



Role Based Access Control For Software Defined Networking Formal Models and Implementation

Dissertation Defense

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- Introduction
- SDN-RBAC Model
- Parameterized Permissions and Roles
- ParaSDN Model for Fine Grained and Scalable Authorization in SDN
- SDN-RBACa Administrative Model
- Proxy Operations and Custom Permissions
- Conclusion and Future Work



Introduction Traditional Networks





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Features Provided by SDN Architecture









Flow Table Structure



Apply actions





Flow Rule Insertion Example











 Control which subjects (network apps) can access which objects (virtual network resources) for performing which actions (SDN operations).









- Capability-based approaches
 - Direct relation between operations and apps.
 - Well studied and known to have administrative complexities.



Total associations =3 x 6 = 18 1 new app requires 6 new associations 1 new permission requires 3 new associations



Total associations = 3 + 6 = 9 1 new app requires 1 new associations 1 new permission requires 1 new association





Problem Statement:

Current Software Defined Networking technology is lacking access control models and enforcement for protecting network resources residing in the SDN controller from unauthorized access by OpenFlow applications.

Thesis Statement:

Role-based access control model and its extensions is an effective approach for the specification and administration of dynamic access control for Software Defined Networking.





- Enabling Role Based Authorization for SDN.
 - SDN-RBAC Model and Authorization Framework with Implementation & Enforcement in SDN Controller.
- Fine-Grained and Scalable Access Control for SDN.
 - Access Control Enhanced with Role and Permission Parameters with Authorization Framework Extended with Parameter Engine and Enforcement in SDN Controller.
- Administration of Access Control in SDN.
 - SDN-RBACa Administrative Model for Managing roles, Permissions and Network App Authorizations in SDN.
 - Proxy Operations and Custom Permissions for Enhanced Engineering of Administrative Units in SDN.







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- *Design goal*: conformance with the standard NIST-RBAC Reference Model.
- SDN-RBAC adopts standard RBAC model with evolutionary changes, rather than revolutionary.









1. Model Element Sets:

- *APPS*, *ROLES*, *OPS*, *OBS* and *OBTS*, a finite set of OpenFlow apps, roles, operations, objects and object types, respectively.
- $PRMS \subseteq 2^{OPS \times OBTS}$, the set of permissions.
- SESSIONS, a finite set of sessions.

2. Assignment Relations:

- $PR \subseteq PRMS \times ROLES$, a many-to-many mapping permission-to-role assignment relation.
- $AR \subseteq APPS \times ROLES$, a many-to-many mapping app-to-role assignment relation.
- $OT \subseteq OBS \times OBTS$, a many-to-one relation mapping an object to its type.

3. Derived Functions

- $assigned_perms(r: ROLES) \rightarrow 2^{PRMS}$, the mapping of role r into a set of permissions. Formally, $assigned_perms(r) \subseteq \{p \in PRMS | (p, r) \in PR\}$.
- $app_sessions(a:APPS) \rightarrow 2^{SESSIONS}$, the mapping of an app into a set of sessions.
- $session_app(s:SESSIONS) \rightarrow APPS$, the mapping of session into the corresponding app.
- $session_roles(s: SESSIONS) \rightarrow 2^{ROLES}$, the mapping of session into a set of roles. Formally, $session_roles(s) \subseteq \{r \in ROLES | (session_app(s), r) \in AR\}$.
- $type: OBS \to OBTS$, a function specifying the type of an object, where $(o, t_1) \in OT \land (o, t_2) \in OT \Rightarrow t_1 = t_2$.
- $avail_session_perms(s:SESSIONS)] \rightarrow 2^{PRMS}$, the permissions available to an app in a session = $\bigcup_{r \in session_roles(s)} assigned_perms(r)$.





Multi session app: Data Usage Cap Manager







Use-Case Security Configuration in SDN-RBAC



	1. Use-Case Sets:	
	- $APPS = \{DataUsageCapMngr\}$	
3 roles	ROLES = {Device Handler, Bandwidth Monitoring, Flow Mod}.	
0.000	- OBS = $D \cup FR \cup PS$, where D = set of all network devices, FR = set of all flow rules, a	and
	PS = set of all port statistics in all switches.	
	- $OBTS = \{DEVICE, PORT-STATS, FLOW-RULE\}.$	
	- PRMS = {(getAllDevices, DEVICE), (getBandwidthConsumption, PORT-STATS),	
	(addFlow, FLOW-RULE)}.	
2 sessions	SESSIONS = {DataUsageAnalysisSession, DataCapEnforcingSession}	
	2. Assignment Relations:	
	- $PR = \{((getAllDevices, DEVICE), Device Handler),$	
permission to	((getBandwidthConsumption, PORT-STATS), Bandwidth Monitoring),	vorvimportant
insert flow	((addFlow, FLOW-RULE), Flow Mod)}	
rules	- $AR = \{(DataUsageCapMngr, Device Handler),$	ole & permission
role assigned	(DataUsageCapMngr, Bandwidth Monitoring),	
to ann	(DataUsageCapMngr, Flow Mod).	
to app	- $OT = \{(d, DEVICE) : d \in D\} \bigcup \{(ps, PORT-STATS) : ps \in PS\} \bigcup$	
	$\{(\mathrm{fr},\mathrm{FLOW}\text{-}\mathrm{RULE}):\mathrm{fr}\in\mathrm{FR}\}.$	
	3. Derived Functions:	
	- $assigned_perms(DeviceHandler) = \{(getAllDevices, DEVICE)\},\$	
	$assigned_perms(BandwidthMonitoring) = \{(getBandwidthConsumption, PORT-STATS) \}$	5)},
	$assigned_perms(FlowMod) = \{(addFlow, FLOW-RULE)\}.$	
	$- app_sessions(DataUsageCapMngr) = {DataUsageAnalysisSession,}$	
	DataCapEnforcingSession.	
	$- {\rm session_app(DataUsageAnalysisSession)} = \{ {\rm DataUsageCapMngr} \}.$	
	$session_app(DataCapEnforcingSession) = {DataUsageCapMngr}.$	
role activated	- $session_roles(DataUsageAnalysisSession) = {Device Handler, Bandwidth Monitoring}.$	
in session	session_roles[DataCapEnforcingSession] = {Flow Mod}.	
	- avail_session_perms(DataUsageAnalysisSession) = {(getAllDevices, DEVICE),	
permission	(getBandwidthConsumption, PORT-STATS)}.	
available to	avail_session_perms(DataCapEnforcingSession) = $\{(addFlow, FLOW-RULE)\}$.	
session		



SDN-RBAC Framework Implementation in Floodlight





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- Test app with 50 ops covered by 10 different roles.
- Report authorization time for all 50 requests.
- Different security policies.
- Test repeated 100 times for each security policy.
- Average authorization time is calculated.
- floodlight's boot-up time is ignored.



