

Query Processing Performance on Encrypted Databases by Using the REA Algorithm

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Abstract

Encryption in database systems is an important topic for research, as secure and efficient algorithms are needed that provide the ability to query over encrypted database and allow optimized encryption and decryption of data. Clearly, there is a compromise between the degree of security provided by encryption and the efficient querying of the database, because the operations of encryption and decryption greatly degrade query performance. In this paper we propose a new encryption algorithm, which we call Reverse Encryption Algorithm (REA). Our new encryption algorithm (REA) is simple and is fast enough for most applications. REA encryption algorithm provides maximum security and limits the added time cost for encryption and decryption to as to not degrade the performance of a database system. Also, we evaluate the query processing performance over encrypted database with our new encryption algorithm (REA) and with the most common encryption algorithm AES. The performance measure of query processing will be conducted in terms of query execution time. Results of a set of experiments validate the functionality and usability of the proposed algorithm REA.

Keywords: AES, database security, query processing

1 Introduction

Database security has been provided by physical security and operating system security. As far as we know, neither of these methods sufficiently provides a secure support on storing and processing the sensitive data. Cryptographic support is another important dimension of database security. It is complementary to access control and both of them should be used to guide the storage and access of confidential data in a database system. In [1, 7, 12, 14] database encryption mechanism could provide the following security.

1) Encryption mechanism can prevent users from obtaining data in an unauthorized manner.

2) Encryption mechanism can verify the authentic origin of a data item.

3) Encryption mechanism also prevents from leaking information in a database when storage mediums, such as disks, CD-ROM, and tapes, are lost.

However, how to query efficiently the encrypted database becomes a challenge. This usually implies that the system has to sacrifice the performance to obtain the security. When data is stored in the form of cipher, we have to decrypt all the encrypted data before querying them. It is impractical because the cost of decryption over all the encrypted data is very expensive [18].

For this purpose, we put forward the innovative encryption algorithm, known as "Reverse Encryption Algorithm (REA)". Our new encryption algorithm (REA) is efficient and reliable. It has accomplished security requirements and is fast enough for most widely used software. REA encryption algorithm limits the added time cost for encryption and decryption and at the same time improves the performance of the query over encrypted database. We also provide a thorough description of the proposed encryption algorithm and its processes.

This paper observes a method for evaluating query processing performance over encrypted database with the proposed encryption algorithm REA and with the most common encryption algorithm AES. The performance measure of query processing will be conducted in terms of query execution time. The experiment results show the advantages of the proposed encryption algorithm REA over other encryption algorithm AES with regards to the query execution time. Our new encryption algorithm (REA) can reduce the cost time of the encryption/decryption operations and improve the performance.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 discusses related work and overviews of the AES (Rijndael) encryption algorithm. Section 3 describes the proposed encryption algorithm REA. Section 4 shows the simulation results for evaluating query processing performance over encrypted database with the proposed

encryption algorithm REA and other encryption algorithm AES. Finally Section 5 presents conclusions and future works.

2 Related Work

In [16] proposed a new encryption scheme (Chaotic Order Preserving Encryption (COPE)). It hides the order of the encrypted values by changing the order of buckets in the plaintext domain. It is secure against known plaintext attack. However, COPE can be used just on trusted server where the encryption keys are used to perform many queries such as join and range queries. The overhead of range queries over encrypted database is much higher than the overhead of range queries over plaintext database. In addition, it uses many keys to change the order of buckets and in some cases that may lead to have duplicated values. Another drawback in COPE is the encryption and decryption cost. That is because of the computation complexity to randomize the buckets and assign the correct order within each bucket.

The bucketing approach [3, 5, 6, 13, 21] is dividing the plaintext domain into many partitions (buckets). The encrypted database in the bucketing approach is augmented with additional information (the index of attributes), thereby allowing query processing to some extent at the server without endangering data privacy. The encrypted database in the bucketing approach contains tuples and corresponding bucket-ids (where many plaintext values are indexed to same bucket-id). In this scheme, executing a query over the encrypted database is based on the index of attributes. The result of this query is a superset of records containing false positive tuples. These false hits must be removed in a post filtering process after tuples returned by the query are decrypted. Because only the bucket-id is used in a join operation, filtering can be complex, especially when random mapping is used to assign bucket-ids rather than order preserving mapping. In bucketing, the projection operation is not implemented over the encrypted database, because a row level encryption is used.

