

All About That Data: Towards a Practical Assessment Of Attacks on Encrypted Search

Seny Kamara, Abdelkarim Kati, Tarik Moataz, Thomas Schneider,
Amos Treiber, and Michael Yonli



THE IRISH TIMES

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Ireland > Irish News

Cyberattack: Reports of patient records published online 'credible and accurate'

Focus is on getting health service's networks back into operation, Ryan says

© Wed, May 19, 2021, 10:25

Tim O'Brien



The release of stolen data, including medical records, 'is standard' for Communications Data Reviewers. The photograph shows

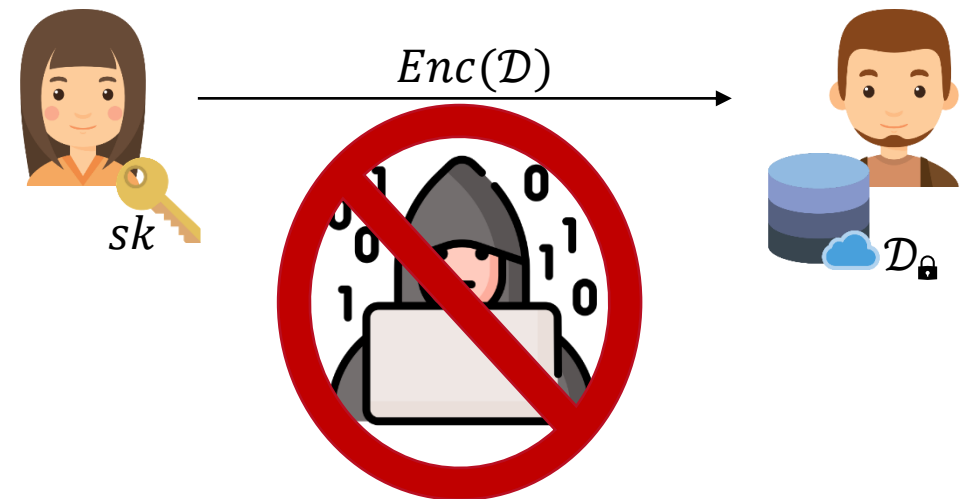


threatpost Cloud Security Malware Vulnerabilities InfoSec Insiders Webinars

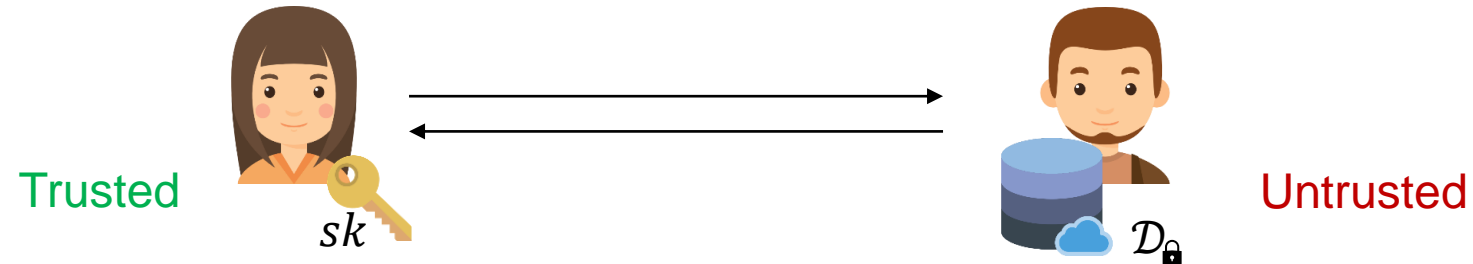
Emotet Returns in Malspam Attacks Dropping TrickBot OakBot

Going Down the Spy

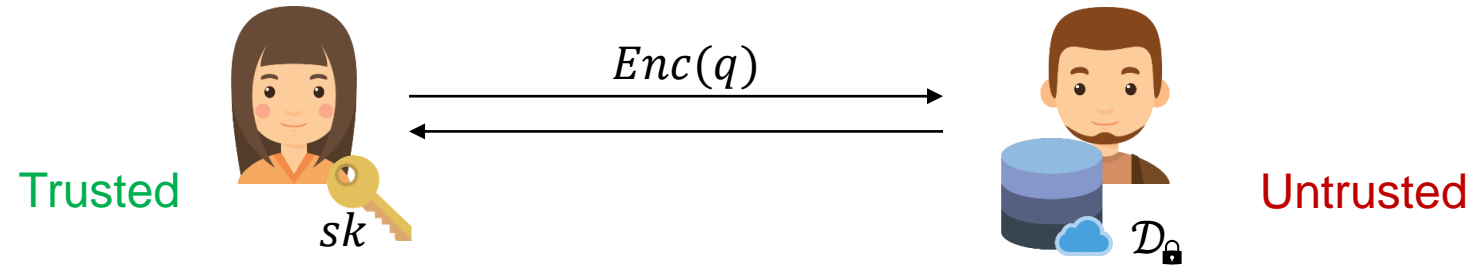
Leak Exposes Private Data of Genealogy Service Users



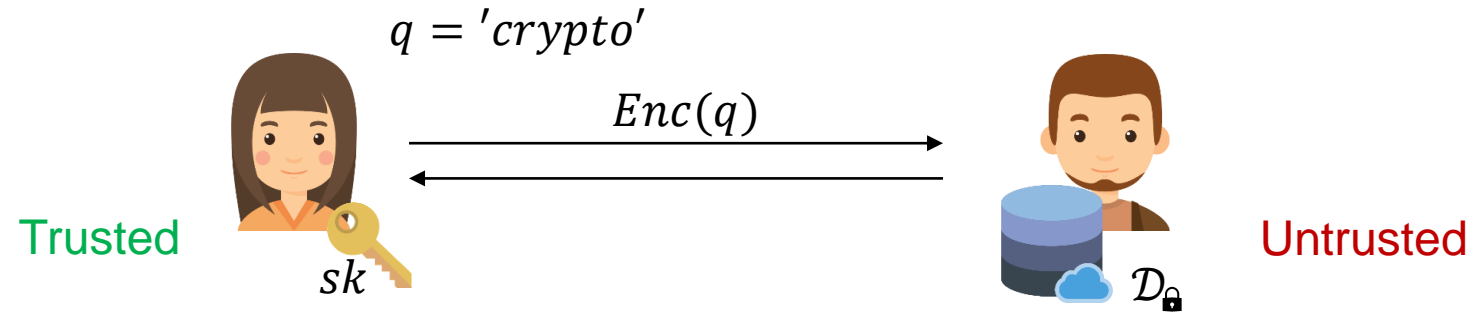
Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



