

LIGHTWEIGHT IDENTITY BASED ONLINE/OFFLINE SIGNATURE SCHEME  
FOR WIRELESS SENSOR NETWORKS

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LIGHTWEIGHT IDENTITY BASED ONLINE/OFFLINE SIGNATURE SCHEME  
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A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the  
requirements for the award of the degree of  
Doctor of Philosophy (Computer Science)

School of Computing  
Faculty of Engineering  
Universiti Teknologi Malaysia

MAY 2022

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I contacted many individuals, researchers, academics, and practitioners during the preparation of this thesis. They have contributed to my thoughts and understanding. I particularly wish to express my sincere appreciation for my encouragement, guidance, criticism, and friendship to my main thesis supervisor, Professor Dr. Naomi Binti Salim. This thesis would not have been the same as presented here without her continued support and interest.

I am also indebted to Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) for providing my Ph. D research with an outstanding opportunity. UTM librarians and staff at the School of Computing are also particularly grateful for their help in supplying the relevant literature.

My sincere appreciation also extends to all of my peers and others who have helped on different occasions. Their views and tips are, indeed, helpful. Unfortunately, it is impossible in this limited space to list all of them. To all the members of my family, I am grateful.

## ABSTRACT

Data security is one of the issues during data exchange between two sensor nodes in wireless sensor networks (WSN). While information flows across naturally exposed communication channels, cybercriminals may access sensitive information. Multiple traditional reliable encryption methods like RSA encryption-decryption and Diffie–Hellman key exchange face a crisis of computational resources due to limited storage, low computational ability, and insufficient power in lightweight WSNs. The complexity of these security mechanisms reduces the network lifespan, and an online/offline strategy is one way to overcome this problem. This study proposed an improved identity-based online/offline signature scheme using Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) encryption. The lightweight calculations were conducted during the online phase, and in the offline phase, the encryption, point multiplication, and other heavy measures were pre-processed using powerful devices. The proposed scheme uniquely combined the Inverse Collusion Attack Algorithm (CAA) with lightweight ECC to generate secure identitybased signatures. The suggested scheme was analyzed for security and success probability under Random Oracle Model (ROM). The analysis concluded that the generated signatures were immune to even the worst Chosen Message Attack. The most important, resource-effective, and extensively used on-demand function was the verification of the signatures. The low-cost verification algorithm of the scheme saved a significant number of valued resources and increased the overall network's lifespan. The results for encryption/decryption time, computation difficulty, and key generation time for various data sizes showed the proposed solution was ideal for lightweight devices as it accelerated data transmission speed and consumed the least resources. The hybrid method obtained an average of 66.77% less time consumption and up to 12% lower computational cost than previous schemes like the dynamic IDB-ECC two-factor authentication key exchange protocol, lightweight IBE scheme (IDB-Lite), and Korean certification-based signature standard using the ECC. The proposed scheme had a smaller key size and signature size of 160 bits. Overall, the energy consumption was also reduced to 0.53 mJ for 1312 bits of offline storage. The hybrid framework of identity-based signatures, online/offline phases, ECC, CAA, and low-cost algorithms enhances overall performance by having less complexity, time, and memory consumption. Thus, the proposed hybrid scheme is ideally suited for a lightweight WSN.

