Security of Self-Organizing Networks

MANET, WSN, WMN, VANET



Edited by Al-Sakib Khan Pathan



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Preface

Various types of wireless networks and their applications can be seen in many places nowadays. With the increase in the number of Internet users, with the aid of wireless communications and demand of flexible anytime, anywhere networking, self-organizing wireless networks have already gained huge popularity among users. For wider support of wireless connectivity and developing easy-to-use technologies, substantial efforts are underway to reduce human intervention in the configuration, formation, and maintenance processes of these networks. This book is an attempt to address the security issues of four types of self-organizing networks (SONs): the Wireless Mobile Ad hoc Network (MANET), Wireless Sensor Network (WSN), Wireless Mesh Network (WMN), and Vehicular Ad hoc Network (VANET). Although various issues of these networks have been addressed extensively in different literature and numerous researchers around the globe are working on different aspects, here we have mainly focused on various facets of security in these networks.

As in an SON, hundreds and thousands of wireless devices can participate in a limited area with wireless communications but the information exchange among the devices needs appropriate privacy-, authenticity-, availability-, and nonrepudiation-ensuring mechanisms. Without proper security policy, any type of SON is exposed to a wide variety of security vulnerabilities and threats. Other than data security in such types of networks, there are also multiple factors that should be considered for ensuring overall security. For example, physical security of wireless devices is one of the important issues especially for WSNs and VANETs. Severe limitation of available device-resources (e.g., energy, radio, storage, processing, etc.) is a critical point for some networks. Again, security measures should be employed based on the special characteristics of a particular SON. All these issues related to security, problems, challenges, hopes, and solutions are discussed in various chapters of this book.

About the Contents of the Book

There are a total of 23 chapters in this book, which is divided into four parts. Different chapters in different parts address various security issues of SONs from different angles. The first part deals with general security topics. This part sets the base for the following chapters. Many terms are introduced in the chapters under Part I so that later they become easily accessible to readers. Part II deals with different security issues in MANETs and VANETs. For some of the chapters, the authors have proposed specific solutions to specific security problems. As VANET is a special class of MANET, we have included both of these networks under the same part. Part III discusses critical issues of

WSN security, and Part IV briefly touches on the security issues of WMNs. Most of these chapters are written in a tutorial manner. However, for some of the chapters, mathematical equations and detailed analysis are used for advanced readers. Hence, this book talks about relatively easier issues as well as analyzes some security-related issues in depth. Although in some cases, the contents of a chapter may overlap with some of the contents of another chapter, the repeated information might be helpful in clarifying specific points dealt with in that particular chapter. This is also useful in the sense that different people think of the same point from different perspectives. We hope that the book will really be helpful in giving a thorough and wide picture of the security aspects of MANETs, WSNs, WMNs, and VANETs.

What Not to Expect from the Book

This book is a not a basic tutorial on the security issues of SONs. Hence, it does not have detailed introductory information about security. Although some chapters contain some elementary information, those should not be considered adequate for a beginner. Users/readers need to have at least some basic knowledge about security in networking. Again, this book should not be taken as a detailed research report. Some chapters simply present a specific problem and its solution that might be helpful for graduate students, some talk about elementary information that might be useful for general readers, some discuss in-depth security issues that might be helpful for advanced readers, and some chapters talk about the latest updates in a particular research area that might assist researchers in determining their future research objectives.

Target Audience

The book is very useful for Master's- or PhD-level students working on security issues in these networks, for researchers, for faculty members at the university level, and for some industry professionals. Questions and their sample answers have been provided with each chapter so that the readers' understanding from a chapter can be tested. Supplementary materials have been provided so that each chapter can be taught in a classroom environment with presentation slides. The book's chapters have been placed in such a sequence that it can be helpful to readers if they are read sequentially or to other readers who skip some of the chapters as they like. Overall, this book can guide readers to the latest trends, issues, and aspects of security of MANETs, WSNs, WMNs, and VANETs.

Dr. Al-Sakib Khan Pathan

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Dr. Al-Sakib Khan Pathan

Editor

Al-Sakib Khan Pathan is an assistant professor at the Computer Science and Engineering Department of Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) University, Bangladesh. He worked as a researcher at the Networking Lab, Department of Computer Engineering in Kyung Hee University, South Korea, where he received his PhD in 2009. He received his BSc degree in computer science and information technology from the Islamic University of Technology (IUT), Bangladesh, in 2003. He has served as a chair, organizing committee member, and technical program committee member in several international conferences/workshops such as HPCS 2010, ICA3PP 2010, WiMob'09 and 08, HPCC'09, IDCS'09 and 08. He is currently serving as an area editor of IJCNIS, associate editor of IASTED/ACTA Press IJCA, guest editor of several international journals, including Elsevier's Mathematical and Computer Modelling, and editor of a book. He also serves as a referee of a few renowned journals such as the IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing (IEEE TDSC); the IEEE Transactions on Vehicular Technology (IEEE TVT); the IEEE Communications Letters; Elsevier's Computer Communications, Computer Standards and Interfaces; the Computers & Electrical Engineering journal; the Journal of High Speed Networks (JHSN, IOS Press); the EURASIP Journal on Wireless Communications and Networking (EURASIP JWCN); and the International Journal of Communication Systems (IJCS, Wiley). He is a member of IEEE and several other international organizations. His research interest includes wireless sensor networks, network security, and e-services technologies.