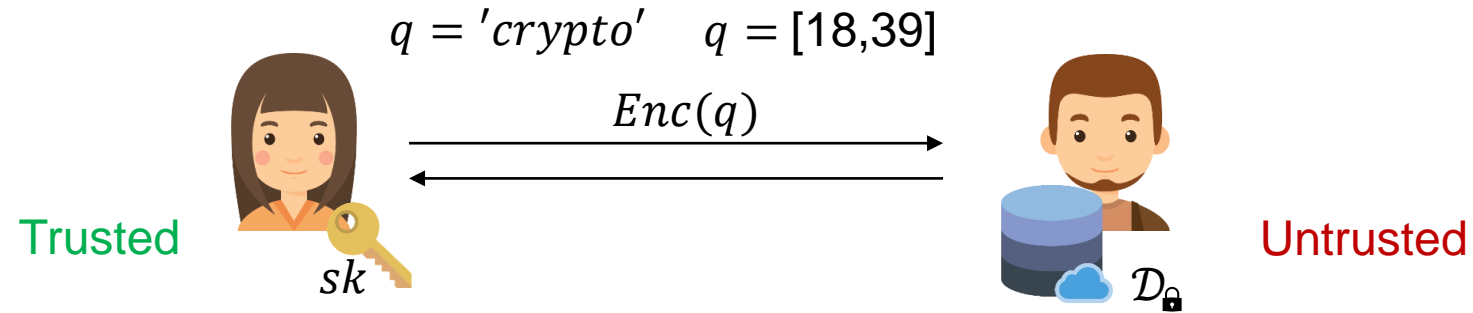
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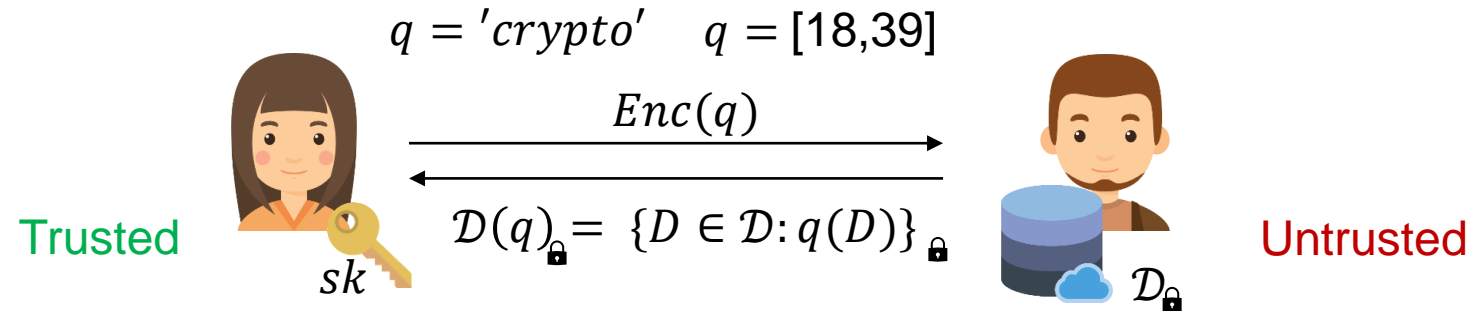
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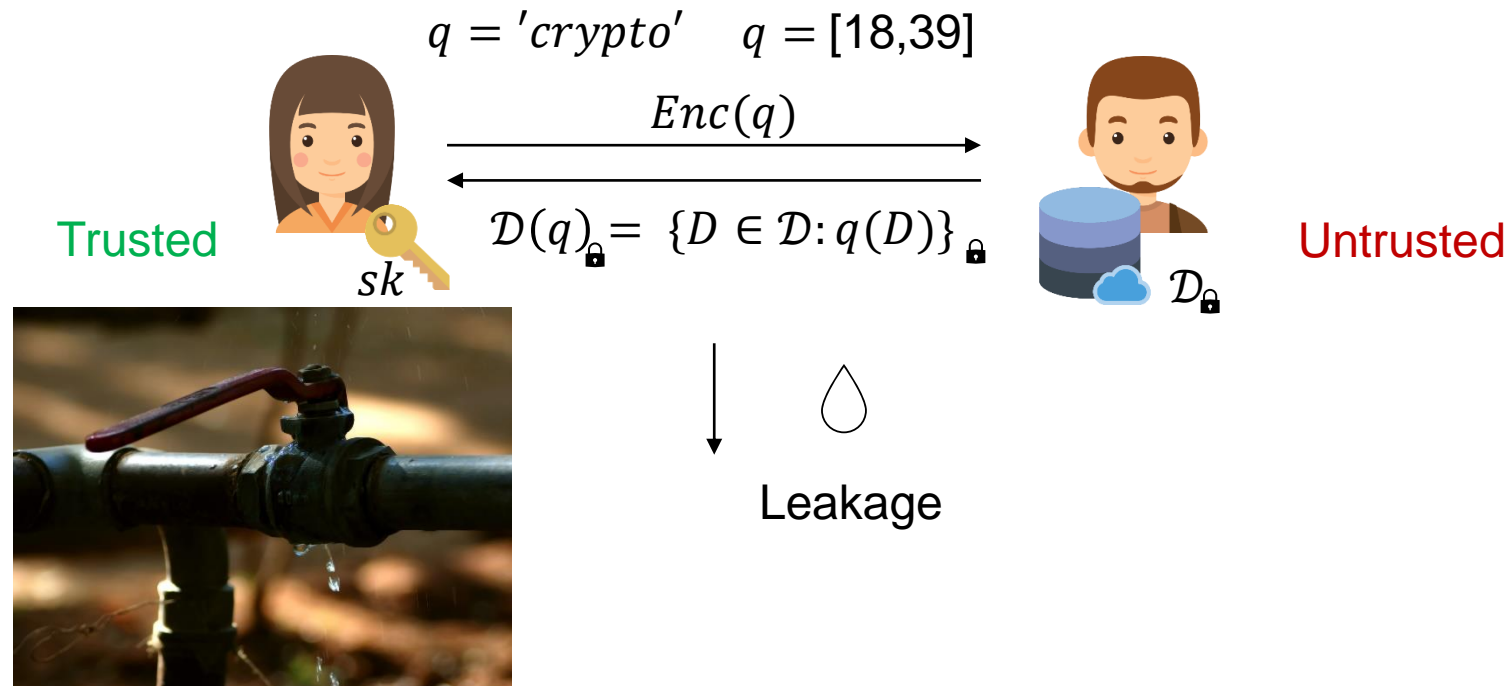
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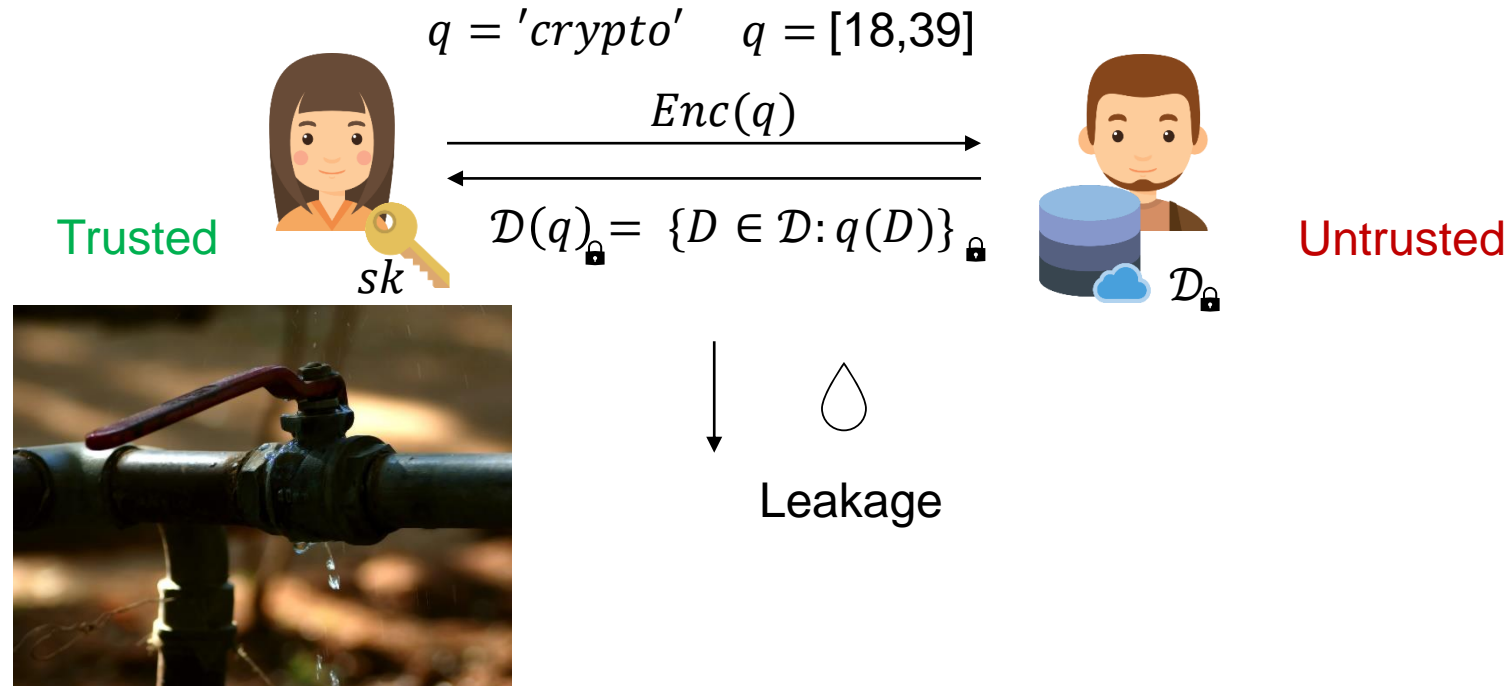
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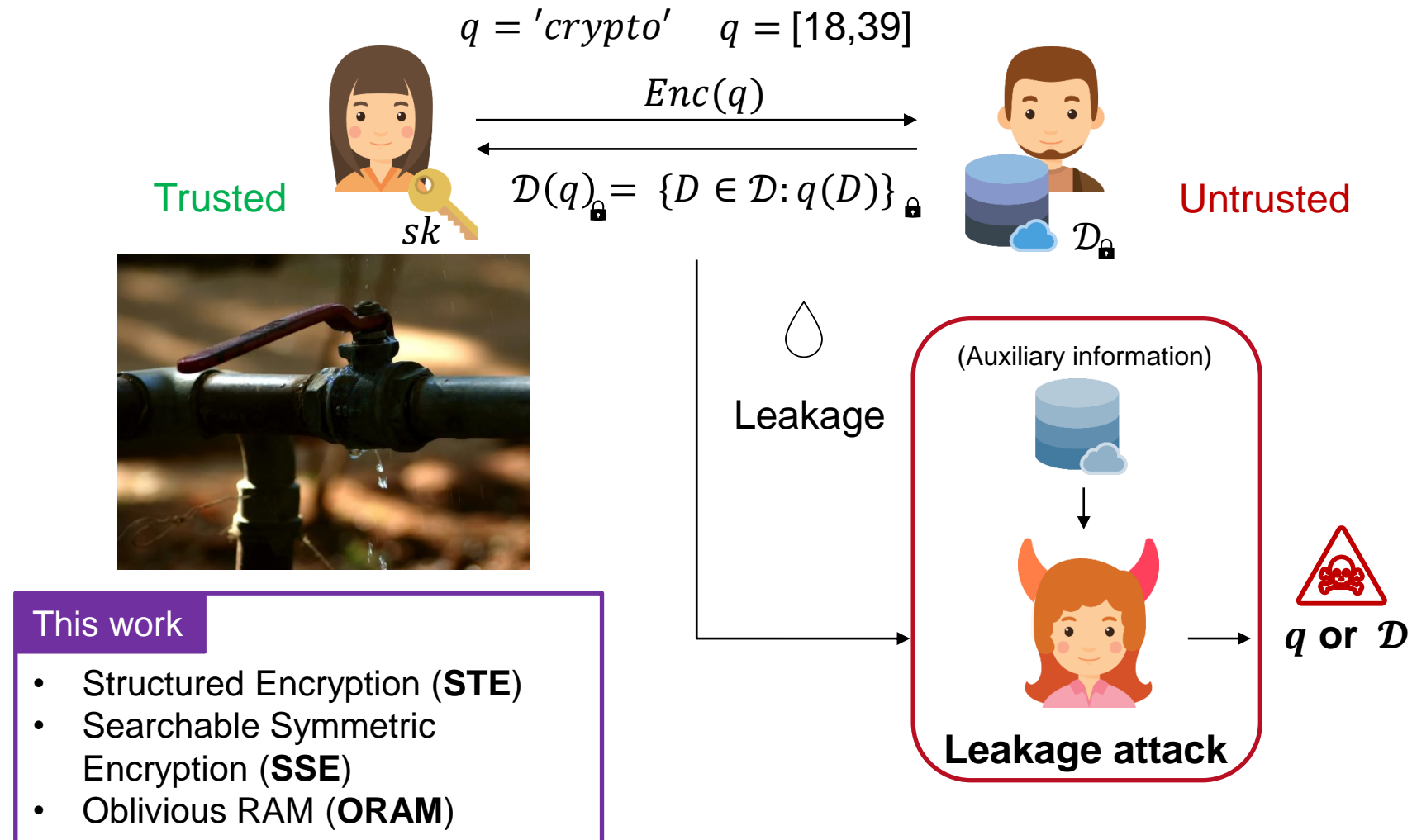
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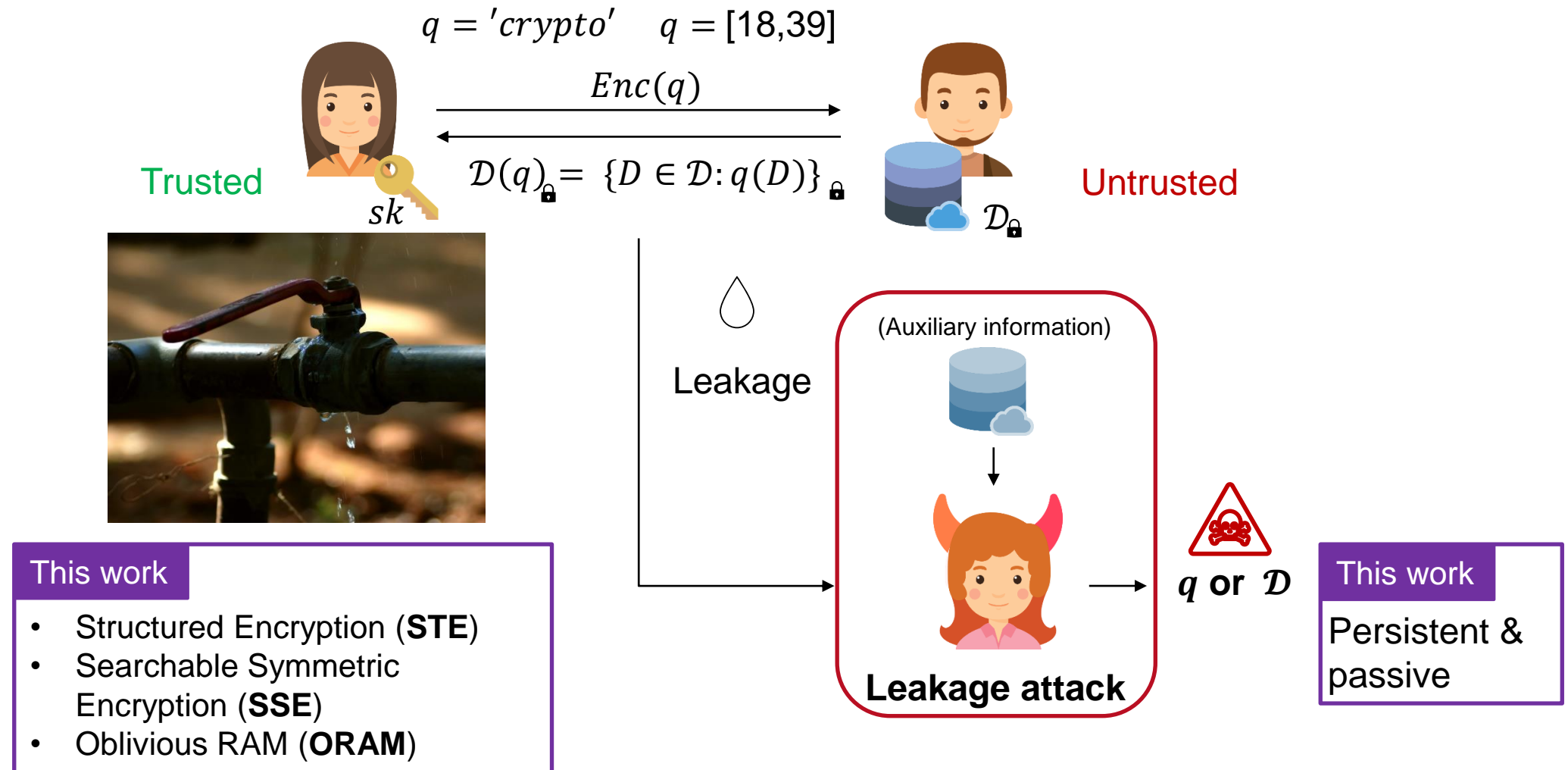
This work

