



LTE vs. Darwin

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Who we are



- Old-school network geeks, working as security researchers for
- Germany based ERNW GmbH
 - Independent
 - Deep technical knowledge
 - Structured (assessment) approach
 - Business reasonable recommendations
 - We understand corporate
- Blog: www.insinuator.net
- Conference: www.troopers.de
- Telco research project: www.asmonia.de





Motivation - Long Term Evolution (LTE)



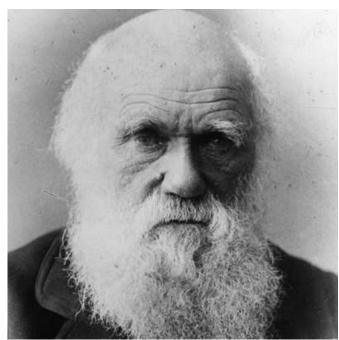
 4G wireless technology for mobile communication

- The 4G standard introduces a lot of new technologies providing modern services to the customer.
 - This includes features as SON,
 Trust and optional controls





Charles Darwin and the Darwin Award



From: biography.com

- Taking oneself out of the gene pool by their own (unnecessarily foolish) actions."
- First on Usenet group discussions as early as 1985
- 1993 on a website and collection of books by University of California, Berkeley

www.darwinawards.com





One Example



"(2003, Australia) Parents often warn that firecrackers can blow your hand off, but as a 26-year-old Australian learned, they can also remove your gonads from the gene pool. An ambulance rushed to an Illawarra park after receiving reports that a man was hemorrhaging from his behind. The mercifully unidentified man had placed a lit firecracker between the cheeks of his buttocks, stumbled, and fell upon it."

http://darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin2003-19.html







Rly? ☺

From: youtube.com





We'll start with some basics...







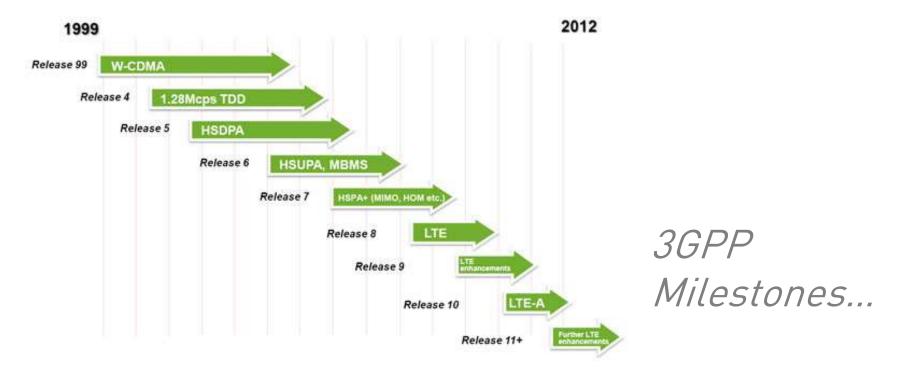
Standards - Overview



- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
 - http://www.itu.int/
- 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP)
 - www.3gpp.org
- Europäisches Institut für Telekommunikationsnormen (ETSI)





