

Node-RED platform

A node is a reactive Node.js application triggered by receiving messages on at most one input port (dubbed source) and sending the results of (side-effectful) computations on output ports (dubbed sinks), which can be potentially multiple, unlike the input port. Figure 3 illustrates the code structure of a Node-RED node. A special type of node without sources and sinks, called configuration node, is used for sharing configuration data, such as login credentials, between multiple nodes.

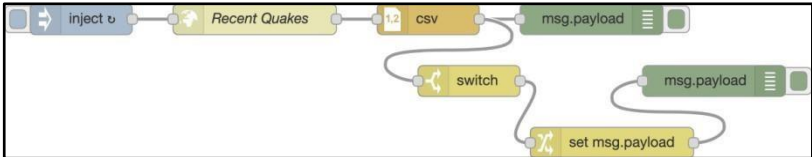
A flow is a representation of nodes connected together. End users can either create their own flows on the platform’s environment or deploy existing flows provided by the official Node-RED catalog [33] and by third parties.

```
[
    // list of nodes

    {
        // node 0

        /*
            parameters of interest in every
            node */ id: NODE0, // unique ID of
            node, string type : function // type of
            node, string wires: //
            array of array of strings
            [ NODE1 ], // first output port to node 1
            [ NODE2 , NODE3 ] // second output port to nodes 2 and 3
        ],
        ... // other parameters
    },
    ... // other nodes
]
```

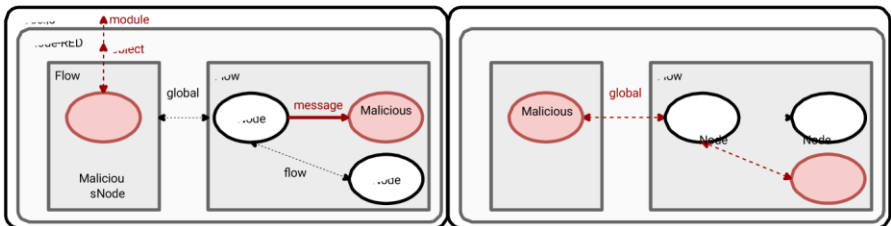
Figure 4: Node-RED flow structure.



In Node-RED, contexts provide a shared communication channel between different nodes without using the explicit messages that pass through a flow [40]. Therefore the node wiring visible in the user interface reflects only a part of the information flows that are possible in the flow. It introduces an implicit channel that is not visible to the user via the graphical interface of a flow. Node-RED defines three scope levels for the contexts

(a)

(b)



The provided policies can later be vetted by the platform and the user, before deploying the node. SandTrap [3] offers a policy generation mechanism to aid developers in designing the policies, enabling both baseline and advanced policies customized by developers or users to express fine-grained app-specific security goals.

In the following, we discuss Node-RED attacks and vulnerabilities that motivate enriching the policy mechanism with different granularity levels. These policies will further be formalized in Section 3.

Platform-level isolation vulnerabilities

All APIs provided by the underlying runtimes, Node-RED and Node.js, are accessible for node developers, as well as the incoming messages within a flow.

As shown in Figure 6a, there are various attack scenarios for malicious nodes [3]. At the Node.js level, an attacker can create a malicious Node-RED node including.

Formalization

Our runtime framework formalizes the core of the flow-based programming model of Node-RED and was the basis when developing the JavaScript monitor SandTrap [3].

This section presents a security model for Node-RED apps and characterizes the essence of a fine-grained access control monitor for the platform. We show how to formalize and enforce security policies for nodes at the level of APIs and their values, along with the access rights to the shared context. Our main formal results are the soundness and transparency of the monitor.

Language syntax and semantics

Syntax We define a core language to capture the reactive nature of nodes and flows. Nodes are reactive programs triggered by input messages to execute the code of an event handler and potentially produce an output message.

Expression evaluation is standard and records the sequence of events produced during the evaluation, where M_k denotes the memory M in c, M, I, O_k . Command evaluation models the execution of a node's handler. The handler executes whenever there is a message in the input channel I by consuming the message and updating the memory accordingly. Assignments operate in a similar manner and record the trace of events produced by variable reads and writes. An assignment updates the memory M_k to M_k' .

Security condition and enforcement

We leverage our trace-based semantics to define a semanticsbased security con- dition. The condition is parametric on node-level security policies, represented as allowlists of API calls and accesses to the shared context. Then, we present the semantics of a fine-grained node-level monitor and prove its soundness and transparency with respect to the security condition.

Related work

We discuss the most closely related work on Node-RED security and modeling, monitor implementation, and securing trigger-action platforms in general. We refer the reader to surveys on the security of IoT app platforms [7,13] for further details.

Node-RED security and modeling Ancona et al. [5] investigate runtime monitoring of parametric trace expressions to check the correct usage of API functions in Node-RED. Trace expressions allow for rich policies, including tem- poral patterns over sequences of API calls. By contrast, our monitor supports both coarse and fine access control granularity of modules, functions, and con- texts. Schreckling et al.

Conclusion

We have investigated the security of Node-RED, an opensource JavaScript- driven trigger-action platform. We have expanded on the recently-discovered critical exploitable vulnerabilities in Node-RED, where the impact ranges from massive exfiltration of data from unsuspecting users to taking over the entire platform. Motivated by the need for a security mechanism for Node-RED, we have proposed an essential model for Node-RED, suitable to reason about nodes and flows, be they benign, vulnerable, or malicious. We have formalized a principled framework to enforce fine-grained API control for untrusted Node-RED applications. Our formalization for a core language shows how to soundly and transparently enforce global security properties of Node-RED applications by local access checks, supporting module-, API, value-, and context-level policies.

