



Shattered Chain of Trust: Understanding Security Risks in Cross-Cloud IoT Access Delegation

Bin Yuan, Yan Jia, Luyi Xing, Dongfang Zhao, Xiaofeng Wang, Deqing Zou, Hai Jin, Yuqing Zhang











Smart home vendors



Smart home device vendors











Smart home cloud service providers



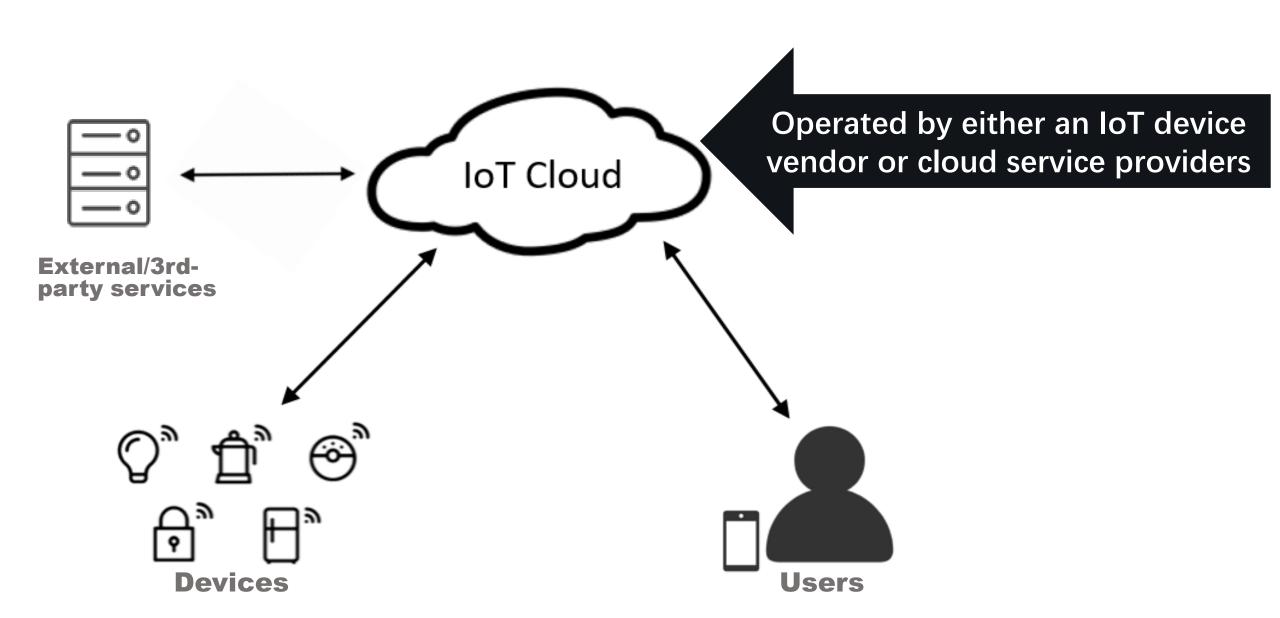






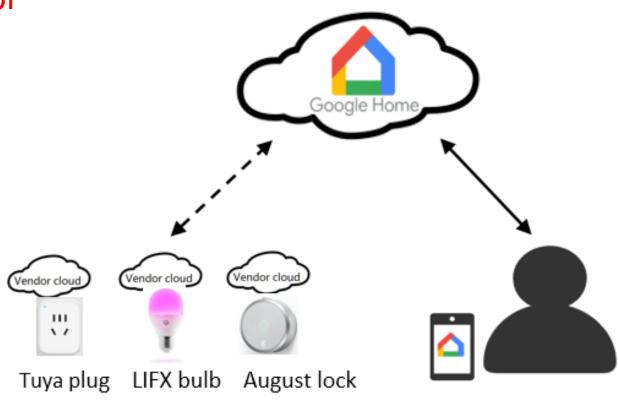
The cloud-based IoT device management







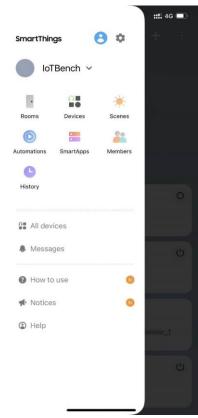
- Cross-vendor/cross-cloud device control
 - Manage different vendor devices through the same console
- Sharing of device access
 - Share the access to the lock to an Airbnb guest (temporarily)
- Device control automation
 - Turn on the light when motion detected



