

# SECURE DATA PROVENANCE FOR IOT DEVICES

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# SECURE DATA PROVENANCE FOR IOT DEVICES

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# Abstract

The concept of Internet of Things (IoT) offers immense benefits by enabling devices to leverage networked resources thereby making more intelligent decisions. The numerous heterogeneous connected devices that exist throughout the IoT system creates new security and privacy concerns. The numerous heterogeneous connected devices that exist throughout the IoT system creates new security and privacy paradigm which encompasses various security issues from different areas of research . Some of these concerns can be overcome through data trust, transparency, and integrity, which can be achieved with data provenance. Data provenance also known as data lineage provides a history of transactions that occurs on a data object from the time it was created to its current state. Data Provenance has been explored in the areas of scientific computing and business to track the workflow processes, also in field of computer security for forensic analysis and intrusion detection. Data provenance has immense benefits that provenance offers in detecting and mitigating current and future malicious attacks.

This dissertation, we explore provenance with a focus on IoT devices. This dissertation takes an in depth look in the creation, security and applications of provenance data to mitigating malicious attacks. We define our model constructs for representing IoT provenance data. We create a secure provenance aware system for IoT devices. This system ensures trust and helps establish causality for decisions and actions taken by an IoT connected system. As a result of the amount of data that is generated from our data provenance system, there arises an issue of running out of memory. To address this issue, we propose a novel data pruning technique that provides optimal storage of provenance data contained in the IoT device. We conclude by looking at the applications of provenance for security of malicious attacks by focusing on intrusion detection of malicious threats. We propose an intrusion detection system for IoT devices. The provenance generated from the IoT devices can provide valuable insights that could be used to detect and record abnormal patterns

that might exist in a causal relationship between entities contained in the provenance chain.

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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

The oxford English dictionary defines provenance as the place of origin or earliest known history of something. An example of provenance can be seen with a college transcript. A transcript can be defined as the provenance of a college degree because it outlines all of the courses satisfied in order to attain the degree.

In the field of computing, Data provenance also known as data lineage can be defined as the history of all transformations performed on a data object from the its creation to its current state. Data Provenance has been explored in the areas of scientific computing and buisness to track the workflow processes,also in field of computer security for forensic analysis and intrusion detection.An example of provenance for software systems is a web server's log file. This file contains metadata for various request and response time and ip addresses of all host systems that tries to request information from the server. Provenance denotes the who, where and why of data.Provenance data is represented as an acyclic graph which denotes casual relationship and dependencies between entities.Provenance ensures trust and integrity of data. The information in which provenance offers can be used in digital forensics to investigate the cause of a malicious attack and also in intrusion detection system to further enhance the security of computing devices. Most IoT devices are memory constrained devices TODO: Expand more on statement..

TODO: Create transition from Data provenance to IoT...

The internet of things(IoT) can be defined as a network of heterogeneous devices communicating together. With the recent data explosion,information is disseminated at every communication level that exists. From mobile devices to desktop computers and servers.Making IoT systems provenance aware is of the essence because it ensures trust and integrity of

systems. Enabling IoT device provenance aware allows devices to be able to capture information such as the who, where and how transformations occur on a data object enabling us to be able to trace back in the vent of a malicious attack.

## 1.1 Motivation

According to a report released by Cisco, it is estimated that a total of 50 million devices will be connected to the internet by the year 2020. With the vast amounts of heterogeneous devices connected, security and privacy risks are increased. Rapid7, an IT security and analytics organization, discovered that vulnerabilities exist in baby monitors that allowed attackers unauthorized remote access to these devices whereby an attacker can remotely view live video feeds. Having a provenance aware system will be beneficial in this situation since we have a record of input and output operations performed on the device, we can be able to look back on operations performed on the device to determine who, where, and how a malicious activity occurred. Devices (things) connected in an IoT network are embedded systems, which require lightweight and efficient solutions compared with general purpose systems. This requirement is attributed to the constrained memory and computing of such devices. A major issue arises in ensuring that data is properly secured and disseminated across the IoT network. The vast amount of data generated from IoT devices requires stronger levels of trust which can be achieved through data provenance. Provenance has immense benefits in the IoT. Data provenance ensures authenticity, integrity and transparency between information disseminated across an IoT network. Security applications such as intrusion detection, digital forensics, and access control can be further enhanced by incorporating data provenance in IoT devices. The goal of data provenance is to determine causality and effect of actions or operations performed on a data object. Provenance ensures transparency between things connected in IoT systems. By creating data transparency, we can trace information to determine where, if and when a malicious attack occurs. To achieve transparency, we propose a secure provenance aware system that