On average: 0.0245 ms overhead for 50 operations.







- Enabling Role Based Authorization for SDN.
 - SDN-RBAC Model and Authorization Framework with Implementation & Enforcement in SDN Controller.
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Apps are authorized on object types (e.g., (addFlow, FLOW RULE)) ightarrow Fine grained access control is required.



• Roles are limited in membership.



Permission

explosion

Role

explosion

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Introducing Parameterized Roles and Permissions in SDN











• Parameters

- name:value pairs.
- Add restrictions on access to network resources.

• Parameterized Roles:

 $(r_i, \{(par_1, val_1), (par_2, val_2), ...\})$

Example:

(Flow Mod, {(dept, \perp), (traffic, \perp)})

• Parameterized Permissions:

 $((op_i, ot_i), \{(par_1, val_1), (par_2, val_2), ...\})$

Example:

((addFlow, FLOW-RULE), {(dept, \perp), (traffic, \perp)})

 $\perp = Unknown.$

ParaSDN Conceptual Model











1.Basic Sets: APPS, ROLES, OPS, OBS, OBTS, PAR, and VAL: set of apps, roles, operations, objects, object types, parameters, and parameter values. For each $par \in PAR$, Range(par) represents the parameter's range, a finite set of atomic values. We assume VAL includes a special value " \perp " to indicate that the value of a parameter is unknown. parType: PAR \rightarrow {set, atomic} specifies parameter type as set of atomic valued. PRMS \subseteq OPS \times OBTS, set of ordinary permissions. SESSIONS, set of sessions. 2.Assignment Relations: $OT \subseteq OBS \times OBTS$, a many-to-one relation mapping an object to its type, where $(o, ot_1) \in OT \land (o, ot_2) \in OT \Rightarrow ot_1 = ot_2.$ **PVPAIRS** \subseteq **PAR** \times **VAL**, a many-to-many mapping parameter to value assignment relation. For convenience, for every pypair = $(par_i, val_i) \in PVPAIRS$, let pypair.par = par_i and pypair.val = val_i . PPRMS \subseteq PRMS $\times 2^{PVPAIRS}$, a relation mapping a permission role to subset of (parameters, value) combinations. For convenience, for every $pp = ((op_i, ot_i), PVPAIRS_i) \in PPRMS$, let $pp.op = op_i$, $pp.ot = ot_i$, and $pp.PVPAIRS = PVPAIRS_i$. PROLES \subseteq ROLES $\times 2^{PVPAIRS}$, a relation mapping a role to subset of combinations of parameters and their values. For convenience, for every $pr = (r_i, PVPAIRS_i) \in PROLES$, let $pr.r = r_i$ and $pr.PVPAIRS = PVPAIRS_i$. $PPA \subseteq PPRMS \times PROLES$, a many-to-many mapping parameterized permission to parameterized role assignment relation. $AA \subseteq APPS \times PROLES$, a many-to-many mapping app to parameterized role assignment relation. **3.Derived Functions:** assigned_pperms: PROLES $\rightarrow 2^{PPRMS}$, the mapping of parameterized role into a set of parameterized permissions. Formally, assigned_pperms(pr) = { $pp \in PPRMS - (pp, pr) \in PPA$ }. app sessions: APPS $\rightarrow 2^{SESSIONS}$, the mapping of an app into a set of sessions. session_app : SESSIONS $\rightarrow 2^{APPS}$, the mapping of session into the corresponding app. session_roles: SESSIONS $\rightarrow 2^{PROLES}$, the mapping of session into a set of parameterized roles. Formally, session_roles(s) = { $pr \in PROLES - (session_app(s), pr) \in AA$ }. type: OBS \rightarrow OBTS, a function specifying the type of an object defined as type(o) = { $t \in OBTS - (o, t) \in OT$ }. avail_session_pperms; SESSIONS $\rightarrow 2^{PPRMS}$, the parameterized permissions available to an app in a session. Formally, avail_session_pperms(s) = $\bigcup_{pr \in session_roles(s)}$ assigned_pperms(pr) **4.**Parameter Verification Functions: VERIFIERS = $\{V_1, V_2, ..., V_n\}$ a finite set of Boolean functions. For each $V_i \in VERIFIERS V_i$: SESSIONS × OPS × OBS × PVPAIRS \rightarrow {True, False}. param verifier: OBTS \times PAR \rightarrow VERIFIERS, a function that maps a combination of object type and parameter to the corresponding verification function needs to be evaluated.







