

**UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA**

***WORMHOLE ATTACK DETECTION MECHANISM IN MOBILE AD HOC  
NETWORK USING NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION AND PATH  
TRACING ALGORITHM***

**MEHDI ENSHAEI**

**FSKTM 2015 7**



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**By**

**MEHDI ENSHAEI**

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia,  
in Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master of Science**

**October 2015**

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## DEDICATIONS

I THANK MY GOD WHOSE BLESSINGS HAVE MADE IT ALL  
POSSIBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.

This thesis is dedicated to:

My Father

My Mother

My Sister

And my Lovely Wife

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Abstract of thesis presented to the Senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in  
fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Master of Science

**WORMHOLE ATTACK DETECTION MECHANISM IN  
MOBILE AD HOC NETWORK USING NEIGHBORHOOD  
INFORMATION AND PATH TRACING ALGORITHM**

By

**MEHDI ENSHAEI**

**October 2015**

**Chair: Zurina Mohd Hanapi, PhD**

**Faculty: Computer Science and Information Technology**

Mobile Ad hoc Networks (MANETs) is a self-configuring network that is formed automatically by a collection of mobile nodes. Security is often the major concern as MANET does not rely on a centralized administration. A mobile node cannot have single hop communication with the destination, due to low transmission range of the nodes. Therefore, MANET depends on intermediate nodes to forward messages to the destination, and willing to forward a message to other nodes without being selfish. MANET is vulnerable to attacks due to the open, cooperative and dynamic nature and needs a new method for secure communication. Wormhole attack is one of the dangerous attacks in MANET in which two or more destructive nodes record the packets at one point, to another point in the network. Wormhole attack detection is very hard, even; the use of cryptographic technique is not enough to prevent it as the wormhole attackers do not create separate packets, but simply replay packets that already exist on the network by passing all cryptographic checks. Path Tracing (PT) Algorithm was proposed to detect and prevent exposed wormhole attacks in MANET. This algorithm is good for MANET as they not have centralized management and autonomous mobile nodes connect with each other through the air. However, lack of distance calculation seems to be a major drawback of the PT algorithm. Impact of lack in distance calculation is nodes cannot decide whether the faraway node is malicious node or normal node. In this study, a new defence mechanism is proposed based on modification of the packet forwarding process, using Neighborhood Information (NI) and PT algorithm, and known as NIPT algorithm. Neighborhood Information is one

of the detection methods and it is under the category of neighbor discovery. Moreover, by checking acknowledge (ACK) packet by source node and confirm whether it belongs to the 1-hop neighbor or 2-hop neighbor, it is able to detect the wormhole in early stage. The study investigates in four different scenarios and detects both types of wormhole attacks. Experimental evaluation shows that NIPT algorithm achieves better results in the PDR and delay with an average of 5% and 6% respectively, over the PT algorithm. Throughput and packet overhead is improved in the NIPT algorithm with an average of 4% and 6% respectively over the PT algorithm. Wormhole attack caused a packet drops and indirectly impact the PDR, packet overhead, and packet delay. NIPT algorithm has better improvement on delay which presents the elimination of attacker. Using the NIPT, the packet drop is decreased and chosen the best route is free from the wormhole. At the same time, throughput decreases as the amount of malevolent nodes increase, however NIPT can detect wormhole attack earlier compare to PT. NIPT works better than PT, which helps the nodes know the distance and location of each other, where can detect wormhole easier and earlier, and no need to use hardware implementation.

Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia  
sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Master of Sains

**MEKANISME PENGESAN SERANGAN LUBANG ULAT  
DALAM RANGKAIAN MUDAH ALIH AD HOC DENGAN  
MENGUNAKAN ALGORITMA MAKLUMAT KEJIRANAN  
DAN PENJEJAKAN LALUAN**

