**A Survey on Cryptography Algorithms in terms of Symmetric and Asymmetric Techniques**

**Abstract**:

In modern world, security is the most valuable term in the field of communication system. Security comes along with many technologies and methods, where one of the most secure one is Cryptography. It is a converting process where ordinary plain text into cipher text. Cryptography algorithms can be divided into two types based on number of keys such as Symmetric and Asymmetric techniques, where Symmetric algorithm works with one single key and Asymmetric algorithm works with two different keys. However, many researchers worked with symmetric or asymmetric algorithm individually and others compared both but only with some selective algorithms. This paper will present a survey between both of these algorithms and a comparative study between them in terms of which one is better in its relative field.

**Keywords**: Encryption, Algorithms, Symmetric, Asymmetric

1. **Introduction**:

Cryptography is the creativity of translating the original plain text in to cipher text. The sender translates the plaintext in to cipher text. In this way when the data sends to receiver the sender translate the plaintext into chipper text. Then the receiver converts it to plaintext for reading data. The passion of the cryptography is to protect data from unauthorized access. When the data sends to receiver as chipper text, then third party can’t access the data as the original form. The way that the plaintext hides the data is called encryption. The way of the encrypting the input or plaintext which is unreadable is called chipper text. The way that takes encrypting message to the receiver and translates as readable form is called decryption. In the modern era cryptography provides a huge role in network security purpose. As lately this is the good security system for communication. The encryption key and decryption key may or may not be the same. When these keys are same, the cryptosystem is called a "Symmetric key" technique; when they are not it is called an "Asymmetric key" technique.

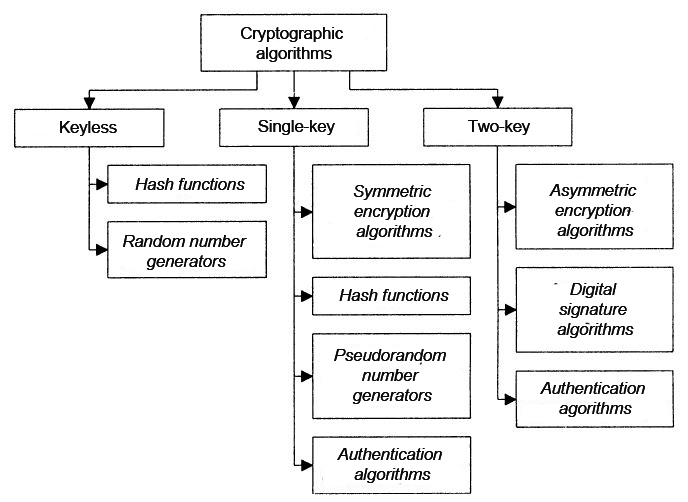


Figure 1: Classification of Cryptographic Algorithms

**1.1. Symmetric** **Cryptography** **Algorithm**:

This type of cryptography practices only one key for both encryption and decryption, and it is also called secret key cryptography [1]. This technique works by the following principles:  
1. The plaintext is encrypted with the key to produce cipher text and it is sent to the receiver.  
2. The receiver uses the same key to decrypt the cipher text and finds the original plaintext.  
In Symmetric key cryptography both the sender and the receiver must know the same key in order to use the technique. There are two common patterns in this method stream cipher and Block cipher. The stream ciphers generate a sequence of bits used as a key called a key  
stream, and the encryption is accomplished by combining the key stream with the plaintext. This is usually done with the bitwise XOR operation. The key stream is not dependent on the plaintext and cipher text, in which case the stream cipher is synchronous, or it can depend of the data  
and its encryption, in which case the stream cipher is self-synchronizing. A block cipher converts a fixed-length block of plaintext into a block of cipher text which is of the same length. In decryption, same secret key is used by applying the reverse transformation of the cipher text block and original plain text is produced [2].

