

# 무선센서네트워크를 위한 랜덤키사전분배기법의 경로키 설정에 대한 재고\*

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## Revisiting Path-Key Establishment of Random Key Predistribution for Wireless Sensor Networks\*

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### 요약

본 논문에서는 무선센서네트워크를 위한 랜덤키사전분배기법의 경로키 설정에 대해서 재고한다. 먼저 랜덤키사전분배기법의 기본적인 단계인 경로키 설정이 성능면에서 비실용적임을 보이고, 이를 크게 개선하기 위한 새로운 기법을 제시하고 그 성능을 분석한다.

### ABSTRACT

In this short paper, we revisit the random key predistribution methods for wireless sensor networks with regard to their intrinsic phase called the path-key establishment. First we show that the path-key establishment is less practical than expected and may degrade the performance of key establishment significantly. We then propose a novel path-key establishment method for those schemes and analyze its advantageous performance improvement.

**Keywords:** Wireless sensor networks, network security, key predistribution

## 1. Introduction

Wireless sensor networks are dense wireless networks of sensor nodes collecting and disseminating data in a distributed manner. Sensor nodes are usually small resource-constrained devices so may sense around themselves, communicate over wireless channels within short ranges, and fall into the

sleep mode for saving their power. Since they are deployed in unattended fashions even in hostile environments, security functions including secure key establishment are very significant, many studies have been devoted to this challenging area since the first elegant proposal of key predistribution by Eschenauer and Gligor[1-10]. Among them, we are interested in the key predistribution schemes [1,3,5], which are composed of three phases such as key (installation), shared key discovery (for neighboring nodes having shared keys), and path-establishment (for neighboring nodes not having shared keys). With those schemes, we observe that path-key

접수일(2009년 2월 24일), 게재확정일(2009년 3월 3일)

\* 이 논문은 2007년 정부(교육인적자원부)의 재원으로 한국과학기술진흥재단의 지원을 받아 수행된 연구임.

(KRF-2007-314-D00254)

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establishment phase has been somewhat neglected in practical senses.

In this paper, after reviewing the random key predistribution briefly, we remark that the computation and overhead for path-key establishment grows exponentially as the number of hops increases establishing the path, in order to attain a certain connectivity. For higher connectivities, the path-key could become impractical. Thus, we propose a novel *path-key offering* method for improving path-key establishment with regard to connectivity and efficiency, and provide rigorous analyses.

## II. Random Key Predistribution and Its Problem

### 2.1 Three Phases of Random Key Predistribution Schemes

Eschenauer and Gligor first introduced the random (probabilistic) key predistribution scheme, RKP, 2002[5], and then Chan et al. proposed its improvement with  $q$ -composite and multi-path methods connectivities as well as the random pairwise-key predistribution scheme, RP, in 2003[1]. Since seminal studies, a number of related schemes have been proposed[2-4],6,8-10]. RKP scheme show the basic structure of those schemes, consisting of three main phases under large pool of random keys (with node identities in such schemes as RP). In Phase 1, a set of sub- are selected at random from the large key pool and pre-installed to each node. In Phase 2, after deployment, each node discovers common keys with all its neighboring nodes, saying, in wireless range, by exchanging key identities (meaning node identities in RP). The common keys a single shared key, as in RP) are then used for a new pairwise key. In Phase 3, if there is no intersected between sub-key sets of two neighboring nodes, a

path-key establishment step is proceeded, so that could establish a path-key through two or more hops between them. This procedure has been a technique in the related probabilistic key establishment schemes for wireless sensor networks. RP scheme and more derivatives of RKP follow those three phases[2-4,6,8-10].

### 2.2 Overhead of Path-Key Establishment

With regard to the path-key establishment step, we remark that the computation and communication could grow exponentially as the number of hops increases in establishing the actual path with broadcast, in order to attain a certain connectivity  $p$ . Since the 1-hop connectivity  $p_1$ , meaning connectivity in Phase 2, between any two neighboring nodes should be given in a probabilistic manner storage efficiency of sensor nodes, as referred to in Eq. 1 in the following section, the path-key should be done to the amount of filling the gap between  $p$  and  $p_1$  for any two neighboring which must be high. Even in the standard example of [5] such that  $p_1 = 0.5$  for storing 250 keys from the 100,000-key pool, the path-key establishment is likely to run so frequently for  $p$ . The path extended beyond neighbors should result in further message broadcast and exchange of neighbor and so on. For higher connectivities, the path-key establishment could become impractical. in the following section, we propose a path-key offering method to cope with this problem.