Oleh

**MEHDI ENSHAEI**

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Rangkaian Mudah Alih Ad Hoc (MANETs) ialah rangkaian konfigurasi sendiri yang terbentuk secara automatik oleh koleksi nod mudah alih. Keselamatan sering menjadi keutamaan memandangkan MANET tidak bergantung pada pentadbiran berpusat. Nod mudah alih tidak boleh mempunyai komunikasi hop tunggal dengan destinasi, kerana julat penghantaran nod adalah rendah. Oleh itu, MANET bergantung kepada nod perantara untuk menghantar mesej ke destinasi, dan bersedia untuk menghantar mesej kepada nod lain tanpa mementingkan diri sendiri. MANET terdedah kepada serangan kerana sifat terbuka, saling membantu, dan dinamik yang memerlukan satu kaedah baru bagi komunikasi yang selamat. Serangan lubang ulat adalah salah satu serangan berbahaya di MANET yang mana dua atau nod yang lebih bahaya merekod paket pada satu titik ke titik yang lain dalam rangkaian. Pengesanan serangan lubang ulat adalah sangat sukar, walaupun dengan penggunaan teknik kriptografi yang mana masih tidak cukup untuk mencegahnya memandangkan penyerang lubang cacing tidak mencipta paket berasingan, tetapi hanya memainkan semula paket yang sudah wujud di rangkaian dengan melepasi semua semakan kriptografi. Algoritma Laluan mengesan (PT) yang telah dicadangkan bagi mengesan dan mencegah serangan lubang cacing yang terdedah di MANET. Algoritma ini bagus untuk MANET kerana ia tidak mempunyai pengurusan berpusat dan nod bimbik autonomi menyambung antara satu sama lain melalui udara. Walau bagaimanapun, kekurangan pengiraan jarak seolah-olah menjadi kelemahan utama algoritma PT. Kesan daripada kurang pengiraan jarak, nod tidak boleh membuat keputusan sama

ada nod jauh adalah nod berniat jahat atau nod normal. Dalam kajian ini, satu mekanisme pertahanan baru dicadangkan berdasarkan pengubahsuaian proses penghantaran paket, menggunakan Maklumat Kejiranan (NI) dan algoritma PT, dan dikenali sebagai algoritma NIPT. Maklumat kejiranan adalah salah satu kaedah pengesanan dan ia adalah di bawah kategori penemuan jiran. Di samping itu, dengan memeriksa paketakuan (ACK) oleh nod sumber dan mengesahkan sama ada ia milik jiran 1-hop atau 2-hop jiran, ia mampu untuk mengesan lubang ulat pada peringkat awal lagi. Kajian ini menyiasat empat senario yang berbeza dan mengesan kedua-dua jenis serangan lubang ulat. Penilaian eksperimen menunjukkan bahawa algoritma NIPT mencapai keputusan yang lebih baik dalam PDR dan kelewatan dengan purata 5% dan 6% masing-masing, berbanding algoritma PT. Pemprosesan dan paket overhead bertambah baik dalam algoritma NIPT dengan purata 4% dan 6% masing-masing berbanding algoritma PT. Serangan lubang ulat menyebabkan paket menurun dan secara tidak langsung memberi kesan kepada PDR, overhead paket, dan kelewatan paket. Algoritma NIPT mempunyai peningkatan lebih baik dalam kelewatan yang menunjukkan penghapusan penyerang. Menggunakan NIPT, penurunan paket berkurangan dan pilihan laluan yang terbaik adalah bebas daripada lubang ulat. Pada masa yang sama, pemprosesan berkurangan apabila jumlah nod jahat meningkat, walau bagaimanapun NIPT dapat mengesan serangan lubang ulat lebih awal berbanding dengan PT. NIPT berfungsi lebih baik daripada PT, yang membantu nod untuk mengetahui jarak dan lokasi antara satu sama lain, di mana boleh mengesan lubang ulat dengan mudah dan lebih awal, dan tanpa menggunakan implementasi perkakasan.



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of GOD, is the most gracious and merciful. I thank GOD for giving me the patient and strength to complete this research work I would like to acknowledge the efforts of my major advisor, Dr. Zurina Mohd Hanapi, in motivating and guiding me during my graduate study. I have been learning from her the principles as an investigator.

I would like to thank Professor Dr. Mohamed Othman his valuable advices. His precious time and feed-backs are greatly appreciated. His expertise and insight are the keys for the success of his students. I would like to acknowledge the assistance of some former/current graduate students in the FSKTM lab and specially Mohammed Ahmed Al Maqri and Ameen Mohammed Alkharasani.

I greatly appreciate the support and encouragement from my loving wife Maral Faghani Hamadani, she helped me to overcome the many difficulties on the way to completing this research work. I will never forget her supports.

