

# An Efficient Cloud-Based Revocable Identity-Based Proxy Re-encryption Scheme for Public Clouds Data Sharing

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**Abstract.** Identity-based encryption (IBE) eliminates the necessity of having a costly certificate verification process. However, revocation remains as a daunting task in terms of ciphertext update and key update phases. In this paper, we provide an affirmative solution to solve the efficiency problem incurred by revocation. We propose the first cloud-based revocable identity-based proxy re-encryption (CR-IB-PRE) scheme that supports user revocation but also delegation of decryption rights. No matter a user is revoked or not, at the end of a given time period the cloud acting as a proxy will re-encrypt all ciphertexts of the user under the current time period to the next time period. If the user is revoked in the forthcoming time period, he cannot decrypt the ciphertexts by using the expired private key anymore. Comparing to some naive solutions which require a private key generator (PKG) to interact with non-revoked users in each time period, the new scheme provides definite advantages in terms of communication and computation efficiency.

**Keywords:** Revocable identity-based encryption, cloud-based revocable identity-based proxy re-encryption, standard model.

## 1 Introduction

In a traditional public-key infrastructure (PKI), user revocation can be conducted via a certificate mechanism. If a user is revoked, his/her certificate will be added to a certificate revocation list (CRL) by certificate authority. Anyone who wants to encrypt a message for this user has to check the certificate of the user against the CRL. If the certificate is on the list, the sender knows that this user has been revoked and therefore, will not further share any sensitive information with him/her. Different from PKI, there is no certificate in identity-based encryption (IBE) cryptosystem. Therefore user revocation remains an elusive open problem in this paradigm.

To solve this problem, Boneh and Franklin [1] proposed a naive but inefficient solution (the first revocable IBE scheme) such that the computation and

communication complexity of private key generator (PKG) are both linearly in the total number  $N$  of non-revocable system users, i.e.  $O(N)$ . Although their work is further studied by different scholars in the following decade, most of the existing revocable IBE systems (e.g. [2]) have not considered how to relieve the cost spent on key and ciphertext updated processes. Therefore, this motivates our work.

## 1.1 Motivation

**Ciphertexts Update.** To date cloud-based technology gives birth to the next generation of computing system. With the assistance of cloud server, many costly computations can be performed with ease. For example, in a revocable IBE system, a data sender can encrypt the data under an identity and a time period for a specified receiver such that the receiver can gain access to the data by using his decryption key corresponding to the time period. When the key is expired and the receiver is not on the revocation list, a PKG will issue a new key/token for the next time period to the receiver and the corresponding ciphertext will be updated to the next period as well. Suppose the ciphertext of the data is stored in a public cloud, then for each ciphertext update process the sender has to deal with the download-decrypt-then-re-encrypt process. Although the ciphertext might be stored locally (without loss of confidentiality), the sender should execute decrypt-then-re-encrypt mode. This may consume a great amount of computational resources while there is a great amount of data to be dealt with. Therefore, the sender might not afford the consumption upon using some resource-limited devices.

To off-load the computational workload to the cloud, we might allow the cloud server to handle ciphertext update process. A naive solution is to enable the cloud to gain access to the data. This, nevertheless, violates the confidentiality of data. A better solution is to enable the cloud to re-encrypt an original ciphertext under an old time period to another ciphertext under a new time period without leaking knowledge of either the decryption key or the underlying plaintext. In CRYPTO 2012 Sahai, Seyalioglu and Waters [3] proposed a non-re-encryption methodology to enable a server, given some public information, to fulfill ciphertext update process in the attribute-based encryption setting. In this paper we leverage the technology of proxy re-encryption (PRE) into ciphertext update process to tackle the same problem in the context of revocable IBE. Later, we will show that our system enjoys better efficiency compared to [3]. Using PRE, a ciphertext stored in the cloud can be re-encrypted to another ciphertext by the cloud server acting as a *semi-trusted* proxy. No information related to the data, however, leaks to the proxy. Accordingly, the update process can be executed effectively and efficiently on the side of cloud server such that the workload of data sender is lessen.

**Key Update.** Using the technology of identity-based PRE (IB-PRE), ciphertext update for user revocation can be *somehow* offloaded to the cloud as well. If a user is revoked, all ciphertexts stored in the cloud server will be re-encrypted to another “identity”. For instance, ciphertexts for a user with identity *Alice*

are re-encrypted to ciphertexts for another “identity” `Alice-1` such that the decryption key associated with `Alice` is not applicable to the decryption of the newly ciphertexts. Nonetheless, there is an undesirable trade-off by simply leveraging IB-PRE. The user needs to update a new identity upon entering to the new time period (corresponding to `Alice-1`). A change in identity (e.g. from `Alice` to `Alice-1`) might bring inconvenience to the user who needs to tell all data senders to use the new identity for the further encryption. That already violates the original idea of using identity-based encryption in which the sender only needs to know some simple information, e.g., name, email address of the user, but not other frequently changeable (or periodical updated) information.

In the ideal case, it is desirable to have a cloud-based encryption scheme with the following features:

1. **Efficient Revocation:** It should support both user and decryption key revocation. User revocation guarantees that if a user has left the organization, he/she will be withdrawn from the right of accessing the information (with respect to his/her identity) in clouds. Decryption key revocation ensures that when the decryption key of a user is stolen or compromised by an adversary, the user may have an opportunity to update the key so as to decrypt updated ciphertexts. With these properties, only a legitimate user is allowed to continually access the data under the encryption (e.g. being issued a new private key by PKG) but not the adversary with a compromised key. More importantly, the complexity of revocation *should not* be linearly in the number of non-revocable system users (i.e.  $O(N)$ ).
2. **Efficient Ciphertext Update:** Ciphertext update process can be off-loaded to cloud server such that a data sender enjoys less computational cost while there is a great deal of ciphertexts to be updated.
3. **Consistency of Identity after Revocation:** If the decryption key of a user is compromised (that is the case of decryption key revocation), the user should retain his/her original identity (i.e. keeping identity consistent). No additional information will be added to the identity or identification string.

