

# An Enhanced Data Distribution with Protection of Agent Colluding Attacks

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**Abstract**---In a data distribution scenario the sensitive data given to agents can be leaked in some cases and can be found in unauthorized places. We consider the addition of fake objects to the distributed set which do not correspond to real entities but appear realistic to the agents. The distributor must assess the likelihood that the leaked data came from one or more agents, as opposed to having been independently gathered by other means. We also present data allocation strategies and algorithms for distributing objects to agents, in a way that improves our chances of identifying a leaker. Our main idea is to prevent the agents from comparing their data with others to identify fake objects. A Semantic Inference Model (SIM) is used here to find out the probability of identifying dependency among the data distributed to various agents. Using this technique semantic inference graph (SIG) is drawn denoting the links among data sets.

**Keywords** -agent colluding, data inference, database security, guilty agent probability

## I. INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, leakage detection is handled by watermarking, e.g., a unique code is embedded in each distributed copy. If that copy is later discovered in the hands of an unauthorized party, the leaker can be identified. Watermarks can be very useful in some cases, but again, involve some modification of the original data. Furthermore, watermarks can sometimes be destroyed if the data recipient is malicious. So we consider the option of adding “fake” objects to the distributed set. Such objects act as a type of watermark for the entire set, without modifying any individual members. If it turns out that an agent was given one or more fake objects that were leaked, then the distributor can be more confident that agent was guilty. The approach used here to identify the probability of agent colluding attacks is Semantic inference model (SIM). A semantic Inference Graph (SIG) is drawn that links all the related attributes, which can be derived by identifying attribute dependency from data dependency, database schema, and semantic related knowledge. Based on the SIM, the violation

detection system keeps track of a user’s query history. When a new query is posed, all the channels where sensitive information can be inferred will be identified. If the probability of inferring sensitive information exceeds a pre-specified threshold, then the current query request will be denied. In section 2 we start by our problem setup and notations whereas section 4 and 5 discuss briefly about the analysis of agent guilt model and the various data allocation strategies respectively. Our technique to calculate the probability of agent colluding attacks is explained in section 6. Access control mechanisms are commonly used to protect users from the divulgence of sensitive information in data sources. However, such techniques are insufficient because malicious users may access a series of innocuous data, and from the received answers, they can employ such information to retrieve data.

## II. PROBLEM SET UP AND NOTATIONS

### II.1. Agent and data requests

The data to be distributed are denoted as objects  $t_1, t_2, \dots, t_n$  and the agents to whom the data is handed over are denoted as  $R_1, R_2, \dots, R_n$ . The allocation of objects is performed based on two choices. Agents themselves can request data that satisfy some condition or the distributor can allocate data randomly to agents if they do not insist with conditions. They are denoted as explicit and sample data requests respectively. Agents are also chosen by analyzing various techniques.

### II.2. Data objects

The data that is to be distributed if given simply original, it is subjected to be leaked or used in malicious ways. In order to prevent this, watermarks are used in previous days. Now we introduce the concept of adding fake objects along with original data during allocation to agents. Since allocation is based on explicit and sample requests of agents, fake objects or tuples also have various instances. Each type of request will have two instances one with fake object and another without fake object.

### II.3. Agent guilt model analysis

To estimate how likely it is that a system will be operational throughout a given period, we need the probabilities that

individual components will or will not fail. A component failure in our case is the event that the target guesses an object of  $S$ . The component failure is used to compute the overall system reliability, while we use the probability of guessing to identify agents that have leaked information. The component failure probabilities are estimated based on experiments, just as we propose to estimate the pts. Similarly, the component probabilities are usually conservative estimates, rather than exact numbers.

