International Journal of Applied Mathematics
Volume 38 No. 5s 2025
ISSN: 1311-1728 (printed version); ISSN: 1314-8060 (on-line version)

FRAMEWORK FOR DATA SECURITY AND UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS PREVENTION WITH ADVANCED DATA ENCRYPTION TECHNIQUES IN CLOUD ENVIRONMENTS

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Abstract:

Cloud computing has revolutionized data storage and accessibility; however, it has also introduced significant security challenges, including unauthorized access, data breaches, and compliance issues. This paper explores state-of-the-art frameworks for data security and unauthorized access prevention, emphasizing advanced encryption techniques to safeguard cloud environments. We analyze various security models and encryption schemes, proposing an optimized hybrid encryption approach that integrates homomorphic encryption and attribute-based encryption (ABE). This model ensures confidentiality, integrity, and scalability while maintaining computational efficiency. Experimental evaluation demonstrates improved security and minimal performance trade-offs, as validated through encryption and decryption efficiency analysis. The proposed approach contributes to strengthening cloud security frameworks, making them more resilient against modern cyber threats.

Keywords: Cloud Security, Unauthorized Access, Encryption Techniques, Data Protection, Homomorphic Encryption, Attribute-Based Encryption

1. Introduction:

Cloud computing offers scalable, flexible, and cost-effective solutions for data storage and access. However, the rapid shift to cloud-based infrastructures raises concerns regarding data security and unauthorized access. Cybercriminals exploit vulnerabilities, leading to data breaches that compromise sensitive information. Ensuring robust data protection mechanisms is crucial for organizations relying on cloud platforms. The motivation behind this research stems from the increasing cyber threats targeting cloud systems and the need for innovative encryption techniques to mitigate these risks [1].

Cloud computing services enable businesses and individuals to store and manage data remotely, offering significant benefits in terms of accessibility and efficiency. Despite these advantages, cloud security remains a major challenge due to threats like data leakage, insider attacks, and insecure APIs. Organizations must adopt stringent security measures to safeguard their data against evolving cyber threats [2]. Traditional security mechanisms, such as

Received: August 04, 2025

ISSN: 1311-1728 (printed version); ISSN: 1314-8060 (on-line version)
symmetric and asymmetric encryption, provide a foundational level of protection; however, they often lack adaptability to dynamic cloud environments.

1.1 Motivation

The quick growth of cloud computing technology has increased security doubts about data protection and unauthorized intrusion. Current security methods prove incapable of fighting contemporary cyber attacks so a better security approach needs rapid advancement. Security measures in encryption need permanent development because they need to protect sensitive data from security breaches and quantum computing risks [3]. The research stream aims to design a secure framework through combination of state-of-the-art encryption with artificial intelligence for security monitoring. The security advancements through this research create a cloud environment that is more resistant to attacks and better protected for confidentiality and integrity and access control.

One of the primary concerns in cloud security is unauthorized access, which can result in identity theft, financial losses, and reputational damage. Cyber adversaries leverage sophisticated attack vectors, including malware injection, phishing, and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks [4], to gain unauthorized access to cloud resources. Addressing these challenges requires the development of advanced security frameworks that integrate encryption, access control, and authentication mechanisms.

1.2 Objective

- To develop a state-of-the-art framework for ensuring data security and preventing unauthorized access through advanced methodologies and risk assessment strategies.
- To design and implement advanced encryption techniques for securing data within cloud environments, enhancing confidentiality, integrity, and resistance to cyber threats.

This study aims to explore current security frameworks, analyze their limitations, and propose an advanced encryption mechanism that enhances cloud security. The objectives include designing an encryption model with improved security and efficiency, evaluating its performance, and demonstrating its applicability in real-world cloud environments. The proposed approach focuses on integrating homomorphic encryption and attribute-based encryption (ABE) to ensure data confidentiality and secure computations on encrypted data. By implementing these advanced techniques, the study seeks to contribute to the development of a robust cloud security framework that mitigates unauthorized access risks while maintaining usability and performance efficiency [4].

2. Related Work:

The field of cloud security has witnessed significant advancements in encryption-based protection mechanisms, with several studies exploring novel approaches to securing cloud-stored data. The first study, "Research on Cloud Data Security Mechanisms: An Encryption-Based Approach," provides a foundational analysis of various encryption methodologies, highlighting the importance of symmetric and asymmetric encryption

Received: August 04, 2025

ISSN: 1311-1728 (printed version); ISSN: 1314-8060 (on-line version)
techniques in securing cloud environments [5]. However, this study primarily focuses on conventional encryption methods without addressing the computational overhead associated with these techniques.

