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Analysis of Address Resolution Protocol Poisoning Attacks on Mikrotik Routers Using Live Forensics Methods

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ABSTRACT

The rapid development of wireless technology has made network communication more accessible but also increasingly vulnerable to security threats. One of the major threats is the Man-in-the-Middle (MitM) Attack, particularly ARP Spoofing, which manipulates the Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) to intercept or alter network traffic. ARP Spoofing, also known as ARP Poisoning, allows attackers to associate incorrect MAC addresses with IP addresses, enabling unauthorized access and potential data interception. This research focuses on the detection and investigation of ARP Spoofing on MikroTik routers using live forensic methods. The study utilizes Wireshark as a primary tool to monitor ARP-based network activity and identify anomalies indicative of ARP Spoofing attacks. The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) forensic framework, which includes Collection, Examination, Analysis, and Reporting, is employed as a methodology for analyzing forensic evidence. The research also incorporates a virtualized attack simulation environment using VirtualBox, where a PC Client acts as the target, an attacker PC executes an ARP Spoofing attack using Ettercap, and Wireshark captures network traffic for forensic examination. The simulation results reveal that an ARP Spoofing attack can successfully manipulate network traffic by altering ARP table entries. The attacker assumes the identity of IP Address 192.168.0.1 with MAC Address e8-cc-18-41-3f-fb, while the target's identity is duplicated as 192.168.0.19 with MAC Address 08:00:27:15:4c:3c, as confirmed through Wireshark analysis and ARP table inspection using the command prompt. These findings emphasize the importance of implementing proactive security measures, such as Dynamic ARP Inspection (DAI), encryption protocols, and continuous network monitoring, to mitigate the risks associated with ARP Spoofing attacks.



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INTRODUCTION

The development of computer networks raises security problems that require a network forensic approach. Network forensics is the process of collecting, analyzing, and interpreting digital evidence (Sunardi, Riadi, & Akbar, 2020) related to activities that occur in computer networks.

Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) This is a protocol used in computer networks to associate physical addresses or Media Access Control (MAC) addresses in network devices with logical addresses (IP addresses) in the network. ARP is useful when data must be transmitted between devices in the network, but the physical address of the destination is unknown to the sending device. When a device wants to send data to a destination IP address, it checks its local ARP table to see if there is already an IP address it wants to go to. If there is none, the device will issue an ARP request sent broadcast to all local networks. PC devices that have a matching IP address will respond by providing their MAC address. Once the sender device responds, it will update the ARP table with this information so that the data can be sent correctly to the destination MAC address. ARP facilitates the process of associating between IP addresses and MAC addresses in a network to transmit data correctly at the data link or layer 2 level in the Open Systems Interconnection (OSI) model.

ARP poisoning (spoofing) is the use of ARP weaknesses to interfere with the assignment of MAC-IP to other devices on the network. In 1982, when the ARP protocol was introduced, security was not a major concern so protocol developers never used authentication mechanisms to validate ARP messages. Any device on the network can respond to an ARP request, regardless of whether it is a receiver or not. For example, if computer A requests the MAC address of computer B, an attacker on computer C can respond and computer A will receive the response as a valid form. Due to this vulnerability, a large number of attacks are carried out using available tools, attackers can poison the ARP cache of the targeted PC Client in the local network by filling it with incorrect data.

Figure 1. Mekanisme ARP Poisoning



Figure 1. describes the mechanism of ARP Poisoning which illustrates the ARP Poisoning method. Computer A sends an ARP packet destined for computer B. Computer A scans the network for ARP packets on a broadcast basis. The MAC address of computer B can then be changed to the MAC address of the computer to perform computer poisoning. It is evident that Computer X has access to every data packet traffic that occurs on computers A and B, including pin numbers, password information, and more. ARP is matching IP addresses with MAC addresses so that data packets can be sent precisely to the intended device in the computer network. ARP can be used to launch attacks. ARP is also known as spoofing, which is an attack method in which an attacker sends a fictitious ARP packet to a local area network . The association of the attacker's MAC address with the target's IP address (such as the default gateway) is a common goal of these attacks. The attacker manipulates the ARP message to the host on the network, and the data traffic that should be directed to the target's IP address is instead sent to the attacker. Poisoning and spoofing are two related concepts but have important differences in the context of security and technology. Live Forensics can be used to identify digital evidence features to ascertain when an attack is launched against the system. Live Forensics