## 1.2 A Naive Solution

Using any existing IB-PRE system (e.g. [4]), a naive solution can be achieved with the above features. We denote by “`Name | Time Period`” the “identity” of a system user. That is, the time period is concatenated to the original identity of the user. For example, the identity of Alice at January 2014 is represented as `Alice | JAN 2014`. Any data sender can use this string as public key to encrypt the data for Alice in January 2014. In the upcoming month, the identity will be changed to `Alice | FEB 2014`. Before the beginning of March, the server will re-encrypt all ciphertexts of Alice stored in the cloud to `Alice | Mar 2014` such that Alice cannot access the data unless she is granted a new key for March 2014. On the other side, if the key (for February 2014) is stolen by adversary, the same action can be taken. However, in this case the user is required to be given the decryption key for the next time period (i.e. March 2014) in advance.

However, this solution leads to an undesirable trade-off where it brings unnecessary workload for PKG. The solution requires the PKG to issue a decryption key to every user at the beginning of each time period. Most of key generation/update algorithms of revocable IBE systems fulfill the issue of updated decryption key (resp. corresponding updated information) by establishing a secure channel from the PKG to a user. The cost brought by building up the secure channel for each user is acceptable for a new user joining the system at the first time. But if the PKG and the user need to repeat this at every time period, it might not be practical. It not only brings inconvenience to (non-revocable) system users, but also incurs undesirable workload for the PKG as the complexity grows linearly with the number of (non-revocable) users at each time period. Thus this naive solution is not scalable and not practical at all.

### 1.3 Our Contributions

In this paper we present the following contributions.

- We define the notion of cloud-based revocable identity-based proxy re-encryption (CR-IB-PRE) and its corresponding security model.
- We propose an efficient and concrete system achieving the notion we propose above. It is worth mentioning that the present system is the first to support user revocation but also delegation of decryption rights in the identity-based cryptographic setting.
- Our scheme achieving the features mentioned in the previous section only requires the PKG to publish a **constant-size** public string at the beginning of each time period. The PKG does not need to interact with each user by establishing an individual secure channel such that the complexity of the PKG is reduced to  $O(1)$ . This public string only allows non-revoked users (but not the revoked users) to fulfill the key update phase. Without this key updating process, the revoked users cannot decrypt the ciphertexts stored in the cloud any more as the original ciphertexts are already re-encrypted to the next time period when the users are revoked.
- We prove our new scheme to be secure against chosen-plaintext attack (CPA) and collusion resistant in the standard model.

### 1.4 System Architecture

We describe the system architecture of a CR-IB-PRE as follows. Like a revocable IBE system, a PKG first issues a private key  $sk_{Alice}$  associated with an identity, say Alice, to the user Alice. When a time period, say  $T_5$ , has come, the PKG delivers a token  $\tau_{T_5}$  to Alice such that Alice can update her private key to a new decryption key  $sk_{Alice|T_5}$  to decrypt any ciphertext encrypted under Alice and time period  $T_5$ . When a new time period is approaching, Alice may construct a re-encryption key  $rk_{Alice|T_5 \rightarrow T_6}$  under her identity from  $T_5$  to  $T_6$ , and then send the key to a cloud server whom will update a ciphertext under Alice and  $T_5$  to a new ciphertext under Alice and  $T_6$ . However, Alice here cannot immediately

decrypt the new ciphertext as a token  $\tau_{T6}$  is not issued by PKG yet. After the token is issued, Alice can update her decryption key to  $sk_{Alice|T6}$  accordingly so as to recover the underlying plaintext. In the key update phase, the PKG only publishes a public token associated with  $T6$  such that any user excluded in the revocation list can leverage this token to update his/her decryption key. This makes key update (for  $N$  non-revocable users) reduce to constant cost.

One might doubt that the system cannot be seen as a type of IB-PRE because an IB-PRE scheme usually re-encrypts a ciphertext under an identity to another ciphertext under a new identity. Actually, our system does not contradict the notion of IB-PRE by regarding  $(Alice, T5)$  and  $(Alice, T6)$  as two different identities. One might further question that ciphertext update process may be suspended by a dishonest user if the user refuses to deliver the corresponding re-encryption key to the server. To address this problem, we propose a solution right after our basic construction in Section 4.2.

## 1.5 Related Work

The first revocable IBE is proposed by Boneh and Franklin [1], in which a ciphertext is encrypted under an identity  $id$  and a time period  $T$ , and a non-revoked user is issued a private key  $sk_{id,T}$  by a PKG such that the user can access the data in  $T$ . However, this does not scale well as the complexity of the PKG is linearly in the number  $N$  of non-revocable users. Subsequently, Boldyreva, Goyal and Kumar [2] proposed the security notion for revocable IBE, and constructed an efficient revocable IBE scheme from a fuzzy IBE scheme [5] with binary tree structure. To achieve adaptive security, Libert and Vergnaud [6] proposed a revocable IBE scheme based on the variant of Waters IBE [7] and Gentry IBE [8]. Recently, Seo and Emura [9] formalized a revised notion for revocable IBE, and proposed a concrete scheme based on [6]. Since its introduction, there are many variants of revocable IBE. For example, several revocable IBE schemes [10,11,12] leverage a semi-trusted authority to enable users to fulfill valid decryption. There are also some functional encryption schemes [13,14,15,3] considering the property of revocation. Inspired by [9] we will build the first CR-IB-PRE scheme in the standard model.

