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Secured Technique to Detect and Avoid Malicious Nodes in Internet of Things

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Abstract

Objectives: To detect rank attacks during topology establishment and updated the RPL Destination Oriented Directed Acyclic Graph (DODAG) formation algorithm. The algorithm's distributed module runs across all participating nodes, while the centralized module runs in the sink. **Methods:** The integrity and authenticity of control messages transmitted among two nodes and the sink are verified using a lightweight Hashed Message Authentication Code - Light-weight One-way Cryptographic Hash Algorithm (HMAC-LOCHA). The Secured Technique to Detect and Avoid Malicious Nodes (STDAMN) technique is proposed to overcome the rank attack of the nodes. **Findings:** The proposed scheme STDAMN outperforms the LEADER and SBIDS schemes when considering 50% malicious nodes, the accuracy rate of STDAMN is 3% higher than LEADER and 17% higher than SBIDS in Security mode whereas it is 4% and 14% higher in non-security mode respectively in the decreased rank attack. Again considering 50% malicious nodes, the accuracy rate of STDAMN is 2% higher than LEADER and 13% higher than SBIDS in with-Security mode whereas it is 2.2% and 16.1% higher in without-security mode respectively in the increased rank attack. Also indeed, the false positive rate for STDAMN is lower by 72.5% and 72%, 15.3% and 21.2% whereas the false negative rate for STDAMN is lower by 77.2% and 62.1%, 32.5%, and 39.5% on average for with-security and without-security respectively than LEADER and SBIDS in the decreased rank attack. **Novelty:** This paper presents a rank attack detection approach for non-storing mode RPL used in IoT to cope with both increased and decreased rank attacks to address this issue. The performance of the suggested technique is assessed both conceptually and through simulation using the Contiki-based Cooja simulator. The proposed technique surpasses state-of-the-art rank attack detection techniques in terms of detection accuracy and false positive/negative rate while maintaining acceptable network performance, according to simulation results.

Keywords: Security; RPL; Rank attack; HMAC; Malicious Node; DODAG

1 Introduction

RPL is a fundamental routing system for IPv6 over low-power wireless personal area networks that have been suggested (6LoWPAN). The IETF suggested RPL as a standard protocol for Low power and Lossy Networks LLNs in March 2012, and it was recently modified. IPv6 provides Internet connectivity, as well as lowers the cost of contacting the root (base station) from any LLN node. RPL creates a topology based on a directed acyclic graph (DAG), which is a mathematical graph model with no directed cycles. The distance vector rules were used to generate this graph. The data and DAG nodes converge on a single sink node. RPL is a multi-hop routing protocol in which each node can connect to a large number of other nodes.

In the existing work, researchers have proposed Various security enhancement-related techniques as follows: In⁽¹⁾ proposed a Rank attack detection technique to detect increased and decreased rank attacks in IoT networks based on RPL. The author modified existing RPL by adding security mechanisms and modifying the Destination Advertisement Object (DAO) control messages which results in a low overhead of messages. The disadvantage of this technique is it underperforms during the mobility of nodes and storage can be implemented. In⁽²⁾ proposed a scheme to avoid copycat attacks in IPv6-based Low-power Wireless Personal Area Networks (6LoWPANs). The copycat attack degraded network performance concerning Packet Delivery Ratio (PDR) and end-to-end delay of packets. The drawbacks in this scheme are undetected spoofed copycat attacks, maintenance of neighboring node tables for storing adjacent nodes.

In⁽³⁾ suggested a scheme to optimize node to node data forwarding, also to avoid redundant message transmission, and backward compatibility with traditional RPL. This scheme resulted in high PDR and successful node-to-node communication. This scheme is not suitable for dynamic nodes and Scalability. In⁽⁴⁾ reviewed different types of network attacks in the RPL protocol. In⁽⁵⁾ proposed a mechanism based on the divide and conquer method to identify pre-defined malicious nodes. This mechanism identified the various vulnerabilities in the traditional RPL protocol. The flaw in this mechanism is the malicious nodes are less identified which leads to an unstable network.

In⁽⁶⁾ proposed a technique for multipath and multi-nodes heterogeneous LLN. This technique guaranteed protection and reliability against network attacks at a low cost. The disadvantage of this technique is the amount of packet loss is not taken into consideration. In⁽⁷⁾ proposed a technique for the detection of DAO, DODAG Information Object (DIO), and DODAG Information Solicitation (DIS) message attacks. This technique suggested a solution for DODAG root and neighboring node attacks. The disadvantage of this technique is the PDR ratio decreases with an increase in the number of nodes. Also, the latency increases concerning the number of nodes.

