

The Sybil Attack - Theory and Practice

October 31, 2016

Abstract

1 Introduction

Electronic commerce and online social networks are common phenomenons at the present time. They allow us to orchestrate many aspects of our lives in the comfort of our homes, behind the monitors of our devices. An online identity is often required to use such services, for examples we must create an account to Tweet¹ our friend, who must also have an account. In this scenario, users can choose to remain pseudonymous if they are careful, where their real-life identity is uncorrelated with their online identity.

While creating pseudonyms is useful for protecting users' privacy, it also opens an alleyway for attackers. The Sybil attack, first described by Douceur[17], is an attack where an entity can assume multiple identities or Sybils, and then attack either another entity or undermine the whole system. For example, a malicious Twitter user can create many fake identities and have the fake identities follow his real identity, thus creating a false reputation. It is one of the most important attacks because it leads to a large number of consequences including but not limited to spreading false information, identity theft[7] and ballot stuffing[6]. Furthermore, to the best of our knowledge, there is no general solution for preventing the Sybil attack.

In this work, we survey various aspects of the Sybil attack. But in contrast with previous surveys, we include both the theoretical and practical aspects. First, we describe the Sybil attack in more detail and and illustrate

¹A message sent using Twitter is a Tweet.

its importance by looking at how researchers and black-hat hackers mounted the attack on real-world e-commerce and online social network systems in section 2. Since there is a large variety of Sybil attack defence mechanisms, from using trusted-third-party to exploiting the graph characteristics in on-line social networks, thus we classify these mechanisms by their “main idea” in section 3. Finally we present the related work and conclude in section 4 and section 5.

2 The Sybil Attack

The Sybil attack is coined by Douceur[17] in 2002 in the context of peer-to-peer systems. In this section, we first introduce the Sybil attack using Douceur’s original definition and outline the key (discouraging) theoretical results. Next, we review practical attacks in three types of systems (1) MANET (mobile ad-hoc networks) such as sensor networks, (2) reputation systems such as PageRank[46] but also include e-commerce systems such as eBay and (3) OSN (online social networks) such as Twitter and Facebook. We hope our review illuminates the alarming consequences of the Sybil attack.

2.1 Theoretical Results

Douceur defined the Sybil attack as forging multiple identities under the same entity[17]. An entity can be for example a physical user of the system and identities are how entities present themselves to the system. Thus a local entity has no direct knowledge of remote entities, only their identities. The forged identities do not necessarily follow the protocol specified by the underlying network, they may deviate arbitrarily from the protocol, i.e. they assume the characteristics of Byzantine fault[35]. We use these terms in the remainder of the survey.

The author modelled the system as a general distributed computing environment where there is no constraint on the topology, every node has limited computational resources and messages are guaranteed to be delivered. Under this model, the author proved that the Sybil attack is always possible without a central, trusted authority.

Cheng and Friedman proved an important result regarding the Sybil attack in reputation systems[10]. Reputation systems are commonly used in

MANET, e-commerce and the internet in general, where entities are rewarded by their good behaviour and penalised otherwise. Google's PageRank[46] is an example of a reputation system, where a large number of links to a website makes it more reputable. Cheng and Friedman classified reputation systems into two categories,

1. symmetric reputation systems where the reputation score only depends on the network topology, popular reputation mechanisms such as PageRank[46] and EigenTrust[30] are examples of symmetric reputation systems, and
2. asymmetric reputation systems where there some nodes are trusted and reputation scores are propagated through the trusted nodes, most OSN are examples of asymmetric reputation systems.

The authors formally proved that symmetric reputation systems are vulnerable to the Sybil attack. But in the asymmetric case, it is possible to construct a Sybil-proof reputation system.

2.2 The Sybil Attack in Online Social Networks

OSN (online social networks) are vulnerable to the Sybil attack even when most of them use a central, trusted authority such as Facebook. In OSN, users create profiles and form relationships with friends. In contrast with real world relationships, it is much easier to create relationships in OSN even with strangers. In 2008, Sophos conducted an experiment where they created a Facebook profile and send friend requests to 200 random users, and 41% of the users accepted the friend request[59]. Combining with the ability to create new identities with very little cost, it is possible to perform many types of attacks which we outline below.

