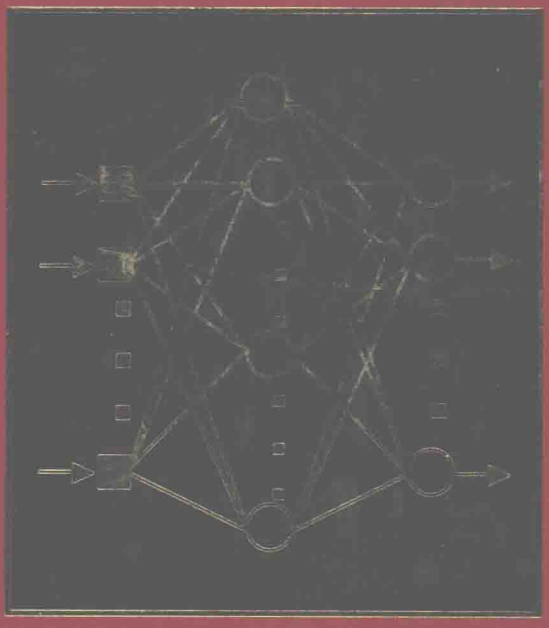
# Advances in COMPUTERS

## Volume 81

### The Internet and Mobile Technology



Edited by

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# *Advances in*
# COMPUTERS

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# COMPUTERS

## VOLUME 81

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**Ruishan Zhang** received his Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from Shanghai Jiaotong University for his dissertation on "Security in Mobile *Ad Hoc* Networks" in 2006. He spent 1½ years as a postdoctoral researcher at George Mason University, investigating the security of the SIP protocol and deployed SIP-based VoIP systems. Then he worked at Helsinki Institute for Information Technology until December 2009, focusing on VoIP spam prevention and P2P SIP security. Currently, his research interests include VoIP security, fuzz testing, reverse engineering, 3G network security, and peer-to-peer network security. He may be contacted through the following e-mail address: zhangruishan@gmail.com.

# Preface

Welcome to Volume 81 of the *Advances in Computers*. This series, continuously published since 1960, is entering its sixth decade of publication, and it is the oldest series covering the development of the computer industry. Today there is no doubt that the dominant force in computing is the Internet; therefore, the theme of this volume is "the Internet and mobile technology." Whereas the design goal for the original ARPANET in the 1960s was to be able to reliably link together computers at various locations, this concept has evolved to where the computer-to-computer connection is taken for granted, and the current goals are to free the user from being tied down to a specific location. Therefore, mobility is a current research topic that has led to an explosion of mobile computing devices. We no longer have cellular telephones, but instead have small mobile computers that are able to communicate via telephony. This leads to numerous security and related issues to provide the reliability and integrity needed in today's world. In this volume, we present six chapters that address various aspects of these issues.

In the first chapter, "VoIP Security: Vulnerabilities, Exploits, and Defenses" by XinyuanWang and Ruishan Zhang, the authors discuss telephony via Voice over IP (VOIP). Rather than having a fixed wire connecting a telephone to the central switching office, VOIP works by using the Internet to send voice packets on the Internet along with assorted other Internet traffic such as e-mail, video, or Web pages. But if voice is carried along as digital packets, what level of security must there be to avoid the issues that plague other Internet traffic, such as spamming, phishing, hijacking, eavesdropping, etc.? In this chapter, the authors explain the general workings of VOIP transmission and then discuss the various strategies for dealing with security problems with this technology.

Yiu-Wing Leung in chapter, "Phone-to-Phone Configuration for Internet Telephony," addresses Internet telephony, the topic of the first chapter, with a different perspective. In the first chapter, the focus is on a communication line from one computer through the Internet to a receiving computer. But people are very mobile. How does one use a mobile telephone to provide VOIP services? One approach is for a service provider (e.g., local telephone company) to provide a local telephone number (a telephone gateway) a mobile phone user can call. At this local telephone

number, the service provider connects to the Internet to send the call to a distant location, where it again is sent to a local mobile phone at the distant location. This allows users to use both computer-to-computer communications and mobile phone-to-mobile phone communications (e.g., Skype). The issues of optimizing traffic and minimal costs are the focus of this chapter.

In the third chapter, "SLAM for Pedestrians and Ultrasonic Landmarks in Emergency Response Scenarios," Carl Fischer, Kavitha Muthukrishnan, and Mike Hazas look at the issues in determining location from a mobile device. In particular, they are looking at the needs in emergency situations of determining location where visual clues are missing (such as inside a burning building). While most cellular telephones now contain GPS receivers, "darkness, smoke, fire, power cuts, water, and noise can all prevent a location system from working, and heavy protective clothing, gloves, and facemasks make using a standard mobile computer impossible." In this chapter, they discuss several existing systems for solving this problem, focusing on their simultaneous localization and mapping or SLAM method.

By now everyone is familiar with Bluetooth, that ubiquitous technology that allows one to connect one device to another device over short distances (e.g., microphone and earpiece to cellular phone without need to hold telephone). But what is Bluetooth, how does it work, and more importantly, what security exploits does it permit? In "Feeling Bluetooth—From a Security Perspective" by Paul Braeckel in the fourth chapter, the author discusses Bluetooth and provides insights into the kinds of security risks one has in using this technology.

