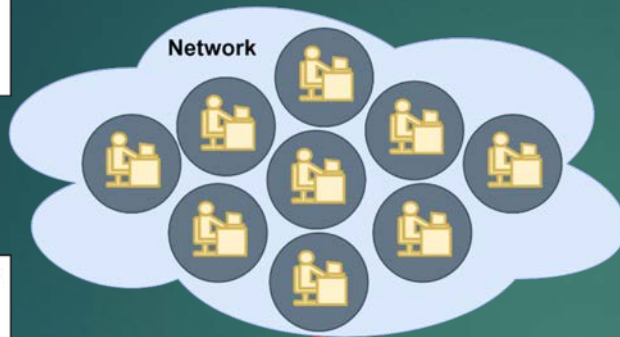# Private Group Communication in Blockchain Based on Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange
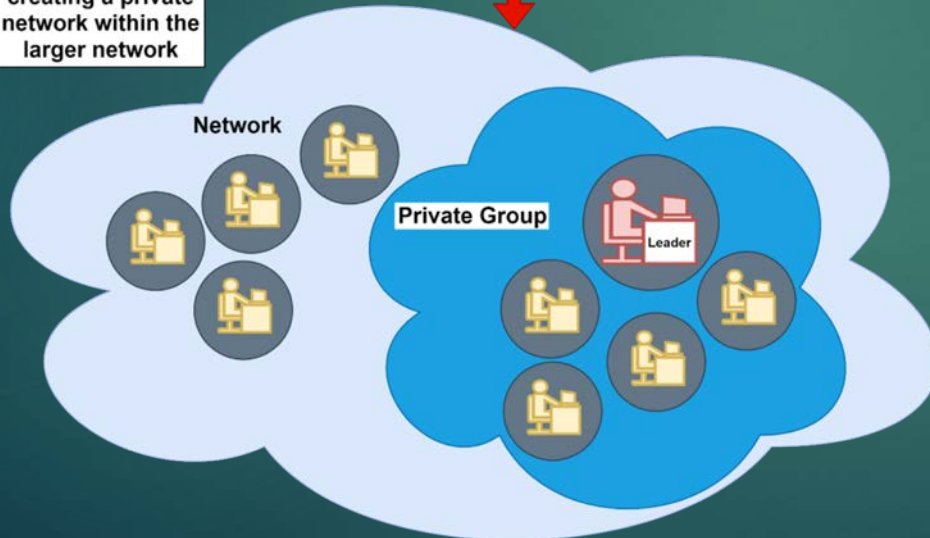
► Zachary Laney and **Yoohwan Kim**
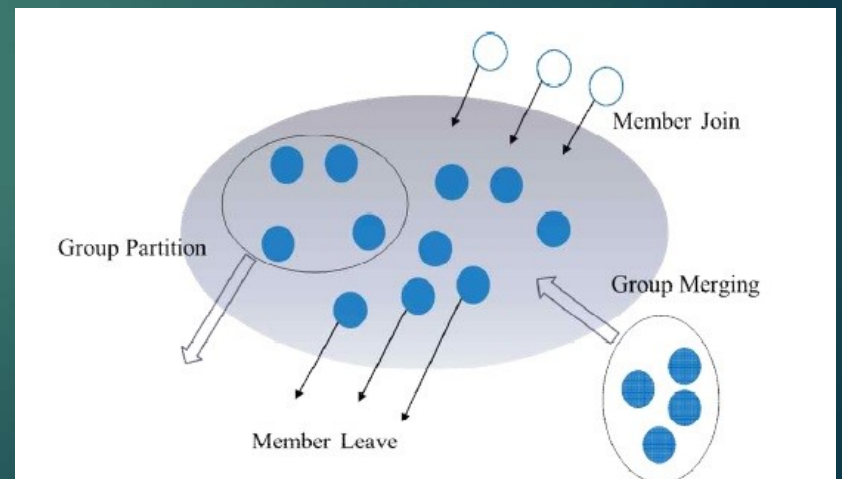► University of Nevada Las Vegas
► Yoohwan.Kim@unlv.edu

Any amount of users connected by a network

A user self elects to become a group leader by creating a private network within the larger network

Network

Network

Private Group

Leader

Out of the total set of possible users with access to the open distributed blockchain any user may self elect to establish private group communication with any subset of the total amount of users using a **Public Key** and **Wallet Address**

Member Join

Group Partition

Group Merging

Member Leave

Introduction
What is the problem with Private Group Communication?

Who has sent private information to another person on internet?

Who has sent private information to a group of people on the internet?

Who has sent private information to a group of people they've never met?

Is there a solution for securely sending private information to an anonymous group?

Current Group Key Protocols
What is the problem with the current standard of securely distributing a Group Key?

They require every user to actively participate in the entire Group Key creation process.

They require a trusted centralized third party to transfer the information.

Creation   Security   Delivery

The distributed immutability of blockchain technology can help.

Challenges

WITH ESTABLISHING PRIVATE GROUP COMMUNICATION ON THE OPEN DISTRIBUTED BLOCKCHAIN

Open Distributed Blockchain
Three Main Challenges

Blockchain Attributes	Open Data		Closed Data	
Public Access	**Write Data**	Anyone	**Write Data**	Anyone
	Read Data	Anyone	**Read Data**	Permission
Private Access	**Write Data**	Permission	**Write Data**	Permission
	Read Data	Anyone	**Read Data**	Permission

In Ethereum anyone can read or write data.

Challenge #1

Passive & Non-interactive

- New information written to the ledger needs to notify group members.

Solution: Everyone transacts their information to a smart contract which creates a notification.