## ABSTRAK

Keselamatan data ialah salah satu isu semasa pertukaran data antara dua nod sensor dalam rangkaian sensor wayarles (WSN). Walaupun maklumat mengalir merentasi saluran komunikasi yang terdedah secara semula jadi, penjenayah siber boleh mencapai maklumat sensitif. Pelbagai kaedah penyulitan tradisional yang boleh dipercayai seperti penyulitan/penyahsulitan RSA dan pertukaran kunci Diffie-Hellman menghadapi krisis sumber perkomputeran disebabkan storan yang terhad, keupayaan perkomputeran yang rendah dan kuasa yang tidak mencukupi dalam WSN ringan. Kerumitan mekanisme keselamatan ini mengurangkan jangka hayat rangkaian, dan strategi dalam talian/luar talian adalah satu cara untuk mengatasi masalah ini. Kajian ini mencadangkan skim tandatangan dalam talian/luar talian berasaskan identiti yang lebih baik menggunakan penyulitan Kriptografi Lengkung Eliptik (ECC). Pengiraan ringan telah dijalankan semasa fasa dalam talian dan dalam fasa luar talian, penyulitan, pendaraban mata dan langkah berat lain telah dilaksanakan pra-pemprosesan menggunakan peranti berkuasa tinggi. Skim yang dicadangkan secara unik menggabungkan Algoritma Serangan Pakatan Songsang (CAA) dengan ECC ringan untuk menjana tandatangan berasaskan identiti yang selamat. Skim yang dicadangkan telah dianalisis untuk keselamatan dan kebarangkalian kejayaan di bawah Model Ramalan Rawak (ROM). Analisis menyimpulkan bahawa tandatangan yang dihasilkan adalah kebal walaupun terhadap Serangan Mesej Terpilih yang paling buruk. Fungsi atas permintaan yang paling penting, berkesan dari segi sumber dan digunakan secara meluas ialah pengesahan tandatangan. Algoritma pengesahan skim berkos rendah menjimatkan sejumlah besar sumber bernilai dan meningkatkan jangka hayat keseluruhan rangkaian. Keputusan dari segi masa penyulitan/penyahsulitan, kesukaran pengkomputeran dan masa penjanaan kunci untuk pelbagai saiz data menunjukkan penyelesaian yang dicadangkan adalah sesuai untuk peranti ringan kerana ia mempercepatkan kelajuan penghantaran data dan menggunakan sumber paling sedikit. Kaedah hibrid memperoleh purata 66.77% pengurangan penggunaan masa dan sehingga 12% kos pengiraan lebih rendah daripada skim sebelumnya seperti protokol pertukaran kunci pengesahan dua faktor dinamik IDB-ECC, skim IBE ringan (IDB-Lite) dan piawaian pensijilan tandatangan Korea yang berasaskan ECC. Skim yang dicadangkan mempunyai saiz kunci dan saiz tandatangan yang lebih kecil, iaitu 160 bit. Secara keseluruhan, penggunaan tenaga juga dikurangkan kepada 0.53 mJ untuk 1312bit storan luar talian. Rangka kerja hibrid bagi tandatangan berasaskan identiti, fasa dalam talian/luar talian, ECC, CAA dan algoritma kos rendah meningkatkan prestasi keseluruhan dengan mengurangkan kerumitan, masa dan penggunaan memori. Oleh itu, skim hibrid yang dicadangkan sangat sesuai untuk WSN yang ringan.

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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AKA	-	Authenticated Key Agreement
BP	-	Bilinear Pairing
BS	-	Base Station
CA	-	Certificate Authority
CDHP	-	Computational Diffie-Hellman Problem
CFFS	-	Cluster-Based False Data Filtering Scheme
CH	-	Cluster Head
CL-PKC	-	Certificate less - Public Key Cryptography
CTAKA	-	Certificate less Key Agreement Two-Party Authenticated Key Agreement
DDHP	-	Decisional Diffie-Hellman Problem
DHP	-	Diffie-Hellman Problem
DHT	-	Distributed Hash Table
DLP	-	Discrete Logarithm Problem
DoS	-	Denial Of Service
DSEDA	-	Digital Signature Assisted End-To-End Data Authentication
ECC	-	Elliptic Curve Cryptography
ECC	-	Elliptic Curve Cryptography
ECDLP	-	Elliptic Curve Discrete Logarithm Problem
ECDSA	-	Elliptic Curve Digital Signature Algorithm
GDHP	-	Gap Diffie-Hellman Problem
GPS	-	Global Positioning System
HMAC	-	Keyed-Hashing for Message Authentication
IBC	-	Identity Based Cryptography
ID	-	Identity
ID	-	Identity
ID-2PAKA	-	Identity-Based Two-Party Authenticated Key Agreement
IHA	-	Interleaved Hop-By-Hop Authentication
KGC	-	Key Generation Centre
LBRS	-	Location-Based Resilient Secrecy

