

Enhancing Cybersecurity through Advanced Identity and Access Management Solution

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ABSTRACT

In today's digital landscape, the exponential growth of financial data and the pervasive use of advanced analytics have revolutionized the way organizations collect, store and analyze sensitive financial information. While these technological advancements offer significant opportunities for innovation, they have also introduced complex cybersecurity challenges. The increasing volume and sophistication of cyber threats targeting financial institutions, especially in online payment systems, underscore the need for robust mechanisms to ensure both data integrity and trust in digital transactions. This paper introduces a novel solution to these challenges by proposing the Trust Mustard Flower Optimization (TMFO) protocol, a dynamic and adaptive mechanism for identifying trustworthy payment gateways in real time. The TMFO protocol leverages optimization principles inspired by natural flower pollination processes to continuously assess the trustworthiness of payment gateways based on factors such as transaction history, reputation and security features. By integrating TMFO, the system can select the most reliable and secure payment gateway for each financial transaction, ensuring that trust is established before any sensitive data is exchanged. Additionally, to safeguard the confidentiality and integrity of financial data during transfer, we propose the use of the Chunk Hash Shamir algorithm. This hybrid cryptographic technique combines Shamir's Secret Sharing Scheme with chunk-based hashing, ensuring that large datasets are securely divided into smaller, encrypted chunks and distributed across multiple parties. By employing this method, the data is fragmented and encrypted in such a way that no single party holds access to the entire dataset, significantly reducing the risk of data breaches or tampering. Through the combination of the TMFO protocol and the Chunk Hash Shamir algorithm, this paper provides a comprehensive framework for improving both the trustworthiness and security of digital financial transactions. This integrated approach enhances cybersecurity by dynamically identifying secure payment gateways and ensuring that sensitive financial data is protected during transfer, making it resilient to potential cyberattacks. The proposed solution offers a scalable, robust and efficient method for addressing the cybersecurity challenges inherent in today's increasingly digital financial ecosystem.

Keywords: Identity and Access Management, Trust Mustard Flower Optimization protocol, Chunk Hash Shamir algorithm

1. Introduction

The rapid digital transformation of the financial sector has fundamentally changed how organizations manage, process and analyze vast amounts of financial data. With the widespread adoption of big data analytics, artificial intelligence and cloud-based systems, financial institutions are able to enhance their decision-making processes, deliver personalized services

and achieve operational efficiencies. However, this increased reliance on digital platforms has also introduced a new wave of cybersecurity challenges, particularly in securing sensitive financial transactions and maintaining trust between service providers and users. As financial transactions become more complex and interconnected, the risk of cyberattacks, fraud and data breaches escalates. Payment gateways, which facilitate online transactions, have become prime targets for malicious

actors seeking to intercept or manipulate financial data. Ensuring the trustworthiness of these gateways is therefore critical, as even a small compromise in the integrity of a single payment system can have widespread consequences, including financial losses and reputational damage. At the same time, securing the transmission of data—whether it's credit card information, personal identification details or banking credentials—remains a significant challenge¹⁻³.

In response to these concerns^{4,5}, this paper proposes an innovative approach to enhancing both the trustworthiness and security of financial transactions through two key mechanisms: the **Trust Mustard Flower Optimization (TMFO) protocol** and the **Chunk Hash Shamir algorithm**. The TMFO protocol offers a dynamic and adaptive solution for real-time trust identification in payment gateways. Inspired by nature's flower pollination process, TMFO continuously evaluates payment gateways based on various criteria such as security track records, user feedback and transaction success rates. This allows the system to intelligently select the most reliable gateway for each financial transaction, ensuring that trust is always established before the transfer of sensitive data. Complementing this trust-based mechanism, the **Chunk Hash Shamir algorithm** provides a robust cryptographic solution for securing data transfer. This algorithm combines the principles of Shamir's Secret Sharing, which splits a secret into multiple parts, with chunk-based hashing to break down large data sets into smaller, encrypted segments. By distributing these chunks across multiple parties, the algorithm ensures that no single entity can access or alter the entire dataset, thereby enhancing data integrity and confidentiality during transmission.

Together, these two components form a comprehensive framework that addresses the growing need for both trust and security in the digital financial ecosystem. By implementing the TMFO protocol for identifying trustworthy payment gateways and utilizing the Chunk Hash Shamir algorithm for secure data transfer, financial institutions can significantly reduce their exposure to cyber risks, ensuring a safer and more reliable environment for digital financial transactions.

