



ARES 2008 - International Conference on Availability, Reliability and Security
The Dependability Conference

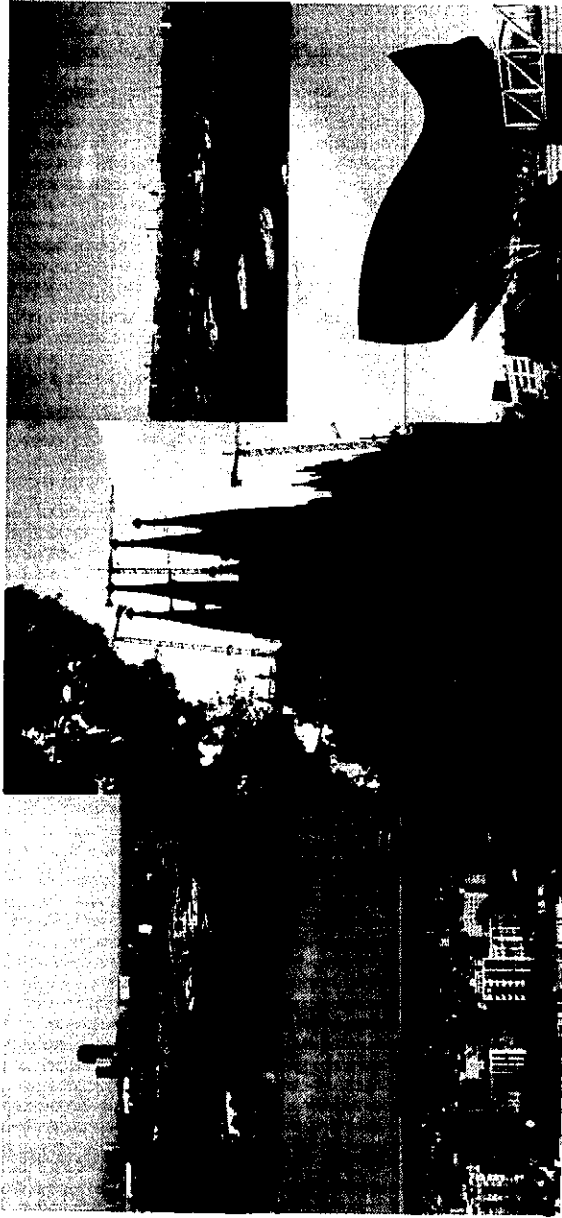
ARES 2008

The Third International Conference on Availability, Security and Reliability

PROCEEDINGS

March 4-7, 2008

Barcelona, Spain



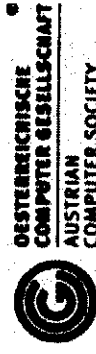
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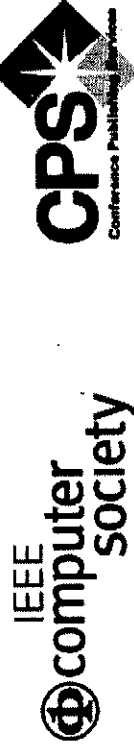
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Table of Contents

The Third International Conference on Availability, Reliability and Security (ARES 2008)

Message from the General Chairs..... **xxi**
Conference Officers..... **xxii**

Keynotes

Security and Privacy Challenges in Location Based Service Environments..... **xxiii**
Vijayalakshmi Athuri
Infrastructure Support for Authorization, Access Control and Privilege Management..... **xxvi**
Günther Pernul

The ASCAA Principles for Next-Generation Role-Based Access Control..... **xxvii**
Ravi Sandhu and Venkata Bhamidipati

ARES Full Paper Sessions

Session 1: Applications

Securing Telehealth Applications in a Web-Based e-Health Portal..... **3**
Qian Liu, Shuo Lu, Yuan Hong, Lingyu Wang, and Rachida Dssouli
Multi-Level Reputation-Based Greylisting..... **10**
Wilfried Gansterer, Andreas Janecek, and Ashwin Kumar
Hardening XDS-Based Architectures..... **18**
Kim Wuyts, Riccardo Scandariato, Geert Claeys, and Wouter Joosen

Session 2: Miscellaneous

Finding Evidence of Antedating in Digital Investigations..... **26**
Svein Yngvar Willassen
FEDC: Control Flow Error Detection and Correction for Embedded Systems without Program Interruption..... **33**
Navid Farazmand, Mahdi Fazeli, and Seyyed Ghasem Miremadi
Economic and Security Aspects of Applying a Threshold Scheme in e-Health..... **39**
Bernhard Riedl, Veronika Grascher, Mathias Kolb, and Thomas Neubauer
Anomaly Based Character Distribution Modeling to Detect SQL Injection Attacks..... **47**
Mehdi Kiani, Andrew Clark, and George Mohay
On the Possibility of Small, Service-Free Disk Based Storage Systems..... **56**
Jehan-François Pâris and Thomas Schwarz
Efficient High Availability Commit Processing..... **64**
Heine Kollveit and Svein-Olaf Hvasshovd

Session 3: Models

- Soundness Conditions for Message Encoding Abstractions in Formal Security Protocol Models..... 72
Alfredo Pironi and Riccardo Sisto
- Towards Formal Specification of Abstract Security Properties..... 80
Antonio Maña and Gimena Pujol
- A Behavioral Model of Ideologically-motivated "Snowball" Attacks 88
Natalia Stakhanova, Oleg Stakhanov, and Ali Ghorbani
- Property Specification and Static Verification of UML Models 96
Igor Siveroni, Andrea Zisman, and George Spanoudakis

Session 4: Database

- Towards Comprehensive Requirement Analysis for Data Warehouses:
Considering Security Requirements 104
*Emilio Soler, Veronika Stefanov, Jose-Norberto Mazón, Juan Trujillo,
Eduardo Fernandez-Medina, and Mario Piattini*
- A New Scheme for Distributed Density Estimation Based Privacy-Preserving Clustering 112
Chunhua Su, Jianying Zhou, Feng Bao, Tsyvoshi Takagi, and Kouichi Sakurai
- A Database Replication Protocol Where Multicast Writesets Are Always Committed 120
*José Ramón Juárez-Rodríguez, Enrique Armendariz-Jitigo,
José Ramón González de Mendivil, and Francesc Daniel Muñoz-Escó*

Session 5: Mobile

- Matching Policies with Security Claims of Mobile Applications..... 128
Natalia Bielova, Marco Dalla Torre, Nicola Dragoni, and Ida Sahaan
- PSecGCM: Process for the Development of Secure Grid Computing based
Systems with Mobile Devices 136
David G. Rosado, Eduardo Fernández-Medina, Javier López, and Mario Piattini
- WATCHMAN: An Overlay Distributed AAA Architecture for Mobile Ad hoc Networks 144
Amir Khakpour, Maryline Laurent-Maknawicus, and Hakima Chaouchi

Session 6: RBAC and Recommender

- Hierarchical Domains for Decentralized Administration of Spatially-Aware RBAC Systems 153
Maria Luisa Damiani, Claudio Silvestri, and Elisa Bertino
- Experimental Demonstration of a Hybrid Privacy-Preserving Recommender System 161
*Esmá Aïmeur, Gilles Brassard, José M. Fernandez,
Flavien Serge Mani Onana, and Zbigniew Rakowski*
- Fast Qualitative Reasoning about Actions for Computing Anticipatory Systems 171
Natsumi Kitajima, Yuichi Goto, and Jingde Cheng

Session 7: Risk Management

- Enhancing Business Impact Analysis and Risk Assessment Applying a
Risk-Aware Business Process Modeling and Simulation Methodolog..... 179
Simon Tjoa, Stefan Jakoubi, and Gerald Quirchmayr
- Defining Secure Business Processes with Respect to Multiple Objectives 187
Thomas Neubauer and Johannes Heurix
- Analysis and Component-based Realization of Security Requirements 195
Denis Hatebur, Maritta Heisel, and Holger Schmidt

Session 8: Networks

- A Framework for Detecting Anomalies in VoIP Networks..... 204
Yacine Bouzida and Christophe Mangin
- Rapid Detection of Constant-Packet-Rate Flows 212
Kuan-Ta Chen and Jing-Kai Lou
- Performance Analysis of Anonymous Communication Channels Provided by Tor..... 221
Andriy Panchenko, Lexi Pimenidis, and Johannes Renner
- Fast Algorithms for Consistency-Based Diagnosis of Firewall Rule Sets..... 229
Sergio Pozo Hidalgo, Rafael Ceballos, and Rafael Martínez Gasca
- Privacy/Analysis Tradeoffs in Sharing Anonymized Packet Traces: Single-Field Case..... 237
William Yurcik, Clay Woolam, Greg Hellings, Latifur Khan, and Bhavani Thuraisingham

A Distributed Defense Framework for Flooding-Based DDoS Attacks..... 245

- Yonghua You, Mohammad Zulkernine, and Anwar Haque*
- Pure MPLS Technology 253
Liwen He and Paul Boham

Symmetric Active/Active Replication for Dependent Services..... 260

- Christian Engelmann, Stephen L. Scott, Chokchai Leangsuksun, and Xubin He*

Session 9: Software

- Statically Checking Confidentiality of Shared-Memory Programs with Dynamic Labels..... 268
Marcus Völz
- A Cause-Based Approach to Preventing Software Vulnerabilities..... 276
David Byers and Nahid Shahmehri
- Integrating a Security Plug-in with the OpenUP/Basic Development Process..... 284
Shanai Ardi and Nahid Shahmehri
- A Novel Testbed for Detection of Malicious Software Functionality 292
Jostein Jensen
- Type and Effect Annotations for Safe Memory Access in C..... 302
Syrine Tlili and Mourad Debbabi

Session 10: IDS and Models

- Adaptability of a GP Based IDS on Wireless Networks..... 310
Adetokunbo Makanju, Nur Zincir-Heywood, and Evangelos Milios
- An Intrusion-Tolerant Mechanism for Intrusion Detection Systems..... 319
Liwei Kuang and Mohammad Zulkernine
- Fuzzy Private Matching (Extended Abstract)..... 327
Lukasz Chmielewski and Jaap-Henk Hoepman

Session 11: Trust, Security and Economics

- Navigating in Webs of Trust: Finding Short Trust Chains in
Unstructured Networks without Global Knowledge..... 335
Jens-Uwe Bußer, Steffen Fries, Martin Otto, and Peter Hartmann
- Trust Modelling in E-Commerce through Fuzzy Cognitive Maps..... 344
Christian Schlöger and Günther Pernul
- Boosting Markov Reward Models for Probabilistic Security Evaluation by
Characterizing Behaviors of Attacker and Defender..... 352
Zonghua Zhang, Farid Nait-Abdesselam, and Pin-Han Ho

