



# Securing the IOT Devices with Artificial Immune System

Bhagya Shree, Suman Bhakar

**Abstract:** Security is the main concern for IOT devices as are expected to share a lot of crucial information about the user and his surroundings. The traditional security mechanisms are ineffective against sophisticated and advanced security attacks such as Man in the Middle Attack, Denial of Service attack, Identity cloning. Different solutions have been proposed for user authentication. Device authentication is crucial in IOT environment and cannot be neglected. Despite this device authentication has not gained equal attention from the research community. The aim of this research is to develop a lightweight and robust device authentication algorithm by Artificial Immune System to ensure data integrity in IoT networks. The concepts of Artificial Immune system are utilized for generating a non-redundant device signature which is used to differentiate between authentic and malicious nodes. The device signature is generated dynamically and is non reusable. This property makes the proposed algorithm secure against numerous high-level attacks such as frequency analysis attacks, Man in the Middle attack, side channel attacks, Denial of Service attack. The developed algorithm is tested in real time and prevents malicious nodes from entering the network. In addition to being immune against the high level attacks the proposed algorithm functions with low communication cost. The proposed algorithm can be used for providing security in IOT devices with limited battery life and processing power such as IOT enabled and remotely deployed Wireless Sensor Networks for forest fire detection, power plant monitoring, remote military applications and many others.

**Keywords :** Artificial Immune System, Device Authentication, Internet of Things, Security.

## I. INTRODUCTION

The realization of web4.0 is possible only because of Internet of Things(IOT). IOT is also referred as Machine to Machine communication. The aim of IOT is to create cyber-physical systems by connecting devices, industrial or domestic to network. IOT enables the devices to perform more than their capabilities and hence converts them into smart devices. The commercial capabilities of IOT has already been explored. Accenture for better performance, security and consultancy. Rolls Royce, a British manufacturing firm uses IOT based sensors in their jet engines for continuous diagnosis to prevent catastrophic

failure[1]. International Data Cooperation (IDC) published a report in 2013 stated that the number of connected devices or IOT devices are expected to reach 41 billion by 2020 with a predicted market share of \$8.9 trillion dollars [2].

IoT needs to address the security in the designed system i.e. the most important concerns. Efficient data communication demands high-level security from random cyber-attacks. Attacks such as Sybil, eavesdropping, message modification, traffic analysis and Denial of Service (DoS) etc. are harming the people and institutions by obtaining their access information as well as gain financial benefits [3]. The exponential growth of IoT attracts the cyber-attackers with more number and in complex manner. It becomes sophisticate to breach the security with new tools [4]. Classification of attacks in IOT is shown in Fig 1. Advanced security services like applied cryptography and trusted computing have not grown considerably as compared to usage of smart devices in every day applications. Economic aspects of device such as cost, market etc. along with restricted computing power are main restrictions towards achieving robust security solutions [5]. Digital assaults are recorded consistently, essentially because of the inadequately anchored applications, administrations, and gadgets [6]. Due to the above-mentioned reasons For past years the research community has remained highly interested in the concept of Internet of Things. It has received much attention from both industrial and academic organizations. Security and privacy issues are the important research targets [7]. Kumar and etal[8] proffers a novel approach for protecting data by integrating RSA algorithm and steganography technique. The paper also points high efficiency of RSA algorithm for data security. Cheng and etal[9] proposed a Bloom Filter as a Lightweight countermeasure For MitM attack is proposed.

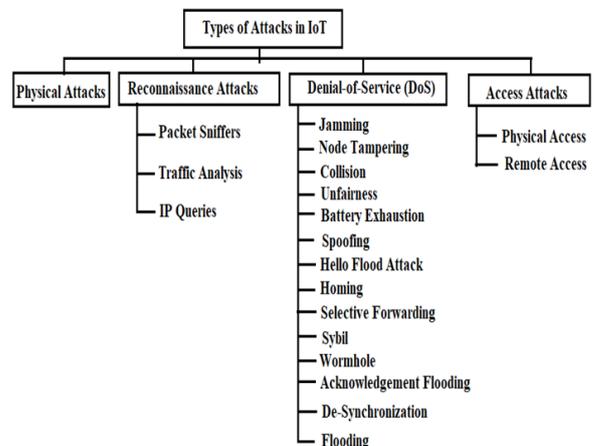


Fig 3: Classification of IOT Devices[10]

