

CSCI531 Applied Cryptography Final Project

EHR Audit System System Report

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1 System architecture

Figure 1 shows a high level overview of the main software components of the system.

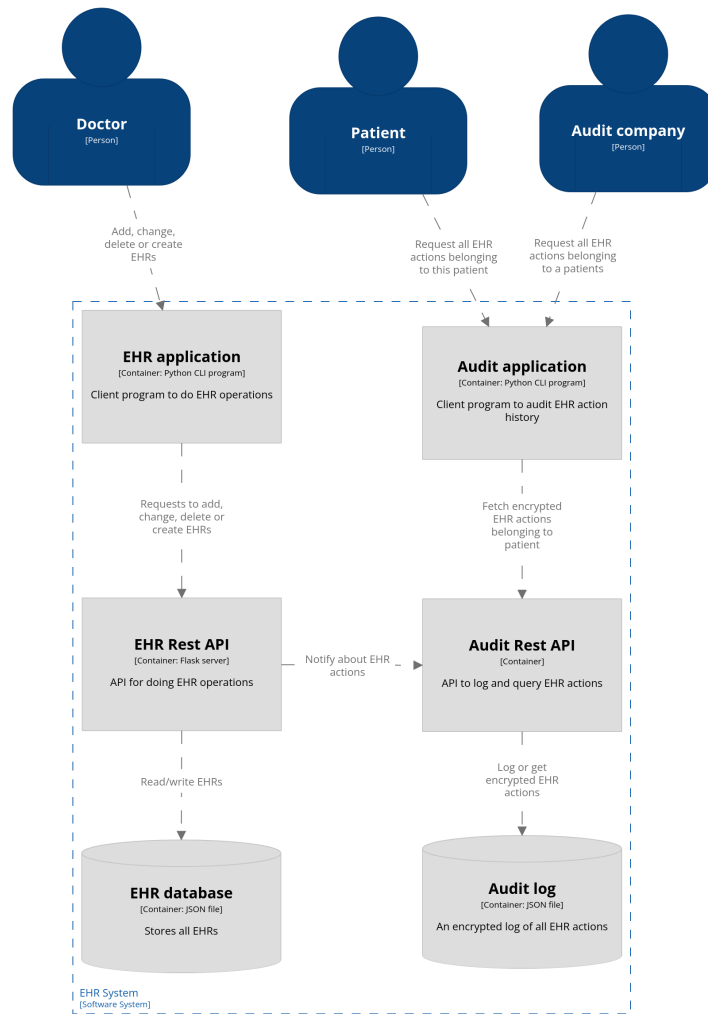


Figure 1: System overview

First lets take a look at the EHR application, this is an application that only doctors should have access to which they can use during patient visits to modify EHRs (Electronic Health Records). The EHR application sends request to the EHR Rest API which handles reading and writing to the EHR database and notifying the Audit Rest API about EHR actions. Seperating the EHR application and the EHR Rest API allows the EHR application to be implemented with least priviledge, it should only be able to request actions on EHRs but not directly access the EHR database or independently call the Audit Rest API.

The Audit application is for patients and audit companies to read the EHR action history about a patient. The EHR action history of all patients is stored encrypted in the Audit log. Patients can only decrypt their own records in the audit log so direct access from the Audit application to the Audit log would not be too bad but still would leak some information, for example number of EHR actions in the log. Preferably the Audit application should only receive the patient's records which is what the Audit Rest API sends to the Audit application. The Audit application then proceeds to decrypt the patient's records and show them to the Audit application user.

Audit companies use the Audit application in the same way as a patient does but are authorized to fetch records for all patients registered under them.

2 Cryptographic system architecture

The overview in Figure 1 is a simplified view of the system because it does not show details like a Certificate Authority, system admin scripts, key storage and how the desired security goals are achieved. This chapter will explain the the cryptographic system architecture of the system.

Since the instructions for this project specified that the project should focus on the security of the audit log there were no security mechansisms designed or implemented for the EHR application, EHR Rest API or EHR database. In this project, these components are simply used to populate data in the audit log and to demonstrate the authorization mechansism in Audit Rest API which only allows the EHR Rest API to notify about EHR

actions.

2.1 Authentication and encryption in transit

To be able to enforce authorization rules, clients connecting to Rest APIs must be authenticated, and to protect against attacks such as MitM or network sniffing, data in transit must be encrypted and integrity preserved.

In the design phase of this project it was explored to authenticate and encrypt messages using a similar design as in PGP [1].

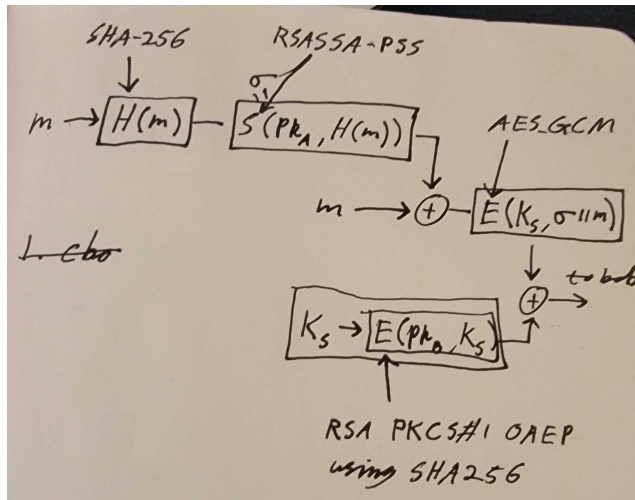


Figure 2: Initial design idea for authentication and encryption in transit

Upon further inspection it was realized that there could be issues with this approach. For example, this design needs to be extended to protect against replay attacks. So at that point it was realized that there is a lot of room for error and mistakes in this design and it needed some rethinking.

