

## RESEARCH PAPER

ON

## Bot-as-a-Service in Sustainability Platforms Issues and approaches

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### ABSTRACT :-

The rising cloud computing models for Internet of Things have fostered the event of light weight applications victimisation cloud services for watching and optimising devices and instrumentality hosted in distributed facilities. Such applications referred to as bots in our work may be composed and deployed with multiple varieties of governance policies from cloud platforms to distributed hosting environments and that they will access not solely native information and devices however conjointly cloud information and options. Therefore, it's good challenge to control them. during this paper, we have a tendency to discuss governance problems and progressive on supporting the rising Bot-as-a-Service in property governance platforms supported that have a tendency to define our approaches to policy development and social control for the Bot-as-a-Service model.

**Key Words** : - bot-as-a-service, governance, policy enforcement, run time monitoring, cloud computing.

## 1. INTRODUCTION :-

Advances in networking, sensor, knowledge management and cloud computing techniques have fostered the integration of Internet of Things into cloud platforms for facility management. Cloud-based property governance platforms are developed and provided underneath the cloud computing models for facility monitoring and management. Numerous sensors and applications for analyzing numerous kinds of knowledge and for managing devices and instrumentality for different stakeholders are introduced in such platforms.

While several techniques have targeting sensing element integration, information integration and information analytic on prime of those platforms, we tend to have an interest within the development, readying and execution of (intelligent and context-aware) light-weight applications that may be developed, composed and deployed on-the-fly supported supported captured from the watching and analysis of close to real time sensing element information. in conjunction with techniques for connecting and watching devices and instrumentality, that area unit targeting obtaining data from these devices and instrumentality, such light-weight applications are often wont to maintain and optimize these devices and instrumentality. they're crucial as these days many styles of instrumentality and devices in large scale facilities, like freezers, chillers, and backup power systems, area unit valuable to take care of and optimize. With a large quantity of watching information managed in property governance platforms and multiple stakeholders (e.g., manufactures, maintainers, and operators) victimization such platforms to watch and maintain their devices and instrumentality, it's potential for these applications to mechanically learn the operational history of, notice errors of, and to change repair and support of devices and instrumentality. However, these light-weight applications are often developed and deployed to cloud platforms by third- parties, are often created by composing existing applications and functions ordered by cloud services so so deployed to facility sites on-the-fly, or is also per-installed in hosting environments deployed at facility sites whereas being reconfigured for a species context. so the event, readying and execution of those applications should be monitored and controlled at run time to confirm they befits befits policies. In our work, these light-weight applications area unit referred to as bots and that they are often developed and dead within the cloud via a larva Platform-as-a-Service (BoP), offering the Bot-as-a-Service (BaaS) business model for property governance.

While several analysis analysis have focused on security for observation sensors and information protection within the facility facet, like sensible Grids [3], and within the cloud facet, little or no little or no been spent on understanding problems in governing such bots within the cloud. In fact, the conception of mixing cloud computing models and bots development has simply been emerging: such ideas don't seem to be like, e.g., mobile agents and their applications for building management, because of the complexness and variety of cloud

information, devices, equipment, and stakeholders, though the conception of BaaS can naturally be engineered upon existing work. connected work on understanding governance problems either focus solely on a part of the BaaS model (e.g., hosting environments for mobile agents and application stores or one facet of governance problems (e.g., security), information access, or performance. we tend to do a comprehensive review of many governance problems in different phases of larva development, preparation and execution in clouds. most significantly, we tend to take into account relevant governance problems in Associate in Nursing rising model - BaaS during which governance problems span across layers and places similarly as related to business models within the cloud.

## 2. OVERVIEW OF BOT PLATFORM AS A SERVICE :-

We are focusing on facility monitoring in smart cities, such as using the Galaxy platform (<http://pacificcontrols.net/products/galaxy.html>). In our work, several sensors are deployed in different buildings to monitor building Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing (MEP) systems and surrounding environments, such as temperature and air quality. In a cloud facility management model, at each facility site, sensor data are aggregated and significant information is propagated to cloud services where online monitoring is performed. At the moment, most of monitoring tasks for devices and equipment are conducted by operators who are going to fix problems detected in facilities. In a recent emerging concept, calling intelligent and context-aware bots, bots can be deployed at the facility sites to detect problems and fix them automatically. A bot is a lightweight application that is executed by a hosting environment. In real systems, bot can be built based on mobile agent platforms, OSGi (<http://www.osgi.org>), or plain Java objects. To support the development and execution of bots in the cloud, a Bot Platform-as-a-Service (BoP) can be provided. Figure 1 describes a high level view of BoP, including the following conceptual components: Bot-as-a-Service (BaaS): supports the development, composition of bots, management, and deployment of bots, and the definition and management of governance policies for bots. Bot Store: stores bots and templates for building bots. Bot Stores can be hosted by the sustainability governance platform or third parties (e.g., a specific company which manages its chillers Bot Hosting Environment: deploys, verifies and executes bots, and monitors bot execution. Bots and BaaS interact with several other services, sensor/actuator integration gateways, devices and equipment at the cloud and facility sides. For example, when the Monitoring Service detects a possible problem, it can control BaaS to find suitable rules and algorithms to build a bot, which is deployed to the Bot Hosting Environment to analyze device's data

and control the device. An important point is that, at runtime, bots are instantiated based on existing problems and bots can be launched from bot stores in cloud service to bot hosting environments at facility sites. The BoP we present here conceptually describes how bots, BaaS, and other components in the cloudplatform and sensor integration gateways interact. From the implementation perspective, bots and their hosting environments can be implemented using different frameworks, such as mobile agents, OSGi or plain Java objects. For the sake of understanding general governance issues of BoP, we will not examine languages and frameworks for bots as well the context-aware and intelligent capabilities of bots, but focus on governance issues associated with BoP.

### •3. Characterizing Components and Interactions in Bot Platform as Service

In order to analyze possible issues in governing bots during their life cycle from the development to the execution it is important to understand requirements and scenarios for which bots are required. In BoP described in Figure 1, the life cycle of a bot has three main phases (i) Development – bots are compiled from source code or bots are composed from existing objects/bots, (ii) Deployment – bots are transferred from clouds to hosting environments for execution, and (iii) Execution – bots are running in hosting environments. Due to the diversity of devices and equipment, on the one hand, multiple stakeholders will develop different types of bots, species for particular devices and equipment. On the other hand, multiple stakeholders will have different service contracts for using bots. A single BoP must be able to support such diverse stakeholders, bots, and hosting environments.

some representative scenarios in the development, deployment, and execution of bots. In these scenarios, several governance supports are required. We categorize types of governance issues that should be consider in BoP in the following:

1. System/network security and access control: protect systems and networks in order to prevent unauthorized access that can compromise BoP.
2. Application integrity and service verification: ensure that the bot content is sent by the trusted party and is unchanged during bot transfer processes, e.g. from Bot Store to Bot Hosting Environment
3. Service contract management: due the pay-per-use model of cloud computing, bot capabilities are depending on a service contract. This service contract can cover different terms related to, e.g., application performance, and data acquisition and devices to be controlled.

4. System and application performance: ensure that the execution of bots will not prevent the correct operation and the availability of hosting environments.
5. Data acquisition and control: Bots will access data from local hosting environments and sensor integration gateways as well as data from the cloud platform. Furthermore, bots will be able to control building MEP (via actuators) and initiate certain features in the cloud platform (e.g., launch new bots or escalate an emergency response processes). Several governance supports require integrated solutions due to the intersection between cloud computing model, mobile code, and Internet-of-thing. For example, except service contract management, most governance issues look similar to that for mobile code. However, we see that the issues of application performance and cloud access are different, not to mention that the business service contract has a strong influence on all other governance issues.

#### 4. Governance Issues and State-of-the Art :-

In order to examine how existing techniques could support governance of bots in BoP, we need to examine identified governance issues in different places in BoP. Table 2 summarizes main techniques that could be used for governing bots in BoP. Basically, a bot is built from a number of existing pieces of binary code which might come from untrusted and trusted sources.

Governance issues	Places	Existing techniques
Application integrity and service authenticity	BaaS; Bot Store; Bot Hosting Environment	code signing; certification authority
Application composition based on service contract	BaaS	dynamic software product lines
Service contract enforcement	BaaS; Bot Hosting Environment	static analysis; sand boxing; mediation; security by

		contract; Model-Carrying Code (MCC)
System/network security and access control	BaaS; Bot Store; Bot Hosting Environment	secured connection; message signature; role-based access control
Application performance	Bot Hosting Environment	sand boxing; virtual machine; specific run time systems; reference monitoring
Data acquisition and control	Bot Hosting Environment	unlined reference monitoring; safe interpreter; Model Carrying Code (MCC) ; security by contract

This could be used for governing bots in BoP. Basically, a bot is built from a number of existing pieces of binary code which might come from untrusted and trusted sources and the function and runtime of bots are dependent on specific context and service contract between the consumer and the cloud provider. The main issue is that the execution of bots must be monitored and controlled at runtime in order to prevent unintended behaviors. Several techniques can be ready to support BoP, such as secured network connection, messages signature, and role based access controls. Therefore, we do not discuss them here. Instead, we will focus on main critical points that are specific to BoP.

