SECURING DATA IN THE IMAGE USING SHA & 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. This paper 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.

I.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. This paper 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.EXISTING SYSTEMS

1.Traditional SHA (Secure Hash Algorithm): SHA-1 and SHA-2 are commonly used cryptographic hash functions that generate fixed-size hash values from input data. These hash values are primarily used to verify data integrity, ensuring that the data has not been altered. However, SHA-1 is vulnerable to collision attacks, where different inputs can produce identical hash values, compromising its security. While SHA-2 offers improved security, it is still susceptible to future advancements in cryptographic attacks. Additionally, SHA does not provide any encryption, which means that while it can verify data integrity, it does not protect the confidentiality of the data. This lack of encryption makes intercepted data readable and susceptible to unauthorized access.

2.RSA (Rivest-Shamir-Adleman): RSA is an asymmetric encryption algorithm that uses a pair of keys (public and private) for encrypting and decrypting data, which ensures data confidentiality. Despite its advantages in securing data, RSA has significant disadvantages, including high computational overhead. The encryption and decryption processes are resource-intensive, which can lead to performance issues, especially when dealing with large datasets. Moreover, managing RSA key pairs can be complex and challenging, particularly in large-scale systems, making the implementation and maintenance of RSA-based security solutions cumbersome.

3. Existing Data Security Methods for Images: Traditional methods for securing images often involve basic encryption or watermarking techniques. However, these methods have their drawbacks. Basic encryption methods may not offer robust protection against sophisticated attacks, leaving the data vulnerable to breaches. Additionally, some watermarking techniques can degrade the quality of the image, affecting its usability and visual appeal, which is particularly problematic for applications requiring high-quality images.

III.PROPOSED SYSTEM

Integration of SHA with ECC (Elliptic Curve Cryptography): The proposed system enhances image data security by combining SHA-256 and ECC. SHA-256 is used for hashing the image data, which provides a high level of security against tampering and ensures data integrity. ECC is employed for encryption, offering robust data confidentiality. ECC is advantageous due to its smaller key sizes and efficient performance compared to RSA. This means that encryption and decryption processes are faster and require less computational power, making it well-suited for handling large image files. Additionally, ECC reduces the storage and bandwidth requirements due to its compact key sizes. Importantly, the proposed system does not degrade the quality of the image, preserving its usability and visual appeal while ensuring both confidentiality and integrity. The combination of SHA-256 and ECC addresses the limitations of existing methods, providing a comprehensive solution for securing image data.

IV.METHODOLOGY

1. Image Preprocessing:

The project begins by loading the image from a specified source using image processing libraries such as OpenCV or PIL (Python Imaging Library). The image is then converted into its raw byte format. This conversion is a crucial step, preparing the image data for further processing through hashing and encryption techniques.

2. Data Integrity Verification Using SHA-256:

To ensure data integrity, the SHA-256 hashing algorithm is applied to the raw image data. SHA-256 is selected for its robustness against collisions and preimage attacks, providing a unique hash value that represents the image. This hash value is securely stored for future reference and will be used to verify the image's integrity during decryption and validation processes.

3. Data Encryption Using ECC:

Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) is employed to encrypt the raw image data. Initially, a pair of ECC keys—one public and one private—is generated. The ECC public key is then used to encrypt the raw image data, ensuring that only individuals with the corresponding private key can decrypt and access the image. The encrypted data is securely stored, safeguarding it from unauthorized access.

4. **Data Decryption and Integrity Verification:**

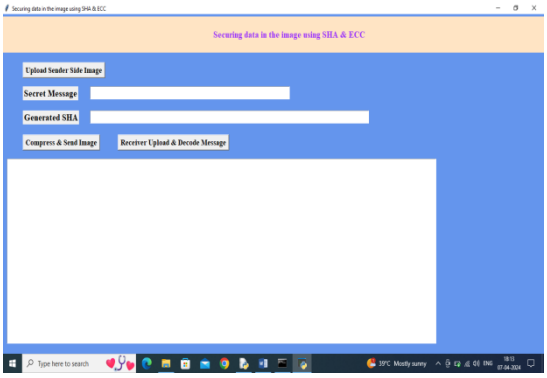
When the image needs to be accessed, the ECC private key is used to decrypt the image data, reconstructing the original raw image. Following decryption, the SHA-256 hash value of the decrypted image data is recalculated. This new hash value is compared to the previously stored hash to verify the image's integrity. If the hash values match, the data is confirmed to be intact; if not, it indicates potential tampering or corruption.