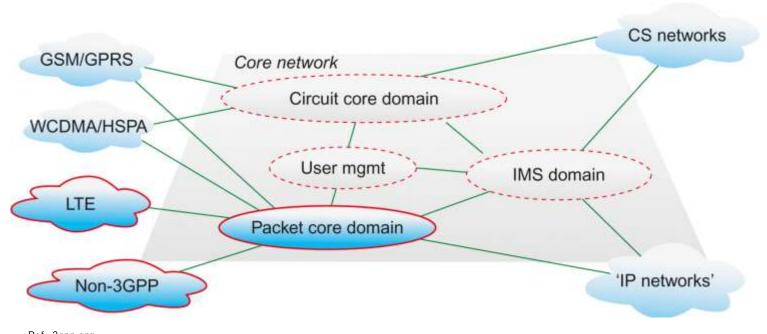


Ref.e: www.3gpp.org





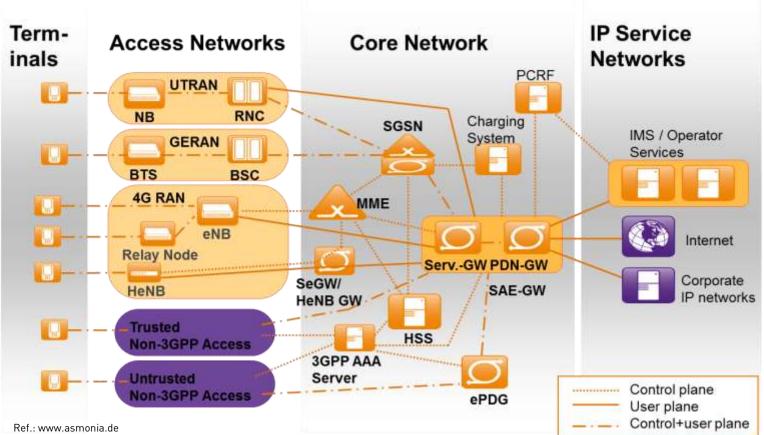
(Evolved) Packet System - Architecture



Ref.: 3gpp.org













LTE in the Field

What we see





eNodeB



- The actual air interface.
- Come in different shapes and sizes.
 - Rack, "Small-Boxes", Portable
- Different types for different size cells.
 - Macro (>100m), Micro (100m), Pico (20-50m), HeNB (10-20m)
 - (WiFi/WiMax)
- Termination Point for Encryption
 - RF channel encryption
 - Backend channel encryption





This results in..... Het-Nets

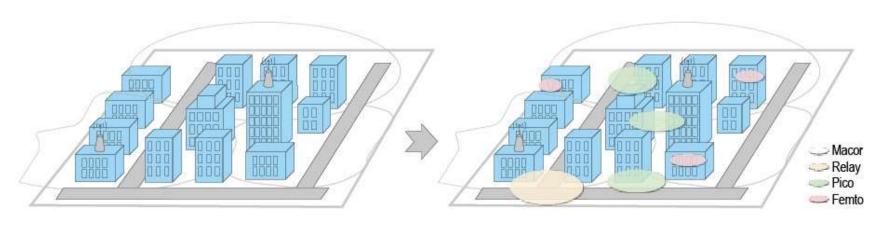


Figure 2. Evolution from homogeneous to heterogeneous networks.

Source: http://wwwen.zte.com.cn/endata/magazine/ztetechnologies/2012/no1/articles/201202/t20120206_283266.html







An actual Runcom eNodeB

Source: runcom.com





eNodeB



- Ports for various amounts of "directional" antennas.
 - Single eNodeB, multiple Cells.
 - Cellmast "between" two cells
- Placed "close to antenna"
 - On the mast or down below.
- Connected via LAN
 - "Self Configuring"
 - More on that later on









And now...? => Starting with the phone!

Part 1: UE Awareness





Phone means...



- Usually, it has to do phone calls ©

- or Internet; or some other stuff as we will see...
- ...or everything merged together

We've got

- \$Tablets/Slates
- \$USB-Sticks/-Modems
- \$4G Cards
- SMobile Hotspots
- Relay Nodes ;-)





Our Scope



- When talking phone security you usually see the OS and its applications.
 - We'll check out some background functionality





UE: Look, Feel, Ask



- (Physical) Cell ID

Tracking Area Code

"Signal Strength"

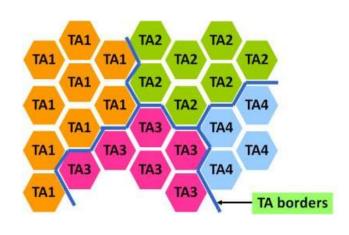
Position







PCI & TAC



Physical Cell-ID

- As known from "old" networks
- Regionally unique identifier
- 504 different IDs
- Configured automatically

Tracking Area Code

- Contains multiple cells.
- Paging area
- UE's current "location"

Source: http://www.3gpp.org/technologies/keywords-acronyms/96-nas





Signal Strength & Location

Enhanced Serving Mobile Location Center (E-SMLC)

Backend part for positioning Accepts requests from MME and organizes the actual process of positioning



Signal Strength

- Measured by device
- Output in different formats

Location

- Positioning request
 - Use of OTDA (Observed Time Difference of Arrival)
 - Use differences in arrival times of packets from certain eNodeBs
- GPS...GALILEO...GLONASS





Accessing Data



- Rather easy

- Use of magic numbers
- Apps
- AT Commands



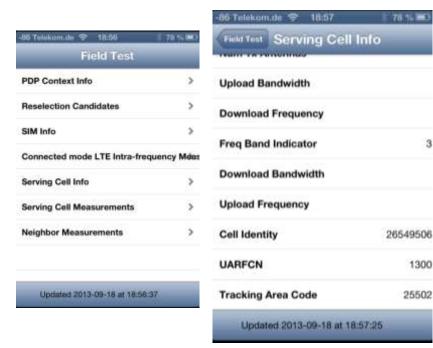




Hackers do "Information Gathering"

3001#12345#

The magic number for IPhones



Field Test Serving Cell M	NOTE OF STREET
The serving Cell M	easure
E-ARFCN	1300
P_Max	16 dBm
Measurement Rules	
Average RSRP	-43.50 dBm
Physical Cell ID	1
Measured RSRP	-48.00 dBm
Average RSRQ	-30.00 dE
Measurement Rules Updated	True
M	.00.40
Updated 2013-09-18 at 18:57	:33

86 Telekam.de 🛜 18:57	178 17
Field Test Serving Cel	l Measure
Qrxlevmin	-104 dBm
Measured RSSI	65.00 dBm
S Intra Search	92 dB
Serving Layer Priority	6
Num of Consecutive DRX	Cycles of S < 0
Measured RSRQ	-24.50 dB
S Non Intra Search	84 dBm
Srxlev	87 dBm





And on Android...