Distributed Immutability and Public Verifiability come with a cost.

Blockchain Attributes		Open Data	
Public Access		Write Data	Anyone
		Read Data	Anyone

Open Data

- Anyone can see the information on the ledger.

Solution: Encrypt the data.

Transferring information via the Open Distributed Blockchain **is inefficient**.

Slow Transactions
- The time for transactions takes anywhere from a second to an hour depending on the amount of gas provided and the current mining pool.

Expensive Transactions
- Smart Contracts aren't designed to be databases because of the high cryptocurrency costs for data storage to pay miners.

Permanent Transactions
- Encrypted data stored on the open distributed blockchain is permanent so if the key is stolen or brute forced at any point in the future it can be decrypted.

Solution #1: **Cope** with inefficiency.

Solution #2: Send information via **email**.

Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

FOR ESTABLISHING A PRIVATE COMMUNICATION CHANNEL

Diffie- Hellman key Exchange Principle

$$(g^x)^y = g^{xy} = (g^y)^x$$

$K = (G^X \bmod N)^Y \bmod N$

$\quad = (G^Y \bmod N)^X \bmod N$

$\quad = \mathbf{G^{XY}} \bmod N$

N=11,   G=2

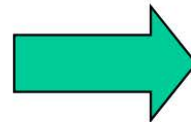- o   Alice picks   4   for K^{-1}_A
- o   Bob picks   3   for K^{-1}_B

Alice computes

- o   (2^4 mod 11) = (16 mod 11)= **5**
- o   Sends this to Bob

Bob computes

- o   (2^3 mod 11) = (8 mod 11) = **8**
- o   Sends this to Alice

❏ Bob computes

- o   (5^3 mod 11)
         = (125 mod 11) = **4**

❏ Alice computes

- o   (8^4 mod 11)
         = (4096 mod 11)= **4**

Previous Research

FOR ESTABLISHING PRIVATE GROUP COMMUNICATION
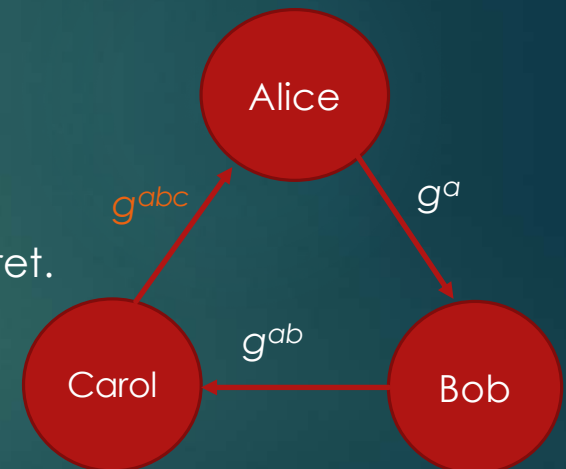
Group Key Creation with Diffie- Hellman key Exchange

$$((g^x)^y)^z = g^{xyz} = (g^y)^x)^z$$

$K = ((G^X \bmod N)^Y \bmod N)^Z \bmod N$

$= ((G^Y \bmod N)^Z \bmod N)^X \bmod N$

$= ((G^Z \bmod N)^X \bmod N)^Y \bmod N$
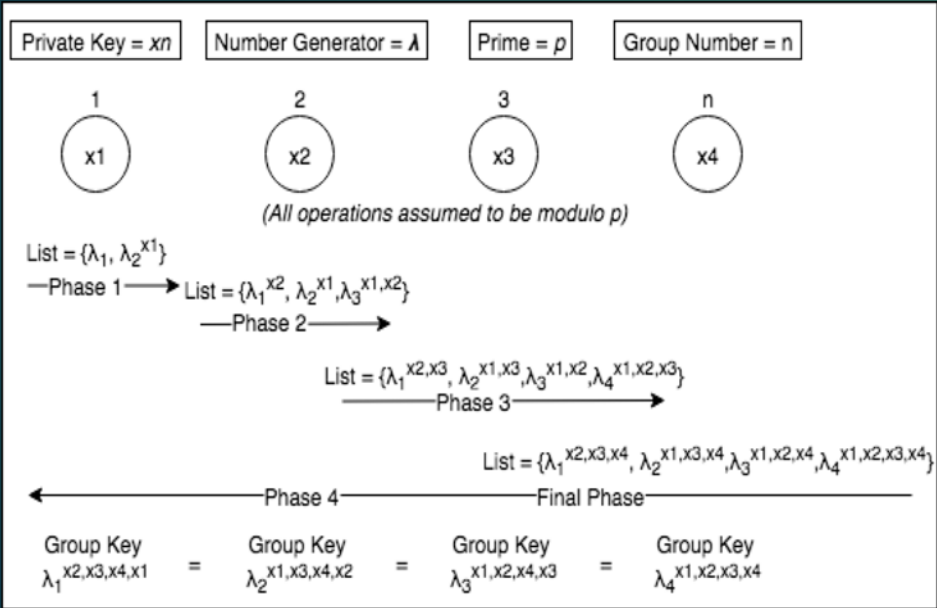
$= G^{XYZ} \bmod N$

Shared key among multiple parties

- Group key creation among 3 members
  - Alice computes g^a and sends it to Bob.
  - Bob computes $(g^a)^b = g^{ab}$ and sends it to Carol.
  - Carol computes $(g^{ab})^c = g^{abc}$ and uses it as her secret.

  - Bob computes g^b and sends it to Carol.
  - Carol computes $(g^b)^c = g^{bc}$ and sends it to Alice.
  - Alice computes $(g^{bc})^a = g^{bca} = g^{abc}$ and uses it as her secret.

