A diagrammatic notation for modeling access control in tree-based data structures

Thesis for the degree doktor ingeniør

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Abstract

In modern multi-user computer and network systems, access control is an important aspect of the overall security of a given system. The problem is that as the number of users and systems that are being controlled increases, it can quickly become difficult to keep track of exactly who has access to what. Another problem is that with today's heterogeneous systems, systems of the same type but from different vendors often have different methods for configuring access control.

Many systems like SNMP entities, HTTP servers, LDAP, XML based information etc. have one thing in common, they all store their information in a tree based structure. Based on this fact this thesis describe two graphical modeling languages that can be used for specifying the access control setup in most systems that store information in a tree based structure.

The Tree-based Access control Modeling Language (TACOMA) is the simplest language that is defined. It is easy to learn and use as it has only 7 symbols and two relations. With this language it is possible to define the exact access control rules for users using a graphical notation. The simplicity of the language do however come at a cost: it is best suited for small or medium sized tasks where the number of users and objects being controlled are limited.

To solve the scalability problem a second language is also presented. The Policy Tree-based Access control Modeling Language (PTACOMA) is a policy based version of TACOMA that doubles the number of symbols and relations. While it is harder to learn it scales better to larger tasks. It also allows for distributed specification of access rules where administrators of different domains can be responsible for specifying their own access control rules. Domains can be organized in a hierarchical manner so that administrators on a higher level can create policies that have higher priority and therefor limits what administrators at lower levels can do.

The thesis describes the two languages in detail and provides a comparison between them to show the strong and weak points of each language. There is also a detailed case study that shows how the two languages can be used for specifying access control in SNMPv3.
Preface

This is my thesis for the degree of doktor ingeniør at the department of Telematics, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU). The work started in 1997 and is now finally finished. The first four years were done as a research fellow at NTNU and was supported by a joint grant from the Norwegian Research Council, Alcatel, Ericsson, Siemens and Telenor. Since 2001 the work was done in parallel with my work at the Research and Development group in UNINETT.

While the work at UNINETT has not been directly related to the work presented in this thesis, I have been able to combine some of the work and use results from UNINETT in a large case study.

My supervisor for this research has been Prof. Steinar Andresen and I would like to thank him for his patience and support in finishing this work. I would also like to thank Olav Kvittem at UNINETT for his support and for providing me valuable feedback on earlier versions of the thesis.

I would also like to thank my wife and daughters, Noriko, Lisa and Nina, for their patience while I worked on writing the thesis. Without their support I would not have been able to complete it.
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Chapter 1

Introduction

This chapter describes the background and motivation behind the thesis and provides an overview of how the rest of the thesis is organized.

1.1 Background and motivation

“A picture is worth a thousand words”. This is a maxim well known to most people, although it is often mistakenly quoted as being a Chinese proverb belonging to Confucius. Its origin is actually two articles published in the trade journal “Printer’s Ink” in 1921 and 1927 by Frederick Barnard[1, 2]. The first article was titled “One Look Is Worth a Thousand Words” and talked in general about the benefits of advertising with pictures on street cars. In this article the proverb was attributed to a “famous Japanese philosopher”. In 1927 he revised the saying to “One picture is worth ten thousand words” and this time he claimed it was a “Chinese proverb”. By calling it a Chinese proverb Frederick Bernard thought his words would be more believable.

Today the proverb is known all over the world and few question its validity. In computer science and telecommunication pictures, diagrams and graphical notations have been used for a long time to help programmers and system operators to understand the complexities of modern computer and communication systems.

1.1.1 Diagrams

The most common visualization method used in computer science and telecommunication is diagrams. They are used as a way to understand the complex architecture of modern systems. A diagram is a method for conveying a message by means of drawing lines. The Merriam-Webster dictionary[3] defines a diagram as:

“a graphic design that explains rather than represents; especially: a drawing that shows arrangement and relations (as of parts)”.

The earliest forms of diagrams are maps. Maps are considered diagrams because they relate physical distance between locations in the world and physical distance
of these locations on paper. At the same time they abstract out details, for example roads are represented by straight lines, coastlines are abbreviated etc.

It is this abstraction of details that make diagrams very useful for dealing with complex computer and communication systems. In computer science and telecommunication there are many examples of highly successful graphical notations.

One well known notation is Entity-Relationship diagrams. These diagrams are used for high level modeling of complex database systems and help designers create accurate and useful conceptual models. The E-R diagram was created by Professor Peter Chen[4] to serve as a tool for communication between designers and users. Chen recognized that users and developers often have difficulties communicating and that a visual diagrammatic notation could help bridge this gap. An E-R diagram presents a visual overview of the data and relationships between data in a database in a way that is relatively easy to understand even for normal users.

Another example of a diagrammatic language is the Specification and Description Language (SDL)[5]. The development of this language started in 1972 and it was designed as a language for specifying and designing telecommunication systems. Today the language can be used to develop any real time concurrent system. The purpose of SDL is to help developers understand and model the complex behavior of real time concurrent systems and protocols.

For development of large and complex object oriented software systems, the Unified Modeling Language (UML)[6] is commonly used. UML is a collection of several diagram types that makes it possible for developers to model both the static and dynamic properties of large and complex software projects.

These are just a few examples of the many graphical notations that successfully have made complex matters easier to handle.

1.1.2 MIB View Modeling Language

Based on the fact that visual representation using diagrams helps people to better understand complex systems, the work described in this thesis started out as research into finding an easy method for specifying access control configurations in the Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP).

SNMP was released as a draft standard in 1988 and became a full standard in 1990[7, 8, 9]. Since its release, SNMP has been the most commonly used protocol for monitoring network equipment in TCP/IP networks like the Internet and big intranets. Today, not only network devices like routers and switches support SNMP, but also most other devices that are connected to a network like printers and servers have built in support for it.

One weakness with the first and second version of SNMP is that they both share a very weak security model where the only authentication is a password sent in clear text over the network. This lack of security is one of the reasons why SNMP is most commonly used for monitoring and only rarely used for configuring devices.

When the work on this thesis started, the draft version of SNMPv3[10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18] had just been released. SNMPv3 supports proper security mecha-
anisms like strong authentication and access control. Many organizations and companies had complained about the weak security in SNMP and at that time many expected that SNMPv3 would increase the usage of SNMP for configuration as it could now be done in a secure way. In one of the first published books about SNMPv3[19] the author wrote in the preface:

“I have this image in my mind of SNMPv3 as a series of dark clouds that are rolling in over the horizon. Like it or not the storm is coming and you’d better be prepared for it”

So far this storm has not come, one reason being that operators do not want yet another system of user authentication to keep track of. The IETF has now started a working group called Integrated Security Model for SNMP (ISMS)[20], which works on extending SNMPv3 so that it can use external authentication systems like TACACS\(^1\) or RADIUS\(^2\).

The access control mechanism defined in SNMPv3 is the View-based Access Control Model (VACM). One of the goals when developing this model was that it should add as little overhead as possible when processing SNMP packets and an implementation should have a small footprint. The reason for these design goals was that SNMP is often implemented on network equipment with limited resources. One cost of the low overhead and small implementation footprint of VACM, is that it does not scale well for a large number of different users and fine grained access control.

The access control mechanisms in VACM are controlled through a MIB called the VACM MIB. The VACM MIB contains four tables that together decides if a user is allowed access to a managed object or not and what type of access he is granted. When these tables grow large, it can quickly become difficult to keep track of exactly who have access to what.

There are commercial tools available that implements a graphical interface to the VACM tables. This is however not enough since the managers controlling the access rights still have to manipulate the tables directly without any abstractions. This was the motivation behind this thesis. It started out as a work on defining a graphical modeling language that could be used for configuring the access control and security parameters in SNMPv3.

This research first resulted in the MIB View Modeling Language (MVML)[21]. MVML is a simple graphical notation with few symbols and relations specially designed for specifying MIB views for VACM. This language was found to be very easy to learn and use for small and medium sized networks.

To handle large networks with a high number of users and managed objects, the Policy-based MIB View Modeling Language (PMVML) was created. PMVML uses a policy based paradigm for specifying access control. The cost for being able to scale to large networks is an increase in complexity. PMVML doubled the number of available symbols and relations.

\(^1\)Terminal Access Controller Access Control System
\(^2\)Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service
1.1.3 A diagrammatic notation for modeling tree-based access control

As the work on implementing a prototype for MVML and PMVML progressed, it became apparent that the methods used could easily be made more generic and be applied to almost any application that store information in a tree-based structure. Some examples are SNMP, LDAP or even web pages on a HTTP server that stores the files in a tree-based file system.

The work presented in this thesis is therefore two general purpose graphical modeling languages for specifying access control for applications and systems that stores information in a tree based structure. The two languages presented are:

**Tree-based Access control Modeling Language (TACOMA)** a simple notation with few symbols and relations. It was developed with ease of use as the primary goal. It is however best suited for small and medium sized tasks with a limited number of users and objects.

**Policy Tree-based Access control Modeling Language (PTACOMA)** a more advanced notation which builds on TACOMA and doubles the number of symbols and relations. It can be used for large tasks with a high number of users and objects at the cost of being more difficult to learn and use. It is based on policies and together with a proper editor it allows for distributed specification of access control that can span multiple administrative domains.

Configuring access control in applications and systems can often be challenging. First of all each type of application or system usually have very different methods for doing the configuration and each method must be learned properly so that access to protected resources are not granted by mistake. Even systems of the same type but from different vendors can often have different methods for configuring the access control.

Instead of having to learn and master all these different methods for configuring access control, the graphical modeling languages described in this thesis can be used. Depending on the number of users and resources being controlled, administrators only have to learn one or two graphical modeling languages for configuring all applications and devices that stores information in tree based structures.

1.2 Outline of the thesis

The thesis consists of 8 chapters where the main work is described in chapter 4 through 7.

Chapter 2 gives a short introduction to various access control models.

Chapter 3 introduces the mathematical properties of trees and discusses access control in tree based structures.
1.2. OUTLINE OF THE THESIS

Chapter 4 presents the Tree-based Access Control Modeling Language. The syntax of the modeling language is described in detail and all symbols defined in the language are described. This chapter also describes an XML format that can be used for storing TACOMA diagrams and which also act as a formal definition of the structure of the language.

Chapter 5 describes the policy based version of TACOMA called PTACOMA. It starts by giving a short introduction to domains and policies and then follows the same outline as chapter 4 where it provides a detailed description of all available symbols. An XML format is also described and some simple examples on how the language can be used are given.

Chapter 6 compares the two languages defined in the thesis and discusses the strengths and weaknesses of each language. The chapter also provides a rationale for why both languages are useful.

Chapter 7 is a case study which shows how PTACOMA can be applied for specifying access control in SNMPv3 for a real world use case.

Chapter 8 summarizes the work presented in the thesis, provides some conclusions and discusses further work.

Appendix B is an overview of SNMP with focus on the security mechanisms of SNMPv3.

Appendix C describes a prototype implementation of TACOMA and PTACOMA for configuring access control in SNMP entities.
Chapter 2

Access Control

This chapter provides a short introduction to access control and gives an overview of various existing access control models.

2.1 Introduction

The task of access control in a system is to limit what authenticated users are allowed to access in the system. Figure 2.1 shows a high level abstraction of how access control works. A user, usually called subject, who wants to access a resource, usually called object, in the system is first authenticated by the authentication system. The task of the authentication system is to verify the identity of subjects trying to access the system. Subjects do not have to be real users, but can also be applications running on behalf of a user.

If the subject is properly identified, then the request is passed on to the access control system. The access control system checks with an authorization database to see if the user is allowed to access the object. There can be different types of access, like read, write, create etc., and each subject can have limited or no access to objects based on the type of access. To control which subject has access to which objects, a security administrator can update the authorization database.

![Figure 2.1: Access control](image-url)
The authorization database is rarely implemented as a centralized database, but instead it is often distributed where for example each object has a list of attributes deciding who can access it. It is also important to realize that in many systems, subjects can themselves be objects and be controlled by the access control system.

Research into access control models has been going on for many years. The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) was among the first to formalize access control models. This work was part of the Trusted Computer System Evaluation Criteria (TCSEC)[23]. In this document two different access control models are defined: Discretionary Access Control(DAC) and Mandatory Access Control (MAC).

It has later been shown that these two models do not always fulfill the needs of organizations outside the DoD and a lot of research have gone into defining a new access control model called Role-Based Access Control (RBAC)[24, 25, 26, 27, 28]. In 2004 RBAC was standardized by the InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards (INCITS).

### 2.2 Mandatory Access Control

Mandatory Access Control (MAC) was first specified by TCSEC and is heavily based on military requirements. MAC is a model that limits access to objects based on the sensitivity of the information contained in the object. The level of sensitivity is represented by a label. The sensitivity levels are hierarchical in nature and can typically be top secret, secret, confidential or unclassified. Subjects are assigned a security clearance and access to objects are granted or denied depending on the relation between clearance of the subject and the security label of the object.

#### 2.2.1 Lattice Model

A formal model of the MAC model using lattices was developed by Denning[29]. In this model there is a set of subjects \( \mathcal{S} \), objects \( \mathcal{O} \) and security levels \( \mathcal{L} \). All subjects and objects are then assigned a specific security level. To decide if a subject \( s \in \mathcal{S} \) can access an object \( o \in \mathcal{O} \) the model looks at the relationship between the security level, clearance, of the subject and the security level, classification, of the object. Access is permitted if the clearance dominates the classification, otherwise it is denied.

The work by Denning defines a relation \( \succeq \) which can be used to compare two security levels to decide if access is granted or denied. Assume that objects can have different sensitivity levels like top secret (TS), secret (S), confidential (C) or unclassified (U) which has a natural ordering so that \( TS > S > C > U \). The collection of object sensitivity is then \( \mathcal{R} = \{TS, S, C, U\} \). For any user that needs to access objects there will be a collection of necessary objects called compartments. Let this collection of compartments be \( \mathcal{T} \). We then have \( \mathcal{L} = \mathcal{R} \times \mathcal{T} \) and a security level \( l \in \mathcal{L} \) is a pair \( (l_\mathcal{R}, l_\mathcal{T}) \) where \( l_\mathcal{R} \in \mathcal{R} \) and \( l_\mathcal{T} \in \mathcal{T} \). The relation \( \succeq \) can then be defined as:
2.3 DISCRETIONARY ACCESS CONTROL

Table 2.1: Access matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$o_1$</th>
<th>$o_2$</th>
<th>$o_3$</th>
<th>$o_4$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$s_1$</td>
<td>read,write</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s_2$</td>
<td>read</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$s_3$</td>
<td>execute</td>
<td></td>
<td>read,execute</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

$(l \geq l') \iff (l_{\mathcal{S}} \geq l'_{\mathcal{S}})$ and $(l_{\mathcal{S}} \supseteq l'_{\mathcal{S}})$ for $l, l' \in \mathcal{L}$.

With this relation a subject $s \in \mathcal{S}$ with clearance $l_s \in \mathcal{L}$ is given access to an object $o \in \mathcal{O}$ with classification $l_o \in \mathcal{L}$ if and only if $l_s \geq l_o$.

2.3 Discretionary Access Control

Discretionary Access Control (DAC) is the second access control model that was specified in TCSEC. In DAC the owner of an object controls the access control permissions of it and it is up to the owner’s discretion to assign access permission to objects. DAC is a model often found in commercial systems, one example being UNIX file systems.

2.3.1 Access Matrix Model

Most systems that supports DAC uses an access matrix model which was first introduced by Lampson[30]. This model uses a matrix where the rows are indexed by the subjects $\mathcal{S}$ and the columns by the objects $\mathcal{O}$. All access permissions held by a user $s \in \mathcal{S}$ over an object $o \in \mathcal{O}$ is specified in the matrix entry $(s, o)$. Table 2.1 shows an example of an access matrix.

In this table we can for example see that the entry $(s_2, o_4)$ gives user $s_2$ read access to object $o_4$. In real world systems the access matrix will contain a lot of empty entries and can be very large. For this reason DAC is rarely implemented as a real matrix. The table is usually stored either by column or by row. Storing by columns means that each object has an Access Control List(ACL) associated with it and this list contains the access rights of each subject that are allowed access to the object. For example object $o_2$ would have an ACL like this: $(s_1, \text{read}), (s_4, \text{read})$.

Storing by row means that each subject has a list of capabilities that shows which objects the subject can access and the type of access that is allowed. Subject $s_3$ has the following capabilities: $(o_1, \text{execute}), (o_2, \text{read}), (o_4, \text{read execute})$.

2.4 Role Based Access Control

While many commercial systems have implemented DAC, many systems have also implemented some sort of role based access control for many years[31]. The basic
principal behind Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) [32] is that instead of giving access rights directly to subjects, they are given to roles and then subjects are assigned one or more roles to allow accessing objects.

RBAC is an advanced concept and requirements varies a lot among different systems. Because of this the RBAC standard is divided into four parts where only one of them is mandatory to support. The rest are optional and can be added if needed. The four parts are:

*Core RBAC* the essential aspects of RBAC that all systems must support.

*Hierarchical RBAC* adds support for hierarchical roles.

*SSD* Static Separation of Duty relations.

*DSI Dynamic Separation of Duty relations.*

### 2.4.1 Core RBAC

The Core RBAC model specifies element sets and relations that are mandatory for all systems that supports RBAC. The five basic data elements are:

* **USERS** a set of users that are allowed access to the system

* **ROLES** a set of roles that can be assigned to users

* **OBS** a set of objects that can be accessed by roles

* **OPS** a set of operations that can be performed on objects

* **PRMS** a set of permissions that allows specific operations to be applied to specific objects

In addition to these five basic data elements, there is also a set called SESSIONS. A session is a mapping between a user and one or more roles that are assigned to the user. This means that a user can have different roles depending on the current session.

One important aspect of RBAC is that permissions to access objects are always given to roles and never directly to a user. If one single user needs more access, a new role should be created and given access and the user should be assigned this new role. A use can have multiple roles.
2.5. **EXTENSIBLE ACCESS CONTROL MARKUP LANGUAGE**

2.4.2 **Hierarchical RBAC**

Hierarchical RBAC makes it possible to create a hierarchy of roles where one role can inherit access rules from other roles. Figure 2.2 shows an example of this. In this figure we can see that role $R_1$ inherits $R_0$ and role $R_3$ inherits both $R_1$ and $R_2$. The fact that a role $r_x$ inherits role $r_y$ means that all privileges of $r_y$ is also privileges of $r_x$[33].

While hierarchical RBAC is optional, it is a feature that is commonly used by products offering role based access control.

2.4.3 **Statics Separation of Duty relations**

Separation of duty is an important feature in many systems. The idea is that for critical tasks it should not be possible for one single person to have access to do everything and that the task has to be separated between two or more people.

With static separation of duty (SSD) there are rules that dictates which roles a user might be assigned. As an example a rule might dictate that a user that has been assigned role $r_0$ can not also be assigned role $r_1$.

2.4.4 **Dynamic Separation of Duty relations**

With dynamic separation of duty (DSD) the rules dictating which roles a user can have, can be dynamic and change according to which session the user uses. For example if a user is assigned role $r_0$, a DSD rule can say that the user can only take on role $r_1$ if he deactivates role $r_0$.

2.5 **Extensible Access Control Markup Language**

The Extensible Access Control Markup Language (XACML)[34, 35] is an XML based language standardized by Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) for specifying access control requirements. It is a
The standard documents describing XACML defines both the syntax for the policy language as well as a request and response format for querying policy systems. The core framework for XACML is shown in figure 2.3.

This figure shows the 6 usual steps in XACML for deciding if an action is permitted or not:

1. **Access request**: the access requester, for example an application, sends an access request to the policy enforcement point.

2. **XACML request**: the policy enforcement point (PEP) sends an XACML request message to the policy decision point (PDP). The format of this message is specified by XACML.

3. **Fetch policy**: the PDP will look at the XACML Request, identify the targeted resources of the request and fetch all policies that govern these resources.

4. **Fetch optional attributes**: a policy specified in XACML can include attributes and conditions that these attributes have to fulfill for the policy to be valid. This can for example be used for creating a policy saying that a user only has access as long as the load on the system is low.

5. **XACML response**: response back to the PEP can be: permit, deny, not applicable or indeterminate.

6. **Access resource**: if PEP receives back a permit response, access to the resource is carried out.
Chapter 3

Tree structures

This chapter provides an overview of the mathematical properties of trees. To be able to understand these properties better, the chapter starts by giving a general overview of graphs. The chapter ends by describing access control mechanisms in tree-based structures.

3.1 Tree structure fundamentals

Storing information in a tree structure is a method much used in computer science. Trees are a special form of graphs so to understand the mathematical properties of trees, one must first understand the basics of graphs.

