

# Improving Speed and Security in Updatable Encryption Systems

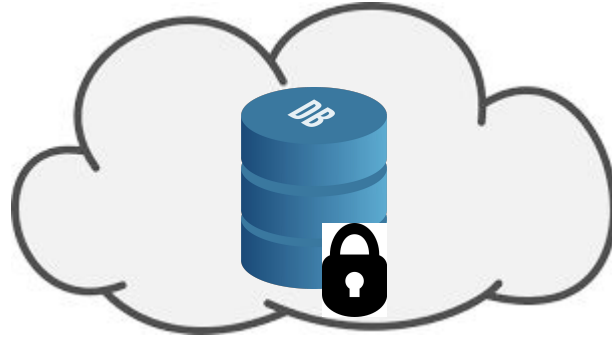
Dan Boneh  
Stanford University

Saba Eskandarian  
Stanford University

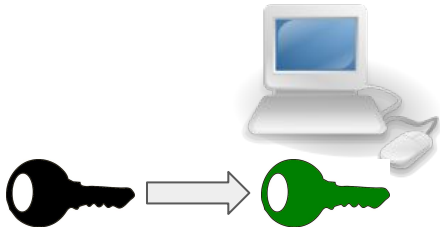
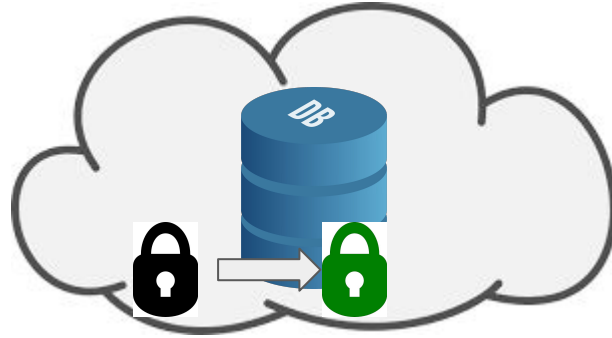
Sam Kim  
Stanford University

Maurice Shih  
Cisco Systems

# Key Rotation



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...But *Why?*

# Good Reasons to Rotate Keys

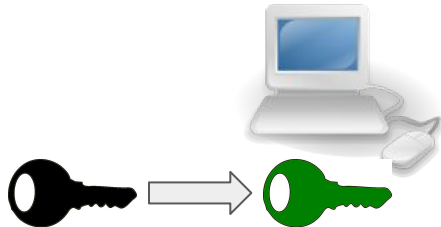
Reasons to rotate keys for data stored in the cloud:

- Compromised keys need to be taken out of use
- Proactive refresh of keys
- Access control enforcement



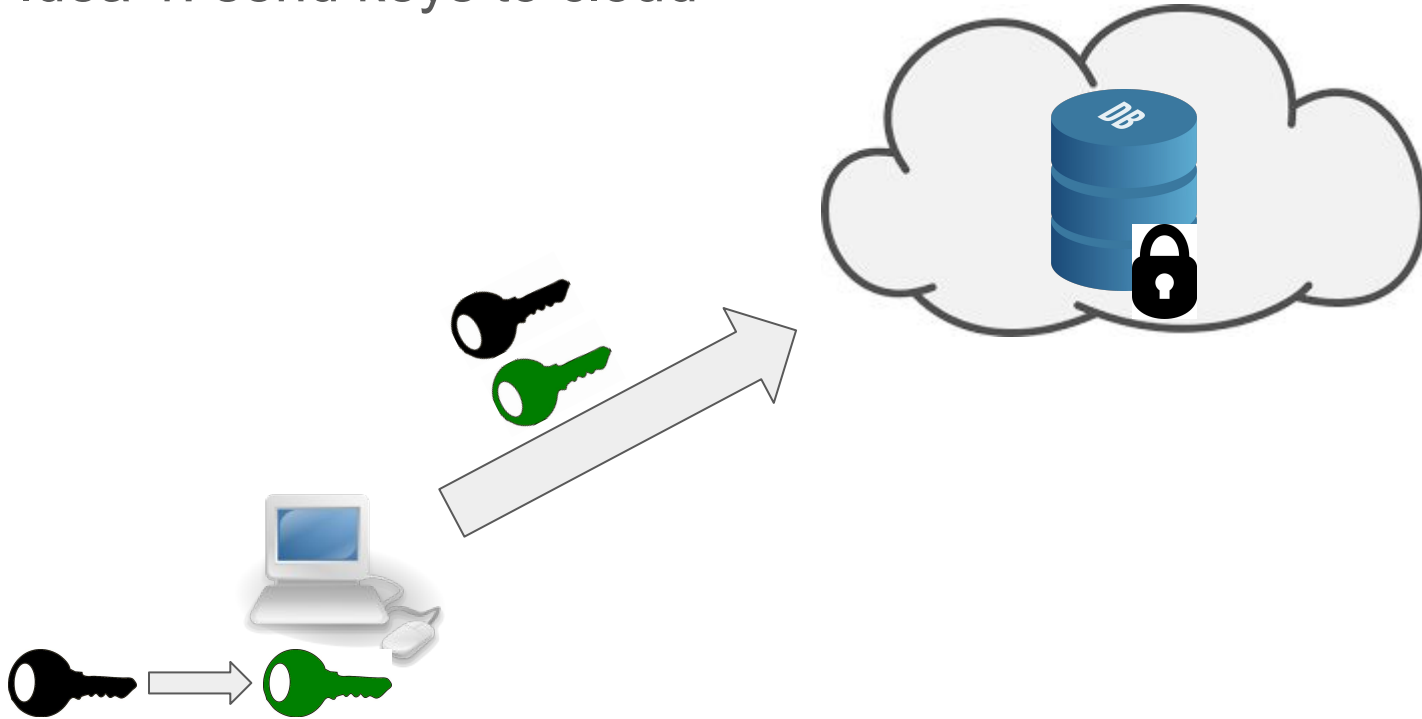
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Idea 1: send keys to cloud



