

ATTRIBUTE-BASED ENCRYPTION APPROACH FOR STORAGE, SHARING AND RETRIEVAL OF ENCRYPTED DATA IN THE CLOUD

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ABSTRACT

One of the most cost-effective services in cloud computing is storage, used by businesses and individuals to outsource their massive data to untrusted servers. Efforts have studied problems around this application scenario in different fronts: efficiency, flexibility, reliability, and security. In this paper we address the security concerns of cloud storage under the scenario where users encrypt-then-outsource data, share their outsourced data with other users, and the service provider can be queried for searching and retrieval of encrypted data. As main distinctive, we propose a security approach for storage, sharing and retrieval of encrypted data in the cloud fully constructed on the basis of attribute-based encryption (ABE) thus enabling access control mechanisms over both the encrypted data and also for the information retrieval task through search access control. Compared to related works, our approach considers efficient encryption at three different levels:

i) bulk encryption of data outsourced to the cloud, ii) keys management for access control over encrypted data by means of digital envelopes from attribute based encryption, and iii) novel construction for attribute based searchable encryption (ABSE). Our underlying ABE algorithms are carefully selected from the body of knowledge and novel constructions for ABSE are provided over the asymmetric setting (Type-III pairings) to support security levels of 128-bits or greater. Experimental results on benchmark data sets demonstrate the viability of our approach for practical realizations using Barreto-Naehrig curves

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I. INTRODUCTION

MOTIVATION

Here's the motivation behind using ABE for storage, sharing, and retrieval of encrypted data in the cloud:

1. Fine-grained access control: ABE enables you to define access policies based on user attributes (e.g., job role, department, clearance level). This allows for more granular control over who can access the data.
2. Scalability: In cloud environments, where the number of users and data files can be very large, ABE provides a scalable solution for access control. Adding or removing users doesn't require re-encryption of the data.

3. Data sharing: ABE makes it easier to share data securely. The data is encrypted based on attributes, so anyone with the appropriate attributes can decrypt it. This simplifies the process of sharing data with different groups of users.
4. Data confidentiality: ABE ensures that data stored in the cloud remains confidential, even if the cloud provider is untrusted. Only users with the correct attributes can decrypt the data.
5. Flexibility: ABE supports dynamic access control policies. You can change the attributes associated with a user or the access policies associated with data without having to re-encrypt the data.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

The challenge lies in developing a secure and flexible Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE) system for cloud environments, where traditional access control methods struggle with scalability and complexity. This system must enable fine-grained access control based on user attributes, ensuring data confidentiality even with untrusted cloud providers. It should also efficiently handle a large number of users and data files, support dynamic access policy changes, and provide a secure key management mechanism, all while minimizing computational overhead to ensure efficient data storage, sharing, and retrieval.

OBJECTIVE

To design, implement, and evaluate an ABE-based system that provides secure and flexible access control for data stored in the cloud, enabling efficient storage, sharing, and retrieval while ensuring data confidentiality and scalability. This involves developing a system that allows data owners to define access policies based on user attributes, supports dynamic access control, and offers a secure key management mechanism, all while minimizing computational overhead and maximizing performance in a cloud environment.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE) offers a flexible way to manage access control for data stored in the cloud. It allows data owners to define access policies based on user attributes, rather than specific identities. This means that users can decrypt data if their attributes satisfy the policy defined by the data owner. This approach enhances security and simplifies key management because the encryption keys are derived from the attributes. This system is particularly useful for secure storage, sharing, and retrieval of encrypted data, offering a fine-grained access control that is essential in cloud environments.

EXISTING SYSTEM

A straightforward encryption approach to prevent DO's data disclosure and to keep DO's data private from CSP or from any other entity, causes the provider cannot manipulate data, that is, loss of utility appears as the encrypted data cannot be used by the CSP for retrieval/searching purposes. Due to that inconvenience, DUs should download large volume of encrypted data, decrypt, and then search over the plaintext data (locally), re-encrypt and upload again its data to the cloud. Of course, so one approach incurs in huge communications and computations overhead and is completely inefficient. Searchable encryption (SE) has been the most known approach to cope with the problem of searching over encrypted data stored in untrusted servers. SE is defined as the ability to identify and retrieve a set of objects from an encrypted collection that satisfy a query. In SE, the CSP executes DU's encrypted queries over encrypted data without decryption, so it does not learn anything about the data content, search criteria, nor search patterns.

DRAWBACKS

ABE's key challenges include complex key management, potentially high computational overhead for encryption and decryption, and difficulties in revoking user access. Scalability can also be an issue, and the size of the ciphertext can grow with the complexity of the access policies, which could affect

performance.