Using TLS is a very common approach to solving the encryption-in-transit problem. On the web TLS is usually configured to authenticate only the server and afterwards the client is authenticated using password-based authentication at the application layer. Although not common on the web, the TLS protocol can be configured to do mutual authentication, which requires the client to hold a certificate as well as the server. Additionally

it's designed to protect against attacks such as replay attacks [?] which is an improvement from the previous design discussed.

Authenticating clients with TLS removes the need for implementing components needed for password-based authentication such as a database of salted and hashed passwords. However the TLS mutual authentication method requires the client to hold a certificate and a private key so connecting from multiple different devices becomes more difficult. Additionally the TLS solution requires a Certificate Authority to sign user certificates. It was anticipated that the client would need to hold more keys than the TLS keys so TLS with mutual authentication was picked to solve the authentication and encryption in transit problem.

2.2 Encryption and integrity at rest

Records in the audit log are encrypted at rest. The encryption needs to fulfill the following goals:

1. For any given record in the database, only the patient the record belongs to, and the audit company of the patient, should be able to decrypt the EHR action included in the record.
2. For any given record in the database, the Audit Rest API should be able to decrypt the patient's name in the record but not any other parts of it. This allows the Audit Rest API to find records for any given patient.
3. Given access to the database, patients can discover which records belong to them but should not be able to discover the patient of other records, the same applies to Audit companies.
4. If any record is tampered with, it should be detected and reported.
5. If any record is deleted, it should be detected and reported.
6. The database cannot be deleted by any single person or company.

A record in the audit log is split into two parts: the patient's name and the EHR action.

The patient's name and the EHR action are encrypted using a hybrid cryptosystem [?]. The hybrid cryptosystem first generates a random 256-bit key and then encrypts the data using AES in Galois Counter Mode (GCM) which is a NIST recommendation for authenticated encryption [?]. The GCM mode generates a tag that is stored along with the ciphertext which is used to detect tampering with the ciphertext or tag. The AES key is encrypted using RSA PKCS#1 OAEP which requires a RSA public key. Remember that the database record is split into two parts, to encrypt the AES key to decrypt the patient's name, the Audit Rest API's RSA public key is used. The AES key to decrypt the EHR action is encrypted using two different RSA keys, one is the patient's public key and the other is the audit company's public key.

Although the AES ciphertext and tag are tamper-proof the encrypted RSA key is not, because RSA PKCS#1 OAEP is not an authenticated encryption mechanism. So with the above design there is no protection against the encrypted AES key being tampered with. Therefore there was added one last step to the hybrid encryption mechanism: signing the encrypted AES key using RSASSA-PSS. The encrypted AES key is signed using a public RSA key of the Audit Rest API. To avoid using the same keys for RSA PKCS#1 OAEP and RSASSA-PSS which could possibly decrease the overall security the system, the Audit Rest API holds two pairs of RSA keys, one set for encryption and decryption, the other set for signing and verifying.

The encryption mechanism described above protects against goals 1.-4. but does not fulfill goals 5. and 6. Although each record is tamper-proof there is no mechanism to detect if a record has been deleted as a whole. Additionally the database is centralized so whoever has access to the database, such as a system admin can delete it. Note that although it's possible to change the order of records in the database without detection it has no real effect since the plaintext of the EHR actions contain timestamps.

To achieve goal 6. the database must be decentralized and to achieve goal 5. there needs to be something that ties each record to the previous records. A blockchain cryptosystem would provide both of these features. For the blockchain to be truly decentralized the blockchain nodes cannot all be controlled by the same person or company. The blockchain will contain the records of the audit log which means that all parties controlling

a blockchain node will learn the contents of the database. Since the records in the database are encrypted storing the database in a decentralized blockchain cryptosystem should not leak information about the contents of the EHR actions or its patients. However, if each record would be a block in the blockchain it would however leak information to the blockchain participants about how many EHR actions there are in the database and such as how fast they are growing. More generally, adversaries could perform traffic analysis on the data.

2.3 Authorization rules

Authorization is enforced in the Audit Rest API. The Audit Rest API requires all connecting clients to authenticate through TLS. For each call to the API endpoint the application layer reads the id of the connecting client from the TLS connection context and then uses the id to enforce authorization rules at the application layer.

The authorization rules enforced are as follows:

1. Only the EHR Rest API is allowed to notify the Audit Rest API about EHR actions.
2. A patient can only fetch encrypted EHR actions belonging to them.
3. An audit company can only fetch encrypted EHR actions belonging to a patient that's registered under the audit company.

3 Implementation

The project was implemented on a Ubuntu 21.04 machine but should run macOS as well. Since the project mostly relies on Python packages, getting it to run on Windows should not require a lot of changes either.

3.1 IDs

The user ID of the five users in the system are simply their names: `alice`, `bob`, `carol`, `david`, `eve`. The server names have similar simple IDs: `ehr_server` and `audit_server` and finally the two audit companies have the IDs `usc` and `ucla`.

3.2 Audit company authorization rules

It was decided that USC should be able to query the EHR action history of `alice` `bob` and `eve`. UCLA should be able to query the EHR action history of `carol` and `david`.

3.3 The Network

The project's proof of concept implementation runs on the local loopback interface. Although using networking was not a requirement of the project the benefits of doing it is that it helps keep component code organized, more similar to production systems and it makes using TLS is easier. Both the Rest APIs of the project only accept HTTPS connections and their TLS certificates bind their hostnames to their TLS public keys. Therefore therefor their domain names must be added to the local DNS. In linux this is possible by tying their domain names to the local loopback interface in `/etc/hosts`:

```
$ cat /etc/hosts | grep server
127.0.0.1    ehr_server
127.0.0.1    audit_server
(.venv) david1471@arch:~
```

`ehr_server` was run on port 5000 and `audit_server` was run on port 5001.