Last but not least, my heartfelt thanks to my parents for their love, prayers, support and motivation which guided me through this long journey towards earning my Master.

I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 23 October 2015 to conduct the final examination of Mehdi Enshaei on his thesis entitled "Wormhole Attack Detection Mechanism in Mobile Ad Hoc Network Using Neighborhood Information and Path Tracing Algorithm" in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the student be awarded the Master of Science.

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	i
<b>ABSTRAK</b>	iii
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>	v
<b>APPROVAL</b>	vi
<b>DECLARATION</b>	viii
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	xii
<b>LIST OF FIGURES</b>	xiii
<b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b>	xiv
<b>CHAPTER</b>	
<b>1 INTRODUCTION</b>	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem Statement	1
1.3 Research Objective	2
1.4 Research Scope	2
1.5 Contribution of Thesis	2
1.6 Thesis Organization	3
<b>2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	4
2.1 Mobile Ad hoc Network	4
2.1.1 Features of MANETs	4
2.1.2 Security Issues of MANETs	5
2.2 Classification of Attacks	6
2.3 Classification of Wormholes	6
2.3.1 Wormhole Attack	7
2.3.2 Threats Due to Wormhole Attack	10
2.3.3 Effects of Wormhole Attack	11
2.4 Techniques Classification	12
2.4.1 Round Trip Time Based	12
2.4.2 Neighbor Discovery/Verification Based	12
2.4.3 Hardware Based	13
2.4.4 Clock Based	14
2.4.5 Packet Leashes Based	14
2.4.6 Time To Live Based	14
2.5 Related Works	14
2.6 Summary	20

<b>3</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	22
3.1	Introduction	22
3.2	Research Framework	22
3.3	Experimental Environment	24
3.3.1	Hardware	24
3.3.2	Software	24
3.4	Existing Work: Path Tracing Algorithm	24
3.5	Neighborhood Information	25
3.6	Neighborhood Information and Path Tracing Algorithm	26
3.7	Performance Metrics	29
3.7.1	Wormhole Detection Rate	29
3.7.2	Packet Delivery Ratio	29
3.7.3	Throughput	29
3.7.4	Packet Overhead	30
3.7.5	Average Delay	30
3.7.6	Notations	30
3.7.7	Design	31
3.7.8	Flowchart Design	32
3.7.9	Broadcast HELLO Packet	34
3.7.10	ACK Response	36
3.7.11	Simulation Parameters	37
3.7.12	Assumptions	37
3.7.13	Network Model	38
3.8	Summary	41
<b>4</b>	<b>RESULTS AND DISCUSSION</b>	42
4.1	Introduction	42
4.2	NIPT Algorithm Results	42
4.2.1	Detection Rate of Wormhole Attack	42
4.2.2	Exposed Wormhole Attack	45
4.2.3	Hidden Wormhole Attack	48
4.2.4	Both Wormhole Attacks	51
4.2.5	Absence of Wormhole Attack	54
4.3	Summary	57
<b>5</b>	<b>CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK</b>	58
5.1	Conclusion	58
5.2	Future Work	59
	<b>REFERENCES</b>	60
	<b>APPENDICES</b>	67
	<b>BIODATA OF STUDENT</b>	78
	<b>LIST OF PUBLICATIONS</b>	79

## LIST OF TABLES

Table	Page
2.1 MANET Attack Based on Network layers	6
2.2 Summary of Wormhole Detection Methods	18
3.1 Result of Neighbor Correctness Test	27
3.2 Notations Used in Equations	31
3.3 Simulation Parameters	38
C.1 Comparison Between the Wormhole Attacks	74



