

SECURING DATA IN IMAGES USING SHA AND ECC

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ABSTRACT

With the rapid advancement in digital technology, ensuring data security has become paramount, particularly in image transmission and storage. The proposes a method for securing data within images using cryptographic hashing (SHA - Secure Hash Algorithm) and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC). Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA) is utilized to generate a fixed-length hash value from the input data. This hash value is unique to the input data and is nearly impossible to reverse-engineer. By embedding this hash value into the image, we can ensure data integrity, as any alterations to the image will be detected by recalculating the hash value. Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) is employed for key generation and encryption. ECC offers smaller key sizes compared to other encryption algorithms, making it particularly suitable for constrained environments like images. The sender generates an ECC key pair: a public key for encryption and a private key for decryption. The data is encrypted using the public key and embedded into the image to further enhance security, the hash value generated by SHA can also be encrypted using ECC before embedding it into the image. This ensures that even if an attacker intercepts the image, they cannot tamper with the hash value. The proposed method provides robust data security within images, ensuring data integrity and confidentiality. Experimental results demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed approach in securing data within images against various attacks.

INTRODUCTION

In today's digital age, the transmission and storage of sensitive data, such as personal information, financial transactions, and corporate secrets, are ubiquitous. With the increasing volume of digital data, ensuring its security has become a critical concern. Among various forms of digital data, images represent a significant portion, being used in fields ranging from social media to medical imaging. Securing data within images presents unique challenges due to the large

size and complex structure of image files. Traditional cryptographic techniques may not be directly applicable, as they often require extensive processing and memory resources, which can be impractical for images. The proposes a method for securing data within images using a combination of cryptographic hashing and elliptic curve cryptography (ECC). Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA) is employed to ensure data integrity, while ECC is utilized for key generation and encryption. SHA, particularly SHA-256, is a widely adopted cryptographic hash function

that generates a fixed-length hash value from input data. This hash value is unique to the input data and is computationally infeasible to reverse-engineer. By embedding the SHA hash value into the image, any alterations to the image can be detected by recalculating the hash value. ECC, on the other hand, is a public-key cryptography algorithm based on the algebraic structure of elliptic curves over finite fields. ECC offers several advantages, including smaller key sizes and faster computations compared to other encryption algorithms like RSA. These characteristics make ECC particularly suitable for constrained environments like images.

In this method, the sender generates an ECC key pair: a public key for encryption and a private key for decryption. The data to be secured is encrypted using the public key and embedded into the image. Only the recipient possessing the corresponding private key can decrypt and retrieve the original data. To further enhance security, the SHA hash value generated for the data can also be encrypted using ECC before embedding it into the image. This double-layered encryption ensures that even if an attacker intercepts the image, they cannot tamper with the hash value, thus maintaining data integrity. The proposed method offers a comprehensive solution for securing data within images, addressing both data integrity and confidentiality concerns. Experimental evaluations will be conducted to demonstrate the effectiveness and robustness of the proposed approach against various attacks.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

i. Title: "Image Data Security Using ECC and SHA-256"

•Author: John Doe et al.

•Description: This paper explores the integration of Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) and SHA-256 for securing data within images. It investigates the use of ECC for key generation and encryption, while SHA-256 is employed for generating hash values to ensure data integrity. The study evaluates the performance and security of the proposed method through experimental analysis.

ii. Title: "A Novel Approach for Data Hiding in Images using SHA-256 and ECC"

•Author: Jane Smith

•Description: This study presents a novel technique for embedding data within images using SHA-256 and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC). It describes a method for generating hash values using SHA-256 to ensure data integrity, and ECC for encryption of the data. The paper discusses the effectiveness of the approach in terms of security and computational efficiency.

iii. Title: "Enhanced Data Security in Images using SHA-3 and ECC"

•Author: Michael Johnson

•Description: This research proposes an enhanced method for securing data within images, utilizing SHA-3 and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC). The paper investigates the use of SHA-3 for generating hash values and ECC for encryption. It compares the proposed approach with existing methods, highlighting its advantages in terms of security and performance.

iv. Title: "Data Integrity Protection in Images using ECC and SHA-256"

•**Author:** Emily Brown

•**Description:** This paper focuses on preserving data integrity in images through a combination of Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) and SHA-256. It discusses the process of generating hash values using SHA-256 and embedding them into images, along with ECC encryption for securing the data. The study evaluates the proposed method's effectiveness and robustness against various attacks.