provides a detailed record of all data transactions performed on devices connected in an IoT network and also investigate its applications of provenance data in providing intrusion detection to IoT devices. Data is generated in at a fast rate in real-time by sensors and actuators. The provenance of this data tends to be larger than the data itself.

## 1.2 Provenance-Aware IoT Device Use Case

Consider a smart home which contains interconnected devices such as a thermostat connected which automatically sets the temperature of a room based on previous information of your desired temperature settings, a smart lock system that can be controlled remotely, a home camera monitoring system, A smart fridge which allerts you when you are out of milk. A malicious intruder tries to gain access to the connected devices remotely. Provenance can be used to track the series of events to determine where and how the malicious attack originated. It can also be used as a safeguard to alert of a possible remote or insider hijack thereby protecting us from future or current malicious attacks.

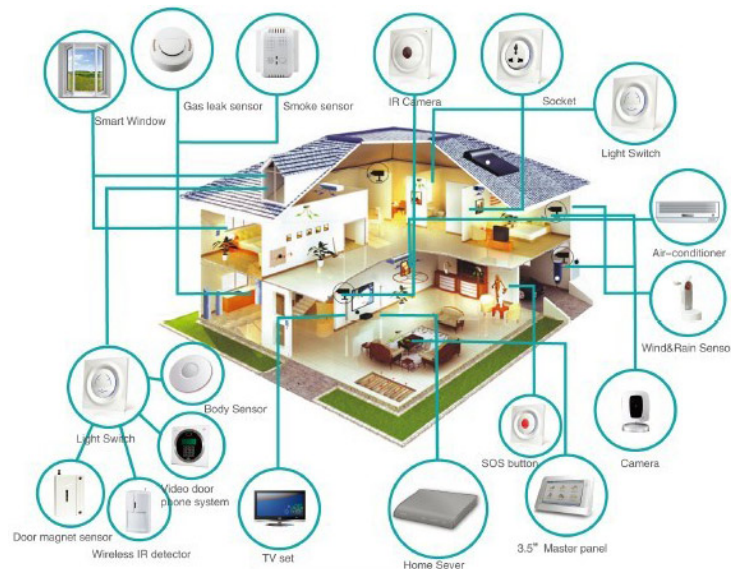


Figure 1.1: Place holder for use case Diagram

## 1.3 Research Questions

collecting provenance data in IoT devices raises some key research issues. Some of these issues raised are outlined below:

- **Memory constraints on IoT Devices:** The vast amounts of data generated leads high storage space utilization . Proper memory management/data pruning techniques have to be employed for efficient storage of data on the memory constrained devices.
- **How do we model provenance data for IoT devices?** Do we use the OPM approach or create a taxonomy for modeling provenance data.
- **Provenance Query:** How do we query provenance data in order to interpret provenance information and make analysis of data collected.
- **Provenance Versioning:** Provenance version creates cycles. When a file is read or edited do we create a new instance of the file? Tracking all transformations that occurs on a data object in memory constrained devices might lead to running out of storage space. A new instance of the provenance of that file should be created and included in the provenance data.
- **Securing Provenance:** Due to the great level of sensitivity that provenance data contains, we need to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of provenance data stored on IoT devices while at rest or in transit. Proper encryption and authentication techniques need to be employed to ensure confidentiality, integrity, and availability of provenance data.