LEAP	-	Localized Encryption and Authentication Protocol
LEDS	-	Location-Aware End-To-End Data Security
LNCS	-	Location-Aware Network-Coding Security
LSSS	-	Linear Secret Sharing Scheme
MAC	-	Message Authentication Code
MAP	-	Message Authentication Polynomial
MKMP	-	Multi-BS Key Management Protocol
OOS	-	Online/Offline Signature
P2P	-	Peer-To-Peer
PK	-	Public Key
PKC	-	Public Key Cryptography
PKG	-	Private Key Generator
PKI	-	Public Key Infrastructure
SEF	-	Statistical En-Route Filtering
SHA	-	Secure Hash Algorithm
SK	-	Secret Key
WSN	-	Wireless Sensor Network

## LIST OF SYMBOLS

$k$	-	Security Parameter
$param$	-	System Parameters
$s$	-	Master Secret Key of PKG / KGC
$P_{pub}$	-	Public Key of PKG / KGC
$ID_i$	-	The Identity of The User
$D_i = (s_i, R_i)$	-	Partial-Private-Key of User Identity $ID_i$ Generated by KGC In CI-PKC
$s_i$	-	Secret Key in IBC or Secret-Value Chosen by KGC Of User Identity $ID_i$
$R_i$	-	Public Key in IBC or Public-Value Computed by KGC of User Identity $ID_i$
$x_i$	-	Secret-Value Chosen by User with Identity $ID_i$
$P_i$	-	Public-Key Computed by User with Identity $ID_i$
$sk_i = (s_i, x_i)$	-	Private Key of User Identity $Id_i$
$pk_i = (R_i, P_i)$	-	Public Key of User Identity $Id_i$
$m$	-	Message
$U = ID_1, \dots, ID_n$	-	Set of Parties with Each Party $Id_i$
$A(A_I/A_{II})$	-	Adversary (Type I / Type II)
$C$	-	Challenger, Who Responds Adversary's Queries
$L_i$	-	List Maintained by Challenger
$G, G_1, G_2, G_T$	-	The Cyclic Group Composed of The Points On $E/F_q$ Of Prime Order $q \geq 2k$
$q, n$	-	Prime Order of a Group
$P$	-	A Generator of Group $G_1$
$\hat{e}: G_1 \times G_1 \rightarrow G_2$	-	Bilinear Pairing
$H_0, H_1$	-	Hash Functions
$A$	-	Alice
$B$	-	Bob
$eska, t_A, epk_B, t_B$	-	Ephemeral-Secret-Key of Alice and Bob Respectively

$t_i, t_j$	-	Ephemeral-Secret-Key of Party I with Intended Partner Party J
$epk_A, T_A, epk_B, T_B$	-	Ephemeral-Public-Key of Alice and Bob Respectively
$T_i, T_j$	-	Ephemeral-Public-Key of Party I with Intended Partner Party J
$K_{AB}, K_{BA}$	-	Secret Shared Key by Alice and Bob Respectively
$sk$	-	Secret Session Key
$\prod_{i,j}^s$	-	The $sth$ Session Runs for Party $i$ with Intended Partner Party $j$



# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

Wireless Sensor Network (WSN) consists of independent sensor devices having spatial distribution (Lee et al., 2004). These devices examine ecological and physical variations, e.g., smoke, level of pressure and temperature, humidity, etc. (Rashid and Rehmani, 2016). Information technologies like ubiquitous computing, edge computing, fog computing, and cloud computing are rapidly developing on-demand of sensor data computation. The user can avail conveniently the wireless communication techniques. The wireless network can offload data from the source node to the destination gateway without a costly wired connection. WSNs have been a broad focus area of research as an essential technique for business and academic circles. WSN has been installed commercially and industrially for numerous practical applications, like continuous field monitoring, military detecting, tracking, measuring traffic flow, environmental pollutant tracking, and many more (Gkikopouli et al., 2012, Ali et al., 2017, Bal, 2014, Zhang and Zhang, 2012).

