

ANALYSIS OF TEXT FILES ENCRYPTION-DECRYPTION METHODS

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Text file may contain secret or personal data which needs protection from hacking and preventing reading it by any third party. In this paper research we will introduce a symmetric method of text file encryption-decryption. This method will use a huge color image as a private key allowing us to encrypt-decrypt text files with large sizes by increasing the level of security because it is impossible to guess the image. The proposed method will be implemented and the obtained experimental results will be compared to DES and AES methods of encryption to prove the efficiency and security of the proposed method.

Keywords:

Text file, private key, encryption, decryption, MSE, PSNR, throughput, DES, AES.

INTRODUCTION

A **text file** is a computer file that only contains text and has no special formatting such as bold text, italic text, images. The text file is organized into a group of lines; each line ends with a new line (carriage return and line feed (10 and 13 ASCII code)). The text file may be confidential and contain highly confidential information, or it may contain personal information which requires preventing any unauthorized person from viewing, reading, or understanding it. And to protect the text file from intruders, the encryption process is used to destroy the file completely so that it becomes unreadable, and the decryption process is to return the text file to its original status without losing any part of the information[23],[40]. [41].

Many methods based on data encryption standard (DES) and advanced encryption standard (AES) methods are used for text file encryption-decryption [16], [17]. These methods are symmetric by using the same private key by both the text sender and receiver. The text file is to be divided into fixed size blocks; each block is to be encrypted-decrypted separately using private key. These methods provide a good level of data security, but they can be hacked [18], [19]. [20].

In this paper research we will introduce a new method of text file encryption-decryption based on using a selected a huge color image as a private key, this image will be kept in secret by the sender and receiver[21], [22], [23].

The digital color image is represented by a three-dimensional matrix [1], [2], [3], where the first dimension is used to represent the red color and the second dimension is used to represent the green color, and the third dimension is used to represent the blue color, figure 1 shows Petra city image and the associated histogram as an example of RGB [6], [7], [8].

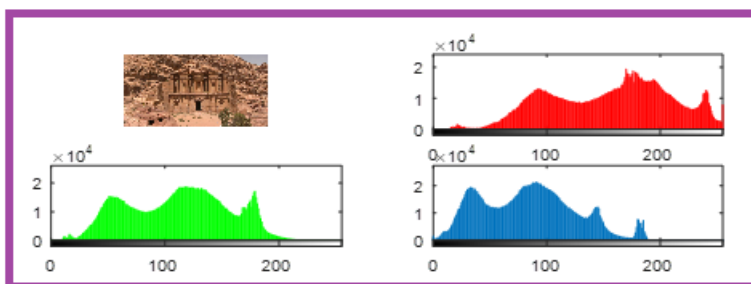


Figure 1: Color image example and histograms[4], [5]

Digital images are one of the most common types of data circulating through many social media[15], which facilitates the process of obtaining them and using them for various purposes, especially in the encryption and decryption process. The reasons for using the digital image in encoding and decoding can be summarized as follows:

- ✓ Ease of obtaining the digital image and the lowest costs[9].
- ✓ Ease of digital image processing. The large size of the digital image allows it to be used as a hard-to-crack key in the encryption and decryption process[10].
- ✓ The possibility of using part or parts of the image to form the private key.
- ✓ The image contains a large number of pixels with values ranging from zero to 255, which cover the ASCII code for all the symbols that the text file can contain. Ease of preserving the digital color image at the sender and receiver[11], [12].
- ✓ The ability to change the digital image and use an alternative image whenever the need arises[13], [14].

The process of encryption-decryption as shown in figure 2 must meet the following requirements[24], [25], [26]:

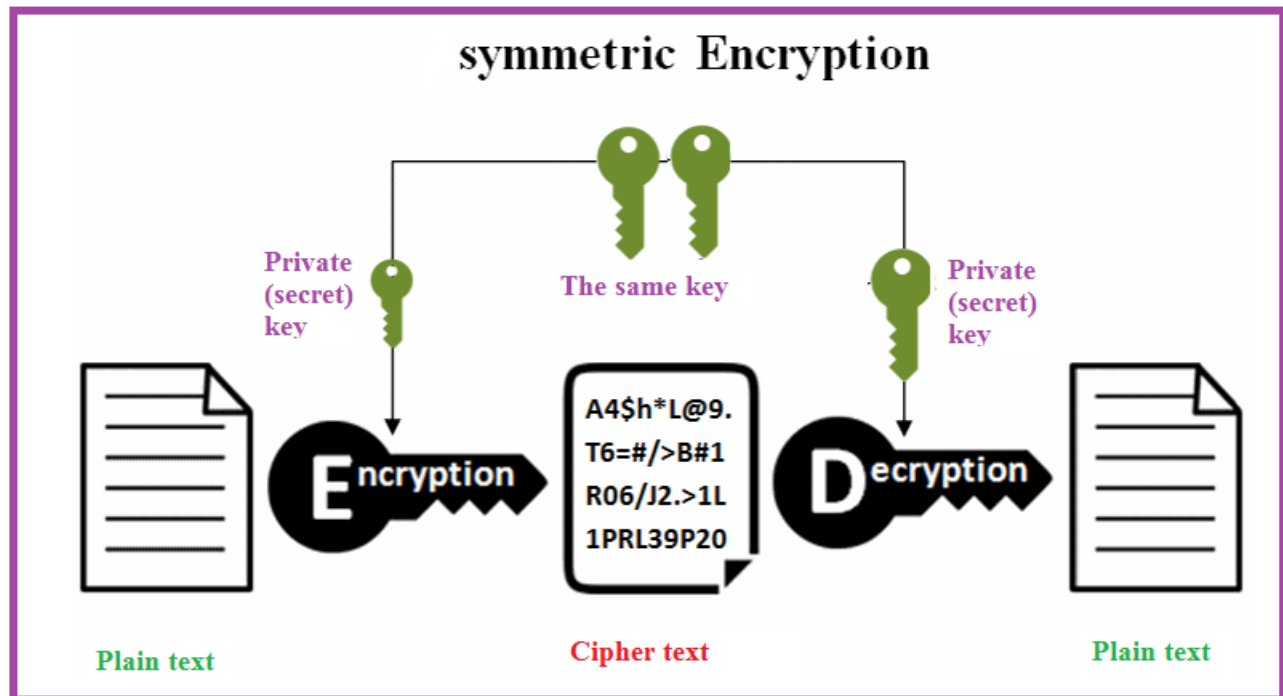


Figure 2: Encryption_decryption process

- The encryption process must destroy the source text file(plain text) making it unreadable for any hacker[39], [40], so the mean square error (MSE) between the plain text and the encrypted one must very high, or the peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR) [41], [42]between the two files must be very low[27], [28].
- The decryption process must retrieve or recover the source text file(plain text), so the mean square error (MSE) between the plain text and the decrypted one must be equal zero, or the peak signal to noise ratio (PSNR) between the two files must be infinite [29], [30], [31].
- The private key must be large, so it can not be guessed by any third part [32], [34], [35].
- The efficiency must be very high by providing a high throughput(maximizing the number of bytes encrypted or decrypted in a unit of time)[[36], [37], [38].

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The proposed method of image encryption_decryption

The proposed method for encryption(as shown in figure 3) can be implemented applying the following steps:

- 1) Select a color image to be used as a private key.
- 2) Get the text file.
- 3) Reshape the text file to one row matrix.
- 4) Reshape the image to one row matrix.
- 5) From the image extract a private key with length equal text file length.
- 6) Apply XORing of text file and private key to get the encrypted text file.

The decryption phase can be implemented applying the following steps:

- 1) Get the color image (key).
- 2) Get the encrypted text file.
- 3) Reshape the encrypted text file to one row matrix.
- 4) Reshape the image to one row matrix.
- 5) From the image extract a private key with length equal encrypted text file length.
- 6) Apply XORing of encrypted text file and private key to get the decrypted text file.

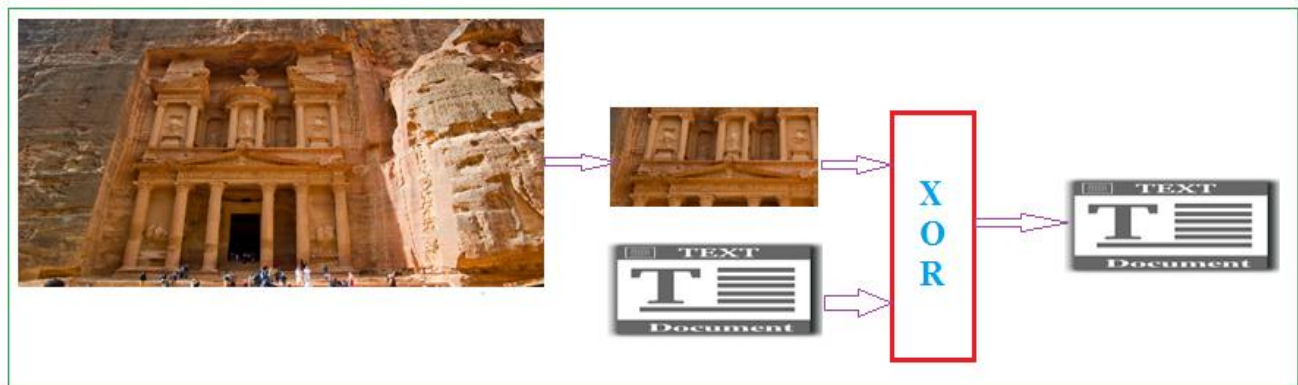


Figure 3: Proposed method(encryption phase)

Implementation and experimental results

Jordan Petra city image was selected to be used as a private key, the image size is equal $1080 * 1920 * 3 = 6220800 = 6.2$ MB, this image can be used to encrypt-decrypt text files with sizes up to 6 Mbyte(characters).

