Performance Analysis of a Selective Encryption Algorithm for securing Text data over Mobile Ad hoc networks

Ajay Kushwaha, Megha Mishra, Subhash Chandra Shrivastava

Abstract: In recent era security is very much desired for the messages transmitted through the network. The study shows that, even though many approaches have been proposed towards security till date, still the security loopholes also emerging, so constant advancement is crucial for data security. Since all nodes in the network work together as a team to transmit the data, the network may prone to active or passive attacks such as Eavesdropping, Jamming, traffic analysis, Denial of Service, monitoring etc. The research paper introduces a new selective encryption method termed as Selective Significant Data Encryption (SSDE). The SSDE presents adequate protection to the data encryption process by picking up only the significant content from the complete message by referring Natural Language Processing (NLP). As a result, the encryption time overhead will get reduced, and overall performance will improve. Symmetric key algorithms are generally proficient and quick cryptosystem compared to other techniques, so Blowfish system is used for encryption/decryption process. The proposed research work is compared with many conventional methods and found that this approach is more superior to other traditional means.

Index Terms: Selective encryption, Mobile Ad hoc Network, Natural Language Processing, Selective significant data encryption, Stop words.

I. INTRODUCTION

The world is moving towards wireless network because of its decentralized characteristic which does not need any pre-existing infrastructure. The formal definition of ad hoc networks says that it is an independent system capable of routing packets independently. The scale of freedom offered by ad hoc networks is pretty cheaper if compared with other networks. Since ad hoc networks are used these days, so the security can be provided using cryptography. Since every one of the node in the network cooperate as a group to transmit the information, the system is inclined to active and passive attacks such as eavesdropping, jamming, traffic analysis, denial of service, monitoring etc. This paper considers only passive attacks [1]. Without disturbing the transmission; passive attacks intercept the message transmitted onto network and access the valuable information.

One can hide information in two ways: one is by masking the presence of the information and the other is by modifying the data to make it meaningless.

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Cryptography may be defined as the science and art to alter the information so as to protect it from unintended audience by encrypting it and thus making it pointless. Cryptography uses two styles for data encryption/decryption; that is, Symmetric and Asymmetric methods [2]. The keys used are same for both encryption as well as decryption in case of symmetric methods but are different in Asymmetric methods. The plain text is changed to cipher text when performing encoding and the cipher text is switched back to the plain text in decryption. This cipher text then transmitted onto the network.

In recent scenario, selective encryption methods are getting more popular because they may reduce the time consumption while encrypting and decrypting data that in turn enhances the competency of the network. This entire task of selecting words for encryption is done with the support of Natural Language Processing. NLP is linked with various branches of computer science. The proposed approach separates the stop words from the entire message and encrypts only the significant data (different words) before transmitting it onto the network. The stop words considered here are those words which are removed before or after from the natural language. These are the commonly used words having little value to the message [3], [4].

II. RELATED WORK

Extensive investigations have been carried out on data encryption and cryptography [5], [6],[14-15]. For data security, various cryptographic techniques were developed such as digital signature, symmetric key, etc. For example, Yonglin et al. [7] developed a probabilistically particular encryption method using symmetric key. It uses the benefits of probabilistic methodology and stochastic algorithm to introduce additional vagueness in data making only entrusted persons decrypting the cipher text. Thamrin et al. [8] proposed a method in cryptosystem for generating pseudo-random number. This mechanism helped in enhancing the reliability and randomness, of key generation. Matin et al. [9] study the results of the new cipher in MANET and wireless LAN networks.