High-performance, secured, and authenticated communication between two WSN nodes is essential. It is required to take care of the decision-making, message encryption, identification of the nodes, and smart consumption of resources (Bonetto et al., 2012). Sensor nodes generally have minimal resources in terms of battery, storage, transmission, and computing. The actual cost of an efficient and secure transmission between the two nodes is relatively high regarding energy usage (Das, 2009). Due to high energy constraints, WSNs are prone to various challenges for safety and furnishing authenticity than the traditional wired networks. However, there are various guidelines for low energy consumption in security provisions, such as smaller-sized authentication keys, lower computational and communication overheads, and algorithms where fewer keys are to be stored.

The Online/offline computing strategy is vital. It reduces the computing burden from sensor nodes hence increasing the lifespan of the network. The wireless sensor network is now needed to extend encryption to sensor-reliant operations in areas with different limitations that have not generally been subject to encryption. Lightweight cryptography is a technique that has been researched and developed to resolve this difficulty. The lightweight cryptography function allows the use of secure message encryption, even for devices with limited resources. One of the most significant security-related threats is cyber-attack by traditional IT systems to WSNs while using sensor devices for data collection from the real world. For example, a WSN has been deployed in a manufacturing plant for continuous monitoring and implementing independent control in a substantive environment. WSN gateways gather environmental data like temperature, humidity through a vast range of mounted sensors. The aim of utilizing sensors in the plant is to advance output and maintenance considerably. Incorrect analysis results would be induced if sensor data were falsified during this process, and erroneous control would result from such an occurrence that could potentially lead to significant damage. Moreover, since measurement data and control commands are trade secrets associated with production and management know-how, the prevention of leakage from a competitive point of view is also essential. Even if there is currently no problem, the effect of upcoming threats must be considered. Figure 1.1 shows that encryption can effectively respond to threats on WSNs, implying confidentiality and integrity data protection during message transfer between two WSN nodes.

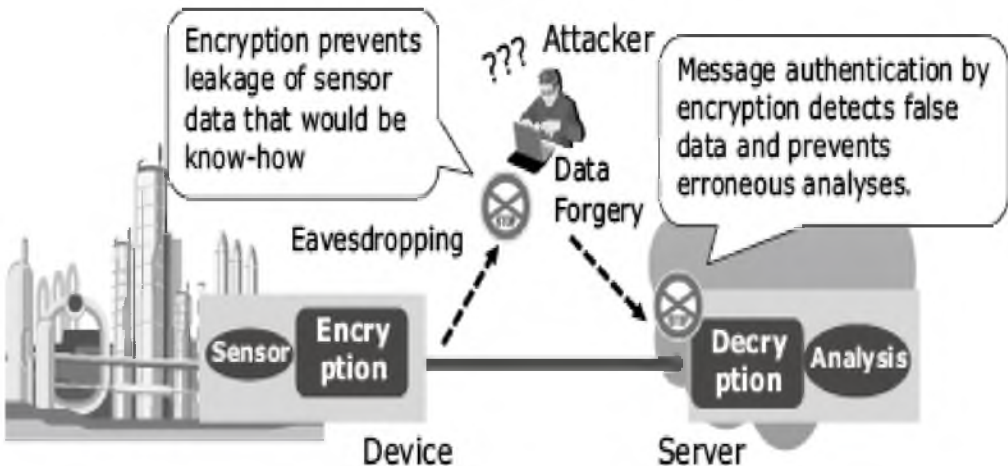


Figure 1-1 Encryption-based counter-measure against data collection threats

Encryption has already been applied as a standard on the communication system, in the data link layer, such as in a cell phone. In such a case, encryption in the application layer effectively provides end-to-end data protection from the device to the server. It ensures security independently of the communication system (Figure 1.2). Encryption should then be applied to the sensor devices, application processes, and additional resources and should be as light as possible. Lightweight cryptography could be a possible solution to ensure security during data transfer between two WSN nodes.

