Jonathan Kenney (M08837382) and Brennan Thomas (M10668733) Data Security and Privacy Project 3: Searchable Encryption

Setup

Install a stable version of Python 3.6+

Use pip to install the cryptography package

```
pip3 install cryptography
```

The following experiment ran using both Ubuntu 18.04 and Windows 10, however the program should run on any Python-enabled OS with the above requirements (i.e. Python 3.6+ and dependencies).

Execution

First, create desired input files. These files should be located in the data/files folder and follow the naming convention f#.txt where # is a positive integer greater than 0.

From **TOP DIRECTORY**, run in the following order:

keygen.py

python3 build/keygen.py 32

NOTE: key size parameter can be 16, 24, or 32

enc.py

python3 build/enc.py

tokengen.py

python3 build/tokengen.py [KEYWORD]

NOTE: select keyword from various input files, punctuation is stripped

search.py

python3 build/search.py

Search results will be in data/result.txt

Results

Key Generation

The key generation function generates uniformly distributed random numbers to use as keys with a number of bytes equal to the given input argument. In this case, the argument given is 32 bytes (256 bits).

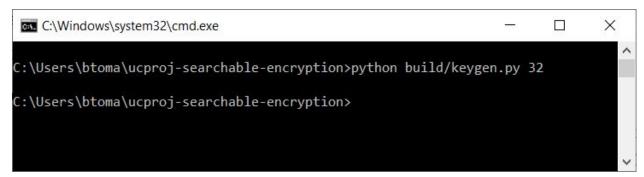


Figure 1: Running the keygen process with a parameter of 256 bits.

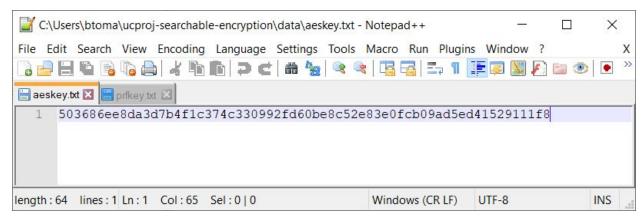


Figure 2: The resulting AES key.

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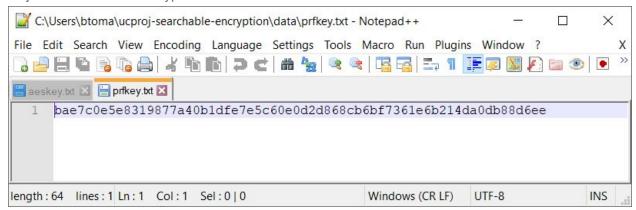


Figure 3: The resulting PRF key.

Encryption

The encryption process uses AES with the key generated in the previous step to encrypt all the files in the data/files directory and outputs the encrypted files into the data/ciphertextfiles directory. It also builds an encrypted index using the words found in the plaintext files. Each word is encrypted with a PRF and a corresponding entry is placed in the index. If a word is found in a plaintext file, the corresponding ciphertext file is placed under the word's entry in the index. The index is saved into data/index.txt.

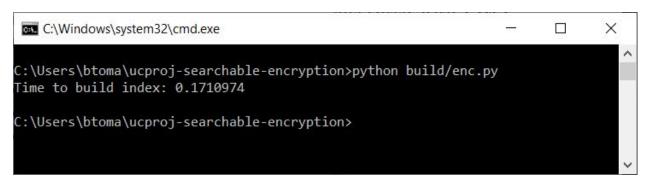


Figure 4: Running the encryption process. The process of encrypting the files and generating the index took around 0.17 seconds in this case.

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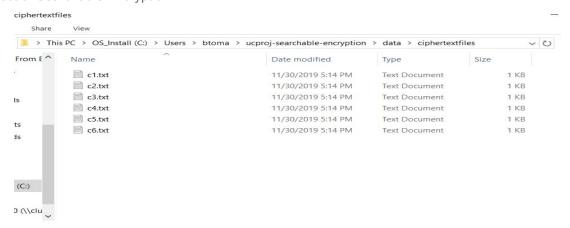


Figure 5: The first output of the encryption process; these ciphertext files are generated from the corresponding plaintext files.

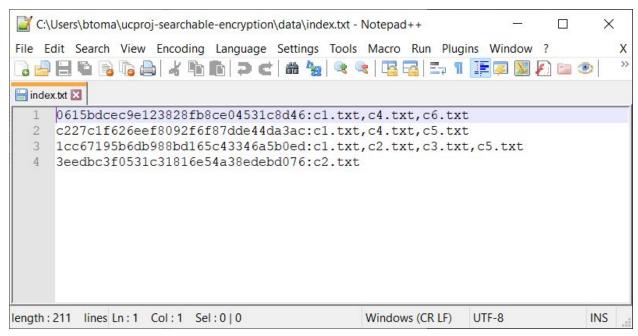


Figure 6: The second output of the encryption process, the index. Each line is an entry for a specific token, followed by the ciphertext files that contain that token.

Token Generation

The token generation process accepts a keyword and encrypts it with the PRF to generate a token that can be used to search the index.

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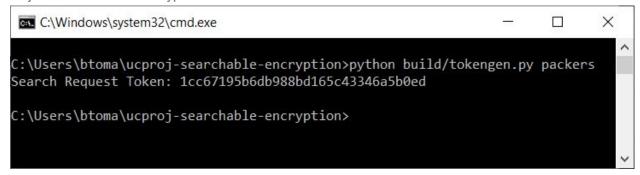


Figure 7: Generating a search token based on the search keyword "packers."

Search

The search process uses the search token generated in the last step to search through the index and returns the ciphertext files that contain the search keyword.

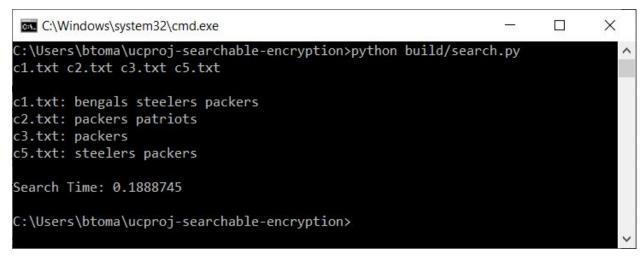


Figure 8: Running the search process to search for the keyword "packers." Every ciphertext with a corresponding plaintext that contains the keyword is returned. The search process took about 0.19 seconds in this instance.