



Modmobtools

Internals, updates and more

By Sébastien Dudek

Troopers - Telco Sec Day

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About me



- Sébastien Dudek (@FIUxluS)
- Working at Synacktiv: pentests, red team, audits, vuln researches
- Likes radio and hardware
- And to confront theory vs. practice



Introduction



- Pentesting mobile devices (phones, intercoms, connected cars, ...) → right tools
 - Data exchanged: (IoT) devices ↔ server are generally trusted
 - Spawn a fake station → OpenBTS/OsmoBTS, OpenBTS-UMTS, srsLTE, Amarisoft...
 - But we need also to attract the device to this station
 - Also sometimes it's needed to perform cell monitoring on 2G/3G/4G and soon in 5G.
- we developed some cool&cheap tools to do that!

Our tools



- Modmobmap: monitoring 2G/3G/4G cells and more
- Modmobjam: smart/targeted jamming tools



1 Modmobmap

2 Modmobjam

3 Updates

4 Conclusion

Where can I use this tool?



Cell towers discovery

- have a list and description of surrounding towers
- spot rogue base stations (mature list required!)

Jamming

Where can I use this tool?



Cell towers discovery

Jamming

- replace the noisy chinese jammer
- avoid commercial jamming device reworking (bands disabling)

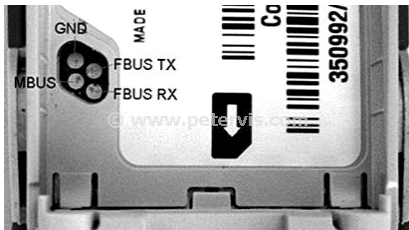
Remember: monitoring with holy relics



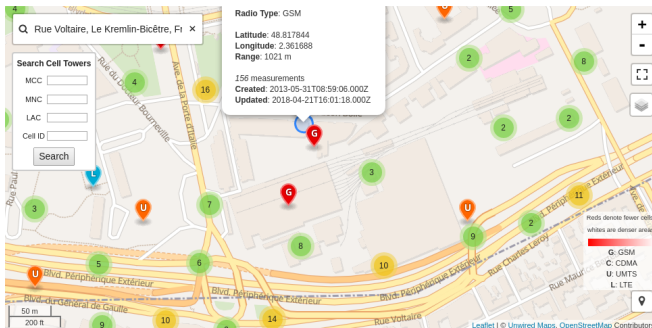
Old Nokia phone have a net monitor mode that could be enabled via FBus or MBUS access.

Tools

- Gnokii, Gammu and others: activate monitor mode, interact with the phone, and capture trace logs.
- DCT3-GSMTAP: evolution of Gammu, capture of GSM Um and SIM-ME via GSMTAP pseudo-header format.



Thing that exists



OpenCellID example

Very few information... could be used as a database for spotting rogue base stations. But useless for jamming attacks

Thing we wanna do for 3G, 4G and more



```
OsmocomBB# show cell 1
```

ARFCN	MCC	MNC	LAC	cell ID	forb.LA	prio	min-db	max-pwr	rx-lev
1	208	01	0x	0xe	n/a	n/a	-110	5	-71
3	208	01	0x	0xb	n/a	n/a	-110	5	-76
7	208	01	0x	0xa	n/a	n/a	-110	5	-74
11	208	01	0x	0xe	n/a	n/a	-110	5	-75
77	208	10	0x	0x9	no	normal	-105	5	-84
513DCS	208	01	0x	0xd	n/a	n/a	-95	0	-82
518DCS	208	01	0x	0x5	n/a	n/a	-95	0	-79
609DCS	208	01	0x	0xf	n/a	n/a	-95	0	-70
744DCS	208	10	0x	0xe	n/a	n/a	-95	0	-91
976	208	20	0x	0xc	n/a	n/a	-104	5	-81
978	208	20	0x	0xc	n/a	n/a	-104	5	-79
979	208	20	0x	0x0	n/a	n/a	-104	5	-84
982	208	20	0x	0xc	n/a	n/a	-104	5	-74
984	208	20	0x	0xc	n/a	n/a	-104	5	-57
986	n/a	n/a	n/	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1011	208	20	0x	0x9	n/a	n/a	-104	5	-87
1012	208	20	0x	0xb	n/a	n/a	-104	5	-84

OsmocomBB cell monitor



Recorded mobile towers

- OpenCellid: Open Database of Cell Towers
- Gsmmap.org
- and so on.

