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Survey on User Authentication for Cloud Computing

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ABSTRACT: Cloud computing is a growing technology in the current time, but number of risks associated with it. Because of the striking features of cloud computing no of organizations are using cloud storage for storing their important information. The data can be stored remotely in the cloud by the users and can be accessed using thin clients as and when required. This technology provides services with one of the three service models: Software as a Service (SaaS), Platform as a Service (PaaS) and Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS). This model allows users and organizations to share their vital information, crucial computing resources across the world. Securing these essential resources from the unauthorized access of the users is one of the major issues which lead to reduce the growth of this technology in the Information Technology (IT) Industries. Authentication is one of the major security parameters while providing access of the registered services to the intended users. In this paper we provide a survey on various cloud computing authentication techniques.

KEYWORDS: Cloud computing, security on cloud, hybrid cloud, authentication on cloud, cryptography

I. INTRODUCTION

The great innovation in the field of computing is storage and access of data in the cloud, however, there are many things that need to take care about too. Many authors told that cloud computing has several benefits as compared to their down sides. But we found that as involvement of data increases security of data becomes a huge issues although we need to find a way all you need with a particular service.

Cloud Computing Associated Problems:

A. Loss of transparency and control over the data.

Consumers are unaware of the data loss which is out of their hands and storing data in the Cloud service provider [1]. Confidential data are stored in cloud could be compromised by the user. Due to lack of transparency, the user don't know where, how, when the data is processed. To resolve this problem the user should know what happens with the data. Cloud service providers are technically able to do data mining as well as data abstraction need techniques to analyze user data. So the users can store and process the data in cloud using Cloud service provider. Loss of transparency can also leads to loss of huge amount of data. So unable to trust the cloud service provider.

B. Lack of trust and dependence on cloud provider

A major problem in cloud service provider is availability. Due to lack of fund, the Cloud service provider were stopped providing services, the user could suffer problems in accessing the data. Some widely used Cloud service provider (e.g. Google Drive) does not provide any contract between the user and Cloud service provider.

If any problem or incident arise, user have no proof to ask. Cloud service provider provides services similar to other traditional services and utilities. The customers usually depend on the providers because it is difficult to change providers if it is possible at all.



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II. EXISTING SECURITY SOLUTIONS

Now we going to discuss about existing security solutions available for access control mechanism.

A. Identity based authentication

Identity based encryption is a public key techniques, where Private Key generator generates master public key and master private key, where master public key is created by user unique information. The user can decrypt the file by getting the private key with his identity from private key generator, by using that he can decrypt the file[1]. Private Key generator not only generates the private keys but also verify the user identities. The main drawback in Identity based encryption is need to trust the private key generator since it holds all private key and must remain online.

B. Role based model

Data owner before storing the data in cloud, first they encrypt the data in local system and then store the encrypted data in the cloud. Data users can't directly access the data from cloud. Each users are assigned with roles and responsibility. The roles are assigned based on the responsibilities and qualification. The authenticate users have privileges to access the data with specific roles. The users are assigned with different roles and each of them are having a set of permissions. A role manager responsibility is to assign a role to the user, and if the user is going out, then revoke a role from the user. Cloud Provider, users and others are not able to see the data if they are not assigned with proper roles. Data owner can revoke the role if they found as unauthorized user.

C. Attribute based Encryption

Before storing the data in the cloud, the data owner encrypted the data in his local system and its decrypted by the data user [2]. In attribute based encryption scheme, set of attributes are treated as user identity and its used for encryption and decryption techniques. Trusted agent generates keys for data owner and user. It generates key according to the attributes of the user [4]. The trusted agent will generate public key and master keys for the user. Data owner role is to encrypt the data with user public key and user will decrypt the data with own private key. We have two advantages in this scheme 1) it reduce communication overhead in the internet 2) Provide fine grained access control. Problem behind in this technique, the data owner need to use the authorized user public key for encryption [3].According to attribute based encryption the access policy is classified into two types key- policy attributes based encryption and ciphertext-policy attributes based encryption.

D. Key-Policy based Encryption

In key-policy attribute-based encryption, Ciphertext is associated with set of attributes, Private key which is issued by trusted authority is associated with access structure like a tree, which describes this user's identity. The user can recover the file if and only if access policy in the private key is satisfied with the attributes in the ciphertext.