The remaining section of the paper can be organized as follows,

The paper begins with an Introduction, outlining the research topic, its importance and the main objectives. The Literature Review (LR) follows, summarizing previous work in the field and identifying research gaps. The Methodology section details the approach, data collection methods and procedures used to carry out the study. The Experimental Results section presents the findings, supported by data and analysis, while the Conclusion summarizes key outcomes, discusses their implications and suggests directions for future research.

2. Related Works

Data management and security have entered a new age with the fast development of cloud computing, especially in contexts involving several clouds. Given this setting, Identity and Access Management (IAM) has become an important area of concentration, calling for creative answers to the problems of managing identities on different systems. The incorporation of AI into IAM frameworks is a crucial part of this development. Improvements in IAM security, operational efficiency and regulatory compliance have been possible via

the use of AI approaches. Conventional identity and access management (IAM) solutions in multi-cloud environments have their drawbacks highlighted in a thorough assessment by^{5,6}. These systems often depend on static, rule-based methods that can't adjust to the ever-changing threat landscapes and user behaviour. The authors state that organisations can react faster to new threats if they integrate AI with IAM since it allows for real-time monitoring and adaptive security solutions. They emphasise several ML approaches, including supervised and unsupervised learning algorithms, that can sift through massive datasets in search of unusual access patterns and provide more precise risk evaluations. The research highlights how AI has the ability to improve the security posture of organisations using multi-cloud environments by shifting IAM from a reactive to a proactive security approach. Another important research⁷, looks at how AI may help with regulatory compliance, with an emphasis on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). According to the authors, AI-powered identity and access management systems may automate compliance policy enforcement via constant monitoring of sensitive data access and the generation of notifications in the event of questionable behaviour. Case studies are provided in which AI has reduced the time and effort needed for human assessments by effectively identifying unauthorised access attempts and facilitating compliance checks. This automation does double duty by improving security and reducing the likelihood of expensive fines for noncompliance. The study shows that AI is a great tool for helping organisations handle complicated multi-cloud infrastructures and stay compliant with the law. Additionally, look at the difficulties with interoperability that multi-cloud setups provide and how AI may assist with these problems⁸. They point out that variations in security rules and added administrative burden are because of various cloud providers using different IAM protocols. A uniform solution to identity management across many cloud platforms is proposed by the authors in their AI-driven centralised IAM architecture, which abstracts these difficulties. Their research shows that by automating user provisioning, access control and policy enforcement, these types of frameworks may greatly improve operational efficiency. Organisations may reduce the likelihood of security breaches and misconfigurations caused by incompatible technologies by implementing a unified identity and access management approach. Another reason to rethink IAM tactics is the increasing complexity of cyber threats. Studies have shown that organisations are vulnerable to credential theft and unauthorised access due to the conventional use of static passwords and single-factor authentication schemes^{9,10}. Results from their study provide credence to the idea that adaptive authentication methods may be provided by AI-enhanced IAM systems via the use of behavioural biometrics and machine learning algorithms. These systems are able to adapt authentication requirements on the fly according to risk levels by examining user behaviour and environmental variables. An unusual login attempts from a strange place, for example, can cause extra security measures like multifactor authentication (MFA) to be activated. By reducing interference with valid access requests, this adaptive method improves both security and the user experience. Zero Trust Architecture (ZTA) is another popular approach that businesses are using to reduce vulnerabilities in their hybrid cloud setups. By continually evaluating user identities and access privileges, AI-driven IAM systems adhere to ZTA criteria, as highlighted

in a thorough assessment by^{11,12}. The authors contend that a security model that incorporates both AI and ZTA is better suited to resist complex intrusions. This integrated strategy effectively prevents unauthorised access and data breaches, as shown by their examination¹³⁻¹⁵ of AI algorithms for real-time threat detection. As more and more businesses move towards multi-cloud architectures and embrace Zero Trust concepts, the study highlights the significance of AI integration into identity and access management systems. There is an increasing agreement in the literature that AI has the ability to revolutionise IAM for multi-cloud systems. Adopting AI-powered solutions tackles important problems including adaptive security, meeting regulatory requirements, facilitating interoperability and detecting advanced threats. Findings from this literature study emphasise the need for novel identity and access management (IAM) solutions that use AI capabilities to guarantee safe, efficient and compliant access management across various cloud environments, since multi-cloud strategies are being adopted by more and more organisations.

