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# Attribute-based Fine-grained Access Control with User Revocation

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**Abstract.** Attribute-based encryption brings a lot of convenience for access control. But it introduces several challenges with regard to the user revocation. In this paper, we propose an access control mechanism using new key update technology to enforce access control policies with efficient user revocation capability. The access control can be achieved by efficient key update technology which takes advantage of the attribute-based encryption and key distribution. We demonstrate how to apply the proposed mechanism to securely manage the cloud data. The analysis results indicate that the proposed scheme is efficient and secure in user revocation.

**Key words:** Attribute-Based Encryption, Security, Efficient Revocation.

## 1 Introduction

In cloud computing, data owner outsources sensitive data to cloud server, which is shared with the users whose attributes satisfy the specific access privilege. It is widely applied to the Internet of Things. In the field of access control system, especially under the background of cloud computing, in order to optimize resources and management, more and more businesses and individuals store the data resources in third-party servers. So to provide effective access control [8, 16] of data resources is very necessary. The basic security requirement is to provide the data resources confidentiality. Attribute encryption system has many advantages compared with the traditional method in access control system, but access control has a new challenge in cloud environment.

In this case attribute-based encryption [11, 12, 14] (ABE) offers many convenient. ABE allows for an encrypter to encrypt a message to series of users who

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have such attributes, without access to a public key certificate. In ABE all the entities are uniformly described in the same way, but the attribute authority of different entities may be different from each other. This makes the decision function of access control may be able to adopt a uniform treatment according to the basis of determination. The ability to do public key encryption without certificates has many practical applications.

### 1.1 Related Work

Sahai proposed an private key-policy attribute-based encryption scheme by using secret sharing scheme. Goyal [5] proposed a key-policy scheme with a tree access structure where the interior nodes consist of AND and OR gates and the leaves consist of different parties. This scheme can be used to construct fine-grained access control. subsequently, Ostrovsky [13] proposed a non-monotonic ABE. The first ciphertext-policy ABE scheme is proposed by Bethencourt [2]. The ciphertext-policy is defined through the tree access structure and can deal with And an OR gates. On the construct of ABE scheme key-policy scheme is not convenient with the ciphertext-policy scheme, and scalability cannot be achieved. So most attribute-based encryption schemes are ciphertext-policy scheme. Many ABE scheme are proposed in different application fields. Sometimes besides the confidentiality of documents we also need to protect attribute in the ciphertext and the related policy. Anonymous ABE [11, 6, 7] is proposed to solve this problem. In order to disperse the right of authorized center, Chase and Lin [4, 9] proposes an multi-authority ABE scheme. For the purpose of improve the efficiency of user management in broadcast encryption based on public key encryption, Lubicz [10] proposes attribute-based broadcast encryption system. Recently, some ABE schemes with attributes and user revocation [3] have been proposed. And there are two main problems comes out, the backward security and the key updating.

Attribute revocation and user revocation is an essential mechanism in many applications. Attrapadung and Imai [1] proposed an user revocable ABE schemes, but to enable the direct user revocation, the data owner should take charge of all the membership. But the data owner can not directly control the data distribution when the data is outsourced. An efficient user revocation scheme is needed.

### 1.2 Our Contributions

An attribute-based access control scheme with efficient user revocation is proposed in this paper. An improved ABE model is established, in which the users has two classed of keys. One is the attribute keys and the other is private keys. Attribute keys can be used to get the part of deception key,  $K$ . The decryption key is generated by  $K$  and the users private keys. This scheme can easily to add and remove users. At last we give the rigorous security proof of our schemes.

The organization of this paper is as follows. Some preliminaries are given in Section 2. The improved attribute-based encryption model is given in Section 3.