ARES Short Paper Sessions

Session 1: Applications

- CERTLOC: Implementation of a Spatial-Temporal Certification Service Compatible with
Several Localization Technologies..... 363
*José María de Fuentes García-Romero de Tejada,
Ana Isabel González-Tablas Ferreres, and Arturo Ribagorda Garnacho*
- Extending Mixed Serialisation Graphs to Replicated Environments..... 369
Josep M. Bernabé-Gisbert and Francesc D. Muñoz-Escot
- Towards Secure E-Commerce Based on Virtualization and Attestation Techniques..... 376
Frederic Stumpf, Claudia Eckert, and Shane Balfé
- Fuzzy Belief-Based Supervision..... 383
Alexandre Vorobiev and Rudolph Seviora
- Ensuring Progress in Amnesiac Replicated Systems..... 390
Rubén de Juan-Marín, Luis Irín-Briz, and Francesc D. Muñoz-Escot
- Enhancing Face Recognition with Location Information..... 397
R.J. Hulsebosch and P.W.G. Ebben
- A Lazy Monitoring Approach for Heartbeat-Style Failure Detectors..... 404
Benjamin Satzger, Andreas Pietzowski, Wolfgang Trumler, and Theo Ungerer
- Defending On-Line Web Application Security with User-Behavior Surveillance..... 410
Yu-Chin Cheng, Chi-Sung Laih, Gu-Hsin Lai, Chia-Mei Chen, and Tzuhan Chen

Session 2: Services and Trust

- A Pattern-Driven Security Process for SOA Applications..... 416
Nelly A. Delessy and Eduardo B. Fernandez
- Toward a Dependable Architecture for Highly Available Internet Services..... 422
Ayari Narjess, Pablo Neira Ayuso, Laurent Lefevre, Denis Barbaron, and Rafael Gasca
- Assessing the Reliability and Cost of Web and Grid Orchestration..... 428
Alan Stewart, Maurice Clint, Terry Harmer, Peter Kilpatrick, Ron Perrott, and Joaquim Gabarro
- Application-Oriented Trust in Distributed Computing..... 434
Riccardo Scandariato, Yoram Ofek, Paolo Falcarin, and Mario Baldi
- BlueTrust in a Real World..... 440
Bradley Markides and Marijke Coetsee

Session 3: Privacy and Safety

- Privacy Preserving Shortest Path Computation in Presence of Convex Polygonal Obstacles..... 446
Ananda Swarup Das, Jitu Kumar Keshri, Kannan Srinathan, and Vaibhav Srivastava
- Privacy Protected ELF for Private Computing on Public Platforms..... 452
Thomas Morris and V.S.S. Nair

haplog: A Hash-Only and Privacy-Preserved Secure Logging Mechanism <i>Chih-Yin Lin</i>	458	Cluster-based Group Key Agreement for Wireless Ad hoc Networks <i>Elisavet Konstantinou</i>	550
An Improved Zonal Safety Analysis Method and Its Application on Aircraft CRJ200 <i>Li Xiaolei, Tian Jin, and Zhao Tingdi</i>	461	Session 6: Crypto and Health	
Session 4: Networks		A Statistical Algorithm for Linguistic Steganography Detection Based on Distribution of Words <i>Chen Zhi-li, Huang Liu-sheng, Yu Zhen-shan, Li Ling-jun, and Yang Wei</i>	558
A Model for Specification and Validation of Security Policies in Communication Networks: The Firewall Case <i>Ryma Abbassi and Sihem Guemara El Fatmi</i>	467	RTQG: Real-Time Quorum-based Gossip Protocol for Unreliable Networks <i>Bo Zhang, Kai Han, Binoy Ravindran, and E.D. Jensen</i>	564
SPIT Detection and Prevention Method in VoIP Environment <i>He Guang-Yu, Wen Ying-You, and Zhao Hong</i>	473	A Secure and Scalable Infrastructure for Inter-Organizational Data Exchange and eGovernment Applications <i>Jan Willemson and Arne Anspær</i>	572
A New Approach to Analysis of Interval Availability <i>Ezzat Kirmant and Cynthia Hood</i>	479	A Security Model and its Application to a Distributed Decision Support System for Healthcare <i>Liang Xiao, Andrew Peet, Paul Lewis, Srimandan Dasmahapatra, Carlos Sáez, Madelina Croitoru, Javier Vicente, Horacio González-Vélez, Magi Lluçh i Ariet, David Dupplaw, and Alex Gibb</i>	578
SFMD: A Secure Data Forwarding and Malicious Routers Detecting Protocol <i>Xiang-he Yang, Hua-ping Hu, and Xin Chen</i>	484	Session 7: Models and Networks	
Fault Effects in FlexRay-Based Networks with Hybrid Topology <i>Mehdi Dehbashi, Yahid Lari, Seyed Ghassem Miremadi, and Mohammad Shokrolah-Shirazi</i>	491	Run-time Information Flow Monitoring based on Dynamic Dependence Graphs <i>Salvador Cavadini and Diego Cheda</i>	586
Securing Wireless Sensor Networks <i>Xun Yi, Mike Faulkner, and Eiji Okamoto</i>	497	Automated Process Classification Framework using SELinux Security Context <i>Pravin Shinde, Priyanka Sharma, and Srinivas Guntupalli</i>	592
SEIF: Secure and Efficient Intrusion-Fault Tolerant Routing Protocol for Wireless Sensor Networks <i>Abdelraouf Ouadjaout, Yacine Challal, Nouredine Lasla, and Miloud Bagaa</i>	503	Using Composition Policies to Manage Authentication and Authorization Patterns and Services <i>Judith E. Y. Rossebo and Rohv Bræk</i>	597
The Impact of Flooding Attacks on Network-based Services <i>Meiko Jensen, Nils Gruschka, and Norbert Luttenberger</i>	509	Providing Fault Tolerance in Wireless Backhaul Network Design with Path Restoration <i>Pakorn Leesuthipornchai, Naruemon Wattanapongsakorn, and Chalermpol Charmsripinyo</i>	604
Managing Priorities in Atomic Multicast Protocols <i>Emili Miedes and Francesc D. Muñoz-Escot</i>	514	Session 8: IDS	
Beacon Frame Spoofing Attack Detection in IEEE 802.11 Networks <i>Asier Martínez, Urko Zurutuza, Roberto Uribeetxeberria, Miguel Fernández, Jesús Lizarraga, Ainhoa Serna, and Iñaki Vélez</i>	520	Histogram Matrix: Log File Visualization for Anomaly Detection <i>Adrian Frei and Marc Rennhard</i>	610
An End-to-End Security Solution for SCTP <i>Stefan Lindskog and Anna Brunstrom</i>	526	Context-based Profiling for Anomaly Intrusion Detection with Diagnosis <i>Benferhat Salem and Tabia Karim</i>	618
Session 5: Crypto		A Revised Taxonomy of Data Collection Mechanisms with a Focus on Intrusion Detection <i>Ulf Larson, Erlend Jonsson and Stefan Lindskog</i>	624
An Identity-Based Group Key Agreement Protocol from Pairing <i>Hongji Wang, Gang Yao, and Qingshan Jiang</i>	532	IDRS: Combining File-level Intrusion Detection with Block-level Data Recovery based on iSCSI <i>Youhui Zhang, Hongyi Wang, Yu Gu, and Dongsheng Wang</i>	630
An Authenticated 3-Round Identity-Based Group Key Agreement Protocol <i>Gang Yao, Hongji Wang, and Qingshan Jiang</i>	538	Intrusion Detection for Wormhole Attacks in Ad hoc Networks: A Survey and a Proposed Decentralized Scheme <i>Marianne Azer, Sherif El-Kassas, Abdel Wahab Hassan, and Magdy El-Soudani</i>	636
High Capacity Steganographic Method Based Upon JPEG <i>Adel Almohammad, Robert Hierons, and Gheorghita Ghinea</i>	544		

Session 9: Hardware	
NFC Devices: Security and Privacy <i>Gerald Madlmayr, Josef Langer, Christian Kamtner, and Josef Scharinger</i>	642
Analyzing Fault Effects in the 32-bit OpenRISC 1200 Microprocessor <i>Nima Mehdizadeh, Mohammad Shokrolah Shirazi, and Seyed Ghassem Miremadi</i>	648
Increasing the Performability of Computer Clusters Using RADIC II <i>Guna Santos, Angelo Duarte, Dolores Rexachs, and Emilio Luque</i>	653
A Framework for Proactive Fault Tolerance <i>Geoffroy Vallée, Kulathep Charoenpornwattana, Christian Engelmann, Anand Tikotekar, Chokchai Leangsuksun, Thomas Naughton, and Stephen Scott</i>	659
Workshop FARES	
Session 1: Miscellaneous	
Anti-DDoS Virtualized Operating System <i>Sanjiam Garg and Huzur Saran</i>	667
A Case for High Availability in a Virtualized Environment (HAVEN) <i>Erin Farr, Richard Harper, Lisa Spainhower, and Jimi Xenidis</i>	675
Session 2: Access Control and Algorithms	
A Federated Physical and Logical Access Control Enforcement Model <i>Stéphane Onno</i>	683
Fostering the Uptake of Secure Multiparty Computation in E-Commerce <i>Octavian Catrina and Florian Kerschbaum</i>	693
Efficient Certificate Path Validation and Its Application in Mobile Payment Protocols <i>Rafael Martínez-Peláez, Cristina Sotizábal, Francisco Rico-Novella, and Jordi Forné</i>	701
Avoiding Policy-based Deadlocks in Business Processes <i>Mathias Kohler and Andreas Schaad</i>	709
A Secure High-Speed Identification Scheme for RFID Using Bloom Filters <i>Yasunobu Nohara, Sozo Inoue, and Hiroto Yasuura</i>	717
Session 3: Crypto	
New Self Certified Proxy Digital Signature Scheme based on Elliptic Curve Cryptosystem <i>Youn Xiao</i>	723
Privacy-preserving Protocols for Finding the Convex Hulls <i>Qi Wang, Yonglong Luo and Liusheng Huang</i>	727
A Secure RFID Protocol based on Insubvertible Encryption Using Guardian Proxy <i>Kyosuke Osaka, Shuang Chang, Tsuyoshi Takagi, Kenichi Yamazaki, and Osamu Takahashi</i>	733
Cryptographic Properties of Second-Order Memory Elementary Cellular Automata <i>Ascension Hernández Encinas, Angel Martín del Rey, J.L. Pérez Iglesias, Gerardo Rodríguez Sánchez, and Araceli Queiruga Dios</i>	741
New Efficient and Authenticated Key Agreement Protocol in Dynamic Peer Group <i>Shengke Zeng, Mingxing He, and Weidong Luo</i>	746
Session 4: Risk Management	
Intensive Programme on Information and Communication Security <i>Christian Schläger, Ludwig Fuchs, and Günther Pernul</i>	752
Applications for IT-Risk Management—Requirements and Practical Evaluation <i>Heinz Lothar Grob, Gereon Strauch, and Christian Buddendick</i>	758
Security Analysis of Role-based Separation of Duty with Workflows <i>Rattikorn Hewett, Phongphun Kijsanayothin, and Ashay Thipse</i>	765