A user uses Google Home to control all her devices from different vendors (e.g., Tuya plug, LIFX bulb, August lock)



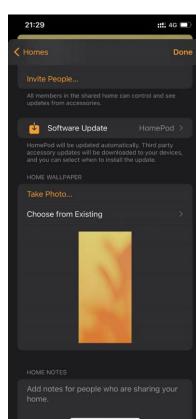
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Member management in SmartThings



Share devices in Mi Home



Invite people in HomeKit



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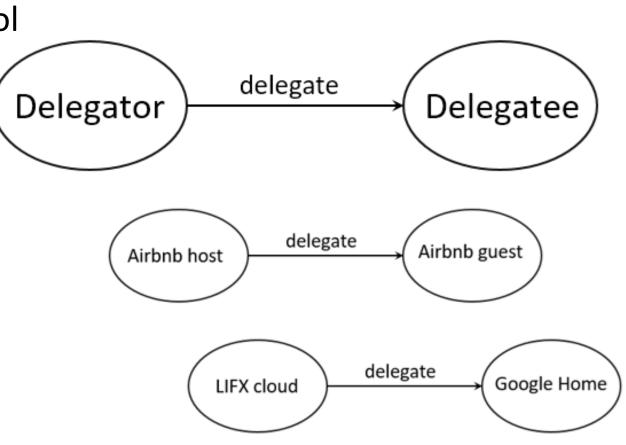








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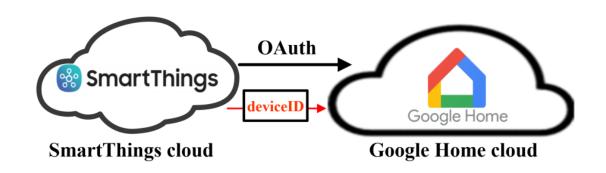
It's all about device access delegation

The two most common cross-cloud delegation mechanisms



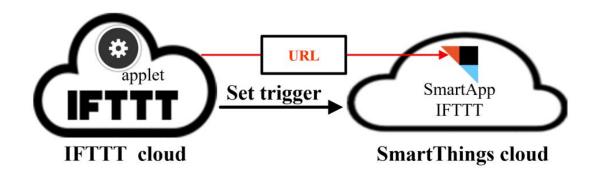
OAuth and its customization

 Actions on Google: OAuth + asking for additional information (e.g., deviceID, device name) from the delegator cloud



Home-grown authorization

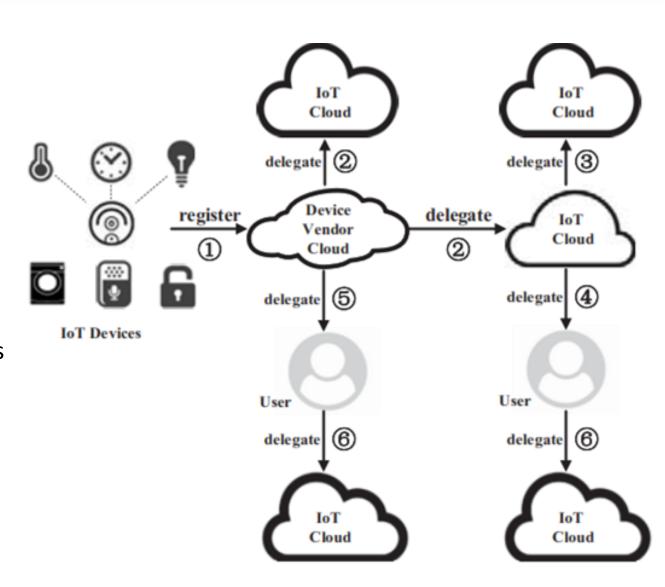
 Set trigger event in IFTTT: issuing a URL which receives trigger events from the delegatee cloud



