

Fine grained Access Control using Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE) Technique in Cloud Computing

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ABSTRACT

With the popularity of cloud computing, mobile devices can store/retrieve personal data from anywhere at any time. Consequently, the data security problem in mobile cloud becomes more and more severe and prevents further development of mobile cloud. It adopts CP-ABE, an access control technology used in normal cloud environment, but changes the structure of access control tree to make it suitable for mobile cloud environments. LDSS moves a large portion of the computational intensive access control tree transformation in CP-ABE from mobile devices to external proxy servers. Furthermore, to reduce the user revocation cost, it introduces attribute description fields to implement lazy-revocation, which is a thorny issue in program based CP-ABE systems. To guarantee confidentiality and proper access control of outsourced sensitive data, classical encryption techniques are used. However, such access control schemes are not feasible in cloud computing because of their lack of flexibility, scalability, and fine-grained access control. Instead, Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE) techniques are used in the cloud. This paper extensively surveys all ABE schemes and creates a comparison table for the key criteria for these schemes in cloud applications.

Keywords: Attribute-Based Encryption, Cloud Computing, Fine-Grained Access

I. INTRODUCTION

of users to store sensitive data on third party servers, either for cost saving or for simplicity of sharing. Cloud computing is now considered the fifth utility after gas, water, electricity, and telephony.

Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE) is newly invented public key cryptographic technique Cloud computing is becoming ubiquitous as it offers fast and efficient on-demand services for storage, network, hardware, and software through the internet. Cloud computing offers new facilities to enterprises, companies, and the general public, and provides lowcost computing infrastructure for IT-based solutions. Cloud computing is not new; organizations such as universities, research laboratories, and the military in developed countries have long used networks for communication, but the term cloud is more recent.

Cloud computing is being increasingly offered on the web as web technology has become faster and more complex. It is now used by a large number that works in a oneto-many fashion and is also called fuzzy encryption. Public key encryption methods store encrypted data on third party servers, while distributing decryption keys to authorized users. However, there are many drawbacks to this. First, it is difficult to efficiently manage the distribution of secret keys to authorized users. Second, there is a lack of flexibility and scalability. Third, data owners must be online whenever encrypting or re-encrypting data, or distributing the secret keys. ABE minimizes the above limitations by reducing the communication overhead of the internet and increasing scalability, flexibility, and fine-grained access control for large scale systems.

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