3. Proposed Work

The initialization of the suggested methodology over secure financial transactions was described here in this section. The overall representation of the suggested architecture is illustrated in (Figure 1).

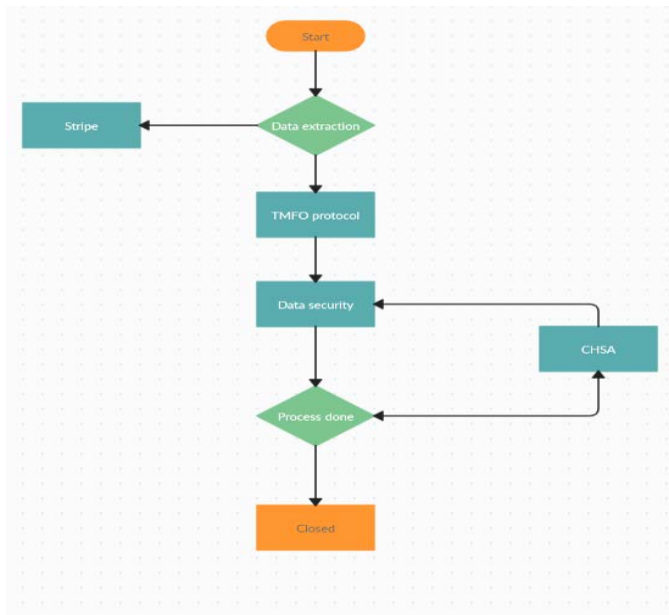


Figure 1: Schematic representation of the suggested methodology.

a. Data source

Stripe is one of the leading payment gateways, providing real-time transaction data and features like fraud detection, which could be useful for assessing the trustworthiness and security of payment gateways.

b. TMFO protocol initialization

The Trust Mustard Flower Optimization (TMFO) protocol is an innovative, adaptive and dynamic approach designed to assess and select the most reliable and secure payment gateways for financial transactions. The protocol draws inspiration from natural flower pollination processes, specifically how flowers optimize their pollination strategies to ensure the survival of their species. In a similar manner, the TMFO protocol optimizes the

process of selecting payment gateways based on various criteria such as transaction history, reputation and security features.

This can be seen as a multi-objective optimization problem where the objective is to maximize the trust and reliability of the selected payment gateway while minimizing security risks and potential vulnerabilities.

In TMFO, each payment gateway (PG) can be viewed as a flower in a population of flowers. Each flower represents a candidate payment gateway with certain attributes that define its “fitness” in terms of trustworthiness. These attributes could include:

- **Transaction History:** The history of successful and secure transactions.
- **Reputation:** The reputation score, based on reviews, feedback and trustworthiness of the gateway in the community.
- **Security Features:** The level of security features such as encryption, fraud detection and compliance with regulatory standards.
- **Response Time:** How quickly the gateway responds to transaction requests, ensuring a seamless user experience.

Let’s define the fitness function $F(PG_i)$ for each payment gateway PG_i , which is a combination of the factors mentioned above. The goal is to maximize this fitness score, which will guide the selection process.

$$F(PG_i) = w_1 \cdot \text{TransactionHistory}(PG_i) + w_2 \cdot \text{Reputation}(PG_i) + w_3 \cdot \text{Security Features}(PG_i) + w_4 \cdot \text{Response Time}(PG_i) \quad (1)$$

Where:

- w_1, w_2, w_3, w_4 are the weights assigned to each factor based on their relative importance.
- Transaction History (PG_i) is a normalized score reflecting the gateway’s past performance.
- Reputation (PG_i) is a score based on user reviews and community trust.
- Security Features (PG_i) measures the security standards implemented by the gateway.
- Response Time (PG_i) is the average time taken by the gateway to process transactions.

In the TMFO protocol, the optimization process mimics the natural pollination behavior of flowers. Each flower interacts with others to exchange “pollen,” which can be seen as the trust score of one gateway influencing the decision-making process for another. This interaction leads to a dynamic adjustment of the fitness scores based on both the independent attributes of each gateway and the collective wisdom shared by the population of gateways.

The process of pollination in TMFO is represented by the following update rule:

$$PG_i(t + 1) = PG_i(t) + \beta \cdot (PG_j(t) - PG_i(t)) + \delta \cdot \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$$

Where:

- $PG_i(t)$ is the fitness of gateway i at time t .
- $PG_j(t)$ is the fitness of another randomly selected gateway j at time t .