**Table 1.** Notations

$k$ :	security parameters
$\omega'$ :	set of attributes needed for decryption
$\omega$ :	set of user's attributes
$E(\cdot)$ :	encryption algorithm
$D(\cdot)$ :	decryption algorithm
$sk$ :	private key
$pk$ :	public key
$R(\cdot, \cdot)$ :	matching relation of tow elements
$f$ :	key generation algorithm
$s$ :	side information

The secure ABE scheme with efficient user revocation and the security analysis is given in Section 4. Finally, conclusion will be made in Section 5.

## 2 Preliminaries

### 2.1 Bilinear Maps

Let  $\mathbb{G}_1, \mathbb{G}_2$  be the cyclic groups of prime order  $p$ , let  $g$  be a generator of  $\mathbb{G}_1$ , and  $e : \mathbb{G}_1 \times \mathbb{G}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_2$  be a map with the following properties.

1. Bilinearity:  $e(g^a, g^b) = e(g, g)^{ab}$ ,  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ .
2. Non-degeneracy: There exist  $x, y \in \mathbb{G}_1$  such that  $e(x, y) \neq 1$ .
3. Computable: For all  $x, y \in \mathbb{G}_1$ ,  $e(x, y)$  has to be computable in an efficient manner.

### 2.2 Complexity Assumption

#### Decisional Modified Bilinear Diffie-Hellman (MDBDH) Assumption.

Given  $g, g^x, g^y, g^z \in \mathbb{G}_1$  for unknown random  $x, y, z, r \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$ . The MDBDH assumption is that no polynomial-time adversary is to be able to distinguish the tuple  $(g^x, g^y, g^y, e(g, g)^{\frac{xy}{z}})$  from a random tuple  $((g^x, g^y, g^y, e(g, g)^r))$  with more than a negligible advantage.

$$|Pr[\mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, g^y, e(g, g)^{\frac{xy}{z}}) = 1] - Pr[\mathcal{A}((g^x, g^y, g^y, e(g, g)^r))] = 1] \leq \epsilon$$

## 3 Improved ABE Model

Some notations are list in table 1.

**Setup:** Encrypter generates different private key  $sk^{(2)}$  for every user, and sends to every user by a secure channel. Then generates a secret key  $x$  which is used to encrypt the message, and another private key  $sk^{(1)}$  which satisfies  $x = f(sk^{(1)}, sk^{(2)})$  for every different  $sk^{(2)}$ .

Authority generates  $pk$ , and for every user, generates different  $sk^{(3)}$  and  $s$ , user's attributes  $\omega$ . Then sends to users.

**Encryption:** Encrypter encrypts the message  $M$  with  $x$  by computing  $C = E(M, x)$ , and encrypts  $sk^{(1)}$  with  $pk$ , then gets a new key  $sk^{(4)} = E(sk^{(1)}, s, pk)$ . So the ciphertext is  $\{\omega', C = E(M, x), s, sk^{(4)}\}$ .

**Decryption:** If  $R(\omega, \omega') = 0$ , then  $sk^{(1)} \neq D(sk^{(4)}, sk^{(3)}, s, pk)$ ,  $x \neq f(sk^{(1)}, sk^{(2)})$ . If  $R(\omega, \omega') = 1$ , user can get  $sk^{(1)}$  by computing  $sk^{(1)} = D(sk^{(4)}, sk^{(3)}, s, pk)$ . Then user computes  $x = f(sk^{(1)}, sk^{(2)})$ , and recovers message  $M = D(C, x)$ . Where

$$R(\omega, \omega') = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{the relation of } \omega \text{ and } \omega' \text{ satisfies decryption conditions} \\ 0, & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

A schematic diagram of our model are as Fig. 1.

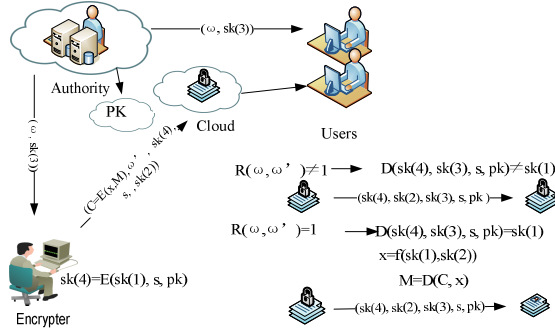


Fig. 1. Improved ABE Model

In this improved ABE model, to achieve user revocation efficiently, the key to encrypt  $M$  is divided into two parts. One part is as a part of user's private key, the other part is used in the attributes policy.