### III. DATA ALLOCATION STRATEGIES

Our main focus is on the data allocation problem: how can the distributor “intelligently” give data to agents in order to improve the chances of detecting a guilty agent? As illustrated in Fig. 1, there are four instances of this problem we address, depending on the type of data requests made by agents and whether “fake objects” are allowed. The objects are designed to look like real objects, and are distributed to agents together with  $T$  objects, in order to increase the chances of detecting agents that leak data. We represent our four problem instances with the names EF, EF, SF, and SF, where E stands for explicit requests, S for sample requests, F for the use of fake objects, and F for the case where fake objects are not allowed. Note that, for simplicity, we are assuming that in the E problem instances, all agents make explicit requests, while in the S instances, all agents make sample requests.

#### III.1. Data request with explicit condition

##### III.1.1. Data Request with e-random

Here we combine the allocation of the explicit data request with the agent selection of e-random. Initially we find agents that are eligible to receiving fake objects in  $O(n)$  time. Then, the algorithm creates one fake object in every iteration and allocates it to random agent.

##### III.1.2. Data Request with e-optimal

Still to improve the algorithm for allocation explicit data request we are combining this algorithm with the agent selection for e-optimal method. This algorithm based on e-optimal makes a greedy choice by selecting the agent that will yield the greatest improvement in the sum-objective.

#### III.2. Data request with sample

##### III.2.1. Data Request with s-random

Algorithm s-random allocates objects to agents in a round-robin fashion. After the initialization of vectors  $d$  and  $a$ , the main loop is executed while there are still data objects (remaining  $> 0$ ) to be allocated to agents. In each iteration of this loop, the algorithm uses function SELECT OBJECT () to find a random object to allocate to agent  $U_i$ . This loop iterates over all agents who have not received the number of data objects they have requested.

##### III.2.2. Data Request with s-overlap

In the previous section the distributor can minimize both objectives by allocating distinct sets to all three agents. Such an optimal allocation is possible, since agents request in total fewer objects than the distributor has. This is overcome by

presenting an object selection approach for s-overlap. Here in each iteration of allocating sample data request algorithm, we provide agent  $U_i$  with an object that has been given to the smallest number of agents. So, if agents ask for fewer objects than  $jT_j$ , agent selection for s-optimal algorithm will return in each iteration an object that no agent has received so far. Thus, every agent will receive a data set with objects that no other agent has. The running time of this algorithm is  $O(1)$ .

#### III.2.3. Data Request with s-max

This algorithm we present here is termed as object selection for s-max. If we apply s-max to the example above, after the first five main loop iterations in algorithm of allocating data request, the  $R_i$  sets are:

$$R_1 = \{t_1, t_2\}; R_2 = \{t_2\}; R_3 = \{t_3\}; \text{ and } R_4 = \{t_4\}$$

In the next iteration, function SELECT OBJECT () must decide which object to allocate to agent  $U_2$ . We see that only objects  $t_3$  and  $t_4$  are good candidates, since allocating  $t_1$  to  $U_2$  will yield a full overlap of  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ .

## IV. RELATED WORK

The guilt detection approach we present is related to the data provenance problem [3]: tracing the lineage of  $S$  objects implies essentially the detection of the guilty agents. Tutorial [4] provides a good overview on the research conducted in this field. Distribution of data is well expressed in [5] with various techniques. Data handled electronically [33] serves good for our survey of data distribution. Our problem formulation with objects and sets is more general and simplifies lineage tracing, since we do not consider any data transformation from  $R_i$  sets to  $S$ . As far as the data allocation strategies are concerned, our work is mostly relevant to watermarking that is used as a means of establishing original ownership of distributed objects. Our approach and watermarking are similar in the sense of providing agents with some kind of receiver identifying information.

## V. SEMANTIC INFERENCE MODEL

To represent the possible colluding attacks from any agents to the different data allocation strategies, here we use the semantic inference model. SIM represents dependent and semantic relationships among attributes of all the entities in the information system. The related attributes (nodes) are connected by semantic inference graph and the inference introduced by semantic links is computed using Computational Probability Table for nodes connected by semantic links.

