

# Authentication and Authorization Scheme for Various User-Roles and Devices in Smart Grid

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**Abstract**—The smart grid, as the next generation of the power grid, is characterized by employing many different types of intelligent devices, such as intelligent electronic devices located at substations, smart meters positioned in the home area network, and outdoor field equipment deployed in the fields. Also, there are various users in the smart grid network, including customers, operators, maintenance personnel, and etc., who use these devices for various purposes. Therefore, a secure and efficient mutual authentication and authorization scheme is needed in the smart grid to prevent various insider and outsider attacks on many different devices. In this paper, we propose an authentication and authorization scheme for mitigating outsider and insider threats in the smart grid by verifying the user authorization and performing the user authentication together whenever a user accesses the devices. The proposed scheme computes each user-role dynamically using an attribute-based access control and verifies the identity of user together with the device. Security and performance analysis show that the proposed scheme resists various insider as well as outsider attacks, and is more efficient in terms of communication and computation costs in comparison with the existing schemes. The correctness of the proposed scheme is also proved using BAN-Logic and Proverif.

**Index Terms**—Smart Grid, Authentication, Authorization, Insider Threat, Security.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

THE smart grid (SG) is a future opportunistic platform for ensuring electrical power transmission and distribution in a reliable, secure, and efficient manner. However, there are many evolving challenges in the smart grid security. Many SG security challenges have focused on protecting the system against various forms of external (outsider) cyber-attacks, including man-in-the-middle (MITM) attacks, intrusion-based attacks, malware-based attacks, denial of service (DoS) attacks, isolated attacks, and coordinated attacks [1]. Although known external attacks have been protected by well-known practices, a severe threat that modern critical infrastructures are newly facing is an insider threat or an insider attack. An insider threat is a user who has appropriate permissions to access required resources of the system and misuses its privileges. For smart grid having many integrated components and user groups, insider threats can influence the system massively. Insider threats can compromise many of the security goals of the system. They can compromise integrity by modifying data without authorization, availability by creating delays where low latency is required (4 milliseconds for protective relaying, few seconds for feeding data to supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA), data transmission to substations and wide area monitoring messages, few minutes for monitoring

equipment and market pricing information, and few hours for smart meter (SM) reading), confidentiality by exposing privacy of customer information and some part of electric market information, and accountability by avoiding liability and responsibility [2]. In fact, such insider threats can influence the security level of the SG system from low to high [3]. Hence, the countermeasures must address outsider as well as insider attacks.

In the advance metering infrastructure (AMI) system of the smart grid, the insider attacks can be performed at the customer endpoint as well as at the opposite end of the AMI system. Smart meters generally have some connectivity to the AMI head end, but this connectivity may be as slow as 1200 baud, or lower [3]. Consequently, the insider attacker can get access to modify meter readings and can view private information of the customer at the customer endpoint. Similarly, insider attacker may be able to access the electricity price information, network infrastructure information, and other information communicated by protocols. Some of these systems and protocols are energy management system (EMS), distributed network protocol (DNP3), inter-control center communications protocol (ICCP), and open smart grid protocol (OSGP). The EMS enables transmission of real-time information, such as grid's status, remote automation of grid functionalities, and etc. The OSGP provides reliable and efficient delivery of command and control information among various smart grid devices, including smart meters, control modules, and gateways. The DNP3 is used by SCADA master stations (control centers (CC)), and the ICCP is used for inter-master station communications.

To provide authentication and authorization of users, the intelligent electronic devices (IED), smart meters, and outdoor field equipment (OFE) (e.g., pole-top devices, such as recloser) use various local passwords. Several passwords allow different user-roles to access the device for various

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Manuscript received June XX, 20XX; revised XXX XX, 20XX.

purposes. These role-based passwords are generally shared among various users accessing devices, and due to a large number of devices, these passwords are often the same across all devices in the utility and seldom change [3]. User authentication and authorization are challenging due to the fact that these devices may be accessed physically on-site as well as remotely through wired (optical)/wireless (from different locations). There may also be various types of users, such as employees (*EMP*), vendor engineers (*VE*), maintenance personnel (*MP*), security officer (*SO*) etc., and various types of roles like auditor (read), employee (read-write), administrator (add-modify-delete), maintenance personnel (read), and etc. Since each role has a different password, the system can recognize the role of a user, but, it cannot identify which user (name or identity) is trying to access the system. Table 1 and Table 2 outline the access behavior of different devices and access permissions for different user-roles, respectively. In this paper, in order to better explain our problem, we consider a specific user-role, *i.e.*, maintenance personnel. Note that the maintenance personnel role can be extended to any other user-role, such as customer, vendor engineer, contractor, and etc.

According to the *NIST* report [4], one of the crucial challenges in the future smart grid is to authenticate and authorize users (such as maintenance personnel) whenever they access *IED/SM/OFE* located at substations/homes/fields in such a way that the resource access is specific to a user, the user specific authentication information is not shared among users, *e.g.*, identity and password, and the control of authentication and authorization is hierarchically managed by substations (*SS*) and the utility's central station (*C*). This ensures that only authenticated users can perform the assigned authorized actions onto the intended devices in a controlled and scalable manner. Therefore, mutual authentications between the user and the substation's server to access different devices with a specific user-role authorization is needed to mitigate insider attacks in the *SG* network.

Different from traditional networks, availability, in-

tegrity of information, and performance efficiency are critical requirements for infrastructure networks, such as smart grid that must operate continuously and satisfy system requirements under diverse operating conditions [5]. Furthermore, unlike the traditional power grid system, where a centralized and radial topology is used to generate and deliver power from one end to the other ends, the smart grid provides intelligent transmission and distribution automation in a decentralized environment [6]. Considering these differences, authentication and authorization schemes in the smart grid need to be specifically designed to achieve critical requirements, such as availability and integrity of information. Therefore, authenticating different entities and verifying their authorization are required simultaneously [7]. There are many schemes for the traditional networks [8], such as remote authentication dial-in user service (*RADIUS*) and *Diameter* protocols. However, These protocols do not fit well in the smart grid network. It provides centralized services and maintains a central database. However, the smart grid requires decentralized solutions, as a single-point-of-failure can massively affect the whole system. Furthermore, *RADIUS* has poor scalability and uses the user datagram protocol (*UDP*), which does not provide reliable data transfer. This is not suitable for the smart grid where the availability of information is critical for its operation. Furthermore, *Diameter* is an authentication, authorization, and accounting protocol that instead supports transmission control protocol (*TCP*). However, *Diameter* implements peer authentication between communication endpoints using pre-shared keys, which raises key management issues, and therefore not suitable for large systems like the smart grid.

Numerous challenges arise with the integration of cyber and physical systems along with human behavior and regulatory policy. Some challenges are quite similar to those of traditional networks, but involves more complex interactions [9]. The smart grid system has various user-roles, such as operator, vendor, engineer, administrator, etc., accessing many different types of devices in its network, such as smart meter, intelligent electronic device, etc., simultaneously. It also has more strict delay and execution time requirements. Whereas authentication and authorization are executed as two separate processes in the traditional network, executing them as one process is needed in the smart grid to handle frequent authentications among billions of devices and dynamic user-role authorizations for a large number of users. It can also reduce the total execution time, which can help to make the system more efficient to achieve its performance requirements.

In this paper, we propose a scheme that provides a mutual authentication between the user and the server, and a dynamic authorization for each user-role by computing the attribute-based hash value. The authorization is maintained so that each user can perform only those actions that are allowed under the access permissions granted to it. Our scheme provides a two-factor authentication. First, the authentication is performed by verifying the identity of each user as well as the device in a batch with the signature verification of each device at the server of the substation. Then, a one-time password (*OTP*) is sent to the user's mobile phone in order to verify the actual user who is accessing the device. A shared secret key is also generated between

TABLE 1: Access Behavior of Different Devices

No.	Device Name	Access Behavior
1	Intelligent electronic device	Physically/remotely by wired/wireless
2	Smart meter	Physically through optical port of <i>SM</i> , remotely through <i>AMI</i> infrastructure or <i>HAN</i> gateway
3	Outdoor field equipment	Remotely through wired/short-range radio (Bluetooth/802.11)

TABLE 2: Access Permissions for Different User Roles

No.	User Role	Department	Access Permission
1	Employee	Internal	Read-write ( <i>RW</i> )
2	Auditor	Internal	Read-only ( <i>R</i> )
3	Vendor engineer	External	Read-write ( <i>RW</i> )
4	Customer	Customer	Read-only ( <i>R</i> )
5	Contractor	External	Read-only ( <i>R</i> )
6	Maintenance personnel	Maintenance	Read-only ( <i>R</i> )
7	Administrator	Internal	Add-modify-delete ( <i>AMD</i> )
8	Security officer	Internal	Read-write-modify ( <i>RWM</i> )

the user and the device for secure communication using the bilinear pairing technique. Specifically, the contributions of our scheme are identified as follows.

1. Simultaneously provides user authentication and authorization for different devices. Hence, it reduces the need of having separate systems for each type of device. It also works for different types of users interacting with many different types of devices in the smart grid.

2. Deals with both, the physical and the remote access of the devices by dynamically computing the role of a user. Any user (with a defined role) can interact with any device anywhere with authentication and authorization within the premises of the central station.

3. Does not use any shared passwords. If a shared password is compromised, it can reveal the confidential information to the adversary. Further, an adversary cannot retrieve any information based on linkability among different devices, as these devices store hash values corresponding to each user-role. For each device, these values are different for each user-role.

4. Improves the efficiency of the system by verifying the signatures of the devices in a batch at the authentication server of the substation. Also, computational overhead is reduced, as each user needs to generate only a public key pair  $(Y_{1,mp}, Y_{2,mp})$ , and hash  $H_1$  each time it accesses a different device. Other parameters remain the same. This scheme provides two-factor authentication (one when substation's authentication server  $(AS_{ss})$  verifies user identity from the message received by the  $IED$  and other when an  $OTP$  is sent to user's mobile phone) that ensures valid user identification even when temporary identity is compromised.