can be an effective approach to obtain digital evidence from the Router in real-time situations. Using this method, data can be retrieved directly from the device involved in the attack, in a literature review that will analyze on a network

a. Network Protocol Analyzer

Network Protocol Analyzer also known as packet analyzer or packet sniffer is a tool used to analyze and monitor network traffic. This tool works by capturing and examining data packets transmitted over a computer network. A data packet is the smallest unit of information sent over a network. Each data packet consists of a header (controller information) and a payload (actual data). Network Protocol Analyzer (Landri Elusi Hutagalung, Informatika, Teknik, Komputer, & Batam, 2018) can analyze and extract information from packet headers, such as the source and destination of the sender, the protocol used, the port number, and so on.

b. Attack

An attack refers to a set of steps and actions taken by an attacker or attacker to damage or gain unauthorized access to a computer system, network, or other entity. The purpose of the attack is to steal sensitive data, damage infrastructure, disrupt services, or otherwise gain benefits in a way that violates the law or ethics (Mukkamala, 2013).

c. Forensics

A subfield of research known as "network forensics" examines network security and works with digital evidence obtained from crime scenes to investigate network attacks. To confirm the attacker's attack, digital evidence will then be recognized. These attacks include DDoS, Remote to Local, U2R, and probing.(Yahya, Dirman, Buru, & Sugiantoro, 2022) The process of collecting, recording, and examining network activity to find digital traces or evidence of crimes or attacks committed through computer networks and enable perpetrators to face legal consequences, is known as network forensics. Finding attack patterns, anomalies in network behavior, or deviations from existing network standards can help uncover digital evidence. There are several tasks and methods of analysis in network forensics. Examples of this type of work include the examination of Network Intrusion Detection System (NIDS) procedures, network traffic analysis, and network device analysis, all of which fall under the category of network forensics (Dedy Hariyadi, 2022)

Live forensics, also known as live forensics, is a forensic method used to analyze and obtain digital evidence of a system that is running or in a living state. It involves the process of collecting and analyzing digital evidence of an active system without disrupting or stopping its operations (Pradhana, 2020). In live forensics, the main objective is to obtain relevant and accurate digital evidence without compromising the integrity or continuity of the ongoing system. This process involves gathering information, analyzing data, identifying suspicious activity, and taking appropriate action.

d. Man-In-The-Middle (MITM)

ARP also known as the Address Resolution mechanism is a mechanism that uses a device's IP address to determine its MAC address on a network. Between the two and three layers of the OSI layer network layer model, ARP works. Changing a 32-bit IPv4 address to a 48-bit MAC address is the main goal of this protocol. To communicate over Ethernet or a local area network, by using ARP. Before data transfer, this network requires the MAC addresses of the sender and receiver. Users cannot share, send, receive, or communicate with other devices over a data plan without a MAC address (Mallik, Ahsan, Shahadat, & Tsou, 2019).

A MitM attack is a type of security attack in which an attacker infiltrates a communication line between two entities that are communicating, such as between two devices or between a user and a website. These attackers can monitor, or even manipulate the data that is being sent between two parties without their knowledge. MitM attacks involve exploiting weaknesses in communication systems or misappropriating certain protocols.

e. Mikrotik Router

MikroTik Router is a series of hardware and software developed by the MikroTik company. These devices are designed for use in computer and telecommunications networks to manage and direct data traffic between local area networks (LANs) and wide networks (WANs).

MikroTik Router OS is the operating system used by MikroTik Router devices. Router OS is a feature-rich Linux-based operating system designed for use on MikroTik network devices. OS routers provide a variety of features and functions that allow users to configure, manage, and monitor the network with ease (Haeruddin, 2021).

MikroTik Router provides a variety of hardware that can be used in a network, including routers, switches, access points, and other devices.

f. Kalilinux

Kali Linux is a Linux distribution devoted to computer security and penetration testing purposes. Developed by Offensive Security, one of the companies known for creating pentesting tools such as Kali Linux, a Linux distribution popular among security and penetration testing professionals.

The company also conducts trainings such as OSCP (Offensive Security Certified Professional) certification, which is highly respected in the information security industry. Kali Linux provides a wide range of tools and utilities used by security professionals, hacker ethics, and security researchers to test system security, perform forensic analysis, and conduct penetration tests on networks and applications (Rasyidah, Setyawan, & Amnur, 2022).