#### V.1. Semantic inference graph

In order to perform inference at the instance level, we instantiate the SIM with specific entity instances and generate a SIG. Each node in the SIG represents an attribute for a specific instance. The attribute nodes in the SIG have the same CPT as in the SIM because they are just instantiated versions of the attributes in entities. As a result, the SIG represents all the instance-level inference channels.

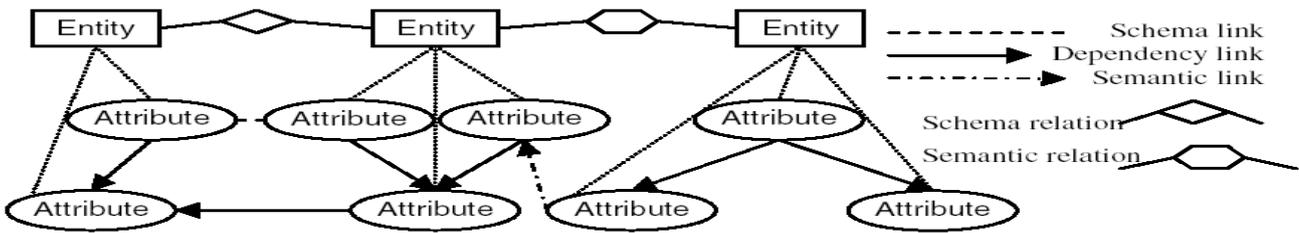


Fig2. Semantic Inference model. Entities are interconnected by schema relations (diamond) and semantic relations (hexagon). The related attributes (nodes) are connected by their data dependency, schema and semantic links.

V.1.1. Dependency link

When a SIM is instantiated, the dependency within- entity is transformed into dependency-within-instance in the SIG. Similarly, the dependency-between-related-entities in the SIM is transformed into a dependency between two attributes in the related instances. This type of dependency is preserved only if two instances are related by the instantiated schema link. That is, if attribute B in instance e2 depends on attribute A in instance e1, and instances e1 and e2 are related by R.

V.1.2. Schema link

The schema links between entities in the SIM represent “key, foreign-key” pairs. At instance level, if the value of the primary key of an instance e1 is equal to the value of the corresponding foreign key in the other instance e2 which can be represented as R(e1, e2), then connecting these two attributes will represent the schema link at the instance level. Otherwise, these two attributes are not connected.

V.1.3. Semantic link

At the instance level, assigning the value of the source node to “unknown” disconnects the semantic link between the attributes of two instances. On the other hand, if two instances have a specific semantic relation, then the inference probability of the target node will be computed based on its CPT and the value of the source node.

VI. DATABASE DESIGN

Following example explain how inference affects data leakage.

Table1. Database1

NAME	SALARY	CITY
Babu	45 K	Coimbatore
Anna	50 K	Coimbatore
Jackson	60 K	Chennai

Name: string  
 Salary: integer  
 City: string

Table2. Database2

CITY	SALARY
Coimbatore	45K
Coimbatore	50K
Chennai	60K

In this TABLE, the attribute City does not functionally determine attribute Salary, as both Anna and Babu live in Coimbatore but they earn different salaries. As a result, schema based inference detection systems do not report any inference threat in this database. However, if a user knows that Jackson is the only employee who lives in Chennai, the user can infer the salary of Jackson by querying the database to find the salary of the employee who lives in Chennai in the second table. This example illustrates that simply examining the database schema to detect inference is not sufficient, and taking the data in the database into consideration can lead to the detection of more inferences. We accessing them when fake objects created to any agent, probability will be calculated and on each fake object that probability goes on increasing. If probability is below threshold then fake object is allocated to that agent but if probability exceeds specified threshold, then that agent is not getting fake objects. This is the case for single agent. In the same way for multi agent environment, when different agent tries to collaborate to increase probability of accessing information, then probability of the agent will goes on increasing whose information other agents are accessing. Here basically we have tried to implement inference controlling mechanism for creating fake object for all agents and their probability will be calculated. Consider two dependent objects A and B. The degree of dependency from B to A can be represented by the conditional probabilities,

$$p_{i|j} = Pr(B=bi/A=aj)$$

The conditional probabilities of the child object (B) given all of its parents (A) are summarized into a conditional probability table (CPT) that is attached to the child object. The semantic inference from a source object to a target object is depicted in Fig 3.a and corresponding CPT is shown in Fig 3.b.

