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Bachelor of Computer Science and Engineering

Trusted and Privacy-Enhanced In-Memory Data Stores

Dissertation submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Science in Computer Science and Engineering

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The acknowledgements. You are free to write this section at your own will. However, usually it starts with the institutional acknowledgements (adviser, institution, grants, workmates, ...) and then comes the personal acknowledgements (friends, family, ...).

ABSTRACT

The recent advent of hardware-based trusted execution environments provides isolated execution even from an untrusted operating system and possible hardware-based attacks. As the processor provides such "shielded" execution environments, their use will allow cloud users to run applications securely, for example on the remote cloud servers, whose operating systems and hardware are exposed to potentially malicious remote attackers and non-controlled system administrators' staff.

This dissertation will design, implement and evaluate experimentally a Trusted and Privacy-Enhanced In Memory Data Structure Store. The solution combines partial homomorphic encryption constructions, allowing that operations on the data store will be supported directly over in-memory encrypted data. Complementarily, the proposal will be designed to run on a trusted execution environment supported by Intel SGX technology, offering high availability for data store access, built-in replication, a LRU eviction model, support for transactions and options for on-disk persistence.

Keywords: Privacy-Enhanced Data Store; Homomorphic Encryption; Trusted Computing; Availability; Reliability.

RESUMO

Independentemente da língua em que está escrita a dissertação, é necessário um resumo na língua do texto principal e um resumo noutra língua. Assume-se que as duas línguas em questão serão sempre o Português e o Inglês.

O template colocará automaticamente em primeiro lugar o resumo na língua do texto principal e depois o resumo na outra língua. Por exemplo, se a dissertação está escrita em Português, primeiro aparecerá o resumo em Português, depois em Inglês, seguido do texto principal em Português. Se a dissertação está escrita em Inglês, primeiro aparecerá o resumo em Inglês, depois em Português, seguido do texto principal em Inglês.

O resumo não deve exceder uma página e deve responder às seguintes questões:

- Qual é o problema?
- Porque é que ele é interessante?
- Qual é a solução?
- O que resulta (implicações) da solução?

E agora vamos fazer um teste com uma quebra de linha no hífen a ver se a L^AT_EX duplica o hífen na linha seguinte...

Sim! Funciona!:)

Palavras-chave: Palavras-chave (em Português) . . .

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GLOSSARY

aliquam tincidunt urna. Nulla ullamcorper vestibulum turpis. Pellentesque

cursus luctus mauris.

computer An electronic device which is capable of receiving information (data) in

a particular form and of performing a sequence of operations in accordance with a predetermined but variable set of procedural instructions (program) to produce a result in the form of information or signals.

cras viverra metus rhoncus sem. Nulla et lectus vestibulum urna fringilla ultrices.

Phasellus eu tellus sit amet tortor gravida placerat.

donec nonummy pellentesque ante. Phasellus adipiscing semper elit. Proin fermentum

massa ac quam. Sed diam turpis, molestie vitae, placerat a, molestie

nec, leo.

integer sapien est, iaculis in, pretium quis, viverra ac, nunc. Praesent eget sem vel leo

ultrices bibendum. Aenean faucibus.

lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetuer adipiscing elit. Ut purus elit, vestibulum

ut, placerat ac, adipiscing vitae, felis. Curabitur dictum gravida mauris.

maecenas lacinia nam ipsum ligula, eleifend at, accumsan nec, suscipit a, ipsum. Morbi

blandit ligula feugiat magna. Nunc eleifend consequat lorem.

morbi ac orci et nisl hendrerit mollis. Suspendisse ut massa. Cras nec ante.