3.4 Applications, REST APIs and databases

For simplicity the following technologies were chosen for each type of the software components:

Type	Technology
Application	Python CLI program
REST API	Python Flask server
Database	JSON file

For TLS the Certificate Authority's keys are cert are stored in a `system_admin` folder in the implementation.

3.5 Key generation

The software components and users in the system all hold various private keys. For the project it was decided that they should be generated by a system admin and distributed to users and software components out of bounds.

```
$ python3 create_ca.py --help
usage: create_ca.py [-h] [-v]

Creates a certificate authority key and certificate.

optional arguments:
  -h, --help      show this help message and exit
  -v, --verbose   enables printing of debug statements
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/system_admin_scripts
$ python3 generate_keys_for_server.py --help
usage: generate_keys_for_server.py [-h] [-v] SERVER_ID

Generate 2 RSA keypairs for a server, one for encryption/decryption the other for signing/verifying.
Additionally a TLS key and cert signed by a CA are generated.

positional arguments:
  SERVER_ID      Server to generate keys for

optional arguments:
  -h, --help      show this help message and exit
  -v, --verbose   enables printing of debug statements
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/system_admin_scripts
$ python3 generate_keys_for_user.py --help
usage: generate_keys_for_user.py [-h] [-v] USER_ID

Generate RSA keypair for a user along with a TLS key and cert signed by a CA

positional arguments:
  USER_ID      User to generate keys for

optional arguments:
  -h, --help      show this help message and exit
  -v, --verbose   enables printing of debug statements
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/system_admin_scripts
```

Figure 3: Usage instructions of 3 system admin scripts implemented

The key generation scripts depend on `openssl` being installed and on path. OpenSSL 'Version 1.1.1j Feb 16 2021' was used in this project.

3.6 TLS

Audit server's Flask application was configured to use TLS and require mutual authentication:

```

42 # Configure TLS for client authentication
43 ssl_context = ssl.create_default_context(
44     purpose=ssl.Purpose.CLIENT_AUTH, cafile=ca_cert
45 )
46
47 # Load server TLS key and certificate
48 ssl_context.load_cert_chain(
49     certfile=server_cert, keyfile=server_key, password=server_key_password
50 )
51
52 # Configure TLS to require client certificate signed by CA
53 ssl_context.verify_mode = ssl.CERT_REQUIRED

```

```

112 def run():
113     audit_db.initialize()
114     log.setLevel(logging.DEBUG)
115     app.run(
116         debug=True,
117         port=5001,
118         ssl_context=ssl_context,
119         request_handler=PeerCertWSGIRequestHandler,
120     )

```

Figure 4: The TLS configuration for audit_server

To evade old and vulnerable versions of TLS it only accepts TLS 1.2 and TLS 1.3 connections. Preferably it should only accept TLS 1.3 connection but the easiest way to fix that would be to upgrade Python to version 3.10 which was decided to be out of scope for this project.

```

(.venv) david147@garch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/ehr_server
$ openssl s_client -CAfile ../ca/keys/ca.crt -cert keys/ehr_server_tls.crt -key keys/ehr_server_tls.key -connect audit_server:5001 -tls1_3 >/dev/null 2>&1 0>&1; echo $?;
openssl s_client -CAfile ../ca/keys/ca.crt -cert keys/ehr_server_tls.crt -key keys/ehr_server_tls.key -connect audit_server:5001 -tls1_2 >/dev/null 2>&1 0>&1; echo $?;
openssl s_client -CAfile ../ca/keys/ca.crt -cert keys/ehr_server_tls.crt -key keys/ehr_server_tls.key -connect audit_server:5001 -tls1_1 >/dev/null 2>&1 0>&1; echo $?;
openssl s_client -CAfile ../ca/keys/ca.crt -cert keys/ehr_server_tls.crt -key keys/ehr_server_tls.key -connect audit_server:5001 -tls1 >/dev/null 2>&1 0>&1; echo $?;
0
1
1
(.venv) david147@garch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/ehr_server

```

Figure 5: Verifying that the server only accepts TLS versions ≥ 1.2

The TLS communications were also monitored through Wireshark as an exercise.

3.7 The EHR application - generating data

```
$ ./ehr_application.py --help
usage: ehr_application.py [-h] [--description DESCRIPTION] [--ehr-id EHR_ID] [-v] ACTION PATIENT_ID DOCTOR_ID

Do EHR operations

positional arguments:
  ACTION                One of ['CREATE', 'DELETE', 'CHANGE', 'GET_RECORD', 'GET_RECORDS']
  PATIENT_ID            The name of the patient the EHR belongs to
  DOCTOR_ID             The name of the doctor that's doing the operation

optional arguments:
  -h, --help            show this help message and exit
  --description DESCRIPTION
                        Put EHR contents here, applies to the actions CREATE and CHANGE. Example: 'The patient visited with symptoms X and Y which was remediated by Z'
  --ehr-id EHR_ID       ID of EHR, applies to the actions DELETE, CHANGE and GET_RECORD. Example: 'f764b7595b74a1d02d3af9f8a2642b8f'
  -v, --verbose         enables printing of debug statements
(.venv) david1471@arch: ~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
```