2.1 AES (Rijndael): Overview Subsection

The Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) [4] was published by NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) in 2001. AES is a block symmetric cipher that is intended to replace DES as the approved standard for a wide range of applications. The AES cipher and other candidates forms the latest generation of block ciphers, and now we see a significant increase in the block size - from the old standard of 64-bits up to 128-bits; and keys size of 128, 192, and 256-bits. NIST selected Rijndael as the proposed AES algorithm. The Evaluation Criteria for selecting AES in the first round are (private key symmetric block cipher, 128-bit data, 128/192/256-bit keys, stronger & faster than Triple-DES, active life of 20-30 years (for long term secrecy).

The final criteria for evaluation were general security, ease of software & hardware implementation, implementation attacks, and flexibility (in encrypt/decrypt,

keying, and other factors). After testing and evaluation, NIST announced for selection Rijndael as AES. Rijndael algorithm is flexible in supporting any combination of data and key size of 128,192, and 256 bits. However, AES simply allow 128 bit data length that can be divided into four basic operation blocks. These blocks operate on array of bytes and organized as a 4×4 matrix that is called the state. For full encryption, the data is passed through number rounds (10 (key size 128 bits), 12 (key size 192 bits), 14 (key size 256 bits)).

3 The Proposed Encryption Algorithm (REA)

We recommend the new encryption algorithm, “Reverse Encryption Algorithm (REA)”, because of its simplicity and efficiency. It can outperform competing algorithms. REA algorithm is limiting the added time cost for encryption and decryption to so as to not degrade the performance of a database system. In this section we provide a comprehensive yet concise algorithm. We also give a general analysis of the functioning of these structures.

Our new algorithm (REA) is a symmetric stream cipher that can be effectively used for encryption and safeguarding of data. It takes a variable-length key, making it ideal for securing data. The REA algorithm encipherment and decipherment consists of the same operations, only the two operations are different: 1) added the keys to the text in the encipherment and removed the keys from the text in the decipherment. 2) Executed divide operation on the text by 4 in the encipherment and executed multiple operation on the text by 4 in the decipherment. We execute divide operation by 4 on the text to narrow the range domain of the ASCII code table at converting the text. The details and working of the proposed algorithm REA are given below.

3.1 Encryption Algorithm of the REA

We will be presenting the steps of the encryption algorithm of the Reverse Encryption Algorithm REA (Algorithm 1). The following steps are (see Figure 1):

Step1: Input the text and the key.

Step2: Add the key to the text.

Step3: Convert the previous text to ascii code.

Step4: Convert the previous ascii code to binary data.

Step5: Reverse the previous binary data.

Step6: Gather each 8 bits from the previous binary data and obtain the ascii code from it.

Step7: Divide the previous ascii code by 4.

Step8: Obtain the ascii code of the previous result divide and put it as one character.

Step9: Obtain the remainder of the previous divide and put it as a second character.

Step10: Return encrypted text.