In⁽⁸⁾ suggested a technique to identify false positives, communication overhead, and firmware modification. This technique added rules to avoid unknown attacks. This technique proposed the solution without the need for device updates. In⁽⁹⁾ reviewed that most techniques do not provide solutions for multiple attacks, particularly in rank attack and version number at the same time. Also, most techniques have lower performance and detection accuracy.

In⁽¹⁰⁾ reviewed various attacks in RPL protocol and their detection techniques out of which selected a few trusted models and classified them into categories. In⁽¹¹⁾ surveyed various techniques to address numerous issues in the Rank attack and stated that RPL still suffers from different security threats which were not addressed in recent research papers. In⁽¹²⁾ compared possible attacks and classified based on Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability. Also, studied their countermeasures with trust-based solutions.

In⁽¹³⁾ proposed an algorithm to secure the RPL protocol with trust parameters and mobility parameters that allows only the trusted nodes to take part in data transmission. This algorithm failed to identify the behavior of the malicious node and also to identify the rank attacks. In⁽¹⁴⁾ Proposed an algorithm to defend against a replay-based attack that reduces the quantity of RPL control messages and also increases the number of optimal routes. This algorithm also substantially increases the network performance. In⁽¹⁵⁾ developed a protocol for LLN communication with objective functions Received Signal Strength Indicator (RSSI) and Expected Transmission Count (ETX) for selecting Parent Node. This protocol offers reliability and less end-to-end delay.

In⁽¹⁶⁾ proposed a technique for the detection of FDI attacks this technique provides stability to the nodes. This algorithm also reduced the node fault transmission and improved accuracy of detection of malicious nodes. The limitation of this technique is with an increased proportion of malicious nodes, the recall is also increased. In⁽¹⁷⁾ provided a survey on different security-based routing protocols for IoT. And investigated RPL attacks and their impact concerning control overhead and network performance. In⁽¹⁸⁾ proposed a lightweight model using Machine Learning (ML) based on a one-class classifier to detect IoT botnets with high accuracy.

In⁽¹⁹⁾ proposed a scheme to avoid clone attack and attains high residual energy and throughput. In⁽²⁰⁾ proposed two models to detect malicious nodes and find the optimal route to avoid a few routing attacks. In⁽²¹⁾ reviewed different strategies for intrusion detection systems in IoT and addressed the classification of attacks in IoT. In⁽²²⁾ proposed a model to identify misbehaving nodes in RPL black hole attacks to ensure authentication. In⁽²³⁾ provides all the information about RPL with formulas and

definitions. In ⁽²⁴⁾ provided the information of the simulation model with a description

Detecting and avoiding the malicious nodes in RPL become a security challenge and addressing these areas of research helps ensure the security of IoT. So, there is a need to improvise the accuracy rate in terms of false positive and false negative rate with respect to increased and decreased rank attacks

2 Methodology

2.1 STDAMN: A Proposed Work

The proposed Secured Technique to Detect and Avoid Malicious Nodes (STDAMN) specifies a distributed model that supports finding and storing the disrupted wireless nodes that are already registered in a DODAG to maintain the state information. By saving this information in a separate table, it helps to identify the intruder node by verifying the details stored in the state information about the registered node in the DODAG. The process is to verify the stored rank information about the node which is interrupted and compare it with the new node trying to register as a parent node to complete the DODAG for message transfer. The parent rank and the rank of the child node can be received through the DIO message as per the RPL procedure. It is sent through the DAO ack message for successful registration or rejection of the new request from registering node. The intruder node is identified by comparing the rank sent from the newly registering node with the help of solicitation and the stored information of the previous disrupted node. This saves the delay in identifying the intruder node and further the information about the intruder node is stored for further verifications.

