

Security and Privacy in Healthcare Environments

Bharat Bhargava, Leszek Lilien and Yuhui Zhong
Department of Computer Sciences and CERIAS
Purdue University

Objectives and Issues

Objectives

- Security, privacy, and safety of patients and staff
- Security, privacy, and safety for processes and facilities in hospitals, clinics, etc.

Issues

- Vulnerabilities to malicious behavior, hostile settings, terrorism attacks, natural disasters, tampering
- Reliability, security, and privacy issues can affect timeliness and precision of patient information

Objectives and Issues – cont.

Issues – cont.

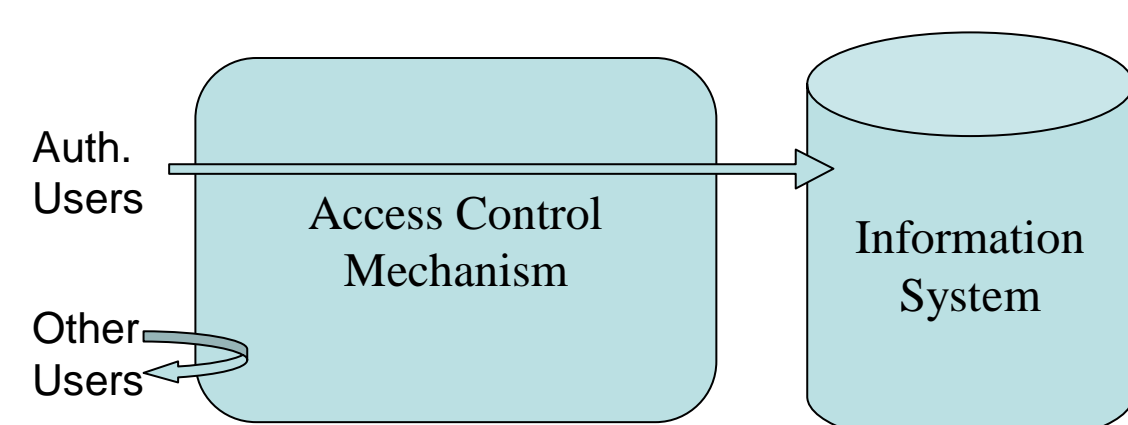
- Collaboration over networks should be secure, private, trustworthy, reliable, consistent, correct and anonymous
 - Collaborators include physicians, nurses and staff; pharmacies; emergency personnel and law enforcement agencies; government and community leaders

Measures

Example Measures

- No of incidents per day, etc., in a ward, hospital, etc.
- No of non-emergency calls due to malfunctions, failures, or intrusions
- No of false fire alarms, smoke detections, pager activations, etc.
- No of cases of wrong data values, lost or delayed messages, etc.
- Timeliness, accuracy, precision

