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# Dropbox Gearup

# Goals

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Idea: design an end-to-end encrypted file sharing service

Learn how to design a secure system using the cryptography and security tools we've learned so far!

- Thinking about how to design a system securely
- Iterate on your design after receiving feedback
- Think about attacking your design based on a threat model

# Goals

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Goal: client for end-to-end encrypted file sharing service

## What you have

- Crypto library
- Some insecure data storage
- Threat model (what kinds of attacks to defend against)

## What you'll build

- Client API for storing data securely on insecure data storage

You get to figure out how to use the provided crypto operations to accomplish this goal!

# How you'll do this

- Now: Design document
  - Think carefully about how you'll implement the requirements
  - How you'll store data, how you'll use crypto to secure it
  - ~4 pages + diagrams
  - See handout for details
  - ⇒ Meet with TAs afterward for feedback
- Implementation (Due Monday, May 8)
  - Submit your code + final design document

Remember: the big part is about your design!

# How you'll do this

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# What the client looks like

```
# Make a user
client.create_user("usr", "pswd")

#
    . . .

# Log in
u = client.authenticate_user("usr", "pswd") # Returns a User object

# Make some data to upload
data_to_upload = b'testing data'

# Upload it
u.upload_file("file1", data_to_be_uploaded)

# Download it again
downloaded_data = u.download_file("file1")
assert downloaded_data == data_to_be_uploaded
```

YOU IMPLEMENT  
THESE.

# The Client API: what you'll implement

Your implementation: some functions that implement the client

- User operations: `create_user`, `authenticate_user`
- File operations: `upload_file`, `download_file`, `append_file`
- Sharing operations: `share_file`, `receive_file`, `revoke_file`

Your goal: implement client while preserving confidentiality and integrity **in an insecure environment**

So what's the environment?

# The Wiki

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The definitive source for everything all specifications is the wiki:  
<https://cs.brown.edu/courses/csci1660/dropbox-wiki/>

Look here for:

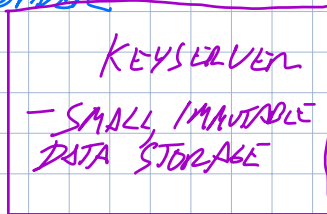
- Descriptions of each API function and requirements
- Detailed description of threat model/environment
- Documentation for all support code

For implementation notes and container setup, see the setup guide:  
<https://hackmd.io/@cs1660/dropbox-setup-guide>

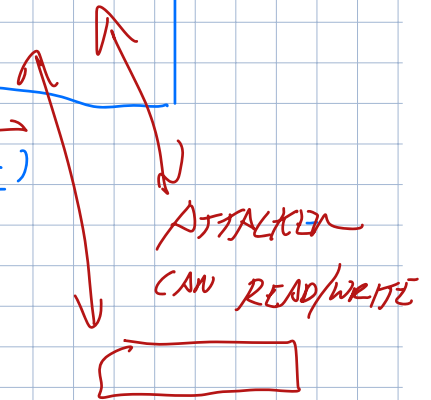
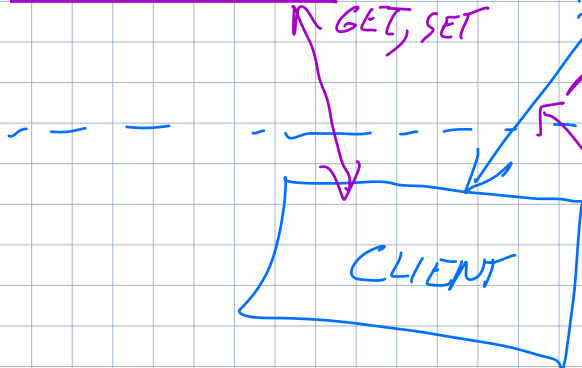
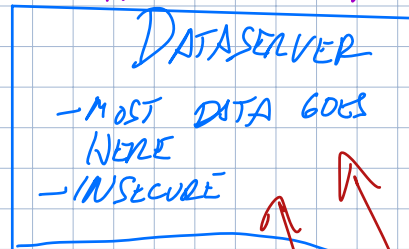


