

# Web Based Decentralized File Sharing Using Encryption

# J COMPONENT PROJECT

CSE3502 – Information Security Management

by -

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Prof. Raja S P

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#### **ABSTRACT**

Communication over web, internet and through Social media are some of the popular ways through which the users communicate with each other via the use of messages and sharing other sorts of files and media. These media and files are sent from the source to the destination effortlessly. But then there is no guarantee that these shared media or the data shared are not intruded by the intruder in between the source and the destination. Encryption is one of the techniques for providing security for the data that has been sent by the sender. There are different algorithms used in order to achieve the encryption of the data. To address this issue we aim at developing a secure file transfer system. In this project we will be creating a decentralized system where files can be shared securely. By integrating the blockchain technology, we will make sure that the files shared on the network cannot be tampered or corrupted and the complete history of all the files shared will be stored giving users a sense of security.

The project will be implemented in real time with great ease and users can easily rely on this application after using it. This project will be developed using Python Language.

**Keywords:** Cryptography, Blockchain, IPFS, Encryption, Symmetric Key Encryption and Asymmetric Key Encryption, SHA 256, AES, Public-Key

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Security is one of the most vital concerns in any field, especially today in the current scenario when there is an extensive rise in the usage of the internet, people tend to require secure transmission and secure ways of having end to end encryption. Thus, an effective text encryption algorithm is needed for achieving an immense amount of privacy. In order to provide privacy, we propose a safe file sharing encryption system by utilizing decentralized blockchain architecture. By making use of Blockchain decentralized property as well as peer to peer network advantage files can be shared using a safe key and which can then be used in the AES algorithm to perform the encryption and decryption operations on the shared file.

Data Share is a service that allows users to send and receive sensitive messages, files, images and documents securely, with end-to-end encryption, using just their web browsers. Encryption takes place in the sender's web browser, and decryption takes place in the recipient's web browser, via a decentralized system. Only encrypted information is sent through servers. Unencrypted information and the keys used to encrypt/decrypt this information never leave the sender's web browser or the recipient's web browser. Senders may send information to a recipient through the service, without registering for the service, simply by knowing the recipient's username on the service.

Data Share is an attempt to achieve true end-to-end encryption by implementing a decentralized platform for message encryption. This service is available to everyone with internet access and requires almost no technical background for its usage. In addition, senders are able to send files and messages to recipients without the need for senders to be set up on the service, simply by knowing a unique username, address or URL for a recipient and the shared private key. Its main aim is to enable secure messaging for everyone.

**Secure:** As the algorithm is used the encryption and decryption will be secure.

**Confidentiality:** This application can help in sending the confidential documents and folders without any attacks.

Attacks: This application can help in prevention of any types of attacks with great ease.

**Ease:** This application is easy to use.

#### **PROBLEM STATEMENT**

It is common for individuals to have a need to exchange information in a secure and confidential manner. For example, accountants, attorneys, and medical professionals frequently have a need to send and receive confidential information to and from their clients and the information shared required to be stored for both parties. Because standard SMTP email does not provide a means for encrypting information from the sender's end to the recipient's end of an email transmission, users have sought solutions to use instead of SMTP email, or in conjunction with SMTP email, for exchanging information confidentially and securely. Also, not all people are familiar with message encryption and its techniques. People who are familiar know that it isn't a trivial task and chances of wrong implementation is high.

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Our Objective is to build and implement a secure decentralized file sharing system, so called DATA SHARE which is a method of securely exchanging confidential data over a peer-to-peer network, and thus create a Platform for Secure Data Transfer.

# **MOTIVATION**

The main motivation behind this project is to develop a secure file and data transfer technique that could provide end to end encryption establishing a peer to peer network. We can utilize the shared key to perform encryption and decoding of the text utilizing AES algorithm technique.

#### TECHNIQUES IDENTIFIED

In order to solve the above issue we looked into various techniques that could be used to solve the problem, and we came across some of the key exchange algorithms that are mentioned below:

#### **SHA-256 Hashing Algorithm**

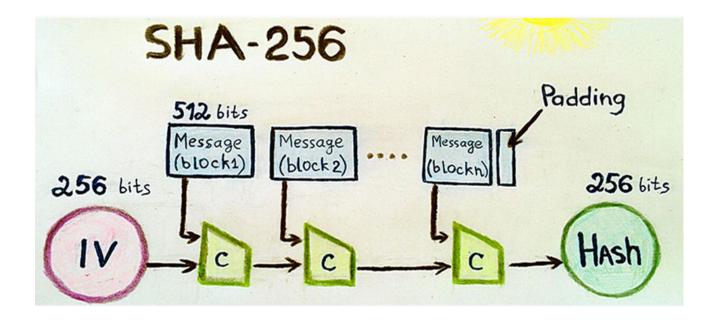
We will be using the SHA-256 algorithm to generate a unique hash of the entire block that is used by the corresponding blocks to form the chain (via the previous hashes). IPFS as well uses this algorithm to generate the hash of the shared file. The SHA-256 hashing algorithm is employed because of the following advantages:

**One-way:-** Once the hash is generated, we can't revert to the original data from the hash.

**Deterministic:-** For a particular input, the hash generated, always remains the same i.e. the same input always gives the same hash. Quick computation of the hash.