## 1.4 Research Contribution

In this dissertation, we propose the following key contributions:

- A provenance collection framework which denotes causality and dependencies between entities contained in an IoT system. This system creates the groundwork for capturing and storing provenance data on IoT devices.
- A novel framework for Data storage on embedded systems. This addresses the storage issues of the memory constrained IoT devices.
- A framework for providing intrusion detection using provenance data in an IoT system.

## 1.5 Organization of Dissertation proposal

The remaining portion of the dissertation proposal is organized as follows. Chapter 2 talks about background information on data provenance, some of the techniques of collecting system level provenance, Data pruning techniques and also applications of data provenance with provenance based intrusion detection system. chapter 3 discusses our proposed provenance collection system and focuses specifically on preliminary work done in creating a provenance aware system. Chapter 4 concludes the proposal and discusses the proposed framework and projected timeline for completion.

# Chapter 2

## Background and Related Work

This section outlines some of the state of the art in the area of data provenance for file systems, data compression techniques for data provenance, and intrusion detection using data provenance.

### 2.1 Overview of Provenance Aware systems

There has been a considerable amount of work done on collecting provenance data. Some of which has been focused on databases, sensor networks and system level provenance but so far little attention has been given to provenance in IoT devices. Some the previous work done on data provenance collection are outlined below:

#### 2.1.1 Provenance Aware Storage System(PASS)

MuniswamyReddy et al developed a provenance aware system that tracks provenance of the linux file system. There are two versions PASS v1 and PASS v2. v1 allows... while version 2...Provenance information is stored in the same location as the file system for easy accessibility, backup, restoration, and data management. Provenance information is collected and stored in the kernel space. The system also provides provenance query capabilities and cycle detection. PASS systems recognizes data pruning for efficient storage, which is in line with our research goal but data pruning was not fully explored in PASS.

The collector keeps track of system level provenance. It intercepts system calls which are translated into provenance data and initially stored in memory. This provenance data is then stored in a file system in an kernel database, BerkleyDB. This database maps key

value pairs for provenance data for fast index look up. It also provides functionalities for querying provenance data in the database. The query tool is built on top of Berkley DB. For querying, users can process queries using the provenance explorer. Query is done using commands such as MAKEFILE GENERATION which creates the sequence of events that led to the final state of a file or process. DUMP ALL, gets the provenance of the requested file. PASS detects and eliminates cycles that might occur in provenance dependencies as a result of version avoidance. cycles violates the dependency relationships between entities. For example, a child node could depend on a parent node and also be an ancestor of a parent node. It achieves this by merging processes that might have led to the cycles. PASS provides the query of provenance data contained in the berkley database.

PASS stores a reference to the executable that created the provenance data, input files, A description of hardware in which provenance data is produced, OS information, process environment, process parameters, and other/ data such as random number generator seed.

### **2.1.2 HiFi**

Bates et al. [2] developed system level provenance information for the Linux kernel using a Linux Provenance Modules, which tracks whole system provenance including interprocess communication, networking, and kernel activities. This is achieved by mediating access to kernel objects. Linuex Security Model is a framework that was designed for providing custom access control into the Linux kernel. It consists of a set of hooks which is executed before access decision is made.

HiFi contains three components, provenance collector, provenance log and provenance handler. collector and log are in the kernel space while the handler is in the user space. The log is a storage medium which transmits the provenance data to the user space. The collector contains the LSM which resides the kernel space. The collector records provenance data and writes it to the provenance log. The handler intercepts the provenance record from the log processes the data and stores it to the provenance record. LSM was designed to avoid problem created by direct system call interception. The provenance information from the



kernel space is securely transmitted to the provenance recorder in the user space. This approach to collecting provenance data differs from our work since we focus on embedded systems and are concerned with input and output (I/O) data, which primarily involve sensor and actuator readings.

