SECURE MILTARY COMMUNICATION USING DATA RETRIVAL

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Abstract—

Mobile nodes in military environments such as a battlefield or a hostile region are likely to suffer from intermittent network connectivity and frequent partitions. Disruption-tolerant network (DTN) technologies are becoming successful solutions that allow wireless devices carried by soldiers to communicate with each other and access the confidential information or com- mand reliably by exploiting external storage nodes. Some of the most challenging issues in this scenario are the enforcement of authorization policies and the policies update for secure data retrieval. Ciphertext-policy attribute-based encryption (CP-ABE) is a promising cryptographic solution to the access control issues. However, the problem of applying CP-ABE in decentralized DTNs introduces several security and privacy challenges with regard to the attribute revocation, key escrow, and coordination of attributes issued from different authorities. In this paper, using the secure data retrival we give trusted key for each military groups, trusted key means if the sender give the request means and the receiver automtically receiving the trusted key using the trusted key we secure the military communication.

Index Terms—Access control, attribute-based encryption (ABE), disruption-tolerant network (DTN), multiauthority, secure data retrieval.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In many military network scenarios, connections of wire- less devices carried by soldiers may be temporarily dis- connected by jamming, environmental factors, and mobility, especially when they operate in hostile environments. Disrup- tion-tolerant network (DTN) technologies are becoming suc- cessful solutions that allow nodes to communicate with each other in these extreme networking environments [1]–[3]. Typically, when there is no end-to-end connection between a source and a destination pair, the messages from the source node may need to wait in the intermediate nodes for a substantial amount

of time until the connection would be eventually established

.

Roy [4] and Chuah [5] introduced storage nodes in DTNs where data is stored or replicated such that only authorized mo- bile nodes can access the necessary information quickly and efficiently.

Many military applications require increased pro-tection of confidential data including access control methods that are cryptographically enforced [6], [7]. In many cases, it is desirable to provide differentiated access services such that data access policies are defined over user attributes or roles, which are managed by the key authorities. For example, in a disruption-tolerant military network, a commander may store a confidential information at a storage node, which should be accessed by members of "Battalion 1" who are participating in "Region 2." In this case, it is a reasonable assumption that multiple key authorities are likely to manage their own dynamic attributes for soldiers in their deployed regions or echelons, which could be frequently changed (e.g., the attribute representing current location of moving soldiers) [4], [8], [9]. We refer to this DTN architecture where multiple authorities issue and manage their own attribute keys independently as a decentralized DTN [10].

The concept of attribute-based encryption (ABE) [11]–[14] is a promising approach that fulfills the requirements for se- cure data retrieval in DTNs. ABE features a mechanism that enables an access control over encrypted data using access policies and ascribed attributes among private keys and ciphertexts. Especially, ciphertext-policy ABE (CP-ABE)

provides a scal- able way of encrypting data such that the encryptor defines the attribute set that the decryptor needs to possess in order to de- crypt the ciphertext [13]. Thus, different users are allowed to decrypt different pieces of data per the security policy.

However, the problem of applying the ABE to DTNs intro- duces several security and privacy challenges. Since some users may change their associated attributes at some point (for ex- ample, moving their region), or some private keys might be compromised, key revocation (or update) for each attribute is necessary in order to make systems secure. However, this issue is even more difficult, especially in ABE systems, since each at- tribute is conceivably shared by multiple users (henceforth, we refer to such a collection of users as an attribute group). This implies that revocation of any attribute or any single user in an attribute group would affect the other users in the group. For ex- ample, if a user joins or leaves an attribute group, the associated attribute key should be changed and redistributed to all the other members in the same group for backward or forward secrecy. It may result in bottleneck during rekeying procedure, or security degradation due to the windows of vulnerability if the previous attribute key is not updated immediately.

Another challenge is the key escrow problem. In CP-ABE,

the key authority generates private keys of users by applying the authority's master secret keys to users' associated set of at- tributes. Thus, the key authority can decrypt every ciphertext addressed to specific users by generating their attribute keys. If the key authority is compromised by adversaries when de- ployed in the hostile environments, this could be a potential threat to the data confidentiality or privacy especially when the data is highly sensitive. The key escrow is an inherent problem even in the multiple-authority systems as long as each key au- thority has the whole privilege to generate their own attribute keys with their own master secrets. Since such a key generation mechanism based on the single master secret is the basic method for most of the asymmetric encryption systems such as the attribute-based or identity-based encryption protocols, removing escrow in single or multiple-authority CP-ABE is a pivotal open problem.

The last challenge is the coordination of attributes issued from different authorities. When multiple authorities manage and issue attribute keys to users independently with their own master secrets, it is very hard to define fine-grained access policies over attributes issued from different authorities. For ex- ample, suppose that attributes "role 1" and "region



1" are man- aged by the authority A, and "role 2" and "region 2" are man- aged by the authority B. Then, it is impossible to generate an access policy (("role 1" OR "role 2") AND ("region 1" or "re- gion 2")) in the previous schemes because the OR logic be- tween attributes issued from different authorities cannot be im- plemented. This is due to the fact that the different authorities generate their own attribute keys using their own independent and individual master secret keys. Therefore, general access policies, such as "-out-of-" logic, cannot be expressed in the previous schemes, which is a very practical and commonly re- quired access policy logic.

A. Related Work

ABE comes in two flavors called key-policy ABE (KP-ABE) and ciphertext-policy ABE (CP-ABE). In KP-ABE, the en- cryptor only gets to label a ciphertext with a set of attributes. The key authority chooses a policy for each user that determines which ciphertexts he can decrypt and issues the key to each user by embedding the policy into the user's key. However, the roles of the ciphertexts and keys are reversed in CP-ABE. In CP-ABE, the ciphertext is encrypted with an access policy chosen by an encryptor, but a key is simply created with respect to an attributes set. CP-ABE is more appropriate to DTNs than KP-ABE because it enables encryptors such as a commander to choose an access policy on attributes and to encrypt confi- dential data under the access structure via encrypting with the corresponding public keys or attributes [4], [7], [15].

1) Attribute Revocation: Bethencourt et al. [13] and Boldyreva et al. [16] first suggested key revocation mechanisms in CP-ABE and KP-ABE, respectively. Their solutions are to append to each attribute an expiration date (or time) and distribute a new set of keys to valid users after the expiration. The periodic attribute revocable ABE schemes [8], [13], [16], [17] have two main problems.