5. **User Interface and Integration:**

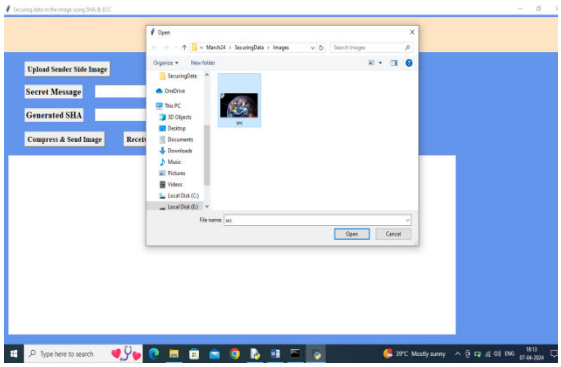
A user interface is developed to facilitate user interaction with the system. This interface allows users to load images, view both encrypted and decrypted versions, and check data integrity. The interface can be implemented using web frameworks or desktop application tools, ensuring a user-friendly experience. The hashing, encryption, and decryption modules are integrated into a cohesive system, ensuring smooth interaction and functionality.

6. **Performance Evaluation and Optimization:**

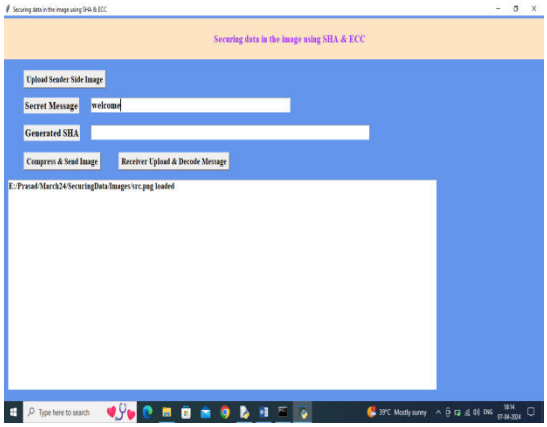
The performance of the encryption and decryption processes is evaluated to assess speed and resource usage. This evaluation ensures that the system handles large image files efficiently. Additionally, a security assessment is conducted to identify and address potential vulnerabilities, confirming that the SHA-256 and ECC approach effectively secures the image data against unauthorized access and tampering. To run project double click on run.bat file to get below screen We saved all uploading images inside 'Images' folder and all compress final images will saved inside 'ReceivedCompressImages' folder



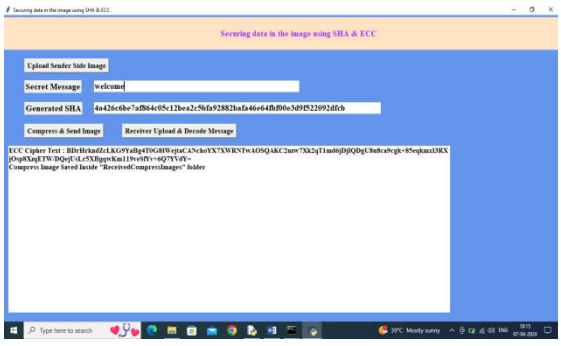
In above screen click on 'Upload Sender Side Image' button to upload image



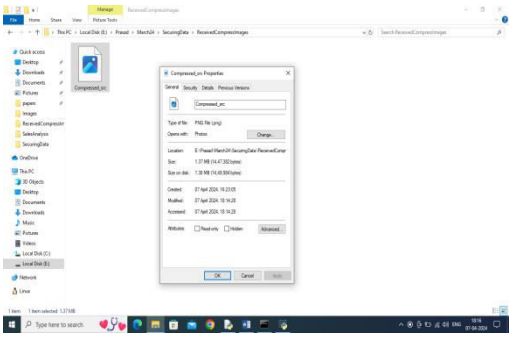
In above screen selecting and uploading ‘src.png’ file and then click on ‘Open’ button to get below page



