

Research Intuitions of Asymmetric Crypto System

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Abstract: The fast moving world full of data exchange and communication technology, with all sensitive information of an individual virtually available anywhere and anytime, make the Internet world more critical in security aspects. The areas of risks are attended and assured to be safe by means of some sought of crypto mechanisms. The strength and vulnerability of the crypto mechanism defines the durability of the system. The encryption on the communication channel can implement either public or private key algorithms based on the area of applications. The public key cryptography is specifically designed to keep the key itself safe between the sender and receiver themselves. There are plenty of public key cryptographic algorithms but only a few are renowned. This paper is aimed to collect all possible public key cryptographic methods and analyze its pros and cons so as to find a better algorithm to suite almost all conditions in Internet communication world and e-commerce. Research in quantum computers is booming now and it is anticipated that the supremacy of quantum computers will crack the present public key crypto algorithms. This paper highlights issues and challenges to be faced from quantum computing and draws the attention of network researchers to march towards researching on quantum-safe algorithms.

Keywords: Asymmetric Cryptography, RSA, DHA, Elliptic Curve, Public Key Cryptography, Post Quantum Crypto System, Issues and Challenges in Crypto World.

1. Introduction

This era of information technology creates a major concern on the security of the information and the methods of addressing the challenges of data security. Cryptography is used in places of data storage and also in communication of data.

Modern cryptography is classified into three,

- (i) Symmetric Key Cryptography (with a single key),
- (ii) Asymmetric Key Cryptography (with two different keys), and (iii) Hashing (without any key) which are shown in figure, Figure-1 below [1,2].

Symmetric Key Cryptography deals with a single secret key shared by both users namely Sender and receiver whereas Asymmetric Key Cryptography deals with pair of related keys called private key (to be maintained secretly by the owner) and public key (shared by both users namely Sender and receiver). Hashing is a one-way cryptographic transformation using an algorithm (and no key).

A cryptographic algorithm must be secure against different attacks and must have a high processing speed. The efficiency of a security algorithm is based on the difficulty in obtaining the encryption key through the cyber-attacks. It is presumed that the larger the key size, the safer the system is. At the same time the increase in the key size simultaneously increases the computational complexity and the processing time of the algorithm.



Figure-1(a): Symmetric Key Cryptography Primitives



Figure-1(b): Asymmetric Key Cryptography Primitives



Figure-1(c): Hashing Cryptography Primitives

The field of quantum computing with its very large scale computing power which has been proposed in the 1980s, has recently garnered significant attention due to progress in building small-scale devices. However, significant technical advances will be required before a large-scale, practical quantum computer can be achieved. Quantum computers, quantum encryption, post-quantum cryptography, quantum security, quantum proof, quantum resistant cryptography, quantum key space, quantum cryptographic infrastructure etc. all are similar sounding yet different. The swift changing era leads to swift changes in the world of security. The changes are taking so fast that it is difficult to understand the drift without ambiguity. Quantum security, quantum encryption and quantum cryptography all means the same where in the cryptography is achieved by executing complex mathematical algorithms to hide the data and information from the eavesdropper.

Many researchers from academia and industries foresee that a quantum computer will be able to

implement Shor’s Algorithm at a relevant scale in the next 10 to 15 years. Most recently, researchers have shown that quantum computing is capable of breaking the strong cryptographic primitives, such as Diffie-Hellman key exchange.

This paper is aimed to present a literature review on the research aspects of asymmetric cryptography. Since the design and development of asymmetric cryptography date back from the middle of 1970s, the research papers for the literature study are covered from the mid of 1970’s to 2020. It is observed from the literature study that there are several ongoing research works on new methods for encryption and decryption which will be more challenging to attacks by booming of large scale Quantum computers in the digital era.

All the research works in the literature papers have been thoroughly studied, analysed and a Concise Report of the Literature Study on the asymmetric algorithms is presented in section-II. Section III outlines the *Current Scenario of the Crypto System* and summarizes a few of the literature study carried out for the same. Section IV sketches out the *Post-Quantum Crypto System* and summarizes some of the major *Issues and Challenges* faced in developing *Post-Quantum Crypto System*. Section V summarizes the *Inferences Observed from the Literature Study*. Section VI concludes the paper with a further research focus.

