

Carrier VoIP Security

Nicolas FISCHBACH

Senior Manager, Network Engineering Security, COLT Telecom
nico@securite.org - <http://www.securite.org/nico/>

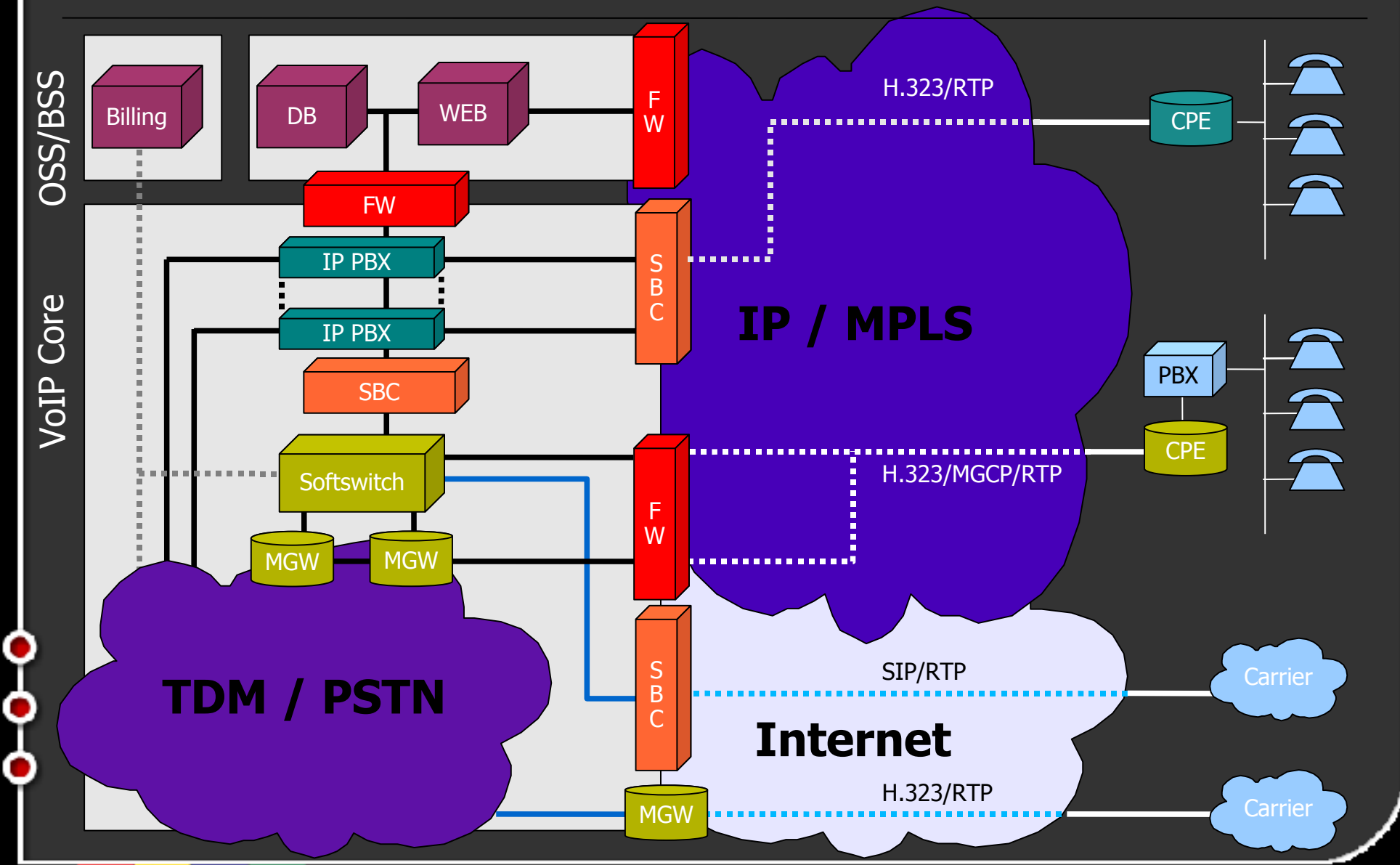
COLT and VoIP

- COLT Telecom
 - Voice, Data and Managed Services, Tier 1 ISP in EU
 - 14 countries, 60 cities, 50k business customers
 - 20 000 km of fiber across Europe + DSL
- VoIP “experience”
 - 3 major vendors
 - One “we're coming from the TDM world”
 - One “we're coming from the IP world”
 - One “we're a VoIP company”
 - Internet and MPLS VPN-based VoIP services
 - Own network (fiber + DSL) and wDSL
 - Going PacketCore + NGN + IMS