Live scanning tools



Recorded mobile towers

- OpenCellid: Open Database of Cell Towers
- Gsmmap.org
- and so on.

Problem!

But these solutions don't map in live and do not give precise information about cell towers.

Live scanning tools



Recorded mobile towers

Live scanning tools

- for 2G cells:
 - Gammu/Wammu, DCT3-GSMTAP, and others
 - OsmocomBB via *cell_log* application
- for 3G, 4G and more:
 - only tricks: use of exposed DIAG interface →decoding
→GSMTAP pseudo-header format
 - SnoopSnitch: could be reworked for our purposes ;)

Methods to capture cells information



Possible methods are:

- Software-Defined Radio
- Exposed diagnostic interfaces
- Use of Android RIL

Software-Defined Radio



Existing tools:

- Airprobe or GR-GSM
- OpenLTE: *LTE_fdd_dl_scan*
- srsLTE with srsUE

Software-Defined Radio



Existing tools:

- Airprobe or GR-GSM
- OpenLTE: *LTE_fdd_dl_scan*
- srsLTE with srsUE

No 3G

No 3G tools to capture cell information.

Exposed diagnostic interface



- Diagnostic interface enabled:
 - On old phones and 3G sticks like the *Icon 255*¹ that expose it by default
 - enabling DIAG ourselves: e.g for some LG devices via `/sys/devices/platform/lg_diag_cmd/diag_enable`
 - Chips used for development
 - Interfaces kept enabled in production by error (e.g via custom bootmodes → CVE-2016-8467)
- Existing tools:
 - *xgoldmon* for X-Gold Infineon Basebands
 - *diag-parser* for exposed Qualcomm DIAG interfaces

¹https://events.ccc.de/congress/2011/Fahrplan/attachments/2022_11ccc-qcombbdbg.pdf

Making a development environment



- Good alternative
- Could work with almost all bands we want
- A little expensive: almost 300€
- Requirements:



EC20 LTE modem



PC Engines APU2

Supertramp's version



- U/EC20 3G/LTE modem
- mPCI-E adapter

(Funny story about EC20)



- Seen at 33c3 by Harald Welte² → the modem runs an OE base Linux distribution
- It's also possible to have a shell via the AT command *AT+QLINUXCMD*:

```
# echo -e 'AT+QLINUXCMD="/sbin/getty -L ttyGS0 115200 console "\r\n" > /dev/ttyUSB2
# microcom /dev/ttyUSB1

OpenEmbedded Linux 9615-cdp ttyGS0

msm 20160923 9615-cdp ttyGS0

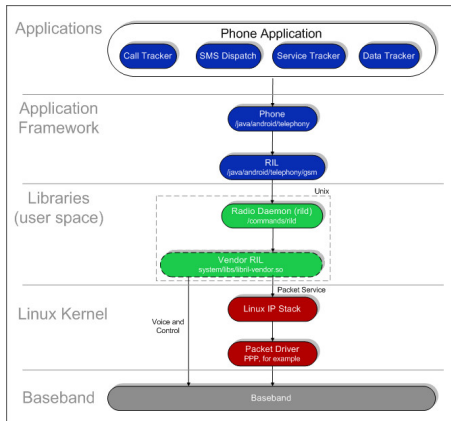
9615-cdp login: root
Password: oelinux123
root@9615-cdp:~#
```

²http://git.gnumonks.org/laforge-slides/plain/2016/cellular_modems_33c3/33c3modems.html

RIL on Android



- Daemon forwards commands/messages: application \leftrightarrow Vendor RIL
- vendor library is proprietary and vendor specific
- vendor library knows how to talk to modem:
 - classic AT
 - QMI for Qualcomm
 - (old?) Samsung IPC Protocol
 - and so on.



