The emerging Internet of Things (IoT) is unleashing the next wave of innovations due to its inherent capability of connecting billions of devices together, which bridges the gap between the physical world and cyber world. In recent years, the successful applications of IoT have demonstrated the massive potential benefits that IoT can make for global social economy. Coming along with the benefits, the IoT is facing an increasingly number of security and privacy challenges, including data encryption, privacy, secure machine-to-machine (M2M) communications, device security, cyber-attack, cloud security in IoT environment, and more. These challenges must be fixed quickly and effectively. To address these challenges, this special issue was proposed to bring recent research progress in theories and applications in privacy, data assurance, security issues in IoT that may help put together a clear picture for the security of IoT.

Recently, a large number of security and privacy preserving solutions and techniques have been proposed to develop a secure and safe IoT environment. For example, lightweight cryptographic, energy-efficient, privacy-preserving communication protocols, symmetric encrypted data transmissions, secret keys generation and distribution, etc. In data assurance, secure one-time password algorithm, holistic security architecture, LASeR (lightweight authentication and secured routing), and resource-limited privacy assurance, such as data assurance, access control, data validation, big data prediction systems, etc.

In this special issue, more than 20 research manuscripts were submitted and finally, after a thorough peer-review, seven papers were selected for publication. The first paper entitled “Routing protocol for battery management system of electric vehicles based on ad-hoc network”, authored by Jiajia Song, Jinbo Zhang, and Xinnan Fan, brings a secure routing protocol solution over resource constrained IoT networks, in which a new secure routing protocol is proposed based on the ad-hoc on-demand distance vector junior (AODVjr). The second paper, entitled “Efficient aggregation technique for data privacy in wireless sensor networks”, authored by Manjula Raja and Raja Datta, offers an efficient aggregation technique for data privacy over resource constrained environment in IoT, such as wireless sensor networks, etc. The aggregation algorithm bridges data privacy, communication overhead, and reliability metric to gauge the performance of proposed solution. The third paper, “Secured cloud computing for medical data based on watermarking and encryption”, authored by Mohamed Boussif, Noureddine Aloui, and Adnene Cherif, is a contribution on hardware implementation of local cloud for storing, sharing, and archiving data in healthcare systems, including health report, medical image, etc. In this work, a cloud-based data encryption solution is developed for the healthcare systems. The fourth paper, entitled “Potential threats mining methods based on correlation analysis of multi-type logs”, by Tao Qin, Yuli gao, Lingyan Wei, Zhaoli Liu, and Chenxu Wang, introduces a potential threats mining technique using multi-type log analysis, which involves behaviour analysis, attribute extraction, and measure of features from multi-type logs based on the characteristics of known and potential attacks. Meanwhile, a normalization method is proposed to deal with these heterogeneous features. The fifth paper is “Adaptive timing model for improving routing and data aggregation in Internet of things networks using RPL”, by Ainaz Bahramlou and Reza Javidan. In this paper, the authors proposed...
a data aggregation method for routing protocol for low power and lossy network (RPL) in the IoT environment. The proposed method is able to construct a network graph along the path to the sink node and a novel metric is proposed to determine the degree of the environmental changes. The sixth paper entitled “Six-face cubical key encryption and decryption based on product cipher using hybridisation and Rubik’s cubes”, authored by Rajavel Dhandabani, Shantharajah S. Periyasamy, Padma Theagarajan, and Arun Kumar Sangaiah, introduces a novel approach to generate cubical key that symbolises message and key in six-face cubical structure. In the proposed approach, the cubical message is hybridised to generate the cipher in the encryption, and hybridisation of cubes is performed using XOR operation to the six-face cubical original message, in which six-face random sequence is used to guarantee the randomness in each phase of hybridization. The final paper, entitled “Evolution of ransomware”, by Philip O’Kane, Sakir Sezer, Domhnall Carlin, reviews the evolution of ransomware in IoT environment. This paper explores the transition from the early-day scams to extortion implemented by current ransomware by analysing the pathway from the first clumsy ransomware attempts to the present day sophisticated ransomware attack campaigns.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all authors for sharing their recent exciting research efforts. We also thank all anonymous reviewers for their timely reviews of all papers and valuable comments. We extend our sincere thanks to the editor-of-chief and all members in the editorial group for their assistance in this work.

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