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# Mobile Adhoc Network Risk Profiles - An Overview of Existing Network Traffic Datasets to Determine Ideal Axiom Criteria

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**GJCST-E Classification:** ACM: C.2.1, C.2.3, C.4



MOBILE ADHOC NETWORK RISK PROFILE AND OVERVIEW OF EXISTING NETWORK TRAFFIC DATASETS TO DETERMINE IDEAL AXIOM CRITERIA

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# Mobile Adhoc Network Risk Profiles - An Overview of Existing Network Traffic Datasets to Determine Ideal Axiom Criteria

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**Abstract-** A Mobile Adhoc networks also known as MANET or Wireless Adhoc Network is a network that usually has a routable networking environment on top of a Link Layer ad hoc network. It consists of a set of mobile nodes connected wirelessly in a self-configured, self-healing network without having a fixed infrastructure. Recent studies and fieldwork have pointed in the direction of making MANETS a publicly viable option in the event of another world event/crisis such as the recent COVID-19 pandemic. As opposed to their traditional military and emergency uses, this has become a focal point due to the evident strain that was observed on mainstream Internet Service Providers as substantial adjustments had to be made to facilitate a new 'working-from-home' public. A primary aspect that must be considered before public adoption is addressing the issue of MANET risk and Security which leads into identifying and classifying risks associated with MANETS. This paper seeks to analyze the various existing fields and meta-data within various networking datasets, protocols as well as scenarios and subsequently establish what aspects of existing network traffic can be classified into axioms (Risk Classifying arguments) to determine Risk Profiles of MANETS. The paper also seeks to determine and propose the ideal data fields within Network traffic for classifying Risk Profiles.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Research on the usage of wireless protocols and networks such as Bluetooth, NFC and MANETS in a public capacity has recently undergone a resurgence due to Global events such as the COVID-19 pandemic. And whilst protocols such as NFC and Bluetooth has been explored in varying settings such as mentioned in, [1], [2] and further research was done in light of the Global Pandemic as per [3] and [4]. There was an evident need for greater public usage and adoption of these protocols to test the reliability and uses of them in light of the traditional reliance on mainstream Internet Service providers. To this end, advances in multiplexing connectivity for the Bluetooth protocol were made as per the work conducted in [5], [6] and [7] to allow for more simultaneous connectivity

amongst mobile nodes in a network. However, the challenge of having a reliable wide-area infrastructure less network remained a challenge. Consequently, the prospects of utilizing MANETS in a public setting was explored.

As mentioned in the Abstract a MANET is a network that usually has a routable networking environment on top of a link layer ad hoc network. It consists of a set of mobile nodes connected wirelessly in a self-configured, self-healing network without having a fixed infrastructure. However, prior to delving into any discourse on public adoption, it is imperative to underscore a critical focal point: the risks and security considerations inherent to Mobile Ad-Hoc Networks (MANETS).

Based on [8] and [9] both qualitative and quantitative research has alluded to the fact that there is an evident disparity in probability-based Risk determination not only within MANETS but generally in Networking on a whole. An evident trend in Risk and Security analysis within MANETS has also shown that most Intrusion and Anomaly detection and prevention systems undertake a reactive approach to network security events which can be attributed to the dominance of 'impact-based' studies and techniques developed to address MANET and Network security.

This paper serves as an extended and in-depth analysis, aiming to substantiate the concept of Risk Profile generation introduced in [10]. Through meticulous examination, the study identifies specific domains within Network Traffic that can be readily categorized into axioms, laying the foundational groundwork for constructing an initial Risk Profile for Mobile Ad-Hoc Networks (MANETS). The research also assesses the optimal fields suitable for establishing axioms crucial to the generation of a risk profile. This analysis is integral to complementing both the passive and active phases proposed in [10] for a comprehensive solution and/or framework.

## II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The following dataset was used in [11], [12] and [13], the work of these papers focused on developing a reference model to address the constraint of limiting user data usage in a generalized manner due to a

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Fig. 3: Brute Force Attack

*Fig. 4:* Distributed Denial of Service Attack

Fig. 5: Distributed Denial of Service Attack cont'd

*Fig. 6:* Showing an Infiltration Attack

Meta Data fields captured in this dataset was observed to be the 'Mac ID' field. As it pertains to the current direction of the proposed solution for establishing Risk Profiles, One of the most basic Axiom defined for classifying the risk level of the MANET identifies device types. The MAC Id can be observed as an iterative step towards determining device type once it has been sourced and the device determined. This therefore, leads to a much more accurate determination of devices as opposed to observing network node behaviours which are more reliant on experience and humanistic determinations. The below figures 7 and 8 show examples of Network Meta Data fields that were captured:

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Fig. 7: Showing Packet Data Captured from an Intrusion Detection System

comparison with the KDD99 dataset”, “Novel geometric area analysis technique for anomaly detection using trapezoidal area estimation on large-scale networks”, “Big data analytics for intrusion detection system: statistical decision- making using finite dirichlet mixture models.”