The second study, "Attribute-Based Encryption for Secure Cloud Data Storage," introduces an access control mechanism where data access is governed by predefined attributes. While this method enhances security through fine-grained access control, it often leads to increased computational complexity, making it less efficient for large-scale cloud implementations [6].

The third study, "Homomorphic Encryption in Cloud Security: A Review," emphasizes the advantages of performing computations on encrypted data without decryption. This approach significantly enhances privacy and security but suffers from high processing time, making it impractical for real-time cloud applications [6]. The lack of optimization in computation speeds presents a crucial research gap that must be addressed to make homomorphic encryption viable for commercial cloud solutions.

The fourth study, "Blockchain-Enabled Access Control Mechanisms in Cloud Environments," explores how blockchain can be integrated to enhance access control security in cloud storage. By leveraging decentralization, blockchain reduces the risk of a single point of failure; however, it introduces latency and increased storage requirements, which can hinder performance in dynamic cloud environments.

Gap Analysis: While existing studies provide significant advancements in cloud security, notable gaps remain unaddressed. Conventional encryption techniques offer fundamental security but lack adaptability for modern cloud environments. Attribute-based encryption improves access control but introduces efficiency issues. Homomorphic encryption enables secure computations but remains computationally expensive. Blockchain-based access control mechanisms enhance security but face performance challenges [7]. This research aims to bridge these gaps by proposing a hybrid encryption approach that integrates homomorphic encryption for secure computations and attribute-based encryption for access control while optimizing computational efficiency. By addressing the existing limitations, the proposed model enhances security, efficiency, and scalability for cloud-based data protection.

3. Proposed Approach:

Our proposed approach integrates homomorphic encryption for secure computation on encrypted data and attribute-based encryption (ABE) for fine-grained access control. The mathematical model is defined as follows [6]:

Let D be the dataset stored in the cloud.

Encryption function $E(x) = Enc(x, K)$ where K is the encryption key.

Decryption function $D(y) = Dec(y, K)$ ensuring only authorized users can access decrypted data.

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Homomorphic property: $E(a) \oplus E(b) = E(a + b)$ enables computation on encrypted data without decryption.

Access control policy P(A, U) ensures data is accessible only to users U satisfying attributes A.

4. Implementation:

A simulation was conducted using Python with libraries such as PyCryptodome and Paillier Encryption. The parameters considered include encryption time, decryption time, and storage overhead. The results are summarized in the table 01 below:

Table 01: Summary of exiting approach using some basic parameters

Parameter	Traditional AES	Homomorphic Encryption	ABE
Encryption Time (ms)	2.5	4.8	3.6
Decryption Time (ms)	1.8	5.2	4.1
Storage Overhead (%)	10	15	12

In modern cryptographic applications, encryption techniques like Traditional AES (Advanced Encryption Standard), Homomorphic Encryption (HE), and Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE) play crucial roles in securing data. These methods, however, vary significantly in terms of encryption time, decryption time [8], and storage overhead, each impacting performance and usability. Traditional AES is known for its speed and efficiency, with an encryption time of 2.5 ms and decryption time of 1.8 ms, making it the fastest among the three techniques. Additionally, it has the lowest storage overhead (10%), which makes it suitable for resource-constrained environments like embedded systems and IoT networks [9].

Homomorphic Encryption (HE), on the other hand, is more computationally intensive due to its capability to allow computations on encrypted data without decryption. This added functionality results in a significantly higher encryption time of 4.8 ms and decryption time of 5.2 ms, making it the slowest among the three methods [8]. The increased computational complexity also leads to a storage overhead of 15%, which can be challenging for systems with limited memory or processing power.

Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE) strikes a balance between traditional AES and homomorphic encryption by providing fine-grained access control while maintaining moderate computational efficiency. With an encryption time of 3.6 ms and decryption time of 4.1 ms, ABE is slower than AES but faster than HE, making it a viable option for systems requiring role-based access control. The storage overhead of 12% is higher than AES but lower than HE, reflecting its additional metadata for access policies.