PROPOSED SYSTEM

We present a security approach for storing, sharing and retrieving of encrypted data in the cloud, fully constructed on the basis of attribute-based encryption (ABE). Our approach is well suited for a known cloud-based storage and sharing model, where DO uploads encrypted data to the cloud to ensure confidentiality (by means of symmetric data encryption) and establishes access control mechanisms for data sharing using attribute based encryption; DU can selectively locate specific documents using an index-based structure and retrieve documents of interest in encrypted form, without revealing any information to the CSP and under a fine-grained search control. Our proposed approach aims at meeting the following four requirements to enable practical storage, sharing and retrieval of encrypted data in the cloud:

R1 - DO can execute $E_{k1}(D)$ efficiently to provide confidentiality over outsourced data to the cloud at the same time that enables fine-grained data access control and secure distribution of $k1$ for DUs, thus enabling secure data sharing.

R2 - DUs can query $I_{k2}(W)$ (via the CSP) by computing and using $T_{k3}(wq)$ at the time that secure fine-grained search control is enabled.

R3 - DUs can ask the CSP to return the k -most relevant documents from the retrieval task results, ordered accordingly to their relevance to the query.

R4 - Both R1 and R2 comply with recommended security levels¹ (i.e. $\lambda \geq 128$ – bit).

We called our approach FABECS (Fully Attribute-Based Encryption scheme for Cloud Storage, Sharing and Retrieval) which fulfills requirements R1-R4. FABCS includes a novel Cipher-text policy ABSE (CP-ABSE) construction to achieve R2 and R3 requirements. At the same time, FABECS reuses the settings of ABSE (pairings and curve parameters) for the setup of DET-ABE which provides cryptographically enforced fine-grained access controls needed to meet requirement R1

ADVANTAGES

Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE) provides flexible access control based on user attributes, simplifying key management and enhancing security in cloud environments. It supports scalable data sharing and ensures only authorized users can access the data.

III. SYSTEM DESIGN

SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

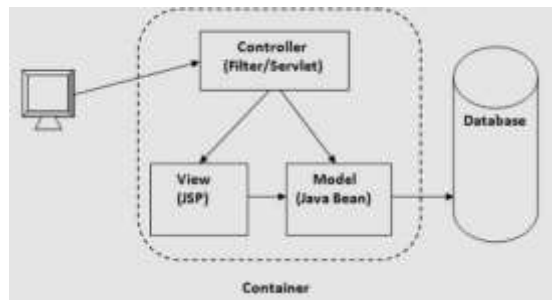


FIG: SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

IV. MODULE DESCRIPTION

DO (Data Owner)

- DO is fully trusted in the system model.
- DO encrypts the data set and creates the searchable index II.
- DO uses semantically secure ciphers for: Key management

- Encryption and decryption of documents Secure index generation
- It is assumed that DO can authenticate each actor in the system.
- It is assumed that there is a secure way for DU to generate and obtain encrypted queries (usually facilitated by DO).

DU (Data User)

- DU generates encrypted queries (trapdoors) securely.
- DU uses authenticated channels to interact with the system.
- DU relies on secure encryption mechanisms to maintain the privacy of their queries.
- DU is protected against the CSP learning the content of the queries and search results, apart from possible leakage from access patterns and statistical correlations.

CSP (Cloud Service Provider)

- CSP is the **adversary** in this model.
- CSP is assumed to have:
 - Access to encrypted data sets.
 - Access to the searchable index Π (known ciphertext model).
 - Modify or destroy stored data.

CSP can:

- Derive sensitive information based on search queries (trapdoors) and their correlation.
- Utilize statistical information about the data set (known background model).

CSP tries to compromise confidentiality by:

- Deriving information from stored documents, queries, and search outcomes.
- Forging existing access policies (generated by DO) to gain unauthorized access.

V. OUTPUT SCREENS



This screenshot shows the 'Data Owner Registration' form. The navigation bar at the top includes 'HOME', 'LOGIN', 'USER REGISTRATION', and 'DATA OWNER REGISTRATION', with the last one being the active page. The form fields on the left are: Name, User ID, E-Mail, Password, Date of Birth (with a calendar icon), Address, and Gender. To the right of the form is a 'Useful Links' section with four links: Home, Login, User Registration, and Data Owner Registration. A 'Register' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

This screenshot shows the 'User Registration Form'. The navigation bar at the top includes 'HOME', 'LOGIN', 'USER REGISTRATION', and 'DATA OWNER REGISTRATION', with 'USER REGISTRATION' being the active page. The form fields on the left are: Name, User ID, E-Mail, Password, Date of Birth (with a calendar icon), Address, and Gender. To the right of the form is a 'Useful Links' section with four links: Home, Login, User Registration, and Data Owner Registration. A 'Register' button is located at the bottom right of the form.