5. Defeats various outsider attacks as well as insider attacks, including man-in-the-middle attacks, replay attacks, impersonation attacks, integrity violations, attacks by customer, known key attacks, and repudiation attacks. It also prevents insider attacks where (i) a user accesses the device with the credential of his/her friend or family member without notifying him/her, and (ii) a rogue device is installed by a legitimate engineer in the network.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: Section 2 discusses existing work on user authentication and authorization in the smart grid. Section 3 outlines the communication, system, and attack models. Our proposed scheme is described in Section 4. The security and performance analysis of our scheme are discussed in Section 5. Finally, Section 6 concludes the paper. In addition, Table 3 describes symbols used in this paper along with their sizes.

## 2 RELATED WORK

Recently, a lot of research has been done for securing the SG network, including the device and network authentication [10], [11], privacy preservation in AMI [12], vehicular-to-grid (V2G) networks [13] and dynamic price management [14], and attribute revocation in data aggregation [15], [16] with attribute-based encryption scheme. Some literature focuses on outsider attacks, such as cyber-physical attacks [17], load altering attacks [18] and distribution attacks [19], cyber security of substations [20], data attacks [21], false data injection attacks [22], data integrity attacks [23], traffic analysis attacks [24], man-in-the-middle attacks [25], DoS

TABLE 3: Symbols And Abbreviations

Symbol	Description	Size (bits)
$AS/AS'/SSC$	Authentication server	–
$MP/UIA$	Maintenance personnel/user agent	–
$SS$	Name of substation	128
$Name$	Name of user	128
$s/S_i$	Signature of user	128
$P$	Generator of group	128
$ID$	Identity of user/device/substation	128
$x$	Private key of user/device/server	128
$Y_1/Y_2$	Public key pair of user/device/server	128
$K$	Secret shared key	128
$SDP$	Secret device parameter	64
$H()$	One-way hash function	–
$h/H$	Hash value	64
$Role/cRole$	Role of user	64
$mode$	Mode of access	16
$location$	User/device location	32
$department$	Department of user	16
$T$	Timestamp	64

attacks [26], and etc. However, insider attacks in the SG network, such as attacks by the customer, attacks by the operators/maintenance personnel, and etc., have not been well investigated. These possibilities exist, if the user/device authentication and access control are weak or not provided.

Access control in the distributed system is more challenging, as the management of activities by a single central authority might not be possible or could be more resource demanding [27]. In a role-based access control (RBAC), there is a specific role for each user or a set of users created by the administrator for accessing the resources with the specified permissions. There are some role-based access control models for the SG network existing in the literature that focus on the user-role-based authentication [28], [29]. However, role-based schemes are generally expensive to implement and do not provide a real-time access control in many situations, specifically when the user has dynamic attributes, such as shift/job timing, location, time of the day, and etc. In addition, device authentication mechanisms for smart home area network [30], [31], SG network [32], SG electric vehicle system [33], and AMI network [34] have also been proposed by researchers. Authentication scheme in [30] is based on a public-key cryptography using elliptic curves over finite fields, every device shares a pair-wise key with the center of trust in [31], and the homomorphic keyed hash values are used in [32]. A contextual factor based on physical connectivity in the grid with conventional authentication factor in the challenge-response are combined and implemented in [33] on  $NXP-ATOP$  with  $ARM$  processor. Further, the scheme in [34] uses an  $ID$ -based authentication and a  $PKI$ , which generates a huge overhead and is expensive to implement. However, these schemes do not deal with the user authentication in the SG network. Recently, a multi-factor authentication for fragile communications is proposed that provides authentication service in a slow connection situation and when central server is down. But the scheme needs additional smart cards and biometric devices [35].

Furthermore, the key management among various users and devices, and the communication protocol level security are also necessary factors in order to provide stronger secu-

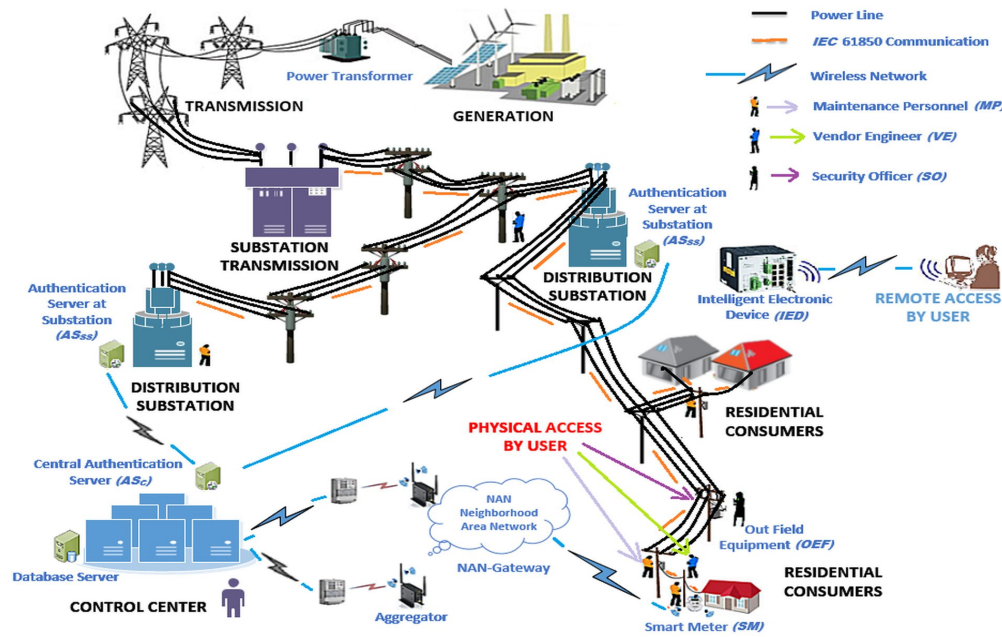


Fig. 1: Smart grid system model consisting of various devices and users connected by communication networks.

urity to the system. In this direction, a scheme was proposed that deals with key generation, revocation management and share keys between devices, and secure transmission of meter-reading data [36]. An encryption key management technique based on certificateless public key cryptography was proposed that provides end-to-end security in AMI, but the approach generates a huge overhead [37]. An extension of distributed network protocol (DNP3) to the DNP3 secure authentication (SA) considers multiple users at the master site [38]. This scheme presumes that both, the master station and the substation, share a common secret key, which is used to generate a session key. Furthermore, there exists a substation-level authentication scheme in the literature where IEDs and other resource-constrained devices can be authenticated by any remote users with the help of the substation controller (SSC) [39]. However, they considered remote access of the IEDs using passwords shared among users, lacking message integrity check, batch verification, and prevention against replay attacks. Using the same password for each user-role to access all devices cannot support verification of user identities. Instead of using public keys for a huge number of handheld devices (HD), symmetric keys using physical unclonable functions were proposed to ensure a key agreement between the HD and the telemetric devices under a scalable password changing protocol [41].

To the best of our knowledge, there is no such scheme in the literature providing authentication and authorization for various users accessing different devices in the SG system. Our scheme tackles this challenging problem in this paper.

### 3 COMMUNICATION, SYSTEM, AND ATTACK MODELS

This section presents our communication and system model, as well as attack model.

#### 3.1 Communication and System Model

Consider a SG system model, including AMI infrastructure network, as shown in Figure 1, where IEDs, SMs, and OFEs are placed at different geographical locations under different substations. These devices can be accessed by different users, such as maintenance personnel (MP), vendor engineer (VE), and security officer (SO) physically as well as remotely. If a user accesses a device physically, then it is assumed that the device provides an interface for the integrity of information. Additionally, if a user accesses a device remotely via wireless network, then it requires a mechanism of integrity protection. There is a central authentication server (AS<sub>C</sub>) stored at the control center (CC). This AS<sub>C</sub> is connected with a number of substation servers (AS<sub>SS</sub>), each using a different pre-shared key. The communication in our SG system is governed by the DNP3 or IEC 61850, represented by Orange lines in Figure 1. A WAN/cellular technology can be used in the wireless network.

As illustrated in Figure 2, in the existing problem, the maintenance personnel  $MP_1$  and  $MP_2$  share a common password  $PW_{MP}$ , security officers  $SO_1$  and  $SO_2$  share a secret password  $PW_{SO}$ , vendor engineers  $VE_1$  and  $VE_2$  share a password  $PW_{VE}$ , and so on. We propose a new

	$D_1$	$D_2$	$D_3$	...	$D_m$
$MP_1$	$PW_{MP}$	$PW_{MP}$	$PW_{MP}$	...	$PW_{MP}$
$MP_2$	$PW_{MP}$	$PW_{MP}$	$PW_{MP}$	...	$PW_{MP}$
$SO_1$	$PW_{SO}$	$PW_{SO}$	$PW_{SO}$	...	$PW_{SO}$
$SO_2$	$PW_{SO}$	$PW_{SO}$	$PW_{SO}$	...	$PW_{SO}$
...	...	...	...	...	...
$VE_1$	$PW_{VE}$	$PW_{VE}$	$PW_{VE}$	...	$PW_{VE}$
$VE_2$	$PW_{VE}$	$PW_{VE}$	$PW_{VE}$	...	$PW_{VE}$

Existing Problem

	$D_1$	$D_2$	$D_3$	...	$D_m$
$MP_1$	$H_{1MP}$	$H_{2MP}$	$H_{3MP}$	...	$H_{mMP}$
$MP_2$	$H_{1MP}$	$H_{2MP}$	$H_{3MP}$	...	$H_{mMP}$
$SO_1$	$H_{1SO}$	$H_{2SO}$	$H_{3SO}$	...	$H_{mSO}$
$SO_2$	$H_{1SO}$	$H_{2SO}$	$H_{3SO}$	...	$H_{mSO}$
...	...	...	...	...	...
$VE_1$	$H_{1VE}$	$H_{2VE}$	$H_{3VE}$	...	$H_{mVE}$
$VE_2$	$H_{1VE}$	$H_{2VE}$	$H_{3VE}$	...	$H_{mVE}$

New Formulation

Fig. 2: Comparison of password matrix.

password matrix where each password is replaced by a hash value for a specific group of users. However, this hash value is different for different devices placed at different locations.