The first problem is the security degradation in terms of the

backward and forward secrecy [18]. It is a considerable sce- nario that users such as soldiers may change their attributes fre- quently, e.g., position or location move when considering these as attributes [4], [9]. Then, a user who newly holds the attribute might be able to access the previous data encrypted before he



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obtains the attribute until the data is reencrypted with the newly updated attribute keys by periodic rekeying (backward secrecy). For example, assume that at time , a ciphertext encrypted with a policy that can be decrypted with a set of attributes (embedded in the users keys) for users with . After time , say , a user newly holds the attribute set . Even if the new user Π_{\bullet} should be disallowed to decrypt the ciphertext for the time instance , he can still decrypt the previous ciphertext until it is reencrypted with the newly updated attribute keys. On the other hand, a revoked user would still be able to access the en-crypted data even if he does not hold the attribute any more until the next expiration time (forward secrecy). For example, when a user is disqualified with the attribute at time , he can still decrypt unless the key of the user is expired and the the ciphertext of the previous time instance ciphertext is reencrypted with the newly updated key that the user cannot obtain. We call this uncontrolled period of time windows of vulnerability.

The other is the scalability problem. The key authority periodically announces a key update material by unicast at each time-slot so that all of the nonrevoked users can update their keys. This results in the "1-affects-" problem, which means that the update of a single attribute affects the whole nonrevoked users who share the attribute [19]. This could be a bottleneck for both the key authority and all nonrevoked users.

The immediate key revocation can be done by revoking users using ABE that supports negative clauses [4], [14]. To do so, one just adds conjunctively the AND of negation of revoked user identities (where each is considered as an attribute here). However, this solution still somewhat lacks efficiency performance. This scheme will pose overhead group elements additively to the size of the ciphertext and multi-plicatively to the size of private key over the original CP-ABE scheme of Bethencourt et al. [13], where is the maximum size of revoked attributes set . Golle et al. [20] also proposed a user revocable KP-ABE scheme, but their scheme only works when the number of attributes associated with a ciphertext is ex- actly half of the universe size.

2) Key Escrow: Most of the existing ABE schemes are con-structed on the architecture where a single trusted authority has the power to generate the whole private keys of users with its master secret information [11], [13], [14], [21]–[23]. Thus, the key escrow problem is

inherent such that the key authority can decrypt every ciphertext addressed to users in the system by generating their secret keys at any time.

Chase *et al.* [24] presented a distributed KP-ABE scheme that solves the key escrow problem in a multiauthority system. In this approach, all (disjoint) attribute authorities are participating in the key generation protocol in a distributed way such that they cannot pool their data and link multiple attribute sets belonging to the same user. One disadvantage of this fully distributed ap- proach is the performance degradation. Since there is no cen- tralized authority with master secret information, all attribute authorities should $O_{-}^{-}N^{-}$ communicate with each other in the system to generate a user's secret key. This results in communication overhead on the system setup and the rekeying phases

The group elements mean those in the pairing operation group, not the user group. Since the computation in ABE schemes is done in the pairing operation group $O^{-}_{-}R^{-}_{-}$, the group elements in the manuscript means group el- ements in the pairing group.

and requires each Ouser to store additional auxiliary key components besides the attributes keys, where is the number of authorities in the system.

ABE schemes in the multiauthority network environment. They achieved a combined access policy over the attributes issued from different authorities by simply encrypting data multiple times. The main disadvantages of this approach are efficiency and expressiveness of access policy. For example, when a commander encrypts a secret mission to soldiers under the policy ("Battalion 1" AND ("Region 2" OR 'Region 3")), it cannot be expressed when each "Region" attribute is managed by different authorities, since simply multiplicity approaches can by no means express any general "-out-of-" logics (e.g., OR, that is 1-out-of-). For ex-ample, let be the key authorities, and be attributes sets they independently manage, respectively. Then, the only access policy expressed with

then encrypted under), and then encrypting $AND \dots AND \coprod_{N = 1}^{ND} A_{N} = A_{N} =$



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by , and so on, until this multiencryption generates the final ciphertext. Thus, the access logic should be only AND, and they require iterative encryption operations where is the number of attribute authorities. Therefore, they are somewhat restricted in terms of expressiveness of the access policy and require computation and storage costs. Chase [25] and Lewko *et al.* [10] proposed multiauthority KP-ABE and CP-ABE schemes, respectively. However, their schemes also suffer from the key escrow problem like the prior decentralized schemes.

B. Contribution

In this paper, we propose an attribute-based secure data re- trieval scheme using CP-ABE for decentralized DTNs. The pro- posed scheme features the following achievements. First, imme- diate attribute revocation enhances backward/forward secrecy of confidential data by reducing the windows of vulnerability. Second, encryptors can define a fine-grained access policy using any monotone access structure under attributes issued from any chosen set of authorities. Third, the key escrow problem is re- solved by an escrow-free key issuing protocol that exploits the characteristic of the decentralized DTN architecture. The key issuing protocol generates and issues user secret keys by per- forming a secure two-party computation (2PC) protocol among the key authorities with their own master secrets. The 2PC pro- tocol deters the key authorities from obtaining any master secret information of each other such that none of them could gen- erate the whole set of user keys alone. Thus, users are not re- quired to fully trust the authorities in order to protect their data to be shared. The data confidentiality and privacy can be crypto- graphically enforced against any curious key authorities or data storage nodes in the proposed scheme.

II. NETWORK ARCHITECTURE

In this section, we describe the DTN architecture and define the security model.

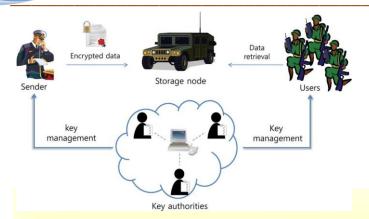


Fig. 1. Architecture of secure data retrieval in a disruption-tolerant military network.

A. System Description and Assumptions

Fig. 1 shows the architecture of the DTN. As shown in Fig. 1, the architecture consists of the following system entities.

