

THE CREATION OF HICHAT: SECURE MOBILE CHAT USING HYBRID CRYPTOSYSTEM

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Abstrak

Keamanan transmisi atau pertukaran chat sangat penting dalam penerapan komunikasi. Pesan rahasia dikirim atau ditukar melalui layanan komunikasi di dunia maya di mana tidak boleh ada pihak lain yang memiliki otoritas selain pengirim dan penerima untuk melindungi dari bahaya. Hal ini menyebabkan perlu adanya sistem kriptografi yang digunakan untuk menjaga keamanan pada saat transmisi atau pertukaran chat berlangsung. Hybrid cryptosystem adalah teknik menggabungkan enkripsi simetris dan asimetris sehingga menciptakan sistem yang lebih aman dan efisien. Pada penelitian ini telah dibuat aplikasi chat berbasis mobile yang aman yaitu Hichat dengan menggabungkan algoritma AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) untuk mengenkripsi chat dan algoritma RSA (Rivest Shamir Adleman) untuk membuat kunci. Fungsi hash juga digunakan untuk otentikasi kunci API (Application Programming Interface) ke layanan server. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah membuat aplikasi chat berbasis mobile yang aman dan mengedepankan kerahasiaan, integritas, otentikasi dan non-repudiation. Pengujian fungsional yang dilakukan mendapatkan hasil bahwa semua fitur berjalan dengan baik. Pengujian keamanan dilakukan menggunakan serangan teknik sniffing yang menunjukkan bahwa informasi pesan dan kunci API terenkripsi dan hasil skenario menunjukkan setiap aspek keamanan berhasil. Kemudian tampilan aplikasi responsif di beberapa perangkat.

Kata Kunci: AES, chat, cryptosystem, hybrid, RSA.

Abstract

Security of chat transmission or exchange is very important in the application of communication. Secret messages are sent or exchanged through communication services in cyberspace where no other party should have authority other than the sender and recipient to protect against harm. This causes the need for a cryptographic system that is used to maintain security during the transmission or exchange of chats. Hybrid cryptosystem is a technique that combines symmetric and asymmetric encryption to create a safer and more efficient system. This study has been created of a secure mobile-based chat application, namely Hichat, by combining the AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) algorithm to encrypt chat and the RSA RSA (Rivest Shamir Adleman) algorithm to create keys. The hash function is also used to authenticate API (Application Programming Interface) keys to server services. The purpose of this study is to create a secure mobile-based chat application that prioritizes confidentiality, integrity, authentication and non-repudiation. The functional testing carried out obtained results that all features were running well. Security testing was carried out using a sniffing technique attack which showed that the message information and API keys were encrypted, and the scenario results showed that every aspect of security was successful. Then the application display is responsive on several devices.

Keywords: AES, chat, cryptosystem, hybrid, RSA.

INTRODUCTION

Security of chat transmission or exchange is very important in the application of communication. In cyberspace, secret messages are sent or exchanged through communication services, ensuring that only the sender and recipient have authority over the communication to protect against potential threats. According to Ariyus (2008), some information security threats such as interruption, interception, modification and forgery [1]. In terms of security, cryptographic systems have several objectives such as confidentiality, integrity, authentication and non-repudiation, namely preventing a particular party from rejecting an action.

Database security from unauthorized access should not be ignored. Chat applications run on the Android operating system. API (Application Programming Interface) is used to connect Android applications to the database on the Server. Data storage like this has many advantages, especially in terms of data backup, but storing data on the internet will allow data to be hacked and read by other parties. By using two or more different cryptography, hybrid cryptosystem can easily encrypt and decrypt very long messages. A hybrid cryptosystem uses multiple ciphers from various algorithms used to generate symmetric keys and encrypt with asymmetric keys from public keys.

AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) is a symmetric key algorithm published by

The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) as a replacement for DES (Data Encryption Standard) [2,3]. The widely used symmetric key algorithm, AES, encrypts and decrypts sensitive data using the same key [4,5]. In the last two decades, researchers have developed many cryptography algorithms. Despite this, AES remains the most secure cryptographic algorithm due to its cost effectiveness and easier implementation in both hardware and software. The AES is categorized as AES-128, AES-192 and AES-256 based on the length of the key. Here, the 128, 192, and 256 indicates the length of the key used during the cryptographic process [6].

RSA (Rivest Shamir Adleman) is an asymmetric key algorithm that uses pair of public key and private key for data encryption and decryption, which enables secure communication over insecure channels [7]. RSA security is based on the complexity of factorizing a large integer that is the product of two large primes, making it difficult to crack without knowing the private key. RSA remains widely used due to its reliability and wide acceptance in various security protocols, such as SSL/TLS for secure internet communications. In addition, RSA is used in digital signatures to ensure message integrity and authentication [8].

In the research of Ashari and Ragin (2016), the RSA-CRT public key cryptography algorithm was implemented in an instant messaging application. The algorithm used is RSA which is included in

the asymmetric algorithm. The obstacle that often occurs in the RSA decryption process is the relatively large size of the description key which can slow down the process, so the algorithm can be modified with CRT (Chinese Remainder Theorem) to speed up the decryption process. Implementation of the RSA-CRT cryptographic algorithm in instant messaging applications at n bit lengths from 56 bits to 88 bits, the RSA-CRT decryption process is twice as fast as RSA decryption [9].

Research by Saputra et al. in 2023 discussed the application of hybrid cryptosystem with a combination of RSA cipher algorithms and hash functions to maintain the security of messages sent. The results showed that messages sent could not be hacked by irresponsible people [10]. Research by Siburan et al. in 2023 stated that the use of hybrid cryptosystem can combine AES and RSA for chat encryption. This study uses a literature study method on the use of hybrid cryptosystem using AES and RSA. The integration of AES and RSA algorithms results in a secure hybrid cryptosystem capable of encrypting message texts, enhancing privacy and data confidentiality during transmission [11].

In the research of Akter, et al. (2023) discussed the use of RSA and AES-128 in cloud computing data. AES-128 refers to the key's length of 128 bits, which offers a balance between security and performances. AES-128 is faster in encryption and

decryption processes while maintaining robust security for general use cases in cloud environments. The data to be stored in the cloud is encrypted using AES-128, then the symmetric key is encrypted using the RSA algorithm, this makes the encryption process more secure. In the encryption time test, an average of 295.8774 bytes/ms was produced. The decryption time was not shown in the study and there was no testing of the threat of attacks [12].

Based on the background above, this study uses a hybrid cryptosystem that combines the RSA algorithm to create keys and the AES algorithm to keep messages secret. The Hash function is also used for API key authentication as an access service to the server database. The Hash function is used to ensure that messages remain original and unaltered during transmission. The hash function will generate a unique authentication code by combining the message and the secret key [13]. The FCM (Firebase Cloud Messaging) protocol is used in the system for real-time message exchange and for push notifications. The purpose of this study is to create a secure mobile-based chat application that prioritizes confidentiality, integrity, authentication and non-repudiation.

METHODS

The prototyping method is used in this study to match user needs with the system to be created [14]. The stages carried out in the

prototyping method are identification of needs, analysis and design, creation and testing. These stages are described in the research framework in Figure 1. At the requirement identification, a literature study related to chat application security is carried out. At the functional requirement analysis consisting of facilities needed by users such as features for registering user accounts, logging in, a main page containing conversations and friends and viewing profiles of other users. Non-functional requirement analysis consisting of hardware specification requirements, software used by developers to create mobile-based chat applications and testing. is a hybrid cryptosystem design created based on the results of the functional outcome analysis performed. The design of the hybrid cryptosystem is done. This stage will

integrate AES and RSA algorithms to ensure the security of message data, then add a hash function for authentication on the server. Then database design is created to support the management of information that will be stored by the application. This includes table structure, relationships between entities, and efficient data storage mechanisms. Application design contains navigation structure, use case and activity diagram. In the app's creation stage, the developer uses non-functional requirements to support the creation of apps in accordance with the functional requirements analysis and design that has been made. At the testing stage, testing is done to ensure that the application works according to specifications and is free of bugs or errors. This testing also involves evaluating data security, performance, and ease of use.