Figure 6: Usage instructions for the EHR application

```
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py CREATE alice mark --description 'visit 1'
[23:07:25.493 INFO]: Created record 1094fc656e0ea124ac822e1c3bffe8fc
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py CREATE alice mark --description 'visit 2'
[23:07:30.412 INFO]: Created record 2d7a831b9b49555cf9150327a958b4d9
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py CHANGE alice mark --description 'visit 4' --ehr-id '2d7a831b9b49555cf9150327a958b4d9'
[23:07:57.307 INFO]: Record changed
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py DELETE alice john --ehr-id '1094fc656e0ea124ac822e1c3bffe8fc'
[23:08:53.406 INFO]: Record deleted
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py GET_RECORD alice john --ehr-id '2d7a831b9b49555cf9150327a958b4d9'
{
  "id": "2d7a831b9b49555cf9150327a958b4d9",
  "created": "2022-05-01 23:07:30",
  "description": "visit 4"
}
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py CREATE alice mark --description 'Visit 5'
[23:09:44.576 INFO]: Created record be097361b190e097de36abe5cc230967
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py CREATE alice mark --description 'Visit 6'
[23:09:46.236 INFO]: Created record 153281f10b919a82babcb7ad1a452f60
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py CREATE bob mark --description 'Visit 1'
[23:09:52.506 INFO]: Created record 2cbbfd0705022b572d7da36bf5e5ece8
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py CREATE bob mark --description 'Visit 2'
[23:09:54.218 INFO]: Created record ea30a081cf7f5437a7510bf164b39263
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py CREATE carol john --description 'Visit 1'
[23:10:11.354 INFO]: Created record f61587a0518254df69a3626446c76dd5
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ ./ehr_application.py CREATE eve john --description 'Visit 97'
[23:10:21.702 INFO]: Created record 6e534d8dec0ad8298e53344943795102
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$
```

Figure 7: Generating data using the EHR application

```
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
$ cat ../ehr_server/ehr_db.json
{
  "alice": {
    "2d7a831b9b49555cf9150327a958b4d9": {
      "id": "2d7a831b9b49555cf9150327a958b4d9",
      "created": "2022-05-01 23:07:30",
      "description": "Visit 4"
    },
    "be097361b190e097de36abe5cc230967": {
      "id": "be097361b190e097de36abe5cc230967",
      "created": "2022-05-01 23:09:44",
      "description": "Visit 5"
    },
    "153281f10b919a82babcb7ad1a452f60": {
      "id": "153281f10b919a82babcb7ad1a452f60",
      "created": "2022-05-01 23:09:46",
      "description": "Visit 6"
    }
  },
  "bob": {
    "2cbbfd0705022b572d7da36bf5e5ece8": {
      "id": "2cbbfd0705022b572d7da36bf5e5ece8",
      "created": "2022-05-01 23:09:52",
      "description": "Visit 1"
    },
    "ea30a081cf7f5437a7510bf164b39263": {
      "id": "ea30a081cf7f5437a7510bf164b39263",
      "created": "2022-05-01 23:09:54",
      "description": "Visit 2"
    }
  },
  "carol": {
    "f61587a0518254df69a3626446c76dd5": {
      "id": "f61587a0518254df69a3626446c76dd5",
      "created": "2022-05-01 23:10:11",
      "description": "Visit 1"
    }
  },
  "eve": {
    "6e534d8dec0ad8298e53344943795102": {
      "id": "6e534d8dec0ad8298e53344943795102",
      "created": "2022-05-01 23:10:21",
      "description": "Visit 97"
    }
  }
}
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/doctor_client
```

Figure 8: The generated data in the EHR database.