There can be a number of central stations in a larger SG network. However, in this paper, we consider one central station directly connected with  $n$ -substations as shown in Figure 3. The authentication server of each substation ( $AS_{ss}$ ) and its corresponding central station ( $AS_c$ ) can securely communicate with each other using a pre-shared symmetric key, and this is true for all substations. Substation-to-substation communication is done only through the central station. In this paper, for better understanding, we explain our scheme considering a particular user-role named  $MP$  and the  $IEDs$  as devices. Therefore, in our system, there are  $n$ - $MPs$  ( $MP_1, MP_2, \dots, MP_n$ ) and  $m$ -devices ( $D_1, D_2, \dots, D_m$ ). Each device must first compute a common secret key (say a password) as computed by the user (say  $MP$ ) in order to provide a role-based user authorization. Each device must verify the role of a user, and must perform authorization and user verification. In our scheme, for each user-role, a hash value is dynamically computed. For a specific group of users, the hash value is different for different devices. In addition, a session key is used between the user and the device in order to maintain confidentiality of information.

### 3.2 Attack Model

Various security attacks (outsider and/or insider) are possible on SG network. An attacker may perform a *man-in-the-middle attack* (outsider attack) by creating an active connection between a user and a server, and makes them believe that they are directly communicating with each other by a secure connection over the SG network. The attacker may delay or repeat the transmitted message to the user or the server over the network resulting in a *replay attack*. Also, an *integrity violation* can be performed by an external attacker, if the attacker is successful at modifying the transmitted messages over the SG network. An attacker may also perform an *impersonation attack* where it tries to impersonate the users involved in the SG system. *Change of security parameters* can be done by both, insider and outsider attackers. An unauthorized user may change the security parameters of the SG system or the device in order to gain access to it. Furthermore, the customer can tamper with the smart meter and the AMI network to reduce the cost of electricity usage. In addition, prevention against a *repudiation attack* is one of the most important requirements,

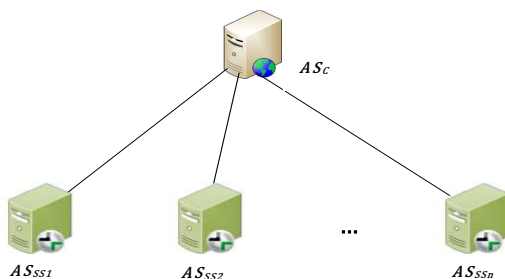


Fig. 3: Communication among various substations.

as even the higher authorities of the SG and AMI networks can alter data and then later deny it. This attack can be intentionally performed by an insider as well as an outsider. There are many more attacks possible in the SG, including *attacks by consumers/operators/maintenance personnel*. We also address the insider attacks where an insider, accessing the devices, can harm the system in the absence of proper authentication and authorization.

## 4 PROPOSED SCHEME

This section presents a preliminary discussion on access control, and then proposes a solution for preventing various attacks in the SG. Our scheme (a) first, derives and identifies the role of a user, and then verifies the identities of each user and the device, (b) allows to have a symmetric secret key at both ends (user and device) for secure communication without transmitting the key to another end over the network, (c) supports two-factor authentication to defeat MITM and other attacks, (d) is applicable in dynamic environment varying the number of users and devices in the SG network, and (e) is verified with formal security proofs.

### 4.1 Preliminary Discussion on Access Control

An access control restricts a user to have a limited access to resources according to its domain of interest and permissions. In *RBAC*, it is easy to audit users' permissions and the permissions granted to a user, whereas in attribute-based access control (*ABAC*), it is more difficult to audit users having resource access to the given permission and the permissions granted to a given user. The reason is that the *ABAC* uses a large number of attributes that requires substantial understanding and manageability, and these attributes do not have any meaning until they are associated with an entity [42]. It would be advantageous to combine both schemes together to provide flexibility, auditability, scalability, understandability, and manageability. A role-centric attribute-based access control (*RABAC*) scheme proposed by Xin *et al.* [43] combines roles and attributes to provide an access control in a reliable manner. Moreover, role-centric and dynamic-role capabilities with *ABAC*'s fine-grained access control are also being developed and implemented for commercial purposes [44].

### 4.2 Basic Description of Our System and Assumptions

The proposed scheme provides a dynamic-role attribute-based access control, where a role is formed based on various attributes of an entity. Each user has a defined role as *RBAC* registered at corresponding  $AS_{ss}$ , whereas dynamic role of each user is computed using *ABAC* at each device. A part of our proposed scheme is based on bilinear map and pair-based cryptography [45], where the secret keys generated at both ends have been proved equal. The following are some basic assumptions made in this paper:

1. In case of physical access of the devices, a user interface provides input/output to/from each device and is capable of performing light computations on it.
2. The presented scenario is similar for *IEDs*, *SMs*, and *OFEs*. The *IEDs* scenario can be easily extended to explain scenarios with other types of devices.

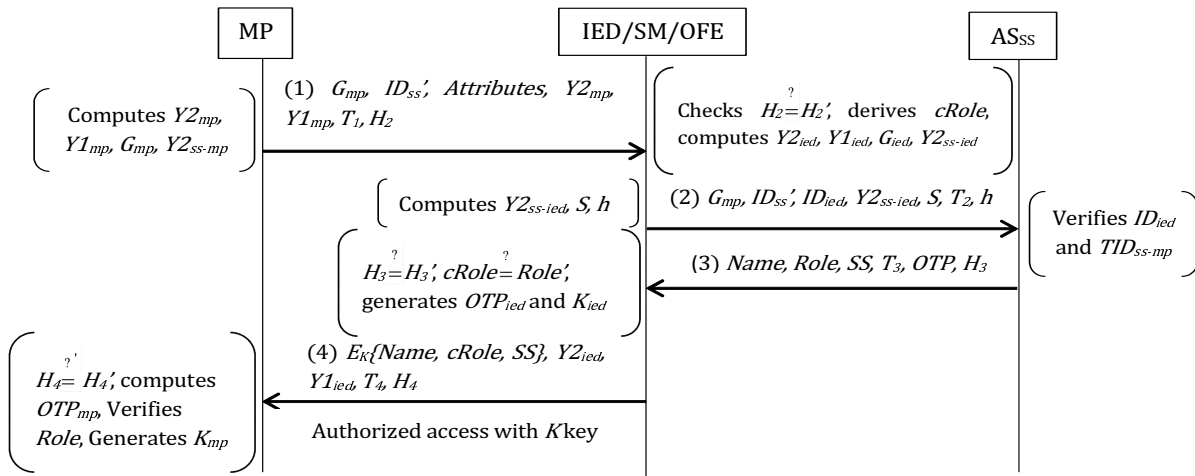


Fig. 4: Proposed scheme for remote access of the device.

3. Each user and the corresponding substation share the user credential, *i.e.*, user identity and password.

4. The communication channel between a device and a server is secure, as the devices are always connected with the respective substations.

Our proposed scheme is based on the bilinear pairing technique. Let  $\mathbb{G}_1$  be an additive group and  $\mathbb{G}_2$  be a multiplicative group on a symmetric pairing function  $e$ . Both groups are of order  $q$ , where  $q$  is a large prime. Let  $P$  be an arbitrary generator of  $\mathbb{G}_1$ . Assume that the discrete logarithm problem (DLP) is hard in both  $\mathbb{G}_1$  and  $\mathbb{G}_2$ .

**Definition:** A bilinear pairing on  $(\mathbb{G}_1, \mathbb{G}_2)$  is a map  $e : \mathbb{G}_1 \times \mathbb{G}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_2$  that satisfies the following properties of the cryptographic bilinear map:

**Properties:** (1) *Bilinearity:*  $e(aP, bQ) = e(bP, aQ) = e(abP, Q) = e(P, abQ) = e(P, Q)^{ab}$ ,  $\forall a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , and  $\forall P, Q \in \mathbb{G}_1$

(2) *Non-degeneracy:*  $e(P, P) \neq 1$

(3) *Computability:* There exists an efficient algorithm to compute  $e(P, Q)$  for  $\forall P, Q \in \mathbb{G}_1$ .

Here, given  $P, aP, bP, cP \in \mathbb{G}_1$ , and  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , it is easy to verify whether  $c = ab \pmod q$ , however, it is difficult to compute  $abP$ . The group  $\mathbb{G}_1$  is called a gap Diffie-Hellman (DH) group [46].

### 4.3 A New Generic Design of Proposed Scheme

Our proposed scheme has four subsections: (i) initial setup, (ii) identity creation, (iii) accessing device, and (iv) verification of the identities.

**i) Initial Setup:** Let  $\mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_T$  be two cyclic groups of the same prime order  $q$ , and  $P$  be a generator of group  $\mathbb{G}$ . Suppose  $\mathbb{G}$  and  $\mathbb{G}_T$  are equipped with a pairing, *i.e.*, a non-degenerated and efficiently computable bilinear map  $e : \mathbb{G} \times \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_T$  such that  $e(P, P) \neq 1_{\mathbb{G}_T}$  and  $e(aP_1, bQ_1) = e(bP_1, aQ_1) = e(P_1, Q_1)^{ab} \in \mathbb{G}_T$  for all  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$  and any  $P_1, Q_1 \in \mathbb{G}$ . Central station and all substations agree on an

elliptic curve over a finite field  $\mathbb{E}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ . Note that the elliptic curves are more efficient than finite fields and make pairings even more useful in terms of space and time [47]. Further,  $ID_{ss} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$  is an identity of the substation (SS) while public key of the substation is  $Y_{2,ss} = ID_{ss}P$ . We refer to [48] for a more comprehensive description of pairing assumptions.