### **2.1.3 RecProv**

creates a provenance system which records user level provenance thereby avoiding the overhead incurred by kernel level provenance recording. It uses mozilla rr to perform deterministic record and replay by capturing system calls and non deterministic input. It also ensure the integrity of provenance data up till the point that the host is compromised by trace isolation. Mozilla rr relies on ptrace which intercepts system call during context switch. Mozilla rr is a debugging tool for linux browser. It is developed for the deterministic recording and replaying of firefox browser in linux. System calls such as execve, clone, fork, open, read, write, clode, dup, mmap, socket, connect, accept are recorded. the provenance information generated in converted into PROV-JSON a W3C standard for relaying provenacne information and also stores provenance data in Neo4j a graph database for visualization of provenance graphs. It does not require changes to the kernel like most provenance monitoring systems (include citations of other provenance monitoring systems that require kernel modification). it generates 20 percent overhead which is acceptable according to the authors.

Recprov uses PTRACE\_PEEKDATA from PTRACE to access the derefrenced address of the traced process from the registers.

### **2.1.4 StoryBook**

Spillance et al developed a user space provenance collection system, Storybook [14] that allows the collection of provenance data from the user space thereby reducing performance oververhead from kernel space provenance collection. This system is modular. It allows

the use of application specific extensions allowing additions such as database provenance, system provenance, and web and email servers. It achieves provenance capture by using FUSE for system level provenance and MYSQL for database level provenance capture. Story Book allows developers to implement provenance inspectors. these are custom provenance models which captures the provenance of applications which are often modified by different application(e.g web servers, databases). When an operation is performed on a data object, the appropriate provenance model is triggered and provenance data for that data object is captured. Storybook stores provenance information such as open, close, read or write, application specific provenance, causality relationship between entities contained in the provenance system(?). Provenance is stored in key value pairs and It uses Fable as the storage backend. Storybook allows for provenance query. It achieves this by looking up inode in the file, ino hashtable.

### **2.1.5 Trustworthy whole system provenance for Linux kernel**

Bates et al provide security for provenance collected in the linux kernel. They achieve this by creating a Linux Provenance Model. This model serves as the security layer that provides security. It is involved in the attestation disclosure of the application layer, authentication channel for the network layer. The goal of the LPM is to provide the end to end system provenance of data stored in the provenance-aware system. The system must be stable and be able to detect and avoid malicious forgery of provenance data. The system must be trusted in which users can verify the authenticity of the data that originates from the system.

The LPM tracks system level provenance which is transmitted to the Provenance module via the relay buffer collected. Provenance module registers This module contains hooks which record system call events. These events are sent to a provenance recorder in a user space. The provenance recorder ensures that the provenance data is stored in the appropriate backend of choice. LPM is a parallel framework to the Linux Security Model(LSM). Provenance recorders offer storage for Gzip, PostgreSQL, Neo4j and SNAP.

## **2.1.6 Towards Automated Collection of Application-Level Data Provenance**

## **2.1.7 user space provenance with Sandboxing**

## **2.1.8 Provenance for Sensors**

Lim et al. [3] developed a model for calculating the trust of nodes contained in a sensor network by using data provenance and data similarity as deciding factors to calculate trust. The value of provenance signifies that the more similar a data value is, the higher the trust score. Also, the more the provenance of similar values differ, the higher their trust score. This work differs from our approach since the authors focus on creating a trust score of nodes connected in a sensor network using data provenance and do not emphasize how the provenance data is collected. We are focused on creating a secure provenance aware system for I/O operations which is used to ensure trust of connected devices.

## **2.2 Model for representing provenance for IoT**

In order to generate provenance, we have to satisfy the who, where, how, and what of data transformations. provenance data is represented using a provenance model which is serialized as JSON output. This model contains information such as sensor readings, device name,, device information, provenance information. This information will be converted into provenance data model and in order to allow for interoperability and visualization.

### **2.2.1 Open Provenance Model(OPM)**

Open provenance model was a specification derived as a result of a meeting at the International Provenance and Annotation Workshop (IPAW) workshop in may 2006. OPM

was created to address the need of allowing a unified way of representing provenance data among various applications. It allows for interchangeability between various provenance models that might exist. The goal of OPM is to develop a digital representation of provenance for entities regardless of whether it is produced by a computer system. An example of such is depicted in Figure 7. This OPM graphs represents a process of driving a car. It is represented as a directed acyclic graph which denotes causal dependencies between entities. The edges in the graph denotes dependencies with its source denoting effect and its destination denoting cause. The edges and their relationships are denoted below:

When muliple process has been used by an artifact, roles(denopted by R) should be defined.

