Practical Distributed Authorization

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Two day course at the 2016 International School on Foundations of Security Analysis and Design, Bertinoro, Italy (Aug. 29 - Sep. 2)
Internet of Things (IoT)

Physical devices made accessible over the network

Exciting new possibilities!

img source: http://www.ti.com/lsds/media/images/wireless_connectivity/50BillionThings.png
Internet of Things Security

Goldmine for the bad guys

Scary new possibilities!

How the 'Internet of Things' could be fatal

Harriet Taylor | @Harri8t | Friday, 4 Mar 2016 | 1:57 PM ET
This is really scary!

Live feed from an airplane hangar in Norway!!

Found using shodan.io --- a search engine for finding devices (IoT), e.g., routers, servers, cameras, SCADA systems, HVAC systems etc.

source: http://img.wonderhowto.com/img/original/32/45/63534020036048/0/635340200360483245.jpg
Securing IoT

**Naming and Authentication**
How do devices name and identify each other during any interaction?

**Delegation**
How do users delegate devices to act on their behalf?

**Access control**
How are access control policies defined?
Securing IoT

**Naming and Authentication**
How do devices name and identify each other during any interaction?

**Delegation**
How do users delegate devices to act on their behalf?

**Access control**
How are access control policies defined?

This is in essence the problem of authorization in distributed systems.
Authorization in distributed systems

Old problem with decades of amazing research
But, new hype around it (courtesy IoT)

Course overview
- Explore existing ideas and techniques in distributed authorization
- Evaluate their applicability to IoT and large, open distributed systems
- Develop the applications in the context of the “Vanadium” framework developed at Google Inc.
Agenda

Today
- Foundations of distributed authorization
- Authorization requirements for large distributed systems (e.g., IoT)
- Overview of the Vanadium authorization model

Tomorrow
- Access control policies in Vanadium
- Privacy, discovery and authentication for Vanadium
Fundamentals of Distributed Authorization
Authorization

Fundamental problem in computer security that deals with whether a request to access a resource must be granted.

- **Principal** (or subject)
- **Resource** (or object)

Entity making the request

Request for access

Should this request be granted?
Example: Door lock

Request is authorized only if the entered access code is valid

Alice

access code: 4224

Request for access
Example: Web login

Username: alice
Password: ********

Request for access

Login page grants access to **Google properties** (e.g., GMail) only if the entered password is valid
Example where principal is non-user

Facebook API allows access to user’s profile only if provided access token is valid and has the appropriate permissions.
Entity making the request, can be:

- user
- device
- application
- browser tab
- or some combination of the above

Granularity varies across systems
Authorization model

Principal → Request for access → Reference Monitor

Authorize request based on policy

Policy

Pass → Process request

Fail → Reject request

Resource
Reference monitor (in closed systems)

Authentication + Access control

**Authentication**: Identify the principal making the request
- as a username, email, accountID, etc.

**Access control**: check if the identified principal is allowed by the policy

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<td></td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol</td>
<td>rw</td>
<td>rw</td>
<td>x</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Access control matrix [Lampson, 1971]
Distributed authorization

Authorization is much more complicated in large, open, distributed systems such as the Web, Internet-of-Things (IoT)

- No relationship between reference monitor and principal prior to request
  - may have to rely on third-parties for issuing and/or validating credentials
- Access control policies may be distributed
- The resource itself may be distributed
- Communication channels cannot be trusted

Delegation of authority and trust is essential
Example: >21 age check

Relying on a government (third-party) issued ID for verifying age > 21
Example: Third-party authentication

Problem
CandyCrush wants to service a request from Alice
But, it doesn’t know how to authenticate Alice

How does CandyCrush authorize a request from Alice?
Example: Third-party authentication

Solution

Both CandyCrush and Alice have a relationship with Facebook.

CandyCrush redirects Alice to Facebook and request an OAuth2 access token.

It uses the token to obtain Alice’s profile information at Facebook.
Example: Streaming videos on a TV

Problem
Alice wants to stream a video from her Video server to her TV

Video service has a relationship with Alice but NOT with Alice’s TV

How does the Video service authorize a request from Alice’s TV?
Example: Stream a video on a TV

Solution

Alice authenticates the TV and hands it a credential to access the video service.

TV presents this credential to the video service proving that it is authorized by Alice.
Credentials-based authorization

- Authorization is based on credentials bound to the principal specifying
  - characteristics of the principal, e.g., identity, role, etc.
  - some other aspect of system state, e.g., time, location, etc.