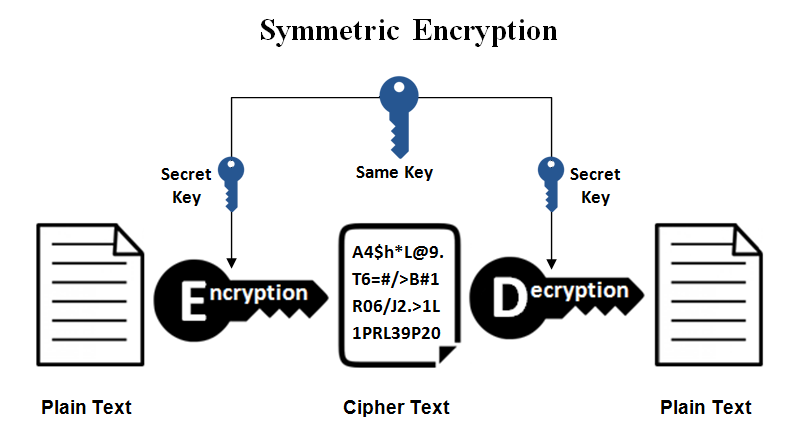


Figure 2: Symmetric Encryption Technique

1. **AES**: Advance Encryption Standard

Rijndael was selected as the AES in Oct-2000 Designed by Vincent Rijmen and Joan Daemen in  
Belgium. AES is a symmetric block cipher that can Block size128bit, Cipher keys 128,192and 256 bits. Basically, encryption algorithms are divided into three major categories – transposition,  
substitution, and transposition – substitution technique. This algorithm uses a round function that  
is compared of four different byte-oriented transformations such as Sub byte, Shift row, Mix column, Add round key. Number of rounds to be used depends on the length of key [3].

These numbers of rounds, AES compare between its own three block ciphers: AES-128, AES-192 and AES- 256. Each of this type both encrypts and decrypts data in block of 128 bits in measures of cryptographic keys. In this method of cryptography there is no extra room for acceptance additional block sizes and key length. The AES encryption algorithm performs in different stage of transformation. At first the cipher use the data to put into an array and after that it performs a number of encryption rounds. This round is based on key length such as 10 rounds for 128 bits, 12 rounds for 192 bit and 14 rounds for 265 bit keys. Then when this transformation is over creating a table of substitution with the data performs the second transformation with shifting the data in rows and then mixes columns. Finally there is an exclusive or XOR operation at the different part of the keys.

As AES implemented in system as robust security protocol, the higher length of keys such as 128, 192 and 256 bits are encrypted in this method easily. The main uses of AES come with applications of wireless communication, financial transaction and e-commerce business. While the limitation of AES based on simplified algebraic architecture and as every block is encrypted in the same way all the time.

1. **DES**: Data Encryption Standard

Des (Data Encryption Standard), was developed in 1970 at IBM by Horst Feistel. This encryption standard was recommended by NIST (National Institute of Standards Technology) [5].

DES is a block cipher.in DES 64 bits of plain text goes as input , which produces 64 bits of cipher text. Even if 64 bit key is actual input, the key length is 56 for this algorithm. DES consists of a16-round series of substitution and permutation. Thus, data and key bits are shifted, permutated, XORed, and sent through, 8 sboxes, a set of lookup tables that are essential to the DES algorithm. The Decryption process is performed in reverse. This makes it a symmetric key algorithm [4]

The DES algorithm’s encryption and decryption Speed is fast .One of the important advantage is with having used DES, much faster public-key systems can be made. DES uses the least memory while encryption time [6]. on the other hand, DES is considered weak and insecure because it was recorded with many attacks as the key length is 56 which is too small [5].

1. **3DES**: Triple Data Encryption Standard

3DES or the Triple Data Encryption Algorithm was developed to address the obvious flaws in DES without de-signing a whole new cryptosystem [7]. With the idea that Double DES may not be strong enough to prevent a meet-in-the-middle attack has led to the development of 3DES, which was developed in 1999 by IBM by a team led by Walter Tuchman [8]. This type of attack is one of the main reasons why 2DES was replaced by 3DES. It is essential to avoid having the same key for the encryption steps since the output will only be a slower version of DES. 3DES has two forms, one requiring three completely different keys and the other only two completely different keys. Researchers used 56-bit key in data Encryption Standard (DES) and this was not sufficient to encrypt sensitive data. 3-DES was invented to simply extend the key size of DES by applying the algorithm three times in succession with three different keys and the combined key size is 168 bits (3 times 56).3DES involves using three 64-bit DEA keys (K1, K2, K3). In Encrypt-Decrypt- Encrypt (EDE) mode, that is, the plain text is encrypted with K1, then decrypted with K2, and then encrypted again with K3[7].