- wasGeneratedBy: Shows relationship in which an entity(e,g artifact) is utilized by one or more entities(e.g process). An entity can use multiple enities so it is important to define the role of the
- wasControlledBy: This showsa the relationship in which an entity caused the creation of another entity.
- used(Role): denotes an enity requires the services of another enity in order to execute.
- wasTriggeredBy: This represents a process that was triggered by another process
- wasDerivedFrom:

There are three entities contained in the OPM model: artifact, process, agent.

- artifact: This represents the state of an entity. An artifact is graphically represented by a circle.
- Process: This denotes an event which is taking place. A process is represented by a square object.

- Agent: These are actors that facilitate the execution of a process. An agent is represented by a hexagon.

OPM denotes all previous and current actions that have been performed on an entity and the relationship between each entities contained in the graph. Figure 2 represents an example of an OPM acyclic graph with all of its causal dependencies. The goal of OPM is to be able to model the state of how things both digital or physical are at a given state.

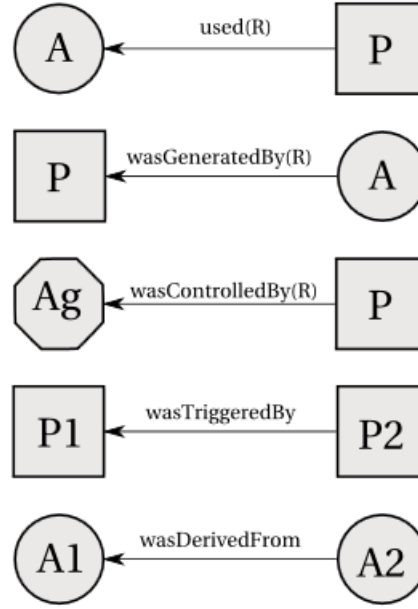


Figure 2.1: Edges and entities in OPM

### 2.2.2 Provenance Data Model(ProvDM)

PROVDM is a W3C standardized extension of OPM. ProvDM is a model that is used for depict causal relationship between entities, activities and , and agents(digital or physical). It creates a common model that allows for interchange of provenance information between heterogeneous devices. It contains two major components: types and relations. Figure

below shows an example of a causal relationship between an entity, agent, and activity in a PROVDM

- entity: An entity is a physical or digital object. An example of an entity is a file system, a process, or an motor vehicle.
- Activity: An activity represents some form of action that occurs over a time frame.Actions are acted upon by an entity. an example of an activity is a process opening a file directory, Accessing a remote server.
- Agent: An agent is a thing that takes ownership of an entity, or performs an activity. An example of an agent is a person, a software product, a process.

PROV-DM relations represents causal dependencies which denotes relationship between the core types(entity, activity, agent).The names of relations make use of past tense to denote past occurrence of provenance information. provenance does not keep track/estimate of future events. PROV relations are outlined below:

- wasGeneratedBy: This relation signifies the creation of an entity by an activity.
- used: This relation denotes that the functionalities of an entity has been adopted by an activity.
- wasInformedBy: This relation denotes an causality that follows the exchange of two activities.
- wasDerievedFrom This relation represents a copy of information from an entity.
- wasAttributedTo: This denotes relational dependency to an agent. It is used to denote relationship between entity and agent when the activity that created the agent is unknown.

- **wasAssociatedWith:** This relation denotes a direct association to an agent for an activity that occurs. This indicates that an agent plays a role in the creation or modification of the activity.
- **ActedOnBehalfOf:** This denotes assigning authority to perform a particular responsibility to an agent. This could be by itself or to another agent.

ProvDM contains similar yet subtle differences between OPM. Some of the difference between OPM and PROVDM are outlined below:

- the main components Artifact, process and agent in the OPM model are changed to Entity, Action, and agent.
- additional causal dependencies such as **wasAttributedTo** and **actedOnBehalfOf** are included to represent direct and indirect causal dependencies respectively between agents and entity.