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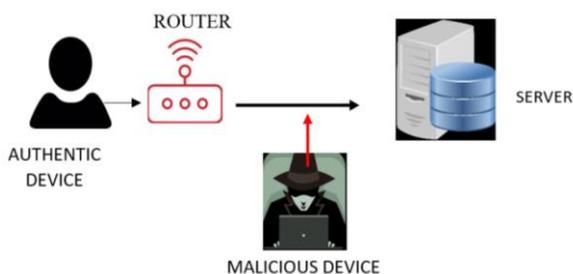
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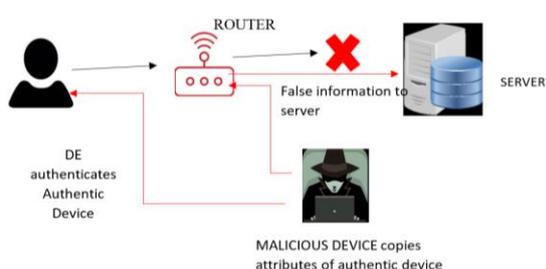
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It has been found from the literature that very few research works exists for securing device to device communication without human intervention. The aim of the research paper is to design a novel and unique algorithm as signature for data encryption/decryption for solving the Man-in-the-Middle attack and data authentication



**Fig 2: System model**



**Fig 3: Threat model**

## II. PROPOSED ALGORITHM

### A. Threat Model

The threat model consists of three entities namely authentic device, malicious device and server. The malicious device eavesdrops on communication between authentic device and server. The malicious node can also deauthorize the authentic node and connect to server by cloning its attributes as shown in fig 1.

**Table-II Analogy of proposed system with Artificial Immune System**

SNO	Immune System	Analogy in Proposed Approach
1	Pathogen	Malicious node
2	Antigen	Device Signature
3	Immunological memory	EEPROM of NodeMCU(Fog Node)
4	Antibodies	Security protocol on server
5	Device	Cells
6	Innate immune system	Primary security algorithm
7	Adaptive immune system	Secondary security algorithm

### B. Proposed Scheme

In this research an algorithm for autonomous device authentication is proposed. The proposed algorithm utilizes the computational abilities of Artificial immune system. The analogy of our proposed approach with AIS is shown in Table I. In the proposed approach malicious nodes are modelled as pathogens. Antigenic property of the pathogens is device signature. Server/Servers acts as antibody. Devices are modelled as cells. The proposed approaches utilize the self and non-self-detection paradigm of the immune system. The process starts with creation of self-nodes or self-antigen set. The self-antigen set is the collection of valid device signature at a particular instant of time for the authentic node. When server receives connection request from client, it checks for the device signature. If a valid signature code arrives within a threshold time interval, server starts listening. On the other hand, if arrived signature is invalid or the arrival time exceeds the threshold time limit, the node is treated as suspicious and artificial innate system algorithm starts working by the closing session and incrementing the counter. If counter also exceeds the threshold value artificial adaptive immune system algorithm comes into play and stores the signature of suspicious node in artificial immunological memory which is EEPROM of Node MCU. And the same is communicated to the user. The details of the proposed algorithm are mentioned below

### C. Initializing Population

In the first step initial population of authentic nodes or self-nodes. The initial population is denoted by set P. Each node ( $N_i$ ) in the population can be identified by ten unique features ( $F_{( [jN] _i )}$ ).

$$P \subseteq N_i \tag{1}$$

$$N_i \subseteq F_j \quad 1 \leq j \leq 10 \tag{2}$$

### D. Initializing Population

The self-antigen set is created by the self-nodes. The self-antigen set comprises of the command (C) and the device signature. The device signature is created by following steps:

- Step 1 : Count =1
- Step 2 : Get timestamp(TS[]) in DDMMYYYYhhmm format.
- Step 3: for i=1; i ≤ length(TS) ; i++  
S = S+TS[i]
- Step 4: do while S/10 != 0  
for i=1; i ≤ length(S) ; i++  
S = S+S[i]
- Step 5: if count <=1  
Extract the feature  $[F=F]_{_s}$
- Step 6 if count >1 && mod(count,2)=0  
Extract the feature  $F=F_{_s-1}$   
Else if count >1 && mod(count,2)=0  
Extract the feature  $[F=F]_{_s+1}$
- Step 7 : Prepare the request to be sent to server  
R=[C, F]
- Step 8 : count=count+1

It can be observed that the antigen property changes with timestamp and each session.

**E. Initializing Population**

In this session server receives connection request from the node. The server separates the command and the feature. If the feature is valid at the given time then communication is started and action is taken.

**F. Initializing Population**

However, if valid signature is not valid then the request is not processed and server waits for next command. If again valid device signature is not encountered then Adaptive immune system becomes active.