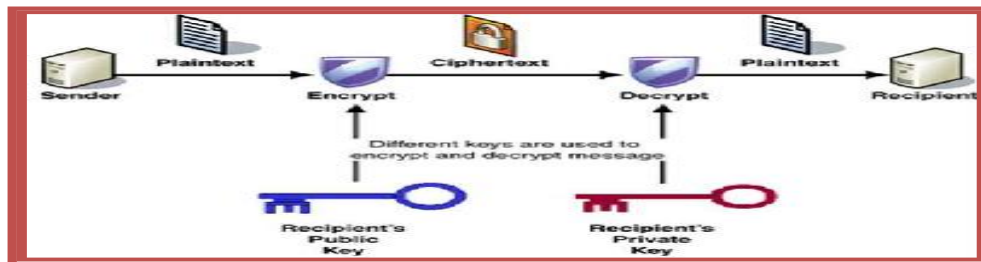


Figure-2: Asymmetric Cryptography Diagram

Diffie-Hellman designed the idea of public key cryptography in which the keys for encryption are shared between the sender and the receiver publicly but still the intruder could not get the actual secret key [Diffie et al., 1976]. Later their algorithm is referred to as ‘*Diffie Hellman Algorithm*’ (DHA) and till date, is considered a strongest method in public key cryptography. The well known RSA, Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) all use this concept of Diffie-Hellman by just generating these secret and public keys.

Rivest et al. presented a method for *Obtaining Digital Signatures and Public-Key Cryptosystems* which is the first secure Asymmetric cryptographic algorithm. Later, it is referred to as *RSA Algorithm* and then, followed the Diffie-Hellman logic of public key system. *This concept gives an idea to a researcher in the field of cryptography of how to proceed when designing a new algorithm so that whoever reads the article can easily understand the value of the piece of*

2. Literature Survey Of Asymmetric Cryptosystem

Asymmetric Cryptography otherwise called as a Public Key Cryptography provides two keys. These two different keys are private key and public key. A public key can be given to anyone and a private key must be kept secret as the key in symmetric cryptography. This asymmetric cryptography has two primary use cases:

authentication and confidentiality. Using asymmetric cryptography, messages can be signed with a private key, and then anyone with the public key is able to verify that the message was created by someone possessing the corresponding private key. This can be combined with a proof of identity system to know the user, actually owns that private key, providing authentication.

Encryption with asymmetric cryptography works in a slightly different way from symmetric encryption. Someone with the public key is able to encrypt a message, providing confidentiality, and then only the person in possession of the private key is able to decrypt it and these processes are depicted in figure. Figure-2.

Based on these asymmetric concepts, various algorithms are introduced by several researchers. Some of the remarkable and noteworthy research works based on the asymmetric cryptosystem are reviewed, analysed and summarized in this section as follows.

research. The authors have concentrated on the privacy and security issues [Rivest *et al.*, 1978] and developed encryption and decryption algorithms with mathematical prime values. *However, the weakness of this algorithm is also discussed in the cryptanalytic approaches and proves how difficult it is to break the proposed RSA algorithm.*

Tather ElGamal sketched out Diffie-Hellman key exchange and designed an 'asymmetric key encryption algorithm using algebraic properties of modular exponentiation along with discrete logarithm'. In this algorithm, a private key is used to produce the digital signature for a message and a public key is used to verify the signer's digital signature [Elgamal, 1985]. This algorithm is referred to as ElGamal algorithm, which is then published in GNU Privacy Guard. *ElGamal cryptosystem is usually used in hybrid cryptosystems because it is little slower than the symmetric cryptosystems and hence not widely used.*

Victor Miller from IBM and Neil Koblitz from University of Washington designed and developed 'Elliptic Curve Cryptography' independently from two different places [Victor, 1986], [Koblitz, 1987]. The elliptic curve cryptography methods use the cubic curves that represent elliptic curves graphically. The equation of an elliptic curve is used to create the public key and the private key in a public key cryptographic system. A simple affine equation of an elliptic curve is $(y^2 = x^3 + ax + b)$. As the values of a and b varies, different curves are obtained. There are some

curves on which successful attack can take place in sub-exponential time. If identified these curves can be tested and avoided. These curves are called supersingular curves and anomalous curves and are declared by National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) of United States as not good for usage in cryptography.