Packet sequence numbers from the source node are analyzed and if found legitimate they are transmitted to the destination, otherwise, the packets are considered as malicious packets and ignored. The various steps involved in STDAMN are as follows,

Input: DAO Control Message

Output: Malicious Node IDs and Packet Sequence number

Triggers: Node Compromise Detection when sink node receives DAO control messages in the network

Begin

Read DAO control message from the child node

Retrieve CNID, CNR, PNID and PNR from DAO control message

Generate MAC = HMAC ((CNID || CNR || PNID || PNR), SK) from the received values

Insert < CNID , CNR, PNID, PNR > into Information Table

if (Node N is a parent node) **then**

CPNR = getChildParentRank(CNID)

if (CNR \neq CPNR) **then**

Insert CNID into Malicious_Nodes // a set to store malicious node IDs

End if

End if

If (CNR < PNR + MinHopRankIncrease) **then**

insert MNID into Malicious_Nodes_Table ;

Discard the DAO control message;

Reject node with NODE_ID = MNID

Else If (CNR > PNR + MinHopRankIncrease) **then**

insert MNID into Malicious_Nodes_Table;

Discard the DAO control message;

Reject node with NODE_ID = MNID

End if

End if

If (Node is Child) **then**

getPacketNumber(CNID)

else if (Node is Parent) **then**

getPacketNumber(PNID)

End if

End if

End

Function getChildParentRank(CNodeID):

Begin

for (Entry i in the Information_Table) do

if (CNodeID is the parent node) then

return ParentRank

end if

end

Function getPacketNumber(Node N)

Begin

If (Packet_ID(MNID) \neq Packet_ID(PNID)) then

Process packet from PN_{ID} and forward packet to sink

Reject packet from MN_{ID}

End if

If (Packet_ID(MNID) \neq Packet_ID(CNID)) then

Process packet from CNID and forward packet to sink

Reject packet from MNID

End if

End

where,

CNID – Child node ID

CNR – Child Node Rank

PNID – Parent Node ID

PNR – Parent Node Rank

SK – Secret Key

CPNR – Child parent node rank

3 Results and Discussion

The simulation results of both the techniques STDAMN and the LEADER in with-basic-security and without basic-security modes using HMAC. This is done to measure the additional overheads incurred by each of the schemes for incorporating security features. In maintaining such securities, the STDAMN and LEADER use a cryptographic MAC (HMAC using LOCHA) and the SBIDS uses cryptographic encryption and decryption (AES-128).

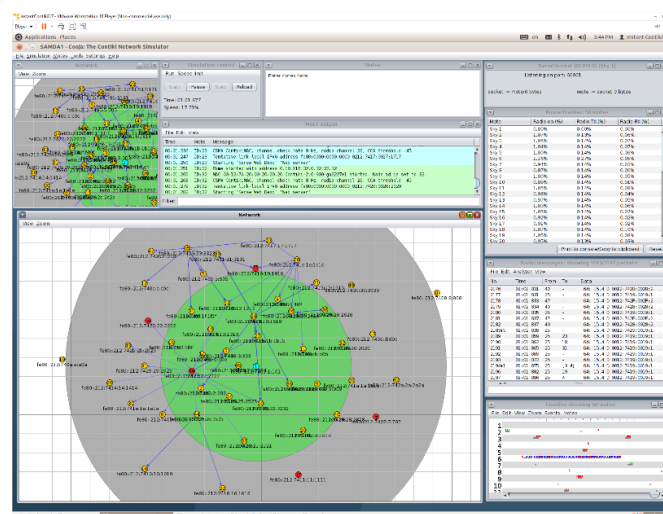


Fig 1. A Sample scenario of simulation with 50 nodes

Figure 1 represents the Snapshot of the simulation with 50 nodes in Cooja Simulator. The simulation is carried out in Cooja with 10% malicious nodes (i.e., 5 nodes) where the blue node is the sink and yellow nodes are the legitimate nodes. The malicious

nodes are represented in red and located randomly in the network. Also conducted two sets of experiments to measure the extent to which design objectives have been attained for all the techniques.

3.1 Accuracy Rate

The detection accuracy is defined as the ratio of the number of nodes that are detected correctly (legitimate or attacker) to the total number of nodes present in the network.

$$Accuracy = (TP + TN) / (TP + FP + TN + FN) \quad (1)$$

where TP is the number of true positive samples that are classified as positive, FP is the number of negative samples that are classified as positive, TN is the number of negative samples classified as negative, and FN is the number of positive samples classified as negative.

Table 1 indicates the accuracy percentage of STDAMN for 10, 25, and 50 nodes. The values of TP, TN, FP, and FN are generated by STDAMN.