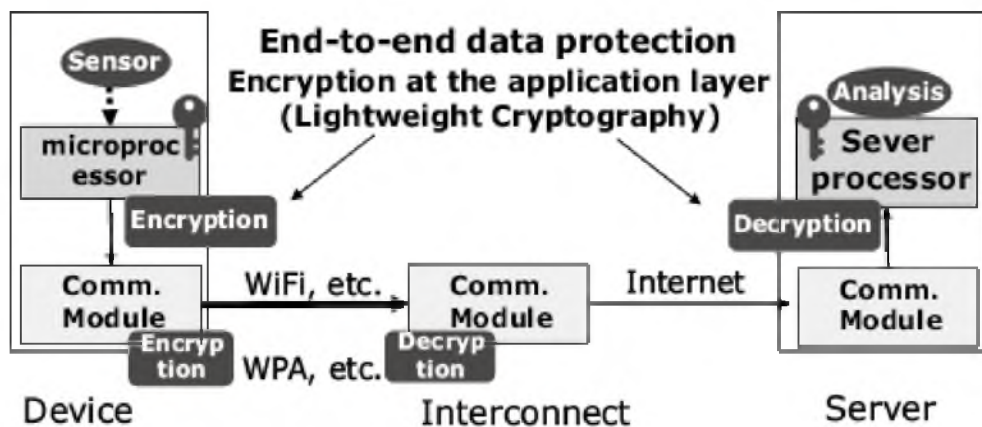


Figure 1-2 Example of lightweight cryptography applications

## 1.2 Problem Background

Wireless sensor networks are usually designed for hostile and unsupervised environments. These environments expose the sensors to numerous active and passive cyber intrusions (Burhanuddin et al., 2018; Cheikhrouhou, 2016). Sensor nodes are the key source of sensitive physical information in WSN. The low resources make them most vulnerable as they are unable to afford resource-hungry security schemes. The pairwise key exchange between a source and destination node utilizes a critical pre-distribution technique for intrusion prevention in a conventional network. However, most key-pairing cryptography follows complex algorithms and has high energy and storage consumption as RSA does in a wired network. Others focus on specific intrusion detection, regardless of overall communication performance.

Hence, research is required to discover a framework with resource consumption suitable for resource-constrained lightweight devices. The framework should consider all of these issues like efficient computation, smaller memory requirement, power-efficient and secures data exchange. Data integrity and information confidentiality can be achieved by incorporating a security mechanism that utilizes message authentication codes and packet encryption. Intrusion detection algorithms should control network access to endure WSN by legitimate nodes only. Authentication assures the network's entities that the packet originated from the sender from which it claims to originate. The network's reliability can only be established once the network has an efficient and secure shared key distribution system amongst the nodes inside the network. The appropriate level of security applications inside the WSN is a difficult task and requires overcoming several challenges. The problem background of WSN-related security stated these following issues:

- A low-cost, secure communication link between two individual nodes is one of the most challenging and crucial issues lightweight devices face in WSN.
- Most available signature schemes are unsuitable against existential forgery attacks for wireless sensor network systems due to several restrictions such as small storage space.
- The low battery life of the WSN nodes cannot afford the lengthy key generation procedure. Therefore, most existing security algorithms are not suitable for wireless sensor nodes.
- WSN nodes are highly bandwidth sensitive. Therefore, most of the online-based security procedures, demanding prolonged steps to be established, are not suitable for WSNs.