## III. Path-Key Establishment with Path-Key Offering

Suppose that a sensor node  $u$  has neighbors  $v$  and  $w$ , respectively, denoting unidentified and identified Here we mean by "identified" that the node share a key and so connected with  $u$ , while the unidentified does not. We

define a list of identified neighbors of  $u$  by  $\ell_{id}(u)$ , and that of unidentified by  $\ell_{un}(u)$ , so that  $w \in \ell_{id}(u)$  and  $v \in \ell_{un}(u)$ . Let  $L_{id}(u)$  be a list of pairs,  $\langle v, k \rangle$ , for all  $v$  and values given to  $u$ , such that  $v$  is an unidentified neighbor and  $k$  is one of key identities broadcast by  $v$  in Phase 2. Similarly let  $L_{un}(u)$  be those of unidentified neighbors. For simplicity, we also let  $S(v)$  a set of key identities broadcast by  $v$  in Phase 2. We say,  $K(w)$  denotes a set of key identities intersect between the keys of  $w$  and  $v$ -nodes satisfying that  $w$  is not sharing with its own neighbors. also say,  $V(w)$  denotes the identified neighbors of  $w$ , broadcast by  $w$  itself through  $b(w)$ . path-key offering means that  $w$  offers to  $u$  the keys satisfying  $S(v) \cap K(w)$ , so that  $u$  and  $v$  can a shared key. We denote this by  $PKO(w, u, v)$  as follows. Let  $CPK(u, w, v)$  denote the classical establishment assuming that a trusted path through  $w$  is already found between  $u$  and  $v$ .

First,  $u$  broadcasts  $b(u)$ , that is a pair of its own identity and the list  $L_{un}(u)$  implying its unidentified and their key lists. Similarly, other nodes may also broadcast the pairs, for example,  $b(v)$ . each identified node  $w$ , set a 2-tuple of lists,  $c(w) = \langle K(w), V(w) \rangle$ . Subsequently  $u$  runs  $PKO(w, u, v)$  some  $w$  for identifying  $v$ , if there are keys satisfying  $S(v) \cap K(w)$ . Otherwise, in case of satisfying  $v \in V(w)$ ,  $u$  runs  $CPK(u, w, v)$  as in the legacy Phase 3.  $PKO(w, u, v)$  may rule out many of  $CPK(u, w, v)$ .

**Algorithm 1. Path-key establishment with path-key offering**

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1: broadcast  $b(u) = \langle u, L_{un}(u) \rangle$  to all  $w \in \ell_{id}(u)$ ,
2: where  $L_{un}(u) = \{ \langle v, k \rangle | v \in \ell_{un}(u), k \in S(v) \}$ 
3: for each  $w \in \ell_{id}(u)$  do
4:    $c(w) = \langle K(w), V(w) \rangle$ ,
5:   where  $K(w) = \{ k | \langle *, k \rangle \in L_{un}(u) \wedge \langle *, k \rangle \notin L_{id}(u) \} \cap S(w)$ ,  $V(w) = \{ v | \langle v, * \rangle \in L_{id}(w) \}$ 
6: end for

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7: for each  $v \in \ell_{un}(u)$  do
8:   for each  $w \in \ell_{id}(u)$  do
9:     if  $S(v) \cap K(w) = \emptyset$  then
10:        $PKO(w, u, v)$ 
11:       break
12:     end if
13:   end for
14: end for
15: for each  $v \in \ell_{un}(u)$  do
16:   for each  $w \in \ell_{id}(u)$  do
17:     if  $v \in V(w)$  then
18:        $CPK(u, w, v)$ 
19:       break
20:     end if
21:   end for
22: end for

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**IV. Analysis**

Let us denote by  $p_l$  the 1-hop connectivity, which is the probability that two nodes share at least a key be connected directly. Then, when we assume that the size of key pool is  $\xi$  and each node has  $m$  keys,  $p_l$  for RKP is given by

$$p_{1,RKP} = 1 - \frac{\binom{\xi}{m} \binom{\xi-m}{m}}{\binom{\xi}{m}}, \quad (1)$$

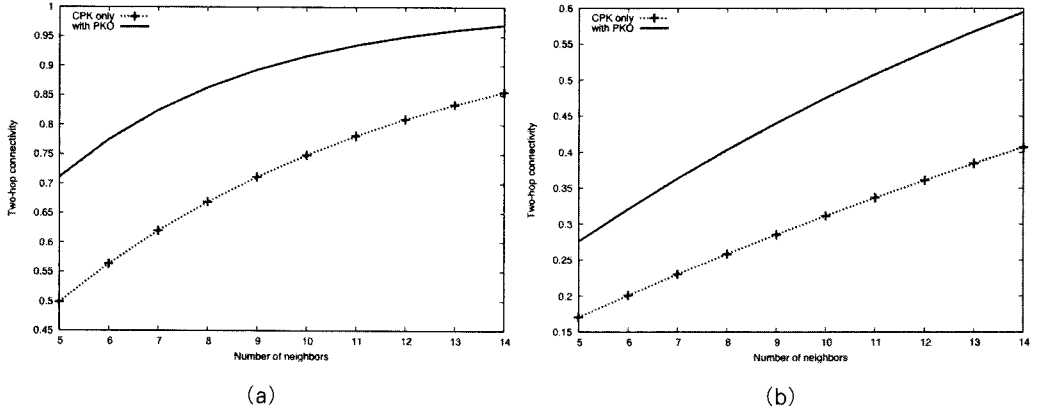
and  $p_l$  for RP is given by

$$p_{1,RP} = \frac{m}{N}, \quad (2)$$

where  $N$  is the total number of sensor nodes.

