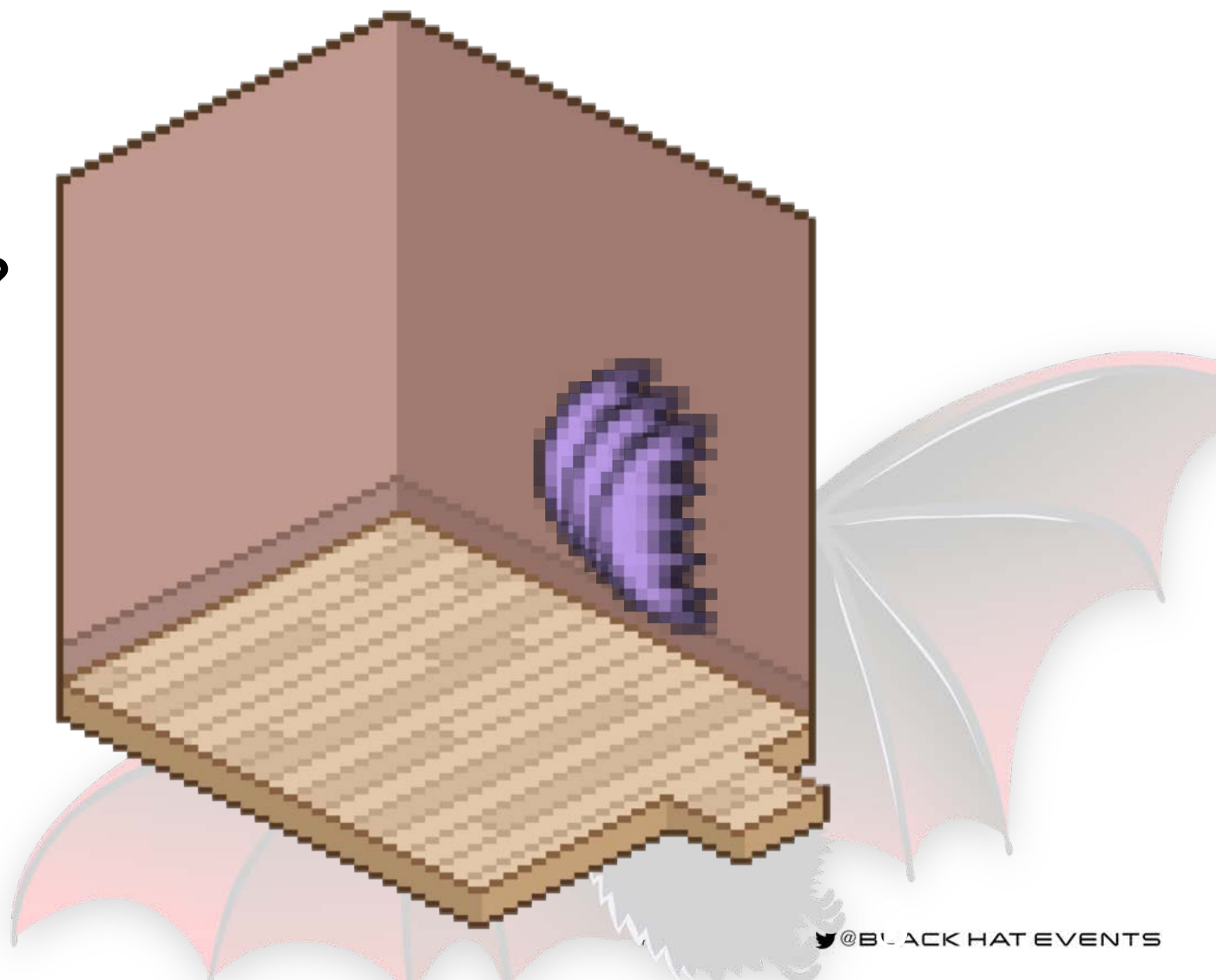


Current Detection Methods:

- Don't generalize to different attacks
- Not portable (e.g., expensive NIDS)
- Generate false positives
(are passive, thus subject to noise and activity).

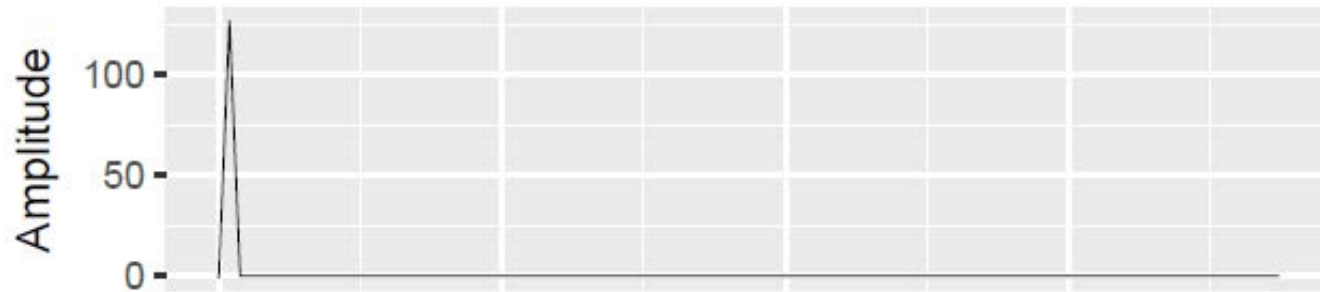
Instead of **passive sensing**,
let's use **active sensing**.

What if we could see like a bat?