Table 1. Accuracy rate of STDAMN in Decreased Rank Attack Detection with security

	Nodes	TP	TN	FP	FN	Accuracy %
STDAMN	10	5	5	0.02	0.03	100
	25	17	8	0.13	0.37	98
	50	37	13	0.4	1.1	97

Scenario for 25 nodes in STDAMN

$$Accuracy = (17+8)/(17+0.13+8+0.37) = 0.9803$$

Table 1 shows the accuracy rate of malicious node detection with a varying number of malicious nodes in the network.

Table 2 indicates the accuracy % of LEADER for 10, 25, and 50 nodes. The values of TP, TN, FP, and FN are generated by the LEADER Technique.

Table 2. Accuracy rate of LEADER in Decreased Rank Attack Detection with security

	Nodes	TP	TN	FP	FN	Accuracy %
LEADER	10	7	3	0.03	0.02	100
	25	17	8	0.25	0.52	97
	50	30	20	0.85	2.25	94

Scenario for 25 nodes in LEADER

$$Accuracy = (17+8)/(17+0.25+8+0.515) = 0.9703$$

Table 3. Comparison of STDAMN with existing techniques based on Accuracy rate in Decreased Rank Attack Detection

Algorithm	No of Malicious Nodes (%)	Accuracy (%)
STDAMN (With Security)	10	100
	25	98
	50	97
STDAMN (Without Security)	10	100
	25	98
	50	96
LEADER (With Security)	10	100
	25	97
	50	94
LEADER (Without Security)	10	100
	25	96.5
	50	92
SBIDS (With Security)	10	98
	25	95
	50	80

Continued on next page

Table 3 continued

	10	98.5
SBIDS (Without Security)	25	91
	50	82

It is observed that the accuracy rate decreases with the increasing number of malicious nodes in both without security and with-security cases for all the techniques. The reason for such results is sometimes a part of the network gets disconnected from the rest of the network due to rank attacks. In the network partitioning scenario, malicious nodes present in one part may not be detected by the sink as DAO messages from such nodes do not reach the sink. However, this decreasing rate of accuracy for STDAMN is very less compared to LEADER and SBIDS. For example, considering 50% malicious nodes, the accuracy rate of STDAMN is 3% higher than LEADER and 17% higher than SBIDS in with-Security mode, whereas the accuracy rate of STDAMN is 4% higher than LEADER and 14% higher than SBIDS in the without-security mode in the decreased rank attack.

Table 4. Comparison of STDAMN with existing techniques based on Accuracy rate in Increased Rank Attack Detection

Algorithm	No of Malicious Nodes (%)	Accuracy (%)
STDAMN (With Security)	10	99.5
	25	98.2
	50	97
STDAMN (Without Security)	10	99.4
	25	97.9
	50	96.1
LEADER (With Security)	10	99
	25	97.3
	50	95
LEADER (Without Security)	10	98.8
	25	95.5
	50	93.9
SBIDS (With Security)	10	98
	25	94
	50	84
SBIDS (Without Security)	10	97.6
	25	90
	50	80

However, this decreasing rate of accuracy for STDAMN is very less compared to LEADER and SBIDS. For example, considering 50% malicious nodes, the accuracy rate of STDAMN is 2% higher than LEADER and 13% higher than SBIDS in with-Security mode whereas it is 2.2% and 16.1% higher in without-security mode respectively in the increased rank attack.

STDAMN performs an additional rank inconsistency checking by retrieving malicious nodes' rank from its parent and child nodes as well in both increased and decreased attacks. Also, the packets from the malicious nodes are analyzed and rejected. These results show that STDAMN performs better than LEADER and SBIDS.

3.2 FALSE POSITIVE RATE AND FALSE NEGATIVE RATE

False Positive Rate (FPR) is defined as the ratio of the number of legitimate nodes that are incorrectly detected as attacker nodes to the total number of legitimate nodes present in the network. False Negative Rate (FNR) is defined as the ratio of the number of attacker nodes that are incorrectly detected as legitimate nodes to the total number of attacker nodes present in the network.

$$FPR = FP / (TN + FP) * 100 \quad (2)$$

$$FNR = FN / (FN + TN) * 100 \quad (3)$$

Table 5. False Positive / Negative rate of STDAMN in Decreased Rank Attack Detection

	Nodes	TP	TN	FP	FN	FPR	FNR
STDAMN	10	5	5	0.02	0.03	0.39	0.59
	25	17	8	0.13	0.37	1.59	4.4
	50	37	13	0.4	1.1	2.9	7.8

Table 5 indicates the False Positive / Negative rate of STDAMN for 10, 25, and 50 nodes. The values of TP, TN, FP, and FN are generated by STDAMN.