## THE SETUP (INITIAL VIEW)

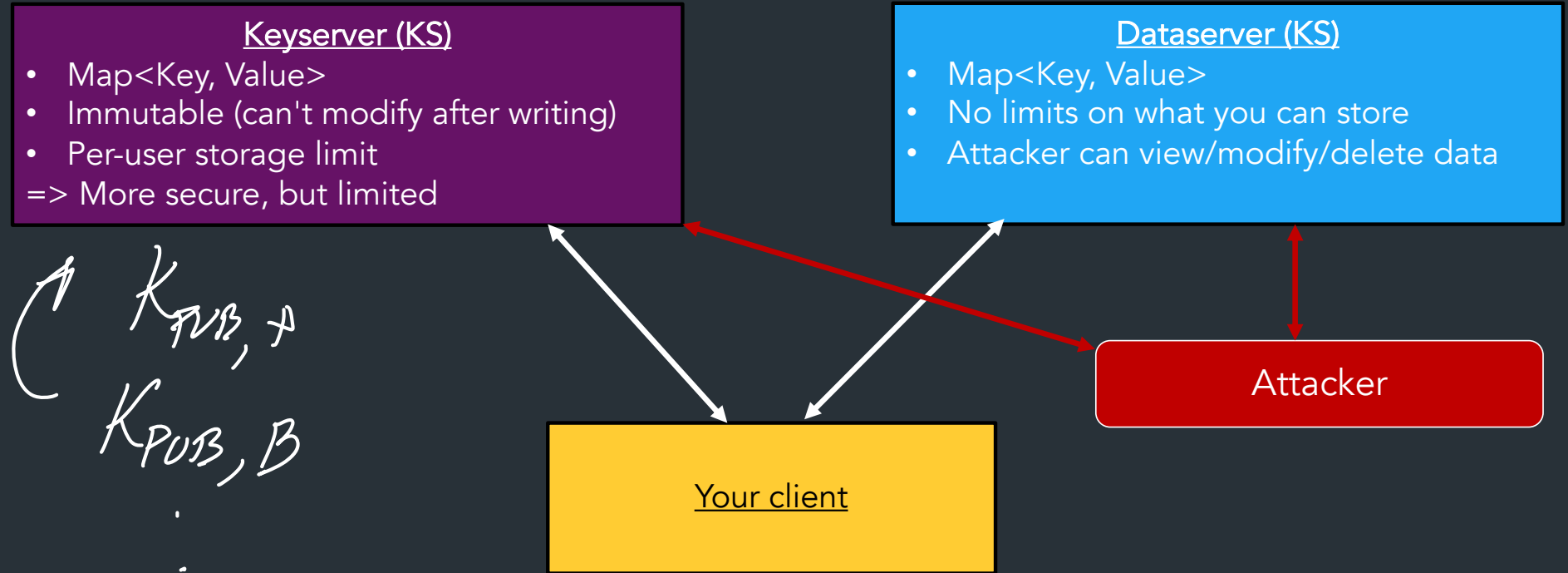
PROVIDER



ALL STATE MUST BE  
IN ONE OF THESE.



# System Overview



# Dataserver

- Map<Memloc, Data>
  - Memloc: 16 bytes
  - Data: bytes
- Operations: Set(), Get()
- Most data will be stored here
- Attacker has full access
  - What could an attacker read? => Threat to confidentiality
  - What happens if an attacker changes something? => Threat to Integrity

→ 16 BYTE VALUE (COULD JUST HASH A STRING + TRUNCATE)

# Keyserver

- Public, immutable key-value store
- Map<key\_name, data>
  - key\_name: any string ("key-alice")
  - Data: bytes
- Operations: Get(key), Set(key, value)
- Designed for storing public keys
- Immutable: upload once, can't modify again (but neither can attacker)
- Number of keys per user must be constant
  - => Can't grow with number of files, operations, etc.