- Structured Encryption (**STE**)
- Searchable Symmetric Encryption (**SSE**)
- Oblivious RAM (**ORAM**)

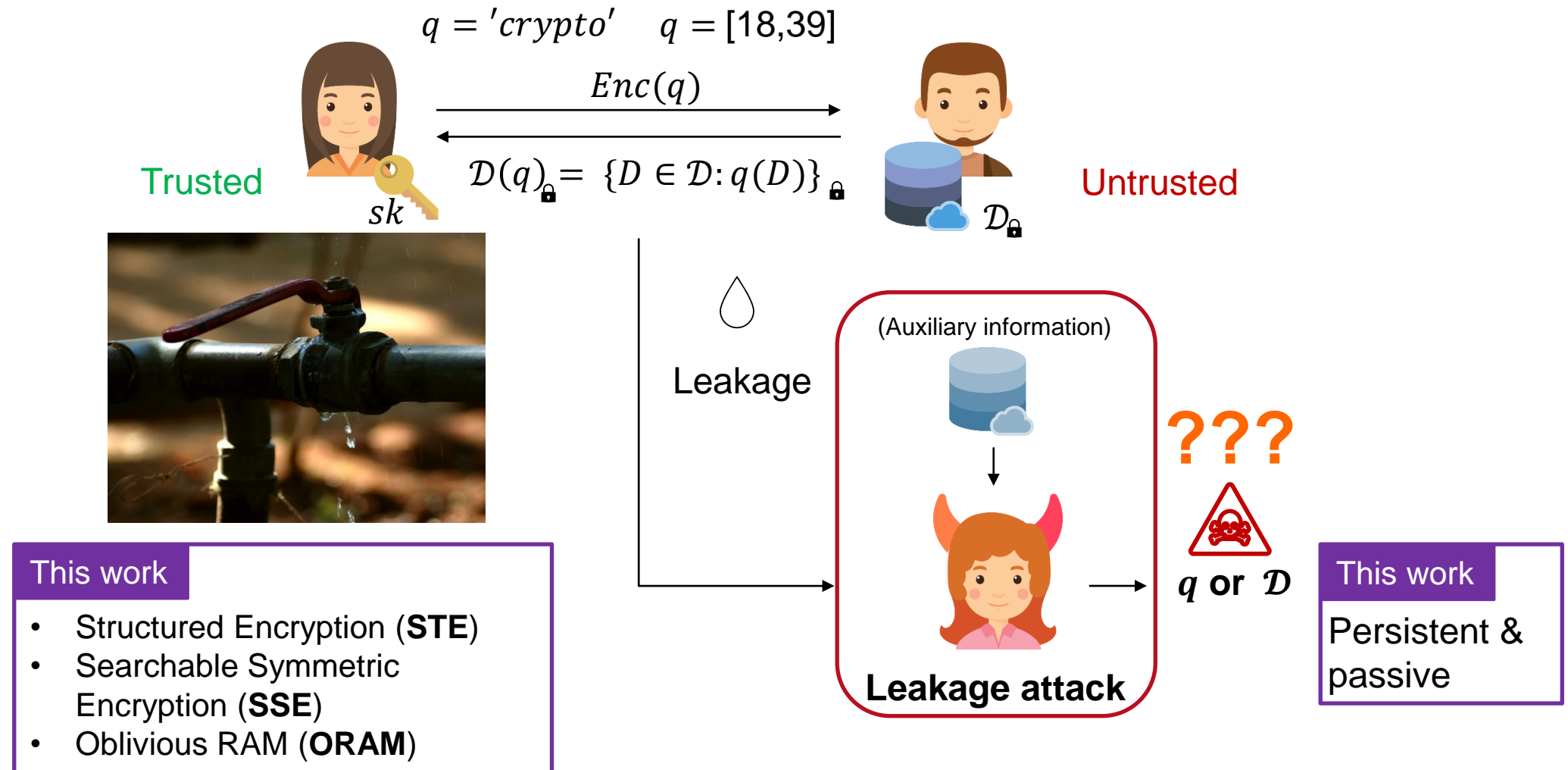
Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs)



Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs): Uncertainty Of Security



Constructions

Attacks & Countermeasures

Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs): Uncertainty Of Security

Constructions

Attacks & Countermeasures

“ Benign leakage ”

“ Common leakage ”

“ Standard leakage ”

“ Accepted leakage ”

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“ [Attacks] assume extremely strong adversarial models ”

“ Leakages [...] are not exploitable via leakage-abuse attacks in practice ”

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Attacks & Countermeasures

“ Severe threat ”

“ Devastating results ”

“ [ESAs] are extremely vulnerable to [attacks] ”

“ [ESA] schemes should no longer be used without countermeasures ”

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“ [ESAs] are extremely vulnerable to [attacks] ”

“ [ESA] schemes should no longer be used without countermeasures ”

“ Our assumptions on background information are weak ”

“ With some prior knowledge [...] an honest-but-curious server can recover the underlying keywords ”

Encrypted Search Algorithms (ESAs): Uncertainty Of Security

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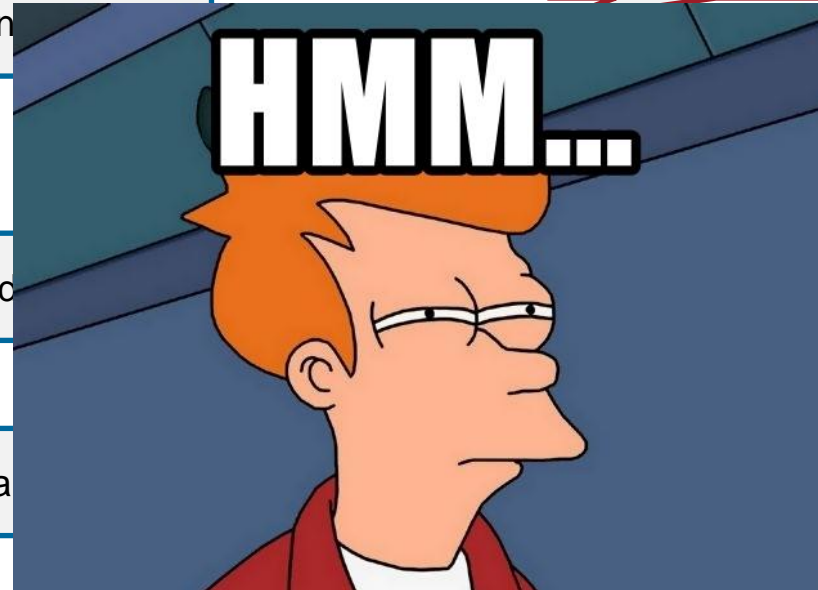
Severe threat

