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INFORMATION SECURITY ISSUES FOR HETEROGENEOUS STRUCTURAL-COMPLEX SYSTEMS

Space Research Institute NASU-NSAU is participating in the Wide Area Grid (WAG) project being within the Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS, <http://www.ceos.org/wgiss>) of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). In this paper we focus on security issues for the WAG infrastructure, in particular enabling trust using certificates and a dedicated reputation-based model. The proposed information security approach can be further extended for a wider class of service-oriented systems, for example the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS).

Keywords: reputation, trust management, information security, structural--complex systems.

Introduction

At present, the solution of applied problems in many domains such as climate change, environment monitoring, disaster management is impossible without extensive use of Earth observation (EO) data. A system of systems (SoS) is required in order to enable solution of these problems at both regional and global scale. Such an approach envisages the integrated use of satellite data and corresponding products and services, and integration of existing regional and international satellite monitoring systems. It is particularly important for the area of disaster management where different space agencies collaborate in order to timely provide necessary data and services in case of emergency.

A considerable need therefore exists for an appropriate infrastructure that will enable the integrated and operational use of multi-source data for different applications domain. From technological point of view, Grids can provide solutions to the above-mentioned problems. In this case, a Grid environment can be considered not only for providing high-performance computations, but, in fact, can facilitate interactions between different actors by providing a standard infrastructure and a collaborative framework to share data, algorithms, storage resources, and processing capabilities [1 – 7].

There have been several studies on evaluating and using Grids for the EO domain. In particular, we may refer to the GENESI-DR project (www.genesi-dr.eu) that aims at building a grid-based infrastructure supporting the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) architecture. The European Space Agency (ESA) and the European Space Research Institute (ESRIN) developed the Earth Observation Grid Processing on-Demand infrastructure (G-POD) [4, 6]. FAIRE is another Grid-based application that is operationally used by ESA in the context of flood mapping. The application takes advantage of Grid technology for near real-time (NRT) data access,

calibration, orthorectification, map projection, co-registration. The application is operationally used in the context of the International Charter "Space and Major Events" (<http://www.disasterscharter.org>). DEGREE (Dissemination and Exploitation of GRids in Earth science) project was a European-funded project that aimed to build a bridge linking the Earth Science and Grid communities throughout Europe. Grid was considered to be the appropriate platform for integration of heterogeneous data resources, processing tools, models, algorithms, and so on. The following applied problems were within the scope of DEGREE: earthquake analysis, floods modelling and forecasting, and influence of climate changes on agriculture.

Space Research Institute NASU-NSAU is participating in the Wide Area Grid (WAG) project being within the Working Group on Information Systems and Services (WGISS, <http://www.ceos.org/wgiss>) of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS). The overall architecture of the WAG system and its components is described in [8].

One of the main challenges of implementing such a geographically distributed infrastructure is enabling security. In this paper we focus on security issues for the WAG infrastructure, in particular enabling trust using certificates and a dedicated reputation-based model. The proposed information security approach can be further extended for a wider class of service-oriented systems, for example the Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS) [9].

The WAG project

The WAG project was initiated by the French Space Agency (CNES) within the CEOS WGISS activities with main contributions from Space Research Institute (SRI) NASU-NSAU (Ukraine) and CEODE-CAS (China). The project objective was to develop the "horizontal" infrastructure in order to integrate computational, human, intellectual, and informational resources of the space agencies within a distributed system. In order to create

such an infrastructure Grid technologies were used. An application that was tackled within the project is flood monitoring and prediction. Within the infrastructure services were developed in order to enable fast acquisition, processing and delivery of geo-information products based on optical and synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) satellite data in case of emergency. The WAG project is considered as CEOS WGISS contribution to GEOSS. Description of the infrastructure, technologies used and case-study applications are given in details in the following sections.

Service-oriented system for satellite data processing

Within the WAG project, a service-oriented system for satellite data processing was developed. The system integrates geographically distributed resources of the SRI NASU-NSAU (Ukraine), Institute of Cybernetics of NASU (IC NASU, Ukraine) and CEODE-CAS (China) [1, 2, 3, 5]. The system is applied for disaster monitoring and management, in particular floods.

In order to benefit from data of different nature (for example, optical and radar) and provide integration of different products in case of emergency, our flood mapping service was integrated with the flood mapping services provided by the CEODE-CAS. This service is based on the use of optical data acquired by MODIS instrument onboard Terra and Aqua satellites. Figure 1 shows the architecture of the China-Ukrainian service-oriented system for disaster management.

