

Probabilistic Verification Scenarios with Reduced Authentication Delay for Handoff Clients in Mesh Networks

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Abstract

In this paper, we have proposed a secure handoff procedure by generating and assessing the tickets for each mesh client which are divided among various zones of mesh routers depending on their transmission range. Further, a trusted third party authentication server is proposed that is responsible for generating and assigning the tickets of each mesh client which are stored distributively at mesh routers. However, during the mobility whenever the range of current serving mesh router decreases, the mesh client needs to connect to a foreign mesh router by authenticating itself in order to continue its network services. The foreign mesh router validates the authenticity of its handoff mesh client by verifying its ticket. The proposed mechanism reduces the potential issue of storage overhead and security threats at mesh clients as all the tickets are stored distributively in the database of each mesh router. The proposed technique is validated with a commercial simulator NS2 over certain network parameters and different probabilistic scenarios of authentication.

Keywords Handoff \cdot Wireless mesh network \cdot Security threats \cdot Probabilistic authentication techniques \cdot Authentication delay

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1 Introduction

Handoff is considered to be an imperative procedure in order to support the mobility in the communication process. Generally, it is defined as connecting with a foreign mesh router (FMR) or new mesh router (MR) by exiting the current serving router's range due to signal reduction during the mobility [1, 2]. Wireless mesh network (WMN), an auspicious communication prototype is atypical kind of multi-hop wireless technology consisting of 2 sorts of nodes that are MRs and mesh clients (MCs) [3–5]. MRs offers the internet connectivity and act as the spine of the whole network while MCs accesses the services via MRs. Whenever a MC mobile outside the current MR range, the signal-to-noise ratio (SNR) falls due to signal reduction, therefore, the significant reduction of SNR creates the MC to search a FMR having good signal strength for enhanced services that triggers the handoff process in the network [6].

Since the nodes of WMN are mobile, limited and unstable by security with new performance concerns, a significant reduction in handoff may cause an abundant performance issues that affects the performance with the storage/communication delay and network threats [7-10]. During the handoff, it is prerequisite that mobile clients verify their authentication not only with a short impediment, but also with the defense of the mobile clients as well as the handoff process. Numbers of scientists/researchers have designed various handoff procedures by suggesting certain security mechanisms such as ticket based process, cryptographic mechanism and trusted third party mechanism [11-13]. However, the major drawback with these approaches is storage and communication overhead and key management issues. Even though, few researchers have resumed the overhead drawbacks using trusted third party approach, however, the security attacks at MCs and MRs still remain a major threat in mesh environments. Therefore, there is a need to advance the network metrics in order to ensure a resilient and secure approach during handoff [14, 15].

Although there exist various authentication procedure during handoff where third party is responsible to store and verify the mobile clients handoff. However, the proposed technique may not significantly reduce the authentication delay as all the tickets are stored at third party and MC needs to communicate with third party through various mesh routers. This manuscript aim is to propose a secure handoff mechanism that further reduces the authentication delay of previous proposed mechanism. The technical contribution of the paper is described as follows.

- An authentication server that generates and assigns the ticket to verify the mobile client's authenticity.
- Handoff procedure which explains the actual handoff mechanism in the network.
- Further authentication delay and verification process that is analyzed in different probabilistic scenarios over small (up to 25 number of nodes) and large (up to 250 number of nodes) network sizes using NS2 simulator.

The remaining structure of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses the related work. The network structure of the whole manuscript with proposed handoff mechanism is detailed in Sect. 3. Further, Sect. 4 discusses the performance evaluation of existing and proposed mechanism by showing the probabilistic scenarios of both the approaches and finally Sect. 5 concludes the paper.

2 Related Work

Multi-hop [16], proactive [17] and ticket-based [18] are generally three different sorts of handoff procedures that are used to authenticate the handoff clients in mesh networks. In multi-hop approaches, handoff client desires to re-authenticate itself to authentication server (AS) that is at multi-hop distance away from it while proactive authentication mechanism reduces the multi-hop distance by pre-distributing the credentials and pair-wise master keys (PMK) of log-in authentication process before moving the client to another domain. Further, ticket based handoff protocol decreases the handoff delay and storage, communication and key management overheads by distributing the tickets as successful log-in authentication.

