

Secured Routing of Data In Wireless Network Based On Packet Hiding Methodology

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Abstract— The open nature of the wireless medium is always vulnerable to intentional interference attacks, referred to as jamming. This jamming can be used as a launch pad for mounting Denial-of-Service attacks on wireless networks. Typically, jamming has been addressed under an external threat model. In this work, the problem of selective jamming attacks is addressed under an internal threat model. In these attacks, the adversary is active only for a short period of time, selectively targeting messages of high importance. To mitigate these attacks, three schemes that prevent real-time packet classification by combining cryptographic primitives with physical layer attributes are used. In this paper, we study the problem of identifying the maximum available bandwidth path, a fundamental issue in supporting quality-of-service by using a new path weight mechanism which captures the available path bandwidth information. Hop-by-hop routing protocol based on the new path weight satisfies the consistency and loop-freeness requirements.

Keywords—*Selective Jamming, Denial-of-Service, Wireless Networks, Packet Classification*

I. INTRODUCTION

Network security is of great importance because of intellectual property that can be easily acquired through the internet. With the advent of the internet, security became a major concern and the history of security allows a better understanding of the emergence of security technology. The internet structure itself allowed for many security threats to occur. An effective network security plan is developed with the understanding of security issues, potential attackers, needed level of security, and factors that make a network vulnerable to attack.

The open nature of wireless medium leaves it vulnerable to multiple security threats. Anyone with a transceiver can eavesdrop on wireless transmissions, inject spurious messages, or jam legitimate ones. While eavesdropping and message injection can be prevented using cryptographic methods, jamming attacks are much harder to counter. They have been shown to actualize severe Denial-of-Service (DoS) attacks against wireless networks. In the simplest form of jamming, the adversary interferes with the reception of messages by

transmitting a continuous jamming signal, or several short jamming pulses. Typically, jamming attacks[1] have been considered under an external threat model, in which the jammer is not part of the network. Under this model, jamming strategies include the continuous or random transmission of high power interference signals. However, adopting an “always-on” strategy has several disadvantages. First, the adversary has to expend a significant amount of energy to jam frequency bands of interest. Second, the continuous presence of unusually high interference levels makes this type of attacks easy to detect.

Conventional anti-jamming techniques are based on spread-spectrum[8] communications or some form of jamming evasion. SS techniques provide bit-level protection by spreading bits according to a secret pseudo noise code, known only to the communicating parties. These methods can only protect wireless transmissions under the external threat model. Potential disclosure of secrets due to node compromise neutralizes the gains of SS. Broadcast communications are particularly vulnerable under an internal threat model because all intended receivers must be aware of the secrets used to protect transmissions.

In this paper, the problem of selective jamming attacks is addressed under an internal threat model. Here jamming is created by a sophisticated adversary who is aware of network secrets and the implementation details of network protocols at any layer in the network stack. The adversary exploits his internal knowledge for launching selective jamming attacks in which specific messages of “high importance” are targeted. To launch selective jamming attacks, the adversary must be capable of implementing a “classify-then-jam” strategy before the completion of a wireless transmission. Such strategy can be actualized either by classifying transmitted packets using protocol semantics or by decoding packets. In the latter method, the jammer may decode the first few bits of a packet for recovering useful packet identifiers such as packet type, source and destination address. After classification, the adversary must induce a sufficient number of bit errors so that the packet cannot be recovered at the receiver. Selective jamming attacks requires an intimate knowledge of the physical (PHY) layer, as well as of the specifics of upper

layers. Selective jamming attacks lead to a DoS with very low effort on behalf of the jammer. To mitigate such attacks, three schemes that prevent classification of transmitted packets in real time are developed. These schemes rely on the joint consideration of cryptographic mechanisms with PHY-layer attributes.

