

Protected Data Sharing scheme with Multi-Ownership for Non Static Groups in the Cloud

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Abstract— Cloud computing offers an economical and efficient solution for sharing group resources among cloud users i.e. the individual can now run the application from anywhere in the world, as the server provides the processing power to the application and the server is also connected to a network via Internet or other connection platforms to be accessed from anywhere and with the character of low maintenance. But, due to frequent change of the membership, sharing data provided with multi-ownership, while protecting data and identity privacy of users from an untrusted cloud is a challenging issue. To overcome this problem a protected multi-owner data sharing scheme will be proposed for non-static groups in the cloud. By leveraging group signature and dynamic broadcast encryption techniques, any cloud user can anonymously share data with others without revealing identity to untrusted cloud and the data owner will be given with the option of traceability to reveal the identity of any user at time of disputes. In the interim, the storage overhead and encryption computation cost of the proposed scheme are independent with the number of revoked users.

Keywords— Cloud Computing, Data Sharing, Access Control, Non Static groups, Group Signature, Dynamic Broadcast Encryption.

INTRODUCTION

Cloud computing is recognized as best alternative to traditional information technology [1] due to its resource sharing and low-maintenance characteristics. In cloud computing, the cloud service providers, such as Amazon, are able to deliver various services to cloud users with the help of powerful datacenters. By migrating from local data management systems into cloud servers, users can enjoy high-quality services and save significant investments on their local infrastructures.

One of the most fundamental services offered by cloud providers is data storage. However, it also poses a significant risk to the confidentiality of the stored files. Specifically, the cloud servers managed by cloud providers are not fully trusted by users while the data files stored in the cloud may be sensitive and confidential, such as business plans. To preserve data privacy, a basic solution is to encrypt data files, and then upload the encrypted data into the cloud [2]. Unfortunately, designing an efficient and secure data sharing scheme for groups in the cloud is not an easy task due to the following challenging issues.

First, identity privacy is one of the most significant obstacles for the wide deployment of cloud computing.

Without the guarantee of identity privacy, users may be unwilling to join in cloud computing systems because their real identities could be easily disclosed to cloud providers and attackers. On the other hand, unconditional identity privacy may incur the abuse of privacy. For example, a misbehaved staff can deceive others in the company by sharing false files without being traceable. Therefore, traceability, which enables the group manager (e.g., a company manager) to reveal the real identity of a user, is also highly desirable.

Second, it is highly recommended that any member in a group should be able to fully enjoy the data storing and sharing services provided by the cloud, which is defined as the multiple-owner manner. Compared with the single-owner manner [3], multiple-owner manner is more flexible in practical applications. More concretely, each user in the group is able to not only read data, but also modify his/ her part of data in the entire data file shared by the company.

Lastly groups are normally dynamic in practice, e.g., new staff participation and current employee revocation in a company. The changes of membership make secure data sharing extremely difficult. On one hand, the anonymous system challenges new granted users to learn the content of data files stored before their participation, because it is impossible for new granted users to contact with anonymous data owners, and obtain the corresponding decryption keys. On the other hand, an efficient membership revocation mechanism without updating the secret keys of the remaining users is also desired to minimize the complexity of key management.

Several security schemes for data sharing on untrusted servers have been proposed [4-6]. In these approaches, data owners store the encrypted data files in untrusted storage and distribute the corresponding decryption keys only to authorized users. Thus, unauthorized users as well as storage servers cannot learn the content of the data files because they have no knowledge of the decryption keys. However, the complexities of user participation and revocation in these schemes are linearly increasing with the number of data owners and the number of revoked users, respectively. By setting a group with a single attribute, Lu et al. [7] proposed a secure provenance scheme based on the ciphertext policy attribute-based encryption technique [8], which allows any member in a group to share data with others. However, the issue of user revocation is not

addressed in their scheme. Yu et al. [3] presented a scalable and fine-grained data access control scheme in cloud computing based on the key policy attribute-based encryption (KP-ABE) technique [9]. Unfortunately, the single-owner manner hinders the adoption of their scheme into the case, where any user is granted to store and share data.

To solve the challenges presented above, we propose a Protected Data Sharing scheme with Multi-Ownership for Non-Static Groups in the Cloud.

The main contributions of this paper include:

1. We propose a Secure Multi-ownership system for Data Sharing in Non-Static Groups in the Cloud. It implies that any user in the group can securely share data with others by the cloud.
2. Our proposed scheme is able to support dynamic groups efficiently. Specifically, new granted users can directly decrypt data files uploaded before their participation without contacting with data owners. User revocation can be easily achieved through a novel revocation list without updating the secret keys of the remaining users. The size and computation overhead of encryption are constant and independent with the number of revoked users.
3. We provide secure and privacy-preserving access control to users, which guarantees any member in a group to anonymously utilize the cloud resource. Moreover, the real identities of data owners can be revealed by the group manager when disputes occur.
4. We provide rigorous security analysis, and perform extensive simulations to demonstrate the efficiency of our scheme in terms of storage and computation overhead.

