Lab Assignment 3

AIM: Block cipher modes of operation using Advanced Encryption Standard (AES).

LO2: Demonstrate key management, distribution and user authentication.

THEORY:

Briefly explain AES algorithm (What type of cipher it is? number of rounds, keysize, block size, operations in each round)

The Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) is a widely used symmetric encryption algorithm that falls under the category of block ciphers. It replaced the older Data Encryption Standard (DES) due to its stronger security features. AES operates on fixed-size blocks of data and is known for its efficiency and resistance against various types of attacks.

<u>Type of Cipher</u>: AES is a symmetric key block cipher, which means the same secret key is used for both encryption and decryption. It transforms plaintext blocks into ciphertext blocks using a series of complex operations.

<u>Number of Rounds</u>: AES operates with different numbers of rounds depending on the key size:

AES-128: 10 rounds

AES-192: 12 rounds

AES-256: 14 rounds

<u>Key Size</u>: AES supports key sizes of 128, 192, or 256 bits. The security and strength of the encryption increase with larger key sizes.

Block Size: AES operates on fixed-size blocks of 128 bits.

Operations in Each Round:

SubBytes: Non-linear substitution of each byte in the block using a predefined substitution table (S-box).

ShiftRows: Byte shifting within each row to provide diffusion in the data.

MixColumns: Mixing operation that transforms columns of data to provide diffusion across columns.

AddRoundKey: Each byte of the block is combined with the corresponding round key derived from the original encryption key.

These operations are applied repeatedly for the specified number of rounds, with each round using a different round key. The complex interaction of these operations ensures that even a small change in the plaintext results in a significantly different ciphertext, a property known as the avalanche effect. This contributes to the security and robustness of AES against various cryptographic attacks.

With diagram explain in brief block cipher modes of operation

ECB mode

CBC mode

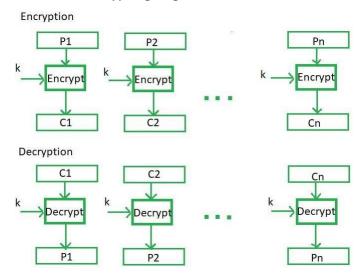
OFB mode

Counter mode

Block cipher modes of operation are techniques used to apply a block cipher, like AES, to encrypt or decrypt data that is larger than the block size of the cipher. These modes define how blocks of plaintext are transformed into ciphertext and vice versa. Here's a brief explanation of some common block cipher modes of operation:

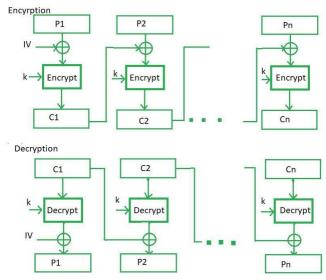
Electronic Codebook (ECB) Mode:

ECB mode is the simplest mode, where each block of plaintext is independently encrypted using the same encryption key. However, this mode has a significant limitation: identical plaintext blocks result in identical ciphertext blocks, making it vulnerable to certain attacks. ECB mode is not suitable for encrypting large amounts of data or data with patterns.



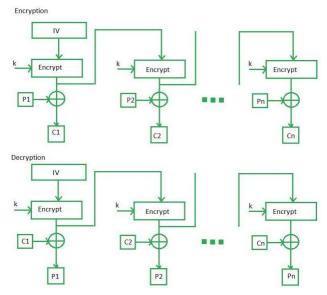
Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) Mode:

In CBC mode, each plaintext block is XORed with the previous ciphertext block before encryption. This introduces a form of feedback, where the ciphertext from the previous block affects the encryption of the current block. Initialization Vector (IV) is used to start the process. CBC mode prevents identical plaintext blocks from producing identical ciphertext blocks and provides a basic level of security. Decryption requires the previous ciphertext block to be available.



