# Web-based Attacks on Local IoT Devices



Gunes Acar <u>Danny Y. Huang</u> Frank Li\* Arvind Narayanan Nick Feamster

Princeton University \*University of California, Berkeley

#### Goals

Circumvent browser's single-origin policy

Discover certain IoT devices with JavaScript

Access & control certain IoT devices with JavaScript

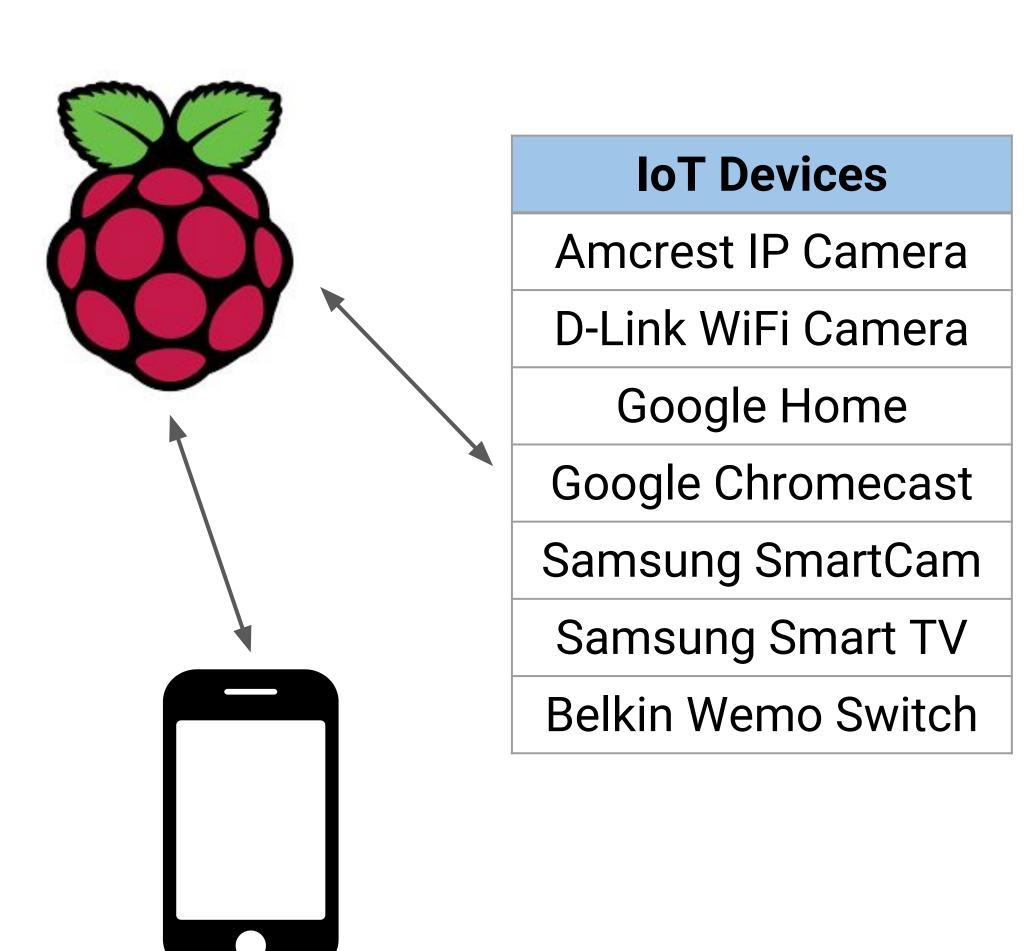
# Preparing Attack

Set up a Raspberry Pi as a WiFi access point, connecting 15 IoT devices and an Android phone.

Interact with devices, taking pcaps at the RPi.

Observed HTTP endpoints on 7 devices.

Searched for further documentation on HTTP APIs. Total: 35 GET, 8 POST.