#### 4 Secure ABE Scheme with Efficient User Revocation

We now informally specify an improved threshold Attribute-Based Encryption system as a collection of four algorithms:

**Setup** ( $k$ ): Authority generates an algorithm1 which takes a threshold value  $d$  as input and outputs a master key  $MK$  and a set of public parameters  $PK$ . Encryper chooses a secret key  $K_1$ , and generates two algorithms. One is a key generation algorithm2 with the security parameter  $k$ . The other is algorithm3 with which the private keys generated from algorithm2 achieve  $K_1$ .

**Key Generation** ( $S, MK$ ): The authority executes the Key-Gen algorithm for the purpose of generating a new secret key  $SK$ . The algorithm takes as input

the user's identity  $S$ , as a set of strings representing a user's attributes and the master-key  $MK$  and outputs the secret key  $SK$  related to  $S$ . And encrypter run algorithm3 generates different secret private key  $K_2$  for users and  $K_3$ , then sends the different  $K_2$  to every user through a secure channel and publish algorithm3. And sends  $K_3$  to authority.

**Encryption** ( $M, S', PK, K_1, K_3$ ): Encrypter to encrypt a message  $M$  with  $K_1$ , outputs a ciphertext  $C$ . Encrypter encrypts  $K_3$  with a target set  $S'$ , out put  $K^*$ , and sends  $K^*, C$  and public parameters to users.

**Decryption** ( $C, S', S, SK, K^*, K_2$ ): The decrypt algorithm is run by a user with identity  $S$  and secret key  $SK$  to attempt to decrypt  $K^*$  that has been encrypted with  $S'$ . If the set overlap  $|S \cap S'|$  is greater than or equal to  $d$  the algorithm can decrypt  $K^*$  and output  $K$ . Along with  $K_3$ , users can compute the secret key  $K_1$  with his/her own secret private key  $K_2$  to recover  $M$ .

Here we give a secure ABE scheme in the improved ABE model. In this scheme authority can not recover  $M$  and it is easy to add and remove users.

A detailed description of our scheme is as follows.

#### 4.1 Description

**Initialization** Assume there are  $n$  users in this system, authority chooses  $m \times m$  full rank matrix  $A$  ( $m > n$ ) and a random number  $y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$ . Authority generates a new  $m$ -dimensional vector  $Y$  with  $y$ ,

$$Y = (y, y, \dots, y)^T$$

and computes  $X$  from the linear equations  $AX = Y$ .

In this way  $y$  is used to encrypt the message  $M$ .  $X$  is as a part of private key. And authority chooses  $n$  vectors  $\{a_1, a_2, \dots, a_n\}$  from matrix  $A$  ( $a_i = (a_{i1}, a_{i2}, \dots, a_{im})$ ) as the secret private keys of  $n$  users, and sends  $a_i$  to each user  $U_i$ . (For the security of our scheme, we will give a method to generate  $X$  and  $Y$ , see the proof of Proposition 2 in this section).

We now create an scheme for authority in which a encryption of  $X$  created using attributes  $\omega$ , can be decrypted only by users whose attributes  $\omega'$  satisfied  $|\omega \cap \omega'| \geq d$ .

Let  $\mathbb{G}_1$  be a bilinear group of prime order  $p$ , let  $g$  be a generator of  $\mathbb{G}_1$ , and let  $e : \mathbb{G}_1 \times \mathbb{G}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_2$  denote the bilinear map.

