



# ePPI: Locator Service in Information Networks with Personalized Privacy Preservation

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# Outline

- **Background**
- ePPI: Personalized privacy preservation
- Practical ePPI construction
- Evaluation

# Systems: Information networks

- Information networks arise in Health domain.
  - Health Information exchanges (HIE)



- Software



- Information networks appear in other domains:
  - Social networks
  - Cloud computing
  - Enterprise networks

# Application: Data exchange in HIE

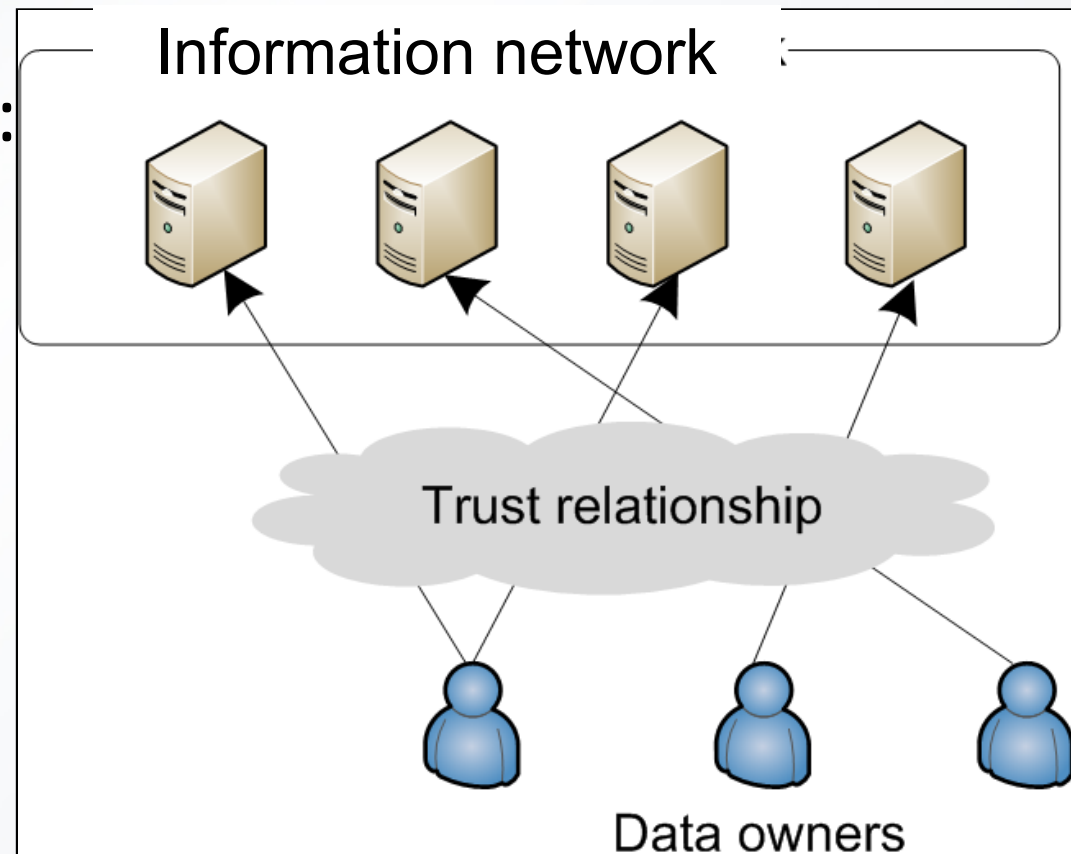
- Why exchange data? Boost the data value
- Example in HIE:
  - Patient in *Emory* hospital: “I just did my blood test in *Grady* hospital two days ago. Can I use that data?”
    - The case of unconscious patient
- Sharing information in HIEs creates privacy issues

# Proposal: Privacy aspect of RLS

- Location of health care data should be private in certain cases.
  - Location of health care records could suggest type of medical condition a patient might be suffering from
- Privacy preservation is regulated.
  - HiPAA for privacy of healthcare records

# Abstract: System/trust model

- Owners to providers: Selected trust relationship
  - HIE: “A patient only trusts the hospitals s/he visited”
- Providers to providers:  
No mutual trust
  - Each provider in a separate domain
  - Different providers compete for the same customer base