*Fig. 8:* Showing Packet Data Captured from an Intrusion Detection System Cont'd

- Shellcode
- Worms

In Addition to improving the resilience of IDS' the research conducted was also aimed at reducing the amount of 'false positives' generated by IDS in response to zero-day vulnerabilities and other type of Network threats. In [20]: "Statistical Decision-Making Using Finite Dirichlet Mixture Models" focus was placed on developing a scalable framework for building an effective and lightweight anomaly detection system. The framework consisted of three (3) modules:

- Capturing and Logging – Responsible for sniffing and collecting network data.
- Pre-processing – Responsible for analyzing and filtering data to improve performance of the decision engine.
- Decision Engine – Designed based on the Dirichlet mixture model with lower upper interquartile range as decision engine.

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Fig. 9: Showing features of the Dataset USNW-NB15 dataset

Fig. 10: Showing features of the Dataset USNW-NB15 dataset cont'd

Fig. 11: Showing the Packet Data Captured in the USNW-NB15 Dataset

Fig. 12: Showing the Packet Data Captured in the USNW-NB15 Dataset Cont'd

AS	AT	AU	AV	AW
1	1	2		0
3	2	2		0
3	1	1		0
3	2	2		0
1	1	2		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1	Exploits	1
2	1	1	DoS	1
1	1	1	Exploits	1
2	1	1	Exploits	1
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
2	1	1		0
1	1	2		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
2	1	1		0
1	1	2		0
1	1	1	Exploits	1
2	1	1		0

Fig. 13: Showing the Packet Data Captured in the USNW-NB15 Dataset Cont'd

The following Dataset snippets captured the various types of attack events as well as their respective number of occurrences and associated protocols/attack sub-category for the recorded period:

Attack category	Attack subcategory	Number of events
normal		2218761
Fuzzers	FTP	558
Fuzzers	HTTP	1497
Fuzzers	RIP	3550
Fuzzers	SMB	5245
Fuzzers	Syslog	1851
Fuzzers	PPTP	1583
Fuzzers	FTP	248
Fuzzers	DCERPC	164
Fuzzers	OSPF	993
Fuzzers	TFTP	193
Fuzzers	DCERPC	455
Fuzzers	OSPF	1746
Fuzzers	BGP	6163
Reconnaissance	Telnet	6
Reconnaissance	SNMP	69
Reconnaissance	SunRPC Portmapper (TCP) UDP Service	2030
Reconnaissance	SunRPC Portmapper (TCP) TCP Service	2026
Reconnaissance	SunRPC Portmapper (UDP) UDP Service	2045
Reconnaissance	NetBIOS	5
Reconnaissance	DNS	35
Reconnaissance	HTTP	1867
Reconnaissance	SunRPC Portmapper (UDP)	2028
Reconnaissance	ICMP	1739
Reconnaissance	SCTP	367
Reconnaissance	MSSQL	5
Reconnaissance	SMTP	6

Fig. 14: Showing the Attack Events of the USNW-NB15 dataset

Axiom to ascertain which fields aligned more accurately to the axiom descriptions.

After completion of substantial qualitative research and analysis. A determination of ideal fields for Risk Profiles were established based on current network traffic data. This was done to establish an idea of the accuracy of a generated Risk profile with existing datafields in MANET traffic. Additionally, proposed meta-data and nominal data fields were introduced and would be covered in the 'Discussion' section. These proposed fields would seek to establish a more accurate Risk Profile calculation.

AS	AT	AU	AV	AW
1	1	2		0
3	2	2		0
3	1	1		0
3	2	2		0
1	1	2		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1	Exploits	1
2	1	1	DoS	1
1	1	1	Exploits	1
2	1	1	Exploits	1
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
2	1	1		0
1	1	2		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
1	1	1		0
2	1	1		0
1	1	2		0
1	1	1	Exploits	1
2	1	1		0