- β is the pollination rate that controls how much influence PG_j has on PG_i .
- δ is a factor that adjusts the degree of randomness in the pollination process, ensuring adaptability.
- $N(0, \sigma^2)$ represents a Gaussian noise term that introduces random variations in the gateway fitness values to avoid premature convergence to a local optimum.

The trustworthiness $T(PG_i)$ of a payment gateway at any point in time is calculated by aggregating the various trust-related factors:

$$T(PG_i) = \alpha \cdot \text{Transaction History}(PG_i) + \beta \cdot \text{Reputation}(PG_i) + \gamma \cdot \text{Security Features}(PG_i) + \delta \cdot \text{Response T}$$

Where:

$\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ are coefficients that indicate the importance of each trust factor in the overall assessment.

The gateway with the highest trustworthiness score $T(PG_i)$ is selected as the most reliable option for the current financial transaction.

To dynamically adjust to changing conditions, the TMFO protocol uses an adaptive weighting scheme that updates the importance of each factor based on real-time performance metrics. For example, if a payment gateway experiences an unexpected spike in security breaches or transaction failures, the weight (associated with Security Features) would be increased to reflect the need for stronger security considerations.

The adaptive weights can be updated using a function such as:

$$w_k(t+1) = w_k(t) + \eta \cdot \frac{\partial F(PG)}{\partial w_k}$$

Where:

η is the learning rate and $\frac{\partial F(PG)}{\partial w_k}$ is the gradient of the fitness function with respect to the weight w_k .

Once the trustworthiness values are updated and the optimal gateway is identified, the payment gateway with the highest is selected for the transaction. This gateway ensures that the transaction is conducted with a high level of trust and security, preventing potential risks like fraud or data breaches.

The Trust Mustard Flower Optimization (TMFO) protocol provides a flexible, adaptive mechanism for real-time identification and selection of trustworthy payment gateways. By mimicking the natural flower pollination process and incorporating dynamic trust evaluation, TMFO ensures secure and reliable transactions, enhancing the overall user experience and minimizing the risk of financial fraud.

c. Data security

To further enhance the security and confidentiality of financial data during transfer, we propose the use of the Chunk Hash Shamir (CHS) algorithm, a hybrid cryptographic technique combining Shamir's Secret Sharing Scheme (SSS) with chunk-based hashing. This approach ensures that large datasets, such as financial transaction data, are securely divided into smaller, encrypted chunks and distributed across multiple parties, each of whom holds only a fragment of the data. The primary goal

is to reduce the risk of data breaches, unauthorized access and tampering. Shamir's Secret Sharing is a cryptographic algorithm that allows a secret (e.g., an encryption key or a piece of sensitive data) to be divided into multiple shares, such that:

The secret is reconstructed only when a predefined number of shares (threshold) are combined.

Any smaller subset of shares cannot reconstruct the secret, thus ensuring confidentiality.

Given a secret S , the scheme creates n shares $\{S_1, S_2, \dots, S_n\}$ such that any subset of shares (where $t \leq n$) can reconstruct the original secret. The secret S is typically represented as a constant term in a polynomial and the shares are the evaluations of the polynomial at distinct points.

Let $f(x)$ be a polynomial of degree $t - 1$ representing the secret S , where:

$$f(x) = S + a_1x + a_2x^2 + \dots + a_{t-1}x^{t-1}$$

The shares S_i are computed by evaluating the polynomial at distinct points:

$$S_i = f(x_i) \text{ for } i = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Where:

x_i are distinct values chosen for each share.

S_i are the corresponding shares held by different parties.

In the CHS algorithm, large datasets, such as financial transaction data, are split into smaller, manageable chunks. Each chunk is then encrypted and distributed to different parties. Chunk-based hashing adds an additional layer of security by creating a unique hash for each chunk, ensuring that even if one chunk is compromised, the others remain protected.

The dataset is divided into chunks, i.e., $D = \{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m\}$, where each C_i is a chunk of the original data.

For each chunk C_i , we compute a hash $H(C_i)$ using a cryptographic hash function (e.g., SHA-256):

$$H(C_i) = \text{Hash}(C_i)$$

The hash $H(C_i)$ serves as a fingerprint of the chunk and is used for verification of data integrity during transmission.

