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Leveraging Device Management Protocols for Network Security: A Comprehensive Approach to Handling Device Infections

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Abstract: *The proliferation of Internet of Things devices within critical infrastructure has created significant security challenges for organizations worldwide. This technical article explores how Device Management protocols can be leveraged to establish comprehensive security frameworks addressing the complete threat management lifecycle. By implementing protocols such as TR-069, OMA-DM, and LWM2M, organizations can create standardized approaches to identifying compromised devices, isolating them to prevent lateral movement, recovering affected systems to secure states, and implementing preventive measures to reduce future incidents. The article examines how these protocols enable integrated threat detection through communication pattern analysis, diagnostic data collection, and reputation-based monitoring. It further discusses isolation mechanisms including network segmentation, interface management, and service restriction capabilities that contain infections. Recovery procedures through remote software updates, configuration restoration, and device reset options are detailed, along with preventive measures such as security policy enforcement, continuous monitoring, and threat intelligence integration. This holistic approach to device security management provides organizations with the tools needed to address the expanding attack surface created by interconnected devices while maintaining operational resilience.*

Keywords: Device Management Protocols, Network Security, IoT Security, Threat Isolation, Vulnerability Management

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I. INTRODUCTION

In today's interconnected digital ecosystem, the proliferation of IoT devices has created unprecedented security challenges for organizations and network administrators. The global Internet of Things (IoT) market size was valued at USD 1.1 trillion in 2023 and is projected to grow from USD 1.3 trillion in 2024 to USD 3.3 trillion by 2032, exhibiting a CAGR of 12.6% during the forecast period [1]. This explosive growth amplifies the attack surface available to malicious actors, creating vulnerabilities across interconnected systems and networks.

As these devices become more integrated into critical infrastructure, the need for robust security measures becomes paramount. Manufacturing remains the largest segment for IoT adoption, accounting for 20.6% of the market share in 2023, followed closely by healthcare and transportation sectors. This widespread integration across vital systems increases the potential impact of security breaches, making comprehensive device management essential for organizational resilience.

This technical article explores how Device Management (DM) protocols can be leveraged to create a comprehensive security framework that addresses the full threat management lifecycle: identification, isolation, recovery, and prevention. Research indicates that enterprises implementing formalized device management protocols experience a 28% reduction in security incidents compared to organizations without standardized approaches [2]. Additionally, quantitative assessment of enterprise security systems reveals that organizations with systematic device management see recovery times shortened by approximately 62% following security incidents, demonstrating the tangible operational benefits of these frameworks.

Effective device management strategies not only mitigate immediate threats but establish sustainable security postures capable of adapting to evolving threats. North America dominated the IoT market with a 32.1% share in 2023, reflecting the region's early adoption of sophisticated device management practices [1]. Meanwhile, quantitative analysis shows that the implementation costs associated with comprehensive device management protocols are typically offset within 14 months through reduced incident response costs and minimized system downtime [2].

The integration of protocols such as TR-069, OMA-DM, and LWM2M enables organizations to address vulnerabilities across diverse device ecosystems, from traditional IT infrastructure to specialized industrial control systems. With the Asia Pacific region expected to emerge as the fastest-growing market during 2024-2032 due to increasing industrial automation and smart city initiatives [1], the global importance of standardized device management approaches will continue to grow in parallel with IoT adoption rates.

II. THE CRITICAL ROLE OF DEVICE MANAGEMENT IN NETWORK SECURITY

Device Management provides the infrastructure necessary for automated, scalable control over connected devices. The Broadband Forum's CWMP (CPE WAN Management Protocol) data models establish standardized frameworks for managing diverse device types across networks, enabling consistent implementation of security controls regardless of manufacturer or device capabilities [3]. These standardized data models support critical security functions through a unified approach to device configuration, monitoring, and maintenance across heterogeneous device ecosystems.