1.	Model Basic Sets:	3.	Derived Functions:
-	APPS = {Data Usage Cap Mngr, Intrusion Prevention App}.		assigned pperms((Device Handler, $\{(v an id, \bot)\}) = \{((queryDevice, DEVICE), U) \in U \in U \}$
-	ROLES = {Device Handler, Bandwidth Monitoring, Flow Mod, Packet-In Handler}.		$J(y a_1, i_1 + 1))$
_	$OPS = \{queryDevice, getBandwidthConsumption, addFlow, readPacketInPayload\}.$		((vind, _)))) =
-	$OBS = D \cup PS \cup FR \cup PIP$, where $D = set$ of all network devices, $PS = set$ of all port		assigned _pperms((Dandwidth Montoring, {(attachment _point, $\pm)$)) =
	statistics in all switches, FR = set of all flow rules, and PIP = set of all packet-in messages.		{((getBandwidthConsumption, PORI-STATS), {(attachment_point, \bot)})}.
-	$OBTS = \{DEVICE, PORT-STATS, FLOW-RULE, PI-PAYLOAD\}.$		assigned_pperms((Flow Mod, {(dept, \perp), (traffic, \perp)})) = {((addFlow, FLOW-RULE),
_	$PAR = {vlan_id, attachment_point, dept, traffic}.$		$\{(dept, \perp), (traffic, \perp)\}\}$.
-	$Range(vlan_id) = \{1, 2\}. Range(attachment_point) = \{0x1:1, 0x1:2, 0x2:1, 0x2:2, 0x3:1\}.$		assigned_pperms((Packet-In Handler, {(attachment_point, \bot)})) =
	$Range(dept) = \{CS, CE\}. Range(traffic) = \{web\}.$		$\{(\text{readPacketInPayload, PI-PAYLOAD}), \{(\text{attachment point, } \perp)\}\}$
_	$parType(vlan_id) = atomic. parType(attachment_point) = set. parType(dept) = set.$	_	app sessions(Data Usage Cap Mngr) = { $DataUsageAnalysisSession$
	parType(traffic) = atomic.		app_outing (approximation of the second of t
_	$PRMS = \{(queryDevice, DEVICE), (getBandwidthConsumption, PORT-STATS), \\$		DataCapEmolectingSession f.
	(addFlow, FLOW-RULE), (readPacketInPayload, PI-PAYLOAD)}.		$app_sessions(intrusion Prevention App) = {intrusionPreventionSession}.$
-	$SESSIONS = \{ DataUsageAnalysisSession, DataCapEnforcingSession, \\$	_	$session_roles(DataUsageAnalysisSession) = \{(Device Handler, \{(vlan_id, 1)\}),$
	IntrusionPreventionSession}.		(Bandwidth Monitoring, $\{(attachment_point, \{0x1:1, 0x1:2, 0x2:1\})\}$)
_2.	Assignment Relations:		$session_roles(DataCapEnforcingSession) = \{(Flow Mod, \{(dept, \{CS\}), (traffic, web)\})\}.$
-	$OT = \{(d, DEVICE) : d \in D\} \bigcup \{(ps, PORT-STATS) : ps \in PS\} \bigcup \{(fr, FLOW-RULE) : ps \in PS\} \cup \{(fr$		session roles(IntrusionPreventionSession) = $\{(Device Handler, \{(vlan id, 2)\}), (Packet-In$
	$fr \in FR$ $\bigcup \{(pip, PI-PAYLOAD) : pip \in PIP\}\}.$		Handler, {(attachment_point, {0x3:1})}), (Flow Mod, {(dept, {CE}), (traffic, web)})},
-	$PPRMS = \{((queryDevice, DEVICE), \{(vlan_id, \perp)\}), ((getBandwidthConsumption, device, device,$	_	avail session pperms(DataUsageAnalysisSession) = {((upryDevice DEVICE)
	PORT-STATS), {(attachment_point, \perp)}),		(rear id 1))
	((addFlow, FLOW-RULE), {(dept, \perp), (traffic, \perp)}), ((readPacketInPayload,		$\{(\text{vial}_{i}, i, j)\},\$
	PI-PAYLOAD), {(attachment_point, \perp)})}		((getBandwidthConsumption, POKI-STATS), {(attachment_point, {0x1:1, 0x1:2,
-	PROLES = {(Device Handler, {(vlan_id, \perp)}), (Bandwidth Monitoring,		0x2:1})}).
	$\{(attachment_point, \perp)\}),$		avail session pperms(DataCapEnforcingSession) =
	(Flow Mod, {(dept, \perp), (traffic, \perp)}), (Packet-In Handler, {(attachment_point, \perp)})		$\{((addFlow, FLOW-RULE), \{(dept, \{CS\}), (traffic, web)\})\}$.
-	$PPA = \{(((query Device, DEVICE), \{(vlan_id, \bot)\}), (Device Handler, \{(vlan_id, \bot)\})), (Uvlan_id, \bot)\})\}$		avail session pperms(IntrusionPreventionSession) = $\{(queryDevice, DEVICE),$
	$(((getBandwidthConsumption, PORT-STATS), \{(attachment_point, \bot)\}), (BandwidthConsumption, PORT-STATS), (attachment_point, \bot)\})$		{(vlan id, 2)}), ((readPacketInPavload, PI-PAYLOAD), {(attachment point, {0x3:1})}),
	Monitoring, $\{(attachment_point, \perp)\}))$,		(addElow FLOW-RULE) {(dent {CE}) (traffic web)}}
	(((addFlow, FLOW-RULE), {(dept, \perp), (traffic, \perp)}), (Flow Mod, {(dept, \perp), (traffic,		(later low, Flow Arother, (later, (ed)), (tame, web))).
	$\perp)\})),$	4.	Parameter Verification Functions:
	(((readPacketInPayload, PI-PAYLOAD), {(attachment_point, \perp)}), (Packet-In Handler,	_	$VERIFIERS = \{VDeviceVlan, VStatsAttachpoint, VRuleSwitch, VRuleTraffic, VRULeTRAffic$
	$\{(attachment_point, \perp)\})\}$.		VPInAttchpoint}.
_	$AA = \{(Data Usage Cap Mngr, (Device Handler, \{(vlan_id, 1)\})), (Data Usage Cap Mngr, (Device Handler, \{(vlan_id, 1)\})))))))$	_	$param_verifier((DEVICE, vlan_id)) = VDeviceVlan.$
	(Bandwidth Monitoring, {(attachment_point, { $0x1:1, 0x1:2, 0x2:1, 0x2:2$ })})), (Data		param verifier((PORT-STATS, attachment $point)$) = VStatsAttachpoint.
	(Device Landler, (riow Mod, {(dept, {CS}), (trainc, web)})), (intrusion Prevention App,		param verifier((FLOW-RULE, dept)) = VRuleSwitch.
	(Device Handler, {(vian_id, 2)}), (Intrusion Prevention App, (Packet-In Handler,		Daram verifier(FLOW-RULE traffic) - VRuleTraffic
	{(attachment_point, {0x3:1})}), (Intrusion Prevention App, (Flow Mod, {(dept, {CE}),		param_verific((1.50, v-to-55, train()) - v(tute frame)) - VDIn Attaba sint
	(traffic, web)}))}.		param_veriner((FI-FATLOAD, attachment_point)) = vPinAttchpoint.