- 1) Key Authorities: They are key generation centers that gen- erate public/secret parameters for CP-ABE. The key au- thorities consist of a central authority and multiple local authorities. We assume that there are secure and reliable communication channels between a central authority and each local authority during the initial key setup and gen- eration phase. Each local authority manages different at- tributes and issues corresponding attribute keys to users. They grant differential access rights to individual users based on the users' attributes. The key authorities are as- sumed to be honest-but-curious. That is, they will honestly execute the assigned tasks in the system, however they would like to learn information of encrypted contents as much as possible.
- 2) Storage node: This is an entity that stores data from senders and provide corresponding access to users. It may be mo- bile or static [4], [5]. Similar to the previous schemes, we also assume the storage node to be semitrusted, that is honest-but-curious.
- 3) Sender: This is an entity who owns confidential messages or data (e.g., a commander) and wishes to store them into the external data storage node for ease of sharing or for reliable delivery to users in the extreme networking envi- ronments. A sender is



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responsible for defining (attribute- based) access policy and enforcing it on its own data by encrypting the data under the policy before storing it to the storage node.

4) User: This is a mobile node who wants to access the data stored at the storage node (e.g., a soldier). If a user pos-sesses a set of attributes satisfying the access policy of the encrypted data defined by the sender, and is not revoked in any of the attributes, then he will be able to decrypt the ciphertext and obtain the data.

Since the key authorities are semi-trusted, they should be de-

terred from accessing plaintext of the data in the storage node; meanwhile, they should be still able to issue secret keys to users. In order to realize this somewhat contradictory requirement, the central authority and the local authorities engage in the arith- metic 2PC protocol with master secret keys of their own and

issue independent key components to users during the key is- suing phase. The 2PC protocol prevents them from knowing each other's master secrets so that none of them can generate the whole set of secret keys of users individually. Thus, we take an assumption that the central authority does not collude with the local authorities (otherwise, they can guess the secret keys of every user by sharing their master secrets).

B. Threat Model and Security Requirements

- 1) Data confidentiality: Unauthorized users who do not have enough credentials satisfying the access policy should be deterred from accessing the plain data in the storage node. In addition, unauthorized access from the storage node or key authorities should be also prevented.
- 2) Collusion-resistance: If multiple users collude, they may be able to decrypt a ciphertext by combining their attributes even if each of the users cannot decrypt the ciphertext alone [11]–[13]. For example, suppose there exist a user with attributes {"Battalion 1", "Region 1"} and another user with attributes {"Battalion 2", "Region 2"}. They may succeed in decrypting a ciphertext encrypted under the ac- cess policy of ("Battalion 1" AND "Region 2"), even if each of them cannot decrypt it individually. We do not want these colluders to be able to decrypt the secret information by

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combining their attributes. We also consider collu- sion attack among curious local authorities to derive users' keys.

3) Backward and forward Secrecy: In the context of ABE, backward secrecy means that any user who comes to hold an attribute (that satisfies the access policy) should be prevented from accessing the plaintext of the previous data exchanged before he holds the attribute. On the other hand, forward secrecy means that any user who drops an attribute should be prevented from accessing the plaintext of the subsequent data exchanged after he drops the attribute, un-less the other valid attributes that he is holding satisfy the access policy.

III. PRELIMINARIES AND DEFINITION

A. Cryptographic Background

We first provide a formal definition for access structure reca- pitulating the definitions in [12] and [13]. Then, we will briefly review the necessary facts about the bilinear map and its security assumption.

1) Access Some a set of parties. A collection $\forall B_1 C B \in B$ is monotone if $\exists B_1 C B \in B$ is monotone if

 $B \subseteq \text{And}$ $C \in A$, then . An access structure (respectively, monotone access structure) is a collection (respectively, monopy torge collection) of nonempty subsets of ,

 $\subseteq \overline{1.e.}, P_1, P_1, \dots, P_n = \overline{1.e.}$ A . The sets in are called the au-thorized sets, and the sets not in are called the unauthorized sets.

In the proposed scheme, the role of the parties is taken by the attributes. Thus, the access structure will contain the autho- rized sets of attributes. From now on, by an access structure, we mean a monotone access structure.

2) Bilinear Prinings. Let and be a multiplicative cyclic group of prime order . Let be a generator of . A





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We say that	is a bilinear group if	the group operation \mathbb{G}^{-}		G∎
		_	and there exists	for which
the bilinear map	is ef	ficiently computable	ė.G- × G- ■ G∎	
3) Bilinear Diff	fie–Hellman Assumptio	<i>n</i> : Using the above	no- tations, the Bilin	near Diffie-
Hellman (BDH)	problem is to com- pu	te $g^{\Pi}_{+}g^{\Xi}_{+}g^{-}_{-}$ $\Pi_{\mathbf{k}=1}^{\Xi}$	$\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{i}}$ iven a generator $_{g}$ $\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{i}} \in \mathbf{Z}_{\mathbf{i}}^{\perp}$ $\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{i}} = \mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{i}}$ $\mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{i}} = \mathbf{g}_{\mathbf{i}}$	of and
DDII mashlam is to			_	
	compute g			g
, and elements			$A_{\downarrow}B = g^{\dagger} = \mathbb{G}_{-}^{-}$	1
	has advantage			-m C C -
bilinear map gro	up , w	here is 11the secu	urity par <mark>ameter (the</mark>	e bit length
of), if				
		If for exery Gpo Dynd	mRa⊮time≡ Aalgorith	tm=="(in the
security parameter) to solve the BDH		, the advant	age <u>≡</u> _u_
<mark>is a neg</mark> ligible funct	tion, then	is said to satisfy the	he	
BDH assumption.				
B. Definitions				
denotes	the operation of picki	2.0		-
		10 10	finite set . For $\overset{S}{a}$	probabilistic
algorithm	assigns the output of	f to the variable	. denotes a string of	ones, if
. A function		/1. L	$\lambda \qquad \lambda \in \mathbb{N}$	= : N - R
is negligible	if for every consta	nt there exis	sts such that $\leq \equiv -1$	= ≥ for all
		=, = <u>]</u> =_ < •##	< ≡ ⁻¹	
Let	be the unive	rse of users. Let	be the central au	uthority, and A
be the universe of	local authorities. Let		A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	III I
attributes in the sys		set of at- tributes m	$A_{=}$	āssume each
•	- ages a disjoint set of		1	ϕ
for). Let	S S	that hold the attribu		
,	d to as an attribute gro			

