Secure Routing in Wireless Networks

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Material From L. Buttyan and JP Hubaux (Security and Cooperation in Wireless Networks)
Ad hoc network routing protocols

- **topology-based protocols**
  - proactive
    - distance vector based (e.g., DSDV)
    - link-state (e.g., OLSR)
  - reactive (on-demand)
    - distance vector based (e.g., AODV)
    - source routing (e.g., DSR)

- **position-based protocols**
  - greedy forwarding (e.g., GPSR, GOAFR)
  - restricted directional flooding (e.g., DREAM, LAR)

- **hybrid approaches**
Example: Dynamic Source Routing (DSR)

- on-demand source routing protocol

- two components:
  - route discovery
    - used only when source S attempts to send a packet to destination D
    - based on flooding of Route Requests (RREQ) and returning Route Replies (RREP)
  - route maintenance
    - makes S able to detect route errors (e.g., if a link along that route no longer works)
DSR Route Discovery illustrated

A $\rightarrow$ *: [RREQ, id, A, H; ()]
B $\rightarrow$ *: [RREQ, id, A, H; (B)]
C $\rightarrow$ *: [RREQ, id, A, H; (C)]
D $\rightarrow$ *: [RREQ, id, A, H; (D)]
E $\rightarrow$ *: [RREQ, id, A, H; (E)]
F $\rightarrow$ *: [RREQ, id, A, H; (E, F)]
G $\rightarrow$ *: [RREQ, id, A, H; (D,G)]

H $\rightarrow$ A: [RREP, <source route>; (E, F)]

where <source route> is obtained
- from the route cache of H
- by reversing the route received in the RREQ
  - works only if all the links along the discovered route are bidirectional
  - IEEE 802.11 assumes that links are bidirectional
- by executing a route discovery from H to A
  - discovered route from A to H is piggy backed to avoid infinite recursion
Example: Position-based greedy forwarding

- assumptions
  - nodes are aware of their own positions and that of their neighbors
  - packet header contains the position of the destination

- packet is forwarded to a neighbor that is closer to the destination than the forwarding node
  - Most Forward within Radius (MFR)
  - Nearest with Forward Progress (NFP)
  - Compass forwarding
  - Random forwarding

- additional mechanisms are needed to cope with local (dead-ends)
Secure Routing: Attacks
Attacks on routing protocols (1/2)

• general objectives of attacks
  – increase adversarial control over the communications between some nodes;
  – degrade the quality of the service provided by the network;
  – increase the resource consumption of some nodes (e.g., CPU, memory, or energy).

• adversary model
  – insider adversary
    • can corrupt legitimate nodes
  – the attacker is not all-powerful
    • it is not physically present everywhere
    • it launches attacks from regular devices
Attacks on routing protocols (2/2)

- attack mechanisms
  - eavesdropping, replaying, modifying, and deleting control packets
  - fabricating control packets containing fake routing information (forgery)
  - fabricating control packets under a fake identity (spoofing)
  - dropping data packets (attack against the forwarding function)
  - wormholes and tunneling
  - rushing

- types of attacks
  - route disruption
  - route diversion
  - creation of incorrect routing state
  - generation of extra control traffic
  - creation of a gray hole
Route disruption

- The adversary prevents a route from being discovered between two nodes that are otherwise connected.

- The primary objective of this attack is to degrade the quality of service provided by the network:
  - The two victims cannot communicate, and
  - Other nodes can also suffer and be coerced to use suboptimal routes.