# Threat model: What the attacker can do

- Read/write/modify anything on Dataserver
- Read on the Keyserver (but not modify)
- Can create users/use client API, just like any normal user
- Knows how your client works
  - Can see your code —————→ *DON'T RELY ON OBSCURE FILENAMES, ETC*
  - Knows what format in which you'll store data

=> For full details, see the wiki ("Threat model" section)

# API Overview

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# API: User functions

- `create_user(user, pass) -> User`
- `authenticate_user(user, pass) -> User`

Creates/Authenticates user in your system

- Generates or fetches any keys you'll need to implement other operations
- User object: you get to decide what goes in here
- All keys for encryption/integrity/etc will depend on this password (more on this later)
  - Don't worry about the user picking a bad password

# API: File operations

✓ BASED ON USER'S STATE (PER-USER KEYS, ETC)

- `User.upload_file(filename, data)`
- `User.download_file(filename, data)`
- `User.append_file(filename, data)`
- Upload/download a file securely
- Append to an existing file
  - Performance requirement: data sent must scale only with data being appended (ie, can't download and re-encrypt entire file)
- CS1620/CS2660 students: additional requirement on how files are stored for performance (more on this later)

→ ADDITIONAL PERF REQUIREMENT (SEE END FOR MORE INFO)



# API: Sharing

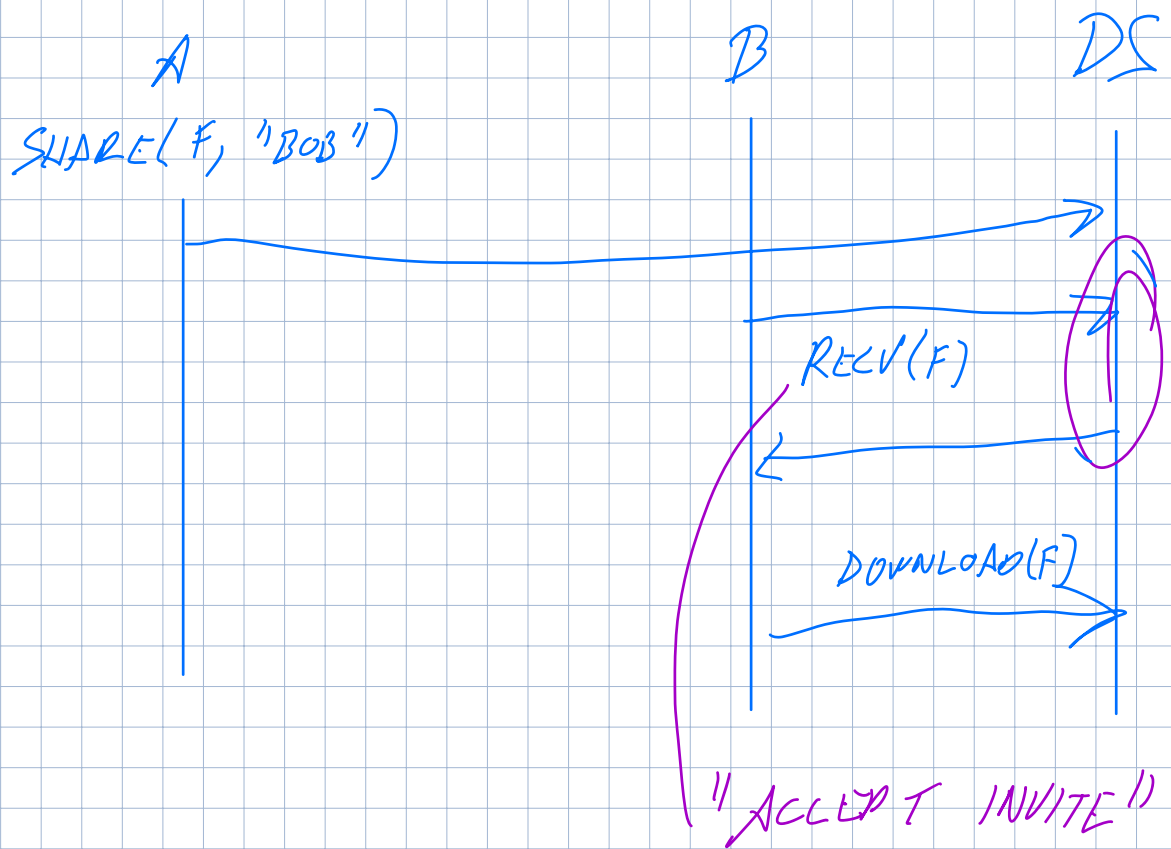
- `User.share_file(filename, user_to_add)`
- `User.receive_file(filename, file_owner)`
- `User.revoke_file(filename, user)`