  - Carol computes g^c and sends it to Alice.
  - Alice computes $(g^c)^a = g^{ca}$ and sends it to Bob.
  - Bob computes $(g^{ca})^b = g^{cab} = g^{abc}$ and uses it as his secret.

  - *Problem: Everybody must do (n) discrete exponentiation*

Group Diffie Hellman Key Exchange Algorithm Based Secure Group Communication

Lavanya R, Dr. S V Sathyanarayana.
International Conference on Applied and Theoretical Computing and Communication Technology, IEEE 2017

Ring Diagram

Exponentiations: n

How it works

Up Flow Stage

▶ User 1 adds to a list every possible combination of the generator raised to the power of their private key and passes it to User 2.

▶ User 2 adds to a list every possible combination of the generator raised to the power of their private key and passes it to User 3.

▶ User 3 adds to a list every possible combination of the generator raised to the power of their private key and passes it to User 4.

▶ The last user raises every number in list to the power of their private key.

Down Flow Stage

▶ The last user sends the list left back to User 3, User 2, User 1 who then raise their group key to the power of their private key.

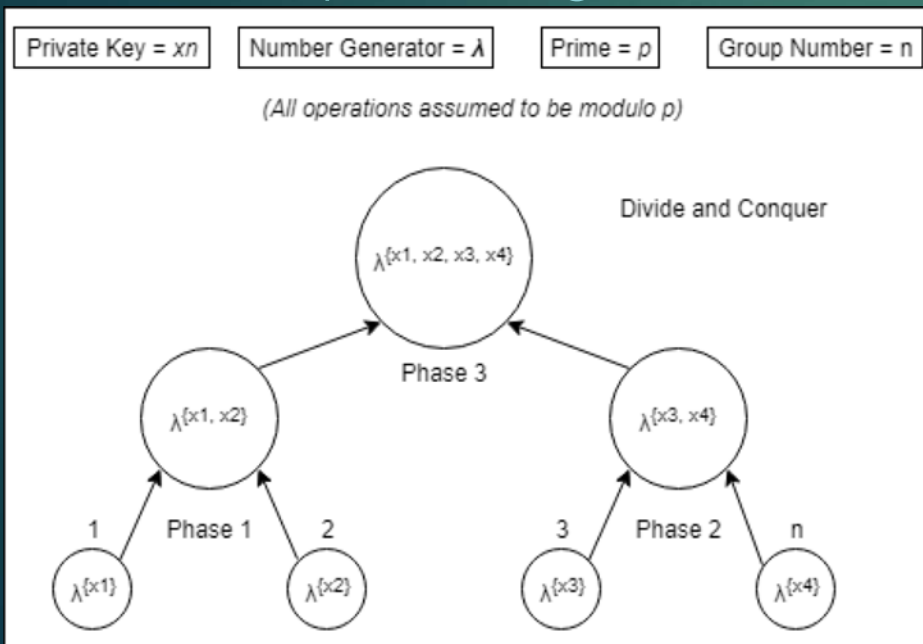▶ User 1, User 2, User 3, User 4 have calculated the same group key.

A better way? (e.g., 8 people)

- With divide-and-conquer, **A, B, C, and D** each perform one exponentiation, yielding g^{abcd}; this value is sent to **E, F, G, and H**.
    - In return, participants A, B, C, and D receive $\boldsymbol{g^{efgh}}$.
  - **A and B** each perform one exponentiation, yielding $\boldsymbol{g^{efghab}}$, which they send to **C and D**, while C and D do the same, yielding $\boldsymbol{g^{efghcd}}$, which they send to A and B.
  - **A** performs an exponentiation, yielding $\boldsymbol{g^{efghcda}}$, which it sends to B; similarly, B sends $\boldsymbol{g^{efghcdb}}$ to A.   C and D do similarly.
  - **A** performs one final exponentiation, yielding $g^{efghcdba} = g^{abcdefgh}$, while B does the same to get $g^{efghcdab} = g^{abcdefgh}$; again, C and D do similarly.
  - **E through H** simultaneously perform the same operations starting g^{abcd}
  - Once completed, all participants will possess the secret $\boldsymbol{g^{abcdefgh}}$, but each participant will have performed **only four** modular exponentiations, **not eight** by a simple circular arrangement.
- We can reduce the number of modular exponentiations to $\boldsymbol{\log_2(N) + 1}$

An Efficient Improved Group Key Agreement Protocol Based on Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

Yang Guang-ming, Lu Ya-feng, MA Da-ming.
IEEE, 2017

Binary Tree Diagram

How it works

▶ User 1 and User 2 both raise the generator to the power of their private keys and trade with each other.

▶ User 2 raises User 1's result to the power of their private key.

▶ User 1 raises User 2's result to the power of their private key.

▶ User 3 and 4 perform the same steps as User 1 and User 2.

▶ User 1 trades their result with User 3 and raises the other's result with their current number.

▶ User 2 trades their result with User 4 and raises the other's result with their current number.

▶ User 1, User 2, User 3, and User 4 have all calculated the same group key.