Pellentesque a nulla. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis par-

turient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus.

morbi dolor nulla, malesuada eu, pulvinar at, mollis ac, nulla. Curabitur auctor

semper nulla. Donec varius orci eget risus. Duis nibh mi, congue eu, accumsan eleifend, sagittis quis, diam. Duis eget orci sit amet orci

dignissim rutrum.

nam lacus libero, pretium at, lobortis vitae, ultricies et, tellus. Donec aliquet,

tortor sed accumsan bibendum, erat ligula aliquet magna, vitae ornare

odio metus a mi.

nam dui ligula, fringilla a, euismod sodales, sollicitudin vel, wisi. Morbi auctor

lorem non justo.

name arcu libero, nonummy eget, consectetuer id, vulputate a, magna. Donec ve-

hicula augue eu neque. Pellentesque habitant morbi tristique senectus

et netus et malesuada fames ac turpis egestas. Mauris ut leo.

nulla malesuada porttitor diam. Donec felis erat, congue non, volutpat at, tincidunt

tristique, libero. Vivamus viverra fermentum felis.

sed lacinia nulla vitae enim. Pellentesque tincidunt purus vel magna. Integer non

enim. Praesent euismod nunc eu purus. Donec bibendum quam in

tellus.

ACRONYMS

ACL Access Control List AWS Amazon Web Services

DBMS Database Management System

KVS Key-Value Store

LRU Least Recently Used

OS Operating System

P2P Peer to Peer

SASL Simple Authentication and Security Layer

SSL Secure Sockets Layer

TB Terabyte

TLS Transport Layer Security

Symbols

*

C H A P T E R

Introduction

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1.1 Context and Motivation

The *novathesis* was originally developed to help MSc and PhD students of the Computer Science and Engineering Department of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology of NOVA University of Lisbon (DI-FCT-NOVA) to write their thesis and dissertations Using LaTeX. These student can easily cope with LaTeX by themselves, and the only need some help in the bootstrap process to make their life easier.

However, as the template spread out among the students from other degrees at FCT-NOVA, the demand for am easier-to-use template as grown. And the template in its current shape aims at answering the expectations of those that, although they are not familiar with programming nor with markup languages, so still feel brave enough to give LATEX a try and rejoice with the beauty of the texts typeset by this system.

1.2 Objective

It is up to you, the student, to read the FCT and/or NOVA regulations on how to format and submit your MSc or PhD dissertation.

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1.3 Planned Contributions

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1.4 Report Organization

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RELATED WORK

This chapter presents and briefly discusses the related work and the study performed beforehand in order to guide and give some context to the reader. It will present work that was used as the basis of this thesis, existent technologies and their relation with this project, and some comparisons between those exiting technologies, the problem addressed in this thesis and the solutions proposed to solve, or better address, those very same problems.

First, in section 2.1 we explain and discuss for the first time the definition of a Key-Value Store. We present some use cases, current technology available, their differences and most importantly their security models and concerns.

Having discussed the software, section 2.2 will then address the environment on where the previously talked software will run, most specifically the hardware. It explains and present the different ways to secure and authenticate the hardware, prevent hardware-based attacks and discuss some of the current products available and how they will be used across this thesis.

Section 2.3 will then make the bridge between software and hardware. It explains how Key-Value stores are currently being run on secure environments. This chapter will be focused on the Intel SGX secure model and explain the advantages and disadvantages of this module

To conclude the chapter, section 2.4...

//TODO: complete

Along the next chapter we summarize the main relevant ideas that can be retained from each section for our objectives and expected goals.

2.1 Key-Value Stores

Key value stores are the simplest form of what computer scientists call a database. The simplicity lies on associating a value to a certain key and storing that pair, as well as retrieving the values of known keys. [8]

Listing 2.1: Redis Set & Get

```
redis> SET mykey "Hello"

"OK"

redis> GET mykey

"Hello"

redis>
```

Is this simplicity that makes this technology very attractive to developers. The ease of use, its high performance and speed are key aspects in favour of this technologies. However, simply working with keys and values might not be enough to more complex applications, and that is why Key-Value store product developers are introducing new features in order to make them appealing to a broader mass of users, always keeping them lightweight and fast.