NEW

ONLY OWNER  
CAN SHARE/REVOKE

- Owner can share file with any number of users
- Users can do any file operations on file (upload, download, append)
  - All users see same copy of file
- Owner can revoke users
  - When user revoked, they can no longer do any operations on file

Revised from previous version of guide! Announcement soon!  
=> CS1620/CS2660 students: can add to this if you want



# What you WON'T implement

- Networking (it's all local)
- Writing actual files to disk
- Crypto (we provide a library)

⇒ You can think of the actual implementation as a secure, in-memory key value store

Note: All client state must be on the  
dataserver/keyserver

⇒

```
# Make a user
```

```
client.create_user("usr", "pswd")
```

```
# . . .
```

```
# Log in
```

```
u = client.authenticate_user("usr", "p
```

```
# Make some data to upload
```

```
data_to_upload = b'testing data'
```

```
# Upload it
```

```
u.upload_file("file1", data_to_be_upl
```

```
# Download it again
```

```
downloaded_data = u.download_file("fi
```

```
assert downloaded_data == data_to_be_l
```

# Crypto primitives

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# The crypto library

The support code contains a cryptographic library, which provides the total set of cryptographic primitives you can use

- No external crypto libraries

## What you have

- Asymmetric crypto (Encryption, digital signatures) —
- Symmetric crypto (Encryption, HMACs) —
- Hashing
- Key derivation functions
- Secure randomness

— CONFIDENTIALITY  
— INTEGRITY

A big part of your design is deciding how to use these!

# Asymmetric Crypto

## Encryption

- Gen() -> K\_pub, K\_priv
- Encrypt(k\_pub, data)
- Decrypt(k\_priv, data)

CONFIDENTIALITY

## Signing

- Gen() -> K\_pub, K\_priv
- Sign(k\_priv, data)
- Verify(k\_pub, data)

INTEGRITY

# ~~As~~ symmetric Crypto

## Encryption

- $\text{Enc}(k, m)$
- $\text{Dec}(k, c)$

} CONFIDENTIALITY

## Authentication with symmetric crypto ← INTEGRITY

- Message authentication codes: computed based on hash of message, can verify if you have key
- $\text{HMAC}(k, m) \rightarrow t$  (MAC) ✓
- $\text{HMAC}_{\text{Equal}}(t1, t2) \Rightarrow \{0, 1\}$

THINK OF IT LIKE A  
KEYED HASH FUNCTION

# Design: In general

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- In general, use one key per purpose
  - Think about how sharing keys between operations can affect security
  - HashKDF is your friend
- A bit of software engineering can help you!
  - Consider making some helper functions for common operations
- I will post some examples on serialization (look for them!)



# Asymmetric vs. Symmetric crypto

## ASYMMETRIC

- CAN DISTRIBUTE  $K_{\text{PUB}}$
  - SLOW
  - LIMIT ON SIZE OF MESSAGES
  - ANYONE CAN ENCRYPT  
JUST BY KNOWING  $K_{\text{PUB}}$
- $\Rightarrow$  MAYBE USEFUL FOR SHARING

## SYMMETRIC

- ONE KEY
  - FAST VS. ASYMMETRIC
  - CAN ENCRYPT  
ANY SIZE MESSAGE
- $\Rightarrow$  GOOD FOR LARGE DATA.
- $\Rightarrow$  YOU WILL HAVE MANY

# Key derivation

- PBKDF2(password, salt, key\_length)  $\rightarrow$  key\_bytes  $\leftarrow$  SYMMETRIC KEY
  - Secure generation of a key based on a password
  - Implemented as many iterations of a hash function (see passwords lecture)

- HashKDF(key, purpose)  $\rightarrow$  another\_key
  - Given one key, generate another deterministically
  - Used to generate more keys!

$K_0$  "SIGN"  
 $\text{HASHKDF}(K_0, \text{"SIGN"})$   
SESSION 2  $\Rightarrow K_{\text{SIGN}}$

$\Rightarrow$  CAN USE TO COMPUTE SAME  
KEY FROM DIFFERENT SESSIONS.