Devastating results

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on background information are weak

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Previous Evaluations & Our Contributions

Previous evaluations

Previous Evaluations & Our Contributions

Previous evaluations



Closed-source code



Single use case



Few comparisons



Small/restricted data

Previous Evaluations & Our Contributions

Previous evaluations



Closed-source code



Single use case

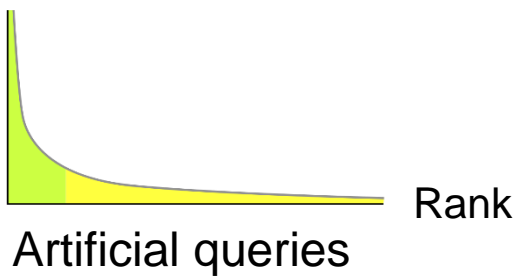


Few comparisons



Small/restricted data

Frequency



Previous Evaluations & Our Contributions

Previous evaluations



Closed-source code



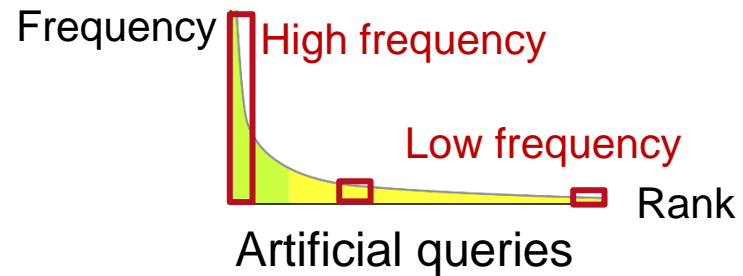
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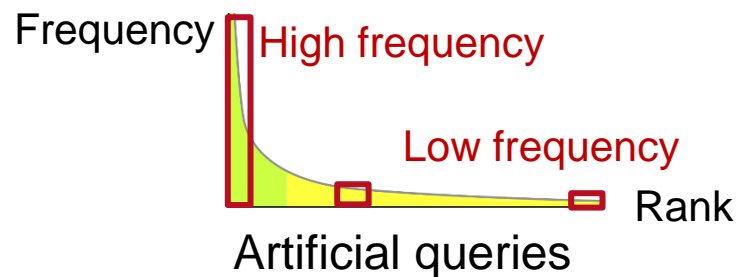
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This work



Open-source
framework



Multiple use cases



**Systematic re-
evaluation**



Large data

Previous Evaluations & Our Contributions

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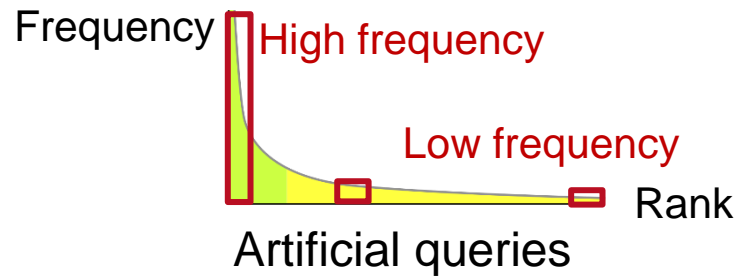
Single use case



Few comparisons



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This work



Open-source
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**Systematic re-
evaluation**



Large data

```
User,Query  
216,'crypto'  
216,'amsterdam'  
106,'doctor'  
216,'hotel'
```

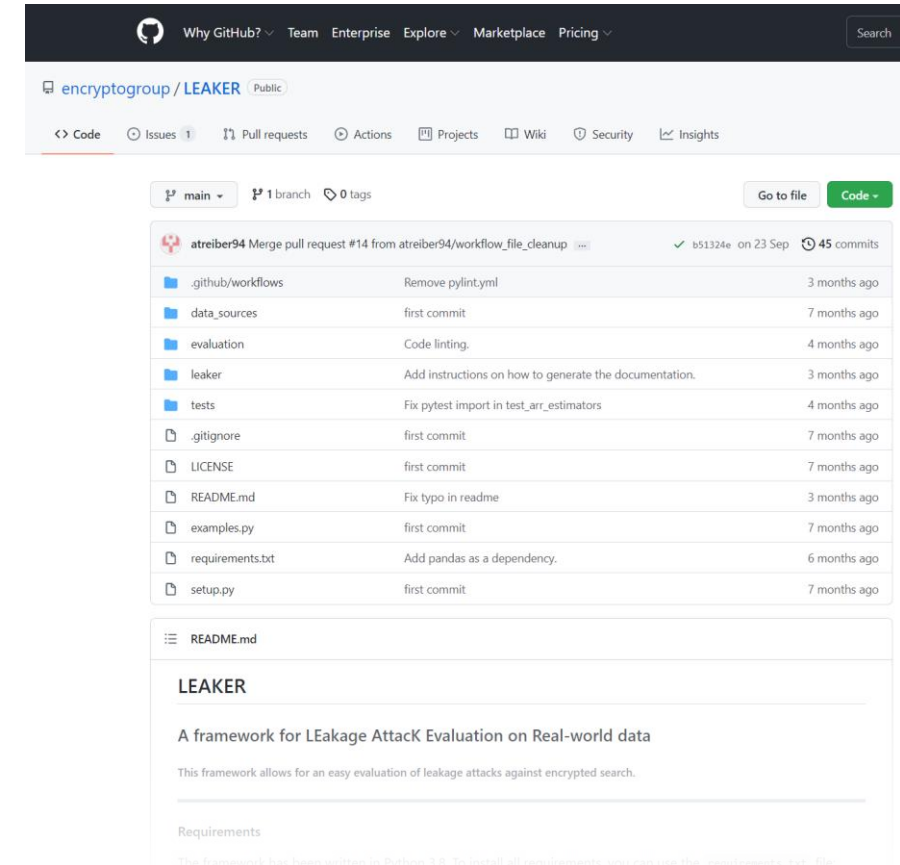
First real-world query logs

New Software: LEAKER



- Re-implementation of **17** major attacks in open-source framework

[IKK12,CGPR15,LMP18,GLMP18,GLMP19,GJW19,
BKM20,KPT20,KPT21,RPH21]



<https://encrypto.de/code/LEAKER>



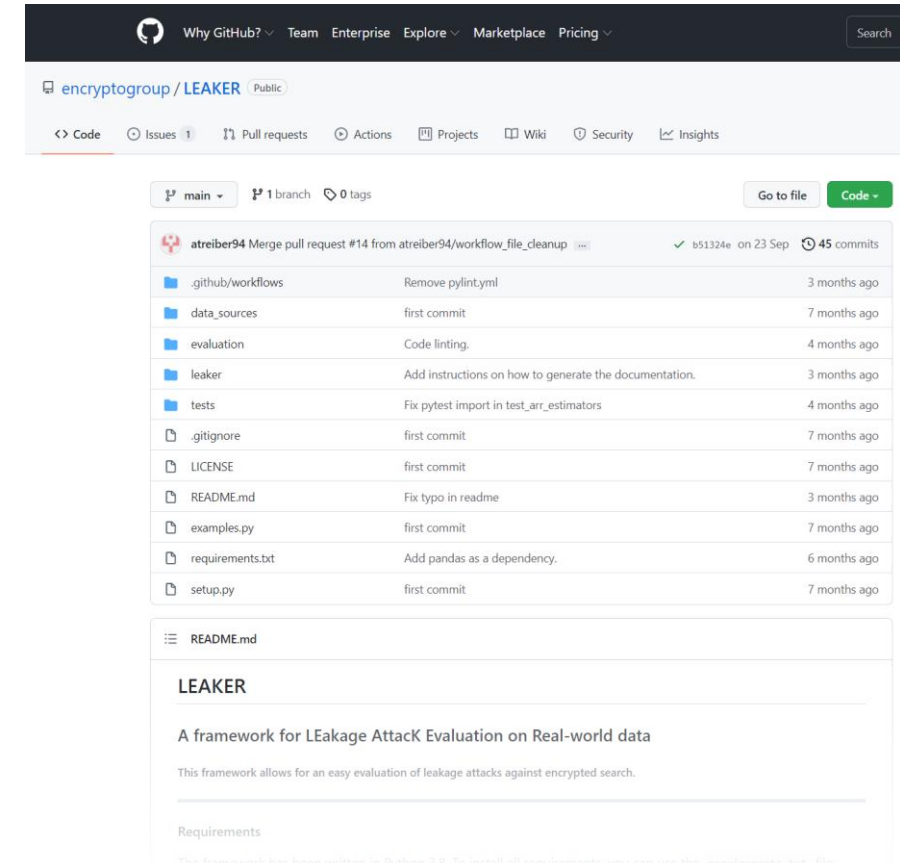
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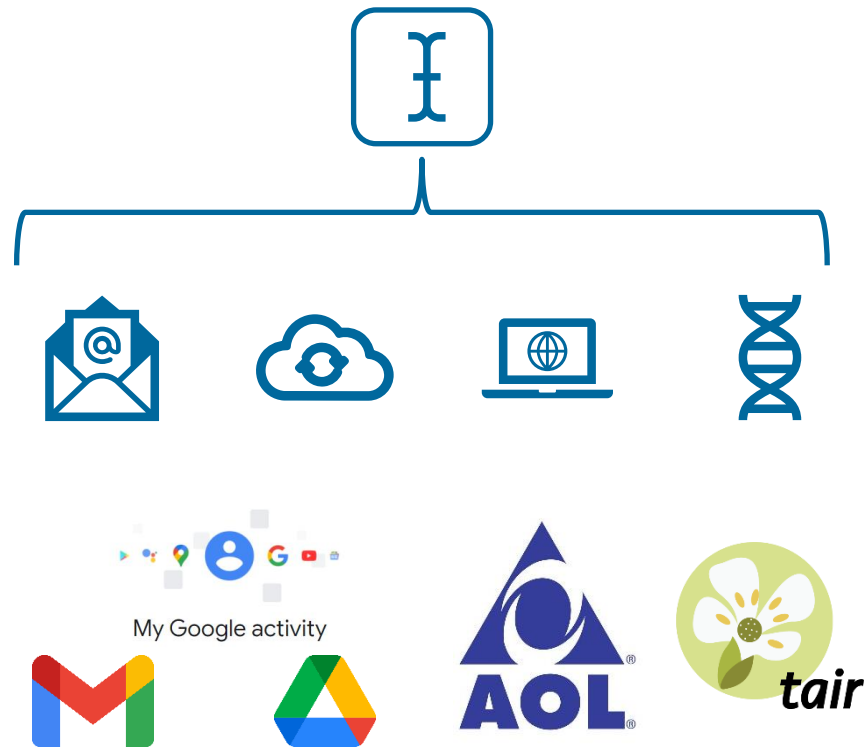
- Modular design & interoperability
- Easy to implement new attacks & countermeasures
- Easy to pre-process & use new data