For that lightweight and fast attributes, most of the key-value stores work in the computer memory. This allows fast get and write operations as opposed to persistent disk storage. Although, they work mainly in memory, most of the solutions offer some persistent mechanism so we can make use of its performance but still persist data in case of a disaster, server failure or any crash.

KVSs have been evolving for years and some are now more than a single key-value store module. A lot of them are now supporting a multi-model storage. That means that a value can be more than a single integer or a string. For example, Redis [15] as a multi-model store is not only a key-value store, but also [16]:

- **Document Store** "nonrelational database that is designed to store and query data as JSON-like documents" [5]
- **Graph DBMS** "Graph databases are purpose-built to store and navigate relationships. Use nodes to store data entities, and edges to store relationships between entities" [7]
- **Search Engine** "nonrelational database that is dedicated to the search of data content. Use indexes to categorize the similar characteristics among data" [20]
- Time Series DBMS "Provides optimum support for working with time-dependent data. Each entry has a timestamp, the data arrives in time order and time represents a primary axis for the information." [21]

So, the KVS world is becoming more and more versatile as the years pass.

In the next subsections its discussed and presented the overview of the current KVS technology. We picked the some top KVSs technologies nowadays according to db-engines [9].

2.1.1 Memcached

Memcached [10] is a free and open source key-value store released in 2003. It is described as a high performance distributed memory object caching system.

It is design to hold small chunks of data (strings and objects) to work as a cache for results of database calls, API calls, or page rendering. Its biggest use case is for use in speeding up dynamic web applications by alleviating database load.

This system lies on the simpler key-value store spectrum. It takes advantages of the simplicity of a key-value store to edge ease of development, and solving many problems facing large data caches. Its API is available for most popular languages. It has a LRU eviction technique which means that items will expire a specified amount of time.

When it comes to system availability and reliability, Memcached has an interesting approach. In order to keep it blazing fast, there is no communication between server instances in a cluster. Memcached servers are unaware of each other. There is no crosstalk, no synchronization, no broadcasting, no replication. Adding servers will only increase the available memory.

As for its security context, Memcached spends very little, if any, effort in securing the systems for random internet connections. The servers only have support for SASL [19] authentication mechanism. This method of authentication is not implemented as end-to-end encryption, it only provides restriction access to the daemon, but it does not hide communications over the network. That means it is not meant to be exposed to the internet or to any untrusted users [11].

2.1.2 **Redis**

Redis [15] is an in-memory data structure store that can be used as a database, cache and also a message broker. Redis focuses on performance, so most of its decisions prioritize high performance and very low latency.

It has been benchmarked as the world's fastest database [17] and together with a their multi-model and its rich set of operations that can be performed over data it has been the leading key-value store according to use and popularity for a multiple set of years [9].

Listing 2.2: How Fast is Redis

```
redis-benchmark -t set -r 100000 -n 1000000
   ===== SET =====
2
   1000000 requests completed in 8.78 seconds
3
   50 parallel clients
4
   3 bytes payload
5
   keep alive: 1
6
7
   99.59% <= 1 milliseconds
8
9
   99.98% <= 2 milliseconds
10
   100.00% <= 2 milliseconds
   113934.14 requests per second
```

As said before, Redis is now not a simple KVS. It supports data structures such as strings, hashes, lists, sets, sorted sets with range queries, bitmaps, hyperloglogs, geospatial indexes with radius queries and streams. It also has built-in replication, server side scripting, LRU eviction, concept of transactions and different levels of persistence. It provides high availability and automatic partitioning as well.

Security is not Redis' primarily concern (just like others). "In general, Redis is not optimized for maximum security but for maximum performance and simplicity" [18]. It is design to be access by trusted clients inside trusted networks. This means that it is not supposed to be publicly exposed. Redis implements a simple authentication system with a password on the configuration file for client authentication. It is also advised to run it behind a proxy to enable some ACL policies and SSL network security.

There are a few other security concerns that Redis addresses, but has we can now start to see, in this types of stores, security falls behind performance and usability.