Uthairajar et al. [10] designed n-way cryptosystem which is used to manage the nodes within a network. This method developed for multicast. They also introduced several functions of key management like key revocation, rekeying, etc. Zhou and Yang [11] developed a blind signature method. Under this approach, the signer can
generate the blind signature and verify, without knowing the text. This technique uses hyper-elliptic curve encryption. Lee et al. [12] proposed a double receiver cryptosystem, which uses two keys for both sender and receiver to encrypt and decrypt the cipher text. Massoudi et al. [13] in his research paper provided a list of assessment standards for JPEG 2000. It includes security, compression, encryption ratio; etc Priyanka et al. [16] depict the basic problems of ad hoc network. The paper also explained the challenges and vulnerabilities of Mobile Ad hoc. Umaparvathi et al. [17] presented a comparison of different symmetric and asymmetric methods of cryptography like AES, Blowfish, DES, and 3DES. The performance evaluation shows that blowfish and 3DES are superior to other methods. Schneier [18], [19-22] introduced a new secret-key block cipher called as Blowfish. The size of block is 64 bits. The length of the key can vary up to 448 bits. Initially, it is a complex phase to initialize the values before encryption. But later on, it works efficiently. It has 16 rounds. Priyadarshini et al. [2] implemented and compared the various cryptographic algorithms like DES, 3DES, AES, RSA, and blowfish by making use of the following metrics like Encryption time, Decryption time, Memory used, Avalanche effect and Entropy. David et al. [23] present a paper on evaluation of load balancing and energy consumption among MANET and Vehicular Ad hoc networks. Sandoval Orozco et al. [24] explained the various common threats to mobile ad hoc networks and assessed several schemes that try to reduce these threats. He discussed various threats like Address Spoofing Threat, Address Space Exhaustion Threat, Address Conflict Threat, False Address Conflict Threat, Denial of Service Threat, Sybil Threat and Negative Reply Threat. The author demonstrated that if new nodes are inserted in MANET during auto configuration can lead to new threats due to behaviour of network. In this research paper Yang et al. [25] emphasized on the basic security issues of shielding the multi-hop network connection between mobile nodes in ad hoc networks. They worked on total security solution for both link and network layer while sending packets over multi-hop wireless network. In this chapter Islam et al. [26] they have analyzed and evaluated in detail on intrusion detection system, key management issues and securing routing. They also provided complete security solutions for Mobile Ad hoc Networks. Bing Wu et al. [27] had a survey on various attacks and their solutions in Mobile Ad hoc Networks. They proposed various solutions to reduce security vulnerabilities. The author also explained vulnerabilities according to protocol layers.

III. CONCEPT OF SELECTIVE ENCRYPTION

In current state, selective encryption approaches are getting more accepted because they decrease the time utilization while encrypting and decrypting the data which augments the competency of the network. The research supports the concept of selective encryption and presents the sketch of some of the picky encryption methodologies. Figure 1 illustrates the process of selective encryption as given below.

Selective encryption algorithms are based on the concept of encrypting only selective words of the messages and propose trustworthy safety to the messages transferred through the network. The selective encryption is proficient of getting better scalability for data transfer and also shrinking the dealing out time of encryption and decryption. Natural Language Processing helps to perform selective encryption of the messages. In corpus linguistics, the process of tagging words within sentence based on its classification termed as part of speech tagging. Under this proposed method (SSDE) selective encryption is done by definition and framework of a word in a given message [29-31].

The mechanism of eliminating peculiar regular expressions and stop words from the plain text are shown below in Figure 2.

Fig. 1: Schematic diagram of selective encryption algorithm

A. FULL DATA ENCRYPTION METHOD

Selective encryption algorithm has benefits of cryptographic techniques, i.e., symmetric and asymmetric algorithms, to assure the safety of transfer of information between the two nodes. In this approach, the whole message sent from sender end to receiver end is entirely encrypted. The encryption ratio is 100%. No data is left unencrypted. It is the safest way to secure data while transmitting from sender end to receiver end.

B. TOSS- A - COIN METHOD

The second approach used to provide sufficient uncertainty to data is Toss- a -coin method. It’s a primary method to give enough uncertainty to data encryption. In this method, the entire message to be transmitted is split into two categories: odd group contains all bizarre number messages like M3, M5, M8,…,M(2n+1) and even group include all even like M2,…..M2n. The ambiguity involved here is to choose that on which group encryption is done, even or
odd. The decision is done through toss-a-coin method which tells about the group encoded. Under this method, only 50% of data randomly got encrypted and rest is sent as it on the network and thus the amount of data to be encoded is decreased. The encryption ratio is 50% only. The problem with this method is that we need a high degree of randomness in the encrypted message to make difficult for intruder to hack the messages.

IV. PROPOSED METHODOLOGY

This section will explain working of proposed selective encryption method. Our method picks only keywords (significant data) existing in the plain text and encrypts them prior to transmitting over the network. The research work emphasizes only on significant data in SSDE (SELECTIVE SIGNIFICANT DATA ENCRYPTION) method. Significant data are those keywords that hold the significance of the complete message. Apart from significant data, remaining commonly used words like articles, pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections are sent with no encryption. The proposed algorithm is as follows:

A. PROPOSED ALGORITHM

Step1. Input Plain text file
Step2. Sentence Segmentation
Step 3. Removing special characters
Step 4. Tokenization
Step 5. Part of Speech tagging
Step 6. For each Wi, where i=1 to n
    Check if Wi ∈ D
    If yes go to Step 8
    Else go to Step 7
Step7. Encrypt Wi using symmetric key approach and transmit the message onto the network.
Step8. Transmit the message onto the network with no encryption.