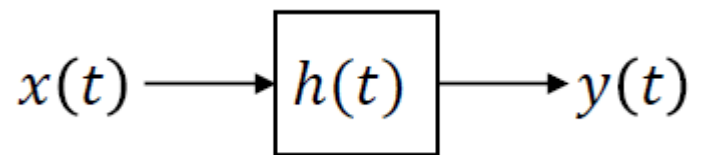


Physical World: (acoustics) Environment Modeling

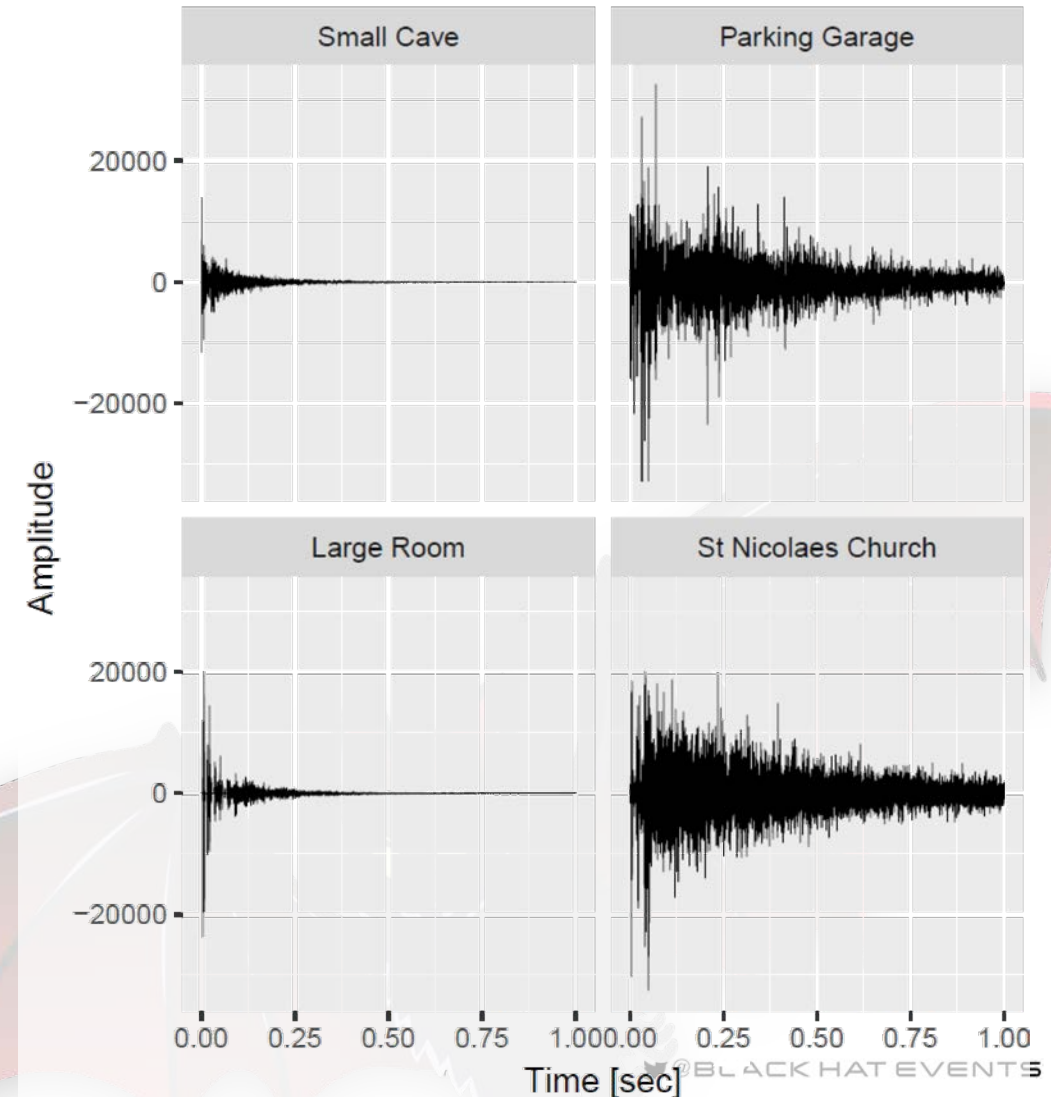
Direct – Pulse



LTI – Linear Time Invariant System



Example Impulse Responses



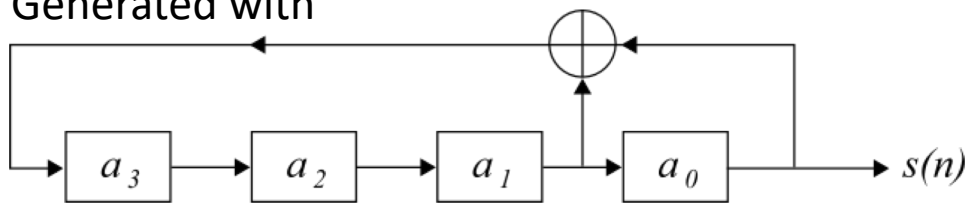
Physical World: (acoustics) Environment Modeling

Indirect – Maximum Length Sequence (MLS)



11010010110100100110111010001001...

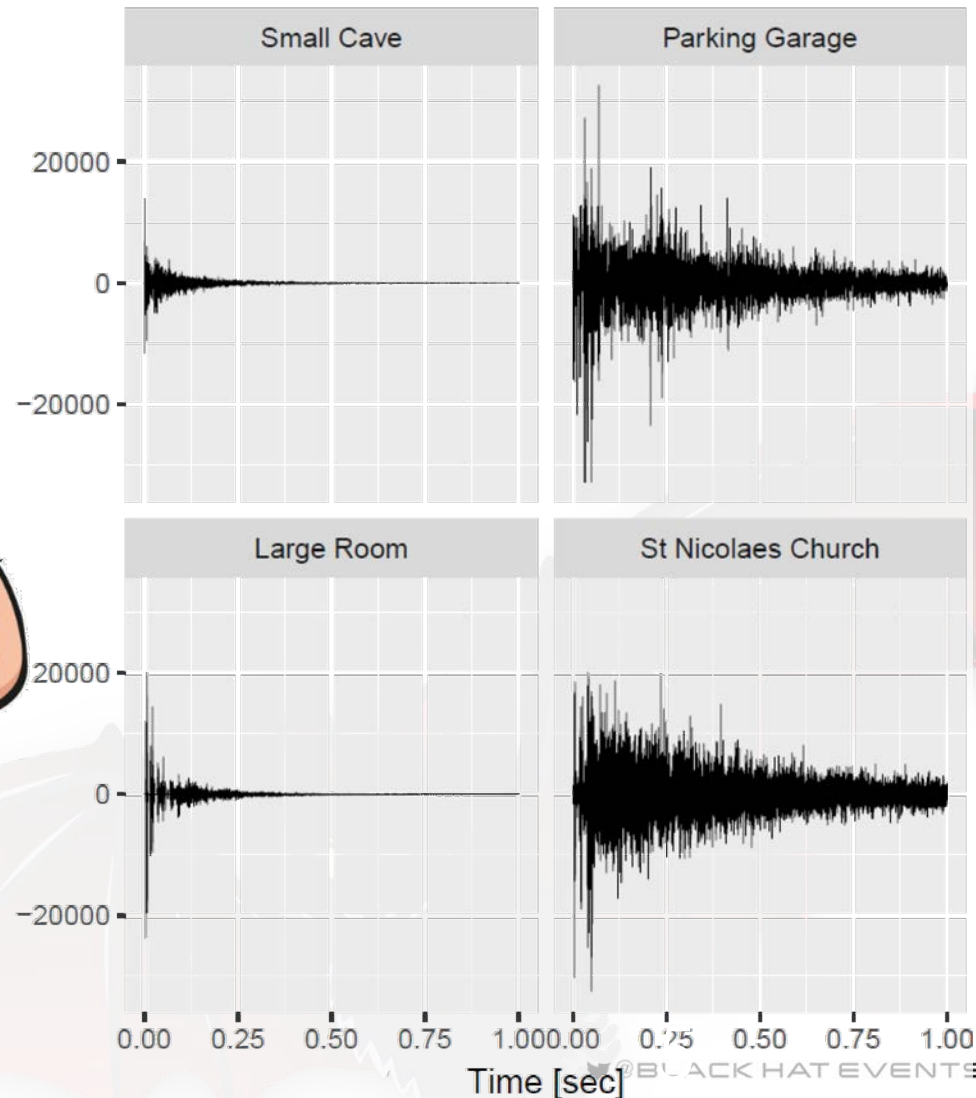
Generated with



Seeded with AES-256

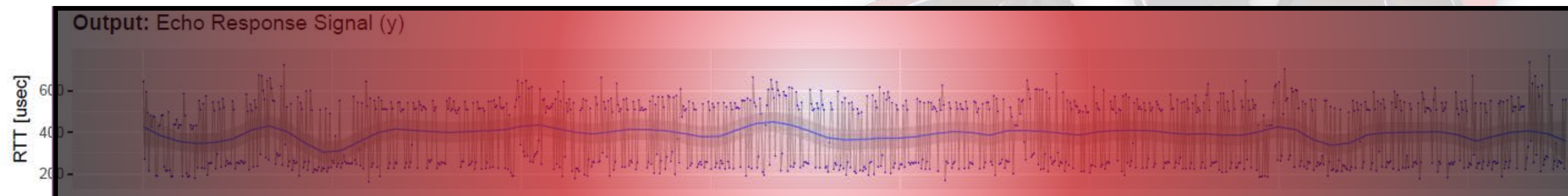
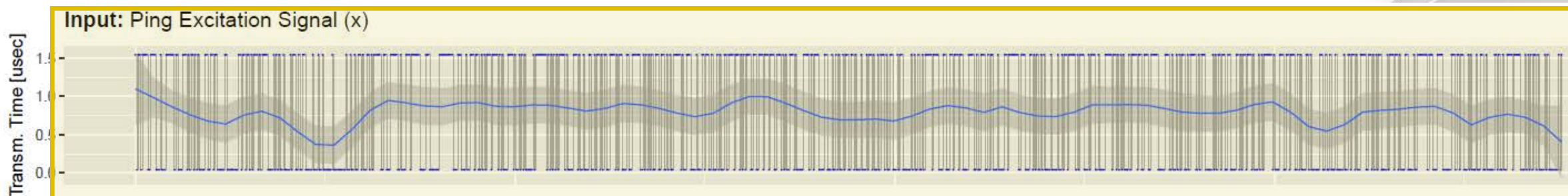
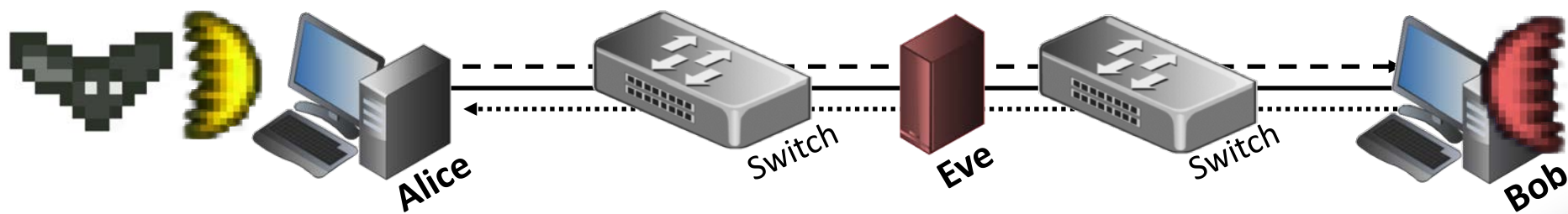


Example Impulse Responses



Virtual World: Environment Modeling

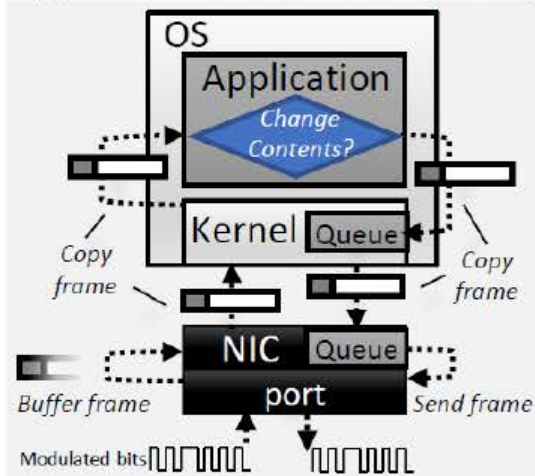
How can we apply this to a LAN?