3.8 The Audit log application - querying EHR action history

3.8.1 Fetching a record that has been tampered with

Now one of the patient's name in the audit log database has been tampered with. It's detected once a user tries to fetch records:

```

1  {
2    "patient_enc": {
3      "ciphertext": "X/L0qPae",
4      "ciphertext_tag": "p/qUUm30qPq4C0guU2mgum",
5      "ciphertext_nonce": "0b7820kUE81CMUt4fL1pBq==",
6      "key_enc": "pk7Avu0uyXD0v9DN/ugL530iRS//t6ENE7t3Cth3fnyPLL437/Kp+u0140L0Lz+r0KezC10I+h0xp
7      +nXMT90dp5bHhRgtTKK51P/nLbVZgnP7+BLQF6IAuz3UMtKtLM2bgMpdAn86y6y1DJu/
8      Mhp5zrUmzEFdHPGg7wETWzCFj5fRrSLP8zuWxz2tU5H093n+zhk/o5W/q8D4Yb17KYY3oX0xf8v1R1FP3Yw+EVIKM0QZrNuykNhA/
9      3uff9LzLka0FUIh6Wu3sw7yPD0gSSnPuchB15Yc1MB03Xn09JZnX00BFaSwN75wwey1/D7oK4Tps7VMLZ/A1kPpNrJA==",
10     "key_enc_signature": "Dq+S0dMJD0FYM2IIaT9BYcH5j
11     +qFuL21bE8J76N3jxLxN0WgQ7ZbbUwchXqA1JRN0tZubq18Vam0TbMguJtqbKzKH3ILLz/
12     xF07jZZz1I64wvCTL8suF9x90Z0uMLCTKE6G008tQqVpFXV1Knub58mwEnyWQ5Tgc9KLnH4iXW18FnJctF2grjfhav1Nstc0y40E5B35107FTFK
13     j6VIR/1W4g1w2K5U0FNtkv90dZguKjVj70msYomh4jEjTXiR2Rhp1W25c13Qmo0S2JwU665zLvuuw721R8rW
14     +Pud805eAwCTC2BxsChmN3oLxyH4fTq9w1Ew+JV/99310w==",
15   },
16   "ehr_action_enc": {
17     "ciphertext": "sZ9hUyBS1x0ZGCA1NHfyoANTy166M2iPz13DgLLZrR3y7BKyyHEta0f3Z1/VZDkq0Kb+5aOKTb04
18     +Hn5AS2qCrJ81vTJCyKdWqH3R4zQJPlbdU5DM30iP5utZj/
19     HdnhUvH0JDhIntui8LXPUCXUu8Hy2YpZbxXYCUM8NKHUUpGom2RW2R3q7FPzlgNZq10AhXDxKxKb",
20     "ciphertext_tag": "wps1fQc2rmpBttH7Z0400==",
21     "ciphertext_nonce": "ycfVp8RMSq+YjUHDysE1Q==",
22     "for_patient": {
23       "key_enc": "AKZto8rBJ0ZC7qmV0Bq1AurK05bfiI2MG6PckLs7K8zhv093K8L2r5L7FV1KYfWohf03+R2cx6dbTynSXG1Q
24       +jKw10ZhpJYzjE6E70DUCpGt0r7HMc6vvfopDctFbAlrvpbksma0anLMK80P19N5ibC52v7q278Jq1VwHA
25       +K1avNmbX8g41FNeKOM81mhy806UPz3306jcwTFIX4W7P2Wu001bXRRG05tVKR4YvLHw018E2y2kZAmvvundVneDsejKieLND0yN9T3Yx0tj11
26       E3p1UaU1913yCvnsVMU6Spk1Hc91TLf50kyYjHNLCHd5pHC/5eq2d00n3KBEcgw==",
27       "key_enc_signature": "Wx6vIQ0+3chShBmVcIRzBZz1WzW1JkA7c8Bg+SDx/TX1zChbzLwvXgmKjBXaMue66AACiCZ89dgb15fA9
28       +ZsE0TFOA0suwjcAFWnYstn8CKPVJ08UXUHD0w1kEWBUCTrR4g0yglquHbetadFiZ71ibFTPuZquc9BjA
29       +ywmGRt0YxxvqBqFzGzL2QKdADD17hqbZ6Uiu60P+Ke0ZjZnxbbbt1jXaTczXV3FZ9zRGuXaw7r9B2U0LOUST/hvRTbbe
30       +CQmVrwrRPz18BjH5by2K10C1VRKAVNB/tvUgppZ6Ygvv6YD1H9qjLS6031G0u+cUPV/oh3+0gn10w==",
31     },
32     "for_audit_company": {
33       "key_enc": "i9SgwnNYSIDoxG8j9L+Al1mj4CpZnE
34       +EYBN7WSK0AAsLs7LBhm8T8zc4NBNDs23CEuo2ncJ10e14W0Rd77aooKLMYyx0FJWAXK/0nGEfhFpPrs4/
35       7jadLB1VTCqKkHpt0yJW657J0qAcs7nvTIXBu1SGj3Gf/
36       3qjJ02kT5THiFYkbEBzcknd2vgPCICEES008T30Ucx0nnZuWltS8VbGQ0bV02wIICkUMF1VBmm0Ht/bb1tSk2G5I
37       +Wn70rGKCK4nTu842L6sRYKh7sMM0aLz2nKwMtp//0oVbCzTdhJ36hx9b18sLZSGKpLk/nPjVdmo6W0ACsbyrGVLQ==",
38       "key_enc_signature": "uDLVz9W00Z1VZrQ150qm7qk1YbgyaJHqsVw14u0q5u4X796lRj5Xw9QNVBU/
39       00JcF10y25prr7n6C0U0ETV20Lvg75kLlunC9fKpKX2M1L7JbFeJy4fKQEA4Apb06Lz3YVf9Za2AYmcJCXb1tAEAS0091T3vmoJ
40       AY7746gJvKrhau28Hj7Zv8x10rbxLSWGMU75SpunukXU210F3k2jts4tByH0993sag0pbC0MfjzgW6uxsDtyQaadT8cb0U