IV. PROPOSED SCHEME



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In this section, we provide a multiauthority CP-ABE scheme for secure data retrieval in decentralized DTNs. Each local au- thority issues partial personalized and attribute key components to a user by performing secure 2PC protocol with the central authority. Each attribute key of a user can be updated individu- ally and immediately. Thus, the scalability and security can be enhanced in the proposed scheme.

first by the **CP-ABE** scheme proposed Bethencourt et al. [13], dozens of CP-ABE schemes have been proposed [7], [21]-[23]. The subsequent CP-ABE schemes are mostly motivated by more rigorous security proof in the standard model. However, most of the schemes failed to achieve the expressiveness of the Bethencourt et al.'s scheme, which described an efficient system that was expressive in that it allowed an encryptor to express an access predicate in terms of any monotonic formula over attributes. Therefore, in this section, we develop a variation of the CP-ABE algorithm partially based on (but not limited to) Bethencourt et al.'s construction in order to enhance the expressiveness of the access control policy instead of building a new CP-ABE scheme scratch.

A. Access Tree

- 1) Description: Let be a tree representing an access struc- ture. Each nonleaf node of the tree represents a threshold gate. If is the number of children of a node is its threshold value, then . Each leaf node of the tree is described by an denotes the attribute associated with the leaf node attribute and a threshold value in the tree. represents the parent of the node in the tree. The children of every node ind≣ı∃ı∃ are numbered from 1 to num. The func-tion returns such a number associated with the node . The index values are uniquely assigned to nodes in the access structure for a given key in an arbitrary manner.
 - 2) Satisfying an AccTss Tree: Let The the subtree of rooted at the node. If a set of attributes γ attributes γ attributes γ , we denote it as . We compute recursively as follows. If is a γ node, evaluate for all children of node. returns 1 iff at least children

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1 ■ Σ ■ γ. ■	
; and sets This value is a personalized and unique	
secret to the user, which should be consistent for any further attribute additions to the	
user. Then, and each engage in a secure 2PC protocol, where 's private input	1.
is , and 's private input is . The secure 2PC protocol returns a private	
output to . This can be done via a general secure 2PC protocol for a	
simple arithmetic computation [24], [26], [27]. Alternatively, $\stackrel{\downarrow}{\text{we}} \stackrel{\uparrow}{\text{can}} \stackrel{A}{\text{do}}$ this $\underline{\text{m}}$ ore	
efficiently using the construction in [28].	
2) randomly picks . Then, it computes and sends it to $1 \in \mathbb{R}^{n}$ \mathbb{Z}_{+}^{n} $T = g^{\frac{1}{n}}$	-
3) then computes and sends it to $B = CA$ $T^{\blacksquare - \equiv 1} = g_{\frac{\square - \square}{\square}}$	
4) outputs a personalized key component and sends it to the user securely. $D_{\bullet} = B^{\dagger}$	
Then the user computes its personal key component	
return 1. If is a leaf node, then $\lambda_1 \in \gamma$ return \P iff g .	,
The state was died to the state of the state	
B. Scheme Construction	
B. Scheme Construction	
Let be a bilinear grown of prime order, and let be a generator of. Let G_{-} $: G_{-} \times G_{-} = G_{-}$	
denote the bilinear map. A security parameter, , will determine the size of the groups.	
We will also make use of Lagrange coefficients for any and a set, , of	
etements in : define	
We will ad tionally employ a hash function	
to associate each attribute with a random group element in , which we will	
model as a random oracle	

1) System Setup: At the initial system setup phase, the trusted initializer² chooses a bilinear group of prime order with generator $H: \blacksquare \ \Box \ \Box \ \Box \ \Box$ also chooses hash functions from according to the security parameter. It from a family of universal one-way hash $\mathbb{I}_{-1}^{-1}g_{+}H^{-}$ functions. The public parameter param is given by . For brevity, the public

parameter param

is omitted below.

Central <u>K</u>e§Authority: chooses arandom exponent



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$\mathbb{Z}_{=}^{\text{I}} . .$	<u>It</u> sets $_{\square}$ CA $\beta_{\square}^{\square}$	The master public/private key pair is given by
	$A_{\scriptscriptstyleullet}$	Local Key Authorities: Each chooses a random exponent
II. \in_R $\mathbb{Z}^1_{=}$. The master public/private key pair is given by
PK_{A_0}	" MK 4" 11=	<u>.</u>

2) Key Generation: In CP-ABE, user secret key components consist of a single personalized key and multiple attribute keys. The personalized key is uniquely determined for each user to prevent collusion attack among users with different attributes. The proposed key generation protocol is composed of the per- sonal key generation followed by the attribute key generation protocols. It exploits arithmetic secure 2PC protocol to elimi- nate the key escrow problem such that none of the authorities can determine the whole key components of users individually.

Personal Key Generation: The central authority and each local authority are involved in the following protocol. For brevity, the knowledge of proofs are omitted below.

CA 1) When authenticates a user , it selects random exponents for every local authority

²To prove security, we assume the parameters for the hash functions are set up by an honest party as in [24], [26], which means the random oracles are not controlled by the adversary in the security proof.



2PC protocol for computing

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Theorem 1: The above key generation protocol is a secure , assuming that the gunderlying Aarithmetic 2PC and zero knowledge proofs are secure.

Proof: Proof can be found in the Appendix.

Attribute Key Generation: After setting up the personalized key component, each generates attribute keys for a user with a public parameter received from cas follows.