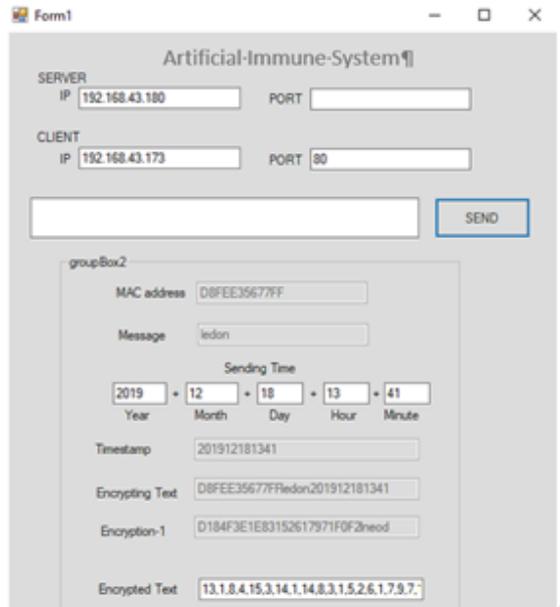
**G. Initializing Population**

The adaptive immune system blocks the device and sends the notification to the user.

**III. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

The proposed algorithm of Dynamic Device Signature is successfully deployed in real time IoT environment. Node MCU is the IoT device and PC is the fog server. User can send two commands, which are, processed they as ‘LEDOFF’ and ‘LEDON’. Fig 3 denotes the used components which are Node MCU ESP826612E and Real Time Clock (RTC) module. Fig 5 denotes the authentication of IoT device in case of receiving valid device signature.

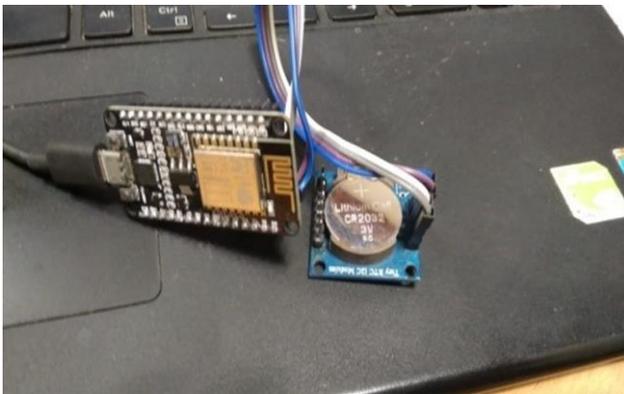
Fig 4 denotes the developed Graphical User Interface using socket programming in C#. Asynchronous programming is used in developing client and server socket for sending and receiving data. The IP address and port number of both client and server are entered in the respective textbox. The signature is extracted and sent for authentication.



**Fig 4: Node MCU ESP826612E and Real Time Clock (RTC) module**

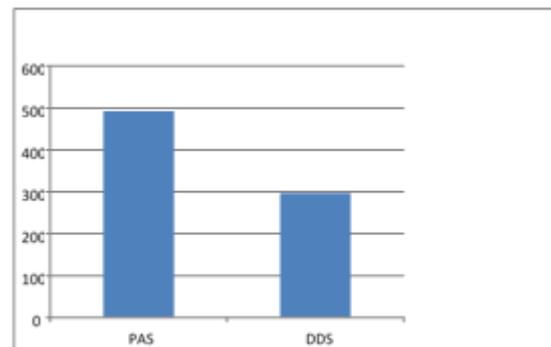


**Fig 5 Output window**



**Fig 3: Node MCU ESP826612E and Real Time Clock (RTC) module**

The performance of the system is characterized based on two factors namely communication overhead and communication cost. Communication overhead is defined as number of messages exchanged during the authentication process. Communication cost is defined as number of data bits exchanged during the authentication process. Fig 6 shows the comparison of proposed algorithm (DDS) with the PAS algorithm [11], which is based on Physically unalienable Functions for device authentication. Communication overhead and communication cost obtained in the proposed algorithm is 3 and 272-300 bits respectively, which is a significant improvement over previous research.



**Fig 6: Performance Analysis**

## IV. CONCLUSION

In this research a device authentication algorithm is developed by artificial immune system. The algorithm generates a dynamic and non-redundant device signature. The proposed algorithm functions with a communication cost of 270-300 bits and communication overhead of 3 messages. Communication cost and overhead in the proposed algorithm is much lower than previous approaches such as PAS.

## FUTURE WORK

In future the author plans to implement the developed algorithm in conjunction with machine learning to enhance artificial immunological memory. Future work can be carried on the authenticity of the system to get rid of the unknown users try to fetch the data. More functionality in the algorithm to make it reliable and user-friendly can also be added such as biometric features

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