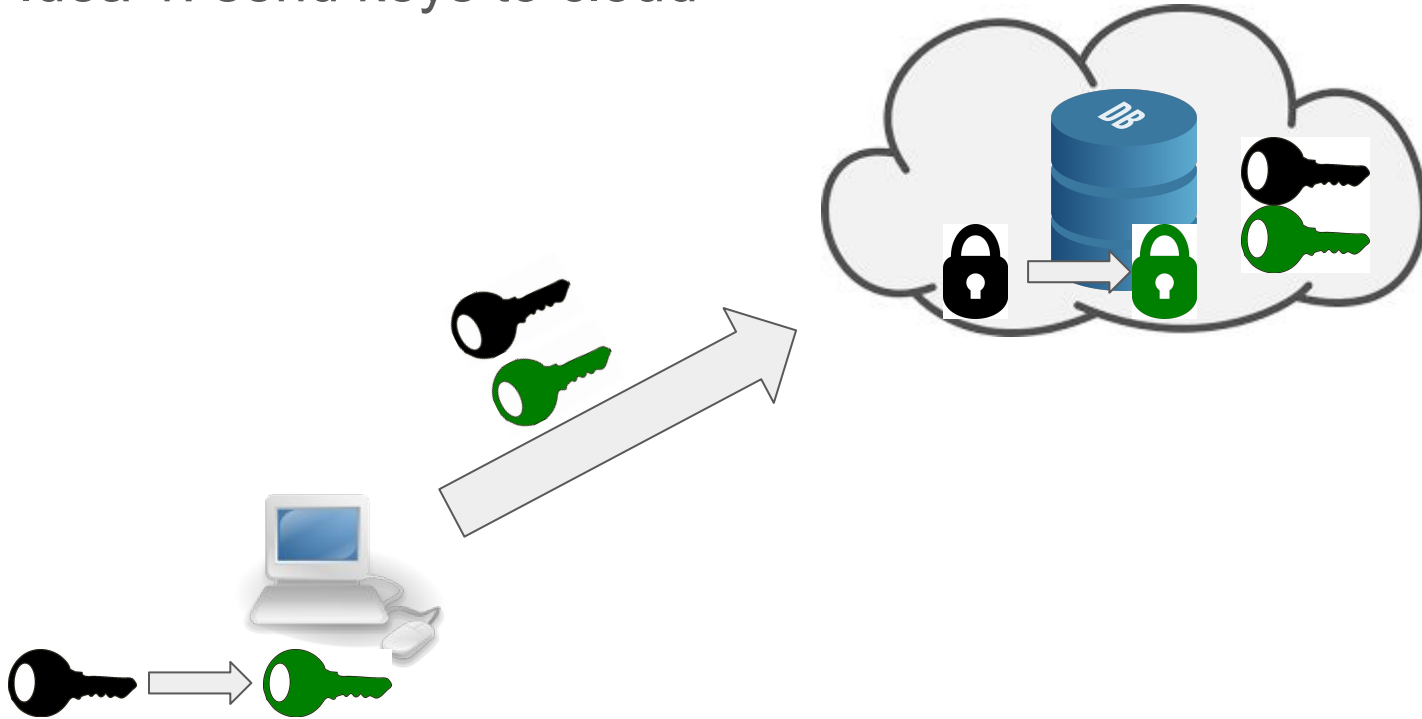
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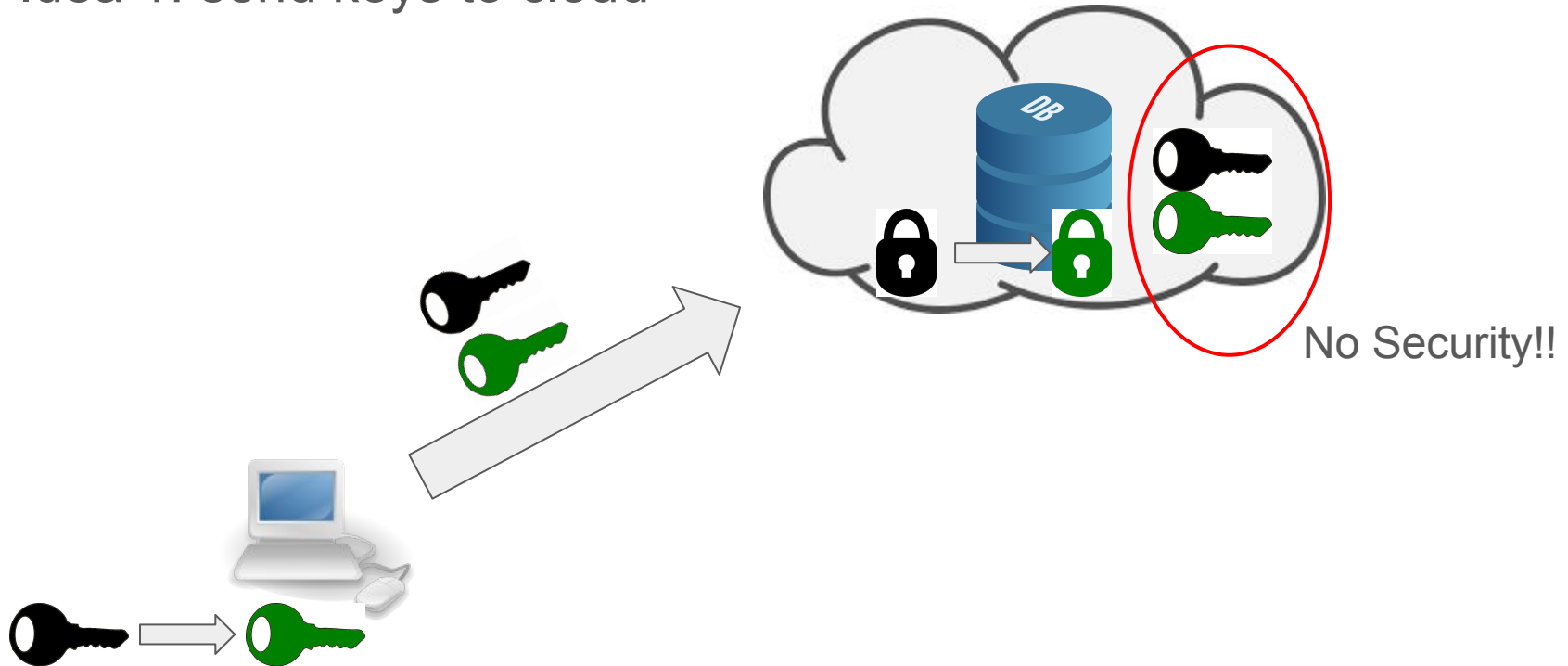
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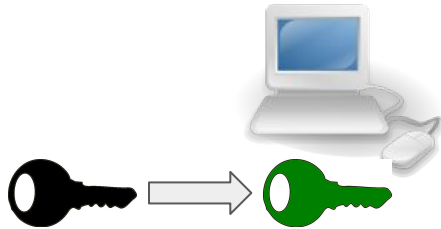
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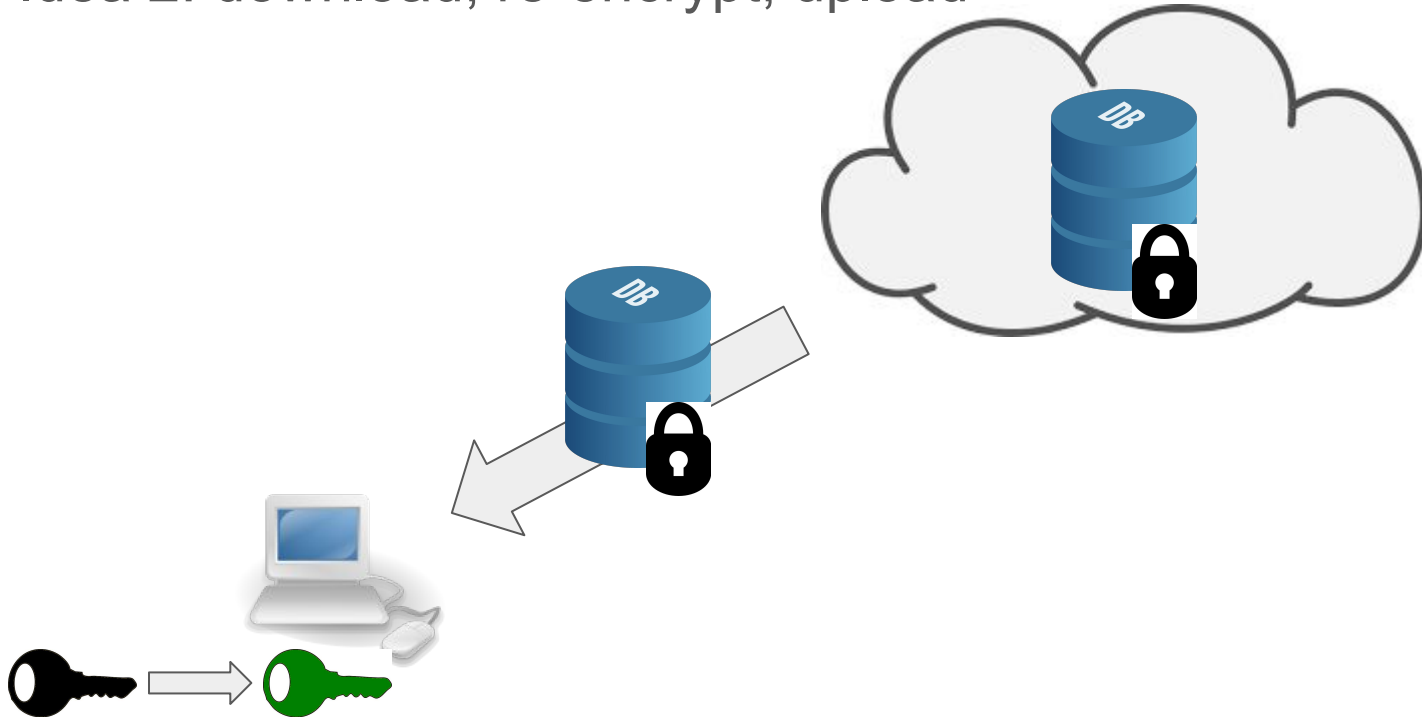
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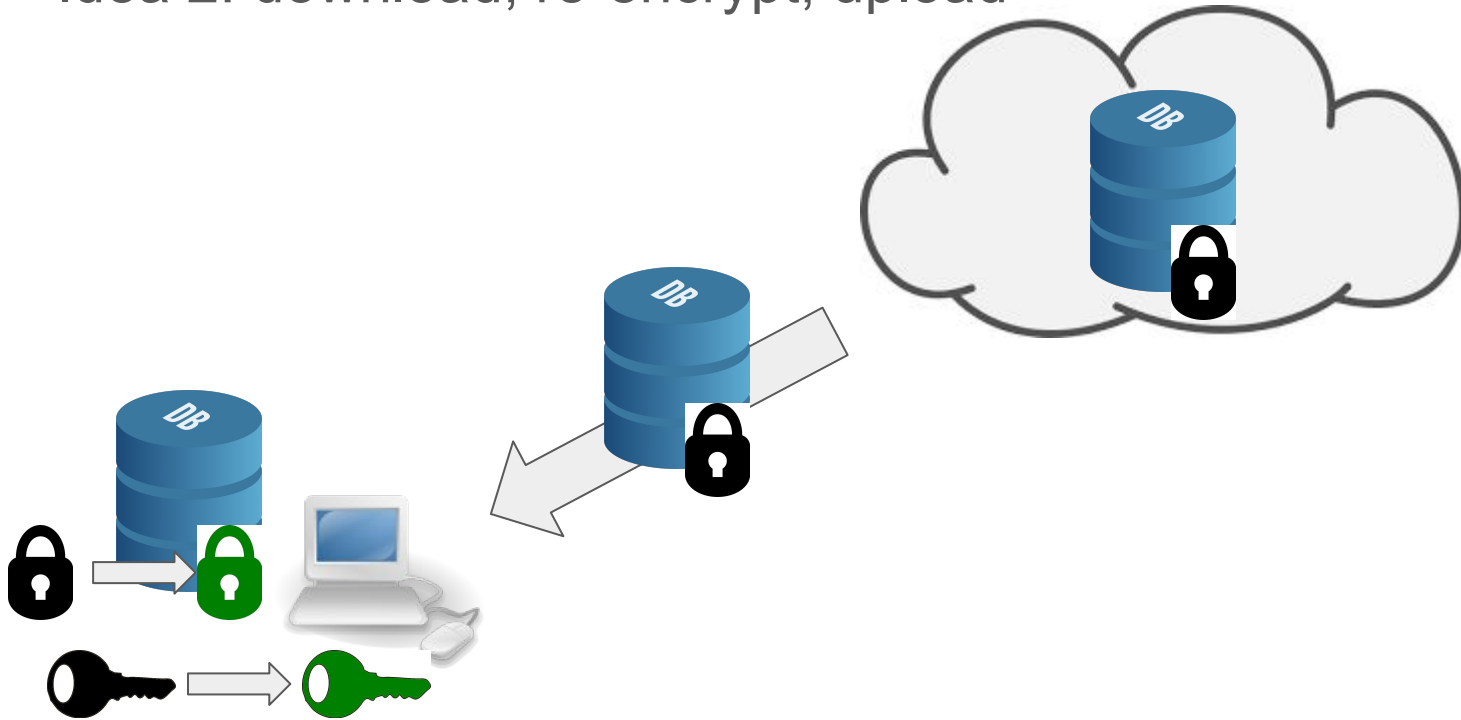
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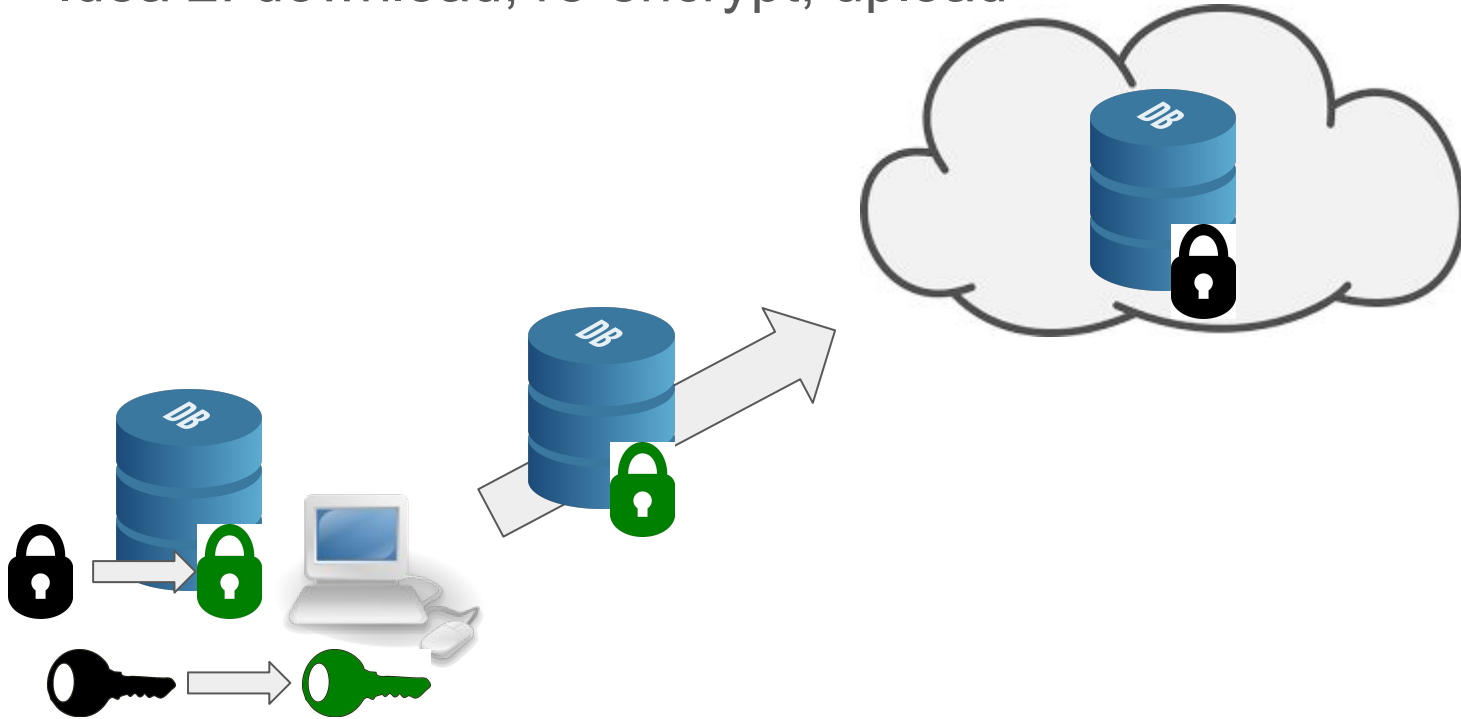
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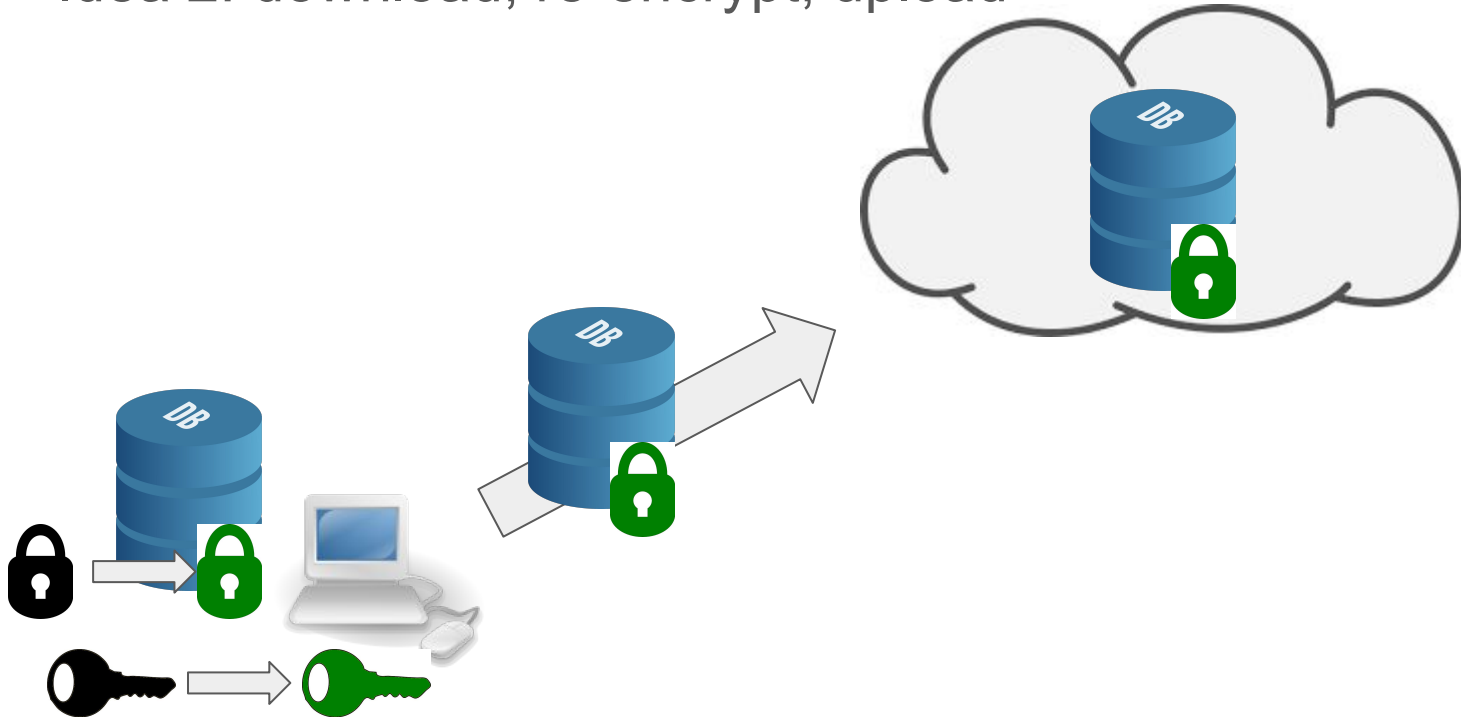
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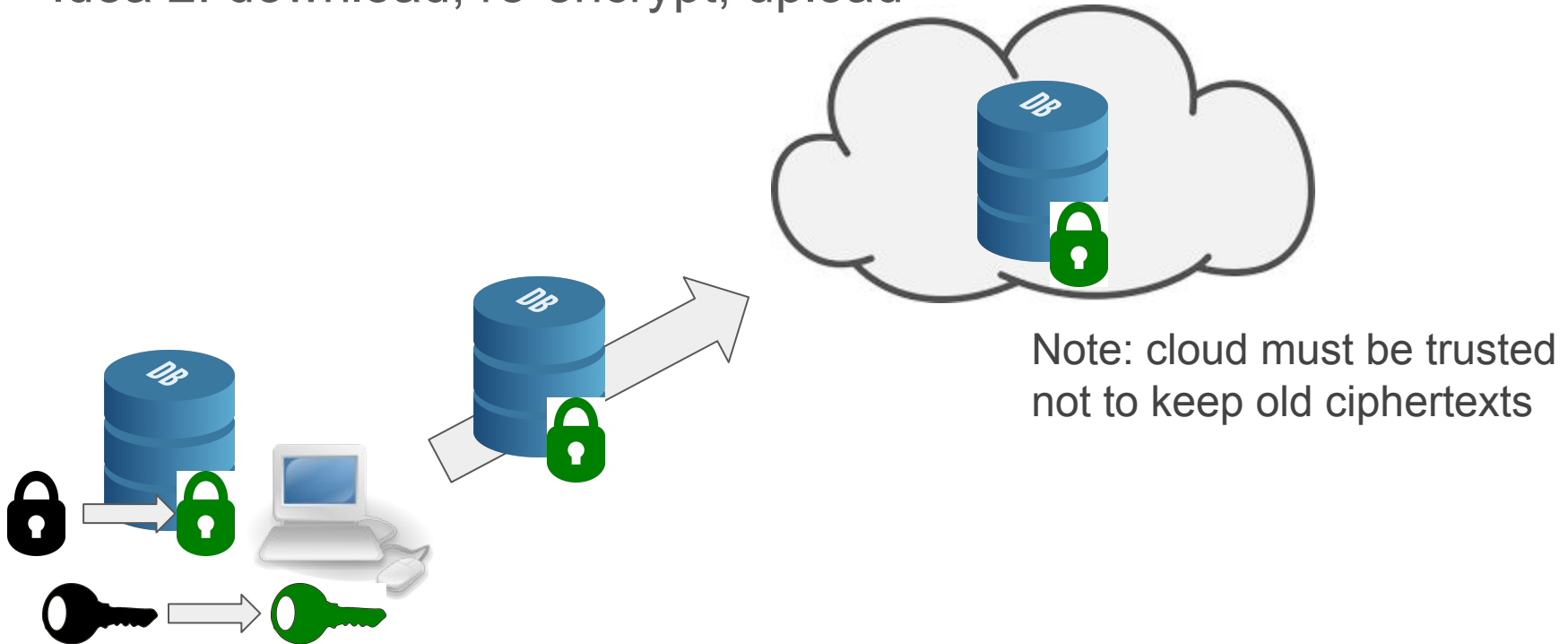
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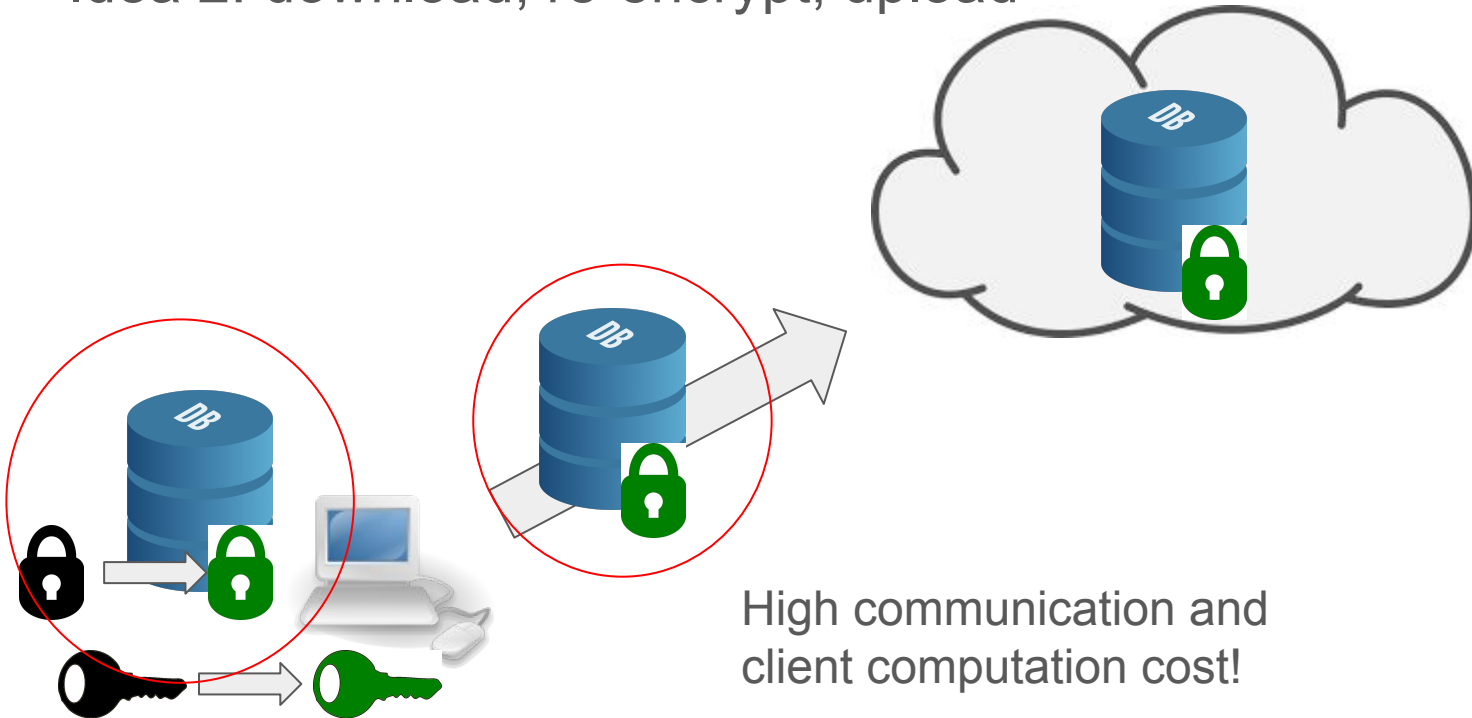
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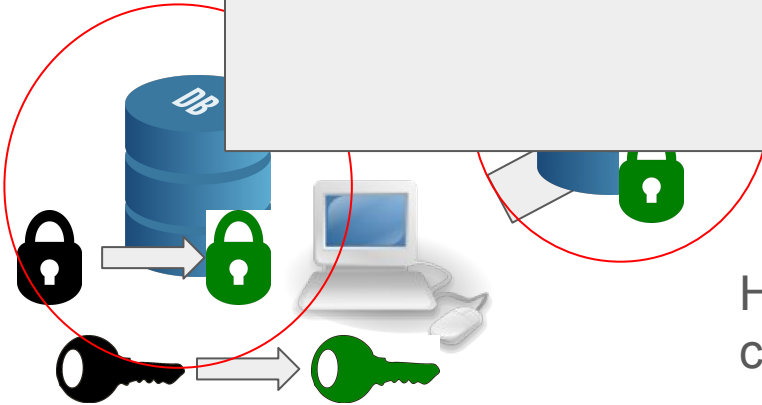
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Can we do better?