Exponentiations: $log_2(n) + 1$

Secure Collaborative Key Management for Dynamic Groups in Mobile Networks

C. J. a. M. H. Sukin Kang
Journal of Applied Mathematics, 2014.

Protocol	Action	Rounds	Messages	Mod Exp.	Signature	Verification
GDH	Join	4	$n+3$	$n+3$	4	$n+3$
	Leave	1	1	$n-1$	1	1
	Merge	$m+3$	$n+2m+1$	$n+2m+1$	$m+3$	$n+2m+1$
	Partition	1	1	$n-p$	1	1
STR	Join	2	3	7	3	3
	Leave	1	1	$(3n+4)/2$	1	1
	Merge	2	3	$3m+4$	2	3
	Partition	1	1	$(3n+4)/2$	1	1
TGDH	Join	2	3	$3h-3$	2	3
	Leave	1	1	$3h-3$	1	1
	Merge	2	3	$3h-3$	2	3
	Partition	h	$2h$	$3h$	h	h
BD	Join	2	$2n+2$	3	2	$n+3$
	Leave	2	$2n-2$	3	2	$n+1$
	Merge	2	$2n+2m$	3	2	$n+m+2$
	Partition	2	$2n-2p$	3	2	$n-p+2$
CKD	Join	3	3	$n+2$	3	3
	Leave	1	1	$n-2$	1	1
	Merge	3	$m+2$	$n+2m$	3	$m+2$
	Partition	1	1	$n-p-1$	1	1
CODH	Join	2	2	$n+2$	2	2
	Leave	1	1	$n-1$	1	1
	Merge	2	2	$n+m+1$	2	2
	Partition	2	2	$n-p$	2	2

- Group Diffie-Hellman (GDH)
- Skinny Tree (STR)
- Tree-Based Group Diffie-Hellman (TGDH)
- Burmester and Desmedt (BD)
- Centralized Key Distribution (CKD)
- Collaborative Diffie-Hellman (CDH)

Five Main Components of Group Key Protocols:

- Size of message
- Amount of messages
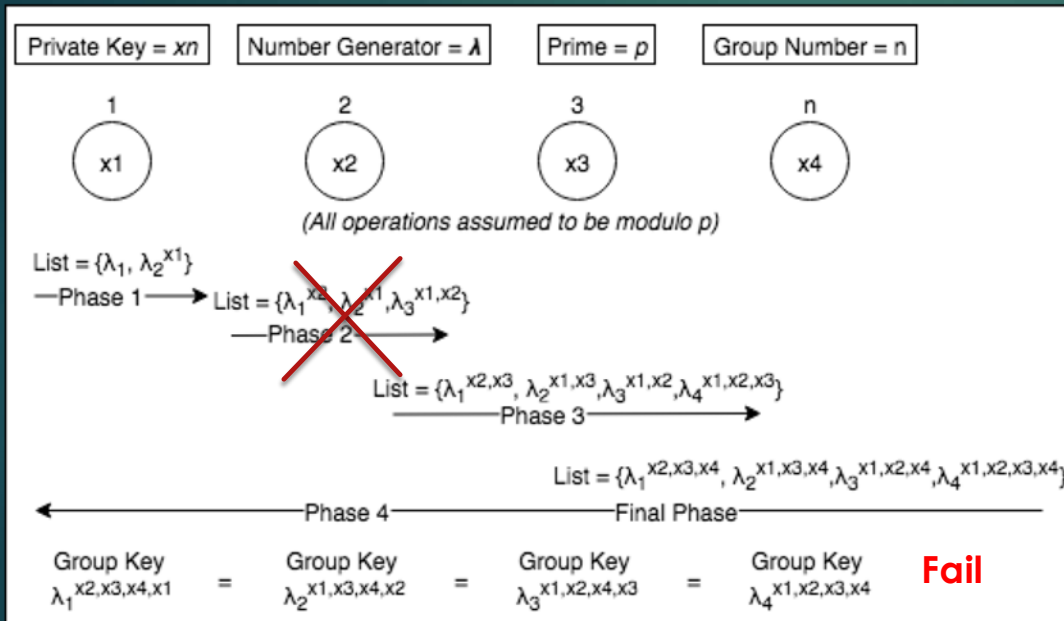- Amount of exponentiations
- Data Structure
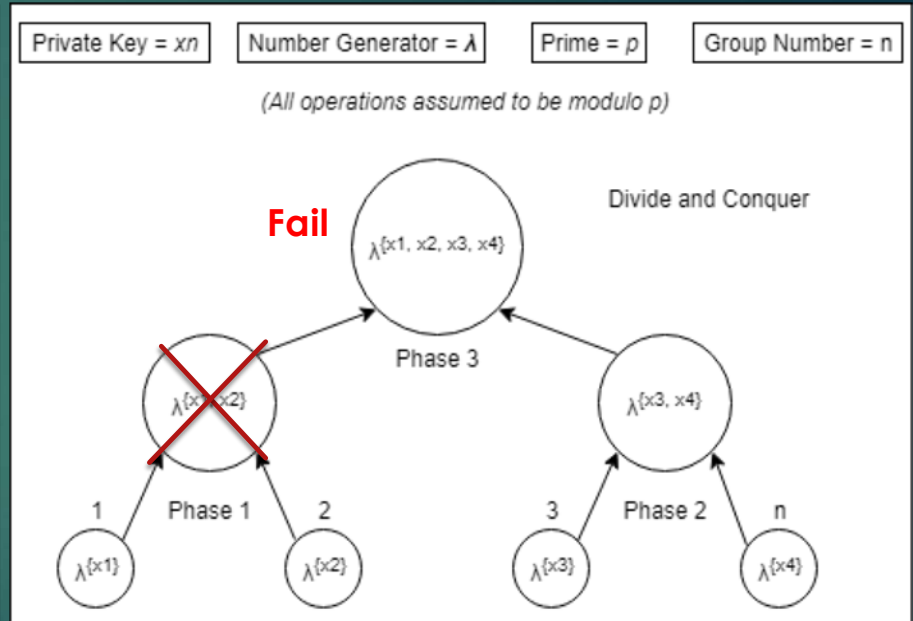- Balance of operations between the User and the Group Leader