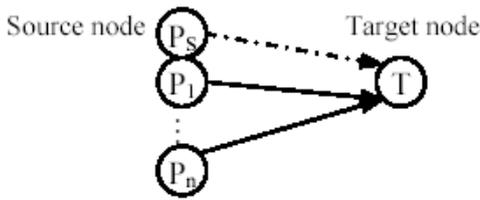


Fig 3.a. Target node T with semantic link from source node Ps and dependency link from parent nodes P1...Pn

		Conditional Probability of T												
Cond		Ps	unknown				s1				s2			
P1			v11	v12	v11	v12	v11	v12	v11	v12	v11	v12		
Pn			vn1	vn2	vn1	vn2	vn1	vn2	vn1	vn2	vn1	vn2		
T	t1	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	
	t2	0.5	0.7	0.6	0.8	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	

Fig 3.b. The CPT of target node T summarizes the conditional probabilities of t given values of Ps and P1...Pn. For eg. Pr(T=t1/Ps=unknown, p1=v11, pn=vn1)-0.5.

For secure data allocation a model is developed for evaluating inference based on the past fake object allocation sequences. Semantic Inference Model (SIM) consists of data dependency, relational database schema, and domain-specific semantic knowledge. So Semantic Inference Model (SIM) representing them as probabilistic inference channels to access any data from the system. Probability is calculated as conditional probability, given as  $P_{ij} = Pr(B=b_i|A=a_j)$ . It represents the occurrence of A and b and Co occurrences of A and B. Also it represents the dependency from B to A. Initially probability and data probability is set to 0.0. When data is allocated to first agent, probability is calculated as number of fake objects is allocated to specific agent within number of data is divided by total number of times agent has been allocated data within number of fake objects. This probability will be stored in log. Next time when same agent is allocated for objects, probability will be checked from log. If it is below threshold objects can be allocated to the same agent, otherwise the other type of fake object is created and allocated to that agent.

Table3. Probability calculation (single agent)

Agent	Access Data from Agent	Probability	Total Count	Count
X		0.0	0	0
	A	0.1	0	0
	A	0.2000	1	1
	A	0.4000	2	2
	A	0.8000	3	3
X	A	0.0	0	0
	A	0.1	0	0
	B	0.2000	1	1
	B	0.3000	2	0

Agent: string  
 Access data from agent: integer  
 Probability: integer

Total count: integer, Count: integer

Probability = (count / Total Count) + previous (Probability)

Total Count = number of times objects allocated

Count = number of time fake objects allocated

TABLE3 gives an idea about probability calculation. Two variables are maintained for it count and Total Count. Initially these two variables are set to 0. First time probability is calculated as 0.1. Difference between above two examples is that, in first case agent is accessing data from same table and in second case agent is accessing data from two different tables. Depending on that count will be calculated differently. When Agent A is accessing data of Agent D, probability of A will be increased and data probability of Agent D will be increased. Same goes on continuing, if probability or data probability which one is reaching to threshold earlier, allocation is denied or new allocation done.

TABLE4 explains the probabilistic calculation for multiuser environment. Probability calculation is same like single agent. Difference is, here data probability calculation is for agent whose data other agent are accessing.

Table4. Probability calculation (Multiple agents)

Agent	Accessing data from other agent	Data probability	Data count1	Data count2
	D	0.0	0	0
A	D	0.1	0	0
B	D	0.2000	0	1
C	D	0.3000	0	2
B	D	0.6333	1	3
A	D	0.8333	1	4

Data probability: continuous

Data count1: integer

Data count2: integer

Data Probability = (datacount1 / datacount2) + Previous (Data Probability)

Datacount1 = Keeping record of fake objects allocated

Datacount2 = Total number of count incrementing depending on each access.