2.1.3 Amazon Dynamo DB

Amazon Dynamo DB [3] is a fully managed NoSQL database service. It is a key-value store and a document store that is built based on the dynamo paper [6]. This paper describes a P2P (peer-to-peer) network with high availability, eventual consistency and very easily scalable. It also successful handles server and data center failures and network partitions.

Amazon builds on this paper and offers DynamoDB as a service in their platform. It is a hosted system in the Amazon Web Services [4] infrastructure and fully managed. That means no need for low level server configurations or maintenance. It is all managed by the AWS team and offered to the user with a nice configuration interface. It also means that it has built-in security, backup and restore and in-memory caching for internet -scale applications. It also offers seamless scalability by increasing the number of nodes/servers according to current traffic received by the application on a given time.

This technology focuses more on high availability but also achieves very high performances and very low latency and being fully managed it also takes advantages of the AWS infrastructure full power. It currently sits second on the db-engines [9] most popular ranking.

2.1.4 Microsoft Azure Cosmos DB

Microsoft Azure Cosmos DB [13] is a fully managed database service provided by Microsoft Azure [14]. This service provides a global distributed, horizontally scalable, multimodel database. Its multi-model architecture can work as a key-value store, a Document Store, a graph DBMS and a wide column store.

It's very proud and excels in the easy of global scale with the system call *Turnkey global distribution*, providing transparent multi-master replication and a set of users configurable consistency options. It also strongly advertises a *Multi-Model Multi-Api* feature

where you can use multiple data types on this single database service. Cosmos DB automatically indexes all data and allows the user to use various NoSQL APIs to query the data.

As a fully managed service, Cosmos DB makes use, in the background, of the large infrastructure with almost unlimited resources and capabilities provided by Microsoft, which means it also has built-in security, fail-over mechanisms for disaster recovery, and high performance with single digit read and write latencies.

2.1.5 Microsoft Azure Cache for Redis

Microsoft Azure Cache for Redis [12] is a service provided by Microsoft Azure that joins the open source world of Redis with the commercial side of a fully managed and hosted platform.

It uses at its core the Redis server technology and provides ease of deployment and management, built-in global replication, Azures' infrastructure security and flexible scaling and Redis superior throughput and low latency performance.

Being in the Azure ecosystem provides nice integration with all Azures' services as shown is the picture bellow:

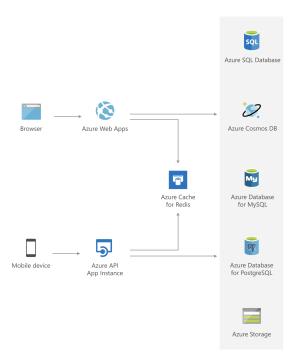


Figure 2.1: Azure Environment Integration

2.1.6 Aerospike

Aerospike [1] is an enterprise-grade, high performance Key-Value Store. It is another KVS technology currently available today. It promises a philosophy of "no data loss" through Strong Consistency. Normal systems trade requiring this type of consistency

usually trade performance for data integrity but Aerospike allows it with minimal performance loss. That means it can be used for example in banking payments, retail and telecommunications use cases.

It also provides a dynamic cluster management and unique flexible storage. That enables very easy deployments and particularly very easy scalability, so it is able to meet any data volume needs and still maintaining low latencies across that wide range of data volumes, from low volumes until 100's TB of data.

As for security, it includes (the enterprese version) a database access management and audit trail logs. It also includes transport level rncryption for client-server traffic and cross-datacenter traffic [2].

2.1.7 Discussion

In this chapter when gather information about the overview of th current Key-Value Store. We can conclude that the most important feature of this technology is the performance and all of the above products mentioned do focus on that characteristic. Some of them even compromise in another features to achieve the best performance possible. Security is not the main concern and the most used measures in the current technologies being securities implementations at the network and transport level by using TLS and also full disk encryption.

Network and transport layer security is a must when implementing any system, and this thesis will also use those standards.