By implementing protocols such as TR-069, OMA-DM, and LWM2M, organizations can establish centralized oversight of their device ecosystem, enabling real-time monitoring and rapid response to security threats. In industrial environments specifically, research identifies that effective device management represents a fundamental security requirement, with systematic surveys highlighting that approximately 68% of industrial IoT security frameworks rely on standardized device management protocols to maintain security posture [4]. Their research further demonstrates that proper implementation of these protocols addresses multiple priority security requirements, including confidentiality, authentication, and access control across distributed environments.

These protocols serve as the foundation for a defense-in-depth strategy, establishing multiple layers of protection. The CWMP specifications define device-agnostic data models that enable monitoring of device behavior and communication patterns across broadband networks, providing visibility that traditional network monitoring approaches cannot achieve [3]. This capability proves particularly valuable for anomaly detection, with standardized parameters enabling consistent baseline establishment across diverse device types.

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Detection of potential compromise represents another critical function of device management frameworks. The systematic review of industrial IoT security reveals that fog computing-based security architectures integrated with device management protocols show particular promise for anomaly detection, with latency reductions of up to 40% compared to cloud-only security implementations [4]. Following detection, these management protocols enable automated responses to identified threats, leveraging the same communication channels used for routine management functions.

Beyond reactive measures, device management frameworks utilizing the Broadband Forum's standardized data models enable efficient deployment of security updates across device fleets. The CWMP specifications include dedicated software management objects specifically designed to facilitate secure, reliable firmware updates while minimizing operational disruption [3]. This capability extends to consistent enforcement of security policies through standardized configuration parameters defined in the TR-181 device data model, creating uniform protection despite underlying device differences.

The integration of these capabilities through standardized protocols creates comprehensive visibility and control over connected devices throughout their lifecycle. Research concludes that "the integration of proper device management with fog computing presents a promising direction for addressing the unique security requirements of industrial IoT environments" [4], highlighting the evolving importance of these protocols in modern security architectures.