**ii) Identity Creation:** We assume that the identity of each substation  $ID_{ss}$  is publicly known. Each day, each substation's authentication server  $AS_{ss}$  chooses a random private key  $x_{ss} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ . Similarly, each MP selects a new random private key  $x_{mp} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$  and generates its public identity in a group (substation) as  $G_{mp} = x_{mp}P$ . The MP requests to the  $AS_{ss}$  (under which it is registered) for the verification of its public identity. It submits  $G_{mp}$  to the  $AS_{ss}$  and the  $AS_{ss}$  verifies whether any other registered MP has the same identity. If yes, the requested MP needs to change its public identity. The chances of selecting the same  $x_{mp}$  by two MPs are very rare because  $q$  is a very large prime. The  $AS_{ss}$  returns a temporary identity as  $TID_{ss-mp} = x_{ss}G_{mp}$  to the MP. The  $AS_{ss}$  also stores  $TID_{ss-mp}$  in its database in addition to the details of the MP, such as name of the person (*Name*), role of the person (*Role*), identity of the person ( $ID_{mp}$ ), and contact number (*Mobno*) in order to send *OTP* for verification (two-factor authentication). The MP can use this  $TID_{ss-mp}$  for accessing devices under different substations for certain duration per session and per substation. Note that the secret key and the temporary identity of the user are only valid for a short period and are removed from the  $AS_{ss}$ 's database after its use. However, each  $AS_{ss}$  maintains a daily report containing the details of the accessed devices ( $ID_{ied}, ID'_{ss}$ , type of device) by the MPs. The request for generating a temporary identity can be completed either by physically at substations or via remotely using its login credentials to the  $AS_{ss}$ .

**iii) Accessing Device:** This subsection describes the steps for accessing devices remotely as well as physically.

**a) Remote Access of Device:** Each step of remote access scheme, as illustrated in Figure 4, is explained as follows:

**Step-1:** First, the *MP* generates a public key pair  $Y_{1_{mp}} = x_{mp}H_1$ ,  $Y_{2_{mp}} = ID_{ss}Y_{1_{mp}}$ , and a *SS-MP* compatible public key as  $Y_{2_{ss-mp}} = x_{mp}Y_{2_{ss}}$ . Note that  $Y_1$  and  $Y_2$  both are public parameters. Here,  $H_1 = H(\text{mode}, \text{department}, \text{location}, \text{SDP})$  and  $ID_{ss}$  is the identity of the substation to which the device is registered, and  $SDP$  is secret device parameter. Then, the *MP* sends message-1  $\{G_{mp}, ID_{ss}, \text{Attributes}, Y_{2_{mp}}, Y_{1_{mp}}, T_1\}$  to the *IED/SM/OFE* where *Attributes* are *mode of access, department, location, and SDP*,  $T_1$  is a timestamp value at the time of message creation, and  $ID'_{ss}$  is the identity of substation to which the *MP* is registered. Location information is unique for each device. Note that the *MP* needs to provide location information of the device for the remote access of the device. Otherwise, the location of the device will be used as the location of the *MP* in case of physical access. For the remote access, the *MP* also includes a one-way hash value  $H_2$  along with message-1, where  $H_2 = H(G_{mp}, ID'_{ss}, \text{Attributes}, Y_{2_{mp}}, Y_{1_{mp}}, T_1)$  for ensuring the integrity of message over the network.

**Step-2:** On receiving message-1, the *IED* computes  $H'_2 = H(G_{mp}, ID'_{ss}, \text{Attributes}, Y_{2_{mp}}, Y_{1_{mp}}, T_1)$  and verifies  $H_2 \stackrel{?}{=} H'_2$ . If both are equal, the integrity of message-1 is successfully verified. Otherwise, the connection is terminated. Then, the *IED* computes  $H'_1 = H(\text{mode}, \text{department}, \text{location}, \text{SDP})$ , its public identity in the group (substation) as  $G_{ied} = x_{ied}P$  using its private key  $x_{ied} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , a public key pair  $Y_{1_{ied}} = x_{ied}H_1$  and  $Y_{2_{ied}} = ID_{ss}Y_{1_{ied}}$  and a *SS-IED* compatible public key  $Y_{2_{ss-ied}} = x_{ied}Y_{2_{ss}}$ . The computation of  $H'_1$  always requires the *location* information supplied by the device itself, not by the *MP* during physical or remote access of the device. Then, the role of a user is computed by the *IED* by matching the value of  $H'_1$  with the stored role values, *i.e.*,  $cRole \stackrel{?}{=} H'_1$ . Further, the *IED* also verifies the identity of the *MP* by sending message-2  $\{G_{mp}, ID'_{ss}, ID_{ied}, Y_{2_{ss-ied}}, S, T_2, h\}$  using a secure channel to the respective  $AS_{ss}$  to which the device belongs. Here,  $S = ID_{ied}h + ID_{ied}G_{ied}$ , and  $h = H(G_{mp}, ID'_{ss}, ID_{ied}, Y_{2_{ss-ied}}, S, T_2)$ .

**Step-3:** On receiving message-2, the  $AS_{ss}$  first verifies the identity of the device, *i.e.*,  $ID_{ied}$ . The verification of  $ID_{ied}$  is done in a batch mode. Once,  $ID_{ied}$  verification is over, the  $AS_{ss}$  checks whether its  $ID_{ss}$  is same as the received  $ID_{ss}$ . If they are different, the  $AS_{ss}$  passes  $\{ID_{ss}, ID'_{ss}, G_{mp}, ID_{ied}\}$  to the  $AS_c$  in order to verify the identity of the user by its registered server of the substation. This is done by encrypting the message with a pre-shared key between the  $AS_{ss}$  and the  $AS_c$ . The  $AS_c$  transmits the message  $\{ID_{ss}, ID'_{ss}, G_{mp}, ID_{ied}\}$  to the corresponding  $AS'_{ss}$  having identity  $ID_{ss}$  encrypted with pre-shared key between the  $AS'_{ss}$  and the  $AS_c$ . Thereafter, the  $AS'_{ss}$  verifies  $TID_{ss-mp}$  using the received  $G_{mp}$  and its  $x_{ss}$ , and sends response  $\{\text{Name}, \text{Role}, \text{SS}\}$  back to the  $AS_{ss}$  via  $AS_c$  by a secure channel, where  $SS$  is the name of the  $AS'_{ss}$  to which *MP* belongs. If  $ID_{ss} \stackrel{?}{=} ID'_{ss}$ , it means the *MP* belongs to the  $ID_{ss}$ , so the

$AS_{ss}$  itself handles  $TID_{ss-mp}$  verification and report generation. We perform a simple verification of  $TID_{ss-mp}$  to improve the system efficiency. Furthermore, an *OTP* is sent to the *MP* for verifying its identity. This *OTP* can be sent using *EasySMS* that provides end-to-end security to the *SMS* over the network [49]. If the two-factor verification is successful, the  $AS_{ss}$  sends message-3  $\{\text{Name}, \text{Role}, \text{SS}, T_3, \text{OTP}, H_3\}$  to the *IED*, where  $H_3 = H(\text{Name}, \text{Role}, \text{SS}, T_3, \text{OTP})$ . Otherwise, the connection is discarded.

**Step-4:** After receiving message-3, the *IED* computes and verifies  $H_3 \stackrel{?}{=} H'_3$ . If it is true, the *IED* also checks  $cRole \stackrel{?}{=} \text{Role}$ . If it is also true, the *IED* transmits message-4  $\{E_K\{\text{Name}, \text{Role}, \text{SS}\}, T_4, Y_{1_{ied}}, Y_{2_{ied}}, H_4\}$  to the *MP*, where  $H_4 = H(E_K\{\text{Name}, \text{Role}, \text{SS}\}, T_4, Y_{1_{ied}}, Y_{2_{ied}})$ . Here,  $E$  denotes the encryption that can be performed using the *MAES* algorithm [49], which generates a ciphertext of 158 characters (1111 bits) from a plaintext of 160 characters (1120 bits). Hence, this encryption will maintain the system efficiency almost as it is. The secret key  $K_{ied}$ , used in *MAES*, is generated at *IED* and is expanded from 128 to 256 bits using an expand function and an *OTP*. The *MP* computes and compares  $H_4 \stackrel{?}{=} H'_4$ . If it is true, the *MP* computes a secret key  $K_{mp}$ , decrypts the message, verifies its role, and performs actions based on an authorized role. Note that the secret keys generated at *IED* and *MP* are same, *i.e.*,  $K_{ied} = K_{mp}$  (Theorem-1 in sec. 5.1). Hence, this secret shared key (say  $K$ ) is used for encrypting message-4. Now, the *MP* can directly access the device using the shared key until its expiry time. Here, the expiry time of the key is a session time, and the access time per role per attempt is a sub-session time within a session. For example, if the working shift is about 8 hours, then the key expiry time (session time) may configure to be 4 hours, the user can access the device multiple times (per sub-session) depending on the role specified for each type of user. For read-only access users, the sub-session time may configure to be 5 *sec.* (s).

**b) Physical Access of Device:** Note that in case of the physical access, as shown in Figure 5, the device uses its own default location for computing hash value. The timestamp values  $T_1$  and  $T_4$  are not required for the physical access, as input (set of parameters) is acquired on-site. Also,  $H_2$  and  $H_4$  do not need to be computed.

**iv) Verification of the Identities of IED and MP:** Since the maintenance work is generally scheduled in advance and is done at regular intervals, the verification of user and device identities by the authentication server in a batch would be more efficient during that period. In an emergency situation, a one-to-one maintenance service can be provided to any device. Here, we focus on an efficient batch verification of identities of the devices as shown in Figure 6.

