

# Security Architectures for B3G Mobile Networks

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## **Abstract**

This paper analyses the security architectures employed in the interworking model that integrates third-generation (3G) mobile networks and Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs), materializing Beyond 3G (B3G) networks. Currently, B3G networks are deployed using two different access scenarios (i.e., WLAN Direct Access and WLAN 3GPP IP Access), each of which incorporates a specific security architecture that aims at protecting the involved parties and the data exchanged among them. These architectures consist of various security protocols that provide mutual authentication (i.e., user and network authentication), as well as confidentiality and integrity services to the data sent over the air interface of the deployed WLANs and specific parts of the core network. The strengths and weaknesses of the applied security measures are elaborated on the basis of the security services that they provide. In addition, some operational and performance issues that derives from the application of these measures in B3G networks are outlined. Finally, based on the analysis of the two access scenarios and the security architecture that each one employs, this paper presents a comparison of them, which aims at highlighting the deployment advantages of each scenario and classifying them in terms of: a) security, b) mobility, and c) reliability.

**Keywords:** B3G networks, 3G, WLAN, EAP-SIM, EAP-AKA, IKEv2, 802.11i,

## **1 Introduction**

The evolution and successful deployment of Wireless Local Area Networks (WLANs) worldwide has yielded a demand to integrate them with third-generation (3G) mobile networks. The key goal of this integration is to develop heterogeneous mobile data networks capable of supporting new emerging data services, which require high data rates. The effort to develop such heterogeneous networks, also referred as Beyond 3G (B3G) mobile networks, materializes

the vision for the next generation wireless systems, which promise to provide ubiquitous computing to end users.

Currently, the network architecture [1] that integrates 3G and WLAN specifies two different access scenarios: (a) the WLAN Direct IP Access and (b) the WLAN 3GPP IP Access. The first scenario provides to a user IP connection to the public Internet or an intranet via a WLAN Access Network (WLAN-AN), while the second allows a user to establish connection to the 3G Packet Switch (PS) services (such as Wireless Application Protocol (WAP), Mobile Multimedia Services (MMS), Location Based Services (LBS), etc.) or the public Internet through the 3G Public Land Mobile Network (PLMN). Along with a variety of new perspectives, the new network model (3G-WLAN) raises new security concerns, mainly, because of the complexity of the deployed architecture and the heterogeneity of the employed technologies. Thus, the proper design and a comprehensive evaluation of the security mechanisms used in the 3G-WLAN network architecture is of vital importance for the effective integration of the different technologies in a secure manner.

This paper analyses the security architectures of the 3G-WLAN interworking model that materializes B3G networks. Currently, B3G networks are deployed using two different access scenarios (i.e., WLAN Direct Access and WLAN 3GPP IP Access), each of which incorporates a specific security architecture that aims at protecting the involved parties and the data exchanged among them. These architectures consist of various security protocols that provide mutual authentication (i.e., user and network authentication), as well as confidentiality and integrity services to the data sent over the air interface of the deployed WLANs and specific parts of the core network. The strengths and weaknesses of the applied security measures are elaborated on the basis of the security services that they provide. In addition, some operational and performance issues that derives from the application of these measures in B3G networks are outlined. Finally, based on the analysis of the two access scenarios and the security architecture that each one employs, this paper presents a comparison of them, which aims at highlighting the

deployment advantages of each scenario and classifying them in terms of: a) security, b) mobility, and c) reliability.

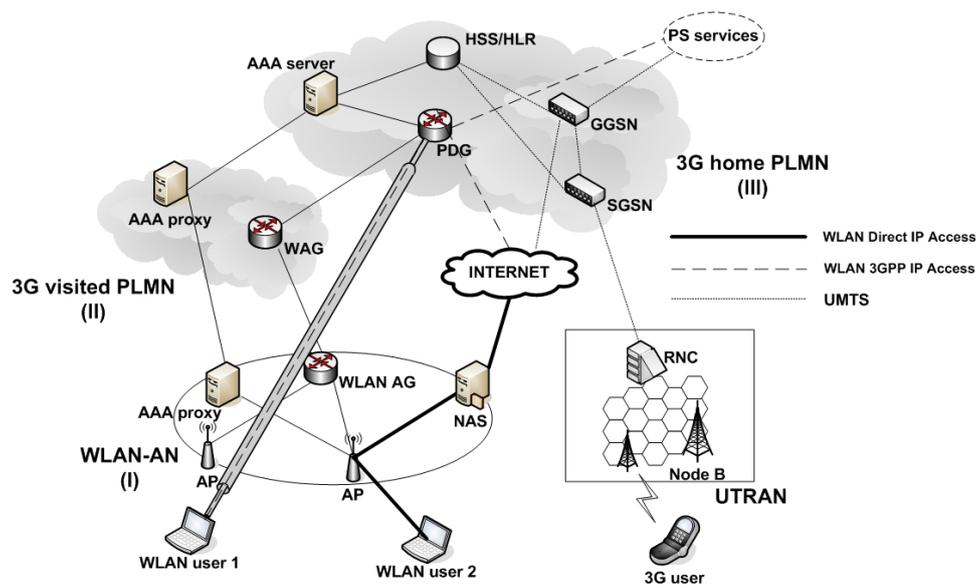
The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 outlines the B3G network architecture presenting the two access scenarios (i.e., the WLAN Direct IP and the WLAN 3GPP IP). Section 3 analyses the security architecture and the specific security measure that each one of the above access scenarios employs. Section 4 evaluates the employed security measures, while section 5 compares the security architectures and, consequently, the two access scenarios. Finally, section 6 contains the conclusions.

## **2 B3G Network Architecture**

As shown in Fig. 1, the B3G network architecture consists of three individual parts: (I) the WLAN Access Network (WLAN-AN), (II) the visited 3G PLMN, and (III) the home 3G PLMN. Note that Fig. 1 illustrates the architecture for a general case where the WLAN is not directly connected to the user's home 3G PLMN. The WLAN-AN consist of the wireless Access Points (APs), which act like Authentication, Authorization, Accounting (AAA) [19] clients that forward security related messages to the AAA server through AAA proxies, the Network Access Server (NAS) that provides to the mobile users access to the public internet, and the WLAN-Access Gateway (WLAN-AG) which is a gateway to 3G PLMN networks. It is assumed that WLAN is based on the IEEE 802.11 standard [8].

On the other hand, the visited 3G PLMN includes an AAA proxy that forwards AAA information to the AAA server (located in the home 3G PLMN) and a Wireless Access Gateway (WAG), which is a data gateway that routes users' data to the home 3G PLMN. Finally, the home 3G PLMN includes the AAA server that provides authentication services to the WLAN, the Packed Data Gateway (PDG) and the core network elements of the Universal Mobile Telecommunications System (UMTS), such as the Home Subscriber Service (HSS) or the Home Location Register (HLR), the Authentication Centre (AuC), the Gateway GPRS Support Node

(GGSN) and the Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN). The AAA server retrieves authentication information from the HSS/HLR and validates authentication credentials provided by users. The PDG routes user data traffic between a user and an external packet data network, which is selected based on the 3G PS-services requested by the user. The latter identifies these services by means of a *WLAN-Access Point Name (W-APN)* [25], which represents a reference point to the external IP network that supports the PS services to be accessed by the user.



**Fig. 1. B3G network architecture**

As mentioned previously, the integrated architecture of B3G networks specifies two different network access scenarios [1]: (a) the *WLAN Direct IP Access* and (b) the *WLAN 3GPP IP Access*. The first scenario provides to a user connection to the public Internet or to an intranet via the WLAN-AN. In this scenario both the user and the network are authenticated to each other using the EAP-SIM [11] or the EAP-AKA [12] protocol. Moreover, in this scenario, the confidentiality and integrity of users' data transferred over the air interface are ensured by the 802.11i security framework [6]. On the other hand, the WLAN 3GPP IP Access scenario allows a user to connect to the PS services (like WAP, MMS, LBS, etc.) or to the public Internet through the 3G PLMN. In this scenario, the user is authenticated to the 3G PLMN using the EAP-SIM or alternatively the EAP-AKA protocol encapsulated within IKEv2 [13] messages. The execution of IKEv2 is also used for the establishment of an IPsec-based VPN [21] tunnel

between the user and the PDG that provides confidentiality and integrity services to the data exchanged between them (see Fig. 1).

### **3 Security Architectures for B3G Networks**

Each network access scenario (i.e., WLAN Direct Access and WLAN 3GPP IP Access) in B3G networks incorporates a specific security architecture, which aims at protecting the involved parties (i.e., the mobile users, the WLAN and the 3G network) and the data exchanged among them. These architectures [2] consist of various security protocols that provide mutual authentication (i.e., user and network authentication) as well as confidentiality and integrity services to the data sent over the air interface of the deployed WLANs and specific parts of the core network. In the following, the security architectures and the involved security protocols, which are employed in B3G networks, are presented and analyzed focusing on their functionality and the supported security services.