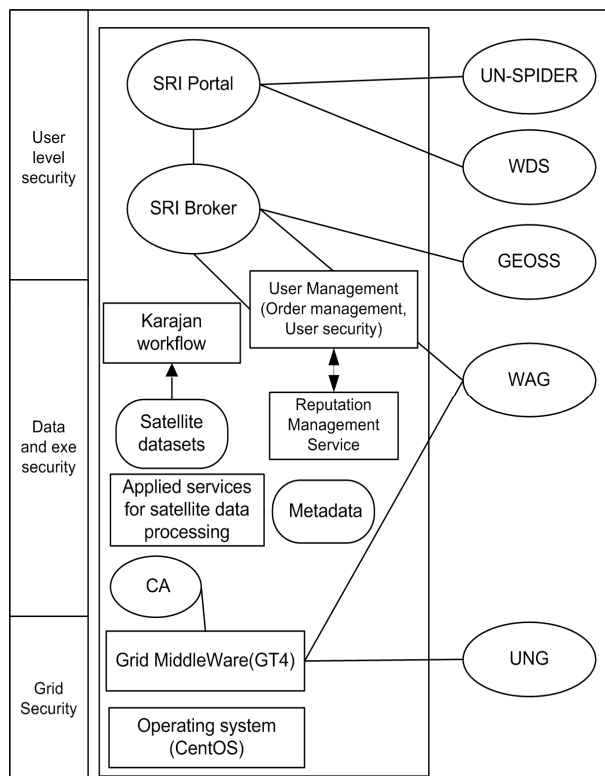


Fig. 1. Architecture of service-oriented system for disaster management

The integration of the Ukrainian and Chinese systems is done at the level of services. The portals of SRI NASU-NSAU and CEODE are operated independently and communicate with corresponding brokers that provide interfaces to the flood mapping services. These brokers process requests from both local and trusted remote sites. For example, to provide a flood mapping product using SAR data the CEODE portal generates a corresponding search request to the broker at the SRI NASU-NSAU side based on user search parameters. This request is processed by the broker and the search results are displayed at the CEODE portal. The user selects the SAR image file to be processed, and the request is submitted to the SRI NASU-NSAU broker which generates and executes workflow, and delivers the flood maps to the CEODE portal. The same applies to the broker operated at the CEODE side that provides flood mapping services using optical satellite data. In order to get access to the portal the user should have a valid certificate. The SRI NASU-NSAU runs the VOMS server to manage with this issue.

One of the most important problems associated with satellite data processing for disaster management is a timely delivery of information to end-users. To enable such capabilities, an appropriate infrastructure is required to allow for rapid and efficient access to, processing and delivery of geospatial information that is further used for damage assessment and risk management. In this section, the use of this service-oriented infrastructure for automated acquisition, processing and visualization of satellite SAR and optical data for rapid flood mapping is presented. The developed services are used within the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER) Regional Support Office (RSO) in Ukraine that was established in February of 2010.

Overall Architecture. Within the infrastructure an automated workflow of satellite SAR data acquisition, processing and visualization, and corresponding geospatial services for flood mapping from satellite SAR imagery were developed. The data are automatically downloaded from the ESA rolling archives where satellite images are available within 2-4 hours after their acquisition. Both programming and graphical inter-faces were developed to enable search, discovery and acquisition of data. Through the portal a user can perform a search for the SAR image file based on geographical region and a time range. A list of available SAR imagery is returned and the user can select a file in order to generate a flood map. The file is transferred to the resources of the SRI NASU-NSAU and a workflow is automatically generated and executed on the resources of the infrastructure (Fig. 2).

To enable execution of the workflow a service-oriented infrastructure has been implemented (Fig. 3). We followed the approach used in the Earth System Grid [10]. The four major components of the system are as follows:

1. Client applications. Web portal is a main entry point, and provides interfaces to communicate with system services.

2. High-level services. This level includes security subsystem, catalogue services, metadata services (description and access), automatic workflow generation services, and data aggregation, sub-setting & visualisation services. These services are connected to the Grid services at the lower level.

3. Grid services. These services provide access to the shared resources of the Grid system, access to credentials, file transfer, job submission and management.

4. Database and application services. This level provides physical data and computational resources of the system.

Workflow for Flood Mapping from Satellite SAR Imagery. A neural network approach to SAR image segmentation and classification was developed [5], [11], [12]. The workflow of data processing is as follows:

1. Geometric (orthorectification) and radiometric correction of the SAR image using digital elevation model (DEM). Regions with shadows and layover are identified at this stage as well.

2. Processing of SAR image using a neural network classifier. The neural network assigns to each pixel of the output image a binary value corresponding to one of two classes (“Water” and “No water”) taking as input a moving window of image pixel intensities.

3. Removal of those regions that were detected as shadow/layover at the stage No. 1, since the pixel values in these regions are not related to physical conditions of the environment.