**Avalanche-effect:-** Even a slight change in the input will bring about a large change in the final hash, making it untraceable

**Withstand collisions:-** There is a very rare chance that the hash generated for two different inputs will be the same. Think of it as a human fingerprint!



#### **AES ENCRYPTION:**

It is an encryption which requires a secret key to encrypt as well as decrypt the messages. In this encryption both the sender and receivers use the same secret key generated. It provides the safety by encrypting using AES algorithm during the exchange using the above technique mentioned.

Unlike its predecessor DES, AES does not rely on a Feistel network, but instead it is based on a substitution-permutation network. It can be implemented in hardware as well as software. The AES algorithm is more robust against hacking because it uses longer key sizes like 128, 192, and 256 bits. In order to encrypt the file data we will be using AES Encryption. It is a form of symmetric, cryptographic encryption that depends on a shared key between the sender and receiver to access any file (here the file key). If we do not employ the AES encryption, any connected user to the blockchain can access the file hash and thus, the shared file using the hash, directly from the IPFS. Using the AES Encryption, we encrypt the file using the file key of the uploader. Thus, if any user tries to download the file directly from the IPFS, all they get is a non-readable file. Thus, only users with a valid file key can access the readable file contents, thereby enhancing the security of the blockchain and the file contents. As a result, it is a very safe and secure protocol.

#### **METHODOLOGY**

#### 1) CREATING THE BLOCKCHAIN

#### i) Block Structure

In Data Share, a single block in a blockchain has the following structure:

The Block contains:

**Block number:** Simply displays the index number of the block. Block 0 refers to the genesis block.

**Timestamp**: This field indicates as to when the block was created and added to the blockchain

**Proof**: Also called a nonce, it stands for "number only used once," which is a number added to a hashed—or encrypted—block in a blockchain that, when rehashed, meets the difficulty

level restrictions i.e by varying the proof we can vary the hash generated so that a new block can be created.

**Previous hash**: This field represents the hash of the previous block. The hash of the entire block is generated using the SHA-256 hashing algorithm. This field creates a chain of blocks and is the main element behind blockchain architecture's security.

**Sender:** The person who uploads the file enters his identity proof or name when he uploads the file.

**Receiver**: Displays who the intended receiver shall be.

Hash of the file shared: The uploaded file is first encrypted using the AES encryption mechanism and subsequently using the SHA-256 hashing algorithm when it is uploaded to ipfs. The hash, then received from the IPFS (Interplanetary File System)after the encryption is the hash of the shared file which is added to the block.

#### ii) Creating Peer to Peer Network

In order to create a peer to peer network (p2p) for the blockchain to function, all the connected nodes must be in the same network. Only those users who are connected to the blockchain's p2p network will have access to the blockchain's data. This p2p network will be created using Socket Programming. Using socket programming, the list of connected nodes gets updated as soon as a new user gets connected or disconnected to the network and the updated list is broadcasted to the whole p2p network. As soon as all the connected nodes get the updated list of the nodes in the network, the consensus protocol works smoothly whenever a new block is added or the blockchain gets updated. This is how peer to peer networks will work.

#### iii) File Key

There will be a unique key/password shared between the sender and the receiver of the shared file to increase the security of the file(s) on the blockchain network. The file key will be further used to encrypt the file using AES encryption before uploading it to the IPFS network. The uploader will have to share the key only with the intended receiver(s) so he/she can download the file. The type of files that can be uploaded are .pdf , .png , .jpeg and .txt. As of now the size of the file that can be uploaded to the network is limited to 16 Megabytes.