- first selects a random , and sends and , respectively. 1) to and
- as inputs and out-puts a set of attribute keys for 2) takes a set of attributes the user that identifies with that set for each Zattribute . It chooses random . Then, it gives the following secret value to the user

$$\forall \lambda_{-} \in \Lambda_{-} : D_{-} \quad g^{1_{1}-1_{-}} \cdot H_{-}^{-} \lambda_{-}^{-1_{-}} D_{-}^{1} \quad g^{1_{-}}.$$

Then, the user computes obtains its whole secret key set as for all its attributes key components and finally

$$\exists \mathrm{K}_{\mathsf{II}_1}$$
 D g \exists $\forall \lambda_{\underline{-}} \in S: D_{\underline{-}}$ $g'^{\mathsf{I}} \cdot H^{\mathsf{T}} \lambda_{\underline{-}} \overset{\mathsf{I}}{=}_{\underline{-}} D^{\mathsf{I}}_{\underline{-}}$ g'^{I}

 $S \cup \coprod \Lambda_{\bullet}$ where

During the key generation phase using the 2PC protocol, the proposed scheme (especially 2PC protocol) requires messages additively to the key issuing overhead in the previous multiauthority ABE schemes in terms of the communication cost, where number of key authorities the user is associated with, and is the bit gize of an element in

. However, it is important to note that the 2PC protocol is done only once during the initial key generation phase for each user. Therefore, it is negligible compared to the communication overhead for encryption or key update, which could be much more frequently performed in the DTNs. (The detailed communication cost will be analyzed in Section V-A.)



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In terms of the computation cost, each local authority is re-quired to perform two more exponentiation operations. Each user needs to perform multiplication operations for the



key generation, which incurs negligible computation cost com- pared to the other pairing or exponentiation operations. (The de- tailed computation cost will be analyzed in Section V-C.) These costs would be also incurred only for the initial key generation procedures. Therefore, the additional computation overhead for the key generation using the 2PC protocol is acceptable in the system.

3) Data Encryption: When a sender wants \overline{f} to deliver its confidential data, he defines \overline{f} the tree access structure over \overline{f} the universe of attributes, encrypts the data under to enforce attribute-based access control on the data, \overline{f} stores it into the storage node.

The encryption algorithm chooses a polynomial $\prod_{i=1}^{n} for_i each node in the tree . These polynomials are chosen in the top-down manner, starting from the root node .$

For each node in the tree , the algorithm sets the degree of the polynomial to be one less than the threshold value of that node, that is, R of the root node is, it chooses a random and sets. Then, it sets other points of the polynomial is randomly to define it completely. For any other node it sets and chooses other points randomly to completely define it.

Y Let be the set of leaf nodes in the access tree. To encrypt a message under the $M \in \mathbb{G}_{\blacksquare}$ tree access structure, it constructs a ciphertext using public keys of each authority as

After the construction of , the sender stores it to the storage node securely. On receiving any data request rom a user, the storage node responds with to the user.

It is important to note that the sender can define the access policy under attributes of any chosen set of multiple authorities without any restrictions on the logic expressiveness as opposed to the previous multiauthority schemes [4], [9].



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CT

4) Data Decryption: When a user receives the ciphertext from the storage node, the user decrypts the ciphertext with

its secret key. The algorithm performs in a recursive way. We first define a recursive algorithm CT = K that takes as inputs a ciphertext , a private key , which is as-sociated with a set of attributes, and a node from the tree . It outputs a group element of or .

Without loss of generality, we suppose that a user performs

the decryption algorithm. If is a leaf node, then define as fol-lows. If , then

$$\frac{\exists [g_{-1}g^{\pm 1}] \quad \exists [H[\lambda_1]^{-1}g^{\pm 1}]}{\exists [g^{\pm 1}] H[\lambda_1]^{\pm 1} \Box []}$$

$$\exists [g_{-1}g^{\pm 1}] \quad \exists [g_{-1}g^{\pm 1}] = []$$

(1) If , we define

 $\lambda_1 \in \Lambda$

We now consider the recursive case when is a nonleaf node. The algorithm then proceeds



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as follows. For all nodes that are children of , it calls and stores the output as

Otherwise, we compute

where
$$\prod_{1 \equiv \pm 1} F_1^{\Delta_{1,1}} \stackrel{!}{=} \dots \stackrel{$$

$$\prod_{i \equiv \Xi_i}$$
 (2)

and return the result.

, the algorithm declypts the ciphertext by computing $\ddot{C} - \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{2} C_1 D_1 - A_2 M_2$

C. Revocation

We observed that it is impossible to revoke specific attribute keys of a user without rekeying the whole set of key components of the user in ABE key structure since the whole key set of a user is bound with the same random value in order to prevent any collusion attack. Therefore, revoking a single attribute in the system requires all users who share the attribute to update all their key components even if the other attributes of them are still valid. This seems very inefficient and may cause severe overhead in terms of the computation and communication cost, especially in large-scaled DTNs.

For example, suppose that a user is qualified with different attributes. Then, all attribute keys of the user are generated with the same random number in the ABE key architecture. When an attribute of the user is required to be revoked (other attribute keys of the user are still valid), the other valid keys should be updated with another new that is different from and delivered to the user. Unless the other keys are updated, the attribute key that is to be revoked

could be used as a valid key until their updates since it is still

bound with the same . Therefore, in order to revoke a single attribute key of a user, keys of the user need to be updated. If users are sharing the attribute, then total keys need to be updated in order to revoke just a single attribute in the system.

One promising way to immediately revoke an attribute of spe- cific users is to reencrypt the ciphertext with each attribute group key and selectively distribute the attribute group key to autho- rized (non-revoked) users who are qualified with the attribute. Before distributing the ciphertext, the storage node receives a set of membership information for each attribute group that appears in the access tree of from the corresponding author- ities and reencrypts it as follows. TABLE I

EXPRESSIVENESS, KEY ESCROW, AND REVOCATION ANALYSIS

Scheme	Authority	Expressiveness	Key Escrow	Revocation
BSW [13]	single	_	yes	periodic attribute revocation
HV [9]	multiple	AND	yes	periodic attribute revocation
RC [4]	multiple	AND	yes	immediate system-level user revocation
Proposed	multiple	any monotone access structure	no	immediate attribute-level user revocation

10; For all

, choloses ∈a Zrandom

 $K_{\blacksquare_{\parallel}}$. Then, reencrypts CT and generates



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key . Then, it reencrypts the ciphertext using the public parameters PK as

2) Generates a helder message V_y where each contains the encrypted attribute group keys which could be only decrypted by nonrevoked attribute group members. This can be done by exploiting many previous stateful or stateless group key management schemes [18], [29]–[31]. In this paper, we will adopt the complete subtree method [29], which requires each user to store additional $V_y = V_y = V$

On receiving any data request query from a user, the storage node responds with to the user. When the user re-ceives them, he first obtains the attribute group keys for all at-tributes in that he holds from G = G. If a user—is associated

with an attribute, and not dates its secret key with it as $\forall \lambda_{-} \in S: D_{-}$ and D_{-} and D_{-} (that is.).