**Access control problem:** Verify that a set of credentials $C$ satisfy a policy $P$ in the context of a request $r$. 
Credentials-based authorization

- Authorization is based on credentials bound to the principal specifying:
  - characteristics of the principal, e.g., identity, role, etc.
  - some other aspect of system state, e.g., time, location, etc.

Access control problem: Verify that a set of credentials $C$ satisfy a policy $P$ in the context of a request $r$.

- Different credential issuers are trusted for different purposes.

- Credentials are either:
  - presented by the principal OR
  - gathered by the reference monitor on demand.
Authorization model

Principal ➔ Request for access ➔ Reference Monitor

Authorize request based on policy

Pass ➔ Process request

Fail ➔ Reject request

Resource
Distributed authorization model

Credentials

Principal

Request for access

Reference Monitor

Process request

Reject request

Resource
Building blocks

- Mechanisms for generating, distributing, and validating credentials
- Languages for defining access control policies
- Algorithms and logics for checking policies
- Protocols for setting up secure communication channels
Web authorization model

Mutual authorization

Client

Alice

Verify that the server’s credentials identify it as bankofamerica.com

Server

Bank of America

Verify that the client’s credentials identify it as Alice
Server authorization on the Web (under TLS)

TLS protocol allows clients to authorize the server and establishes an encrypted channel between them.

Servers possess:
- a digital signature public and secret key pair \((pk, sk)\)
  - \(\forall m. \text{Verify}(pk, m, \text{Sign}(sk, m))\)
- a signed x509 certificate binding a domain name (bankofamerica.com) to the public key \(pk\)

During TLS, the server presents its certificate to a client.
Server authorization on the Web (under TLS)

Server certificate is in the X509 format which is very expressive but hard to parse

Client verifies that the certificate

- has not expired
- has the expected domain name
- has a recognized issuer
Server authorization on the Web (under TLS)

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Web public-key infrastructure (PKI)

Hierarchical network of CAs

- Root CA certifies intermediate CAs which certify Web servers
  - Root CA certificate is self-signed
  - About 60 root CAs and 1200 intermediate CAs
- CAs can issue certificates for any domain
- A wrongly issued certificate can be used to impersonate a server
# Browsers maintain list of trusted CAs

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</tbody>
</table>
Browsers maintain list of trusted CAs

Recent CA compromise incidents

2014: Indian NIC (intermediate CA trusted by the Indian CCA root authority) issued unauthorized certificates for several Google domains [link]
Response
- Indian CCA revoked all NIC certificates
- Chrome restricted Indian CCA to 7 domains

2015: MCS Holdings (intermediate CA trusted by CNNIC root authority) issued unauthorized certificates for several Google domains [link]
Response
- Chrome revoked the malicious certificates and stopped recognizing CNNIC as a root CA
Client authorization on the Web

Clients typically send their credentials after TLS completes and an encrypted channel is established.

Credentials are mostly **bearer tokens** but have many flavors:
- Username/passwords
- Cookies
- OAuth2 tokens
  - delegated by an identity provider
- Macaroons
  - delegated across multiple third-parties

Designing client credentials has been a far more creative space than server credentials.
Token based authorization

Upsides:
- Simple, efficient, easy to deploy
- Tokens can be attenuated and delegated peer-to-peer (e.g., Macaroons)
- Ubiquitous on the Web, standardized with lots of implementations

Downsides:
- Roundtrip to issuer for token creation and verification
- Proliferation of tokens at clients; one per issuer
Alternate public-key infrastructures (PKI)

Decentralized approach to certification
- Pretty good privacy (PGP)
- Simple Distributed Security Infrastructure (SDSI)
Pretty Good Privacy (PGP) [Zimmerman 94]

- Framework for encrypting email
- Principals have encryption public and secret pairs, and certificates binding email address to encryption public keys
- **Web of trust:** *Egalitarian approach* => *anybody can sign certificates*
  - Alice may sign a certificate for her friend Bob’s public key
  - Carol will recognize this certificate as long as she recognizes Alice
  - Trust grows organically rather than through a hierarchy of CAs
- Related startup: https://keybase.io/
Simple Distributed Security Infrastructure (SDSI)

○ Also an egalitarian approach

○ Principals issue certificates binding **local names** to other principals
  ■ e.g., Alice issues a certificate binding “friend” to Bob’s public key

