

**BOOK CHAPTER | Alternative Engineering Design**  
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**Design Methodology For The Development Of A Multi-Agent  
Intrusion Detection System For Countering Distributed Denial Of  
Service (Ddos) Attacks In Mobile Ad-Hoc Networks.**

**Nwaocha, V.O.**

Department of Computer Science, National Open University of Nigeria, Abuja, Nigeria

Department of Computer Science, Lagos State University, Ojoo, Lagos State, Nigeria

**E-mails:** ogochukwuvee@gmail.com; ayglo55@yahoo.com

**ABSTRACT**

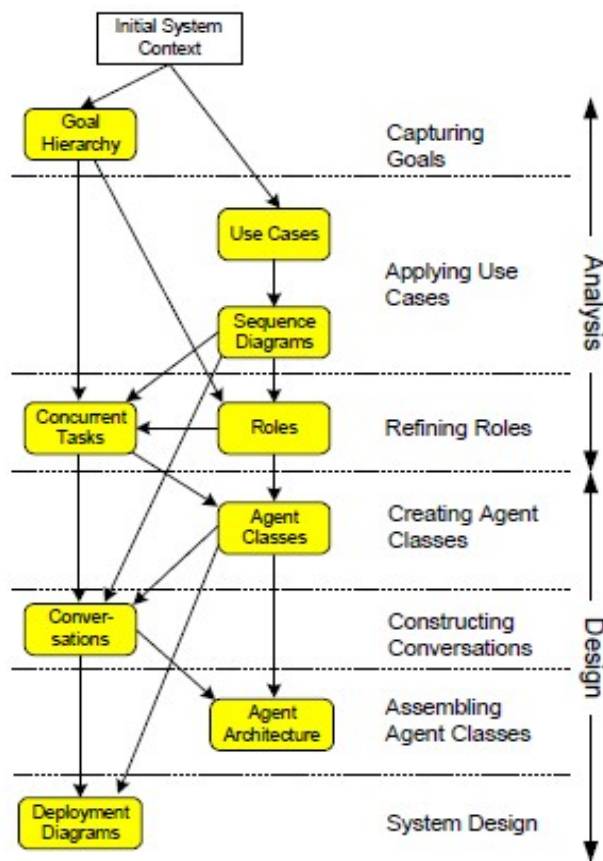
The proliferation of wireless mobile devices has revolutionized the world, leading to the popularity of the mobile ad hoc networking technology [1]. This emergence of the mobile ad hoc network (MANET) has facilitated the drift from personal computing to ubiquitous computing in our society. Today, mobile devices such as smartphones, laptops, notebooks and tablets are fast becoming an integral part of man's life and a good number of those in the academia and industry now access the Internet on-the-go, through a wide range of mobile devices. In this paper, we provide our design methodology for the development of a multi-agent intrusion detection system for countering distributed denial of service (DDOS) attacks in mobile ad-hoc networks.

**Keywords:** DDOS, Multi-agent intrusion detection, security, MANET, Attacks.

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Choosing a well-defined agent-oriented development approach is critical for the effective development of the anticipated system. Given the fact that object-oriented methodologies cannot be directly applied in developing agent-based systems, various agent-oriented software development methodologies have been proposed for developing multi-agent systems. Some of the prominent agent-oriented software development methodologies include: Gaia, Tropos [98] and MASE [99]. The Multi-agent Systems Engineering (MASE) methodology was employed for the system development. The general operation of the MASE follows the phases detailed in Figure 1.

Typically, the MASE analysis phase comprises three steps: capturing goals, applying use cases, and refining roles. While the design phase consists of four steps: Creating Agent Classes, Constructing Conversations, Assembling Agent Classes, and System Design.



**Figure 1: MASE Development Phases [99]**

## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM

The targeted institution was the Yaba College of Technology commonly referred to as "Yaba Tech". This college was founded in 1947 as Nigeria's first higher educational institution. Currently it has a student enrolment of over 16,000. Yaba College of Technology (YCT) is one of the leading academic institutions, recognised as a centre of excellence with nine world-class schools and a number of acclaimed departments [100]. According to the decree establishing the college, its main objectives are to provide full time and part-time education and training in Technology, Commerce, Management and Applied Science, in accordance with Nigeria's need for development.