41       +MHqZ0C1HNGDE0NZE1WBEHRsKML0TtwjJ0gcs2Qa00H3CTI7JHUFzr0eSc/fkbF0XQ==",
42     },
43   },
44 },
45 {
46   "patient_enc": {
47     "ciphertext": "KL3+Lzc=",
48     "ciphertext_tag": "p/qUUm30qPq4C0guU2mgum",
49     "ciphertext_nonce": "0b7820kUE81CMUt4fL1pBq==",
50     "key_enc": "pk7Avu0uyXD0v9DN/ugL530iRS//t6ENE7t3Cth3fnyPLL437/Kp+u0140L0Lz+r0KezC10I+h0xp
51     +nXMT90dp5bHhRgtTKK51P/nLbVZgnP7+BLQF6IAuz3UMtKtLM2bgMpdAn86y6y1DJu/
52     Mhp5zrUmzEFdHPGg7wETWzCFj5fRrSLP8zuWxz2tU5H093n+zhk/o5W/q8D4Yb17KYY3oX0xf8v1R1FP3Yw+EVIKM0QZrNuykNhA/
53     3uff9LzLka0FUIh6Wu3sw7yPD0gSSnPuchB15Yc1MB03Xn09JZnX00BFaSwN75wwey1/D7oK4Tps7VMLZ/A1kPpNrJA==",
54     "key_enc_signature": "Dq+S0dMJD0FYM2IIaT9BYcH5j
55     +qFuL21bE8J76N3jxLxN0WgQ7ZbbUwchXqA1JRN0tZubq18Vam0TbMguJtqbKzKH3ILLz/
56     xF07jZZz1I64wvCTL8suF9x90Z0uMLCTKE6G008tQqVpFXV1Knub58mwEnyWQ5Tgc9KLnH4iXW18FnJctF2grjfhav1Nstc0y40E5B35107FTFK
57     j6VIR/1W4g1w2K5U0FNtkv90dZguKjVj70msYomh4jEjTXiR2Rhp1W25c13Qmo0S2JwU665zLvuuw721R8rW
58     +Pud805eAwCTC2BxsChmN3oLxyH4fTq9w1Ew+JV/99310w==",
59   },
60   "ehr_action_enc": {
61     "ciphertext": "sZ9hUyBS1x0ZGCA1NHfyoANTy166M2iPz13DgLLZrR3y7BKyyHEta0f3Z1/VZDkq0Kb+5aOKTb04
62     +Hn5AS2qCrJ81vTJCyKdWqH3R4zQJPlbdU5DM30iP5utZj/
63     HdnhUvH0JDhIntui8LXPUCXUu8Hy2YpZbxXYCUM8NKHUUpGom2RW2R3q7FPzlgNZq10AhXDxKxKb",
64     "ciphertext_tag": "wps1fQc2rmpBttH7Z0400==",
65     "ciphertext_nonce": "ycfVp8RMSq+YjUHDysE1Q==",
66     "for_patient": {
67       "key_enc": "AKZto8rBJ0ZC7qmV0Bq1AurK05bfiI2MG6PckLs7K8zhv093K8L2r5L7FV1KYfWohf03+R2cx6dbTynSXG1Q
68       +jKw10ZhpJYzjE6E70DUCpGt0r7HMc6vvfopDctFbAlrvpbksma0anLMK80P19N5ibC52v7q278Jq1VwHA
69       +K1avNmbX8g41FNeKOM81mhy806UPz3306jcwTFIX4W7P2Wu001bXRRG05tVKR4YvLHw018E2y2kZAmvvundVneDsejKieLND0yN9T3Yx0tj11
70       E3p1UaU1913yCvnsVMU6Spk1Hc91TLf50kyYjHNLCHd5pHC/5eq2d00n3KBEcgw==",
71       "key_enc_signature": "Wx6vIQ0+3chShBmVcIRzBZz1WzW1JkA7c8Bg+SDx/TX1zChbzLwvXgmKjBXaMue66AACiCZ89dgb15fA9
72       +ZsE0TFOA0suwjcAFWnYstn8CKPVJ08UXUHD0w1kEWBUCTrR4g0yglquHbetadFiZ71ibFTPuZquc9BjA
73       +ywmGRt0YxxvqBqFzGzL2QKdADD17hqbZ6Uiu60P+Ke0ZjZnxbbbt1jXaTczXV3FZ9zRGuXaw7r9B2U0LOUST/hvRTbbe
74       +CQmVrwrRPz18BjH5by2K10C1VRKAVNB/tvUgppZ6Ygvv6YD1H9qjLS6031G0u+cUPV/oh3+0gn10w==",
75     },
76     "for_audit_company": {
77       "key_enc": "i9SgwnNYSIDoxG8j9L+Al1mj4CpZnE
78       +EYBN7WSK0AAsLs7LBhm8T8zc4NBNDs23CEuo2ncJ10e14W0Rd77aooKLMYyx0FJWAXK/0nGEfhFpPrs4/
79       7jadLB1VTCqKkHpt0yJW657J0qAcs7nvTIXBu1SGj3Gf/
80       3qjJ02kT5THiFYkbEBzcknd2vgPCICEES008T30Ucx0nnZuWltS8VbGQ0bV02wIICkUMF1VBmm0Ht/bb1tSk2G5I
81       +Wn70rGKCK4nTu842L6sRYKh7sMM0aLz2nKwMtp//0oVbCzTdhJ36hx9b18sLZSGKpLk/nPjVdmo6W0ACsbyrGVLQ==",
82       "key_enc_signature": "uDLVz9W00Z1VZrQ150qm7qk1YbgyaJHqsVw14u0q5u4X796lRj5Xw9QNVBU/
83       00JcF10y25prr7n6C0U0ETV20Lvg75kLlunC9fKpKX2M1L7JbFeJy4fKQEA4Apb06Lz3YVf9Za2AYmcJCXb1tAEAS0091T3vmoJ
84       AY7746gJvKrhau28Hj7Zv8x10rbxLSWGMU75SpunukXU210F3k2jts4tByH0993sag0pbC0MfjzgW6uxsDtyQaadT8cb0U
85       +MHqZ0C1HNGDE0NZE1WBEHRsKML0TtwjJ0gcs2Qa00H3CTI7JHUFzr0eSc/fkbF0XQ==",
86     },
87   },
88 },
89 ],
90 ],
91 ],
92 ],
93 ],
94 ],
95 ],
96 ],
97 ],
98 ],
99 ],
100 ],