## VII. SIMULATION SETUP AND RESULTS

To demonstrate the effectiveness of our semantic inference model, we implement the concept with MATLAB. Initially, we formed a database with several values stored in it. Then we investigated how these data are allocated to agents depending on their requests. Different techniques are used to choose data and the agents. Finally, we calculate the probability of each allocation to a specific agent which shows the optimized allocation of the data. Let the threshold value be 0.5. If the calculated probability exceeds this value, then another set of fake data record is added to the original data.

1	age	workclass	fnlwgt	education	education-	marital-sta	occupation	relationshi	race	sex	capital-gain	capital-los	hours-per-w	native-country	class
2	39	State-gov	77516	Bachelors	13	Never-marr	Adm-cleric	Not-in-fami	White	Male	2174	0	40	United-Sta	<=50K
3	50	Self-emp-n	83311	Bachelors	13	Married-civ	Exec-man;	Husband	White	Male	0	0	13	United-Sta	<=50K
4	38	Private	215646	HS-grad	9	Divorced	Handlers-c	Not-in-fami	White	Male	0	0	40	United-Sta	<=50K
5	53	Private	234721	11th	7	Married-civ	Handlers-c	Husband	Black	Male	0	0	40	United-Sta	<=50K
6	28	Private	338409	Bachelors	13	Married-civ	Prof-speci;	Wife	Black	Female	0	0	40	Cuba	<=50K
7	37	Private	284582	Masters	14	Married-civ	Exec-man;	Wife	White	Female	0	0	40	United-Sta	<=50K
8	49	Private	160187	9th	5	Married-sp	Other-servi	Not-in-fami	Black	Female	0	0	16	Jamaica	<=50K
9	52	Self-emp-n	209642	HS-grad	9	Married-civ	Exec-man;	Husband	White	Male	0	0	45	United-Sta	>50K
10	31	Private	45781	Masters	14	Never-marr	Prof-speci;	Not-in-fami	White	Female	14084	0	50	United-Sta	>50K
11	42	Private	159449	Bachelors	13	Married-civ	Exec-man;	Husband	White	Male	5178	0	40	United-Sta	>50K
12	37	Private	280464	Some-coll	10	Married-civ	Exec-man;	Husband	Black	Male	0	0	80	United-Sta	>50K
13	30	State-gov	141297	Bachelors	13	Married-civ	Prof-speci;	Husband	Asian-Pac	Male	0	0	40	India	>50K
14	23	Private	122272	Bachelors	13	Never-marr	Adm-cleric	Own-child	White	Female	0	0	30	United-Sta	<=50K
15	32	Private	205019	Assoc-acd	12	Never-marr	Sales	Not-in-fami	Black	Male	0	0	50	United-Sta	<=50K
16	40	Private	121772	Assoc-voc	11	Married-civ	Craft-repai	Husband	Asian-Pac	Male	0	0	40	?	>50K
17	34	Private	245487	7th-8th	4	Married-civ	Transport-i	Husband	Amer-India	Male	0	0	45	Mexico	<=50K
18	25	Self-emp-n	176756	HS-grad	9	Never-marr	Farming-fis	Own-child	White	Male	0	0	35	United-Sta	<=50K
19	32	Private	186824	HS-grad	9	Never-marr	Machine-o	Unmarried	White	Male	0	0	40	United-Sta	<=50K
20	38	Private	28887	11th	7	Married-civ	Sales	Husband	White	Male	0	0	50	United-Sta	<=50K
21	43	Self-emp-n	292175	Masters	14	Divorced	Exec-man;	Unmarried	White	Female	0	0	45	United-Sta	>50K
22	40	Private	193524	Doctorate	16	Married-civ	Prof-speci;	Husband	White	Male	0	0	60	United-Sta	>50K
23	54	Private	302146	HS-grad	9	Separated	Other-servi	Unmarried	Black	Female	0	0	20	United-Sta	<=50K
24	35	Federal-go	76845	9th	5	Married-civ	Farming-fis	Husband	Black	Male	0	0	40	United-Sta	<=50K
25	43	Private	117037	11th	7	Married-civ	Transport-i	Husband	White	Male	0	2042	40	United-Sta	<=50K
26	59	Private	109015	HS-grad	9	Divorced	Tech-supp	Unmarried	White	Female	0	0	40	United-Sta	<=50K