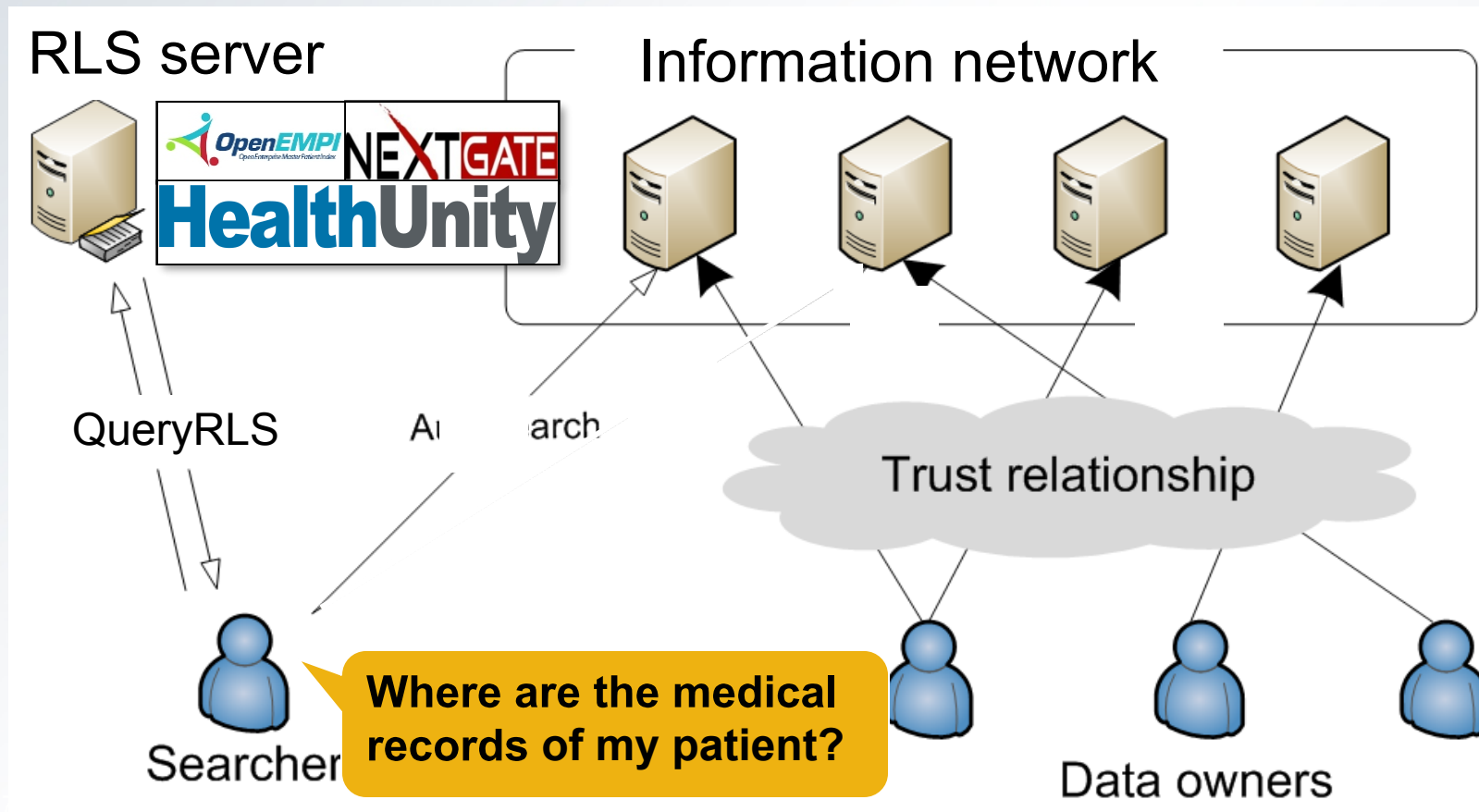


# Record Locator Service (RLS)

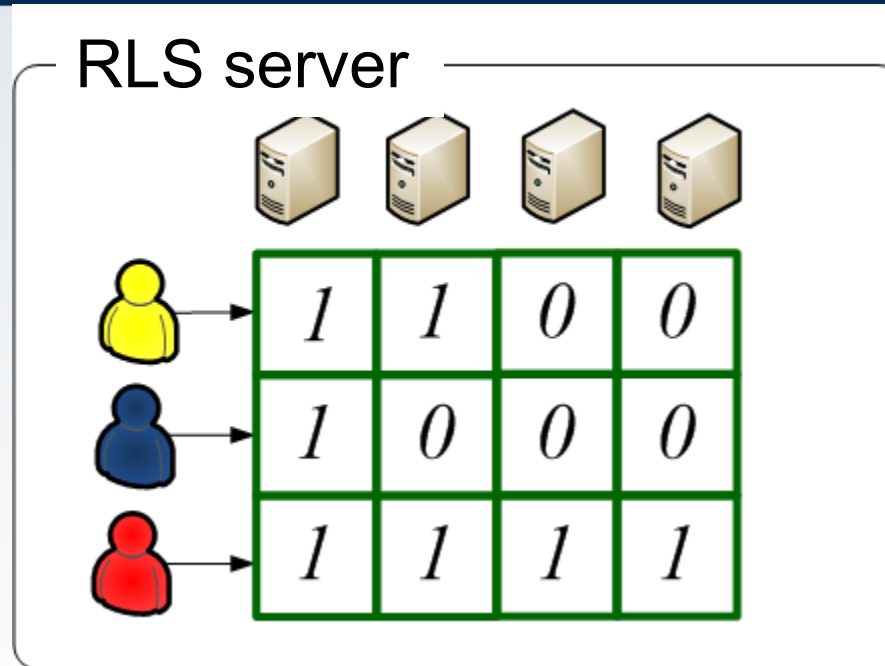
- RLS: a standard procedure in HIE



- “Given a patient ID, where are the medical records located?”