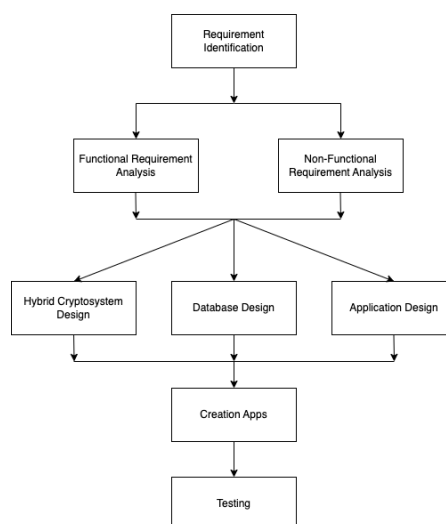


Figure 1. Research Framework

Hybrid Cryptosystem Application Design

The message transmission process is carried out using the user's application account as authentication. User authentication is encrypted using a hash function. This method is used to secure user data as well as for message transmission and exchange. In the encryption and decryption process using a combination of AES and RSA algorithms. The received plaintext process will be encrypted using the AES algorithm to produce the ciphertext and its key. Then the key in the session will be reprocessed using the RSA algorithm to obtain the key creation in the form of ciphertext. Then the ciphertext results are resampled to obtain the ciphertext which is a combination of the previous ones.

Figure 2. shows the encryption and decryption scheme of the hybrid cryptosystem. The encryption process is done by the sender sending a message in the form of plaintext which will be encrypted using the AES algorithm and will generate the same key for encryption and decryption. The result of encryption is ciphertext. The session key generated from the random generate key in the AES process is used during one communication session and plays an important role in maintaining

communication security. The generated session key is then encrypted using the RSA algorithm. RSA is an asymmetric cryptography algorithm, which uses a public key for encryption and a private key for decryption. RSA ensures that only recipients who have the corresponding private key can decrypt the session key. The result of this process is the ciphertext for the session key. The final ciphertext is a combination of the AES ciphertext (encrypted data) and the RSA ciphertext (encrypted session key).

The decryption process starts from the data received in the form of ciphertext from data encryption using the AES algorithm and ciphertext from session key encryption using RSA (with the recipient's public key). The session key used is randomly generated during the previous encryption process. This process ensures that each communication session has a unique level of security. The session key can only be accessed by the recipient through decryption using the RSA private key. Once the session key is obtained, the main ciphertext containing the encrypted data is decrypted using the AES algorithm. AES utilizes the session key to process the decryption so as to produce plaintext in the form of the original data before encryption.