All  $IED_i$  ( $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots, m$ ;  $m$  = number of *IEDs* requested for verification to the server at one time) send message-2  $\{G_{mp_i}, ID'_{ss_i}, ID_{ied_i}, Y_{2_{ss-ied_i}}, S_i, T_i, h_i\}$  to the  $AS_{ss_i}$ . Here,  $S_i = ID_{ied_i}h_i + ID_{ied_i}G_{ied_i}$  and  $h_i = H(G_{mp_i}, ID'_{ss_i}, ID_{ied_i}, Y_{2_{ss-ied_i}}, S_i, T_i)$ . On receiving message-2, the  $AS_{ss_i}$  computes  $s = \sum_{i=1}^m S_i$  and  $X = sID_{ss_i}$ , and compares  $\sum_{i=1}^m [ID_{ied_i}(Y_{2_{ss-ied_i}} + h_iID_{ss_i})] \stackrel{?}{=} X$ , where  $ID_{ss_i}$  is the identity of the  $AS_{ss_i}$ . If it is false, indicating that one or more *IED<sub>i</sub>* are malicious, the  $AS_{ss_i}$  terminates the connection for each invalid request. Then, it

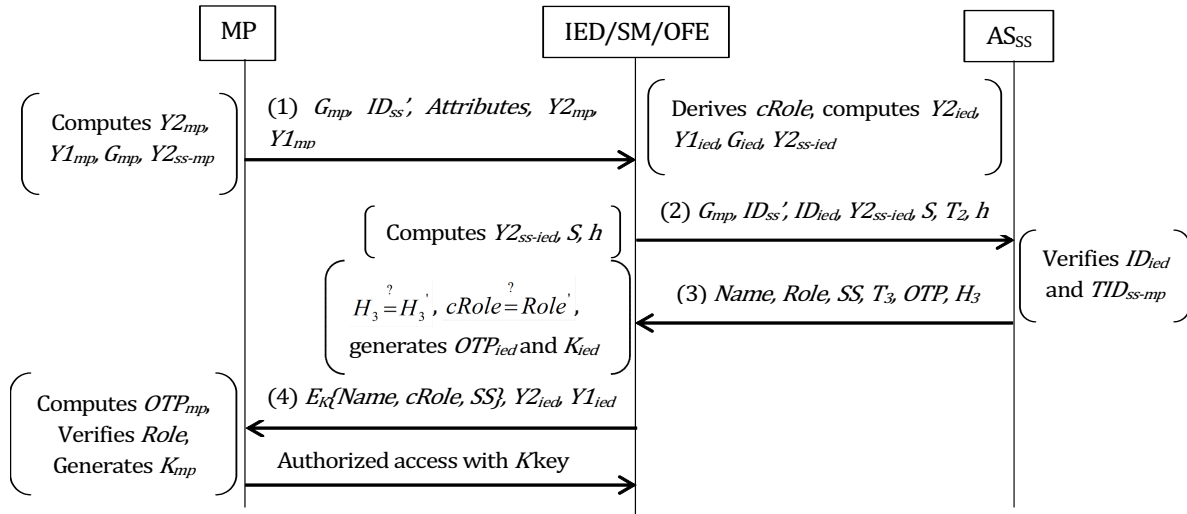


Fig. 5: Proposed scheme for physical access of the device.



Fig. 6: Verification of device and user identities.

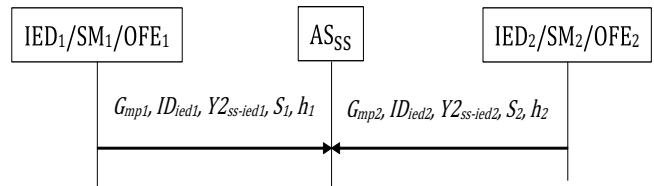


Fig. 7: An example for identities and roles verification.

identifies and removes the malicious  $IED_i$  from the batch using an algorithm presented in [50]. Thereafter, it again performs a batch verification for all valid  $IED_i$  and checks  $\sum_{i=1}^m [ID_{ied_i} (Y_{2_{ss-ied_i}} + h_i ID_{ss_i})] \stackrel{?}{=} X$ . The  $AS_{ss_i}$  checks  $ID_{ss_i}'$  from the message received by each verified  $IED_i$ . If  $ID_{ss_i}' \stackrel{?}{=} ID_{ss_i}$ , the  $MP$  belongs to this particular  $AS_{ss_i}$ . Otherwise, the encrypted  $\{G_{mp_i}, ID_{ss_i}, ID_{ss_i}', ID_{ied_i}\}$  is forwarded to the corresponding  $AS_{ss_i}'$  via  $AS_c$ . The  $AS_c$  keeps the information regarding the identities and names of all substations. Thereafter, the  $AS_{ss_i}'$  verifies  $TID_{ss-mp_i}$  and sends response  $\{Name_i, Role_i, SS_i\}$  back to the  $AS_{ss_i}$  via  $AS_c$ . Upon verification, the  $AS_{ss_i}$  sends message-3  $\{Name_i, Role_i, SS_i, T_j, OTP_i, H_{3_i}\}$  to all valid  $IED_i$ . The process of verifying  $\sum_{i=1}^m [ID_{ied_i} (Y_{2_{ss-ied_i}} + h_i ID_{ss_i})] \stackrel{?}{=} X$  is illustrated in Figure 7, where for simplicity, we have omitted  $ID_{ss_i}'$  and  $T_i$ . We assume that  $ID_{ss_i} = ID_{ss_i}'$ , hence,  $AS_{ss_i} = AS_{ss_i}'$  and  $SS_i = SS_i'$ . Consider two  $IEDs$ , i.e.,  $IED_1$  and  $IED_2$  that send message-2 to the  $AS_{ss}$

at the same time. The message received by the  $AS_{ss}$  from the  $IED_1$  is  $\{G_{mp1}, ID_{ied1}, Y_{2_{ss-ied1}}, S_1, h_1\}$  while message from the  $IED_2$  is  $\{G_{mp2}, ID_{ied2}, Y_{2_{ss-ied2}}, S_2, h_2\}$ . On receiving, the  $AS_{ss}$  computes and compares  $\sum_{i=1}^m [ID_{ied_i} (Y_{2_{ss-ied_i}} + h_i ID_{ss_i})] \stackrel{?}{=} X$ . In order to verify the identity of each  $MP$ , the  $AS_{ss}$  first computes  $TID'_{ss-mp_i} = x_{ss} G_{mp_i}$  from the received  $G_{mp_i}$  and compares it with the stored  $TID_{ss-mp_i}$ . If it is true, the identity of the user is verified successfully. The proposed scheme can be applied with any other user-role, such as customer, vendor engineer, contractor, and etc.

## 5 SECURITY PROOFS, ANALYSIS, AND PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

This section presents computation proofs in the scheme, and security and performance analysis of the proposed scheme.



## 5.1 Computation Proofs

This subsection derives the computational proofs for the statements used in the proposed scheme.

**Theorem 1.** The proposed scheme generates a shared secret key at MP and IED.

**Proof:** *Generation of a Shared Secret Key at MP and IED:* In order to generate same key at both ends, the MP computes  $OTP_{mp} = Y_{2_{ss-mp}} OTP$  and generates  $K_{mp}$  whereas the IED computes  $OTP_{ied} = G_{ied} OTP$  and generates  $K_{ied}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 K_{mp} &= e(Y_{2_{ied}}, G_{mp})e(Y_{1_{ied}}, OTP_{mp}) \\
 &= e(Y_{2_{ied}}, G_{mp})e(Y_{1_{ied}}, Y_{2_{ss-mp}} OTP) \\
 &= e(ID_{ss} Y_{1_{ied}}, x_{mp} P)e(x_{ied} H_1, x_{mp} Y_{2_{ss}} OTP) \\
 &= e(x_{ied} ID_{ss} H_1, x_{mp} P)e(x_{ied} H_1, x_{mp} ID_{ss} P.OTP) \\
 &= e(x_{mp} H_1, x_{ied} ID_{ss} P)e(x_{mp} ID_{ss} H_1, x_{ied} P.OTP) \\
 &\quad \text{since } \{e(aP, bQ) = e(bP, aQ)\} \\
 &= e(Y_{1_{mp}}, Y_{2_{ss-ied}})e(Y_{1_{mp}} ID_{ss}, G_{ied} OTP) \\
 &= e(Y_{1_{mp}}, Y_{2_{ss-ied}})e(Y_{2_{mp}}, OTP_{ied}) \\
 &= K_{ied}
 \end{aligned}$$

In a similar way, each IED can generate a shared secret key with other users.

**Theorem 2.** If all the requests are made by the legitimate MPs to various IEDs, the  $AS_{ss}$  verifies all the requests correctly.

**Proof:** *Batch Verification at  $AS_{ss}$ :*

$$\begin{aligned}
 R.H.S. &= X \\
 &= sID_{ss_i} \\
 &= ID_{ss}[(ID_{ied_1} h_1 + ID_{ied_1} G_{ied_1}) \\
 &\quad + (ID_{ied_2} h_2 + ID_{ied_2} G_{ied_2})] \\
 &= ID_{ss}[(ID_{ied_1} G_{ied_1} + ID_{ied_2} G_{ied_2}) \\
 &\quad + (ID_{ied_1} h_1 + ID_{ied_2} h_2)] \\
 L.H.S. &= \sum_{i=1}^m [ID_{ied_i} (Y_{2_{ss-ied_i}} + h_i ID_{ss_i})] \\
 &= ID_{ied_1} Y_{2_{ss-ied_1}} + ID_{ied_2} Y_{2_{ss-ied_2}} \\
 &\quad + ID_{ss} [ID_{ied_1} h_1 + ID_{ied_2} h_2] \\
 &= ID_{ied_1} x_{ied_1} ID_{ss} P + ID_{ied_2} x_{ied_2} ID_{ss} P \\
 &\quad + ID_{ss} [ID_{ied_1} h_1 + ID_{ied_2} h_2] \\
 &= ID_{ss} [ID_{ied_1} x_{ied_1} P + ID_{ied_2} x_{ied_2} P] \\
 &\quad + ID_{ss} [ID_{ied_1} h_1 + ID_{ied_2} h_2] \\
 &= ID_{ss} [(ID_{ied_1} G_{ied_1} + ID_{ied_2} G_{ied_2}) \\
 &\quad + (ID_{ied_1} h_1 + ID_{ied_2} h_2)]
 \end{aligned}$$

Hence,  $\sum_{i=1}^m [ID_{ied_i} (Y_{2_{ss-ied_i}} + h_i ID_{ss_i})] \stackrel{?}{=} X$  is true.