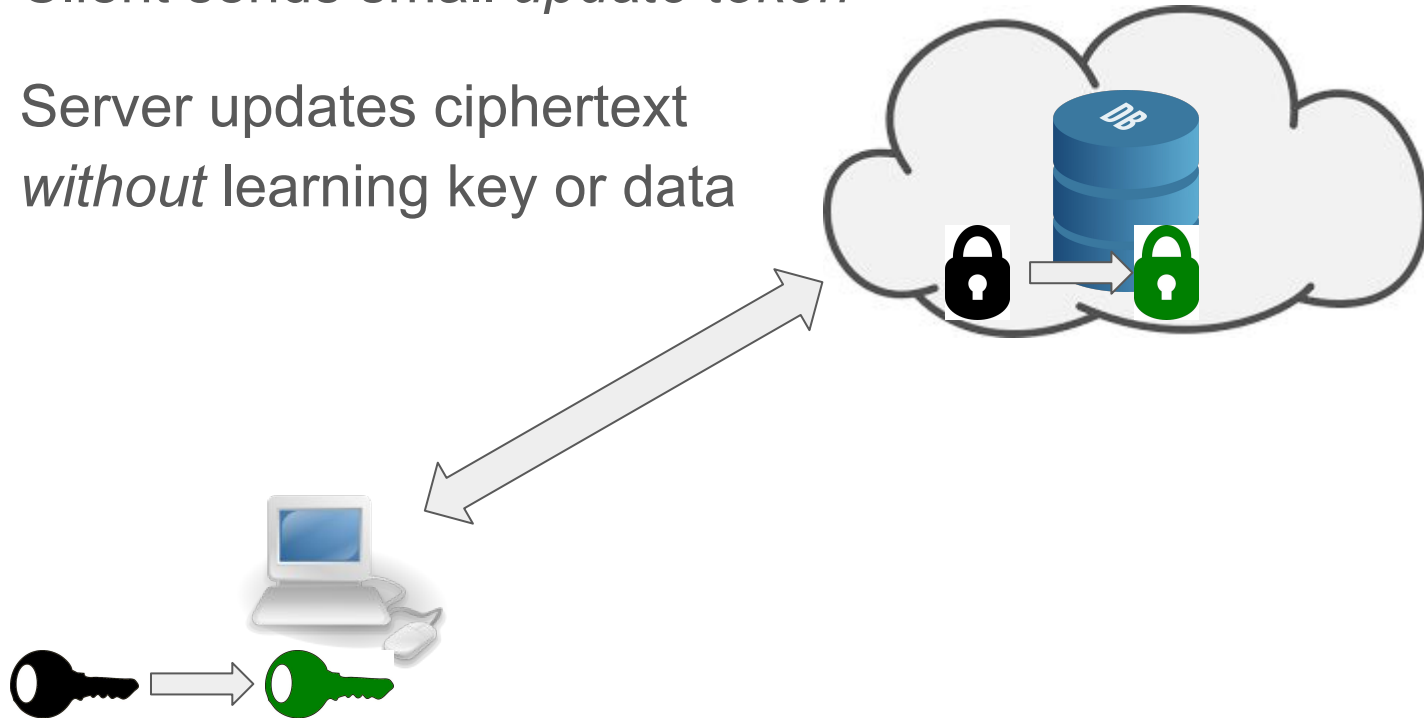


High communication and  
client computation cost!

# Updatable Encryption [BLMR13, EPRS17, LT18, KLR19, BDGJ19]

Client sends small *update token*

Server updates ciphertext  
*without* learning key or data



# Our Contributions & Roadmap

Improvements over prior security definitions

- Additional requirements for security

Two new constructions of updatable encryption

- From Nested AES: very fast, only supports *bounded* updates
- From KH-PRF based on RLWE: ~500x faster than prior work

Performance evaluation and comparison to prior work

Recommendations for usage

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2. Adversary with ongoing access to key updates will still get data

# Defining Security [EPRS17]

Four properties to achieve:

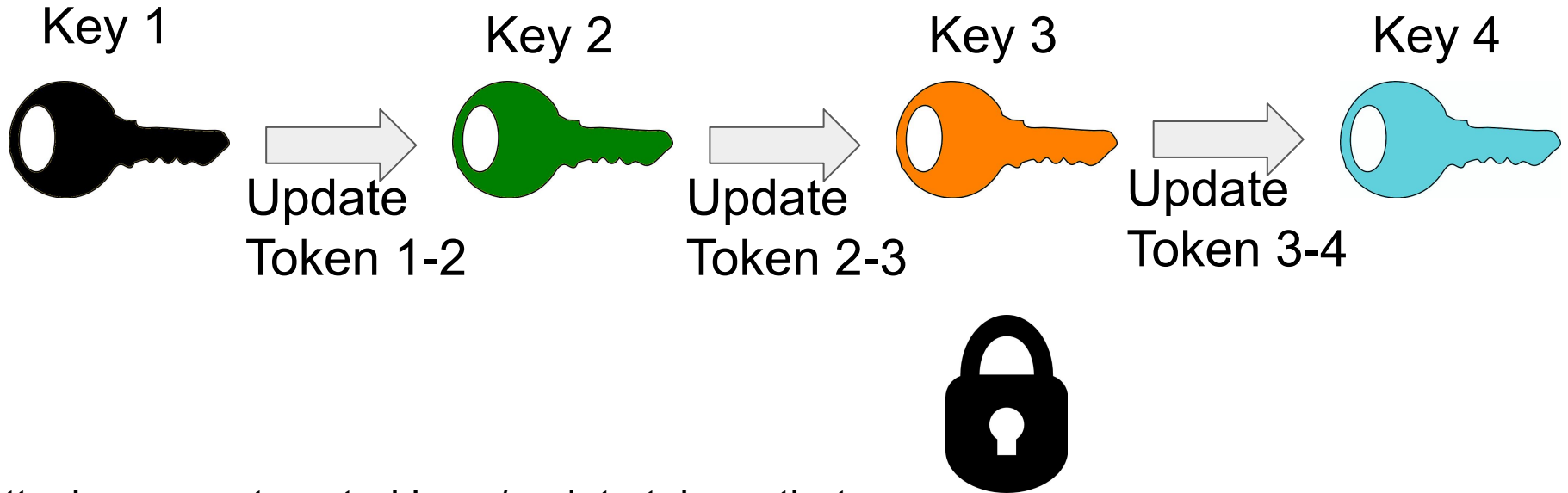
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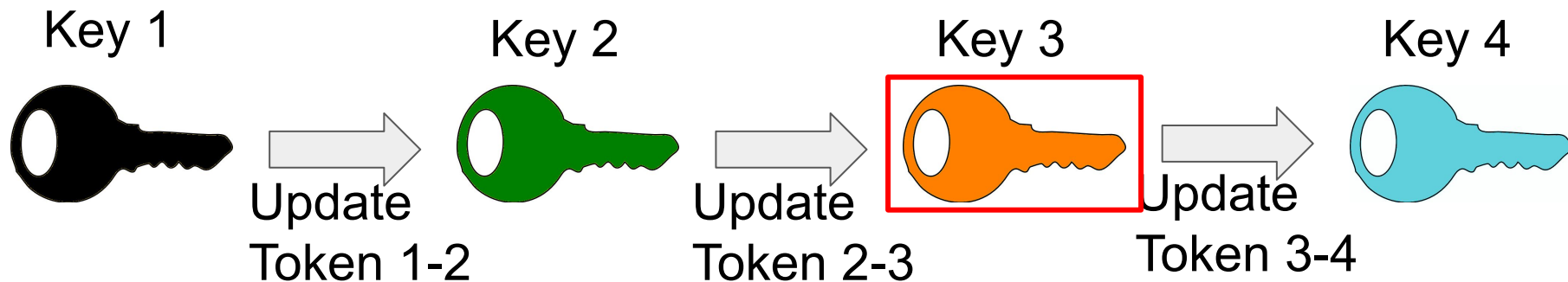
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# Confidentiality