EAP-TLS [19] and PANA [20] are the two multi-hop authentication protocols where handoff client authenticates itself to the AS by passing the source messages through multiple routers. Let us assume a scenario where there is a reduction in the SNR ratio and the handoff client needs to leave its current MR and search for new router to access its services. In order to continue its services, handoff client needs to re-authenticate itself with another router by sending a request message containing its MAC address and the base service set identifier (BSSID) of the old MR. Upon getting the request data, the new router forwards the request message to third party in order to confirm old MR. If BSSID is legal then AS will forward acceptance message to the new MR holding the security message for handoff transmission between new and old MR. Park et al. [21] have projected a proactive mechanism where after successful verification of mobile client, AS forwards a PMK to its allied MR with its client's identity. However, the major drawback of this approach is that the pre-distribution of certificates and keys acquires spare traffic overhead while in ticket verification process, client's authenticity is deliberated by verifying and generating the tickets by the AS that overcome the issues of security threats at MRs and MCs. In order to reduce security threats and handoff latency, a number of schemes have been proposed by different researchers/scientists. Further discussions explained some more effective handoff procedures related to our work. Huang et al. [22] have proposed a profligate handoff that is executed by sending a context transfer activation request (CTAR) to the new servicing MR. Before the handoff, mobile client forwards a CTAR as a token to its current MR and switches to new router's range. After getting the request from handoff client, previous MR forwards the activation token to the new router. Upon attainment in the range of new router, MC sends its activation request token to it. The new router calculates the activation token using the metrics supplied by previous router and if the token forwarded by previous MR matches with the client's token, handoff verification completes effectively. The major advantage of this technique is that handoff procedure completes with less communication steps between MC and MR, however, the technique may be prone to other performance issues such as each time handoff client needs to forward the activation request to its previous MR and the previous MR sends the request to new MR that cause significant handoff delay. Further, storage overhead exists at each MC as it has to store the CTAR into its routing table.

In order to overcome the above limitations, the authors have proposed other security techniques discussed in [23, 24], in which after completing the initial full authentication process, handoffs will be provided by deriving a PMK between individual MCs and AS, a separate PMK is consequent between each AS and MC. Before the handoff, neighboring routers interacts with AS in order to get nth PMK. Although the approach leads to significant reduced handoff delay, however, an independent PMK is needed between MC-AS that

is difficult to maintain. Further, MR needs to interrelate with AS for getting the keys that increases the communication instance in the network. A *Group-based Handoff* [25, 26] technique was proposed by Fu et al. in order to maintain a fast handoff; a group key is used among all the Base Stations (BSs). Accounting, authentication and authorization (AAA) server assigns a multi-BS group key (MGK) to all the BSs and a single MGK is used among all BSs to decrease the storage and key management overhead and effective occurrence of handoff procedure. PMK is shared between serving BS and user. The current BS computes a ticket for the handoff using MGK after recognizing the handoff client and the ticket containing a PMK that authenticates the handoff procedure. During handoff, mobile client forwards the ticket issued by current BS to the new BS and the new BS decrypts it using PMK and MGK and confirms the handoff if PMK is legitimate. The major drawback with this approach is that only a single group key is used among all the BSs so that if one of the BS is attacked, the whole network prone to threat to forge the ticket used among all the MCs.

Further, the approach proposed by Xu et al. [27] that is taken as the base paper of our paper is Ticket-based Handoff approach. The author proposed a ticket based mechanism by describing the procedure into different steps (1) ticket issuing step that is used to produce the tickets for handoff mechanism and (2) re-authentication step that is done in the actual handoff verification. In ticket issuing phase, each MC and MR stores the tickets and keys of their domains into their databases where during handoff, whenever a MC enters into FMR to access the services, MRs converse with each other to identify the domain and to get the keys and ticket of the handoff client to verify its legitimacy. The major limitation with this approach is that the interaction between MRs indulges a number of security attacks i.e. message forging and DoS attacks and may lead to communication overhead and significant delay issues. Further, the storage of tickets and keys at MC does engage several resource constraints such as energy consumption, memory and storage overhead problems. Moreover, the intruders can easily attack on MCs and communicating MRs in order to modify or forge the data and affect the network performance by adding the delay process.

As per best-of-the-authors knowledge no other existing technique provides guarantee to reduced authentication delay [28] and resilient nature against the security attacks. Although various handoff procedures have been proposed; however, it may not be able to reduce the authentication process [29–32]. Therefore, the main focus of the proposed protocol is to reduce authentication delay and ensure a secure communication process under various security attacks over probabilistic scenarios of authentication verification process.