3.1.1 Graphs

There are two main types of graphs, directed and undirected. Figure 3.1 shows an example of these two types of graphs where graph (a) is directed and (b) is undirected. This figure is used to define the various aspects and terminology for graphs. The overview of graphs in this section is not complete and only enough basic properties are given to be able to understand the description of trees given later in the chapter.

Figure 3.1: Directed and undirected graphs
The circles in figure 3.1 are called vertices and the lines between them are edges. In a directional graph, the edges are drawn using an arrow while undirectional graphs use a simple line. The common mathematical notation of a graph $G$ is $G = (V,E)$ where $V$ is a finite set of vertices and $E$ is a binary relation on $V$ specifying edges.

With this notation the graph (a) in the figure can be written as:

$$G = (\{1, 2, 3\}, \{(1,2), (2,2), (3,2)\}).$$

The only difference between a directed and an undirected graph, is that in an undirected graph the edge set $E$ consists of unordered pairs of vertices. A single edge of a graph is a set $\{u, v\}$ where $u, v \in V$. For undirected graphs $u \neq v$ also applies. The set $\{u, v\}$ is commonly written using the notation $(u, v)$.

A path in a graph $G = (V,E)$ from a vertex $u$ to a vertex $u'$ is a sequence of vertices, $<v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_k>$, where $u = v_0$, $u' = v_k$ and $(v_{i-1}, v_i) \in E$ for $i = 1, 2, \ldots, k$. The number of edges in the path is considered the length of the path. If all vertices in a path are distinct, the path is called simple.

In a simple graph, the path $<v_0, v_1, \ldots, v_k>$ forms a cycle if $v_0 = v_k$ and the path contains at least one edge. An acyclic graph is a graph that contains no cycles.

An undirected graph is connected if every pair of vertices is connected by a path.

### 3.1.2 Trees

There are different types of trees. A free tree as shown in figure 3.2 is a connected, acyclic, undirected graph. If an undirected graph is acyclic but disconnected, it is a forest as shown in figure 3.3. If $G = (V,E)$ is an undirected graph, the following properties for a free tree is true[36]:

1. $G$ is a free tree

2. Any two vertices in $G$ are connected by a unique simple path.

3. $G$ is connected, but if any edge is removed from $E$, the resulting graph is disconnected.

4. $G$ is connected, and $|E| = |V| - 1$

5. $G$ is acyclic, and $|E| = |V| - 1$

6. $G$ is acyclic, but if any edge is added to $E$, the resulting graph contains a cycle.

Figure 3.4 shows a rooted tree. In a rooted tree one of the vertices is distinguished from the others and is called the root of the tree. A vertex in a rooted tree is often referred to as a node. In figure 3.4 node 1 is the root of the tree.

In a rooted tree $T$ with root $r$, any node $y$ on the direct path from $r$ to $x$ is an ancestor of $x$. If $y$ is an ancestor of $x$, then $x$ is a descendant of $y$. In figure 3.4 node 9 is a descendant of node 2 and node 4 is an ancestor of both node 7 and 8.
Figure 3.2: Free tree

Figure 3.3: Forest

Figure 3.4: Rooted tree
CHAPTER 3. TREE STRUCTURES

By definition all nodes are both an ancestor and a descendant of itself. If \( x \neq y \) and \( y \) is an ancestor of \( x \), then \( y \) is a **proper ancestor** of \( x \) and \( x \) is a **proper descendant** of \( y \).

A **subtree** rooted at a node \( x \) is the tree rooted at \( x \) containing the descendants of \( x \). In figure 3.4 the subtree rooted at node 2 will include node 2, 5, 6 and 9.

On the path from root \( r \) of a tree \( T \), to a node \( x \), the last edge on the path is \((y,x)\). Here \( y \) is the parent of \( x \) and \( x \) is a child of \( y \). When two or more nodes have the same parent, they are **siblings**. The only node in \( T \) that does not have any parent is the root node \( r \). A node with no descendants is called a **leaf**.

The **degree** of a node \( x \) in a rooted tree \( T \) is the number of descendants that node \( x \) have. The length of the path from the root \( r \) to a node \( x \) is called the **depth** of \( x \) in \( T \). In figure 3.4 node 6 have a depth of 2.

### 3.2 Access control in tree structures

Many applications that store information in tree based structures need access control to be able to restrict access to certain nodes or subtrees in the main tree structure. This thesis will use a notation for specifying access control where access rules are used to either include or exclude nodes or subtrees from the main tree.

The collection of access rules, \( R \), that specifies which nodes a user has access to in a tree can be written as \( R = (T, A) \) where \( T = (V,E) \) is the tree and \( A \) is a set of tuples of the type \( \{N,I,S\} \), where \( N \) is a node \( N \in V, I \in \{i,e\} \) specifies if a node is included or excluded and \( S \in \{x,c,n\} \) specifies if access is granted to the entire subtree rooted at \( N \), the children of \( N \) or just the node \( N \).

With this notation it is always assumed that all descendants of a node \( N \) is included when \( S \in \{s,c\} \). If only proper descendants are wanted, then two rules will have to be specified. One that includes all descendants and one that removes the parent node so that only proper descendants are left.

Figure 3.5 shows a tree \( T \) where user \( U \) has access to node 2, 4, 5 and 6. This can be written as \( R_U = (T, A) \) where

\[
T = (\{(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9),\{(1,2),(1,3),(1,4),(2,5),(2,6),(5,9),(4,7),(4,8)\}\) and \( A = \{(2,i,c),(4,i,n)\} \).

Given a function \( f(R) \) that returns all nodes that \( R \) provides access to, \( R' = (T',A') \) is equal to \( R = (T,A) \) if and only if \( f(R') = f(R) \). For figure 3.5 it is also possible to write \( R'_U = (T,A') \) where \( A' = \{(2,i,s),(9,e,n),(4,i,n)\} \). In this example \( R' = R \) because \( f(R') = f(R) = \{2,4,5,6\} \).

It is often advisable to optimize the number of entries in the set \( A \). The set \( A' \) is an optimization of \( A \) if \( f(A) = f(A') \) and \( |A'| < |A| \). \( A' \) is fully optimized if there do not exist an \( A'' \) where \( f(A'') = f(A') \) and \( |A''| < |A'| \).

For many uses of the modeling languages described in this thesis, the set \( T \) will change dynamically and not be fully known when specifying access control. The reminder of the thesis will therefor mostly concentrate on the content of \( A \) when talking about access rules for a specific user \( U \). In addition to this, access control rules will
be tied to specific entities. If talking about the access rules for a specific user \( U \) on a specific entity \( E \) the notation \( U_E = A \) will be used. The complete collection of access rules for a user, \( U \), is then the set containing the rules for all the entities, \( U = \{ U_{E1}, U_{E2}, \ldots, U_{En} \} \).

**Extended object identifiers**

In the notation above the various nodes in the tree structures have been addressed by its number. In real world situations, nodes in tree structures can have similar names and will have to be addressed by a name that traverses the tree from the root node so that each node can be uniquely identified. To accomplish this, this thesis introduces the concept of extended object identifiers (EOIDs). EOIDs are a superset of normal object identifiers (OIDs). Normal OIDs are an ASN.1 data type that can be used as reference to data objects and are ordered lists of non-negative numbers. In Internet RFCs[37, 38] OIDs are usually written using a character string where the numbers are separated by a dot. For example the OID “1.2.5.9” points to node 9 in figure 3.5.

Extended OIDs introduced in this thesis are a superset of normal OIDs as they are not limited to only simple non-negative numbers. An EOID is simply defined as a string that uniquely identifies one or more nodes in a tree structure. The exact syntax for an EOID will depend on the application or system that is being referenced.

For example in an SNMP environment an EOID that points to the system name could be all of the following:

- \( .1.3.6.1.2.1.1.5.0 \)
- \( .iso.org.dod.internet.mgmt.mib-2.system.sysName.0 \)
- \( SNMPv2-MIB::sysName.0 \)
- \( sysName.0 \)
The last entry only defines a unique OID if there exists no other nodes with the name SysName.

An EOID can also contain wild cards for pointing to multiple nodes. For example the EOID “1.4.*” will point to both node 7 and 8 in figure 3.4.

In an XML environment an EOID could follow the XPATH syntax to represent one or more nodes.
This chapter provides a detailed description of the Tree-based Access control Model-
ing Language (TACOMA). It starts by describing the main components needed to use TACOMA for access control configuration, describes in detail the symbols and rela-
tions used in TACOMA and gives some examples on how the language can be used. The chapter ends by giving an overview of an XML schema that helps to formaly define the TACOMA language.

4.1 TACOMA overview

The Tree-based Access Control Modeling Language is a general purpose graphical notation that can be used for specifying and configuring access control in systems that store information in a tree based structure. Figure 4.1 shows the TACOMA framework and the various components that are needed for using TACOMA to con-
figure the access control in a system. Two goals when designing TACOMA were to make it simple to use and easy to implement support for new applications. So in this figure only the four boxes with gray background have to be specifically designed for the application that TACOMA is being used to specify access control rules for.

All other boxes are generic code or formats that are common for all use of TACOMA. Of the four boxes that have to be implemented specifically for an application, the “Tree generator” is only needed if the number of access control entries is being optimized and the “Application Attribute XML” schema is only needed if application specific attributes are being verified using an XML schema.

4.1.1 Editors

An editor is used to draw TACOMA diagrams. An example of a TACOMA diagram is shown in figure 4.2. This is a relatively simple diagram where one user, $U1$, is
Figure 4.1: TACOMA framework
4.1. TACOMA OVERVIEW

given access to the children of node 1.2 and the node 1.4 in entity E1. This gives the following set of access control rules: \( U_{1E1} = \{(1.2, c, i), (1.4, n, i)\} \).

If this diagram is applied to the tree \( T \) shown in figure 4.3, the user \( U1 \) would be granted access to nodes 2, 4, 5 and 6 or using the notation introduced in the previous chapter we have \( f(T, U_{1E1}) = \{2, 4, 5, 6\} \).

![TACOMA diagram](image1)

**Figure 4.2: TACOMA diagram**

![Tree structure](image2)

**Figure 4.3: Tree structure**

The editor used for drawing TACOMA diagrams can be specially designed for this task in which case it will support storing the diagrams directly in the TACOMA XML format. It is however also possible to use a standard UML editor which stores diagrams in the XMI[39] format. An XSLT schema can then be used to translate XMI files to TACOMA XML files.

The advantage of being able to use a standard UML editor is that there already exist good editors on the market, both commercial and open source. Many UML
editors also have good support for teamwork where multiple people can work on the same diagrams. This is an advantage for large systems where different administrators can be responsible for different parts of a TACOMA diagram.

### 4.1.2 TACOMA Parser

The TACOMA parser takes a TACOMA XML file as input, verifies the XML file against the TACOMA XML schema and generates a list of access rules for each user and entity in the diagram. These access control rules are then forwarded to the TACOMA ACL optimizer.

The parser can also use an application specific XML schema to further validate the TACOMA diagram. Since TACOMA has been designed as a generic language usable for specifying access control for a wide range of applications and systems, most attributes in the language are generic. An application specific XML schema can put further restrictions on the values of attributes.

### 4.1.3 TACOMA ACL optimizer

The list of access rules generated by the TACOMA Parser will often not be optimized when it comes to having the minimum number of access rules. The goal of the TACOMA ACL optimizer is to take the list of access control rules and for each user and entity find the fully optimized $U_E$. To do this the optimizer needs the full description of the tree $T$ that the access control rules are applied to.

It is not always possible to get full specification of the tree $T$ since $T$ often changes dynamically and therefor the TACOMA ACL optimizer will not always be able to fully optimize $U_E$. In many cases it will however be possible to do some optimization even with a dynamic tree $T$.

### 4.1.4 Tree Generator

The Tree Generator provides the description of the tree $T$ that the TACOMA ACL optimizer needs. This generator must be specifically implemented for the application that TACOMA is used to specify access control rules for.

For example if TACOMA is used for SNMP then this tree generator would be a small application that can parse SNMP SMI documents and generate the tree structure based on them.

### 4.1.5 ACL Configurator

The ACL Configurator also needs to be implemented specifically for the application that TACOMA is used to model access control rules for. The ACL Configurator receives the list of access control rules and uses them to do the appropriate configuration needed to implement the access control according to the TACOMA diagram.
4.2 Notation

The Tree-based Access Control Modeling Language is a relatively simple graphical notation with only two relations and eight symbols.

Figure 4.4 shows all the symbols and relations defined in TACOMA.

![TACOMA symbols and relations](image)

**Figure 4.4: TACOMA symbols and relations**

4.2.1 Diagrams

In TACOMA two different types of diagrams are used. One is the top level diagrams that collect all symbols that define the access rights to users for a specific type of access like read-only, read-write etc. A top level diagram might contain one or more group symbols and each group symbol also have a group diagram attached to them where the content of the group is defined\(^1\).

If the access rules for a user are different for different access types, there will be multiple main diagrams with one diagram for each access type. If the access rules are the same for multiple access types, only one main diagram is needed.

4.2.2 Relations

There are only two relations defined in TACOMA, include and exclude. The include relation is used to include nodes in the access rights while the exclude relation is used for excluding them.

---

\(^1\)See the description of the group symbol for more details.
4.2.3 Symbols

The description of each available symbol in TACOMA is divided into two sections. The first section provides a general introduction to the semantics of the symbol and gives an example on how to use it. The second section describes the attributes of the symbol. Some attributes are common for all symbols and the description of these attributes are repeated for each symbol so that the description of all symbols is complete without having to reference a description of another symbol.

The description of attributes is also divided into two parts. First there is a general description of what the attribute is used for and then there is a formal definition of the syntax of the value(s) the attribute can be assigned. This formal definition is written using the syntax of XML Schema[40]. Many attributes are optional and the names of these are written using an italic font.

User

The user symbol represents one or more users that are allowed access to an entity. If the user symbol represents multiple users then all the users will have the same access rights. A user can not belong to more than one user symbol in the same main diagram.

It is possible for a user symbol to include or exclude user rights of other users. Figure 4.5 shows one example of this. In this figure user $U1$ will have the following access rights: $U1 = U2 + U3 - U4$. Assume that each user has access to some nodes in the tree structure shown in figure 4.3 so that $f(U2) = \{5, 9\}$, $f(U3) = \{6\}$ and $f(U4) = \{9\}$. User $U1$ would then have access to $f(U1) = \{5, 6\}$.

![Figure 4.5: TACOMA user](image)

Only a single instance of the same user symbol can have any children. All other user symbols that references the same user symbol instance are not allowed any children. Figure 4.6 shows a TACOMA diagram that is not legal because user symbol $U1$ has two instances that both have children. To be a legal TACOMA diagram it
4.2. NOTATION

would have to be changed as shown in figure 4.7 where only one single instance has children and the second instance simply refers to it.

![Diagram](image)

Figure 4.6: Illegal TACOMA user symbol example

This restriction is enforced so that there will only be one single place where the access rules of a user is specified.

**Attributes**

id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a TACOMA document.

```xml
<element name="id" type="ID"/>
```

name name of user. No formal meaning.

```xml
<element name="name" type="string"/>
```

`securityName, password, certificate` these attributes are used to specify the access control specific username of a user and password or certificate. This username is the name a user must use to authenticate himself to an entity when he want to access it.
Passwords will normally only be used to set a default password when creating new users through TACOMA. When using a certificate, the certificate will, depending on the implementation, either contain the certificate itself or a pointer to where the ACL Configurator can get hold of it.

```xml
<element name="securityName">
  <complexType>
    <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
        <attribute name="password" type="string" use="optional"/>
        <attribute name="certificate" type="string" use="optional"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>
```

**all** if this attribute is set, then the user symbol represents all users defined in the TACOMA diagram.

```xml
<element name="all">
  <simpleType>
    <restriction base="string">
      <enumeration value="yes"/>
      <enumeration value="no"/>
    </restriction>
  </simpleType>
</element>
```
attr extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

Entity

The entity symbol specifies which entity or entities a user has access to. An entity identifies where the access control rules should be configured. It can be a PC, a router or any other type of equipment where the access control needs to be configured. The entity symbol can also represent software. For example if a server is running two HTTP servers, the entity symbol must uniquely identify which server that should be configured.

If there are multiple entity symbols in a TACOMA subtree, the top entity symbol will act as a filter including or excluding only access control rights for that specific entity. An example of this is shown in figure 4.8. In this diagram user U2 is given access to node 1 for both entity E1 and E2. User U1 then includes the access right from user U2 through an entity symbol E1. This means that user U1 will only include the access rights belonging to entity E1 from user U2. The following access control rules apply to this diagram: \( U2_{E1} = \{(1,i,n)\}, U2_{E2}\{(1,i,n)\} \) and \( U1_{E1} = \{(1,i,n)\} \).

It is also possible to explicitly remove an entity from the access rules as shown in figure 4.9. In this figure we can see that user U1 includes the access rights from user U2 and then excludes entity E2. This means that user U1 inherits all the access rules from user U2 but then removes all rules related to entity E2. This will result in the exact same access control rules as the previous figure 4.8.

Figure 4.10 shows another important aspect of the entity symbol. In this figure user U1 includes the access rights of user U2 and adds the node 1.3. There is no entity symbol before the node 1.3, so this means that the node will be added to all entities already included in the access rights at deeper levels of the TACOMA diagram. We then get \( U1_{E1} = \{(1,i,n),(1.3,i,n)\} \) and \( U1_{E2} = \{(1,i,n),(1.3,i,n)\} \).
Figure 4.8: TACOMA entity
Figure 4.9: Exclude TACOMA entity
Figure 4.10: Global TACOMA entity
4.2. NOTATION

Attributes

id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a TACOMA document.

<element name="id" type="ID"/>

name name of entity. No formal meaning.

<element name="name" type="string"/>

addr Name or IP address of entity. If the application needs more than the address to uniquely identify the entity, additional application specific attributes should be used.

<element name="addr" type="string"/>

attr extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

<element name="attr">
  <complexType>
    <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
        <attribute name="name" type="string" use="required"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>

Node

The node symbol is used to include or exclude a single node in the access rights. To identify the exact node within the tree structure an extended object identifier (EOID) is used. The use of a node symbol has already been shown in figure 4.8.

Attributes

id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a TACOMA document.

<element name="id" type="ID"/>

name name of node symbol. No formal meaning.
eoid  EOID of the node. The exact syntax of an EOID depends on the system TACOMA is being used for configuring access control for. The EOID is therefor defined as a string.

attr  extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

Children
The children symbol includes or excludes the children of a node in the access rights. An EOID is used to identify the parent node.

Figure 4.11 shows a TACOMA diagram using a children symbol. This figure simply includes the children of node 1.2 in entity E1 which gives the following access rule: \( U_{1E1} = \{1.2,i,c\} \). Applying this access rule to the tree structure \( T \) shown in figure 4.3 gives access to the following nodes: \( f(T,U_{1E1}) = \{2,5,6\} \).

Attributes
id  Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a TACOMA document.

name  name of children symbol. No formal meaning.

eoid  EOID of the parent node of the children. The exact syntax of an EOID depends on the system TACOMA is being used for configuring access control for. The EOID is therefor defined as a string.
4.2. NOTATION

Figure 4.11: TACOMA children symbol

<element name="name" type="string"/>

<element name="attr">
  <complexType>
    <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
        <attribute name="name" type="string" use="required"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>

Subtree

The subtree symbol includes or excludes a subtree in the access rights. An EOID is used to identify the root node of the subtree. Just as with the children symbol, if only proper descendants should be included the root node of the subtree should explicitly be excluded.

Figure 4.12 shows an example on how to use the subtree symbol. This figure provides the user $U_1$ access to the subtree with root node 1.2 in entity $E_1$, $U_1E_1 =$
{1.2, i, s}. Applying this access rule to the tree structure $T$ shown in figure 4.3 gives access to the following nodes: $f(T, U_{2E1}) = \{2, 5, 6, 9\}$.

![Diagram of TACOMA subtree symbol](image)

**Figure 4.12: TACOMA subtree symbol**

**Attributes**

- **id**: Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in the TACOMA document.
  
  ```xml
  <element name="id" type="ID"/>
  ```

- **name**: name of children symbol. No formal meaning.
  
  ```xml
  <element name="name" type="string"/>
  ```

- **eoid**: EOID of the parent node of the children. The exact syntax of an EOID depends on the system TACOMA is being used for configuring access control for. The EOID is therefore defined as a string.
  
  ```xml
  <element name="eoid" type="string"/>
  ```

- **attr**: extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.
  
  ```xml
  <element name="attr" type="string"/>
  ```
### Table row

The table row symbol represents a row in a virtual table. Using tables is a common method for organizing data but the exact method for representing a table in a tree structure can vary depending on the system that is being configured.