ServiceMode on Android



- Usually activated by typing a secret code
- Gives interesting details of current cell:
 - implicit network type
 - used band
 - reception (RX/DL) or/and transmission (TX/UP) (E/U)ARFCN (Absolute Radio Frequency Channel Number)
 - PLMN (Public Land Mobile Network) number
 - and so on.

ServiceMode	:
RRC:IDLE, Band:1	
PLMN:208-11	
RX:10762 RI:-84 CID:a21c5	
TX:9812 Eclo:-2 RSCP:-86	
L1:PCH_Sleep PSC:507 DRX:128	
SERVICE : LIMITED	
Speech VER : FR FR FR	
therm: 111 LNA: 0	
SIB19 None	
PA STATE : 0 (APT), HDET : 0	
NETWORK : UNBLOCK	
IMEI Certi: PASS, 1	
Unknown	

ServiceMode in Samsung

Samsung ServiceMode in brief



- 1 `*#0011#` secret code handled by *ServiceModeApp_RIL* *ServiceModeApp* activity
- 2 *ServiceModeApp* → IPC connection
→ *SecFactoryPhoneTest* *SecPhoneService*
- 3 *ServiceModeApp* starts the service mode
→ *invokeOemRilRequestRaw()* through *SecPhoneService*
(send RIL command *RIL_REQUEST_OEM_HOOK_RAW*)
- 4 *ServiceModeApp* process in higher level ServiceMode messages coming from RIL.

Best place to listen ServiceMode

Two good places exist: RIL library independent of Vendor RIL library implementation, or use *invokeOemRilRequestRaw()*

Getting SM messages: the lazy way



Ask to our best friend →logcat

```
shell@klte :/ $ logcat
[...]
```

I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): in QUERT_SERVM_DONE
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): size of result : 1700
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 0 : RRC:IDLE, Band:1_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 1 : PLMN:208-20_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 2 : RX:10639 RI:-70 CID:1fc09bd_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 3 : TX:9689 Eclo:-4 RSCP:-74_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 4 : L1:PCH_Sleep PSC:83 DRX:64_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 5 : SERVICE : LIMITED_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 6 : Speech VER : FR FR FR_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 7 : therm: 111 LNA: 0 _
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 8 : SIB19 Received_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 9 : PA STATE : 0 (APT), HDET : 0_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 10 : NETWORK : UNBLOCK_
I/ServiceModeApp_RIL(1542): Line 11 : IMEI Certi: PASS, 1_

Those messages could be then processed to get our current cell information.

Getting data from DIAG with Xgoldmon



We have reworked Xgoldmon project for that:

■ <https://github.com/FIUxluS/xgoldmon>

```
$ cat ./cellog.fifo
[... ]
[ CellInfo ]:PLMN=208-15;RAC=0x1;LAC=0x4e71;CID=0x1f ****;DL_UARFCN=10737;UL_ARFCN=9787
[ CellInfo ]:PLMN=208-20;RAC=0x1;LAC=0x4e71;CID=0x1f ****;DL_UARFCN=2950;UL_ARFCN=2725
[... ]
[ CellInfo ]:PLMN=208-20;RAC=0x1;LAC=0xb5aa;CID=0x97 ****;DL_UARFCN=10639;UL_ARFCN=9689
[ CellInfo ]:PLMN=208-10;RAC=0x1;LAC=0xb5aa;CID=0x97 ****;DL_UARFCN=65535;UL_ARFCN=2850
[... ]
```

What do I need?



At least a phone supporting ServiceMode!