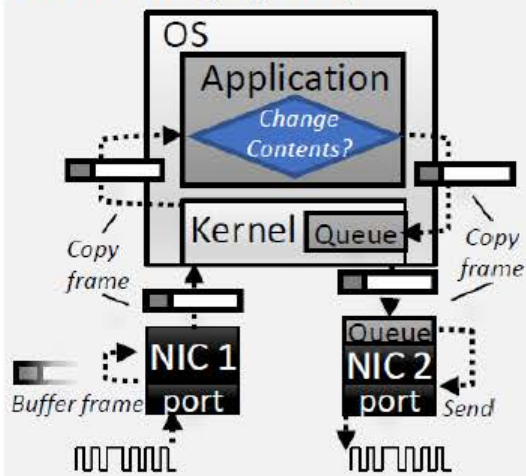
Virtual World: Environment Modeling

All MitM attacks buffer packets to read/change them.
The software/hardware affect the processing time **of a burst**.

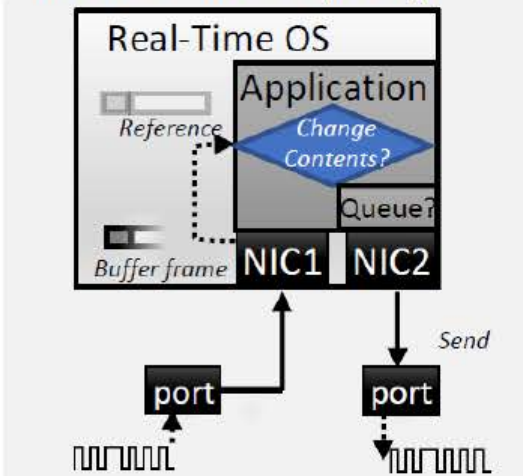
(1) End-Point MitM using a Traffic Diversion such as ARP (EP-TD)



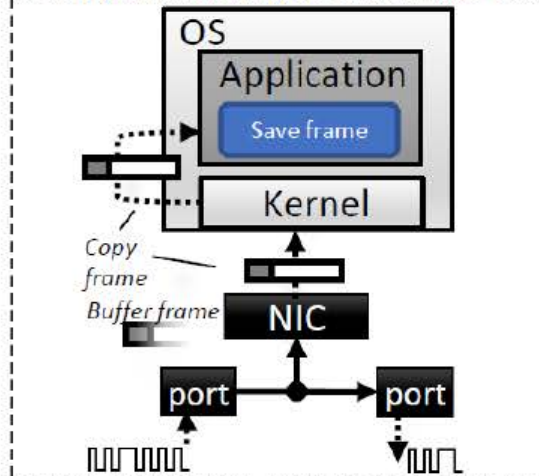
(2) In-Line MitM using a Network Bridge (IL-NB)

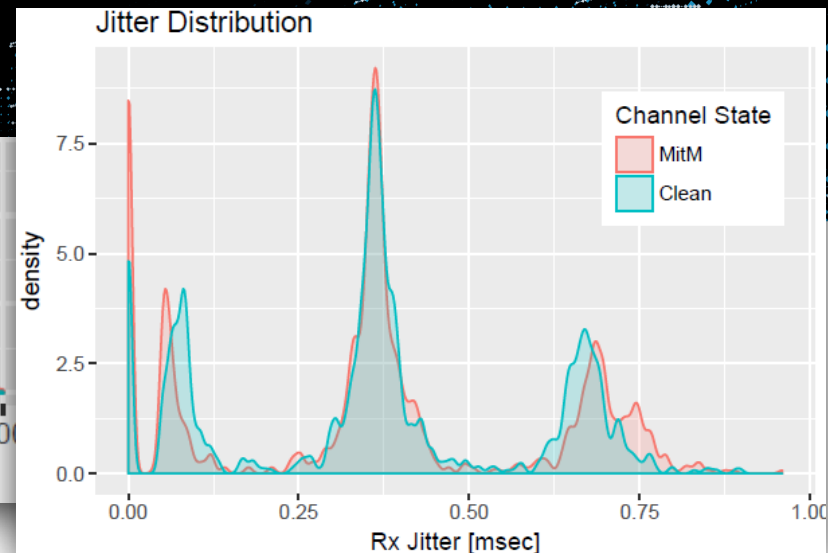
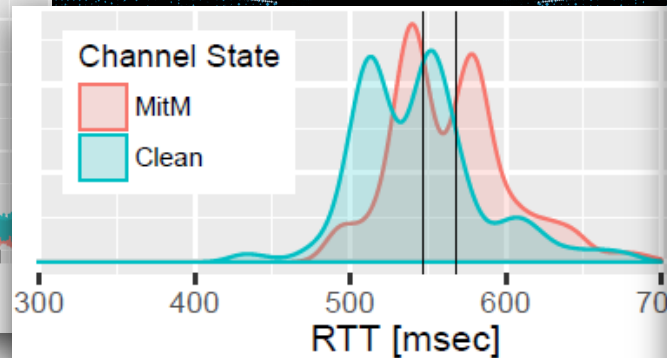
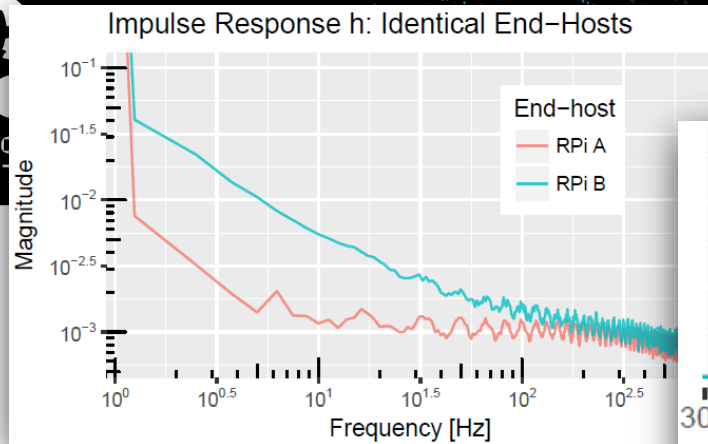


(3,4) In-Line/In-Point MitM using Dedicated Hardware (IL-DH)



(5) In-Line Passive Wiretap (IL-PW)
Cannot interact with the network





$$E_h = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{k=1}^N \left| \frac{Y[k]}{X[k]} \right|^2$$