- Attack mechanisms that can be used to mount this attack:
  - Dropping route request or route reply messages on a vertex cut
  - Forging route error messages
  - Combining wormhole/tunneling and control packet dropping
  - Rushing
Example: Route disruption in DSR with rushing
Route diversion

- due to the presence of the adversary, the protocol establishes routes that are different from those that it would establish, if the adversary did not interfere with the execution of the protocol

- the objective of route diversion can be
  - to increase adversarial control over the communications between some victim nodes
    - the adversary tries to achieve that the diverted routes contain one of the nodes that it controls or a link that it can observe
    - the adversary can eavesdrop or modify data sent between the victim nodes easier
  - to increase the resource consumption of some nodes
    - many routes are diverted towards a victim that becomes overloaded
  - degrade quality of service
    - by increasing the length of the discovered routes, and thereby, increasing the end-to-end delay between some nodes

- route diversion can be achieved by
  - forging or manipulating routing control messages
  - dropping routing control messages
  - setting up a wormhole/tunnel
Creation of incorrect routing state

- this attack aims at jeopardizing the routing state in some nodes so that the state appears to be correct but, in fact, it is not
  - data packets routed using that state will never reach their destinations

- the objective of creating incorrect routing state is
  - to increase the resource consumption of some nodes
    - the victims will use their incorrect state to forward data packets, until they learn that something goes wrong
  - to degrade the quality of service

- can be achieved by
  - spoofing, forging, modifying, or dropping control packets
Example: Creation of incorrect routing state in DSR

Route (A, D, F, H) does not exist!

A $\rightarrow$ *: [RREQ, id, A, H; ()]
B $\rightarrow$ A: [RREP, <src route>, A, H; (D, F)]
Generation of extra control traffic

- injecting spoofed control packets into the network
- aiming at increasing resource consumption due to the fact that such control packets are often flooded in the entire network
Setting up a gray/black hole

- an adversarial node selectively drops data packets that it should forward

- the objective is
  - to degrade the quality of service
    - packet delivery ratio between some nodes can decrease considerably
  - to increase resource consumption
    - wasting the resources of those nodes that forward the data packets that are finally dropped by the adversary

- implementation is trivial
  - adversarial node participates in the route establishment
  - when it receives data packets for forwarding, it drops them
  - even better if combined with wormhole/tunneling
Black hole attack
Secure Routing: Securing Routing Protocols
Some secure ad hoc network routing protocols

- SRP (on-demand source routing)
- Ariadne (on-demand source routing)
- endairA (on-demand source routing)
- S-AODV (on-demand distance vector routing)
- ARAN (on-demand, routing metric is the propagation delay)
- SEAD (proactive distance vector routing)
- SMT (multi-path routing combined error correcting)
- Watchdog and Pathrater (implementation of the “detect and react” approach to defend against gray holes)
- ODSBR (source routing with gray hole detection)
SRP (Secure Routing Protocol)

- SRP is a secure variant of DSR
- uses symmetric-key authentication (MACs)
  - due to mobility, it would be impractical to require that the source and the destination share keys with all intermediate nodes
  - hence *there’s only a shared key between the source and the destination* (?)
- only end-to-end authentication is possible
- no optimizations

- SRP is simple but it does not prevent the *manipulation of mutable information* added by intermediate nodes
  - this opens the door for some attacks
  - some of those attacks can be thwarted by secure neighbor discovery protocols
SRP operation illustrated

A $\rightarrow$ * : [RREQ, A, H, id, sn, mac$_{AH}$, ()]
B $\rightarrow$ * : [RREQ, A, H, id, sn, mac$_{AH}$, (B)]
C $\rightarrow$ * : [RREQ, A, H, id, sn, mac$_{AH}$, (C)]
D $\rightarrow$ * : [RREQ, A, H, id, sn, mac$_{AH}$, (D)]
E $\rightarrow$ * : [RREQ, A, H, id, sn, mac$_{AH}$, (E)]
F $\rightarrow$ * : [RREQ, A, H, id, sn, mac$_{AH}$, (E, F)]
G $\rightarrow$ * : [RREQ, A, H, id, sn, mac$_{AH}$, (D, G)]

H $\rightarrow$ A : [RREP, A, H, id, sn, (E, F), mac$_{HA}$]

mac$_{AH}$: Message Authentication Code covering RREQ, A, H, id, and sn
Ariadne

- Ariadne is another secured variant of DSR

- it uses control message authentication to prevent modification and forgery of routing messages
  - based on signatures, MACs, or TESLA

