

# CS 519 – Operating Systems Theory

Fall 2015 – Homework 3

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## P3: Pseudo-Character Driver for Cipher Processing

### A. Assumptions:

- The maximum size of key and the message is 100 Chars. This can be increased in the cipherdev.h file.
- We assumed the key will always consist of alphabets. Lower case alphabet is converted to Uppercase.
- For the message, we can handle any ascii input character. However the ciphering functionality will apply only on the alphabet characters.
- Assume default method as vigenere and mode as encipher.

### B. High level Design:

- The design consists into 2 parts:
  - Cipherdev – Device driver implementation
  - CipherCtl – Command line cipher utility
- We implemented the pseudo – character device driver “/dev/cipher” in the Cipherdev impl. The Major and minor number for the device driver is dynamically registered using alloc\_chrdev\_region() system call.
- We implemented the call backs for the following system calls:
  - **open():**  
To open the device file.
  - **release():**  
To close the device file.
  - **read():**  
Reads message from the device file. The functionality of cipher – enciphering and deciphering is implemented in this system call.
  - **write():**  
Writes message to a device file.
  - **ioctl():**  
Functionality to set behavior of the ciphering functionality is implemented using this system call.
- We implemented a **Vigenere** cipher based on the above stated assumption. We also implemented a simple **Caesar** cipher.
- The core data structure used is:

```
struct cipher_device_t{
    char message[BUF_LEN];
    struct semaphore sem;
    int method;
    int mode;
    char key[BUF_LEN];
    int flag; // 0 - unblocked 1-blocked
} cipher_device;
```

- We implemented a command line utility- **cipherctl** which uses the device driver for the ciphering/deciphering functionality. It supports the following operations:

- `_ cipherctl method [vigenere | caesar]` - Set cipher method.
  - `_ cipherctl key [key]` - Set key.
  - `_ cipherctl mode [encipher | decipher]` - Set operation mode.
  - `_ cipherctl clear` - Drop any message pending in the driver.
  - `_ cipherctl write [message]` - Encipher/decipher a message.
  - `_ cipherctl read` - Read the result of an encipher/decipher operation.
- In order to support only one process (context) should be able to open the file at any one time, we used **linux semaphores** in `open()` and `close()` system calls.
  - In order to support that the driver should only hold one message at a time, we used **flag** to **block** whenever a message is written to the device and **unblock** whenever the message is read or cleared from the device.
  - This above functionality is used to ensure that no control parameter can be set when a message is currently inside the driver. The message must be read or cleared before setting any parameter.
  - We implemented the control commands - (get cipher, set cipher, get key, set key, get mode, set mode, clear) as **IOCTL commands**.

## C. Compiling and Testing:

### I. Compiling:

- `make all` – Builds the kernel module and the cipherctl utility
- `insmod cipherdev.ko` – Loads the device driver as `"/dev/cipher"`
- `rmmmod cipherdev` – Removes the device driver from `/dev`
- `make clean` – cleans the binaries

### II. Creating the device driver file:

```

root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# insmod cipherdev.ko
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# lsmod
Module                  Size  Used by
cipherdev               16384  0
vmw_vsock_vmci_transport 32768  2
vsock                  36864  3 vmw_vsock_vmci_transport
vmhgfs                  57344  0
snd_ens1371             32768  2
VMXnet3                 53248  0
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ls -l /dev/cipher
crw----- 1 root root 250, 0 Dec 15 01:28 /dev/cipher
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver#

```

### III. Testing cipherctl utility:

#### Positive Cases:

```

root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl
Invalid usage for cipherctl
cipherctl method [vigenere | caesar] - Set cipher method.
cipherctl key [key] - Set key.
cipherctl mode [encipher | decipher] - Set operation mode.
cipherctl clear - Drop any message pending in the driver.
cipherctl write [message] - Encipher/decipher a message.
cipherctl read - Read the result of an encipher/decipher operation.
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver#

```

```
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl method
Get Method : vigenere
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl method caesar
Set Method success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl method
Get Method : caesar
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl method vigenere
Set Method success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl method
Get Method : vigenere
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ;5-
```

```
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode
Get Mode : encipher
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode decipher
Set Mode success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode
Get Mode : decipher
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode encipher
Set Mode success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode
Get Mode : encipher
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver#
```

```
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl key
Key not set
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl key "ABCDEF"
Set Key success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl key
Get Key: ABCDEF
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver#
```

```
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl write "hello"
Write successfull
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode
Get Mode : decipher
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode encipher
ERROR Message in buffer!
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl clear
Clear successfull
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode encipher
Set Mode success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode
Get Mode : encipher
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver#
```

```

root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl read
ERROR!
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl method
Get Method : vigenere
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode
Get Mode : encipher
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl write "hello, world!"
Write successfull
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl read
Message: HFNOS, BOSNG!
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode decipher
Set Mode success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl write "HFNOS, BOSNG!"
Write successfull
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl read
Message: HELLO, WORLD!
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver#

```

```

root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl method caesar
Set Method success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode encipher
Set Mode success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl write "hello, world123!"
Write successfull
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl read
Message: EBIIL, TLOIA123!
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl write "EBIIL, TLOIA123!"
Write successfull
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode decipher
ERROR Message in buffer!
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl clear
Clear successfull
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode decipher
Set Mode success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl write "EBIIL, TLOIA123!"
Write successfull
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl read
Message: HELLO, WORLD123!
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver#

```

### Negative cases:

```

root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl key
Key not set
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl key "ABCDEF"
Set Key success
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl key
Get Key: ABCDEF
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver#

```

```
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl write "hello"
Write successfull
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode
Get Mode : decipher
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver# ./cipherctl mode encipher
ERROR Message in buffer!
root@cs519-vm:/home/user/OS-Theory-Pseudo-Character-Driver#
```

#### D. Difficulties and Challenges:

1. We had difficulties in understanding when to copy something from kernel space to userspace and vice versa. We ultimately solved this problem by using `copy_from_user()` and `copy_to_user()`.
2. I am currently facing a strange issue, returning specific error codes from `loctl` function from kernel space just returns "-1" to user space. Due to this I was not able to handle specific error messages in `cipherctl` but these can be viewed via `dmesg`.