2.2.1 Identity Theft

Authors of [7] created two attacks - profile cloning and cross-site profile cloning, targeting five social network sites including Facebook and LinkedIn. The iCloner system was created to automate these attacks.

In profile cloning, iCloner uses publicly available information to automatically create clones of the victim's profiles, effectively creating Sybils. iCloner then sent friend requests from the cloned profile to the friends of the victim.

The fact that the victim may have many friends that they do not contact very often, e.g. friend from primary school living in another country, makes this attack highly effective. The authors found that the acceptance rate for cloned profiles was over 60%. Much higher than the acceptance rate of 30% for fictitious profiles. Once the friendship is established, it is possible to extract private information that is not available publicly and perform identity theft.

The idea of cross-site profile cloning is similar, except the cloned profile is created on another social network site that the victim does not yet use. Once the cloned profile is created, iCloner attempts to identify friends of the victim and begins sending friend requests. Similarly, 56% of the friend requests were accepted.

A more recent study created SbN (Socialbot Network) targeting Facebook[8]. Each socialbot is a Sybil created by the attack, it controls a forged profile and mimic human behaviour to avoid detection. The attacker is the botmaster who coordinates the socialbots to achieve a common objective such as infiltrating the target OSN by creating friend relationships with real users. The authors found that infiltration success rate was as high as 80% and the FIS[61] (Facebook Immune System) was not sufficient to prevent the attack. Once the relationships are established, the botmaster can command the socialbots to start gathering private information which can then be used for identity theft.

These examples demonstrate that the carelessness of users and the ability to create Sybils makes OSN vulnerable to identity theft. Moreover, identity theft is only an entry point. Once trust relationships are established, the attacker can perform many other types of attacks such as spamming, phishing or astroturfing to gain advantage.

2.2.2 Spreading Misinformation

2.2.3 Spam

Spam [31]

2.3 The Sybil Attack in Reputation Systems

2.3.1 Reputation Systems

2.3.2 Attacks

2.4 The Sybil Attack in MANET

2.5 TODO

a test bed for sybil attacks[26]
Quantifying Sybil attack[40]

3 Defences

In this section we categorise various defence techniques against the sybil-attack in reputation systems.

3.1 Trusted Third Party

One of the earliest and best known reputation system is eBay[49]. The buyers and sellers rely on a trusted third party, in this case eBay, to gather and distribute feedbacks after every transaction. Even when there are no incentives to provide feedback, Resnick and Zeckhauser observed that feedback was provided more than half of the time[49], making eBay one of the most well-known online marketplaces.

In general, trusted third parties manage the issuance and verification of identities. Thus they can apply a fee on the peer for creating a new identity[48] or rate-limit the creation of new identities[17], making sybil-attacks more difficult. Furthermore, trusted third parties often have the ability to manipulate the identities. For example they could punish the attackers by disabling all of their identity when caught, making the sybil-attack much riskier especially when identities are costly.

Trusted third party is likely the most widely used technique in practice. Marketplaces such as Amazon or eBay, online forums such as Stackoverflow or Reddit, all use a form of trusted third party.

Unfortunately, a trusted third party is often a single point of failure. Moreover, being a centralised system, it is difficult to scale up to suit increas-

ing user demands. In the remainder of this section, we focus on distributed techniques for preventing the sybil-attack.

Credence 06[69] - uses central authority to sign key

3.2 Costly Identity Creation

3.2.1 IP Address

3.2.2 Low reputation for new users

Feldman 04[18] - adaptive stranger, low score on entry

3.3 Indirect Information

EigenTrust[30] - doesn't prevent sybils, suggests to add cost in ID creation

R2Trust[64] - credibility, tackles colluders, time decay factor

3.4 Graph Techniques

OSN (online social networks) such as Facebook can be viewed as a graph, where the nodes on the graph are identities created by users and the edges represent trust relationships.