3DES works in much the same way as DES, except that goes through three cycles during the encryption process, using three keys: encryption, decryption, and another encryption. It has a key length of 192 bits (64 bits x 3 keys), but its actual strength is 168 bits (56 bits x 3 keys). This method is three times as strong as DES, yet it also means that it is three times slower because of the triple processing [9].

One thing is very important that all three keys must be different. If any of the keys are found to be same, it will be easier for a hacker to discover the plaintext. For this reason, several modes of operation were designed by researchers for symmetric block ciphers such as 3DES. They include the Electronic Codebook mode (ECB), Cipher Block Chaining mode (CBC), Cipher Feedback mode (CFB), and Counter mode (CTR). While explaining these in detail are out of the scope for this discussion, ECB is a good example of why the same key should not be used. ECB uses the same key for each block of plaintext, and is considered unsecure for long messages. If any two blocks are the same, the ciphertext would be identical. A hacker can decipher the message by using the method of deduction.

Encryption using 3DES can be represented as A = B (C3, D(C2,E(C1,K))). Similarly, decryption is the same process backwards: X= K (C1,E(C2,D(C3,B))).

3DES is easy to implement and accelerate in both software and hardware. This is ubiquitous: most systems, libraries, and protocols include support for it [10]. Researchers believe that3DES is still be secure because it requires 2^112 operations which is not achievable with foreseeable technology.

Researchers found that 3DES cipher suffers from a fundamental weakness linked to its small (64-bit) blocksize, i.e. the size of plaintext that it can encrypt. In the common mode of operation (CBC), each plaintext block is XORed with the previous ciphertext before encryption. That means if we encrypt a lot of data and by chance get the same ciphertext block twice, an attacker can learn the XOR of the two corresponding blocks of plaintext.

There is now a practical, relatively fast attack on 64-bit block ciphers that lets attackers recover authentication cookies and other credentials from HTTPS-protected sessions, a pair of French researchers said. Legacy ciphers Triple-DES and Blowfish need to go the way of the broken RC4 cipher: Deprecated and disabled everywhere. [11]

* 1. **Asymmetric** **Cryptography** **Algorithms**:

This technique requires two types of keys: one to encrypt the plaintext and one to decrypt the cipher text, and it doesn’t work without one or another. It is called asymmetric cryptography because it is used a pair of keys: one is the public key that can be advertised by the owner to whoever he wants, and the other one is the private key and it is  
known only by the owner. The most common public key algorithm is the RSA algorithm, used for key exchange, digital signatures, or encryption of small blocks of data. It  
uses a variable size key and a variable size encryption block. The security of the RSA algorithm is based on the factorization of very large numbers. Two prime numbers are  
generated by a special set of rules, and the product of these numbers is a very large number, from which it derives the key-set [13]

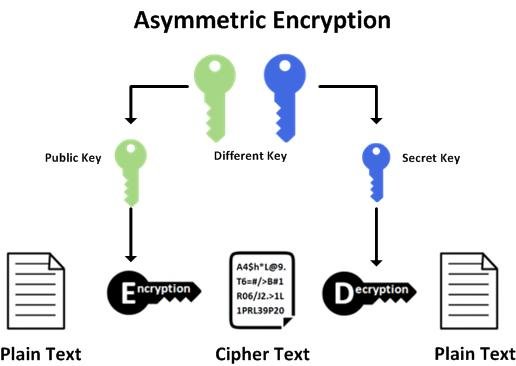


Figure 2: Symmetric Encryption Technique

1. **RSA**: Rivest Shamir Adleman

In 1978 RSA was designed by Ron Rivest, Adi Shamir, and Leonard Adleman .It is the most common public key algorithm. It’s one of the best known public key cryptosystems .[14]

RSA is an asymmetric cryptosystem. There are two different keys. This is also called public key cryptography, because one of them can be given to everyone. The other key is private because its kept secret.it is based on number theory and is a block cipher system. RSA works in three steps: 1) Key Generation,2)Encryption,3) Decryption. These 3 steps are evaluated below:

1) Key Generation:

Data is encrypted after Key generation is done.

