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Mechanisms for Source Code Obfuscation in C: Novel Techniques and Implementation

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Abstract:
Due to exponential growth of internet, there is abundant assistance available
online to learn programming languages much more efficiently. Most of the
programmers use this valuable knowledge for the constructive purpose,
whereas some of them are using this for the illegal means like unethical
hacking, code spoofing, reverse engineering and many more. So to protect the
applications from the anonymous attackers, the respective source codes are
secured by converting them in the form of .exe, .jar, .bat, .property, .class and
.jad files to store at the cloud server end. But most of the repositories store the
bare source code at their cloud server end, which is inevitably a feast to the
attackers. So to secure the bare source codes, obfuscation techniques are
playing a vital role which eventually camouflage the written logic and leave the
attacker in confused mode. So as a tiny step towards this idea of obfuscation,
this paper presents seven available C obfuscators and four novel data

obfuscation techniques that are being applied on `+' arithmetic operator that may lead to the new obfuscation arena.

Published in: 2020 International Conference on Emerging Smart Computing and Informatics (ESCI)

Date of Conference: 12-14 March 2020

Date Added to IEEE *Xplore*: 17 August 2020

▶ **ISBN Information:**

INSPEC Accession Number: 19896472

DOI: 10.1109/ESCI48226.2020.9167661

Publisher: IEEE

Conference Location: Pune, India

☰ Contents

I. Introduction

Source code are being written nowadays is subject to a lot of attention as people with malicious intent will try to gain illegitimate access to the code or try to understand the source code to discover certain loopholes and flaws that can be targeted for their illicit gain. Safeguarding the code and protecting the contents from prying eyes is one of the most basic security concerns as the source code can be stored locally or on various different repositories which can be easily accessed by the attackers.

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