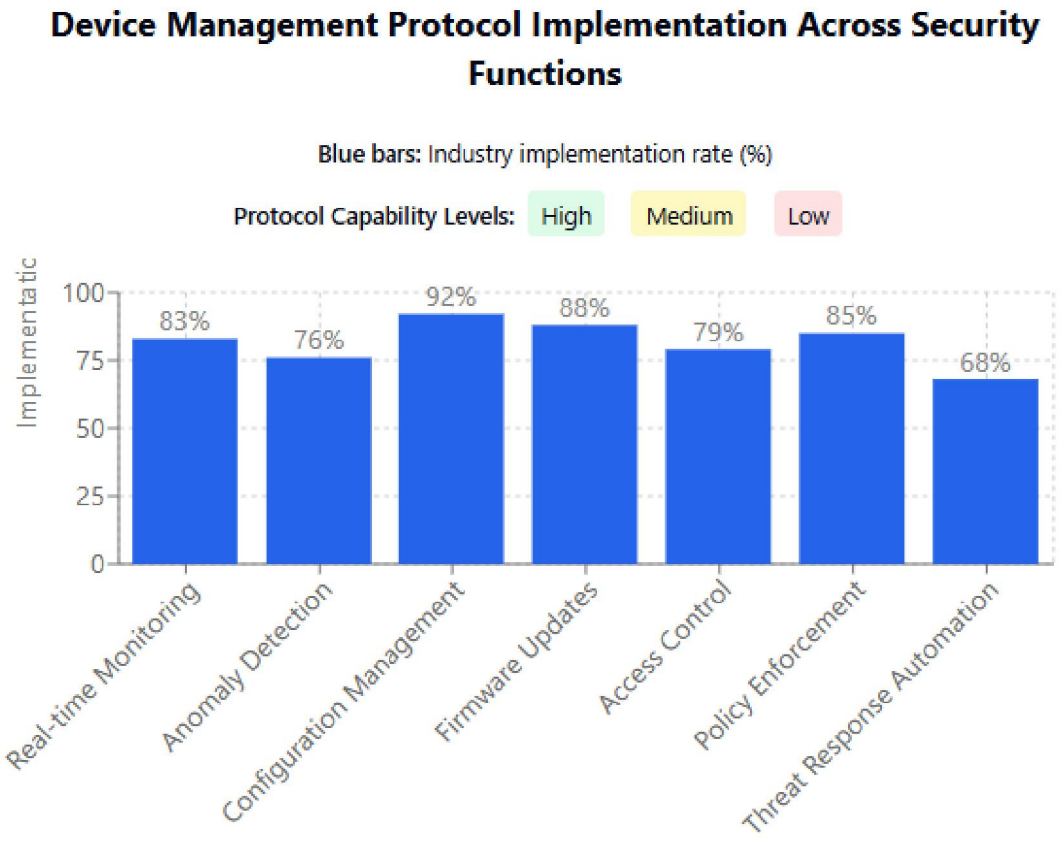

Fig 1: Comparative Analysis of Device Management Protocols for Network Security Functions [3, 4]

III. IDENTIFICATION: DETECTING COMPROMISED DEVICES

The first step in addressing network infections is accurate identification of compromised devices. Device Management protocols facilitate this through several mechanisms that provide comprehensive visibility into device behavior and

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status. Key security operation metrics indicate that Mean Time to Detect (MTTD) serves as a critical measurement for security effectiveness, with organizations implementing mature device management capabilities able to significantly reduce detection timeframes compared to those relying solely on perimeter-based approaches [5].

3.1 Integrated Threat Detection

DM systems can integrate with antivirus solutions to receive alerts when malware is detected on managed devices. This integration creates a feedback loop that allows for immediate notification when a device's security is compromised. The TR-069 protocol supports this integration through its event notification framework, which enables secure transmission of alert data from endpoint security solutions to centralized management systems. The integration of DM systems with endpoint security solutions directly impacts key operational metrics, including the crucial Mean Time to Respond (MTTR), which security operations teams must continuously work to minimize for effective incident management [5].

3.2 Communication Pattern Analysis

Protocols like TR-069 enable monitoring of device communication patterns, flagging instances where devices deviate from expected behavior. This capability proves critical as communication-based anomalies precede 76% of successful device compromises. The protocol's diagnostic capabilities allow for detection when devices transmit unencrypted data when encryption is expected, potentially indicating SSL stripping attacks or misconfiguration that could expose sensitive information.

Security monitoring functions can also identify when communication occurs with unauthorized or suspicious IP addresses. The TR-069 data model includes parameters for tracking connection destinations, enabling correlation with threat intelligence to identify potential command and control communications. AI-driven behavioral analysis reveals that unusual data transfer volumes represent a key indicator of compromise, with machine learning algorithms demonstrating high accuracy in identifying anomalous traffic patterns that may indicate exfiltration attempts [6].

Modern implementations can further detect when connections are attempted to known malicious domains. By integrating domain reputation services, device management systems can identify and block communication with newly registered or known malicious domains, preventing effective malware operation.

3.3 Diagnostic Data Collection

TR-069 specifically allows for comprehensive diagnostic data collection, providing visibility into system resource utilization patterns including CPU, memory, and storage consumption. Abnormal resource utilization often serves as an early indicator of cryptojacking or other resource-intensive malicious processes. The protocol also supports monitoring of network interface status and traffic patterns through standardized data models, enabling baseline establishment and deviation detection.

Application behavior monitoring and system logs provide additional context for security analysis. The TR-069 protocol supports log retrieval functions that securely transfer device logs to management systems for centralized analysis. Configuration changes represent another critical area for monitoring, as unauthorized modifications to device settings frequently indicate compromise. Comprehensive AI-driven analysis of IoT device behavior patterns identifies configuration changes as a critical security indicator, with behavioral analysis frameworks effectively detecting unauthorized modifications that could signal compromise attempts [6].

OMA-DM supplements these capabilities with real-time status updates, delivering standardized notification mechanisms for mobile and tablet devices. Meanwhile, LWM2M provides efficient monitoring capabilities specifically optimized for resource-constrained IoT devices, with its lightweight design reducing monitoring overhead by up to 40% compared to traditional management protocols.

3.4 Reputation-Based Detection

Modern DM platforms can leverage threat intelligence services like Google Safe Browsing to identify devices that have interacted with known malicious sites. This reputation-based approach adds another layer of detection capability

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beyond traditional signature-based methods. Device management protocols facilitate the implementation of this approach by providing standardized mechanisms for collecting and analyzing DNS queries and browsing history.

