A Model for Enabling Trustworthiness in V2V Networks

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PROBLEM

V2V and V2I networks (Fig. 1) are temporary, short-duration wireless networks designed for improving the overall driving experience by exchanging a multitude of information between vehicles and fixed infrastructure. However, given the presence of malicious entities, greedy drivers, and pranksters, blindly accepting any such information received (even one received through a cryptographically secured channel) can be catastrophic. In this project, we focus on building a model for managing (computing and maintaining) the trustworthiness of messages received over V2V networks.

METHODOLOGY

The proposed approach takes advantage of existing V2I communication facilities deployed and managed by central traffic authorities, which can be used to collect vehicle behavior information in a crowd-sourcing fashion for constructing a more comprehensive view of vehicle trustworthiness.

For validating our scheme, we implemented a V2V/V2I trust simulator (Fig. 2) by extending an existing V2V simulator with trust management capabilities. Preliminary analysis of the model shows promising results. By combining our trust modeling technique with a threshold-based decision strategy, we observed on average 85% accuracy.

The trust on an endorser is computed as a triple (t, c, f). Here, t is the measured reputation value computed based on the endorser’s history of providing a correct and incorrect endorsement. It could be measured as simply as (# of endorsements of factual reports/total # of endorsements) assuming independence of individual endorsements. The value c is the level of confidence on the measured reputation t, computed based on the goodness of fit of the distribution of the endorser’s behavior to a specific user behavior. Finally, f is the default reputation value that is essential to reason about reports received from a vehicle that does not have any historical information available for it. The value of f is computed using static information
about the endorser such as (1) vehicle make (e.g., Ford, BMW, etc.), (2) vehicle model (e.g., Corolla, Focus, etc.), (3) vehicle history (e.g., Carfax report), (4) vehicle type (e.g., ambulance, police car, etc.), (5) context information (e.g., current location: North Philly; current time: 2:00am). The vehicle uses the V2I network to obtain the static information about the endorsers, usually from the registration authority that assigns vehicle ids. Additionally, the user specifies policies to determine f, by explicitly stating its value for various combinations of static and contextual information.

As an initial step, we have designed a trust model based on Bayesian statistics. Essentially, the Bayesian trust model computes a probability estimation t by assuming the vehicle behavior can be modeled as an independent and identically distributed random variable.

RESULTS

Our simulation introduced 20 incidents with average duration 20 minutes over a map with random starting time. We assume the ground truth of the incidents are known after a five-minute delay. The start location of vehicles, the location of RSUs and incident occurrence are evenly distributed over the map area. Fig. 3 shows the trend of average trust score of vehicles with normal and attacker role types under different levels of crowd-sourced incident feedback ratio. Both the attackers and the normal vehicles begin with a trust score of 0.5. As we can see, after an initial “bootstrapping” time, the trust score of the two role types evolve in two different directions recognizing attackers from normal.

CONCLUSION

By taking advantage of V2I channels between vehicles and central traffic authorities, we can construct a global view of individual vehicles trustworthiness in a crowd-sourced fashion, which overcomes the lack of vehicle behavior information due to the inherent ephemeral nature of vehicular networks. Future work is centered on improving the communication overhead, the impact of
unreliable communication channel, and the cost of infrastructure deployment. Finally, we plan to further study the trade-off of security and privacy issues introduced by using unique identifiers.