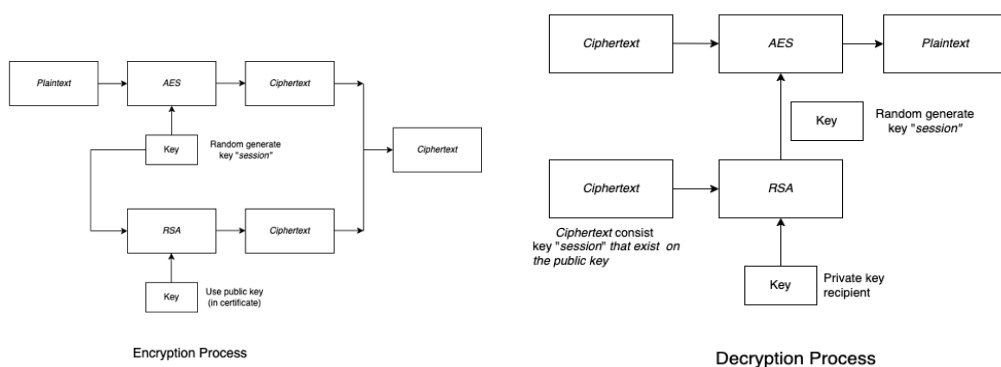


Figure 2. Encryption and Decryption Scheme

Hybrid Cryptosystem Service Protocol Design

The sender sends a message to the recipient must send a request to be able to communicate with the recipient using an authenticated key generation protocol. The key generation process uses the RSA algorithm to generate and distribute the "session" key. The distribution of the "session" key will be forwarded by the FCM (Firebase Cloud Messaging) protocol using HTTP access and received by the message recipient. When the recipient has a private key and has the same "session" key as the sender, the sender will encrypt the text message using the AES algorithm and send the encryption results to the server and forward the message to be decrypted by the recipient.

Figure 3. show the key exchange protocol, Sender (Q) and Recipient (R) use a trusted Server (S) to distribute asymmetric (public key and private key) on request. These steps of cryptography protocol as follows:

1. The sender (Q) create message M that will be sent to the recipient (R). Message M is encrypted using the AES algorithm

with a symmetric key KQ while the encryption result is C_M . AES key KQ then encrypted using RSA with the server public key, resulting in C_{KQ} . The sender sends a packet $\{C_M, C_{KQ}\}$ contain encrypted message and key to server S.

2. Server S receive $\{C_M, C_{KQ}\}$ from sender and forward to recipient (R).
3. The recipient (R) receives the packet decrypt C_{KQ} and decrypt it using the private key RSA K_A to obtain the KQ . With KQ , recipient decrypt C_M using AES and obtain the origin message.
4. The recipient makes a reply to M' which is encrypted with the symmetric key KR with AES algorithm, resulting in $C_{M'}$. KR is also encrypted using RSA with the server public key, resulting in C_{KR} . The recipient sends $\{C_{M'}, C_{KR}\}$ to server and forward to sender.
5. The sender decrypt C_{KR} using private key RSA K_B to get K_R . With K_R sender decrypt $C_{M'}$ using AES to get the original reply to M' .

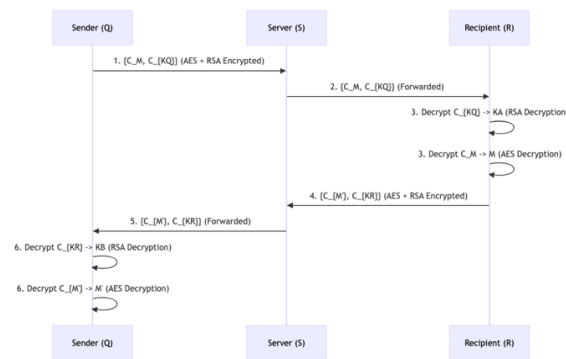


Figure 3. Sequence Diagram Related to the Key Exchange Protocol

Database Design

The database design is shown in Figure 4. Class diagram describes the relationship between classes in the application, which contains the class name, attributes, and operations performed. There are seven interconnected classes, including the Account class, which will be used for class A, namely the ongoing transaction log, then manage the Friend class, which contains the AddFriend

and InvitationAdapter activities and View ProfileActivity. The Friend class will use class A for transaction logs and manage the Conversation class, which is used for message exchange. The Conversation class will connect to a service that will later perform the data security process from the Cryptography class. Every transaction made in class A, which contains a transaction log, also contains access information from the API class.