The Trusted authority issues the user key, by using access policy we can identify which types of encrypted data can decrypt, while encrypted data are labelled with set of attributes [6]. The drawback in KP-ABE scheme is that data owner dont know who can decrypt the data. The data owner want to trust the key issuer, so its not suitable for some application. Another disadvantage is lack of scalability dealing with levels of attribute authority. To overcome this issue we are moving to ciphertext policy –attribute based encryption.

A set of attributes in the encrypted data {Hospital, Doctor, Patient}, Private key with attribute {Hospital, Doctor} to decrypt and obtain the data.. Eg: Encrypted data with attribute are {Hospital^Patient},and user private key with access structure is {Hospital^(Doctor OR Patient)}

E. Ciphertext policy based attributes based Encryption

In CP-ABE, the private key is associated with a set of attributes, and a ciphertext are created with access structure, which is used to specify the encryption policy. A user can decrypt the ciphertext if and only if the attributes in the private key is satisfied the access tree specified in the cipher text[7].In CP-ABE scheme, attribute management and key distribution are managed by the authority (eg authority may be registration office in university , Human Resources in company, etc). The data owner defines the access policy and encrypts the data with access policies. Each user is issued with secret key according to its attributes [8].Here data owner holds the ultimate authority about the encryption policy.

Access structure in Encrypted data is {Hospital AND (Doctor OR Patient)}and set of attribute in user's private key is{Hospital AND Doctor} the user can recover the data.

F. Hierarchical Attribute based Encryption



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Hierarchical attribute based encryption is combination of hierarchical identity based encryption(HIBE) and ciphertext-policy attribute based encryption(CP-ABE). It support full delegation and fine grained access control over attributes.it support one-to-many encryption. Encrypted file can be decrypted by a user and all his family members, using their own secret keys. HIBE hold the property of hierarchical generation of keys in the HIBE system, and the property of flexible access control in the CP-ABE system.

G. Hierarchical attribute set based Encryption

Hierarchical attribute-set-based encryption (HASBE) scheme for access control in cloud computing. HASBE extension of the CP-ASBE, or ASBE scheme with a hierarchical structure of system users, so as to achieve scalable[10], flexible and fine-grained access control. Each data file is associated with a set of attributes, and each user assign with expressive access structure. HASBE employs multiple value assignments for access expiration time to deal with user revocation more efficiently than existing schemes. User can retrieve the encrypted data by using their own private key. These domain authority monitor the users for their respective acceptance of correct key [11]. A Master-key provided by higher level authorities to manage lower level authority's data. Enforcing access policies based on data attributes and on the other, the data owner to delegate most of the computation tasks involved in fine-grained data access control [12] to untrusted cloud servers without disclosing the underlying data contents. We achieve this goal by combining techniques of attribute-based encryption (ABE), proxy re- encryption, and lazy re-encryption. The HASBE method flawlessly integrates a hierarchical structure of scheme customers by concerning an allocation algorithm to ASBE. HASBE maintains compound attributes which attains efficient user revocation because of multiple value assignments of attributes. Several methods utilizing attribute-based encryption (ABE) suffer from hardness in implementing complex access control policies[9]. The trusted authority is accountable for generating and distributing system parameters and root master keys as well as authorizing the top-level domain authorities. A domain authority distribute the key to sub domain authority or user. Each user is assigned with key structure which specifies the attribute associated with the user decryption key. Main drawback in this system is deriving unique access structure for each user introduces heavy computation overhead.

G. Multiauthority

Multi-authority CP-ABE is more suitable for data access control, multiple authorities issued the attributes to users and using access policy the data owner share the data defined over attributes from different authorities. In this technique, users' attributes can be changed dynamically. A user may be designate with new attributes or revoked some current attributes, then data access should be changed accordingly. Each data owner before encrypting the data, they divide the data into different parts and each parts is encrypt with contents keys by using symmetric encryption techniques. Then, the owner defines the access policies over attributes from multiple attribute authorities and encrypts the content keys under the policies. Once data are encrypted and its send to cloud server with the ciphertext [13]. The server do have option to access the data, and the User can decrypt the data if and only if user attributes satisfy the access policy defined in the ciphertext.