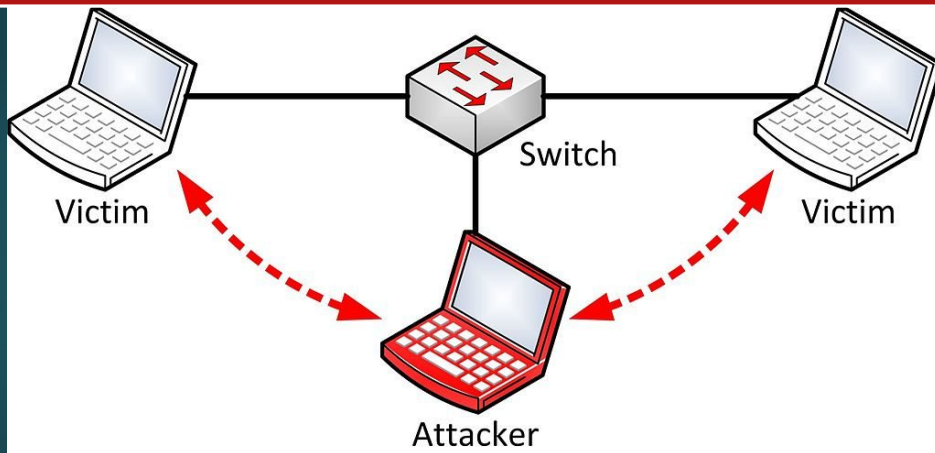# Problem #1 with Traditional Group Key Algorithms
- Needs an interaction
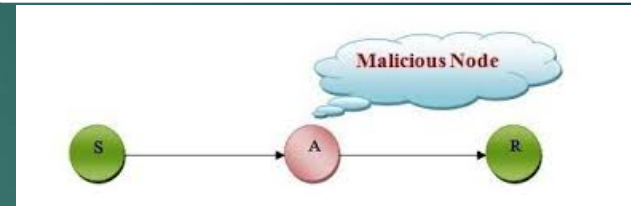
Ring

Binary Tree

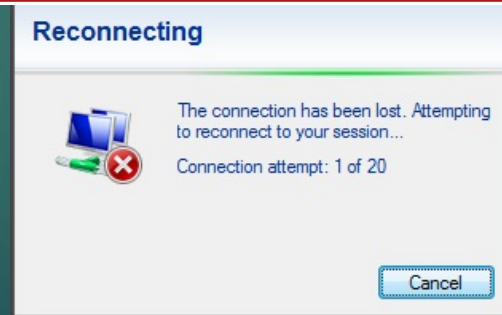**All users must actively participate in all phases of the process.**

Impersonation Attack

Man in the Middle Attack
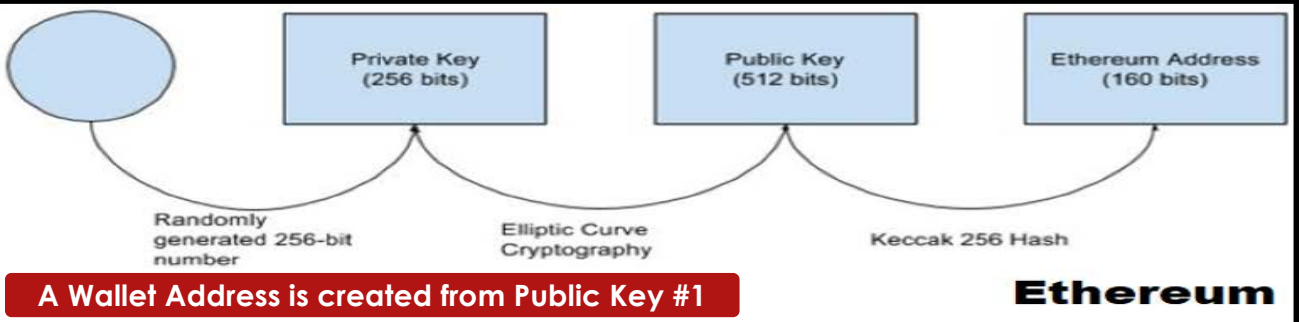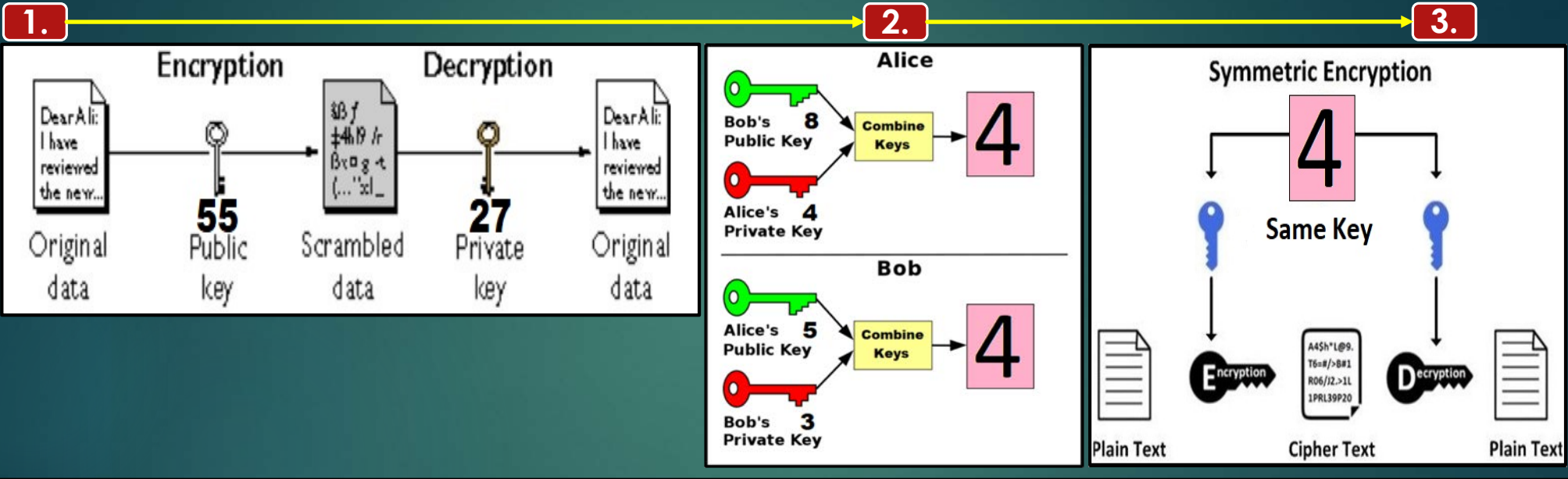