In SNMP, tables are a very common. The EOID for a cell in a generic table is written as $T.C.I$ where $T$ is the EOID for the table, $C$ is the column and $I$ is the index of the row. To give access to a specific row in a table, $T$ and $I$ will be constant and $C$ will be a wildcard so that all columns of the table is included.

Figure 4.13 shows how table 4.1 can be represented in a tree structure in SNMP. In this figure node $T$ is the base node for the table, nodes $C1$, $C2$ and $C3$ are the columns of the table and nodes $I1$, $I2$ and $I3$ are the index values representing the rows. All nodes with the same index belongs to the same row. This is illustrated in the figure by nodes with gray background which all belong to the same row.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>B</th>
<th>C1</th>
<th>C2</th>
<th>C3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>I3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 4.1: Table example

![Figure 4.13: Table tree structure](image-url)
Figure 4.14 shows an example of how to use the table row symbol. This figure simply includes one row in table $T$ from entity $E_1$. Assuming that the table row symbol has an attribute $\text{index} = I_2$, the diagram gives the following access rules: $U_{1E_1} = \{T \ast I_2, i, n\}$. Applied to table $T$ in figure 4.13 this rule would provide access to $f(T, U_{1E_1}) = \{T.C1.I_2, T.C2.I_2, T.C3.I_2\}$.

![TACOMA table row symbol diagram]

**Figure 4.14: TACOMA table row symbol**

**Attributes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>id</td>
<td>Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in the TACOMA document.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>name</td>
<td>name of table symbol. No formal meaning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eoid</td>
<td>EOID of the table. The exact syntax of an EOID depends on the system TACOMA is being used for configuring access control for. The EOID is therefore defined as a string.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
index  index of the row in the table. Uses the same syntax as an EOID.

<element name="index" type="string"/>

attr  extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

<element name="attr">
  <complexType>
    <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
        <attribute name="name" type="string" use="required"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>

Table column

This symbol is almost identical to Table row except that it represents a table column instead of a row. For some applications like SNMP, this symbol is redundant since table columns can be addressed using a simple subtree symbol. Other applications or systems might represent a table in a different manner in the tree structure and this symbol might be needed to be able to represent a table column.

Attributes

id  Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in the TACOMA document.

<element name="id" type="ID"/>

name  name of table symbol. No formal meaning.

<element name="name" type="string"/>

eoid  EOID of the table. The exact syntax of en EOID depends on the system TACOMA is being used for configuring access control for. The EOID is therefor defined as a string.

<element name="eoid" type="string"/>

index  index of the column in the table. Uses the same syntax as an EOID.
attr extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

```xml
<element name="attr">
  <complexType>
    <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
        <attribute name="name" type="string" use="required"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>
```

**Group**

The group symbol is used for grouping together related symbols to make diagrams easier to read and to be able to reuse parts of a TACOMA diagram. A group symbol can have its own diagram attached to it where the content of the group is drawn.

Figure 4.15 shows an example on how the group symbol can be used. In this figure user U1 is given access to everything that is defined inside the group G. User U2 is given access to everything in group G except node 1.4. The contents of group G is shown in figure 4.16. With this figure we get the following access rights: $U_{1E_1} = \{(1.2, i, c), (1.4, i, n)\}, U_{1E_2} = \{(1, i, n)\}, U_{2E_1} = \{(1.2, i, c)\}$ and $U_{2E_2} = \{(1, i, n)\}$.

Figure 4.17 shows how the diagram in figure 4.15 would look if the contents of group G was drawn directly without the use of a group symbol.

![Figure 4.15: TACOMA group symbol](image-url)
4.3 EOID FUNCTIONS

Attributes

id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in the TACOMA document.

<element name="id" type="ID"/>

name name of group. No formal meaning.

<element name="name" type="string"/>

attr extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

<element name="attr">
  <complexType>
    <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
        <attribute name="name" type="string" use="required"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>

4.3 EOID functions

To be able to create more generic access control rules it is possible to use various type of functions inside an EOID. The table row symbol is a very good example on how
this can useful. In this symbol it is possible to use some predefined functions when specifying the index attribute of the table row symbol. The predefined functions will then return all or part of the EO-ID used as index for the row. The exact functions available will depend on the implementation of TACOMA and which type of application access control is being configured for. Three functions that can commonly be used are:

userID() many systems have a unique integer, user ID, that identifies users for the system. This function returns the user ID of users.

userSecurityName() returns the security name of a user.

attr(attrName) returns the user attributes with the name attrName.

As an example on how the above functions can be used, assume that user U1 in figure 4.14 has a user id of 1000. The table row symbol has the following EO-ID as an index value: 1.2.userID().3. The full EO-ID that will be used for user U1 in the access rights will then be 1.2.1000.3.

If the function used in the index returns multiple values, one row for each value will be included. This can for example be when a user has more than one instance of an attribute used by the attr(attrName) function.

The userSecurityName() and attr() functions are examples of functions that can be processed by the TACOMA parser while the userID() function must be processed by the application specific ACL Configurator.

4.4 Hierarchy

The example diagrams that have already been shown clearly demonstrates the hierarchical nature of TACOMA. TACOMA itself follows a tree-based structure to specify access control. In this hierarchy it is easy to encounter situations where access control rules at different layers in the hierarchy are in conflicts. Rules at one level may provide access to some resources while rules at another level can deny access to the same resources. The general rule in TACOMA is that access control rules should be calculated using a bottom-up approach where the access rules for each user symbol is calculated by recursively going deeper in the tree to find the end nodes and then calculate the access rules in a bottom-up fashion.

Rules at higher levels supersedes rules at lower levels and if there are any discrepancies at the same level, rules excluding access rights have priority over include rules.

Figure 4.18 shows an example of some conflicts. To decide the access rules for user U1 and U2 in this diagram we start at the end nodes and on each level include rules are applied first and then exclude since they have higher priority. User U2 first includes the entity symbol E1 which again includes the subtree symbol 1.2. This provides the access rule \( U2E1 = \{1.2, i, s\} \). User U2 then excludes the subtree 1.2.5 from
all entities already included in the access rights, $U2_{E1} = (\{1.2, i, s\}, \{1.2.5, e, s\})$. If these two rules are applied to the tree structure $T$ in figure 4.3, then user $U2$ has access to the following nodes: $f(T, U2) = \{2, 5, 6, 9\} - \{5, 9\} = \{2, 6\}$.

User $U1$ starts by including all the access rights from $U2$, then includes node 1.2.5 and excludes the children of node 1.2:

$$U1_{E1} = (\{1.2, i, s\}, \{1.2.5, e, s\}, \{1.2.5, i, n\}, \{1.2, e, e\}).$$

Since exclude have higher priority than include, user $U1$ do not have access to any nodes since: $f(T, U1) = \{2, 6\} + \{5\} - \{2, 5, 6\} = \{\}$.

### 4.5 User administration

It is possible to also let TACOMA create and delete users in a system. If this is done, then all creating and deleting of user accounts should be done through TACOMA and not through other mechanisms.

To create a user it is enough to just add a new user symbol where either a password or certificate is added. The ACL Configurator will detect that the new user does not exist in the system being configured, and will then automatically create a new user. System specific attributes for the user, like full name, email address etc. can be added to the user symbol using one or more attr attributes.

If TACOMA is also set up to delete users, then it is enough to just delete all references of a user in the TACOMA diagram. The ACL Configurator should retrieve
4.6  RBAC support

TACOMA was designed to be as simple as possible to learn and use and the number of symbol was therefore kept to a minimum. Because of this there is no inherent support for role based access control.

It is however fully possible to use the concept of roles by taking full advantage of the group symbol in TACOMA. By following a design paradigm for TACOMA diagrams where users are never given direct access to any resources except through group symbols, then the group symbols will act as roles and by assigning the group to a use symbol through an include relation, the user is assigned this role.

4.7  XACML support

It is fully possible to create simple XACML policies based on TACOMA diagrams. Instead of letting the “TACOMA ACL Configurator” module configure access control directly in an entity, it can create a set of simple XACML policies. It is however not possible to take advantage of the more advanced features of XACML like checking the values of attributes when policies are evaluated or forming policy hierarchies.

4.8  Formal specification

The description so far of TACOMA has been an informal specification of the language to help understand how the language works and how it can be used. A more formal specification that defines how the various symbols can be connected to each other are provided as a metamodel and as an XML schema. These two formal specifications are able to model most aspects of the TACOMA language.

4.8.1  Meta model

Figure 4.19 shows the metamodel for the TACOMA language. What this metamodel shows is that you can have two types of diagrams, MainDiagram and GroupDiagram, and both diagrams can contain both symbols and relations. At least one symbol in each diagram is required.

Further more the metamodel shows that only group symbols without a diagram and user symbols can have both include and exclude relations originating from them. The entity symbol can only have include relation from it and all symbols can have both include and exclude relations to them.

The model also shows that a user symbol that references another user symbol can not have any children.
Figure 4.19: TACOMA Meta Model
4.8.2 XML Schema

As a help to the meta model, there is also an XML schema that formally describes the TACOMA language. This schema puts some further restrictions on the language that the meta model is not capable of modeling.

The most important aspect of the XML schema is that it sets requirements for unique IDs of all symbols and requires that reference symbols are actually referencing an existing instance of the symbol.

Reading the schema can also help users further understand the structure of TACOMA diagrams. The XML Schema for TACOMA can be found in Appendix D.

4.8.3 Shortcomings of the formal specification

While the meta model in combination with the XML schema manages to formally specify most aspects of the TACOMA language, there are some issues that are not possible to formally specify using these methods.

One issue is dependency loops. In figure 4.20 we can see that user $U_1$ includes the access rights of user $U_2$ at the same time as user $U_2$ includes the rights of $U_1$. It can be argued that in a situation like this, both users should simply be assigned the same access rights so that we get $U_1_{E_1} = U_2_{E_1} = \{(1.2.6, i, n), (1.4, i, n)\}$. Doing this can however quickly lead to inconsistency, especially when the dependency loops occurs in different diagrams, so it is considered illegal in TACOMA to have dependency loops.

![Figure 4.20: TACOMA dependency loop](image)

Another less sever problem with the formal specification of TACOMA, is that both the meta model and the XML schema permits diagrams that do not make any
sense as demonstrated in figure 4.21. In this diagram we can see user U1 assigned access to node 1.2 but since there is no entity symbol the diagram does not actually provide access to any resources.

![Diagram](image)

Figure 4.21: TACOMA diagram without entity symbol

### 4.9 TACOMA XML format

The following XML document shows how figure 4.15 and 4.16 would be written when adhering to the TACOMA XML Schema defined in appendix D.

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1" ?>
<tacoma xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
    xmlns="http://www.oslebo.com/thesis/tacoma"
    xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.oslebo.com/thesis/tacoma tacoma.xsd"
    version="1.0">
    <delimiter>.</delimiter>
    <wildcard>*</wildcard>
    <escape>\</escape>

    <allSymbols>
      <user id="U1">
        <name>U1</name>
        <securityName password="pass1">u1</securityName>
      </user>
      <user id="U2">
        <name>U2</name>
        <securityName password="pass2">u2</securityName>
      </user>
      <groupWithDiagram id="G" diagram="GD">
        <name>G</name>
      </groupWithDiagram>
    </allSymbols>
</tacoma>
```
<entity id="E1">
  <name>E</name>
  <address>10.0.0.1</address>
</entity>
<entity id="E2">
  <name>E</name>
  <address>10.0.0.2</address>
</entity>
<children id="C1.2">
  <name>C1.2</name>
  <eoid>1.2</eoid>
</children>
<node id="N1.4">
  <name>N1.4</name>
  <eoid>1.4</eoid>
</node>
<node id="N1">
  <name>N1</name>
  <eoid>1</eoid>
</node>
</allSymbols>
<mainDiagram id="m">
  <accessType>read</accessType>
  <name>Read Access</name>
  <symbols>
    <symbol ref="U1"/>
    <symbol ref="U2"/>
    <symbol ref="G"/>
    <symbol ref="N1.4"/>
  </symbols>
  <relations>
    <include>
      <from>U1</from>
      <to>G</to>
    </include>
    <include>
      <from>U2</from>
      <to>G</to>
    </include>
    <exclude>
      <from>U2</from>
      <to>N1.4</to>
    </exclude>
  </relations>
</mainDiagram>
Figure 4.22 shows the overall structure of the XML document. The root element of the document is “TACOMA” which contains some attributes that define the XML Schema that should be used for validating the document.

The first tag is called allSymbols and contains the definition of all symbols found in all diagrams in the TACOMA XML file. So under this tag we can find the users $U_1$ and $U_2$, the group symbol $G$, the entities $E_1$ and $E_2$, the children symbol 1.2 and the two nodes 1.4 and 1.

Next follows the two diagrams, the main diagram and the group diagram. Both diagram has the same structure with first one tag called symbols which contains one reference for each symbol in the diagram to symbols defined under allSymbols. Next follows the tag relations which contain one entry for each include and exclude relation that are part of the diagram.

If there had been other access types with different access rights, there would have been multiple “mainDiagram” elements.
Figure 4.22: TACOMA XML structure
Chapter 5

Policy Tree-based Access control Modeling Language

This chapter provides a detailed description of the Policy Tree-based Access control Modeling Language (PTACOMA). It starts by providing a general introduction to the concepts of domains and policies. It then describes the main components that are needed to use PTACOMA and how they differ from the ones used in TACOMA. All symbols and relations used in PTACOMA are described in detail and several examples on how the language can be used are provided together with a detailed description of the PTACOMA metamodel.

5.1 Introduction to domains and policies

This is just a general introduction that describes the fundamental principals behind domains and policies. For more detailed information about this subject see references [41, 42, 43, 44].

5.1.1 Policy based management

In large networks there can be thousands of entities and users that have to be managed in various ways. Manually configuring these large numbers of entities and users is not feasible. One common method to handle this is to use policy based management.

In [41] a policy is defined as a rule that governs the choice in behavior of a system. Policies are usually divided into two main categories, obligation policies and authorization policies. Obligation policies are used to define management actions that must or must not be performed, such as when to do backup, what to do when creating new users or installing new equipment etc.

Authorization policies defines which operations users are allowed or not allowed to perform on managed entities and they can control which information should be
available to users. This means that authorization policies are used for specifying the access control setup in entities.

A third category of policies is also sometimes used [42], namely security policies. Security policies are special types of obligation policies used for defining what to do when certain security incidents occurs, for example what should be done when a user tries more than three times to type in correct password, what happens when a DOS attack is discovered, etc.

Policies can be abstract high level policies defined by business goals or various agreements like service level agreements or they can be low level policies describing certain low level entities. Usually policies start out as high level and then they are refined into low level that can be mapped to specific technologies. This refinement is not easy since one main goal of policy based management is automatic configuration of entities based on the policies. To help with this a lot of work have been done to define languages that can be used for specifying policies in a formal way. A good overview of some of these languages is given in [42].

5.1.2 Policy attributes

Regardless of which level a policy is on, high or low level, it is commonly agreed that they all have some basic attributes in common:

- **Modality** specifies the type of policy. In [41] the following modes are defined: positive authorization, negative authorization, positive obligation and negative obligation. Positive and negative authorization policies will permit or deny access to resources while positive and negative obligation policies will require or deter some kind of action.

- **Subjects** specifies which users or subjects that this policy applies to. This means the users that are authorized or obligated to do what the policy specifies.

- **Targets** specifies the managed resources at which the policy is directed. For authorization policies the targets specifies which resources that should be granted or denied access to.

- **Action** this is also sometimes called the policy goal. It specifies which type of action that is controlled by the policy. The action can for example be read a file, write to a file etc. It can often be difficult to map high level policies to specific actions.

- **Constraints** this attribute places additional restriction on the applicability of the policy. Some typical constraints can be to limit the validity of policies to specific times of the day, to allow access only as long as the resource is not too heavily loaded etc.

To avoid having to specify policies for each managed entity or each user, subjects and targets are usually expressed using domains, roles and types. A domain is a grouping
of resources for management purposes. This grouping can be based on functionality, physical location etc. Roles are used for users or subjects and represents the responsibilities that a user have. Type is used for managed entities and describes the capabilities of an entity. Both users and entities can have several roles or types.

5.1.3 Policy servers

As already stated, one of the ideas behind policy based management is to avoid having to configure all managed entities manually. To manage this, various types of policy servers are often used. A policy server is configured by the manager with the correct policies, and then it is the policy server that configures the managed entities on behalf of the manager. Figure 5.1 shows an example of how this works.

When a new managed entity or user is added, the policy server should ideally be able to detect this automatically and then configure the entities as necessary to fulfill the current policies. How this is done in real world networks depends heavily on the applications and services that are being managed.

Managed entities can also have built in support for policy servers and query them in real time for access control decisions. One example of this is the combination of the Policy Enforcement Point and the Policy Decision Point in XACML.

Policy servers are also well suited for supporting policies with dynamic constraints. For example it is possible to create a policy that says users are only allowed access as long as the load of the system is under a certain level.

5.2 PTACOMA overview

The Policy Tree-based Access Control Modeling Language is a version of TACOMA that scales better to higher numbers of managed entities, users and nodes in the tree
structures. Figure 5.2 shows the necessary components for using PTACOMA to configure access control. Several of the components are the same as for TACOMA and only the boxes with gray background are different. An editor is used to draw PTACOMA diagrams and just as for TACOMA it is possible to use standard UML editors to draw the diagrams. The XML format used to store diagrams is different compared to TACOMA so that it is able to store the extra symbols and relations that are available in the PTACOMA language.

The PTACOMA parser takes a PTACOMA XML file and generates a list of access control rules that are sent to the same ACL Optimizer that is used with TACOMA. The ACL Configurator is also the same in both languages. This means that if support for a specific application or system has been implemented for TACOMA, the same implementation can also be used with PTACOMA.

PTACOMA also has one new optional module called Policy Configurator. Since PTACOMA is a policy based language it can be used for configuring policy based systems directly. If it is used for this, PTACOMA diagrams should not be converted to access control lists for the ACL Configurator but instead policies should be sent directly to the Policy Configurator.

5.2.1 Policy-based paradigm

The main advantage of PTACOMA compared to TACOMA is scalability. To achieve better scalability PTACOMA uses a policy-based paradigm and all policies are low level positive or negative authorization policies. Figure 5.3 shows an example of a PTACOMA diagram. In this figure there is one single policy, P1, that grants access to the children of node 1.2 and node 1.4 in entity E1 for users with the role R1. We can also see that one single user, U1, is assigned this role. The access rules for this policy is: $U1_{E1} = \{(1.2, i, c), (1.4, i, n)\}$

If this policy is applied to the tree structure that was shown in figure 4.3, policy $P1$ would provide the following access rights: $f(T, U1_{E1}) = \{2, 4, 5, 6\}$

This is the same access rights as the introduction example of TACOMA shown in figure 4.2 and demonstrates the fact that for simple access rules, TACOMA can be more intuitive and easier to use. The real advantage of PTACOMA comes when the number of users, entities and complexity of rules increases.

Attributes of the policy $P1$ specifies what type of access that should be allowed, for example if it is read only, read-write etc. In TACOMA it is necessary to have distinct diagrams for each type of access while in PTACOMA the type of access is specified on a per policy basis.

5.3 Notation

The Policy Tree-based Access Control Model Language uses all of the same symbols as in the simpler Tree-structure Access Control Modeling Language and extends this
Figure 5.2: PTACOMA components
with several more relations and 6 symbols. Figure 5.4 shows all the symbols defined in PTACOMA.

### 5.3.1 Relations

PTACOMA uses the include and exclude relation in the same way as in TACOMA. In addition to these relations, PTACOMA also have a subject relation that is used for specifying the subjects of a policy. The include relation can not be used for this as it can lead to confusion about what the subjects and targets are. As an example, consider the policy shown in figure 5.5. In this figure we see a policy that uses two groups, $G_1$ and $G_2$, for its subjects and targets. Assuming that these two groups both contains symbols like roles and entities there has to be a way to tell which group
5.3. NOTATION

should be used for subjects and which should be used for targets. So it is not possible to use a simple include relation for both groups and to resolve this, a separate subject relation has been introduced.

There are also several relations like or, and, xor etc. that is used for domain modeling. The exact number of these relations depends on the implementation of PTACOMA.

5.3.2 Symbols

The symbols user, entity, children, node, subtree, table row and table column have the same attributes as in TACOMA and the usage of the symbols are very similar. The description of these symbols are therefore not repeated here and can instead be found in chapter 4. The exact usage of all symbols are described in detail in the description of the PTACOMA metamodel in section 5.4.

Policy

The policy symbol specifies a policy and is the main symbol used in PTACOMA to specify access rights. All policy symbols will have other symbols related to them to specify subjects, targets and constraints. The basic usage of the policy symbol was shown in figure 5.3.

A policy can specify the maximum, minimum or exact access rights. When a policy specifies the maximum access allowed for a role, then policies at lower level domains or groups are allowed to remove some of the access rights. With a minimum policy, other policies at lower levels can add to the access rights. With exact rules no policies at lower levels are able to make any changes to the access rights.

Attributes

id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a PTACOMA document.
name        name of entity. No formal meaning.

accessType Type of access, e.g. read-only, read-write etc.

policyType Type of policy. Can be maximum access, minimum access or exact access.

priority  sets the priority of a policy. This can be used for specifying the order of which policies on the same level is processed.

attr      extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.
5.3. NOTATION

Domain

The domain symbol represents a collection of other symbols that are part of the same administrative control. This symbol can be considered a more formal collection of other symbols compared to the group symbol.

A domain symbol has its own diagram attached to it where the content of the domain is drawn. The domain symbol also acts as a filter where the children symbols of the domain is then limited in scope to only the domain or domains specified by the domain symbol.

When using the scope attribute of the domain symbol, it is possible to represent multiple domains by one single domain symbol. This makes it possible to create more generic high level policies. If users from multiple domains are assigned the same role, it is possible to create policies that provides access to entities only in their own domain, in all domains except their own etc.

Attributes

id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a PTA-COMA document.