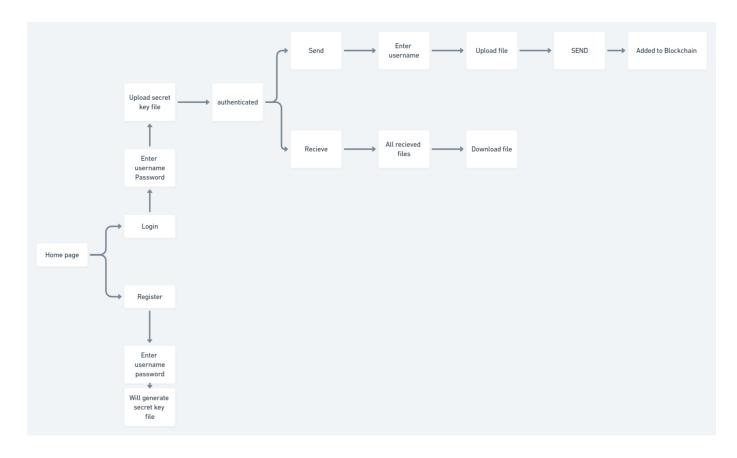
Further in order to download the file the receiver who will be having the valid file key shared

by the sender will be only able to download the shared file from the blockchain to his/her local computer. The file key here is used to decrypt: the AES encrypted file downloaded from the IPFS network so that the file can be interpretable. Make sure you enter the correct file key and hash for a successful download.

#### 2) INTEGRATING WITH IPFS

Our blockchain relies on IPFS for keeping it lightweight and scalable. If the files were stored directly on the blockchain, it would render the blockchain very heavy and inefficient. Combining IPFS and blockchain, we get to access the IPFS's power of decentralized storage and enhance the blockchain's security and accessibility. Instead of storing the file directly on the blockchain, we store the files on the IPFS network while the blockchain stores only the file' hash. Each file will have a unique hash as IPFS employs the SHA-256 hashing algorithm. Thus, the file is stored in a secure decentralized network and is easily accessible through the blockchain. The file can be retrieved using its generated hash easily. Hence IPFS eliminates the bottleneck of storing entire files on the blockchain.

#### **FLOWCHART:**



#### **PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS**

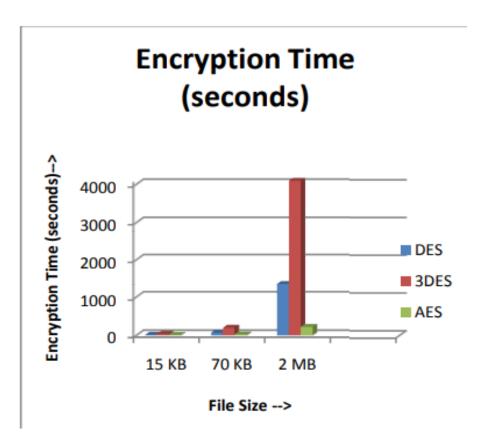
The various performance metrics that are evaluated include

**Encryption Time** - The encryption time is the time that an encryption algorithm takes to produce a cipher text from a plaintext. It is measured in seconds.

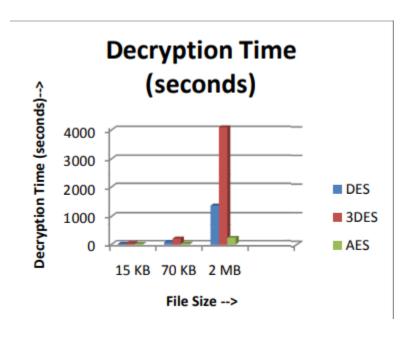
**Decryption Time** - The decryption time is the time that a decryption algorithm takes to produce a plaintext from a cipher text. It is measured in seconds.

**Throughput** - The throughput of an encryption or decryption scheme defines the speed of encryption. The throughput of the encryption can be calculated as in equation **Throughput** = **Tp** (**Kilobytes**) / **Et** (**Second**) where Tp: Total plain text (Kilobytes) Et: Encryption time (second)

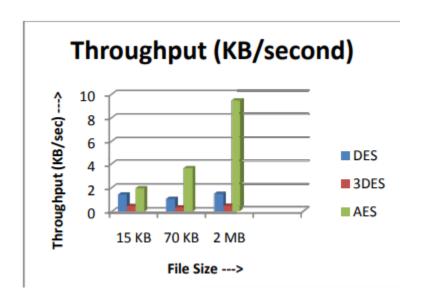
**Memory Utilization** - The Memory Utilization defines how much memory is being consumed by the process while doing encryption or decryption. It is measured in Kilobytes (KB).



