

Travel Report from Visiting UT Arlington

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1. Introduction

I spent the whole November of this year at University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) as a visiting researcher. I mainly worked with a research group called iSec at the department of computer science and engineering, and also had some wonderful discussion with another research group called CReWMaN, which was in the same department. This trip was financially supported by ARTES.

2. Motivation

My current research interest is wireless sensor network (WSN), with a particular interest in solving security problems for WSN. The university I visited has a huge amount of people engaged in wireless sensor network research. Thus, I could get a good expertise by having discussions with experts there.

3. Research Experience

A good example about the things I learned was the importance of attack model (i.e., an infinite set of all possible attacks defined based on the assumptions of the attackers' ability) in security research. I already got used to focusing providing security solutions for a single type of attack, as it was usual the case in Internet security research. But experts in WSN said you should always provide a well-defined attack model, before any solution is given. Otherwise your paper won't get published.

Another expertise was about the intrusion detection methodology in WSN. Before I went to UTA, I got confused why there are so few people involved in providing intrusion detection system in WSN compared to its counterpart in Internet. The answer given by UTA experts was "Because it's so difficult to convince people using an intrusion detection methodology in WSN". Why it's so difficult? People interested in this can also visit UTA or simply drop in me (since I understand this question now) for the explanation.

4. Culture Experience

America is a really serious country. That's my first feeling about this new continent. Why was I asked so many questions on the custom place? There was no way I looked like a terrorist!

America is a really "colorful" country. That's my second feeling about America, because there are so many different face-looking people on its domestic flights and on its roadsides.

Oh. I was back in China again. That's my third feeling about America. I bought foods in Taipei or Hong Kong market. There were so many Asian foods. For most of them, I cannot buy in Stockholm's Chinese store. I ate in different Chinese restaurants. There were three Chinese

restaurants around my living place. All were managed by Taiwanese. On the campus, there were so many Chinese students who did not know each other. Almost one third of the faculties and PhD students in the department of computer science and engineering were Chinese, with another big portion coming from other countries like India, Korea. Even the refectory on the campus was mainly serving Chinese food, with a very Chinese name called Panda House. Of course, Sandwich and Pizza were also very popular.

5. Summary

Generally, it was a wonderful experience. Thanks ARTES for its generous support. Finally, I would like to share some pictures taken at USA.



Fig. 1 Visting UTA



Fig. 2 My working place