On the security of delegation in access control systems

Q. Wang, N. Li, H. Chen

13th European Symposium on Research in Computer Security (ESORICS 2008), LNCS 5283, pp. 317-332, 2008.

DOI: 10.1007/978-3-540-88313-5_21

Summary

Delegation in an Access Control System induces security flaws from users colluding with each other, therefore there is a need in identifying these security flaws and introduce mechanisms to enforce security in delegated systems.

Appreciative Comment

- Good formal modelling of delegation in an access control system
- System is secure when users cannot gain power via delegation – no users can do more than what can initially be done

Appreciative Comment

- Source/performer constraint
- Flexible system
- Intuitive if there is no conflict between parties then there is no possibility of security breach

Critical Comment

- One model fits all?
- Multiple levels of delegation

Question

• Where should the trade-off between system security and flexibility lie?