- At least supports following tested phones:
 - Samsung Galaxy S3 via xgoldmon (Modmobmap's edition);
 - Samsung Galaxy S4;
 - Samsung Galaxy S5;
 - Samsung Galaxy Note 2 with LTE;
 - Samsung Galaxy S4 GT-I9500
 - Samsung Galaxy Nexus GT-I9250
 - Samsung Galaxy S2 GT-I9100
 - Samsung Galaxy Note 2 GT-N7100
 - Samsung Galaxy S6 Exynos SoC
 - Samsung Galaxy S7 Exynos SoC
 - Samsung Galaxy A3 Exynos SoC
 - ...

Few constraints to resolve



“KTHX! But there are 2 questions”:

- 1 how to support other operators than your own SIM card?
- 2 how to enumerate cells a MS (Mobile Station) is supposed to see?

Few constraints to resolve



“KTHX! But there are 2 questions”:

- 1 how to support other operators than your own SIM card?
- 2 how to enumerate cells a MS (Mobile Station) is supposed to see?

Answer

The DFR technique!

DFR technique



D.F.R: “D” for Dirty, “F” for Fuzzy, “R” for Registration



The camping concept in brief



Let's remember 3GPP TS 43.022, ETSI TS 125 304...

- When selecting a PLMN →MS looks for cells satisfying few conditions (cell of the selected PLMN, not barred, pathloss between MS and BTS below a threshold, and so on.)
- Cells are checked in a descending order of the signal strength
- If a suitable is found →MS camps on it and tries to register

The camping concept in brief



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Verified through DIAG and ServiceMode

If registration fails →MS camps to another cell until it can register →verified via DIAG and ServiceMode

Automate the DFR technique with AT commands



Android phones often expose a modem interface (e.g. `/dev/smd0`)

```
127|shell@klte:/ $ getprop rilD.libargs  
-d /dev/smd0
```

It is possible to:

- set network type: `AT^SYSCONFIG`
- list PLMN and select a PLMN: `AT+COPS`

→requires root privileges

We mix all techniques together

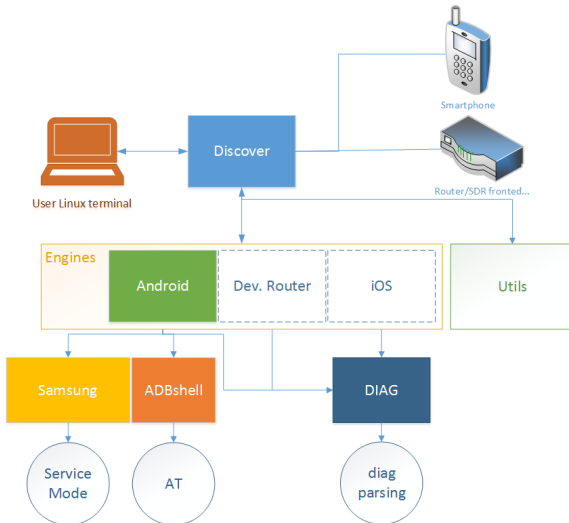


Don't forget...



*the magic cure powder

Here is the frankenstein: Modmobmap





1 Modmobmap

2 **Modmobjam**

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In brief



- Uses Modmobmap results to jam mobile cells in a DIY way!
- Cheapest and efficient tricks to jam

Before



With a portable/chinese device

- cheap
- jam the whole 2G/3G/(4G?) bands but requires some modifications
- poor signal



Desktop jammers



With a portable/chinese device

Desktop jammers

- heavy, cumbersome but powerfull
- also needs a disabling to conserve rogue cells



Software-Defined Radio way



- With Software-Defined Radio
- Many devices could be used even the cheapest:
 - bladeRF;
 - HackRF;
 - ADALM-PLUTO;
 - and so on.

Software-Defined Radio way



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 - and so on.

The bandwidth

KTHX! But how do you cover all frequencies with your toys bro?