This screenshot shows the 'Login Here' form. The navigation bar at the top includes 'HOME', 'LOGIN', 'USER REGISTRATION', and 'DATA OWNER REGISTRATION', with 'LOGIN' being the active page. The form fields on the left are: Name (with the text 'jessica' entered) and Password (with the text 'jessica' entered). To the right of the form is a 'Useful Links' section with four links: Home, Login, User Registration, and Data Owner Registration. A 'Submit' button is located at the bottom right of the form.



HOME

LOGOUT

Welcome to ram

Enter Search Key:

Submit

Useful Links

[Home](#)

[Logout](#)

HOME

LOGOUT

Welcome to ram

File Name

Get File Key

File Owner

1.txt

1.txt

1.txt

HOME

LOGOUT

Welcome to ram

File Name:

Enter Key:

Submit

Useful Links

[Home](#)[Logout](#)

Database Tables

fileid	name	rank	key	title	keyword	cat	ownerid	isuploaded
1	1.tst	1	1t3j5xtD8	java	program	software	prasad	yes
4	4.jpg	4	4t3j5xtD8	java	image	software	prasad	no
5	5.docx	5	5t3j5xtD8	java	program	software	prasad	no
6	6.jpg	6	6t3j5xtD8	java	program	software	prasad	no
7	7.docx	7	7t3j5xtD8	java	program	software	prasad	no
8	8.tst	8	8t3j5xtD8	java	program	software	prasad	no
(Auto)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)	no

name	email	pass	role	age	sex	date	type	login
prasad	prasad@gmail.com	12345678	admin	30	M	2023-04-11 10:10:10	yes	yes
erinu	erinu@gmail.com	12345678	user	25	F	2023-04-11 10:10:10	yes	yes
erinu	erinu@gmail.com	12345678	user	25	F	2023-04-11 10:10:10	yes	yes
erinu	erinu@gmail.com	12345678	user	25	F	2023-04-11 10:10:10	yes	yes

id	name	user	filename	owner
1	1.tst	ram	1.tst	prasad
2	2.tst	ram	1.tst	prasad
3	3.tst	erinu	1.tst	prasad
4	4.tst	ram	6.tst	prasad
5	5.docx	ram	7.docx	prasad
6	6.jpg	ram	4.jpg	prasad
(Auto)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)

id	userid	filename	filekey	edit	view
1	ram	1.tst	1t3j5xtD8	yes	yes
2	erinu	1.tst	1t3j5xtD8	no	no
3	ram	7.docx	7t3j5xtD8	yes	yes
4	erinu	7.docx	7t3j5xtD8	no	no
5	ram	4.jpg	4t3j5xtD8	yes	yes
6	erinu	4.jpg	4t3j5xtD8	no	no
(Auto)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)	(NULL)

VI. CONCLUSION

We presented for the first time a secure scheme fully based on attribute-based encryption to ensure both, the confidentiality and access control over data outsourced (in encrypted form) by data owners to the cloud and the fine-grained search control for data users when retrieving encrypted data from the cloud; we called this scheme FABECS. Through a formal analysis and experimentation, we proved the correctness and efficacy of FABECS to be used for storing, sharing and retrieval of documents in a cloud based environment. Furthermore, we provided for the first time Type-III constructions for CP-ABSE and DET-ABE as main building blocks of FABECS. This setting allows using more efficient pairing-friendly curves to achieve recommended security levels, as minimum of 128-bits. These constructions were detailed and their efficacy proved by means of experimentation, over the LISA benchmark for the retrieval task. Further work is focused in the efficiency aspect, as the results presented in this paper did not consider acceleration strategies. For example, parallelization at several levels is possible, besides the scheme is

friendly enough to be deployed using parallel patterns such as the manager-worker (for processing a group of attributes at a time) or data encryption (AES on GPUs). Also, as FABECS can be realized with other efficient pairing friendly curves, experimental evaluation could consider the Barreto- Lynn-Scott Curve (BLS) that is also being promoted to be used in practical applications.

FUTURE SCOPE

1. **Adoption of Advanced Cryptographic Curves:**
Explore implementing FABECS using Barreto-Lynn-Scott (BLS) curves and other modern pairing-friendly curves for even stronger security and better performance.
2. **Integration with Blockchain:**
Combine FABECS with blockchain technology to create a tamper-proof audit trail for file access, sharing, and modification events. Support decentralized cloud storage environments with smart contracts for attribute-based access control.
3. **Enhanced Search Capabilities:**
Extend the search functionality from keyword-based search to semantic search using natural language processing (NLP) techniques. Implement fuzzy search capabilities to tolerate misspellings and partial matches during keyword queries.

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