

Secured Key-Aggregate Cryptosystem for Scalable Data Sharing in Cloud Storage

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Abstract— Cloud Computing has been envisioned as the next generation architecture of IT enterprise, due to its long list of unprecedented advantages in the IT history. Data sharing is an important functionality in cloud storage. In this paper, we show how to securely, efficiently, and flexibly share data with others in cloud storage. public-key cryptosystems that produce constant-size ciphertexts such that efficient delegation of decryption rights for any set of ciphertexts are possible. secret key holder can release a constant-size aggregate key for flexible choices of file formats in cloud storage, but the other encrypted files outside the set remain confidential. This compact aggregate key can be conveniently sent to others with very limited secure storage.

Index Terms— Cloud storage, data sharing, key-aggregate encryption.

Introduction

Cloud storage is gaining popularity recently. In enterprise settings, we see the rise in demand for

data outsourcing, which assists in the strategic management of corporate data. It is also used as a core technology behind many online services for personal applications. Nowadays, it is easy to apply for free accounts for email, photo album, file sharing and/or remote access, with storage size more than 25 GB (or a few dollars for more than 1 TB). Together with the current wireless technology, users can access almost all of their files and emails by a mobile phone in any corner of the world. Considering data privacy, a traditional way to ensure it is to rely on the server to enforce the access control after authentication (e.g., [1]), which means any unexpected privilege escalation will expose all data.

In a shared-tenancy cloud computing environment, things become even worse.

Data from different clients can be hosted on separate virtual

machines (VMs) but reside on a single physical machine. Data in a target VM could be stolen by instantiating another VM coresident with the target one [2]. Regarding availability of files, there are a series of cryptographic schemes which go as far as allowing a third-party auditor to check secret keys involved. Naturally, there are two extreme ways

I. User 1 encrypts all files with a single encryption key and gives user 2 the corresponding secret key directly. User 1 encrypts files with distinct keys and sends user 2 the corresponding secret keys. Obviously, the first method is inadequate since all unchosen data may be also leaked to user 2. For the second method, there are practical concerns on efficiency. The number of such keys is as many as the number of the shared photos,

II. say, a hundred. Transferring these secret keys inherently requires a secure channel, and storing these keys requires rather expensive secure storage. The costs and complexities involved generally increase with the number of the decryption keys to be shared. In short, it is very heavy and costly to do that. Encryption keys also come with two flavors—symmetric key or asymmetric (public) key. Using symmetric encryption, when Alice wants the data to be

cards, or wireless sensor nodes. Especially, these secret keys are usually stored in the tamper-proof memory, which is relatively expensive. The present research efforts mainly communication requirements (such as bandwidth, rounds of communication) like aggregate signature. However, not much has been done about the key itself.

Framework

A key-aggregate encryption scheme consists of five polynomial-time algorithms as follows.

The data owner establishes the public system parameter via Setup and generates a public/master-secret key pair via KeyGen. Messages can be encrypted via Encrypt by anyone who also decides what ciphertext class is associated with the plaintext message to be encrypted. The data owner can use the master-secret to generate an aggregate decryption key for a set of ciphertext classes via Extract. The generated keys can be passed to delegates securely (via secure e-mails or secure devices). Finally, any user with an aggregate key can decrypt any ciphertext provided that the ciphertext's class is contained in the aggregate key via Decrypt. Setup executed by the data owner to setup an account on an untrusted server. On input a security level parameter $1_$ and the number of ciphertext classes n (i.e., class index should be an integer bounded by 1 and n), it outputs the public system parameter $param$, which is omitted from the input of the other algorithms for brevity. KeyGen: executed by the data owner to randomly generate a public/master-secret key pair. Encrypt; i executed by anyone who wants to encrypt data. On input a public-key pk , an index i denoting the ciphertext class, and a message m , it outputs a ciphertext C . Extract executed by the data owner for delegating the decrypting power for a certain set of ciphertext classes to a delegatee. On input the master-secret key msk and a set S of indices corresponding to