4. Geocoding, i.e. transformation to geographical projection using ground-control points (GCPs) incorporated in the SAR image;

Visualization of the results using ESRI shape files, KML (Keyhole Markup Language) files, and OGC WMS.

Security issues in service-oriented system for satellite data processing

Enabling security trust between different parties within a heterogeneous structural-complex system is

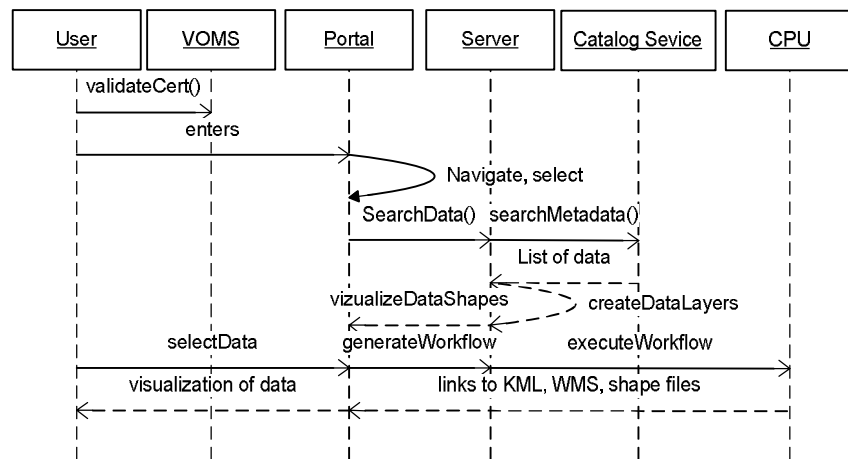


Fig. 2. UML sequence diagram

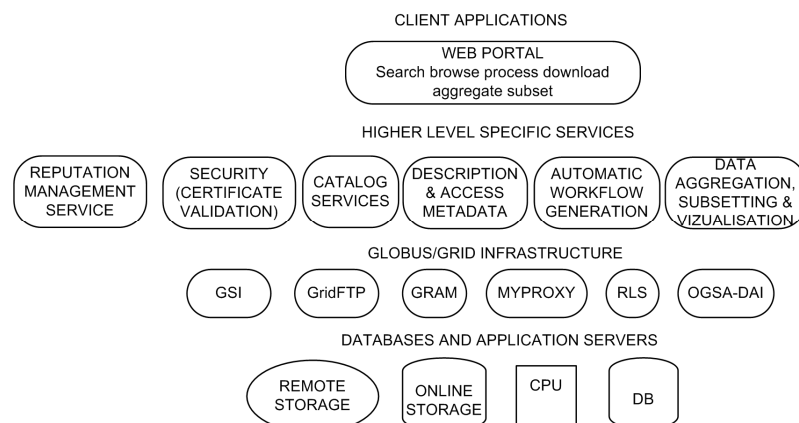


Fig. 3. System architecture

one of the main prerequisite for such integration. We investigated and applied two approaches: Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and reputation-based trust management.

Certificates. X.509 is the most widely used format which is supported by most of the existing software. To get access to resources of the Grid system, a user should make a request to a Certificate Authority (CA) which is always a known third party. The CA validates the information about the user and then signs the user certificate by the CA’s private key. The certificate can thus be used to authenticate the user to grant access to the system.

To provide a single sign on and delegation capabilities the user can use the certificate and his private key to create a proxy certificate. This certificate is signed not by CA but rather the user himself. The proxy certificate contains information about the user’s identity and a special time stamp after which the certificate will no longer be accepted.

In order to enable Grid system integration with different middleware installed and security mechanisms and policies used the following solutions were tested:

1. To create our own CAs and to enable the trust between them.

2. To obtain certificates from a well known CA, for example the European Policy Management Authority for Grid Authentication (EUGridPMA, <http://www.eugridpma.org>).

3. To use a combined approach in which some of the Grid nodes accept only certificates from the local CA and others accept certificates from a well known third party CAs.

Within the integration of the UASpaceGrid and the CEODE-CAS Grid the second and the third approaches were verified. In such a case, the UASpaceGrid accepted the certificates issued by the local CA that was established using the TinyCA, and certificates issued by the UGRID CA (<https://ca.ugrid.org>).

It is worth mentioning that Globus Toolkit v.4 and gLite v.3 middleware implement the same standard for the certificates, but different standards for describing the certificate policies. That is why it is necessary to use two different standards for describing the CA's identity in a policy description file.

Reputation model. In order to enable trust between different parties, we also focused on estimating resources reputation based on quality of service metrics (QoS). In particular, we extended the existing utility-based reputation model for virtual organizations in Grids [13] to address threats scenarios in the area of trust and reputation management [14 – 18]. These modifications included: assigning initial reputation to a new entity in VO, capturing alliance between consumer and resource, defining a time decay function, and score function. The proposed reputation model was analyzed against the existing security threat scenarios and how the model overcomes them. In particular, the model was effective in countering such threats as individual malicious peers, malicious collectives, driving down the reputation of a reliable peer, while there were some limitations in countering malicious collectives with camouflage.