Then, the user can decrypt the ciphertext decryption algorithm.

Then, the user can decryo The ciphertext with its secret key following the above

 $\equiv\! K_{\pi_1}$



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D. Key Update

When a user comes to hold or drop an attribute, the corre-sponding key should be updated to prevent the user from ac-cessing the previous or subsequent encrypted data for backward or forward secrecy, respectively.

The key update procedure is launched by sending a join or leave request for some attribute group from a user who wants to hold or drop the attribute to the corresponding authority. On receipt of the membership change request for some attribute groups, it notifies the storage node of the event. Without loss of generality, suppose there is any membership change in (e.g., a user comes to hold or drop an attribute at some time instance). Then, the update procedure progresses as follows.

1) The storage node selects ¼ rando ¼ and a , which is different from the previous attribute group



CT

For the other attribute groups that are not affected by the membership changes, the attribute group keys do not nec- essarily need to be updated.

When a user sends a request query for the data afterward, the storage node responds with the newly updated and cipher- text encrypted under the updated keys.

It is important to note that even if a user is revoked from some attribute groups, he may still be able to access the data with the other attributes that he holds as long as they satisfy the policy because they would still be effective in the system.

V. ANALYSIS

In this section, we first analyze and compare the efficiency of the proposed scheme to the previous multiauthority CP-ABE schemes in theoretical aspects. Then, the efficiency of the proposed scheme is demonstrated in the network simulation in terms of the communication cost. We also discuss its efficiency when implemented with specific parameters and compare these results to those obtained by the other schemes.

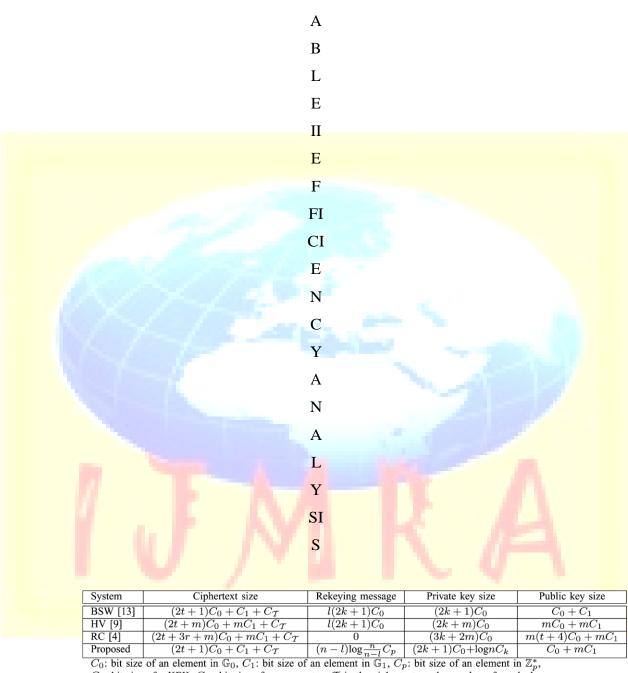
A. Efficiency

Table I shows the authority architecture, logic expressive- ness of access structure that can be defined under different dis- joint sets of attributes (managed by different authorities), key escrow, and revocation granularity of each CP-ABE scheme. In the proposed scheme, the logic can be very expressive as in the single authority system like BSW [13] such that the access policy can be expressed with any monotone access structure under attributes of any

chosen set of authorities; while HV [9] and RC [4] schemes only allow the AND gate among the sets of attributes managed by different authorities. The revocation in the proposed scheme can be done in an immediate way as opposed to BSW. Therefore, attributes of users can be revoked at any time even before the expiration time that might be set



T



 C_k : bit size of a KEK, C_T : bit size of an access tree T in the ciphertext, r: the number of revoked users,

to the attribute. This enhances security of the stored data by re- ducing the windows of vulnerability. In addition, the proposed scheme realizes more fine-grained user revocation for each at-tribute rather than for the whole system as opposed to RC. Thus, even if a user

l: the number of users in an attribute group, n: the number of all users in the system,

m: the number of authorities in the system, k: the number of attributes associated with private key of a user,

u: the number of attributes in the system, t: the number of attributes appeared in T.

comes to hold or drop any attribute during the ser- vice in the proposed scheme, he can still access the data with other attributes that he is holding as long as they satisfy the ac- cess policy defined in the ciphertext. The key escrow problem is also resolved in the proposed scheme such that the confidential data would not be revealed to any curious key authorities.

Table II summarizes the efficiency comparison results among CP-ABE schemes. In the comparison, rekeying message size represents the communication cost that the key authority or the storage node needs to send to update nonrevoked users' keys for an attribute. Private key size represents the storage cost re-quired for each user to store attribute keys or KEKs. Public key size represents the size of the system public parameters. In this comparison, the access tree is constructed with attributes of different authorities - except in BSW of which total size is equal to that of the single access tree in BSW. As shown in Table II, the proposed scheme needs rekeying message size of at most to realize user-level access control for each attribute in the system. Although RC does not need to send additional rekeying message for user revocations as opposed to the other schemes, its ciphertext size is linear to the number of revoked users in the system since the user revocation mes-sage is included in the ciphertext. The proposed scheme requires a more KEKs than BSW. However, it has an effect on reducing the user to store rekeying message size. The proposed scheme is as efficient as the basic BSW in terms of the ciphertext size while realizing more secure immediate rekeying in multi- authority systems.

B. Simulation

In this simulation, we consider DTN applications using the Internet protected by the attribute-based encryption. Almeroth and Anmar [32] demonstrated the group behavior in the Internet's multicast backbone network (MBone). They showed that the number of users joining a group follows a Poisson distribution with rate and the membership duration time follows an exponential distribution with a mean duration and attribute group can be shown as an independent network multicast group where the members of the group share a common attribute, we show the simulation result following this probabilistic behavior distribution [32].