Attacker cannot control keys/update tokens that give a path to key used to encrypt a ciphertext

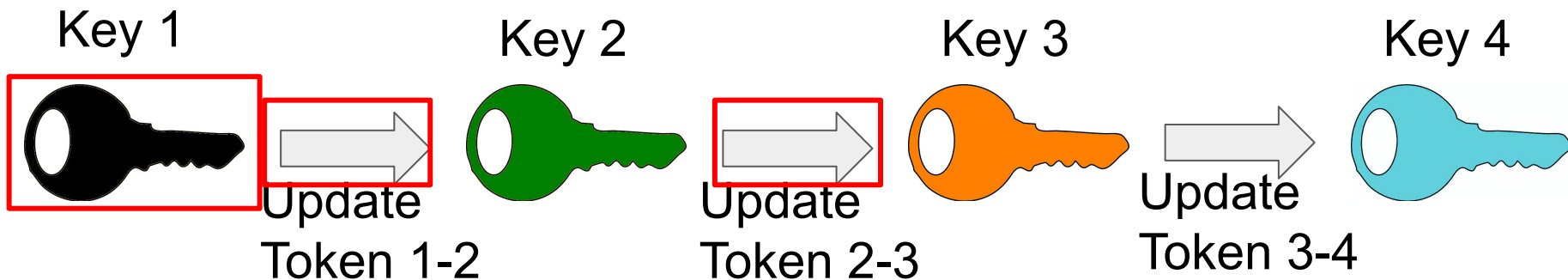
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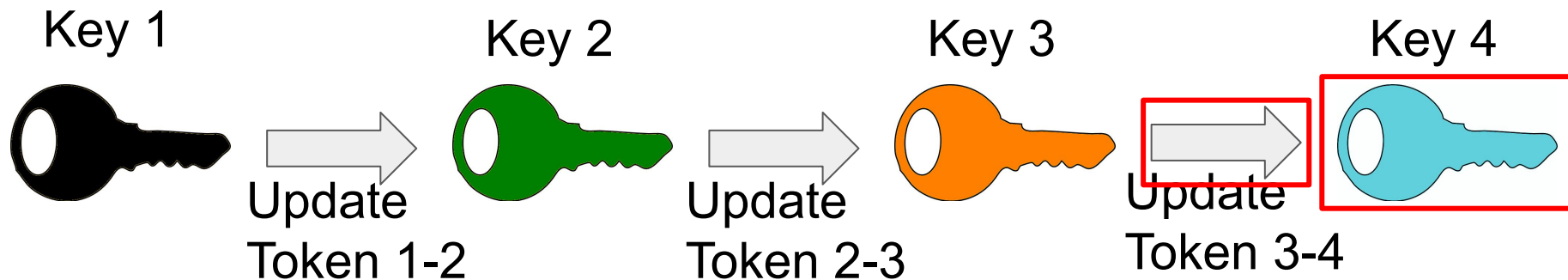


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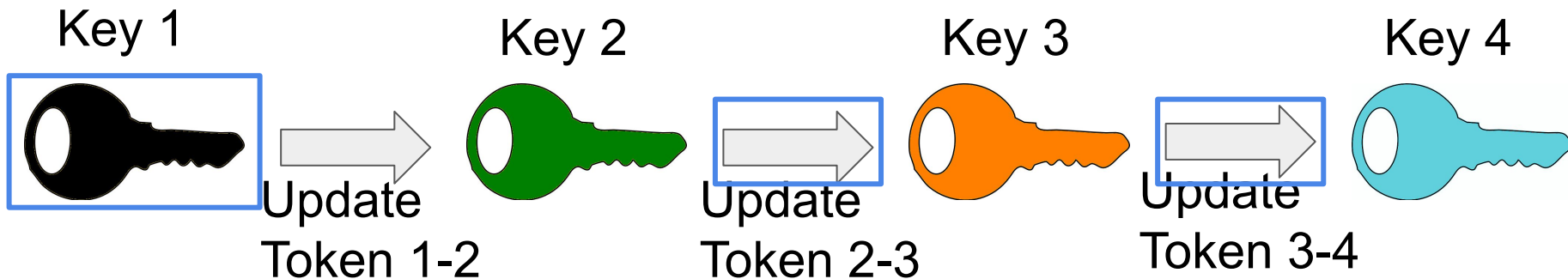
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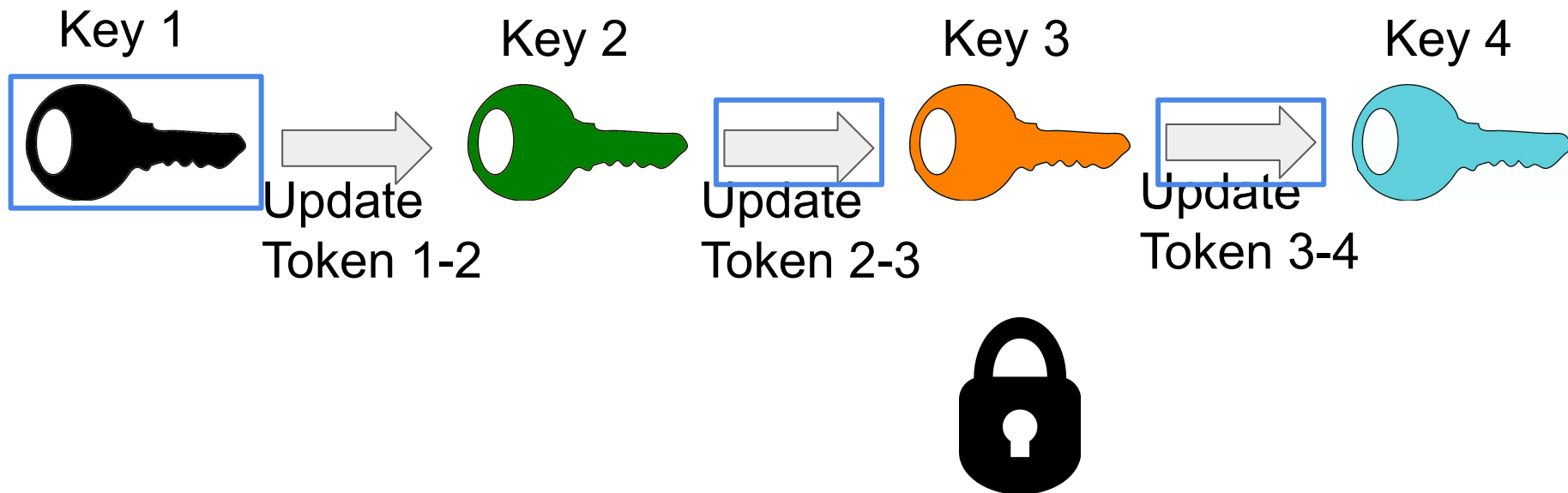
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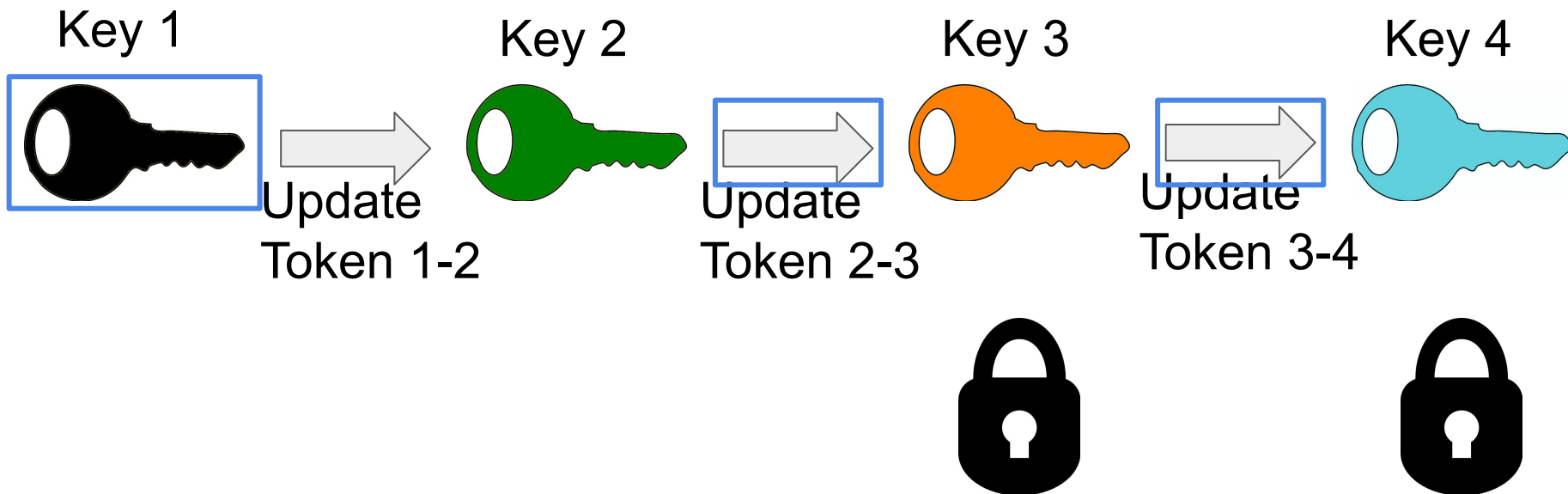
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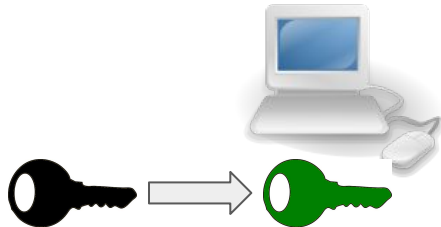
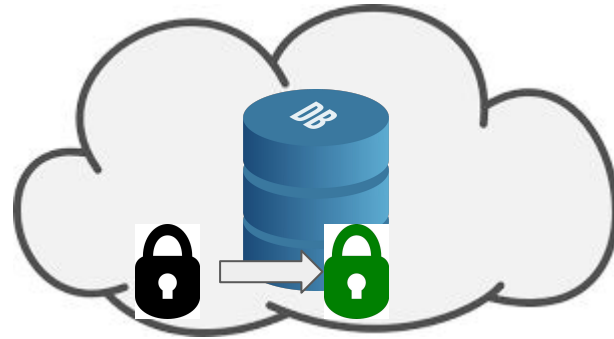
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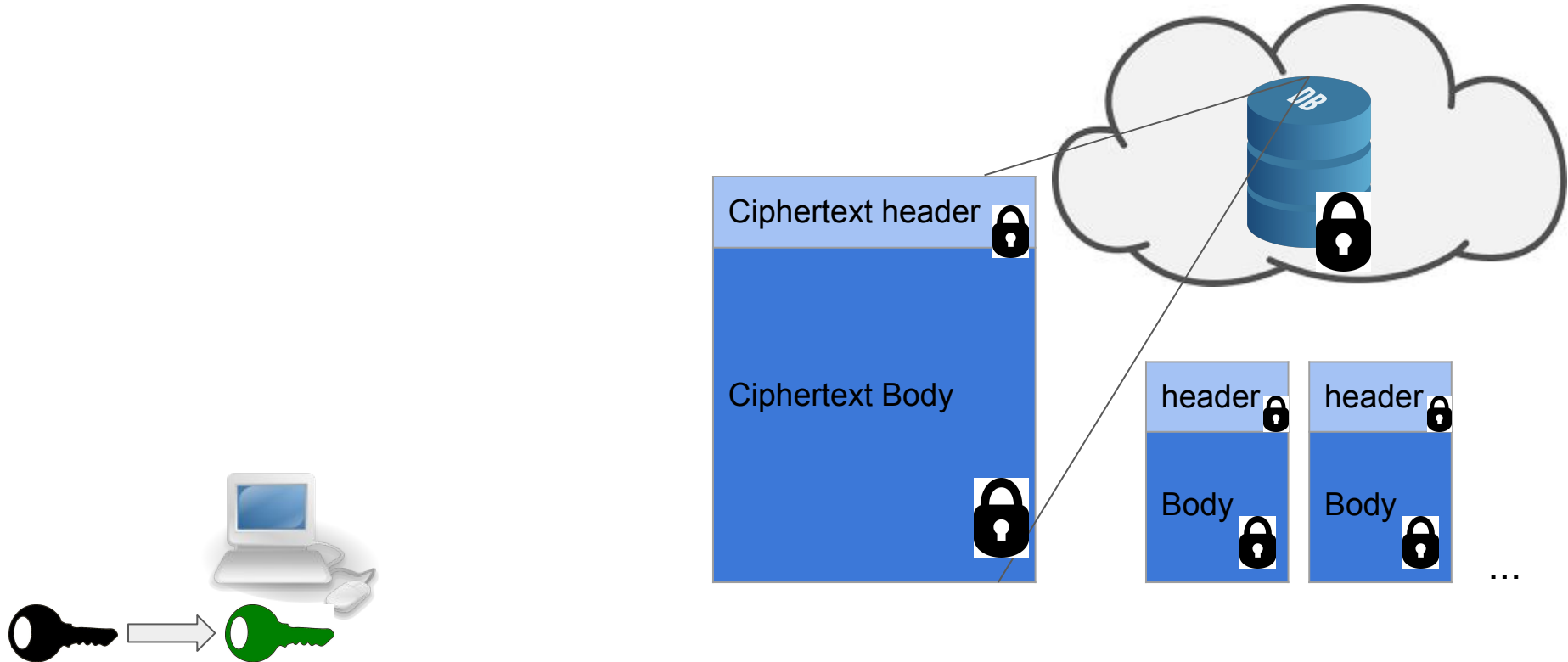