By providing more than 600 pre-installed tools related to information security, Kali Linux allows users to perform a variety of tasks, such as penetration testing, security auditing, data recovery, password cracking, and more. As an operating system designed specifically for security purposes, Kali Linux

g. Wirshark

Wireshark is a network protocol analysis software that allows users to monitor and analyze the data traffic flowing on a computer network (Ardiyasa, 2021). With its ability to record data packets sent and received by devices on a network, Wireshark allows users to inspect, analyze, and troubleshoot network-related, issues by viewing details of the protocols used in those communications. It is a useful tool both for network troubleshooting and for security purposes (Hanipah, 2020).

METHOD

In this research test simulation there are several stages that have the purpose and result for ARP poisoning attacks and see network security is carried out with the parameters of Test Scenario 1. Target Determination, 2. Perform the Arp Poisoning Technique on the target, 3. Checking Target Data Traffic, 4. Target Data Collection, 5. Report

Figure 2. Testing Scenario

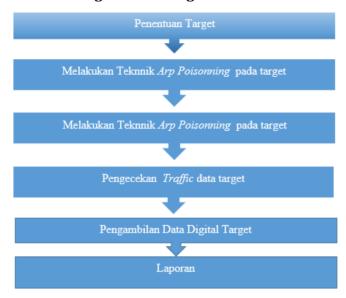


Figure 2. describes the test scenario from the study conducted starting with identifying the system that includes checking the system to be tested such as the vendor, MAC address, and the default IP gateway of the network device. After the identification process is carried out, it is continued with the determination of the test site, including the determination of several test points that will be carried out to obtain several samples of test result data. This test simulation connects from the network to which the target is connected by a WLAN (Wireless Local Area Network) connection. From the testing stage, and the research using the NIST Framework method can be known the framework of the forensic process in a network.

Where the process of these stages is carried out, namely; 1 Collection, 2 Examination, 3 Analysis, 4 Report, the method can be seen below:

Examination Analysis Reporting

Figure 3. NIS Framework Methods

From figure 3 above, the NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) Framework Method for ARP (Address Resolution Protocolv) poisoning attacks is a series of steps or procedures that are designed to assist organizations in identifying, protecting, detecting, responding, and

recovering from such attacks. Method is a method used to collect information data and electronic data evidence on a network The computer is turned on, this method aims for faster handling.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study uses the NIST forensic framework with the simulation of ARP poisoning attacks using the Virtual Box Application. This forensic research will use a simulation of an Arp attack using the Operating System (Kalilinux) as an Attacker, which is aimed at the target Clinet PC by using a Mikrotik Router configuration on a network that has been forwarded. In this study using the Live Forensic method.

a. Collection (Pengumpulan Data)

Collections are the earliest stages in the NIST framework. Things that are done at this stage are collecting, documenting, identifying, recording or retrieving data from relevant data sources according to procedures to maintain data integrity. In this study, the evidence used is Searching for IP Addrass and ARP Tables that will be targeted for attack, which previously used CMD (Command Prompt).

Figure 4. IP Address and MAC Address Client on CMD

In Figure 4 IP Address and Mac Address Client on CMD (Command Prompt.) In the Specification Analysis from CMD (Command Prompt.) that the client has an IP Address of 192.168.1.23 which has been detected by checking the ARP table 192.168.1.5 and mac Address 04-92-26-25-0d-1a, then recorded for the purpose of IP data evidence and information.

Address, which is contained in the client and ARP, to ensure proof of the information that will be targeted by the Attacker/MiTM, by using Ettercup kalilinux by activating the ARP Poisoning/spoofing Tools so that the data can be duplicated.