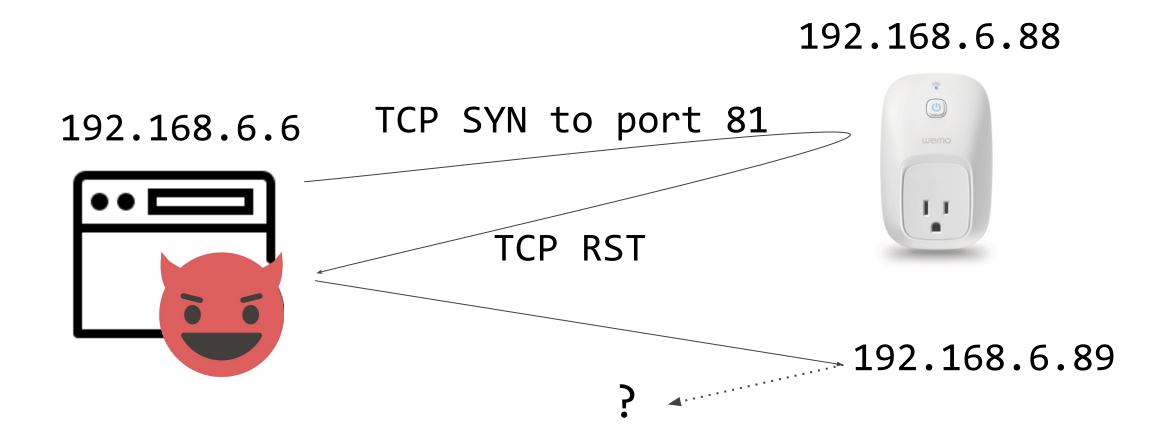
## Attack 1: Discover Devices

Step 1: Find active local devices

Scan local subnet on port 81.

Use Fetch API to send GET.

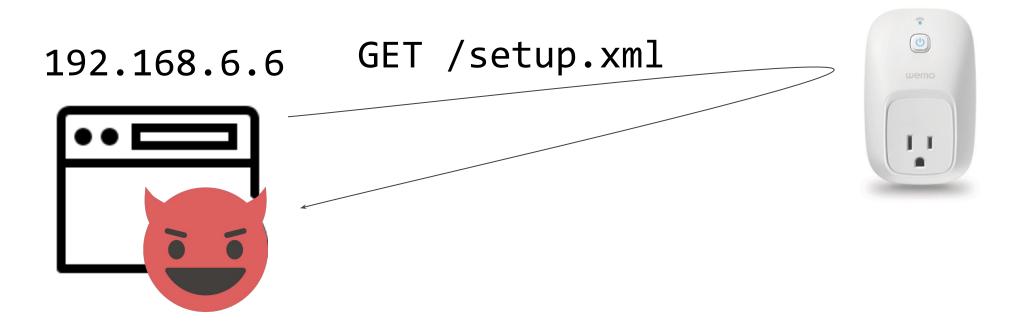
Measure response time (TCP RST vs timeout).



#### Step 2: Identify IoT devices

- a. Send request for our GET endpoints to activeIP addresses, using HTML5 <audio> element.
- b. Use resulting MediaError message to infer resource availability (new side channel).

192.168.6.88





If Exists: MEDIA\_ERR\_SRC\_NOT\_SUPPORTED

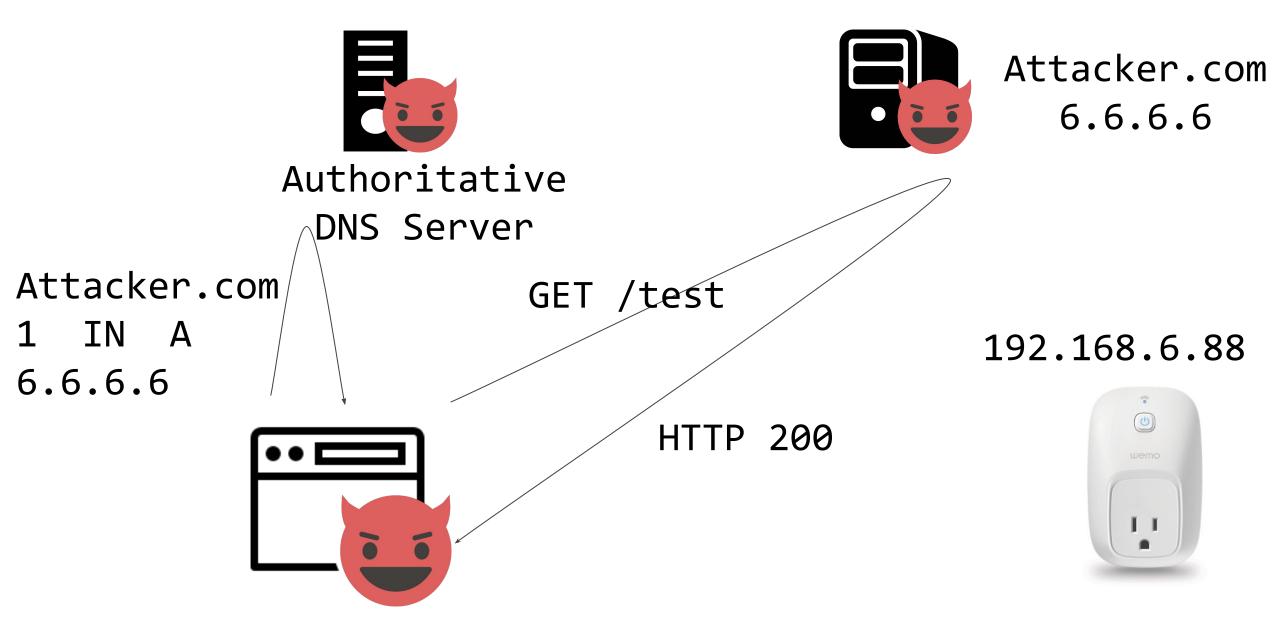
"DEMUXER\_ERROR\_COULD\_NOT\_OPEN:
FFmpegDemuxer: open context failed"
Else: MEDIA\_ELEMENT\_ERROR "Format error"