Theory[55] Gal-Oz et al. [19] communities are collection of knots, sybils can form a knot? Regret[50, 51] - information from multiple dimensions Guha 04[20] - no mention of sybil attacks or attacks in general

3.4.1 Flow Based

BarterCast[43] SybilRes[14]

3.4.2 Topology

SybilGuard[76] SybilLimit[75] SybilInfer[13] SybilShield[56] - assuming sybils have bad connectedness SumUp[65] GateKeeper[66] - based on SumUp Social-network[67] - community detection

Distributed Sparse Cut Monitoring[34]

Other systems are built on top: ReDS[2] suggests to use sybilimit or sybilinfer SybilProof-DHT[37]

3.5 Reputation Transfer

Trust-transfer[53]

3.6 Self Registration

P-GRID 01[1] Self-registration[16] - distributed registration based on IP address

3.7 Cryptography Based Techniques?

Secure-Overlay[39] - ID crypto and SSS Privacy-preserving[52] - blockchain? Proof-of-stake[15] SybilConf[62]

3.8 Content Driven

[9]

3.9 Other

Parental control[63] - uses parents to “observe” find suspects, only for detection, requires a sybil-proof reputation scheme DSybil[74] - recommendation system, need historical data Symon[29] - pair peers together, likelihood for both to be sybils is low, the pair monitor each other to prevent attacks XRep 02[12] IP check, and checks digest, uses existing P2P systems like Gnutella

3.10 Unsorted?

Beth and PGP limits Sybil attack to some extent by using social graphs Beth 94[5] PGP (Zimmermann) 95[80]

Yu 00[73] Lee 03[36] - uses flooding, might not be scalable, only talks about DoS Marti 04[42] ARA 05[23] - no mention of sybil, prevents freeriding, prevents short-term abuse because reputation increases gradually FuzzyTrust Song 05[58] - uses fuzzy logic P2PRep/Fuzzy 06[4] - also fuzzy, does not prevent generation of false rumors Xiong 05[71] - no mention of sybil, but tries to mitigate false information PowerTrust 06[79] - uses “power nodes” (from power-law), no mention of sybil, some defence against colluders

Histos and Sopras[77], doesn’t really have structure? Beta[27] Gupta et al.[22]

PeerTrust[70] - DHT, used P-GRID source code, has credibility rating
PerContRep[72]

3.11 Does not handle Sybil-attack?

TrustMe[57] is a reputation that focuses on anonymity, no mention of sybil attack

H-Trust[78] does not mention sybil

Coner et al.[11] assumes clients cannot perform sybil attack

TrustGuard 05[60] - assumes it is built on secure overlay networks (sybil-proof networks)

Scrivener 05[45] - assumes ID cannot be created and discarded

4 Related Work

Reputation Surveys: [41] [28] ? [25] [33] [54] ? [24]

Sybil Surveys: [38] [44] [47] [21] [32] Sok[3] but also some contribution

Other: [68]

5 Summary

References

- [1] Karl Aberer. “P-Grid: A self-organizing access structure for P2P information systems”. In: *International Conference on Cooperative Information Systems*. Springer. 2001, pp. 179–194.
- [2] Ruj Akavipat et al. “ReDS: A framework for reputation-enhanced DHTs”. In: *IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems* 25.2 (2014), pp. 321–331.
- [3] Lorenzo Alvisi et al. “Sok: The evolution of sybil defense via social networks”. In: *Security and Privacy (SP), 2013 IEEE Symposium on*. IEEE. 2013, pp. 382–396.