# RLS: Data model and privacy

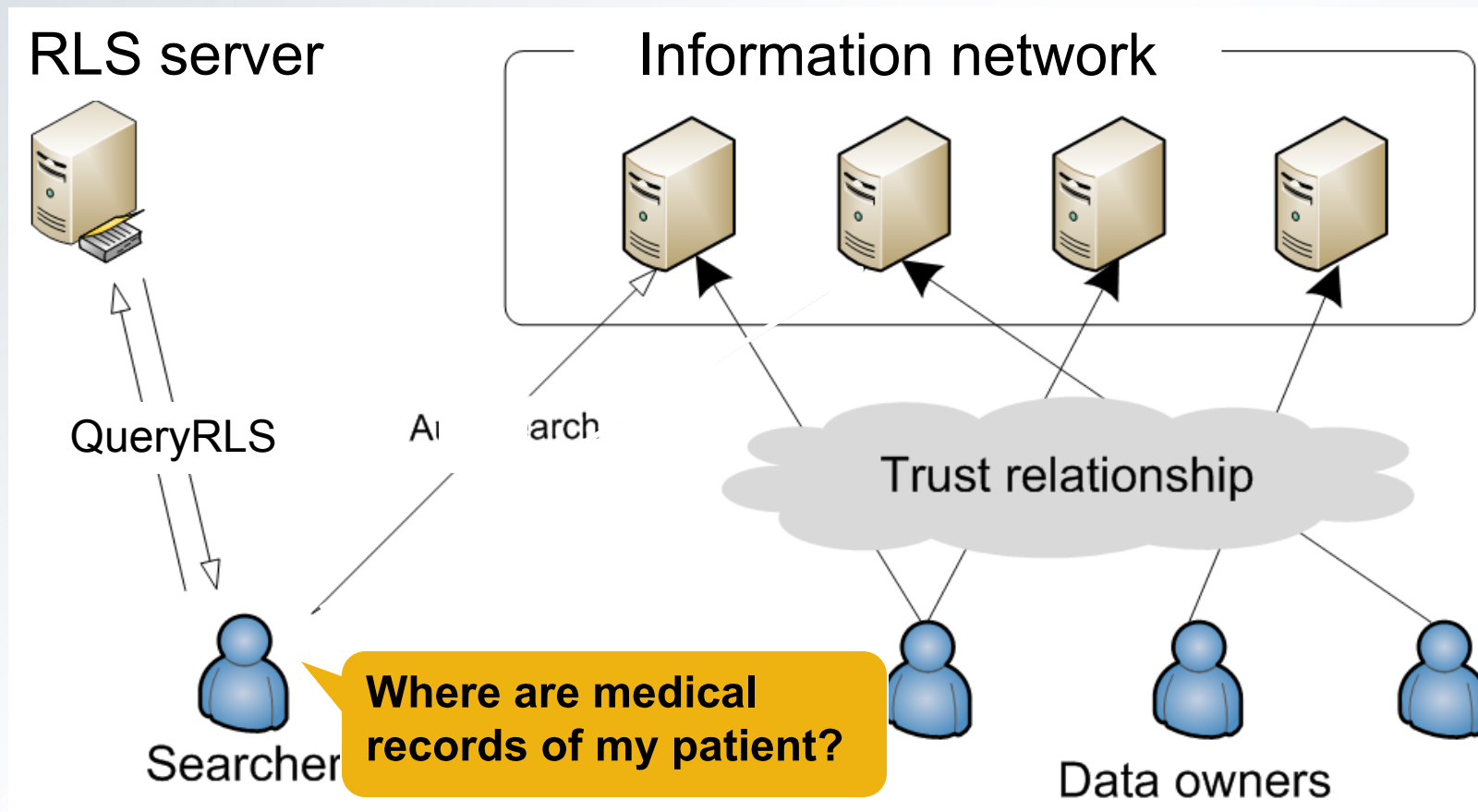


- Essentially an inverted index.
  - Mapping between a patient/owner and a provider.
- Assumption:
  - Owner/patient has the same ID globally
  - Related work: Record linkage/MPI (UTD, Vanderbilt)



# Proposal: Privacy-preserving index in information networks

- PPI is a Privacy-Preserving Index for RLS.



# Previous Approach: k-Anonymity Using Groups

- Organize providers into disjoint groups
- Satisfy query with a group containing a valid provider
- Providers in same group are indistinguishable by searchers
  - Valid searcher may need to contact each provider in a group to find a record
- Drawbacks
  - Assumes providers are willing to share private local indices
  - Cannot provide privacy levels personalized to individual patients
  - Cannot specify quantitative privacy guarantees

# Contribution

- We are the first to consider an untrusted RLS with privacy preservation.
  - Traditional RLS server requires trusts from participating hospitals and providers.
- We are the first to study the following two problems:
  - Personalized privacy preservation
  - Practical ePPI construction.

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# Problem 1: Personalized privacy preservation




- Different people have different levels of privacy concerns.

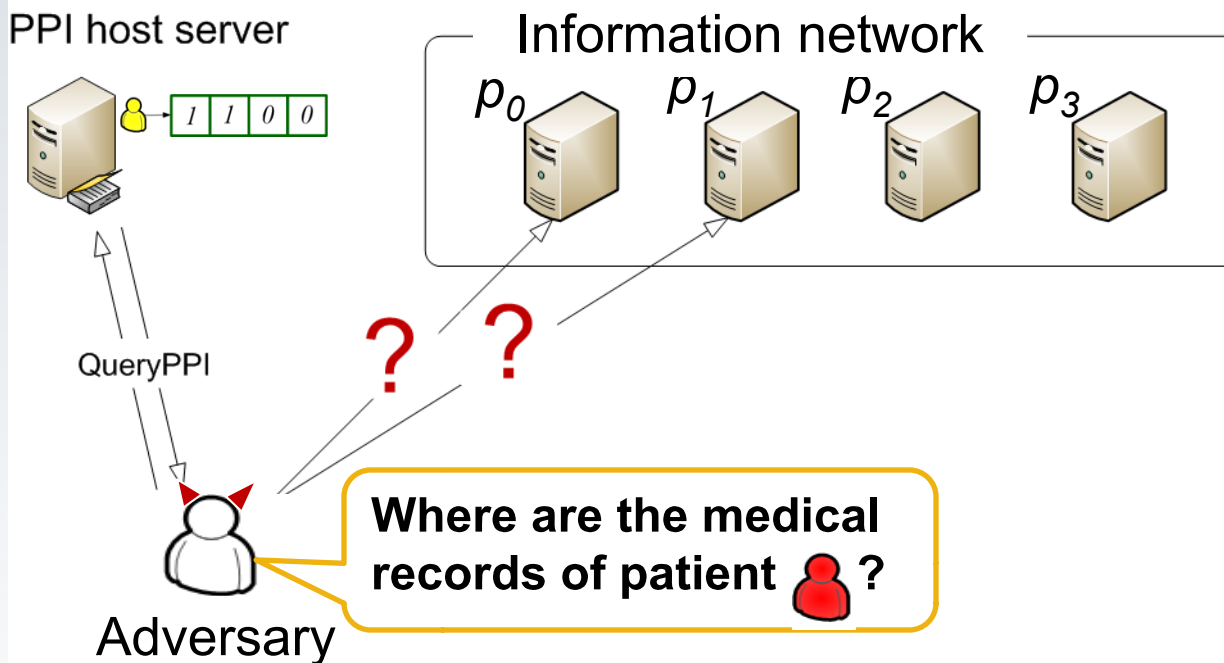
**Famous athlete/  
politician** visited a  
hospital