Session 5: Databases and Models

- Detecting Suspicious Relational Database Queries 771
Stefan Böttcher, Rita Hartel, and Matthias Kirschner
- Assessing the Value of Enterprise Identity Management (EIdM)—
Towards a Generic Evaluation Approach 779
Denis Royer
- An Ontological Approach to Secure MANET Management 787
Mark Orwat, Timothy Levin, and Cynthia Irvine

Session 6: Models

- Reliability Analysis using Graphical Duration Models 795
Roland Donat, Laurent Bouillaut, Patrice Aknin, and Philippe Leray
- From Omega to Ω P in the Crash-Recovery Failure Model with Unknown Membership 801
Mikel Larrea and Cristian Martin
- Policy-based Group Organizational Structure Management using an Ontological Approach 807
Mario Anzués-García and Luz A. Sánchez-Gálvez
- A Systematic Review and Comparison of Security Ontologies 813
Carlos Blanco, Joaquín Lasheras, Rafael Valencia-García, Eduardo Fernández-Medina, Ambrosio Toval, and Mario Piattini
- Context Ontology for Secure Interoperability 821
Céline Coma, Nora Cuppens-Boulahia, Frédéric Cuppens, and Ana Rosa Cavalli

Session 7: Passwords and Services

- On the Security of VSH in Password Schemes 828
Kimmo Halunen, Pauli Rikula, and Juha Rönning
- Sustaining Web Services High-Availability Using Communities 834
Zakaria Maamar, Quan Z. Sheng, and Djamal Benslimane
- Distributed Information Retrieval Service for Ubiquitous Services 842
Takeshi Tsuchiya, Marc Lihan, Hirokazu Yoshinaga, and Keiichi Koyanagi

Session 8: Software

- A Lightweight Security Analyzer inside GCC 851
Davide Pozza and Riccardo Sisto
- Dynamic Maintenance of Software Systems at Runtime 859
Habib Seifzadeh, Mostafa Kermani, and Mohsen Sadighi
- Software Security: A Vulnerability Activity Revisit 866
Mohammad Ali Hadavi, Hossein Shirazi, Hasan Mokhtari Sangchi, and Valid Saber Hamishagi

Session 9: Trust

- Making Multi-Dimensional Trust Decisions on Inter-Enterprise Collaborations 873
Sini Ruohomaa and Lea Kivronen
- A Survey on Trust and Reputation Schemes in Ad Hoc Networks 881
Mariamme Azer, Sherif El-Kassas, Abdel Wahab Hassan, and Magdy El-Soudani

Workshop WPA

- Privacy-Preserving Recommendation Systems for Consumer Healthcare Services 889
Stefan Katzenbeisser and Milan Peirković
- Detecting Bots Based on Keylogging Activities 896
Yusuf Al-Hammadi and Uwe Aickelin
- A Comprehensive Approach for Context-dependent Privacy Management 903
Mike Bergmann, Thomas Springer, Elke Franz, and Christin Groba
- Traceable Quantitative Risk Assessment Applied to Investment Decision for Local Backups 911
Steffen Weiss, Martin Wahl, Michael Tieleman, and Klaus Meyer-Wegener
- Quantitative Assessment of Enterprise Security System 921
Ruth Breu, Frank Innerhofer-Oberperfer, and Artsiom Yautsiukhin
- Clustering Oriented Architectures in Medical Sensor Environments 929
Eleni Kladoulatou, Elisavet Konstantinou, Georgios Kambourakis, and Stefanos Gritzalis
- An Initial Model and a Discussion of Access Control in Patient Controlled Health Records 935
Lillian Røstad
- Secure Team-Based EPR Access Acquisition in Wireless Networks 943
Sigurd Eskeland and Vladimir Oleshchuk
- VEA-bility Security Metric: A Network Security Analysis Tool 950
Melanie Tupper and A. Nur Zimeir-Heywood
- Towards an Architecture for Balancing Privacy and Traceability in Ubiquitous Computing Environments 958
Stefan G. Weber, Andreas Heinemann, and Max Mühlhäuser

Workshop PSAI

GOST-28147 Encryption Implementation on Graphics Processing Units.....	967
<i>Victor Korobitsin and Sergey Ilyin</i>	
Intelligent Video Surveillance Networks: Data Protection Challenges.....	975
<i>Fanny Coudert and Jos Dumortier</i>	
Intrusion Detection with Data Correlation Relation Graph.....	982
<i>Amin Hassanzadeh and Babak Sadeghian</i>	
A Critique of <i>k</i> -Anonymity and Some of Its Enhancements.....	990
<i>Josep Domingo-Ferrer and Vicenç Torra</i>	
Cluster-Specific Information Loss Measures in Data Privacy: A Review.....	994
<i>Vicenç Torra and Susana Ladra</i>	
Hierarchical Trust Architecture in a Mobile Ad-Hoc Network Using Ant Algorithms.....	1000
<i>Cristina Sattizábal, Jordi Forné, Rafael Martínez-Peláez, and Francisco J. Rico-Novella</i>	
Representation and Reasoning on ORBAC: Description Logic with Defaults and Exceptions Approach.....	1008
<i>Narhimene Boustia and Aicha Mokhtari</i>	
Using Non-Adaptive Group Testing to Construct Spy Agent Routes.....	1013
<i>Georgios Kalogridis and Chris Mitchell</i>	
A Bayesian Approach for on-Line Max Auditing.....	1020
<i>Gerardo Canfora and Bice Cavallo</i>	
Detection of Malcodes by Packet Classification.....	1028
<i>Irfan Ahmed and Kyung-suk Lee</i>	
Performance of a Strategy Based Packets Forwarding in Ad Hoc Networks.....	1036
<i>Marcin Serechynski, Pascal Bouvry, and Mieczysław Kłopotek</i>	
Bayesian Additive Regression Trees-Based Spam Detection for Enhanced Email Privacy.....	1044
<i>Saeed Abu-Nimeh, Dario Nappa, Xinlei Wang, and Suku Nair</i>	
AntTrust: A Novel Ant Routing Protocol for Wireless Ad-hoc Network Based on Trust between Nodes.....	1052
<i>Carlos Aguilar Melchor, Bousad Ait Salem, Philippe Gaborit, and Karim Tamime</i>	
A Post-processing Method to Lessen <i>k</i> -Anonymity Dissimilarities.....	1060
<i>Agusti Solanas, Glòria Pujol, Antoni Martínez-Ballesté, and Josep Maria Mateo-Sanz</i>	
Improving Techniques for Proving Undecidability of Checking Cryptographic Protocols.....	1067
<i>Zhiyao Liang and Rakesh Verma</i>	
A Preliminary Investigation of Skype Traffic Classification Using a Minimalist Feature Set.....	1075
<i>Duffy Angevine and A. Nur Zincir-Heywood</i>	

Workshop APE

Partial Disclosure of Searchable Encrypted Data with Support for Boolean Queries.....	1083
<i>Yasuhiro Ohtaki</i>	
Secure and Privacy-Friendly Logging for eGovernment Services.....	1091
<i>Karel Wouters, Koen Simoens, Danny Lathouwers, and Bart Preneel</i>	
The REM Framework for Security Evaluation.....	1097
<i>Flora Amato, Valentina Casola, Antonino Mazzeo, and Valeria Vittorini</i>	
Static Validation of Licence Conformance Policies.....	1104
<i>René Rydhof Hansen, Flemming Nielson, Hanne Riis Nielson, and Christian W. Probst</i>	
Towards Practical Security Monitors of UML Policies for Mobile Applications.....	1112
<i>Fabio Massacci and Katsiaryna Naliuka</i>	
Synthesis of Local Controller Programs for Enforcing Global Security Properties.....	1120
<i>Fabio Martinelli and Ilaria Matteucci</i>	
Weighted Datalog and Levels of Trust.....	1128
<i>Stefano Bistarelli, Fabio Martinelli, and Francesco Santini</i>	
Negotiation of Usage Control Policies—Simply the Best?.....	1135
<i>Alexander Pretschner and Thomas Walter</i>	
Workshop SECSE	
Security Requirement Engineering at a Telecom Provider.....	1139
<i>Albin Zuccato, Viktor Endersz, and Nils Daniels</i>	
Identifying Security Aspects in Early Development Stages.....	1148
<i>Takao Okubo and Hidehiko Tanaka</i>	
Using Security Patterns to Combine Security Metrics.....	1156
<i>Thomas Heyman, Riccardo Scandariato, Christophe Huygens, and Wouter Joosen</i>	
Secure Software Design in Practice.....	1164
<i>Per Håkon Meland and Jostein Jensen</i>	
Covering Your Assets in Software Engineering.....	1172
<i>Martin Gilje Jaatun and Inger Anne Tøndel</i>	
A Non-Intrusive Approach to Enhance Legacy Embedded Control Systems with Cyber Protection Features.....	1180
<i>Shangping Ren and Kevin Kwiat</i>	
Towards Incorporating Discrete-Event Systems in Secure Software Development.....	1188
<i>Sarah Whittaker, Mohammad Zulkernine, and Karen Rudie</i>	
How to Open a File and Not Get Hacked.....	1196
<i>James Kupsch and Barton Miller</i>	