In this situation, secure and efficient cryptographic lightweight protocols like critical key establishment, mutual authentication, and identity-based signature schemes are necessitated to protect the information exchange between two neighboring communicated sensor nodes (Cohen et al., 2018; Tomić and McCann, 2017).



hybrid solution also helps to reduce algorithm complexity while imposing it on real-world challenges in terms of energy and memory consumption.

### **1.3.2 Constraints of Resources**

Signature-based intrusion detection (ID) has four functional steps: data packet receiving, comparing with predefined database, identifying possible intrusion, and restricting the packet exchange mechanism (if an intrusion is detected). These cryptography algorithms operate using two key generations, namely private and public keys, between two neighboring nodes. Standard algorithms like RSA/DSA need a minimum 512 modulus and a maximum of 15360 sizes in bits key size in terms of computational effort for cryptoanalysis. Thus, the low-cost, secure communication link between two WSN nodes is one of the most challenging and crucial issues to use secure RSA/DSA, as the key size is comparatively large. In this situation, lightweight protocol identity-based signature schemes are suitable to protect the information exchange between two neighboring communicated sensor nodes. In contrast to RSA/DSA, lightweight Elliptic Curve Cryptography has a minimum 112-bit and maximum 512-bit key size. Therefore, the suitable algorithm selection for WSN nodes is highly challenging.

### **1.3.3 Standard Activities**

The majority of WSN protocols are publicly known and do not consider potential security built in the stage of designing. Literature survey states that only a few numbers of security solutions are feasible to implement into real-time WSNs like identity-based online/offline key encryption, the Diffie Hellman key exchange algorithm, and elliptic curve cryptography. As the nodes of the WSNs are inconstant and have limitations in terms of battery capacity, memory capacity, it isn't easy to force security solutions into already built WSNs. Therefore, the solution must be incorporated while designing the WSN. The solution must be compatible with the wireless protocols and sensor behaviors.



deceives. This thesis followed to find out a solution for this particular problem statement:

*“How to implement a compatible and efficient signcryption scheme based on an improved elliptic curve digital signature algorithm through online/offline methods suitable for lightweight wireless sensor devices?”*

## 1.5 Research Objectives

This research aims to develop the optimal identity-based signcryption security based on ECDSA with an Online/Offline approach for providing security to digital signatures in WSNs environment, to improve the complexity, cost, time, and energy consumption. Thus, support fast and efficient communication. This study mainly focuses on implementing a signcryption scheme for communication security in WSNs. The following three objectives are established to achieve the goal of this research:

- I. **To develop an improved identity-based, online/offline signature scheme, using key encryption with elliptic curve pairing and Diffie-Hellman problem for lightweight WSN:** The existing cryptography-based algorithms are primarily complex and consume a lot of resources. Online/offline signature design, elliptic curve, and Diffie-Hellman solutions are used in several security schemes. A competent combination of such solutions could help to provide security to lightweight WSN exceptionally. An improved identity-based, online/offline signature scheme using key encryption with elliptic curve pairing and Diffie-Hellman problem is expected to be helpful in this situation. The solution is also expected to reduce algorithm complexity, save energy, cost of memory, time for lightweight WSNs.
- II. **To develop security analysis of the proposed algorithms using Random Oracle Model:** Random Oracle Model (ROM) is a scheme based on the Cryptographic Hash Function (CHF) (Khalili et al., 2020). Hashing is an







The third phase presents the research implementation, testing, and performance evaluation of this research's proposed techniques.

Chapter 4 details the proposed signcryption security framework based on the identity-based online/offline signature schemes and random oracle model. The results and discussion of the proposed techniques and comparing the results with other existing schemes are also presented and discussed.

Chapter 5 presents the conclusion, describes the contributions made by this study, and suggests future directions. This chapter also introduces the set objectives and comparative performance evaluations' achievements.

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