The fifth chapter is titled "Digital Feudalism: Enclosures and Erasures from Digital Rights Management to the Digital Divide" and is written by Sascha D. Meinrath, James W. Losey, and Victor W. Pickard. One of the side effects of the Internet is that an increasing number of aspects of our daily lives are becoming digital and communicated over the Internet. From telephony (e.g., first two chapters in this volume), GPS (third chapter), wi-fi, radio, picture and video transmission to numerous other technologies, all are vying for space on the network bandwidth. This leads to a congestion problem—who has access to this bandwidth? Do all share equally (e.g., "net neutrality"), or do some applications take precedence over other technologies (e.g., real-time video over e-mail)? Can or should one pay more for better access? These are the questions that this chapter addresses.

In the last chapter, "Online Advertising" by Avi Goldfarb and Catherine Tucker, the authors discuss an important feature of the Internet, one without which the Internet would not have existed, and that is advertising. Running the Internet, supporting ISPs (Internet Service Providers), and paying for the various Web sites and search engines that exist all take money. While some organizations use membership fees to support their activities, advertising has become the dominant method for paying for Internet access. But how does Internet advertising

work? Who pays what and why? The general model of how Internet advertising works is the focus of this chapter.

I hope that you find these chapters of use to you. I also want to say that I have enjoyed producing these volumes. I have been series editor of the *Advances in Computers* since 1993, and Volume 81 is the 41st volume I have worked on in 19 years. The 2011 volumes will be my last; however, the series will continue under new competent leadership. I hope that you will continue to find this series of use to you in your work.

Marvin Zelkowitz
College Park, Maryland

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**Avi Goldfarb and Catherine Tucker**

# VoIP Security: Vulnerabilities, Exploits, and Defenses

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**Abstract**

Telephone network is an important part of the critical information infrastructure. Traditional Public Switched Telephony Network (PSTN) has been shown to be reliable and hard to be tampered with by normal people. The general public has put a lot of trust on landline telephone, and they are relying on voice communication for many critical and sensitive information (e.g., emergency 911 calls, calls to financial institutions) exchange.

Voice over IP (VoIP) is an emerging technology that allows voice calls to be carried over the public Internet instead of traditional PSTN. While more and more voice calls are shifting from PSTN to VoIP, most people are not aware of the security vulnerabilities introduced by VoIP and they keep trusting VoIP the same as traditional PSTN.

In this chapter, we systematically study the security issues of VoIP and present the state of the art of VoIP security. Specifically, we discuss the security requirements of VoIP, people's expectations of VoIP, and existing VoIP security mechanisms. We present the identified vulnerabilities of existing VoIP, known and potential exploits of those VoIP vulnerabilities. We discuss not only the impact on the VoIP infrastructure itself but also the implications to the VoIP users. We discuss the inherent technical challenges and open problems in securing VoIP.

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# 1. Introduction

Voice over IP (VoIP) is a technology that allows people to make voice phone calls across the public Internet instead of traditional Public Switched Telephony Network (PSTN). VoIP not only makes voice communication cheaper but also enables many functionalities (e.g., free choice of area code, e-mail notification of voice mail) that were not possible in traditional PSTN. In the past 10 years, VoIP has experienced phenomenal growth and more and more voice calls are carried at least partially over the Internet using VoIP technologies. A study by ABI [1] predicted that the number of residential VoIP subscribers worldwide will increase from 38 million in 2006 to more than 267 million by 2012.

One of the most basic and fundamental requirements of any VoIP services is that they must be reliable and trustworthy. When people subscribe or use any VoIP service, they have actually put a lot of implicit trust on it. For example, when people make phone calls, they intuitively trust that their calls will reach the intended callee once they dial the correct phone number and no one but the intended callee will receive their calls. When people talk over the established phone session, they trust that their conversation and any PIN number pressed will reach the intended receiver unaltered. In addition, people would expect that their calls will not be wiretapped without proper legal authorization. Based on this trust, voice communication has been used for exchanging much critical and sensitive information (e.g., emergency 911 calls, calls to customer service of financial institutions). The general public are used to giving out their SSN, credit card number, and PIN when they interact with the interactive voice response (IVR) system before they are connected to a service representative of their financial institution. Furthermore, people are comfortable to give out their credentials (e.g., SSN, account number, authentication code) to the service representative of their financial institution over the phone even if they do not personally know the service representative.

Now suppose a VoIP user Alice is planning to buy a house, and she wants to cash out some of her Google stock options for that. Because of the large amount of money involved, Alice prefers talking to a broker over the phone than using the Web. So she dials the 1-800 number shown in her TD AMERITRADE statement, and left a message asking for a call back since no one is available at the time. A few minutes later, a call with TD AMERITRADE callerID comes in, and a representative named Bob says he is returning the call to Alice. Alice is quite technical savvy, and she insists on getting Bob's extension number and calling him back. After hanging up the incoming call, Alice calls the official number of TD AMRITRADE with Bob's extension. Once Alice reaches Bob again, she feels at ease and requests to exercise 5000 shares of her Google stock options and wire the expected $500,000 profit to her