ParaSDN Framework Implementation in Floodlight







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ParaSDN Implementation & Evaluation









ParaSDN Evaluation - 1







- Test app with 50 ops covered by 10 different roles.
- Report authorization time for all 50 requests.
- Different security policies (parameters and roles).
- Test repeated 100 times for each security policy.
- Average authorization time is calculated.
- Floodlight's boot-up time is ignored.

On average: ParaSDN adds 0.031 ms overhead compared to 0.025 for SDN-RBAC.

- 1st parameter in all roles is: activePeriod = "08:00-17:00".
- Any request submitted outside active period, will be denied.
- Test 8 is conducted outside active period.



ParaSDN Evaluation - 2













- Enabling Role Based Authorization for SDN.
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- App-role and permission-role relations need management.
- In SDN-RBACa administrative model (inspired by Uni-ARBAC):
 - Indirect permission-role assignment.
 - Permissions are grouped into permission-pools (tasks).
 - **Tasks**: units of network functions.
 - Apps are grouped into app-pools.
 - Administrative Units for administering app-role and task-role relations.





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SDN-RBACa Administrative Model





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AA admin \subseteq USERS \times AU.



SDN-RBACa Administrative Model Defenition

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1.Basic Sets

- APPS is a finite set of SDN apps.
- OPS is a finite set of operations.
- OBS is a finite set of objects.
- OBTS is a finite set of object types.
- $PRMS \subset OPS \times OBTS$, set of permissions.
- ROLES is a finite set of roles.
- TASKS is a finite set of tasks.
- AP is a finite set of app-pools.
- USERS is a finite set of administrative users.
- AU is a finite set of administrative units.

2. Assignment Relations (operational):

- $PA \subseteq PRMS \times TASKS$, permission-task assignment relation.
- TA \subseteq TASKS \times ROLES, task-role assignment relation.
- $AA \subseteq APPS \times ROLES$, app-role assignment relation.
- $OT \subseteq OBS \times OBTS$, a many-to-one mapping an object to its type, where $(o, t_1) \in OT \land (o, t_2) \in OT \Rightarrow t_1 = t_2$.

3. Derived Functions (operational):

- type: (o: OBS) \rightarrow OBTS, a function specifying the type of an object. Defined as type(o) = $\{t \in OBTS \mid (o, t) \in OT\}$.
- authorized perms(r: ROLES) $\rightarrow 2^{PRMS}$, defined as authorized perms $(r) = \{p \in PRMS \mid \exists t \in TASKS, \exists r \in ROLES\}$: $(t, r) \in TA \land (p, t) \in PA$.
- 4. App Authorization Function:
- can exercise permission(a: APPS, op: OPS, ob: OBS) = $\exists r \in ROLES : (op, type(ob)) \in authorized perms(r) \land (a, r) \in AA.$
- 5. Administrative App-pools Relation:

 $AAPA \subseteq APPS \times AP$, app to app-pool assignment relation.

- 6. Administrative Units and Partitioned Assignment: $roles(au : AU) \rightarrow 2^{ROLES}$, assignment of roles, where $r \in roles(au_1) \land r \in roles(au_2) \Rightarrow au_1 = au_2.$ $tasks(au : AU) \rightarrow 2^{TASKS}$, assignment of tasks, where $t \in tasks(au_1) \land t \in tasks(au_2) \Rightarrow au_1 = au_2.$ app pools(au : AU) $\rightarrow 2^{AP}$, assignment of app-pool, where $ap \in app_pools(au_1) \land ap \in app_pools(au_2) \Rightarrow au_1 = au_2.$ 7. Administrative User Assignment: TA $admin \subseteq USERS \times AU$. AA admin \subset USERS \times AU. Administrative User Authorization Functions: 8. can manage task role(u : USERS, t : TASKS, r : ROLES) = $\exists au \in AU : (u, au) \in TA _admin \land r \in roles(au) \land t \in tasks(au)$
- can manage app role(u : USERS, a : APPS, r : ROLES) = $\exists au \in AU : ((u, au) \in AA admin \land r \in roles(au)) \land$ $\exists ap \in AP : ((a, ap) \in AAPA \land ap \in app \quad pools(au)).$

9. Administrative Actions:

- assign task to role(u: USERS, t: TASKS, r: ROLES) Authorization condition: can manage task role(u, t, r) = TrueEffect: $TA' = TA \cup \{(t, r)\}.$
- revoke task from role(u: USERS, t: TASKS, r: ROLES) Authorization condition: can manage $task_role(u, t, r) = True$ Effect: $TA' = TA \setminus \{(t, r)\}.$
- assign app to role(u: USERS, a: APPS, r: ROLES) Authorization condition: can manage app role(u, a, r) = TrueEffect: $AA' = AA \cup \{(a, r)\}.$
- revoke app from role(u: USERS, a: APPS, r: ROLES) Authorization condition: can manage $app_role(u, a, r) = True$ Effect: $AA' = AA \setminus \{(a, r)\}.$





Use Case using SDN-RBACa -Introduction



- In large SDNs, specialized apps control/analyze and monitor/inspect specific network traffic type.
- These apps should be authorized to access only traffic type they handle and not other type (via roles).