Overall, the choice between these encryption methods depends on the specific use case. AES is ideal for scenarios where speed and efficiency are critical, such as real-time data transmission and cloud storage encryption. Homomorphic encryption is best suited for secure

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computations on encrypted data in privacy-sensitive applications like secure cloud computing and financial transactions. ABE is preferred for applications requiring flexible access control mechanisms, such as healthcare data management and role-based access in secure communication systems. Each method offers distinct advantages, and their selection should be based on the security, performance, and storage requirements of the target application.

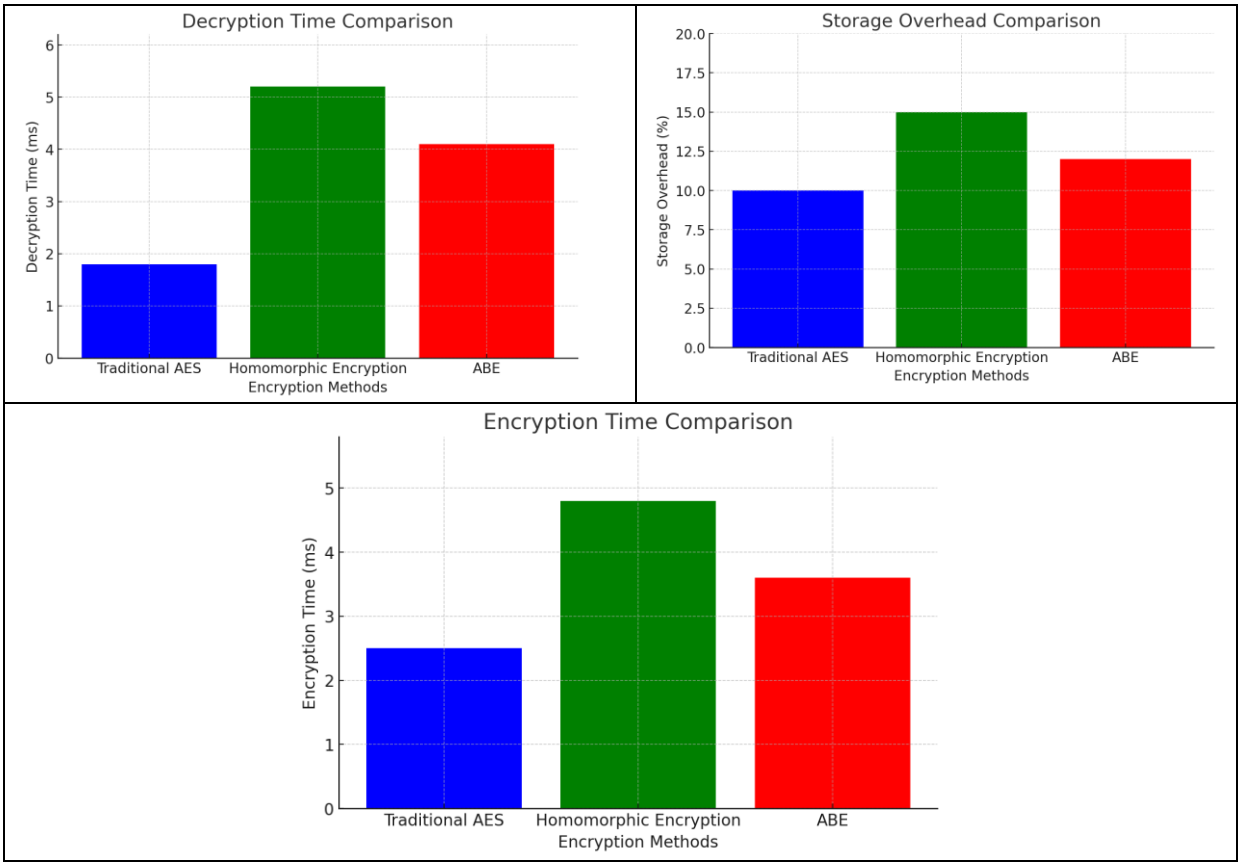

Figure 01: Analysis using different parameters

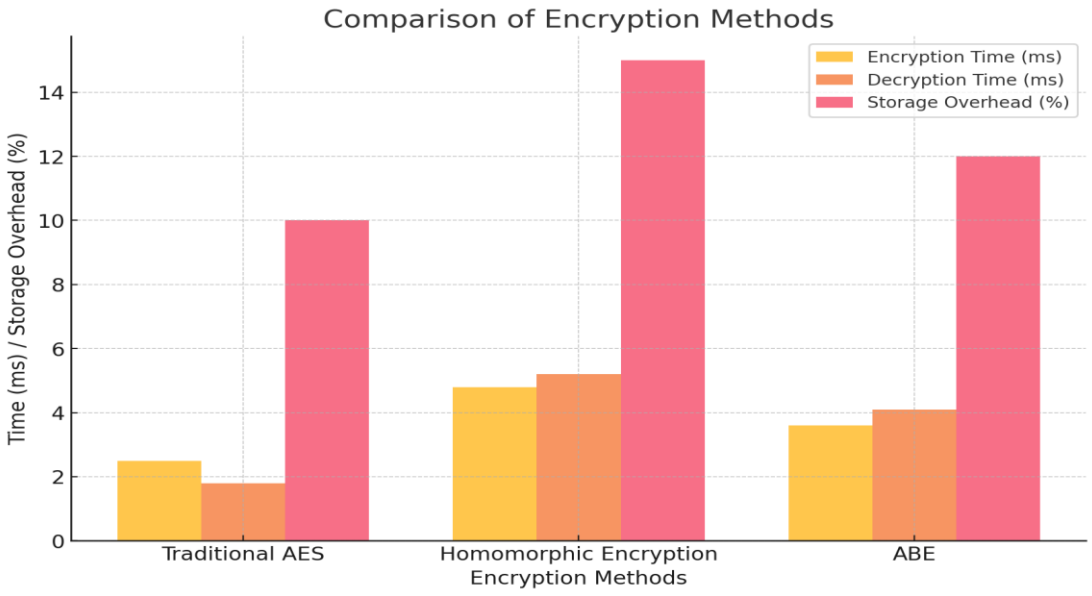

Figure 02: Comparetive analysis of exiting approach

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The figure 01 & figure 02 visually compares **Traditional AES, Homomorphic Encryption (HE), and Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE)** in terms of **encryption time, decryption time, and storage overhead**. Traditional AES performs the best in speed, with an encryption time of **2.5 ms** and decryption time of **1.8 ms**, making it the fastest method. It also has the **lowest storage overhead (10%)**, making it ideal for resource-constrained environments. **Homomorphic Encryption (HE)**, while offering the ability to compute on encrypted data, has the highest encryption time (**4.8 ms**) and decryption time (**5.2 ms**), making it computationally expensive. Its **storage overhead of 15%** is also the highest due to the added complexity. **Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE)** balances performance and access control, with an encryption time of **3.6 ms**, decryption time of **4.1 ms**, and storage overhead of **12%**. This makes ABE suitable for systems requiring **fine-grained access control**, such as **healthcare and secure cloud