

Topic: Hash Function and Its Usage

Course:
Date:
Professor:

Key Points

3

3. HASH FUNCTION & its Usage

-> Take an arbitrary message, & compute hash.

-> Cryptographic hash functions.

Data (?? bits) -> SHA1 -> Hash (160 bits)

↓

Hashing

Algo/technique

-> No matter how many bit data you put it, always get hash of length 160 bits. but hash will be different.

* Security Properties of Hash Function.

-> Pre-image resistance

i.e it is impossible to get m from H(m).

-> Second pre-image resistance

Given M1 infeasible to find M2 such that H(M1) = H(M2).

-> Collision resistance

Can't find any M1 & M2 such that H(M1) = H(M2).

-> Breaking pre-image resistance -

best case :- First guess

worst - If we are using 128 bit hash then its $2^{128}-1$

-> Breaking 2nd pre-image system.

-> It will be same like brute force to break preimage.

-> Breaking Collision Resistance.

-> It is complicated

-> For 128 bit hash there are 2^{128} possible hash, according to B.P $\sqrt{2^{128}} = 2^{64}$

Examples of Real Hash Functions

MD5

-> produces 128 bit hash.

-> collision can be found 2^{21}

SHA1

-> produces 160 bit hash.

-> collision can be found 2^{61}

Applications of Hash Function

-> Detect error in file transfer

(IMAG2)

-> Message Authentication Code (MAC)

-> Create a hash that can only be created/verified by one with the key

$H(M||K)$ both key & M are hashed.

$H(K||H(M))$ key at end not good.

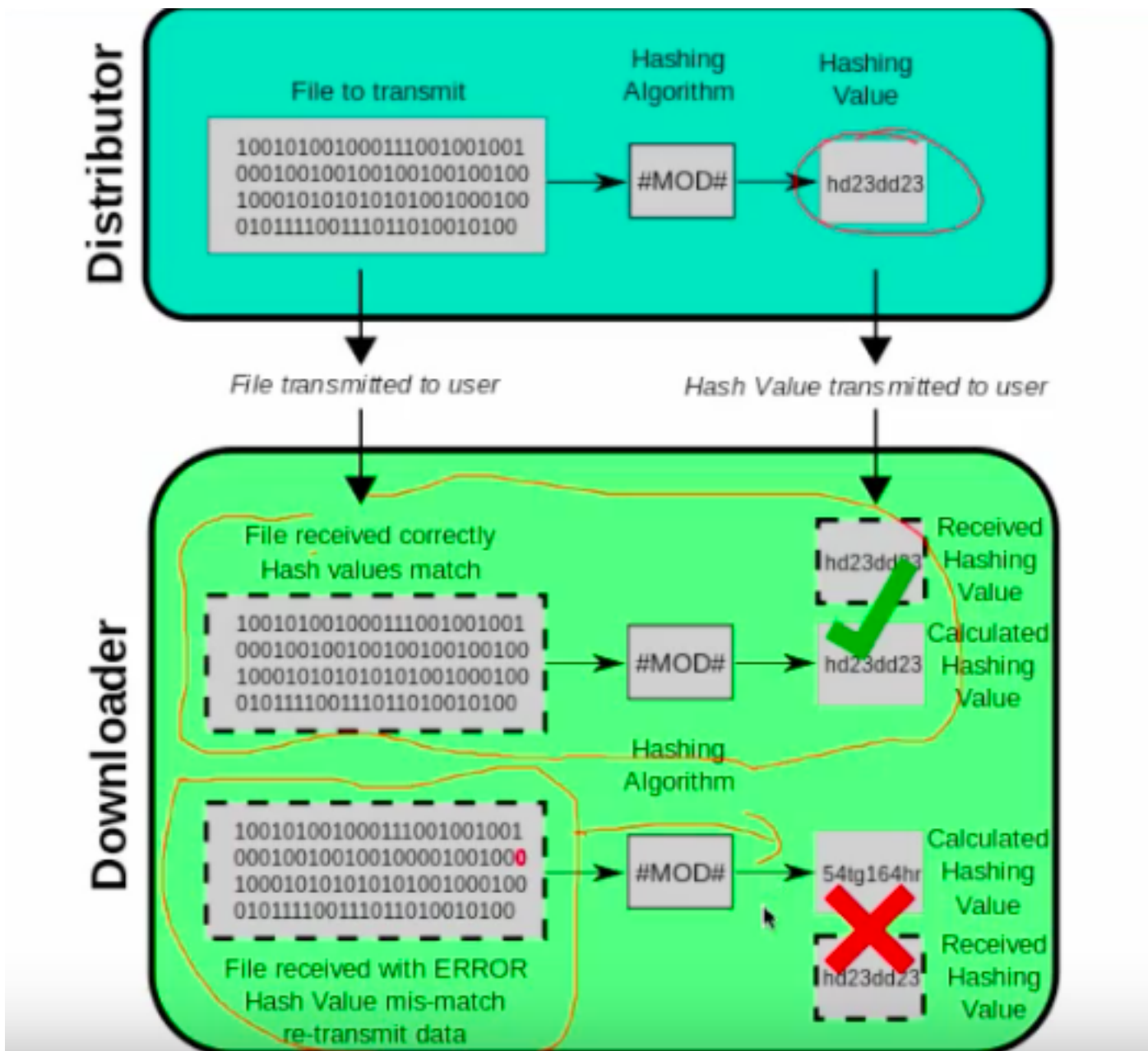
-> Password storage.

-> stores hashes instead of password.

- MD5
 - Produces a 128-bit hash
 - Collisions can be found in 2^{21} hashes
- SHA1
 - 160-bit hash
 - Collisions can be found in 2^{61} hashes
- SHA2
 - Actually 4 different hash functions: SHA-224, SHA-256, SHA-384, SHA-512
 - Minor attacks, but still good
- SHA3
 - Just chosen as a new NIST standard
 - No known attacks

Application of Hash Functions -

1. Detect error in File Transfer.



Professor's Comment.

I. Properties of Hash Function

- 1st property is very important and it is one way that means for any given hash it is impossible to find message.
- 3rd property is more stronger than 2nd property.

II. Breaking hashing function

- It is not always true that if we try 2^{128} possibilities its not sure that we will get the matching.

III. Birthday Paradox

- It's related 2nd and 3rd property of hash function.

- Rule of thumb: If there are N different possibilities of something, then you need \sqrt{N} randomly chosen items in order to have a 50% chance of a collision
 - In the birthday example, $\sqrt{365} \approx 23$
 - You need ~23 random people to have a 50% chance of a birthday collision

- Message Authentication Code (MAC) is an important property which allow two parties to communicate securely.

Summary of Notes

- Hash functions take an arbitrary message, compute a fixed length hash
- Have many applications in computer science