Network Signal Info

https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=de.android.telnet&hl=de







But why...?



From: youtube.com

- Knowledge! Understanding LTE!

Collect and Log Data

- Answer a few questions
 - How large are Cells?
 - How large are Tracking Areas?





"Simple" Approach



- Writing an App on Android
- Use of onboard functionality & dump data into xml file

```
tm =
  (TelephonyManager)this.getSystemService(Context
.TELEPHONY_SERVICE);
CellIdentityLte cell =
  ((CellInfoLte)a).getCellIdentity();
pci=cell.getPci());
tac=cell.getTac());
mnc=cell.getMnc());//Network Code
mcc=cell.getMcc());//Country Code
```



*EMRDY: 1



Or do it manually

```
AT+COPS?
+COPS: 0,0,"T-Mobile",0
OK
AT+cops=?
+COPS: (1,"T-Mobile","T-Mobile","310260",0),(1,"AT&T","AT&T","310410",2),(1,"AT&T","AT&T","310410",0),(1,"T-Mobile","T-Mobile","310260",2)
```

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3rd Party Awareness

Am I being watchted?







Can you see me??



- LTE is an IP Network

Scanning can be possible

Exemplary Data

- Attach Process
- Paging Process







The Attach Procedure

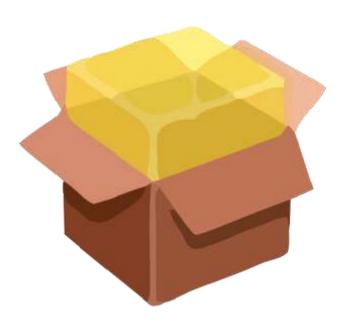
Initial Bearer Setup







Involved components



- SIM Card
- UE
- eNB
- MME Mobility Management Entity
- SGW Serving Gateway
- PGW PDN (Packet Data Network)
 Gateway
- HSS Home Subscriber Server





UE powers on

Sends RRC Connection Request to eNB. (including S-TMSI/Random)



IMSI transfered to eNB in Connection Completed Message eNB contacts MME and passes on ID



Communication relayed from eNB to MME in NAS Messages is >>always<< encrypted ©



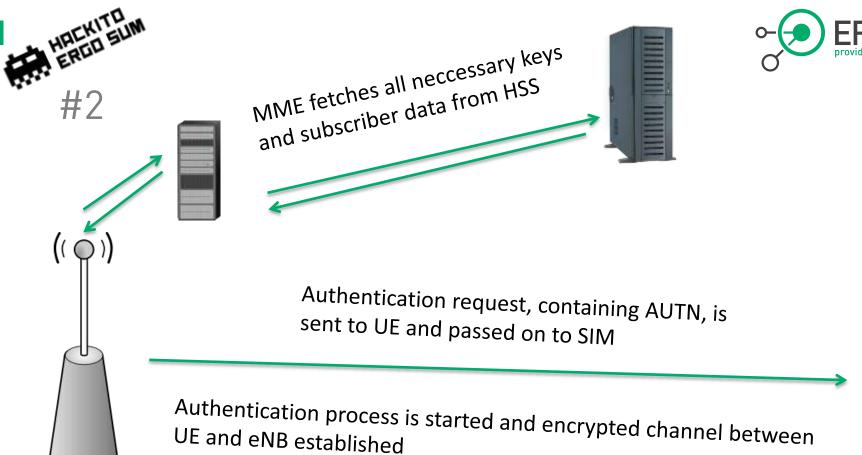


Always Encrypted?



Yes!

- You may choose from three ciphering algorithms
- EEA2 AES
- EEA1 SNOW 3g
- EEA0 Null ciphering algorithm









#3



- Final steps of attach procedure are processed
 - Establishment of IP connection etc.

- ...But, the connection is encrypted and we as a third party can't see it anymore....





Paging







What is Paging



- "Wake up call"

- UE is usually in a connected standby mode to save energy
- Paging wakes the UE and informs it of incoming messages and calls
- UE checks for Paging Messages periodically on certain channel





How to reach a certain UE?