○ **Linked local namespaces**
  ■ Certificate can be linked to form chains of names
  ■ Alice’s TV (another principal) who refers to Alice as “Alice” may refer to Bob as “Alice’s friend”

○ **Name based access control policies**
  ■ Alice’s TV may authorize anyone with a name matching “Alice’s friend”
Simple Distributed Security Infrastructure (SDSI)

History of SDSI

○ Originally developed by Rivest and Lampson in 1996

○ Later merged with Elisson’s related Simple Public Key Infrastructure (SPKI), and is now jointly referred as SPKI/SDSI

○ Followed by RFCs for standardization [2692, 2693], several academic papers providing algorithms, semantics, logics, etc.
Distributed authorization history

80s and 90s: Lots of interesting distributed authorization research
Frameworks: KeyNote, PGP, SPKI/SDSI, X509, Active certificates, Macaroons, ...
Policy languages and logic: ABLP, RT, SecPal, Binder, ...

Late 90s: Web authorization model took off
○ Centralized x509 PKI for server authorization
○ Various token flavors for client authorization

Last few years: Distributed authorization research is back in demand, thanks to Internet-of-Things (IoT)!
Internet of Things Security!

WND EXCLUSIVE

'HACKERS REMOTELY KILL A JEEP ON THE HIGHWAY'

Several baby monitors vulnerable to hacking, cybersecurity firm warns

The Associated Press  Posted: Sep 02, 2015 1:53 PM ET  |  Last Updated: Sep 02, 2015 2:13 PM ET

Refrigerator Busted Sending Spam Emails In Massive Cyberattack

The Huffington Post  By Ryan Grenoble

Hackers Can Remotely Hack Self-Aiming Rifles to Change Its Target

Thursday, July 30, 2015  Mohit Kumar
HP Study Reveals 70 Percent of Internet of Things Devices Vulnerable to Attack

danielmiessler 07-29-2014 05:09 AM - edited 07-07-2015 12:33 PM

- Insufficient authentication and authorization (80%)
- Lack of transport encryption (70%)
- Insecure web interfaces (60%)
- Insecure software updates (60%)
- Insecure defaults (70%)
Top IoT Vulnerabilities

HP Study Reveals 70 Percent of Internet of Things Devices Vulnerable to Attack
danielmiessler 07-29-2014 05:09 AM - edited 07-07-2015 12:33 PM

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- Lack of transport encryption (70%)
- Insecure web interfaces (60%)
- Insecure software updates (60%)
- Insecure defaults (70%)

**Security First**: Bake in security mechanisms from the ground up
Authorization challenges for IoT

- Devices can behave both as clients and servers
- Far too many IoT devices than Web domains
  - Gartner: There will be **20 billion IoT devices by 2020** [link]
  - Centralized certificate mechanisms may not scale
- Fragmented ecosystem, trust relationships are more nuanced
- Limited network connectivity and bandwidth
- Very little human administration
Authorization Requirements
Summary

- Decentralized deployment
- Mutual authorization
- Fine-grained delegation
- Auditable access
- Revocation
- Ease of use
Decentralization

Decentralized deployment and peer-to-peer (p2p) communication are the main guiding principles for this work.

Why?

- User privacy
- Service provider liability
- Support offline mode as a first-class citizen
Centralized models

Upsides

- Centralized access management
- Seamlessly jump across networks
- Automatic software updates
- Data storage and backups
- Account recovery
Centralized models

Downside 1: **User privacy**
- Private data leakage
- Tracking (in both digital and physical worlds)
- Growing concern all over the world
- Being taken seriously now
  - e.g., end-to-end encryption in WhatsApp and iMessage
Centralized models

Downside 2: **Service provider liability**
- Subpoenas, break-ins, insiders threats
- Secure storage of personally identifiable information (PII) is a huge pain!
Centralized models

Downside 3: Reliance on internet connectivity

- Loss of functionality when internet access is not available
  - e.g., devices on an airplane
  - Internet is still a luxury for a significant chunk of the world
- Fundamentally inefficient
Our objective: Decentralization

○ Define an **egalitarian** system where any principal can become an authority for some set of other principals
  ■ e.g., Alice may become an authority for all her home devices
○ Minimize dependence on global services, e.g., CAs, proxies, etc.
○ Maximize what can be achieved via peer-to-peer interactions
Use the cloud where it offers value!