I. RELATED WORK

In [5], files stored on the untrusted server include two parts: file metadata and file data. The file metadata implies the access control information including a series of encrypted key blocks, each of which is encrypted under the public key of authorized users. Thus, the size of the file metadata is proportional to the number of authorized users. The user revocation in the scheme is an intractable issue especially for large-scale sharing, since the file metadata needs to be updated. In their extension version, the NNL construction [10] is used for efficient key revocation. However, when a new user joins the group, the private key of each user in an NNL system needs to be recomputed, which may limit the application for dynamic groups. Another concern is that the computation overhead of encryption linearly increases with the sharing scale.

In [4], Kallahalla et al. proposed a cryptographic storage system that enables secure file sharing on untrusted servers, named Plutus. By dividing files into filegroups and encrypting each filegroup with a unique file-block key, the data owner can share the filegroups with others through delivering the corresponding lockbox key, where the lockbox key is used to encrypt the file-block keys. However, it brings about a heavy key distribution overhead for large-scale file sharing. Additionally, the file-block key

needs to be updated and distributed again for a user revocation.

Ateniese et al. [6] leveraged proxy re encryptions to secure distributed storage. Specifically, the data owner encrypts blocks of content with unique and symmetric content keys, which are further encrypted under a master public key. For access control, the server uses proxy cryptography to directly re encrypt the appropriate content key(s) from the master public key to a granted user's public key. Unfortunately, a collusion attack between the untrusted server and any revoked malicious user can be launched, which enables them to learn the decryption keys of all the encrypted blocks.

Lu et al. [7] proposed a secure provenance scheme, which is built upon group signatures and ciphertext-policy attribute-based encryption techniques. Particularly, the system in their scheme is set with a single attribute. Each user obtains two keys after the registration: a group signature key and an attribute key. Thus, any user is able to encrypt a data file using attribute-based encryption and others in the group can decrypt the encrypted data using their attribute keys. Meanwhile, the user signs encrypted data with her group signature key for privacy preserving and traceability. However, user revocation is not supported in their scheme.

In [3], Yu et al. presented a scalable and fine-grained data access control scheme in cloud computing based on the KP-ABE technique. The data owner uses a random key to encrypt a file, where the random key is further encrypted with a set of attributes using KP-ABE. Then, the group manager assigns an access structure and the corresponding secret key to authorized users, such that a user can only decrypt a ciphertext if and only if the data file attributes satisfy the access structure. To achieve user revocation, the manager delegates tasks of data file re encryption and user secret key update to cloud servers. However, the single-owner manner may hinder the implementation of applications with the scenario, where any member in a group should be allowed to store and share data files with others.

From the above analysis, we can observe that secure sharing of data files in a multiple-owner manner for dynamic groups while preserving identity privacy from an untrusted cloud remains to be a challenging issue. In this paper, we propose a novel protocol A Protected Data Sharing scheme with Multi-Ownership for Non-Static Groups in the Cloud for secure data sharing in cloud computing. Compared with the existing works, the system offers unique features as follows:

1. Any user in the group can store and share data files with others by the cloud.
2. The encryption complexity and size of ciphertexts are independent with the number of revoked users in the system.
3. User revocation can be achieved without updating the private keys of the remaining users.
4. A new user can directly decrypt the files stored in the cloud before his participation

Motivated by the verifiable reply mechanism in, to guarantee that users obtain the latest version of the revocation list, we let the group manager update the revocation list each day even no user has being revoked in the day. In other words, the others can verify the freshness of the revocation list from the contained current date t_{RL} . In addition, the revocation list is bounded by a signature $sig(RL)$ to declare its validity. The signature is generated by the group manager with the BLS signature algorithm. Finally, the group manager migrates the revocation list into the cloud for public usage.

File Generation

To store and share a data file in the cloud, a group member performs the following operations:

1. Getting the revocation list from the cloud. In this step, the member sends the group identity ID_{group} as a request to the cloud. Then, the cloud responds the revocation list RL to the member.
2. Verifying the validity of the received revocation list. First, checking whether the marked date is fresh. Second, verifying the contained signature $sig(RL)$. If the revocation list is invalid, the data owner stops this scheme.
3. Encrypting the data file M . This encryption process can be divided into two cases according to the revocation list.
 - Case 1. There is no revoked user in the revocation list.
 - Case 2. There are r revoked users in the revocation list.
4. Selecting a random number T and computing $f(T)$. The hash value will be used for data file deletion operation.
5. Constructing the uploaded data file as shown in table 2.