Zheng *et al.* presented a distribution based *Elliptic Curve Public Key Cryptosystem* (ECPKC) by using the chord tangent group laws of Elliptic curve wherein the private keys are normal integers and the public keys are points on elliptic curve [Zheng *et al.*, 1993]. This is a small variation inserted and implemented by the authors in an algorithm.

Boneh *et al.* introduced 'Black Box Fields' (BBF) wherein these BBF contain the secrecy of an algorithm that makes it strong. It was believed by the author that any cryptographic algorithm can be broken in sub-exponential time. The authors also insist that the hardness of solving the elliptic curve or the hyperelliptic curve is the security of the Diffie-Hellman protocol beneath it. Thus the authors generalized this scenario of manipulating the BBF on the rationales as a hard factoring of integers [Boneh *et al.*, 1996].

Dawn *et al.* designed an algorithm to search and store encrypted files and documents by querying the database where the encrypted information is stored. The authors have classified the queries as (i) queries from authorized and (ii) queries from unauthorized users [Dawn *et al.*, 2000]. Their algorithm also supports hidden queries wherein the query is itself encrypted and then sends to the database server. The purpose of encrypting and storing the sensitive data is itself cracked with the notion of the authors; this paper is itself a cryptanalytic approach of the encryption done on the database. *It should be kept in mind that the search engine designed may break the entire cryptosystem on day or other.*

Wander *et al.* presented a proposal of 'Energy Analysis of Public-Key Cryptography for Wireless Sensor Networks' wherein the authors quantified the energy cost of key exchange and authentication of public key cryptographic systems using 8-bit microcontroller [Wander *et al.*, 2005]. They concluded that ECC is advantageous than RSA as ECC takes lesser computational time, amount of data transmitted is lesser and stored data is also small. *However, it is now a known fact that the public key systems have overheads based on the key size used.*

Liu *et al.* delivered a different approach of Diffie-Hellman Public Key Cryptosystem (DHA) by implementing the neural synaptic matrix after permutation as a public key and a random permutation operation on the neural synaptic matrix as secret

key using Java Program. The author tested for the feasibility and inferred that their algorithm is feasible with better performance for secure communication. This is based on the one-way function between the

chaotic attractors and the initial states of Overstorage Hopfield Neural Networks (OHNN) [Liu *et al.*, 2006]. The real time IPng secure communications could be done by using DHA. *However, the authors themselves are not sure if this could be implemented in situations of other new type of attacks and so left it for future enhancement.*

Silva *et al.* introduced a proposal of direct algorithm that was very simple and applied to the product of two different but equalized primes and was based on reversing the decimal digits of the modulus [Silva *et al.*, 2010]. *This algorithm required very less memory and was easily parallelized.*

Wu *et al.* with a goal of studying time-efficient and space-efficient algorithms like RSA cryptography and El-Gamal Cryptography have mused on the modular exponentiation algorithms that are of practical significance in folded substrings which then improve the efficiency of the binary algorithm, and reduce the computational complexity of modular exponentiation. *The author has made a detailed study on the mathematical concepts of modular arithmetic, Square-and-multiply binary method, signed-digit recoding method and Montgomery's reduction method and as it is time consuming because they involve repeated multiplications and scanning of bits in the plaintext [Wu *et al.*, 2012].*

Alese *et al.* performed a comparative study using time lapse for encryption, decryption, key generation and the encrypted data size of different public key cryptosystems like RSA, ElGamal Elliptical Curve Encryption and Menezes-Vanstone Elliptic curve algorithm [Alese *et al.*, 2012]. The implementation of all these three algorithms are discussed in detail and the authors themselves say that *these algorithms are used to eliminate the problems of primitive conventional methods but still they are not widely used as these algorithms are implemented with lots of overheads. ECC is widely used because it involves fewer overheads. So with no other go we are forced to accept ECC as there is no better algorithm to overcome these overheads with the same efficiency.*

