

# A Proposed ABone Network Security Architecture

Bob Braden

Bob Lindell

Steven Berson

USC/ISI

# Goals

- Provide initial ABone security capabilities
- Propose a flexible framework
  - With room to grow
  - Incorporate future research results
- Make the ABone security architecture draft a living document

# AAs and Activities

- AA
  - Active Application code
  - Some can concurrently process multiple activities
- Activity
  - Executes in an AA on behalf of a particular end user or "principal"
  - Involves data communication along the path(s) between senders and receivers
  - Active processing or computation within both hosts and routers

# ABone Node Security

- **Unix Operating System**
  - Separate user identity for each EE
  - Network traffic control implementation
- **Anetd**
  - Secure EE invocation
- **QCMD**
  - Secure distribution of ACL and policy information

# ABone Network Security

- Considerably more challenging
- End-to-end security with hop-by-hop packet modification

# Threat Model

- Activity denial of service (node security issue)
- Unauthorized use of resources
- Malicious modification of packets
- Injection of spoofed packets
- Replays of previously transmitted packets

# Trust Model

- Some AAs assume complete trust in the network.
- Any solution MUST offer a low overhead solution for these AAs.
- Some AAs may trust nodes but not the communications infrastructure that comprises the network.
- Some AAs may not even trust the nodes. By definition this implies an AA-based solution.

# Proposed Solution

- User authorization to decide if the principal is authorized to launch this activity, obtain special resources, and determine how to account for the services
- Message authentication and integrity to ensure that control and data packets for the activity cannot be spoofed, modified, or replayed

# User Authorization

- Packets carry a certificate, not generally modified at each hop, that is disseminated end-to-end
- Likely to be rewritten at provider boundaries in a multi-provider network
- AAs may wish to bind this certificate to invariant portions of the message to prevent misuse (no node trust)
- User authorization ("Policy") is an active area in IETF. Can we leverage off their work?

# Message Authentication and Integrity

- Packet carry an outer keyed hash and sequence number to prevent modifications and replays
- For persistent AAs (not capsules), packets carry an inner hash identifying the sending AA. This is a dynamic naming convention used to isolate activities.
- This "iterative" trust model provides the necessary scalability needed in active networks
- Assumes a homogeneous level of trust along a

# Secure Node Operation

- Maintain node security
- Preserve secrets
- Peer only with other trusted nodes
- Reject all messages which cannot be properly authenticated using the outer keyed hash
- Reject all messages which do not carry a correct inner hash for a given activity
- Place a proper inner hash, based on the sending AA, into outgoing packets.

# User Identity

- Principals launch activities at end nodes
- Must provide a scalable solution
- Common case is the initiation of an activity within a single domain of trust
- User identity could be carried in the authorization certificate and be based on server technologies such as Kerberos

# Recovery

- We have assumed node security
- What if a node was compromised?
- Iterative trust implies we must recover all nodes in the network?
- Solutions when this is inadequate
  - Robust activities
  - Compartmentalized network

# Future Directions

- Robust Activities
- Policy Definitions
- Mobility
- Supply requirements for future NodeOS and EE draft security specifications