

IEEE 802.16 WiMax Security

Dr. Kitti Wongthavarawat

Thai Computer Emergency Response Team (ThaiCERT)
National Electronics and Computer Technology Center
Thailand

Presented at 17th Annual FIRST Conference, Singapore
July 1, 2005

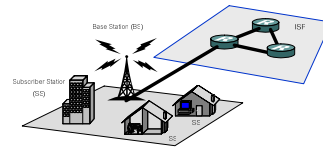


Agenda

- Introduction to IEEE 802.16 WiMax
- IEEE 802.16 Security Architecture based on IEEE 802.16-2004 Standard
- IEEE 802.16 Security Process and Analysis
 - Authentication
 - Data Key Exchange
 - Data Privacy
- Conclusions

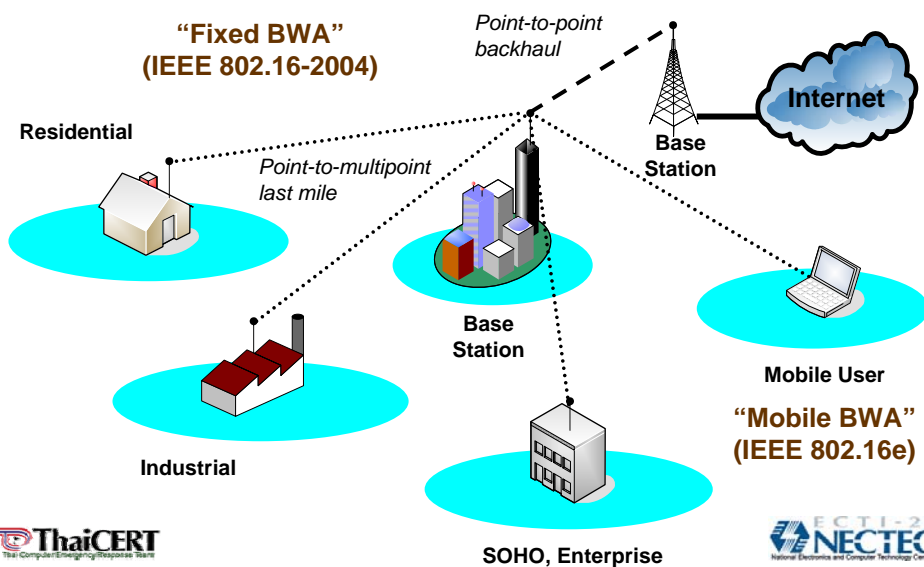


IEEE 802.16 WiMAX

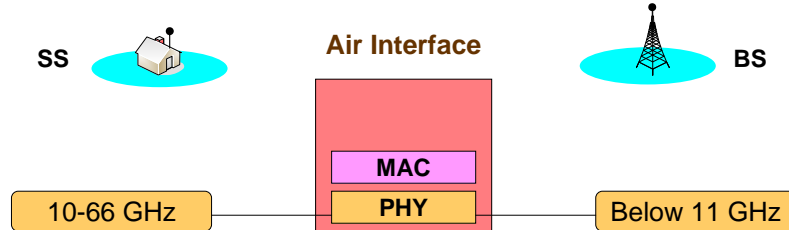


- Wireless Metropolitan Area Network (WMAN) Standard, Broadband Wireless Access (BWA)
- Last mile connectivity
- Range up to 50 km.
- Provide high speed connectivity that supports data, voice and video
- Fast deployment, cost saving