**An average person**  
visited a hospital

# ePPI: Personalized privacy protection

- e-privacy:  $e$  is privacy degree  $\Rightarrow$  proportion of false positives.
-  Moderately-private:  $e = 0.5$  for balanced perf./privacy prsvn.
-  Non-private:  $e = 0$  for best search performance.
-  Extremely private:  $e = 0.75$  for best privacy preservation.



$$e = \frac{\# \text{ (False Positives)}}{\# \text{ (Total)}} = \frac{1}{2} = 0.5$$

- $k$ -anonymity does not apply here.
  - Grouping  $k$  providers is agnostic to patients.



# How to specify $e$ ?

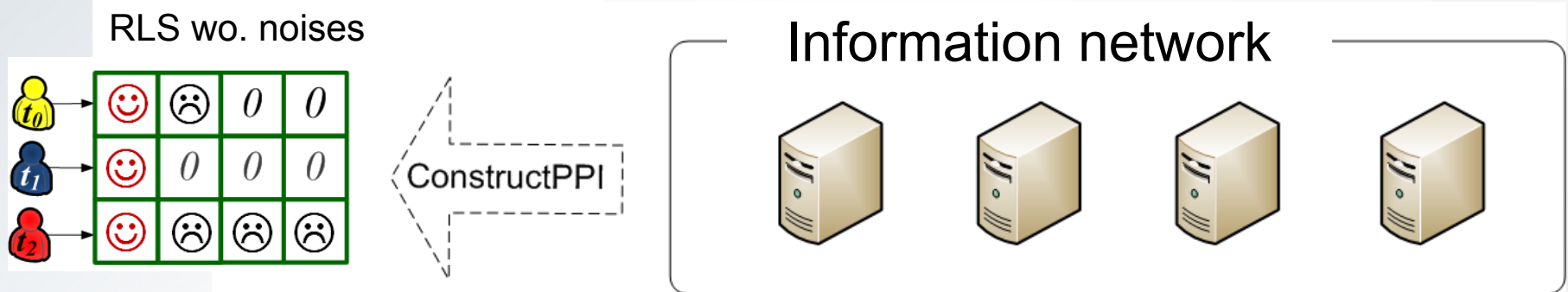
- Heuristics:
  - Value  $e$  depends on how famous the person is?
  - “Average person”      big  $e$
  - “Average person”      small  $e$
- Use social network analysis to recommend  $e$  automatically.
  - Social users with big degree      big  $e$
  - Social users with small degree      small  $e$

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# Secure ePPI construction

- ePPI construction:
  - Input: sensitive mapping data on untrusted providers
  - It needs to be secure



- Add noises ( ) quantitatively

# Problem 2: Efficient ePPI construction

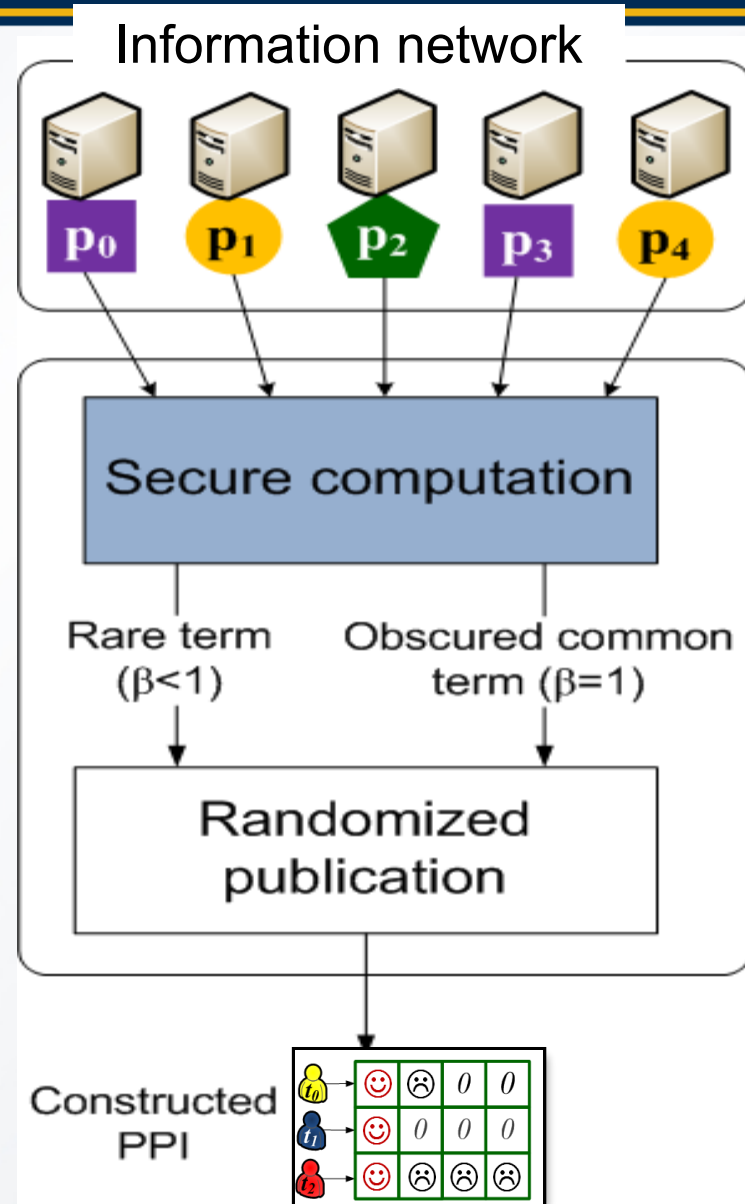
A challenge for the large-scale index construction:

- Traditional technique: MPC (multi-party computations).
  - Sample Problem: Answer “Who is the richest person in this room?” while keeping financial data private
- MPC is very expensive for big data and computations  
(Doin [OSDI 2012; Narayan & Haehberlen])

FairplayMP [4], need about 10 seconds to evaluate (very simple) functions that can be expressed with 1,024 logic gates.