- it uses a per-hop hash mechanism to prevent the manipulation of the accumulated route information in the route request message (mutable information)
Ariadne with signatures

A: \[ h_A = \text{mac}_{AH}(\text{RREQ} \mid A \mid H \mid \text{id}) \]
A \rightarrow * : \[ \text{[RREQ, A, H, id, } h_A, (), ()] \]

E: \[ h_E = H(E \mid h_A) \]
E \rightarrow * : \[ \text{[RREQ, A, H, id, } h_E, (E), (\text{sig}_E)] \]

F: \[ h_F = H(F \mid h_E) \]
F \rightarrow * : \[ \text{[RREQ, A, H, id, } h_F, (E, F), (\text{sig}_E, \text{sig}_F)] \]

H \rightarrow A: \[ \text{[RREP, H, A, (E, F), (\text{sig}_E, \text{sig}_F), \text{sig}_H]} \] (sent via F and E)

Each signature is computed over the message fields preceding it
Ariadne with standard MACs

A : \( h_A = \text{mac}_{AH}(\text{RREQ} | A | H | \text{id}) \)
A \( \rightarrow ^* : [\text{RREQ}, A, H, \text{id}, h_A, (), ()] \)

E : \( h_E = H(E | h_A) \)
E \( \rightarrow ^* : [\text{RREQ}, A, H, \text{id}, h_E, (E), (\text{mac}_{EH})] \)

F : \( h_F = H(F | h_E) \)
F \( \rightarrow ^* : [\text{RREQ}, A, H, \text{id}, h_F, (E, F), (\text{mac}_{EH}, \text{mac}_{FH})] \)

H \( \rightarrow A : [\text{RREP}, H, A, (E, F), \text{mac}_{HA}] \)
Ariadne with TESLA illustrated

A \rightarrow *: [ RREQ, A, H, id, h_A, ( ), ( ) ]
E \rightarrow *: [ RREQ, A, H, id, h_E, (E), (mac_{KE,i}) ]
F \rightarrow *: [ RREQ, A, H, id, h_F, (E, F), (mac_{KE,i}, mac_{KF,i}) ]

H \rightarrow F: [ RREP, H, A, (E, F), (mac_{KE,i}, mac_{KF,i}), mac_{HA}, ( ) ]
F \rightarrow E: [ RREP, H, A, (E, F), (mac_{KE,i}, mac_{KF,i}), mac_{HA}, (K_F, ) ]
E \rightarrow A: [ RREP, H, A, (E, F), (mac_{KE,i}, mac_{KF,i}), mac_{KHA}, (K_F, K_E, ) ]
target verifies:
- there’s no repeating ID in the node list
- last node in the node list is a neighbor

each intermediate node verifies:
- its own ID is in the node list
- there’s no repeating ID in the node list
- next and previous nodes in the node list are neighbors
- all signatures are valid

source verifies:
- there’s no repeating ID in the node list
- first node in the node list is a neighbor
- all signatures are valid

\[
\begin{align*}
A \to * : & [ \text{RREQ, A, H, id, ()} ] \\
E \to * : & [ \text{RREQ, A, H, id, (E)} ] \\
F \to * : & [ \text{RREQ, A, H, id, (E, F)} ] \\
H \to F : & [ \text{RREP, A, H, id, (E, F), (\text{sig}_H)} ] \\
F \to E : & [ \text{RREP, A, H, id, (E, F), (\text{sig}_H, \text{sig}_F)} ] \\
E \to A : & [ \text{RREP, A, H, id, (E, F), (\text{sig}_H, \text{sig}_F, \text{sig}_E)} ]
\end{align*}
\]
Conclusion: Secure Routing Protocols

- Secure against Active-1-x attackers
- Efficient symmetric cryptography
- Generally better than DSR without optimization
- Source routing fits secure ad hoc network routing better than other routings
  - Sender can circumvent potentially malicious nodes
  - Sender can authenticate every node in Route Reply

- No built-in resiliency to wormhole attacks