#### ***3.1 WLAN Direct IP Access scenario***

In the WLAN Direct IP Access scenario, both the user and the network are authenticated to each other using EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA, which are based on the 802.1X port access control [7]. After a successful authentication, the user obtains an IP address from the WLAN-AN and then he gets access to the public Internet or an intranet, depending on the requested service. In this scenario, the confidentiality and integrity of user's data conveyed over the air interface of WLAN are ensured by the security mechanisms of 802.11i [6], which are analyzed below.

##### **3.1.1 Authentication**

The specific security protocol (i.e., EAP-AKA or EAP-SIM) that will be used for mutual authentication between the user and the network depends on the user's subscription. If the user possesses a UMTS Subscribers Identity Module (USIM) card [4], then, the EAP-AKA protocol is employed. Otherwise, EAP-SIM is used in cases that the user has a SIM-card [5] of Global

System for Mobile communications (GSM)/General Packet Radio Service (GPRS). When the AAA server receives the user's identity, it fetches from the HSS/HLR the user's profile in order to determine the authentication protocol that will be employed (i.e., EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA). In the following, we analyze the functionality of these two protocols focusing on the security services that each one provides.

### ***EAP-SIM***

EAP-SIM [11] provides mutual authentication in a network environment that integrates 3G and WLANs, using the credentials included in a SIM-card of a GSM/GPRS subscription. It involves a user, an AAA client (which is actually a wireless AP), and an AAA server that obtains authentication information (i.e., authentication triplets) from the HSS/HLR of the network where the user is subscribed (see Fig. 2). EAP-SIM incorporates two basic enhancements that eliminate known security weaknesses of the authentication and key agreement procedure of GSM/GPRS [11]. First, the key used for encryption in EAP-SIM is enhanced to have 128-bits security, in contrast to the 64-bit security of the original GSM/GPRS key. Second, EAP-SIM supports mutual authentication, in contrast to the GSM/GPRS authentication, which performs only user to network authentication.

For the generation of stronger keys, the EAP-SIM protocol combines  $n$  ( $n=2$  or  $n=3$ ) individual RANDs that result in the derivation of  $n$  session keys,  $K_c$ . These keys are combined with a random number (NONCE payload), the user identity and other context-related information in order to generate the Master Key ( $MK$ ) of the EAP-SIM protocol, as shown in the formula below:

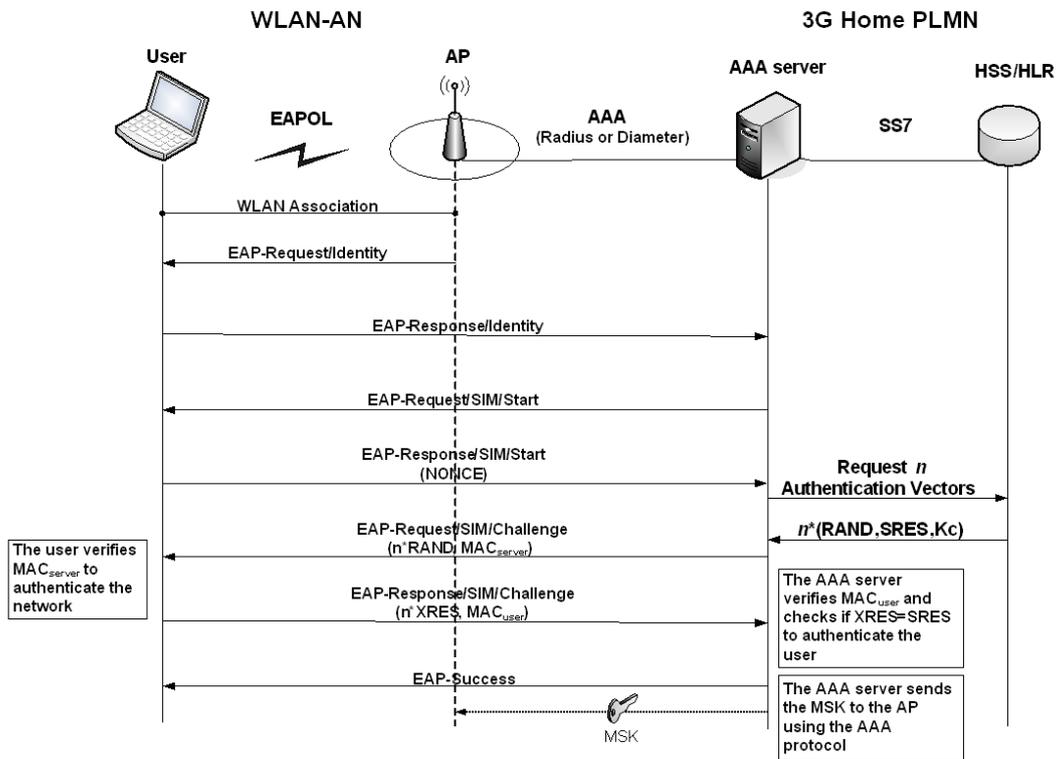
$$MK = SHA1(Identity | n * K_c | NONCE | Version List | Selected Version)^1, (1)$$

where SHA1 is a hash function [18]. In the sequel, the produced key  $MK$  is used as input to a pseudo random function (prf) that generates other keys used in EAP-SIM. From these keys the most important are: (a) the Master Session Key ( $MSK$ ), which is used in 802.11i to generate the

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<sup>1</sup> ( | means string concatenation and the notation  $n * K_c$  denotes the  $n$   $K_c$  keys concatenated)

encryption keys, as described later on, and (b) the  $K_{auth}$  key, which is used in EAP-SIM for the generation of keyed Message Authentication Codes (MACs) for authentication purposes.



**Fig. 2 The EAP-SIM authentication and session key agreement procedure**

Fig. 2 shows the message exchange of EAP-SIM between the user and the AAA server. Note that the user communicates with the wireless AP via the EAP over LAN (EAPOL) protocol [7]. First, the user associates with the wireless AP and the latter sends an EAP-Request/Identity message to the user asking for his identity. The user responds with a message (EAP-Response/Identity) that includes his identity in the format of Network Access Identifier (NAI) [20]. This identity can be either the International Mobile Subscriber Identity (IMSI), or a temporary identity (i.e., pseudonym). Knowing the user's identity, the AAA server issues an EAP-Request/SIM/Start message, which actually starts the authentication procedure. The user sends back an EAP-Response/SIM/Start message that includes a nonce parameter (NONCE), which is the user's challenge to the network. Upon receiving this message, the AAA server communicates with HSS/HLR and obtains  $n$  ( $n=2$  or  $n=3$ ) authentication triplets (RAND, SRES, Kc) for the specific user (the holder of the SIM-card). The generation of the GSM authentication

triplets is based on a permanent, pre-shared (between the user and the network) secret key,  $K_i$ , which is assigned to the user when the latter is subscribed to the GSM/GPRS network. Then, the AAA server sends to the user an EAP-Request/SIM/Challenge message, which contains the  $n$  RANDs and the  $MAC_{server}$  of the message payload, which is calculated using the  $K_{auth}$  key as follows:

$$MAC_{server} = HMAC\_SHA1_{K_{auth}}(EAP-Request/SIM/Challenge(n * RAND) / NONCE)^1, (2)$$

where  $NONCE$  is the nonce sent by the user to the AAA server, and HMAC-SHA1 [23] is the MAC algorithm that generates the keyed hash value. Before the calculation of the  $MAC_{server}$  value, the AAA server must first generate the  $MK$  key (see eq. (1)), and, subsequently, the  $K_{auth}$  and  $MSK$  keys. Upon receiving the EAP-Request/SIM/Challenge, the user executes the GSM/GPRS authentication algorithms  $n$  times (one for each received RAND), in order to produce the  $n$   $Kc$  keys and the  $n$  XRES values. In the sequel, using the produced  $n$   $Kc$  keys he generates the  $MK$  (see eq. (1)), and, consequently, the  $K_{auth}$  and the  $MSK$  keys, similarly, to the AAA server. Next, the user verifies the  $MAC_{server}$  using the  $K_{auth}$  key, and if this check is successful, then, the network is authenticated to the user, and the latter conveys to the AAA server the generated  $n$  XRES values within an EAP-Response/SIM/Challenge message. This message also includes the  $MAC_{user}$  value generated as follows:

$$MAC_{user} = HMAC\_SHA1_{K_{auth}}(EAP-Response/SIM/Challenge(n * XRES) / n * XRES)^2, (3)$$

Upon receiving this message, the AAA server examines whether the produced  $MAC_{user}$  is valid and if the  $n$  XRES values are equal to the  $n$  SRES values received from HSS/HLR for authentication. If these checks are successful, the AAA server sends an EAP-Success message to the user indicating the successful completion of the authentication procedure. In addition, the AAA server sends to the wireless AP the session key  $MSK$  within an AAA message (e.g., Radius [24] or Diameter [17]). At this point, both the user and the network are mutually

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<sup>1</sup> (The notation  $n * RAND$  denotes the  $n$  RAND values concatenated)

<sup>2</sup> (The notation  $n * XRES$  denotes the  $n$  XRES values concatenated)

authenticated, and the user and the wireless AP share the key  $MSK$ , which is used for encryption purposes in the employed 802.11i security framework (see section 3.1.2).