IEEE 802.16 Applications

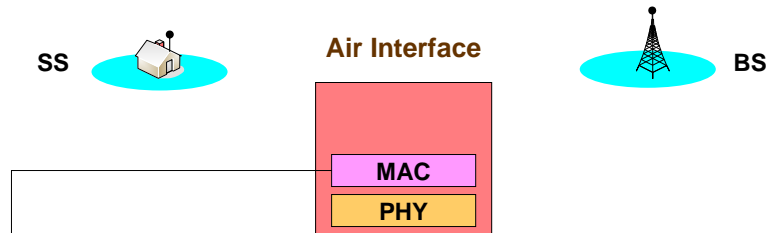


IEEE 802.16-2004



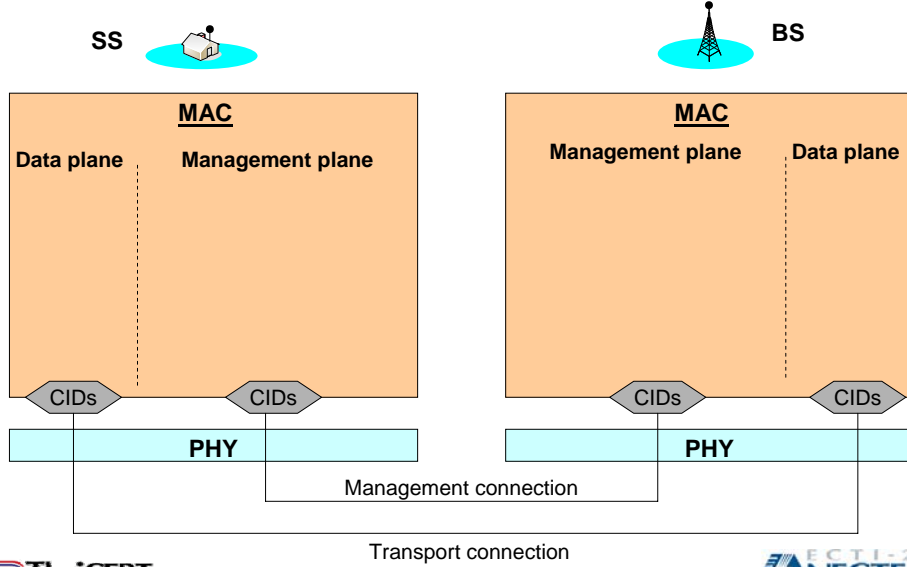
- WirelessMAN-SC
- WirelessMAN-SCa
- WirelessMAN-OFDM
- WirelessMAN-OFDMA
- WirelessHUMAN

IEEE 802.16-2004

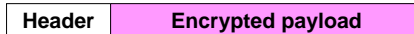
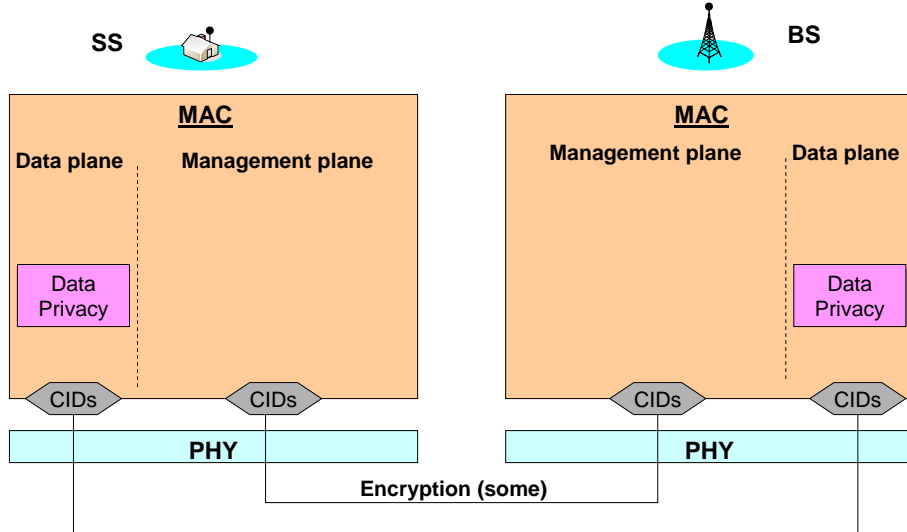


- Contentionless MAC protocol
- Multiple access controlled by BS
- Connection oriented
- Security sublayer

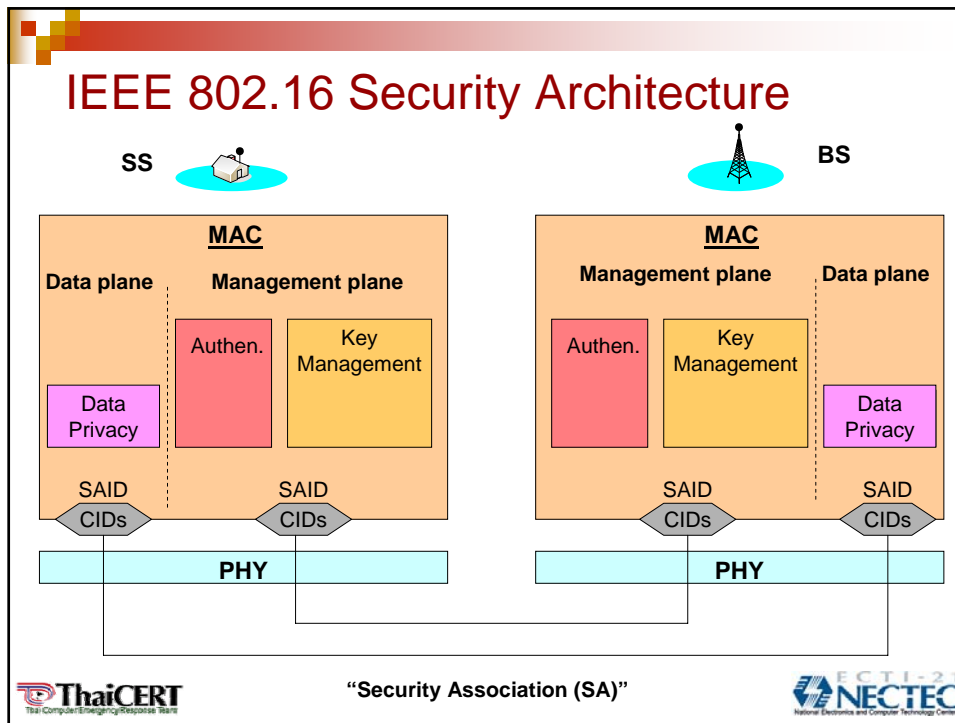
IEEE 802.16 Security Architecture



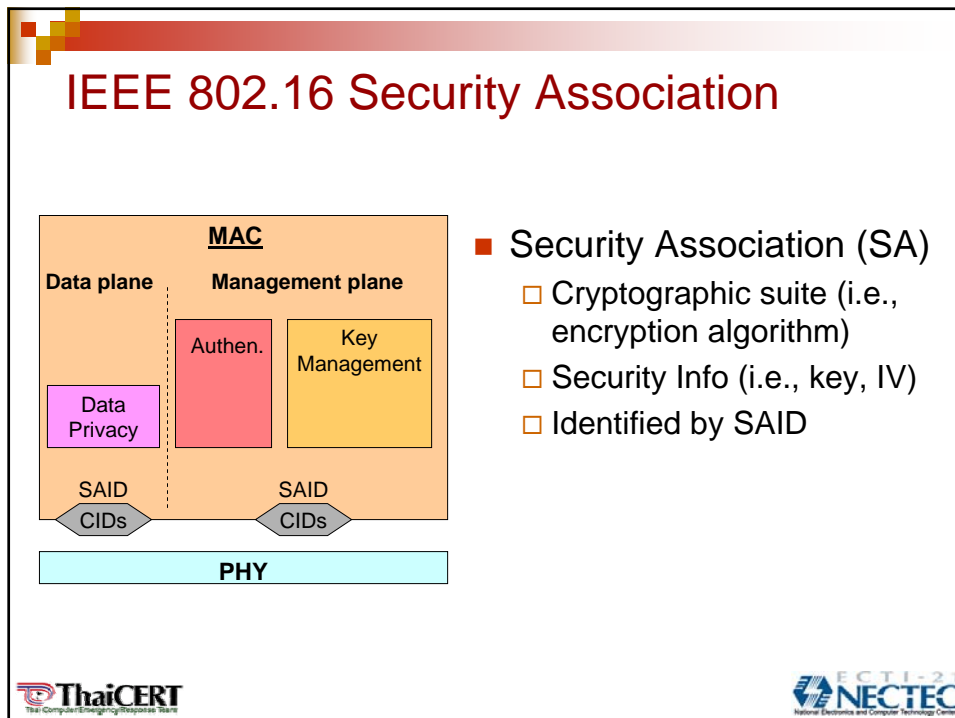
IEEE 802.16 Security Architecture



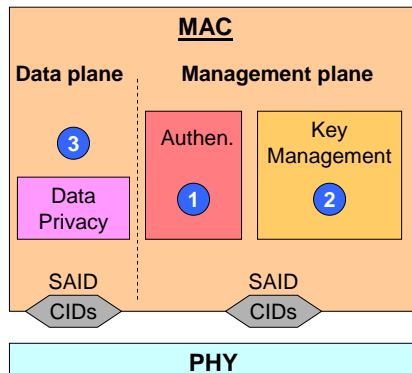
IEEE 802.16 Security Architecture



IEEE 802.16 Security Association



IEEE 802.16 Security Process



1 Authentication

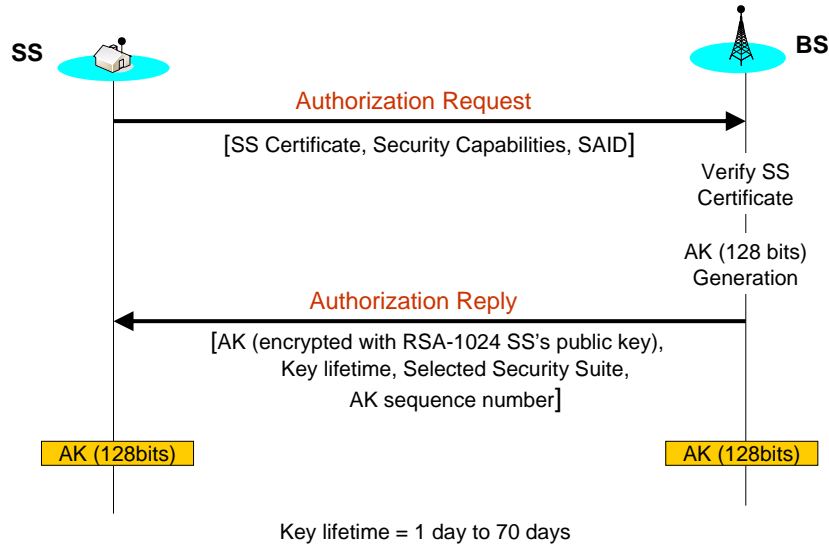
2 Data Key Exchange

3 Data Privacy

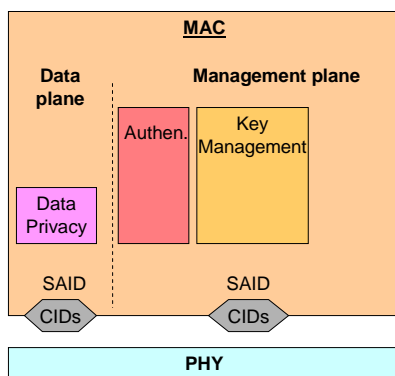
IEEE 802.16 Authentication

- SS authentication using X.509 certificate
- No BS authentication
- Negotiate security capabilities between BS and SS
- Establish security association (SAID)
- Authentication Key (AK) exchange
 - AK serves as authorization token
 - AK is encrypted using public key cryptography
- Authentication is done when both SS and BS possess AK

IEEE 802.16 Authentication

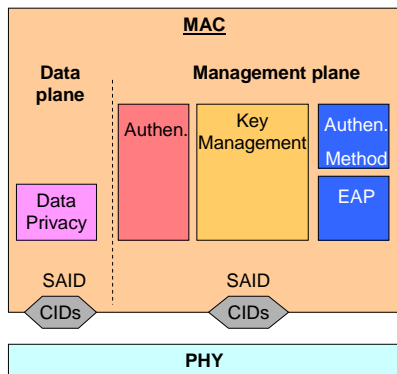


IEEE 802.16 Authentication Analysis



- No mutual authentication – Rogue BS
 - Man-in-the-middle attack
- Limited authentication method – SS certification
- New authentication method requires adding new type of authentication message