As for full disk encryption on the server, it opens up some attack vectors. Full disk encryption means that random users will not be able to query the data but credentialed users can. Although, anyone with full access to the database, for example database operators or/and administrators, can decrypt and access all information. This creates a risk of privacy breaking due to hackers wielding stolen credentials, rogue insiders who have been granted more access than they need or the well known honest-but-curious adversary model, where an administrator with full credentials does not have bad intentions, but, driven by curiosity, access information therefore breaking data privacy. A cloud based KVS service like the ones talked above, this type of vulnerabilities can be a major concern for a use case with very sensitive data since the server would be off premises, there is no control over it when it comes to privacy of data.

This thesis will implemented a system based on Redis, the most popular and used Key-Value Store currently used and will try to solve some of the problems with security described above. It will compare the principle feature of a KVS, the performance, of a simple and normal Redis server and a privacy-enhanced Redis solution so the user can calculate the trade-off between performance and security and applied the correspondent solution to their own use case.

2.2 Trusted Computing Environments

In this section we will provide some additional considerations about some of the customizations available as class options.

2.2.1 TPM - Trusted Platform Modules

The choice of the main language with the option "lang=OPT" affects:

- The order of the summaries. First is printed the abstract in the main language and then in the foreign language. This means that if your main language for the document in English, you will see first the "abstract" (in English) and then the "resumo" (in Portuguese). If you switch the main language for the document for Portuguese, it will also automatically switch the order of the summaries to "resumo" and then "abstract".
- The names for document sectioning. E.g., "Chapter" vs. "Capítulo", "Table of Contents" vs. "Índice", "Figure" vs. "Figura", etc.
- The type of documents in the bibliogrpahy. E.g., "Technical Report" vs. "Relatório Técnico", "PhD Thesis" vs. "Tese de Doutoramento", etc.

No mater which language you chose, you will always have the appropriate hyphenation rules according to the language at that point. You always get Portuguese hyphenation rules in the "Resumo", english hyphenation rules in the "Abstract", and then the main language hyphenation rules for the rest of the document.

2.2.2 TPM - Enabled Software Attestation

You must choose the class of text for the document. The available options are:

- 1. **bsc** BSc graduation report.
- 2. *mscplan Preparation of MSc dissertation. This is a preliminary report graduate students at DI-FCT-NOVA must prepare to conclude the first semester of the two-semesters MSc work. The files specified by \dedicatoryfile and \acknowledgmentsfile are ignored, even if present, for this class of document.
- 3. **msc** MSc dissertation.
- 4. **phdprop** Proposal for a PhD work. The files specified by \dedicatoryfile and \acknowledgmentsfile are ignored, even if present, for this class of document.
- 5. **prepphd** Preparation of a PhD thesis. This is a preliminary report PhD students at DI-FCT-NOVA must prepare before the end of the third semester of PhD work. The files specified by \dedicatoryfile and \acknowledgmentsfile are ignored, even if present, for this class of document.

6. **phd** — PhD dissertation.

2.2.3 HSM – Hardware Security Modules

You must choose how your document will be printed. The available options are:

- 1. **oneside** Single side page printing.
- 2. *twoside Double sided page printing.

2.2.4 Trusted Execution Environments

You must select the encoding for your text. The available options are:

- 1. **11pt** Eleven (11) points font size.
- 2. *12pt Twelve (12) points font size. You should really stick to 12pt...

2.2.5 Intel SGX

You must choose the font size for your document. The available options are:

- 1. **latin1** Use Latin-1 (ISO 8859-1) encoding. Most probably you should use this option if you use Windows;
- 2. **utf8** Use UTF8 encoding. Most probably you should use this option if you are not using Windows.