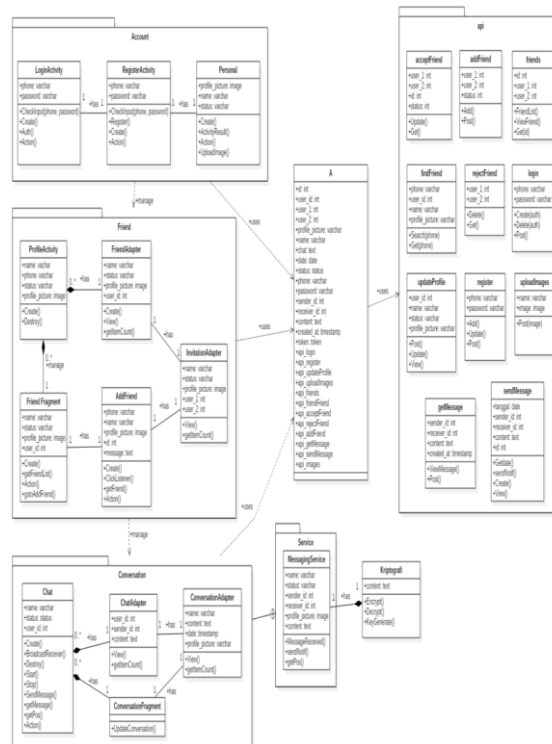


Figure 4. Class Diagram

Application Design

The design of the interface display consists of the application navigation structure, use case diagram, activity diagram and class diagram. The application navigation structure describes the flow in building the application. The type of navigation structure used is a mixed navigation structure (linear and hierarchical) shown in Figure 5.

Use case diagram describes the user interaction in the application shown in Figure 6. Activity diagram describes the flow of

activity control in the application. The user enters the mobile phone number and password, then the system will check the validity of the user account. If the account is verified, the user can select the information that needs to be managed. If the user account has not been registered, the user must register an account first.

Figure 7 shows an activity diagram which is used to model the workflow or activities in a system. The features in the application are adding, updating, searching and deleting messages and friends' contacts.

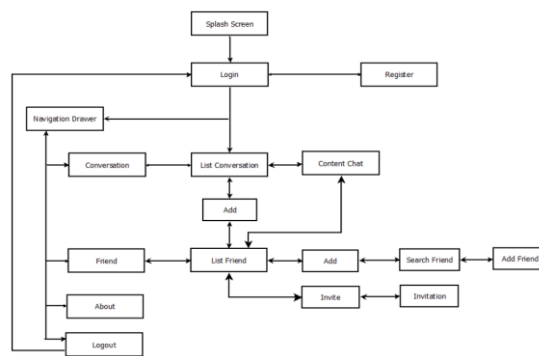


Figure 5. Application Navigation Structure

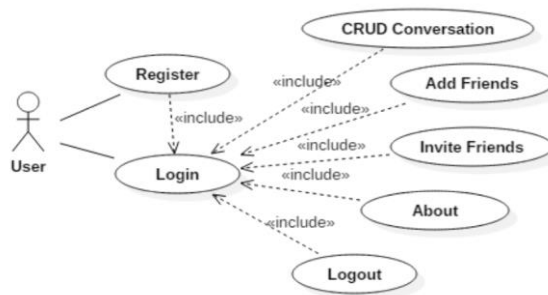


Figure 6. Use Case Diagram

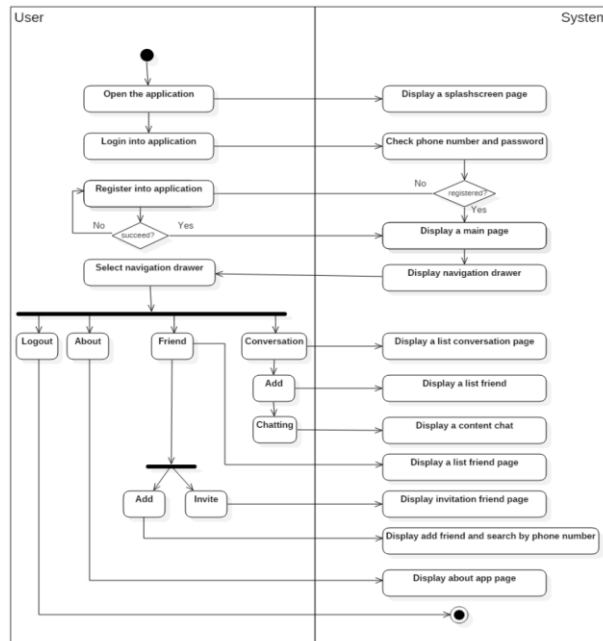


Figure 7. Activity Diagram

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the Hichat application creation display nine pages features including splash screen, login, register, navigation drawer, friend, add friend, profile page, conversation and content chat. When the user runs Hichat application, the first page that will be displayed is the splash screen page (Figure 8). After the splash screen, the user will be directed to the login page (Figure 9). The user needs to type in the cellphone number and password then click the submit button. Then the system checks and confirms the user account. If the login is successful, the user can access and manage services and features on the main page of the apps.