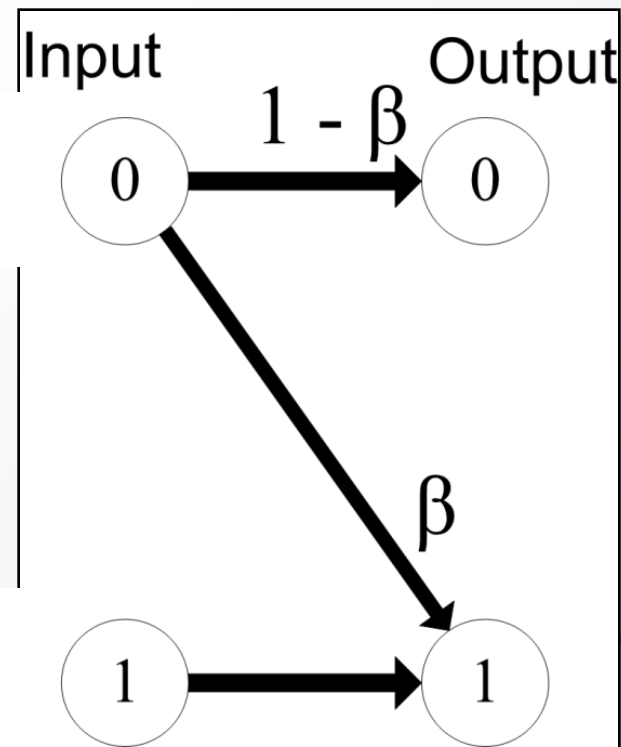
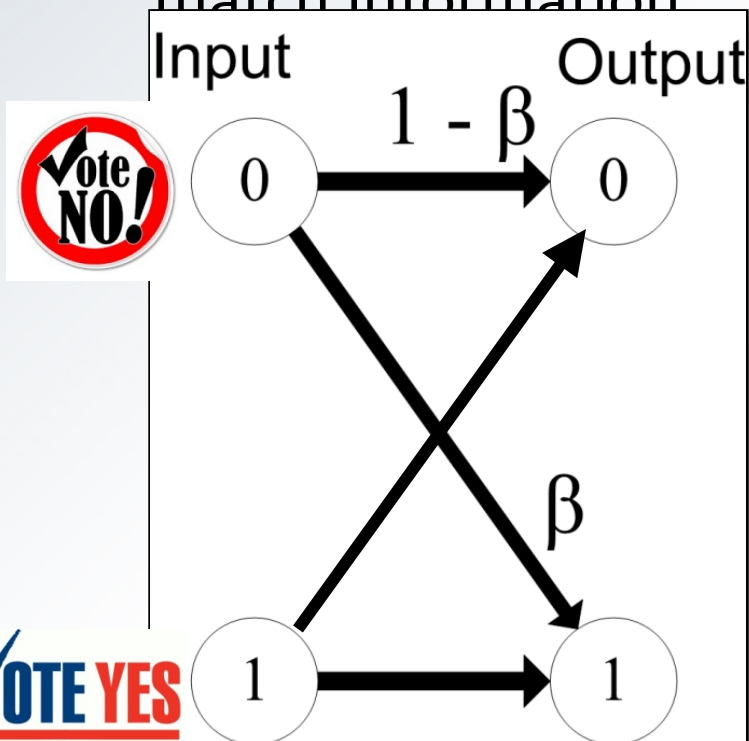
# ePPI construction overview

- Design: Separate secure and non-secure computations
  - Minimize secure computations
- Index construction framework:
  1. Secure computation producing a probability  $\beta$
  2. Randomized publication based on  $\beta$  [[link](#)]
  3. Generate a false positive for a provider which does not store a record with probability  $\beta$ .



# Randomized publication

- Inspired by the privacy preserving voting technique
  - Voting: “Vote for/against President Obama wo. disclosing my decision”
  - ePPI: “Releasing match/non-match data wo. disclosing match information”





# Randomized publication

- Randomized publication: given a probability  $\beta$ , each provider flips their “coins” to decide tell a truth or lie.
  - Essentially, a process of *Bernoulli trials*.
  - Provide quantitative privacy guarantees with *Chernoff bounds*.

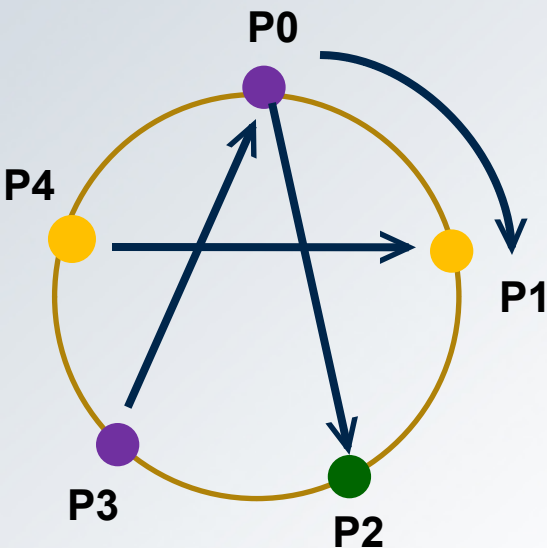
*Theorem 4.1:* Given desired success rate  $\gamma > 50\%$ , let  $G_j = \frac{\ln \frac{1}{1-\gamma}}{(1-\sigma_j)m}$  (where  $m$  is the number of providers) and

$$\beta_c(t_j) \geq \beta_b(t_j) + G_j + \sqrt{G_j^2 + 2\beta_b(t_j)G_j} \quad (3)$$

Then, the randomized publishing with  $\beta(t_j) = \beta_c(t_j)$  statistically guarantees that the actual false positive rate in the published  $\epsilon$ -PPI is larger than  $\epsilon$  with success rate  $p_p \geq \gamma$ .