```

Figure 9: The first few lines of the audit log database

```

$ ./audit_application.py --help
usage: audit_application.py [-h] [-v] PATIENT USER_KEY_DIR

Query EHR action history for patient

positional arguments:
  PATIENT      Patient to fetch EHR usage about
  USER_KEY_DIR A directory with the keys user should have received from a system admin.

optional arguments:
  -h, --help      show this help message and exit
  -v, --verbose    enables printing of debug statements
(.venv) david4171@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client

```

Figure 10: Usage instructions for the Audit application

Lets suppose the database has been restored again to its previous healthy state but now the EHR action part of one of alice's record has been tampered with, in this case the tamper detection happens client side (in the Audit application):

```
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client
$ ls keys/alice/
audit_server_rsa_verify.pem  rsa_decrypt.pem  rsa_encrypt.pem  tls.crt  tls.key
```

Figure 11: Alice's keys

```
$ ./audit_application.py alice keys/alice
[
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:07:25",
    "patient": "alice",
    "requested_by": "mark",
    "action": "CREATE",
    "ehr_id": "1094fc656e0ea124ac822e1c3bffe8fc"
  },
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:07:30",
    "patient": "alice",
    "requested_by": "mark",
    "action": "CREATE",
    "ehr_id": "2d7a831b9b49555cf9150327a958b4d9"
  },
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:07:57",
    "patient": "alice",
    "requested_by": "mark",
    "action": "CHANGE",
    "ehr_id": "2d7a831b9b49555cf9150327a958b4d9"
  },
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:08:53",
    "patient": "alice",
    "requested_by": "john",
    "action": "DELETE",
    "ehr_id": "1094fc656e0ea124ac822e1c3bffe8fc"
  },
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:09:20",
    "patient": "alice",
    "requested_by": "john",
    "action": "GET_RECORD",
    "ehr_id": "2d7a831b9b49555cf9150327a958b4d9"
  },
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:09:44",
    "patient": "alice",
    "requested_by": "mark",
    "action": "CREATE",
    "ehr_id": "be097361b190e097de36abe5cc230967"
  },
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:09:46",
    "patient": "alice",
    "requested_by": "mark",
    "action": "CREATE",
    "ehr_id": "153281f10b919a82babcb7ad1a452f60"
  }
]
```

Figure 12: Alice successfully fetching her EHR action history

```
$ ./audit_application.py bob keys/alice
[23:23:50.795 ERROR]: Failed to get records, audit_server responded with HTTP returncode 403 and the message: 'alice' is not authorized to get EHR actions of 'bob'
```

Figure 13: Alice trying to fetch bob's history

```
$ ./audit_application.py alice keys/usc | head -6
[
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:07:25",
    "patient": "alice",
    "requested_by": "mark",
    "action": "CREATE",
  },
]
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client
$ ./audit_application.py bob keys/usc
[
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:09:52",
    "patient": "bob",
    "requested_by": "mark",
    "action": "CREATE",
    "ehr_id": "2cbbfd0705022b572d7da36bf5e5ece8"
  },
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:09:54",
    "patient": "bob",
    "requested_by": "mark",
    "action": "CREATE",
    "ehr_id": "ea30a081cf7f5437a7510bf164b39263"
  }
]
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client
$ ./audit_application.py carol keys/usc
[23:27:28.572 ERROR]: Failed to get records, audit_server responded with HTTP returncode 403 and the message: 'usc' is not authorized to get EHR actions of 'carol'
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client
```

Figure 14: USC trying to fetch alice's, bob's and carol's EHR action history

3.9 Encrypting database records

To see the implementation of how the records are encrypted reading the code is the best way, but the idea was explained in the cryptographic system architecture chapter. The following image shows a record with comments explaining its parts.

Looking at the encrypted patient names it was discovered that their length can leak information about who the patient is. Short names have short ciphertext entries and long names have long ciphertext entries. To fix this issue the ciphertext encrypts a SHA256 hash of the patient names instead of the names themselves. When the Audit server is looking up a record it doesn't need to reverse the hash, it would compare the SHA256 hash of the

```
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client
$ ./audit_application.py carol keys/ucla
[
  {
    "time": "2022-05-01 23:10:11",
    "patient": "carol",
    "requested_by": "john",
    "action": "CREATE",
    "ehr_id": "f61587a0518254df69a3626446c76dd5"
  }
]
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client
$ ./audit_application.py david keys/ucla
[ ]
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client
$ ./audit_application.py eve keys/ucla
[23:28:57.579 ERROR]: Failed to get records, audit_server responded with HTTP returncode 403 and the message: 'ucla' is not authorized to get EHR actions of 'eve'
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client
```

Figure 15: UCLA trying to fetch carol's, david's and eve's EHR action history

```
$ ./audit_application.py alice keys/alice
[23:33:35.319 ERROR]: Failed to get records, audit_server responded with HTTP returncode 500 and the message: It was detected that a record has been tampered with, relevant authorities have been notified
```

Figure 16: Tamper detection server side

```
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client
$ ./audit_application.py alice keys/alice
Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/home/david1471/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client/./audit_application.py", line 133, in decrypt_record
    record_str = cipher.decrypt_and_verify(ciphertext, tag).decode()
  File "/home/david1471/ehr_audit_system/code/.venv/lib/python3.9/site-packages/Crypto/Cipher/_mode_gcm.py", line 567, in decrypt_and_verify
    self.verify(received_mac_tag)
  File "/home/david1471/ehr_audit_system/code/.venv/lib/python3.9/site-packages/Crypto/Cipher/_mode_gcm.py", line 508, in verify
    raise ValueError("MAC check failed")
ValueError: MAC check failed

During handling of the above exception, another exception occurred:

Traceback (most recent call last):
  File "/home/david1471/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client/./audit_application.py", line 206, in <module>
    main()
  File "/home/david1471/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client/./audit_application.py", line 31, in main
    query_usage(args.PATIENT, Path(args.USER_KEY_DIR))
  File "/home/david1471/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client/./audit_application.py", line 44, in query_usage
    records = decrypt_records(encrypted_records, is_audit_company, user_key_dir)
  File "/home/david1471/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client/./audit_application.py", line 75, in decrypt_records
    return [
  File "/home/david1471/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client/./audit_application.py", line 76, in <listcomp>
    decrypt_record(record, is_audit_company, user_key_dir)
  File "/home/david1471/ehr_audit_system/code/audit_client/./audit_application.py", line 136, in decrypt_record
    raise RuntimeError(
RuntimeError: It was detected that record has been tampered with, relevant authorities have been notified
```