## 5.2 Security Analysis

In this subsection, authentication, session key establishment, and privacy preservation are discussed along with prevention against different attacks.

*i) Mutual Authentication:* A mutual authentication is provided between the user, i.e., MP, and the server, i.e.,  $AS_{ss}$ .

The  $AS_{ss}$  authenticates the MP by verifying  $TID_{ss-mp} \stackrel{?}{=} x_{ss} G_{mp}$ , and each MP authenticates the AS by comparing its name, role, and substation name with the received information, i.e., *Name*, *Role*, and *SS*. Note the  $G_{mp}$  is used only once. Further, we used two-factor authentication where an *OTP* is sent to the user. Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot verify *OTP*.

*ii) Session Key Establishment:* Each  $K_{mp}/K_{ied}$  key is used as a session shared secret key for each authentication between the user MP and the device IED. The same key is used for a session within the expiry time.

*iii) Privacy Preservation:* The privacy of each MP is well protected during the authentication over the network. The  $TID_{ss-mp}$  is computed by the  $AS_{ss}$  and is assigned to the MP. The intermediate operators and operator at  $AS_{ss}$  cannot identify the actual MP by viewing  $G_{mp}$ , as a random number  $x_{ss}$  is selected by the server as private key, which is securely stored in the database of  $AS_{ss}$  considering the fact that operator at server cannot access master table of the database. The IEDs also cannot identify the MP. Hence, an attacker cannot retrieve actual MP's identity by forging the IED or by traffic analysis over the network. Since,  $TID_{ss-mp}$  of the MP changes for each session, the adversary cannot gain useful information from a long term analysis.

*iv) Integrity Protection:* The proposed scheme provides integrity protection by using hash functions on each transmitted message over the network. If an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  intentionally changes any transmitted parameter (including public key), the received and computed hash values will not match at receiver and the connection will be terminated.

*v) Prevention Against Various Attacks:* The proposed scheme defeats the following security attacks:

*a. Impersonation Attack:*  $\mathcal{A}$  needs to know the temporary identity and secret key of the victim user assigned by the server. However,  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot obtain secret key without knowing its parameters to generate. A different key pair is used at each device to prevent the use of old parameter values in other devices. There are two possible cases for an impersonation attack as follows:

- *Case-1:  $\mathcal{A}$  impersonates the MP:* (1)  $\mathcal{A}$  changes  $G_{mp}$  as  $\mathcal{A}G_{mp}$ . On receiving message-1, the IED finds  $H_2 \neq H_2'$ , and hence terminates the connection. (2)  $\mathcal{A}$  sends a fake  $G_{mp}$  as  $\mathcal{A}G_{mp}$  with a new hash  $\mathcal{A}H_2$ . On receiving the message, the  $AS_{ss}$  verifies received  $\mathcal{A}G_{mp}$  with the stored  $G_{mp}$ 's in the database. As,  $\mathcal{A}G_{mp} \neq G_{mp}$ , the AS rejects the request.
- *Case-2:  $\mathcal{A}$  impersonates the IED:* If  $\mathcal{A}$  tries to impersonate the IED, the identity and signature of the device are verified by the  $AS_{ss}$ . In this case, the signature would be different and identity of the device will not match. Hence, the connection will be terminated.

*b. MITM Attack:* A packet or message sniffing allows  $\mathcal{A}$  to capture the message information over the network. Once the information is captured,  $\mathcal{A}$  can gain access to the system. For a MITM,  $\mathcal{A}$  tries to build a connection between both the involved parties. There are two possible cases as follows:

- *Case-1: Key-exchange by adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :* Consider  $\mathcal{A}$  is located between the MP and the IED. Since  $(Y_{1_{mp}}, Y_{2_{mp}})$  and  $(Y_{1_{ied}}, Y_{2_{ied}})$  are being sent in plaintext over the network,  $\mathcal{A}$  may try to learn secret key.

However,  $OTP_{mp}$  and  $OTP_{ied}$  are not sent over the network, and  $Y_{2_{ss-ied}}$  is sent over a secure network.  $\mathcal{A}$  does not know  $G_{ied}$  and the actual identity of the  $MP$ . Therefore,  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot generate secret key and also cannot trace  $MP$ 's identity.

- *Case-2: Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  as a rogue device:*  $\mathcal{A}$  may install a fake device in place of a legitimate device. In such a case,  $\mathcal{A}$  can extract the information provided by the user to the device and can later use that information to access the system from a valid device's interface. In order to protect such access, after receiving the message from the device, the  $AS_{ss}$  sends an  $OTP$  to the user in order to verify its identity. Hence, two-factor authentication takes place, one by matching  $TID_{ss-mp}$  and other by sending an  $OTP$ .
- *Case-3: Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  tries to extract information from the message:*  $\mathcal{A}$  may try to extract some information from message-4 that is being sent over the network.  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot decrypt the message as it is not able to generate the secret key.

*c. Replay and Injection Attacks:*  $\mathcal{A}$  can intercept a message in order to perform a replay attack. It can also inject message information during communication over the network. The proposed scheme can resist replay attacks by using timestamp values  $T_i$  in all transmitted messages, and also  $x_{mp}$ ,  $x_{ied}$ ,  $x_{ss}$ ,  $OTP$  are chosen randomly in each session. There can be three different cases under this scenario as follows:

- *Case-1: MP replay and injection attacks:* (1)  $\mathcal{A}$  captures and later sends message-1 to the  $IED$ . On receiving the message, the  $IED$  detects that message-1 was resent, as the received timestamp  $T_1$  is outdated. The message is considered valid only when  $T_1 + T_{threshold} \leq T_{current}$ , where  $T_{threshold}$  is a threshold timestamp that is a maximum time considered for reaching a message from one entity to another. Hence, the connection is terminated. (2)  $\mathcal{A}$  sends message-1 to the  $IED$  with a new timestamp  $\mathcal{AT}_1$  and a new hash  $\mathcal{AH}_2$ . The  $IED$  forwards the message to the  $AS_{ss}$  for identity verification of the  $MP$ . The  $AS_{ss}$  checks the identity of the  $MP$  and finds a mismatch between the received  $MP$ 's identity and the stored identities of all the  $MP$ s. Hence, the connection is terminated.
- *Case-2:  $AS_{ss}$  replay and injection attacks:* (1) When  $\mathcal{A}$  replays message-3 to the  $IED$ , it checks timestamp validity. If it is not valid, the  $IED$  refuses the message. (2) Message-3 is sent with a new  $\mathcal{AT}_3$  and new  $\mathcal{AH}_3$ , then the  $IED$  computes user-role and compares the role received from the  $AS_{ss}$ . As  $\mathcal{A}$ 's role will be different, the  $IED$  terminates the connection.
- *Case-3: IED replay and injection attacks:* (1)  $\mathcal{A}$  sends message-2 as a replay to the  $AS_{ss}$ , the  $AS_{ss}$  verifies timestamp validity. As it is outdated, the  $AS_{ss}$  discards the request. The same case applies when the  $IED$  sends a replay message-4 to the  $MP$ . (2)  $\mathcal{A}$  modifies  $T_2$  of the message-2 to a new  $\mathcal{AT}_2$  and sends to the  $AS_{ss}$ . On receiving, the  $AS_{ss}$  finds  $h \neq h'$ , and terminates the connection. The same case applies when  $\mathcal{A}$  sends message-4 to the  $MP$ . (3)  $\mathcal{A}$  injects a new  $\mathcal{AT}_2$  as well as a new  $\mathcal{A}h$

in message-2 and sends it to the  $AS_{ss}$ . The  $AS_{ss}$  compares  $G_{mp}$  with the stored  $G_{mp}$ 's. Since it is an invalid  $G_{mp}$ , the  $AS_{ss}$  discards the request. Even if  $\mathcal{A}$  modifies  $ID_{ied}$ , the connection is terminated, as  $AS_{ss}$  fails to verify received signature of the device.

(4)  $\mathcal{A}$  injects  $\mathcal{AT}_4$  and  $\mathcal{AH}_4$  to the message-4. However,  $\mathcal{A}$  fails to generate the secret key shared between the  $MP$  and the  $IED$ . As a result, the message cannot not be decrypted correctly by  $MP$ 's secret key.

*d. Redirection Attack:* Each time when a new user tries to access a device, it has to provide location information to the device. Thereafter, the device verifies its location by computing and comparing  $H_2 \stackrel{?}{=} H'_2$ . This helps to detect redirection attacks in the  $SG$  system. We illustrate this scenario by the following two cases:

- *Case-1: MP redirection attack:* If  $\mathcal{A}$  provides wrong location in message-1, on receiving the message, the  $IED$  verifies  $H_2 \neq H'_2$  and refuses the message. The  $IED$  finds a mismatch between location information received from  $\mathcal{A}$  and its stored information. Hence, the  $IED$  terminates the connection.
- *Case-2: IED redirection attack:*  $\mathcal{A}$  can also send message-2 with a fake  $\mathcal{A}ID_{ied}$  and  $ID'_{ss}$ . If the  $ID'_{ss}$  in message-2 is same as the communicated  $ID_{ss}$ , the  $AS_{ss}$  verifies  $\mathcal{A}ID_{ied}$ , otherwise it sends the message to the  $AS_c$  for verification. Since it is a fake  $\mathcal{A}ID_{ied}$ , the  $AS_c$  finds it invalid. As a result, the  $AS_c$  terminates the connection.