On the Friend page (Figure 10), users must press the add button to find friends, so they can have a conversation. Other users

(friendship invitation recipients) will then take actions such as Accept, Delete or Cancel on the Friend page. After the user accepts the friendship, the user can immediately chat in the conversation feature. The conversation page (Figure 11) displays a list of users who are chatting. If not chatting, then the user can click the link to start a chat "Click to start a chat". Then the user will be directed to the chat content page. The chat content page displays the contents of the chat conducted by the sender and user. The chat conducted can only be seen by the sender and recipient because the chat will be encrypted and decrypted so that it cannot be read by third parties. The application will provide a notification if there is a chat entering the recipient's keypad. The chatting process occurs in real time and there is information about the time the message was sent and received.

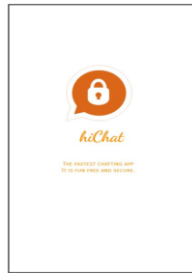


Figure 8. Splash Screen

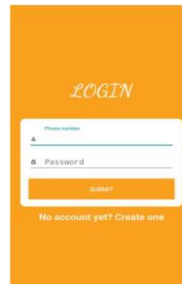


Figure 9. Login

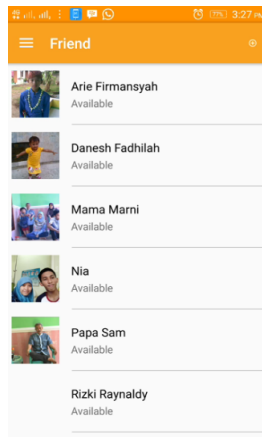


Figure 10. Friend Page

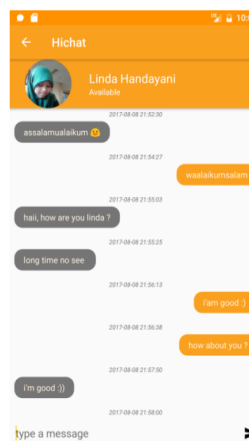


Figure 11. Conversation

Security testing using sniffing is a technique in network security used to monitor and analyse data traffic passing through a computer network [15] with wireshark tools. The process of this technique is to capture network traffic to see data or chats sent by users. Previously, researchers designed the topology used to capture the data shown in Figure 12. The sniffing technique is carried out by capturing

the data sending process carried out by the cellphone via the wifi interface in the wireshark tool. The protocol to be taken is the HTTP protocol. The results of the data sending process in the form of a packet listing window from sending messages and receiving messages are shown in Figures 13, 14, 15, 16. The test scenario is used to prove the security aspects of the system shown in Figure 17 and Table 1.