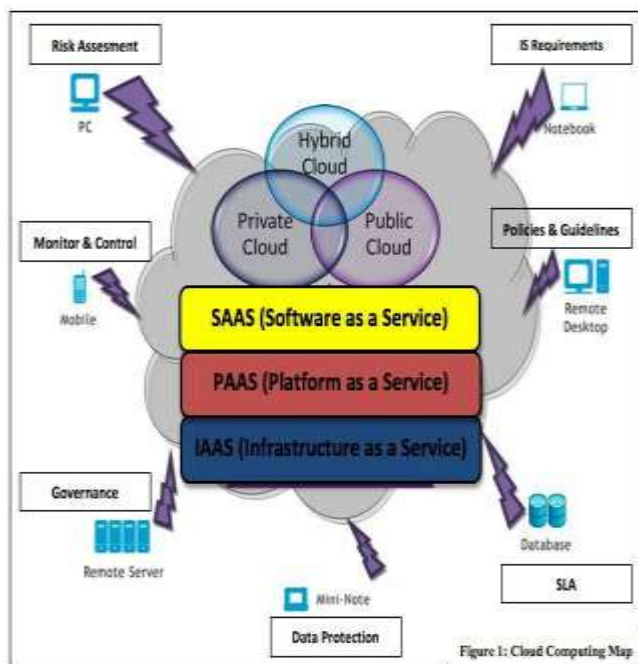


Figure 1: Cloud Computing Map

originated from a third party, she has to give the encryptor her secret key; obviously, this is not always desirable. By contrast, the encryption key and decryption key are different in public key encryption. The use of public-key encryption gives more flexibility for our applications. For example, in enterprise settings, every employee can upload encrypted data on the cloud storage server without the knowledge of the company's master-secret key. Therefore, the best solution for the above problem is that Alice encrypts files with distinct public-keys, but only sends Bob a single (constant-size) decryption key. Since the decryption key should be sent via a secure channel and kept secret, small key size is always desirable. For example, we cannot expect large storage for decryption keys in the resource-constrained devices like smart phones, smart

different classes, it outputs the aggregate key for set S denoted by KS . Decrypt they are executed by a delegatee who received an aggregate key KS generated by Extract. On input KS , the set S , an index i denoting the ciphertext class the ciphertext C belongs to, and C , it outputs the decrypted result.

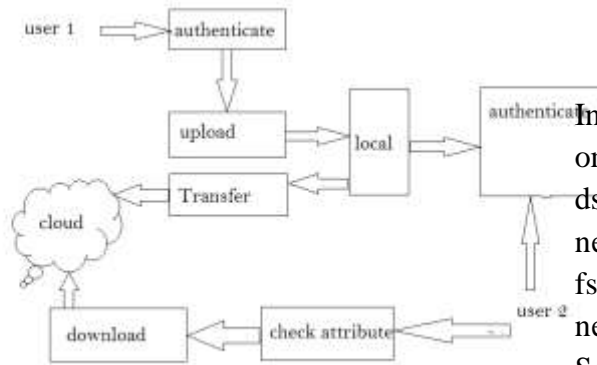
Sharing Encrypted Data

A canonical application of KAC is data sharing. The key aggregation property is especially useful when we expect the delegation to be efficient and flexible. The scheme enables a content provider to share her data in a confidential and selective way, with a fixed and small ciphertext expansion, by distributing to each authorized user a single and small aggregate key. Here, we describe the main idea of data sharing in cloud storage using KAC, illustrated in Figure 1. Suppose Alice wants to share her data m_1, m_2, \dots, m_n on the server. She first performs Setup to get $param$ and execute KeyGen to get the public/master-secret key pair. The system parameter $param$ and public-key pk can be made public and master-secret key msk should be kept secret by Alice. Anyone (including user 1 herself) can then encrypt each m_i by Encrypt. The encrypted data are uploaded to the server. With $param$ and pk , people who cooperate with Alice can update Alice's data on the server. Once Alice is willing to share a set S of her data with a friend Bob, she can compute the aggregate key KS for user 2 by performing Extract. Since KS is just a constant-size key, it is easy to be sent to user 2 via a secure e-mail. After obtaining the aggregate key, user 2 can download the data he is authorized to access. That is, for each i , user 2 downloads C_i (and some needed values in $param$) from the server. With the aggregate key KS , user 2 can decrypt each C_i by Decrypt for each i .