Entities, activities and agent are represented by oval, rectangle and hexagonal shape respectively. Since PROVDM is built on OPM and contains easy to understand constructs of entities, we choose to use this instead of OPM.

### 2.2.3 PROV-JSON

PROVJSON is a W3C standard for representing PROVDM in json format. It contains all of the components and relationships contained in PROVDM. It ensures interoperability between applications using PROVDM. It also allows for easy serialization and deserialization of PROVDM mappings. JSON format is lightweight, easy to parse, and allows a standardized way of manipulating data programmatically. An example of PROVJSON format is described below. An example of PROVJSON is shown below:

```

{
  "entity": {
    "e1": {
      "ex:cityName": {
        "$": "Londres",
        "lang": "fr"
      }
      ...
    }
  },
  "agent": {
    "e1": {
      "ex:employee": "1234",
      "ex:name": "Alice",
      "prov:type": {
        "$": "prov:Person",
        "type": "xsd:QName"
      }
    }
    ...
  },
  "activity": {
    "a1": {
      "prov:startTime": "2011-11-16T16:05:00",
      "prov:endTime": "2011-11-16T16:06:00",
      "ex:host": "server.example.org",
      "prov:type": {
        "$": "ex:edit",
        "type": "xsd:QName"
      }
    }
  }
}

```

Figure 2.2: PROV-JSON MODEL

## 2.3 Overview of Data pruning techniques

### 2.3.1 Graph Compression

### 2.3.2 Dictionary Encoding

### 2.3.3 Arithmetic Encoding

## 2.4 Intrusion Detection for IoT



# Chapter 3

## Proposed Model

In this chapter we define all of the components of our proposed model. From the provenance-aware system which deals with the collection, storage and querying of provenance data from IoT devices to the IDS system which deals with detecting malicious attacks on IoT Devices.

### 3.1 ProvenanceCollection Model

TODO: Talks about how we use PROVDM and what kinds of provenance we are looking to store

### 3.2 Provenance-Collection System

In this section, we outline the components of our system and describe how provenance information is collected across the IoT system. Figure 1 displays the system architecture of our approach. Sensor and actuator readings in the form of I/O are recorded by the tracer component. This component intercepts system level I/O and produces trace information in the Common Trace Format (CTF). CTF represents binary trace information containing multiple streams of binary events such as I/O activity. Trace information is converted into the Open Provenance Model (OPM), which represents the relationship between provenance entities contained in the system. Our system relies heavily on data pruning to reduce and remove unimportant provenance in order to conserve memory. The key research challenge is in creating an efficient data pruning technique that ranks I/O operations based on importance. Pruned provenance information is later securely transmitted and stored in a private

cloud backend.