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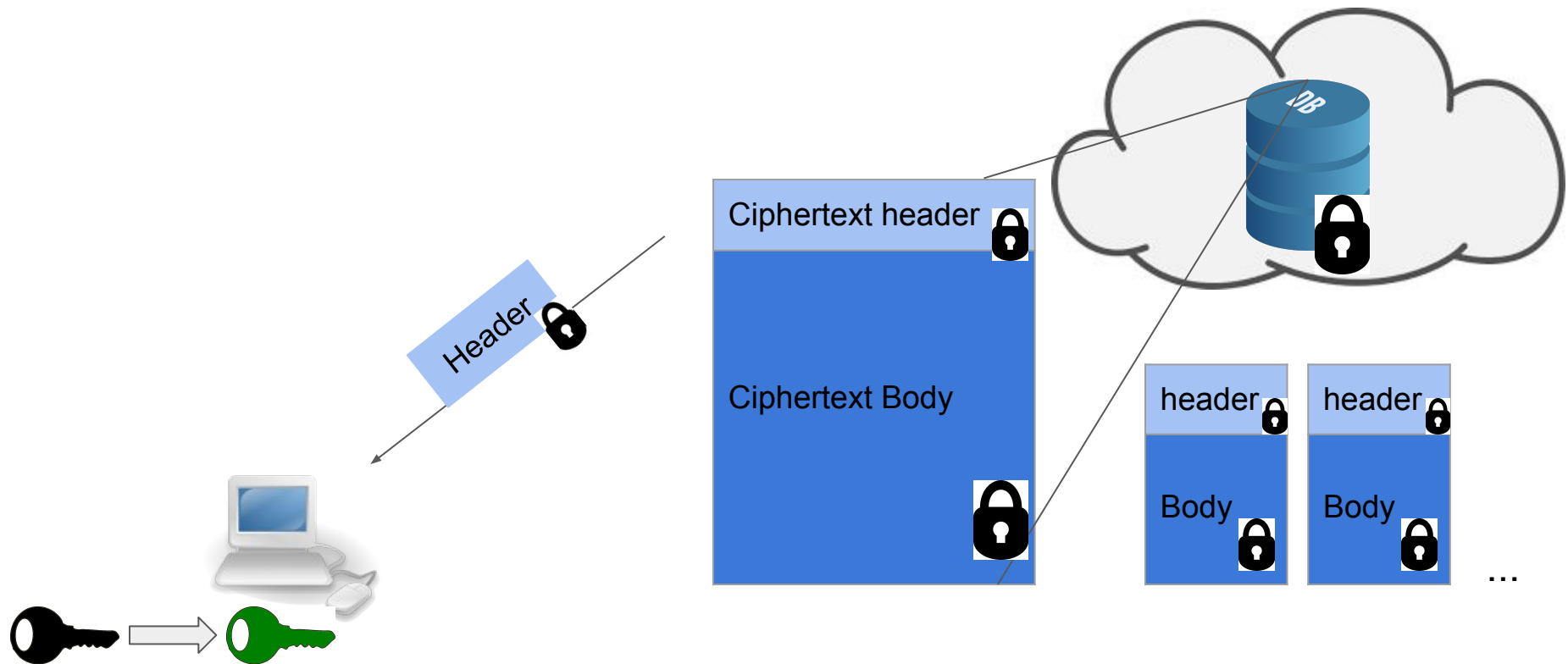
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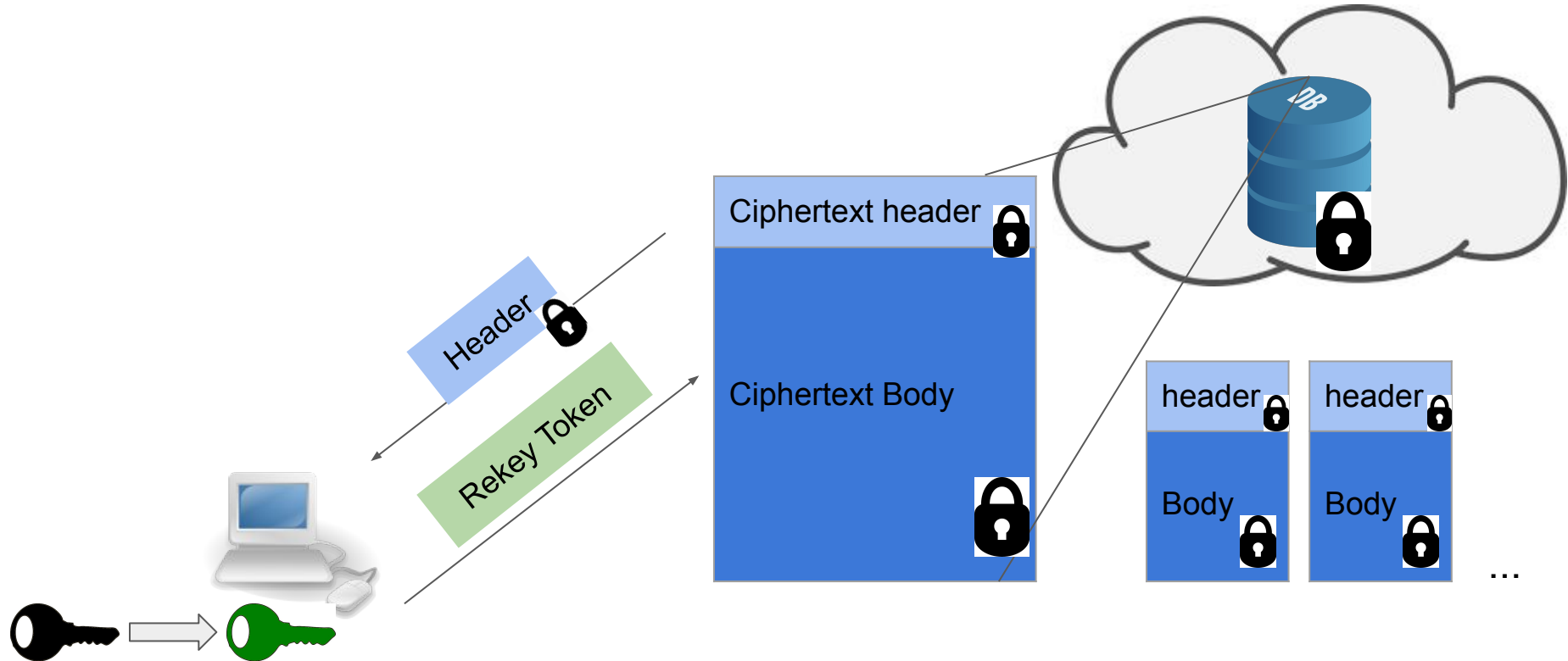


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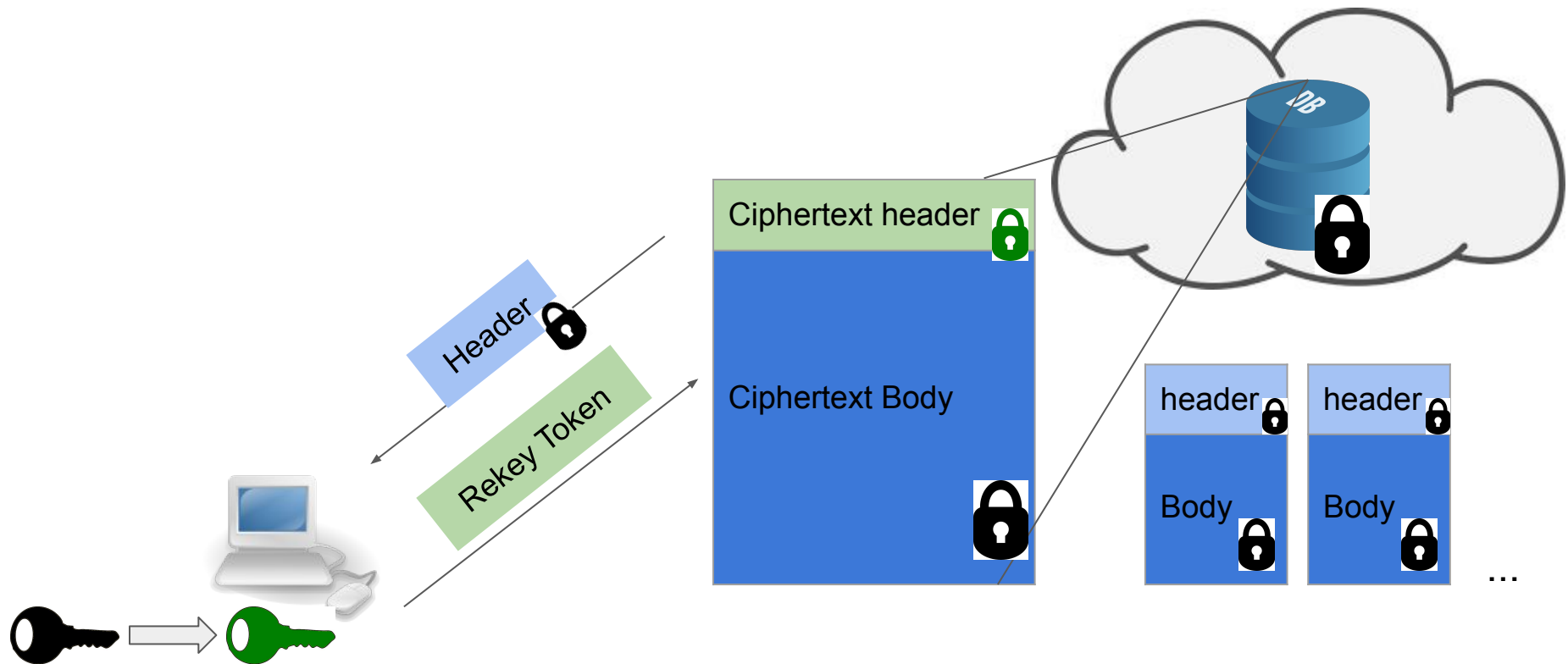




