

## Attack Graph Algorithm in the Application of Intrusion Detection System

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### Abstract

*In order to discover the network vulnerability timely and solve the very serious problems of network security, this paper puts forward the attack graph which is based on intrusion detection method. The method uses the generation global network attack graph algorithm to build network initial attack graph, and call attack graph optimization algorithm to remove global attack graph unreasonable path, and achieve the goal of simply attack graph. Finally, management personnel get the basis which is computed nodes in each state attack graph algorithms degree of loss to optimize the network security. Experiments show that the intrusion detection method is reasonable and effective, and has the advantages of simple and easy.*

**Keywords:** Network security; IDS; Attack graph; State node

### 1. Introduction

With the further development of network attack and technology, network intrusion are getting more and more complicated, and its form of expression also shows diverse characteristics of network management personnel which brings enormous difficulties [1]-[2]. However, a loophole less network operating system can greatly improve the safety of network [3]. Therefore, we can find the reason of the network state that changes attack sequences early and becomes a key intrusion detection system [4]. Network management researchers found that the attacking sequence which is based on the graph theory model can attack faster, and solve the problems of the network [5].

This paper puts forward a kind of attack graph which is based on intrusion detection system model. Firstly, we optimize the whole generation network attack graph, and then call calculation state node loss degree algorithm to compute attack graph of each node in degree of loss, and form a node key degree. According to the degree of the key size, we optimize network strategy to solve the network vulnerability problems. Through the experiment, we demonstrate that the intrusion detection system and the validity of the model are correct.

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## 2. Attack Graph Detection Model

### 2.1. Related Definition

Network management personnel use global attack graph and combine all sorts of attack action between the causal relationship to dig out the network infiltration attack sequence, and grasp attack strategy, discover the network vulnerability, and achieve the goal of enhancement network security [6]. This paper will make invaders intrusion action changes to set for network different state of change so that the relevant defined as follows.

Definition 1, the intruding complexity. The invaders use a loophole to achieve successful invasion of host difficulty degree of numerical measure, this article is the  $Cd$  said.

Definition 2, the loophole. It is the network potential weakness, which is expressed as  $B(Bid, Cd, deg)$ . Network potential weakness are among them, the  $Bid$  is loophole  $B$  in the vulnerability database  $ID$ ,  $Deg$  uses the holes after a successful invasion to the host in the confidentiality, integrity and availability of bringing harm degree. The quantitative relationship of the  $Bid$ ,  $Cd$  and  $deg$  will be expressed in the 7 please referring to literature.

Definition 3, the node degree of loss. The invaders successfully invades one node  $N_i$  ( $i \neq 0$ ) of the network, and the node equipment in security is caused by the extent of the losses, this paper recorded as  $LD(N_i)$ .

Definition 4, the key of node degree. The invaders successful invade one node  $N_i$  ( $i \neq 0$ ) of the network, the whole network security is caused by the extent of the losses [8], this paper recorded as  $KD(N_i)$ .

Definition 5, the host. A kind of network equipment with  $H$  says, its constitute is  $(Name, SR, IDeg)$ . Among them, the  $Name$  for host Name;  $SR$  for security needs degree;  $IDeg$  is important degree.

Definition 6, the state node. State node is expressed as  $N(Nid, H, BS, SS, SN, LD, KD, P, NetD)$ , in the attack graph with elliptic said. Among them, the state node for  $Nid$  is  $ID$ ,  $H$  is the node of the corresponding host or network equipment;  $BS$  is the host or network equipment the existing loophole set;  $SS$  is this state host or network equipment by security threats network service set;  $SN$  is this state node son node set;  $LD$  and  $KD$  express the loss of the node degree and key degree;  $P$  is a network status change to the probability of the state nodes;  $NetD$  for the network state is the harm degree, which is to the host in confidentiality, integrity and availability [9].

Definition 7, the attack graph. It is a directed graph, and it is the state transition system too, which is expressed as  $G = (NS, CS, T, N0, NS_g)$ . Among them, the  $NS$  is the set of the network state nodes;  $CS$  is the set of network intrusion conditions, every condition in attack graph with pure text said;  $T$  is the set of state transition relationships;  $N0 \in NS$  is initial state node;  $NS_g \subseteq NS$  is the set of network intrusion final target state nodes.  $G$  satisfies the constraints:  $t_i(N0, NS \cup CS) \rightarrow N_g$ . Among them, the  $t_i \in T$  is a concrete conversion relation;  $NS' \subseteq NS$  is a subset of network state node set;  $CS' \subseteq CS$  is a subset of network intrusion conditions set;  $N_g \in NS_g$  is a final target state of network intrusion.

