

The authorization frameworks mentioned above offer no control over permission sequences constraints. In capability-based systems such as ICAP and OAuth, capabilities may carry a list of granted permissions. These permissions do not have any usage constraints. Recent work in [30] presents a capability system (HCAP) that supports history-based access control. Compared to HCAP, our work has several advantages when enforcing a finite permission sequence. First, any communication between resource servers is not required. Second, HCAP uses the timestamp to invalidate the old capability, which requires a synchronized clock. We do not have this assumption in our capability system. Third, HCAP capabilities carry part of the request security automaton (a security automaton specifies the enforceable security policy), and the RS is required to simulate the state transition in the security automaton. Our capabilities carry the finite permission sequence, and the RS simply needs to maintain an internal counter. The lightweight capabilities and fast capability verification pave the way for faster deployment of our capability-based system for ecosystems such as IoT. Finally, the capability in HCAP includes a Message Authentication Code using the shared secret. This security tag is only verifiable by the target resource server. In this work, the signatures in capabilities are public-key-based thus are public-verifiable. It is worth noting that HCAP does not support “context” of access.

9 CONCLUSION

The effectiveness of applying capability-based systems to access control in many domains depends on its ability to enforce complex policies, including orderings among permissions and environmental situations. However, efficient enforcement of these conditions in a distributed capability system is challenging since policy decision and enforcement are carried out in different entities. We motivate this research to provide a capability-based system with the fine-grained delegation of authority and efficient enforcement of conditional constraints.

We described a capability-based system, which supports enforcement of permission sequence and context constraints. Capabilities in our model allow the resource owner to have control over orderings among permissions and specify any external conditions in the policies. Cryptographic means in the capability system provide advanced security features and efficient capability revocation. We formally proved the safety property of the proposed system. We integrated our system with OAuth 2.0 and demonstrated that the performance of our system is competitive. Future work will focus on enforcing the other history-based policies using minimum state. Furthermore, we will consider an honest but curious RS and ensure that the RS can not passively/actively learn more information about the user and their surrounding environment.

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research is in part supported by Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and Telus Communications, under Industrial Research Chair Grant scheme.

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