- **Account Recovery**
  Delegate credentials to the cloud with usage restrictions

- **Transparent Proxy**
  Run a transparent cloud service that allows jumping across networks

- **Data backup**
  Backup a *readonly / encrypted* copy of the data in the cloud

- **Distributing credentials**
  Setup a cloud mailbox to distribute credentials, but NOT use them
Summary

- Decentralized deployment
- Mutual authorization
- Fine-grained delegation
- Auditable access
- Revocation
- Ease of use
Mutual authorization

During any interaction, each end must verify that the other end is authorized in the context of the interaction.

**Mutuality** is very important

- Prove that you are owned by Alice
- Prove that you are part of Alice’s “friends” group.

**Mutual authentication** may be important as well depending on the audit requirements.
Delegation of authority

Model must support delegation of authority between principals

- under fine-grained constraints
  - only until 6PM
  - only for this displaying photos
  - only when Alice is in nearby

- across multiple hops

- in a convenient manner
Delegation of authority

Model must support delegation of authority between principals

- under fine-grained constraints
  - only until 6PM
  - only for this displaying photos
  - only when Alice is in nearby

- across multiple hops
- in a convenient manner
Auditable access

Principals must be able to audit the use of the delegations granted by them.

Audit Bob’s access to the TV

Auditing is the fallback when delegation restrictions cannot be properly codified.

*e.g.*, only watch PG-13 movies on the TV
Revocation

Principals must be able to revoke previously granted delegations

○ Revoke Bob’s access to all of Alice’s devices
○ Revoke all access held by a tablet, when it gets lost or stolen

This is a hard problem, lots of trade-offs

○ Instantaneous vs. eventual revocation
○ Communication, computation and storage overhead
○ Supporting the P2P (Offline) scenario
Ease of use

Systems with complex interfaces and mechanisms often have degraded security as users look for insecure workarounds.

Therefore, authorization mechanisms must be easy to understand and use, both for end-users and system developers.

Read: Why Johnny can’t encrypt? (J. D. Tygar and A. Whitten)
Hardware constraints

IoT devices span a very wide hardware spectrum
For now, we do NOT restrict ourselves with hardware constraints
  ○ Instead, focus on designing a general authorization architecture
  ○ Hardware optimizations will hopefully follow

(Read: CESEL: Securing a Mote for 20 Years)
Summary

- Decentralized deployment
- Mutual authorization
- Fine-grained delegation
- Auditable access
- Revocation
- Ease of use
What is Vanadium?

Open source, cross-platform application framework for building secure, multi-device experiences

Components

- Identity and authorization model
- RPC framework
- Naming and discovery framework
- Peer-to-peer storage
What is Vanadium?

Open source, cross-platform application framework for building secure, multi-device experiences

Components
- Identity and authorization model
- RPC framework
- Naming and discovery framework
- Peer-to-peer storage
Rest of the lecture

- Vanadium authorization model primitives
  - Identity model
  - Delegation and revocation
  - Authentication protocols
  - Access control policies
- Application: Physical lock
- Practicalities and discussion
Principal

Represented by a unique digital signature public and private key pair $(P, S)$

- Private key is **never** shared over the network
- Ideally held in a TPM on the device

**Fine-grained:** Each app, process, service is a different principal

- Distinguish between *Alice’s son Bob’s tablet’s Farmville app & Alice’s daughter Carol’s phone’s Amazon app*
Blessings

Each principal has a set of **hierarchical human-readable strings** bound to it, called *blessings*

e.g., Alice’s television \((P_{TV}, S_{TV})\) may have blessings:
- Alice/TV
- Samsung/Products/TV/123

Principals are authenticated and authorized based on their blessings

e.g., Authorize all principals with blessings prefixed with Alice
Blessings

Blessings are certificate chains bound to the principal’s public key.

Each certificate has a Name, PublicKey, Caveats and Signature.

Alice

- PublicKey: $P_{\text{Alice}}$
- Till: 12/31/2017
- Signed by: $S_{\text{Alice}}$

TV

- PublicKey: $P_{\text{TV}}$
- Till: 3/9/2016
- Signed by: $S_{\text{Alice}}$

Very simple certificate format!
Extend one of your Blessings and bind it to another principal

The “Bless” operation

\[(P_{Alice}, S_{Alice}) \xrightarrow{\text{Bless}} (P_{TV}, S_{TV})\]
The “Bless” operation

Extend one of your Blessings and bind it to another principal

(P<sub>Alice</sub>, S<sub>Alice</sub>)