 Paging frames are sent out in a certain tracking area periodically

- Certain "flags" can be set in these frames
 - Actually in certain sub-frames

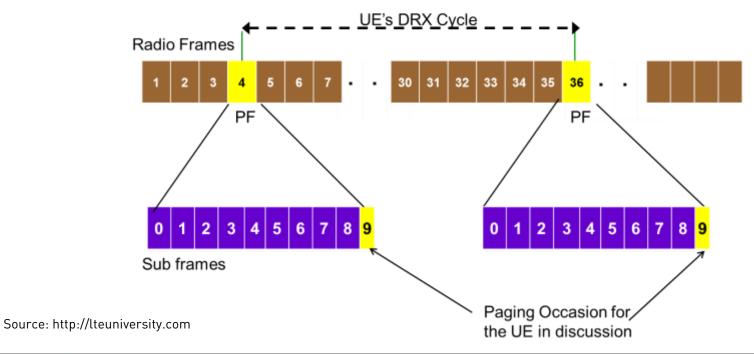
UE knows which "flag" to react to





Paging Frame, Easy Explanation

PF and PO when T=32, nB=T/2







Where to look?

SFN mod T= (T div N) * (UE_id mod N)







Find the Frame

eNB and UE are synchronized during attachment process!!



- ¬ SFN mod T=
 (T div N) * (UE_id mod N)
- SFN: System Frame Number
- T: DRX cycle of the UE
 - UEs wake up cycle (32, 64, 128, 256)
- nB: Number of paging occasions per DRX cycle
 - 4T, 2T, T, T/2, T/4, T/8, T/16, T/32
- \neg N: min(T,nB)
- UE_id: IMSI mod 1024





Find the Occasion

- i_s = floor(UE_ID/N) mod Ns

 \neg Ns: max(1,nB/T)

Ns	PO i_s=0	PO i_s=1	PO i_s=1	PO i_s=1
1	9	N/a	N/A	N/A
2	4	9	N/A	N/A
3	0	4	5	9

Paging Occasion from lookup table







And now?

We need:

SFN mod T= (T div N) * (UE_id mod N)



- Closer look at (UE_id mod N)
 - N <= 256
 - So (...) can be 255 max
- Closer look at (T div N)
 - T <= 256
 - $N > = T/32 \rightarrow N > = 8$
 - So (...) can be 32 max
- Whole term can be max 8160





So....



- We've got 8160 possible paging frames
- And 4 possible paging locations



 So we can page up to 32640 different devices

 Or...well...page a few different ones at the same time





Impact?



 You might loose some extra battery power

 Rather hard to actually track a mobile phone, due to different constansts on different eNBs

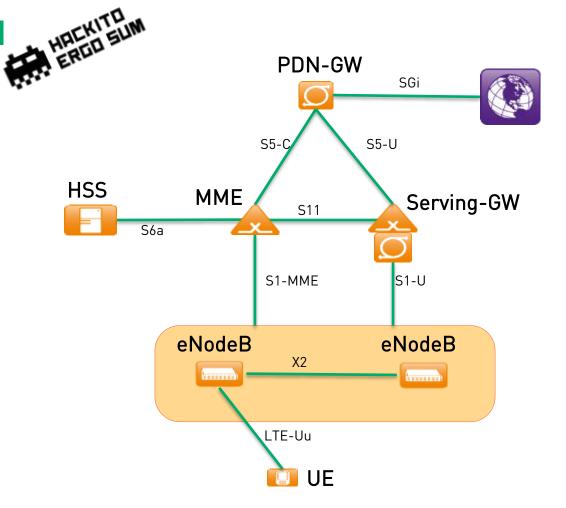




The other side...

Backend Structure









Remember...?

The 4G LTE Basic





Access to Telco Network??

Ever scanned your providers IP address range?

```
hschmidt@hslpt:~$ telnet
  :~/tools/nmap$ ./nmap -sP
                                        Trying
Starting Nmap 6.40 ( http://nmap.org ) at 20 Connected to
Note: Host seems down. If it is really up, b Escape character is '^]'.
Nmap done: 1 IP address (0 hosts up) scanned
                                         -----Welcome to ATP Cli-----
hschmidt@ :~/ERNW/temp$ nmap -sP
                                        Login:
Starting Nmap 6.41SVN ( http://nmap.org ) at 2014-01-07 15:05 CET
Nmap scan report for
Host is up (0.032s latency).
Nmap done: 1 IP address (1 host up) scanned in 2.57 seconds
```







Access Point Names (APN)



 Access List often depends on the chosen APN.

- APNs are well-known, or?
- Ever heard of APNBF?
 - www.c0decafe.de







Access to Components and its Network?