3 Proposed Solution

3.1 Proposed Network Model

The architecture of the proposed mechanism is depicted in Fig. 1a consisting of number of MRs, MCs and an AS. MCs are the one that are distributed among various domains and access the network services via MRs while an AS is a trusted third party authority that is responsible to generate the tickets for each MC and distribute it to the individual MRs in a distributed manner. MRs are the one that act as the backbone of the entire network and store the tickets distributed by AS into their databases for e.g. if there are 100 MRs and 1000 MCs then the AS will generate 1000 tickets and distribute 100 tickets to each individual MR so that even if the intruder attacks one of the MR with in a domain or MC then a

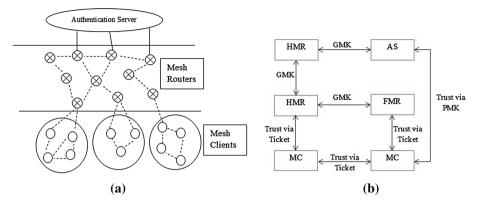


Fig. 1 The proposed technique, a network architecture, b trust model

limited amount of information is going to be compromised. The taxonomy used throughout the proposed mechanism is depicted in Table 1.

A secure and an efficient handoff mechanism is built upon the concept of tickets, keys and AS that generates and issues the tickets; and are trusted by various entities in mesh environments.

Figure 1b represents a trust relationship model among communicating entities having certain number of devices.

- 1. Trust between HMR and AS The trust among AS and HMR is recognized via group based master key generated by the AS.
- 2. Mesh Router Any two mesh routers either FMR or HMR trust each other using GMK in a network.
- 3. Mesh Router and Mesh Client The mutual trust between routers i.e. HMR or FMR and client is recognized via AS ticket.
- Mesh Client The mutual trust depends upon PMK assigned by AS and is recognized by 4. distributing the messages between the MCs.

The complete execution of the proposed mechanism is illustrated by dividing it into three different steps such as local verification step, ticket generating-distributing step and handoff verification step. In local verification step, MC proves the validity to its HMR by distributing some local messages while in second step, AS calculates the

| Table 1 Taxonomy of the proposed approach | Abbreviations | Meaning | | | |
|---|---------------|------------------------|--|--|--|
| | MC | Mesh client | | | |
| | MR | Mesh router | | | |
| | AS | Authentication server | | | |
| | HMR | Home mesh router | | | |
| | FMR | Foreign mesh router | | | |
| | GMK | Group based master key | | | |
| | МК | Master key | | | |

tickets using group based master key mutual between AS-MRs. AS assigns the same tickets to routers that are at single hop distance among each other. The advantage of subjecting same tickets is that it lessens computational overhead at AS and keys/storage overhead at MCs and MRs. The tickets stored in MR's will be used by MC and MR for the future use. Further, the handoff verification phase will be successful in step three if the metrics of the tickets propel by FMR matches with the one sent by the mobile client. If new router communicates with previous router, there is no need for full handoff. A half handoff or localized process is triggered between mobile MR and MC that lessens latency and handoff cost. There is an assumption that routers and MCs are loosely coordinated and server does the following operations prior to WMN deployment.

- AS and MRs preserve trusted relationship and set up secure connections, and
- Full authentication is done by running EAP-TLS.

3.1.1 Local Verification Step

After the deployment of network architecture whenever a client needs to access the services with its HMR then it can happen via distributing some messages. Initially, each MC and MR verifies to the AS with their keys and access the signature of the server for mutual authentication process as discussed below. The pictorial representation of local verification step is depicted in Fig. 2a.

- 1. During the initial message, MC forwards the ID_{MC} , ID_{HMR} , Sig_{server} as a message to its HMR.
- 2. After accessing the message from the MC, router verifies the authenticity of that client by confirming its sig_{server} and sends the message as ID_{MC} , ID_{HMR} , Sig_{server} to the client.
- 3. Correspondingly, if client needs to validate the MR then it may verify it by identifying the router's message.

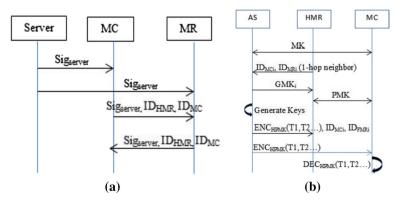


Fig. 2 The pictorial representation of a local authentication phase, b ticket generation-assigning phase

If $(message_{MC} == message_{MR})$ Client is trust and able to access the services Else The client is not a trusted

3.1.2 Ticket Generating-Distributing Step

This step purpose is to generate the keys between AS-HMR, AS-MC and HMR-MC. The AS creates and assigns the tickets based on the keys produced among AS-MC. The current serving router is called as HMR and the targeted handoff router is defined as FMR. The following steps and Fig. 2b details this step.