Convoluted delegation chain in IoT



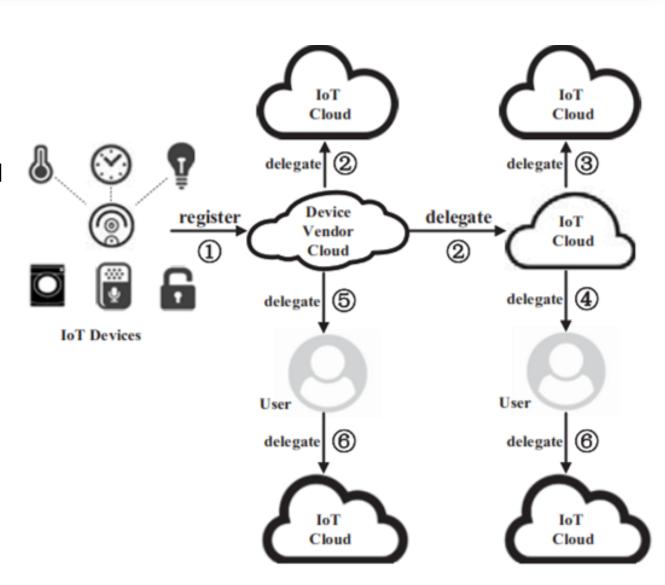
- IoT device access right delegation
 - first given to its device vendor cloud (1)
 - delegated to a delegatee cloud (2)
 - further handed over to another (delegatee) cloud (3)
 - granted (by the device administrator) to other (delegatee) users (4 5)
 - the (delegatee) user may further give her access to another (delegatee) cloud (6)



Lack of understanding on the security of cross-cloud IoT delegation () 单中科技大学



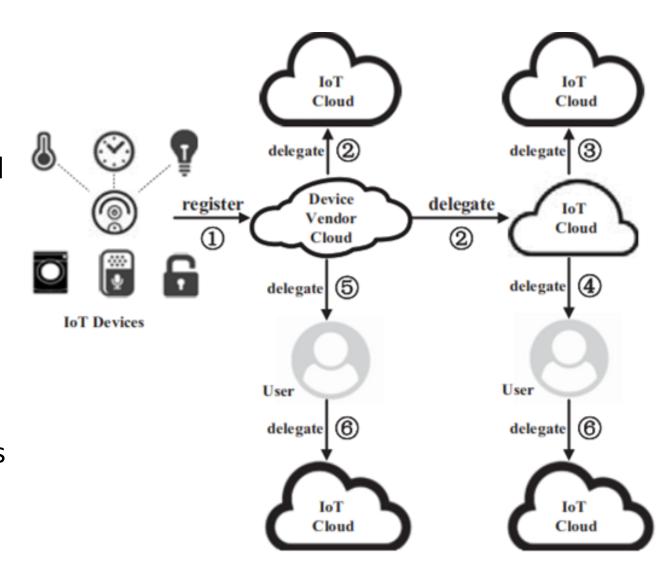
- Risks in cross-cloud IoT delegation
- Theoretic models analyzed before
 - all parties run the same delegation protocol and interact through unified interfaces
- Delegation in today's real-world IoT clouds
 - individual, heterogeneous delegation protocols
 - incompatible with other clouds
 - not being properly verified



Threat model



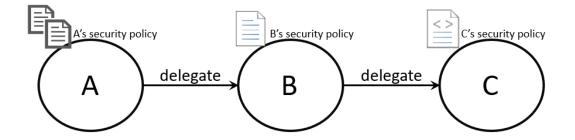
- Delegatee user can be malicious, while the administrator, cloud, and device are benign
- Goal of the adversary is to get unauthorized access to IoT devices
- The adversary would make full use of his power to acquire useful information, e.g., make API calls, extract information from system logs, official documentations and capture network traffic generated by/for his mobile app