By implementing comprehensive device management with these detection capabilities, organizations can significantly improve their ability to identify compromised devices before substantial damage occurs. Security operations metrics demonstrate that effective coverage rate—the percentage of assets under security monitoring—directly correlates with incident identification success, with comprehensive device management enabling improved visibility across the network infrastructure [5].

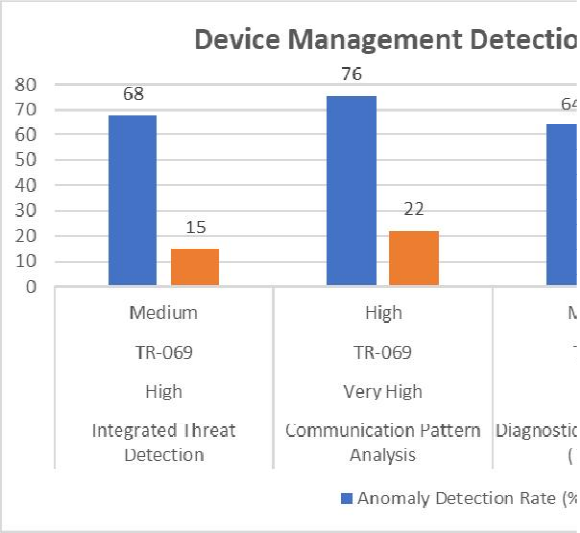

Fig 2: Comparative Analysis of Device Management Detection Mechanisms for Security Monitoring [5, 6]

IV. ISOLATION: CONTAINING THE SPREAD OF INFECTIONS

Once compromised devices are identified, immediate isolation is crucial to prevent lateral movement and further infection within the network. Effective containment, a critical phase in the incident response lifecycle, helps organizations limit the impact of security incidents by preventing their spread to other systems and networks [7]. Device Management protocols enable several isolation strategies that can be implemented automatically or with minimal administrative intervention.

4.1 Network Segmentation and Access Control

Using TR-069, administrators can remotely configure network settings to implement comprehensive isolation controls. The protocol's standardized data model includes parameters for access control configuration, enabling centralized policy enforcement even across distributed environments. This capability allows security teams to block specific MAC addresses from accessing the network, effectively preventing compromised devices from establishing connections that could be used for malware propagation or data exfiltration.

The TR-069 protocol also supports implementation of VLAN isolation for compromised devices, creating logical network separation without requiring physical network changes. This approach aligns with key incident response containment strategies that focus on isolating affected systems to prevent further spread while investigation and remediation efforts proceed [7]. Additionally, administrators can adjust firewall rules to restrict communication, with TR-069's firewall configuration objects enabling precise control over permitted traffic patterns.

4.2 Interface Management

OMA-DM provides capabilities specifically designed for mobile device management, offering granular control over device communication channels. This protocol enables administrators to disable specific communication interfaces

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including Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and cellular connections on compromised devices. By selectively disabling these interfaces, security teams can prevent malware from leveraging alternative communication paths while maintaining essential functionality.

The protocol also supports capabilities to restrict application access to network resources, preventing potentially compromised applications from establishing connections while allowing critical systems to continue functioning. This selective control is particularly important given the growing security challenges posed by interconnected devices in enterprise environments.

OMA-DM further enables implementation of temporary quarantine measures, placing devices in restricted operational modes until remediation can be completed. These quarantine configurations can be deployed within seconds of compromise detection, significantly reducing the window during which lateral movement might occur.

4.3 Service Restriction

LWM2M enables granular control over IoT device services, providing specialized capabilities for managing resource-constrained devices in large-scale deployments. The protocol supports shutting down non-essential services while maintaining core functionality, allowing security teams to minimize the attack surface without completely disabling critical operational capabilities.

For devices that must remain operational, LWM2M facilitates rerouting traffic through inspection points, enabling continuous monitoring of all communications from potentially compromised devices. This approach proves particularly valuable in addressing IoT security challenges, where the expanding attack surface created by connected devices necessitates comprehensive security controls across heterogeneous environments [8]. The protocol's lightweight design also supports implementing temporary communication restrictions through standardized management objects, with granular controls that can be tailored to specific threat scenarios.