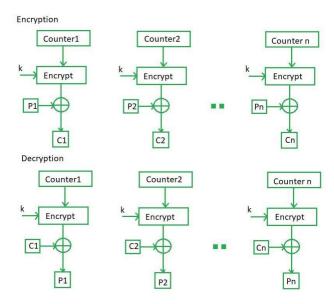
Output Feedback (OFB) Mode:

OFB mode converts a block cipher into a stream cipher. It generates a keystream using the encryption of an IV and successive values (feedback) derived from the encryption of the previous block's ciphertext. The keystream is XORed with the plaintext to produce the ciphertext and vice versa. OFB mode does not require decryption in the encryption process and is suitable for applications where error propagation is a concern.



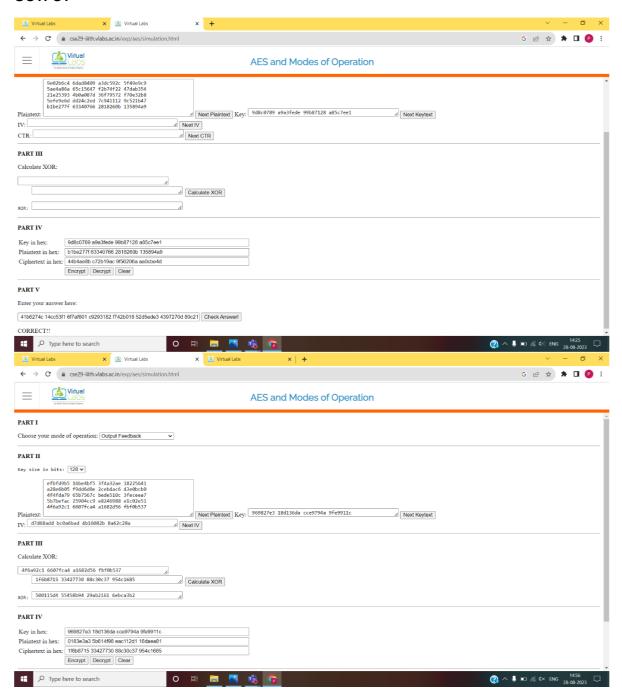
Counter (CTR) Mode:

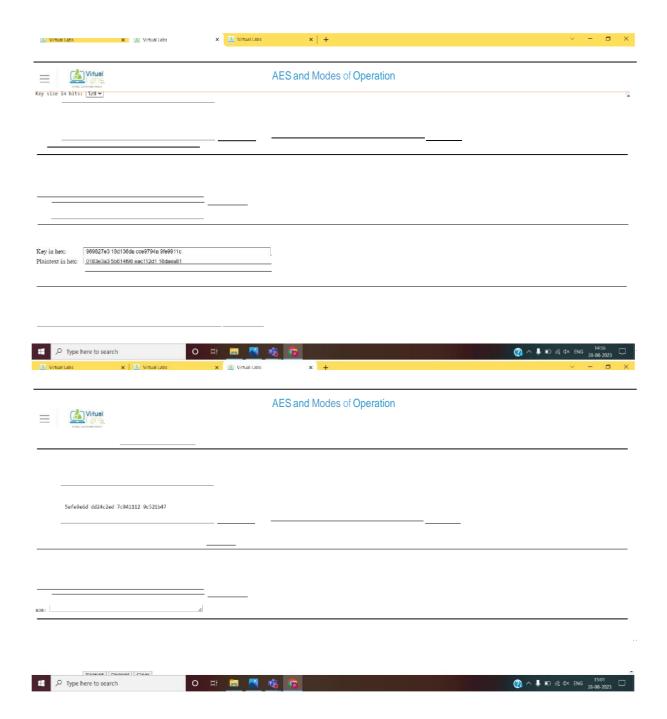
CTR mode also turns a block cipher into a stream cipher. It involves encrypting a counter value using the encryption key, and the resulting output is XORed with the plaintext to produce the ciphertext. The counter value is incremented for each block. CTR mode allows for parallel encryption and decryption, making it efficient for multi-core processors. It also offers excellent error propagation.