- 1. A master key (MK) is produced among AS-MC to set up a secure channel with each other. Further, PMK among HMR-MC and AS-HMR is generated via MK.
- 2. Due to the functionality of router, each router is known of its single hop neighbor router which forwards the identity (ID) of each client and its single hop neighbor routers to AS that generates a GMK using routers' ID. Routers that are at single hop away among each other will contribute to the same master key as depicted in Table 2. Finally secure communication among HMR-MC is recognized by sharing PMK derived from MC's master key.
- By deciding a nonce n, an expiration time t and the identities of MRs and clients, AS
 produces the corresponding handoff ticket T_i for the handoff verification and then assign
 the tickets T_i to corresponding MR_i for their future concern

$$TAK_{i} = H_{GMK_{i}}(ID_{HMR}, ID_{FMR}, ID_{MC}, n, t, sig_{server})$$
$$T_{i} = (TAK_{i}, ID_{HMR}, ID_{FMR}, ID_{MC}, n, t).$$

After generating the tickets Authentication Server aim is to distribute it to the individual MRs in a distributed manner in order to avoid the authentication delay during handoff. MRs are the one that act as the backbone of the entire network and store the tickets distributed by AS into their databases for e.g. if there are 100 MRs and 1000 MCs then the AS will generate 1000 tickets and distribute 100 tickets to each individual MR so that even if the intruder attacks one of the MR with in a domain or MC then a limited amount of information is going to be compromised.

| MRs identity | Generated keys | Tickets | |
|--------------|------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1 | GMK ₁ | Ticket ₁ | |
| 2 | GMK ₁ | Tticket ₁ | |
| 3 | GMK ₁ | Ticket ₁ | |
| 4 | GMK_1 | Ticket ₁ | |
| 5 | GMK_1 | Ticket ₁ | |
| 6 | GMK ₂ | Ticket ₂ | |
| 7 | GMK ₂ | Ticket ₂ | |

Table 2 AS routing table

3.1.3 Handoff Verification Step

The main objective of our manuscript is to reduce the authentication delay. Therefore, in this step, AS after generating the clients tickets will distribute randomly to their corresponding MR's domain. This mechanism reduces the authentication verification process as handoff client request their tickets to their HMR and reduces risk of intruders as tickets are not stored at MC database and each router store some tickets so that even if it is hacked by an intruder, then it may not affect the entire network performance. The handoff verification step takes place when there is reduction in the SNR among HMR to mobile MC due to increase of interaction distance. The below steps discuss the interaction steps encountered during handoff verification step.

• Initially handoff client searches for an FMR_i depending upon its good SNR ratio. The FMR_i is chosen by taking the distance among MC-MR. A threshold of SNR is decided that is computed as signal strength shown in Eq. 1. Routers having significant signal strength will be chosen as FMRi

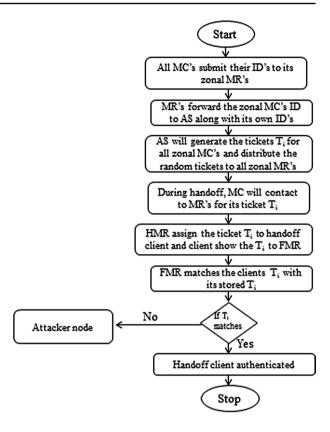
$$signal strength = \frac{Distance}{SNR}.$$
 (1)

During the simulation environment, the distance among MRs is known as the signal strength depends on SNR value and the routers. From the known distance, it is easy to compute the signal strength. The node that is mobile can initiate the handoff and gets better signal strength.

- After generating the tickets, AS will randomly distribute the tickets to the corresponding domains' mesh routers. Upon request, AS will send the ticket of handoff MC to HMR and FMR where the handoff client is reaching. The advantage of this mechanism is that once the FMR authenticates a handoff MC, it will store the its corresponding ticket into its database so that next time when the same MC reaches to same FMR range, the transfer of ticket between HMR-FMR reduces.
- Now, during the mobility, handoff client will request for ticket T_i from its HMR. As FMR already stores it tickets sent by AS, FMR verifies the ticket T_i of that MC after matching with its stored ticket.