Scenario for 25 nodes in STDAMN

$$FPR = 0.13/(8+0.13)*100 = 1.5990$$

$$FNR = 0.37/(0.37+8)*100 = 4.4205$$

Table 5 shows the false positive and false negative rates in rank attack detection with the varying number of malicious nodes.

Table 6 indicates the False Positive / Negative rate of LEADER for 10, 25, and 50 nodes. The values of TP, TN, FP, and FN are generated by the LEADER Technique.

Table 6. False Positive / Negative rate of LEADER in Decreased Rank Attack Detection

	Nodes	TP	TN	FP	FN	FPR	FNR
LEADER	10	7	3	0.03	0.02	1	0.8
	25	17	8	0.25	0.52	3	6
	50	30	20	0.85	2.25	4	10.1

Scenario for 25 nodes in LEADER

$$FPR = 0.25/(8+0.25)*100 = 3.0303$$

$$FNR = 0.515/(0.515+8)*100 = 6.0481$$

Table 7. Comparison of STDAMN with existing techniques based on False Positive Rate and False Negative rate in Decreased Rank Attack Detection

Algorithm	No of Malicious Nodes (%)	False Positive rate (%)	False Negative rate (%)
STDAMN (With Security)	10	0.39	0.59
	25	1.59	4.4
	50	2.9	7.8
STDAMN (Without Security)	10	0.5	0.6
	25	2.6	4.9
	50	3.6	8.7
LEADER (With Security)	10	1	0.8
	25	3	6
	50	4	10.1
LEADER (Without Security)	10	1	0.8
	25	4	5.9
	50	5	14
SBIDS (With Security)	10	2	4
	25	7	15
	50	19	24
SBIDS (Without Security)	10	3	0
	25	4	9
	50	17	22

It is observed that both False Positive Rate and False Negative rate are increased with the increasing number of malicious nodes in the network for both the schemes such as with-security and without-security. Similar to the accuracy rate, here also due to occasional network partitioning, the false positive/negative rates increase with the increasing number of malicious nodes.

However, this increase in rates is much lower in STDAMN compared to LEADER and SBIDS. Precisely, the false positive rate for STDAMN is lower by 72.5% and 72%, 15.3% and 21.2% for LEADER and SBIDS respectively, whereas the false negative rate for STDAMN is lower by 77.2% and 62.1%, 32.5%, and 39.5% on average for with-security and without-security respectively than LEADER and SBIDS in the decreased rank attack.

Table 8. Comparison of STDAMN with existing techniques based on False Positive Rate and False Negative rate in Increased Rank Attack Detection

Algorithm	No of Malicious Nodes (%)	False Positive rate (%)	False Negative rate (%)
STDAMN (With Security)	10	0.7	0.7
	25	2.6	4.8
	50	4.2	8.2
STDAMN (Without Security)	10	0.6	0.7
	25	3.1	5.6
	50	4.4	9.7
LEADER (With Security)	10	1.7	1.6
	25	4.1	8
	50	6.6	12.8
LEADER (Without Security)	10	1.9	1.9
	25	5.2	7.1
	50	6.8	18
SBIDS (With Security)	10	2.6	6
	25	8.6	18
	50	23	29.2
SBIDS (Without Security)	10	3.6	0.8
	25	5.4	11.8
	50	21	26

However, this increase in rates is much lower in STDAMN compared to LEADER and SBIDS. Precisely, the false positive rate for STDAMN is lower by 63.6% and 64.7%, 18.3% and 20.9% whereas the false negative rate for STDAMN is lower by 64% and 53.9%, 28%, and 37.3% on average for with-security and without-security respectively than LEADER and SBIDS in the increased rank attack. Here also the reason for LEADER's better performance is similar to the first set of experiments

The proposed technique STDAMN is implemented using the Cooja network simulator by modifying the code of the RPL protocol. The simulation parameters for this scenario is given in Table 9

Table 9. Simulation Parameters

Parameter	Values
Routing protocol	RPL
Simulator	Cooja
MAC Layer	IEEE 802.15.4
Area(m)	200 * 200
Radio environment	UDGM
Number of nodes	10,25,50
Mote Type	Tmote Sky
Simulation time(s)	3000
Transmission range(m)	50

Figure 2 shows the simulation environment of STDAMN with 50 nodes in the Cooja Simulator.