Source: worldlte.blogspot.com





Some quotes from 3GPP TS 33.403

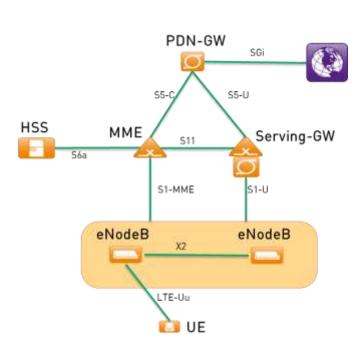
"Setting up and configuring eNBs shall be authenticated and authorized so that attackers shall not be able to modify the eNB settings and software configurations via local or remote access."







Control Structure



GTP Interfaces

 ShmooCon 2011: Attacking 3G and 4G mobile telecommunications networks.

S1 Interface

- S1-MME: control interface between eNB and MME
- S1-U: user plane
- IPSec Encryption







Specs about IPSec

- But this doesn't matter, 4G security is mostly based on Security-Gateways
- 3GPP TS 33.401
 - "In order to protect the S1 and X2 control plane [...], it is *required to* implement IPsec [...]. For both S1-MME and X2-C, IKEv2 certificates based authentication [...] *shall be* implemented."
 - "In order to protect the S1 and X2 user [...], it is *required to* implement IPsec [...] with confidentiality, integrity and replay protection."
 - "... transport mode IPsec is optional for implementation"





Specs about IPSec...

"NOTE 1: In case control plane interfaces are trusted (e.g. physically protected), there is no need to use protection [...]."

"NOTE 2: In case S1 and X2 user plane interfaces are trusted (e.g. physically protected), the use of IPsec/IKEv2 based protection is not needed."





Physical protection??

Source: worldlte.blogspot.com





Even if... Certificates on Devices (e.g. eNB)



2. Signs pub key with factory cert



4. Stores it in its CA pool as a high level certificate

5. Has a signing certificate of operator.

1. Creates priv/pub key pair locally

3. Delivers factory cert to customer (operator) "in a secure way"





Some words on security...



In reality you will find...

- Clients with process controls, DHCP, certificates, autoconnection/configuration
- Servers with DHCP, CMDB, CA, Gateway, QoS

And you know how this works, or?

- Management Interfaces?
- Complexity?
- Common (IP) network problems/vulns?





3GPP Security Assurance Methodology (SECAM)

- Defined in 3GPP TR 33.805 (year 2013)
 - "Each 3GPP network product class [...] can have vulnerabilities which, if exploited, can damage the MNO and/or end-users."

SECAM evaluation will cover the following four tasks:

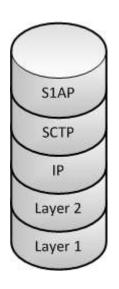
- Vendor network product development and network product lifecycle management process assurance compliance (assessing if the method used to develop the products is compliant with the Security Assurance Process)
- Security Compliance Testing (assessing if requested security requirements are correctly implemented in a network product)
- Basic Vulnerability Testing (running of a set of FOSS/COTS tools on external interfaces of the Network product)
- Enhanced Vulnerability Analysis (holistic approach to analyse risk and impact of Vulnerabilities found in the Network Product))





e.g. Testing the S1 Interface

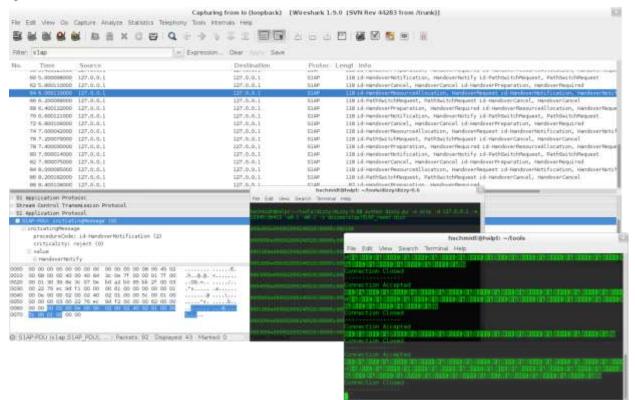
S1AP Protocol Stack



- S1 Application Protocol (S1AP), designed by 3GPP for the S1 interface
- Specified in 3GPP TS 36.413
- Necessary for several procedures between MME and eNodeB
- Also supports transparent transport procedures from MME to the user equipment
- SCTP Destination Port 36412









S1AP with Dizzy

www.insinuator.net www.c0decafe.de







Technology in Perfection?



From: youtube.com





Self Organizing Networks

SON







Random Quote

- It is likely that only a subset of SON functions can be standardised within the timeframe of the first release of the EPS. For that reason a step-by-step roll out of SON functions should be provided.
- From: 3GPP TS 32.500 V11.1.0 (2011-12)





Self Configuration

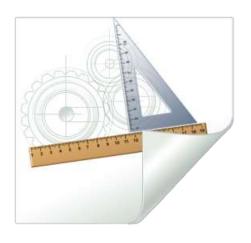
Big style "Plug & Play"







Why?