II. PRELIMINARIES

Conventional anti-jamming techniques relies extensively on spread-spectrum communications. SS techniques provide bit-level protection by spreading bits according to a secret pseudo noise code, known only to the communicating parties. These methods can only protect wireless transmissions under an external threat model. Broadcast communications are particularly vulnerable under an internal threat model because all intended receivers must be aware of the secrets used to protect transmissions. This strategy has several disadvantages. First, the broadcast communications are particularly vulnerable under an internal threat model because all intended receivers must be aware of the secrets used to protect transmissions. Hence, the compromise of a single receiver is sufficient to reveal relevant cryptographic information. Second, the continuous presence of unusually high interference levels makes this type of attacks easy to detect. Potential disclosure of secrets due to node compromise neutralizes the gains of SS

III. PROBLEM FORMULATION

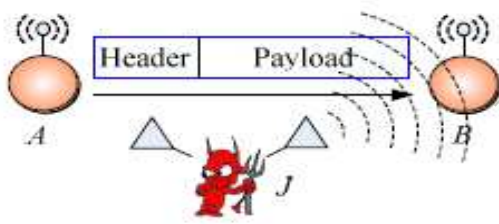


Fig 1. Realization of a selective jamming attack

Consider the scenario depicted in Fig. 1. Nodes A and B communicate via a wireless link. Within the communication range of both A and B there is a jamming node J. When A transmits a packet m to B, node J classifies m by receiving only the first few bytes of m . J then corrupts m beyond recovery by interfering with its reception at B. The problem of preventing the jamming node from classifying m in real time, thus mitigating J's ability to perform selective jamming is addressed.

IV. PROPOSED SYSTEM

To launch selective jamming attacks, the adversary must be capable of implementing a “classify-then-jam” strategy before the completion of a wireless transmission. Such strategy can be actualized either by classifying transmitted

packets using protocol semantics, or by decoding packets on the fly.

To mitigate such attacks, three schemes that prevent classification of transmitted packets in real time is considered. These schemes rely on the joint consideration of cryptographic mechanisms with PHY-layer attributes. Also propose a new path weight that captures the concept of available bandwidth. It gives the mechanism to compare two paths based on the new path weight and develop a hop-by-hop packet forwarding scheme. The isotonicity property of the proposed path weight allows us to develop a routing protocol that can identify the maximum bandwidth path from each node to each destination. In particular, it tells us whether a path is worthwhile to be advertised, meaning whether a path is a potential subpath of a widest path.

V. HIDING BASED ON COMMITMENTS

The problem of real-time packet classification is mapped to the hiding property of commitment schemes, and propose a packet-hiding scheme based on commitments.

A. Strong Hiding Commitment Scheme (SHCS)

SHCS is based on symmetric cryptography. Assume that the sender has a packet for Receiver. First, S constructs $(C, d) = \text{commit}(m)$, where, $C = E_k(\pi_1(m))$, $d = k$. Here, the commitment function $E_k()$ is an off-the-shelf symmetric encryption algorithm (e.g., DES or AES), π_1 is a publicly known permutation, and $k \in \{0, 1\}^s$ is a randomly selected key of some desired key length s (the length of k is a security parameter). The sender broadcasts $(C||d)$, where “||” denotes the concatenation operation. Upon reception of d , any receiver R computes

$$m = \pi_1^{-1}(D_k(C)),$$

where π_1^{-1} denotes the inverse permutation of π_1 . To satisfy the strong hiding property, the packet carrying d is formatted so that all bits of d are modulated in the last few PHY layer symbols of the packet. To recover d , any receiver must receive and decode the last symbols of the transmitted packet, thus preventing early disclosure of d .