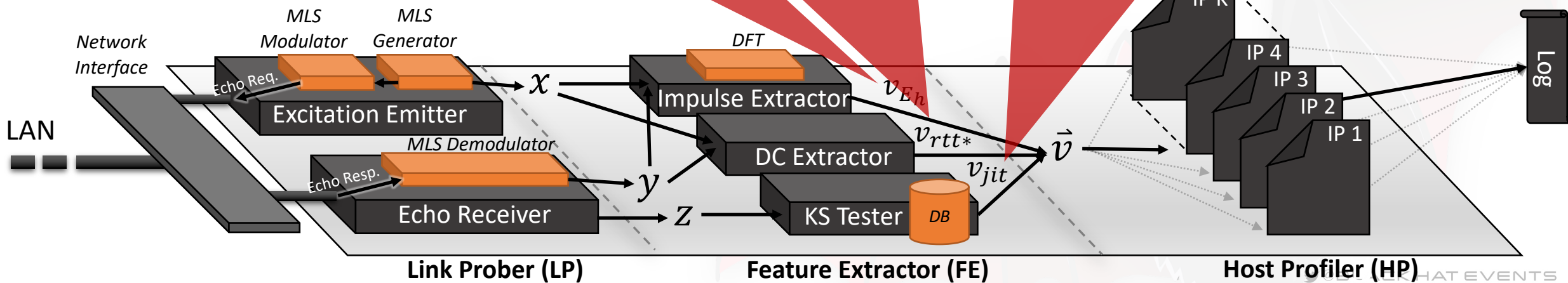
The Impulse Response's
Average Energy

$$v_{jit} = \frac{2}{N} \sum y[i] \cdot x[i]$$

The Average RTT of the largest
packets in the probe

$$p_{jit} = \log[\max\{p_{z_0, z_1}, p_{z_0, z_2}, \dots, p_{z_0, z_m}\}]$$

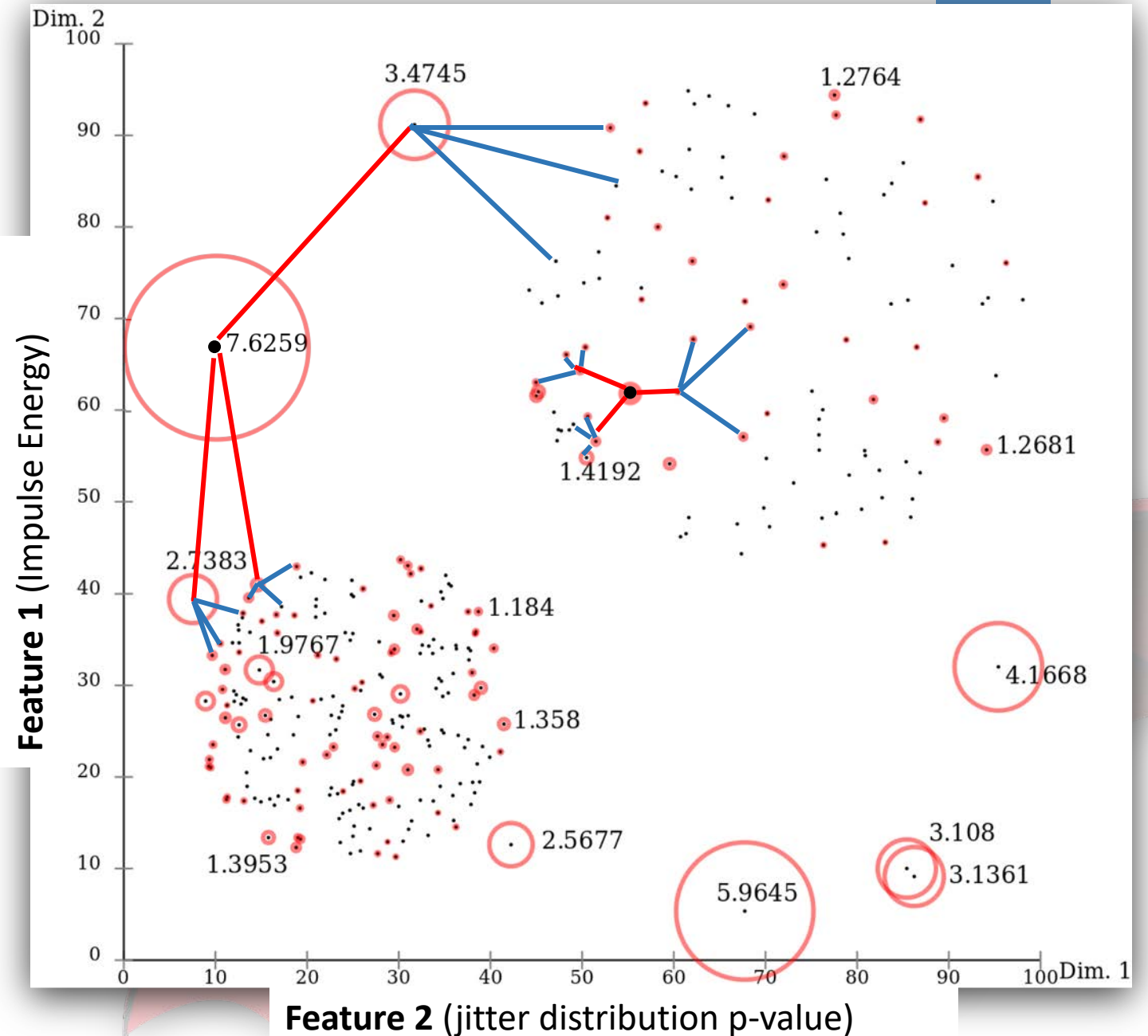
The p-value of the
response's jitter



Building a Profile for a Target IP

Local Outlier Factor

The abnormality of an observation is relative to its neighbor's density (not just distance)



Vesper: Evaluation Setup

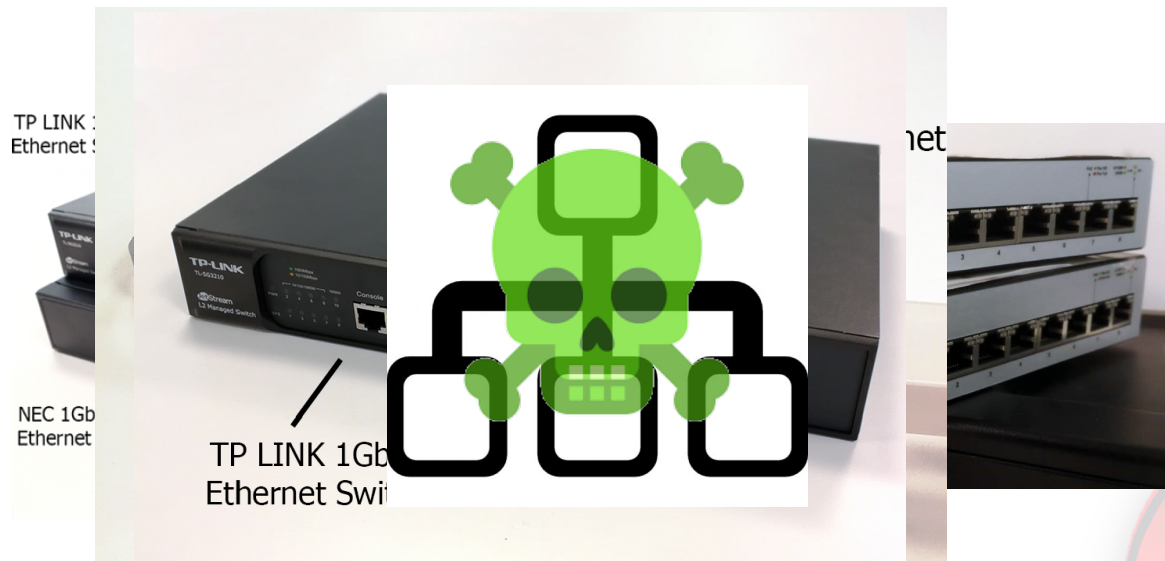
Attacks:

Traffic Diversion: ARP Poisoning

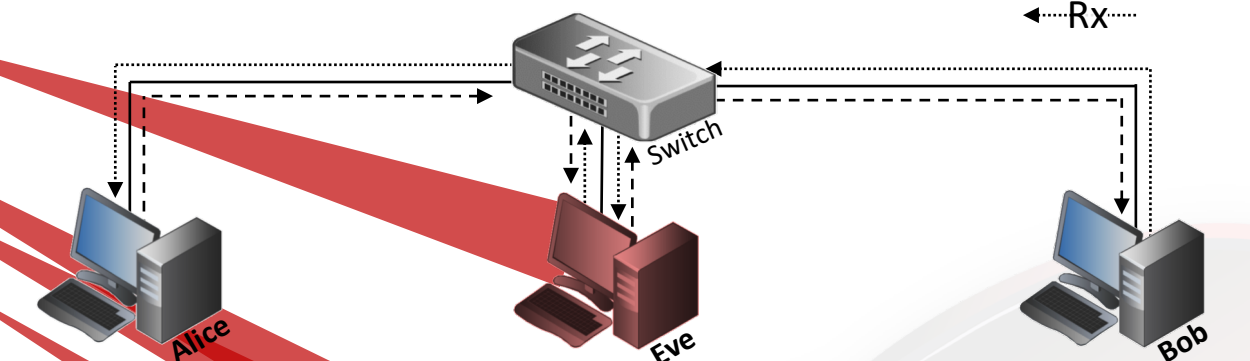
Network Bridge: Raspberry Pi

Network Bridge: Switch (1Gbps)

