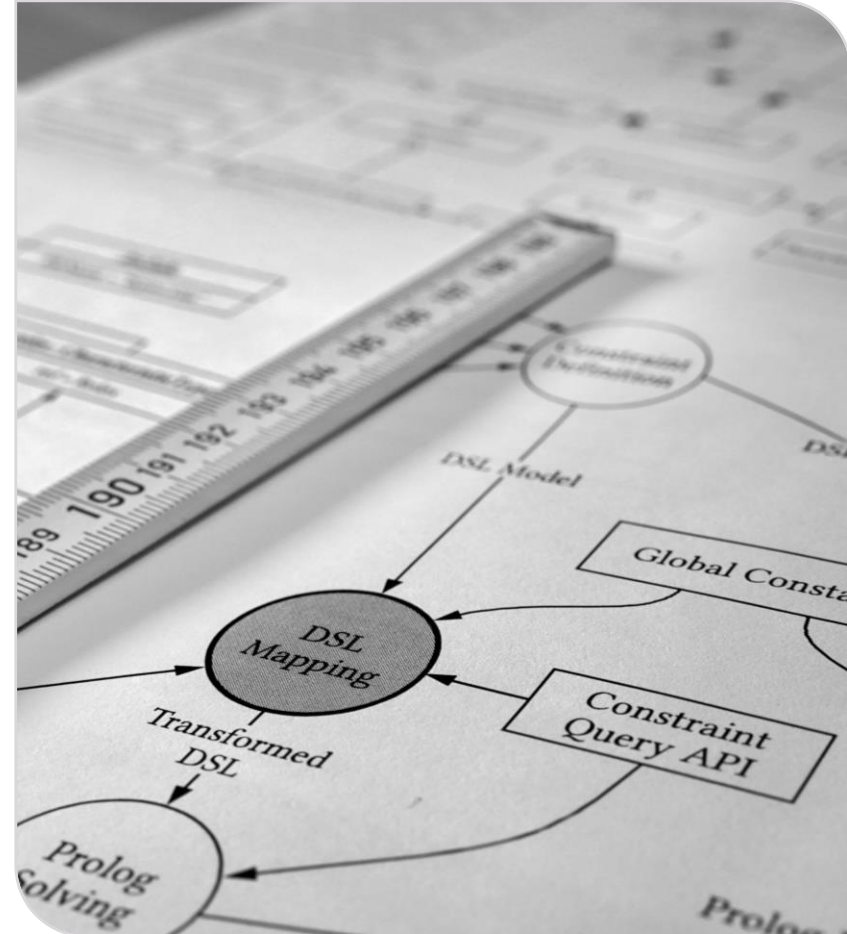


# Modeling Data Flow Constraints for Design-Time Confidentiality Analyses

@ 18TH IEEE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE  
ON SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE, ICSA'21

**Sebastian Hahner, Stephan Seifermann,  
Robert Heinrich, Maximilian Walter,  
Tomáš Bureš, Petr Hnětynka**

*Short version*



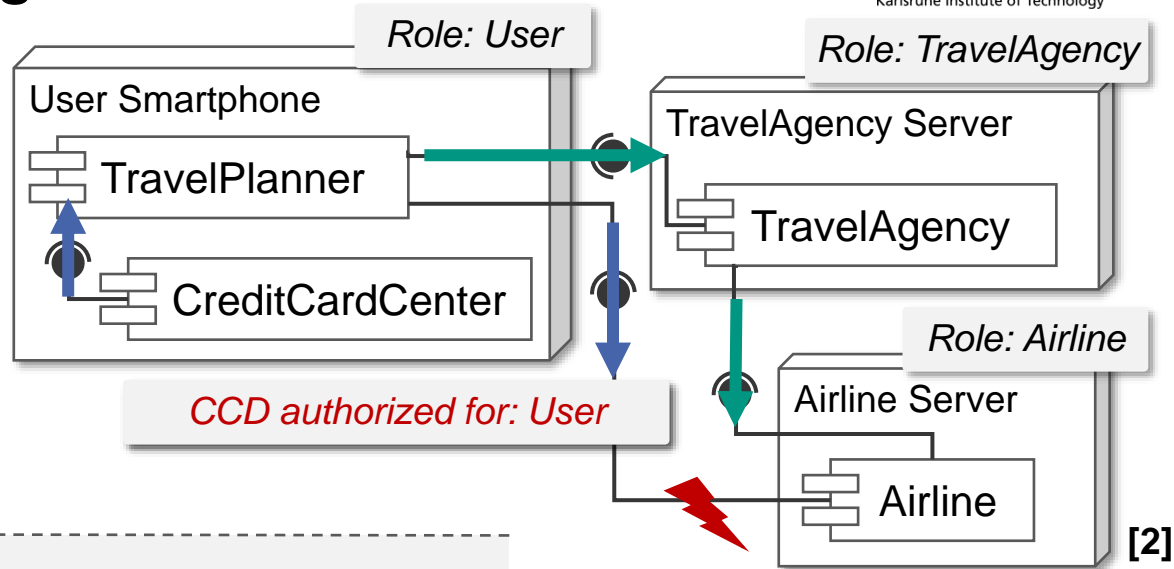
# Modeling Data Flow Constraints for Design-Time Confidentiality Analyses