Mandal *et al.* designed an algorithm by combining the Diffie-Hellman algorithm and the RSA algorithm to provide a higher level of security for data. They designed the algorithms for both small as well as large sized data by choosing a random key pair from the set of RSA keys and one randomly chosen secret key from Diffie-Hellman algorithm and then applied the RSA algorithm to the public components of Diffie-Hellman algorithm to make it more difficult for the eavesdropper to access. Again the authors have used only the key generation methods of RSA and DHA; and used these keys in the Symmetric algorithms and evaluated [Mandal *et al.*, 2013]. *All the under bench flaws of these algorithms still persists and is just as they wash the attacks on symmetric encryption algorithms still exist.*

Mohammed *et al.* have proposed *Advanced Encryption and Decryption Standard (AEDS)* by combining the properties of both AES and DES [Mohammed *et al.*, 2019]. The authors studied the encryption and decryption time of AES and DES and found that for a good cryptographic algorithm the encryption algorithm should take lesser time so that the hackers couldn't track the processing and the decryption algorithm should take long time as it should be difficult to break the ciphertext. These authors have made a comparative analysis of their proposed work, AEDS with AES and DES, on Windows, Linux-OS and MacOS machines for encryption, decryption. They considered different strings and different file sizes. They calculated average encryption time, and average decryption time, as the parameters for their comparison and prepared a comparison chart for each and every result obtained. Their comparative study concludes that brute force attack is nearly reduced than in AES and in DES. *However, Encryption and Decryption time for AEDS more robust and secure than in AES and in DES.*

Pradeep *et al.* have introduced an *Efficient Framework for Sharing a File in a Secure Manner using Asymmetric Key Distribution Management in Cloud Environment* [Pradeep *et al.*, 2019]. The data accessed or shared between various devices on the cloud environment which is likely to face many attacks like Identity Access Management (IAM), intruders hijacking a server or an account either internally or externally. Security is mainly resting on the key and every cloud provider takes more effort to protect the key. The authors proposed a new system wherein the exposure of keys and the framework is secured using a third party. The authors compared the new system using RSA, ElGamal and Paillier and suggested RSA as a better result. *The authors have used a third party code for providing security which can also be a threat to the entire cloud system.*

Khider *et al.* have introduced *Hybrid Cryptography and Steganography Method* to embed encrypted messages within an image, as a hybrid security

system where in the message to be transmitted is first encrypted to cipher text by using RSA algorithm [Khider *et al.*, 2019]. Then the produced cipher text is embedded into an 800x600 pixel image using the least significant bit insertion method. The authors took this invention as to give a new method of message hiding in a small application where the security is increased by combining two different message hiding techniques. The accuracy of the final embedded image is analyzed for accuracy using Mean Square Error (MSE) metric and Peak Signal to Noise Ratio (PSNR) metrics. A high PSNR value and a low MSE value prove that the message hiding is good and had not caused too much of drifts in the image. *The Key of RSA is itself huge in some situation wherein a smaller system is required; here in this system, the key of RSA is hidden in the image at the cost of more storage space, this is itself a drawback to implement their work.*

3. Hot Scenario Of Crypto System

In 1994 Peter Shor an American Mathematician invented an algorithm for integer factorization to find the factors of a given integer number N . This has become a threat to the field of cryptography as quantum computers that could work with sub-exponential time can function faster than expected. The Shor's algorithm is efficient in quantum Fourier transform and modular exponentiation by repeated squaring thus it is feasible to defeat RSA by constructing a large quantum computer. This has led to research in new crypto systems such that it is secure from quantum computers.

Due to the high speed in the processing of the quantum-computers the asymmetric-cryptography methods will be cracked and at the same time symmetric cryptographic methods will be able to withstand the quantum attack. This change in the scenario has divided the entire cryptography world into two parts as post-quantum cryptographic era and pre-quantum cryptographic era. Some of the post-quantum cryptographic supporting papers are as follows.

Bernstein *et al.* published a paper to ponder into the many commonly used crypto systems that break by the existence of large quantum computers. Post-quantum cryptography is cryptography world where it is assumed that the attacker has a large quantum computer and the post-quantum crypto systems fight hard to remain secure even in this situation [Bernstein, 2009]. The challenge for the young cryptographic researchers is that identifying a mathematical operation that could withstand the quantum algorithms. The major challenge is to meet the requirements for cryptographic usability and flexibility without compensating on confidence.