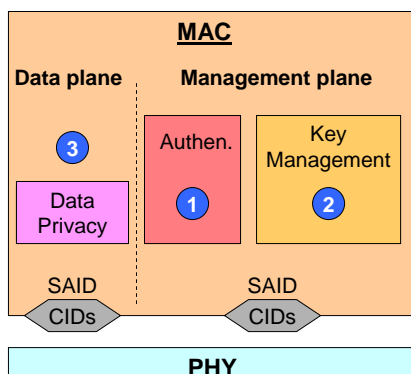
IEEE 802.16 Authentication Analysis



Solution

- EAP-based Authentication
- Authentication methods (i.e., EAP-TLS, EAP-TTLS, PEAP, EAP-SIM)
- Extend the authentication to AAA Server
- Proposed in draft IEEE 802.16e

IEEE 802.16 Security Process



- 1 Authentication
- 2 Data Key Exchange
- 3 Data Privacy

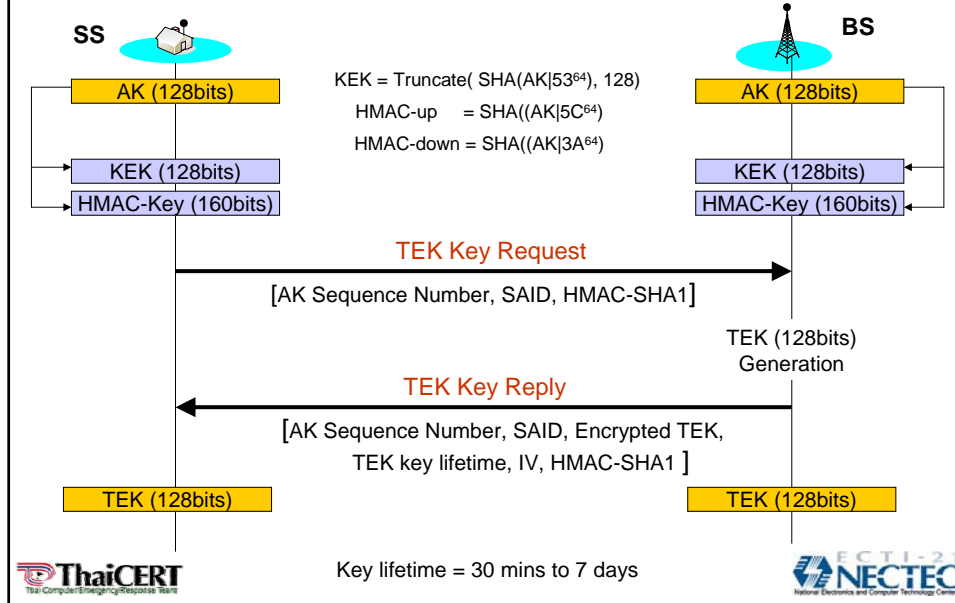
IEEE 802.16 Data Key Exchange

- Data encryption requires data key called Transport Encryption key (TEK).
- Use AK from authentication process to derive key encryption key (KEK) and Message Authentication key (HMAC key)
- TEK is generated by BS randomly

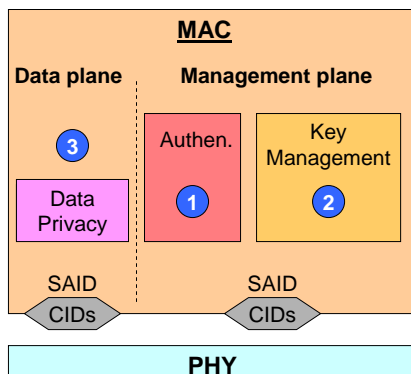
IEEE 802.16 Data Key Exchange

- TEK is encrypted with
 - 3DES (use 112 bits KEK)
 - RSA (use SS's public key)
 - AES (use 128 bits KEK)
- Key Exchange message is authenticated by HMAC-SHA1 – (provides Message Integrity and AK confirmation)