**Bless**

(PTV, S<sub>TV</sub>)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alice</th>
<th>TV</th>
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<tr>
<td>P&lt;sub&gt;Alice&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
<td>P&lt;sub&gt;TV&lt;/sub&gt;</td>
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Signed by S<sub>Alice</sub>

Signed by S<sub>Alice</sub>
The “Bless” operation

Extend one of your Blessings and bind it to another principal

$$(P_{Alice}, S_{Alice})$$

Bless

$$(P_{TV}, S_{TV})$$

Alice
- $P_{Alice}$
- Till 12/31/2016
- Signed by $S_{Alice}$

TV
- $P_{TV}$
- Till 3/9/2016
- Signed by $S_{Alice}$

Dynamic identity creation OR Bound capability grant!
Blessings: Auditability and Binding

Blessings:
- Are bound to a private key that never leaves the device
- Can only be delegated by extending to other private keys
- Encapsulate an auditable delegation trail
But Alice wants her TV to *only* access Youtube, NOT her Bank!

Caveats

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alice</th>
<th>TV</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$P_{Alice}$</td>
<td>$P_{TV}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Signed by $S_{Alice}$</td>
<td>Signed by $S_{Alice}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
But Alice wants her TV to *only* access Youtube, NOT her Bank!
But Alice wants her TV to **only** access Youtube, NOT her Bank!

TV has the name **Alice/TV**
- *as long as the time is before 3/9/2016: 6PM*
- *as long as the service being accessed is Google/Youtube*
Caveats are powerful

Services can define their own caveats, e.g., bless the valet so that:
- valet is only authorized to drive for < 5 miles
- only for the next 3 hours
- cannot access trunk or infotainment system
- but can access GPS

Validated by the target service (first-party) when the blessing is used to make a request (first-party caveats)

**Macaroons**: Cookies with Caveats for Decentralized Authorization, Politz et al., NDSS 14
Third-party Caveats

- Caveats that must be validated by a specific third-party
- Target service (first-party) only expects a "discharge" (proof) that the caveat has been validated by the specific third-party
Third-party Caveats

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Third-party Caveat

**ID:** <content hash>

**Restriction:** within 10m proximity

**Loc:** Alice/Proximity

**Verification Key:** \( P_{\text{Proximity}} \)
Third-party Caveats

- Caveats that must be validated by a specific third-party
- Target service (first-party) only expects a “discharge” (proof) that the caveat has been validated by the specific third-party

**Third-party Caveat**

- **ID**: <content hash>
- **Restriction**: within 10m proximity
- **Loc**: Alice/Proximity
- **Verification Key**: $P_{\text{Proximity}}$

**Third-party Discharge**

- **ID**: <same as caveat.ID>
- **Caveat**: for next 1 minute
- **Signed by**: $S_{\text{Proximity}}$
Mechanics

\[(P_{\text{Proximity}}, S_{\text{Proximity}})\]

Alice’s proximity discharger

\[(P_{\text{Bob}}, S_{\text{Bob}})\]

Guest

\[(P_{\text{TV}}, S_{\text{TV}})\]

Alice

... ...

... proximity caveat
Mechanics

Alice’s proximity discharger

(P_{Proximity}, S_{Proximity})

(P_{Bob}, S_{Bob})

Alice

... ... ...

Guest

... ... ...

(proximity caveat)

(proximity caveat)

(P_{TV}, S_{TV})
Mechanics

Perform proximity checks

(P_{Proximity}, S_{Proximity})

Alice’s proximity discharger

1

(proximity caveat)

(Alice, Proximity)

(P_{Bob}, S_{Bob})

Guest

(proximity caveat)

(P_{TV}, S_{TV})
Mechanics

(Alice’s proximity discharge)

(proximity caveat)

(proximity discharge)

1

2

(P_{Proximity}, S_{Proximity})

(P_{Bob}, S_{Bob})

(P_{TV}, S_{TV})

Guest

(proximity caveat)

Alice
Mechanics

Alice’s proximity discharger

\((P_{Proximity}, S_{Proximity})\)

1. Proximity caveat
2. Proximity discharge
3. Proximity discharge

\((P_{Bob}, S_{Bob})\)
Third-party Caveat Examples

- Social networking restrictions
  - GooglePlus must assert membership in “work” circle
  - Or, must be my friend on Facebook

- Parental controls
  - Kids can watch TV only if Mom approves
  - Mom may discharge with a third-party caveat to dad!