### ***EAP-AKA***

EAP-AKA [12] is an alternative to the EAP-SIM authentication protocol that uses a USIM-card and the UMTS Authentication and Key Agreement (AKA) procedure. It involves the same network components with EAP-SIM (i.e., a user, an AAA client and an AAA server) and uses the same protocols for communication between them (i.e., EAPOL, Radius, Diameter, etc.). Likewise EAP-SIM, in the first two messages in the EAP-AKA negotiation (see Fig. 3) the wireless AP request for the user's identity (EAP request/identity message), and the latter replies by sending an EAP response/identity message, which contains his permanent (IMSI) or a temporary identity in a NAI format. After obtaining the user's identity, the AAA server checks whether it possesses a 3G authentication vector, stored from a previous authentication with the specific user. If not, the AAA server sends the user's IMSI to the HSS/HLR. The latter generates  $n$  authentication vectors for the specific user by using the UMTS permanent secret key,  $K$ , which is assigned to the user when he is subscribed to the network, and sends it to the AAA server. Note that an authentication vector includes a random challenge (RAND), the authentication token (AUTN), the expected response (XRES), the encryption key ( $CK$ ) and the integrity key ( $IK$ ) [27]. In the sequel, the AAA server selects one out of the  $n$  obtained authentication vectors to proceed with the EAP-AKA authentication procedure and stores the remaining  $n-1$  for future use. From the selected authentication vector, it uses the keys  $CK$  and  $IK$  and the identity of the user to compute the Master Key ( $MK$ ) of EAP-AKA, as shown in the formula below:

$$MK = SHA1(Identity|IK|CK). \quad (4)$$

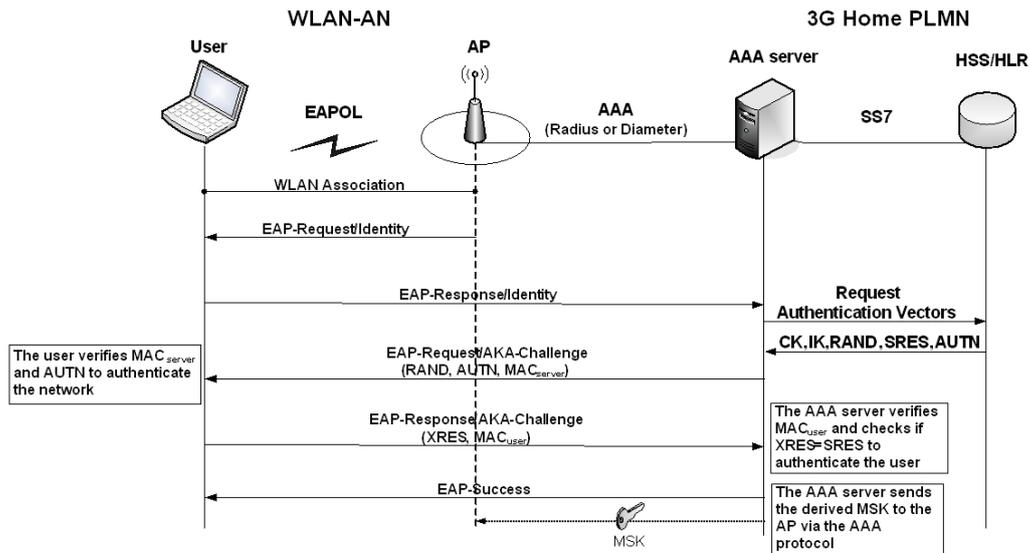
$MK$  is used as a keying material to generate the Master Session Key ( $MSK$ ) and the  $K_{auth}$  key. The AAA server uses the  $K_{auth}$  key to calculate a keyed  $MAC_{server}$  (see eq. 5), which verifies the integrity of the next EAP-AKA message (EAP-Request/AKA-Challenge).

$$MAC_{server} = HMAC-SHA1_{K_{auth}}(EAP-Request/AKA/Challenge(RAND, AUTN)), \quad (5)$$

The AAA server sends this message (EAP-Request/AKA-Challenge) to the user that contains the RAND, AUTN and  $MAC_{server}$  payload. After receiving this information message, the user executes the UMTS-AKA algorithms and verifies the AUTN payload [27]. In the sequel, he generates the  $IK$  and  $CK$  keys and uses these two keys (see eq. 4) to calculate the key  $MK$ . Subsequently, he uses key  $MK$  to calculate the key  $MSK$  and the key  $K_{auth}$ , in order to verify the received  $MAC_{server}$  value. If these verifications (i.e. AUTN,  $MAC_{server}$ ) are successful, the user computes the user's response to the challenge, noted as XRES payload, and sends an EAP-Response/AKA-challenge message to the AAA server that includes the XRES and a new  $MAC_{user}$  value, which covers the whole EAP message and it is calculated using the  $K_{auth}$  key as follows:

$$MAC_{user} = HMAC-SHA1_{K_{auth}}(EAP-Response/AKA/Challenge(n*XRES)), \quad (6)$$

Upon receiving the EAP-Response/AKA-challenge message the AAA server verifies the received  $MAC_{user}$  value and checks if the received user's response to the challenge (XRES) matches with the response (i.e., SRES) received from the HLR/HSS. If all these checks are successful, the AAA server sends an EAP-success message along with the key  $MSK$  to the wireless AP. The latter stores the key and forwards the EAP-success message to the user. Finalizing the EAP-AKA protocol, both the user and the network has been authenticated each other, and the user and the wireless AP share the key  $MSK$ , which is used in the security framework of 802.11i for generating the session encryption keys, as described below.



**Fig. 3 The EAP-AKA authentication procedure and session key agreement**

### 3.1.2 Data protection (802.11i standard)

As mentioned previously, 802.11i is employed to provide confidentiality and integrity services to users' data conveyed over the radio interface of the deployed WLANs in the WLAN Direct IP Access scenario. The 802.11i standard was developed to enhance the security services provided in WLANs. Its design was motivated by the fact that the WEP protocol, due to its security flaws, could not adequately fulfill the security requirements of WLANs [32]. The design goal of 802.11i is twofold: a) to provide session key management by specifying a four way handshake and group key handshake procedures, and b) to enhance the confidentiality and integrity services provided to users' data by incorporating two security protocols: (i) the Counter-Mode/CBC-MAC Protocol (CCMP), which employs the Advanced Encryption Algorithm (AES), and (ii) the Temporal Key Integrity Protocol (TKIP), which uses the same encryption (RC4) with WEP. In the following, we analyze the four-way and group key handshake procedures of 802.11i, and we present the functional details of the CCMP protocol. Since the TKIP protocol is considered to be a short term solution and it is merely a software enhancement of WEP, we don't elaborate further on it.

### ***Four Way and Group Key Handshakes***

After a successful completion of the authentication procedure of EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA, the user and the AP perform the four-way and group key handshakes of 802.11i [6] in order to generate the session keys. In the four-way handshake, both the user and the AP derive the Pairwise Transient Key (*PTK*) from the *MSK* key that was generated in EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA to secure unicast messages. In addition, the AP generates and delivers to the user a Group Temporary Key (*GTK*) to secure broadcast/multicast messages. The group key handshake is executed whenever the AP wants to deliver a new *GTK* key to the connected users. Note that all the messages exchanged during the four-way and the group key handshakes comply with the EAPOL-Key message format [7].

As its name implies, the 802.11i four-way handshake consists of a total of four EAPOL-Key messages, each of which includes key information (*key\_info* payload), such as key identity, key replay counter, etc. At the beginning of the four-way handshake, the AP sends an EAPOL-Key message to the user that includes the *Anonce*, which is a random number used as input for the generation of the *PTK* key, as described below. Upon receiving the first EAPOL-key message, the user generates a new random number called *Snonce*. Then, he calculates the *PTK* key using the first 265 bits of the *MSK* key (*MSK* was generated during the authentication procedure of EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA (see section 3.1.1)), the user's address, the AP's address, the *Snonce* value, and the *Anonce* value, as shown below:

$$PTK = prf(MSK, \text{"Pairwise key expansion"}, \text{Min}(AP \text{ address}, \text{user's address}) \parallel \text{Max}(AP \text{ address}, \text{user's address}) \parallel \text{Min}(Anonce, Snonce) \parallel \text{Max}(Anonce, Snonce)), \quad (7)$$

where *prf* is a pseudo random function that generates the *PTK* key, "Pairwise key expansion" is a set of characters, and, finally, the *Min* and *Max* functions provide the minimum and maximum value, respectively, between two inputs. In the sequel, the generated *PTK* key is partitioned to derive three other keys: a) a Key Confirmation Key (*KCK*) that provides integrity services to EAPOL-Key messages, b) a Key Encryption Key (*KEK*) used to encrypt the *GTK* key as

described below, and, c) a Temporal Key (*TK*) used for user's data encryption. After the calculation of these keys, the user forwards to the AP the second EAPOL-Key message (step 2 - Fig. 4) that includes the Snonce, the user's Robust Security Network Information Element (RSN IE) payload, which denotes the set of authentication and cipher algorithms that the user supports, and a Message Integrity Code (MIC), which is a cryptographic digest used to provide integrity services to the messages of the four-way handshake and it is computed as follows:

$$MIC = HASH_{KCK} (EAPOL\text{-}Key\ message), \quad (8)$$

where  $HASH_{KCK}$  denotes a hash function (i.e., HMAC-MD5 or HMAC-SHA-128) that uses the *KCK* key to generate the cryptographic hash value over the second EAPOL-Key message.