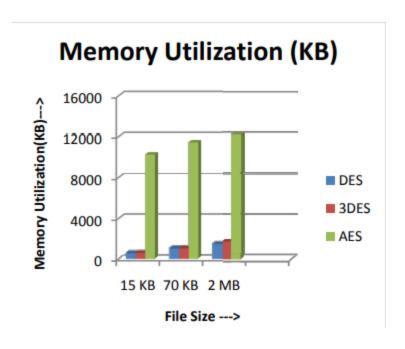
**Comparison of Encryption Time for various algorithms** 



**Comparison of Decryption Time for various algorithms** 



Comparison of Throughput for various algorithms



Comparison of Throughput for various algorithms

**Analysis:** It can be analyzed that for text files of different sizes, AES algorithm takes less encryption and decryption time compared to other algorithms. Throughput varies inversely to the encryption or decryption time. Thus it is more in case of the AES algorithm. Memory utilization of DES is less than the other algorithms.

# **LITERATURE SURVEY:**

### 1. Performance Study of Enhanced SHA-256 Algorithm.

Authors: Gowthaman A, M Sumathi

International Journal of Applied Engineering Research

# **Description:**

This paper looks into optimization techniques in new VLSI architecture for the SHA-256 hash functions. It combines different techniques namely rescheduling of Carry Select Adder and Non linear Pseudo code random generator for improving the functions in an inner loop of hashing algorithm.

The proposed system can be suitable to achieve less area utilization, improved security and fastest data throughput and higher performing frequency.

#### 2. File Encryption, Decryption Using AES Algorithm in Android Phone.

**Authors:** Suchita Tayde , Asst. Prof. Seema Siledar International Journal of Advanced Research in Computer Science and Software Engineering

#### **Description**

AES can be implemented on various platforms, especially in small devices like android mobile phones. In this paper the Advanced Encryption Standard algorithm has been used to overcome low size and slow speed as compared to DES, 3DES, Blowfish, RSA algorithms. This paper shows successful implementation of file and image encryption as well as decryption. The user experiences faster file encryption and decryption. Showing us that AES encryption and decryption algorithms run faster in android phone as compared to other algorithms. This application used here guarantees secure end to end transfer of data without any corruption of data.

#### 3. Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) Algorithm to Encrypt and Decrypt Data.

**Authors:** Ako Muhamad Abdullah

Cryptography and Network Security, 16, 1-11

#### **Description**

Internet communication is playing an important role in transferring large amounts of data in various fields. Cryptography is one of the most significant and popular techniques to secure the data from attackers by using two vital processes that is Encryption and Decryption.

This paper gives an overview of the AES algorithm and explains several crucial features of this algorithm in detail. Paper revolves around the comparison of the AES algorithm with different cryptographic techniques like DES, 3DES, Blow fish etc. According to the result of the research done by the author, AES performs better than DES, 3DES.

# 4. High Securing Cover-File of Hidden Data Using Statistical Technique and AES Encryption Algorithm.

**Authors:** A. A. Zaidan, Anas Majeed, and B. B. Zaidan World Academy of Science Engineering and Technology (WASET), 54, 468-479.

#### **Description**

The paper proposes that the system can be summarized as hiding the password or any information beyond the end of an executable file so there is no function or routine in the operating system to extract it.

The proposed system in the paper aims to hide information (data file) in any execution file (EXE) and to detect the hidden file and implementation of a steganography system is done which embeds information in an execution file. (EXE) files have been investigated. The system tries to find a solution to the size of the cover file and make it undetectable by anti-virus software. The system includes two main functions; first is the hiding of the information in a Portable Executable File (EXE), through the execution of four process (specify the cover file, specify the information file, encryption of the information, and hiding the information) and the second function is the extraction of the hiding information through three process (specify the steno file, extract the information, and decryption of the information).

#### 5. Performance evaluation of several symmetric key algorithms

**Authors:** D. A. F. Saraiva, V. R. Q. Leithardt, D. de Paula, A. S. Mendes, G. V. González, P. Crocker(2019)

#### **Description**

This paper compares the performance of several symmetric key algorithms, among them AES, RC6, and Twofish, all in GCM mode. All supported key sizes were tested (128, 192, and 256 bits). However, only encryption and decryption times were measured. The tests were made in a laptop with an Intel CPU and in an emulated ARMv7-a CPU. The emulation was run on the same laptop. We verified that AES had the best execution times for the Intel device due to hardware acceleration, but in the emulated ARMv7-a CPU, RC6 had the best results.