- [4] Roberto Aringhieri et al. “Fuzzy techniques for trust and reputation management in anonymous peer-to-peer systems”. In: *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 57.4 (2006), pp. 528–537.
- [5] Thomas Beth, Malte Borchertding, and Birgit Klein. “Valuation of trust in open networks”. In: *European Symposium on Research in Computer Security*. Springer. 1994, pp. 1–18.
- [6] Rajat Bhattacharjee and Ashish Goel. “Avoiding ballot stuffing in ebay-like reputation systems”. In: *Proceedings of the 2005 ACM SIGCOMM workshop on Economics of peer-to-peer systems*. ACM. 2005, pp. 133–137.
- [7] Leyla Bilge et al. “All your contacts are belong to us: automated identity theft attacks on social networks”. In: *Proceedings of the 18th international conference on World wide web*. ACM. 2009, pp. 551–560.
- [8] Yazan Boshmaf et al. “The socialbot network: when bots socialize for fame and money”. In: *Proceedings of the 27th Annual Computer Security Applications Conference*. ACM. 2011, pp. 93–102.
- [9] Krishnendu Chatterjee, Luca de Alfaro, and Ian Pye. “Robust content-driven reputation”. In: *Proceedings of the 1st ACM workshop on Workshop on AISec*. ACM. 2008, pp. 33–42.
- [10] Alice Cheng and Eric Friedman. “Sybilproof reputation mechanisms”. In: *Proceedings of the 2005 ACM SIGCOMM workshop on Economics of peer-to-peer systems*. ACM. 2005, pp. 128–132.
- [11] William Conner et al. “A trust management framework for service-oriented environments”. In: *Proceedings of the 18th international conference on World wide web*. ACM. 2009, pp. 891–900.
- [12] Ernesto Damiani et al. “A reputation-based approach for choosing reliable resources in peer-to-peer networks”. In: *Proceedings of the 9th ACM conference on Computer and communications security*. ACM. 2002, pp. 207–216.
- [13] George Danezis and Prateek Mittal. “SybilInfer: Detecting Sybil Nodes using Social Networks.” In: *NDSS*. San Diego, CA. 2009.

- [14] Rahim Delaviz et al. “SybilRes: A sybil-resilient flow-based decentralized reputation mechanism”. In: *Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS), 2012 IEEE 32nd International Conference on*. IEEE. 2012, pp. 203–213.
- [15] Richard Dennis and Gareth Owenson. “Rep on the Roll: A Peer to Peer Reputation System Based on a Rolling Blockchain”. In: (2016).
- [16] Jochen Dinger and Hannes Hartenstein. “Defending the sybil attack in p2p networks: Taxonomy, challenges, and a proposal for self-registration”. In: *First International Conference on Availability, Reliability and Security (ARES’06)*. IEEE. 2006, 8–pp.
- [17] John R Douceur. “The sybil attack”. In: *International Workshop on Peer-to-Peer Systems*. Springer. 2002, pp. 251–260.
- [18] Michal Feldman et al. “Robust incentive techniques for peer-to-peer networks”. In: *Proceedings of the 5th ACM conference on Electronic commerce*. ACM. 2004, pp. 102–111.
- [19] Nurit Gal-Oz, Ehud Gudes, and Danny Hendler. “A robust and knot-aware trust-based reputation model”. In: *IFIP International Conference on Trust Management*. Springer. 2008, pp. 167–182.
- [20] Ramanathan Guha et al. “Propagation of trust and distrust”. In: *Proceedings of the 13th international conference on World Wide Web*. ACM. 2004, pp. 403–412.
- [21] Rupesh Gunturu. “Survey of Sybil attacks in social networks”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1504.05522* (2015).
- [22] Minaxi Gupta, Paul Judge, and Mostafa Ammar. “A reputation system for peer-to-peer networks”. In: *Proceedings of the 13th international workshop on Network and operating systems support for digital audio and video*. ACM. 2003, pp. 144–152.
- [23] MyungJoo Ham and Gul Agha. “ARA: A robust audit to prevent free-riding in P2P networks”. In: *Fifth IEEE International Conference on Peer-to-Peer Computing (P2P’05)*. IEEE. 2005, pp. 125–132.
- [24] Ferry Hendrikx, Kris Bubendorfer, and Ryan Chard. “Reputation systems: A survey and taxonomy”. In: *Journal of Parallel and Distributed Computing* 75 (2015), pp. 184–197.