Upon receiving this message, the AP calculates the key *PTK* and the related keys (i.e., *KCK*, *KEK* and *TK* keys), (the same with the user), and, then, verifies the integrity of the message (producing the MIC value). In the sequel, the AP replies to the user by sending the third EAPOL-Key message (step 3), which includes the Anonce value (the same with the first EAPOL-key message), a MIC over the third EAPOL-Key message, the AP's RSN IE, and the *GTK* key, which is used to protect broadcast/multicast messages and it is conveyed encrypted using the *KEK* key, as shown below:

$$Encrypted\ GTK = ENC_{KEK} (GTK), \quad (9)$$

where  $ENC_{KEK}$  denotes the encryption algorithm (i.e., AES or RC4), which uses the *KEK* key to encrypt the *GTK* key.

By receiving this message, the user checks whether the MIC is valid and compares his RSN IE with the AP's RSN IE, ensuring that they support the same cryptographic algorithms. If all these checks are correct, the user decrypts the *GTK* key using the *KEK* key, and sends to the AP the last message of the four way handshake (step 4), which includes a MIC payload over the fourth EAPOL-key message, to acknowledge to the AP that he has installed the *PTK* key and the related keys (i.e. *KEK*, *KCK* and *TK* keys), as well as the *GTK* key. Once the AP receives the fourth EAPOL-Key message, it verifies the MIC as previously. If this final check is

successful, the four-way handshake is completed successfully, and both the user and the AP share the *TK* and the *GTK* keys to encrypt/decrypt unicast and broadcast/multicast messages, respectively.

In case that the AP wants to provide a new *GTK* key to the connected users, it executes the group key handshake. As shown in Fig. 4, the AP first sends an EAPOL-Key message that includes a MIC value and a new *GTK* key to the users. Note that MIC is computed over the body of this EAPOL-Key message using the *KCK* key, and the *GTK* key is conveyed encrypted using the *KEK* key. Recall that both the user and the AP share the *KEK* and *KCK* keys, which were generated in the four-way handshake. Upon receiving the previous message, the user employs the *KCK* key to verify whether the MIC is valid and then he decrypts the *GTK* key using the *KEK* key. Finally, he replies to the AP with an EAPOL-Key message, which includes a MIC that acknowledges to the AP that he has installed the *GTK* key. Once the AP receives this message, it verifies the MIC. If this final verification is successful, then, the group key handshake is completed successfully and the user can encrypt broadcast/multicast messages using the new *GTK* key.

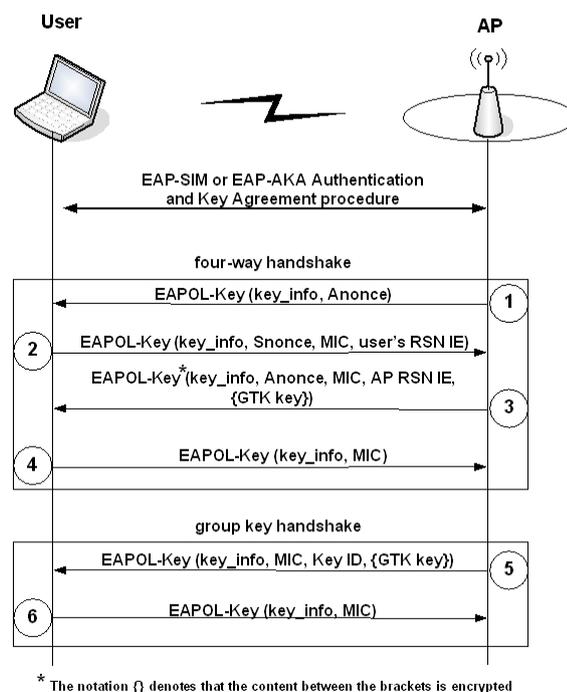
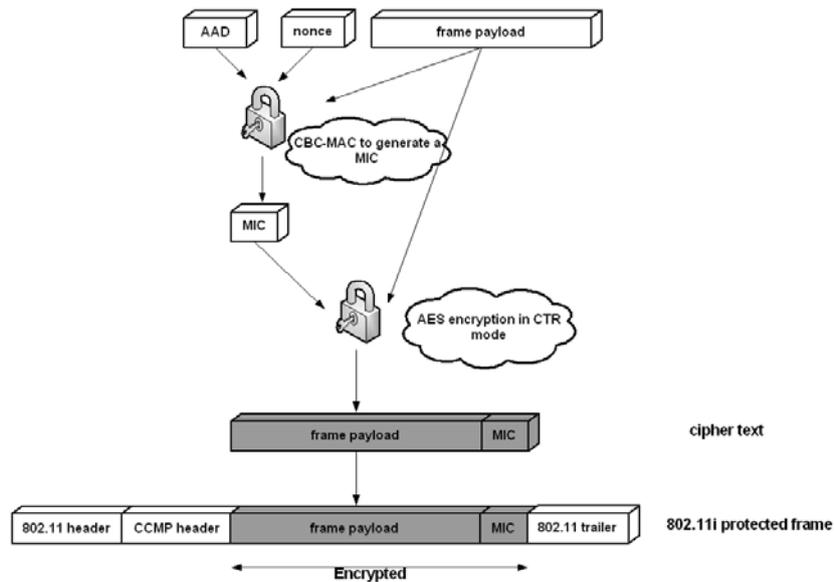


Fig. 4 The four-way and Group key handshakes of 802.11i.

### ***CCMP Protocol***

802.11i incorporates the CCMP protocol to provide confidentiality and integrity services to users' data conveyed over the radio interface of WLANs. The CCMP protocol combines the AES encryption algorithm in Counter mode (CTR-AES) to provide data confidentiality and the Cipher Block Chaining Message Authentication Code (CBC-MAC) protocol to compute a MIC over the transmitted user's data that provides message integrity [16].

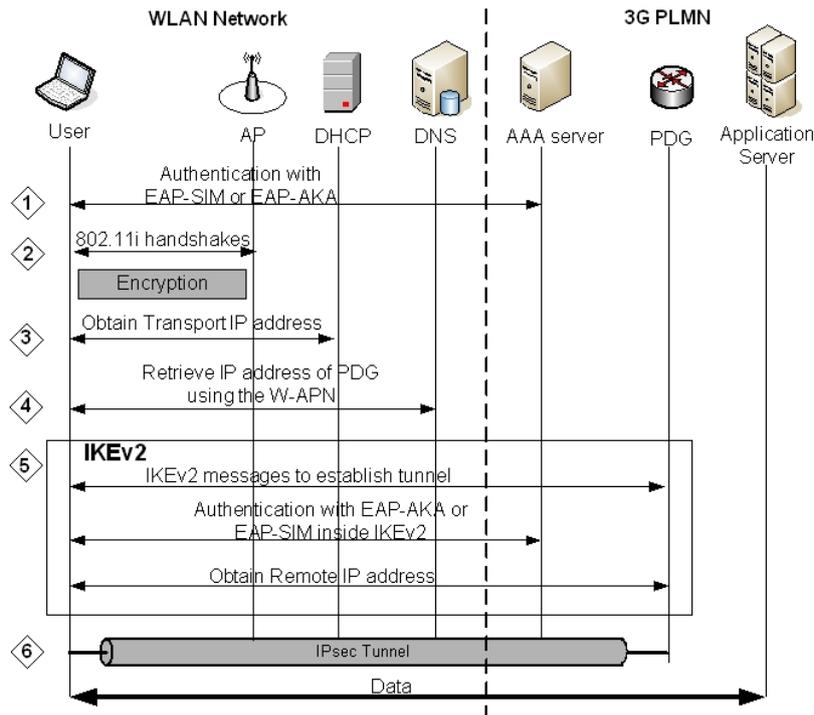
The operation of the CCMP protocol can be divided into three distinct phases. In phase 1, the CCMP protocol constructs an Additional Authentication Data (AAD) value from constant fields of the 802.11 frame header (see Fig. 5) [6][8]. In addition, it creates the nonce value from the priority field of the 802.11 frame header and the Packet Number (PN) parameter, which is a 48-bit counter incremented for each 802.11i protected frame. In phase 2, the CCMP protocol computes a MIC value over the 802.11 frame header, the AAD, the nonce, and the 802.11 frame payload using the CBC-MAC algorithm and the *TK* key (or the *GTK* key for broadcast/multicast communication). Recall that the *TK* key is part of the *PTK* key that is generated in the four-way handshake. In the sequel, CCMP forms the cipher text of the 802.11 frame payload and the produced MIC, using the CTR-AES encryption algorithm and the *TK* key (or the *GTK* key). Finally, in phase 3, the CCMP protocol constructs the 802.11i frame from the concatenation of: (i) the 802.11 header, (ii) the CCMP header, which is created from the PN parameter and the identity of the encryption key, (iii) the cipher text, and (iv) the 802.11 trailer (see Fig. 5). The receiver of the 802.11i frame must verify that the PN parameter is fresh and the MIC value is valid. If these checks are successful, then, the receiver decrypts the 802.11i frame payload using the *TK* key (or the *GTK* key).