*e. Attacks by the Consumer/Operator/Maintenance Personnel:* The customer and maintenance personnel have read-only user-roles belonging to different departments, hence they cannot extract/modify other information. An operator (insider) cannot extract the actual identity of the user ( $ID_{mp}$ ) from the received identity (in a substation group), i.e.,  $G_{mp}$ , over the network, as the identity changes after each session.

*f. Other Attacks:* Our scheme prevents the  $SG$  system against *Known Key Attack*. The server of the substation cannot generate the next session user's public identity  $G_{mp}$  from the previous one. Further, for each session key generation, private key  $x_{mp}$  is different and the public identity of each user is newly generated for each session at each device. The identity and signature verification used in the scheme prevent *Repudiation Attack*. A user can modify (or even access) the system only after the user authentication and authorization verification. Hence, a malicious user or attacker cannot *Change the Security Parameters* of the device.

### 5.3 Performance Analysis

Consider a  $SG$  network scenario with an authentication server remotely connected with various devices. The specification of the  $PC$  system is 1.70 GHz Core i3-4005U CPU with 4GB RAM and 500GB drive. We performed IEC61850 Client/Server  $IED$  simulation on a  $PC$  with *The SmartGridware Java IEC61850 Client/Server SDK* [40]. Furthermore, the performance of the proposed scheme is evaluated in terms of communication and computation overheads. We compare our scheme with the schemes presented in [39] and [35] because these are only comparable work that consider

user/device-server authentication while accessing a device. However, these schemes use a password for each user-role.

i) *Communication Overhead*: In order to reduce communication overhead, the *MP* is assigned for accessing the devices from the same substation whenever is possible. Communication overhead is the total number of bits transmitted over the network during protocol/scheme/approach execution. Total communication overhead of our scheme is as follows:

$$\text{Message-1: } G_{mp}(128) + \text{Attributes}(64) + ID'_{ss}(128) + Y_{2_{mp}}(128) + Y_{1_{mp}}(128) + T_1(64) + H_2(64) = 704 \text{ bits,}$$

$$\text{Message-2: } G_{mp}(128) + ID'_{ss}(128) + ID_{ied}(128) + Y_{2_{ss-ied}}(128) + S(128) + T_2(64) + h(64) = 768 \text{ bits,}$$

$$\text{Message-3: } \text{Name}(128) + \text{Role}(128) + SS(64) + T_3(64) + \text{OTP}(3) + H_3(64) = 451 \text{ bits,}$$

$$\text{Message-4: } \text{Name}(128) + c\text{Role}(128) + SS(64) + T_3(64) + Y_{2_{ied}}(128) + Y_{1_{ied}}(128) + H_4(64) = 704 \text{ bits,}$$

$$\text{Total overhead} = 2627 \text{ bits (328.375 bytes).}$$

As shown in Table 4, the overheads of our scheme between the *MP-IED* and the *IED-AS* are 1408 bits and 1219 bits, respectively. The total communication overhead of our scheme is lower than the scheme [39] adding integrity check and timestamp values, as well as scheme [35]. We assume that there are  $m$ -number of *MPs* that are accessing different devices within a substation simultaneously. In this case, the total communication overhead (for the first attempt) of our scheme, scheme [39], and scheme [35] would be  $2627 \times m$ ,  $2752 \times m$ , and  $2944 \times m$ , respectively. Further, we assume that  $r$ -number of attempts are allowed for accessing the same device within a session. For any subsequent authentication, our scheme generates  $256 \times r$  communication overhead (since we use *MAES* with 256 bits of block size sending mode, location, department, *SDP* in encrypted form), while scheme [39] and scheme [35] produce  $2752 \times r$  and  $2944 \times r$ , respectively. As shown in Figure 8, our scheme is able to provide authorization and authentication to different *MPs* accessing different devices without increasing the overhead.

ii) *Computation Overhead*: We assume the operation under multiplication group as  $M$ , pairing function as  $P$ , hash function as  $H$ , operation under addition group (addition) as  $A$ , subtraction as  $S$ , encryption as  $E$ , decryption as  $D$ , probability generation function as  $Gen$ , signature as  $Sig$ , key generation  $KG$ , message authentication code as  $MAC$ , verification function as  $Ver$ , reproduction algorithm as  $Rep$ , user credential generation as  $C$ , device credential generation as  $DE$ , and authentication server credential generation as

$AG$ . We compute the overhead for a single *MP* scheme run at *MP*, *IED*, and *AS* as presented in Table 5.

The total computation overhead of scheme [39] with integrity and timestamp values, and scheme [35] are  $14M$ ,  $21H$ ,  $12A$ ,  $1S$  and  $2Sig$ ,  $4E$ ,  $4D$ ,  $2Ver$ ,  $2KG$ ,  $4H$ ,  $2Gen$ ,  $2MAC$ ,  $1S$ ,  $1Rep$ ,  $3AG$ ,  $5C$ ,  $5DE$ , respectively, while for our scheme it is  $1P$ ,  $14M$ ,  $9H$ ,  $2A$ ,  $1E$ ,  $1D$ . If we assume a unit value for each operation, then we can say that our scheme is efficient than schemes in [39] and [35], as the total number of computations (operations) performed by our scheme is 29, while it is 48 and 37 for the schemes in [39] and [35], respectively. The actual computation time by each scheme depends upon the actual time taken by each operation. Furthermore, for multiple authentications scenario, scheme [39], scheme [35], and our scheme generate  $48 \times m$ ,  $37 \times m$ , and  $30 \times m - 1$  computation overhead, respectively, as shown in Figure 9 assuming a unit value for each function.

iii) *Discussion*: In order to measure time required for computing and checking the user-role, we implemented  $H_1$  as *SHA256* function on Intel i3, Window7 in *Java*, which took 20 milliseconds ( $ms$ ). In order to implement pairing function, we converted a hash string to an octet string and then an elliptic curve point [54]. A pairing function using *J*-pairing is performed in 197  $ms$ , while it took 246  $ms$  for all multiplications (scalar and elliptic curve). Further, hashing, addition, subtraction, *AES* encryption and decryption took 20  $ms$ , 0.03  $ms$ , 0.03  $ms$ , 0.23  $ms$ , and 0.13  $ms$ , respectively. The average mobile broadband download speed on 4G (15.1 *Mbit/s*) is more than twice as fast as 3G (6.1 *Mbit/s*) [51]. Our scheme takes 0.45  $ms$  on 3G network while 0.18  $ms$  on 4G network to transmit all 4-messages over the network. Overall, the execution time for our scheme is 0.62  $s$  while it is 0.67  $s$  for the scheme in [39]. The structures of various functions are not defined in scheme [35]. Therefore, it is not possible to compute total execution time of the scheme.

To better demonstrate the advantage of our scheme, we also conduct simulations in *Java* in comparison with two separate authentication and authorization schemes instead of our authentication and authorization scheme. Considering two schemes instead of one require two separate connections between *MP-IED* and *IED-AS* by each user. Here, the user needs to generate two temporary identities, respectively, for during authentication and during authorization. Also, since the computed roles  $H_1$  at *MP* and *IED* are used in  $Y_{1_{mp}}$  and  $Y_{1_{ied}}$ , respectively, and are later used in computing the shared secret key for authentication,  $H_1$

TABLE 4: Communication Overhead (in bits)

Schemes	User Registration	User-Device	Device-Server	Total
Proposed Scheme	-	1408 ( <i>MP-IED</i> )	1219 ( <i>IED-AS</i> )	2627
Scheme [39] with integrity & timestamp	832 ( <i>UA-TA</i> )	960 ( <i>UA-SSC</i> )	960 ( <i>SSC-IED</i> )	2752
Scheme [35]	1664 ( <i>C-AS</i> )	-	1280 ( <i>D-AS</i> )	2944

TABLE 5: Computation Overhead

Schemes	TA	MP/UA	IED	AS/SSC
Proposed Scheme	-	4M, 2H, 1D, 1P	6M, 5H, 1A, 1E	4M, 2H, 1A
Scheme [39] with integrity & timestamp	7M, 4H, 4A	4M, 8H, 5A, 1S	1M, 4H, 2A	2M, 5H, 1A
Scheme [35]	-	2Gen, 1E, 1S, 1MAC, 1D, 1Rep, 5C, 2H	2D, 2Ver, 5DE	2Sig, 3E, 2KG, 1D, 2H, 3AG, 1MAC

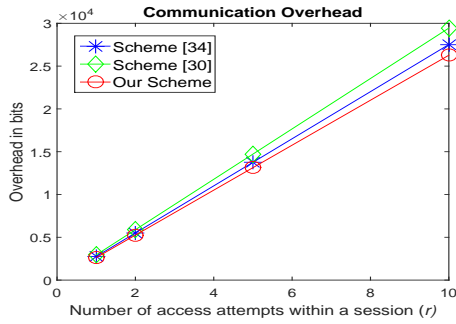


Fig. 8: Communication overhead for session authentications.

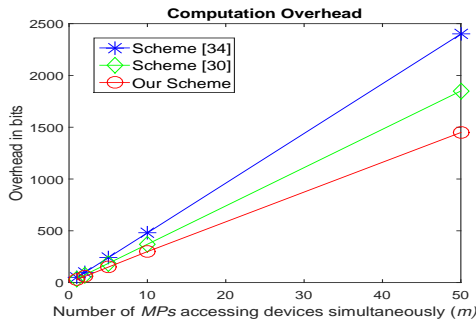


Fig. 9: Computation overhead for multiple MPs.

needs to be computed twice. We simulated these schemes for 50 users belonging to the same authentication server simultaneously accessing different devices. The connection establishment time is 3216 *ms* for our scheme, and 3212 *ms* and 2042 *ms*, respectively, for the separate authentication and authorization schemes. On average, the execution time per user is 3.83 *s* for our scheme, while 3.81 *s* and 2.08 *s*, respectively, for the authentication scheme and authorization scheme. Hence, since the two separate schemes take 5.89 *s* in total, they are 35% slower than our scheme that executes authentication and authorization simultaneously together.