## SESSION 1

LOGIN("A", "PASS")

$\Rightarrow K_0$

$\text{HASHKDF}(\underline{K_0}, \underline{\text{PURPOSE}})$

$= K_p$

SOME NAME  
FOR KEY'S  
PURPOSE (PUBLIC)

## SESSION 2

LOGIN("A", "PASS")

$\Rightarrow K_0$

$\text{HASHKDF}(K_0, \text{PURPOSE})$

$= K_p$

Q: WHY CAN'T ENCRYPT ALL FILES W/ SAME KEY?

ALICE:  $F_1$   $F_2$   $F_3$

BOB:  $\hookrightarrow$

$\downarrow$   
 $F_2$   
 $\uparrow$

WHAT IF ALICE  
WANTS TO SHARE ONLY  
 $F_2$  WITH BOB?

# HashKDF example

```
base_key = crypto.SecureRandom(16)
```

```
derived_key_1 = crypto.HashKDF(base_key, "encryption")
```

```
derived_key_2 = crypto.HashKDF(base_key, "mac")
```

```
# Derived keys are the same length as the input key:
```

```
assert(len(base_key) == len(derived_key_1))
```

```
assert(len(base_key) == len(derived_key_2))
```

```
derived_key_3 = crypto.HashKDF(base_key, "encryption")
```

```
# Using the same base key and purpose results in the same derived key:
```

```
assert(derived_key_1 == derived_key_3)
```

# Authenticated encryption

Your goal for most things is confidentiality AND integrity

Two operations:

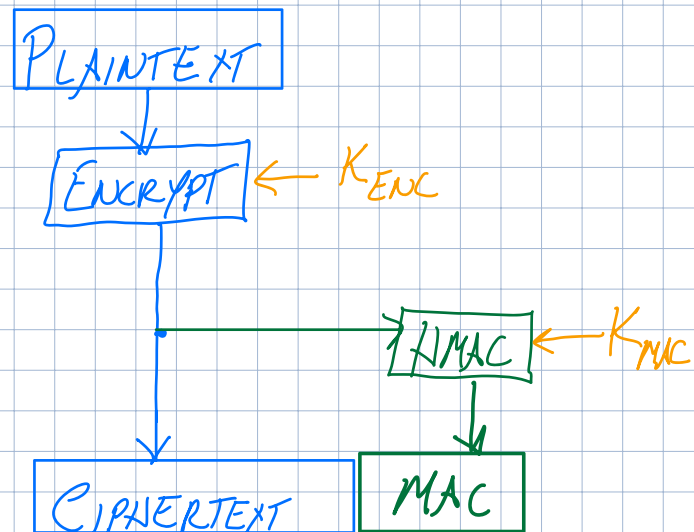
- Encrypt: Confidentiality ~~and~~
- MAC: Authentication ~~and~~

## Can combine these operations

- $\text{EncryptAndMAC}(k, m) \Rightarrow c, \text{mac}$
- $\text{DecryptAndVerify}(k, c) \Rightarrow m$  (or error if  $c$  doesn't pass integrity check)

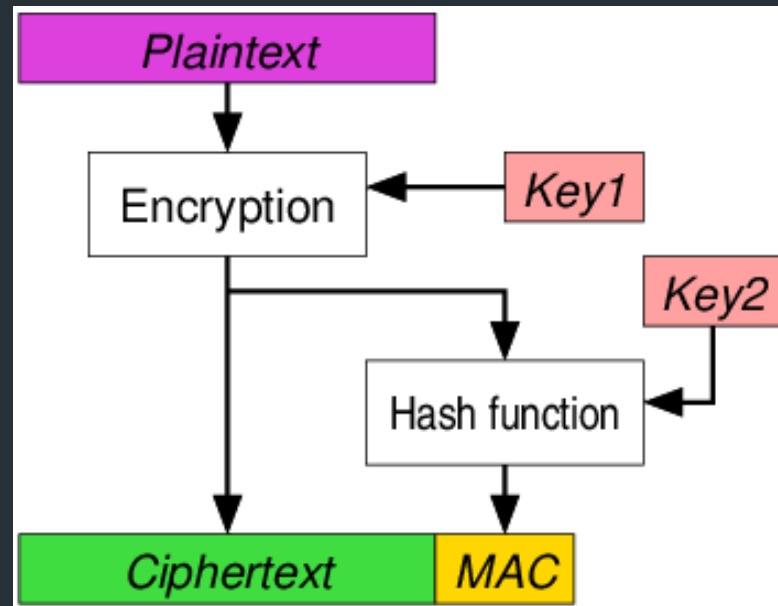
- How to do this is well-studied and has common pitfalls
  - Which do you do first? (Encrypt then MAC, MAC then encrypt, Encrypt THEN MAC, ...)
  - See cryptography lectures for more)
- You should use: Encrypt then MAC