Rules of Thumb for Developing Secure Software: Analyzing and Consolidating Two Proposed Sets of Rules <i>Holger Peine</i>	1204
Workshop DAWAM	
Adaptive Data Integrity through Dynamically Redundant Data Structures <i>Vincenzo De Florio and Chris Blondia</i>	1213
ISEDS: An Information Security Engineering Database System Based on ISO Standards <i>Daisuke Horie, Shoichi Morimoto, Noor Azimah, Yuichi Goto, and Jingde Cheng</i>	1219
Privacy Aspects of eHealth <i>Daniel Slamang and Christian Stingl</i>	1226
Adaptive Voting Algorithms for Reliable Dissemination of Data in Sensor Networks <i>Kaliappa Ravindran, Jiang Wu, Kevin Kwiat, and Ali Sabbir</i>	1234
Risk as Dependability Metrics for the Evaluation of Business Solutions: A Model-driven Approach <i>Yudistira Asnar, Rocco Moretti, Maurizio Sebastianis, and Nicola Zannone</i>	1240
Implementing Multidimensional Security into OLAP Tools <i>Carlos Blanco, Eduardo Fernández-Medina, Juan Trujillo, and Mario Piattini</i>	1248
Detecting Key Players in 11-M Terrorist Network: A Case Study <i>Nasrullah Memon and David L. Hicks</i>	1254
Privacy Preserving Support Vector Machines in Wireless Sensor Networks <i>Dong Seong Kim, Muhammad Anwarul Azim, and Jong Sou Park</i>	1260
An Image Encryption System by Cellular Automata with Memory <i>Farhad Maleki, Ali Mohades, S. Mehdi Hashemi, and Mohammed Ebrahim Shiri</i>	1266
Workshop WAIS	
Insider-secure Signcryption KEM/Tag-KEM Schemes without Random Oracles <i>Chik How Tan</i>	1275
Internet Observation with ISDAS: How Long Does a Worm Perform Scanning? <i>Tomohiro Kobori, Hiroaki Kikuchi, and Masato Terada</i>	1282
Electronic Voting Scheme to Maintain Anonymity in Small-scale Election by Hiding the Number of Votes <i>Tsukasa Endo, Isao Echizen, and Hiroshi Yoshiura</i>	1287
Enocoro-80: A Hardware Oriented Stream Cipher <i>Dai Watanabe, Kota Ideguchi, Jun Kitahara, Kenichiro Muto, Hiroki Furuichi, and Toshinobu Kaneko</i>	1294
Cryptanalysis and Improvement of an 'Improved Remote Authentication Scheme with Smart Card' <i>Marko Hölbl and Tatjana Welzer</i>	1301
Effective Monitoring of a Survivable Distributed Networked Information System <i>Paul Rubel, Michael Atighetchi, Partha Pal, Martin Fong, and Richard O'Brien</i>	1306
Design of an FDB based Intra-domain Packet Traceback System <i>Hiroaki Hazezama, Yoshihide Matsumoto, and Youki Kadobayashi</i>	1313
An Independent Evaluation of Web Timing Attack and its Countermeasure <i>Yoshitaka Nagami, Daisuke Miyamoto, Hiroaki Hazezama, and Youki Kadobayashi</i>	1319
Secure Spatial Authentication for Mobile Stations in Hybrid 3G-WLAN Serving Networks <i>Arjan Durresi, Mimoza Durresi, and Leonard Barolli</i>	1325
Privacy-Preserving Distributed Set Intersection <i>Qingsong Ye, Huaxiong Wang, and Christophe Tartary</i>	1332
Examination of Forwarding Obstruction Attacks in Structured Overlay Networks <i>Yo Mashimo, Shintaro Ueda, Yasutaka Shinzaki, and Hiroshi Shigeno</i>	1340
A Novel Approach for Multiplication over GF(2 ^m) in Polynomial Basis Representation <i>Abdulah Abdulah Zadeh</i>	1346
Workshop WSDF	
Wi-Fi Network Signals as a Source of Digital Evidence: Wireless Network Forensics <i>Benjamin Turnbull and Jill Slay</i>	1355
Improving the Analysis of Lawfully Intercepted Network Packet Data Captured for Forensic Analysis <i>Jill Slay, Benjamin Turnbull, and Joshua Broadway</i>	1361
Recovery of Encryption Keys from Memory Using a Linear Scan <i>Christopher Hargreaves and Howard Chivers</i>	1369
Proposal for Efficient Searching and Presentation in Digital Forensics <i>Jooyoung Lee</i>	1377
Secure Steganography in Compressed Video Bitstreams <i>Bin Liu, Fenlin Liu, Chunfang Yan, and Yifeng Sun</i>	1382
Considerations Towards a Cyber Crime Profiling System <i>Kweku Arthur, Martin Olivier, Hein Yenter, and Jan H.P. Eloff</i>	1388

Workshop SREIS

Alignment of Misuse Cases with Security Risk Management.....	1397
<i>Raimundas Matulevičius, Nicolas Mayer, and Patrick Heymans</i>	
Information Stream Based Model for Organizing Security	1405
<i>Bernhard Thalheim, Sabah Al-Fedaghi, and Khaled Al-Sagabi</i>	
Security Requirements Variability for Software Product Lines	1413
<i>Daniel Mellado, Eduardo Fernandez-Medina, and Mario Piattini</i>	
Transforming Security Requirements into Architecture	1421
<i>Koen Yskout, Riccardo Scandariato, Bart De Win, and Wouter Joosen</i>	
Modelling Security Properties in a Grid-based Operating System with Anti-Goals	1429
<i>Alvaro Arenas, Benjamin Aziz, Juan Bicarregui, Brian Matthews, and Erica Y. Yang</i>	
Annotating Regulations Using Cerno: An Application to Italian Documents—Extended Abstract.....	1437
<i>Nicola Zeni, Nadzeya Kiyavitskaya, James R. Cordy, Luisa Mich, and John Mylopoulos</i>	
Goal-Oriented, B-Based Formal Derivation of Security Design Specifications from Security Requirements.....	1443
<i>Riham Hassan, Shawn Bohner, Sherif El-Kassas, and Mohamed Eltoweissy</i>	
Analysis of Security Requirements for Cryptographic Voting Protocols (Extended Abstract).....	1451
<i>Orhan Cetinkaya</i>	

Author Index..... **1457**

Chair's Message

The Third International Conference on Availability, Reliability and Security (ARES 2008 – The International Dependability Conference) brings together researchers and practitioners in the area of dependability. ARES 2008 highlights the various aspects of dependability, with special focus on the crucial linkage between availability, reliability and security.

ARES aims at a full and detailed discussion of research issues in the field of dependability as an integrative concept that covers amongst others availability, safety, confidentiality, integrity, maintainability and security and their different areas of applications.

This conference emphasizes the interplay between foundations and practical issues of dependability in areas such as information systems, e-government, m-government, location-based services, ubiquitous computing, and autonomous computing.

This years ARES conference is devoted to the critical examination and research challenges of the various aspects of Dependable Computing and the definition of a future road map.

We are very happy to welcome three well-known keynote speakers:

- Prof. Ravi Sandhu (Executive Director, Institute for Cyber-Security Research (ICSR) and Latcher Brown Endowed Chair in Cyber-Security, University of Texas, San Antonio)
- Prof. Vijay Atluri (Management Science and Information Systems Department, Rutgers University)
- Prof. Günther Pernul (Department of Information Systems, University of Regensburg)

From over 200 submissions we have selected the 44 best for a presentation as full paper. In addition, several workshops and short papers show ongoing research projects and offer interesting starting points for discussions.

We wish all participants an enjoyable conference and interesting discussions.

Edgar R. Weippl, Secure Business Austria, Vienna University of Technology
Gerald Quirchmayr, University of Vienna and University of South Australia

Jill Slay, University of South Australia

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Towards Comprehensive Requirement Analysis for Data Warehouses: Considering Security Requirements

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Abstract—Data warehouse (DW) systems integrate data from heterogeneous sources and are used by decision makers to analyze the status and the development of an organization. Traditionally, requirement analysis approaches for DWs have focused purely on information needs of decision makers, without considering other kinds of requirements such as security or performance. But modeling these issues in the early stages of the development is a cornerstone for building a DW that satisfies user expectations. In this paper, we define the two kinds of requirements for data warehousing as *information* and *quality-of-service* requirements and combine them in a comprehensive approach based on MDA (Model Driven Architecture). This allows a separation of concerns to model requirements without losing the connection between information and quality-of-service, also in the following conceptual or logical design stages. Finally, in this paper, we introduce a security requirement model for data warehousing, and a three-step process for modeling security requirements, thus illustrating the applicability of our approach with an example.

1. INTRODUCTION

Data Warehouse (DW) systems are used by decision makers to analyze the status and the development of an organization [8], based on large amounts of data integrated from heterogeneous sources into a multidimensional (MD) model. Measures such as the number of transactions per customer or the increase of sales during a promotion are used to recognize trends or warning signs and to decide on future investments. MD models are special conceptual data models which allow data access in a way that comes more natural to human analysts. The data is located in n-dimensional space, with the dimensions representing the different ways the data can be viewed and sorted (e.g., according to time, store, customer, product, etc.). Designers of MD models have to structure

the information that is available into facts and dimensions. Facts are usually measures of business processes of some kind (e.g., how many products are sold, how many patients treated, how long something takes, etc.), and dimensions represent the context for analyzing these measures.

In data warehousing today, requirements approaches have a strong focus on the data model [17]. As input for the conceptual model, the schemata of the available operational data sources are compared with the information requirements of the users [7], [13], [23]. The problem is that the final product of the DW design process is not just a data model but a whole DW system, where users require that the information has some characteristics when it is provided (security, performance tuning, user configurations, etc.). These characteristics are constraints that the DW must fulfil to satisfy user expectations. We have named them quality-of-service (QoS) requirements, because they are additional issues that must be fulfilled by the DW to add quality in the way that the information is supplied and used. Informally speaking, information requirements answer *what* information the DW is expected to provide, and QoS requirements answer *how* this information should be provided for a right use.

The QoS requirements influence the data model and each other, and should be considered neither separate, nor added later. Even though they are external to the information requirements, QoS requirements are closely related to them. Therefore, we identify a need for an approach as shown in Figure 1, where QoS requirements can be considered

- together with information requirements, and
- from the early stages of the development onwards.

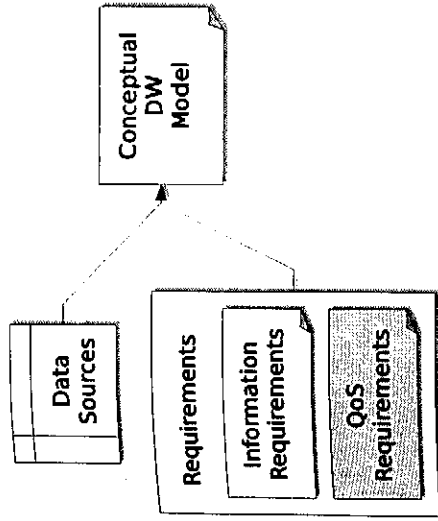


Fig. 1. QoS Requirements are needed as input for data warehouse design.

In this paper we present a comprehensive approach to requirement analysis for DW. We integrate QoS requirement analysis into an existing DW framework for information requirements [10]. In connection with the Model-Driven Architecture (MDA), this framework allows designer [12] to (i) derive database schemata and other parts of the final DW system, such as access control configuration files, and (ii) achieve separation of concerns without losing the connection between information requirements and QoS requirements, by modeling both in a CIM (Computation Independent Model, in the MDA framework).

