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Hybrid Method for Key Distribution in Mobile Ad hoc Networks

Abstract

There is a need for security services to provide group-oriented communication privacy and data integrity. It is important that members of the group can establish a common secret key for encrypting group communication. A secure distributed group key agreement and authentication protocol is required to handle this issue. Early, key tree approaches have been proposed to distribute group key in such a way that the rekeying cost scales with the logarithm of the group size for a join or leave request. The efficiency of this key tree approach critically depends on whether the key tree remains balanced over time as members join or leave. Instead of performing individual rekeying operations, an interval-based approach of re-keying is adopted in the proposed scheme. In other hand, Self-healing group key distribution is essential aimed to achieve efficient key distribution in Mobile Ad hoc Networks over lossy and dynamic communication channels. In particular, we propose the concept of hierarchical self-healing group key distribution with interval time rekeying process. Indeed, we develop an efficient hybrid method based on three important concepts: Hierarchically, self-healing and time interval rekeying. Simulation results show dramatic improvement in network parameters e.g., end to end delay, packet delivery ratio.

Introduction

Due to mobility of nodes, traditional security models designed for fixed-network topologies may not be fully applicable in infrastructureless wireless networks. Each efficient and secure key distribution scheme, the designers should consider many factors such as application requirements, network topologies, and packet loss characteristics of the underlying wireless networks. Generally speaking, security in wireless networks has six challenges [1]: Lack of fixed infrastructure, Resource limitations on wireless devices, Unknown network topology, Wireless nature of communications, Very large density of distribution of wireless nodes and High risk of physical attacks to unattended nodes. Cryptographic techniques in network security can be applied to ad hoc networks [2]. Key management is the main component in security. If the key size is large, the corresponding cryptographic algorithm ensures a guaranteed secure communication, but lead to more energy consumption. Hence energy efficient key management techniques are used in wireless networks. Secure and efficient key management in ad hoc networks [3] builds a public key based on shared secret key and node servers. Each server creates its Certificate Authority (CA) within a time period and updates node request based on ticket based approach. During key update the compromised node is recognized and key certificate is revoked. Scalable Key management and clustering [4] is based on hierarchical network partitioning and resilient to node mobility. Hierarchical Key Management [5] for secure group communication encrypts the packet twice due to frequent changes in network topology. Source node generates private key, encrypts the data packet and forwards it to immediate node at next level one (level 1). The intermediate nodes further encrypt the data packet again and forwards it to next level (level 2) process is repeated to level two. Distributed key management based on key update performs better compared to request update schemes. Distributed symmetric key management [6] considers pre-key distribution and overcomes the limitation of Trusted Third Parties (TTP) key schemes. [7] Explains the secure key management for MANETS. Light weight group key management is used to minimize the load of security protocols Distributed Lightweight group-key management [8] based on secure optimized link state routing, use group keys for authentication control and save the node energy. The group keys are managed based on network partitions and node sessions (join/leave the route paths). Unauthorized nodes are restricted by using periodic and event based group-key replacement. Scalable cryptographic key management [9] based on public key cryptography solves sybil attack and dynamic node deployment.