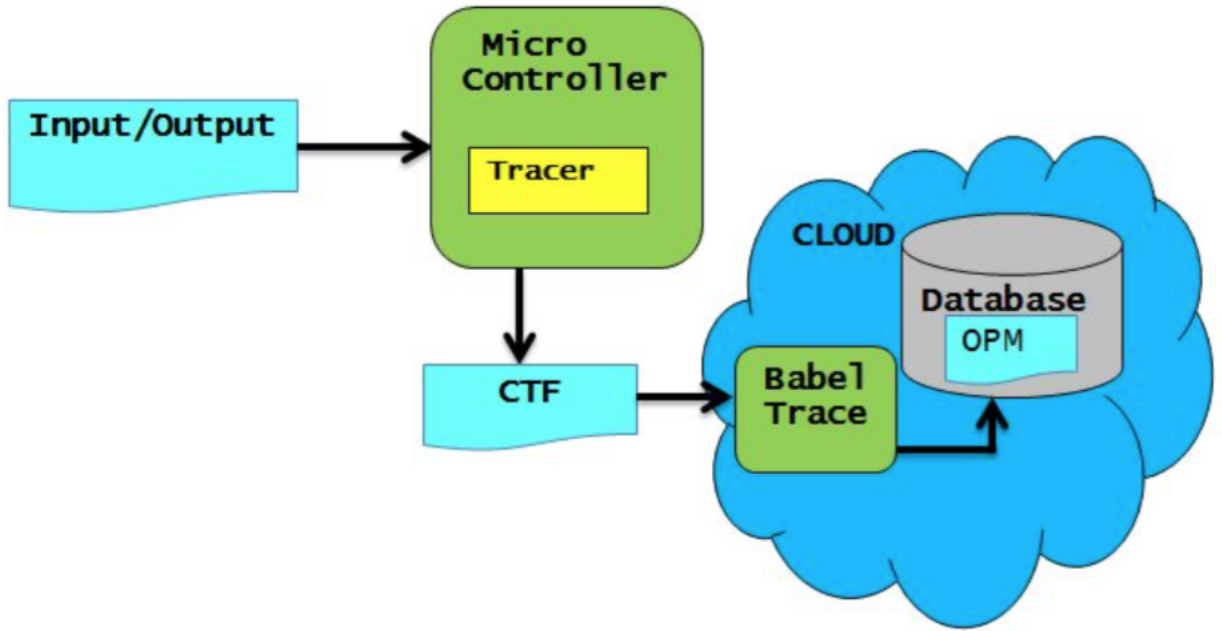


Figure 3.1: Proposed Model

The goal of our research is to create a provenance aware system that records I/O operations on data for devices connected in an IoT system. For our implementation, several tools and hardware components are utilized in the development of our prototype, some of the tools utilized are outlined below:

- Xilinx Zynq ZedBoard and TI TM4C129E. These devices are microcontrollers used to evaluate our approach. We choose the Xilinx Zynq ZedBoard because it is a representation of what can be found on an IoT gateway device and it has the capability to include custom hardware in programmable logic. Also, TM4C is a lowcost, simple IoT demonstrator that was chosen for its highperformance, onboard emulation, and IoT gateway projects can be programmed without additional need for hardware tools.

- Real Time Executive for Multiprocessor Systems (RTEMS) is an open source realtime operating system (RTOS) for embedded systems. This operating system is a typical RTOS that may be deployed in IoT devices.

### **3.3 PAIST: Provenance Aware IDS System for IoT**

This section outlines the core functionalities of our model PAIST.

# Chapter 4

## Concluding Remarks

### 4.1 Significance of the Result

In this research, we present a provenance aware system that collects provenance information for IoT devices. This information can be beneficial in correcting and mitigating current and future attacks. We plan to continue refining our prototype, construct a model to guide data pruning, and create a taxonomy for secure data provenance in IoT systems that can inform our model.

endeavor.

### 4.2 Future Work

The problem now shifts to identifying new subclasses of the class of all narrow-interval linear equation systems for which the problem of solving them is possible with the development of new algorithms. Also, if the general problem (or any problem in the class NP) shows up often enough in industry, science, research, etc., work on improving existing and/or creating new approximation methods (including heuristic and/or statistical methods, where applicable) is certainly warranted. Since we cannot compute the exact bounds for the general case, good approximation methodologies are the most we can hope for or expect.

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# Curriculum Vitae

Patrick Thor Kahl was born on July 12, 1961. The first son of Ulf Thor Gustav Kahl and Carolyn Kahl, he graduated from Coronado High School, El Paso, Texas, in the spring of 1979. He entered Auburn University in the fall of 1979, and, in the spring of 1982, The University of Texas at El Paso. In 1985 he joined the United States Navy where he served for eight years, most of it aboard the submarine USS Narwhal (SSN671). In the fall of 1993, after being honorably discharged from the navy, Patrick resumed his studies at The University of Texas at El Paso. While pursuing his bachelor's degree in Computer Science he worked as a Teaching Assistant, and as a programmer at the National Solar Observatory at Sunspot, New Mexico. He received his bachelor's degree in Computer Science in the summer of 1994.

In the fall of 1994, he entered the Graduate School of The University of Texas at El Paso. While pursuing a master's degree in Computer Science he worked as a Teaching and Research Assistant, and as the Laboratory Instructor for the 1995 Real-Time Programming Seminar at the University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. He was a member of the Knowledge Representation Group and the Rio Grande Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery.

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