Definition 8, the attack path. For the final target state node of the network intrusion  $N_g \in NS_g$ , if the attack graph consisting of a group of conditions and state nodes which constitute a sequence  $L(C_1, C_2, N_0, N_1, \dots, C_i, N_j, \dots, C_{n-1}, N_{m-1})$  ( $0 < i < n-1, 0 < j < m-1$ ) makes  $t_z(N_0, L) \rightarrow N_g$ . Among

them, the  $t_z \in T$  is a specific conversion relation, the  $N_0L$  is an attack path, and this paper records the  $R$ .

By defining the 7 and 8 definition can be obtained:

$$KD(H_i) = \sum_{N_j \in NS_i} LD(N_j)$$

$H_i$  for a host of network and  $i \neq 0$ ,  $NS_i$  for  $H_i$  is a node set in state diagram which affects the state,  $N_j \in NS_i$  is any one state node.

## 2.2. Attack Graph Generating Algorithm

Attack graph is simulation invaders invasion of the whole network which is many kinds of methods of abstract, so the global attack graph plays a very important role [10] for network management personnel manage network security. Combined with the proposed related definition, we give the generating global attack graph steps are as follows:

- (1) Collect network information, network topology structure, host loophole, the invasion of conditions of information formalization;
- (2) After the formal network security information classification, respectively to join the corresponding queue, construct the network state node initial queue;
- (3) According to the network vulnerability information and the use of loopholes penetration of rules, structure against queue;
- (4) According to the network node state queue and search attack queue elements, form a new network state node and a new condition node, and join the network state node queue;
- (5) Repeat step (4) until successful invades of network and the network state node forms a final state;
- (6) To form the global attack graph.

According to the above steps, this paper gives an attack graph generating algorithm which is as follows:

Input: Parameter NS, CS,  $N_0$ , MaxStep, P;

Output: Attack Graph G;

Algorithm:

1. State\_queue=NULL,  $N_0$ .step=0, NS=NULL, G=NULL;
2. ADD(NS,  $N_{1-n}$ ); // All state node set to join in the NS
3. Insert(State\_queue,  $N_0$ ); //  $N_0$  to state the queue
4. while(state\_queue <> NULL) {  $S_i$  = Delete(State\_queue);
5.  $CS_i$  = Detect( $S_i$ );
6. if(( $S_i$ .step - MaxStep) == 0) break; else { for each  $N_j$  in NS {
7.  $g_j$  =  $N_j$ ;
8. if((Person( $g_j$ ) in  $CS_i$ ) && (Result( $g_j$ ) not in  $CS_i$ )) {  $S_k$  = NEW();

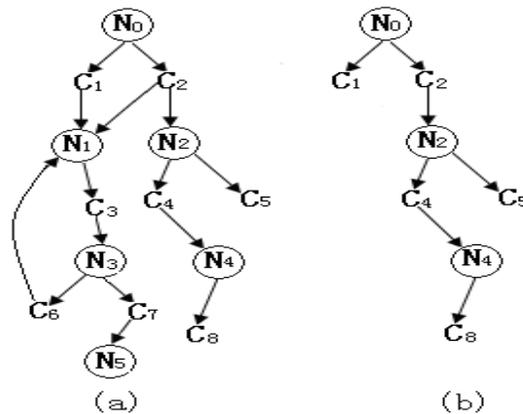
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9.if((i==0)OR(CSi in Nj.precondition ))
10. {if(Probability (N0, Sk)>P)
11. {if((Exists(Sq,State_queue))and(SqlikeSk)and((Si,Sq)inG))// Judge whether new node in
attack graph has already exist
12. {Sq.P=max(Sq.P, Sk.P);// Update invasion
13. ej=Mark (Si, CSi,Sq);Insert(ej, G);Delete Sk;}
14. else{ej =Mark ((Si, CSi,Sk);Insert(ej, G);
15. k++;Sk.step=Sk.step+1;// Update Sk intrusion steps
16. Insert(State_queue, Sk); // Add Sk to state queue
17.}}else Delete Sk;}
    
