Cryptography Engineering

"Blowfish Algorithm"

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Introduction:

Symmetric algorithms, sometimes called conventional algorithms, are algorithms where the encryption key can be calculated from the decryption key and vice versa. In most symmetric algorithms, the encryption key and the decryption key are the same. These algorithms, also called secret-key algorithms, single-key algorithms, or one-key algorithms, require that the sender and receiver agree on a key before they can communicate securely. The security of a symmetric algorithm rests in the key; divulging the key means that anyone could encrypt and decrypt messages. As long as the communication needs to remain secret, the key must remain secret. Blowfish is a symmetric cryptographic algorithm.

Blowfish Algorithm:

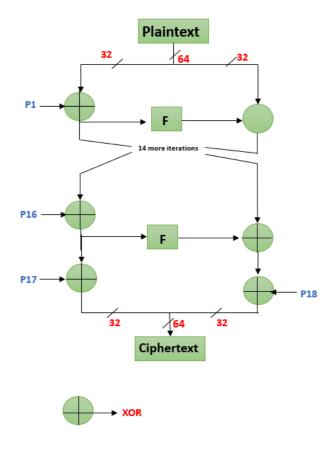
Blowfish is a symmetric encryption algorithm, meaning that it uses the same secret key to both encrypt and decrypt messages. Blowfish is also a block cipher, meaning that it divides a message up into fixed length blocks during encryption and decryption. The block length for Blowfish is 64 bits; messages that aren't a multiple of eight bytes in size must be padded.

Advantages and Disadvantages of Blowfish Algorithm:

- Blowfish is a fast block cipher except when changing keys. Each new key requires a pre-processing equivalent to 4KB of text.
- It is faster and much better than DES Encryption.
- Blowfish uses a 64-bit block size which makes it vulnerable to birthday attacks.
- A reduced round variant of blowfish is known to be succeptible to known plain text attacks(2nd order differential attacks 4 rounds).

Applications of Blowfish Algorithm:

- Bulk Encryption.
- Packet Encryption(ATM Packets)
- Password Hashing



The entire encryption process can be elaborated as:

Blowfish consists of sixteen rounds. For each round, first XOR the left half of the block with the subkey for that round. Then apply the f-function to the left half of the block, and XOR the right half of the block with the result. Finally, after all but the last round, swap the halves of the block. There is only one subkey for each round; the f-function consumes no subkeys, but uses S-boxes which are key dependent. After the last round, XOR the *right* half with subkey 17, and the *left* half with subkey 18.

The f-function:

Blowfish uses four S-boxes. Each one has 256 entries, and each of the entries are 32 bits long. To calculate the f-function: use the first byte of the 32 bits of input to find an entry in the first S-box, the second byte to find an entry in the second S-box, and so on. The value of the f-function is $((S1(B1) + S2(B2)) \times S3(B3)) + S4(B4)$ where addition is performed modulo 2^32 .

Subkey generation:

Blowfish uses a large number of subkeys. These keys must be pre computed before any data encryption or decryption.

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The P-array consists of 18 32-bit subkeys:
P1, P2...., P18.

2. There are four 32-bit S-boxes with 256 entries each:
S1,0, S1,1,.., S1,255;
S2,0, S2,1,..., S2,255;
S3,0, S3,1,..., S3,255;
S4,0, S4,1,..., S4,255;
The exact method used to calculate these subkeys will be described later
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The Blowfish Encryption Algorithm:

is a Feistel network consisting of 16 rounds (Figure.1). The input is a 64-bit data element, X. Divide x into two 32-bit halves: XL, XR

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: For i = 1 to 16

xL = XL XOR Pi

xR = F(XL) XOR xR

Swap XL and xR

Swap XL and xR (Undo the last swap.)

xR = xR XOR P17

xL = xL XOR P18
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Recombine xL and xR

The Blowfish Encryption pseudocode:

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The input is a 64-bit data element, x

Divide x into two 32-bit halves: xL, xR

Then, for i = 1 to 16:

$$xL = xL XOR Pi$$

 $xR = F(xL) XOR xR$

Swap xL and xR

After the sixteenth round, swap xL and xR again to undo the last swap.

Then, xR = xR XOR P17 and xL = xL XOR P18

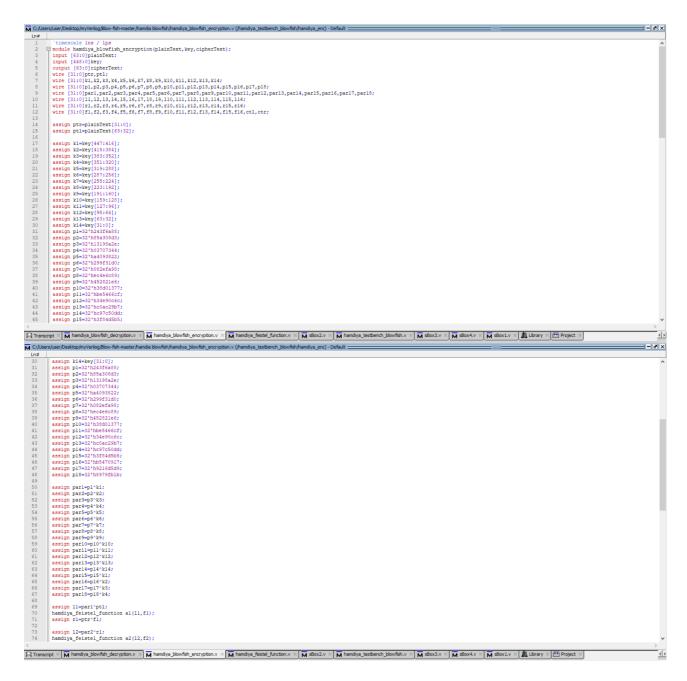
Finally, recombine xL and xR to get the ciphertext

