F3ildCrypt: End-to-End Protection of Sensitive Information in Web Services

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Motivation

- Identity-related information is valuable
- You must provide such information when using an online merchant
- This information is vulnerable to disclosure at the endpoints and in transit
- Can we protect this information end-to-end without revealing details of the logical corporate architecture?

Outline

Introduction

Merchant trust

Users have to trust online merchants:

- Merchant is not malicious
- Merchant will protect sensitive information for its lifetime
- Merchant site is maintained by diligent sysadmins

SOA trust

In Service Oriented Architectures, users have to trust:

- Merchant *and peer SOAs* are not malicious
- Merchant *and peer SOAs* will protect sensitive information for its lifetime
- Merchant *and peer SOAs* are maintained by diligent sysadmins

Data in transit

In this work, we focus on data in transit across the SOA pipeline

- Approach does not protect against nodes with legitimate access to the data
- We protect the data between the web browser and the back-end database

Design alternative

Pair-wise key distribution

- Generate a certificate for each potential target host in the SOA pipeline
- Deliver certificate set to each web browser
- Browser encrypts each field direct to its destination host

Design alternative (cont.)

Issues with pair-wise key distribution

- Certificates for all hosts in any partner SOAs must also be delivered
- Certificate set must be updated each time the architecture of the SOA or SOA partners varies
- Reveals the logical architecture of the SOA and its SOA partners

Related work

Proxy re-encryption

- Given plaintext P, Alice $\langle pk_A, sk_A \rangle$, and Bob $\langle pk_B, sk_B \rangle$
- There exists some $rk_{A \to B} = F(sk_A, pk_B)$ such that:

$$pk_B(p) = rk_{A \to B}(pk_A(P))$$

- [Blaze et al., 1998]

W3bCrypt

Introduced end-to-end encryption in web pipelines

- Firefox plugin for application-level crypto
- *"Encryption as a stylesheet"*
- Requires disclosure of corporate network details
- [Stavrou et al., 2006]

Architecture

Architecture

- Network model
- Design goals
- F3ieldCrypt architecture

Network model

- SOA-style network
- Each SOA may have multiple partner SOAs
- SOAs wish to prevent disclosure of logical architecture and peering

Design goals

- End-to-end protection of XML fields – even across SOA boundaries
- Confidentiality of logical architecture of each SOA must be respected

This work does not focus on providing protection against compromise or failure of entities with legitimate access to sensitive information.

F3ieldCrypt architecture

- Each SOA s publishes a public key pk_{E_s}
- Browser b generates plaintext P
- b sends $C = pk_{E_s}(P)$ to s
- s gateway re-encrypts C to internal hosts and partner SOAs $I_0 \ldots I_n$

Key generation

- Key pair $\langle pk_{E_s}, sk_{E_s} \rangle$ generated at the external-key holder
- sk_{E_s} used in conjunction with internal application keys $pk_{I_0} ... pk_{I_n}$ to generate $rk_{E \rightarrow I_0} ... rk_{E \rightarrow I_n}$

External-key holder

External-key holder has sk_s and $pk_{I_0} ... pk_{I_n}$. Its compromise could be dangerous. However:

- Very low bandwidth requirements
- Only needed at setup and when adding new internal hosts
- Can be kept offline!

Key distribution

- pk_{E_s} is publicized
- $rk_{E \to I_0} \dots rk_{E \to I_n}$ transmitted to proxy re-encryption engine
- By proxy re-encryption:

$$pk_{I_j}(P) = rk_{E \to I_j}(pk_E(P))$$

Proxy re-encryption engine

- Fields arrive at proxy re-encryption engine encrypted under pk_{E_s}
- Each field f is re-encrypted to pk_{I_j}
- The mapping $f \longrightarrow j$ is determined by an admin-defined XACML policy

Browser engine

- Browser generates plaintext P containing a set of fields $f_0 \ldots f_n$.
- $f_0 \ldots f_n$ are encrypted under pk_{E_s} and delivered to s

Architecture summary

Browser $\longrightarrow$ proxy re-encryption engine:	$pk_{E_s}(f_i)$
proxy re-encryption engine:	$pk_{I_j}(f_i) = rk_{E \rightarrow I_j}(pk_{E_s}(f_i))$
proxy re-encryption engine $\longrightarrow$ app j:	$pk_{I_j}(f_i)$

Evaluation

Implementation

- Java-based Re-crypto engine uses JHU-MIT Proxy Re-cryptography Library for each browser
- XML gateway at the SOA stores the re-encryption engine
- Python-based XML proxy for each internal application to store keys and unwrap XML

Testbed servers

Dell PowerEdge 2650 Servers

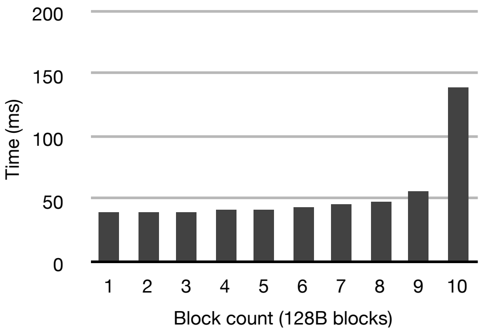
- 2.0GHz Intel Zeon processor, 1GB RAM, Gigabit Ethernet
- OpenBSD 4.2
- OpenBSD PF firewall, Apache 1.3.29, PHP 4.4.1, MySQL 5.0.45

Testbed client

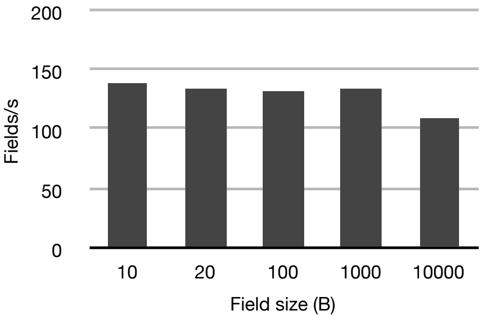
Macbook Pro

- 2.4 GHz Intel Core 2 Duo, 2GB RAM, Gigabit Ethernet
- OS X 10.5.2, Darwin kernel 9.2.2, Mozilla Firefox 2.0.0.13

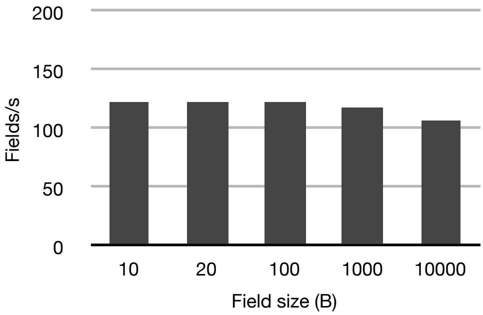
Block encryption on the client



Re-encryption rate at an XML gateway



Decryption rate at an XML proxy



Conclusion

- End-to-end protection to users
- Protection of logical architecture and partnering for SOAs

References

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