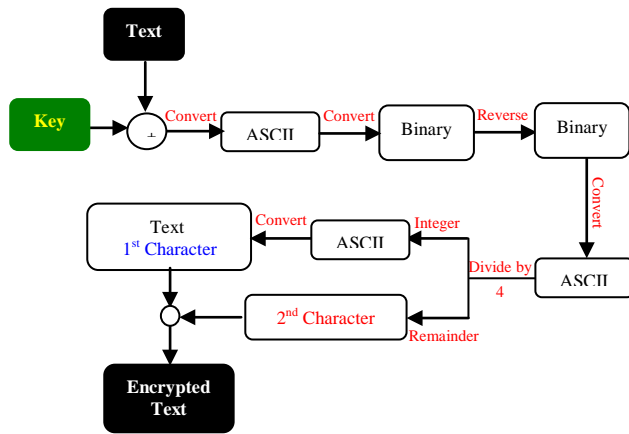


Figure 1: Steps of the REA encryption algorithm

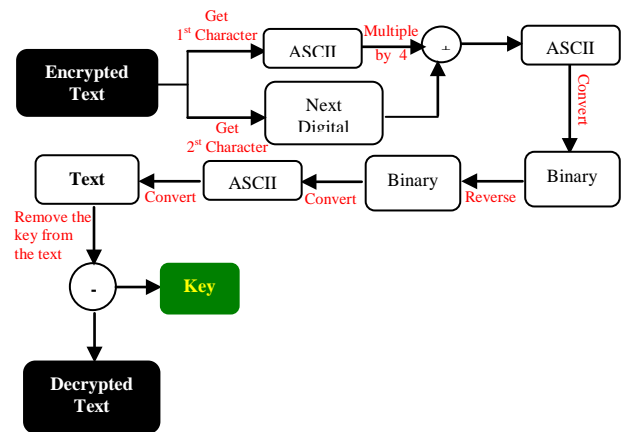


Figure 2: Steps of the REA decryption algorithm

Algorithm 1: REA Encryption

INPUT: Plaintext (StrValue), Key (StrKey).
 OUTPUT: Ciphertext (EncryptedData).
 1: Add the key to Text (StrKey + StrValue)---> full string (StrFullVlaue).
 2: Convert the Previous Text(StrFullVlaue) to ascii code (hexdata).
 3: Foreach (byte b in hexdata).
 a. Convert the Previous ascii code (hexdata) to binary data (StrChar).
 b. Switch (StrChar.Length).
 Case 7 ---> StrChar = "0" + StrChar.
 Case 6 ---> StrChar = "00" + StrChar.
 Case 5 ---> StrChar = "000" + StrChar.
 Case 4 ---> StrChar = "0000" + StrChar.
 Case 3 ---> StrChar = "00000" + StrChar.
 Case 2 ---> StrChar = "000000" + StrChar.
 Case 1 ---> StrChar = "0000000" + StrChar.
 Case 0 ---> StrChar = "00000000" + StrChar.
 c. StrEncrypt += StrChar. (where, StrEncrypt= "")
 4: Reverse the Previous Binary Data(StrEncrypt).
 5: For i from 0 to StrValue.Length do the following:
 a. if (binarybyte.Length == 8).
 i. Convert the binary data (StrEncrypt) to ascii code and,
 ii. Divide the ascii by 4 → the result(first character) and,
 iii. The remainder of the previous → second character.
 6: Return (EncryptedData).

Algorithm 2: REA Decryption

INPUT: Ciphertext (EncryptedData), the Key (StrKey).
 OUTPUT: Plaintext (DecryptedData).
 1: For (i = 0; i < EncryptedData.Length; i += 2)
 a. Get the ascii code of the encrypted text
 b. newascii = (EncryptedData[i] * 4) + the next digit(remainder)[i+1].
 2: Foreach (byte b in newascii).
 a. Convert the Previous ascii code (newascii) to binary data (StrChar).
 b. Switch (StrChar.Length).
 Case 7 ---> StrChar = "0" + StrChar.
 Case 6 ---> StrChar = "00" + StrChar.
 Case 5 ---> StrChar = "000" + StrChar.
 Case 4 ---> StrChar = "0000" + StrChar.
 Case 3 ---> StrChar = "00000" + StrChar.
 Case 2 ---> StrChar = "000000" + StrChar.
 Case 1 ---> StrChar = "0000000" + StrChar.
 Case 0 ---> StrChar = "00000000" + StrChar.
 c. StrDecrypt += StrChar.
 3: Reverse the Previous Binary Data(StrDecrypt).
 4: For i from 0 to StrDecrypt.Length do the following:
 a. if (binarybyte.Length == 8).
 i. Convert the binary data (StrChar) to ascii code (hexdata) and,
 ii. Convert the previous ascii code (hexdata) to the text (StrFullVlaue).
 5: Remove the key from the text (StrFullVlaue - StrKey) → (StrValue).
 6: Return (DecryptedData).

3.2 Decryption Algorithm of the REA

We will be presenting the steps of the decryption algorithm of the Reverse Encryption Algorithm REA (Algorithm 2). The following steps are (see Figure 2):

- Step1: Input the encrypted text and the key.
- Step2: Loop on the encrypted text to obtain ascii code of characters and add the next character.
- Step3: Multiply ascii code of the first character by 4.
- Step4: Add the next digit (remainder) to the result multiplying operation.
- Step5: Convert the previous ascii code to binary data.
- Step6: Reverse the previous binary data.
- Step7: Gather each 8 bits from the previous binary data and obtain the ascii code from it.
- Step8: Convert the previous ascii code to text.
- Step9: Remove the key from the text.
- Step10: Return decrypted data.

3.3 REA: An Examples Cipher

We have two examples on which we have applied our new encryption algorithm REA:

- 1) **Text** to explain the running methods the proposed algorithm REA.
- 2) **Database** Microsoft SQL Server 2005 is "Northwind_Plaintext". The programming tasks were built by Microsoft Visual Studio 2005.net.

3.1.1 Text

The first example on which we applied our new encryption algorithm REA is on the text, the explanation has been provided below.

