Network Security III

Question 1 ***NSEC***

In class, you learned about DNSSEC, which uses signature chains to ensure authentication for DNS results. Recall that in the case of a negative result (the name requested doesn't exist), the nameserver returns a signed pair of domains that are alphabetically before and after the requested name.

For example, suppose the following names exist in `google.com` when it's viewed in alphabetical order:

```
...
a-one-and-a-two-and-a-three-and-a-four.google.com
a1sauce.google.com
aardvark.google.com
...
```

In this ordering, `aaa.google.com` would fall between `a1sauce.google.com` and `aardvark.google.com`. So in response to a DNSSEC query for `aaa.google.com`, the name server would return an NSEC RR that in informal terms states "the name that in alphabetical order comes after `a1sauce.google.com` is `aardvark.google.com`", along with a signature of that NSEC RR made using `google.com`'s key.

(a) DNS attacks we previously saw in class caused victims to unknowingly visit an attacker-controlled domain. Since receiving a negative result back from a nameserver causes a client to raise an error rather than visit a domain, why is a signature still necessary? What attack becomes possible without one?

(b) A startup, `ThoughtlessSecurity`, decides to modify DNSSEC to only return a signature of the *requested domain* on a negative result. They claim that this change will drastically reduce the packet-size of a negative result.

A company implements `ThoughtlessSecurity`'s product on their nameserver. What attack is now possible? Specify exactly how an attacker could execute this attack.

(c) Using the originally-described DNSSEC protocol, describe how an attacker can enumerate all domain names

(d) A new startup, `ThoughtfulSecurity` wants to use a hash function to hinder this enumeration process and start by taking the hash of each existing domain. How can they use hashes to provide authenticated negative results?

(e) How does this method help prevent enumeration attacks? Which properties does the hash function need to have?

(f) Describe how an adversary with access to a dictionary might still be able to perform an enumeration attack. What conditions must hold true for the domain names?

Question 2 ***Low-level Denial of Service***

In this question, you will help Mallory develop new ways to conduct denial-of-service (DoS) attacks.

(a) CHARGEN and ECHO are services provided by some UNIX servers. For every UDP packet arriving at port 19, CHARGEN sends back a packet with 0 to 512 random characters. For every UDP packet arriving at port 7, ECHO sends back a packet with the same content.

Mallory wants to perform a DoS attack on two servers. One with IP address A supports CHARGEN, and another with IP address B supports ECHO. Mallory can spoof IP addresses.

i. Is it possible to create a single UDP packet with no content which will cause both servers to consume a large amount of bandwidth?

- If yes, mark 'Possible' and fill in the fields below to create this packet.
- If no, mark 'Impossible' and explain within the provided lines.

○ Possible ○ Impossible

If possible, fill in the fields:

Source IP: _____ Destination IP: _____
Source port: _____ Destination port: _____

If impossible, why?

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ii. Assume now that CHARGEN and ECHO are now modified to only respond to TCP packets (post-handshake) and not UDP. Is it possible to create a single TCP SYN packet with no content which will cause both servers to consume a large amount of bandwidth? Assume Mallory is off-path from the two servers.

- If yes, mark 'Possible' and fill in the fields below to create this packet.
- If no, mark 'Impossible' and explain within the provided lines.

○ Possible ○ Impossible

If possible, fill in the fields:

Source IP: _____ Destination IP: _____
Source port: _____ Destination port: _____
Sequence #: _____ Ack #: N/A

If impossible, why?