```

### 2.3. Attack Graph Optimize Algorithm

According to a lot of experiments, the Figure 2.2 attack graph generating algorithm in special circumstances produces attack graph, which appears some attack path in actual intrusion process that could not have happened. For example, in Figure 1(a), the attack graph of the attack path  $R(N_0, C_1, C_3, N_1, N_3, C_6, N_1, C_3, N_3, C_7, N_5)$ ; the actual intrusion process could not have happened. Because the state node  $N_1$  happen, the must invasion condition  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ ,  $C_6$  must meet, and conditions of  $C_6$  are happening in a successful invasion state node  $N_1$ , so produce paradox. From this example, the global attack graph must be optimization, this paper presents optimization attack graph algorithm, and Figure 1(b) is (a) algorithm to optimize the attack graph.

The secure connection is shown in Figure 2.



**Figure 1. Attack Graph Before and After Optimization Example**

Input: before optimization attack graph G

Output: the optimized attack graph G

Algorithm:

1. for each  $N_i$  in NS {
2.  $Sum_i = Count(Pre(N_i));$  //  $N_i$  is Father node number

3.  $\text{flag}(N_i)=\text{false};$
4. for each  $C_i$  in CS Insert(Condition\_queue,  $C_i$ );
5. for each  $q$  in Condition\_queue
6. for each  $N_j$  in Post( $q$ ) {
7.  $\text{num}[N_j] = \text{num}[N_j]+1;$
8. if  $\text{num}[N_j] = \text{Sum}_j$   $\text{flag}(N_j)=\text{true};$
9. for each  $C_k$  in Post( $N_j$ ) {
10. Insert (Condition\_queue,  $C_k$ );} // Join condition queue
11. for each  $N_i$  in NS if ( $\text{flag}(N_i)=\text{false}$ ) Delete( $G, N_i$ );
12. return  $G$ ;

#### 2.4. Calculate the Loss of State Node Degree Algorithm

When we optimize the attack graph, we should calculate the attack graph in each state node the degree of loss, and then obtain the condition node degree of the key. Network management personnel by getting each state node loss degree and the degree of the key to optimize configuring security, and enhance the network security.

Input: the condition node NS with relevant information

Output: state set each node loss degree LD (NS)

Algorithm:

1. while( $\text{NS} \neq \text{NULL}$ ) {
2.  $N_i = \text{Delete}(\text{NS}, i)$ ; // Remove NS set a state node
3.  $N_j = \text{Pre}(N_i)$ ; // State node for  $N_i$   $N_j$  direct father node
4.  $N_i.\text{NetD}=0, N_i.P=0$ ; //  $N_j$  initialization  $N_i$
5.  $N_i.P = N_i.B.Cd \times N_j.P$ ;
6.  $N_i.\text{NetD} = N_i.P \times N_i.B.\text{deg}$ ; // Calculate  $N_i$  harm degree
7.  $N_i.LD = N_i.H.IDeg \times N_i.\text{NetD} \times N_i.H.SR$ ;
8.  $i=i+1$ ;
9. return NS;

### 3. Network Security Policy Optimization Method

Attack graph is used to simulate the invaders network intrusion methods, so the network management personnel can judge network vulnerability and make the repair in order to enhance the purpose of network security. In this paper, the general method of this process is as follows:

- (1) Call algorithm to generate network global attack graph;
- (2) Call algorithm to optimize the attack graph;

- (3) Call algorithm, calculate state node safety degree of loss;
- (4) Put attack graph which can be deleted or repair safety state node in the queue Q;
- (5) Compute queue Q element in the key degree;
- (6) Queue Q key degree maximum state node out of the team and the whole mend;
- (7) Repeated execution (1) to (6) until the queue Q is empty.

#### 4. Experiment

Taking an enterprise network for experimental object, this is verifying with the proposed method to manage their network security effectiveness and correctness. Network environment is: we use 5 host form enterprise network, including that host IP<sub>1</sub> is FTP, IP<sub>2</sub> is MySQL server, IP<sub>3</sub> is Telnet, IP<sub>4</sub> is HTTP, and IP<sub>5</sub> is Oracle server. Enterprise firewall only allows the network access to the Telnet server and the network access. Enterprise network environment host information and vulnerability information are shown in Table 1 and Table 2, and the network topological structure is shown in Figure 2.

