IJCRT.ORG ISSN : 2320-2882

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Deduct: A Secure Deduplication Of Textual Data In Cloud Environment

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Abstract: The rapid increase in textual data in navigation tasks for devices like GPS or smart assistants creates challenges for managing and storing data in large-scale systems. Data deduplication, which reduces storage needs by eliminating duplicate data, offers a solution but raises security concerns. This paper introduces DEDUCT, a new method that combines cloud-side and client-side deduplication to achieve high data compression while protecting data privacy. Designed for devices with limited resources, such as IoT devices, DEDUCT includes lightweight preprocessing and safeguards against security risks like side-channel attacks. Testing on a navigation dataset shows that DEDUCT can compress data by up to 66%, significantly cutting storage costs while keeping data secure, making it an efficient choice for managing large-scale data systems.

Index Terms **- Data deduplication, IoT storage optimization, Cloud security, Cryptographic access control.**

I. INTRODUCTION

With the rapid growth of cloud storage, especially for textual data such as documents,logs,and communication records, managing redundant data has become a major concern. Traditional deduplication methods often compromise security, relying on server-side processing and shared encryption keys, which exposes sensitive data to potential breaches. Additionally, these methods are not optimized for mobile or IoT environments due to their high resource requirements. To address these challenges, this paper introduces DEDUCT—a secure, client-side deduplication system designed for textual data. DEDUCT utilizes semantic-aware techniques including tokenization, the Wagner-Fischer algorithm for similarity detection, CRC-based fingerprinting, and AES encryption. This approach enables efficient storage, preserves privacy, and supports secure access in multi-user cloud environments.

1.1 Key Points:

1. Rising Textual Data: Cloud platforms face growing storage demands due to increasing volumes of text-based data.
2. Traditional Deduplication Limits: Existing hash-based methods lack security and struggle in multi-user environments.
3. Privacy and Performance Gaps**:** Current systems are unsuitable for mobile and IoT devices due to resource and security.
4. DEDUCT Solution: A client-side deduplication system using tokenization, similarity detection, CRC hashing, and encryption for secure and efficient storage.

II. LITERATURE SURVEY

The literature on secure data deduplication highlights the increasing demand for efficient and privacy-preserving storage mechanisms in cloud environments. With the growth of cloud computing and the exponential rise in textual data, deduplication has become a widely adopted technique for optimizing storage. However, many existing solutions prioritize space savings while overlooking critical security aspects, especially in multi-user and public cloud settings. Recent advancements in client-side encryption, semantic-aware matching, and lightweight deduplication algorithms offer promising alternatives, but several challenges still remain unaddressed.

1.1 **Key Findings:**

1. Cloud-Based Deduplication Efficiency: Research has shown that deduplication significantly reduces storage usage by identifying redundant blocks. Cloud service providers use chunk-based deduplication to manage large-scale storage effectively.

2**.** Security-Aware Deduplication Approaches**:** Several studies have introduced cryptographic methods like Message-Locked Encryption (MLE) and DupLESS to enhance the security of deduplicated data, especially against cross-user leakage.

3. Semantic Deduplication Techniques**:** Some recent works incorporate semantic similarity using edit-distance or approximate matching algorithms to detect near-duplicate data, which traditional hash-based methods cannot identify.

4**.**Client-Side Deduplication Benefits**:** Performing deduplication on the client side improves privacy and offloads server-side computation. However, it requires lightweight algorithms to function effectively on mobile and IoT devices.

1.2 **Gaps in Existing Research:**

1. Limited Semantic Integration**:** Most existing systems are limited to exact-match deduplication and do not consider paraphrased or near-duplicate textual content.
2. Centralized Key Management Issues: Several encryption-based deduplication methods rely on centralized key servers, which introduce a single point of failure and raise confidentiality concerns.
3. Lack of Lightweight Frameworks**:** Current semantic-aware solutions are often computationally intensive and not optimized for low-power environments such as mobile apps or edge devices.

2.3 Contribution of Our Study:

This study addresses the above gaps by proposing DEDUCT, a secure and lightweight deduplication system tailored for textual data in cloud environments. The system combines semantic-aware processing using tokenization and the Wagner-Fischer algorithm with CRC-based fingerprinting to identify both exact and near-duplicate content. Additionally, DEDUCT implements client-side encryption before upload, ensuring user privacy without relying on trusted third parties. The framework is optimized for resource-constrained environments and supports multi-user access through role-based permissions and secure key distribution.

III. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This section outlines the methodology used for designing, implementing, and evaluating the DEDUCT system. It covers the system scope, data sources, architectural framework, and tools used for development and performance evaluation.

3.1 Scope and Environment

- Application Scope: The system is designed for cloud environments with a focus on multi-user storage platforms such as file-sharing services, enterprise storage systems, and document repositories.

- Data Type Focus: The study focuses specifically on **textual data**, including PDF files, Word documents, plain text logs, and reports — the most common forms of data with high redundancy.

- Deployment Target: The system is intended to run on both high-resource (e.g., desktops, servers) and resource-constrained (e.g., mobile, IoT) environments to ensure broad applicability.

3.2 Data and Sources of Data

- Data Types Used:
  - Duplicate and near-duplicate text files
  - Real-world data logs and user-generated documents
  - Metadata such as upload time, file size, access permissions
- Data Sources:
  - Sample datasets from open-source repositories
  - Simulated user uploads containing variations of similar documents
  - Custom-generated paraphrased files for testing semantic deduplication

3.3 Theoretical Framework

- Core Components:
  - Tokenization Engine: Splits input files into smaller text segments for analysis.
  - Wagner-Fischer Algorithm: Computes edit distance to identify near-duplicate tokens.
  - CRC32 Fingerprinting: Generates unique signatures for each segment to detect duplicates.
  - AES-256 Encryption: Secures unique chunks before they are uploaded to the cloud.
  - Tuple-Based Access Control: Assigns permission keys to users based on role and file sensitivity.
- System Logic:
  - During upload, the system tokenizes the file, computes semantic similarity, eliminates redundant chunks, and encrypts the unique data.
  - Metadata including CRC values and chunk mappings is stored securely.
  - During retrieval, the system verifies user role, decrypts content if permitted, and reconstructs the original file.

3.4 Evaluation Metrics and Analysis Model

- Deduplication Effectiveness: Measured by the percentage of storage space saved after eliminating redundant.
- Security and Access Control: Evaluated based on the successful prevention of unauthorized access and accuracy in enforcing user permissions.
- Performance Metrics: Assessed through average upload/retrieval latency and system responsiveness under multiple user loads.
- Analysis Tools: Includes logs, violation reports, and visual representations of the deduplication and retrieval workflow for monitoring and debugging.

Some potential tools and technologies used in this research include:

- Programming Languages: Java, Python, JavaScript
- Frameworks and Libraries: Spring Boot, JDBC, Crypto libraries for encryption and hashing
- Database and Storage: MySQL for metadata storage, Firebase or AWS S3 for encrypted file chunk storage
- Encryption and Fingerprinting: AES-256 for secure encryption, CRC32 for chunk identification
- Testing and Analysis Tools: Postman for API testing, JMeter for performance testing, Visual Paradigm and Draw.io for flowcharts and system diagrams

IV. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM

The DEDUCT System is designed to securely manage and deduplicate textual data in cloud environments while ensuring user privacy, efficient storage, and controlled file access. It performs semantic-aware deduplication, encrypts data at the client side, and uses role-based permissions for secure file retrieval and sharing. The following figures illustrate core aspects of the system's architecture and operations.

The first figure depicts the Client-Side Deduplication and Upload Flow, where the process begins when a user uploads a file through the application. The file is tokenized into smaller textual segments, which are then passed through the Wagner-Fischer algorithm to detect similar or paraphrased content. CRC32 checksums are computed for each unique segment. Duplicate chunks are eliminated before uploading, and only unique content is encrypted using AES and transmitted to the cloud. Metadata including CRC values and chunk references are stored securely in a database.

The second figure shows the Secure File Retrieval and Access Control Mechanism. When a user attempts to retrieve a file, the system first validates the user's credentials and role. Permission keys issued during file upload are checked to confirm if the user has access rights such as read, write, or download. If access is approved, the encrypted file chunks are retrieved and decrypted using the user's local key. The file is reconstructed from the original chunk mapping and presented to the user. Unauthorized access attempts are logged and monitored through an audit system.