Contributors

Mozaffar Afaque

Department of Computer Science and Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur Kharagpur, India

Johnson I. Agbinya

Centre for Real-Time Information Networks University of Technology Sydney, Australia

Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed

Department of Computer Science and Engineering Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Dhaka, Bangladesh

Tarem Ahmed

Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering BRAC University Dhaka, Bangladesh

Nancy Alrajei

Department of Computer Science and Engineering Oakland University Rochester, Michigan

Hani Alzaid

Information Security Institute Queensland University of Technology Queensland, Australia

Sharifah Hafizah Syed Ariffin

Faculty of Electrical Engineering Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Skudai, Malaysia

Michel Barbeau

School of Computer Science Carleton University Ontario, Canada

Dan Chalmers

School of Informatics University of Sussex Brighton, United Kingdom

Gihwan Cho

Division of Electronics and Information Engineering Chonbuk National University Chonju, South Korea

John A. Clark

Department of Computer Science University of York York, United Kingdom

Zubair Muhammad Fadlullah

Graduate School of Information Sciences Tohoku University Sendai, Japan

Norsheila Fisal

Faculty of Electrical Engineering Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Skudai, Malaysia

Joaquin Garcia-Alfaro

School of Computer Science Carleton University Ontario, Canada

and

Computer Science and Multimedia Studies Open University of Catalonia Catalonia, Spain

M.S. Gaur

Department of Computer Engineering Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, India

Swapna Ghanekar

Department of Computer Science and Engineering Oakland University Rochester, Michigan

S.K. Ghosh

School of Information Technology Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur Kharagpur, India

Stephen Glass

School of Information and Communication Technology Griffith University

and

National Information and Communications Technology Australia (NICTA) Queensland Research Laboratory Queensland, Australia

Vikrant Gokhale

School of Information Technology Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur Kharagpur, India

Sumit Goswami

DESIDOC, Defence Research & Development Organization Delhi, India

Jyoti Grover

Department of Computer Engineering Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, India

Arobinda Gupta

Department of Computer Science and Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur Kharagpur, India

Md. Abdul Hamid

Department of Information and Communications Engineering Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Kyonggi-do, South Korea

James Harbin

Department of Electronics University of York York, United Kingdom

Bing He

Department of Computer Science University of Cincinnati Cincinnati, Ohio

Md. Shariful Islam

Department of Computer Engineering Kyung Hee University Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

Evangelos Kranakis

School of Computer Science Carleton University Ontario, Canada

V. Laxmi

Department of Computer Engineering Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, India

Sungyoung Lee

Department of Computer Engineering Kyung Hee University (Global Campus) Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

Effie Makri

Department of Mathematics University of the Aegean Karlovassi, Greece

Yasir Arfat Malkani

School of Informatics University of Sussex Brighton, United Kingdom

Fatma Mili

Department of Computer Science and Engineering Oakland University Rochester, Michigan

Sudip Misra

School of Information Technology Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur Kharagpur, India

Paul Mitchell

Department of Electronics University of York York, United Kingdom

Vallipuram Muthukkumarasamy

School of Information and Communications Technology Griffith University

and

National Information and Communications Technology Australia (NICTA) Queensland Research Laboratory Queensland, Australia

Al-Sakib Khan Pathan

Department of Computer Science and Engineering BRAC University Dhaka, Bangladesh

and

Department of Computer Engineering Kyung Hee University Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

David Pearce

Department of Electronics University of York York, United Kingdom

Zeeshan Pervez

Department of Computer Engineering Kyung Hee University (Global Campus) Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

Marius Portmann

School of Information Technology and Electrical Engineering University of Queensland

and

National Information and Communications Technology Australia (NICTA) Queensland Research Laboratory Queensland, Australia

Syed Muhammad Khaliq-ur-Rahman Raazi

Department of Computer Engineering Kyung Hee University (Global Campus) Gyeonggi-do, South Korea

Rumana Rahman

Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering BRAC University Dhaka, Bangladesh

Rozeha A. Rashid

Faculty of Electrical Engineering Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Skudai, Malaysia

Ranga Reddy

U.S. Army—Communications Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center (CERDEC) Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

Une Thoing Rosi

Department of Computer Science and Engineering United International University Dhaka, Bangladesh

Kashif Saleem

Faculty of Electrical Engineering Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Skudai, Malaysia

Marcus Schöller

NEC Europe Ltd Heidelberg, Germany

Jaydip Sen

Innovation Lab Tata Consultancy Services Kolkata, India

Sevil Şen

Department of Computer Science University of York York, United Kingdom

Yannis C. Stamatiou

Department of Mathematics University of Ioannina Ioannina, Greece

and

Research Academic Computer Technology Institute University of Patras Patras, Greece

Tarik Taleb

NEC Europe Ltd Heidelberg, Germany

Juan E. Tapiador

Department of Computer Science University of York York, United Kingdom

Thanh Dai Tran

Centre for Real-Time Information Networks University of Technology Sydney, Australia

Ian Wakeman

School of Informatics University of Sussex Brighton, United Kingdom

Gicheol Wang

Department of Computing and Networking Resources Supercomputing Center, KISTI Daejeon, South Korea

Bin Xie

InfoBeyond Technology LLC Louisville, Kentucky

Vikas Singh Yadav

Department of Computer Science and Engineering Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur Kharagpur, India

Sharifah Kamilah Syed Yusof

Faculty of Electrical Engineering Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Skudai, Malaysia

David Zhao

U.S. Army—Communications Electronics Research, Development, and Engineering Center (CERDEC) Fort Monmouth, New Jersey

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Chapter 1

Secure Device Association

Trends and Issues

Yasir Arfat Malkani, Dan Chalmers, and Ian Wakeman

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