- Revocation
Revocation
Revocation: Existing approaches

○ Certificate revocation lists (CRLs)
  ■ Validating principals must periodically update CRL
  ■ Revocation is not instantaneous
  ■ CRLs tend to get large (delta-CRLs offer a reasonable fix)

○ Online certificate status protocol (OCSP)
  ■ Onus of making OCSP queries is on the validating principal
  ■ Affects latency per request
  ■ Another vector for DOS attacks
Revocation: Existing approaches

- Recency evidence
  - “Can we eliminate certificate revocation lists?” ---- Rivest 98
  - Certificate is valid only when accompanied with “recency evidence” supplied by the requestor
  - Recency evidence may be re-validated certificate or a freshly issued certificate
Revocation: Third-party caveat approach

In essence, Rivest’s recency proofs idea

- Blessings carry third-party caveats specifying revocation requirements
- Caveat is discharged by a revocation service trusted by the issuer
- Requester must obtain the discharge and supply it along with the blessing

Supports instantaneous revocation

But, places a connectivity requirement on the requester
Validating Blessings
Validating blessings

How does the TV validate Bob’s blessings?

Alice

\[ P_{\text{Alice}} \]

Till 12/31/2016

Signed by \( S_{\text{Alice}} \)

Guest

\[ P_{\text{Bob}} \]

Till 3/9/2016

TPCaveat: \( P_{\text{Proximity}} \)

Signed by \( S_{\text{Alice}} \)

+ TPDisharge
Validating blessings

How does the TV validate Bob’s blessings?

1. Verify Certificate Signatures
Validating blessings

How does the TV validate Bob’s blessings?

1. Verify Certificate Signatures
2. Validate all first-party and third-party caveats
Validating blessings

How does the TV validate Bob’s blessings?

1. Verify Certificate Signatures
2. Validate all first-party and third-party caveats
3. Verify that the blessing root is recognized
The first certificate of a blessing is self-signed
Anyone can forge a blessing by creating a self-signed certificate

How do we prevent this forgery?
Blessing root

Blessing root is the name and public of the first certificate of the blessing

Principals maintain a list of recognized blessing roots

Only blessings with recognized roots are considered valid

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Public key</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P_{Alice}</td>
<td>Alice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P_{Samsung}</td>
<td>Samsung</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

e.g., blessing with root $(P_{\text{attacker}}, \text{Alice})$ is rejected by Alice’s TV

Roots recognized by Alice’s TV
Blessing root

List of recognized roots is similar to the list of trusted CAs in Web browsers

But there are some key differences

- Any principal can become a blessing root
- Different principals may recognize different roots
  e.g., Alice’s TV may recognize \((P_{Alice}, \text{Alice})\) but Bob’s TV may not
- A principal is recognized for a specific name
  e.g., Alice’s TV recognizes \(P_{Alice}\) for Alice and \(P_{Samsung}\) for Samsung
Validating blessings

How does the TV validate Bob’s blessings?

1. Verify Certificate Signatures
2. Validate all first-party and third-party caveats
3. Verify that the blessing root is recognized

Bob can be recognized as Alice/Guest
Authentication and Authorization

All communication must be encrypted, mutually authenticated and authorized
Authentication and Authorization

**Client**: Initiator of request

**Server**: Responder of request

**Mutual Authentication**
Each end learns the other end’s blessings and is convinced that the other end possesses the corresponding private key

**Mutual Authorization**
Each end validates the other end’s blessings and evaluates the blessing names against an access control policy
Mutual authentication protocol

**SIGMA**: The 'SIGn-and-MAc' Approach to Authenticated Diffie-Hellman, Krawczyk et al., CRYPTO 03

Client

Server

Diffie-Hellman (DH) Exchange

$g^x$

$g^y$

Derive (authenticated-encryption) key $k$ from DH secret
Mutual authentication protocol

**SIGMA**: The 'SIGn-and-MAc' Approach to Authenticated Diffie-Hellman --- Krawczyk et al., CRYPTO'03

1. **Diffie-Hellman (DH) Exchange**
   - Client
     - $g^x$
   - Server
     - $g^y$

2. Derive (authenticated-encryption) key $k$ from DH secret

3. **Client**
   - Derive $k$ from $g^x$ and $g^y$.