**Fig. 5 The CCMP protocol**

### **3.2 WLAN 3GPP IP Access**

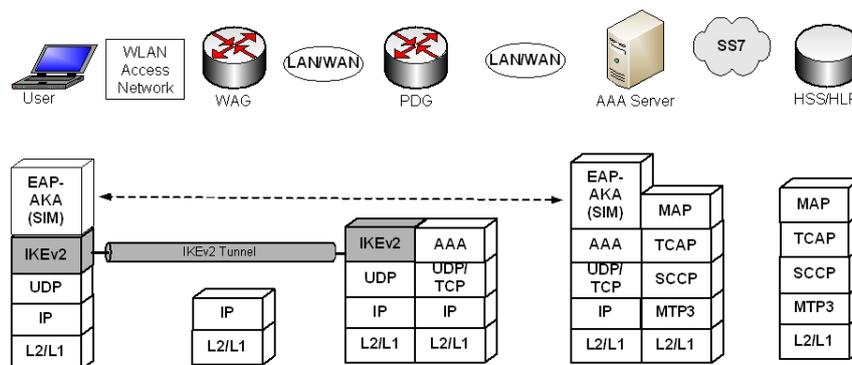
In contrast to the WLAN Direct IP Access scenario, in which a user gets access to the public Internet, directly, through the WLAN AN, the WLAN 3GPP IP Access scenario provides to the WLAN user access to the PS services or the Internet through the 3G PLMN. Before getting access to them, the user must perform the six (6) discrete steps, presented in Fig. 6 and described below:



**Fig. 6 3GPP IP Access authentication procedure**

1. **Initial authentication.** The user and the network are authenticated each other using either the EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA protocol. This authentication step enables the user to obtain a local IP address, called Transport IP address, which is used for access to the WLAN environment and the PDG. Note that this initial authentication can be omitted, if the PDG trusts the WLAN network and its users.
2. After the EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA execution, the four-way handshake and optionally the group key handshake follow to provide the 802.11i session keys. Then, the communication between the user and the wireless AP is encrypted using the CCMP or alternatively the TKIP protocol.
3. After the completion of the initial authentication step and the 802.11i handshakes, the user communicates with the DHCP server to obtain the Transport IP address. This local address is used by the user to execute the IKEv2 in the following step 4.

4. The user retrieves the IP address of the PDG using the W-APN identity and the DNS protocol. Thus, the user and the PDG participate in a second authentication step that combines IKEv2 and EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA.
5. **Second authentication.** The user and the PDG execute the IKEv2 negotiation protocol, which encapsulates either EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA for authentication of the negotiating peers. After authentication completion, the user obtains a global IP address, called Remote IP address, which is used for access to the PS services and the public Internet via the 3G PLMN. In addition, the execution of IKEv2 results in the establishment of a pair of IPsec Security Associations (SAs) between the user and the PDG, which are used for the deployment of an IPsec-based Virtual Private Network (VPN).
6. The deployed IPsec based VPN protects user's data exchanged between the user and the PDG (in both directions), ensuring data origin authentication, data confidentiality and message integrity.



**Fig. 7 3GPP IP Access authentication protocol stack**

Fig. 7 presents the protocol stack used in the 3GPP IP Access scenario for each entity that participates in the authentication procedure. The main authentication protocol is EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA, which is executed between the user and the AAA server. The user encapsulates EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA messages within IKEv2 and conveys them to the PDG. The latter acting as an AAA client transfers the EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA messages to the AAA server using an AAA protocol. Note that the AAA protocol can be either RADIUS, which runs over

the User Datagram Protocol (UDP) or Diameter, which runs typically over the TCP protocol. The AAA server also includes the Mobile Application Part (MAP) protocol stack to be able to communicate with the HSS/HLR and obtain authentication triplets and authorization information.

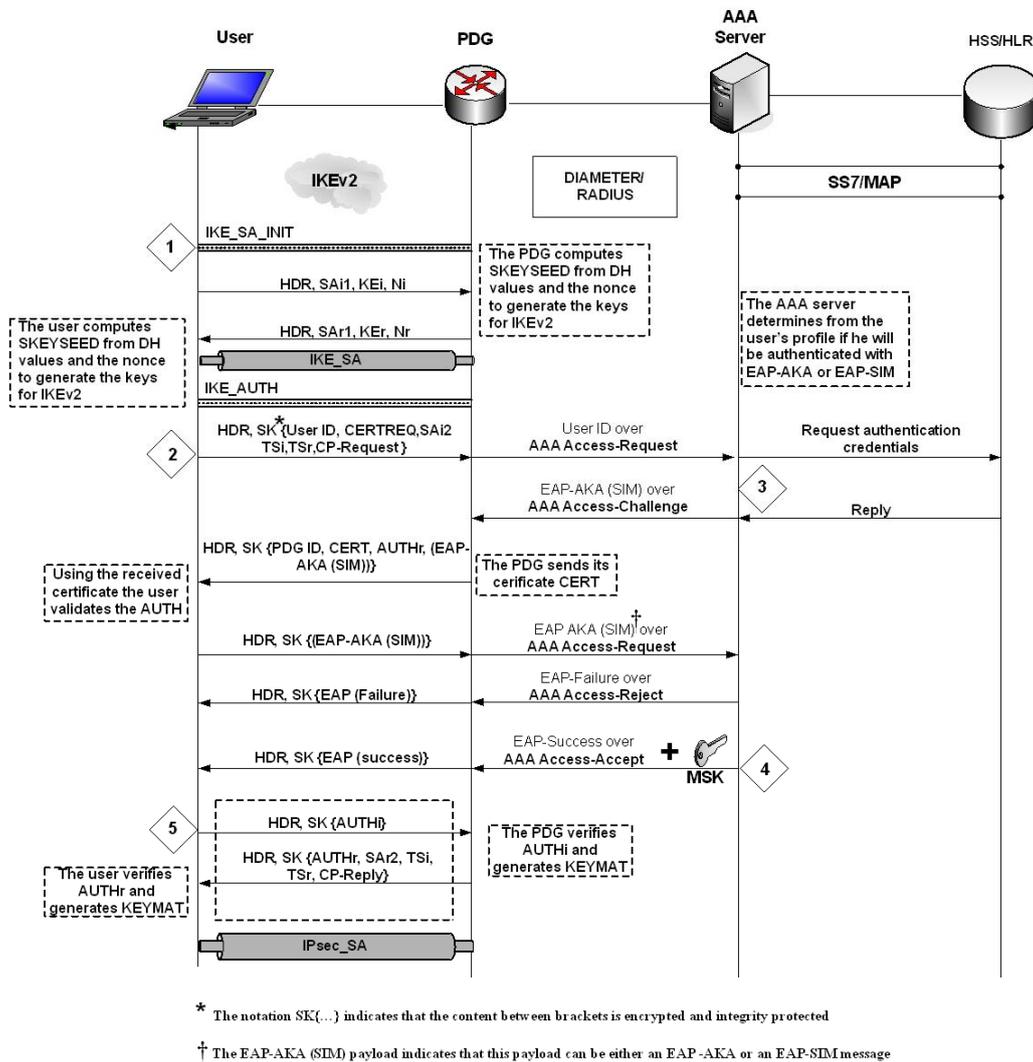
From the above steps that a user has to perform to get access to the PS services or the public Internet in the WLAN 3GPP IP Access scenario, the initial authentication using either EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA (step 1) and the 802.11i handshakes (step 2) are the same with these of the WLAN Direct IP Access scenario, which have been analyzed in sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. Moreover, the acquisition of a local IP address (step 3) and the retrieval of the PDG address (step 4) do not present any significant interest from a security point of view. Thus, in the following sections we analyze the second authentication step (step 5), which includes a combined execution of IKEv2 with EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA, and the deployment of a bidirectional VPN that protects data exchanged.

### **3.2.1 Authentication**

IKEv2 [13] is a simplified redesign of IKE that allows two peers to authenticate each other (i.e., mutual authentication) and derive keys for secure communication with IPsec. The exchanged messages within IKEv2 are protected ensuring confidentiality and integrity, while the peers are authenticated using certificates, pre-shared keys or the EAP protocol. In the context of the WLAN 3GPP IP Access scenario, the user and the PDG execute IKEv2. The authentication of the user is based on EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA, while the authentication of the PDG is based on certificates.

