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How to Enhance Privacy within DaaS service Composition?

Salah-Eddine Tbahriti, Chirine Ghedira, Brahim Medjahed, and Michael Mrissa

Abstract — The composition of DaaS (Data-as-a-Service) services is a powerful solution for building value-added applications on top of existing ones. However, privacy concerns are still among the key challenges that keep hampering DaaS composition. Indeed, services may follow different, conflicting privacy specification with respect to the data they use and provide. In this paper, we propose an approach for enabling privacy-aware composition of DaaS services. Our approach allows specifying the privacy requirements and policies of services and verifying their compatibility for the services involved in a composition. We propose an adaptation protocol that makes it possible to reconcile the privacy specifications of services when incompatibilities arise in a composition. We validate the applicability of our proposal through a set of experiments.

Index Terms—DaaS, composition, service, adaptation, privacy.

I. INTRODUCTION

SERVICES of type DaaS (Data-as-a-Service) have been considered during the last few years as first-class objects that can manipulate data much like database management systems do [2][17]. They also have started to be a popular medium for data publishing and sharing on the Web. Besides, modern enterprises across all spectrums are moving towards service-oriented architectures by wrapping their data sources into services to answer queries. It also carries out all the required interactions between composed services (i.e., relays exchanged

We have proposed in [5] a mediator-based approach to compose services (based on a query-rewriting algorithm) and answer this kind of queries. In this approach, the mediator selects, combines and orchestrates (i.e., gets output data from a service and uses it as input data to call another service) services to answer queries. It also carries out all the interactions between composed services (i.e., relays exchanged

TABLE I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DaaS services</th>
<th>Semantics services Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$S_{i.1}(x, s)$</td>
<td>Return patients $s =$“SSN”, infected with a disease $x$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$S_{i.2}(x, s)$</td>
<td>Return patient $d =$“DoB”, and $g =$“gender” of patient identified by $s =$“SSN”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$S_{j.1}(x, s)$</td>
<td>Return $z =$“ZIP”, and $p =$“salary” of patient identified by $s =$“SSN”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$S_{j.2}(x, s)$</td>
<td>Return $n =$“DNA” of patient identified by $s =$“SSN”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$S_{j.3}(x, z)$</td>
<td>Return $w =$“Weather-condition” of address $z =$“ZIP”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
data among interconnected services in the composition). The result of the composition process is a composition plan, CP (depicted in Figure 1), which consists of a set of services that must be executed in a particular order depending on their access patterns (i.e., the connections between their input and output parameters). Input parameters are identified with a first “S” character and output parameters with a “?” character. Hence, service S(Sa, ?b) requires an input value a and provides an output value b. Then, Q can be answered as follows: First, S1,1 is invoked with H1N1 as input value, then for each obtained SSN, S1,2 and S3,1 are invoked to obtain their DNA, DoB (i.e., date-of-birth), zip and salary. Finally, S3,1 is invoked with the patients’ zip to get information about the weather-conditions (note that other solution CP can be found with the services of Table I).

![Fig. 1. Composition plan of Q.](image)

In fact, services in CP may have conflicting privacy concerns regarding to their exchanged data. Some services may require some input data that other participating services cannot disclose because of their privacy specifications. For instance, let us assume that S1,1 discloses its data (i.e., SSN) to a third-party service for use with a “limited time” restriction. S1,1 meanwhile attests that it keeps collected data (i.e., SSN) for an “unlimited time”. S1,1 and S3,1 are incompatible in terms of privacy with respect to SSN. S1,1 (which provides SSN) judges that a long retention of SSN by a third-party is a risk for privacy, while S3,1 would use that data as long as possible to perform several tasks that are not considered as a privacy risk. Such a conflict invalidates the CP of Figure 1 in terms of privacy. Then, it becomes important on the one hand to extend service descriptions with privacy specifications, and on the other hand to insure the privacy compatibility of services selected for a composition.

**B. Summary of Contributions**

The previous scenario calls for a solution that must be expressive enough to capture the different needs for privacy concerns of services as well as simple and coherent with our previous service composition algorithm [5]. Since composing services is already a complex task, any target solution should involve minimal processing costs. Existing approaches based on secure multi-party computation [39] are usually characterized by their high computation time and complexity, which makes them impractical for database operations working over a large number of elements [34]. Data privacy through access control is among the classical goals of data management with countless proposals, e.g., [35]. However, our system is designed to be open, which implies that the mediator may not have preliminary knowledge on the requester. Such a circumstance makes traditional access control mechanisms less efficient, as they are mainly based on preliminary authentication of the requester, and then on validation of applicable authorizations. In this paper, we focus on the privacy issue from the point of view of data usage and expectation during the design phase of DaaS composition. We build our contribution around:

**Formal Model for Privacy Specification:** to capture and reason about privacy concerns from a service perspective. Our proposed model allows each service S to define Privacy Policies PP (specifying how S manages collected data) and Privacy Requirements PR (specifying how S expects consumers to manage the data it provides). Our privacy model is defined with both expressiveness and simplicity in mind.

**Privacy Compatibility-aware Composition:** detecting incompatibilities between the PR and PP of services involved in a composition is a core concept of our approach. Our matching algorithm is based on the notion of privacy subsumption and on a cost model. Then, we extend our service composition approach to take into account the privacy specifications and compatibility of services.

**Privacy-aware Adaptation:** our third contribution is devoted to resolve detected incompatibilities by allowing services to define adaptation sets in order to obtain valid composition plans and enhance the efficiency of our system of composition. We introduce an adaptation protocol to automatically reconcile the adaptation sets in order to make the PR and PP of conflicting services compatible. The adaptation of PR and PP of service is decided by; service reputations, individual consent and a cost function. We also devise protocols to speed up the adaptation process.

**C. Paper Organization**

Our paper is structured as follows. We overview the basic definitions for modeling and composing DaaS services in Section 2. Then, we describe our privacy model in Section 3. We show how our DaaS composition approach is extended within privacy compatibility in Section 4. We introduce our adaptation approach in Section 5 and detail how privacy compatibility in the composition is reached with the adaptation protocols. We present our experiments in Section 6 and discuss related work in Section 7. We discuss obtained results and future work in Section 8.

II. BACKGROUND: THE PAIRSE PROJECT

The approach presented in this paper is implemented as a part of the PAIRSE project¹, which deals with the privacy issues in P2P data sharing environments in the area of epidemiological research.

¹ This research project is supported by the French National Research Agency under grant number ANR-09-SEGI-008. URL https://picoforge.int-evry.fr/cgi-bin/twiki/view/PairesWeb/