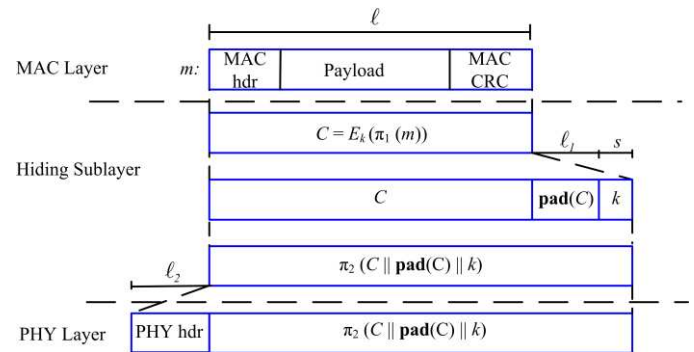


Fig 2. Processing at the hiding sublayer

Consider a frame m at the MAC layer delivered to the hiding sublayer. Frame m consists of a MAC header and the payload, followed by the trailer containing the CRC code. Initially, m is permuted by applying a publicly known permutation π_1 . The purpose of π_1 is to randomize the input to the encryption algorithm and delay the reception of critical packet identifiers such as headers. After the permutation, $\pi_1(m)$ is encrypted using a *random* key k to produce the commitment value $C = E_k(\pi_1(m))$. Although the random permutation of m and its encryption with a random key k seemingly achieve the same goal. In the next step, a padding function $\text{pad}()$ appends $\text{pad}(C)$ bits to C , making it a multiple of the symbol size. Finally, $C\|\text{pad}(C)\|k$ is permuted by applying a publicly known permutation π_2 . The purpose of π_2 is to ensure that the interleaving function applied the PHY layer does not disperse the bits of k to other symbols.

B. Cryptographic Puzzle Hiding Scheme (CPHS)

This scheme is based on cryptographic puzzles[3]. The main idea behind such puzzles is to force the recipient of a puzzle execute a pre-defined set of computations before he is able to extract a secret of interest. The time required for obtaining the solution of a puzzle depends on its hardness and the computational ability of the solver. The advantage of the puzzle based scheme is that its security does not rely on the PHY layer parameters.

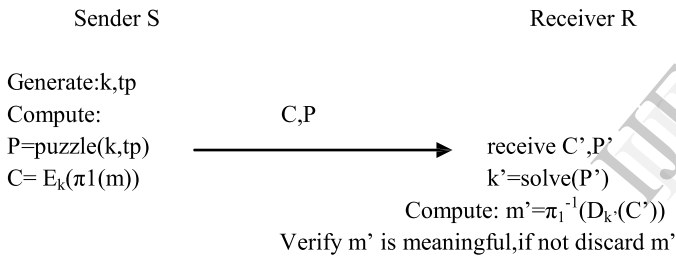


Fig 3. Cryptographic puzzle based hiding scheme

C. All-Or-Nothing Transformation(AONT)

An AONT[9] serves as a publicly known and completely invertible pre-processing step to a plaintext before it is passed to an ordinary block encryption algorithm. The packets are pre-processed by an AONT before transmission but remain unencrypted. Packet m is partitioned to a set of x input blocks $m = \{m_1, \dots, m_x\}$, which serve as an input to an AONT $f: \{F_u\}^x \rightarrow \{F_u\}^{x'}$. Here, F_u denotes the alphabet of blocks m_i and x' denotes the number of output pseudo-messages with $x' \geq x$. The set of pseudo-messages $m' = \{m'_1, \dots, m'_{x'}\}$ is transmitted over the wireless medium. At the receiver, the inverse transformation f^{-1} is applied after all x' pseudo-messages are received, in order to recover m .

Sender S

Receiver R

Compute:

$m\|\text{pad}(m)$

transform:

$m' = f(m\|\text{pad}(m))$

m'

receive m' compute:

$m\|\text{pad}(m) = f^{-1}(m')$

recover m

Fig 4. The AONT-Based Hiding Scheme

The jammer cannot perform packet classification until all pseudo-messages corresponding to the original packet have been received and the inverse transformation has been applied. A transformation f , mapping message $m = \{m_1, \dots, m_x\}$ to a sequence of pseudo-messages $m' = \{m'_1, \dots, m'_{x'}\}$, is an AONT if (a) f is a bijection (b) it is computationally infeasible to obtain any part of the original plaintext, if one of the pseudo-messages is unknown. Under this model, all plaintexts are equiprobable in the absence of at least one pseudo-message.