VoIP Network Architecture

CanSecWest/core06

OSS/BSS
VoIP Core



VoIP Protocols

- H.323
 - ITU, ASN.1, CPE/Phone<->Gatekeeper
 - H.225/RAS (1719/UDP) for registration
 - H.225/Q.931 (1720/TCP) for call setup
 - H.245 (>1024/TCP – or over call setup channel) for call management
- MGCP (Media Gateway Control Protocol)
 - IETF, Softswitch (CallAgent)<->MGW
 - CallAgents->MGW (2427/UDP)
 - MGW->CallAgents (2727/UDP)
 - Used to control MGWs
 - AoC (Advise Of Charge) towards CPE

VoIP Protocols

- SIP
 - IETF, HTTP-like
 - Hendrik's VoIP/SIP Security talk tomorrow :)
- RTP
 - Media stream (one per direction)
 - RTCP: control protocol for RTP
 - SRTP: Secure RTP (w/ MiKEY)
 - Often 16000+/UDP or default NAT range, but can be any UDP>1024
 - Can be UA<->UA (risk of fraud) or UA<->MGW<->UA

Session Border Controller

- What the role of an SBC ?
 - Security
 - Hosted NAT traversal (correct signalling / IP header)
 - Signalling conversion
 - Media Conversion
 - Stateful RTP based on signalling
- Can be located at different interfaces:
Customer/Provider, inside customer LAN,
Provider/Provider (VoIP peering)
- What can be done on a FW with ALGs ?
- What can be done on the end-system ?
- Is there a need for a VoIP NIDS (especially with SIP-TLS)

VoIP Hardware

- Mix of software and hardware (mostly DSPs)
 - Softswitch: usually only signalling
 - MGW (Media Gateway): RTP<->TDM, SS7oIP<->SS7
 - IP-PBX: Softswitch+MGW
- Operating systems
 - Real-time OSes (QNX/Neutrino, VxWorks, RTLinux)
 - Windows
 - Linux, Solaris
- Poor OS hardening
- Patch management:
 - OSes not up-to-date
 - Not “allowed” to patch them

Security challenges

- VoIP protocols
 - No, VoIP isn't just SIP
 - SIP is a driver for IMS services and cheap CPEs
 - H.323 and MGCP rock the carrier world
- Security issues
 - VoIP dialects
 - Only a couple of OEM VoIP stacks (think x-vendor vulnerabilities)
 - FWs / SBCs: do they solve issues or introduce complexity ?
 - Are we creating backdoors into customer networks ?
 - CPS and QoS

VoIP dialects: result

- No way to firewall / ACL (especially if non-stateful) based on protocol inspection
- Vendors who never heard of timeouts and don't send keep-alives
- Result :
 - Clueful: Permit UDP <port range> <identified systems>
 - Half clueful: Permit UDP <port>1024> any
 - Clueless: Permit UDP any any
- End-result:
 - 0wn3d via exposed UDP services on COTS systems
 - Who needs RPC services (>1024/UDP) ?

(Not so) Lawful Intercept

- Lawful Intercept
 - Re-use existing solutions: TDM break-out
 - Install a sniffer (signalling+media stream)
 - Re-route calls (but hide it in the signalling)
- Eavesdropping
 - Not a real threat (own network)
 - Enterprise network : Needs to be a part of a global security strategy
 - Clear text e-mail
 - Clear text protocols (HTTP, Telnet, etc)
 - Clear text VoIP
 - Etc
 - vomit, YLTI, VOIPONG, scapy (VoIPoWLAN) : easy way to show how insecure it is

Phones

- Crashing IP Phones
 - This is no news :)
 - Quite easy (weak TCP/IP stacks and buggy software implementation)
 - Mostly an insider threat
 - DHCP server
 - TFTP server (phone configuration)
 - Credentials (login + PIN)
- VoIP doesn't mean that you need to move to IP Phones
 - PBX with E1 (PRI/BRI) to router and then VoIP
 - PBX with IP interface towards the outside world (but do you really want to put your PBX on the Internet) ?
 - Means that you have to maintain two separate networks, but "solves" the QoS issues on a LAN
 - What about soft clients ?