Where
“Wi” means words.
“D” is the database (collection of words like articles, conjunctions, etc.)
“n” is the total number of words in message which is to be encrypted.
“i” is the iteration variable.

Figure 3 illustrates the schematic steps of Selective Significant Data Encryption method which is given below.

B. EVALUATION PARAMETERS

Every Selective Encryption methods have its strengths and weaknesses. Thus, the methods have to be tested taken into consideration the various performance metrics. The paper shows the use and performance study of the following factors:

[1] Encryption

Time required to cryptograph simple text into cipher text is the encryption time. The time relies on the key size, block size of plain text and the mode.

Encryption time = \text{round} \left(\text{stop time} - \text{start time}, 2\right)

[2] Decryption

The amount of time used to decrypt cipher text into plain text is decryption time. The time taken for decryption is less compared to encryption time. The time depends on the key size, block size of plain text.

Decryption time = \text{round} \left(\text{Stop time} - \text{Start time}, 2\right)

[3] Throughput

The amount of encrypted data that can be transmitted from one place to another in specified time is the throughput. It measured in kbps.

\text{Throughput} = \text{round} \left(\frac{\text{File size}}{\text{Total Time}}\right) \times \left(\frac{8}{1000}\right), 2

Where
File size in kbps
Total time in seconds

[4] Security

How much secure data communication done between the sender and receiver, making the intruder’s task difficult to hack.

[5] Entropy

Randomness is a vital property in cryptanalytic processes as a result of information mustn’t be
guessed by an intruder. It is a scale of unpredictability within the messages. Entropy study the performance of cryptographic algorithm and it can be calculated using Shannon’s formula.

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\text{Entropy} = - \sum_{i=1}^{n} p_i \log_b(p_i)
\]

Where \( p_i \) probability of the event happening \( b \) base \( n \) number of different outcomes

V. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

A series of simulation performed for validating the various selective encryption methods, within a wireless environment. The software and hardware used for the experiments are Windows 10 64bit Operating System, Python 3.5 with NLTK package, NS 2.34 and i3 processor machine with 4 GB RAM. Throughout the simulation experimentation, all the considered systems are made to run in the same set-up. The performance metrics used to evaluate all methods are encryption time, decryption time, throughput and entropy. In cryptography, entropy is a degree of the unpredictedness. The key taken is of 128-bits, which uniformly generate entropy of 128 bits. On an estimate, it requires 2^128-1 to crack by any attacker, which is very typical.

Avg per byte encryption for Blowfish = 4.250

Blowfish scores entropy per byte of encryption is far better than other symmetric algorithms. Entropy is a scale of unpredictedness within the information. Blowfish produce high degree of unpredictability in information, as it uses different rounds on S-array and P-array. It makes the output information less susceptible to intruders. A series of simulation performed for validating the various selective encryption methods, within a wireless environment.

There are various lists of parts-of-speech, generally, in most modern language processing on English 48 tag Penn Treebank tag set are used as shown in Figure 3. These tag sets have been used to label a wide variety of corpora, including Wall Street Journal corpus, Brown corpus, etc.

We have prepared two datasets for the assessment of our method. The datasets used are 92 words and 1000 words from Wikipedia. In this segment, we have carried out the evaluation of our proposed system in comparison with other methods. Furthermore, we have shown how frequent words influences the performance of the method.

In Table 1, we have displayed the results of the first dataset of 92 words, which includes 48 keywords / significant data which need to be encrypted and rest 44 common words sent without encryption, making the encryption/decryption process easier by reducing the overall time overhead compared to other methods.