Service Outage

Proposed System

FOR ESTABLISHING PRIVATE GROUP COMMUNICATION

ON THE OPEN DISTRIBUTED BLOCKCHAIN

Private Keys, Public Keys, and Wallet Addresses
How are Private and Public Keys used? How are Wallet Addresses created?

There are three types of encryption:

1. → **2.** → **3.**

Encryption — **Decryption**

Original data → 55 Public key → Scrambled data → 27 Private key → Original data

Alice
Bob's Public Key 8 + Alice's Private Key 4 → Combine Keys → 4

Bob
Alice's Public Key 5 + Bob's Private Key 3 → Combine Keys → 4

Symmetric Encryption
4 — Same Key
Plain Text → Encryption → Cipher Text (A4$h*L@9. T6=#/>8#1 RO6/J2.>1L 1PRL39P20) → Decryption → Plain Text

Private Key (256 bits) → Public Key (512 bits) → Ethereum Address (160 bits)
Randomly generated 256-bit number → Elliptic Curve Cryptography → Keccak 256 Hash
Ethereum

A Wallet Address is created from Public Key #1

Public Key
Wallet

Private Group Communication on the Open Distributed Blockchain
Our Proposed Solution. But not the only solution available.

24

A Private Group Communication Channel is established and utilized outside of the blockchain using **EMAIL.**

Requires all users to *transact* **3** items to a smart contract

Wallet Address → **Public Key** → **Email Address**

TRANSACTION
Wallet Address
Public Key
Email Address
User

Smart Contract User List			
User Index	User Wallet Address	User Public Key	User Email Address
1	Wallet Address	Public Key	Email Address
2	Wallet Address	Public Key	Email Address
...	...	...	...
n	Wallet Address	Public Key	Email Address

Step 1: A group of users publish an Ethereum Wallet Address, Public Key and an Email Address.

The **Wallet Address, Public Key, and Email** are permanently published to the open blockchain
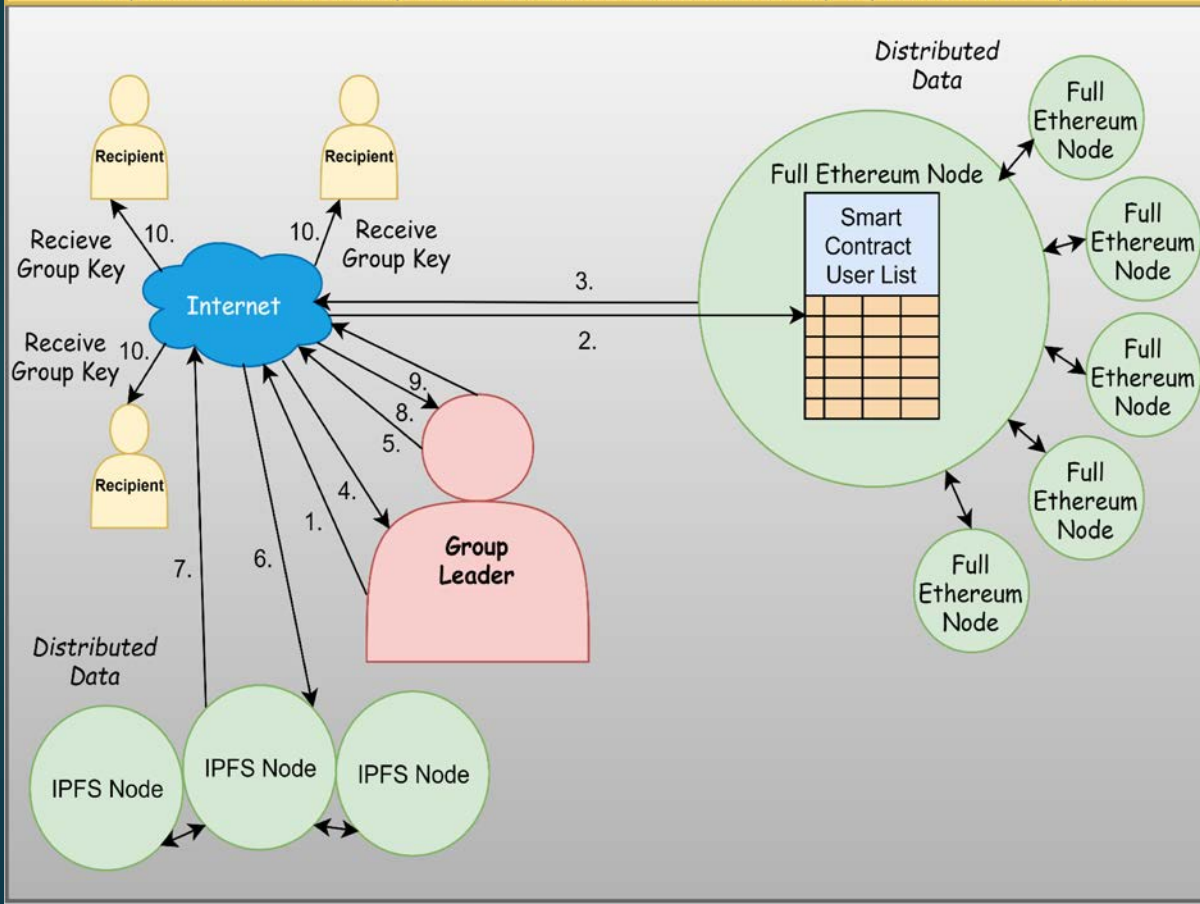
Other users may then retrieve these items to establish private group communication by calculating a shared key to encrypt a Group Key in **Step 2** by using Diffie-Hellman cryptography