QoS requirements include a lot of issues: how the data is presented in a correct visualization, how the data is made accessible in a secure way, how the data access is implemented to reach the desired performance, and so on. Because of the wide variety of QoS requirements and the limited length of this paper, we focus on one aspect only: *Security*. Our motivation is that, as some authors have remarked [2], [3], [6], security of information is a serious requirement which must be carefully considered, not as an isolated aspect, but as an element which turns up as an issue in all stages of the development lifecycle, from requirement analysis to implementation and maintenance. Therefore, DW designers must be provided with models specifying security aspects. Authentication, access control and audit jointly provide the foundation for information security [18]. Authentication¹ establishes the identity of one party to another. Access control determines what one party will allow another one to do with respect to resources and objects mediated by the former. Access control usually requires authentication as a prerequisite. The Audit process gathers data about activities in the system and analyzes it in order to discover security violations or to diagnose their cause. Therefore, in this paper, we consider security requirements as those related to access control and audit issues.

Section IV describes the details of how the security requirements can be derived and integrated with information

¹Authentication is a mechanism that is design-independent and relies more on the company policies, and therefore, it is beyond the scope of this paper.

requirements. We introduce a model for DW security requirements, and a three-step process for deriving them in a goal-oriented approach. This is illustrated with an example from the pharmaceutical domain.

Related work is treated in Section II, followed by our approach to modeling information and QoS requirements for DWs together in Section III. Section IV introduces the model for DW security requirements and gives an example. Section V concludes and presents open questions and future work.

II. RELATED WORK

Only a few approaches have considered requirement analysis as a crucial task in early stages of the DW development. In [23], a method is proposed in order to both determine information requirements of DW users and match these requirements with the available data sources. The approach described in [16] introduces a requirement elicitation process for DWs by identifying the goals of the decision makers and the required information that supports the decision making process. Finally, in [7], the authors present a goal-oriented framework to model requirements for DWs, thus obtaining a conceptual MD model from them by using a set of guidelines.

However, these approaches only consider information requirements, i.e. interesting measures that the DW should store to support the decision making process and the context for their analysis. To the best of our knowledge, only the *data warehouse requirements definition* (DWARF) [14], [15] approach that adapts a traditional requirements engineering process for requirements definition and management of DWs, has considered the specification of other kind of requirements apart from information requirements, such as integrity, security or performance: non-functional requirements (similar to our QoS requirements) for DWs. The authors provide a classification of non-functional requirements that must be addressed in the development of DWs, and guidelines for their operationalization. Unfortunately, the specification of these requirements is considered in an isolated way, without taking information requirements into account. However, in order to obtain a conceptual MD model that drives the development of a DW which satisfies information needs and QoS expectations, both kind of requirements should be modeled together, since they are related. Therefore, we propose to perform requirements analysis for DWs as an essential stage of an overall approach for the development of DWs based on MDA, in which information and QoS requirements are modeled.

QoS is related to the concept of *usage*, as described by [22]. Usage models describe how a DW is being used, e.g., how often, by which user groups, how flexible the users' requirements are, how critical the availability of a certain DW service is, etc. Usage models can be derived from an existing DW and used to find potential improvements, or a new usage model can be designed for a DW to be built. The various aspects of usage are mirrored in QoS requirements. Both concepts try to capture not (only) *what* but *how* the DW is being used.

III. REQUIREMENT ANALYSIS IN DATA WAREHOUSING

The development of a DW is focused on the design of a conceptual MD model. As shown in Figure 1, the specification of this model must be driven by an analysis of (i) operational data sources, (ii) information requirements, and (iii) QoS requirements, in order to design a conceptual MD model that satisfies user expectations and agrees with the operational requirement analysis approach for DWs that comprises two main parts:

- 1) **Information requirement analysis:** aims at obtaining information requirements of decision makers, i.e. interesting measures and the context for analyzing these measures. These information requirements must be specified in an information requirement model (see Sect. III-A).
- 2) **QoS requirement analysis:** enriches the information requirement model with QoS requirements to reflect under which constraints this information is delivered (see Sect. III-B). The reason is that the information requirement model only reflects requirements for a "naked MD model" that only provides the right information to the users, while ignoring how this information is provided and used.

We have aligned this approach with an MDA framework for DWs [12]. In an MDA approach, requirements are specified in a highly abstract model, the CIM (Computation Independent Model). Once we have the specification of this CIM, we can derive a conceptual MD model, called Platform Independent Model (PIM) in MDA, that drives the implementation of the DW. Because this is out of the scope of this paper, we refer reader to [10], [12], [13] for further information on how DW implementations can be generated from these models.

A. Information requirement analysis

Decision makers who use DWs often ignore how to suitably describe information requirements, since they are rather concerned with the goals which the DW helps to fulfil. Therefore, a requirement analysis phase for DWs ideally starts discovering the goals of decision makers. The information requirements and the MD concepts can be discovered more easily from these goals.

Goals related to the DW can be specified on three levels [9]: **Strategic goals**, which are main objectives of the business process: "increase sales", "increase number of customers", "decrease cost", etc. **Decision goals** aim at taking the appropriate actions to fulfil a strategic goal, for example "define some kind of promotion" or "open new stores". Finally, **information goals** are related to the information required by a decision goal to be achieved; examples are "analyze customer purchases" or "examine stocks". Once these goals are defined, information requirements can be directly obtained from the information goals. The different MD elements, such as *facts* or *dimensions*, will be discovered from these information requirements in

²The reader is referred to [11], [13] for a wider explanation about operational data sources analysis.

order to specify the corresponding conceptual MD model of the DW.

For modeling the information requirements, a UML profile for the *i** modeling framework [24] is used (see Figure 3). The *i** modeling framework provides mechanisms to represent different DW actors, their dependencies, and for structuring the business goals that the organization wants to achieve with the DW. Two models are used in *i**: the *strategic dependency* (SD) model for describing the dependency relationships among various actors in an organizational context, and the *strategic rationale* (SR) model, used to describe actor interests and concerns, and how they might be addressed.

Information requirements for each actor (decision maker) are described in SR models. The SR model (modeled with the SR stereotype and represented as \odot) provides a detailed way of modeling internal intentional elements and relationships of each actor (*Actor*, \odot).

In order to define SR models for DWs, goals (*Goal*, \circ), tasks (*Task*, \square), and resources (*Resource*, \square) are represented as intentional elements for each decision maker, as can be seen in Figure 2. These elements can be related via two kind of relationships: means-end (*MeansEnds*, \rightarrow) or task-decomposition (*Decomposition*, \dashv).

Our profile for *i** has been extended in order to model requirements for the DW. Specifically, goals of decision makers can be defined by using the *Strategic*, *Decision*, and *Information* stereotypes by specializing the previously defined *Goal* stereotype. From information goals, information requirements (*Requirement*) are derived and represented as stereotyped tasks. Furthermore, requirement analysis for DWs needs some MD concepts to be added (in the sense of [7]). The following concepts are added as stereotyped resources: business processes related to the goals of decision makers (*BusinessProcess* stereotype), relevant measures related to information requirements of decision makers (*Measure*), and contexts needed for analyzing these measures (*Context*). The use of these elements can be seen in Figure 2. Additionally, foreseen relations between context of analysis are modeled. For instance, the *pharmacy* and the *pharmacy_type* contexts are related because pharmacies can be aggregated in types. For modeling these relationships, we use the (shared) aggregation relationship of UML (*Association* UML metaclass, represented as \circ). All of the described modeling elements are designed in our extended *i** profile [10] (sketched in Fig. 3).

Goals and information requirements for the DW will be modeled and related to the required MD concepts in a CIM in several steps: (i) discovering the intentional actors (i.e. decision makers), thus defining SR models for each one, (ii) discovering the different kind of goals (iii) deriving information requirements from information goals, and (iv) obtaining the MD concepts related to the information requirements.

B. QoS requirement analysis

Once the information requirements have been specified in a CIM, the model is enriched by adding QoS requirements. QoS requirements are manifold. To not overlook any important

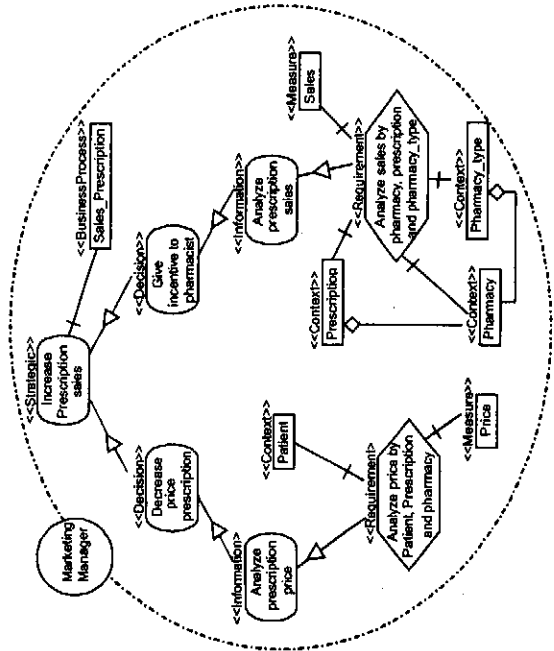


Fig. 1. Model of the information requirements.

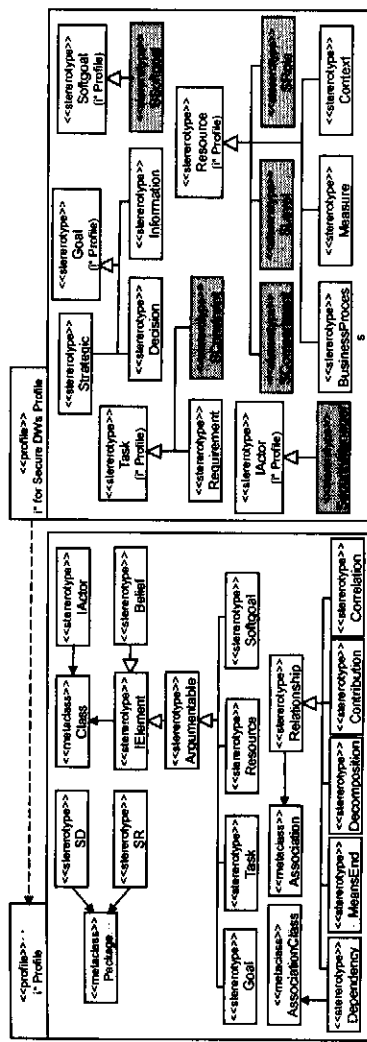


Fig. 2. Overview of the profiles for *i** modeling in the DW domain. The shaded elements are described in Sec. IV-B

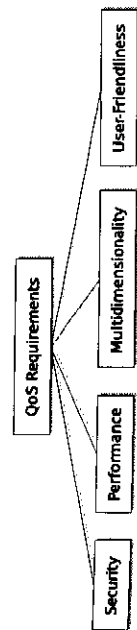


Fig. 3. Issues to be considered during data warehouse design

aspect, it is mandatory to use a framework of QoS requirements in DW. Figure 4 shows a framework for capturing the many different aspects that must be considered when designing a DW. The figure is based on the type catalogue for non-functional requirements for DW design introduced by [14]:

- **Security:** includes requirements related to the protection of valuable assets in the DW. Security requirements describe how the access is managed, what information

can be accessed by whom, and under what condition that information can be accessed. We recall that, in this paper, security requirements are considered as those related to access control and audit issues.