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure	Page
2.1 Typical MANET	4
2.2 Hidden and Exposed Wormhole	7
2.3 Demonstration of Wormhole Attack	8
2.4 Open Wormhole Attack	9
2.5 Closed Wormhole Attack	10
2.6 Node A's Immediate Neighborhood	12
3.1 Research Framework	23
3.2 Combination of NI and PT Algorithm	28
3.3 Flowchart NIPT	34
3.4 State Diagram NIPT Algorithm	36
3.5 Node S Sending Traffic to D Along $P_{SD}$	39
3.6 Drop Periodic Updates	40
3.7 Design of Network	40
3.8 Wormhole Nodes in Dense Network	41
3.9 Packet Drops in Network	42
4.1 Detection Rate of Wormhole Attack Based on Neighbors	44
4.2 Wormhole Detection Rate in NIPT	45
4.3 Wormhole Detection Rate in PT	45
4.4 Packet Delivery Ratio in Exposed Wormhole Attack	46
4.5 Throughput in Exposed Wormhole Attack	47
4.6 Packet Overhead in Exposed Wormhole Attack	48
4.7 Average Delay in Exposed Wormhole Attack	49
4.8 Packet Delivery Ratio in Hidden Wormhole Attack	50
4.9 Throughput in Hidden Wormhole Attack	51
4.10 Packet Overhead in Hidden Wormhole Attack	51
4.11 Average Delay in Hidden Wormhole Attack	52
4.12 Packet Delivery Ratio in Both Types of Wormhole Attacks	53
4.13 Throughput in Both Types of Wormhole Attacks	53
4.14 Packet Overhead in Both Types of Wormhole Attacks	54
4.15 Average Delay in Both types of Wormhole Attacks	55
4.16 Packet Delivery Ratio in Absence of Wormhole Attack	55
4.17 Throughput in Absence of Wormhole Attacks	56
4.18 Packet Overhead in Absence of Wormhole Attacks	56
4.19 Average Delay in Absence of Wormhole Attacks	57
A.1 Flowchart PT	68
A.2 State Diagram	69

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACK	Acknowledgement Packet
CA	Central Authority
CBR	Constant Bit Rate
CPU	Central Processing Unite
CTS	Clear to Send
DoS	Denial of Service
DSDV	Destination Sequenced Distance Vector
DSR	Dynamic Source Routing
GPS	Global Positioning System
GPSR	Greedy Perimeter Stateless Routing
HMIT	HELLO Message Timing Intervals
LP3	Limiting Packet Propagation Parameter
MAC layer	Media Access Control layer
MAD	Mutual Authenticated Distance Bounding
MANET	Mobile Ad hoc Network
NAM	Network Animator
NAWA2	Neighbor Aware Wormhole Adversary Axing
NIPT	Neighborhood Information and Path Tracing
OLSR	Optimized Link State Routing protocol
OTCL	Object oriented Tool Command Language
PT	Path Tracing
RTS	Request to Send
QoS	Quality of Service
RREQ	Route Request Message
RREP	Route Reply Message
RTT	Round Trip Time
RWP	Random Way Point
SAM	Statistical Analysis of Multi-path
SHARP	Sharp Hybrid Adaptive Routing Protocol
SOLR	Secure Optimistic Link State Routing Protocol
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
TCL	Tool Command Language
TIK	TESLA with Instant Key
TTL	Time To Live
WAP	Wormhole Attack Prevention
WARP	Wormhole Avoidance Routing Protocol
Wi-Fi	Wireless Fidelity
WRP	Wireless Routing
ZRP	Zone Routing Protocol

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

In recent times, the rapid production of light and small portable gadgets such as PDAs, smart phones, and laptops, has lead to a latest category of mobile network named the Mobile Ad hoc Network (MANET). MANET is set of small range mobile nodes which communicate with other devices by air as medium, and this communication is done without having any infrastructure for routing packets (Lego and Sutradhar, 2011). Due to no existence of an infrastructure, nodes have responsibility to act as router or host to route the packets between each other. Ad hoc networks are employed in several useful scenarios such as battle fields, natural disasters to have temporary or emergency communication between mobile devices.

MANETs are principally important for conditions where deployment of infrastructure is precious or unreasonable, for example military operations, emergency rescue actions, live conference and university activity. Thus, security for these networks, is the main concern (Krishna et al., 2015). The open nature of MANETs or in the other hand, wireless transmission gives chance to outsiders to listen and control the network traffic or make interruption in network. Lack of centralized control authority makes difficulties for deployment security mechanism. It is very complex to implement perimeter-based defence system like firewalls due to the MANETs does not have clear point of entrance. Name of wormhole attack gets from physics, it consist of a narrow tube of space time which attaches far away areas of the cosmos. In network, wormhole attack behaves the same; two collaborating attackers create a tunnel and connect far parts of networks.