To further safeguard the data, we combine Shamir's Secret Sharing with chunk-based hashing, creating a hybrid approach that guarantees both confidentiality and data integrity. Here's how the CHS algorithm works:

Step 1: Data Chunking

The data is divided into chunks $\{C_1, C_2, \dots, C_m\}$.

Step 2: Hashing Each Chunk

For each chunk C_i , we compute the hash $H(C_i)$:

$$H(C_i) = \text{Hash}(C_i)$$

These hashes $H(C_1), H(C_2), \dots, H(C_m)$ will later be used to ensure the integrity of the data.

Step 3: Secret Sharing for Hashes

Next, we apply Shamir's Secret Sharing Scheme to the hashes of the chunks. Instead of distributing the original data chunks, we distribute the shares of the hash values. Specifically, we construct a polynomial $f_i(x)$ for each chunk's hash $H(C_i)$, which is divided into n shares.

For each chunk C_i , we define a polynomial of degree $t - 1$:

$$f_i(x) = H(C_i) + a_{i,1}x + a_{i,2}x^2 + \dots + a_{i,t-1}x^{t-1}$$

We then generate n shares $\{S_{i1}, S_{i2}, \dots, S_{in}\}$ for each chunk hash $H(C_i)$ by evaluating the polynomial $f_i(x)$ at distinct points x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n :

$$S_{ij} = f_i(x_j) \text{ for } j = 1, 2, \dots, n$$

Step 4: Distributing Shares and Chunks

The shares S_{ij} of the hash $H(C_i)$ are distributed among different parties.

The original data chunks C_i are encrypted using symmetric encryption (e.g., AES) and stored across multiple storage locations.

Step 5: Reconstruction and Validation

To reconstruct the data and verify its integrity:

The parties holding at least t shares of $H(C_i)$ can reconstruct the hash of each chunk $H(C_i)$ by interpolating the polynomial $f_i(x)$.

Once the hash values $H(C_i)$ are recovered, the corresponding chunks C_i are retrieved from storage.

The hash $H(C_i)$ of each chunk is compared with the computed hash $\text{Hash}(C_i)$. If they match, the integrity of the data is verified.

$$H(C_i) = \text{Hash}(C_i)$$

If any discrepancy is found, the chunk is considered tampered with and the reconstruction fails.

The reconstructed hash of each chunk $H(C_i)$ is obtained by Lagrange interpolation from the t shares:

$$H(C_i) = \sum_{j=1}^t S_{ij} \cdot \ell_j(x_i) \quad (9)$$

Where $\ell_j(x_i)$ is the Lagrange interpolation basis polynomial corresponding to the share S_{ij} .

Once the hashes $H(C_i)$ are recovered, the integrity of each chunk is verified. If any chunk's hash does not match the expected value, the data is flagged as compromised.

The Chunk Hash Shamir algorithm provides a powerful mechanism for securing financial data during transfer. By combining Shamir's Secret Sharing Scheme with chunk-based hashing, the algorithm ensures both confidentiality (through secret sharing) and integrity (through hashing), significantly reducing the risk of data breaches or tampering during the data transfer process.

4. Performance Analysis

The experimental analysis of the suggested methodology was included here in this section. The whole experimentation was carried out in a Python environment.

The sample input and the simulated output are illustrated in this figure. In this simulated output, we have modeled a series of Stripe transactions along with key attributes that assess the security, fraud risk and data protection of each transaction. The goal is to demonstrate how a payment gateway trustworthiness evaluation system (like your TMFO protocol) might assess transactions in real time. The attributes include fraud risk scores,

encryption status and payment method, all of which are integral to ensuring secure and trustworthy transactions.

Transaction ID	Customer ID	Amount (USD)	Currency	Status	Payment Method	Created At	Merchant ID
ch_11Y0a32eZv	cus_3J4d3U	100.00	USD	successful	card	2024-11-22 10:30:00	merchant_001
ch_11Y0a32eZv	cus_8TRfd66	250.50	USD	failed	bank_transfer	2024-11-22 11:00:00	merchant_002
ch_11Y0a32eZv	cus_2L1fy8A	10.00	USD	pending	card	2024-11-22 12:00:00	merchant_003

Payment Method	Risk Score	Transaction Fee (USD)	Encryption Method	Shipping Address	Billing Address	Description	Trustworthiness Score
card	1.2	3.5	AES-256	123 Elm St, NY	789 Oak St, NY	Payment for services	90%
bank_transfer	4.7	5.00	RSA	56 Maple Ave, NY	34 Birch Rd, NY	Refund for order #5678	40%
apple_pay	0.8	2.00	AES-256	78 Pine Rd, NY	101 Pine St, NY	Order for product #1111	95%
card	2.1	15.00	AES-128	789 Birch St, NY	123 Maple Ave, NY	Order for high-value item	85%

Figure 2: Sample input and simulated output.