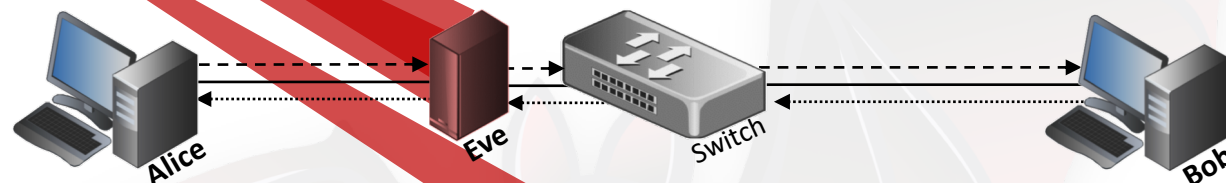
Device Swapping: 1Gps Switches



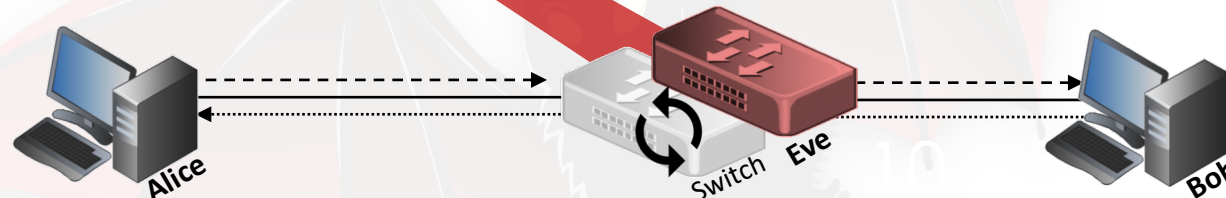
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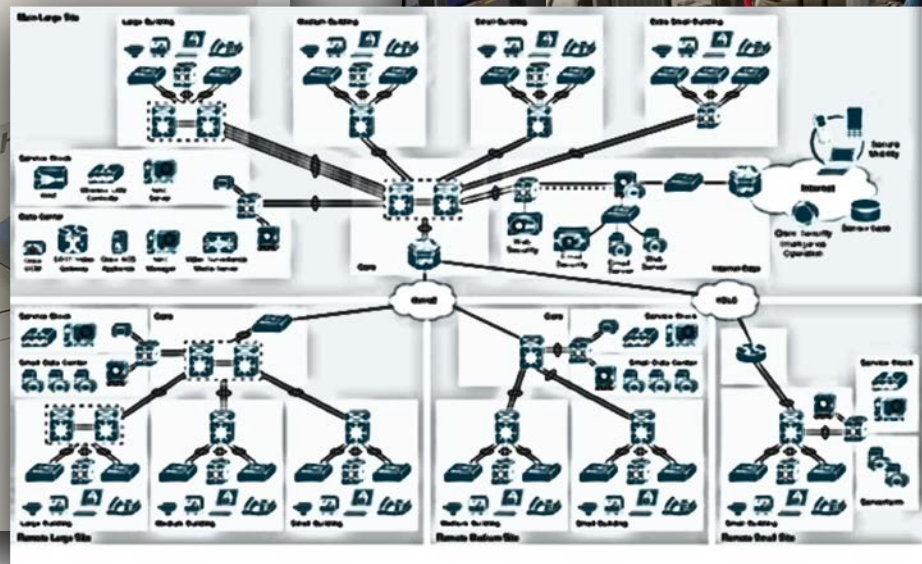
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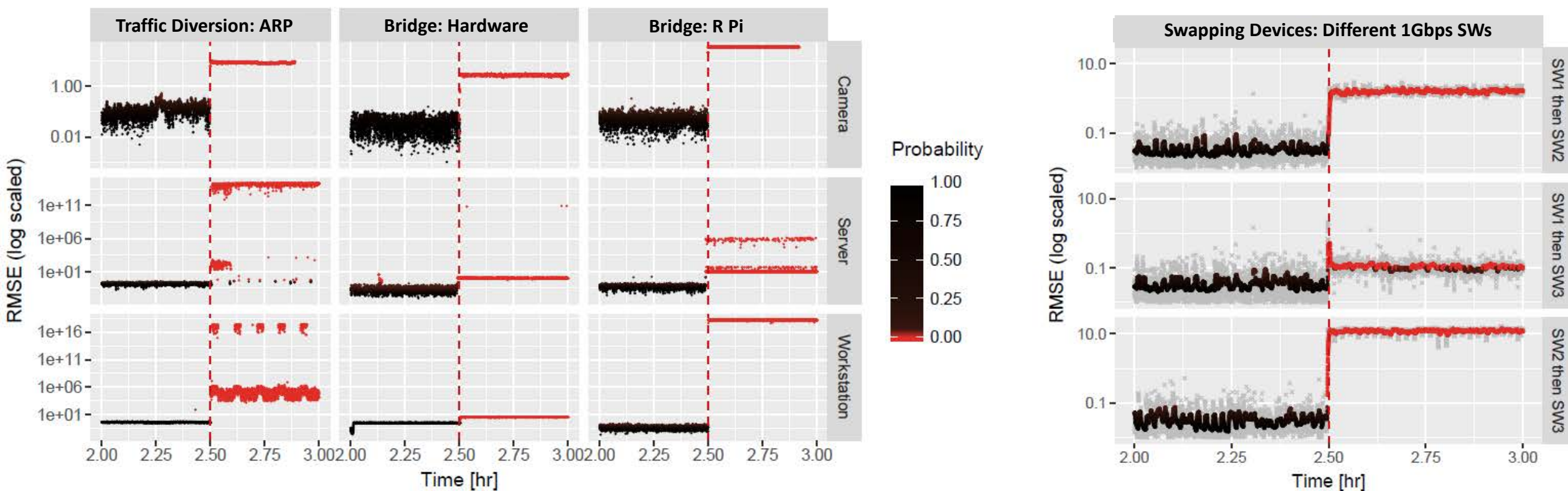
In-Point (IP) MitM: An attacker replaces an existing network switch



