CS 5158/6058 Data Security and Privacy,

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Project 2: Proof of work

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Software: Python 3.6.3 is required to run this if you're using Windows 10

Program Location: ..\pow_m15219371\source

File and Structure:

Data

- -input.txt
- -runstats.txt
- -solution.txt
- -target.txt

Source

- -pow.py
- -SolutionGeneration.py
- -TargetGeneration.py
- -TestRuns.py
- -VerifySolution.py

Description:

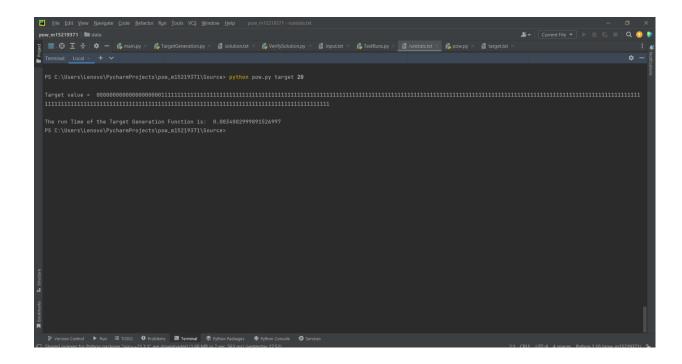
1. GENERATING A TARGET VALUE

This program will take in a difficulty value from the command line and will generate a target based on this difficulty.

The target will be saved in "../data/target.txt" file in binary format. It computes the time taken to perform this target generation function. Replace the value <d> with a numerical value to set the difficulty

Command:

python pow.py target <d> Example: python pow.py target 20



2. GENERATING THE SOLUTION

This program will take the target value from the target.txt file, take the message from the input.txt file and then hash the message with different nonces - numbers used only once - to find a hash value that is less than the target value.

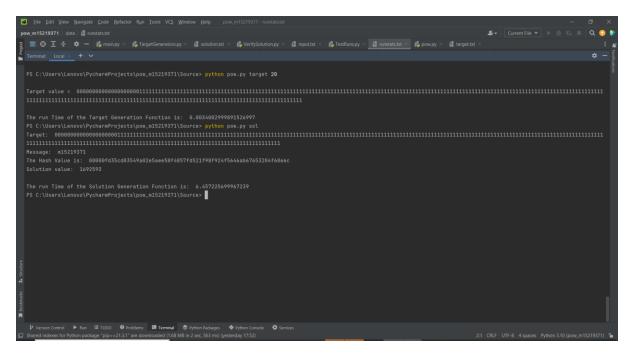
The program makes use of the hashlib library and computes the hash function using SHA-256.

The values are compared by transforming the hexadecimal hash value and the binary target value into decimal values.

When the required hash value is found, the nonce is saved as a solution in the solution.txt file.

Command:

python pow.py sol



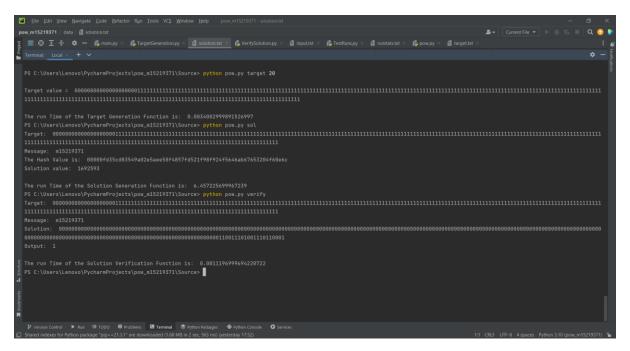
3. VERIFYING THE SOLUTION

This program takes the target from the target.txt file, the solution from the solution.txt file and the message from the input.txt file. A hash value of the message and the solution is performed and then compared with the target value.

The values are compared by transforming the hexadecimal hash value and the binary target value into decimal values.

If the hash value is less than the target, the solution is valid and the system outputs the value '1'. If the hash value is more than the target, the solution is invalid and the system outputs the value '0'.

Command: python pow.py verify



4. RUNNING FOR MULTIPLE DIFFICULTIES FROM 18-26

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This program will generate target values for difficulties 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26. It will take the message from input.txt and loop through different nonces and hash with the message to find solutions

whose hash values when computed with the messages are less than their respective targets. It will also output the runtimes for finding the program for each run.

The program will save the run stats in the runstats.txt file

Command:

python pow.py multirun