## **IMPLEMENTATION:**

# **CODE:**

## **Blockchain.py**

```
# import datetime
import time
import hashlib
import json
from flask import Flask, jsonify, request
import requests
from urllib.parse import urlparse
# Building a Blockchain
class Blockchain:
  def __init__(self):
     self.chain = []
             self.create_block(proof=1, previous_hash='0', sender='N.A',
self.nodes = set()
      self.nodes.add("127.0.0.1:5111")
```

```
def create block(self, proof, previous hash, sender, receiver, file hash):
      block = {'index': len(self.chain) + 1,
                   'timestamp': str(time.strftime("%d %B %Y , %I:%M:%S %p",
time.localtime())),
               'proof': proof,
               'previous hash': previous hash,
               'sender': sender, ########
               'receiver': receiver, ########
                'shared files': file hash}
      self.chain.append(block)
      return block
  def get previous block(self):
      return self.chain[-1]
  def proof_of_work(self, previous_proof):
      new proof = 1
      check proof = False
      while check proof is False:
                    hash_operation = hashlib.sha256(str(new_proof ** 2
previous proof ** 2).encode()).hexdigest()
```

```
if hash operation[:4] == '0000':
               check_proof = True
           else:
               new_proof += 1
       return new proof
  def hash(self, block):
       encoded_block = json.dumps(block, sort_keys=True).encode()
      return hashlib.sha256(encoded block).hexdigest()
  def is_chain_valid(self, chain):
      previous block = chain[0]
      block index = 1
      while block_index < len(chain):</pre>
          block = chain[block_index]
          if block['previous_hash'] != self.hash(previous_block):
               return False
          previous proof = previous block['proof']
          proof = block['proof']
           hash operation = hashlib.sha256(str(proof ** 2 - previous proof **
2).encode()).hexdigest()
           if hash operation[:4] != '0000':
               return False
          previous_block = block
```

```
block index += 1
    return True
def add_file(self, sender, receiver, file_hash):
   previous_block = self.get_previous_block()
   index = previous_block['index'] + 1
   previous proof = previous block['proof']
   proof = self.proof_of_work(previous_proof)
   previous_hash = self.hash (previous_block)
   self.create_block(proof, previous_hash, sender, receiver, file_hash)
   return index
def replace_chain(self):
   network = self.nodes
   longest chain = None
   max_length = len(self.chain)
   for node in network:
        response = requests.get('http://{}/get_chain'.format(node))
       if response.status code == 200:
```

```
length = response.json()['length']

chain = response.json()['chain']

if length > max_length and self.is_chain_valid(chain):

    max_length = length

    longest_chain = chain

if longest_chain:

    self.chain = longest_chain

    return True

return False
```