Data flow-based design-time analyses identify confidentiality violations in architectural models [1]

**Constraint:** „Data is only allowed to flow to entities with authorized roles“



```
constraint EnforceRBAC {  
  data.attribute.accessRights.$rights{} NEVER FLOWS  
  node.property.roles.$roles{} WHERE  
  isEmpty(intersection(rights, roles))  
}
```



**Contributions:** DSL, mapping to the analysis formalism, mapping of analysis results

[1] Seifermann et al. "Data-Driven Software Architecture for Analyzing Confidentiality," in 2019 IEEE International Conference on Software Architecture (ICSA), 2019

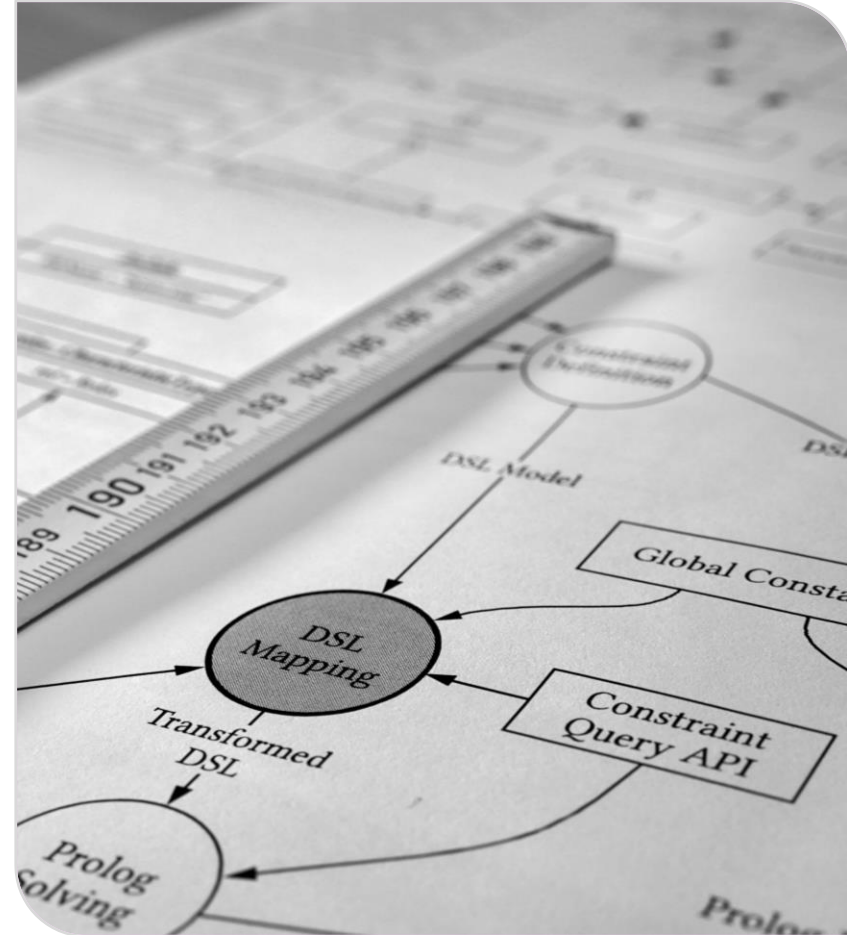
[2] Katkalov et al. "Model-Driven Development of Information Flow-Secure Systems with IFlow," in 2013 International Conference on Social Computing, 2013

