Towards secure 5G networks: A Survey

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The fifth generation of mobile technology (5G)

➢ is an end-to-end ecosystem that enables a fully mobile and connected society. (Hyper-Connectivity)

the 5G system is supposed to support various new 3 use cases (eMBB, mMTC, URLLC).

- ≻enhanced Mobile BroadBand (eMBB)
 - ✓ Improvement of data communication speed
- ➤ massive Machine Type Communications (mMTC)
 - \checkmark Communications between machines which consists of various type and massive

>Ultra-Reliable and Low Latency Communication (URLLC, also known as URLCC)

✓ Low latency

1. Introduction





Points of view in this paper:

- 1. 4G network vulnerabilities
- 2. New scenarios and models
- 3. New technologies

Fig. 1. The structure and key technologies of 5G systems.



✤ 5G system is evolved from 4G.

✤ 4G system has limitations of security as follows:

- >Limitations of architecture
- >User privacy leakage
- >Weak home network control
- ≻The risk of radio interface

In this section, we discuss the limitations of 4G have to overcome during the 5G system design.

- Limitation of architecture
 - ➤ is about authentication mechanism

✓ symmetric key-based Authentication and Key Agreement (AKA)



Ref: www.netmanias.com

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Limitation of architecture



- LTE Authentication: mutual authentication between UE and network.
- NAS Security: Integrity and ciphering(encryption/decryption) for NAS signaling between UE and MME.
- AS Security: Integrity and ciphering (encryption/decryption) for RRC signaling, IP packet.





Fig. 2. 4G Key hierarchy.



User privacy leakage

User privacy data: sensitive data, identifiers, mobility patterns, location information, usage patterns.

> 4G can protect against passive but active attack.



Ciphering can protect against passive attack. But, in 4G system, there is a function for avoiding abnormal state. This function is that BS can require IMSI of UE with no encryption.

Active attacker may make fake BS, then require IMSI of UE. It result in user privacy leakage.



- Weak home network control
 - In roaming scenario of the 4G system, the MME in the visited network performs the mutual authentication with UE based on authentication vector from home network
 - >However, it does not inform the authentication result to the home network.
 - ➢It leads to a security loophole if trust relationship between the home network operator and visited network operator is abused for false charging.

- The risk of radio interface
 - Due to a loop hole in RRC idle mode
 - ✓RRC idle mode?
 - a UE in idle mode needs to listen to the broadcast channel to receive system information or paging.
 - ➢But the UE does not verify if the message is broadcasted by a legal BS or a fake BS before reacting.
 - ✓ It means that we can make the UE access the rogue cell if we can make fake BS.(It may results in DoS attack because the rogue cell can block all services of UE.)
 - ≻Also, the security of 4G mainly depends on upper layer protocols, not physical layer.
 - \checkmark It has security issue about the jamming attack.

- Diverse requirements from IoT (two scenarios)
 - massive Machine Type Communications (mMTC): low-cost, low-power, longrange MTC and broadband MTC.
 - ✓ Such as smart wearable scenario, sensor networks for agriculture.
 - Because of resource-constrained IoT devices, the lightweight cryptographic algorithms and key management protocols are critical.
 - ✓ Security threats: data manipulation, rogue devices, device cloning, and DoS attack
 - Ultra-Reliable and Low Latency Communication (URLLC): Applications with strong demand for real-time interaction.
 - \checkmark Such as autonomous driving scenario.
 - ✓ Quick access and strong authentication protocol, high-speed cryptographic algorithms are expected to meet the low latency and high-reliability requirement.
 - Security threats: man-in-the-middle attacks, eavesdropping, DoS attack, and rogue devices

Ultra-reliable & ultra-real-time interaction

Resource-constraint



- Typical threats of 5G IoT can be categorized into devices/user or network infrastructure.
- Typical threats to devices/user
 - Device Trigger: An attacker can impersonate the network or MTC server to send a trigger to an MTC device in the detached state. It leads to the MTC device is awakened and power is wasted.
 - ➤Attack to devices: Many MTC devices are deployed remotely in the field. An adversary can exploit the physical access to the device and gain full control, which is known as node capture attacks.
 - Privacy leaking: Flaws in data integrity and confidentiality can cause privacy information leakage.