Fig 4.a. Database of records for distributing to the agents

This is repeated until the inference probability reaches or gets below the threshold value. The figure 4.a. displays the database that containing the collection of data records. These data are distributed to the agents based on their request either explicit or sample. The agent and object selection are done with different techniques. Finally, SIM is implemented to find the probability for each agent.

```

Agent 1:
The total number of columns selected for agent 1 is : 6

Agent 2:
The total number of columns selected for agent 2 is : 6

Agent 3:
The total number of columns selected for agent 3 is : 11

Agent 4:
The total number of columns selected for agent 4 is : 11

Semantic inference model

Selected agent is 2

Obtained probability
9.1667e-004

Included data
[90] 'Without-pay' 'Wife' 'Male' [2415] [99]
    
```

Fig 4.b.SIM probability calculation

Fig 4.b displays the Semantic Inference model implementation. Here the agent selected in this iteration is 2. The computational probability of the agent 2 is found to be 9.1667e-004. This is beyond the threshold value 0.5. So another record of fake objects is added as shown. Similarly every time allocation needs to be made, probability is calculated for the selected agent and the allocation is done.

### VIII. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

The performance of our proposed model is compared with the existing system. . In this performance evaluation we are also finding how effective the approximation is. We also present the evaluation for sample requests and explicit data requests. The experimental result shows that our approach of using the semantic inference graph performs better than the existing approaches.

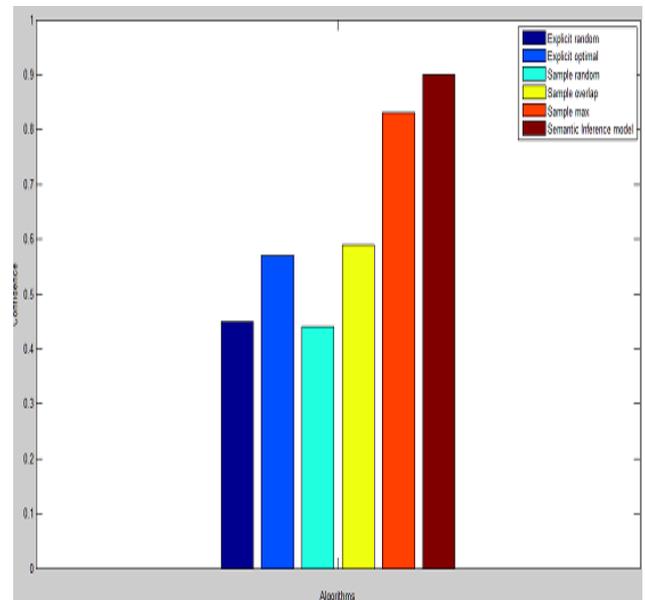


Fig 5. Performance Evaluation for proposed model

Hence the fig 5. illustrates the confidence of the proposed model with previous algorithms based on explicit and sample requests. The rate of detection is improved in our model which improves the performance of the system.

## IX. CONCLUSION

We have shown that it is possible to assess the likelihood that an agent is responsible for a leak, based on the overlap of his data with the leaked data and the data of other agents, and based on the probability that objects can be “guessed” by other means. We are proposing our enhanced approach for detecting the guilty agents. In this technique we use the semantic inference model that represents the probability of possible colluding attacks from any agents to the different data allocation strategies. SIM represents dependent and semantic relationships among attributes of all the entities in the information system. In future the extension of our allocation strategies can handle agent requests in an online fashion (the presented strategies assume that there is a fixed set of agents with requests known in advance) can be implemented.

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