## 6 FORMAL PROOF

This section presents the formal proof of the proposed scheme using a well-known *BAN-Logic* [52] as well as automatic security verification tool named *Proverif* [53].

1) **Security Proof using BAN-Logic:** In order to justify our analysis, we use *BAN-Logic* symbols to formally proof our scheme. Notations of *BAN-Logic* can be followed in [52].

1) *The formal messages in the proposed scheme:*

- (1)  $MP_i \rightarrow IED_i: ID'_{ss_i}, Attributes, Y_{2_{mp_i}}, Y_{1_{mp_i}}, G_{mp_i}, T_{1_i}, H_{2_i}; TID_{ss-mp_i} = x_{ss}G_{mp_i}$
- (2)  $IED_i \rightarrow AS_{ss_i}: ID'_{ss_i}, ID_{ied_i}, G_{mp_i}, Y_{2_{ss-ied_i}}, S_i, T_{2_i}, h_i$
- (3)  $AS_{ss_i} \rightarrow IED_i: Name_i, Role_i, SS_i, OTP_i, T_{3_i}, H_{3_i}$
- (4)  $IED_i \rightarrow MP_i: E_K\{Name_i, cRole_i, SS_i\}, T_{4_i}, H_{4_i}; cRole_i = Role_i$

2) *Security Assumption:* The MP and the IED share a secret key, i.e.,  $K_{mp_i} = K_{ied_i}$ .

- (1) MP has a secure key  $K_{mp_i}$  and  $MP_i \equiv MP_i \xleftrightarrow{K_{mp_i}} IED_i$ .
- (2) IED has a secure key  $K_{ied_i}$  and  $IED_i \equiv IED_i \xleftrightarrow{K_{ied_i}} MP_i$ .

3) *Message Meaning Rule:*

- (1)  $\frac{MP_i \equiv (MP_i \xleftrightarrow{K_{mp_i}} IED_i), MP_i \triangleleft TID_{ss-mp_i}}{MP_i \equiv AS_i | \sim G_{mp_i}}$

$$(2) \frac{IED_i \equiv (IED_i \xleftrightarrow{K_{ied_i}} MP_i), AS_i \triangleleft TID_{ss-mp_i}}{AS_i \equiv MP_i | \sim G_{mp_i}}$$

4) *Timestamp Verification Rule:*

- (1)  $\frac{MP_i | \equiv \#(T_i), MP_i | \equiv AS_i | \sim G_{mp_i}}{MP_i | \equiv AS_i | \equiv G_{mp_i}}$
- (2)  $\frac{AS_i | \equiv \#(T_j), AS_i | \equiv MP_i | \sim G_{mp_i}}{AS_i | \equiv MP_i | \equiv G_{mp_i}}$

5) *Jurisdiction Rule:*

- (1)  $\frac{MP_i | \equiv AS_i \Rightarrow TID_{ss-mp_i}, MP_i \triangleleft MP_i | \sim TID_{ss-mp_i}}{MP_i | \equiv AS_i}$
- (2)  $\frac{AS_i | \equiv MP_i \Rightarrow TID_{ss-mp_i}, AS_i \triangleleft AS_i | \sim TID_{ss-mp_i}}{AS_i | \equiv MP_i}$

6) *Protocol Goals:*

a. *Mutual Authentication:*  $MP_i | \equiv IED_i \equiv AS_i \wedge AS_i | \equiv IED_i \equiv MP_i \rightarrow MP_i | \equiv IED_i \wedge AS_i$ . Thus, mutual authentication holds.

b. *Session Key Agreement:* Each  $K_i$  key between each  $MP_i$  and the  $IED_i$  provides session key agreement.

c. *Freshness of messages:*  $AS_i | \equiv \#(T_j) \wedge MP_i | \equiv \#(T_j)$ , Thus, freshness of messages between  $MP_i$ ,  $IED_i$ , and  $AS_i$  hold.

d. *Integrity and Privacy between each  $MP_i$  and the  $IED_i$ :*

- (1)  $\frac{MP_i | \equiv (MP_i \xleftrightarrow{K_{mp_i}} IED_i), MP_i \triangleleft H(MSG)}{MP_i | \equiv IED_i | \sim MSG}$
- (2)  $\frac{IED_i \equiv (IED_i \xleftrightarrow{K_{ied_i}} MP_i), MP_i \triangleleft TID_{ss-mp_i}}{MP_i | \equiv IED_i | \sim G_{mp_i}}$

2) **Security Proof using Proverif:** The following are the input and output observed from the *Proverif* tool:

(\* Public channel between the MP and the IED \*)

free *pubChannel* : channel.

(\* Secure channel between the IED and the SS \*)

free *secureChannel* : channel [ private ].

(\* types \*)

type key. type ident. type nonce. type msgHdr.

type resp. type sessKey. type hash.

(\* constant message headers \*)

const *MSG1, MSG2, MSG3, MSG4, CMC, MSG*: msgHdr.

(\* Functions \*)

fun sha256 (nonce): hash.

fun sha3842 (ident, nonce, nonce, nonce, nonce, nonce): hash.

fun sha3844 (bitstring, nonce, nonce, nonce): hash.

fun sha3843 (nonce, hash, nonce, nonce): hash.

fun sha384h (ident, ident, nonce, nonce, nonce, nonce): hash.

fun tempid (nonce, key): ident.

fun findrole (hash, hash): hash.

fun e (nonce, nonce, nonce, nonce): sessKey.

fun cipherfun (nonce, hash, nonce): bitstring.

fun encrypt (bitstring, sessKey): bitstring.

reduc forall *m*: bitstring, *k*: sessKey;

sdecrypt(encrypt(*m*, *k*), *k*) = *m*.

(\* Key table consists of pairs (ident, key) shared between MP and SS. Table is not accessible by the attacker \*)

free *s*: bitstring [ private ].

query attacker(*s*).

(\*  $K_i$  is secret if and only if all  $K_i$  are secret \*)

free  $K_i$ : sessKey [ private ].

query attacker( $K_i$ ).

not attacker(new  $x_{mp}$ ).

(\* Authentication queries \*)

event begIED(nonce, sessKey).

event endIED(nonce, sessKey).

event begMP(nonce, sessKey).

event endMP(nonce, sessKey).

event begIED(msgHdr). event endIED(msgHdr).



**event(begMP(MSG<sub>1</sub>)) is true.**

$-Query\ event(endIED(x_1, x_2, 2488)) \implies$   
 $event(begIED(x_1, x_2, 2488))$

Completing...ok, secrecy assumption verified:

fact unreachable attacker ( $x_{mp}[!1=v_{3377}]$ )

Starting query event(endIED( $x_1, x_2, 2488$ ))

$\implies event(begIED(x_1, x_2, 2488))$  goal reachable:

attacker( $Y_{2_{ied-3600}}$ ) && attacker( $Y_{1_{ied-3601}}$ ) &&

begin(begIED( $G_{mp}[!1=@sid_{3602}]$ ,

$K_{i_{mp}}[!1=@sid_{3602}])) \rightarrow end(endIED(G_{mp}[!1=@sid_{3602}]$ ,

$e(Y_{1_{ied-3601}}, Y_{2_{ied-3600}}$ ,

$G_{mp}[!1=@sid_{3602}], Y_{2_{ss-mp}}[!1=@sid_{3602}]))$

Abbreviations:  $G_{mp-3622}=G_{mp}[!1=@sid_{3619}]$

$Y_{2_{ss-mp-3623}}=Y_{2_{ss-mp}}[!1=@sid_{3619}]$

$K_{i_{mp-3624}}=K_{i_{mp}}[!1=@sid_{3619}]$

**RESULT event(endIED( $x_1, x_2, 2488$ )) $\implies$**

**event(begIED( $x_1, x_2, 2488$ )) is true.**

$-Query\ not\ attacker(K_i[])$

Completing...ok, secrecy assumption verified:

fact unreachable attacker ( $x_{mp}[!1=v_{4614}]$ )

Starting query not attacker( $K_i[]$ )

**RESULT not attacker( $K_i[]$ ) is true.**

$-Query\ not\ attacker(s[])$

Completing...ok, secrecy assumption verified:

fact unreachable attacker ( $x_{mp}[!1=v_{5650}]$ )

Starting query not attacker( $s[]$ )

**RESULT not attacker( $s[]$ ) is true.**

## 7 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we proposed a user authentication and authorization scheme for accessing many different types devices in the SG. Our scheme can be easily applied to different user-roles, such as auditors, operators, and etc., who access different devices in the SG system, as each user-role is computed dynamically based on attribute-based access control using a SHA256 hash function with (*mode of access, department, location, SDP*) attributes provided by each user. Our scheme enables two-factor authentication so that a rogue device could not re-use the previous captured information of a legitimate user. A bilinear pairing cryptography-based shared secret key is generated between the user and the device for further secure communications within a session. The proposed scheme is efficient in terms of both, communication and computation overheads in comparison with the existing schemes, and is able to defeat many well-known outsider attacks as well as insider attacks. The correctness of the proposed scheme is confirmed by the formal proof with BAN-Logic as well as by Proverif.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This research was supported by the MSIP (Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning), Korea, under the ICT Consilience Creative Program (IITP-2015-R0346-15-1007) supervised by the IITP (Institute for Information & communications Technology Promotion) and under the Basic Science Research Program (2013010489) through the NRF (National Research Foundation).

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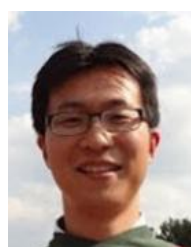
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