Protection of Sensitive Data in Clouds
Using Active Privacy Bundles and Agent-Based Secure Multiparty Computation

Akram Y. Sarhan (Advisor: Prof. Leszek T. Lilien)
Department of Computer Science, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Introduction

- Challenges for protecting data in clouds (cf. TechInsights Report, 2013)
  - ‘Security’ below includes privacy
    - Infrastructure readiness/network
    - Visibility into services across cloud
    - Contracts/liability concerns
    - Cultural/political issues
    - Performance/availability
  - Cost
  - Certain apps are too core/critical
  - Privacy/Legal issues

- Privacy and security challenges in clouds (Jansen, 2011)
  - Data leakage, performance, risk management, efficient data storage

- Two types of solutions for cloud-based privacy and security
  1) Centralized solutions
     - Re ly on centralized trusted third parties (TTPs)
  2) Decentralized solutions
     - Avoid relying on centralized TTPs

- Problems with using TTPs
  - Bottleneck, insecure, single point of failure
  - High cost, lower efficiency

- Active Privacy Bundle (APB)
  - Sensitive data: user data
  - Metadata: describes various policies for sensitive data
    - Distribution control policy
    - Access control policy
    - Integrity self-check specification
  - Virtual machine (VM): executes APB, incl. three privacy/security activities
    - Integrity self-checking
    - Apoptosis: complete APB self-destruction
  - Data leakage, performance, risk management, efficient data storage

Motivation and Objectives

- Providing adequate privacy and security for data in clouds
  - Self-protecting data
  - Fine-grained access control
  - Fault tolerance
- Protect cloud data against attackers
  - Dishonest cloud providers
  - Unauthorized sub-contractors
  - Dishonest tenants (i.e., other cloud users)

- Protecting data with decentralized TTP (without centralized TTP)
  - Using multi-agent systems (MAS) for implementing decentralized TTPs
  - Using MAS for performance improvements
    - Thanks to parallel processing of data

Methods

- Solution components and their roles
  - Active privacy bundle
  - Secure multiparty computation
  - Multi-agent systems
  - Attribute-based encryption

- Active privacy bundle (APB)
  - Encapsulates and protects sensitive data throughout their full lifecycle
  - Protects against tampering, privacy violations, unauthorized access or dissemination

- Secure multiparty computation (SMC)
  - Multiple parties can jointly compute some value, based on individually held secret inputs or functions
  - While assuring privacy of their secrets to one another in the process
  - RSA threshold cryptography
  - BGW (Ben-Or, Goldwasser and Wigderson) protocol
  - Used to jointly compute a chosen function f on shared or private input

- Multi-agent systems (MAS)
  - Distributed computing with intelligent multiple agents — with JADE implementation

- Attribute-based encryption (ABE)
  - One-to-many encryption scheme based on public key
  - Ciphertext-policy attribute-based encryption (CP-ABE)
    - Private key uses ABE and cipher-text specifies an access policy over an attribute set

Results: The Proposed Solution

- Major results
  - Designed and partially developed the APB-SMC scheme
    - Integrated SMC into APB implementation
      - SMC uses RSA threshold cryptography and BGW protocol
    - APB-SMC replaces the centralized TTP with a distributed trust mediator
      - SMC used in constructing and enabling APB
    - Enhanced APB evaporation
    - Enhanced APB apoptosis
    - Integrated ABE and CP-ABE into APB-SMC
      - Provide higher security and fault tolerance
      - Support access right delegation and revocation

- APB creation and enabling algorithms in APB-SMC
  1) APB creation
    - Identify sensitive data
    - Create access policy attributes
    - Create access structure
    - Generate public and master keys
    - Encrypt sensitive data
    - Encrypt metadata
    - Hash and sign the APB
    - Encrypt APB
    - Plan APB itinerary

Motivation and Objectives

- Providing adequate privacy and security for data in clouds
  - Self-protecting data
  - Fine-grained access control
  - Fault tolerance
- Protect cloud data against attackers
  - Dishonest cloud providers
  - Unauthorized sub-contractors
  - Dishonest tenants (i.e., other cloud users)

- Protecting data with decentralized TTP (without centralized TTP)
  - Using multi-agent systems (MAS) for implementing decentralized TTPs
  - Using MAS for performance improvements
    - Thanks to parallel processing of data

Conclusions

- Current work status
  - Completed design of the APB-SMC scheme
  - Working on modeling, formal model analysis, simulation experiments

- Future work
  - Demonstrate that APB-SMC provides privacy, security, fault tolerance and efficiency
  - Integrate a multi-agent system (MAS) framework into APB-SMC
  - Validate and optimize MAS-based APB-SMC