
SHA-256 Hashing Function Project

ECRYP 23Z

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1 Theoretical introduction

1.1 Hashing

Before we start, it is important to distinguish between hashing and other types of functions in terms of cryptography. Hashing is a process of producing a fixed-sized string of characters from given input data. It is common to produce hexadecimal digest of an input string. There are two most important characteristics of hashing:

- Irreversibility - It should be computationally infeasible to reverse the process and obtain the original input from the hash value.
- Determinism - The same hashing function for the same input value should always produce the same result.

1.2 SHA-256

One of most popular example of hashing functions is SHA-256 (Secure Hash Algorithm 256-bit), which is a member of SHA-2 family of cryptographic hash functions. It was designed by the National Security Agency (NSA) and published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as a part of the Digital Signature Algorithm (DSA) in 2001. SHA-256 is widely used for various cryptographic applications and is considered to be secure. The "256" name part indicates, that the output is of 256-bit length.

2 Functional description of the application

2.1 Usage

The designed usage of our application project is a Python3 command line interface (CLI) tool. The program requires installed Python environment, and additionally *pytest* module for running implemented test cases. Usually, preparation before using the application involves installing Python virtual environment (*venv*), enabling it, then downloading requirements using Python installation manager (*pip*). Example using Windows 11 command line below:

```
python -m venv env
env\Scripts\activate
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

Then to use the CLI tool:

```
python app_cli.py --help
python app_cli.py textToBeHashed
```

There is also a script version of the application, where user runs the script and is prompted to enter input text to be hashed:

```
python app.py
```

2.2 Input

Expected input is a string which theoretically should be of any length.

2.3 Output

The output will be given in a hexadecimal string representation of the digest.

3 Description of designed code structure

3.1 TODO - Alek

4 Tests

4.1 SHA-256

Our tests are conducted with usage of *pytest* and *hashlib* Python modules. The first one is for convenience of testing the source code, the second gives us some reference values of the hexadecimal SHA-256 digest to verify correctness of our algorithm implementation. All our test cases were successful and their parameters are provided below:

INPUT	EXPECTED AND TESTED OUTPUT
"Hello, World!"	todo
"123456"	todo
"ECRYP CRYPT testing"	todo
"Hash Function Test"	todo
"python"	todo
"987654321"	todo
"abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz1234567890"	todo

4.2 Operators

We have also prepared test cases for additional bit wise operators that we had to implement in Python. Those were also successful and provided below.

4.2.1 ROTATE RIGHT

INPUT	EXPECTED AND TESTED OUTPUT
0x00000010 rotate by 4	0x00000001
0x00000001 rotate by 4	0x10000000
0x000000F0 rotate by 4	0x0000000F

4.2.2 CH - (a AND b) XOR (NOT a AND c)

a	b	c	RESULT
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	1
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	0
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

4.2.3 MAJ - (a AND b) XOR (a AND c) XOR (b AND c)

a	b	c	RESULT
0	0	0	0
0	0	1	0
0	1	0	0
0	1	1	1
1	0	0	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1
1	1	1	1

5 List of sources

- Secure Hash Standard (SHS) - Federal Information Processing Standards Publication 180-4.