Table 1. Address PC Client

No	IP Adress	Mac Address
1	192.168.1.23	08-00-27-7B-86-14
2	10-0.3.15	08-00-27-7F-1D-7D
3	192.168.1.5	04-92-26-25-0d-1a
4	10-0.3.3	52-54-00-12-35-04

Analyze the table above that has been detected in CMD which is known target data to be in ARP *Poisoning.* After Enabling Forwarding as one of connecting in a network on a mikrotik router by using the terminal in KaliLinux in the image below:

Figure 5. Frowading Activation in kalilinux terminal



Is to enable Activate Kalilinux PC as Man in The Middle (MiTM) / Attacer to test the digital proof of Ip Address by means of Current Target Progress where the Ip Address to be detected as a target to be snafed, which has been found whether it can be detected on an Ettercup application tool on an operating system seen in the Figure here

Figure 6. Current target IP Address Progress

Above is ARP Poisoning by scanning network traffic using Wireshark. ARP manipulates the MAC address of the device connected to the network so that what the host sends will first go to the attacker's MAC address. Figure 4.1 shows the Attacker ARP reply to the user/client with the IP Address 192.168.110.5 and the router to manipulate the MAC address of the recipient so that the packet sent will pass through the attacker.

Simulasi Serangan ARP

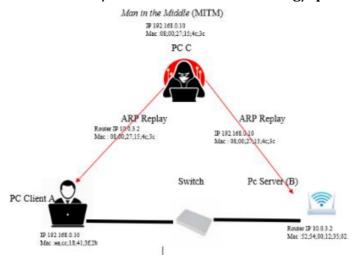


Figure 7. Illustration/Simulation of ARP Poisoning/Spoofing Attack

Figure 7 above shows the simulation of the Attacker performing ARP Poisoning on the target PC Client or User.

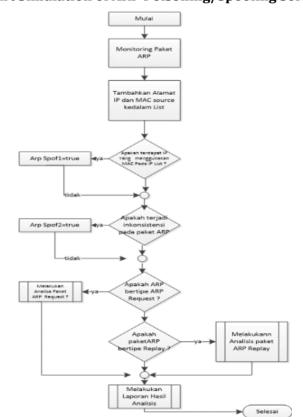


Figure 8. Flow Chart Simulation of ARP Poisoning/Spoofing Series Approach

- 1. Monitor ARP packets using CMD (Command Prompt).
- 2. Forward on the network to connect from the intended target.
- 3. If there is an ARP packet, the IP address and MAC *source* of the packet are stored in *the* IPMAC dictionary. An inspection is carried out to see if there are IP-MAC pairs stored in the *dictionary*. If so, there is no need to do storage. If not, a search is carried out to see if the MAC address on the IP has been used by another IP address. If yes, there is a duplicate MAC *address*. ARPING is performed to the two IP addresses to ensure the real IP address using the MAC address.
- 4. ARP packet consistency check where checks are carried out whether the MAC *source address* on the *Ethernet header* and the ARP header are the same. If a difference is found, there is an inconsistency in the ARP package.
- 5. Analysis based on the type of ARP packet. In the ARP request package, *the* analysis flow diagram on the package that has been attacked and *cuptured* on *Wiresharak*.
- 6. If the ARP package meets the conditions as a fake ARP package or a *spoofed* ARP package , the package information is stored in *a log file*.
- 7. At this stage, data is collected from simulated attacks before the *attacker* is created. Data collection is carried out

b. Examintation

The examination stage is the stage of examining and retrieving Ip Address and Mac Addess data using experiments on the Kalilinux operating system using the predetermined Ettercup Grafhical tools.

Examination Serching Retrieval of IP Address and Mac to Target Snaffing Using Etterstamp Grafhical on the Kalilinux Operation System

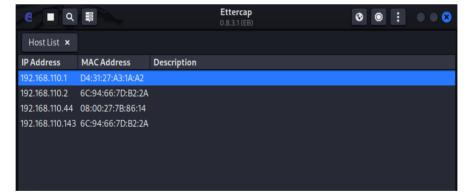
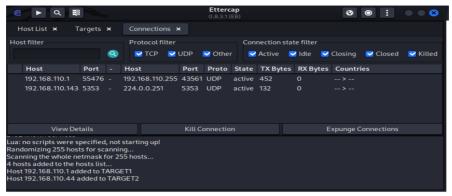


Figure 9. IP Address and MAC Address Serching Data

Figure 10. Target 1 and Target 2 Client Connection/Host Activation

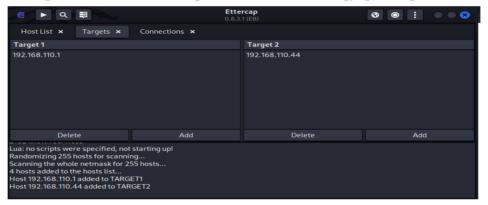
The image above shows a list of targets that we found on the network. Want and see that Ip Address and Mac Addres will be able to narrow down the target space? And start to connect those IPs.