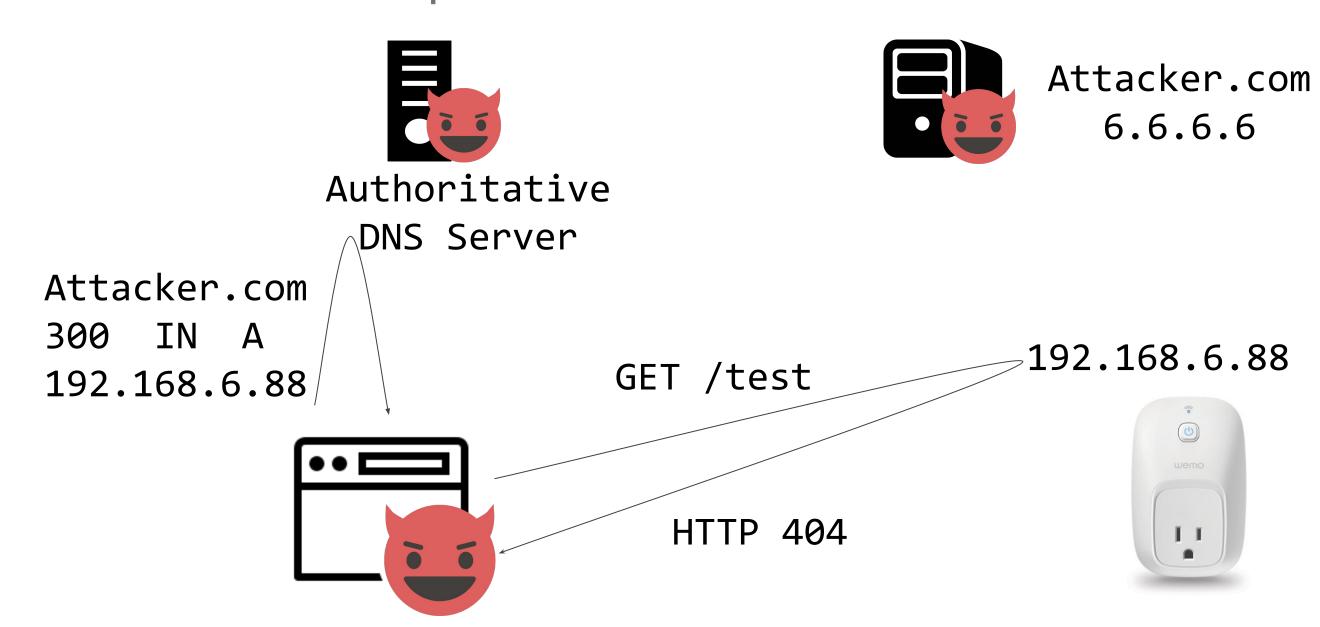
If Exists: MEDIA\_ERR\_SRC\_NOT\_SUPPORTED
 "Failed to init decoder"
Else: MEDIA\_ELEMENT\_ERROR "Message 404: Not
Found"

## Attack 2: Control Devices

Step 1: Victim visits attacker.com, queries malicious nameserver for attacker.com. Return web server IP with short TTL.



Step 2: Repeatedly visit attacker resource until cache expires.



Step 3: Attacker can directly access resources on targeted IoT device.

# Summary

Privacy and security implications.

Problems can be mitigated by IoT vendors, DNS providers, ISPs, and browser vendors.