Use Case using SDN-RBACa -Introduction



- In large SDNs, specialized apps control/analyze and monitor/inspect specific network traffic type.
- These apps should be authorized to access only traffic type they handle and not other type (via roles).







• Relations between apps and roles should be managed by different administrative units.

Web Admin Unit	 Roles: {Web Flow Mod, Web Load Balancing, etc.} App-Pools: {Web Security, Web Load Balance, etc.}
Email Admin Unit	 Roles: {Email Flow Mod, Email Load Balancing, , etc.} App-Pools: {Email Security, Email Load Balance}
VoIP Admin Unit	 Roles: {Email Flow Mod, VoIP Load Balancing, etc.}} App-Pools: {VoIP Security, VoIP Load Balance}
FTP Admin Unit	 Roles: {FTP Mod Email, FTP Load Balancing, etc.} App-Pools: {FTP Security, FTP Load Balance}

Administrative Units





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Custom and Proxy Operations





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• Custom permissions are those permissions that are created using proxy operations.

$$(OP_{Proxy_1}, ot)$$

 (OP_{Proxy_2}, ot)
 (OP_{Proxy_3}, ot)
...

Examples:

. . .

(addWebFlow, FLOW-RULE)
(addVoIPFlow, FLOW-RULE)
(addFtpFlow, FLOW-RULE)
(createWebMember, LB-POOL-MEMBER)
(createFtpMember, LB-POOL-MEMBER)
(readWebPacketInPayload, PI-PAYLOAD)
(readVoIPPacketInPayload, PI-PAYLOAD)

Task and Role Engineering Custom Permissions



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Task and Role Engineering using Custom Permissions - Example





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Use-Case and Administrative Actions





1. Administrative Action to assign task to a role:

assign_task_to_role(web_functions_admin_user, Web Traffic Forwarding Task, Web Flow Mod) is allowed.

\rightarrow Authorization Function:

can_manage_task_role(web_functions_admin_user, Web Traffic Forwarding Task, Web Flow Mod) = True. Reason:

 \exists Web Admin Unit \in AU : ((web_functions_admin_user, Web Admin Unit) \in TA_admin) \land Web Flow Mod \in roles(Web Admin Unit) \land

Web Traffic Forwarding Task \in tasks(Web Admin Unit).

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Evaluation and Comparison





- Evaluation of SDN-RBACa operational model with tasks and proxy permissions.
- Test app with 50 proxy operations ops covered by 10 different roles.
- Report authorization time for all 50 requests.
- Different security policies.
- Test repeated 100 times for each security policy.
- Average authorization time is calculated.

- Operational model of SDN-RBACa adds an average of 0.0252 ms overhead on the floodlight controller while SDN-RBAC adds 0.0245 ms on average.
- Using tasks in SDN-RBACa operational model introduces additional variance in the authorization check time.
- The operational model of SDN-RBACa introduces acceptable overhead to the controller for the sake of access control administration.



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- We presented SDN-RBAC, a model for enabling role based authorization for SDN. SDN-RBAC is implemented and enforced in Floodlight controller.
- We presented ParaSDN, a fine-Grained and Scalable Access Control for SDN Enhanced with Role and Permission Parameters. The Authorization Framework includes Parameter Engine and Enforcement in SDN Controller.
- We presented SDN-RBACa, an administrative model for SND enhanced with Proxy Operations and Custom Permissions.

Future Work:

- Access Control for SDN-Enabled technologies.
- Risk-Aware Access Control for SDN Apps.







Published:

- 1. Abdullah Al-Alaj, Ram Krishnan, and Ravi Sandhu. "SDN-RBAC: An Access Control Model for SDN Controller Applications." 2019 4th International Conference on Computing, Communications and Security (ICCCS). IEEE, 2019.
- 2. Abdullah Al-Alaj, Ravi Sandhu, and Ram Krishnan. "A Formal Access Control Model for SE-Floodlight Controller." *Proceedings of the ACM International Workshop on Security in Software Defined Networks & Network Function Virtualization*. ACM, 2019.

Submitted for review:

- 3. Abdullah Al-Alaj, Ram Krishnan, and Ravi Sandhu. ParaSDN: An Access Control Model for SDN Applications based on Parameterized Roles and Permissions. *In 2020 IEEE 6th International Conference on Collaboration and Internet Computing (CIC)*. Atlanta, Georgia, USA, IEEE, 2020.
- 4. Abdullah Al-Alaj, Ravi Sandhu, and Ram Krishnan. A Model for the Administration of Access Control in Software Defined Networking using Custom Permissions. *In 2020 Second IEEE International Conference on Trust, Privacy and Security in Intelligent Systems and Applications (TPS-ISA).* Atlanta, Georgia, USA, IEEE, 2020.







Thank you!

Questions?



Backup Slides





Role	General Functionality
Device Handler	permissions for querying the controller about devices
Bandwidth	permissions to read the bandwidth consumption for
Monitoring	switch ports.
Flow Mod	permissions to insert/update/delete flow rules into a
	switch's flow tables.
Link Handler	permissions to get information about network links
Device	permissions to get notifications about changes on
Tracking	network devices (added, removed, Moved, Address
	Changed, etc.)
Port Handler	permissions to read information about ports and
	their status
Routing	permissions to get and compute routes between
	various source and destination nodes





















Function	Authorization Condition	Update
createSession(a:APPS, s:	$ars \subseteq \{r \in ROLES \mid (a, r) \in AR\} \land$	$SESSIONS' = SESSIONS \cup \{s\}, app_sessions'(a) =$
$SESSIONS, ars: 2^{ROLES})$	$s \notin \overline{SESSIONS}$	$app_sessions(a) \cup \{s\}, session_roles'(s) = ars$
deleteSession(a:APPS,s:	$s \in app_sessions(a)$	$app_sessions'(a) = app_sessions(a) \setminus \{s\},$
SESSIONS)		$SESSIONS' = SESSIONS \setminus \{s\}$
addActiveRole(a:APPS,s:	$s \in app_tsessions(a) \land (a, r) \in AR \land$	$session_roles'(s) = session_roles(s) \cup \{r\}$
SESSIONS, r: ROLES)	$r \notin session_roles(s)$	
dropActiveRole(a: APPS, s:	$s \in app_sessions(a) \land$	$session_roles'(s) = session_roles(s) \setminus \{r\}$
SESSIONS.r:ROELS)	$r \in session_roles(s)$	
checkAccess(s:SESSIONS, op:	$\exists r \in \underline{ROLES} : r \in session_roles(s) \land$	
OPS, ob: OBS)	$((op, type(ob)), r) \in PR$	

Apps are authorized based on object type.



