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TCS Lab A2

* FAQ's

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Q1) What is the concept of feistel cipher?

Ans It is a symmetric key block cipher structure used in modern encryption algorithms. It divides the input data into two halves & applies a series of rounds where one half is modified based on the other half & a round key. This process is repeated multiple times & the two halves are eventually swapped or combined to produce the cipher text.

Q2) Draw & describe DES algorithm

Step 1

Plain text (64 bits)

Step 2

Initial Permutation (IP)

Step 3

LPT

RPT

Step 4

Key \rightarrow 16 rounds 16 rounds \leftarrow Key

Step 5 Final Permutation (FP)

Step 6 Cipher text (64 bits)

1) IP: The 64-bit plaintext block undergoes an initial Permutation that rearranges the bits according to table.

2) 16 Rounds of Processing:

- Expansion, substitution & permutation of 32 bit data
- XOR with Round key - combines data with the round subkey

3) Final Permutation (FP): After the 16 rounds, a final permutation is applied of the data, which is the inverse of the initial permutation.

4) Cipher text Output: The final output of the final permutation is the ciphertext.

Q3) List & state broad-level operations used internally in the DES algorithm.

Ans Permutations (IP & FP)

Substitution (S-box)

Expansion (key expansion)

XOR operations (between data & round keys)

Q4) Compare various block ciphers such as DES, AES & blowfish.

Ans DES (Data Encryption Standard)

- Uses a 56-bit key, considered insecure for modern standard.

AES (Advanced Encryption Standard)

- Uses key sizes of 128, 192 or 256 bits, highly secure & widely adopted.

Blowfish:

- Uses variable-length key (32 to 448 bits), known for its speed but not widely used in practice.

Q5) what are the Block cipher design guidelines

Ans - The block size should be large enough to prevent attacks that exploit statistical patterns in the plaintext.

- The S-box used in the cipher should be non-linear to provide confusion

- Key sizes should be larger because it resists brute force attacks.

- More rounds increase complexity & security.