Similarly to IKE, the IKEv2 protocol is executed in two sequential phases (i.e., phase 1 and phase 2). In phase 1, the user and the PDG establish two distinct SAs: a) a bidirectional IKE\_SA that protects the messages of phase 2, and b) an one way IPsec\_SA that protects user's data. During phase 2, the user and the PDG using the established IKE\_SA can securely

negotiate a second IPsec\_SA that is employed for the establishment of a bidirectional IPsec-based VPN tunnel between them.



**Fig. 8 The execution of IKEv2 based on EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA**

The IKEv2 phase 1 negotiation between the user and the PDG is executed in two sub-phases: (a) the IKE\_SA\_INIT and (b) the IKE\_AUTH exchange, as shown in Fig. 8. The IKE\_SA\_INIT exchange (noted as step 1 in Fig. 8) consists of a single request and reply messages, which negotiate cryptographic algorithms, exchange nonces, and do a Diffie-Hellman exchange. In the context of this sub-phase, four cryptographic algorithms are negotiated: (a) an encryption algorithm, (b) an integrity protection algorithm, (c) a Diffie-Hellman group, and (d) a pseudo-random function (prf). The latter (prf) is employed for the construction of keying

material for all of the cryptographic algorithms used. After the execution of the IKE\_SA\_INIT, an IKE\_SA is established that protects the IKE\_AUTH exchange. The second sub-phase (i.e., IKE\_AUTH) authenticates the previous messages, exchanges identities and certificates, encapsulates EAP-SIM or alternatively EAP-AKA messages, and establishes an IPsec\_SA (step 2-5 in Fig. 8). All the messages of IKEv2 include a header payload (HDR), which contains a Security Parameter Index (SPI), a version number, and security related flags. The SPI is a value chosen by the user and the PDG to identify a unique SA.

At the beginning of the IKEv2 negotiation (step 1 in Fig. 8), the user sends to the PDG the SA<sub>i1</sub>, which denotes the set of cryptographic algorithms for the IKE\_SA that he supports, the KE<sub>i</sub> that is the Diffie-Hellman value, and a N<sub>i</sub> value that represents the nonce. The nonce (i.e., a random number at least 128 bits) is used as input to the cryptographic functions employed by IKEv2 to ensure liveness of the keying material and protect against replay attacks. The PDG answers with a message that contains its choice from the set of cryptographic algorithms for the IKE SA (SA<sub>r1</sub>), its value to complete the Diffie-Hellman exchange (KE<sub>r</sub>) and its nonce (N<sub>r</sub>).

At this point, both the user and the PDG can calculate the SKEYSEED value as follows:

$$SKEYSEED = prf((N_i | N_r), g^{ir})^1, \quad (10)$$

where prf is the pseudorandom function negotiated in the previous messages, and  $g^{ir}$  is the shared secret key that derives from the Diffie-Hellman exchange. The SKEYSEED value is used to calculate various secret keys. The most important are: the  $SK_d$  used for providing the keying material for the IPsec SA;  $SK_{ei}$  and  $SK_{ai}$  used for encrypting and providing integrity services, respectively, to the IKEv2 messages from the user to the PDG (IKE\_SA); and, finally,  $SK_{er}$  and  $SK_{ar}$  that provide security services in the opposite direction (IKE\_SA).

Finalizing the IKE\_SA\_INIT exchange, the IKE\_AUTH exchange can start. It is worth noting that from this point all the payloads of the following IKEv2 messages, excluding the

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<sup>1</sup> | means string concatenation

message header (HDR payload), are encrypted and integrity protected using the IKE\_SA (see step 2 in Fig. 8). The IKE\_AUTH exchange of messages starts when the user sends to the PDG a message that includes his identity (IDi), which could be in a NAI format, the CERTREQ payload (optionally), which is a list of the Certificate Authorities (CA) whose public keys the user trusts, and the traffic selectors (TSi and TSr), which allow the peers to identify the packet flows that require processing by IPsec. In addition, in the same message the user must include the Configuration Payload Request (CP-Request), which is used to obtain a Remote IP address from the PDG and get access to the 3G-PLMN.

After receiving this information, the PDG forwards to the AAA server the user identity (IDi) including a parameter, which indicates that the authentication is being performed for VPN tunnel establishment. This will facilitate the AAA server to distinguish between authentications for WLAN access and authentications for VPN setup. Upon receiving the IDi, the AAA server fetches the user's profile and authentication credentials (GSM triplets if authentication is based on EAP-SIM, or 3G authentication vectors if authentication is based on EAP-AKA) from HSS/HLR (if these are not available in the AAA server in advance). Based on the user's profile, the AAA server initiates an EAP-AKA (if the user possesses a USIM card) or an EAP-SIM authentication (if the user possesses a GSM/GPRS SIM card) by sending to the PDG the first message of the related procedure (i.e., EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA) included in a AAA protocol (i.e., Radius or Diameter) (step 3 in Fig. 8). Note that since there is no functional difference between the EAP-SIM and the EAP-AKA authentication when these protocols are encapsulated in IKEv2, we present them in a generic way. Thus, we introduce the EAP-AKA (SIM) payload notation (see Fig. 8) to indicate that this payload can be an EAP-SIM or an EAP-AKA message.

Upon receiving the first EAP-AKA (SIM) message, the PDG encapsulate it within an IKEv2 message and forwards the encapsulated message to the user. Except for the EAP-AKA (SIM) payload, this message also includes the PDG's identity, which identifies the provided 3G services (W-APN) (see sect. 2), the PDG's certificate (CERT), and the AUTHr field. The latter

contains signed data used by the user to authenticate the PDG. Similarly to the previous messages, the payload of this IKEv2 message, except for the message header, is encrypted using the *IKE\_SA*. Upon receiving the EAP-AKA (SIM) payload, the user verifies the *AUTHr* field by using the public key of the PDG included in the certificate field (*CERT*), and answers by sending an EAP-AKA (SIM) response message encapsulated again within an IKEv2 message. From this point, the IKEv2 messages contain only EAP-AKA (SIM) payloads, which are encrypted and integrity protected as described previously. The EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA exchange continues, normally, until an EAP-SUCCESS message (or an EAP-FAILURE in case of a failure) is sent from the AAA server to the PDG, which ends the EAP-AKA or the EAP-SIM dialogue. Together with the EAP-SUCCESS message, the key *MSK* is sent from the AAA server to the PDG via the AAA protocol, as shown in Fig. 8 (step 4).

After finishing the EAP-AKA or EAP-SIM dialogue, the last step (step 5) of IKEv2 re-authenticates the peers, in order to establish an *IPsec\_SA*. This authentication step is necessary in order to defeat man-in-the-middle attacks, which might take place because the authentication protocol (e.g., EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA) runs inside the secure protocol (e.g., IKEv2). This combination creates a security hole since the initiator and the responder have no way to verify that their peer in the authentication procedure is the entity at the other end of the outer protocol [30]. Thus, in order to prevent possible attacks against IKEv2 (i.e., man in the middle attacks), both the user and the PDG have to calculate the *AUTHi* and the *AUTHr* payloads, respectively, using the *MSK* key that was generated from the EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA protocol. Then, both the user and the PDG send each other the *AUTHi* and *AUTHr* payloads to achieve a security binding between the inner protocol (EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA) and the outer protocol (IKEv2). Note that the PDG together with the *AUTHr* payload sends also its traffic selector payloads (*TSi* and *TSr*), the *SAr2* payload, which contains the chosen cryptographic suit for the *IPsec\_SA* and the assigned user's Remote IP address in the Configuration Payload Reply (CP-REPLY)

payload. After the establishment of the IPsec\_SA the keying material (*KEYMAT*) for this SA is calculated as follows:

$$KEYMAT = prf(SK\_d, Ni | Nr), \quad (11)$$

where  $N_i$  and  $N_r$  are the nonces from the IKE\_SA\_INIT exchange, and  $SK\_d$  is the key that is calculated from the SKEYSEED value (see eq. 10). The *KEYMAT* is used to extract the keys that the IPsec protocol uses for security purposes. Note that the deployed IPsec\_SA protects the one way communication between the user and the PDG. For bi-directional secure communication between them, one more SA needs to be established (between the PDG and the user) by executing the IKEv2 phase 2 over the established IKE\_SA.

### 3.2.2 Data protection

After the completion of the authentication procedure and the execution of IKEv2 between the PDG and the user, a pair of IPsec\_SAs has been established between these two nodes. This pair deploys a bidirectional VPN between them that allows for secure data exchange over the underlying network path. At the same time, the user has been subscribed to the 3G PLMN network for charging and billing purposes using either the EAP-AKA or EAP-SIM protocol.