# ENCRYPT - THEN - MAC



# Authenticated encryption

- You should use: Encrypt then MAC
- Proven to give us the security properties we want, when different keys used for encryption and hashing



# Questions?

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# Setup and Stencil

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# Container setup & Environment

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For this project, we'll use the "Development container" (same as project 1)

- Some slight updates—see setup guide for instructions
- Stencil uses a Python virtual environment
  - See setup guide for instructions
  - Like VSCode? You can use it with the container!

(UPLOAD-FILE)

CS1620/CS2660: Efficient updates

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# "Efficient" updates

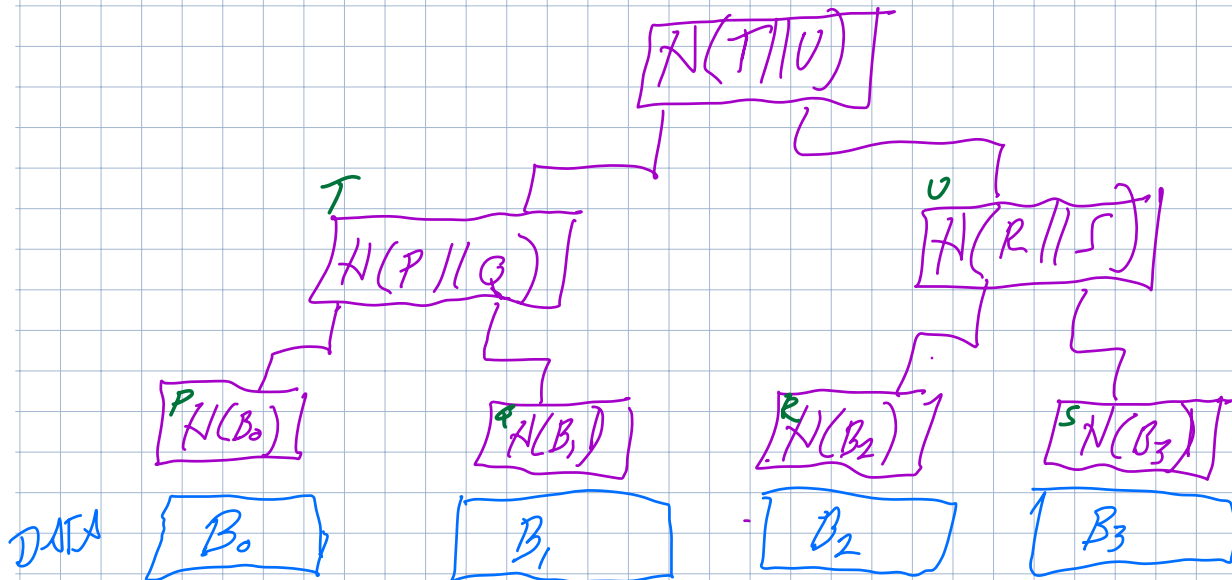
- Broadly, When uploading a new file, bandwidth should scale based on **amount of data that was changed**
- How you do this is up to you, here's one way...

SHOULDN'T REQUIRE  
RE-UPLOADING THE  
WHOLE FILE.

UPLOAD( $F_A$ , DATA<sub>1</sub>)  
UPLOAD( $F_A$ , DATA<sub>2</sub>)

⇒ THINK ABOUT DIVIDING FILE INTO BLOCKS  
DEAL W/ EACH BLOCK

How to THINK ABOUT INTEGRITY  
WHEN FILE IS IN MULTIPLE BLOCKS?  
ONE WAY: MERKLE TREE (HASH TREE)



For more notes on this, see the "Cloud Security" notes, starting on page 27  
(Was extra reading from lecture)