Typical threats to networks

➤ Congestion control: Different access priority indicators are assigned to various MTC services and people-oriented services for efficient congestion control. Attackers may tamper with the priority assigned to MTC devices, which may make the congestion control invalid, and negatively impact people-oriented services.

- Small data: Most optimization approaches such as piggyback have not fully considered security risks. It can be used by attacker for transporting malicious big data.
- ➢ Signaling attack: To control the access of massive MTC devices to mobile networks, authentication and authorization mechanisms is usually enforced by mobile networks. The authentication of massive MTC device will bring significant signaling overhead. The attacker request authentication process repeatedly using compromised MTC devices.



New business model

≻5G should be able to provide a future-proof technology platform allowing the evolution of existing business models.

- ✓ Such as XaaS (Anything as a Service)
- ✓ For partnership between network operators and vertical service providers

New trust model

➤The trust relationship between users and applications is not covered by the mobile communication system. However, in 5G, the trust model with an additional actor, e.g. the vertical service provider. The new trust model is supported due to close cooperation between network operators and vertical service providers.

 Efficient identity management, mutual authentication (including non-repudiation) are required.

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Fig. 3. The changing ecosystem and trust model.



* In this section, we discuss security challenges from new technologies.

The security challenges can be categorized as follows:

- Network virtualization and slicing (NFV/Network slicing)
- ➢ Software defined network (SDN)
- ≻ Service based architecture (SBA)
- ≻ Mobile edge computing (MEC)
- D2D communications
- ≻5G New radio technologies (M-MIMO, mmWave, UDN, FD)



- Network virtualization
 - >NFV (Network Function Virtualization)
 - ✓NFV paradigm is introduced in 5G to consolidate multiple network functions onto software appliances, which run on a range of industry-standard hardware.
 - \checkmark The decoupling of software from hardware
 - Advantages: reducing capital and operating expenditures, increasing the scalability, resilience of network service
 - ✓ But NFV have security challenges may come from NFV infrastructure (NFVI), NFV Management and orchestration (NFVO), and the interfaces between VNF, NFVI and NFVO.

4. Challenges from new technologies and paradigm





Fig. 4. NFV framework and typical security risks.



Network slicing

- ➢Based on cloud computing, network slicing is introduced to provide customized services in 5G. Meanwhile, it brings additional security challenges.
 - 1. Isolation between different network slices.
 - Without good isolation, attackers may abuse the capacity elasticity of one slice to consume the resources of another target slice, which makes the target slice out of service.
 - 2. Network Slice Selection Functions (NSSF)
 - is common to multiple slices.
 - it possible for attackers to eavesdrop on the data of the target slice by accessing to the common functions from another slice illegally.
 - 3. It is possible that a UE can simultaneously access more than one network slice. The UE may be misused as a bridge to initiate security attacks from one slice to another.
 - 4. The information exchanged between UE and network for slice selection may be tampered or forged. Moreover, attackers may eavesdrop user's privacy information used during the network slice selection procedure.



Software-Defined Network (SDN)

- SDN is regarded as an emerging network architecture to facilitate innovation in communication networks and simplify network management.
- ➤The essential thinking is to provide programmability through decoupling the control functions from the data forwarding plane.

≻Three layers

- ✓ Application plane contains various SDN applications such as security services
- Control plane maintains a global view of network, provides data plane abstractions to SDN applications and generates data forwarding policy based requirement from applications
- ✓ Data plane is used to forward traffic flows according to policies from the control plane to provide required network services.
- ➤The logically centralized SDN controller can become the single point of failure and disrupt the whole network in the case of security compromises.

Table 1

The security risks of SDN.

SDN plane	Potential Risk	Description
Application	Abused or misused applications Fraudulent flow rules manipulation Lack of access control	No compelling AA at applications Malicious applications generate false rules No access control on 3rd party application
Control plane	DoS attacks Unauthorized controller access Compromised availability	Extensive forwarding rule requirement No compelling access control against applications Single point failure due to centralizing control
Data plane	Fraudulent flow rules Flooding attacks Man-in-the middle	Fraudulent flow rules installed on dumb switch Overflow of limited flow table of switches Compromise exchanged information without TLS



Service based architecture (SBA)

SBA is the natural step that enables 5G network functionality to become more granular and decoupled, which allows for the flexible and customized service provision.