4. **Server**
   - Receive $k$ and authorize Blessings

5. **Bob**
   - Learns Blessings$_TV$ and authorizes them
Mutual authentication protocol

**SIGMA:** The 'SIGn-and-MAc' Approach to Authenticated Diffie-Hellman --- Krawczyk et al., CRYPTO'03

---

**Diffie-Hellman (DH) Exchange**

- $g^x$
- $g^y$

**Client**

Derive (authenticated-encryption) key $k$ from DH secret

- $\{ \text{Blessings}_{TV}, \text{Sign}_{TV}(\langle"s", g^x, g^y\rangle) \}_k$

**Server**

- Bob learns Blessings$_{TV}$ and authorizes them
- TV learns Blessings$_{Bob}$ and authorizes them
Mutual authentication protocol

SIGMA: The 'SIGn-and-MAc' Approach to Authenticated Diffie-Hellman --- Krawczyk et al., CRYPTO'03

Client

Diffie-Hellman (DH) Exchange

\[ g^x \quad g^y \]

Derive (authenticated-encryption) key \( k \) from DH secret

\{ Blessings_{TV}, \ Sign_{TV}(<"s",g^x, g^y)> \}_k

\{ Blessings_{Bob}, \ Sign_{Bob}(<"c", g^x, g^y)> \}_k

Server

Bob learns Blessings\(_{TV}\) and authorizes them

TV learns Blessings\(_{Bob}\) and authorizes them

Server presents its blessings before the client
Mutual authentication protocol

**SIGMA**: The 'SIGn-and-MAc' Approach to Authenticated Diffie-Hellman --- Krawczyk et al., CRYPTO'03

- Diffie-Hellman (DH) Exchange
- Derive (authenticated-encryption) key $k$ from DH secret
- Formally verified in ProVerif

**Client**
- Bob learns Blessings$_{TV}$ and authorizes them

**Server**
- Server presents its blessings *before* the client
- TV learns Blessings$_{Bob}$ and authorizes them

\[
\{ \text{Blessings}_\text{TV}, \text{Sign}_\text{TV}(\langle \text{c}, g^x, g^y \rangle) \}_k
\]

\[
\{ \text{Blessings}_\text{Bob}, \text{Sign}_\text{Bob}(\langle \text{c}, g^x, g^y \rangle) \}_k
\]
Private mutual authentication

Neither the server nor the client wants to present its blessings first

I will only reveal my name to Alice/TV

I only reveal my name to delegates of Alice

Can we resolve this deadlock?
Private Mutual Authentication

Neither the server nor the client wants to present its blessings first.

Can we resolve this deadlock?

Yes, using *identity-based encryption* (tomorrow’s lecture)
Authorization policies are based on blessing names
Authorization policies are based on blessing names.

1) Verify certificate signatures
2) Validate caveats
3) Verify blessing roots
Authorization policies are based on blessing names

1) Verify certificate signatures
2) Validate caveats
3) Verify blessing roots
Authorization policies are based on blessing names

1) Verify certificate signatures
2) Validate caveats
3) Verify blessing roots

Verify that blessing name satisfies the authorization policy (e.g., ACL)

Alice/Guest

Reference Monitor

Process Request

PASS

FAIL
Access control policies

Explicitly specify set of authorized blessing names in an ACL

Policy for Alice’s TV

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Label</th>
<th>Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Photos</td>
<td><strong>Allow</strong>: Alice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movies</td>
<td><strong>Allow</strong>: Alice/Friends</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Explicitly specify set of authorized blessings

Policy for Alice’s TV

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</table>

This is actually a blessing prefix and is matched by extensions, e.g., Alice/Guest, Alice/TV/app

(We will go over the rationale for this tomorrow)
Why Smart Locks?

- Remote locking/unlocking
- Keyless proximity-based access
- Maintain an audit log of who got in
- Mint new (virtual) keys and share with others
- Some also have a camera that will take the visitors picture
Lock setup

Blessings

Alice

LockCorp/1234
Lock setup

Blessings

| Alice |

Out of Band
<token>, <LockWiFi>

Blessings

| LockCorp/1234 |
Lock setup

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Blessings</th>
<th>Alice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

I am LockCorp/1234

Authorization Policy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Claim: Allow Everyone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LockCorp/1234</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Lock setup

Claim: Allow Everyone
Lock setup

### Authorization Policy

**Claim**: Allow Everyone

### Blessings

- **Alice**
- **LockCorp/1234**

### Create self-signed blessing with name

**AliceDoor**

**Claim**("AliceDoor", <token>, <Wifi>)
Lock setup

Claim("AliceDoor", <token>, <Wifi>)

Authorization Policy

Claim: Allow Everyone
Lock setup

Claim ("AliceDoor", <token>, <Wifi>)