2.2.6 Sanctum

Let's have a look at a couple of examples:

- Preparation of PhD thesis, in portuguese, with 11pt size and to be printed single sided (I wonder why one would do this!)
 \documentclass[prepphd,pt,11pt,oneside,latin1]{thesisdifct-nova}
- MSc dissertation, in english, with 12pt size and to be printed double sided \documentclass[msc,en,12pt,twoside,utf8]{thesisdifct-nova}

2.2.7 ARM Trust Zone

ARM Trust Zone

2.2.8 Discussion

Discussion

2.3 TEE/SGX Enabled Key Value Stores

There has been an increase trend from developers to move their applications to the cloud. It provides dynamically and almost seamlessly scaling with predict cost. Although it also means that users need to rely on the cloud providers for securing and maintaining the integrity of their applications. That means the user must trust not only the provider's staff but also its globally distributed software and hardware not to expose their private data. Today's cloud providers only aim to protect their privileged code from the untrusted code (the user's code) and do not provide any guarantees about the opposite scenario.

To mitigate this use case, and after studying and discussing the Key-Value stores technologies and also the trusted platform modules as well as the trusted execution environments, in this chapter, it will be presented how are this two topics being combined and used together.

It will be more focused on the Intel SGX platform as it is the one that will be used throughout this thesis. Currently, there are a number of databases who leverage this technology to provide a more secure environment and service. In the this chapter it's presented how they work and operate, discussed the differences between them and also the how the work planned to be performed on this thesis will solve some of the problems and caveats.

2.3.1 Trusted Execution with Intel SGX

As explained before, Intel SGX provides a trusted execution environment by running code inside the enclaves. It creates an isolated environment where we can run code as securely as possible.

Key-Value Stores and other database type systems can leverage this secure and isolated environment to perform queries on very sensitive data that would otherwise be vulnerable to some attacks. There are a few techniques currently implemented to use isolated environments. Maintaining an encrypted database and using enclaves cryptographic capabilities to decrypt data and perform queries on plain text with the assurance of no data leaking is a possible use case. Also, maintaining a database fully on enclave memory, where it cannot be access by anyone other than the CPU is another way to keep the data secure by leveraging isolated and trusted execution environments. Different techniques will be furthermore discussed bellow.

As we can see, isolated and trusted execution environments are an important feature when it comes to protecting the data from the OS and Key-Values Store systems do benefit from it.

2.3.2 Circumvention of SGX Limitations

Performance, Memory, IO and syscalls, defining trusted and untrusted parts Circumvention of SGX Limitations

2.3.3 SGX-Enabled Secure Databases

SGX-Enabled Secure Databases

2.3.3.1 Enclave DB

Enclave DB

2.3.3.2 **Pesos DB**

Pesos DB

2.3.3.3 Speicher

Speicher

2.3.3.4 ShieldStore

ShieldStore

2.3.4 Discussion

Discussion

2.4 Related Work Balance and Critical Analysis

Foo Bar

3. Approach to Elaboration Phase

This Chapter aims at exemplifying how to do common stuff with LATEX. We also show some stuff which is not that common! ;)

Please, use these examples as a starting point, but you should always consider using the *Big Oracle* (aka, Google, your best friend) to search for additional information or alternative ways for achieving similar results.

3.1 Refinement of Objectives and Contributions

Refinement of objectives and contributions

3.2 System Model Approach

System model approach

3.3 Planned Architecture and Implementation

Planned architecture and implementation

3.4 Planned Testbench Environments

Planned testbench environments

3.5 Relevant Evaluation Criteria

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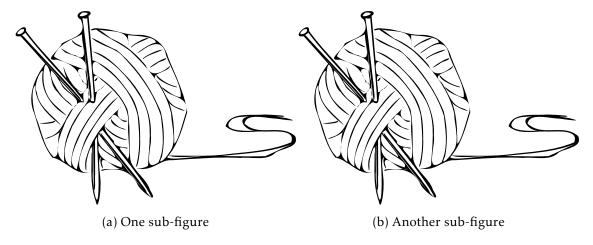


Figure 3.1: A figure with two sub-figures!

And this is a small text that references the Figure 3.1 and its Subfigures 3.1a and 3.1b.

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C H A P T E R

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A P P E N D I X

APPENDIX 1 LOREM IPSUM

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A P P E N D I X

APPENDIX 2 LOREM IPSUM

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