Figure 3 shows the accuracy rate in Decreased rank attack detection. It is observed from Figure 4 that the STDAMN is having a higher accuracy rate compared to LEADER and SBIDS.

Figure 4 shows the accuracy rate in Increased rank attack detection. It is observed from Figure 5 that the STDAMN is having a higher accuracy rate compared to LEADER and SBIDS.

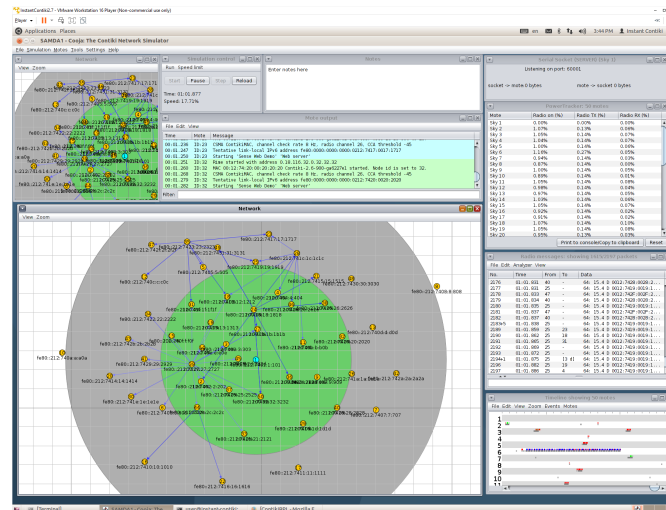


Fig 2. A Simulation in Cooja Simulator

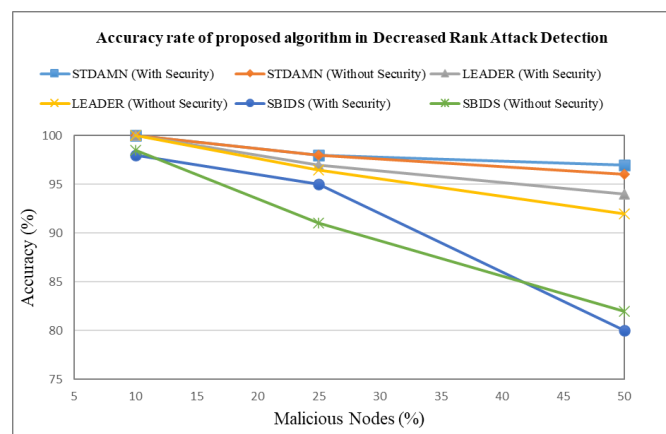


Fig 3. Accuracy Rate in Decreased Rank Attack Detection

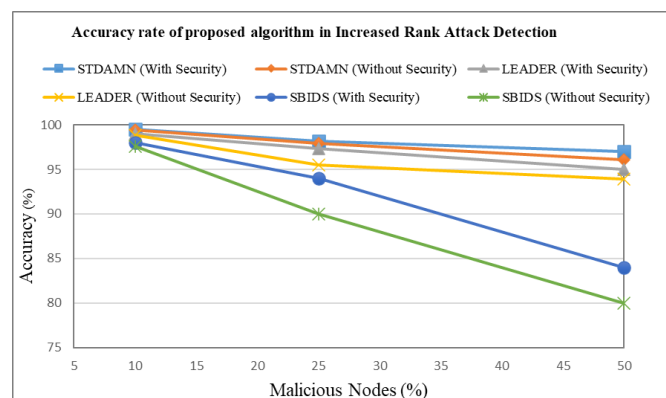


Fig 4. Accuracy Rate in Increased Rank Attack Detection

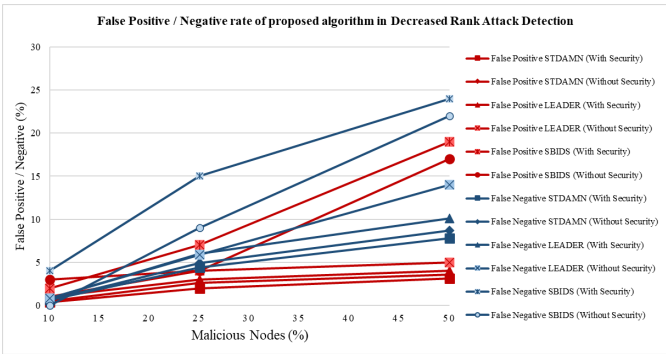


Fig 5. False Positive and Negative Rates in Decreased Rank Attack Detection

Figure 5 shows the False positive rate and the False negative rate in Decreased rank attack detection. It is observed from Figure 6, that the STDAMN is better at having a lower false positive rate and the false negative rate in the case of with-security and without-security compared to LEADER and SBIDS.