Figure 17: Tamper detection client side


```

1  {
2    "patient_enc": {
3      "ciphertext": "X/L0qpA=", // AES GCM ciphertext
4      "ciphertext_tag": "p/qtUGmJ0qPq4CUgulJzmg==", // AES GCM tag
5      "ciphertext_nonce": "Qb7BzQkUE5lCMut4fLlpBQ==", // AES GCM nonce
6      "key_enc": "pk7AvuQuy...", // RSA PKCS#1 OAEP encrypted using audit_server's public key
7      "key_enc_signature": "DqrSQdMJ..." // RSASSA-RSS signed using audit_server's private key
8    },
9    "ehr action enc": {
10     "ciphertext": "aZ9hUy...", // AES GCM ciphertext
11     "ciphertext_tag": "wpS1fQc2rWpBWth7Zo4oQ==", // AES GCM tag
12     "ciphertext_nonce": "ycfVP0RNMsq+YjUH0ysE1Q==", // AES GCM nonce
13     "for_patient": {
14       "key_enc": "AkZIo...", // RSA PKCS#1 OAEP encrypted using patient's public key
15       "key_enc_signature": "wX6vIQD+..." // RSASSA-RSS signed using audit_server's private key
16     },
17     "for_audit_company": {
18       "key_enc": "igSgwwnN...", // RSA PKCS#1 OAEP encrypted using patient's audit company's public key
19       "key_enc_signature": "UdLVz9Gw00Z1..." // RSASSA-RSS signed using audit_server's private key
20     }
21   }
22 }

```

Figure 18: The parts of an encrypted record in the audit log database, some values shortened for the purpose of brevity.

patient its looking for with the results when the ciphertext is decrypted.

3.9.1 Notifying Audit Rest API about EHR actions

.

3.9.2 Fetching encrypted EHR actions

For simplicity of this PoC (Proof of Concept) the system will only support 5 hard-coded patients and 2 hard-coded audit companies. The patients in the systems will be:

Alice, Bob, Carol, David, Eve

The first audit company is USC and should be able to audit the EHR records of Alice, Bob and Eve.

The second audit company is UCLA and should be able to audit the EHR records of Carol and David.

Python pajsonckage setup follow recommendations at:

<https://packaging.python.org/en/latest/tutorials/packaging-projects/>

EHR id generation: * Explain the chance of generating two ids that are the same.

Database file: * current: linux/ MAC OS lockin with /tmp/ehr_db.json

EHR REST API: * POST data should always be in application/json

User IDs are just names for simplicity, we assume everyone has a unique name.

System architecture visualization: <https://structurizr.com/dsl>

Rest API specification: <https://editor.swagger.io/>

RSA PKCS#1 OEAP max message length: * Changed underlying hashing algorithm from SHA1 to SHA256 so max keysize is 190 bytes which is plenty enough (we just need 32 bytes for the 256 bit AES key)

Using different keys for encryption & signing, probably more secure?

PEM key format: *'PEM'*. (*Default*) Text encoding, done according to 'RFC1421' _/'RFC1423' _.

The reason for timestamp is to make sure adversary can't do replay attack

constantly and see how ciphertext grows (they might learn a visit to the doctor happened).

Instead of doing authentication inside the TLS channel, the TLS channel can be configured to use client keys as well, that would have been another option.

Authenticating clients: TLS client cert vs application level authentication *
 TLS: * Built-in replay attack protection * Needs generation of certificates
 & nginx config * Application level * Need to implement replay attack
 protection somehow (some timestamp shenanigans?) * More complex code

Better programming to do the TLS stuff in Nginx and connect to Flask through Gunicorn or similar WSGI.

Name of doctor can be anything and is not verified, because it's not the focus of this project.

doctor client examples:

```
“ python3 ehr.py CREATE alice mark -d 'Visit 8' python3 ehr.py
DELETE alice john -ehr-id 73a6259260e4237019e1422c7b31adb0 python3
ehr.py CHANGE alice mark -description 'Visit 8' -ehr-id
dee291db65e4cf73ca02c152468cc674 python3 ehr.py GET_RECORD alice
john -ehr-id dee291db65e4cf73ca02c152468cc674 python3 ehr.py
GET_RECORDS bob john “
```

There is authorization check at https://audit_server:5001/log_action, only ehr_server can call it.

```
“““
curl -X POST --cacert ca/keys/ca.crt --cert audit_client/keys/bob/tls.crt --key audit_c
bob is not authorized to log EHR actions(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code
curl -X POST --cacert ca/keys/ca.crt --cert audit_client/keys/bob/tls.crt --key audit_c
bob is not authorized to log EHR actions
(.venv) david1471@arch:~/ehr_audit_system/code
curl -X POST --cacert ca/keys/ca.crt --cert ehr_server/keys/ehr_server_tls.crt --key ehr
<!doctype html>
<html lang=en>
<title>400 Bad Request</title>
<h1>Bad Request</h1>
<p>Did not attempt to load JSON data because the request Content-Type was not &#x27;appl
“““
```

Username can't be too long, otherwise RSA PKCS#1 OAEP breaks because encrypted message will become too large

System admin commands:

```
'''  
for user in alice bob carol david eve usc ucla; do cp audit_client/keys/${user}/rsa_encr  
'''
```

Possible vulnerability: determine patient name length on length of ciphertext

Possible vulnerability: there is no protection against swapping `ehr_action_enc` in the database, impact not great because of encryption.

4 Introduction

5 System architecture

Describe the system components (e.g., authentication server, audit server, etc.), their functionality, and communication patterns. Clearly describe how your system meets the five goals discussed above.

6 Cryptographic components

discuss appropriate choice of specific cryptographic primitives to ensure the system supports the goals outlined above.

Describe the concrete encryption schemes and key management approaches to be used in your system

7 Limitations of the system

Which challenges were not addressed?

8 Example section

Example citation [2]

8.1 Example subsection 1

8.2 Example subsection 2

References

- [1] “Pretty good privacy design.”
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pretty_Good_Privacy#Design.
Accessed: 2022-05-01.
- [2] C. Neuman, “Challenges in security for cyber-physical systems,” in *DHS workshop on future directions in cyber-physical systems security*, pp. 22–24, Citeseer, 2009.