SDR specs



	HackRF	bladerF		USRP		
		x40	x115	B100 Starter	B200	B210
Radio Spectrum	30 MHz – 6 GHz	300 MHz – 3.8 GHz		50 MHz – 2.2 GHz [1]	50MHz – 6 GHz	
Bandwidth	20 MHz	28 MHz		16 MHz [2]	61.44 MHz [3]	
Duplex	Half	Full		Full	Full	2x2 MIMO
Sample Size (ADC/DAC)	8 bit	12 bit		12 bit / 14 bit	12 bit	
Sample Rate (ADC/DAC)	20 Msps	40 Msps		64 Msps / 128 Msps	61.44 Msps	
Interface (Speed)	USB 2 HS (480 megabit)	USB 3 (5 gigabit)		USB 2 HS (480 megabit)	USB 3 (5 gigabit)	
FPGA Logic Elements	[4]	40k	115k	25k	75k	150k
Microcontroller	LPC43XX	Cypress FX3		Cypress FX2	Cypress FX3	
Open Source	Everything	HDL + Code Schematics		HDL + Code Schematics	Host Code [5]	
Availability	January 2014	Now		Now	Now	
Cost	\$300 [6]	\$420	\$650	\$675	\$675	\$1100

source: <http://www.taylorkillian.com/2013/08/sdr-showdown-hackrf-vs-bladerf-vs-usrp.html>

Solution: "Smart" jamming



In 3 steps:

- 1 scan cells with Modmobmap;
- 2 target an operator;
- 3 and jam only targeted channels;

Scanning with Modmobmap



Modmobmap recovers 2G/3G/4G and more cells pretty much like OsmocomBB monitor mode for 2G only.

```
└─$ sudo python modmobmap.py -m servicemode
=> Requesting a list of MCC/MNC. Please wait, it may take a while...
[+] New cell detected [CellID/PCI-DL_freq (83-6400)]
Network type=4G
PLMN=151515-1515
Band=20
Downlink EARFCN=6400
Found 5 operator(s)
{'u'20810': 'u'F SFR', 'u'20820': 'u'F-Bouygues Telecom', 'u'20815': 'u'Free', 'u'20801': 'u'Orange F', 'u'20811': 'u'SFR Home 3G'}
```

```
[+] Unregistered from current PLMN
[+] New cell detected [CellID/PCI-DL_freq (f0e02-10787)]
Network type=3G
PLMN=208-1
Band=1
Downlink UARFCN=10787
Uplink UARFCN=9837
=> Changing MCC/MNC for: 20810
[+] New cell detected [CellID/PCI-DL_freq (298-6400)]
Network type=4G
PLMN=208-10
Band=20
Downlink EARFCN=6400
[+] New cell detected [CellID/PCI-DL_freq (298-6300)]
Network type=4G
PLMN=208-10
Band=20
Downlink EARFCN=6300
[+] New cell detected [CellID/PCI-DL_freq (298-6200)]
Network type=4G
PLMN=208-10
```

Results



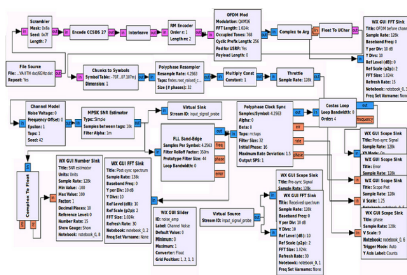
JSON file → needed cells information to be reused with other tools, like Modmobjam!

```
{
  "4b***-76": {
    "PLMN": "208-10",
    "arfcn": 76,
    "cid": "4b**",
    "type": "2G"
  },
  "60****-2950": {
    "PLMN": "208-20",
    "RX": 2950,
    "TX": 2725,
    "cid": "60***",
    "band": 8,
    "type": "3G"
  },
  [...]
}
```

GnuRadio: playing with blocks



GnuRadio companion is really nice → can add, make, and remove blocks → generates Python code