Compact Symmetric-Key Encryption

Motivated by the same problem of supporting flexible hierarchy in decryption power delegation (but in symmetric-key setting), Enaloh et al. [8] presented an encryption scheme which is originally proposed for concisely transmitting large number of keys in broadcast scenario. The construction is simple and we briefly review its key derivation process here for a concrete description of what are the desirable properties we want to achieve. The derivation of the key for a set of classes (which is a subset of all possible ciphertext classes) is as follows: A composite modulus $N = p \cdot q$ is chosen where p and q are two large random primes. A master-secret key Y is chosen at random from \mathbb{Z}_N . Each class is associated with a distinct prime. All these prime numbers can be put in the public system parameter. A constant-size key for set S can be generated as a concrete example, a key for classes represented by $\{c_1, c_2, \dots, c_n\}$ can be generated as, from which each c_i can easily be derived (while providing no information about keys for any other class, say, c_4). This approach achieves similar properties and performances as our schemes. However, it is designed for the symmetric-key setting instead. The encryptor needs to get the corresponding secret keys to encrypt data, which is not suitable for many applications. Since their method is used to generate a secret value rather than a pair of public/secret keys, it is unclear how to apply this idea for public key encryption scheme. Finally, we note that there are schemes which try to reduce the key size for achieving authentication in symmetric-key.

Network security



User 1 will be authenticated and files will be uploaded to the local server and from local server files will be transferred to the cloud storage. Receivers i.e., user 2 will be authenticated through local server, their attributes are checked and files are downloaded from the cloud storages.

SECURITY ISSUES

While cost and ease of use are two great benefits of cloud computing, there is a significant security concern that must be taken into consideration while moving data across the network. Cloud computing utilizes three delivery models: SaaS, PaaS, and IaaS, which provide infrastructure resources, application platform, and software as a service to the consumer. IaaS is the foundation of all cloud services, with PaaS built upon it and SaaS in turn built upon it. Just as capabilities are inherited, so are the information security issues and risks. There is a significant trade-off for each model in terms of integrated features, complexity vs. extensibility, and security. If the cloud service provider takes care of only these security at the lower part of the security architecture, the consumer becomes more responsible for implementing and managing these security capabilities. Security issues in different cloud service models exist.

The following key security elements should be carefully considered as an integral part of the SaaS application development and deployment process:

- Data security
- Network security
- Data locality
- Backup
- Data Breaches
- Identity management and sign-on process.

In a SaaS deployment model, sensitive data is obtained from the enterprises, processed by the SaaS application and stored at the SaaS vendor end. All data flow over the network needs to be secured in order to prevent leakage of sensitive information. This involves the use of strong network traffic encryption techniques such as Secure Socket Layer (SSL) and the Transport Layer Security (TLS) for security. However, malicious users can exploit weaknesses in network security configuration to sniff network packets. The following assessments stand to validate the network security of the SaaS vendor:

- Network penetration and packet analysis
- Session management weaknesses
- Insecure SSL trust configuration.

Datalocality

In a SaaS model of a cloud environment, the consumer uses the applications provided by the SaaS and processes their business data. But in this scenario, the customer does not know where the data is getting stored. In many cases, this can be an issue. Due to compliance and data privacy laws in various countries, locality of data is of utmost importance in many enterprise architectures [10]. For example, in many EU and South America countries, certain types of data cannot leave the country because of potentially sensitive information. In addition to the issue of local laws, there is also the question of whose jurisdiction the data falls under, when an investigation occurs. A secure SaaS model must be capable of providing reliability to the customer on the location of the data of the consumer.