The text is : “ **Welcome! Mousa1976** ”

The key is : “**123**” (It takes a variable-length key)

Encrypted text is:

323130*0&2\$3'0\$0\$2&27273,2\$0"2#0'232122021

Encipherment:

- 1) Add the key to the text: 123Welcome! Mousa1976.
- 2) Convert the previous text to ascii code.
1 --> 49, 2 --> 50, 3 --> 51, W --> 87, e --> 101,
- 3) Convert the previous ascii code to binary data:
00110001 00110010 00110011 01010111 01100101.....
- 4) Reverse the previous binary data:
11001110 11001101 11001100 10101000 10011010.....
- 5) Gather each 8 bits from the previous binary data and obtain the ascii code of it: 206 205 204 168 154.....
- 6) Divide the previous ascii code by 4 and obtain the ascii of the result(put it as one ascii character) and obtain the remainder (put it as second character).
 - 206/4 = 51 ---> **3** and the remainder (next digit) = **2** (put its as **32**).
 - 205/4 = 51 ---> **3** and the remainder (next digit) = **1** (put its as **31**).
 - 204/4 = 51 ---> **3** and the remainder (next digit) = **0** (put its as **30**).
 - 168/4 = 42 ---> ***** and the remainder (next digit) = **0** (put its as ***0**).
 - 154/4 = 38 ---> **&** and the remainder (next digit) = **2** (put its as **&2**).
- 7) Encrypted text is (see Figure 3):
“**323130*0&2\$3'0\$0\$2&27273,2\$0"2#0'232122021**”

Decipherment:

- 1) Loop on the encrypted text to get ascii code of characters and add next character.
- 2) Multiply ascii code of the first character by 4 and add the next digit (remainder):
 - The first character = **3** ---> ascii code is: 51 and the next digit(remainder)= **2** then new ascii code is:
206 = 51*4+2
 - The first character = **3** ---> ascii code is: 51 and the next digit(remainder)= **1** then new ascii code is:
205 = 51*4+1
 - The first character = **3** ---> ascii code is: 51 and the next digit(remainder)= **0** then new ascii code is:
204 = 51*4+0
 - The first character = ***** ---> ascii code is: 42 and the next digit(remainder)= **0** then new ascii code is:
168 = 42*4+0
 - The first character = **&** ---> ascii code is: 38 and the next digit(remainder)= **2** then new ascii code is:
154 = 38*4+2
- 3) Convert final ascii code to binary data:
11001110 11001101 11001100 10101000 10011010.....
- 4) Reverse the previous binary data:
00110001 00110010 00110011 01010111 1100101.....

- 5) Convert binary data to ascii code and text:
49 50 51 87 101
- 6) Remove the key from text: 123Welcome! Mousa1976
- 7) Decrypted text is (see Figure 4):
“ **Welcome! Mousa1976** ”