Step 2: A self elected Group Leader creates and distributes a Group Key to selected recipients.
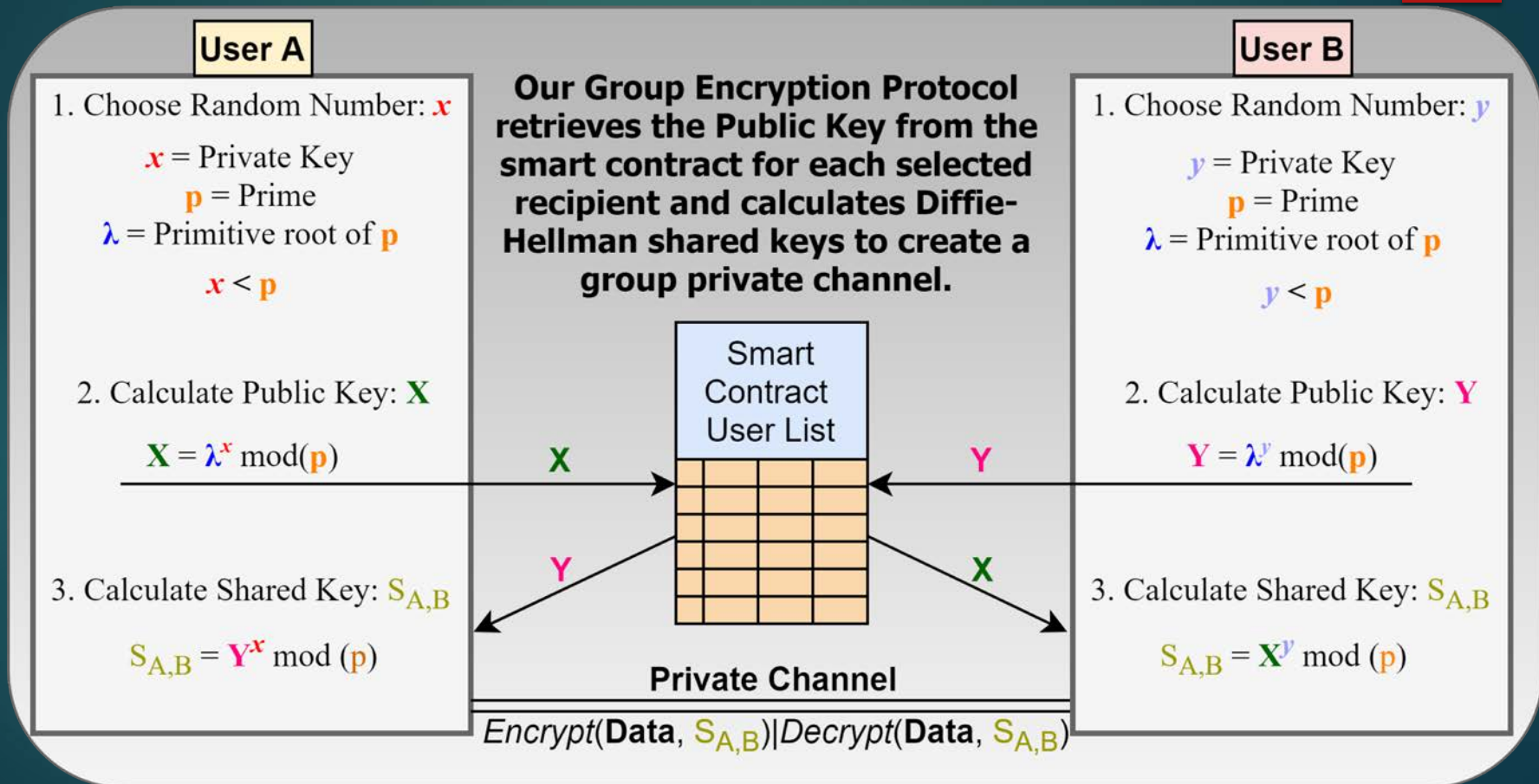

1. Group Leader requests the user list from a Web Interface.

2. Web Interface requests the user list from a Smart Contract.

3. Smart Contract sends the user list back to the Web Interface.

4. The Group Leader receives the user list and builds the *GroupJSONFile*.

5. The Group Leader uploads the *GroupJSONFile* to IPFS.

6. IPFS receives the file and distributes it to a data hosting node.

7. IPFS returns the hash string to download the *GroupJSONFile*.

8. Group Leader receives the IPFS hash string.

9. Group Leader emails the JSON extractor web link and IPFS hash string to selected recipients.

10. Recipients receive the *GroupJSONFile* IPFS hash string and JSON Extractor web link to extract the Group Key.

User A

User B

Our Group Encryption Protocol retrieves the Public Key from the smart contract for each selected recipient and calculates Diffie-Hellman shared keys to create a group private channel.