- **Performance:** can be divided into performance regarding time (i.e. processing time or response time) and space (amount of memory used, main memory or secondary memory).
- **Multidimensionality:** covers all issues of access to multidimensional data, such as interpretability, integrability, timeliness, etc.
- **User-Friendliness:** finally requires flexibility, operability, and learnability.

We would like to point out that this is not a complete list of QoS requirements, but a representative one. The pur-

pose of this is to attract attention to the need of modeling QoS requirements together with information requirements in an overall approach for DW development. Every concept in the framework presented here must be analyzed at the requirements level. New techniques have to be introduced for specifying such QoS requirements in the CIM together with the information requirements. In this paper we focus on one of the most important QoS requirements for DWs: *Security*.

IV. SECURITY REQUIREMENTS FOR DATA WAREHOUSING

Every kind of QoS requirement needs its own special kind of technique to be specified in a CIM. In this paper, we focus on security requirements.

Security requirements are QoS requirements associated with the protection of valuable assets in the system. These security requirements describe how access is managed, what information can be accessed by whom, and under what conditions information can be accessed, thus they are often called Access Control Policies (ACP).

An ACP approach for DWs is described in [4], [5], where the authors defined the Access Control and Audit (ACA) model in order to specify security issues for DWs. However, this approach is isolated from the DW requirement analysis stage and it may cause a misalignment between the security and privacy policies and the DW implementation. Many researchers have recognized the need to bridge the gap between requirements analysis and access control specification [1] by addressing security requirements in the development of software systems. Therefore, in following subsections, we focus on describing how to align the ACA model with QoS requirement analysis.

A. Access Control and Audit (ACA) model

The ACA model [4], [5] describes an access control mechanism, thus allowing us to represent confidentiality and audit measures of DWs by classifying subjects and objects in the system³. The classification uses access classes on the basis of three different but compatible ways of classifying users: by their *security level*, by the *role* and by the *compartments* they belong to. The access class is one element of a partially ordered set of classes, where an access class *c1* dominates an access class *c2* if and only if the security level of *c1* is greater than or equal to that of *c2*, the compartments of *c1* include those of *c2*, and at least one of the user roles of *c1* (or one of its ancestors) is defined for *c2*. The following classes are described in order to be able to specify the ACA model:

- **Security user roles** are used by a company to organize users in a hierarchical role structure, according to the responsibilities of each type of work. Each user can play more than one role.

³The ACA model also allows us to define Sensitive Information Assignment Rules (SIARs) in order to specify the security information of each element DW, rules for representing authorization rules (AURs), which work together with SIARs, and rules which allow us to specify audit requirements (ARs). However, this advance topic is out of the scope of this paper.

- **Security levels** indicate the clearance level of the user. Usually, an element of a hierarchically ordered set, such as Top Secret (TS), Secret (S), Confidential (C), and Unclassified (U), where $TS > S > C > U$.

- **Security user compartments** are also used by an organization to classify users into a set of horizontal compartments or groups, such as geographical location, area of work, etc. Each user can belong to one or more compartments.

B. Modeling security requirements

For specifying security requirements in a CIM, we need to extend the *i** framework for information requirements (Section III-A). Our new extension of *i** (see shaded elements in Figure 3) offers mechanisms to represent a special actor Security Manager (*SecurityManager*, ○), who is the person in charge of the security in the organization. Security requirements are QoS requirements and they can be modeled by using *i** softgoals (SSoftgoal, ∞). These softgoals represent and refine the security policy of the organization. The elements of the ACA model are considered as resources and labeled as <<SCompartment>>, <<SLevel>> and <<SRole>>. Moreover, in order to specify constraints for resources, we introduce a special task, labeled as <<SConstraint>>, which contributes to fulfil softgoals through the contribution link (*Contribution*, →). We model the refinement process of softgoals by means of means-end links. Finally, each softgoal is related to *compartments*, *levels*, or *roles* by means of decomposition links.

We propose the following two phases for establishing the ACA model from the security requirements, once we have the first *i** model with information requirements (see Section III-A):

- **Organization-based Security Analysis.** This phase consists on specifying a security requirement model and comprises three steps:
 - 1) Detect vulnerabilities and necessities for the system according to organization policies, laws, rules and regulations.
 - 2) Obtain the security requirements of the security manager by using well-known requirement elicitation mechanisms such as interviews. These requirements are modeled as softgoals and refined into lower-level softgoals. During the refinement process different responsibilities and tasks are discovered (i.e. roles and compartments) and the levels that will be used.
 - 3) Associate softgoals with the corresponding resources (i.e., *SCompartment*, *SRole* and *SLevel*).
- **Goal/Softgoal Analysis.** So far, we have obtained an information requirement model and a security requirement model. The next step is to relate both:
 - 1) Each refined softgoal is associated with the corresponding elements from the information requirement model (i.e. *Business Process*, *Measure* and *Context*).

- 2) Consider other additional security issues for the modeled information requirements via the definition of *SConstraint* tasks. These tasks are associated with softgoals to indicate that contributes positively to their fulfillment.

C. Sample Application of our Approach

We provide a small example to illustrate the use of our approach. A pharmaceutical consortium manages several pharmacies. It wishes to analyze the sales of medicines by means of the medical prescriptions. Then, our focus is on the sales business process. Within the consortium there exist several groups: (i) a pharmacovigilance group that guards the proper use of certain medicines, (ii) a committee that cares for the health of the customers, and (iii) a commercial group devoted to dealing with medicines.

1) **Information Requirements Analysis:** This first phase is performed by using the approach described in Section III-A to model information requirements. The defined *i** model is shown in Figure 2. The business process *Sales_Prescription* is related to one main actor, the *marketing manager*, via the strategic goal "*increase prescription sales*". From this strategic goal, two different decision goals are derived "*decrease prescription price*" and "*give incentive to pharmacist*". From these decision goals, the following information goals have been obtained: "*analyze prescription price*" and "*analyze prescription sales*". The derived information requirements are as follows (shown as tasks in Figure 2): "*analyze price by patient*", "*prescription and pharmacy*", and "*analyze sales by pharmacy*". Furthermore, several resources are associated with the information requirements as measures and context of analysis. The measures are *sales* and *price*. The elements that represent the context of analysis are *patient*, *prescription*, and *pharmacy*. *Pharmacy_type* also belongs to the context of analysis and represents a way to aggregate the *pharmacy* data.

2) **Organization-based Security Analysis:** This phase is performed according to the proposal described in Section IV-B. The model is shown in Figure 5. We focus on the sales prescription process as security policy, which is performed by the security manager actor via the softgoal "*guarantee the security for the sales prescription process*". By using a refinement process, three new softgoals "*guard the security of the use of certain medications and consumers' rights*", "*keep privacy for sales, price and patient's data*", and "*impose a clearance level to prescription process*" are obtained. During this process several responsibilities are discovered. Therefore, several security resources are discovered and associated with their corresponding softgoals (see Figure 5):

- 1) Hierarchical relations are obtained: *PharmacyEmployee*, and *Administrative (Admin)* roles.
- 2) Horizontal groups (compartments) are detected: *pharmacovigilanceCenter (pharmaC)* and *commercialManagerCenter*.

- 3) Restriction levels are established by means of *TopSecret* and *Secret*.

- 3) **Goal/Softgoal Analysis:** We need to associate resources obtained in information requirements analysis (i.e. *sales_prescription*, *sales*, *price*, *patient*, *prescription*, *pharmacy* and *pharmacy_type*) with the softgoals obtained from Security organizational-based analysis (e.g. "*guarantee the secure use of medication norms*" and "*impose maximum level of restriction to the sales prescription*"). The security manager depends on the *marketing manager* to achieve the mentioned softgoals (see Figure 6). *Sales_Prescription* is associated with the softgoal "*impose maximum level of restriction to the sales prescription*", which have *TopSecret* as *SLevel*. Analogously, the context *prescription* is associated with the softgoal "*guarantee the secure use of medication norms*", so it will have *PharmaC* as *SCompartment*. Due to the fact that *Sales_Prescription* and *Prescription* allow future refinements of the model, additional restrictions are needed. Figure 6 shows how the *SConstraint SRule* contributes to fulfil the three softgoals previously obtained, so it is associated with the business process *Sales_Prescription*. The same reasoning assures that the context *Prescription* will be related to a *SConstraint Audit*.

The benefit of applying our proposal is that the security levels, the security roles and the security compartments for every DW user are easily modeled in a CIM. Specifically, in our example we can conclude that, a user has access to *Sales_Prescription* if its access class dominates the access class of *Sales_Prescription*, i.e. its security level is *TopSecret*. This CIM can be used to derive a PIM [10] which reflects every security requirements, thus assuring that the implementation of the DW will satisfy users' expectations.

V. CONCLUSION AND OUTLOOK

In this paper, we advocate the modeling of information and QoS requirements as an explicit stage in the development of a DW. Our point of view is that a DW that satisfies users' expectations will be obtained if QoS requirements are modeled together with information requirements, from the early stages of the development onwards. Specifically, in this paper we have focused on security. Until now, we have proposed a general framework based on MDA [20], [21] in which we use our approaches for designing secure DWs at both conceptual [4], [5] and logical levels [19]. In this paper, we have focused on defining security requirements for DWs and the process for modeling security requirements, both introduced in Section IV.

As future work we will complete our approach for DW security requirements by defining new phases, such as a validation phase through the conceptual, logical and physical levels. It will comprise (i) the identification of malicious attempts and vulnerabilities, (ii) the refinement of the ACA model with new security rules, and (iii) an evaluation.