```xml
<element name="id" type="ID"/>
```

name name of entity. No formal meaning.

```xml
<element name="name" type="string"/>
```

scope specifies the scope of the domain symbol.

```xml
<element name="scope">
  <xsd:simpleType>
    <xsd:restriction base="xsd:string">
      <xsd:enumeration value="this"/>
      <xsd:enumeration value="all"/>
      <xsd:enumeration value="allExceptThis"/>
      <xsd:enumeration value="allExceptOwn"/>
      <xsd:enumeration value="siblings"/>
      <xsd:enumeration value="children"/>
    </xsd:restriction>
  </xsd:simpleType>
</element>
```

attr extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

```xml
<element name="attr">
  ...
</element>
```
Group

The group symbol has two different semantics in PTACOMA. First of all it can represent a collection of one or more other elements. This is used to group together symbols that have something in common or that will be referenced multiple times. This is identical to the use of the group symbol in TACOMA.

It can also be used for advanced arithmetic domain modeling where it is possible to express statements like: all users part of domain $A$ but not domain $B$.

Attributes

id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a PTACOMA document.

[element name="id" type="ID"/>

name name of group. No formal meaning.

[element name="name" type="string"/>

attr extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

[element name="attr">
  [complexType]
    [simpleContent]
      [extension base="string"]
        [attribute name="name" type="string" use="mandatory"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>
Role

The role symbol is used to create generic policies for all users that have this role. The advantage of using the role symbol is that administrators can create general policies based on the responsibilities of users instead of having to specify policies for each user separately.

Attributes

id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a PTA-COMA document.

<element name="id" type="ID"/>

name name of role. No formal meaning.

<element name="name" type="string"/>

all if set, this role symbol represents all roles. Can be used to create policies that are valid for all users.

<element name="all">
  <simpleType>
    <restriction base="string">
      <enumeration value="yes"/>
      <enumeration value="no"/>
    </restriction>
  </simpleType>
</element>

attr extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

<element name="attr">
  <complexType>
    <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
        <attribute name="name" type="string" use="mandatory"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>
Type
The type symbol is used for creating generic policies for all entities of the same type. This makes it possible for administrators to create generic policies based on capabilities of entities instead of having to do detail specification for each entity separately.

Attributes
id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a PTACOMA document.

<element name="id" type="ID"/>

name name of type. No formal meaning.

<element name="name" type="string"/>

all if set, this type symbol represents all types. Can be used to create policies that are valid for all types of entities.

<element name="all">
    <simpleType>
        <restriction base="string">
            <enumeration value="yes"/>
            <enumeration value="no"/>
        </restriction>
    </simpleType>
</element>

attr extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

<element name="attr">
    <complexType>
        <simpleContent>
            <extension base="string">
                <attribute name="name" type="string"
                    use="mandatory"/>
            </extension>
        </simpleContent>
    </complexType>
</element>
5.4. PTACOMA METAMODEL

Policy view

The policy view symbol is used for creating generic policies when the implementation of entities varies and it is not known in advance the exact access control rules that are needed to fulfill the policy.

For example one administrator can create a high level policy saying that all users should be allowed access to read the system load of all entities. Other administrators can then define the details of which nodes in the tree structure that needs to be accessed to retrieve this information. This way we divide the responsibilities of defining the access policy from the implementation details of which nodes needs to be accessed.

Attribute

id Unique ID of symbol. The scope of the ID is all diagrams in a PTACOMA document.

\[<\text{element name}="id" \text{type}="ID"/>\]

ame name of role. No formal meaning.

\[<\text{element name}="name" \text{type}="string"/>\]

attr extra application specific attribute(s). An attribute has a name and a value and is a method for including application specific attributes to the symbol.

\[<\text{element name}="attr">\]
\[<\text{complexType}>\]
\[<\text{simpleType}>\]
\[<\text{extension base}="string">\]
\[<\text{attribute name}="name" \text{type}="string" \text{use}="mandatory"/>\]
\[</\text{extension}>\]
\[</\text{simpleContent}>\]
\[</\text{complexType}>\]
\[</\text{element}>\]

5.4 PTACOMA metamodel

The metamodel for TACOMA was relatively simple and all the semantics of the language was captured by one single metamodel diagram. PTACOMA is a lot more advanced and the metamodel now consists of 13 different diagrams that together captures the semantics of the language. All these metamodels can be found at the end of this chapter.
5.4.1 Main diagram

Figure 5.18 shows the metamodell that specifies the contents of the main diagram and domain diagrams. What this metamodell says is that a main diagram consists of one or more symbols. These symbols can be a group or domain symbol with diagrams that contains the same symbols as the main diagram. It can also be a set of symbols that:

- Specifies separation of duty policies (SDPolicy)
- Specifies access control policies (Policy)
- Assigns users to roles (Role Definition)
- Assigns entities to types (Type Definition)
- Specifies the details of policy views (Policy Views)

All of these sets of symbols are explained in detail in the following sections.

The group symbol in PTACOMA can either have a new diagram associated with it or it can use include and exclude relations directly to other symbols, similar to the group symbol in the TACOMA language.

5.4.2 Role definition

A role definition diagram is used for assigning roles to users and the metamodell for this kind of diagram is shown in Figure 5.19. A role definition starts with a set of users or domains and then associates these with one or more roles. It is also possible to collect role symbols in a group and then associate the user symbols with the group.

Figure 5.20 shows the metamodell for specifying users and domains. Users can be specified by user symbols and group symbols containing users or other groups. It is also possible to specify a domain symbol which means that all users of that domain is assigned the role. Instead of a single domain, domain modeling where logical expression are used for domain arithmetic can also be used.

Figure 5.6 shows an example of a policy that uses the role symbol. In this figure there is a policy \( P1 \) that provides access to the node 1.4 in entity \( E1 \) for all users in domain \( D1 \) that have the role \( R1 \). The contents of the domain \( D1 \) is shown in figure 5.7. In this figure there are three users, \( U1, U2 \) and \( U3 \), that are all assigned some roles. As we can see from this diagram, both user \( U1 \) and \( U2 \) are assigned role \( R1 \). Policy \( P1 \) would therefor provide the following access rights: \( U1_{E1} = \{(1.4,i,n)\} \) and \( U2_{E1} = \{(1.4,i,n)\} \)

The metamodell for domain modeling is shown in figure 5.21. In a diagram of this type it is possible to have group or domain symbols connect with the usual include and exclude relations as well as logical relations like and, or, xor etc. Figure 5.8 shows an example of this. This diagram is a valid domain modeling diagram that specifies the rule: \( (D1 \ and \ D2) \ not \ (D3 \ or \ D4) \)
Figure 5.6: PTACOMA role example

Figure 5.7: PTACOMA role example - domain contents
Figure 5.9 shows how this domain arithmetic can be used in a policy. In this
figure a policy is shown that gives users with the role R1 access to node 1.4 in all
entities belonging to the domains defined in group G1. Assuming that the contents
of group G1 is the domain arithmetic that was shown in figure 5.9, then the role R1
will be given access to node 1.4 in all entities that are part of the domains that fulfill
the rule: \((D1 \text{ and } D2) \text{ not } (D3 \text{ or } D4)\).

When modeling simpler rules like and, or and not, it is possible to just use the
include end exclude relations as shown in figure 5.10. This figure models the same
expression as before: \((D1 \text{ and } D2) \text{ not } (D3 \text{ or } D4)\).

The simplest form of a role definition was shown in figure 5.3 where user U1
was assigned the role R1. Figure 5.11 shows some more examples of role definition
diagrams that all adhere to the metamodels shown in this section. In this diagram we
can see that user U2 is assigned the role R1 as well as all roles defined in the group
G1. The group symbol related to the user U2 is a group reference to the definition of
the group that can be found on the right side of the diagram. This definition simply
includes the relation R2 which means that user U2 is assigned the roles R1 and R2.

There is also one graph where domain D1 is assigned role R1. This means that
all users that belongs to domain D1 are assigned the role R1.

The last example shows that user U3 is also assigned role R1 but this is done by
first drawing a domain symbol D2 which then includes user U3. What this means is
that user U3 is assigned role R1 only as long as he is part of domain D2.

5.4.3 Type definition

Type definitions are specified in the same way as roles except that instead of user
symbols, entities are used, and instead of roles, types are used. The metamodel for
type definitions are shown in figure 5.22.

Similar to role definitions, a type definitions starts with entity or domain symbols.
The metamodel for this is shown in figure 5.23.

The metamodel for domain modeling is the same as for role definitions.
5.4. PTACOMA METAMODEL

Figure 5.9: PTACOMA domain arithmetic example

Figure 5.10: PTACOMA alternative domain arithmetic syntax
Figure 5.11: PTACOMA role definitions
5.4. **PTACOMA METAMODEL**

5.4.4 **Policies**

The metamodel for a policy is shown in figure 5.24. As we can see from this metamodel, a policy consists of the policy symbol with one or more subject relations to a set of subject symbols and one or more include or exclude relations to constraints and targets.

A policy subject consists of role, group and domain symbols as shown in the metamodel in figure 5.25. If just a domain symbol is used, it means that all users of that domain will be the subject. It is also possible to use domain modeling as described under the role definition metamodel.

Constraints are a collection of constraint symbols and groups. The metamodel for this is shown in figure 5.26.

The objects of a policy can be specified using symbols like node, children, subtree etc. in a similar way as access control is specified in the TACOMA language. The metamodel for this is shown in figure 5.27. In addition to the symbols used in TACOMA, it is also possible to use domain, type and policy view symbols.

When a type symbol is used instead of an entity, it means that the policy should include all entities of this type as objects. This is demonstrated in figure 5.12 where access is granted to users with the role R1 to node 1.4 in all entities of the type T1 in domain D1.

The contents of domain D1 is shown in figure 5.13. In this figure there are two entities and we can see that only entity E2 is of the type T1. The access rules specified by the policy will then be $U_{1E2} = \{(1.4,i,n)\}$

5.4.5 **Separation of duty policies**

Separation of duty policies in PTACOMA can be used for creating policies that states things like a user that is assigned role A can not be assigned role B. The first policy in figure 5.14 shows an example of the previously mention policy and the second policy states that all users assigned to role A must also be assigned to role C. The metamodel for this type of policies is shown in figure 5.28.

A separation of duty policy is specified using the same policy symbol as normal policies, but only domain and role symbols are used with it to specify the subjects and objects of the policy. Constraints can also be included to specify constraints like time of day the policy should be active etc.

5.4.6 **Policy view definitions**

The metamodel for defining the contents of a policy view is shown in figure 5.29. A definition like this starts with one or more entity or type symbols that can also be grouped together in group symbols. It is also possible to do domain modeling as described earlier. The metamodel for this is shown in figure 5.30.

These entity or type symbols are then connected to a policy view symbol using the include relation. This means that the specified entities or types all implement
Figure 5.12: PTACOMA type example

Figure 5.13: PTACOMA type example - domain contents
5.5  Domain hierarchy

In PTACOMA there are two possible hierarchies of policies, those that are formed by using group symbols and those formed by domains. To resolve possible conflicts, the access rules are calculated using a top-down approach based on the hierarchy formed by domains. For each domain the hierarchy formed by groups are then calculated. Policies on a higher level has higher priority than the ones on lower levels and if there are conflicts on the same level, policies with the most restrictive access control rules should take precedence.

5.6  Policy conflicts

One issue with a policy based paradigm that can cause problems is conflicts between multiple policies. Conflicts can happen when multiple policies have overlapping subjects and/or targets. It is for example possible to have one policy that authorizes user A access to resource B while another policy denies this. It is also possible to
Figure 5.15: PTACOMA policy view example

Figure 5.16: PTACOMA policy view example - domain contents
have conflicts between obligation and authorization policies. An obligation policy may dictate user A to perform a certain task, while at the same time an authorization policy denies the necessary access needed to perform the task.

Since many policies are first specified as a high level abstract policies it can often be difficult to detect conflicts. Most of the formal languages for specifying policies supports some sort of automatic conflict detection[42], but manual intervention from managers is often needed.

Since PTACOMA is limited to low level authorization policies directed at only tree based structures, it is relatively easy to detect policy conflicts. When two policies with different modality or conflicting constraints that also have some similar subjects or targets there might be a conflict.

Each policy defined using PTACOMA is converted into simple access control rules of the format \( \{N, I, S\} \) as described in chapter 3. Each policy \( P \) will then have a set \( A_P \) that contains all the access control rules. There is a conflict between policies if for a policy \( P \) there exist another policy \( P' \) so that \( f(T, A_P) \cup f(T, A_{P'}) \neq \emptyset \) and \( I \neq I' \).

When a conflict is detected, policies that are defined in a higher level of the diagram hierarchy will take precedence over policies in lower levels. In PTACOMA it is possible to specify maximum, minimum and exact access policies. Maximum policies specifies the maximum resources a user should have access to and if a policy at lower levels grants more access, this access is limited to what the maximum policy at the higher level specifies. A minimum access policy specifies the minimum resources a user should have access to. If a policy at lower levels tries to restrict the access rights of a user further, then the policy at the higher level will take precedence and increase the access rights. Exact access policies, specifies the exact resources a user should be able to access and policies at lower levels can not changes this.

When conflicts arises, only the access control rules that are in conflict are changed. If there exist other access control rules that are not in conflict, these will be applied as normal. With some applications this can cause unexpected results, so an implementation of PTACOMA should provide a warning to the user when conflicting policies are detected.

Conflicts at the same level is not resolved automatically and a PTACOMA implementation should give a warning when this happens. One way administrators can manually solve conflicts is to use the priority attribute of the PTACOMA policy symbol. If an administrator knows there might be conflicts between multiple policies, the priority attribute can specify which policy should have the highest priority when calculating the access control rights. As this can cause unwanted effects it is a feature that should be used cautiously.

### 5.7 Distributed management

One advantage with having multiple domains is that it is possible to distribute the task of specifying policies. Administrators on higher levels can make broad policies
while administrators on lower levels can do detailed configuration or further delegate authorization to other sub-domains. To be able to do this requires support for distributed editing of PTACOMA diagrams by the editor where access to diagrams can be restricted. Administrators of domains should only have permission to change diagrams for their own domain.

Many commercial UML editors already support this today and will be well suited for doing distributed configuration of PTACOMA access control rules. The security of doing distributed management is solely dependent on the security of the editor being used and is not a part of the PTACOMA specification.

5.8 PTACOMA XML format

Just as for the TACOMA language, PTACOMA also has an XML Schema that acts as a formal definition of the structure of the language. This schema is available in Appendix E. The following XML document shows how the PTACOMA diagram in figure 5.3 would be written when adhering to the PTACOMA XML Schema.