- Reduce on-site activities by installer
 - Reduce work to:
 - Connect to Antenna
 - Connect to LAN-Cable
 - Connect to Power
- Reduce installation costs
- Increase flexibility

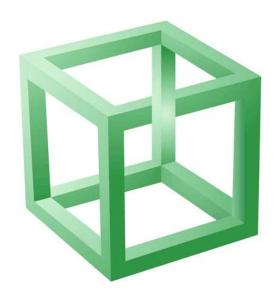






How?

Base firmware is installed in factory



- eNB gets IP via DHCP
- Config gets pushed depending on HW-ID
- Installer configures positioning data or device uses internal GPS receiver
- (Work out PID and maybe new PID for surrounding cells)





Relay Nodes

Selective repeaters

Repeat data for certain eNodeBs



- Install and switch on
- Relay Node acts as UE
 - Connects to "Configurator eNB"
 - Fetches config from backend
- Relay Node relays data from "Donor eNB"





Self-Optimization











Optimized!

From: youtube.com





Self-Optimization



- "Automatically avoiding overlap"
- eNBs are aware of neighboring eNBs/cells
- Automated communication between adjacent eNBs
 - Band sharing both in time and frequency domains
 - Adapting of signal strength





ANR

Automatic Neighbour Relation

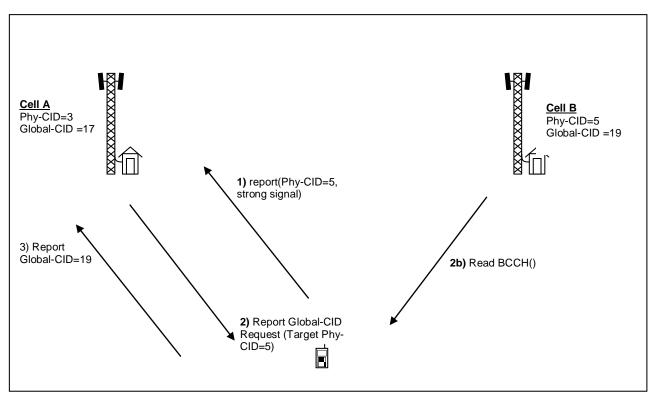


- eNB checks for other cells in it's range.
 - Either itself or by asking an UE for the cells it can see
- If a cell is found, a channel is established via backend.
- Communication via X2 channel
 - Both eNBs communicate directly



ANR Process





Source: 3GPP TS 36.300 V12.1.0 (2014-03)





ANR@eNB

Neighbor Relation Table

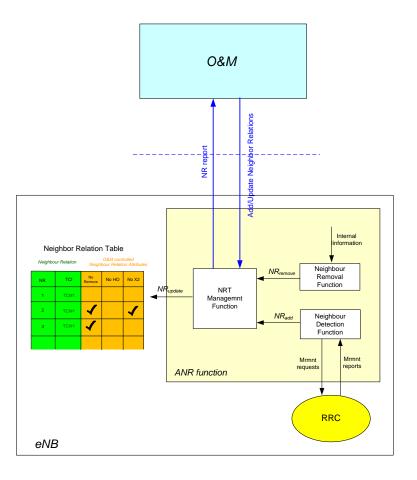
Neighbour Relation O&M controlled
Neighbour Relation Attributes

NR	TCI	No Remove	No HO	No X2
1	TC#1			
2	TCI#1	1		✓
3	TCI#1	1		

Local table for known neighbours

- No Remove: eNB may note remove constraint
- No HO: Relation not to be used to hand overs
- No X2: Do not use X2 for com with device
- Neighbour defined as adjacent cell







ANR@eNB

Source: 3GPP TS 36.300 V12.1.0

(2014-03)





HeNBs



- Home-eNodeBs are able to take part in SON process
 - The ones you might have at home
 - The ones you might have hacked and rooted
- Protocol was adapted to support communication with HeNBs
 - Addition of extra security gateway





The Real Thing Hitachi ER5000



LTE Femto-Cell

- Or Home-eNodeB
- Comes in residential and in enterprise version
- Also comes with "Femto-Cell-Gateway"
 - Reduce load on backend, produced by multiple HeNBs

Source: http://www.hitachi.com/





Hitachi ER5000 Quotes I

Alas! A scientific man ought to have no wishes, no affections — a mere heart of stone.

Charles Darwin

Autonomous Inter-cell Interference Control

Hitachi ER5000 LTE Femtocell (HeNB)
 autonomously mitigates inter-cell interference
 that deteriorates data rate and causes service
 outage at cell boundary.

