

Security Pattern Catalog Schema. Common description.

(schema/SecurityPatternCatalogNaiveSchema.owl)

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The Security Pattern Catalog Schema ontology is a model of security patterns. It contains concepts and individuals, used for creation and maintenance of security pattern catalogs.

The key points are:

-Using the ontology it is possible to represent different types of patterns (security patterns, as well as misuse patterns and common threats). Also, relations between patterns can be depicted (for complex patterns it shows included patterns, related patterns, and you can build hierarchies of patterns).

-It allows to put a pattern into a context, i.e. add labels that support answering the decision questions like “Is a pattern suitable for a system design?”, and “Does the pattern solves a security challenge?”. It is useful for security analysis of a design of a computer system.

-The pattern contextualization is based on a decomposition of system design to components and functions. For a particular domain (i.e Cloud Computing or Internet of Things) it requires a model that describes domain-specific components and functions (further research - creation models for different domains).

-For the security contextualization it is proposed to use security concerns and threats. Security concerns are considered as security metrics in terms of software requirements (useful for developers) rather the perspective of an attack (further research – creation of an adequate model of security concerns). And a traditional approach for security experts is involved with threats as possibilities to implement some attack.

<u>Property</u>	<u>Range and predefined values</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Example</u>
<u>Class: Pattern</u>			<i>pattern_SecureDistributedPublishSubscribe IoT</i>
<u>Metadata:</u> The metadata section contains properties, used to identify a particular pattern, its authors and an idea. Also, it holds links to an original documents. The most valuable thing is an original pattern's document, so it should be a way to get access to it, locally or remotely. And in some cases it is impossible to put a full description of the pattern because of copyright and trademark, so the "textreview*" fields retell a content of the pattern in own words.			
textName	xsd:String	Pattern's primary name	<i>Secure Distributed Publish/Subscribe (P/S) pattern for IoT</i>
textAKAName	xsd:String	Pattern's alternative name(s)	
textAuthor	xsd:String	Pattern's author(s)	<i>Eduardo B. Fernandez Nobukazu Yoshioka Hironori Washizaki</i>
textURL	xsd:String	URL(s) of webpage that describes a pattern	https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339103887_Secure_Distributed_PublishSubscribe_PS_pattern_for_IoT

textPDF	xsd:String	Downloadable URL(s) of pattern's PDF	
textReference	xsd:String	A bibliographic description of a primary paper, describing a pattern	<i>E.B.Fernandez, N. Yoshioka, H. Washizaki, "Secure Distributed Publish/Subscribe (P/S) for IoT, 2020. Procs. Asian PLoP'20, March 4 6, Taipei, Taiwan. 9 pages.</i>
textIntent	xsd:String	Pattern's Intent (full text)	<i>In an IoT system, decouple the publishers of events from those interested in the events (subscribers). Subscription and publication are performed securely.</i>
textReviewContext	xsd:String	A brief text description of pattern's context	Something like that: <i>Information exchange between IoT/IIoT devices (e.g. smart thermostats or sprinkler systems, different sensors) with minimal security control and cloud/fog applications.</i>
textReviewProblem	xsd:String	A brief text description of pattern's problem	Something like that: <i>Subscribers (S) register and receive messages of their interest sent by a publisher (P). The main concerns are how to organize the interactions between them securely, avoiding rogue participants, insecure communications, unwanted P/S operations.</i>
textReviewSolution	xsd:String	A brief text description of pattern's solution	<i>In addition of the standard P/S functions it is possible to use secure channels for protected communications, access control for restricting the actions of publishers and subscribers, security logging, and digital signatures.</i>
<u>Organizational and scope aspects:</u> This section describes organizational aspects of a pattern (type, base template) and its scope (i.e. relations to other patterns - "hasGroup", "usesPattern", "relatesTo", "isChildOf). Considered pattern should be described carefully without worrying about dependent patterns, because the automatic reasoning procedures allow to create a full "network" of pattern relations, thanks to the inverse and symmetric properties.			
hasType	Type <u>Predefined items:</u>	Type of a pattern, like security pattern, misuse pattern, or threat pattern.	The first option is to tell it is an instance of the <i>Pattern</i> class and:

	type_SecurityPattern type_ThreatPattern type_MisusePattern <u>Class: SecurityPattern</u> (Defined class) <u>Class: ThreatPattern</u> (Defined class) <u>Class: MisusePattern</u> (Defined class)	It is possible to define this with the class assertion, e.g. <pattern> is an instance the SecurityPattern class.	<i>hasType value type_SecurityPattern</i> The second option is to tell it is an instance of the <i>SecurityPattern</i> class
hasTemplate	Template <u>Predefined items:</u> template_POSA template_GOF template_ESP ???	Template, used to describe a pattern. It can be POSA or GOF. POSA stands from “Pattern Oriented Software Architecture”. GOF stands from “Gang of Four”.	<i>hasTemplate value template_POSA</i>
hasGroup (inverse: isGroupOf)	Group	Tells to which group a pattern belongs to. It can be possible to use the class assertion here, e.g. create a hierarchy with abstract patterns on the top and concrete ones at the bottom.	<i>hasGroup value patterngroup_SecureMiddleware</i>
usesPattern (inverse: isUsedBy)	Pattern	Enumerates patterns that are used by this one. For the POSA template it should be taken from "Description" and "Class Diagram".	<i>pattern_RoleBasedAccessControl</i> <i>pattern_Authenticator</i> <i>pattern_SecurityLoggerAuditor</i> <i>pattern_SecureChannel</i>
relatesTo (symmetric)	Pattern	Enumerates patterns that are related to this one. For the POSA template it should be taken from “Related patterns”.	<i>pattern_SecurePS</i> <i>pattern_Broker</i> <i>pattern_SecureChannel</i> <i>pattern_EnterpriseServiceBus</i> <i>pattern_Authorizer</i> <i>pattern_IoTSegmentation</i>
isChildOf (inverse: isParentOf)	Pattern	For a concrete pattern shows from which abstract pattern it has been made. It can be possible to use the class assertion here, e.g. create a hierarchy with abstract patterns on the top and concrete ones at the	<i>IsChildOf value</i> <i>pattern_SecurePublishSubscrib</i>

		bottom.	
<u>Common characteristics:</u> This section contains common labels, used to characterize a pattern [VanHilst, 2009], [Guan, 2016], [Vale, 2019] .			
hasDomain	Domain <u>Predefined items:</u> domain_FogComputing domain_EdgeComputing domain_InternetOfThings domain_SCADA domain_Military domain_ECommerce domain_GridComputing <u>Class:</u> CloudComputingDomain <i>domain_CloudComputing</i> domain_IaaS domain_PaaS domain_SaaS domain_NFV	Tells to which domain(s) a pattern belongs to. Domain is a large functional field of Information Technologies (IT), like Cloud Computing, Internet of Things. It might be less gigantic, like IaaS or NVF.	<i>hasDomain value domain_InternetOfThings</i>
hasArchitecturalLayer	ArchitecturalLayer <u>Predefined items:</u> <u>Class:</u> ApplicationArchitecturalLayer al_ClientLayer al_LogicLayer al_DataLayer <u>Class:</u> PlatformAndOperatingSystemLayer al_PlatformAndOperatingSystem <u>Class:</u> CommunicationArchitecturalLayer al_DistributionLayer al_TransportLayer al_NetworkLayer	Shows a common architectural domain, to which a pattern relates, like Applications, Platform and Operating systems, also Communications. Instances are taken from [VanHilst, 2009]	<i>hasArchitecturalLayer value al_ClientLayer</i> <i>hasArchitecturalLayer value al_DistributionLayer</i>
hasConstraintLevel	ConstraintLevel <u>Predefined instances:</u> cl_RegulatoryLevel cl_OrganizationalLevel cl_HumanLevel	Refers to four levels of constraint: mechanism, human (operator or developer), organizational, and regulatory(Leveson, 2004). Instances are taken from [VanHilst, 2009]	<i>hasConstrainLevel value cl_MechanismLevel</i>

	cl_MechanismLevel		
hasResponseType	ResponseType <u>Predefined instances:</u> rt_Avoidance rt_Deterrence rt_Prevention rt_Detection rt_Mitigation rt_Recovery rt_Forensics	<p>“The response axis based on whether or not and attack happens and the extent, from not happening at all (avoidance), to completely happened and in the past (forensics).” [VanHilst, 2009]</p> <p>Instances are taken from [VanHilst, 2009]</p>	<i>hasResponseType value rt_Avoidance</i>
hasLifecycleStage	LifecycleStage <u>Predefined instances:</u> lc_ArchitectureAndDesign lc_BuildAndCompilation lc_Implementation lc_Installation lc_Operations lc_Requirements lc_SystemConfiguration lc_Deployment	<p>Tells which which system’s lifecycle stage a pattern is applicable.</p> <p>Frankly, most of the patterns are applicable on the Design (Architecture) stage, but it might be possible to have a few exceptions.</p> <p>Instances are taken from [CAPEC].</p>	<i>hasLifecycleStage value lc_ArchitectureAndDesign</i>
hasSecurityLevel	SecurityLevel <u>Predefined instances:</u> sl_PhysicalSecurity sl_PersonnelSecurity sl_CommunicationAndDataSecurity sl_OperationalSecurity	<p>Tells to which field of security a pattern belongs to. To review.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Physical_security</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Secure_communication</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communications_security</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operations_security</p>	<i>hasSecurityLevel value sl_CommunicationAndDataSecurity</i>
Context characteristics:			

The “context characteristics” and “security characteristics” (see below) sections include a set of labels that allow to put a pattern to a context. Here, “context” means a possibility to use the pattern as a part of an architecture of a particular computer system. In particular, this set of labels can be used to support a decision towards a list of patterns and a system design, like “Is the pattern suitable for the system design or not?”.

