

# AirVibe LoRaWAN Security

**Regarding LoRaWAN's security architecture, which has multiple layers of protection:**

## 1. Device Authentication and Activation

LoRaWAN uses two methods for device activation:

- Over-The-Air Activation (OTAA) - The more secure method, **which we use**, where:

- Each device has a unique DevEUI (like a MAC address)
- AppEUI identifies the application
- AppKey is a unique AES-128 root key

- There is also another activation method, **which we do not allow with our products**.

- Activation By Personalization (ABP) - Less secure but simpler:

- Device Address (DevAddr)
- Network Session Key (NwkSKey)
- Application Session Key (AppSKey)

## 2. Message Security

- Each message is encrypted using AES-128 with the AppSKey
- Message integrity is protected by a 4-byte Message Integrity Code (MIC)
- Frame counters prevent replay attacks
- Messages use different keys for network operations (NwkSKey) and application data (AppSKey)

## 3. Protection Against Unauthorized Devices

The gateway cannot accept data from unauthorized sensors because:

- Each device must complete the activation process
- Without valid keys, devices cannot generate valid MICs
- The Network Server validates each message's MIC before processing
- Frame counters detect duplicated or replayed messages

## 4. Anti-Spoofing Measures

To protect against radio analysis and spoofing:

- All payloads are encrypted
- Each message has a unique MIC
- Session keys are unique per device
- Frame counters increment with each message
- Join requests use random numbers (DevNonce) to prevent replay

Even if someone captures LoRaWAN packets via radio:

- They can't decrypt the payload without the AppSKey
- They can't generate valid MICs without the NwkSKey
- They can't join the network without the AppKey
- Replay attacks are prevented by frame counters

The security is end-to-end, meaning even the gateways don't have access to the application payload - they only forward the encrypted data to the network server.

---

Revision #1

Created 12 February 2025 16:50:15 by Bach\_L

Updated 16 July 2025 18:08:12 by Bach\_L