<https://encrypto.de/code/LEAKER>

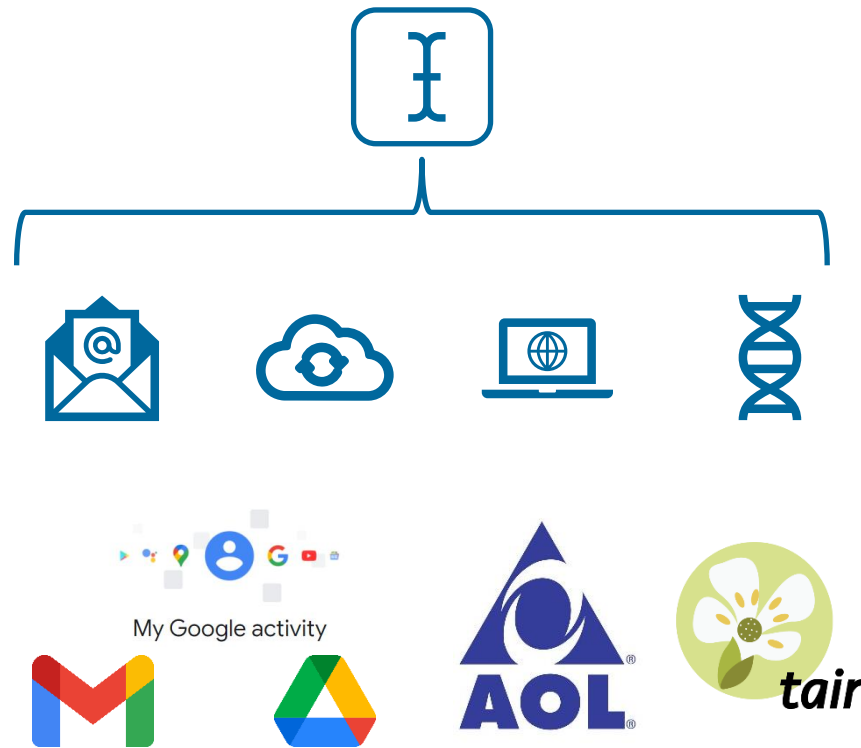


Keyword (*point*) queries



New Data

Keyword (*point*) queries



Range queries



New Data

Keyword (*point*) queries



My Google activity



tair



Have query logs

Range queries






SDSS



Evaluation: Summary – Keyword Search






(subjective)

Leakage 	Attack Success 	Risk 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response length• Response volume	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High adversarial knowledge	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-occurrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High adversarial knowledge	Low
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response identifiers• Response volumes (of individual documents)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low adversarial knowledge	High

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=> Suppression of identifier and volume leakage of responses necessary!

Evaluation: Summary – Keyword Search



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Subgraph
attacks
[BKM20]

=> Suppression of identifier and volume leakage of responses necessary!

Evaluation: Highlights – Keyword Search



“ ”

None of the attacks worked against low-
[frequency] keywords

[BKM20]

“ ”

Users are more likely to search for a
specific email

[RPH21]

Evaluation: Highlights – Keyword Search

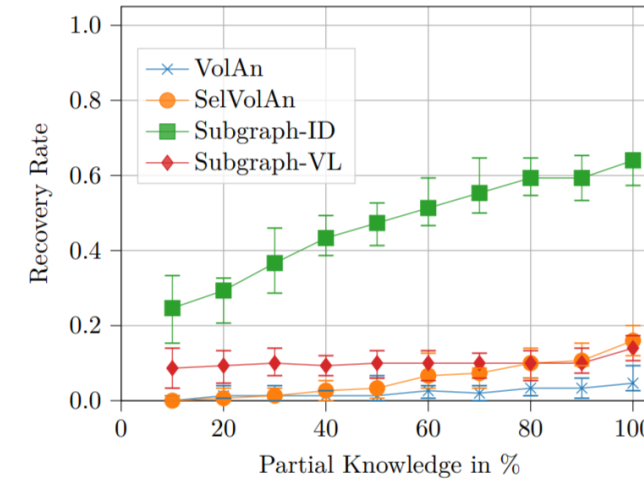


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**Mean
frequency:
1.54!**
(on TAIR)

Evaluation: Highlights – Keyword Search

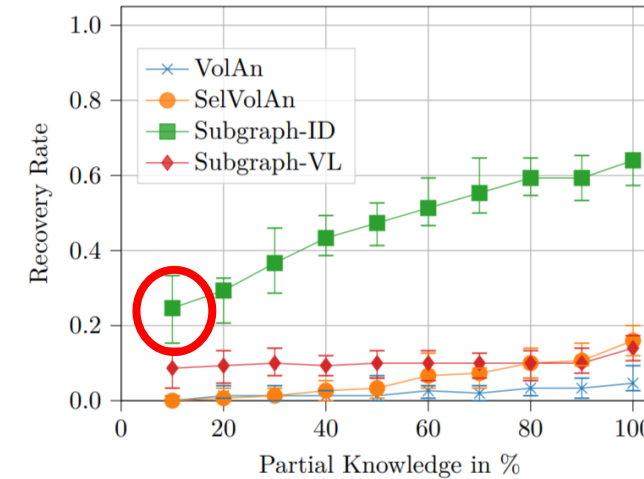


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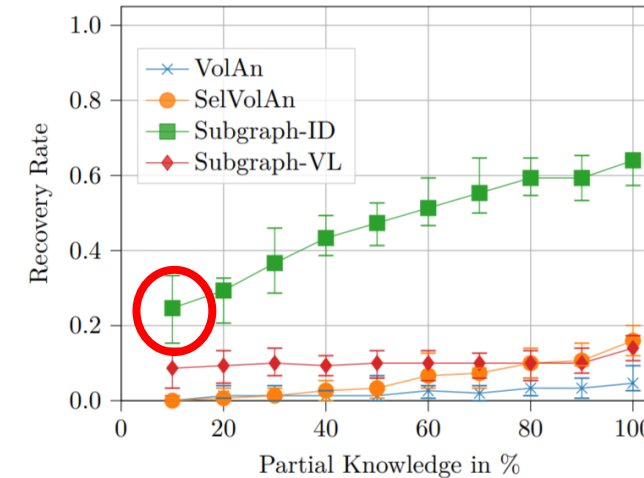


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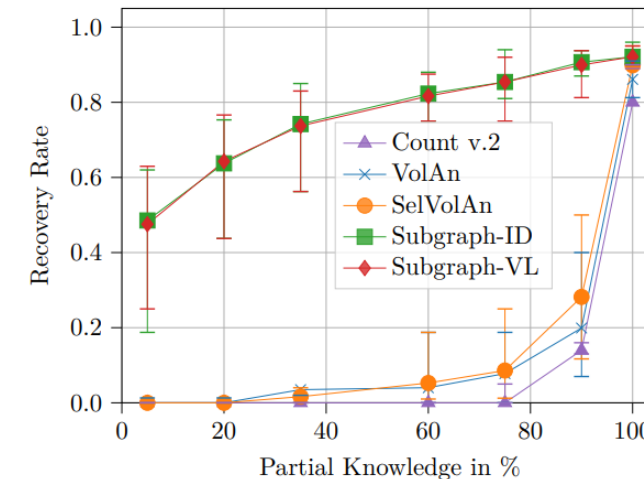
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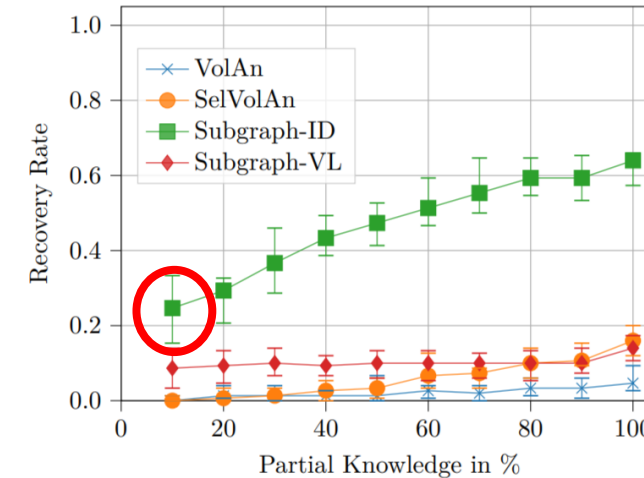


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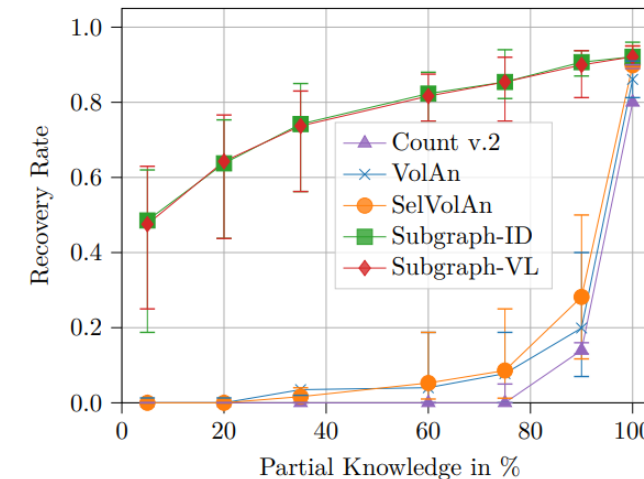
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**Mean
frequency:
326!**
(on GMail)

Evaluation: Summary – Range Search






(subjective)

Leakage 	Attack Success 	Risk 
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response length	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None	Very low
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response length• Query equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evenly distributed data	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-occurrence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Large widths• Skewed values	Medium
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-occurrence• Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most cases	High

Evaluation: Summary – Range Search



(subjective)

Leakage 	Attack Success 	Risk 
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=> Leakage suppression for range case!