Steps:

1. Choose two distinct large random prime numbers c & d such that c ≠d

2. Compute z= c × d.

3. Calculate: (z) = (c-1) (d-1).

4. Choose an integer e such that 1<e< (z)

5. Compute g to satisfy the congruence relation g × e = 1 mod phi (z); g is kept as private key exponent.

6. The public key is (z, e) and the private key is (z, g). Keeping all the values g, c, d and

2) Encryption

Encryption is the process of converting original plain text into cipher text.

Steps

Plaintext: A< n

Cipher text: B= Ae mod n.

3) Decryption

Decryption is the process of converting the cipher text to the original plain text.

Cipher text: A

Plaintext: B=Ad mod n [14] [15].

The RSA is considered reliable and safe for its secrecy and privacy features. RSA also offers integrity where the content stays in its original form in exchange phase. Disadvantages of RSA is that it takes longest encryption time.it requires of similar lengths for c and which is not easy to meet the requirement .Padding techniques are required in this case which leads to more processing time.[15]

1. **DSA**: Digital Signature Algorithm

A digital signature algorithm (DSA) refers to a standard for digital signatures [16]. It was introduced in 1991 by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as a better method of creating digital signatures. Along with RSA, DSA is also considered one of the most preferred digital signature algorithms used today [16]. DSA does not encrypt message digests using private key or decrypt message digests using public key. Instead, it uses unique mathematical functions to create a digital signature consisting of two 160-bit numbers, which are originated from the message digests and the private key. DSA makes use of the public key for authenticating the signature, but the authentication process is more complicated when compared with RSA [16]. DSAs are exclusively used for digital signatures and make no provisions for encrypting data; it is typically not subject to import or export restrictions, which are often enforced on RSA [16].

DSA Signature Generation:

INPUT**:** Domain parameters (a, b, c); signer's private key e; message-to-be-signed, S, with message digest d= Hash(S) [17].   
OUTPUT**:** Signature (x, y).

1. At first we’ll have to choose a random i in the range [1, b − 1].
2. Then K = ci mod a and x= K mod b. If x = 0 (unlikely) then we’ll need to go step 1.
3. Next step we’ll have to compute i− 1 mod b.
4. Then we’ll have to compute d= Hash(S).
5. Then we’ll have to compute y = i− 1(d + sx) mod b. If y = 0 (unlikely) then we’ll have to go step 1.
6. Finally it’ll return (x, y) [17].

DSA Signature Verification:

INPUT**:** Domain parameters (a, b, c); signer's public key E; signed-message, S, with message digest d= Hash(S); signature (x, y) [17]. OUTPUT**:** Either "Accept" or "Reject".

1. At first we’ll have to verify that x and y are in the range [1, b − 1]. If not then we’ll have to return "Reject" and stop.
2. Then we’ll have to compute p= y− 1 mod b.
3. Next step we’ll need to compute n= Hash(S).
4. In step 4 we’ll have to compute z1 = dp mod b and z2 = xn mod b.
5. Next step we’ll have to compute Y = cz1Sz2 mod a and v = Y mod b.
6. If v = x then we’ll have to return "Accept" otherwise we’ll have to return "Reject"[17].

In DSA If the digital signature is not verified by the public key, then the receiver will have to simply mark the message as invalid but he does not know whether the message was corrupted or the false private key was used.  For using the digital signature the user will have to obtain both private and  
public key, the receiver has to obtain the digital signature certificate also. In order to effectively use digital signatures, both senders and recipients may have to buy digital certificates at a cost from trusted certification authorities [18]. Also, in some states and countries, laws regarding cyber and technology-based issues are weak or even non-existent. Trading in such jurisdictions becomes very risky for those who use digitally signed electronic documents [18]. Though digital signature provides authenticity but it does not ensure secrecy of the data. In order to provide the secrecy, some other technique such as encryption and decryption needs to be used.

1. **ECC**: Elliptic Curve Cryptography

Elliptic curve cryptography was introduced in the mid-1980s independently by Koblitz and Miller as a promising alternative for cryptographic protocols based on the discrete logarithm problem in the multiplicative group of a finite field [19].