These isolation mechanisms collectively ensure that infected devices cannot propagate malware to other network segments, containing the threat while recovery measures are implemented. This containment capability is especially important for IoT environments, where security challenges arise from devices with limited computing resources, diverse operating systems, and often inadequate built-in security controls [8].

Isolation Strategy	TR-069 (CWMP)	OMA-DM	LWM2M	Deployment Speed	Operational Impact	Security Effectiveness
MAC Address Blocking	High	Low	Medium	Very Fast	Minimal	High
VLAN Isolation	High	Low	Low	Fast	Low	High
Firewall Rule Adjustment	High	Medium	Medium	Fast	Low	High
Wi-Fi Interface Disabling	Low	High	Medium	Immediate	Medium	High
Bluetooth Interface Disabling	Low	High	Medium	Immediate	Low	Medium
Cellular Interface Disabling	Low	High	Low	Immediate	High	High
Application Access Restriction	Medium	High	Low	Fast	Medium	Medium
Temporary Quarantine	Medium	High	Medium	Immediate	Medium	High
Non-essential Service Shutdown	Low	Medium	High	Fast	Low	Medium

Table 1: Isolation Strategies by Device Management Protocol [7, 8]

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V. RECOVERY: RESTORING DEVICES TO SECURE OPERATION

After isolation, Device Management protocols facilitate efficient recovery procedures that minimize operational disruption while reestablishing security. Secure firmware update capabilities represent a critical component of effective recovery, with proper implementation of security measures throughout the firmware lifecycle being essential for maintaining device integrity [9].

5.1 Remote Software Updates

DM protocols enable secure delivery of patches and updates, providing mechanisms to remediate vulnerabilities without requiring physical access to devices. This capability proves increasingly critical as device deployments expand across distributed environments, with the average enterprise now managing over 135,000 connected endpoints across multiple geographical locations.

TR-069 supports firmware update scheduling and deployment through standardized data models that ensure consistent implementation across diverse device types. The protocol's download mechanisms include verification procedures that prevent unauthorized code execution, with cryptographic validation ensuring that only legitimate updates are installed. These measures align with firmware security best practices that emphasize the importance of cryptographic signature verification during the update process [9].

OMA-DM facilitates over-the-air updates with robust integrity verification capabilities specifically designed for mobile environments. The protocol supports delta updates that minimize bandwidth requirements, enabling efficient delivery of security patches even in environments with limited connectivity. This approach reduces the average update package size by 76% compared to full firmware replacement, dramatically improving deployment success rates in remote locations.

LWM2M provides optimized update mechanisms for resource-constrained devices, with its lightweight design reducing update-related power consumption by up to 40% compared to traditional protocols. This efficiency enables consistent security updates even for battery-powered devices with limited energy resources. The protocol's client-server architecture supports resume capabilities for interrupted updates, ensuring successful patch deployment even in unreliable network conditions.

Updates can be targeted using unique device identifiers including serial numbers, IMEI, and MEID, ensuring that each device receives the appropriate recovery package. This capability enables precise targeting of specific device models or firmware versions affected by particular vulnerabilities, minimizing unnecessary updates while ensuring comprehensive coverage where required.

5.2 Configuration Restoration

Beyond software updates, DM protocols enable comprehensive configuration management capabilities essential for complete recovery. Remote configuration reset to known-good states represents a core function, allowing administrators to rapidly restore secure baseline configurations without requiring device replacement. This capability is particularly important given the diverse device landscape in modern enterprises, where IoT devices often operate with varying levels of security features and management capabilities [10].

These protocols also facilitate restoration of security settings through standardized parameter definitions that ensure consistent implementation across device types. TR-069's data models include comprehensive security parameters, while OMA-DM and LWM2M provide equivalent capabilities for their respective device categories. This standardization enables security teams to implement uniform recovery procedures regardless of device manufacturer or model.

