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2

INTRODUCTION

In today's globalized world, each and every activity is interlinked in one way or the other way. In this book we shall be analysing computer networks and understand how data can be transferred securely form one system to another system. The concept of security can be briefly described as the protection of information of a system from theft or from hardware or software damage to the system itself. The main ones security properties are three:.

[1]. Confidentiality: Ensure that the information is not accessible by unauthorized persons.

[2]. Integrity: Ensure that the information is not altered by unauthorized persons in any way which is not detectable by authorized users.

[3]. Authentication: Ensuring that users are the people those who are authorized.

Achieving these goals, however, is not that simple. It is also very common to confuse the concept of *security* with that of *safety*:

• **Security.** This term expresses the set of measures aimed at preventing or reducing the probability that a given unwanted event will occur.

• **Safety.** With this term we mean the "response" of the system to the occurrence of a particular unwanted event. Safety is linked to danger / damage to people, and not just to things.

In general, security is sought for the safety of a system (e.g. control tower in an airport). Moreover, It is always good to keep in mind the costs related to security: security is not free. This in fact implies a greater complexity of the system, higher operational and implementation costs and the workflow change (some things may not be feasible, or may be done with limitations).

3

ELEMENTS OF CRYPTOGRAPHY

Cryptography is the study and practice of techniques for secure communication in the presence of third parties called adversaries. It deals with developing and analyzing protocols which prevents malicious third parties from retrieving information being shared between two entities thereby following the various aspects of information security.

Secure Communication refers to the scenario where the message or data shared between two parties can't be accessed by an adversary. In Cryptography, an Adversary is a malicious entity, which aims to retrieve precious information or data thereby undermining the principles of information security.

1. **Availability:** the service must always be available. Availability is violated in case of a Denial of Service (DoS) attack. Availability of the service is the most difficult thing to be guaranteed, since there are always physical limits of resources and a DoS attack must be implemented cost as much as possible. Availability is generally obtained with an accurate design of the network.
2. **Security:** the data exchanged must remain confidential between the parties participating in the exchange. Keep in mind that ethernet networks generally allow packet sniffing. For to obtain this property, cryptographic algorithms (symmetric, asymmetric, distributed, etc.).
3. **Data integrity:** refers to maintaining and making sure that the data stays accurate and consistent over its entire life cycle.
4. **Authentication:** is the process of making sure that the piece of data being claimed by the user belongs to it.
5. **Non-repudiation:** whoever sends a message cannot later deny having sent it. This property is especially important at the application level when exchanging documents.

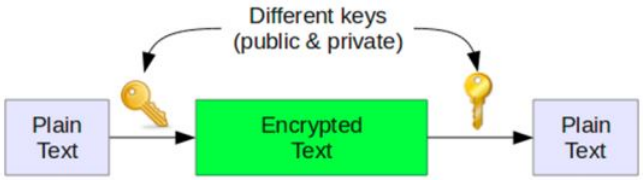

Figure 5: Different Key

message to bob, then Alice will encrypt it with Bob's public key and Bob can decrypt the message with its private key.

3.4 HASH FUNCTIONS

Not an key. Rather it uses a fixed length hash value that is computed on the basis of the plain text message. Hash functions are used to check the integrity of the message to ensure that the message has not be altered, compromised or affected by virus.

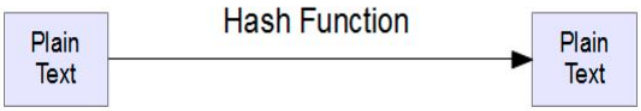

Figure 6: Hash Function

3.5 TYPES OF ENCRYPTION

3.6 ENCRYPTION AND DECRYPTION

• Encryption is the process of transforming information so it is unintelligible to anyone but the intended recipient. Decryption is the process of transforming encrypted information so that it is intelligible again.

• A cryptographic algorithm, also called a cipher, is a mathematical function used for encryption or decryption. In most cases, two related functions are employed, one for encryption and the other for decryption.

• With most modern cryptography, the ability to keep encrypted information secret is based not on the cryptographic algorithm, which