Methods for Inter-session Interaction for SDN-RBAC





- → : creates a session (From the creator to the created session).
- → : access shared data.
- ←··· → : session interaction via session interaction API.
- w/r : read/write operation.
- c : condition that triggers session creation.
- I : session interaction API (managed by the system).
- a : active role set sent along with session creation request.





- Who is responsible of specifying:
 - (T) the tasks and corresponding sessions.
 - (C) the condition for session creation/deletion.
 - (A) the active role set.
 - (R) role to be added/dropped during execution.



- DD = determined by Developer at Design-time.
- CR = determined by Controller at Run-time.
- SR = determined by Session at Run-time.







(T) DD

(C) DD

(A) DD

- Developer has full and prior knowledge of
 - all possible sessions
 - active role set required for each session to achieve its task.
- This information is provided to the controller before app execution. (R) DD
- The controller knows in advance:
 - what session instances will be created.
 - the tasks that will execute in each session.
 - active role set required for each session.





Usability demonstration (1) Access Denies



- To show that SDN-RBAC authorization system can identify and reject any unauthorized operations:
- We forced DataUsageAnalysisSession to read link information via operation getAllLinks.
- The permission (getAllLinks, LINK) is assigned to the role LinkHandler.
- Role LinkHandler is not a member of the active role set of DataUsageAnalysisSession.
- A snapshot of the execution result is shown below.

The method net.floodlightcontroller.topology.ITopologyService.getAllLinks is called by session net.floodlightcontroller.datausagemngr.DataUsageAnalysisSession 16:36:31.982 WARN [n.f.rbac.RBAC:Thread-12] SDN-RBAC: security violation, "Access denied". Unauthorized access requested by session (DataUsageAnalysisSession) Reason: None of session active roles contains a corrseponding permission Active roles set for this session: [Device Handler, Bandwidth Monitoring]

Snapshot of authorization check result for *getAllLinks()* operation requested by *DataUsageAnalysisSession* - Access Denied.





Usability demonstration (2) Access Allowed



- We forced DataUsageAnalysisSession to read device statistics via operation getBandwidthConsumption.
- The permission (getBandwidthConsumption, PORT-STATS) is assigned to the role BandwidthMonitoring.
- Role **BandwidthMonitoring** is a member of the active role set of DataUsageAnalysisSession.
- A snapshot of the execution result is shown below.
- The snapshot below shows how DataUsageAnalysisSession was able to pass the authorization.

Snapshot2The method net.floodlightcontroller.statistics.IStatisticsService.getBandwidthConsumption
is called by session net.floodlightcontroller.datausagemngr.DataUsageAnalysisSession
16:36:25.979 INFO [n.f.rbac.RBAC:Thread-12] SDN-RBAC: "Access granted": Authorized access
requested by session (DataUsageAnalysisSession)
Reason: The session role [Bandwidth Monitoring] contains the permission (net.floodlightcon
troller.statistics.IStatisticsService.getBandwidthConsumption, PORT-STATS)

Snapshot of authorization check result for *getBandwidthConsumption()* operation requested by *DataUsageAnalysisSession* - Access Granted.







A. Verifiers:

Language LVerify is used to define each verifier V_i(s: SESSIONS, op: OPS, ob: OBS, pvpair : PVPAIRS) in VERIFIERS.

```
B. CandidateVerifiers: a function that maps each object type to its applicable set of verifiers.
CandidateVerifiers(ot: OBTS, pvpairs : 2<sup>PVPAIRS</sup>){
verifiers = {};
For each pvpair<sub>i</sub> ∈ pvpairs do
V<sub>i</sub> = param_verifier(ot, pvpair<sub>i</sub>.par);
verifiers := verifiers ∪ {(V<sub>i</sub> × pvpair<sub>i</sub>)};
return verifiers;
}
C. ParamCheck: a function that checks an object against all candidate verifiers until the first failure is discovered or a true is returned as the final outcome.
ParamCheck(s: SESSIONS, op: OPS, ob: OBS, pvpairs: 2<sup>PVPAIRS</sup>){
For each (V<sub>i</sub> × pvpair<sub>i</sub>) ∈ CandidateVerifiers(type(ob), pvpairs) do
if ¬V<sub>i</sub>(s, op, ob, pvpair<sub>i</sub>)
return false;
return true;
}
```







Function	Authorization Condition
checkAccess(s: SESSIONS, op: OPS, ob: OBS)	$\exists pr \in PROLES : pr \in session_roles(s), \exists pp \in PPRMS : (pp, pr) \in PPA \land$ (op, type(ob)) = (pp.op, pp.ot) \land ParamCheck (s, op, ob, pp.PVPAIRS) = True.







A.3. VRuleSwitch(s: SESSIONS, op: OPS, ob: OBS, pvpair : PVPAIRS){

//assume a request from app Data Usage Cap Mngr via DataCapEnforcingSession with the following:

//ob = flow_rule_[switch_id=0x2,tcp_dst=80,...] //pvpair = (dept, {CS}) //switches(CS) = {0x1, 0x2} ($\exists d \in pvpair.val : ob.switch_id \in switches(d)$); //will return true }







• Parameter values, assigned via assignApp administrative action, propagate automatically from role parameters to permission parameters.