Jasmin *et al.* presented another approach of public key encryption algorithm which was meant to avoid long and complex computation of conventional popular algorithms. The authors made a detailed survey in the key generation mathematical foundation of each and every popular algorithm both symmetric and asymmetric algorithms, found that the public key cryptography scheme is really passive for three decades and finally concluded to leave the invention of a new algorithm to the hands of future researcher to generate a new algorithm that could solve the problems of all the available algorithms of cryptography [Jasmin *et al.*, 2018].

William *et al.* is a NIST authorised draft published to inform the public about the migration of cryptographic technologies to post-quantum cryptography after the standardization process is completed [William *et al.*, 2020]. Cryptographic technologies are used almost everywhere in industry and government to protect the confidentiality, authenticate the source and integrity of information that are stored and communicated. This paper also introduces adoption challenges associated with post-quantum cryptography after the standardization

process is completed. The authors explained how the cryptographic technologies get affected by the introduction of quantum computing including the popular and secure RSA public key cryptography. The authors also discussed the planning requirements for migration to post-quantum cryptography. In the conclusion the steps to help to migrate to post-quantum cryptography are given.

Fernández *et al.* concentrated on the current situation of post-quantum crypto systems and their application to block chains and Distributed Ledger Technologies (DLT) [Fernández *et al.*, 2020]. The most apt post-quantum block chain systems and their challenges are studied. A comparative analysis is done on the characteristics and performance of the most promising post-quantum public-key encryption and digital signatures for block chains. The article provides a broad view and good guidelines for post-quantum block chain security as an eye-opener for the future block chain developers and researchers.

Borges *et al.* the two major mathematical primitives that assure the security of cryptographic algorithm are Factorization problem and discrete logarithm problem [Borges *et al.*, 2020]. Shor's quantum algorithm easily breaks these problems and hence a necessity for a new cryptographic algorithm that could run on classical computers and are resistant to quantum computing arises. This area of research is called post-quantum cryptography and is usually dealt with asymmetric cryptography.

4. Issues And Challenges In Developing Post-

4.1. Quantum Cryptography

Post-quantum cryptography is the era where in the algorithms like Shor's algorithm came into the scene and made the attacking process also in the same way as the cryptographic algorithm was used. Now for every Quantum-cryptography there can be a Quantum computer to break this algorithm. This leads to a threat to the entire cryptographic world, which involves using complex mathematical calculations, mostly Asymmetric Public Key encryption. This issue is temporarily solved by using Quantum-key space where in the keys of the asymmetric public key cryptography are transmitted in the form of photons rather than binary digits. In this case if an eavesdropper tries to trap the photons it changes state and key will fail resulting in the loss of information to both the sender and the receiver too. This is leading cryptographic science to a new era of post-quantum cryptography. Post-Quantum cryptography (PQC) is algorithms that could resist the attacks from quantum computers.

With anticipated Quantum Computing, there are several issues and challenges to be addressed [Helena, 2020], [QT_Timeline_Report, 2019], [Naoyuki, 2019], [Ding et al., 2017].

Some of the major challenges are the (i) Key Size, (ii) Public Key Infrastructure, (iii) Devices in IoTs, (iv) Security Services, (v) Composite Keys and Signatures for Use in Internet PKI, (vi) Multiple Public-Key Algorithm X.509 Certificates, and (vii) Multi-Algorithm PKI and these are briefed below.

4.1.1 Key Size:

The key size is one of the major problems in post-quantum asymmetric cryptography where in a few thousands of bits long key is required to be used thus causing storage overhead.

4.1.2 Public Key Infrastructure:

Public key infrastructure (PKI) when used in public key cryptography it requires more bandwidth to communicate between the devices on the Internet.

4.1.3 Devices in IoTs

Nowadays edge computing and IoTs have become more ubiquitous, and creates a major challenge where the edge devices with limited computing and power processing facilities are prone to quantum attacks. Rambus a standardising organization for electrical and electronic devices believe that security becomes hardware dependent rather than software driven.

4.1.4 Security Services

The mathematical algorithms in the classical and quantum cryptosystems are not well studied yet so the possibilities to attack on the unread methods are easily possible.

4.1.5 Composite Keys and Signatures for Use in Internet PKI

The entry of post-quantum cryptography has led to the necessity to assign different structures for holding composite public keys in different algorithms. This is because the trustworthiness of the individual post-quantum algorithm is not assured.