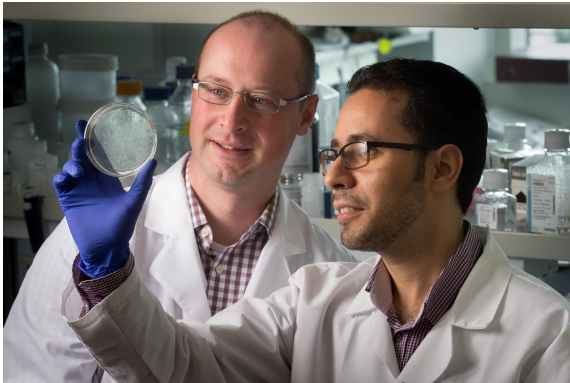


Perfect to build the bases of our jammer. But we still need an idea of how to design the schema.

After many years of research...



Lot of experiments with blocks != #blockchains... blablabla



The formula



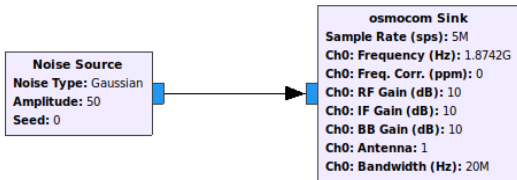
We have finally found THE formula!



Experimentation with GnuRadio



So we've started with a simple schema:



But still needed some work...

Final product: Modmobjam



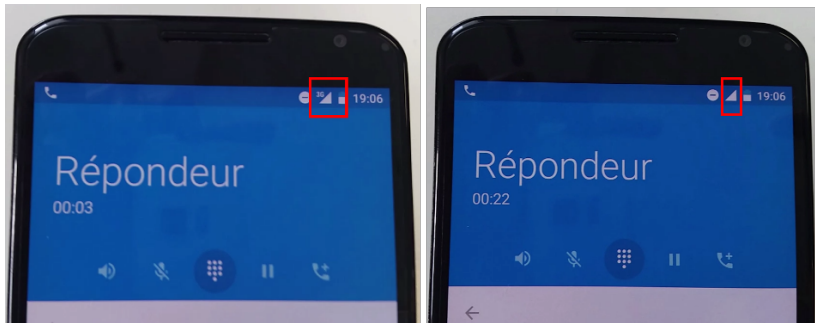
The screenshot displays the Modmobjam software interface, which is a Python-based application for jamming mobile communications. The interface is divided into several sections:

- Terminal (Top):** Shows the execution of a Python script: `python smm.py jam -c 1528267496 -s 94x24`. The output consists of a series of log entries, each starting with a timestamp and a signal type, such as: `127.0.0.1 - (27/3/2018 16:10:47) POST /RPC2 HTTP/1.1 200`.
- GUI Panels (Middle):** Contains several control panels for configuring the jammer:
 - Options:** Includes fields for `Sample Rate` (set to 5M) and `RF gain` (set to 35).
 - Wx GUI Sliders:** Five sliders for `Wx Gain`, `Wx Offset`, `Wx Gain`, `Wx Offset`, and `Wx Gain`, each with a `Default Value` and `Minimum`.
 - Noise Source:** A panel with a `Noise Type` dropdown (set to `Granular`) and a `Seed` field (set to `0`).
 - XMLRPC Server:** Includes `Address` and `Port` fields.
 - Wx USB Stick:** A panel for configuring a USB stick, including `Sample Rate`, `Chk Frequency`, `Chk RF Gain`, `Chk RF Gain`, `Chk Antenna`, and `Chk Bandwidth`.
- Log Window (Bottom Right):** A scrollable list of log entries, including the same terminal output as seen in the top window, but also showing jamming actions like: `10712 central frequency at 2142.4 Mhz with 10 Mhz bandwidth`.

Results with a simple HackRF



Works pretty well when downgrading a call from 3G to 2G



But the number of cells to jam could raise the number of needed SDR devices.