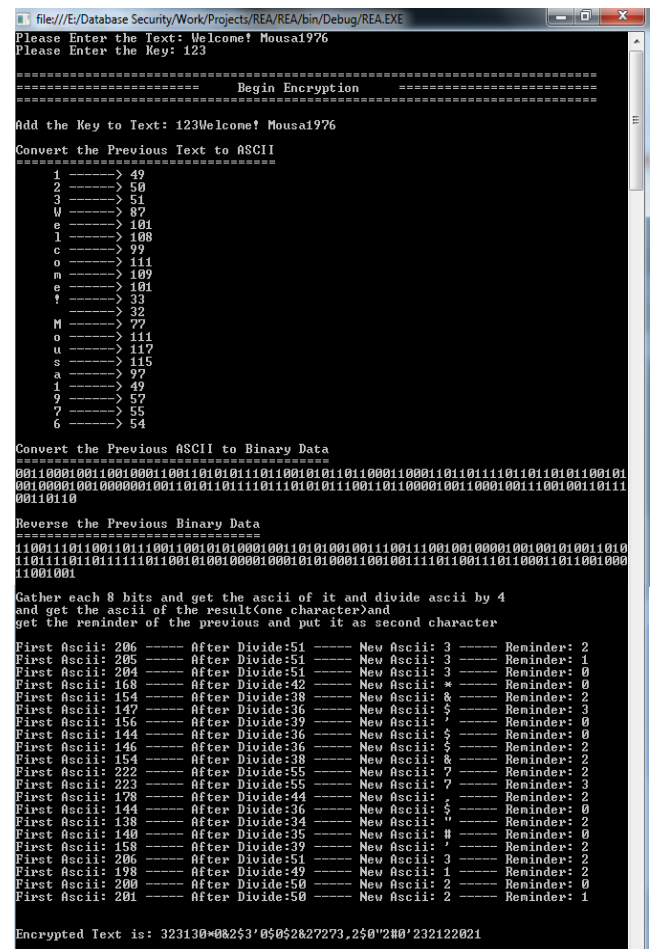


Figure 3: Running the program of the proposed encryption algorithm REA

3.3.2 Database

The second example on which we applied our new encryption algorithm REA is on database Microsoft SQL Server 2005 is called "Northwind_Plaintext". The programming tasks were built by Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 .net. In the previous our paper, we encrypted/decrypted some fields from the database "Northwind_Plaintext" by the proposed encryption algorithm REA and compares with the most common encryption algorithms namely: DES, 3DES, RC2, AES and Blowfish. A comparison has been presented for those encryption algorithms at encryption and decryption time. The experiment results show the superiority of REA algorithm over other algorithms in terms of the encryption and decryption time. We also will use these experiments in this current paper to encrypt some fields of the database "Northwind_REA" with the proposed encryption algorithm REA (see Figure 6) in Section 4.

```

=====
===== Begin Decryption =====
=====
Loop on the encrypted text to get ascii of characters and add next character
multiple ascii of the first number by 4 and add the next digit(remainder)

First Character Ascii: 51 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 206
First Character Ascii: 51 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 1 ----- New Ascii: 205
First Character Ascii: 51 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 0 ----- New Ascii: 204
First Character Ascii: 42 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 0 ----- New Ascii: 168
First Character Ascii: 38 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 154
First Character Ascii: 36 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 3 ----- New Ascii: 147
First Character Ascii: 39 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 0 ----- New Ascii: 156
First Character Ascii: 36 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 4 ----- New Ascii: 144
First Character Ascii: 36 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 146
First Character Ascii: 38 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 154
First Character Ascii: 55 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 222
First Character Ascii: 55 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 3 ----- New Ascii: 223
First Character Ascii: 44 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 178
First Character Ascii: 36 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 0 ----- New Ascii: 144
First Character Ascii: 34 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 138
First Character Ascii: 35 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 0 ----- New Ascii: 140
First Character Ascii: 39 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 158
First Character Ascii: 51 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 206
First Character Ascii: 49 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 2 ----- New Ascii: 198
First Character Ascii: 50 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 0 ----- New Ascii: 200
First Character Ascii: 50 ----- The Digit(Reminder): 1 ----- New Ascii: 201

Convert Final Ascii to Binary Data
=====
110011011001011100110010101000100110101001001110011100100100001001001010011010
110111011011111011001010010000100010101000110010011101100111011001101100101001000
11001001

Reverse the Previous Binary Data (Correct Binary Data)
=====
0011000100110010001100110101011011010101011000110001101101110110101010100101
001000010010000001001101011011101110101011101101100001001100010011000100110110111
00110110

Convert Binary Data to Text
=====
123Welcome! Mousai976

Remove the Key from Text: 123Welcome! Mousai976

Decrypted Text is: Welcome! Mousai976
    
```

Figure 4: Running the program of the proposed decryption algorithm REA

4 Simulation Results

A typical case study is studied in this section, to give the query processing performance evaluation over encrypted databases with the proposed algorithm (REA) and with the most common encryption algorithm AES. The performance measure of query processing will be conducted in terms of query execution time.

All our experiments were done on laptop IV 2.0 GHz Intel processor with 1 MB cache memory, 1 GB of memory, and one Disk drive 120 GB. The Operating System which was used is Microsoft Windows 7 professional. The simulation results were executed based on the database Microsoft SQL Server 2005 is “Northwind”, which contains seven tables. The programming tasks were built by Microsoft Visual Studio 2005 .net.

In the experiments, we use three databases from the database “Northwind” are:

- 1) *Northwind_Plaintext* has not any encrypted fields.
- 2) *Northwind_AES* has encrypted fields with AES encryption algorithm (see example in Figure 5).
- 3) *Northwind_REA* has the same encrypted fields in “Northwind_AES”. But, with using our new encryption algorithm REA (see example in Figure 6).

Table 1 presented the names of fields are the encrypted in the database “Northwind_AES” and the database “Northwind_REA”.

Table 1: The names of encrypted fields

	Tables	Fields
1	Products	UnitPrice
2	Orders	Freight
3	Order Details	UnitPrice
4	Order Details	Quantity
5	Suppliers	ContactName
6	Employees	Notes
7	Customers	ContactName
8	Customers	ContactTitle

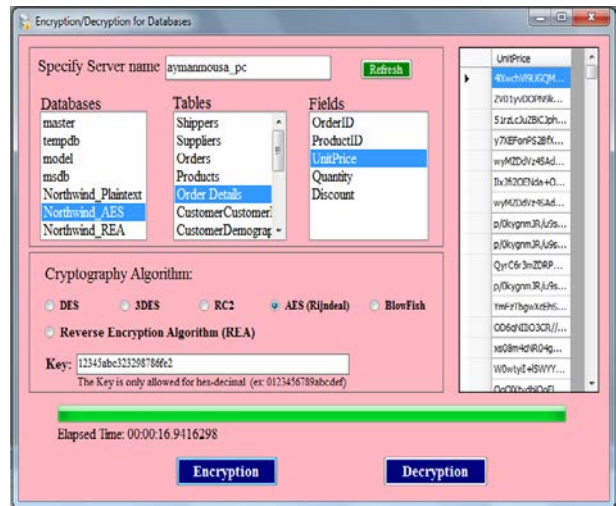


Figure 5: Encrypted the field in the database “Northwind_AES” with encryption algorithm AES