1. Choose Random Number: x

x = Private Key
p = Prime
λ = Primitive root of p

$x < p$

2. Calculate Public Key: X

$X = \lambda^x \bmod(p)$

3. Calculate Shared Key: $S_{A,B}$

$S_{A,B} = Y^x \bmod(p)$

1. Choose Random Number: y

y = Private Key
p = Prime
λ = Primitive root of p

$y < p$

2. Calculate Public Key: Y

$Y = \lambda^y \bmod(p)$

3. Calculate Shared Key: $S_{A,B}$

$S_{A,B} = X^y \bmod(p)$

Smart Contract User List

X

Y

Y

X

Private Channel

$Encrypt(\textbf{Data}, S_{A,B}) | Decrypt(\textbf{Data}, S_{A,B})$

GroupJSONFile Layout

A.	groupLeaderWalletAddress	Header
B.	groupLeaderPublicKey	
C.	groupName	
D.	recipientWalletAddresses[]	Body
E.	recipientPublicKeys[]	
F.	recipientEncryptedGroupKeys[]	
G.	(Optional) encryptedData	

(a) Centralized system

(b) IPFS

MetaMask

Infura

User

Static Front-end
(HTML, CSS, JS)

Ethereum
Gateway

HTTP/S   RPC   DEVP2P to Ethereum Network

DISTRIBUTED
(C).

Block 0
index: 0
timestamp: 17:15 1/1/2017
data: "block0data"
hash: 0xaa0bad...99
previoushash: 0

Block 1
index: 1
timestamp: 17:17 1/1/2017
data: "block1data"
hash: 0x18e1bb2...beb
previoushash: 0xaa0bad...99

Block 2
index: 2
timestamp: 17:19 1/1/2017
data: "block2data"
hash: 0x0327eb.fb...38a21
previoushash:
0x18eb2...beb

Performance Analysis

FOR GENERATING AN ENCRYPTED GROUP KEY

AND PREPARING IT FOR EMAIL

Secure Collaborative Key Management for Dynamic Groups in Mobile Networks

C. J. a. M. H. Sukin Kang
Journal of Applied Mathematics, 2014.

Diagram of all alternatives

Protocol	Action	Rounds	Messages	Mod Exp.	Signature	Verification
GDH	Join	4	$n+3$	$n+3$	4	$n+3$
	Leave	1	1	$n-1$	1	1
	Merge	$m+3$	$n+2m+1$	$n+2m+1$	$m+3$	$n+2m+1$
	Partition	1	1	$n-p$	1	1
STR	Join	2	3	7	3	3
	Leave	1	1	$(3n+4)/2$	1	1
	Merge	2	3	$3m+4$	2	3
	Partition	1	1	$(3n+4)/2$	1	1
TGDH	Join	2	3	$3h-3$	2	3
	Leave	1	1	$3h-3$	1	1
	Merge	2	3	$3h-3$	2	3
	Partition	h	$2h$	$3h$	h	h
BD	Join	2	$2n+2$	3	2	$n+3$
	Leave	2	$2n-2$	3	2	$n+1$
	Merge	2	$2n+2m$	3	2	$n+m+2$
	Partition	2	$2n-2p$	3	2	$n-p+2$
CKD	Join	3	3	$n+2$	3	3
	Leave	1	1	$n-2$	1	1
	Merge	3	$m+2$	$n+2m$	3	$m+2$
	Partition	1	1	$n-p-1$	1	1
CODH	Join	2	2	$n+2$	2	2
	Leave	1	1	$n-1$	1	1
	Merge	2	2	$n+m+1$	2	2
	Partition	2	2	$n-p$	2	2

All of these are based on ring and binary tree designs.

Comparison with our Distributed Group Key Algorithm (DGKA)

Protocol	Action	Rounds	Messages	Mod Exp.	Signature	Verification
DGKA	Join	2	2	$2n-1$	0	1
	Leave	0	0	0	0	0
	Merge	0	0	0	0	0
	Partition	0	0	0	0	0

Stage	Action	Send	Receive	Mod Exp.	Signature	Verification
GeneralUser	Join	1	1	2	0	1
	Leave	0	0	0	0	0
	Merge	0	0	0	0	0
	Partition	0	0	0	0	0
GroupLeader	Join	$n-1$	n	$n-1$	0	0
	Leave	0	0	0	0	0
	Merge	0	0	0	0	0
	Partition	0	0	0	0	0

Our protocol uses a similar amount of operations.
Our protocol performs above the standard efficiency.
Our protocol is immune to traditional vulnerabilities.

Our Results

Email Preparation: GroupJSONFile creation, IPFS upload, and IPFS hash retrieval in seconds

After all of the users publish their required items to the smart contract a Group Leader may establish private group communication for **500 users** in **0.852 seconds** of time using the **3027 bit Public Key IETF standard**

Conclusion and Future Work

Conclusion

Our protocol is the only one available that operates on the open distributed blockchain.

Our protocol is more secure than the alternatives.

No software required, only a regular computer and internet access.

Future Research

Future research would enable 3 new features:

Implementing Elliptic Curve Cryptography	• A 256 bit Public Key is equivalent to a 3027 Diffie-Hellman bit Public Key meaning faster and cheaper transactions for the same security.
Implementing Perfect Forward Secrecy	• A solution for establishing long term private group communication channels that can't be decrypted if the Group Key is stolen.
Implementing dynamic Adding and Removing of users to an existing group	• A solution for private group communication channels needing to be reinstated each time a user is removed or added to an existing group.

Questions?