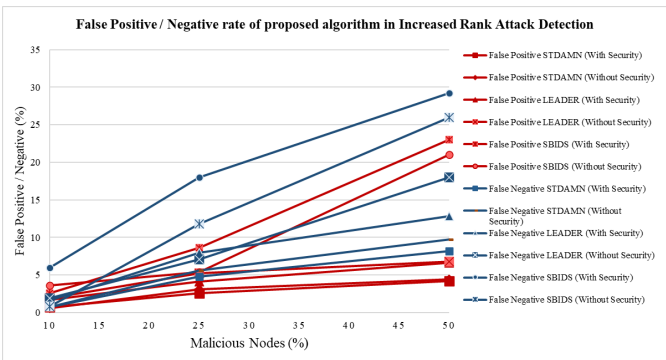


Fig 6. False Positive and Negative Rates in Increased Rank Attack Detection

Figure 6 shows the False positive rate and False negative rate in Increased rank attack detection. It is observed from Figure 6 , that the STDAMN is having a lower false positive rate and false negative rate in the case of with-security and without-security compared to LEADER and SBIDS.

Table 10. Comparative table

Algorithm	Characteristics	Pros	Cons
LEADER ⁽¹⁾	DAO Modification, Rank Attack Detection,	Detection Accuracy, Security hashing	Non storing mode, Non mobility of nodes
CoSec-RPL ⁽²⁾	Copycat attack, 6LoWPAN	Increase in PDR, Impact on AE2ED	DIS flooding attacker can be detected, not capable of detecting a spoofed copycat attack
SAMP-RPL ⁽⁶⁾	Heterogeneous IoT, Multi-path routing security	Secure multipath routing, Secure loss-driven multipath routing	machine learning approach can be adopted to predict packet loss events, network conditions may lead to packet loss
DETONAR ⁽⁸⁾	Detection of Routing Attacks, Intusion Detection System	Routing Attacks Dataset For RPL, Decrease in packet loss	Yet to Investigate in dynamic networks, Yet tp test its performance on large-scale networks

Continued on next page

Table 10 continued

SMTrust ⁽¹³⁾	Trust-Based Secure Routing Protocol, Mobility metrics	better network performance, increased scalability	Yet to evaluate the critical trust metrics including mobility metrics, Optimize detection
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4 Conclusion

Because rank attack intrusions are critical in RPL, STDAMN is proposed, which is a rank attack detection technique that ensures detection of both decreased and increased rank attacks in an RPL-based IoT network while maintaining basic security throughout control message exchange.

A rank attack detection method and basic security features are incorporated into the traditional RPL algorithm. The distributed module of the method, which runs on the participating nodes, is in charge of adding some extra information to the DAO control message.

This aids the centralized module of the sink in effectively detecting network rank attacks. This technique is a simple extension of the DAO message and the adoption of a hashed MAC method.

The proposed technique STDAMN's performance is compared to that of a state-of-the-art rank attack detection scheme, LEADER and SBIDS, both simulated and experimental, revealing that STDAMN outperforms LEADER and SBIDS in both with and without essential security scenarios. The simulation result shows that the proposed scheme STDAMN outperforms the LEADER and SBIDS schemes in terms of both sets of parameters, including design target parameters and network performance metrics. When considering 50% malicious nodes, the accuracy rate of STDAMN is 3% higher than LEADER and 17% higher than SBIDS in with-Security mode whereas it is 4% and 14% higher in without-security mode respectively in the decreased rank attack. Again considering 50% malicious nodes, the accuracy rate of STDAMN is 2% higher than LEADER and 13% higher than SBIDS in with-Security mode whereas it is 2.2% and 16.1% higher in without-security mode respectively in the increased rank attack. Also indeed, the false positive rate for STDAMN is lower by 72.5% and 72%, 15.3% and 21.2% whereas the false negative rate for STDAMN is lower by 77.2% and 62.1%, 32.5%, and 39.5% on average for with-security and without-security respectively than LEADER and SBIDS in the decreased rank attack. The attack detection technique can be extended in the future to work in many RPL sink nodes and to take into account node mobility.

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