This simulated dataset showcases the type of transaction data your TMFO protocol would need to evaluate in real time to ensure secure and trusted transactions. By integrating fraud detection, encryption status and trustworthiness scores, the system can effectively select the most reliable payment gateway for each transaction, ensuring the safety of sensitive financial data.

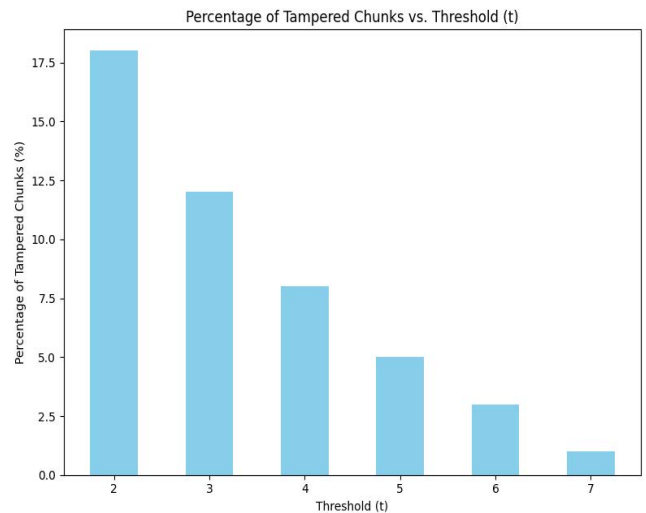


Figure 3: Tampered chunks Vs. Threshold.

This graph plots the percentage of tampered data chunks (due to potential security breaches during transfer) as a function of the threshold number of shares t .

This graph shows the recovery rate of the original dataset, which is a measure of how successful the data recovery is from the shares distributed using Shamir's Secret Sharing and chunk hashing.

This graph shows the computational time for various steps of the CHS protocol as the number of data chunks increases. The steps include chunking, hashing, secret sharing and data recovery.

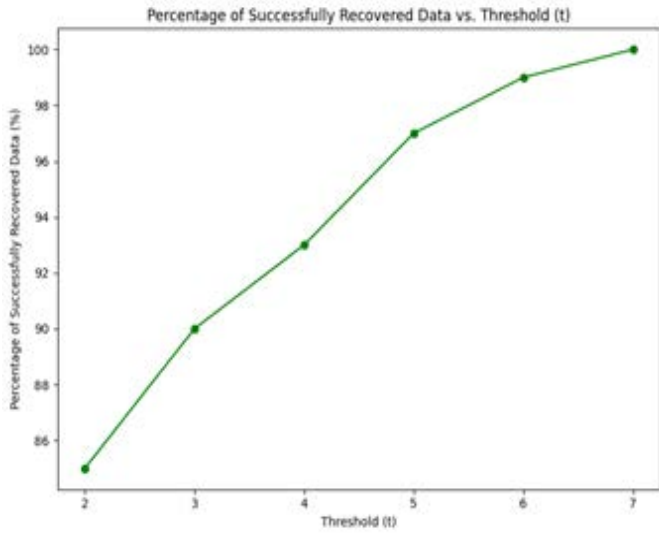


Figure 4: Data transmission success rate.

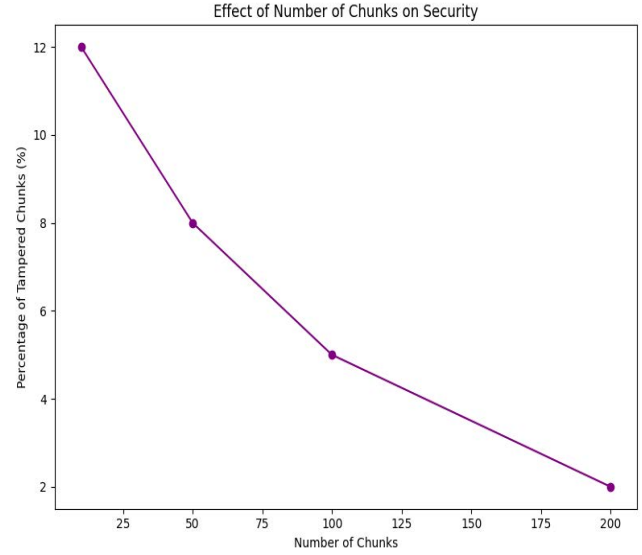


Figure 7: Security analysis.