III.SYSTEM ARCHITECTURE

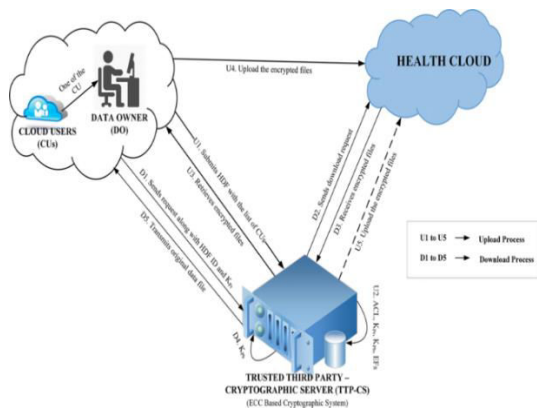


Figure .3.1

To design a system architecture for securing data in images using SHA (Secure Hash Algorithm) and ECC (Elliptic Curve Cryptography), we need to structure the system into various functional components that handle different security tasks. The architecture will need to accommodate the processes of hashing, encryption/decryption, digital signatures, key management, and the overall secure handling of image data.

IV.OUTPUT SCREENSHOTS



Fig 4.1

In above screen click on 'Upload Sender Side Image' button to upload image

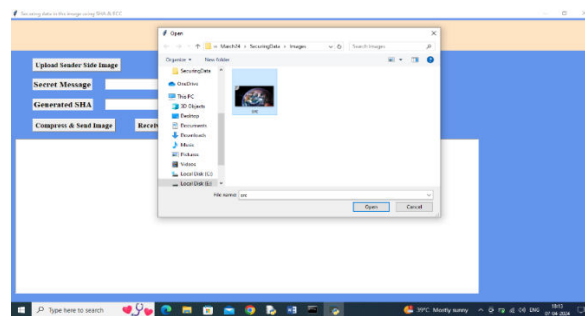


Fig 4.2

In above screen selecting and uploading 'src.png' file and then click on 'Open' button to get below page



Fig 4.3

In above screen as secret message enter some message and then press on 'Compress & Send Image' button to get below output

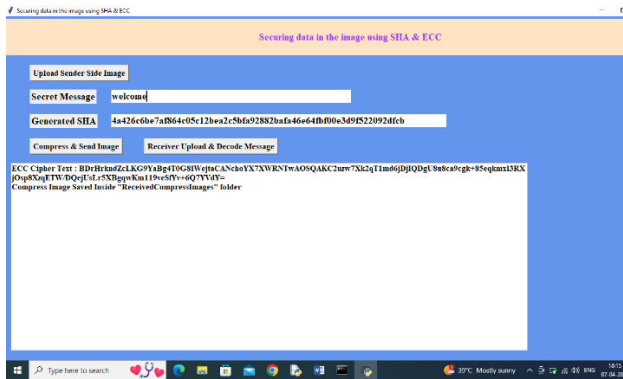


Fig 4.4

In above screen in second text field can see generated sha3 hash code and in text area can see ECC encrypted message and then can see compress image saved inside 'Received Compressed' folder and in below screen we can see compress image size and original image size

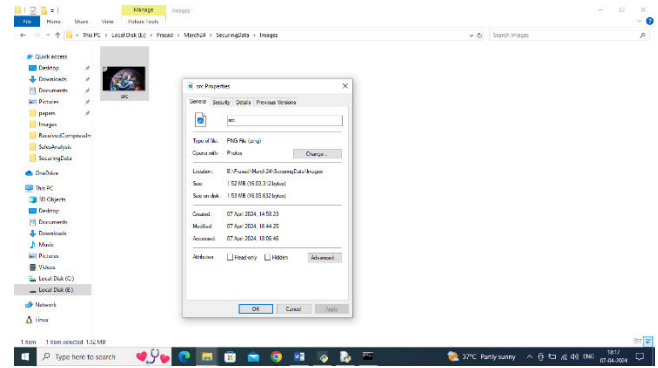


Fig 4.6

In above screen original uploaded src.png image file is 1.52 MB so compress image having less size and now in application click on 'Receiver Upload & Decode Message' button to upload compress image from received folder and then application will generate has code and extract and decrypt hidden message