Backup

The SaaS vendor needs to ensure that all sensitive enterprise data is regularly backed up to facilitate quick recovery in case of disasters. Also the use of strong encryption schemes to protect the backup data is recommended to prevent accidental leakage of sensitive information. In the case of cloud vendors such as Amazon, the data at rest in S3 is not encrypted by default. The users need to

parately encrypt their data and backups so that it cannot be accessed or tampered with by unauthorized parties.

Data Breaches

Since data from various users and business organizations together in a cloud environment, breaching into the cloud environment will potentially attack the data of all the users. Thus the cloud becomes a high value target [11]. In the Verizon Business breach report, it has been stated that external criminals pose the greatest threat (73%), but achieve the least impact (30,000 compromised records), resulting in a Pseudo Risk Score of 67,500. Insiders pose the least threat (18%), and achieve the greatest impact (375,000 compromised records), resulting in a Pseudo Risk Score of 67,500. Partners are middle in both (73.39% and 187,500) resulting in a Pseudo Risk Score of 73,125. Though SaaS advocates claim that SaaS providers can provide better security to customers' data than by conventional means, Insiders still have access to the data but it is just that they are accessing it in a different way. Insiders do not have direct access to databases, but it does not reduce the risk of insider breaches which can be a massive impact on these security. The SaaS providers' employees have access to a lot more information and a single incident could expose information from many customers. SaaS providers must be compliant with PCIDSS (Payment Card Industry — Data Security Standards) [12] in order to host merchant sites that must comply with PCIDSS.

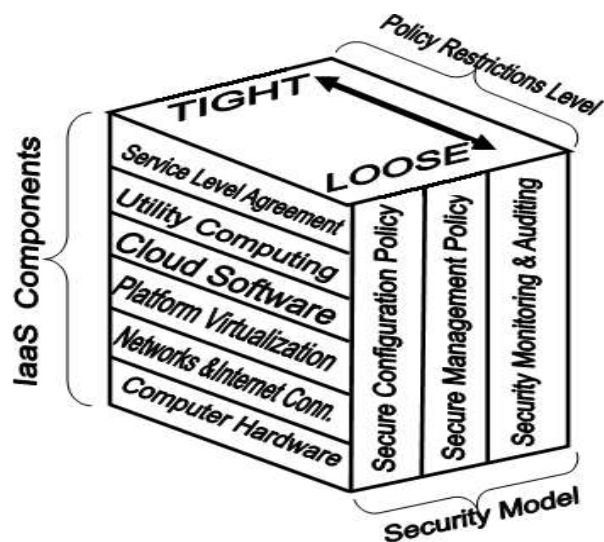


Fig 3: security model in IAAS

CONCLUSION

How to protect users' data privacy is a central question of cloud storage. With more mathematical tools, cryptographic schemes are getting more versatile and often involve multiple keys for a single application. In this paper, we consider how to "compress" secret keys in public-key cryptosystems which support delegation of secret keys for different ciphertext classes in cloud storage. No matter which one among the power set of classes, the delegatee can always get an aggregate key of constant size. Our approach is more flexible than hierarchical key assignment which can only save spaces if all key-holders share a similar set of privileges.

FUTURE ENHANCEMENT

A limitation in our work is the predefined bound of the number of maximum ciphertext classes. In cloud storage, the number of ciphertexts usually grows rapidly. So we have to reserve enough ciphertext classes for the future extension. Otherwise, we need to expand the public-key as we described. Although the parameter can be downloaded with ciphertexts, it would be better if its size is independent of the maximum number of ciphertext classes. On the other hand, when one carries the delegated keys around in a mobile device without using special trusted hardware, the key is prompt to leakage, designing a leakage resilient cryptosystem yet allows

efficient and flexible key delegation is also an interesting direction

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