The idea of the context approach is that each computer system can be describe in two ways: with components and functions (features). Here different approaches are possible:

A) Base assertions are: **functions** are unique features that build a coherent model of a system, and **components** are common items, used by all systems. For example, what functions make a hypervisor (IaaS component) unique? An answer might include “Management of VMs”, “VM migration”, “Virtual networking” etc. Which common components does it consist of? It might be “Hardware server”, “Operating system”, “System service”, “Network service”, “CLI interface”, “API interface”.

In many cases security problems of common components are known and described well, and security problems of functions are in focus of research of a new type of computer system. So, considering abstract (common) patterns, it is better **to describe more components and less functions**, and considering domain specific patterns, it is better **to describe more functions and less components**.

They wish an ideal model was to have well-formed hierarchy of components, and interpret the domain specific systems as combinations of these base components. It would be possible to consider only functions for domain specific systems with such model.

B) Base assertion is: function is a part of component that does not have subcomponents (i.e. functions describe non-decomposable parts of components). For example, there is "Hypervisor", and we do not want to decompose it (e.g. to say it includes virtual machine manager, virtual network manager and virtual storage machine manager). Instead it can be said, Hypervisor is an atomic component, and it provides the functions of management of virtual machines, management of virtual networks and storages.

C) It is quite possible to use either components or functions.

hasAffectedFunction	Function see <i>schema_functions_components.pdf</i>	Tells which system function(s) a pattern affects.	<i>hasAffectedFunction value function_DistributeEventInformation</i> <i>hasAffectedFunction value function_DistributeSensorData</i>
hasAffectedComponent	Component see <i>schema_functions_components.pdf</i>	Tells which common component(s) a pattern affects.	<i>hasAffectedComponent value component_IoTApplication</i> <i>hasAffectedComponent value component_IIoTApplication</i> <i>hasAffectedComponent value component_CloudApplication</i>

			<i>hasAffectedComponent value component_FogApplication</i>
<p>Security characteristics:</p> <p>After suitable patterns have been found for a system design (see above), the next step is to correlate them to security challenges. A relevant question, which this set of characteristics allows to answer, is "Does this security pattern solve a particular security problem, valuable for its context?" Sure, a final decision is the responsibility of a system architect, but the context security characteristics allow to reduce number of options and show only relevant security solutions.</p> <p>For the security contextualization it is proposed to use security concerns and threats. Security concerns are considered as security metrics in terms of software requirements (useful for developers) rather the perspective of an attack (further research – creation of an adequate model of security concerns).</p> <p>Considering a pattern it is possible to figure out a set of threats, related to this pattern (or which ones a pattern touches). The current version of the ontology uses a CAPEC based model of threats. The CAPEC approach is considered as a common accepted approach. Used here model enables automatic reasoning of extra information, like threat impact, security objectives and STRIDE labels (for further research – to build different attack and vulnerability models, based on the threat assertions).</p>			
hasSecurityConcern	<p>SecurityConcern</p> <p><u>Predefined instances:</u> concern_AccessControl concern_AttackDetection concern_AttackPrevention concern_Audit concern_Authentication concern_Authorization concern_Containment concern_Coordination concern_EventLogging concern_Identification concern_InformationHiding concern_KeyDistribution concern_MessageAuthentication concern_MessageAuthenticity concern_MessageIntegrity concern_Monitoring concern_ProcessIsolation concern_Sandboxing</p>	<p>Tells which security concern(s) a pattern touches.</p> <p>“A security concern represents some security feature(s)” [Guan, 2016].</p> <p>Instances are taken from [VanHilst, 2009], [Vale, 2019].</p> <p>To review.</p>	<p><i>hasSecurityConcern value concern_AccessControl</i></p> <p><i>hasSecurityConcern value concern_EventLogging</i></p> <p><i>hasSecurityConcern value concern_MessageIntegrity</i></p> <p><i>hasSecurityConcern value concern_SecureCommunications</i></p>