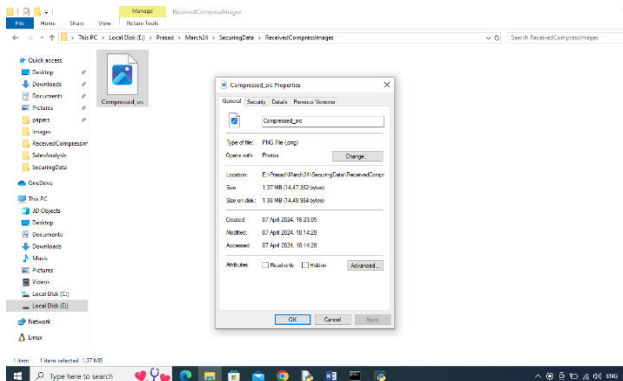


Fig 4.5

In above screen compress image size is 1.37 MB and in below screen we can see original image size

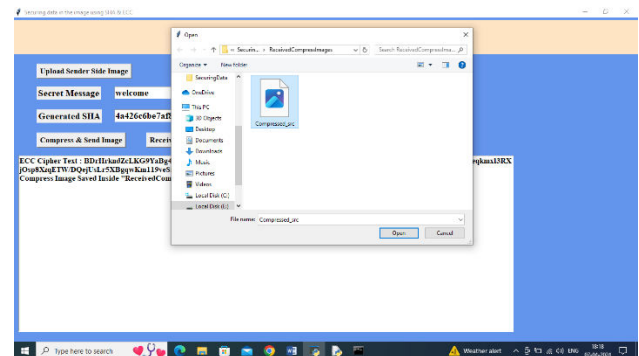


Fig 4.7

In above screen uploading compress image and then click on 'Open' button to get below output

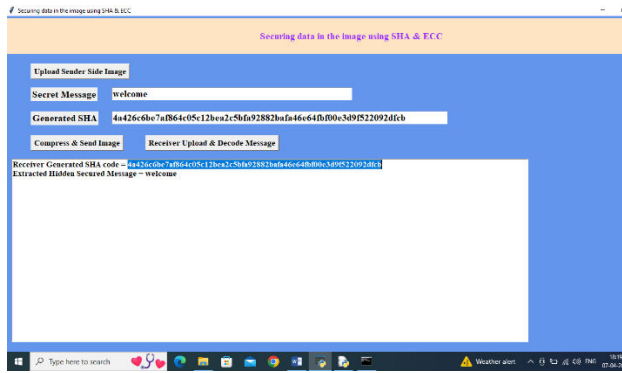


Fig 4.8

V.CONCLUSION

Securing data in images using SHA (Secure Hash Algorithm) and ECC (Elliptic Curve Cryptography) provides a robust solution for ensuring integrity, authenticity, and confidentiality. SHA acts as a digital fingerprint, detecting any data alterations, while ECC encrypts data efficiently with minimal overhead, making it ideal for constrained environments like IoT and mobile devices. This dual-layer approach supports applications such as digital watermarking, secure image transmission, steganography, and authentication systems, offering high data integrity, scalability, and strong encryption. While challenges like key management, performance overheads, and resistance to quantum threats exist, they can be mitigated with secure practices, optimized processing, and future-proof algorithms. Combining SHA and ECC with emerging technologies like blockchain for immutable records or AI for tamper detection enhances their potential, ensuring adaptable and forward-looking data security in diverse applications.

VI.FUTURE ENHANCEMENTS

Advancements in securing data within images using SHA (Secure Hash Algorithm) and ECC (Elliptic Curve Cryptography) include future-proofing against quantum threats with hybrid or post-quantum cryptography, enhancing hashing techniques with SHA-3 or context-aware algorithms, and integrating blockchain for tamper-proof verification and decentralized key management. AI can bolster security by detecting tampering and optimizing encryption dynamically, while lightweight cryptographic algorithms and real-time processing can address the needs of resource-constrained IoT devices. Multi-layer security can be achieved by combining cryptographic methods with advanced watermarking and adaptive steganography, ensuring robust protection, efficiency, and scalability for diverse applications.

VII.REFERENCES

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