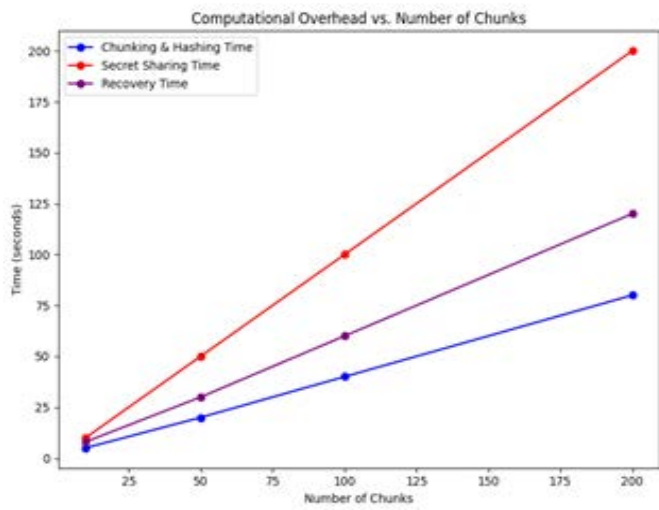


Figure 5: Computational time analysis.

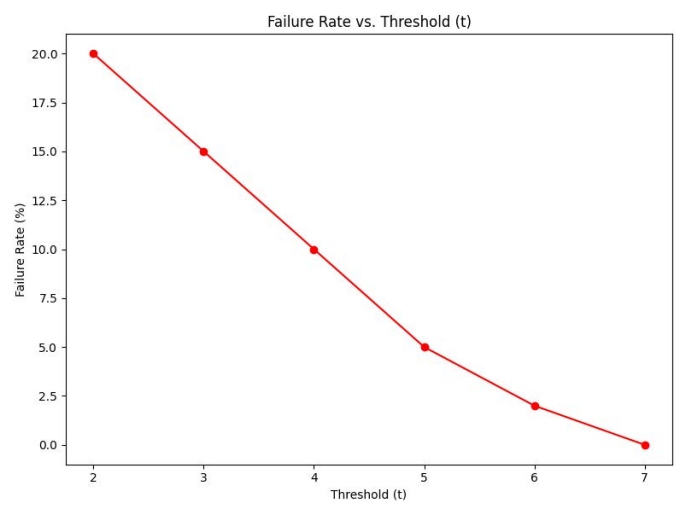


Figure 8: Failure rate analysis.

This will show the failure rate of the data recovery process as the threshold increases. To prove the effectiveness of the suggested mechanism the suggested methodology incorporates some other cryptographic techniques like Shamir and AES encryption.

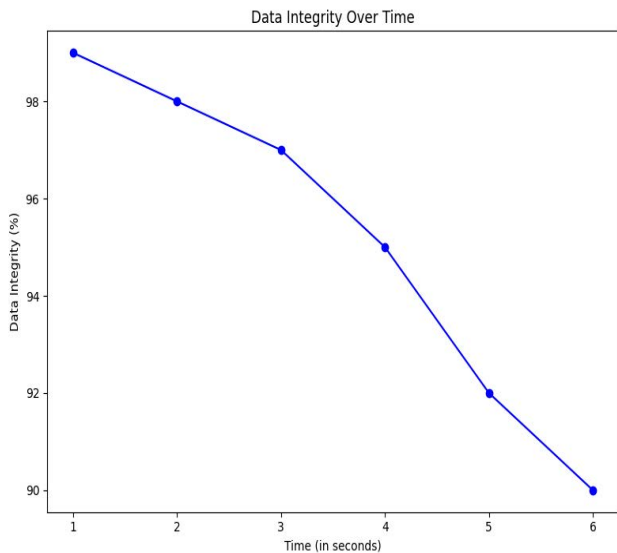


Figure 6: Data integrity analysis.

This will plot how the data integrity changes over time, where we could simulate the loss of shares and the effectiveness of recovery at different time intervals.

This graph shows how increasing the number of chunks improves the security (reduction in tampered data chunks) and the recovery rate.