Femto-GW Minimizing Impacts on EPC

Reduction of signaling load on MME and S-GW, with 3GPP compliant techniques and our proprietary enhancement such as C-plane messaging reduction and intra-Femto-GW mobility control.





Hitachi ER5000 Quotes II

I love fools' experiments. I am always making them.

Charles Darwin

Mobile Traffic Offloading

 The ER5000 LTE Femtocell (HeNB) and Femto-GW enable traffic offloading from macrocell-eNBs and operator's EPC network.

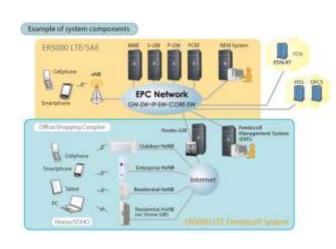
Integrated OAM & P Solution

The ER5000 LTE Femtocell system's 'Plug and Play', 'Self Planning,' 'Self Recovery', 'Self Healing' and 'Self Optimization' - the EMS helps management of a large number of HeNBs with enabling easy installation and maintenance as well as optimizing the system.





Hitachi ER5000 Summary



Autonomous Inter-cell Interference Control

 So it ought to be using SON/ANR features and the X2 channel

Femto-GW Minimizing Impacts on EPC

Just as the specs recommend

Mobile Traffic Offloading

Will only I be able to use my HeNB or might you be connected to it, too?

Integrated OAM & P Solution

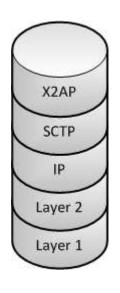
 So it'll get an IP, should be forwarded some configuration Server and fetch it's config over my line?

Source: http://www.hitachi.com/





Another interesting Interface: X2



- ¬ Similar to S1AP ☺
- X2 Application Protocol (X2AP) is defined in 3GPP TS 36.423
- Interconnecting two eNodeBs within E-UTRAN architecture
 - Providing signaling information across the X2 interface

SCTP Destination port 36422





X2AP



- Basic procedure: X2 Setup
- Some more interesting
 - eNB Configuration Update
 - Handover Preparation/Initiation
 - Cell Activation
 - Load Information Exchange
 - **–** ...
- But also: Relaying of NAS



Masscan supports SCTP

Besides the well-known transport protocols of TCP and UDP, there is also one called SCTP. It's been included in Windows, Linux, Mac OS X for 10 years. Almost nobody uses it. I know little more about this protocol than you do.

But I can now scan for it in masscan. Scanning the entire Internet for an SCTP service would look something like this:

```
masscan 0.0.0.0/0 -p5:36422,36412 --rate 100000
```

Like nmap, you can prefix ports with the letter of the transport protocol, where TE is for TCP, UE is for UDP, and SE is for SCTP.

The ports above are for protocols in the LTE/4G protocol suite. Running this scan, I got the following results:

```
Discovered open port 36412/sctp on 31.204.128.247
Discovered open port 36412/actp on 41,213,0,147
Discovered open port 36412/sctp on 41.213.0.163
Discovered open port 36412/sctp on 61.252,41.113
Discovered open port 36412/sctp on 64.71,135.220
Discovered open port 36412/sctp on 115.12.152.194
Discovered open port 36422/sctp on 115.12.152.194
Discovered open port 36412/actp on 119.194,139.93
Discovered open port 36412/actp on 119.30.227.186
Discovered open port 36422/actp on 120.199.33.154
Discovered open port 36422/actp on 120.199.63.234
Discovered open port 36412/sctp on 173.228.61.6
Discovered open port 36412/sctp on 182,98,163,217
Discovered open port 36422/sctp on 183.247.170.18
Discovered open port 36422/actp on 197.243.0.89
Discovered open port 36422/sctp on 197.243.0.90
Discovered open port 36422/sctp on 197,243,0,91
Discovered open port 36422/sctp on 197.243.0.92
Discovered open port 36422/sctp on 197,243.0.93
Discovered open port 36422/sctp on 197.243.0.94
Discovered open port 36422/sctp on 211.72.48.37
Discovered open port 36422/sctp on 221.112.39.246
```



"Nobody would use this in the Internet"

http://blog.erratasec.com/2014/0 1/masscan-supportssctp.html#.U1gQ4R9vK0x





Just a few thoughts



- Can I set up a connection with \$device in \$network?
- Can I get my phone to actually make 2 eNBs think that they're closer than the actually are?
- Can I use my HeNB and tell a macro cell eNB, that I'm actually covering all it's area and that I'm so much better in doing so?
- ¬ → Future research