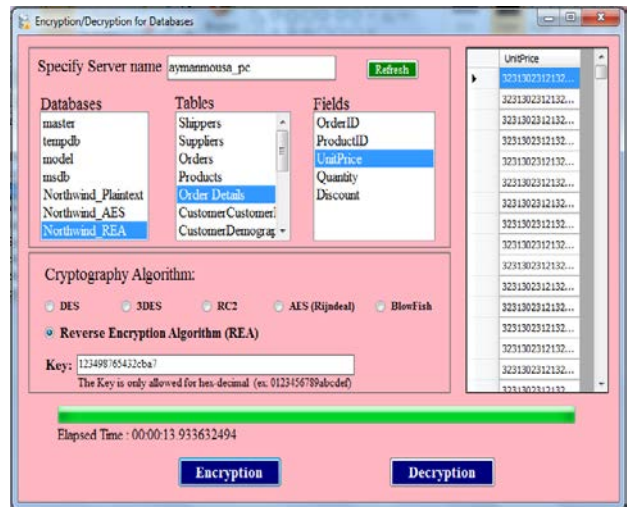


Figure 6: Encrypted the field in the database “Northwind_REA” with the proposed algorithm REA

When the encryption of the eight fields (shown in the table 1) in the databases were completed. The keys are used in the encryption were kept safe in the table encrypted with the proposed encryption algorithm REA for the database “Northwind_AES” (see Figure 7) and the database “Northwind_REA” (see Figure 8). Only the administrator user will get these keys by entering the password in our simulation (see Figure 9). After the administrator enters the password and selects the database, one will be able to see the table of the keys encrypted in the databases “Northwind_AES” (see Figure 10) and “Northwind_REA”

(see Figure 11).

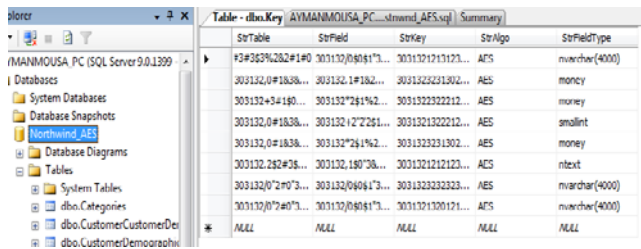


Figure 7: Encrypted fields in the keys table “Northwind_AES” with the proposed algorithm REA

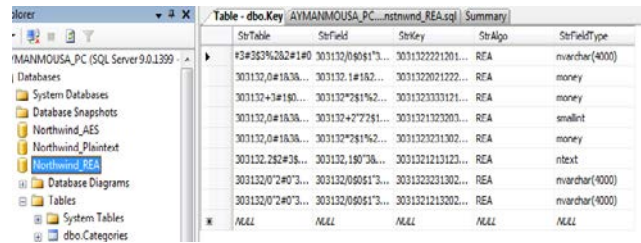


Figure 8: Encrypted fields in the keys table “Northwind_REA” with the proposed algorithm REA

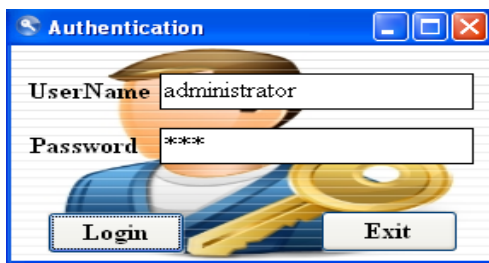


Figure 9: Login of the administrator to get the keys

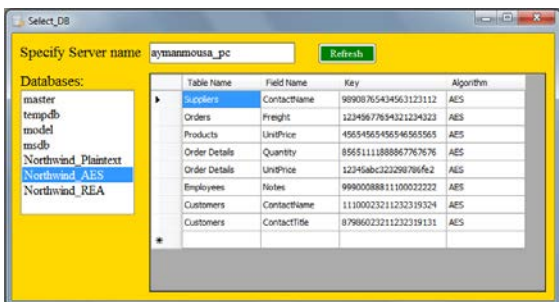


Figure 10: Get the keys of the encrypted fields in the database “Northwind_AES”