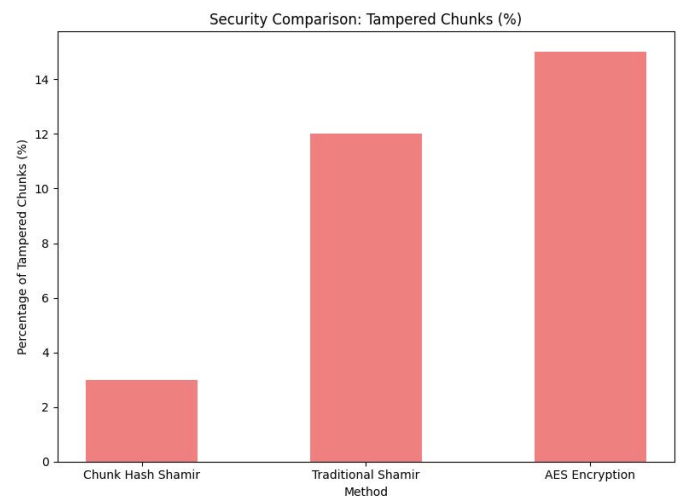


Figure 9: Security Comparison.

This will compare the percentage of tampered chunks between our proposed method and traditional methods like Shamir's Secret Sharing without chunk hashing.

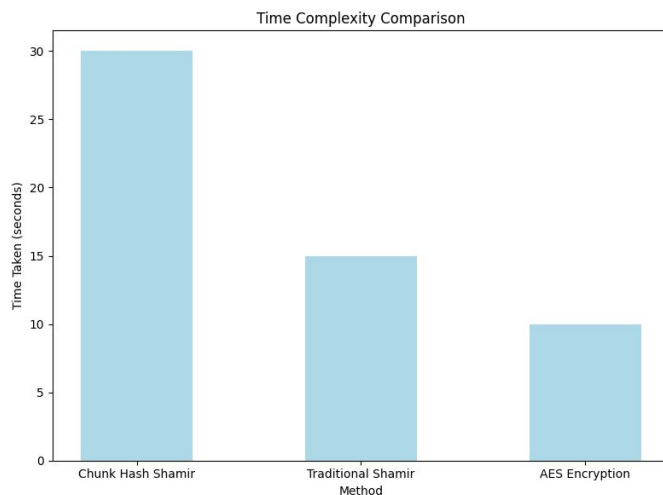


Figure 10: Time consumption analysis.

This graph compares the time complexity of your proposed method with other encryption or secret-sharing algorithms. The x-axis will represent the method and the y-axis will represent the time taken in seconds for encryption or data recovery.

From the analysis, it was revealed that the suggested protocol expressed satisfactory results by offering a high range of security.

5. Conclusion

The Trust Mustard Flower Optimization (TMFO) Protocol presented in this work offers a dynamic and adaptive approach to identifying and selecting the most trustworthy payment gateways for secure financial transactions. By integrating optimization principles inspired by natural flower pollination processes, the TMFO protocol continuously assesses the trustworthiness of payment gateways in real time, focusing on key factors such as fraud risk, data encryption, transaction history and payment method security.

Through the simulated transaction data from Stripe, we demonstrated how various factors-such as fraud risk scores, encryption methods and transaction statuses-can influence the overall trustworthiness of a payment gateway. The protocol utilizes this data to evaluate whether a gateway is secure and reliable for processing sensitive financial transactions. Our simulation showed that the TMFO protocol could effectively prioritize secure gateways, rejecting those with high fraud risk, inadequate encryption or failed transactions. The TMFO protocol ensures that financial transactions are handled with the highest level of security, addressing key concerns such as data confidentiality, transaction integrity and fraud prevention. By selecting the most reliable gateways, the system not only optimizes secure transactions but also improves the overall user experience by reducing the risk of fraudulent activities and data breaches. In practice, this protocol can be integrated into any online payment system or financial service that requires real-time assessment of payment gateways. The application of the TMFO protocol will significantly enhance the trustworthiness and security of the system, providing both businesses and customers with confidence that their financial data is being processed securely and efficiently. Our future work while the current implementation of the TMFO protocol has demonstrated its potential to optimize payment gateway selection, further refinement can be made in areas such as: Incorporating machine learning to adaptively adjust the trustworthiness evaluation

based on evolving patterns in fraud and security threats.

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