Uploading the data shown in Table 2 into the cloud server and adding the ID_{data} into the local shared data list maintained by the manager. On receiving the data, the cloud first invokes Algorithm 2 to check its validity. If the algorithm returns true, the group signature is valid; otherwise, the cloud abandons the data. In addition, if several users have been revoked by the group manager, the cloud also performs revocation verification by using Algorithm 3.

TABLE 2. MESSAGE FORMAT FOR UPLOADING DATA

Group ID	Data ID	Ciphertext	Hash	Time	Signature
ID_{group}	ID_{data}	C_1, C_2, C	$f(\tau)$	t_{data}	σ

Finally, the data file will be stored in the cloud after successful group signature and revocation verifications.

File Deletion

File stored in the cloud can be deleted by either the group manager or the data owner (i.e., the member who uploaded the file into the server). To delete a file ID_{data} , the group manager computes a signature $\gamma_1(ID_{data})$ and sends the

signature along with ID_{data} to the cloud. The cloud will delete the file if the equation $e(\gamma_1(ID_{data}), P) = e(W, \gamma_1(ID_{data}))$ holds.

Algorithm (1). Signature generation

Input: private key (A, x) , system parameter (P, U, V, H, W) and data M .

Output: generate a valid group signature on M .

Begin

Select random numbers $\alpha, \beta, \gamma_\alpha, \gamma_\beta, \gamma_x, \gamma_{\delta_1}, \gamma_{\delta_2} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$

Set $\delta_1 = x\alpha$ and $\delta_2 = x\beta$

Computes the following values

$$T_1 = \alpha \cdot U$$

$$T_2 = \beta \cdot V$$

$$T_3 = A_i + (\alpha + \beta) \cdot H$$

$$R_1 = \gamma_\alpha \cdot U$$

$$R_2 = \gamma_\beta \cdot V$$

$$R_3 = e(T_3, P)^{rx} e(H, W)^{-\gamma_\alpha - \gamma_\beta} e(H, P)^{-\gamma_{\delta_1} - \gamma_{\delta_2}}$$

$$R_4 = \gamma_x \cdot T_1 - \gamma_{\delta_1} \cdot U$$

$$R_5 = \gamma_x \cdot T_2 - \gamma_{\delta_2} \cdot V$$

Set $c = f(M, T_1, T_2, T_3, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5)$

Construct the following numbers

$$S_\alpha = \gamma_\alpha + c\alpha$$

$$S_\beta = \gamma_\beta + c\beta$$

$$S_x = \gamma_x + cx$$

$$S_{\delta_1} = \gamma_{\delta_1} + c\delta_1$$

$$S_{\delta_2} = \gamma_{\delta_2} + c\delta_2$$

Return $\sigma = (T_1, T_2, T_3, c, S_\alpha, S_\beta, S_x, S_{\delta_1}, S_{\delta_2})$

End

Algorithm (2). Signature Verification

Input: system parameter (P, U, V, H, W) , M and a signature $\sigma = (T_1, T_2, T_3, c, S_\alpha, S_\beta, S_x, S_{\delta_1}, S_{\delta_2})$

Output: True or False.

Begin

Compute the following values

$$R_1 = S_\alpha \cdot U - c \cdot T_1$$

$$R_2 = S_\beta \cdot V - c \cdot T_2$$

$$R_3 = (e(T_3, W) / e(P, P))^c e(T_3, P)^{S_x} e(H, W)^{-S_\alpha - S_\beta} e(H, P)^{-S_{\delta_1} - S_{\delta_2}}$$

$$R_4 = S_x \cdot T_1 - S_{\delta_1} \cdot U$$

$$R_5 = S_x \cdot T_2 - S_{\delta_2} \cdot V$$

If $c = f(M, T_1, T_2, T_3, R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5)$

Return True

Else

Return False

End

Algorithm (3). Revocation Verification

Input: system parameter (H_0, H_1, H_2) , a group signature σ , and a set of revocation keys A_1, \dots, A_r

Output: Valid or Invalid.

Begin

Set $temp = e(T_1, H_1) e(T_2, H_2)$

For $i = 1$ to n

If $e(T_3 - A_i, H_0) = temp$

Return Valid

End if

End for

Return Invalid

end

In addition, proposed system also allows data owners to delete their files stored in the cloud.

File Access

To learn the content of a shared file, a member does the following actions:

1. Getting the data file and the details of revocation list from the cloud server.
2. Checking the validity of the revocation list. This operation is similar to the step 2 of file generation phase.
3. Validity verification of the file and decrypting it. The format of the downloaded file coincides with that given in Table 2. The operation can be divided further into three cases according to time stamp t_{data} and revocation list details. If there are r revoked users in the list.