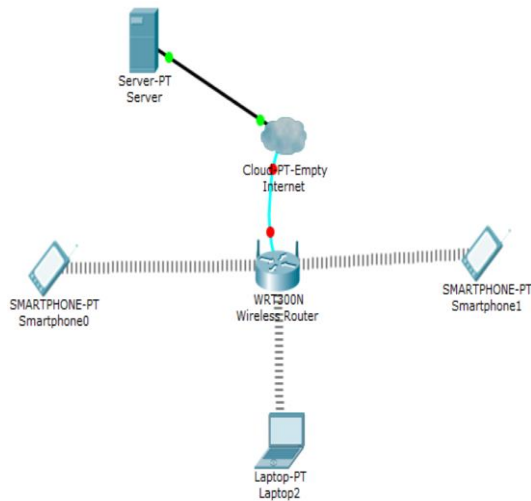


Figure 12. Application Testing Topology

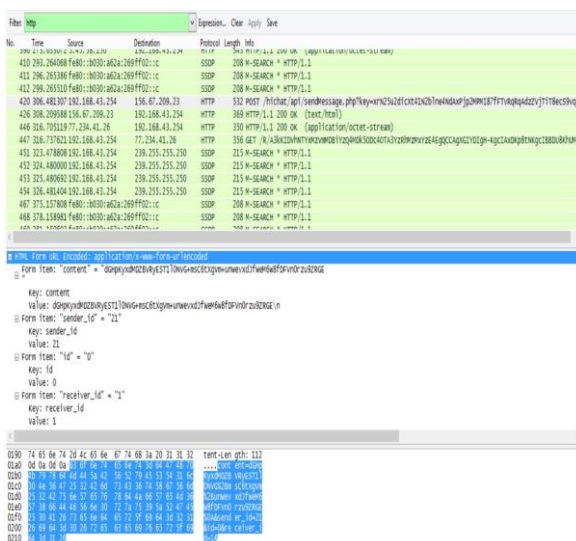


Figure 13. Send Message (Apps to Server)

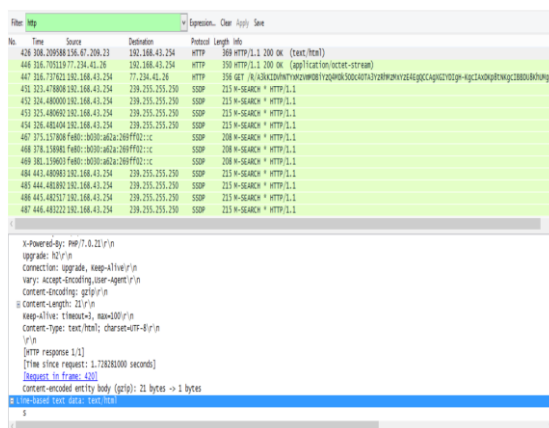


Figure 14. Send Message (Server to Apps)

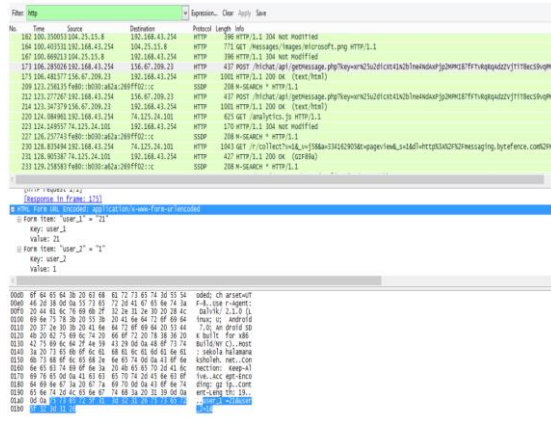


Figure 15. Message Information (Apps to Server)

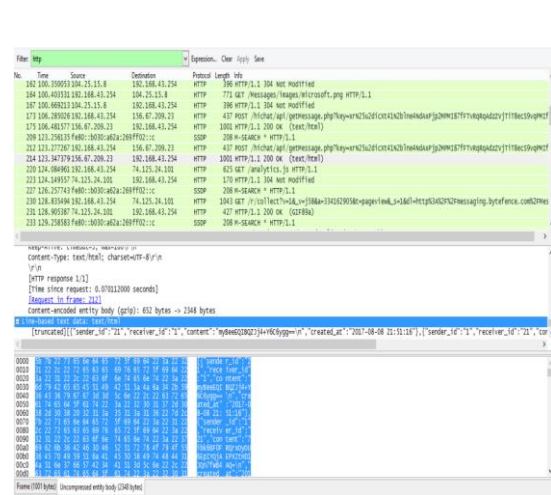


Figure 16. Message Information (Server to Apps)