Deffirent test files with deffirent sizes were encrypted decrypted using this image, table 1 shows the obtained experimental results:

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Table 1: Obtained experimental results

Text file size(byte)	Encryption time(seconds)	PSNR	MSE
3200	0.002618	19.5171	9.2355e+03
6400	0.002681	19.5263	9.2271e+03
25600	0.002905	19.7619	9.0122e+03
51200	0.001688	19.8752	8.9107e+03
102400	0.003379	19.9581	8.8372e+03
204800	0.004499	19.8487	8.9344e+03
409600	0.007618	19.6467	9.1166e+03
819200	0.010761	19.5026	9.2490e+03
1638400	0.025769	19.6123	9.1480e+03
3276800	0.027672	19.7627	9.0115e+03
Average: 653760	0.0090	Throughput=72640000 byte per second= 72640 KB persecond	

From table 1 we can see the following facts:

- The MSE values between the original text file and the encrypted one are always very high, which mean that the encryption process destroyed the original text file.
- The PSNR values between the original text file and the encrypted one are always small, which mean that the encryption process destroyed the original text file.
- The decrypted text file was identical with the original text file (MSE always zero and PSNR always infinit).
- The average throughput is very high comparing with DES and AES throughputs(see table 2), which means that the proposed method is very efficient.
- The proposed method is very secure because it uses a huge secret image as a key, and it is impossible to guess the key.

Table 2: DES and AES results

Input size(KB)	DES	AES
15	3.8	5.07
30	7.5	17.09
45	8.5	1.96
60	8.8	22.91
75	9.33	29.99
90	10.7	38.15
Average time	8.105	22.195
KB/sec	27.76	10.13

Figure 4 shows the relationship between the text file size and the encryption time, from this figure we can see that the encryption time is slowly increasing when rapidly increasing text file size.

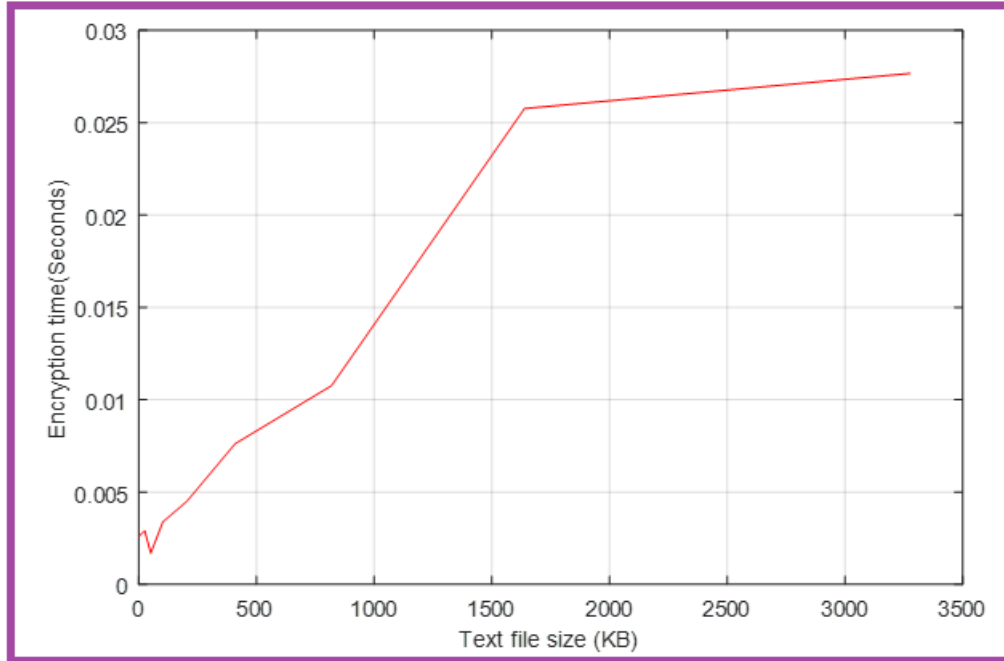


Figure 4: Encryption time as a function of text file size.

Table 3 shows comparisons between the proposed method features and DES and AES features.

Table 3: Comparisons with DES and AES

Feature	DES	AES	Proposed
Type	Symmetric	Symmetric	Symmetric
Data block size	Fixed	Fixed	Variable
Private key length	Fixed	Fixed	Variable
Key generation	Required	Required	No need
S-box	Required	Required	No need
Level of security	Low	High	Very high
Throughput	Medium	Low	Very high
Text file size	Good for small size	Good for small size	Good for any size

Conclusion

A simple and highly secure and efficient method of text files encryption-decryption was proposed, tested and implemented.

It was shown that requirements of good process of encryption-decryption were achieved by the proposed method, the method was compared with other standard methods of encryption-decryption such as DES and AES, it was shown that the proposed method increases the encryption process efficiency and at the same time it increases the level of security.

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