If $(handoff MC_{Ticket} == FMR_{Ticket})$ then The client is verified Else The client is not verified

The flowchart of proposed handoff mechanism is depicted in Fig. 3 where the AS will generate the tickets of each MC corresponding to their domains' MRs and distribute the tickets to the individual MRs. During the handoff process, MC will connect to their domain MRs accessing their tickets in order to overcome the authentication delay and security threats.



4 Performance Evaluation

For the purpose of simulating the existing and proposed approach, the simulation is done over NS2 simulator. The environmental setup for simulation is presented in Table 3 where 500 m \times 500 m network area is constructed having small and large network sizes consisting of 25 and 250 number of nodes respectively. The clients are mobile in nature means they can leave their HMR and connect to other HMRs range at any time and the mobility speed of mesh clients is setup as 0–5 m/s with the transmission range of 25 m/s. Further the communication ranges of MAP routers are 120 m/s and MAC layer

| Table 3 The networkingparameters of the existing andproposed technique | Network parameter | Value | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| | Network area | 500 m×500 m | | |
| | Number of nodes | 25,250 | | |
| | MAC | 802.11 | | |
| | Simulation time | 60 s | | |
| | Mobility speed | 0–5 m/s | | |
| | Clients | 5200 | | |
| | Mesh clients transmission range | 0–25 m/s | | |

protocol used is 802.11. The simulation time for the experiment is setup as 60 s. The architecture of WMN proposed in the manuscript have AS that is responsible for producing the tickets to mesh routers and clients, two internet gateway routers IGW that provide the connection among mesh routers and internet and MRs that offers the services to clients to actually utilize the services. As shown in Fig. 1a, MRs is distributed into different zones that provide the services to their zonal or domain's mesh clients as HMR. The domains are produced according to transmission range of mesh clients with their HMR. The clients having good SNR from their HMR are measured as one domain.

This manuscript aim is to optimize the verification delay and analyze the results with different probabilistic scenarios i.e. no authentication, false authentication and correct authentication.

Authentication Delay is described as how much time the mechanism requires reauthenticating the handoff client. Here, a network of 200 mobile clients is constructed having the mobility rate of 0-5 m/s. Further, both the approaches are analyzed under different probabilistic scenarios such as *No authentication* where a malicious user or an attacker is proficient to authenticate itself with the FMR and the FMR identifies that it is an attack. *False authentication* is a situation where the mobile client is justifiable; however, the FMR is unable to authenticate it. Both the approaches existing and proposed are experimented under this scenario that is how many times a mobile client is able to verify itself with the FMR. Further, *Correct authentication* is when a legitimate mobile client verifies itself with the FMR and is able to validate it.

Both the techniques [existing (considered as the basic) and proposed] are analyzed under three different scenarios (as depicted in Fig. 4a–c) over small and large network sizes and analyzed how many times a mobile client comes under no authentication, false authentication and correct authentication.

The numerical values of evaluated parameters such as average authentication delay, maximum authentication delay, false authentication, no authentication and correct authentication over small and large network sizes are detailed in Tables 4 and 5. Further, Figs. 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12 depicts the evaluated graphs corresponding to the listed tables. The detailed explanation of each graph is discussed in the below text.

4.1 Results Discussion

Figure 5 depicts the average and maximum authentication delay of existing and proposed approaches in small network sizes over different mobile clients. It can be clearly

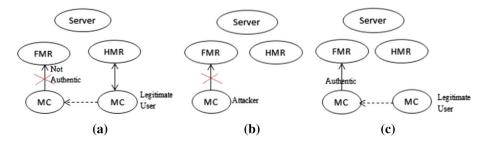


Fig. 4 Authentication probabilistic scenarios, \mathbf{a} false authentication, \mathbf{b} no authentication, \mathbf{c} correct authentication