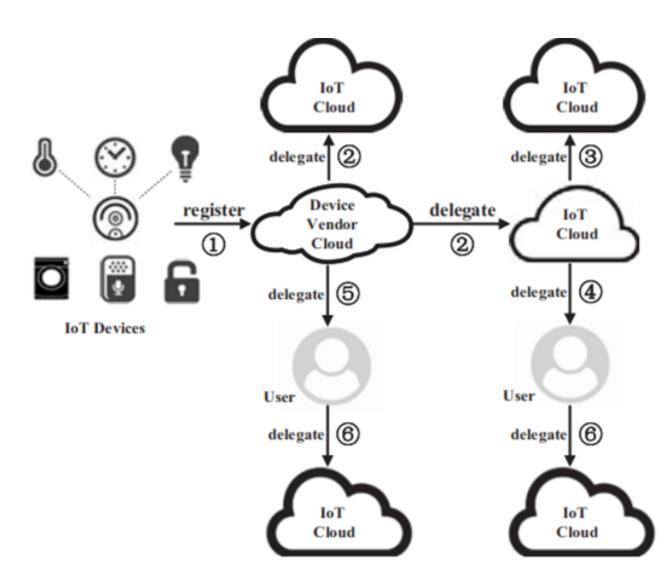


Security requirements



• Safe and consistent delegation policies

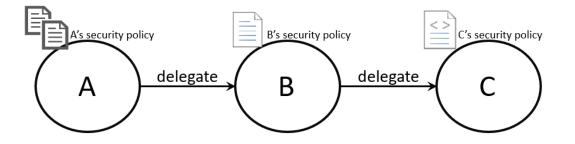




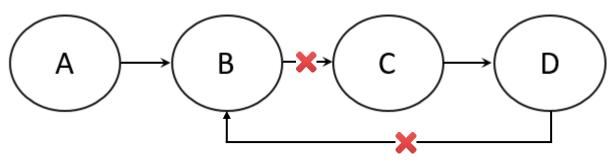
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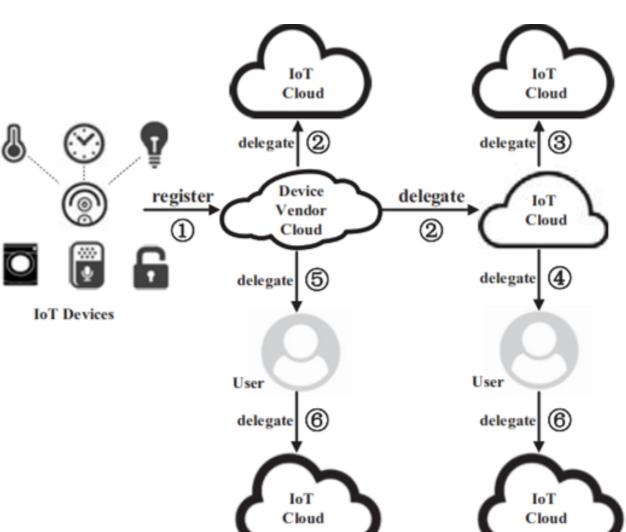


• Safe and consistent delegation policies



Non-bypassable and transitive delegation control

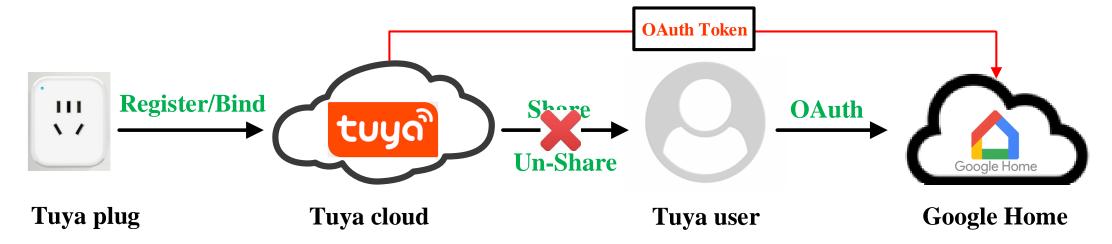




Vulnerable Cross-Cloud IoT Delegation: a motivating example



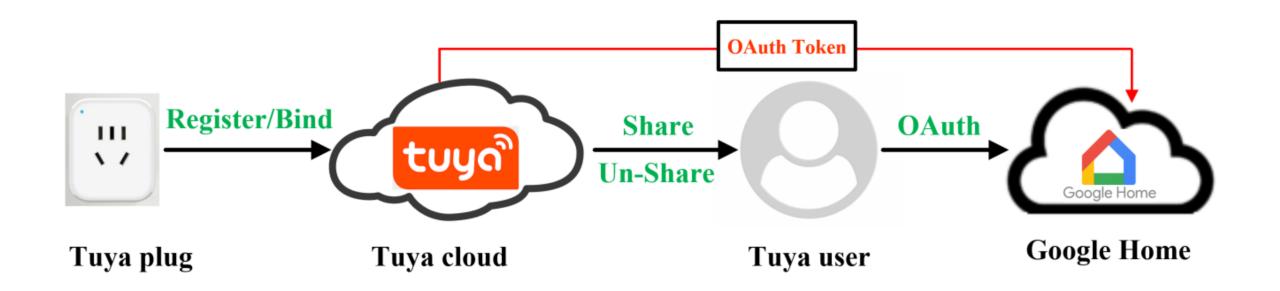
Violation of "transitive delegation control" in Tuya



