



European Cybersecurity Research and the SerIoT Project

Joanna Domańska, Mateusz Nowak,
Sawomir Nowak, and Tadeusz Czachórski^(✉)

IITIS Polish Academy of Science, Gliwice, Poland
tadek@iitis.pl

Abstract. This paper briefly reviews some recent research in Cybersecurity in Europe funded by the European Commission in areas such as mobile telephony, networked health systems, the Internet of Things. We then outline the objectives of the SerIoT Project which started in 2018 to address the security needs of fields such as Smart Cities, Smart Transportation Systems, Supply Chains and Industrial Informatics.

Keywords: Cybersecurity · European Commission · E-Health
Smart Cities · IoT · Network attacks · Random Neural Network
Cognitive packet routing

1 Introduction

Viewed for a long time as a peripheral issue, Cybersecurity is now at the forefront of everyday computer system and network operations, and of research in Computer Science and Engineering. Indeed cyberattacks, even when they are detected and mitigated, have a very large cost to systems operations including the degradation of the commercial image or trust of the and in 2017 the European Union published its recommendation for security and privacy. In addition, the organisations that operate systems that come under cyberattack can not only lose market share and lose the trust of the end users, but they also have to increase their operating costs both in terms of means to defend themselves but also in increased energy consumption and operating costs [31] and CO² impact [17, 60].

The SerIoT Project [14] finds its origins in early work started over a decade ago on Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attacks [25, 44] and on using routing with the Cognitive Packet Network protocol (CPN) [38] to detect DDoS, and trace the attacking traffic so as to use CPN's ACK packets to drop the attacking traffic packets at upstream routers that carry the attacking traffic, and also detect worm attacks [65, 69–71]. More recently, the EU FP7 Project NEMESYS [3, 33, 34] provided the opportunity to examine the cybersecurity of mobile networks including the control plane which is used to establish and keep track of calls. Since the control plane is a critical element that enables the mobile network to function, some attacks aim in particular at this part of the system [2, 58].

Further work on the security of cyber-physical systems has considered vulnerabilities that address the physical infrastructure, the decision algorithms that manage the system when it operates normally or under threat, and the communication system used to convey data, information and commands between different system components [1, 4, 12, 26, 28, 53].

2 European Research in Cybersecurity in Recent Years

In [20], some recent research on cybersecurity in Europe has been summarised regarding the several projects funded by the European Commission. A core issue that diffuses through all layers of information technology concerns cybersecurity for mobile telephony. Because most modern mobile phones offer opportunistic access [57] to WIFI and other wireless networks, the resulting security vulnerabilities should be constantly monitored both at the network and control plane levels, and in the mobile device. Thus recent [55] has investigated the use of neural network and machine learning methods to discuss this issue. The research in [56, 66], addresses attacks that manipulate the signalling plane of the backbone network and directly concerns the mobile network operator as well as the end user, and the project NEMESYS addressed many of these issues [67, 68] using techniques from Queuing Theory [11, 49].

KONFIDO [73] concentrates on the security of communications and data transfers for interconnected European national or regional health services. Since travellers from European countries must often access health services in another European country, the health informatics systems will have to access remote patient data in a secure manner [73] and the related technical and ethical issues are addressed in a series of recent papers [5, 8, 16].

The GHOST project [9] addresses security in the IoT system market [59] for homes, and focuses on the design of a secure home IoT gateway including the attack detection techniques [7], and the analysis of attack methods that try to bring down the energy supply of the devices by draining their batteries [35]. The detection techniques that are proposed are based on Deep Learning [54] and recurrent Random Neural Networks [22, 23] that have been used previously in a variety of applications [10, 51]. GHOST also investigates blockchain based methods to track and improve the security of the home IoT system [61].

3 The SerIoT Project

The SerIoT project started in January of 2018 [14], and further details regarding can also be found in a forthcoming paper [32]. The project's Technical Objectives include means to understand the threats to a IoT based economy and understand how distributed ledgers (Blockchain) may improve IoT based systems. It will design and implement virtualised self-aware honeypots to attract and analyse attacks.

The project will design SerCPN [13], a network that manages specific distributed IoT devices based on the Cognitive Packet Network (CPN). It will

use the implementation of Software Defined Networks (SDN) based on CPN [18, 19, 29] using measurements that create the system self-awareness [37–40, 42]. These SDNs will use “Smart” Packets (SP) to search [1, 27] for secure multi-hop routes having good quality of service (QoS) and measure their security and performance, and will use Reinforcement Learning with Random Neural Networks [21] to improve the network overall performance, including all three criteria of high security, good QoS and low energy consumption [36, 41]. It may be possible to extend these schemes with genetic algorithms which use an analogy between network paths and genotypes [24, 43, 63]. Several SerCPN network clusters may be interconnected via end overlay network [6], with adaptive connections to Cloud and Fog servers [74, 75] for network data analysis and visualisation.

Combining energy aware routing and QoS [45, 46] with security, we can also address network admission [50] to enhance security. Wireless IoT device traffic may also be specifically monitored and adaptively routed in a similar manner as it accesses SerCPN [47, 48, 64].

The project will deliver a number of platforms that comprise the main technical outputs of the project, including Platforms for (i) IoT Data Acquisition, (ii) Ad-hoc Anomaly Detection, (iii) Interactive Visual Analytics and Decision Support Tools, and (iv) Mitigation and Counteraction that will orchestrate, synchronise and implement the decisions taken by the various components.

4 SerIoT: Use Cases and Future Work of the Project

The SerIoT project’s outcomes will be evaluated in a number of significant use cases. These include four main areas. The first one is Surveillance, where physical security in bus depots will be monitored through the infrastructure of OASA which is the largest transport authority in Greece. The second one involves Intelligent Transport Systems in Smart Cities, in particular in areas such as collision avoidance, where we will demonstrate how SerIoT can enhance the cybersecurity of such systems with infrastructures provided by OASA, Austria-Tech (ATECH), and TECNALIA for vehicle safety. The third use case will involve Flexible Manufacturing Systems (Industry 4.0), which will monitor physical attacks to wireless sensor networks in Industry 4.0 with the help of DT/T-Sys., for situations related to automated warehouses where different attack vectors may be used for breaking or jamming communication lines. The fourth use case will address Food Chains which require end-to-end security through multiple communication channels, including device authentication, detection and avoidance of DDoS and replication attacks, and detection of functionality anomalies and disabling of IoT devices. In the food chain, IoT devices may be critical to notify perishability of food items that use visually readable labels by IoT devices to trigger indicators for shop managers and customers, offering “on board sensing and communications” for food. This Use Case will be supported by third parties. We take into account diverse, numerous and powerful cyber attacks.

Thus the confrontation in SerIoT of the physical world with issues of Cybersecurity, creates a rich opportunity to move forward from traditional work in this

area that focuses on cryptography and the management of cryptographic keys [15, 62, 76, 77], or the security of software [72] and physical structures [30, 52], to broad issues regarding security and system efficiency in the presence of cyberattacks to the integrated cyber and physical infrastructure.

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