Go cheaper



Could also be cheaper using *OsmoFL2k*



TODO

Some work is required target specific frequencies → right sample rate, carrier frequency and harmonics + better ant & amp



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Next updates



- Add RSSI when possible
- Add support of mPCI-E modems with exposed DIAG
- Add more mobile phone supports → based on SCAT tool
- And more! → add also your contribution

Getting data from exposed DIAG on mPCI-E modems



- Just use *diag-parser* tool from Moiji Mobile

The rest could be parser with *pycrate_mobile* library of Benoit Michau →ASN.1 and CSN.1 compilers included for our purposes (RRC, and so on)!

tshark with Wireshark dissectors



But in the train for Troopers, I got lazy:

- Launch *diag-parser* and output result in a FIFO file:

```
$ sudo ./diag_parser -g 127.0.0.1 -p /tmp/fifo_in -i /dev/ttyUSB0 -vvv
```

- and dissect all LTE and UTRA_FDD carrier list:

```
cat /tmp/fifo_in | tshark -i - -l -n -T json -e gsmtap.arfcn -e lte_rrc  
-e lte_rrc.trackingAreaCode -e lte_rrc.cellIdentity -e lte_rrc.q_RxLevMin  
-e lte_rrc.freqBandIndicator -e lte_rrc.MCC_MNC_Digit  
-e lte_rrc.carrierFreqListUTRA_FDD  
-e lte_rrc.carrierFreq -e lte_rrc.interFreqCarrierFreqList -e lte_rrc.dl_CarrierFreq  
-e lte_rrc.q_RxLevMin -e lte_rrc.physCellId -Y 'gsmtap.arfcn!=0' > /tmp/fifo_out
```


tshark result



tshark gives us a nice JSON render:

```
{
  "layers": {
    "gsmtap.arfcn": ["6200"],
    "lte_rrc": ["lte_rrc"],
    "lte-rrc.trackingAreaCode": ["75:c2"],
    "lte-rrc.cellIdentity": ["7a:2a:20:80"],
    "lte-rrc.freqBandIndicator": ["20"],
    "lte-rrc.MCC_MNC_Digit": ["2","0","8","2","0"],
    "lte-rrc.q_RxLevMin": ["-61"]
  }
}
[...]
{
  "layers": {
    "gsmtap.arfcn": ["6200"],
    "lte_rrc": ["lte_rrc"],
    "lte-rrc.interFreqCarrierFreqList": ["3"],
    "lte-rrc.dl_CarrierFreq": ["1850","3175","251"],
    "lte-rrc.q_RxLevMin": ["-63","-62","-63"],
    "lte-rrc.physCellId": ["158"]
  }
}
[...]
  "lte-rrc.carrierFreq": ["10639","10688","10664","2950"]
[...]

```

DIAG for the rock!



- Less abstracted data
- Carrier lists → catch a bunch of 3G and LTE DL freqs in the same time
- More optimized for mobile monitoring and attacks...
- Support with the tshark JSON output will be comitted soon
- Another support with *pycrate_mobile* to parse RRC messages → in the TODO stack!



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Conclusion



- Modmobmap:
 - is a cheap way to scan mobile cells
 - supports 2 useful interfaces:
 - ServiceMode;
 - host DIAG (could be easily extended for guest DIAG);
 - srsLTE and OpenLTE captures soon...
- Modmobjam:
 - is a cheap way to jam mobile cells with only a phone and a HackRF
 - but if cells to jam are important more SDR devices are needed

Downloads



- Modmobmap:
 - <https://github.com/Synacktiv/Modmobmap>
- Modmobjam:
 - <https://github.com/Synacktiv/Modmobjam>

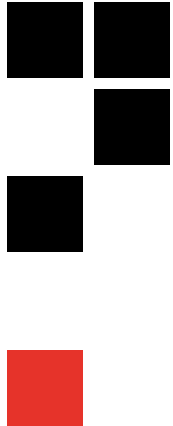
Thanks =)



- Joffrey Czarny (@_Sn0rkY)
- Priya Chalakal (@priyachalakal)
- Troopers staff (@WEareTROOPERS)
- And of course → You all ;)



ANY QUESTIONS?



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION,