## 5. Governing application integrity, service identity, and application security :-

There are several techniques that can be applied to bots, however, these techniques are suitable only for certain phases of bots.

- Development phase: Static analysis can check bots before executing so that only those not violating pre-defined policies are allowed to be executed. However, it cannot check run time violations.
- Deployment phase: Code signing can certify the integrity of the code but cannot prevent bad behavior of the code execution. Using certification authority, signatures of bots and BaaS can be checked again with hosting environment policies, e.g., based on concepts in. However, it can only allow for bots to be installed/deployed/executed or not but no other steps.
- Execution phase: Execution monitoring techniques, e.g., based on unlined reference monitoring, can enforce bot-specific security policies to prevent bad behavior at run time. However, they are designed specific for governing security only and are not targeted to our BaaS model. Model-Carrying Code (MCC) can be adaptable to Bot Hosting Environments, however, it requires the base system to be modified. Sandboxing techniques can confine a bot instance within a Bot Hosting Environment that can only access to a limited functionality. The confinement mechanism is based on "all-or-nothing" approach which is not suitable for fine-grained monitoring. Safe interpreter can also be used to control bots, but it requires bots and Bot Hosting Environments to support interpretation languages.

## 6. Governing application performance

Governing application performance occurs mainly in execution phase. However, policies for application performance can be defined in the development or deployment phases. There exist several techniques to measure the performance of hosting environments and their processes. Many techniques, such as based on sandboxing mode, to control CPU/memory usage by applications require external tools to interact with OS and applications but such tools are heavy. It is also possible to use virtual machine for hosting environments and control the performance of virtual machines. However, we will not be able to prioritize bots. Specific run time

systems also enable bot-specific performance monitoring but it means that Bot Hosting Environments must be based on these systems.

## 7. Governing service contract

Some contractual terms can be used to limit functions when a bot is developed and the other terms are used to check run time properties, such as number of data points, types of devices and specific facilities. In particular, for on-the-fly composition and deployment, contract terms can strongly influence bot's functions. Potentially, dynamic variability techniques for supporting building limited functions, e.g., based on context, can be utilized. However, most dynamic composition and variability models are designed for service oriented software systems and large-scale software product lines, not lightweight applications. Furthermore there is a lack of techniques to generate bot software features from specific service contracts in specific situations. At run time, while existing techniques discussed in other sections can be used to enforce certain contract terms, such as security and performance, we need to apply different techniques for enforcing a service contract for bot instances of a consumer, as the contract covers multiple types of governance policies.

## 8. Governing data acquisition and control

Governing data acquisition and control is mainly related to the execution phase, although it might need some support, such as policy generation and code rewriting, from the development phase. The key point is that, dependent on service contract, data acquisition and control can be governed at the system APIs for accessing data and sending control commands or at specific types of data/commands. For example, a bot might be allowed to use read() API for reading any sensor data type or to use read with only chiller data of chiller manufactured by a specific company (e.g., read(datatype=chiller, chillerType=company A ). While APIs can be protected and checked by using existing techniques, e.g., static analysis, sand boxing and inlined reference monitoring, they do not support well, e.g., how much data or which control commands a specific bot instance should be allowed. Thus, advanced techniques, e.g., application-level data access monitoring, could be used. However, this may require extra components to intercept bot level data acquisition and control messages.



## 9. Current solutions for governance policy definition and management

In order to govern bot executions, the unintended behaviors must be specified in policies for each bot so that its execution can be controlled at runtime. As we have multiple governance issues, we also need to consider multiple types of policies, including data acquisition and control, safety, and service contract policies. These policies are bot-specific and the policies are established in case-to-case basis depending on each particular service contract between the consumer and the cloud platform provider. However, BoP must be able to handle multiple types of policies for multiple bots from different consumers while these bots are possible executed in the same hosting environment for the same facility (e.g., a bot for chiller and a bot for electricity backup system can come from different stakeholders but are executed in the same hosting environment at the same time). Another important point is that policies are used at different places, such as BaaS and Bot Hosting Environments, at different phases, as inputs for different enforcement techniques. Although there have been a number policy languages including research prototypes such as, and industry standards such as WS-Policy, none of these considers all of the above multiple types of governance policies. In mobile application development, such as Android, applications are associated with use permission which specifies resources and functions can be accessed from the hosting environment. However, such policies are static while BoP need dynamic policies.