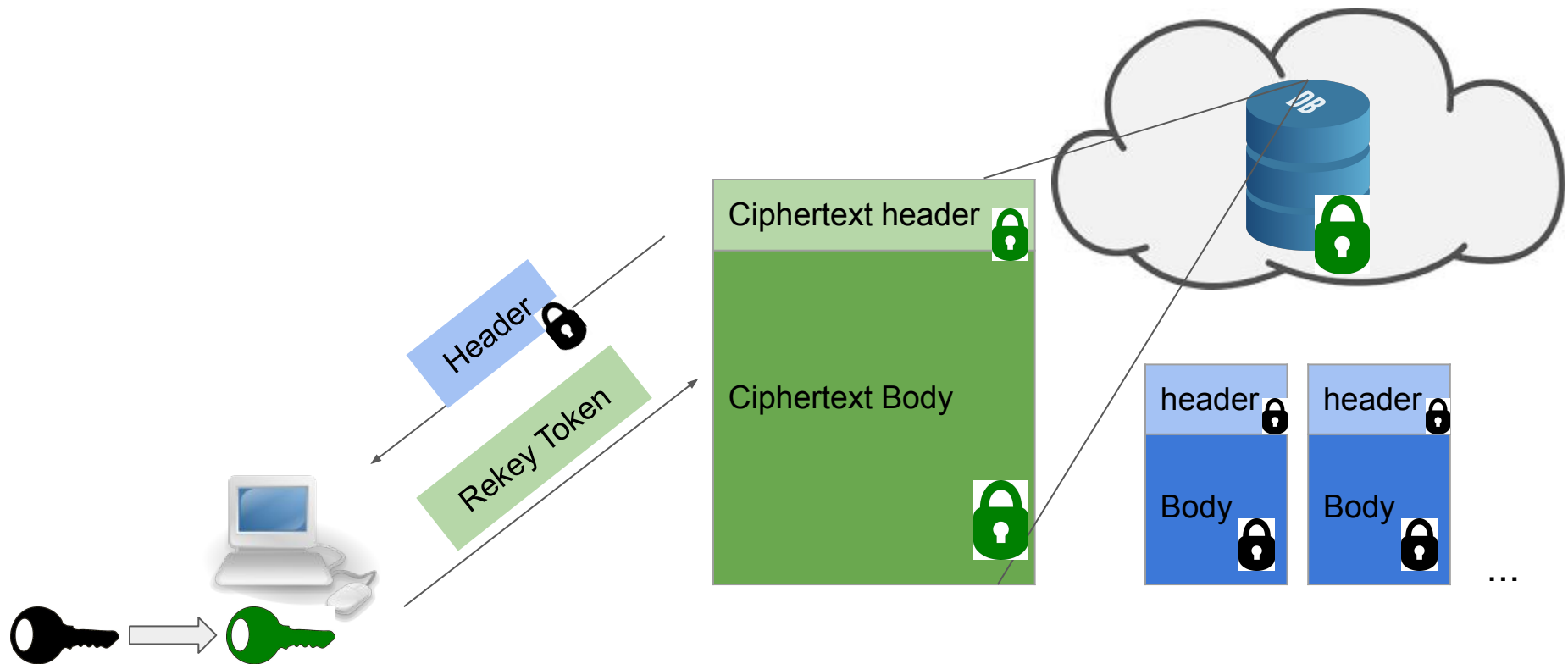
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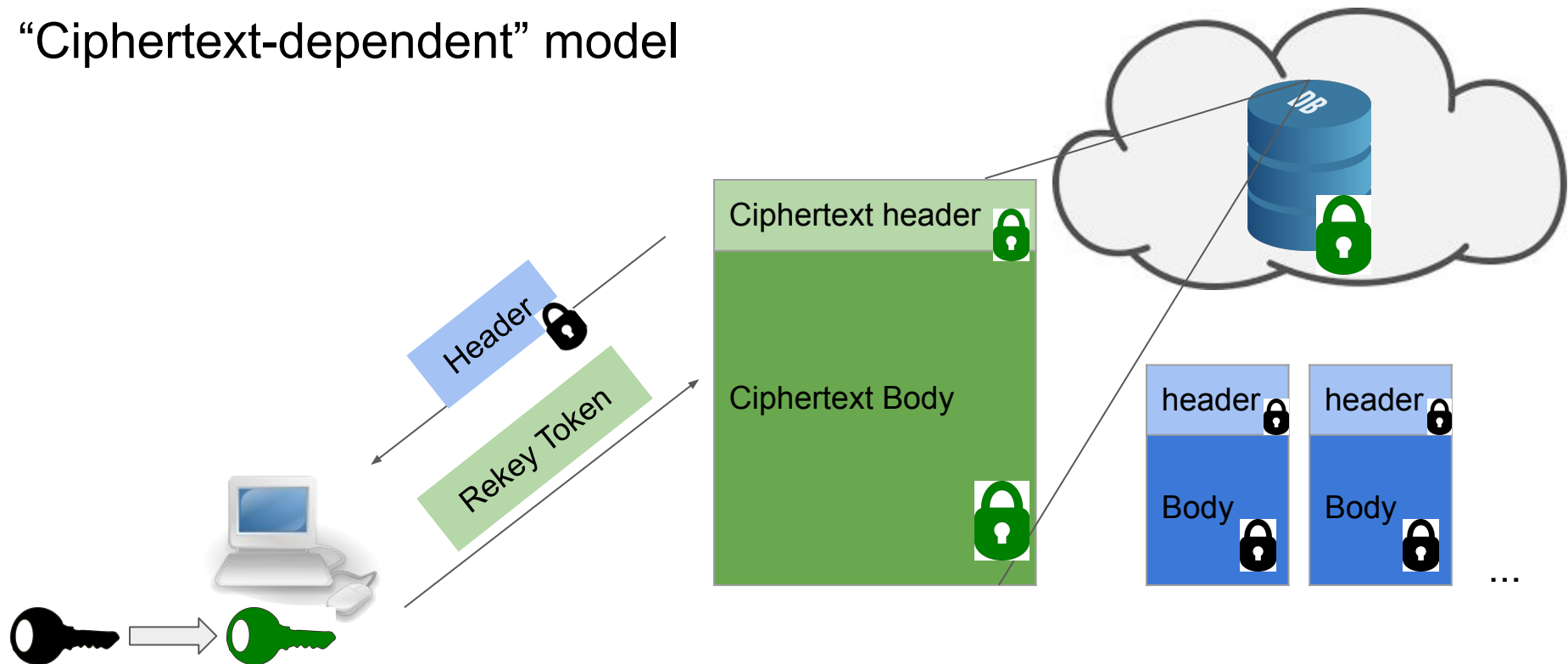


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“Ciphertext-dependent” model



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Very fast, simple scheme

Only requires authenticated encryption (AES-GCM) and a PRG

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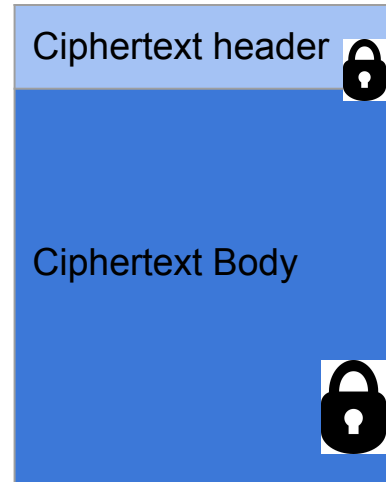
Caveats:

- Only works for a *bounded* number of re-encryptions, decided at encryption time
- Decryption time will be linear in the number of re-encryptions

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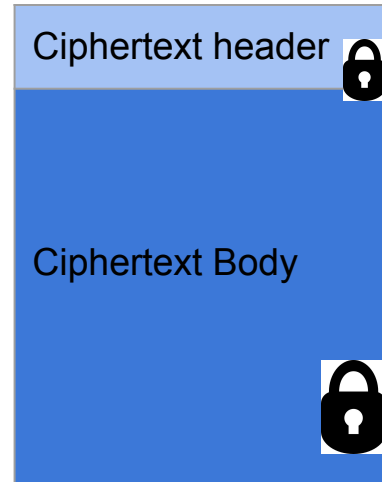
Header key



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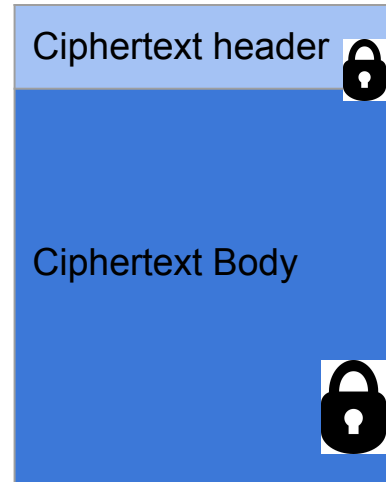
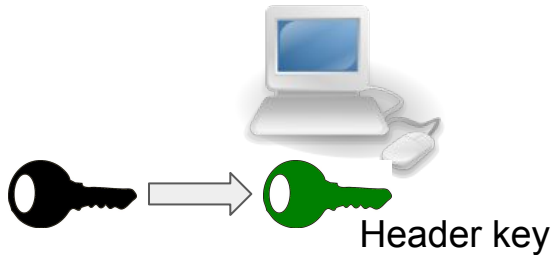