#### Server.py

```
import os
import urllib.request
import ipfshttpclient
from main_server.my_constants import app
import pyAesCrypt
from flask import Flask, flash, request, redirect, render_template, url_for,
jsonify
from flask_socketio import SocketIO, send, emit
from werkzeug.utils import secure_filename
import socket
import pickle
```

```
from main server.blockchain import Blockchain
socketio = SocketIO(app)
blockchain = Blockchain()
def allowed_file(filename):
       return '.' in filename and filename.rsplit('.', 1)[1].lower() in
app.config['ALLOWED_EXTENSIONS']
def append file extension(uploaded file, file path):
   file extension = uploaded file.filename.rsplit('.', 1)[1].lower()
   user_file = open(file_path, 'a')
   user file.write('\n' + file extension)
   user_file.close()
def decrypt_file(file_path, file_key):
   encrypted_file = file_path + ".aes"
   os.rename(file_path, encrypted_file)
           pyAesCrypt.decryptFile(encrypted file, file path, file key,
app.config['BUFFER SIZE'])
def encrypt_file(file_path, file_key):
```

```
pyAesCrypt.encryptFile(file path, file path + ".aes", file key,
app.config['BUFFER_SIZE'])
def hash user file(user file, file key):
   encrypt file(user file, file key)
   encrypted file path = user file + ".aes"
   client = ipfshttpclient.connect('/dns/ipfs.infura.io/tcp/5001/https')
   response = client.add(encrypted file path)
   file_hash = response['Hash']
   return file hash
def retrieve from hash(file hash, file key):
   client = ipfshttpclient.connect('/dns/ipfs.infura.io/tcp/5001/https')
   file content = client.cat(file hash)
   file_path = os.path.join(app.config['DOWNLOAD FOLDER'], file hash)
   user file = open(file path, 'ab+')
   user_file.write(file_content)
   user file.close()
   decrypt_file(file_path, file_key)
   with open(file path, 'rb') as f:
        lines = f.read().splitlines()
       last line = lines[-1]
   user_file.close()
   file extension = last line
```

```
saved file = file path + '.' + file extension.decode()
    os.rename(file_path, saved_file)
   print(saved file)
   return saved_file
@app.route('/')
def index():
    return render_template('index.html')
@app.route('/home')
def home():
    return render_template('index.html')
@app.route('/upload')
def upload():
    return render_template('upload.html', message ="Welcome!")
@app.route('/download')
def download():
    return render template('download.html', message ="Welcome!")
@app.route('/connect_blockchain')
def connect_blockchain():
```

```
is chain replaced = blockchain.replace chain()
                      render template('connect blockchain.html', chain
blockchain.chain, nodes = len(blockchain.nodes))
@app.errorhandler(413)
def entity_too_large(e):
      return render_template('upload.html', message ="Requested Entity Too
Large!")
@app.route('/add_file', methods=['POST'])
def add_file():
   is chain replaced = blockchain.replace chain()
   if is chain replaced:
         print('The nodes had different chains so the chain was replaced by
the longest one. ')
   else:
       print('All good. The chain is the largest one.')
   if request.method == 'POST':
       error flag = True
       if 'file' not in request.files:
           message = 'No file part'
```

```
else:
            user file = request.files['file']
           if user file.filename == '':
                message = 'No file selected for uploading'
            if user file and allowed file(user file.filename):
                error_flag = False
                filename = secure_filename(user_file.filename)
                       file path = os.path.join(app.config['UPLOAD FOLDER'],
filename)
                user file.save(file path)
                append file extension(user file, file path)
                sender = request.form['sender name']
                receiver = request.form['receiver name']
                file_key = request.form['file_key']
                try:
                    hashed_output1 = hash_user_file(file_path, file_key)
                              index = blockchain.add_file(sender, receiver,
hashed output1)
                except Exception as err:
                    message = str(err)
                    error flag = True
                    if "ConnectionError:" in message:
```

```
message = "Gateway down or bad Internet!"
            else:
                error_flag = True
                  message = 'Allowed file types are txt, pdf, png, jpg, jpeg,
gif'
        if error flag == True:
            return render_template('upload.html', message = message)
       else:
             return render template('upload.html', message = "File successfully
uploaded")
@app.route('/retrieve file', methods=['POST'])
def retrieve file():
    is_chain_replaced = blockchain.replace_chain()
    if is_chain_replaced:
         print('The nodes had different chains so the chain was replaced by
the longest one. ')
   else:
       print('All good. The chain is the largest one.')
```

```
if request.method == 'POST':
   error flag = True
    if request.form['file hash'] == '':
       message = 'No file hash entered.'
    elif request.form['file_key'] == '':
       message = 'No file key entered.'
    else:
        error flag = False
        file_key = request.form['file_key']
        file hash = request.form['file hash']
        try:
            file_path = retrieve_from_hash(file_hash, file_key)
        except Exception as err:
            message = str(err)
            error_flag = True
            if "ConnectionError:" in message:
                message = "Gateway down or bad Internet!"
    if error flag == True:
       return render_template('download.html', message = message)
    else:
```

```
return render template('download.html', message ="File
successfully downloaded")
# Getting the full Blockchain
@app.route('/get chain', methods = ['GET'])
def get_chain():
    response = {'chain': blockchain.chain,
                'length': len(blockchain.chain) }
    return jsonify(response), 200
@socketio.on('connect')
def handle connect():
   print('Client connected')
   print(request)
@socketio.on('add client node')
def handle_node(client_node):
   print(client_node)
   blockchain.nodes.add(client_node['node_address'])
    emit('my response', {'data': pickle.dumps(blockchain.nodes)}, broadcast =
True)
@socketio.on('remove_client_node')
def handle node(client node):
```

```
print(client_node)
  blockchain.nodes.remove(client_node['node_address'])
  emit('my_response', {'data': pickle.dumps(blockchain.nodes)}, broadcast =
True)

@socketio.on('disconnect')

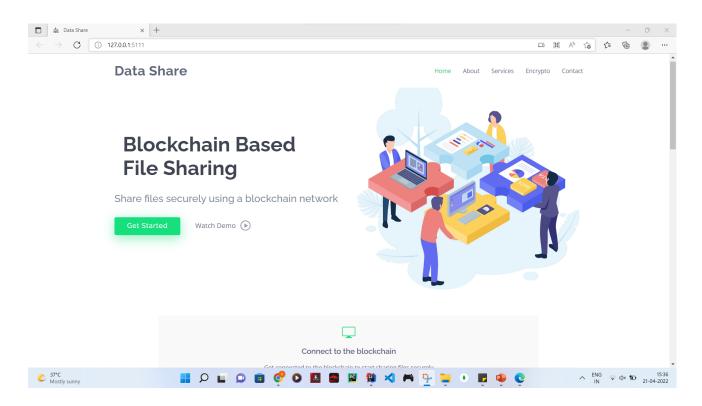
def handle_disconnect():
    print('Client disconnected')
    print(request)

if __name__ == '__main__':
    socketio.run(app, host = '127.0.0.1', port= 5111)
```