Proof in  
ePPI paper  
[\[link\]](#)

# Secure computation: secret sharing



$(q=5, c=3)$	$p_0$	$p_1$	$p_2$	$p_3$	$p_4$
	0	1	1	0	0

Generating shares

Distributing shares

Merging shares

**Reconstruct-ability:**  
 $1+4+2=0+1+1+0+0$   
 $=2 \bmod 5$

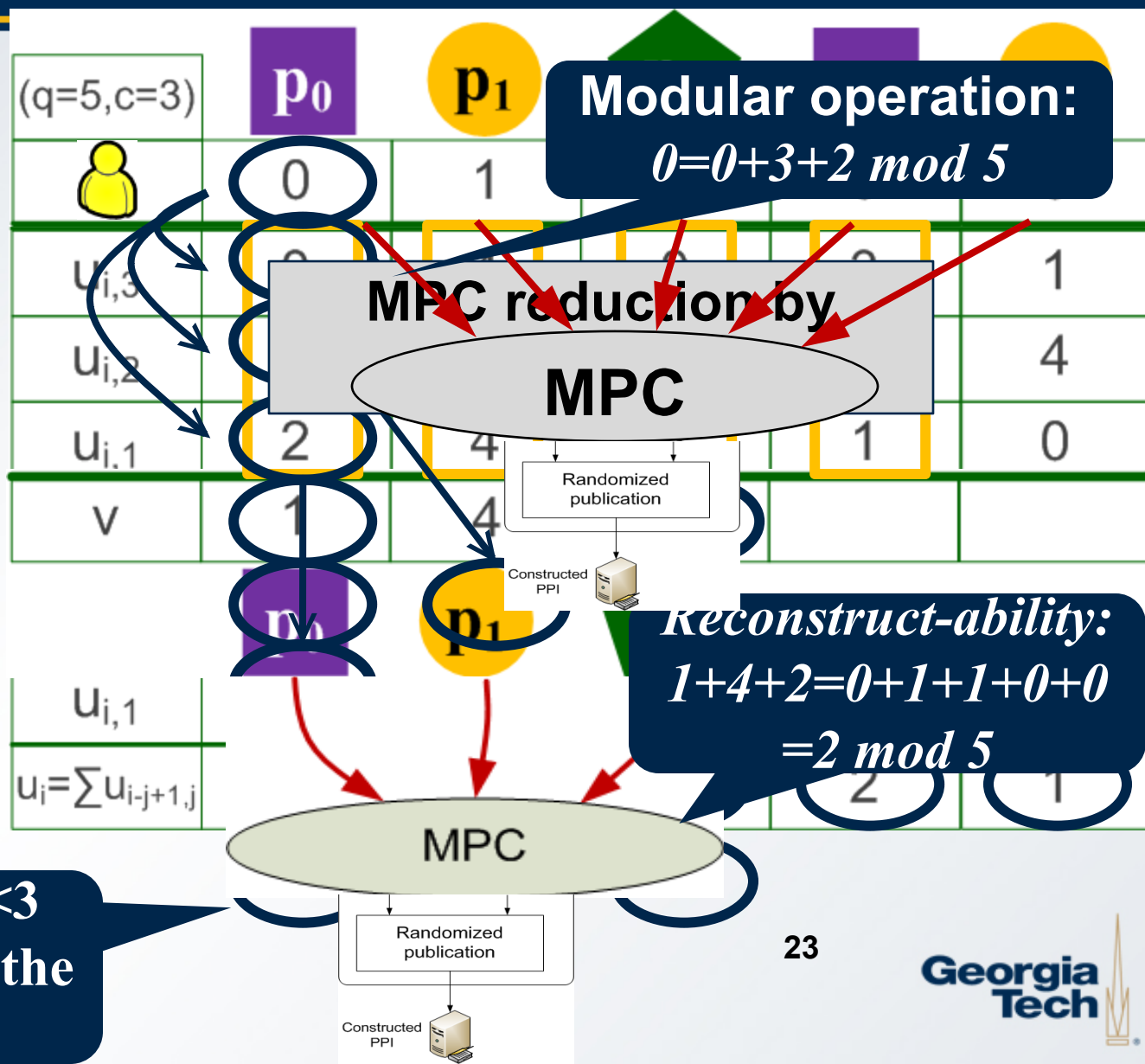
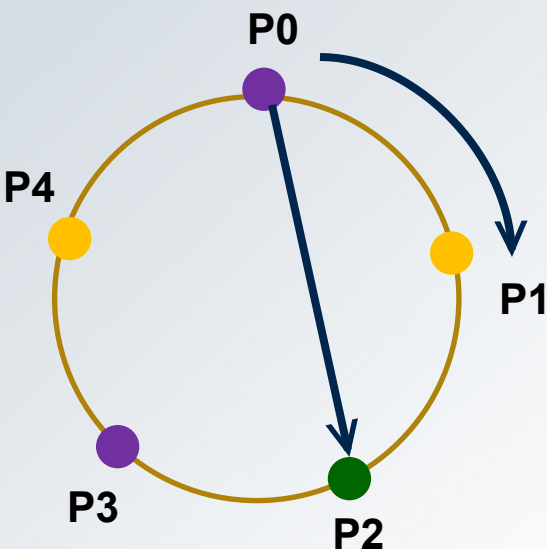
**Secrecy:** knowing  $<3$  shares can't deduce the secret sum, 2.