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We suppose that user join and leave events are independently and identically distributed in each attribute group following



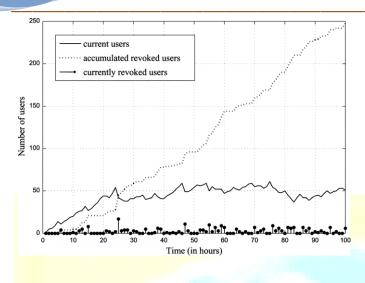


Fig. 2. Number of users in an attribute group.

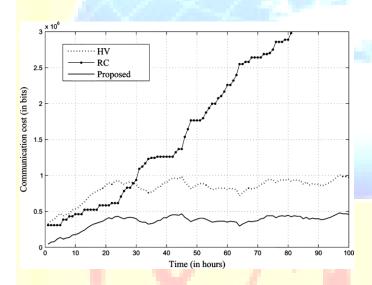


Fig. 3. Communication cost in the multiauthority CP-ABE systems.

Poisson distribution. The membership duration time for an attribute is assumed to follow an exponential distribution. We set the interarrival time between users as 20 min the average membership duration time as 20 h. Fig. 2 represents the number of current users and revoked users in an attribute group during 100 h.



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Fig. 3 shows the total communication cost that the sender or the storage node needs to send on a membership change in each multiauthority CP-ABE scheme. It includes the ciphertext and rekeying messages for nonrevoked users. It is measured in bits. In this simulation, the total number of users in the network is





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TABLE III COMPARISON OF COMPUTATION COST







alize the fine-grained key revocation for each attribute group. Therefore, we can observe that there is a tradeoff between com- putational overhead and granularity of access control, which is closely related to the windows of vulnerability. However, the computation cost for encryption by a sender and decryption by a user are more efficient compared to the other multiauthority schemes.

VI. SECURITY

In this section, we prove the security of our scheme with re- gard to the security requirements discussed in Section II.

		Pairing	Exp.	Exp.	Computation
			in \mathbb{G}_0	in \mathbb{G}_1	(ms)
Time (ms)		2.9	1.0	0.2	1
BSW	S		2t+1	1	2t + 1.2
[13]	U	2k + 1		$\log t$	$5.8k + 0.2 \log t$
					+2.9
HV	S		2t + 1	1	2t + 1.2
[9]	U	2k+m		$m\log(t/m)$	5.8k + 2.9m
					$+0.2m\log(t/m)$
RC	S		3t + 1	1	3t + 1.2
[4]	U	3k+m		$m\log(t/m)$	8.7k + 2.9m
					$+0.2m\log(t/m)$
Proposed	S		2t+1	1	2t + 1.2
_	U	2k + 1	k	logt	$6.8k + 0.2 \log t$
					+2.9

S: sender, U: user

10 000, and the number of attributes in the system is 30. The number of the key authorities is 10, and the average number of attributes associated with a user's key is 10. For a fair compartison with regard to the security perspective, we set the rekeying periods in HV as Cmin. Fo achieve an 80-bit security level, we set the rekeying periods in HV as the simulation result because it is common in all multiauthority CP-ABE schemes. As shown in Fig. 3, the communication cost in HV is less than RC in the beginning of the simulation time (until about

30 h). However, as the time elapses, it increases conspicuously because the number of revoked users increases accumulatively. The proposed scheme requires the least communication cost in the network system since the rekeying message in is comparatively less than the other multiauthority schemes.

C. Implementation



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Next, we analyze and measure the computation cost for en- crypting (by a sender) and decrypting (by a user) a data. We used a Type-A curve (in the pairing-based cryptography (PBC) library [33]) providing groups in which a bilinear map

is defined. Although such curves provide good computational efficiency (especially for pairing computation), the same does not hold from the point of view of the space required to represent group elements. Indeed, each element of needs

512 bits at an 80-bit security level and 1536 bits when 128-bit of security are chosen.

Table III shows the computational time results. For each op- eration, we include a benchmark timing. Each cryptographic op- eration was implemented using the PBC library ver. 0.4.18 [33] on a 3.0-GHz processor PC. The public key parameters were se- lected to provide 80-bit security level. The implementation uses a 160-bit elliptic curve group based on the supersingular curve over a 512-bit finite field. The computational cost

is analyzed in terms of the pairing, exponentiation operations

operations in the group are ignored in the time result. In this analysis, we assume that the access tree in the ciphertext is a complete binary tree.

Computation costs in Table III represent the upper bound of each cost. We can see that the total computation time to en- crypt data by a sender in the proposed scheme is the same as BSW, while decryption time by a user requires exponentia- tions in more. These exponentiation operations are to re-



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A. Collusion Resistance

In CP-ABE, the secret sharing must be embedded into the ciphertext instead to the private keys of users. Like the pre-vious ABE schemes [11], [13], the private keys of users are randomized with personalized random values selected by the such that they cannot be combined in the proposed scheme. In order to decrypt a ciphertext, the . To recover this, the attacker must pair colluding attacker should recover from the other col- luding users' private keys for an attribute from the ciphertext and (we suppose that the attacker does not hold the attribute =)9 However, "this re-sults in the blinded by some random value, which is uniquely assigned to each value user, even if the at- tribute group keys for the attributes that the user holds are still valid. This value can be blinded out if and only if the user has the enough key components to satisfy the secret sharing scheme embedded in the ciphertext. Another collusion attack scenario is the collusion between revoked users in order to ob- tain the valid attribute group keys for some attributes that they are not authorized to have (e.g., due to revocation). The at-tribute group key distribution protocol, which is complete sub-tree method in the proposed scheme, is secure in terms of the key indisting dishability [29]. Thus, the colluding revoked users can by no means obtain any valid attribute group keys for at-tributes that they are not authorized to hold. Therefore, the de- sired value cannot be recovered by collusion attack since the blinding value is randomized from a particular user's private key.

Collusion among the local authorities could determine the personalized key component of some user. Mowever, each attribute key component of the user is blinded in the local authorities' view in that they are divided by the secret which is only known to the user and $g^{l'}$. Therefore, the colluding local authorities cannot derive the whole set of secret keys of users.

B. Data Confidentiality

In our trust model, the multiple key authorities are no longer fully trusted as well as the storage node even if they are honest. Therefore, the plain data to be stored should be kept secret from them as well as from unauthorized users.