We also define the Lagrange coefficient  $\Delta_{i,s}$  for  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_p$  and a set  $S$  of elements in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  :

$$\Delta_{i,s(x)} = \prod_{j \in S, j \neq i} \frac{x - j}{i - j}.$$

Identities will be element subsets of universe  $\mu$ , of size  $|\mu|$ . And the attributes will be associated with the elements of  $\mu$ . Our construction is as follows:

**Setup**( $d$ ) For simplicity, we can take the first  $|\mu|$  elements of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  to be the universe of elements. Then authority chooses  $t_1, \dots, t_{|\mu|}$  and  $r$  uniformly from  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$ . The published public parameters are:

$$T_1 = g^{t_1}, \dots, T_{|\mu|} = g^{t_{|\mu|}}, Y = e(g, g)^r.$$

The master key is:

$$t_1, \dots, t_{|\mu|}, r.$$

**Key Generation** A  $d - 1$  degree polynomial  $q$  is randomly chosen by authority such that  $q(0) = r$ . The private key consists of components,  $(D_i)_{i \in \omega}$ , where  $D_i = g^{q(i)/t_i}$  for every  $i \in \omega$ .

**Encryption** First, a random value  $a, t, s \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$  is chosen by encrypter, and encrypter computes  $b$  satisfies  $ab = 1 \pmod p$ . The ciphertext is the published as:

$$E = (\omega', C = tyM, (tX)^a = ((tx_1)^a, (tx_2)^a, \dots, (tx_m)^a)^T, E' = bY^s, \{E_i = T_i^s\}_{i \in \omega'}).$$

**Decryption** Some parts of ciphertext  $E$  is encrypted with a key associated with  $\omega'$ , where  $|\omega \cap \omega'| \geq d$ . User chooses an arbitrary subset of  $\omega \cap \omega'$  with  $d$  elements. Then, the ciphertext can be decrypted as follows:

First, user  $U_j$  computes  $E' / \prod_{i \in S} e(D_i, E_i)^{\Delta_{i,s}(0)}$  and gains  $b$ .

$$\begin{aligned} E' / \prod_{i \in S} e(D_i, E_i)^{\Delta_{i,s}(0)} &= be(g, g)^{sy} / \prod_{i \in S} (e(g^{q(i)/t_i}, g^{st_i}))^{\Delta_{i,s}(0)} \\ &= be(g, g)^{sy} / \prod_{i \in S} (e(g, g)^{sq(i)})^{\Delta_{i,s}(0)} \\ &= b. \end{aligned}$$

Second, user  $U_j$  computes

$$tX = (tX)^{ab} = ((tx_1)^{ab}, (tx_2)^{ab}, \dots, (tx_m)^{ab})^T \pmod p$$

and gets  $tX = (tx_1, tx_2, \dots, tx_m)^T$ . Then  $U_j$  can get  $ty$  by the equation

$$ty = a_itX \pmod p$$

Last, user  $U_j$  can recover the message  $M$  by computing  $M = C/ty$ .

## 4.2 Security Analysis

**Proposition 1.** *The adversary whose attributes are not satisfied  $|\omega \cap \omega'| \geq d$ , can get  $y$  with the probability  $\frac{1}{p} + \epsilon$ . ( $\epsilon$  is negligible).*

*Proof.* From the security of Decisional Modified Bilinear Diffie-Hellman (DMB-DH) Assumption in [15], we know the probability with which the adversary can get the vector  $X$  which is used to compute  $ty$  is  $\epsilon_1$  ( $\epsilon_1$  is negligible).

The other way, adversary can just to guess  $ty$ . For  $ty$  is randomly chosen in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  by encrypter, the only information of  $ty$  adversary can get is  $ty$  is different from the other data which is used before. So the probability which adversary can guess  $ty$  is  $\frac{1}{p} + \epsilon_2$ , where  $\epsilon_2$  is negligible.

Therefore, the adversary whose attributes are not satisfied  $|\omega \cap \omega'| \geq d$ , can get  $ty$  with the probability  $\frac{1}{p} + \epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2 = \frac{1}{p} + \epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon = \epsilon_1 + \epsilon_2$ .

