Integrity Coded Databases

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Background

Recently, cloud database storage has become an inexpensive and convenient option to store information; however, this relatively new area of service can be vulnerable to security breaches [1]. Storing data in a foreign location requires the owner to relinquish control of their information. This opens the possibility for internal, malicious attacks that can involve the manipulation, omission, or addition of data [2].

Our research tests a potential solution for retaining data as it was intended to be stored in these cloud databases: by converting the original databases to Integrity Coded Databases (ICDB) [3]. ICDBs utilize Integrity Codes (IC): cryptographic codes created for the data by a private key that only the data owner has access to. When the database is queried, an integrity code is returned along with the queried information. The owner is able to verify that the information is correct and fresh [3]. Consequently, ICDBs also incur performance and memory penalties. In our research, we explore, test, and benchmark ICDBs to determine the costs and benefits of maintaining an ICDB versus a standard database.

Objectives

- Implement an Integrity Coded Database (ICDB)
- Verify that the data owner is able to detect malicious changes
- Test the performance of an ICDB
- Compare the performance to a standard database

Benchmarks

![Database Sizes (MiB) Chart](chart1.png)

Figure 1. Database size relationships between 3 databases converted with AES, Hashing, and RSA. This chart uses a logarithmic base 2 scale, measured in MiB.

![Database Conversion Time Chart](chart2.png)

Figure 2. Database avg. conversion time relationships between 3 databases converted with AES, Hashing, and RSA. This chart uses a logarithmic base 10 scale, measured in seconds.

![SELECT * Efficiency Chart](chart3.png)

Figure 3. Database avg. query efficiency is measured by dividing the ICDB execution/retrieval time by the standard database execution/retrieval time. Each data point is a multiple of the query execution on a standard database.

Results

- ICDBs are much larger than their standard database counterparts, by a factor of at least 2
- Different implementations (AES, Hashing, RSA) offer unique approaches for an ICDB solution
- AES used the least memory, while RSA used the most
- AES converted in seconds, while RSA can take hours
- AES queried the fastest, while RSA queried the slowest
- Queries can take 1.2 – 5.0 times as long to execute, depending on the complexity of the query and the size of each integrity code
- ICDBs are able to verify against data forgery, data substitution, and old data attacks

Conclusion

- Correctness and Freshness can be verified, but not Completeness
- ICDBs incur heavy memory and speed performance penalties
- RSA is infeasible for practical use, as hashing and AES provide much better results
- AES provides the best ICDB implementation due to its low memory cost, quick conversion time, and great query efficiency

ICDB Scheme | Size Increase | Conversion Speed
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RSA | 23x | 1 KiB/s
Hashing | 9x | 250 KiB/s
AES | 2.5x | 25 MiB/s

These data points show the increase in memory cost and conversion speed of the 3 different ICDB implementations

References


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