Furthermore, as security is only one aspect of QoS requirements for DWs, our future work includes to explore further aspects and how other QoS issues can be modeled during the

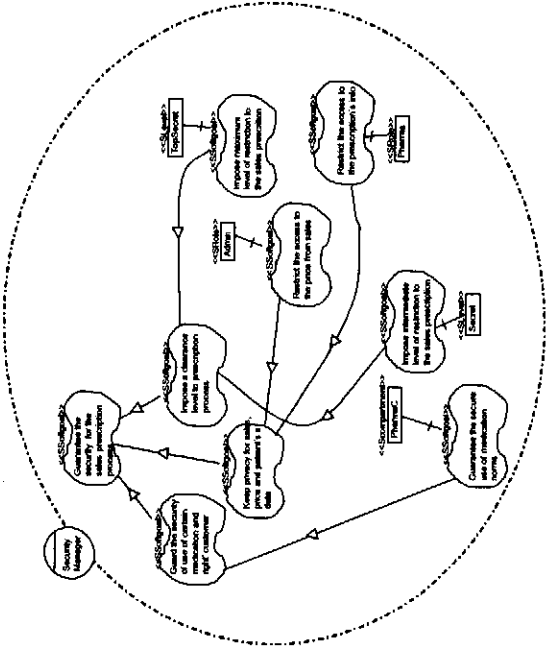


Fig. 5. Model of security requirements (without information requirements)

requirements phase. Relationships and interdependencies between the different kinds of requirements will be investigated.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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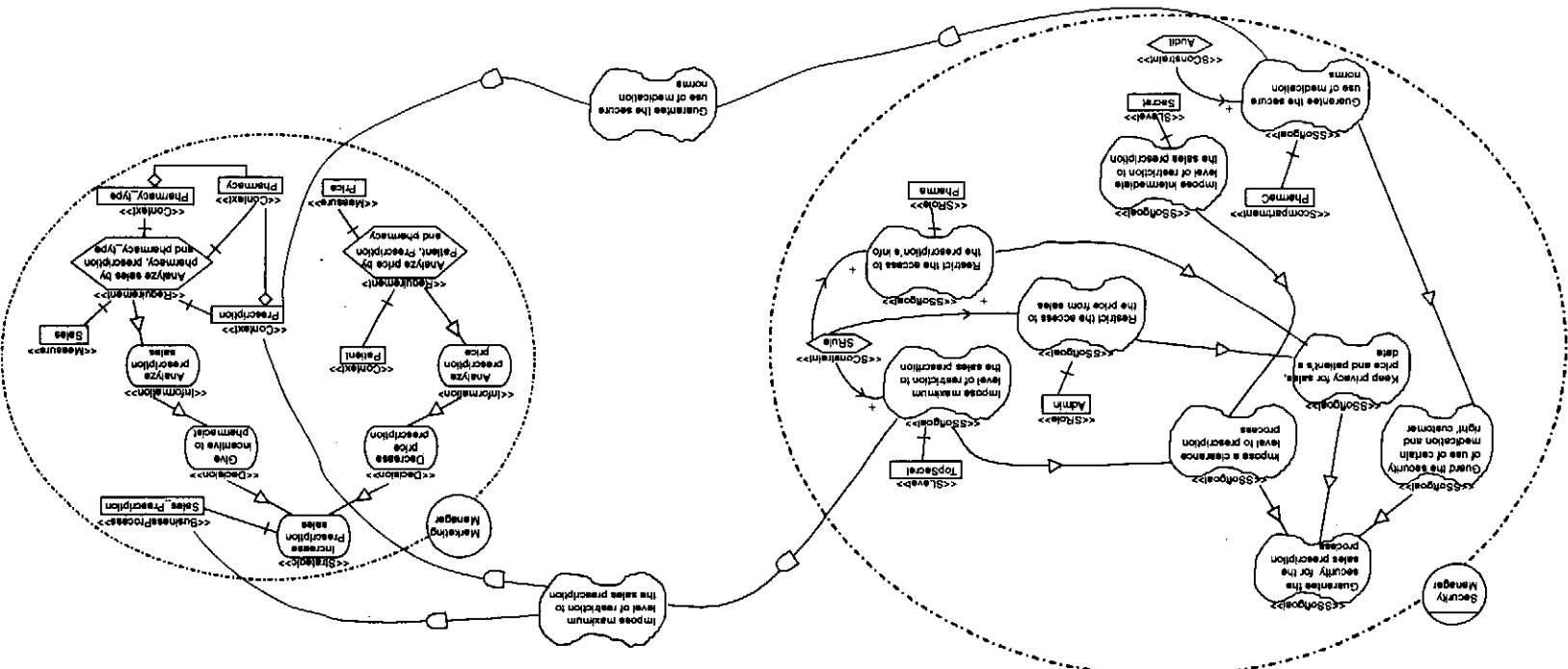


Fig. 6. Integrated model of information and security requirements

Author Index

The Third International Conference on Availability, Reliability and Security (ARES 2008)

Abbassi, Ryma.....	467	Blondia, Chris.....	1213
Abu-Nimeh, Saeed.....	1044	Bohner, Shawn.....	1443
Almed, Irfan.....	1028	Botham, Paul.....	253
Aickelin, Uwe.....	896	Böttcher, Stefan.....	771
Almeur, Esma.....	161	Bouillaut, Laurent.....	795
Aknin, Patrice.....	795	Boustia, Narhimene.....	1008
Al-Fedaghi, Sabah.....	1405	Bouvy, Pascal.....	1036
Al-Hammadi, Yousof.....	896	Bouzida, Yacine.....	204
Almohammad, Adel.....	544	Bræk, Rolv.....	597
Al-Saqabi, Khaled.....	1405	Brassard, Gilles.....	161
Amato, Flora.....	1097	Breu, Ruth.....	921
Angevine, Duff.....	1075	Broadway, Joshua.....	1361
Anspér, Arne.....	572	Brunstrom, Anna.....	526
Anzures-García, Mario.....	807	Buddendick, Christian.....	758
Ardi, Shanai.....	284	Bußer, Jens-Uwe.....	335
Arenas, Alvaro.....	1429	Byers, David.....	276
Ariet, Magi Lluch i.....	578	Canfora, Gerardo.....	1020
Armendáriz-Iñigo, Enrique.....	120	Casola, Valentina.....	1097
Arthur, Kweku.....	1388	Catrina, Octavian.....	693
Asnar, Yudistira.....	1240	Cavadini, Salvador.....	586
Atighetchi, Michael.....	1306	Cavalli, Ana Rosa.....	821
Ayuso, Pablo Neira.....	422	Cavallo, Bice.....	1020
Azer, Marianne.....	636, 881	Ceballos, Rafael.....	229
Azim, Muhammad Anwarul.....	1260	Cetinkaya, Orhan.....	1451
Azimah, Noor.....	1219	Challal, Yacine.....	503
Aziz, Benjamin.....	1429	Chang, Shuang.....	733
Bagaa, Miloud.....	503	Chaouchi, Hakima.....	144
Baldi, Mario.....	434	Charnsripinyo, Chalermpol.....	604
Balfe, Shane.....	376	Charoenpomwattana, Kulathap.....	659
Bao, Feng.....	112	Cheda, Diego.....	586
Barbaron, Denis.....	422	Chen, Chia-Mei.....	410
Barolli, Leonard.....	1325	Chen, Kuan-Ta.....	212
Benslimane, Djamel.....	834	Chen, Tsuhan.....	410
Bergmann, Mike.....	903	Chen, Xin.....	484
Bernabé-Gisbert, Josep M.....	369	Cheng, Jingde.....	171, 1219
Bertino, Elisa.....	153	Cheng, Yu-Chin.....	410
Bicarregui, Juan.....	1429	Chivers, Howard.....	1369
Bielova, Nataliia.....	128	Chmielewski, Łukasz.....	327
Bistarelli, Stefano.....	1128	Claeys, Geert.....	18
Blanco, Carlos.....	813, 1248	Clark, Andrew.....	47

Clint, Maurice 428
 Coetzee, Marijke 440
 Coma, Céline 821
 Cordy, James R. 1437
 Coudert, Fanny 975
 Croitoru, Madalina 578
 Cuppens, Frédéric 821
 Cuppens-Boulahia, Nora 821
 Damiani, Maria Luisa 153
 Daniels, Nils 1139
 Das, Ananda Swarup 446
 Dasmahapatra, Srinandan 578
 Debbabi, Mourad 302
 Dehbashi, Mehdi 491
 Delessy, Nelly A. 416
 Dios, Araceli Queiruga 741
 Domingo-Ferrer, Josep 990
 Donat, Roland 795
 Dragoni, Nicola 128
 Dssouli, Rachida 3
 Duarte, Angelo 653
 Dumortier, Jos 975
 Dupplaw, David 578
 Durrési, Arjan 1325
 Durrési, Mimoza 1325
 Ebben, P.W.G. 397
 Echizen, Isao 1287
 Eckert, Claudia 376
 El-Kassas, Sherif 636, 881, 1443
 Eloff, Jan H.P. 1388
 El-Soudani, Magdy 636, 881
 Eltoweissy, Mohamed 1443
 Encinas, Ascension Hernández 741
 Endersz, Viktor 1139
 Endo, Tsukasa 1287
 Engelmann, Christian 260, 659
 Eskeland, Sigurd 943
 Falcarin, Paolo 434
 Farazmand, Navid 33
 Farr, Erin 675
 Fatmi, Sihem Guemara El 467
 Faulkner, Mike 497
 Fazeli, Mahdi 33
 Fernandez, Eduardo B. 416
 Fernandez, José M. 161
 Fernández, Miguel 520
 Fernández-Medina, Eduardo 104,
 136, 813, 1248
 Fernandez-Medina, Eduardo 1413

Ferreres, Ana Isabel González-Tablas 363
 Florio, Vincenzo De 1213
 Fong, Martin 1306
 Formé, Jordi 701, 1000
 Franz, Elke 903
 Frei, Adrian 610
 Fries, Steffen 335
 Fuchs, Ludwig 752
 Furuichi, Hiroki 1294
 Gabarró, Joaquim 428
 Gaborit, Philippe 1052
 Gansterer, Wilfried 10
 Garg, Sanjam 667
 Garnacho, Arturo Ribagorda 363
 Gasca, Rafael Martínez 229
 Gasca, Rafael 422
 Ghinea, Gheorghita 544
 Ghorbani, Ali 88
 Gibb, Alex 578
 González-Vélez, Horacio 578
 Goto, Yuichi 171, 1219
 Grasher, Veronika 39
 Gritzalis, Stefanos 929
 Grob, Heinz Lothar 758
 Groba, Christin 903
 Gruschka, Nils 509
 Gu, Yu 630
 Guang-Yu, He 473
 Guntupalli, Srinivas 592
 Hadavi, Mohammad Ali 866
 Halunen, Kimmo 828
 Hamishagi, Vahid Saber 866
 Han, Kai 564
 Hansen, René Rydhof 1104
 Haque, Anwar 245
 Hargreaves, Christopher 1369
 Harmer, Terry 428
 Harper, Richard 675
 Hartel, Rita 771
 Hartmann, Peter 335
 Hashemi, S. Mehdi 1266
 Hassan, Abdel Wahab 636, 881
 Hassan, Riham 1443
 Hassanzadeh, Amin 982
 Hatebur, Denis 195
 Hazeyama, Hiroaki 1313, 1319
 He, Liwen 253
 He, Mingxing 746
 He, Xubin 260