## 10. Discussion

From the analysis in the previous section, on the one hand, we observed that while certain techniques can in principle be used, it is not clear if they can be engineered in BoP, in particular, BoP needs to support multiple types of governance and diverse types of hosting environments whose capabilities are limited. For example, model-carrying code techniques require hosting environments to inspect bots; if using safe interpreters, hosting environments must support interpretation languages; or using encryption to transfer bots would require a heavy cryptosystem in hosting environments; or limiting CPU and memory of bots might not be implemented in all hosting environments. On the other hand, we see that we need multiple types of governance support carried out by cloud services and Bot Hosting Environments at different phases of bot's lifecycle. As a result, BoP needs to have governance policy specifications that allows different types of governance. Furthermore, to enforce such policies, various techniques must be integrated, as typically a type of techniques is suitable only for a specific governance support at a specific phase of bot's lifecycle.

## 11. Towards Multi-phased Policy Management and Enforcement for Bots

different types of policies need to be enforced for bots. Our approaches are to address (i) policy definition and management and (ii) policy enforcement for multiple types of governance through different phases of bot's lifecycle in an integrated framework. Figure 2 depicts our framework which is divided into two main blocks for policy definition and management and for policy enforcement. In these two blocks, policy definitions are evolved through different phases and in each phase, at different places, different components will use different techniques to enforce policies.

In summary, the framework works as follows. After a bot is built and stored, we already have static, common bot-specific policies –  $bp_s$ . Such policies are obtained from the development and defined for a bot. When a bot named  $b$  is selected for deployment for a particular consumer under a particular situation, BaaS can take bot-specific policies and combine with consumer's business service contract (e.g., cost and service level agreements) to generate bot context-specific policies –  $bp_{cxt}$ . In cases, bots are composed and deployed on the fly, then the above-mentioned way is still valid, except that BaaS can just consider  $bp_s$  as a part of  $bp_{cxt}$ . Many policies  $p_i \in bp_{cxt}$  can be checked by BaaS before BaaS starts to deploy  $b$ . Before deploying  $b$ , BaaS produces two subset of policies,  $bp_{cxt}(h)$  and  $bp_{cxt}(r)$ . The first set of policies  $bp_{cxt}(h)$  can be checked by Bot Hosting Environment before running  $b$ , while  $bp_{cxt}(r)$  can be used to check  $b$  at its runtime. In our framework,  $bp_{cxt}(r)$  is attached to  $b$  and bots will self-regulate their operations based on  $bp_{cxt}(r)$ . For checking policies, suitable techniques will be employed at different places. Thus, our framework will provide extensible mechanisms to enable plug-ins of different techniques. With this approach, we will provide templates to define such policies. The policy templates for bot specific policies and context-specific policies are based on API calls provided by the hosting environment and by cloud services. Templates for bot instance policies need further investigation to combine between event sequences and their parameters, together with business rules. In our framework, an enforcement service is integrated into BaaS to enforce desired policies. A bot is first checked by a static analysis technique to ensure that it does not violate the defined static policies, and then context-specific policies. A bot passing the check will be rewritten to embed inlined reference monitor into the code so that the execution will be controlled and monitored by the monitor at runtime to ensure that its execution will not violate the runtime policies. When deploying into the hosting environment, the authenticity and integrity of the bot code must be ensured. Our framework will support this feature by employing a code signing technique. Our proposed framework provides an end-to-end enforcement solution for bots construction and execution.

While several feasible techniques are chosen, the challenging issue is how to integrate these techniques into the framework so that they can work together to enforce desired policies for the bot architecture.

## 12. CONCLUSION :-

The emerging Bot-as-a-Service model for monitoring and managing devices and equipment by utilising cloud computing offerings calls for a careful investigation on governance issues. In this paper, we analyse possible governance issues and existing techniques that can be reused and should be improved in order to support governance of bots in sustainability platforms. Our future work is to focus on the development our policy definition, management and enforcement framework that support cross governance issues for bots.

## 13.ACKNOWLEDGMENT :-

I am pleased to present “Bot-as-a-Service in Sustainability Platforms Issues and Approaches” project and take this opportunity to express our profound gratitude to all those people who helped us in completion of this paper. I thank our college for providing us with excellent facilities that helped us to complete and present this paper. I would also like to thank our guide Asst. Prof. Jyoti Samel for permitting us to use computers in the lab as and when required for research. We express our deepest gratitude towards our project guide for her valuable and timely advice during the various phases in our project. We would also like to thank her for providing us with all proper facilities and support as the co-coordinator. We would like to thank her for support, patience and faith in our capabilities and for giving us flexibility in terms of working and reporting schedules.

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