ι.	Examples of Authorization Functions:
-	can_manage_task_role(web_functions_admin_user, Web Traffic Forwarding Task, Web Flow Mod) = True
	Reason:
	\exists Web Admin Unit \in AU : ((web_functions_admin_user, Web Admin Unit) \in TA_admin) \land
	Web Flow Mod \in roles(Web Admin Unit) \bigwedge
	Web Traffic Forwarding Task \in tasks(Web Admin Unit).
	can manage task role(voip functions admin user, Web Server Pool Management Task, Web Load Balancing) = False
	Reason:
	Web Load Balancing \in roles(Web Admin Unit) \land
	Web Server Pool Management Task \in tasks(Web Admin Unit),
	however, (voip_functions_admin_user, Web Admin Unit) ∉ TA_admin.
	can manage app_role(web_apps_admin_user, Web Intrusion Prevention App, Web Flow Mod) = True
	Reason:
	\exists Web Admin Unit \in AU : ((web_apps_admin_user, Web Admin Unit) \in AA_admin) \land
	Web Flow Mod \in roles(Web Admin Unit)] \land
	\exists Web Security Pool \in AP: (Web Intrusion Prevention App, Web Security Pool) \in AAPA \land
	Web Security Pool \in app_pools(Web Admin Unit).
	can_manage_app_role(web_apps_admin_user, VoIP Application Firewall App, VoIP Flow Mod) = False
	Reason:
	VoIP Flow Mod \in roles(VoIP Admin Unit) \bigwedge
	(VoIP Application Firewall App , VoIP Security) \in AAPA \land VoIP Security \in app_pools(VoIP Admin Unit)],
	however, (web_apps_admin_user, VoIP Admin Unit) \notin AA_admin.
	Examples of Administrative Actions:
	assign_task_to_role(web_functions_admin_user, Web Traffic Forwarding Task, Web Flow Mod) is allowed
	Reason:
	can_manage_task_role(web_functions_admin_user, Web Traffic Forwarding Task, Web Flow Mod) = True
	revoke_task_from_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web Server Pool Management Task, Web Load Balancing) is not
	allowed
	Reason:
	$can_manage_task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task, Web \ Load \ Balancing) = False \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Nabel \ Server \ Pool \ Management \ Task_role(voip_functions_admin_user, Web \ Nabel $
	assign_app_to_role(web_apps_admin_user, Web Intrusion Prevention App, Web Flow Mod) is allowed
	Reason:
	$can_manage_app_role(web_apps_admin_user, Web Intrusion Prevention App, Web Flow Mod) = True$
	revoke_app_from_role(web_apps_admin_user, VoIP Application Firewall App, VoIP Flow Mod) is not allowed
	Reason:

Administrative User Assignment:

– T.	Α_	$admin = {$	(web_{-})	functions	_admin_	user,	Web	Admin	Unit),	(voip_	functions	_admin_	_user,	VoIP	Admin	Unit)	}
------	----	-------------	-------------	-----------	---------	-------	-----	-------	--------	--------	-----------	---------	--------	------	-------	-------	---

 $- AA_admin = \{(web_apps_admin_user, Web Admin Unit), (voip_apps_admin_user, VoIP Admin Unit)\}.$



Configuration of the SDN-RBACa in a use case (1)



1.Basic Sets

- APPS = {Web Intrusion Prevention App, Web Application Firewall App, Web Load Balancer App}.
- OPS = {

```
readWebPacketInPayload, readWebPacketHeader, readWebFlow, addWebFlow,
updateWebFlow, deleteWebFlow, createWebPool, listWebPools, removeWebPool,
updateWebPool, createWebMonitor, listWebMonitors, removeWebMonitor, updateWebMonitor,
createWebVip, listWebVips, removeWebVip, updateWebVip, createWebMember,
listWebMembersByPool, removeWebMember, updateWebMember, readWebFlowByteCount,
readAggWebFlowBvteCount, readWebFlowPacketCount, readAggWebFlowPacketCount
OBS = set of all objects of types PI-PAYLOAD, PI-HEADER, FLOW-RULE, LB-POOL,
LB-MONITOR, LB-VIP, LB-POOL-MEMBER, and FLOW-STATS.
OBTS = {PI-PAYLOAD, PI-HEADER, FLOW-RULE, LB-POOL,
LB-MONITOR, LB-VIP, LB-POOL-MEMBER, FLOW-STATS}.
PRMS = \{
(readWebPacketInPavload, PI-PAYLOAD), (readWebPacketHeader, PI-HEADER).
(readWebFlow, FLOW-RULE), (addWebFlow, FLOW-RULE), (updateWebFlow, FLOW-RULE),
(deleteWebFlow, FLOW-RULE), (createWebPool, LB-POOL), (listWebPools, LB-POOL),
(removeWebPool, LB-POOL), (updateWebPool, LB-POOL), (createWebMonitor, LB-MONITOR)
(listWebMonitors, LB-MONITOR), (removeWebMonitor, LB-MONITOR),
(updateWebMonitor, LB-MONITOR), (createWebVip, LB-VIP), (listWebVips, LB-VIP),
(removeWebVip, LB-VIP), (updateWebVip, LB-VIP), (createWebMember, LB-POOL-MEMBER),
(listWebMembersByPool, LB-POOL-MEMBER), (removeWebMember, LB-POOL-MEMBER),
(updateWebMember, LB-POOL-MEMBER), (readWebFlowByteCount, FLOW-STATS),
(readAggWebFlowByteCount, FLOW-STATS), (readWebFlowPacketCount, FLOW-STATS),
(readAggWebFlowPacketCount, FLOW-STATS)
ROLES = {Web Packet-In Handler, Web Packet Monitor,
Web Flow Mod, Web Load Balancing, Web Stats Collector.
TASKS = \{
Web Deep Packet Inspection Task, Web Packet Header Inspection Task,
Web Flow Viewing Task, Web Traffic Forwarding Task, Web Server Pool Management Task,
Web Server Monitor Management Task, Web Pool VIP Management Task,
Web Pool Member Management Task, Web Payload Statistics Collection Task,
Web Packet Statistics Collection Task
AP = \{Web Load Balance Pool, Web Security Pool\}.
USERS = \{web \text{ functions admin user}, web apps admin user}\}
```

- AU = {Web Admin Unit}.