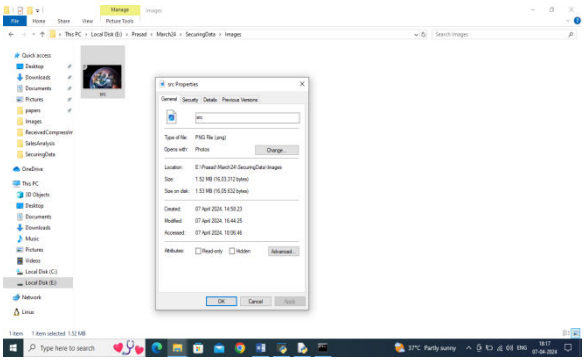
In above screen as secret message enter some message and then press on ‘Compress & Send Image’ button to get below output



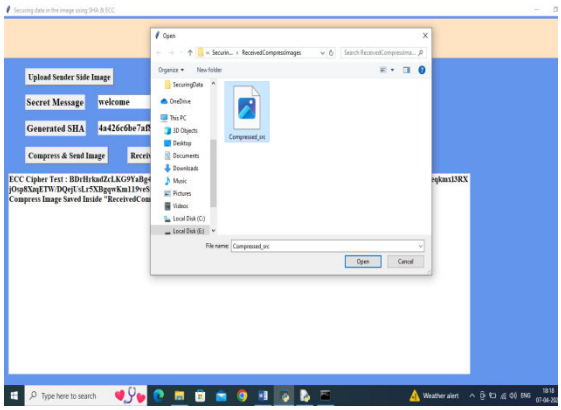
In above screen in second text field can see generated sha3 hash code and in text area can see ECC encrypted message and then can see compress image saved inside ‘Received Compressed’ folder and in below screen we can see compress image size and original image size



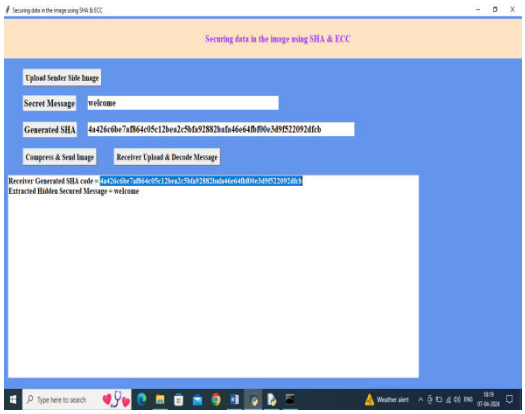
In above screen compress image size is 1.37 MB and in below screen we can see original image size



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



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



In above screen in blue colour selected text can see hash code generated by receiver on received message and can see both generated and hash code available in second text field is matching and verification is successful and then in text area in second line can see extracted and decrypted hidden message as 'welcome'.

Similarly by following above screens and using paper technique we can share secured data between sender and receiver.

V.CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the proposed method for securing data within images using SHA and ECC presents a comprehensive and effective solution to the challenges of data security in digital imagery. By combining the robustness of Secure Hash Algorithm (SHA) for data integrity and the efficiency of Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) for encryption, our system ensures both the integrity and confidentiality of embedded data.

Throughout this study, we have demonstrated the advantages of our proposed system over existing methods. Firstly, the integration of SHA-256 for generating hash values provides a reliable mechanism for detecting any tampering or unauthorized modifications to the image. The unique hash value acts as a digital fingerprint, ensuring the integrity of the embedded data.

Secondly, the use of ECC for encryption offers efficient and practical data confidentiality. ECC's smaller key sizes result in reduced computational overhead and faster encryption and decryption operations compared to traditional encryption algorithms. This makes our system suitable for embedding within images, even in resource-constrained environments.

Furthermore, the double-layered encryption approach, where the SHA hash value is encrypted using ECC before embedding into the image, enhances security. This additional encryption layer adds another level of protection against unauthorized access to the embedded data, ensuring its confidentiality.

Moreover, our system preserves the visual quality of the image without introducing perceptible degradation. This ensures that the embedded data remains concealed and undetectable to unauthorized users, maintaining the image's visual integrity.

Overall, the proposed system offers a robust, efficient, and practical solution for securing data within images, addressing both data integrity and confidentiality concerns. Its advantages include strong data integrity verification, efficient encryption using ECC, enhanced security through double-layered encryption, and preservation of image visual quality. We believe that our proposed method has significant potential for various applications where secure transmission.

VI. REFERENCES

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