Decryption rights delegation is introduced in [16]. Blaze, Bleumer and Strauss [17] formally defined the notion of PRE. PRE can be classified as: unidirectional and bidirectional PRE, and single-hop and multi-hop PRE, where the definitions are given in [18]. This present work deals with the multi-hop unidirectional case. Many PRE systems have been proposed in the literature, such as [18,19,20,21,22].

To employ PRE in the IBE setting, Green and Ateniese [4] defined the notion of identity-based PRE (IB-PRE), and proposed two constructions in the random oracle model. Later on, Tang, Hartel and Jonker [23] proposed a CPA-secure IB-PRE scheme in the random oracle model, in which delegator and delegatee can belong to different domains. Chu and Tzeng [24] proposed an IB-PRE scheme without random oracles against replayable chosen-ciphertext attacks (RCCA) [25]. The aforementioned schemes, however, enable proxy to compromise the entire private key of delegator by colluding with delegatee. To

tackle the problem, the following systems are proposed. Two CPA-secure IB-PRE schemes without random oracles were proposed by Matsuo [26]. Wang et al. [27,28] proposed two IB-PRE schemes in the random oracle model. Minzuno and Doi [29] constructed an IB-PRE scheme in the standard model with CPA security. Two CPA-secure IB-PRE schemes without random oracles were proposed in [30]. Shao and Cao [31] proposed a generic construction for CCA-secure IB-PRE in the standard model. Recently, Liang et al. [32] proposed the first CCA-secure unidirectional single-hop IB-PRE in the standard model supporting conditional re-encryption.

## 2 Definitions

Below we define the notion of CR-IB-PRE. Unless stated otherwise, by a CR-IB-PRE we mean a CR-IB-PRE with unidirectional and multi-hop properties. Note please refer to [18] for more details of these properties.

### 2.1 Definition of CR-IB-PRE

**Definition 1.** *A Cloud-Based Revocable Identity-Based Proxy Re-Encryption (CR-IB-PRE) scheme consists of the following algorithms. Below we let  $\mathcal{I}, \mathcal{T}, \mathcal{M}$  be identity space, time space and message space, respectively.*

1. *Setup*: the setup algorithm intakes a security parameter  $k$  and a maximal number of users  $N$ , and outputs the public parameters  $mpk$ , the master secret key  $msk$ , the initial state  $st$  and an empty revocation list  $RL$ . For simplicity, we assume the following algorithms include  $mpk$  implicitly.
2. *KeyGen*: the private key generation algorithm intakes  $msk$ , and a user's identity  $id \in \mathcal{I}$ , and outputs a private key  $sk_{id}$  for the user  $id$  and an updated state  $st$ .
3. *TokenUp*: the token update algorithm intakes  $msk$ , an identity  $id$ , a token update time period  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}$ , the current revocation list  $RL$  and  $st$ , and outputs a token  $\tau_i$ , where  $i \in [1, \text{poly}(1^k)]$ .
4. *DeKeyGen*: the decryption key generation algorithm intakes  $sk_{id}$ ,  $\tau_i$ , and outputs a decryption key  $sk_{id|i}$  for the user  $id$  under the time period  $T_i$  or  $\perp$  if  $id$  has been revoked, where  $i \in [1, \text{poly}(1^k)]$ .
5. *ReKeyGen*: the re-encryption key generation algorithm intakes  $sk_{id|i}$ ,  $msk$ ,  $T_i$  and  $T_{i'}$ , and generates the re-encryption key as follows, where  $1 \leq i < i'$ .
  - (a) *ReKeyToken*: the re-encryption key token generation algorithm intakes  $msk$ ,  $T_i$  and  $T_{i'}$ , outputs a re-encryption key token  $\varphi_{i \rightarrow i'}$ .
  - (b) *ReKey*: the re-encryption key algorithm intakes  $sk_{id|i}$  and  $\varphi_{i \rightarrow i'}$ , outputs a re-encryption key  $rk_{id|i \rightarrow i'}$  which can be used to transform a ciphertext under  $(id, T_i)$  to another ciphertext under  $(id, T_{i'})$ .
6. *Enc*: the encryption algorithm intakes  $id$ ,  $T_i$ , and a message  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ , and outputs an original ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_i)$  which can be further re-encrypted.

7. *ReEnc*: the re-encryption algorithm intakes  $rk_{id|i \rightarrow i'}$ , and a ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_i)$ , and outputs either a re-encrypted ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_{i'})$  or a symbol  $\perp$  indicating  $C$  is invalid, where  $1 \leq i < i'$ .
8. *Dec*: the decryption algorithm intakes  $sk_{id|i}$ , and a ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_i)$ , and outputs either a message  $m$  or a symbol  $\perp$  indicating  $C$  is invalid.
9. *Revoke*: the revocation algorithm intakes an identity to be revoked  $id$ , a revocation time period  $T_i$ , the current revocation list  $RL$ , and a state  $st$ , and outputs an updated  $RL$ .

*Remarks.* Definition 1 is for our basic construction. In this paper we also present extensions for the basic construction. For the extended system, we reuse the above definition except that *TokenUp* takes  $msk, ID, T_i, RL$  and  $st$  as input, and outputs a token  $\tau_i$  for a set  $ID$  of non-revocable users.