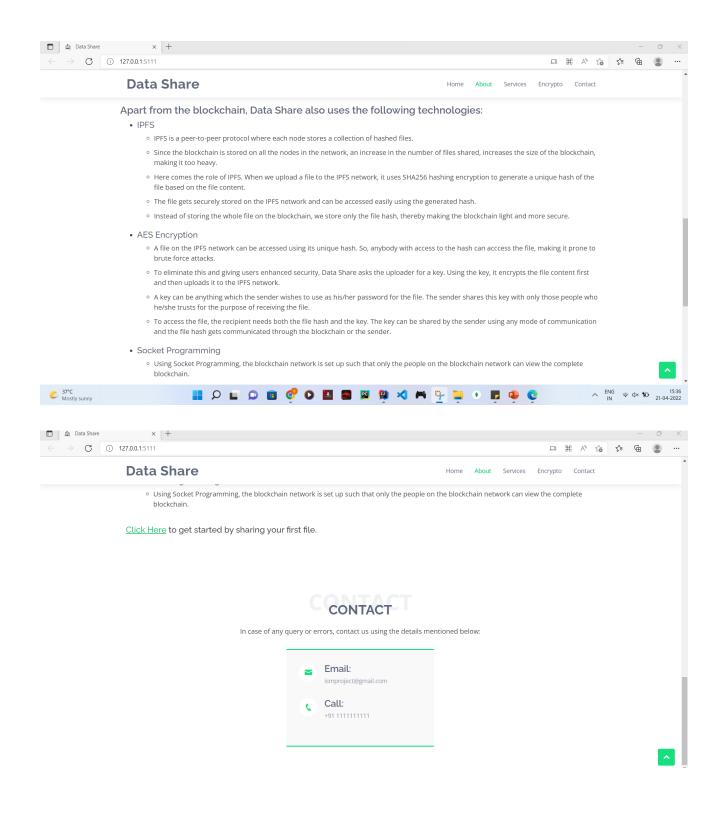
#### My constants.py

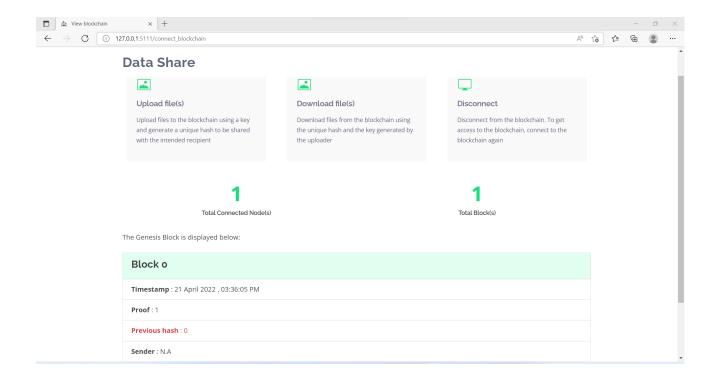
```
app.config['ALLOWED_EXTENSIONS'] = {'txt', 'pdf', 'png', 'jpg', 'jpeg',
    'gif'}
app.config['BUFFER_SIZE'] = 64 * 1024
app.config['MAX_CONTENT_LENGTH'] = 16 * 1024 * 1024
```