La

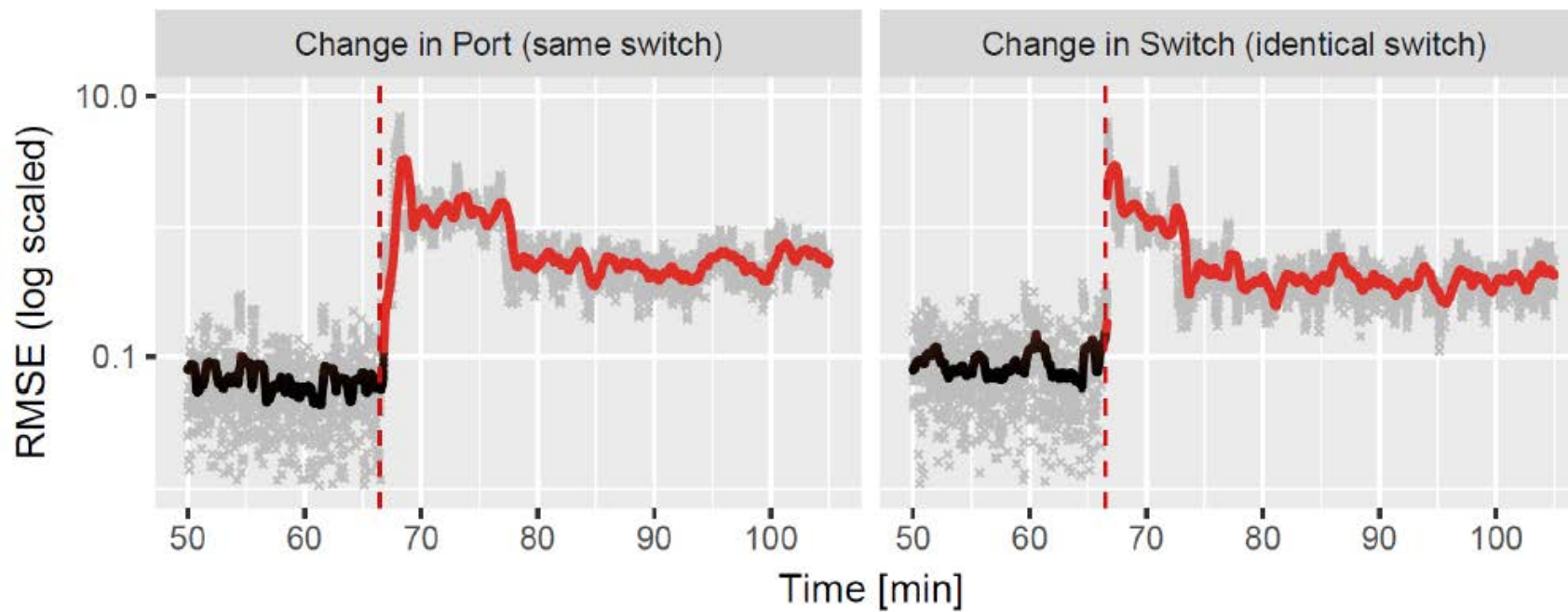


Vesper: Evaluation One Intermediary Switch



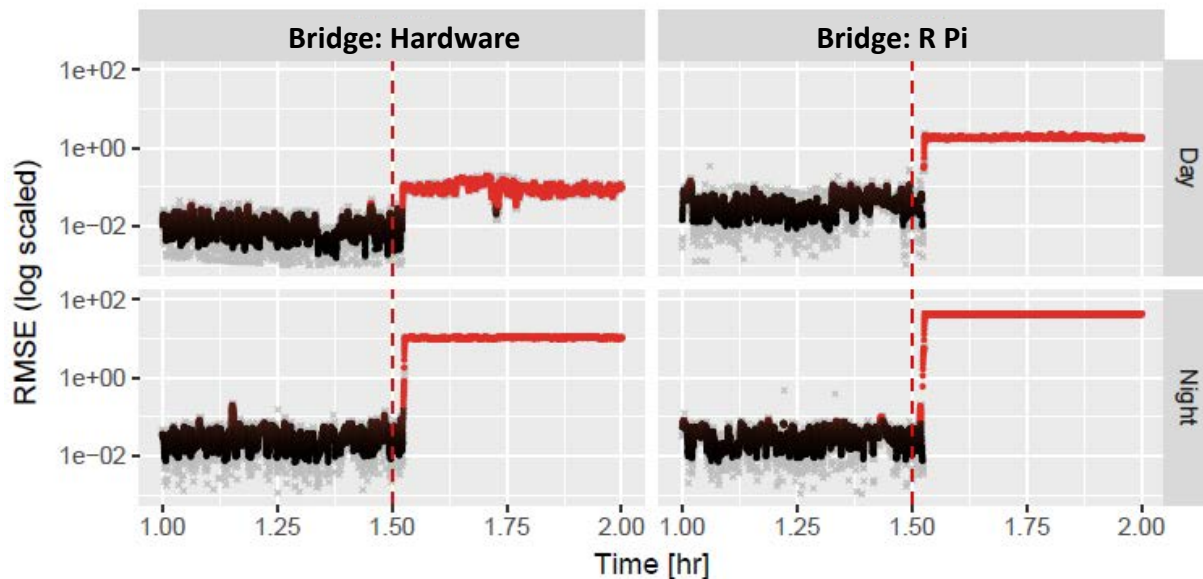
Vesper: Evaluation One Intermediary Switch

Swapping Devices: Identical 1Gbps SWs



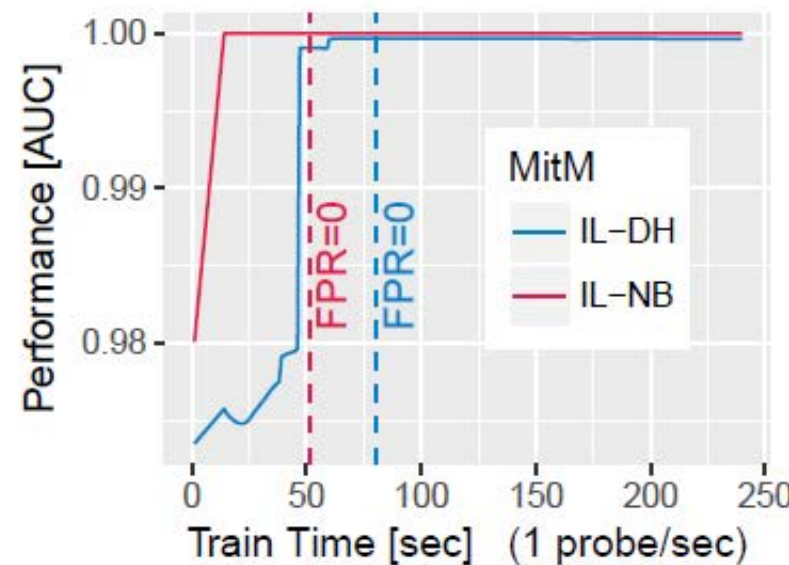
Vesper: Evaluation Multiple Intermediary Switches

Across 5 large switches with 350 active hosts



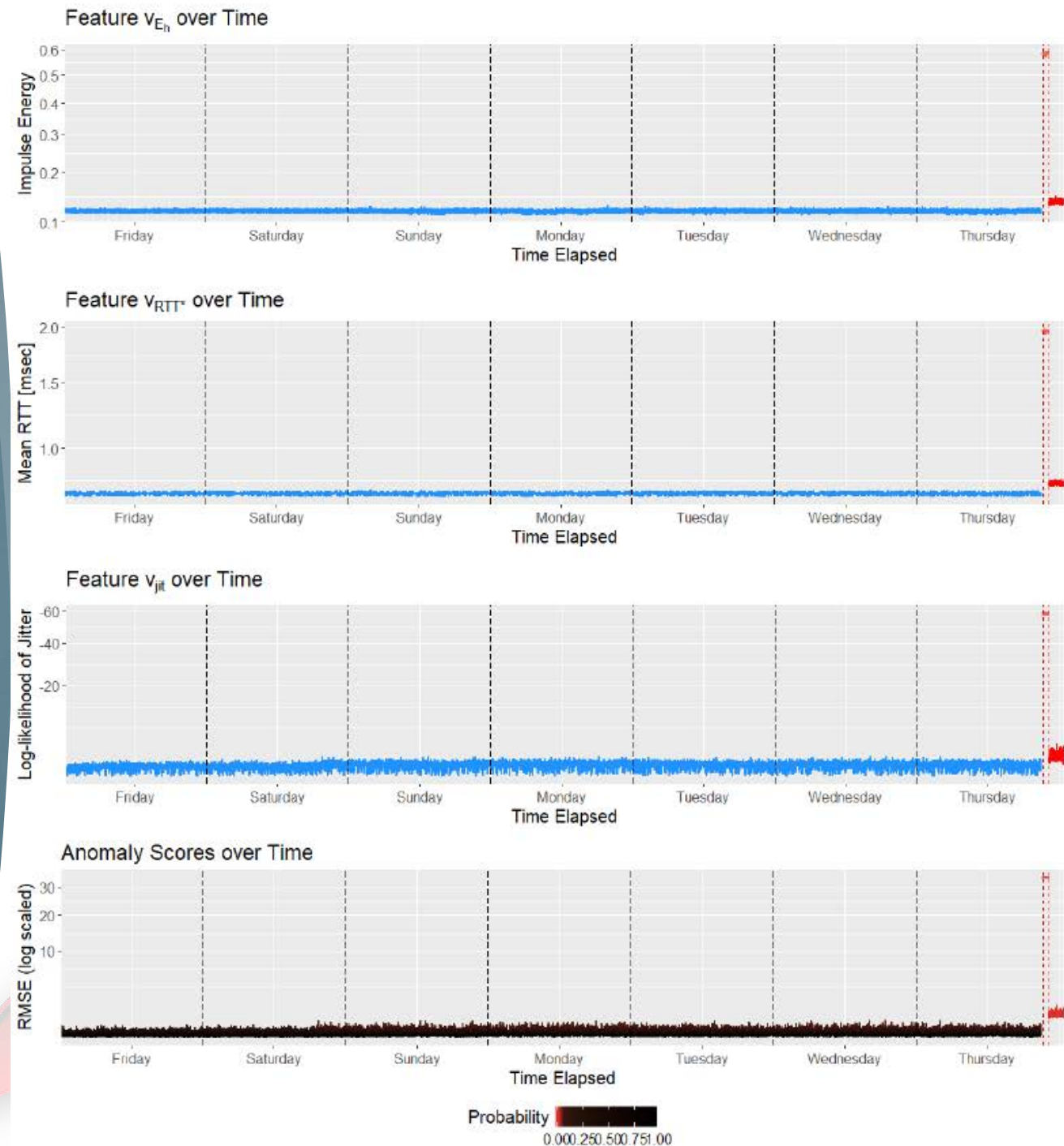
(Attacking our secretary)

Affect of Probe size and Train Time



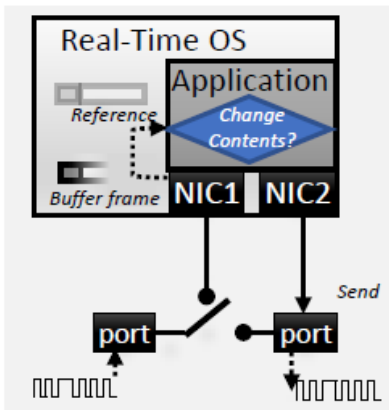
Vesper: Evaluation

Long-term: 7 days



Attacks Against Vesper

In-Line MitM using *Dedicated Hardware* (IL-DH), and has a bypass to evade detection.