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Module 10: MOBILE APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

Platform

The software development packages needed to develop, deploy, and manage [mobile apps](#) are made from many components and tools which allow a developer to write, test, and deploy applications for one or more target platforms.

Front-end development tools

Front-end development tools are focused on the user interface and user experience (UI-UX) and provide the following abilities:

- UI design tools
 - SDKs to access device features
 - Cross-platform accommodations/support
- Notable tools are listed below.

First-Party

First party tools include official [SDKs](#) published by, or on behalf of, the company responsible for the design of a particular hardware platform (e.g. Apple, Google, etc) as well as any thirdparty software that is officially supported for the purpose of developing mobile apps for that hardware.

Platform	Programming language	Debuggers available
Android	Java but portions of code can be in C , C++ , Kotlin	Debugger integrated in Eclipse, standalone debugging monitor available
BlackBerry	Java	Debugger integrated in IDE
iOS SDK	Objective-C , Swift	Debugger integrated in Xcode IDE
iOS SDK	Object Pascal	Debugger integrated in Xcode IDE

Third Party

Platform	Programming language
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Accelerator	HTML5 , C#
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MobileTogether	XPath/XQuery , Action Trees visual programming language
App Inventor for Android	Visual blocks-based programming language, with Interface designer
Appcelerator	JavaScript
Basic4android	Visual Basic similar syntax
Codename One	Java
Solar2D	Lua
DragonRAD	Visual drag & drop tiles
GeneXus for Mobile and Smart Devices	Knowledge representation and declarative programming -modeling for easy development, then code is automatically generated for each platform
IBM MobileFirst Studio	HTML5 , CSS3 , JavaScript , and native SDK languages w/ Native Worklight API
Lazarus	Object Pascal

Security add-on layers

With [bring your own device](#) (BYOD) becoming the norm within more enterprises, IT departments often need stop-gap, tactical solutions that layer atop existing apps, phones, and platform component. Features include

- App wrapping for security
- Data encryption
- Client actions • Reporting and statistics

System software

Many system-level components are needed to have a functioning platform for developing mobile apps.

Platform	Programming language
Adobe AIR	ActionScript , HTML , CSS , JavaScript
BREW	C ; the APIs are provided in C with a C++ style interface
Firefox OS	HTML5 , CSS , JavaScript
.NET Compact Framework	C# , VB.NET , Basic4ppc
OpenFL	Haxe (similar to Actionsript and Java)
Palm OS	C , C++ , Pascal
Python	Python
Symbian	C++
Tizen	Web-based: HTML5 , CSS , JavaScript N ative: C , C++
Ubuntu Touch	Web-based: HTML5 , CSS , JavaScript N ative: QML , C , C++

webOS	JavaScript , CSS , HTML , C and C++ through the PDK
Platform	Programming language
Windows Mobile	C , C++
Windows Phone	C# , Visual Basic , C , C++

Criteria for selecting a development platform usually contains the target mobile platforms, existing infrastructure and development skills. When targeting more than one platform with cross-platform development it is also important to consider the impact of the tool on the [user experience](#). Performance is another important criteria, as research on mobile apps indicates a strong correlation between application performance and user satisfaction.

Mobile app testing

Mobile applications are first tested within the development environment using emulators and later subjected to [field testing](#). [Emulators](#) provide an inexpensive way to test applications on mobile phones to which developers may not have physical access. The following are examples of tools used for testing application across the most popular [mobile operating systems](#).

- Google Android Emulator - an [Android](#) emulator that is patched to run on a Windows PC as a standalone app, without having to download and install the complete and complex [Android SDK](#). It can be installed and Android compatible apps can be tested on it.
- The official Android SDK Emulator - a mobile device emulator which mimics all of the hardware and [software](#) features of a typical mobile device (without the calls).
- TestiPhone - a [web browser](#)-based [simulator](#) for quickly testing [iPhone web applications](#). This tool has been tested and works using [Internet Explorer 7](#), [Firefox 2](#) and [Safari 3](#).
- iPhoneY - gives a [pixel](#)-accurate web browsing environment and it is powered by [Safari](#). It can be used while developing [web sites](#) for the [iPhone](#). It is not an iPhone simulator but instead is designed for web developers who want to create 320 by 480 (or 480 by 320) websites for use with iPhone. iPhoneY will only run on [OS X](#) 10.4.7 or later.
- BlackBerry Simulator - There are a variety of official BlackBerry simulators available to emulate the functionality of actual BlackBerry products and test how the device software, screen, keyboard and [trackwheel](#) will work with application.
- Windows UI Automation - To test applications that use the Microsoft UI Automation technology, it requires Windows Automation API 3.0. It is pre-installed on Windows 7, Windows Server 2008 R2 and later versions of Windows.
- MobiOne Developer - a [mobile Web integrated development environment](#) (IDE) for [Windows](#) that helps developers to code, test, debug, package and deploy mobile [Web applications](#) to devices such as [iPhone](#), [BlackBerry](#), [Android](#), and the [Palm Pre](#). MobiOne Developer was officially declared End of Life by the end of 2014.^[8]
- [eggPlant](#): A GUI-based automated test tool for mobile app across all operating systems and devices.
- [Ranorex](#): Test automation tools for mobile, web and desktop apps.

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