

# 資訊安全 Final Project

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## 1 Introduction

Many online services let users query large public datasets: some examples include restaurant sites, product catalogs, stock quotes, and searching for directions on maps. In these services, any user can query the data, and the datasets themselves are not sensitive. However, web services can infer a great deal of identifiable and sensitive user information from these queries, such as her current location, political affiliation, sexual orientation, income, etc.

or mirror site. For a given user query, all the providers have to run it on the same view of the data. A user splits her query into shares, using the Splinter client, and submits each share to a different provider. The user can select any providers of her choice that host the dataset. The providers use their shares to execute the user's query over the cleartext public data, using the Splinter provider library. As long as one provider is honest (does not collude with others), the user's sensitive information in the original query remains private. When the user receives the responses from the providers, she combines them to obtain the final answer to her original query.

## 2 Proposed Method

### 2.1 Splinter

#### 2.1.1 Architecture

There are two main principals in Splinter: the user and the providers. Each provider hosts a copy of the data. Providers can retrieve this data from a public repository

#### 2.1.2 Security Goals

The goal of Splinter is to hide sensitive parameters in a user's query. Specifically, Splinter lets users run parametrized queries, where both the parameters and query results are hidden from providers.

Splinter supports a subset of the SQL language, hides the information represented by the questions marks and the query's re-

sults, but the column names being selected and filtered are not hidden.

### 2.1.3 Threat Model

Splinter keeps the parameters in the user's query hidden as long as at least one of the user-chosen providers does not collude with others. Splinter also assumes these providers are honest but curious: a provider can observe the interactions between itself and the client, but Splinter does not protect against providers returning incorrect results or maliciously modifying the dataset.

It is assumed that the user communicates with each provider through a secure channel (e.g., using SSL), and that the user's Splinter client is uncompromised. The cryptographic assumptions are standard. They only assume the existence of one-way functions in our two-provider implementation. In our implementation for multiple providers, the security of Paillier encryption is also assumed.

## 2.2 Function Secret Sharing

Function Secret Sharing lets a client divide a function  $f$  into function shares  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_k$  so that multiple parties can help evaluate  $f$  without learning certain of its parameters.

## 3 Case Studies

## 4 Related Work

### 4.1 PIR(Private Information Retrieval) systems

Splinter is most closely related to systems that use Private Information Retrieval (PIR) to query a database privately. In PIR, a user queries for the  $i$ th record in the database, and the database does not learn the queried index  $i$  or the result. Much work has been done on improving PIR protocols. Work has also been done to extend PIR to return multiple records, but it is computationally expensive. Our work is most closely related to the system in [4], which implements a parametrized SQL-like query model similar to Splinter using PIR. However, because this system uses PIR, it has up to  $10\times$  more round trips and much higher response times for similar queries.

Popcorn[4] is a media delivery service that uses PIR to hide user consumption habits from the provider and content distributor. However, Popcorn is optimized for streaming media databases, like Netflix, which have a small number (about 8000) of large records. The systems above have a weaker security model: all the providers need to be honest. Splinter only requires one honest provider, and it is more practical because it extends Function Secret

Sharing (FSS) [5, 6], which lets it execute complex operations such as sums in one round trip instead of only extracting one data record at a time.

## 4.2 Garbled circuits

Systems such as Embark [7], BlindBox [8], and private shortest path computation systems [9] use garbled circuits [10, 11] to perform private computation on a single untrusted server. Even with improvements in practicality [12], these techniques still have high computation and bandwidth costs for queries on large datasets because a new garbled circuit has to be generated for each query. (Reusable garbled circuits [13] are not yet practical.) For example, the recent map routing system by Wu et al. [9] uses garbled circuits and has 100 $\times$  higher response time and 10 $\times$  higher bandwidth cost than Splinter.

## 4.3 Encrypted data systems

Systems that compute on encrypted data, such as CryptDB [14], Mylar [15], SPORC [16], Depot [17], and SUNDR [18], all try to protect private data against a server compromise, which is a different problem than what Splinter tries to solve. CryptDB is most similar to Splinter because it allows for SQL-like queries over encrypted data. However, all these systems protect against a single, potentially compromised server where the user is storing data pri-

vately, but they do not hide data access patterns. In contrast, Splinter hides data access patterns and a user's query parameters but is only designed to operate on a public dataset that is hosted at multiple providers.

## 4.4 ORAM(Oblivious RAM) systems

Splinter is also related to systems that use Oblivious RAM [19, 20]. ORAM allows a user to read and write data on an untrusted server without revealing her data access patterns to the server. However, ORAM cannot be easily applied into the Splinter setting. One main requirement of ORAM is that the user can only read data that she has written. In Splinter, the provider hosts a public dataset, not created by any specific user, and many users need to access the same dataset.

# 5 Experimental Result

Can Splinter be used practically for real applications?

Built and evaluated clones of three applications on Splinter: restaurant reviews, flight data, and map routing, using real datasets. Can support realistic applications including the search features of Yelp and flight search sites, and data structures required for map routing. Achieves end-

to-end latencies below 1.6 sec for queries in these applications on realistic data. Use up to 10x fewer round trips than prior systems and have lower response times.

## 6 Conclusion

Splinter is a new private query system that protects sensitive parameters in SQL-like queries while scaling to realistic applications. Splinter uses and extends a recent cryptography primitive, Function Secret Sharing (FSS), allowing it to achieve up to an order of magnitude better performance compared to previous private query systems. [1] Develop protocols to execute complex queries with low computation and bandwidth. As a proof of concept, it has evaluated Splinter with three sample applications—a Yelp clone, map routing, and flight search—and showed that Splinter has low response times from 50 ms to 1.6 seconds with low hosting costs.

## 7 Reference

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