Air Traffic Control Insecurity 2.0

Righter Kunkel, CISSP, CISA Security Researcher DEF CON 18

Agenda

- o Who am I?
- Overview from last year
- Insecurity's today
- Jet tracking

Who am I?

- Security Field for >13 years
- Worked with secure operating systems: B1, B2
- Firewalls, proxies
- Trainer
- o CISSP, CISA
- Ham Radio
- Private Pilot
- DEF CON presenter last year

First

- Is flying safe? YES
- Are planes going to fall out of the sky after this talk? NO
- Is flying safe after this talk? YES
- Is some of this talk illegal? ???

Disclaimer: Don't do this!

Pilots?

o Is any one a pilot?

Our Focus

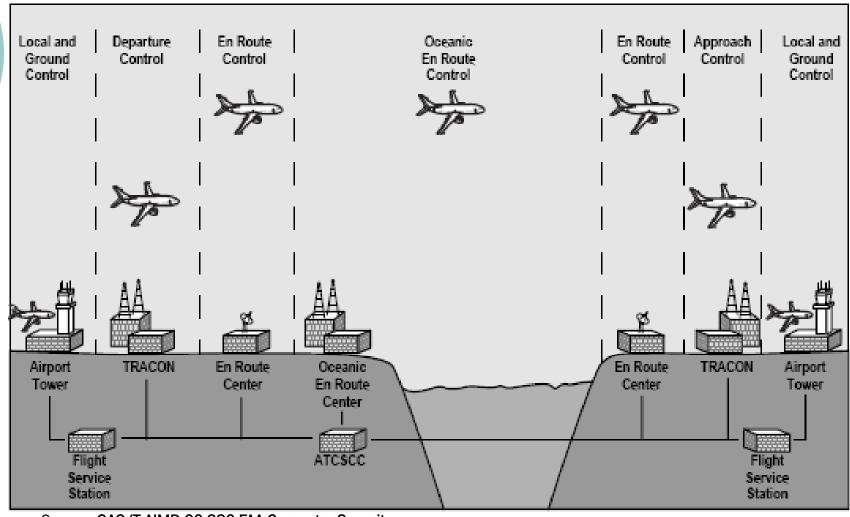
- We are not going to focus on:
 - Airport physical security
 - Cockpit door security
 - X-Ray security
- o Our focus:
 - Computers used by ATC
 - How airplanes report their position to ATC
 - NexGen ATC

Why?

- ATC is busy moving planes through the air
- ATC not focused on network security of equipment being used
 - Who would want to hack a radar scope?

ATC

o What is ATC?



Source: GAO/T-AIMD-00-330 FAA Computer Security
DEF CON 18 Righter Kunkel

NextGen ATC

- Converting from proprietary hardware to commercial off the shelf hardware
- Phasing out radar
- Airplanes transponder will report Lat., Long., and Alt. in clear txt
 - ADS-B

Airplane Transponder



Source: Wikipedia

10

ADS-B Insecurity

- Who am I and where am I in one unencrypted packet
- GPS will be the backbone of NextGen
 - Oh, and GPS sats are failing faster than expected
- One could easily fake an ADS-B transmission
 - No radar to verify true position

o More to come...

Call to Action

- Listen to ATC
- View ADS-B broadcasts
- Become a Pilot

Conclusion

- ATC Background
- State of Airline Security

Questions



References

- http://www.oig.dot.gov/StreamFile?file=/data/pdfdocs/ATC_Web_Report.pdf
- http://www.airsport-corp.com/adsb2.htm
- o http://online.wsj.com/article/SB124165272826193727.html#
- http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-12645.pdf