Data confidentiality on the stored data against unauthorized



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users can be trivially guaranteed. If the set of attributes of a user cannot satisfy the access tree in the ciphertext, he cannot recover the desired value during the decryption process, where is a random value uniquely assigned to him. On the other hand, when a user is revoked from some attribute groups that satisfy



 C_1^{I}



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the access policy, he cannot decrypt the ciphertext either unless the rest of the attributes of him satisfy the access policy. In order to decrypt a node for an attribute , the user $D_{=-g_1g_2=1-2}^{l}$ needs to pair from the ciphertext and from its private key. However, this cannot result in the value , which is desired to generate , since is blinded by the updated attribute group key that the revoked user from the attribute group can by no means obtain.

Another attack on the stored data can be launched by the storage node and the key authorities. Since they cannot be totally trusted, confidentiality for the stored data against them is an- other essential security criteria for secure data retrieval in DTNs. The local authorities issue a set of attribute keys for their man- aging attributes to an authenticated user, which are blinded by secret information that is distributed to the user from also CA issue the user a personalized secret key by performing the secure 2PC protocol with As we discussed in Theorem 1, this key generation protocol discourages each party to obtain each other's master secret key and determine the secret key is- sued from each other. Therefore, they could not have enough information to determine the whole set of secret key of the user individually.

Even if the storage node manages the attribute group keys, it cannot decrypt any of the nodes in the access tree in the ci- phertext. This is because it is only authorized to reencrypt the ciphertext with each attribute group key, but is not allowed to decrypt it (that is, any of the key components of users are not given to the node). Therefore, data confidentiality against the curious key authorities and storage node is also ensured.

C. Backward and Forward Secrecy

When a user comes to hold a set of attributes that satisfy the access policy in the ciphertext at some time instance, the corre- sponding attribute group keys are updated and delivered to the valid attribute group members securely (intributing the user). In addition, all of the components encrypted with a secret key

in the ciphertext are reencrypted by the storage node with a random , and the ciphertext components corresponding to the attributes are also reencrypted with the updated attribute group keys. Even if the user has stored the previous ciphertext ex-changed before he



is guaranteed in the proposed scheme.

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obtains the attribute keys and the holding at- tributes satisfy the access policy, he cannot decrypt the pervious ciphertext. This is because, even if he can succeed in computing from the current ciphertext, it will not help to re-

cover the desired value of for the previous ciphertext since it is blinded by a random of the back- ward secrecy of the stored data

On the other hand, when a user comes to drop a set of at- tributes that satisfy the access policy at some time instance, the corresponding attribute group keys are also updated and deliv- ered to the valid attribute group members securely (excluding the user). Then, all of the components encrypted with a secret key in the ciphertext are reencrypted by the storage node with a random , and the ciphertext components corresponding to the attributes are also reencrypted with the updated attribute group keys. Then, the user cannot decrypt any nodes corresponding to the attributes after revocation due to the blindness resulted from newly updated attribute group keys. In addition, even if the



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user has recovered before he was revoked from the attribute groups and stored it, it will not help to decrypt the subsequent ciphertext reencrypted with a new random . Therefore, the forward secrecy of the stored data is guaranteed in the proposed scheme.

VII. CONCLUSION

DTN technologies are becoming successful solutions in mil- itary applications that allow wireless devices to communicate with each other and access the confidential information reli- ably by exploiting external storage nodes. CP-ABE is a scalable cryptographic solution to the access control and secure data re- trieval issues. In this paper, we proposed an efficient and secure data retrieval method using CP-ABE for decentralized DTNs where multiple key authorities manage their attributes indepen- dently. The inherent key escrow problem is resolved such that the confidentiality of the stored data is guaranteed even under the hostile environment where key authorities might be com- promised or not fully trusted. In addition, the fine-grained key revocation can be done for each attribute group. We demon- strate how to apply the proposed mechanism to securely and efficiently manage the confidential data distributed in the dis- ruption-tolerant military network.

APPENDIX SECURITY PROOF OF THEOREM 1

Proof: To show security, we consider the cases of corrupt central authority corrupt local authority . $\begin{array}{c} \text{CA} \\ \text{CA} \end{array}$

First, for a corrupt local authority, our simulator pro- ceeds as follows.

: First, it will run the arithmetic 2PC singulator for computation of . This 2PC will extract from the $+\gamma_{\bullet}$ β and expect to the provided with



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	for any \cdot Next, our simulator will receive from T	
	the adversary, as well as the corresponding zero knowledge proof. We will use the	
	extractor for the proof system to extract . Then, it, will send to the trusted party and	
	receive . Finally, it will compute $D_{\underline{a}} = g^{-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2}}$	3
	and send it to the local authority.	
	Consider a hybrid simulator that takes as input the A	
,	's secrets and . It will compute CA using the anothmetic 2PC simulator. When	
the	2PC simulator provides and asks for output, it will correctly compute . Then, it will	11.
com	nplete the execution as in the real protocol. This protocol is clearly indistinguishable from the	
real	l central authority's pro- tocol by the security of the arithmetic 2PC.	
Se	Second, for a corrupt central authority, our simulator proceeds as follows.	im_A
	: First, it will run the arithmetic 2PC simulator for	
	computation of . In the process, it will extract $\square \square + \gamma_* \square \beta$	
	. Next, the simulator will choose random value $T \in \mathbb{R}^{N}$	G_
	and send it to . It will receive from , and extract from the corresponding proof.	γ _{• ι} β
	Then, it will send	/ ■ 1 P
	to the trusted party and receive , which will be	
	's private output.	



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Consider a hybrid simulator A_{\bullet} takes as input the 's se- cret. It first runs the arithmetic 2PC simulator for the com_{Γ_{\bullet}} putation of with the correct output value according to , and then completes the protocol as the honest local authority would. This is clearly indistinguishable from the real local authority's protocol by the security of the arithmetic 2PC.

Now, assuming that the proof of knowledge scheme is se-cure, should be H_=_A = imindistinguishable from the above simus lator . This is because the value used by will be distributed identically to those in . (Since is chosen at random in the real protocol, will be distributed uniformly over in the real protocol as in the simulated protocol.) Thus, interaction with our simulation is indistinguishable from inter-action with an honest local authority.

Therefore, our construction is a secure 2PC protocol.

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