- [25] Kevin Hoffman, David Zage, and Cristina Nita-Rotaru. “A survey of attack and defense techniques for reputation systems”. In: *ACM Computing Surveys (CSUR)* 42.1 (2009), p. 1.
- [26] Athirai Aravazhi Irissappane, Siwei Jiang, and Jie Zhang. “Towards a comprehensive testbed to evaluate the robustness of reputation systems against unfair rating attack.” In: *UMAP Workshops*. Vol. 12. 2012.
- [27] Audun Jøsang and Roslan Ismail. “The beta reputation system”. In: *Proceedings of the 15th bled electronic commerce conference*. Vol. 5. 2002, pp. 2502–2511.
- [28] Audun Jøsang, Roslan Ismail, and Colin Boyd. “A survey of trust and reputation systems for online service provision”. In: *Decision support systems* 43.2 (2007), pp. 618–644.
- [29] BS Jyothi and Janakiram Dharanipragada. “Symon: Defending large structured p2p systems against sybil attack”. In: *2009 IEEE Ninth International Conference on Peer-to-Peer Computing*. IEEE. 2009, pp. 21–30.
- [30] Sepandar D Kamvar, Mario T Schlosser, and Hector Garcia-Molina. “The eigentrust algorithm for reputation management in p2p networks”. In: *Proceedings of the 12th international conference on World Wide Web*. ACM. 2003, pp. 640–651.
- [31] *Keeping Facebook Activity Authentic*. Accessed 30-10-2016. 2014. URL: https://web.archive.org/save/_embed/https://m.facebook.com/business/news/authentic-activity-on-facebook.
- [32] David Koll et al. “On the state of OSN-based Sybil defenses”. In: *Networking Conference, 2014 IFIP*. IEEE. 2014, pp. 1–9.
- [33] Eleni Koutrouli and Aphrodite Tsalgatidou. “Taxonomy of attacks and defense mechanisms in P2P reputation systems-Lessons for reputation system designers”. In: *Computer Science Review* 6.2 (2012), pp. 47–70.
- [34] Aditya Kurve and George Kesidis. “Sybil detection via distributed sparse cut monitoring”. In: *2011 IEEE International Conference on Communications (ICC)*. IEEE. 2011, pp. 1–6.
- [35] Leslie Lamport, Robert Shostak, and Marshall Pease. “The Byzantine generals problem”. In: *ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems (TOPLAS)* 4.3 (1982), pp. 382–401.

- [36] Seungjoon Lee, Rob Sherwood, and Bobby Bhattacharjee. “Cooperative peer groups in NICE”. In: *INFOCOM 2003. Twenty-Second Annual Joint Conference of the IEEE Computer and Communications. IEEE Societies*. Vol. 2. IEEE. 2003, pp. 1272–1282.
- [37] Chris Lesniewski-Lass and M Frans Kaashoek. “Whanau: A sybil-proof distributed hash table”. In: NSDI. 2010.
- [38] Brian Neil Levine, Clay Shields, and N Boris Margolin. “A survey of solutions to the sybil attack”. In: *University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, MA 7* (2006).
- [39] Eng Keong Lua. “Securing peer-to-peer overlay networks from sybil attack”. In: *Communications and Information Technologies, 2007. ISCIT’07. International Symposium on*. IEEE. 2007, pp. 1213–1218.
- [40] N Boris Margolin and Brian Neil Levine. “Quantifying resistance to the sybil attack”. In: *International Conference on Financial Cryptography and Data Security*. Springer. 2008, pp. 1–15.
- [41] Sergio Marti and Hector Garcia-Molina. “Taxonomy of trust: Categorizing P2P reputation systems”. In: *Computer Networks* 50.4 (2006), pp. 472–484.
- [42] Sergio Marti and Hector Garcia-Molina. “Limited reputation sharing in P2P systems”. In: *Proceedings of the 5th ACM conference on Electronic commerce*. ACM. 2004, pp. 91–101.
- [43] Michel Meulpolder et al. “Bartercast: A practical approach to prevent lazy freeriding in p2p networks”. In: *Parallel & Distributed Processing, 2009. IPDPS 2009. IEEE International Symposium on*. IEEE. 2009, pp. 1–8.
- [44] Aziz Mohaisen and Joongheon Kim. “The Sybil attacks and defenses: a survey”. In: *arXiv preprint arXiv:1312.6349* (2013).
- [45] Animesh Nandi et al. “Scrivener: Providing incentives in cooperative content distribution systems”. In: *Proceedings of the ACM/IFIP/USENIX 2005 International Conference on Middleware*. Springer-Verlag New York, Inc. 2005, pp. 270–291.
- [46] Lawrence Page et al. “The PageRank citation ranking: bringing order to the web.” In: (1999).