- Google Home still holds a valid OAuth token (issued by the Tuya cloud during the OAuth operation), allowing Google Home to access the Tuya plug even after the un-share operation
- Attack: leveraging a third-party (e.g., Google Home) to make temporary access right permanent

Observations from the Tuya Case

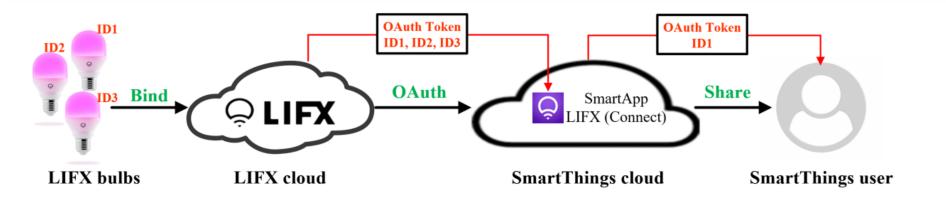


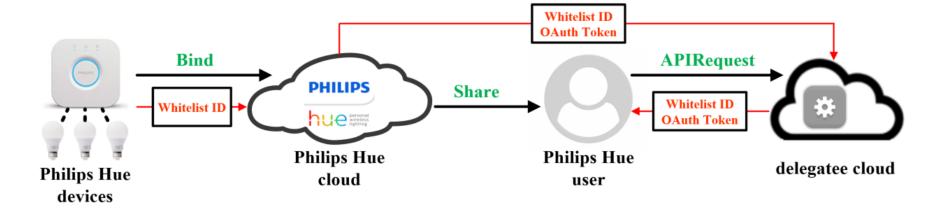


- Multiple delegation operations supported in an IoT setting
- II. Data flow (e.g., token issuing and distributing) along with operations
- III. Multi-step access path (with a valid token) to a device

Same observations/patterns in other IoT settings @ 華中科技大学



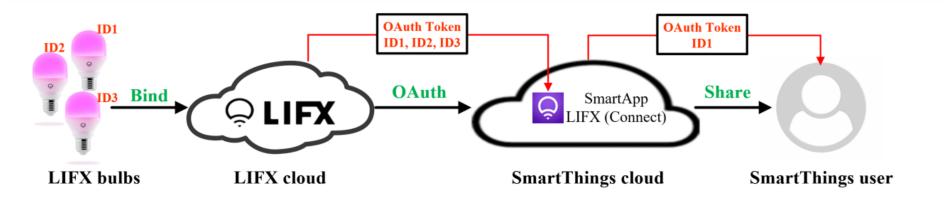


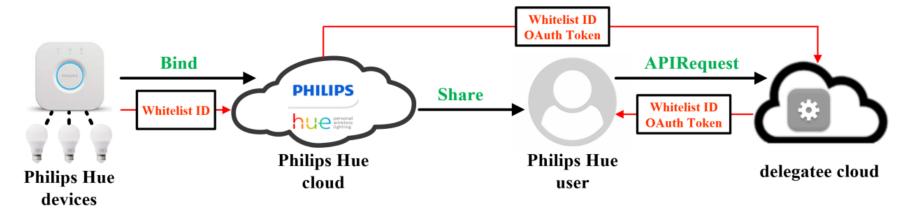


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Towards automatic vulnerability discovery







Common delegation pattern identified in different IoT settings

Automation?

Formal verification based IoT cross-cloud delegation vulnerability discovery

Formal verification based IoT cross-cloud delegation vulnerability discovery 单中科技大学

- Security property
 - unauthorized delegatee user should not have a path to the IoT devices which he is not entitled to access

Formal verification based IoT cross-cloud delegation vulnerability discovery 单中科技大学

- Security property
 - unauthorized delegatee user should not have a path to the IoT devices which he is not entitled to access
- IoT delegation modeled as a transition system $\mathcal{M} = (\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{O}, \mathcal{T}, s_0)$
 - A is the set of actors (e.g., device, cloud, user)
 - O is the set of operations (e.g., OAuth, share, un-share, bind, unbind, APIRequest, etc.)
 - S is the set of **state**s, where S_0 is the **initial state** (where no delegation happens)
 - Tokens received and issued during delegation and the access control mapping between these tokens
 - $T: S \times O \rightarrow S$ is a function that drives the **transition** from one state to the next