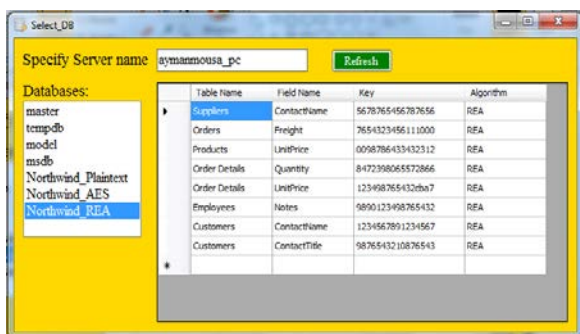


Figure 11: Get the keys of the encrypted fields in the database “Northwind_REA”

In the experiments, we use ten queries (namely: Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8, Q9 and Q10) difference in number the encrypted fields. These queries are varying

when joining the tables. In our simulation, we use three databases are “Northwind_Plaintext” has no encrypted fields, “Northwind_AES” has encrypted fields and “Northwind_REA” has the same encrypted fields in “Northwind_AES”.

Now, we start executing the queries on these databases. Every query from the first to the tenth executes on the database “Northwind_Plaintext” then calculates the execution time (see executing query Figure 12) and repeats executes on the database “Northwind_AES” then calculates the execution time (see executing query Figure 13) and repeats the execution again on the database “Northwind_REA” then calculates the execution time (see executing query Figure 14).

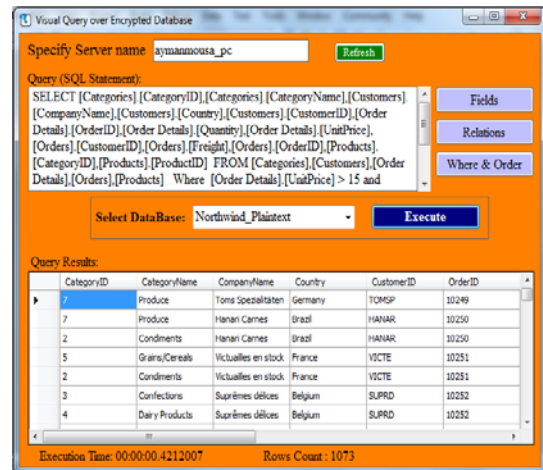


Figure 12: Executing query on the non-encrypted database “Northwind_Plaintext”

Table 2 presents the values of the queries execution times (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8, Q9 and Q10) on the three databases (“Northwind_Plaintext”, “Northwind_AES” and “Northwind_REA”). Figures 15 and 16 show such comparisons between the values of the queries execution times (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7, Q8, Q9 and Q10) on the three databases (“Northwind_Plaintext”, “Northwind_AES” and “Northwind_REA”).

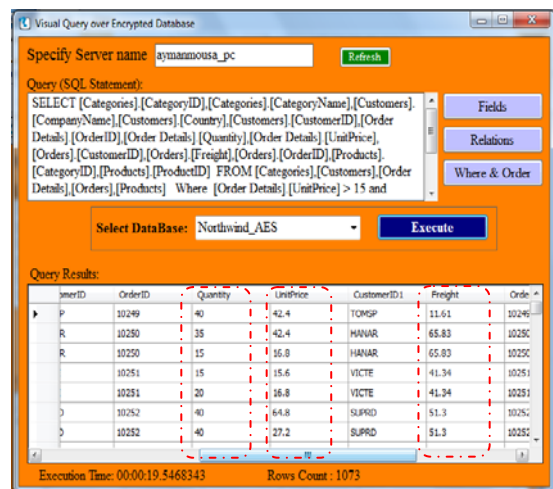


Figure 13: Executing query on the encrypted database “Northwind_AES”

Table 2: The values of the queries execution times on the databases

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
<i>Northwind_Plaintext</i>	0.418	0.282	0.531	4.212	3.119	2.167	1.098	0.978	0.378	3.289
<i>Northwind_AES</i>	2.563	1.279	1.647	19.547	21.029	16.864	5.741	3.822	1.716	19.718
<i>Northwind_REA</i>	1.764	0.854	1.092	16.771	16.118	12.827	4.563	3.167	1.372	15.073