- [47] GV Rakesh et al. “A Survey of techniques to defend against Sybil attacks in Social Networks”. In: *International Journal of Advanced Research in Computer and Communication Engineering* 3.5 (2014).
- [48] Paul Resnick et al. “The social cost of cheap pseudonyms”. In: *Journal of Economics & Management Strategy* 10.2 (2001), pp. 173–199.
- [49] Paul Resnick and Richard Zeckhauser. “Trust among strangers in internet transactions: Empirical analysis of ebay’s reputation system”. In: *The Economics of the Internet and E-commerce* 11.2 (2002), pp. 23–25.
- [50] Jordi Sabater and Carles Sierra. “REGRET: reputation in gregarious societies”. In: *Proceedings of the fifth international conference on Autonomous agents*. ACM. 2001, pp. 194–195.
- [51] Jordi Sabater and Carles Sierra. “Social regret, a reputation model based on social relations”. In: *ACM SIGecom Exchanges* 3.1 (2002), pp. 44–56.
- [52] Alexander Schaub et al. “A trustless privacy-preserving reputation system”. In: *IFIP International Information Security and Privacy Conference*. Springer. 2016, pp. 398–411.
- [53] Jean-Marc Seigneur, Alan Gray, and Christian Damsgaard Jensen. “Trust transfer: Encouraging self-recommendations without sybil attack”. In: *International Conference on Trust Management*. Springer. 2005, pp. 321–337.
- [54] Chithra Selvaraj and Sheila Anand. “A survey on security issues of reputation management systems for peer-to-peer networks”. In: *Computer Science Review* 6.4 (2012), pp. 145–160.
- [55] Sven Seuken and David C Parkes. “On the Sybil-proofness of accounting mechanisms”. In: (2011).
- [56] Lu Shi et al. “Sybilshield: An agent-aided social network-based sybil defense among multiple communities”. In: *INFOCOM, 2013 Proceedings IEEE*. IEEE. 2013, pp. 1034–1042.
- [57] Aameek Singh and Ling Liu. “TrustMe: anonymous management of trust relationships in decentralized P2P systems”. In: *Peer-to-Peer Computing, 2003.(P2P 2003). Proceedings. Third International Conference on*. IEEE. 2003, pp. 142–149.