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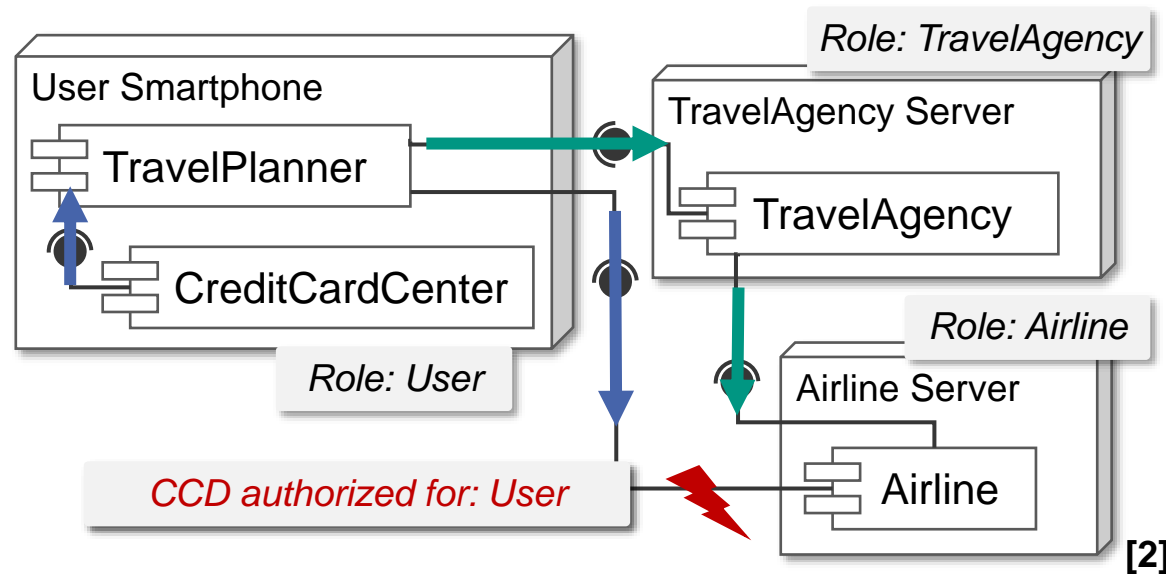
**Sebastian Hahner, Stephan Seifermann,  
Robert Heinrich, Maximilian Walter,  
Tomáš Bureš, Petr Hnětynka**

*Long version*



# Data Flow-Based Confidentiality Analysis

Data flow-based design-time analyses identify confidentiality violations in architectural models [1]



**Constraint:** „Data is only allowed to flow to entities with authorized roles“

[1] Seifermann et al. "Data-Driven Software Architecture for Analyzing Confidentiality," in 2019 IEEE International Conference on Software Architecture (ICSA), 2019

[2] Katkalov et al. "Model-Driven Development of Information Flow-Secure Systems with IFlow," in 2013 International Conference on Social Computing, 2013

# Modeling Data Flow Constraints

- Gap: Constraints are described directly by using the analysis formalism
- Contribution: A domain-specific language on architectural abstraction level, mapping to the analysis formalism, and mapping of analysis results
- Benefit: Use of known terminology, easier to use and higher productivity

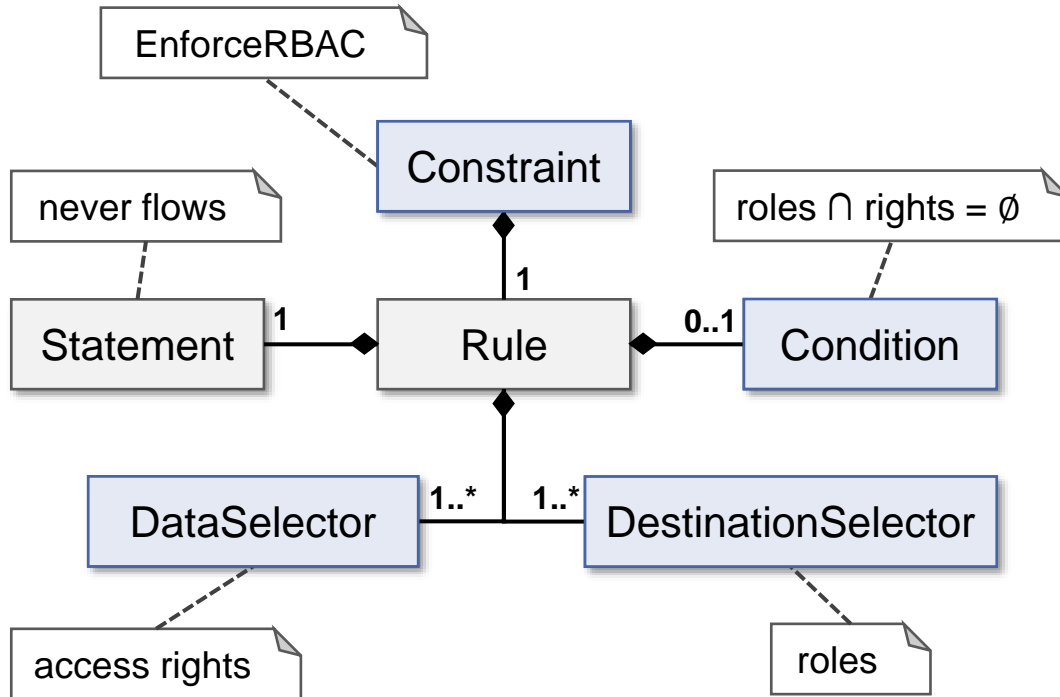
*Constraint: „Data is only allowed to flow to entities with authorized roles“*