	concern_Realibility concern_ResourceManagement concern_RightsManagement concern_SecureDataStream concern_SecureCommunications concern_SecureSystemIntegration concern_SecureSystemAdministration concern_SecurityArchitecture concern_SecurityPolicy concern_TrafficMonitoring concern_TrafficFiltration		
hasThreat (inverse: isThreatOf)	Threat <u>Predefined instances:</u> see <i>schema_threats.pdf</i> <u>Class:</u> CommunicationsThreat threat_ManInTheMiddle threat_Interception threat_Flooding threat_ContentSpoofing threat_IdentitySpoofing threat_Footprinting (=threat_InformationGathering) threat_ProtocolAnalysis <u>Class:</u> SoftwareThreat threat_SessionManipulation threat_AuthenticationBypass threat_PrivilegeEscalation threat_Excavation threat_CodeInjection threat_BufferManipulation threat_ExcessiveAllocation threat_ManipulationAPI threat_InputDataManipulation threat_EnvironmentManipulation threat_SharedDataManipulation threat_Malware	Tells what threats a pattern describes with connection to component(s) and function(s), figured out on the previous stage. For security patterns defines the possible threats, met by a pattern. For attack pattern defines the possible threats, produced by an implementation of pattern. Instances are adopted from [CAPEC] (see <i>schema_threats.pdf</i>)	“S1: An impostor impersonates a subscriber and subscribes to receive information that will be billed to somebody else or which will give her access to sensitive information.” so <i>hasThreat value threat_PrivilegeEscalation</i> "S2: The publisher is an impostor and collects information (and maybe money) from potential subscribers." <i>hasThreat value threat_IdentitySpoofing</i> “S3: The subscription messages are intercepted and read or modified by an attacker. The attacker may obtain in this way credit or other personal information from the subscriber.”, so <i>hasThreat value threat_Interception</i> "P2: A publisher publishes erroneous information. This action can inject data or commands to a device thus disturbing its operation," <i>hasThreat value threat_ContentSpoofing</i> “P4. An attacker floods subscribers with fake messages thus stopping the subscribers

			from doing any useful work; this is a Denial of Service attack.”, so <i>hasThreat</i> value <i>threat_Flooding</i>
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Inferred characteristics:

To do.

hasPossibleAttack	Attack	Will be taken from [CAPEC] and other attacks' classifications.	
hasPossibleWeakness	Weakness	Will be taken from [CWE] and other weaknesses'/vulnerabilities' classifications.	

Class: Threat

Contains automatically assigned properties. Automatic reasoning procedures will get them from the internal data scheme.

hasThreatImpact (inverse: <i>isThreatImpactOf</i>)	ThreatImpact <u>Predefined instances:</u> see <i>schema_threats.pdf</i> ti_AlterExecutionLogic ti_BypassProtectionMechanism ti_ExecuteArbitraryCode ti_GainPrivileges ti_HideActivities ti_ModifyData ti_ReadData ti_ResourceConsumption ti_UnreliableExecution	Tells which negative impact(s) the threats, described by a pattern, have to component(s) and function(s). It obtains from the CAPEC attack descriptions (the hasThreat property here). It is not so far from the CAPEC/CWE approach, used to describe consequences of their attack patterns (but with some improvements). This allows to map attacks from CAPEC and weaknesses from CWE to the “Threat” items.	
hasSTRIDE (inverse: <i>isSTRIDEof</i>)	STRIDE <u>Predefined instances:</u> STRIDE_Spoofing STRIDE_Tampering STRIDE_Repudiation STRIDE_Information_Disclosure STRIDE_Denial_of_Service STRIDE_Elevation_of_Privilege	Tells which STRIDE item(s) a pattern touches. To do: map STRIDE & SO	
hasSecurityObjective	SecurityObjective	Tells which security objective(s) a pattern	

(inverse: isSecurityObjectiveOf)	<u>Predefined instances:</u> SO_AccessControl SO_Accountability SO_Authentication SO_Authorization SO_Availability SO_Confidentiality SO_Integrity SO_NonRepudiation	touches.	
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References:

[Guan, 2016] H. Guan, H. Yang, and J. Wang, “An ontology-based approach to security pattern selection,” Int. J. Autom. Comput., vol. 13, pp. 168–182, Apr. 2016.

[Vale, 2019] A.P. Vale, E. B. Fernández, “An Ontology for Security Patterns”. Conference paper. 2019.

[VanHilst, 2009] VanHilst M. et al. A multi-dimensional classification for users of security patterns //Journal of Research and Practice in Information Technology. – 2009. – T. 41. – №. 2. – C. 87.

[CAPEC] <https://capec.mitre.org/>

[CWE] <https://cwe.mitre.org/>