Conclusions

- Extensible **open-source** framework LEAKER

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- **First** usage of real-world queries

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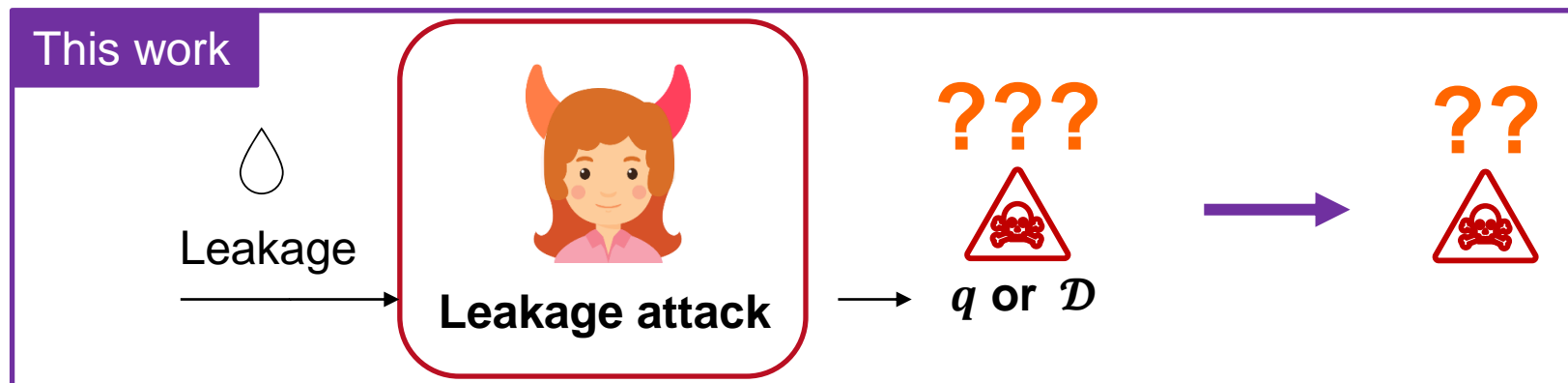
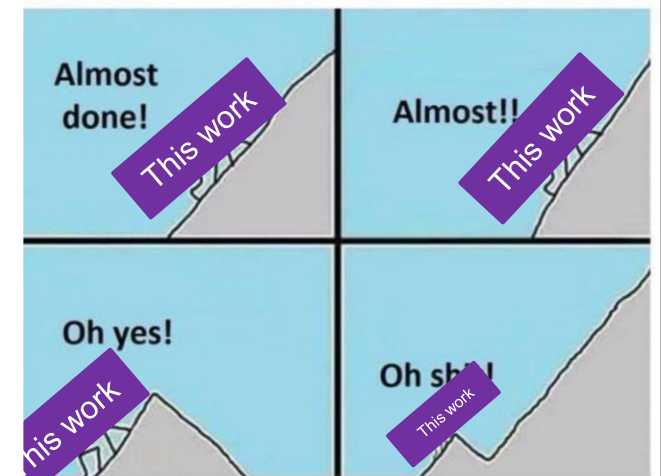
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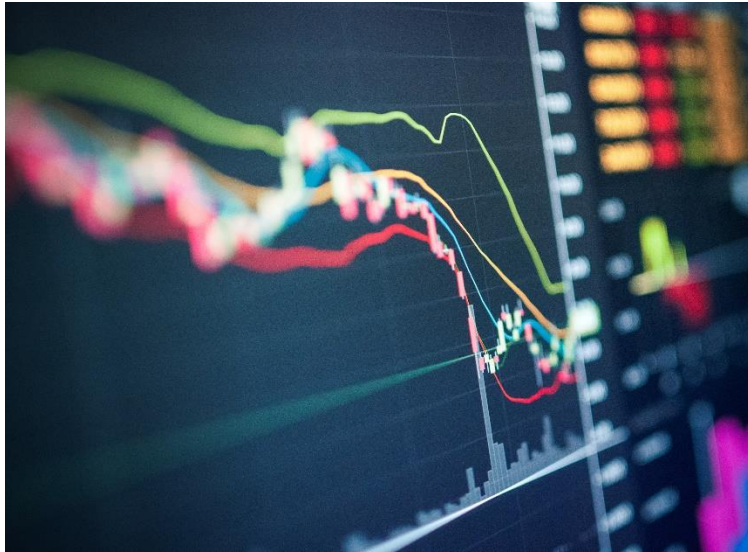


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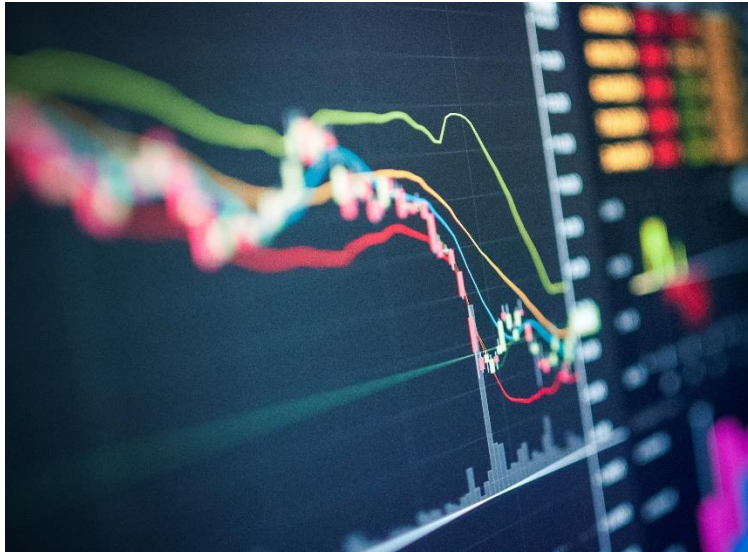
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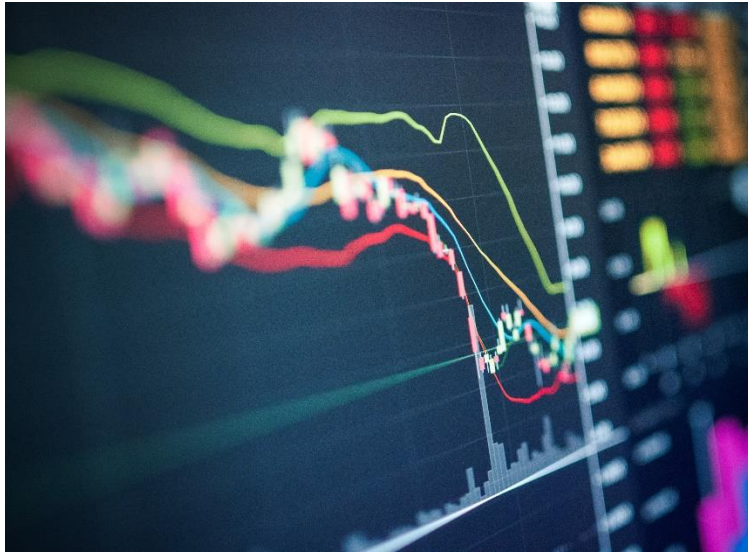
What needs to be done



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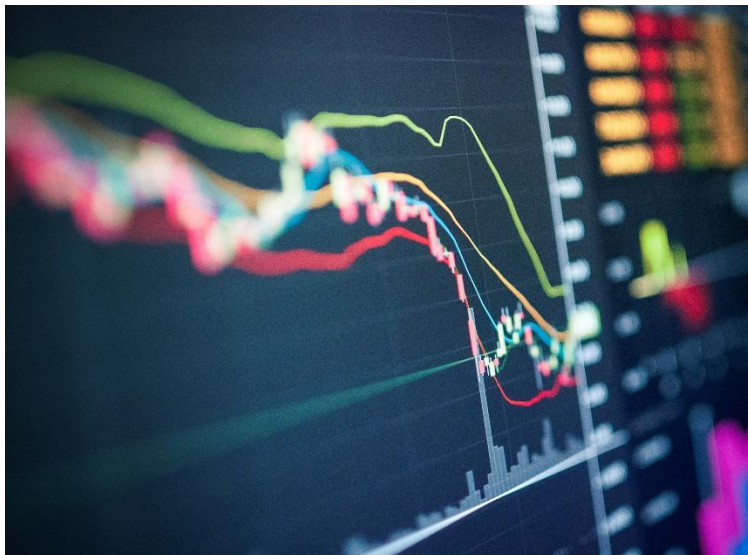
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+



What needs to be done

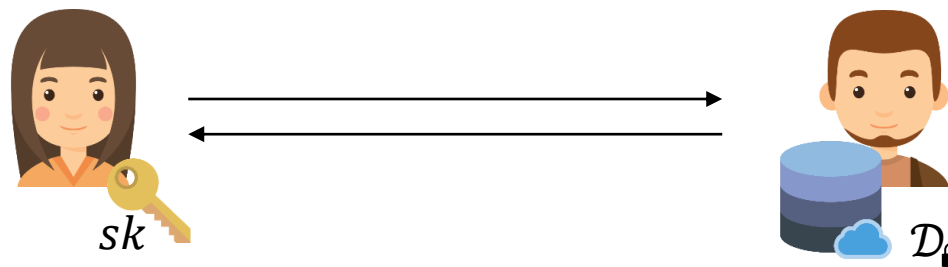


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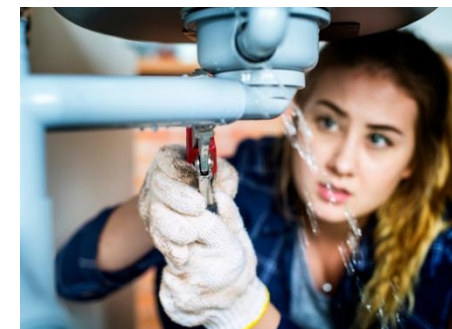
=>





THANK YOU!