➢If there is no secure protection including confidentiality, integrity, authentication, authorization, then attacker can attack user privacy or security context between NFs.







Mobile Edge Computing (MEC)

➢Given that many mission-critical IoT services such as virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) applications are expected to be supported by 5G, the MEC paradigm is introduced to 5G network architecture.

>But there are some security challenges

✓ Physical security protection

- e.g. a base station in 5G RAN.
- ✓Trust management in open platform
 - The trust management functions located at different trust domains should be able to exchange compatible trust information with each other as less latency as possible.
- ✓ Data security and privacy protection
 - the security and privacy of outsourcing data is still a fundamental issue of edge computing.



D2D communications

Direct links, not cellular links, between devices are exploited for providing proximity and diversity gains.

➤Security challenges

- ✓ Impersonation
- ✓ Eavesdropping and Fabrication
- ✓ Privacy sniffing
- ✓ Jamming
- ✓Free-Riding
- ✓Location-spoofing



❖ 5G new radio technologies
▷M-MIMO, mmWave, UDN, Full-duplex
▷Very core technologies for 5G networks.

>But, these technologies can make stronger the attacker too.

- ≻Example:
 - ✓ an eavesdropper armed with FD capability can also actively attack the communication process while eavesdropping.

- Table 2 summarizes 5G specific security challenges and corresponding countermeasures.
 - ➤We already mentioned security challenges. From now, we discuss the corresponding countermeasures.

Table 2

Security challenges and corresponding 5G solutions.

Type of challenges	Risk description	Countermeasures	
Lessons from 4G networks	4G architecture Limitations:(2.1)	5G security architecture:(5.1.2) New key hierarchy:(5.1.3)	
	User privacy leakage:(2.2) Weak home network control:(2.3) The risk of radio interface:(2.4)	User privacy protection:(5.2.1) Enhanced Authentication:(5.1.5) Secure 5G radio in Idle:(5.3.2)	
Requirements from new scenarios and model	Requirements from IoT:(3.1) : Remote credential provisioning, Device authentication, Light cryptographic algorithm	Flexible security protection:(5.1.4) Secure IoT:(5.5) Scalable key management Light cryptographic solution Network slicing	
1	New business model:(3.2) Risks from malicious APP, Attacks to exposure interface New trust model:(3.3) Stronger security from vertical	Secure network exposure:(5.2.3) Authentication against APP TLS based exposure interface Enhanced Authentication:(5.1.5) EAP based secondary authentication	

Risks of NFV and slicing:(4.1) Attacks to NFVO,VNF, NFVI	Secure NFV and slicing:(5.4.1) NFVO protection, VNF protection, NFVI protection, Slice access control
Risks of SDN:(4.2) Attacks to application, control plane and data plane	Secure SDN:(5.4.2) Secure APP development, Control plane protection, Data plane protection
Risks of SBA:(4.3) Spoofing between NF MITM attack between NFs	Secure SBA:(5.2.2) TLS based authentication between NF NF authentication during registration
Risks of MEC:(4.4) Less secure edge NF Attacks from MEC hosting APP	Secure MEC:(5.4.3) 5G security architecture:(5.1.2) Secure network exposure:(5.2.3)
Risks of D2D:(4.5) Imperonation, eavesdropping, Privacy sniffling	Secure D2D:(5.3.1) Key management, authentication Confidentiality/integrity protection, Privacy protection by anonymity
Risks of NR technologies:(4.6) Eavesdropping,jamming, Traffic analysis Privacy sniffling	5G new radio security:(5.3.3) Encryption by channel coding, Channel adaption(time/space/frequency), Artificial noise(time/space/frequency), Physical layer authentication

Challenges from new technologiesand paradigm



✤ Overall 5G security framework (outlined by 3GPP at Release 15).



communicate securely.



HE: Home Environment SN: Serving Network ME: Mobile Equipment



Fig. 6. Non-roaming 5G security architecture.