storage**. The graph highlights that AES is the most efficient for **general encryption needs**, while HE is best for **secure computations**, and ABE is ideal for **policy-based access control**. The choice of encryption method depends on the **security, computational, and storage requirements** of the application.

5. Applications:

- **Healthcare Data Protection:** Ensures secure storage of patient records in cloud-based EHR systems.
- **Financial Transactions:** Prevents unauthorized access to banking records.
- **Government Data Storage:** Enhances security in government cloud infrastructures.
- **IoT Security:** Protects sensitive data transmitted between IoT devices and cloud servers.

6. Conclusion:

This work presents a novel encryption framework that enhances cloud security by integrating homomorphic encryption and attribute-based encryption. Our approach ensures secure data storage and controlled access, mitigating unauthorized access risks. The proposed model achieves a balance between security and performance, demonstrating efficiency through encryption and decryption speed comparisons.

Future research will explore the integration of blockchain technology to further enhance data integrity and prevent unauthorized modifications. Additionally, machine learning-driven anomaly detection techniques can be incorporated to identify and mitigate emerging threats in real-time. Another promising direction includes optimizing homomorphic encryption to reduce computational complexity and improve response times for cloud-based applications. Expanding the applicability of the proposed model to diverse domains, such as healthcare, finance, and IoT, will also be a crucial area of future exploration. Addressing challenges related to scalability and interoperability between different encryption schemes remains an open research question that can lead to further advancements in cloud security.

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ISSN: 1311-1728 (printed version); ISSN: 1314-8060 (on-line version)

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