<https://encrypto.de/treiber>



More details:

<https://ia.cr/2021/1035>

(to appear at **EuroS&P'22**)




Code:

<https://encrypto.de/code/LEAKER>



- Icons & pics by *Flaticons* (FreePik, Becris, Darius Dan, Surang, Vectors Market, Becris), *FreePNG*, *PNGItem*, <https://memegenerator.net/>, *Futurama* - "The Lesser of Two Evils", 2011 by *20th Television*, *Rawpixel.com* / *Shutterstock*
- [BKM20] Laura Blackstone, Seny Kamara, and Tarik Moataz. Revisiting leakage abuse attacks. In *Network and Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS)*, 2020
- [CGPR15] David Cash, Paul Grubbs, Jason Perry, and Thomas Ristenpart. Leakage-abuse attacks against searchable encryption. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, 2015.
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- [OK21b] Simon Oya and Florian Kerschbaum. IHOP: Improved Statistical Query Recovery against Searchable Symmetric Encryption through Quadratic Optimization. In arXiv 2110.04180, 2021.
- [PWLP20] Rishabh Poddar, Stephanie Wang, Jianan Lu, and Raluca Ada Popa. Practical volume-based attacks on encrypted databases. In IEEE European Symposium on Security and Privacy (EuroS&P), 2020.
- [RPH21] Ruben Groot Roessink, Andreas Peter, and Florian Hahn. Experimental review of the IKK query recovery attack: Assumptions, recovery rate and improvements. In International Conference on Applied Cryptography and Network Security (ACNS), 2021.
- [ZKP16] Yupeng Zhang, Jonathan Katz, and Charalampos Papamanthou. All your queries are belong to us: The power of file-injection attacks on searchable encryption. In USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security), 2016.

Leakage 	Information
Response Length	$ D(q) $
Query Equality	$q_i = q_j$
Co-Occurrence	$ D(q_i) \cap D(q_j) $
Response Identifiers	$\{i: D_i \in q(D)\}$
Response Volumes	$\{ D_i _b: D_i \in q(D)\}$

(Simplified)

Leakage Attacks Types



Keyword (*point*) queries
[IKK12,CGPR15,BKM20,RPH21]



Keyword	Document IDs
'real'	2,5,11,13,20,31
'world'	3,5,10,11,13,25
'crypto'	5,11,21,27

$$q = w$$
$$\mathcal{D}(q) = \{D \in \mathcal{D} : q \in D\}$$

Recover q

$q = \text{'crypto'}$

Known-data: Adversary knows subset of \mathcal{D}



Range queries
[KKNO16,LMP18,GLMP18,
GLMP19,GJW19,KPT20,KPT21]



ID	Age
1	65
2	7
3	27

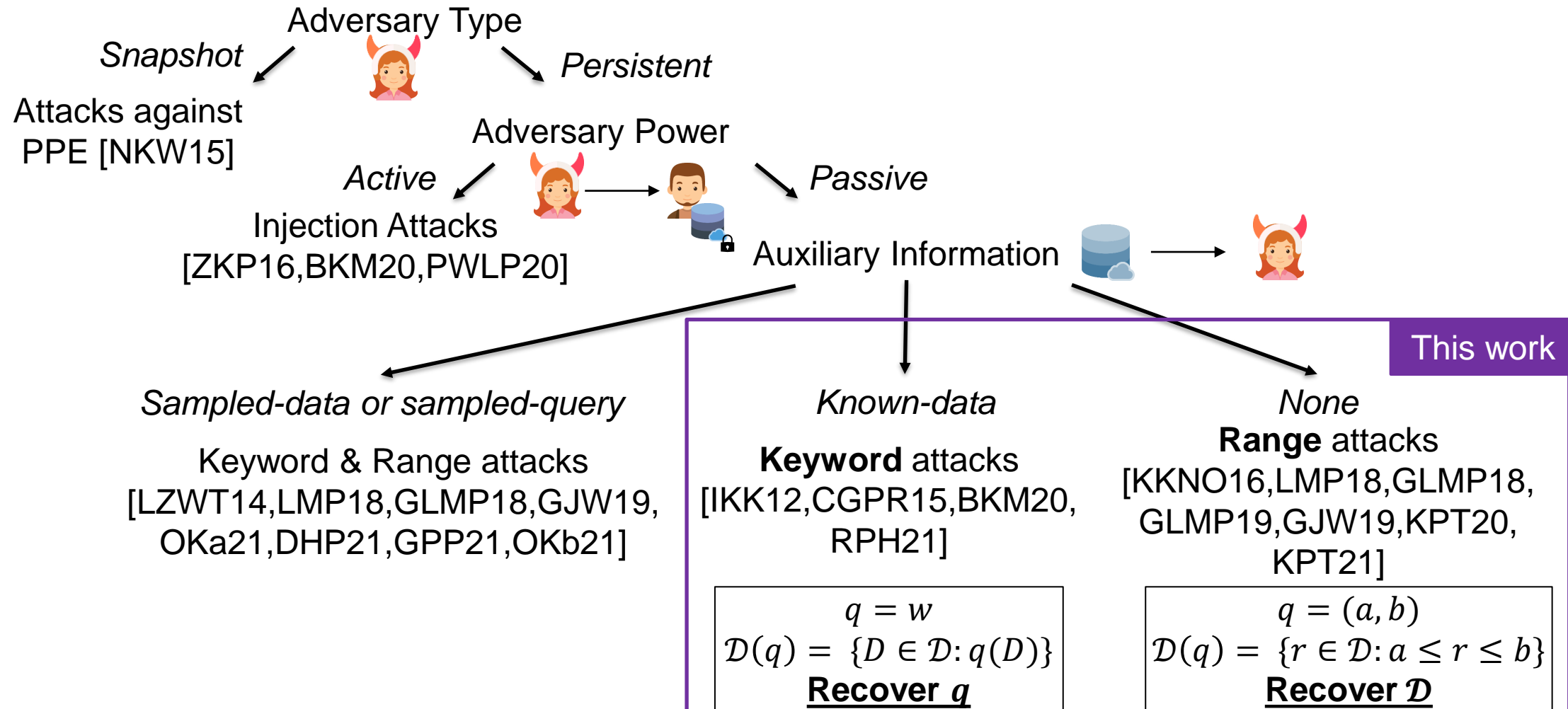
$$q = (a, b)$$
$$\mathcal{D}(q) = \{r \in \mathcal{D} : a \leq r \leq b\}$$

Recover \mathcal{D}




$q = (18, 39)$

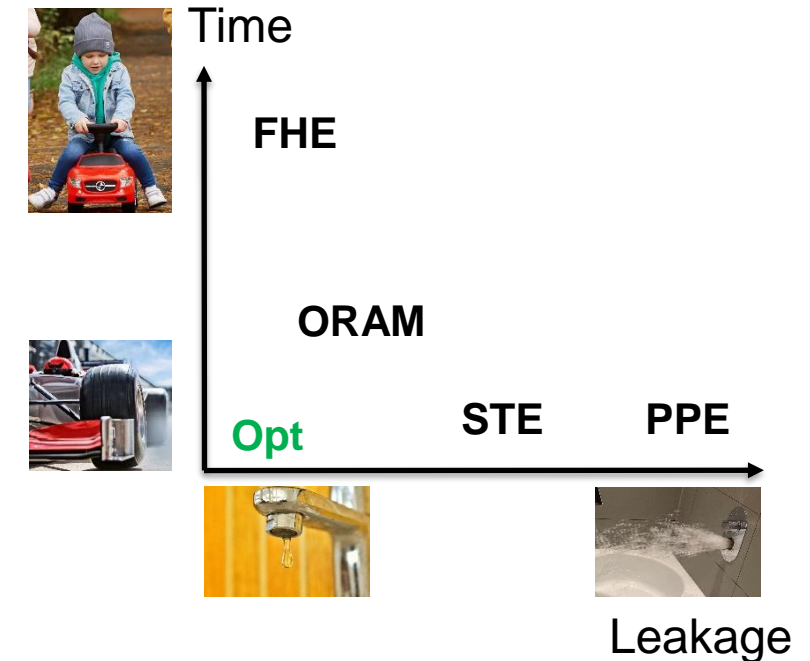
No auxiliary knowledge

Overview of Leakage Attacks on ESAs



Overview of Techniques for ESAs (Extremely informal)

Technique	Leakage 	Query Time	
Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	Linear	 Considered secure but inefficient
Oblivious RAM (ORAM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response Length 	Sublinear	
Structured Encryption (STE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Query Equality Responses' Equality 	Optimal	 This work Considered efficient and ???
Property-Preserving Encryption (PPE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ciphertext Equality Ciphertext Order 	Optimal	