✤In 5G secure architecture,

- > ARPF with UDM is defined to manage the long-term security credential used for authentication and generate authentication vectors.
- AUSF is introduced to perform primary authentication with UE for connections with different access networks (i.e. the same AUSF can be sued to authenticate a UE from 3GPP access and non-3GPP access).
 - ✓ AUSF is separated from SMF and AMF. The design makes it possible to store keys resulting from the authentication process in a secure location even if AMF functions are placed at the less secure network edge.
- > SEAF is introduced to support the primary authentication process by interaction with UE and AUSF.
- > AMF works together with UE for NAS signaling confidentiality and integrity protection.
- SMF is defined to perform session management, select and control of UPF, provide traffic steering policy and potential security policy.
- > PCF is to realize customized security protection. PCF may generate security policies based on application level.
- * The main point is that each component is separated according to their main functionality (differently in 4G).



✤ Key hierarchy for 5G



Flexible security protection

- ➤ The NAS signaling data protection is provided by UE and AMF. The AS level signaling data protection is provided by UE and gNB at packet data convergence protocol (PDCP) layer including confidentiality and integrity (In 4G, confidentiality only).
- Different integrity and confidentiality protection can be provided to different user plane traffic according to the security policy from control plane functions.

Enhanced authentication

- > There are two authentications (primary, secondary).
 - ✓ The primary authentication is used to establish the trust between UE and network, which is similar to that of the 4G system.
 - ✓ Depending on the requirement of the 3rd party service providers, the secondary authentication may be performed between the UE and the DN-AAA server in the external data network.

AAA: Authentication, Authorization and Accounting

> The authentication result is reported to the UDM in the home network.





- Core network security
 - ≻User privacy protection
 - ✓ combined solution of below two types have been developed (by 3GPP Release 15)
 - Protect the permanent user identifier via encryption (encrypting IMSI).
 - Concealing permanent privacy information.
 - SUCI (Subscription Concealed Identifier), SIDF(Subscription Identifier Deconcealing Function)
 - One-time-user identifier (based on asymmetry-key generation, specifically ECC)
 - \checkmark See the figure 8 on next page.

5. Solutions to secure the 5G system





Fig. 8. Subscriber privacy protection process.



- Core network security
 - Secure service based network interface & Secure network exposure
 - ✓ Authentication and authorization mechanisms are required.
 - Authentication: TLS or token based authentication
 - Authorization: OAuth 2.0 framework (NRF: Authentication server, NF service consumer: client, NF service producer: resource server)



- Secure 5G radio access network
 - ≻D2D security protection
 - Key management symmetric key based, asymmetric based, group-key based management, and physical layer based key generation(using randomness of wireless channel)
 - ✓ Authentication and authorization Diffie-hellman key agreement, digital signature, identity based cryptography (but it has a key escrow problem)
 - ✓ Confidentiality and integrity cryptographic techniques, physical device's noise(interference of D2D)
 - Privacy security protection
 - ✓ Access control credential and reputation-based trust relation
 - Anonymity remove the association between private information and the individual by hiding the user identity
 - ✓ Obfuscation can be used provide location privacy



- Secure 5G radio access network
 - Secure 5G radio in idle mode
 - ✓ Public-key based authentication (digital signature)
 - ✓ But it may leads to increased signaling overhead.
 - ≻5G new radio security
 - ✓ Using physical device's noise (PHY-SEC).
 - ✓ Compared to upper layer mechanisms, PHY-SEC provides many advantages in terms of performance and efficiency (It is not affected by computational overhead).
 - ✓ Using channel state information (CSI), received signal strength (RSS), phase information to generate and share secret keys.

- SG radio new technologies security (M-MIMO, mmWave, FD, HetNet, Jamming)
 - ➤M-MIMO: The pilot contamination attack not only reduces the achievable secrecy capacity significantly but also is difficult to detect. Potential methods for detecting active attacks have been investigated [12]. Further study is needed to resist active attacks. ([12]: Using physical layer security)
 - mmWave: The directional beamforming antenna, which results in more focused array gain, is beneficial for improving the secrecy performance of mmWave networks.
 - >Full duplex (FD): It brings both opportunities and challenges to 5G security
 - ✓FD enables the receiver to generate additional artificial noise to interfere with eavesdroppers.
 - ✓ But, active FD eavesdroppers equipped with multiple antennas can simultaneously eavesdrop and attack the legitimate communication.