Access Control



Authorized Users

- Validated credentials

AND

- Cooperative and legitimate behavior history

Other Users

- Lack of required credentials

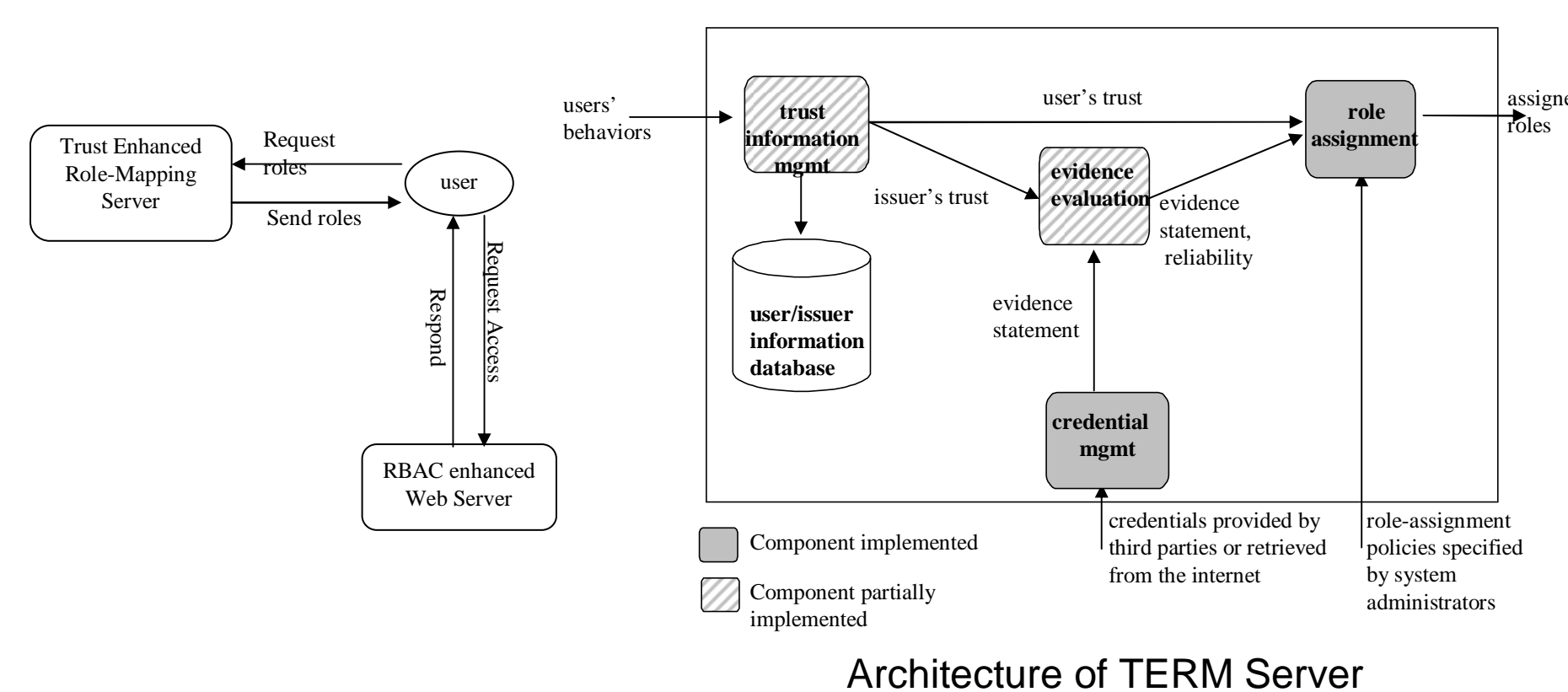
OR

- Non-cooperative or malicious behavior history

Using Trust and Roles for Access Control

Approach: “add” trust to role-based access control (RBAC)

- Cooperates with traditional RBAC
- Authorization based on evidence, trust, and roles (user profile analysis)



Integrity Checking Systems

Integrity Assertions (IAs)

- Predicates on values of database items

Examples (IAs would detect errors)

- Coordinate shift in a Korean plane shot down by U.S.S.R.
- Human error: potassium result of 3.5 reported to ICU as 8.5

Types of IAs

- Allowable value range
- Relationships to values of other data
- Conditional value

Privacy and Anonymity

Privacy

- Protecting sensitive data from unauthorized access
- Controlled dissemination of private data
- Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)
- Patients rights to request a restriction or limitation on the disclosure of protected health information (PHI)
- Staff rights

Anonymity

- Protecting identity of data sources

Emerging Technologies: Sensors and Wireless Communications

Challenge:

- Develop sensors that monitor and detect violations in medical care environments before a threat to health or life occurs
 - Bio sensors to detect anthrax, viruses, toxins, bacteria
 - Ion trap mass spectrometer
 - Neutron-based detectors
 - Electronic sensors, wireless devices

More on Our Research

Collaboration

- Prof. Clement McDonald, M.D., Regenstrief Institute for Health Care, Indiana University School of Medicine
- Prof. Arif Ghafoor, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue
- Prof. Mike Zoltowski, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Purdue

Web Site: <http://www.cs.purdue.edu/homes/bb/>

Current support : over one million dollars (NSF, Cisco, Motorola, DARPA)

Selected Publications:

- B. Bhargava and L. Lilien, "Private and Trusted Collaborations," Proc. Secure Knowledge Management (SKM): A Workshop, Amherst, NY, Sept. 2004.
- A. Bhargava and M. Zoltowski, "Sensors and Wireless Communication for Medical Care," Proc. Intl. Workshop on Mobility in Databases and Distributed Systems (MDDS), Prague, Czechia, Sept. 2003.
- B. Bhargava, Y. Zhong, and Y. Lu, "Fraud Formalization and Detection," Proc. Intl. Conf. Data Warehousing and Knowledge Management (DaWaK), Prague, Czechia, Sept. 2003.
- E. Terzi, Y. Zhong, B. Bhargava, Pankaj, and S. Madria, "An Algorithm for Building User-Role Profiles in a Trust Environment", in Proc. DaWaK 2002, Aix-en-Provence, France, Sept. 2002.