Previous Evaluations



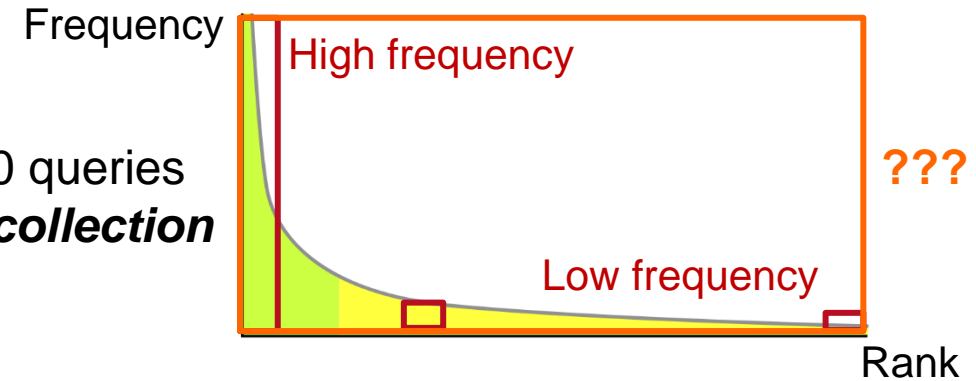
- Usual evaluations for keyword attacks:



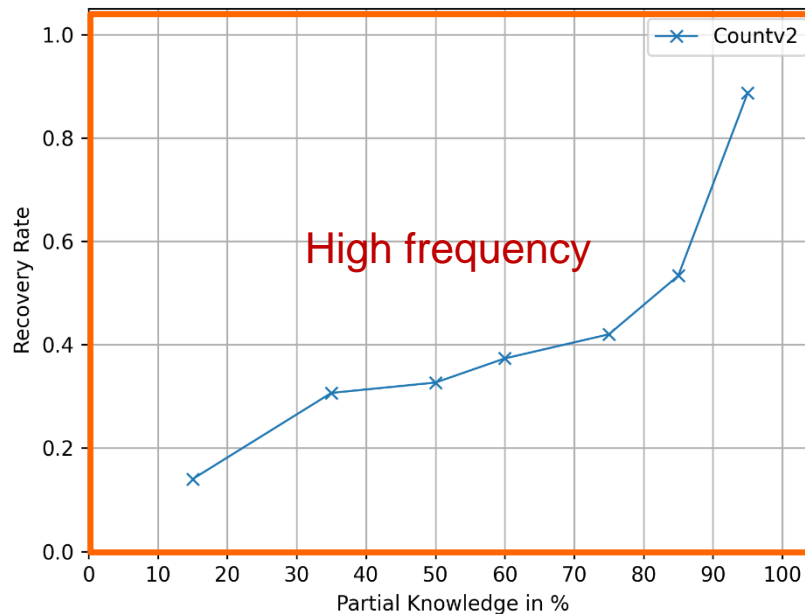
1. Enron (& Apache)
email data collection

2. Restrict data to 500-
3000 keywords

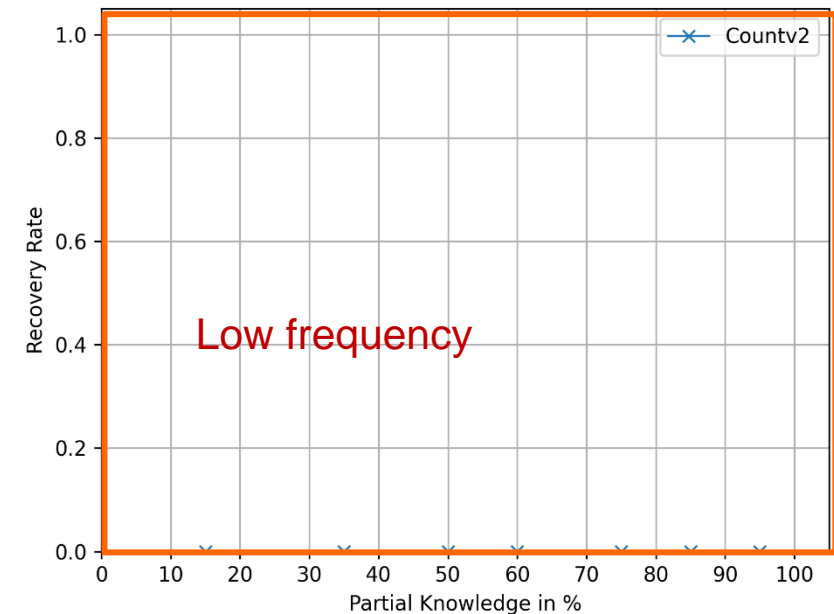
3. Draw 150 queries
from data collection



4. Evaluate
on partial
knowledge



or
???



Previous Evaluations

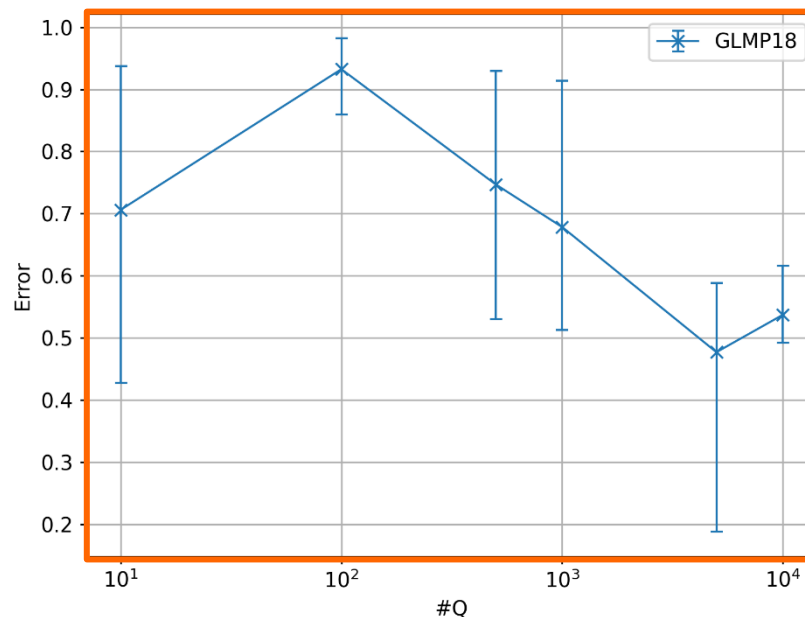
- Usual evaluations for range attacks:



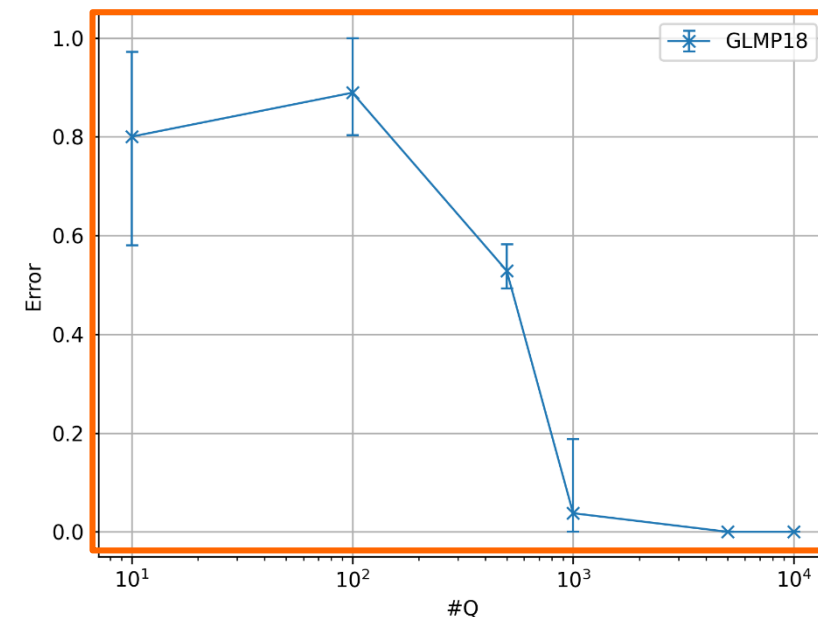
1. Subset of HCUP or
artificial Data collection

2. Pick Artificial query
distribution (Uniform/Zipf/...)

3. Evaluate for
different amounts
of queries



or
???





- 9 new data sources for more realistic evaluations
- Keyword setting:

Use Case: Email/Cloud



My Google activity

The activity that you keep helps Google make services more useful for you, like helping you rediscover the things that you've searched for, read and watched.

You can see and delete your activity using the controls on this page.

GMail and Google Drive

- 7 Query Logs & Data Collections
- 7 Users
- 16-100 Queries
- 200-47k Documents
- 19k-895k Keywords

Web



AOL and Wikipedia

- 1 Query Log & 1 Data Collection
- 656k Users
- 2.9M Queries
- 151k Documents
- 268k Keywords

Genetic



The Arabidopsis Information Resource

- 1 Query Log & 1 Data Collection
- 1.3k Users
- 54k Queries
- 115k Documents
- 690k Keywords

- Range setting:

Scientific



Medical



Human Resources



Sales



Insurance



Sloan Digital Sky Survey

- 3 Query Logs & 1 Data Collection
- 3 Users
- 215-8k Queries
- 5M Records
- Domain $N = 10k$
- Density 96%

Medical Information Mart for Intensive Care

- 3 Data Collections
- 2k-8k Records
- Domain $N = 73 - 10k$
- Density 3.3%-81%

Salaries of the UK Attorney General's Office junior civil servants

- 1 Data Collection
- 536 Records
- Domain $N = 395$
- Density 2.3%

Walmart Sales Data

- 1 Data Collection
- 143 Records
- Domain $N = 6.3k$
- Density 2.3%

NYDT Insurance Claims

- 1 Data Collection
- 886 Records
- Domain $N = 25k$
- Density 1.2%



Table 5: Normalized mean errors on the entire SDSS query logs. For feasibility, the collection is sampled $25\times$ uniformly at random with size $n = 10^4$ ($n = 10^3$ for APA and ARR).

Instance	GKKNO	AVALUE	ARR	ARR-OR	APA-OR ^{BT}	APA-OR ^{ABT}
SDSS-S	0.413	0.432	0.473	0.249	0.242	0.239
SDSS-M	0.408	0.435	0.287	0.128	0.242	0.240
SDSS-L	0.417	0.456	0.286	0.141	0.241	0.242