Computer Science



Configuration of the SDN-RBACa in a use case (2)



2. Assignment Relations (operational):

	Assignment iterations (operational).
-	$PA = \{$
	{(readWebPacketInPayload, PI-PAYLOAD), (readWebPacketHeader, PI-HEADER),
	(readWebFlow, FLOW-RULE)} \times {Web Deep Packet Inspection Task} \cup
	$\{(readWebPacketHeader, PI-HEADER), (readWebFlow, FLOW-RULE)\} \times$
	{Web Packet Header Inspection Task} \cup {(readWebFlow, FLOW-RULE)} \times {Web Flow Viewing Task} \cup
	{(addWebFlow, FLOW-RULE), (updateWebFlow, FLOW-RULE), (deleteWebFlow, FLOW-RULE)} ×
	{Web Traffic Forwarding Task} ∪
	(create WebPool, LB-POOL), (list WebPools, LB-POOL), (remove WebPool, LB-POOL),
	(undateWebPool LB-POOL)} × {Web Server Pool Management Task} []
	(create WebMonitor, LB-MONITOR) (list WebMonitors, LB-MONITOR)
	(remove WebMonitar, LB-MONITOR), (indetate WebMonitar, LB-MONITOR))
	(Web Severa Monitor Management Task) + 1 (gradet WebNin, LP-VIP) (listWebVing, I.P.VIP)
	we bet work to management $Task f \in \{(teateweev p, LD-vir), (notweev ps, LD-vir), (notw$
	(construction of the provided
	{(create webMember, LD-FOOL-MEMBER), (inst webmendersbyFool; LD-FOOL-MEMBER),
	(remove web Memoer, LB-POOL-MEMBER), (update web Memoer, LB-POOL-MEMBER)} ×
	{web Pool Member Management 1ask} \cup {[read web PowByteCount, FLOW-SIAIS],
	$\{\text{readAggWebFlowByteCount, FLOW-STATS}\}$ × $\{\text{Web Payload Statistics Collection Task}\}$ \cup
	{readWebFlowPacketCount, FLOW-STATS), (readAggWebFlowPacketCount, FLOW-STATS)} ×
	{Web Packet Statistics Collection Task}}.
-	$TA = \{\{Web Deep Packet Inspection Task, Web Packet Header Inspection Task\} \times \{Web Packet-In Handler\} \cup$
	{Web Packet Header Inspection Task} \times {Web Packet Monitor} \cup
	{Web Flow Viewing Task, Web Traffic Forwarding Task} \times {Web Flow Mod} \cup
	Web Server Pool Management Task, Web Server Monitor Management Task, Web Pool VIP Management Task,
	Web Pool Member Management Task} \times {Web Load Balancing} \cup
	{Web Payload Statistics Collection Task, Web Packet Statistics Collection Task} × {Web Stats Collector}}.
_	$AA = \{\{Web Intrusion Prevention App\} \times \{Web Packet-In Handler, Web Flow Mod\} \cup$
	$\{Web Application Firewall App\} \times \{Web Packet Monitor Web Flow Mod\} \sqcup$
	[Web Load Balancer Apply (Web Flow Mod Web Load Balancing Web State Collector)]
	$\{\text{web-Load balancer App}\} \land \{\text{web-Load balancer}\}, \text{web-Load balancer}\}, \text{web-balas balancer}\}$
-	$OI = \{(an payloads in packet-in message, PI-FAILOAD), (an packet neader objects, PI-HEADER), ($
	(all now-rules, FLOW-RULE), (all server pools, LB-POOL), (all server monitors, LB-MONITOR),
	(all pools virtual IP's, LB-VIP'), (all pool members, LB-POOL-MEMBER),
	(all flow statistics in flow rules, FLOW-STATS)}.
3.	Administrative App-pools Relation:
-	$AAPA = \{$
	(Web Intrusion Prevention App, Web Security Pool),
	(Web Application Firewall App, Web Security Pool),
	(Web Load Balancer App, Web Load Balance Pool)}.
4.	Administrative Units and Partitioned Assignment:
_	roles(Web Admin Unit) = {Web Packet-In Handler, Web Packet Monitor, Web Flow Mod.
	Web Load Balancing, Web Stats Collector}.
_	$T_{ask}(Web Admin Unit) = f Web Deep Packet Inspection Task. Web Packet Header Inspection Task$
	$tasks (web reacting Task) = \{web Deep raket inspection rask, web raket inspection rask web raket inspection rask web raket inspection rask.$
	Web Flow viewing task, web frame forwarding fask, web Server foor Management Task,
	web Server Monitor Management Task, web Fool vir Management Task, web Fool Member Management Task, Web Poulos et al. (1997) web Fool Member Management Task, web
	web rayload Statistics Conection Task, web racket Statistics Conection Task}.
-	app_pools(Web Admin Unit) = {Web Load Balance Pool, Web Security Pool}.
5.	Administrative User Assignment:
-	$TA_admin = \{(web_functions_admin_user, Web Admin Unit)\}.$

- AA_admin = {(web_apps_admin_user, Web Admin Unit)}.







The method net.floodlightcontroller.staticflowentry.IStaticFlowEntryPusherService.addWebFlow is called by session net.floodlightcontroller.webtestapp.WebTestAppSession 01:34:14.691 WARN [n.f.rbac.RBAC:Thread-12] SDN-RBAC: <u>security violation</u>, "Access denied". Unauthorized access requested by session (WebTestAppSession) Reason: <u>MatchField:TCP_DST</u> - <u>Incorrect port (25)</u> in flow rule Active roles set for this session: [Web Flow Mod] 01:34:14.824 INF0 [n.f.l.i.LinkDiscovervManager:Scheduled-3] Sending LLDP packets out of all