AONT-HS is implemented at the hiding sublayer residing between the MAC and the PHY layers. In the first step, m is padded by applying function $\text{pad}()$ to adjust the frame length so that no padding is needed at the PHY layer, and the length of m becomes a multiple of the length of the pseudo-messages m' . This will ensure that all bits of the transmitted packet are part of the AONT. In the next step, $m\|\text{pad}(m)$ is partitioned to x blocks, and the AONT f is applied. Message m' is delivered to the PHY layer. At the receiver, the inverse transformation f^{-1} is applied to obtain $m\|\text{pad}(m)$. The padded bits are removed and the original message m is recovered. The steps of AONT-HS are shown in Fig. 4.

D. Path Selection

This scheme propose a new path weight that captures the concept of available bandwidth[11]. It focuses on the problem of identifying the maximum available bandwidth path from a source to a destination, which is also called the Maximum Bandwidth Problem (MBP). MBP is a sub problem of the Bandwidth-Constrained Routing Problem (BCRP), the problem of identifying a path with at least a given amount of available bandwidth. Maximum available bandwidth path is also called widest path. Given a path $p = \langle v_1; v_2; \dots; v_h \rangle$, based on the current flows on each link in the network, denote $B(e)$ as the available bandwidth of link e . Denote Q_p as the set of the maximal cliques containing only the links on p . The available bandwidth of path p is estimated as follows:

$$B(p) = \min_{q \in Q_p} C_q \quad (1)$$

$$C_q = \frac{1}{\sum_{l \in q} \frac{1}{B(l)}} \quad (2)$$

C_q is thus the bandwidth available over the clique q . The available bandwidth of the path is the bandwidth of the bottleneck clique.

VI. EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

When a single file is transferred between a client and server, connected via a multi-hop route. The effects of packet hiding can be evaluated by measuring the effective throughput of the TCP connection in the following scenarios: (a) No packet hiding (b) SHCS (c) Time-lock CPHS (d) AONT-HS based on the package transform.

Here SHCS achieves an effective throughput close to the throughput in the absence of packet hiding. The AONT-HS based on the package transform achieved slightly lower throughput, because it occurs a per-packet overhead of 128 bits as opposed to 56 bits for SHCS. The hiding techniques based on cryptographic puzzles decrease the effective throughput of the TCP connection to half, compared to the no hiding case. This performance is anticipated since the time required to solve a puzzle after a packet has been received at the MAC layer is equal to the transmission time of each packet. The efficient packet-hiding techniques such as SHCS, and AONT-HS have a relatively small impact on the overall throughput. This is because in a congested network, the performance is primarily dependent on the queueing delays at the relay nodes. The communication overhead introduced by the transmission of the packet hiding parameters is small and hence, does not significantly impact the throughput. On the other hand, for CPHS, a performance reduction of 25% – 30% compared to the case of no packet-hiding. This reduction is attributed to the delay introduced by CPHS for the reception of each packet. In the congested network scenario, the throughput reduction of CPHS is smaller compared to the non-congested one because nodes can take advantage of the queueing delays to solve puzzles.

VII. CONCLUSION

The selective jamming attacks can be launched by performing real-time packet classification at the physical layer. A selective jammer can significantly impact performance with very low effort. The proposed system develops three schemes that transform a selective jammer to a random one by preventing real-time packet classification. These schemes combine cryptographic primitives such as commitment schemes, cryptographic puzzles, and all-or-nothing transformations (AONTs) with physical layer characteristics. First the problem of real-time packet classification can be mapped to the hiding property of

commitment methods and propose a packet-hiding method based on commitments. Second a packet-hiding method based on cryptographic puzzles. Finally All -or- Nothing Transformations that introduces a modest communication and computation overhead. This paper also explains the maximum available bandwidth path problem, which is a fundamental issue to support quality-of-service. It focuses on the problem of identifying the maximum available bandwidth path from a source to a destination by determining the maximal clique in the conflict graph. Based on the available path bandwidth information, a source can immediately determine some infeasible connection requests with the high bandwidth requirement. In future we can gather the Jamming node information on the server where as, here we have done on the client side.

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