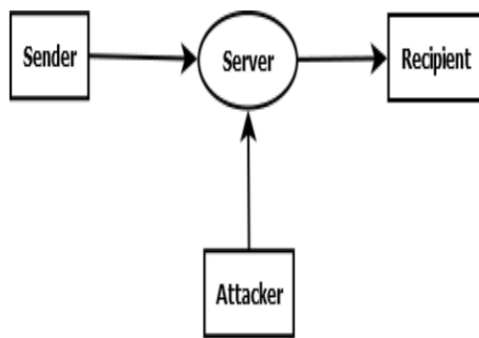


Figure 17. Security Testing Scenario Concept

Table 1. Security Testing Scenarios

Security Aspect	Scenario Testing	Result
Confidentiality	The sender sends a message to the recipient via server. The attacker tries to see the contents of the message sent by the sender to the recipient via tools.	Messages stored on the server contain ciphertext and cannot be read by the attacker.
Integrity	The attacker tries to intercept the traffic of the message sent via tools, so that it can change the message sent by the sender to the recipient.	Traffic through the attacker via tools in the system has used an encrypted key id before entering the server. So, the attacker can't change the message that was received by the recipient.
Authentication	The attacker tries to steal user data in the form of a username and password, in order to authenticate the login with the user data.	User data when register will be protected with a system key id and the password entered will be encrypted. So that the data stored on the server is a chipper text.
Nonrepudiation	Every user activity carried out in the application system will be recorded in service.	The system can do user logging that the activity being carried out can't be manipulated by the attacker.

The third test was conducted to see the the results of the interface, resolution, responsiveness of the application display on performance time and chat content. The test several devices, there are five cell phones results are shown in Table 2. with different specifications that will display

Table 2. Device Testing

No	Mobile	Specification	Result
1	Lenovo A7000plus	Resolution: 1080 x 1920p (~401 ppi) Screen: 5.5 inch OS: Android 5.1 Processor: Octa-core 1.7 GHz Cortex-A53 RAM: 2 GB	Interface: according to the resolution and screen mobile (no stacked components) Performance: real time Message: corresponding
2	Oppo A39	Resolution: 720 x 1280p (~267 ppi) Screen: 5.2 inch OS: Android 5.1 Processor: Octa-core 1.5 GHz Cortex-A53 RAM: 3 GB	Interface: according to the resolution and screen mobile (no stacked components) Performance: real time Message: corresponding
3	Himax Pure III	Resolution: 720 x 1280p Screen: 4.7 inch OS: Android 4.2.2 Processor: Octa Core MT6592 1,7 GHz RAM: 1 GB	Interface: according to the resolution and screen mobile (no stacked components) Performance: real time Message: corresponding
4.	IMO S79	Resolution: 320 x 480p Screen: 3.5 inch OS: Android 2.3.6 Processor: MTK6575M, Cortex A9 1 GHz RAM: 512 MB	Interface: according to the resolution and screen mobile (no stacked components) Performance: real time Message: corresponding

5.	MITO T99	Resolution: 1024 x 600p Screen: 7 inch OS: Android 5.1 Lollipop Processor: Quad Core 1.2 GHz Cortex A-7 RAM: 512 MB	Interface: according to the resolution and screen mobile (no stacked components) Performance: real time Message: corresponding
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CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussions that have been carried out, the creation of the Hichat application, a secure mobile-based chat using a hybrid cryptosystem has been successful. Based on the results of functional testing, all features run and are in accordance with the design and functional requirements. In security testing using sniffing techniques in the data sending process, it shows that the security of the sender's data and recipient's data is indicated by the id value and content containing the ciphertext resulting from the encryption process. The results show that data with the same value (plaintext) has a different ciphertext value. This proves that the Hichat application has met the security criteria including Confidentiality, Integrity, Authentication and Non-repudiation. Then in the third test, it was found that testing with several different devices showed the display, resolution according to the response time, namely real time and the messages sent and received were appropriate. For further development, it is expected that brute force

testing can be used to determine the reliability of the hybrid cryptosystem used and UI/UX development can be used in this application.

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