Authorization Policy
Claim: Allow Everyone
Lock setup

Claim: Allow Everyone

Blessings
Alice
AliceDoor/Key

Claim(“AliceDoor”, <token>, <Wifi>)

Blessings
LockCorp/1234
AliceDoor

Authorization Policy
Lock setup

Claim("AliceDoor", <token>, <Wifi>)

Authorization Policy
- Lock: AliceDoor/Key
- Unlock: AliceDoor/Key
**Lock setup**

**Blessings**

Alice

**AliceDoor/Key**

**Claim**("AliceDoor", <token>, <Wifi>)

**Authorization Policy**

**Lock**: AliceDoor/Key

**Unlock**: AliceDoor/Key

**LockCorp/1234 AliceDoor**
Lock setup

Claim("AliceDoor", <token>, <Wifi>)

Lock: AliceDoor/Key
Unlock: AliceDoor/Key
Lock setup

Claim(“AliceDoor”, <token>, <Wifi>)

Lock using AliceDoor/Key

Unlock using AliceDoor/Key

Unlock using AliceDoor/Key/Bob

Authorization Policy

Lock: AliceDoor/Key
Unlock: AliceDoor/Key

Blessings

Alice
AliceDoor/Key

Blessings

Bob
AlcieDoor/Key/Bob

Blessings

LockCorp/1234
AliceDoor
Properties

- **Works Offline**
  No internet access required to interact with the lock

- **Fully Decentralized**
  No cloud server controls access to all locks

- **Fine-grained Auditing**
  Each lock device can keep track of who accessed it (plus delegation trail)

- **No bearer tokens involved**
Practicalities and discussion
Blessings Management

- Devices and apps would accumulate multiple blessings over time
- How should users visualize and grant blessings?
Blessings Management

- Devices and apps would accumulate multiple blessings over time
- How should users visualize and grant blessings?

Vanadium Blessings Manager App
  - UI for visualizing blessings
  - Grant blessings over NFC, Bluetooth

Future work: Blessing mailbox in the cloud
Private Key Management

- Securely storing private keys on device
- Many different hardware architectures and operating systems
- Multiple private keys per device (one for each app)
Private Key Management

- Securely storing private keys on device
- Many different hardware architectures and operating systems
- Multiple private keys per device (one for each app)

An Approach: Use a security agent (e.g., Plan9’s factotum)
- Special process that holds private keys and performs crypto
- May store private keys in a TPM, if available
- May adjust itself based on the hardware
Principal and Blessings
Principal is a unique public/private key pair with human-readable names bound to it.

All communication is encrypted & mutually authenticated
Forward-secrecy safe protocol, client and service identity privacy

Authorization is based on blessing names
Principal authenticated and authorized based on their blessing names

Fine-grained delegation and audit
Principal can bind an extension of their blessings to another principal under caveats
Vanadium authorization model: Summary

Principal and Blessings
Principal is a unique public/private key pair with human-readable names bound to it.

All communication is encrypted & mutually authenticated
Forward-secrecy safe protocol, client and service identity privacy.

Authorization is based on blessing names
Principals authenticated and authorized based on their blessing names.

Fine-grained delegation and audit
Principals can bind an extension of their blessings to another principal under caveats.
Tomorrow

○ Access control policies in Vanadium
○ Privacy and service discovery mechanisms in Vanadium
Vanadium pointers

Homepage: https://vanadium.github.io/core.html
Concepts: https://vanadium.github.io/concepts/security.html
Tutorials: https://vanadium.github.io/tutorials/
Source: https://github.com/vanadium
Further reading

SDSI - A Simple Distributed Security Infrastructure --- Rivest and Lampson, 1996

Authentication in Distributed Systems: Theory and Practice --- Lampson et al., 1992

Delegation Logic: A Logic-based Approach to Distributed Authorization --- Li, 2003

Can we eliminate certificate revocation lists? --- Rivest, 2006

Macaroons: Cookies with Caveats for Decentralized Authorization --- Politz et al., 2014
Questions

email: ataly@google.com
Thank You!
Authorization requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identity and Authorization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decentralized deployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual authorization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine-grained delegation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditing and revocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of use</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Other IOT security requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identity and Authorization</th>
<th>Privacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Decentralized deployment</td>
<td>Private discovery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mutual authorization</td>
<td>Anonymous communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fine-grained delegation</td>
<td>Transparency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auditing and revocation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of use</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Device Protection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No remote code execution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automatic and secure updates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verified boot</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>