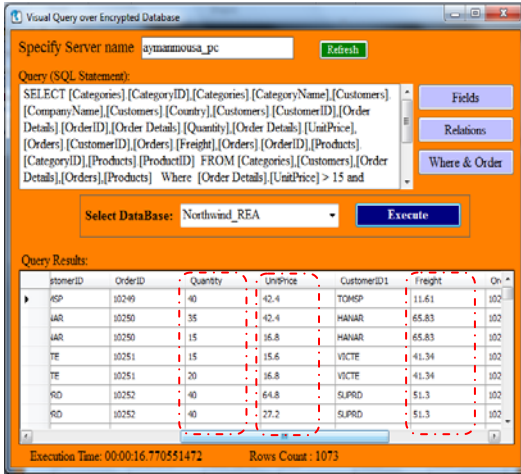


Figure 14: Executing query on the database “Northwind_REA”

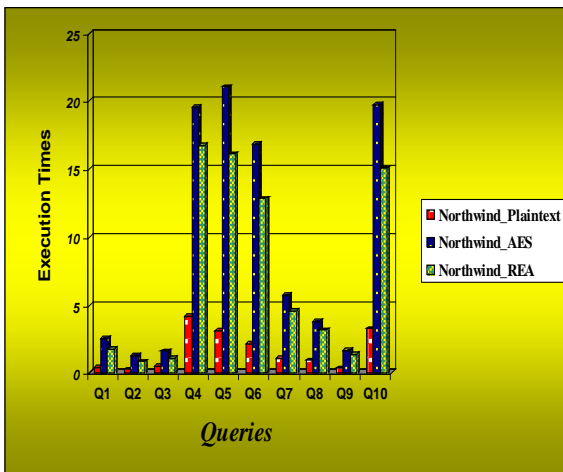


Figure 15: The values of the queries execution times on the databases

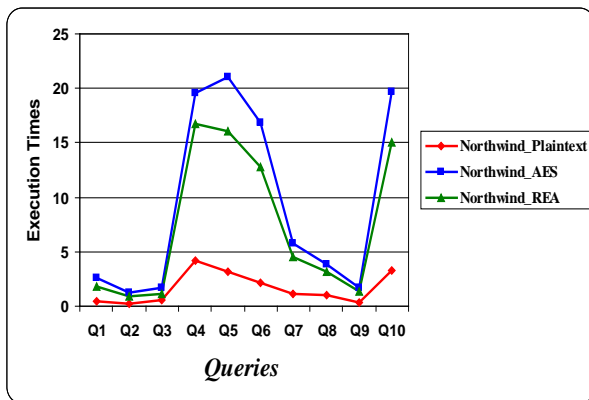


Figure 16: The values of the queries execution times on the databases

Our experimental results for these comparisons are shown on Table 2, Figure 15 and Figure 16 at the query processing performance (cost time) over encrypted databases. A first point; the database “Northwind_Plaintext” takes less time than the other databases in terms of the query execution time. A second point; the database “Northwind_AES” is the bigger than other databases in terms of the query execution time. A third point; the database “Northwind_REA” is slower than the database “Northwind_Plaintext” and faster than the database “Northwind_AES” in terms of the query execution time.

Finally, the results showed that the effects the proposed encryption algorithm REA on the database has a very good performance compared to the algorithm AES. Our new encryption algorithm REA limits the added time cost for encryption and decryption so as to not degrade the performance of the database system, if we compare with other encryption algorithms such as AES encryption algorithm. The proposed encryption algorithm REA represents a significant improvement over the encrypted databases. Moreover, reducing the overhead of loading on the system for the complexity of the methods that doing decryption and re-encryption the data in the databases.

5 Conclusions and Future Work

There is a lot of very important data in the database, which need to be protected from attack. Cryptographic support is an important mechanism of securing them. People, however, must tradeoff performance to ensure the security because the operation of encryption and decryption greatly degrades query performance. For the query types that require extra query processing over encrypted database, the cost differentials of query processing between non-encrypted and encrypted database increase linearly in the size of relations. To solve such a problem, the proposed encryption algorithm REA can implement SQL query over the encrypted database.

In this paper, we will introduce a new encryption algorithm, which we call “Reverse Encryption Algorithm (REA)”, restating its benefits and functions over other similar encryption algorithms. REA algorithm limits the added time cost for encryption and decryption so as to not degrade the performance of a database system. We also provide a thorough description of the proposed algorithm and its processes. This paper examines a method for evaluating query processing performance over encrypted database with our new encryption algorithm (REA) and with the most common encryption algorithm AES. The performance measure of query processing will be

conducted in terms of query execution time. The results of a set of experiments show the superiority of the proposed encryption algorithm REA over other encryption algorithm AES with regards to the query execution time. Our new encryption algorithm REA can reduce the cost time of the encryption/decryption operations and improve the performance.

In the future work, we are interested in extending the proposed encryption algorithm REA in order to apply it to other kind of databases such as distributed DBMSs and object oriented DBMSs of the query processing.

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