

**Impact of MD5 Authentication in secured and non-secured traffic routing
for the case of EIGRP, RIPv2 and OSPF routing protocols**

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**THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF
MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY**

**COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY UTARA MALAYSIA**

2009



**KOLEJ SASTERA DAN SAINS
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Abstract

Routing is the process of forwarding data across an inter-network from a designated source to a final destination. Along the way from source to destination, at least one intermediate node is considered. Due to the major role that routing protocols play in computer network infrastructures, special cares have been given to routing protocols with built-in security constraints. In this thesis, we evaluate the impact of MD5 Authentication on routing traffic for the case of EIGRP, RIPv2 and OSPF routing protocols in case of secured and non-secured routing traffic. A network model of four Cisco routers has been employed and a traffic generation and analysis tools have been developed and used to generate traffic data and measure delay time, jitter and overhead. The results show that the average delay time and jitter in the secured MD5 case can become significantly larger when compared to the unsecured case even in steady state conditions. Also, the EIGRP protocol shows the minimum overhead even when the system is extremely overloaded.

Acknowledgments

This thesis concludes my Master's Degree in Computer Network and Security submitted to the Applied Science Division, College of Arts and Science at University Utara Malaysia.

I would like to thank my supervisor Dr. Hatim Tahir for his excellent guidance, helpful advice and deeply support, my extend thanks also for the Associate Professor Dr. Suhaidi Hassan, Associate Professor and Assistant Vice Chancellor College of Arts and Sciences, at UUM.

I would like also to thank Dr. Moutaz Saleh and Dr. Mohamed Saleh for their support and enthusiasm. Dr. Moutaz has enhanced my knowledge and understanding for the art of thesis writing. Indeed, whenever I lost the sight of my thesis objectives, he proficiently led me back on the track.

My thanks to Dr. Adel El-Zoghbi for his initial support and guidance, and also, many thanks for Prof. Qutaibah Malluhi the Head of Dept. of Computer Science & Eng., College of Engineering Qatar University for his support and help.

Finally, my sincere thanks to my wife and kids, family and friends for their patience and encouragement, for them I dedicate this thesis.

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List of Abbreviations

TCP	Transfer Control Protocol
MPP	Markov Poisson Process
HMM	Hidden Markov Model
DCE	Data Communication Equipment
DTE	Data Terminal Equipment
IGRP	Interior Gateways Routing Protocol
EIGRP	Enhanced Interior Gateways Routing Protocol
RIP	Routing Information Protocol.
RIPv2	Routing Information Protocol version 2
OSPF	Open Shortest Pass First
MD5	Message Digest 5
IPX	Internetwork Packet eXchange
IP	Internet Protocol
NLSP	NetWare Link State Protocol
LSA	Link State Advertisement
OSI	Open Systems Interconnection
AS	Autonomous System
DV	Distance Vector
LS	Link State routing protocols
VLSM	Variable Length Subnet Masks
IGP	Interior Gateway Protocol
EGP	Exterior Gateway Protocol
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
CIDR	Classless Inter-Domain Routing
IS-IS	Intermediate System - Intermediate System
BGP	Border Gateway Protocol.
LED	Led Emitting Diode
LAN	Local Area Network
WAN	Wide Area Network

QoS	Quality of Service
VPN	Virtual Private Networks
DSU/CSU	Channel Service Unit/Data Service Unit
SNMP	Simple Network Management Protocol
NLSP	NetWare Link Services Protocol
RSVP	Resource Reservation Protocol
UTP	Unshielded Twisted-Pair
STP	Shielded Twisted-Pair
WIC	WAN Interface Card
DUAL	Diffusing Update Algorithm
CPU	Central Processing Unit
BSize	Bulk Size
FP	First Packet
SP	Step Packet
MP	Maximum packet
S-RIP	Scured-Routing Information Protocol.

List of publications

1. *Khalid Abu Al-Saud, Hatim Mohd Tahir, Adel Elzoghabi, Mohammad Saleh*, Performance Evaluation of Secured versus Non-Secured EIGRP Routing Protocol, in **Proceedings of the 2008 International Conference on Security & Management, SAM 2008**, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, July 14-17, 2008. CSREA Press 2008, ISBN 1-60132-085-X.
2. *Khalid Abu Al-Saud, Hatim Mohd Tahir, Moutaz Saleh and Mohammad Saleh*, Impact of MD5 Authentication on Routing Traffic for the Case of: EIGRP, RIPv2 & OSPF, In **the Journal of Computer Sciences (JCS) 2008**, 244, 5th Avenue, Number S-207, New York, NY 10001, USA, Vol. 4(9): 721-728.,
3. *Khalid Abu Al-Saud, Hatim Mohd Tahir, Moutaz Saleh and Mohammad Saleh*, A Performance Comparison of MD5 Authenticated Routing Traffic with EIGRP, RIPv2 & OSPF, submitted in **The International Arab Journal of Information Technology (IAJIT)**, accepted in January 2009 and will be publish in early 2010.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Overview

The past few years have witnessed an ever-growing reliance on computer networks for business transactions where routing plays an extensive role in these network communications. Routing is then an essential part in keeping networking infrastructures running. It is the method by which a router decides where to send a datagram. Routers are devices that direct traffic between hosts by collecting information about all the paths between a source and a destination. Based on this information, a router builds a routing table. A router may be able to send the datagram directly to the destination, if it is on one of the networks that are directly connected to the router. However, the interesting case is when the destination is not reachable directly. In this case, the router attempts to send the datagram to another router which is nearer to the destination. Thus, the goal of a routing protocol is to supply the information needed to do routing. [1], [3].

As our economy and massive infrastructure increasingly rely on the Internet, such routing protocols become of critical importance. Routing protocols, however, are difficult to efficiently secure; since an attacker attempt to inject forged routing messages into the system or may modify legitimate routing messages sent by other sources. Routing protocols are, thus, subject to threats and attacks that can harm individual users or the network operations as a whole. For instance, an attacker may attack messages that carry control information in a routing protocol to break a routers' neighboring relationship. This type of attack can impact the network routing behavior in the affected routers and likely the surrounding neighborhood as well. An attacker may also attack messages that carry data information in order to break a database exchange between two routers or to affect the database maintenance functionality where the information in the database must be authentic and authorized. Attackers can also send forged protocol packets to a router with the intent of changing or corrupting the contents of its routing table or other databases, which in turn could degrade the functionality of the router. [2], [4], [5].

The contents of
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