Figure 11. Hosts to be Targeted with ARP Poisoning/Spoofing



The image above shows that from targets I and II in the table above, it will be ready to be attacked on the MiTM (*Man-in-The-Middle*) menu, host 192.168.110.1 which is input to target I, and host 192,168.110.44 input to target II.

Figure 12. Attack on Target with ARP Poisoning/Spoofing



From the image above, the template explains the simulation of the target that has been entered as a Client host, which is run using ARP Poisoning Tools for sniffing. After this occurs, it is possible to capture the login credentials of the targeted user if they are logged into a website that does not use HTTPS.

c. Analysis (Analisis)

Analysis is a stage to see the results of the examination stage in detail to uncover digital evidence. This study limits the search for digital evidence of ARP poisoning attacks using Wireshark and XARP *Flowchart* forensic analysis shown in the Figure below :

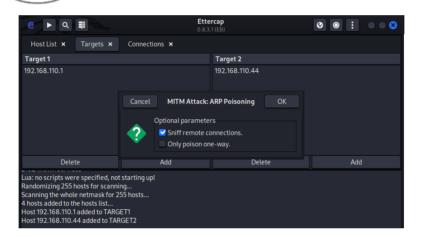
memilih interface
wlan pada wireshark

menampilkan paket data
router pada wireshark

menganalisis dan mengidentifikasi
serangan pada
router

T terdapat
ARP poisoning?

Figure 13. Live Forensics Process Flowchart



1. Analysis Using XARP

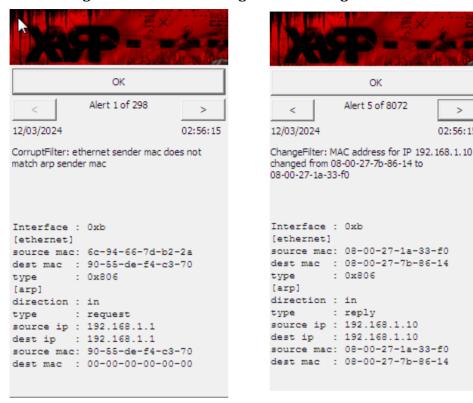
selesai

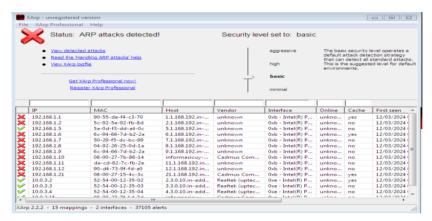
Analyze and This can be seen in the XARP tool which constantly provides early warnings (alerts) in real time on the investigator's PC screen display, Capture obtained by the investigator (investigator) through the XARP tool it can be seen that there is an ARP-based attack in which the attacker manipulates the MAC address of the server, this is intended so that the attacker can disguise as if it were a server so that in this case the client sends data packets continuously which are redirected to traffic through the attacker's PC then the data is forwarded back to the server which makes these client data intercepted by the attacker. Based on the digital evidence image on the XARP application display, it can be seen that IP 192.168.1.1 has the same MAC address as the server's IP address, namely 192.168.1.10, both IP addresses have MAC address b4-2e-99-90- 3f-70 as seen below.

Figure 15. XARP Detecting ARP Poisoning Attacks

5

02:56:15



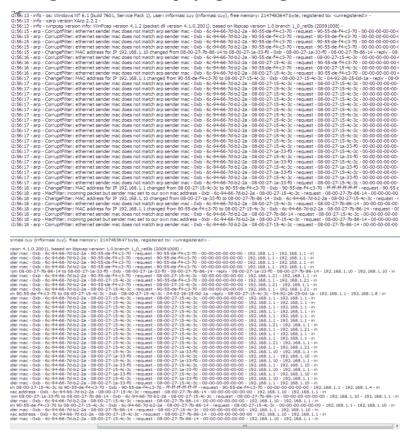


Once the ARP poisoning attack is detected in the XARP application, it then checks the incoming attack on network traffic using wireshark. Based on the image above, it can be seen that there is suspicious activity that has been caught by the wireshark application, it can be seen in the protocol column that there is one host broadcasting using the ARP protocol type at 32.760586 seconds to 32.944116 seconds, this can be assumed that there is an attack that utilizes the ARP protocol in its attack activities because the only protocols available on the server are the FTP protocol and the SSL protocol.