- [58] Shanshan Song et al. “Trusted P2P transactions with fuzzy reputation aggregation”. In: *IEEE Internet computing* 9.6 (2005), pp. 24–34.
- [59] *Sophos Facebook ID probe shows 41% of users happy to reveal all to potential identity thieves*. Accessed 30-10-2016. 2007. URL: <https://web.archive.org/web/20140926063331/http://www.sophos.com/en-us/press-office/press-releases/2007/08/facebook.aspx>.
- [60] Mudhakar Srivatsa, Li Xiong, and Ling Liu. “TrustGuard: countering vulnerabilities in reputation management for decentralized overlay networks”. In: *Proceedings of the 14th international conference on World Wide Web*. ACM. 2005, pp. 422–431.
- [61] Tao Stein, Erdong Chen, and Karan Mangla. “Facebook immune system”. In: *Proceedings of the 4th Workshop on Social Network Systems*. ACM. 2011, p. 8.
- [62] Florian Tegeler and Xiaoming Fu. “SybilConf: computational puzzles for confining sybil attacks”. In: *INFOCOM IEEE Conference on Computer Communications Workshops, 2010*. IEEE. 2010, pp. 1–2.
- [63] Ankush Tehale et al. “Parental Control algorithm for Sybil detection in distributed P2P networks”. In: *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications* 2.5 (2012).
- [64] Chunqi Tian and Baijian Yang. “ H^2 Trust, a reputation and risk based trust management framework for large-scale, fully decentralized overlay networks”. In: *Future Generation Computer Systems* 27.8 (2011), pp. 1135–1141.
- [65] Dinh Nguyen Tran et al. “Sybil-Resilient Online Content Voting.” In: *NSDI*. Vol. 9. 1. 2009, pp. 15–28.
- [66] Nguyen Tran et al. “Optimal sybil-resilient node admission control”. In: *INFOCOM, 2011 Proceedings IEEE*. IEEE. 2011, pp. 3218–3226.
- [67] Bimal Viswanath et al. “An analysis of social network-based sybil defenses”. In: *ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review* 40.4 (2010), pp. 363–374.
- [68] Dan S Wallach. “A survey of peer-to-peer security issues”. In: *Software Security-Theories and Systems*. Springer, 2003, pp. 42–57.

- [69] Kevin Walsh and Emin Gün Sirer. “Experience with an object reputation system for peer-to-peer filesharing”. In: *USENIX NSDI*. Vol. 6. 2006.
- [70] Li Xiong and Ling Liu. “Peertrust: Supporting reputation-based trust for peer-to-peer electronic communities”. In: *IEEE transactions on Knowledge and Data Engineering* 16.7 (2004), pp. 843–857.
- [71] Li Xiong, Ling Liu, and Mustaque Ahamad. “Countering feedback sparsity and manipulation in reputation systems”. In: *Collaborative Computing: Networking, Applications and Worksharing, 2007. Collaborate-Com 2007. International Conference on*. IEEE. 2007, pp. 203–212.
- [72] Zheng Yan, Yu Chen, and Yue Shen. “PerContRep: a practical reputation system for pervasive content services”. In: *The Journal of Supercomputing* 70.3 (2014), pp. 1051–1074.
- [73] Bin Yu and Munindar P Singh. “A social mechanism of reputation management in electronic communities”. In: *International Workshop on Cooperative Information Agents*. Springer. 2000, pp. 154–165.
- [74] Haifeng Yu et al. “Dsybil: Optimal sybil-resistance for recommendation systems”. In: *2009 30th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy*. IEEE. 2009, pp. 283–298.
- [75] Haifeng Yu et al. “Sybillimit: A near-optimal social network defense against sybil attacks”. In: *2008 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (sp 2008)*. IEEE. 2008, pp. 3–17.
- [76] Haifeng Yu et al. “Sybilguard: defending against sybil attacks via social networks”. In: *ACM SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review*. Vol. 36. 4. ACM. 2006, pp. 267–278.
- [77] Giorgos Zacharia, Alexandros Moukas, and Pattie Maes. “Collaborative reputation mechanisms for electronic marketplaces”. In: *Decision Support Systems* 29.4 (2000), pp. 371–388.
- [78] Huanyu Zhao and Xiaolin Li. “H-trust: A group trust management system for peer-to-peer desktop grid”. In: *Journal of Computer Science and Technology* 24.5 (2009), pp. 833–843.
- [79] Runfang Zhou and Kai Hwang. “Powertrust: A robust and scalable reputation system for trusted peer-to-peer computing”. In: *IEEE Transactions on parallel and distributed systems* 18.4 (2007), pp. 460–473.

- [80] Philip R Zimmermann. *The official PGP user's guide*. MIT press, 1995.