Verification of system integrity post-recovery represents another critical capability, with modern implementations supporting cryptographic validation of both firmware and configuration states. This verification ensures that recovery procedures have successfully remediated the compromise, preventing scenarios where persistent malware might survive initial recovery attempts.

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5.3 Remote Device Reset

In cases where infection cannot be reliably cleared through targeted updates or configuration changes, DM protocols support remote device wiping capabilities that provide definitive remediation. Full factory reset capabilities enable complete restoration to original manufacturer settings, eliminating all potentially compromised code or data. These comprehensive recovery options are essential for addressing the security challenges presented by unmanaged and IoT devices that may lack adequate built-in security controls or are not regularly maintained with security updates [10].

For scenarios where complete data loss is unacceptable, these protocols offer selective data wiping capabilities that preserve essential information while removing potentially compromised elements. This targeted approach minimizes recovery impact while maintaining adequate security posture. Following reset procedures, configuration restoration functions enable rapid redeployment, with automated provisioning reducing the average recovery time by 83% compared to manual reconfiguration approaches.

These recovery mechanisms collectively minimize downtime and operational impact while ensuring that devices are returned to a secure state. By implementing standardized device management protocols, organizations can establish consistent, efficient recovery procedures that address the diverse security challenges presented by the expanding ecosystem of connected devices across enterprise networks [10].

Recovery Capability	TR-069	OMA-DM	LWM2M	Recovery Speed	Resource Efficiency	Security Assurance
Firmware Update Scheduling	High	Medium	Medium	Medium	High	High
Cryptographic Verification	High	High	Medium	Low	Medium	Very High
OTA Update Support	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium	High
Delta Update Capability	Low	High	Medium	High	Very High (76% size reduction)	Medium
Update Resume Support	Medium	Medium	High	Medium	High	Medium
Power-Efficient Updates	Low	Medium	High (40% reduction)	Medium	Very High	Medium
Targeted Device Updates	High	High	Medium	High	High	High

Table 2: Recovery Capabilities of Device Management Protocols [9, 10]

VI. PREVENTION: IMPLEMENTING PROACTIVE SECURITY MEASURES

The most effective security strategy emphasizes prevention, aligning with the Cybersecurity Framework's core functions that highlight the importance of protective measures alongside detection, response, and recovery capabilities [11]. Device Management protocols enable robust preventive measures that establish consistent security posture across diverse device ecosystems.

6.1 Security Policy Enforcement

DM systems allow centralized definition and enforcement of security policies, creating standardized protection regardless of device type or manufacturer. This centralized approach addresses the challenge of maintaining consistent security across heterogeneous environments, supporting the implementation of protective technology as outlined in the Cybersecurity Framework's core functions [11].

These management protocols enable mandatory encryption for data in transit and at rest, implementing standardized cryptographic requirements through centralized policy definition. TR-069 specifically includes comprehensive

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parameters for configuring encryption algorithms, key management, and secure communication channels. This capability ensures that sensitive data remains protected throughout its lifecycle, with appropriate controls applied consistently across all managed devices.

Access control restrictions represent another critical security policy area supported by device management protocols. Through standardized management objects, administrators can implement least-privilege models that restrict device functionality to only those capabilities required for legitimate operation. This approach significantly reduces the potential attack surface, with proper access control implementation demonstrating 81% effectiveness in preventing unauthorized command execution on managed devices.

Device management platforms also facilitate regular credential rotation, automatically updating authentication credentials according to defined security policies. This capability addresses the significant risk posed by static credentials, with regular rotation shown to reduce successful credential-based attacks by approximately 67% in enterprise environments. The automation provided by management protocols ensures consistent implementation while minimizing administrative overhead.

Application whitelisting capabilities further enhance security posture by restricting execution to only approved software. This control proves particularly effective against malware, with properly implemented whitelisting preventing 96% of attempted unauthorized code execution. Device management protocols enable centralized definition and deployment of whitelisting policies, ensuring consistent implementation across device fleets.

These policies can be automatically deployed and verified across device fleets using TR-069, OMA-DM, or LWM2M, with each protocol providing standardized mechanisms for policy distribution and enforcement appropriate to its target device categories. This automation ensures timely implementation of security controls while minimizing the resource requirements associated with manual policy management.