Meanwhile, the recent admission policies of Nigerian Universities have been unacceptable to the public, given the fact that many applicants go through a lot of difficulties while seeking admission since there are limited spaces in the Universities. Each year, thousands of applicants sit for the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board(JAMB) examinations and less than twenty per cent (20%) on the average gain admission into the universities [101].

In order to facilitate the accomplishment of its core mission, Yaba College of Technology (YCT) employs the Internet, which serves as the hub of the administrative and academic activities at the college. The YCT network is widely available across the campus to Students, Lecturers and other Administrative Staff who readily access this network via portable devices. Amongst the portable devices, the most commonly used at the Yaba College of Technology are laptops. While the YCT network has brought great benefit to the campus, it has also made critical systems more susceptible to malicious network attacks. Among the different threats that have been witnessed on the YCT network, viruses and distributed denial of service attacks have been the most prevalent.

As part of the effort to protect its network, firewall and anti-virus were installed on the YCT network to serve as Intrusion Prevention Systems. Firewall allows only for the desired Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and ports to send traffic through it, but is unable to determine whether the traffic is a normal or nefarious one. Therefore, firewall has certain benefits, but it obviously lacks the ability to detect attacks. On the other hand, intrusion detection system on detect attacks by monitoring the network traffic. When an intrusion activity occurs in a network, an alert is generated by IDS which prompts the network administrator for instigating and action to block or mitigate the attack.

Although these schemes provide some level of security, they have been found to be deficient in a number of ways and do not provide sufficient protection against Distributed Denial of Service (DDOS) attacks. Consequently, the college has witnessed frequent downtime due to DDOS attacks.

Another challenge faced by this institution is related to the centralised network management model based on client-server model which is no longer suitable for the present heterogeneous and ubiquitous setting on campus. Therefore an intrusion detection system with distributed management architecture that supports multiple agents is proposed to tackle the issue of the centralised management architecture. Given the distributed nature of DDOS attacks and the multiple entry points of intrusion on the campus mobile ad hoc network, a multi-agent based solution was sought in order to achieve a more effective and inclusive intrusion detection. Consequently, this thesis presents network architecture and entities suitable for specific institutional requirements. The proposed system is built in a modular and flexible way which makes it easy for future-expansion.

### **2.1 Analysis of the existing system**

The analysis of the current system entailed determining the structural requirements based on the components interrelationships in order to eliminate redundancies. A number of steps were taken in order to effectively explore the existing system.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Data Gathering**

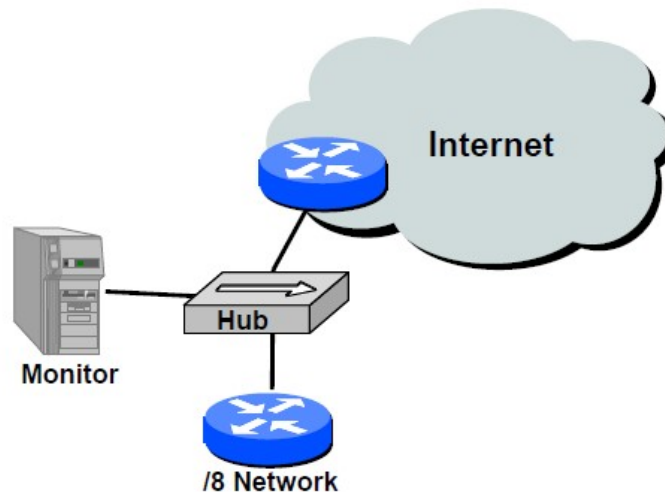
Primary sources of data gathered from the Yaba College of Technology network include; direct observation, discussions and interviews, while the secondary sources of data were from books, journals, Internet among other resources. The selection of the study area was based on the availability of the network and other resources.

### **3.2 Data Analysis**

A critical analysis of the existing system was undertaken with a view to identifying the problems, and subsequently designing a system that will elicit a prompt response to intrusion detected or suspected. To make certain that the end product meets the specification of users as well as to ascertain their requirements and expectations, meetings were scheduled with the prospective users, who are the Network Administrators in the Institution.

Prior to embarking on this project, a preliminary survey was carried out within the Yaba College of Technology. The Faculty, Students as well as ICT support personnel of this institution were interviewed. Findings from the survey indicated the prevalence of manifold attacks, especially distributed denial of service (DDOS) attacks on the YCT network evidenced by the frequency of the down times. Other forms of intrusions include traces of viruses and worms emerging from private systems. It was thus established that there was an essential need for an effective solution that will protect the systems on the network.