Attacks Against Vesper



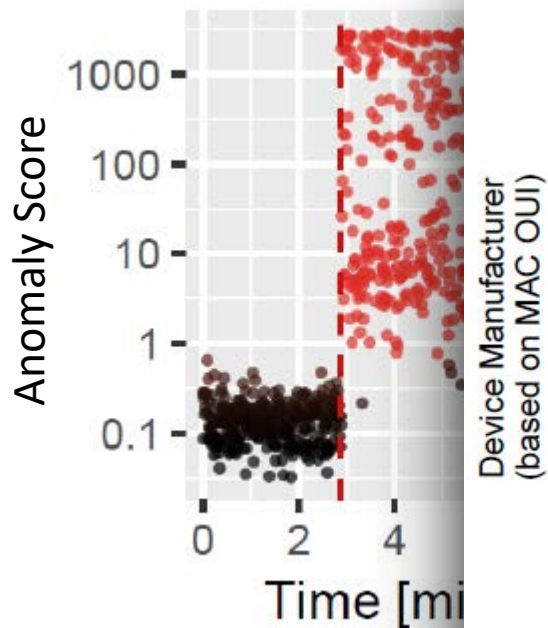
		Adversarial Attack											
		DoS			Spoof			Replay			Bypass		
		EP	IL	IP	EP	IL	IP	EP	IL	IP	EP	IL	IP
Feature	v_{Eh}	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	●	-	○	○
	v_{rtt*}	●	●	●	○	○	○	○	○	○	-	○	○
	v_{jit}	●	●	●	●	●	●	○	○	○	-	○	○
		Strengths						Weaknesses					
Feature	v_{Eh}	Detecting Replay Attacks						Has 1D Collision Space					
	v_{rtt*}	Detecting Additional Hops						Detecting Spoof Attacks					
	v_{jit}	Detecting Spoofing Attacks						Detecting Replay Attacks					