Fig. 15: Showing the Attack Events of the USNW-NB15 dataset cont'd

Exploits	SCCP	3
Exploits	SIP	1043
Exploits	TFTP	87
Generic	All	7
Generic	SIP	436
Generic	HTTP	1
Generic	SMTP	247
Generic	IXIA	7395
Generic	TFTP	116
Generic	IXIA	207243
Generic	Superflow	10
Generic	HTTP	5
Generic	TFTP	21
Reconnaissance	DNS	6
Reconnaissance	SMTP	1
Reconnaissance	HTTP	314
Reconnaissance	SNMP	12
Reconnaissance	SunRPC Portmapper (UDP) TCP Service	349
Reconnaissance	MSSQL	1
Reconnaissance	NetBIOS	1
Reconnaissance	SCTP	2
Reconnaissance	SunRPC	2
Reconnaissance	Telnet	1
Reconnaissance	ICMP	26
Reconnaissance	SunRPC Portmapper (TCP) TCP Service	349
Reconnaissance	SunRPC Portmapper (TCP) UDP Service	349
Reconnaissance	SunRPC Portmapper (UDP) UDP Service	346
Shellcode	FreeBSD	8

Fig. 16: Showing the Attack Events of the USNW-NB15 dataset cont'd

### III. METHODOLOGY

The methodology undertaken was an iterative one which stemmed from the previously mentioned paper [3] which pro-posed an approach for identifying risk levels within MANETS. Several datasets with diverse attributes and situations such as data from:

- Network Intrusion Detection Systems
- Network Intrusion Prevention Systems
- Application layer network traffic
- MANET traffic
- Network (peer to peer, multihop, traditional) traffic
- generated Network traffic datasets from training and
- modeling data

These were subsequently sourced. This was done to gain a current perspective of the available meta-

data fields that are typically captured within network traffic. Based on the identified fields within the datasets, a comparative analysis was then conducted based on the general description of each.

#### IV. DISCUSSION

The analysis conducted on the datasets led to the determination of the common fields captured within typical network traffic as well as the additional fields that were captured based on the type of traffic being observed. Some realizations that were observed are as follows:

- Datasets varied based on the nature of the traffic being captured.
- Different levels of granularity were observed across the numerous datasets. In terms of what were the typical network traffic fields being captured versus more nominal value fields that were identified by the packet tracers/network monitors.

The results of the assessment conducted on current network data captures revealed that some of the most common network traffic fields identified were:

- Source IP
- Destination IP
- Protocol
- Port
- Length
- Info
- number

Some of the other datafields that were observed from the network data captures were:

- MAC Id
- application protocol
- web service (i.e. http, private, ecoi, https)
- category
- label(distinguishing type of attack experienced)
- service (i.e. http, private, ecoi, https)
- DNS
- attack cat
- label (binary value 0 = normal, 1 = attack records)

Based on a general description of Axioms, they form the basis for classifying risk levels within MANETS. Axiom 1 primarily pertained to the device types that are currently on a MANET, apart from observing node behaviours to gauge what type of device they may be, some helpful fields for Axiom 1 would be: 'Source IP', 'Destination IP', 'Protocol', 'MAC Id', 'application protocol', 'label', 'attack cat', 'DNS'

Axiom 2 would have generally pertained to whether a node is a repeat offender or not and thus, the data fields that would be most useful for determining Axiom2 would be: 'Source IP', 'Destination IP', 'Protocol', 'application protocol', 'label', 'attack cat', 'DNS', 'category' However, these fields consist of what currently exists in typical Network traffic or IDS traffic

data schemas. The addition of the following fields would improve the accuracy of the determined risk level of the given MANET as it would act as additional classification criteria to determine a malicious node, similar to the machine learning classification techniques used in [21] and [22]:

- Axiom 1 - a Binary value of (0= positive, 1= negative)
- Axiom 2 - a Binary value of (0= positive, 1= negative)
- Risk Score - Ranging from 1-5 (1= being very, 2= good, 3= fair, 4= warning, 5= critical)

#### V. FUTURE WORK

The prospective work outlined in this paper involves implementing the Risk Profiles methodology on datasets that align with the current spectrum of Network Traffic fields being recorded. The outcome of this implementation will unveil the present Risk Profile of a designated MANET/Network. A comparative analysis will then be conducted, juxtaposing the existing dataset schema against the proposed fields outlined in the Discussion. This comparative assessment aims to illuminate the accuracy levels in dealing with the limited data fields currently available, as opposed to the introduction of Axioms for refining the precise determination of Risk Profiles.

#### VI. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this paper's research has revealed diverse levels of granularity in the captured data fields of Network/MANET traffic. These nuances in granularity were discerned based on the origin of the network traffic, encompassing MANETs, Mobile Networks, IDS, and IPS. Although many exhibited the conventional dataset fields, noteworthy insights emerged from integrating the previously identified fields within network traffic that readily align with classifiable Axioms. Furthermore, the study established that for an accurate assessment of the current state versus a proposed configuration concerning risk level determination, the classification methods must be applied to the existing datasets. This application involves testing against new datasets that incorporate the Axioms, thereby refining the determination of risk levels specific to MANETs.

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