Phones : Try this at home :))

- Lots of IP phones with PoE
- CDP exchange: VLAN mapping + PoE information
- What if you write a worm that tells the switch to send you 48V to your non-PoE Ethernet NIC on your PC ?



Denial of Service Threat

- Generic DDoS
 - Not a real issue, you can't talk to our VoIP Core
 - ACLs are complex to maintain use edge-only BGP blackholing
 - We are used to deal with large DDoS attacks :)
- DoS that are more of an issue
 - Generated by customers: not too difficult to trace
 - Protocol layer DoS : H.323 / MGCP / SIP signalling
 - Replace CPE / use soft-client
 - Inject crap in the in-band signalling (MGCP commands, weird H.323 TKIPs, etc)
 - Get the state machine of the inspection engine either confused or in a block-state, if lucky for the "server" addresses and not the clients

Security Challenges

- Online services
 - Call Management (operator console)
 - IN routing
 - Reporting / CDRs
- Security issues
 - Multi-tenant capabilities
 - Have the vendors ever heard of web application security ?
 - Who needs security or lawful intercept if a kid can route your voice traffic via SQL injection
- WebApp FWs are really required...

Security Challenges

- TDM / VoIP : two worlds, two realms, becoming one ?
 - Security by “obscurity” / complexity vs the IP world
 - Fraud detection
- Security issues
 - New attack surface for legacy TDM/PSTN networks
 - No security features in old Class5 equipment
 - No forensics capabilities, no mapping to physical line
 - Spoofing and forging
 - People: Voice Engineers vs Data Engineers vs Security engineers. Engineering vs Operations. Marketing vs Engineering. Conflicts and Time-to-Market

Abusing NMS/Operations

- VoIP is damn complex
- Only way to debug most of the issues: VoiceEng + IP/DataEng + SecurityEng on a bridge/online chat
- Requirement: be able to sniff all traffic
- Tool: Ethereal(-like)
- Attacker: Just use any of the protocol decoder flaw in the sniffer
- Make sure your sniffers are on R/O SPAN ports, in a DMZ which only allows in-bound VNC/SSH
- If the guy is really good and can upload a rootkit over RTP: let him take care of the system, he's probably better than your average sysadmin ;-))

Carrier/Carrier VoIP Security

- Aka “VoIP peering” / Carrier interconnect
- Already in place (TDM connectivity for VoIP carriers/Skype{In, Out})
- Connectivity: over the Internet, IX (public/private), MPLS VPN or VPLS (Ethernet)
- No end-to-end MPLS VPN, break the VPN and use an IP-IP interface
- Hide your infrastructure (topology hiding), use {white, black}listing and make sure only the other carrier can talk to you
- Signalling/Media conversion (SBC)

Encryption / Authentication

- Do we want to introduce it ?
- Vendor X: "We are compliant". Sure.
- Vendor Y: "It's on our roadmap". Q1Y31337 ?
- Vendor Z: "Why do you need this ?". Hmmmm...
- IPsec from CPE to VoIP core
 - Doable (recent HW with CPU or crypto card)
 - What about CPE<->CPE RTP ?
 - Still within RTT / echo-cancellation window
- May actually do mobile device<- IPsec ->VoIP core
 - Bad guys can only attack the VPN concentrators
 - Not impact on directly connected customers

Future : IMS services

- IMS = IP Multimedia Subsystem
- Remember when the mobile operators built their WAP and 3G networks ?
- Mostly “open” (aka terminal is trusted)
- Even connected with their “internal”/IT network
- IMS services with MVNOs, 3G/4G: overly complex architecture with tons of interfaces
- Firewalling: complex if not impossible

Carrier VoIP Security

- Conclusion
- Q&A