The backscatter analysis technique was employed for estimating the prevalence of different attacks. Figure 3. 2 shows the backscatter monitoring platform deployed on the YCT network.



**Fig 2: The Backscatter Monitoring Platform**

The infrastructure employed in monitoring the network consisted of a PC configured to capture all Ethernet traffic, and attached to a shared hub at the router terminating this network. This setup is depicted in Figure 3.4. During the course of this investigation, the upstream router filtered some traffic meant for the network. However, this had no significant impact on our results. It was equally observed that small portions of our address prefix were occasionally "hijacked" by inadvertent route advertisements elsewhere in the Internet.

On the whole, three traces were gathered while carrying out this investigation in 2014, each trace roughly spanning a one month period, beginning from May 1st and extending to July 31st, while isolating the inbound portion of the network.

Subsequently, the overall frequency of attacks observed in the gathered traces is shown, and the attacks are classified according to both the type of attack and the type of victim.

**Table 1: Summary of the Backscatter Database**

<b>Unique victim IDs</b>	<b>1,942</b>	<b>1,821</b>	<b>2,385</b>
<b>Attacks</b>	<b>4,173</b>	<b>3,878</b>	<b>4,754</b>
<b>Unique victim IDs</b>	<b>2,835</b>	<b>2,601</b>	<b>2,613</b>
<b>Attacks</b>	<b>56,173</b>	<b>50,745</b>	<b>52,454</b>
<b>Unique victim Ins</b>	<b>3,147</b>	<b>3,034</b>	<b>3,849</b>
<b>Attacks</b>	<b>112,457</b>	<b>102,204</b>	<b>110,025</b>

On the whole, results of the analysis indicate widespread DDOS attacks across the institution. The size and length of the attacks were observed to be heavy-tailed, with a huge number of extensive attacks constituting a significant fraction of the overall attack volume.

### **3.3 Limitations of the existing system**

To facilitate the accomplishment of its core task, Yaba College of Technology employs the Internet, which serves as the hub of the administrative and academic activities at the institution. It is through Internet-mediated support services that students enjoy support from this institution.

On the other hand, Yaba College of Technology has had to face the challenge of keeping its networks secure from invasions, particularly denial of service attacks (DOS) attacks while accommodating the regular influx of learner, faculty and staff-owned devices through which they carry out a wide range of both authorised and unauthorised activities from diverse network locations. The impact of these prevalent attacks on the YCT network has often led to excessive downtime for the thousands of users on the network.

Currently, the institution subscribes to an external vendor, for the provision of network security by means of intrusion detection system. However, a recent analysis of the institution's online transaction data highlighted the extent to which some hosts within the College network had already been compromised thus demonstrating the inefficiency of the security solution.

The drawbacks identified were as follows:

- i. High rate of false alarms
- ii. Limited attack detection coverage
- iii. Passive response to attack as administrator is left to take required action
- iv. High network overloads
- v. Limited extensibility

## **4. REQUIREMENTS**

Researchers have defined a set of desirable characteristics for an intrusion detection system along two themes: functional and performance requirements. Following from the analysis of the security scheme deployed on the Yaba College of Technology network and the identification of the limitations in the existing security system deployed on YCT's network, the requirements for the projected system were carefully specified.

### **4.1 Functional requirements**

Cognisant of the precise requirements for detecting DDOS attacks in mobile ad hoc networks, the following functional requirements were specified for the system:

- i. The system should record accurate information associated with detected events;
- ii. It should be able to obtain the complete list of alerts discovered within a certain period configured by the network administrator;
- iii. It ought to detect the three prevalent forms of DDOS attacks namely: Transmission Control Protocol Synchronize (TCP SYN) flood, User Datagram Protocol (UDP) flood and Internet Control Message Protocol (ICMP) flood
- iv. The system ought to allow the network administrator generate an updated report;
- v. It should be able to minimise the consumption of network resources.