Security property

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Detecting flaws

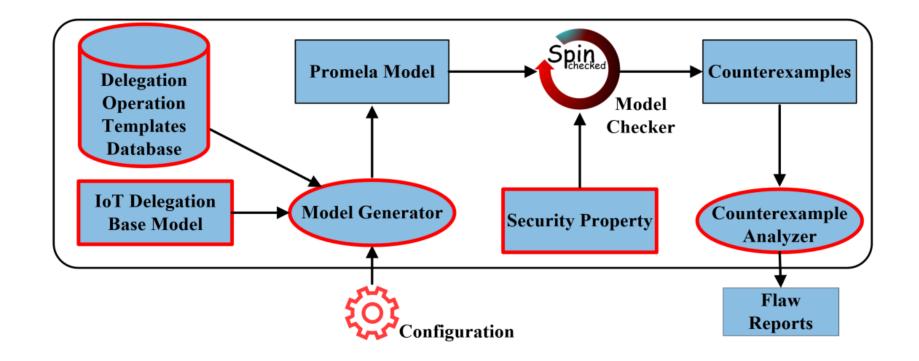
 leveraging a model checker to verify whether pre-defined security properties hold in the model



the first (semi-automatic) verification tool for IoT cross-cloud delegation vulnerability discovery



- Modeling different real-world IoT system
 - Refinement: operation template, base model, and configuration



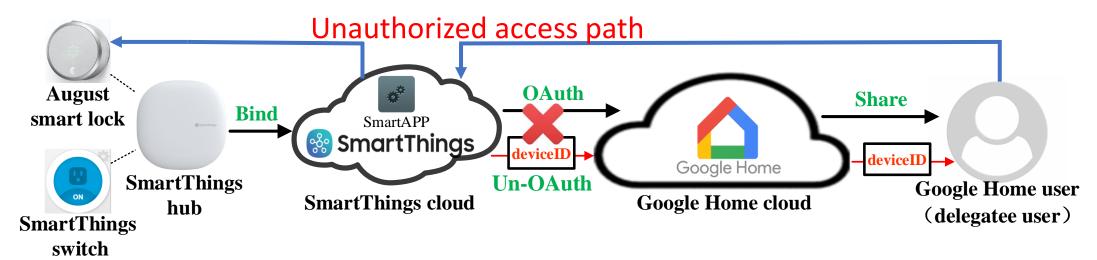
The architecture of VerioT

VerioT is made publicly available: https://github.com/VerioT/VerioT



Vulnerability Category 1: Conflicting Security Policies Across IoT Vendors/Clouds Vulnerability 1: Google Home leaked device ID of Samsung SmartThings cloud

- Different security assumptions on device ID
 - SmartThings uses device ID as an authentication token on the trigger-action management
 - Google Home discloses the device ID to any authorized user



 Malicious delegatee user (e.g., an Airbnb guest) can use the device ID to spoof events to trigger SmartThings to open the lock even after he checks out



Vulnerability Category 1: Conflicting Security Policies Across IoT Vendors/Clouds Vulnerability 1: Google Home leaked device ID of Samsung SmartThings cloud

PoC exploit on Flaw 1

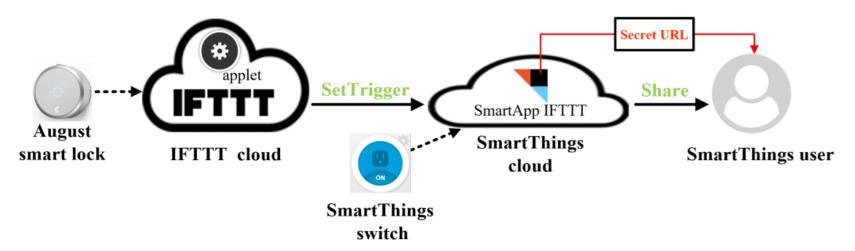
Device ID disclosure

In this demo, a malicious delegatee (the attacker) impersonated a SmartThings switch to stealthily open a smart lock.