The deployed VPN runs on top of the wireless link and extends from the user's computer to the PDG, which is located in the user's home 3G PLMN (see Fig. 1). It is based on IPsec [21], which is a developing standard for providing security at the network layer. IPsec provides two choices of security service through two distinct security protocols: the Authentication Header (AH) [15] protocol, and the Encapsulating Security Payload (ESP) protocol [22]. The AH protocol provides support for connectionless integrity, data origin authentication and protection against replays, but it does not support confidentiality. The ESP protocol supports confidentiality, connectionless integrity, anti-replay protection and optional data origin authentication. Both AH and ESP support two modes of operation: transport and tunnel. The transport mode of operation provides end-to-end protection between the communicating end-

points by encrypting the IP packet payload. The tunnel mode encrypts the entire IP packet (both IP header and payload) and encapsulates the encrypted original IP packet in the payload of a new IP packet.

In the deployed VPN of the WLAN 3GPP IP Access scenario, IPsec employs the ESP protocol and is configured to operate in the tunnel mode. Thus, VPN provides confidentiality, integrity, data origin authentication, and anti-reply protection services protecting the payload and the heard of the exchanged IP packets. From the two IP addresses (i.e., Transport and Remote IP address) of each authenticated user, the Remote IP address serves as the inner IP address, which is protected by IPsec, and the Transport IP address serves as the IP address of the new packets, which encapsulate the original IP packets and carry them between the user and the PDG (see Fig. 9). Thus, an adversary can not disclosure, fabricate unnoticed or perform traffic analysis to the data exchanged between the user and the PDG. Finally, IPsec can use different cryptographic algorithms (i.e., DES, 3DES, AES, etc) depending on the level of security required by the two peers and the data that they exchange.

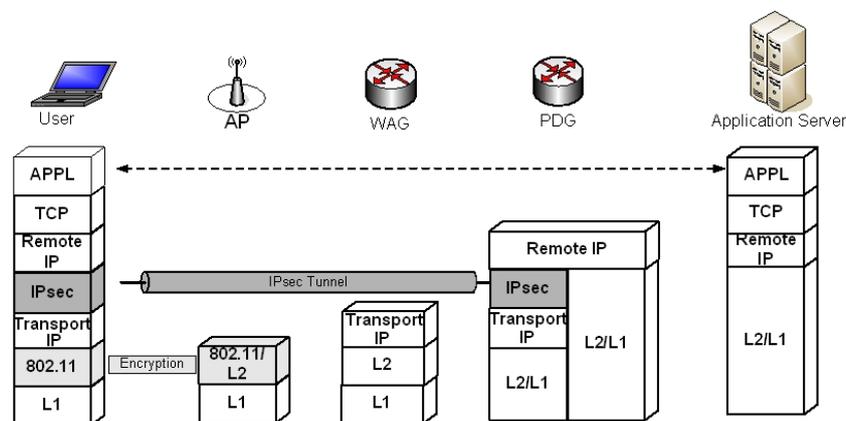


Fig. 9 The data plane of the 3GPP IP Access scenario

## 4 Evaluation of the B3G Security Architecture

Based on the study of the security architectures, which are employed in the two interworking scenarios that integrate 3G and WLANs and the analysis of the applied security measures, this section elaborates an evaluation of them. This evaluation presents the strengths and weaknesses

of the applied security measures on the basis of the security services that they provide, as well as some operational and performance issues that their deployment might result in.

#### **4.1 EAP-SIM**

Although EAP-SIM was designed as an advanced authentication protocol, it does not meet its security goals. An essential drawback of the EAP-SIM authentication procedure is related to the fact that its sessions are not independent [34]. Specifically, if some authentication triplets of a user are compromised, then an adversary may use them to authenticate himself to the user as valid network. The ways in which an adversary can obtain authentication triplets are: (i) having physical access to the SIM-card of the user, (ii) using a malicious piece of software that attacks against the user platform, (iii) performing attacks on the GSM/GPRS network (it is assumed that the same authentication triplets are used for both GSM/GPRS and WLAN access), and (iv) getting access to the communication between the AuC and the AAA server that exchange authentication information.

Obtaining authentication triplets the adversary may impersonate a valid network and calculate valid keys. More specifically, he is able to calculate a valid  $MAC_{server}$  value (see eq. (2)) and the related  $K_{auth}$  key, as he possesses valid authentication triplets. Based on the received  $MAC_{server}$  value the user authenticates the attacker as a legitimate network, since there is no way for the former to understand that there is a replay attack. Although EAP-SIM mandates the use of fresh authentication triplets, there is no mechanism that enables the user to check whether the authentication triplets, received from the AAA server, are fresh. The adversary may use the compromised triplets as long as the secret key,  $K_i$ , which is included in the SIM-card and uniquely identifies the user's subscription in the network, remains the same and this could be for years.

Except for the above serious deficiency, there are still a lot of more that a malicious may exploit to attack EAP-SIM. For example, the mobile user is obligated to send his permanent

identity IMSI in clear text during the first time that is connected to the authentication server. Thus, the privacy of user's identity may be compromised, since a passive eavesdropper may steal it. In addition, many EAP-SIM messages (e.g., EAP-Request/Notification, EAP-Response/Notification, EAP-Success and EAP-Failure) are exchanged unprotected enabling an attacker to send false notifications to the peers and mount denial of service attacks by spoofing these messages.

A solution that increases the security level of EAP-SIM and may partially defeat the impersonation attack against the EAP-SIM authentication protocol is the employment of so-called special RANDs [3]. In this solution the network generates special authentication triplets, which are used only for EAP-SIM authentication and not for GSM/GPRS. In such a triplet, the RAND parameter contains a specific cryptographic part, which indicates that the specific triplet is designed for EAP-SIM authentication. Thus, an adversary cannot reuse a compromised authentication triplet from GSM/GPRS in EAP-SIM. However, this solution is relative complex and can not be easily applied, since it requires changes in the existing infrastructure of the GSM/GPRS network.

## **4.2 EAP-AKA**

EAP-AKA, which is based on the UMTS authentication and key agreement procedure, counteracts network impersonation attacks by using a mechanism that protects against authentication message replay attacks. This mechanism involves the computation and verification of a special value called authentication token (AUTN), which enhances the network to user authentication [27].

More specifically, in the EAP-Request/AKA-Challenge message (see Fig. 3), the AAA server together with the random challenge (RAND) and the related MAC also sends to the user the AUTN payload, which authenticates it (i.e., the AAA server) to the user. The computation (verification) of the AUTN is primarily based on two parameters, which explicitly refer to a

specific user. These parameters are: (a) the permanent secret key,  $K$ , of the user, and (b) a UTMS-AKA Sequence Number (SQN), which is stored only in the user's USIM-card and the AuC of the home network: Both these network entities (USIM and AuC) maintain a synchronized counter for each user (i.e.,  $SQN_{MS}$ ,  $SQN_{HE}$  respectively), which proves to the user that the employed authentication vector (the corresponding authentication triplet of UMTS) has not been used before (i.e., it is fresh). Thus, the EAP-AKA authentication procedure defeats potential replays of authentication messages. If an adversary compromises an authentication vector, he cannot reuse it mounting an impersonation attack, since the AUTN verification will fail because of the SQN mismatch. In case that he tries to recalculate a valid AUTN, he will fail again since this calculation involves the secret key,  $K$ , which cannot be retrieved as it is kept encrypted and never being exposed.

As described above, EAP-AKA enhances the security level provided in B3G networks by counteracting replay attacks. However, it presents some security weaknesses similar to these of EAP-SIM, which might result in the compromise of end-users and network security. More specifically, EAP-AKA does not offer identity protection, since the IMSI identity may be conveyed in clear text. An adversary, pretending a valid AAA server, can force the user to send his IMSI revealing his permanent identity. In addition, many EAP-AKA messages (e.g., EAP-Request/Notification, EAP-Response/Notification, EAP-Success and EAP-Failure) are exchanged unprotected enabling a malicious party to send false notifications to the peers and mount denial of service attacks by spoofing these EAP messages.

### ***4.3 The IEEE 802.11i Standard***

802.11i, which provides advanced security services to the data transferred over the radio interface of WLANs, eliminates the security flaws of its ancestor (i.e., WEP). However, the deployment of this standard arises some compatibility and energy consumption issues as well as physical security concerns, which have to be carefully considered.

Regarding compatibility, the main concern has to do with the seamless cooperation between the new emerging systems that support the 802.11i security framework and the legacy systems that do not. The legacy WLAN infrastructure can not easily integrate the 802.11i security framework, since it must incorporate additional software and hardware. The major enhancements must be done to the legacy wireless APs, which have to implement the AES algorithm that may require a special coprocessor. Thus, for the wide deployment of 802.11i, the existing WLAN network infrastructure must be enhanced and possibly the legacy wireless APs must be replaced.

Moreover, energy consumption comprises an obstacle for the acceptance of 802.11i from end users and its deployment in WLANs. The main concern has to do with the limited battery power of mobile devices, since 802.11i is not considered to be an energy efficient protocol. On the contrary, the messages that are exchanged during the 802.11i four way and group key handshakes, as well as the cryptographic algorithms associated with these handshakes consume significant energy. Prasithsangaree et al. [29] identify such energy consumption issues as well as they present methods to measure the energy consumption of cryptographic algorithms and finally propose solutions to reduce energy consumption of security protocols.