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S. No	Technique name	Observation	Advantage	Disadvantage
1	Identity based encryption	Identity based system generates any party public key with their identity. Trusted third party generates the private key. The public key generator publishes the master public key and any party can compute the private key combining the master public key and identity policy with which user can decrypt the message. This technique is useful where pre distribution of authenticated secret key is infeasible and there is no need of distribution of keys between users.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces the complexity of the encryption process No certificates needed. No pre-enrollment required. Keys expire, so they don't need to be revoked. In a traditional public-key system, keys must be revoked if compromised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A secure channel between user and private key generator is required. PKG need high level of assurance, since it holds all private keys and must remain online. Encrypted data is decrypted only by one known user so this lacks advance data sharing.
2	Attribute based encryption	The attribute authority generates public key and master key according to attributes. The data owner encrypt the data with a public key and a set of descriptive attributes. A data user decrypt the encrypted data with his own private key sent from the authority, and then he can obtain the needed data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce the communication overhead. Provide a fine-grained access control. Collusion-resistance is crucial security feature of Attribute-Based Encryption 	The data owner needs to use each authorized user's public key to encrypt data.
3	KP-ABE	Files are encrypted and loaded using some attribute and users with all those attribute only be able to decrypt. In KP-ABE system, ciphertext are associated with a set of descriptive attributes, while trusted attribute authority issues private key to user which captures an policy that specifies which type of ciphertexts the key can decrypt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy to deal with user revocation Key Its designed for one-to-many communications. Achieve fine-grained access control More flexible to control users than ABE scheme. 	The data owner cannot decide who can decrypt the encrypted data. Its not suitable for some application because data owner has to trust the key issuer [14].
4	CP-ABE	Ciphertext policy is the access structure on ciphertext. By using this technique even if the storage server is untrusted data can be made confidential. In a ciphertext-policy attribute-based encryption (CP-ABE) system, when a data owner encrypts a message, which specify a specific access policy in the ciphertext, stating who can decrypt the encrypted data.	The disadvantage of KP-ABE is over come in CP-ABE and it support the access control in the real environment.	The user combine all attributes in a single set issued in their keys to satisfy policies.
5	Role based	The data owner encrypts the data in cloud with particular encryption policy and grant access to the users with particular specific roles. There are specific set of roles and to which the users are assigned and each role has set of assigned permission.	This technique reports savings from more efficient provisioning, more efficient access control policy administration and reduced employee downtime. ABE are easy to set up and complex to manage this is over come by Role based encryption technique	An efficient cryptographical method to validate the partial ordering relation among these keys are required
6	Hierarchical Attribute-set-based encryption	Data owner encrypt the data and send the encrypted data to the cloud. The policy of the data files can be changed by the owner by updating the expiration time. Domain authority provides with the privileges and data owners are controlled by domain authority.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less initial capital investment Shorter start-up time for new services Lower maintenance cost and operation costs Easier disaster recovery. 	
7	Multi authority	This technique generates centralised private key for the user, centralised secret key. The system is built up of a Central Authority (CA) and multiple attribute authorities (AAs). These attribute authorities separately maintain attributes. The major components of the scheme are master attribute authorities and users. The duty of the master is to distribute private user keys. Attribute Authority certifies the user and distributes private attribute key to the user that can be used for decrypting the ciphertext. User produces ciphertext by the method of encryption technique.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Different attribute domains are managed by different authorities. Expressiveness, efficiency and security are not weaker than that of the single-authority. No authority can independently decrypt any ciphertext. The advantage of the system is that the system provides collusion resistance; the system is more efficient, more robust and provides scalability. The authorities are working independently of each other. Therefore, the failure or malfunctioning of one authority will not affect the working of other authorities. This improves the robustness of the system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CA can decrypt every ciphertext so that the user privacy and confidentiality of the data is less in this system. There is overhead involved in managing the distributed authorities.

III.CONCLUSION

Access control security is one of the important issues in cloud. Better access control protects cloud system from security problem. Now Cloud computing has been concentrate on many recent research and implementation, which ensures reliable and secure transfer of files. In this paper we discussed about the survey on access controls Security issues in cloud computing. The existing solutions are role based access control, identification based access control, attribute based access control and hierarchical based access control. Still existing solution are not sufficient to trust the cloud. The future plan is to implement a trust model for secure storage of file.

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