```xml
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="iso-8859-1"?>
<ptacoma xmlns:xsi="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance"
   xmlns="http://www.oslebo.com/thesis/ptacoma"
   xmlns:ptacoma="http://www.oslebo.com/thesis/ptacoma"
   xsi:schemaLocation="http://www.oslebo.com/thesis/ptacoma ptacoma.xsd"
   version="1.0">
  <allSymbols>
    <children id="C1.2">
      <name>C1.2</name>
      <eoid>1.2</eoid>
    </children>
    <entity id="E1">
      <name>E1</name>
      <address>10.0.0.1</address>
    </entity>
    <node id="N1.4">
      <name>N1.4</name>
      <eoid>1.4</eoid>
    </node>
    <policy id="P1">
      <name>P1</name>
      <accessType>read-only</accessType>
      <policyType>exact</policyType>
    </policy>
    <role id="R1">
      <name>R1</name>
    </role>
    <user id="U1">
      <name>U1</name>
      <securityName password="pass1">u1</securityName>
    </user>
  </allSymbols>
</ptacoma>
```
Figure 5.17 shows the overall structure of the XML document. It follows the same basic structure as TACOMA. The root element is `ptacoma` and then the `allSymbols` tag follows that includes a list of all symbols found in the PTACOMA document. In this case we can see the definition of the user symbol `U1`, the role symbol `R1`, the policy symbol `P1`, the entity symbol `E1`, the children symbol `C1.2` and the node symbol `N1.4`.

Next follows the main diagram where the role and policy is defined. In this diagram there is first a `roleDef` tag which is used for assigning user `U1` to the role `R1`. This is done by first specifying that role `R1` is part of the `roleDef` tag and then define user `U1` under the tag `usersAndDomains`. This structure follows the metamodels for PTACOMA. The last section under `roleDef` is `relations` which simply has one single include relation that ties user `U1` with the role `R1`.

The policy definition specified inside the `policyDef` tag defines the actual policy. This tag first uses a `symbols` tag to specify that the policy `P1` is part of this definition. Then comes the tags `subjects` and `targets` to specify the subjects and targets of the policy. There is also a subject relation for assigning role `R1` as the policy subject and a relations section that ties the policy `P1` with the entity `E1`. Entity `E1` is tied to the child symbol `C1.2` and the node `N1.4` inside the `targets` tag.

The PTACOMA XML Schema also defines several keys and key references to make sure that the structure of the PTACOMA language is properly captured by the Schema. There are for example keys that verifies that roles are only assigned to user symbol and not for example type symbols.
5.8. PTACOMA XML FORMAT

Figure 5.17: PTACOMA XML structure
Figure 5.18: Main diagram metamodel
Figure 5.19: Role definition metamodel
Figure 5.20: Users and domains metamodel
Figure 5.21: Domain modeling metamodel
Figure 5.22: Type definition metamodel
Figure 5.23: Entities and domains metamodel

Types & Entities & Domains

Relation

Include Exclude

1..* 1..* 1

Relation

DomainMod Entity Group

Diagram

−from −belongs

Group Without Diagram Group With Diagram
Figure 5.24: Policy metamodel
Figure 5.25: Policy subject metamodel
Figure 5.26: Constraint metamodel
Figure 5.27: Policy target metamodel
Figure 5.28: PTACOMA separation of duty policies metamodel
Figure 5.29: Policy view definitions metamodel
Figure 5.30: PolicyView group of entities metamodel
Chapter 6

TACOMA and PTACOMA comparison

In this chapter the two languages, TACOMA and PTACOMA, are compared based on complexity, scalability, maintainability and distributed specification of access control. A detailed example demonstrating some of the differences between the two languages is also provided.

6.1 Complexity

TACOMA was designed with ease of use as the primary goal and only has eight symbols and two relations. The only method for organizing diagrams is the use of groups which allow administrators to collect symbols that have things in common or to reuse part of diagrams. All this makes TACOMA quite easy to learn and to use and even users who are not familiar with TACOMA can usually understand the diagrams.

PTACOMA more than doubles the number of symbols and relations and there are two ways of organizing diagrams, domains and groups. PTACOMA also have a potentially higher risk of creating conflicts in the access control specification.

Because of this PTACOMA is clearly a more complex language to both learn and to use and requires more effort from administrators to be properly used.

6.2 Scalability

The scalability of each language is difficult to quantify properly since it depends quite a lot on how diagrams are constructed. With proper use of groups TACOMA should be able to scale quite well, however no matter how well diagrams are structured, administrators still have to manually control and configure each entity.

While TACOMA was designed for ease of use, PTACOMA was designed for scalability. Using policies together with domains, roles and types it is easier to develop high level access rules that can be refined when needed. PTACOMA also have
support for the use of policy servers which is an important feature for being able to scale to systems where there are hundreds of thousands of entities and users.

6.3 Maintainability

The maintainability of both TACOMA and PTACOMA depends a lot on the methodology used for creating diagrams. Diagrams from both languages can be quite hard to maintain if they are badly structured. So in this aspect the languages are quite similar although PTACOMA makes it easier to distribute the maintenance of diagrams between domains as explained in the next section. This distribution means that each administrator only has to maintain some parts of the PTACOMA diagrams.

6.4 Distributed specification of access control

PTACOMA is, with its support for policies and domains, well suited for distributed specification of access control. It is easy to delegate the detailed control of specifying access control to domains at lower levels and at the same time keep a high level control on top levels. The security of distributed specification of access control is solely dependent on the security built into the editor that is used for drawing the diagrams.

TACOMA has very little support for this. It is possible to use group symbols to delegate the responsibilities of updating parts of the diagrams. There is however no support for letting administrators on a higher level deny or grant access for users on lower level unless the details of diagrams on lower levels are known.

6.5 Example

The following example shows some of the aspects of TACOMA and PTACOMA when it comes to scalability, maintainability and distributed specification of access control. In this example there is a company with two departments, A and B. There are three users, UserA, UserB1 and UserB2 which belong to department A and B. All users have access to a group of nodes called G in department A. Initially there are only one entity EntityA. Figure 6.1 shows the TACOMA diagram for department A. This shows a single user, UserA, which is being granted access to EntityA. The access is being limited to the nodes defined in the group called G. The exact contents of G is not relevant for this discussion but it does not contain any entities, only subtree, children, table-row or node symbols. Figure 6.2 shows the TACOMA diagram for department B where UserB1 and UserB2 are granted access to the group G in entity EntityA.

Now assume that department A adds a new entity, EntityA2, which all users should have access to as well. In TACOMA there are two ways this can be done. The first method is to simply add the entity as shown in Figure 6.3. This figure shows
Figure 6.1: Initial department A TACOMA diagram

Figure 6.2: Initial department B TACOMA diagram
Figure 6.3: Modified department A TACOMA diagram

Figure 6.4: TACOMA diagram of GroupA

department A. To give access to UserB1 and UserB2, the same change would also have to be done in the diagram for department B.

Another method is to add a group symbol, GroupA, with content as shown in figure 6.4. The diagram for both departments would also have to be changed. Figure 6.5 shows how this will look in the TACOMA diagram for department B. The advantage of this method is that additional entities can be added by only changing the contents of GroupA.

Both these methods clearly show that when there are multiple users in different diagrams accessing the same resources, TACOMA quickly become difficult to use. Method one requires constant changing to the two separate diagrams every time a new entity is added or removed, even if it only belongs to one of the departments. The second method is better since the change to both diagrams only have to be performed once, but in large TACOMA documents with many levels and diagrams, finding all
instances that have to be changed can be a challenge. One could argue that a group symbol should have been used in the first place. While that would have solved the problem in this example, excessive use of the group symbol can make the TACOMA diagrams very deep and it is easy to lose control over who has access to what.

The solution to these problems is the policy paradigm that PTACOMA introduces. In the previous example it would be natural to create two distinct domains, one for each department. Figure 6.6 shows the initial PTACOMA diagram for department A. In this diagram there is one policy saying that UserA should have access to the nodes defined in group G for all entities in domain A. Since there is no domain symbol the policy is valid only for the current domain the policy is drawn in, namely domain A. Since no entity symbol is used in policy P the policy is valid for all entities belonging to domain A. The diagram also shows that domain A has one entity EntityA.

Figure 6.7 shows the PTACOMA diagram for department B and contains a single policy giving UserB1 and UserB2 access to the nodes defined in group G for all entities in domain A.

When EntityA2 is added to department A, all that is needed is to change the PTACOMA diagram for department A as shown in figure 6.8. This will automatically allow access for UserB1 and UserB2 as well.
Figure 6.7: Initial department B PTACOMA diagram.

Figure 6.8: Modified department A PTACOMA diagram
Another advantage with PTACOMA is that the administrator of department $A$ can easily block access to all entities in department $A$ from users in department $B$. In TACOMA this is only possible on a per user basis. Figure 6.9 shows a PTACOMA diagram with a policy which dictates that access to all entities are blocked for all users in department $B$ except User$B1$. The role symbol named $\ast$ represents a role symbol that has the all attribute set and represents all users.

### 6.6 Summary

This section has given an overview of the strengths and weaknesses of TACOMA and PTACOMA and have shown that the languages have different usages. TACOMA is an easy to learn language that are well suited for smaller diagrams where the number of users and entities are small.

For larger networks with multiple administrators or large number of users and entities, PTACOMA is better suited because of its scalability. The disadvantage of PTACOMA is its complexity.

Table 6.1 gives a summary of the weaknesses and strong points of each language.
Chapter 7

Case study: Using PTACOMA to Model Access Control in a Large Scale Deployment of Passive Monitoring Probes

UNINETT, the Norwegian NREN, is currently in the process of deploying a large number of passive monitoring probes as part of the GigaCampus project[45, 46]. These probes will be deployed both in the backbone network as well as access links to customers and will be based on technology from the IST project LOBSTER[47]. The deployment on access links of customers will be based on a cooperation between the customer and UNINETT and both parties will be able to use the passive monitoring probe for security, QoS monitoring, general network usage statistics and research.

One challenge in deploying passive monitoring probes in a multi-domain environment is privacy and confidentiality issues. With the probes it is possible to look deep into the payload of packets which makes it important to have full control over who uses the probes and what they are used for. It must be possible to monitor active users of the probes to see what they are doing. Customers should be allowed to see some of this management information, but not necessarily all the information. This is where PTACOMA comes in as a good method for configuring the access control of the management system on the monitoring probes.

This chapter provides a detailed description of how PTACOMA can be used in this scenario.

7.1 Monitoring API

The Monitoring API(MAPI)[48] is the key technology used in the passive monitoring probes. MAPI was originally implemented as part of the IST project SCAMPI[49] and then improved in LOBSTER.
MAPI was designed for making the development of monitoring applications quicker and easier. With MAPI, application programmers can concentrate on what they want to monitor without having to know the details of the hardware they use to capture the network traffic. Applications based on MAPI can run on top of various types of hardware without any changes and advanced on-board processing capabilities on the network adapter is automatically utilized whenever possible.

MAPI is centered on the notion of a network flow. A network flow will initially represent all the packets seen on the network by the network adapter, but functions can then be applied to the flow to limit the number of packets. These functions can for example be BPF filter, sampling, string search, packet counter etc. When all functions have been applied, the application can connect to the flow and start reading the results.

The following code shows an example of a simple application implemented on top of MAPI. This application searches for packets that contain an already known Internet worm. The worm is easy to detect since it always has destination port 1234 and a well known pattern can be found between 100 and 300 bytes into the packet.

```c
1: fd=mapi_apply_flow(’/dev/dag0’);
2: mapi_apply_function(fd,’BPF_FILTER’,
   ’dst port 1234’);
3: id1=mapi_apply_function(fd,’PKT_COUNTER’);
4: mapi_apply_function(fd,’STRING_SEARCH’,
   ’pattern’,100,300);
5: id2=mapi_apply_function(fd,’PKT_COUNTER’);
6: mapi_apply_function(fd,’TO_FILE’,
   MFF_TCPDUMP,
   ’worm.trace’);
7: mapi_connect(fd);
8: while(1) {
9:   mapi_read_result(fd,id1,&c1);
10:  mapi_read_result(fd,id2,&c2);
11:  printf(’BPF match: %llu
   String match: %llu\n’,
        c1,c2);
12:  sleep(10); }
```

The first thing this application does is to open a new flow using the device /dev/dag0. After that several functions are applied to the flow in lines 2-6. First a BPF filter is added which restricts the packets in the flow to packets that have a destination port of 1234. A packet counter is then added which is used for counting the number of packets that pass through the BPF filter. The ID of the packet counter function is stored in the variable id1 for future reference when the results are being read.

To locate packets that contain the string pattern that identifies the worm, a string search function is added and a second packet counter function is also added to count the number of packets that contains the string.
The last function that is applied stores the packets that has destination port 1234 and contains the string pattern to a file `worm.trace` using tcpdump format.

When all functions have been applied, the application connects to the flow in line 7. It is only when the application connects to the flow that packets start being processed.

The lines 8-12 are used for printing out status about the progress of the application. It reads the results from the counters and prints out a line saying how many packets that has matched the BPF filter and the string search. It then sleeps for 10 seconds before repeating the process.

When implementing an application using MAPI, the processing of packets continues in the background even if the application sleeps. The only action needed by the application is to read and present the results to the user.

### 7.1.1 Distributed MAPI

Distributed MAPI (DiMAPI)[50] is an extension to MAPI that allows an application to simultaneously connect to multiple monitoring probes running MAPI. It is designed so that most applications that uses MAPI can very easily be extended to support DiMAPI. The main change is in the command `mapi_create_flow` and in `mapi_read_results`.

When creating a new MAPI flow it is now possible to not only specify the device but also the host. It is also possible to specify multiple hosts at one time:

```
fd=mapi_create_flow(‘’host1:/dev/dag0,
                      host2:eth0’’);
```

This command will connect to both host1 and host2 to create a new MAPI flow and all subsequent calls to `mapi_apply_function` and `mapi_read_results` will be sent to both hosts. When using multiple hosts at the same time, `mapi_read_results` returns an array of results.

### 7.1.2 MAPI security mechanisms

MAPI has built in security functions that makes it possible to set up rules specifying that users have to first apply some specific functions to the MAPI flow before they are allowed to connect to it. This feature can for example be used for specifying that users are allowed to connect to all monitoring probes but that they first have to apply a BPF filter that filters out all traffic except traffic belonging to their own organization. This makes it possible to do distributed monitoring in a safe way.

### 7.1.3 SNMP access

To be able to track who is using MAPI and what they are doing, it is necessary to instrument MAPI so that the necessary information can be retrieved. For each flow
it should be possible to see who created the flow and which functions were applied and what arguments were passed to the functions. This way it is possible to keep a detailed log of what each user is doing.

MAPI already has an SNMP MIB[51] that provides some of this information, so it is natural to just extend this to provide the missing information. Using an SNMP MIB is also convenient since NREN’s and customer network administrators are familiar with the technology and already have software that can be used for monitoring the MAPI monitoring probes.

SNMPv3 is the only SNMP version that offers strong authentication and is therefore the version most likely to be used in the scenario described here. The security mechanisms in SNMPv3 are divided into two parts: User-based Security Model (USM) and View-based Access Control Model (VACM).

**User-based Security Model (USM)**

USM is a security model for SNMP that offers strong security and authentication. The USM specification[14] also defines a MIB that offers a standardized method for adding and removing users that are authorized to access an SNMP entity. This is done by adding and deleting entries in the SNMP MIB table `usmUserTable`.

**View-based Access Control Model (VACM)**

VACM is the only access control model defined so far for SNMPv3. VACM[15] is responsible for deciding if an operation is allowed or not based on the identity of the user. It assumes that the message has already been authenticated by a security model like USM. VACM is based on the concept of MIB views. A MIB view is a subset of the entire MIB available in an SNMP entity and defines which MIB objects that can be accessed by a certain user. VACM also defines a standardized MIB for configuring the access control.

To add access rights to a user, three SNMP MIB tables needs modification:

- `vacmSecurityToGroupTable` maps the user name into a group name. A user can only belong to one group and all users that belong to the same group have identical access rights.

- `vacmAccessTable` maps the group name and access type\(^1\) into a MIB view.

- `vacmViewTreeFamilyTable` defines the MIB view and decided whether an OID in the MIB tree is accessible or not. The MIB view consists of a list of OIDs that defines the nodes in the MIB tree that are included or excluded from the access rights. To grant access to only specific rows in a table, the index that distinguishes the rows are part of the OID. It is also possible to use wildcards in the OID. This means that certain numbers in the OID

\(^1\)Access types in SNMP can be read, write or notify
is masked out and not considered when deciding if the OID of an request matches the OIDs specified in the vacmViewTreeFamilyTable.

A more detailed overview of the security mechanisms in SNMPv3 is provided in Appendix B.

## 7.2 Management information

The new MAPI SNMP MIB that provides the necessary information will be divided into into five different groups which in SNMP are all organized into tables.

The full MAPI MIB definition can be found in Appendix F.

### 7.2.1 Interface

This group provides detailed information about all available interfaces in a probe that can be used by MAPI. Each entry in the table contains information about one interface and the index to the table is the value of mapIfIndex.

mapIfIndex A unique value, greater that zero, for each device available for monitoring through MAPI.

mapIfName A textual string containing the name of the interface. The name should uniquely identify the interface in the monitoring probe. An example of a name is “eth1”

mapIfDescr A textual string containing information about the device. The string should include the name of the manufacturer, the product name and the version of the device hardware/software.

mapIfAlias This object is an “alias” name for the interface as specified by a network manager, and provides a non-volatile “handle” for the interface.

mapIfType Integer value specifying the type of link layer. Works similar to ifType described in RFC 1213.

mapIfStatus The current status of the interface. The status can be: active, ready, unavailable, linkLost or unknown.

mapIfPkts The total number of packets captured by the interface.

mapIfOctets The total number of octets captured by the interface.

mapIfDroppedPkts The total number of packets dropped by the interface.

mapIfLastBufferSize The total number of bytes that was last read from the interface.

mapIfCounterDiscontinuityTime The value of sysUpTime on the most recent occasion at which any one or more of this interface’s counters suffered a discontinuity.
7.2.2 Organization
This group provides information about all organizations that users who are allowed access to MAPI belongs to. Each entry in the table contains information about one organization.

The index to this table is a unique organization ID.

- `mapiOrgID` Unique integer value identifying the organization.
- `mapiOrgName` Name of the organization.
- `mapiOrgContact` Name of contact person at the organization.
- `mapiOrgContactPhone` Phone number for the contact person.
- `mapiOrgContactEmail` Email address for the contact person.

7.2.3 User
Group that contains information about all users allowed to connect to DiMAPI. Each entry in the table contains information about one user.

The index to this table is the ID of the organization that the user belongs to in addition to a unique user ID.

- `mapiOrgID` Integer value showing which organization the user belongs to.
- `mapiUserID` Unique integer value identifying the user.
- `mapiUserName` Name of the user.
- `mapiUserLoginName` Login name of the user.
- `mapiUserLastLogin` Date and time of the last time the user was logged in.
- `mapiUserTotalFlows` Total number of MAPI flows the user has created.
- `mapiUserActiveFlows` Number of currently active MAPI flows.

7.2.4 Flow
This group contains a list of all active and recently closed flows. Each entry in the table contains information about one flow.

The index to this table is the organization ID and user ID of the user who owns the flow as well as a unique flow ID.

- `mapiOrgID` Integer value showing which organization the flow belongs to.
- `mapiUserID` Integer value identifying the user the flow belongs to.
7.2. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

mapiFlowID  Unique integer value identifying the flow.

mapiFlowIfIndex  Integer value showing which interface this flow is running on.

mapiFlowNumFunctions  Number of functions applied to the flow.

mapiFlowPkts  Number of packets captured by the flow.

mapiFlowOctets  Number of octets captured by the flow.

mapiFlowDroppedPkts  Number of dropped packets that the flow should have captured.

mapiFlowStart  Start time of the flow.

mapiFlowEnd  End time of the flow. If the flow is still active this value is 0.

7.2.5 Function

This is a list of the functions applied to active flows. It contains information about the type of function and the number of packets that have been processed by the function. Each entry in the table contains information about one function.

The index to this table is the organization ID and user ID of the user who owns the function, the flow ID the function belongs to and the function ID.

mapiOrgID  Integer value showing which organization the function belongs to.

mapiUserID  Integer value identifying the user the function belongs to

mapiFlowID  integer value identifying the flow the function belongs to.

mapiFunctID  Unique integer value identifying the function.

mapiFunctPkts  Number of packets captured by the function.

mapiFunctOctets  Number of octets captured by the function.

mapiFunctPassedPkts  Number of packets that has passed through the function.

mapiFunctDroppedPkts  Number of octets that has been dropped by the function.

7.2.6 Argument

This is a list of the arguments that were passed to each function. This information includes the type of argument and the value. Each entry in the table contains information about one argument.

The index to this table is the organization ID and user ID of the user who owns the function, the function ID the argument belongs to and the argument ID.
mapiOrgID Integer value showing which organization the argument belongs to.

mapiUserID Integer value showing which user the argument belongs to.

mapiFlowID Integer value showing which flow the argument belongs to.

mapiFunctID Integer value showing which function the argument belongs to.

mapiArgID Integer representing the argument ID. For each function this starts at 1 and increments with 1 for each argument.

mapiArgType String that describes the type of argument, eg. integer, float, string etc.

mapiArgValue String representation of the value of the argument.

### 7.3 Using the MAPI MIB

Administrators can use the mapiInterfacesTable to look at the performance of MAPI. If the counter representing dropped packets on an interface keeps increasing it will usually indicate that the monitoring probe is overloaded and can not manage to process packets fast enough.

Administrators can also use the mapiFlows table together with functions and arguments to get a detailed overview of the active MAPI flows. Combining this information with information from mapiOrganization and mapiUsers tables makes it possible to tell exactly who is doing what on the monitoring probe.

Guest users can use the MAPI MIB to check the status of their own flows and to check for dropped packets on the interfaces.

### 7.4 Access control requirements

UNINETT administrators should have full access to all information in the MAPI MIB. Customer administrators should have full access to all information on monitoring probes in their own domain, while on remote domains they should only be able to see information about guest users from their own domain. This requirement is summarized in table 7.1 where we can see that on remote probes the information available to the customer administrators is limited to entries in the MAPI MIB that has the same organization ID as the administrator.

Guest users should only be allowed access to their own flows and information about available interfaces should be open for everyone. This is summarized in table 7.2.
7.5 SNMPv3 USM and VACM Configuration

Based on the requirements for access control described in the previous section several entries in the USM and VACM tables have to be added.

7.5.1 UNINETT administrator

First of all an entry for the UNINETT administrator has to be added to the usmUserTable. This allows the administrator to access the SNMP agent running on the monitoring probes.

Further entries are needed in the VACM tables before the administrator is allowed to access any of the MAPI MIB information. To allow full access to the MAPI MIB, three entries are needed. One in vacmSecurityToGroupTable that maps the security name of the administrator to an administrator group. Multiple administrators can be member of this group.

One entry is needed in the vacmAccessTable to specify which view should be assigned the administrator group and one entry is needed in vacmViewTreeFamilyTable to specify that the administrator should have full access the the entire MAPI MIB.

7.5.2 Guest users

All guest users need an entry in the usmUserTable to be able to connect to the SNMP agent. They also need one entry each in vacmSecurityToGroupTable and vacmAc-
accessTable. Since each guest user should only have access to their own flows, it is not possible to use one common group for all of them.

To specify which information that should be available to a guest user, 6 entries in vacmViewTreeFamilyTable is needed, one for each table in the MAPI MIB. These entries should use the organization ID and user ID of each guest user to limit access to only information belonging to this user.

### 7.5.3 Customer administrators

Just as for guest users, customer administrators will need their own VACM group so one entry is needed in usmUserTable, vacmSecurityToGroupTable and vacmAccessTable for each of them.

On remote probes the customer administrators needs 6 entries in vacmViewTreeFamilyTable to provide access to all entries in the MAPI MIB that belongs to the same organization as the administrator.

On local probes a single entry in vacmViewTreeFamilyTable is needed to provide full access to the entire MAPI MIB.

### 7.5.4 Full configuration

Assuming there are 15 monitoring probes with one UNINETT administrator, 15 customer administrators and 30 different guest users, the full configuration of USM and VACM on one of the monitoring probes will result in a total of $4 + 30 \times 9 + 15 \times 3 + 1 + 14 \times 6 = 404$ entries.

Since the configuration has to be different on all 15 monitoring probes, as much as 6060 entries are needed. This clearly shows that hand editing the access rules is not very realistic. It is very easy to lose track of who has access to what and other methods must be used.

### 7.6 PTACOMA diagrams

Specifying the access control requirements for this case study using PTACOMA is relatively simple and straightforward. A minimum of three policies are needed, one for each user type. It can however be convenient to use two policies for the customer administrators, one for access on local probes and one for remote probes.

In addition to these policies there would be 15 different domain symbols where each domain defines the customer administrator as well as an entity representing the monitoring probe implementing the MAPI MIB.

#### 7.6.1 UNINETT administrators

The policy providing full access to the entire MAPI MIB is shown in figure 7.1. In this policy we can see that the UNINETT administrator is granted full access to the
7.6. PTACOMA DIAGRAMS

Figure 7.1: PTACOMA diagram for UNINETT administrators

MAPI MIB for all entities of the type MAPI in all domains.

7.6.2 Guest users

The PTACOMA diagram for the guest users are shown in figure 7.2. Here we can see one policy that grants access to the group “MAPI access” to all users with the role “Guest user”. We can also see that the role symbol “Guest user” has an attribute called “mapiIndex” and that this attribute has the value “ORGID().UID()”. The purpose of this attribute is shown in figure 7.3.

What this figure shows is the contents of the group “MAPI access” and as we can see this group grants some access to all entities of the type “MAPI”. Full access is given to mapiIfTable and access to mapiOrgTable is limited to the entry with the same organization ID as the guest user. Access to the remaining tables in the MAPI MIB is limited to the entries with index as specified by the attribute “mapiIndex”. In this case this attribute has been set to “ORGID().UID()” which means that guest users are only allowed to see information about their own flows and functions.

7.6.3 Customer administrators

Two policies are created for the customer administrators, one for access to local probes and one for access to remote probes. Access to local probes is very similar to the policy for UNINETT administrators and is shown in figure 7.4. In this figure we see that all users in all domains with the role of “Customer admin” is assigned full
Guest users access

All

Guest user

mapiIndex=OrgID().UID()

Figure 7.2: PTACOMA diagram for guest users

MAPI

mapiIFTable.*
mapiUserTable.Attr(mapiIndex)
mapiFunctTable.Attr(mapiIndex)
mapiOrgTable.ORG()
mapiFlowTable.Attr(mapiIndex)
mapiArgTable.Attr(mapiIndex)

Figure 7.3: MAPI access group contents
access to the MAPI MIB. The difference compared to the UNINETT administrator is that in this policy full access is only granted to entities of the type “MAPI” in the users own domain.

The policy for remote access is shown in figure 7.5. This policy is very similar to the policy for guest users with only two modifications. First of all the attribute mapIndex has changed from “ORGID().UID()” to “ORGID()”. This provides access to information about all flows and functions belonging to users from the same organization and not just the customer administrators own flows and functions. This policy is also only valid for entities in all except the customer administrators own domain.

7.7 Summary and conclusions

The case study presented in this chapter is relatively simple and only uses a few of the features available in the PTACOMA language. Even so it clearly demonstrates how the PTACOMA language can be used for specifying access control in an SNMP framework.

Hand editing several hundred or even thousands of lines of access control configuration is not scalable. One other alternative could have been to create a script that automatically added and deleted users from the access control for the MAPI MIB.
This however has the disadvantage of only working for this specific application. If access to other SNMP MIBs should be configured, a new script would have to be developed. All the diagrams shown in this case study uses generic PTACOMA features that can be used for all SNMP MIBs.

Using a script also locks you to the SNMP technology. In the future it might be more suitable to move the monitoring of MAPI to other technologies like WSDM[52] or NETCONF[53]. Both these technologies are XML based and as long as the data model remains the same, the PTACOMA diagrams would still be valid. All that would be needed is a new ACL Configurator.

In PTACOMA it is also easy to add exceptions to the standard rules. For example if one single user should have extended access, it is easy to add without loosing track of exactly who has access to what.

Since the MAPI MIB described in this chapter has not yet been fully implemented and UNINETT is still in the deployment phase of the monitoring probes, it has not been possible to test PTACOMA in this scenario. The PTACOMA prototype that has been implemented do not support all the features of the PTACOMA language, but it do support enough to be used in this scenario and this prototype is described in further details in Appendix C.
Chapter 8

Conclusions and further work

This chapter provides a conclusion of the work presented in this thesis. It also gives a quick overview of related work and discusses further work that can be done.

8.1 Conclusions

The work presented in this thesis started out as research into finding an easy to use and highly scalable method for specifying access control in SNMPv3. This work resulted in the language called MIB View Modeling Language (MVML) but it quickly turned out that the language could be made more generic and work continued to create a language that could be used for specifying and configuring access control in most applications or systems that store information in a tree based structure.

Two separate languages were then created, TACOMA and PTACOMA. TACOMA is a direct generalization of the original MVML language. It is very easy to learn and use but is best suited for small to medium sized systems. To be able to cope with large multi-domain systems, a policy based version of the language, PTACOMA, was created. While a bit harder to learn and more difficult to fully utilize all the feature of the language, PTACOMA is able to scale to a large number of users, entities and large tree based structures.

The original goal was to create a language that was both easy to use and was able to scale to large systems. It proved difficult to fulfill both these goals in one single language but the solution of defining two related languages works well. Depending on the complexity of the task at hand, administrators will be able to chose the modeling language that best fits their need.

Based on the experience from the implemented prototype\(^1\) and detailed studies of various case studies like the one presented in chapter 7, the two goals of creating languages that are easy to use and highly scalable seems to have been fully met. The case study clearly shows that the PTACOMA language is well suited for specifying access control in SNMPv3 and the same techniques as presented in this case study

\(^1\)This prototype is described in Appendix C.
can be used for other emerging network management protocols like NETCONF and WSDM.

The languages presented in this thesis are also easy to deploy for new types of applications and systems and can therefor easily be adapted for new use cases. The only requirement is that they store information in tree-based structures.

### 8.2 Related work

There are other modeling languages available like SecureUML[54] and UMLsec[55]. These are however not modeling languages for specifying and configuring access control. They are instead UML extensions to model secure applications during development.

There are also several generic languages available for specifying policies[42]. Most of these languages like Role Definition Language(RDL)[56], RSL99[57], Authorization Specification Language(ASL)[58] and RBAC are all text based languages and are either aimed at more high level policy specification or like RBAC need specific support for the language in the systems that want to use it. With TACOMA and PTACOMA no modification to existing systems are needed.

LaSCO[59] is a graphical language for specifying security constraints on objects. It focuses on more high level policies compared to PTACOMA and because of this it is not always trivial to map the policies to the lower level systems unless it is implemented with a LaSCO policy enforcement framework.

### 8.3 Further work

So far the prototype implementation of PTACOMA only implements a subset of the features available in the language. A full implementation is needed to get more practical experience with the language to see if any modifications are needed.

More work is also needed on the ACL Optimizer to optimize the number of access control rules that must be configured in managed entities. Especially with dynamic tree structures complex algorithms are needed to find the most optimized set of rules.

Further research into combining PTACOMA with XACML should also be done. XACML is designed as a general purpose language that is very versatile and can be used for specifying access control rules in virtually all systems. While PTACOMA will never be an all purpose language as it is specially designed for systems storing information in tree-based structures, it still has a big potential as a graphical language for creating XACML policies for these types of systems.

The main improvement of PTACOMA for better support for XACML is in the constraints. In the current version of PTACOMA, the constraint symbol is completely generic without any restrictions. All the specification says is that the symbol can contain various attributes that specify some kind of constraint. The exact syntax of these constraints depends on the application or system being configured. If the
targeted system is XACML, further restrictions can be put on the constraint symbol so that it better fits the model used in XACML.

In XACML a policy can specify resources that should be checked for specific values while the policy is being evaluated. This can for example be the load of the system, the number of already logged on users etc. XACML defines a strict syntax for specifying this. With the current constraint symbol in PTACOMA, the XACML syntax for specifying these constraints can be added as an argument to the symbol. It might be better however to use the current mechanisms in PTACOMA for specifying nodes in the tree structure to graphically represents these XACML constraints.

One possible solution to this is shown in figure 8.1. In this figure we see a simple policy granting users with the role $R1$ access to node 1.4 in entity $E1$. We can also see a constraint symbol with an new constraint function symbol as a child. This constraint function is a “less than” function. We can also see that this function symbol further has a child symbol which is the node 1.5. What this means is that this policy is only valid if the value of node 1.5 is less than a certain value as specified by an attribute to the “less than” function.

Further work is needed to see how these technique can be used to fully cover the possibilities in XACML and still be easy to use.
One other feature of XACML that can be added to PTACOMA is dependency between policies. XACML defines a language for specifying decentralized distributed rules that can be part of multiple policies. The language specifies how these rules can be combined to give one single result. In large distributed systems this is an important feature that should be added to PTACOMA.
Appendix A

List of Acronyms

ACL      Access Control List
API      Application Programming Interface
BER      Basic Encoding Rules
CMIP     Common Management Information Protocol
DAC      Discretionary Access Control
DOM      Document Object Model
E-R      Entity-Relationship
HTTP     HyperText Transfer Protocol
INCITS   InterNational Committee for Information Technology Standards
LDAP     Lightweight Directory Access Protocol
MAC      Mandatory Access Control
MAPI     Monitoring Application Programming Interface
MIB      Management Information Base
MVML     MIB View Modeling Language
OASIS    Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards
PHP      PHP Hypertext Preprocessor
PMVML    Policy-based MIB View Modeling Language
PTACOMA  Policy-based Tree-based Access Control Modeling Language
RADIUS   Remote Authentication Dial-In User Service
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RBAC</td>
<td>Role-Based Access Control</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAC</td>
<td>SNMP ACL Configurator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAX</td>
<td>Simple API for XML</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDL</td>
<td>Specification and Description Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMI</td>
<td>Structure of Management Information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMP</td>
<td>Simple Management Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SNMP</td>
<td>Simple Network Management Protocol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TACACS</td>
<td>Terminal Access Controller Access Control System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TACOMA</td>
<td>Tree-based Access control Modeling Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCSEC</td>
<td>Trusted Computer System Evaluation Criteria</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UML</td>
<td>Unified Modeling Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSDM</td>
<td>Web Services Distributed Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XACML</td>
<td>Extensible Access Control Markup Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XMI</td>
<td>XML metadata interchange</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XML</td>
<td>Extensible Markup Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XSL</td>
<td>Extensible Stylesheet Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XSLT</td>
<td>XSL Transformations</td>
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</table>
Appendix B

Simple Network Management Protocol

The Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) is the most commonly used protocol for network management in TCP/IP networks. It was developed to be a simple protocol that should be easy to implement even on entities with limited resources.

B.1 History

The first version of SNMP was released as a proposed standard in April 1989 and a full standard in May 1990. The release of SNMP was only meant as a temporary solution as it was expected that CMIP\(^1\) over TCP/IP would eventually take over.

It was quickly realized that the first version of SNMP had several shortcomings, especially with security and management of large networks. In early 1992 two proposals for a new SNMP version was given, Secure SNMP and Simple Management Protocol (SMP).

In May 1993 the best from both these proposals were taken and combined into SNMPv2. Compared to the first version, SNMPv2 had several improvements:

- security
- manager-to-manager communication
- support for more transport-services
- more effective collection of large amount of data

Unfortunately if turned out that the security mechanisms were too complex and in 1995 the security functions were removed and SNMPv2c was released which kept the same weak security as in the first version. This led to much confusion and SNMPv2 was never widely deployed.

\(^1\)Common Management Information Protocol, ISO standard for network management
In March 1998 SNMPv3 was first introduced. SNMPv3 has all the other improvements of SNMPv2 and also adds strong security and access control. In 2002 SNMPv3 became a full IETF standard.

B.2 Framework

Figure B.1 shows the basic framework of SNMP. A management system in SNMP consists of several nodes which traditionally has been called agents, at least one management station and a protocol used to exchange information. SNMPv3 uses a new terminology and calls both agents and managements stations for entities.

Inside managed entities there is a virtual collection of management information called a Management Information Base (MIB). The description of the structure of a MIB is written using a notation called Structure of Management Information (SMI).

Information is transported between managed and manager entities using the SNMP management protocol.

B.2.1 Management Information Base

The term MIB can have different meaning depending on the context. It can be the collection of all management information in an entity, but it can also mean the document that describes a specific part of the management information. For example, people can talk about the entity MIB or the printer MIB and so on.

B.2.2 Structure of Management Information

The Structure of Management Information (SMI) is a language used for defining managed objects that can be manipulated using the SNMP protocol. It is based on a subset of ASN.1 and was design with two main goals in mind: simplicity and extensibility.

Every managed object accessible through SNMP has a name, a syntax and an encoding. SMI is used to define the names and syntax of these managed objects. Encoding of managed objects is done using standard BER[60] encoding.
B.3. SNMPv3 REFERENCE MODEL

Names

To be able to identify managed objects, all objects have to have a unique name within a MIB. SMI uses the OBJECT IDENTIFIER\(^2\), a sequence of integers which traverse a global tree. A leaf in this tree represents a single managed object and a node with children represents a collection of managed objects.

B.3 SNMPv3 reference model

One of the goals of SNMPv3 was to make it possible to change and improve parts of the standard without having to redesign all the components. This was accomplished by using a modular design. Figure B.2 shows the building blocks of an SNMPv3 entity which is also the reference model used by the SNMPv3 standard. An SNMP entity always consists of an SNMP engine and one or more applications. The SNMP engine takes care of all the low level message handling routines needed for sending and receiving messages, including security functions. The applications are internal applications within the SNMP entity. They are responsible for generating SNMP messages and respond to received messages.

\(^2\)Often called an OID
B.4 User-based Security Model

The User-based Security Model (USM) is a security model for SNMP that offers strong security and authentication. The USM specifications also defines a MIB that offers a standardized method for adding and removing users that are authorized to access an SNMP entity.

USM is organized into three distinct modules that each is responsible for different security services:

Timeliness Provides limited protection against message delay and replay. Since SNMP traffic usually goes over unreliable and connectionless transport services like UDP, message stream modifications is a natural occurrence. This module gives protection against modifications that are defined as greater than the normal occurrences.

Authentication Provides services for data integrity and data origin authentication. Data integrity prevents third parties from changing any information in an SNMP packet and data origin authentication prevents a third party from assuming the identity of a trusted user who is authorized to connect to an SNMP entity.

Privacy prevents third parties from eavesdropping on messages sent between two SNMP entities.

The USM MIB provides a standardized way of managing the users that are allowed to access an SNMP entity. The initial user has to be created through some other method than SNMP. Usually this is done using a console. After the initial user has been created new users can be added and passwords changed through SNMP SET requests. Figure B.3 shows the structure of the USM MIB.

The usmStats table in the USM MIB contains counters that represents different errors that has occurred since the last time the SNMP engine was restarted. The usmUser table is the table that controls who has access to the SNMP engine and the usmUserSpinLock entry is used as a semaphore to prevent more than one manager changing the secret keys at the same time.

B.4.1 usmUserTable

This table contains information about all users who are authorized to access the SNMP entity.

usmUserEngineID In simple entities this is the ID of that SNMP entity’s SNMP engine.

usmUserName Name of user in human readable form.
APPENDIX B. SIMPLE NETWORK MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

usmUserSecurityName Name of user in Security Model independent format. Usually the same as usmUserName.

usmUserCloneFrom All new users must be cloned from an existing user and this is a pointer to another row in the usmUserTable which contains the original user.

usmUserAuthProtocol Indicates which authentication protocol that may be used.

usmUserAuthKeyChange Used for changing the secret authentication key of a user.

usmUserOwnAuthKeyChange Same function as above but can only be used to change the authentication key of the user who was authenticated.

usmUserPrivProtocol Indicates which privacy protocol that may be used.

usmUserPrivKeyChange Used for changing the secret privacy key of a user.

usmUserOwnPrivKeyChange Same function as above but can only be used to change the privacy key of the user who was authenticated.

usmUserPublic Used for verifying that a key change was successful.

usmUserStorageType Storage type of the row.

usmUserStatus Status of the row.

B.4.2 Adding users

When the initial user has been created, additional user can be added by cloning an existing user. The procedure for adding a new user is as follows:

- Create a new row in usmUserTable by cloning it from the value specified in usmUserCloneFrom and setting usmUserStatus to createAndWait. Check for errors.

- Check usmUserSpinLock. If set, wait till it becomes available.

- Set usmUserSpinLock.

- Configure authentication and privacy.

- Clear usmUserSpinLock.

- Set usmUserStatus to active.
B.5. VIEW-BASED ACCESS CONTROL MODEL

B.4.3 Deleting users

To delete a user the value destroy is inserted into the usmUserStatus field belonging to the conceptual row in usmUserTable of the user that is being deleted. This procedure follows the recommendations of RFC 2579[61].

B.4.4 Changing keys

Changing keys are done by using SNMP SET commands to write to the usmAuthKeyChange, usmOwnAuthKeyChange, usmPrivKeyChange or usmOwnPrivKeyChange. The reason why there are two different attributes that can be used for changing authentication and privacy keys has to do with how the View-based Access Control Model works. Administrators who have write access to the entire usmUserTable can use usmAuthKeyChange and usmPrivKeyChange to change the secret keys of all users. The problem is how to allow all users to change their own passwords. If usmAuthKeyChange and usmPrivKeyChange were used, the access control system would have to be updated for each new user so that he could only modify his own keys. To avoid this usmOwnAuthKeyChange and usmOwnPrivKeyChange were introduced. These two attributes can be made writable by everyone since it by definition can only be used to change the users own keys.

When changing keys the usmUserSpinLock should be used to avoid conflicts between multiple managers accessing usmUserTable at the same time.

B.5 View-based Access Control Model

The View-based Access Control Model (VACM) is the only access control model defined so far for SNMPv3. It is responsible for deciding if an operation is allowed or not based on the identity of the user. It assumes that the message has already been authenticated by a security model like USM.

VACM is based on the concept of MIB views. A MIB view is a subset of the entire MIB available in an SNMP entity and defines which MIB objects that can be accessed by a certain user. MIB views are assigned to groups which in turn users are assign to. There are also different views for GET, SET and NOTIFY operations.

It is possible to configure the access control mechanisms through the VACM MIB. Its structure is shown in figure B.4. In this MIB there are four tables that are used to decide the access control rights:

- **vacbContextTable.** A read only table that defines the locally available contexts.
- **vacbSecurityToGroupTable.** Maps the combination of a securityName and securityModel into a groupName.
- **vacbAccessTable.** The combination of groupName, context and security information is mapped into a MIB view.
APPENDIX B. SIMPLE NETWORK MANAGEMENT PROTOCOL

- vacmViewTreeFamilyTable. Defines the MIB view and decides if an OID is accessible or not.

Figure B.5 shows the process of deciding if access is allowed. The process is as follows:

1. securityName and securityModel defines who wants access. This information is used to access the vacmSecurityToGroupTable to get the group that the user belongs to.

2. contextName represents where access is wanted, securityModel and securityLevel specifies how access is being done and viewType says why access is wanted. This information is used to access vacmAccessTable to get the name of the SNMP view.

3. object-type, what, and object-instance, which, taken together forms the OID that is being accessed. This is used as index to the vacmViewTreeFamilyTable and a decision is reached whether access is allowed or not.

B.5.1 vacmSecurityToGroupTable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vacmSecurityModel</th>
<th>security model used</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vacmSecurityName</td>
<td>security name that is security model independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmGroupName</td>
<td>name of group this entry belongs to</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmSecurityToGroupStorageType</td>
<td>storage type of the row</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmSecurityToGroupStatus</td>
<td>status of the row</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B.5.2 vacmAccessTable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>vacmAccessContextPrefix</th>
<th>name of collection of management information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>vacmAccessSecurityModel</td>
<td>security model used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmAccessSecurityLevel</td>
<td>security level used</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmAccessContextMatch</td>
<td>specifies how vacmAccessContextPrefix should be matched, exact or prefix.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmAccessReadViewName</td>
<td>name of read view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmAccessWriteViewName</td>
<td>name of write view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmAccessNotifyViewName</td>
<td>name of notify view</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmAccessStorageType</td>
<td>storage type of the row</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vacmAccessStatus</td>
<td>status of the row</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B.5. VIEW-BASED ACCESS CONTROL MODEL
**B.5.3 vacmViewTreeFamilyTable**

- **vacmViewTreeFamilyViewName** name for a family of subtrees that form a view.
- **vacmViewTreeFamilySubtree** an OID that points to a portion of the MIB tree.
- **vacmViewTreeFamilyMask** used to control which elements of the vacmViewTreeFamilySubtree should be regarded as relevant when determining which view an OID is in. Each bit in the mask corresponds to an element in the OID. A 1 indicates exact match and a 0 indicates a wild card.
- **vacmViewTreeFamilyType** type of view. Can be include or exclude.
- **vacmViewTreeFamilyStorageType** storage type of the row
- **vacmViewTreeFamilyStatus** status of the row

**B.5.4 Creating MIB views**

MIB views are created by populating the vacmViewTreeFamilyTable. This table contains a list of object identifiers that are either included or excluded from the view. Object identifiers in this table specifies subtrees in the MIB. This means that all object identifiers that belong to this subtree are included or excluded.

vacmViewTreeFamilyMask is used to introduce wildcards in the specified object identifier. This is mostly used to include one specific row in a table.

Imagine a MIB, mibA, that has a table, tableA, with three columns, tableAcol1, tableAcol2 and tableAcol3. The column tableAcol1 is used as index. Table B.1 shows the Object identifiers used in mibA.

Now assume that a user, User1, is given access to the row where tableAcol1 = 2. This means that User1 should be given access to the following Object Identifiers: 1.2.3.4.5.1.y.2 y ∈ {2, 3}. Table B.2 shows how this entry would look in the vacmViewTreeFamilyTable if the name of the view was view1.
### Table B.1: Object identifiers for mibA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Object identifier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>mibA</td>
<td>1.2.3.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tableA</td>
<td>1.2.3.4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tableEntry</td>
<td>1.2.3.4.5.1.0.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tableAcol1</td>
<td>1.2.3.4.5.1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tableAcol2</td>
<td>1.2.3.4.5.1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tableAcol3</td>
<td>1.2.3.4.5.1.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table B.2: `vacmViewTreeFamilyTable` entries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><code>vacmViewTreeFamilyViewName</code></td>
<td><code>view1</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>vacmViewTreeFamilySubtree</code></td>
<td><code>1.2.3.4.5.1.0.2</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>vacmViewTreeFamilyMask</code></td>
<td><code>1111101</code></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><code>vacmViewTreeFamilyType</code></td>
<td><code>1</code></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C

Prototype implementation of TACOMA and PTACOMA for configuring SNMPv3 access control

This chapter describes a prototype implementation of both TACOMA and PTACOMA that was used for configuring SNMPv3 entities. It starts by describing some key technologies used by the implementation, gives an overview of the design and details about how it was implemented.

C.1 Introduction

The main purpose of implementing a prototype of the TACOMA and PTACOMA languages was to verify that the specifications of the languages are correct and do not have any weaknesses. The implementation should therefore be considered as proof of concept and not a fully developed application that can be used for configuring access control in devices.

The prototype for TACOMA has support for most of the specification of the language but it do attempt to do any optimization at all of the number of access control rules that must be configured. The PTACOMA prototype only implements a subset of the language. Even if not everything is implemented, there is enough support for features of the language to achieve a high confidence in that the language specification is correct.

It was desirable to implement a prototype as quickly as possible and since performance was not an issue, PHP was chosen as the implementation language as it has good support for XML.
C.1.1 DOM and SAX

The Document Object Model (DOM) and Simple API for XML (SAX) are two different APIs both designed to provide programmers easy access to the information stored in XML documents. While they both have the same goal, they use two very different approaches to achieving this goal.

DOM is the most advanced API and gives the programmer access to the whole XML document through a hierarchical object model. What this means is that DOM reads an entire XML document and creates a tree of objects that follows the structure of the document. The programmer can then interact with these objects to get hold of the information.

The advantage of DOM is that it takes care of creating an object model of the XML document. As long as it is natural to use an object model like this in an application, DOM is easy to use. The problem is that for many applications, the tree based object model of DOM is not the most useful one. When an application wants to use its own object model, it is usually better to use SAX.

As the name applies, SAX is a simple API for accessing information stored in XML documents. It does not create any object model automatically so the program must do that manually. The advantages of SAX is that it is faster since it do not have to read all of the XML document before processing elements, and the programmer has complete freedom to create his own object model.

What SAX provides is an interface that creates a series of events based on the XML document being parsed. Events are for example created when the beginning and end of a new XML tag is encountered or for the text between the two tags. The programmer has to implement a handler for these events and this handler can then create the object model as it sees fit.

For the TACOMA and PTACOMA parsers implemented here, DOM was used together with an XPath library for searching the DOM tree.

C.2 TACOMA Parser

The implementation described here is an implementation of a generic TACOMA Parser that parses a TACOMA XML document and outputs a list of access control rules. These rules can then be used by a TACOMA SNMP ACL Configurator to configure SNMP entities. The overall design of the TACOMA Parser is shown in figure C.1.

The main class is \texttt{tacoma} which is called from the command line and takes the TACOMA XML file as an argument. The first thing the \texttt{tacoma} class does is to parse the TACOMA XML file using the built in DOM parser in PHP and then uses an XPath library to go find all symbols defined in the allSymbols tag in the TACOMA XML file.

For each of the symbols a new class like \texttt{User}, \texttt{Entity}, \texttt{Children}, \texttt{Node}, \texttt{Subtree}, \texttt{TableRow} or \texttt{Group} is created. These classes then represents all the available symbols
in the TACOMA diagram. The next step is to find a list of all main diagrams in the XML document and for each diagram a new MainDiagram class is created. This class takes as an argument the list of all classes representing the symbols in the document. When the class is created it will find all relations belonging to this specific diagram.

For each MainDiagram class, the method getAccessRules is called which returns all the access rules for this diagram.

**C.2.1 getAccessRules**

The getAccessRules is where all the work of finding the access control rules is done. This method is implemented by most classes and works recursively. The main tacoma class simply calls getAccessRules on each MainDiagram class. The MainDiagram class will in turn look for all users belonging to this diagram and call getAccessRules for each user.

The getAccessRules method on symbol classes takes as an argument all relations belonging to the diagram. So when this method is called on a User class, this class will find all relations that goes from this symbol to other symbols to find all the children symbols. It will then call getAccessRules on each of these symbols.

This will continue in a recursive manner until one of the symbols node, children, subtree or TableRow is reached. These symbols can not have any children so what they do when getAccessRules is called is to create a new AccessRule class to repre-
sent the access rule of this symbol. An *Entity* class will loop through all *AccessRules* classes created by children symbols and add itself as the entity the access rules apply for.

### C.3 Configuring SNMP access control

For each main diagram in the TACOMA XML document, the access control rules will be printed to standard output. This is then read by the SNMP ACL Configurator (SAC) which configures the SNMP access control in all entities. SAC first loops through all users and creates a series of SNMP set commands that creates the necessary entries in the USM MIB.

For each user the SNMP set commands are then generated to create the necessary entries in the VACM MIB tables. This is a simple prototype implemented as proof of concept and contains no optimization. So even if two users have the same access control rights, two different groups are created in the VACM MIB.

### C.4 Limitations

The implementation of the TACOMA Parser supports most features of the language. The main feature missing is support for EOID functions. It is EOID functions that makes it possible to create more generic access control rules.

The SNMP ACL Configurator also has some limitations. Wildcards are not implemented which means that the table row symbol is not supported. The child symbol is also not supported as this requires SAC to be able to read SNMP MIB definitions to find the children of a specific OID.

### C.5 PTACOMA implementation

The PTACOMA Parser implementation follows the same design principals as the TACOMA Parser implementation and is therefore not described in detail here. The PTACOMA implementation only implements a subset of the PTACOMA language. The only functions it supports inside an EOID is the attr() function which allows attributes set to roles or users to be inserted in the EOID at configuration time. In addition to this there is no support for domain modeling or policy views.

Enough features are however implemented so that it is possible to use the prototype in a scenario as described in Chapter 7. This can be demonstrated by a trivial example using the standard ifTable from the Interface MIB[62].

In this example we have two domains, *D1* and *D2*, which both has one user, *U1* and *U2*, and one domain, *E1* and *E2*. Both users are assigned role *R1* and the entities are of type *T1*. This is shown in figure C.2 and C.3.

We then create two policies, one that defines local access for entities in the users own domain and one for remote access for entities in other domains. For local access
Figure C.2: Domain D1

Figure C.3: Domain D2
we grant full access to the ifTable while on remote entities only access to entries with ifIndex defined by the user attribute ifIndex is granted. These two policies are shown in figure C.4.

To verify that this works as expected we use the PTACOMA prototype to configure the access control in the two entities. We start off with an empty access control configuration in the two entities:

```
$ snmpwalk -v3 -uu1 -l authNoPriv -a MD5 -A 12341234 e1 ifTable
IF-MIB::ifTable = No more variables left in this MIB View
   (It is past the end of the MIB tree)
$ snmpwalk -v3 -uu1 -l authNoPriv -a MD5 -A 12341234 e2 ifTable
IF-MIB::ifTable = No more variables left in this MIB View
   (It is past the end of the MIB tree)
```

What these two commands do, is to use snmpwalk to list all entries in ifTable first for entity $E_1$ and then $E_2$ for user $U_1$. As we can see from the output, user $U_1$ is not allowed to see any entries in the table so the returned list of values is empty.

We can now run the PTACOMA PHP script for configuring the access control in the two entities based on the two policies that we showed in figure C.4.

This script parses the PTACOMA diagrams, calculates the access control rules for each entity and then connect to the entities and configures the access control through a series of SNMP set messages to configure the VACM MIB:

```
$ ptacoma.php iftable.xml
```
C.6. CONCLUSIONS

Paring XML document:
New symbol: Local access
New symbol: R1
New symbol: Own
New symbol: T1
New symbol: ifTable
New symbol: Remote access
New symbol: AllExceptOwn
New symbol: ifTable.attr(ifIndex)
New symbol: D1
New symbol: D2
New symbol: U1
New symbol: R1
New symbol: E1
New symbol: T1
New symbol: U2
New symbol: E2
Configuring entity: E1
User U1
User U2
Configuring entity: E2
User U1
User U2

After the script has finished we can check that user U1 now sees two interfaces in the ifTable on the local entity:

$ snmpwalk -v3 -uu1 -l authNoPriv -a MD5 -A 12341234 e1 ifDescr
IF-MIB::ifDescr.1 = STRING: lo
IF-MIB::ifDescr.2 = STRING: eth0

On the remote entity, only information about the interface with ifIndex 1 is shown:

$ snmpwalk -v3 -uu1 -l authNoPriv -a MD5 -A 12341234 e2 ifDescr
IF-MIB::ifDescr.1 = STRING: lo

User U2 has full access to the local entity E2 while on E1 only information about interface with ifIndex 2 is shown:

$ snmpwalk -v3 -uu2 -l authNoPriv -a MD5 -A 12341234 e1 ifDescr
IF-MIB::ifDescr.2 = STRING: eth0
$ snmpwalk -v3 -uu2 -l authNoPriv -a MD5 -A 12341234 e2 ifDescr
IF-MIB::ifDescr.1 = STRING: lo
IF-MIB::ifDescr.2 = STRING: eth0

C.6 Conclusions

The implementation of these prototypes, while not complete and with some shortcomings, still proves that the TACOMA and PTACOMA languages can be used for configuring access control. The prototypes also clearly demonstrates the usefulness
of having a generic TACOMA and PTACOMA parser that can both generate standard access control rules that are passed to the SNMP ACL Configurator. This design made it possible to use the SNMP ACL Configurator for both TACOMA and PTACOMA without any changes.

While the prototype only supports SNMP, it should be easy and straightforward to add support for other applications like LDAP or XML based applications.
<keyref name="includeFromKeyRef" refer="tacoma:includeFromKey">
  <selector xpath="./tacoma:include/tacoma:from"/>
  <field xpath="."/>
</keyref>

<key name="excludeFromKey">
  <selector xpath="./tacoma:groupWithoutDiagram|.//tacoma:user"/>
  <field xpath="./@id"/>
</key>

<keyref name="excludeFromKeyRef" refer="tacoma:excludeFromKey">
  <selector xpath="./tacoma:exclude/tacoma:from"/>
  <field xpath="."/>
</keyref>

<keyref name="toKeyRef" refer="tacoma:symbolKey">
  <selector xpath="./tacoma:to"/>
  <field xpath="."/>
</keyref>

<key name="groupDiagramKey">
  <selector xpath="./tacoma:groupDiagram"/>
  <field xpath="./@id"/>
</key>

<keyref name="groupDiagramKeyRef" refer="tacoma:groupDiagramKey">
  <selector xpath="./tacoma:group"/>
  <field xpath="./tacoma:diagram"/>
</keyref>

</element>

<element name="groupDiagram">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <element ref="tacoma:symbols" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
      <element ref="tacoma:relations" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
    <attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="mainDiagram">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <element ref="tacoma:accessType" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
      <element ref="tacoma:name" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
      <element ref="tacoma:symbols" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
      <element ref="tacoma:relations" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
    <attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="relations">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="tacoma:relationGroup" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>
<group name="relationGroup">
  <choice>
    <element ref="tacoma:include"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:exclude"/>
  </choice>
</group>

<element name="include">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <element ref="tacoma:from" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
      <element ref="tacoma:to" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="exclude">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <element ref="tacoma:from" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
      <element ref="tacoma:to" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="symbols">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <element ref="tacoma:symbol" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="symbol">
  <complexType>
    <attribute name="ref" type="IDREF"/>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="allSymbols">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="tacoma:symbolGroup" minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>

<group name="symbolGroup">
  <choice>
    <element ref="tacoma:children"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:entity"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:groupWithoutDiagram"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:groupWithDiagram"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:node"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:subtree"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:tableRow"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:user"/>
  </choice>
</group>

<element name="children">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
<group ref="tacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="tacoma:eoid"/>
</sequence>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="entity">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="tacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="tacoma:address"/>
</sequence>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="groupWithoutDiagram">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="tacoma:commonAttributes"/>
</sequence>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="groupWithDiagram">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="tacoma:commonAttributes"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="diagram" type="IDREF" use="required"/>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="node">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="tacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="tacoma:eoid"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="subtree">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="tacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="tacoma:eoid"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="tableRow">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="tacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="tacoma:eoid"/>
<element ref="tacoma:index"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>
<element name="user">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="tacoma:commonAttributes"/>
      <element ref="tacoma:securityName" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </sequence>
    <attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
  </complexType>
</element>

<group name="commonAttributes">
  <sequence>
    <element ref="tacoma:name" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:description" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
    <element ref="tacoma:attr" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
  </sequence>
</group>

  <element name="eoid" type="string"/>
  <element name="index" type="string"/>
  <element name="address" type="string"/>
  <element name="diagram" type="IDREF"/>
  <element name="id" type="ID"/>
  <element name="name" type="string"/>
  <element name="description" type="string"/>
  <element name="accessType" type="string"/>
  <element name="delimiter" type="tacoma:char"/>
  <element name="wildcard" type="tacoma:char"/>
  <element name="escape" type="tacoma:char"/>
  <element name="from" type="IDREF"/>
  <element name="to" type="IDREF"/>
  <simpleType name="char">
    <restriction base="string">
      <length value="1"/>
    </restriction>
  </simpleType>
  <element name="attr">
    <complexType>
      <simpleContent>
        <extension base="string">
          <attribute name="name" type="string" use="required"/>
        </extension>
      </simpleContent>
    </complexType>
  </element>
  <element name="securityName">
    <complexType>
      <simpleContent>
        <extension base="string">
          <attribute name="password" type="string" use="optional"/>
          <attribute name="certificate" type="string" use="optional"/>
        </extension>
      </simpleContent>
    </complexType>
  </element>
</schema>
Appendix E

PTACOMA XML Schema

```xml
<?xml version="1.0"?>
<schema targetNamespace="http://www.oslebo.com/thesis/ptacoma"
    xmlns="http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema"
    xmlns:ptacoma="http://www.oslebo.com/thesis/ptacoma">
    <annotation>
        <documentation xml:lang="en"> Policy Tree-based Access Control Modeling Language schema. 2006 Arne Oslebo </documentation>
    </annotation>
    <element name="ptacoma">
        <complexType>
            <sequence>
                <element ref="ptacoma:allSymbols" minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:mainDiagram" minOccurs='1' maxOccurs='1'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:mainGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:roleDefGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:subjectsGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:policyViewDefGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:targetsGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:constraintsGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:typeDefGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:usersAndDomainsGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:domainModDefGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:typesEntitiesDomainsGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:domainModDefGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
                <element ref="ptacoma:typesEntitiesDomainsGroupDiagram" minOccurs='0'
                    maxOccurs='unbounded'/>
            </sequence>
            <attribute name="version" type="string" fixed="1.0" use="required"/>
        </complexType>

        <unique name="securityName">
            <selector xpath="./ptacoma:securityName"/>
        </unique>

        <key name="mainDiagramSymbolKey">
```
APPENDIX E. PTACOMA XML SCHEMA

```
<selector
  xpath="//ptacoma:domain|.//ptacoma:mainGroupDiagram|.//ptacoma:groupWODiagram"/>

  <field xpath="@id"/>
</key>

<keyref name="mainDiagramSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:mainDiagramSymbolKey">
  <selector
  <field xpath="@ref"/>
</keyref>

<key name="mainDiagramFromSymbolKey">
  <selector xpath="//ptacoma:groupWODiagram"/>
  <field xpath="@id"/>
</key>

<keyref name="mainDiagramFromSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:mainDiagramFromSymbolKey">
  <selector
  <field xpath="."/>
</keyref>

<key name="roleDefSymbolKey">
  <selector
    xpath="//ptacoma:role|.//ptacoma:roleDefGroupDiagram|.//ptacoma:groupWODiagram"/>
  <field xpath="@id"/>
</key>

<keyref name="roleDefSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:roleDefSymbolKey">
  <selector
  <field xpath="@ref"/>
</keyref>

<key name="roleDefFromSymbolKey">
  <selector
    xpath="//ptacoma:groupWODiagram|.//ptacoma:user|.//ptacoma:usersAndDomainGroupDiagram"/>
  <field xpath="@id"/>
</key>

<keyref name="roleDefFromSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:roleDefFromSymbolKey">
  <selector
  <field xpath="."/>
</keyref>

<key name="policyDefSymbolKey">
  <selector
    xpath="//ptacoma:policy|.//ptacoma:policyDefGroupDiagram|.//ptacoma:groupWODiagram"/>
  <field xpath="@id"/>
</key>