EP: End-Point MitM
IL: In-Line MitM
IP: In-Point MitM

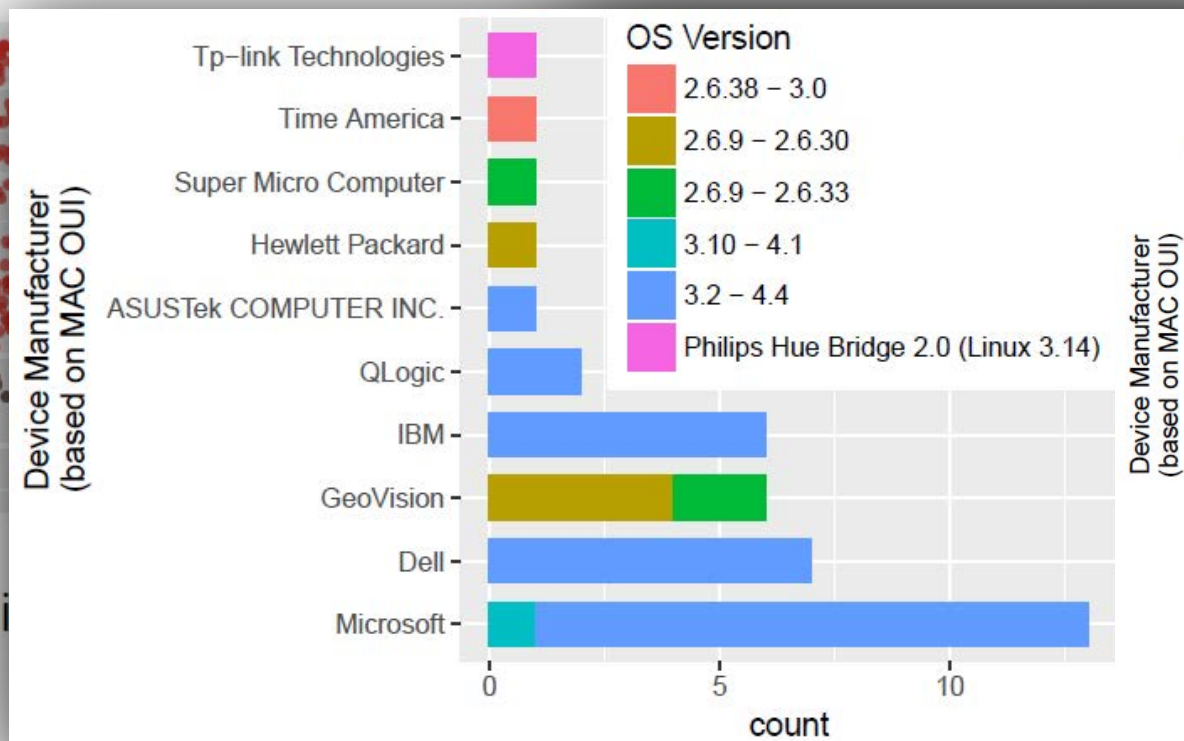
Detection
○ Weak
○ Modest
● Strong

Attacks Against Vesper

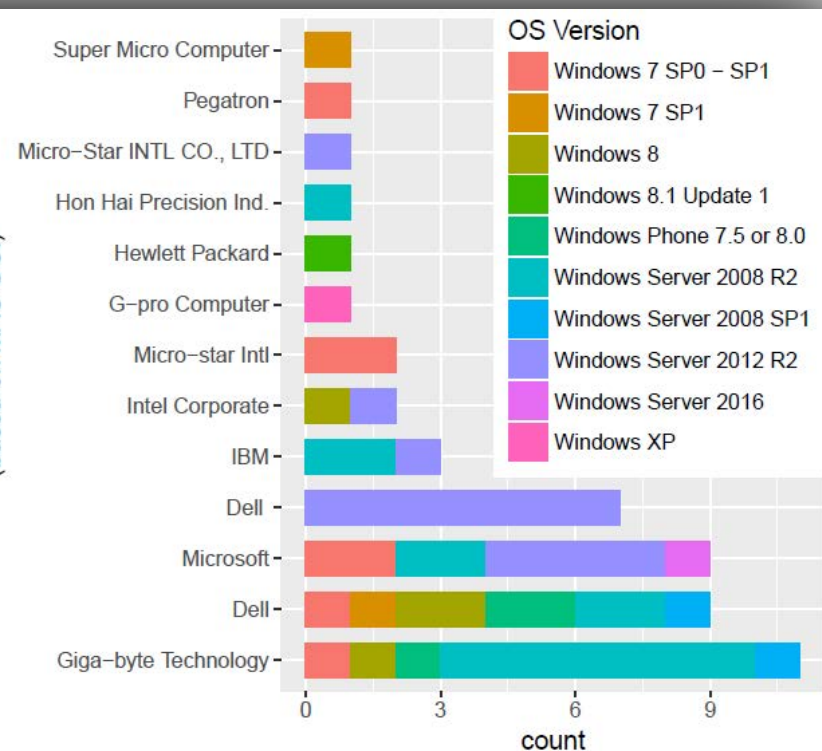
Replay



Bypass



Spoof



Download Vesper

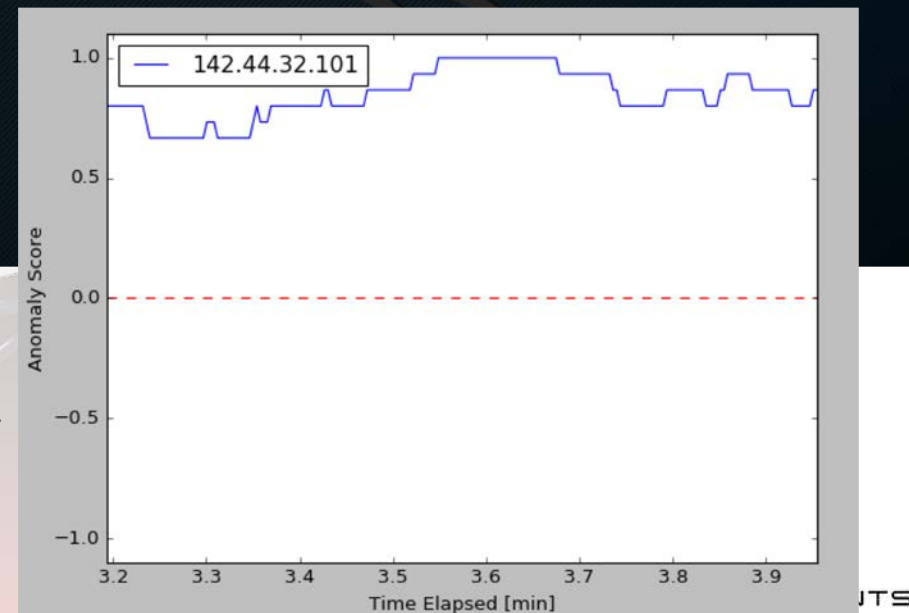
<https://github.com/ymirsky/Vesper>

GitHub

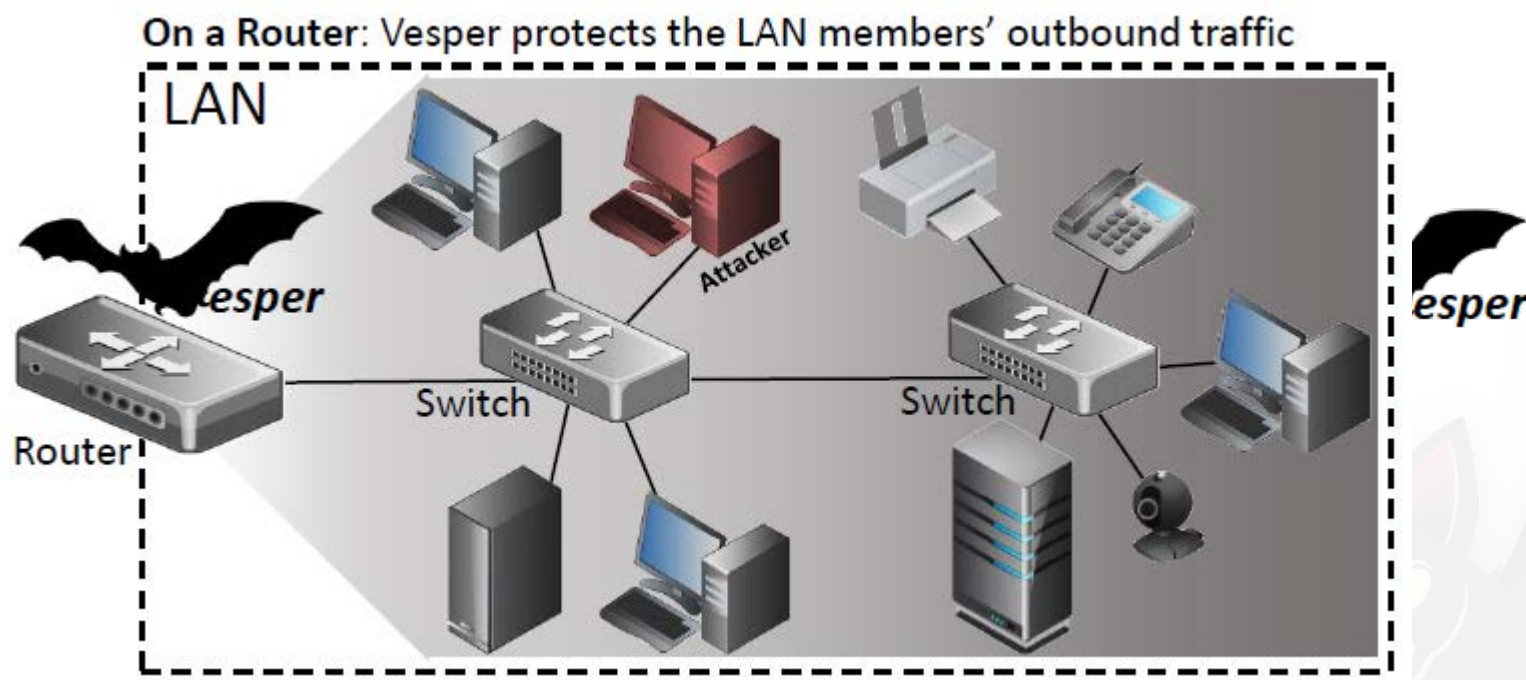
A lite version of Vesper (v1.0):

- Python with C++ cython wrapper
- Linux only (tested on Kali)
- Monitors and plots multiple IPs
- Will not alert during adversarial attacks
- Will not detect swapping with identical devices, but will detect different models.

```
Vesper Status -- Runtime: 0:03:57.293602
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| IP      | Status | Score | Profile | Tx Freq [kHz] | Probe Duration | Note |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 142.44.32.101 | Normal | 0.87 | Trained | 1.56 | 158.26 ms | |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
Sent 1,049 probes.
```



Vesper: Deployment Strategies



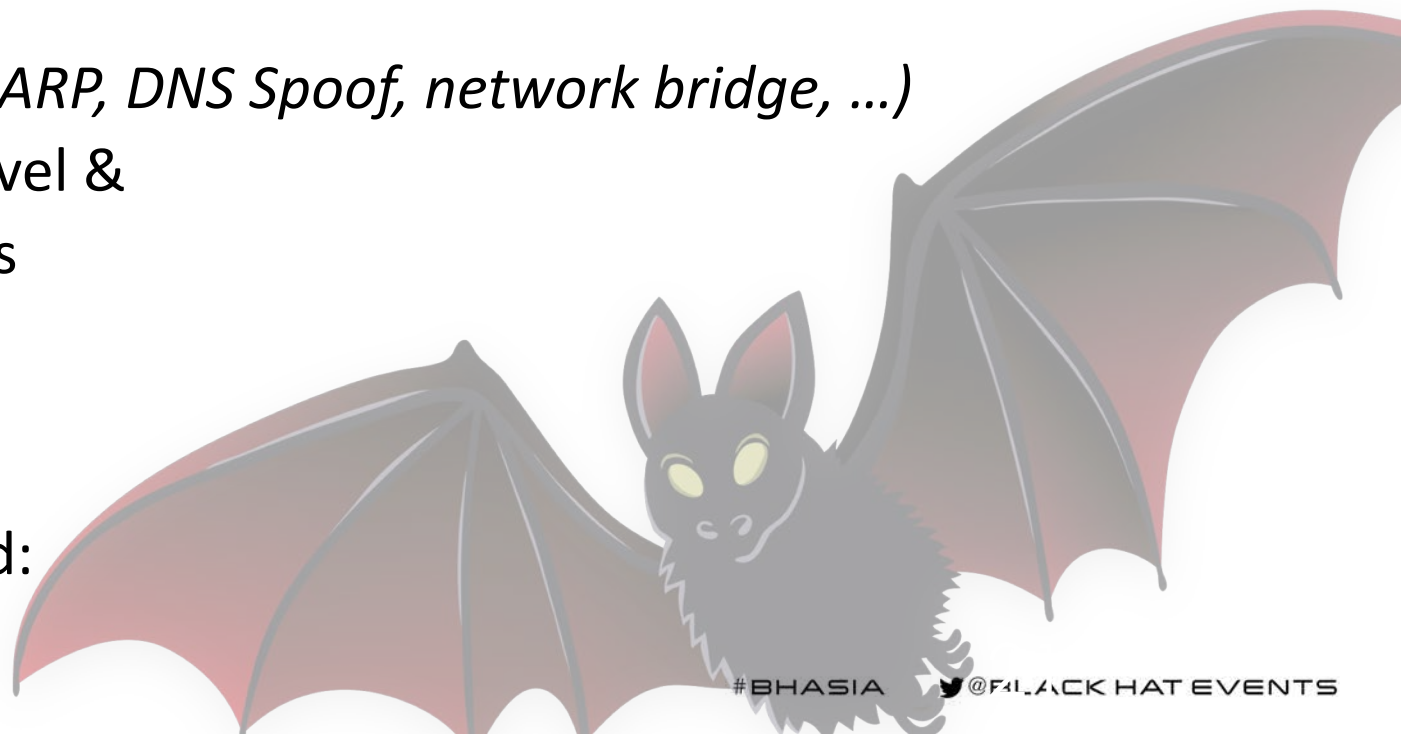
Black Hat Sound Bytes



- In a LAN, we can detect a MitM by “bouncing” virtual signals off hosts.
- The approach detects all LAN-based MitM attacks regardless of
 - Forensic evidence or
 - Attack implementation (*ARP, DNS Spoof, network bridge, ...*)
- Implemented at software level & Robust to adversarial attacks



Tool and whitepaper available for download:
<https://github.com/ymirsky/Vesper>





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Man-in-the-Middle Attacks in LANs

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