Body key used for this lock held in ciphertext header

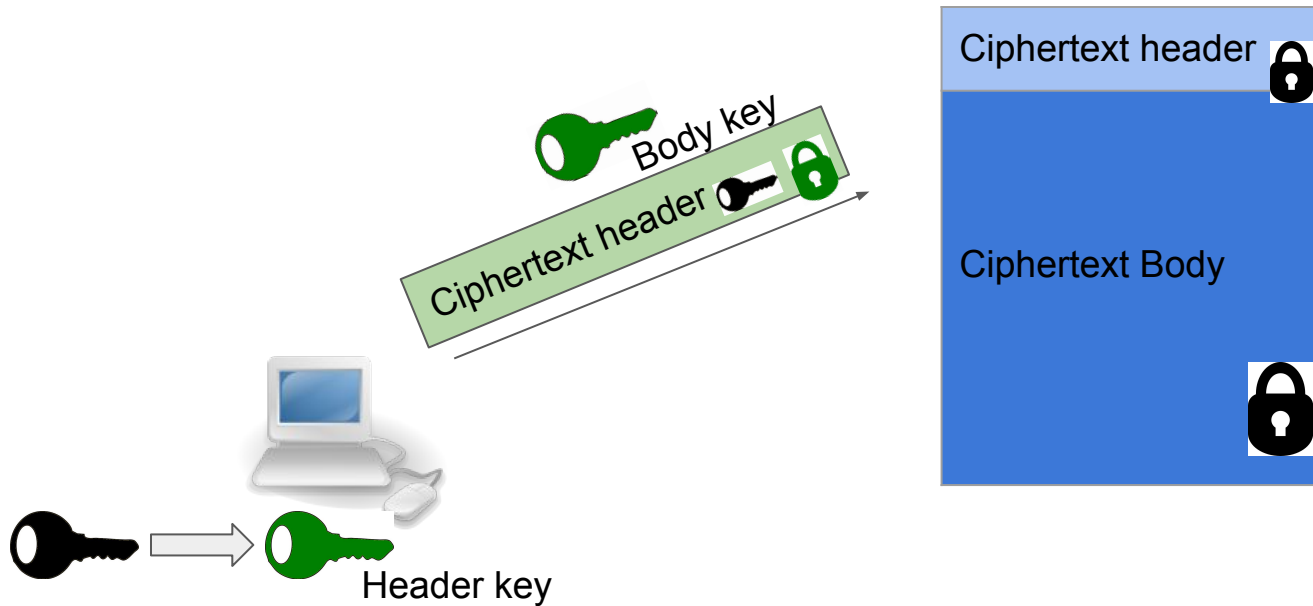




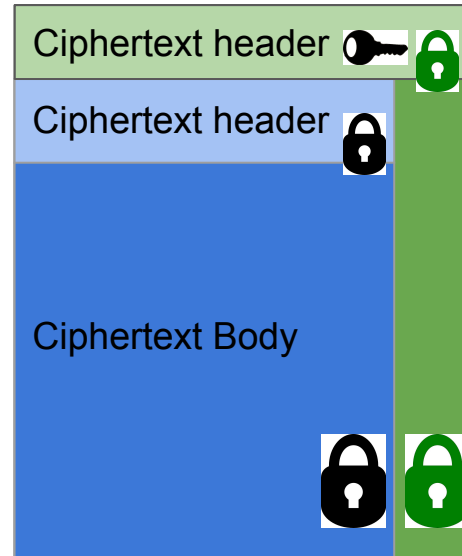
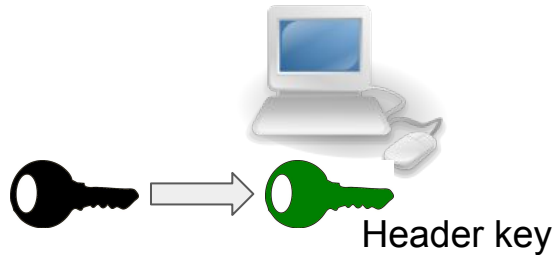
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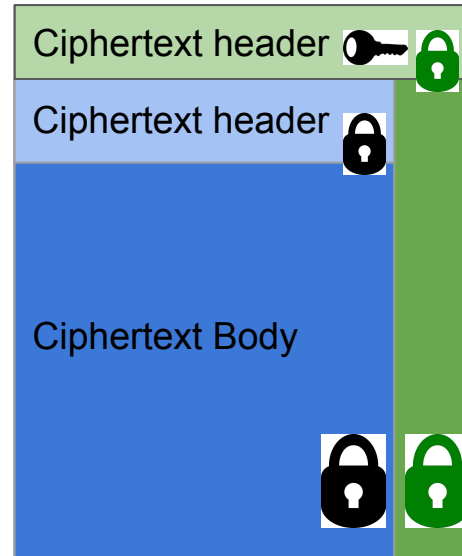
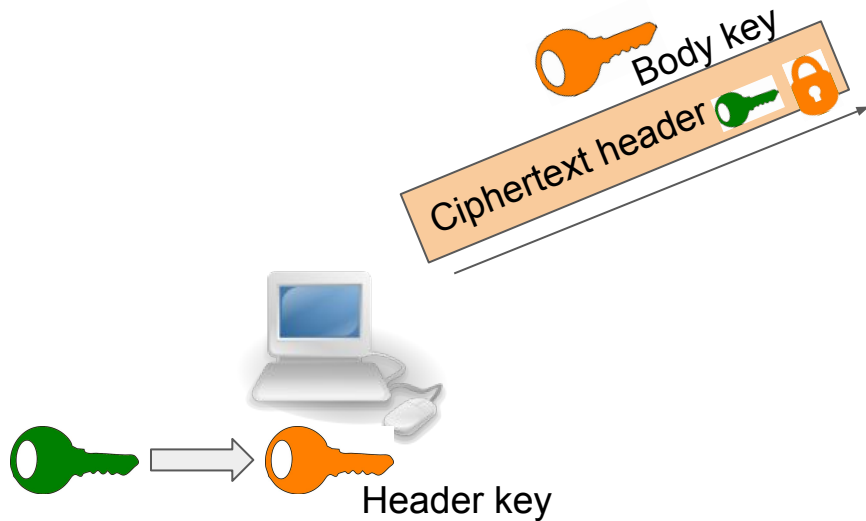
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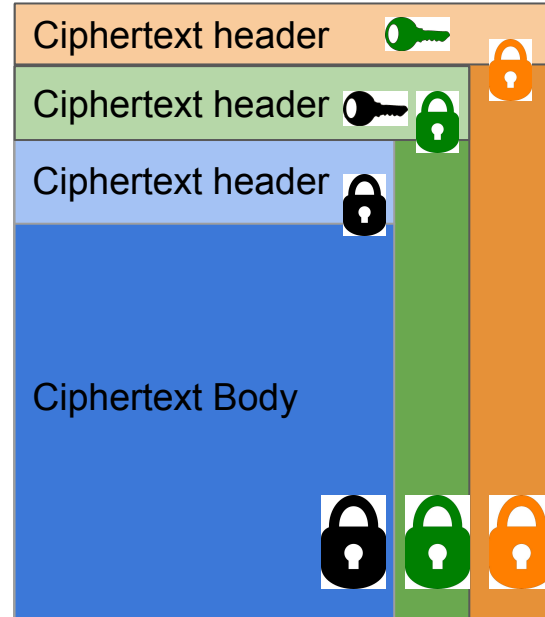
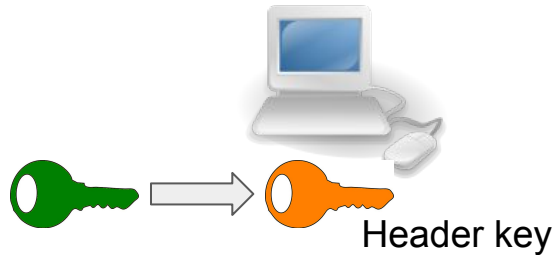
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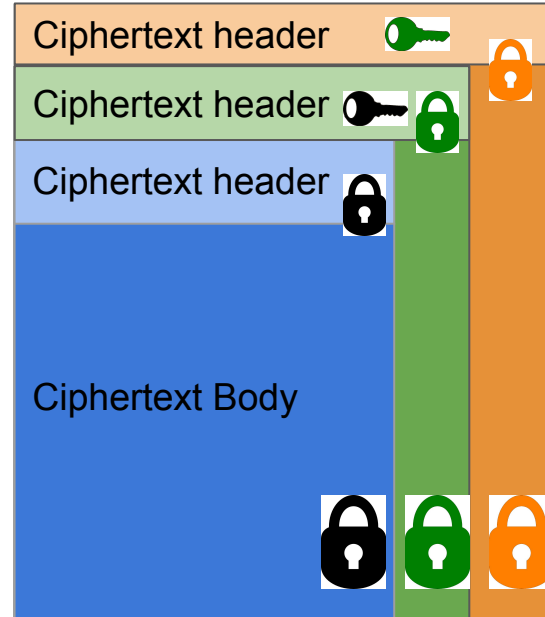
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Re-Encryption: wrap previous layer

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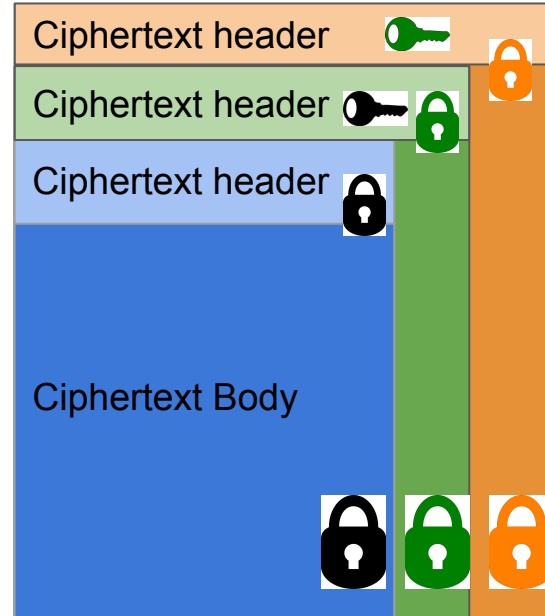


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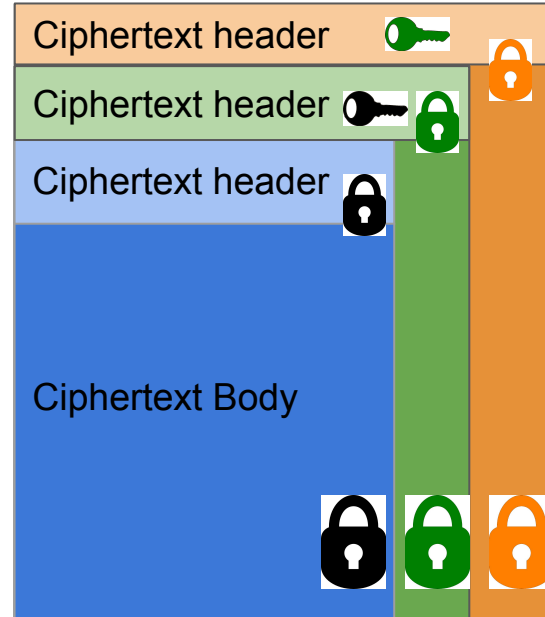
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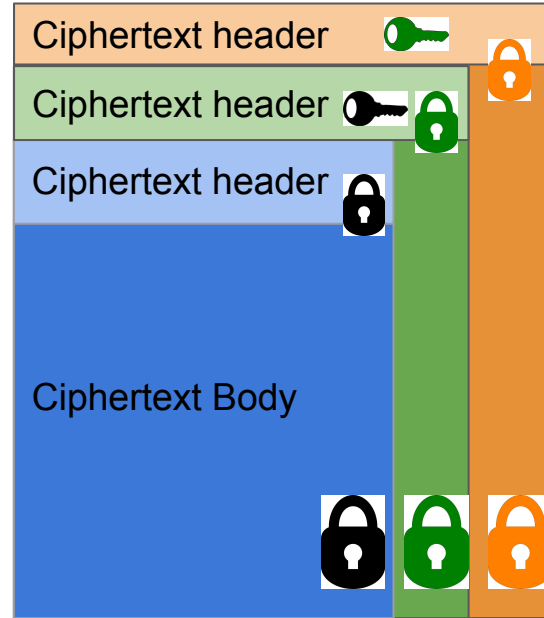
Note: this satisfies prior definitions





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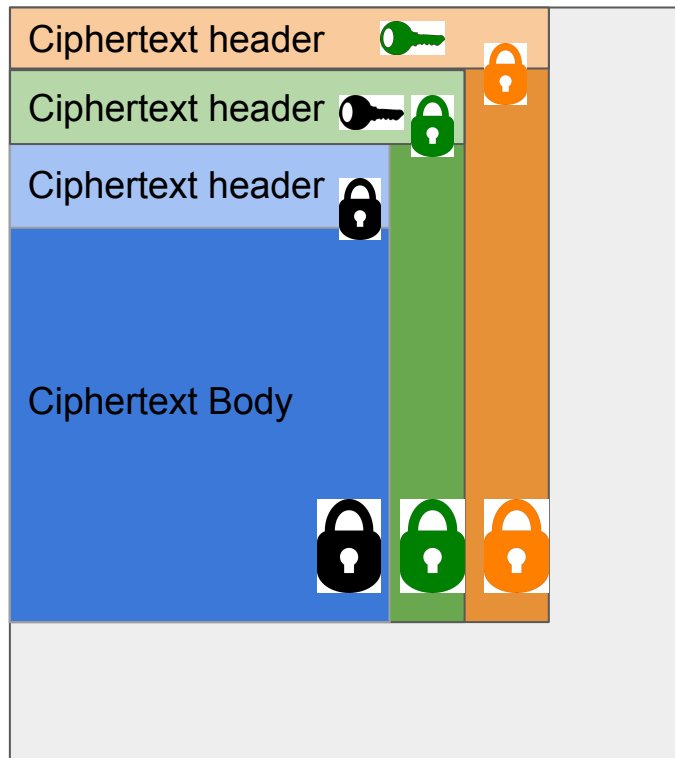
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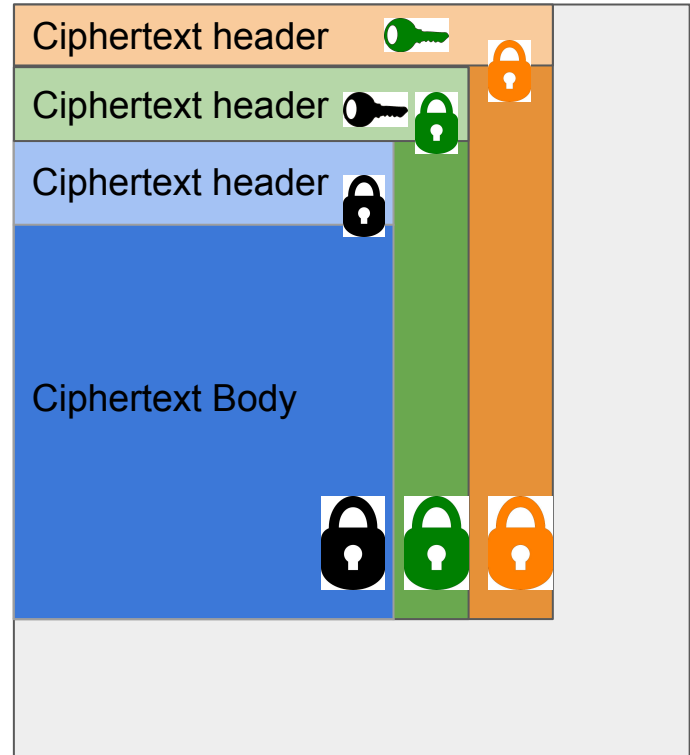


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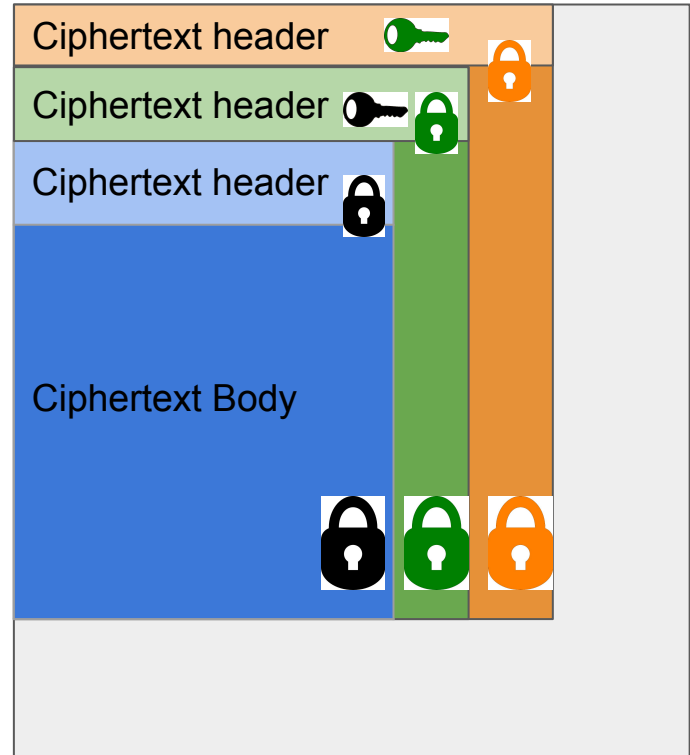
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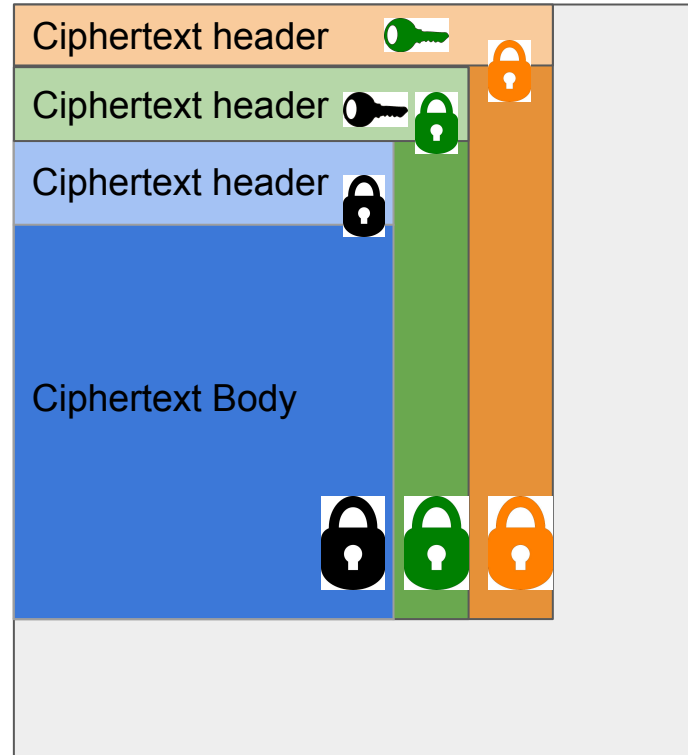
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See paper for full scheme



# Updatable Encryption from KH-PRFs [BLMR13, EPRS17]

Supports as many re-encryptions as you want

Decryption time does not depend on number of re-encryptions

Still fast, but slower than nested scheme

New caveat: somewhat weaker integrity and age-hiding guarantee

Tool: Key-Homomorphic PRFs (KHPRFs) [NPR99]

Standard PRF (e.g. AES):  $F(k, x)$  looks random if not given  $k$

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\*In Random Oracle model

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We use a new *almost KH-PRF* based on the Ring-LWE assumption\*

\*In Random Oracle model

# *Almost* KH-PRFs [BLMR13]

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**Result: ~500x faster performance**

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**Result: ~500x faster performance** ...but how to handle the noise?