## **4.2 Performance requirements**

Based on the criteria for developing an ideal intrusion detection system [102], the anticipated system should support the following requirements:

- i. The intrusion detection system (IDS) should perform its operation without increasing overhead loads;
- ii. Intrusion should be detected in real-time and reported instantly in order to curtail the damage to the network;
- iii. It ought to be scalable in order to handle additional computational and communication load;
- iv. The IDS should not introduce a new weakness in the mobile ad hoc network;
- v. It should run continuously and remain transparent to the system and users.
- vi. It must be fault-tolerant in the sense that it must be able to recover to the previous state, and resume the operations before the crash.
- vii. IDS should not only detect but also smartly respond to detected intrusions;
- viii. It should inter-operate with other intrusion detection systems to collaboratively detect intrusions.

## **4.3. Identification of agent classes**

In line with the MASE development steps, a set of multiple agents were employed in the multi-agent intrusion detection system, in order to detect and respond to DDOS attacks more effectively:

- i. Monitor agents
- ii. Analyzer agents
- iii. Universal agents
- iv. Response agents

## **4.4 Specification of agent roles**

By ascertaining the precise agents to be used in the multi-agent intrusion detection system, their corresponding responsibilities were detailed.

The different agent types and their responsibilities are listed in Table 2.



**Table 2: The Different Agent Types And Their Responsibilities**

S/N	Agent Type	Responsibility
1	Monitor agents	Captures raw network traffic Gathers system log files and data packets Forwards captured network traffic to analyser agents Sends report of valid IP address to universal agents
2	Analysis agents	Examines data from monitor agents Applies detection rules in order to identify specific forms of intrusions or suspicious data Sends appropriate commands to the response agents based on precise forms of attacks such as DDOS flooding attacks
3	Universal agents	Requests for private information to confirm node identity; Instructs monitor agents to allow traffic to and from registered nodes; Checks reports and eliminates nodes whose IP address is not listed in the valid IP address report
4	Response agents	Blocks the source of DDOS flooding attack Terminates unacknowledged requests Ignores random port requests Ignores unidentified pings

#### 4. The Multi-agent Intrusion Detection Process

This section details the processes which represents the mechanism by which the multi-agent intrusion detection system detects and responds to intrusion.

When a node requests to connect to the network, the universal agent ( $U_a$ ), demands that the node provides its private (secret) details. If the node makes its private records available, providing the HMAC value, the universal agent transmits a message indicating the success of the registration process, which is a form of authentication.

Normally, the transmitted message details the following:

The survival period of time, given as **SST**.

The SST expresses the period within which the private details will be valid;

The total number of bytes,  $N$ , permitted to and from each node; this is given as:

**$N = B_n/H_n$**  where  $B_n$  is the total assigned bandwidth which is available and  $H_n$  is the total number of available nodes in the network

After successfully establishing the treaty scheme, the nodes are permitted to transmit and receive only N bytes of data at a specific period of time. Subsequently, the universal agent informs the monitor agent to authorize the traffic to and from the registered node.

Meanwhile, the monitor agent maintains a table containing internet protocol (IP) addresses of registered nodes as well as the timer values ( $T_1, T_2 \dots T_n$ ) of all the nodes.

The following rules ought to be maintained in the course of the multi-agent intrusion detection:

All nodes are required to transmit their timer values at regular intervals to the monitor agents.

The monitor agents then verify these timer values and determine the threshold. The threshold is given as:  $\Gamma = T_1 - T_0$ .

Subsequent T values must be equal to the threshold.

In other words, verify that  $T_3 - T_2 = \Gamma$

If not verify whether  $T_4 - T_3 = \Gamma$

In the event that  $T_4 - T_3 = \Gamma$ ; then the monitor agent does not permit that node to be a part of the network. It equally obstructs all traffic to and from the node.

The treaty scheme is established by means of the node's timer values. Any node attempting to join the network must primarily, make a request to be connected. In order to forestall any form of unauthorised access, each node must be registered with the universal agent before joining the network. Hence, attackers are unable to spoof the valid user's IP address.

Each universal agent maintains a Host Profile table which consists of information about each host ( $H_1, H_2, \dots, H_n$ ). Table 3.

**Table 3. Universal Agent**

		Host Profile Table			
		Private(Secret) Information			
Host Name	IP Address	IP	MAC	Private (Secret)	T

## 5. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The host profile table comprises of three fields namely: the host name, host IP address, private details about the host. In the same way, the private details consists of the following: IP address of nodes, Mac address of nodes, secret key that changes periodically after the survival period elapses, the timer values of the nodes

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