The third figure presents the System Architecture Overview, demonstrating how different modules interact. The user interface communicates with a backend API developed in Spring Boot, which coordinates all operations. The metadata and encrypted content are stored across a MySQL database and cloud storage service respectively. The system includes a logging module to track user activities and flag security violations. A centralized dashboard allows administrators to manage roles, monitor file access, and enforce security policies. The entire architecture is optimized for lightweight processing, making it suitable for both standard and resource-constrained client environments.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

5.1 Results of Descriptive Statics of Study Variables

Table 5.1: Descriptive Statistics of Deduplication Efficiency and System Performance

Scenario	Original Size (MB)	After DEDUCT (MB)	Storage Saved (%)	Avg. Chunk Size (KB)	Deduplication Time (ms)	Access Success Rate (%)
Exact Duplicates	100	38	62.0%	4.5	120	100
Near Duplicates	120	56	53.3%	5.2	170	98
Mixed Documents	150	64	57.3%	5.0	160	99
Public Files	90	38	57.8%	4.9	125	100
Private Files	110	45	59.1%	4.8	150	97

Table 5.1 summarizes the performance of the DEDUCT system across five scenarios: exact duplicates, near duplicates, mixed documents, public files, and private files. The evaluation covers metrics such as file size before and after deduplication, storage savings, chunk size, processing time, and access success rate.

The system achieved notable storage savings in all scenarios—**62.0%** for exact duplicates, **53.3%** for near duplicates, and **57.3%** for mixed documents. Public and private files also saw reductions of **57.8%** and **59.1%**, respectively. Average chunk sizes remained between 4.5 KB and 5.2 KB, and deduplication time ranged from 120 to 170 milliseconds. Access success rates were consistently high, with most scenarios achieving **97–100%**, confirming reliability in data reconstruction and access control.

These results demonstrate that DEDUCT provides efficient and secure deduplication, supporting varied data types while maintaining high performance and user access accuracy.