Kerschbaum, Florian 693
 Keshri, Jitu Kumar 446
 Khakpour, Amir 144
 Khan, Latifur 237
 Kiani, Mehdi 47
 Kijisanayothin, Phongphun 765
 Kikuchi, Hiroaki 1282
 Kilpatrick, Peter 428
 Kim, Dong Seong 1260
 Kirmani, Ezzat 479
 Kirschner, Matthias 771
 Kitahara, Jun 1294
 Kitajima, Natsumi 171
 Kiyavitskaya, Nadzeya 1437
 Klaoudatou, Eleni 929
 Klopotek, Mieczyslaw 1036
 Kobori, Tomohiro 1282
 Kohler, Mathias 709
 Kolb, Mathias 39
 Kollveit, Heine 64
 Konstantinou, Elisavet 550, 929
 Korobitsin, Victor 967
 Koyanagi, Keiichi 842
 Kuang, Liwei 319
 Kumar, Ashwin 10
 Kupsch, James 1196
 Kutvonen, Lea 873
 Kwiat, Kevin 1180, 1234
 Ladra, Susana 994
 Lai, Gu-Hsin 410
 Laih, Chi-Sung 410
 Langer, Josef 642
 Lari, Vahid 491
 Larrea, Mikel 801
 Larson, Ulf 624
 Lasheras, Joaquin 813
 Lasla, Noureddine 503
 Lathouwers, Danny 1091
 Laurent-Maknavicius, Maryline 144
 Leangsuksun, Chokchai 260, 659
 Lee, Jooyoung 1377
 Leesutthipornchai, Pakorn 604
 Lefevre, Laurent 422
 Leray, Philippe 795
 Levin, Timothy 787
 Lewis, Paul 578
 Lhee, Kyung-suk 1028
 Liang, Zhiyao 1067
 Lihan, Marc 842

Lin, Chih-Yin	458	Miremedi, Seyed Ghassem	491, 648	Piattini, Mario	104, 136, 813, 1248, 1413	Schlager, Christian	344, 752
Linskog, Stefan	526, 624	Miremedi, Seyyed Ghassem	33	Pjetzowski, Andreas	404	Schmidt, Holger	195
Ling-jun, Li	558	Mitchell, Chris	1013	Pimenidis, Lexi	221	Schwarz, Thomas	56
Liu, Bin	1382	Miyamoto, Daisuke	1319	Pironti, Alfredo	72	Scott, Stephen L.	260
Liu, Fenlin	1382	Mohades, Ali	1266	Pozza, Davide	851	Scott, Stephen	659
Liu, Qian	3	Mohay, George	47	Preneel, Bart	1091	Sebastianis, Maurizio	1240
Liu-sheng, Huang	558	Mokhtari, Aicha	1008	Pretschner, Alexander	1135	Seifzadeh, Habib	859
Lizarraga, Jesus	520	Moretti, Rocco	1240	Probst, Christian W.	1104	Seredynski, Marcin	1036
López, Javier	136	Morimoto, Shoichi	1219	Pujol, Grimena	80	Serna, Ainhoa	520
Lou, Jing-Kai	212	Morris, Thomas	452	Pujol, Gloria	1060	Seviora, Rudolph	383
Lu, Shuo	3	Mühlhäuser, Max	958	Quirchmayr, Gerald	179	Shahmehri, Nahid	276, 284
Luo, Weidong	746	Muñoz-Escóí, Francesc D.	369, 390, 514	Rakowski, Zbigniew	161	Sharma, Priyanka	592
Luo, Yonglong	727	Muñoz-Escóí, Francesc Daniel	120	Ravindran, Binoy	564	Sheng, Quan Z.	834
Luque, Emilio	653	Muto, Kenichiro	1294	Ravindran, Kaliappa	1234	Shugeno, Hiroshi	1340
Luttenberger, Norbert	509	Mylopoulos, John	1437	Ren, Shangping	1180	Shinde, Pravin	592
Maamar, Zakaria	834	Nagami, Yoshitaka	1319	Renner, Johannes	221	Shinzaki, Yasutaka	1340
Madlmayr, Gerald	642	Nair, Suku	1044	Rennhard, Marc	610	Shirazi, Hossein	866
Makanju, Adetokunbo	310	Nair, V.S.S.	452	Rexachs, Dolores	653	Shirazi, Mohammad Shokrolah	648
Maleki, Farhad	1266	Nait-Abdesselam, Farid	352	Rey, Angel Martin del	741	Shiri, Mohammed Ebrahim	1266
Maña, Antonio	80	Nalinuka, Katsiaryna	1112	Rico-Novella, Francisco	701	Shokrolah-Shirazi, Mohammad	491
Mangin, Christophe	204	Nappa, Dario	1044	Rico-Novella, Francisco J.	1000	Siahaan, Ida	128
Markides, Bradley	440	Narjess, Ayari	422	Riedl, Bernhard	39	Silvestri, Claudio	153
Martin, Cristian	801	Naughton, Thomas	659	Rikula, Pauli	828	Simoens, Koen	1091
Martinelli, Fabio	1120, 1128	Neubauer, Thomas	39, 187	Röning, Juha	828	Sisto, Riccardo	72, 851
Martinez, Asier	520	Nielson, Fleming	1104	Rosado, David G.	136	Siveroni, Igor	96
Martinez-Ballesté, Antoni	1060	Nielson, Hanne Riis	1104	Rossebo, Judith E.Y.	597	Slamanig, Daniel	1226
Martinez-Peláez, Rafael	1000	Nohara, Yasunobu	717	Røstad, Lillian	935	Slay, Jill	1355, 1361
Martinez-Peláez, Rafael	701	O'Brien, Richard	1306	Royer, Denis	779	Solanas, Agusti	1060
Mashimo, Yo	1340	Ofek, Yoram	434	Rubel, Paul	1306	Soler, Emilio	104
Massacci, Fabio	1112	Ohtaki, Yasuhiro	1083	Rudie, Karen	1188	Spanhower, Lisa	675
Mateo-Sanz, Josep Maria	1060	Okamoto, Eiji	497	Ruohomaa, Simi	873	Spanoudakis, George	96
Matsumoto, Yoshihide	1313	Okubo, Takao	1148	Sabbir, Ali	1234	Springer, Thomas	903
Matteucci, Ilaria	1120	Oleshchuk, Vladimir	943	Sadeghian, Babak	982	Srinathan, Kannan	446
Matthews, Brian	1429	Olivier, Martin	1388	Sadighi, Mohsen	859	Srivastava, Vaibhav	446
Matulevičius, Raimundas	1397	Onana, Flavien Serge Mani	161	Sáez, Carlos	578	Stakhanov, Oleg	88
Mayer, Nicolas	1397	Onno, Stéphane	683	Sakurai, Kouichi	112	Stakhanova, Natalia	88
Mazón, Jose-Norberto	104	Orwat, Mark	787	Salem, Benferhat	618	Stefanov, Veronika	104
Mazzeo, Antonino	1097	Osaka, Kyosuke	733	Salem, Boussad Ait	1052	Stewart, Alan	428
Mehdizadeh, Nima	648	Otto, Martin	335	Sánchez, Gerardo Rodriguez	741	Stingl, Christian	1226
Meland, Per Håkon	1164	Quadjaut, Abdelraouf	503	Sánchez-Gálvez, Luz A.	807	Strauch, Gereon	758
Melchor, Carlos Aguilar	1052	Pal, Partha	1306	Sangchi, Hasan Mokhtari	866	Stumpf, Frederic	376
Mellado, Daniel	1413	Panchenko, Andriy	221	Santini, Francesco	1128	Su, Chunhua	112
Memon, Nasrullah	1254	Páris, Jehan-François	56	Santos, Guna	653	Sun, Yifeng	1382
Mendivil, José Ramón González de	120	Park, Jong Sou	1260	Saran, Huzur	667	Takagi, Tsuyoshi	112, 733
Meyer-Wegener, Klaus	911	Peet, Andrew	578	Satizábal, Cristina	701, 1000	Takahashi, Osamu	733
Mích, Luísa	1437	Peine, Holger	1204	Satzger, Benjamin	404	Tamine, Karim	1052
Miedes, Emili	514	Pernul, Günther	344, 752	Scandariato, Riccardo	18, 434, 1156, 1421	Tan, Chik How	1275
Milios, Evangelos	310	Perrott, Ron	428	Schaad, Andreas	709	Tanaka, Hidehiko	1148
Miller, Barton	1196	Petković, Milan	889	Scharinger, Josef	642	Tartary, Christophe	1332

Notes

Tejada, José María de Fuentes		
García-Romero de	363	911
Terada, Masato	1282	1301
Thalheim, Bernhard	1405	1188
Thipsc, Aashay	765	26
Thuraisingham, Bhavani	237	572
Tielemann, Michael	911	1421
Tikotekar, Anand	659	237
Tingdi, Zhao	461	1091
Tjoa, Simon	179	1234
Tlili, Syrène	302	18
Töndel, Inger Anne	1172	675
Torra, Vicenç	990, 994	578
Torre, Marco Dalla	128	723
Toval, Ambrosio	813	461
Trujillo, Juan	104, 1248	733
Trumler, Wolfgang	404	1382
Tsuchiya, Takeshi	842	1429
Tupper, Melanie	950	484
Turnbull, Benjamin	1355, 1361	532, 538
Ueda, Shintaro	1340	717
Ungerer, Theo	404	921
Uribeceberria, Roberto	520	1332
Valencia-García, Rafael	813	497
Vallée, Geoffroy	659	473
Vélez, Iñaki	520	842
Venter, Hein	1388	1287
Verma, Rakesh	1067	245
Vicente, Javier	578	1421
Vittorini, Valeria	1097	237
Völp, Marcus	268	1346
Vorobiev, Alexandre	383	1240
Wahl, Martin	911	746
Walter, Thomas	1135	1437
Wang, Dongsheng	630	564
Wang, Hongji	532, 538	630
Wang, Hongyi	630	352
Wang, Huaxiong	1332	558
Wang, Lingyu	3	558
Wang, Qi	727	112
Wang, Xinlei	1044	Zincir-Heywood, A. Nur 950, 1075
Watanabe, Dai	1294	Zincir-Heywood, Nur 310
Wattanapongsakorn, Naruemon	604	Zisman, Andrea 96
Weber, Stefan G.	958	Zuccato, Albin 1139
Wei, Yang	558	Zulkernine, Mohammad 245, 319, 1188
		Zurutuza, Urko 520

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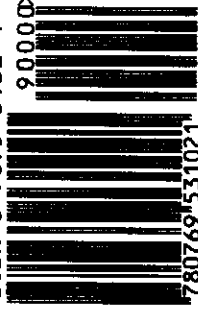
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