- ♦ 5G radio new technologies security (M-MIMO, mmWave, FD, HetNet, Jamming)
 >HetNet:
 - ✓ The policy for a user to establish communication channels among different types of nodes under security constraints is more challenging.
 - Security-oriented mobile association policies
 - ✓ Inter-and intra-cell interference
 - There is a trade-off between secrecy and connection probabilities in terms of association threshold, base station density, and power allocation between the signal and artificial noise.
 - ✓ User location issues
 - Farhang et al. [14] proposed a differential private Gale-Shapley algorithm to prevent the leakage of user location information.

≻Jamming:

- \checkmark Jamming can be used to protect communications from eavesdropping
 - The concept of utilizing AN or jamming signals to enhance secrecy was proposed that generating AN on both side transmitter, receiver, and trusted relay nodes to confuse eavesdroppers.



- ✤ 5G infrastructure security
 - Secure virtualized and sliced networks
 - Secure NFVI secure boot using trusted computing and crash protection, performance isolation, regularly update to latest security patches.
 - ✓ Secure VNF cryptographically sign VNF images.
 - Secure MANO secure orchestrator, identity and role-based access control (especially, it is recommended to separate the admin roles into multiple distributed entities.)
 - ✓ Secure inter-connection interfaces TLS or IPSec
 - \checkmark Avoiding a UE being abused as a bridge slice authentication and authorization

Countermeasures to typical NFV risks.

NFV section	Security risk	Countermeasures
NFVO layer	Single point failure Malicious insider DDoS attack	Separate administration and distributed control Fine-grained access control Security monitoring, flexible scaling
VNF layer	infected VNF image Malicious VNF DDoS attack	cryptographically sign VNF images Hypervisor introspection, abnormal detection Flexible VNF deployment, scaling strategy
NFVI layer	Performance degradation VNF platform integrity VM escape,hopping Data removal due to VM crashes Unauthorized change to hypervisor	Isolation by strictly separated resources Trusted platform and remote attestation keep hypervisor up to date Crash protection Fine-grained authentication and authorization
Interface	Malicious routing loop attacks Sensitive data leakage	Network topology validation confidentiality and integrity protection



- ✤ 5G infrastructure security
 - ≻Secure SDN based network
 - ✓ Many network programming languages, such as Frentic [147], Procera [148], FRESCO [149] are proposed for development of security applications.
 - ✓ Many fine access and permission control mechanism are proposed (150-155).
 - ✓ Network security applications leveraging from SDN can respond to network anomalies and spurious traffic at run-time.
 - Secure MEC
 - ✓ 5G security architecture introduces a new function named as the SEAF, which is independent and always deployed in the core network.
 - ✓ Conventional encryption techniques (AES, DES, RSA), Identity-based encryption, attributed-based encryption, Homomorphic encryption.
 - ✓ Fine-grained and dynamic access control system is important.

Table 4

Countermeasures to secure SDN.

SDN plane	Threats	Solutions
Application	Threats within/from APPs Flow rules contradiction Lack of access control Security policy violation	Development framework for security APPs APPs.debugging framework APPs.permission system Security policy verification
Control plane	DDoS attacks Unauthorized controller access Compromised availability	Detection framework Secure controller arch and App-Ctrl API Distributed reliable controller placement
Data plane	Fraudulent flow rules Flooding attacks Man-in-the-middle	Configuration verification,network debugging Policy enforcement framework Enforce TLS on Ctrl-data interface

Security for IoT

- Security and privacy protection for IoT applications can be provided from the application layer or 5G mobile network layer.
- Mechanism for application layer can provide end-to-end security and privacy protection
- > Two categories for IoT solutions
 - ✓ Industry solutions
 - ✓ Academic proposals

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Industry solutions

- >Protect networks
 - ✓ To avoid device trigger related attacks, the MTC-UE in the detached state could validate the network identity when it receives a trigger indication.

>User privacy protection:

✓ To address the user privacy issue, the MTC-UEs may be detached from the network when no data is exchanged to prevent unnecessary tracking of location information.

Small data protection:

- ✓ On the control plane based solutions, partially ciphering small data method introduces a new signaling message, and requires a change to 4G key hierarchy. As for the fast path-based solution, the security endpoint at the network side is proposed to move from BS to the core network, the existing 4G key hierarchy needs to be changed.
- ✓ To protect small data traffic delivered by the control plane between the MTC device and core network, it is suggested that the NAS level integrity and confidentiality protection mechanism is applied.