One side of attacker gets the traffic of one end of the network, and transmits the traffic by offline-channel link, to the other side of attacker. The second attacker re-broadcasts the traffic at the other network end. For ad hoc networks, wormhole attacks are in the group of dangerous attacks and it is very hard to be detected and prevented (Mishra and Singh, 2014) because cryptography-based measures do not improve them, as wormholes do not present new network messages, nor do the changes of available network messages.

### 1.2 Problem Statement

One of the important issues in wireless security is mobile nodes that have been extended in an un-trusted environment. The goal of the security mechanism is to detect the existence of wormholes that may be attracting the traffic. There are works done on security issues to detect the attacks such as wormhole attack in MANET, such as; (Anita et al., 2010) (Stoleru et al., 2012) (Patil et al., 2014). The Path Tracing (PT) algorithm introduced by Sakthivel and Chandrasekaran (2012), is one of the latest defence mechanism to detect

exposed wormhole attack in MANET. Where no additional requirements of hardware needed, that makes it more suitable for resource constrained. PT algorithm is using RTT, prior perhop distance, perhop distance and the number of participation of a link in a path to detect the exposed wormhole attack with greater throughput and less average delay and reduced overhead. The limitation of Path Tracing in the recent study by Anitha and Sivaganesh (2012) is the authors use cryptography technique to detect wormhole attack however it is not proper for detection of hidden wormhole attack. Hidden wormhole attack did not change the header of the packet so they just detect exposed wormhole attack. Wormhole attack is very destructive since the neighborhood information is confused (Liu et al., 2014). Nodes use Neighborhood Information to detect the real neighbors. In the study by Lathies Bhasker (2013) authors used Neighborhood Information and just consider 1-hop and 2-hop neighbors and not check more than 2-hop. Even throughput, average delay and overhead can be used to measure impact of wormhole attack mechanism by identifying less throughput with high average delay and overhead. It means there is wormhole attack in the network, however it is still not enough because lacking of detection rate is obvious when calculate the wormhole detection rate in Path Tracing algorithm.

### 1.3 Research Objective

The objectives of this study are the followings:

- To design and develop effective defence mechanism to detect wormhole attacks using Neighborhood Information and Path Tracing algorithm.
- To achieve better detection rate, as well as achieve greater throughput and less average delay. In addition reduce packet overhead and improve packet delivery ratio.

### 1.4 Research Scope

This study is related to detection of wormhole attack by implementing only on Dynamic Source Routing protocol (DSR) In this implementation, the nodes make use of MAC protocol to gain access in radio transmission is not considered. At the same time, two different nodes do not have the same set of neighbors. The focus of this thesis only on whether the wormhole can be detected using the proposed defence mechanism.

### 1.5 Contribution of Thesis

This thesis deals with detection of wormhole attack in MANETs. This algorithm presents a novel mechanism to detect wormhole attack; rather than trying to detect packets travelled farther than they should or faster than they should (as other wormhole attack detection techniques do). The contribution of this study can be defined in details as follows:

In order to have the good defence mechanism, the Neighborhood Information (NI) and Path Tracing (PT) algorithm was proposed to have better detection rate and have better security in network. The defence mechanism is a combination of two approaches as mentioned; the mechanism use Round Trip Time (RTT) to get better results in terms of wormhole detection rate, and performance metrics such as; throughput, average delay, packet delivery ratio, and packet overhead in sparse and dense network. In order to avoid wormhole attack, the nodes participating in MANET communication have to be registered in the network. Each node has a unique ID which would help in maintaining the record of each participated node in the network.

## 1.6 Thesis Organization

The thesis includes five chapters. Chapter 1 presents a brief discussion on the background, problem statement, objectives, scopes, and findings of the research work.

Chapter 2 presents a literature study to review the main principles in MANETs, routing protocols, and related attacks such as wormhole attack which is the main focus of the thesis.

Chapter 3 explains the general research methodology used to accomplish the objective. It presents the framework of the research work and explores each stage in details. It covers the aspects of design of the mechanism, implementation, simulation parameters, and performance metrics.

Chapter 4 presents the simulation analysis and the results of the defence mechanism in four scenarios and in sparse and dense network.

Finally, this study is concluded and directions for future work are presented in Chapter 5.

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