ECC is same as RSA but different is that it has fast solving capacity and has different way of cryptographic algorithm. The ECC’s security key length is smaller than other asymmetric algorithms and its key length is only 163 bit. ECC takes full-exponential time and RSA takes sub-exponential time. For an example, RSA with key size of m, 1024 bit takes 4\*10m MIPS years with best known attack ECC with 160 bit key size takes 12.6\*10m MIPS years. It uses elective curve equation in lieu of traditional prime numbers. Most of the execution time spends on scalar multiplication. ECC provides same security as other algorithms but in smaller key sizes. The entire security of ECC depend on the ability to compute a point multiplication and inability to compute the multiplicand given the original and product point[19].The ECC provides decent authentication in RFID system. For small key size it can use in wireless sensor networks like tablet, mobile phones.

Most significant privilege is that ECC provides good security in small key sizes which done the process within short time. On the other hand, it increases the size of the encrypted message significantly more than RSA encryption. This algorithm is more complicated and difficult to implement than RSA, which increases the likelihood of implementation errors, thereby reducing the security of the algorithm.

1. **Results and Comparison :**

The following tables represent symmetric and asymmetric nature based on some factors. These factors decide whether the algorithm perform faster or securely among others in certain type of data transferring process such as:

**Key** **length:** Keylength is the number of bits in a key used by a cryptographic algorithm.

**Block Size:** A block is a sequence of bytes or bits, usually containing some whole number of records, having a maximum length, a blocksize. Data thus structured are said to be blocked.

**Round:** Roundis afunction, which measures how much time the operation needs to perform for retrieve data.

**Vulnerabilities:** Weakness points of a system which can be exploited by attacker.

**Efficiency:** How fast or slow when implemented through hardware and software.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FACTORS | AES | DES | 3DES |
| Key-Length (bits) | 128,192,256 | 56 | 112,168 |
| Developed | 2000 | 1975 | 1978 |
| Block Size | 128 | 64 | 64 |
| Security | Mostly Secure | Not Good Enough | Data Passing |
| Vulnerabilities | Side channel attack | Brute force attack, man in the middle attack | Some channel attacks |
| Rounds | 10,12,14 | 16 | 48 |
| Efficiency | Both software and hardware | Slow | Slow in software |

TABLE 01: Compare between Symmetric Cryptography Algorithms

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FACTORS | RSA | DSA | ECC |
| Key-Length (bits) | 1024-2048 | 2048-3072 | 160 |
| Developed | 1977 | 1991 | 1980 |
| Block Size | 192 | Variable | 80 |
| Security | Data Passing | Mostly Secure | Mostly Secure |
| Vulnerabilities | Cycle Attacks, Sharing of common modules | Set of parameters can be generated for pre-chosen message | Curve generation attacks, zero-value point attack |
| Rounds | 1 | 16 | 1 |
| Efficiency | Slow in hardware specially when decryption | Both in software and hardware | Slow |

TABLE 02: Compare between Asymmetric Cryptography Algorithms

1. **Discussion:**

With the above comparative results of both this algorithm we can state this fact, in symmetric algorithm AES is the better option to perform data transferring. Firstly, AES can works with large number of key length and block size. Secondly, it performs different type of round operations based on key length. Finally, this algorithm works efficient both software and hardware. On the other hand in asymmetric DSA and RSA have the same cryptographic strengths based on researches but each have their own advantage and disadvantage when it comes to performance. DSA is quite faster in decrypting and signing; while RSA is better perform at encrypting and verifying. So, if we encounter performance issues, it might be better to verify the problem first such as whether it's client-based or server-based.

1. **Conclusion**:

Symmetric or Asymmetric both are highly efficient to protecting the data in their own relevant filed of transferring. In this paper, we have highlighted the basic working process and which is better for separately both symmetric and asymmetric. In Symmetric Key Cryptography, AES comes with better results of data processing and transferring. While Asymmetric Key Cryptography, DSA and RSA both stand their way to perform faster and secure data processing and transferring based on client and server based. Moreover, these algorithm techniques still not perfect as the secure data transferring becoming challenge every day. With this paper we provide a collective study of both this techniques in their best way of data transferring.

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