IEEE 802.16 Data Key Exchange



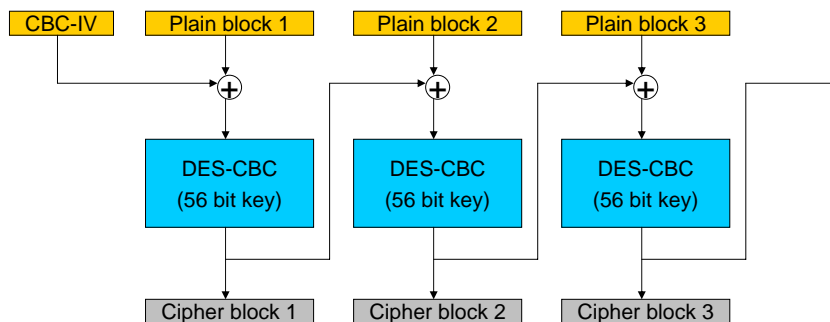
IEEE 802.16 Security Process



- 1 Authentication
- 2 Data Key Exchange
- 3 Data Privacy

IEEE 802.16 Data Privacy

- DES in CBC mode
 - 56 bit DES key (TEK)
 - CBC-IV = [IV Parameter from TEK exchange] XOR [PHY Synchronization field]



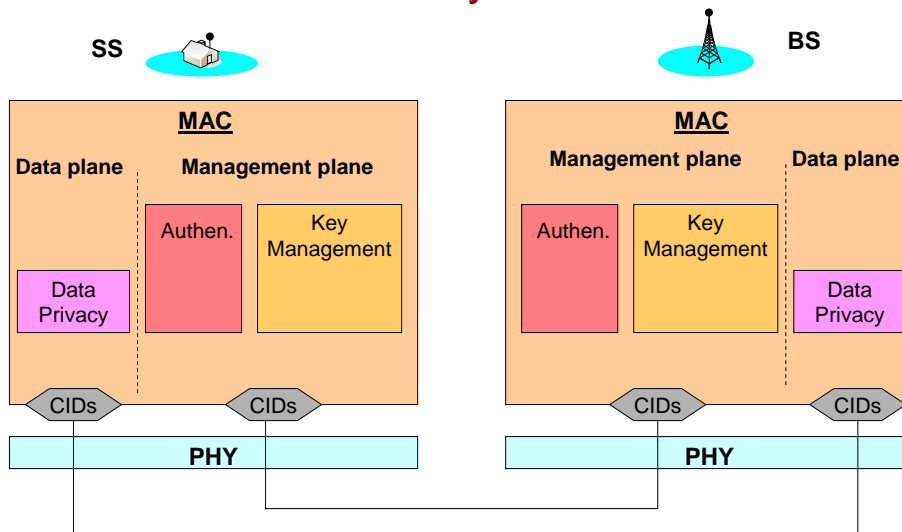
IEEE 802.16 Data Privacy Analysis

- 56 bit key is not secure based on today's computer – Bruce force attack
- CBC-IV is predictable
 - CBC-IV = [IV Parameter from TEK exchange] XOR [PHY Synchronization field]
 - Chosen Plaintext Attack to recover the original plaintext
- No Message Integrity Detection, No replay protection
 - Active attack

IEEE 802.16 Data Privacy

- AES in CCM Mode
 - 128 bit key (TEK)
 - Message Integrity Check
 - Replay Protection using Packet Number

IEEE 802.16 Security Architecture



Conclusions

- Require mutual authentication
- Require more flexible authentication method
 - EAP Authentication
- Improve Key derivation
 - Include the system identity (i.e., SSID)
 - Key freshness – include random number from both SS and BS
- Prefer AES to DES for data encryption