1. Forensic investigation on XARP

The investigation stage is carried out to obtain stronger evidence related to the detection of ARP poisoning attacks on a tissue. In this study, the investigator has used wireshark tools and then the investigator identifies through notifications and captures obtained from the XARP tools.

Figure 16. XARP Displaying Scanning Data Victim



The scanning data displayed only displays the IP address and MAC address of the victim of the ARP Poisoning attack but does not display the IP address of the attacker.

1. Analysis Using Wirsharak

The analysis stage on Wireshark conducts digital evidence testing by identifying and displaying the captured data from the device in the report document. Based on the forensic process that has been carried out on the PC Client Network in the condition that it has been duplicated, Starting Recording (Capturing) and also observation in the course of network traversal so that it can filter on packets based on IP Address and Mac address so that Protocol data can be analyzed from the findings of analyzing the recorded data seen in the figure below

Figure 17. Wireshark Displaying Victim Data Scanning

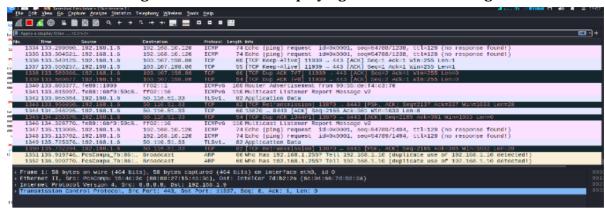


Figure 18. Wireshark Detects ARP Poisoning Attack

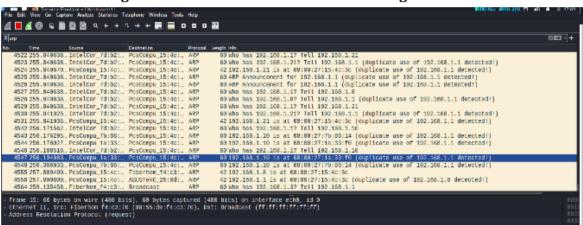


Figure 19. Wireshark Detects ARP Poisoning Attack

```
II larp
           Time Stime
7 8:817321834 Fiberhon_f4:c3:..
15 1.284598589 PcsCorpu 15:4c1...
19 1.28732865 PcsCorpu 15:4c1...
28 2.867644203 Fiberhon_f4:c3:..
                                                                                                                                                            No Mho has 192.189.1.77 Tell 192.188.1.1
42.192.188.1.8 is at 88:88:27:15:46:36
42.192.188.1.1 is at 88:88:27:15:46:36 (duplicate use of 192.188.1.8 detected)
68 Mho has 192.168.1.87 Tell 192.168.1.1
                                                                                         Broadcast
Fiberhow f4:c3:..
ASUSTekC 25:8d:..
                                                                                         Broadcast
                                                                                                                                                           68 Who has 192.168.1.17 Tell 192.168.1.1
68 Who has 192.168.1.12 Tell 192.168.1.1
68 Who has 192.168.1.127 Tell 192.168.1.1
68 Who has 192.168.1.127 Tell 192.168.1.1
68 Who has 192.168.1.17 Tell 192.168.1.1
           29 2.876890288 PcsCompu_15:4c:..
32 2.971412549 Fiberhon_f4:c3:..
39 3.871869622 Fiberhon_f4:c3:..
78 4.812367532 Fiberhon_f4:c8:..
                                                                                         Fiberhon_f4:c3:_
                                                                                         Broadcast
Broadcast
Broadcast
PosCompu_15:4c:
             82 6.475986618 PcsCompu_15:4c:..
83 6.564652513 ASUSTekC 25:0d:..
                                                                                         ASUSTekC_25:0d:_
                                                                                                                                                            42 Mho has 192.188.1.8? Tell 192.188.1.21
68 192.168.1.8 is at 84:92:26:25:60:1a
68 Mho has 192.168.1.217 Tell 192.168.1.1
                                                                                         PosCompu 15:4c:..
             87 6.866872485 Fiberhon f4:c3:..
                                                                                         Broadcast
         ar u. 868872485 Fiberhom_14:c3:.. Broadcast

88 6.868986763 PesCompu_15:4c:. Fiberhom_f4:c3:..

99 6.078530676 Inteltom_fdibz:. PesCompu_15:4c:..

95 6.984824891 Fiberhom f4:c3:.. Broadcast

96 7.87596475 Inteltom_f4:c3:.. Broadcast

119 11.1894856. ba:ed:f3:dd:a4:.. Broadcast
                                                                                                                                                            42 192,168,1,21 is at 88:88:27:15:4c:3c
   Frame 81: 60 bytes on wire (488 bits), 60 bytes captured (488 bits) on interface cth8, id 8
Ethernet II, Src: ASUSTEKE_75:80:1a (64:92:26:25:8d:1a), Dat: Broadcast (ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:ff:
Address Resolution Protocol (request)
```