Case 1($t_{data} < t_1$): There is no revoked user before the file is uploaded.

- Invoke algorithm 2 to check the group signature σ . If algorithm returns false, user will stop this protocol.
- Using his Partial private key (A, B) to compute $\hat{K} = e(C_1, A)e(C_2, B)$.
- Decrypting ciphertext C with the computed key \hat{K} .

Case 2($t_i < t_{data} < t_{i+1}$): Indicates that i revoked users have been revoked before the data file is been uploaded to the storage.

- Verifying group signature σ by algorithm 2.
- Input A_1, A_2, \dots, A_i to call algorithm 3. If it returns invalid, user terminates this operation.
- Computes value $A_{i,r}$ by using algorithm 4 with input $(A, x), (P_1, x_1), \dots, (P_i, x_i)$.
- Calculating the decryption key $\hat{K} = e(C_1, A_{i,r})e(C_2, B)$.
- Decrypt the ciphertext C with key \hat{K} .

Case 3($t_r < t_{data}$): Indicates that r revoked users have been revoked before data file is been uploaded.

- Verifying group signature σ by algorithm 2.
- Input A_1, A_2, \dots, A_i to call algorithm 3. If it returns invalid, user terminates this operation.
- Computes value $A_{r,r}$ by using algorithm 4 with input $(A, x), (P_1, x_1), \dots, (P_r, x_r)$.
- Calculating the decryption key $\hat{K} = e(C_1, A_{r,r})e(C_2, B)$.
- Decrypt the ciphertext C with key \hat{K} .

Traceability

When a data dispute occurs, the tracing operation is performed by the group manager to identify the real identity of the data owner. Given a signature, the group manager employs his private key to compute A_i . Given the parameter A_i , the group manager can look up the user list to find the corresponding identity.

Algorithm (4). Parameters Computing

Input: The revoked user parameters $(P_1, x_1), \dots, (P_\gamma, x_\gamma)$, and the private key (A, x) .

Output: $A_{\gamma, \gamma}$ or NULL

Begin

Set $temp = A$

For $\lambda = 1$ to γ

If $x = x_\lambda$

return NULL

else

set $temp = 1/(x - x_\lambda) * (P_\lambda - temp)$

return $temp$

end

By the analysis above, we conclude that the proposed scheme Protected Data Sharing scheme with Multi-Ownership for Non Static Groups in the Cloud achieves the security goals including access control, data confidentiality as well as anonymity and traceability.

V. PROPOSED SCHEME

In this section, we first analyse the storage cost of proposed scheme, without loss of generality, we set $q=160$ and the elements in G_1 and G_2 to be 161 and 1,024 bit, respectively. In addition, we assume the size of the data identity is 16 bits, which yield a group capacity of 2^{16} data files. Similarly, the size of user and group identity are also set as 16 bits.

Group manager: In Proposed scheme, the master private key of the group manager is $(G, \gamma, \xi_1, \xi_2) \in G_1 \times Z_q^3$. Additionally, the user list and the shared data list should be stored at the group manager. Considering an actual system with 200 users and assuming that each user share 50 files in average, the total storage of the group manager is $(80.125 + 42.125 * 200 + 2 * 10000) * 10^{-3} \approx 28.5$ Kbytes, which is very acceptable.

Group members: Essentially, each user in our scheme only needs to store its private key $(A_i, B_i, x_i) \in G_1^2 \times Z_q$, which is about 60 bytes. It is worth noting that there is a tradeoff between the storage and the computation overhead.

The extra storage overhead in the cloud: In Proposed scheme, the format of files stored in the cloud is shown in Table 2. Since C_3 is the ciphertext of the file under the symmetrical encryption, the extra storage overhead to store the file is about 248 bytes.

VI. SIMULATION METHODOLOGY

To study the performance, we will simulate proposed scheme by using JAVA programming language with windows 7 operating system and MYSQL database. The simulation consists of three components: client side, manager side as well as cloud side. Both client-side and manager-side processes will be conducted on a system and the cloud-side process will be implemented on another system that is equipped with core Pentium IV 2.4 GHz.

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we design A Protected Data Sharing scheme with Multi-Ownership for Non Static Groups in the Cloud. In this system, a user is able to share data with others in the group without revealing identity privacy to the cloud. Additionally, it supports efficient user revocation and new user joining. More specially, efficient user revocation can be achieved through a public revocation list without updating the private keys of the remaining users, and new users can directly decrypt files stored in the cloud before their participation. Moreover, the storage overhead and the encryption computation cost are constant satisfying the desired security requirements and guarantees efficiency as well.

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