The proposed model was evaluated not only in terms of countering security threats but also resource management in Grids. A problem of on-line job scheduling was considered, and a general procedure for integrating reputation into the scheduler using a non-linear trade-off scheme was presented. The advantage of using such a scheme is that it provides a Pareto-optimal solution partially satisfying criteria with corresponding weights. The experiments showed that the scheduler with knowledge of reputation using a non-linear tradeoff scheme outperformed a scheduler without knowledge of reputation on average 45% for all performance metrics used in the study. A non-linear linear tradeoff scheme for incorporating reputation into the scheduler was compared to a multiplication scheme, and showed better performance with a factor of 2. Currently, we are evaluating the use of such a model for the GEOSS infrastructure.

Earth observation applications

Flood Monitoring and Risk Assessment for Ukraine. The severe 2010 winter in Ukraine that was characterized by large amount of snow and ice on rivers posed a high threat of floods during the melting period. In order to provide flood risk assessment both synthetic-aperture radar (SAR) and optical satellite imagery were used. In particular, we acquired more than 30 Envisat/ASAR scenes during the 2010 winter-spring period, and more than 50 archived scenes during autumn 2009 to monitor the snow cover. These images were processed using resources of the service-oriented infrastructure.

Satellite optical images were acquired using the EO-1 Sensor Web System. In particular, the OGC Sensor Planning Service (SPS) was used for tasking the EO-1 satellite [19 – 21]. Through the UN-SPIDER RSO in Ukraine a request was made from local authorities to acquire satellite images over the Kyiv city area due to a high risk of a flood in spring 2010.

The use of the Sensor Web and the Grid ensured less than 12 h after image acquisition to generate geospatial products that were delivered to the Ukrainian Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Council of National Security and Defence, and the Ukrainian Hydrometeorological Centre. The information on river extent that was derived from the EO-1 image was used to calibrate and validate hydrological models to produce various scenarios of water extent for flood risk assessment.

Conclusions

In this paper we presented results that were achieved within the Wide Area Grid (WAG) project. In order to benefit from using data from multiple sources, integration of the Ukrainian and Chinese flood mapping services that use radar and optical satellite data was carried out.

The paper discussed the use of certificate-based and reputation-based trust enabling issues.

The particular advantages of such integration are as follows: the system will benefit from the use of services that are provided by different partners within the system; data resources are distributed within the system at different sites (Ukrainian and Chinese), so this allows us to improve the quality of services delivered within the system; the use of Grids enables the use of high-performance computing resources that in turn will decrease the time required for satellite data processing and delivery of service which is critical for disaster management domain; the use of unified Grid and OGC services provides scalability of the system while adding new components and services; such collaboration provides valuable contribution and impact to the ongoing large-scale international activities such as creation of the GEOSS infrastructure.

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ПИТАННЯ ІНФОРМАЦІЙНОЇ БЕЗПЕКИ ГЕТЕРОГЕННИХ СТРУКТУРНО СКЛАДНИХ СИСТЕМ

О.М. Куссуль

В даній роботі розглядаються питання інформаційної безпеки сервіс-орієнтованої інфраструктури обробки супутникових даних, яка була розроблена в Інституті космічних досліджень в межах міжнародного проекту Wide Area Grid (WAG) робочої групи WGISS комітету супутникових спостережень CEOS, зокрема на основі сертифікатів безпеки та керування довірою в таких системах шляхом обчислення репутації. Запропонований підхід до інформаційної безпеки може застосовуватись до більш широкого класу сервіс-орієнтованих систем, таких як глобальна система систем GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems).

Ключові слова: репутація, керування довірою, інформаційна безпека, структурно-складні системи.

ВОПРОСЫ ИНФОРМАЦИОННОЙ БЕЗОПАСНОСТИ ГЕТЕРОГЕННЫХ СТРУКТУРНО-СЛОЖНЫХ СИСТЕМ

О.М. Куссуль

В данной работе рассматриваются вопросы информационной безопасности сервис-ориентированной инфраструктуры обработки спутниковых данных, которая была разработана в Институте космических исследований в рамках международного проекта Wide Area Grid (WAG) рабочей группы WGISS комитета по спутниковым исследованиям CEOS, а именно на основании сертификатов безопасности и управления доверием в таких системах путем вычисления репутации. Предложенный подход может использоваться для более широкого класса сервис-ориентированных систем, таких как глобальная система систем GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems)

Keywords: репутация, управление доверием, информационная безопасность, структурно-сложные системы.