DSL

```
constraint EnforceRBAC {  
  data.attribute.accessRights.$rights{} NEVER FLOWS  
  node.property.roles.$roles{} WHERE  
  isEmpty(intersection(rights, roles))}
```

# DSL for Data Flow Constraints

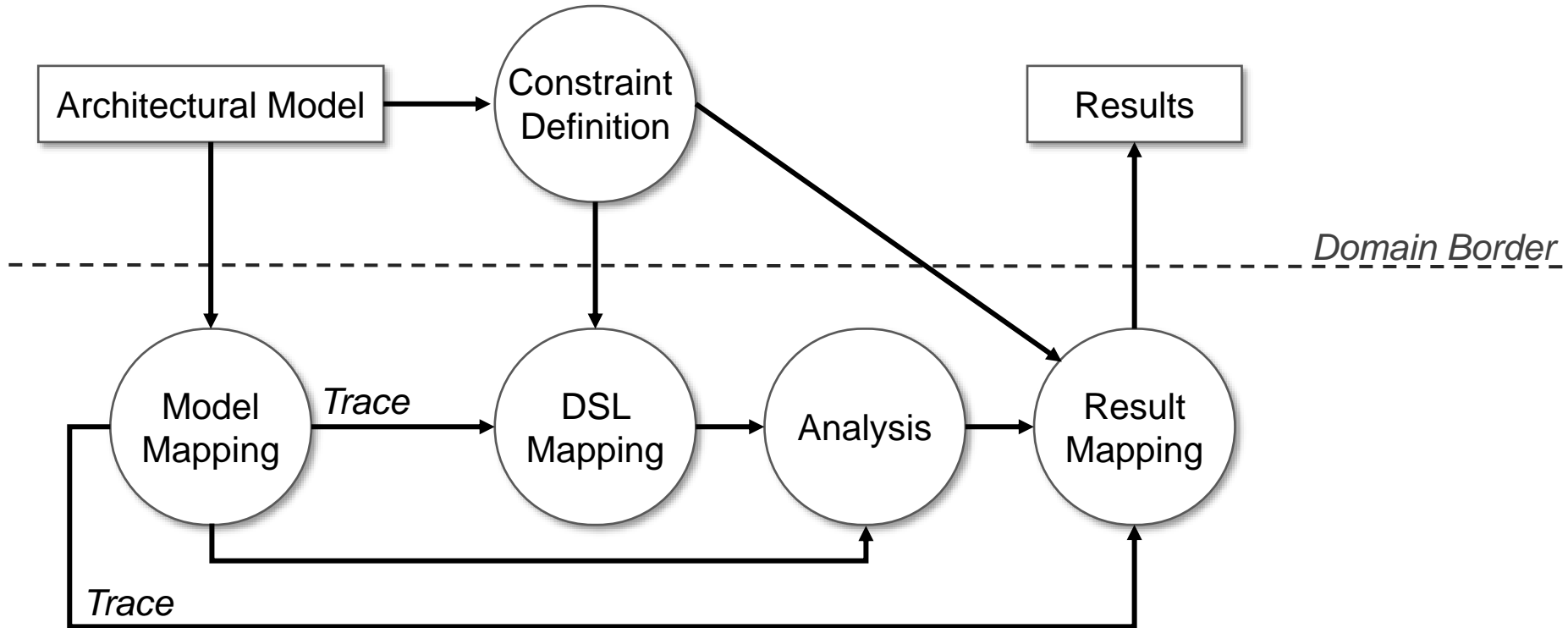


*Constraint: „Data is only allowed to flow to entities with authorized roles“*

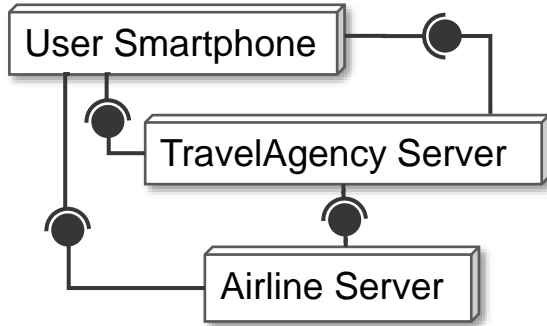
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constraint EnforceRBAC {
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```