**Proposition 2.** *The probability which curious user can get other user's secret private key is at most  $\frac{1}{p}$ .*

*Proof.* With out loss of generality we assume  $U_1$  is curious. When  $U_1$  recover enough  $M$ , he/she would get enough pairs of  $X$  and  $Y$ . The original linear equations are

$$A_{m \times m} X_{m \times 1} = Y_{m \times 1} \pmod{p}.$$

If there are  $m$  vectors of  $X$  which are linearly independent,  $U_1$  can construct the following equations with the corresponding vectors of  $Y$ .

$$A(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_m) = (Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_m) \pmod{p}$$

**Generation of  $X$  and  $Y$ :** Here we give a method to generate  $X$  and  $Y$ , which leads the curious user can not get other user's secret private key. By using this generation of  $X$ , encrypter would not reveal the private key  $a_i$ .

Encrypter can generate small amounts of  $X$ , i.e.  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_l)$ ,  $l \ll m$ , and use the linear combination of vectors  $(X_1, X_2, \dots, X_l)$  to generate other  $X_j$  and get corresponding  $Y_j$  ( $l \leq j \leq m$ ).

$$X_j = k_{1j}X_1 + k_{2j}X_2 + \dots + k_{lj}X_l \pmod{p} (k_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*, 1 \leq i \leq l)$$

and corresponding  $m$ -dimensional vector

$$Y_j = \left( \sum_{i=1}^l k_{ij}y_i, \sum_{i=1}^l k_{ij}y_i, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^l k_{ij}y_i \right) \pmod{p}.$$

**Correctness of operation:**  $X_j$  and  $Y_j$  generate from this way can make our scheme execute correctly. The correctness is as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} AX_j &= (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m)^T (k_{1j}X_1 + k_{2j}X_2 + \dots + k_{lj}X_l) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} k_{1j}a_1X_1 + k_{2j}a_1X_2 + \dots + k_{mj}a_1X_m \\ k_{1j}a_2X_1 + k_{2j}a_2X_2 + \dots + k_{mj}a_2X_m \\ k_{1j}a_mX_1 + k_{2j}a_mX_2 + \dots + k_{mj}a_mX_m \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} k_{1j}y_1 + k_{2j}y_2 + \dots + k_{mj}y_m \\ k_{1j}y_1 + k_{2j}y_2 + \dots + k_{mj}y_m \\ k_{1j}y_1 + k_{2j}y_2 + \dots + k_{mj}y_m \end{pmatrix} \\ &= \left( \sum_{i=1}^l k_{ij}y_i, \sum_{i=1}^l k_{ij}y_i, \dots, \sum_{i=1}^l k_{ij}y_i \right) \pmod{p}. \end{aligned}$$

In this way the rank of the matrix which is consist of any combination of  $m$  vectors is less than  $l$ , so there are at least  $p^{m-l}$  vectors satisfies  $AX = Y$ . So the probability  $U_1$  can get other user's secret private key is at most  $\frac{1}{p^{m-l}}$ .

Every user's secret private key (a  $m$ -dimensional vector)  $a$  satisfies  $aX = Y \pmod{p}$ . There are  $P^{m-1}$   $m$ -dimensional vectors  $a$  satisfies  $aX = Y$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ , but there are  $p^m$   $m$ -dimensional vectors in  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . So the probability  $U_1$  can get other user's secret private key is  $\frac{1}{p}$ .

Hence, the probability the other user's key  $a_i$  can be gained is at most  $\frac{1}{p}$ .



### 4.3 User Addition and Revocation

**User addition:** When  $U_{n+1}$  join in, encrypter will give him/her  $a_{n+1}$  as the secret private key from the matrix  $A_{m \times m}$  through a secure channel, and authority give him/her the corresponding private key according to his/her attributes. It is very easy to implement. Because  $a_{n_1}$  is the  $n_1$ th vector of  $A$ , so for all  $X$  used before,  $U_{n+1}$  can compute  $a_{n+1}X = y$ . In this way  $U_{n+1}$  can recover the message which encrypt before his/her join.