Table 1. POS tag sequences for 92 words

| S NO | POS TAG | TAG NAME            | FREQ. % | POS COUNT | KEY WORDS | COMM. WORDS |
|------|---------|---------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1    | CC      | Coordinating        | 5.43    | 5         | 5         |             |
| 2    | DT      | Determiner          | 8.69    | 8         | 8         |             |
| 3    | IN      | Preposition         | 14.1    | 13        | 13        |             |
| 4    | JJ      | Adjective           | 16.4    | 15        | 15        |             |
| 5    | NN      | Noun, singular or mass | 33.69 | 31        | 31        |             |
| 6    | NNP     | Proper noun, singular | 8.69  | 8         | 8         |             |
| 7    | RB      | Adverb              | 1.08    | 1         | 1         |             |
| 8    | TO      | to                  | 1.08    | 1         | 1         |             |
| 9    | VB      | Verb, base form     | 2.17    | 2         | 2         |             |
| 10   | VBG     | Verb, present participle | 2.17 | 2         | 2         |             |
| 11   | VBN     | Verb, past participle | 1.08  | 1         | 1         |             |
| 12   | VBP     | Verb, non-3rd ps.sing. present | 2.17 | 2         | 2         |             |
| 13   | VBZ     | Verb, 3rd ps.sing. present | 2.17 | 2         | 2         |             |
| 14   | TOTAL   |                      | 100     | 92        | 48        | 44          |

In Table 2, we present the performance with a different dataset of 1000 words including 505 keywords / significant data which need to be encrypted and rest 495 common words sent as it is without encryption on to the network.

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Fig. 4: Modern English 48 tag Penn Treebank
Part-of-speech tags set [source Marcus et al., 1993 [28]]
Table 2. POS tag sequences for 1000 words

| S.NO. | POS TAG | TAG NAME                  | FREQ. % | POS COUNT | KEY WORDS | COMM. WORDS |
|-------|---------|---------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| 1     | CC      | Coordinating conjunction  | 2.6     | 26        | 26        |             |
| 2     | CD      | Cardinal number           | 2       | 20        | 20        |             |
| 3     | DT      | Determiner                | 9.4     | 94        | 94        |             |
| 4     | EX      | Existential there         | 0.3     | 3         | 3         |             |
| 5     | IN      | Preposition or subordinating conjunction | 13.2   | 132       | 132       |             |
| 6     | JJ      | Adjective                 | 14.8    | 148       | 148       |             |
| 7     | JJR     | Adjective, comparative    | 0.7     | 7         | 7         |             |
| 8     | JJS     | Adjective, superlative    | 0.2     | 2         | 2         |             |
| 9     | MD      | Modal                     | 0.4     | 4         | 4         |             |
| 10    | NN      | Noun, singular or mass    | 18      | 180       | 180       |             |
| 11    | NNS     | Noun, plural              | 10.9    | 109       | 109       |             |
| 12    | NNP     | Proper noun, singular     | 5.4     | 54        | 54        |             |
| 13    | POS     | Possessive ending         | 0.1     | 1         | 1         |             |
| 14    | PRP     | Personal pronoun          | 0.2     | 2         | 2         |             |
| 15    | PRPS    | Possessive pronoun        | 0.1     | 1         | 1         |             |
| 16    | RB      | Adverb                    | 4.6     | 46        | 46        |             |
| 17    | RBR     | Adverb, comparative       | 0.3     | 3         | 3         |             |
| 18    | RP      | Particle                  | 0.2     | 2         | 2         |             |
| 19    | TO      | to                        | 1.9     | 19        | 19        |             |
| 20    | VB      | Verb, base form           | 1.5     | 15        | 15        |             |
| 21    | VBD     | Verb, past tense          | 3.3     | 33        | 33        |             |
| 22    | VBG     | Verb, present participle  | 2.4     | 24        | 24        |             |
| 23    | VBN     | Verb, past participle     | 3.1     | 31        | 31        |             |
| 24    | VBP     | Verb, non-3rd ps.sing. present | 1     | 10        | 10        |             |
| 25    | VBJ     | Verb, 3rd ps.sing. present | 1.3 | 13        | 13        |             |
| 26    | WDT     | Wh-determiner             | 1.3     | 13        | 13        |             |
| 27    | WPS     | Possessive wh-pronoun     | 0.1     | 1         | 1         |             |
| 28    | WRB     | Wh-adverb                 | 0.7     | 7         | 7         |             |

Total 1000 505 495

The various simulation parameters used in our research work is shown below in figure 5.

We have taken random file size to evaluate all the three approaches. Figure 6 shows that SSDE takes the least time for encryption compared to full encryption and toss a coin method for encrypting files of different sizes. Our approach revealed improvement over others.

![Fig. 5: Simulation parameters in NS 2.34](image)

![Fig. 6: Encryption Time](image)
Similarly, we have evaluated performance while considering decryption time. Figure 7 shows the time taken for decryption for different file sizes. Our proposed method SSDE has improved performance over other two methods.

Consequently, the presented solution provides a viable key for securing wireless communication in Mobile Ad hoc network.

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