VI. *Figures and Tables*

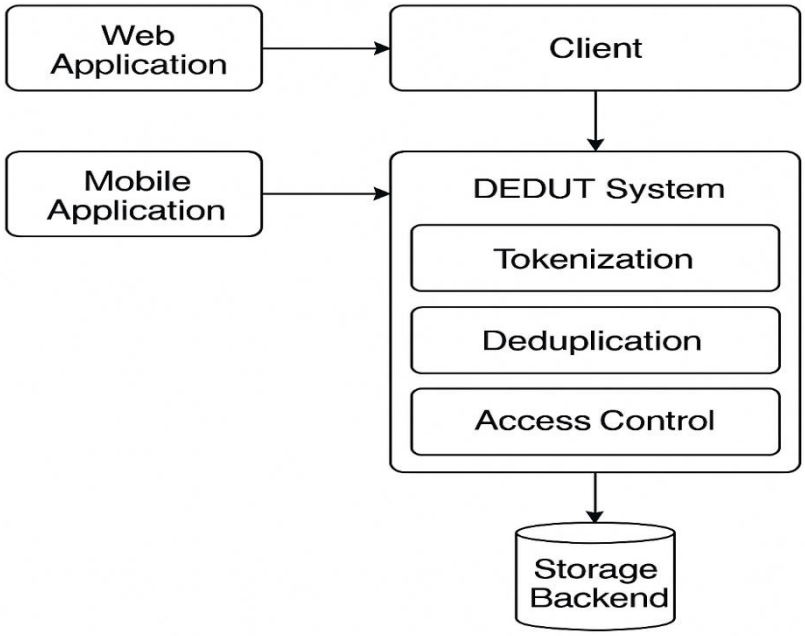

Fig 1: Proposed System Architecture of DEDUCT

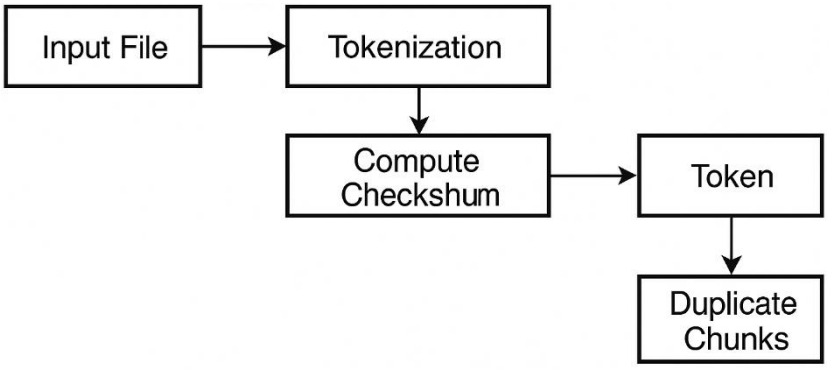

Fig 2: Tokenization and CRC Fingerprinting Flow

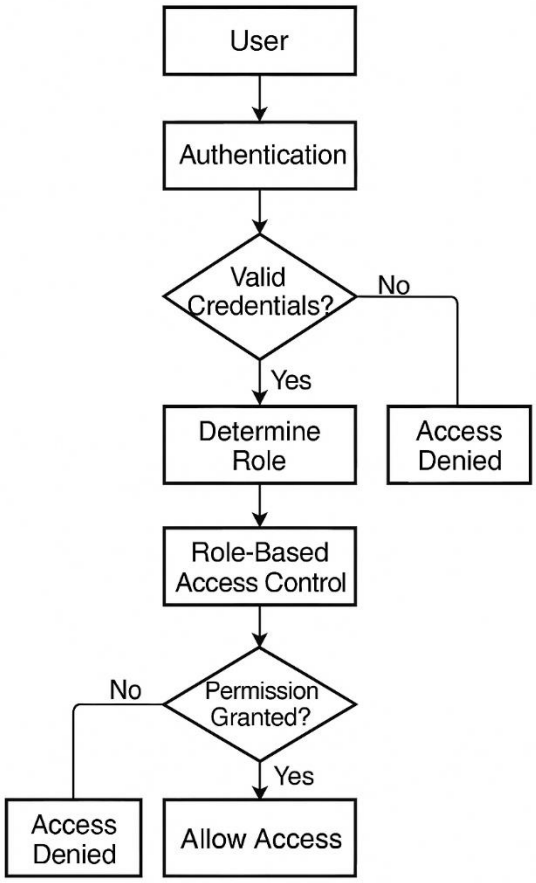

Fig 3: Role-Based Access Control Flowchart.

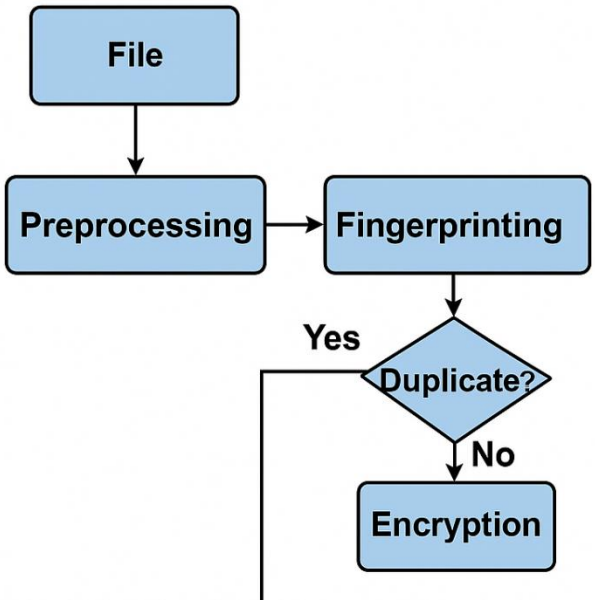

Fig 4 : File Upload and Deduplication Pipeline.

Table 1 : Sample Input File Types and Size Details

File Name	Format	Size	Contains Duplicate?
file1.txt	Text	15 KB	Yes
file2.pdf	PDF	120 KB	Yes
file3.docx	Word	85 KB	No
file4.png	Image	210 KB	No

Table 2: Security and Performance Insights from User Interaction with DEDUCT

Metric	Observed Value	Interpretation
Unauthorized Access Attempts (per 100 ops)	3	Low rate of access violations, indicating effective access control
Average File Decryption Success Rate (%)	98	High accuracy of role-based decryption
Average Upload Time (KB/s)	512	Fast data transfer with client-side processing
Average Retrieval Time (KB/s)	485	Efficient file reconstruction and decryption process
Detected Shared Keys (flagged cases)	2	System flagged suspicious sharing of private keys
User Warning Triggers	5	System alerted 5 times for access anomalies

VII. Acknowledgment

The Authors gratefully acknowledge the guidance and support provided by N.Manikandan, whose expertise and encouragement were instrumental throughout the course of this project. His valuable insights contributed significantly to the development and completion of this research work.
The authors also thank the department of information technology, anand institute of higher technology, for providing the facilities and resources necessary to carry out this study.

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