**User revocation:** When  $U_i$  is removed, the secret private key  $a_i$  is not available and the message  $M$  which is recovered by  $U_i$  should be re-encrypted by encrypter. Encrypter use a new vector  $a'_i$  which is the linear combination of vectors in  $A$  to instead of  $a_i$ , and get the new matrix  $A'$ .

$$a'_i = h_1a_1 + h_2a_2 + \cdots + h_ia_i + \cdots + h_ma_m \quad \text{mod } p$$

Where  $h_j \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ , ( $1 \leq j \leq m$ ),  $\sum_{j=1}^m h_j \neq 1$  (If  $\sum_{j=1}^m h_j = 1$ , then  $a'_iX = y$  and  $a_iX = y$ , so  $U_i$  can recover  $M$ ).  $A$  is still full rank,  $X$  is uniquely determined.

$U_j$  re-encrypt  $M$ , and computes the new  $y' = a_jX'$  from the equation  $A'X' = Y$  (where the vector  $a_i$  is replace by  $a'_i$ ), then  $C' = y'M \quad \text{mod } p$ .

**Proposition 3.** *The probability the removed user can get the new  $y'$  is  $\frac{1}{p}$ .*

*Proof.* Even the new  $X'$  is gained, the removed user  $U_i$  uses his/her original secret private key  $a_i$  can not get  $y'$  yet. We assume  $y' = a'_iX'$ , here

$$a'_i = h_1a_1 + h_2a_2 + \cdots + h_ia_i + \cdots + h_ma_m \quad \text{mod } p,$$

and  $\sum_{j=1}^m h_j \neq 1$ . So

$$y' = \sum_{j=i}^m h_j a_j X' = \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^m h_j a_j X' + h_i a_i X' = \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^m h_j y' + h_i a_i X'.$$

If  $a_i X' = y'$ , then

$$y' = \sum_{j=i}^m h_j a_j X' = \sum_{j=1, j \neq i}^m h_j y' + h_i y' = \sum_{j=1}^m h_j y'$$

but  $\sum_{j=1}^m h_j \neq 1$ , then  $a_i X' \neq y'$ . So  $U_i$  can not get the new  $y'$ .

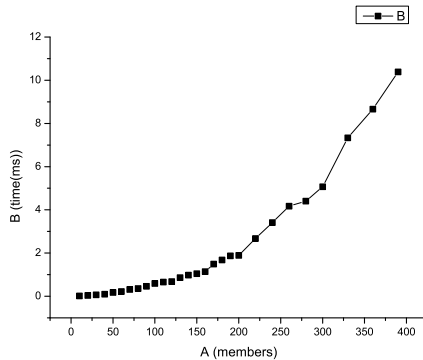
The another way to get  $y'$  is that  $U_i$  guess it from  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ . For  $y'$  is chosen form  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  randomly, so the probability is  $\frac{1}{p}$ .

Therefore, the probability which the removed user can get the new  $y'$  is  $\frac{1}{p}$ .

**Efficiency:** When some member is removed, sever should update other members' secret private keys, which is efficient for small group by using the above technology.

The time cost of secret private keys update is as Fig. 2. We implement our mechanism using MATLAB language with a version of R2012b. The process is conducted on a computer with Intel(R) Core(TM)i3-3230 CPU processor running at 2.60 GHz, 4 GB RAM.

The time cost is related to the number of members, has nothing to do with the number of deleted members.



**Fig. 2.** Time Cost of User Revocation

## 5 Conclusion

In order to easily achieve user revocation, an improved ABE model is proposed in this paper. The improved scheme building on the proposal of fuzzy IBE from [15] is as examples of schemes in our model. The method that the keys which can recover messages are divided into two parts are very effective to achieve user revocation. And a key updating method and a re-encryption method are proposed for the security of user revocation. The security of our schemes are strictly proved.

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