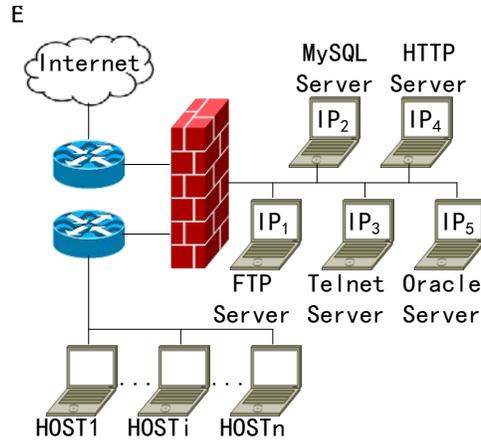
**Table 1. Host Information**

Name	SR	IDeg	Server	Bid	Inv_Cond_ID
IP <sub>1</sub>	6	2	FTP	9904,13454	C <sub>2</sub> ,C <sub>3</sub>
IP <sub>2</sub>	3	3	MySQL(FTP)	7974	C <sub>4</sub>
IP <sub>3</sub>	4	2	Telnet	12815	C <sub>1</sub>
IP <sub>4</sub>	5	1	HTTP	9691	C <sub>6</sub>
IP <sub>5</sub>	2	3	Oracle	14312	C <sub>5</sub>

**Table 2. Vulnerability Information**

Bid	Cd	Deg	Type
9904	0.5	2	Privilege promotion class
13454	0.7	1.5	Privilege promotion class
7974	0.7	2	Privilege promotion class
12815	0.7	3	Privilege promotion class
9691	0.3	3	Privilege promotion class
14312	0.9	1	Denial of service classes

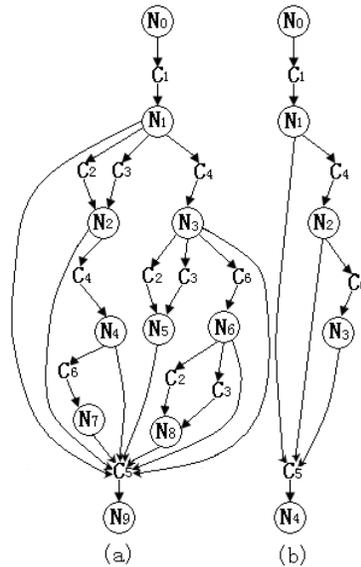
The Table 1 and Table 2 show the network information. Telnet holes currently has no effective repairing method, and the plus host IP<sub>3</sub> is Telnet server firewall which can't shut down for the network access, so the host IP<sub>3</sub> is the attack graph of initial loophole. The invaders can enter by the server connection, and then ascend the permission. Finally, it gets the purpose of invasion of Oracle server.



**Figure 2. Network Topology**

According to the above analysis, we use the attack graph to generate algorithm and optimization algorithm which is concluded that the enterprise network global attack graph is shown in Figure 3(a).

Call calculation state node loss degree algorithm to calculate the Figure 3 (a) state  $N_1$  to  $N_8$  loss degree:  $LD(N_1)=16.8$ ;  $LD(N_2)=8.82$ ;  $LD(N_3)=8.82$ ;  $LD(N_4)=3.087$ ;  $LD(N_5)=6.174$ ;  $LD(N_6)=2.205$ ;  $LD(N_7)=0.7718$ ;  $LD(N_8)=1.85$ .



**Figure 2. Enterprise Network Attack Graph**

**Table 2. Vulnerability Information**

Name	Bid	Nodes	LD	KD
IP <sub>1</sub>	9904,13454	{N <sub>2</sub> ,N <sub>5</sub> ,N <sub>8</sub> }	{8.82,6.174,1.852}	16.846
IP <sub>2</sub>	7974	{N <sub>3</sub> ,N <sub>4</sub> }	{8.82,3.087}	11.907
IP <sub>3</sub>	12815	{N <sub>1</sub> }	{16.8}	16.8
IP <sub>4</sub>	9691	{N <sub>6</sub> ,N <sub>7</sub> }	{2.205,0.7718}	2.977

In the Table 3, we found that the key to the largest degree  $IP_1$  host and we should priority repair host  $IP_1$  vulnerabilities, namely, leak Numbers for 9904 and 13454 patch. When a host  $IP_1$  leak after the repair, we should call attack graph to generate algorithm and optimization algorithm. The generate enterprise network attack graph is shown in Figure (b).

In order to call calculation state node loss degree algorithm to calculate the Figure 3(b) state node loss degree and repeat the above steps, we obtain the degree of host key for:  $KD(IP_2)=8.82$ ;  $KD(IP_3)=16.8$ ;  $KD(IP_4)=2.205$ . We can find the key to the largest degree  $IP_3$  host, but as a result of its existing Telnet holes, we can't repair it and can't repair host  $IP_3$  loophole, so take  $KD(IP_2)$  and  $KD(IP_4)$  maximum for leak repair, then repair the host  $IP_2$  loophole, namely: Leak Numbers for 12815 patches. After having repaired host  $IP_2$  again and repeat the implementation of the above steps, we find attack graph that exist only in a loophole that can repair is host  $IP_4$ . We repair host  $IP_4$  loophole to leak Numbers for 9691 patch. Host  $IP_4$  is repaired and prevent host  $IP_3$  visiting the host  $IP_5$  that can achieve the goal that ensure the network security.

## 5. Conclusions

It is a serious problem for management personnel network to improve the security of network. In order to solve this problem effective and correct, this paper puts forward the attack graph which is based on the intrusion detection method. This method first establishes the global network attack graph, and then carries on the optimization. Finally, we use the calculation state node loss degree algorithm to calculate the degree of the key network equipment. Network management personnel use the key of the network equipment to adjust the network safety strategy and repair the corresponding loophole. Then the management of network becomes more safety.

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