| Number of mobile clients | Average authen- tication delay | | Maximum authentication delay | | No authentica- tion | | False authenti- cation | | Correct authenti- cation | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | Basic | Proposed | Basic | Proposed | Basic | Proposed | Basic | Proposed | Basic | Proposed |
| Small networ | k size (n | umber of m | obile cl | lients) | | | | | | |
| 5 | 1.87 | 1.18 | 2.04 | 1.54 | 2.12 | 1.87 | 7.54 | 6.11 | 2.32 | 3.23 |
| 10 | 1.89 | 1.23 | 2.13 | 1.59 | 2.33 | 1.92 | 7.55 | 6.12 | 2.11 | 3.11 |
| 15 | 1.95 | 1.46 | 2.18 | 1.72 | 2.48 | 1.98 | 7.67 | 6.23 | 2.03 | 3.09 |
| 20 | 2.04 | 1.53 | 2.25 | 1.77 | 2.56 | 2.13 | 7.77 | 6.24 | 1.97 | 2.97 |
| 25 | 2.12 | 1.60 | 2.30 | 1.84 | 2.64 | 2.24 | 7.81 | 6.32 | 1.88 | 2.88 |

 Table 4
 Simulation result values for small network sizes

Table 5 Simulation result values for large network sizes

| Number of mobile clients | Average authen- tication delay | | Maximum authentication delay | | No authentica- tion | | False authenti- cation | | Correct authenti- cation | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|----------|------------------------|----------|---------------------------|----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| | Basic | Proposed | Basic | Proposed | Basic | Proposed | Basic | Proposed | Basic | Proposed |
| Large networ | k size (n | number of n | nobile cl | lients) | | | | | | |
| 50 | 0.51 | 0.32 | 0.58 | 0.34 | 0.89 | 0.58 | 5.97 | 4.33 | 3.84 | 5.34 |
| 100 | 0.75 | 0.43 | 0.86 | 0.63 | 1.25 | 0.94 | 6.46 | 4.65 | 3.55 | 4.68 |
| 150 | 1.03 | 0.82 | 1.24 | 0.99 | 1.78 | 1.30 | 6.90 | 5.11 | 2.94 | 4.11 |
| 200 | 1.45 | 0.97 | 1.76 | 1.35 | 2.14 | 1.75 | 7.24 | 5.78 | 2.32 | 3.58 |
| 250 | 1.98 | 1.24 | 2.21 | 1.68 | 2.67 | 2.18 | 7.88 | 6.21 | 1.87 | 2.74 |

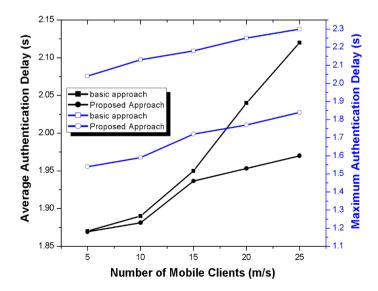
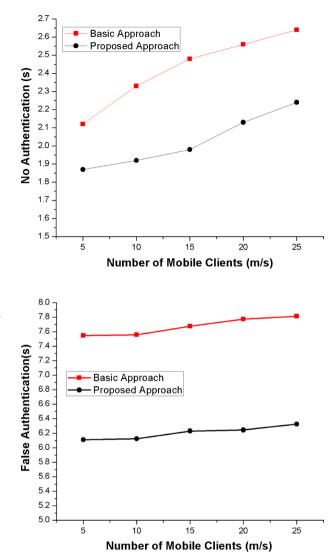


Fig. 5 The effects of number of mobile clients over average and maximum authentication delay



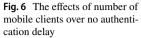


Fig. 7 The effects of number of mobile clients over false authentication

seen in the graph that the average and maximum authentication delay of proposed approach is less as compared to the basic approach. Initially, during the network establishment where clients enters inside the network and starts the transmission process, the time required to initially authenticate the MCs in another domain is always more than the clients that visits the same network again. The measured authentication values (average or maximum) of proposed approach are depicted in Fig. 5 where AS distributes the tickets to corresponding MRs domain in order to verify the MCs authenticity. Whenever a MC again moves to same domain FMRs range, the authentication delay of that MC will be less as the previous history of that client is already stored in its database. While in case of basic approach, FMR needs to communicate with the HMR for every client and does not save any record in its database. So that if same client moves to same FMRs range, the entire authentication process repeats again.