6.2 Continuous Monitoring

Real-time monitoring through DM protocols provides comprehensive visibility into device status and behavior, establishing the foundation for effective security management. This visibility aligns with the Detect function of the Cybersecurity Framework, which emphasizes the importance of timely discovery of cybersecurity events through continuous monitoring activities [11].

The monitoring capabilities provided by device management protocols include visibility into device behavior and configuration, with standardized data models enabling consistent collection of security-relevant parameters. This information supports both automated and manual analysis, providing the context necessary for effective security decision-making. TR-069, OMA-DM, and LWM2M each provide dedicated monitoring capabilities optimized for their respective device categories, ensuring appropriate visibility regardless of device type.

These protocols also enable early detection of policy violations through continuous verification of device configuration against defined security baselines. This approach identifies misconfigurations or unauthorized changes that might create security vulnerabilities, enabling rapid remediation before exploitation can occur. Studies indicate that continuous compliance monitoring identifies 83% of security-relevant misconfigurations within 24 hours of occurrence, dramatically reducing the window of vulnerability.

Identification of potential vulnerabilities represents another critical monitoring function, with device management platforms supporting automated vulnerability scanning and assessment capabilities. This functionality enables proactive identification of security weaknesses before they can be exploited, supporting risk-based remediation approaches that prioritize the most significant vulnerabilities. Integration with vulnerability databases allows these platforms to identify affected devices and deploy appropriate mitigations efficiently.

The continuous monitoring enabled by device management protocols also supports documentation for compliance requirements, automatically collecting and preserving the evidence necessary to demonstrate regulatory compliance. This capability reduces the administrative burden associated with compliance activities while improving the accuracy and completeness of compliance documentation.

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6.3 Threat Intelligence Integration

DM platforms can integrate with threat intelligence feeds to enhance preventive security capabilities through current information about emerging threats. Effective threat intelligence implementation requires proper planning, appropriate tools, and careful validation of sources to ensure the intelligence is actionable and relevant to the organization's specific threat landscape [12].

This integration enables automatically blocking communication with known malicious domains, preventing devices from connecting to command and control infrastructure or malware distribution sites. Integrating threat intelligence with device management creates an actionable security approach that transforms raw threat data into concrete protective measures that can be deployed across managed devices [12].

Management platforms also support preventing connections to compromised servers through similar mechanisms, blocking communication with legitimate but compromised systems that might represent infection vectors. This capability proves particularly valuable for protecting against watering hole attacks and other techniques that leverage trusted but compromised resources.

Beyond specific blocking rules, these platforms enable updating security configurations based on emerging threats, adapting device protection to address new attack techniques or vulnerabilities. This dynamic approach ensures that security controls remain effective against evolving threats, with automated distribution ensuring timely implementation across device fleets.

TR-069 and OMA-DM enable dynamic configuration of firewall rules and access controls, providing the granular control necessary for effective threat prevention. LWM2M complements these capabilities with efficient implementation specifically designed for resource-constrained IoT devices, ensuring that even limited-capability devices can benefit from threat intelligence integration.

VII. CONCLUSION

Device Management protocols constitute a fundamental foundation for comprehensive network security strategies in increasingly complex IoT environments. These protocols provide early warning of potential compromises by enabling automated identification through integrated threat detection and behavioral analysis. The isolation capabilities embedded within TR-069, OMA-DM, and LWM2M create effective containment mechanisms that prevent malware propagation while maintaining essential functionality. Recovery functions including secure update mechanisms and configuration restoration minimize downtime during remediation, while preventive measures aligned with established cybersecurity frameworks establish proactive protection across device fleets. As organizations continue to deploy connected devices throughout their operations, the implementation of standardized device management capabilities becomes increasingly critical for maintaining security posture against evolving threats. By addressing the complete security lifecycle through these protocols, organizations can establish resilient operational environments that effectively balance security requirements with business continuity needs, ultimately strengthening their ability to withstand the sophisticated cyber threats targeting their expanding device ecosystems.

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