<keyref name="policyDefSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:policyDefSymbolKey">
  <selector
  <field xpath="@ref"/>
</keyref>
```
APPENDIX E. PTACOMA XML SCHEMA

<field xpath="./">
</keyref>

<key name="targetsSymbolKey">
<field xpath="@id"/>
</key>
<keyref name="targetsSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:targetsSymbolKey">
<field xpath=".@ref"/>
</keyref>

<key name="targetsFromSymbolKey">
<field xpath="@id"/>
</key>
<keyref name="targetsFromSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:targetsFromSymbolKey">
<field xpath="./"/>
</keyref>

<key name="constraintsSymbolKey">
<selector xpath="|//ptacoma:constraint|//ptacoma:constraintsGroupDiagram|//ptacoma:groupWDDiagram|/
<field xpath="@id"/>
</key>
<keyref name="constraintsSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:constraintsSymbolKey">
<field xpath=".@ref"/>
</keyref>

<key name="constraintsFromSymbolKey">
<selector xpath="|//ptacoma:groupWDDiagram|/
<field xpath="@id"/>
</key>
<keyref name="constraintsFromSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:constraintsFromSymbolKey">
<field xpath="./"/>
</keyref>

<key name="typeDefSymbolKey">
<selector xpath="|//ptacoma:type|//ptacoma:typeDefGroupDiagram|//ptacoma:groupWDDiagram|/
<field xpath="@id"/>
</key>
<keyref name="typeDefSymbolKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:typeDefSymbolKey">
<field xpath="./"/>
</keyref>
<element name="allSymbols">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <element ref="ptacoma:children" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:constraint" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:domain" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:entity" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:groupWODiagram" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:node" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:policy" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:policyView" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:role" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:subtree" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:tableRow" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:type" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:user" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="children">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:eoid"/>
    </sequence>
    <attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="constraint">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
    </sequence>
    <attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="domain">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:scope" minOccurs='0' maxOccurs='1'/>
    </sequence>
    <attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="entity">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
      <element ref="ptacoma:scope" minOccurs='0' maxOccurs='1'/>
    </sequence>
    <attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
  </complexType>
</element>
<group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:address"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="groupWDDiagram">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="node">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:eoid"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="policy">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:accessType"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:policyType"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:priority" minOccurs='0' maxOccurs='1'/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="policyView">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="role">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:all" minOccurs='0' maxOccurs='1'/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>

<element name="subtree">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="ptacoma:commonAttributes"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:eoid"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>
</element>
<field xpath="."/>
</keyref>

</element>

<element name="mainDiagram">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<group ref="ptacoma:mainDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
</sequence>
<attribute name="id" type="ID" use="required"/>
</complexType>

<key name="mainDiagramFromKey">
<selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
<Field xpath="/ref"/>
</key>

<keyref name="mainDiagramFromKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:mainDiagramFromKey">
<selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:from|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:from"/>
<Field xpath="."/>
</keyref>

<key name="mainDiagramToKey">
<Field xpath="/ref"/>
</key>

<keyref name="mainDiagramToKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:mainDiagramToKey">
<selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:to|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:to"/>
<Field xpath="."/>
</keyref>
</element>

</group name="mainDiagramContents">
<sequence>
<element ref="ptacoma:symbols" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:policyDef" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:SDPolicyDef" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:policyViewDef" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:roleDef" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:typeDef" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:relations" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
</sequence>
</group>

<element name="policyDef">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<element ref="ptacoma:symbols" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:subjects" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:targets" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:constraints" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:subject" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:relations" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
</sequence>
</complexType>
<key name="policyFromKey">
<selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
<field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
</keyref>
<key name="policyToKey">
<field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
</keyref>
<key name="policySubjectToKey">
<selector xpath="ptacoma:subjects/ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
<field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
</keyref>
</element>
<element name="SDPolicyDef">
<complexType>
<sequence>
<element ref="ptacoma:symbols" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:subjects" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:constraints" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:relations" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
</sequence>
</complexType>
<key name="SDpolicyFromKey">
<selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
<field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
</keyref>
<key name="SDpolicyToKey">
<field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
</keyref>
</element>
APPENDIX E. PTACOMA XML SCHEMA

<keyref name="SDpolicySubjectToKey">  
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:subjects/ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>  
    <field xpath="@ref"/>  
</keyref>  
/key>  
/keyref name="SDpolicySubjectToKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:SDpolicySubjectToKey">  
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:subject/ptacoma:to"/>  
    <field xpath="."/>  
</keyref>  
</keyref>

</element>

<group name="subjectsDiagramContents">  
    <sequence>  
        <element ref="ptacoma:symbols" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>  
        <element ref="ptacoma:domainModDef" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>  
        <element ref="ptacoma:relations" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>  
    </sequence>  
</group>

<element name="subjects">  
    <complexType>  
        <sequence>  
            <group ref="ptacoma:subjectsDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>  
        </sequence>  
    </complexType>  
</element>

<key ref="ptacoma:domainModDef/ptacoma:symbol"/>  
    <field xpath="@ref"/>  
</key>

/keyref name="subjectsFromKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:subjectsFromKey">  
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:from|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:from"/>  
    <field xpath="."/>  
</keyref>

/keyref name="subjectsToKey">  
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:domainModDef/ptacoma:symbol"/>  
    <field xpath="@ref"/>  
</key>

/keyref name="subjectsToKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:subjectsToKey">  
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:to|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:to"/>  
    <field xpath="."/>  
</keyref>

</element>

<element name="subjectsGroupDiagram">  
    <complexType>  
        <sequence>  
            <group ref="ptacoma:subjectsDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>  
        </sequence>  
    </complexType>  
</element>
<selector
 xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol|ptacoma:domainModDef/ptacoma:symbols
 /ptacoma:symbol"/>
 <field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
</keyref>

<key name="targetsToKey">
<selector
 xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol|ptacoma:domainModDef/ptacoma:symbols
 /ptacoma:symbol"/>
 <field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
</keyref>

</element>

<element name="targetsGroupDiagram">
<complexType>
 <sequence>
   <group ref="ptacoma:targetsDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
 </sequence>
 </complexType>
 <key name="targetsDiagramFromKey">
 <selector
 xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol|ptacoma:domainModDef/ptacoma:symbols
 /ptacoma:symbol"/>
 <field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
</keyref>

<key name="targetsDiagramToKey">
<selector
 xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol|ptacoma:domainModDef/ptacoma:symbols
 /ptacoma:symbol"/>
 <field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
</keyref>

</element>

<group name="constraintsDiagramContents">
 <sequence>
   <element ref="ptacoma:symbols" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
   <element ref="ptacoma:relations" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
 </sequence>
</group>
<element name="constraints">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:constraintsDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="constraintsGroupDiagram">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:constraintsDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>
<element ref="ptacoma:usersAndDomains" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
<element ref="ptacoma:relations" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
</sequence>
</group>
<element name="roleDef">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:roleDefDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
  <key name="roleDefFromKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol|ptacoma:usersAndDomains/ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
    <field xpath="@ref"/>
  </key>
  <keyref name="roleDefFromKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:roleDefFromKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:from|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:from"/>
    <field xpath="."/>
  </keyref>
  <key name="roleDefToKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
    <field xpath="@ref"/>
  </key>
  <keyref name="roleDefToKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:roleDefToKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:to|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:to"/>
    <field xpath="."/>
  </keyref>
</element>
<element name="roleDefGroupDiagram">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:roleDefDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
  <key name="roleDefDiagramFromKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol|ptacoma:usersAndDomains/ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
    <field xpath="@ref"/>
  </key>
  <keyref name="roleDefDiagramFromKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:roleDefDiagramFromKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:from|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:from"/>
    <field xpath="."/>
  </keyref>
  <key name="roleDefDiagramToKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
    <field xpath="@ref"/>
  </key>
  <keyref name="roleDefDiagramToKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:roleDefDiagramToKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:to|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:to"/>
    <field xpath="."/>
  </keyref>
</element>
<selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
  <field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>
<keyref name="typeDefDiagramToKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:typeDefDiagramToKey">
  <selector
    xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:to|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:to"/>
  <field xpath="."/>
</keyref>
</element>

<group name="usersAndDomainsDiagramContents">
  <sequence>
    <element ref="ptacoma:symbols" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
    <element ref="ptacoma:domainModDef" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
    <element ref="ptacoma:relations" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="1"/>
  </sequence>
</group>
<element name="usersAndDomains">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:usersAndDomainsDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
  <key name="usersAndDomainsFromKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol|ptacoma:domainModDef/ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
    <field xpath="@ref"/>
  </key>
  <keyref name="usersAndDomainsFromKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:usersAndDomainsFromKey">
    <selector
      xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:from|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:from"/>
    <field xpath="."/>
  </keyref>
  <key name="usersAndDomainsToKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
    <field xpath="@ref"/>
  </key>
  <keyref name="usersAndDomainsToKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:usersAndDomainsToKey">
    <selector
      xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:to|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:to"/>
    <field xpath="."/>
  </keyref>
</element>

<element name="usersAndDomainsGroupDiagram">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:usersAndDomainsDiagramContents" minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
  <key name="usersAndDomainsDiagramFromKey">
    <selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol"/>
    <field xpath="@ref"/>
  </key>
  <keyref name="usersAndDomainsDiagramFromKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:usersAndDomainsDiagramFromKey">
    <selector
      xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:to|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:to"/>
    <field xpath="."/>
  </keyref>
</element>
<element name="typesEntitiesDomainsGroupDiagram">
  </complexType>
  <sequence>
    <group ref="ptacoma:typesEntitiesDomainsDiagramContents"
      minOccurs="1" maxOccurs="1"/>
  </sequence>
</complexType>
</element>

<key name="typesEntitiesDomainsDiagramFromKey">
  <selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol|ptacoma:domainModDef/ptacoma:symbols" />
  <field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>

<keyref name="typesEntitiesDomainsDiagramFromKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:typesEntitiesDomainsDiagramFromKey">
  <selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:from|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:from" />
  <field xpath="."/>
</keyref>

<key name="typesEntitiesDomainsDiagramToKey">
  <selector xpath="ptacoma:symbols/ptacoma:symbol" />
  <field xpath="@ref"/>
</key>

<keyref name="typesEntitiesDomainsDiagramToKeyRef" refer="ptacoma:typesEntitiesDomainsDiagramToKey">
  <selector xpath="ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:include/ptacoma:to|ptacoma:relations/ptacoma:exclude/ptacoma:to" />
  <field xpath="."/>
</keyref>

<element name="relations">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:relationGroup" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>

<element name="logicrelations">
  <complexType>
    <sequence>
      <group ref="ptacoma:relationGroup" minOccurs="0" maxOccurs="unbounded"/>
    </sequence>
  </complexType>
</element>
<element name="priority" type="integer"/>
<element name="address" type="string"/>
<element name="eoid" type="string"/>
<element name="index" type="string"/>
<element name="from" type="IDREF"/>
<element name="to" type="IDREF"/>
<element name="all">
  <simpleType>
    <restriction base="string">
      <enumeration value="yes"/>
      <enumeration value="no"/>
    </restriction>
  </simpleType>
</element>
<element name="policyType">
  <simpleType>
    <restriction base="string">
      <enumeration value="min"/>
      <enumeration value="max"/>
      <enumeration value="exact"/>
    </restriction>
  </simpleType>
</element>
<element name="scope">
  <simpleType>
    <restriction base="string">
      <enumeration value="all"/>
      <enumeration value="siblings"/>
      <enumeration value="children"/>
    </restriction>
  </simpleType>
</element>
<element name="attr">
  <complexType>
    <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
        <attribute name="name" type="string" use="required"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>
<element name="securityName">
  <complexType>
    <simpleContent>
      <extension base="string">
        <attribute name="password" type="string" use="optional"/>
        <attribute name="certificate" type="string" use="optional"/>
      </extension>
    </simpleContent>
  </complexType>
</element>
</schema>
Appendix F

MAPI MIB

MAPI-MIB DEFINITIONS ::= BEGIN

IMPORTS
   MODULE-IDENTITY, OBJECT-TYPE, NOTIFICATION-TYPE, Counter32, Counter64,
   Gauge32, enterprises FROM SNMPv2-SMI
   DisplayString, TimeStamp
   FROM SNMPv2-TC
   IANAifType FROM IANAifType-MIB;

uninett OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { enterprises 2428 }
uninettExperiment OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { uninett 2428 }

mapiMIB MODULE-IDENTITY
   LAST-UPDATED "0307070000Z"
   ORGANIZATION "LOBSTER Consortium"
   CONTACT-INFO
     "URL: http://www.ist-lobster.org
     Email: info@ist-lobster.org"
   Editor: Arne Gelebo
   UNINETT
   Postal: N-7465 Trondheim
   Norway
   Email: Arne.Oslebo@uninett.no"

DESCRIPTION
   "The MIB module to describe Monitoring API related objects."
   ::= { uninettExperiment 124 }

mapiMIBObjects OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { mapiMIB 1 }
   -- mibTraps OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { mapiMIB 2 }
   -- mibMIBConformance OBJECT IDENTIFIER ::= { mapiMIB 3 }

   -- Interfaces group ************************************************************
   -- The interface group provides information about interfaces that are
   -- available in MAPI for monitoring

mapifTable OBJECT-TYPE
   SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF mapifEntry
   MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
   STATUS current
   DESCRIPTION "Information about each available interface"
   ::= { mapiMIBObjects 1 }
mapiIfEntry OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX   MapiIfEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS   current
DESCRIPTION "An entry in this table provides information about a specific interface."
INDEX   { mapiIfIndex }
 ::= { mapiIfTable 1 }

MapiIfEntry ::= SEQUENCE
  {
    mapiIfIndex
    mapiIfName
    mapiIfDescr
    mapiIfAlias
    mapiIfType
    mapiIfStatus
    mapiIfPkts
    mapiIfOctets
    mapiIfDroppedPkts
    mapiIfLastBufferSize
    mapiIfCounterDiscontinuityTime
  }

mapiIfIndex OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX   Integer32
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS   current
DESCRIPTION "A unique value, greater than zero, for each device available for monitoring through MAPI. It is recommended that the values are assigned contiguously starting from one and remain constant from one re-initialization of the system to the next re-initialization"
 ::= { mapiIfEntry 1 }

mapiIfName OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX   DisplayString (SIZE (0..64))
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS   current
DESCRIPTION "A textual string containing the name of the interface. The name should uniquely identify the interface in the host system. An example of a device name is '/dev/eth1'"
 ::= { mapiIfEntry 2 }

mapiIfDescr OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX   DisplayString (SIZE (0..255))
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS   current
DESCRIPTION "A textual string containing information about the interface. The string should include the name of the manufacturer, the product name and the version of the device hardware/software."
 ::= { mapiIfEntry 3 }

mapiIfAlias OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX   DisplayString (SIZE (0..64))
MAX-ACCESS read-write
STATUS   current
DESCRIPTION "This object is an 'alias' name for the interface as specified by a network manager, and provides a non-volatile 'handle' for the device."

On the first instantiation of an interface, the value of
mapIfAlias associated with that device is the zero-length string. As and when a value is written into an instance of mapIfAlias through a network management set operation, then the agent must retain the supplied value in the mapIfAlias instance associated with the same interface for as long as that device remains instantiated, including across all re-initializations/reboots of the network management system, including those which result in a change of the device's mapIfIndex value."

::= { mapIfEntry 4 }

mapIfType OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX IANAifType
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The type of interface. Additional values for ifType are assigned by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), through updating the syntax of the IANAifType textual convention."

::= { mapIfEntry 5 }

mapIfStatus OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX INTEGER32 {
  active(1), -- currently being used for measurements
  ready(2), -- ready to be used for measurements
  unavailable(3), -- unavailable for measurements
  linkLost(4), -- network link is down
  unknown(5) -- status of interface can not be determined
}
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The current status of the interface."

::= { mapIfEntry 6 }

mapIfPktS OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The total number of packets captured by the interface."

Discontinuities in the value of this counter can occur at re-initialization of the management system, and at other times as indicated by the value of mapIfCounterDiscontinuityTime."

::= { mapIfEntry 7 }

mapIfOctets OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The total number of octets captured by the interface."

Discontinuities in the value of this counter can occur at re-initialization of the management system, and at other times as indicated by the value of mapIfCounterDiscontinuityTime."

::= { mapIfEntry 8 }

mapIfDroppedPktS OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The total number of dropped packets during packet capture by the interface."
Discontinuities in the value of this counter can occur at re-initialization of the management system, and at other times as indicated by the value of mapiIfCounterDiscontinuityTime.

::={ mapiIfEntry 9 }

mapiIfLastBufferSize OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The total number of octets that was last read from the interface."
::={ mapiIfEntry 10 }

mapiIfCounterDiscontinuityTime OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX TimeStamp
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The value of sysUpTime on the most recent occasion at which any one or more of this interface’s counters suffered a discontinuity."
::={ mapiIfEntry 11 }

-- mapiOrganizationTable **********************************************************

mapiOrgTable OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF mapiOrgEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "Information about organizations that are allowed access to MAPI"
::={ mapiMIBObjects 2 }

mapiOrgEntry OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX MapiOrgEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "An entry in this table provides information about a specific interface."
INDEX { mapiOrgID }
::={ mapiOrgTable 1 }

MapiOrgEntry ::= SEQUENCE
{ mapiOrgID
mapiOrgName
mapiOrgContact
mapiOrgContactPhone
mapiOrgContactEmail
}

mapiOrgID OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Integer32
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "A unique value, greater than zero, for each organization that has access to MAPI. It is recommended that the values are assigned contiguously starting from one and remain constant from one re-initialization of the system to the next re-initialization"
::={ mapiOrgEntry 1 }

mapiOrgName OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString (SIZE (0..64))
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
  "A textual string containing the name of the organization"
  ::= { mapiOrgEntry 2 }

mapiOrgContact OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString (SIZE (0..64))
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
  "A textual string containing the name of the contact person for this
organization"
  ::= { mapiOrgEntry 3 }

mapiOrgContactPhone OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString (SIZE (0..64))
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
  "A textual string containing the phone number for the contact person for this
organization"
  ::= { mapiOrgEntry 4 }

mapiOrgEmail OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString (SIZE (0..64))
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
  "A textual string containing the email address for the contact person for this
organization"
  ::= { mapiOrgEntry 5 }

-- mapiUserTable *****************************************************************************

mapiUserTable OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF mapiUserEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "Information about organizations that are allowed access to MAPI"
  ::= { mapiMIBObjects 3 }

mapiUserEntry OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX MapiUserEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "An entry in this table provides information about a
specific interface."
INDEX { mapiOrgID mapiUserID }
  ::= { mapiUserTable 1 }

MapiUserEntry ::= SEQUENCE
  {
    mapiUserID
    mapiUserName
    mapiUserLoginName
    mapiUserLastLogin
    mapiUserTotalFlows
    mapiUserActiveFlows
  }

mapiUserID OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Integer32
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "A unique value, greater than zero, for each user that has
access to MAPI. It is recommended that the values are
assigned contiguously starting from one and remain constant from
one re-initialization of the system to the next re-initialization

::={ mapiUserEntry 1 }

mapiUserName OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString (SIZE (0..64))
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"A textual string containing the full name of the user"
::={ mapiUserEntry 2 }

mapiUserLoginName OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString (SIZE (0..16))
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"A textual string containing the login name of the user"
::={ mapiUserEntry 3 }

mapiUserLastLogin OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX TimeStamp
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"Date and time for when the last time the user connected to MAPI"
::={ mapiUserEntry 4 }

mapiUserTotalFlows OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Integer32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The total number of flows created by the user"
::={ mapiUserEntry 5 }

mapiUserActiveFlows OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Integer32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The number of currently active flows owned by the user"
::={ mapiUserEntry 6 }

-- mapiFlowTable ****************************

mapiFlowTable OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF mapiFlowEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "Information about active or recently closed MAPI flows"
::= { mapiMIBObjects 4 }

mapiFlowEntry OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX MapiFlowEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "An entry in this table provides information about a
specific flow."
INDEX { mapiOrgID mapiUserID mapiFlowID }
::= { mapiFlowTable 1 }

MapiFlowEntry ::= SEQUENCE
{
    mapiFlowID
    mapiFlowIfIndex
mapiFlowNumFunctions
mapiFlowPkts
mapiFlowOctets
mapiFlowDroppedPkts
mapiFlowStart
mapiFlowEnd

mapiFlowID OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Integer32
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"A unique value, greater than zero, for each MAPI flow."
::={ mapiFlowEntry 1 }

mapiFlowIfIndex OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The ifIndex number identifying the interface this flow is running on."
::={ mapiFlowEntry 2 }

mapiFlowIfIndex OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter32
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The number of functions that are applied to this flow"
::={ mapiFlowEntry 3 }

mapiFlowPkts OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The total number of packets captured by the flow."
::={ mapiFlowEntry 4 }

mapiFlowOctets OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The total number of octets captured by the flow."
::={ mapiFlowEntry 5 }

mapiFlowDroppedPkts OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The total number of dropped packets during packet capture by the flow."
::={ mapiFlowEntry 6 }

mapiFlowStart OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX TimeStamp
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The value of sysUpTime at the start of the flow"
::={ mapiFlowEntry 7 }
mapiFlowEnd OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX TimeStamp
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The value of sysUpTime at the end of the flow. If the flow is
still active the value should be 0"
 ::= { mapiFlowEntry 8 }

-- mapiFunctionTable *******************************************************
mapiFunctionTable OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF mapiFunctionEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "Information about functions applied to MAPI flows"
 ::= { mapiMIBObjects 5 }
mapiFunctionEntry OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX MapiFunctionEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "An entry in this table provides information about a
specific function."
INDEX { mapiOrgID mapiUserID mapiFlowID mapiFunctionID }
 ::= { mapiFunctionTable 1 }

MapiFunctionEntry ::= SEQUENCE
 { mapiFunctionID
  mapiFunctionPkts
  mapiFunctionOctets
  mapiFunctionPassedPkts
  mapiFunctionDroppedPkts
 }

mapiFunctionID OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Integer32
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "A unique value, greater than zero, for each function."
 ::= { mapiFunctionEntry 1 }
mapiFunctionPkts OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The total number of packets captured by the function."
 ::= { mapiFunctionEntry 2 }
mapiFunctionOctets OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The total number of octets captured by the function."
 ::= { mapiFunctionEntry 3 }
mapiFunctionPassedPkts OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION
"The total number of packets that has passed through the function." 
::={ mapiFunctionEntry 4 }

mapiFlowDroppedPkts OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Counter64
MAX-ACCESS read-only
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "The total number of dropped packets during packet capture by the 
function." 
::={ mapiFlowEntry 5 }

-- mapiArgumentTable *******************************************************

mapiArgumentTable OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX SEQUENCE OF mapiArgumentEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "Information about arguments to MAPI functions" 
::={ mapiMIBObjects 6 }

mapiArgumentEntry OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX MapiArgumentEntry
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "An entry in this table provides information about a 
specific argument." 
INDEX { mapiOrgID mapiUserID mapiFlowID mapiFunctionID mapiArgumentID } 
::={ mapiArgumentTable 1 }

MapiArgumentEntry ::= SEQUENCE 
{ 
  mapiArgumentID
  mapiArgumentType
  mapiArgumentValue
}

mapiArgumentID OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX Integer32
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "A unique value, greater than zero, for each argument." 
::={ mapiArgumentEntry 1 }

mapiArgumentType OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString (SIZE (0..64))
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "A string showing the type of argument, eg. integer, float, string etc." 
::={ mapiArgumentEntry 1 }

mapiArgumentValue OBJECT-TYPE
SYNTAX DisplayString (SIZE (0..256))
MAX-ACCESS not-accessible
STATUS current
DESCRIPTION "String representation of the value of the argument" 
::={ mapiArgumentEntry 1 }

END
Bibliography


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