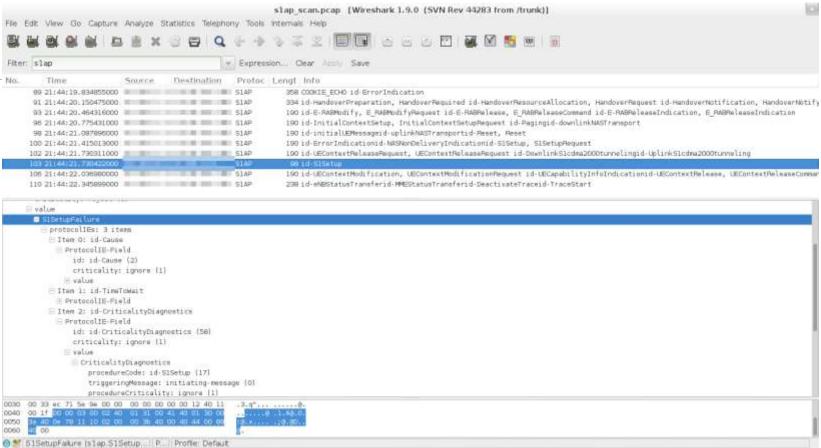
Problems in Reality

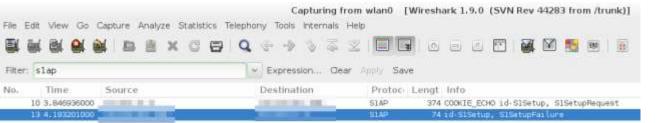


- Default configuration
- ¬ Even you are not able to get into
 IPSec communication, eNB/MME
 may process non-encrypted traffic
 ☺

HACKITO ELIM









```
Payload protocol identifier: S1 Application Protocol (S1AP) (18)
 SI Application Protocol
 3 51AP-POU: unsuccessfulOutcome (2)
   munsuccessfulOutcome
      procedureCode: id-SiSetup [17]
      criticality: reject (0)
    E value
      E 51SetupFailure
        = protocollEs: 1 item
          ☐ Item 0: id-Cause
           ProtocolIE-Field
               id: id-Cause (2)
               criticality: ignore (1)
               E Cause: Misc (4)
                   misc: unknown-PLMN (5)
0010 00 3c 00 00 40 00 2c 84 dd 98 77 27 e3 ba 0a c0
                                                      .<..0.,...w'....
0020 0b 04 8e 3c 8e 3b 2f df 44 20 3a c3 1c a4 00 03
                                                      ....... D t.....
0030 00 1c da f4 3b 49 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 12 40 11
                                                      0040 00 08 00 00 01 00 02 40 01 00
                                                      .......
                                                                                                       Profile: Default
Cause (s1ap, Cause), 1 byte Packets: 67 - Displayed: 2 - Marked: D
```

S1 Setup, how it could look like ;-)





Will Darwin strike again?







Conclusions



Overall, it is a good concept, but there is high complexity!

- Some things are a bit shocking...
- But you see: they have learned!







(5 Feb 2013, São Paulo, Brazil)

http://darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin2 013-01.html Mechanic Sérgio A. Rosa, 49, was welding a gas tanker that, curiously, exploded, sending his remains flying 400 meters through the air.







There's never enough time...







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(July 2011, New York)

http://darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin2 011-03.html - Protesting motorcycle helmet laws, an Onondaga, NY man was participating in a bare-noggin protest ride when he was killed via flipping over the handlebars.





(10 January 2007, Germany)

http://darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin2 007-01.html A 63-year-old man's extraordinary effort to eradicate moles from his property resulted in a victory for the moles. The man pounded several metal rods into the ground and connected them [...] to a high-voltage power line, intending to render the subterranean realm uninhabitable. Incidentally, the maneuver electrified the very ground on which he stood.





(1995)

http://darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin1 996-07.html

 Azninski, 30, had been drinking with friends when it was suggested they strip naked and play some "men's games". Initially they hit each other over the head with frozen turnips, but then one man upped the ante by seizing a chainsaw and cutting off the end of his foot. Not to be outdone, Azninski grabbed the saw and, shouting "Watch this then," he swung at his own head and chopped it off.





(27 February 2012, North Carolina)

http://darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin2 012-03.html Gary was at a friend's apartment when he spotted a salsa jar containing a mystery fluid. Thinking that it was an alcoholic beverage, he helped himself to a sizeable swig of gasoline! Naturally enough, he immediately spit out the offending liquid onto his clothes. Then, to recover from the shock, Gary lit a cigarette.





(5 Feb 2013, São Paulo, Brazil)

http://darwinawards.com/darwin/darwin2 013-01.html Mechanic Sérgio A. Rosa, 49, was welding a gas tanker that, curiously, exploded, sending his remains flying 400 meters through the air.