# Mapping of Architecture and Constraints



# Mapping of Architecture and Constraints

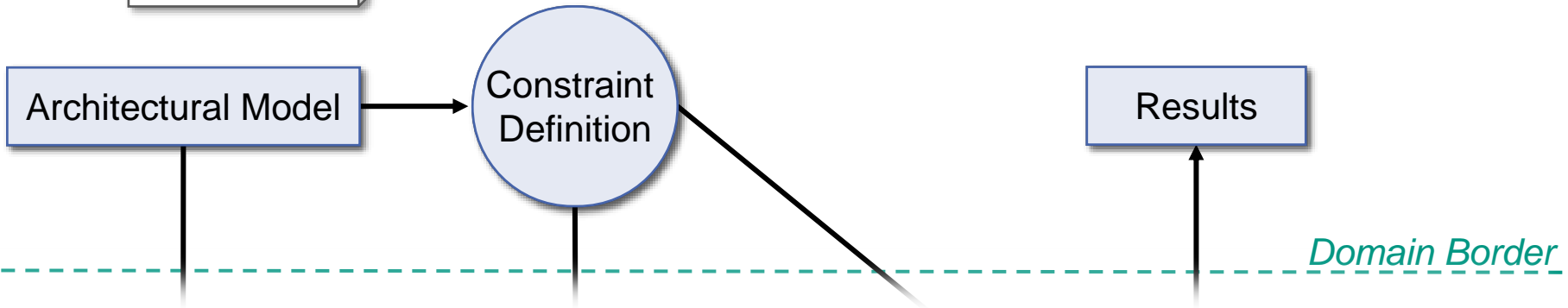


```

constraint EnforceRBAC {
  data.attribute.accessRights.$rights{}
  NEVER FLOWS
  node.property.roles.$roles{} WHERE
  isEmpty(intersection(rights,roles))}
  
```

## CONSTRAINT VIOLATIONS

- Parameter 'CCD' not allowed
  - Call Stack: 'getDetails', 'bookFlight'
  - Variables:
    - 'rights' set to 'User'
    - 'roles' set to 'Airline'





# Evaluation

## ■ Expressiveness

- Do the available DSL concepts allow versatile data flow constraint definitions?
- Scenario and constraint evaluation based on case studies used in related work
  - ⇒ The expressiveness is sufficient for most of the evaluated constraints

## ■ Usability

- Does the DSL provide abstraction from the analysis formalism? Does the DSL hide complexity?
- Effort measurement of change scenarios, domain border evaluation
  - ⇒ The DSL requires less effort and hides accidental complexity by requiring no knowledge about the underlying analysis

## ■ Correctness

- Is the mapping correct? Are the analysis results equivalent?
- Formal correctness proof, Comparison of analysis results
  - ⇒ The mapping is correct
  - ⇒ The analysis reaches a recall of 100% while maintaining a precision of 92%

# Related Work

- Direct analyses use architectural models directly without transformation [1], [2], [3]
  - ⇒ These approaches do not consider the gap between architecture and analysis
- Indirect analyses transform the architecture into an analysis formalism [4], [5], [6]
  - ⇒ These approaches do not provide a generic solution for bridging the abstraction gap
  - ⇒ Usually do not report on the mapping of analysis results

[1] Almorsy et al. “Automated software architecture security risk analysis using formalized signatures”, in *35th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE)*, 2013

[2] Tuma et al. “Automating the Early Detection of Security Design Flaws”, *Proceedings of the 23rd ACM/IEEE International Conference on Model Driven Engineering Languages and Systems*, 2020

[3] Yu et al. “Formal Software Architecture Design of Secure Distributed Systems”, *SEKE*, 2003

[4] Katkalov et al. “Model-Driven Development of Information Flow-Secure Systems with IFlow,” in *2013 International Conference on Social Computing*, 2013

[5] Gerking et al. “Model Checking the Information Flow Security of Real-Time Systems”, in *Engineering Secure Software and Systems*, 2018

[6] Jürjens et al. “UMLsec: Extending UML for Secure Systems Development”, in *UML 2002 — The Unified Modeling Language*, 2002

# Conclusion

- Domain-specific language to define data flow constraints in the architectural domain which bridges the gap between definition and analysis
- Mapping to the analysis formalism and mapping of analysis results which are compliant to the architecture transformation
- Shall enhance the formulation capabilities and productivity of software architects
- In future work, we aim to increase the DSL's expressiveness