Figure 20. Interface Detecting Duplicate ARP and MAC Address in Frame 29

c. Report

Based on the results of the analysis of ARP Poisoning attacks using the Live Forensic method, this study summarizes some information in the form of a table about the investigation report of ARP Poisoning attacks. The data of this report was obtained based on the scenarios carried out during this study, which can be seen in the following table

Table 2. of The Report

NO	INFORMATION ANALYSIS	DESCRIPTION
1	Wireshark tool successfully captures suspicious activities and identifies the protocol used by the attacker, which is the ARP protocol (Address Resolution Protocol).	Obtaining information on ARP <i>Poisoning / Spoofing</i> attacks to be used as network forensic evidence.
2	Capturing ARP <i>Poisoning</i> attack information by providing an alert and identifying the attacker's identity.	Obtaining information on ARP <i>Poisoning</i> attacks to be used as network forensic evidence.
3	Attacker's IP Address	192.168.1.21
4	Attacker's MAC Address	08:00:27:15:4c:3c
5	Successfully Attacked Protocol	UDP protocol (User Data Protocol)
6	Unsuccessful Attacked Protocol	SSL protocol (Secure Socket Layer)
7	Time of Attack	The attack occurred on January 9, 2024, starting from 02:14 AM to 06:08 AM WIB.

This report will then be submitted to the network admin for prevention and blocking so that ARP poisoning attacks do not occur on the LAN (Local Area Network) network that has been built.

Discussion

The results of network forensics analysis using Wireshark successfully identified an ARP Poisoning attack. This attack works by manipulating the Address Resolution Protocol (ARP) table to redirect network traffic through the attacker's device, allowing potential data interception or unauthorized access.

Based on the forensic findings:

- 1. The attack was successfully captured and identified, proving that Wireshark is an effective tool for detecting suspicious network activities.
- 2. The attacker's IP address was recorded as **192.168.1.21**, with a MAC address of **08:00:27:15:4c:3c**, allowing for precise identification of the perpetrator.
- 3. The UDP protocol (User Data Protocol) was successfully attacked, indicating that unencrypted or weakly protected protocols are vulnerable to ARP Poisoning attacks.
- 4. The SSL (Secure Socket Layer) protocol remained secure, reinforcing the importance of encrypted communications in preventing unauthorized interception.
- 5. The attack lasted approximately **four hours**, from **02:14 AM to 06:08 AM WIB** on **January 9**, **2024**, emphasizing the need for real-time monitoring to mitigate prolonged attacks.

These findings highlight the necessity of implementing security measures such as dynamic ARP inspection (DAI), encrypted communications, and real-time network monitoring to prevent similar attacks. Regular network audits and security awareness are also crucial in mitigating potential threats.

CONCLUSION

Based on the network forensic analysis using Wireshark, it was concluded that an **ARP Poisoning attack** had occurred, successfully compromising the UDP protocol while failing to breach the SSL protocol. The attacker's IP address (**192.168.1.21**) and MAC address (**08:00:27:15:4c:3c**) were identified, demonstrating the effectiveness of network monitoring tools in detecting malicious activities.

This study highlights the **importance of network security measures** to mitigate ARP Poisoning attacks, including:

- a. Implementing **Dynamic ARP Inspection (DAI)** to prevent ARP spoofing.
- b. Enforcing **strong encryption protocols** like SSL/TLS to secure network communication.
- c. Conducting **continuous network monitoring** to detect and respond to suspicious activities in real time.

By applying these security measures, organizations can **reduce vulnerabilities** to ARP-based attacks and enhance overall network protection.

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