MPC

Randomized publication

Constructed PPI

# Secure MPC reduced by secret sharing



***Secrecy:* knowing  $<3$  shares can't deduce the secret sum, 2.**

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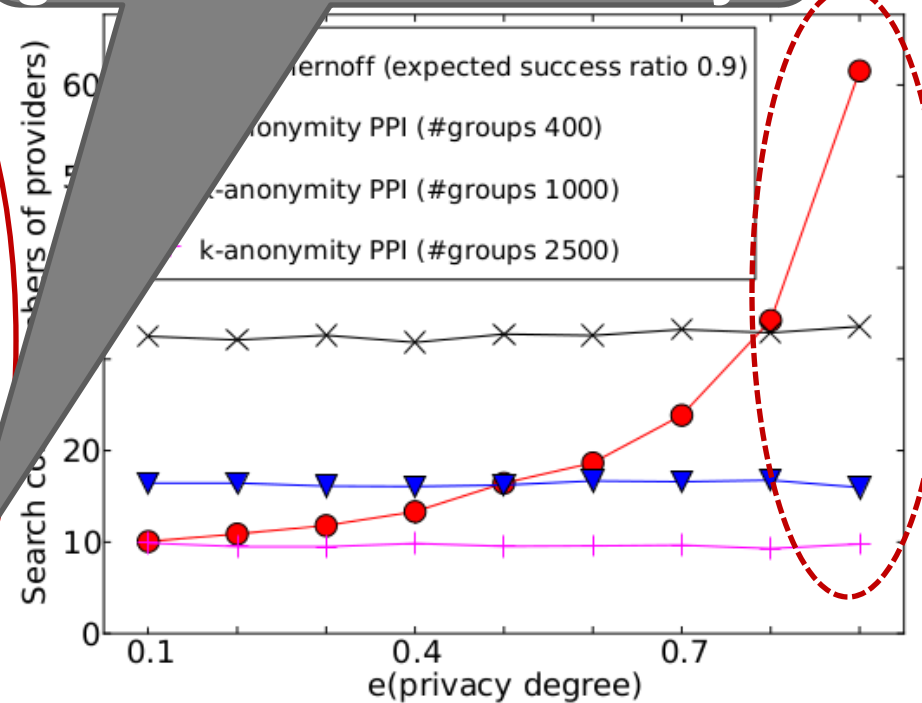
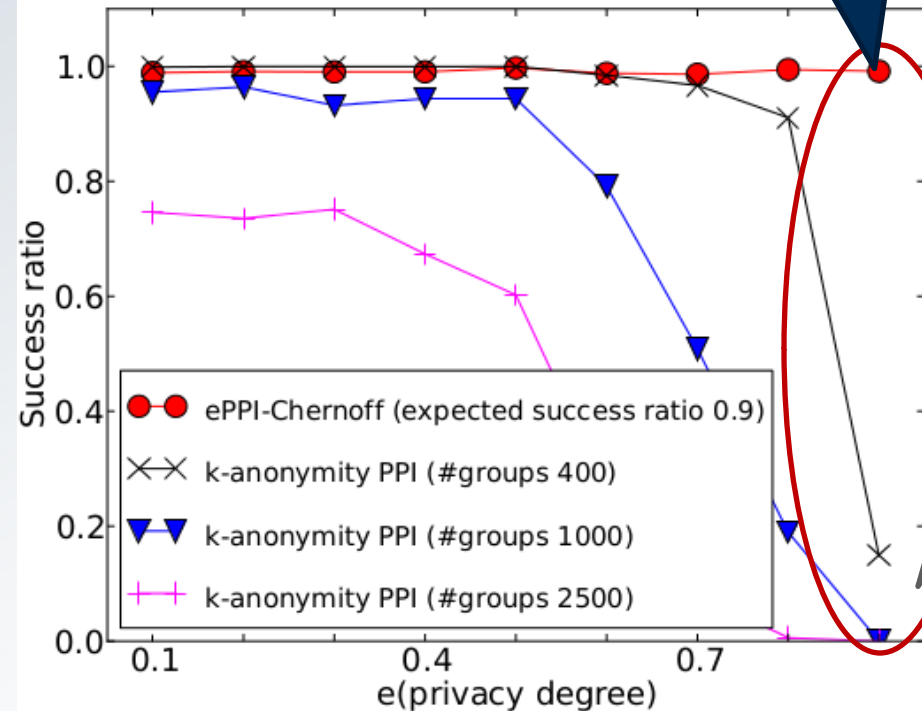
# Evaluation

- Exp-1: Privacy (Problem 1)
  - By simulation
- Exp-2: Performance (Problem 2)
  - By real system implementation.

# Comparing ePPI with $k$ -anonymity based PPIs

ePPI preserves privacy with high success ratio on large  $e$

- Dataset: A c [2003].
- Success ratio measured with  $k$ -anonymity based PPI can not deliver privacy guarantees consistently