We start from the analysis of [7] for considering multi-hop connectivities. Suppose that two neighboring  $u$  and  $v$  have failed to discover their common keys within a single hop, while  $u$  has  $n'$  neighbors. two-hop connectivity  $p_2$  then means the probability of being connected within a two-hop path:

$$p_2 = \sum_{k=1}^{n'} \binom{n'}{k} p_1^k (1-p_1)^{n'-k} [1 - (1-p_1 p_1)^k], \quad (3)$$



(Fig. 1) Two-hop connectivities according to the number of neighbors. (a) RKP ( $\xi = 4000$ ,  $m = 50$ ,  $p_1 = 0.469$ ) (b) RP ( $N = 200$ ,  $m = 50$ ,  $p_1 = 0.25$ )

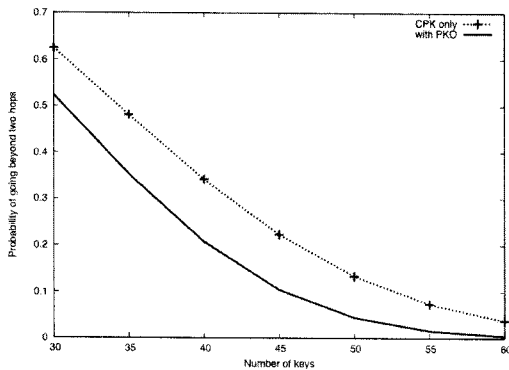
where  $\binom{n'}{k} p_1^k (1-p_1)^{n'-k}$  denotes that, among  $n'$  neighbors,  $k$  nodes are identified and connected with  $p_1$ . Then, those  $k$  neighbors are also identified and connected by each other with  $p_c p_1$ , where  $p_c$  is the probability that any two of those neighbors reside within each other's communication range. that  $p_c = 0.5865$  if the communication range is circular regardless of its radius. Readers are referred [7] for  $p_c$ . Thus,  $[1 - (1 - p_c p_1)^k]$  is the probability that at least one of those  $k$  nodes is paired with  $v$ .

As shown in Eq. 3, the node  $u$  could use, in part, only limited neighbors which reside within the range of  $v$ . If there is no neighbor who shares a key with  $v$ , then the search path should be expanded with more hops resulting in more overhead. On the contrary, with PKO,  $u$  can be helped all of its connected neighbors within its own communication range, which means that  $u$  can borrow connected neighbors' key pools in part. For fairness, if a connected neighbor of  $u$  resides out of communication range of  $v$ , then  $u$  borrows the keys shared with  $v$  from that neighbor, of which probability is  $p_1$ . Otherwise,  $u$  borrows the shared keys, in part, such that the neighbor has not used for its connection with  $v$ . However, even in

case that all shared keys are already used by the neighbor, it rather assures that CPK can be done no more than within two hops. Thus, with PKO, we gain that  $u$  can utilize the keys (shared with  $v$ ) of all connected neighbors regardless of their actual connection to  $v$ , while also making CPK enjoy it. It means that  $p_c$  of Eq. 3 can be ruled out, with PKO. Finally,  $p_2$  with PKO, denoted as  $p_{2,PKO}$ , is given by

$$p_{2,PKO} = \sum_{k=1}^{n'} \binom{n'}{k} p_1^k (1-p_1)^{n'-k} [1 - (1-p_1)^k]. \quad (4)$$

[Fig. 1] illustrates according to the number of neighbors, that PKO improves two-hop connectivities significantly compared to the case of using CPK only, with both schemes such as RKP and RP. When the number of neighbors is 10, the two-hop connectivity is improved by 22.4% for RKP and 52.6% for RP. If there still remains a neighbor which is not connected within two hops either by PKO or CPK, then the CPK process is extended beyond two hops, which may require broadcast beyond those neighbors. Thus, after the connection within two hops has failed, the number of messages may increase exponentially by  $O((n')^{h-2})$ , where  $h$  is the number of hops in the extended path.



(Fig. 2) Probability of going beyond two hops according to the number of keys, (RKP,  $\xi = 4000$ )

Let  $p_3$  denote the probability of going beyond two hops such that  $p_3 = (1-p_1)(1-p_2)$ . It represents then the probability of the communication overhead that increases exponentially. Fig. 2 illustrates  $p_3$  according to the number of keys, with regard to the CPK only case and the case with PKO. We could observe that PKO allows less communication overhead than the CPK only case, due to that the probability of going beyond two hops for further CPK process is getting lower with PKO.

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