# **OUTPUT:**

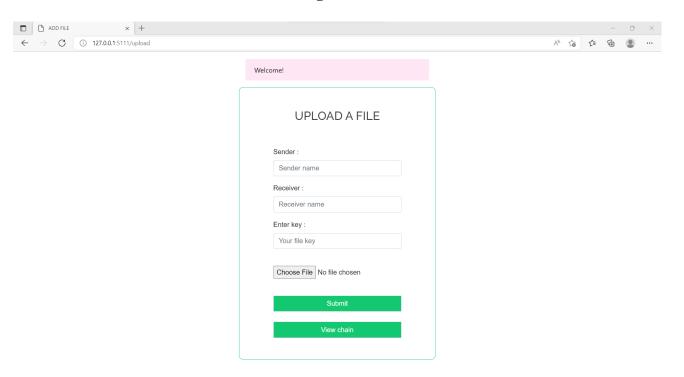


**Index Page** 

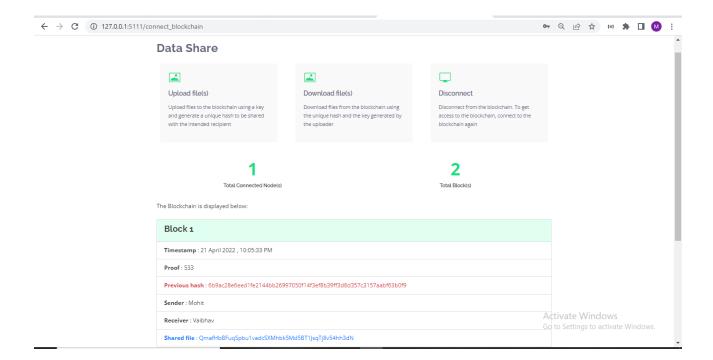




# Connecting to Blockchain



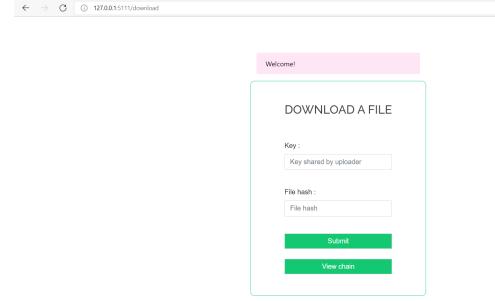
Uploading a File



## File uploaded and new Block Created

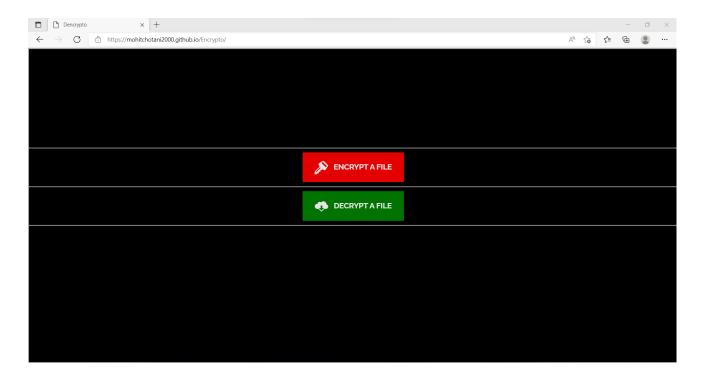
- 0 ×

A<sup>n</sup> & & ...

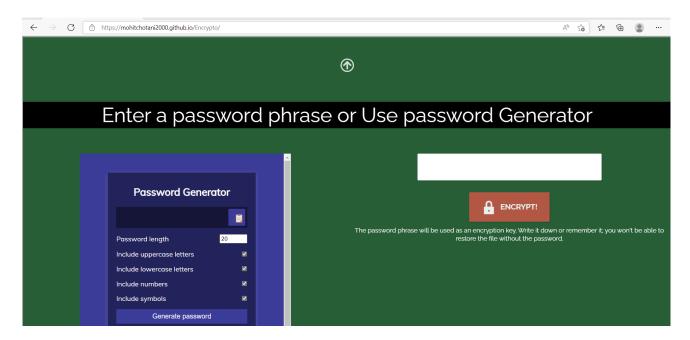


D DOWNLOAD FILE × +

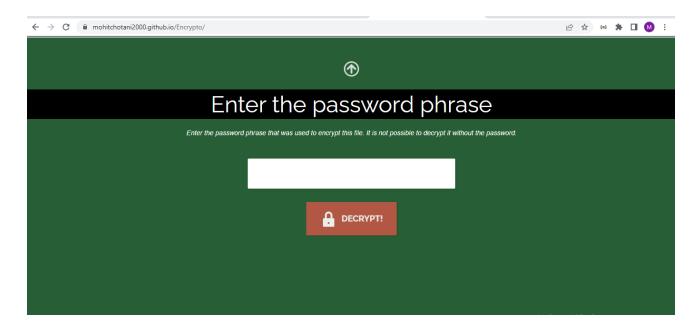
Downloading a File



**Encrypto Landing Page** 



**Encrypting a File using Key Generator** 



**Decrypting the encrypted File using the key** 

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Blockchain can be set up to operate in a variety of ways, using different mechanisms to secure a consensus on transactions, seen only by authorized users.

Blockchain depends on scalability and does not work well if the file size is too big, but when combined with IPFS, it could overcome this disadvantage and help redefine the way we interact with information and identity.

Blockchain holds enormous potential in the future. This technology will not only save your time and money but it will revolutionize many industries.

# **FUTURE SCOPE:**

As the security is growing day by day attackers are also being more cognizant. Each security schema has some weak points i.e. if an attacker knows them then he can bypass security. So to make the system more secure we can work on the weakness of the system and can further enhance the security.

The project Data Share currently runs on a local network but it can be made to function on any public network with web hosting, thereby making it more scalable.

Upon proper exploration, blockchain could prove to be a boon for leading industries like digital advertising, cybersecurity, supply chain management, networking and forecasting.

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