Vulnerability Category 1: Conflicting Security Policies Across IoT Vendors/Clouds Vulnerability 2: IFTTT leaked the secret token of SmartThings cloud

- Mismatched security policy on secret URL management
 - IFTTT cloud (delegator) leaks the secret URL that SmartThings cloud (delegatee) wants to protect

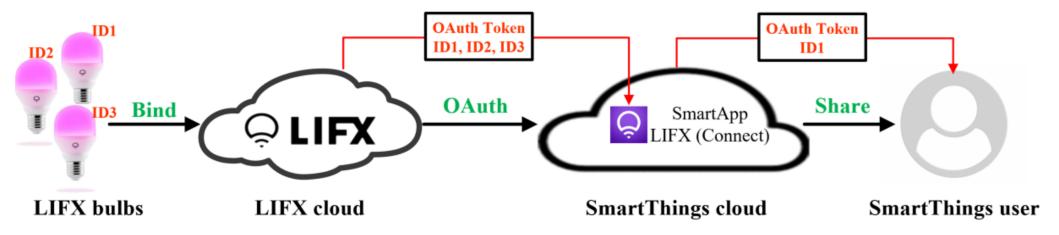


Malicious delegatee user can post HTTP requests to the URL to trigger the
action of the applet in the IFTTT cloud, thus to operate the devices behind the
IFTTT cloud even after his access right is revoked by SmartThings cloud



Vulnerability Category 2: Pitfalls in Security Policy Enforcement Across IoT Vendors/Clouds Vulnerability 3: SmartThings cloud exposed hidden devices of LIFX cloud

- OAuth token is made accessible to users on the delegatee cloud
 - Shared users can read the OAuth token issued by LIFX cloud from the storage of SmartThings cloud, bypassing the control of device hiding.

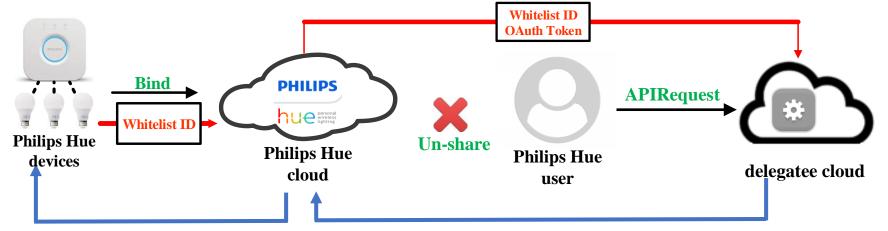


 Malicious delegatee user can use the the OAuth token to gain the ID of the devices hidden from him and control these hidden devices



Vulnerability Category 2: Pitfalls in Security Policy Enforcement Across IoT Vendors/Clouds Vulnerability 4: Abusing cross-vendor delegation API of Philips Hue

- Incomplete revocation scheme in the delegator cloud
 - Philips Hue cloud only invalidates the token which is used for access check in the device,
 not the token that is used for authentication in the cloud.



 Malicious delegatee user can abuse the API to gain new OAuth token and Whitelist ID, allowing him to control the Philips Hue devices after the administrator revokes his access right

Measurement



- Prevalence of vulnerable IoT delegation
 - All the 10 mainstream IoT clouds being studied are affected
 - Device vendor clouds: Philips Hue, August, LIFX, MiHome, and iHome
 - Delegatee clouds: Google Home, IFTTT, SmartThings, Amazon Alexa, and Wink
- Scope of impact
 - Google Home disclosing device ID affects at least 3 IoT clouds
 - Leakage of IFTTT's Secret URL affects 34 IoT clouds
 - OAuth token disclosure problem exists in at least 18 SmartApps in SmartThings
 - Tuya's problematic management on OAuth token can affect up to 58 IoT manufacturers

Conclusion



- Root cause
 - Heterogeneous and ad-hoc delegation process (because of the absence of a standardized cross-cloud delegation protocol)
- Lessons learnt
 - The caution one should take when applying a custom cross-cloud authorization scheme to today's already complicated IoT delegation
 - the delegator and the delegatee violate each other's security policies
 - problematic security policy enforcement due to lack of rigorous verification
- New design principles
 - Decoupling the delegatee and the delegator clouds
 - Communicating security assumptions and constraints
 - Verifying delegation design whenever possible

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Please refer to our website for the source code of our tool, the vendor response to our responsible disclosure, the PoC attack demos and the full list of affected vendors

https://sites.google.com/view/shattered-chain-of-trust-under/home?authuser=0











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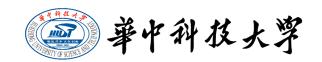
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