**Correctness:** For any  $(mpk, msk)$  output by *Setup*, any time period  $T_i \in \mathcal{T}$  (where  $i \in [1, poly(1^k)]$ ), any message  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ , and all possible states  $st$  and revocation list  $RL$ , if  $sk_{id}$  is output by  $KeyGen(msk, id)$ ,  $\tau_i \leftarrow TokenUp(msk, id, T_i, RL, st)$ ,  $sk_{id|i} \leftarrow DeKeyGen(sk_{id}, \tau_i)$ ,  $rk_{id|i \rightarrow j} \leftarrow ReKeyGen(sk_{id|i}, msk, T_i, T_j)$  (note for simplicity we set  $j = i + 1$  here), we have

if  $id$  is not revoked by  $T_1 : Dec(sk_{id|1}, Enc(id, T_1, m)) = m$ ;

if  $id$  is not revoked by  $T_i :$

$Dec(sk_{id|i}, ReEnc(rk_{id|i-1 \rightarrow i}, \dots, ReEnc(rk_{id|1 \rightarrow 2}, Enc(id, T_1, m)))) \dots = m$ .

## 2.2 Revocation Procedure

The revocation procedure is described based on different cases as follows.

1. **Decryption Key Compromised.** When the decryption key  $sk_{id|i}$  of a user  $id$  for time period  $T_i$  is compromised by an adversary, the user  $id$  reports this issue to a PKG. The PKG then immediately returns a re-encryption key token  $\varphi_{i \rightarrow j}$  to the user, where  $j \neq i$  such that the user can generate a re-encryption key  $rk_{id|i \rightarrow j}$ . The user  $id$  further sends the re-encryption key to the proxy, and next requests it to re-encrypt all ciphertexts under  $(id, T_i)$  to the ones under  $(id, T_j)$ . Besides, the PKG issues a token  $\tau_j$  related to a new time period  $T_j$  to the user  $id$ . After receiving the token, the user  $id$  updates his/her decryption key from  $sk_{id|i}$  to  $sk_{id|j}$ , and then uses the newly key to access the data. Note  $T_j$  is the time period satisfying  $i < j$  such that the user  $id$  will update his key for decryption.
2. **Identity Expired.** When the identity of a user is expired (e.g. the resignation of a registered user) at time period  $T_i$ , our system notifies the corresponding identity and time period to a PKG. The PKG then generates a re-encryption key  $rk_{id|i \rightarrow j}$ , and requests the proxy to re-encrypt all ciphertexts under  $(id, T_i)$  to the ciphertexts under  $(id, T_j)$ . Here  $j$  must satisfy  $i < j$  such that the user  $id$  cannot reuse his/her decryption keys  $sk_{id|z}$  (where  $z \leq i$ ) to decrypt the re-encrypted ciphertexts. The PKG finally adds this user to the revocation list, that is, a re-encryption token and a token related to a new time period will not be issued to this user (after time period  $i$ ).

### 3 A New CPA-Secure CR-IB-PRE

#### 3.1 A Basic Construction

To clearly show the technical roadmap of our scheme, we only propose our basic construction for CR-IB-PRE systems in this section. In this construction, a PKG will suffer from  $O(N)$  computational complexity for key update phase. But we will present performance improvements for this basic construction in Section 4 such that the complexity of the PKG will reduce to  $O(1)$ . Below we assume any identity  $id \in \{0, 1\}^n$  and any time period  $T_i \in \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ . Some revocable IBE systems, such as [6], leverage KUNode algorithm [2] for efficient revocation whereby a data structure (e.g. a binary tree) is used to represent revocation list. However, we here try to present a general solution such that we do not focus on which data structure we choose to denote the revocation list. In our construction we let state  $st$  be an unspecified data structure  $DS$ , and it depends on which structure we use, e.g.,  $st$  can be a binary tree. By a tuple  $(RL, st)$  we mean a revocation list and its corresponding data structure.

1. **Setup**( $1^k, N$ ). The setup algorithm runs  $(g, g, \mathbb{G}, \mathbb{G}_T, e) \leftarrow \mathcal{G}(1^k)$ , where  $g$  is the order of group  $\mathbb{G}$ . It chooses  $\alpha, \beta \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , group elements  $g_2, g_3, v_1, v_2 \in_R \mathbb{G}$ , a random  $n$ -length set  $U = \{u_j | 0 \leq j \leq n\}$ , and a target collision resistant (TCR) hash function  $TCR_1 : \mathbb{G} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , where  $u_j \in_R \mathbb{G}$ . The public parameter is  $mpk = (g, g_1, g_2, g_3, v_1, v_2, U, TCR_1)$ , the master secret key is  $msk = (g_2^\alpha, g_3^\beta)$ ,  $RL = \emptyset$  and  $st = DB$ , where  $g_1 = g^\alpha$ .
2. **KeyGen**( $msk, id$ ). PKG chooses  $r_{id} \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , sets the partial private key  $sk_{id}$  as  $sk_{id_1} = g_3^\beta \cdot (u_0 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{V}_{id}} u_j)^{r_{id}}$ ,  $sk_{id_2} = g^{r_{id}}$ , where  $\mathcal{V}_{id}$  is the set of all  $j$  for which the  $j$ -th bit (of  $id$ ) is equal to 1.
3. **TokenUp**( $msk, id, T_i, RL, st$ ). PKG will check  $RL$  first so as to see whether  $id$  is revoked or not. If it is revoked, output  $\perp$ ; else proceed. Choose  $r_{T_i} \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , and set the token  $\tau_i$  as  $\tau_{i,1} = (g_2^\alpha / g_3^\beta) \cdot (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_i})^{r_{T_i}}$ ,  $\tau_{i,2} = g^{r_{T_i}}$ , where  $i$  is the index for the time period.
4. **DeKeyGen**( $sk_{id}, \tau_i$ ). A user  $id$  runs the algorithm as follows.
  - (a) Choose  $\tilde{r} \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , and randomize the token as  $\tau_{i,1} = \tau_{i,1} \cdot (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_i})^{\tilde{r}}$ ,  $\tau_{i,2} = \tau_{i,2} \cdot g^{\tilde{r}}$ .
  - (b) Choose  $r_1, r_2 \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , and set the updated secret key  $sk_{id|i}$  for identity  $id$  and time period  $T_i$  as

$$\begin{aligned} sk_{id|i,1} &= sk_{id_1} \cdot \tau_{i,1} \cdot (u_0 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{V}_{id}} u_j)^{r_1} \cdot (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_i})^{r_2} \\ &= g_2^\alpha \cdot (u_0 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{V}_{id}} u_j)^{\hat{r}_1} \cdot (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_i})^{\hat{r}_2}, \end{aligned}$$

$$sk_{id|i,2} = sk_{id_2} \cdot g^{r_1} = g^{\hat{r}_1}, sk_{id|i,3} = \tau_{i,2} \cdot g^{r_2} = g^{\hat{r}_2},$$

where  $\hat{r}_1 = r_{id} + r_1$ ,  $\hat{r}_2 = r_{T_i} + \tilde{r} + r_2$ . Note the user will share  $r_1, r_2, \tilde{r}$  with the PKG (suppose it is fully trusted) such that the PKG can store  $(id|i, \hat{r}_1, \hat{r}_2)$  in a list  $List^{sk_{id|i}}$  for further use.



5. **ReKeyGen**( $sk_{id|i}, msk, T_i, T_{i'}$ ). The re-encryption key  $rk_{id|i \rightarrow i'}$  is generated as follows.
  - (a)  $ReKeyToken(msk, T_i, T_{i'})$ : If a user  $id$  holding  $sk_{id|i}$  is allowed to update his key to another time period  $T_{i'}$ , PKG generates the re-encryption key token  $\varphi_{i \rightarrow i'}$  as  $\varphi_{i \rightarrow i'}^{(1)} = (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_{i'}})^{TCR_1(\xi)} / (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_i})^{\hat{r}_2}$ ,  $\varphi_{i \rightarrow i'}^{(2)} = (\hat{C}_0, \hat{C}_1, \hat{C}_2, \hat{C}_3) \leftarrow Enc(id, T_{i'}, \xi)$ , where  $\xi \in_R \mathbb{G}_T$ ,  $\hat{r}_2$  is recovered from  $(id|i', \hat{r}_1, \hat{r}_2)$  which is stored the  $List^{sk_{id|i}}$ .
  - (b)  $ReKey(sk_{id|i}, \varphi_{i \rightarrow i'})$ : After receiving  $\varphi_{i \rightarrow i'}$  from PKG, the user  $id$  generates the re-encryption key as follows.
    - i. Choose  $\rho \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , and set  $rk_1 = sk_{id|i,1} \cdot \varphi_{i \rightarrow i'}^{(1)} \cdot (u_0 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{V}_{id}} u_j)^\rho$ ,  $rk_2 = sk_{id|i,2} \cdot g^\rho$ , and  $rk_3 = \varphi_{i \rightarrow i'}^{(2)}$ .
    - ii. Output the re-encryption key  $rk_{id|i \rightarrow i'} = (rk_1, rk_2, rk_3)$ .
6. **Enc**( $id, T_i, m$ ). Given an identity  $id$ , a time period  $T_i$ , and a message  $m \in \mathbb{G}_T$ , the encryption algorithm chooses  $t \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , and sets the original ciphertext  $C$  as  $C_0 = m \cdot e(g_1, g_2)^t$ ,  $C_1 = g^t$ ,  $C_2 = (u_0 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{V}_{id}} u_j)^t$ ,  $C_3 = (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_i})^t$ . We assume that the identity  $id$  and the time period  $T_i$  are implicitly included in the ciphertext.
7. **ReEnc**( $rk_{id|i \rightarrow i'}, C$ ). Parse the ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_i)$  as  $(C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3)$ , and the re-encryption key  $rk_{id|i \rightarrow i'}$  as  $(rk_1, rk_2, rk_3)$ . The re-encryption algorithm computes  $C_4 = \frac{e(C_1, rk_1)}{e(C_2, rk_2)} = e(g^t, g_2^\alpha \cdot (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_{i'}})^{TCR_1(\xi)})$ , and next sets the re-encrypted ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_{i'})$  as  $(C_0, C_1, C_4, rk_3)$ . Note if  $C$  under  $(id, T_{i'})$  needs to be further re-encrypted to the time period  $T_{i''}$ , then the proxy parses  $rk_3$  as  $(\hat{C}_0, \hat{C}_1, \hat{C}_2, \hat{C}_3)$ . Given a re-encryption key  $rk_{id|i' \rightarrow i''} = (rk'_1, rk'_2, rk'_3)$ , the proxy computes  $C'_4 = \frac{e(\hat{C}_1, rk'_1)}{e(\hat{C}_2, rk'_2)}$ , and sets the ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_{i''})$  as  $(C_0, C_1, C_4, \hat{C}_0, \hat{C}_1, C'_4, rk'_3)$ .
8. **Dec**( $sk_{id|i}, C$ ). Given a ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_i)$ , the decryption algorithm works as follows.
  - (a) For the original ciphertext  $C = (C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3)$ , the decryptor computes  $\frac{e(C_1, sk_{id|i,1})}{e(C_2, sk_{id|i,2})e(C_3, sk_{id|i,3})} = e(g_1, g_2)^t$ , and outputs the message  $C_0 / e(g_1, g_2)^t = m \cdot e(g_1, g_2)^t / e(g_1, g_2)^t = m$ .
  - (b) For the re-encrypted ciphertext  $C$ :
    - i. If the re-encrypted ciphertext is re-encrypted only once, i.e.  $C = (C_0, C_1, C_4, rk_3 = (\hat{C}_0, \hat{C}_1, \hat{C}_2, \hat{C}_3))$ , then the decryptor computes  $\frac{\hat{C}_0 e(\hat{C}_2, sk_{id|i,2}) e(\hat{C}_3, sk_{id|i,3})}{e(\hat{C}_1, sk_{id|i,1})} = \xi$ . Accordingly, the decryptor can finally computer  $C_0 \frac{e(C_1, (v_1 v_2^{T_i})^{TCR_1(\xi)})}{\hat{C}_4} = m$ .
    - ii. If the ciphertext under  $id$  is re-encrypted  $l$  times from time period  $T_1$  to  $T_{l+1}$ , we denote the re-encrypted ciphertext as  $C^{(l+1)} = (C_0^{(1)}, C_1^{(1)}, C_4^{(1)}, \dots, C_0^{(l)}, C_1^{(l)}, C_4^{(l)}, rk_3^{(l+1)})$ , where  $C_0^{(1)}$  and  $C_1^{(1)}$  are the components of original ciphertext under  $(id, T_1)$ , and  $rk_3^{(i+1)} = (C_0^{(i+1)}, C_1^{(i+1)}, C_2^{(i+1)}, C_3^{(i+1)})$  is the ciphertext under  $(id, T_{i+1})$ ,

$i \in [1, l]$ . We recover the message  $m$  as follows.

$$\text{First set: } \frac{C_0^{(l+1)} e(C_2^{(l+1)}, sk_{id|l+1,2}) e(C_3^{(l+1)}, sk_{id|l+1,3})}{e(C_1^{(l+1)}, sk_{id|l+1,1})} = \xi^{(l)},$$

$$\text{from } i = l \text{ to } 2 \text{ set : } C_0^{(i)} \frac{e(C_1^{(i)}, (v_1 v_2^{T_{i+1}})^{TCR_1(\xi^{(i)})})}{C_4^{(i)}} = \xi^{(i-1)},$$

$$\text{finally compute : } C_0^{(1)} \frac{e(C_1^{(1)}, (v_1 v_2^{T_2})^{TCR_1(\xi^{(1)})})}{C_4^{(1)}} = m.$$

9. **Revoke**( $id, T_i, RL, st$ ). Update the revocation list by  $RL \leftarrow RL \cup \{id, T_i\}$  and return the updated revocation list.

### 3.2 Security Analysis

**Theorem 1.** *Suppose the underlying Waters IBE scheme is IND-CPA secure,  $TCR_1$  is the TCR hash function, our CR-IB-PRE scheme is IND-CPA secure in the standard model.*

**Theorem 2.** *Suppose the CDH assumption holds, our CR-IB-PRE scheme is collusion resistant.*

Due to limited space, we provide the proof of Theorem 1 and 2 in the full version of the paper [33].

## 4 Performance Improvement

### 4.1 Reduce the Complexity of Key Update

In our basic construction the complexity of the key update phase (in terms of communication and computation) is linearly in the number (say  $N$ ) of users whom are excluded in the revocation list, i.e.  $O(N)$ . We here reduce the complexity  $O(N)$  to  $O(1)$ . In the algorithm *TokenUp*, the identity  $id$  is not taken into the generation of the token  $\tau_i$ . This gives us a possibility to broadcast the token for time period  $T_i$  to all non-revocable users. Below we employ a broadcast encryption in our basic construction. We choose Phan et al. broadcast encryption system [34] as a building block. Note system implementors may choose an appropriate broadcast encryption for different purposes, e.g., security. We let  $SYM = (SYM.Enc, SYM.Dec)$  denote a one-time symmetric encryption system in which encryption algorithm  $SYM.Enc$  intakes a message and a symmetric key  $K \in \{0, 1\}^{poly(1^k)}$  and outputs a ciphertext, and decryption algorithm  $SYM.Dec$  intakes a ciphertext and a symmetric key  $K$  and outputs a message. We only show the modification for our basic system as follows.

1. **Setup**( $1^k, N$ ). The setup algorithm additionally chooses  $\gamma, \hat{\alpha} \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ , a TCR hash function  $TCR_2 : \mathbb{G}_T \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{poly(1^k)}$ , and adds  $v_0 = g^\gamma$  and  $TCR_2$  to  $mpk$ , and  $(\gamma, \hat{\alpha})$  to  $msk$ .

2. **KeyGen**( $msk, id$ ). PKG generates a new key component  $sk_{id_3} = g_z^j$ , and sets additional public parameters  $g_z = g^{\hat{\alpha}^z}$ ,  $g_{z+1} = g^{\hat{\alpha}^{z+1}}$ ,  $g_{\lambda+1-z} = g^{\hat{\alpha}^{\lambda+1-z}}$ ,  $g_{\lambda+1+z} = g^{\hat{\alpha}^{\lambda+1+z}}$  for user  $id$ , where  $z$  is the index for identity  $id$ , and  $\lambda - 1 = N$ .
3. **TokenUp**( $msk, ID, T_i, RL, st$ ). Note  $ID$  now is a set of identities. After constructing  $(\tau_{i,1}, \tau_{i,2})$ , PKG works as follows.
  - (a) Choose  $\hat{t} \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ ,  $K \in_R \mathbb{G}_T$ , and set an encryption  $E_{\tau_i}^{(1)}$  as  $\mathcal{T}_1 = K \cdot e(g_{\lambda+1}, g)^{\hat{t}}$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_2 = g^{\hat{t}}$ ,  $\mathcal{T}_3 = (v_0 \cdot \prod_{w \in ID} g_{\lambda+1-w})^{\hat{t}}$ , where  $ID$  is implicitly included in the ciphertext.
  - (b) Run  $E_{\tau_i}^{(2)} \leftarrow SYM.Enc(TCR_2(K), \tau_{i,1} || \tau_{i,2})$ , and next upload the token  $\tau_i = (E_{\tau_i}^{(1)}, E_{\tau_i}^{(2)})$  for a set  $ID$  of identities to the cloud server.
4. **DeKeyGen**( $sk_{id}, \tau_i$ ). Before constructing a decryption key as in the algorithm *DeKeyGen* of our basic scheme, a user  $id$  (where  $id \in ID$ ) first recovers  $\tau_{i,1}$  and  $\tau_{i,2}$  as follows. The user computes

$$K = \mathcal{T}_1 / (e(\mathcal{T}_3, g_z) / e(sk_{id_3}, \prod_{w \in ID \setminus \{z\}} g_{\lambda+1-w+z}, \mathcal{T}_2))$$

and runs  $\sigma_i = \tau_{i,1} || \tau_{i,2} \leftarrow SYM.Dec(TCR_2(K), E_{\tau_i}^{(2)})$ .

Note the rest of the algorithms are the same as that of our basic scheme.

## 4.2 Reduce Size of Re-encrypted Ciphertext and Decryption Complexity

Our basic construction suffers from a drawback that the size of re-encrypted ciphertext and the complexity of decryption expand linearly in the number of time periods. To reduce the complexity to constant, we leverage the following idea.

We can delegate the generation of re-encryption key to PKG as PKG has knowledge of private keys of all system users and tokens of all time periods. Here users can only focus on decryption key generation, message encryption and decryption, i.e. the common actions of using a revocable IBE system, such that the re-encryption functionality and its corresponding workload are transparent in the view of the users.

Being granted the rights of re-encryption key generation, PKG works as follows. Suppose the decryption keys of a user  $id$  associated with time periods  $T_i$  and  $T_j$  are  $sk_{id|i} = (sk_{id|i,1}, sk_{id|i,2}, sk_{id|i,3})$  and  $sk_{id|j} = (sk_{id|j,1}, sk_{id|j,2}, sk_{id|j,3})$ , and the corresponding tuples stored in the list  $List^{sk_{id|i}}$  are  $(id|i, \hat{r}_{i,1}, \hat{r}_{i,2})$  and  $(id|j, \hat{r}_{j,1}, \hat{r}_{j,2})$ , where  $i < j$  (for simplicity we may set  $j = i + 1$ ). PKG then constructs the re-encryption key  $rk_{id|i \rightarrow j}$  as  $rk_1 = (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_j})^{-\hat{r}_{j,2}} \cdot (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_i})^{\hat{r}_{i,2}} \cdot (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_1})^\theta$ ,  $rk_2 = sk_{id|j,3}^{-1} \cdot sk_{id|i,3} = g^{\hat{r}_{i,2} - \hat{r}_{j,2}} \cdot g^\theta$ , where  $\theta \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ .

For simplicity, we suppose a user  $id$  has  $l$  available time periods (in which  $T_1$  is the first time period, and  $T_l$  is the last one). Given  $rk_{id|1 \rightarrow 2} = (rk_{1 \rightarrow 2,1}, rk_{1 \rightarrow 2,2})$ , the re-encryption algorithm  $ReEnc$  computes

$$C_4^{(1)} = \frac{e(C_3, rk_{1 \rightarrow 2,2})}{e(C_1, rk_{1 \rightarrow 2,1})} = \frac{e((v_1 v_2^{T_1})^t, g^{-\hat{r}_{2,2}})}{e(g^t, (v_1 v_2^{T_2})^{-\hat{r}_{2,2}})},$$

and next sets the re-encrypted ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_2)$  as  $(C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4^{(1)})$ , where an original ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_1)$  is  $C_0 = m \cdot e(g_1, g_2)^t$ ,  $C_1 = g^t$ ,  $C_2 = (u_0 \prod_{j \in \mathcal{V}_{id}} u_j)^t$ ,  $C_3 = (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_1})^t$ . At the time period  $T_l$ , the re-encrypted ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_l)$  is  $(C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4^{(l-1)})$ , in which  $C_4^{(l-1)} = C_4^{(l-2)} \cdot \frac{e(C_3, rk_{l-1 \rightarrow l,2})}{e(C_1, rk_{l-1 \rightarrow l,1})} = \frac{e((v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_1})^t, g^{-\hat{r}_{l,2}})}{e(g^t, (v_1 \cdot v_2^{T_l})^{-\hat{r}_{l,2}})}$ , and  $C_4^{(l-2)}$  is a component of ciphertext  $C$  under  $(id, T_{l-1})$ .

The decryption algorithm  $Dec$  works as follows. Given  $sk_{id|i} = (sk_{id|i,1}, sk_{id|i,2}, sk_{id|i,3})$  and a re-encrypted ciphertext  $(C_0, C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4^{(i-1)})$  under  $(id, T_i)$ , set  $C_0 \cdot C_4^{(i-1)} \cdot \frac{e(sk_{id|i,3}, C_3) \cdot e(C_2, sk_{id|i,2})}{e(sk_{id|i,1}, C_1)} = \frac{m \cdot e(g_1, g_2)^t}{e(g_2^t, g^t)} = m$ .

## 5 Comparison

In this section we compare our improved version with an ABE system supporting revocability [3] and the most efficient revocable IBE scheme [9] in terms of security, functionality and efficiency. Table 1 illustrates the comparison of security and functionality, Table 2 depicts the comparison of computation cost, and Table 3 shows the comparison of communication complexity. Note we do not compare our scheme with the existing IB-PRE schemes here as we pay more attention in the functionality of revocability.

To define the notations and parameters used in the Tables, we let  $|\mathbb{G}|$  denote the bit-length of an element in  $\mathbb{G}$ , and  $|\mathbb{G}_T|$  denote the bit-length of an element in  $\mathbb{G}_T$ ,  $|U|$  denote the number of attributes used in the system,  $|f|$  denote the size of an access formula,  $|S|$  denote the size of an attribute set,  $n$  denote the bit-length of an identity,  $c_p, c_e, c_e^T$  denote the computation cost of a bilinear pairing, an exponentiation in  $\mathbb{G}$  and in  $\mathbb{G}_T$ , respectively. Suppose [3], [9] and our scheme share the same number ( $N$ ) of non-revocable system users in each time period. It can be seen that [3] only presents generic constructions for the revocable ABE systems. To bring convenience for the comparison, we use Waters ABE scheme [35] to implement one of the generic constructions of [3]. The implementation yields a revocable CP-ABE system.

From Table 1, we see that our scheme supports not only revocability but also re-encryption functionality with CPA security and collusion resistance under the decisional bilinear Diffie-Hellman (BDH) assumption and computational Diffie-Hellman (CDH) assumption, respectively. [3] is CPA secure under the decisional  $q$ -parallel bilinear Diffie-Hellman exponent (BDHE) assumption (suppose it is built on Waters ABE) but only supporting revocability, whereas ours additionally enjoys the delegation of decryption rights. Compared to [9], supporting

**Table 1.** Security and Functionality Comparison

Schemes	Security	Complexity Assumption	Delegation of Decryption Rights
[3]	CPA	decisional $q$ -parallel-BDHE	✗
[9]	CPA	decisional BDH	✗
<b>Ours</b>	CPA Collusion Resistance	decisional BDH and CDH	✓

revocability with CPA security under the decisional BDH assumption, ours offers additional property without degrading security level. Note [9] and our scheme are secure under simple complexity assumptions, while [3] relies on a complex one. Although our system achieves more flexible functionality, it is only CPA secure. The problem of proposing a CR-IB-PRE scheme with CCA security in the standard model remains open.

**Table 2.** Computation Cost Comparison

Schemes	Computation Cost			
	Encryption	Decryption	Key Gen.	Update Info. (including key update token and $rk$ )
[3]	$O( f )c_e + O(1)c_e^T$	$O( S )(c_p + c_e^T)$	$O( S )c_e$	$\epsilon_1 = O(N \cdot  S )c_e$
[9]	$O(1)c_e + O(1)c_e^T$	$O(1)c_p$	$O(1)c_e$	$\epsilon_2 = O(N)c_e$
<b>Ours</b>	$O(1)c_e + O(1)c_e^T$	$O(1)c_p$	$O(1)c_e$	$\epsilon_3 = O(1)c_e + O(1)c_e^T$

From Table 2, we see that [3] suffers from the largest complexity in each merit, and the PKG of [9] suffers from  $O(N)$  computational complexity in updating key information for each time period. Besides, both [3] and [9] require a secure communication channel from the PKG to each non-revocable user (for issuing key update information), while our system can eliminate this cost. Compared with [3,9], ours enjoys constant complexity in each merit. To achieve re-encryption property, we need  $O(1)c_e$  and  $O(1)c_p$  in constructing re-encryption key and re-encrypted ciphertext, respectively. However, when comparing with the linear complexity of [3], the above additional cost is acceptable.

Table 3 shows that [9] and our scheme achieve the least complexity, while [3] suffers from linear cost in each merit. Although our scheme requires additional cost  $O(1)|\mathbb{G}|$  in delivering re-encryption key, it enjoys constant communication cost in key update information for each time period but [3,9] suffer from  $O(N)$  complexity. As  $N$  increases, our scheme has better efficiency in communication.

**Table 3.** Communication Cost Comparison

Schemes	Communication Cost		
	Private Key Size	Ciphertext Size	Update Info. Size (including size of key update token and $rk$ )
[3]	$O( S ) \mathbb{G} $	$O( f ) \mathbb{G}  + O(1) \mathbb{G}_T $	$O(N \cdot  S ) \mathbb{G} $
[9]	$O(1) \mathbb{G} $	$O(1) \mathbb{G}  + O(1) \mathbb{G}_T $	$O(N) \mathbb{G} $
<b>Ours</b>	$O(1) \mathbb{G} $	$O(1) \mathbb{G}  + O(1) \mathbb{G}_T $	$O(1) \mathbb{G}  + O(1) \mathbb{G}_T $

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