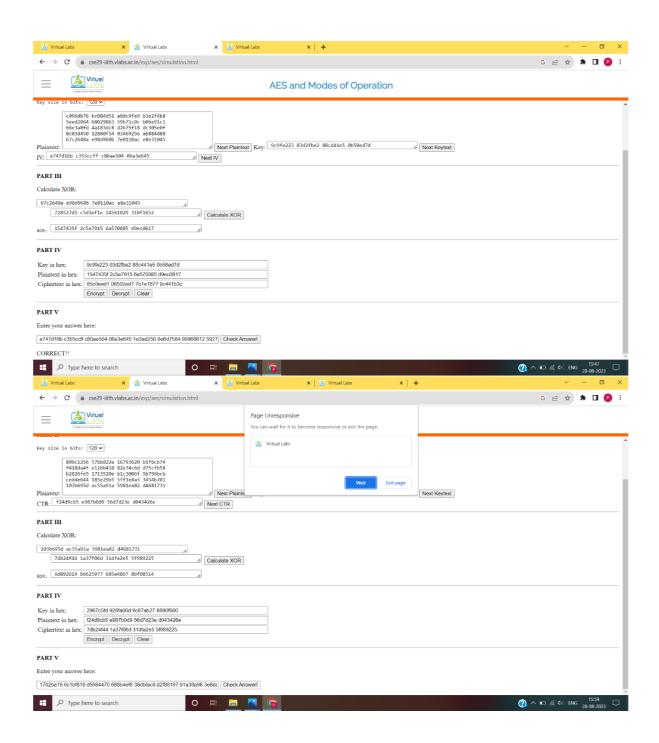
These modes provide different trade-offs between security, performance, and error propagation. It's important to choose the appropriate mode based on the specific requirements of your application. Additionally, some modes, like CBC and CTR, require the use of Initialization Vectors (IVs) to ensure uniqueness and security of the encryption process.

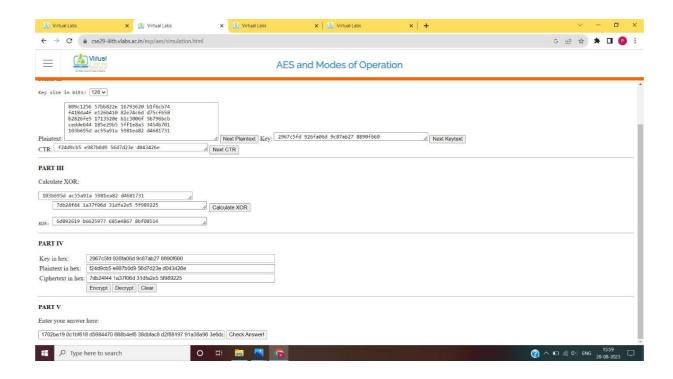
OUTPUT





=	Virtual		AES and Modes of Operation
	9e02b6c4 6dad8499 a3dc592c 5f49e9c9 5ae4a86a 65c15647 f2b74f22 47dab354 21e25393 4b0e087d 36f79572 f70e32b8		
	5efe9e6d dd24c2ed 7c941112 9c521b47 b1be277f 63340766 2818260b 135894a9		y: 908c0789 a9a3fede 99b87128 a85c7ee1
aintext:		Next IV	y: 9d8c0789 a9a3fede 99b87128 a85c7ee1
TR:		4 Next CTR	
_			
R:		A	
			_
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			450 JM J 70 J
_	Virtual		AES and Modes of Operation
	AS MIC CO. O'COM O'COM. A		





CONCLUSION:

The AES experiment offered a practical glimpse into the world of symmetric key cryptography. We explored AES's encryption processes, recognizing its efficiency and adaptability for secure data handling. By employing different modes of operation, such as ECB, CBC, OFB, and Counter, we comprehended the distinct trade-offs between security, performance, and error propagation.