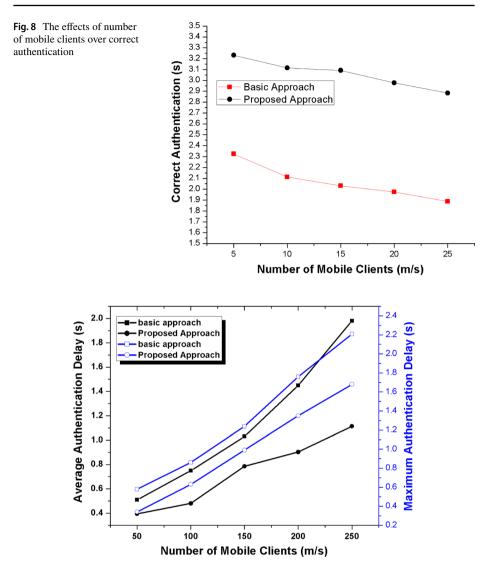


Fig. 9 The effects of number of mobile clients over average and maximum authentication delay

Further, Figs. 6, 7 and 8 presents no, false and correct authentication graphs which shows that the proposed approach performs better as compare to existing approach. The reason is that, in proposed approach, the AS generates the tickets and randomly distributes only to their corresponding HMRs. During the mobility, whenever the handoff MC requests for their tickets to the corresponding HMRs, if intruders compromised one or more MC, then it may not affect the network performance as the authenticity is checked by the MRs. Furthermore, if intruders compromise some of the MRs then only few tickets which are stored in that particular MR domain are leaked which may further does not able to affect the entire network performance. The remaining MRs that are not compromised by the intruders may successfully identify the legitimate MCs. While in case

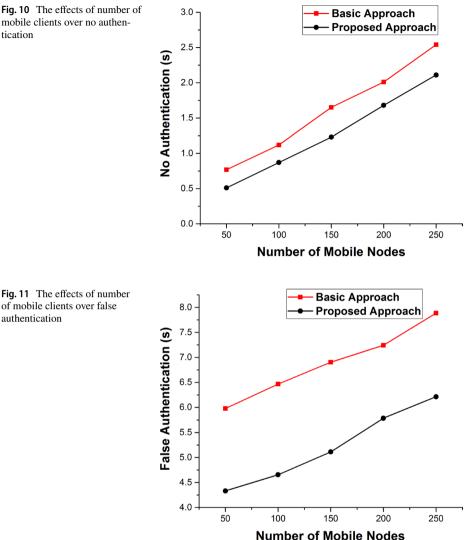
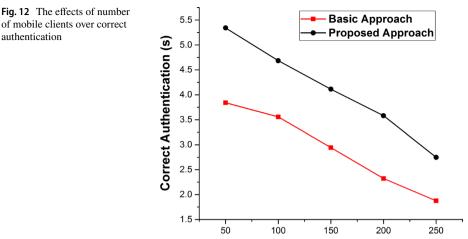


Fig. 10 The effects of number of mobile clients over no authentication

of existing approach, all the tickets are stored at MR as well as at MC database where intruders may easily compromise MCs and can prove their authenticity in the network by forging the legitimate MC identity.

Further, the same parameters are measured against existing network sizes where network is already established while the MC are increasing inside the network. Whenever, the number of MC move from one domain to another, the authentication delay and verification procedure would be very less as compare to the existing phenomenon because each FMR maintain a history of their previous visited handoff MC into their databases and tickets are randomly distributed to their domains MRs. Figures 9, 10, 11 and 12 presents the authentication delay and verification procedure over large network sizes such as 100, 150, 200, 250. The major advantage of proposed phenomenon is that reduced authentication delay (as the tickets are stored at MR's database) and improved security



Number of Mobile Nodes

(even if one of the MR or entire domain is encountered by an attacker, the remaining network becomes unaffected) is provided due to distributed assignment of tickets by the AS. However, in case of existing approach, the MRs does not maintain a database, every time FMRs needs to re-authenticate the same handoff MC if it visits the same FMR again. Further, all the tickets and keys are stored at MR as well as MCs database where intruders may directly attack one or more of MR or MC and easily forge the users' security.

5 Conclusion and Future Work

In this paper, we have proposed a secure handoff procedure by generating and assigning the tickets for each mesh client that are divided among various zones of mesh routers depending on their communication range. Further, a trusted third party authentication server is proposed that distributes the tickets to the corresponding mesh routers domains. The proposed approach has significantly resolved the issues of communication and storage overhead of MRs and MCs and security threats during the mobility of the clients in another domain. The existing and proposed approaches are simulation over NS2 to validate the network performance results against maximum and no authentication delay. Further, both the approaches are validated against different probabilistic scenarios such as no authentication, false authentication and correct authentication process. During the network establishment or handoff process, each mesh must be granted with the unique identification key by the authentication server in order to recognize the handoff clients for the verification process that will be measured in future communication.

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