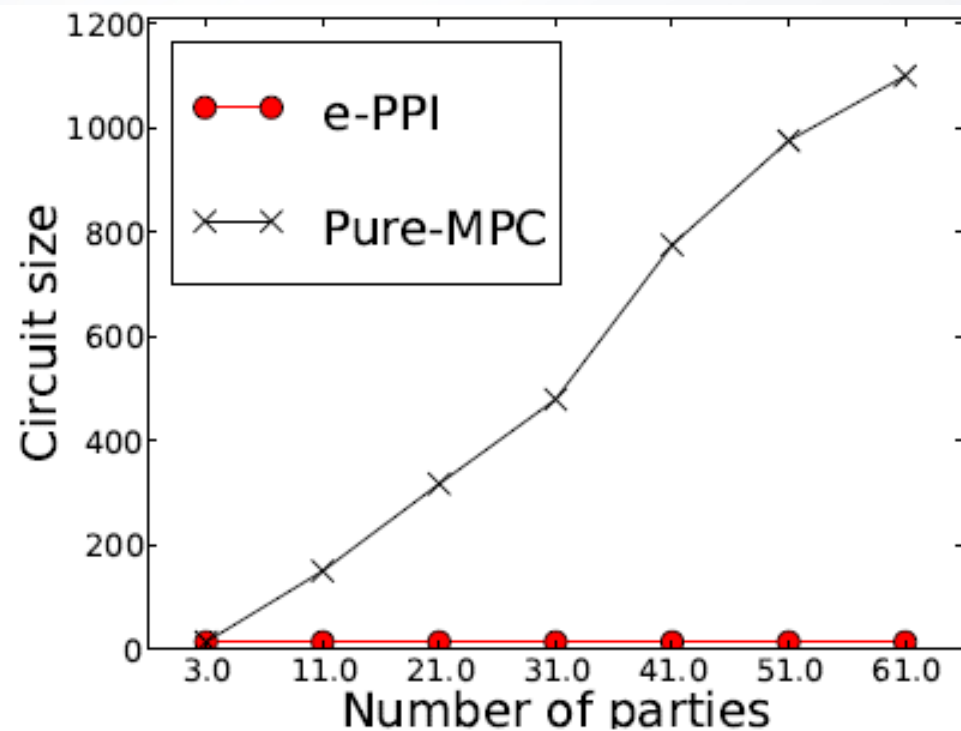
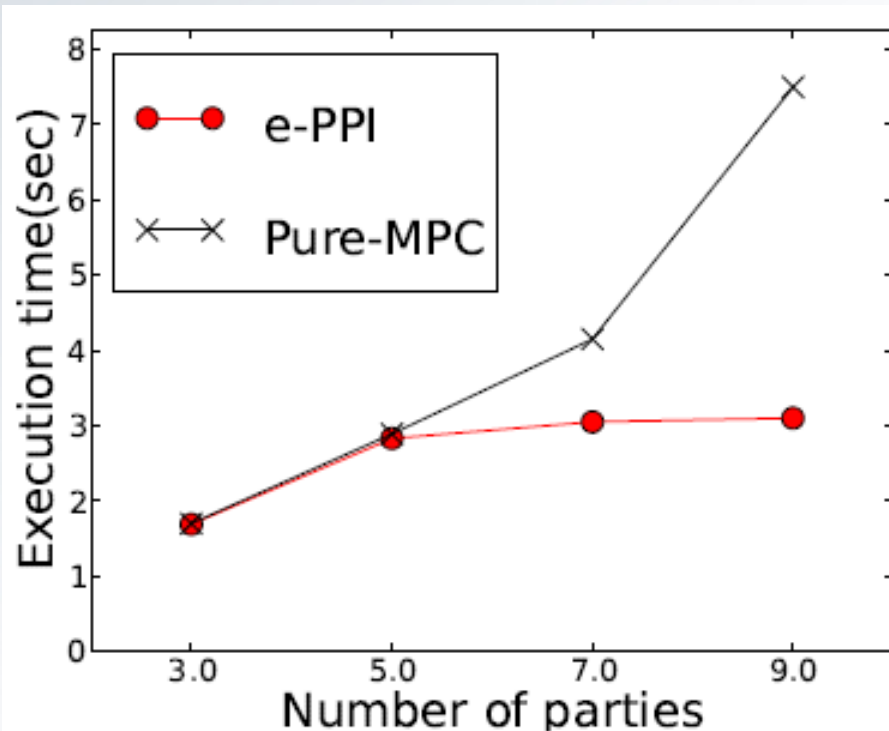


# Experiment setup for performance evaluation

- Implementation:
  - Secret sharing reduction with limited MPC using:
    - Protocol Buffers for object serialization.
    - Netty for network communication.
  - MPC by FairplayMP[CCS08]
- Evaluation platform:
  - Emulab: with 10 machines
  - Machine with a 2.4GHz core and 12G RAM

# Performance

- ePPI construction incurs time constant to the number of parties.
- Pure-MPC construction incurs exponentially growing time.



# Talk summary for QA

## Systems: Information networks

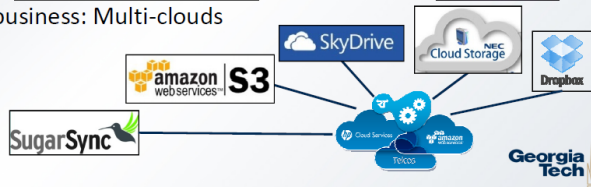
- Information networks arise in many application areas.
  - Health: Information exchanges (HIE)



- Distributed social networks

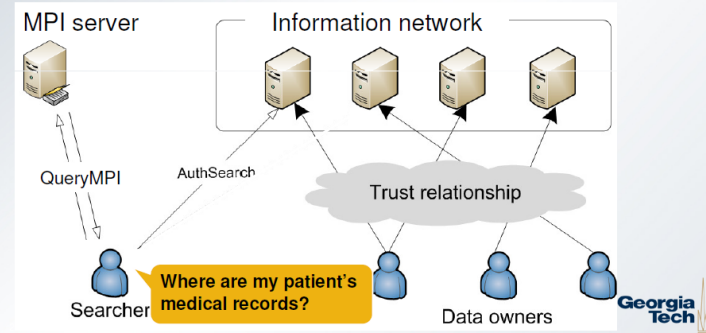


- IT business: Multi-clouds



## Privacy-preserving index in information networks

- PPI is a Privacy-Preserving Master Patient Index.
- PPI is public, without access controls.



## Problem 1: Personalized privacy preservation

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**Tiger Woods (or VIP)**  
visited a hospital



**An average person**  
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