4.1.6 Multiple Public-Key Algorithm X.509 Certificates:

This document describes a method of embedding alternative sets of cryptographic materials into X.509v3 digital certificates, X.509v2 Certificate Revocation Lists (CRLs), and PKCS #10 Certificate Signing Requests (CSRs). The embedded alternative cryptographic materials allow a Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) to use multiple cryptographic algorithms in a single object and allow it to transition to the new cryptographic algorithms while maintaining backwards compatibility with systems using the existing algorithms. Three X.509 extensions and three PKCS #10 attributes are defined, and the signing and verification procedures for the alternative cryptographic material contained in the extensions and attributes are detailed.

4.1.7 Multi-Algorithm PKI:

Hybridized cryptography is compelled by Post-quantum community (for example, surrounding the NIST PQC competition) that combines RSA/ECC with new

primitives in order to hedge the challenge against both quantum adversaries.

5. Observations And Inferences

Even though message hiding exists from the Palaeolithic age as Egyptian hieroglyphs, Mesopotamia's clay tablets, Cryptography a science of secret messaging came into existence when substitution and transposition of letters of message came into existence.

The Caesar Cipher, Vigenere algorithm, led to secret transmission of messages during the World War II as Germany's Enigma machine and Japanese's M-1 machine, where machines were used to substitute and transposition the letters of the message.

Later the modern cryptography where in the keys were used to digitally gibberish the readable plain text there were plenty of symmetric cryptographic methods where same key was used to encrypt and decrypt a message.

Later a revolution in the field of crypto science evolved from Diffie-Hellman Algorithm (DHA), RSA and ECC. The DHA algorithm is a key exchange algorithm that worked in a public network. Using the concepts of DHA, RSA was invented as a new era of public key cryptography systems such as Pretty Good Privacy (PGP). ECC is also a predecessor of DHA where the keys are generated by affine elliptic curves. These algorithms worked with strength of difficulty in Factorization, discrete logarithmic problem and elliptic-curve discrete logarithm problem.

Brute force is an ineffective attacking method of collapsing most forms of cryptography methods with a patience of waiting till the key space is exhausted.

Man-in-the-middle attacks could break the cryptographic algorithm. Using simple passphrases and passwords as secret keys in cryptographic algorithms can result in adverse effects, and improperly stored private and public key can cripple the entire cryptosystem.

Conceptual computer that could work on algorithms used in quantum mechanics are called quantum computers. By the invention of Shor's algorithm the quantum computers were able to break the toughness of the asymmetric algorithms. This has become a threat to the world of cryptography.

NIST started the Open Quantum Safe (OQS) Project in the late 2016 to fight against attacks called post-quantum cryptography with potentially quantum safe cryptographic algorithms.

Hence, there is a potential need to face post-quantum attacks and rethink of a new kind of secured crypto system other than Symmetric / Asymmetric / Hashing Crypto System that will work with quantum computing and classical computing as well. Designing a new set of encryption/decryption algorithms, the following parameters are to be considered;

- *Current key sizes and hardware/software limits on future key sizes and signature sizes*
- *The key size used in the existing system, hardware and software resource limits and future possibilities of the key sizes and signature sizes*
- *Threshold of throughput and latency*
- *Protocols and procedures used for crypto mechanisms negotiation*
- *Existing handshake rules and key establishment procedures*
- *The place of execution of cryptographic process in the stack*
- *The method of calling and activating the cryptographic process (using a function included in the operating system or calling a new application, or using cryptography as a service)*
- *Identify the owner(s), supplier(s) or standardizer(s) of the hardware or software process*
- *Generation Source(s) of keys and its certificates*
- *Legal conditions and contractual applied on and by the supplier(s)*
- *Reason for migration from existing system to new system.*

6. Conclusion

The cryptography techniques discussed in this paper give a clear idea that the current available cryptographic methods are becoming bizarre, is like a new wine in the old wine skin. Hence a new methodology to meet the current

situation, to survive the attacks from a quantum computer must be generated.

During the post-quantum standardization a new wine skin is required to hold the new wine. Adding plug-in to the existing crypto algorithms to generate quantum resistant cryptosystem will be an interesting journey for both cryptographers and practitioners.

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