\*In Random Oracle model

# Updatable Encryption from *Almost* KH-PRFs

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Simple solution: pad low-order bits of each block with zeros

# Evaluation

# Encryption and Re-encryption

Throughput for encrypting/re-encrypting 32KB messages (MB/sec)

	ReCrypt [EPRS17]	Almost KH-PRF	Nested (128 layers)
Encrypt	0.12	61.90	1836.9
Re-encrypt	0.15	83.06	2606.8

# Encryption and Re-encryption

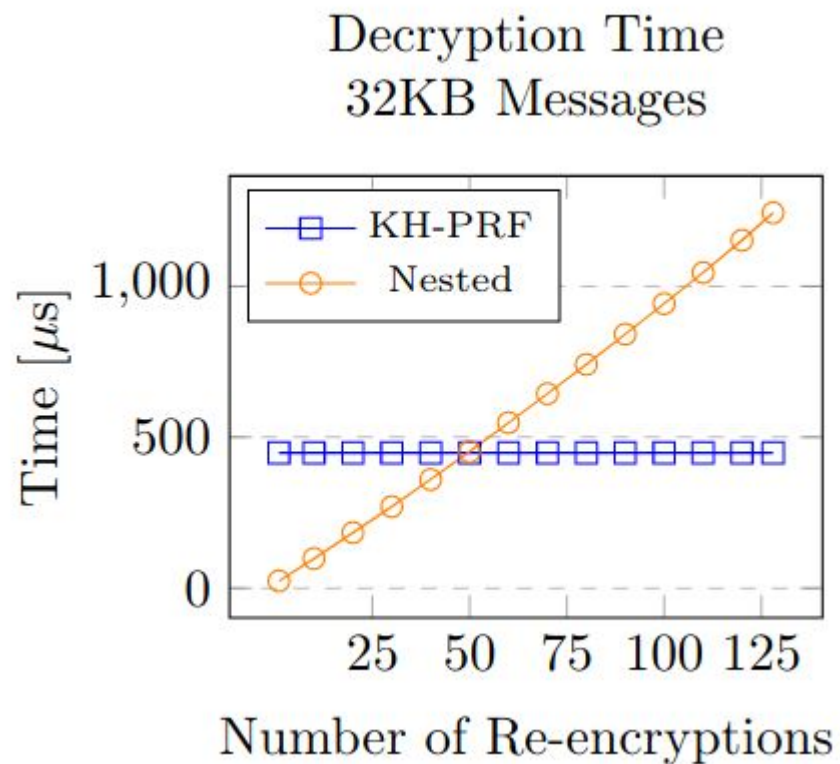
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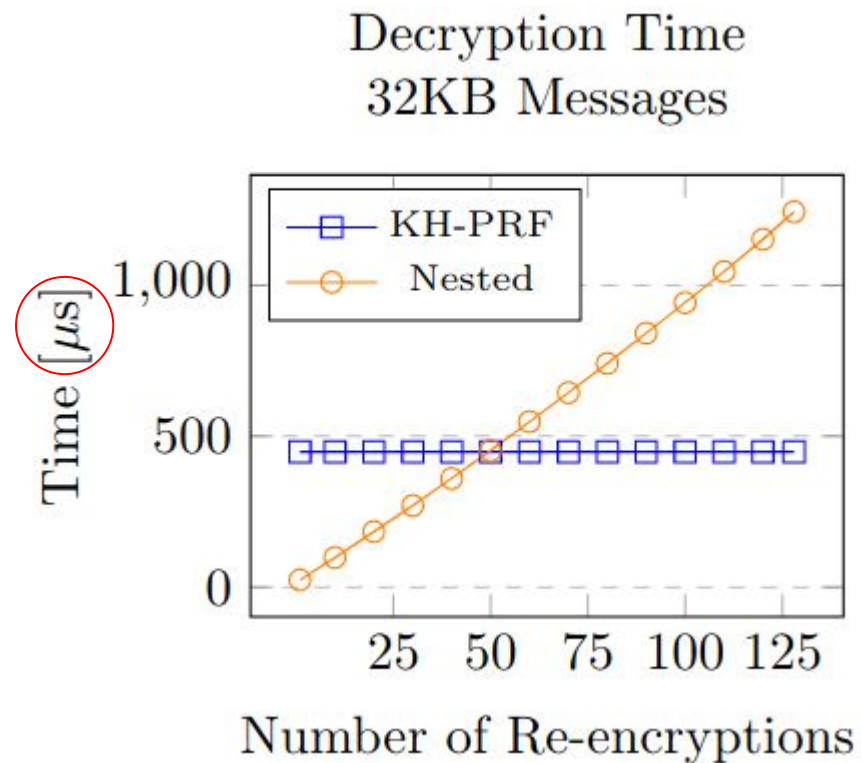
Almost KH-PRF is ~500x faster than ReCrypt

Nested AES is ~30x faster than almost KH-PRF

# Decryption



# Decryption

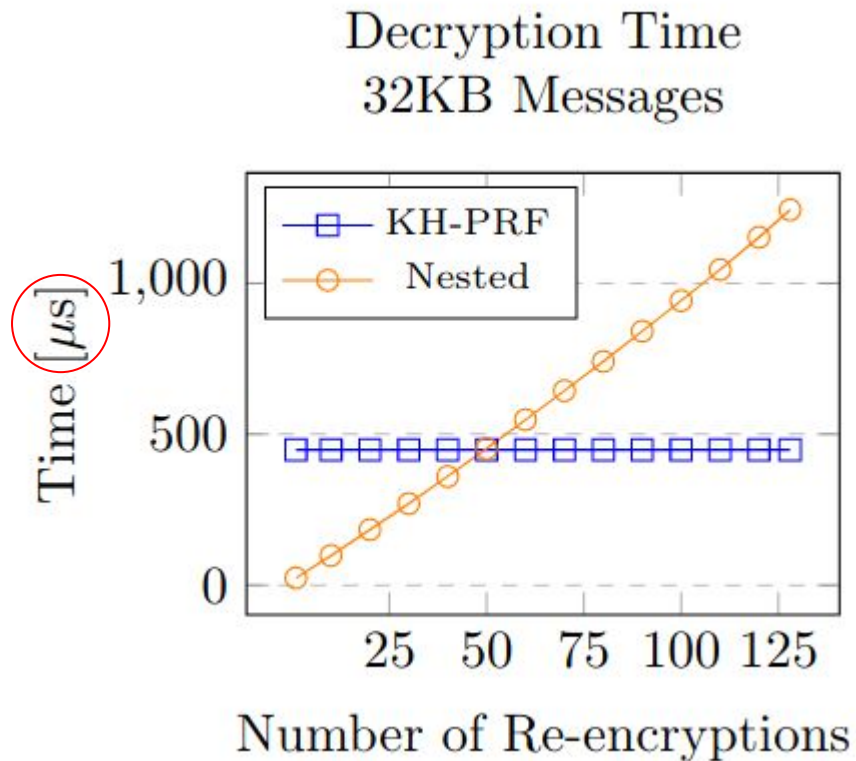




# Decryption

Nested construction faster for up to 50 re-encryptions

ReCrypt (not shown) 500x slower than KH-PRF construction



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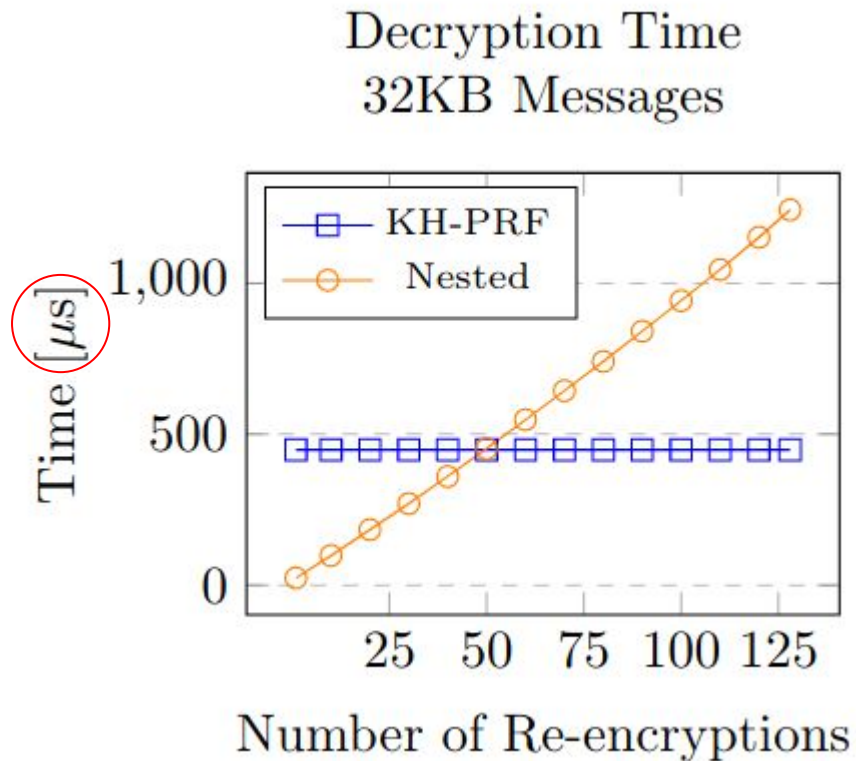
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## Recommendations

Use nested AES construction for infrequent, routine re-keying

Use KH-PRF for frequent re-keying



# Ciphertext Expansion

Nested AES and ReCrypt have smallest ciphertext expansion

Ciphertext Expansion 32KB Messages	
KH-PRF UAE	
$ q  = 28$	133%
$ q  = 60$	36%
$ q  = 120$	20%
$ q  = 128$	19%
Nested UAE	
$t = 20$	3%
$t = 128$	19%
ReCrypt [EPRS17]	3%

# Ciphertext Expansion

Nested AES and ReCrypt have smallest ciphertext expansion

## Recommendations

Use nested AES construction for infrequent, routine re-keying

If space is costly and computation is cheap, use ReCrypt for frequent rekeying

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# Can we do Better?

Speed: Not by much

- Nested scheme: already close to AES throughput
- Almost KH-PRF: KH-PRF implies key exchange [AMP19]

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Ciphertext expansion: Good place for improvement

One potential approach: more elaborate error-correction to reduce bits wasted by padding

# Improving Updatable Encryption

Improved security definitions for updatable encryption

Two new constructions -- from Nested AES and RLWE-based KH-PRF

Orders of magnitude performance improvement over prior work

**Paper:** [eprint.iacr.org/2020/222.pdf](https://eprint.iacr.org/2020/222.pdf)

**Source Code:** [https://github.com/moshih/UpdateableEncryption\\_Code](https://github.com/moshih/UpdateableEncryption_Code)

**Contact:** [saba@cs.stanford.edu](mailto:saba@cs.stanford.edu)

# Encryption and Re-encryption

Encrypt and ReEncrypt Throughput (MB/sec)

		KH-PRF UAE			ReCrypt	Nested	
	$ q  = 28$	$ q  = 28$ (AVX)	$ q  = 60$	$ q  = 120$	$ q  = 128$	[EPRS17]	$t = 128$
4KB Messages							
Encrypt	24.85	<b>31.97</b>	20.32	0.76	0.70	0.12	406.69
ReEncrypt	29.80	<b>41.03</b>	32.13	0.82	0.74	0.14	706.37
32KB Messages							
Encrypt	29.85	39.89	<b>61.90</b>	5.94	5.50	<b>0.12</b>	<b>1836.9</b>
ReEncrypt	32.33	44.51	<b>83.06</b>	6.43	5.85	0.15	2606.8
100KB Messages							
Encrypt	31.03	41.63	<b>65.11</b>	9.42	9.12	0.12	3029.5
ReEncrypt	33.30	45.77	<b>79.63</b>	9.92	8.70	0.14	3766.2



- $H_0 : \{0, 1\}^\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{R}_q$ ,
- $H_1 : \mathcal{R}_q \times \{0, 1\}^\ell \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^r$ .

We define our pseudorandom function  $F : \mathcal{R}_q \times \{0, 1\}^\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{R}_q$  as follows:

$F(s, x)$ :

1. Evaluate  $a \leftarrow H_0(x)$ ,  $\rho \leftarrow H_1(s, x)$ .
2. Sample  $e \leftarrow \text{Samp}_\chi(\rho)$ .
3. Output  $y \leftarrow a \cdot s + e$ .

Where  $\mathcal{R}_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^n+1)$