Industry solutions

- ≻Security for URLCC
 - ✓ To ensure the reliability of URLCC traffic transmission, it is proposed that two duplicated N3 tunnels can be established between 5G RAN and 5G core network to achieve redundant data transmission at Release 16.
 - ✓ Data traffic protection policy using encryption and integrity protection.
 - ✓ Authentication and access control for URLCC service es.

Differentiated security by network slicing

✓ To provide customized security service, each slice can have service-specific security mechanisms including special authentication protocols or security functions, cryptographic algorithms, and security policy configurations such as key length, key update period, etc.

Academic proposals

- ➤Authentication
 - ✓ To reduce signaling overhead during the access of a large number of MTC devices, groupbased aggregate authentication mechanisms are especially important for 5G.

≻Key management

 Emerging cryptographic techniques such as attribute-based cryptography can be considered to design privacy-preserving group management solutions.

Confidentiality and integrity

✓ Usually, cryptographic solutions are used to ensure data confidentiality and integrity. Especially, lightweight IBE and attribute-based encryption (ABE)



Academic proposals

- Lightweight security based on physical layer
 - ✓ By utilizing the intrinsic randomness of the radio channels, physical layer security mechanism can fulfill many security demands with reduced computational resource and signaling overhead associated with conventional cryptographic algorithms. Therefore, they provide promising solutions for achieving lightweight and efficient security required by 5G IoT scenarios.

≻Emerging approaches

✓ Recently, the emerging blockchain technology has been leveraged to bring values to the IoT security domain due to some unique features, including decentralization, pseudosymmetry and the security of transactions.



Leverage virtualization and slicing

>One of the key issues on correlation is building and maintaining the system model encompassing the infrastructure, network services, and dynamic mapping between network services, virtual resources, and physical resources.

≻ the DoS attack to sensitive network elements such as network slice selection function (NSSF), which is common to all slices.

> the privacy protection mechanism

In twork slicing brings new opportunities to provide customized security protection to different slice tenants.



Integrated D2D security design

- Efficient key management and authentication: Network dependent authentication is problematic in case D2D devices are out of coverage of cellular networks.
- Efficient D2D data security protection: Upper layer mechanisms result in big overhead, therefore, more effort is needed to explore efficient lower layer protocol security mechanisms for D2D.
- Incentive mechanisms for cooperation: D2D users are selfish in nature, which may negatively impact the feasibility of some security solutions, such as key generation and distribution.
- D2D user privacy protection: How to figure out preferred neighbors to set up D2D communication without disclosing private information is challenging.



Security based on 5G new radio

M-MIMO: The technology has the potential to be used to detect intruders by focusing on the energy of artificial noise

- mmWave: Active eavesdroppers can jeopardize the channel estimation process for desired users, which represents a serious security threat. More effort is needed to find countermeasures to defend against active eavesdroppers in mmWave communications.
- Full duplex: The technology itself is still under developing, the self-interference mitigation of a full duplex relies on space division and precoding technologies, which is a great challenge for further study.
- UDN: In UDN and D2D-assisted multi-tier HetNet, novel power allocation and interference alignment with security considerations should be further investigated to increase the secrecy capacity per cell without impacting other cells.
- Coordinate security and green: For the most constrained, battery-dependent IoT devices with a long target lifetime, there may be a need to consider even more lightweight physical layer solutions from the energy perspective.

- This article identifies typical security issues from several perspectives, including lessons from the existing 4G network, requirements from new scenarios and models, challenges from new technologies and architectures.
- The potential solutions to ensuring 5G security and privacy from several perspectives including overall security architectures, core networks, new radio technologies, cloud infrastructure, and IoT applications
- ✤However, 5G security still have many security challenges.



- This paper mentioned physical layer's noise for confidentiality of data. Also, they mentioned it have advantage including performance.
- This noise can be used also in homomorphic encryption(because homomorphic encryption needs some noise for encryption).
- Also, the implementation and performance analysis of LWC is good research direction. Especially, optimized implementation.

DCISLAB Thank you for your attention