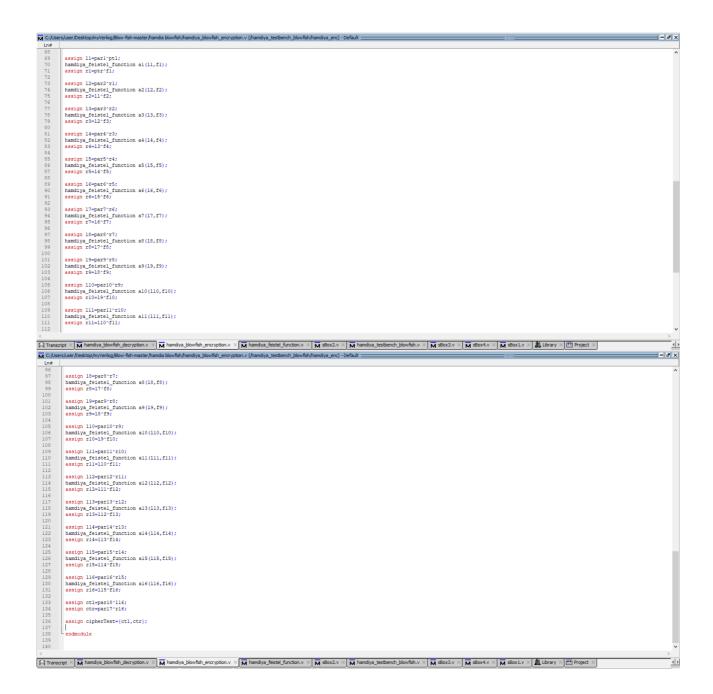
Decryption is exactly the same as encryption, except that P1, P2,..., P18 are used in the reverse order. Implementations of Blowfish that require the fastest speeds should unroll the loop and ensure that all subkeys are stored in cache.

Implementation of Blowfish Encryption:

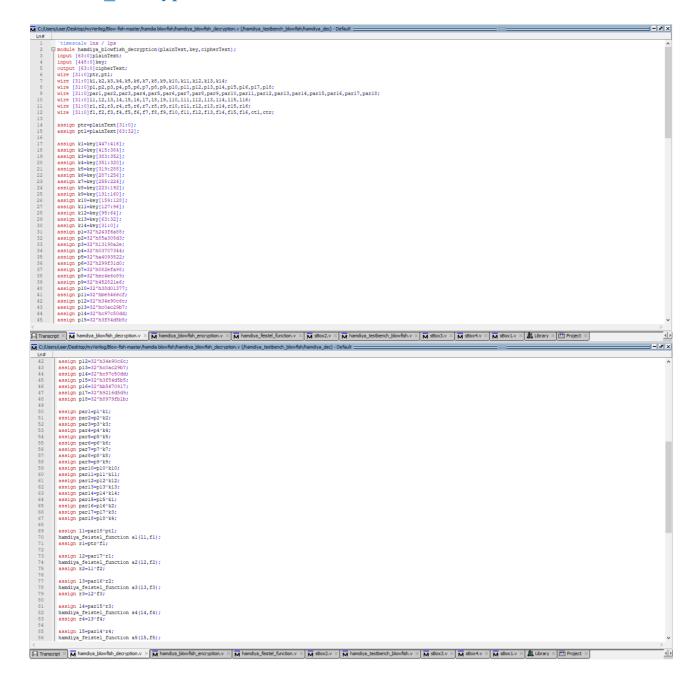
The code were written in Verilog and simulated with the Verilog simulator. The Verilog simulator ISIM is used here for the simulation. The key generation involving various steps and that can be used to generate the actual key for encryption. The decryption is done exactly same as the encryption except that the keys are used in the reverse order

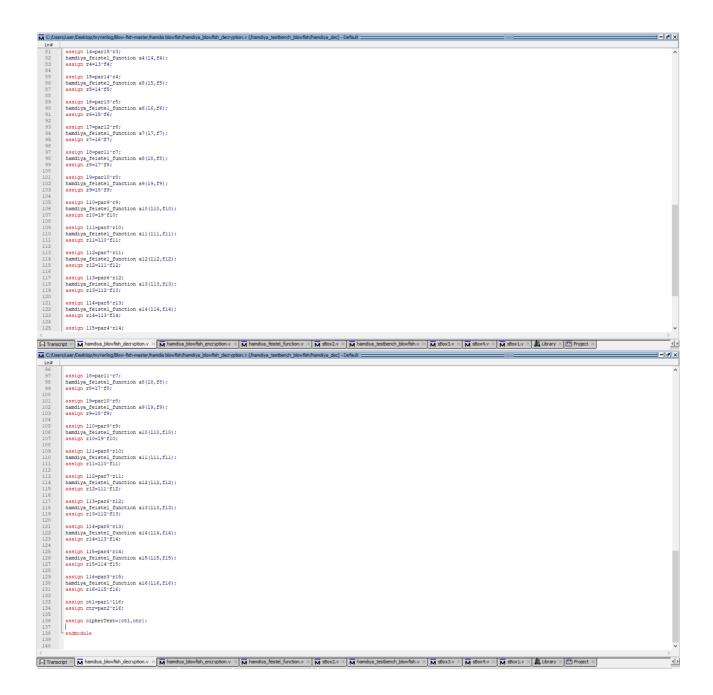
blowfish_encryption:





blowfish_Decryption:





Feistel_Function:

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Simulated result of encryption and decryption:

