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Recoverable encryption through a noised secret over a large cloud

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Topics: Key escrow, Key distribution, Encryption, Escrow and Backup

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Recoverable Encryption through Noised Secret over Large Cloud

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What ?

- New schemes for backup of encryption keys entrusted to an Escrow
 - Collectively called RE_{NS} Schemes
 - They backup high quality encryption keys
 - AES (256b), DH 500+b...
- Backup itself is specifically encrypted
- Unlike a traditional simple key copy

What ?

- Fast brute-force recovery remains possible
 - In the absence of key owner
 - Within the timing wished by the recovery requestor
- But only over a large cloud
 - 1K – 100K nodes

What ?

- Unwelcome recovery is unlikely
 - E.g. could easily take, say, 70 or even 700 days at escrow's processor alone
 - Illegal use of a large cloud is implausible
 - Cloud providers do best to prevent it
 - Easily noticeable if ever starts
 - Follow the money
 - Leaves compromising traces in numerous logs

Why

- High quality key loss danger is Achilles' heel of modern crypto
 - Makes many folks refraining of *any* encryption
 - Other loose many tears if unthinkable happens

Why

- If you create key copies...
 - Every copy increases danger of disclosure
 - For an Escrow, her/his copy is an obvious temptation
 - Some Escrows may not resist to

- In short users face the dilemma:

Key loss or disclosure ? That is The Question

Why

- RE_{NS} schemes alleviate this dilemma
- Easily available large clouds make them realistic
- Our schemes should benefit numerous applications

How (Overview) : Key Owner Side

- *Key owner or client* chooses inhibitive timing of 1-node (brute-force) recovery
 - Presumably unwelcome at escrow's site alone
 - E.g. 70 days
 - Or 700 days for less trusted escrows
 - Or anything between

How : Key Owner Side

- Consequently , the owner fixes a large integer
 - Called *backup encryption complexity or hardness*
- Actually, this step may be programmed
 - The backup encryption *agent* on client node may be in charge of

How : Key Owner Side

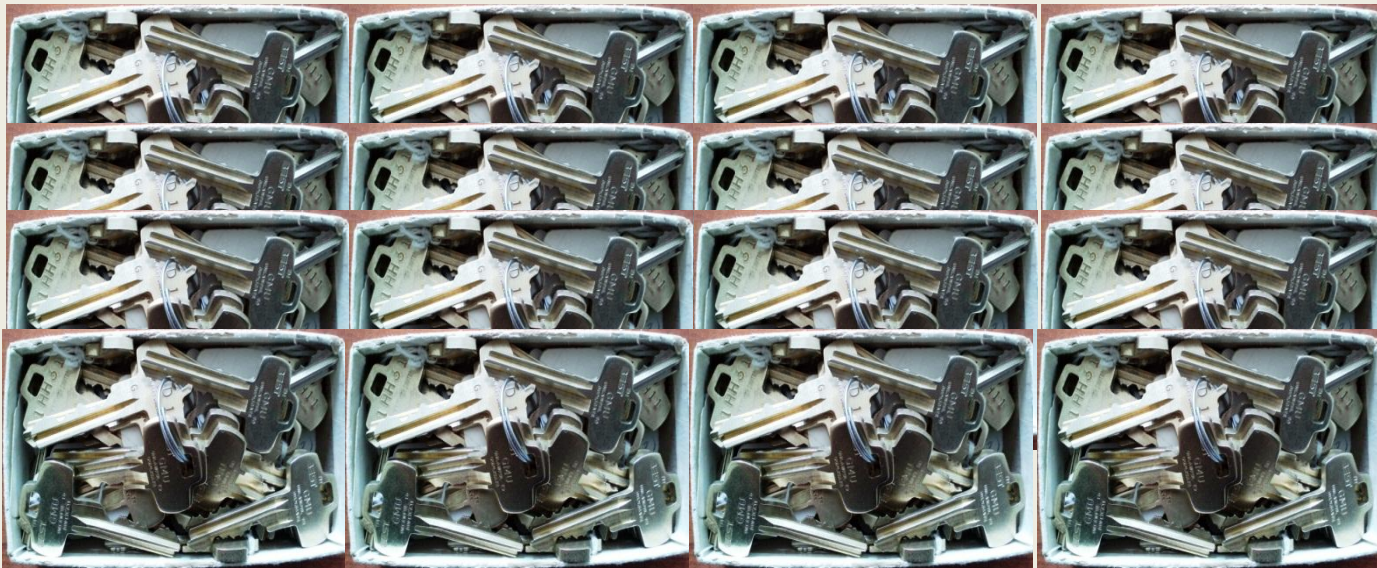
- Key owner or the agent creates the shared *noised* secret
 - Some share(s) of the actual secret become *noised* shares
 - « Burried » among very many look-alike but fake *noise* shares

How : Key Owner Side

- The only way to recognize whether a noise share is a noised one is to try out its « footprint »
- The owner/agent creates the footprint for each noised share
- Each footprint is unique
- *Remember Cinderella ?*

How : Key Owner Side

- Key owner/agent sends the noised secret to Escrow
- Noised secret is the backup
 - *Guess your key by its print in this mess (inspired by CSIS actual ex.)*



How (Overview) : Escrow Side

- *Key requestor* asks Escrow to recover data in acceptable max recovery time
 - E.g. 10 min
- Escrow's server sends the time and all **but one** shares of the noised secret to the cloud
- Intruder to the cloud cannot find the key

How : Escrow's Side

- RE_{NS} scheme executed at the cloud chooses the cloud size
 - To fit the calculus time limit for sure
 - Say 10K nodes
- Search for the noised share gets partitioned over the nodes
- Nodes work in parallel
 - Matching the “footprints”

How : Escrow's Side

- Every lucky node reports back to Escrow the noised share found
- Escrow' server recovers the key from all the shares
 - Using the clasical XORing
- Sends the recovered key to Requestor
 - Not forgetting the bill

What Else ?

- Well, everything is in details
 - Client Side Encryption
 - Server Side Recovery
 - Static Scheme
 - Scalable Scheme
 - Related Work
 - Conclusion

What Else ?

- More :
 - Res. Rep.
http://www.lamsade.dauphine.fr/~litwin/Recoverable%20Encryption_10.pdf
 - S. Jajodia, W. Litwin & Th. Schwarz.
Recoverable Encryption through a Noised Secret over a Large Cloud.
 - 5th Intl. Conf. on Data Management in Cloud, Grid and P2P Systems (Globe 2012)
 - Publ. Springer Verlag, Lecture Notes in Comp.

Client Side (Backup) Encryption

- Client X backs up encryption key S
- X estimates 1-node inhibitive time D
 - Say 70 days
- D measures trust to Escrow
 - Lesser trust ?
 - Choose 700 days

Client Side Encryption

- D determines minimal cloud size N for future recovery in any acceptable time R
 - Chosen by recovery requestor
 - E.g. 10 min
 - X expects $N > D / R$ but also $N \cong D / R$
 - E.g. $N \cong 10\text{K}$ for $D = 70$ days
 - $N \cong 100\text{K}$ for $D = 700$ days

Client Side Encryption

- X creates a classical shared secret for S
 - S is seen as a large integer,
 - E.g., 256b long for AES
 - Basically, X creates a 2-share secret
 - Share s_0 is a random integer
 - Share s_1 is calculated as $s_1 = s_0 \text{ XOR } S$
- Common knowledge:
 - $S = s_0 \text{ XOR } s_1$

Client Side Encryption

- X transforms the shared secret into a *noised* one
 - X makes s_0 a *noised* share :
 - Chooses a 1-way hash H
 - E.g. SHA 256
 - Computes the *hint* $h = H(s_0)$
 - Chooses the *noise* space
 $l = 0, 1, \dots, m, \dots, M-1$
 - For some large M determined as we explain soon

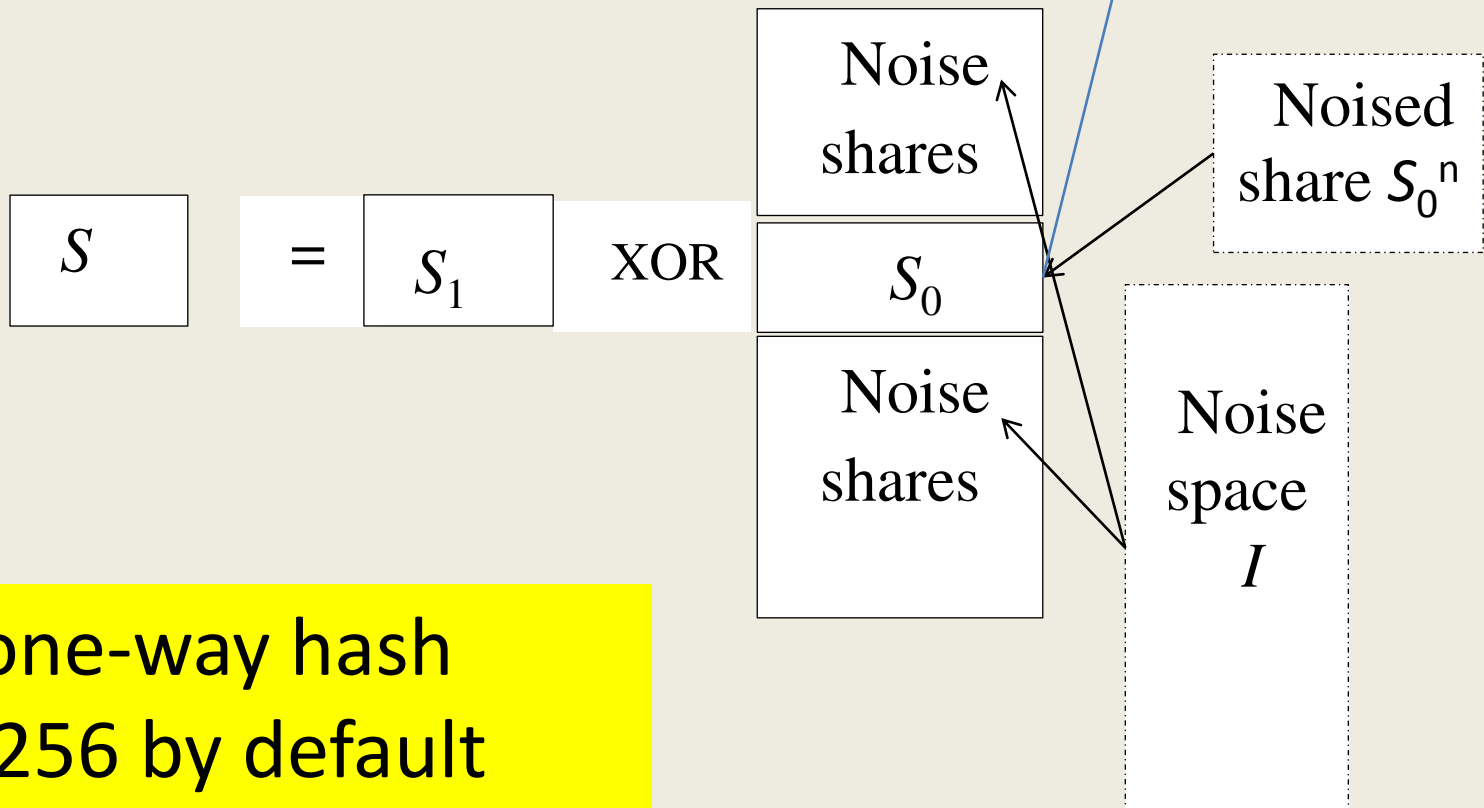
Client-Side Encryption

- Each noise m and s_0 define a *noise* share s
 - In a way we show soon as well
- There are M different pseudo random noise shares
 - All but one are different from s_0
 - But it is not known which one is s_0
- The only way to find for any s whether $s = s_0$ is to attempt the *match*

$$H(s) \stackrel{?}{=} h$$

Shared Secret / Noised (Shared) Secret

$$S = S_1 \text{ XOR } S_0$$



H is one-way hash
SHA 256 by default

Client Side Encryption

- X estimates the 1-node *throughput* T
 - # of match attempts $H(s) \approx h$ per time unit
 - 1 Sec by default
- X sets M to $M = \text{Int}(DT)$.
 - M should be $2^{40} \div 2^{50}$ in practice

Client Side Encryption

- X randomly chooses $m \in I = [0, 1 \dots M[$
- Calculates *base noise* share $f = s_0 - m$
- Defines *noised share* $s_0^n = (f, M, h)$.
- Sends the *noised secret* $S' = (s_0^n, s_1)$ to Escrow as the backup

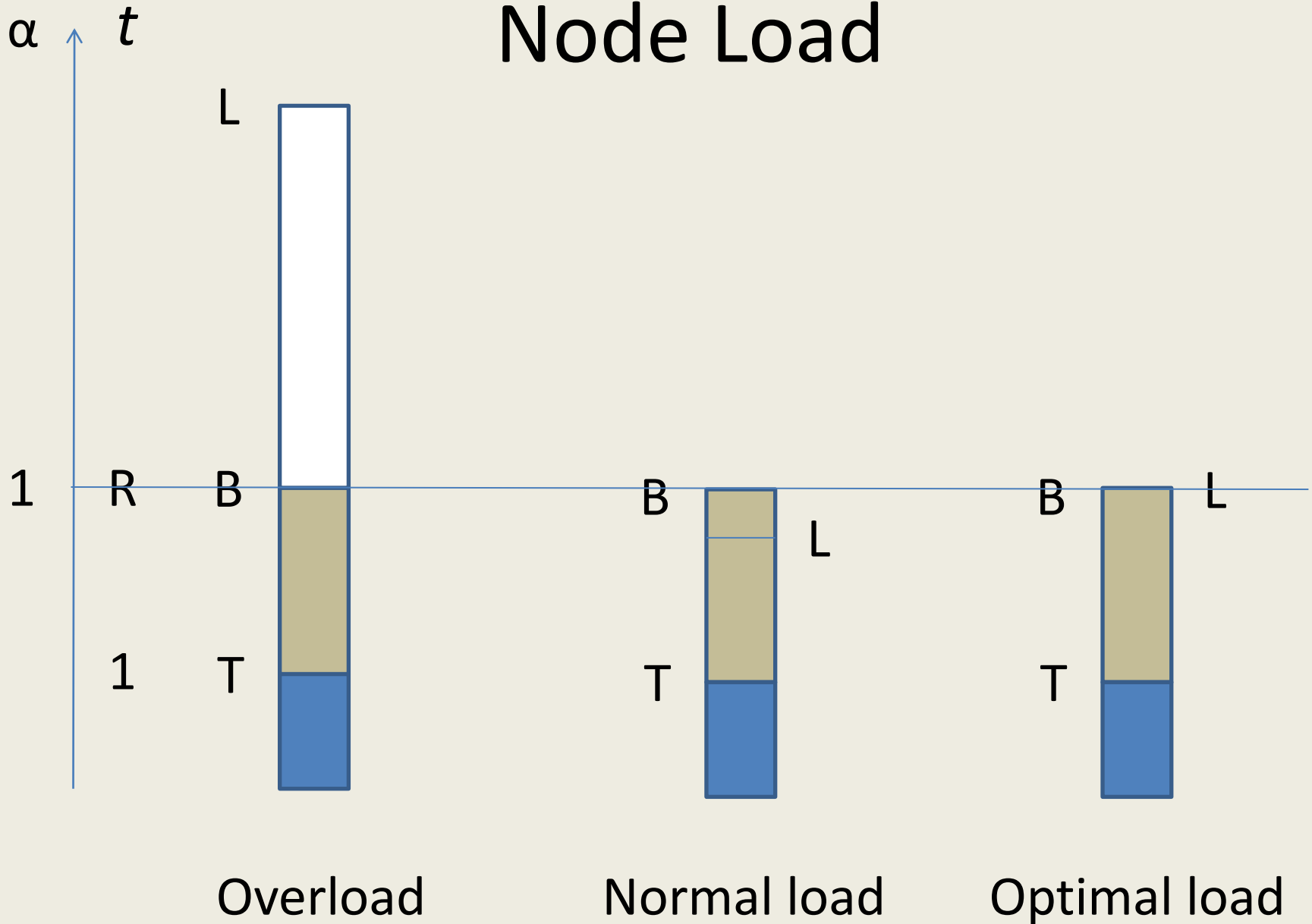
Escrow-Side Recovery (Backup Decryption)

- Escrow E receives legitimate request of S recovery in time R at most
- E chooses between *static* or *scalable* recovery schemes
- E sends data $S'' = (s_0^n, R)$ to some cloud node with request for processing accordingly
 - Keeps s_1 out of the cloud

Recovery Processing Parameters

- Node *load* L_n : # of noises among M assigned to node n for match attempts
- *Throughput* T_n : # of match attempts node n can process / sec
- *Bucket (node) capacity* B_n : # of match attempts node n can process / time R
 - $B_n = R T_n$
- *Load factor* $\alpha_n = L_n / B_n$

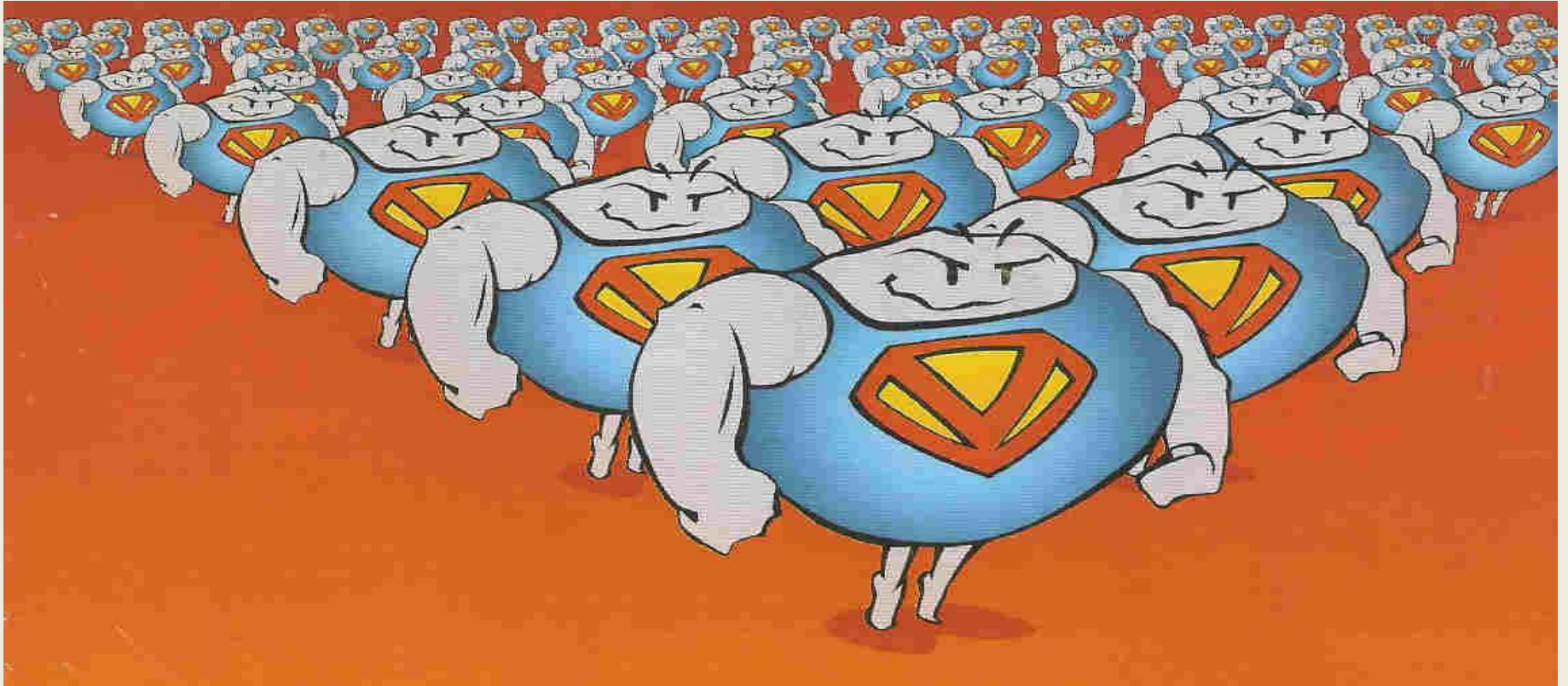
Node Load



Recovery Processing Parameters

- *Notice the data storage oriented vocabulary*
- Node n respects R iff $\alpha_n \leq 1$
 - Assuming T constant during the processing
- **The cloud respects R if for every n we have $\alpha_n \leq 1$**
- **This is our goal**
 - For both *static* and *scalable* schemes we now present

Static Scheme



- Intended for a homogenous Cloud
 - All nodes provide the same throughput

Static Scheme : *Init* Phase

- Node C that got S'' from E becomes *coordinator*
- Calculates $\alpha(M) = M / B(C)$
 - Usually $\alpha(M) \gg 1$
- Defines N as $\lceil \alpha(M) \rceil$
 - Implicitly considers the cloud as *homogenous*
- E.g., $N = 10K$ or $N = 100K$ in our ex.

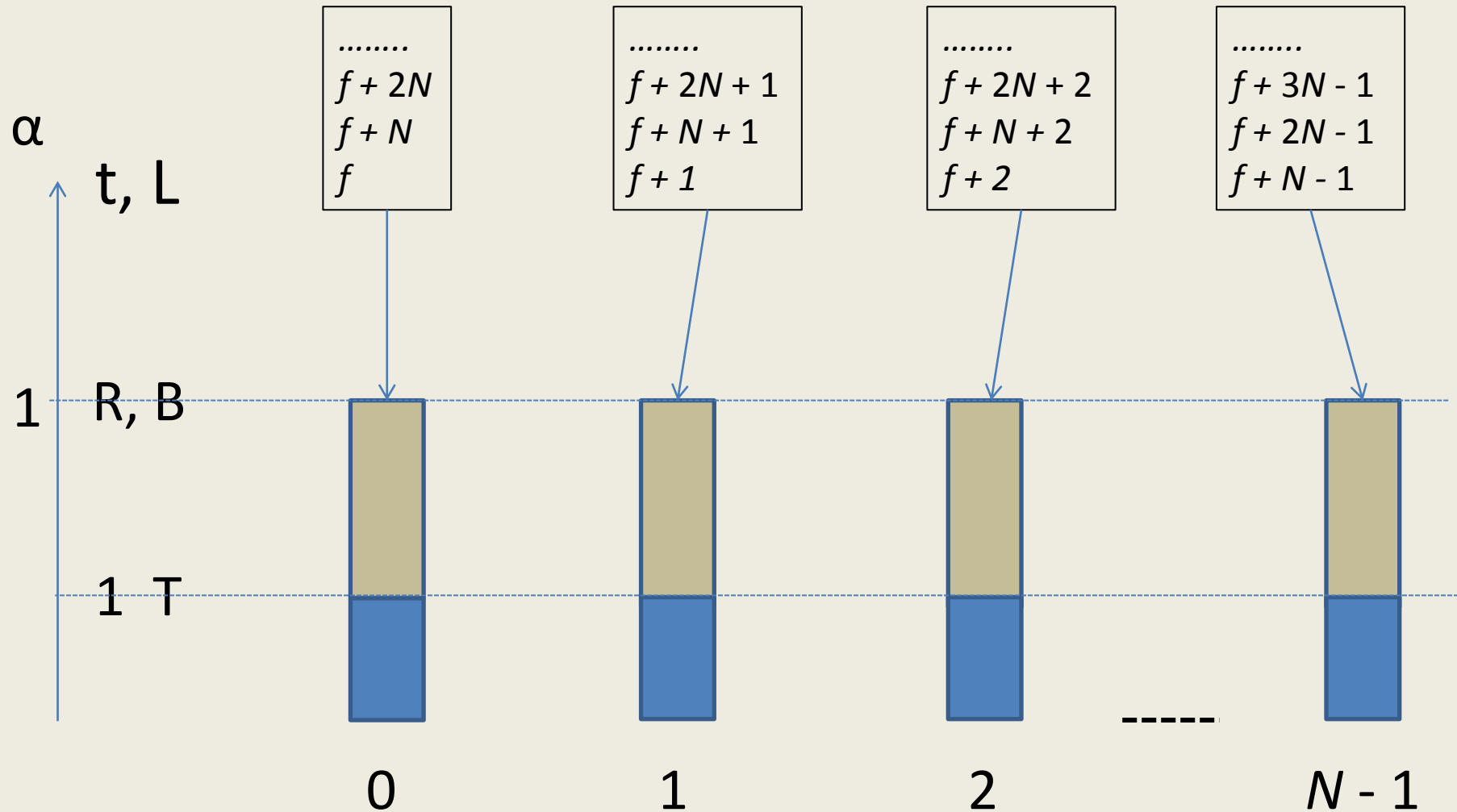
Static Scheme : *Map* Phase

- C asks for allocation of $N-1$ nodes
- Associates logical address $n = 1, 2 \dots N-1$ with each new node & 0 with itself
- Sends out to every node n data (n, a_0, P)
 - a_0 is its own physical address, e.g., IP
 - P specifies *Reduce* phase

Static Scheme : *Reduce* Phase

- P requests node n to attempt matches for every noise share $s = (f + m)$ such that $n = m \bmod N$
- In practice, e.g., while $m < M$:
 - Node 0 loops over noise $m = 0, N, 2N...$
 - So over the noise shares $f, f + N, f + 2N...$
 - Node 1 loops over noise $m = 1, N+1, 2N+1...$
 -
 - Node $N - 1$ loops over $m =$ (your guess here)

Static Scheme : Node Load



Static Scheme

- Node n that gets the successful match sends s to C
- Otherwise node n enters *Termination*
- C asks every node to terminate
 - Details depend on actual cloud
- C forwards s as s_0 to E

Static Scheme

- E discloses the secret S and sends S to Requestor
 - Bill included (we guess)
- E.g., up to 400\$ on CloudLayer for
 - $D = 70$ days
 - $R = 10$ min
 - Both implied $N = 10K$ with private option

Static Scheme

- Observe that $N \geq D / R$ and $N \cong D / R$
 - If the initial estimate of T by S owner holds
- Observe also that for every node n , we have $\alpha(n) \leq 1$
- Under our assumptions maximal recovery time is thus indeed R
- Average recovery time is $R / 2$
 - Since every noise share is equally likely to be the lucky one

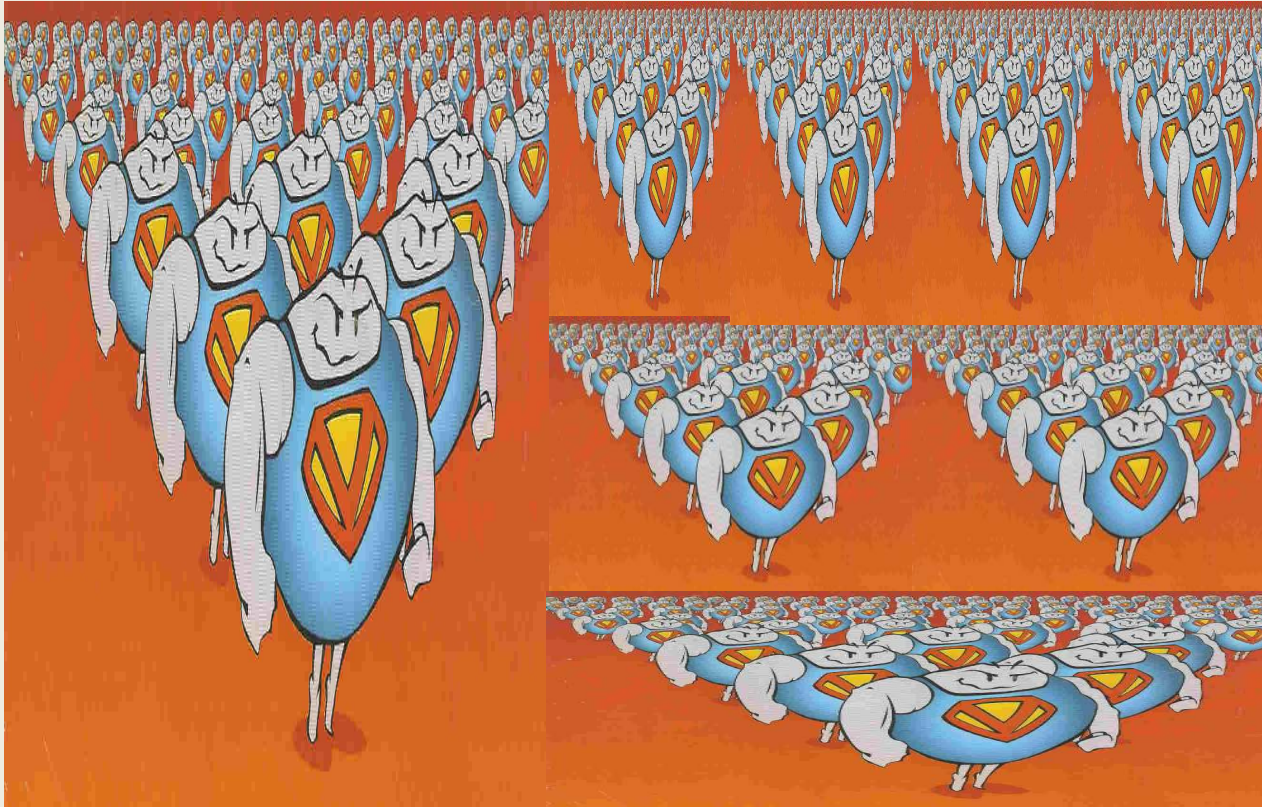
Static Scheme

- See papers for
 - Details,
 - Numerical examples
 - Proof of correctness
 - The scheme really partitions /
 - Whatever is N and s_0 , one and only one node finds s_0

Static Scheme

- Safety
 - No disclosure method can in practice be faster than the scheme
 - Dictionary attack, inverted file of hints...
- Other properties

Scalable Scheme



- Heterogeneous cloud
 - Node throughputs may differ

Scalable Scheme

- Intended for heterogenous clouds
 - Different node throughputs
 - Basically only locally known
- E.g.
 - Private or hybrid cloud
 - Public cloud without so-called *private node* option

Scalable Scheme

- Init phase similar up to $\alpha(M)$ calculus
 - Basically $\alpha(M) \gg 1$
 - Also we note it now α_0
- If $\alpha > 1$ we say that node *overflows*
- Node 0 sets then its *level* j to $j = 0$ and *splits*
 - Requests node $2^j = 1$
 - Sets j to $j = 1$
 - Sends to node 1, (S'', j, a_0)

Scalable Scheme

- As result
 - There are $N = 2$ nodes
 - Both have $j = 1$
 - Node 0 and node 1 should each process $M / 2$ match attempts
 - We show precisely how on next slides
 - Iff both α_0 and α_1 are no more than 1
- Usually it should not be the case
- The splitting should continue as follows

Scalable Scheme

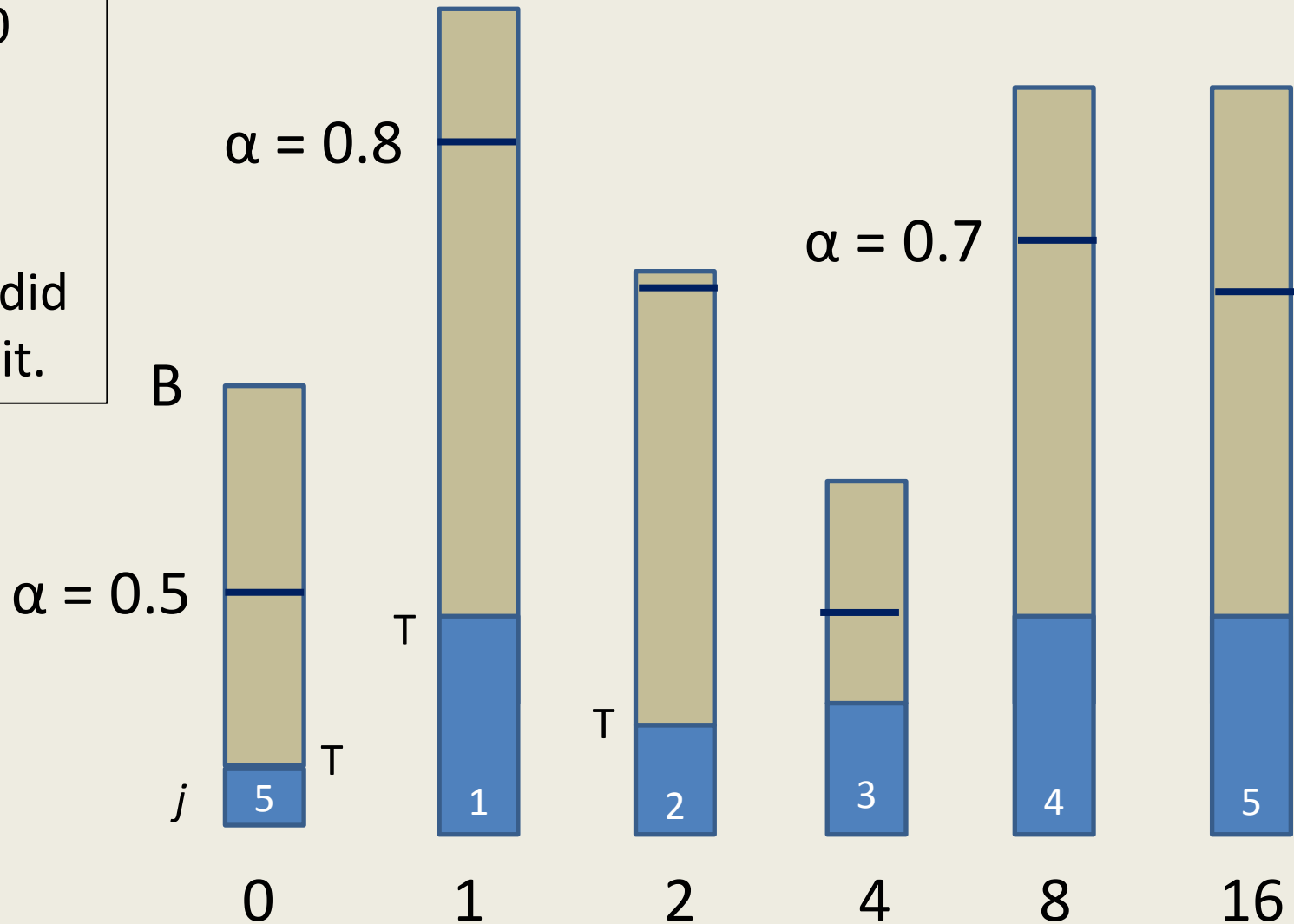
- Recursive rule
 - Each node n splits until $\alpha_n \leq 1$
 - Each split increases node level j_n to $j_n + 1$
 - Each split creates new node $n' = n + 2^{j_n}$
 - Each node n' gets $j_{n'} = j_n$ initially
- Node 0 splits thus perhaps into nodes 1,2,4...
 - Until $\alpha_0 \leq 1$
- Node 1 starts with $j=1$ and splits into nodes 3,5,9...
 - Until $\alpha_1 \leq 1$

Scalable Scheme

- Node 2 starts with $j = 2$ and splits into 6,10,18...
 - Until $\alpha_2 \leq 1$
- *Your general rule here*
- Node with smaller T splits more times and vice versa

Scalable Scheme : Splitting

Node 0
split 5
times.
Other
nodes did
not split.



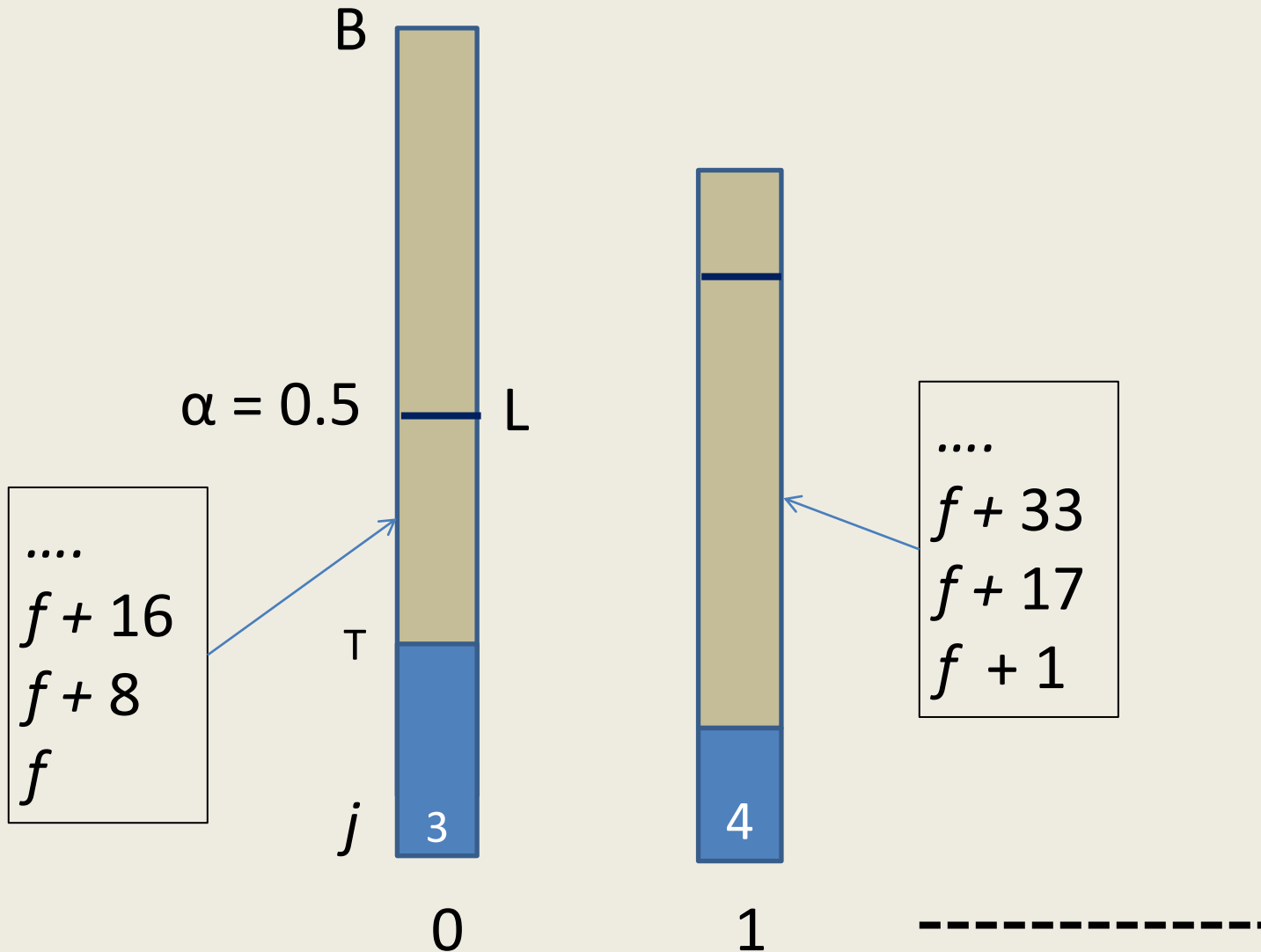
Scalable Scheme

- If cloud is homogenous, the address space is contiguous
- Otherwise, it is not
 - No problem
 - Unlike for a extensible or linear hash data structure

Scalable Scheme : *Reduce* phase

- Every node n attempts matches for every noise $k \in [0, M-1]$ such that $n = k \bmod 2^{j_n}$.
- If node 0 splits three times, in *Reduce* phase it attempts to match noised shares $(f + k)$ with $k = 0, 8, 16...$
- If node 1 splits four times, it attempts to match noised shares $(f + k)$ with $k = 1, 17, 33...$
- Etc.

Scalable Scheme : Reduce Phase



Scalable Scheme

- $N \geq D / R$
 - If S owner initial estimate holds
- For homogeneous cloud it is 30% greater on the average and twice as big at worst / static scheme
- Cloud cost may still be cheaper
 - No need for *private* option
- Versatility may still make it preferable besides

Scalable Scheme

- Max recovery time is up to R
 - Depends on homogeneity of the cloud
- Average recovery time is up to $R / 2$
- See again the papers for
 - Examples
 - Correctness
 - Safety
 - ...
 - Detailed perf. analysis remains future work

Related Work

- RE scheme for outsourced LH* files
- CSCP scheme for outsourced LH* records sharing
- Crypto puzzles
- One way hash with trapdoor
- 30-year old excitement around Clipper chip
- Botnets

Conclusion

- Key safety is Achilles' heel of cryptography
- Key loss or key disclosure ? That is The Question
- RE_{NS} schemes alleviate the dilemma
- Future work Deeper formal analysis
 - Proof of concept implementation
 - Variants

Thanks for Your Attention



Witold LITWIN & al