Another deployment issue of 802.11i is related to the fact that it provides security services only between users and APs, leaving unprotected the communication between the APs and the NAS. Therefore, special attention should be paid to the physical security of the links that connect the wireless APs to the NAS, since they may convey clear-text data (at least are not protected by 802.11i). In addition, special attention should be paid to the physical security of the wireless APs, which are distributed in the geographical area that is covered by the WLAN-AN. If an AP is not adequately protected, then, an adversary may gain access to it and consequently to the security information (i.e., session keys) that this module contains. Obtaining critical security information, the adversary may perform various attacks (such as disclosure of the exchanged data, unauthorized alternation of data, unauthorized access to services, denial of

service attack, etc.), which compromise the security level provided to users and the network supports.

Lately, a solution to the above security weakness of 802.11i has been proposed [31], which deploys a VPN between a user and the NAS of a WLAN. The deployed VPN, which is based on IPsec, protects the exchanged data not only over the wireless interface (i.e., between the user and the AP), but also on the wired link between the AP and the NAS. In addition, since the NAS is a core network component of the WLAN infrastructure, it is assumed that it has a higher level of physical security compared to the wireless APs. Thus, it is better suited to store encryption keys and provide security services in a WLAN, since an adversary cannot have physical access to it. The proposed security scheme can be easily integrated in the existing WLAN infrastructure, and requires enhancements to the users and the NAS, which must incorporate the appropriate IPsec software.

#### ***4.4 Security architecture applied to the 3GPP IP Access Scenario***

Except for the aforementioned security considerations, which could downgrade the level of security provided in B3G networks, some performance issues in the 3GPP IP Access scenario may have an adverse impact on aspects of quality of service offered to end-users. More specifically, in the 3GPP IP Access scenario, a user may experience long delays during authentication, since he must perform two separate authentication steps (see section 3.2). In the initial authentication step, the user executes EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA to obtain the transport IP address (step 1 in Fig. 6). Then, (second authentication) the user executes EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA once more, encapsulated in IKEv2 messages, to establish a VPN tunnel between him and the PDG (step 5 in Fig. 6). Therefore, this duplicate execution of EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA combined with the overhead of IKEv2 may cause delays in users' authentication and consume scarce network resources.

As mentioned in section 3.2, in cases that the PDG trusts the WLAN network, the first execution of EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA (step 1 in Fig. 6) can be omitted, speeding up the authentication procedure. However, this policy raises new security risks and threats. If the first authentication step is omitted, then an adversary could merely obtain an IP address from the WLAN network (step 3 in Fig. 6), without authentication. Using this IP address he may either perform flooding attacks to the PDG exploiting the IKEv2 protocol or mount bandwidth attacks to the wireless interface of the WLAN. Although IKEv2 employs cookies to protect the network from flooding attacks, this mechanism can not provide an adequate level of protection. Since the above Denial of Service (DoS) attacks may reduce significantly the quality of service provided by B3G networks, the aforementioned policy must be carefully considered before applied.

Finally, the performance of the WLAN 3GPP IP Access scenario in data plane may be reduced, because of the employment of IPsec. Specifically, the IPsec protocol increases the bandwidth utilization due to the increase in packet size. In addition, the IPsec functionality imposes computational cost associated with the memory needed for IPsec code and data structures, the number of messages that are exchanged, and the computation of encryption and decryption, which are added in a per-packet fashion. These operational issues of IPsec raise a question regarding the feasibility of IPsec for deploying VPNs over B3G wireless networks. Xenakis et al. [28] elaborate on the previous question by presenting an assessment of the communication overheads of IPsec and evaluating the feasibility of deploying it on mobile devices in a wireless environment, using non real time source of data. Moreover, Rajavelsamy et al. [35] evaluate the performance of Voice over IP (VoIP) connections within IPsec tunnels in 3G-WLAN integrated networks. Their results indicate that the deployment of IPsec to protect real time applications may have an adverse impact on aspects of quality of service offered to end-users, deteriorating the overall system performance.

## 5 Comparison of the scenarios

Based on the presentation of the two access scenarios (i.e., WLAN Direct IP Access and 3GPP IP Access) that integrate B3G networks and the analysis of the security measures that each one employs, this section provides a brief comparison of them. The comparison aims at highlighting the deployment advantages of each scenario and classifies them in terms of: a) security, b) mobility, and c) reliability.

Regarding the provided security services, both scenarios support mutual authentication. In the WLAN Direct IP Access scenario, the authentication procedure employs either EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA, depending on the user's subscription. However, as mentioned above, both protocols present security weaknesses, which can be exploited by adversaries to perform several attacks such as identity spoofing, DoS attacks, replay attacks, etc. (see sect 4.1 and 4.2). On the other hand, the authentication procedure of the 3GPP IP Access scenario is more secured, since it combines the above protocols (i.e., EAP-SIM and EAP-AKA) with IKEv2. Specifically, the PDG is authenticated using its certificate, and the user is authenticated using EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA. It is worth noting that since the EAP-SIM and EAP-AKA messages are encapsulated in protected IKEv2 messages, the identified security weaknesses associated with them are eliminated.

Regarding confidentiality and data integrity services, both scenarios protect sensitive data conveyed over the air interface. More specifically, in the WLAN Direct IP Access scenario, high level security services are provided only in cases that the CCMP security protocol is applied, since it incorporates the strong AES encryption algorithm. A downside of applying CCMP is that it requires hardware changes to the wireless APs, which might be replaced. In the WLAN 3GPP IP Access scenario, data encryption is applied at the layer 2 (using WEP, TKIP or CCMP) and layer 3 (using IPsec), simultaneously (see Fig. 9). This duplicate encryption provides advanced security services to the data conveyed over the WLAN radio interface, but at

the same time it may cause radio resource consumption, longer delays and energy consumption issues.

Another deployment feature, which can be used for comparing the two scenarios, has to do with mobility. The WLAN Direct IP Access scenario supports user mobility by employing one of the mobility protocols, proposed for seamless mobility in WLAN [26]. On the other hand, in the WLAN 3GPP IP Access scenario, the established VPN between a user and the PDG adds an extra layer of complexity to the associated mobility management protocols of this scenario. This complexity arises from the fact that as the mobile user moves from one access network to another and his IP address changes, the mobility protocols must incorporate mechanisms that maintain dynamically the established VPN, enabling the notion of mobile VPN. Such a mechanism is provided by the Mobility and Multihoming IKE (MOBIKE) protocol [9][10], which enables a mobile user with an established VPN to move from one access network to another, without re-establishing the IPsec\_SAs. Moreover, Dutta et al. [33] design and implement a secure universal mobility architecture, which incorporates standard mobility management protocols, such as Mobile IP, to deploy a mobile VPN.

Finally, the deployed IPsec-based VPNs between the users and the PDG in the 3GPP IP Access scenario may raise reliability issues. Reliability is perceived as the ability to use VPN services at all times and it is highly related to the network connectivity and the capacity of the underlying technology to provide VPN services. In the 3GPP IP Access scenario, all data traffic passes through the VPN tunnels that are extend from the users to the PDG. The number of the deployed VPNs can grow significantly, due to the fact that each user can establish multiple VPNs at the same time to access different services. Thus, the PDG must be able to support a large number of simultaneous VPNs in order to provide reliable security services.

## 6 Conclusions

This paper has analyzed the security architectures employed in the interworking model that integrates 3G and WLANs, materializing B3G networks. The integrated architecture of B3G networks specifies two different network access scenarios: (a) the *WLAN Direct IP Access* and (b) the *WLAN 3GPP IP Access*. The first scenario provides to a user connection to the public Internet or to an intranet via the WLAN-AN. In this scenario both the user and the network are authenticated to each other using EAP-SIM or EAP-AKA, depending on the user's subscription. EAP-AKA supports a higher level of security services compared to EAP-SIM, however, both present some common security weaknesses, which can be exploited by adversaries to perform attacks like identity spoofing, DoS, etc. Moreover, in the WLAN Direct IP Access scenario, the confidentiality and integrity of users' data transferred over the air interface are ensured by the 802.11i security framework. 802.11i provides advanced security services eliminating the security flaws of WEP, however, its deployment raise some compatibility, energy consumption and physical security concerns that have to be carefully considered. On the other hand, the WLAN 3GPP IP Access scenario allows a user to connect to the PS services (like WAP, MMS, LBS, etc.) or to the public Internet through the 3G PLMN. In this scenario, the user is authenticated to the 3G PLMN using EAP-SIM or alternatively EAP-AKA encapsulated within IKEv2, which eliminates the identified security weaknesses of them. The network is authenticated to the user using its certificate. In addition, the execution of IKEv2 is used for the establishment of an IPsec-based VPN between the user and the network that provides extra confidentiality and integrity services to the data exchanged between them.

## Acknowledgement

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